**Original Research Article**

**RAPD analysis of microbial population from coir retting area, Colachel, Kanyakumari District, India**

S.Jaya Sree¹, P.A.Mary Helen²*, I.H.Belsha Jaya Edith² and R.J.Shalini Jose²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Botany and Research Centre, S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil, Tamilnadu, India
²Department of Biotechnology, Malankara Catholic College, Mariagiri, Kaliakkavilai – 629153, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India

*Corresponding author

**ABSTRACT**

Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis was performed on 5 bacterial, 3 fungal and 2 actinomycetes isolates isolated from coir retting area near Colachel. Bacterial species of *Enterobacter, Klebsiella, Micrococcus, Salmonella* and *Pseudomonas* were isolated and identified. The isolates produced reproducible amplification products which were sufficiently polymorphic to allow differentiation of the strains. Three primers such as OPA01, OPA17, and OPAD08 were used for the RAPD analysis. DNA banding patterns generated by RAPD were scored for the presence (1) or for absence (0) of each amplified band. For genetic distance analysis, using NTSYS software Cluster analysis was based on similarity matrices using the Unweighted Pair Group Method Analysis (UPGMA) program in the software package. The Jaccard coefficient was used for dendrogram construction. A dendrogram based on these results showed a high level of genetic similarity between different bacterial isolates, moderate level of genetic similarity between fungal and actinomycetes isolates and genetic differences were expressed in clusters. The genetic difference between the overall populations was low and showed similarity with each population.

**Keywords**

RAPD analysis, Dendrogram, Cluster analysis, Genetic distance, Similarity matrix

**Introduction**

Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) is a convenient and sensitive method of species identification that is finding increasing application in such fields as epidemiology, molecular genetics, microbial ecology, and molecular evolution and taxonomy (Berg *et al.*, 1994). Following purification of genomic DNA, PCR amplification is performed using a short primer of arbitrary sequence. Amplification of a particular genomic sequence depends on the fortuitous nearby occurrence, on opposite DNA strands, of a pair of sequences complementary to the primer. These fragments are resolved by gel electrophoresis, and comparison of the resulting patterns of bands provides information about the relatedness of the
organisms in question. The chief drawback of the RAPD method is its sensitivity to experimental conditions and the consequent variability from run to run, and from lab to lab.

Molecular diversity by PCR based RAPD analysis allows identification and placement of the strains in genetically distinct and related groups (Lee and Henry, 2001). Randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) involves the use of random primers in PCR reactions (Williams et al., 1990). It has been used increasingly to distinguish closely related organisms (Bassam et al., 1992; Hadrys et al., 1992) based on polymorphisms in the RAPD product patterns. RAPD technology is very useful, fast, and informative and is unique in that no information concerning specific sequence is needed as random primers are used. Further, the technique gives the opportunity to get information about the biodiversity in a group of isolates (Hansen et al., 1998).

In this context, a study was conducted on the isolation of DNA from the microbial population in the coir retting area near Colachel. Also diversity analysis was determined by PCR based RAPD analysis to understand the genetic variation among organisms.

Materials and Methods

Microbial isolates: A total of 5 bacterial, 3 fungal and 2 actinomycetes isolates were isolated from coir retting yards near Colachel, Kanyakumari district by serial dilution agar plating method.

Identification of bacteria

The identification of bacteria was performed by macroscopic, microscopic and biochemical methods described by Cappucino and Sherman (1998).

DNA preparation

The genomic DNA isolation from microbes was described by the method Murray and Thompson (1980) and Sillhavy et al. (1984). CTAB method was the most commonly used protocol for the preparation of genomic DNA. 1.5ml of microbial culture was taken in a micro centrifuge tube and centrifuged for 2 minutes and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet was resuspended in 567µl of TE by repeated pipetting. Then 30 µl of 10% SDS and 3 µl of 20 mg/ml proteinase-k was added, mixed thoroughly and incubated at 37º C for 1 hour. 100 µl of 5M NaCl was added and thoroughly mixed. And then 80 µl CTAB/NaCl solutions was added mixed thoroughly and incubated for 10 minutes at 65°C. Equal volume of chloroform was added, mixed thoroughly and spunned for 4 to 5 minutes in a microcentrifuge. This extraction removes CTAB protein/polysaccharide complexes. A white interface should be visible after centrifugation. The aqueous phase with phenol/chloroform was extracted and spunned in a microcentrifuge for 5 minutes. The supernatant was transferred to a fresh tube. 0.6 volume of isopropanol was added for the nucleic acid precipitation. The precipitate was transferred to a fresh tube containing 70% ethanol. The precipitate was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 5 minutes at room temperature. The pellet was redissolved in 100 µl TE buffer.

RAPD analyses

Three primers designated OPA01, OPA17 and OPAD08 (Operon Biotechnology) were used (Table 1). RAPD analysis was carried out essentially as described by Brons and Von (2008). A 25µl PCR reaction mixture contained 10X PCR buffer- 1x, 25mM MgCl- 2.5mM, 10mM dNTP mix- 800µM, 25Pico moles Primer- 5 Pico moles, Taq
DNA polymerase- 0.75U, Template DNA-45ng, Milli Q water- Variable for the PCR amplification of Bacteria. In the PCR amplification of fungi, 25µl PCR reaction mixture contained 10X PCR buffer- 1x, 25mM MgCl- 2.5mM, 10mM dNTP mix- 800µM, 25Pico moles Primer- 0.5 Pico moles, Taq DNA polymerase- 0.5U, Template DNA- 50ng, Milli Q water-Variable. The reaction mixture differ for actinomycetes and it consists of 10X PCR buffer- 1x, 25mM MgCl-1.5mM, 10mM dNTP mix- 600µM, 25Pico moles Primer- 2 Pico moles, Taq DNA polymerase- 0.5U, Template DNA- 50ng, Milli Q water-Variable.

After the solutions were mixed, the tubes containing the mixtures were placed in a PTC-100 programmable thermal controller (MJ Research, Inc.). The thermal cycler was programmed for 1 cycle of initial denaturation for 3 minutes at 94°C. This was followed by 40 cycles programmed for denaturation at 94°C for 50 seconds, annealing at 37°C for 1 minute, and extension at 72°C for 1.30 minutes. An additional cycle of at 7 minutes at 72°C was used for final extension followed by 40 cycles of 94°C for 1 min, 30°C for 2 min, and 72°C for 2 min and a final extension period of 72°C for 7 min. Randomly amplified products were analyzed by electrophoresis on a 1.2% agarose gel in Tris-borate-EDTA buffer (0.5MTris, 0.5Mboric acid, 10 mM EDTA [pH 8.0]) and visualized by ethidium bromide staining. The molecular size standards used were ranges from 100bp to 1kb.

Analysis of data from RAPD

DNA banding patterns generated by RAPD were scored for the presence (1) or for absence (0) of each amplified band. All RAPD assays were repeated twice and only the reproducible bands were scored. For considering a marker as polymorphic, the absence of an amplified product in at least one species was used as a criterion. For genetic distance analysis, using NTSYS software Cluster analysis was based on similarity matrices using the unweighted pair group method analysis (UPGMA) program in the software package. The Jaccard coefficient was used for dendrogram construction.

Results and Discussion

Microbial isolates

The microbial isolates were isolated from coir retting area by serial dilution agar plating method. After the incubation, serially diluted agar plated samples showed five different types of bacterial isolates (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5), 3 fungal isolates (F1, F2, F3) and 2 actinomycetes isolates (A1, A2). After the characterization of bacteria, the isolates were identified as Enterobacter sp, Klebsiella sp, Micrococcus sp, Salmonella sp and Pseudomonas sp based upon its macroscopic, microscopic and biochemical properties on comparison with Bergey’s Manual of Determinative Bacteriology (Bergey et al., 1994).

RAPD Analysis in bacteria

RAPD analysis was carried out in five bacterial isolates using 3 random primers for the genomic DNA. High level of genetic similarity was observed between organisms. Three random primers, each with 10 bases generated a total of 15 polymorphic bands out of 41 total bands. In addition to the morphological variations a significant level of (36.58%) polymorphism was observed. The results were listed in Table 2 and Figure 1.
RAPD data analysis of bacteria

Cluster analysis was carried out based on UPGMA Jaccard coefficient. Dendrogram divided into two clusters. Cluster I consist of Enterobacter sp (B1), Pseudomonas sp (B5) and Micrococcus sp (B3). Among this, Micrococcus sp (B3) and Pseudomonas sp (B5) showed close relationships while Enterobacter sp (B1) was related with the above two. The second cluster contains Klebsiella sp (B2) and Salmonella sp (B4) that showed similarity. The Klebsiella sp (B2) differs from the other group. The genetic difference between the overall populations showed low level. Dendrogram revealed that these populations showed close relationship. The result revealed low level of polymorphism among this species. The phylogenetic tree for bacteria was displayed in Figure 2.

RAPD analysis in fungi

RAPD analysis was carried out in fungal isolates F1, F2 and F5 using 3 random primers for the genomic DNA. Moderate level of genetic similarity was observed between organisms. Three random primers, each with 10 bases generated a total of 6 polymorphic bands out of 19 total bands. In addition to the morphological variations a significant level of (31.57%) polymorphism was observed. The results were displayed in Table 3.

RAPD data analysis in actinomycetes

Cluster analysis was carried out based on UPGMA Jaccard coefficient. In this Dendrogram the actinomycetes isolates A1 and A2 showed the close relationship. The genetic difference between the overall populations was moderate level. Dendrogram revealed that these populations showed close relationship. The result revealed that moderate level of polymorphism among this species. The phylogenetic tree for actinomycetes and fungi was displayed in Figure 3.
type of result was showed in studies of diversity in different organisms (12 strains of E coli and four other enteric bacterial species) using RAPD, produced complex of patterns of bands from which inferences about strain and species relatedness can be made. They used 25 Pico mole RAPD analysis primers for RAPD (Berg et al., 1994). RAPD analysis is the most technically simple and often detects variation between isolates that are invariant with RFLP analysis (Pfaller, 1992; Rath, 2001). Although it is advisable that RAPD analysis be made with several primers, the use, only, of one of them with high discriminatory power, may be enough to manage the outbreak, avoiding more assays money and time consuming (Anderson et al., 1996). In conclusion, RAPD analysis is a truly rapid and reliable tool in DNA fingerprinting. Patterns may be easier to repeat and interpret when drastically prolonged ramp times between annealing and extension are used.

**Table 1** Oligonucleotides used for the RAPD reactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Primer</th>
<th>Sequences (5’ – 3’)</th>
<th>GC content (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>OPA01</td>
<td>CAGGCCCTTC</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OPA 17</td>
<td>GACCGCTTGT</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>OPAD08</td>
<td>GGCAGGCAAG</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
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**Table 2** Genetic diversity analysis using RAPD markers in bacteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of primer (Operon Tech)</th>
<th>Sequence of the primer 5’ – 3’</th>
<th>Amplicons size range (bp)</th>
<th>Number of amplified bands</th>
<th>Number of polymorphic bands</th>
<th>Percentage of polymorphism</th>
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<tr>
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<td>OPA01</td>
<td>CAGGCCCTTC</td>
<td>500-600bp</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>OPA 17</td>
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<td>500-1200bp</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>500-900bp</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>15</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Table 3** Genetic diversity analysis using RAPD markers in fungi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of primer (Operon Tech)</th>
<th>Sequence of the primer 5’ – 3’</th>
<th>Amplicons size range (bp)</th>
<th>Number of amplified bands</th>
<th>Number of polymorphic bands</th>
<th>Percentage of polymorphism</th>
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<td>500-900bp</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
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<td>OPAD08</td>
<td>GGCAGGCAAG</td>
<td>500-900bp</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
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Table 4 Genetic diversity analysis using RAPD markers in actinomycetes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of primer (Operon Tech)</th>
<th>Sequence of the primer 5’ – 3’</th>
<th>Amplicons size range(bp)</th>
<th>Number of amplified bands</th>
<th>Number of polymorphic bands</th>
<th>Percentage of polymorphism</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>OPA01</td>
<td>CAGGCCCTTC</td>
<td>550-600bp</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OPA 17</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>42.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1** Pattern of bands using primer OPA01, OPA17 AND OPAD08

**Figure 2** Phylogenetic tree for bacteria

In Figure 2, B1 indicates the *Enterobacter sp*, B2 indicates *Klebsiella sp*, B3 indicates *Micrococcus sp*, B4 indicates *Salmonella sp*, B5 indicates *Pseudomonas sp.*
Figure.3 Phylogenetic tree for fungi

In Figure 3, F1, F2 and F5 indicate the fungal isolates.

Figure.4 Phylogenetic tree for fungi and actinomycetes

In Figure 4, F1, F2, F5 indicate the fungal isolates and A1, A2 indicate the actinomycetes isolates.

References


Hansen, B.M., Damgaard, P.H., Eilenberg, J., Pedersen, J.C. 1998. Molecular and phenotypic characterization of


