

Original Research Article

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Production of Bioplastic from some selected Bacterial strains

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ABSTRACT

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Polyhydroxybutyrates are biodegradable polyesters synthesized by many bacteria. Biodegradable polymer plays a predominant role as a biodegradable plastic due to their hydrolysable ester bonds. In the present study from thirty two bacterial isolates collected from clay soil rhizosphere of maize, wheat and trefoil eighteen PHB producers. PHB is highly produced from microorganisms under optimum conditions such as physical conditions (pH, temperature, incubation times), Nutritional conditions (Carbon, Nitrogen sources and C/N ratio and Biochemical conditions). Due to their biological origin it is an advantage of PHB is, they are degraded naturally and completely to carbon dioxide and water under natural environment by the enzymatic activities of microbes. The present study reports the isolation and screening of soil bacteria and subsequent PHB production under normal conditions. It was observed that clay soil was able to produce maximum yield of PHB.

Introduction

Synthetic polymers-designated as plastics-are applied in a wide range of packaging film, containers, household, agricultural, marine and medical applications as surgical pins and sutures and bone replacements. Example for biodegradable polymer materials are Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) (Page, 1992b; Zhang *et al.*, 2003). The main member of the PHA family is Polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB). PHB is accumulated inside in numerous bacteria

under nutrient-limiting conditions with excess carbon. Many references show that number of microorganisms like *Alcaligenes eutrophus*, *Azotobacter beijerinckia*, *Pseudomonas Oleovorans*, *Rhizobium* sp. etc., produce PHAs as reserve food material. PHB degrades naturally and completely to CO₂ and H₂O under natural environment by different microorganisms (Holmes, 1985; Bonartseva *et al.*, 1994; Dahi *et al.*, 1995; Lee, 1996; Yu *et al.*, 2000; Morita *et al.*,

2001; Mahishi *et al.*, 2003; Das *et al.*, 2005; Philip *et al.*, 2007 and Panigrahi *et al.*, 2013).

The study focused on the producing of poly- β -hydroxybutyrate (PHB) granules by strains isolated from different soil samples. There were Screening, isolation, and optimization techniques done for the bacteria by using various techniques. The poly- β -hydroxybutyrate (PHB) granules production was tested by using various sources of C & N, C:N ratios, concentrations of C & N used, and the effect of pH, incubation times, different fermentation media and different temperature.

It was noticed that maximum density of PHB granules was recorded from the clay soil strains.

Materials and Methods

All chemicals were purchased from s d fine chemicals and were of analytical grade.

Medium: Sucrose/Yeast extracts (Bormann *et al.*, 1998).

Sample Collection and Isolation of Pure Cultures

Clay soil sample was collected in clean bags. One gram of soil sample is dispensed in 10ml of sterile distilled water. This is mixed vigorously and 1ml from this is taken and added to another tube with 9ml sterile distilled water to get a dilution of 10^{-1} . This serial dilution is repeated to get dilutions of 10^{-2} , 10^{-3} , 10^{-4} , 10^{-5} , 10^{-6} and 10^{-7} .

For the isolation of organisms, 0.1ml of each dilution was plated onto a nutrient rich medium by spread plate method for the propagation of microbial growth. The plates were incubated at 30°C for 48 hours. Colonies with different characteristic features were maintained as pure cultures on

nutrient agar slants and stored at 4°C.

Screening of PHB Producing Bacteria

All the bacterial isolates were qualitatively tested for PHB production following the viable colony method of screening using Nile red Dye (Rhem and Valla 1997 and Spiekermann *et al.*, 1999). For this screening of PHB producers, 20 μ l was spread onto sterilized pre-made (sucrose/yeast extract agar media) plates to reach a final concentrations of 0.5 μ g Nile red /ml medium. After inoculation, the plates were incubated overnight at 30 °C subsequently.

The prepared clay soil samples were sub-cultured by 0.1 ml samples were spread out with a sterilized glass rod over the surface of sucrose/yeast extract agar media. The plates were incubated at 30 °C for 48 hrs. Colonies with pinkish pigment indicated PHB production isolates were exposed to ultraviolet light (312 nm) to detect the accumulation of PHB according to The lighted plates were recorded positives, after that these isolates were picked up and purified by sub-cultured on the same media.

Cell Dry Weight

After 48hrs incubation at 37°C, culture medium was collected and centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 15min. Supernatant was discarded and the cell pellet was washed twice in deionized water, recovered (for 4 min at 10000 rpm at 4°C). The cell pellet was dried 24 hr at 100°C then the total bacterial cell dry weight was determined as g/L: (Kuniko *et al.*, 1988, Boweker *et al.*, 1981, Ishizaki *et al.*, 1991 and Du *et al.*, 2001).

Extraction and Quantification of PHB

All the Nile red positives isolates were

subjected to quantification of PHB production as per the method of Williamson and Wilkinson, 1958 and Arnold *et al.*, 1999). The bacterial cells containing the polymer were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min and the pellet was re suspended into alkaline sodium hypochlorite (pH 10.0-10.5 NaOCl content 5.25%-5.5%) and incubated at room temperature for 1 hr. The whole mixture was again centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min and the supernatant was discarded. The cell pellet containing PHB was again washed with water, alcohol and acetone. Finally, the polymer was dried for 2 hr. at 105°C and then weighed. Dry weight of extracted PHB was estimated as g/L. Residual biomass was estimated as the difference between dry cell weight and dry weight of PHB (Zakaria *et al.*, 2010).

Estimation of PHB from the Tested Isolates

The percentage of intracellular PHB accumulation is estimated as the percentage composition of PHB present in the dry cell weight.

PHB accumulation (%) = $\frac{\text{Dry weight of extracted PHB (g/L)} \times 100}{\text{DCW (g/L)}}$

Identification of PHB Producing Isolates

PHB producing strains were identified and characterized by morphological and biochemical characterization according to the Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology.

Morphological Characterization

Morphological features were identified by growing the cultures on nutrient agar media and gram staining was performed.

Biochemical Characterization

Different Biochemical tests were carried out

includes, Catalase test, Oxidase test, Pigment production and 16S r DNA Cataloging.

Optimization of Cultural Parameters for Maximum PHB Production

Different factors affecting PHB production by the selected bacterial isolates were optimized.

Effect of Different Temperatures

The medium sucrose /yeast extract broth medium were prepared and adjust pH at 7.0. The bacterial isolate J1 were grown in conical flask (250 ml) containing 100 ml of medium were sterilized at 121°C for 20 min. The cultures were incubated on a rotary shaker at 20, 30 and 40°C and 150 rpm for 48 hr. and PHB was quantified.

Effect of Different pH

The bacterial isolate J1 were grown in conical flask (250 ml) containing 100 ml media and were sterilized at 121°C for 20 min.. The medium sucrose /yeast extract broth medium were prepared with different pH ranging from (6, 7, 8 and 9) and the inoculated flasks were incubated at 30°C at 150 rpm for 48 hr. and PHB was quantified.

Effect of Different Incubation Times

The bacterial isolate J1 was grown in conical flask (250 ml) with 100 ml sucrose /yeast extract broth medium and adjust pH at 7.0 were sterilized at 121°C for 20 min. The inoculated flasks were incubated at 30°C at 150 rpm under different incubation times (24, 48, 72, 96 hr.). After 48 hr., PHB produced were quantified.

Effect of Different Media

The different media sucrose/yeast extract

medium M1 Bormann *et al.*, (1998), M2 Burdman *et al.*, (1998), M3 (Banziger and Tobler, 2001), and synthetic medium M4 Wang *et al.*, (2007) were used. The bacterial isolate J1 were grown in conical flask (250 ml) containing 100 ml of each previous media and were sterilized at 121°C for 20 min. The inoculated flasks were incubated at 30°C at 150 rpm for 48 hr. and PHB was quantified.

Effect of Different Carbon and Nitrogen Sources

The selected bacterial isolate J1 were grown in 250 ml conical flasks containing 100 ml Sucrose yeast extract broth medium with different carbon sources like glucose, sucrose, mannitol, lactose, whey and molasses with different concentrations (1%, 2%, 3% w/v). The flasks were incubated at 30°C on a rotary shaker (150 rpm) for 48 hours. After incubation, PHB produced by the isolates were quantified according to Miller (1959), Santimano *et al.* (2009), Ghate *et al.* (2011).

Effect of Different Nitrogen Sources on PHB Production

The bacterial isolate J1 were grown in 250 ml conical flasks containing 100 ml sucrose yeast extract broth medium with the best carbon source, and different 'N' sources were used like ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride, and yeast extract, all at different concentrations (0.5, 1, 1.5 g/L). After 48 hr., PHB yields were quantified.

Effect of Different C:N Ratios on PHB Production

The bacterial isolate J1 were grown in 250 ml conical flasks containing 100 ml sucrose yeast extract broth medium with different C:N ratios i.e. 15:1, 20:1 and 25:1 using the best C and N sources and incubated on a

rotary shaker (150 rpm) at 30°C. After 48 hr., PHB yields were quantified according to Khanna *et al.*, 2005, Belal 2013 and Panigrahi *et al.*, 2013).

Results and Discussion

Isolation of microorganisms

Microorganisms were isolated from clay soil sample was obtained by serial dilution. A total of 32 bacterial colonies were selected and the numbers were given to each colony. These colonies were streaked on enrichment and nutrient agar medium plates and preserved for further studies.

Screening of PHB Producing Bacteria

Among 32 colonies, 18 colonies showed positive pinkish colony for Nile red staining. Table (2) and Figure (1) showed the values of PHB according to dry cell weight and referred that the intensity of fluorescence according to PHB amount. The percentage of PHB from 1.50 -30.40% and the highest productivity PHB (30.40%) was obtained by bacterial isolate designated as J1.

Extraction and Quantification of PHB

The best method of PHB extraction was by sodium hypochlorite and it was selected in the further experiments. The percentage of intracellular PHB accumulation was estimated as the percentage composition of PHB present in the dry cell weight. Residual biomass was estimated as difference between the dry cell weight and dry extract of PHB.

Identification of PHB Producing Isolates

Morphological and Biochemical Characteristics

The J1 isolate was gram negative, non-spore

forming, the cell was short rods. And the biochemical studies indicated that these strains should be classified into *Pseudomonas* sp. J1 as shown in table (3).

The 16S r DNA Cataloging

The 16S r DNA sequence can be clearly

seen that the isolated bacterial strain J1 shown in Figures (2) and closely related to the species *Pseudomonas boreopolis*. It showed that the highest sequence similarities with 97% for *Pseudomonas boreopolis*.

Table.1

source of microorganisms	No. of collected samples	Producer PHB	Non producer PHB
Clay soil			
Rhizosphere of:			
maize	13	9	4
wheat	11	4	7
trefoil	8	5	3
Total	32	18	14

Table.2

Code No. of isolate	DCW (g / L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield of PHB %
J1	5.46 ± 0.23	1.55±0.11	30.40%
J3	5.51±0.244	0.41±0.101488916	7.80%
J4	5.43±0.089	0.5±0.02	9.20%
J5	6±0.32	0.09±0.01	1.50%
J6	5.62 ±0.35	0.4±0.09	6.92%
J7	5.32±0.171	0.33±0.02	6.20%
J8	5.62±0.244	0.45±0.11	8.00%
J9	5.26±0.212	0.4±0.05	7.60%
J10	5.37±0.106	0.70±0.10	13.40%
J11	5.506±0.22	0.66±0.09	12.00%
J12	5.34±0.130	0.48±0.18	7.30%
J13	5.47±0.097	0.63±0.1	11.50%
J14	5.46±0.269	0.53±0.11	9.70%
J15	5.43±0.148	0.63±0.12	11.40%
J16	5.52±0.119	0.72±0.12	12.70%
J17	5.536±0.069	0.77±0.08	12.20%
J18	5.83±0.0898	0.7±0.21	12.00%
J19	5.38±0.187	0.21±0.09	3.90%

DCW: Dry cell weight

PHB: polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.3 Morphological and Physiological Characteristics of the Efficient PHB Production Isolates (J1)

Test	Result
Shape of cell	Short rods
Sporulation	Non-spore former
Motility	Motile
Gram reaction	Gram-ve
Aerobic growth	Facultative
Anaerobic growth	-
Pigment production	+
Oxidase test	+

+Growth- No growth

Table.4 Effect of Different Temperature on PHB Production by *P. Boreopolis J1*

Temperatures	<i>P. boreopolis J1</i>		
	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield of PHB (%)
20 °C	2.76 ± 0.2	1.2±0.11	43%
30 °C	5±0.2	3.5±0.13	70%
40 °C	0±0	0±0	0%

DCW: Dry cell weight

PHB: polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.5 Effect of Different pH on Production of PHB by *P. Boreopolis J1*

pH	<i>P. boreopolisJ1</i>		
	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB(%)
pH6	1.9 ±0.11	0.8 ± 0.1	42%
pH7	5.4 ±0.13	3.3 ± 0.12	61%
pH8	1.3 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.14	38%
pH9	1± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.1	20%

DCW: Dry cell weight

PHB: polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.6 Effect of Different Incubation Times on PHB Production by *P. BoreopolisJ1*

Incubation times	<i>P. boreopolis J1</i>		
	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB(%)
24 hr	4.76±0.3	2.1±0.2	44%
48 hr	3.9±0.3	2.9±.0.16	74%
72 hr	4.766±0.198	1.9±0.2	39.50%
96 hr	3.4±0.21	1±0.2	29%

DCW: Dry cell weight

PHB: polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.7 Effect of Different Fermentation Media on PHB Production by *P. boreopolis*J1

Media	<i>P. boreopolis</i> J1		
	DCW (g/l)	PHB (g/l)	Yield PHB(%)
M1	4.6±0.1	2.8±0.11	61%
M2	1.2±0.1	0.5±0.2	42%
M3	3±0.11	0.5±0.03	16%
M4	3.11±0.12	1.25±0.1	40%

DCW: Dry cell weight

PHB:polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.8 Effect of Different Concentration of Carbon Sources on PHB Production (*P. boreopolis* J1)

Carbon sources	1 %			2 %			3%		
	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield of PHB (%)	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield of PHB (%)	DCW (g/L)	PHB(g/L)	Yield of PHB (%)
Sucrose	2.85±0.35	1.3±0.4	42%	3.7 ±0.3	3.1±0.3	83.7 %	2.013±0.3 15	0. 9±0.2	42.8 %
Glucose	3.01±0.11	1.93±0.07 5	64%	2.37±0.08 5	1.47 ± 0.095	62 %	2.666±0.1 10	1.543±0.0 9	57.8%
Mannitol	4.01±0.13	2.75±0.09 5	69%	3.72±0.3	3.036±0.0 56	81%	4.096±0.1 15	3.013±0.1 00	74%
Whey	1.91±0.18	0.93±0.07 5	49%	2.38±0.05	0.93±0.35	55%	2.83±0.15 2	1.05±0.06	57%
Lactose	2.0±0.11	0.6±0.03	30 %	2.32±0.13	0.060±0.9 2	40 %	1.8±0.90	0.45±0.02 0	25 %
Molasses	2.95±0.24 0	1.95±1.95	66%	3.31±0.29 5	2.6±0.183	78%	3.61±0.19 5	2.65±0.10 5	73%

DCW: Dry cell weight PHB: polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.9 Effect of Different Nitrogen Sources on PHB Production by *P. Boreopolis*J1

Conc. of Nitrogen sources	0.5g/l			1.0g/l			1.5 g/l		
	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB%	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB (%)	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB (%)
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	3.11±0.105	1.88±0.12	60%	3.92±0.12	2.83 ± 0.10	72%	1.88±0.15	0.92±0.1	49%
NH ₄ Cl	2.99±0.12	1.2±0.1	40%	3.8±0.08	1.9±0.11	50%	1.9±0.1	0.7±0.15	37%
Yeast extract	2.2±0.12	0.8±0.1	36%	2.6±0.2	1.06 ± 0.230	46%	1.5±0.35	0.3±0.028	33%

DCW: Dry cell weight

PHB: polyhydroxybutyrate

Table.10 Effect of Different C:N Ratios of Medium on PHB Yields By *P. Boreopolis* (J1)

Strains	carbon source	15:1			20:1			25:1		
		DCW (g / L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB (%)	DCW(g /L)	PHB (g/L)	Yield PHB (%)	DCW (g/L)	PHB (g/L)	yield PHB(%)
<i>P. boreopolis</i> J1	Ammonium sulfate	4.01 ±0.13	2.75 ±0.09	69%	3.72 ±0.3	3.036 ±0.056	81%	4.096 ±0.115	3.013 ±0.100 1	74%

Figure.1 Correlation of PHB Producing Bacteria Isolated from Clay Soil and DCW

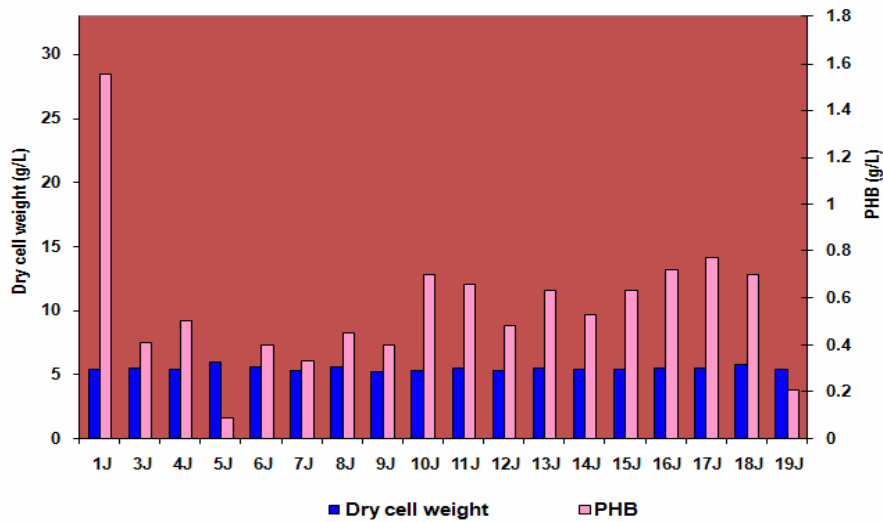


Figure.2 Dendrogram illustrating the genomic relationship among fourteen isolates belonging to genus *Pseudomonas* revealed by UPGMA cluster analysis. The label at the internal nodes shows the distance and the bar 0.02 represents substitution

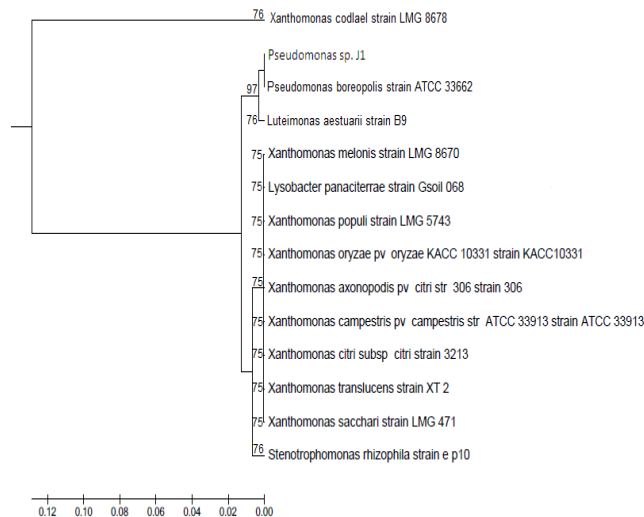


Figure.3 Effect of different temperature on PHB production by *P. boreopolis*J1

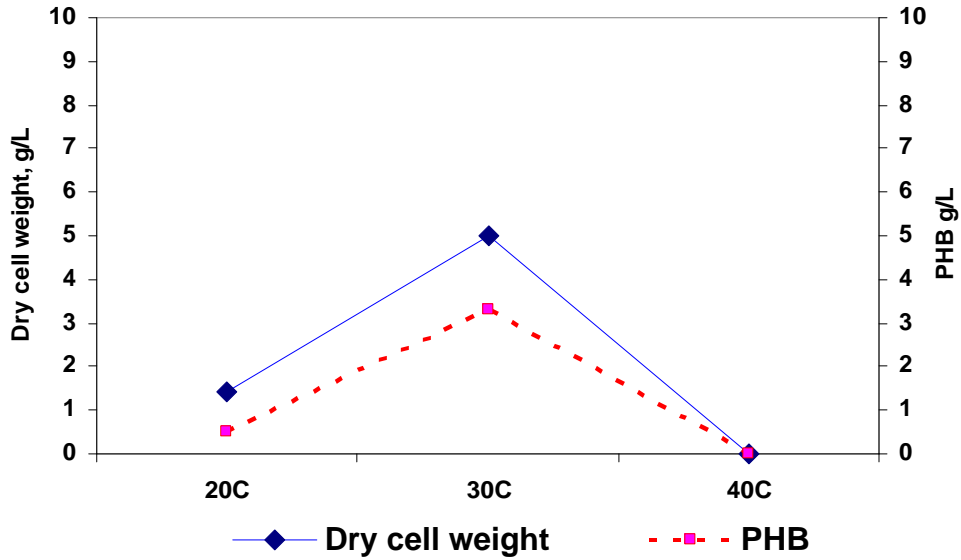


Figure.4 Effect of different pH on production of PHB by *P. boreopolis* J1

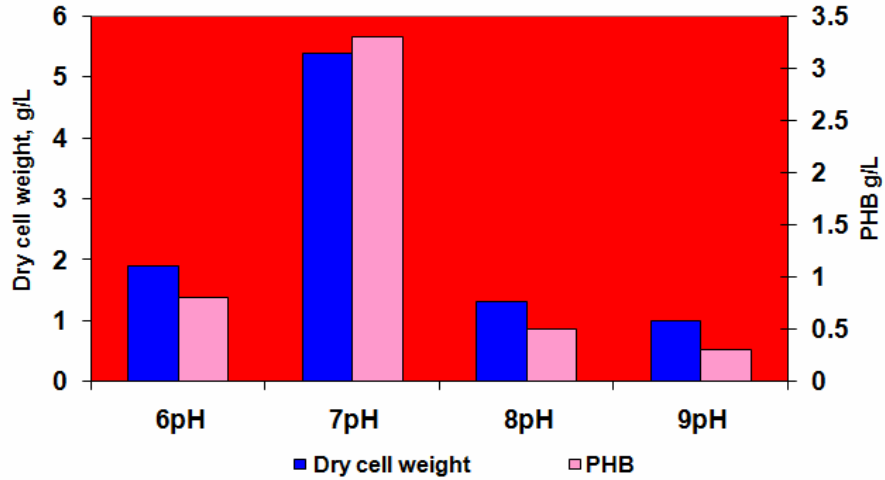


Figure.5 Effect of different Incubation times on PHB Production by *P. boreopolis* J1

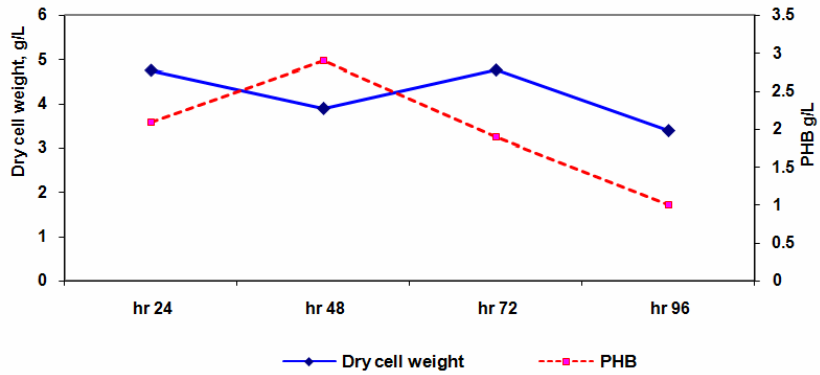


Figure.6 Effect of different Media on production of PHB by *P. boreopolis* J1

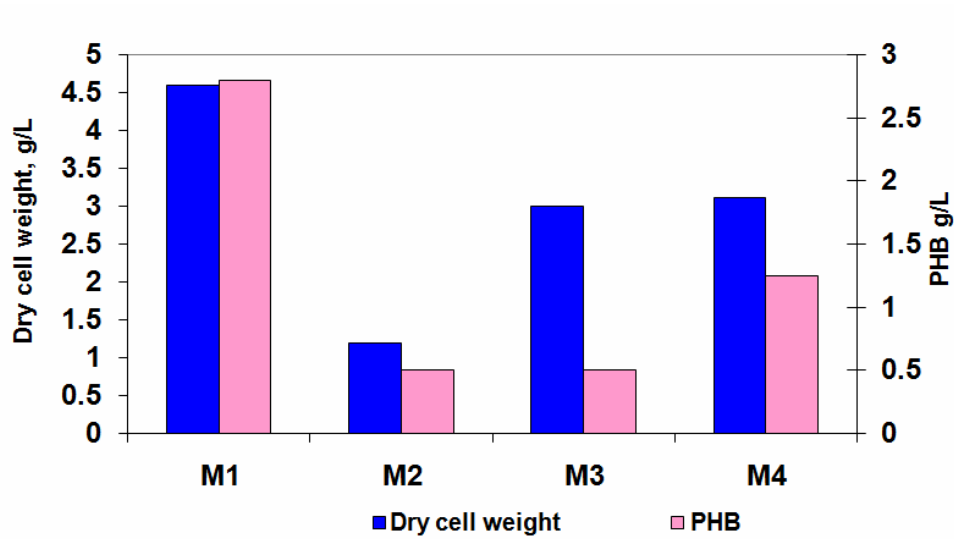


Figure.7 Effect of Different Concentration Carbon Sources on PHB Production (*P. boreopolis* J1)

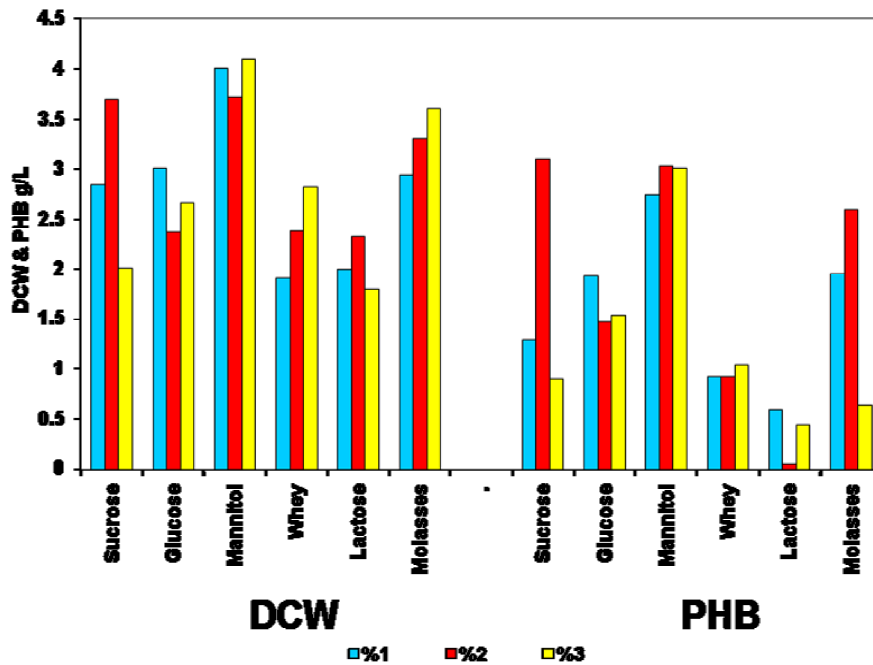
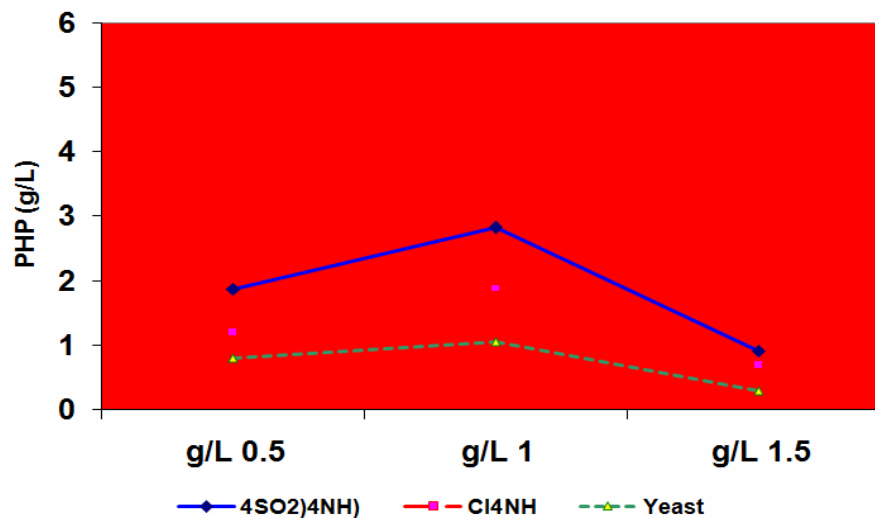


Figure.8 Effect of Different Nitrogen Sources on PHB Production (*P. boreopolis*J1)



Optimization of Cultural Parameters for Maximum PHB production

Effect of Different Temperatures on Production of PHB by *P. Boreopolis* J1

Data presented in Table (4) and Figure (3) showed that, the maximum PHB production occurred at 30°C after 48 hr. of incubation at a pH 7 by *P. boreopolis* J1.

Effect of Different pH on Production of PHB by *P. Boreopolis* J1

Data presented in Table (5) and Figure(4) showed that, out of different pHs of media tested, pH 7.0 was found to be optimum for maximum PHB production by *P. Boreopolis*.

Effect of Different Incubation Time

As shown in Table (6) and Figure (5), the highly production of PHB at incubation time 48 hr. for *P. Boreopolis* J1 isolate.

Effect of Different Media

The results presented in Table (7) and Figure (6) showed that the Sucrose yeast extract medium gave high yield of PHB by *P. boreopolis*J1.

Effect of different Carbon sources on PHB production by *P. boreopolis* J1

Data presented in Table (8) and Figure(7) illustrate the effect of different concentrations from carbon sources on PHB yield. The highest yield of PHB among the tested carbon sources was observed with Sucrose 2% by *p. boreopolis*J1.

Effect of Different Nitrogen Sources on PHB Production

The result presented in Table (9) and figure (8) showed that the highest yield of PHB was recorded with 1.0 g/L ammonium sulfate by *P. boreopolis* J1.

Effect of Different C:N Ratio on PHB Production by *P. Boreopolis*J₁

The data are presented in Table (10) showed that, the highest yield of PHB by *P. boreopolis* J1 at C:N ratio was 20:1.

In conclusion, the main aim of this present study was to isolate the PHB producing bacteria from Clay soil sample. Now Days researchers are focusing on biopolymer producing microorganisms for developing

biodegradable plastics. The medium used for the PHB isolates was simple medium and less cost effective and the PHB yield from these isolates was high compared with the earlier reports. Among 18 isolates the strain J1 is showing more production of biopolymer. The PHB produced from this strain will further be characterized by analytical techniques like Infra Red spectra and Gas Chromatography analysis.

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