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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Instrumental Analysis on Optimization of Laccase Production from *Pleurotus ostreatus* strain PKN 04 in Different Substrate by Solid State Fermentation (SSF)

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ABSTRACT:

Solid state fermentation (SSF) is a green process to produce enzymes from fungi. Different substrates such as rice husk, paddy straw, sugarcane bagasse and wheat husk taken from top soil were used to produce laccase by *Pleurotus ostreatus* strain PKN 04. The process of SSF was characterized by FTIR. Microbial fermentation resulted in conversion of complex polymeric lignocelluloses substrates into simpler monomers. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) analyses of metabolites confirmed the breakdown and complete degradation of lignin, cellulose and polysaccharides at different fermentation time intervals of 0, 15 and 30 days.

KEYWORDS: *Pleurotus ostreatus* strain PKN 04, SSF, FT-IR.

INTRODUCTION:

The accessibility of enormous agro-industrial wastes from crop cultivation and food processing areas, offers a advantageous way to cultivate the bacteria and fungi that convert them into different Industrially important products. Production of lignocellulolytic enzymes using different plant raw materials by white rot fungi have successfully been performed in Submerged Fermentation¹⁻³ (SmF) and Solid-State Fermentation (SSF)⁴⁻⁷. Solid state fermentation is a process that commonly used to produce metabolites from the microbes especially from fungi⁸⁻¹⁰. Laccases are N-glycosylated multi copper oxidases belonging to the group of the blue copper proteins¹¹. They can catalyze the oxidation of many substances coupled to the reduction of molecular oxygen to water^{12,13}.

Laccases are widely found in fungi and higher plants and in a lower proportion in insects and bacteria. Laccase was first described by Yoshida in 1883 when the enzyme extracted from the exudates of the Japanese lacquer tree *Rhus vernicifera*, from which the name laccase was derived^{14,15}.

One of assuring sources for production of laccase has been white rot fungus, *Pleurotus ostreatus* and it could decolorize different textile dyes¹⁶⁻¹⁸. *Pleurotus ostreatus* is a commercially important edible mushroom, famous for its delicious taste and high quantities of protein, carbohydrates, minerals, and vitamins but low fat^{19,21}.

MATERIALS AND METHOD:

Isolation of Fungi:

The isolation of fungi was done humus material containing soil extracted from the forest of Chennai. The materials were brought to the laboratory with the prescribed conditions.

Identification of Fungi:

Molecular identification:

The isolated organism was confirmed by 18s rRNA analysis^{22,23} and the sequence was submitted in NCBI.

Screening of Fungi for Laccase Production:

Screening for laccase production was performed using ABTS assay (Bourbonnais and Paice, 1990)^{24,25}.

Inoculum Preparation:

Solid State fermentation (SSF)

In sterile (15 min, 15 PSI and 121°C), rice husk, paddy straw, sugarcane bagasse and wheat husk was used with no previous physical treatment. 50 g of substrate and 2.5 g inoculum were placed in a hermetically sealed bag. The bags were incubated at 25°C and removed from the incubator after 0, 3, 5 or 7 days of fermentation for analysis.

Assay of Laccase:

Enzyme assays:

Laccase activity was expressed by the oxidation of ABTS. The non-phenolic dye ABTS (2, 2'-azino-bis- [3 – ethyl benzothiazoline – 6 –sulphonic acid]) was oxidized by laccase produced by *Pleurotus ostreatus* strain PKN 04 to the more stable state of the cation radical. The intense blue-green colour formed was correlated to enzyme activity and read at 420nm.

The mixture contained 0.5mM ABTS, 0.1M sodium acetate (pH 4.5), and an appropriate amount of enzyme. Oxidation of ABTS was observed by determining the increase in A420 (ϵ_{420} , 3.6×10^4 M-1cm-1). The reaction mixture contained 0.5mM substrate (ABTS), 2.8 mL of 0.1 M sodium acetate buffer of pH 4.5, and 100 μ L of culture supernatant and incubated for 5 min. Absorbance was read at 420 nm in a spectrophotometer against a suitable blank.

One unit was specified as the amount of the laccase that oxidized 1 μ mol of ABTS substrate per min. The absorbance was read after 10 min interval using UV/VIS spectrophotometer²⁶ (Varian Cary® 100 UV-Vis).

Protein estimation was performed using Lowry et al 1951²⁷.

CHN Analysis:

The different samples for the analysis were prepared in the powder form by sieving, and the fraction with particle sizes with pan size was separated after drying at 95 °C for 24 h. The elemental composition analysis of the substrate was carried out using a Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II CHN analyser²⁸⁻³¹.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Isolation of Fungi:

Pleurotus ostreatus strain PKN 04 is a white rot fungus isolated from forest of Chennai District, Tamilnadu, India (12.9261° N, 80.1722° E). It was cultivated at 37°C on potato dextrose agar (PDA) and stored at 4°C.

Identification of Fungi:

Molecular identification:

The culture has been deposited at Biotechnology Laboratory of Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai. The confirmation of the organism was done by 18s rRNA analysis^{22,23} and the accession number from NCBI -KX151954 was procured.

CHN Analysis:

The Carbon, Hydrogen and Nitrogen, Lignin and Carbohydrate were estimated and tabulated in Table 1.

FT-IR:

The aromatic C-H Bending at 680 nm, Alkenyl C-H Stretch, Alkenyl C=C Stretch at 1680, Aldehyde C=O Stretch at 1780 were seen in all the substrates. (Fig-1,2,3,4)

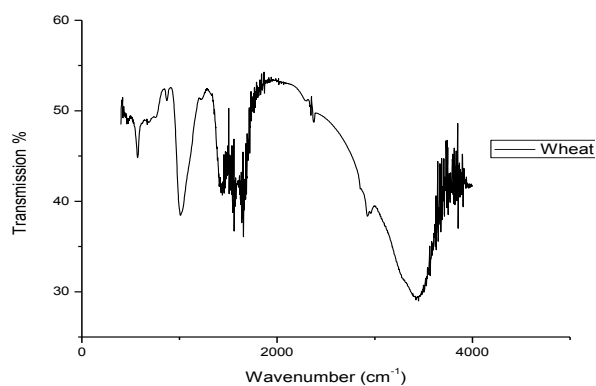


Fig.1 FTIR results of Wheat husk.

Table 1 CHN composition of different substrates

S.No.	Sample	Carbon (%)	Hydrogen (%)	Nitrogen (%)	Lignin	Carbohydrate
1	Wheat husk	47.26	4.32	0.26	25.4	9.5
2	Sugarcane bagasse	45.57	5.51	1.24	23.9	18.2
3	Rice husk	39.24	6.51	2.19	19.2	29.4
4	Paddy straw	41.39	5.13	2.48	24.6	25.3

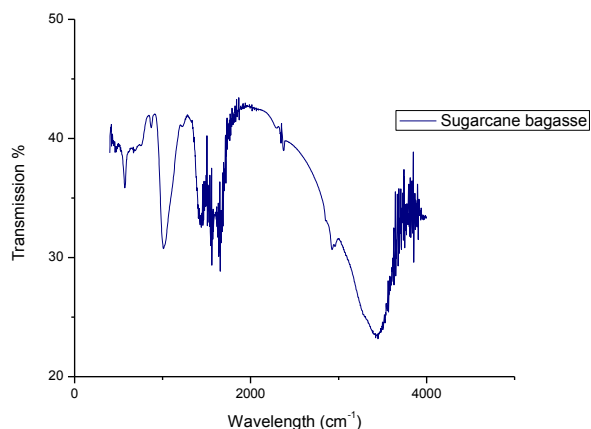


Fig.2 FTIR results of Sugarcane bagasse.

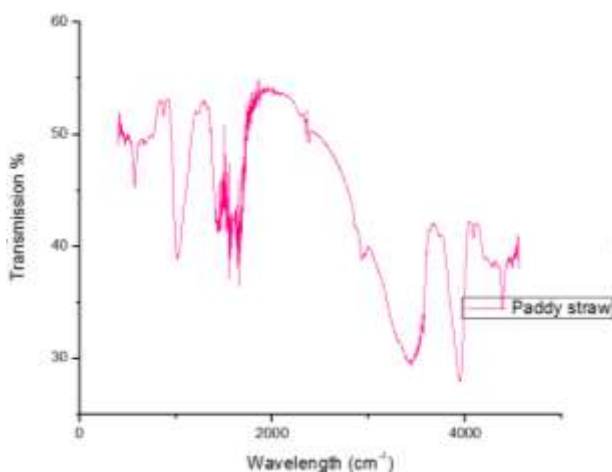


Fig.3 FTIR results of Paddy straw.

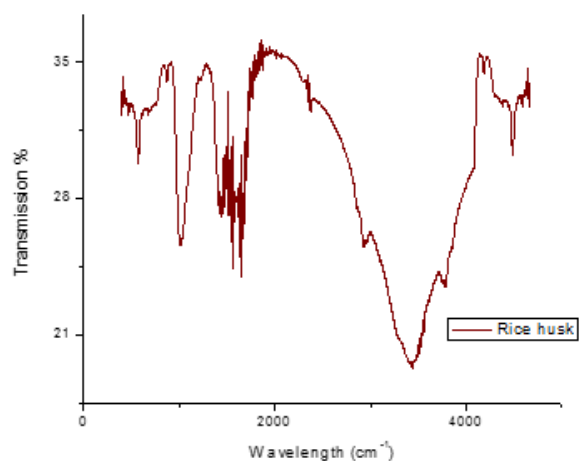


Fig.4 FTIR results of Rice husk.

The FTIR results shows that the Paddy straw has considerably many different side chains in it and may be contributing for the maximum production of the laccase. The experimental analysis clearly suggests that with Paddy straw or with the combination may have maximum productivity of the enzyme.

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