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Research Paper

## SACCHARIFICATION OF AGRO-WASTES BY ENDOXYLANASE FROM *STREPTOMYCES* SP OM 09

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Extracellular endoxylanase produced by *Streptomyces* sp. OM 09 was used for the bioconversion of various hemicellulosic agro wastes of which dried grass was proved to be the best followed by sugarcane bagasse. Highest amount of sugar production was achieved in presence of 1.0% (w/v) of substrate using 180U of enzyme. The maximum amount of bioconversion was accomplished within 30 min of incubation. The optimum pH and temperature for such bioconversion was found to be at 6.0 and 60 °C respectively. The amount of sugar production was enhanced in presence of Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Sr<sup>2+</sup>. Such bioconversion of dried grass, a potential yard waste into xylose and xylooligosaccharides may be commercially implemented for production of sugar and bio alcohol at a nominal cost.

**Keywords:** Dried grass, Endoxylanase, Saccharification, Streptomyces, Xylose

### INTRODUCTION

Xylan is a complex branched polysaccharide found in plant cell wall and is the one of the most abundant biomass material on earth, which represents an enormous potential source of stored solar energy. Large quantities of lignocellulosic wastes are generated through forestry, agricultural practices and industrial processes, particularly from agro-allied industries (Okafor *et al.*, 2007). These lignocellulosic wastes are usually left in unused or underutilised form, accumulate in the environment and thereby cause pollution problem (Abu *et al.*, 2000).

But recently interests have been increased in the possible commercial utilization of waste

biomass for both material (FitzPatrick *et al.*, 2010) and energy recovery due to the steadily rising price of fossil fuels. Effective utilization of these wastes require bioconversion to sugar (xylose) followed by fermentation to bio alcohol. Xylan can be hydrolysed by endoxylanase (E.C.3.2.1.8) into xylose and xylo oligosaccharides (Rawasdeh *et al.*, 2005), which can be further converted to xylitol or ethyl alcohol. As the cost of xylanase and substrate for the production of these sugar and bioalcohol plays a constraint in commercial production, usage of agricultural residues and microbial xylanase might be an easy solution not only for reducing the cost of sugar production but also for successful waste disposal. Dried grass constitutes a bulk of yard waste that often poses

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frequent disposal problem. Being a potential source of ligno cellulose, the dried grass can be regarded as a promising source for the production of several value added materials like sugar and alcohol. Though dried grass could be utilized as the sole carbon source for xylanase production (Ray, 2010; Kundu and Ray, 2011), almost no report is available on xylose production from dried grass. As actinomycetes have been explored to the lesser extent, especially regarding xylanase production (Ninawe *et al.*, 2006), a very few report are available on sugar production by xylanase of Actinomycete origin. In the present study, attempts have been made for bioconversion of dried grass to sugar with the help of microbial endoxylanase synthesised by a strain of *Streptomyces* sp .

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Microorganism and Cultivation of the Strain

*Streptomyces* sp., the working strain isolated from the forest buffer zone of Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve, MP, India at an altitude of 600-900 m (Bhor and Ray, 2009), was cultivated at 28 °C in 100 mL. Erlenmeyer flasks each containing 10 mL Basal Medium (BM) composed of (g L<sup>-1</sup>): peptone 0.9; (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> 0.4; KCl 0.1; MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O 0.1 and pure beechwood xylan (Sigma) 0.5 (pH: 7).

### Enzyme Extraction and Assay

The culture broth was filtered in Whatman filter paper and centrifuged at 6,000 rpm for 5 min and the supernatant was used as the crude enzyme. To measure the activity of endoxylanase, the assay mixture (1 mL) containing an equal volume of enzyme and 1% (w/v) oat spelt xylan (Sigma) dissolved in 0.1 (M) phosphate buffer (pH-6) was incubated at 60 °C for 10 min. The reducing sugar

released was measured by the dinitrosalicylic acid method (Bernfeld, 1955) taking xylose as standard. Blanks were prepared with inactivated enzymes. One unit of exoxylanase was defined as that amount of enzyme that liberated 1 micro mole of xylose per mL per minute of reaction.

### Saccharification of Agro Waste Substrates

The agro wastes were collected from agricultural fields, washed thoroughly with water, air dried, pulverized and sieved to 40 mesh particle size, before using as substrate for saccharification.

A suspension of substrate (5 mg/mL) in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 6) was incubated with endoxylanase in a screw capped tube for 30 min at 60 °C. The resultant supernatant was centrifuged at 5000 g for 5 min was analyzed by DNSA method (Bernfeld, 1951) using xylose as standard.

### Optimization of Different Parameters for Sugar Production

To determine the most effective concentration of substrate, saccharification experiments were carried out with different concentration of dried grass keeping all other factors constant. Similarly, the most suitable enzyme concentration for bioconversion of dried grass was determined. To determine the effect of incubation time, saccharification was carried out under the optimum conditions. At specific time intervals aliquots (1 mL) were removed and the amount of reducing sugar was estimated (Bhat and Bhat, 1997). Effects of pH and temperature on saccharification were determined by the varying the pH of assay mixture from 4 to 9 and temperature from 20-70 °C. The role of metal ions on sugar production was checked by adding 10 mM of each one in saccharification mixture.

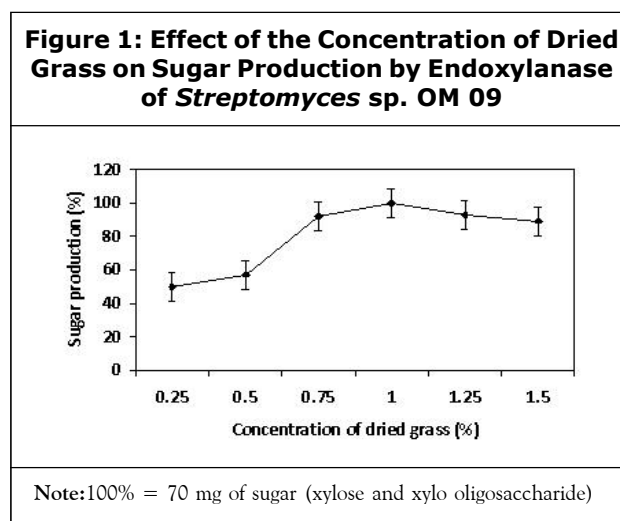
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Amongst the agro wastes tested, dried grass was proved to be the best followed by sugarcane bagasse (Table 1). The extent of bioconversion was dependent on the nature of hemicellulosic content in the substrate used. Hence for subsequent experiments of sugar production, dried grass was used as the substrate.

| Substrate (1 g)   | Sugar (mg) |
|-------------------|------------|
| Dried grass       | 68         |
| Sugarcane bagasse | 62         |
| Jute Fibre        | 44         |
| Water hyacinth    | 37         |
| Rice husk         | 24         |
| Saw Dust          | 28         |

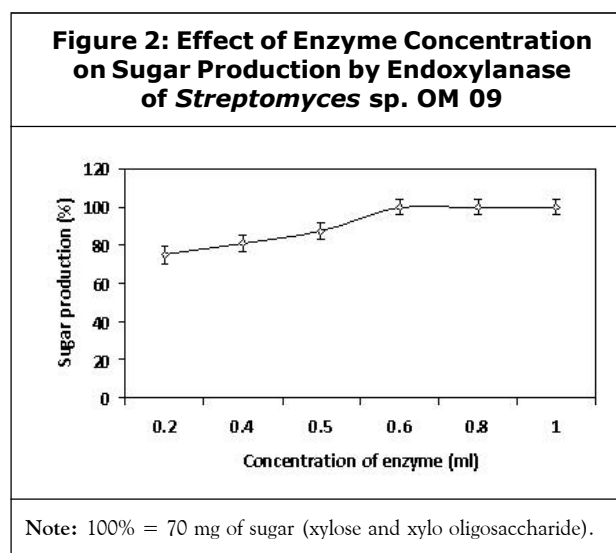
Note: 100% = 70 mg of sugar (xylose and xylo oligosaccharide).

Initially, the concentration of substrate (dried grass) was directly correlated with the extent of sugar production (Figure 1) as it showed a sharp increase in sugar production when the substrate concentration increased from 0.5% to 0.75%.



Highest rate of bioconversion was achieved in presence of 1.0% (w/v) of substrate. But the sugar production did not increase with further increase in substrate concentration. This could be due to the substrate saturation and enzyme limitation (Karmakar and Ray, 2011a).

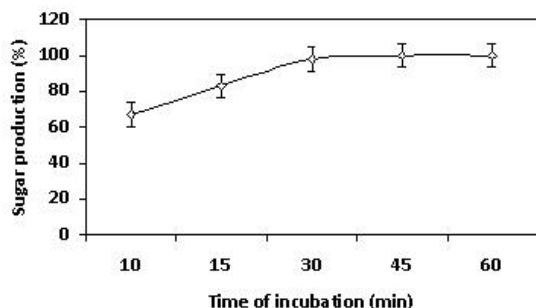
The effect of enzyme concentration on sugar production (Figure 2) indicated that maximum bioconversion of dried grass was achieved in presence of 0.6 mL (180U) enzyme but due to enzyme limitation no further increase could be seen with increase in enzyme concentration.



The observation went in agreement with that found in the saccharification of lignocellulosics (Goyal *et al.*, 2008; Sallem Akhtar *et al.*, 2001).

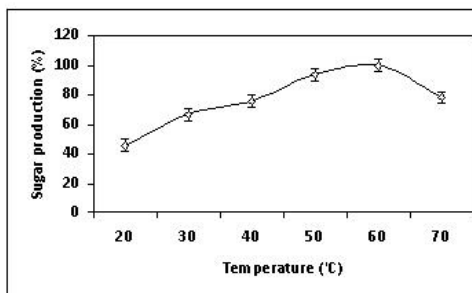
It was found that saccharifying potential of the enzyme was affected by different length of incubation and maximum bioconversion was accomplished within 30 min of incubation (Figure 3) followed by an equilibrium condition. This implied that maximum amount of substrate was hydrolyzed by the given amount of enzyme within this time, after which no further change took place. Similar result was found in saccharification of

**Figure 3: Effect of Incubation Time on Sugar Production by Endoxylanase of *Streptomyces* sp. OM 09**



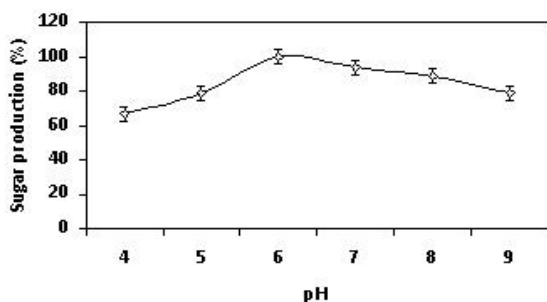
Note: 100% = 70 mg of sugar (xylose and xylo oligosaccharide).

**Figure 5: Effect of Incubation Temperature on Sugar Production by Endoxylanase of *Streptomyces* sp. OM 09**



Note: 100% = 68 mg of sugar (xylose and xylo oligosaccharide).

**Figure 4: Effect of Incubation pH on Sugar Production by Endoxylanase of *Streptomyces* sp. OM 09**



Note: 100% = 68 mg of sugar (xylose and xylo oligosaccharide).

Amongst the metal ions, Fe<sup>2+</sup> followed by Sr<sup>2+</sup> proved to be best for enhancing sugar production but was severely affected by Cu<sup>2+</sup> (Table 2) which was almost similar to the effect of ions on saccharification of agro wastes by the endoglucanase of *Rhizopus oryzae* (Karmakar and Ray, 2011a).

**Table : Effect of Additives on Sugar Production**

| Additive (10 mM) | Sugar Production (%) |
|------------------|----------------------|
| None             | 100                  |
| K <sup>+</sup>   | 96.7                 |
| Na <sup>+</sup>  | 100                  |
| Sn <sup>2+</sup> | 77.4                 |
| Sr <sup>2+</sup> | 109.7                |
| Mg <sup>2+</sup> | 93.5                 |
| Fe <sup>2+</sup> | 116.1                |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | 32                   |

Note: 100% = 70 mg of sugar (xylose and xylo oligosaccharide).

cellulose by endoglucanase as reported by Karmakar and Ray (2011b).

The effect of pH and temperature on saccharification of dried grass indicated that the highest sugar production was achieved at pH 6 and at 60 °C (Figures 5 and 6) respectively. Almost similar pH and temperature optima were reported for the saccharification of sugar cane trash by xylanase of *Colletotrichum graminicola* (Zimbardi *et al.*, 2013) and saccharification of recycled paper sludge by *Paenibacillus campinasensis* xylanase gene expressed in *Bacillus megaterium* (Zheng *et al.*, 2012).

## CONCLUSION

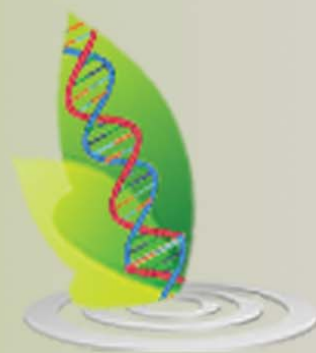
This study may be regarded as one of the few reported xylanase synthesised by *Streptomyces*

with saccharification potential and could open an avenue for effective utilization of yard wastes, the dried grass for production of xylose and xylo-oligosaccharides, a pre requisite for xylitol, the sugar alcohol of immense commercial significance.

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