

Production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger* by Submerged Fermentation

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Abstract: A study on optimization of submerged fermentative production of tannase by *Aspergillus niger* was carried out. *Aspergillus niger* (MTCC 3557) was used for maximum production of Tannase enzyme and the factors affecting the production were optimized. The optimum conditions for maximum tannase enzyme production in the Submerged Fermentation (SmF) using *Aspergillus niger* was obtained with an initial tannic acid concentration of 3% (w/v) at 35°C, Initial pH of 5.5 and a fermentation period of 96h. The substrates Betalnut husk and Plantain flower gave a maximum tannase production of 19.3 U/ml and 17.89 U/ml respectively.

Keywords: Submerged fermentation, Tannase, Agro residue, *Aspergillus niger*. optimization

1. INTRODUCTION

Tannin acyl hydrolase commonly known as tannase, catalyses the hydrolysis of ester and depside bonds in hydrolysable tannins such as tannic acid, resulting glucose and gallic acid [1]. It is extensively used in food, beverages like tea and coffee, pharmaceutical and chemical industries. The major commercial application of this enzyme is in the hydrolysis of gallotannin to Gallic acid, is an intermediate required for the synthesis of an antifolic, antibacterial drug trimethoprim[2]. Tannase is also used in the preparation of instant tea, wine, beer and coffee-flavored soft drinks and also as additive for detannification of food. Many fungi, such as *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Fusaria*, and *Trichoderma* [3–6] as well as yeast like *Candida* sp., and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* [7] have been reported to be tannase producers. On the other hand, few bacteria are known to produce tannase and include certain species of *Bacillus*, *Corynebacterium* sp., *Lactobacillus* sp., and *Serratia* sp., [8, 9]. In Industrial level tannase is mainly produced by *Aspergillus* species under submerged fermentation (SmF). The SmF is widely used for enzyme production because it offers many advantages like uniform process conditions namely concentration, Temperature, pH, aeration and agitation in the bioreactors [10]. Many authors reported the tannase production by *Aspergillus* species in the medium containing pure tannic acid as both inducer and carbon source. Agro residues and forest products are generally considered as the best sources of tannin rich substrates for SmF [11].

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Substrate preparation

Powdered Agro residues were used for the production of Tannase enzymes. The Agro residues betalnut husk and plantain flower were powdered to 100 mesh (0.15 mm) fine powders using laboratory grinder at 3000 rpm and was preserved in a sealed plastic bag at 4°C to prevent any possible degradation or spoilage.

2.2 Microorganism and culture maintenance

The tannase producing fungal culture *Aspergillus niger* (MTCC 3557) was obtained from IMTECH, Chandigarh and was used for tannase production. The fungal culture was maintained on Czapek Dox media agar slants supplemented with 1 % (w/v) tannic acid as the sole carbon source. The fungal strain was subcultured periodically, grown at 30°C for 7 days. The well grown culture was stored at 4°C in a refrigerator and used for further subculturing.

2.3 Production of Tannase in submerged fermentation (SmF)

100 ml of Czapek Dox medium in 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask was inoculated with the *Aspergillus niger* spore suspension. The composition of the Czapek Dox medium used for tannase enzyme production was Tannic Acid - 10 g/L, Sodium nitrate - 6 g/L, Potassium dihydrogen orthophosphate- 1.52 g/L, Magnesium sulphate- 0.52 g/L, Potassium chloride- 0.52 g/L, Ferrous sulphate- 0.01 g/L and Zinc sulphate- 0.01 g/L. 3 gm of substrates were added separately to the Czapek Dox medium for studying their effect on the enzyme production. The cultures were grown at 30°C, 140 rpm for six days in an incubator shaker. The samples were withdrawn at regular intervals of 24 h. The biomass was separated by the filtration through Whatman No.1 filter paper. The cell free culture broth was assayed for the tannase activity.

2.4 Tannase assay

Tannase activity was estimated by the method of Mondal and Pati [12]. 0.1 ml of enzyme solution was incubated with 0.3 ml of 1.0% (w/v) tannic acid and add 5 ml of 0.2 M acetate buffer (pH 5.0) at 40 °C for 10 min and then the enzyme production was stopped by cooling to 0°C by the addition of 2 ml Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) (1 mg/ml), which precipitates the remaining tannic acid simultaneously. A control without the enzyme was incubated and the samples were analyzed. The tubes were then centrifuged

(5,000 x g, 10 min) and the precipitate was dissolved in 2 ml of Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate (SDS) – triethanolamine (1% w/v SDS in 5% v/v triethanolamine) solution and the absorbency was measured at 550 nm after addition of 1 ml of FeCl₃ (0.01 M FeCl₃ in 0.01N HCl).

One Unit of the tannase enzyme is defined as the amount of enzyme required to hydrolyse 1µmole of ester linkage of tannic acid in 1 min at specific condition.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Effect of substrate on production of Tannase

The effect of substrate on tannase enzyme activity in submerged fermentation using *Aspergillus niger* was studied by conducting experiments with substrates Betalnut husk and Plantain flower. The flasks containing Czapek Dox media was incubated with 3% (w/v) of the above mentioned substrates in an incubated rotary shaker at 35°C, pH 5.5 and 200 rpm. The samples were drawn at regular time intervals of 24 h and analyzed for tannase activity at 24h, 48h, 72h, 96h, 120h and 144h. The results are given in Table 1 and Fig.1 for tannase activity obtained at different timings with substrates Betalnut husk and Plantain flower. The substrates Betalnut husk and Plantain flower gave the maximum tannase activity of 19.3 U/ml and 17.89 U/ml respectively at a fermentation period of 96 h. This higher production with Betalnut husk and Plantain flower may be due to the higher tannin content and also the substrates are easily metabolizable by *A.niger*. After 96h of fermentation, the enzyme production was found to decrease because of the inhibition and denaturation of tannase enzyme. The maximum tannase production was obtained with substrates Betalnut husk and Plantain flower and were selected for further studies on tannase enzyme production for 96h. Sabu et al reported that 96h of fermentation period gave the maximum tannase production with palm kernel cake as substrate [13] which is in good agreement with the current results obtained.

Table 1. Effect of Substrate on production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

Incubation Time (h)	Tannase Activity (U/ml)	
	BETALNUT HUSK	PLANTAIN FLOWER
0	0	0
24	6.85	5.78
48	11.22	10.11
72	14.21	13.64
96	19.3	17.89
120	15.32	13.12
144	10.25	8.33

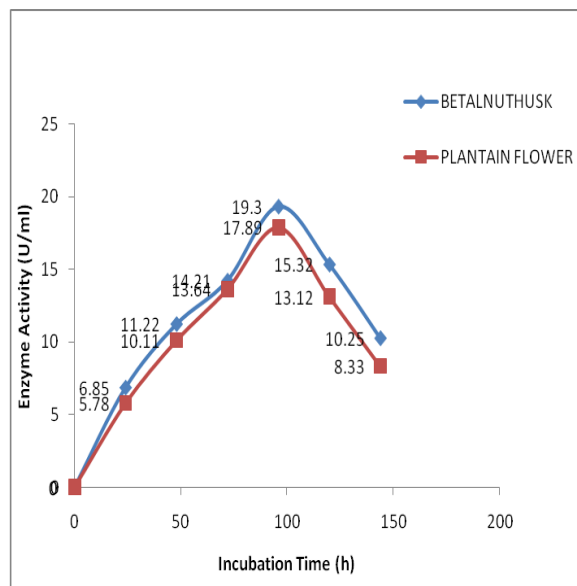


Fig 1. Effect of Substrate on production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

3.2 Effect of Temperature on production of Tannase

The effect of temperature on tannase enzyme production was studied by conducting experiments at different temperatures namely 25°C, 30°C, 35°C, 40°C and 45°C keeping other parameters constant at pH 5.5, 200 rpm with the tannic acid concentration of 3%(w/v). The results are given in Table 2 and Fig 2. As temperature was increased the maximum tannase enzyme production was found to increase rapidly. The maximum enzyme production obtained were 4.08 U/ml, 5.09 U/ml, 12.48 U/ml, 10.84 U/ml and 7.22 U/ml at 25°C, 30°C, 35°C, 40°C and 45°C respectively with Betalnut husk as a substrate. The maximum enzyme production obtained with Plantain flower as a substrate were 4.01 U/ml, 4.56 U/ml, 10.10 U/ml, 6.86 U/ml and 3.45 U/ml at 25°C, 30°C, 35°C, 40°C and 45°C respectively. At low temperatures 25°C and 30°C the rate of enzyme production was found to be less and the maximum enzyme production was found to be less. At high temperature of 40°C and 45°C the growth rate of *A.niger* was found to be less and this phenomena is similar to catalyst deactivation or catalyst poisoning in chemical catalysts. The enzyme probably got denatured which in turn resulted in less enzyme production. The maximum tannase enzyme production of 12.48 U/ml and 10.10 U/ml were obtained at 35°C and was chosen as the optimum temperature for Betalnut husk and Plantain flower as substrates respectively. The optimum temperature 35°C was used for further studies. The optimum temperature was 30°C for various fungi such as *A. tamari* [14], *A. niger*[15] and *A.flavus*[16] which is in good agreement with the current results obtained.

Table 2. Effect of Temperature on Production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

Temperature (°C)	Tannase Activity (U/ml)	
	BETALNUT HUSK	PLANTAIN FLOWER
25	4.08	4.01
30	5.09	4.56
35	12.48	10.10
40	10.84	6.86
45	7.22	3.45

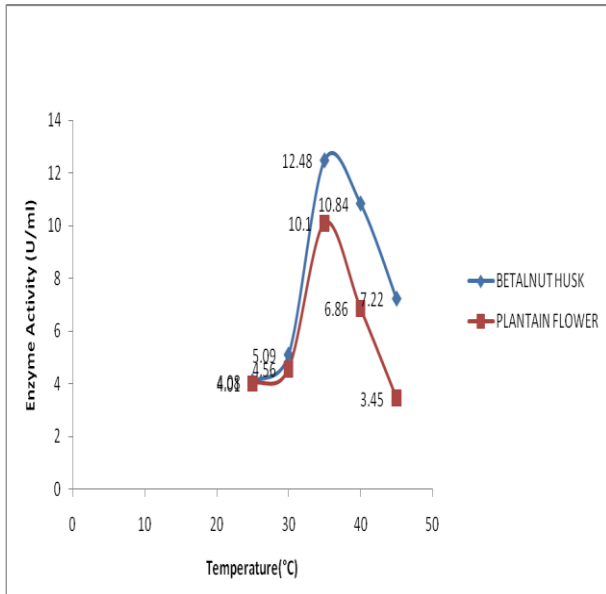


Fig 2: Effect of Temperature on the production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

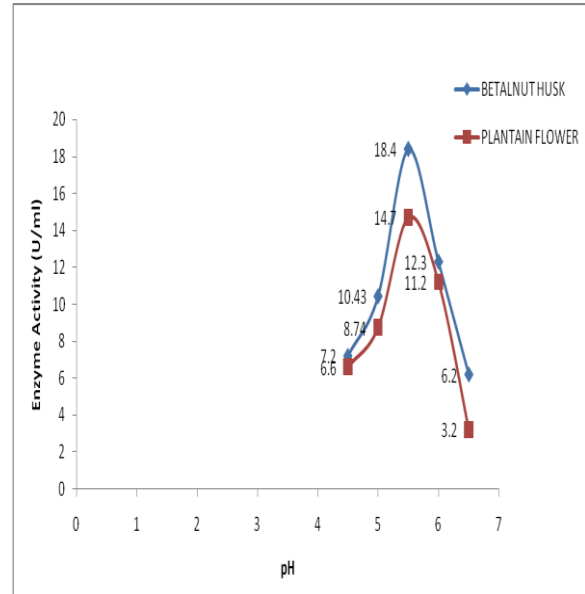


Fig 3. Effect of pH on the production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

3.3 Effect of pH on production of Tannase

The effect of pH on tannase enzyme production was studied by conducting experiments at different initial pH namely 4.5, 5, 5.5, 6 and 6.5 keeping other parameters constant at temperature 35°C, 200 rpm with the tannic acid concentration of 3%(w/v).The results are given in Table 3 and Fig 3.As pH was increased the tannase enzyme production was found to increase. The growth rate was less at low pH and was maximum at pH 5.5 and thereafter the growth rate was decreasing, resulting in the lesser yield of biomass. Since the enzyme is a growth associated product, the enzyme was found to be maximum at pH 5.5.The maximum tannase enzyme production obtained were 7.2 U/ml, 10.43 U/ml, 18.4 U/ml, 12.3 U/ml and 6.2 U/ml at pH 4.5, 5, 5.5, 6 and 6.5 respectively with Betalnut husk as a substrate. The maximum enzyme production obtained with Plantain flower as a substrate were 6.6 U/ml, 8.74 U/ml, 14.7 U/ml, 11.2 U/ml and 3.2 U/ml at pH 4.5, 5, 5.5, 6 and 6.5 respectively. The maximum tannase enzyme production of 18.4 U/ml and 14.7 U/ml were obtained for pH 5.5 for Betalnut husk and Plantain flower as substrates respectively and was chosen as the optimum pH. Lekha and Lonsane [10] also reported that tannases are acidic proteins with an optimum pH 5.5. Rakeshkumar et al. [17] reported an optimum pH of 5.5 for tannase production by *Aspergillus ruber*, *Aspergillus awamori* [18] which is in good agreement with the current results Obtained

Table 3. Effect of pH on Production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

pH	Tannase Activity (U/ml)	
	BETALNUT HUSK	PLANTAIN FLOWER
4.5	7.2	6.6
5.0	10.43	8.74
5.5	18.4	14.7
6.0	12.3	11.2
6.5	6.2	3.2

3.4 Effect of concentration of Tannic acid (Inducer) on production of Tannase

The effect of concentration of tannic acid on tannase enzyme production as inducer was studied by conducting experiments at different concentrations namely 1%, 2%, 3%, 4% and 5% keeping other parameters constant at temperature 35°C, pH 5.5 and 200 rpm. The results are given in Table 4 and Fig 4. As the tannic acid concentration was increased the tannase enzyme production was found to increase. The maximum enzyme production obtained were 7.44 U/ml, 12.6 U/ml, 19.1 U/ml, 17.43 U/ml and 8.32 U/ml at tannic acid concentration of 1%, 2%, 3%, 4% and 5% respectively with Betalnut husk as a substrate. The maximum enzyme production obtained were 2.86 U/ml, 7.9 U/ml, 16.1U/ml, 14.8 U/ml and 6.45 U/ml, at tannic acid concentration of 1%, 2%, 3%, 4% and 5% respectively with Plantain flower as a substrate. The maximum tannase enzyme production of 19.1 U/ml and 16.1 U/ml were obtained with Betalnut husk and Plantain flower as substrates respectively at tannic acid concentration of 3% (w/v) and was chosen as the optimum tannic acid concentration. The optimum tannic acid concentration 3% (w/v) was used for further studies. The enzyme production was found to decrease at higher inducer concentration of 4% and 5% and may be due to the substrate inhibition of inducer. At higher tannic acid concentration tannase activity was higher in SSF whereas it was repressed in submerged fermentation [19]. Actually, tannic acid at higher concentration produces complexes with protein of the organism thereby inhibits the growth and reduces the enzyme production [20].

Table 4. Effect of Tannic Acid concentration on Production of Tannase using *A.niger*

Tannic acid Concentration (%)	Tannase Activity (U/ml)	
	BETALNUT HUSK	PLANTAIN FLOWER
1	7.44	2.86
2	12.6	7.9
3	19.1	16.1
4	17.43	14.8
5	8.32	6.45

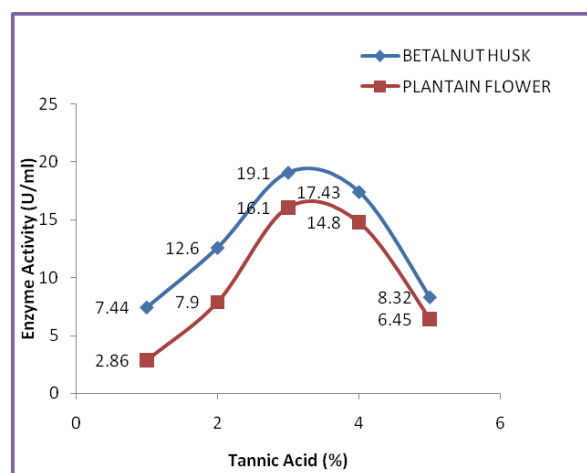


Fig 4: Effect of Tannic Acid on the production of Tannase using *Aspergillus niger*

4. CONCLUSION

The present investigation shows that agro residues such as Betalnut husk and Plantain flower were found to be the best and most cost effective substrates for the industrial production of microbial tannase. The tannase produced by *Aspergillus niger* was significant and this fact encourages further exploitation of tannase production at industrial scale. The optimum substrate concentration found to be 3 % (w/v) of Betalnut husk and Plantain flower and optimum inducer concentration of 3% (w/v) tannic acid. The optimum temperature, pH, agitation speed and fermentation period were found to be 35°C, 5.5, 200 rpm and 96h respectively.

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