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Evaluation of alkaline, thermotolerant lipase from an indigenous isolated *Bacillus* strain for detergent formulation

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Abstract

Background: Lipases are utilised in detergent industries to minimise usage of phosphate-based chemicals in detergent formulations. The use of lipase in household laundry reduce environment pollution and enhances the ability of detergent to remove tough oil or grease stains.

Results: A lipase producing indigenous *Bacillus subtilis* strain [accession no. KT985358] was isolated from the foothills of Trikuta mountain in Jammu and Kashmir, India. The lipase (BSK-L) produced from this strain expressed alkaline and thermotolerant characters. Lipase has a optimal activity at pH 8.0 and at temperature 37°C, whereas it was found to be stable at pH range 6.0 to 9.0 and showed active lipolytic activity at temperature range 30°C to 60°C. Furthermore, lipase activity was found to be stimulated in the presence of metal ions, Mn²⁺, K⁺, Zn²⁺, Fe²⁺ and Ca²⁺. This lipase was observed to be resistant to surfactants, oxidising agents and commercial detergents, suggesting it as a potential candidate for detergent formulation. BSK-L displayed noticeable capability to remove oil stains when used in different washing solutions containing buffer, lipase and commercial detergent. The maximum olive oil removal percentage obtained was 68% when the optimum detergent concentration (Fena) was 0.3%. The oil removal percentage from olive oil soiled cotton fabric was found to be increased with 40 U/ml of lipase.

Conclusions: This BSK-L enzyme has the potential for removing oil stains by developing a pre-soaked solution for detergent formulation and was found compatible with surfactants, oxidising agents, and commercial detergents.

Keywords: Activity, *Bacillus subtilis*, environment pollution, Fabric, GRAS, lipolytic activity, Oil, Removal, Surfactant, thermotolerant.

1. Introduction

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