PRODUCTION OF ALPHA-INTERFERON IN LACTOCOCCUS LACTIS

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PRODUCTION OF ALPHA-INTERFERON IN

LACTOCOCCUS LACTIS

By

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the degree of Master of Science

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to my beloved mother, father, family, friends and well wishes for their love, interest and encouragement
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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February 2013

Chairman: Professor Raha binti Abdul Rahim, PhD
Faculty: Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences

Human interferon-\(\alpha\)2b (IFN-\(\alpha\)2b) is one of the members of IFN family and it is also one of the biopharmaceuticals used to cure diseases such as hairy cell leukemia, malignant melanoma, and chronic hepatitis (B and C). The majority of commercial products available in the market are obtained in E. coli. The high production of E. coli is in the form of inclusion body (IB) which has to pass through costly refolding steps and also complicated purification procedures for removing of lipopolysaccharide (endotoxin) are required. In contrast, recombinant IFN-\(\alpha\) produced by L. lactis strain with GRAS status does not form IB and can be delivered at the mucosal level and does not require costly refolding steps and purification procedures. It can also be used as an adjuvant in designing new vaccines against viral infections. In this study, four recombinant L. lactis, MGIF (containing P32, a constitutive promoter), PNZ, PNHIF, PNZUSPIF (containing Pnis, an inducible promoter)
were constructed for the expression of IFN-alpha 2b. The production of IFN-

2b was confirmed by ELISA and western blotting and the plasmid stability test showed that the recombinant plasmids were stable in the strains even after 100 generations. The effect of different carbon sources (glucose, sucrose and lactose), nisin induction and incubation time in M17 medium on the amount of production were also tested. The results showed that the highest production was achieved in presence of glucose for all the recombinant strains and the best concentration of nisin induction for recombinant strains with Pnis promoter was at 30 ng/mL. In addition, the highest expression amount of IFN for MG1363 recombinant (MGIF) was at 9 hours of incubation and for NZ9000 recombinants (NZIF and NZUSPIF) was at 4.5 hours. Among the four recombinant strains, the highest production amount with the optimum conditions was achieved by recombinant NZ9000 harbouring SP_u-sp45- IFN-2b gene (~0.27 g/L). The expressed IFNs were subjected to bioactivity test and they showed acceptable bioactivity of $1.9 \times 10^6$ IU/mg. In conclusion, the results of this study proved that IFN-alpha 2b can be expressed in L. lactis with an acceptable level of bioactivity.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PENGHASILAN ALFA-INTERFERON DALAM LACTOCOCCUS LACTIS

Oleh

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Interferon-2b (IFN-2b) manusia tergolong dalam kumpulan interferon dan ia adalah salah satu bio-farmaseutikal yang digunakan untuk merawat penyakit seperti leukemia sel berbulu, melanoma malignan, dan hepatitis kronik (B dan C). Majoriti produk komersil yang diperolehi di pasaran diperolehi dalam bentuk E. coli. Pengeluaran E. coli yang tinggi adalah dalam bentuk jasad rangkuman (IB) yang perlu melalui proses pelipatan yang mahal dan prosedur penulenan yang sukar untuk mengeluarkan lipopolisakarida (endotoksin). Sebagai kontras, rekombinan IFN-2 yang dihasilkan dari strain L. lactis dengan status GRAS tidak membentuk IB dan dapat mengeluarkan IFN pada kadar mukosa serta tidak memerlukan kos yang tinggi untuk proses lipatan dan penulenan. Ia juga boleh digunakan sebagai adjuvan untuk pembentukan vaksin baru bagi menentang jangkitan virus. Dalam kajian ini, empat rekombinan L. lactis, iaitu MGIF (yang
mengandungi P32, sejenis promoter juzukan), PNZ, PNHIF, PNZUSPIF (yang mengandungi Pnis, sejenis promoter teraruhan) dihasilkan untuk pengeluaran IFN-alpha 2b. Penghasilan IFN-alpha 2b disahkan melalui ELISA dan Western blot. Ujian stabiliti plasmid menunjukkan bahawa plasmid rekombinan adalah stabil di dalam strain walaupun selepas 100 generasi. Kesahan pelbagai sumber karbon (glukosa, sukrosa dan laktosa), induksi nisin dan masa inkubasi dalam medium M17 terhadap jumlah penghasilan produk telah dikaji. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa penghasilan yang tertinggi dicapai dengan penggunaan glukosa untuk kesemua strain rekombinan dan kepekatan nisin untuk induksi strain rekombinan dengan promoter Pnis adalah 30 ng/mL. Sebagai tambahan, pengeluaran IFN tertinggi untuk rekombinan MG1363 (MGIF) adalah dengan tempoh inkubasi selama 9 jam and untuk rekombinan NZ9000 (NZIF and NZUSPIF) selama 4.5 jam. Antara keempat-empat rekombinan tersebut, jumlah produksi tertinggi dalam keadaan optimum telah dicapai oleh rekombinan NZ9000 yang membawa gen SP_{usp45}^+ IFN-alpha 2b (~0.27 g/L). IFN yang terhasil dikenakan ujian bioaktiviti dan ia menunjukkan kadar bioaktiviti yang dapat diterima pada 1.9×10^6 IU/mg. Sebagai kesimpulan, keputusan kajian membuktikan IFN-alpha 2b dapat dihasilkan dalam L. Lactis pada paras kadar bioaktiviti yang dapat diterima.
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I am indebted to my beloved parents for their tolerance, sacrifices and patience as they have spared my absence during my study, when my presence was most needed.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 1 February 2013 to conduct the final examination of Omid Bayat on his thesis entitled “Production Of Alpha-Interferon In Lactococcus Lactis” in accordance with the Universities and University colleges Act 1971 and the constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institutions.

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OMID BAYAT

Date: 1 February 2013
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT \hspace{1cm} iii
ABSTRAK \hspace{1cm} v
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS \hspace{1cm} vii
APPROVAL \hspace{1cm} ix
DECLARATION \hspace{1cm} xi
LIST OF TABLES \hspace{1cm} xv
LIST OF FIGURES \hspace{1cm} xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS \hspace{1cm} xix

CHAPTER

I INTRODUCTION \hspace{1cm} 1
II LITERATURE REVIEW \hspace{1cm} 4
  2.1 Interferons (IFNs) \hspace{1cm} 4
     2.1.1 Discovery of IFN \hspace{1cm} 4
     2.1.2 IFN activity in immune system \hspace{1cm} 4
     2.1.3 Signal transduction in response to IFNs \hspace{1cm} 7
     2.1.4 IFN classification \hspace{1cm} 10
     2.1.5 The uses of IFN-γ2b \hspace{1cm} 11
     2.1.6 Platforms for recombinant IFN-γ2b production \hspace{1cm} 12
  2.2 Lactococcus lactis \hspace{1cm} 14
     2.2.1 Lactic Acid Bacteria \hspace{1cm} 14
     2.2.2 The genus Lactococcus \hspace{1cm} 15
     2.2.3 Lactococcus lactis \hspace{1cm} 16
     2.2.4 Gene cloning and expression in Lactococcus lactis \hspace{1cm} 19
     2.2.5 Protein Secretion in L. Lactis \hspace{1cm} 22
     2.2.6 Constitutive and inducible promoters in L. lactis \hspace{1cm} 23

III MATERIAL AND METHODS \hspace{1cm} 26
  3.1 Bacterial strains and plasmids \hspace{1cm} 26
  3.2 Preparation of frozen stock culture \hspace{1cm} 26
  3.3 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) \hspace{1cm} 27
  3.4 Agarose Gel Electrophoresis \hspace{1cm} 28
  3.5 Plasmid extraction from L. lactis \hspace{1cm} 28
  3.6 DNA purification \hspace{1cm} 30
  3.7 Restriction and ligation \hspace{1cm} 31
3.8 Competent cells preparation of L. lactis
3.9 Electroporation into L. lactis
3.10 Construction of transformants
   3.10.1 Construction of NZIF
   3.10.2 Construction of NZHIF
   3.10.3 Construction of NZUSPIF
   3.10.4 Construction of MGIF
3.11 Screening of putative positive recombinants
3.12 Sequencing verification
3.13 Protein extraction
3.14 Bradford assay
3.15 SDS-PAGE electrophoresis
3.16 Western Blotting
3.17 Purification with His-tag column
3.18 Quantification of recombinant IFN-alpha 2b
3.19 Measurement of recombinant IFN-alpha 2b bioactivity
3.20 Determination of pH and cell density
3.21 Plasmid stability test
3.22 Influence of Carbon source, Nisin and incubation time on the amount of production
3.23 Calculation of highest production yield

IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Construction of transformants
   4.1.1 Construction of NZIF
   4.1.2 Construction of MGIF
   4.1.3 Construction of NZUSPIF
   4.1.4 Construction of NZHIF
4.2 Expression studies by SDS-PAGE and Western blot
4.3 Growth study and plasmid stability
4.4 Influence of nisin, carbon source and incubation time on the amount of production
   4.4.1 Influence of nisin induction
   4.4.2 Influence of carbon source in media
   4.4.3 Influence of incubation time
4.5 Measurement of recombinant IFN-alpha 2b bioactivity
4.5 Calculation of highest production yield
V CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REFERENCES
APPENDICES
BIODATA OF STUDENT
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS