

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

PRODUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF BIOSURFACTANT BY ISOLATED Pseudomonas aeruginosa RS6 STRAIN

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PRODUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF BIOSURFACTANT BY ISOLATED Pseudomonas aeruginosa RS6 STRAIN

By

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

February 2016

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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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Chairman Faculty Helmi bin Wasoh @ Mohamad Isa, PhDBiotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences

Biosurfactants are becoming important alternative to chemical surfactants in almost every sector in the modern industry because of their improved properties compared to their chemical counterparts. Rhamnolipid is among the best known glycolipid type biosurfactants with effective surface properties and high productivity. This study aims to isolate and characterize isolated bacterial strain from different environment conditions with the capacity to produce rhamnolipid-biosurfactants when grown on blue agar plate (BAP) selective medium. Four strains with high activity on BAP selective medium which suggested its potential as good rhamnolipid producer were screened out using combination of modified drop-collapse test, oil spreading and emulsification index (E_{24}) test. A strain with an outstanding performance and demonstrated good activity in all the above mentioned screening methods were successfully isolated and showed comparable results against control samples such as Triton-X 100 and sodium n-dodecyl sulfate (SDS), the chemical surfactants. Using morphological, Gram staining, Biolog Gen III MicroPlate analysis and 16s rRNA sequence analysis, the strain was identified as Pseudomonas aeruginosa and it was designed as the RS6 strain. P. aeruginosa RS6 produced rhamnolipid optimally at pH 7.0 when supplemented with 2.5% (v/v) palm oil (10.17 g/L) and palm olein (8.65 g/L). It reduced the surface tension ranging from 26 to 28 mN/m and showed emulsifying capability up to 62.0%. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) confirmed that biosurfactants produced by this strain was rhamnolipid in nature. In this study, an efficient and simple protocol to screen out rhamnolipid-biosurfactant producing bacteria was used and this finding will also help to add novel members to the biosurfactants group and expanded current knowledge regarding the diversity and productive capability biosurfactants from a single specific strain. Therefore, the biosurfactants produced by this strain might be useful as an alternative to chemical surfactants for a wide range of potential applications.



Keywords Biosurfactants; Characterization; Isolation; Pseudomonas aeruginosa; Rhamnolipid



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PENGHASILAN DAN PENGELASAN BIOSURFAKTAN OLEH PEMENCIL Pseudomonas aeruginosa RS6 STRAIN

Oleh

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Februari 2016

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Biosurfaktan menjadi alternatif penting kepada surfaktan kimia dalam hampir setiap sektor dalam industri moden kerana ciri-cirinya lebih baik berbanding dengan bahanbahan kimia lain. Rhamnolipid adalah antara biosurfaktan glikolipid yang terbaik dengan sifat-sifat permukaan yang efektif dan produktiviti yang tinggi. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk pemencilan dan pencirian bakteria yang dipencilkankan daripada pelbagai persekitaran yang berbeza dengan kemampuan untuk menghasilkan rhamnolipid-biosurfaktan apabila ditumbuhkan di atas piring agar biru (BAP) media terpilih. Empat strain dengan aktiviti yang tinggi di atas BAP media terpilih disaringkan dengan menggunakan gabungan ujian titisan-runtuh yang telah diubahsuai, teknik sebaran minyak dan ujian indeks emulsifikasi (E24). Satu strain yang berprestasi cemerlang dan menunjukkan aktiviti yang baik dalam semua ujian saringan yang dinyatakan di atas telah berjaya dipencilkan dan menunjukkan keputusan yang setanding dengan sampel kawalan seperti Triton X-100 dan sodium n-dodecyl sulfate (SDS), iaitu surfaktan kimia. Menggunakan morfologi, Gram pewarnaan, Biolog Gen III analisis MicroPlate dan 16s rRNA analisis turutan, strain itu dikenal pasti sebagai Pseudomonas aeruginosa dan dinamakan sebagai strain RS6. P. aeruginosa RS6 menghasilkan rhamnolipid secara optimum pada pH 7.0 apabila ditambah dengan 2.5% (v/v) minyak sawit (10.17 g/L) dan olein sawit (8.65 g/L). Ia mengurangkan ketegangan permukaan dari 26 hingga 28 mN/m dan menunjukkan keupayaan mengemulsi sehingga 62.0%. Kromatografi cecair berprestasi tinggi (HPLC) dan fourier transform infrared spektroskopi (FT-IR) mengesahkan bahawa biosurfaktan yang dihasilkan oleh strain ini adalah rhamnolpid secara semulajadi. Dalam kajian ini, protokol yang cekap dan mudah untuk menyaring bakteria yang menghasilkan rhamnolipid-biosurfaktan telah digunakan dan kajian ini juga akan membantu untuk menambah ahli baru dalam kumpulan biosurfaktan dan menambahkan pengetahuan semasa mengenai kepelbagaian dan keupayaan produktif biosurfaktan dari strain tertentu yg spesifik. Oleh itu, biosurfaktan yang dihasilkan



oleh strain ini mungkin berguna sebagai alternatif kepada surfaktan kimia untuk pelbagai aplikasi yang berpotensi.

Katakunci Biosurfaktan; Mencirikan; Pemencilan; Pseudomonas aeruginosa; Rhamnolipid



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

			Page
ABST ABST ACK APPI DEC LIST LIST LIST	FRACT FRAK NOWL ROVAI LARAT OF TA OF FIG	EDGEMENTS FION ABLES GURES BBREVIATIONS	i iii v vi viii xiii xiv xvi
СНА	PT <mark>ER</mark>		
1	INTR	RODUCTION	1
-	1.1	General Background	1
	1.2	Objectives of Study	2
2	LITE	RATURE REVIEW	3
	2.1	Surfactants	3
	2.2	Biosurfactants	3
	2.3	Rhamnolipid Biosurfactants	6
	2.4	Discovery of Rhamnolipid	8
	2.5	Characteristics of Rhamnolipid	9
	2.6	Biosynthesis of Rhamnolipid	11
	2.7	Isolation and Screening of Rhamnolipid Producing Bacterium	12
	2.8	Factors Affecting Rhamnolipid Production by Microbial	
		Fermentation	14
		2.8.1 Microorganism-producing Rhamnolipid	14
		2.8.2 Carbon Sources	16
		2.8.3 Nitrogen Source	17
		2.8.4 Temperature	18
		2.8.5 pH	18
	2.9	Quantification of Rhamnolipid Concentration	18
	2.10	General Applications of Biosurfactants	19
		2.10.1 Role of Biosurfactants in Cleaning Applications	19
		2.10.2 Role of Biosurfactants in Food Industries	19
		2.10.3 Role of Biosurfactants in Bioremediation	20
		2.10.4 Role of Biourfactants in Contaminant Degradation	20
		2.10.5 Role of Biosurfactants as Antimicrobial Agents	21
		2.10.6 Role of Biosurfactants in Production of Fine Chemicals	21
		2.10.7 Role of Biosurfactants in Synthesis of Nanomaterials	21
	2.11	Global Biosurfactants Market	22

3	MATERIALS AND METHODS				24
	3.1	Exper	imental De	esign	24
	3.2	Chem	icals		26
	3.3	Sampl	ling Area		27
	3.4	Isolati	on of Bios	urfactants-producing Pseudomonas sp	27
	3.5	Screer	ning of Bio	osurfactants-producing Pseudomonas sp	28
		3.5.1	Blue aga	r plate (BAP) method	28
		3.5.2	Drop Col	llapse Test	29
		3.5.3	Oil Sprea	ading Test	29
		3.5.4	Qualitati	ve Emulsification Index (E ₂₄) Test	29
	3.6	Characterization of Isolated <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp			30
		3.6.1	Morphole	ogical Observation	30
		3.6.2	Biolog G	EN III MicroPlate Analysis	30
		3.6.3	16S rRN	A Sequence Analysis	30
			3.6.3.1	Genomic DNA Extraction	30
			3.6.3.2	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	31
			3.6.3.3	Purification and Sequencing of PCR Product	31
			3.6.3.4	16S rRNA Sequence Analysis	31
	3.7	Growt	th Profiles	of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> RS6	32
	3.8	Mediu	im and Cul	Itivation Condition for Rhamnolipid Production	32
	3.9	Optim	ization of	Rhamnolipid Production	33
		3.9.1	Initial M	edium pH	33
		3.9.2	Carbon S	Sources	33
		3.9.3	Concentr	ations of Carbon Source	33
	3.10	Rhamnolipid Quantification			34
		3.10.1	Orcinol A	Assay	34
		3.10.2	Quantitat	tive Emulsification index (E_{24}) test	35
	3.11	Extrac	ction of Rh	amnolipid	35
	3.12	Characterization of Rhamnolipid			35
		3.12.1	High Per	formance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	35
			3.12.1.1	Chromatographic condition	35
			3.12.1.2	Preparation of stock and standard solution	36
			3.12.1.3	Preparation of mobile phase	36
		3.12.2	Fourier T	ransform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)	36
		3.12.3	Surface 7	Cension Measurement	36
	3.13	Data A	Analysis		37
4	RESI	JLTS A	ND DISC	USSION	38
	4.1	Samp	ling Area		38
	4.2	Isolati	on of Bios	urfactants-producing <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp	38
	4.3	Screen	ning of Bic	osurfactants-producing <i>Pseudomonads</i>	39
		4.3.1	Blue Aga	ar Plate (BAP) Method	39
		4.3.2	Drop Col	llapse Test	41
		4.3.3	Oil Sprea	ading Test/Oil Displacemnet Test	42
		4.3.4	Oualitati	ve Emulsification Index (E ₂₄) Test	43
	4.4	Chara	cterization	of Isolated <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp	45
	-	4.4.1	Morphol	ogical Observation	45
			+	-	

4.4.1 Morphological Observation

	4.4.2	Biolog C	GEN III MicroPlate Analysis	46
	4.4.3	16S rRN	A Sequence Analysis	47
4.5	Growth Profiles of P. aeruginosa RS6			49
4.6	Optim	ization of	Rhamnolipid Production	49
	4.6.1	Initial M	edium pHs	49
		4.6.1.1	Production of Rhamnolipid	49
		4.6.1.2	E ₂₄ against Kerosene	50
		4.6.1.3	E ₂₄ Stability	51
	4.6.2	Carbon S	Sources	52
		4.6.2.1	Growth and Rhamnolipid Production	52
		4.6.2.2	E ₂₄ Test	56
		4.6.2.3	Oil Spreading Test	59
		4.6.2.4	pH of the Culture Medium	60
	4.6.3	Concent	rations of Carbon Source	60
		4.6.3.1	Production of Rhamnolipid	60
		4.6.3.2	E ₂₄ Test	62
4.7	Analy	sis of Gro	wth Profiles and Rhamnolipid Production	64
4.8	Extrac	ction of Rh	namnolipid	67
4.9	Chara	cterization	n of <mark>Rhamn</mark> olipid	69
	4.9.1	High Per	formance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	69
	4.9.2	Fourier 7	Fransform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)	70
	4.9 <mark>.3</mark>	Surface 7	Tension Measurement	72
4.10	Yield	of Rhamn	olipid	73
CON	OT LICL	ONIC ANT	DECOMPTENDATIONS FOR	

4	5 CON	CLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	FOR
	FUT	URE RESEARCH	74
	5.1	Conclusions	74
	5.2	Recommendations	74
1	REFERENC	TES	76
-	A PPFNDIC	'FS	93
1	RIODATA	OF STUDENT	98
[LIST OF PI	TRUCATIONS	90
		JERCATIONS))

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Important types of microbial surfactants	5
2.2	Representative chemical composition of rhamnolipid mixture	8
2.3	Comparison of some properties of glycolipid biosurfactants	10
2.4	Pseudomonas species reported to produce rhamnolipid	15
2.5	Rhamnolipid production by <i>P. aeruginosa</i> strains	17
3.1	List of chemicals and oils	26
3.2	Composition for Pseudomonas Agar Base	27
3.3	Composition for <i>Pseudomonas</i> CN selective supplement	28
3.4	Composition for <i>Pseudomonas</i> CFC selective supplement	28
3.5	Mineral salts medium composition for Blue Agar Plate	28
3.6	Basal salts medium (BSM) compositions	33
4.1	Comparative evaluation of the biosurfactants properties	45
4.2	Emulsifying activity of biosurfactants	51
4.3	Emulsifying stability of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> RS6	52
4.4	Substrate specificity and emulsification activity of biosurfactants	58
4.5	Substrate specificity and emulsification activity	63
4.6	Substrate specificity and emulsification activity	64
4.7	Surface tension reduction of rhamnolipid samples	72
4.8	Surface tension reported from various P. aeruginosa strains	73
4.9	Substrate consumption to production yield $(Y_{P/S})$	73

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Common types of rhamnolipid found in Pseudomonas species	7
2.2	Biosynthetic pathway of rhamnolipid production	12
2.3	Biosurfactants market volume share (by application) in 2013	23
3.1	General experimental design	25
4.1	Bacterial colonies grown on Pseudomonas Agar plate	39
4.2	The dark blue halos exhibited by extracellular anionic biosurfactants-producing bacterial strain	40
4.3	Radius of clear zone formed by 9 isolates	41
4.4	Drop collapse test done on parafilm	42
4.5	Formation of clear zone on thin layer of oil in oil spreading test	43
4.6	Emulsion formed in the emulsification index test	44
4.7	Morphological characteristic of isolate RS6	46
4.8	The Biolog GEN III MicroPlate analysis result	47
4.9	Rooted neighbor joining tree based on 1,210 nucleotides positions	48
4.10	Growth of P. aeruginosa RS6 in nutrient broth	49
4.11	Effect of initial pH on biosurfactants production	50
4.12	Growth of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> RS 6 in BSM	53
4.13	Production of biosurfactants using different carbon sources	53
4.14	Emulsification index test against hydrocarbons	57
4.15	Oil spreading test against different water-soluble and water- insoluble carbon sources	59
4.16	pH variation after 3 days of incubation	60

4.17	Rhamnolipid production using different concentrations of carbon sources	62
4.18	Growth profile of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> RS6 in BSM	65
4.19	Rhamnolipid production profile in BSM	65
4.20	Extraction of rhamnolipid	68
4.21	HPLC chromatogram	70
4.22	FT-IR spectrum of the extracted biosurfactants	71



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BAP	Blue agar plate
СТАВ	Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide
MB	Methylene blue
MSA	Mineral salts agar
СМС	Critical micelle concentration
Rpm	Revolutions per minute
OD	Optical Density
BSM	Basal salt medium
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
LC-MS	Liquid chromatography-mass spectrophotometry
S.D	Standard deviation
R _f	Retention factor
LASs	Linear alkylbenzene sulfonates
нос	Hydrophobic organic compound
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate
dNTP	Deoxyribose nucleoside triphosphate
FT-IR	Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy
ATR	Attenuated total reflection
IR	Infrared spectroscopy
SAA	Surface active agent
SDS	Sodium n-dodecyl sulfate
BASF	Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik
CN	Cetrimide, nalidixate

CFC	Cetrimide, fucidin, cephalosporin
dTDP-L-rhamnose	L-rhamnose deoxythymidine diphosphate
NaCl	Sodium Chloride
NaOH	Sodium Hydroxide
NiO	Nickel oxide
CaCl ₂	Calcium Chloride
MgSO ₄	Magnesium Sulfate
ZnS	Zinc sulfide
μL	Microliter
μg	Microgram
g	Gram
h	Hour
L	Litre
m	Mili
min	Minute
mg	Miligram
ml	Mililiter
mN	Mili Newton
s	Second
v/v	volume/volume
w/v	weight/volume

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Surfactants or surface active agents intervene in almost every products and every aspect of human daily life, making them one of the most important molecules of industrial bulk chemicals. They are extensively used as formulation aid to promote solubilisation, emulsification and dispersion of other molecules for a wide variety of applications (Reznik *et al.*, 2010). In 2009, our government had introduced the National Green Policy to promote the development of the Green Industry in Malaysia. The Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA) defined 'Green technology' as the development and application of products, equipment and systems used to conserve the natural environment and resources, as well as minimizing and reducing the negative impact of human activities. With the increasing awareness in the communities towards safe and eco-friendly products, the exotoxicity, bio-accumulation and biodegradability of these chemically synthesized surfactants has become a major concern (Marchant and Banat, 2012; George and Jayachandran, 2012).

Through modern technology, biosurfactants have come to light as a green alternative to chemical surfactants to meet the ever-increasing demand for effective and environmentally compatible specialty products. Biosurfactants are amphiphilic molecules containing hydrophilic head and hydrocarbon tail moieties that reduce surface and interfacial tension by accumulating at the interface between immiscible fluids (Banat *et al.*, 2010). Their applications have been widely spread in the past five decades as they provide improved properties which chemical surfactant is lacking. They are considered as a very safe alternative to chemical surfactants due to their low toxicity, good biodegradability, effectiveness in extreme conditions and better environmental compatibility (Pornsunthorntawee *et al.*, 2008; Abdel-Mawgoud *et al.*, 2009).

Biosurfactants are generally grouped into glycolipids, lipopeptides, phospholipids, fatty acid salts and polymeric biosurfactants. Of all currently known biosurfactants, rhamnolipid (a glycolipid-type biosurfactants) are the well-studied biosurfactants and have the highest potential for becoming the next generation of biosurfactants introduced on the market (Henkel *et al.*, 2012). These compounds are characterized by the presence of one or two rhamnose molecules bonded to a hydrophobic fatty acid moiety. They have been applied in a wide range of applications, ranging from biological control, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and detergents, to environmental cleanup and petroleum recovery (Maier and Saberon-Chavez 2000; Haba *et al.*, 2003; Mulligan, 2009).

Although biosurfactants have shown some industrious advantages but commercial biosurfactants are still far from being economically competitive compared to chemical surfactants. The main concern for large scale production and commercial application of biosurfactants are due to the high cost associated with their production using microorganism and their low yield. This is due to the poor strain improvement, inefficient bioprocessing methodologies available and the use of expensive substrate (Aparna *et al.*, 2012; Shafiei *et al.*, 2014).

The discovery and evaluation of new biosurfactants-producing microorganism and economical biosurfactants production are necessary for expanding the commercial utilization of biosurfactants. In view of the above, this present work aimed to screen and isolate efficient biosurfactants-producing bacteria from various environments. Different water-soluble and water-insoluble carbon sources were used for better production of biosurfactants. The biosurfactants were extracted and its physiochemical properties were characterized using HPLC and FT-IR spectroscopy. The results from this study can provide excellent materials and resources to expand current knowledge on biosurfactants.

1.2 Objectives of Study

The objectives of this research were:

- a) To screen, isolate and characterize an efficient biosurfactants producing bacteria from local environments and to characterize the isolated bacterium using phenotypic and molecular studies.
- b) To obtain efficient biosurfactants production technique by isolated bacterium in shake flask culture and to characterize the biosurfactants produced.

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