

Optimization Of Paddy Straw Saccharification Using α -Amylase From *Aspergillus Tamaraii*

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Abstract

Stable enzymes under a wide range of environmental conditions are required bio-based industries. Extremophiles recently roused more attention as the potential source of these enzymes, one of them called α -amylase. α -Amylases are the earliest and powerful starch hydrolysing enzymes that restore synthetic hydrolysis of starch in industries. It releases sugars i.e glucose, maltose and little amount dextrin by cleaving the α -(1,4)-D-glucosidic bond in starch and other similar polysaccharides. It represents around 30% of the overall enzyme market. α -amylase applied in a variety of biotechnological applications such as in starch hydrolyzing, surfactants, textile, pulp, and drug industries. This study aimed to optimize paddy straw saccharification by solid substrate fermentation α -amylase production from *Aspergillus tamaraii* fungus. The optimum of saccharification showed for pH 6.0, 12% (w/v) of substrate concentration and enzyme activity of 10 U/g of paddy straw.

Keywords: Paddy straw, saccharification, α -amylase, *Aspergillus tamaraii* fungus.

Introduction

Enzymes have powerful biological catalysts which hasten the metabolic operations of a bio-activities (Aleem et al., 2018). Microbial enzymes are attracting a lot of interest because of its high stability, low cost, accessibility, efficiency and ecological sustainability (Singh et al., 2019). The α -amylase considers a vital enzyme that breakdown the α -1,4-glycosidic bonds of starch polymers and used in bioprocess (Rathouret et al., 2020).

Amylases have a variety of industries like food, fabric, surfactants, paper, medicinal and renewables industries (Paul et al., 2021). Amylase found in plants, animals, and microorganisms. Microbial amylases become more popular because of their capacity to serve typical industrial demands (Rana et al., 2013; Bozic et al., 2017). Among the microbes that make amylase, *Aspergillus tamaraii* discovered as one of the highest industrially amylase producers (Mohan et al., 2019).

α -amylases divided into two categories depending on their capacity to hydrolyze: liquefying and saccharifying α -amylases which may hydrolyze 30-40% and 50-60% of the starch, respectively (Janecek et al., 2014).

Hence, the goals of this work were to produce α -amylase from solid substrate fermentation using Iraqi fungal isolate *Aspergillus tamarii* and measure of saccharification optimization by paddy straw from fermentable sugar production.

Materials and Methods

Paddy Straw

Paddy straws were taken from Iraqi paddy processing plant. The paddy straws grounded using a blender after chopped about 1-2 cm in length. Later, the powdered paddy straws then sieved and gathered in the 0.4-1.00 mm range.

Microorganisms

The microorganism used in this study was a fungal isolate, obtained from Agricultural Engineering Sciences College- University of Baghdad, recultured on PDA medium at 28°C for 5 days and used for further study.

α -Amylase Production using SSF

α -amylase was produced in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask which contains 0.2% NaCl, 0.4% yeast extract and 0.8% peptone and added to 10 g of paddy straw flour and then sterilized at for 15 min 121°C. The substrate was then loaded with 8% v/w of spore suspension *Aspergillus tamarii* which reported of 1×10^6 spore/mL and grown for 4 days at room temperature. Then, the enzyme separated by putting of refrigerated distilled water (100 mL) and rotating for 30 min at 200 rpm. After that, the mixture was filtrated by cheese cloth and the supernatant was then taken in the next study.

α -amylase Assay

The activity of α -amylase determined by calculating the reducing sugars released from starch (Bernfeld, 1995). The solution including starch (0.5%) mixed in acetate buffer (pH 6.0) and added to diluted α -amylase which incubation at 80°C for 30 min. Then, the released reducing sugars evaluated by dinitrosalicylic acid reagent (DNSA). One α -amylase unit described as the amount of enzyme needed to release of 1 mmol of reducing sugars per milliliter per minute.

Optimization of Paddy Straw Saccharification

The hydrolysis of paddy straw flour (raw starch) was achieved in a 100 mL Erlenmeyer flask that contains of paddy straw flour (10%) with acetate buffer (0.05 M) at pH 6 which then added to 10 mL of α -amylase (paddy straw 8 U/g). After that, the content incubated for 4 days, 150 rpm at 45°C. Each day the sample was taken.

1. pH:

The hydrolysis process started with pH values of 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, and 7. A 0.05 M acetate buffer was used to alter the pH. The temperature was 45°C, the substrate concentration was 10%, and the enzyme concentration was 8 U/g of paddy straw.

2. Substrate concentration:

For the hydrolysis process, different substrate concentrations of 6 %, 8 %, 10 %, and 12 % were employed. The pH was set at 45°C, and the enzyme concentration was 8 U/g of paddy straw, as determined by a prior experiment.

3. Enzyme concentration:

The hydrolysis procedure was carried out using enzyme doses of 4, 6, 8, and 10 U/g of paddy straw, respectively. The pH and substrate concentration were determined by a prior experiment to be optimal. At 45°C, the step was completed.

Results and Discussion

Under SSF the α -amylase production was isolated. The benefits of SSF compared to submerged fermentation (SmF), like higher yield, easy approach, small cost, lesser energy demand and lower sewage production, and greater quality recovery (Asgher et al., 2006). About 4 days of SSF, the activity of α -Amylase reported of 43.22 U/g using paddy straw.

A researcher Mohan et al., (2019) showed the enzyme activity of α -amylase from *Aspergillus tamarii* was higher. Maximum α -amylase produced by *Aspergillus niger* of potato peel waste (Angelia et al., 2019).

In figure (1), the released concentration of fermentable sugar in all the pH values raised at two days but the maximum was 2.70 g/L at pH 6.0 while in all concentrations of substrate, the released concentration of fermentable sugar was elevated at two days but higher was 3.80 g/L at 12% of substrate concentration (figure 2). On the other hand, the released concentration of fermentable sugar in all enzyme concentrations obtained at two days, but superior was 3.75 g/L in enzyme concentration (10 U/g paddy straw) Figure (3).

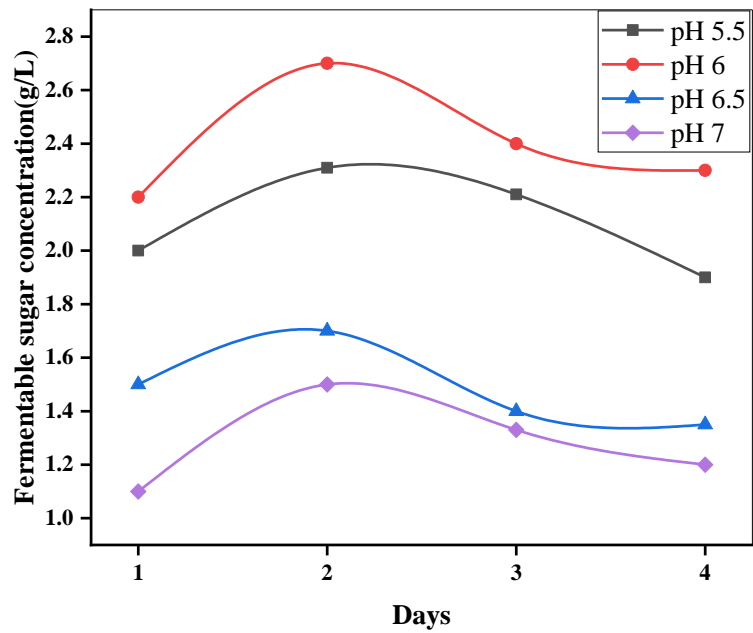


Fig. 1. The impact of variable pH on the paddy straw saccharification through α -amylase production at 45°C with an enzyme concentration of 8 U/g of paddy straw and a substrate concentration (10%).

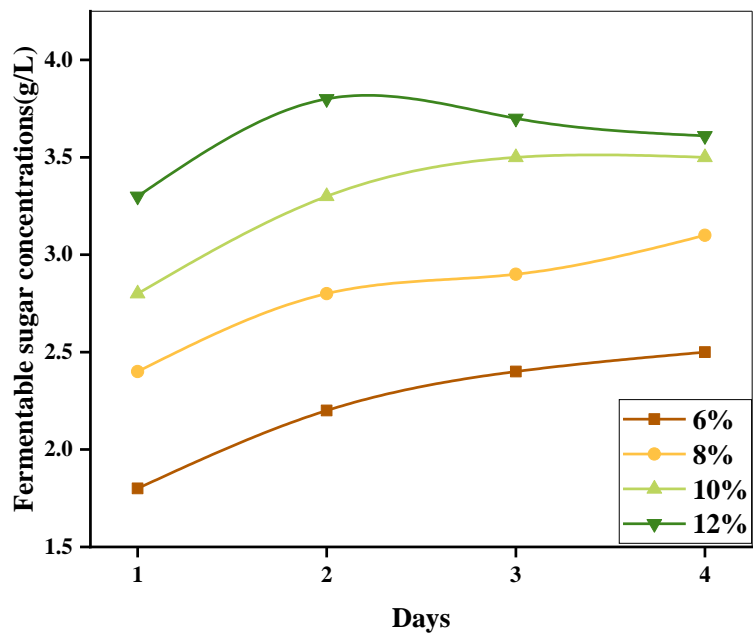


Fig.2. The impact of variable substrate concentration on the saccharification of paddy straw by α -amylase production at pH 6.0 and 45°C with an enzyme concentration of 8 U/g of paddy straw.

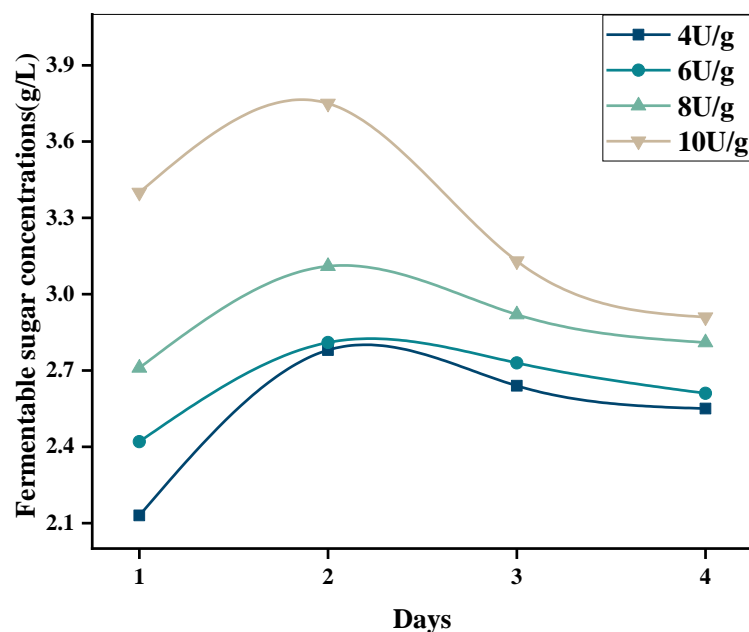


Fig. 3. The impact of variable enzyme concentration on the saccharification of paddy straw by α -amylase production at pH 6.0 and 45°C with a substrate concentration of 12%.

The activity of enzyme is normally related to enzyme concentration; because the enzyme concentration is normally lower than the substrate, the enzyme is limited with saturation in concentrations of substrate. Thus, at high concentrations of substrate, activity no longer changes with increasing substrate. No matter how much more enzyme or substrate is supplied, when a saturation value of substrate or enzyme is established, there is no further rise in enzyme production. This even indicates that, there at saturation value, no amount of extra substrate or enzyme will affect the enzyme reactions. (Yang et al., 2006; Chen et al., 2008).

Conclusion

α -Amylase isolated by SFF was 43.22 U/g of paddy straw from Iraqi isolate *Aspergillus tamarii*. According to the results of the study, the best conditions of paddy straw hydrolysis were pH 6.0, 12% of substrate concentration, and 10 U/g of paddy straw enzyme concentration. As a result, this enzyme may be employed in ethanol production industry.

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