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Increased Production of Glycerol from Fungal Species

J. Jayabarath*, **K. Jeyaprakesh, J. Jeny Joseline, M.J. Benuva

Head, Department of Biotechnology, Pavendar Bharathidasan College of Engineering and Technology, Mathur, Trichy-24, India*
***Head Dept of Biochemistry, Sir Rajah's Sarafoji College of Arts & Science, Thanjavour*
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Abstract

Glycerol finds a lot of industrial applications in the fields of cosmetics pharmaceuticals and in industries. In the present study the production of glycerol is studied using *candida krusei* in a batch reactor. The influence of different carbon source on glycerol production is studied using glucose, sucrose and different combinations of glucose and sucrose mixtures. The effect of initial pH was studied by varying the initial pH from 5.0 to 9.0 in order to find the optimum pH to maximize the concentration of cellmass and glycerol. Initial pH 7.0 was found to be an optimum for glycerol fermentation. The maximum glycerol concentration (0.58g/l) was obtained when glucose is used as a carbon source at a concentration of 200g/l.

Keywords: Glycerol, *candida krusei*, glycerol fermentation

Contents

***Corresponding author**
J. Jayabarath
Head, Department of Biotechnology,
Pavendar Bharathidasan College of Engineering and Technology, Mathur, Trichy-24,
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1. Introduction

Glycerol was first discovered by Swedish scientist Scheele CW by heating several oils and fats with lead oxide after a period of dormancy interest in this new product revived in France were Chevereuil a noted chemist undertook an intense study and obtained in 1823 the first patent dealing to its manufacture. He introduce the very name of glycerin. Thirteen years latter Pelouze another French worker established the empirical formula of glycerol while Berthelot and Luce publish its structural formula in 1883. Of all the properties known of glycerol it's a colourless odourless liquid of syrupy consistence with sweet taste. It is hygroscopic miscible with water and alcohol but insoluble in ether chlorinated solvents hydrocarbon and oils.

Glycerol itself has solvent properties; it is non-toxic and easily biodegradable.Glycerol is an important chemical with many uses including its use for producing 1,3-propanediol by fermentation.It can be produced from renewable resources by fermentation.Due to poor yields and productivity,the old sulphite process for glycerol production has

been gradually replaced by using osmophilic yeasts.Since the 1950s,many studies have focused on mechanism of glycerol accumulation under high osmotic stress.

2. Materials and Method

Microorganism:
Candida krusei was used for the work. It was regenerated from its lyophilized culture purchased from microbial type cultural collection center, Chandigarh. The culture was maintained in agar slants.

Preculturing conditions:
Candida krusei was first grown in agar slants which have the following composition in (g/L): Malt extract 3.0, Yeast extract 3.0, Glucose 40.0, Peptone 5.0 and Agar 20.0.The production medium consists of glucose, yeast extract and urea. The concentration of urea was held constant at 1.1 g/L and concentration of glucose and yeast extract were varied by maintaining the yeast extract to glucose ratio constant at 1 part yeast extract per 20 parts glucose. All media used in this experiment were sterilized by autoclave at 121° C and 14.5 psi for 15 minutes.

Estimation of cell growth:
Estimation of cell growth is carried out by spectrophotometric method. The optical density of all cultures is measured using spectronic-20D spectrophotometer at 600 nm with blanks of appropriate growth medium. Suspensions with an OD above 1.0 are diluted with the appropriate growth medium. Curves relating OD to dry weight are constructed by harvesting culture at room temp, washing with distilled water and resuspending the cells in distilled water to about 10 mg of dry wt per 100ml portions(50ml) are centrifuged ay 10000 rpm and dried at 70°C and weighed. The dry wt of the cells are determined. Candida krusie produces an extra cellular slime and in turn produces turbid soln.In such cases, OD is read against the culture supernatant blank, diluting the blank in the same ratio as the culture.

Test for total reducing sugars by DNS method:

a. The sample was suitably diluted to a conc. of 0.2 to 1.5 mg/L.
b. To 1ml of the sample 3ml of DNS was added, heated in boiling water bath for five minutes, cooled and diluted to 20ml.
c. The absorbance of the sample was then noted at 540 nm using spectrophotometer. Glucose standard was estimated from standard graph prepared from the standard glucose solution in the range of 0.2 to 2.0 mg/L.

Test for total polyols by Chromo tropic acid method:
Candida krusei consumes glucose and produce *glycerol* and trace amt of *arabitol* and *erythritol*. Chromo tropic acid method is used to test the total amt of polyols present in the test sample. In this method the interference of glucose is corrected by multiplying the glucose concentration by the factor of 0.03 and subtracting from the polyols concentration obtained. This will give the total and actual polyol conc.
Procedure:

a. 2.0 ml of the test soln containing 20-100 µg/ml was taken in a test tube and 0.1N sulphuric acid added
b. 0.5 ml sodium periodates was added and incubated for five minutes followed by the addition of 0.5ml sodium arsenite.
c. The mixture was kept for 10-15 minutes and the volume was made up to 10 ml by adding 6.9 ml of distilled water.
d. 1.0ml of the soln was added to the 10ml of Chromotropic acid reagent, and heated in boiling water bath for 30 minutes.

The mixture was cooled and the absorbance was read at 570nm.

3. Results and Discussion

4.1 Effect of initial pH on the growth of *Candida krusei*:
The effect of initial pH on cell growth and glycerol production using Candida krusei was studied by conducting experiments for 72 h at various initial pH levels ranging from 5.0-9.0. The optimum pH for cell growth and glycerol production was found to be 7.0 because it gave a maximum growth and yield of glycerol. The results are shown in following table 4.1.1 and figure 4.1.1.The growth of Candida krusei reaches maximum at 72 h of fermentation after that it falls down but for glycerol production gradual increase in production with respect to fermentation time was observed. The glycerol yield at pH 5.0-9.0 was found to be 0.38 and 0.35gm/L, respectively which were 70 and 60% of optimum value of pH 7.0 (0.8gm/L). A low production of glycerol was obtained in acidic and alkaline pH was values compared to neutral pH, may be due to a lower metabolic activity of the organisms.

Table 4.1.1: Effect of Initial pH on the growth and production of Glycerol by *Candida krusei*

pH	Cell mass OD 600nm	Glycerol
5	0.51	0.38
5.5	0.55	0.388
6	0.61	0.401
6.5	0.65	0.41
7	0.71	0.428
7.5	0.61	0.41
8	0.562	0.392
8.5	0.478	0.372
9	0.312	0.35

4.2 Effect of fermentation time on biosynthesis of glycerol in batch culture

The effect of fermentation time on biosynthesis of glycerol from *Candida krusei* utilizing glucose is studied by conduction batch experimental at various time intervals at 8,6,24,32,40,48,56,64, and 72 h at glucose conc of 20% by keeping all other parameters at constant level. The composition culture medium is same as the previous experiment. The results are shown in following table 4.2.1 and fig 4.2.1. the production of cell mass and glycerol steadily increases with increasing fermentation time. Fermentation time of 48 h is to be the optimum time for cell growth since the growth starts to decrease. Similarly for glycerol it is 56 h.Eventhough the conc of cell mass and glycerol are maximum at the end of 72h the productivity will be lower, it is better to stop the fermentation either at 48 or 56 h.

Inoculum size: 10% (v/v)
Initial glucose concentration: 200 g/L
Temperature: 35°C; pH: 7.0

Table 4.2.1: Effect of fermentation time on biosynthesis of Glycerol in batch culture

Time(hrs)	Cell mass OD 600nm	Polyol (g/L)
8	0.348	0.081
16	0.412	0.128
24	0.498	0.194
32	0.54	0.276
40	0.597	0.312
48	0.647	0.391
56	0.712	0.48
64	0.87	0.54
72	0.92	0.58

4.3 Effect of initial substrate (glucose) concentration on glycerol in batch culture:

The effect of initial substrate concentration on glycerol production using *Candida krusei* is studied by conducting the experiment at different substrate concentrations of 15%,17.5%,20%,22.5% and 25%(w/v) for a fermentation time of 48 hours. The initial pH is kept at an optimum level of 7.0 with the inoculum size 10% (v/v) the experiment of carried out in shake flasks in a shake (250 rpm). The medium compositions are same which are used in the previous expect the glucose conc study. The time course of cell growth and polyol production are analyzed and results are shown in following tables 4.3.1 to 4.3.5 and fig4.3.1 to 4.3.5.The substrate conc is increased from 15% to 25%, the concentration of cell mass and glycerol are increases considerably. The maximum conc cell mass (0.920 OD) and glycerol (0.720 g/L) are produced at 20.0% of glucose. At higher substrate concentrations levels, the cell mass and glycerol concentration decreases, this may be due to the substrate inhibition.

Inoculum size: 10% (v/v)
Initial glucose concentration: 200 g/L
Temperature: 35°C; pH: 7.0

Table 4.3.3: Effect of Initial substrate (glucose) concentration [20 %(w/v)] on Glycerol production in batch culture

Time(hrs)	Cell mass OD 600nm	Polyol(g/L)
8	0.348	0.081
16	0.412	0.128
24	0.498	0.194
32	0.54	0.276
40	0.597	0.312
48	0.647	0.391
56	0.712	0.48
64	0.87	0.54
72	0.92	0.58

4.4 Effect of Initial substrate (sucrose) concentration on glycerol in batch culture:
The effect of initial substrate conc on glycerol synthesis were studied in order to find the inhibition characteristics and to find an optimum substrate conc for maximum production of glycerol. The experiments were conducted at different initial sucrose conc namely 15%, 17.5%, 20%, 22.5% and 25% and at a pH of 7.0 and the temperature 35°C.At higher substrate conc the growth of the organism and glycerol yield were less due to substrate inhibition. As the initial substrate conc increases, the production of cell mass and glycerol increases and reaches a maximum of 0.8 g/l at 22.5% w/v. The results are shown in following table 4.4.1 to 4.4.5 and figures 4.4.1 to 4.4.5.
Inoculum size: 10% (v/v); Initial glucose concentration: 225g/L ; Temperature : 35°C; pH: 7.0

Table 4.4.4: Effect of Initial substrate (sucrose) concentration [22.5 %(w/v)] Glycerol production in batch culture

Time (hrs)	Cell mass OD 600nm	Polyol (g/L)
8	0.162	0.09
16	0.228	0.128
24	0.287	0.201
32	0.342	0.258
40	0.41	0.312
48	0.452	0.348
56	0.522	0.401
64	0.589	0.468
72	0.627	0.51

4.5 Effect of mixed substrate concentration on biosynthesis of glycerol in batch culture:
The effect of mixed substrate concentration on glycerol production using Candida krusei were studied by conducting the experiments at different mixed substrate conc for a fermentation time of 72h.The initial pH is kept at 7.0 and the inoculums size 10% are kept constant level. The other medium composition is same. The results are shown in following tables 4.5.1 to 4.5.2 and figure 4.5.1 to 4.5.2. It was observed that the addition of sucrose has no effect on glycerol production by *Candida krusei.*
Inoculum size: 10% (v/v); Mixed substrate glucose(125g/L) + sucrose(125g/L); Temperature : 35°C; pH : 7.0

Table 4.5.5: Effect of Mixed substrate concentration on biosynthesis of Glycerol in batch culture

Time(hrs)	Cell mass OD 600nm	Polyol(g/L)
8	0.169	0.112
16	0.201	0.148
24	0.289	0.184
32	0.321	0.248
40	0.388	0.302
48	0.438	0.327
56	0.512	0.368
64	0.549	0.421
72	0.601	0.482

4. Conclusion

Glycerol synthesis using Candida krusei in a batch reactor were studied. Initial pH 7.0 was found to be an optimum initial pH for Candida krusei where the maximum cell mass concentration was obtained.It was observed that the uptake capacity of Candida krusei show its maximum when the glucose is used as a carbon source maximum cell mass(0.920 OD) and glycerol conc (0.58 g/L) are obtained. Effect of mixed substrate on Candida krusei glycerol fermentation is not in significant level.

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