

# Isolation, Bioassay and Safty Evaluation of Destruxins

洪文凱、曾耀銘、王順成

E-mail: 8407511@mail.dyu.edu.tw

## ABSTRACT

Destruxins ( DTXs ) can be produced by the green muscardine fungus , *Metarhizium anisopliae* var . *anisopliae* in culture media. In this study , Czapek-Dox medium enriched with 0.5% bacto-peptone was used for shake flask production of destruxins. The inoculated medium in 500 mL flask was held at 27 °C , agitated with a rotary shaker of 150rpm , incubated for 14-19 days ( Liquid state fermentation , LSF). Plastic bag containing 200-300g of autoclaved polished-rice was inoculated and incubated at 28 °C , 24 hours light-period , for 14 days ( Solid state fermentation , SSF ) . After incubation , both cultures were subjected to extraction of destruxins by methylene chloride- methanol ( 95 : 5). The crude extract was run on HPLC ( Column : waters 5C 18-AR , 8 × 250mm ) and separated with a linear gradient of acetonitrile : water ( 30 : 70 ) to acetonitrile : water ( 70 : 30 ) for 45 minutes . Six major peaks (6,15,19,23,25,33mins ) were collected by HPLC . Compounds from different retention times were identified by FAB mass . Six destruxins ( DA , DA2 , DB , DMDB , DD , DE ) were isolated from both cultures , but the major components were different . While , the total yields from LSF was considerably lighter than SSF . Comparison of the biological activity of destruxins from LSF and SSF showed that the destruxins from SSF has a greater activity against *Spodoptera exigua* larvae than destruxins from LSF . The mortalities of DE , DA , DA2 , DD , and DB against 3rd-instar larvae of *Spodoptera exigua* were 43 , 18.33 , 11.86 , 10 , and 2.27 % respectively . Rats were orally dosed with *Metarhizium anisopliae* var . *anisopliae* spore suspensions . These suspensions ( 10<sup>8</sup> spore/ mL) produced no adverse effects on the health of the test animals . There was no evidence of infection in tissues . 85 % recovery of *Metarhizium anisopliae* var . *anisopliae* spores was resulted from faeces one day after dosing. Results also demonstrated no toxicity of destruxins ( 600mg/kg ) to rats when administrated via oral route of exposure .

Keywords : *Metarhizium* , Destruxins , Isolation , Bioassay , Toxicity .

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## REFERENCES

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