

Use of Response Surface Methodology to Optimize Culture Medium for Production of Poly(-glutamic acid) by *Bacillus licheniformis*

呂文凱、張耀南、洪淑嫻

E-mail: 9300259@mail.dyu.edu.tw

ABSTRACT

In this study, optimization of medium E composition for γ -PGA (poly- γ -glutamic acid) production by *Bacillus licheniformis* CCRC 12826 with response surface methodology (RSM). The factors chosen for optimization were glutamic acid, glycerol, citric acid and NH_4OH . The maximal yield of γ -PGA (35.33 g/L, average of four repeats) appeared at the region where the respective concentrations of glutamic acid, citric acid, glycerin and NH_4Cl were around 34 g/L, 26 g/L, 146 g/L and 11 g/L, respectively. The predicted optimal composition derived from RSM regression was 34.07 g/L glutamic acid, 27.00 g/L citric acid, 145.45 glycerin and 10.49 g/L NH_4Cl . With this composition, the predicted maximum γ -PGA production was 35.51 g/L.

Keywords : Poly(γ -glutamic acid), *Bacillus licheniformis*, γ -PGA, Response surface methodology.

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