

The studies on the chitosanase from *Aspergillus fumigatus* Fresenius

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a study of the utilization of chitosan by microbes to produce chitosanase. The chitosan-producing microorganism was identified as a strain of *Aspergillus fumigatus* Fresenius. Maximum chitosanase activity (0.4 U/mL) was obtained when the strain was grown aerobically in a medium consisting of 1g shrimp and crab shell powder, 0.1 g ammonium sulfate, 0.1 g ferrous sulfate, 0.1 g K₂HPO₄ and 0.05 g MgSO₄ · 7H₂O in 100 mL medium (pH 4.0) at 37 °C for 5 days. The chitosanase was purified from the culture supernatant of *Aspergillus fumigatus* Fresenius by ammonium sulfate fractionation, DEAE Sepharose CL-6B column chromatography and Sephacryl S-200 gel filtration. The purified enzymes estimated by SDS-PAGE have a molecular weight of 45 kDa. The optimal temperature, optimal pH and pH stability for chitosanase was 70 °C, 4, 4~6 respectively. The activity of chitosanase was activated by Mg²⁺ and 0.5 M Urea, but strongly inhibited by SDS, Mn²⁺ and Hg²⁺.

Keywords : chitosan ,shrimp and crab shell powder , chitosanase , *Aspergillus fumigatus* Fresenius

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