

# Optimization of Enzymatic Synthesis of Octyl Hydroxyphenylpropionate by Response Surface Methodology

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## ABSTRACT

Phenolic acids are widely known as efficient antioxidants in biological systems. Generally, the solubility of natural antioxidants might be a restriction to the practical applications in hydrophobic media. Therefore, the esterification of phenolic acid with alcohol can be a tool to alter physical properties like solubility and activity of the lipophilic antioxidants in oil based formulae and emulsions. Phenols can be converted into esters by esterification with acid chlorides or acid anhydrides; however, these routes do not meet the requirements necessary for food applications. Recently the esterification of organic acids via enzymatic routes has been successfully reported in some studies. The ability for immobilized lipase *Candida antarctica* (Novozyme?435) to catalyze the direct esterification of p-hydroxyphenylpropionic acid and octanol was investigated in this study. Response surface methodology (RSM) and 5-level-4-factor central composite rotatable design (CCRD) were employed to evaluate the effects of synthesis parameters, such as reaction time (24?72 h), temperature (25?65 °C), enzyme amount (10?50%, w/w), and pH memory (pH 5?9) on percentage molar conversion of phenolic acid ester. Reaction time, temperature and enzyme amount were the most important variables. Based on ridge max analysis, the optimum synthesis conditions with 96% molar conversion were: reaction time 58 h, temperature 53 °C, enzyme amount 38%, and pH memory 7.

Keywords : phenolic ; direct esterification ; lipase ; optimization ; response surface methodology

## Table of Contents

目錄 封面內頁 簽名頁 授權書 III 中文摘要 V 英文摘要 VI 誌謝 VIII 目錄 IX 圖目錄 XII 表目錄 XIII 第一章 緒論 1 第二章 文獻回顧 5 2.1 商業界天然抗氧化劑之使用近況 5 2.1.1 抗氧化劑之定義 6 2.1.2 抗氧化劑的種類 7 2.1.3 抗氧化劑的作用機制 9 2.1.3.1 第一類抗氧化劑 9 2.1.3.2 第二類抗氧化劑 9 2.1.3.3 第三類抗氧化劑 12 2.1.3.4 第四類抗氧化劑 13 2.1.3.5 第五類抗氧化劑 13 2.2 酚酸之抗氧化活性 14 2.2.1 來源與抗氧化作用機制 14 2.2.2 結構與抗氧化活性 18 2.2.3 酚酸酯化對低密度脂蛋白氧化之影響 21 2.3 酚酸酯類合成之國內外相關研究 22 2.3.1 化學合成 23 2.3.2 酶素合成 24 2.4 脂解酶素於油脂工業上之優勢 26 2.4.1 Novozyme?435之簡介 27 2.4.2 脂解酶素之專一性 28 2.4.3 影響酶素活性之因子 31 2.4.3.1 溫度 31 2.4.3.2 pH值 32 2.4.3.3 水活性 32 2.4.3.4 離子強度 32 2.4.3.5 界面不活化 33 2.5 反應曲面法之應用 34 2.5.1 反應曲面法之原理 34 2.5.2 二水準因子設計 35 2.5.3 中心混層設計 38 2.5.4 回應曲面模式適切性之統計檢驗 41 2.5.5 正則分析 41 第三章 材料與方法 43 3.1 實驗材料 43 3.1.1 儀器設備 43 3.1.2 藥品 43 3.2 實驗設計與方法 44 3.2.1 實驗設計 44 3.2.2 酶素pH記憶值之調整 46 3.2.3 酶素含水量之校正 46 3.2.4 羅苯丙酸辛酯之合成方法 46 3.2.5 萃取與分析 48 3.2.6 統計分析 48 3.3 結果與討論 50 3.3.1 時間對莫耳轉換率的影響 51 3.3.2 溫度對重量轉換率的影響 52 3.3.3 酶素用量對重量轉換率的影響 55 3.3.4 酶素pH記憶值對莫耳轉換率的影響 55 3.3.5 最優化合成之研究 59 3.3.6 綜合討論 65 第四章 結論 68 參考文獻 70 附錄一 酚酸酯類酶素合成之文獻整理 80 圖目錄 圖1-1 以脂解酶素催化對羅苯丙酸與辛醇之直接酯化反應 4 圖2-2 常見之人工合成抗氧化劑 11 圖2-3 植物組織中之酚酸衍生物結構 16 圖2-4 植物中苯丙胺酸之生合成路徑 17 圖2-5 抗氧化能力測試之酚酸結構 19 圖2-6 三甘油酯以sn-命名的代表分子 30 圖2-7 中心混層設計法之星點及中心點補充實驗圖 40 圖3-1 氣相層析儀分析羅苯丙酸辛酯之標準圖譜 49 圖3-2 反應時間對羅苯丙酸辛酯合成產率之影響，反應條件分別為：反應溫度45 °C、酶素用量30 % 及酶素pH記憶值7 56 圖3-3 酶素用量與反應時間對羅苯丙酸辛酯莫耳轉換率影響 57 圖3-4 酶素用量與反應溫度對羅苯丙酸辛酯莫耳轉換率影響 58 圖3-5 酶素用量與酶素pH記憶值對羅苯丙酸辛酯莫耳轉換率影響之反應曲面圖 60 圖3-6 羅苯丙酸辛酯百分比莫耳轉換率之等高線圖。在等高線圖內之數字是用來表示不同的反應條件下之莫耳轉換率 61 圖3-7 正則分析建議之最優化酶素合成 64 表目錄 表2-1 天然抗氧化劑之來源 8 表2-2 農業廢棄物中之多酚萃取物 15 表2-3 酚酸在不同測試方法中之抗氧化活性 20 表2-4 脂解酶素的分類與來源 29 表2-5 23因子設計表 37 表2-6 中心混層設計之補充實驗 39 表3-1 五階層四變數中心混層實驗設計反應參數實驗值之範圍 45 表3-2 羅苯丙酸辛酯之五階層四變數中心混層實驗設計與數據 47 表3-3 羅苯丙酸辛酯莫耳轉換率對合成變數之變異數分析 53 表3-4 羅苯丙酸辛酯合成變數之聯合檢測分析 54 表3-5 利用脊形分析評估羅苯丙酸辛酯莫耳轉換率之最大值 63

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