

# Effect of Adding Organic Acid Salts on the Biosynthesis of PHBV by *Ralstonia eutropha* in a Nitrogen-limiting Condition

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## ABSTRACT

In this study, organic acid salts were added in a nitrogen limiting medium as the second carbon source (glucose as the primary carbon source) to cultivate *Ralstonia eutropha* to produce PHBV (polyhydroxybutyrate-co-valerate). The method of one-factor-at-a-time was used to investigate the effects of cultivating conditions, including timing of adding organic acid salts (sodium acetate, sodium propionate, sodium butyrate, sodium valerate and sodium lactate) and their concentrations (sodium propionate, sodium valerate and sodium lactate) on the biosynthesis of PHBV. After the one-factor-at-a-time analysis was performed, results showed that the HB biosynthesis could be maximized (HB 1.34 g/L, about 53.5% of the biomass) if sodium acetate was added at the beginning of cultivation; adding sodium propionate after 24 h of cultivation, the HV biosynthesis could be maximized (0.72 g/L, about 12.6% of the biomass); when sodium butyrate was added after 24 h of cultivation, the HB biosynthesis could be maximized (1.81 g/L, about 72.5% of the biomass); added sodium valerate after 24 h of cultivation, the HV biosynthesis could be maximized (0.80 g/L, about 12.7% of the biomass); added sodium lactate after 24 h of cultivation, the HB biosynthesis could be maximized (5.66 g/L, about 59.0% of the biomass). The effect of organic acid salts concentration (between 2 and 10 g/L) at an appropriate timing of adding organic acid salts in a nitrogen limiting condition was examined. The results showed that the HV biosynthesis could be maximized (0.18 g/L) if 2 g/L sodium propionate was added; adding 8 g/L sodium valerate was the best to maximize the HV biosynthesis (0.11 g/L); the HB biosynthesis could be maximized (4.98 g/L) when 8 g/L sodium lactate was added. Based on the results obtained from the one-factor-at-a-time method, further investigation for the appropriate concentration of mixed organic acid salts was also performed with the aid of a central composite design.

Keywords : *Ralstonia eutropha* ; PHBV organic acid salts ; central composite design

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