

'SYNTHETIC LIPASE' PRODUCTION FROM A NEWLY ISOLATED *SPORIDIOBOLUS PARAROSEUS* STRAIN BY SUBMERGED FERMENTATION

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ABSTRACT

The lipase produced by a newly isolate *Sporidiobolus pararoseus* strain has potential catalysis ability for esterification reactions. In order to improve its synthetic activity, this work aimed at optimizing 'synthetic lipase' production by submerged fermentation of a conventional media based on peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil using experimental design technique. According to the results obtained in the first experimental design (2⁴⁻¹), yeast extract and NaCl concentrations were tested to further optimization by response surface methodology. The maximum 'synthetic lipase' activity obtained was 26.9 U/mL in the optimized media (5.0, 6.8, 7.0 and 1.0% (wt/v) of peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil, respectively), representing a 6.36-fold increase compared to the initial medium. The time course of 'synthetic lipase' production in the optimized condition was evaluated in terms of synthetic activity, protease activity, biomass and total carbon and the maximum synthetic activity was observed during the stationary phase of growth.

Key words: *Sporidiobolus pararoseus*; experimental design; 'synthetic lipase'; submerged fermentation.

INTRODUCTION

Lipases (triacylglycerol hydrolases, EC 3.1.1.3) are a family of hydrolases which act on carboxylic ester bonds. Lipases have recently assumed an important place in the enzyme biotechnology field because they are versatile enzymes which act in a wide range of substrates. They act, by definition, in the organic-aqueous interface, catalyzing the hydrolysis of

carboxylic ester bonds and releasing organic acids and alcohols. However, the reverse reaction (esterification) or transesterification reactions can occur in environments with water restriction (3, 14, 15, 20, 29).

Lipases are ubiquitous in all types of living organisms and can be obtained from different sources such as microorganisms, animals and plants (3, 20, 29). The enzymes of bacteria and fungi have the greatest potential as industrial

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biocatalysts, as they present high synthesis rates, high-yield conversion of substrate to product, great versatility and simplicity in environmental and genetic manipulation of its productive capacity and improved recovery from fermentation broth (3, 20).

Microbial lipases are produced mainly by submerged culture (31). A wide variety of culture conditions that stimulate or suppress the production of microbial lipases are described in the literature, and there is no general procedure to improve its production (15, 31). The expression of lipolytic proteins is often induced and can be modulated by several parameters (20). Among them, sources of carbon and nitrogen supplied during fermentation are of particular importance, as well as the addition of compounds which can act as inducers, such as lipid carbon sources (31, 37). It has been reported that some eukaryotic microorganisms can produce different forms of lipases with different catalytic properties, and production of these biocatalysts were influenced by culture conditions (39).

Hydrolytic and synthetic activities are often used to characterize a lipase catalytic ability, and the former is mostly preferred. However, it has been proposed that synthetic activities of lipases in organic solvents do not correspond to their hydrolytic activities, and not all the lipases were capable of catalyzing synthetic reactions in organic solvents. In order to improve the lipase catalytic ability in organic solvent, the effects on the enzyme production must be studied systematically and the culture condition needs to be optimized (35, 36, 39).

Being an indicator of catalytic ability in organic solvent, synthetic activity of lipase attracts more and more researchers' eyes (39). The production of lipases for use in organic media has advantages such as higher solubility in hydrophobic substrates, shift of thermodynamic equilibrium in favor of synthesis instead of hydrolysis and increased thermo-stability of the enzyme. However, catalytic activities are generally lower than those expressed in water, due to difficulties in homogenization of the catalytic system (22).

'Synthetic lipases' are gaining more attention nowadays

because of their potential to catalyze the production of biodiesel, reducing the operational cost associated with the conventional process, as well overcoming problems related to chemical catalysis. As the lipase cost of producing is a major obstacle to the commercialization of the lipase catalyzed process, various attempts have been made to develop cheaper systems (28, 38). Besides biodiesel production, many other applications of lipase with synthetic activity have been proposed, such as enantioselective reactions (6, 24), synthesis of various esters (5, 21, 26) and kinetic resolutions of chiral compounds (2).

Till date yeast lipases from *Candida rugosa* and *Candida antarctica* stand out as the sources of most commercially available lipase preparations (17, 37). At the same time, continuous demand for highly active enzymes with appropriate properties encourages the research for new enzyme sources (17). In a previous work developed by our research group, a number of microorganisms potentially producers of synthetic and hydrolytic lipases were isolated from various sources (13). Here, we report media optimization for maximum 'synthetic lipase' production from a newly isolated strain of *Sporidiobolus pararoseus* by submerged fermentation of a conventional media.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Yeast identification

Firstly, the strain was incubated in PD medium at 28 °C for 24 hours. The yeast DNA was extracted according to the methodology proposed by Stearling (32) and quantified in a spectrophotometer model NanoDrop, ND-1000 (NanoDrop Technologies).

The domain D1/D2 of the 26S rDNA, that provided a similar identification when compared with DNA reassociation, is a quickly and easy methodology for yeast species (18). Using primers NL1 and NL4 (10, 19) this region was amplified in a volume of 25 µL containing: 2.0 µL of DNA; 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 mM of dNTP; 0.2 mM of each primers and 0.2 µL of

Platinum® Taq Polymerase 5 U/ μ L (Invitrogen). The reactions were performed using a thermocycler, model GeneAmp PCR System 9700 (Applied Biosystems) under the following conditions: 94 °C for 5 min, followed by 33 cycles of 94 °C for 30 s, 52 °C for 45 s and 72 °C for 1 min; and a final extension of 72 °C for 10 min. Visualization of the amplified DNA was performed by electrophoresis in 1.5% agarose in 0.5 X TSB buffer and staining with GelRed (Biotium Inc., Hayward, CA), using as molecular standard 2 μ L of Low Mass 47 DNA Ladder (Invitrogen Technology). The product was purified with the Kit GFX™ PCR DNA and Gel Band Purification (GE Healthcare), according to the manufacturer's instructions and sequenced in an automatic sequencer ABI PRISM 3100 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems).

For the construction of the sequence consensus, the programs Phred/Phrap (9) and Consed (12) were used. This sequence was compared with data from *GenBank National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)* and references sequences (1, 10). The global alignment of the sequences and the phylogenetic analysis were performed with the program MEGA version 4.0 (34). Cladistic analyses were constructed with the neighbor joining method (30), using Jukes-Cantor for distance measurement. The confidence levels for the individual branches of the resulting tree were assessed by bootstrap analysis (11), in which 1000 bootstrapped trees were generated from the re-sampled data.

Cell production

The yeast used in the present study was previously isolated from soybean meal (13). This microorganism was maintained in glycerol at -80 °C and potato dextrose agar slants under refrigeration. The propagation was carried out for 3 days at 30 °C in Petri plates containing a media constituted by potato dextrose agar (PDA) 3.9% (m/v) and distilled water. The pre-inoculum was prepared by adding the microorganism from the plate in test tubes containing 10 mL of PC media (0.5, 0.25 and 0.1 % m/v of tryptone, yeast extract and dextrose, respectively) sterilized at 121 °C for 15 minutes. The mixture was incubated

at 30 °C for 24 hours. The inoculum was prepared by mixing the pre-inoculum with 90 mL of sterilized PC media in 250 mL Erlenmeyer flasks covered with cotton plugs. The flasks were incubated in rotary shaker at 30 °C and 150 rpm for 24 hours.

Culture conditions

Fermentation media consisted of peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil at different concentrations. Cultivation was carried out in 250 mL Erlenmeyers flasks covered with cotton plugs in rotary shaker at 30 °C and 150 rpm. The media (90 mL) was sterilized at 121 °C for 15 minutes, cooled and inoculated with the inoculum solution (10%). After fermentation, samples were collected and filtered through Whatmann qualitative paper. The filtrate was frozen at -80 °C for 24 hours and then lyophilized for 48 hours. The resultant solid was considered the crude enzymatic extract and used for analytical assays.

Optimization of lipase production

The concentration of media components, which could influence 'synthetic lipase' production by *Sporidiobolus pararoseus* under submerged fermentation, was evaluated. Before optimization, a time course experiment was conducted using the conventional media optimized in a previous work (25). Lipase synthetic activity in a media constituted by 2.0, 0.5, 0.5 and 1.0 % wt/v of peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil, respectively, was monitored within 168 hours of fermentation at 30 °C and 150 rpm. The media optimization for the production of lipase by *S. pararoseus* was performed at 48 hours of fermentation using the strategy of sequential experimental designs. In the first experimental design, the effects of media components were evaluated using a 2⁴⁻¹ fractional design. After statistical analysis, a second experimental design (full 2²) was performed keeping constant peptone and olive oil concentrations (5.0 and 1.0%wt/v, respectively). In order to optimize the lipase production, three concentrations of NaCl (7.0, 8.0 and 9.0% wt/v) were evaluated in triplicate assays, keeping constant the peptone,

yeast extract and olive oil concentrations (5.0, 6.8 and 1.0%wt/v, respectively). Table 1 presents the variables and range of study for the experimental designs performed. The response evaluated in all experiments was lipase synthetic activity.

Table 1. Ranges of factors investigated in the sequential experimental designs

| Level | First Experimental Design | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------|-----|
| | -1 | 0 | 1 |
| Peptone (%wt/v) | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| Yeast Extract (%wt/v) | 0 | 1.75 | 3 |
| NaCl (%wt/v) | 0 | 1.75 | 3 |
| Olive oil (%wt/v) | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Second Experimental Design | | | |
| Yeast extract (%wt/v) | 1.2 | 4 | 6.8 |
| NaCl (%wt/v) | 1.2 | 4 | 6.8 |

Time course of lipase production

Lipase synthetic activity, protease activity, biomass (dry cellular weight) and total carbon concentration were monitored within 120 hours of fermentation in the optimized condition.

Analytical assays

Lipase synthetic activity was assayed by alkali titration using oleic acid and ethanol as substrates. A 0.1 g sample of lyophilized enzyme was added to a 1:2 mixture of oleic acid and ethanol. After incubation in shaker for 40 minutes at 40 °C

and 150 rpm, the reaction was interrupted and the products were extracted by the addition of 20 mL of an acetone/ethanol solution (1:1v/v). The amount of oleic acid consumed was then titrated with 0.02 M NaOH until pH 11. Reaction blanks were run in the same way, but adding the sample after addition of acetone/ethanol solution. The lipase activities were performed in duplicate. A unit of lipase activity was defined as the amount of enzyme that consumes 1 µmol of oleic acid per minute under the assay conditions.

Protease activity was measured by a modified method described elsewhere (4) using azocasein as substrate for proteolytic enzymes. Biomass estimation was determined by OD at 695 nm (Agilent 8453); a calibration curve was built to correlate OD and dry cellular weight. Total carbon concentration was determined in a Total Organic Carbon Analyzer (TOC-V CSH Shimadzu).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Yeast identification

The isolate was identified as *Sporidiobolus pararoseus*, with 100% homology, when compared to reference sequences of D1/D2 domain from NCBI (18). Furthermore, a dendrogram analysis also confirmed the identity of isolate W8 with Bootstrap of 97%, when compared to species of *S. pararoseus* (Fig. 1).

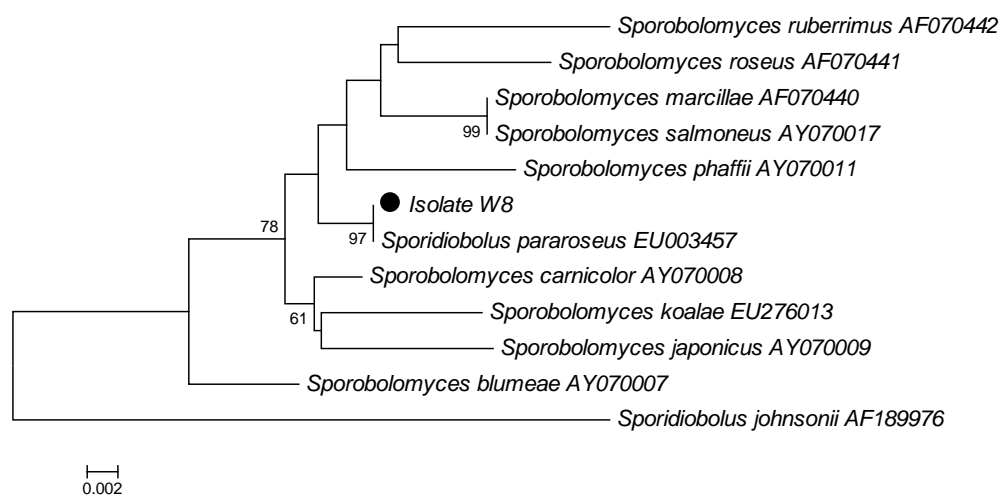


Figure 1. Phylogenetic trees drawn from neighbor-joining analysis based on sequences of the D1/D2 domain, depicting the relationships of *Sporidiobolus pararoseus* and the novel isolated W8. Bootstrap percentages over 50% from 1000 bootstrap replicates are shown

Lipase production optimization

Before optimization process was carried out, a time course experiment was conducted in a media optimized previously (25). Fig. 1 presents the time course of 'synthetic lipase' production within a 168 hours incubation period. It can be observed that the highest lipase activity (4.23 U/mL) was obtained after 48 hours of fermentation. In this way, this fermentation time was chosen to perform the sequential experimental design.

Table 2 presents the matrix of the 2^{4-1} fractional experimental design performed in the first step of this work

Table 2. Matrix of the first experimental design (coded and real values) with responses in terms of lipase synthetic activity

| Run | Peptone (% wt/v) | YE (% wt/v) | NaCl (% wt/v) | Olive oil (% wt/v) | LSA (U/mL) |
|-----|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1 | -1(2) | -1(0) | -1(0) | -1(0) | 0.25 |
| 2 | +1(8) | -1(0) | -1(0) | +1(2) | 1.16 |
| 3 | -1(2) | +1(3) | -1(0) | +1(2) | 2.48 |
| 4 | +1(8) | +1(3) | -1(0) | -1(0) | 2.28 |
| 5 | -1(2) | -1(0) | +1(3) | +1(2) | 2.46 |
| 6 | +1(8) | -1(0) | +1(3) | -1(0) | 1.07 |
| 7 | -1(2) | +1(3) | +1(3) | -1(0) | 4.89 |
| 8 | +1(8) | +1(3) | +1(3) | +1(2) | 7.98 |
| 9 | 0(5) | 0(1.75) | 0(1.75) | 0(1) | 7.82 |
| 10 | 0(5) | 0(1.75) | 0(1.75) | 0(1) | 7.19 |
| 11 | 0(5) | 0(1.75) | 0(1.75) | 0(1) | 6.14 |

For a more consistent analysis of these results, the data obtained were tabulated and analyzed using the software Statistica®, module of Experimental Design. We could observe that, with a 90% confidence level, yeast extract and NaCl presented significant positive effects on lipase synthetic activity. The other factors also presented positive effects, which were not significant considering the same confidence level.

Generally, microorganisms provide high yields when organic nitrogen sources are used, such as peptone and yeast extract. Yeast extract is one of the most important nitrogen sources for high level lipase production by different microorganisms. Besides this role, it supplies vitamins and trace elements for their growth and increases their lipase production (8). Peptone and yeast extract were found to have positive effects on hydrolytic lipase production by *Rhizopus*

with real and coded values for independent variables (peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil concentrations) and the response in terms of lipase synthetic activity in 48 hours of fermentation. From Table 2 it can be observed that the highest lipase activity (7.98 U/mL) was obtained using the highest media components concentrations (run 8). However, lipase activity obtained in this experimental condition was quite similar to that of the central points (7.05 ± 0.85 U/mL – runs 9, 10 and 11). According to Tukey's test, these values showed no significant difference at a 95% confidence level.

arrhizus (27). Peptone was also found to efficiently improve the production of extracellular lipase by many other researchers. In the production whole-cell synthetic lipase by *Rhizopus chinensis* in SSF, the supplementation of 2.0 % (w/w) of peptone gave the highest activity (16,855 U/Kg substrate). According to these authors, the enhanced synthetic activity with whole-cell lipase is probably ascribed to some co-factors or amino-acids contained in peptone which accidentally match *R. chinensis* physiological requirements for WCSL biosynthesis (33). In the optimization of submerged fermentation media for the production of synthetic membrane-bound lipase from *Rhizopus chinensis*, the authors found that peptone concentration was the most important factor influencing lipase production, followed by olive oil concentration (39).

Many researchers have published their results on effects

of oils in enhancing lipase synthetic and hydrolytic activities (33). However, a few authors have produced high yields of hydrolytic lipases in the absence of fats and oils (31). In a work evaluating the influence of the presence of different lipid compounds on the production of different lipases (intracellular, extracellular and membrane-bound) by *Thermus thermophilus* in submerged fermentation, it has been shown that the presence of olive oil improved the production of intracellular and membrane-bound lipases, but not extracellular lipases (7).

The salinity was found to be a critical factor on the production of hydrolytic lipase by a marine isolated *Pseudomonas* sp. strain. In the absence of sodium chloride, only traces of enzyme were produced and no considerable microorganism growth was observed. The lipase production reached the highest value when the production media contained 1.5% NaCl (16).

Based on the results obtained from statistical analysis, yeast extract and NaCl concentrations have been selected as factors to be studied in a full 2^2 experimental design. Although peptone and olive oil have not presented significant effect at 95% confidence level, the highest responses were observed on the highest levels for all factors and on central points. In this way, in full 2^2 experimental design, peptone and olive oil concentrations were kept at their respective central point values (5.0 and 1.0 % wt/v, respectively), while the levels of the other variables were moved upward.

Table 3 presents the matrix of the 2^2 full experimental design accomplished in this step with real and coded values for the independent variables and the response in terms of lipase activity. From this table it can be observed that the highest lipase synthetic activity (19.13 U/mL) was obtained using the highest media components concentrations (run 4).

Table 3. Matrix of the second experimental design (coded and real values) with responses in terms of lipase synthetic activity

| Run | YE (% wt/v) | NaCl (% wt/v) | LA (U/mL) |
|-----|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | -1(1.2) | -1(1.2) | 6.03 |
| 2 | +1(6.8) | -1(1.2) | 5.10 |
| 3 | -1(1.2) | +1(6.8) | 13.00 |
| 4 | +1(6.8) | +1(6.8) | 19.13 |
| 5 | 0(4) | 0(4) | 11.07 |
| 6 | 0(4) | 0(4) | 7.79 |
| 7 | 0(4) | 0(4) | 9.72 |

The statistical analysis of the second experimental design data revealed that NaCl concentration exhibited positive significant effect ($p < 0.05$) on lipase production. Yeast extract concentration and the linear interaction between yeast extract and NaCl concentrations showed no significant effect at 95% confidence level.

Equation 1 presents the coded optimized model for 'synthetic lipase' production as a function of yeast extract and NaCl concentrations. The ANOVA analysis for lipase activity showed high correlation coefficient ($R=0.94$) and a good performance on the F-test for regressions. The model generated a response surface depicted in Fig. 2.

$$\text{Lipase activity (U/mL)} = 10.26 + 1.30 \cdot \text{yeast extract (L)} + 5.25 \cdot \text{NaCl (L)} + 1.76 \cdot \text{yeast extract (L)} \cdot \text{NaCl (L)} \quad (1)$$

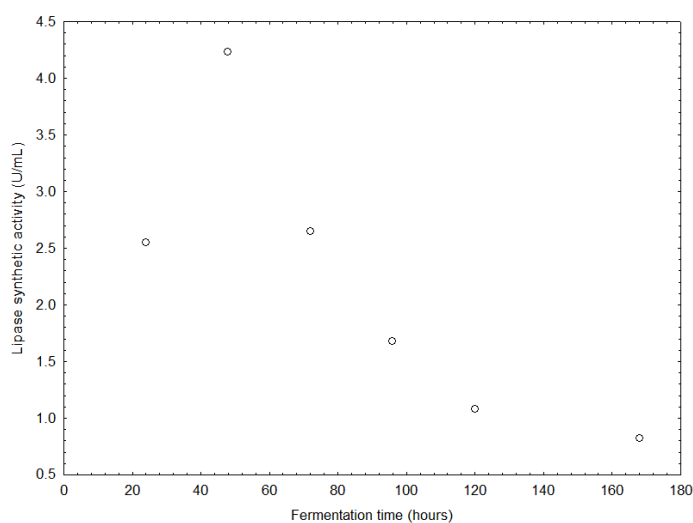


Figure 2. Time course of 'synthetic lipase' production within 168 hours of fermentation in a media composed by 2.0, 0.5, 0.5 and 1.0 % (wt/v) of peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil, respectively

After analyzing the results obtained in the second experimental design, the next step towards optimizing lipase production was to increase NaCl concentration. Peptone and olive oil concentrations were kept at the same levels and yeast extract was fixed at +1 level (6.8% wt/v) of the full 2^2 design.

Lipase synthetic activities obtained were 26.9 ± 1.4 , 6.9 ± 1.1 and 0.0 ± 0.0 U/mL for 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 % (wt/v), respectively. Tukey's test has been performed and the different concentrations showed significant difference among each other at 95% level of confidence. This result shows that 'synthetic lipase' production is inhibited at higher NaCl concentrations.

Therefore, the optimized condition for 'synthetic lipase' production from *S. pararoseus* by submerged fermentation of a conventional media was 5.0, 6.8, 7.0 and 1.0 % (wt/v) of peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil concentrations, respectively. The maximum lipase synthetic activity obtained in this experimental design was 26.9 U/mL at 48 hours of fermentation.

In the study of the production of 'whole-cell synthetic lipase' from *Rhizopus chinensis* by solid-state fermentation using a combined wheat flour and bran substrate, the maximum synthetic activity of 24,447 U/kg substrate was reached by selecting a moisture content of 70%, initial pH of 6.5, supplementation of peptone (2%, w/w) as additional nitrogen source and olive oil (2%, v/w) as inducer; which represented a 15.27-fold increase of lipase synthetic activity compared to the initial media (33).

The factors agitation, inoculums, maltose, olive oil and

K_2PO_4 concentrations, pH and fermentation volume in the production of 'synthetic lipase' from *Rhizopus chinensis* by submerged fermentation were studied. Under optimal conditions, the experimental result was 13,875 U/L, which 120% improved compared with the un-optimized condition (35).

The optimized media composed by maltose, peptone, $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ and K_2HPO_4 for whole-cell synthetic lipase production in submerged fermentation by *R. chinensis* enhanced in 61.5% the synthetic activity of the membrane-bound lipase produced ($470 \text{ U/g}_{\text{dry cells}}$) (39). A 'synthetic lipase' activity of 694 $\text{U/g}_{\text{dry cells}}$ was obtained when 20 g/L soybean oil was added to the previous media (36).

Time course of lipase production

Lipase synthetic activity, biomass (dry cellular weight) and total carbon concentration profile for lipase production in the optimized media is given in Fig. 3. From this profile it can be observed that the highest lipase synthetic activity was obtained in 72 hours of fermentation using the optimized media. It was not observed protease activity during the fermentation according to the measurements.

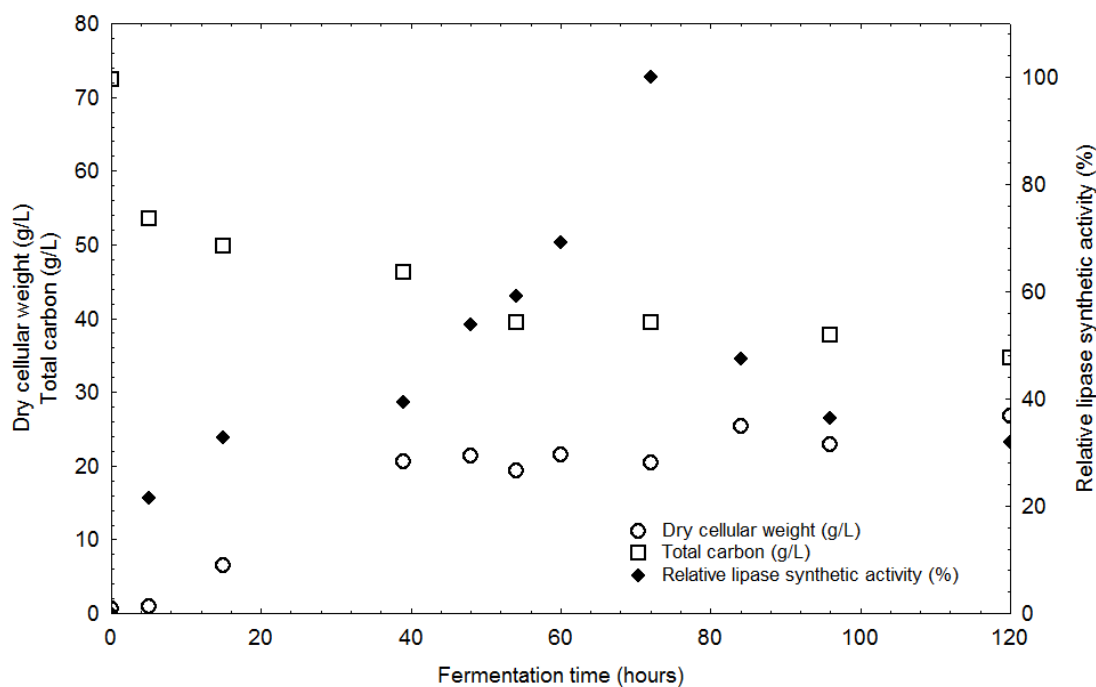


Figure 3. Time course of 'synthetic lipase' production, carbon consumption and cellular growth within 120 hours in the optimized condition

As described for most extracellular lipases, the maximum lipase activity was recorded in the stationary phase. Result obtained here is in accordance with hydrolytic lipase production in submerged fermentation by *Clostridium tetanomorphum* (7 U/mL) (23), *Pseudomonas* sp. (750 U/mL) (16), *Trichosporon asahii* (104 U/mL) (17) and *Rhizopus arrhizus* (2.98 U/mL) (27) and 'synthetic lipase' production in SSF by *Rhizopus chinensis* (24,447 U/kg) (33).

It can be also observed that there is a tendency of stabilization of the microorganism growth while total carbon keeps slightly decreasing. The maximum rate of carbon consumption in lower fermentation time coincides with the maximum rate of cellular growth, which means that most of the carbon present in the media was consumed for the microorganism growth.

CONCLUSION

The isolate *Sporidiobolus pararoseus* strain yielded good results for the production of 'synthetic lipase' by submerged fermentation by a conventional medium. The optimized condition for 'synthetic lipase' production was determined as 5.0, 6.8, 7.0 and 1.0 % (w/v) of peptone, yeast extract, NaCl and olive oil, respectively, at 30 °C and 150 rpm and 10% of inoculum. The optimized media yielded a lipase synthetic activity of 26.9 U/mL in 72 hours of fermentation, a 6.36-fold increase compared to the non-optimized media.

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