

Breeding of NHase hyper-producing *Rhodococcus ruber* strain LUV₃₀₋₀₆ and verification of mutants by RAPD

Shiwei Wang^{1,2}, Min Wang^{2*}, Qinghui Wang¹

¹College of Life Sciences and Engineering of Qiqihar University, Qiqihar, China

²Key Laboratory of Industrial Fermentation Microbiology (Tianjin University of Science & Technology), Ministry of Education, Tianjin, China

Email: *wsw888535@sohu.com

Received 22 February 2013; revised 10 April 2013; accepted 20 April 2013

Copyright © 2013 Shiwei Wang *et al.* This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

ABSTRACT

A nitrile hydratase (NHase) hyper-producing *Rhodococcus ruber* strain LUV₃₀₋₀₆ was bred by mutagenization on the starting strain CGMCC3090 with ultraviolet irradiation and lithium chloride. The NHase activity of the strain LUV₃₀₋₀₆ was increased by 21.99% (3881.3 U/ml), as compared with that of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 (3181.4 U/ml). The mutant strain UV₃₀₋₀₆ has been proved genetically stable with higher NHase activity in seven successive subcultures as well as random amplified polymorphic DNA analysis (RAPD).

Keywords: *Rhodococcus ruber*; NHase; Mutagenesis; Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA

1. INTRODUCTION

The nitrile hydratase (NHase, EC 4.2.1.84) is a key enzyme involving in nitrile metabolism existing in many microbes. It catalyzes the hydration of nitriles to corresponding amides, and has been successfully adopted in chemical and medical industry for production of nicotinamide (NA), 5-cyanovaleramide and acrylamide [1]. The strain of *Rhodococcus ruber* CGMCC3090 [2] was initially isolated from the soil samples polluted with nitrile compounds, it was capable of converting 3-cyanopyridine to NA with higher NHase activity (3181.4 U/ml). The NHase from *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 has high tolerance to its substrates such as 3-cyanopyridine and acrylonitrile. The strain has a broad substrate spectrum that formed by aliphatic, aromatic and heterocyclic (di) nitriles. It would have important industrial application value in case to improve the activity of NHase by mutagenizing on the strain CGMCC3090 with UV and Lithium chloride. The reports [3] showed that the conversion of 3-

cyanopyridine to NA catalysed by the enzyme from *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 did almost not generate any by-products such as nicotinic acid. Not only was NA used as feed additive [4,5], but also it had played an important role in the field of medicine. As vitamin PP, NA [6,7] was used to protect against “3 Ds” symptom including dermatitis, diarrhoea and dementia, it was also used to treat skin diseases, e.g. skin whitening. Except for having radio sensitizing effect on tumor cells, NA [8-9] can induce GLC-82 lung carcinoma cell apoptosis and mitigate destruction effect of tumor necrosis factor alpha on fiber ring matrix and articular cartilage degeneration. As an important intermediate, the NA can also be used to synthesize other pharmaceuticals or pesticides. With few side effect and prospective market demand, NA [10] had very important value in the field of industry and medicine. It was necessary to screen and breed NHase hyper-producing strains using performable and effective mutagenic strategies from the starting strain of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090. In the present study, we report a NHase hyper-producing mutant of *R. ruber* strain LUV₃₀₋₀₆ was obtained using the mutagens of ultraviolet irradiation and lithium chloride.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Materials

Chemicals: 3-cyanopyridine and NA were purchased from Alfa-Aesar and both were analytical reagent grade. Marker (λ DNA/Hind III) and RAPD primers were obtained from the Sangon (Shanghai, China).

Strains: *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 strain was conserved by the China General Microbiological Culture Collection Center.

Media: agar medium, seed culture medium, and fermentation medium were prepared by using the methods [11] reported previously; Preliminary screening culture

*Corresponding author.

medium contained 16 g 3-cyanopyridine/L pH 7.2. All media were autoclaved at 121°C for 30 min.

2.2. Seed Culture Preparation

Strains was streaked on the agar medium plate and cultured aerobically at 28°C for 3 days. The fresh bacterial lawn was subcultured into the liquid seed media (50 mL) in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask and agitated at 180 rpm on a rotary platform at 28°C for 72 h. A maximum density of ca. 5×10^8 cells/mL was estimated at its logarithmic phase.

2.3. The Standard Curve Drawing between Concentration and Turbidity of Strains

The seed culture solution of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 at logarithmic phase was centrifuged in 1.5 ml centrifuge tubes at 5000 rpm for 15 min and the cell pellets were resuspended in 1.5 ml PBS buffer (25 mM/L, pH 7.2). The bacterial suspension was prepared with different dilution multiples (5, 25, 50, 100 and 200) of PBS buffer. The bacterial cells were counted using blood count plates, at the same time the unit concentration of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 strains was calculated. The turbidity depending on *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 concentration was monitored by reading the optical density (OD) at 600 nm. So the standard curve drawing between concentration and turbidity of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 was established. The actual dilution ratio and amount of the strains coating were decided in according to the standard curve.

2.4. Preparation of Bacterial Suspension for Mutation and Fermentation Solutions

The seed broth was centrifuged at 6000 xg for 15 min, then the cell pellet was washed twice with PBS buffer (25 mM/L, pH 7.2) and resuspended in the same buffer. The prepared bacterial suspension was approximately 4.2×10^8 cells per milliliter. One millilitre seed inoculation of mutants (or the control) was transferred into 50 mL fermentation media in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask, agitated at 28°C for 72 h. The fermentation solution was obtained.

2.5. Determenation of NHase Activity

The 3-cyanopyridine was used as substrate; the activity of NHase was assayed in a 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube. The reaction mixture consisted of fermentation solutions (100 µl), 8% 3-cyanopyridine in 25 µM potassium phosphate buffer (1.4 ml), and pH 7.2. The reaction mixture was incubated at 28°C for 5 min, and then terminated by adding 10 µl of 6 M HCl in. The reaction mixture was diluted and filtered through a 0.2 µm filter. The concentration of substrate and product in the reaction mixture were

analyzed by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) following the procedure reported earlier [12]. The mobile phase consists of methanol, acetonitrile and water (20:20:60, v/v/v). According to the peak area of the NA produced, the concentration of NA in the reaction mixtures can be determined by using the standard curve of NA. The standard NA solutions were prepared with different concentrations (0, 0.75, 1.5, 3 and 4.5 mM/L) in 25 mM PBS buffer. The peak areas of different concentrations of NA were determined by HPLC analysis. One unit of NHase activity (U) [13] was defined as the amount of enzyme which catalyzed the conversion of 1 µM of 3-cyanopyridine to NA per minute under the assay conditions. According to HPLC, the peak areas of NA of different mutants can be calculated. That reflects the activity of NHase produced by different mutants. As shown in the formula below:

$$A = 10^2 \times \frac{C \times V \times a}{vt}$$

C, concentration of nicotinamide (mM/L); *V*, volume of reaction mixtures (L); *v*, volume of fomentation bacterial suspension (ml); *a*, dilution ratio; *t*, time of reaction (min).

2.6. Mutagenesis by Lithium Chloride

The 3×6 gradient seed plates were prepared with 3 parallel tests. The lithium chloride concentration gradient increased gradually (0%, 0.2%, 0.4%, 0.6%, 0.8% and 1.0%). The LiCl-free seed plates were used as controls. After the seed culture, the bacterial suspension was diluted certain folds according to the Standard Curve Drawing The diluted bacterial suspension (100 µl) was spread onto the solid seed media plates with different lithium chloride concentration gradients, at 28°C for 64 hours in the dark. The colonies were counted and fatality percentages were calculated. After lithium chloride mutation, a better group plates from 3 parallel test groups was chosen. And 10% better colonies of total colonies on the chosen group plates were chosen at random and streaked individually onto the preliminary screening slants at 28°C for 64 h. Eight better slants were selected from each lithium chloride gradient media, and then each of those selected slant stains was inoculated into a flask containing fermentation media, aerobically agitated at 28°C for 72 h in a shaker. The activities of NHase produced by the mutants would be determined using HPLC. The mutants had the highest enzyme activity further used as the starting strain treated with ultraviolet irradiation (3 time parallel tests needed).

2.7. Compound Mutation with Ultraviolet Ray and Lithium Chloride

The colony of the highest NHase activity from LiCl mu-

togenesis was transferred into the seed media. After culture, the seed culture was prepared into the bacterial suspension and used as the starting strain. A UV lamp (30 W) was preheated for 20 min in a darkened room. Pipette 30 milliliters of bacterial suspension into the sterile petri dishes on a magnetic stirrer and exposed below the UV-lamp with a irradiation distance of 30 cm. The irradiation time was 0 s, 15 s, 30 s, 45 s and 60 s respectively. Then, the bacterial suspension were placed in ice-box at 4°C for 1 h, diluted 10³ folds. The dilution (100 µl) was spread over the surface of the plate containing seed media individually in triplicates. At the same time, the original starting strain used as a control. The fatality percentage was calculated after incubation at 28°C for 48 h. After the screening and rescreening (the method as the same as LiCl mutation), the mutants having the highest NHase activity were obtained and regarded as the ultimate goal strain for further studies.

2.8. Successive Subcultures of Mutants and Molecular Verification of Mutants by RAPD

In order to analyze the genetic stability of NHase high-producing mutants, 7 successive subcultures were carried out. The activity of NHase of the mutants was analyzed in each subculture (3 times parallel tests needed). The DNA extraction from the strains and RAPD methods [14,15] were referred to the procedure reported before.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Standard Curve Drawing between Concentration and Turbidity of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090

According to **Table 1**, the standard curve was drawn with OD₆₀₀ as the horizontal axis and the concentration of strains as vertical axis. A regression equation was established as $y = 114.54 \times 106x - 1.9211$ ($R^2 = 0.9977$). It was satisfactory that the bacterial suspension was diluted 10³ folds for the mutation and 100 µl of the strains coating was divided.

Table 1. Correlation between concentration and turbidity.

Dilution ratio (×)	Concentration* (1 × 10 ⁶ cells/ml)	OD ₆₀₀ *
5	84.0 ± 0.02	0.744 ± 0.03
25	16.8 ± 0.03	0.187 ± 0.01
50	8.40 ± 0.02	0.094 ± 0.01
100	4.20 ± 0.03	0.050 ± 0.01
200	2.10 ± 0.01	0.034 ± 0.01

*Data were based on triplicates and shown as mean and standard error.

3.2. Drawing of NA Standard Curve

The standard solutions of different NA concentrations (0.75 mM/L, 1.5 mM/L, 3 mM/L and 4.5 mM/L) were prepared. The peak areas of different standard NA solutions were detected by HPLC. According to the results showed in **Table 2**.

The regression curve was established as $y = 2951.3x$ ($R^2 = 0.9504$). Here, x is the concentration of nicotinamide (mM/L); y is the peak areas of nicotinamide. According to this equation, the nicotinamide concentration of a known peak could be calculated. Afterwards, the activities of the NHase produced by different mutants were calculated according to the NHase activity formula.

3.3. Analysis of the LiCl Mutation

After treated with 0.2% LiCl, the colonies on the plate changed accordingly. Compared with the control, the sum of the colonies grow on the plate became less. The colony size maintained discordant. Treated with 0.4% LiCl, the different colonies dispersed on the plate with smaller colony size. Mutated by 0.6% LiCl, the bacteria grew much slower and the colonies became less. With 0.8% LiCl treatment, the colonies decreased abruptly. Mutated by 1.0% LiCl, there were not any colonies growing on the plate.

As shown in **Table 3**. The fatality percentages increased with increasing concentration of LiCl. Especially when the cells were treated with 1.0% LiCl, the fatality reached 100%.

Table 2. Relationship between concentration and peak areas of nicotinamide.

Concentration (mmol/L)	Peak Area (mAU)
0.75	1259.7
1.5	5589
3	10273.7
4.5	12105.7

Table 3. LiCl mutation and fatality rate.

LiCl (w/v)	Colonies*	Fatality rate*
(a control)	401 ± 0.23	0.00% ± 0.00%
0.20%	318 ± 0.34	20.70% ± 0.45%
0.40%	260 ± 0.42	35.16% ± 0.49%
0.60%	211 ± 0.35	47.38% ± 0.57%
0.80%	111 ± 0.43	72.32% ± 0.64%
1.00%	0.00 ± 0.00	100.0% ± 0.00%

*Data were based on triplicates and shown as mean standard error.

3.4. Screening of NHase High-Yield Strains

There were approximately 900 single colonies in each group of repetition after LiCl mutation. Based on the growth status, 81 single colonies were chosen from a better group plate of 3 parallel test groups and cultured in preliminary screening slant media. In the compound sieve of mutants, according to its growth in preliminary screening slants, 32 good slant tubes were chosen (8 slants in each LiCl gradient). They were transferred into the fermentation media and put at 28°C, 180 rpm, 72 h. The activity of the NHase was analyzed right after the culture completed (3 times parallel tests needed).

The results showed that several mutants were positive; the most of other strains were stable or negative. Compared with NHase activity of the control (3181.4 U/ml), the mutant L₀₈₋₀₃ had the maximum NHase activity (3557.1 U/ml). The NHase activity of strain L₀₈₋₀₃ was increased by 11.81%. The strain L₀₈₋₀₃ was used as the starting strain that was further subject to the compound mutagenesis. See **Table 4**.

3.5. Analyses of the Results of Compound Mutation

As the starting strain for compound mutation with UV, L₀₈₋₀₃ was transferred into seed media. After seed culture, the bacterial suspension was prepared.

Having been mutated by UV, the bacterial suspension was diluted 10³ folds and was spread onto the seed media. After culture, many characteristics of the colonies have changed including the size, sum, and color (**Figure 1**).

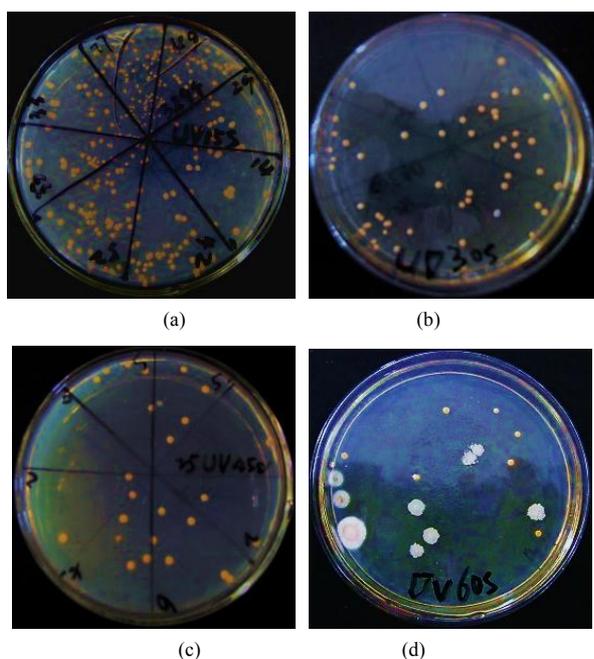


Figure 1. (a)-(d) *Rhodococcus ruber* CGMCC3090 UV-mutants.

By 15 s UV mutation, the total number of colonies became less. The size of colonies were not uniform (**Figure 1(a)**). With 30 s treatment of UV, The total number abruptly dropped off (**Figure 1(b)**). After 45 s ultraviolet irradiation, the sum of colonies got less. But in the case of colony morphologies, they were full, big and appeared bright in color (**Figure 1(c)**). Having been mutated for 60 s, the morphology of colonies changed obviously, dispersed and were not uniform, milky white. Some colonies had rough surface (**Figure 1(d)**).

As showed in **Table 5**, the fatality percentage is 17.95% under 15 s mutation. But for 30 s mutation, it increased to 86.28% suddenly. The fatality percentages for 45 s and 60 s mutation were 93.52% and 95.76% respectively.

3.6. Screening of High-Yield NHase Strains by Compound Mutation

After L₀₈₋₀₃ mutated with UV, a group plates with good growth from 3 parallel experiment groups was chosen. From them, 10% strains (total 427 mutants) were chosen at random. These mutants were transferred into the preliminary screening media slants. According to the growth condition, 28 good strains were chosen in turn (7 strains each UV time gradient), followed by the seed culture and fermentation culture. The NHase activity was analyzed by HPLC.

As shown in **Table 6**, the NHase activity of no mutants from 15 s Ultraviolet irradiation was more than that of the strain L₀₈₋₀₃ (3557.1 U/ml). Fortunately, there were two mutants after UV irradiation for 30 s had higher activities than that of L₀₈₋₀₃ strain. They were LUV₃₀₋₀₁ (3861 U/ml) and LUV₃₀₋₀₆ (3881 U/ml). The LUV₄₅₋₀₃ and LUV₆₀₋₀₂, also had higher activity of 3693 U/ml and 3628 U/ml respectively. So, they were used as the candidates for further experiments.

3.7. Stability Analyses of High-Producing NHase Mutants by Successive Subculture

As shown in **Table 7**, according to the result of 7 successive subcultures, 5 strains with higher NHase activity were analyzed. L₀₈₋₀₃ strain maintained stable NHase activity. For other 4 mutants, only LUV₃₀₋₀₆ strain's NHase activity remained higher and stable. Although LUV₄₅₋₀₃ strain retained stability for four successive subcultures, its activity restored abruptly after that. The stable mutant L₀₈₋₀₃, LUV₃₀₋₀₆ were chosen and regarded as the goal strain for further studies.

3.8. Results of Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA

After the RAPD primer screening experiment, 9 polymorphic primers of RAPD were screened from 53 random primers. But only there were 3 primers with

Table 4. The activity of mutants with LiCl (U/ml).

0.2% LiCl	*Activity	0.4% LiCl	*Activity	0.6% LiCl	*Activity	0.8% LiCl	*Activity
L ₂₋₀₁	3208 ± 0.31	L ₄₋₀₁	3244 ± 0.23	L ₆₋₀₁	2654 ± 0.17	L ₈₋₀₁	3256 ± 0.14
L ₂₋₀₂	3232 ± 0.11	L ₄₋₀₂	3236 ± 0.41	L ₆₋₀₂	2824 ± 0.12	L ₈₋₀₂	2796 ± 0.21
L ₂₋₀₃	3296 ± 0.12	L ₄₋₀₃	3208 ± 0.61	L ₆₋₀₃	3270 ± 0.23	L ₈₋₀₃	3557 ± 0.18
L ₂₋₀₄	3296 ± 0.41	L ₄₋₀₄	3396 ± 0.11	L ₆₋₀₄	3220 ± 0.34	L ₈₋₀₄	2932 ± 0.19
L ₂₋₀₅	3072 ± 0.61	L ₄₋₀₅	2956 ± 0.13	L ₆₋₀₅	3312 ± 0.41	L ₈₋₀₅	3280 ± 0.11
L ₂₋₀₆	3272 ± 0.22	L ₄₋₀₆	3256 ± 0.51	L ₆₋₀₆	2948 ± 0.16	L ₈₋₀₆	3316 ± 0.15
L ₂₋₀₇	3260 ± 0.31	L ₄₋₀₇	2792 ± 0.31	L ₆₋₀₇	2728 ± 0.19	L ₈₋₀₇	3248 ± 0.17
L ₂₋₀₈	3276 ± 0.72	L ₄₋₀₈	3296 ± 0.18	L ₆₋₀₈	3260 ± 0.01	L ₈₋₀₈	3374 ± 0.07

*Data were based on triplicates and shown as mean and standard error.

Table 5. UV mutation and fatality percentages analyses.

Time (s)	Number of colonies	Fatality rate (%)
0	401 ± 0.02	0 ± 0.00
15	329 ± 0.03	17.95 ± 0.12
30	55.0 ± 0.02	86.28 ± 0.13
45	26.0 ± 0.03	93.52 ± 0.04
60	17.0 ± 0.04	95.76 ± 0.23

*Data were based on triplicates and shown as mean and standard error.

Table 6. Activity of NHase of mutants with UV mutation (U/mL).

Mutants (15 s)	Activity	Mutants (30 s)	Activity	Mutants (45 s)	Activity	Mutants (60 s)	Activity
LUV ₁₅₋₀₁	3509 ± 0.02	LUV ₃₀₋₀₁	3861 ± 0.17	LUV ₄₅₋₀₁	2308 ± 0.34	LUV ₆₀₋₀₁	2640 ± 0.36
LUV ₁₅₋₀₂	3532 ± 0.31	LUV ₃₀₋₀₂	3548 ± 0.13	LUV ₄₅₋₀₂	2592 ± 0.16	LUV ₆₀₋₀₂	3628 ± 0.24
LUV ₁₅₋₀₃	3431 ± 0.16	LUV ₃₀₋₀₃	3572 ± 0.15	LUV ₄₅₋₀₃	3693 ± 0.41	LUV ₆₀₋₀₃	2632 ± 0.36
LUV ₁₅₋₀₄	3532 ± 0.12	LUV ₃₀₋₀₄	3556 ± 0.17	LUV ₄₅₋₀₄	2960 ± 0.32	LUV ₆₀₋₀₄	2692 ± 0.38
LUV ₁₅₋₀₅	3545 ± 0.17	LUV ₃₀₋₀₅	3568 ± 0.18	LUV ₄₅₋₀₅	3112 ± 0.25	LUV ₆₀₋₀₅	3292 ± 0.16
LUV ₁₅₋₀₆	3520 ± 0.25	LUV ₃₀₋₀₆	3881 ± 0.31	LUV ₄₅₋₀₆	3256 ± 0.14	LUV ₆₀₋₀₆	3132 ± 0.07
LUV ₁₅₋₀₇	3533 ± 0.21	LUV ₃₀₋₀₇	3512 ± 0.15	LUV ₄₅₋₀₇	3236 ± 0.51	LUV ₆₀₋₀₇	2628 ± 0.45

*Data were based on triplicates and shown as mean standard error.

Table 7. Stability of NHase high-yield mutants.

Strains	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7
L ₀₈₋₀₃	3556 ± 0.10	3558 ± 0.09	3569 ± 0.11	3556 ± 0.13	3580 ± 0.22	3557 ± 0.31	3558 ± 0.32
LUV ₃₀₋₀₁	3812 ± 0.47	3812 ± 0.31	3552 ± 0.42	3440 ± 0.22	3528 ± 0.37	3216 ± 0.02	3296 ± 0.41
LUV ₃₀₋₀₆	3883 ± 0.32	3868 ± 0.17	3872 ± 0.02	3864 ± 0.20	3860 ± 0.32	3876 ± 0.19	3890 ± 0.35
LUV ₄₅₋₀₃	3692 ± 0.47	3700 ± 0.25	3723 ± 0.36	3687 ± 0.22	3224 ± 0.23	3276 ± 0.18	3200 ± 0.19
LUV ₆₀₋₀₂	3628 ± 0.21	3632 ± 0.28	3574 ± 0.17	3434 ± 0.13	3410 ± 0.22	3540 ± 0.11	3291 ± 0.27

*Data were based on triplicates and shown as mean and standard error.

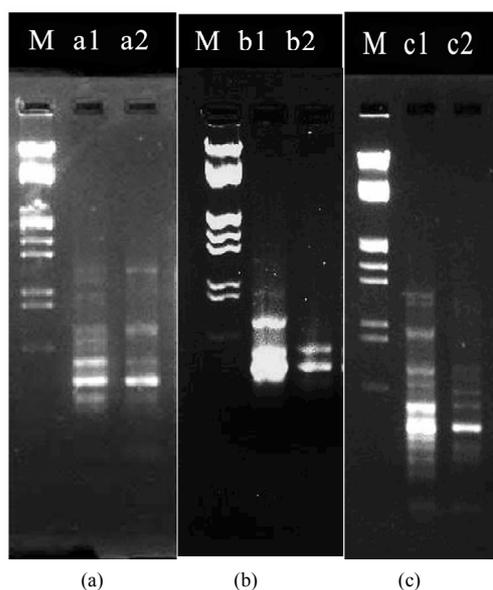


Figure 2. (a)-(c) Results of random amplified polymorphic DNA. *Lane a1 was loaded with the PCR products from DNA template of *L*₀₈₋₀₃ strain; Lane a2 was loaded that of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090. PCR primer is s65; Lane b1 was loaded with the produce of RAPD with LUV₃₀₋₀₆; Lane b2 was for that of *L*₀₈₋₀₃ using s7 primer; Lane c1 was loaded with the produce of RAPD from LUV₃₀₋₀₆ strain; and Lane c2 for that of *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 using s22 primer. M stands for Marker.

obvious polymorphisms, namely s7, s22 and s65. The RAPD reactions were carried out using the 3 primers.

As shown in **Figure 2(a)**, the RAPD had distinct hereditary polymorphism. There was a very bright band between 125 bp and 564 bp in Lane a1, but there had not similar band in Lane a2. This proves that there were genetic differences between *L*₀₈₋₀₃ and *R. ruber* CGMCC3090. As shown in **Figure 2(b)**, using s7 primer, and obvious polymorphism bands were amplified. Above 125 bp in Lane b1, a band was obvious, but absent in Lane b2. It was very possible that these genome differences due to the compound mutation using LiCl and Ultraviolet radiation. The external performances that LUV₃₀₋₀₆ strain produced high activity of NHase resulted from these internal mutation in the genome. As shown in **Figure 2(c)**, by using s22 primer, a beautiful result of RAPD marker had been obtained. Compared with Marker, there were at least 3 unique bands on top of 564 bp in Lane c1, furthermore, under 125 bp, many similar bands in Lane c1 were brighter than those in Lane c2. All of these differences reflected genetic variations among LUV₃₀₋₀₆, *L*₀₈₋₀₃ and *R. ruber* CGMCC3090. On the other hand, other 52 primers had not got obvious different RAPD mappings. The results showed that Both of LUV₃₀₋₀₆ and *L*₀₈₋₀₃ de-

rived from *R. ruber* CGMCC3090 with very analogous genomes.

4. DISCUSSION

The genus *Rhodococcus* [15] was found in 1891 by Zopf with more than 40 species at present. An interesting strain from *Rhodococcus* that biodegraded 3-cyanopyridine in the polluted waters was reported by Kobayashi and Shimizu [16] in 1998. LUV₃₀₋₀₆ was successfully screened out. Its activity of NHase reached 3880.3 U/mL. There are few reports of screening the high-yield NHase strains by compound mutation at present. Zhu [17] reported that a stable high-yield NHase strain *Rhodococcus* sp. HUST-1 obtained using compound mutation with ultraviolet and diethyl sulfate mutation. Zhou [18] also reported that *Nocardia* sp. DT7879 was obtained from *Nocardia* sp. DT06 by microwave and chemical mutagen A. After 7 successive subcultures, the *L*₈₋₀₃ strain and LUV₃₀₋₀₆ strain NHase productivity still remained stable. The RAPD results further proved that Although *L*₈₋₀₃ strain and LUV₃₀₋₀₆ strain had obvious genetic variations; both of them came from *R. ruber* CGMCC3090. Without doubt, LUV₃₀₋₀₆ strain not only can be used as the NA producing strains but also will confer profits to the development of pharmaceutical intermediates and environmental protection.

REFERENCES

- [1] Prasad, S. and Bhalla, T.C. (2010) Nitrile hydratases (NHases): At the interface of academia and industry. *Biotechnology Advances*, **28**, 725-741. doi:10.1016/j.biotechadv.2010.05.020
- [2] Wang, S.W. and Wang, M. (2011) Research process on microbial diversity of producing NHase and study on NHase. *China Biotechnology*, **31**, 117-132.
- [3] Zhang, J.L., Wang, M., Sun, H., *et al.* (2009) Isolation and characterization of *Rhodococcus ruber* CGMCC3090 that hydrolyzes aliphatic, aromatic and heterocyclic nitriles. *African Journal of Biotechnology*, **8**, 5467-5475.
- [4] Shimizu S, Ogawa, J. and Kataoka, M. (1997) Screening of novel microbial enzymes for the production of biologically and chemically useful compounds. *Advances in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology*, **58**, 46-87. doi:10.1007/BFb0103302
- [5] Nagasawa, T. and Yamada, H. (1990) Application of nitrile converting enzymes for the production of useful compounds. *Pure & Applied Chemistry*, **62**, 1441-1444. doi:10.1351/pac199062071441
- [6] Guiot, P., Ryan, M.A. and Scriven, E.F.V. (1996) Preparations and applications of nicotinic acid and nicotinamide. *Chimica Oggi (Chemistry Today)*, **14**, 55-57.
- [7] Soma, Y., Kashima, M., Imaizumi, A., *et al.* (2005) Moisturizing effects of topical nicotinamide on atopic dry skin. *International Journal of Dermatology*, **44**, 197-202.

- [doi:10.1111/j.1365-4632.2004.02375.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-4632.2004.02375.x)
- [8] Xin, J. and Hu, B. (1992) Nicotinamide radiosensitizing effect and its clinical application. *International Journal of Radiation Medicine and Nuclear Medicine*, **16**, 200-203.
- [9] Guo, J.L., Shen, H. and Li, Q. (2008) *In vitro* effect of nicotinamide of GLC-82 human lung adenocarcinoma cells. *Guangdong Medical Journal*, **29**, 209-211.
- [10] Zhang, L. (2004) Niacin and niacinamide production growth gratifying and demand foreground being expected period. *Medicine Economic News*, **12**, 25
- [11] Song, Y., Zhong, L.P. and Wang, M. (2009) Effect of metal ions on *Rhodococcus* sp. nitrile hydratase activity. *Journal of Tianjing University of Science & Technology*, **24**, 11-14.
- [12] Prasad, S., Raj, J. and Bhalla, T.C. (2004) Optimization of culture conditions for hyper production of nitrile hydratase of *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* PA-34. *Indian Journal of Microbiology*, **44**, 251-256.
- [13] Li, X.D., Wang, M., Zheng, Y., *et al.* (2010) Optimization of conditions for the biotransformation of 5-cyanovaleramide from adiponitrile by *Rhodococcus ruber* CGMCC-3090. *4th International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedical Engineering (iCBBE)*, Chengdu, 18-20 June 2010, 1-4.
- [14] Wang, W.S., Dong, Y., Li, T., *et al.* (2006) The method of DNA effective and quick means for DNA extraction of *Taxol* producing fungi. *Journal of Science of Teachers' College and University*, **1**, 60-64.
- [15] Hua, J.G. and Guo, J.H. (2003) The axonomy and application *Rhodococcus*. *Microbiology*, **30**, 107-111.
- [16] Kobayashi, M. and Shimizu, S. (1998) Metalloenzyme NHase: Structure, regulation and application to biotechnology. *Nature Biotechnology*, **16**, 733-736. [doi:10.1038/nbt0898-733](https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt0898-733)
- [17] Zhu, T.T., Qin, Z., Sun, X.J., *et al.* (2009) Breeding of high-yield strain of nitrile hydratase by compound mutation. *Journal of Anhui Agricultural Sciences*, **37**, 1397-399.
- [18] Zhou, Y.X., Wu, J.H., Li, H.M., *et al.* (2008) Study on mutation and breeding of nitrile hydratase producing strain and optimization of its fermentation condition. *Chemistry & Bioengineering*, **25**, 46-49.