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Lipase Immobilized on Magnetic Nanoparticles: A New Tool for Synthesis of Disulphide Compounds

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Abstract

The study describes chemo-enzymatic synthesis of organic disulphide compounds. The reaction was initiated by hydrolysis of thiol acetates using hydrolytic enzyme lipase (PPL) immobilized on to magnetic nanoparticles and subsequent formation of organic disulphide compounds. Lipase was immobilized on to the magnetic nanoparticles by co-precipitation method via epichlorohydrin chitosan cross-linking, under mild and eco-friendly conditions. The immobilized lipase enzyme exhibited broad range of substrate specificity in synthesizing disulphide compounds, which involves both intra and inter-molecular disulphide bond formation under anaerobic conditions. The disulphide compounds synthesized also show a promising antimicrobial activity.

Keywords

Magnetic Nanoparticles, Lipases, Oxidative Coupling, Disulphide Compounds, Antimicrobial

1. Introduction

The disulphide linkages being an integral part of the macromolecules, mainly present in functional proteins like enzymes, peptides, hormones and antibodies. These disulphide bonds provide configurational specificity and also help in stabilizing the protein molecules to carry out their specific biological functions [1]-[7]. The synthesis of organic disulphide compounds by the oxidation of thiol derivatives has become a common practice, and quite a few methodologies have been developed in the preparation of these compounds [8] [9]. There has been an increasing demand for novel, ecofriendly and efficient methodologies for the synthesis of organic disulphide compounds owing to their importance in a wide range of pharmaceutical and agro-chemical applications [10] [11].

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The instability of the thiol derivatives, due to air oxidation, has led to masking/protecting the thiol groups, which is an important process in multistep synthesis of bioactive molecules. So, there is a continuous research interest for the cleavage of thiol derivatives and subsequent formation of disulphide compounds. Transition metal-catalyzed reactions have made a great contribution to the preparation of disulphide compounds; however most of these methods have long reaction time, tedious workup and use of expensive reagents [12] [13]. These limitations necessitate in developing novel and efficient methods for the synthesis of disulphide compounds in mild and environmental friendly conditions. In continuation of our work to explore new methodologies in the area of synthesis of biological active compounds using biocatalysts [14] [15], we herein report the synthesis of organic disulphide compounds by the oxidative cleavage of thiol acetates using inexpensive immobilized lipases (Scheme 1).

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials

All the chemicals used in the study were AR grade and were purchased from Merck co and Sigma-Aldrich Chemicals USA. Lipases obtained from porcine pancreas (PPL) 3000 U/mg of protein (Biuret) EC 232-619-9 from Sigma—Aldrich USA. All the microbial strains used were procured from ATCC microbial culture collection center—USA.

2.2. HPLC

The disulphide products were quantified by HPLC (Gilson system) using silica column (inside diam. 4.6×250 mm, film thickness 4 μ m); with a mobile phase of Hexane: Ethyl acetate (70:30); flow rate 0.8 ml/min at a UV wave length of 254 nm.

2.3. Preparation of Lipase-Immobilized Magnetic Nanoparticles

The magnetic nanoparticles (Magnetite (Fe_3O_4)-chitosan (CS)-poly[N-benzyl-2-(methacryloxy)-N,N-dimethy-lethanaminium bromide] (PQ) nanoparticles (Fe_3O_4 -CS-PQ) were synthesized as reported in the literature [16]. The immobilization of lipase on to the surface of chitosan coated magnetic nanoparticles was performed by the formation of an amide bond between the carboxyl group of lipase and the primary amino group of the nanoparticles. Lipase (0.1 g) was dispersed in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer pH 8.0 (10 mL) at 20°C and incubated for 2 hours in shaking incubator. The magnetic nanoparticles (1.0 g) were added to the above lipase enzyme solution and further incubated at 180 rpm for 4 hours. The immobilized enzyme bound to the nanoparticles was separated from the reaction mixture using an external magnet and lyophilized to obtain white powder [17]. It was observed that 15% of protein was bound to the immobilized matrix; the specific activity of the enzyme lipase was found to be 35 Units/mg of protein. The size of nanoparticles and immobilization of lipase onto magnetic nanoparticles was characterized using TEM images. As observed from the images the size of the particles were in the range of 6 to 26 nm with an average particle size of 13 - 17 nm (Figure 1).

2.4. Assay of Lipase Activity

The lipase activity for free and immobilized enzyme was measured by the hydrolysis of olive oil esters as described [18] [19]. The olive oil ester (10 mL) and gum arabic solution (5 mL, 7%, w/v) was mixed with free (0.1 ml, 6.47 mg/mL) or immobilized lipase (5 mg nanoparticles) dispersed in 2 ml of 0.1 M phosphate buffer pH 7.5. The hydrolysis of fatty acid ester was carried out at 45°C for 15 min and the reaction was stopped by adding 1mL of ethanol-acetone solution (1:1). The liberated fatty acid in the medium was titrimetrically determined using 0.01 M NaOH solution using phenolphthalein indicator. From the titrimetric analysis, the immobilized lipase enzyme activity was found to be 150 U/mg protein.

R
$$R^1$$
 Lipase, 37°C $R-S-S-R$

R, R¹ = Alkyl, Aryl pH 7.2

1 a - 1 h 2 2 a - 2 h

Scheme 1. Enzymatic synthesis of disulphide compounds.

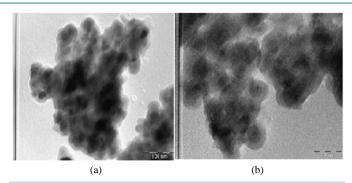


Figure 1. TEM: (a) Amine functionalized silica coated magnetic nanoparticles; (b) Lipase enzyme immobilized MNPs.

2.5. Lipase Assisted Synthesis of Organic Disulphide Compounds

The enzymatic hydrolysis of thiophenyl compounds *i.e.*, the substituted aromatic, heterocyclic and aliphatic thio esters (1a-1h) (1m mol) were taken in 10 ml of solvent cyclohexane, to the above reaction medium the dispersed lipase enzyme immobilized on to the magnetic nanoparticles was added and the reaction was incubated under nitrogen atmosphere on shaking incubator at 35°C. The rate of product formation was monitored by TLC/HPLC. On completion of reaction (~55% conversion), the lipase (PPL) immobilized on magnetic nanoparticles present in the reaction mixture was separated with the help of an external magnetic bar, and the immobilized enzyme thus obtained was reused. The crude disulphide product obtained was purified by flash chromatography and the structures of the products were confirmed by NMR, Mass spectral studies.

2.6. Antimicrobial Assay

The antimicrobial and antifungal activities of the disulphide compounds were determined using the dilution technique. Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) were determined [20] against two gram positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 29737) and *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC 14603) and three gram negative bacteria *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 10536), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 13883) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 25619), as well as against the pathogenic fungi *Candida albicans* (ATCC 53324), and *C. tropicalis* (ATCC 13801). Standard antibiotics netilmicin and amphotericin B were used as positive controls for screening antimicrobial and antifungal activities.

3. Results and Discussion

The hydrolytic enzyme lipase immobilized on magnetic nano particles, has shown broad substrate specificity in hydrolyzing both aromatic & aliphatic thiol acetates and simultaneously forms high yield of the respective disulphide compounds (Table 1). On repetitive use of immobilized enzymes (5 cycles) the product (2a-2h) formation was reduced by 8% - 15% when compared to initial yields. The results show the short chain esters i.e., two carbon chains cleaved smoothly, whereas in case of longer chain acetates the reaction was very sluggish. In the processes of hydrolytic reaction no intermediate compound was observed, so it is assumed that the enzymatic hydrolysis of organic thioesters generate thiol radical, resulting in spontaneous formation of disulphide compounds in anaerobic conditions [21]. It was interesting to note that thiolesters (2d) underwent smooth cleavage in the mild and environmental friendly conditions resulting in high yields of cyclic disulphide compounds. The biocatalytic method developed may be an attractive alternative to the existing methodologies in the synthesis of aliphatic, aromatic and hetroaromatic disulphide compounds (2a-2h) [22]-[24]. The synthesized disulphide compounds (2a-2h) exhibited promising antimicrobial activity against different bacterial and fungal strains. The MICs of the synthetic disulphide compounds against the pathogenic microorganisms were presented in **Table 2**. From the data it was observed that the compound (2b) has shown potent anti microbial activity when compared to corresponding thiazoles. Thus the study confirms a novel methodology in synthesis of organic disulphide compounds in an environment friendly condition.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have demonstrated the lipase assisted oxidative coupling of thiol acetate into disulphide

Table 1. Lipase immobilized magnetic nanoparticles mediated synthesis of disulphide compounds.

S. No	Substrate	Product	Yield %
1	C ₆ H ₅ -SCOCH ₃	C_6H_5 -S-S- C_6H_5 (2a)	42
2	C ₆ H ₅ -S-CO-t-Bu	2a	36
3	C_6H_5 -S-CO- C_2H_3	2a	48
4	C_6H_5 -S-CO- C_2H_3	2a	40
5	C_6H_5 -S-CO- $C_{15}H_{31}$	2a	52
6	C_6H_5 -S-CO- C_6H_5	2a	36
7	C_6H_5 -S-CO- C_6H_4 -p-Cl	2a	47
8	$p\text{-}\mathrm{C}_6\mathrm{H}_5\text{-}\mathrm{S}\text{-}\mathrm{CO}\text{-}\mathrm{C}_6\mathrm{H}_4\text{-}\mathrm{CO}\text{-}\mathrm{S}\text{-}\mathrm{C}_6\mathrm{H}_5$	2a	50
9	p-Cl-C ₆ H ₄ -S-CO-CH ₃	$p\text{-}Cl\text{-}C_6H_4\text{-}S\text{-}S\text{-}C_6H_4\text{-}Cl\text{-}p\ (\mathbf{2b})$	55
10	C ₆ H ₅ S	(2c)	45
11	S CH ₃ S CH ₃	\$ (2d)	38
12	n-C ₃ H ₇ -S-CO-CH ₃	$n-C_3H_7-S-SC_3H_7-n$ (2e)	40
13	n-C ₁₂ H ₂₅ -S-CO-CH ₃	$(n-C_{12}H_{25}-S)_2(2f)$	43
14	$n-C_{12}H_{25}$ -S-CO-t-Bu	2f	39
15	$n-C_{12}H_{25}-S-CO-C_3H_5$	2f	30
16	$S CH_3$ $N O$	S_{S}	38
17	N S CH ₃	S S (2h)	33

^aAll the compounds were characterized by the ¹HNMR, MS, IR Spectral studies. ^bYeilds refer to pure after column chromatography.

Table 2. Antimicrobial activities^a (MIC in μg·ml⁻¹).

Compound	E. coli	P. aeruginosa	K. pneumoniae	B. subtilis	S. aureus	C. albicans	C. tropicals
2a	-	-	-	-	-	>2.5	>2.5
2b	15.0	20.0	10.0	10.5	30.5	>2.5	>2.5
2c	20.5	25.0	35.0	20.0	50.0	>2.5	>2.5
2d	10.0	50.0	50.0	25.0	70.0	>2.5	>2.5
2e	35.0	35.0	30.0	15.0	20.0	>2.5	>2.5
2f	12.5	20.5	25.0	60.0	50.0	>5.0	>5.0
Amphot-ericin B	-	-	-	-	-	3.00	3.00
Netilmicin	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	-

^aResults obtained were the mean of three independent experiments, with standard deviation of 10%.

compounds using immobilized lipase on to magnetic nanoparticles. Thus the methodology developed and carried out in mild and environment friendly condition. Further, we believe that the application of this methodology can be used in the synthesis of biologically important compounds having disulphide linkage and this methodology is an attractive alternative to the existing method.

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Spectroscopic Data

Phenyl disulphide (2a): White solid; mp: 57° C - 59° C [mp: 58° C - 60° C]. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 7.40$ - 7.35 (m, 4 H), 7.21 - 7.10 (m, 6 H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 137.02$, 129.05, 127.45, 127.11. MS: m/z = 219 (M + H).

p-Chlorophenyl disulphide (2b): White solid; mp: 72°C - 74°C [mp: 72°C - 73°C]. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.33 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4 H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 135.12, 133.66, 129.33, 129.32. MS: m/z = 286 (M⁺, 64)

2-Naphthlenyl disulphide (2c): White solid; mp: $136^{\circ}\text{C} - 137^{\circ}\text{C}$ [mp: $135^{\circ}\text{C} - 138^{\circ}\text{C}$]. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (d, J = 0.9 Hz, 2 H), 7.80 - 7.22 (m, 4 H), 7.75 - 7.61 (m, 2 H), 7.47 - 7.42 (m, 4 H). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 134.00, 133.52, 132.50, 128.89, 127.80, 127.51, 126.70, 126.66, 126.20, 125.74. MS: m/z = 318 (M⁺)

1, 2-dithiane (2d): White solid. m.p: 30°C - 32°C . ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): 1.6 - 1.7 (m, 4 H), 2.5 - 2.8 (4 H, m). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 26.70, 37.45. MS: m/z = 120 (M⁺,61)

n-Propyl disulphide (2e): Colourless oil. 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.61 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 4 H), 1.65 (sp, J = 7.5 Hz, 4 H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 6 H). 13 C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 40.90, 22.34, 12.90. MS: m/z = 150 (M⁺, 90) *Dodecyl disulphide* (2f): Colourless oil. 1 H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.48 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 4 H), 1.64 - 1.54 (m, 4 H), 1.35 - 1.27 (m, 36 H), 0.89 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 6 H). 13 C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 34.50, 31.90, 29.60, 29.60, 29.50, 29.50, 29.30, 29.10, 28.42, 24.60, 22.61, 14.00. MS: m/z = 402 (M⁺).



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