

# Characterization and Optimization of Amylase Producing Bacteria Isolated from Solid Waste

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## ABSTRACT

Municipal waste is one of the most hazardous components of developing countries. However, enzymes do provide an eco-friendly solution in this case. Amylase is an important enzyme in food, textile and pharmaceutical industry and can be used for bioconversion of waste. From the municipal solid waste we have isolated an amylase producing bacteria that can grow in the irritant municipal waste and help in their bio conversation. The bacteria were identified as *Cronobacter sakazakii* Jor52 (C<sub>2</sub>). The optimized media for maximum amylase production after 24 h of incubation, contains 2% starch, 0.6% peptone, 0.01% CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.05% KCl, 0.05% MgSO<sub>4</sub> and 0.05% K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>. The crude enzyme activity and stability study revealed that the amylase is stable within the pH 6 - 8 and temperature 30°C - 40°C and give maximum activity at 37°C at pH-8.

**Keywords:** Amylase; Microbial Enzymes; Municipal Waste; 16S rDNA Sequencing; *Cronobacter sakazakii*

## 1. Introduction

Mostly, we all are habituated with good-morning whistle of municipal “waste” collectors. The term “waste” can be defined as: Unwanted, useless discarded materials without any sufficient value [1]. Regarding the fate of this huge Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Environment Protection Agency (EPA) specifies that in 1989, 10% was being recycled, 80% gone into landfills, and remaining 10% had incinerated. In a developing and industrialized nation like India, the solid waste generation (0.7 to 1.8 kg/person/day) is much higher than that of low-income nations (0.4 to 0.6 kg/person/day) [2-4]. These solid wastes have disparate deleterious effects on plants and animals thereby perturb our biosphere. So, waste management is prima facie concern for environmentalists for tackling the aggravating pollution rate. Need of an exigent eco-friendly solution is outright. Eventually, biodegrading enzymes can bolster any waste management program to achieve a consummate dominion over the produced MSW. In fact, enzymes can serve as an important molecular device for bioconversion of hazardous waste into bio-friendly compost which can be used to fertilize the soil, without affecting the ambiance. When

the most striking characteristics of enzyme that is catalytic power and specificity taken into account; amylase is one of the important biocatalyst. Amylases catalyze the hydrolysis of alpha-1,4-glycosidic linkages of polysaccharides to yield dextrin, oligosaccharides, maltose and D-glucose. Mainly three types of amylases are found differing in the glycoside bond they attack- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  amylases. Although they can be isolated from different source like animal, plant and microorganism, the microbial amylases are more thermostable and have higher yield [5]. Diverse fungal strains are able to produce amylase both intracellularly and extracellularly depending upon the fermentation process [6-8] but bacteria are the preferred source not only because maximum amount of generated enzyme within a very short time period but also due to its extracellular production attribute, which are indeed, easy to isolate [9-11]. Hence, bacterial amylases can provide an exquisite alternative to the chemical hydrolysis of starch [12]. In fact, bacterial amylase already gained profound importance in the field of biotechnology, textile industry, food processing and pharmaceutical industry [13] these amylase producing bacteria can be utilized for waste management as well. But as the municipal waste consists of different toxic metal ions, radioactive materials and other irritant chemicals, most

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microbes can neither show proper growth nor enzyme production for waste bio-conversion in this adverse condition. To outmaneuver this predicament, we have used the municipal waste as a source of amylase producing bacteria so that the isolated strain will be able to tolerate the detrimental condition of municipal waste and produce enough amylase for their transformation. Interestingly, for the first time, we were able to successfully isolate an amylase producing bacteria from solid waste that can be utilized in large scale waste management. We identified and characterized the bacterial strain and optimized the growth conditions. The activity and stability patterns for the crude enzyme isolated from the bacterial strain were also been reported.

## 2. Material and Method

### Isolation and Identification of the Bacteria

In the present study the bacterial strain was being isolated from the municipal solid waste collected from “Dhapa”, Kolkata and by dissolving 100 mg in 10 mL sterile water before spreading on 1% starch and 2% agar containing media. The colonies those gave clear zone when flooded with gram iodine solution were selected as amylase producing bacteria [14]. Colonies of isolated plate were transferred by replica plating on to starch agar plate for obtaining pure culture and the bacteria showing highest amylase activity was selected for next step of studies.

Gram staining, biochemical and other morphological tests were performed for identification of bacteria [15]. The 16 S rRNA based molecular techniques were also used for further confirmation and data were submitted to National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI).

**Media:** Primarily three different media were selected, Media I (Peptone-2%, Yeast extract-1%, NaCl-1%, Starch-1% and Agar-2%), Media II (Starch-1%, Yeast extract-0.2%, Peptone-0.5%, MgSO<sub>4</sub>-0.1%, NaCl-0.1%, CaCl<sub>2</sub>-0.02% and Agar-2%), Media III (Peptone-0.6%, MgSO<sub>4</sub>-0.05%, KCl-0.05%, Starch-1% and Agar-2%). The media helped to yield maximum amylase productivity was selected as basal media.

**Culture condition and growth kinetics:** To study the effects of pH and temperature change on enzyme production and growth of the organisms, the organisms were grown in the basal media at different pH at 37°C and then at pH 7 at disparate temperature. The optimum temperature and pH for maximum enzyme production were obtained after working out a series of experiments for the bacterial stain. Various carbon compounds were added to the culture media for observing their effects on amylase production. The carbon source giving the maximum amylase production was then mixed at different concentrations for getting the optimum concentration of sole

carbon source [16]. Similarly the effect of different inorganic and organic nitrogen sources and phosphate sources were studied by adding them in the basal medium at diverse concentrations. Additionally, the effects of different metal ions on growth and amylase production were observed by substituting the metal source MgSO<sub>4</sub> of the basal medium.

**Effect of pH and temperature on enzyme activity and stability:** The pH optimum of the enzyme was determined by varying the pH of the assay reaction mixture using following buffers (0.1 M): sodium acetate (pH-4), sodium phosphate (pH-6), potassium phosphate (pH-7), Tris HCl (pH-8) and glycine NaOH (pH-10). Similarly, the optimum temperature was evaluated by measuring the amylase activity at different temperatures (30°C - 50°C). To determine the stability the enzymes were pre-incubated at different buffers and different temperatures for 24 h to determine the residual enzyme activity.

**Crude enzyme preparation and assay of amylase:** To obtain the crude enzyme 24 h old cultures were transferred to micro-centrifuge tubes and centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 15 min. Cells were discarded and resultant supernatant was used as crude enzyme for various enzyme assay as described by Andrew D. Jamieson *et al.* [17]. The determination of amylase concentration of an unknown sample was made by plotting the absorbance of the reaction product at 470 nm against a standard amylase preparation. Units of amylase activity were expressed as micromoles of maltose liberated per minute.

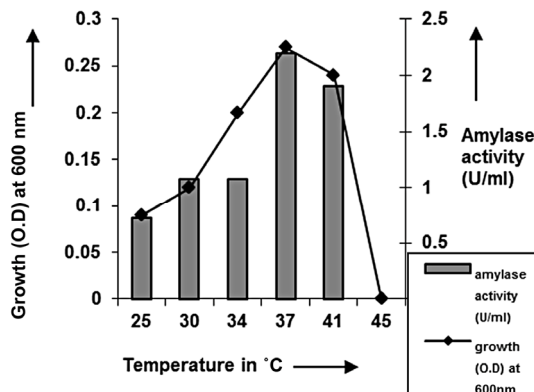
## 3. Results and Discussion

**Isolation and characterization:** In the present investigation, we have successfully isolated a pure bacterial strain from municipal waste. The maximum amylase activity was found in medium III which is lower than the values found for *Bacillus subtilis* [18] and *B. licheniformis* [19], however this value was higher than that reported for *B. coagulans*, *B. circulans* [20], *Aeromonas* sp. and *Pseudomonas* sp. [21]. The identifications of the bacterial strain by 16S rRNA based molecular techniques revealed that the bacterial strain is *Cronobacter sakazakii* Jor52 (GenBank Accession No. HM637744) which was denoted as C<sub>2</sub> in our report. The morphological, biochemical and cultural studies showed (Table 1) that all attributes of the bacterial strain (C<sub>2</sub>) matches the character described in BERGEY'S manual systemic bacteriology.

**Media optimization and growth kinetics:** In the present study we found 37°C as the optimum growth temperature for the presently reported C<sub>2</sub> strain; higher temperature (45°C) did not support any colonies (Figure 1). This may be due to the mesophilic nature of the spe-

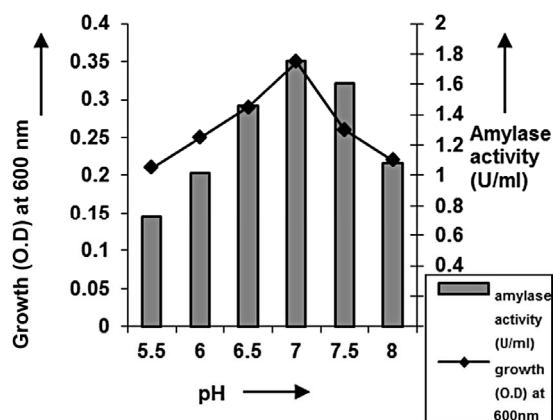
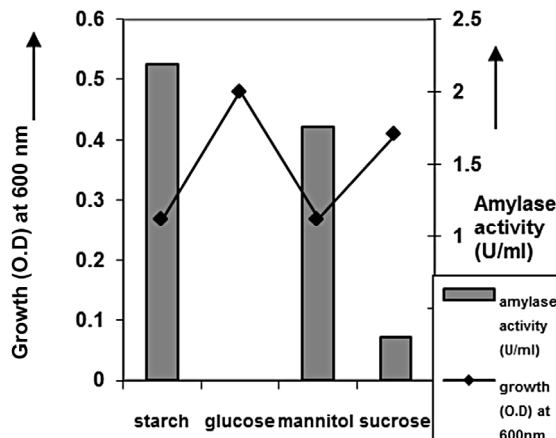
**Table 1. Characterizations of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (C<sub>1</sub>).**

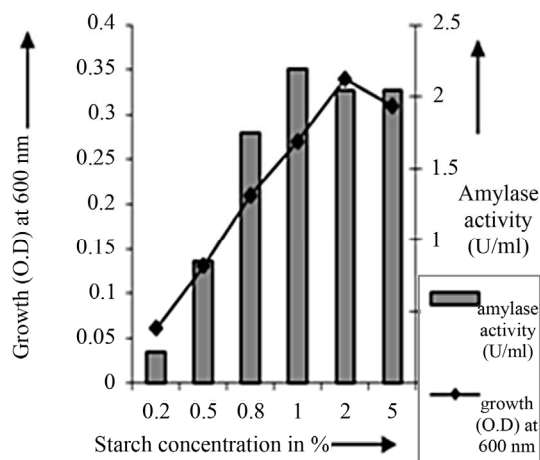
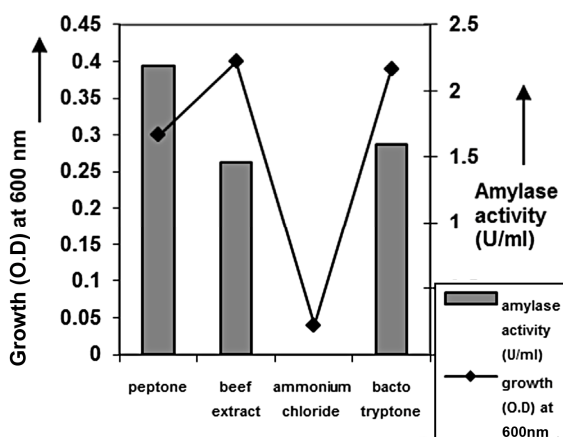
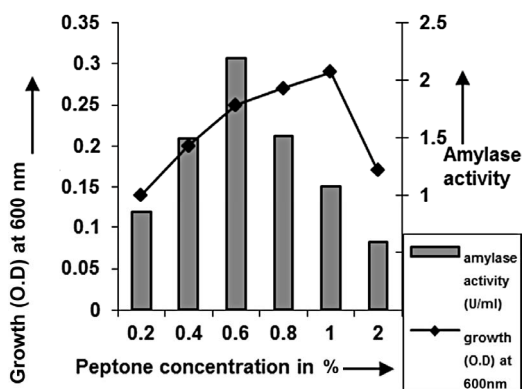
SI No.	Tests	C <sub>2</sub>
1	Gram staining	Gram negative
2	Size	Rod
3	Colour (pigment)	White
4	Motility	Motile
5	Starch hydrolysis	+
6	Protein hydrolysis	–
7	Citrate utilization	+
8	Urea hydrolysis	–
9	Indole production	–
10	Methyl red test	–
11	VP test	+
12	Nitrate reduction	+
13	Gelatin liquification	–
14	Catalase	–
15	Oxidase	+
16	TSI media	+
17	SIM media	–
18	Sugar fermentation (glucose, sucrose, galactose, maltose, lactose and mannitol)	Acid + Gas

**Figure 1. Temperature optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.**

cies. As per earlier report [22] the high temperature may inactivate the expression of gene responsible for the starch degrading enzyme. Most of the starch degrading bacterial strain revealed a pH range between 6.0 and 7.0 for normal growth and enzyme production [23]. The presently isolated strain also exhibited optimum growth at pH 7 (Figure 2). The composition and concentration of media greatly affect the growth and production of extracellular amylase production in bacteria [24,25]. Starch is omnipresent and is an easily accessible source of energy [26]. We also observed increasing the starch concentration increase both growth kinetics and amylase production up to certain extent then declines (Figures 3

and 4). Similarly peptone is the best nitrogen source for amylase production for the bacteria though beef extract supported the maximum growth (Figures 5 and 6). Also Adenosine mono phosphate upkeeps the maximum growth; the amylase production is the maximum for K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (Figure 7). We have also figured out that, maximum growth and amylase production occurred in presence of calcium ion and the bacteria had significant heavy metal tolerance as well (Figure 8). The standard medium lacking starch did not produce amylase [27]. Glucose did not support amylase production presumably due to the catabolic repression by these sugars in the growing cells but starch considerably induced amylase synthesis [28,29]. Enzyme production by the microorganism is directly correlated to the time period of incubation [30]. In our study it was found that the bacteria yielded maximum amylase after 24 h of incubation and then the productions decline may be due to the utilization of all necessary nutrients (Figures 9 and 10); but the amylase production is non-growth related [31]. The differences in nutritional requirements of various amylase producing organisms or microbial strains could be attributed by the difference in their genetics.

**Figure 2. pH optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.****Figure 3. Carbon source optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.**

Figure 4. Starch concentration optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.Figure 5. Nitrogen source optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.Figure 6. Peptone concentration optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.

**Amylase activity and stability:** Studies on crude enzyme characterization revealed that optimum activity was at pH 8 and 37°C for C<sub>2</sub> (Figures 11 and 12). The crude enzyme was stable for 24 h at pH range of 6 - 8 at 37°C. The enzymes were quite stable at 40°C, while at 50°C, the enzyme activity was lost. Enzyme activity elevated with temperature within the range of 40°C - 37°C. A reduction in enzyme activity was observed at temperatures

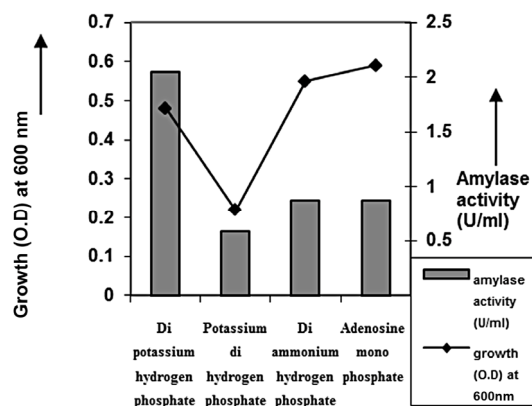
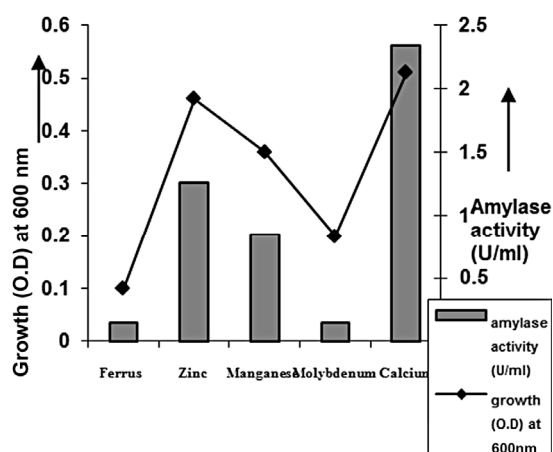
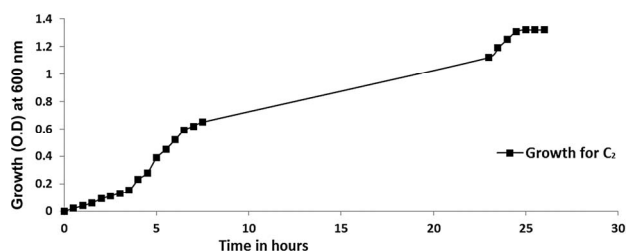
Figure 7. Phosphate source optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.Figure 8. Metalion optimization of C<sub>2</sub>.

Figure 9. Time vs. growth.

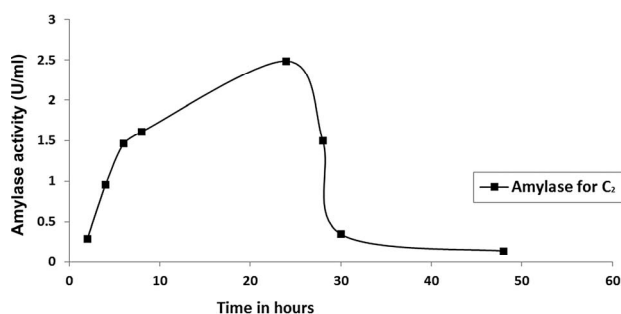


Figure 10. Time vs. amylase production.

above 40°C.

**Conclusions:** Municipal waste management is a haz-

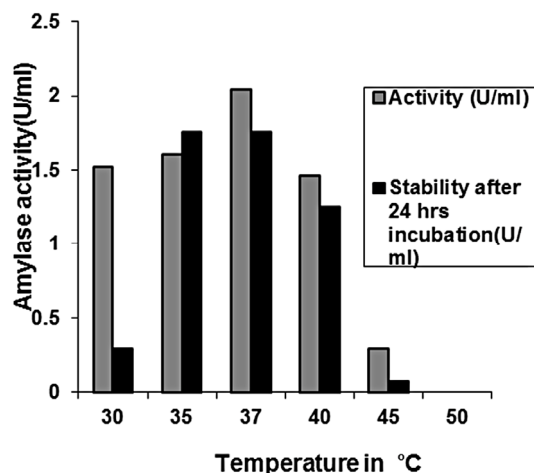


Figure 11. Effect of temperature on activity and stability of amylase from C<sub>2</sub>.

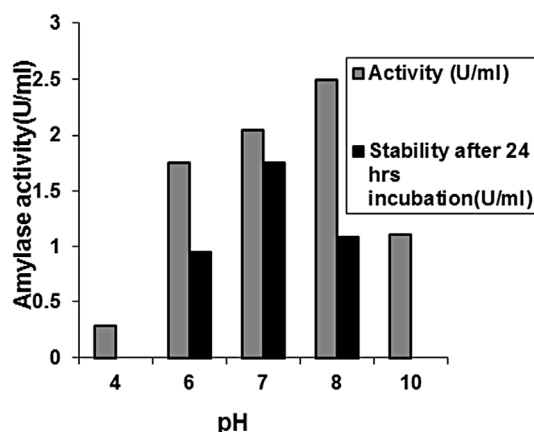


Figure 12. Effect of pH on activity and stability of amylase from C<sub>2</sub>.

ardous problem and one of the primal reasons of environmental pollution as well. It consists of different irritant household and industrial wastes; thus the quite justifiably the main target for environmentalists for their crusade against pollution. Municipal waste require disposal by incineration or land filling, from which eventually many social and environmental problems may arise. The conversation of organic waste through microbial process decreases landfilling by waste disposal and also produces ecofriendly compost which can be used as fertilizer [32]. Most importantly, enzymes are playing an important role as biological catalyst in the chemical transformation of this waste without affecting the environment. Amylase producing bacteria which are able to convert the starchy materials into different sugars can be one of the remarkable molecular devices in this context. The bacteria themselves were intentionally isolated from the municipal waste as they can innately tolerant to adverse environment like high pH, large amount of heavy metal etc. and can be grown luxuriously in the solid wastes for their

biochemical conversion. Undoubtedly, our present investigation on amylase producing bacteria can be successfully used for large scale bioconversion of starchy materials present in municipal waste which has a beneficial role in waste management. The bacteria were able to tolerate the adverse condition like wide range of pH and temperature and have significant toxic metal ion tolerance. On the other hand, Amylase from fungal source is the first industrially produced enzyme used as a pharmaceutical aid for treatment of digestive disorder. Although they can be isolated from different sources like plant, animals; amylases from microbial sources have greater stabilities which meet the industrial demands in food and textile processing. With the advent of new frontiers in biotechnology, the spectrum of amylase application has broadened in many other fields such as chemical, analytical and medicinal chemistry. In our study the organisms were giving amylases which are able to tolerate temperature up to 40°C and pH 6 - 8. These characteristics are good enough to make them applicable for industrial purpose. Future study on isolation of more thermo stable bacteria from municipal waste will definitely propitious for both industrial use and waste management purposes across the globe.

#### 4. Acknowledgements

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