

Enantioselectivity of Ustilago maydis lipases on glycidyl esters

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INTRODUCTION: Lipases (EC 3.1.1.3) are enzymes widely used in biotechnology; they can act in aqueous and organic media with a high selectivity and a wide variety of substrates. *Candida actarctica* lipase B (CALB) is one of the most used in organic synthesis and racemic resolution of enantiomers, while *C. actarctica* lipase A (CALA) has the ability to act on secondary positions. The genome of *Ustilago maydis* contains two sequences of high homology with CALA (lipase A-like, UMLA, 71%) and CALB (lipase B-like, UMLB, 69%); thus offers the opportunity to compare their enantioselectivity on glycidyl esters, where the *R*-enantiomer is useful as synthon in the synthesis of β-blockers (cardio-vascular drugs).

OBJETIVE: Determinate the enantioselectivity on *R* and *S*-glycidyl butyrate of *U. maydis* lipases (UMLA and UMLB) and compare them with those of *C. antartica* (CALA and CALB).

MATERIAL AND METHODS: The cDNA of U. maydis and C. antarctica lipases were synthesized by Genscript® and subcloned into expression vector pGAPZαA to transform the yeast P. pastoris SMD1168H. Enzymes recovered from culture media were purified by chromatographic methods by following the activity on tributyrin. The estimation of enantioselectivity was performed by the hydrolysis of R and S-glycidyl butyrate without competition. All activity measurements were performed in a microplate format.

RESULTS: UMLB hydrolyzed preferentially the *R*-glycidyl enantiomer as well as CALB, while UMLA hydrolyzed preferentially the *S*-glycidyl enantiomer as well as CALA; both cases with different value of S/R ratio. The activity of B lipases was similar on tributyrin and *R*-glycidyl butyrate confirming the high activity on C4 acyl-chain substrates. In contrast, the activity of A lipases on *S*-glycidyl butyrate was lower compared with tributyrin, demonstrating a preference on C4 acyl-chain triglycerides.

CONCLUSION: The display of the same enantioselectivity on *S* or *R* enantiomers for A or B lipases, respectively, can be attributed at its high homology.

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