

127, 17 27, 17 (20) 77, 17 (20









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GROWTH PHYSIOLOGY AND PRODUCTION OF MOSQUITOCIDAL TOXINS FROM Bacillus sphaericus

Thesis

Submitted to Department of Microbiology For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Microbiology)

> $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{v}$ Magda Abd El-Ghaffar El-Bendary M. Sc. Microbiology

1994

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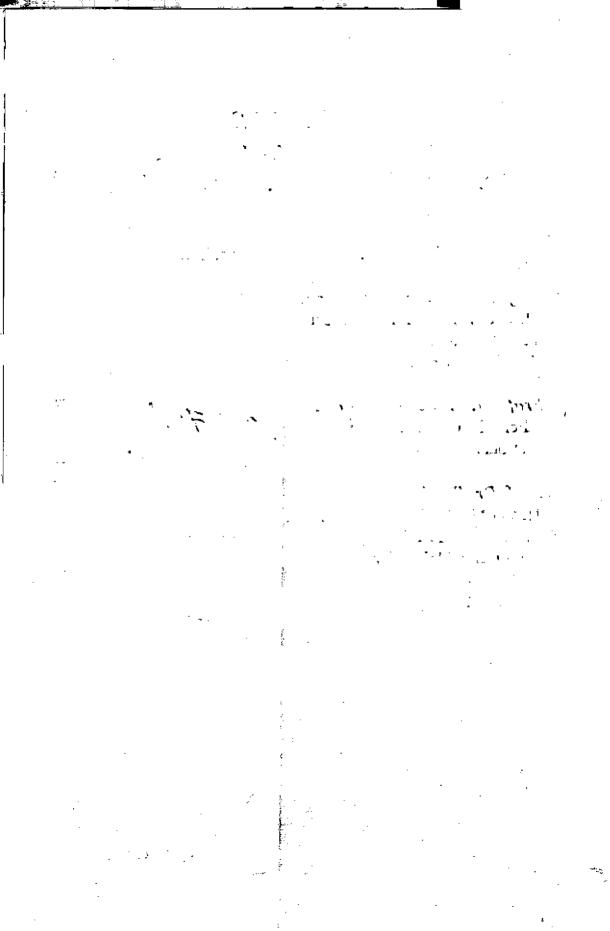
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Acknowledgement

The author would like to express her thanks and gratitude to Dr. Mohamed Ramadan Abu-Shady, Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Ain-Shams University, for his kindly supervision, encouragement, continuos support and valuable advice.

The author sincerely presents her gratefulness and deepest thanks ton Dr. Mohamed Salah Foda, Professor of microbiology, Department of Microbial Chemistry, National Research Centre, Cairo, Egypt, for suggesting the point and for his instructive discussion, supervision, continuous encouragement, valuable advice and guidance throughout the present work.

The author is very grateful and express her sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Fergus G. Priest, Professor of Microbiology and Head of the Department of Biological Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, for his supervision, great help, advice, and continuous guidance. She acknowledge with thanks all his efforts in providing every possible support during her stay in his laboratory in the UK. Such efforts have made the implementation of the present work possible and without which the present studies would have not been materialized.

Great thanks and appreciation are also due to Dr. Belal Ahmed Soliman, Professor and Head of the Department of Biological Sciences Faculty of Education, Suez Canal University, for his kind supervision and advice throughout present work.

The cooperation and help of the author's colleaguesin the Microbial Chemistry Department of the National Research Centre of Egypt and

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the Biological Sciences Department at Heriot-Watt University in the UK are greatly acknowledged.

Deep thanks are also expressed to the National Research Centre (NRC) for all facilities provided that enabled the author to accomplish this work

List of abbreviations

°C degree Celsius

 β -ME β -mercaptoethanol

X-Gal 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-beta-D-galactopyranoside

 A_{260} absorbance at 260 nm A_{280} absorbance at 280 nm

bp base pair.
Btx binary toxin

btx binary toxin gene

BSA bovine serum albumin.

cm centimeter

CFU colony forming unit.
dUTP deoxy uracil triphosphate

dATP deoxy-adenosine triphosphate
dCTP deoxy-cytidine triphosphate
dGTP deoxy-guanosine triphosphate
dTTP deoxy-thymidine triphosphate
dNTP deoxynucleotide triphosphate

DNA deoxyribonucleic acid

DIG digoxigenin

EDTA ethyldiaminetetraacetic acid

FWC final whole culture.

g gram h hour

pH hydrogen-ion exponent

IPTG isopropyle beta-D-thiogalactopyranoside

-4 #K

kDa kilo Dalton kb kilobase. kV kilovolt l litre

LB Luria-Bertani medium

μF microfarad μg microgram μl microliter
μM micromolar
mA milliampere
mg milligram
mjoule millijoule
ml millilitre
mM millimolar

min minute M molar

Mtx mosquitocidal toxin

mtx mosquitocidal toxin gene

TEMED N, N, N', N'-tetramethyl ethylene-\diamine.

ng nanogram nm nanometer

OD optical density.

pmol picomol

PCR polymerase chain reaction

RNA ribonucleic acid r.p.m rotations per minute

open in its per minute

SDS sodium dodecyl sulphate

SDS-PAGE sodium dodecyl sulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

LC₅₀ The concentration of sample that will theoritically kill 50% of

the mosquito larvae in a certain time

TTC tri-phery tetrazolium chloride

Tris Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane

V volt

v/v volume/volume

w/v weight/volume

ABSTRACT

devoted the isolation The work was to present entomopathogenic strains of Bacillus sphaericus from Egyptian environments, their characterization, identification and the elucidation of the physiological factors affecting their growth, and toxin production. Special attention was paid to the application of modern engineering approaches for illustrating their taxonomic position in reference to present classifications as well as the study of possible relationships between sporulation and toxin formation. An investigation on possible production of the mosquitocidal toxin from indigenous strains using locally available agro-industrial by-products in comparison to an international strain, was carried out.

The obtained results have shown that some of the local isolates were highly toxic to mosquitoe) larvae and possessed the typical ribotype pattern of known pathogenic *B. sphaericus* strains (homology group IIA). While some low toxic Egyptian isolates possessed a unique ribotype pattern that was different from the typical pattern of pathogenic strains. Furthermore, some isolates with low toxicity and have Mtx toxin, when serologically classified, were found to belong to serotypes 27, 5a5b, 9a9b and 26a26b. Serotypes 27, 5a5b and 9a9b were not known before to include low pathogenic strains while serotype 26a26b was known to have strains that lack both toxin genes.

The obtained results have also shown that sporulation process was essential for crystal toxin formation. Expression of sigma factor σ^F is responsible for toxin production in stage II and continued until stage

III of sporulation.

Physiological studies have revealed that some factors influenced the production of the binary toxin of *Bacillus sphaericus*. Such factors included phosphate concentrations, level of trace elements in the growth medium as well as aeration extents and incubation temperatures.

Comparative fermentation studies using an indigenous Egyptian strain as well as a standard international strain grown on media made of leguminous seeds and locally available agro-industrial by-products gave excellent growth and high yields of mosquitocidal toxins. Best results of the fermentation studies were obtained upon the use of the Egyptian strain when grown on soy flour, cottonseed flour, offals meal and backing yeast as complete media for toxin production. The obtained results were discussed in the light of their application feasibility regarding the possible local production of the mosquitocidal toxins from the highly potent indigenous strain grown on local agroindustrial byproducts and leguminous seeds in Egypt.