



INVERTASE ACTIVITY PRODUCED BY *Pleurotus ostreatus* GROWN ON WHEAT STRAW

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Introduction. Invertase, also known as β fructofuranosidase is an enzyme that catalyzes the hydrolysis of sucrose to glucose and fructose, is one of the widely used enzymes in the pharmaceutical and food industry, mainly in the manufacture of confectionery (1). The production of this enzyme has been reported in Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Candida utilis, (2) and filamentous fungi of the genus Aspergillus, Aureobasidium and Penicillium. Aspergillus niger and Aureobasidum pullulans are used for industrial production of invertase. (3). There are few reports on invertase activity in other fungi, such as Pleurotus ostreatus, which has great economic, ecological and nutritional value, however, this mushroom is not widely studied for invertase prodution. The aim of this study was to quantify the production of intra and extracellular invertase of *P. ostreatus* grown on wheat straw.

Methods. *P. ostreatus* (ATCC-32783) was used in this study. Mycelium developed on wheat for 10 days at 25 ° C was used as inoculum. Wheat straw bags were inoculated and incubated in the dark until the total invasion. Intracellular extracts were obtained by lysis of the mycelium and extracellular extracts were taken by leaching the crop. Invertase activity was determined by the DNS method (4).

Results. Se obtuvo 0.285 U/gx de actividad intracelular, sin embargo la actividad extracelulares fue de 26.80 U/L (Fig.1), obteniéndose hasta 10 veces más actividad extracelular que intracelular.



Fig.1 Invertase activity of intra and extracellular of *Pleurotus ostreatus* grown on wheat straw

Conclusions. *P. ostreatus* presented intracellular and extracellular invertase activity. This enzymatic activity could be increased adding inductor or changing the fungus growth conditions.

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