Detection the Effect of Cu$^{++}$ on Transcription of glox Gene in *Myceliophthora verrucosa* Using RT-PCR

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(Received 23/3/2014; Accepted 26/5/2014)

**ABSTRACT**

Reverse transcriptase PCR was used to detect the transcription of the glox gene in a local isolate of *M. verrucosa*, in two different growth media. The results indicated the presence of gene transcription in this strain with no effect to Cu$^{++}$ on gene expression. This means that this fungus is suitable for use in various fields such as a bioremediation. This method depends on RNA to detect gene expression under various conditions.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Extracellular peroxidases are important components of the ligninolytic system of *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*. Glyoxal Oxidase (*glox*) is one of the extracellular peroxidase H$_2$O$_2$ producing enzyme found in ligninolytic culture of *P. chrysosporium*. The enzyme catalyzes the oxidation of a number of simple aldehydes and α-hydroxy carbonyl compounds (Kersten, 1990). *glox* homologues were found in human, plant pathogenic fungi and plants but not in other mammals or yeast. It was reported (Leuthner *et al.*, 2005) that *Ustilago maydis* is gene produces H$_2$O$_2$ and the membrane bound *glo$_1$* protein is involved in filamentous growth and pathogenicity of *U. maydis*. However the biological role of *glox* in plants remains unclear, (Zhao *et al.*, 2012).

In previous study (Khalil *et al.*, 2013) the Iraqi local isolate *Myceliophthora verrucosa* was the only strain able to produce Laccase enzyme and show a high activity of this enzyme within 24 hours compared to the standard strain *P. chrysosporium* which need 7 days to produce the same enzyme. There is a strong relation between laccase and *glox* enzymes; both of them belong to ligninolytic enzymes system (LES) (Maciel *et al.*, 2010). The LES has an important roles in biodegradation and biological function (Singh, 2006). *M. verrucosa* may have other enzymes and can be considered an optimum local strain that has a complete LES (Khalil *et al.*, 2013).

*glox* gene expression can be detected by using reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). RNA can also serve as a template for PCR amplification after conversion to cDNA,
RNA-PCR or RT-PCR is a modified PCR procedure designed for analyzing RNA transcript. The RT-PCR is more sensitive than other methods used for DNA analysis especially in response to medium components effect (Bridge et al., 1998). Copper has been reported to be a strong enzyme inducer in several species, it is known that Cu induces both lactase transcription and activity and the increase in activity is proportional to the amount of copper added (Levin et al., 2002).

Due to the good ability of the local strain of the fungus *M. verrucosa* to produce laccase enzyme (Khalil et al., 2013), this study was designed to detect another enzyme, the *glx* gene transcript by using the RT-PCR technique and study the effect of the copper in *glx* gene transcription.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Fungal strain:**
*M. verrucosa* was previously isolated from plastic garbage and identified by using the rDNA method (Khalil et al., 2014).

**Preparation of the fungal spore inocula:**
The spores were harvested in distilled water from a 7 days old fungal plate and then Tween 20 was added to a concentration of 0.01% then mixed by vortex and used to inoculate flasks of liquid media (Probha et al., 2013).

**Medium of growth:**
Two media differing in the presence and absence of the Cu $^{++}$ ion were used in this study, Submerged cultivation of the fungus was carried out on a rotary shaker at 140 rpm and 30 °C in 250 ml flasks which contained 200 ml of standard medium g/l: glucose 15 ; pepton 3 ; KH$_2$PO$_4$ 0.8 ; K$_2$HPO$_4$ 0.4 ; MgSO$_4$.7H$_2$O 0.5 ; CaSO$_4$.5H$_2$O 0.125 ; CuSO$_4$.5H$_2$O 0.125 ; yeast extract 4. The pH was 5.5 and incubation was for 10 days, (Kenkebashvili et al., 2012).

**Isolation of RNA**
At the end of the incubation period, the fungal mycelium was filtered through sterilized muslin and ground in liquid nitrogen to break open all hyphal constituents. The RNA was extracted by using the Micro RNA isolation kit (miRNA) from Omega, and all other reagents were provided by BioLab, England, and the work was done according to the company protocols. The purity and concentration were measured by using Biodrop. The RNA concentration was adjusted at 300 ng/µl to be equal for all samples and then diluted for RT-PCR reaction.

**M-MULV Reverse Transcriptase:**
Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus (M-MULV) a Reverse Transcriptase (RT) is an RNA- and DNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the enzyme possesses a ribonuclease H activity specific to RNA in RNA-DNA hybrids, M-MULV RT incorporates modified nucleotides, *E.coli* cells with a cloned fragment of the pol gene encoding Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus reverse transcriptase (Sambrook and Russell, 2001).

**PCR Primers:**
Three set of primers differ in design methods, the first set designed according to complementary DNA, while the second primers set was designed according to genomic DNA and the third set designed by using National Centre of Biotechnology Information (NCBI) web site. All these Primers were used to amplify cDNA and these were :

1. F: 5’-GCAGAATTCTATGTTGTCGCTGCTAGCGTGTAGT-3’ R: 3’-CGTACCTACTCCAGGGTCGAGGGGT- 5’ (Son et al., 2012).
2. glx F 5’-TACACCTTCCGCTCTACACG-3’
   glx R3 ‘-TATTTACTCCAGGGTCGAGGGGT-5’ (Bernard et al., 1998)
3. NF: TATCCCCCAAACGAGTGTTGCTG
   NR: TGATGCGCTTTTCCAAGAGGT (designed from NCBI by Author)
Detection the Effect of Cu$^{++}$

First strand cDNA synthesis:
The cDNA was synthesized by using the reaction mixture shown in (Table 1) in an eppendorf tube. The RNA denatured for 5 minutes at 70 °C and span briefly then 10 µl of the M-MULV reaction mix and 2 µl of the M-MULV enzyme mix were added, the reaction mixture incubated at 42 °C for one hour and the enzyme inactivated at 80 °C for 5 minutes. The reaction mixture was diluted to 50 µl with 30 µl H$_2$O for PCR reaction, (Jalali et al., 2011).

| Content                  | Volume µl | Conc.   |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Total RNA                | 3         | 300 ng/µl |
| d(t)$_{23}$ VN (50mm)    | 2         | 2.5 µM   |
| Nuclease –free H$_2$O    | 3         |         |
| Total                    | 8         |         |

RT-PCR reaction

cDNA template preparation:
For each cDNA reaction, series (1:5, 1:10, 1:100) dilution of cDNA into RNase-free dH$_2$O was made, working cDNA dilution depends on abundance of transcript so it may be necessary to make a dilution to determine optimum cDNA input dilution comparing with undiluted cDNA.

Primers were used to set the RT-PCR cDNA template in the reaction made as shown in (Table 2):

| Content       | Volume  µl | Conc.          |
|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Master mix    | 12.5       | 1X             |
| Forward       | 1.5        | 10 picomole    |
| Reverse       | 1.5        | 10 picomole    |
| cDNA template | 2.5        | Different dilution |
| ddH$_2$O      | 7          |                |

The thermocycler programs consisted of an initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation (95°C for 1 min), and to avoid annealing temperature failure, the gradient primer annealing temperature was used in range 55 ±10 °C (50-60 °C) for 2 min and polymerization (72°C for 2 min). Final amplification was at 72°C for 10 min. (Khalil et al., 2014; Alrawi and Alsanjary, 2009).

The PCR products (glox gene bands) were separated on 2% agarose gel, stained with ethidium bromide and bands visualized were by gel documentation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The RNA extraction by miRNA isolation kit showed a high purity and concentration as shown in (Table 3).

| Fungal growth medium | Purity | Concentration ng/µl |
|----------------------|--------|---------------------|
| standard medium      | 1.976  | 314.2               |
| standard medium Without Cu | 1.944 | 281                 |
Pure RNA has an $A_{260}/A_{280}$ ratio of 1.9–2.1 (Nielson, 2011). The results showed that the first set of primers only gave pure bands for the most diluted cDNA samples and for both mycelium grown in standard medium or medium lacking Cu$^{+2}$ (Fig. 1).

![Image of gel electrophoresis](image)

**Fig. 1:** gel electrophoresis of the PCR products with the first set of primers M: molecular ladder, 1,2,3,4 standard mycelium and at cDNA concs. Undiluted, 1/5,1/10,1/100 respectively; 3 concentration cDNA, 4,5,6 without Cu mycelium in and at cDNA concs. 1/5, undiluted, 1/10,1/100 respectively.

The results also showed a pure and strong bands at 75 bp in 2, 3, 4 wells (standard medium) and 5, 7, 8 wells (medium without Cu$^{+2}$), and the bands in 1, 6 were a week due to high concentration of cDNA (because the difference in RNA concentration) which used undiluted cDNA, and the strong bands are from the high dilution ratio. The high concentration of cDNA leads to the reaction component may interact with primers annealing, and react week bands and making a series dilution can avoid the interaction. The pure bands indicates that the local strain *M. verrucosa* contains the *glox* gene. Its expression will not be affected by absence of Cu$^{+2}$. This enzyme is a member in ligninolytic enzyme system in white rot fungi, (Janusze *et al.*., 2013).

The results also showed that there were no amplified cDNA by using the second and third primer sets. This may due to the primers design where these primers may contain intron / exon for genomic DNA while the complementary DNA doesn’t contain an Introns just exons and because of this the primers should be designed for exon only as in the first primer set (Fig. 2), (Zhong, 2003)

Also the results indicated that the \textit{glox} gene expression didn’t need the Cu$^+$. This ion may be needed for the activation \textit{glox} enzyme. However, how this happens is not clear. The effect of Cu$^+$ is it Cu$^+$ could be a component of the active site of the enzyme or simply an effector of the enzyme (Kersten, 1990).

The presence of the \textit{glox} gene and enzyme in the local strain \textit{M. verrucosa} point to the possibility of using this strain in bioremediation. The \textit{glox} and Laccase (detected in a previous study) are very important enzymes in bioremediation; they have the ability to break the most strong bond between lignin atoms (Khalil et al., 2013).

The RT-PCR has become one of the most widely applied techniques in biomedical research (O’Connell, 2002). The ease with which the technique permits specific mRNA to be detected and quantified has been a major asset in the molecular investigation of disease pathogenesis (Nielson, 2011). Disease-related imbalances in the expression of specific mRNAs can be sensitive parameter and a very useful tool for detecting variations in the expression of many genes under various condition, (O’Connell, 2002). In many cases the RT-PCR is a very important tool to detect gene expression in various condition especially with these induced during secondary metabolism under nutrient-limiting culture conditions and they cannot be detected by genomic DNA PCR (Singh, 2006).

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