



Benedito Rodrigues da Silva Neto
(Organizador)

Conceitos Básicos da Genética

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APRESENTAÇÃO

Há exatos dezenove anos, mais precisamente na data de 21 de junho de 2000, um dos anúncios mais esperados nos últimos tempos pela comunidade científica era feito: simultaneamente nos Estados Unidos e em Londres o presidente Bill Clinton e o primeiro ministro Tony Blair divulgaram, o que segundo eles seria uma nova era para a humanidade, o sequenciamento do genoma humano. O “rascunho da vida” como denominaram traria novas expectativas quanto à doenças incuráveis, desafios éticos, novas propostas tecnológicas para a pesquisa, mas principalmente uma acessibilidade muito maior ao conceito de genética para a população.

Desde então uma revolução molecular pôde ser observada, novos conceitos adentraram às salas de aula, novos equipamentos evoluíram os laboratórios de pesquisa, novos e milhares de artigos passaram a publicar quase que “em tempo real” as descobertas no campo ambiental, microbiológico, industrial e da saúde. Podemos dizer também que a genética chegou como nunca às mesas das famílias, deixando de ser um assunto apenas dos cientistas.

Portanto a literatura aqui apresentada e intitulada “Conceitos básicos da genética” torna-se relevante não apenas por abordar assuntos relativos à comunidade acadêmica, mas principalmente por demonstrar a diversidade de áreas que hoje utilizam das ferramentas genéticas e moleculares em seus estudos que estão diretamente relacionados ao dia-a-dia da população.

Cada vez mais, o acelerado mundo das descobertas científicas caminha a passos largos e rápidos no sentido de transformar a pesquisa básica em aplicada, portanto é relevante destacar que investimentos e esforços nessa área contribuem grandemente com o desenvolvimento de uma nação. A genética como sabemos possui um campo vasto de aplicabilidades que podem colaborar e cooperar grandemente com os avanços científicos e tecnológicos.

Esperamos que seja apenas o primeiro de muitos outros livros na área, já que a cada dia novas tecnologias genéticas tornam-se acessíveis e novas descobertas são possíveis. Parabenizamos cada autor pela teoria bem fundamentada aliada à resultados promissores, e principalmente à Atena Editora por permitir que o conhecimento seja difundido e disponibilizado para que as novas gerações se interessem cada vez mais pelo ensino e pesquisa em genética.

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PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS AND IDENTIFICATION OF A CELLULASE PRODUCING BACILLUS SP. STRAIN BY 16S RRNA SEQUENCING

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ABSTRACT: The microorganisms belonging to genus *Bacillus* include a wide spectra and ubiquitous group of bacteria that can be found from the forest soil, to marine ecosystems occurring in association with a variety of aquatic organisms such as scleractinian corals present in the intertidal boulders. Therefore, these microorganisms are exposed to various abiotic stresses that cause ecological selection for a physiologically adapted microbiota to such extremes of temperature and salinity. In this work, we isolated and characterized a cellulase from a marine bacterial strain and identified its specie by 16S rRNA sequencing followed by a BLAST analysis. The cellulolytic strain called SR22 showed to be a gram-positive spore-forming bacilli, facultative anaerobe, and catalase positive, as well as negative for indole, H₂S production, and citrate utilization; those findings led us to consider the isolate

belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, which was confirmed by the phylogenetic analysis, which revealed that the SR22 strain formed a clade with *Bacillus subtilis*. Its nucleotide sequence was deposited in GenBank as Accession No. MH119099 and the degree of sequence similarity of strain SR22 to *Bacillus* sp. was 99%. Taken together, the present data indicate the present celulase-positive identified strain as a potential and useful candidate for industrial applications that employs celulase degrading processes like second-generation bioethanol and paper industries being still necessary further studies to complete characterize this microorganism secretome.

KEYWORDS: Endoglucanase, Marine bacteria, rRNA

INTRODUCTION

Microorganisms are present in the most diverse ecosystems, from the terrestrial to the aquatic, besides performing terminal functions on biogeochemical cycles underneath and above the surface of mineral and living beings. The main way of bacterial interaction with the environment involves the production of chemical substances like enzymes, which act mainly as biological barriers against the growth of other microorganisms (Kazeem *et al.*, 2017).

According to Rosenberg (Rosenberg *et al.*, 2007) the marine environment includes a mega diversity of microorganisms that constitute a complex and intricate system of these ecological relations with the other biota elements and represent an important source of biomolecules, but it's still poorly explored comparing to others habitats, and their microorganisms are still to be described. As a consequence, natural microbial products are promising sources for the bioprospecting of new molecules with potential applications in medicine (pharmaceuticals), agriculture (agrochemicals) and in biological processes (chemical biology) studies (Prakash *et al.*, 2014).

The earliest research on the marine ecosystem and its ecological diversity began in the middle of the last century, gaining more visibility in the present day. Introducing itself as a hostile environment of particular characteristics, the marine ecosystem harbours different ecological niches that produce particular macromolecules in response to variations in this environment of pH, temperature, pressure and salinity. Approximately 30.000 macromolecules isolated from these niches have already been discovered and catalogued, however, these data correspond to only 5% of the studied sources of this ecosystem, where only a few are explored and validated (Indraningrat, Smidt e Sipkema, 2016; Ye *et al.*, 2015).

Currently recognized as the "Cradle "The seas and oceans represent an important source with potential for application in the cosmetic, nutritional, agrochemical and therapeutic industries, especially in the attempt to obtain and elucidate the anticancer properties of these compounds. By the end of the 1990s the number of molecules discovered was approximately 500 per year. Currently 28.175 chemical classes with hundreds of new compounds are discovered annually. Although increasing the number

of researches for discoveries of new marine compounds this ecosystem is little explored.

Different aspects are considered in the study of products from marine species, such as chemical diversity found from different ecological niches, function in nature and strategies for preclinical or clinical use. The first proposal of an anticancer compound was approved in 1969, known and applied nowadays the Citarabina or Ara-C, was developed to be a synthetic analogue of nucleoside C found in species of sea sponges, *Tethya crypta*. After this first proposal new molecules, from different marine niches, were launched, such as Trabectedina from tunicate *Ecteinascidia turbinata*, Eribulin from the metabolite produced by marine sponges *Halichondria okadai* and Ziconotide with analgesic function obtained from studies in *Conus magus* (Verma *et al.*, 2007).

The discovery of novel bioactive marine natural products (MNPs) is based on a sequence of methods under the organism to be worked through the process of isolation, extraction, characterization and purification of the molecule of interest. Although many methods still employed are considered standard in the identification of new molecules some cultivate the problematic of low efficiency, costly and that demand of spaced times to obtain satisfactory results. The process of isolation of microorganisms that have a symbiosis relationship with marine eukaryotic organisms has been one of the major problems present during the process of obtaining molecules from these agents, such as some bacteria of the genus *Prochlorococcus* that present a compromised growth in synthetic media, due to the absence of heterotrophic bacteria in co-cultures. Techniques that employ concepts of genomics, metagenomics, proteomics, bioinformatics, expression systems have been used as alternative ways to discover and obtain bioactive molecules from marine organisms (Batool *et al.*, 2016; Dustan, 1973).

Enzymes are great biological catalysts that plays unique role on accelerating the speed of chemical reactions being essential for the maintenance for the homeostasis of biological systems which, when under uncatalyzed conditions, would take so long to happen that they would make the structuring of complex organisms thermodynamically unfeasible. In addition to forming the basis of metabolic systems, enzymes provide enormous opportunities for industries to perform biocatalytic conversions with high yield and reliability (Adrio e Demain, 2014).

Hydrolytic enzymes are widely used in different processes in major industries such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, detergents, food and biofuels, employing different classes of enzymes such as proteases, pectinases, lipases, cellulases (Santos, Dos *et al.*, 2018; Veras, Queiroz, Gomes, *et al.*, 2018). In a field so required by new bioactive molecules, microorganisms belonging to new environments are emerging as potential sources for new research and industry employment of brand-new molecules due the metabolic versatility and stability in extreme environmental conditions (temperature, salinity and so on) where these organisms inhabit. Thus, the present work seeks mainly to isolate bacterial strains from marine organisms present in the coastal Northeast region of Brazil in order to characterize and purify enzymes synthesized by these microbes,

with potential biotechnological applications (Veras, Queiroz, Diniz, *et al.*, 2018).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Isolation of bacteria

The bacterial isolates were from aseptically collected tissues from *Siderastrea stellata* colonies (Verrill, 1868) on the coral reefs of Cabo Branco-Paraíba, Brazil ($7^{\circ}08'50''S, 34^{\circ}47'51''W$), being removed according to Dustan methodology (Dustan, 1973). For bacterial isolation, tissues from the ecto and mesoderm of the Anthozoa were suspended in sterile saline solution, then inoculated into culture medium Sea Agar (5.0 g/L⁻¹ peptone, 0.1 g/L⁻¹ extract yeast, 15.0 g/L⁻¹ agar) and incubated at 55°C until adequate growth. The strains were grown for 48 h at 40 °C on pH 7.0 in carboxymethylcellulose (CMC) agar plates (containing 0.1%, CMC; 0.05%, NaNO₃; 0.1%, K₂HPO₄; 0.05%, MgSO₄·7H₂O; 0.001% FeSO₄·7H₂O; 0.1% Yeast extract; 1.5% agar) and then overlaid with 0.1% congo-red solution for 30 min and washed with 1 M NaCl for equal time as well as stained with 0.2% potassium iodine for 5 min, bacterial colonies showing clear zones were considered to be cellulase producers and selected for agro-waste degradation experiments. (Kasana *et al.*, 2008).

BACTERIAL MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION

In order to identify the cellulase producer isolates, 16S rRNA gene sequence was amplified from extracted DNA. Bacterial universal primers 26F (5'-GAGTTTGATCMTGGCTCAG) and 1492R (5' -ACGGCTACCTTGTACGACTT-3') were used to amplify the 16S rDNA gene by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) performed in MWG-Biotech Primus 96 Plus Thermal Cycler (Primus, USA). Each reaction mixture (50 µL) contained reaction buffer, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 µM of each primer, 0.2 mM of dNTPs, 1U of DNA polymerase and 40 ng of genomic DNA. The amplification products were directly purified from the PCR reaction using the Wizard® SV Genomic DNA Purification System. The purified reactions were sequenced using an ABI-PRISM 3100 Genetic Analyzer automatic sequencer (Applied Biosystems, USA).

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS

The obtained 16S rRNA gene sequence for isolates was compared to deposited sequences in the GenBank database (NCBI). For the local alignment, BLASTn tool (NCBI) was used. MEGA 7.0 software was used for multiple sequence monitoring and for the construction of a dendrogram by the Neighbour-Joining method (Hogg e Lehane, 1999; Mahajan *et al.*, 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bacterial strains associated with coral tissues were obtained from the collection

of corals in works prior to this study and deposited in stock in the marine Agar culture medium (composed of filtered sea water from the study region, 0, 5% Peptone (Difco), 0.1% Yeast Extract (Difco) and 1.5% Agar).

Bacterial isolates from corals presenting different health conditions were divided into two groups named “SS” and “SR” plus an individualized numbering for each isolate strain. The isolates from coral samples affected by the depigmentation received the SR code with a numbering associated with each strain. In total, 29 SS strains and 40 SR strains coral were isolated.

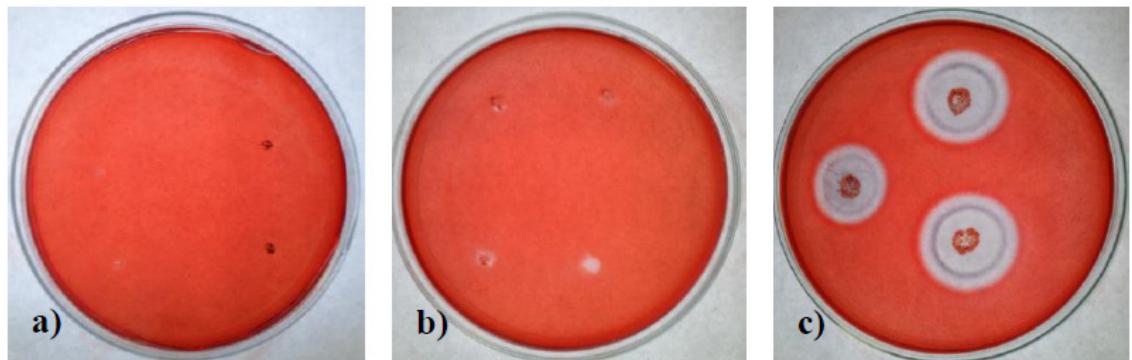


Figure 1. Aspects of the cellulolytic activity test: a) negative result (there is no halo formation); b) positive result demonstrating degradation of the substrate around the colony (although not significant for prospecting purposes; c) positive result with evident halo of more than 3 cm of diameter.

Among the bacteria of the SS lineage listed, three presented considerable cellulolytic activity while the others formed only a faint halo evidencing activity, often restricted only to the colony area; the proteolytic activity (data not shown) was more widely observed with five strains showing conspicuous activity while five others also exhibited the formation of considerable degradation halos of the protein substrate, in addition to the other strains where the degradation was restricted to the colony region.

In the SR line, seven presented intense cellulolytic activity with the others presenting activity only in the region of the colony; in relation to the proteolytic activity (data not shown), five strains had a significant halo of degradation while nine presented a positive result, although attenuated when compared to the other five strains. For classification purposes, lineages that produced degradation halos with diameters greater than 1 cm were considered as a significant positive activity, being considered as high activity the halos with diameters of approximately three centimeters or higher (Figure 1).

Among SR isolates, one strain showed to be a gram-positive spore-forming bacilli, facultative anaerobe, and catalase positive, as well as negative for indole, H₂S production, and citrate utilization. The same morphological characteristics were found by previous studies with cellulolytic *Bacillus* sp. strains Rastogi et al. (2010 e Rawat; Tewari (2012) e Srivastava et al. (2018). Bacteroidetes, Chloroflexi, Deinococcus-Thermus, Firmicutes, and Proteobacteria were identified. Eight isolates capable of

degrading cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC).

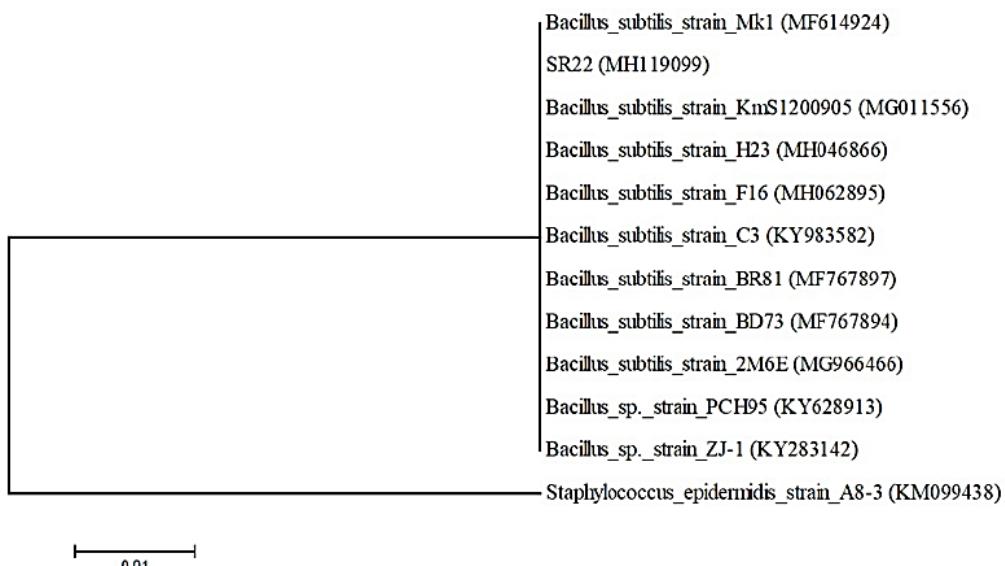


Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of SR isolate labelled as “22” and other related species based on 16S rDNA sequences, constructed using the Neighbour-Joining principle. The scale bar represents 0.01 substitutions per site. The evolutionary distances were computed using the Kimura two-parameter method. Bootstrap values are indicated at the branches from 1.000 replications. GenBank accession numbers of the sequences are given in parentheses.

Those findings led us to consider the isolate belonging to the genus *Bacillus*, which was confirmed by the phylogenetic analysis, which revealed since the strain formed a clade with *Bacillus subtilis* sequences (Figure 2). Its nucleotide sequence was deposited in GenBank as Accession No. MH119099 and the degree of sequence similarity of strain was 99%.

CONCLUSIONS

Besides the expression of extracellular enzymes, the secretion of bactericidal compounds by microorganisms competing for the same ecological niche with other prokaryotes is also responsible for modulating a large part of the structure of the associated microbiota, changes in the environmental and physiological conditions of the host can be decisive events triggering succession, where the antagonistic strains to a certain pathogen is eliminated allowing the colonization of hosts.

When subjected to a new temperature condition, corals are therefore suffering from the phenomenon of ecological succession due to the decrease in the fitness of their microbiota associated with the concomitant elevation of competition for adhesion sites and virulence in the case of some pathogens.

This process leads to an insertion of other microorganisms into the coral microbiota, causing an increase in diversity and destabilizing the mutual equilibrium between prokaryotes and the host, which in turn becomes even more susceptible due to the aggression of the pathogens now present and the development of virulence

in previously non-pathogenic strains of stressors that culminate in further favoring the succession of the original microorganisms leading to a vicious circle capable of chronically compromising coral homeostasis leading to a qualitative deficit in the mutualistic association between coral and a photobiont component of the association that is very often algae of the genus *Symbiodinium* (commonly referred to as *zooxanthellae*) causing bleaching (Rosenberg *et al.*, 2007).

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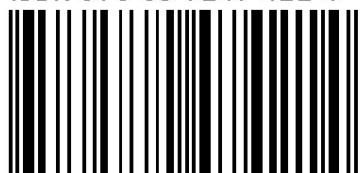
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