

## A STUDY OF BIODEGRADATION OF PAPER WASTES BY USING BACTERIA ISOLATED FROM THE SOIL

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**Abstract**—Ten soil samples have been collected randomly from local agriculture soils in Diwaniya city then the dilution  $10^{-5}$  cultured in nutrient agar s after mixing with 1gm of paper wastes after 90 days incubation at  $35^\circ\text{C}$  the resulted bacteria hydrolysis the paper and gave a zone of clearance about 13 -3 mm then the growing bacteria have been cultured alone on carboxymethylcellulose (CMC )agar .after incubation period and biochemical test there were three genus of bacteria recognized *Pseudomonas florescence*, *E.coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*. The study also observed that *Pseudomonas florescence* gave the highest diameter of zone of clearance 15 mm while *E. coli* gave the lowest zone of clearance 5mm.

### INTRODUCTION

Biodegradation is defined as the biologically catalyzed reduction in complexity of chemical compounds (Alexander *et al.*, 1994) Indeed, biodegradation is the process by which organic substances are broken down into smaller compounds by living microbial organisms (Marinescu *et al.*, 2009). When biodegradation is complete, the process is called "mineralization". However, in most cases the term biodegradation is generally used to describe almost any biologically mediated change in a substrate (Bennet *et al.*, 2002). For thousands of years, people managed solid waste by gathering it up, carting it out and dumping or burying it in isolated places. Crude as it was, this system worked because most of the waste consisted of biodegradable organic compounds that decomposed easily. In addition, the volume of rubbish was much lower than now because there were fewer people and less packaging materials (Kujawa, 2002).

Cellulose is the most abundant organic compound on earth (Tomme *et al.*, 1995). Every year, plants make more than 10 metric ton of cellulose. A cellulose polymer is a linear chain of thousands of glucose molecules linked by  $\beta$  (1:4) -glucosidic bonds and the basic repeating unit is cellobiose. The cellulose polymer chain is a flat, ribbon like structure stabilized by internal hydrogen bounds between adjacent chain causes them to strongly with one another in parallel arranges of many chains that

all have the same polarity (Bahkali, 1996)

Microorganisms are capable of degrading various wastes and therefore have been developed to be of use in recycling domestic solid waste as well as toxic substances, the paramount role of microorganisms in the global recycling of carbon and other elements has long been recognized (Magnelli and Forchiassin, 1999)

For example Microorganisms are important in conversion of lignocellulose wastes into valuable products like biofuels produced by fermentation (Shin, 2000).

Bacteria which have high growth rate as compared to fungi have good potential to be used in cellulase production. However, the application of bacteria in producing cellulase is not widely used. The cellulolytic property of some bacterial genera such as *Cellulomonas*, *Cellvibrio*, *Pseudomonas* sp (Nakamura and Kppamura, 1982)

*Bacillus* and *Micrococcus* (Immanuel, 2006). Cellulose is produced by a large number of microorganisms. They are either cell bound or extra cellular. Although a large number of microorganisms can degrade cellulose, only a few of them produce significant quantities of free enzymes capable of completely hydrolyzing crystalline cellulose (Koomnok, 2005). Cellulases are used in the textile industry for cotton softening and denim finishing; in laundry detergents for colour care, cleaning; in the food industry for mashing; in the pulp and paper industries for drainage improvement and fibremodification, and they are

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even used for pharmaceutical applications (Cherry and Fidants, 2003).

In nutshell, the cellulose enzymes will be commonly used in many industrial applications and the demands for more stable, highly active and specific enzymes will also grow rapidly. So, cellulose enzyme will be the most stirring technology of future. And continuous research for advances in speckled aspects for cellulose production (such as cost, substrate specificity, and specific activity) is desired to achieve improved techno economic feasibility. The present work was carried out to optimize the nutritional and environmental parameters for improving cellulose (Sonia Sethi *et al.*, 2013) production by bacterial strains.

The aim of this research to investigate bacterial isolates capable to produce cellulose enzyme and use it in biodegradation of paper waste.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Samples collections

Soil samples of 200 g were collected from 5 different sites in Diwniya city. The samples were collected with small sterile shovels into. The samples were collected with small sterile shovels into sterile plastic containers. The soil samples were sent to the laboratory within 30 min for analysis. The pH and temperature of soil samples were determined using digital pH meter and thermometer respectively. Humidity was determined by hygrometer.

### Bacteria culture

A total one gram of paper was added to 50 mL of different soil suspensions in 100 mL rubber stopper flasks contain nutrient agar and incubate at 35°C with shaking for approximately 90 days.

### Screening of cellulolytic bacteria

Pure cultures of bacterial isolates were individually transferred in CMC agar plates. After incubation for 48 hours, CMC agar plates were flooded with 1 % congo red and allowed to stand for 15 min at room temperature. One molar NaCl was thoroughly used for counterstaining the plates. Clear zones were appeared around growing bacterial colonies indicating cellulose hydrolysis (Andro *et al.*, 1984). The bacterial colonies having the largest clear zone were selected for identification and cellulase production in submerged system.

### Identification of cellulolytic bacteria

Identification of cellulolytic bacteria was carried out by methode as described by Cowen and Steel (Cowan, 1993) and Cullimore (Cullimore, 2000), which was based on morphological and biochemical tests.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cellulose is the main building block of plants and have major fraction of organic carbon in soil. Micro organisms, which live in soil, are accountable for recycling of this organic carbon to the environment (Wang *et al.*, 2008). Degradation of cellulosic materials is a complex process and requires participation of microbial cellulolytic enzymes. Habitats where these substrates are present are the best sources for isolation of cellulolytic microorganisms (Das *et al.*, 2010). About one fifth of fresh water and soil samples yield cellulose degrading bacteria after enrichment but some samples did not bear such kind of bacteria. This is due to existence of microenvironments where 2 degrading microorganism still continues (Ivanen *et al.*, 2009).

The soil in the field of the present study was slightly basic, the humidity and temperature was 36% and 33°C respectively. The physiochemical properties of soil play an important role in the growth of microorganism. Table 1 physiochemical properties of soil.

**Table 1.** Physiochemical properties of soil samples.

Physiochemical property of soil	Readings
pH	8.1- 6.4
Temperature	34.5
Humidity	36%

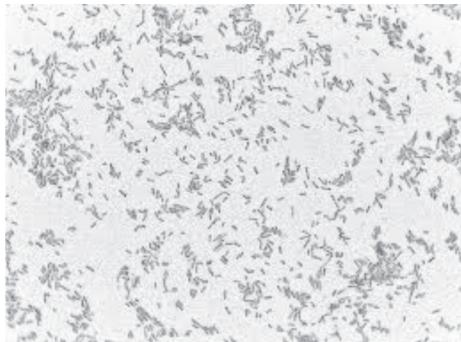
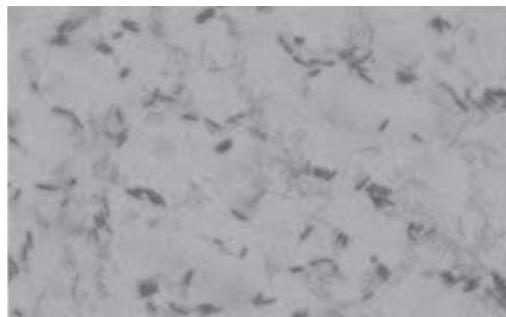
In the present study, three cellulolytic bacteria were isolated, from soil samples. These three bacteria were screened for cellulase production in submerged fermentation process using suitable medium. Cellulase -producing bacteria were isolated from soil. Based on the morphological and biochemical characteristics, the isolates were identified as *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *E. Coli* the characters and the shape of isolated bacteria are shown in Table 2 Fig. 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

The present study 1gm of papers have been

**Table 2.** The characteristics of bacteria isolated from the soil

Character	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>
Gram stain	-	-	+
Motility	+	+	+
Spore forming	-	-	-
Catalase test	+	+	+
Oxidase test	-	+	+
Oxidase demand	An aerobic	Aerobic	Obligate aerobic

cultivated with the bacteria mentioned above and the result were the zone of clearance was lower than the zone of clearance when the bacteria have been cultivated in CMC medium only. The diameter of zone of clearances showed in Table 3 below.

**Fig. 1.** *Pseudomonas fluorescens* after gram staining**Fig. 2.** *E. coli* After gram staining

Enzymatic activity was determined through congo red test where zone of clearance was measured in mm and compared with standard cellulase. This indicated that these cellulolytic bacterial strains utilized the available sources of cellulose present in waste and carried out their degradation. Quantitative test of this isolate showed highest enzymatic activity in *Pseudomonas fluorescens*.

**Table 3.** The diameter of zone of clearance in different isolates after cultured with papers

<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	10-13 mm
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	4-8 mm
<i>E. coli</i>	3 mm

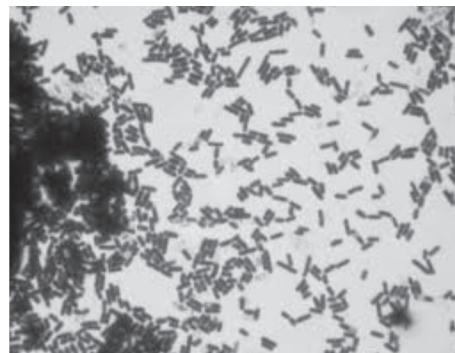
which was 10-15 mm and *Bacillus subtilis* which was 5-10 mm the lowest clearance zone has been showed in *E. coli* which was about 5 mm. Table 4 showed these results.

Inspite of presence of more of cellulolytic bacteria in the soil as many studies refer (Cullimore, 2000) but the present study only three types of bacteria have been found and that may belongs to the nature of the soil or to the cultivating conditions.

The difference in the zone of clearance among the different isolates may belong to the conditions of growth which was optimum for *Pseudomonas fluorescens* more than the other types ie *Bacillus subtilis* and *E. coli*. As Bakare et al. (2005) (Muhammad Irfan, 2012) who found that the cellulase enzyme produced by *Pseudomonas fluorescens* was activated at 30 to 35°C showing the optimum temperature at 35°C. While optimum temperature for maximum growth of *Bacillus subtilis* was 40°C (Bakare, 2005). Therefore the future studies should take the side of physical and chemical conditions very seriously.

**Table 4.** The diameter of zone of clearance in different isolates

<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	10-15mm
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	5-10mm
<i>E. coli</i>	5mm

**Fig. 3.** *Bacillus subtilis* after gram staining

The lowest zone of clearance can be explicated as the complexity of paper components which are consist of fibers of cellulose (are fibers made with

ether or esters of cellulose these fibers are compound of hemicellulose and lignin) (Free Online Encyclopedia, 2014).

## CONCLUSION

The aim of the present work was to found a cheap and safe way to revenge up waste paper. *Pseudomonas fulorescens* among *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis* produced maximum yield of cellulases. The optimum temperature was determined as 35°C.

Further studies were in advancement in the purging and use of cellulase in diverse business fields. The filtered cellulase can be utilized for different purposes as a part of cleanser commercial ventures, nourishment businesses, and pharmaceutical industries. The high movement and soundness of cellulase proteins between unbiased to antacid pH and high temperature will be useful in different modern and biotechnological application.

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