Substrate Specificity of a-L-Arabinofuranosidase from the Hyperthermophile Thermotoga maritima toward Arabinose-containing Oligosaccharide

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Abstract

L-arabinose selectively inhibits intestinal sucrase in an uncompetitive manner and reduces the glycemic response in animals following sucrose ingestion. L-arabinose can be obtained from cereal hemicellulose, such as com, wheat, rye, and rice, pectic substances of beet and apple pulps, and some plant gums by acid hydrolysis and enzymatic hydrolysis. As compared with acid hydrolysis, enzymatic method has advantages of high specificity on the substrate, mild reaction conditions, and no loss of saccharide due to side reactions 1). Gene encoding an a -L-arabinofuranosidase from the hyperthermophile, Thermotoga maritima, was cloned, sequenced, and expressed in E. coli BL21(DE3) pLysS. The specific activity of recombinant enzyme toward p-nitrophenyl-a-L-arabinofuranoside was 475 units/mg at its optimal reaction condition at 100°C, pH 5.5. The enzyme released only the terminal arabinose of arabino-containing oligosaccharide^{2),3)}. The enzyme demonstrated reactivity towards arabinan, debranched arabinan, oat spelt xylan and arabinoxylan as substrates but did not hydrolyse arabinogalactan or gum arabic. This enzyme hydrolysed almost the a-L-arabinofuranosyl residues, α - $(1\rightarrow 2)$, α - $(1\rightarrow 3)$, α - $(1\rightarrow 5)$ and arabinosyl side-chains of arabinan, debranched arabinan, arabinoxylan. This enzyme reveals broader specificity toward arabinose-containing substrates than those reported so far, and this unique characteristic will enable this enzyme to be used in arabinose recovering process from hemicellulose.

References

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