

Novel Oxidative stress responses Biosensor :
sodA::luxCDABE* fusion *Escherichia coli

이현주, 구만복 *

National Research Laboratory on Environmental Biotechnology,
Kwangju Institute of Science and Technology(K-JIST)
Tel. (062)970-2454, Fax. (062)970-2434

Abstract

A recombinant bioluminescent *Escherichia coli* strain, EBHJ, (*sodA::luxCDABE*), containing the promoter for the manganese superoxide dismutase (*sodA*) gene fused to the *Vibrio fischeri luxCDABE* operon, was successfully constructed and characterized. Redox-cycling agents, such as paraquat and chromium, strongly induced a *sodA*- regulated response in dose-dependent manners, resulting in an increase of the bioluminescence. In a comparison with an existing oxidative stress responsive strain, DPD2511 (*katG::luxCDABE*), which is sensitive to H₂O₂, the mechanism of chemicals that cause oxidative damage was elucidated via the key transcriptional factors involved in induction of the *sodA* and *katG* promoters, i.e. SoxRS and OxyR, respectively. It was found that responses from the *katG*- and *sodA*-based strains were significantly different dependent upon the chemicals being tested. Therefore, EBHJ, alone or in parallel with DPD2511, can be used to characterize and monitor chemicals that cause oxidative damage.

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