

NOTE

Cloning and Sequence Analysis of the *xylL* Gene Responsible for 4CBA-Dihydrodiol Dehydrogenase from *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47

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Pseudomonas sp. S-47 is capable of catabolizing 4-chlorobenzoate (4CBA) as carbon and energy sources under aerobic conditions via the *meta*-cleavage pathway. 4CBA-dioxygenase and 4CBA-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (4CBA-DD) catalyzed the degradation of 4CBA to produce 4-chlorocatechol in the pathway. In this study, the *xylL* gene encoding 4CBA-DD was cloned from the chromosomal DNA of *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47 and its nucleotide sequence was analyzed. The *xylL* gene was found to be composed of 777 nucleotide pairs and to encode a polypeptide of 28 kDa with 258 amino acid residues. The deduced amino acid sequence of the dehydrogenase (XylL) from strain S-47 exhibited 98% and 60% homologies with those of the corresponding enzymes, *Pseudomonas putida* mt-2 (XylL) and *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* (BenD), respectively. However, the amino acid sequences show 30% or less homology with those of *Pseudomonas putida* (BnzE), *Pseudomonas putida* F1 (TodD), *Pseudomonas pseudoalcaligenes* KF707 (BphB), and *Pseudomonas* sp. C18 (NahB). Therefore, the 4CBA-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase of strain S-47 belongs to the group I dehydrogenase involved in the degradation of mono-aryls with a carboxyl group.

Key words: *xylL*, 4CBA-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (4CBA-DD), nucleotide sequence, 4CBA degradation, *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47.

4-chlorobenzoate (4CBA), a kind of chlorinated aromatic, is a metabolite produced in the biodegradation processes of various chloroaromatics, such as herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls, polychlorinated benzoates, and bidicin by a variety of microorganisms. In the aerobic degradation of the 4CBA, the metabolic pathway generally leads to the formation of dihydroxy intermediates, such as 4-chlorocatechol (4CC), as shown in Fig. 1. For the formation of the aromatic intermediate, two enzymatic steps must be carried out (5). The initial dihydroxylation step is carried out by the insertion of two atoms of oxygen at carbon positions 1 and 2 by 4CBA dioxygenase complex encoding by *xylXYZ* genes. This is followed by a dehydrogenation reaction to produce 4CC catalyzed by a 4CBA dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (4CBA-DD) encoded

by *xylL* (10, 14).

The ring-hydroxylating dioxygenases are multi-component in nature, comprising an electron transport chain and a terminal catalytic component (1, 6, 7, 8, 15, 21). In contrast, almost all of the dihydrodiol dehydrogenase reported are similar with regard to their specificity for *cis*-dihydrodiols and their absolute requirement for NAD⁺ as their primary electron acceptor (2, 4, 13, 17). Generally, *cis*-dihydrodiol dehydrogenases are also broad substrate-ranged enzymes, and most dehydrogenases are able to transform several *cis*-dihydrodiol isomers (12, 16, 24). Further catabolism of 4CC involves cleavage of the ring in either an *ortho* (intradiol) or a *meta* (extradiol) manner like the reaction by *xylTE* in Fig. 1 (10, 14).

Pseudomonas sp. S-47 is a bacterial strain that was isolated from contaminated waste by Seo *et al.* (19, 20). The strain is able to utilize 4CBA as a sole source of carbon and energy through the *meta*-cleavage pathway. The strain

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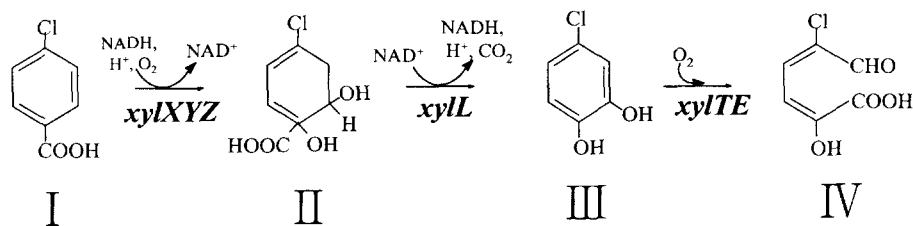


Fig. 1. Degradative pathway of 4-chlorobenzoate by *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47. I, 4-chlorobenzoate; II, 4-chlorobenzoate 1,2-dihydrodiol; III, 4-chlorocatechol; IV, 5-chloro-2-hydroxy-3-muconic semialdehyde; *xyI XYZ*, 4CBA 1,2-dioxygenase; *xyI L*, 4CBA-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase; *xyI T*, plant-type ferredoxin; *xyI E*, 4CC 2,3-dioxygenase.

S-47 was reported by Kim *et al.* (9) to transform 4CBA to 4CC by 4CBA 1,2-dioxygenase and 4CBA 1,2-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase encoded by *xyI XYZ* and *xyI L*, respectively. The 4CC is then degraded via *meta*-cleavage by catechol 2,3-dioxygenase encoded by *xyI E*, the nucleotide sequence of which was analyzed previously (14). In this study, the *xyI L* gene was cloned from the chromosome of *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47 and the complete nucleotide sequence of the gene was analyzed and compared with those from other strains.

Cloning and nucleotide sequences of *xyI L*

Pseudomonas sp. S-47 was grown at 30°C in MM2 minimal medium [1 µM FeSO₄·7H₂O, 100 µM CaCl₂·7H₂O, 1 mM MgSO₄·7H₂O, 8.5 mM NaCl, 18 mM (NH₄)₂SO₄, 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 1.5% agar] containing 0.5 mM 4CBA. *E. coli* XL1-Blue was used as the host strain for the cloning of the gene encoding 4CBA dihydrodiol dehydrogenase. Plasmid pBluescript SK(+) II was purchased from Stratagene Ltd (La Jolla, CA, USA) for use as the cloning vector. The transformed *E. coli* strains were cultivated in Luria-Bertani (LB) medium (1% tryptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 1% NaCl) at 37°C. Transformation was accomplished by the calcium chloride method (18). Selection of the transformant was performed on LB medium containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin, 40 µl X-gal, and 4 µl isopropylthio-β-D-galactosidase (IPTG). Plasmid DNA was isolated by the alkali lysis method as described by Sambrook *et al.* (18). DNA cleavage by

restriction endonuclease and ligation of DNA fragments by T4 DNA ligase were performed by standard procedures as recommended by the supplier (Posco Co., Seoul, Korea).

The pCSP1 and pCSP21 carrying the *xyI L* gene were previously cloned from the chromosomal DNA of *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47 (9). In this study, a 3.0 kb fragment of pCSP21 digested with *Cla*I was introduced into the polyclonal region of pBluescript II SK(+) vector to make pRES3. The subclones of pRES301, pRES401, and pRES403 were further constructed by digestion of the pCSP21 with various enzymes. The physical maps of those clones are shown in Fig. 2. Editing and initial analysis of the *xyI L* nucleotide sequences were performed using the DNASIS software (Hitachi version 7.0, Japan). Searches for nucleotide and amino acid sequence similarities were done using the FASTA and BLAST programs and the EMBL and GenBank databases.

A nucleotide sequence of *xyI L* was found to be composed of 777 bp as shown in Fig. 3. The *xyI L* gene of strain S-47 is located between *xyI Z* and *xyI T*, and encodes a polypeptide chain with a molecular mass of 28 kDa consisting of 258 amino acid residues. The nucleotide sequences of corresponding genes from *Pseudomonas putida* mt-2 (*xyI L*) and *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* (*bedD*) have been reported to consist of 774 and 786 bp nucleotides, respectively (13). Those of *Pseudomonas putida* (*bnzE*), *Pseudomonas putida* F1 (*todD*), *Comamonas testosteroni* B-356 (*bphB*) and *Pseudomonas pseudoalcaligenes* KF707 (*bphB*) consist of more than 800 bp nucleotides (8, 22, 23, 25). The GenBank accession number of *xyI L* from *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47 is AF320981.

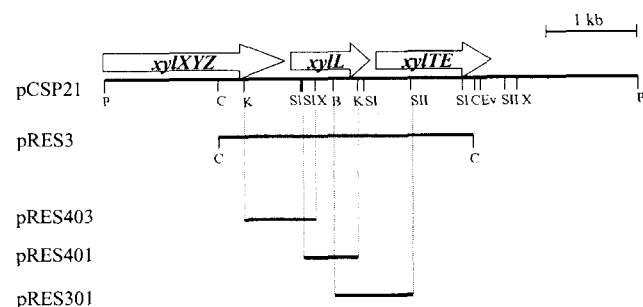


Fig. 2. Physical maps of pCSP21 and its clones carrying *xyI L*. Abbreviations: B, *Bam*HI; C, *Cla*I; Ev, *Eco*RV; K, *Kpn*I; P, *Pst*I; S1, *Sal*I; S11, *Sac*II; X, *Xho*I.

Homology of 4CBA dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (4CBA-DD)

The amino acid sequence of the 4CBA-DD deduced from the nucleotide sequence of *xyI L* was aligned with six corresponding enzymes reported in other bacterial strains as shown in Fig. 4. Alignments of the amino acid sequences were performed using the ClustalX program. The deduced amino acid sequence of 4CBA-DD produced by *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47 exhibited 97% identity with that of TOL plasmid in *Pseudomonas putida* mt-2 (13), and 60% with that of *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* (13). However,

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5' GCCGCCAGCGCCTAGAGGCTCCTTTGGTCCGCTTACTAGGTGAGCGGGCCTGTTTATTC 60
      xylZ ←┐
GGGCAGTAGGGCCCAGGTTCTCTACGAACTTCCCAAATTGCATCCGGGCTACACAACCG 120

AGGTGGTTCATGAACAAACGTTTCCAGGGCAAGTTGCCGTTATCACCGGCGCCGCCAG 180
      └─┐ xylL                               SaI I           SaI I
GGCATCGGTGCGCCGCTGGCCGAACGGATGGCGGCCGAAGGCGGTCGACTGCTGCTGGTC 240

GACCGTTCGAGCTAATACATGAGCTGGCCGACGAACCTGGTCGGAGTTGCTGAGGTGCTG 300
                                           Xho I
ACCCTGACCGCCGACCTTGAGCAGTTCGCCGAGTGCCAACGGGTGATGGCGGCGCGGTC 360

GACCGCTTCGGTCGCTGGATATTCTGATCAACAACGTTGGCGGCACCATTTGGGCTAAG 420

CCATTTCGAGCATTACCAGGAACGCGAGATCGAGGCCGAAGTGCGGCGTTCACTGTTTCCT 480

ACCCTATGGTGTGCCACGCCGCGCTGGCGCCCATGATCGAGCAGGGCAGTGGCGCCATC 540
                               BamH I
GTAAATGTTTCCCTCCGTTGCCACGCGCGGGATCCATCGCGTGCCTTACGGCGCGCGAAG 600

GGTGGCGTTAACGCCCTGACCGCCTGTCTGGCCTTTGAAACCGCCGAGCGCGGCATCCGC 660

GTCAACGCCACCGCACCCGGTGGCACCCGAGGCGCCGCCACGGCGGATTCCGCGCAATAGC 720
                               Kpn I           SaI I
GCCGAGCCGAGTGAGCAGGAGAAGTCTGGTACCAGCAGATCGTCGACCAGTCCCTCGAC 780

AGCAGCCTTATGAAACGCTACGGAAGCATTGACGAGCAGGTCGAGGCAATCTGTTTCCTT 840

GCTTCTGACGCCGCTCCTACATCACCGGTATACTCTTCCGGTGGCAGGGGAGACCTC 900

GGCTTGACCCTTATGCTGGTTAAGAAGAGAAATCGACATGCGAAGAAGCAACGTACATAA 960
xylL ─┐
GACCCCTGAGGCTCATTTTCGGGGTTATGGCGGCATCACCCAGAGCTGTTGGGGGATACT 1020

TCCGTCATGTTTAGTGTATCTGGGATGAAATATGAACAGTGCCGGCTACGAG 3' 1080
      └─┐ xylT

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Fig. 3. Nucleotide sequence of the *xylL* gene encoding 4CBA 1,2-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (4CBA-DD) from *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47. It is located between the *xylZ* and *xylT* genes.

the homology was less than 30% when compared to the corresponding enzymes of *Pseudomonas putida* (8), *Pseudomonas putida* F1 (5, 25), *Pseudomonas pseudoalcaligenes* KF707 (5, 23), and *Pseudomonas* sp. C18 (3). In all the six dehydrogenases aligned, 63 amino acids are conserved residues and are shown with asterisks and dots in Fig. 4. The ¹⁵²YGAAKGGVNAL sequence of 4CBA-DD from strain S-47 which is indicated with a box fits into the consensus pattern, Y(S, T, A, G, or C) (S, T, A, G, or C) (S, T, A, G, or C) KX (A or G) (L, I, V, M, A, or G) XX (L, I, V, M, A, or G), for short-chain alcohol dehydrogenases, as reported by Neidle *et al.* (13) and Werlen *et al.* (24).

In order to reveal the evolutionary relationship between 4CBA-DD of strain S-47 and corresponding dehydrogenases from other strains, a phylogenetic analysis was carried out by aligning the amino acid sequences of the enzymes using the TreeView program. The dendrogram

showing the homology among the amino acid sequences of dehydrogenases is shown in Fig. 5. Earlier alignments of the amino acid sequences of bacterial aryl-dihydrodiol dehydrogenases showed the existence of two groups of these enzymes in the report by Kulakov *et al.* (11). Group I dehydrogenase comprises enzymes involved in the degradation of mono-aryls with a carboxyl group, such as benzoate. In this case, the initial reaction of degradation is catalyzed by class I dioxygenase. Group II dehydrogenase includes the dehydrogenases involved in the degradation of compounds without a carboxyl group, for which the initial reaction is catalyzed by class II dioxygenases, such as biphenyl 2,3-dioxygenase or by class III dioxygenases, such as naphthalene 1,2-dioxygenase (3, 5, 23). Therefore, the 4CBA-dihydrodiol dehydrogenase (XylL) of *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47, together with the dehydrogenases of *Pseudomonas putida* mt-2 (XylL) and *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* (BenD), are classified in group I dehydro-

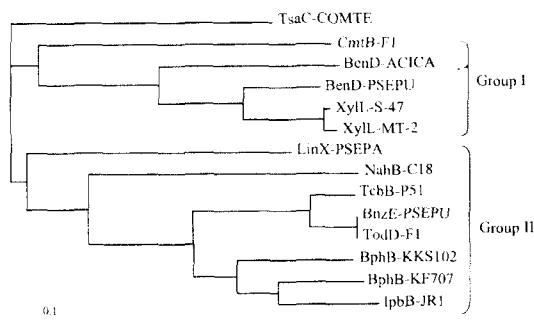


Fig. 5. Dendrogram showing the level of homology among the amino acid sequences of XylL dehydrogenases. The GenBank accession numbers of the genes are shown in parentheses: COMTE, *Comamonas testosteroni* (U32622.1); F1-CmtB, *Pseudomonas putida* F1 (U24215.1); ACICA, *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus* (P07772); PSEPU-BenD, *Pseudomonas putida* (AF218267.1); S-47, *Pseudomonas* sp. S-47 (AF320981); mt-2, *Pseudomonas putida* mt-2 (S23485); PSEPA, *Sphingomonas paucimobilis* (P50198); C18, *Pseudomonas* sp. C18 (Q52459); P51, *Pseudomonas* sp. strain P51 (U15298.1); PSEPU-BnzE, *Pseudomonas putida* (P08088); F1-TodD, *Pseudomonas putida* F1 (P13859); KKS102, *Pseudomonas* sp. KKS102 (P50206); KF707, *Pseudomonas pseudoalcaligenes* KF707 (F42409); JR1, *Pseudomonas* sp. JR1 (U53507.1).

genase on the basis of amino acid sequence of the enzyme.

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