

## Hyper-production of Alkaline Protease by Mutagenic Treatment of *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 using Agroindustrial Wastes in Submerged Fermentation

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### Abstract

Green chemistry technologies are the powerful tool for the management of environmental wastes challenges. Agro industrial residues are composed of complex polysaccharides that support the microbial growth for the production of useful products (enzymes, organic acids, drugs, etc.). Disposal and environment friendly management of these wastes has become a global priority. The aim of present investigation was to improve the alkaline protease yield by treating the parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 strain with different mutagens UV-irradiations, N-methyl-N-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (NTG), Ethidium bromide (EB), using agroindustrial wastes (banana stalk and corn stover) in submerged fermentation. Fifteen positive mutants were selected on skim milk agar plates for shake flask experiments. BSU-5 mutant strain showed  $81.21 \pm 3.24$  PU/mL alkaline protease activity higher than parent strain ( $23.57 \pm 1.19$  PU/mL) in optimized fermentation medium. The fermentation profile like pH (9), temperature (45°C), inoculum size (2 mL), incubation time (24 hrs, and kinetic parameters such as  $u$  (h<sup>-1</sup>),  $Y_{p/s}$ ,  $Y_{p/x}$ ,  $Y_{x/s}$ ,  $q_s$ ,  $Q_s$ ,  $q_p$ ) also confirmed the hyper proteolytic activity of alkaline protease produced from BSU-5 mutant strain over parent strain and other mutants. Finally, the BSU-5 mutant strain was immobilized by entrapping it in calcium alginate beads and agar. Alkaline protease production and stability of biocatalyst were investigated in both free and immobilized cells. It was concluded from the study, immobilized cells were more efficient for enzyme production than free cells when used repeatedly.

**Keywords:** Alkaline protease; *Bacillus subtilis*; Mutagenesis; Kinetics; Agro industrial wastes; Immobilization

### Introduction

Synthetic and expensive substrates are being replaced by agro-industrial byproducts for the production of a wide range of value added biotechnological products [1,2]. Lignocellulosic biomass comprising forestry, agricultural and agro industrial wastes are abundant, renewable and inexpensive energy sources. Such wastes include a variety of materials such as sawdust, poplar trees, sugarcane bagasse and straws, stems, stalks, leaves, husks, shells and peels from cereals like rice, wheat, corn. Lignocelluloses wastes are accumulated every year in large quantities, causing environmental problems. However, due to their chemical composition based on sugars and other compounds of interest, they could be utilized for the production of a number of value added products, such as ethanol, food additives, organic acids, enzymes and others. Therefore, besides the environmental problems caused by their accumulation in the nature, the non use of these materials constitutes a loss of potentially valuable sources [3].

Protease is one of the most important industrial enzymes due to having some biotechnological interests. It account for about 60% of the total worldwide sale of enzymes, and is widely used in several industries that include leather processing, meat processing, dairy, preparation of organic fertilizer, silk industry, and also for the recovery of silver from used X-ray films [4]. They catalyze important proteolytic steps in tumor invasion, or in infection cycle of a number of pathogenic microorganisms. Among all proteases, alkaline proteases are robust in nature, and are primarily used as detergent additives [5]. Microbial proteases are produced from high yielding strains including species of *Bacillus* sp., *Alcaligenes faecalis*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Aeromonas hydrophilia* grown under submerged culture conditions. Among these, *Bacillus* sp. is the most important group of bacteria that are involved in the enzyme industry, and this bacterium is also known to produce proteolytic enzymes quite effectively [6]. The UV

radiation is the most convenient of all mutagens to use, and it is also very easy to take effective safety precautions against it. It gives a high proportion of pyrimidine dimers and includes all types of base pair substitutions [7]. The growth and enzyme production of the organism are strongly influenced by medium components like carbon and nitrogen sources. Besides the nutritional factors the cultural parameters like temperature, pH, incubation time were also plays a major role in enzyme production [8], and as so the optimization of media components and cultural parameters is the primary task in a biological process [9]. The application of immobilized cells for the production of metabolic products by microorganisms has been widely studied and several valuable products such as enzymes, organic acids, amino acids, steroids, alcohol and antibiotics have been successfully obtained [10,11]. Immobilization of microbial cells offers several advantages, possible reuse of the cells, continuous operation and decreasing contamination without loss in biomass [12-14]. Immobilized cells have the ability to increase productivity and operational stability or reduced the delays involved in enzyme production. However, immobilized cells can show the modifications in physiology and biochemical composition as compared to suspended cells [10].

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Therefore, the present study has been conducted with the main objective of investigating the production and optimization of alkaline protease produced, by using waste material to support the growth of parent and microbial strain of *Bacillus subtilis*. This information can add the value regarding indigenous strain improvement for the hyper production of alkaline protease by *Bacillus subtilis*, using waste materials and further immobilization of mutant cells for repeated batch culture or multiple uses of these immobilized cells. This process offers the inexpensive raw material and environment friendly management of waste. In contrast, extraction of this enzyme from natural sources not only increases the expenses of this enzyme, but also leads to low amount of this industrially important enzyme.

## Materials and Methods

The strain of *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 was obtained from Institute of Microbiology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan. The culture of *B. subtilis* M-9 (stock culture) was maintained in a refrigerator (4°C) on nutrient agar medium (Oxoid, Hampshire, UK).

### Reagents and standards

All analytical grade chemicals were purchased from either sigma-Aldrich (Buchs, Switzerland) or E. Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Microbial media were purchased from (Oxoid, Hampshire, UK).

### Preparation of substrate

Corn stover obtained from CBC Rafhan Maize Products Faisalabad and banana stalk from fruit market were cut into pieces; oven dried, grounded to 40 mm mesh and stored in airtight plastic jars to avoid moisture.

### Mutagenic treatments

The spores of *B. subtilis* M-9 ( $1 \times 10^7$  spores/mL) were exposed to UV irradiation by using UV lamp (Phillips, 20W,  $\lambda_{360}$ , distance of the lamp from the petri plates was 20 cm). The sample (1 mL) was withdrawn after 30 minutes duration till 180 minutes. The optimum dose was selected by preparing the survival data [15,16]. The stock solutions of ethidium bromide (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) and N-methyl-N-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) were separately prepared. These two stock solutions were mixed with nutrient broth medium (9 mL) separately, which contained  $1 \times 10^7$  spores mL<sup>-1</sup> of *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 and kept it in water bath (Eyela, Japan) at 37°C. After a specific time interval, one milliliter sample was withdrawn and cell pellet was washed three times with normal saline, centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 1 minute using centrifuge machine (Mikro 20 Hettich, Germany), to remove mutagen from sample [16].

### Mutant selection

Total viable count was determined by the method of Eaton et al. [17]. The *B. subtilis* M-9 spores were treated with three different types of mutagens and prepared its hundred fold serial dilution separately to get nearly 30 colonies per plate. In the dark room, the 0.1 mL of these spore dilutions were streaked on nutrient agar plates (Oxoid, Hampshire, UK), that contain 0.1% triton X-100 to inhibit the growth of other bacterial colonies. All these plates were kept at 37°C for 48 hours in an incubator and counted the bacterial colonies in each plate [18].

Specific mutant for hyper-production of alkaline protease was selected by the method of Javed et al. [19]. All the best selected mutants were streaked on skim milk agar plates which contain skim milk (1% v/v), peptone (0.5% w/v), NaCl (0.5% w/v), and agar (2% w/v) at pH

9.0. The streaked plates were incubated at 37°C for 48 h and selected on the basis of bigger zone of hydrolysis as compared to control for further study [20].

### Cultivation of fermentation medium

Alkaline protease was produced by *B. subtilis* M-9 and selected mutant in liquid state fermentation [21]. Triplicate flasks with 2 g agroindustrial substrate (Corn stover/banana stalk), peptone (0.5%) and yeast extract (0.3%) were autoclaved at 121°C and 15 lbs. pressure for 15 minutes. Spore suspension (Inoculum) was aseptically transferred to each flask by using sterilized pipette in the laminar air flow cabinet after cooling the medium. The flasks were incubated (37°C) at 120 rpm for 48 hours in the shaker (Sanyo- Gallenkamp, UK).

### Optimization of fermentation parameters

Different parameters were optimized for hyper-production of protease with parent and mutant strains. The basal medium was fermented in triplicate flasks with parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 and mutant *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 containing selected substrate corn stover at varying pH, temperature, inoculum size and fermentation time. The experiments were studied in that way, the parameters optimized in first experiment were continued in the next experiment [15,16].

### Analytical procedures

Alkaline protease activity was determined by using 1.0% (w/v) casein solution as a substrate in 0.05 M glycine-NaOH buffer at pH 9.0 [22]. The substrate was treated with a known amount of enzyme solution for 15 min at 37°C, and absorbance was measured at 280 nm. One proteolytic unit (PU) was defined as amount of the enzyme that released 1 ug of tyrosine/mL/min under the assay conditions. The total protein contents of the samples were determined by the method of Lowry et al. [23], using bovine serum albumin (BSA) as a reference standard. Glucose contents were determined according to the phenol-sulfuric acid method described by Dubois et al. [24]. The biomass contents were determined by measuring the dry weight from a known amount of sample centrifuged at 9000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C, and the cell pellet was washed three times with normal saline to remove the suspended particles. The washed sample was then dried at 105°C till the constant weight was obtained.

### Determination of kinetic parameters

Different kinetic parameters for biomass and enzyme yield were determined according to the methods described by Pirt [25] and Okpokwasili and Nweke [26]. All these kinetic parameters viz.  $Y_{p/s}$ ,  $Y_{p/x}$ ,  $Y_{x/s}$ ,  $u$  (h<sup>-1</sup>),  $q_s$ ,  $Q_s$ ,  $q_p$  and  $Q_p$  were studied at pre-optimized culture conditions in batch fermentation process.

### Immobilization of mutant BSU-5

All the immobilization processes were performed under aseptic conditions. The cell pellet of *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 were obtained in logarithmic phase of growth was collected by centrifugation at 5000 rpm in centrifuge (Mikro 20 Hettich, Germany). 0.38 g bacterial cells were obtained from culture mixed with 10 mL sodium alginate solution at a concentration of 3% (w/v) through a sterile pipette. Beads of 2 mm diameter were obtained by dropping mixtures into sterile CaCl<sub>2</sub> (0.1 M). The beads from 10 mL gel were used for inoculation of 25 mL of the production medium [14]. For entrapment in agar, 0.38 g wet cells were mixed with 10 mL of 3% agar solution at 45°C. The mixture was allowed to quickly cool at 4°C. Cut into 2×2×2 mm fragments and transferred to

25 mL of the production medium [27]. For repeated batch experiment, the experimental set up was similar to the process as described above. Every 96 h, immobilized cells were removed, washed with saline and recultivated into fresh medium. The process was repeated for several batches till the beads started disintegrated.

### Statistical analysis

Statistical significance of the differences between mean values was assessed two way analysis of ANOVA under CRD and DMR test, using Minitab 2000 version 13.2 statistical software (Minitab Inc., Pennsylvania, USA). A probability value of  $p \leq 0.05$  was considered to denote a statistically significant difference [28].

## Results and Discussion

### Strain improvement and selection of mutants

Mutation and screening of industrially useful microorganisms are very important for the successful development of various strains which are required in the fermentation industry [29]. Therefore, the parent strain *B. subtilis* M-9 was treated with different mutagens like UV irradiation, NTG (*N*-methyl-*N*-nitro-*N*-nitrosoguanidine) and EB (ethidium Bromide), to improve its productivity. In the case of UV irradiation treatment 33.5% survival rate was obtained after 140 minutes, which decreased gradually with the increase of exposure time (Table 1). Similarly, the culture of *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 was treated with NTG and EB for different time intervals. 22.3% survival rate was observed with NTG after an exposure of 140 minutes (Table 1). However, exposure of parent strain with ethidium bromide for 160 minutes gave 15.2% survival rate (Table 1). Similar trend of decrease in survivability with increase in exposure time has also been reported by some other investigators [30-33]. All these findings indicated that the survivability of parent strain depended on the nature of the microorganism, treatment period and the type of mutagens.

### Selection of hyper-proteolytic mutant

From UV treated plates, 10 mutants of 140 minutes exposure were selected for screening on skim milk agar plates. Similarly, 10 hyper-proteolytic mutants from NTG and 10 from EB were selected for visualizing the efficiency of their protease activity. Total of 15 mutants (5 from each mutagenic treatment) known as positive mutants were primarily selected on the basis of bigger zone of clearance on skim milk agar plates. The results showed that mutant BSU-5 obtained at 140 minute dose of UV irradiation exhibited 48 mm clearance zone whereas, NTG and EB treated mutants (BSN-3 and BSE-1) was obtained 41 mm and 37 mm clearance zone, respectively (Table 2).

These mutants were further evaluated through shake flask enzyme production studies. The selected mutants from UV and chemical mutagenesis (5 from each category) of *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 were used for the production of alkaline protease, using banana stalk and corn stover in submerged fermentation for the selection of best mutant. Among these, the maximum alkaline protease production ( $68.81 \pm 1.86$  PU/mL) with total protein ( $4.72 \pm 0.92$  mg/mL) and dry cell mass ( $3.13 \pm 0.81$  g/L) was observed for the mutant BSU-5 using corn stover (Table 3). The results indicated BSU-5 was the most hyper-active mutant, giving approximately 5.67 fold more alkaline protease over the parent strain ( $12.54 \pm 1.10$ ) in similar culture conditions. Shikha et al. [33] reported 1.44 fold alkaline protease production by *Bacillus panthethanicus*. However, Dutta and Bannerjee [29] observed a 2.5 fold increase in alkaline protease productivity by UV mutant *pseudomonas* sp. JNGR 242.

Treatment time (Min)	%age of survival of UV treated <i>B. subtilis</i> M-9	%age of survival of NTG treated <i>B. subtilis</i> M-9	%age of survival of EB treated <i>B. subtilis</i> M-9
0	100	100	100
20	85.7	87.5	89.6
40	82.9	78.9	79.2
60	73.2	66.4	69.5
80	60.2	56.5	53.04
100	54.4	46.7	46.9
120	44.3	42.1	37.1
140	33.5	22.3	29.9
160	22.15	8.5	15.2
180	10.2	4.6	4.8

Values (Mean  $\pm$  SD) are average of three samples.

CFU: Colony forming Units.

%age of Survival=(Colony count after exposure time t) $\times 100$ /Total Colonies

**Table 1:** Effect of UV irradiation treatment on % age of survival for *B. subtilis* M-9.

<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> Strain	Zone of clearance (mm)
<i>B. subtilis</i> M-9	24
BSU-1	27
BSU-2	33
BSU-3	31
BSU-4	29
BSU-5	48
BSN-1	14
BSN-2	18
BSN-3	41
BSN-4	22
BSN-5	21
BSE-1	37
BSE-2	34
BSE-3	32
BSE-4	37
BSE-5	29

BSU: UV treated *Bacillus subtilis*.

BSN: *N*-methyl-*N*-Nitro-*N*-Nitrosoguanidine treated *Bacillus subtilis*.

BSE: Ethidium Bromide treated *Bacillus subtilis*.

Temperatuue, 30°C, Incubation time 48 hrs, Medium, skim milk agar plate.

**Table 2:** Estimation of zone of clearance produced by *B. subtilis* M-9and its mutants.

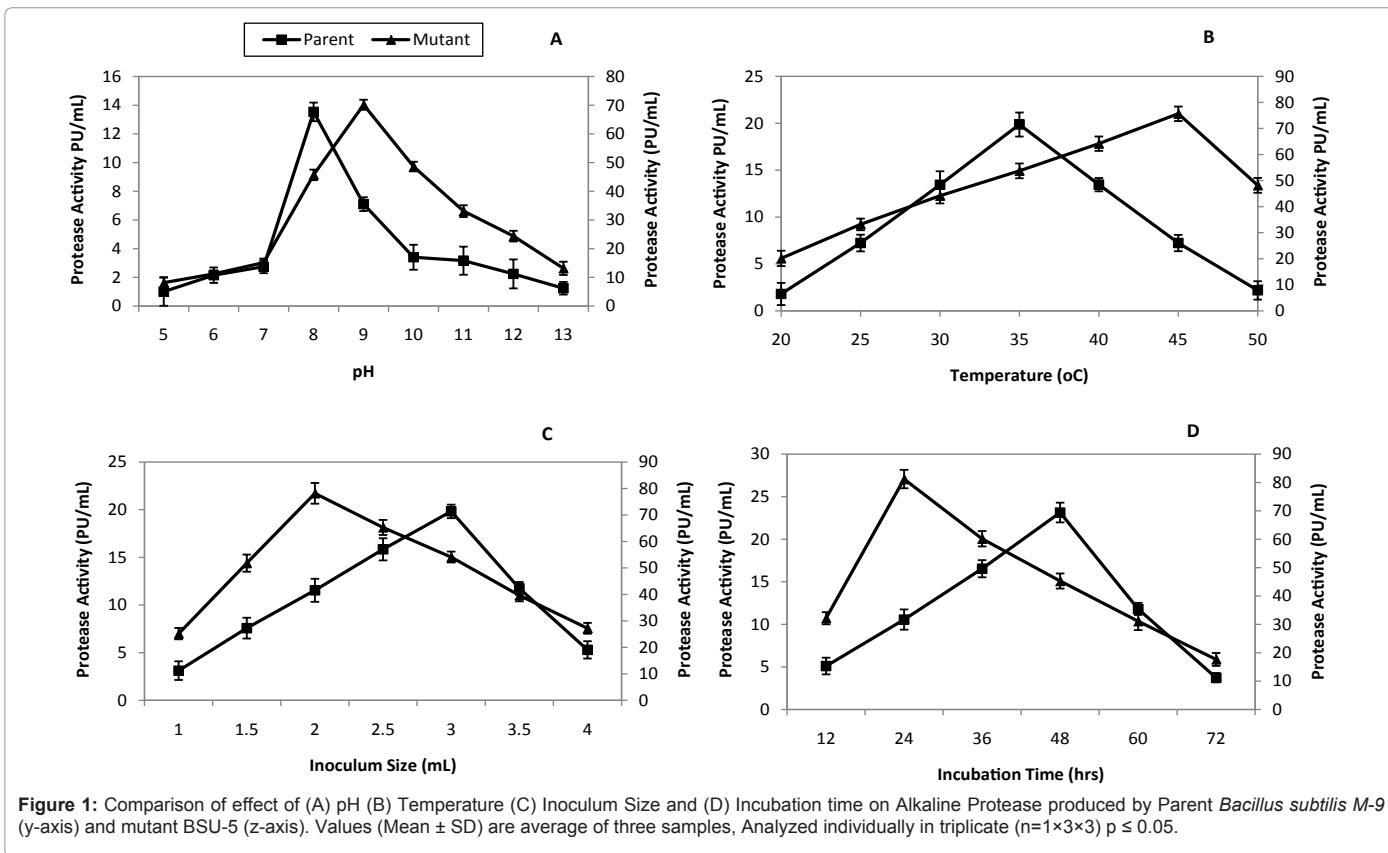
### Optimization of fermentation parameters

It is evident from the results that alkaline protease production is significantly affected by pH, temperature, inoculum size and fermentation period. An appropriate initial pH is critical for successful fermentation process, and it varies from strain to strain. The production of alkaline protease by parent *B. subtilis* M-9 and *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 mutant was carried out at varying pH in triplicate flasks. Maximum alkaline protease production ( $70.18 \pm 1.25$  PU/mL) was achieved when the initial pH of fermentation medium was kept at 9.0 (Figure 1A). It was noted that an initial increase in pH (8-9), alkaline protease production was also increased, but it decreased significantly above pH 10. Similar

Parameters	Bacillus strains	Cell Biomass (g/L)	Sugar Consumed (g/L)	Total Protein (mg/mL)	Protease Activity (PU/mL)
Pre Optimization	Parent	5.87 ± 0.91	27.0 ± 1.28	5.23 ± 1.84	12.54 ± 1.10
	Mutant	3.13 ± 0.81	12.12 ± 0.75	6.72 ± 0.92	68.81 ± 1.06
Post Optimization	Parent	4.72 ± 0.44	23.1 ± 2.04	6.78 ± 0.84	23.57 ± 1.19
	Mutant	2.89 ± 0.21	8.54 ± 1.74	4.43 ± 0.75	81.21 ± 3.24

Values (Mean ± SD) are average of three samples, Analyzed individually in triplicate (n=1×3×3) p ≤ 0.05  
Enzyme were produced in basal medium contains initial sugar concentration 50 g/L (w/v).

**Table 3:** Summary of alkaline protease production on pre and post optimization of the fermentation process among parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 and selected *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 mutant in submerged fermentation.



**Figure 1:** Comparison of effect of (A) pH (B) Temperature (C) Inoculum Size and (D) Incubation time on Alkaline Protease produced by Parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 (y-axis) and mutant BSU-5 (z-axis). Values (Mean ± SD) are average of three samples, Analyzed individually in triplicate (n=1×3×3) p ≤ 0.05.

trend of pH variation was reported by the Nadeem et al. [34]. Mukhtar and Haq [30] found optimum pH 8.5 for alkaline protease production by *Bacillus subtilis*. Huang et al. [35] obtained maximum proteolytic activity at pH 10 by *Bacillus pumilus* alkaline protease.

The temperature of fermentation is one of the critical factors that have direct influence on the production of secondary metabolites. Temperature affects the growth of microorganisms, and this effect is variable in media having different compositions. The alkaline Protease enzyme was produced by parent *B. subtilis* M-9 and *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 at different temperatures (20-50°C). Parent derived alkaline protease showed 19.87 ± 1.28 PU/mL proteolytic activity at 37°C, whereas mutant derived maximum proteolytic activity 75.75 ± 2.84 PU/mL was observed at 45°C (Figure 1B). This increase in optimum temperature might be due to formation of chaperones or heat shock proteins with some hydrophobic amino acids, in response to induced genetic mutation that supports high product formation at higher growth permissible temperature. Dutta and Bannerjee [29] also reported difference in incubation temperature between parent (30°C) and mutant strain (34°C) of *pseudomonas*. Mukhtar and Haq [30]

obtained 37°C optimum temperatures for *Bacillus subtilis* IH-72<sup>EMS</sup>-<sup>a</sup> alkaline protease. Moreover, Nadeem et al. [32] found 60°C optimum temperatures for alkaline protease production by mutant strain of *Bacillus pumilus*.

Maximum production of alkaline protease was obtained at 3 mL inoculum size for parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 and 2.0 mL for BSU-5 (78.81 ± 1.65 PU/mL) mutant in shake flask experiment (Figure 1C). It was also observed that further increase in inoculum size decreases the protease activity because microorganisms rapidly consume the nutrients and oxygen of the medium, which ultimately resulted in low product formation. Our findings are in good agreement with the study of Nadeem et al. [36], who also observed maximum enzyme activity with 2.0% inoculum size by *Bacillus licheniformis* N-2. Optimum *Bacillus subtilis* PCSIR-5 protease activity (107 PU/mL), with 10% inoculum size was reported by Nadeem et al. [37].

Fermentation is a useful process to obtain the maximum production of product by lowering the operational cost; a short fermentation period can contribute to the increase profitability on an industrial scale. An engineered microorganism can shorten the incubation time and high

yield of product. The optimum incubation time was 24 hours for BSU-5 mutant strain with maximum alkaline protease activity of  $(81.21 \pm 1.85)$  PU/mL, whereas parent strain *B. subtilis* M-9 showed maximum proteolytic activity at 48 hrs of incubation (Figure 1D). Nadeem et al. [37] reported highest alkaline protease activity at 48 hrs by *Bacillus subtilis* mutant strain PCSIR-5.

### Kinetic parameters

Comparison of alkaline protease production by parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 strain and mutant BSU-5 strain is presented in Table 4. Maximum proteolytic activity ( $81.21 \pm 3.24$  PU/mL) was observed for the mutant BSU-5 strain after optimization of environmental factors. The growth parameters for pre and post optimization of growth yield coefficients, volumetric rates and specific substrate rates were also studied. The mutant strain of *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 significantly improved the values of  $Y_x/s$ ,  $Y_p/x$  and  $Y_p/s$  (5.66 PU/g, 21.98 PU/G and 0.258 PU/g) over the parental strain *B. subtilis* M-9 (0.46 PU/g, 2.13 PU/g and 0.217 PU/g) before optimization, and on optimization, it was observed that these growth parameters were further improved by parent (1.02 PU/g, 4.99 PU/g and 0.204 PU/g), as well as mutant strain (9.50 PU/g, 28.1 PU/g and 0.338 PU/g), respectively (Table 4). On monitoring the culture for these parameters,  $Q_s$ ,  $q_s$  and  $Y_x/s$ , it was obtained a significant increase in these variables indicating that mutant derivative was a faster growing organism. It is also inferred from the results maximum enzyme was produced ( $Q_p$ ) 2.86 g/L/h by mutant strain of *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5, and it was increased to 3.38 g/L/h on optimization of fermentation parameters. Nadeem et al. [32] reported that maximum  $Y_p/x$  and  $Y_p/s$  were 264.28 PU/g of cell biomass and 99.3 PU/g of glucose, respectively after incubation, and maximum cell

growth rate 0.308 by *B. licheniformis* N-2 strain after 8 h of inoculation. He et al. [38] found maximum growth rate of 0.17 by *Bacillus* sp. after 6 hrs of inoculation. A maximum growth rate of 0.7, biomass (0.023 g of cells/g of glucose), and product yield (0.0211 U/g) for *Bacillus* L21 was reported by Genkal E and Tari [39].

### Immobilization of *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 mutant

The best mutant BSU-5 was immobilized on calcium alginate and agar by entrapment method. It was obtained that effectiveness of the immobilization was less than one (0.768 and 0.78 for agar and calcium alginate immobilized cells, respectively), and the activity of immobilized cells was lower than free cells (Table 5). Our results were in close agreement to the Ahmad and Abdel-Fattah [14] findings, who also reported lower activity of the immobilized cells when they immobilized bacterial cells on different carriers by different method. *Bacillus subtilis* free cells were more efficient than immobilized cells for alkaline protease production, reported by Zaghloul et al. [40]. Less accessibility of nutrients to immobilized cells and low availability of oxygen can cause decreased activity of immobilized cells. Immobilization also changes the metabolic and morphological changes in the cells. On comparison of both carriers for immobilization, it was concluded calcium alginate beads exhibited 0.78 effectiveness factor higher than agar (i.e. 0.768).

The possibility of repeated use of immobilized cells of BSU-5 was studied. It was found that multiple uses of immobilized cells were possible as compared to free cells. Results shown in Figure 2 indicated that free cells could not retain their ability to produce alkaline protease consistently after 2 cycles with residual activity of 39.2%, while immobilized cells showed the ability to produce alkaline protease

Kinetic parameters	Bacillus Strain	Pre optimization		Post Optimization	
		Parent	BSU-5	Parent	BSU-5
Substrate Consumption parameters	<sup>a</sup> $\mu(h^{-1})$	0.105	0.176	<b>0.131</b>	<b>0.182</b>
	<sup>b</sup> $Y_x/s$	0.46	5.677	1.02	9.50
	<sup>c</sup> $Y_p/x$	2.13	21.98	4.99	28.1
	<sup>d</sup> $q_s(g/g/h)$	0.19	0.63	0.20	0.123
	<sup>e</sup> $Q_s(g/L/h)$	1.125	0.16	0.96	0.355
Product Formation Parameters	<sup>f</sup> $Q_x(g/L/h)$	0.244	0.505	0.196	0.120
	<sup>g</sup> $Y_p/s$	0.217	0.258	0.204	0.338
	<sup>h</sup> $q_p(\text{Product}/g/h)$	0.089	0.916	0.208	1.17
	<sup>i</sup> $Q_p(\text{Product}/L/h)$	0.5225	2.86	0.98	3.38

Enzyme were produced in basal medium contains initial sugar concentration is 50 g/L (w/v).

<sup>a</sup> $\mu(h^{-1})$ , Specific Growth rate

<sup>b</sup> $Y_x/s$ , Enzyme produced/g glucose consumed

<sup>c</sup> $Y_p/x$ , Enzyme produced/g cell formed

<sup>d</sup> $q_s(g/g/h)$ , g sugar consumed/ g cells/h

<sup>e</sup> $Q_s(g/L/h)$ , g sugar consumed/L/h

<sup>f</sup> $Q_x(g/L/h)$ , g cells formed/L/h

<sup>g</sup> $Y_p/s$ , Cell formed/g sugar consumed

<sup>h</sup> $q_p(\text{Product}/g/h)$ , Enzyme produced/ g cells/ h

<sup>i</sup> $Q_p(\text{Product}/L/h)$ , Enzyme produced/L/h

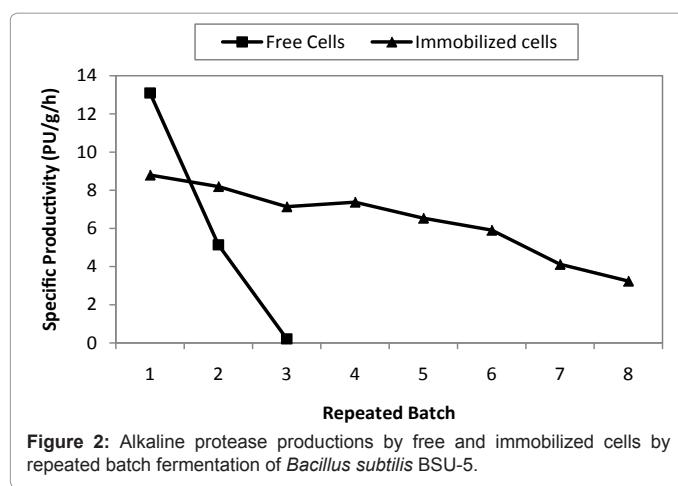
**Table 4:** Comparison of Kinetic parameters for alkaline protease production among parent *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 and selected *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 mutant in submerged fermentation.

Carrier	Protease Activity (PU/mL)	Effectiveness factor of immobilization <sup>a</sup>
Free cells	$81.21 \pm 3.24$	1.00
Agar	$62.41 \pm 1.24$	0.768
Calcium alginate	$64.73 \pm 2.28$	0.78

Values (Mean  $\pm$  SD) are average of three protease production samples, Analyzed individually in triplicate ( $n=1 \times 3 \times 3$ )  $p \leq 0.05$ .

<sup>a</sup>Activity of immobilized cells/activity of the free cells of the same amount.

**Table 5:** Production of alkaline protease by free and immobilized *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5 cells.



**Figure 2:** Alkaline protease productions by free and immobilized cells by repeated batch fermentation of *Bacillus subtilis* BSU-5.

after six cycles with 67% residual activity. This loss in activity was due to destruction of cells, as well as autolysis during the centrifugation and washing process. Adinarayana et al. [41] reported immobilized *B. subtilis* PE-11 alginate beads retained their activity for 9 batches. Wool immobilized *Bacillus licheniformis* ATTC 21415 was useful for 5 batches reported by Ahmed and Abdel-Fattah [14].

## Conclusion

The results of the present investigation revealed that among different mutagenic treatments of *Bacillus subtilis* M-9 for hyper-production of alkaline protease using agroindustrial wastes, BSU-5 mutant was selected as hyper proteolytic mutant after extensive screening. The present data would certainly help to ascertain the ability of BSU-5 mutant as potential source of hyper proteolytic enzyme to be used in detergents, tanning and other industries. The immobilization of BSU-5 mutant cells would be helpful for repeated use of these cells for efficient alkaline protease production.

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