
microbiological study on the thermo-alkalophilic bacteria

mohamed osman abd el-monem

1- The present thesis deals with the study of thermo-alkalophilic bacteria of soil samples representing various localities of Egypt. 2- Thirty five soil samples were collected from five regions of Egypt i.e. Wady El-Natroon (WN) depression, Port Said salt marshes (PS), Al-Ameria salt marshes (AS), Mariut Lake (ML) and Qalubia Governorate (QG). The samples were collected as possible, from alkaline and desert regions. 3- The counts of thermoalkalophilic bacteria in the collected soil samples, showed that highest counts of thermo-alkalophilic bacteria were recorded for Wady El-Natroon (WN) region, Port Said (PS) salt marshes and Al Ameria salt marshes (AS). Moderate counts of thermoalkalophilic bacteria were recorded for Mariut lake (ML) and Qalubia Governorate (QG). 4- 170 Thermo-alkalophilic bacterial isolates were selected from bacterial flora of the thirty five soil samples. 5- These thermo-alkalophilic bacterial strains were allowed to grow on growth medium, viz Dox's - yeast extract - gelatin agar medium containing 1-2% Na_3PO_4 for the isolation of thermophilic alkalophilic proteolytic strains at pH 12 and incubation temperature 65°C. 6- The incidence of the isolated 170 bacterial strains in relation to their originating soils was studied. The highest number of thermoalkalophilic bacterial isolates was recorded in Wady El-Natroon depression (34.~%), followed by Mariut Lakes (19.4%), Al-Ameria salt marshes (15.9%), Port said salt marshes (15.3%) and Qalubia Governorate (14.7%) respectively. 7- A screening program for the proteolytic activities of the 170 thermoalkalophilic bacterial isolates was carried out. This screening exhibited that 16 isolates were characterized by proteolytic activities at pH 12 and 65°C while the remaining isolates were non-proteolytic. The most potent isolate which was capable of producing the highest yield of proteases at 65°C and pH 12 was isolate No. WN1616 B. 8- Identification procedures of the 16 thermo-alkalophilic proteolytic bacterial isolates were carried out using the international keys. Cells of these isolates are rod - shaped occur singly, in pairs or in chains. Gram positive, strict aerobic. Isolates do not produce acetyl methyl carbinol except isolates Nos 1201, 2305 and 611 produce acetyl methyl carbinol; isolates Nos 1616B, 1515A, 1201, 2305, 611 and 3403B produce acid from D-glucose and D-mannitol but not from D-xylose or L-arabinose, the remaining isolates do not produce acid. from D-glucose, D-xylose, L-arabinose or D-mannitol; they hydrolyse gelatin, casein and starch except isolates Nos. 1515A, 1201, 2716 A and 611 do not hydrolyse casein and isolates Nos. 1616B, 2715A and 2101 do not hydrolyse starch. They degrade

tyrosine except isolates Nos. 3403 K, 1616B, 1515A, 305 B, 2305, 2716 A and 6II do not degrade tyrosine. All isolates reduce nitrate to nitrite; they produce indole except isolates Nos. 1616B, 1515A, 2305, 2716 A, and 6II do not produce indole; they do not produce gas from D-glucose and nitrate except isolates Nos 3403K, 2305, 2716A and 3403B produce gas from nitrate. They produce catalase. They are thermophilic, the growth is produced from 45°C to 80°C and no growth is produced at 40°C or below and exhibit optimum growth from 55°C to 65°C. They are alkalophilic where the growth is produced at pH values from pH 7.5 up to pH 13.3 and no growth is produced at pH values higher than pH 13.3 or lower than pH 7.5, while isolates Nos 305B and 3503B exhibited growth from pH 8 to pH 13.3 and no growth is produced at pH lower than pH 8 or higher than pH 13.3. Isolates give growth with NaCl concentrations from 2 to 6%. 9- According to Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology (1986) and other related Keys, All the 16 bacterial isolates belonging to the genus *Bacillus* i.e. *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Donk, 1920). 10- A special study has been undertaken concerning the productivity of thermo-alkaline protease(s) by the proteolytic thermoalkalophilic *Bacillus stearothermophilus* S- WN1616B isolated from Wady El Natroon since this strain was found to be the most potent protease(s) producer. I- Factors affecting protease(s) productivity by *Bacillus stearothermophilus* S-WN1616B were investigated. The following data were found to be optimal for a maximal yield of protease(s). a) An inoculum size of 0.5 ml of the bacterial stock suspension (containing 2.93×10^6 cells) was found to be the optimum inoculum for maximum enzyme yield. b) The maximal enzyme yield was attained within 30 days incubation period at 55°C. c) The optimum incubation temperature at which *B. stearothermophilus* SWN1616B produced its maximum yield of the extracellular thermoalkaline protease was at 55°C. d) The optimum pH value for protease(s) production was found to be at pH 10 with 1% Na_3PO_4 . e) It was found that the most suitable buffer is Borax NaOH at pH 10.2) ([16.9 ~ This is followed by carbonate bicarbonate at pH 10.7-9 »: ~, LA., I, p. p- (282.5 u/ml) then, glycine Na