

**MAXIMIZING EXPRESSION OF GRANULOCYTE COLONY
STIMULATING FACTOR IN *PICHIA PASTORIS* THROUGH HOST
SELECTION, PROCESS OPTIMIZATION AND GENE DOSAGE
STRATEGY**

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by

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Submitted

In fulfillment of requirement of degree of Doctor of Philosophy

to the



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*Dedicated to
My beloved Parents & Teachers*

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Maximizing expression of Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor in *Pichia pastoris* through host selection, process optimization and gene dosage strategy**” being submitted by **Mr. Ashwani Gautam** to the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**, for the award of the degree of ‘**Doctor of Philosophy**’, is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by him, which has been prepared under my supervision and guidance in conformity with the rules and regulations of the ‘Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi’. The research reports and the results presented in this thesis have not been submitted for any degree or diploma in any other University or Institute.

Dr. Saroj Mishra
Professor
Dept. of Biochem. Engg. & Biotech.
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(Ashwani Gautam)

ABSTRACT

Filgrastim (non-glycosylated), PEG-Filgrastim (chemically modified Filgrastim) and Lenograstim (glycosylated) are the commercially available forms of G-CSF out of which the first two are the non-glycosylated forms available from *Escherichia coli*. The glycosylated form is more stable and has high specific activity compared to the non-glycosylated form. The objectives of the present study were to devise strategies, at genetic and bioprocess level, to enhance the yield of G-CSF in *Pichia pastoris* attempted to design discrete approach for effectively improving the G-CSF production in *P. pastoris*.

Out of three host strains, namely, SMD1168, GS115 and X33, maximum production of G-CSF was obtained in X33 *Mut^S* clones. For each vector-host combination, several clones were screened at shake flask level and the 'best clone' (in terms of cell biomass and extracellular protein) selected. For X33 *Mut^S* transformants, maximum extracellular protein levels varied from 37.3 to 47.3 mgL⁻¹. The experimental data at small scale indicated that the production of G-CSF negatively affected the growth parameters of the host strains during the induction phase. The selected clones were also evaluated at bioreactor level for which a typical four phase fermentation was carried out comprising of batch and fed-batch glycerol, transition phase followed by the terminal methanol induction phase. A mixed feed of methanol and sorbitol was employed during the induction phase. The results indicated maximum G-CSF production of 250 mgL⁻¹ with total extracellular protein level of ~480 mgL⁻¹ in X33

host against *Mut^S* background. A comparative analysis of various strains in terms of protein and G-CSF yield, volumetric and specific productivity was also carried out. Among different parameters studied, specific growth rate (μ) showed a distinct effect on protein titer as the pre-set value of μ decreased from 0.05 h^{-1} to 0.01 h^{-1} with respect to final G-CSF titer which was 466 mgL^{-1} and specific productivity which was $0.0179\text{ mgg-dcw}^{-1}\text{h}^{-1}$. Based on these data, two sequential phases with different values of μ were implemented during the induction phase resulting in $\sim 19\%$ increase in G-CSF titer. Effect of gene dosage was also investigated and the data indicated considerable increase in the value of G-CSF transcripts which lead to increase in G-CSF titer during early phase of induction but the system was limited on account of availability of chaperones and other folding pathway enzymes. Thus, a balance needs to be created between folding and transcription to achieve high yield in multi-copy expression cassettes.

सार

Filgrastim (गैर-ग्लाइकोसिलेटेड), पीईजी-फिल्मेंसिस्टिम (रासायनिक रूप से संशोधित Filgrastim) और लेनोगास्टिम (ग्लाइकोसिलेटेड) जी-सीएसएफ के व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध रूप हैं, जिनमें से पहले दो एस्चेरिशिया कोली से उपलब्ध गैर-ग्लाइकोसिलेटेड फॉर्म हैं। ग्लाइकोसिलेटेड फॉर्म अधिक स्थिर और गैर-ग्लाइकोसिलेटेड रूप की तुलना में उच्च विशिष्ट गतिविधि है। वर्तमान अध्ययन के उद्देश्यों में, पीचिया में जी-सीएसएफ की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए, जेनेटिक और बायोप्रोसेस स्तर पर रणनीतियों को तैयार करना, पी। पादरीस में जी-सीएसएफ उत्पादन को प्रभावी ढंग से सुधारने के लिए असतत दृष्टिकोण को डिजाइन करने के लिए पेस्टोरिसटैम्पट किया गया था।

एसएमडी 1168, जीएस 115 और एक्स33 में तीन मेजबान तनावों में से, जी-सीएसएफ का अधिकतम उत्पादन एक्स33 में मिला गया था। प्रत्येक वेक्टर-होस्ट संयोजन के लिए, शेक फ्लास्क स्तर पर कई क्लोन दिखाए गए थे और 'सर्वश्रेष्ठ क्लोन' (सेल बायोमास और बाह्य कोशिका के संदर्भ में) चयनित X33 MutS ट्रांसफार्मेट के लिए, अधिकतम बाह्य प्रोटीन स्तर 37.3 से 47.3 एमजीएल-1 से भिन्न होता है। छोटे पैमाने पर प्रयोगात्मक डेटा ने संकेत दिया है कि जी-सीएसएफनेग के उत्पादन में अवरोध चरण के दौरान मेजबान तनाव के विकास मापदंडों को प्रभावित किया गया था। चयनित क्लोनों का भी मूल्यांकन किया गया था बायोरिएक्टर स्तर पर जिसके लिए बैच और फेड बैच ग्लिसरॉल, ट्रांज़िशन चरण के बाद एक सामान्य चार चरण किण्वन किया गया था, टर्मिनल मेथनॉल इन्डेक्शन चरण के बाद। प्रेरण चरण के दौरान मेथनॉल और सोर्बिटोल की एक मिश्रित फीड को नियोजित किया गया था। परिणामस्वरूप अधिकतम जी-सीएसएफ का उत्पादन 250 एमजीएल-1 के

साथ-साथ कुल सेक्यूलर प्रोटीन स्तर ~ 480 एमजीएल-1 एक्स X33 मेजबान MutSbackground के खिलाफ था। प्रोटीन और जी-सीएसएफ उपज, वॉल्यूमेट्रिक और विशिष्ट उत्पादकता के मामले में विभिन्न उपभेदों का तुलनात्मक विश्लेषण भी किया गया था। विभिन्न मापदंडों में अध्ययन किया गया, विशिष्ट वृद्धि दर (μ) ने प्रोटीन टिटर पर एक अलग प्रभाव दिखाया, जैसा कि μ के पूर्व-निर्धारित मूल्य में 0.05 एच⁻¹ से 0.01 एच⁻¹ से अंतिम जी-सीएसएफ टिटर के संबंध में घटकर 466 एमजीएल⁻¹ और विशिष्ट उत्पादकता जो 0.0179 एमजीजी-डीसीडब्ल्यू⁻¹ एच⁻¹ था। इन आंकड़ों के आधार पर, एमडी के विभिन्न मूल्यों के साथ दो अनुक्रमिक चरणों में शामिल किया गया था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप जी-सीएसएफ टिटर में $\sim 19\%$ की वृद्धि हुई। जीन खुराक के प्रभाव की भी जांच की गई और डेटा में जी-सीएसएफ टेप की वैल्यू में काफी वृद्धि का संकेत दिया गया, जिससे प्रारंभिक चरण में जी-सीएसएफ टिटर में वृद्धि हो सकती है, लेकिन सिस्टम सावधानी और अन्य तहमार्ग के मार्ग की उपलब्धता के कारण सीमित था एंजाइमों। इस प्रकार, बहु-प्रतिलिपि अभिव्यक्ति केट में उच्च उपज प्राप्त करने के लिए तह और प्रतिलेखन के बीच संतुलन बनाए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	Page #
Certificate	i
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	v
Contents	vii – x
List of figures	xi-xvi
List of Tables	xvii - xviii
Chapters	
1. Introduction and Objectives	1 – 8
1.1. G-CSF and its applications	4
1.2. Commercially available forms of recombinant (r)-human G-CSF	5
1.3. Objectives	7
2. Review of Literatures	9 – 58
2.1. Discovery of G-CSF	11
2.2. Structure of G-CSF	12
2.3. Biology of G-CSF	14
2.4. Applications of r-human G-CSF	15
2.4.1. In Chemotherapy Induced Neutropenia	15
2.4.2. In Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation	16
2.4.3. In Acute Leukemias (AML) and Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)	16
2.4.4. Treatment of Severe Chronic Neutropenia and Idiopathic Neutropenia	17
2.4.5. Treatment of Myocardial Infarction	18
2.4.6. Treatment of Cerebral Ischemia and Stroke	19
2.4.7. Recombinant Human G-CSF and Alzheimer's disease	20
2.5. Commercially available forms of r-human G-CSF	21

2.5.1.	Filgrastim	21
2.5.2.	PEG-Filgrastim	22
2.5.3.	Lenograstim	23
2.6.	Review of expression system for production of r-human G-CSF	24
2.6.1.	Expression in bacterial systems	24
2.6.2.	Eukaryotic expression system	26
2.6.3.	Insect cells	28
2.6.4.	Mammalian cells	29
2.6.5.	Transgenic animals	29
2.6.6.	Transgenic plants	30
2.7.	<i>Pichia pastoris</i> as an expression system	31
2.7.1.	<i>Pichia pastoris</i> Expression strains	32
2.7.2.	Expression Vectors	36
2.7.3.	Integration of expression vectors in <i>P. pastoris</i> genome	41
2.7.4.	Multi-copy strain development	42
2.7.5.	Unpredictability of Multi-copy strains and problems	43
2.8.	Development of an optimum process strategy for production of heterologous proteins in <i>Pichia pastoris</i> system	46
3.	Materials and Methods	59 – 74
3.1.	Materials	61
3.1.1.	List of chemicals and reagents	61
3.1.2.	Equipment hardware and software	62
3.1.3.	Transformants/ Recombinants	64
3.2.	Materials	65
3.2.1.	Culture maintenance and inoculum preparation	65
3.2.2.	Method of expression at small scale (shake flask level)	66
3.2.3.	Method of expression at bioreactor level (5L capacity reactor)	68
3.2.4.	Analytical methods	70
4.	Results and Discussion	75 – 138
4.1.	Effect of host cell background on G-CSF production	77

4.1.1.	Screening and selection of best G-CSF producing recombinant against SMD1168 background - shake flask level study	78
4.1.2.	Screening and selection of best G-CSF producing recombinant against GS115 background-shake flask level study	81
4.1.3.	Screening and selection of best G-CSF producing recombinant against X-33 background-shake flask level study	84
4.1.4.	Comparative analysis of selected transformants under common cultivation platform	88
4.1.5.	Establishing process conditions for production	90
4.1.6.	Approach towards process feed medium development	95
4.1.7.	Evaluation of G-CSF production in transformants with different backgrounds at bioreactor level	98
4.2.	Process strategy development for enhancing G-CSF production in <i>Mut^S</i> X-33 strain	105
4.2.1.	Determination of growth parameters	105
4.2.2.	Fed-batch culture strategy for G-CSF production	109
4.3.	Design of a process strategy for enhancement of G-CSF production	122
4.4.	Effect of gene dosage for enhanced secretory production G-CSF	128
4.4.1.	Gene dosage effect on production of G-CSF against SMD1168 host background	128
4.4.2.	Gene dosage effect on production of G-CSF against X-33 host background	130
4.	Conclusions and Future Prospects	139-144
	References	145-178
	Annexures	179-190
	Bio Data of the Author	190-193

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure #	Figure Caption	Page #
Figure 2-1	A representative illustration of the topology of helical bundle of G-CSF. G-CSF comprises of four alpha-helices shown as cylinders (labeled A–D). The arrangement of these helices are in an up-up down-down orientation. Both helices A and B extend from bottom to top, while helices C and D extend from top to bottom. The arrow shows directionality of the helices. The amino acid sequence between helices A and B is the crossover region (highlighted with an arrow). This region passes in front of helix D and contains a 4-residue 310-helix and a 6-residue of alpha-helix, shown here as an additional cylinder in the loop between helices A and B.	13
Figure 2-2	The granulocytes and macrophage lineage family tree showing proliferation/ differentiation steps. The self-generating Hematopoietic stem cells can produce 100-fold higher numbers of blast colony-forming cells and each of them can generate up to a thousand committed progenitor cells in various lineages (from American association for cancer research). Each progenitor cell can generate up to 104 maturing progeny.	15
Figure 2-3	Potential mode of action by which GCSF might assist in recovery after myocardial infarction and stroke (From Szilvassy 2012)	21
Figure 4-1	Growth profile of SMD1168 host background, grown in BMMY medium.	80
Figure 4-2	SDS-PAGE analysis of the culture filtrate obtained from various SMD1168 transformants.	81
Figure 4-3	SDS-PAGE analysis of the culture filtrate obtained from various GS115 transformants.	83

Figure 4-4	SDS-PAGE analysis of the culture filtrate obtained from various X-33 <i>Mut</i> ⁺ transformants.	86
Figure 4-5	SDS-PAGE analysis of the culture filtrate obtained from various X-33 <i>Mut</i> ^S transformants.	87
Figure 4-6	SDS-PAGE analysis of the culture filtrate obtained from various transformants against different host background.	89
Figure 4-7	Time profile of fermenter run of single copy SMD1168 transformant # 2. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors.	90
Figure 4-8	Microscopic appearance of the <i>P. pastoris</i> cells (A) at the start of induction phase (end of batch) and (B) at 84h of cultivation time (~ 60h post induction)	91
Figure 4-9	Time course of fermentation of SMD1168 transformant # 2. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. The arrows indicate the time of supplementation. 1% Sorbitol supplementation (red arrows); L-histidine supplementation (pink arrows); Biotin supplementation (green arrow).	93
Figure 4-10	SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrate obtained from bioreactor grown SMD1168 transformant #2. Twenty μ L of concentrated culture supernatant was loaded on the gel.	94
Figure 4-11	A. Time profile of fermentation of SMD1168 transformant # 2. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. B. SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrate obtained at different time points. Twenty μ L of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 20 X concentration.	95
Figure 4-12	(A) Time profile of fermentation for SMD1168 transformants # 2 with exponential feed addition at low μ of 0.02 h ⁻¹ . Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of direct culture filtrate obtained at different time points. Twenty μ L of sample supernatant was loaded on the gel at 1X concentration.	99
Figure 4-13	A. Time profile of fermenter run of GS115 transformant #42 with exponential feed addition at low specific growth rate (μ = 0.02 h ⁻¹). Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. B. SDS-PAGE analysis of secreted G-CSF is also shown. Twenty μ L of sample	100

	supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	
Figure 4-14	Time profile of fermentation of X-33 transformant #20 with Mut ⁺ phenotype with exponential feed addition at low specific growth rate ($\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$). Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. SDS-PAGE analysis of secreted G-CSF is also shown. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	101
Figure 4-15	(A) Time profile of fermentation of Mut ^S transformant #12 of X-33 host background with exponential feed addition at low specific growth rate ($\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$). Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of secreted G-CSF is also shown. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	102
Figure 4-16	A set up of continuous stirred tank reactor experiment.	106
Figure 4-17	Steady state data of recombinant strain <i>P. pastoris</i> expressing G-CSF grown on Glycerol (Δ), Sorbitol ($\square$) and Methanol ($\circ$) in continuous culture experiments.	107
Figure 4-18 (A - B)	Time profile of fermenter runs of single copy X-33 transformant# 12 with Mut ^S phenotype with exponential feed addition at pre-set values of low specific growth rate (A) $\mu = 0.05 \text{ h}^{-1}$ (B) $\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$ during induction phase. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors.	110
Figure 4-18 (C - D)	Time profile of fermenter runs of single copy X-33 transformant# 12 with Mut ^S phenotype with exponential feed addition at pre-set values of low specific growth rate (C) $\mu = 0.015 \text{ h}^{-1}$ (D) $\mu = 0.01 \text{ h}^{-1}$ during induction phase. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors.	111
Figure 4-19	Growth profile at various time points during induction phase in fed-batch fermentation for various pre-set values of μ . The experimental values closely match with the predicted values (Dotted line). [$\square = 0.05 \text{ h}^{-1}$; $\blacksquare = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$; $\circ = 0.015 \text{ h}^{-1}$; $\bullet = 0.01 \text{ h}^{-1}$]	112

Figure 4-20	SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	114
Figure 4-21	Time profile of pH-signal based pulse feeding fermenter run of transformant #12. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors.	117
Figure 4-22	SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	118
Figure 4-23	Feed addition profile of mixed feed during induction phase in pH based fed-batch fermenter run. The stepped line shows the actual feed profile and continuous line is the exponentially fitted line corresponding to $\mu = 0.052 \text{ h}^{-1}$ with a regression coefficient of 0.98.	119
Figure 4-24	(A) Time profile of fermentation run, at low temperature (18°C) during induction phase, of single copy X-33 strain# 12 with MutS with exponential feed addition at low specific growth rate ($\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$). Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points.	121
Figure 4-25	Result of specific protein yield on biomass (YP/X) at various time intervals during induction phase in fed-batch fermentation at various pre-set values of μ . The fitted curves and line show the generalized trends of YP/X .	123
Figure 4-26	(A) Time course of fermentation profile of bi-phasic sequential specific growth rate strategy during induction phase. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points.	126
Figure 4-27	SDS-PAGE analysis showing comparative production of G-CSF in 2-copy vs 1-copy transformants against SMD1168 host background.	130
Figure 4-28	Screening data of various 2-copy transformants in X33 host. (Data taken from Chaudhary A, 2016; M. Tech. dissertation).	131
Figure 4-29	(A) Time profile of fermentation of 2-copy integrant (with Mut ⁺ phenotype) transformant 1 against X-33 host background. Exponential feed addition at low specific growth	132

	rate ($\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$) was carried out. Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	
Figure 4-30	(A) Time profile of fermentation of single copy X-33 transformant # 20 with Mut+ with exponential feed addition at low specific growth rate ($\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$). Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	133
Figure 4-31	(A) Time profile of fermentation of 2-copy transformant#24 against X-33 Mut+ background with exponential feed addition at low specific growth rate ($\mu = 0.02 \text{ h}^{-1}$). Variables are shown in different colors against the axes in corresponding colors. (B) SDS-PAGE analysis of culture filtrates sampled at different time points. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	134
Figure 4-32	Extracellular protein production during induction phase of different category of transformants in a bioreactor. [Single copy X-33 strain# 20 (solid circles); 2-copy X-33 unscreened strain# 1 (hollow squares); 2-copy X-33 screened strain# 24 (hollow triangles)]	135
Figure 4-33	Comparative SDS-PAGE analysis of the culture filtrates obtained at different time points from 1-copy (A) and 2-copy transformant #24 (B) cultivated in a bioreactor. Twenty μL of sample supernatant was loaded on the SDS-PAGE at 1X concentration.	136
Figure 4-34	Relative (with respect to Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase) transcript levels of G-CSF, PDI and KAR2 in 1-copy and 2-copy transformants (courtesy Ms. Nitu Maity, Biochem Res Lab, IIT Delhi).	137

LIST OF TABLES

Table #	Caption	Page #
Table 2-1	Expression strains of <i>Pichia pastoris</i>	34
Table 2-2	List of a few of the commercially available expression vectors for <i>Pichia pastoris</i>	37
Table 3-1	List of chemicals and reagents	61
Table 3-2	List of equipments and software	63
Table 3-3	List of transformants/ recombinants	64
Table 4-1	Summary of growth and G-CSF production among various SMD1168 transformants	79
Table 4-2	Summary of growth and G-CSF production among various GS115 transformants.	82
Table 4-3	Summary of growth and expression parameters of various recombinant strains in X-33 host background with <i>Mut</i> plus phenotype	85
Table 4-4	Summary of growth and expression parameters of various recombinant strains in X-33 host background with <i>Mut^S</i> phenotype	87
Table 4-5	A comparison of parameters of various recombinant strains under different host background.	89
Table 4-6	Details of selected transformants evaluated at bioreactor level	98
Table 4-7	A comparative analysis of observed and calculated parameters of various recombinants of different host background grown at bioreactor level.	103
Table 4-8	Growth parameters on different carbon substrates	107

Table 4-9	Growth kinetic parameters of various strains of <i>Pichia pastoris</i> on different carbon sources (adapted from Looser et al. 2015)	108
Table 4-10	A comparative analysis of various observed and calculated parameters of recombinant X – 33 strain# 12 with <i>Mut^S</i> phenotype under different controlled specific growth rate condition during the induction phase.	115
Table 4-11	Effect of specific growth rate (μ) on maximum value of protein yield based on biomass ($Y_{P/X}^{\max}$)	124
Table 4-12	Effect of sequential biphasic sp. growth rate (μ) on protein titer and volumetric productivity w.r.t. single sp. growth rate	127
Table 4-13	Summary of growth and other parameters of various 2-copy transformants in SMD1168 host	129
