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3	Efficient production of sophorolipids from lignocellulosic biomass-based medium
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12	Running title: Production of sophorolipids from corn cob hydrolysate
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14	bombicola
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Abstract

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Sophorolipids (SLs) are amphiphilic compounds produced from edible saccharides and vegetable oils by a yeast, Starmerella bombicola, and related strains, and are applied as detergents for commercial uses. In present study, SL-production from corn cob hydrolysate (CCH) as non-edible substrates was investigated. According to ultraviolet spectrophotometry and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses, frufral (FL) as phenoic compounds were increased along with increase of sulfuric acid concentrations during acid-hydrolysis treatment. In case of use of 3% (w/v) H₂SO₄, 12 mM of FL are detected in the hydrolysate, and over 86% of SL production was inhibited compared to that of 1% (w/v) H₂SO₄. Additional heat treatment led Maillard reaction, colored the media to dark blown, and also stimulated FL generation. Three times of heat treatment (121°C, 20 min) strictly decreased SL production and cell growth, however FL increased to 5 mM. Ammonium nitrate (0.1 g-N/L) recovered the SL production in once heat treated corn cob hydrolysate. The results indicate that the inhibitions of cell growth and SL production were occurred by shortage of nitrogen sources in corn cob hydrolysate. In jarfermentor cultivation, SL production from corn cob hydrolysate and olive oil was reached 49.2 g/L for 4 days. The volumetric productivity was 12.3 g/L/day, which was corresponding to those of previous studies using standard production medium. Waste edible oils did not affect to the SL production and cell growth.

Introduction

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Surfactants and emulsifier are significant materials and widely used in broad ranges of manufactures in pharmaceutical, cosmetic, petroleum and food industries. Chemically synthesized surfactants have been often used in the manufactures. Microbial synthesized surfactants, named biosurfactants (BSs), have been recent used in commercial use due to their excellent surface activities and biocompatibility (1-3). Sophorolipids (SLs) are one of most famous BSs, and are produced from biomass including saccharides and vegetable oils by yeast like fungus, Starmellela bombicola (4), Candida batistae (5), Candida apicola (6), Candida bogoriensis (7), and Wickerhamiella domercqiae (8). S. bombicola is one of well-known SL producing yeasts. The SL production yield reaches at the level of 200 g/l, and the volumetric productivities are more than 2.4 g/L/h (9). The structures have been determined as mixture of lactonic and acidic forms of sophoroside of 17-hydroxyoctadecanoic acid (10) (Fig. 1). The critical micelle concentrations and the surface tension of SL mixtures are 16.6 mg/l and 36.4 mN/m (5). SLs shows low-forming surfactants with high detergency, low cytotoxicity, and readily biodegaradable properties (11). Furthermore, SLs show unique pH-dependent supramolecular assemble structure in aqueous (12). SLs and the derivatives show physiological activities including antimicrobial (13), anticancer (8, 14) and anti-virus activities (13).

One of significant problems for large-scale production of SLs is cutting the production

cost. The cost of SL production of 10-30 % are occupied by row material account (15). For reducing raw material cost, the compositions of cultivation medium were well studied (16), and the potential of using several alternative raw materials as medium compositions have been described including sweet water (15), deproteinized whey (17), biodiesel co-product stream (18), animal fat (19) and waste frying oil (20). Lignocellulosic materials are one of the most abundant renewable and underutilized resource all over the world. Further developments of the cost-effective utilization of the recourses are desired. Recently, detoxified and delignined corncob residue hydrolysate (DCCR) as low-cost raw material were used for SLs, and contributed to 39.08 g/L of SLs production (21). However, preparation of the detoxified DCCR is necessary to treat alkali treatment and detoxification by activated carbon. These treatments increase the total production costs of SL production process, and induce the amount of waste water. Simplify of the treatment of DCCR were necessary to innovate the efficiency of total cost of SL production.

In order to reduce the raw material cost in SL production cost, methods of corncob hydrolysate (CCH) preparation, and continued effective cultivation are describes in this article. And effects of the phenoic growth inhibitors on SL production are investigated. Furthermore, effects of additional nitrogen source on the SL production are shown.

MATERIALS and METHODS

Microorganisms and chemicals

Starrmerella bombicola NBRC 10243 were purchased from NITE Biological Resource Center (NBRC), of National Institute of Technology and Ecaluation (NITE), Japan. For preparing glycerol stocks, the strain cultivated for 48 h at 30°C in YM medium containing 10 g/l glucose, 3 g/l yeast extract, 3 g/l malt extract, and 5 g/l peptone. The culture broth were mixed in 20% glycerol. The mixtures were stored at -80°C as glycerol stocks. The glycerol stocks were used for all experiments in this study.

Olive oil was purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Co. (Tokyo, Japan). Waste oils were obtained from a standard home and a food manufacture.

Preparation of CCH

Preparation of CCH was performed by modified previously described method (22) as following. Dried and crushed corncob were purchased from ****, which were harvested at ****, in China. Water contents of the material were from 11.5 to 12.0 %. Corncob and dilute sulfuric acid mixed at 2:10 of solid-liquid ratio, and treated at 121°C for 60 min by using autoclave. The mixture was cooled at room temperature, and neutralizaing by 10 mol/l NaOH aqueous to pH 5.0. A commercial cellulose reagent, Meiselase (Meiji Co. Tokyo, Japan), of 5 g par 100 g corncob was

added, and incubated at 40°C for 3 days. The reaction was filtered by Wattman No.1 filter. pH of the filtrate were adjusted to 5.0. And then the sample was filtered again by 0.22 µm of sterile filtration unit (Corning). The filtrate was used as CCH for the following experiments.

Charactarization of CCH

Spectroscopy was carried out by a spectrophotometer (U-1000, Hitachi). The absorbance of CCH was measured during 200 to 600 nm. Phenoic growth inhibitor concentrations were measured by a HPLC system with µBondSphere C18-100Å (3.9 x 150 mm, Waters). Acetonitril and phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) (85 : 15 v/v) was used for mobile phase. The elute was detected by a UV detector at 275 nm. The concentration of flufural (FL), 3-hydroxyflufral (HMF), and vaniline (VA) were calculated from peaks of these standard materials (Wako Pure Chemical Co.). Saccharides concentrations were detected by a HPLC system, equipped TSKgel SCX-H⁺ column (7.8 x 300 mm, Tosoh Co., Tokyo Japan). 50 mM perchloric acid was used as mobile phase. Refractive index detector was used for detection saccharides in elute.

Culture conditions

Glycerol stocks (0.5 ml) were inoculated in 20 ml of the YM medium, and cultured at 28°C, 200 rpm for 48 h. In case of flask cultivation, 1 g of olive oil as hydrophobic carbon sources

were sterilized in 200 ml baffled Erlenmeyer flasks by autoclave at 121°C for 20 min. the culture broths (1 ml) were inoculated in 20 ml of CCH as production medium, prepared in above 200 ml baffled-Erlenmeyer flasks. Additional medium components were added as 100 fold concentrations stock solutions. Standard SL production medium are composed of 25 g/l glucose, 50 g/l olive oil, 3 g/l NaNO₃, 0.5 g/l KH₂PO₄, 0.5 g/l MgSO₄ 7H₂O, and 1 g/l yeast extract. In case of jarfermentor cultivation, pre-cultivation was carried out in 20 ml YM medium at 28°C for 2 days. The CCH (500 ml) were prepared in 1 L vessels with pH and dissolved oxygen electrodes and autoclaved at 121°C for 20 min. Olive oil (50 g) and additional compositions were separately autoclaved. Separately sterilized components and culture broth (20 ml) were added in the vessels including CCH, when SL productions were started. The cultivating temperature were maintained at 28°C. Agitation speed was controlled between 500 and 1000 rpm to maintain DO above 50% saturation.

Quantification of SLs and dry cell weights

SL concentrations and dry cell weight (DCW) were estimated by previously described methods (23), as following. Equal volume of ethyl acetate was added in the culture broth and extract hydrophobic materials from the broth. Ethyl acetate was evaporated by a centrifugation evaporator and the compounds were washed by hexane three times and removed residual olive oil and purified SLs. The residual hexane evaporated again by a centrifugation evaporator. Weights of SLs were

measured by a electric balance. Three different experiments were carried out and calculated the means of SL concentration. DCWs were determined from weight of cells washed by ethyl acetate, methanol, and deionized water.

Isolation of major SL component

To purify major component, crude SLs were obtained by ethyl acetate extraction. The organic layer was evaporated and dissolved in small amount of ethyl acetate again. The major component of SLs were purified by open-column chromatography with silica-gel (Wako gel C-200) using a gradient elution of chloroform-acetone (10:0 to 7:3, v/v). The purity of SLs were checked by TLC on silica gel plate (silicagel 60, Merck) with solvent system consisting of chloroform / methanol (8:2). The compounds on the plates were located by heating at 110°C for 5 min, after spraying the anthrone/sulfuric acid reagent.

Structural determination

Structure of purified major component of SLs were determined by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) analyses (¹H-NMR, and ¹³C-NMR) with ECA-600 spectrometer (600 MHz, Nihon denshi) using chloroform-d.. The molecular weight of the compounds was measured by matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF/MS)

(Ultraflex III, Bruker) with a α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid matrix.

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144 RESULTS

Effects of sulfuric acid concetntration in CCH preparation

Saccharification of lignocellulosic biomass is often carried out combination of chemical and biological reaction including acid and heat treatments and cellulase digestion (24). In preliminary experiments, a combination of acid treatment using sulfuric acids and cellulose saccharification procedure were suitable for microbial fermentations (25). Therefore, effects of the concentrations of sulfuric acid during acid treatments on characters of CCH and the following SL production were investigated. Fig. 2A indicates spectrographs of CCH prepared using from 1 to 5% (w/v) H₂SO₄. In case of 1 and 2% (w/v) H₂SO₄, broad peak was observed between 260 to 350 nm of wave length. In case of 3 to 5%(w/v) H₂SO₄, single peak was observed around 280 nm. Increase of H₂SO₄ concentration caused peak shift the broad band to single peak at 280 nm, which indicated benzene ring including various phenoic compounds. Therefore, FL, HMF, and VA as representatives of phenoic compounds, which are often reported as growth inhibitors, were measured by a HPLC method. Fig. 2B indicates the results of HPLC analysis. Concentrations of HMF and VA were maintained under 2 mM in all experimental conditions. Using 1 and 2%(w/v) of H₂SO₄, FL

increased to approximately 3 mM. The concentration were increased to 12 mM when using 3% (x/v) H_2SO_4 . This results indicated more than 3%(w/v) of H_2SO_4 introduces the degradation of lignin as phenoic polymer in lingocellulose. Glucose concentrations of CCH after 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5% H2SO4 treatments were 45.0, 34.9, 29.1, 29.9, and 27.1 g/l, respectively. Fig. 2C indicates effect of H_2SO_4 concentrations on SL production and cell growth. In case of using more than 3% (w/v) of H_2SO_4 , SL production and cell growth were strictly inhibited by toxicity compounds caused by acid saccarification reaction. Although 2% H_2SO_4 treatment gave the no longer inhibition to cell growth, the treatment slightly affect on the SL production, and reduced SL production to 18.6 ± 0.9 g/L. In case of 1% H2SO4 the SL production and cell growth were reached to 33.7 ± 1.0 g/L, and 8.60 ± 0.24 g/L, respectively. The SL production and cell growth were corresponding to those in standard SL production medium (pH 5.0), which were 33.9 ± 3.8 g/L and 3.6 ± 0.3 g/L, respectively.

Effect of additional heat treatment

For SL production using jar-fermentor, the prepared SSH with vessel is necessary to be sterilized at 121°C for 20 min by autoclave. Effects of the additional heat treatment were examined on UV absorbance of CCH, phenoic compounds concentrations and SL production. Fig. 3A indicates results of spectrometric analysis of CCH after different times of heat treatment. Increase of times of heat treatments induced the absorbance at wave length lower than 300 nm. Fig. 3B indicates the

concentrations of phenoic compounds. FL concentrations were gradually increased along with increase of times of treatments, and reached to 6 mM in case of forth times of the treatments. The concentrations are corresponding to the half amount of that of 5% H_2SO_4 treated CCH (Fig. 2B). Glucose concentrations without additional heating and after once, twice, three and four times heating were 26.2, 28.3, 31.6, 30.1 and 32.0 g/l, respectively. The absorbance at 400 nm of samples without additional heating and after once, twice, three and four times heating were 3.16, 3.33, 4.54, 5.35, and 6.28, respectively. This result implied that the heat treatment stimulated non-enzymatic browning reaction including Mailard reaction. Fig. 3C shows the SL productions and cell growths in cases of different times of heat treatments. Once heat-treatment reduced 36% SL production and 40 % cell growth compared to no-treatment, respectively. Twice heat-treatment further decreased the SL production to 8.3 \pm 0.3 g/L. In cases of three and four times, SL productions and cell growths were strictly inhibited and the concentrations were below 5 g/l.

Effects of additional nitrogen

In order to examine the shortage of nitrogen sources in the CCH, the effects of additional nitrogen source on the SL productions in CCH with and without additional heat treatment. Figure 4A indicate the effects of additional nitrogen concentrations on the SL production and cell growth in CCH media without additional heat treatment. Ammonium nitrate was used as additional nitrogen

source. Although additional 0.05 g-N/l of nitrogen show no significant effects on the SL production and cell growth, additional 0.1 g-N/l of nitrogen decreased the SL production from approximately 30 g/l to 12 g/l, and seemed to be no significant effect on the cell growth. Further amounts of nitrogen caused inhibition of SL production and cell growth. Figure 4B indicates the effects of additional nitrogen on SL production and cell growth in CCH media with once heat treatment of 121°C for 20 min. Interestingly, increasing of additional nitrogen gradually increased the amount of produced SL, and additional 0.1 g-N of nitrogen increase the SL to 30 g/l, which are corresponding to the amount of SL production in CCH without heat treatment. The recoveries of cell growth were not observed in the experimental conditions. The dry cell weights of the culture broths were approximately 5 g/l, which were slightly lower than those with CCH without heat treatment.

Production of SL from CCH in jar-fermentor

To examine the efficiencies of SL production in jar fermentor, SL production were performed in different three experimental conditions. Figure 5A indicates time courses of produced SL, DCW, residual glucose, and residual hydrophobic substrates during cultivation using CCH. Here, hydrophobic substrates indicates materials extracted by hexane including tri-, di-, and tri-glyceride, free fatty acids, and the other hexane-extracted minor compounds. The CCH was treated once additional heat treatment with a jarfermentor vessel. Decreases of the residual glucose and

hydrophobic substrates were not observed during early two days. The residual substrates gradually decreased after third day in cultivation period. Glucose was completely consumed for 5 days and hydrophobic substrates remained 26.2 g/l at seventh day. SL gradually increased to 43.8 ± 0.6 g/l for 7 days. DCW was reached to approximately 5.0 g/l and maintained the level during the cultivation. The volumetric productivity of SL was calculated to 6.25 g/l/day. Figure 5B indicates time courses of produced SL, DCW, residual glucose, and residual hydrophobic substrates during cultivation using CCH with 5.0 g-N/l NH₄(NO₃)₂. Residual glucose and hydrophobic substrates decreased from second day after inoculation, and were completely consumed for 2 and 5 days, respectively. DCW increased to approximately 11 g/l for 3 days and gradually increased to 11.9 g/l for 7 days, which were slightly larger than those without additional nitrogen. SL induced to 50.5 ± 2.3 g/l for 5 days. The volumetric productivity reached to 10.1 g/l/day. Figure 5C indicates time courses of produced SL, DCW, residual glucose, and residual hydrophobic substrates during cultivation using CCH with 5.0 g-N/l NH₄(NO₃)₂ and using pH control at 5.0. The amount of initial glucose was unfortunately smaller than those of the other experiment, since the efficiency of enzyme saccharification would be slight worse. Residual glucose and hydrophobic substrates were immediately consumed after 1st day. In this case, almost of hydrophobic substrates was consumed during 4 days cultivation. SL and DCW reached to 49.2 ± 3.3 g/l and 10.3 ± 0.1 g/l, respectively. The volumetric productivity of SL was reached to 12.3 ± 0.8 g/l/day. The volumetric productivity marked the best in the experiments,

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although the initial glucose concentration was the lowest.

Use of waste oils

To examine the possibility of usage of waste oil for SL production in lignocellulitic material based media, SL were produced from two different waste oils in shaking flasks. Home-used waste oil and manufacture-used waste oil were not significantly effect on yield of SL for four days cultivation. The SL yields from home and manufacture waste oils were 33.8 ± 1.39 and 30.3 ± 1.06 g/l, respectively. The yields were corresponding to that from olive oil $(32.0 \pm 0.9 \text{ g/l})$. No significant differences in cell growth were observed (data not shown).

Structure determination of major component

To check the quality of produced SL, molecular structure of major component of SLs produce from olive oil and CCH in jar fermentor were examined by MALDI-TOF/MS and NMR analyses. Figure 6A indicates results of TLC analysis of crude and purified SL. Several spots were observed in crude SL sample, and single spot were detected in purified sample. The purified sample was analyzed by MALDI-TOF/MS and NMR analyses. Table 2 indicates the summarized results of purified SL by ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR analyses. The spectrograms were well corresponded to those of previous report (5, 26). Figure 6B demonstrated the spectrogram of MALDI TOF-MS analysis of

purified SL. Major $[M+Na]^+$ ion was observed at m/z 712. These results indicated that the major product was assigned as lactone-form of di-*O*-acetyl SL, that is 6', 6''-di-*O*-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyl-2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosiloxy-octadecenoic acid.

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253 DISCUSSION

In this study, the possibility of efficient production of SL from lignocellulosic materials based simple media and additional nutrients were demonstrated. One of serious problems for microbial production from lignocellulosic materials are unknown growth and production inhibitors generated during chemical and enzymatic saccharification of biomass. In many cases, the inhibitors often removed by activated charcoals and the treatment increase the total production cost. Optimization of sulfuric acid concentration during chemical saccharification (Fig. 2) indicated 1 %(w/v) of H₂SO₄ would not inhibit SL production. Increase of H₂SO₄ concentrations increased phenoic compounds and decreased glucose yield during the following enzymatic saccharification. High H₂SO₄ concentration would cause excess decomposition of saccharides and generate phenoic compounds including frufral and their derivatives. Therefore, acid saccharification by 1% (w/v) H₂SO₄ is suitable for the following SL production. Although further optimization of H₂SO₄ concentration can be reduce the amount of H₂SO₄ use in the process, the optimization will not be expected to increase of SL production, because SL production using CCH treated by 1% (w/v)

H₂SO₄ were corresponding to that of general SL production medium (data not shown). Additional heat treatments (Fig. 3) increased glucose concentration, FL, and blowing compounds in CCH, and reduced SL production in the following fermentation. Heating would cause Maillard reaction between reducing end of saccharides and amino groups of nitrogen sources including inorganic and organic compounds. An evidence of the Maillard reaction during heat treatments was demonstrated to recover the SL production by SL producing experiments with additional nitrogen (Fig. 4). This point is significant for not only handling for CCH but also design procedures for manufacture scale production. SL productions by jar fermentor demonstrated the efficiency of additional nitrogen and advantage of pH control. The best yield and volumetric productivity of SL were 49.2 ± 3.3 g/l and 12.3 ± 0.8 g/l/day from simple lignocellulosic based medium composed of only CCH, oil, and small amount of nitrogen (Fig. 5C). The productivity was higher than that from corncob residue by Wicherhamiella domrercquiae var sophorolipids CGMCC 1576 and Cryptococcus curvatus ATCC 96219 (21). Moreover, waste oils can be used for SL production along with the lignocellulosic based medium. Starrmerella bombicola NBRC 10243can utilize various hydrophobic various vegetable oils (27), animal fats (19), substrates alkanes (28), industrial fatty acid residues (29) and biodiesel co-product stream (18). Supply of the fatty acid brocks would be important for efficient production of SL. There are possibilities that the various hydrophobic substrates can be use for efficient SL production along with CCH-based media. These results indicate that SL is possible to being

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produced from non-edible biomass. The quality of SL produced from CCH and olive oil was maintained according to structural determination of major product (Fig. 6). Therefore, CCH seems not to be affected to the quality of SLs.

In conclusion, we developed an eco-friendly SL production combined optimization both saccharification of corncob and fermentation conditions, without a costly activated charcoal treatment. Furthermore, we first described that H_2SO_4 concentration during acid saccharification and heating during CCH preparation are significant factors for the following SL production efficiency.

Acknowledgement

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373 Figure Legends

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- Fig. 1. Molecular structures of SLs. A: lacton-form SL, B: acidic-form SL
- profiles of CCH perpetrated by using different concentrations of H2SO4, B:phenoic

Fig. 2. The effects of sulfuric acid concentration for CCH preparation. A: spectrophotometric

- compounds concentrations. Open, solid, and gray bars indicate HMF, FL, and VA,
- 378 respectively. C: SL production and cell growth. Shaded and open indicate SL concentration
- and DCW after 4 days cultivation. Bars indicate standard deviation.
- Fig. 3. The effects of additional autoclave treatment for CCH preparation. A: spectrophotometric
- profiles of CCH perpetrated by using different concentrations of H2SO4, B:phenoic
- compounds concentrations. Open, solid, and gray bars indicate HMF, FL, and VA,
- 383 respectively. C: SL production and cell growth. Shaded and open indicate SL concentration
- and DCW after 4 days cultivation. Bars indicate standard deviation.
- Fig. 4. Effects of supplemental nitrogen source concentration on the SL production in CCH media.
- A: CCH prepared using 1%, w/v H₂SO₄ without additional autoclave treatment. B: CCH
- prepared using 1%, w/v H₂SO₄ and once additional autoclave treatment.
- Fig. 5. Jarfermentor cultivations for SL production in CCH prepared using 1% w/v H₂SO₄. Time
- cources of SL, DCW, residual glucose, and residual hydrophobic substrates, in A: CCH
- without additional nitrogen source and pH control, in B: CCH with 5.0 g-N/L of NH₄(NO₃)₂

391	without pH control, and C: CCH with CCH with 5.0 g-N/L of NH ₄ (NO ₃) ₂ with pH control
392	(pH 5.0). Symbols: closed circles, SL; open circles, DCW; closed triangles, hydrophobic
393	substrates; open triangles, glucose.
394	Fig. 6. Structure analyses of major SL component. A: TLC analysis of crude SLs and purified major
395	component. Lane C and P indicates crude SL and purified major component, respectively. B:
396	Spectrogram of MALDI-TOF/MS analysis of SL major component.
397	

Table 1 Summary of NMR data for major products

99		¹³ C-NMR	¹H-NMR
00		δ (ppm)	δ (ppm)
)1	Saccharides		
)2	C-1'	102.5	4.45 d
)3	C-2'	82.3	3.52 m
)4	C-3'	75.8	3.54 m
)5	C-4'	69.7	3.39 t
)6	C-5'	72.6	3.66 m
)7	C-6'	62.1	4.12 <i>dd</i>
)8			4.17 d
)9			
10	C-1"	104.1	4.57 <i>d</i>
l1	C-2"	75.4	3.45 m
12	C-3"	74.0	3.65 m
13	C-4"	70.5	4.98 t
14	C-5"	73.2	3.68 t
15	C-6"	63.7	4.31 <i>b</i>

416	(Table 1 continued)		
417			4.33 <i>b</i>
418	Acetyl groups		
419	-C=O (C-6', 6")	171.8, 170.6	
420	-CH ₃ (C-6', 6")	20.9, 20.1	2.08 s
421			
422	Acyl groups		
423	-C=O (C-1)	173.5	
424	-CO- <u>C</u> H ₂ - (C-2)	34.4	2.34 m
425	-CO-CH ₂ - <u>C</u> H ₂ - (C-3)	24.5	1.58 m
426	-(CH ₂) _n - (C-4-7, C-12-4)	28.2-30.2	1.27 <i>b</i>
427	-CH=CH- <u>C</u> H ₂ - (C-8, 11)	26.9, 27.2	2.03 m
428	-CH=CH- (C-9, 10)	129.8, 130.1	5.34 m
429	-O-CH ₂ CH ₂ CH ₂ (C-15)	25.4	1.49 <i>b</i>
430	-O-CH ₂ <u>C</u> H ₂ (C-16)	37.6	1.58 m
431	-O- <u>C</u> H ₂ -(C-17)	79.4	3.76 m
432	-OCH ₂ <u>C</u> H ₃ - (C-18)	21.1	1.23 d

Abbreviation, s: singlet, d: doublet, dd: double doublet, m: multilet, b: broad











