

# Studies on some food plant wastes

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citric acid is one of organic acids, which plays an important role in food and pharmaceuticals industries. citric acid is used in food industry, such as soft drinks, candies, flavoring extracts; in pharmacy and in smaller ingredients in ink and dyes industries; printing and silviculture agent, recently, most of citric acid produced by fermentation is manufactured by using *Aspergillus niger*. However, a new procedure, using different kinds of yeast strains have been elaborated by many investigators, thus, the aim of this investigation was to study potentialities of *Aspergillus niger* and *Saccharomyces lipolytica* for citric acid production. A trial was done to shed light on factors affecting citric acid production in both of shake flasks method and by fermentor method as a batch culture, results obtained during the course of this work which are confirmed by the statistical analysis (analysis of variance) could be summarized as follows: 1. cane and beet molasses were found to be a suitable carbon source for citric acid production. The chemical analysis showed that molasses was very poor in nutrients in spite of their high ash content which exerted a deleterious effect on citric acid fermentation. Treatments of molasses were carried out to reduce its deleterious effect. 2. The best concentration of citric acid was obtained after 8-10 days of incubation, where the accumulation of the citric acid reached (4.84, 3.92 and 3.90, 3.44 g/100 ml) for *S. lipolytica* and *A. niger* by using cane and beet molasses, respectively. 3. Maximum citric acid was produced at 39°C (4.97, 3.86 and 3.87, 3.43 g/100 ml) for *A. niger* and *S. lipolytica*, respectively. 4. Initial pH values of 5-6 were found to be the optimum to give the maximum production of citric acid where, (4.97, 3.86 and 3.87, 3.43 g/100 ml) were obtained by using *A. niger* and *S. lipolytica*, in cane and beet molasses media, respectively. 5. Addition of ammonium nitrate to the molasses media was found to be superior compared to the other different nitrogen sources in the production of citric acid, followed by ammonium carbonate, ammonium phosphate and ammonium chloride. The best concentration of ammonium nitrate giving the highest citric acid yield and conversion coefficient was 0.2%. 6. Different types of alcohols such as ethanol and methanol were added to molasses media before the fermentation to increase citric acid yield. Addition of methanol stimulated citric acid production more than ethanol. It was found that 2% methanol was the optimum concentration which gave the best yield of citric acid. This yield was (39.76, 36.1 and 33.12, 25.72%) by *A. niger* and *S. lipolytica*, in case of using cane and beet molasses media, respectively. 7. Addition of 0.05% potassium ferrocyanide in the absence of alcohol considerably stimulated citric acid production. The highest yield of citric acid was (48.18, 35.03 and 33.14, 28.91%) by using *A. niger* and *S. lipolytica* in cane and beet molasses media, respectively. The aforementioned optimum conditions were used in both of shake flasks and fermentor, a batch culture in shake flasks: *A. niger* and *S. lipolytica* growing on molasses media as a batch culture in shake flasks were studied. They incubated at 30°C for 10 days. The cane and beet molasses were diluted to 15% sugar, 0.2% ammonium nitrate and 0.05% potassium ferrocyanide were added and the pH value was adjusted to 6. The maximum citric acid production (9.49, 8.25 and 8.05, 8.00 g/100 ml), yield of citric acid (63.29, 55.03 and 53.67, 53.32%) and conversion coefficient (87.47, 81.86 and 76.64, 72.0%) were scored by *A. niger* and *S. lipolytica*, grown on cane and beet molasses media, respectively. 2% methanol was used instead of 0.05% potassium ferrocyanide under the same aforementioned conditions. The citric acid production (8.73, 7.38 and

7.40, 6.93 g/100ml), yield of citric acid (58.18, 49.23 and 49.34, 46.18%) and conversion coefficient (76.72, 75.27 and 77.53, 69.35%) were scored by *asp.niger* and *saccharomycopsis lipolytica*, grown on cane and beet molasses media, respectively, in batch culture in the fermentor : *asp.niger* and *saccharomycopsis lipolytica* growing on cane and beet molasses media under the same aforementioned conditions were studied as a batch culture in the fermentor, the maximum yield of citric acid (71.60, 71.78 and 68.14, 66.29%), conversion coefficient (91.58, 82.40 and 80.42, 73.29%), and production rate of citric acid (0.45, 0.45 and 0.53, 0.52 g/l/hr) were scored by *asp.niger* and *saccharomycopsis lipolytica*, grown on cane and beet molasses media, respectively by using 0.05% potassium ferrocyanide. 2% methanol was used instead of 0.05% potassium ferrocyanide under the same conditions. the yield of citric acid (68.47, 68.16 and 59.33, 55.47%), conversion coefficient (87.29, 86.44 and 81.44, 67.71%) and production rate of citric acid (0.43, 0.43 and 0.46, 0.43 g/l/hr) were scored by *asp.niger* and *saccharomycopsis lipolytica* in cane and beet molasses, respectively, in the whole aforementioned results we can conclude that the addition of 0.05% potassium ferrocyanide to cane and beet molasses media fermented by *asp.niger* and *saccharomycopsis lipolytica* increased citric acid production in shorter time than adding 2% methanol to the same media under the same conditions. we can conclude also that using *asp. niger* led to more citric acid production than *saccharomycopsis lipolytica*. cane molasses medium also was better than beet molasses medium for citric acid production.