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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PARTIAL PHYSICOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISATION OF NATIVE B-GLUCOSIDASE EXTRACTED FROM MANGO (MANGIFERA INDICA L) KERNELS OF THE GOLDEN GLOBE VARIETY CULTIVATED IN DALOA (CENTRAL WEST, CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to select new enzymatic sources exhibiting unique activities from mango kernel almonds (*Mangifera indica* L) grown in the DALOA region (Côte d'Ivoire). A β -glucosidase was thus extracted from the kernel of the Golden Globe variety. Characterization methods, including the determination of temperature and pH, stability at different pH levels and temperatures, thermal inactivation, thermal deactivation, and the effects of chemical agents, were used to understand the behavior of this β -glucosidase. It has an optimal pH of 5.6 with stability in the pH range between 4.00 and 7.00. Its optimal temperature is 90°C and it remains stable between 37 and 95°C. At the optimal temperature, it remains active for 14 hours. The activation energy of this enzyme is 33 kJ·mol⁻¹. It has K_M , V_{max} , and V_{max}/K_M values of 0.9973 mM, 1.3132 U, and 1.3166 U/mM, respectively. Although it withstands the effects of ethanol (15%), glucose (100 mM), and ascorbic acid (5 mM), it is strongly inhibited by citric acid (5 mM) and methanol (8%). Disulfide bridge reducers such as β -mercaptoethanol, L-cysteine, and DL-dithiothreitol do not decrease the activity of this enzyme. However, PCMB and DTNB inhibit it. This enzyme is acidophilic, thermophilic, and thermostable.

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Introduction:-

B-glucosidase are found in all living organisms where they play a crucial role in the removal of terminal glucosyl residues from saccharides and glycosides [1] [2]. They are responsible for the final degradation of polymers in the plant cell wall as they cleave glucan-based oligo and polysaccharides to release glucose [3] [4]. They are involved in the metabolism of glycolipids and exogenous glycosides in animals, in defense, lignification of plant cell walls, in the activation of phytohormones, and in the release of aromatic compounds in plants [5]. These functions lead to

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numerous industrial applications such as the production of glucose, biofuel, and the synthesis of flavors in wines...[6] [7]. The industrial use of these enzymes involves a key property, which is the catalytic efficiency or performance of the enzyme. This performance depends on three main factors: tolerance to hydrolysis products and by-products, stability across the pH range, and thermal stability [8]. The search for new enzymes that are tolerant and exhibit high activity over a wide pH range and thermal stability could be relevant for improving biotechnological and industrial processes. In this context, β -glucosidases have mostly been sought in thermophilic bacteria, fungi, and other microscopic animals [9] [10]. However, although there are interesting enzymatic sources in plants, the production of plant-derived enzymes is not only limited by the availability of raw materials but also because they often possess biotechnological and industrial characteristics that are difficult to implement [11]. It therefore seems necessary to find new source of β -glucosidases that could meet the requirements for glucose inhibition tolerance, pH and temperature stability as desired by the industry.

The choice fell on mango, which is one of the most consumed tropical fruits after banana, pineapple, papaya, and avocado [12]. In Africa, and particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, mango is mainly consumed or marketed fresh and does not keep very long after ripening due to the lack of preservation methods applicable at the local or traditional level [13]. This situation limits the use of mangoes worldwide and results in enormous post-harvest losses. This loss affects both the skins and the seeds of the mango [14]. At the heart of the seed of this fruit is the kernel, which accounts for the largest part of post-harvest losses because it is not consumed at all. Moreover, the kernel is generally abandoned in nature, posing an environmental problem, even though it possesses very interesting properties [15]. Searching for enzymes in mango kernel almonds will undoubtedly add greater value to this agricultural by-product. This study aims at the partial biochemical characterization of β -glucosidase extracted from mango kernels (*Mangifera indica* L), of the Golden Glob variety. Specifically, it will focus on examining the influence of pH variation, temperature, and some chemical compounds on the enzymatic activity of native β -glucosidase extracted from the kernels of the Golden Globe variety.

Materials and Methods:-

Chemicals and Reagents:

The para-nitrophenyl-glycopyranoside (pNP-glycopyranoside) used was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. All other chemicals and various reagents used were of analytical grade.

Plant Material:

The plant material consists of the kernels of mango seeds from the Golden Globe cultivar, harvested from plantations around the city of DALOA (Ivory Coast). These mango seeds were collected and sun-dried for seven days to prevent moisture and to facilitate easier removal of the kernels from the seeds.

Enzymatic Extraction:

The crude enzymatic extract was obtained according to the method described by Ya [16].

Protein Assay:

The protein concentration was determined by spectrophotometry at 660 nm using the method with bovine serum albumin as the standard [17].

Determination of enzymatic activities:

Under standard conditions, the hydrolytic activity of beta-glucosidase was measured by the release of para-nitrophenol according to the method of Fagbohoun [18]. One unit (U) of enzymatic activity was defined as the amount of enzyme that released one μ mol of para-nitrophenol or reducing sugar per minute under standard reaction conditions [19]. The specific activity was expressed in units per mg of protein (U/mg of protein).

Optimal pH and temperature:

The effect of pH on enzymatic activity was determined by performing the hydrolysis of pNP-beta-D-glucopyranoside (5 mM) in two buffers (20 mM) at different pH values (3.6–8.0). The buffers used were sodium acetate (pH 3.6–5.6) and sodium phosphate (pH 5.6–8.0). The pH values of each buffer were determined at 37 °C. The effect of temperature on enzyme activity was determined in 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.6) over a temperature range of 30 to 105 °C, using pNP-beta-D-glucopyranoside (5 mM) as the substrate under enzymatic assay conditions [20].

pH and Temperature Stability:-

The pH stability of the enzyme was studied over a pH range of 3.6 to 8.0. The buffers used were the same as those employed in the pH and temperature optimization study. After 1 hour of pre-incubation at 37°C, aliquots were taken and immediately assayed to determine the residual activity of β -glucosidase. Thermal inactivation was determined at 37°C and 90°C in a 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.6). Then, aliquots were withdrawn at regular intervals and immediately cooled in ice water. In the thermal denaturation experiments, aliquots of the enzyme solution were pre-incubated at different temperatures ranging from 30 to 80 °C for 15 minutes. The residual activities, determined in all three cases at 37 °C under the enzymatic assay conditions, were expressed as a percentage of the activity of the zero-time control of the untreated enzyme. The Q10 was determined between 75 and 85 °C on the ascending part of the optimal temperature curve for this β -glucosidase. The ratio of the reaction rate at t °C + 10 to the rate at t °C was used to calculate the Q10. $Q10 = X_{10}/X$, with: X_{10} = Absorbance at $t + 10$ °C, X = Absorbance at t °C, and t = Temperature in °C. The effect of temperature is related to the activation energy, as indicated by the relationship proposed by Arrhenius. Thus, plotting the logarithms of residual activities against the inverse of the temperature in Kelvin ($1/T$ K) allowed the graphical determination of the activation energy of this enzyme. The activation part of the activity versus temperature curve was used. The slope of this curve allowed the determination of the activation energy (E_a). $E_a = -2.303 \times R \times \text{slope}$. R = ideal gas constant (8.286 J/mol/K) [20].

Kinetic parameters:

The kinetic parameters (K_M , V_{max} , and V_{max}/K_M) were determined in a 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.6) at 37 °C. Using different concentrations (0.2 to 2.5 mM) of pNP-beta-D-glucopyranoside, K_M and V_{max} were determined from the Lineweaver-Burk plot [21]. Each experimental point was determined at least in triplicate.

Effects of chemical agents:

To determine the effect of various compounds (cations, EDTA, alcohols, organic acids), which could be potential activators or inhibitors of the crude enzyme, the enzyme solution was pre-incubated at 37 °C for 20 minutes with chemical agents at concentrations of 1 mM [1% (w/v)] or 5 mM [5% (w/v)]. The activity was measured under the enzymatic assay conditions using pNP-beta-D-glucopyranoside (5 mM) as the substrate. Residual activities were expressed as a percentage relative to the control without chemical agents [22].

Statistical analyses:

All determinations reported in this study were performed in triplicate. The results were expressed as means $\pm$ standard deviation.

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All determinations reported in this study were performed in triplicate. The results were expressed as means $\pm$ standard deviation.

Results:-**Effects of pH:-**

The optimum hydrolysis pH of β -glucosidase from the Golden Globe variety is 5.6 when the synthetic substrate pNP- β -glucoside is used. It shows maximum activity in 20 mM acetate buffer (pH 3.6 to 5.6). The pH stability of the enzyme is assessed in 20 mM acetate buffer (pH 3.6 to 5.6) and 20 mM phosphate buffer (pH 5.6 to 8.0). It retains more than 80% of its hydrolytic activity in the pH range of 3.8 to 6.9 when pre-incubated at 37°C for 1 hour (Table 1).

Effect of temperature:-

The optimal hydrolysis temperature for the enzyme is 90°C. It retains more than 70% of its hydrolytic activity between 80 and 95°C. The temperature coefficient (Q₁₀) calculated between 75 and 85°C is 3.723 for this beta-glucosidase. Using the Arrhenius plot, the activation energy was found to be 33.24 kJ·mol⁻¹ for this enzyme. The study of thermal stability shows that at 37°C the enzyme retains all of its catalytic activity for more than 15 hours and 50 minutes of pre-incubation in 20 mM acetate buffer at pH 5.6. This hydrolase activity is also retained for 13 hours and 50 minutes at 90°C. Beyond this pre-incubation time, the activity decreases by approximately 48.79%. The study of thermal denaturation shows that at 90°C, this β-glucosidase retains about 100% of its hydrolase activity. Beyond this temperature, a drop in its hydrolytic activities is observed, indicating its denaturation (Table 1).

Kinetic Parameters:

The effect of substrate concentration on enzymatic activity was studied using pNP-beta-D-glucopyranoside. With this substrate, the enzyme followed the Michaelis-Menten equation, exhibiting Michaelis-type kinetics. The values of the Michaelis-Menten constant (K_M), the maximum velocity (V_{max}), and the catalytic efficiency (V_{max}/K_M) are 0.997373 mM, 1.31319 U/mg, and 1.31665 U/mM*mg, respectively (Table 1).

Table1:-Physicochemical properties of native beta-glucosidase extracted from Golden Globe almonds

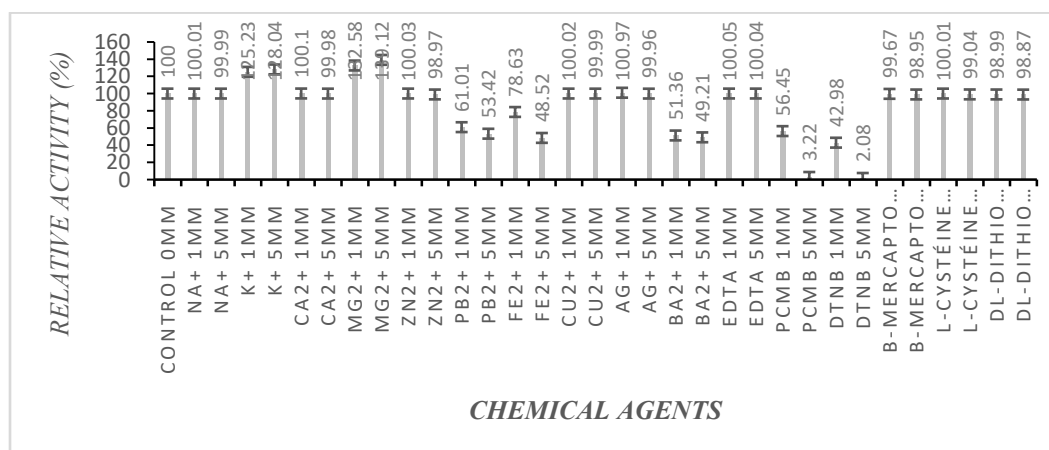
Physicochemical properties	β-glucosidase activity
Optimum pH	5,6 ± 2.10 ⁻³
pH stability	3,8 - 6,9 ± 1.10 ⁻²
Optimum temperature (°C)	90 ± 1.10 ⁻²
Thermal stability zone(°C)	37- 95 ± 1.10 ⁻³
Temperature coefficient (Q ₁₀)	3,723
Activation energy (kJ.mol ⁻¹)	33,24
K _M (mM)	0,997373
V _{max} (U/mg)	1,31319
V _{max} /K _M (U/mg*mM)	1,31665

Effects of chemical agents :-**Metal ions and EDTA:-**

The activating or inhibiting effects of several ions on beta-glucosidase have been explored. This study shows that Na⁺, Ca²⁺, Zn²⁺, Cu²⁺ ions and EDTA neither inhibited nor activated the enzyme. Meanwhile, K⁺ and Mg²⁺ ions act as activators of β-glucosidase activity. Ag⁺, Ba²⁺, Pb²⁺, and Fe²⁺ ions, on the other hand, are inhibitors. (Figure 1).

Disulfide bond reducers:-

Disulfide bond reducers such as β-mercaptoethanol, L-cysteine, and DL-dithiothreitol have no significant effect on the activity of this enzyme. However, PCMB and DTNB inhibit it (Figure 1).

**Fig1 :-Effects of chemical agents**

Effects of alcohols, organic acids, and glucose:-

Methanol at 15% inhibits the activity of this enzyme. However, ethanol at 15% has no significant effect on the enzyme. (Figure 2)

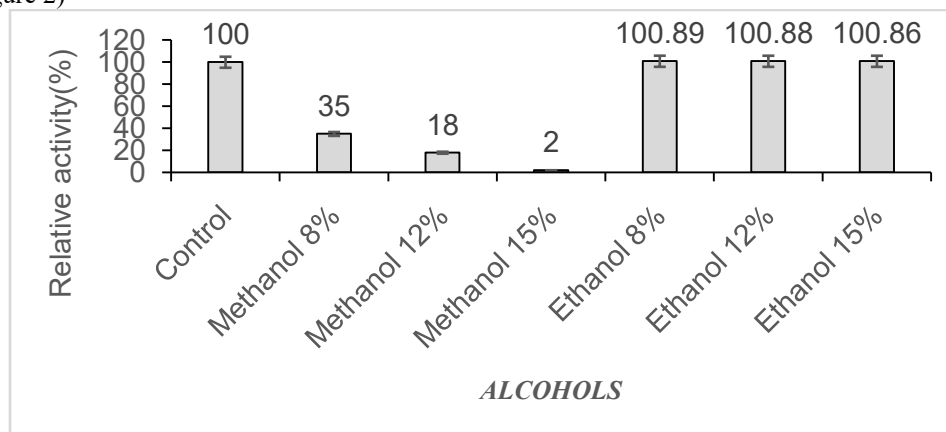


Fig2 :-Effects of some alcohols

While citric acid (5 mM) reduces the activity of this β -glucosidase by 96%, acetic acid (5 mM), ascorbic acid (5 mM), and glucose (100 mM) have no significant effects on the enzyme (Figure 3).

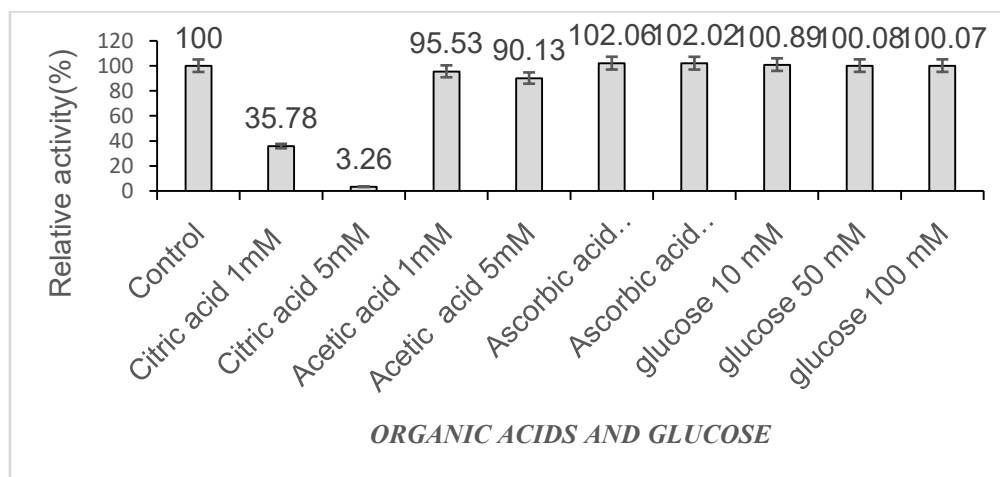


Figure 3:-Effects of some organic acids and glucose

Discussion:-

The pH = 5.6 is identical to that of β -glucosidase with β -xylosidase activity extracted from the digestive juice of the crab *Cardisoma armatum* [20]. However, it is higher than the pH = 5.0 of β -glucosidases from the fungus *Myceliophthora heterothallica* F.2.1.4 obtained by solid-state and submerged culture [23]. These identical pH values could suggest that these two enzymes have the same amino acid composition, as amino acid composition is one of the factors that greatly influences pH [24]. This pH range corresponds to that reported by Ketudat and Essen [25]. They state that the optimum pH of most β -glucosidases is between pH 4 and 7.5, and that the pH values within this range depend on their sources, amino acid sequences, and cellular locations. A β -glucosidase with a pH of 5.6 was also extracted from the crab *Cardisoma armatum*, with a stability range between 4.6 and 6.6 [20]. This stability range is lower than that newly extracted from the Golden Globe variety. This varies from 3.8 to 6.9. The β -glucosidase extracted from the kernels of this mango variety is therefore active in an acidic environment. The enzyme is thus acidophilic. These acidic pH β -glucosidases are particularly widely used in the conversion of plant material into biofuel and in the synthesis of aromatic compounds during wine fermentation [26] [27].

The optimal hydrolysis temperature of the enzyme being 90°C, it can be stated that this enzyme is thermophilic. This characteristic is very common in enzymes of bacterial and fungal sources. It is, moreover, highly sought after

by industry [28][29]. This enzyme is active at 90°C for 13 hours and 50 minutes. It could therefore be described as a thermostable enzyme. Furthermore, hydrolysis catalyzed by a thermostable enzyme has several advantages. At high temperatures, the enzyme maintains its structure and stability, thereby reducing its degradation and also facilitating its transport and storage. High temperature improves the solubility of materials and decreases their viscosity, thereby facilitating enzyme-substrate interactions while accelerating the reaction rate [30].

The activation energy of the enzyme is 33.24 kJ.mol⁻¹. This value is lower than those of beta-glucosidases from *Aspergillus niger* of form N, *Thermotoga maritima*, and *Cellulomonas biazotea* (88 kJ.mol⁻¹), which are respectively 50, 36.92, and 88 kJ.mol⁻¹ [31] [32] [33]. The low activation energy value between 75 and 85°C could indicate that at these temperatures, the enzyme still maintains its three-dimensional structure while increasing the reaction rate. Therefore, this enzyme is thermostable as it withstands these high temperatures by lowering the required activation energy.

The phenomenon of denaturation could be explained by the fact that proteins generally have three-dimensional structures that can be easily affected by high thermal treatments [34]. These denaturations are preceded by inactivation phenomena that could occur according to a two-step mechanism [35]. In the first step, we observe a modification of low-energy bonds such as hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic interactions, and Van der Waals interactions that link the different amino acids constituting the catalytic sites. This leads to an initial disorganization of these sites. In the second stage, the changes affect the covalent bonds of the amino acids in the active centers. As the temperature continues to rise, the disorganization becomes irreversible, and we observe denaturation as noted in this study [36].

The KM value (0.997373 mM) is higher than those of the cloned β-glucosidases from *Thermotoganaphthophila* (0.45 mM) and *Thermotoga maritima* (0.56 mM) [37]. However, it remains lower than the KM value of the β-glucosidase from *Thermotoganaphthophila* RKU-10T, which is 1.5 mM [38]. These results suggest that the β-glucosidase extracted from the kernels of Golden Globe mango seeds has a higher affinity for the substrate pNP-β-D-glucopyranoside than the cloned β-glucosidases from *Thermotoganaphthophila* and *Thermotoga maritima*, but a lower affinity compared to the KM value of the β-glucosidase from *Thermotoganaphthophila* RKU-10T.

These minerals that act on the enzyme could indicate that they are cofactors of this enzyme, as they play an important role in the active site of the enzyme. They are therefore essential for the functioning of this β-glucosidase. Ethanol has no effect on this enzyme, whereas it reduces the relative activity of the β-glucosidase extracted from the thermophilic fungus *Myceliophthora heterothalica* F.2.1.4 by 15% [23]. This good tolerance to ethanol could be beneficial for wine production, as is the case with certain enzymes of fungal origin that are not necessarily *Saccharomyces* [39]. These high concentrations, which have no effect, could be advantageous for the food and other industries. There are essentially four groups of β-glucosidases, some of which are tolerant to the presence of glucose and others that are activated or inhibited by its presence [40]. These glucose-tolerant or glucose-stimulated β-glucosidases are the most sought after, hence their use as a commercial enzyme cocktail to improve the hydrolysis of plant material [41] [42].

Conclusion:-

The effects of pH, temperature, and certain chemical compounds were tested on the native beta-glucosidase extracted from the kernels of the Golden Globe mango variety (*Mangifera indica* L). These studies showed that this enzyme is acidophilic. This acidophilic characteristic is widely used in wine and biofuel production. It is also thermophilic and thermostable with low activation energy. Therefore, its use is desirable in the degradation of cellulosic material with glucose release. It remains stable between 37 and 90°C, maintaining 100% of its hydrolytic activity for more than 12 hours. It is resistant to the effects of high concentrations of glucose and methanol. Therefore, it could be used in breweries where fermented beverages are produced. All these results could represent major advantages for its use in the processing of dairy products. However, purification studies and more in-depth analyses of thermal stability and thermodynamic parameters will allow a better understanding of all the capabilities of this enzyme.

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