

微生物发酵粗甘油生成 1,3-丙二醇的研究进展

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摘要: 粗甘油是生物柴油生产中的一个主要副产物, 而通过微生物可将粗甘油转化为高附加值的 1,3-丙二醇。1,3-丙二醇在食品、化工、医药、化妆品等很多领域具有非常广泛的应用。本文从 1,3-丙二醇的粗甘油生物转化的迫切性、生产的菌种、合成的途径、合成的基因、发酵转化以及生产中的问题与策略等方面综述了微生物发酵粗甘油生成 1,3-丙二醇的最新研究进展。

关键词: 粗甘油; 1,3-丙二醇; 生物转化; 代谢途径

Research progress on the microbial fermentation of 1,3-propanediol from crude glycerol

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ABSTRACT: Crude glycerol is a major by-product in the production of biodiesel, and it can be transformed into high value-added 1,3-propanediol by microbial fermentation. 1,3-propanediol has a very wide range of application in food, chemical, pharmaceutical, cosmetics and many other fields. In this study, based on the microbial transformation of 1,3-propanediol from crude glycerol, the urgency, strains, synthetic pathway, genes, fermentaton and the problems and strategies were reviewed.

KEY WORDS: crude glycerol; 1,3-propanediol; biotransformation; metabolic pathway

1 引言

粗甘油是生物柴油生产中的一个主要副产物。2011 年全球生物柴油总产量约为 200 亿升, 据预计, 2020 年将达到 450 亿升以上^[1,2], 而每生产 10 kg 生物柴油, 就会产生约 1 kg 的粗甘油^[3,4]。鉴于全球生物柴油的大量需求, 必将会有越来越多的粗甘油产生。这些粗甘油废液如果不能及时有效地利用和处理, 不但不利于生物柴油生产成本的降低, 而且也将会成为新的污染源。因此, 如何绿色高效地利用粗甘油是摆在人们面前的新课题。

由于低廉的价格, 目前粗甘油的微生物发酵是研究的热点, 主要通过微生物发酵生产一些高附加值的产品, 其中 1,3-丙二醇(1,3-propanediol, 1,3-PD)就是比较经典且具优势的产品之一^[5]。1,3-PD 独特的物理性质使其本身就是一种良好的溶剂、保护剂、抗冻剂, 在 1998 年就已被美国食品药品管理局(FDA)认定为 GRAS(美国 FDA 使用的检验标记, 表示食品安全可用), 在食品领域可作为乳化剂、调味剂、增稠剂、保鲜剂、添加剂和吸湿剂等, 不仅能改善食品的感官质量, 提高食品的耐藏性和稳定性, 同时也可以大大提高食品的营养价值; 另外 1,3-PD 在化工、医药、

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化妆品等很多领域具有非常广泛的应用^[6,7]。1,3-PD 因其广阔的应用领域而彰显出巨大的商业价值。

2 1,3-丙二醇生产菌与生物合成途径

很多微生物,如克雷伯氏菌(*Klebsiella pneumoniae*)、弗氏柠檬酸菌(*Citrobacter freundii*)、巴氏梭菌(*Clostridium pasteurianum*)、酪酸梭菌(又名酪酸菌或丁酸梭菌,*Clostridium butyricum*)等,可以以甘油为原料代谢产生1,3-PD^[7-12]。甘油是这些菌生产1,3-PD的天然底物,另外像葡萄糖、甘蔗糖蜜、水解玉米物等碳源,虽然也可以作为生产1,3-PD的原材料,但是这些碳源必须先经酿酒酵母(*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*)等转化成甘油才能被上述1,3-PD生产菌所利用。

微生物代谢甘油生产1,3-PD的途径是一个耦合的氧化还原过程(图1)。还原分支是甘油代谢生成1,3-PD的主要途径,首先,甘油经甘油脱水酶(glycerol dehydratase, GDHt)的催化生成中间产物3-羟基丙醛(HAP),然后在NADH₂参与下,3-HPA经1,3-丙二醇氧化还原酶(1,3-propanediol dehydrogenase, PDOR)的催化生成终产物1,3-Propanediol。

1,3-PD^[13]。GDHt是控制甘油分解的限速酶,对甘油转化生成1,3-PD起着至关重要的作用;研究发现GDHt在转化甘油生成3-HAP时,其活性会受到底物、O₂或辅酶类似物的影响,常会出现失活现象^[14,15]。另外有研究发现,在发酵过程中3-HPA、1,3-PD和伴随产生的酸性物质的大量积累,均会制约PDOR的催化活性,从而造成3-HPA的进一步积累,如此形成恶性循环,最终会严重影响1,3-PD的产量^[16]。

3 1,3-PD的关键酶基因

由此可见GDHt和PDOR是生物法生产1,3-PD的关键酶,而编码该关键酶的基因存在于dha调节子上,不同1,3-PD生产菌的dha调节子构成亦不同(图2),*K. pneumoniae*、*C. freundii*、*C. perfringens*和*C. pasteurianum*的GDHt由3个ORFs(如dhaB、dhaC、dhaE)编码,并且该酶为CoB₁₂依赖型,而*C. butyricum*由2个ORFs(dhaB1、dhaB2)编码,并且该酶为CoB₁₂不依赖型;另外这5种菌的PDOR均由dhaT基因编码,该酶在转化3-HPA生产1,3-PD时依赖于NADH^[18]。

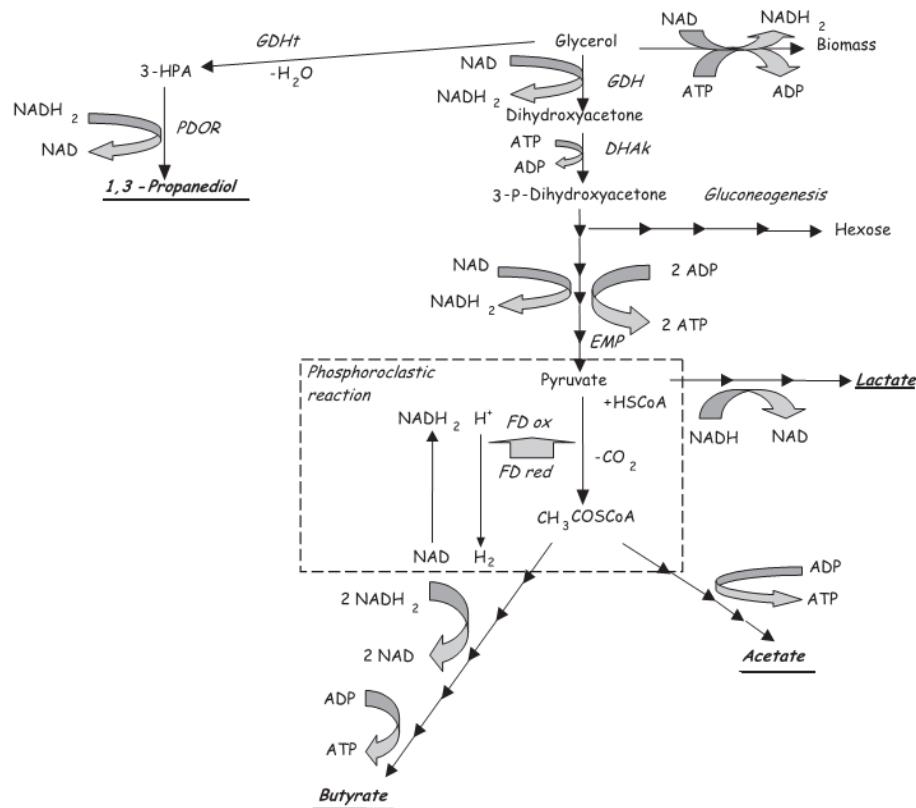


图1 梭菌中甘油的代谢通路图^[17]

Fig. 1 Metabolic pathways of glycerol catabolism in *Clostridium* sp. strains^[17]

3-HPA: 3-hydroxypropionaldehyde; GDHt: glycerol dehydratase; GDH: glycerol dehydrogenase; DHAk: di-hydroxyacetone kinase; PDOR: 1,3-propanediol dehydrogenase; FDox (or red): ferredoxinoxidoreductase^[17]

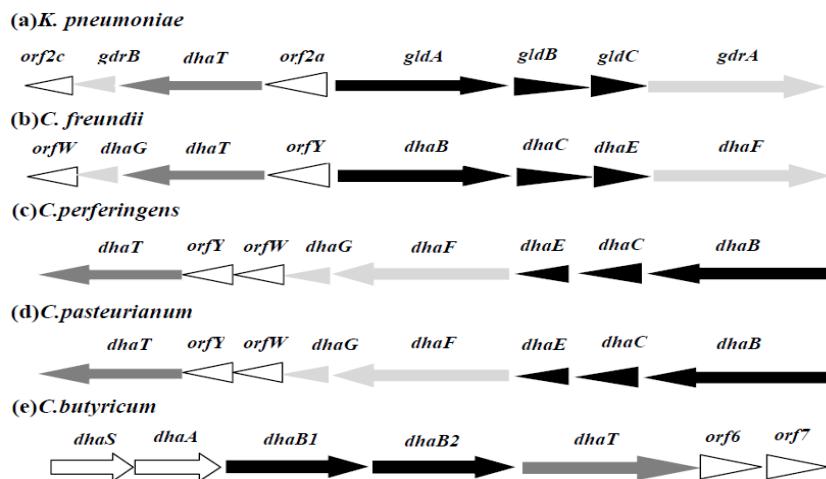
图 2 1,3-PD 的关键酶基因示意图^[19]

Fig. 2 Schematic illustration of genes encoding 1,3-PD's key enzymes
black arrow: genes of GDHt; dark gray arrow: genes of PDOR^[19]

4 粗甘油的 1,3-PD 发酵

虽然, 以纯甘油发酵生产 1,3-PD 的研究已经取得了一定的进展^[20-23], 但由于粗甘油中杂质的影响, 当微生物以粗甘油为唯一碳源进行发酵时, 1,3-PD 的产量、效率等会明显低于纯甘油^[24,25]。另外, 由于成本及技术等原因, 目前尚不能高效且环保的处理在生物柴油生产中伴随而生的大量粗甘油, 多数被扔掉或烧掉, 造成环境的二次污染, 从而使生物柴油成为了“灰色燃料”而非真正意义的“绿色燃料”。因此, 开展以副产物—粗甘油为原料直接进行发酵的研究更具有理论与实践意义^[26-28]。Mu 等^[28]在 *K. pneumoniae* 粗甘油发酵中研究发现, 以粗甘油(通过碱或脂肪酶催化大豆油获得)为唯一碳源, 1,3-PD 产量可达到 53 g/L, 生产强度为 1.7 g/L·h; Ferreira 等^[29]在利用 *C. freundii* FMCC-B 294 和 *C. freundii* ATCC 8090 发酵粗甘油(分别来源于餐饮废油和植物油制生物柴油的副产物)的研究发现, *C. freundii* FMCC-B 294 菌 1,3-PD 的最高产量为 66.3 g/L, 生产强度为 0.79 g/L·h, 转化率为 0.4 g/g。

而以粗甘油为唯一碳源的 *C. butyricum* 菌的 1,3-PD 发酵研究主要集中于 *C. butyricum* DSM 5431、*C. butyricum* E5、*C. butyricum* VPI 3266、*C. butyricum* F2b、*C. butyricum* VPI 1718 和 *C. butyricum* AKR102a 等菌株。结果显示, 当以不同来源的粗甘油进行 *C. butyricum* 发酵时, 1,3-PD 的产量在 30~76.2 g/L 之间^[24,30], 最高为 *C. butyricum* AKR102a 菌(该菌的生产强度为 2.3 g/L·h); 1,3-PD 的生产强度在 0.78~5.5 g/L·h 之间^[31,32], 最高为 *C. butyricum* F2b 菌(该菌的 1,3-PD 产量为 48 g/L); 甘油到 1,3-PD 的转化率相差不多, 在 0.49~0.55 g/g 之间^[33], 最高为 *C. butyricum* VPI

1718 和 *C. butyricum* F2b 菌。研究表明, *C. butyricum* 具有不依赖于辅酶 B₁₂ 的新型甘油脱水酶, 该酶可将甘油转化为 3-羟基丙醛, 3-羟基丙醛再被 1,3-PD 脱氢酶转化生成终产物 1,3-PD。因此, *C. butyricum* 在发酵过程中不需要添加昂贵的辅酶 B₁₂^[34]; 同时该菌为非致病菌, 对发酵生产安全^[35,36]; 更为重要的是该菌可以作为益生菌, 直接食用, 广泛用于胃肠等疾病的调理治疗^[37,38]。鉴于 *C. butyricum* 所具有的生物学功能及特殊的微生态学特性, 该菌日趋受到食品、医学、饲料工业以及化工等领域研究人员的广泛关注^[39,40]。

5 微生物转化粗甘油生产中的问题及策略

1,3-PD 的粗甘油生物法生产中面临着诸多问题, 如关键酶活力低、1,3-PD 产量低以及菌种资源有限等, 然而随着基因工程、生物技术和代谢工程技术的飞速发展, 这些问题有望通过挖掘新的基因或酶资源、改造酶学性质、改良代谢工程途径、优化发酵条件等方法来进行解决。前三种方法尤其受到人们的关注, 即(1) 利用宏基因组技术获取新基因资源。菌种中具有优良性状的关键酶基因资源比较有限, 因此可以利用新型宏基因组技术, 获得构建高效基因工程菌的新型关键酶及基因资源; (2) 关键酶的分子改造。通过理性、非理性和半理性的分子改造技术, 定向改善酶的性质, 从而提高关键酶 GDHt 和 PDOR 等酶的性能。从而通过提高酶的催化能力达到提高 1,3-PD 产量的目的; (3) 代谢工程的改造。通过代谢途径工程的改造, 在微生物生产菌中引入或者敲除特定的目的基因或代谢通路, 以达到改善微生物的特性来提高 1,3-PD 产量的目的。

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