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Biotechnological Significance of Endophytic Actinobacteria an Intensive and Emerging Pursuance



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Abstract

The emerging field of drug discovery in recent decades has drawn much interest in using microbial natural products. These are fundamentally biodegradable, specific and generally have less toxicity. Finding of new bioactive active molecules, which are effective against harmful microbes, are an important area of antibiotic research. The prolife ration in number of drug-resistant microorganisms and the throttled isolation of combinatorial chemistry in providing new effective drugs direct uncertainty for future antimicrobial therapy. Thus finding new groups of microbes from unexplored or less explored habitats became mandatory by pursuing them as sources of novel bioactive compounds. Endophytes play mutual listic to their host; among which some act to be making returns for the nutrition from the plant by providing special substances, as secondary metabolites. This is the distinctive feature of endophytic research for pharmaceutically active compound.

Keywords: Actino bacteria; Endophyte; Bioactive; Microbial metabolites; Drug resistance

Introduction

Microbial cell factories are considered as the cheapest but the richest source of various molecules with immense application. There is always a definite need of potential remedial compounds to face the increasing health, agriculture or environment related problems. From the very ancient period we rely on plant as source of various potential bio-molecules. Moreover, pharmaceutical research was significantly dependent on exploration of plant derived bio-molecules from the ancient period. Among the 7,000 medicinal compounds documented in the modern pharmacopoeia are of plant origin. However, application microorganisms for pharmaceutical purpose was remarkably noticed among the ancient Egyptians and Greeks by using specific moulds and plant extracts to treat infection [1].

A revolution was initiated in the field of drug discovery after finding natural mold, Penicillium with antibacterial property by Sir Alexander Fleming and it was effectively used to treat bacterial infection [2]. Though a fungus was the first antimicrobial producer, soon actinomycetes have drawn most interest to be prolific sources of novel secondary metabolites with a range of biological activities that may ultimately find application as pharmaceutically or agriculturally useful compounds. Endophytic microorganisms are defined as, "microbes that colonize living, internal tissues of plant without causing any immediate overt negative effect" [3]. Evidences

of plant associated microorganisms found in the fossilized tissues of stems and leaves have indicated that host - endophyte association may have evolved from the time that higher plants first appeared on the earth [4]. The most frequently encountered endophytes are representative of fungi; however, the existences of many endophytic actinobacteria are also documented well.

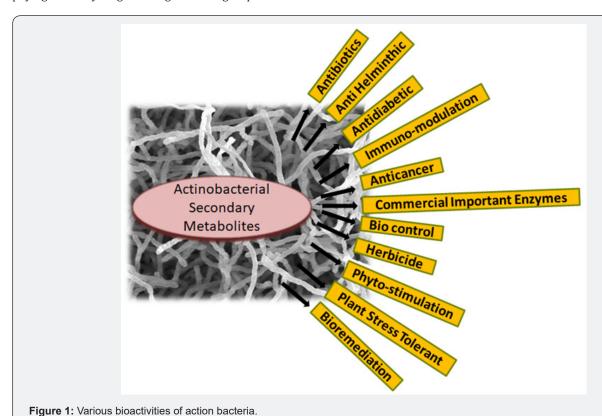
Such plant microbe interaction may be partially due to the endophytic production of phytohormones, such as Indole-3-Acetic Acid (IAA), cytokinine, or other plant growth promoting substances (vitamins) and/or partly owing to the fact that endophytes can enhance host absorption of nutritional elements such as nitrogen, phosphorus [5] and that they regulate nutritional qualities, nitrogen-carbon ratio [6]. Endophyte infected plants also get protection from herbivores or pathogens due to bioactive secondary metabolites that the endophytes produce in the plant tissues. Besides, some other beneficial features are also offered to plants by endophytes including drought acclimatization, improved resistance from pests, enhanced tolerance to stressful conditions like heavy metal presence, low pH, high salinity etc. [7].

Actino-Bacteria Biology

Actinobacteria are a group of high G-C (>55mol %) in DNA containing (with exception obligate pathogen Tropherymawhipplei, with less than 50% G+C) Gram positive

bacteria mainly are soil residing. The phylum Actinobacteria represents one of the largest taxonomic positions among the 18 major domain Bacteria. It includes 5 subclasses and 14 suborders [8]. Actinobacteria reveal a wide range of morphologies; coccoid (*Micrococcus*) or oval (Arthrobacter) to fragmented hyphae (Nocardia) or highly differentiated branched mycelium (*Streptomyces*). Various lifestyles of Actinobacteria are also notable such as the phylum includes pathogens (*Mycobacterium*, *Nocardia*, *Tropherymaspp*, *Corynebacterium*, and *Propionibacterium*), soil inhabitants (*Streptomyces*), plant commensals (*Leifsonia*), nitrogen-fixing symbionts (Frankia) and gastrointestinal tract (GIT) inhabitants (*Bifidobacterium*). The divergence of action-bacteria from any other group of bacteria is so primordial that it is not possible to identify the phylogenetically neighbouring bacterial group to Actinobacteria

with assurance [9]. Most Actino-bacteria are aerobic, but there are exceptions. They can be heterotrophic or chemoautotrophic, though most are chemo-heterotrophic and able to use a wide variety of nutritional sources, including various complex polysaccharides [10]. The Actinobacteria are rich in various metabolites important for human as sources of novel antibiotics, anti-fungal, anticancer agents, and other secondary metabolites that might be used in medicine or to improve plant growth and resistance to diseases. Actinobacteria are also very promising for bio-control of pests and as plant growth promoters (Figure 1). Keeping in mind the emerging growth in genomics, molecular biology and advanced instrumentation with the strong requirement for new bioactive molecules, the Actinobacteria is a highly dynamic research field.



Endophytic Actinobacteria and Future Possibilities

Traditional isolation of microorganisms from ecosystems, like soil and water results re-isolation of same species and metabolites. Endophytic microorganisms are defined as, microbes, that colonize living, internal tissues of plant without causing any immediate overt negative effect. Endophytic actinomycetes are relatively unexplored and now it is well documented to be a potential source of novel bioactive products.

Several secondary metabolites have been discovered from the endophytic actinomycetes from time to time. During the long co-evolution of endophytic microbes and host plants, they have adapted themselves to the distinctive microenvironment by genetic optimization; including recombination with plant DNA. This phenomenon may lead to some sort of recombination in endophyte's genome and the ability of certain endophytes to biosynthesize some new class bioactive compound. It is believed that genetic recombination between endophytes and hosts that might be occurred in evolutionary timescale could result in some endophytes which would produce certain phytochemicals that were originally characteristic of the hosts [11]. Another important thing is, as the endophytic microorganisms are associated with eukaryotic organisms there will be minimum chance of getting any toxic products from them. This idea is the major concern of drug discovery, relating to the toxicity of a drug (Table 1).

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Table 1: List of endophytic actinomycetes with their bioactive metabolites.

Endophytic Actinomcetes	Chemical Nature	Bioactivity	Reference
Streptomyces sp. CS	- Macrolides	Antimicrobial Antitumor	[12]
Streptomyces albidoflavus		Antifungal	[13]
Streptomyces sp.ls9131		Antimicrobial Antitumor	[14]
Streptomyces sp. YIM56209		Antimicrobial Insecticidal	[15]
Streptomyces sp. NRRL 30562	Peptide	Antibacteirial Antiprotozoan	[16]
Streptomyces sp. YIM64018	Peptide-cyclo	Antibacterial	[17]
Streptomyces sp. MaB-QuH-8	Heterocyclic	Antimicrobial	[18]
Streptomyces sp. TP-A0456		Antifungal	[19]
Streptomyces hygroscopicus TP-A0451	δ-lactone	Antitumor	[20]
Streptomyces aureofaciens	Arylcoumarins	Antifungal, antitumor, anti- inflammatory	[21,22]
Micromonospora sp.GMKU326	Spirotetrone - polyketide	Antibacterial	[23]
Streptomyces sundarbansensis WR1L1S8	Hydro-xypyrone- polyketide	Antibacterial activity	[24]
Streptomyces sp. strain CNS-42	Alkaloids	Biocontrol and growth elicitor	[25]
Jishengellaendophytica 161111		Antiviral (H1N1)	[26]
Streptomyces laceyi	6-Alkylsalicylic acids	Antitumor	[27]
Streptomyces sp. CS	Macrolide	Antimicrobial	[28]
Streptomycest hermoviolaceus NT1	Pyranonapthoquinone	Antibacterial (anti MRSA)	[29]
Micromono sporalupini	Anthraquinones	Antitumor	[30]
Streptomyces sp. MA-12	di-O-prenylated flavone	Antifungal activity	[31]
Streptomyces sp. YIM 65408	Daidzein derivative	Antioxidant	[32]
Streptomyces sp. YIM66017	Phthalic acid derivative	Antioxidant	[33]
Microbispora sp. LGMB259	β-carboline	Antimicrobial, anticancer	[34]

Based on this widely accepted hypothesis, there has been increasing research efforts focused on screening for novel natural products from endophytes. Actino-bacteria possess gene cluster for seconded metabolites and are frequently isolated as endophytes of all types of plants. Such microbes are being studied elaborately for their ecological as well bioactive potential to meet the basic evolutionary knowledge, ecological importance and serious global demands of pharmaceuticals. With the belief that endophytes belong to each plants there are huge scope for exploration of such group of bacteria as future source of novel natural products. Endophytic Actinobacteria are a promising source of new and interesting natural products that may have value in agricultural research and drug discovery programs [12-34].

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