

Ethyl Methane Sulfonate Effect on Total Lipids of *Chlorella vulgaris* isolated from Nile River Egypt

Mohamed A. Gomaa¹, Mohamed H. Refaat¹, Tamer M. Salim¹, Abo El-Khair B. El-Sayed² and Makhlof M. Bekhit¹

¹Department of Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Benha University, Qalubia, Egypt

²Algal Biotechnology Unit, National Research Centre, Dokki, Giza, Egypt

Corresponding author: mohamedagomaa06@gmail.com

Chlorella vulgaris species was isolated from Nile River in Qalubia Governorates, Egypt. The highest constant of growth ($\mu=1.5$), and the lower time of reproducing a generation ($G=0.2$). The green alga was identified using 18S rRNA gene amplification followed by sequencing the resultant sequence was compared with those available on the NCBI website database through the BLAST bioinformatics tool. The percentage of lipids synthesized was 20%. In order to increase lipid contents in this green alga was made chemical mutation by EMS. Using three concentrations from EMS (0.1, 0.01 and 0.001) for two hours. The resulted in the treatment of concentration 0.1 decrease total lipid to 16.2% in by concentration 0.01 almost no change the total lipids were equal with wild strain. By the concentration 0.001 a significant increase in total lipids content as it reached 25% compared with wild strain.

Key words: *Chlorella vulgaris*, 18S rRNA gene, EMS, and Total lipids.

Introduction

Chlorella vulgaris Beijerinck is mono-cell green algae. They are everywhere, from land to sea, from cold water to warm water, to rocks and sand. They have served as model organisms for the leading physiological and biochemical studies in the process of photosynthesis and reduction of nitrates (Huss *et al.*, 1999). Moreover, collective cultures of *Chlorella* in agriculture has been used can a single cell for both humans and animals, in the field of biotechnology for waste recovery agents Treatment, and biofuel technology as microbial energy producers (Golueke and Oswald., 1964; Fogg., 1971; Abbott and Cheney., 1982). From the most famous microalgal species around the world, *Chlorella vulgaris*; after describing *Chlorella vulgaris* Beijerinck about 120 years ago, more than 100 species have been identified morphologically since species description (John *et al.*, 2003). The microalgae simple identify extremely hard because of the size is small molecular techniques can be allowing an evaluation of the legitimacy of the morphological species idea for general microalgae and finally, these techniques permit for partitioning and distribution of the microorganisms. For a lot of types of microorganisms, the gene most generality appoint for studies of diversity is the small-subunit ribosomal RNA gene (16S rRNA in prokaryotes and 18S rRNA in eukaryotes) Fawley *et al.*, 2004.

Furthermore, many Chlorophyceae groups find in the genus *Chlorella* was switched to *Scenedesmus* according to 18S rRNA sequence analysis (Hanagata., 1998). Although, a lot of studies have observed that the 18S rRNA is in many cases also

conserved to differentiate between closely linked genera and species (Luo *et al.*, 2010). Ethyl methane sulfonate (EMS) is a single functional absorption agent found to be mutagenic a wide range of genetic testing systems from viruses to mammals.

It has also been shown to be carcinogenic in mammals. Alkylation of nucleophilic, cellular sites are caused by EMS via a mixed interaction mechanism SN_1 / SN_2 . While, methylation of DNA occurs mainly in nitrogen sites in bases, Due to partial SN_1 reaction character, EMS is also able to produce high levels of alkali in oxygen such as O^2 of guanine and phosphate DNA groups. Genetic data obtained using microorganisms indicate that EMS can produce both GC to AT and AT to GC transition mutations. There is also some evidence to suggest that EMS can cause introductions or deletions between rules as well as more extensive deletions within the group. In higher living organisms, there is clear evidence that EMS can break chromosomes, although the mechanisms involved are not well understood. A hypothesis often cited is that the DNA bases interpreted by the EMS system (often the $N-7$ site of the guanine) gradually degrade from deoxyribose on the DNA backbone, leaving behind an unstable (or possibly an apyrimidinic) site that can cause to break a strand of DNA. There are also data indicating that some chromosome proteins in some sperm in mice may be an important factor in causing chromosomal fragments (Gary., 1984) and Ethyl methane sulfonate (EMS) was the first factor found unequivocally to increase the proportion of mutants. (Loveless., 1958).

The present works aimed to isolation and genetic identification of rich oil content fresh water algae and develop total lipids for microalga *Chlorella vulgaris* strain isolated from Nile River in Qalubia Governorate,

Egypt, to achieve this goal induced chemical mutation in order to increase total lipids content.

Materials and Methods

Source of the isolation

Chlorella vulgaris strain was isolated from fresh water of Nile River in Qalubia Governorate, Egypt. Isolation and purification of the microalgae were done by sub culturing and grown in BG-11 medium (Stanier *et al.*, 1971). Samples were isolated as the cultures were maintained at 25°C under illumination (120 μ .e) cycle 16 h light and 8 h dark in a shaking growth chamber at 90 rpm and pH range (7.1).

Growth studies:

Growth was estimated according (Stein., 1973) by measuring the OD_{650nm} for the culture by spectrophotometer:
Specific growth rate (μ), based on the equation $\mu = \ln(N_y/N_x)/(t_y - t_x)$, Where N_y and N_x are the numbers of cells (N) at the start (t_x) and the end (t_y) of the logarithmic growth phase (Levasseur *et al.*, 1993).

Generation time (G) was determined using the following equation: $G = 0.301/\mu$ according to (Stein., 1973).

Determination of total lipids:

Lipids were determined according to the standard method A.O.A.C., (1984). A known weight was extracted with Petroleum ether (60-80°C) for 24 hours in a Soxhlet apparatus, after which the solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dried to a constant weight at 95°C.

%Total lipid = $\frac{\text{Sample before determination} - \text{Sample after determination}}{X} \times 100$

Sample before determination

Extraction and purification DNA:

Total DNA was extracted according to the method outlined by Doyle and Doyle (1987) Samples were suspended in the (CTAB) extraction buffer (3% CTAB, 0.1 M Tris-HCl, 0.01 M EDTA, 1.4 M NaCl, 0.5% β -mercaptoethanol, 1% PVP) at pH 8.0. The mixture was incubated at 60°C for one hour with shaking for every fifteen minutes and was cooled down to room temperature. DNA was then extracted with an equal volume of chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (24:1) and precipitated from the supernatant by the addition of one volume isopropanol. DNA extract was re-suspended in TE buffer. DNA quality was controlled by agarose gel electrophoresis.

18S rRNA Gene Identification:

The genomic 18S ribosomal RNA gene region of microalgae was amplified by colony PCR as

described previously by (Uclés., 2008) using the (Forward) C₂:5'>ATTGGAGGGCAAGTCTGGT<3' and (Reveres) D₂:5'>ACTAAGAACGGCCATGCAC<3' primers.

The PCR reaction were performed for the 18SrRNA gene in 25 μ l volume by mixing 30 ng genomic DNA with 2 μ l of primer (10 p mole/ μ l) and master max (Takara, Japan) and PCR water. The PCR reaction continued with denaturation for 30sec. at 95 °C, followed by 30 cycles of 30 sec. denaturation at 95°C, 1 min. annealing temperatures at 60°C, and 1.0 min. extension at 72°C. The 30 thermal cycles were followed by a final extension of 5 min. at 72°C. Following amplification, PCR products were electrophoresed on a 0.9% agarose gel and purified using a Thermo Scientific Gene Jet PCR purification Kit.

18S rRNA Gene Sequence analysis:

The current 18S rRNA gene sequences were registered at DNA database under accession number, sequences were compared with those available in the GenBank database using Blast. Phylogenetic tree was constructed through two Bioinformatics Processes. In the first process, the nucleotide sequences of the recovered 18S rRNA gene phenotypes and their homologues sequences, from the DNA database, were aligned using the online program "Clustal Omega". In the second process, the aligned sequences were submitted to the MEGA7 software (<http://www.megasoftware.net/>) for drawing the phylogenetic tree. Phylogenetic tree was constructed by applying the algorithms maximum likelihood in MEGA software and used BioEdit version 7.2.5 in bioinformatics tools.

Random Chemical mutation by (EMS) Ethyl Methane Sulfonate:

Chlorella vulgaris isolates was grown to early exponential phase. Cell suspensions at 10⁷ cells/ml were subjected to random mutagenesis by various concentrations of EMS (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) According to (Bongsoo *et al.*, 2014):

- Samples of each algal culture (20ml each).
- Three concentrations of EMS each concentration its size final 1ml:

a) 100 μ l EMS +900 μ l dH₂O

b) 100 μ l (a) +900 μ l dH₂O

c) 100 μ l (b) +900 μ l dH₂O

-Each of concentration three Treatment on Liquid culture 20ml culture /100 μ l EMS(a, b and c).

-Put each Treatment in time 30min, 1hour and 2hour.

- Stop treatment: Preparation of a sterile solution of 5% sodium Sayo sulfate put 1ml at the appropriate time to stop.

Results and Discussion

Algal Isolation for this study

Green alga species was isolated from Nile River in Qalubia Governorate, Egypt. That isolate was characterized by 20% of total lipids. Oil determination was performed at the stationary growth phase. This green alga was tentatively identified as *Chlorella vulgaris* belonging to *Chlorophyta* (Fig.1). The *Chlorella vulgaris* isolate is optioned for this study morphologically circular small cell and the color is green.

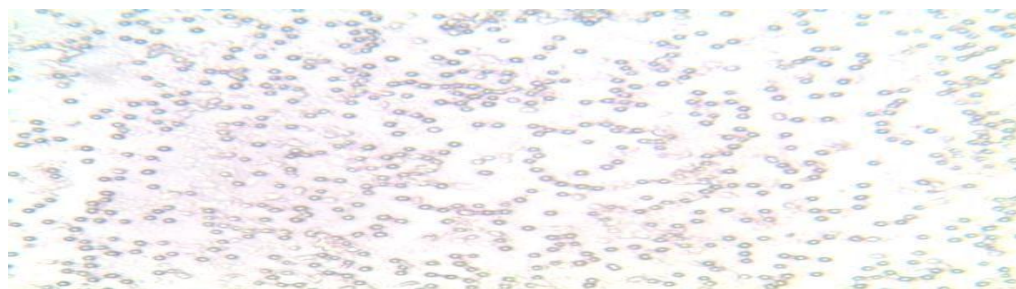


Fig.1. Microscopic Image for the isolate optioned for this study

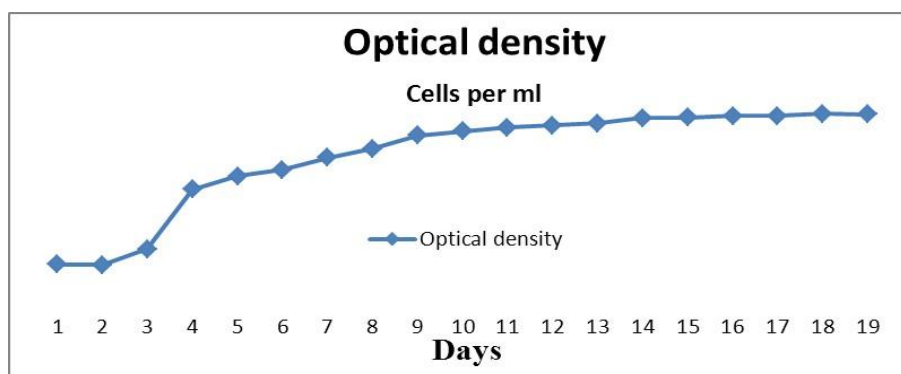


Fig.2. Growth curve for the isolate optioned for this study

Growth study:

Beginning logarithmic growth phase after the third day to the eleventh day then outset stationary growth phase to the eighteenth day then in the nineteenth day start death growth phase. The highest constant of growth ($\mu = 1.5$), and the lower time of reproducing a generation ($G = 0.2$). Growth phase is important for now the appropriate time for the experiment. Content of lipids and the composition of fatty acids are also susceptible to changes during the growth cycle. In many algae species examined, observed increase in Triacylglyceride (TAGs) during the stationary growth phase (Bigogno *et al.*, 2002 and Mansour *et al.*, 2003). Fig. 2

18S rRNA gene Sequences and phylogenetic tree

18S rRNA gene sequences of the isolate the base size was 744 bp. The DNA sequences of this isolate showed 100% identity to *Chlorella vulgaris*. Although, morphological examination by light microscopy revealed that the strain had consistent morphology to *Chlorella vulgaris*. The result obtained was compared in the GenBank (NCBI).

The Sequences of Accession Number: LC333291 and ten Accession Numbers from GenBank was aligned using the online program "Clustal Omega" and phylogeny tree was submitted to the MEGA 7 software Analyses of Phylogenetic for the 18S rRNA sequences observed the relationship between the new Sequences of Accession Number: LC333291 and ten Accession Numbers from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database, USA (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>).

The result showed that the present specimens were grouped in Phylum Chlorophyta (Fig. 3). The phylogenetic tree deduced from the sequence comparison of 18S rRNA region showed that the length of the branch that represents an amount genetic change of 0.0050, and the 18S rRNA-based phylogeny tree included five clades. The clades grouping had low support (bootstrap value between 7-87%) and showed

**68TGCAGTTAAAAAGCTCGTAGTTGGATT
CGGG**⁹⁹ and other regions contain little difference in DNA sequences.

Effect of Chemical mutation by EMS Ethyl Methane Sulfonate :

Genetic data obtained using microorganisms indicate that EMS can produce both GC to AT and AT to GC transition mutations (Gary., 1984).

In case of exposure to chemical mutation using EMS as an effort for total lipids improving. Using three concentrations from EMS₁(0.1), EMS₂(0.01) and EMS₃(0.001) for two hours. The resulted in the treatment of concentration EMS₁ decrease total lipid to 16.2 % in by concentration EMS₂ almost no change in the total lipids was equal with wild strain. By the concentration EMS₃ a significant increase in total lipids content as it reached 25% compared with wild strain.

Table 2. The output of chemical mutation

Exposure %	Total Lipids %
Wild strain (0.0)	20.0
EMS ₁ (0.1)	16.2
EMS ₂ (0.01)	20.3
EMS ₃ (0.001)	25.0

That is result disaccord with the result (Kavakli *et al.*, 2017) the percentage of total lipids was increased in *Chlorella vulgaris* after EMS treatment with the ratio of 50%.

References

- Abbott I.A. and Cheney D.P. (1982).** Commercial uses of algal products: introduction and bibliography. In: Rosowski JR, Parker BC, editors. Selected Papers in Phycology II. Lawrence, KS, USA: Phycological Society of America, pp. 779–787.
- A.O.A.C. (1984).** official methods of analytical chemists. 14th ed. Washington, DC.
- Bigogno C.; Khozin-Goldberg I.; Boussiba, S., Vonshak A. and Cohen, Z. (2002).** Lipid and fatty acid composition of the green oleaginous alga *Parietochlorisincisa*, the richest plant source of arachidonic acid. *Phytochemistry*, 60, 497–503.
- Bongsoo L.; Gang-Guk C.; Yoon-E. C.; Minji S.; Min S. P. and Ji-Won Y. (2014).** Enhancement of lipid productivity by ethyl methane sulfonate-mediated random mutagenesis and proteomic analysis in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*. *Korean J. Chem. Eng.*, 31(6), 1036-1042.
- Doyle J. J. and Doyle, J. L. (1987).** A rapid DNA isolation procedure for small quantities of fresh leaf tissue. *Phytochem Bull* 1987; 19: 11-15.
- Ehsan S.; Mehmet T.; Yigit S.U.; Salim S.; Gul C.; Can E. and Ibrahim H. (2017).** Understanding lipid metabolism in high-lipid-producing *Chlorella vulgaris* mutants at the genome-wide level. *Algal Research*, 28: 244–252.
- Fawley M.W.; Fawley K.P. and Buchheim M.A. (2004).** Molecular diversity among communities of freshwater microchlorophytes. *Microbial Ecol*, 48: 489–499.
- Fogg G.E. (1971).** Recycling through algae. *P. Roy. Soc. Lond Bio.* 179: 201–207.
- Gary A. S. (1984).** A review of the genetic effects of ethyl methane sulfonate. *Mutation Research*, 134: 113-142.
- Golueke C.G. and Oswald W.J. (1964).** Role of plants in closed systems. *Annul Rev. Plant Phys.*, 15: 387–408.
- Hanagata N. (1998).** Phylogeny of the sub family Scotielloccystoideae (Chlorophyceae, Chlorophyta) and related taxa inferred from 18S ribosomal RNA gene sequence data. *J. Phycol.* 34: 10491054.
- Huss, V. A. R.; Frank, C.; Hartmann, E. C.; Hirmer M.; Kloboucek A.; Seidel B. M.; Wenzeler P. and Kessler E. (1999).** Biochemical taxonomy and molecular phylogeny of the genus *Chlorella sensulato*(Chlorophyta). *J. Phycol.*, 35, 587–598.
- John D.M.; Whitton B.A. and Brook A.J. (2003).** The Freshwater Algal Flora of the British Isles: An Identification Guide to Freshwater and Terrestrial Algae. The Natural History Museum and the British Phycological Society. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Levasseur M.; Thompson P.A. and Harrison P.J. (1993).** Physiological acclimation of marine phytoplankton to different nitrogen sources. *J. Phycol.*, 29:587–595.
- Loveless A. (1958).** Increased rate of plaque-type and host-range mutation following treatment of bacteriophage *in vitro* with ethyl methane sulphonate, *Nature*, 181: 1212-1213.
- Luo, W.; Pröschold, T.; Bock C. and Krienitz L. (2010).** Generic concept in *Chlorella* -related coccoid green algae (Chlorophyta, Trebouxiophyceae). *Plant Biology* 12: 545– 553.
- Mansour M.P.; Volkman J.K. and Blackburn S.I. (2003).** The effect of growth phase on the lipid class, fatty acid and sterol composition in the marine dinoflagellate, *Gymnodinium* sp. in batch culture. *Phytochemistry*, 63, 145–153.
- Saitou N. and Nei M. (1987).** The Neighborjoining Method: A New Method for Reconstructing Phylogenetic Trees. *Mol. Biol. Evol.*, 4(4): 406-425.
- Stanier R. Y.; Kunisawa, R.; Mandel, M. and Cohen-Bazire G. (1971).** Purification and

properties of unicellular blue-green algae (order Chroococcales). Bacteriol. Rev., 35: 171-205.
Stein, J.R. (1973). Hand book of phycological methods. Cambridge Univ. Press. Cambridge., UK.

Uclés, R. M. (2008). Identification of algal strains by PCR amplification and evaluation of their fatty acid profiles for biodiesel production, Master of Science, Louisiana State University.

تأثير مركب أيثايل ميثايل سلفونات علي المحتوي الكلي من الدهون لطحلب *Chlorella vulgaris* المعزول من نهر النيل بمصر

محمد عبدالحميد جمعة¹ و محمد حسن رفعت¹ و تامر محمد شحاتة¹ وأبو الخير بدوى السيد² و مخلوف محمد محمود¹
 قسم الوراثة و الهندسة الوراثية -كلية الزراعة بمشنتهر-جامعة بنها-مصر¹
 وحدة التكنولوجيا الحيوية للطحالب -مركز القومى للبحوث -الدقى - الجيزة -مصر²

الملخص العربى

تم عزل الطحلب الأخضر *Chlorella vulgaris* من نهر النيل ,محافظة القليوبية , مصر . تم قياس معدل النمو للطحلب إذ يبدأ بالطور الأسى بعد اليوم الثالث من زارعتة حيث تحصل زيادة مضطردة في عدد خلاياه, ويستمر تقريبا لما بعد اليوم الحادي عشر ومن ثم يبدأ طور الأستقرار بعد اليوم الثاني العاشر الذي أستمر الي اليوم الثامن عشر وبعدها بدأ طور الهبوط في اليوم التاسع عشر . ولقد أظهر الطحلب ثابتا للنمو مقداره ($\mu = 1.5$) بينما قيمة زمن تكاثر الجيل هو ($G=0.2$) و تم تعريف العزلة المختارة وراثيا جزئيا بأستخدام بادئات 18S rRNA ثم عمل تحليل تتابعات للعزلة وقورنت تلك السلالة مع 10 سلالات مرجعية متاحة من بنك الجينات بواسطة أدوات المعلوماتية الحيوية. وقد قدرت أنتاجية الطحلب من الدهون وكانت 20.0% في محاولة لزيادة محتوي الطحلب من الدهون الكلية تم أستحداث طفور كيمائى بواسطة مركب EMS و تم أستخدام ثلاث تركيزات (0.1 و 0.01 و 0.001) لمدة ساعتين. في حالة التركيز 0.1 أنخفضت نسبة الزيت الي 16.2% بينما التركيز 0.01 تقريبا لم يحدث تغير مقارنة بالسلالة البرية أما التركيز 0.001 ازدت نسبة الزيت زيادة معنوية الي 25.0% مقارنة بالسلالة البرية.