

行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫 成果報告

嗜鹼性枯草桿菌株 FURMUS 的木聚素水解酵素基因選殖、突
變及特性研究(3/3)

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計畫主持人：曾銘仁

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一、中文摘要

由枯草桿菌株 *firmus* 基因選殖出兩種表現耐熱嗜鹼性木聚素水解酵素的基因, *xyn10A* 和 *xyn11A*, 且在大腸桿菌表現這兩種基因蛋白。表現這兩種木聚素水解酵素基因的大腸桿菌在木聚素凝膠上, 以剛果紅澄清法可以看出明顯的木聚素水解酵素活性。*xyn10A* 和 *xyn11A* 木聚素水解酵素的分子量分別為 44kDa 及 23kDa 且兩種木聚素水解酵素在 xylan-zymogram 膠體上有木聚素水解酵素的活性。兩種木聚素水解酵素的核酸序列及蛋白質序列已經決定。*xyn10A* 木聚素水解酵素有 396 個胺基酸組成, 其胺基酸序列與嗜鹼性枯草桿菌株 *halodurans* 的木聚素水解酵素 A 非常相似, 與其他真菌和細菌的木聚素水解酵素比較後, 發現此 44 kDa 的木聚素水解酵素屬於族群 10 的木聚素水解酵素。*xyn11A* 木聚素水解酵素有 210 個胺基酸組成, 其胺基酸序列與嗜鹼性枯草桿菌株 *halodurans* 的 β -1,4-木聚素水解酵素只有一個胺基酸不同, 與其他真菌和細菌的木聚素水解酵素比較後, 發現此 23 kDa 的木聚素水解酵素屬於族群屬於族群 11 的木聚素水解酵素。在溫度 37 度, pH 4.5 及 11 之間, 這兩種水解酵素具有活性。在溫度 70 度這兩種水解酵素仍有超過 80% 的酵素活性, 將這兩種水解酵素置於 62 度環境下 16 小時後仍具有超過 80% 的酵素活性。

關鍵詞：木聚素，枯草桿菌株，嗜鹼性木聚素水解酵素，耐熱性

Abstract

Two genes encoding thermostable alkaline endo- β -1,4-xylanases, named *xyn10A* and *xyn11A*, from an alkaliphilic *Bacillus firmus* were cloned and expressed in *Escherichia coli*. The *E. coli* harboring either xylanase gene showed clear zone with Congo red-clearance assay on xylan plate. Xyn10A and xyn11A enzymes have molecular weights of 44 kDa and 23 kDa, respectively, and both show xylanase activities on xylan-zymogran. The nucleotide sequences and the deduced amino acid sequences were determined. The *xyn10A* xylanase gene encodes 396 amino acid residues and very similar to an alkaliphilic xylanase A from alkaliphilic *Bacillus halodurans*. From alignment of the amino acid sequence of *xyn10A* xylanase with those of fungal or bacterial origin, this xylanase belongs to family10 xylanase. The *xym11A* xylanase contains 210 amino acid residues and almost identical with an endo- β -1,4-xylanase from alkaliphilic *Bacillus halodurans* with only one amino acid difference. From alignment of the amino acid sequence of *xyn11A* xylanase with those of fungal or bacterial origin, this xylanase belongs to family11 xylanase. Both show enzymatic activities over the pH range of 4.5 -11.0 at 37°C. Both enzymes show over 80% enzymatic activities at 70°C and still retain over 80% enzymatic activities after 16 hours incubation at 62°C.

Keywords: Xylan, *Bacillus firmus*, xylanase, thermostability

二、前言與研究目的

Xylan is the most abundant of the hemicelluloses which are heteropolysaccharides having a chain of β -1,4-linked xylopyranose residues. The complete hydrolysis of xylan requires the combined action of various enzymes such as endoxylanase (EC 3.2.1.8), exoxylanase (β -D-xylan xylohydrolase), and β -D-xylosidase (EC 3.2.1.37) etc. Xylanases randomly hydrolyze the β -1,4-glycosidic bonds of xylan to produce several xylo-oligomers. In recent years, xylanases have received attractable research interest due to their potential industrial applications. However, such applications require xylanase(s) with particular properties, the bio-bleaching of paper pulp requires a xylanase that remains active even above pH 9.0

and lacks all cellulase activity.

The bacterium used in this study, *Bacillus firmus*, was previously isolated from a wastewater treatment plant of pulp and paper industry at Bang-Pre-In at Prankornsriyuttaya province, Thailand. *Bacillus firmus* is capable of growth at pH values, ranging from 10-12. Normally growth is at temperature of 37⁰C; the cultures were thermolabile at temperatures above 55⁰C. Moreover, this strain produces two major extracellular xylanases, with molecular weights of 45 kDa and 23 kDa, respectively. No other hemicellulose-degrading enzyme activities were detected in the culture medium with xylan, CMC or avicel as the sole carbon source, suggesting that this strain produces xylanase mainly. The mode of action of xylanase and cellulase has been reported. It was considered that the cellulose/xylan binding domain (CBD/XBD) was an important factor in the degradation process of insoluble cellulosic materials. For xylanases the concept of substrate recognition and induction, *i.e.*, the control of transcription by the cooperative actions of an activator and a repressor, have generally been accepted. Xylanase synthesis is induced by natural xylan and other β -1,4-xylo- oligosaccharides isomers.

In this report, we describe the cloning and characterization of two major xylanases from *Bacillus firmus* bacteria. These enzymes are active over a wide range of pH and are therstable. In addition other properties presented here suggest that these xylanases could be of commercial interest.

三、研究方法

A. Construction of genomic libraries of *Bacillus firmus*: The chromosomal DNA of *Bacillus firmus* was purified and digested partially with *EcoRI* or *HindIII* and the 1-4 kb and larger DNA bands were isolated. Then ligated the purified DNA fragments into *EcoRI*- or *HindIII*-linearized pUC18, respectively, and transformed into *E. coli* XL10-Gold by electroporation. The transformants were selected on ampicillin LB plate and collected as genomic libraries. These two genomic libraries are using for the functional cloning of xylanase genes.

B. Functional cloning of xylanases genes: To identify the xylanases genes, *E. coli* cells containing the genomic libraries of *Bacillus* sp. strain K-1 will be grew on 0.5% oat spelts xylan-LB agar plates at 37⁰C. The colonies harboring xylanase activity will show clear zones on the plates. The xylanase activity-positive colonies will be picked and re-confirmed by the xylan-Congo red clearance plate assay.

C. Nucleotide sequence analysis: The nucleotide sequences of the insert DNA will be analyzed for open reading frames coding for xylanases, putative -35 and -10 promoter elements and ribosome binding sites. The two deduced amino acid sequences of xylanases genes would be confirmed by the presence of the N-terminal amino acid sequences shown in “preliminary data” following signal peptides. By homology comparisons of the deduced amino acid sequences of the *firmus* xylanases genes with those of other endoxylanases compiled in the GenBank/EMBL Data Bank will reveal which family, 10 or 11, these two xylanases belong to.

D. Xylanase assay: The assay mixture consisted of 40 µl of crude enzyme solution and 160 µl of a 0.5% birchwood xylan suspension in 100 mM Na₂CO₃-NaHCO₃ buffer (pH 9.0). The reaction was incubated at 37°C for 10 min and 0.4 ml of DNS reagent (1% dinitrosalicylic acid, 0.2% phenol, 0.05% sodium sulfite, 1% sodium hydroxide) was added to stop the reaction, then boiled for 5 min. The absorbance at 500 nm was measured after adding 2.4 ml of water.

E. Effect of pH on activity of xylanases: The pH values of various reaction solution were adjusted with 100 mM of following buffer systems: acetate buffer (pH 4.0-5.5), phosphate buffer (pH 6.0-6.5), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.0-9.0), and glycine-NaOH buffer (pH 10-12.0). The substrate, 0.5% birchwood xylan in various pH buffer, was incubated with crude enzyme solution for 10 min at 37°C and 0.4 ml of DNS reagent was added to stop the reaction, and then boiled for 5 min. The absorbance at 500 nm was measured after adding 2.4 ml of water.

F. Effect of temperature on activity of xylanases: The substrate, 0.5% birchwood xylan in pH 7 or 9 buffer, was incubated with crude xylanase solution for 10 min at various temperature and 0.4 ml of DNS reagent was added to stop the reaction, and then boiled for 5 min. The absorbance at 500 nm was measured after adding 2.4 ml of water.

G. Thermostability of xylanases: The crude xylanase solutions were preincubated at 62°C or 72°C for indicated period of time, then added 160 µl of a 0.5% birchwood xylan suspension in 100 mM buffer (pH 7.0). The reaction was incubated at 37°C for 10 min and 0.4 ml of DNS reagent (1% dinitrosalicylic acid, 0.2% phenol, 0.05% sodium sulfite, 1% sodium hydroxide) was added to stop the reaction, then boiled for 5 min. The absorbance at 500 nm was measured after adding 2.4 ml of water.

H. Zymogram analysis for xylanase activity: Samples were subjected to

electrophoresis on a SDS-PAGE containing 0.1% xylan. After electrophoresis, the gel was washed three times for 30 min at 4°C in 100 mM Na₂CO₃-NaHCO₃ buffer (pH 9.0) containing 25% isopropanol for the first two washes to remove SDS, then incubated in the same buffer for 10 min at 37°C. The zymogram was prepared by soaking the gel in 0.1% Congo red solution for 15 min at room temperature, then washed with 1 M NaCl and introduced 0.5% acetic acid to expose two xylanase active bands that contrasted the dark background.

四、結果與討論

A. Cloning of two xylanase genes from *Bacillus firmus*: The *E. coli* harboring the genomic library of *Bacillus firmus* was used for the functional cloning of xylanase genes. The colonies grew on LB-ampicillin agar plates were picked and re-grew on xylan agar plate. The Congo red clearance assay was used to identify the clones with xylanase activity on xylan plate, the positive ones showed clear zones around colonies. The nucleotide sequences of two clones with clear zones were sequenced and presented in Figure 1 (xyn11A) and 3 (xyn10A), respectively. Two sets of 5'- and 3'-primers corresponding to the N- and C-terminal of xyn10A and xyn11A xylanase genes of *Bacillus firmus* were synthesized. The PCR reaction was performed with genomic DNA of *Bacillus firmus* as template; the obtained two xylanase DNA fragments were cloned into PCR cloning vectors. Both groups of *E. coli* colonies showed clear spots implied functional activities of xylanase. The *E. coli* harboring plasmid containing 44 kDa xylanase gene (xyn10A) showed bigger clear zone than that of 23 kDa xylanase gene (xyn11A). Both *E. coli* extracts also showed xylanase activities on a xylan-zymogram gel with the protein sizes of the corresponding molecular weights of 23 and 44 kDa.

B. Nucleotide sequences and deduced amino acid sequences of xylanase genes: The nucleotide sequences of both genes were determined. Analyzed the sequence of DNA fragment containing 23 kDa xylanase gene identified an open reading frame (ORF). Search for homology by screening the GenBank database revealed that the 630 bp ORF encoded a family 11 xylanase sequence. The alignment of the 23 kDa xylanase with those of 7 family 11 xylanases revealed a significant identity (over 73%). There is only amino acid residue difference between this *Bacillus firmus* xylanase and an endo- β -1,4-xylanase from alkaliphilic *Bacillus halodurans*, Val v.s. Ile of residue 169 (Fig. 2). Therefore, we named this 23 kDa xylanase as xyn11A xylanase. Analyzed the sequence of DNA fragment containing 44 kDa

xylanase gene identified two open reading frames (ORFs). Search for homology by screening the GenBank database revealed that the 1188 bp ORF encoded a family 10 xylanase sequence. Therefore, we named this 44 kDa xylanase as xyn10A xylanase. The alignment of this xyn10A xylanase with those of 5 family 10 xylanases revealed a significant identity (over 43%). It showed 97% identity in amino acid sequence with the alkaline xylanase A from *Bacillus halodurans* (Fig.4). The other ORF was on the anti-sense strand in the upstream of the xyn10A xylanase encoded for a two-component response regulator gene (Fig. 3). Both nucleotide sequences have been submitted to GenBank with accession numbers of AY376352 and AY376353 (see references 2 and 3).

C. Characterization of the xylanases activities:

- 1) *The pH stability of the xylanases extract*- Both xylanases showed >50 % of their optimal activities over a wide pH range of 4.5-11.0 at 37°C. The xyn10A xylanase was slightly more alkaline resistant than the xyn11A enzyme. With this broad pH optimum, these two xylanases are satisfactory for the criteria in the pulp and paper industry.
- 2) *Effect of temperature on activity of xylanases*- Both xylanases showed >50 % of their optimal activities over a wide temperature range of 37-70°C in pH 7.0 buffer.
- 3) *Thermostability of xylanases*- Both xylanases protein still showed over 80% enzymatic activity even after 16-hour incubation at 62°C.

四、計劃成果自評

We cloned two xylanases with molecular weights of 44 kDa (xyn10A) and 23 kDa (xyn11A) from the genome of *Bacillus firmus* and expressed both xylanase gene products in *E. coli*. In the past year, we have sequenced the nucleotide sequences of these two xylanase genes and their flanking regions and characterized the physical properties and the enzymatic activity toward xylan of these two xylanases. Both xylanase proteins are alkalophilic and thermostable and suitable for pulp industry. All the progress and expected results are in the pace of our proposal. A manuscript entitled “Purification and characterization of two cellulase free xylanases from an alkalophilic *Bacillus firmus*” has been published in *Enzyme and Microbial Technology* (see reference 1). Another manuscript entitled “Isolation of an extracellular serine protease from an alkalophilic *Bacillus firmus*” also is in well preparation. This paper described the isolation and characterization of the 14.5 kDa protease secreted by this

bacterium during our preparation of xylanase sample. As we known, this protease was the smallest serine protease that had been reported so far. The DNA libraries of this bacterium were constructed and functional cloning of these two xylanases is being in hot pursuit.

We also in the process of preparing a manuscript entitled “Cloning and characterization of two thermostable xylanase from an alkaliphilic *Bacillus firmus*”. This manuscript describes the result of this funding year. The nucleotide sequences of this finding have already been submitted to GenBank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>, see references 2 and 3). Overall, we had a fruitful progress with three manuscripts and one of them has already been published.

五、參考文獻

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- [3] **Tseng, M.-J.**, Chang, P. & Tsai, C.-L. (2003) *Bacillus firmus* BH2133-like protein gene, partial cds; and xylanase 10A and BH2119-like protein genes, complete cds. GenBank accession number: AY376353.

Fig. 1. Nucleotide sequence of the *Bacillus firmus* xyn11A xylanase gene (23 kDa xylanase) and deduced amino acid sequence of xyn11A xylanase gene protein. The ribosome binding sequence (RBS) is boxed. The symbol “***” designates stop codon.

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1
GATCAGGCTACAAAGTGAAAACCATTC AACCCGTGGATATGTTCCCGTGGACAGCGC
AGGTGGAGAGTTG
71
TTCACTACTTGT TTTATGAAGGGAAATAAATAAAATAACTTGATCAGAAGGTATCTTT
TTTGTGTATACGT
141
ATAACTAGACGGACGTTGTCAAGTTGATGGTCAAATCACGAGACGCCCGCGGGAAA
AGCAAGAGCTGAA
211
GATCCATCGGGGTGTTTTCCCCGATTAGCTGAAACCTTGCCCGCGGCAAGCGAGTG
GTTTTTCAAACAA
281
TCAATCCCATATAAAAATAAGAGTGGCACTCATCGTCGGTGAGTGTCACTCTTAGTC
CCAGCCTATTCTT
351
GTTTAAAGGAAGTTAAGATTTGCATTAACCCCTTTAGCAGAATGAGTTGAGAAGTGG
ACAGGATTACGGT
421
AATAAATAATTCACTACTTAAAATAGAGAATGGAGAGCTATAATGGCTGATGGTAAA
GAACATAAATACA
BH0898                                RBS
MetAlaAspGlyLysGluHisLysTyrA
1
491
GAATGGTTTTTTGGTTGGGAAGATGATAACGGAATTGGTGAAATGTTAATCCAGCAAA
TTATAAATGGAGA

rgMetValPheGlyTrpGluAspAspAsnGlyIleGlyGluMetLeuIleGlnGlnI
leIleAsnGlyGl
10                                20                                30
561
AAAGACAGCGACATGTGCTCCGAAAGAAGAGTATTCAGAGCAAGAATTGCAAGAAAC
GTACGAACCAGTT

uLysThrAlaThrCysAlaProLysGluGluTyrSerGluGlnGluLeuGlnGluTh
rTyrGluProVal
40                                50
631
GGTGAGCTCGTTACGGTATTCGATAAAAATGGCAATGCCAGATGTACGGTTAGGCTA
CTAGAAGTATTTG

GlyGluLeuValThrValPheAspLysAsnGlyAsnAlaArgCysThrValArgLeu
LeuGluValPheG
60                                70
701
AAACGACGTTTCGGCAATCCAGATTTAAGACTTGTACGAGGTGAAGGGAATGGCGACA
ATGTTTGTAAAGTT

luThrThrPheGlyAsnProAspLeuArgLeuValArgGlyGluGlyAsnGlyAspA
snValCysLysPh

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80 90
 100
 771
 TCAAGAGGACCATAGGATAGCTTGGAAAGATATTGGTGTGACTTAAGAGATGATAC
 CGTTTTAATTGTC

 eGlnGluAspHisArgIleAlaTrpLysAspIleGlyValAspLeuArgAspAspTh
 rValLeuIleVal

 110 120
 841
 GAACTATTTGAATTGGTAGAAGGTTGATATTTGTGCTTTGCATAAGGGGTTTCGTGAG
 TTAAAAAATTTCA
 GluLeuPheGluLeuValGluGly***
 130 134
 911
 ATCTAACCTTAAATGAAGAGGTCTCATTAGAGACCTCTTCATTTATTTCCTATTACC
 TAATCTATTTTTTA
 981
 ATATAATAAATAAAAAACAAAATCAAATATGGAAAAATCTTAATATTGATAAAATT
 TGCAATGTTTGCG
 1051
 ATTTTCGTACTATAATCTCCAAATGAAGGAGGTGATTGTATGAAGTTCCCATAAATATGATAAAAGGTAAA
 T
 1121
 GTGGACTGAATCAAGAAATCGACAACAAATGTGTAGATAAGTAGTACGATAAAAAATTTGAGGAGGACG

 RBS
 1191
 AATCATGTTTAAGTTCGTTACGAAAATTTTGACGGTAGTAATTGCAGCTACAATTAGTTTTTGTGTTGAG
 T
Xylanse
 MetPheLysPheValThrLysValLeuThrValValIleAlaAlaThrIleSerPheCysLeuSer
 1 10 20
 1261
 GCAGTACCGCAAGTGCCAATACCTATTGGCAATATTGGACCGATGGTGGTGGAAACA
 GTAAATGCTACAA

 AlaValProAlaSerAlaAsnThrTyrTrpGlnTyrTrpThrAspGlyGlyGlyThr
 ValAsnAlaThrA
 30 40
 1331
 ATGGACCTGGTGGAAATTACAGTGTGACATGGAGAGATACAGGGAACCTTTGTTGTGCG
 GTAAAGCTGGGA

 snGlyProGlyGlyAsnTyrSerValThrTrpArgAspThrGlyAsnPheValValG
 lyLysGlyTrpGl
 50 60
 1401
 AATCGGTTACCAAATCGAACGATCCATTACAATGCTGGTGTCTGGGAACCGTCTGG
 AAATGGATATTTG

uIleGlySerProAsnArgThrIleHisTyrAsnAlaGlyValTrpGluProSerGly
yAsnGlyTyrLeu
70 80
90

1471
ACTCTCTATGGGTGGACAAGGAATCAGCTCATAGAATATTATGTCGTTGATAATTGG
GGAACCTTACAGAC

ThrLeuTyrGlyTrpThrArgAsnGlnLeuIleGluTyrTyrValValAspAsnTrp
GlyThrTyrArgP
100 110

1541
CTACTGGAACCCATCGAGGCACCGTTGTCAGTGATGGGGGAACATATGACATCTATA
CGACTATGCGATA

roThrGlyThrHisArgGlyThrValValSerAspGlyGlyThrTyrAspIleTyrT
hrThrMetArgTy
120 130

1611
CAATGCACCTTCCATTGATGGCACACAAACGTTCCAACAGTTTTTGGAGTGTGAGGCA
ATCGAAGAGACCG

rAsnAlaProSerIleAspGlyThrGlnThrPheGlnGlnPheTrpSerValArgGln
nSerLysArgPro
140 150

160
1681
ACTGGAAATAACGTTAGCGTTACGTTTAGCAACCACGTGAATGCGTGGAGAAATGCA
GGAATGAATCTGG

ThrGlyAsnAsnValSerValThrPheSerAsnHisValAsnAlaTrpArgAsnAla
GlyMetAsnLeuG
170 180

1751
GAAGTAGTTGGTCTTACCAGGTATTAGCAACAGAAGGCTATCAAAGTAGCGGGAGAT
CGAATGTAACGGT

lySerSerTrpSerTyrGlnValLeuAlaThrGluGlyTyrGlnSerSerGlyArgS
erAsnValThrVa
190 200

1821
CTGGTAGAACGAGAAAGATAAAGTCAAATTTCTGAATATTTAAAAATAAATCTATTG
TTGTGACTTCGAA
1Trp***
210

1891
CTTAAGATTTACTCATTAAAGAAGAATGAAGCGGAGCGGTCAGGATCTCGAGCGAGGA
CAACCTTTTATCC

1961
GAAAAATGGCTATCGTCCTATTGGACAAGCCAATGGCCGTTCCCTTCTTTTATTACGCAGGACCCAA
A
2031 CATAAGCGAGTGATAGGGCATTGGCATCTATCACTCATCCTATTCGTCTAAAGGAGATC

Fig. 2. Alignment of the amino acid sequence of 23 kDa (xyn11A) xylanase with those of family 11 xylanases of fungal or bacterial origin. Ba. fi., endo- β -1,4-xylanase from *Bacillus firmus* (this study); Ba. ha., endo- β -1,4-xylanase from *Bacillus halodurans* (NC_002570); Ba. st., endo- β -1,4-xylanase from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (U15985); Ae. pu., xylanase I precursor from *Aeromonas punctata* (D32065); Pa. sp., xylanase A from *Paenibacillus* sp. KCTC8848P (AF195421); Ba. sp., endo-xylanase from *Bacillus* sp. NBL420 (AF441773); Ba. su., xylanase from *Bacillus subtilis* (Z34519); Ba. ci., endo-1,4-xylanase from *Bacillus circulans* (AF490980). The amino acid residues identical to these of *Bacillus firmus* are shaded. The Glu residues corresponding to Ba. fi. xylanase Glu 104 and 196, essential to the catalytic activity, are marked by () and (), respectively.

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Ba. fi. 1
MFKFVTKVLTVVIAATISFCLSAVPASANT--YWQYWDGGGTVNATNGPGGNYSVTWRDTGNFVVGKG
WEIGSPNR 75
Ba. ha. 1
MFKFVTKVLTVVIAATISFCLSAVPASANT--YWQYWDGGGTVNATNGPGGNYSVTWRDTGNFVVGKG
WEIGSPNR 75
Ba. st. 1
M-KLKKKMLTLLLLTASMSFGLFGATSSAAT-DYWQYWDGGGMVNAVNGPGGNYSVTWQNTGNFVVGKG
WTVGSPNR 75
Ae. pu. 1
MFKFGKLMVLAASMSFGVFAATSSAAT-DYWQNWTDGGGTVNAVNGSGGNYSVSWQNTGNFVVGKG
WYGTGPNR 76
Pa. sp. 1
MFKSSKLLTVVLAASMSFGFFASTSNAAT-DYWQNWTDGGGTVNAVNGSGGNYSVTWKNSGNFVVGKG
WTTGSPDR 76
Ba. sp. 1
MFKFKRNFLVGLTAALMSISLFSATASAASPDYWQNWTDGGGTVNAVNGPGGNYSVNWSNTGNFVVGKG
WTTGSPSR 77
Ba. su. 1
MFKFKKNFLVGLSAALMSISLFPATASAASTDYWQNWTDGGGIVNAVNGSGGNYSVNWSNTGNFVVGKG
WTTGSPFR 77
Ba. ci. 1
MFKFKKNFLVGLSAALMSISLFSATASAASTDYWQNWTDGGGIVNAVNGSGGNYSVNWSNTGNFVVGKG
WTTGSPFR 77

Ba. fi. 76
TIHYNAGVWEPGNGYLTLYGWTRNQLIEYYVVDNWGTYRPTGTHRGTVSDGGTYDIYTTMRYNAPSI
DGTQ-TF 150
Ba. ha. 76
TIHYNAGVWEPGNGYLTLYGWTRNQLIEYYVVDNWGTYRPTGTHRGTVSDGGTYDIYTTMRYNAPSI
DGTQ-TF 150
Ba. st. 76
VINYNAGIWEPSGNGYLTLYGWTRNALIEYYVVDNSWGTYRPTGNYKGTVNSDGGTYDIYTTMRYNAPSI
DGTQ-TF 150
Ae. pu. 77
VVNYNAGVFAPSGNGYLTFYGWTRNALIEYYVVDNSWGTYRPTGTYKGTVNSDGGTYDIYTTMRYNAPSI
DGTQ-TF 151
Pa. sp. 77
TINYNAGVWAPSGNGYLALYGWTRNSLIEYYVVDNSWGTYRPTGTYKGTVTSDDGGTYDIYTTMRYDAPSI

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EGQKTF 152
Ba. sp. 78
TINYNAGVWAPNGNGYLALYGWTRAPLI EYYVVD SWGTYRPTGTYKGTVKSDGGTYDIYTTTRYNAPSI
DGEKTF 153
Ba. su. 78
TINYNAGVWAPNGNGYLTLYGWTRSPLI EYYVVD SWGTYRPTGTYKGTVKSDGGTYDIYTTTRYNAPSI
DGDRTTF 153
Ba. ci. 78
TINYNAGVWAPNGNGYLTLYGWTRSPLI EYYVVD SWGTYRPTGTYKGTVKSDGGTYDIYTTTRYNAPSI
DGDRTTF 153

Ba. fi. 151
QQFWSVRQSKRPTGNNVSVTFSNHVNAWRNAGMNLGSSWSYQVLATEGYQSSGRSNVTW 210
Ba. ha. 151
QQFWSVRQSKRPTGNNVSI TFSNHVNAWRNAGMNLGSSWSYQVLATEGYQSSGRSNVTW 210
Ba. st. 151
QQFWSVRQSKRPTGNNVSI TFSNHVNAWRSKGMNLGSSWAYQVLATEGYQSSGRSNVTW 210
Ae. pu. 152
PQYWSVRQSKRPTGVNSTI TFSNHVNAWPSKGMNLGNSWSYQVMATEGYQSSGNANVTW 211
Pa. sp. 153
IQYWSVRQTKRPTGGNSTI TFSNHVKAWARQGMHLGNNWSYQVLATEGYQSSGSSNVTW 212
Ba. sp. 154
TQYWSVRQTKRPTGSNAKI TFSNHVRAWKSHGMNLGSI WSYQVLATEGYQSSGSSNVTW 213
Ba. su. 154
TQYWSVRQSKRPTGSNATI TFSNHVNAWKSHGMNLGSNWAYQVMATEGYQSSGSSNVTW 213
Ba. ci. 154
TQYWSVRQSKRPTGSNATI TFSNHVNAWKSHGMNLGSNWAYQVMATEGYQSSGSSNVTW 213

Fig. 3. Nucleotide sequence of the *Bacillus firmus* xyn11A gene (44 kDa xylanase) and deduced amino acid sequence of xyn11A gene protein. The ribosome binding sequence (RBS) is boxed. The symbol “***” designates stop codon.

```

1      GATCTTGCTATAAATCTCACTTATATAATTTTTTACAGTACCTTCCGTAATATAAAGCTTTTCG
      GAAATT

      IleLysSerTyrIleGluSerIleTyrAsnLysValThrGlyGluThrIleTyrLeuLysGluSe
      rIleL
      200                                190

71     TTTTTATTTCGTCAATCTTTGGGCTAAAAGGGAGGCGATTTGTCGTTCCCGCTCAGAAAAATGCAACCCT
      T

ysLysAsnThrLeuArgGlnAlaLeuLeuSerAlaIleGlnArgGluArgGluSerPheHisLeuGlyG
l
      180                                170

160
141   CTTTTTTTAACTTTTCAATTTGTAAATCTACTTCAGTCAGCTCATTATATTTAGAGAGCTGTTTGGCGA
      G

uLysLysLeuLysGluIleGlnLeuAspValGluThrLeuGluAsnTyrLysSerLeuGlnLysAlaLe
u
      150                                140

211   CTTAACGGCAATGGAGTTAGGAATTAACATCTGTCCGTCAACCGATTGACGTATGGAATAGATCAGTTG
      G

LysValAlaIleSerAsnProIleLeuMetGlnGlyAspValSerGlnArgIleSerTyrIleLeuGln
A
      130                                120

281   TCATAATTTAAATCTTTCAACAAAAACCATTAGCTCCACCGACCAAACCTTCAATAATGTACTCATCA
      T

spTyrAsnLeuAspLysLeuLeuPheGlyAsnAlaGlyGlyValLeuSerGluIleIleTyrGluAspA
s
      110                                100
      90

351   CTTCAAACGTTGTAAACATTAATACGTTAATGTGGGGATAAATTCTCTTGACTACCTTTAAACATTCAA
      T

pGluPheThrThrLeuMetLeuValAsnIleHisProTyrIleArgLysValValLysLeuCysGluIl
e
      80                                70

421   CCCATTTCATCATAGGCATTTGAATGTCCATTAAGATCACATGGGGAAGAAGGGAGGGGATTTGATCCAA
      C

GlyAsnMetMetProMetGlnIleAspMetLeuIleValHisProLeuLeuSerProIleGlnAspLeu
V
      60                                50

491   ACCTCCTTTCCGTTCTTTGCTAAACCGGTCACATTCATATCGTCTTCAAGATCGATGATCGTCTTCAGG
      C

alGluLysGlyAsnLysAlaLeuGlyThrValAsnMetAspAspGluLeuAspIleIleThrLysLeuG
l
      40                                30
      20

561

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CTTCCCTCATAAGGGTTTGGTCATCGGCAATCAAAACATTTATTAATTCCATAGTATTCATCCTTTCTA
T
yGluArgMetLeuThrGlnAspAspAlaIleLeuValAsnIleLeuGluMet RBS
BH2133 10 1

631
TAAATAACTAGCCCTATTTCTTATTTTGTCTATATTCCATTAATGGTATAAAATTTTAAATATTTGGATGA
T
701
AAAGAGGCTTTTCGAAAGAGATATTGACTTGGTTAAAAAATCCCTTTTTTATGTATTGAGTAATTAGAA
T
771
CTGCTCATAAGAGTTCCTCCTATCTAAACCTATAACAATAAAATTTAATAATATATTACAATTTTGTAAA
G
841
GAACATGGCATTATTTTGGAGATAAATGTCATAAAAAAGTAGAACTAGAATGTCTGCTGTGCAATGGTTT
G
911
TTTGTCAATTCTATACACTCTATTCCATTTATACGATAATGAACGAATAGTGTGGGTCTGGAGAGGAAAA
G
981
GGAGCGTAGCAGCAGTGAAGTACCTGCTTCACAAGAGTGTAGTTCAATTTTAAATATAAACCTAGTTTG
G
1051
TTATAATAAAAAATGCTTTTCATCTTGTGATGAAAAAGGCATAAAGCATGTACTTAGGACTAATTGATC
T
1121
TTAGGACAACATAAAATAGAACTAAACACAAGTTTAAATTAATAACATTTCGGATTATTTTGAATAAAC
T
1191
TAGTTTGTTCACTGGATCAACTAAGTTTATTGTTGCTATAAATGGGGTTATAAGTAGCCAGTAGGTAAAA
G
1261
ATTCAATTTTTTTCACAATTTTATGAAAGCCCTTTCTTTTATCGACAGCACCCACTCTATAGAAAGGAG
T
1331
TTACTTAAAGCCCTATTTTTTGCATTTTACTTTGCTACGAAAGGAGAAATTTGTGATGATTACACTTTTT
A

Xyn10A RBS
MetIleThrLeuPheL 1

1401
AAAAGCCTTTTGTGCTGGACTAGCGATCTCTTTATTAGTTGGAGGGGGGCTAGGCAATGTAGCTGCTG
C
ysLysProPheValAlaGlyLeuAlaIleSerLeuLeuValGlyGlyGlyLeuGlyAsnValA
laAlaAl 10 20

1471
TCAAGGAGGACCACCAAAATCTGGAGTCTTTGGAGAAAATCAAAAAAGAAATGATCAGCCTTTTGCATG
G
aGlnGlyGlyProProLysSerGlyValPheGlyGluAsnGlnLysArgAsnAspGlnProPh
eAlaTrp 30 40
50

1541
CAAGTTGCTTCTCTTTCTGAGCGATATCAAGAGCAGTTTGATATTGGAGCTGCGGTTGAGCCCTATCAA
T
GlnValAlaSerLeuSerGluArgTyrGlnGluGlnPheGluIleGlyAlaAlaValGluPro
TyrGlnL 60 70

1611
TAGAAGGAAGACAAGCCCAAATTTTAAAGCATCATTATAACAGCCTTGTGGCGGAAAATGCAATGAAAC
C
euGluGlyArgGlnAlaGlnIleLeuLysHisHisTyrAsnSerLeuValAlaGluAsnAlaM
etLysPr 80 90

1681
TGTATCACTCCAGCCAAGAGAAGGTGAGTGGAACTGGGAAGGCGCTGACAAAATTTGTGGAGTTTGCCCC
C

oValSerLeuGlnProArgGluGlyGluTrpAsnTrpGluGlyAlaAspLysIleValGluPh
eAlaArg
100 110
120
1751
AAACATAACATGGAGCTTCGCTTCCACACACTCGTTTGGCATAGCCAAGTACCAGAATGGTTTTTTCATC
G
LysHisAsnMetGluLeuArgPheHisThrLeuValTrpHisSerGlnValProGluTrpPhe
PheIleA
130 140
1821
ATGAAAATGGCAATCGGATGGTTGATGAAACCGATCCAGAAAAACGTAAAGCGAATAAACAATTGTTAT
T
spGluAsnGlyAsnArgMetValAspGluThrAspProGluLysArgLysAlaAsnLysGlnL
euLeuLe
150 160
1891
GGAGCGAATGGAAAACCATATTTAAAACGGTTGTTGAACGTTATAAAGATGATGTGACTTCATGGGATGT
G
uGluArgMetGluAsnHisIleLysThrValValGluArgTyrLysAspAspValThrSerTr
pAspVal
170 180
190
1961
GTGAATGAAGTTATTGATGATGGCGGGGGCCTCCGTGAATCAGAATGGTATCAAATAACAGGCACTGAC
T
ValAsnGluValIleAspAspGlyGlyGlyLeuArgGluSerGluTrpTyrGlnIleThrGly
ThrAspT
200 210
2031
ACATTAAGGTAGCTTTTGGAACTGCAAGAAAAATATGGTGGTGAAGAGGCAAAGCTGTACATTAATGATT
A
yrIleLysValAlaPheGluThrAlaArgLysTyrGlyGlyGluGluAlaLysLeuTyrIleA
snAspTy
220 230
2101
CAACACCGAAGTACCTTCTAAAAGAGATGACCTTTACAACCTGGTGAAAGACTTATTAGAGCAAGGAGT
A
rAsnThrGluValProSerLysArgAspAspLeuTyrAsnLeuValLysAspLeuLeuGluGl
nGlyVal
240 250
260
2171
CCAATTGACGGGGTAGGACATCAGTCTCATATCCAAATCGGCTGGCCTTCCATTGAAGATAACAAGAGCT
T
ProIleAspGlyValGlyHisGlnSerHisIleGlnIleGlyTrpProSerIleGluAspThr
ArgAlaS
270 280
2241
CTTTTGGAAAAGTTTACGAGTTTAGGATTAGACAACCAAGTAACTGAACTAGACATGAGTCTTTATGGCT
G
erPheGluLysPheThrSerLeuGlyLeuAspAsnGlnValThrGluLeuAspMetSerLeuT
yrGlyTr
290 300
2311
GCCACCGACAGGGGCCTATACCTCTTATGACGACATTCCAGAAGAGCTTTTTCAAGCTCAAGCAGACCG
T
pProProThrGlyAlaTyrThrSerTyrAspAspIleProGluGluLeuPheGlnAlaGlnAl
aAspArg
310 320
330
2381
TATGATCAGCTATTTGAGTTATATGAAGAATTAAGCGCTACTATCAGTAGTGTAACCTTCTGGGGAATT
G
TyrAspGlnLeuPheGluLeuTyrGluGluLeuSerAlaThrIleSerSerValThrPheTrp
GlyIleA
340 350
2451

CTGATAACCATAACATGGCTTGATGACCGCGCTAGAGAGTACAATAATGGAGTAGGGGTCGATGCACCAT
T
laAspAsnHisThrTrpLeuAspAspArgAlaArgGluTyrAsnAsnGlyValGlyValAspA
laProPh 360 370

2521
TGTATTTGATCACAACACTATCGAGTGAAGCCTGCTTACTGGGGAATTATTGATTAATTTGAAGCTACTCA
A
eValPheAspHisAsnTyrArgValLysProAlaTyrTrpGlyIleIleAsp***
380 390 396

2591
TCGATAGTCTAGCAACGAGAGGCTGGGACAAAACCTAGCCAAAACGTAATAAAAAGGAGCTGCCTCAAAGG
T

2661
CTATCTTTTAAGGCAGCTTTTCTGATTCTGTTTCGACATCGCGACTTAGCGGACACTTTCACCACAGGCAC
A

2731
AGTGCAACAACGACTCACGCGCACTTTGTTTGCATTCGTCTGTGTTTTCTTTGCCGTGGGCAACGCTCCA
G

2801
CTTTCTCGAGAACCCGACTCTCGGCGATCTTCCGCTGTTGCTTTTCCCGCAGGAGTCACCGCCTGTCTCG
A

2871
CGTTTGAATCTCTTTAGCACAGGAAAGAACATACAAAAAATCGCCCGATTGTTTAAAGAATAGCTATT
C

2941
CGTCCGTTGAAGATCTCCCTGTCATTCAGATACTTTTGCTTTGGCTGAGAAAATCTTGAAACTGTTTAT
G

3011
GGCGTTCTTCGGTTTTGTTTTCGTTTTGAACAAAGCACTCACGGAGAAGGTAATGGTAGAAGGTTTTTCA
C

3081 CTACGGATAGCGAAAAGTAAATAATGACACCGTATGAGAAAAGG GAGGA AATATTATGAGCTAT
GAAATCT

BH2119 RBS
MetSerTyrGluIleL

1

3151 TAACATTAGCAGCCTATCGGGCAATCGGATTAATAATGGGAGGGAGCCTTTTCTGAAATTGTCC
CCGATTT
euThrLeuAlaAlaTyrArgAlaIleGlyLeuLysTrpGluGlyAlaPheSerGluIleValP
roAspLe 10 20

3221 AAAAAACGTCAATCAACAAATGGAAGGTCGTGCCGATGAATTAGAGCATAGAATCAATCCTAA
CGTTCAA
uLysAsnValIleGlnGlnMetGluGlyArgAlaAspGluLeuGluHisArgIleAsnProAs
nValGln 30 40
50

3291 TTAGGTCTCTCCTATCATAACCATAGAAAATGGATTTCGCACATTATGCTGTATATGAAGTGAGT
GAGGAGC
LeuGlyLeuSerTyrHisThrIleGluAsnGlyPheAlaHisTyrAlaValTyrGluValSer
GluGluG 60 70

3361 AGGAGATTCTGATGGGATGATTGAAATAAGGGTTCCTGAATGGACGTATGTAAAGACAACAC
ATAACAA
lnGluIleProAspGlyMetIleGluIleArgValProGluTrpThrTyrValLysThrThrH
isAsnLy 80 90

3431 AGGAGAAGATATCCAAAAGACTTATCAGGACTTACTTCAATGGTTATTTGATAGTGATTATAC
CGTATTT
sGlyGluAspIleGlnLysThrTyrGlnAspLeuLeuGlnTrpLeuPheAspSerAspTyrTh
rValPhe 100 110
120

3501 AGAGAAGATGGCGTAGATTACTATGATCCTTATATGCCAATTAACATGAACATTATCCAGTT
GATCGTG
ArgGluAspGlyValAspTyrTyrAspProTyrMetProIleLysHisGluHisTyrProVal
AspArgA 130 140

3571 ATCCGAATGATCCGCATTTTGTATTTATATAACCGATTGTAAAAAATAATGTTTTGGCGATT

ACGAAAC
spProAsnAspProHisPheAspIleTyrIleProIleValLysLys***
150 160
3641 AACATAGGCAGATTGGTTTTCAAGGTTGTTTATTTGCCATACTCGTAAGCTCGATACAATTCT
AGGTGGT
3711
TGGAGGAGGGGCTTCTTGAGGAGGATTGAATGATAGCAACACCCATGATAAAGAAAAGAATGACAAAGT
G
3781
CTGCTATCGATAAGGTCATGAAGGTGGGTTGCCTACCTACAGCTTTTAACGAGAGACCTATCTCCGCAA
A
3851
GTAAGGCGTCAATTGTTTCGCCTGGTTGAGGAAGGAAAGTAATTCTCTACGGCTGTTGACGTTCATTTTG
G
3921 CAAAGATAGATTTCAAGTGATC

Fig. 4. Alignment of the amino acid sequence of xylanase A (44 kDa xylanase) with those of family 10 xylanases of fungal or bacterial origin. Ba. fi., xylanase A from *Bacillus firmus* (this study); Ba. ha., alkaline xylanase A from *Bacillus halodurans* (NC_002570); Ba. sp., alkaline thermostable endoxylanase from *Bacillus* sp. NG-27 (AF015445); Ba. st., endo-1,4- β -xylanase T-6 from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (AF098273); Cl. st. thermostable cellobioxylinase from *Clostridium stercorarium* (D12504); Ca. sa., xylanase precursor from *Caldicellulosiruptor saccharolyticus* (M34459). The amino acid residues identical to these of *Bacillus firmus* are shaded. The Glu residue corresponding to Ba. fi. xylanase Glu 301, essential to the catalytic activity, is marked by ().

```

Ba. fi. 1
MITLFRKPFVAGLAISLLVGGGIGNVAAA---QGGPPKSGVFGENQKRND--QPFAWQVASLS
ERYQEQFDIGA AVE 72
Ba. ha. 1
MITLFRKPFVAGLAISLLVGGGIGNVAAA---QGGPPKSGVFGENEKRND--QPFAWQVASLS
ERYQEQFDIGA AVE 72
Ba. sp. 1
MLKTLRKPFIAGLALSLLLTTGGASSVFAQGNGQAGPPKGGIFKEGEKGNNGVQPFAWQVASLA
DRYEESFDIGA AVE 77
Ba. st. 1
MRNVVRKPLTIGLALTLLLPMGMT-----ATS AKNADSYAKKP--HISALNAPQLD
QRYKNEFTIGA AVE 63
Cl. st. 1
MNKFLNKKW-----SLILTMGGIFL MATLSLIFA-----TGKKAFND--Q TSAEDIPSLAEAFRDYFPIGA AIE 62
Ca. sa. 1
MRCLIVCENLEMLNL-----SLAKTYKDYFKIGA AVT 32

Ba. fi. 73
PYQL-EGRQAQILKHHYNSLVAENAMKPVSLQPREGEWNWEGADKIVEFARKHN-MELRFHTLVWHSQVPEWFFIDE 147
Ba. ha. 73
PYQL-EGRQAQILKHHYNSLVAENAMKPESLQPREGEWNWEGADKIVEFARKHN-MELRFHTLVWHSQVPEWFFIDE 147
Ba. sp. 78
PHQL-NGRQGVKLVKHHYNSIVAENAMKPI SLQPEEGVFTWDGADKIVEFARKNN-MNLRFHTLVWHNQVPDWFFLDE 152
Ba. st. 64
PYQLQNEKDVQMLKRHFNSIVAENVMKPISIQPEEGKFNF EQADRIVKFA-KANGMDIRFHTLVWHSQVQWFFL DK 139
Cl. st. 63
PGYT-TGQIAELYKHKHVNMLVAENAMKPASLQPTTEGNFQWADADRIVQFA-KENGMELRFHTLVWHNQTPGTGFS LDK 137
Ca. sa. 33
AKDL-EGVHRDILLKHFNSLTPENAMKFENIHPEEQRYNFEEVARIKEFAIK-NDMKLRGHTFVWHNQTPGWVFLDK 107

Ba. fi. 148
NGNRMVDETDPEKRKANKQLLLERMENHIKTVVERYKDDVTSWDVVNEIDDG----GGLRESEWYQITGTDYIKV 219
Ba. ha. 148
DGNRMVDETDPKREANKQLLLERMENHIKTVVERYKDDVTSWDVVNEIDDG----GGLRESEWYQITGTDYIKV 219
Ba. sp. 153
EGNPMVEETNEAKRQANKELLLERLETHIKTVVERYKDDVTAWDVVNEVDDGTPNERGLRESVWYQITGDEYIRV 228
Ba. st. 140
EGKPMVNETDPVKREQNKQLLLKRLETHIKTIVERYKDDIKYWDVVNEVVDG----DGKLRNSPWYQIAGIDYIKV 211
Cl. st. 138
EGKPMVEETDPQKREENRKLRLQLENYIRAVVLRKYKDDIKSWDVVNEVIE--PNDPGMRNSPWYQITGTEYIEV 211
Ca. sa. 108
NG-----EEASKELVIERLREHIKTL CERYKDVVYAWDVVNEAVED--KTEKLLRESNWRKIIGDDYIKI 170

Ba. fi. 220
AFETARKYGGEEAKLYINDYNTVEVPSKRDDLNLVKDLLEQGVPI DGVGHQSHIQIGWPS--IEDTRASFEKFTSL 293

```

Ba. ha. 220
 AFETARKYGGEEAKLYINDYNTVPSKRDDLYNLVKDLLEQGVPI DGVGHQSHIQIGWPS--IEDTRASFEKFTSL 293
 Ba. sp. 229
 AFETARKYAGEDAKLFIINDYNTVTPKRDHLYNLVQDLLADGVPI DGVGHQAHIQIDWPT--IDEIRTSMEMFAGL 302
 Ba. st. 212
 AFQAARKYGGDNIKLYMNDYNTVEPKRTALYNLVKQLKEEGVPI DGIHQSHIQIGWPS--EAEIEKTINMFAAL 285
 Cl. st. 212
 AFRATREAGGSDIKLYINDYNTDDPVKRDILYELVKNLLEKGVPI DGVGHQTHIDIYNPP--VERIEESIKKFAGL 285
 Ca. sa. 171
 AFEIAREYAG-DAKLFYNDYNNEMPYKLEKTYKVLKELLERGTPI DGIQAHWNI-WDKNLVSNLKKAIEVYASL 244

 Ba. fi. 294
 GLDNQVTELDMSLYGWPPPTGAYTSYDDIPEELFQAQADRYDQLFELYEELSATISSVTFWGIADNHTWLD DRAREY 369
 Ba. ha. 294
 GLDNQVTELDMSLYGWPPPTGAYTSYDDIPEELLQAQADRYDQLFELYEELAADISSVTFWGIADNHTWLDGRAREY 369
 Ba. sp. 303
 GLDNQVTELDVSLYGWPPRPAFPTYDAIPQERFQAQADRYNQLFELYEELDADLSSVTFWGIADNHTWLD DRAREY 378
 Ba. st. 286
 GLDNQITELDVSMYGWPPR-AYPTYDAIPKQKFLDQAARYDRLFKLYEKLSDKISNVTFWGIADNHTWLD SRADVY 360
 Cl. st. 286
 GLDNITELDMSIYSWNRSDYG--DSIPDYILTLQAKRYQELFDALKENKDIVSAVFWGISDKYSWLN GFVPVKR 359
 Ca. sa. 245
 GLEIHITELDISVFEF--EDKRTDLFEPTPEMLELQAKVYEDVFAVFREYKDVITSVTLWGISDRHTWKDNFPVKG 318

 Ba. fi. 370 -----NNGVGV DAPFVFDHNYRVKPAYWGIID 396
 Ba. ha. 370 -----NNGVGI DAPFVFDHNYRVKPAYWRIID 396
 Ba. sp. 379 -----NDGVGKDAPFVFDPNYRVKPAFWRIID 405
 Ba. st. 361 YDANGNVVDPNAPYAKVEKGGKDAPFVFGPDYKVKPAYWAIIDHK 407
 Cl. st. 360 -----TN-----APLLFDRNFMPKPAFWAIVDPSRLRE 387
 Ca. sa. 319 -----RKDWPLLFVNGKPKALYRILRF 342