
BIOCONVERSION OF SELECTED SOLID WASTES THROUGH CONTROL CULTIVATION OF OYSTER MUSHROOM *Pleurotus florida* AND ITS MINERAL ANALYSIS

¹Oinam Jennifer,² Laishram Joymati and ³A.Subhashini

¹ Research Scholar, Dept. of Biotechnology, PAHER University,Udaipur, Rajasthan

² Asst. Professor, P.G. Dept. of Zoology, D.M.College of Science, Imphal,Manipur.

³.Research Scholar, P.G. Dept. of Zoology, D.M.College of Science, Imphal,Manipur

Abstract

An attempt was made to find out the impact of the selected substrates on the yield parameters such as sporophore initiation, first flush,total yield, biological efficiency and mineral contents. Amongst the five selected substrates used, paddy straw gave the highest in yield, biological efficiency and first flush. Mineral contents show variation according to the substrate used as bedding material. It was found that maximum amount of Calcium was found in the sample cultivated on rice husk, Potassium on paddy straw, Iron on saw dust and Phosphorus on mixed substrate used as bedding materials. Through mushroom cultivation, combating food shortage and protecting the environment is possible for the sustenance of the ecosystem.

Keywords: Bioconversion, Solid wastes, *Pleurotus florida* and Mineral analysis

INTRODUCTION:

Urbanization leads to continuous decrease in arable land, the ultimate result being decline in agricultural productivity and sustainability of agro ecosystems. Mushroom cultivation can alleviate food shortage, improve diversification of agricultural production.

Mushrooms are found to possess the two basic abilities of biodegradation and bioaccumulation, for the bioremediation of wastes. Mushroom cultivation serves as the most efficient and economically viable biotechnology for the conversion of long-cellulose wastes materials into high quality protein food(Dike *et. al.*,2011). And therefore mushroom farms may be use as disposal sites for agricultural wastes products.

Because of its flexible nature, the *Pleurotus* genus is more cultivated than any other mushroom species(Rosado *et.al.*,2002). *Pleurotus* species requires no arable land for production and the abundant agricultural wastes found countrywide offers opportunity for production, which in turn provides a more economical and environmentally friendly disposal system (Stamets, 2000, Philoppousis and Diamantopoulou,2001). Identification of suitable substrate material is critical for successful mushroom cultivation(Zadrazil and Kurtzman,1982; Shah *et.al.*, 2004). Mushrooms are a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals(Kimenju *et.al.*,2009).

The experiment was carried out at the P.G. Dept. of Zoology, D.M. College of Science,

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Imphal, Manipur from March 2015 to July 2015 with the goal of assessing the mineral contents of the mushroom production from the selected solid wastes, which is an important method for the recycling of the agro-wastes, alleviating food shortage as well as income generation.

Pleurotus florida was cultivated on five selected solid wastes viz. Paddy straw, Rice husks, water hyacinth, Saw dust and a mixture of all the selected four substrates. The cultivation was carried out in polythene bags (containing 500gm paddy straw on dry weight basis per bag) using grain spawn as well as the mineral contents was estimated.

MATERIALS AND METHOD:

Cultivation of the species, *Pleurotus florida*

Materials :

1. Mushroom Spawn
2. Paddy straw, rice husks, water hyacinth and saw dust for making bed substrates :500gm/bag.
3. Perforated transparent polythene bags: 30x 40cm
4. Spawn:100gms/bag
5. Sprayer:1 litre capacity
6. Containers for sterilization.
7. Binding threads.

METHODOLOGY:

Procedure of the experiment:

A) Spawn preparation:

The primary inoculum was prepared from the fresh fruiting body of the mushroom through **tissue culture** method and was maintained and multiplied by sub culturing on sterilized PDA medium in petri dishes and test tubes. The spawn was prepared on coarse paddy grains. The grains were half boiled and filled in transparent polythene bags, which were then

sterilized in an autoclave at 15psi for 30 minutes. The inoculation was made on the following day under aseptic conditions and incubated at room temperature till the grains were covered with white mycelial growth.

B) Substrate preparation:

Pleurotus florida was grown on the selected substrates viz. paddy straw, rice husks, water hyacinth, saw dust and mixture of the four selected substrates. The substrate paddy straw was obtained from a nearby farmland, rice husk from a rice mill, saw dust from a saw mill and water hyacinth from a nearby pond.

i) Soaking:

The substrates were chopped into 6-8cm pieces and soaked in fresh water separately for a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of an overnight.

ii) Sterilization and spawning:

The substrates were boiled for at least 30 minutes and were let to cool down at room temperature and the excess water was strained. The substrates were then filled in the perforated polythene bags layer by layer sandwiching the spawn grain respectively. The open ends were then bound by the binding threads and kept at a temperature maintained at about 30°C and well protected from pests.

iii) Cropping and harvest:

After the spawn run has completed and the bags were fully impregnated with white mycelia, the polythene bags were removed carefully. The open blocks were kept on racks about 20cm apart. Water was sprayed regularly to keep it moist. Within 3-4 days of the spawn run pin-heads were seen and within another 3-4 days mushrooms were ready for harvest.

C) ANALYSIS FOR MINERAL CONTENTS OF THE MUSHROOM HARVESTED:

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The mushroom harvested from the various substrates were analysed for four selected minerals viz. Potassium, Calcium, Iron and Phosphorus.

a) Digestion:

To estimate the contents of Potassium, Calcium, Iron and Phosphorus in the mushroom sample, digestion of the sample was carried out using double acids(Perchloric acid and nitric acid in the ratio 1:3)

0.3 gms(approx.) of the sample was taken in a 100ml beaker and digested it with double acid for 2-3 hours till the solution is clear. The solution was then made upto 100 ml with distilled water and used for the estimation :

i) Potassium(K):

The potassium content of the sample was estimated using flame photometric method.

ii) Calcium(Ca):

The estimation of the calcium in the sample was carried out by Varsanite method.

iii) Iron(Fe):

The estimation of iron in the sample was carried out using phenanthroline method

iv) Phosphorus(P):

The phosphorus present in the sample was estimated by Spectrophotometer method(Molybdo vanadate Spectrophotometric method).

D) Biological Efficiency:

The biological efficiency was calculated as a percentage of the yield of the fresh mushroom to the dry weight of the substrates.

RESULTS:

Tables:

i) Sporophore initiation period and first (in days) of *Pleurotus florida*

Sl.no.	Substrates	Sporophore initiation (in days)	First flush (in days)
1.	Paddy straw	16	21
2.	Water hyacinth	21	28
3.	Rice Husk	18	21
4.	Saw dust	23	30
5.	Mixed substrate	20	25

ii) Total yield (in grams) of *P.florida* on different substrates in total number of days.

Sl.no.	Substrates	Total number of days taken	Total yield* (gm/500gm)
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1.	Paddy straw	42	398.78
2.	Water hyacinth	54	256.41
3.	Rice Husk	60	281.81
4.	Saw dust	66	170.62
5.	Mixed substrate	49	284.84

* Mean of three replicates

iii) Yield and biological efficiency of *P.florida* grown on different substrates.

Sl.no.	Substrates	Total yield* (gm/500gm)	Biological efficiency(%)
1.	Paddy straw	398.78	79.75
2.	Water hyacinth	256.41	64.10
3.	Rice Husk	281.81	56.36
4.	Saw dust	170.62	34.12
5.	Mixed substrate	284.84	71.21

iv) Yield and biological efficiency of *P.florida* grown on different substrates.

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5.	Mixed substrate	284.84	71.21

v) Mineral contents of *Pleurotus florida* cultivated on different substrates.

Sl.no.	Substrates	Calcium (gm%)	Potassium (gm%)	Iron (gm%)	Phosphorus (gm%)
1.	Paddy straw	BDL	0.11	0.85	0.13
2.	Water hyacinth	BDL	0.09	0.39	0.24
3.	Rice husk	0.002	0.01	0.59	0.24
4.	Saw dust	BDL	0.21	1.14	0.31
5.	Mixed subatrate	BDL	0.04	0.65	0.90

Sporophore initiation period and first (in days) of *Pleurotus florida*

Different substrates showed different period (in days) for sporophore initiation. A minimum period of 16 days was taken by paddy straw for sporophore initiation followed by rice husk (18 days), mixed substrate (20 days), water hyacinth (21 days) and a maximum period of 23 days was recorded in saw dust substrate.

Regarding the first flush, paddy straw and rice husk gave first flush in a minimum of 21 days followed by mixed substrate in 25 days, water hyacinth in 28 days and a maximum of 30 days by the saw dust substrate.

Total yield (in grams) of *P.florida* on different substrates in total number of days.

The order of efficiency of total production in 500 gms substrate is-

paddy straw (398.78gms/500gms) > mixed substrate (284.83gms) > rice husk (281.81gms) > water hyacinth (256.41gms) > saw dust (170.62gms).

Yield and biological efficiency of *P.florida* grown on different substrates.

The order of biological efficiency is paddy straw (79.75%) > mixed substrate (71.21%) > water hyacinth (64.10%) > rice husk (56.36%) > saw dust (34.12%).

Mineral contents of *Pleurotus florida* cultivated on different substrates.

The order of mineral content is

Calcium:

Rice husk(0.002%)> paddy straw(BDL)=Water hyacinth(BDL)=Saw dust(BDL)=mixed substrate(BDL).

Potassium:

Saw dust(0.21%)>paddy straw(0.11%) > water hyacinth(0.09%) > mixed substrate(0.04%) > rice husk(0.01%)

Iron:

Saw dust(1.14%) > paddy straw(0.85%) > mixed substrate(0.65%) >rice husk(0.59%) > water hyacinth(0.39 %)

Phosphorus:

Mixed substrate(0.90%) > saw dust (0.31%) > water hyacinth(0.24%) >rice husk(0.20%) > paddy straw(0.13%)

DISCUSSION:

Increasing population is creating a serious in food availability. So, popularizing mushroom and its cultivation as part and partial of everyday food is of paramount importance.

Cultivation of mushroom provides an economical and profitable enterprise which gives an ample scope for self employment using agricultural wastes. Apart from being nutritious food and its medicinal properties, mushroom cultivation provides an ecofriendly way of solid waste management.

Suitability of paddy straw as bed substrates for oyster mushroom cultivation was reported by Bano and Srivastav(1962) and Block et.al(1958). Zadrazil and Schneiderei (1972) too observed that rice husk can be successfully for the oyster mushroom cultivation. Pani and Mohanty (1998) also reported water hyacinth to be a suitable substrate for oyster mushroom cultivation. Sharma and Jandaik (1981) reported the use of mixed substrates as bedding material with the view that mixed substrate provide a more balanced supply of nutrients to the mushroom. These findings were found to be similar with the present work. Besides, other agro wastes such as

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saw dust, rice husk, maize cobs, coir pith etc. which are mostly burnt leading to waste of energy pollution of the environment, can be converted into food, feed and fuel by oyster mushroom cultivation, representing the only economically profitable biotechnological process for the bioconversion of waste plant residues.

In the present study quick sporophore initiation was observed in the case of paddy straw followed by rice husk, mixed substrate, water hyacinth and least in saw dust. The reason being the dependence of the sporophore initiation upon the nature of substrates used as bedding material. Similar reason was stated by Zadrazil (1978). It was found that paddy straw gave the highest first flush followed by water hyacinth. Similar observations were found in the study of Bahram (1989), Jandaik (1989) and Marimuthu *et al.* (1991). Superiority of the paddy straw as a substrate was reported by several workers (Pal and Thapa, 1979; Bahram, 1989; Jandaik, 1989 and Marimuthu *et al.*, 1991). They also reported a maximum biological efficiency of *P. florida* grown on paddy straw, which was found similar to the results of the present study. The present study showed high level of Calcium on the sample grown on rice husk, potassium on paddy straw, Iron on saw dust and phosphorus on mixed substrate. The findings are in agreement with the study of Pandey and Ghosh, 1996 and also with Randive, 2012.

CONCLUSION

The highest yield, highest biological efficiency, maximum protein, carbohydrate and caloric value were recorded in the *P. florida* grown on paddy straw substrates while the least were seen in the case of saw dust grown *P. florida*. The types of substrate that are used for cultivation influence sporophore initiation, first flush in number of days and in weight, total yield, biological efficiency, nutritional contents such as minerals. To conclude, it can be said that

mineral (Ca, K, Fe and P) contents showed variation according to the chemical composition of the substrate used as bedding material.

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