

**ROLE OF OXYGEN AND ANTIOXIDANTS IN THE RESPONSE OF
YEAST TO HEAT AND OXIDATIVE STRESSES**

BY

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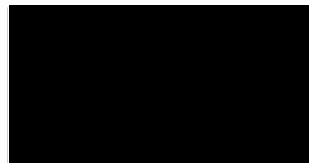
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STATEMENT

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.



Jeane B. Tjandiagung
July, 1995

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CONTENTS

STATEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

ABSTRACT

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1. BACKGROUND	1
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	3
2.1. Response of yeast to temperature	3
2.2. Effect of oxygen.....	8
2.3. Antioxidants.....	10

CHAPTER 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. MATERIALS.....	16
1.1. Yeast strain.....	16
1.2. Chemicals.....	16
2. METHODS	18
2.1. Culture conditions.....	18
2.1.1. Stock culture	18
2.1.2. Starter culture	18
2.1.3. Aerobic growth	18
2.1.4. Anaerobic growth.....	18
2.2. Viable count.....	19
2.3. Percentage of budded cells	19
2.4. Dry weight.....	20
2.5. Induced and intrinsic thermotolerances	20
2.6. Determination of oxidative and ethanol stresses	20
2.7. Effect of glucose	21
2.8. Effect of antioxidant.....	21
2.9. Effect of oxygen and nitrogen.....	22
2.10. Effect of Inhibition of protein synthesis	23
2.11. Determination of de novo protein synthesis	24
2.12. Protein Electrophoresis	24
2.12.1. Yeast protein extraction for SDS-PAGE.....	24
2.12.2. Protein analysis.....	25
2.12.3. Electrophoresis	25

2.13. Gel staining.....	26
2.14. Gel drying	26
2.15. Autoradiography	26
2.16. Trehalose assay	26
2.17. Lipid analysis.....	27
2.17.1. Lipid extraction.....	27
2.17.2. Total phospholipid.....	27
2.18. Statistical analysis	28
CHAPTER 3 STRESS RESPONSE	
1. AEROBIC CELLS.....	29
1.1. Thermotolerance	30
1.2. Effect of glucose.....	30
1.3. Oxidative and ethanol tolerances	31
2. ANAEROBIC CELLS.....	33
2.1 Thermotolerance	33
2.2. Oxidative tolerance.....	36
3. ANTIOXIDANTS.....	39
3.1. Effect of adding antioxidant before treatment.....	39
3.1.1. Incubation with antioxidant before heat treatment	39
3.1.2. Oxidative stress	43
3.2. Incorporation of antioxidant in the plate.....	43
3.3. Incorporation of antioxidant in growth media.....	51
3.4. Effect of ascorbate or recovery of cells from heat stress	51
CHAPTER 4 EFFECT OF OXYGEN	
1. AEROBIC CELLS.....	54
1.1. Oxygen versus nitrogen.....	54
1.2. Oxygen aeration and heat, H ₂ O ₂ or ethanol stress	55
1.3. Effect of cycloheximide on thermotolerance and oxygen aeration	60
1.4. Oxygen aeration prior to a heat shock/stress	60
1.5. Oxygen aeration during recovery	60
1.6. Percentage of budded cells	65
2. ANAEROBIC	65
2.1. Aeration with oxygen during heat treatment.....	65
2.2. Aeration with oxygen following recovery from heat treatment	66
2.3. Aeration of oxygen during oxidative stress.....	66
3. TREHALOSE	66
4. HEAT SHOCK PROTEIN SYNTHESIS.....	74

4.1 Aerobic cells	74
4.2. Anaerobic cells	75
5. FATTY ACID COMPOSITION	75
CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION	
1. ANAEROBIC VERSUS AEROBIC	80
1.1. Temperature	80
1.2. Oxidative stress	82
2. ANTIOXIDANTS AND THERMOTOLERANCE	83
3. OXYGENATION	87
REFERENCES	94

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 3.1	Effect of heat treatment on cells grown aerobically at 25°C in YEP-media	32
Fig. 3.2	Effect of H ₂ O ₂ (5 mM or 10 mM) or ethanol (16% v/v) on cell survival in aerobically grown cells.....	34
Fig. 3.3	Comparison of induced thermotolerance in aerobically grown cells and anaerobically grown cells supplemented with oleic (C18:1) or linolenic (C18:3) acids.....	35
Fig. 3.4	Intrinsic thermotolerance of cells grown anaerobically with oleic acid as lipid supplement.....	37
Fig. 3.5	Oxidative stress in cells grown anaerobically with oleic acid as lipid supplement... ..	38
Fig. 3.6	Effect of antioxidants (glutathione and ascorbate) on induced thermotolerance.....	40
Fig. 3.7	Effect of butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) on induced thermotolerance of cells grown aerobically.....	41
Fig. 3.8	Effect of propyl gallate (PG) on induced thermotolerance of cells grown aerobically.....	42
Fig. 3.9	Effect of ascorbate on oxidative stress in cells grown aerobically.....	44
Fig. 3.10	Effect of glutathione on oxidative stress of aerobic cells.....	45
Fig. 3.11	Effect on induced thermotolerance of incorporation of ascorbate in YEP-agar media.	46
Fig. 3.12	Effect on induced thermotolerance of incorporation of α -tocopherol in YEP-agar media.	47
Fig. 3.13	Effect on induced thermotolerance of incorporation of ergosterol in YEP-agar media.....	48
Fig. 3.14	Effect on induced thermotolerance of incorporation of β -carotene in YEP-agar media.....	49
Fig. 3.15	Effect on induced thermotolerance of cells grown aerobically in YEP media with addition of antioxidant.....	50
Fig. 4.1	Effect of oxygenation on induced thermotolerance, in the presence or absence of cycloheximide.	56
Fig. 4.2	Effect of oxygenation on intrinsic thermotolerance.....	57
Fig. 4.3	Effect of oxygenation on oxidative stress.	58
Fig. 4.4	Effect of oxygenation on ethanol stress.	59
Fig. 4.5	Effect of a prior oxygenation on induced thermotolerance....	61

Fig. 4.6	Effect of prior oxygenation on intrinsic thermotolerance.....	62
Fig. 4.7	Effect of oxygenation following heat treatment.....	63
Fig. 4.8	Effect of oxygenation following heat stress.....	64
Fig. 4.9	Percentage of budded cells during oxygenation.....	67
Fig. 4.10	Percentage of budded cells following heat treatment (37°C, 45 min followed by 48°C, 30 min) and oxygenation.....	68
Fig. 4.11	Effect of aeration with oxygen on induced thermotolerance of anaerobically grown cells.....	69
Fig. 4.12	Effect of aeration with oxygen on intrinsic thermotolerance of anaerobically grown cells following heat stress at 48°C over a time course.....	70
Fig. 4.13	Effect of aeration with oxygen on induced thermotolerance of anaerobically grown cells.....	71
Fig. 4.14	Effect of aeration with oxygen on induced thermotolerance of anaerobically grown cells during oxidative stress.....	72
Fig. 4.15	Trehalose content of cells grown aerobically or anaerobically.....	73
Fig. 4.16	Autoradiogram of protein synthesis of cells at 25°C or exposed to heat shock (37°C) for 45 min with or without oxygenation.....	77
Fig. 4.17	Autoradiogram of protein synthesis of cells grown anaerobically at 25°C or exposed to heat shock (37°C) for 45 min with or without oxygenation.....	78

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Percentage survivors following heat treatment in unwashed and washed cells.....	31
Table 3.2	Effect of ascorbate during recovery from induced thermotolerance, in the presence or absence of glucose....	53
Table 4.1	Comparison between aeration with oxygen or nitrogen on induced thermotolerance.....	55
Table 4.2	Fatty acyl composition of aerobic and anaerobic cells subjected to heat stress.....	79

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted on the physiological effects of heat and oxidative stress on the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The effects of oxygenation and synthetic and naturally-occurring antioxidants on cell survival were examined. Two cell types were used as experimental systems at 25°C. In one case, cells were grown aerobically in an orbital shaker and, in the other, cells were grown anaerobically in water-jacketted fermenters under a constant stream of high purity nitrogen. Cells were subjected to a mild heat shock from 25°C to 37°C for 45 min before exposure to a heat stress at 48°C over a time course. The ability of cells to survive, this heat protocol, as determined by plate counts, was termed induced thermotolerance. On the other hand, the ability of cells to survive a direct heat stress from 25°C to 48°C over a time course was termed intrinsic thermotolerance. Oxidative stress was measured by incubation of cells at 25°C with H₂O₂ (5-10 mM).

In general, aerobically grown cells were more stress tolerant than anaerobically grown cells. This observation was correlated, to some extent, with the membrane fatty acyl composition of the cells. The addition of synthetic antioxidants (butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate) was detrimental to cell survival against heat. By contrast, naturally-occurring antioxidants (ascorbate, α -tocopherol, β -carotene) in general appeared to act as growth promotants. Oxygenation, either during or after the heat treatments, was highly beneficial (3 to 15-fold) to cell survival. However, oxygenation prior to thermal treatment was detrimental as was oxygenation in the presence of cycloheximide which inhibited protein synthesis.

Heat shock induced (37°C/45 min) protein synthesis was monitored by ³⁵S-methionine labelling and SDS-PAGE analysis. The classical heat shock proteins (hsp) hsp 100, hsp 90, hsp 70, and hsp 60 were identified in aerobic and anaerobic cells. Additional bands at 36 and 40 kDa were observed in cells

oxygenated (45 min) at 25°C but no additional bands were observed in cells subjected simultaneously to heat treatment and oxygenation.

Trehalose concentration in anaerobic cells (8-12% w/w) was relatively high compared to aerobic cells (< 0.5% w/w). Heat shock induced a modest increase in trehalose levels. These results indicated that heat shock proteins but not trehalose may play a role in stress tolerance.

The major conclusions from the present studies were that exogenous antioxidants, synthetic or naturally-occurring, had no significant protective effect on yeast thermotolerance or oxygen tolerance. The marked beneficial effects on cell survival by oxygenation were proposed to be partly due to protection of key mitochondrial functions.