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Isolation and Purification of α -amylase from a local bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* ITBCCB148 using carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)

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ABSTRACT

Amylases are one of the main enzymes used in industry. Such enzymes hydrolyze the starch molecule into polymers composed of glucose units. Amylases have potential application in a wide number of industrial processes such as food, fermentation, and pharmaceutical industries. The aims of this research are to isolate and purify α -amylase from a local bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* ITBCCB148. The purification of enzyme was conducted by few steps such as fractionation with ammonium sulphate, dialysis and carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) cation exchange column chromatography. α -amylase crude extract was produced by *Bacillus subtilis* ITBCCB148 at the fermentation temperature 32°C, the fermentation media at pH 6.0 and the duration time of fermentation was 72 hours with specific activity of 925.75 U/mg. The specific activity of purified enzyme by fractionation with ammonium sulphate was 4315.31 U/mg, increasing 4.67 times than the crude enzyme extract. The specific activity of purified enzyme by dialysis was 5586.77 U/mg, increasing 6.04 times than the crude enzyme extract. The specific activity of purified enzyme cation exchange column chromatography using carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) was 10387.11 U/mg, increasing 11.22 times than the crude enzyme extract. The optimum pH of purified enzyme was 6.0 and the optimum temperature was 60°C, while the K_m and V_{max} value approximately were 6.18 mg mL⁻¹ substrate and 909.09 μ mol mL⁻¹ min⁻¹.

Keyword : α -amylase, *Bacillus subtilis* ITBCCB148, isolation and purification, CMC

A. Introduction

The hydrolysis of starch with low molecular weight, catalyzed by an α -amylase which is one of the most important commercial enzyme processes. The hydrolyzed products are widely applied in food, paper and textile industries. α -Amylases are endoamylases catalyzing the hydrolysis of internal α -1,4-glycosidic linkages in starch in random manner. The microbial α -amylases for industrial purposes are derived mainly from *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and *Aspergillus oryzae*. Interest in starch-degrading amylases has increased in recent years and a number of papers have appeared on the formation of amylases by microorganisms and the purification to homogeneity of the produced enzymes [1].

Ion-exchange chromatography separates biomolecules on the basis of charge characteristics. Charged groups on the surface of a protein interact with oppositely charged group immobilized on the ion-exchange medium. As illustrated in figure 1, the charge of a protein depends on the pH of its environment (the operating pH). The pH at which the net charge of a protein is zero (i.e., where the number of positive charge equals the number of negative charges) is known as the isoelectric point (pI). When the operating pH is greater than the pI, the protein will have a net negative charge, and should bind to anion-exchange media, which are positively charged. When the operating pH is less than the pI, the protein will have a net positive charge, and should bind to cation-exchange media, which is negatively charged [2].

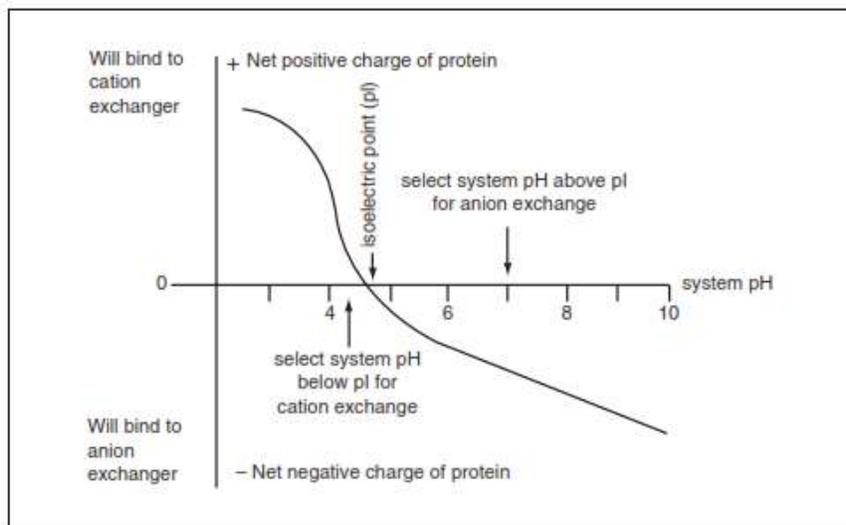


Figure 1. Net charge of protein as a function of pH [3].

It is necessary to begin by selecting either anion or cation exchange. This requires knowledge of the pI and pH stability of the target protein. If the pI of the target protein is known, an anion-exchange medium with an operating pH above the pI of the target protein or cation-exchange medium with an operating pH below the pH of the target protein should be selected. If the pH of the target protein is unknown, it is desirable to determine it before beginning. The optimal operating pH can be determined empirically [3].

Ion-exchange matrices are divided into two major types according to the charge on the ion-exchange ligands. Cation-exchange resins have negatively charged groups on the surface. These are used to bind protein that have an overall positive charge. These are divided into two groups, strong exchanger such as SP (sulfopropyl), S (Methyl sulfonate) and weak exchanger such as CM (carboxymethyl). Anion-exchange resins have positively charged groups on the surface. These are used to bind protein that have an overall negative charge. These are divided into two groups, strong exchanger such as Q (quaternary ammonium), QAE (quaternary aminoethyl) and weak exchanger such as DEAE (diethylaminoethyl) [4].

Cellulose offered particular promise as a support for ionizing groups intended to bind protein because of its hydrophilic nature and enormous surface. It was readily available at low cost, and simple modification of a reaction extensively used in the industrial manufacture of cellulose derivatives provided the means of attaching a variety of ionizable groups [5].

Based on these facts, in this research, the purification using carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) cation exchange column chromatography was chosen in an attempt to increase the purification of α -amylase which was produced, isolated, and purified from local bacteria isolate *B.subtilis* ITBCCB148.

B. Material and Method

2.1. Materials

All chemicals used were of high grade (pro analysis) materials. Local bacteria isolate *B. subtilis* ITBCCB148 was obtained from the Microbiology and Fermentation Technology Laboratory, Chemical Engineering Department, Bandung Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia.

2.2. Production of α -Amilase

The strain was maintained on agar slopes at 4 °C. A standard inoculum medium containing (g/l): glucose 10, peptone 5.0, Yeast extract 2.0, NaCl 1.5, KH₂PO₄ 0.5, MgSO₄ 0.5, CaCl 0.1 and 15% glycerol (v/v) was inoculated into 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask kept at 37 °C and 150 rpm for 18 h. The initial pH of the medium was adjusted to 7.0. Inoculum (1% (v/v)) was transferred into 250 ml Erlenmeyer flasks containing 50 ml production medium. The production medium was the same as inoculum medium with the exception of starch which was used as carbon source instead of glucose. The flasks were then placed in an orbital shaker at 37 °C and 150 rpm for 72 h [6]

2.3. Extraction of α -Amilase

The fermented broth was taken after 72 h and centrifuged 7000 rpm for 15 min, and then substrate free supernatant was used for estimation of enzyme activity [6]

2.4. Purification of α -Amilase

Purification of the enzyme is done gradually by enzyme crude extract fractionation with varying levels of ammonium sulfate, dialysis and ion-exchange chromatography column, to obtain purified enzyme [7]

a. Fractionation with ammonium sulfate

Crude extract enzyme then saturated from the solution using varying level of ammonium sulfate (NH₄)₂SO₄ : (0-20)%; (20-40)%; (40-60)%; (60-80)%; and (80-100)%. The protein precipitate got from the level of ammonium sulfate then separated from the solution using centrifugation 5000 rpm for 20 min. After that, the protein precipitate dissolve into phosphate buffer 0.1 M pH 6.5 and enzyme activity analyzed using Fuwa method and Lowry method for protein content.

b. Dialysis

The highest fractionation enzyme was then purified by dialysis on a semipermeable membrane (cellophane bag). The precipitate was introduced into a cellophane bag and dialyzed using a 0.01 M phosphate buffer pH 6.5 for 24 hours at cold temperature. During

dialysis, every 4-hours buffer is replaced for reduced the ion concentration in the dialysis bag. Furthermore, the enzyme activity is analyzed using Fuwa method and measured protein content with Lowry method.

c. Cation-exchange chromatography column

- Development and washing of CMC

CMC is immersed in aquades and allowed to expand at room temperature. The fine particles are separated by decantation. Thereafter, 0.5 M of NaOH solution was added twice the volume of the CMC slurry while occasionally stirring slowly, then precipitated for 30 minutes. The CMC slurry was further decanted and washed with distilled water until the washing water showed pH 8. Then, added HCl 0.5 M solution twice the volume of CMC slurry while occasionally stirring slowly, then precipitated for 30 minutes. The CMC slurry is subsequently decanted and washed with aquades until the wash water shows a neutral pH.

- Determination of pH buffer binding and release of enzyme-matrix

As much as 4 mL of expanding CMC slurry, put into a centrifuge tube in a less viscous state. The CMC slurry is separated from the solution by centrifugation for 10 minutes. Thereafter, CMC slurry was stabilized using a 0.05 M phosphate buffer with a pH variation of 5.0; 5.5; 6.0; 6.5; 7.0. Then, into the matrix was added 1 mL of dialysis enzyme and 1 mL of 0.05 M phosphate buffer according to variation of pH respectively. The mixture is stirred and allowed until CMC precipitates. The supernatant was separated by centrifugation 10 minutes ago and determined its activity by the Fuwa method.

The newly used CMC was immediately washed with 2 mL of phosphate buffer pH 7 mixture and 1 M (1: 1) NaCl solution. The mixture is stirred and allowed until CMC precipitates. The supernatant was separated by centrifugation 10 minutes ago determined by the activity of the unit. pH buffers that can provide the lowest enzyme activity when binding of the matrix-enzyme while providing high activity when the release of the matrix-enzyme is defined as the pH of the matrix-enzyme-binding buffer.

- Preparation of gel columns

Column measuring 1.5 x 50 cm laced with cotton on the lower end. The column was installed perpendicularly. The expanding gel slurry was then inserted into the column.

- Gel stabilization

The gel in the column is stabilized by passing the pH-binding enzyme phosphate buffer until the pH binding conditions are reached. The regulator opens up to a speed of droplets of 1-2 mL / min.

- Placement of enzyme snippets into columns

The dialysis enzyme was inserted into the chromatographic column that already contains a stabilized CMC. The enzyme is bonded with an initial buffer and the eluate was collected as much as 20 mL each for a 1-25 fraction. Next, eluted by elution buffer. Eluate was collected as much as 20 mL each for fraction 26-50. The first fraction begins when the enzyme was inserted. All fractions determined the protein pattern at λ 280 nm and then tested its enzyme activity using Fuwa method and determined its protein level by Lowry method.

1.5 α -Amilase Analysis

a. Fuwa Method

0.25 mL of enzyme was added by 0.25 mL of a 0.1 % starch solution, then incubated at 60 ° C for 10 min. For control, starch is added after the enzyme is inactivated with 1N HCl. After incubation, the enzyme reaction and starch substrate were discontinued by the addition of 0.25 mL of HCl 1 N, then 0.25 mL of the iodine reagent and 4 mL of distilled water were added. Then, the mixture was stirred evenly and measured uptake using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at λ 600 nm [8]

b. Mendels Method

A total of 0.25 mL of enzyme was added 0.25 mL of a starch solution of 0.1%. After that, it was incubated for 30 minutes at 60 ° C. For control, starch is added after incubation. Then, 1 mL of the DNS reagent was added and boiled for 10 minutes on the water bath. Furthermore, it is allowed to room temperature and added 1.5 mL of distilled water. After

that, the uptake was measured using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at λ 510 nm. Glucose levels formed are determined by using a standard glucose curve [9].

1.6 Determination of Protein Level

0.1 mL of the enzyme was dissolved in 0.9 mL of distilled water, then reacted with 5 mL reagent C. The mixture was stirred evenly, then left for 10 min at room temperature. Thereafter, it is added rapidly 0.5 mL of reagent D, then completely stirred. The solution is allowed to stand for 30 minutes at room temperature. For control, 0.1 mL of the enzyme was replaced by 0.1 mL of distilled water, then treated the same as the sample. Then the absorbance was measured using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at λ 750 nm . The protein content was determined by the standard curve of the BSA solution measured at λ 750 nm based on the linear regression equation [10].

1.7 Determination of Purified Enzyme

a. Determination of optimum pH

To determinate the optimum pH of purified enzyme was done by varying incubation pH such as 5.5; 6.0; 6.5; 7.0; 7.5; 8.0; and 8.5 for 30 minutes. Furthermore, it was tested using the Mandels method.

b. Determination of temperature optimum

To determinate the optimum temperature of purified enzyme was done by varying incubation temperature such as 55; 60; 65; 70; 75; 80; and 85°C for 30 minutes. Furthermore, it was tested using the Mandels method.

c. Determination of K_m and V_{maks}

The Michaelis-Menten Constanta (K_m) and the maximum reaction rate (V_{max}) of purified enzyme was determined by varying the substrate concentration of 0.1; 0.2; 0.4; 0.6; 0.8; and 1% at 60 ° C for 30 minutes. Next, measured residual activity (%) of the enzyme by the Mandels method. The data of the relationship between the rate of enzyme reaction to the substrate concentration is plotted into the Lineweaver-Burk curve.

C. Result and Discussion

3.1. Production of α -Amylase

α -amylase crude extract was produced by *Bacillus subtilis* ITBCCB148 at the fermentation temperature 32°C, the fermentation media at pH 6.0 and the duration time of fermentation was 72 hours with specific activity of 925.75 U/mg.

3.2. Fractionation by ammonium sulphate

Fractionation of α -amylase enzyme was done by adding ammonium sulfate salts with varying saturation levels, such as (0-15)%, (15-30)%, (30-45)%, (45-60)%, (60-75)% and (75-100)% into 100 mL of crude extract of the enzyme for the determination of the first fractionation pattern. Then the enzyme sediment was dissolved with 5 mL of 0.1 M phosphate buffer pH 6.5. The relationship between saturation of ammonium sulfate (0-100) % and the activity unit of the α -amylase enzyme from *B. subtilis* ITBCCB148 can be seen in [Figure 2](#).

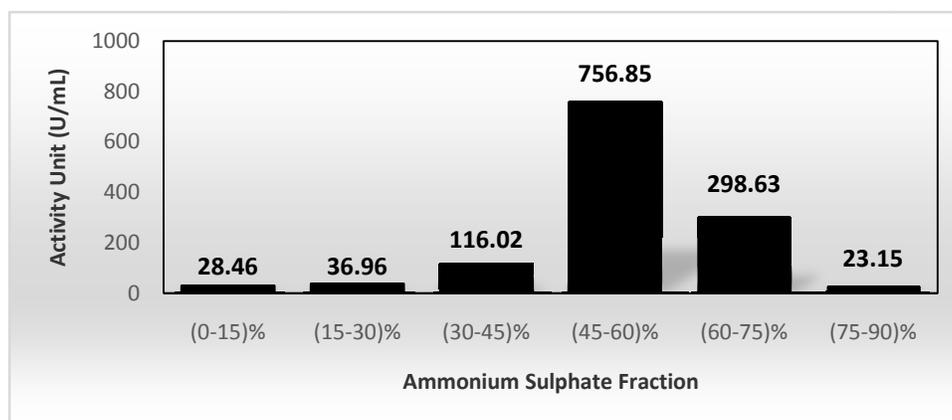


Figure 2. The relationship between saturation of ammonium sulphate with the the activity unit of the α -amylase enzyme from *B. subtilis* ITBCCB148

According to figure 2, the highest unit activity of the α -amylase enzyme is shown in the fraction (45-60)% that is 1468,97 U. However, it can be seen that in fractions (30-45)% and (60-70)% still have high unit activity. Therefore, the subsequent fractionation process is only divided into two fractional patterns (0-30)% and (30-90)%. It aims to increase the rendement of proteins (enzymes) so as not to lose many enzymes during the purification process and the α -amylase activity obtained is quite large. The relationship between saturation of ammonium sulfate (0-30)% and (30-100)% with the unit activity of α -amylase enzyme from *B. subtilis* ITBCCB148 can be seen in Figure 3.

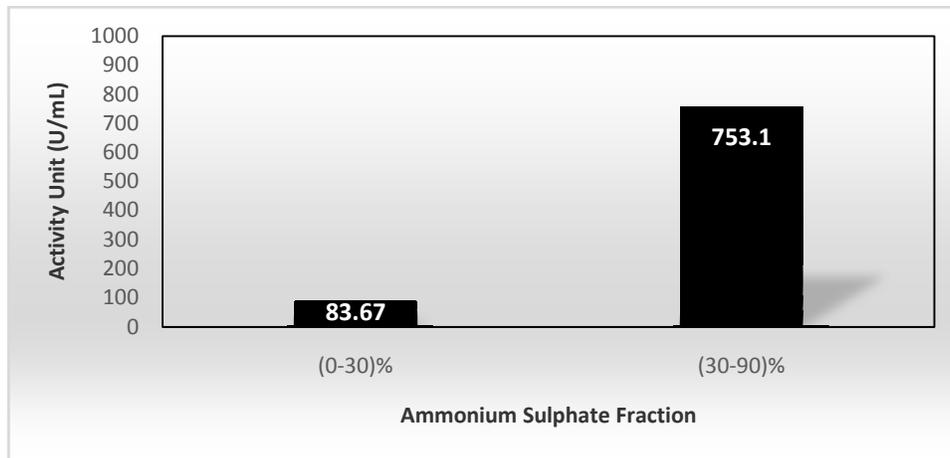


Figure 3. The relationship between saturation of ammonium sulphate with the the activity unit of the α -amylase enzyme from *B. subtilis* ITBCCB148

Based on Figure 3, Fraction (0-30)% has very low specific activity compared to fraction (30-90)%. Therefore, the fraction (0-40)% is not used in the subsequent purification process because in that fraction the α -amylase enzyme precipitate is produced very little so that only the fractional enzyme (30-90)% is used at the subsequent purification step. The activity of unit and activity of specific enzyme α -amylase at fraction (30-90)% are 753.10 U/mL and 4315.32 U / mg respectively. This specific activity shows that the fractionated enzyme has a higher purity up to 4.67 times compared with the crude extract of the enzyme.

3.3. Dialysis

The enzyme solution of the fraction (30-90)% is further purified by 24 hours dialysis. The enzyme solution was introduced to half volume of the cellophane pouch, then dialyzed using 0.01 M phosphate buffer pH 6.5. This dialysis process aims to separate the enzymes from salt ions and other inorganic ions which can disrupt the stability of enzymes to obtain enzymes with high purity and activity. Dialysis is based on the diffusion of particles inside and outside the semipermeable membrane (cellophane pouch) by the presence of osmotic pressure differences. Osmotic pressure inside the larger membrane causes the release of small molecules in a protein solution (enzyme) such as salt ions. The exit of the molecule causes the distribution of ions inside and outside the unbalanced membrane. To minimize this effect, low-concentration buffers are used outside the cellophane pouch. During the process of dialysis, it is necessary to change the buffer every 4 hours so that the concentration of ions in the dialysis pouch can be reduced so

that the osmotic equilibrium is reached [7]. The buffer is shaken using a magnetic stirrer to accelerate the osmotic equilibrium. Dialysis is carried out at cold temperatures to prevent enzyme denaturation. The specific activity of purified enzyme by dialysis was 5586.77 U/mg, increasing 6.04 times than the crude enzyme extract.

3.4. CMC cation-exchanger chromatography column

This stage is the final step of purifying α -amylase enzyme. Purification by cation exchange column chromatography using CMC (carboxyl methyl cellulose) begins with the initial pH buffer-elution determination of pH buffers suitable for binding and releasing enzymes with CMC matrix in the cation exchange column. The activity of the α -amylase enzyme unit on various pH binding in the CMC matrix can be seen in Figure 4.

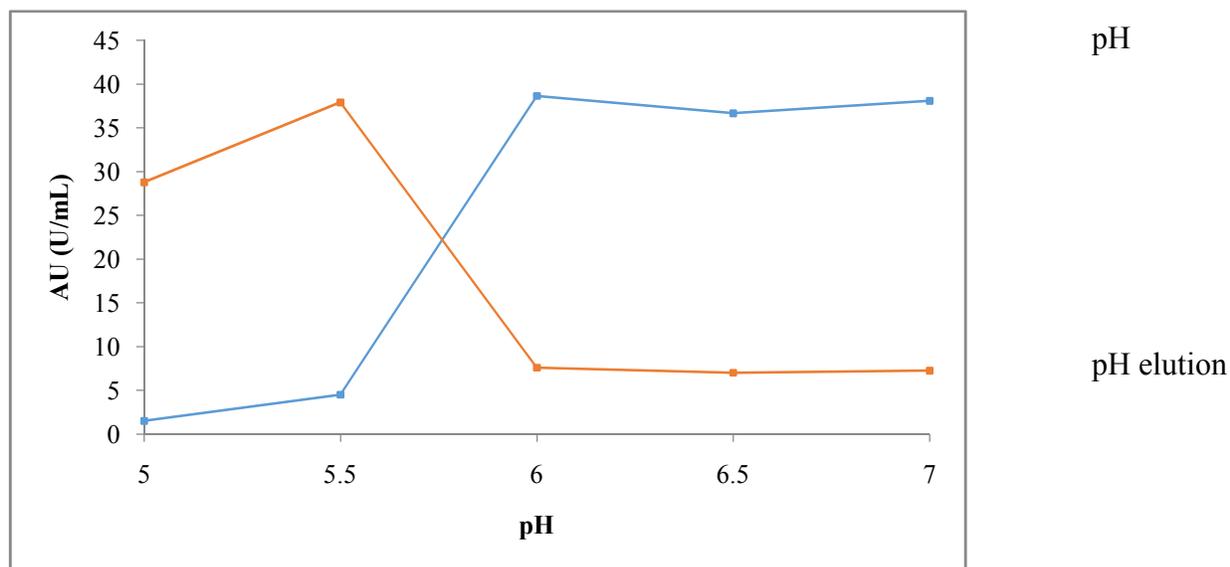


Figure 4. Activity of the α -amylase enzyme unit at various pH binding with CMC matrix.

According to Fig. 4, enzymes can exchange ion counters and bind to CMC matrices well at pH 5.5. Therefore, a 0.05 M phosphate buffer was used at pH 5.5 as the initial buffer. As for the elution buffer, a mixture of 0.05 M phosphate buffer pH 7 and NaCl 1 M (1: 1) was used. The protein pattern (A280nm) and unit activity (U / mL) of α -amylase enzyme from chromatography column of cation exchanger using CMC can be seen in Figure 5.

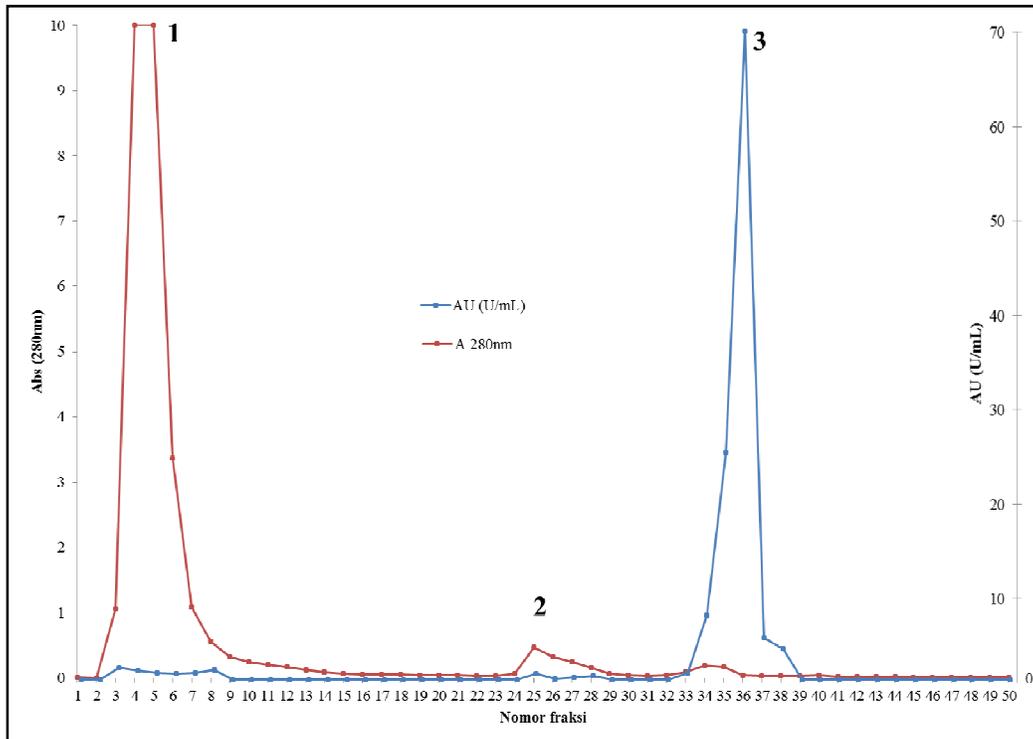


Figure 5. The α -amylase enzyme chromatogram of *B. subtilis* ITBCCB148 in the CMC column.

Figure 5 shows the presence of 3 peak. Peak protein number 1 and 2 there is no activity of α -amylase enzyme. This suggests separate proteins other than the α -amylase enzyme, where the proteins (enzymes) are still strongly bound to the CMC matrix. The activity of the α -amylase enzyme lies in fraction number 34 to fraction number 38 with the highest activity in fraction number 36 at the peak of protein number 3. The specific activity of α -amylase in fraction number 36 was 10387.11 U / mg. The purity of the enzyme increased 11.22 times compared to the crude extract of the enzyme.

1.8 Determination of Purified Enzyme

a. Determination of optimum pH

The optimum pH was determined based on the highest activity of purified enzyme measured at various incubation pH of 5.5; 6.0; 6.5; 7.0; 7.5; and 8.0. The optimum pH of purified enzymes can be seen in Figure 6, that shows the purified enzyme having an optimum pH at pH 6.0, and stable between pH 5.5 and pH 8.0.

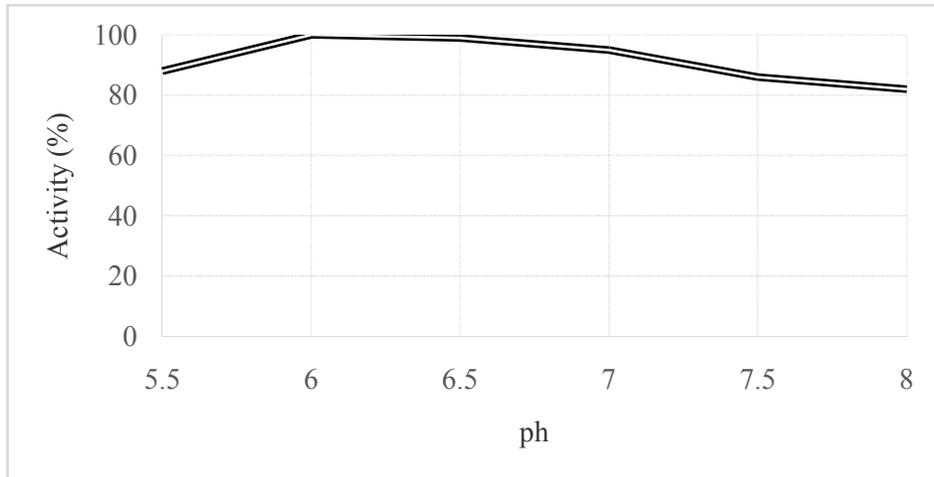


Figure 6. Optimum pH of purified enzyme

b. Determination of temperature optimum

The optimum temperature was determined based on the highest activity of pure enzymes and immobilized enzymes measured at various incubation temperatures of 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and 85°C. The optimum temperature of α -amylase enzymes purified and the result of immobilization can be seen in Figure 7, that shows the purified enzyme having an optimum temperature at 60 °C and stable at 65 to 75 °C

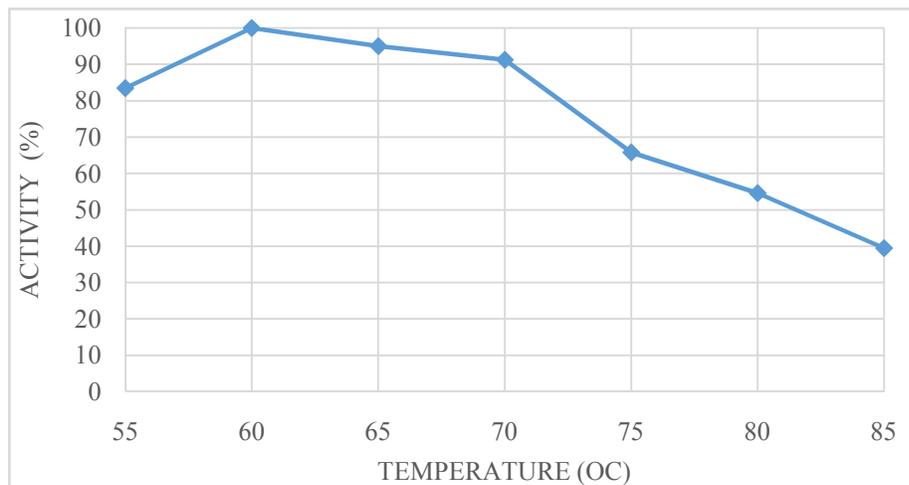


Figure 7. Optimum temperature of purified enzyme

c. Determination of K_m and V_{maks}

K_M is a constant that shows the affinity of the enzyme to the substrate. The V_{max} is the maximum reaction rate. If the substrate concentration is too high, all enzymes form the substrate-enzyme

complex so the reaction rate is maximum. Determination of K_M and V_{max} aims to determinate the substrate concentration to produce maximum reaction rate. The determination of K_M and V_{max} values was based on enzyme activity measured using the Mandels method at 60° C for 30 min in various substrate concentrations on the enzyme. Substrate concentration used is 0,1; 0,2; 0,4; 0,6; 0,8; And 1%. The value of K_M and V_{max} purified α -amylase enzyme were 6.18 mg mL⁻¹ substrate and 909.09 μ mol mL⁻¹ min⁻¹ and the Lineweaver-Burk Curve can be seen in Figure 8.

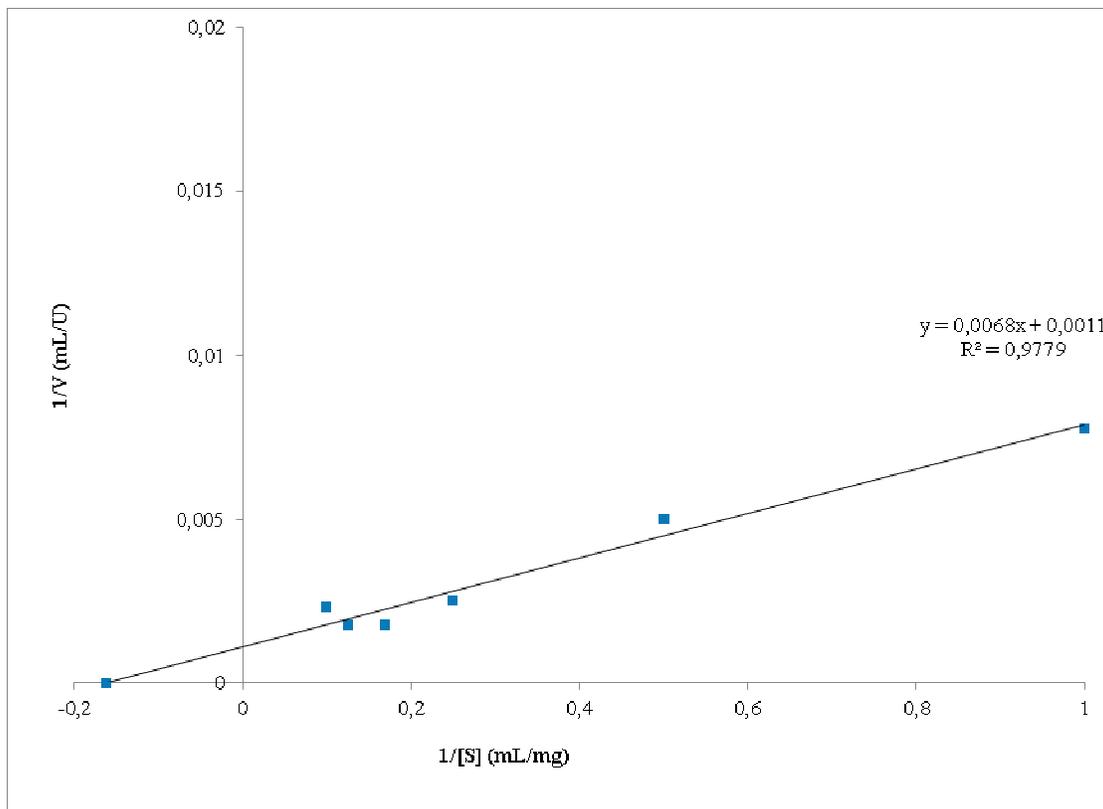


Figure 8. Lineweaver-Burk Curve of Purified Enzyme

D. Conclusions

Based on the results obtained and the discussion above, it can be concluded that there are enhancement specific activity of purified enzyme than crude extract enzyme. The optimum pH of purified enzyme was 6.0, the optimum temperature was 60°C, while the K_m and V_{max} value approximately were 6.18 mg mL⁻¹ substrate and 909.09 μ mol mL⁻¹ min⁻¹

E. Acknowledgments

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F. References

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