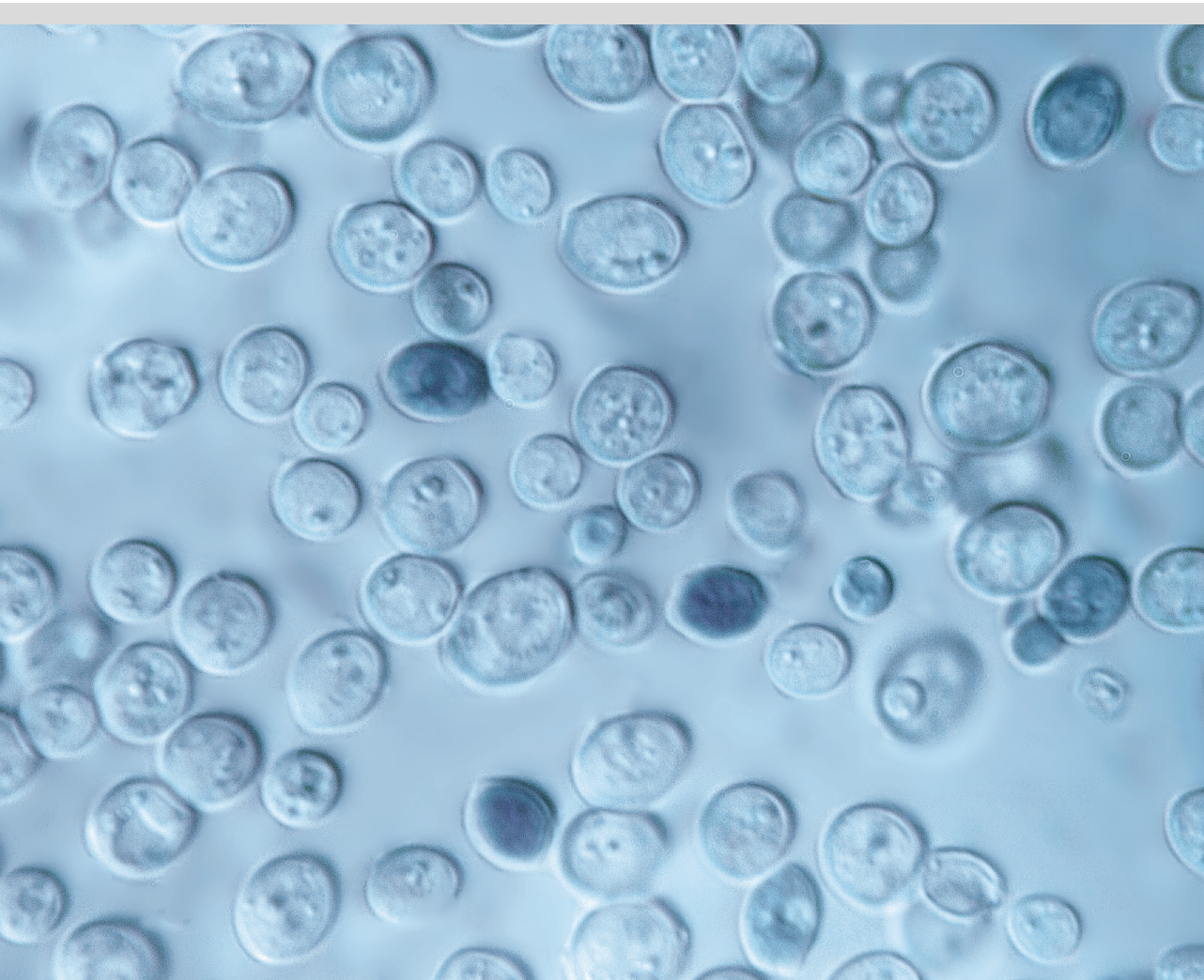


Yeasts as Production Hosts for Biocatalysts

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I. Abbreviations used in this work.....	9
1. Abstracts.....	13
1.1 Zusammenfassung	14
1.2 Abstract	15
2. Scope and aims of this thesis.....	18
2.1 Introduction.....	19
2.2 Aims of this thesis.....	22
3. Comparative expression in yeast systems.....	24
3.1 Introduction.....	25
3.1.1 Enzymes in catalysis	25
3.1.2 Recombinant protein production in yeast.....	27
3.1.2.1 <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	28
3.1.2.2 <i>Kluyveromyces lactis</i>	29
3.1.2.3 <i>Hansenula polymorpha</i>	29
3.1.3 Gene optimisation	30
3.1.4 Posttranslational modifications.....	31
3.1.5 Model enzyme – lipase CAL-A.....	34
3.2 Results and discussion	35
3.2.1 Sequence optimisation	35
3.2.2 Cloning and selection of the best expressing transformants	38
3.2.3 Media screening & purification from various yeasts	39
3.2.4 Comparative expression in shake flask scale.....	41
3.2.5 Glycosylation analysis	43
3.2.5.1 Expression with tunicamycin	45
3.2.5.2 Analysis of carbohydrate content.....	49
3.2.6 Thermostability	50
3.2.7 Kinetic analysis	53
3.2.8 Substrate spectra	55
3.3 Summary and outlook	58
4. Glycosidases & glycosynthases	62
4.1 Introduction.....	63
4.1.1 Glycosynthases in biocatalysis	64
4.1.1.1 Mechanism of glycosidase engineering	66
4.1.1.2 Substrates and products.....	71
4.1.2 Rhamnosidases	71
4.1.2.1 Rhamnosidase RhaBa	74
4.1.2.2 Rhamnosidase RhaLa	76

4.1.2.3	Rhamnosidase RhaHp.....	76
4.1.3	Site-directed mutagenesis of the enzymes	77
4.2	Results and discussion	80
4.2.1	Rhamnosidase from <i>Bacillus</i> sp.	80
4.2.1.1	Design of potential rhamnosynthase mutants	80
4.2.1.2	Cloning and expression in <i>E. coli</i>	84
4.2.1.3	Application for chemical synthesis.....	86
4.2.2	Rhamnosidase from <i>L. acidophilus</i>	93
4.2.3	Rhamnosidase from <i>H. polymorpha</i>	94
4.2.3.1	Gene isolation and removal of intron.....	94
4.2.3.2	Expression in three yeasts	96
4.2.3.3	Purification and crystallisation attempts.....	98
4.3	Summary and outlook	103
5.	Materials and methods.....	107
5.1	Chemicals, used materials and software	108
5.2	Strains.....	109
5.3	Plasmids and primers.....	110
5.4	Media and solutions	114
5.4.1	Stock solutions and media for <i>E. coli</i>	114
5.4.2	Media for yeasts	115
5.5	Microbiology methods	117
5.5.1	Preparation of chemically competent <i>E. coli</i> cells.....	117
5.5.2	Transformation of competent <i>E. coli</i> cells	117
5.5.3	Expression of rhamnosidase RhaBa in <i>E. coli</i>	118
5.5.4	Expression of rhamnosidase RhaLa in <i>E. coli</i>	118
5.5.5	Preparation of chemically competent yeast cells.....	118
5.5.6	Transformation of yeasts	119
5.5.7	Passaging and stabilisation of <i>H. polymorpha</i> transformants.....	119
5.5.8	Enzyme expression in yeast in DWP format	120
5.5.9	Media screening for <i>H. polymorpha</i>	120
5.5.10	Expression of lipase CAL-A in yeasts.....	121
5.5.11	Intracellular expression of rhamnosidase RamHp in <i>H. polymorpha</i>	121
5.5.12	Estimation of the cell number in the culture	122
5.6	Molecular biology methods.....	123
5.6.1	Plasmid isolation from <i>E. coli</i>	123
5.6.2	Genomic DNA isolation from yeasts.....	123
5.6.3	Determination of DNA concentration.....	124
5.6.4	Agarose gel electrophoresis.....	124
5.6.5	DNA extraction from agarose gel.....	124
5.6.6	Enzymatic digestion and ligation of DNA fragments	124
5.6.7	Polymerase chain reaction PCR	125
5.6.7.1	Colony PCR from <i>E. coli</i> cells.....	125
5.6.7.2	Colony PCR from yeast cells.....	126
5.6.7.3	Overlap extension PCR	127
5.6.7.4	Mutagenesis via Megaprimer method	129
5.6.7.5	Cassette mutagenesis	131
5.6.7.6	Mutagenesis via QuikChange method	132
5.7	Biochemical methods	135
5.7.1	<i>E. coli</i> cell disruption	135

5.7.2	Yeast cell disruption	135
5.7.3	Protein purification with ÄKTA.....	135
5.7.4	Batch purification of the protein	136
5.7.5	Size Exclusion Chromatography	136
5.7.6	Measurement of protein concentration	137
5.7.7	Lipase activity assay with standard substrate	137
5.7.8	Thermostability analysis of lipase CAL-A	138
5.7.9	Kinetic characterisation of lipase CAL-A	138
5.7.10	Lipase activity assay with bulky substrates.....	138
5.7.11	Glycosylation analysis on SDS-PAGE.....	139
5.7.12	Glycoprotein estimation	139
5.7.13	Rhamnosidase activity assay with standard substrate	140
5.7.14	Rhamnosynthase activity assay	140
5.7.15	SDS-PAGE.....	141
5.7.16	Silver staining	142
5.7.17	Coomassie staining	142
5.7.18	Western Blot	143
5.7.19	Colony Lift Assay	143
5.7.20	Concentration of the protein samples	144
5.7.21	Desalting of the protein samples	144
5.7.22	Lyophilisation of the protein samples.....	144
6.	Additional figures and tables	145
6.1	Genes & plasmid maps	146
6.1.1	Plasmid for intracellular expression in <i>S. cerevisiae</i>	146
6.1.2	Plasmid for extracellular expression in <i>K. lactis</i>.....	147
6.1.3	Plasmid for extracellular expression in <i>H. polymorpha</i>	148
6.1.4	Codon optimised CAL-A gene sequence	148
6.1.5	Rhamnosidase RhaBa sequence	150
6.1.6	Rhamnosidase RhaLa sequence.....	152
6.1.7	Rhamnosidase RhaHp sequence	154
6.2	CAL-A optimisation codon bias analysis of the whole sequences.....	156
6.2.1	Codon usage tables used for the codon bias analysis and optimisation 156	
6.2.2	CAL-A codon optimisation for <i>S. cerevisiae</i>.	160
6.2.3	CAL-A codon optimisation for <i>K. lactis</i>.....	166
6.2.4	CAL-A codon optimisation for <i>H. polymorpha</i>.	172
6.3	Sequence alignment of the rhamnosidases used for this study.	178
7.	Literature.....	180
8.	Acknowledgements	195
9.	Statement	197

Enzymes, as natural catalysts, are becoming more widely applied in organic chemistry due to their selectivity and availability. High yield expression of a desired enzyme in a heterologous host is a prerequisite for its successful application in biocatalysis. Yeasts are an especially attractive expression platform, as they combine many advantages of producing proteins in microbes with the eukaryotic ability to modify and secrete the produced protein.

In this thesis, two main topics were addressed. Firstly, possible influence of host-specific changes on the properties of the produced protein was investigated. For this purpose, three industrially relevant yeast strains: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Kluyveromyces lactis* and *Hansenula polymorpha* were selected. Comparative expression of the model enzyme in the yeasts revealed significant difference in the biochemical properties of the produced protein. The results exemplify how the selection of the host even within one taxonomic family (*Saccharomycetaceae*) affects the produced enzyme's characteristics.

The second part of this thesis focused on the application of the yeast expression systems for expression and modification of rhamnosidases as a prerequisite for their potential application in the synthesis of glycoside containing natural products. Three published rhamnosidases – Rha_{Ba} from *Bacillus* sp, Rha_{La} from *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and Rha_{Hp} from *H. polymorpha* – were targeted during this study and four major aspects: gene identification, expression, creation of mutants with altered activity and crystallisation were investigated. The protocols for protein expression, purification and crystallisation established in this study, as well as created rhamnosidase variants are important step towards future application of this enzyme class in biocatalysis.