



RESEARCH ARTICLE

FORMATION OF 3',3'',5',5''-TETRABROMOPHENOL SULFONPHTHALEIN FROM
PHENOLSULFONPHTHALEIN CATALYZED BY CHLOROPEROXIDASE OF *CALDARIOMYCES FUMAGO*

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ABSTRACT

Chlorination of organic molecules is catalyzed by chloroperoxidase in the presence of hydrogen peroxide, few reports have been published on bromination of organic compounds catalyzed by chloroperoxidase. In this work, chloroperoxidase was used to catalyze the bromination of organic compounds in the presence of hydrogen peroxide and sodium bromide. The reaction mixture contain phenol red, NaBr, hydrogen peroxide and chloroperoxidase, the reaction was followed by spectrophotometry and HPLC measurements at 590 nm. Chloroperoxidase catalyze the transformation of phenolsulfonphthalein (Phenol Red; PR) to 3',3'',5',5''- tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein (Bromophenol Blue; BPB), under mild reaction conditions. The product of the reaction was characterized by HPLC-MS and FTIR. The reaction follows a Michaelis-Menten equation for NaBr, H₂O₂, and Phenol Red at different concentrations each. Maximum specific reaction rate has a values between 6.6 to 7.62 μM⁻¹ BPB formed min⁻¹mg⁻¹protein. Halogenation of phenol red with I, and Cl ions in the presence of chloroperoxidase was not detected. The main product of the reaction was Bromophenol blue, identified by HPLC-MS and FTIR analyses. Chloroperoxidase catalyze bromination reactions on organic compounds such as phenol red, thymol blue and cresol red. These capabilities might be used to produce a high value compounds.

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INTRODUCTION

Halogenation of organic compounds in the presence of halide ions and peroxides, such as H₂O₂ is catalyzed by haloperoxidase enzymes. Three classes of haloperoxidases have been described: haeme, vanadium and those without haeme group, enzymes which act in the presence of hydrogen peroxide for the halogenation of organic compounds (Novak and Littlechild, 2013). These enzymes have gained the attention, due to their ability for the halogenation of organic compounds for industrial use, many of these reactions are carried out by regioselective oxidation of organic compounds (Zhang et al., 2013). The chloroperoxidase [CPO, EC 1.11.1.10] is a versatile heme-containing enzyme, containing a ferriprotoporphyrin IX as the prosthetic group, which has the advantage of self-regeneration at the end of the catalytic cycle. CPO is capable of the oxidation of chloride, bromide and iodide ions (donors for halogenation reactions). Fluoride is not a substrate for chloroperoxidase, however is an inhibitor of the halogenation reaction. In addition, to catalyze halogenation

reactions, also exhibits peroxidase, catalase and cytochrome P450-like activities (Hofrichter and Ullrich, 2014), oxidation of indol (Zhang et al., 2013), epoxidation and hydroxylates activated substrates such as organic sulfides and olefins (Hofrichter and Ullrich, 2014) and halogenation of flavanones and flavones (Yaipakdee and Robertson, 2001), highly stereoselective chlorination-cyclization in antibiotic biosynthesis (Renirie et al., 2008; Bernhardt et al., 2011), chlorination of bisphenils (Speicher et al., 2003). Catalytic bromination reactions are generally carried out by vanadium bromoperoxidase (V-BrPO), which recognize a variety of organic compounds as substrates, using hydrogen peroxide as an oxidant of bromide (Butler and Carter, 2004). Few reports on the bromination of organic compounds by CPO have been published, nevertheless CPO might be utilize Br instead of Cl. In the present work, the chloroperoxidase from *Caldariomyces fumago* was used to catalyze the bromination of phenolsulfonphthalein to 3',3'',5',5''-tetrabromophenolsulfonphthalein under standard reaction conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals: Purified Chloroperoxidase (CPO) [EC 1.11.1.10] from the marine fungus *C. fumago* 89362 Commonwealth

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Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, UK, was pursued from Sigma-Aldrich, Cat. 9055-20-3. Hydrogen peroxide, bromophenol blue, phenol red, buffer salts and methanol were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Co. (St. Louis Missouri).

Performance of the Bromination of Phenolsulfonylphthalein catalyzed by Chloroperoxidase

The catalytic reaction to transform phenol red (PR) to bromophenol blue (BPB) was followed by a spectrum measurement of a λ range from 350 to 650 nm, in a spectrophotometer DR/4000 Hach, Hach Co. (Loveland, Colorado). The mixture standard reaction with a volume of 2 ml, contain acetate buffer 40 mM, pH 3.5, 37.5 μ M phenol red, 0.75 mM of NaBr, 0.5 mM H₂O₂ and 7.8 nM of CPO (an extinction coefficient of $\epsilon_{403\text{nm}} = 75,300 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ was used). The reaction was carried out at 30°C. Sequential picks were obtained at intervals of 90s.

Kinetics of the Bromination of phenol red catalyzed by CPO

The mixture standard reaction was used as base mixture reaction to perform kinetic studies. The effect of the substrates concentration, one at a time, on the formation of bromophenol blue was determined at concentration intervals of NaBr 0 – 3 mM, H₂O₂ 0 – 1 mM, and phenol red 5 – 150 μ M. The amount of bromophenol blue produced was determined at 590 nm using an extinction coefficient of $\epsilon_{590} = 80,944 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$, for 2 min at 30°C, followed in a spectrophotometer DR/4000 Hach, Hach Co. (Loveland, Colorado) at 590 nm. Optimal pH of the reaction was determined by changing the pH of the reaction buffer from 3 to 11. Temperature and pH stability were carried out after the end of the reaction by fixing different temperatures or pH during 12 h.

HPLC and FTIR analyses of the products of the reaction

The products of the reaction were extracted with dichloromethane before been analyzed by LC-MS and IR. Mass spectra analysis was performed in a LC/MS system, Hewlett-Packard, MSD, model 1100 and the Infrared spectra in a High performance Gold Infinity FTIR, Mattson, with DGT detector. Elution conditions were fixed in an Agilent 1100 series HPLC system (Palo Alto, CA), using a C₁₈ Zorbax 300 SB column (Agilent, Palo Alto, CA) eluted with a methanol:water gradient (30-70 to 70:30) at 0.8 ml/min. Substrate and product detection was carried out using a MWD multi-wave detector (Agilent, Palo Alto, CA) coupled to the HPLC system, using two λ at 440 nm and 590 nm. After 8 min of reaction 20 μ l of the mix reaction were injected to the HPLC system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Spectral properties of the peroxidative bromination of phenolsulfonylphthalein catalyzed by chloroperoxidase

The change of the absorbance (ΔA) at 590 nm is due to the incorporation of four bromide atoms to 3',3'',5',5'' positions of the molecule of phenol red to produce 3',3'',5',5''-tetrabromophenolsulfonylphthalein (BPB), λ_{max} 588-590 nm. No reaction was detected without CPO, NaBr or H₂O₂ and no halogenation activity was observed when use KCl or KI

instead of NaBr. After some 90s of the beginning of the reaction, a new pick at 590 nm appeared, which increase as the reaction proceeds (Figure 1). The spectrum obtained was similar to the formation of BPB catalyzed by a transition-metal-ion-grafted mesoporous silicate material (Walker *et al*, 1997).

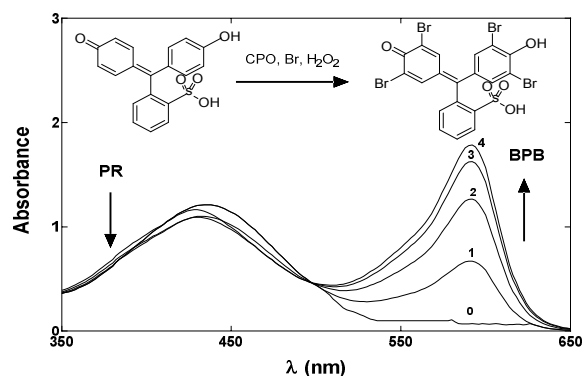


Figure 1. Absorbance spectra of the bromination reaction from 350 – 650 nm. Phenol red absorb at 440 nm and bromophenol blue at 590 nm. Numbers means 90s of difference on the reaction course

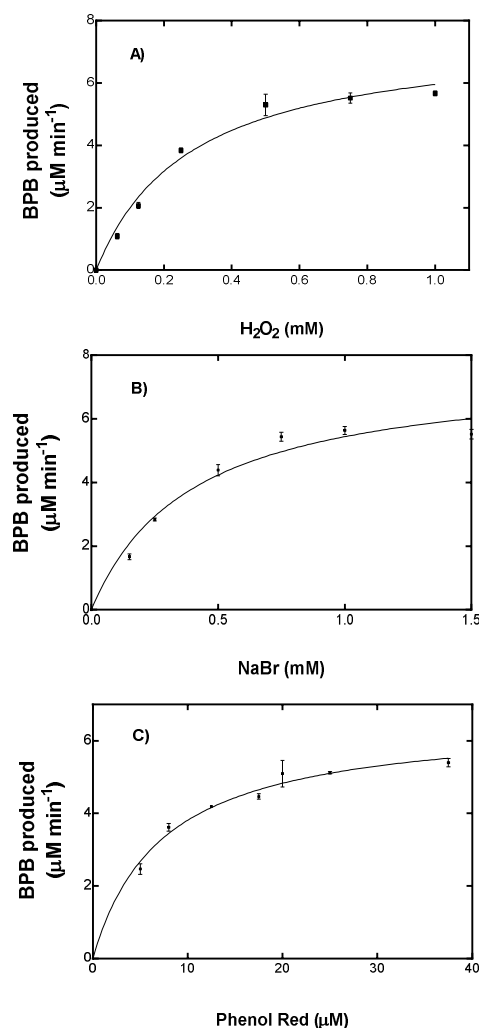


Figure 2. Time course of the bromination reaction. A) Hydrogen peroxide was used as substrate from 0-1 mM. B) NaBr at different concentration 0-1.5 mM. C) Phenol red from 0-40 μ M

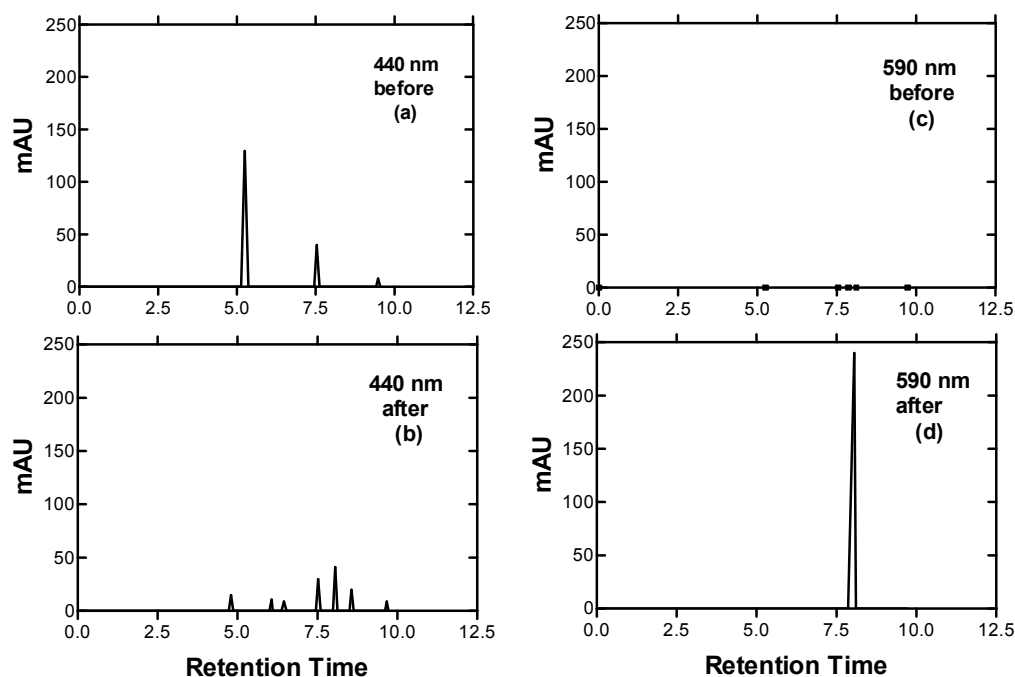


Figure 3. Detection of product formation by HPLC after the bromination of phenol red by the CPO. a, c) before the reaction monitored at 440 and 590 nm, respectively. b, d) after 8 min of reaction monitored at 440 and 590 nm, respectively

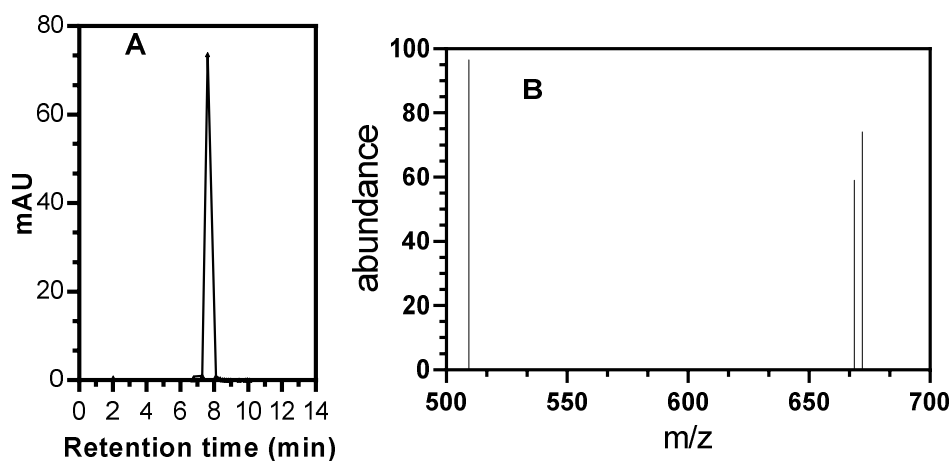


Figure 4. Determination of product formation by HPLC-MS. A) retention time of the main product. B) Major molecular ion peaks obtained

Table 1. Kinetic parameters of chloroperoxidase-catalyzed Bromination of phenol red

| Kinetic Parameter | Value |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| $V_{max_{H_2O_2}}$ | 7.62 ± 0.33 |
| $K_{H_2O_2}$ | 0.28 ± 0.03 |
| $V_{max_{Br}}$ | 7.60 ± 0.38 |
| K_{Br} | 0.40 ± 0.05 |
| $V_{max_{PR}}$ | 6.60 ± 0.20 |
| K_{PR} | 7.33 ± 0.71 |

V_{max} units: BPB formed $\mu\text{M min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1} \text{protein}$,
 $K_{H_2O_2}, K_{Br}$: mM, K_{PR} : μM

Table 2. Kinetic parameters of Thymol blue and Cresol Red bromination by CPO

| Substrate | Parameter | Value |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Thymol blue | $V_{max_{TB}}$ | 4.42 ± 0.25 |
| | K_{TB} | 3.81 ± 0.03 |
| Cresol Red | $V_{max_{CR}}$ | 5.53 ± 0.38 |
| | K_{CR} | 4.50 ± 0.38 |

V_{max} units: bromothymol bromocresol formed $\mu\text{M min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1} \text{protein}$, K_{TB}, K_{CR} : μM

Kinetic analyses

The effect of H₂O₂ concentration (0-1.0 mM) on the CPO activity was assayed with a concentration of phenol red of 25 μM (Fig. 2a). The maximum reaction rate ($V_{\max\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}$) for H₂O₂ as first substrate of CPO a value of 7.62 ± 0.33 BPB μM formed $\text{min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1}$ protein CPO was calculated, with a 95 % confidence and a $K_{\text{mH}_2\text{O}_2}$ of 0.28 ± 0.03 mM, the reaction fitted well for a Michaelis-Menten equation with a $R^2 = 0.985$. Data were analyzed from a total number of 21 values, 7 for X coordinate and 3 replicates, kinetic values are summarized in Table 1. Bromination of phenol red reaction at different concentrations of NaBr from 0 to 1.5 mM (Fig. 2b) was also carried out. The reaction at different concentrations of NaBr was also analyzed by fitting to a Michaelis-Menten equation with a $R^2 = 0.97$, the value for maximum reaction rate ($V_{\max\text{Br}}$) was calculated by a double reciprocal plot (Lineweaver-Burk linearization plot) a value of $V_{\max\text{Br}} = 7.6 \pm 0.24$ BPB formed $\mu\text{M min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1}$ protein CPO and a K_{mBr} of 0.4 ± 0.05 mM for sodium bromide were obtained, with a 95 % of confidence. Data were analyzed from a total number of 21 values, 7 for X coordinate and 3 replicates. The transformation rate of phenol red to BPB depends of the concentration of the PR as substrate (Fig. 2c), maximum reaction rate for PR concentration ($V_{\max\text{PR}}$) was 6.6 ± 0.2 BPB μM $\text{min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1}$ protein CPO, and a K_{mPR} of 7.33 ± 0.71 μM PR (Table 1). The fitting value for Michaelis-Menten equation was $R^2 = 0.997$, data were analyzed from a total number of 15 values, 5 for X coordinate and 3 replicates of Y coordinates and a 95 % of confidence. Among the catalytic properties of CPO, the optimum pH was between 3.0 – 4.0, above pH 4.0 the biocatalytic activity of CPO decreased, and above pH 5 no activity of CPO can be detected. The bromophenol blue formed has stability between pH 3-5.0 and temperature of 10 to 35°C for at least 20 h. CPO may form an intermediate compound [CPO-H₂O₂] as initial mechanistic sequence of bromination, followed by the formation of an intermediate [CPO-O-BR] through an electrophilic bromination reaction. It is not clear if phenol is oxidized as one intermediate, because not evidence exist of its formation during halogenation by CPO. One intermediate [CPO-O-BR] react with PR to join one molecule of Br to PR, the sequential reactions occur to brominate PR into 4 positions. In the first place, the activation of CPO by its oxidation in the presence of H₂O₂. According to Manoj and Hager, (2008), the organic substrate is oxidized before the halogenation happens, however there are not evidence it occur.

Products of the reaction

In the beginning of the reaction the peak corresponding to PR in HPLC appear at 5.2 min of elution at 440 nm using an UV detector (Figure 3a), after 8 min of reaction the peak observed at 5.2 min of elution disappear (Figure 3b). The same mixture reaction measure at 590 nm, at the beginning of the reaction not peak at 8 min of elution was detected (Figure 3c), however at the end of the reaction a major peak at 590 nm was detected (Figure 3d). The peak obtained at 8 min of elution at the end of the reaction was used for LC-MS analyses, the mixture after 8 min of reaction was extracted with dichloromethane (1:1 v/v) before been analyzed by LC-MS spectrum (Fig. 4a). Mass spectra analyses revealed the presence of molecular ion peaks at 668, 670, 672 m/z, and major ion at 510 m/z indicating the presence of four bromide atoms, the mass spectrum was similar to the reported mass spectrum of BPB by US Secretary

of Commerce (http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/rest/pug_view/data/key/814812_1). The bromination of Thymol has been reported for vanadium-bromoperoxidase from *Ascophyllum nodosum* (Sabuzi et al., 2015), but has not been reported for CPO or other heme-containing haloperoxidase. Infrared spectra (High Performance Gold Infinity FTIR, Mattson, with DGT detector) analyses OF BPB showed a characteristic transmission picks at 617, 820, 1191, 1339 and 2900-3000 cm^{-1} , which correspond to C-Br, C-O, O-S=O, and C=C conjugated bonds, all of them found into the BPB molecule.

Conclusion

Chloroperoxidase catalyze reactions that join Br ion to organic compounds such phenol red, as an electron-rich organic molecules, CPO is a versatile biocatalyst, with reaction of oxidoreductase, catalase and bromination, but no chlorination or iodination on PR. CPO use thymol blue and cresol red to produce bromothymol blue ($V_{\max\text{TB}} 3.8 \pm 0.25$ μM $\text{min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1}$ protein, $K_{\text{mTB}} 2.5$ μM) and bromocresol purple ($V_{\max\text{CR}} 4.7 \pm 0.36$ μM $\text{min}^{-1} \text{mg}^{-1}$ protein, $K_{\text{mCR}} 4.1 \pm 0.8$ μM) respectively, Table 2. The capability of CPO to halogenate organic compounds might be used to produce a high value compounds instead of chemical synthesis, procedures that conduct toward the green chemistry.

Acknowledgments

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