

Thermalstabilization of chitinolytic enzymes of *Pantoea dispersa*

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Abstract

The thermodynamic deactivation kinetics, ΔH^* , ΔS^* , E and ΔG^* were used to understand the stability behaviour of the novel chitinases (I, II and III) of the marine isolate *Pantoea dispersa* in a range of salts and varying pH conditions (pH 4 to 9). The deactivation rate decreased with increasing half life of chitinase I, II and III in the presence of salts at 30-60°C with the following effect on the order of stability evident $\text{NaCl} > \text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4 > \text{KBr} > \text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3 > \text{KNO}_3 > \text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} > \text{CaCl}_2$. With increasing pH the deactivation rate decreased whilst the half life of chitinase I, II and III increased. This lead to increased stability at high pH's with the following order of stability evident $9 \geq 8 > 7 > 6 > 5 > 4$ at 30-60°C. With increasing pH's and addition of each salt ΔH^* of chitinase I, II and III increased whilst deactivation energy decreased. Furthermore ΔS^* was found to be comparatively lower than untreated chitinase I, II and III. The free energy of chitinase I, II and III decreased with increasing pH and different salts in the same order as described above. The greater stability of chitinase I ($t_{1/2}$: 270, 225, 185 and 135 min), II ($t_{1/2}$: 225, 210, 195 and 135 min) and III ($t_{1/2}$: 210, 150, 120 and 105 min) at 30-60°C respectively were observed at pH 8. With the addition of NaCl, the following stabilities of chitinase I ($t_{1/2}$: 270, 225, 185 and 135), II ($t_{1/2}$: 225, 210, 195 and 135) and III ($t_{1/2}$: 210, 150, 120 and 105) at 30-60°C respectively were observed which is greater than the chitinase of *Trichoderma harzianum* a recognised commercial biocontrol agent.

Keywords: chitinase, *Pantoea dispersa*, pH, salts, stability, thermodynamic, temperature

1. Introduction

Chitinases hydrolyze chitin, a linear polysaccharide consisting of β -(1,4)-linked *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc), which are abundant biopolymers. These enzymes are essential to chitin-containing organisms (fungi, insects, crustaceans) and used by many bacteria to utilize chitin as a source of carbon and energy [1, 2]. Multiple forms of chitinases are produced to provide synergistic degradation of a complex and resilient chitin polymer for complete degradation to *N*-acetylglucosamine [3, 4, 5, 6]. Chitinases of various origins possess versatile enzymological properties and are usually constituents of complex chitinolytic enzyme systems [7]. It has recently been suggested that chitinases play an important role in human diseases such as arteriosclerosis [8] and colorectal cancer [9], and its level is now considered as a diagnostic hallmark in Gaucher disease [10, 11]. Furthermore, chitinases together with proteases, glucanases and cellulases are frequently considered critical in the biocontrol of phytopathogenic fungi [12]. Chitinases occupy a unique position in agricultural biotechnology because the lytic activity inhibits fungal development by degrading chitin and glucan components of cell wall and have proven potential as antifungal agents [13, 14]. Chitinases therefore play vital role in agricultural industries and medical fields, furthermore, chitinases also play vital roles in sea food industry for crustacean chitinous waste degradation. To accelerate identification of optimal chitinase formulations to function broadly in a range of environments for the biocontrol of phytopathogenic fungi, for cytochemical localization of chitin/chitosan using chitinase–chitosanase–gold complex, for fungal protoplast technology, for preparation of chitooligosaccharides and for degradation of chitinous waste [15], we have gained a fundamental understanding of behaviour of chitinase molecules in various conditions. For this, the study of activity and stability of chitinase enzymes in various conditions is necessary because, for example, the success of the biocontrol agent depends on geological and soil conditions where it is applied [12]. In a previous report we explained the activation of chitinase I, II and III in broad range of pH, temperature and salts [16] as these salts were found to be significant in chitinase production using the Plackett-Burman statistical method [17]. The activity and stability of enzymes are important parameters which codetermine the economic feasibility of applying chitinase in industrial processes. High stability is generally considered an economic advantage

because of reduced enzyme turnover [18]. A number of strategies are applied to increase the stability of chitinase enzymes such as mutation [18], chemical modification at active site [19, 20], introduction of disulfide bridges [21], the optimization of helices and helix caps [22], immobilization [23], entropic stabilization [24], changing pH condition and using various salts [25]. However, studies of chitinases in varying pH conditions and the effect of various salts on chitinases thermodynamic properties have not been described in the literature. Studies on the thermodynamic stability of enzymes have provided some fundamental insights into factors that determine enzyme stability [18]. Thermodynamic data for an enzyme and its catalysed reactions are essential in the prediction of the extent of reaction and the position of any process in which these reactions occur. Enzyme thermostability encompasses thermodynamic and kinetic stabilities [19]. The ability of enzyme is measured by catalysis in biochemical reactions whilst the stability of an enzyme is judged by its residual activity. Thermodynamic stability is defined by the enzyme's free energy of stabilization and its half-life ($t_{1/2}$) at defined temperatures [25, 26].

Before proceeding to develop suitable chitinase enzyme formulations, accumulating information on the stability of chitinase enzymes in different conditions is necessary to ensure the economic and technical feasibility for an industrial process. Thus the present investigation utilises a thermodynamic approach (deactivation kinetics, ΔH^* , ΔS^* , E and ΔG^*) to understand the behaviour of these enzymes at different temperatures with varying pH and various salts. The present investigation therefore aims to understand the stability of the enzymes in the presence of a range of salts and at varying pH, which will provide information on the activation of the enzymes after a period of stabilization. The presented thermodynamic data will aid selection of salts, their concentration and the pH utilised in an industrial process.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Chemicals

Practical grade chitin and *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine were purchased from Sigma Chemicals Co., (USA). All other chemicals were purchased from BDH and Fisher Chemicals (UK).

2.2. Organism and culture conditions

The chitinolytic bacterium was isolated from sea dumps containing crustacean wastes, in Bhavnagar, India, and was identified as *P. dispersa* [27]. The bacterium was cultivated on chitin agar medium consisting of (g/l) acid swollen chitin, 5.0; yeast extract, 0.5; (NH₄)₂SO₄, 1.0; MgSO₄·7H₂O, 0.3 and KH₂PO₄, 1.36. The pH of the medium was adjusted to 7.2 and sterilized by autoclaving at 121 °C for 15 min [28]. Acid swollen chitin was prepared by the method of Hackman [29].

2.3. Chitinase production and purification

A liquid medium containing (g/l) chitin, 15.0; urea, 0.32; CaCl₂, 0.10 and MgSO₄·7H₂O, 0.08 was used for chitinolytic enzyme production. The pH of the medium was adjusted to 7.2 and sterilized by autoclaving at 121 °C for 15 min [30]. A five percent inoculum of *P. dispersa* (1 × 10⁸ CFU/ml) was added to 50 ml of liquid media in 250 ml flasks and incubated for 144 hr at 30 ± 2 °C on a rotary shaker (180 rpm). Subsequently the culture filtrate was collected by centrifugation at 8000 rpm for 20 min and used for enzyme purification as described previously [16]. The purified chitinase I, II and III were used to study their thermal stability in presence of salts at various pH's.

2.4. Chitinase assay

Chitinolytic activity was assayed by the method of Vyas and Deshpande [31]. The assay system consisted of 10 mg of acid swollen chitin, 50 μmoles of acetate buffer (pH 5) and 50 μl of enzyme in a total volume of 3.0 ml. After incubation at 50 °C for 10 min, products of chitinolysis were estimated by the Nelson reducing sugar method [32]. One unit of chitinolytic activity was defined as the amount of enzyme required to liberate 1 μmole of *N*-acetyl-D glucosamine equivalent at 50 °C per min.

2.5. Thermal stability assay

Thermal inactivation of chitinase I, II and III were determined by incubating purified chitinase at 30, 40, 50 and 60°C. Aliquots were withdrawn at 15 min intervals, cooled on ice for 3 hr and assayed for chitinase activity.

2.6. Effect of salts on thermal stability

CaCl₂ (0.12mg/ml), NaCl (1.2 mg/ml), KH₂PO₄ (0.06 mg/ml), KBr (0.02 mg/ml), MgSO₄·7H₂O (0.02 mg/ml), NH₄NO₃ (0.05 mg/ml) and KNO₃ (0.02 mg/ml) were found to activate chitinase I, II and III [15]. Therefore the same salt concentrations were selected for the investigation of the thermal stability of these enzymes. The stability of enzymes with each salt were studied separately; initially each salt was incubated with the enzyme at 4°C for 10min. The remaining unbound salts were removed by dialysis for 1 hr followed by thermal stability assay.

2.7. Effect of pH on thermal stability

A pH range from 4.0 to 9.0 was selected for thermal stability of chitinase I, II and III. The pH of chitinase I, II and III solutions were adjusted with acetic acid (1 M) or NaOH (1 M) followed by the thermal stability assay.

2.8. Estimation of deactivation rate constant

The residual activity was determined by comparing chitinase activity after heating with that of freshly prepared unheated chitinase I, II and III. The deactivation rate of these enzymes was calculated by first order expression.

$$dE/dt = - K_d E \quad (1)$$

So that,

$$\ln [E_t/E_0] = - K_d t \quad (2)$$

The K_d (deactivation rate constant or first order rate constant) values were calculated from a plot of Ln[E_t/E₀] Vs. t at a particular temperature.

2.9. Estimation of thermodynamic parameters for chitinase deactivation

In order to obtain energies and entropies of chitinase deactivation, absolute rates of reaction theory were used [33] where the rate of any reaction at a given temperature depends only on the concentration of an energy rich activated complex. Thermodynamic data were calculated by rearranging the Eyring absolute rate equation [11, 25].

The Eyring absolute rate equation is

$$K_d = (K_b T/h) \cdot e^{(\Delta S^*/R)} \cdot e^{(-\Delta H^*/RT)} \quad (3)$$

Where h (Plank constant) = 6.63×10^{-34} Js, R (Gas constant) = 8.314 J/K mol, ΔH^* (change in enthalpy), ΔS^* (change in entropy) and K_b (Boltzman constant [R/N]) = 1.38×10^{-23} J/K where N (Avogadros no.) = 6.02×10^{23} mol⁻¹

To calculate ΔH^* and ΔS^* the Eyring absolute rate equation is rearranged to give

$$\ln [K_d/T] = - (\Delta H^*/R)(1/T) + (\ln(K_b/h) + \Delta S^*/R) \quad (4)$$

ΔH^* and ΔS^* values were calculated from the slope and intercept of a $\ln [K_d/T]$ vs. $1/T$ plot respectively.

So that,

$$\Delta H^* = - (\text{slope}) R \quad (5)$$

$$\Delta S^* = R [\text{intercept} - \ln(K_b/h)] \quad (6)$$

Free energy change of chitinase I, II and III were calculated by using the following relationship (16).

$$\Delta G^* = - RT [\ln(K_d^*T/ K_b^*h)] \quad (7)$$

Energy of deactivation was estimated using the Arrhenius equation

$$K_d = A e^{(-E/RT)} \quad (8)$$

So that

$$\ln[K_d] = -E/RT + \ln A \quad (9)$$

Energy involved in this process was calculated from the slope of a linear plot of $1/T$ vs. $\ln[K_d]$ [34, 35]. Thermal stability of chitinase in the presence of different salts and pH was determined by heating the enzyme in the presence of each salt or specified pH in sealed tubes for different times at 30, 40, 50 and 60°C. Enzyme activity was measured before and after incubation at respective temperature to determine residual activity under each condition.

All experiments were conducted in triplicate, results shown are mean values.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Deactivation rate of chitinase I, II and III in presence of salt

Deactivation rates and half lives of purified chitinase I II and III were studied at 30, 40, 50 and 60°C. The deactivation rate increased with increasing temperature (Fig 1) whilst the half life decreased with increasing temperature (Fig 2). The addition of CaCl₂ (0.12mg/ml), NaCl (1.2 mg/ml), KH₂PO₄ (0.06 mg/ml), KBr (0.02 mg/ml), MgSO₄·7H₂O (0.02 mg/ml), NH₄NO₃ (0.05 mg/ml) and KNO₃ (0.02 mg/ml) reduced deactivation rates (Fig 1) and increased half life (Fig 2) at all temperatures studied. The effectiveness of various salts was not uniform, with the following order apparent from data: NaCl>KH₂PO₄>KBr>NH₄NO₃>KNO₃>MgSO₄·7H₂O>CaCl₂ (Fig 1, 2). This indicates that the effect of salts on stability of enzymes is related not only to the salt concentration but also to the type of salt. Chitinase I, II and III were all stabilized by salts which may be due to a reduction in unfavourable electrostatic repulsion which leads to reduced unfavourable electrostatic free energy (Table 1). Furthermore it was reported that halophilic enzymes have reduced stability in the absence of salts because they do not have sufficient hydrophobic amino acids for internal core packing [36, 37]. The stability of chitinase I, II and III were found to be optimum with NaCl as the deactivation rate (1/min X 10⁻³) of chitinase I (2.00, 2.92, 4.32, and 7.59), chitinase II (2.22, 3.15, 6.82 and 8.91) and chitinase III (3.02, 5.78, 12.37 and 13.21) was comparatively higher than other salts at 30-60°C, respectively (Fig 1). Furthermore the half life (min) of chitinase I (270, 225, 185 and 135), chitinase II (225, 210, 195 and 135) and chitinase III (210, 150, 120 and 105) were also higher than other salts at 30-60°C, respectively (Fig 2). NaCl affects the electrostatic charge in halophilic enzymes and therefore increases the hydrophobic interactions which enhance protein folding and enzymatic activity [38]. It was reported that stability and activity of halophilic enzymes were usually reached only with a high salt concentration, e.g. about 3 M KCl or NaCl [39, 40]. Overall salts investigated in this study increased the stability of all three chitinase enzymes, however the salt concentrations required for optimum stability are far lower than those of halophilic enzymes. Thus, the level of salts required to enhance the stability of chitinase enzymes is significantly lower than the total salt concentration of sea water and is in the range found

in soils [24]. High enzyme stability with a range of salts at these lower concentrations will therefore increase the efficacy of use under variable environmental conditions.

3.2. Deactivation rate of chitinase I, II and III at varying pH

pH is one of the main factors affecting tertiary and quaternary structures of proteins and enzymes. In many cases the rate of deactivation depends on the pH of the enzyme solution [26]. Deactivation rates and half lives of chitinase I, II and III were studied at 30, 40, 50 and 60°C with varying pH conditions. A pH range from 4 to 9 was selected, enzymes were found to have optimum activity at pH 5 [30]. However, the data (Fig 3, 4) shows that all three enzymes have greater stability at alkaline pH's indeed the order of stability in varying pH was as follows: $9 \geq 8 > 7 > 6 > 5 > 4$. At higher pH's the folding of chitinase enzymes may relax due to changes in the balance of electrostatic and hydrogen bonds which resulted in increased stability [25, 26]. Chitinase II was found to have a slightly lower deactivation rate and slightly higher half life than chitinase I and III across the pH range studied indicating that chitinase II has slightly greater stability over broad pH range than chitinase I and III.

The optimum stability of chitinase I, II and III were found at alkaline pH's. At pH 8 the deactivation rates ($1/\text{min} \times 10^{-3}$) of chitinase I (1.3, 2.2, 3.5 and 4.7), chitinase II (2.5, 2.8, 4.0 and 5.1) and chitinase III (1.5, 2.9, 4.0 and 6.4) were observed at 30-60°C, respectively. The following half lives (min) of chitinase I (270, 225, 185 and 135), chitinase II (225, 210, 195 and 135) and chitinase III (210, 150, 120 and 105) were observed at 30-60°C, respectively. All these chitinases proved to be significantly more stable than the chitinase enzyme of *Trichoderma harzianum* (k_d : 0.0608, 0.0905 and 0.1397 1/min) ($t_{1/2}$: 11.41, 7.61 and 4.96 min).

Further to the deactivation study, an investigation of other thermodynamics parameters (ΔH^* , ΔS^* , ΔG^* and activation energy) is necessary to understand the behaviour of molecules in different physiological conditions. The numerical values of thermodynamic properties are affected by two factors, namely solvent effect due to presence of surrounding water molecules and structural effect due to conformational changes occurring in the enzyme molecule during reaction.

3.3. Enthalpy and activation energy change of chitinase I, II and III deactivation in presence of salts and varying pH's

Thermal denaturation of enzymes occurs in two steps i.e. $N \leftrightarrow U \rightarrow I$, where N is native enzyme, U is unfolded inactive enzyme which could be reversibly refolded upon cooling and I is inactivated enzyme formed after prolonged exposure to heat and therefore can not be recover upon cooling [41].

Enthalpy change and deactivation energy of chitinase I, II and III were calculated within a temperature range of 30 to 60°C in the presence of each salt and varying pH (Table 2). It has been reported that enthalpy change of enzymes should be in the range of 20 to 150 kJ/mol [42]. ΔH^* of chitinase I, II and III deactivation was within this range in the presence of each salt at pH 8 which indicates that these enzymes maintained their rate of reaction even during incubation at different temperatures. Furthermore enthalpy of chitinase I, II and III increased as pH increased (Table 2). However the enthalpy change of chitinase I and II were below 20 kJ/mol at pH 4, 5 and 6 but above 20 kJ/mol at pH 7, 8 and 9. This result indicates that chitinase I and II were more stable at alkaline pH's whereas the enthalpy change of chitinase III was greater than 20 kJ/mol at pH 4 to 9 indicating a broader range of pH stability. Overall enthalpy increased with increasing pH as well as the addition of each salt indicating that chitinase I, II and III have some degree of conformational flexibility in the presence of each salt and varying pH due to increasing hydrophobic interactions. A decrease in deactivation energy of chitinase I, II and III with each salt and increasing pH was observed (Table 2).

3.4. Entropy change of chitinase deactivation in presence of salts and pH

In all cases, entropy changes were found to be negative. Negative entropy is found in biocatalytic systems due to compaction of enzyme molecules, but equally such changes could arise from formation of charged particles, associated gains and ordering of solvent molecules [43]. Furthermore the transition states of the chitinases were found to be ordered as revealed by negative ΔS^* (Table 2). Similar results have been observed for the amylase of *Bacillus lichiniformis* [44] and the chitinase of *Trichoderma harzianum* [25]. Enzymes could be made more thermostable by either stabilizing native form, by putting non covalent bonds including hydrogen bonds, salt-bridges and hydrophobic interactions or by decreasing the entropy of unfold [45]. Similarly results were obtained by addition

of each salt in chitinase I, II and III, ΔS^* was comparatively lower for all three chitinases in the presence of each salt when compared to untreated chitinase I, II and III (Table 2). It has also been reported that thermalstabilization of enzymes is often accompanied by a decrease in ΔS^* and disulfide bridges which are believed to stabilize proteins mostly through an entropic effect, by decreasing the entropy of the protein's unfolded state [45, 46]. ΔS^* was comparatively lower than untreated chitinase I, II and III. This result indicates that chitinases were altered in the direction of partially unfolded transition state but the flexibility implies decreased conformational entropy of the folded state which is favourable to thermodynamic stability.

3.5. Free Energy change of chitinase deactivation in presence of salts and pH

For all three chitinase enzymes, ΔG^* increased with increasing temperature. However, this was a comparatively smaller increase than previously reported chitinase of *Trichoderma harzianum* [25]. There was a significant decrease in the ΔG^* value with increasing pH (Table 1). Voordouw *et al.* [43] proposed that kinetic thermalstability should be used for defining thermostable enzymes. In addition, these authors emphasize that resistance of enzymes to thermal denaturation is due to the 'intrinsic' contribution of the polypeptide chain (i.e. hydrophobic interactions, hydrogen bonding and ionic stabilization).

To assess the contribution of various ions to thermalstabilization of chitinase, the effect of each salt at its optimum activation concentration on thermalstability of enzymes was studied at 30 to 60 °C. Free energy of chitinase I, II and III decreased with each salt indicating that thermalstability of the chitinases was dependent on interactions with the salts, with the following order of decrease in free energy observed: $\text{NaCl} > \text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4 > \text{KBr} > \text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3 > \text{KNO}_3 > \text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} > \text{CaCl}_2$ (Table 1). Similar results were also obtained in varying pH conditions with the following order $9 \geq 8 > 7 > 6 > 5 > 4$ found (Table 2) It has been reported that the mechanism by which salts, affect enzyme stability may be explained by the effect of salt on water structure and hence on the strength of hydrophobic interactions [35].

The data presented provides essential information for the optimal application of the chitinase enzymes for various purposes. The thermodynamic properties of the enzymes described here show that chitinase I, III and III of *P. dispersa* exhibit enhanced stability

in the presence of salts and alkaline pH which may be a useful attribute to utilise when applied as a biocontrol agent in heterogeneous environments or for industrial and laboratory chitin degradation processes.

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Table 1 Values of ΔG^* for deactivation of chitinase I, II and III

Enzyme system	ΔG^* (kJ/ mol) for deactivation of chitinases			
	30°C (303.15 K)	40°C (313.15 K)	50°C (323.15 K)	60°C (333.15 K)
Chitinase I	87.98	90.68	92.07	93.81
Chitinase I + CaCl ₂	85.67	87.88	88.90	90.28
Chitinase I + NaCl	78.96	80.97	81.90	84.31
Chitinase I + KH ₂ PO ₄	80.59	82.90	81.22	85.63
Chitinase I + KBr	82.99	84.10	83.98	86.80
Chitinase I + MgSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	84.07	85.70	86.35	87.06
Chitinase I + KNO ₃	83.88	85.21	86.93	87.57
Chitinase I + NH ₄ NO ₃	83.26	85.53	81.85	87.44
Chitinase I + pH 4	85.13	86.92	89.33	92.41
Chitinase I + pH 5	84.84	85.66	88.01	90.85
Chitinase I + pH 6	83.66	84.65	85.66	88.22
Chitinase I + pH 7	82.41	83.03	84.11	85.87
Chitinase I + pH 8	80.31	81.88	82.45	84.61
Chitinase I + pH 9	80.73	82.81	83.45	84.55
Chitinase II	87.74	89.91	90.36	92.19
Chitinase II + CaCl ₂	87.64	88.26	89.98	91.71
Chitinase II + NaCl	81.69	83.78	84.70	85.87
Chitinase II + KH ₂ PO ₄	82.63	84.37	85.66	87.39
Chitinase II + KBr	84.68	87.96	88.14	89.49
Chitinase II + MgSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	86.80	88.19	89.51	91.67
Chitinase II + KNO ₃	86.65	88.94	89.56	90.25
Chitinase II + NH ₄ NO ₃	85.64	88.70	89.45	90.24
Chitinase II + pH 4	84.77	87.63	90.01	91.60
Chitinase II + pH 5	83.96	86.86	89.19	89.85
Chitinase II + pH 6	81.31	87.94	88.30	88.90
Chitinase II + pH 7	80.71	85.89	87.58	88.36
Chitinase II + pH 8	79.71	82.07	84.11	86.39
Chitinase II + pH 9	80.01	82.99	84.66	86.45
Chitinase III	87.41	89.70	90.04	92.11
Chitinase III + CaCl ₂	85.37	87.20	89.19	91.25
Chitinase III + NaCl	80.93	82.24	83.14	84.79
Chitinase III + KH ₂ PO ₄	81.32	83.84	84.16	85.84
Chitinase III + KBr	82.99	84.20	86.53	88.58
Chitinase III + MgSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	84.03	86.72	88.90	90.57
Chitinase III + KNO ₃	83.77	85.58	87.56	89.24
Chitinase III + NH ₄ NO ₃	83.31	85.80	86.88	89.24
Chitinase III + pH 4	84.59	87.48	89.59	90.28
Chitinase III + pH 5	83.16	86.66	88.50	89.90
Chitinase III + pH 6	82.99	85.86	86.16	87.22
Chitinase III + pH 7	81.41	83.44	84.92	85.34
Chitinase III + pH 8	80.97	81.99	82.08	83.77
Chitinase III + pH 9	81.51	82.40	83.16	84.85

Table 2 Values of ΔH^* , ΔS^* and activation energy for chitinase I, II and III deactivation in presence of salts and pH (temperature range from 30°C to 60°C)

Enzyme system	ΔH^* (kJ/mol)	ΔS^* (J/mol K)	E (kJ/mol)
Chitinase I	29.24	-53.38	50.96
Chitinase I + CaCl ₂	37.54	-58.63	36.19
Chitinase I + NaCl	33.01	-60.33	35.73
Chitinase I + KH ₂ PO ₄	36.27	-59.24	38.74
Chitinase I + KBr	39.93	-58.11	42.40
Chitinase I + MgSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	33.46	-59.80	35.93
Chitinase I + KNO ₃	36.60	-59.98	39.08
Chitinase I + NH ₄ NO ₃	46.48	-56.14	48.95
Chitinase I + pH 4	8.83	-67.36	10.68
Chitinase I + pH 5	12.84	-66.26	14.69
Chitinase I + pH 6	17.68	-64.66	19.52
Chitinase I + pH 7	29.26	-61.43	31.10
Chitinase I + pH 8	34.45	-60.34	35.56
Chitinase I + pH 9	38.78	-58.99	40.63
Chitinase II	24.31	-55.57	47.82
Chitinase II + CaCl ₂	40.84	-56.85	41.36
Chitinase II + NaCl	33.71	-60.02	36.18
Chitinase II + KH ₂ PO ₄	33.45	-59.82	35.92
Chitinase II + KBr	21.40	-59.61	37.18
Chitinase II + MgSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	34.58	-59.36	37.05
Chitinase II + KNO ₃	26.76	-61.43	29.23
Chitinase II + NH ₄ NO ₃	40.74	-57.07	41.12
Chitinase II + pH 4	13.46	-72.59	16.04
Chitinase II + pH 5	13.38	-66.15	15.97
Chitinase II + pH 6	16.33	-65.27	18.91
Chitinase II + pH 7	28.04	-61.99	30.62
Chitinase II + pH 8	30.33	-65.33	33.45
Chitinase II + pH 9	32.88	-60.83	40.19
Chitinase III	22.32	-56.31	48.62
Chitinase III + CaCl ₂	24.44	-60.96	40.19
Chitinase III + NaCl	34.05	-59.53	36.52
Chitinase III + KH ₂ PO ₄	22.10	-58.55	24.69
Chitinase III + KBr	27.48	-61.38	29.26
Chitinase III + MgSO ₄ 7H ₂ O	28.52	-61.44	30.99
Chitinase III + KNO ₃	27.76	-61.19	30.43
Chitinase III + NH ₄ NO ₃	38.80	-58.30	41.27
Chitinase III + pH 4	15.23	-74.03	17.81
Chitinase III + pH 5	25.38	-62.25	27.94
Chitinase III + pH 6	28.41	-60.66	30.42
Chitinase III + pH 7	32.14	-59.01	36.42
Chitinase III + pH 8	35.87	-59.70	38.45
Chitinase III + pH 9	38.34	-60.83	40.89









Fig 1 Deactivation rate of chitinase I (a); chitinase II (b) and chitinase III (c) in presence of salts 
control;  CaCl₂ (0.12 mg/ml);  NaCl (1.2 mg/ml);  KH₂PO₄ (0.08 mg/ml);  KBr (0.02mg/ml);  MgSO₄·7H₂O (0.02 mg/ml);  KNO₃ (0.02 mg/ml), and  NH₄NO₃ (0.005 mg/ml)









Fig 2 Half life ($t_{1/2}$) of chitinase I (a); chitinase II (b) and chitinase III (c) in presence of salts 
control;  CaCl₂ (0.12 mg/ml);  NaCl (1.2 mg/ml);  KH₂PO₄ (0.08 mg/ml);  KBr (0.02mg/ml);  MgSO₄·7H₂O (0.02 mg/ml);  KNO₃ (0.02 mg/ml), and  NH₄NO₃ (0.005 mg/ml)







Fig 3 Deactivation rate of chitinase I (a); chitinase II (b) and chitinase III (c) at varying pH
 pH 4  pH 5;  pH 6;  pH 7;  pH 8; and  pH 9







Fig 4 Half life ($t_{1/2}$) of chitinase I (a); chitinase II (b) and chitinase III (c) at varying pH
 pH 4  pH 5;  pH 6;  pH 7;  pH 8; and  pH 9

Fig 1

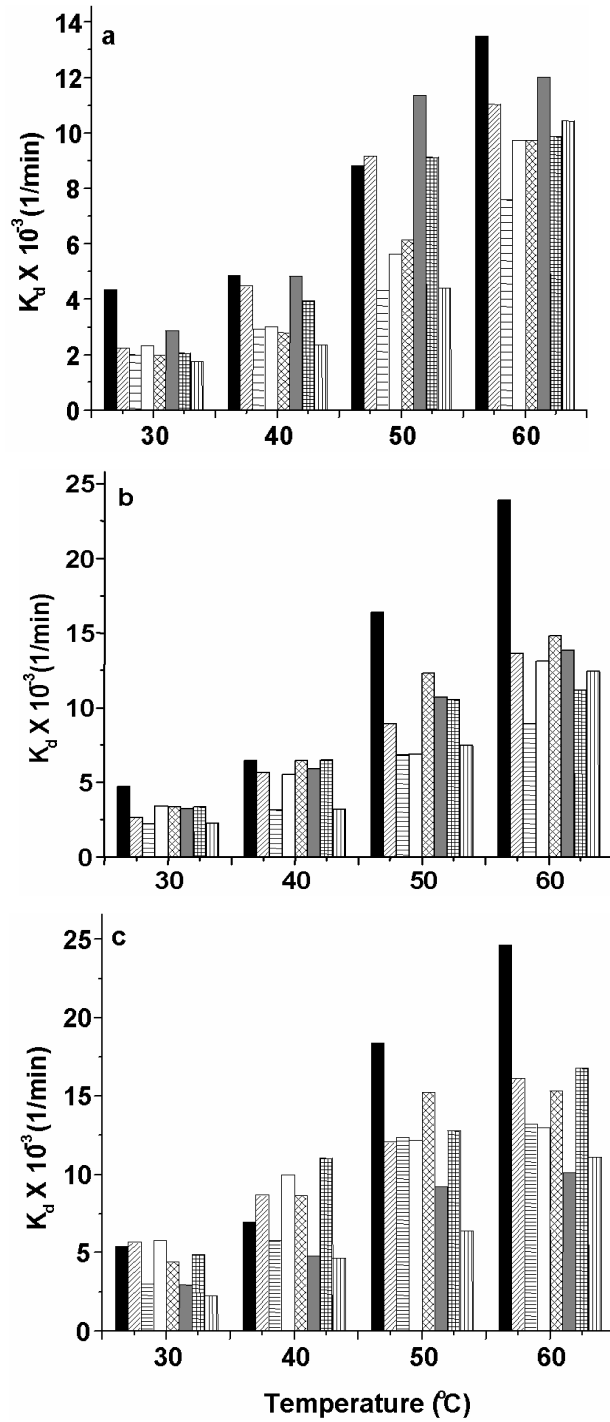


Fig 2

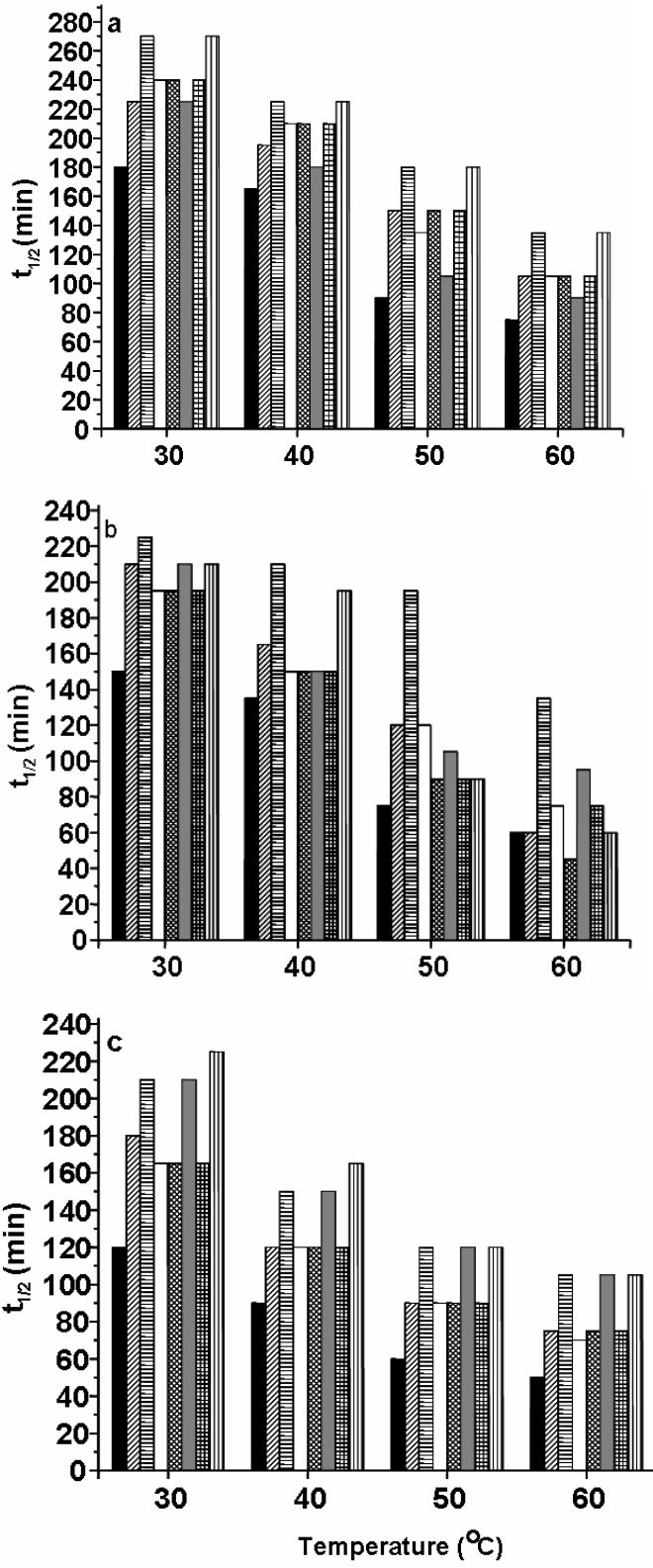


Fig 3

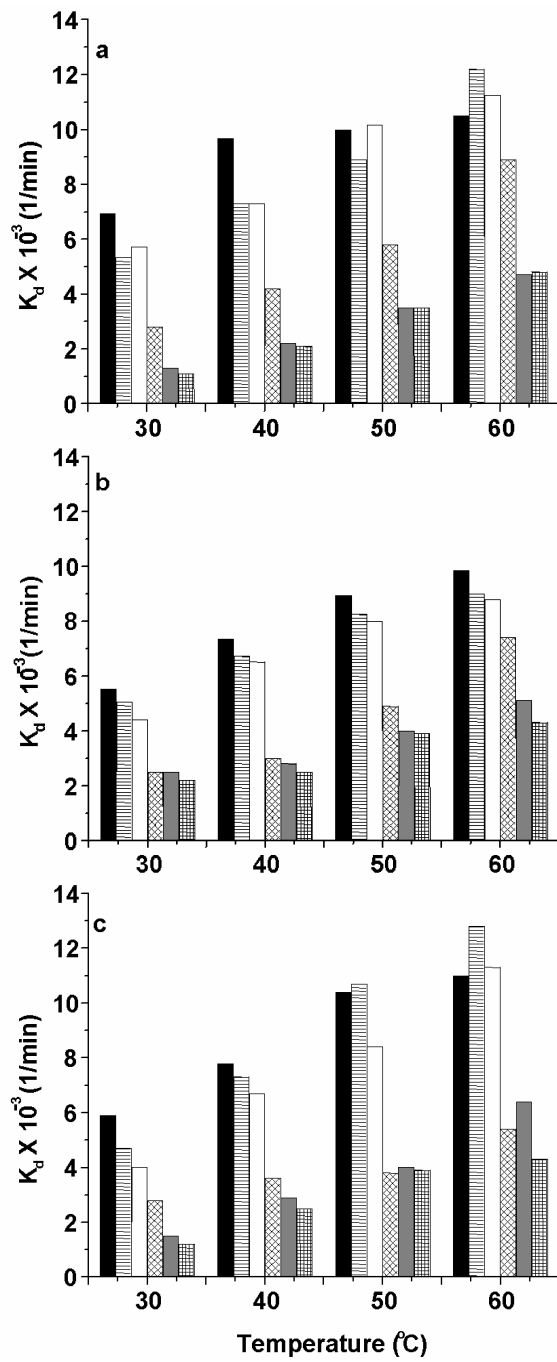


Fig 4

