# Purification and Characterization of Rice Glycoside $\text{Hydrolase family 3} \; \beta\text{-xylosidase osxyl1}$



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## การทำโปรตีนบริสุทธิ์และศึกษาการทำงานของไกลโคไซด์ไฮโดรเลส กลุ่ม 3 จากข้าว เบต้าไซโลซิเดส OsXYL1



วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาวิทยาศาสตรดุษฎีบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาชีวเคมี มหาวิทยาลัยเทคโนโลยีสุรนารี ปีการศึกษา 2564

## PURIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF RICE GLYCOSIDE HYDROLASE FAMILY 3 $\beta$ -XYLOSIDASE OsXYL1

Suranaree University of Technology has approved this thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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เอนไซม์ใกลโคไซด์ไฮโดรเลสชนิดต่าง ๆ ที่ผลิตออกนอกเซลล์เกี่ยวข้องกับการย่อยสลาย การ ปรับโครงสร้าง และการดัดแปลงโพลิแซ็ก<mark>คาไรด์ข</mark>องผนังเซลล์พืชในการเจริญเติบโตและการพัฒนา ของพืช เอนไซม์เหล่านี้ถูกใช้กันอย่างแพร่หลายในการย่อยสลายสารชีวมวล เอนไซม์ในตระกูลไกลโค ไซด์ใฮโดรเลส 3 จากพืช มีส่วนร่วมใน<mark>ก</mark>ารดัดแป<mark>ลง</mark>และการย่อยสลายโครงสร้างของผนังเซลล์ มี เอนไซม์จากพืชชั้นสูงเพียงบางชนิดที่<mark>มีก</mark>ารศึกษาคุ<mark>ณสม</mark>บัติมาแล้ว เอนไซม์เบต้าไซโลซิเดสจากข้าว (Oryza sativa) OsXYL1 ซึ่งอยู่ใ<mark>นตร</mark>ะกูลไกลโคไซด์ไฮโ<mark>ดรเล</mark>ส 3 ถูกโคลนเข้าสู่เวกเตอร์ pPICZαBH8 เพื่อการแสดงออกในเชื้อ Pichia pastoris สายพันธุ์ SMD1168H ทำให้บริสุทธิ์ และศึกษาคุณสมบัติ โปรตีนที่หลั่งออกมาในอ<mark>าห</mark>ารเ<mark>ลี้ยงเชื้อหลังจากการเหนี่ยวนำเป็นเวลา 5 วันที่อุณหภูมิ 20 °C</mark> สามารถทำให้บริสทธิ์ใ<mark>ด้สำเ</mark>ร็จ ฟิวชันเบต้าไซโลซิเดส OsXYL1 โปรตีนที่มีฮิสทิดีนแท็ก ที่ตำแหน่ง และมี N-glycosylation สามตำแหน่ง ถูกทำให้บริสุทธิ์โดยโครมาโตกราฟิสองขั้นตอน คือ Niimmobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) ตามด้วยโครมาโตกราพีแบบแยกขนาด ด้วย Superdex S200 โปรตีนที่ถูกตัดหมู่น้ำตาลออกมีน้ำหนักโมเลกุล (MW) ประมาณ 84 kDa จาก การวิเคราะห์ด้วย SDS-PAGE ซึ่งตรงกับขนาดที่คาดการณ์ไว้ เอนไซม์ OsXYL1 ที่บริสุทธิ์มี ความสามารถในการย่อย 4NP-β-D-xylopyranoside (4NPXyl) ได้ดีที่สุดที่ pH 4.0 และอุณหภูมิ 60 °C และทนต่ออุณหภูมิ 30-50 °C เป็นเวลาอย่างน้อย 4 ชั่วโมง เอนไซม์ OsXYL1 สามารถย่อย 4NPXyl และไซโลโอลิโกแซ็กคาไรด์ที่เชื่อมต่อกันด้วยพันธะ β-1,4 (XOS, ที่มี DP 2 ถึง 6 หน่วย) เอนไซม์นี้สามารถย่อย 4-nitrophenyl glycosides อื่น ๆ ได้แก่ 4NP-α-L-arabinofuranoside (4NPAraf), 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranoside (4NPArap), 4-NP-N-acetyl- $\beta$ -D-glucosaminide และ 4NP-β-D-glucopyranoside ไม่เกิน 10% ของ 4NPXyl ค่าจลนศาสตร์ของ OsXYL1 ต่อ 4NPXyl ซึ่งมีความชอบสูง ได้แก่ ค่าคงที่ Michaelis-Menten ( $K_{\rm m}$ ) เท่ากับ 0.65  $\pm$  0.03 mM และค่า ประสิทธิภาพการเร่งปฏิกิริยา ( $k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{m}}$ ) สูงถึง 19.0 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> กิจกรรมการย่อยถูกยับยั้งด้วยไซโลสที่มี ค่าคงที่การยับยั้ง ( $K_i$ ) แบบแข่งขัน เท่ากับ 1.41 ± 0.06 mM นอกจากนี้ OsXYL1 สามารถย่อย  $\beta$ -1,4-xylo-oligosaccharides (XOSs) ที่มีระดับการเกิดพอลิเมอไรเซชัน (DP) 2 ถึง 6 หน่วย ซึ่งมีค่า ประสิทธิภาพการเร่งปฏิกิริยา ( $k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{m}}$ ) เท่ากับ 2.56, 4.17, 3.11, 2.80 และ 1.47 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> ตามลำดับ ซึ่งมีสัมพันธ์แบบผกผันกับระดับของพอลิเมอไรเซชันจาก 3 ถึง 6 หน่วย สำหรับกิจกรรม ทรานส์ไกลโคซิเลชันได้ผลิตภัณฑ์อัลคิลไซโลไซด์ที่มีตัวรับแอลกอฮอล์ในปฏิกิริยาใช้เวลาในการสะสม ผลิตภัณฑ์นานกว่า 4 วัน

ผลการวิจัยนี้แสดงให้เห็นว่า เอนไซม์เบต้าไซโลซิเดส OsXYL1 จากข้าวอาจทำหน้าที่ในการ ย่อยสลายไซแลนในการรีไซเคิลผนังเซลล์พืช และกิจกรรมทรานส์ไกลโคซิเลชันของเอนไซม์กับตัวรับ แอลกอฮอล์เพื่อผลิตผลิตภัณฑ์อัลคิลไซโลไซด์ได้



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ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา

kadsada sala : purification and characterization of Rice Glycoside hydrolase family 3  $\beta\textsc{-}\text$ 

### Keyword: $\beta$ -XYLOSIDASE/GLYCOSIDE HYDROLASE FAMILY 3/XYLOOLIGO-SACCHARIDES

Various extracellular glycoside hydrolases are involved in degrading, remodeling, and modifying polysaccharides in plant cell wall in plant growth and development, and these enzymes are widely employed in degradation of biomass. Plant glycoside hydrolases family 3 members have been associated with modification and degradation of cell wall matrix, but few have been characterized in higher plants. A rice (Oryza sativa)  $\beta$ -xylosidase designated as OsXYL1, which belongs to glycoside hydrolase family 3, was recombinantly cloned for expression, purification and characterization. OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase from the pPICZ $\alpha$ BH8/OsXYL1 vector in heterologous *Pichia* pastoris SMD1168H strain was successfully purified from the secreted protein in culture medium after induction for 5 days at 20 °C. The fusion protein with histidine tags, 3C Precision sites and three N-glycosylation sites in OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase was purified by two chromatographic steps, Ni-immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC), followed by Superdex S200 size exclusion chromatography. The molecular weight (MW) of the deglycosylated protein was estimated as 84 kDa by SDS-PAGE, which matched the predicted mass. The purified OsXYL1 showed the optimal hydrolysis activity toward 4NP- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside (4NPXyl) at pH 4.0 and at 60 °C, and it was relatively stable at temperatures ranging from 30-50 °C for at least 4 h. OsXYL1 had hydrolysis activity on 4NPXyl and also on  $\beta$ -1,4-linked xylooligosaccharides (XOS, with DP 2-6). The relative activity was not greater than 10% of that on 4NPXyl with the other 4-nitro-phenyl glycosides, including 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranoside (4NPAraf), 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranoside (4NPArap), 4NP-N-acetyl- $\beta$ -D-glucosaminide, and 4NP- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside. Kinetic parameters of OsXYL1 with the highly preferred 4NPXyl included an apparent Michaelis-Menten constant ( $K_m$ ) value of 0.65  $\pm$  0.03 mM, and high catalytic efficiency  $(k_{cat}/K_m)$  value of 19.0 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>. The hydrolytic activity was inhibited by xylose with a competitive inhibition constant ( $K_i$ ) of 1.41  $\pm$  0.06 mM. In addition, OsXYL1 hydrolyzed

 $\beta$ -1,4-xylo-oligosaccharides (XOSs) with degree of polymerization (DP) of 2-6 with apparent catalytic efficiency ( $k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm m}$ ) values 2.56, 4.17, 3.11, 2.80, and 1.47 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, which were inversely related to its degree of polymerization from 3 to 6. Transglycosylation activity produced alkyl xyloside products with alcohol acceptors in reactions in which the products accumulated for over 4 days.

These data indicate that rice  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 might function in degradation of xylans in plant cell wall recycling, and its transglycosylation activity with alcohol acceptors to produce alkyl xyloside products may be a useful application of this enzyme.



School of Chemistry Academic Year 2021

Student's Signature

Advisor's Signature

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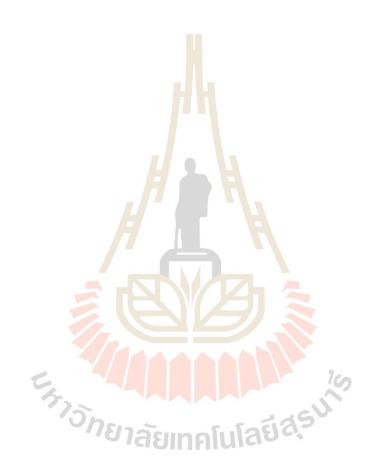
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#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

 $(n, \mu, m)g$  (nano, micro, milli) Gram

(n, μ, m)L (nano, micro, milli) Liter

(μ, m)M (micro, milli) Molar

°C Degree Celsius

Abs Absorbance

bis-acryalmide N,N-methylene-bis-acrylamide

(k)bp (kilo) Base pair DNA

BSA Bovine serum albumin

CAZymes Carbohydrate active enzymes

CV Column volume

DMSO Dimethyl sulfoxide

dNTPs Deoxynucleoside triphosphates

DNasel Deoxyribonuclease I

EC Enzyme commission

EDTA Ethylenediaminetetraacetate

EtOAc Ethyl acetate

GH3 Glycoside hydrolase family 3

h Hour

HPLC High performance liquid chromatography

IMAC Immobilized metal affinity chromatography

IPTG Isopropyl thio- $\beta$ -D-galactoside

kDa Kilo Daltons

LB Luria-Bertani lysogeny broth

MeOH Methanol min Minute

MW Molecular weight

MWCO Molecular weight cut off

NaCO<sub>3</sub> Sodium carbonate

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (Continued)

NaOAc Sodium acetate

(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> Ammonium sulfate

nm Nanometer

OD Optical density

PCR Polymerase chain reaction

PMSF Phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride

4NP 4-Nitrophenyl

4NPAf 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranoside

4NPAp 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranoside

4NPGlc  $4NP-\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside

4NPXyl 4NP- $\beta$ -D-xylanopyranoside

rpm Rotations per minute

S200 Superdex 200

SDS Sodium dodecyl sulfate

SDS-PAGE Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis with SDS

SEC Size exclusion chromatography

TEMED Tetramethylenediamin

TLC Thin-layer chromatography

Tm Melting temperature

Tris Tris-hydroxymethyl-aminoethane

UV Ultraviolet radiation
v/v Volume by volume
w/v Weight by volume

X2 1,4- $\beta$ -D-Xylobiose

 $χ_3$  1,4-β-D-Xylotriose

X4 1,4- $\beta$ -D-Xylotetraose

X5 1,4- $\beta$ -D-Xylopentaose

 $^{1,4-}$ β-D-Xylohexaose

#### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Glycoside hydrolases

Glycoside hydrolases (GH; EC 3.2.1-3.2.3) are found widely in living organisms, in which they hydrolyze the glycosidic bonds between two carbohydrates or between carbohydrate (glycon) and non-carbohydrate (aglycon) moieties. Glycoside hydrolases are also referred to as glycosyl hydrolases, glycosidases, and carbohydrases. Glycoside hydrolases can catalyze the hydrolysis of O-, N- and S-linked glycosidic bonds and can be endo- or exo-acting glycosidases (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). Different glycosidases produce different products and display different ranges of bond specificity (Burmeister et al., 1997; Lombard et al., 2014).

Figure 1.1 General catalytic mechanism of glycoside hydrolase. (https://www.cazy-pedia.org)

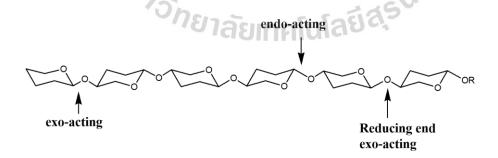


Figure 1.2 Endo-/exo-acting glycoside hydrolase. (www.cazypedia.org)

Glycoside hydrolases have been classified based on two independent criteria. The first criterion is substrate specificity, as designated by their EC (Enzyme Commission) numbers, while the second criterion is sequence homology (Henrissat, 1991; Rojan *et al.*, 2004). On the basis of sequence similarity, GH have been grouped into 173 families by the Carbohydrate-Active Enzymes (CAZy) classification system (http://www.cazy.org accessed 13 May, 2022; Cantarel *et al.*, 2009; Lombard *et al.*, 2014). In the case of poly-domain proteins, each catalytic module is considered separately.

A family was initially defined as a group of at least two amino acid sequences displaying significant similarity and with no significant similarity with other families (Henrissat, 1991). Later, some related families of glycosidases have been combined into clans (Henrissat and Bairoch, 1996; Henrissat and Davies, 1997). According to its definition, a clan is a group of families that are thought to have a common ancestry, which is recognized by significant similarities in tertiary structure, together with conservation of the catalytic residues and catalytic mechanism. Since threedimensional structures are more strongly conserved than the sequence, clans (or superfamilies) are groups of GH families of enzymes with related structures (Henrissat and Bairoch, 1993; Henrissat and Davies, 1997). For example, glycosidases catalyze hydrolysis of glycosidic bonds of their substrates via two general mechanisms (Figure 1.3), leading to either overall inversion or retention of the anomeric configuration at the cleavage point, and members of one clan will generally all be either inverting or retaining (McCarter and Withers 1994; Davies and Henrissat 1995; Henrissat and Davies, 1997). To date, 18 GH clans (GH-A to GH-R) have been assigned in the database (http://www.cazy.org accessed 13 May, 2022).

#### Retaining glycoside hydrolases:

#### Inverting glycoside hydrolases:

$$O$$
 OR +  $H_2O$  + HOR OH + HOR OR OH + HOR

Figure 1.3 Schematic representation of glycoside hydrolase mechanisms. (https://www.cazypedia.org)

#### 1.2 Glycoside hydrolase family 3

Glycoside hydrolase family 3 (GH3) currently comprises enzymes with a number of known activities, such as  $\beta$ -glucosidase (EC 3.2.1.21),  $\beta$ -D-xylosidase (EC 3.2.1.37),  $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranosidases (EC 3.2.1.55), N-acetyl  $\beta$ -glucosaminidase (EC 3.2.1.52), exo- $\beta$ -1,3-1,4-glucanase (EC 3.2.1), glucan  $\beta$ -1,3-glucosidase (EC 3.2.1.58), and cellodextrinase (EC 3.2.1.74). GH3 is one of the largest and most diverse GH families in the CAZY database (Largaert, S. et al., 2014; Suzuki, K. et al., 2013). The GH3 is the main GH family of exo-acting as  $\beta$ -glucosidases,  $\beta$ -xylosidases, and  $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranosidases which are enzymes that are remove single glycosyl residues from the nonreducing ends of their substrates. Members of GH3 have a broad range of substrate specificities, and are widely distributed in fungi, bacteria, and higher plants, which suggests their distribution to play a significant role in such fundamental biological processes as the plant growth, development, and modification in response to environment stress and degradation of carbohydrate structures (Hrmova and Fincher, 2001; Suen et al., 2003; Suzuki et al., 2013). The microbial GH3 enzymes catalyze their

own cell wall glycans and have been applied for degrading of plant cell wall polysaccharides in biomass conversions (Reen et al., 2003; Zhou et al., 2011; Pozzo et al., 2010, 2016; Dilokpimol et al., 2011; Thongpoo et al., 2013; 2014; Gruninger et al., 2014; Takahashi et al., 2018; de Carvalho et al., 2018; Tong et al., 2021). A number of GH3 enzymes are reported to be bi/multifunctional activity against particularly artificial substrates, such as 4-nitrophenyl- $\beta$ -D-xyloside (4NPXyl), 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinoside (4NPAra) and 4NP- $\beta$ -D-glucoside (4NPGlc) and/or natural substrates (Lee, R. et al., 2003; Zhou, et al., 2011; Ditokpimol et al., 2011; Yan et al., 2012; Shi, et al., 2013; Gruninger et al., 2014; Nieto-Dominguez et al., 2015; Tong, et al., 2021).

GH3 enzymes vary considerably in the lengths of their polypeptide chains, and consequently, in the number of tertiary structure domains. Despite the high number of GH3 sequences in databases, relatively few three-dimensional (3D) structures are available from this GH family in the Protein Data Bank (PDB, https://www.rcsb.org/). A GH3 3D structure was the first determined in 1999, the HvExol exo-glucan hydrolase from barley (Hordeum vulgare L., Varghese et al., 1999), and it was used to explore structural understanding of the other enzymes in GH3 members. Interestingly, the known structures in GH3 members generally have multidomain architectures and display a varieties of domain organizations and contribution of different domains in supplying crucial catalytic residues. Nonetheless, the most common features of the domain organization is an N-terminal  $(\alpha/\beta)_8$  TIM-barrel domain 1, which is more conserved and contains the active site pocket and catalytic nucleophile, followed by a  $(\alpha/\beta)$ -sandwich domain, which is more variable and contains the catalytic acid/base residue. Examples of this structural variation in  $(\alpha/\beta)$  sandwich domains are the  $(\alpha/\beta)$ domain in  $\beta$ -glucan exoglucosidase HvExoI from barley (Harvey et al., 2000), KmBglI from K. marxianus (Yoshida et al., 2010) and HjCel3A from Hypocrea jecorina (Karkehabadi et al., 2014), and the  $(\alpha/\beta)_5$  domain found in the third domains of  $\beta$ glucosidase HjCel3A from H. jecorina (Karkehabadi et al., 2014) and TnBgl3B from T. neapolitana (Pozzo et al., 2010; 2016). The GH3 third domain with unspecified fold was refined in  $\beta$ -xylosidase from *Trichoderma reesei* (Rojas et al., 2005) and  $\beta$ glucosidase TnBgl3B from T. neapolitana. A PA14 domain is inserted in the domain 2

and was shown to bind glucose and to play a critical role in the substrate specificity of the *Km*Bgll (Yoshida *et al.*, 2010).

The catalytic nucleophile in all GH3 members is a conserved aspartate (Asp or D) residue in domain 1 of the plant enzymes and it is located in a highly conserved GFVISDW motif and surrounded by a landscape of amino acid residues with similar characteristics in other family 3 enzymes. However, the catalytic acid/base residue occurs in a highly variable region and is difficult if not impossible to predict from simple alignments. The catalytic acids in studied  $\beta$ -glucosidases, exoglucanase and glucosylceramidase is a glutamate (Glu or E) residue is positioned in the ( $\alpha/\beta$ ) sandwich domain 2 and the active site is located at the interface of the two domains (Chir et al., 2002; Pozzo et al., 2010; Varghese et al., 1999; Yoshida et al., 2010). In studied glucosidases from K. marxianus and T. neopolitana, a pocket with a -1 and +1 subsite occurs in this region with most of the interactions taking place at the -1 subsite (Pozzo et al., 2010; Yoshida et al., 2010).

Although plant GH3 members are still largely incompletely understood, in terms of their physiological functions and biological roles, the predicted functions of the GH3 enzymes (Luang S., Hrmova, M., and Ketudast Cairns, J.R., 2010) involve: (i) the biodegradation and assimilation of oligo- and polysaccharides, (ii) modification of bacterial macrolide antibiotics and other toxic plant compounds, and (iii) turnover of cell wall components. The plant GH3 enzymes can be broken into two major phylogenetic groups containing  $\beta$ -glucosidases/exoglucanases in one and  $\beta$ -D-xylosidases/ $\alpha$ -L-arabinosidases in the other (Prawisut *et al.*, 2020).

Biochemical and genetic characterization implicated GH3 enzymes action in cell wall in different tissues of various plants. This includes their distribution and activity for autolysis function that can lead to modification and reorganization of wall polysaccharides, such as the barley HvExoI and HvExoII  $\pmb{\beta}$ -glucan exohydrolase found in the cell wall of the starchy endosperm (Hrmova et~al., 1996), and exo- $\pmb{\beta}$ -D-glucanase from the cell wall of developing maize seedling (Kim et~al., 2000), and exoglucanase in coat and cell wall of maize pollen grain (Suen et~al., 2003). Similarly, an endo-1,3-1,4- $\pmb{\beta}$ -D-glucanase and  $\pmb{\alpha}$ -L-arabinofuranosidase were isolated from maize primary root during elongation (Zhu et~al., 2006). A bifunctional of  $\pmb{\beta}$ -xylosidase/ $\pmb{\alpha}$ -L-arabino-

furanosidase for arabinoxylan cell wall turnover of XLY and ARA-I was isolated from germinated barley grain (Lee et~al., 2003), MsXyl1 from alfalfa roots (Xiong et~al., 2007) and RsAraf from immature seeds of radish for seed development and young seedling (Kotake et~al., 2006). GH3 enzymes were also implicated in cell wall modification in developing and ripening in fruits (Itali et~al., 2003; Martinez et~al., 2004; Tateishi et~al., 2005; Bustamante et~al., 2006; Figueroa et~al., 2010; Sun et~al., 2013). Other authors identified genes and enzymes exhibiting activity in stem tissues of Arabidopsis (Goujon et~al., 2003; Minic et~al., 2004) and in microspore and pollen during development of tobacco (Hruba et~al., 2005). et~al., 2018, The et~al., 2018 in the gentio-oligosaccharide metabolism (Takahashi et~al., 2018). The et~al. woodassociated xylosidase gene was reported as a putative xylan remodeling enzymes in poplar tension wood (Decou et~al., 2009).

#### 1.3 Plant Cell Wall

The cell wall is the protective layer in many cells including plants, fungi, algae, and bacteria. It is a dramatically feature of plant physiology not seen in animal cells. Plant cell walls are constructed outside the cellular membrane to give plants a strong barrier and connection to the environment and neighbor cells. The cell wall has many functions in plants, such as providing structural support for the plant body, keeping the shape and allow the plant to grow to great heights, providing limited plasticity, preventing loss of water and overexpansion caused by water, filtering, and also protecting the plant against biotic and abiotic stresses, such as from insects and pathogens (Somerville et al., 2004; Malinovsky et al., 2014; Carpita, N. and McCann, 2015). Plant cell walls contribute to the value of many plant-derived commercial products, including wood, fibers and fabrics, thickening agents, drug delivery systems, and fruits. As robust cell wall architectures are integrated during plant growth and development, a biosynthesis and deposition of polysaccharides begins with the aggregation of secretory vesicles to form a cell plate (Drakakaki et al., 2015; Rennie and Scheller, 2014). The cell wall composition is cell-specific and linked to its function that depends on their cell type and in response to environment stimuli (Carpita and McCann, 2015; Houston *et al.*, 2016; Voiniciuc, Pauly, and Usadel, 2018; Barnes and Anderson, 2018; Camacho-Fernandez *et al.*, 2021).

Plant cell wall structure is complex, as presented in Figure 1.4, and contains polysaccharides (cellulose and hemicellulose), and phenolic polymers (lignin), together with other less abundant compounds, such as pectins and soluble protein. These constituents vary in different cell types and plant species (Heredia, *et al.*, 1995; Crosgrove, 2016; Hernandez-Beltran *et al.*, 2019; Camacho-Fernandez *et al.*, 2021).

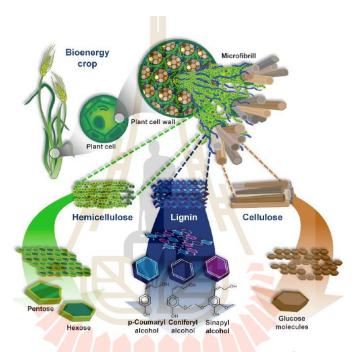
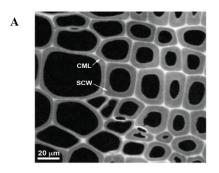


Figure 1.4 Plant cell wall structure and compositions. The plant biomass is mainly composed of cellulose, hemicelluloses, and lignins. (Derived from Hernandez-Beltran et al., 2019).

Multilayer structures of plant cell wall consist of up to three sections: the middle lamella, primary cell wall, and secondary cell wall (Cosgrove, 2016). As shown in Figure 1.5A, the middle lamella is the top in the space connected to the adjacent cells and is pectin polysaccharide rich. The primary cell wall is a middle layer held together by the sticky layer of middle lamella to form the conducting tissue system arranged in numerous vascular bundles which is established in young cells during division in the first stages of cell development and act to provide flexibility and basic structure support, protecting cells, and mediating cell-cell interactions. The secondary

wall is gradually deposited between the primary cell wall and the plasma membrane at a later stage when the cell has fully expanded in specialized cells (xylem and fibers). Alternatively, primary cell walls can be divided into type I or type II based on their compositions, as shown in Figure 1.5B. Type I primary cells walls are found in noncommelinoid monocots, eudicots, and gymnosperms while type II walls are typical for commelinoid monocots, including grasses (Carpita, 1996; Vogel, 2008). Type I and type II cell walls have a similar amount of cellulose, but are different in non-cellulosic polymers, which in the type I walls are largely xyloglucan with small amounts of glucuronoxylan and glucomannans, and about 35% of the wall mass is pectin, while the type II walls have a low xyloglucan and pectin content, but are high in arabinoxylan (Carpita, 1996; Vogel, 2008). Type II walls also contain hydroxycinnamic acid bound to arabinoxylan, which has not as yet been found in type I walls (Vogel, 2008; Mimic and Jouanin, 2006). The secondary cell wall compositions contain more cellulose with a higher degree of polymerization and crystallinity for better mechanical strength, and the structure is reinforced in woody tissues. Thickening of secondary cell walls is mostly due to the deposition of cellulose (cotton fibers), xylans (wood), and lignins (lignins in xylem vessels or sclerenchyma fibers). Lignin is a polyphenolic polymer that crosslinks with polysaccharides and hydroxycinnamic residues found on xylans (Vogel, 2008). The secondary wall composition increases the strength of the walls and reduces their flexibility, allowing the resulting tube-like structure to serve as water conduits and as the mechanical or structural support for the plant. Additional hydrophobic lignins can result in dehydration of the wall compartment (Marriott et al., 2016; Lampugnani et al., 2018).



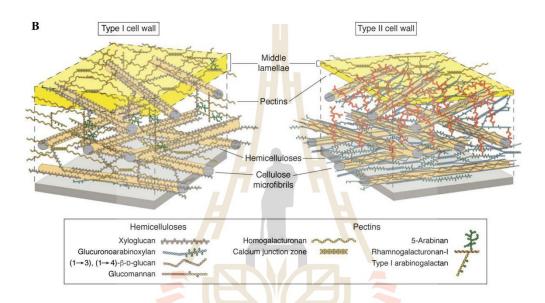


Figure 1.5 Plant cell wall structure. (A) Microscopic view of plant cell wall by fluorescence image of a cross-section of developing wood in the stem of *Pinus radiata*. The compounds of middle lamella (CML) fuses with the primary wall. A secondary cell wall (SCW) is elaborated with the CML. (B) Models of primary cell wall type I and II assembled and arranged in layers that contains cell wall compositions (Derived from Carpita and McCann, 2020).

Cell wall composition is tightly controlled in different cell types and in relation to growth and development, the differences between various cell types in cell wall composition and structure could reflect differences in its function (Somerville *et al.*, 2004; Barnes and Anderson, 2018; Lampugnani *et al.*, 2018; Carpita and McCann, 2020). The wall itself is synthesized in dynamic manner: mobile cellulose synthesis complexes produce cellulose microfibrils at the cell surface, glucans present in the

cell wall, including cellulose (multiple chains of  $\beta$ -(1,4)-glucan), callose ( $\beta$ -(1,3)glucan), xyloglucan ( $\beta$ -(1,4)-glucan backbone with sidechains) and mixed linkage  $\beta$ -(1,3)-(1,4)-glucan, are synthesized mainly in the form of crystalline microfibrils as well as in an amorphous form (Carpita and McCann, 2000). In contrast, matrix polysaccharides of hemicelluloses and pectins, and glycoproteins are produced in the Golgi by the membrane-bound enzymes and deposited to the cell surface via the secretory apparatus (Kim and Brandizzi, 2016), the structures of matrix polysaccharides are modified by various apoplast enzymes (Amos and Mohnen, 2019). The lignification occurs in the final step of secondary cell wall biosynthesis with monolignols embedded in the polysaccharide wall matrix polymerized by oxidative enzymes such as laccases and peroxidases. Plant cell wall related enzymes are located in the wall itself or in the plasma membrane after biosynthesis and deposition, and participate in the degradation of different cell wall polysaccharides except for cytoplasmic xylanase from barley (Casper et al., 2001).

The study of cell wall biosynthesis requires strategies of genetic and genomic application to identify genes and proteins which function to synthesize polysaccharides found in the complexity in wall. However, overall knowledge regarding the biochemistry, cell biology, and regulation of polysaccharide biosynthesis are still largely incomplete. Many research efforts focus on the enzymes involved in wall polysaccharides processing.

1.4 Hemicelluloses and Heteroxylans Hemicelluloses are the second most abundant polysaccharides in the plant cell wall, after cellulosic polymer. Hemicelluloses are heteromeric polysaccharides that associate with cellulose microfibrils via hydrogen bonds to provide a cross-link network, and in some walls also link with lignin (Mussatto et al., 2008). The most important biological role of hemicelluloses is their contribution to strengthening the cell wall, their abundance varies depending on their source. Hemicelluloses include xyloglucans, heteroxylans, heteromannans, and mixed linkage glucans. The structures of xyloglucans, heteroxylans and heteromannans are based on an essentially linear backbone of eta-1,4-linked monosaccharides (Scheller and Ulvskov, 2010).

Hemicelluloses have varied monosaccharide contents, comprising pentoses: D-xylose (Xyl) and L-arabinose (Ara); hexoses: D-glucose (Glc), D-galactose (Gal), L-fucose (Fuc), D-mannose (Man), and L-rhamnose (Rha); and uronic acids: D-glucuronic acid (GlcA) and 4-O-methyl-D-glucuronic acids (MeGlcA), some of which are represented in the monosaccharides of glucuronylarabinoxylan in Figure 1.6. Occurrence of hemicelluloses in primary and secondary walls of plants is summarized in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1** Occurrence of hemicelluloses in primary and secondary cell walls of plants. Amounts of polysaccharides in wall are given in % (w/w).

Polysaccharide	Grass walls		Dicots walls	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Xyloglucan	2-5	Minor	20-25	Minor
(Glucurono)arabinoxylan	20-40	40-50	5	-
Glucuronoxylan		- 1	-	20-30
(Gluco)mannan	2	0-5	3-5	2-5
Galactoglucomannan	-		-	0-3

Xyloglucans, as there are presented in Figure 1.5B, are the most common polysaccharides in the type I primary walls found in dicots and consist of  $\beta$ -1,4-linked glucose backbone which is substituted with  $\alpha$ -xylopyranose ( $\alpha$ -D-Xylp) residues at C-6. Some of the  $\alpha$ -D-Xyl residues are substituted at C-2 with  $\beta$ -D-Gal or an  $\alpha$ -L-Fuc-1,2- $\beta$ -D-Gal substituted with an O-acetyl (Ac) group. A whole series of oligosaccharides that was generated enzymatically have been characterized and reveal rarer structures. There are, therefore, at least eight linkages that have to be accounted for in the enzymology of xyloglucan synthesis.

(Glucurono)arabinoxylans make up the major component of hemicelluloses in primary wall (mainly in type II) of monocots, especially in grasses, which are also a minor constituent of dicot primary walls (Vogel, 2008). Their deposition in the primary walls is a function of the extent of development of growing cells, and they also function as carbohydrate reserves in seeds and bulbs of certain plant species. The (glucurono)arabinoxylans consist of  $\beta$ -1,4-linked D-Xylp backbone, are mostly

substituted with single  $\alpha$ -L-Ara, Gal, and GlcA-rich side chains. Less commonly, oligosaccharides, such as  $\beta$ -D-Xylp-(1,2)- $\alpha$ -L-Araf- and  $\beta$ -D-Galp(1,4)- $\beta$ -D-Xylp-(1,2)- $\alpha$ -L-Araf- are added to the xylan backbone. The Araf residues are mostly linked to the C-3 position of the main chain Xyl residues, but in some cases are found on C-2 or on both C-2 and C-3. The GlcpA residues are usually linked to the C-2 of the Xyl residues (Fincher and Stone, 2004; Izydorczyk, M.S. and Dexter, J.E., 2008). Other hemicelluloses of monocot walls are the mixed linked glucans. Their general structure was also deduced enzymatically using a sequence-dependent endoglycanase, a  $\beta$ -D-glucanohydrolase from *Bacillus subtilis* that catalyzes the hydrolysis of a  $\beta$ -1,4-glucosyl linkage only if preceded by a  $\beta$ -1,3-linked glucosyl unit on the nonreducing side. Some galactans have also been considered hemicellulosic polysaccharides on the basis of extractability.

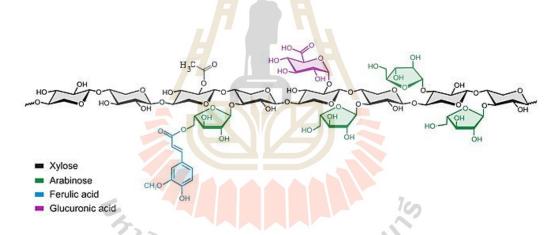


Figure 1.6 Chemical structure of (glucurono)arabinoxylan. The backbone of  $\beta$ -(1,4) xylose residues (long chain) and side chains: arabinose (green), acetyl groups (black), glucuronic acid (magenta) and ferulic acid (blue). (Derived from Dyoni, M. O. *et al.*, 2019)

Glucuronoxylans are the major hemicelluloses in secondary cell walls in higher plants, and thus in wood tissue that is required for normal plant growth and development that increases cell wall recalcitrance and defend against herbivores and pathogens. They broadly consist of  $\beta$ -1,4-linked Xylp backbone are substituted by units of  $\alpha$ -(1,2)-GlcA, MeGlcA, Ara, and ester bond with acetyl groups (Ac). There are at least six types of linkages involved in their biosynthesis. In dicots, the side chains

are linked via an  $\alpha$ -(1,2) with D-glucuronic acid (GlcA) or 4-O-methyl-D-glucuronic acid (MGA) at the O-2, resulting in glucuronoxylans (GX; Vries, D. R. and Visser, J., 2001) and wood xylans are acetylated. The acetyl groups play a major role in the organization of lignified cell walls, since they can cross-link with lignin and interact with cellulose (Hatfield et al., 1999). The  $\alpha$ -L-arabinose residues (Ara) may be  $\alpha$ -(1,2) or  $\alpha$ -(1,3) linked in xylans. Other minor components are D-galactose (Gal) and ferulic acid (FeA) or p-coumaric acid residues linked to the O-5 of some  $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranosyl residues can also be found. (Vries, D. R. and Visser, J., 2001).

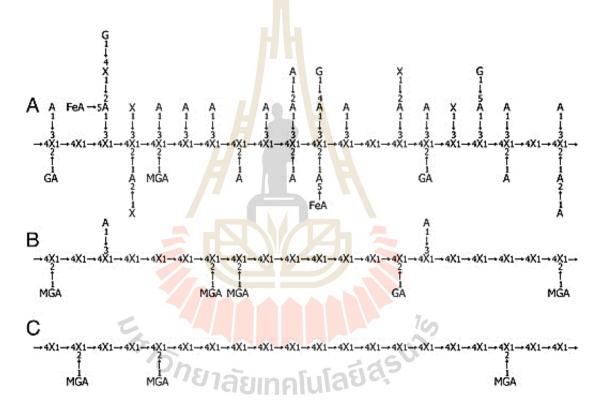


Figure 1.7 Representations of chemical structures of xylans. The xylans typical of (A) grasses and cereals; (B) softwood; (C) hardwood are shown. (X, D-xylose; A, L-arabinose; G, D-galactose; GA, D-glucuronic acid; MGA, 4-O-methyl-D-glucuronic acid; FeA, ferulic acid) (Derived from Rudolf, D. and Robert F.H.D., 2012).

In order to break down the many structures of cell wall polymers, plant cell wall degrading enzymes are a heterogenous group of enzymes and divided in many categories and sub-categories depending on their action on the wall polysaccharides. However, hemicellulose is mainly hydrolyzed by glycoside hydrolases and the most used in industrial applications are endo-acting GH, such as xylanase, galactonases and mannanases, and exo-acting enzymes, such as  $\beta$ -xylosidase,  $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranosidase,  $\beta$ -galactosidase, and  $\beta$ -mannosidase (Giovanna *et al.*, 2020). These enzymes are mainly produced from hyperthermophilic microorganisms, such as fungi and bacteria, including those in the rumen biota of animals (Sunna, A. & Antranikian, G., 1997; Prade, R.A., 1996, Beg, Q.K., et al, 2001, Pozzo et al., 2010; 2016), which serve as the source of enzymes for industrial applications.

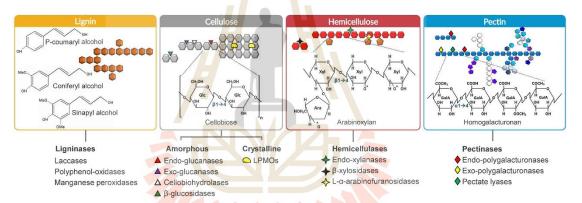


Figure 1.8 Plant cell wall polysaccharides and substrate specificity of degrading enzymes. (Deriveald from Giovanna et al., 2020)

Glycoside hydrolase involved in degrading the arabinoxylan component of the hemicellulose (as shown in Figure 1.8) include endo-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8) that act to cleave the xylan backbone at the  $\beta$ -(1,4)-linkages to break it into xylooligosaccharides (XOS),  $\beta$ -xylosidase (EC 3.2.1.37) that cut the glycosidic bonds at the nonreducing termini to cleave XOS to xylose units. In addition, debranching enzymes, such as  $\alpha$ -Larabinofuranosidases (EC 3.2.1.55) that are exo-acting at the  $\alpha$ -(1,2)- or  $\alpha$ -(1,3)-linkage of  $\alpha$ -Larabinofuranose residues, and  $\alpha$ -glucuronidases (EC 3.2.1.139) that hydrolyzes  $\alpha$ -(1,2)-linkage of glucuronic acid. Complete breakdown also requires feruloyl esterases

(EC 3.1.1.73) that detach the ferulic acid from  $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranose residue, and acetyl xylan esterases (EC 3.1.1.72) that deacetylate xylan.

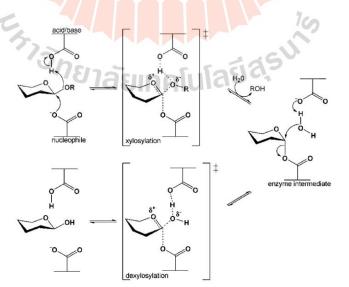
The cell walls of grasses are classified as type II primary cell walls, because their hemicellulose characteristically contains a larger amount of heteroxylan polysaccharides, i.e. (glucurono)arabinoxylan, than xyloglucan and polysaccharides (Vogel, 2008). Importantly, the heteroxylans in grasses have advantage in practical applications of cereal bread making and brewing, and provide soluble dietary fiber for nutrition and human health (Collins, et al., 2010). In addition, cell walls from straw and bran have received considerable attention for use in biofuel production (Burton and Fincher, 2014; Loque et al., 2015; Fry, 2017) and production of other biomaterials with valuable commercial applications (Bar-Cohen, Y., 2012). As mentioned before, (glucurono)arabinoxylans also synthesized by enzymes in the Golgi apparatus. (Glucurono)arabinoxylans synthesis thus requires the coordinated action and regulation of these synthetic enzymes as well as others that synthesize and transport substrates into the Golgi.

## 1.5 $\beta$ -Xylosidase

 $\beta$ -Xylosidase (3.2.1.37) from various sources are currently divided into 11 families (GH1, GH3, GH5, GH30, GH39, GH43, GH51, GH52, GH54, GH116 and GH120) based on amino acid sequence similarities. Members of each family exhibit characteristic substrate specificities, reaction mechanisms, and three-dimensional structures (Herissat, 1998). Except for GH43, these families use the retaining mechanism that remove single residues from the nonreducing end of their substrate by a two-step mechanism through a covalent enzyme-glycon intermediate, which is subsequently hydrolyzed via an oxocarbenium ion-like transition state (David, G., and Henrissat, B., 1995). Most  $\beta$ -xylosidases are found in bacteria, fungi and higher plants. However, enzymes that exhibit  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity in plants belong only to the GH3 and GH51 families.

The retaining  $\beta$ -xylosidases operate via a two-step mechanism (Koshland, 1953), the configuration of the substrate is regenerated by inversion in each of the

glycosylation and deglycosylation steps (Zechel, D.L. and Withers, S. 2001). In the glycosylation step, one carboxylic acid group acts as catalytic nucleophile, forming a glycosyl-enzyme intermediate complex at the anomeric carbon with inverted  $(\alpha$ -) configuration. The transition state has a mainly dissociative character, breaking of the glycosidic linkage occurs before the attack by the nucleophilic group. The other carboxylic acid group acts as a protonated acid/base to transfer a proton to the glycosidic oxygen. Departure of the aglycon creates space, allowing a nucleophilic water molecule to come closer to the anomeric center. In the deglycosylation step, wherein the enzyme complex is hydrolyzed by water, the water molecule that serves as the nucleophile is activated by proton extraction by the now negatively charged acid/base carboxylic group and attacks the anomeric carbon to release the glycon product from the intermediate. The attack re-inverts the inverted configuration at the anomeric carbon and the released glycon is in the same stereochemistry as the substrate. The hydrolysis of the  $\beta$ -glycosidic linkage can lead to  $\beta$ -configuration, as shown in Figure 1.9, as can the transglycosylation activity on a  $oldsymbol{\beta}$ -glycosidic linkage (Figure 1.10) with other acceptors, such as monosaccharides, disaccharides, sugar alcohols, aliphatic or aromatic alcohols and hydroquinones of GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidases were reported (Dilokpimol et al., 2011; Kurakake et al., 2005; Eneyskaya et al., 2003; Park et al., 2017).



**Figure 1.9** The glycoside hydrolases retaining mechanism. (Derived from (Figure 1b.) Jordan, D.B. and Wagschal, K., 2010).

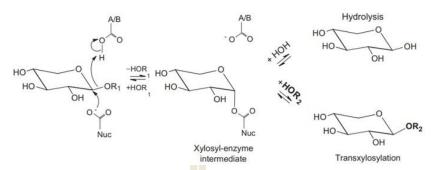


Figure 1.10 Schematic representation of hydrolysis and transglycosylation activity of GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidases. A/B, catalytic acid/base; Nuc, catalytic nucleophile; R1, R2, carbohydrate residues. (Derived from Dilokpimol *et al.*, 2011)

Exo-acting  $\beta$ -xylosidases havea unique ability to hydrolyze the bonds to nonreducing  $\beta$ -D-xylosyl residues of xylooligosaccharides (XOS) to release single xylose units (Figure 1.11).  $\beta$ -Xylosidases can cleave the xylobiose and XOS and thereby improve the efficiency of endoxylanases by removing a cause of inhibition, resulting in more efficient xylan hydrolysis (Zanoelo *et al.*, 2004). The purified  $\beta$ -xylosidases usually do not hydrolyze xylan and their best substrate is xylobiose and their affinity for XOS is inversely proportionate to its degree of polymerization, with most efficient and generally highly specific hydrolysis of small unsubstituted XOS (DP 3-7) (Polizeli *et al.*, 2005). However, most of the characterized  $\beta$ -xylosidases are also inhibited by xylose, arabinose, glucose, and/or other monosaccharides (Jordan, D.B. and Wagschal, K., 2010).

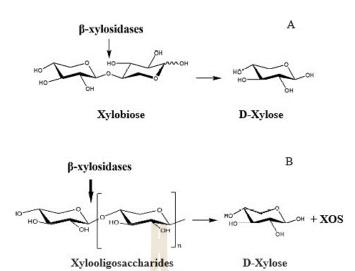


Figure 1.11 Schematic representation of degradation of xylooligosaccharides by  $\beta$ -xylosidase to released D-xylose. Hydrolysis of xylobiose (A) and xylooligosaccharides (B). (Derived from Kousar *et al.*, 2013),

In plants,  $\beta$ -xylosidases have been purified and partially characterized from wheat flour (Cleemput et al., 1997), sycamore cell culture (Tezuka et al., 1993), pea seedlings (O'Neill et al., 1989), and sugarcane (Chinen et al., 1982). The ARA-I and XYL enzymes and their genes from young barley seedlings were purified, sequenced, and biochemically characterized (Lee et al., 2003). XYL1 (encoded by the AtBXL1 gene), XYL3, and XYL4 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* encoding putative  $\beta$ -xylosidases were identified, and a role in secondary cell wall metabolism and plant development proposed (Goujon et al., 2003; Mimic et al., 2004; 2006; 2007). Other plant  $\beta$ xylosidases have been reported and characterized so far include cell wall proteins from maize (Zea mays) involved in primary root elongation (Zhu et al., 2006) and during senescence stage (Han and Chen, 2010), and those in potato tubers (Peyer et al., 2004). Other genetically characterized GH3 genes include At3g62710 and At5g10560 in Arabidopsis and similar genes in tobacco microspores and pollen development (Hruba et al., 2005), LeXYL1 and LeXYL2 from tomato expressed during fruit development and ripening (Itali et al., 1999; 2003), PpARF2 from Japanese Pear (Pyrus pyrifolia) fruit (Tateishi et al., 2005), FaXyl1  $\beta$ -xylosidase in strawberry (Fragaria×ananassa) fruit (Martinez et al., 2004; Bustamante et al., 2006), RsAraf1 in the immature seeds from radish (*Raphanus sativa*) (Kotake *et al.*, 2006), *MsXyl1* expressed in roots, root nodules, and flowers of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa L.*, Xiong, J.-S., *et al.*, 2007), the *Pta*BXL1 of wood-associated xylosidase gene for xylan remodeling enzymes in poplar tension wood (Decou *et al.*, 2009). Another example from fruit is PpAz152  $\beta$ -xylosidase gene regulated during abscission, organ senescence and wounding in peach (Ruperti *et al.*, 2002). However, there are many more genetic studies than enzymatic characterizations of GH3 enzymes.

To gain more insight into plant  $\beta$ -xylosidase enzymes, the recombinant expression, purification and characterization of a putative rice GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidase was conducted in this thesis. Its substrate specificity, kinetic study and molecular properties were studied with specific artificial 4NPXyl and XOSs, as well as its potential for application to make glycosides by transglycosylation.

#### 1.6 Research objectives

- 1.6.1 To clone and express a putative OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase from a putative rice GH3, optimize for suitable expression conditions and purify the protein.
- 1.6.2 To characterize the physicochemical properties and enzyme activity of the purified OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase.
- 1.6.3 To identify substrates for OsXYL1, as a means of assessing its biochemical and biological function and potential application.

#### CHAPTER II

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 2.1 Sequence analysis

The sequences of putative GH3 eta-xylosidase from rice and characterized plant GH3 proteins were downloaded from NCBI database (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), along with the structural domain analysis from Pfam done by NCBI. Protein sequence alignments were performed by the Clustal Omega (1.2.4) algorithm in the EMBL-EBI website (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo), and a sequence-based phylogenetic tree was computed by the Neighbor-Joining algorithm in Clustal Omega without distance correction. A phylogenic tree was also calculated by the maximum likelihood method using the software MEGA11. Translations of a nucleotide to a protein sequence was done with the ExPASy-Translate tool (https://web.expasy.org). Homology modeling was used to build the predicted structure model from the protein sequence based on the X-ray crystal structures by SWISS-MODEL (https://swiss-model.expasy.org/ interactive). The DNA sequencing results were analyzed for the sequence profile and plasmid maps generated by SnapGene viewer (https://www.-snapgene.com). N-Glycosylation was predicted by the NetN-Glyc 1.0 Server (http://-www.cbs.dtu.dk/services-/NetNGlyc) at the Technical University of Denmark. Melting temperature  $(T_m)$  was calculated from Basic T<sub>m</sub> Calculations (http://insilico.ehu.es/tm.php).

#### 2.2 General methods

#### 2.2.1 Competent bacterial cell preparation

The glycerol stock of competent cell was streaked on an LB agar plate without antibiotic and incubated at 37 °C for 16-18 h until colonies were visible. A single colony was inoculated into 5 mL of LB broth without antibiotic and grown at 37 °C with 200 rpm shaking for 14-16 h as starter, then, 500  $\mu$ L starter culture was inoculated to 50 mL of LB broth in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask, and cultured at 37 °C, 200 rpm until the optical density at 600 nm (OD<sub>600</sub>) reached 0.4-0.6 (shaking 3-5 h). The culture medium

was poured into pre-chilled 50 mL centrifuge tubes and chilled on ice for 10 min for cooling the cells just prior to centrifugation to collect the cells at 3,500 rpm at 4 °C for 10 min. The cell pellet was kept on ice and resuspended in 10 mL of ice-cold, sterile 0.1 M  $CaCl_2$ , gently and slowly mixed by pipetting while keeping the tube on ice until it looked homogeneous and further kept on ice for 20 min. This step was washing out the residual LB medium that may interfere with the transformation. The cell resuspension was centrifuged at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 10 min to collect the pellets. Finally, the pellets were resuspended with 2 mL of 0.1 M  $CaCl_2$ , incubated on ice 1 h and glycerol was added to 15% final concentration. The suspension was then aliquoted into 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes with 50 µL per tube. The competent cells were used immediately or kept at -80 °C until use.

#### 2.2.2 Bacterial transformation

After thawing 50  $\mu$ l of competent cells on ice, ligation mixtures, mutagenesis reactions or plasmid controls (1 or 2  $\mu$ L) were added and gently mixed by pipetting up and down. The mixture was immediately placed on ice for 30 min then heat shocked at 42 °C for exactly 45 s and quickly chilled on ice for 2 min. Then, 200-400  $\mu$ L LB broth was added to the cell mixture, which was then incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. Two hundred microliters of the transformed cells were spread on the selective LB agar plate containing the selective antibiotic(s). Once dry, the plates were incubated inverted at 37 °C for 12-16 h.

#### 2.2.3 Bacterial glycerol stocks

Bacterial cell stocks were prepared by adding 250  $\mu$ L of 60% (v/v) sterile glycerol (15% final concentration) to 750  $\mu$ L of freshy grown 5 mL overnight culture. The glycerol mixture was placed on ice and then stored at -80 °C.

#### 2.2.4 Plasmid extraction by alkaline lysis

The composition of solutions and buffer used in this method are listed in Table 2.1. A single colony was picked and inoculated into 5-10 mL of LB broth in a 50 mL centrifuge tube, followed by incubation at 37 °C, 200 rpm for 16-18 h. The cultures were pelleted in sterile microcentrifuge tubes by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm, for 1 min. Cell pellets were resuspended in 150 µL of ice-cold resuspension buffer by pipetting, followed by adding 300 µL freshly prepared lysis solution and the tubes were inverted gently by hand 5-10 times, until they were completely mixed, and incubated on ice for 5 min. After that, 300 µL of ice-cold 3 M potassium acetate, pH 4.8, was added and the tubes briefly inverted 5-10 times. The reaction was incubated on ice for 5 min, then centrifuged at 12,000 rpm at 4 °C for 10 min. The clear solution containing the plasmid was separated and transferred to a new tube. One equal volume of 1:1 (v/v) phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol solution was added to the tube, then inverted 10 times. The mixture was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 10 min at room temperature, then the upper layer was carefully transferred into a new tube without disturbing the lower layer. Two volumes of absolute ethanol were added to precipitate DNA, and the tube was briefly inverted 5-10 times, then incubated on ice for 30 min. The precipitated DNA was collected by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm for 10 min. Then, the DNA pellet was resuspended in 100 µL of TE buffer (pH 8.0) containing 2 μg RNase A, followed by incubation 37 °C for 10 min. After that, 70 μL of cold 20% PEG 6000/2.5 M NaCl was added and the tube was subsequently incubated on ice for 1 hour, then centrifugated. The pellet was washed with 500 µL 70% ethanol and centrifuged to remove the remaining PEG and NaCl. The left-over ethanol was removed by speed vacuum at 50 °C, 2,000 rpm. Finally, the DNA was re-dissolved in 20 µL of HPLC water or TE buffer, the DNA solution was measured the concentration and purity by measuring the absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm on a NanoDrop spectrophotometer, then immediately used or kept in -30 °C until use.

 Table 2.1 Stock solutions and buffer for plasmid DNA production.

Stock solution	Composition
100 mg/mL Ampicillin	5 g Ampicillin in 50 mL of distilled H <sub>2</sub> O
30 mg/mL Kanamycin	1.5 g Kanamycin in 50 mL of distilled $\rm H_2O$
12.5 mg/mL Tetracycline	0.625 g Tetracycline in 50 mL of 70% EtOH
25 mg/mL Chloramphenicol	1.25 g Chloramphenicol in 50 mL of 70%
	EtOH
LB media	2% Peptone, 1% yeast extract, 1% NaCl,
	autoclaved
LB plates	LB media, 1.5% (w/v) agar, autoclaved
Resuspension buffer	50 mM Glucose, 10 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris-HCl,
	рН 8.0
Lysis buffer	1% S <mark>odiu</mark> m dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.2 N NaOH
Phenol: chloroform: isoamyl	25 mL Phenol, 24 mL chloroform, 1 mL
alcohol (25:24:1, v/v)	isoamyl al <mark>coh</mark> ol
1 mg/mL RNase A	10 mg RNase A in 10 mL TE buffer
TE buffer	50 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 10 mM EDTA
20% (w/v) PEG6000/ 2.5 M NaCl	8 g of PEG6000, 40 mL of 2.5 M NaCl
10% (w/v) SDS	10 g of SDS in 100 mL of autoclaved ${ m H_2O}$
DNA gel loading dye	0.025% (w/v) bromophenol blue, 0.025%
50X TAF huffer	(w/v) xylene cyanol, 30% (v/v) sterilized
้อกยาลัง	glycerol
50X TAE buffer	40 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 20 mM acetic acid, 1
	mM EDTA, pH 8.0
5X TBE buffer, pH 8.3	445 mM Tris-borate, 445 mM boric acid, 0.01
	mM EDTA
TE buffer	10 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA
10 mM dNTP mix	10 mM dATP, 10 mM dCTP, 10 mM dGTP, 10
	mM dTTP in 0.6 mM Tris-HCl

#### 2.2.5 Colony PCR

Colony PCR was used for determination of the presence of the OsXYL1 insert in plasmid constructs in *E. coli* colonies transformed with ligation products. Colony PCR was carried out by Taq DNA polymerase using the primers of T7 promoter and T7 terminator for pET32a clones and 5' $\alpha$ -Factor and 3' AOX1 for pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8 clones, and the temperature cycling parameters shown in Table 2.2. Colonies were selected, streaked onto a replica grid plate and incubated at 37 °C for 16-18 h. A single colony was picked and lysed in 20 µL autoclaved HPLC water and boiled 5 min. The lysed DNA solution was centrifugated at 12,000 rpm for 10 min and the supernatant was used as a template for the PCR reaction. A 1 µL aliquot of supernatant was added as a DNA template for PCR amplification in a 20 µL the total volume of the reaction mixture composed of 2 µL of 50 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 µL of 10X buffer S, 0.5 µL of 10 mM dNTP mixture, 0.5 µL of 10 µM forward primer, and 0.5 µL of 10 µM reverse primer (listed in Table 2.4). The PCR amplification product was subsequently checked by agarose gel electrophoresis.

Table 2.2 Cycling parameter for amplification of colony PCR.

Segment	Cycles	Temperature	Time
1	1	95 ℃	30 s
2	30	95 ℃	30 s
	775	55 ℃	30 s
	้ <sup>บ</sup> ทยาลัย	เทคโซโซโซโฮล์	3 min
3	1	72 °C	5 min

#### 2.2.6 Agarose gel electrophoresis

DNA were checked for apparent size by agarose gel electrophoresis through 1-2% agarose gels (depending on the DNA size, below 500 bp in 2% agarose, and more than 500 bp in 1% agarose) prepared in 1X TAE or TBE buffer. The DNA samples was mixed 5:1 with 6X NEB DNA loading dye (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA, USA). Agarose gel electrophoresis was performed in a gel electrophoresis apparatus (Bio-Rad Corp., Hercules, CA, USA) at a constant voltage of 100-120 V for 25-35 min. The DNA

bands were detected by staining with ethidium bromide (0.1  $\mu$ g/mL) for 1 min, then de-staining in distilled water. The DNA bands were visualized by UV irradiation on a transilluminator (Bio-Rad Corp., Hercules, CA, USA). The size of DNA bands was estimated by comparing their migration with those of the GeneRuler<sup>TM</sup> 1 kb DNA ladder (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

#### 2.2.7 Gel extraction and DNA cleanup

The correct-size DNA fragment separated by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis was extracted or cleaned up with a QIAquick® Gel extraction kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany). The agarose gel containing target DNA was sliced with a blade cutter and transferred to a microcentrifuge tube. The DNA was purified according to the QIAquick® Gel extraction kit manufacturer's instructions.

#### 2.2.8 DNA evaluation by spectrophotometry

The concentration and purity of the DNA solution were assessed by measurement of absorbance on a NanoDrop 2000c spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). The DNA solution (1-2  $\mu$ L) was placed on the sample window and the absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm determined. The DNA concentration was estimated from A<sub>260</sub>, multiplying by the dilution factor, and using the conversion factor (1 A<sub>260</sub> = 50  $\mu$ g/mL DNA), and calculated the amount of total DNA by multiplying the DNA concentration with the final total volume of the DNA solution, as in the following equations:

[DNA concentration] ( $\mu$ g/mL) =  $A_{260}$  x dilution factor x 50  $\mu$ g/mL DNA yield ( $\mu$ g) = DNA concentration x total sample volume (mL)

The purity was checked at the ratio of absorbance at 260 nm divided by that at 280 nm, with good purity indicated by a ratio in the range from 1.80-2.00.

#### 2.2.9 Protein concentration determination

The protein concentrations in the crude extracts and fractions and pools from the purification steps were determined by measuring the absorbance at 280 nm in the NanoDrop spectrophotometer. The protein concentration was calculated from the  $A_{280}$  with an extinction coefficient, which was calculated with the PROTEIN PARAMETERS program on the ExPASy website (https://web.expasy.org). The protein concentration calculation used the following equation:

[Protein concentration] (mg/mL) =  $(A_{280}$  / extinction coefficient) x dilution fold x 1/path length

Protein yield (mg) = Protein concentration (mg/mL) x total sample volume (mL)

The rice  $\beta$ -xylosidases OsXYL1 (Genbank accession number AK119887) were predicted by the ExPASy bioinformatic analysis the resulted in theoretical molecular mass of 83.952 kDa and an extinction coefficient of 100,700  $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$  for determined protein concentration (1 Abs = 1 mg/mL).

#### 2.2.10 SDS-PAGE electrophoresis

The protein profile and the apparent molecular weights were determined by sodium dodecyl sulfate – polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, SDS-PAGE. SDS-PAGE was performed as described by Laemmli (1970). Polyacrylamide gels were prepared with 10% or 12% separating gel and 5% stacking gel (Table 2.3). SDS-PAGE solution and buffers are also shown in Table 2.3. Protein samples were mixed with loading buffer and boiled at 100 °C for 5 min. The sample was centrifuged to collect the solution and loaded onto the sample wells under running buffer and placed in an electric field of 160 volts for 1 h or until the dye front reached the bottom of the gel. The gels were subsequently stained by Coomassie brilliant blue staining solution for 30 min and destained with destaining solution for 1-2 h. The molecular masses of protein bands were compared to the standard molecular weight protein markers (GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden), which consist of phosphorylase b (97 kDa), bovine serum albumin (66 kDa), ovalbumin (45 kDa), bovine carbonic anhydrase (31 kDa), soybean trypsin inhibitor (21 kDa), and bovine milk **α**-lactalbumin (14 kDa).

**Table 2.3** Solutions and buffer for SDS-PAGE.

Solution	Composition		
10% separating gel	3.8 ml of deionized $\rm H_2O$ (DI- $\rm H_2O$ ), 2.6 ml of 1.5 M Tris-		
(10 mL per 2 gels)	HCl, pH 8.8, 3.4 ml of 30% acrylamide/bisacrylamide		
	solution, 100 $\mu$ L of 10% (w/v) SDS, 100 $\mu$ L of 10%		
	(w/v) ammonium persulfate (APS), 10 $\mu$ L N, N, N', N'-		
	Tetramethyl ethylenediamine (TEMED)		
12% separating gel	$3.345 \text{ ml of DI-H}_2\text{O}, 2.5 \text{ ml of } 1.5 \text{ M Tris-HCl, pH } 8.8, 4$		
(10 mL per 2 gels)	ml of 30% <mark>a</mark> crylamide/bisacrylamide solution, 100 <b>µ</b> L		
	of 10% SDS, 100 $\mu$ L of 10% (w/v) APS, 10 $\mu$ L TEMED		
30% acrylamide/	29.22 g of acrylamide and 0.78 g of bis-acrylamide in		
bisacrylamide solution	100 mL of DI-H₂O		
5% stacking gel	2.77 ml of DI- $H_2O$ , 1.26 ml of 0.5 M Tris-HCl, pH 6.8,		
(5 mL per 2 gels)	0.83 ml of 30% acrylamide/bisacrylamide solution, 50		
	$\mu$ L of 10% SDS, 50 $\mu$ L of 10% (w/v) APS, 5 $\mu$ L TEMED		
5X Loading dye buffer	0.05 M Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 10% (w/v) SDS, 50% (v/v)		
	glycerol, 0.5 mg/ml bromophenol blue, 20% (v/v) 2-		
	mercaptoethanol		
Running buffer	25 mM Tris, 192 mM glycine, 0.1% (w/v) SDS		
Staining solution	0.1% (w/v) Coomassie brilliant blue R-250, 40% (v/v)		
7750	ethanol (EtOH), 10% (v/v) acetic acid		
Destaining solution	40% (v/v) EtOH, 10% (v/v) acetic acid, 50% (v/v) DI-H <sub>2</sub> O		
DNA gel loading dye	0.025% (w/v) bromophenol blue, 0.025% (w/v) xylene		
	cyanol, 30% (v/v) sterilized glycerol		

## 2.3 DNA and microbes for cloning and expression

### 2.3.1 Oligonucleotides

The oligonucleotide primers were synthesized from Bio Basic Inc. (Toronto, Canada). These oligonucleotides are listed in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Oligo primers for amplification, colony PCR, and DNA sequencing.

Primer	Sequence $(5' \rightarrow 3')$	Tm (°C)	Function
OsXYL1optFwd	CCATGGCTGCAGCA	61	Forward primer for
	CATCACCATC		pPICZ <b>α</b> BNH8/OsXYL1
OsXYL1_no_stopXbalR	TTGTTCTA <mark>GACCT</mark> G	63	Reverse primer for
	GACCTTG <mark>G</mark> AACA <mark>A</mark> A		pPICZ <b>α</b> BNH <b>8</b> /OsXYL1
	ACTTCAAG		
T7 promoter	TAATA <mark>CG</mark> ACTCACT	48	T7 promoter, forward
	AT <mark>AGG</mark> G		primer for DNA sequencing
	7		of pET32a
T7 terminator	GCTAGTTATTGCTCA	51	T7 terminator, reverse
	GCGG		primer for DNA sequencing
			of pET32a
STag 18mer	GAACGCCAGCACAT	53	Forward primer for DNA
	GGAC		sequencing of pET32a
5' AOX (Invitrogen)	GACTGGTTCCAATTG	52	For <i>Pichia</i> vectors with
	ACAAGC	โลยใ	AOX1 promoter, forward
			primer for DNA sequencing
			of pPICZ <b>α</b> BNH8
3' AOX	GCAAATGGCATTCT	52	For <i>Pichia</i> vectors with
	GACATCC		AOX1 terminator, reverse
			primer for DNA sequencing
			for pPICZ $oldsymbol{lpha}$ BNH8

#### 2.3.2 Microorganisms

The  $\it E.~coli$  strains used included DH5 $\alpha$  for cloning and plasmid propagation, and BL21(DE3), Origami(DE3) and Origami B(DE3) for expression in  $\it E.~coli$ . The  $\it Pichia~pastoris$  strain used the SMD1168H. The antibiotics used for selectively growing plasmid-containing clones are listed in Table 2.5.

**Table 2.5** Selective antibiotic used for cloning, transformation, and expression.

Strain	Antibiotics resi <mark>sta</mark> nce	Function
DH5 $lpha$	None	Bacteria strain for plasmid
		propagation and cloning
BL21(DE3)	None	Bacteria strains for
	// . \	expression of proteins
Origami(DE3) and	kanamyc <mark>in,</mark> and tetr <mark>acy</mark> cline	Bacteria strains for
OrigamiB(DE3)	U' <b>- 1</b> '\	expression of proteins
SMD1168H	None	Pichia strain for protein
		expression (protease
		deficient)
Plasmid vector (Size)		
pUC57	Ampicillin	Cloning
(∼2.7 kb)		160
pET32a(+)	Ampicillin	Cloning and expression
(∼5.9 kb)	<sup>วก</sup> ยาลัยเทคโนโลยีส์	in bacteria
pPICZ $lpha$ BNH8	Zeocin	Cloning and expression
(∼3.6 kb)		in <i>Pichia</i>

#### 2.3.3 Plasmid for *E. coli* expression

The pUC57/OsXYL1 plasmid was transformed into the  $\it E.~coli~$  DH5 $\it \alpha$  competent cells (Section 2.2.2) and extracted by alkaline lysis plasmid preparation (Section 2.2.4). The plasmid was digested with endonucleases restriction enzymes under the conditions recommended by the supplier (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA, USA).

OsXYL1 fragments (2.4 kb) with restriction sites were separated and purified from the agarose gel with a QIAquick® Gel extraction kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany), and subsequently ligated into the pET32a vector by *T4* DNA ligase from Promega (Madison, WI, USA). Colony PCR (Section 2.2.5) was used for screening the ligation products with forward 5'T7 and reverse 3'T7 primer. The recombinant plasmid pET32a/OsXYL1 is presented in a schematic diagram in Figure 2.1A. It was used to produce an N-terminal thioredoxin fusion with an enterokiniase cleavage site for removal of this tag after expression in *E. coli*. The DNA insertion was checked by restriction digestion followed by size (8.3 kb) estimation by agarose gel electrophoresis, and confirmed by automated DNA sequencing by Macrogen Corp. (Seoul, Korea). The pET32a/OsXYL1 construct was used for expression in *E. coli*.

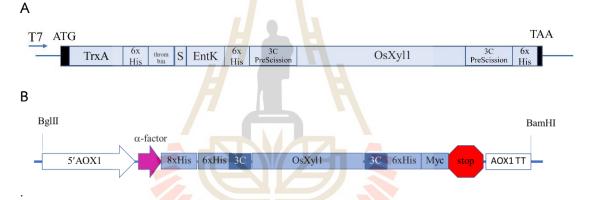


Figure 2.1 Schematic representation of the expression cassettes in the recombinant plasmids (A), pET32a/OsXYL1 for expression in E. coli and (B), pPIZ $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1 for expression in P. pastoris.

#### 2.3.4 Plasmid for Pichia pastoris expression

The pUC57/OsXYL1 plasmid was transformed into the  $\it E.~coli~DH5\alpha$  competent cells (section 2.2.2) and extracted by alkaline lysis plasmid preparation (section 2.2.4). The plasmid was digested with endonucleases restriction enzymes under the conditions recommended by the supplier (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA, USA). OsXYL1 fragments (2.4 kb) with restriction sites were separated and purified from the agarose gel with a QIAquick® Gel extraction kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany), and subsequently ligated into the pPIZ $\alpha$ BNH8 vector (Toonkool,  $\it et~al., 2006$ ),  $\it PstI$  and  $\it XbaI$ 

sites by T4 DNA ligase from Promega (Madison, WI, USA). Colony PCR method (section 2.2.5) was used for screening the ligation products with forward OsXYL1optFwd and reverse OsXYL1\_no\_stopXbalR primers. The recombinant pPIZC $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1 are presented in schematic in Figure 2.1B. The DNA insertion was checked by restriction digestion followed by size (6 kb) estimation by agarose gel electrophoresis and confirmed with DNA sequencing result by automated DNA sequencing by Macrogen Corp. (Seoul, Korea). The recombinant pPIZC $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1 were used for transformation to *Pichia pastoris* SMD1168H strains. The recombinant of pPIZC $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1 construct is represented fusion protein that contains an N-terminal alpha-factor as a secretion signal for expression in *P. pastoris*.

#### 2.3.5 PCR amplification of insert from pUC57/OsXYL1

The  $\beta$ -xylosidase encoding gene (GenBank Accession No. AK119887) was optimized and synthesized by GenScript Corp. (NJ, USA) and provided in the pUC57 vector. The optimized OsXYL1 gene was amplified from the synthesized pUC57/OsXYL1 plasmid template with Pfu polymerase with primers including Pst1 and Xba1 sites. A 200-µL reaction, which included 20 µL DNA template ( $\sim$ 10 ng/µL), 20 µL 10X Pfu buffer, 4 µL dNTP mix, 4 µL 10 µM OsXYL1optFwd primer, 4 µL 10 µM OsXYL1\_no\_stopXbalR primer (Table 2.4), and 4 µL of 2.5 U Pfu DNA polymerase, was aliquoted into four 50 µL fractions in PCR tubes. An annealing temperature gradient was calculated from  $T_m$  calculator from the primer sequences. The amplification reactions were achieved by the temperature cycling parameters shown in Table 2.6. The PCR product was analyzed on a 1% agarose gel.

**Table 2.6** Cycling parameter for OsXYL1 amplification.

Segment	Cycles	Temperature	Time
1	1	95 ℃	30 s
2	30	95 ℃	30 s
		62 °C - 67 °C	30 s
		72 ℃	5 min
3	1	72 °C	10 min

#### 2.4 Yeast transformation

#### 2.4.1 SMD1168H competent cell preparation

The P. pastoris SMD1168H strain glycerol stock was steaked onto Yeast extract Peptone Dextrose (YPD) agar without antibiotic and incubated at 30 °C for 2-3 days until colonies were visible. A single colony was picked and inoculated into 50 mL of sterile YPD broth without antibiotic in a sterile 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask, and grown with shaking at 28 °C, 200 rpm for 24 h. The cell culture was poured into pre-chilled 50 ml centrifuge tubes and chilled on ice for 10 min for cooling the cells prior to centrifuging at 3,500 rpm for 5 min at 4 °C. Then, the cell pellet was kept on ice (the cells must be on ice and kept cold all the time for high competency). The cell pellet was resuspended in 25 mL of ice-cold, sterile HPLC water, kept on ice for 5 min, and centrifuged at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 5 min. The cell pellets were resuspended with 20 mL of ice-cold sterile 1 M sorbitol and incubated on ice for 5 min, then centrifuged at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 5 min. The pellets were collected, and the wash repeated one time with 10 mL of ice-cold sterile 1 M sorbitol. Finally, the pellets were resuspended with 0.5 mL sterile 1 M sorbitol, incubated on ice and 80 µL aliquots were pipetted to microcentrifuge tubes. The cells were kept on ice and used that day for transformation by electroporation. The compositions of buffers and reagents used in Pichia transformation and expression are listed in Table 2.7.



**Table 2.7** Materials used in transformation and expression of *P. pastoris*.

Material	Composition
10X (20%) Glucose	20 g Glucose in 100 mL DI-H <sub>2</sub> O, filter sterilized
1 M Sorbitol	18.2 g Sorbitol in 100 mL H₂O, autoclaved
3 M Sodium acetate	24.61 g Sodium acetate in 100 mL of distilled $\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O},~\mathrm{pH}$
buffer, pH 5.2	adjusted to 5.2 with glacial acetic acid, then autoclaved
1 M Potassium	132 mL of 1 M $K_2HPO_4$ , 868 mL of 1 M $KH_2PO_4$ , the pH
phosphate, pH 6.0	was confir <mark>me</mark> d at 6.0 $\pm$ 0.1 (adjusted pH by phosphoric
	acid or KO <mark>H),</mark> autoclaved
10% (v/v) Glycerol	10 ml o <mark>f glycer</mark> ol, 90 mL of H <sub>2</sub> O, autoclaved
10% (v/v) MeOH	10 ml of methanol, 90 mL of sterilized $H_2O$ , filter
	sterilized
10X YNB	13.4% YNB (34 g of YNB (w/o NH <sub>4</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> and amino acid, 100
	g of NH <sub>4</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ) in 1000 mL of sterilized H <sub>2</sub> O, filter sterilized
500X (0.02%) Biotin	20 mg biotin in 100 mL of sterilized H <sub>2</sub> O, filter sterilized
YPD broth	1% Yeast extract, 2% pe <mark>pt</mark> one, 2% glucose, autoclaved
YPD agar	YPD broth, 1.5% agar, autoclaved
YPDS agar	YPD broth, 1 M sorbitol, 2% agar, autoclaved
BMGY Medium	(1000 mL) 700 mL of autoclaved YPD broth, 100 mL of
containing 25 $\mu$ g/mL	autoclaved 10% glycerol, 100 mL of sterilized 10X YNB,
zeocin	100 mL of autoclaved 1 M potassium phosphate, pH 6.0,
· h	2 mL of filter sterilized 0.02% (w/v) 500X biotin, 250 μL
	of 100 mg/mL zeocin
BMMY broth	(1000 mL) 700 mL of autoclaved YPD broth, 100 mL of
	autoclaved 10% MeOH, 100 mL of sterilized 10X YNB, 100
	mL of autoclaved 1M potassium phosphate, pH 6.0, 2 mL
	of filter sterilized 500X biotin

#### 2.4.2 Plasmid preparation for *Pichia* transformation

The *Pichia* expression vector DNA pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1 and pPIZC $\alpha$ BNH8 were transformed to *E. coli* DH5 $\alpha$  and the plasmid DNA extracted by alkaline lysis. The plasmids were linearized with *Sacl*. The restriction enzyme was deactivated by heating at 65 °C for 10 min. Linearized *Pichia* expression vector DNA was checked by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. The linearized DNA in the reaction was precipitated by mixing with 1/10 volumes of 3 M sodium acetate buffer pH 5.2 and 2-3 volumes of absolute ethanol, and incubated on ice for 30 min to 1 hour. The DNA pellet was collected by centrifugation at 12,000 rpm for 10 min. The pellet was washed with 500  $\mu$ L of 70% ethanol, then centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 10 min, the supernatant was carefully removed by pipetting, and the pellet was dried by speed vacuum at 2,000 rpm, 50 °C for 10 min. The dried samples were dissolved with 20  $\mu$ L of HPLC water. The DNA concentration was measured by NanoDrop spectrophotometer. The linearized DNA samples were kept on ice and used that day for transformation.

#### 2.4.3 Pichia transformation

The electrocompetent cells (in 2 mm electroporation cuvettes and 1.5 mL tubes) were placed on ice for 5 min while cleaned the electroporation machine. The 5-10 μL (10-30 µg) linearized *Pichia* expression vector DNA was carefully transferred to 80 µL of competent SMD1168H cells and mixed by flicking the tube gently. The cell/DNA mixture was transferred into a chilled cuvette without introducing bubbles and adjusted to make sure that the cells were deposited across the bottom of the cuvette, then the cuvette was incubated on ice for 5 min. Electroporation was done with the conditions: 1.5 kV, 25  $\mu$ F and 400  $\Omega$ , and the typical time constant was 10 milliseconds. One milliliter of cold 1 M sorbitol was immediately added to the cuvette and gently mixed up and down twice. The transforming reaction was transferred to the new 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube and incubated at 30 °C without shaking for 1 h. The transforming cells were spread at 200  $\mu$ L, 300  $\mu$ L, and 500  $\mu$ L volumes on selective YPDS plates containing 100 µg/mL zeocin. The dried YPDS plates were incubated inverted at 30 °C for 3-5 days until colonies were visible. Each transformant should yield approximately 50 colonies. The empty Pichia pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8 vector were similarly transformed to SMD1168H and analyzed as negative controls.

#### 2.5 Protein expression

#### 2.5.1 Expression screening in E. coli and optimization of conditions

Protein expression condition of the construct pET32a/OsXYL1 was optimized after transforming this plasmid into E. coli BL21(DE3), Origami (DE3) and Origami B(DE3) strains. Transformation of pET32a/OsXYL1 and control pET32a plasmid to the E. coli strains was performed as described in Session 2.2.3 and spread onto selectable LB agar plate containing 50 µg/mL ampicillin, 12.5 µg/mL tetracycline and 15 µg/mL kanamycin and incubated inverted at 37 °C for 16-18 h. The selected clones of transformant were picked and inoculated into 5 mL of LB broth with antibiotics resistance in 50 mL centrifuge tube, grown at 37 °C, shaking 200 rpm for 16-18 h, to produce a starter culture. To express OsXYL1, 100 µL of starter culture (1%) was added into the 10 mL the same type of media and cultured at 37 °C, shaking 200 rpm until OD<sub>600</sub> reached 0.6-0.8. The optimal expression conditions were determined by IPTG induction with varying final concentrations of 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5 mM, varying the expression time from 3-16 h and varying the temperature at 20, 25 and 37 °C. The cell pellets were collected by centrifugation at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 10 min to remove the supernatant and the pellets kept at -80 °C before extraction. The pellet cells were thawed and 1 mL of DI-H<sub>2</sub>O was added and incubated on ice for 10 min, to wash out the LB residue in water, followed by centrifugation at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 5 min. The cells were lysed by adding 5 ml of extraction buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 200 µg/mL lysozyme, 1% (v/v) Triton-X 100, 1 mM PMSF, 4 µg/mL DNase I) per 1 g of cell weight, mixing well by pipetting, and incubating at room temperature for 1 h. The crude solution containing soluble protein was harvested by centrifugation and the supernatant and pellet kept on ice. The soluble and insoluble proteins was checked on SDS-PAGE and enzyme activity to hydrolyze 4-nitrophenyl  $oldsymbol{\beta}$ -D-xylopyranoside (4NPXyl) substrate assayed as section 2.7.2.

#### 2.5.2 Protein expression and extraction of OsXYL1 in E. coli

The optimized pET32a/OsXYL1 was transformed to Origami B (DE3) and spread onto LB agar containing antibiotic resistances, and the plate was inverted and incubated overnight at 37 °C. The transformant was picked and inoculated into 50 mL of LB broth with ATK antibiotics in a 250 mL flask, grown at 37 °C, shaking 200 rpm for

16-18 h to produce a starter culture. Eight milliliters of starter culture (1% of the final volume) were added into the 800 mL of the same type of media in a 2 L flask and cultured at 37 °C, shaking 200 rpm until the OD<sub>600</sub> reached 0.6-0.8. The protein gene expression was induced with a final concentration of 0.1 mM IPTG, shaking at 200 rpm at 20 °C for 16 h. The cells were collected by centrifugation at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 20 min and the pellet kept at -80 °C before use. The pelleted cells were thawed and 5 mL of DI-H<sub>2</sub>O per 1 g of pellet was added and incubated on ice for 10 min, followed by centrifugation at 4,500 rpm, 4 °C for 5 min. Proteins were lysed by adding 5 ml of extraction buffer per 1 g of cell weight, mixing well by pipetting, and incubating at room temperature for 1 h. The mixture was chilled on ice for 10 min. The crude solution containing soluble protein was harvested by centrifugation at 3,500 rpm, 4 °C for 15 min and the supernatant kept on ice for protein purification. The protein concentration was estimated by spectrophotometrically measuring 280 nm absorbance (A<sub>280</sub>). The protein mixture complexity and molecular weight were estimated by SDS-PAGE and the enzyme activity to hydrolyze 4NPXyl assayed as section 2.7.2.

#### 2.5.3 Screening *Pichia* transformants and optimization of expression

The colonies of *P. pastoris* harboring pPICZBNH8/OsXYL1 and pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8 were selected for screening on YPD plates containing varied the appropriate zeocin (over 100 to 500 µg/ml) and incubated overnight at 30 °C. Small scale expression of positive yeast clones was performed for expression optimization. The selected colonies were picked and inoculated into 5 mL of BMGY Medium containing 25  $\mu$ g/mL zeocin. The cultures in BMGY medium were grown at 28 °C with shaking at 200 rpm for 24 h, and a 15% glycerol stock in 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube of the cells that grew was stored at -80 °C. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation and resuspended in 10 mL of BMMY Medium. The BMMY medium was cultured at 20 °C, shaking at 200 rpm for 5-7 days. Methanol was added every 24 h to the final concentration of 0.5 %(v/v) to induce protein production. A 200  $\mu$ L sample of the cultivation media was collected every 24 h for assaying activity. The activity profile of each clone was plotted against the number of days of incubation.

#### 2.5.4 Protein expression of OsXYL1 in *P. pastoris*

For OsXYL1 protein production, the highest expression clone was expressed in large scale. The clone from the optimization condition was re-streaked from its glycerol stock onto YPD-agar containing 100  $\mu$ g/mL zeocin and grown for 2-3 days at 28 °C. A single colony was inoculated into 400 mL BMGY medium and grown at 28 °C with shaking 200 rpm for 24 h. Cells were harvested by centrifugation (5,000 rpm, 8 °C, 20 min) and resuspended in 800 mL BMMY. Expression of OsXYL1 was induced with 0.5% (v/v) methanol added each day for 5 days to a culture grown at 20 °C with shaking at 200 rpm. The 5-days culture medium were centrifuged at 5,000 rpm at 8 °C for 20 min to remove yeast cells and debris. The crude supernatant pH was adjusted to 7.5 with 2 M K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, filtered through 0.45  $\mu$ m membrane filters and kept on ice for protein purification.

## 2.6 Purification of $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

Two chromatographic steps were used to purify OsXYL1 protein. First, crude supernatant, pH 7.5, was mixed with Ni<sup>2+</sup>-bound IMAC (GE Healthcare, Sweden) resin which was pre-equilibrated with IMAC equilibration buffer. The bounded protein was loaded into the column and washed with 2 CV of IMAC equilibration buffer (Table 2.8) without imidazole, then subsequentially 2 CV of each 25, 50, 75, 150, and 250 mM imidazole in equilibration buffer. The fractions that were enzyme activity toward 4NPXyl were concentrated, and imidazole was removed by centrifugal ultrafiltration in 30 kDa MWCO Amicon Ultra-15 centrifugal filters and dialyzed against 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0.

The second purification step was done by size-exclusion chromatography. The concentrated enzyme solution was injected into an FPLC ÄKTA Purifier system (GE Healthcare) to apply it to a Superdex<sup>TM</sup> 200 increase 10/300 GL column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, containing 150 mM NaCl. After sample injection, the column was washed with 2 CV of equilibrated buffer at a flow rate of 0.3 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, while collecting 0.5 mL fractions. Then, the fractions were assayed for  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity and those with activity were collected and pooled together. A 30,000 MWCO Amicon Ultra-4 centrifugal filter was used for concentration of OsXYL1.

The protein concentration and specific activity of the purified OsXYL1 was determined and it was aliquoted to 10-50  $\mu$ g protein portions that were kept at -80 °C for further analysis. The reagents used for OsXYL1 protein purification are listed in Table 2.8.

Table 2.8 Reagents used in protein purification.

Reagents	Composition
1 M Tris-HCl pH 8.0	121 g Tris base in 1000 mL of DI-H <sub>2</sub> O, adjusted pH
	8.0 by HCl, filtered and autoclaved
0.5 M EDTA pH 8.0	$186.1~\mathrm{g}$ EDTA in 1000 mL DI-H $_2$ O, adjusted pH 8.0
	by NaOH, filtered and autoclaved
IMAC equilibration buffer	20 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl
5 M NaCl	292 g NaCl in 1000 mL, filtered and autoclaved
0.5 M imidazole pH 8.0	34.0 g Imid <mark>azole</mark> in 1000 mL sterilized DI-H <sub>2</sub> O,
<i>.</i>	adjusted pH 8. <mark>0 by</mark> HCl

## 2.7 Characterization of $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

#### 2.7.1 Enzyme assay

The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity was assayed in 96-well plate, a 140 µL reaction mixture containing 10-40 µL of sample protein depending on the purified step, 1 mM of 4NPXyl in 50 mM sodium acetate, pH 4.0. The reaction mixtures were incubated at 60 °C for 30 min, then terminated by adding 70 µl of 2 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The 4NP released was immediately measured as absorbance at A<sub>405</sub> by microplate reader (Multiskan<sup>TM</sup> GO Microplate Spectrophotometer, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). The absorbance of the substrate blank (reaction without enzyme) was subtracted from that of the reaction.

#### 2.7.2 pH and temperature optima

The optimum pH was determined by incubating 3.5 nmol of purified OsXYL1 with 1 mM 4NPXyl in McIlvaine citrate-phosphate buffers, with pH ranging from 2.5 to 11.0 (in 0.5 increments) at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 min. The optimum temperature was determined over the range of 30-80  $^{\circ}$ C (in 5  $^{\circ}$ C increments), by pre-incubating the reactions of 1

mM 4NPXyl in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, at temperatures between 30 to 80 °C for 10 min, after which 3.5 nmol OsXYL1 was added and incubated at the same temperature for a further 30 min, as described in section 2.7.1. Each experiment was performed in triplicate. The results of both reactions were expressed as the percentage of activity relative to the maximum value at the optimum.

To determine the temperature stability, 3.5 nmol of purified OsXYL1 was preincubated at temperature 30-70 °C (in 10 °C increments) for 4 h, samples were collected at different times and then the residual activity was measured at the optimum pH and temperature (section 2.7.1). Each experiment was performed in triplicate. The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity without preincubation was defined as 100%, and thus corresponds to the initial activity.

#### 2.7.3 Effect of metal ions and sugars

The effects of the metal ion salts LiCl, NaCl, KCl, MgCl<sub>2</sub>, MgSO<sub>4</sub>, CaCl<sub>2</sub>, MnCl<sub>2</sub>, FeSO<sub>4</sub>, CoCl<sub>2</sub>, Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NiSO<sub>4</sub>, CuSO<sub>4</sub>, and ZnSO<sub>4</sub>, and the metal chelator EDTA at the final concentrations of 5 mM and 10 mM on the OsXYL1 reaction were tested. The effects of sugars (xylose, arabinose, glucose, galactose, mannose, maltose, lactose, fructose, and sucrose) at the final concentration of 10 mM and 50 mM were also tested in the standard reaction mixture with these compounds added. The reactions were preincubated 3.5 nmol OsXYL1, containing the reagent being tested in 50 mM NaOAc buffer, pH 4.0, at 60 °C, in reaction volume 140 µL for 10 min before adding 1 mM 4NPXyl substrate. The reaction mixture was incubated further in standard assay (section 2.7.1). The relative activity of each reaction with a reagent was calculated compared to control reaction without additives, which was considered as 100%. Each experiment was performed in triplicate. A substrate blank reaction was set up in the same condition with buffer instead of the enzyme and its absorbance subtracted from the corresponding reactions.

#### 2.7.4 Deglycosylation OsXYL1

The N-glycosylation linked OsXYL1 glycoprotein was deglycosylated by Endoglycosidase H (Endo H) enzyme according to the New England Biolabs manual. The reaction contained approximately of 5-10  $\mu$ g protein with 0.5 units Endo H, and was incubated at 37 °C for 1 h in a total volume 10  $\mu$ L. The molecular weight of purified

OsXYL1 and deglycosylated OsXYL1 were visualized by 12% gel SDS-PAGE. Separation of reaction products was determined by comparison with protein markers and the known size of Endo H (29 kDa).

#### 2.7.5 Transglycosylation activity

Transglycosylation reactions of OsXYL1 were carried out in 70  $\mu$ L reaction mixtures by incubating 7 nmol OsXYL1 with 5 mM final concentration of 4NPXyl substrate, containing 15% (v/v) alcohols in 50 mM NaOAC buffer, pH 4.0, at 40 °C for 1 h. The reaction was stopped by boiling for 10 min, and dried. The reaction products were redissolved in water and spotted onto a silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> thin layer chromatography (TLC) plate (Merck Millipore, Massachusetts, USA). The TLC plate was developed in a solvent of 3:2:1 ethyl acetate–acetic acid–water (v/v/v), visualized under ultraviolet (UV) light and stained with 10% sulfuric acid in ethanol and heated at 110 °C until the product spots were observed. Transglycosylation products were analyzed and qualified by comparing with control reaction and xylose and 4NPXyl standards.

Transglycosylation reactions of 1-octanol were performed in co-solvent mixtures of acetone and 1-octanol in buffer. The reaction mixture of 1 mM 4NPXyl with various of proportion 0-50% (v/v) of acetone included 5 nmol OsXYL1 in standard 140 µL reaction conditions. Octanol was added 0-25% (v/v) 1-octanol as the acceptor substrate and co-solvent with 10-30% (v/v) acetone in the reaction mixture. The reaction of 30% (v/v) acetone and 20% (v/v) 1-octanol was carried out in a 200 µL reaction volume, containing 5 mM 4PNXyl in 50 mM sodium acetate, pH 4.0, and was catalyzed by OsXYL1 for 6 h. Aliquots of reaction mixtures were removed at different incubation times: 30 min, 1 h, 2h, 3h, 4h, 5h, and 6h, and were boiled and analyzed by TLC plate.

#### 2.7.6 Substrate specificity

The substrate specificity of OsXYL1toward nitrophenyl glycosides was assessed in 140  $\mu$ L reactions in a 96-well plate. The nitrophenyl glycosides tested are listed in Table 2.9, for OsXYL1 substrates studied. The reactions were preincubated with final concentration 5 mM substrates in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, at 40 °C for 10 min. The reaction was catalyzed by 3.57 nmol OsXYL1 (in the case of 1mM 4NPXyl,

0.89 nmol OsXYL1) and incubated at 40 °C for 30 min and stopped by adding 70  $\mu$ l of 2 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The 4NP released was immediately quantified by measuring A<sub>405</sub>. Each experiment was performed in triplicate. A substrate blank reaction was set up in the same condition by adding buffer instead of the enzyme. The relative enzyme activity was calculated by comparing the absorbance to that of the reaction with 4NPXyl (1 mM substrate hydrolyzed with dilution 4-fold of OsXYL1), which considered as 100%.

Table 2.9 Substrates for studies of  $\beta\text{-xyt}\textsc{osidase}$  OsXYL1 activity.

Substrate	Abbreviated	Molecular weight (g/mol)
4NP- $eta$ -D-xylopyranoside	4NPXyl	271.22
4NP- <b>α</b> -L-arabinopyranoside	4NPArap	271.22
4NP- $lpha$ -L-arabinofuranoside	4NP <mark>A</mark> raf	271.22
4NP- <b>α</b> -L-fucopyranoside	4NP <mark>OL</mark> Fuc	285.30
4NP- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-fucopyranoside	4NPβFuc	285.30
4NP- $eta$ -D-glucopyranoside	4NPGlc	301.25
4NP- <b>α</b> -D-glucopyranoside	4NP $\alpha$ Glc	301.25
2NP- <b>β</b> -D-glucopyra <mark>nosid</mark> e	2NPGlc	301.25
4NP- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-galactopyranoside	4NP $oldsymbol{eta}$ Gal	301.25
4NP- <b>α</b> -D-galactopyranoside	4NP <b>α</b> Gal	301.25
2NP- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-galactopyranoside	2NPGal	301.25
4NP- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-glucuoropyranoside	4NPGluA	315.23
4NP-N-acetylglucosaminide	4NPGlcNac	342.30
4NP $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-maltoside	4NPMal	463.39
1,4- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-Xylobiose	X2	282.24
1,4- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-Xylotriose	X3	414.4
1,4- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-Xylotetraose	X4	546.5
1,4- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-Xylopentaose	X5	678.6
1,4- $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-Xylohexaose	X6	810.7

#### 2.7.7 Hydrolysis of xylooligosaccharides

Enzyme activity of OsXYL1 toward 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranooligosaccharides (DP 2-6, as listed in Table 2.9) was determined in 50 µL reaction mixture, containing 5 mM XOSs (X2-X6) in 50 mM NaOAc buffer, pH 4.0, at 40 °C overnight. The reaction was stopped by boiling at 100 °C for 10 min. The hydrolyzed products were dried, redissolved in 5 µL DI-H<sub>2</sub>O and spotted onto TLC plate. The TLC was developed in ethyl acetate–acetic acid–water (2:1:1), visualized under ultraviolet (UV) light and stained with 10% sulfuric acid in ethanol and heated at 110 °C until the product spots were observed and then identified by comparing with marker of standard D-xylose (X1) mixed with 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylobiose (X2) to 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylohexaose (X6).

The quantification of the liberated xylose of hydrolysis of XOSs were determined by the D-xylose assay kit (Megazyme, MI, USA). The xylose released was determined using an enzyme coupled of xylose dehydrogenase (XDH) and xylose mutarotase (XMR) spectrophotometric assay to measure absorbance of NADH produced at 340 nm. Following the company procedure, the assay was carried out in 96-well plate, a 297  $\mu$ L reaction mixture containing 10  $\mu$ L reaction xylose released, 200  $\mu$ L of DI-H<sub>2</sub>O, 40  $\mu$ L buffer pH 7.5, 40  $\mu$ L of NAD+ plus ATP, 2  $\mu$ L hexokinase were mixed and measured A<sub>340</sub> after 4 min (A1), then 5  $\mu$ L XDH/XMR was added and mixed, measured A<sub>340</sub> after 15 min (A2). The amount of xylose released was multiplied by a 5-fold dilution factor and compared to the standard curve of xylose concentration

# 2.8 Kinetic analysis

#### 2.8.1 Hydrolysis of nitrophenyl glycosides

All kinetic parameters of OsXYL1 toward 4NPXyl, 4NPAraf, and 4NPArap were determined from triplicate assay containing 3.5-5 nmol enzyme, containing 1  $\mu$ g/mL BSA in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, in a total volume of 140  $\mu$ L, at 40 °C for time intervals that had linear activity versus time curves to show that they were initial velocities (pseudo-first order rate of  $v_0$ ). Time course of each substrate was first determined to find the first order rate constant of OsXYL1 with 3-5 substrate concentrations, and the reaction was stopped at three different time points (10-30)

min). Time course assays were done for the highest and lowest substrate concentrations for each substrate to ensure that the velocities measured were in the linear range, and all absorbance readings were measured in the range of 0.1-1.5 absorbance units. The amount of 4NP released was compared to the standard curve of 4NP concentration (0.0025-0.03  $\mu$ mol). The kinetic reactions were incubated OsXYL1 with substrate concentrations covering at least the range of 0.3 $K_m$ -3 $K_m$  whenever possible.

The Grafit 5.0 computer program (Erithacus Software, Horley, UK) was employed to calculate kinetic parameters  $K_{\rm m}$  and  $V_{\rm max}$ . The kinetic parameter was calculated by fitting the rate of product formation and substrate concentration in nonlinear regressions analysis of the Michaelis-Menten equation. The apparent  $k_{\rm cat}$  values were calculated by dividing the  $V_{\rm max}$  by the total amount of enzyme in the reaction.

#### 2.8.2 Hydrolysis of xylooligosaccharides

Kinetic parameters of OsXYL1 with XOSs (X2-X6) was determined from triplicate assays containing 0.02 µmol purified OsXYL1, containing 1 µg/mL BSA in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, in a total volume of 50 µL at 40 °C for time intervals that had linear activity versus time curves. Time course of each substrate was first determined to find the first order rate constant with 3-5 substrate concentrations, and the reaction was stopped at three different time points (10-30 min). Time course assays were done for the highest and lowest substrate concentrations for each substrate, and all absorbance readings were measured in the range of 0.1-1.5 absorbance units. The enzyme was inactivated by boiling the reaction mixture for 10 min, and the reaction was cleared by centrifugation (12,000 rpm, 5 min). The xylose released was measured by xylose assay, following the section 2.7.7. The amount of xylose released was compared to the standard curve of xylose concentration (0.007-0.13 µmol), according to the company protocol. The kinetic reactions were incubated OsXYL1 with XOSs concentrations covering at least the range of  $0.3K_{\rm m}$ - $3K_{\rm m}$  whenever possible. Data was fitted by nonlinear regression to the Michaelis-Menten plot and the figure was generated by GraFit 5 (Erithacus Software).

#### 2.8.3 Xylose inhibition

The  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 inhibited by xylose was determined. The reaction was carried out at 40 °C by pre-incubating 7 nmol OsXYL1 enzyme in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, containing 1 µg/mL BSA, with varied xylose concentration, in reaction volume 140  $\mu$ L for 10 min. The residual activity was assayed with varied of saturated concentration of 4NPXy1 substrate, as described in section 2.8.1. Inhibition constants ( $K_i$ ) were calculated by linear regression of a plot of the apparent  $K_m/V_{max}$  values (slope of Lineweaver-Burk plot) *versus* xylose concentrations.

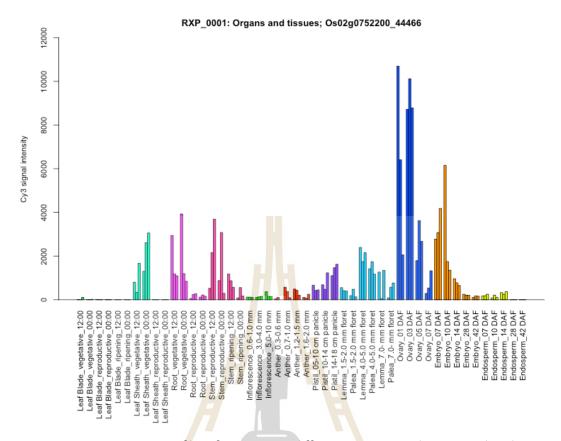


#### CHAPTER III

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 3.1 Expression pattern of OsXYL1 (Accession No. AK119887, Locus ID. Os02g0752200) in rice

The Rice Expression Profile Database (RiceXPro, URL: https://ricexpro.dna.affrc.go.jp/) provides the expression profile of nearly all rice genes, based on microarray RNA expression analysis. It was queried to uncover the expression patterns of OsXYL1, as shown in Figure 3.1. From the analysis, the gene is fairly broadly expressed, but it is most highly expressed in the ovary in the 1-5 days after flowering (DAF) growth stage and in the embryo at 7 to 10 days after flowering. In different plant tissues, transcripts of  $\beta$ -xylosidase related genes have been found in flower and siliques of Arabidopsis (Goujon et al., 2003; Minic et al., 2006; Xiong et al., 2007), in pollen of tobacco and Arabidopsis (Hruba et al., 2005), in alfalfa roots (Xiong et al., 2007), in seedling of barley (Lee et al., 2003) and pea (O'neill et al., 1989), in immature seeds of radish (Kotake et al., 2006), and in ripening fruits of tomato (Itali et al., 2003), Japanese pear (Itali et al., 1999; Itai et al., 2003; Tateishi et al., 2005), and strawberry (Figueroa, et al., 2010; Bustamante et al., 2006). The genes of flower and siliques play a role in loosening and remodeling of cell walls in sporophytic tissues, while genes in pollen plays a role in wall development of mitotic microspores (Hruba et al., 2005). The genes in roots play a function in cell wall turnover of roots at rapidly growing stages. The genes induced in ripening fruits are likely to play a role alternating the cell wall texture during softening. On the other hand, genes AtXYL from Arabidopsis (Goujon et al., 2003), XYL from barley (Lee et al., 2003) show a broad expression pattern, and their transcripts were detected in various tissues.



**Figure 3.1** Expression profile of OsXYL1 in different organs and tissues. The data were collected from the Rice Expression Profile Database, which is based on microarray RNA expression analysis (Os02g0752200, Kikuchi, S., *et al.*, 2003).

## 3.2 Sequence analysis of rice $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

The rice putative  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 protein sequence obtained using genetic analysis. The relationship with other characterized plant GH3 sequences in the GenBank was evaluated using protein-protein BLAST (BLASTp, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ BLAST/). A phylogenetic tree constructed of 24 protein sequences of characterized plant GH3 proteins retrieved from NCBI is shown in Figure 3.2.

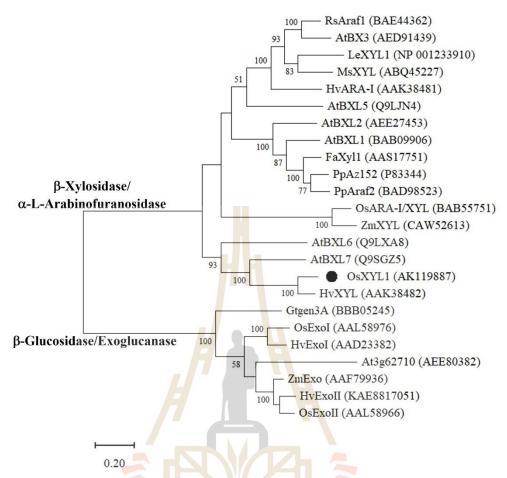


Figure 3.2 Phylogenetic relationship of OsXYL1 and other plant GH3 members. Amino acid sequences were aligned with the MUSCLE method in MEGA11. The phylogenetic tree was constructed by the Neighbor-Joining algorithm. Branch length are drawn in proportion to calculated distances between sequences. Bootstrap values for percent reproducibility are shown at the base of each branch. The plants GH3 protein sequences retrieved from NCBI and their accession numbers are given in parentheses: rice (Os), barley (Hv), Maize (Zm), radish (Rs), Arabidopsis (At), alfalfa (Ms), Japanese pear (Pp), strawberry (Fa) and Gentiana (Gt). Rice OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase is marked with a filled circle.

The sequence of OsXYL1 is most similar to barley  $\beta$ -xylosidase, HvXYL (Lee, et al., 2003) with 83% amino acid sequence identity, and it shared 47-50% with the putative  $\beta$ -xylosidases from Arabidopsis (Goujon et al., 2003, Minic et al., 2006), and 42-48% with other  $\beta$ -xylosidase of LeXYL1 from tomato (Itali et al, 2006), FaXyl1 from

strawberry (Bustamante *et al.*, 2006), and ZmXYL putative  $\beta$ -xylosidase from maize (Puzio *et al.*, 2009). Among arabinofuranosidases, it shared only 42-50% identity with RsAraf1 from radish (Kotake *et al.*, 2006), HvARA-I from barley (Lee *et al.*, 2003), and with the bifunctional OsARA-I/XYL from rice (Sasaki *et al.*, 2004), MsXYL from alfalfa (Xiong *et al.*, 2007) and PpAraf2 from Japanese pear (Tateishi *et al.*, 2005) and shared only 26-29% amino acid sequence identity with the other enzymes in this phylogenetic cluster.

The positions of conserved amino acids in plant GH3 enzymes from rice, barley, maize, alfalfa, and tobacco are shown in the Clustal Omega protein sequence alignment in Figure 3.3. The catalytic nucleophile residue is strictly conserved in family GH3 (Henrissat et~al., 1998). Identical amino acid residues were found at 78 positions, which included the WGR and KH motifs and the catalytic nucleophile, aspartate (D) residue in the GFVISDW motif of  $\beta$ -glucosidase/exoglucanase enzymes, and GYITSDC motif of  $\beta$ -xylosidase/ $\alpha$ -L-arabinosidase enzyme, found in the N-terminal domain 1 (Harvey et~al., 2000). Based on the multiple sequence alignment (Figure 3.3), the conserved catalytic nucleophile of rice  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 is similar with barley HvXYL and tobacco AtBXL6, which is situated in the conserved GYITSDC motif. On the other hand, the catalytic acid is conserved as glutamate (E) residue in a variety of motifs, the position of the catalytic acid/base and surrounding amino acids vary in GH3 members making it complicated to predict (Hrmova et~al., 2002).

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**Figure 3.3** Alignment analysis of plant GH3 amino acid sequences. The partial multiple alignment demonstrates the conserved motifs in plant GH3 rice, barley, maize, alfalfa, and tobacco. Identical residues are shown in asterisks (\*), and the conserved motifs are shown in the boxes, with the catalytic nucleophile and acid/base indicated (downarrow).

The structure of the rice OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase fby homology modeling that used the X-ray crystal structure of fungal *Hypocrea jecorina*  $\beta$ -xylosidase Xyl3A (Bxl1) in complex with 4-thioxylobiose (PDB code 5AE6, Mikkelsen *et al.*, 2015), since the

sequence identity is 35%. The distribution in monomer of the secondary structures in the two GH3 enzyme are quite similar. The structure model shows the three distinct domains (Figure 3.4). Domain 1 encompasses residues 42-404, an N-terminal  $(\alpha/\beta)_8$  Tim-barrel in which the conserved catalytic nucleophile is aspartate residue (Asp-299) located in a GFVISDW motif. Domain 2 is a six-stranded  $\alpha/\beta$  sandwich that comprises residues 406-636 with the conserved catalytic glutamate residue (Glu-505) at the linker region that is directed toward Asp-299. The extended third domain at the C-terminus consists of a fibronectin type III (FnIII) fold, which is composed of residues 637-774. The measured distance between oxygen of Asp-299 directed to oxygen of Glu-D505 residue was about 7.0 Å, consistent with the active site of a glycoside hydrolase with a retaining mechanism.

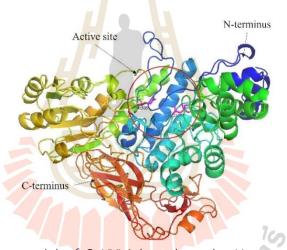


Figure 3.4 Homology model of OsXYL1 based on the X-ray crystal structure of the Hypocrea jecorina  $\beta$ -xylosidase Xyl3A (Bxl1) in complex with 4-thioxylobiose (PDB code 5AE6). The catalytic nucleophile (Asp-299) and acid/base residues (Glu-505) are shown in sticks (magenta color) representation and highlighted with a red circle.

The other common conserved GH3 sequences, the WGR and KH motifs, begin at residues Trp-170 and Lys-216, respectively. Finally, in the amino acid sequence alignment in Figure 3.5, the OsXYL1 possesses three potential *N*-glycosylation sites in its protein sequence. The asparagine residues at positions N-205, N475, and N644 may be glycosylated in the ER, based on its predicted subcellular localization in the secretory pathway or outside the cell.

Without considering glycosylation, the synthesized  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 contains 772 amino acid residues and was predicted by the ProtParam facility of the ExPASy bioinformatic analysis to have a theoretical molecular mass of 83.952 kDa, pl of 6.12 and an extinction coefficient of 100,700 M $^{-1}$ cm $^{-1}$  for determined protein concentration in spectrophotometrically by absorbance at 280 nm. In addition, for the recombinant fusion protein with the N-terminal peptide sequences of the plasmids, there were other tag sequences encoded in the constructs to produce fusion proteins. The pET32a/OsXYL1 vector for expression in *E. coli* encoded the thioredoxin, His-tag, thrombin site, S-tag, enterokinase site of the plasmid and additional N-terminal sequences of the 6x-His tag and 3C Precission (peptides LEVLFQ/GP) cleavage sites. The pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1 plasmis for expression in *P. pastoris* also encoded the N-terminal signal sequence and the  $\alpha$ -factor cleavage site (EAEA) followed by two histidine tags (8x-His and 6x-His) and then a 3C Precision protease site.



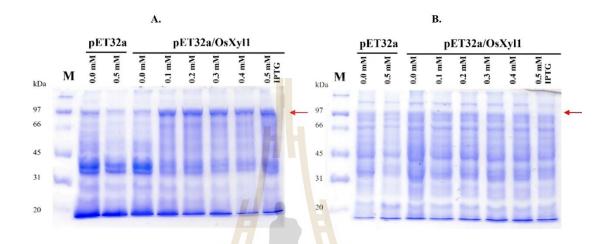
OsXyll Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	MGRRARALLHAPAPLLLLLALAAAAAAVAVASGPPFSCGAPSSAAFCNPRLPIEQRADDLKNNLVCDSSAGYVERAQAL	60 19
OsXyll Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	VSRLTLEEKISQLGDQSPAVDRLGVPAYKWWSEALHGVSNAGRGIHLDGPLRAATSFPQV ISLFTLEELILNTQNSGPGVPRLGLPNYQVWNEALHGLDRANFATK-GGQFEWATSFPMP	120 78
OsXyl1 Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	ILTAASFNPHLWYRIGQVIGTEARAVYNNGQAEGLTFWAPNINVFRDPRWGRGQETPGED ILTTAALNRTLIHQIADIISTQARAFSNSGR-YGLDVYAPNVNGFRSPLWGRGQETPGED CHO	180 137
	Λ	
OsXyll Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	PT-VTGKYAAVFVRGVQGYALAGAINSTDLEASACCKHFTAYDLENWKGVTRYAFDAKVT AFFLSSAYTYEYITGIQGGVDPEHLKVAATVKHFAGYDLENWNNQSRLGFDAIIT	239 192
OsXyl1 Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	AQDLADTYNPPFRSCVEDGGASGIMCSYNRVNGVPTCADYNLLSKTARGDWRFYGYIT QQDLSEYYTPQFLAAARYAKSRSLMCAYNSVNGVPSCANSFFLQTLLRESWGFPEWGYVS Catalytic nucleophile	297 252
	∇	
OsXyll Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	SDCDAVSIIHDVQGYAKTAEDAVADVLKAGMDVNCGSYVQEHGLSAIQQGKITEQDINRA SDCDAVYNVFNPHDYASNQSSAAASSLRAGTDIDCGQTYPWHLNESFVAGEVSRGEIERS	357 312
0.24.11	LHNLFAVRMRLGLFNGNPKYNRYGNIGPDQVCTQEHQNLALEAAQHGVVLLKNDANALPL	417
OsXyll Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	VTRLYANLVRLGYFDKKNOYRSLGWKDVVKTDAWNISYEAAVEGIVLLKND-GTLPL	368
BXII (Jaeb.I.A)		300
	СНО	
OsXyl1	A SKSOVSSIAVIGHNANDATRLLGNYFGPPCISVTPLOVLOGYVKDTRFLAGCNSAACNVS	477
Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	SK-KVRSIALIGPWANATTOMOGNYYGPAPYLISPLEAAKKAGYHVNFELGTEIAGNSTT	427
DAII (Jaeu.I.A)	Catalytic acid	427
	∇ V	
OsXyl1	SIGEAAQLASSVDYVVLFMGLDQDQEREEVDRLELSPPGMQENLTNTVANAAKKPVILVL	537
Bxl1 (5ae6.1.A)	GFAKAIAAAKKSDAIIYLGGIDNTIEQEGADRTDIAWPGNQLDLIKQLSE-VGKPLVVLQ	486
OsXyl1	LCGGPVDVTFAKYNPKIGAILWAGYPGEAGGIAIAOVLFGEHNPGGRLPVTWYPKEF-TS	596
Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	MGGGQVDSSSLKSNKKVNSLVWGGYPGQSGGVALFDILSGKRAPAGRLVTTQYPAEYVHQ	546
	СНО	
	Δ	
OsXyl1	VPMTDMRMR <mark>ADPS</mark> TGYPGRTYRFYRGNTVYK <mark>FGYG</mark> LSYSKYSHHFVANGTKLPSLSSIDG	656
Bx11(5ae6.1.A)	FPQNDMNLRPD-GKSNPGQTYIWYTGKPVYEFGSGLFYTTFKETLASHPKSL-KFNTSSI	604
OsXyl1	LKAMATAAAGTVSYDVEEIGPETCDKLKFPALVRVONHGPMDGRHPVLLFLRWPNGAADG	716
Bx11 (5ae6.1.A)	LSAPHPGYTYSEQIPVFTFEANIKNSGKTESPYTAMLFVRTSNAG-PA	651
0 11 11		775
OsXyl1 Bxl1(5ae6.1.A)	GRPASQLIGFQSL-HLKSMQTVHMEFEVSPCKHFSRATEDGKKVIDHGSHFMMVGDDEFE PYPNKWLVGFDRLADIKPGHSSKLSIPIPV-SALARVDSHGNRIVYPGKYELALNTDES-	775 709
OsXvl1	MSFTP 780	
Bx11 (5ae6.1.A)	709	
21111 (3000.1.11)		

Figure 3.5 Amino acid alignment of the rice  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 with the fungal *Hypocrea jecorina*  $\beta$ -xylosidase Xyl3A (Bxl1). The up-arrow indicates *N*-glycosylation sites in rice OsXYL1. Identical residues in the three sequences are indicated with asterisks (\*), the conserved motifs are indicated in the boxes and the putative catalytic nucleophile and acid/base by down-arrows.

#### 3.3 Expression and purification of OsXYL1 in *E. coli*

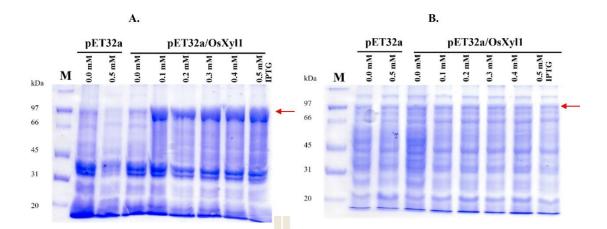
A recombinant pET32a/OsXYL1 clone was confirmed by DNA sequencing results before it was transformed into  $E.\ coli$  strains for protein expression with induction with IPTG (final concentration 0 – 0.5 mM). Screening concentration of IPTG for protein expression was done in  $E.\ coli$  Origami (DE3) and Origami B(DE3) strains which grown

on LB broth with induction at 20 °C for 16 h. The harvested cell pellets were thawed and lysed to determined proteins expression patterns by SDS-PAGE (as shown in Figure 3.6-3.7) of both insoluble (Figure 3.6A and 3.7A) and soluble (Figure 3.6B and 3.7B) fractions.



**Figure 3.6** SDS-PAGE analysis of insoluble (A) and soluble (B) fractions of crude extracts of pET32a/OsXYL1 in Origami(DE3) after IPTG induction. The pET32a containing cells were induced with 0 and 0.5 mM IPTG induction and analyzed in the same manner for comparison. Lane M is proteins marker.

As seen in Figure 3.6 of SDS-PAGE for the recombinant OsXYL1 protein that was expressed in Origami(DE3) that found the overexpression in induction with all IPTG concentrations (0.1 – 0.5 mM) gave similar levels (Figure 3.6A). A protein band of around 95 kDa was found that was significantly different with the controls of without IPTG induction (0 mM) and empty pET32 plasmid without OsXYL1 insertion (0 and 0.5 mM IPTG). This band was in the insoluble fraction (Figure 3.6B), likely in inclusion bodies, and was not extracted to the cell lysate. The enzyme assay with 4NPXyl substrate also showed low activity (data not shown).



**Figure 3.7** SDS-PAGE analysis of insoluble (A) and soluble (B) fractions of crude extracts of pET32a/OsXYL1 in OrigamiB(DE3) after IPTG induction. Cells containing empty pET32a were induced with 0 and 0.5 mM IPTG induction and analyzed in the same manner for comparison. Lane M is proteins marker.

Figure 3.7 shows the SDS-PAGE for the recombinant OsXYL1 expressed in OrigamiB(DE3) that that gave a similar trend with Origami(DE3), the overexpression was relatively low in soluble fractions (Figure 3.7B). The OrigamiB(DE3) strain gave higher overexpression than Origami(DE3), as a strong band was seen around 95 kDa (Figure 3.7). However, the overexpression of OsXYL1 in *E. coli* only yielded large amounts of insoluble protein aggregates, likely in the form of inclusion bodies. However, a portion of the recombinant enzyme remained in the soluble fraction and  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity against 4NPXyl substrate was detected in this fraction.

Since the expression partially worked in the *E. coli* system, expression of recombinant OsXYL1 protein in the OrigamiB(DE3) strain in larger scale with 0.1 mM IPTG induction for 16 h was performed to try to purify the protein. The construct of pET32/OsXYL1 containing the thioredoxin and polyhistidine tags linked to N-terminal of OsXYL1 that was provided protein bound with a Ni<sup>2+</sup> charged IMAC column. The recombinant protein was purified by the eluted in 250 mM imidazole then dialyzed and concentrated before cutting with 3C PreScission protease enzyme to remove the tag proteins, followed by SDS-PAGE analysis.

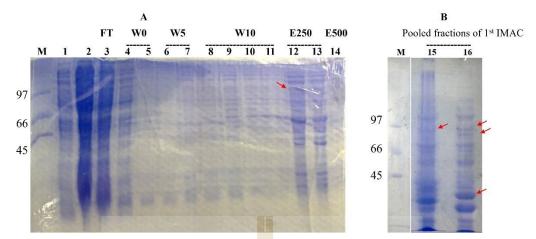


Figure 3.8 SDS-PAGE analysis of expression of recombinant OsXYL1 in OrigamiB(DE3). A, purification by Ni-IMAC. B, Pooled IMAC fractions and reaction with 3C Precision protease. Lanes: 1, insoluble proteins in pellet; 2, supernatant; 3, flow-through; 4-14, washed (W) and eluted (E) fractions with IMAC buffer, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl, 5 mM-500 mM imidazole; 15, pooled fractions of IMAC column; and 16, digested fractions with 3C protease. M, standard markers.

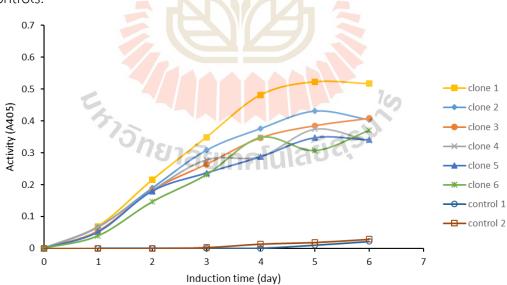
The SDS-PAGE analysis of purified OsXYL1 presented an expected-size band (~95 kDa) and a large number of background protein bands, as seen in Figure 3.8 (A) and (B). Because of the N-terminal tag containing thioredoxin (Mw 12 kDa), plus polyhistidine (6x, 8x-His) tags and other tag, the molecular mass was ~95 kDa, but the first IMAC also showed a great deal of impurity. SDS-PAGE analysis (Figure 3.8B) of the pooled IMAC fraction (lane No. 15) and the result of 3C PreScission protease (lane No. 16) was a lower band under the recombinant OsXYL1 that obtained band after cleavage protein and in the bottom found the extra one band of peptide (Mw ~ 28 kDa) after cleavage at the 3C site from the N-terminal of OsXYL1. However, when this digested protein was subsequently passed through the second IMAC column, the flowthrough included OsXyl, as indicated by weak  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity (data not shown). The process yielded a very low amount of OsXYL1 protein and proteolytic degradation was also observed during the purification, which may contribute to the decreased enzyme activity.

The expression of OsXYL1 protein was problematic to produce in recombinant *E. coli*, so an alternative system was desired. The heterogenous expression systems in

which many plant GH3 proteins have been expressed include the *Pichia* system, in which barley HvExoI was expressed (Luang et al., 2010), and native or heterologous plant system, such as Gtgen3A from Gentian leaves (Takahashi *et al.*, 2018), RsAraf1 from transgenic *Arabidopsis* (Kotake *et al.*, 2006), MsXyl1 purified from transgenic *M. truncatula* plant (Xiong *et al.*, 2007) and *Arabidopsis At*BXL1 in wild-type plants (Goujon *et al.*, 2003).

### 3.4 Expression and purification of OsXYL1 in *P. pastoris*

Initially, *Pichia* clones were screened for  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity and those expressing significant  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity were further characterized. The six-exhibiting high  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity in medium from the  $\alpha$ -factor fusion protein encoded in pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1/SMD116H and two controls of pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8/SMD1168H colonies were screened in small scale to optimize expression condition, as shown in Figure 3.9. The supernatant of OsXYL1 clones contained  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity hydrolyzing 4NPXyl substrate that increased over time and no increasing significant activity occurred in controls.

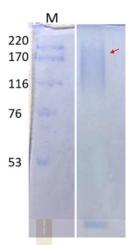


**Figure 3.9** Expression of *P. pastoris* transformants of OsXYL1 in BMMY broth induced with 0.5% (v/v) methanol for 6 days and the  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity assay. The activity was assayed with 1 mM 4NPXyl, in 50 mM NaOAc buffer, pH 4.0, at 60 °C for 30 min.

The activity is plotted as  $A_{405}$  versus induction times. Clones 1-6, pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8/OsXYL1; controls 1-2, pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8.

The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity resulted in the secreted OsXYL1 *P. pastoris* media was slowly increased until 4 days when induction with 0.5% (v/v) methanol at 20 °C, and reached maximum at day 5. No increase in  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity was observed in *Pichia* transformant of control pPICZ $\alpha$ BNH8. Thus, expression condition in shake flask of secreted OsXYL1 in the BMMY broth was induced with 0.5% methanol at 20 °C for 5 days. The 5-days-old broth was collected by centrifugation to remove the cell debris and kept on ice for purify protein in the day that collecting cell or kept on 15% glycerol at -80 °C. Initially, the secreted protein was precipitated from the supernatant with 70-75% (w/v) ammonium sulfate, followed by resuspension and dialysis in 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0. This procedure resulted in contaminating pigments throughout the filtered dialyzed solution that interfered with protein binding during chromatographic purification, but it did not appear to affect the enzyme activity. Thus, the supernatant containing secreted OsXYL11 protein was adjusted to pH 7.5, then any precipitate salts were filtered out and the supernatant supplemented with 1 mM PMSF to avoid proteolytic degradation before loading to the IMAC column for purification. Initially, several chromatographic resins were tested for purifying the protein, including HiTrap Q FF, Phenyl Sepharose FF, nickel- or cobalt-bound IMAC resin and con-A Sepharose 4B. They were tested for high performance in protein binding and elution fractions were checked by activity assay with 4NPXyl and SDS-PAGE profiles.

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**Figure 3.10** 10% SDS-PAGE of pooled fractions of secreted OsXYL1 protein. The protein was purified by Ni-NTA IMAC with imidazole in equilibration buffer. Smeared protein is indicated with the red arrow. Lane M, high molecular weight marker.

As seen in Figure 3.10, which shows the 10% SDS-PAGE gel, the secreted OsXYL1 protein from *Pichia* was expressed in glycosylated form, which presented as a smear band at the top of the lane with a molecular mass over the 116 kDa. This is expected for glycosylated protein, since three glycosylation sites were predicted in the OsXYL1 protein sequence and yeast give heterogeneous glycosylation.

Thus, this OsXYL1 secreted glycoprotein was purified from *Pichia* culture media. A two-step chromatographic purification was performed to purify OsXYL1. Since this construct contains 8x- and 6x-histidine tags at the N-terminus site of OsXYL1 after the secretory peptide cleavage site, the Ni²+-charged IMAC resin was selected to purify the secreted OsXYL1 which was obtained from large-scale culture medium after its pH was adjusted to 7.5. The IMAC resin was increased up to 30 mL volume to enhance the amount of bound protein. The bound protein was eluted from the IMAC column with 50-150 mM imidazole in IMAC buffer (pH 8.0). The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity was tested by the 4NPXyl assay and SDS-PAGE analysis was done. The fractions with  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity were pooled and further purified by size-exclusion chromatography (SEC) over a S200 gel filtration column. The peak with  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity occurred in the fractions 20-29 (at an elution volume of 10-14 mL), corresponding to the major peak (Figure 3.11). The fractions that contained  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity were pooled and designated as purified OsXYL1.

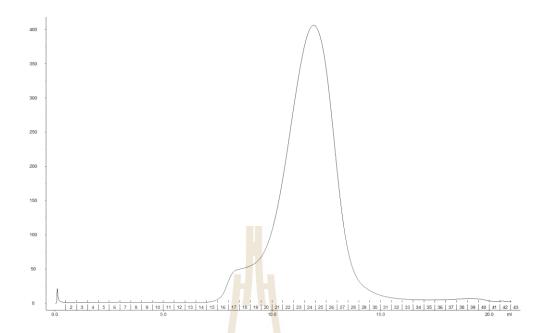
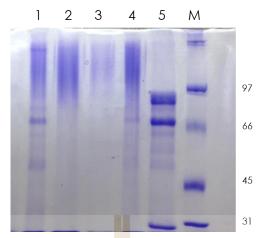


Figure 3.11 S200 Gel filtration protein elution profile of OsXYL1. The chromatography was run at the flow rate of 0.3 mL/min with 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl. The sample volume was 0.5 mL injection of the pooled IMAC column fractions. The fractions were pooled with No. 20-29 and concentrated.

The purified OsXYL1 protein from *P. pastoris* medium is shown in Figure 3.12. The secreted OsXYL1 appeared as a high MW smear band that confirmed that the protein was glycosylated. When the protein was deglycosylated by treatment with Endoglycosidase H (Endo H), a major band appeared below the band of 97 kDa in the protein MW marker (Figure 3.12, Lane 5). The deglycosylated OsXYL1 resulted in an estimated molecular mass of 84 kDa. Another major band was seen at around 70 kDa, which might suggest that some of the protein had been degraded, and Endo H protein was apparent at a molecular mass of 29 kDa, so the band near the bottom of the gel in the deglycosylated protein sample likely represents Endo H.



**Figure 3.12** 12% SDS-PAGE analysis of sample taken during the purification of secreted OsXYL1. Lanes 1-2, pool of IMAC imidazole fractions; lane 3, S200 pool before concentration; lane 4, purified OsXYL1; lane 5, purified OsXYL1 treated with Endo H; lane M, protein marker.

*Pichia pastoris* has been received attention as the heterologous host for proteins expression due to its remarkable advantages, such as inducible expression using controllable promoters and simplicity of the medium conditions (Macauley-Patrick, *et al.*, 2005; Dehnavi *et al.*, 2016). Using a codon optimization technique, β-xylosidase OsXYL1 was successfully expressed in this unicellular eukaryotic system. Enzyme yields, specific activity measured with 4NPXyl substrate, and the purification factors are given in Table 3.1. The purification resulted in a final yield 0.57% recovered activity compared to the crude medium. During the purification, the specificity increased from 0.00086 to 0.086 U/mg, with implies a degree of purification of 101-fold.

**Table 3.1** Enzyme yields during purification of OsXYL1.

Purification	Volu	Total	Specific	Total	Yield	Purification
Step	me	protein	activity	activity	(%)	(fold)
	(mL)	(mg)	(U/mg)	(U)		
Crude protein	1600	28,953	0.00086	24.76	100	1
Ni-IMAC						
-E50	0.5	0.760	0.015	0.011	0.045	17
-E75	0.2	0.374	0.018	0.007	0.027	21
-E150	1	0.762	0.025	0.019	0.077	29
S200 gel	0.28	1.640	0.086	0.14	0.571	101
filtration		<u> </u>	''			

Yields are expressed as percentage of enzyme activity in the crude protein, and purification factors are calculated on the specific activities.

### 3.5 Effects of pH and temperature on $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

The effects of pH and temperature on the activity of purified OsXYL1 were determined. The pH profile exhibited a sharp bell-shaped curve that bit elongated toward the upper pH range (Figure 3.13), and the optimum pH for  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity occurred at pH 4.0. The activity versus pH profile increased rapidly from the pH 3.5 to 4.0, where it reached the maximum activity and slowly decreased with increasing pH to less than 10% at pH 8-11. OsXYL1 was projected to have 50% maximal activity at pH 3.4 and 5.7. The pH optima of rice OsXYL1 was 4.0 that this value is the same range pH 4-5 of those previously determined for  $\beta$ -xylosidase from barley (Lee *et al.*, 2003), stem of *Arabidopsis* (Minic *et al.*, 2004), alfalfa roots (Xiong *et al.*, 2007) and certain  $\beta$ -xylosidase from fungi and bacteria (Choengpanya *et al.*, 2015; Inoue *et al.*, 2016, Dehnavi *et al.*, 2016; Mhetras *et al.*, 2016).

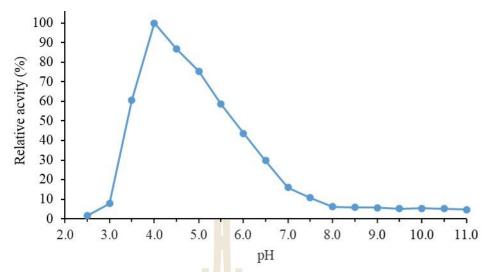


Figure 3.13 Activity versus pH profile of purified OsXYL1 over the range of 2.5-11.0 (in 0.5 increments). The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity was assayed with 1 mM 4NPXyl substrate in McIlvaine buffers at 37 °C for 30 min.

As for the temperature effect on purified OsXYL1, the temperature profile was bell-shaped, and the highest activity of OsXYL1 was detected as 60 °C. The activity slowly increased from 30-60 °C, where is reached the maximum at 60-65 °C (Figure 3.14), and rapidly decreased at 75 to 80 °C. Again, this value is close to temperature optima reported for  $\beta$ -xylosidase stem of *Arabidopsis* (Minic *et al.*, 2004) and certain  $\beta$ -xylosidase from fungi and bacteria (Choengpanya *et al.*, 2015; Inoue *et al.*, 2016; Yan *et al.*, 2012, Dehnavi *et al.*, 2016; Mhetras *et al.*, 2016, Shi, *et al.*, 2013, Zhou, *et al.*, 2011, de Carvalho, D.R., *et al.*, 2018).

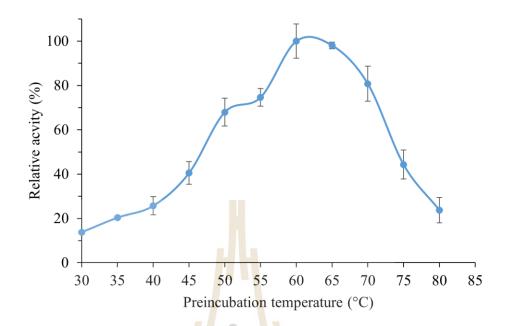
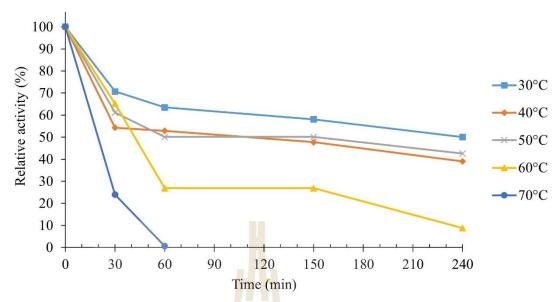


Figure 3.14 Activity versus temperature profile of purified OsXYL1 over temperatures ranging from 30 to 80 °C (in 5 °C increments). The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity was assayed with 1 mM 4NPXyl substrate in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, for 30 min.

As show in Figure 3.15, the residual activity of purified OsXYL1 demonstrated thermostability up to 50 °C, with more than 50% activity remaining after 4 h at temperatures ranging from 30-50 °C. At the optimum temperature (60 °C), the residual activity was similar with 30-50 °C when the enzyme was incubated for 30 min, but decreased to less than 50% by about 42 min. At 60 °C, less than 30% of the activity remained when incubated 1 h or longer. At 70 °C, all activity was lost within 1 h. The protein precipitated with higher temperatures and longer incubations. According to these results,  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity of rice OsXYL1 was determined at 40 °C in subsequence experiments.



**Figure 3.15** Thermostability of the purified OsXYL1. The residual activity was monitored after the enzyme was preincubated at 30  $^{\circ}$ C (filled squares), 40  $^{\circ}$ C (filled diamonds), 50  $^{\circ}$ C (x), 60  $^{\circ}$ C (filled triangles), and 70  $^{\circ}$ C (filled circles) for the designated time periods, then activity was assayed in the standard assay. The maximum activity was defined as 100%, which was the activity for enzyme with no preincubation.

Rice  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 has a temperature and pH optimum different from typical in rice growth conditions as shown in  $\beta$ -glucan exohydrolase (Prawisut *et al.*, 2020) and  $\beta$ -glucosidase BGlu1 (Opassiri *et al.*, 2003), but similar to characterized plant GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidase from *Arabidopsis* stem tissues, flower, and siliques (Goujon *et al.*, 2003; Minic *et al.*, 2004; 2006), barley seedling (Lee *et al.*, 2003), alfalfa roots (Xiong *et al.*, 2007), radish seeds (Kotake *et al.*, 2006), fruit development and ripening (Tateishi *et al.*, 2005; Bustamante *et al.*, 2006), and immature stalk of sugarcane (Chinen *et al.*, 1982).

### 3.6 Effect of carbohydrates on $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

The effects of carbohydrates (monosaccharides and disaccharides) in reaction solutions on the  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity of purified OsXYL1 were tested as shown in Figure 3.16. The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activities against 4NPXyl substrate in the presence of xylose concentrations of 10 and 50 mM were decreased to 28.7% and 5.5%,

respectively, compared to the reaction without xylose additive, which indicates that xylose strongly inhibited to the purified OsXYL1. Other sugars (arabinose, glucose, mannose, galactose, fructose, lactose, maltose and sucrose) had small effects compared with xylose. In addition, the activity in the presence of 50 mM arabinose, glucose and mannose were decreased, which might suggest that they also affect  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 as these monosaccharides are present as substituents in the arabinoxylan of the cell wall polysaccharides (Carpita *et al.*, 2001; Burton and Fincher, 2014).

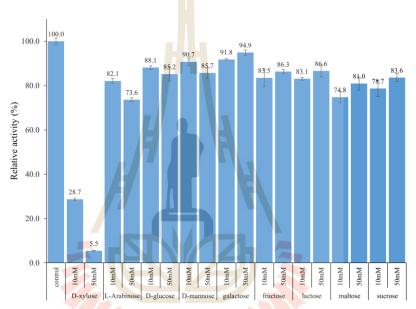


Figure 3.16 Effect of carbohydrates on OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase. In the presence of 10 and 50 mM carbohydrates, activity toward 1 mM 4NPXyl was assayed in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.0), at 60 °C. The activity for enzyme in the absence of carbohydrates was defined as 100%.

## 3.7 Effect of metal ions and EDTA on $oldsymbol{eta}$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

The  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity of purified OsXYL1 was tested in the presence of metal ions and EDTA (Figure 3.17). The activity of purified OsXYL1 was insensitive to the presence of MgCl<sub>2</sub>, MgSO<sub>4</sub>, FeSO<sub>4</sub>, CoCl<sub>2</sub>, EDTA at both concentrations tested. In contrast, Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NiSO<sub>4</sub>, and ZnSO<sub>4</sub> additives had little effect todecrease  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity at 5 mM concentration, but had increased effect to about 50% at the 10 mM concentration. Ten molecules of Zn ions were reported in the X-ray crystal structure

of fungal GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidase Bxl1 (Mikkelsen *et al.,* 2015) which supports an effect of Zn<sup>2+</sup> on the protein activity. In addition, OsXYL1 was highly sensitive to MnCl<sub>2</sub>, which completely depleted the activity at the 10 mM concentration. A strong inhibitory effect was also observed in Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion of CuSO<sub>4</sub> that decreased activity at 5 and 10 mM by 25% and 60%, respectively. It has been previously reported that divalent Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Hg<sup>2+</sup> ions are potent inhibitors of a GH3 xylosidase (Tateishi *et al.,* 2005). OsXYL1 was sensitive to monovalent of Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, and K<sup>+</sup> ions, which increased activity at 5 mM concentration but this effect was not seen at 10 mM concentration. EDTA had no influence on enzyme activity, suggesting that this enzyme is not a metalloprotein, and lack of metal requirements is a common feature of GH3 proteins. The results of biochemical properties of OsXYL1 were almost the same as those in previous  $\beta$ -xylosidase reports.

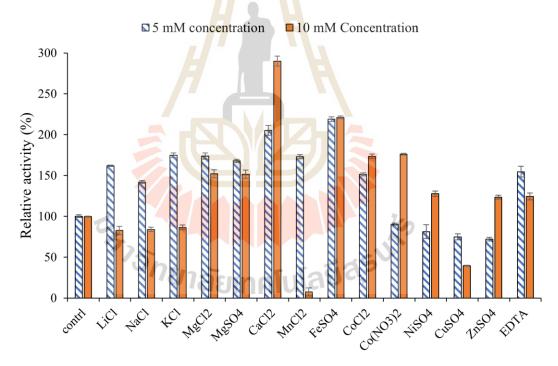


Figure 3.17 Effect of metal ions and EDTA on OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase. In the presence of 5 mM (white and blue stripes) and 10 mM (solid orange color) metal ions or EDTA in reactions, activity was assayed toward 1 mM 4NPXyl in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, at 60 °C. The activity for enzyme in the absence of metal ions was defined as 100%.

### 3.8 Transglycosylation of $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

Transglycosylation of OsXyl1  $\beta$ -xylosidase in the presence of alcohols, including methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, n-propanol, n-butanol, 3-methyl-butanol, and 1-octanol with 4NPXyl substrate was evaluated, since including alcohol increased the A<sub>405</sub> values of the 4NP product in hydrolytic reactions. The transglycosylation activity of OsXyl1 with alcohols was analyzed by TLC, as shown in Figure 3.18. However, no product was initially observed in buffer with long chain alcohols, like 1-octanol, which was not miscible in the buffer.

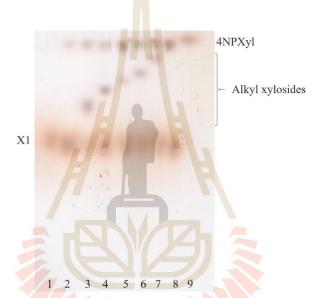


Figure 3.18 TLC pattern of transglycosylation products of OsXYL1 with alcohol acceptors. The reactions of 5 mM 4NPXyl and 15% alcohols in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.0) were incubated at 40 °C for 1 h. TLC was developed in ethyl acetate: acetic acid: water (2:1:1) and products were detected by staining with 10% sulfuric acid in alcohol. Lane 1, standard xylose; lane 2, control reaction without alcohol; lane 3, reaction with methanol; lane 4, reaction with ethanol; lane 5, reaction with isopropanol; lane 6, reaction with n-propanol; lane 7, reaction with n-butanol; lane 8, reaction with 3-methy-1-buthanol; and lane 9, standard 4NPXyl.

As shown in Figure 3.18, the alkyl xyloside products of the transglycosylation activity were obtained in the same time as hydrolysis that produced xylose. The xylosyl residue in the complex of the glycosyl-enzyme intermediate was assumed to be

transferred to form the  $\beta$ -linkage with alcohols as acceptor groups, based on the mechanism of GH3 enzymes (Figure 1.10).

Since 1-octanol has low solubility in water (0.3 g/L) and showed no product in that condition, a co-solvent mixture with acetone was explored for transglycosylation activity toward 1-octanol (Thenchartana *et al.*, 2020). The reactions containing a co-solvent mixture of acetone and 1-octanol in sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.0, were tested with varied concentrations of acetone and octanol from 0-30% (v/v), as shown in Figure 3.19A. The optimized ratio of the co-solvent mixture in varied time 30 min to 6 h (Figure 3.19B), octyl xyloside product was obtained in the 20% (v/v) 1-octanol in 30% (v/v) acetone at 40 °C.

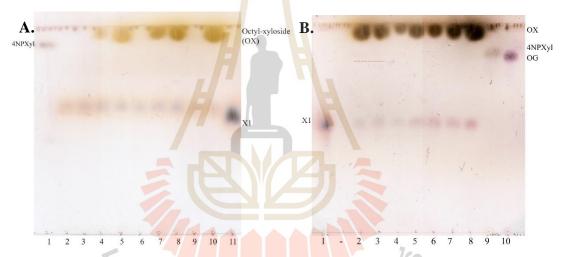


Figure 3.19 TLC patterns of transglycosylation products of OsXYL1 with 1-octanol in co-solvent mixtures. (A) Reactions with varied ratios of acetone and 1-octanol for 4 days. (B) Reactions at varied times in the 30% (v/v) acetone and 20% (v/v) octanol for 30 min - 6 h. The reactions incubated 0.5 nmol OsXYL1with 5 mM 4NPXyl in co-solvent mixture at 40 °C. (A) TLC was developed in ethyl acetate: acetic acid: water (2:1:1). Lane 1, standard 4NPXyl; lane 2, control reaction; lane 3, 10% (v/v) acetone; lane 4, 10% (v/v) acetone and 10% (v/v) 1-octanol; lane 5, 10% (v/v) acetone and 20% (v/v) 1-octanol; lane 6, 20% (v/v) acetone; lane 7, 20% (v/v) acetone and 10% (v/v) 1-octanol; lane 8, 20% (v/v) acetone and 20% (v/v) 1-octanol; lane 9, 30% (v/v) acetone; lane 10, 30% (v/v) acetone and 20% (v/v) 1-octanol; lane 11, standard D-xylose. (B), TLC was developed in ethyl acetate: acetic acid: water (7:3:1). Lane 1, standard D-

xylose; lane 2, 30 min; lane 3, 1 h; lane 4, 2 h; lane 5, 3 h; lane 6, 4 h; lane 7, 5 h; lane 8, 6 h; lane 9, standard 4NPXyl; lane 10, standard octyl-glucoside (OG).

The octyl xyloside was major product from the transglycosylation activity of OsXYL1 in the cosolvent reaction, based on TLC, although the liberated xylose from the hydrolysis activity was observed as a by-product at all incubation times. Thus, the octyl xyloside product obtained from the transglycosylation reaction in co-solvent mixture were stable for 4 days or longer and not rapidly hydrolyzed by OsXYL1 enzyme as it accumulated in the reaction mixture. Similar results were seen for the shorter alkyl xylosides in the aqueous reactions. This suggests that OsXYL1 might be useful for enzymatic synthesis of alkyl xylosides for production by green chemistry (Park, et al., 2017; Ochs, et al., 2011; Nakamura, T., et al., 2000; Smulek, W., et al., 2017). This has been reported for other GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidases with other acceptors, such as sugar alcohols, aliphatic and aromatic alcohols, and carbohydrates in enzymatic synthesis of  $\beta$ -D-xylosyl-oligomer products (Dilokpimol et al., 2011; Korakake et al., 2005; 2011). The importance of long-chain alkyl glycosides has been demonstrated for many industrial applications as non-ionic surfactants, the xylose derivative and xylose polymer (xylan) from the renewable biomass are candidates for xylosyl donors for production of new surfactants by the transglycosylation reaction.

However, it is not clear whether transglycosylation activity of OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase can be used to imply its action in the cell wall remodeling of hemicellulose polysaccharide in plants by transglycosylation, since the conditions in the cell wall are different from those in the *in vitro* reactions. Further work could investigate this possibility.

# 3.9 Substrate specificity of $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

Substrate specificity of purified OsXYL1 enzyme was assessed by testing hydrolytic activity toward various nitrophenyl glycosides. The activity compared at a standard substrate concentration of 5 mM for most glycosides and 1 mM for 4NPXyl, which was assayed at a reduced concentration of OsXYL1 enzyme. The results obtained show the  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 enzymes had hydrolytic activity toward 4NP-

 $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranoside, 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranoside, 4NP-N-acetyl- $\beta$ -D-glucosaminide, and 4NP- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside. No hydrolytic activity was found with 4NP- $\alpha$ -D-mannopyranoside, 4NP- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside, 4NP- $\alpha$ -L-fucopyranoside, 4NP- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, 4NP- $\beta$ -D-maltoside, 4NP- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside, 4NP- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranoside.

Table 3.2 Relative activity of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 with nitrophenyl glycosides.

Substrate <sup>a</sup>	Relative activity <sup>b</sup> (%)		
4NP $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-xylopyranoside $^{c}$	100.0 ± 2.1		
4NP <b>α</b> -L-arabinofuranoside	5.98 ± 10.2		
4NP <b>α</b> -L-arabinopyranosidec	6.75 ± 8.2		
4NP N-acetyl- <b>β</b> -D-glucosaminide	$2.3 \pm 0.5$		
4NP $oldsymbol{eta}$ -D-glucopyranoside	1.9 ± 1.7		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Reactions were incubated 3.57 nmol of OsXYL1in standard reaction. Activity was determined in standard reaction and measured by the absorbance of 4NP released.

eta-Xylosidase OsXYL1 was high specific for the eta-xylosyl moiety of 4NPXyl, while it could hydrolyze the bonds to other sugar moieties in 4NPAraf and 4NPArap, 4NPGlcNac, and 4NPGlc with relative activity values varies not greater than 10% of that for 4NPXyl (Table 3.2). The enzymatic activity with the differently configured  $oldsymbol{\alpha}$ -Larabinosyl moieties in 4NPAraf and 4NPArap was previously observed in  $oldsymbol{\alpha}$ -Larabinofuranosidase from Arabidopsis and for bifunctional  $oldsymbol{\alpha}$ -Larabinofuranosidase/ $oldsymbol{\beta}$ -xylosidase isolated from Arabidopsis stem (Goujon et al., 2003; Minic et al., 2004; 2006), barley seedling (Lee et al., 2003), tomato fruit (Itali et al., 2003), and alfalfa roots (Xiong et al., 2007).

The activity toward  $\beta$ -1,4-xylosyl-oligosaccharides (XOSs) substrates with DP of 2-6, 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylobiose (X2), 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylotriose (X3), 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylotetraose (X4), 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylopentaose (X5), and 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylohexaose (X6) substrates was determined. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Values are the mean of triplicate independent experiments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Reactions were incubated 0.89 nmol of OsXYL1in standard reaction.

hydrolytic products were separated by TLC and visualized by sulfuric acid staining, as shown in Figure 3.20.

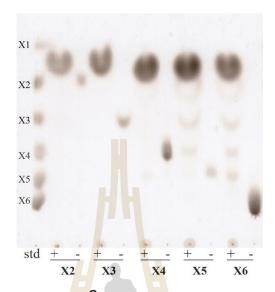


Figure 3.20 Hydrolysis activity of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 toward xylooligosaccharides. The reactions were incubated at 40 °C for 24 h. The TLC developing solvent was ethyl acetate: acetic acid: water (2:1:1). Lane (std), xylose (X1), and  $\beta$ -1,4-linked xylobiose to xylohexaose (X2-X6). Reaction with enzyme (+), and without enzyme (-).

The 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylobiose (X2) and 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylotriose (X3) were completely hydrolyzed to xylose, and 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylotetraose (X4) was mostly broken down to xylose after 24 h reaction with OsXYL1, while 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylopentaose (X5) and 1,4- $\beta$ -D-xylohexaose (X6) remained shorter XOSs, with moderate yields X4, X3, X2 and X5, X4, X3, X2, respectively as residual intermediates. The major product of D-xylose in the hydrolysis reaction catalyzed by OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase after the 24 h confirmed the exotype activity to remove terminal  $\beta$ -1,4-xylosyl residues. The completeness of the reaction was inversely proportional to the degree of polymerization, which suggests OsXYL1 is most efficient on and generally has highly specific hydrolysis of small unsubstituted XOS (Varghese, V. *et al.*, 1999; Karkehabadi, S., *et al.*, 2014; Polizeli *et al.*, 2005).

## 3.10 Kinetic parameters of OsXYL1 $oldsymbol{eta}$ -xylosidase

Kinetic parameters of the OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase enzyme with nitrophenyl glycosides (4NPXyl, 4NPAraf, and 4NPArap) and xylooligosaccharides (DP 2-6) substrates were determined. All kinetic assays of the  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 were done at 40 °C, since the enzyme lost activity at its optimal temperature 60 °C within 1 h (Figure 3.15) and 40 °C is more similar to the temperature in a rice field.

Substrate saturation curves were fitted to Michaelis-Menten curves for 4XPXyl, while Hanes-Woolf plots were used for fitting 4NPAraf and 4NPArap data to obtain kinetic parameters, as shown in Figure 3.21. The Michaelis-Menten constant ( $K_m$ ), the catalytic rate constant ( $k_{cat}$ ), and the catalytic efficiency or specificity constant ( $k_{cat}$ / $K_m$ ) of purified OsXYL1 toward 4NPXyl, 4NPAraf, and 4NPArap substrates are listed in Table 3.3, and apparent  $k_{cat}$  values were calculated per subunit of 83.9 kDa.

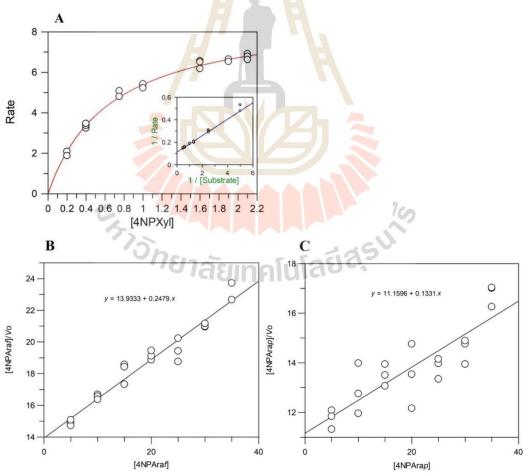


Figure 3.21 Michaelis-Menten (A) and Hanes-Woolf (B, C) plots of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 toward nitrophenyl glycoside substrates. Kinetic parameters of 4NPxyl (A), 4NPAraf (B),

and 4NPArap (C) were determined from these curves. The concentrations of the hydrolytic products of nitrophenyl glycosides were calculated from a standard curve of NP. The curves were generated in GraFit 5 (Erithacus Software).

Table 3.3 Apparent kinetic parameters of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 toward nitrophenyl glycoside substrates.

Substrate	$K_{\rm m}$ (mM)	$k_{\text{cat}}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm m} \ ({\rm mM}^{-1}{\rm s}^{-1})$
4NPXyl	$0.65 \pm 0.03$	$12.4 \pm 0.2$	19.01
4NPAraf	$56.2 \pm 1.1$	$0.34 \pm 0.013$	0.0061
4NPArap	$83.8 \pm 3.1$	$0.19 \pm 0.019$	0.0022

The OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase with preference for 4NPXyl with a  $K_m$  value of 0.65  $\pm$  0.03 mM, which is similar to the other plant GH3  $\beta$ -xylosidases (Lee et~al., 2003; Xiong et~al., 2007; Minic et~al., 2004; 2006). The specificity constant ( $k_{cat}/K_m$ ), indicating catalytic efficiency at low substrate concentration and ability to compete as a substrate in mixed reactions, was >3000-fold higher for 4NPXyl than 4NPAraf, and 4NPAraf substrates (19.01, 0.0061, and 0.0022 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively). The large difference in catalytic efficiency between hydrolysis of  $\beta$ -D-xylosyl and  $\alpha$ -L-arabinosyl substrates, suggests that OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase lacks the significant  $\alpha$ -L-arabinosidase activity that is mostly found in bifunctional  $\beta$ -xylosidase/ $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranosidase enzymes (Goujon et~al., 2003; Minic et~al., 2004; 2006; Lee et~al., 2003; Itali et~al., 2003; Sasaki et~al., 2004; Xiong et~al., 2007; Tateishi et~al., 2005; Tong, X., et~al., 2021).

Kinetic parameters of purified OsXYL1 toward  $\beta$ -1,4-xylosyl-oligosaccharides (X2-X6) substrates were determined, as release of D-xylose measured by a D-xylose assay kit. Substrate saturation curves were fitted to the Michaelis-Menten equation, as shown in Figure 3.22. The Michaelis-Menten constant ( $K_m$ ), the catalytic rate constant ( $k_{cat}$ ), and the catalytic efficiency ( $k_{cat}/K_m$ ) of purified OsXYL1 toward XOS substrates (X2-X6) are listed in Table 3.4, where apparent  $k_{cat}$  values were calculated from the limiting velocity,  $V_{max}$ , by dividing protein concentration by the subunit mass of 83.9 kDa.

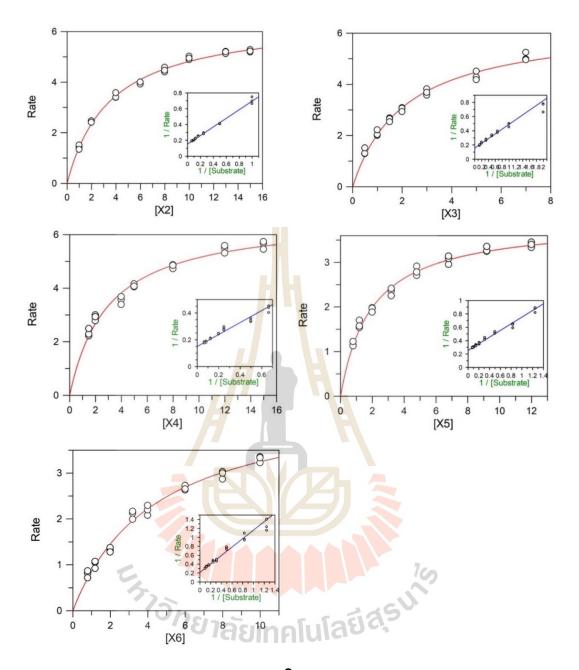


Figure 3.22 Michaelis-Menten plots of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 hydrolysis toward xylooligosaccharides substrates (DP 2-6). From these, kinetic parameters of xylobiose (X2), xylotriose (X3), xylotetraose (X4), xylopentaose (X5), and xylohexaose (X6) were determined. The amounts of hydrolytic products were calculated from standard curve of D-xylose. The figure was generated by GraFit 5 (Erithacus Software).

**Table 3.4** Apparent kinetic parameters of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 toward xylooligosaccharides (DP 2-6).

Substrate	$K_{\rm m}$ (mM)	$k_{\rm cat}$ (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{\rm cat}/K_{\rm m} \ ({\rm mM}^{-1}{\rm s}^{-1})$
Xylobiose (X2)	$3.54 \pm 0.14$	$9.08 \pm 0.09$	2.56
Xylotriose (X3)	$2.12 \pm 0.14$	$8.88 \pm 0.18$	4.17
Xylotetraose (X4)	$2.98 \pm 0.17$	$9.29 \pm 0.15$	3.11
Xylopentaose (X5)	$1.96 \pm 0.09$	$5.48 \pm 0.06$	2.80
Xylohexaose (X6)	4.45 ± 0.32	$6.53 \pm 0.16$	1.47

The kinetic parameters were calculated at initial velocity by assuming a single xylose was released per xylooligosaccharide substrates, whereas the kinetic parameters of xylobiose (X2) were obtained from divided by 2-folds of released xylose residues, since two xylose molecules are released in a single reaction. The catalytic efficiency  $(k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{m}})$  of OsXYL1 was highest toward X3 and decreased with increasing DP above this, with lowest efficiency toward xylohexaose (X6), which was supported by the TLC pattern (Figure 3.19). The high catalytic efficiencies  $(k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{m}})$  of OsXYL1 against xylobiose and xylotriose suggest that its pocket-shaped active site with three monosaccharideresidue-binding subsites, each of which bind a xylobiosyl moiety of the XOS substrates (Hudson, R.C., et al., 1991; Karkehabadi, S., et al., 2014; 2018).

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## 3.11 Xylose inhibition of $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1

The hydrolysis activity of OsXYL1 with 4NPXyl was inhibited by xylose, its product. The Lineweaver-Burk plot of xylose inhibition and derivative plot to determine the  $K_{ic}$  value are shown in Figure 3.24.

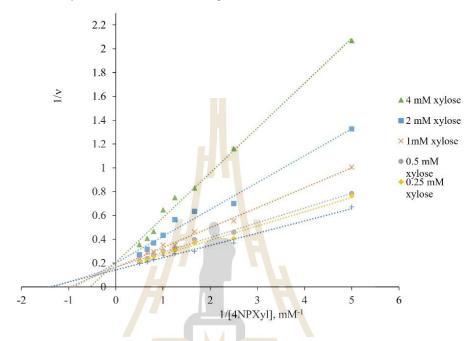


Figure 3.23 Lineweaver-Burk plot of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 toward 4NPXyl with different concentrations of xylose inhibitor.

Xylose has been determined to be mixed type or possibly a pure competitive inhibitor of OsXYL1 $\beta$ -xylosidase, since the Lineweaver-Burk plots intercepted within error of the y-axis, but slightly to the left. Based on this competitive inhibition, the inhibition constant ( $K_i$ ) of 1.41  $\pm$  0.06 mM was calculated for xylose (Figure 3.24).

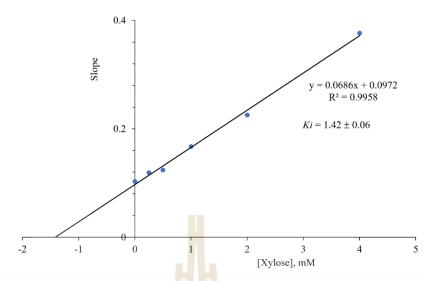


Figure 3.24 Derivative plot to determine the  $K_{ic}$  value. The slopes of the Lineweaver-Burk plots were plotted against the xylose concentrations and the data were subjected to linear regression ( $R^2 = 0.996$ ).



### **CHAPTER IV**

### CONCLUSIONS

The rice  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 gene (Genbank accession AK119887) has an open reading frame of 2,628 bp encoding a polypeptide 772 amino acids long, corresponding to a predicted molecular weight of 83,952 Da. Rice OsXYL1 is classified in the phylogenetic clade of  $\beta$ -xylosidase and  $\alpha$ -L-arabinosidases among plant glycoside hydrolase family 3 members. A homology search of the amino acid sequence revealed that it is very similar to the previously studied barley  $\beta$ -xylosidase gene with 83% amino acid sequence identity. The homology model of  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 was made based on the X-ray crystal structure of fungal H. jecorina Bxl1 (PDB code 5AE6), with which the amino acid sequence has 35% identity. The distribution in the secondary structures had the same conserved motifs around the catalytic residues as previously characterized family GH3 enzymes. These included the catalytic nucleophile aspartate residue Asp-299 in a conserved motif in the N-terminal domain, a conserved glutamate residue at the position of the catalytic acid/base, Glu-505, and the WGR and KH motifs at Trp-170 and Lys-216, respectively. The OsXYL1 sequence was cloned for expression and purification in E. coli and P. pastoris systems. Rice OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase could not be successfully purified as soluble protein when expressed from the pET32a/OsXYL1 construct in E. coli strains. On the other hand, heterologous OsXYL1  $oldsymbol{\beta}$ -xylosidase protein was successfully produced and purified when the pPICZ $\alpha$ BH8/OsXYL1 construct was expressed in the SMD1168H strain of Pichia pastoris, which secreted OsXYL1 into the medium when the culture was induced with methanol for 5 days at 20 °C.

The OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase fusion protein with histidine tags, 3C Precision sites and three putative N-glycosylation sites was successfully expressed in the eukaryotic *Pichia pastoris* system. Two chromatographic purification steps isolated the secreted OsXYL1 with the fusion tags. Firstly, it was bound with a Ni<sup>2+</sup>-IMAC column and eluted with 50-

150 mM imidazole in IMAC buffer (pH 8.0) and the fractions containing  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity were combined and concentrated. The protein was further purified by SEC over an S200 gel filtration column. The peak fractions containing  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity were combined and designated as purified OsXYL1. The purification resulted in a final yield 0.57% recovered activity, while the specificity increased from 0.00086 to 0.086 U/mg, with a degree of purification of 101-fold. The purified glycosylated protein was used for optimization experiments. The pH and temperature optima of purified OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity were pH 4.0 and 60 °C, respectively. It had moderate thermostability, since at temperatures ranging from 30-50 °C, it had more than 50% activity remaining after 4 h. At the optimum temperature of 60 °C, the activity decreased to less than 50% by about 42 min, and protein precipitated with higher temperatures and longer incubations. Based on these results,  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity of rice OsXYL1 was determined at 40 °C in subsequence experiments. OsXYL1 exhibited hydrolytic activities with artificial nitrophenyl glycosides and  $\beta$ -1,4-linked xylo-oligosaccharide (DP 2-6) substrates.

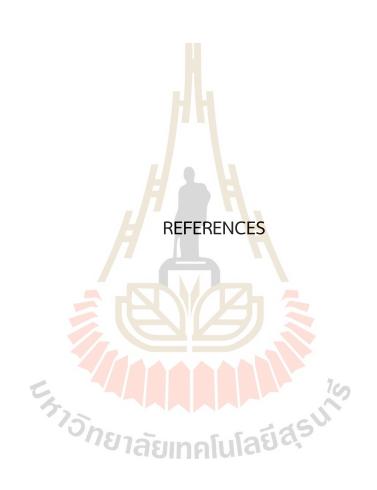
Rice OsXYL1 is a  $\beta$ -xylosidase that efficiently hydrolyzes bonds to nonreducing terminal  $\beta$ -Xylp, but hydrolyzed  $\alpha$ -L-Araf and -Arap less, which indicates the bifunctional role found in other characterized plant GH3 members was only weakly present in rice OsXYL1. Kinetic parameters of OsXYL1 with its highly preferred for 4NPXyl substrate included an apparent Michaelis-Menten constant ( $K_m$ ) value of 0.65  $\pm$  0.031 mM, and a specificity constant catalytic efficiency ( $k_{cat}/K_m$ ) value of 19.01 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>. In comparison, hydrolysis of glycosidic bonds to  $\alpha$ -L-arabinosyl moieties in 4NPAraf and 4NPAraf obtained high apparent Michaelis-Menten constants ( $K_m$ ) with values of 56.2  $\pm$  1.1 mM and 83.8  $\pm$  3.1 mM, respectively. In addition, the OsXYL1 also hydrolyzed  $\beta$ -1,4-Xylp in  $\beta$ -1,4-xylo-oligosaccharides (XOSs) substrates with DP of 2-6. The exotype action of OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase had higher efficiency on the shorter xylobiose to xylotetraose, than the longer xylopentaose and xylohexaose with catalytic efficiency ( $k_{cat}/K_m$ ) values of 2.56, 4.17, 3.11, 2.80, and 1.47 mM<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, for DP 2-6. The approximately inverse relationship of efficiency to degree of polymerization

indicates that the catalytic active site is likely pocket-shaped with carbohydrate-binding negligible or unfavorable beyond the third xylopyranosyl residue.

The hydrolytic activities with 4NPXyl decreased when arabinose, glucose, mannose, galactose, fructose, lactose, maltose and sucrose were included in the reaction, but these sugars had small effects when comparing with xylose. The hydrolytic activity of OsXYL1 was inhibited by xylose in a mixed but primarily competitive manner with a competitive inhibition constant ( $K_i$ ) of 1.41  $\pm$  0.06 mM. Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions also strongly inhibited OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase activity.

Transglycosylation activity of OsXYL1 with 4NPXyl substrate was found to produce alkyl xyloside products in reactions with methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, *n*-propanol, *n*-butanol, and 3-methyl-butanol. Additionally, in reactions with 1-octanol in acetone co-solvent mixtures resulted in alkyl xyloside products strong accumulated in the reaction mixture. These results suggested that OsXYL1 may be useful for further enzymatic synthesis experiment.

In conclusion, rice OsXYL1 is a  $\beta$ -xylosidase that shows high efficiency to hydrolyze 4NPXyl and  $\beta$ -1,4-xylopyrano-oligosaccharides, with much lower specificity for hydrolysis of 4NPAraf and 4NPArap, which indicates rice  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 may have less of a bifunctional role when compared with other characterized plant GH3 members. The  $\beta$ -xylosidase OsXYL1 might be functional in wall recycling in plant cell walls, but likely requires additional enzymes, such as  $\alpha$ -L-arabinosidases, in addition to  $\beta$ -xylanases to hydrolyze the arabinoxylans found in rice. Moreover, OsXYL1  $\beta$ -xylosidase has transglycosylation activity with alcohol acceptors that produce the alkyl xyloside products, which indicates it can be used for production of such xylosides.



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