

1 **Optimization of the Cultural parameters for**
2 **Improved Production of Antimicrobial**
3 **Metabolites by *Streptomyces gulbargensis* DAS**
4 **131^T**

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10
11 **ABSTRACT**
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Aims: To investigate the influence of appropriate culture medium by optimizing the cultural conditions affecting the growth and bioactive metabolite production by *Streptomyces gulbargensis* DAS 131^T under submerged culture conditions in order to reduce the cost of fermentation process to improve the formation of antimicrobial compounds.

Place and Duration of Study: Department of Botany and Microbiology, January 2012 to May 2012.

Methodology: The impact of environmental parameters such as incubation period, pH, temperature and salt concentration and effect of various nutrients such as carbon and nitrogen sources and minerals on the antimicrobial metabolite production by *Streptomyces gulbargensis* DAS 131^T was evaluated by employing agar well diffusion assay. Growth was measured in the form of dry mycelial weight.

Results: The optimum pH and temperature for bioactive metabolite production were 7 and 35°C respectively. Highest antimicrobial metabolite production was found when the strain was inoculated into the medium amended with glucose at the concentration of 2%, soya peptone at the rate of 1% and NaCl at the concentration of 5% and incubated for six days under shaking conditions. The metabolites showed good antimicrobial activity against Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria, as well as unicellular and multicellular fungi.

Conclusion: *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T isolated from the semi-arid soils of Gulbarga, Northern Karnataka province, India exhibited broad spectrum antimicrobial activity. It was found that the antimicrobial metabolite production by the strain was positively influenced by carbohydrates, nitrogen sources and minerals.

13
14 *Keywords: Optimization, Bioactive metabolites, Nutritional factors, Antimicrobial activity,*
15 *Streptomyces gulbargensis DAS 131^T.*

16
17 **1. INTRODUCTION**
18

19 The microbes are the source for many important drugs including antibiotics, antitumor
20 compounds, Immunosuppressants, antiviral and antiparasitic agents. Over 10,000 of
21 bioactive compounds have been produced by Actinomycetes which contribute to 45% of all

22 the bioactive secondary metabolites discovered [1]. Microbes dwelling in extreme habitats
23 have been focused as an important source for novel compounds in recent years. The
24 majority of studies with microbes from extreme environments were confined to bacteria and
25 the actinomycetes from these habitats have been relatively less explored [2]. As highlighted
26 in many reviews [3], natural products are the origin for most of the antibiotics in the market
27 today. These products are an important source for both the existing and new drugs. Among
28 these, actinomycetes are a biotechnologically priceless group of prokaryotes. Actinobacteria
29 form a distinct line in the 16S rDNA tree and produce metabolites that have medical
30 contribution from antibiotics to enzyme inhibitors. They are ubiquitously distributed in
31 terrestrial, fresh water and extreme environments such as marine ecosystems and alkali
32 soils [4]. They are considered to be the important group of microbes due to their ability to
33 produce novel chemical compounds that are complex and commercially important (5). The
34 solution to combat multidrug resistance of pathogens is to search for novel antimicrobial
35 compounds so as to find a solution to overcome the global resistance to pathogenic bacteria.
36

37 It is widely accepted that alkaliphilic actinomycetes are a valuable source for medicinal and
38 industrial products [6]. Extensive exploration of actinomycetes having unique therapeutic
39 properties continues to be an important area of research. *Streptomyces* species belonging to
40 actinomycetes have been known as prolific producers of useful bioactive metabolites. These
41 species are also recognized as industrially important organisms for their ability to synthesize
42 different kinds of novel secondary metabolites, accounting for 70- 80% of all natural
43 compounds produced by actinomycetes. *Streptomyces* are well documented as source for
44 novel drug metabolites [7]. Some of the important compounds obtained from the
45 alkaliphilic *Streptomyces* species include Pyrocoll [8], Chinikomycin and Lajollamycin,
46 Mediomyocins A and B, Clethramycin [9], Bleomycin [10] and Caboxamycin [11] with anti-
47 tumor, anti-parasitic and anti-microbial properties. Several studies were aimed at isolation of
48 *Streptomyces* and screening them for new antibiotics. Novel actinomycetes documented and
49 the products derived from poorly explored habitats stress the need to probe into new
50 habitats [2].
51

52 Media supplemented with carbon, nitrogen sources [12], sodium chloride [13] and mineral
53 salts [14] and physico-chemical parameters like temperature, pH and incubation period also
54 play a major role on growth and production of anti-microbial metabolites. The type, addition,
55 removal and concentration of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphate together with trace elements
56 are reported to influence the antibiotic biosynthesis by *Streptomyces* [15]. In order to achieve
57 the highest level of metabolite production, the optimization of process parameters is very
58 critical [16, 17]. Hence an effort was made to understand the impact of different carbon and
59 nitrogen sources, temperature, pH and incubation period on growth and bioactive metabolite
60 production by *Streptomyces gulbargensis* DAS131^T
61

62 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

63 2.1. Isolation

64
65 During the course of screening for industrially important microorganisms, an alkali-tolerant
66 and thermo-tolerant actinomycete isolate identified as *Streptomyces gulbargensis* DAS 131^T
67 was isolated from semi-arid soils of Gulbarga, Northern Karnataka province, India, by
68 standard serial dilution technique using starch casein agar medium [18] and further
69 maintained on Yeast extract malt extract dextrose (ISP-2) agar medium at 4 °C [19]. The 16S
70 rRNA gene sequence of the strain has been deposited in the NCBI genbank with the
71 accession number DQ317411 [20].
72

73 **2.2. Selection of culture conditions for the optimum production of bioactive**
74 **metabolites**

75 Antimicrobial metabolite production by the strain was optimized by using different
76 parameters such as incubation period, pH, temperature, NaCl, carbon, nitrogen sources and
77 minerals.

78
79 **2.3. Effect of Incubation period**

80 The growth pattern and bioactive metabolite production by the strain was studied at regular
81 intervals up to 10 days. One week old culture of *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T was cultivated in
82 ISP-2 broth (seed medium) comprising of yeast extract (0.4%), malt extract (1%), dextrose
83 (0.4%), CaCO₃ (0.2%) with pH7.2 at 37°C for 48 h. Seed culture at a rate of 10% was
84 inoculated into the starch casein broth (production medium) consisting of soluble starch
85 (1%), sodium caseinate (0.2%), K₂HPO₄ (0.02%), MgSO₄·7H₂O (0.02%) FeSO₄·7H₂O
86 (0.001%) with pH7.2. The fermentation process was carried out for 10 days under agitation at
87 150 rpm. At every 24 h interval, the flasks were harvested and the biomass was separated
88 from the culture filtrate. Biomass was determined in terms of dry weight and antimicrobial
89 metabolite production was determined in terms of their antimicrobial spectrum [21]. The
90 crude bioactive compound produced in the fermentation medium by the isolate was
91 extracted twice with equal volume of ethyl acetate (1:1) in a separating funnel at periodic
92 intervals. The solvent layer was collected and evaporated in a rotary evaporator under
93 vacuum. The crude residue thus obtained was dissolved in DMSO (dimethylsulfoxide) at a
94 concentration of 1000µg/ml and employed for antimicrobial activity against test
95 microorganisms like *Streptococcus mutans* (MTCC 497), *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC
96 3160), *Salmonella typhi* (ATCC 14028), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 9027) and
97 *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231) by agar well diffusion method [22].

98
99
100 **2.4. Effect of pH and temperature**

101 To determine the influence of initial pH on growth and bioactive metabolite production, the
102 strain was cultivated in the medium with different initial pH values ranging from 5 to 10 for six
103 days. The strain was inoculated into production medium and grown at temperatures ranging
104 from 20 to 50°C at pH7 for six days to study the impact of temperature. The biomass and
105 bioactive metabolite production were estimated and optimal pH and temperature achieved in
106 this step was used for subsequent study.

107
108 **2.5. Effect of NaCl concentration**

109 The impact of salinity on growth and bioactive metabolite production by *S. gulbargensis* DAS
110 131^T was recorded by cultivating the strain in the fermentation medium amended with
111 different concentrations of NaCl (1-10%) at optimum pH and temperature for six days. The
112 salt concentration in which the strain exhibits optimum levels of bioactive metabolites was
113 fixed for further studies.

114
115 **2.6. Effect of carbon and nitrogen sources**

116 To determine the effect of carbon sources on biomass and bioactive metabolite production,
117 different carbon sources like galactose, lactose, fructose, sucrose, glucose, starch, mannitol,
118 arabinose, raffinose and rhamnose each at a concentration of 1% were added separately
119 into the production medium, maintaining all other conditions at optimum levels. The effect of
120 varying concentrations of the best carbon source (0.5 - 5%) on bioactive metabolite
121 production was examined. Similarly, the influence of various nitrogen sources on

122 antimicrobial metabolite production was evaluated by amending different nitrogen sources
123 like soya peptone, arginine, asparagine, meat extract, yeast extract, tryptone, soya flour,
124 casein, beef extract and glycine each at a concentration of 0.5% were individually
125 supplemented into the production medium containing an optimum amount of the superior
126 carbon source. The growth and production of bioactive metabolite was determined after six
127 days of incubation at optimum pH, temperature and salt concentration. Further, the impact of
128 varying concentrations of optimized nitrogen source (0.1-2%) was studied to standardize the
129 maximum antimicrobial metabolite production.

130

131 **2.7. Impact of K₂HPO₄**

132 To study the impact of K₂HPO₄ on growth and bioactive metabolite production, the strain
133 was grown in the fermentation medium amended with different concentrations of K₂HPO₄
134 (0.01 to 0.1%), maintaining all other conditions at optimum levels.

135

136 **2.8. Statistical analysis**

137 Results on cell growth and the production of bioactive metabolites by *S. gulbargensis* DAS
138 131^T exposed to different cultural conditions are statistically analyzed with two way analysis
139 of variance (ANOVA).

140

141 **2.9. Bioassays**

142 The metabolites produced by the strain under optimized conditions were tested against
143 bacteria and fungi by agar-well diffusion assay (22). The test microorganisms used to
144 evaluate the production of bioactive metabolites were *Staphylococcus aureus* (MTCC 3160),
145 *Streptococcus mutans* (MTCC 497), *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC 6633), *Lactobacillus*
146 *casei* (MTCC 1423), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (MTCC 495), *Xanthomonas campestris*
147 (MTCC 2286), *Bacillus megaterium* (NCIM 2187), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 35218),
148 *Enterococcus faecalis* (MTCC 439), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 9027), *Salmonella*
149 *typhi* (ATCC 14028), *Proteus vulgaris* (MTCC 7299), *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231),
150 *Aspergillus niger* (ATCC 1015), *Aspergillus flavus* (ATCC 9643), *Fusarium oxysporum* (MTCC
151 3075) and *Penicillium citrinum* (MTCC 6489).

152

153 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

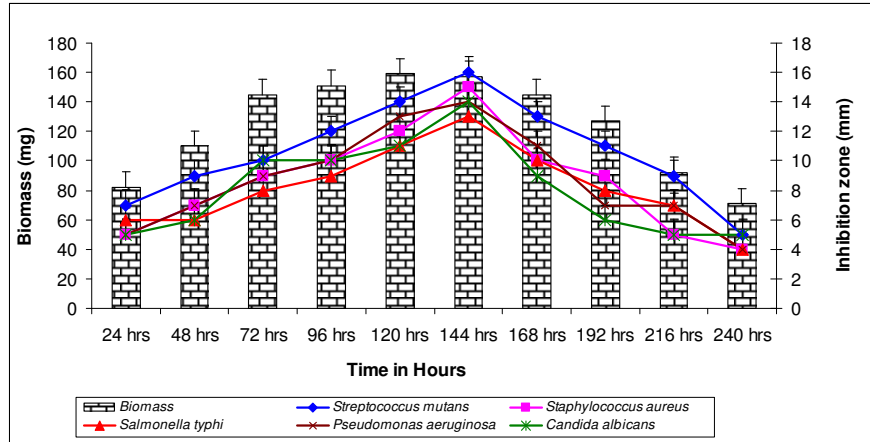
154

155 **3.1. Effect of incubation period**

156

157 The growth pattern of *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T was studied on starch casein broth.
158 Exponential phase of the strain extended from lag phase after 24 h to 72 h. After that it
159 exhibited stationary phase from 96 h to 144 h of incubation, then declined (Fig.1). The results
160 revealed that the antimicrobial metabolite was early produced and reached maximum at the
161 stationary phase. The cessation of growth in the stationary phase is most commonly caused
162 by the exhaustion of the essential nutrients of the medium as well as accumulation of
163 undesirable metabolites. The secondary metabolites obtained from six day old culture
164 exhibited high antimicrobial activity against the test microorganisms. Thakur *et al.* [7] stated
165 that the maximum incubation period required for optimum growth and antibiotic yield by the
166 isolate *Streptomyces* sp. 201 was six days which was in complete accordance with the
167 earlier report [23]. The incubation period for the production of bioactive metabolites seems to
168 vary among *Streptomyces* strains. Metabolites elaborated from 5 day old culture of
169 *Streptomyces* sp. KGG32 [24] and *S. ramulosus*-AZ-SH-29 [25] showed good antimicrobial
170 activity. Metabolites collected from 10-day old culture of *S. crystallinus* AZ-A151 producing
171 Hygromycin-B exhibited good anti microbial activity [26].

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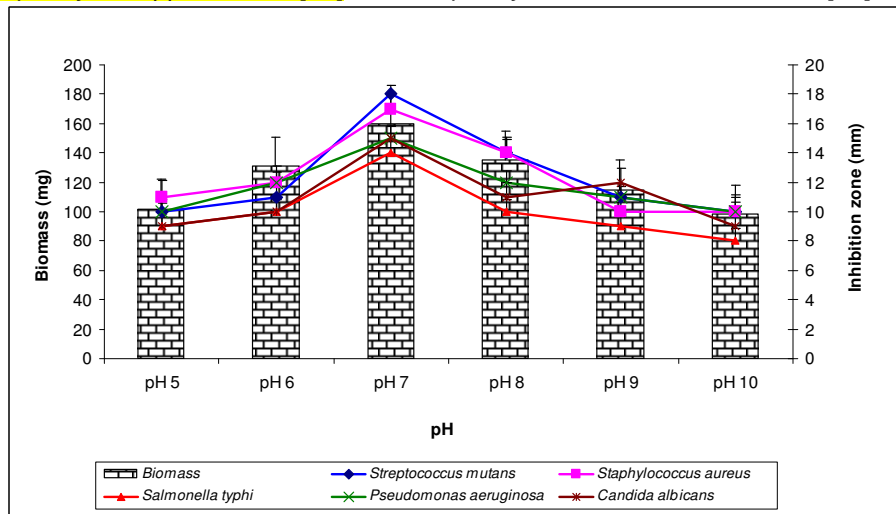
Fig.1. Growth pattern and anti-microbial activity of *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T.

176 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
177 found to be significant at 1%.

178

179 **3.2. Effect of initial pH and incubation temperature**

180 The environmental requirements and cultural conditions for growth and bioactive metabolite
181 production by *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T were studied. The antimicrobial metabolite
182 production was found to be influenced by pH of the medium. The maximum biomass and
183 bioactive metabolite production by the strain was obtained at pH 7 suggesting its inclusion in
184 the neutrophilicactinomycetes group (Fig. 2). Medium maintained at pH 7.0 was reported to
185 support enhanced anti-microbial metabolite production by *Streptomyces rochei* G 164[27],
186 *Streptomyces marinensis*[28], *Streptomyces albidoflavus*[21], *Streptomyces storulosus* KH-4
187 [29], *Streptomyces* spp. VITSVK9[30] and *Streptomyces cheonanensis* VUK-A [31].



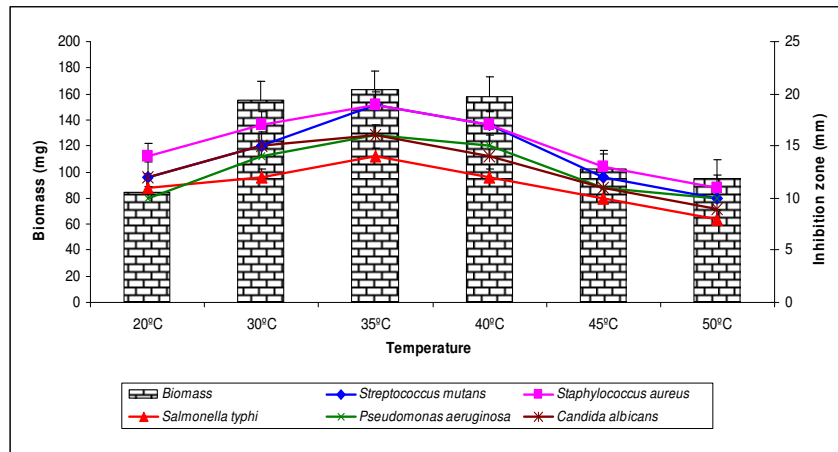
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191 Fig. 2. Effect of pH on growth and bioactive metabolite yield of *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T

192 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
193 found to be significant at 1%.

194

195 The effect of temperature on growth and bioactive metabolite production of the strain was
 196 recorded (Fig.3). There was an increase in the growth as well as bioactive metabolite
 197 production with the increase of incubation temperature from 20°C to 35°C. However further
 198 increase in temperature (above 35°C) resulted in the decline of growth and bioactive
 199 metabolite production. In terms of its optimum temperature for growth, the organism
 200 appeared to be mesophilic in nature. Atta *et al.* [26] reported that *Streptomyces crystallinus*,
 201 AZ-A151 produced high levels of Hygromycin-B production at 35°C. Ushakiranmayi *et al.*
 202 [33] stated that the optimum temperature capable of promoting antimicrobial metabolite
 203 produced by *Pseudonocardia* sp. VUK-10 isolated from Nizampatnam mangrove ecosystem
 204 was 35°C.
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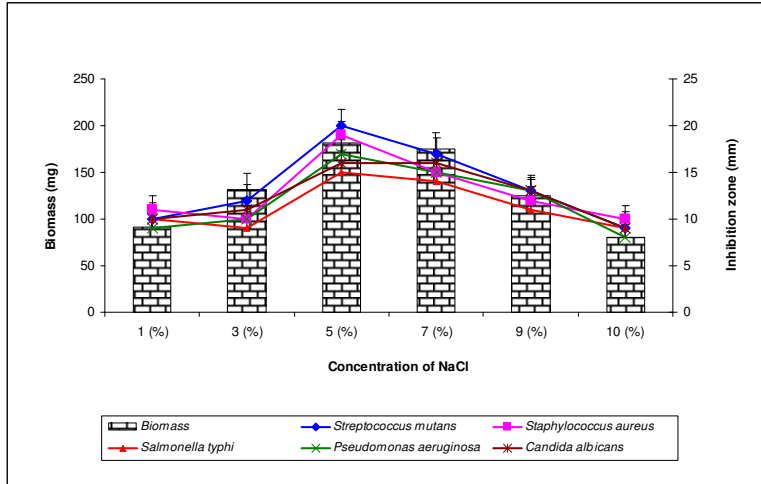


207
 208
 209
 210 Fig.3. Effect of temperature on growth and bioactive metabolite yield of *S.gulbargensis* DAS
 211 131^T.

212 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
 213 found to be significant at 1%.
 214

215 3.3. Effect of NaCl

216 Optimum salt requirement for bioactive metabolite production was examined in the
 217 production medium supplemented with different salt concentrations ranging from 1-10%.
 218 NaCl at the concentration of 5% was found to be optimum for maximum growth as well as
 219 antimicrobial compound production by *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T (Fig. 4). Further increase in
 220 salt concentration reduced the antimicrobial agent biosynthesis. The requirement of NaCl for
 221 the production of bioactive metabolites seems to be different among actinomycete strains.
 222 Optimum NaCl concentration for maximum growth as well as antimicrobial metabolite
 223 production was reported to be 2% for *Streptomyces tanashiensis* A2D [2], 1% for
 224 *Streptomyces felleus* YJ1 [36] and 5% for *Streptomyces* VITSVK9 [30].
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Fig. 4. Effect of NaCl on growth and bioactive metabolite yield of *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T.

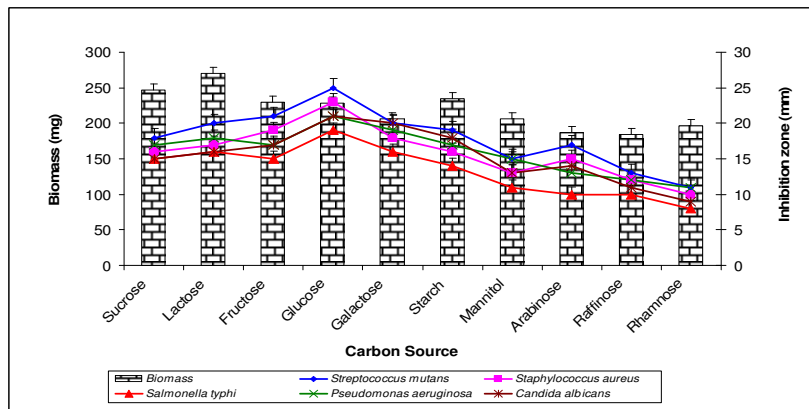
230 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
231 found to be significant at 1%.

232

233 3.4. Effect of carbon and nitrogen sources

234

235 The effect of carbon sources on biomass and bioactive metabolite production by *S.*
236 *gulbargensis* DAS 131^T was evaluated. The production of biomass was high with lactose
237 followed by sucrose and starch, while significant bioactive metabolite production was
238 obtained by the strain in glucose amended media followed by galactose and fructose. El-
239 Enshasy *et al.* [39] reported that glucose and sucrose in pure or in polymer forms were the
240 best C-sources for erythromycin production. Antibiotic production from alkaliphilic
241 *S. tanashiensis* strain A2D was high in medium containing glucose as carbon source [2].
242 Similarly glucose was found to be the best carbon source for antibiotic production by
243 *Streptomyces torulosus* KH-4 [29], *S. griseocarneus* [40] and *S. kanamyceticus* M27 [41].
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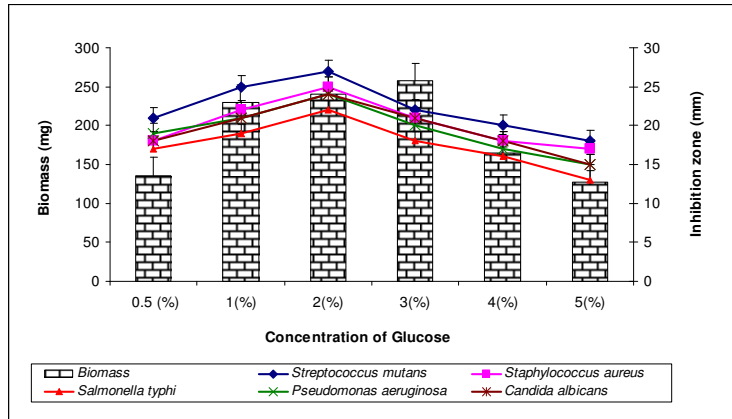


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246

247 Fig. 5. Effect of different carbon sources on growth and bioactive metabolite yield of *S.*
248 *gulbargensis* DAS 131^T.

249 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
250 found to be significant at 1%.

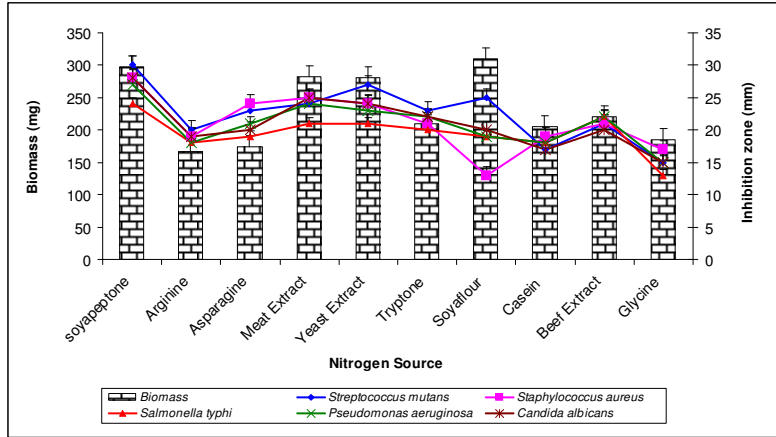
251 As glucose emerged as the most preferred carbon source for bioactive metabolite production
 252 by the strain, varying concentrations of glucose (0.5-5%) was tested to determine its optimal
 253 concentration. It is noted that glucose at 3% and 2% concentrations showed optimal yields of
 254 biomass and bioactive metabolites respectively (Fig.6). Medium containing 2% glucose
 255 supported maximum levels of Natamycin production by *Streptomyces natalensis* and
 256 *Thermomonospora* spp. [38, 42] while Atta *et al.* [25] reported that medium containing 2.5%
 257 glucose supported antibiotic production by *Streptomyces ramulosus* AZ-SH-29.
 258



259
 260
 261 Fig.6. Effect of different concentrations of glucose on growth and production of bioactive
 262 metabolite by *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T.

263 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
 264 found to be significant at 1%.
 265

266 Nitrogen sources are important for the production of bioactive metabolites by
 267 microorganisms. Changes in the nature and concentration of nitrogen source seem to affect
 268 antibiotic biosynthesis in different organisms. Different nitrogen sources were found to have
 269 significant effect on growth and secondary metabolite production by *S. gulbargensis* DAS
 270 131^T. Among the nitrogen sources tested amendment of soya peptone in the culture medium
 271 enhanced the biomass and bioactive metabolite production by the strain (Fig. 7). Viana *et al.*
 272 [43] recorded that soya bean flour increased the clavulanic acid production by *Streptomyces*
 273 DAUFPE 3060. In contrast Thakur *et al.* [7] found that basal medium amended with
 274 asparagine as nitrogen source was proved to be the best for 2-methylheptyl isonicotinate
 275 production by *Streptomyces* sp.201.
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279 Fig.7. Effect of different nitrogen sources on growth and bioactive metabolite production by
280 *S. gulgargensis* DAS 131^T.

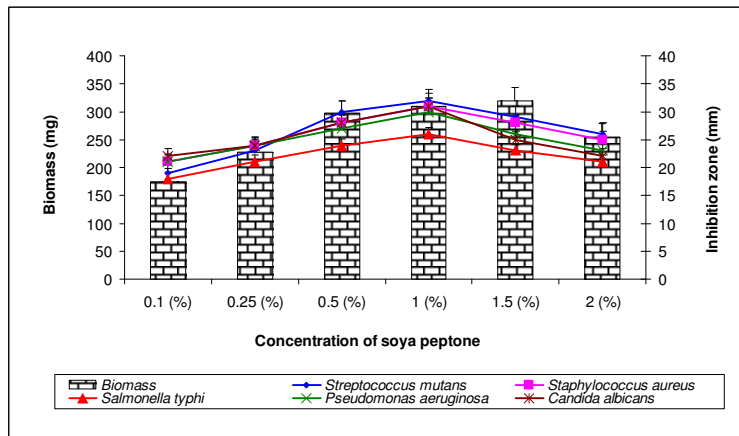
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282 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
283 found to be significant at 1%.

284

285 Influence of different concentrations of soya peptone on the production of bioactive
286 metabolites is represented in Fig.8. It is noted that soya peptone at a concentration of 1.5%
287 and 1% exhibited optimal production of biomass and bioactive metabolites respectively.
288 Himabindu and Jetty [44] reported that soya bean meal at a concentration of 1% and 0.5%
289 enhanced growth and gentamicin production by *Micromonospora echinospora*. Whereas Qin
290 Song *et al.* [36] stated that soya bean meal at a concentration of 2% increased the bioactive
291 metabolite production by *Streptomyces felleus* YJ1.

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295 Fig.8. Effect of different concentrations of soya peptone on growth and production of
296 bioactive metabolite by *S. gulgargensis* DAS 131^T.

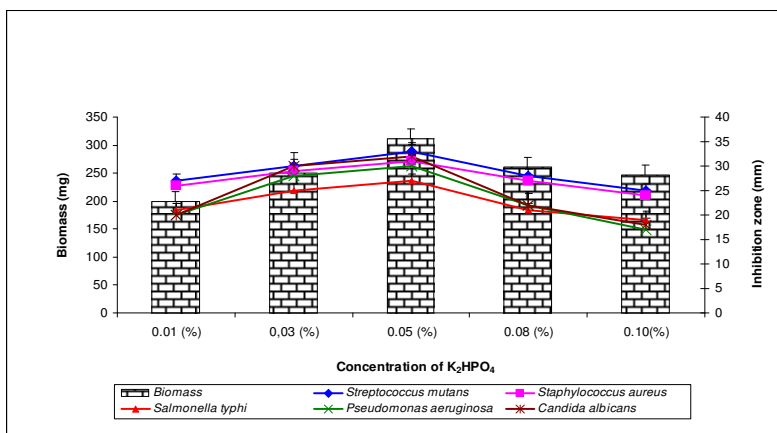
297 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
298 found to be significant at 1%.

299

300 3.5. Effect of K₂HPO₄

301 Effect of K₂HPO₄ on biomass and bioactive metabolite production by the strain (Fig. 9) was
302 studied. A slight enhancement in growth and antimicrobial activity was obtained in medium
303 supplemented with 0.05% of K₂HPO₄. Ripa *et al.* [32] reported that among different minerals

304 tested, K_2HPO_4 showed positive influence on antibiotic production by *Streptomyces* RUPA-
 305 08PR. Narayana and Vijayalakshmi [21] also recorded that K_2HPO_4 slightly enhanced the
 306 production of biomass and bioactive metabolites of *Streptomyces albidoflavus*. Production of
 307 gentamicin by *M.purpurea* and antibiotic tylosin by a *Streptomyces* sp. was inhibited by high
 308 phosphate concentrations [45, 46].
 309
 310



311
 312
 313 Fig.9. Impact of K_2HPO_4 on growth and bioactive metabolite production of *S. gulbargensis*
 314 DAS 131^T.

315 *Data on cell growth and bioactive metabolite yield were statistically analyzed by Two-way ANOVA and
 316 found to be significant at 1%.
 317

318 3.6. Bioassays

319 The antimicrobial metabolite produced by the strain under optimized conditions was tested
 320 against various test bacteria and fungi (Table.1& Fig.10).Among the bacteria tested,
 321 *Xanthomonas campestris*(MTCC 2286)and *Bacillus megaterium* (NCIM 2187)were highly
 322 sensitive to the metabolites produced by *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T followed by *Streptococcus*
 323 *mutans*(MTCC 497)and *Enterococcus faecalis*(MTCC 439).Among the fungi tested, *Candida*
 324 *albicans* (ATCC 10231)was highly sensitive to the metabolites produced by the strain
 325 followed by *Aspergillus niger*(ATCC 1015) and *Aspergillus flavus* (ATCC 9643). A significant
 326 antimicrobial activity was reported on the opportunistic and pathogenic bacteria and fungi
 327 tested.
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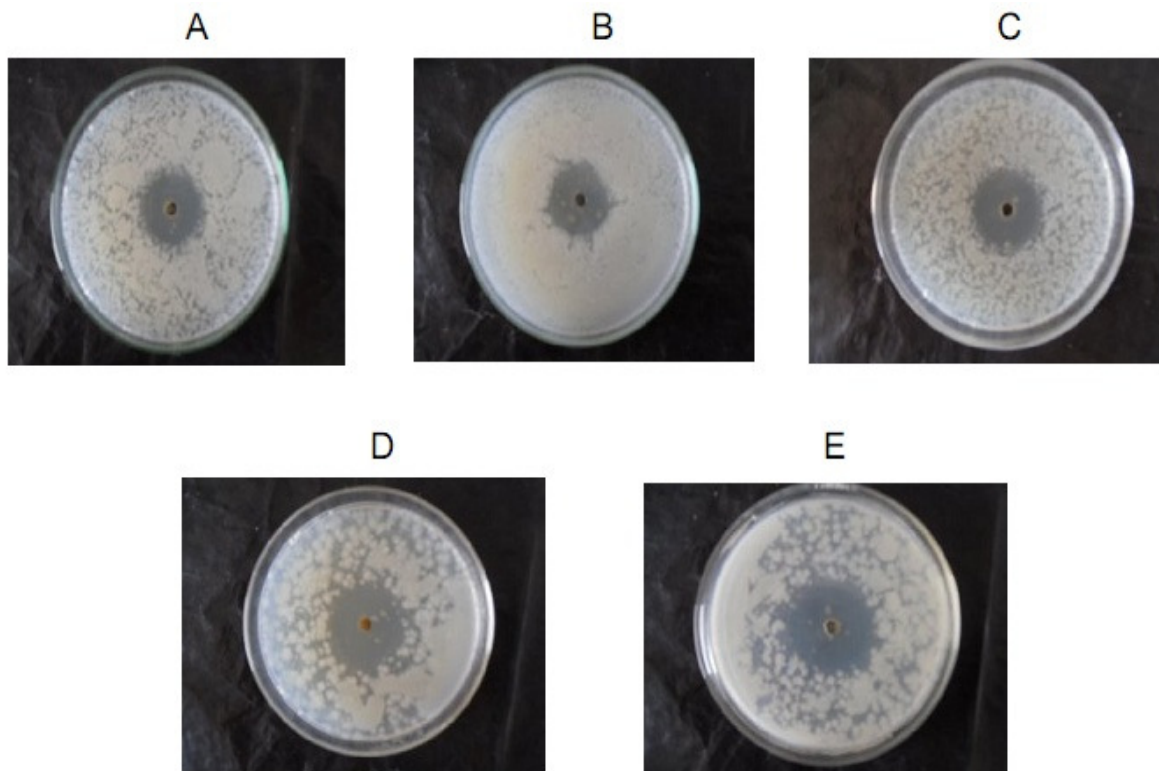
329 Table1. Antimicrobial activity of *S. gulbargensis* DAS 131^T against opportunistic and
 330 pathogenic bacteria and fungi under optimized conditions.
 331

Antimicrobial Activity of Bioactive Metabolite Produced by <i>S. gulbargensis</i> DAS 131^T under Optimized Conditions	
Bacteria	
Test Microorganisms	Zone of Inhibition(mm)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MTCC 3160)	31
<i>Streptococcus mutans</i> (MTCC 497)	33

<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (ATCC 6633)	30
<i>Lactobacillus casei</i> (MTCC 1423)	32
<i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> (MTCC 495)	31
<i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> (MTCC 2286)	34
<i>Bacillus megaterium</i> (NCIM 2187)	33
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (ATCC 35218)	31
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> (MTCC 439)	33
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (ATCC 9027)	30
<i>Salmonella typhi</i> (ATCC 14028)	27
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i> (MTCC 7299)	28
Fungi	
<i>Candida albicans</i> (ATCC 10231)	32
<i>Aspergillus niger</i> (ATCC 1015)	27
<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> (ATCC 9643).	26
<i>Fusariumoxysporum</i> (MTCC 3075)	19
<i>Penicilliumcitrinum</i> (MTCC 6489).	20

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336 FIG. 10: Antimicrobial activity of *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T against
337 *A.Pseudomonasaeruginosa*(ATCC 9027)B. *Escherichia coli*(ATCC 35218)C.
338 *Salmonellatyphi*(ATCC 14028)D. *Bacillus subtilis*(ATCC 6633)E.*Candida albicans*(ATCC
339 10231).

340

341 4. CONCLUSION

342 In the present study *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T exhibited high antimicrobial activity when
343 cultured on production medium amended with glucose (2%),soya peptone (1%), NaCl (5%)
344 and K₂HPO₄ (0.05%)at pH 7 for six days of incubationat 35°C. Among the bacteria tested,
345 *Xanthomonas campestris* and *Bacillus megaterium* were highly sensitive to the metabolites
346 produced by the strain while *Candida albicans* exhibited high sensitivity followed by
347 *Aspergillus niger*among fungi.This is the first report on the optimization of bioactive
348 metabolites produced by *S.gulbargensis* DAS 131^T.
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350

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352

352 COMPETING INTERESTS

353 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

354

355 AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

356 UKM performed the experimental part, MVL& DA designed the study and SP performed
357 literature search and statistical analysis. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.
358

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