



The Effect of Aeration for 6-Pentyl-alpha-pyrone, Conidia and Lytic Enzymes Production by *Trichoderma asperellum* Strains Grown in Solid-State Fermentation

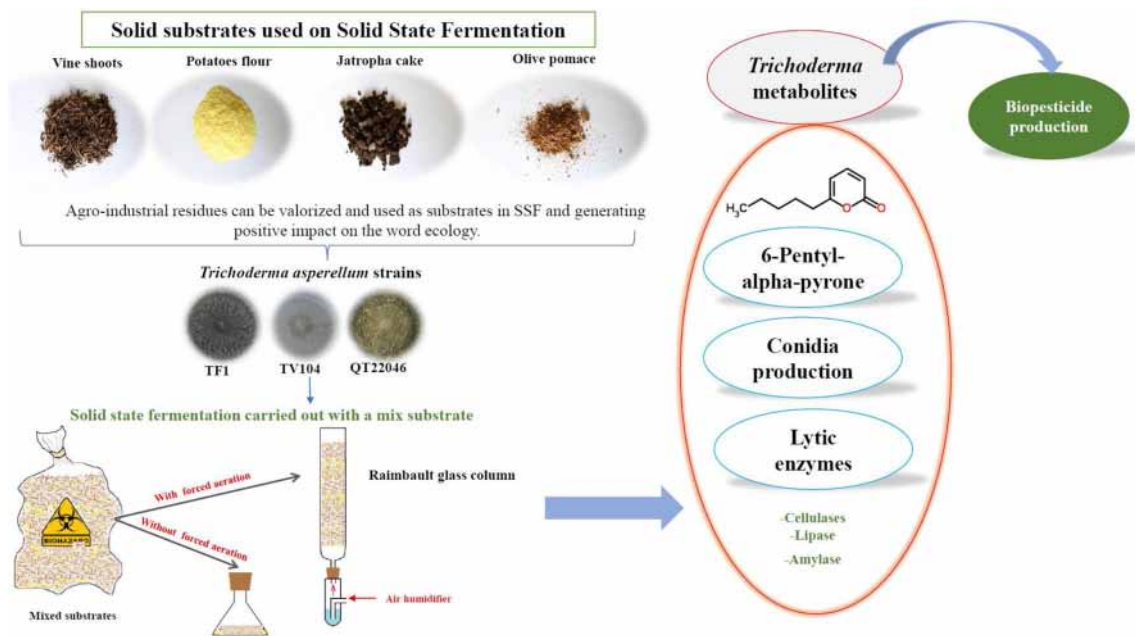
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Abstract

In recent years, the production of biopesticides has gained great attention in the scientific world because it is an important alternative to replace the much debated chemical pesticides used on the field crops. Fungal lytic enzymes, conidia and secondary metabolites like 6-pentyl-alpha-pyrone (6-PP) play a very important role in the biological control of pests. On the present study, the influence of application of air through a solid-state fermentation using three *Trichoderma asperellum* strains to produce conidia, 6-PP and essential enzymes were evaluated. A mix of vine shoots, potatoes flour, jatropha, olive pomace and olive oil as substrates was used. *T. asperellum* TV104 showed the best 6-PP production ($3.06 \pm 0.15 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1}$), cellulases activities ($34.3 \pm 0.4 \text{ U g}^{-1}$), and amylase activity ($46.3 \pm 0.6 \text{ U g}^{-1}$) however, *T. asperellum* TF1 produced the higher levels of lipase ($30.6 \pm 0.3 \text{ U g}^{-1}$), under air conditions. The production of these same enzymes was less efficient without the application of forced aeration. The forced aeration increased the conidia production, the best value was observed with *T. asperellum* TF1 ($2.23 \pm 0.07 \times 10^9 \text{ g DM}^{-1}$).

Graphic Abstract



Keywords *Trichoderma asperellum* · Biological control · Solid-state fermentation · Enzymes · 6-Pentyl-alpha-pyrone

Extended author information available on the last page of the article

Statement of Novelty

Trichoderma is a filamentous fungus considered a biocontrol agent, it has been a very important model for study because of its mechanisms of action; nutrients and space competence, antibiotics production and lytic enzymes production. Solid state fermentation allows the valorization of agroindustrial wastes having an impact on the worldwide ecology. This production system has the potential to produce value-added products such as antibiotics, pigments, aromas and enzymes of industrial interest like cellulases, chitinases, amylases, etc., On the present study, the application of forced aeration through a solid-state fermentation using three *Trichoderma asperellum* strains is evaluated to produce 6-PP, conidia and essential enzymes. A mix of agroindustrial byproducts like vine shoots, jatropha, potatoes flour, olive pomace and olive oil is used as substrate, which offer economic advantages in the fermentation process.

Introduction

In recent years, biopesticides are recognized as a viable alternative to control pests and as a possible substitute for the traditional chemical used [1, 2]. Already, it exists a high number of studies focused on the selection of microorganisms to inhibit and even kill pests, the evaluation of effectiveness against pests, the mechanisms of action, the production systems and the viability [3, 4]. The production of microorganisms BCA's (Biocontrol Agent) is a core point to gain ground to the chemical pesticides. In the particular case of filamentous fungi, the best way to apply on fields is through conidia because they are cell structures very resistant to hostile conditions of the environment [5]. Filamentous fungi have a long been the subject of research. Indeed, many of them have been used as biopesticides because they are ubiquitous colonizers of their habitats as well as for their secretion capacity for antibiotic metabolites and enzymes [6]. *Trichoderma* is an important fungus genus used for biological control, these fungi could be a good model for biocontrol (BC) application because of their mechanisms of action: nutrients and space competition, antibiotics production, lytic enzymes production and mycoparasitism [7]. For these aspects, they are considered as one of the most effective BC against several pests [7, 8]. The biomass production systems using solid substrates have shown excellent yields for the production of fungal conidia [9]. Solid-state-fermentation (SSF) is a microbial culture process that generally occurs on solid material in the absence of free water. This type of fermentation stimulates the living conditions of fungal strains and is a model for the study of physiology or

metabolism of microorganisms such as enzyme production [10]. SSF allows the valorization of agroindustrial byproducts having an impact on the worldwide ecology [11, 12]. This process has the potential to produce high value-added products such as antibiotics, pigments, aromas like 6-pentyl-alpha-pyrone (6-PP) and enzymes of industrial interest like cellulases, lipase, chitinase, amylase, etc., [13, 14]. 6-PP is a secondary metabolites showing interesting fungicidal properties and coconut like aroma.

Several reports have been published on the topic of conidia production under SSF to evaluate the effect of water stress on sporulation. Indeed, fungal conidia is a resistant propagule, able to tolerate critical environmental conditions and having a long self-life [5, 15]. On the present study, the application of forced aeration through a solid-state fermentation using three *Trichoderma asperellum* strains is evaluated to produce 6-PP, conidia and essential enzymes. A mix of agroindustrial byproducts like vine shoots, jatropha, potatoes flour, olive pomace and olive oil is used as substrate, which offer economic advantages in the fermentation process. Indeed, vine shoots is the most abundant byproduct in viticulture industry, generated during the pruning season.

Materials and Methods

Microorganisms and Culture Conditions

The strains of *Trichoderma*: *T. asperellum* TV104, *T. asperellum* QT22046 and *T. asperellum* TF1, from the IRD/IMBE fungi collection were used in the study. The fungal strains were conserved in sterilized PDA, incubated during 5 days at 30 °C and conserved at 4 °C.

Solid State Fermentation (SSF)

SSF were carried out on solid medium composed by a mix of vine shoots, potatoes flour, jatropha, olive pomace and olive oil. The proportion of substrates was 30-20-20-10% (on dry weight basis) and the carbon: nitrogen ratio (C/N) was 37. Medium composition and proportion were selected after a screening and optimization of 6-PP, lytic enzymes and conidia production from SSF using Experimental design by *Trichoderma* strains [16].

Culture media were sterilized at 121 °C for 30 min and subsequently inoculated with a concentrated conidia suspension to reach a value of 2×10^7 conidia g⁻¹ dry matter (DM). Initial pH and moisture contents were 6 and 55% respectively. Cultures were carried out at 29 °C in 250 ml Raimbault glass columns (bioreactor with a forced aeration) and in 250 ml flasks (bioreactor without forced aeration) packed with 40 g of solid (DM). For column, the fermentation was done with the application of humid air during all the process

and the initial aeration rate was $60 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g DM}^{-1}$ of saturated humid air. Flasks are not hermetically closed that some oxygen could flow by diffusion.

Extraction of 6-PP

Volatiles compounds were recovered by soxhlet extraction system from solid fermented material using pure heptane (99.7%, Sigma Aldrich, USA). Samples (10 g of the fermented material) were co-distilled at $60 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ with 100 ml of heptane during 4 h.

Quantitative Analysis of Secondary Metabolites

6-PP analysis was performed with a gas chromatograph 7890A (GC) (Agilent Technology, USA) equipped with a split/splitless injector ($T = 260 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) and a flame ionization detector ($T = 260 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). Aroma constituents were separated on a Supelcowax capillary column (internal diameter: 0.25 mm, length: 60 m, film thickness: 0.25 μm). The carrier gas was dihydrogen (column flow 1 ml min^{-1}) and the split ratio was 2:1. The oven temperature was set as follow: 30 min at $180 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, from 180 to $230 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at $10 \text{ }^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$, 30 min at $230 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Quantitative analysis of 6-PP was carried out using the internal calibration method, with γ -undecanolactone (99%, Aldrich) as internal standard.

For 6-PP analysis, a repeatability analysis was performed; the treatment (extraction and analysis by GC) has been repeated 10 times already. The generation and the data treatment were performed using the Microsoft Excel 2016.

Conidia Production Determination

Conidia counting was done by mixing 1 g of fermented material with 100 ml of distilled water containing tween 80 (0.01%) in an Erlenmeyer flask, after that the suspension conidia were counted using a hemocytometer and a microscope [17]. Each counting was done in triplicates. The results are exprimed as % conidia = mean \pm standard deviation.

Enzyme Assays

Fermented material (1 g) was mixed with 20 ml of distilled water, the suspension was homogenized using an Ultra-turax[®] for 1 min. 1 ml of liquid extracts was used to determine enzymes activities. Amylase activity was measured using soluble starch (1%) in phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.0) at $50 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 10 min [18]. Cellulases activities were determined using sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (1%) in sodium citrate buffer (50 mM, pH 4.8) at $50 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min, in accordance with De la Cruz-Quiroz et al. [19].

For the two enzymes determinations mentioned above, the corresponding activities were stopped with ice for 5 min. Sugar concentration was determined after each enzyme reaction according to the amount of resulting reducing sugar using 3,5-dinitro salicylic acid (DNS) following the assay method described by Miller [20]. Each treatment was done in triplicates and monitored kinetically. The results are exprimed as activities = mean \pm standard deviation An enzyme activity (U) was defined as the amount of enzyme that catalyzes the release of $1 \mu\text{mol}$ of glucose per minute. Lipase activities were determined using 0.5 ml of p-nitrophenyl octanoate (25 mM) in phosphate buffer (25 mM, pH 7.0) at $30 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 30 min [21]. Lipase activities (U) were defined as the amount of enzyme required to release $1 \mu\text{mol}$ of p-nitrophenol per minute.

Scanning Electronic Microscopy (SEM)

SEM observations present a good way to study the structure of the solid medium and the conidia adhesion to its surface. Samples inoculated with *T. asperellum* TF1 were immediately fixed in cacodylate-buffered with 2.5% glutaraldehyde (pH 7.4) for 4 h at $4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, post-fixed with 1% osmium for 1 h at $4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, and dehydrated in ethanol series. Critical point dried specimens were coated with gold palladium and viewed by using a Philipps XL-30 scanning electron microscope.

Results and Discussion

Determination of the Enzyme Activities During the Solid State Fermentation Without Forced Aeration

The highest value of cellulases activities was shown by *T. asperellum* QT22046 at 46 h ($37.1 \pm 0.7 \text{ U g}^{-1}$), followed by *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* TV104 with 10.3 ± 0.2 and $6.9 \pm 0.1 \text{ U g}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. 1a, b, c). *T. asperellum* QT22046 also resulted in important amylase activity ($48.1 \pm 0.9 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ at 30 h) followed by *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* TV 104 with $11.9 \pm 0.2 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ at 46 h and $6.7 \pm 0.1 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ at 56 h, respectively (Fig. 1a, b, c). There was a gradual increase in the lipase activity by all the strains tested. *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* TV104 showed the highest lipase activity (25.5 ± 0.3 and $23.6 \pm 0.2 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ at 46 h, respectively), followed by *T. asperellum* QT22046 with $15.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ U g}^{-1}$. The maximum lipase activity were shown by *T. asperellum* TF1 with a value of $25.5 \pm 0.3 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ at 46 h (Fig. 1b).

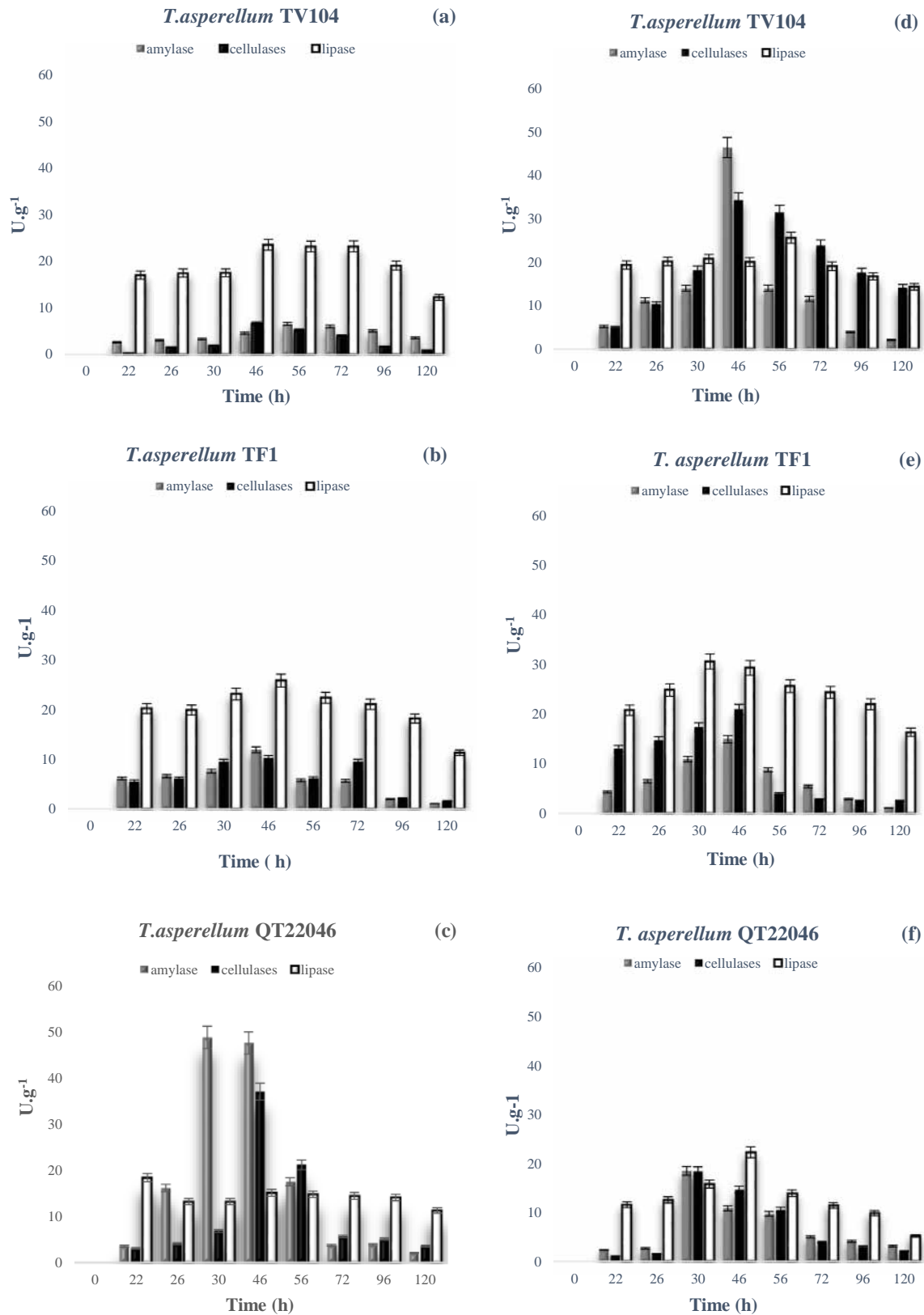


Fig. 1 Evolution of lytic enzymes production in SSF without forced aeration: **a** *T. asperellum* TV104, **b** *T. asperellum* TF1, **c** *T. asperellum* QT22046, and with the application of forced aeration: **d** *T. asperellum* TV104, **e** *T. asperellum* TF1, **f** *T. asperellum* QT22046

Determination of the Enzyme Activities During the Forced Aerated Solid-State Fermentation

For cellulases activities, aeration induced an increase of production for *T. asperellum* TV104 and *T. asperellum* TF1, and a decrease for *T. asperellum* QT22046. *T. asperellum* TF1 showed a significant difference in both systems; $20.9 \pm 0.2 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ with forced aeration and $10.3 \pm 0.2 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ without forced aeration at 46 h (Fig. 1b, e). For amylase production, the strains *T. asperellum* TV104 and *T. asperellum* TF1 were affected positively by aeration showing activity values of $46.3 \pm 0.7 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ and $14.9 \pm 0.1 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ at 46 h respectively. For the strain *T. asperellum* QT22046 the application of air did not show an improvement on amylase production, it was significantly decreased with $47.3 \pm 0.4 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ obtained without aeration and $10.9 \pm 0.2 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ in aerated system at 46 h (Fig. 1f). Comparing both production systems revealed a significant decrease on lipase, cellulases and amylase activities by *T. asperellum* QT22046. However, the strains *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* TV104 showed best enzyme activities with forced aeration.

Comparison of the Performances of the Forced Aeration for 6-PP Production During the Solid-State-Fermentation

The maximum of 6-PP production for *T. asperellum* TV104 and *T. asperellum* TF1 was achieved between

Table 1 Production of 6-PP during *T. asperellum* strains cultures with and without forced aeration ($\alpha=5\%$)

Fungal strains	Culture time (h)	Without forced aeration (mg g DM ⁻¹)	With forced aeration mg g DM ⁻¹
<i>T. asperellum</i> TV104	30	0.14 ± 0.01	0
	46	1.39 ± 0.07	2.02 ± 0.10
	56	1.12 ± 0.06	2.87 ± 0.14
	72	1.05 ± 0.05	3.06 ± 0.15
	96	0.33 ± 0.02	1.41 ± 0.07
	120	0.34 ± 0.02	0.09 ± 0.01
<i>T. asperellum</i> TF1	30	0	0
	46	0.58 ± 0.03	0.04 ± 0.01
	56	0.59 ± 0.03	0.43 ± 0.02
	72	0.59 ± 0.03	1.71 ± 0.09
	96	1.69 ± 0.08	1.09 ± 0.05
	120	1.38 ± 0.07	0.32 ± 0.02
<i>T. asperellum</i> QT22046	30	0	0.65 ± 0.03
	46	0.03 ± 0.01	0.66 ± 0.03
	56	0.07 ± 0.01	0.73 ± 0.04
	72	0.04 ± 0.01	0.29 ± 0.02
	96	0.03 ± 0.01	0.24 ± 0.01
	120	0.03 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.01

46 and 72 h of fermentation when forced aeration has been applied. *T. asperellum* TV104 resulted in a production of $3.06 \pm 0.15 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1}$ (forced aerated) and $1.05 \pm 0.05 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1}$ (not forced aerated). After 96 h of culture, the 6-PP production decreased with important changes (Table 1).

T. asperellum TV104 and *T. asperellum* TF1 showed a very similar pattern of 6-PP production in forced aeration system. The kinetic profile showed that the highest coconut aroma concentration was reached at 72 h of fermentation (forced aerated) and at 96 h of culture (not forced aerated) for *T. asperellum* TF1. This strain showed values of $1.71 \pm 0.09 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1}$ (forced aerated) at 72 h and $1.69 \pm 0.08 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1}$ (not forced aerated) at 96 h.

T. asperellum QT22046 was affected positively by aeration for 6-PP production. The maximum 6-PP production was showed at 56 h of culture for the both conditions with significant difference. When the system was aerated, the best values of 6-PP was $0.73 \pm 0.04 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1} \text{ h}$. However, the system without forced aeration showed a value of $0.07 \pm 0.01 \text{ mg g DM}^{-1}$.

Forced Aeration Influence on the Production of Conidia

Conidia production of *T. asperellum* cultivated in Raimbault columns (with forced aeration) and flasks cultures, is shown in Fig. 2. Highest concentration of conidia is reached in treatments with forced aeration ($2.23 \pm 0.07 \times 10^9$ conidia g DM⁻¹) at 120 h by *T. asperellum* TF1 (Fig. 2a), followed closely by *T. asperellum* QT22046 ($0.44 \pm 0.01 \times 10^9$ conidia g DM⁻¹) also at 120 h.

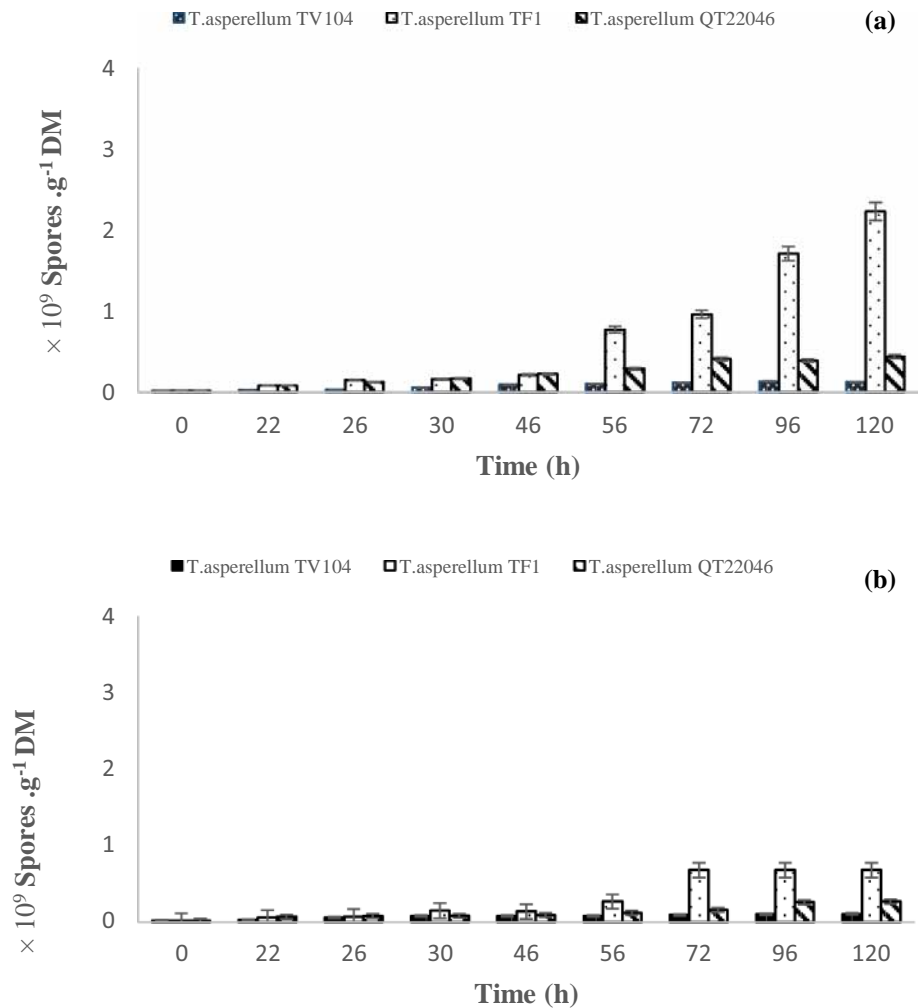
For those two strains, a significant difference was observed on the conidia production which was positively affected by forced aeration. However, conidia production by *T. asperellum* TV104 was not affected by the presence or the absence of forced aeration (Fig. 2a, b, c). The best index of conidia was showed on 120 h of culture time without significant difference ($0.13 \pm 0.01 \times 10^9$ conidia g DM⁻¹) with forced aeration and $0.11 \pm 0.01 \times 10^9$ conidia g DM⁻¹ without forced aeration).

In addition, the maximum enzymes activities and 6-PP production were achieved before 120 h, however conidia production is still increasing at 120 h, we preferred to stop the kinetically study in order to not lose the other metabolites obtained at the beginning of the culture.

SEM Structure of the Vine Shoot

Figure 3 shows the morphology of the vine shoots before inoculation (Fig. 3a) and the invasion of the ligneous part of the material by conidia immediately after inoculation with *T. asperellum* TF1. The inoculated vine shoots tubule is a

Fig. 2 Kinetics of conidia production by three *Trichoderma asperellum* TF1, QT22046 and TV104 grown under solid-state fermentation with forced aeration (**a**) and without forced aeration (**b**)



honey-comb like structure, with fibers, grooves and pores (Fig. 3b). The external face showed a longitudinal groove which is like an open drainpipe or a guiding ridge that may help germination and mycelium growing (Fig. 3b, inset). The tick outer surface of the stem tissue corresponds to the cortex following by vascular tissue, named phloem (Fig. 3c).

Discussion

In this study, an evaluation of the effect of aeration on the production of volatile metabolites, lytic enzymes and conidia by *T. asperellum* strains in SSF is proposed. Conventionally SSF is done using tray bioreactors, however, this kind of bioreactors implies the difficulties of aeration and heat removal, which can be attended by the use of Raimbault columns as bioreactors [22]. The use of glass columns allows the application of controlled forced aeration to remove both CO₂ and the metabolic heat generated during the fermentation. It also provides better oxygen diffusion, thus improving the fungal growth and the

production of metabolites. Generally, substrates for SSF are agricultural byproducts or agroindustrial subproducts, which offer advantages in this fermentation process [23]. In SSF, the culture medium has to be considered following two aspects: as substrate, it has to efficiently provide microbial nutritional needs, and as support of culture, it has to possess favorable physical properties having consequence on water availability and allowing initial conidial anchorage, mycelial elongation in space and mass and heat transfers to occur over time [24]. A mix of substrates was studied in the present study, which was used by the fungi as a source of nutrients. It is well known that vine shoot plays an important role because its porosity allowing good water absorption, indispensable to carried out the microbial metabolism (a basic macromolecular structure of cellulose, lignocellulose). In addition, potatoes flour, jatropha, olive pomace and olive oil supply the carbon and nitrogen source to induce the synthesis of 6-PP and a group of enzymes [25]. The present study demonstrated for the first time the ability of *T. asperellum* strains to

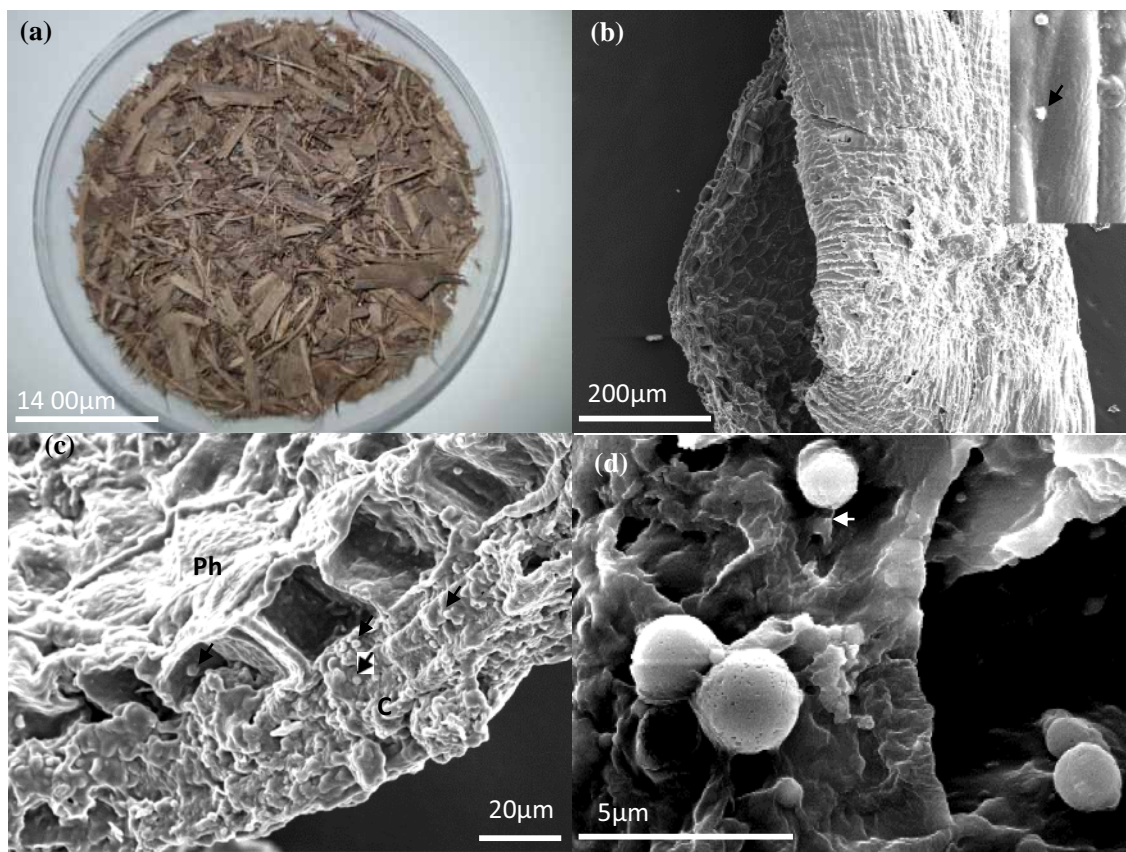


Fig. 3 SEM Structure of inoculated vine shoots. **a** Structure of vine shoots fragments observed under light microscopy. **b** Honey-comb like structure of vine shoot, inset: details of the inoculated groove with *T. asperellum* TF1 (SEM images). **c** Colonization of spores

(black arrow) over the surface of the tick cortex (C) and phloem (Ph). **d** Adhesion to the surface substrate by a gelatinous matrix (with arrow) secreted by the conidia

produce 6-PP, coconut like aroma, from vine shoot according the parameters established by SSF.

Forced aeration during SSF is particularly important for *T. asperellum* TV104 as it may affect fungal growth, lytic enzymes and 6-PP production. The biosynthesis of significant amount of 6-PP was observed after 72 h of culture during the application of forced aeration.

Ladeira et al. [26] reported a maximum 6-PP yield of $2.54 \mu\text{g g DM}^{-1}$ by a *Trichoderma harzianum* 4040 after 7 days of SSF on sugarcane bagasse impregnated to 75% humidity, with a nutrient solution. 6-PP production started at day 3. Results reported in the present study indicated that *T. asperellum* TV104 cultured on a mix of substrate like vine shoots, potatoes flour, jatropa, olive pomace and olive oil (owing a C/N ratio of 37) produced $3.06 \text{ mg 6-PP g DM}^{-1}$ after 3 days of SSF and the 6-PP production started at 46 h.

Oda et al. [27] obtained higher yields in 6-PP synthesis ($7.1 \text{ g 6-PP L}^{-1}$) using a genetically modified of *Trichoderma*, however, it is not possible to do an effective comparison between the results obtained by those authors and ours because they used a liquid medium with a different

nutrient compound impregnate system. In addition, the performances of SSF with and without forced aeration were compared (Table 1) by 6-PP production for *T. asperellum* strains. A significant difference on 6-PP production was observed only during the application of forced aeration for *T. asperellum* TV104. The aroma production decreased on the fourth day of culture for the two systems. These results agree with those of Rocha-Valadez et al. [28] who reported the decrease of 6-PP production after 120 h of culture by *T. harzianum* IMI206040 using a stirred tank fermentations. In addition, the decrease of 6-PP production was reported in liquid medium fermentation but not observed in the solid-state fermentation realized by Sarhy-Bagnon et al. [29]. These authors explained that the inhibitory effect of 6-PP appeared to be responsible for low concentrations obtained in liquid medium.

It was observed a positive effect of the forced aeration on the production of enzymes (cellulases, amylase and lipase) produced at high titers by *T. asperellum* TV104 and *T. asperellum* TF1 (Fig. 1). A great difference was observed whether or not a forced aeration was applied in

the Raimbault columns with regards to the cellulases and amylase. In aerated system, the maximum of amylase and cellulase were $34.23 \pm 0.43 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ and $46.23 \pm 0.63 \text{ U g}^{-1}$ respectively obtained after 46 h, but the values of lipase were maintained with any important modification by the application of air for *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* TV104. Oliveira et al. [30] reported important lipase activity ($223 \pm 5 \text{ U g}^{-1}$) applying an aeration rate of $2 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ using wheat bran with 10% of olive oil as substrate on SSF by *Aspergillus ibericus*.

On the other hand, the results show that SSF system without forced aeration is better for the production of all enzyme activities tested for *T. asperellum* QT22046. These results agree with those of De la Cruz-Quiroz et al. [19] who reported that lipase and cellulases are well produced in both systems by *Trichoderma* strains without forced aeration. In addition the difference between this work and that described by De la Cruz-Quiroz et al. [19] is that those authors used other medium composed by sugarcane bagasse, wheat bran, chitin, potatoes flour olive oil as substrate, other *Trichoderma* species and they were not interested to produce 6-PP.

The values of the enzymes obtained in this study were highly variables suggesting that the enzyme activities were more related to the intrinsic capabilities of the present fungal strains than the effect of the air. The production of lytic enzymes is a currently topic that is investigated evaluating several ways, including reactors, substrates, kind of enzymes, fungal strains, etc. [31, 32].

On a solid culture medium, it has been demonstrated a relationship between the high sporulation yields with the carbon and nitrogen sources supplied. Those sources were proportioned with a mix of substrates mentioned before, which contain amounts of nutrients like sugars, amino acids, fats, fiber, and minerals. These substrates allowed an elevated conidia production which is in agreement with Onilude et al. [33]. A very marked pattern was observed on the conidia production because forced aeration show an increase in the production for *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* QT22046. It does mean that the production of conidia from *T. asperellum* is more related to forced aeration process which possibly was stressing the culture conditions and causing an increase in the concentration of conidia. These results confirm those previously obtained by Motta and Santana, [34] who tested the fungal sporulation by *Trichoderma reesei* using fruit bunches as substrate evaluating an aeration rate of $16.6 \text{ ml min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$. These authors indicated that the forced aeration has a high influence on the stimulation of fungal sporulation (4.41×10^9 conidia g DM^{-1} at 120 h of culture). However, De la Cruz-Quiroz et al., [19, 35] observed the opposite phenomenon. They mentioned that the application of forced aeration in the process did not show any increase in the spore production for any of the six *Trichoderma* strains tested.

In SSF, the growth of *T. asperellum* TF1 on the ligneous part of vine shoots observed by scanning electron microscopy showed that the invasion of the strain on the solid support was superficial. The conidia of *T. asperellum* TF1 cultivated on solid support were in contact with heterogeneous medium compared to the cultivation in liquid medium. Sarhy-Bagnon et al. [29] described the end-product inhibition phenomena could be reduced in SSF compared to liquid cultivation and the aerial mycelium in SSF was only locally in contact with the products and the substrates.

Conclusions

Under the present culture conditions, the production of *Trichoderma asperellum* metabolites in solid medium with vine shoot as substrate is possible and offers very interesting quantitative and qualitative advantages. The application of forced aeration on SSF system allows producing high amount of 6-PP by all *T. asperellum* strains tested in this study. The cellulase, amylase and lipase activities could be produced by *T. asperellum* TV104 and *T. asperellum* TF1 in important concentrations on SSF with forced aeration. SSF system without aeration is useful to obtain the best titers of cellulases, amylases and lipases by *T. asperellum* QT22046. The application of air into SSF system allows a stabilized system to produce a high yield of conidia from *Trichoderma*, the results obtained on the process with forced aeration show a high sporulation by *T. asperellum* TF1 and *T. asperellum* QT22046. Conidia could be produced by *T. asperellum* TV104 with no significant difference concentration on SSF with and without forced aeration.

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