

Expression of Hem A gene of *Rhodospirillum rubrum* in *Streptomyces coelicolor*

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The *Rhodospirillum rubrum* hem A gene codes for 5-aminolevulinic acid (ALA) synthase. This enzyme catalyzes the condensation of succinyl coenzyme A and glycine to form ALA. ALA has medical applications for photodynamic cancer therapy and tumor diagnosis. It can be also utilized as a biodegradable herbicide or insecticide in agriculture. Currently, ALA is produced by chemical synthesis but is difficult to satisfy increasing various commercial applications due to the numerous reaction steps required, relatively low yield, and its noxious byproducts. Recently, recombinant *E. coli* cells have been developed for the mass production of ALA. In this study, hem A gene of *Rhodospirillum rubrum* was expressed in *Streptomyces* cells. Hem A gene was amplified by PCR, sequenced and cloned into integration vector pWUX12A. The recombinant DNA was introduced into *Streptomyces coelicolor* by conjugal transformation. Expression of this gene was analyzed by using SDS-PAGE and its activity was determined by enzyme assay, in which reaction between succinyl-CoA and glycine was performed using cell-free extract of recombinant strain as enzyme catalyst. Flask cultures were performed in different media and then productivities were evaluated.