



El Colegio de la Frontera Sur

Capacidad de los hongos de pudrición blanca para degradar el
metamizol sódico

TESIS

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DEDICATORIA

A Dios por haberme permitido este logro

*A mi madre y mi hermana Gabriela por estar siempre conmigo brindándome su apoyo
en todo momento*

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constancia y esfuerzo*

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I. Introducción

La fabricación de una amplia gama de productos farmacéuticos como son los analgésicos, los antidepresivos, los antiinflamatorios y los antibióticos para satisfacer las necesidades de salud en nuestra sociedad van en aumento (Yongjun *et al.*, 2008; Miceli *et al.*, 2014; He *et al.*, 2016). La problemática ambiental de estos productos radica en el manejo inadecuado de los sobrantes que no se alcanzan a consumir o bien que llegan a caducar. La fuente principal que libera a estos contaminantes al ambiente es el agua que descargan las industrias farmacéuticas, hospitales y zonas domésticas (Ternes *et al.*, 2006; Gomez *et al.*, 2007; Kosjek *et al.*, 2007; Quesada *et al.*, 2009). Dependiendo de las propiedades físico-químicas de los fármacos, estos pueden llegar a alcanzar las aguas subterráneas y contaminarlas o bien quedar retenidas en el suelo y acumularse, pudiendo afectar la vida acuática y a los humanos a través de la cadena trófica (Andreozzi *et al.*, 2002; Nash *et al.*, 2004; Fent *et al.*, 2006; Barceló y López, 2007; Schäfers *et al.*, 2007; Gómez, 2011; Watanabe *et al.* 2012).

Esta persistencia y toxicidad en medios acuáticos, además de que no se encuentran regulados por ninguna normatividad, ha llevado a considerar a dichos compuestos como Contaminantes Emergentes (CE) (Arrieta y Guerra, 2012)

Existe evidencia de que dichos contaminantes producen impactos como: errores en la muda, eclosión, deformidades anatómicas, cambios subletales en el crecimiento de las plantas, cambios en la proporción sexual de los organismos superiores, modificaciones en los ciclos biogeoquímicos y transmisión de genes de resistencia a antibióticos, variación en el ritmo de vida, reducción en la fertilidad, cambio de la condición sexual por hormonas, efectos tóxicos reproductivos y la muerte (Stuart *et al.*, 2012)

Debido a su alto nivel de consumo, en el ambiente se han encontrado grandes cantidades de medicamentos como el ácido acetilsalicílico, el diclofenaco y la dipirona (conocido también como Metamizol), entre otros (Nikolau *et al.*, 2007; Martínez *et al.*, 2010). El metamizol sódico [(1,5-dimetil-3-oxo-2-fenil-2,3-dihidro-1H-pirazol-4-il) (metilamino)metanosulfonato de sodio] es un analgésico y antipirético de especial uso en hospitales como tratamiento post operatorio. Este tipo de fármacos son administrados en su forma inactiva o significativamente menos activa, y una vez ingeridos son metabolizados *in vivo* al compuesto activo (Pérez, 2008). Posteriormente se hidroliza en su principal metabolito 4-metilaminoantipirina (4-MAA) (Ergün *et al.*, 2004), y luego, vía reacciones enzimáticas, en una gran variedad de compuestos como: 4-amino antipirina (4-AA), 4-acetil amino antipirina (4-AAA) y 4-formil amino antipirina (4-FAA) (Kümmerer, 2004; Szabó *et al.*, 2013).

Varios estudios realizados demuestran la presencia de sus metabolitos como el 4-MAA, 4-FAA y 4-AAA, en concentraciones de 1486-4304, 3.40-10.1 y 7.30-25.00 μgL^{-1} , respectivamente, en diferentes descargas de aguas residuales y superficiales (Pérez, 2008; Martínez *et al.*, 2007; Feldmann *et al.*, 2008) afectando la flora y la fauna acuática al ser vertidos continuamente en ellos (Andreozzi *et al.*, 2002; Nash *et al.*, 2004; Schäfers *et al.*, 2007). Si bien la naturaleza tiene una capacidad de biodegradación, también se debe considerar que el aumento de estas descargas de CE, hace más difícil este proceso natural (Miceli *et al.* 2014).

Los procesos avanzados de oxidación (AOPs por sus siglas en inglés), son tecnologías que se basan en la generación *in situ* de especies transitorias altamente reactivas

(H_2O_2 , $\bullet\text{OH}$, $\text{O}_2 \bullet^-$, O_3), para la mineralización de compuestos orgánicos refractarios y eliminación de agentes patógenos (Chong *et al.*, 2010), dentro de ellos el proceso Electro-Fenton ha sido evaluado para la degradación de metamizol sódico, obteniéndose valores de remoción medidos en carbón orgánico total (TOC) de 62.8% (Barros *et al.*, 2014). Para los metabolitos como el caso del 4-MAA (Pérez, 2008) los métodos empleados han sido la Fotocatálisis con TiO_2 y el sistema Foto-Fenton.

Sin embargo, estos tratamientos aunque son factibles presentan inconvenientes como: altos costos de tratamiento, los contaminantes químicos no son destruidos sino simplemente removidos de los efluentes y relocalizados en otro sitio donde el problema persiste (Robinson *et al.* 2001), además que se producen grandes volúmenes de ácidos y de álcalis (Rubilar, 2007).

El objetivo de las plantas de tratamiento de agua residual es la remoción de materia orgánica o sustancias contaminantes a fin de evitar efectos negativos en los cuerpos receptores y lograr que la calidad de este recurso sea la adecuada para las necesidades de los usuarios, así como evitar daño en flora y fauna presente tanto en los sistemas acuáticos como en zonas aledañas a estos. Actualmente, aunque los procesos biotecnológicos para la eliminación de contaminantes ambientales están en pleno proceso de investigación son muy promisorios gracias a que se pueden alcanzar altas eficiencias de remoción de contaminantes y poseen un costo competitivo respecto a tratamientos físico-químicos equivalentes (Robinson *et al.* 2001).

Los tratamientos biológicos son una alternativa ecológica y amigable con el ambiente los cuales consisten en la utilización de organismos, como bacterias y hongos, para la

degradación de la carga contaminante. Estudios previos han mostrado la eficacia de estos procesos en el tratamiento del agua residual contaminada por una gran cantidad de productos químicos y farmacéuticos (Kosjek *et al.*, 2007; Ternes *et al.*, 2006).

Los mecanismos de degradación que presentan ciertos hongos han sido utilizados para mineralizar diversos medicamentos los cuales provocan efectos dañinos cuando son descargados en aguas superficiales y subterráneas. La actividad enzimática de los hongos de pudrición blanca (HPB) es una alternativa para el tratamiento de aguas que contienen productos farmacéuticos recalcitrantes como son el naproxeno, la carbamazepina, el ácido clofíbrico, el diclofenaco sódico y el ibuprofeno (Marco *et al.*, 2010a; Marco *et al.*, 2010b; Kartheek *et al.*, 2011; Santos *et al.*, 2012), los compuestos 1,1,1-tricloro-2,2-bis(4-clorofenil) etano (DDT), 2, 4, 6-Trinitrotolueno (TNT) y Bifenilos policlorados (PCBs) (Ruiz *et al.*, 2002; Robles *et al.*, 2008; Rodarte *et al.*, 2010; Quintero, 2011) y disruptores endocrinos como el 17β -estradiol y el 17α -etinilestradiol (Blánquez y Guieysse, 2008; Lloret *et al.*, 2010).

Las enzimas ligninolíticas son relativamente no específicas y utilizan mecanismos de óxido-reducción que permiten la formación de radicales libres los cuáles catalizan la degradación de una amplia variedad de contaminantes ambientales (Pointing, 2001).

Por ello, el estudio de los extractos y las enzimas de los HPB que intervienen en la degradación de diversos compuestos farmacéuticos es un paso necesario para comprender el mecanismo de acción de las enzimas ligninolíticas. Esto permitirá en el futuro desarrollar estrategias de biorremediación.

La pregunta que se plantea entonces es: ¿Puede el extracto enzimático crudo obtenido de alguno de esos hongos de pudrición blanca degradar el fármaco metamizol sódico? Aunado a esto el objetivo del presente trabajo es evaluar la capacidad del extracto enzimático de los hongos *Auricularia fuscusuccinea*, *Lentinula edodes*, *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Agrocybe aegerita*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *Pleurotus djamor* y *Pleurotus eryngii* en la degradación de metamizol sódico.

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Degradation of sodium metamizole by enzymatic extracts from white rot fungi

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White rot fungi are known for their highly efficient ability to degrade environmental pollutants, such as pharmaceuticals. In this work, the ability of enzymatic extracts from *Auricularia fuscusuccinea*, *Lentinula edodes*, *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Agrocybe aegerita*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *P. djamor* and *P. eryngii* to degrade the analgesic drug metamizole was evaluated. The formation of the metabolites 4-methylaminoantipyrine (4-MAA) and 4-amino antipyrine (4-AA) was also monitored. Total degradation of 50 mg L⁻¹ of the drug was achieved with the extract obtained from *A. fuscusuccinea* within three days. Under the best conditions (pH 5.6, 35°C and 110 rpm), the degradation profile followed the behavior of pseudo-first order kinetics with a coefficient $k = 0.0779 \text{ L mg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. The

enzymatic activity tests demonstrated the expression of laccases, lignin peroxidases and phenoloxidases in the degradation process of sodium metamizole. Subsequent studies of degradation of the drug with pure enzymes may indicate whether or not they participate in the degradation.

Keywords: pharmaceutical products, metabolites, ligninolytic enzymes, enzymatic activity, bioremediation, dipyrone.

The manufacture of a wide range of pharmaceuticals, such as analgesics, antidepressants, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics, to meet the health needs of our society is steadily increasing (Yongjun *et al.* 2008, Miceli *et al.* 2014, He *et al.* 2016).

The environmental problem of these products lies in the inadequate management of leftovers that are not enough to consume or that eventually expire. The main source that releases these pollutants into the environment is the water discharged from the pharmaceutical, hospital, and home-based industries (Ternes *et al.*, 2006, Gomez *et al.*, 2007, Quesada *et al.* 2009).

Depending on the physicochemical properties of the drugs, these substances can reach and contaminate the groundwater or be retained in the soil and accumulate, which may affect aquatic life and humans through the food chain (Andreozzi *et al.* 2002, Nash *et al.* 2004, Fent *et al.* 2006, Barceló & López 2007, Schäfers *et al.* 2007, Gómez 2011, Watanabe *et al.* 2012).

Sodium metamizole [sodium; [(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-2-phenylpyrazol-4-yl)-methylamino]methanesulfonate] is an analgesic and antipyretic used in hospitals as a post-operative treatment. Once consumed, it is hydrolyzed into its main metabolite, 4-

methylaminoantipyrine (4-MAA) (Ergün *et al.* 2004), which then results in other metabolites, such as 4-amino antipyrine (4-AA), 4-acetylamino antipyrin and 4-formyl amino antipyrin (4-FAA) (Kümmerer 2004, Szabó *et al.* 2013), via enzymatic reactions.

A number of studies show the presence of dipyrone metabolites 4-MAA, 4-FAA and 4-AAA at concentrations of 1486-4304, 3.40-10.1 and 7.30-25.00 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, respectively, in various residual and superficial water discharges (Martínez *et al.* 2007, Feldmann *et al.* 2008, Pérez 2008). Advanced oxidation processes (AOPs), such as Electro-Fenton, Photo-Fenton and Photocatalysis with TiO_2 , have been evaluated for their ability to degrade metamizole and 4-MAA (Pérez 2008), achieving 62.8% of removal (Barros *et al.* 2014).

Enzymes from white rot fungi (WRF) may be an alternative for the treatment of water containing recalcitrant pharmaceuticals, such as naproxen, carbamazepine, clofibric acid, diclofenac sodium and ibuprofen (Marco *et al.* 2010a, Marco *et al.* 2010b, Kartheek *et al.* 2011, Santos *et al.* 2012). It is also an alternative for the treatment of water containing the compounds 1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl) ethane (DDT), 2, 4, 6-Trinitrotoluene (TNT) and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) (Ruiz *et al.* 2002, Robles *et al.* 2008, Rodarte *et al.* 2010, Quintero 2011) and endocrine disruptors, such as 17β -estradiol and 17α -ethinyl estradiol (Blánquez & Guieysse 2008, Lloret *et al.* 2010). Ligninolytic enzymes are relatively non-specific and use free radical mechanisms that allow them to catalyze the degradation of a wide variety of environmental pollutants (Pointing 2001). Therefore, studying the extracts and the enzymes of WRF is a

necessary step to understand their mechanism of action and to develop strategies for bioremediation in the future.

The objective of the present work was to evaluate the ability of enzymatic extracts from *Auricularia fuscusuccinea*, *Lentinula edodes*, *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Agrocybe aegerita*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *P. djamor* and *P. eryngii* fungi to degrade metamizole sodium at the laboratory conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Biological material

Voucher specimens of the evaluated strains *Auricularia fuscusuccinea* ECS-0210, *Lentinula edodes* ECS-0401, *Ganoderma lucidum* ECS-0502, *Agrocybe aegerita* ECS-1009, *Pleurotus ostreatus* ECS-0152, *P. djamor* ECS-0123 and *P. eryngii* ECS-1258 were obtained of the Mycological Collection of El Colegio de la Frontera Sur-Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. The substrates used for mycelial growth of the fungi were Pangola grass *Digitaria decumbens*, sorghum *Sorghum vulgare* and shavings of the “Primavera” tree *Tabebuia donnell-smithii*, as indicated below.

Chemical substances

Malt extract (Bacto™), anhydrous dextrose (HYCEL), casein peptone (MCD lab) and bacteriological agar (MCD lab) were used. HPLC-grade methanol and water were purchased from J. T. Baker and Fermont, respectively. Sodium metamizole, 4-methylaminoantipyrine (4-MAA) and 4-aminoantipyrine (4-AA), all three in standard grade, and sodium acetate, in analytical reagent grade, were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Toluca, México). The pharmaceutical formulation of sodium metamizole (500

mg active ingredient, Sanofi-Aventis) was also purchased on the local market and used after purification of the active ingredient.

Purification of metamizole

3.028 g of the pharmaceutical formulation of metamizole sodium were macerated and dissolved in 75 mL of methanol. This mixture was vacuum filtered using Whatman No. 2 filter paper and then evaporated for two hours using a rotary evaporator (Hahn Shin Scientific) at a constant temperature of 75°C and 50 rpm. The recovered crystals (0.750 g) were placed into a desiccator for 12 h to remove residual methanol.

Activation of strains

In the preparation of the solid culture medium, malt extract (10 g L⁻¹), anhydrous dextrose (10 g L⁻¹), casein peptone (1 g L⁻¹) and bacteriological agar (16 g L⁻¹) were used. The Petri dishes (60 mm x 15 mm) and the culture medium were autoclaved (15 min at 1.05 kg cm⁻²). Subsequently, the inoculated plates were preserved for 12 days in the dark at 22.5 ± 2°C.

All strains were inoculated in Petri dishes using 20 g of sterile substrate (1 h at 1.05 kg cm⁻²) at 70% humidity. The *G. lucidum*, *A. aegerita*, *P. ostreatus* and *P. djamor* strains were inoculated in Pangola grass; *L. edodes* and *P. eryngii* were inoculated in wood chips, and *A. fuscusuccinea* was inoculated in sorghum grains. The strains were inoculated in two batches; in the first one, an initial metamizole concentration of 50 mg L⁻¹ was adjusted, while the second was maintained in the total absence of metamizole sodium. Both batches were incubated in the dark at 22.5 ± 2°C for 28 days.

Degradation of sodium metamizole with crude enzymatic extract

Each one of the strains under study was inoculated in 20 g of their respective substrate. When colonization of the substrate was completed, 50 mL of 0.1 M acetate buffer

solution (pH 4.6) was added. Subsequently, each one of the substrates of the studied strains was macerated, filtered using Whatman No. 2 filter paper, and centrifuged at 2907 G for 10 min. Then, 15 mL of the recovered supernatant (crude enzymatic extract) was taken and poured into a flask (105 mm x 64 mm) together with a solution of metamizole sodium (100 mg L^{-1}) to adjust the mixture to a final concentration of 50 mg L^{-1} . The flasks were placed on an orbital shaker (Labconco) at 110 rpm at $25 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 6 days in the dark.

Effect of temperature and pH on the removal of sodium metamizole

The effects of temperature and pH on the removal of the drug were evaluated for the strain extract that presented the highest degradation (*A. fuscosuccinea*). In this experiment, a factorial design was used (3^2), where the first factor, pH, was evaluated at the levels of 4.6, 5.6 and 6.6, and the second factor, temperature, was studied at the levels of 35, 45 and 55°C . Determination of residual metamizole concentration was performed every third day, unless otherwise indicated, using High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). The system consisted of a quaternary pump, a 5-channel degasser, and a UV/Vis detector. An isocratic method was used, where the mobile phase consisted of 50% methanol and 50% water. The sample volume injected was $5 \mu\text{L}$, and the wavelength was set at 254 nm. The chromatographic column used was Hypersyl® (Agilent, USA) ODS C18 4.0 x 150 mm, with a $5 \mu\text{m}$ particle diameter. All tests were performed in triplicate. All tests were performed in triplicate. Absorbance readings corresponding to enzymatic activity and protein determination were performed on a UV / Vis spectrophotometer (UV-1700 PharmaSpec Shimadzu).

Enzymatic activity

The laccase activity was determined in a reaction mixture in a buffer solution containing 0.1 M sodium acetate (pH 5.0), 1 mM 2,2'-azino-di (3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulfonate (ABTS) and crude enzymatic extract. The increase in absorbance was monitored at 436 nm ($\epsilon_{436} = 29300 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Rodríguez *et al.* 1999). A reaction mixture containing 0.01% phenol red, 0.1 M sodium succinate (pH 4.5), 100 mM MnSO_4 , 0.2 mM H_2O_2 and crude enzymatic extract was used to determine the manganese peroxidase activity. The reaction was stopped after 10 minutes by adding 5 N NaOH. The increase in absorbance at 610 nm was monitored ($\epsilon_{610} = 22000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Wariishi *et al.* 1992). The lignin peroxidase activity was measured using a reaction medium consisting of 2 mM H_2O_2 , 2 mM veratryl alcohol (3,4-dimethoxybenzyl) in 4 M sodium tartrate buffer (pH 3.0) and crude enzymatic extract. The reaction was started by adding hydrogen peroxide. The absorbance change was read at 310 nm ($\epsilon_{310} = 9300 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Tien & Kirk 1984).

To determine the phenol oxidase activity, the reaction medium contained 0.1 M catechol prepared in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) and enzyme extract. The absorbance change was read at 420 nm ($\epsilon_{420} = 3450 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Ögel *et al.* 2006). To measure the aryl alcohol oxidase activity, the reaction mixture consisted of 1 mM veratryl alcohol, 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) and the crude enzyme extract. The formation of veratraldehyde was read at 310 nm ($\epsilon_{310} = 9300 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, Okamoto & Yanase 2002). The versatile peroxidase activity was estimated from the formation of Mn^{+3} (Rodríguez *et al.* 2004). The reaction medium contained 0.1 mM MnSO_4 prepared in 100 mM sodium tartrate buffer, 0.1 mM H_2O_2 and crude enzymatic extract. The absorbance change was read at 238 nm ($\epsilon_{238} = 6500 \text{ mol L}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$).

Determination of proteins

Total protein determination was performed based on the Bradford method (1976). For this purpose, a calibration curve was prepared using known dilutions of bovine serum albumin (BSA) as the standard. The absorbance reading was performed at 595 nm on a UV/Vis spectrophotometer (UV-1700 Pharmaspec Shimadzu).

Method of drug recovery

To recover the drug, 2 mL of methanol was added to 0.5 mL of a sample taken from the reaction medium (crude enzymatic extract-metamizole). The mixture was vortexed for 1 min and then filtered using Whatman No. 2 filter paper. In this procedure, the recovery rate of sodium metamizole was 100%.

Chromatographic method

The residual concentration of sodium metamizole, as well as that of its degradation metabolites 4-MAA and 4-AA present in the reaction medium, was quantified using HPLC (Perkin Elmer Flexar Quaternary). An isocratic method was used, where the mobile phase consisted of 50% methanol and 50% water. The typical chromatogram for this method is presented in Fig. 1, where the retention times of sodium metamizole (1.032 min), 4-AA (2.601 min) and 4-AAA (3.121 min) are indicated.

Fig. 1

Statistical analysis

The results obtained from degradation tests using crude extract, as well as those obtained in the study of temperature and pH effects on degradation rates, were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) of repeated measures. The results obtained

in enzymatic activity tests were analyzed by one-way ANOVA. All ANOVAs, as well as the Tukey mean separation tests, were performed with a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$. Each of the bioassays were performed in triplicate, and the SAS statistical software JMP version 4 was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Degradation of sodium metamizole by the crude enzymatic extract of the fungi studied

The results show that in both test groups, only *A. fuscosuccinea* extract degraded metamizole sodium to levels below the limit of detection during the first three days of degradation (Fig. 2). *Pleurotus eryngii* extract achieved a degradation rate of 96% in 6 days, while the decrease in the initial drug concentration remained in the range of 50-75% for the other extracts. A significant interaction between the strains and the time was found (Table. 1), and this was observed in two groups of the tests ($p < 0.001$ in both cases).

We observed that the decrease in the initial concentration of the drug was influenced not only by the strain used but also by the conditions of the substrate (with and without metamizole). This can be attributed to the fact that the enzyme system possessed by each strain differs in the affinity for the substrate or the ability of the fungi to produce one or more enzymes responsible for degradation (Wesenberg *et al.* 2003, Dávila & Vázquez 2006). It is likely that the presence of metamizole in the preculture substrate influenced less production of ligninolytic enzymes. Rodríguez *et al.* (1999) observed that an increase in enzymatic activities in the crude extract of the genera

Bjerkandera, *Pleurotus*, *Phanerochaete*, *Sporotrichum* and *Trametes* was positively correlated to their ability to decolorize the extracellular medium. In contrast, Yanez *et al.* (2016) demonstrated a decrease in the laccase and phenoloxidase activities in *A. fuscusuccinea* after 8 days in extracts with endosulfan compared to those that did not contain it.

Fig.2

Table. 1

To study the performance of the crude enzymatic extract from *A. fuscusuccinea*, additional tests were carried out using a degradation time of 6 h. The residual concentration of metamizole was monitored in these tests, as well as the concentration of its two metabolites, 4-MAA and 4-AA (Fig. 3). A control test was also performed to discriminate the reduction of the residual drug concentration due to factors other than those evaluated. In the ANOVA performed on the data obtained in the control tests, the concentration remained unchanged during treatment (d.f. = 4, F = 0.445, p = 0.774).

Tests carried out with advanced oxidation processes, such as homogeneous photocatalysis with photo-Fenton (Pérez *et al.* 2007), photocatalysis with TiO₂ (Pérez 2008), Fenton and photo-Fenton (Sekhar & Kumar 2014) and the Electro-Fenton process (Barros *et al.* 2014), have been applied for the degradation of dipyrone and 4-MAA with a degradation rate of approximately 95% in a reaction time of 0.5 h. However, no biological treatments are reported for this molecule or any of its metabolites

generated. Regarding the time of biodegradation for these types of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), similar results have been reported using the strain *Trametes versicolor*. Marco *et al.* (2010a) achieved a degradation rate of 94% for diclofenac in the first hour of the reaction, and it was not detected in the liquid medium after 4 h. *Trametes versicolor* is able to biodegrade naproxen by achieving 95% removal in 5 h, and it completely eliminated ketoprofen after 24 h (Marco *et al.* 2010b, Marco *et al.* 2010c).

Fig. 3

Our results show that in the first 15 min, a decrease of more than 20% of metamizole content is observed (Fig. 3) , and 4-MAA and 4-AA are formed as products of that degradation at the same time (Bocca *et al.* 2007, Feldmann *et al.* 2008). Afterward, metamizole decreases steadily for up to 4 h of contact, while the metabolites produced stabilize. The fact that 4-AA does not accumulate further suggests it is probably degraded by the crude extract, while 4-MAA is apparently more resistant to degradation by the extracellular enzymatic system of the fungus because it accumulates up to the 6th day (Pérez *et al.* 2007). The concentrations of 4-MAA and 4-AA at the end of the bioassay were 3.81 and 0.43 mg L⁻¹, respectively.

Effect of temperature and pH on the degradation of metamizole

The bioassays with the highest rate of degradation in the first 2 h of the reaction followed pseudo-first order kinetics under the following conditions: pH 5.6, 35°C; pH 5.6, 45°C; pH 4.6, 55°C (Fig. 4). Similarly, Machado *et al.* (2013) demonstrated total removal

of the same drug; however, those studies were carried out using electrochemical processes. Ergün *et al.* (2004) reported that although temperature increases the hydrolysis reaction rate of dipyrone to 4-MAA, it is more affected by pH, suggesting acid-catalyzed hydrolysis.

Fig. 4

Protein determination and enzymatic activity of *A. fuscusuccinea*

The protein concentration in the crude extract from *A. fuscusuccinea* at pH 4.6, 5.6 and 6.6 was 0.1037, 0.0756 and 0.1415 mg mL⁻¹, respectively. The enzymatic assays showed the presence of laccases, lignin peroxidases and phenol oxidases. The results obtained in the tests performed for both the determination of enzymatic activity and the specific determination showed significant pH influence (p <0.0001). It can be observed that in the case of laccases, the highest enzymatic activity was reached at pH 5.6 and 6.6 (23.47 U mL⁻¹), with no significant difference between them, whereas a greater specific activity was observed at pH 5.6 (0.3104 U mg⁻¹). For the phenoloxidase enzymes, the highest enzymatic and specific activity were achieved at pH 5.6, which were 11.93 U mL⁻¹ and 0.1579 U mg⁻¹, respectively (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5

Baldrian (2006) indicates that the majority of laccases exhibit a range of optimum pH values for enzymatic activity in acid, which varies depending on the type of substrate; ABTS requires a pH of 2-5, 2,6-dimethoxyphenol requires a pH between 3-8, and syringaldazine requires a pH between 3.5-7. In contrast, we found that laccase had the

highest activity at pH 5.6, using ABTS as a substrate. For the phenol oxidase enzyme, the highest activity was achieved at pH 5.6. These data agree with those obtained by Yanez *et al.* (2015). On the other hand, Córdova *et al.* (2011) reported that the optimal activity for phenol oxidase from a crude extract of *P. pulmonarius* was achieved in pH ranges between 5 and 6, and Kolcuoğlu (2012) showed optimal pH values between 5 and 7 for a group of purified phenol oxidases.

CONCLUSION

The enzymatic extracts obtained from the WRF evaluated in this work have been demonstrated to degrade metamizole sodium. The extract obtained from the strain *A. fuscosuccinea* was effective in the total elimination of the drug in a reaction time of 6 h. Monitoring of the 4-MAA and 4-AA metabolites in the first 15 min of the reaction showed that the molecule is rapidly degraded by this extract, with the most favorable conditions being at pH 5.6 at a temperature of 35°C. Also the results of enzymatic activity suggest the probable participation of laccases, phenoloxidases and lignin peroxidases in the degradation process of the molecules under study.

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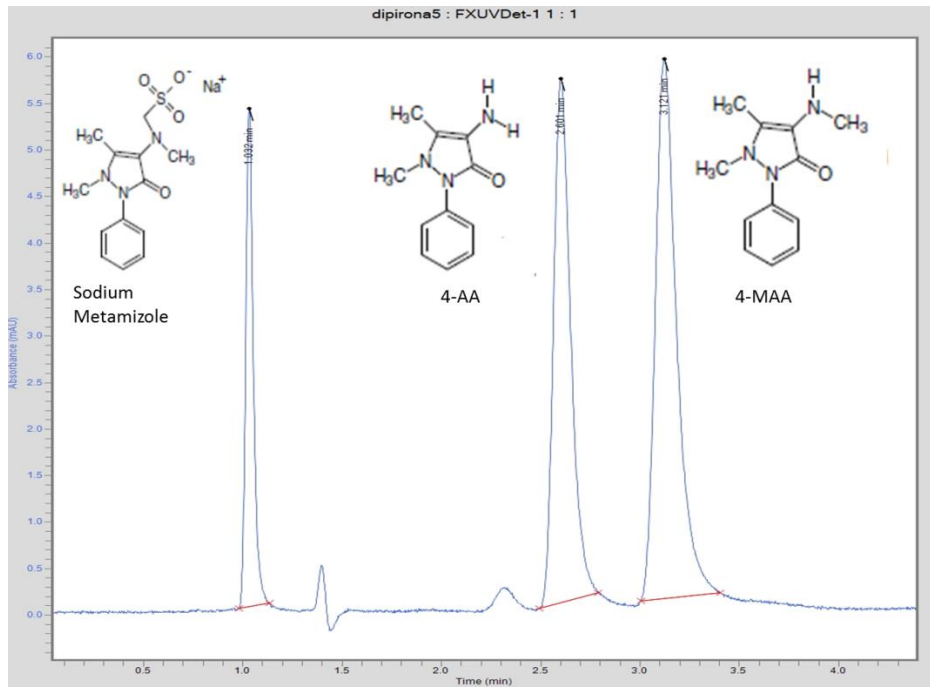
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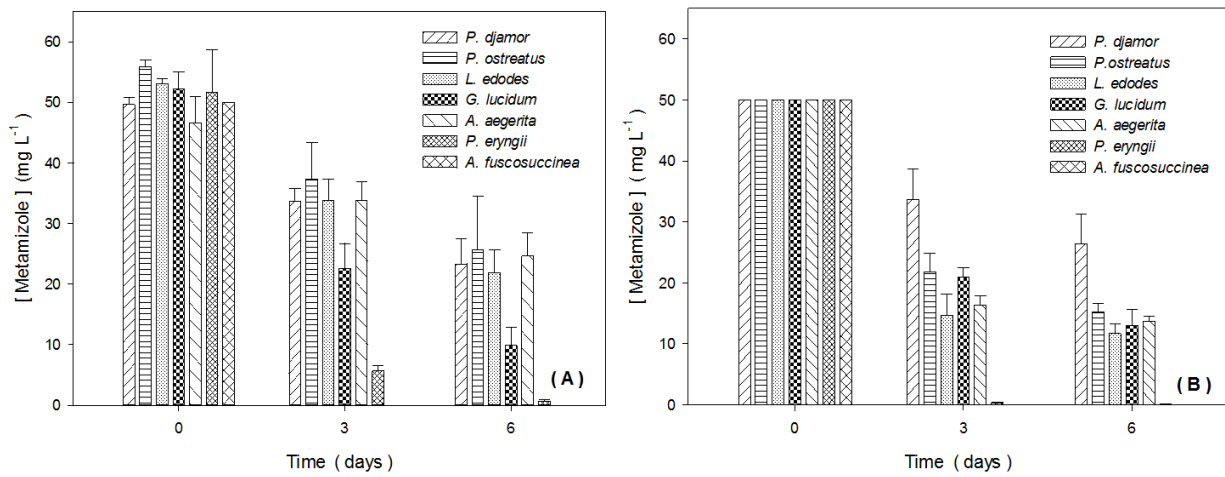
Table.1.- ANOVA of repeated measures of degradation test data using crude enzyme extract

	(a) ANOVA SCPM*				(b) ANOVA SCWM**			
	NumD	DenDF	F	p	NumD	DenD	F	P
	F				F	F		
Strain	6	14	25.54	<0.00	6	14	108.12	<0.000
				01				1
Time	2	28	1097.0	<0.00	2	28	2338.0	<0.000
			7	01			0	1
Strain:Time	12	28	27.89	<0.00	12	28	29.82	<0.000
				01				1

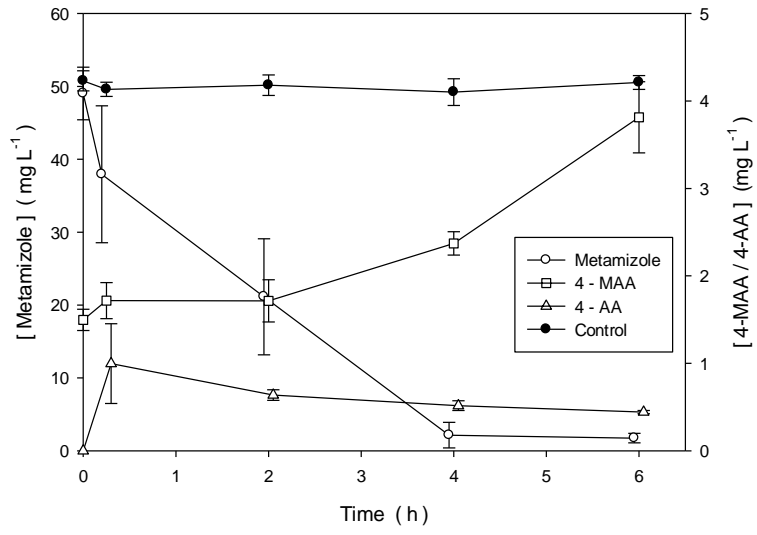
* SCPM: substrate colonized in presence of metamizole. **SCWM: Substrate colonized without metamizole. NumDF: degrees of freedom of numerator. DenDF: degrees of freedom of error.



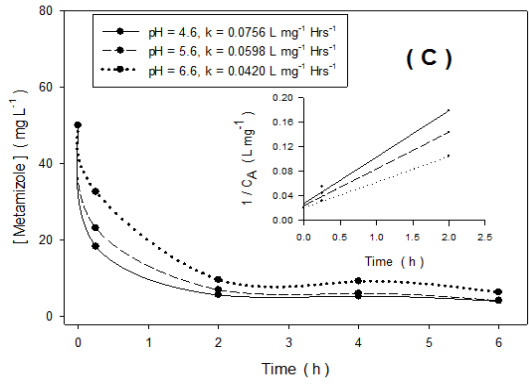
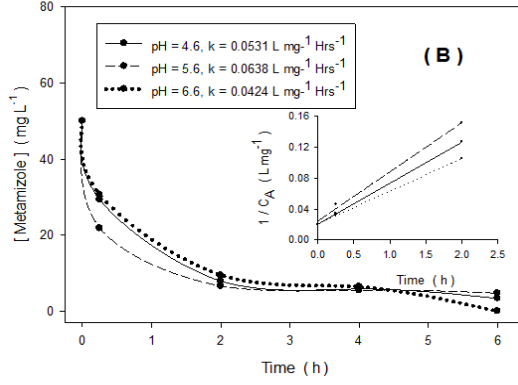
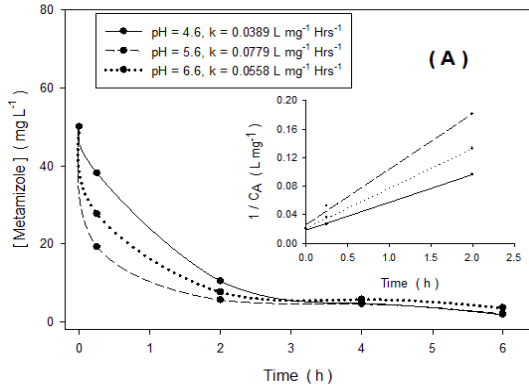
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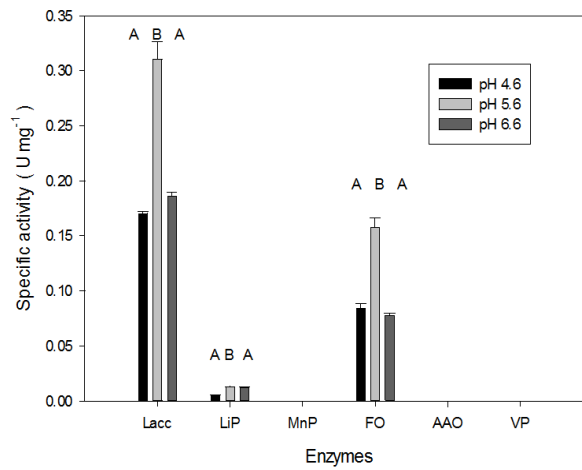
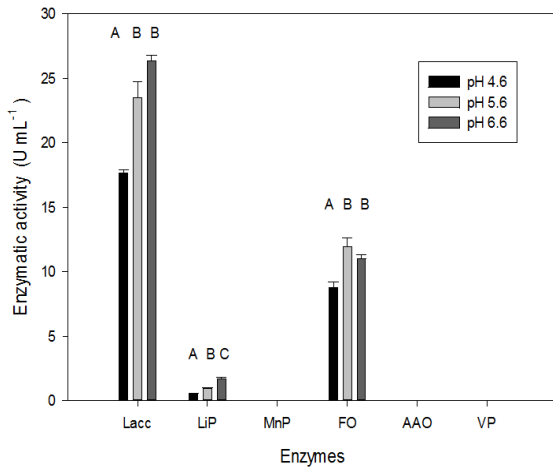
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Figure legends

Fig. 1. Chromatogram obtained from HPLC showing the presence of metamizole and two of its metabolites; metamizole sodium (RT 1.032 min), 4-aminoantipyrine (RT 2.601 min) and 4-methylaminoantipyrine (RT 3.121 min).

Fig. 2. Degradation profile of sodium metamizole using the enzyme extract from strains previously cultured in the presence of the drug (A) and without the drug (B). Bioassay conditions: pH = 4.6, T = 25°C, agitation = 110 rpm, time = 6 days in the dark.

Fig. 3. Degradation profile of sodium metamizole and generation of its metabolites by an aqueous enzymatic extract from *A. fuscossuccinea* ECS-0210. Bioassay conditions: pH = 4.6, T = 25°C, agitation = 110 rpm, time = 6 hours in the dark.

Fig. 4. Effect of pH and temperature on the degradation of sodium metamizole by an enzymatic extract of *A. fuscossuccinea*. Box: Degradation rate. Bioassay conditions: agitation = 110 rpm, time = 6 h in the dark, pH (4.6, 5.6, 6.6), temperature A) 35°C, B) 45°C and C) 55°C

Fig. 5. Enzymatic activity and specific activity in the crude extract from *A. fuscossuccinea* under varying pH conditions. Laccase (Lacc), Lignin peroxidase (LiP), Manganese peroxidase (MnP), Phenol oxidase (FO), Aryl alcohol oxidase (AAO) and Versatile peroxidase (VP). The homogeneous groups generated with the Tukey mean separation test are presented in capital letters.

III. Conclusiones

1. Los extractos enzimáticos obtenidos a partir de *Auricularia fuscusuccinea*, *Lentinula edodes*, *Ganoderma lucidum*, *Agrocybe aegerita*, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *P. djamor* y *P. eryngii* evaluadas en este trabajo demostraron su capacidad para degradar el metamizol sódico.
2. Los extractos enzimáticos provenientes de cultivos de hongos en ausencia del fármaco mostraron mayores porcentajes de degradación.
3. El extracto obtenido con la cepa *A.fuscusuccinea* resultó ser el más eficaz en la eliminación total del fármaco en un tiempo de reacción de 6 horas.
4. El monitoreo de los metabolitos 4-MAA y 4-AA en los primeros 15 minutos de reacción mostró que la molécula es degradada rápidamente por el extracto obtenido con la cepa *A.fuscusuccinea*, siendo las condiciones más favorables a pH 5.6 y 35 °C.
5. La mayor actividad enzimática y específica de las enzimas lacasa y fenoloxidasa se presentó a pH 5.6.
6. Los ensayos de actividad enzimática demostraron la expresión de actividad de enzimas lacasas, fenoloxidasas y lignino peroxidasas en el proceso de degradación del metamizol sódico. Posteriores estudios de degradación del fármaco con las enzimas puras podrían indicar si ellas participan o no en la degradación.

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