

Title	Studies on the biosynthesis of bialaphos (SF-1293) 8 purification and characterization of 2-phosphinomethylmalic acid synthase from streptomyces hygroscopicus SF-1293
Sub Title	
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Publisher	共立薬科大学
Publication year	1988
Jtitle	共立薬科大学研究年報 (The annual report of the Kyoritsu College of Pharmacy). No.33 (1988. ) ,p.172- 172
JaLC DOI	
Abstract	
Notes	抄録
Genre	Technical Report
URL	<a href="https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00062898-00000033-0172">https://koara.lib.keio.ac.jp/xoonips/modules/xoonips/detail.php?koara_id=AN00062898-00000033-0172</a>

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**Studies on the Biosynthesis of Bialaphos (SF-1293) 8 Purification  
and Characterization of 2-Phosphinomethylmalic acid  
Synthase from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* SF-1293\***

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2-Phosphinomethylmalic acid (PMM) synthase catalyzes the condensation of phosphinopyruvic acid (PPA), an analog of oxalacetic acid, and acetyl-CoA to form PMM. The enzyme was purified approximately 700-fold from a cell-free extract of *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* SF-1293, a bialaphos producing organism, to an electrophoretically homogeneous state. The purified PMM synthase has a subunit molecular weight of 48,000 by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and a native molecular weight of 90,000 ~ 98,000 by gel filtration. PMM synthase was relatively unstable, showed maximum activity at pH 8.0 and 30°C, and was inhibited strongly by *p*-chloromercuribenzoate, iodoacetamide and EDTA. Enzyme activity suppressed by EDTA was completely restored by adding  $\text{Co}^{++}$  or  $\text{Mn}^{++}$  and partially restored by addition of  $\text{Ca}^{++}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{++}$  or  $\text{Mg}^{++}$ .

The specific substrates of this enzyme are PPA or oxalacetic acid in addition to acetyl-CoA. The enzyme does not catalyze the liberation of CoA from acetyl-CoA in the presence of  $\alpha$ -keto acids, such as pyruvate,  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate, deamino- $\alpha$ -keto-demethylphosphinothricin or phosphonopyruvate. The condensation reaction did not take place when propionyl-CoA or butyryl-CoA was used as a substrate in place of acetyl-CoA. The  $K_m$  values of the enzyme were 0.05 mM for acetyl-CoA, 0.39 mM for PPA and 0.13 mM for oxalacetate. PMM synthase is very similar to (*R*)-citrate synthase of *Clostridium* in the inhibition pattern by sulfhydryl compounds, its metal ion requirement and stereospecificity; unlike (*R*)-citrate synthase PMM synthase was not inhibited by oxygen.

\* 本報告は *J. Antibiotics*, 41, 1057-1065 (1988) に発表.

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