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1 **VERSATILITY OF DIVINYLSULFONE SUPPORTS PERMITS THE TUNING OF**
2 **CALB PROPERTIES DURING ITS IMMOBILIZATION**

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21

22 Abstract

23 The lipase B from *C. antarctica* (CALB) has been immobilized on divinylsulfone
24 (DVS) activated agarose beads under different conditions (pH 5-10). In the presence of 0.3%
25 of Triton X-100, immobilization rate was rapid at pH 10 and the slowest one was that at pH 5.
26 Incubation at pH 10 for 72 h of the immobilized enzymes before blocking of the support with
27 ethylenediamine permitted to improve enzyme stability. Enzyme features (activity, stability,
28 specificity versus different substrates, effect of the pH on enzyme properties) were quite
29 different on the different CALB preparations, suggesting the different orientation of the
30 enzyme. The alkaline incubation produced an increase in enzyme activity with some substrates,
31 and some of the DVS-CALB preparations exhibited a higher specific activity than the octyl-
32 preparations. The indirect fluorescence spectrum of the different immobilized preparations
33 confirmed that different structures of the CALB molecules were generated after
34 immobilization.

35 **Keywords:** lipase properties tuning, enzyme immobilization, enzyme stabilization, lipase
36 hyperactivation, interfacial activation, divinylsulfone activated supports

37 1. Introduction

38 Lipases are the most utilized enzymes in biocatalysis¹⁻⁶ due to their wide substrate
39 specificity, high stability under a broad range of conditions and reaction media (aqueous,
40 organic solvent, neoteric solvents)^{7,11} and broad range of reactions (e.g., hydrolysis,
41 esterifications, aminations, acydolysis, transesterifications^{1,6}, and also other promiscuous
42 reactions like perhydrolysis or C-C bond synthesis)^{12,14} that they are able to catalyze.

43 Moreover, lipase properties, including selectivity, specificity and activity are very
44 easily modulated by almost any change in the enzyme or in the reaction media (including
45 genetic manipulation^{15,16}, medium engineering¹⁷, physico-chemical modification of the
46 enzyme surface by polymers or small reagents¹⁸⁻²⁰, or via immobilization^{21,24}). This is due to
47 the flexibility of their active center, which is a consequence of the conformational changes that
48 the lipases suffer during catalysis, involving the movement of an oligopeptide chain (lid or flat)
49 that usually isolates the active center of lipases from the medium²⁵⁻²⁸. The open form of the
50 lipases becomes strongly adsorbed to their natural substrates (drops of oils) or any other
51 hydrophobic surface, becoming stabilized^{4,29,30}.

52 Enzyme immobilization is a prerequisite for most industrial processes, as a way to
53 easily recover and reuse these relatively expensive biocatalysts and to avoid product
54 contamination^{31,36}. Thus, the coupling of enzyme immobilization to the improvement of other
55 enzyme features seems to be a very adequate goal in biocatalyst design, and in fact it has been
56 reported improvement in enzyme stability, activity, selectivity, etc. upon
57 immobilization^{22,23,37,40}.

58 The tuning of lipase catalytic properties via immobilization is based on involving
59 different regions of the enzyme on the interaction with the support and on the control of the

60 support-enzyme interaction degree^{22,24}; this may generate different nano-environments on the
61 enzyme surroundings, may distort the regions involved in the immobilization, or may just
62 avoid some movements during the opening/closing conformational changes. This has been
63 achieved by using different immobilization protocols, which involve different enzyme moieties
64 in the immobilization^{22,24}. However, in some cases a versatile support may permit to
65 immobilize an enzyme by different orientations by controlling the immobilization conditions²⁴.
66 This is the case of heterofunctional supports, such as glutaraldehyde. This support has been
67 used to give 4 different preparations of a lipase just by altering the ionic strength or adding
68 detergents during immobilization^{41,42}.

69 Divinylsulfone activated supports have been used for the successful immobilization of
70 some proteins.^{43,51} Recently, activated divinylsulfone agarose beads have been described as a
71 suitable support to stabilize enzymes via multipoint covalent attachment⁵². The reactive group
72 is very stable in a broad range of pH values (from 5 to 10), capable of reacting with primary
73 and secondary amines, hydroxyl, phenyl, thiol and imidazol groups⁵². However, the reactivity
74 of each enzyme group versus the vinylsulfone support differed greatly, and also was greatly
75 influenced by the pH value⁵². At pH 10, the Lys residues are only slightly less reactive than
76 Cys or His (the most reactive ones), while at pH 5 even the reactivity of the Tyr overpassed the
77 reactivity of Lys residues⁵². Thus, altering the immobilization conditions, it is possible to
78 immobilize an enzyme via different orientations on supports activated with divinylsulfone⁵².
79 The further long time incubation at alkaline pH value permitted to increase the number of
80 enzyme-support linkages, increasing the enzyme rigidity⁵².

81 In this paper, we show the results obtained in the immobilization under different
82 conditions of the most popular lipase, the lipase B from *Candida antarctica*,^{53,54} on agarose
83 beads activated with divinylsulfone with the objective of checking the possibility of using the

84 features of this support to alter the catalytic properties of lipases. To this goal, the hydrolytic
85 activity versus structurally different substrates and the stability of the immobilized enzyme
86 under different conditions will be studied. Finally, we will try to correlate the changes in
87 enzyme function after immobilization on the same support but following different protocols
88 with changes in the lipase structure for the first time in the literature.

89

90 2. Materials and methods

91 2.1. Materials

92 Lipase B from *Candida antarctica* (CALB) was kindly donated by Novozymes (Spain),
93 p-nitrophenyl butyrate (p-NPB), divinylsulfone (DVS), triton X-100, ethylenediamine (EDA),
94 8-anilino-1-naphthalenesulfonic acid (ANS), 2-mercaptoethanol, methyl mandelate, methyl
95 phenylacetate and ethyl hexanoate were from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO, USA).
96 Octyl sepharose beads 4BCL and cyanogen bromide Sepharose beads 4BCL (CNBr) were
97 from GE Healthcare. All reagents and solvents were of analytical grade.

98 All experiments were performed by triplicate and the results are reported as the mean of
99 this value and the standard deviation (usually under 10%).

100

101 2.2. Standard determination of enzyme activity

102 This assay was performed by measuring the increase in absorbance at 348 nm produced
103 by the released p-nitrophenol in the hydrolysis of 0.4 mM *p*-NPB in 50 mM sodium
104 phosphate at pH 7.0 and 25°C ($\epsilon = 5150 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ under these conditions). To start the
105 reaction, 50–100 μL of lipase solution or suspension were added to 2.50 mL of substrate
106 solution. One unit of activity (U) was defined as the amount of enzyme that hydrolyzes 1
107 μmol of *p*-NPB per minute under the conditions previously described. Protein
108 concentration was determined using Bradford's method⁵⁵, bovine serum albumin was used
109 as the reference.

110 In the studies of the effects of pH on the enzyme activity, the protocol was similar but
111 the buffer in the measurements was changed according to the pH value: sodium acetate at pH

112 5, sodium phosphate at pH 6-8 and sodium borate at pH 9-10. At 25°C, all the preparations
113 remained fully active after incubation for several hours at any of these pH values.

114

115 **2.3. Immobilization of CALB on octyl Sepharose beads**

116 Lipase CALB was immobilized on octyl Sepharose beads at low ionic strength as
117 previously described⁵⁶. A volume of 1.6 mL of commercial enzyme (containing 6.9 mg/mL of
118 protein) was diluted in 88.4 mL of 5 mM sodium phosphate at pH 7, maintaining a 1/10
119 support–enzyme solution ratio, (w/v) for 60 min. Suspension and supernatant samples were
120 withdrawn for evaluation of immobilization through enzymatic activity measurement as
121 described above. This immobilization strategy also permitted the purification of lipases from
122 contaminant esterases⁵⁶.

123

124 **2.4. Immobilization of CALB on CNBr-agarose beads**

125 Immobilization of CALB on CNBr-agarose beads was performed following a protocol
126 previously described for this enzyme⁵⁷. A volume of 1 mL of commercial CALB was diluted
127 in 99 mL of 5 mM sodium phosphate at pH 7. Then, 6 g of wet CNBr support was added. After
128 90 min at 4°C under stirring at 250 rpm, around 56% of lipase became immobilized on the
129 support. The enzyme-support reaction was ended by incubating the support with 1 M
130 ethanolamine at pH 8 for 2 h. Finally, the immobilized preparation was washed with abundant
131 distilled water.

132

133 **2.5. Immobilization of CALB on DVS-agarose beads**

134 **2.5.1. Preparation of DVS-agarose beads.** 1.5 mL divinylsulfone was added to 40 mL of 333
135 mM sodium carbonate at pH 12.5 and stirred until the mixture becomes homogeneous, then 2 g
136 of agarose beads was added and left under gentle agitation for 35 minutes⁵². Finally, the
137 activated support was washed with an excess of distilled water and stored at 4°C.

138

139 **2.5.2 Immobilization of CALB on DVS-agarose beads.** A 10 g portion of support was
140 suspended in 100 mL of solutions of CALB (maximum protein concentration was 1 mg/mL) at
141 25°C using 10 mM of different buffers (sodium acetate at pH 5, sodium phosphate at pH 7 or
142 sodium carbonate at pH 10). In some instances, triton X-100 was added. In some cases, the
143 immobilized lipase preparations were filtered and a portion of the derivatives was incubated in
144 100 mL of 100 mM bicarbonate at pH 10.0 and 25°C for 72 h. As an enzyme-support reaction
145 end-point, all the immobilized biocatalysts were incubated in 1M EDA at pH 10 and 25°C for
146 24 h to block the remaining reactive groups on the support (this was the optimal blocking
147 reagent using chymotrypsin and this support)⁵². Finally, the immobilized preparation was
148 washed with an excess of distilled water and stored at 4°C.

149

150 **2.6. Thermal inactivation of different CALB immobilized preparations**

151 To check the stability of the different enzyme derivatives, 1 g of immobilized enzyme
152 was suspended in 5 mL of 50 mM sodium acetate at pH 5, sodium phosphate at pH 7 or
153 sodium carbonate at pH 9 and at different temperatures. Periodically, samples were withdrawn
154 and the activity was measured using pNPB. Half-lives were calculated from the observed
155 inactivation courses.

156

157 **2.7. Stability assays in the presence of dioxane**

158 Enzyme preparations were incubated in mixtures of 70 % dioxane/30% 100 mM Tris
159 buffer at pH 7 and at different temperatures to proceed with their inactivation. Periodically,
160 samples were withdrawn and the activity was measured using p-NPB as described above. Half-
161 lives were calculated from the observed inactivation courses. The acetonitrile presented in the
162 measurement samples had no significant effect on enzyme activity determination experiments.

163

164 **2.8 Hydrolysis of methyl mandelate**

165 200 mg of the immobilized preparations was added to 2 mL of 50 mM substrate in 100
166 mM sodium acetate at pH 5, 100 mM sodium phosphate at pH 7 or 100 mM sodium carbonate
167 at pH 8.5 and 25°C under continuous stirring. The conversion degree was analyzed by RP-
168 HPLC (Spectra Physic SP 100 coupled with an UV detector SpectraPhysic SP 8450) using a
169 Kromasil C18 (15 cm × 0.46 cm) column. Samples (20 µL) were injected and eluted at a flow
170 rate of 1.0 mL/min using acetonitrile/10 mM ammonium acetate (35:65, v/v) at pH 2.8 as
171 mobile phase and UV detection was performed at 230 nm. The acid has a retention time of 2.5
172 minutes while the ester has a retention time of 10 minutes. One unit of enzyme activity was
173 defined as the amount of enzyme necessary to produce 1 µmol of mandelic acid per minute
174 under the conditions described above. Activity was determined by triplicate with a conversion
175 ranging 20–30%, and data are given as average values.

176

177

178

179 **2.9. Hydrolysis of methyl phenylacetate**

180 200 mg of the immobilized preparations were added to 2 mL of 5 mM substrate in 100
181 mM buffer containing 50% CH₃CN. The buffers were sodium acetate at pH 5, sodium
182 phosphate at pH 7 and sodium bicarbonate at pH 8.5. All experiments were carried out at 25°C
183 under continuous stirring. The conversion degrees were analyzed by RP-HPLC (Spectra
184 PhysicSP 100 coupled with an UV detector Spectra Physic SP 8450) using a Kromasil C18 (15
185 cm × 0.46 cm) column. Samples (20 µL) were injected and eluted at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min
186 using a mixture of acetonitrile: 10 mM ammonium acetate aqueous solution (35:65,v/v) and pH
187 2.8, as mobile phase and UV detection was performed at 230 nm. The acid has a retention time
188 of 3 minutes while the ester has a retention time of 12 minutes. One unit of enzyme activity
189 was defined as the amount of enzyme necessary to produce 1 µmol of phenyl acetic acid per
190 minute under the conditions described above. The activity was determined by triplicate with a
191 maximum conversion of 20–30%, and data are given as average values.

192

193 **2.10. Hydrolysis of ethyl hexanoate**

194 Enzyme activity was determined by using ethyl hexanoate; 200 mg of the immobilized
195 preparations were added to 2 mL of 25 mM substrate in 50 mM buffer containing 50 %
196 CH₃CN. The buffer was sodium acetate at pH 5, sodium phosphate at pH 7 and sodium
197 bicarbonate at pH 8.5. All experiments were carried out at 25 °C under continuous stirring. The
198 conversion degree was analyzed by RP-HPLC (Spectra Physic SP 100 coupled with an UV
199 detector Spectra Physic SP 8450) using a Kromasil C18 (15 cm x 0.46 cm) column. Samples
200 (20 µL) were injected and eluted at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min using acetonitrile /10 mM
201 ammonium acetate aqueous solution (50:50, v/v) and pH 3.2 as mobile phase and UV detection

202 was performed at 208 nm. Hexanoic acid has a retention time of 3.4 minutes while the ester has
203 a retention time of 14.2 minutes. One unit of enzyme activity was defined as the amount of
204 enzyme necessary to produce 1 μmol of hexanoic acid per minute under the conditions
205 described above. Activity was determined by triplicate with a maximum conversion of 20-
206 30%, and data are given as average values.

207

208 **2.11. Fluorescence studies of the different immobilized enzyme preparations**

209 The immobilized enzyme preparations (150 mg) were mixed with 15 mL of 13.5 μM
210 8-anilino-1-naphthalenesulfonic acid (ANS) solution in 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.0. The
211 mixtures were incubated at 25°C during 1 h under magnetic stirring. The samples were
212 centrifuged and the emission fluorescence spectra of the supernatant solutions were recorded
213 after excitation at 360 nm by using a Cary Eclipse Spectrophotometer (Varian)⁵⁸.

214

215

216 3. Results

217 3.1. Immobilization of CALB on divinylsulfone activated agarose beads at different pH 218 values

219 Figure 1 shows the immobilization courses of CALB at pH 5, 7 and 10. It should be
220 remarked that free CALB remained fully active under all assayed conditions (not shown
221 results). Surprisingly, the immobilization was very rapid in all cases, even though at pH 5 the
222 reactivity of most nucleophilic groups of a protein versus vinylsulfone should be quite reduced
223 ⁵². Furthermore, an increase in enzyme activity after immobilization was appreciated,
224 approximately 50% in the 3 cases.

225 These facts could be explained if the enzyme was immobilized via another mechanism,
226 such as physical adsorption. This could be, for example, the interfacial activation of the lipase
227 in the fairly hydrophobic divinylsulfone layer on the agarose surface ⁵⁶. This hydrophobicity
228 feature of the support was not detected using chymotrypsin ⁵². Figure 2 shows the structure of
229 the activating group ^{45,51}. This group is moderately hydrophobic, so that a dense layer of this
230 group may enable interfacial activation of the enzyme ⁵⁶. To check if any physical adsorption
231 could be the cause of the immobilization of CALB, the reactive groups in the support were
232 blocked by incubation with 2-mercaptoethanol or destroyed by incubation at pH 12 and 50°C
233 ⁵². These unreactive supports were incubated in the presence of CALB and even though the
234 effects on enzyme activity were not identical, the immobilization rates remained pH
235 independent and were very similar to those of the activated support (results not shown). After
236 these treatments, it has been described that aminoacids cannot immobilize on the support,
237 because their chemical reactivity has been destroyed, and the immobilization of the enzyme
238 confirmed that the covalent attachment was not the first step in the immobilization of CALB on
239 DVS activated agarose in the previous experiments.

240

241 **3.2 Effect of Triton X-100 on the immobilization of CALB on divinylsulfone support** 242 **beads**

243 A detergent is able to desorb the enzyme from a hydrophobic support, even a very
244 hydrophobic one, and may be used to prevent the lipase immobilization via interfacial
245 activation^{59,60}. By progressively adding Triton X-100 to the DVS-support and the lipase
246 suspension, it was possible to reduce the adsorption of the enzyme on the inactivated support
247 (Figure 3). Using 0.3% detergent, CALB did not immobilize on any of the inactivated
248 supports. These results confirmed that the immobilization on this support could be founded on
249 the interfacial activation of CALB on the fairly hydrophobic surface of the support. In fact, if
250 the enzymes adsorbed on the reactive (neither blocked nor incubated at pH 12) DVS support at
251 pH 5 or 7 were incubated in the presence of detergent just after immobilization, more than 80%
252 of the enzyme released from the support. When this experiment was performed on the
253 preparation at pH 10, less than 10% of the immobilized enzyme was released, showing that
254 most of the enzyme was covalently attached to the support (although it is not clear which one is
255 the first step of the immobilization; covalent attachment or interfacial activation; at least a 10%
256 of the enzyme molecules is not covalently immobilized after 3 hours but it is already
257 immobilized).

258 Thus, a new batch of CALB immobilizations on DVS-agarose was carried out at pH 5,
259 7 and 10, but in the presence of enough detergent to prevent lipase adsorption on the inactive
260 DVS support (0.3% Triton X-100) (Figure 4). Immobilization was relatively rapid at pH 10
261 (full immobilization after 3 h). At pH 7, immobilization was slower (70% after 24 h) and even
262 slower still at pH 5 (under 30% after 24 h). These results fitted better with the expected

263 chemical reactivity of the enzyme groups at different pH values versus the DVS activated
264 support⁵².

265 Looking at the activity, the immobilization at pH 10 produced an increase in enzyme
266 activity (around 30%) while at the other pH values, the activity slightly decreased after
267 immobilization. This higher activity at pH 10 is curious, as it may not be due to a lower
268 intensity of the enzyme-support reaction⁵².

269 To enhance immobilization yields, a ratio of 1 g of support to 3 mL of enzyme
270 suspension was used. Under these conditions CALB immobilization was almost complete even
271 at pH 5 after 24 h (results not shown).

272

273 **3.3. Effect of the long term incubation at alkaline pH value on enzyme activity**

274 After immobilization, and in order to favor the multipoint covalent immobilization, the
275 three immobilized CALB biocatalysts (immobilized at pH 5, 7 or 10) were incubated at pH 10
276 for 72 h, after washing the detergent. Results are shown in Figure 5.

277 The preparation immobilized at pH 10 increased the activity for 48 h, and later kept that
278 value constant (near 170%).

279 The enzyme immobilized at pH 7 suffered an increase in the activity during the alkaline
280 incubation (around 220%), and this effect was even more relevant if the enzyme had been
281 immobilized at pH 5 (over 250%). The most active preparations were those incubated at pH 10
282 in all cases (Table 1), even though under these conditions a higher enzyme-support chemical
283 reaction should occur. This increase in enzyme activity upon incubation at alkaline pH values

284 could be explained as a function of enzyme distortions caused by the enzyme/support reaction
285 that, in this case, presented positive effects on enzyme activity.

286 In order to compare the enzyme properties after immobilization, CALB was also
287 immobilized on octyl agarose and CNBr agarose. The enzyme immobilized on octyl agarose
288 (results not shown) presented less than 60% of the activity of the enzyme immobilized on DVS
289 support and incubated at pH 10. It should be considered that the small lid of CALB makes that
290 the activity of the enzyme is not significantly increased after immobilization on octyl agarose
291 (around a 10%). The enzyme immobilized on CNBr agarose did not significantly alter its
292 activity (Table 1).

293

294 **3.4. Characterization of the immobilized biocatalysts**

295 The 6 new covalent preparations have been compared against each other and also with
296 the two standard immobilization protocols, CALB immobilized on CNBr- and octyl-
297 Sepharose.

298 **3.4.1. Activity/pH versus pNPB**

299 Table 1 shows the activities of the 8 preparations under standard conditions after
300 blockage. The hyperactivation caused by the alkaline incubation at pH 10 is clearly visualized,
301 the enzyme immobilized at pH 5 started with 2 fold less activity than the enzyme immobilized
302 at pH 10, but after alkaline incubation, the higher increase on enzyme activity permitted to
303 almost equilibrate the observed activities. All of them (except the enzyme just immobilized at
304 pH 5) are more active than the octyl preparation, which is also slightly more active than the
305 CNBr preparation.

306 Figure 6 shows the enzyme activity/pH profile using the different immobilized samples.
307 The main difference is found when comparing the enzymes immobilized on different supports.
308 The enzyme immobilized on CNBr- Sepharose presented the maximum of activity at pH 7,
309 with a sharp decrease at either alkaline or acidic pH values (activity was around 40% at pH 5
310 and 10). Using octyl agarose as support, the maximum activity was found at pH 8, and the
311 decrease in activity at acidic and alkaline pH values is milder (55% at pH 5 and 70% at pH 10).
312 The enzyme immobilized on DVS support under different conditions presented the maximum
313 activity at the highest pH used in the study (pH 10), and only slight differences were found on
314 the immobilization pH or long term incubation at alkaline pH value. The enzyme immobilized
315 at pH 5 showed an 18% or 25% of the maximum activity at pH 5, for the non-incubated or long
316 term incubated enzyme preparations respectively. Both enzyme preparations immobilized at
317 pH 7 exhibited 40% of the maximum activity at pH 5, while the preparations immobilized at
318 pH 10 showed around 30% of this activity.

319

320 **3.4.2. Thermal stability under different conditions at different pH values.**

321 Table 2 shows the half-lives of the different CALB preparations under different
322 inactivation conditions. We only show the results obtained in the temperature where the
323 inactivations have a rate that permitted to obtain reliable results in a reasonable time.

324 The most stable preparation was that obtained using octyl-agarose when the
325 inactivations were performed at pH 5 or 7. The just immobilized DVS preparations were far
326 less stable, but their stabilities improved after long-term incubation to favor multipoint
327 covalent attachment, becoming more stable than the CNBr-CALB in all cases.

328 If the inactivation was performed at pH 5, the alkaline incubation increased the half
329 live from 4.5 to 35 minutes for the enzyme immobilized at pH 5, if the immobilization was
330 performed at pH 7, the stability increased to a lower extent, from 33 to 60 minutes. The value
331 of the half live of the enzyme immobilized at pH 10 went from 32 to 46 minutes after the long
332 term incubation, a value lower than that obtained with the immobilization at pH 7 and
333 incubated at pH 10.

334 The pattern was somehow similar looking at the inactivations carried out at pH 7, the
335 enzyme immobilized at pH 7 and incubated at alkaline conditions was the most stable one,
336 followed by the enzyme immobilized at pH 10 and the enzyme immobilized at pH 5.

337 At pH 9, the situation varied. The enzyme immobilized at pH 7 presented a stability
338 similar to that of the octyl, and the alkaline incubation of this preparation permitted to double
339 the half-life. The stabilities of the enzymes immobilized at pH 5 or 10 were quite similar, both
340 after immobilization and after long term alkaline incubation before blocking. In both cases, the
341 stability became similar to that of the octyl-CALB after the alkaline incubation. It may be
342 likely that at pH 9 the cause of the inactivation is a conformational change in another area of
343 the enzyme or just a chemical modification of some groups, this can explain the significant
344 qualitative change in the stability of the different preparations.

345 Considering that in all cases the support was the same for the DVS immobilized
346 enzymes, and that the long term incubation of 3 days should permit a similar reaction between
347 the enzyme and the support, the differences on enzyme stability must be related to populations
348 of enzyme molecules having different orientations, with different relevance for enzyme
349 stability^{61,62} or different density of groups able to react with the support, giving differences in
350 the final intensity of the multipoint covalent attachment²².

351 The high thermostability of the lipases adsorbed on hydrophobic supports has been
352 previously described ⁶³. These preparations are much more stable than the glyoxyl agarose-
353 CALB, and this was explained by the very stable conformation that the open form of the
354 adsorbed lipases presented ⁶⁴, and the moderate amount of nucleophilic groups that many
355 lipases presented in its surface make complex a very intense multipoint covalent attachment
356 (e.g., CALB has 9 Lys plus the Leu 1, all of them exposed to the medium).^{65,57}

357

358 3.4.3. Solvent stability

359 In opposition to the results obtained during thermal inactivations, Table 2 shows that in
360 all cases the DVS preparations were by far more stable than the octyl or CNBr-Sepharose
361 immobilized enzymes when they were incubated in the presence of 70% dioxane. Analyzing
362 the DVS preparations blocked just after immobilization, the most stable biocatalyst was that
363 prepared at pH 5 (half live of 5 minutes), being the stability of the enzymes immobilized at pH
364 7 and 10 very similar (1.5-1.7 minutes). However, after the long term incubation the enzyme
365 immobilized at pH 7 greatly improved the stability (to more than 7 minutes), while the enzyme
366 immobilized at pH 5 maintained its stability practically unaltered after alkaline incubation and
367 the enzyme immobilized at pH 10 improved its the stability by only 50%.

368 The low stability of CALB immobilized on octyl-agarose in the presence of dioxane
369 may be related to the enzyme desorption caused by the presence of this very high cosolvent
370 concentration, the free enzyme is rapidly inactivated under these drastic conditions.^{52,66}

371 The different stability of the enzymes immobilized at different pH value on DVS
372 activated supports, where after long term alkaline incubation the only difference may be the
373 enzyme orientation, suggests that the inactivation of CALB follows a different route on
374 different inactivation conditions, Some protein regions are more relevant on the stability at

375 certain conditions, while some other areas may be more relevant on other experimental
376 conditions^{61,62,67}.

377

378 **3.4.4. Activity versus different esters**

379 Immobilization has been reported to alter enzyme specificity and the influence of the
380 pH on the activity, if enzyme orientation on the support or the intensity of the enzyme/support
381 interaction is different^{22,24}. Thus, differences in enzyme specificity or influence on activity/pH
382 curve upon different immobilization protocols can reinforce the idea on a different enzyme
383 orientation on the support surface. Three different substrates have been used at 3 different pH
384 values: esters formed by an aliphatic acid (ethyl hexanoate), one aromatic acid (phenylacetate)
385 or one aromatic and chiral one (mandelic acid) and the results are resumed on Table 3.

386 Using ethyl hexanoate, results are quite diverse depending on the biocatalyst. The
387 highest activity was usually found at pH 5, except for the preparation immobilized at pH 5 and
388 then incubated at alkaline pH, where the maximum activity was found at pH 7. The enzyme
389 just immobilized at pH 7 on DVS was the most active one at pH 5 and pH 7 while at pH 8.5 the
390 most active one was the octyl-Sepharose preparation. The long term incubation at alkaline pH
391 of the DVS preparations usually decreased the enzyme activity, mainly at pH 5. The enzyme
392 immobilized at pH 5 is the one with the most drastic change after alkaline incubation, with a
393 shift in the maximum activity at pH 7 (becoming more active than the enzyme just
394 immobilized at pH 5 under these conditions, that is, alkaline incubation produced an hyper-
395 activation at pH 7). On the other hand, the enzyme immobilized at pH 5 and at pH 10 improved
396 the activity after alkaline incubation if the activity was determined at pH 8.5. In general, the
397 effect of the change of the pH in the activity determination presented a more drastic effect on

398 DVS preparations without long term alkaline incubation (e.g., from 425 U/mg to 24 U/mg
399 using the enzyme immobilized at pH 10) than in octyl or CNBr preparations (activity at pH 8.5
400 was around 60% and 30% than that at pH 5, respectively). Long term incubation at alkaline pH
401 reduced this effect of the pH on DVS-CALB activity.

402 Using methyl phenylacetate, at pH 5 the most active preparations are two DVS
403 preparations, those just immobilized at pH 7 (22.5 U/mg) and pH 10 (18.7 U/mg). At pH 8.5,
404 octyl and CNBr CALB preparations presented the highest activity, while at pH 7 the most
405 active preparations were CNBr and DVS immobilized at pH 7. The lowest activity for all
406 preparations immobilized on DVS was that found at pH 8.5, except for the enzyme
407 immobilized at pH 5 on DVS and submitted to alkaline incubation that have the minimum
408 activity at pH 7. The highest activity depended on the immobilization protocol. The DVS
409 preparations immobilized at pH 5 had a clear maximum at pH 5; while both preparations
410 immobilized at the other two pH values have not a clear maximum (similar activities are
411 detected at pH 5 and 7). Octyl and CNBr CALB had a clear maximum at pH 7. Long term
412 alkaline incubation decreased enzyme activity in all cases, but the intensity of this effect
413 depended on the immobilization pH and activity determination pH.

414 Using mandelic ester, new changes were found. The most active preparations at pH 5
415 were both preparations immobilized at pH 7 on DVS, at pH 7 the most active preparations
416 were the CNBr preparation and the enzyme immobilized at pH 5 or pH 7 and long term
417 submitted to alkaline incubation before blocking. At pH 8.5, the most active biocatalysts were
418 those immobilized at pH 7 and long term incubated and the CNBr preparation. There are
419 examples where the highest activity was found at pH 7 (octyl, CNBr, both DVS immobilized at
420 pH 5 and both immobilized at pH 10). The enzyme immobilized at pH 7 has not a clear
421 maximum activity, and after incubation this optimum is clearly at pH 8.5. The long term

422 incubation of the DVS preparations used to have a positive effect on enzyme activity, except
423 when the enzyme was immobilized at pH 10, where the alkaline incubation decreased the
424 enzyme activity when measured at pH 5 or 8.5, while having almost no effect at pH 7.

425 Thus, CALB immobilized following different protocols on DVS-activated supports
426 (different immobilization pH values, long term incubation or not under alkaline conditions)
427 presented very different enzyme specificity and very different response to changes on
428 environmental conditions, confirming that the different preparations have different orientation
429 and/or degree of enzyme/support interaction⁶⁸.

430

431 **3.4.5 Evaluation of the structure of different CALB immobilized preparations**

432 The influence of the different immobilization strategies on the 3D conformation of the
433 enzyme was determined by using the ANS-binding fluorescence assays. ANS is a hydrophobic
434 fluorescent dye that strongly binds the clusters from hydrophobic amino acid side chains in β -
435 sheet conformations of proteins⁵⁹. Usually, a great density of those hydrophobic clusters is
436 well protected from the solvent in native enzymes due to the rigid packing of the globular
437 protein conformation. Accordingly, a decrease in the fluorescence intensity of the ANS dye can
438 be attributed to its binding to the exposed hydrophobic regions in partially unfolded proteins.

439 Figure 7 shows the fluorescence emission spectra of the biocatalysts prepared through
440 different immobilization protocols. In comparison with the raw support (line a), the
441 fluorescence intensity of ANS decreased after incubation with all immobilized lipase
442 preparations. This fact can be ascribed to the presence of the enzyme molecules on the support
443 surface, and thus, to the binding of ANS molecules to the exposed hydrophobic clusters in
444 these proteins. On the other hand, the results obtained using the biocatalyst prepared by

445 immobilization at pH 5 and further incubation at 10 (line c) showed the lowest fluorescence
446 signal, much lower than using the enzyme immobilized at pH 5 (line b). This result suggested
447 that the immobilization approach based on two consecutive incubation steps at pH 5 and 10
448 leads to protein conformations with partially exposed hydrophobic β -sheet clusters, and
449 accordingly, more prone to bind the hydrophobic ASN molecules, than when the enzyme is
450 just immobilized at pH 5 and then blocked. That is, alkaline incubation produced
451 conformational changes on the enzyme that led to the exposition of more hydrophobic groups
452 to the medium.

453 When the enzyme is immobilized at pH 10 (line d), the effect of the further alkaline
454 incubation is in the opposite direction (line e), the fluorescence signal increased after the
455 alkaline incubation, less hydrophobic groups are partially exposed suggesting a more rigid and
456 compact structure. Again, the changes in enzyme properties could be correlated to
457 conformational changes.

458 Moreover, it is clear that the difference in the exposition of protein hydrophobic groups
459 of the enzyme immobilized at pH 5 and that immobilized at pH 10, in both cases after 72 h of
460 incubation at pH 10 before support blocking is quite significant, with much higher exposition
461 using the enzyme immobilized at pH 5 and incubated at pH 10. The results may be explained
462 by the implication of different areas of the enzyme in the multipoint covalent attachment. This
463 produced fully different effects on the enzyme structure (making more compact one and more
464 relaxed the other), The effects on the exposition of the hydrophobic groups surrounding the
465 active of the lipase (the small lid and adjacent areas) may be also considered. These differences
466 may explain the drastic changes of enzyme properties when immobilized at different pH values
467 discussed along this paper, and suggest that the areas reacting with the support for those 72 h
468 could be different.

469

470 **Conclusions**

471 Immobilization of CALB on DVS-supports under different conditions permits to have
472 covalently immobilized preparations exhibiting very different properties. The change in the
473 immobilization pH permits to alter the enzyme specificity, activity and stability, while further
474 incubation under alkaline conditions (described as a way to improve the enzyme support
475 reaction)⁵² also produced changes in enzyme features. The indirect determination of the ANS
476 incubated enzyme fluorescence showed that the different enzyme derivatives have different
477 structures.

478 Thus, DVS activated supports may be a potent way to tuning lipase properties via
479 immobilization. The DVS activation of supports compatible with organic media may increase
480 the range of reactions where the biocatalysts may be used and provide new data on the
481 different behavior of CALB immobilized on different supports-

482

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490

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608

609

610 **Figure legends**

611

612 **Figure 1. Immobilization courses of CALB at pH 5, 7 and 10 on DVS-agarose.**

613 Experimental conditions are detailed in Section 2. Circles, solid black line: suspension pH5;
614 circles, solid dash line: supernatant pH5; Square, solid black line: suspension pH7; Square,
615 dash line: supernatant pH7; Triangles, solid black line: pH10 suspension; Triangles, solid dash
616 line: supernatant pH10.

617

618 **Figure 2. Structure of the activated support**

619

620 **Figure 3. Effect of Tritón X-100 on the immobilization of CALB on inactivated DVS-**
621 **supports.** The support was incubated 24 h in 0.1 M NaOH to destroy the vinylsulfone groups.

622 Experimental conditions are detailed in Section 2. Circles, solid black line: supernatant
623 without Tritón X-100; squares, solid black line: supernatant with 0.05% Tritón X-100;
624 triangles, solid black line: supernatant with 0.15% Tritón X-100; rhombus, solid black line:
625 supernatant with 0.3% Tritón X-100.

626

627 **Figure 4. Immobilization courses of CALB on DVS-supports in presence of 0.3% Triton**
628 **at pH 5, 7 and 10.** Experimental conditions are detailed in Section 2. Circles, solid black

629 line: suspension pH5; circles, solid dash line: supernatant pH5; Square, solid black line:
630 suspension pH7; Square, dash line: supernatant pH7; Triangles, solid black line: pH10
631 suspension; Triangles, solid dash line: supernatant pH10.

632 **Figure 5. Effect of the long term incubation at pH 10 value on enzyme activity on CALB**
633 **immobilized on DVS agarose at different pH values:** Experimental conditions are detailed
634 in Section 2. Circles, solid black line: pH5; Square, solid black line: pH7; Triangles, solid
635 black line: pH10.

636

637 **Figure 6. Effect of the pH on the activity versus pNPB of the different CALB**
638 **preparations.** Experimental conditions are detailed in Section 2. Circles, solid black line:
639 pH5; Gray circles, solid gray line: pH5-pH10; Squares, solid black line: pH7; Grays squares,
640 solid gray line: pH7-pH10; Triangles, solid black line: pH10; Gray triangles, solid Gray line:
641 pH10-pH10. Stars, solid black line: Octyl; Gray stars, solid Gray line: CNBr.

642

643 **Figure 7. Spectra of ANS incubated in the presence of different DVS immobilized CALB.**
644 Experimental conditions are detailed in Section 2. Line a) Blocked DVS-Support ; Line b)
645 DVS-CALB-pH 5 , Line c) DVS-CALB pH5 + 72 h at pH10, Line d) DVS-CALB pH 10;
646 Line e) DVS-CALB pH 10+ 72 h at pH 10

647

Biocatalysts	Activity
DVS-pH 5-EDA	7.79±1.7
DVS-pH5 /pH10-EDA	22.3±2.2
DVS-pH7-EDA	20.44±2.9
DVS-pH7 /pH10-EDA	27.15±2.5
DVS-pH10 (2 h) EDA	23.79±1.91
DVS-pH 10 (72 h)-EDA	32.15±1.94
Octyl	16.92 ± 2.16
CNBr	5.90± 1.17

Table 1 Activities of the different CALB preparations versus p-NPB. DVS-CALB was blocked using EDA. Activity was determined at pH 7 and 25°C as indicated in Section 2. Activity is given in μ moles of substrate hydrolyzed per minute and mg of immobilized enzyme. The preparation of the biocatalyst is in Section 2.

CALB preparation	Inactivation conditions			
	pH 5, 55 °C	pH 7, 55 °C	pH 9, 55 °C	70% Dioxane , 25 °C, pH 7
DVS-pH5-EDA	4.5±0.3	3±0.3	4.5±0.3	5±0.3
DVS-pH5-pH10-EDA	35±1.2	10±1.1	33±1.9	5.3±0.7
DVS-pH7-EDA	33±1.0	33±2.2	27±2.1	1.5±0.2
VS-pH7-pH10-EDA	60±2.4	60±3.3	60±3.2	7.3±0.3
DVS-pH10-EDA	32±1.3	4±0.2	4.2±0.4	1.7±0.2
DVS-pH10-pH10-EDA	46±2.2	25±1.2	25±1.2	2.6±0.4
Octyl	240 (100%)*	240(100%)*	30±2.1	0.17±0.02
CNBr	45±3.3	24±2.3	4.6±0.3	0.21±0.02

Table 2 Half-lives (expressed in minutes) of the different CALB preparation under different inactivation conditions. Experiments were performed as described in Section 2. * The enzyme retained full activity during the inactivation assay.

CALB	MM/	MM/	MM/	MPA/	MPA/	MPA/	EH/	EH/	EH/
preparations	pH5	pH7	pH8.5	pH5	pH7	pH8.5	pH5	pH7	pH8.5
Octyl	16.45± 0.8	55.00± 2.8	41.07± 2.1	14.02±0.7	24.27±1.2	19.17±1	450.00± 23	300.00±15	273.44±14
CNBr	28.25± 1.1	124.15± 5.0	85.61± 3.4	15.32±0.6	30.54±1.2	19.00±0.8	627.85±25	436.65±17	197.44±8
DVS-pH5	11.61± 0.6	58.78± 2.9	23.28± 1.2	6.97±0.3	3.94±0.2	2.39±0.1	200.89±10	139.18±7	30.97±2
DVS-pH5-pH10	39.6± 0.9	82.32± 1.1	35.08± 1.8	2.86±0.1	1.38±0.1	1.95±0.1	74.40±4	194.20±10	50.22±3
DVS-pH7	52.17± 2.6	57.07± 2.9	52.41± 2.6	22.47±1.1	25.64±1.3	5.43±0.3	760.87±38	456.52±23	188.52±9
DVS-pH7-pH10	56.13± 2	78.80± 3.9	86.43± 1.9	9.34±0.5	9.29±0.5	3.36±0.2	217.39±11	157.07±8	142.66±7
DVS-pH10	12.50± 0.6	67.92± 3.5	51.07± 2.6	18.65±0.9	17.59±0.9	8.13±0.4	425.00±21	191.25±10	24.38±1
DVS-pH10-pH10	8.35± 0.4	69.00± 3.5	29.11± 1.5	6.47±0.3	6.68±0.3	2.71±0.1	62.50±3	41.25±2	38.53±2

Table 3. Activity of different CALB preparations versus different substrates at different pH values. Experimental details may be found in Section 2. MM, methyl mandelate; MPA, methyl phenylacetate; EH, Ethyl hexanoate. The activity is given in μ moles of substrate hydrolyzed per minute and mg of immobilized enzyme.

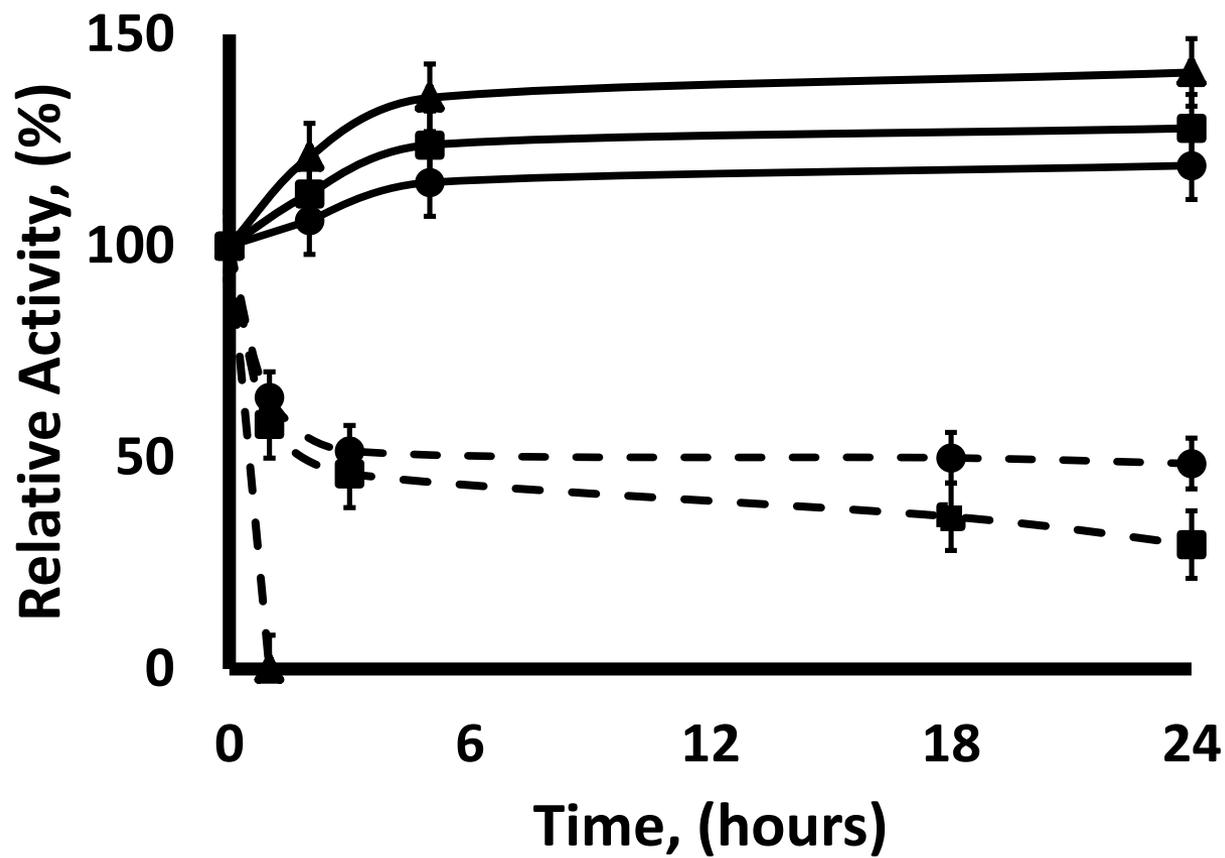


Figure 1.

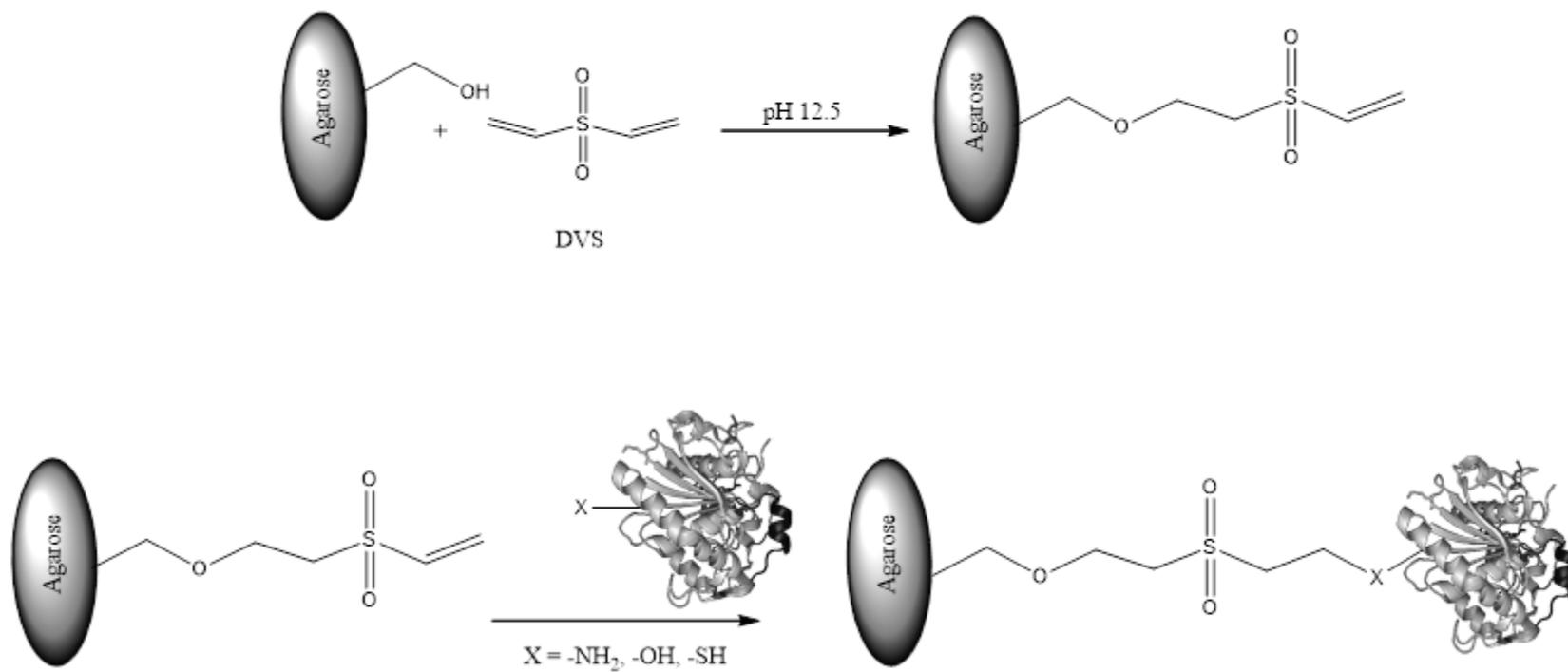


Figure 2

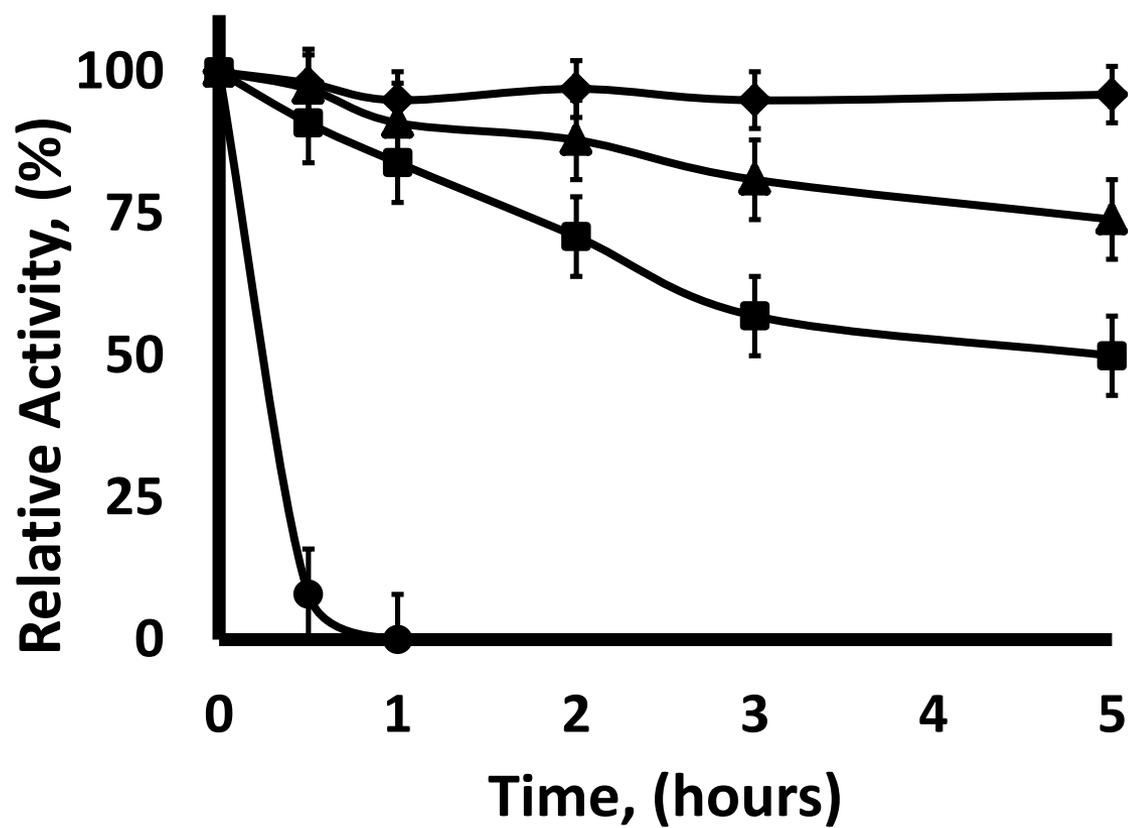


Figure 3.

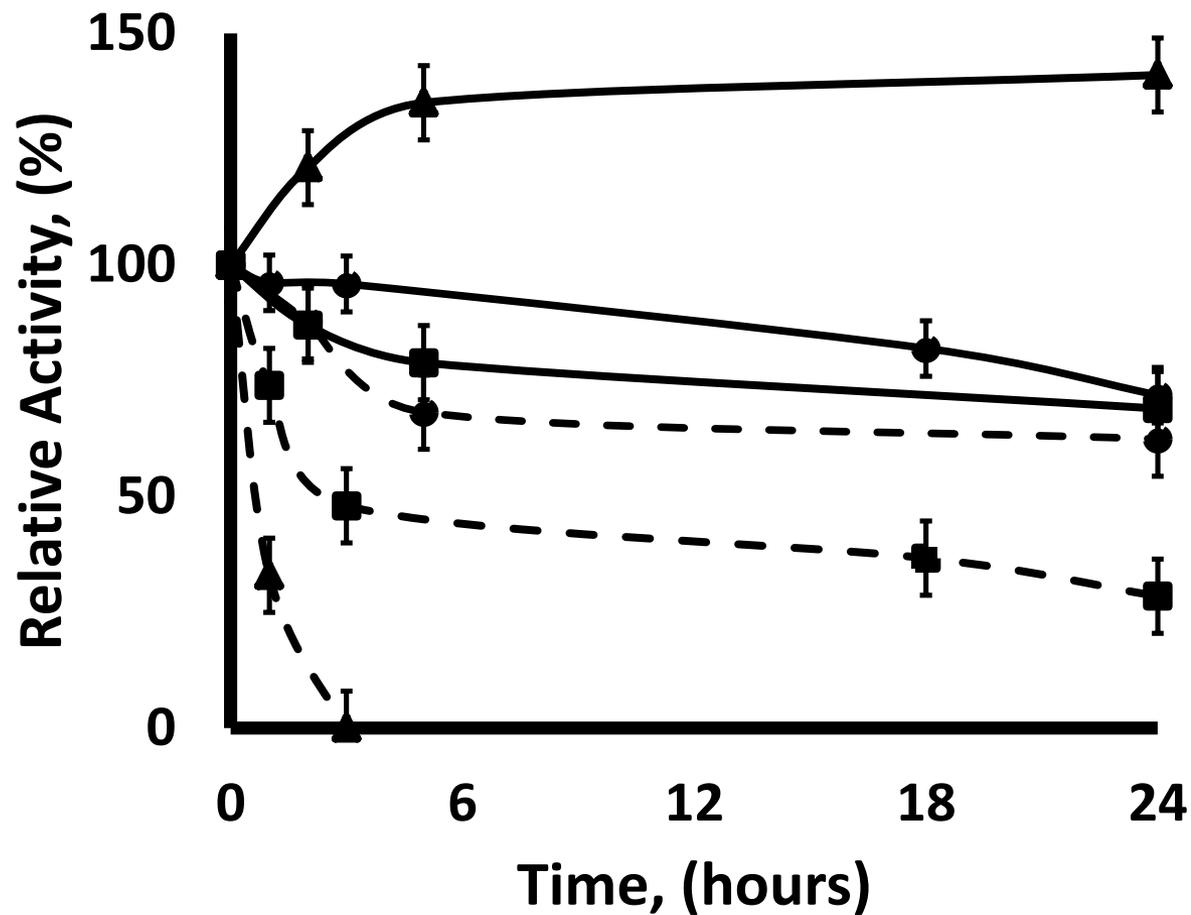


Figure 4..

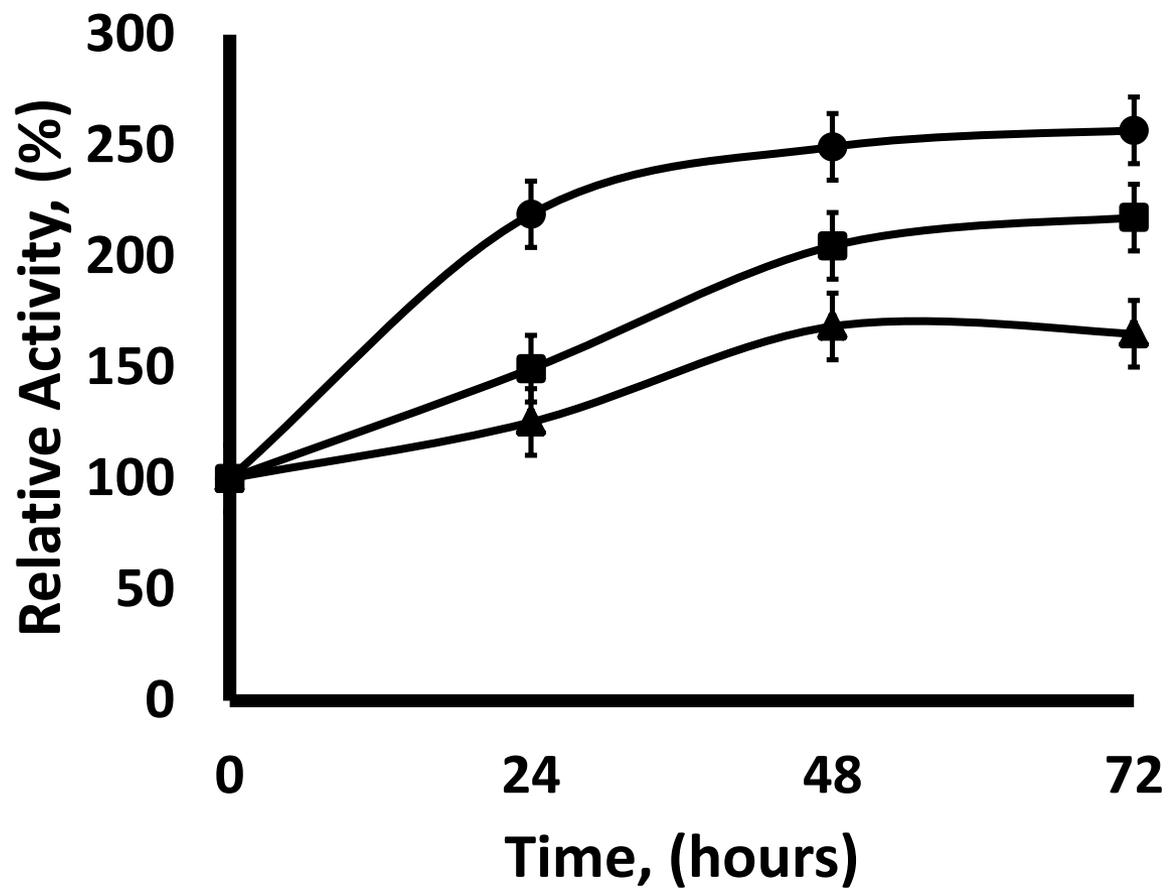


Figure 5.

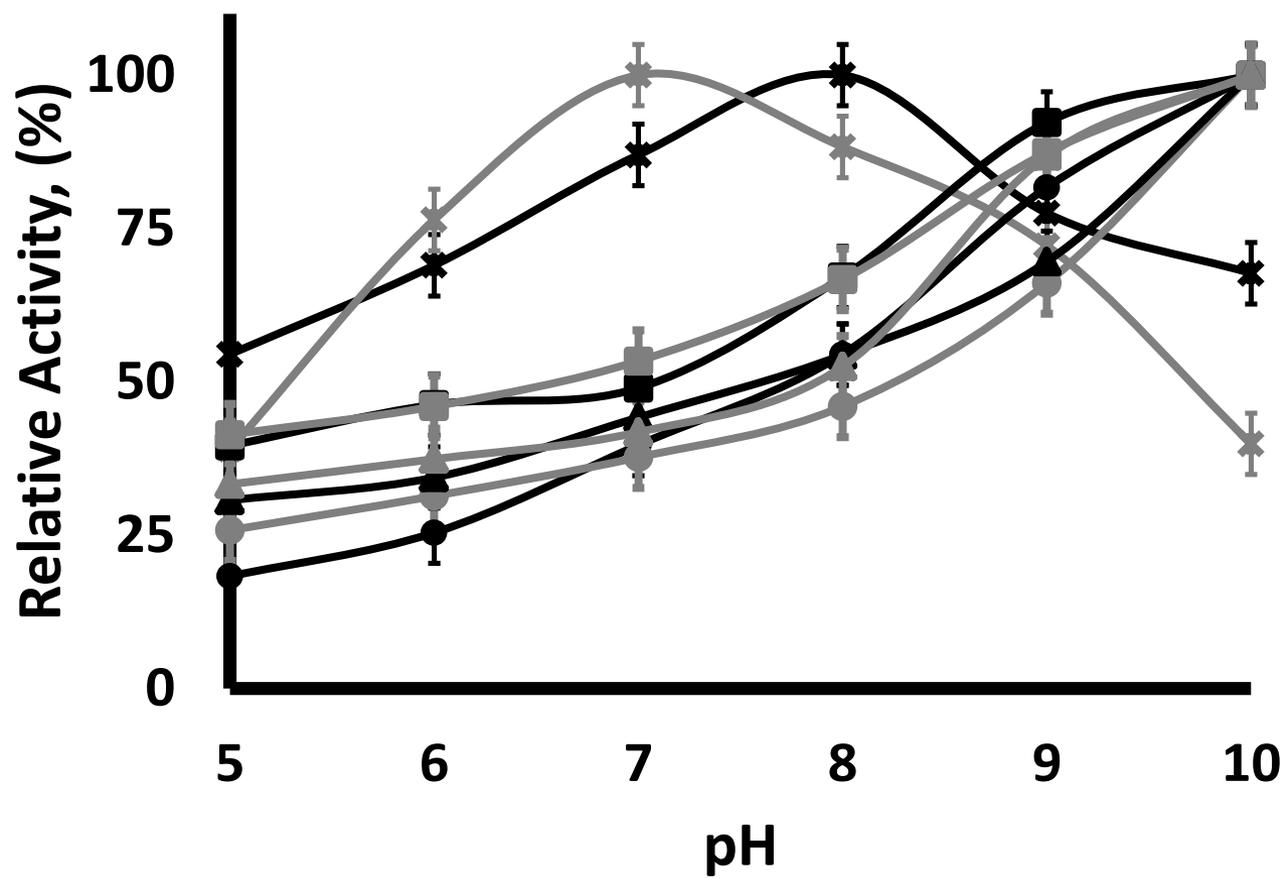


Figure 6.

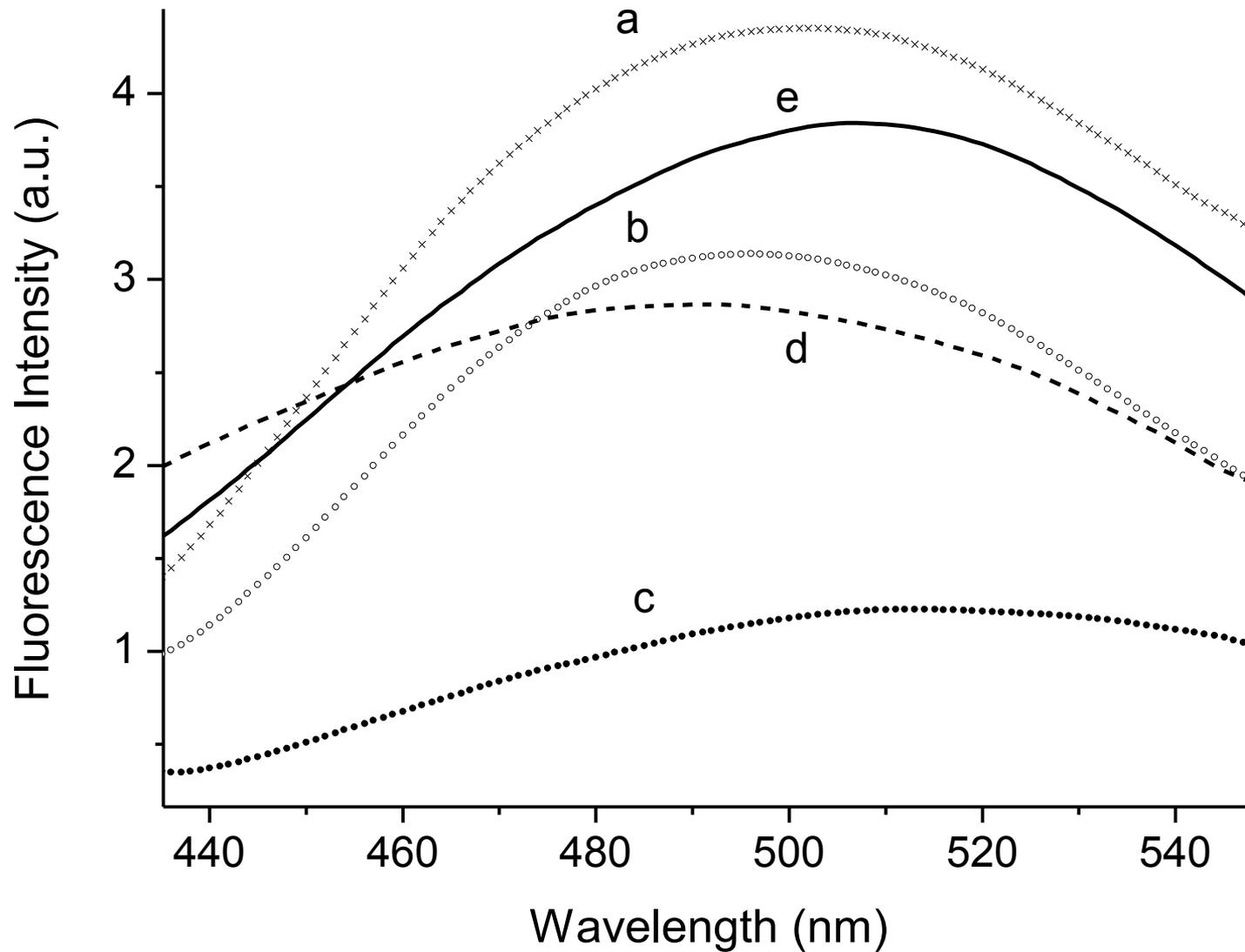
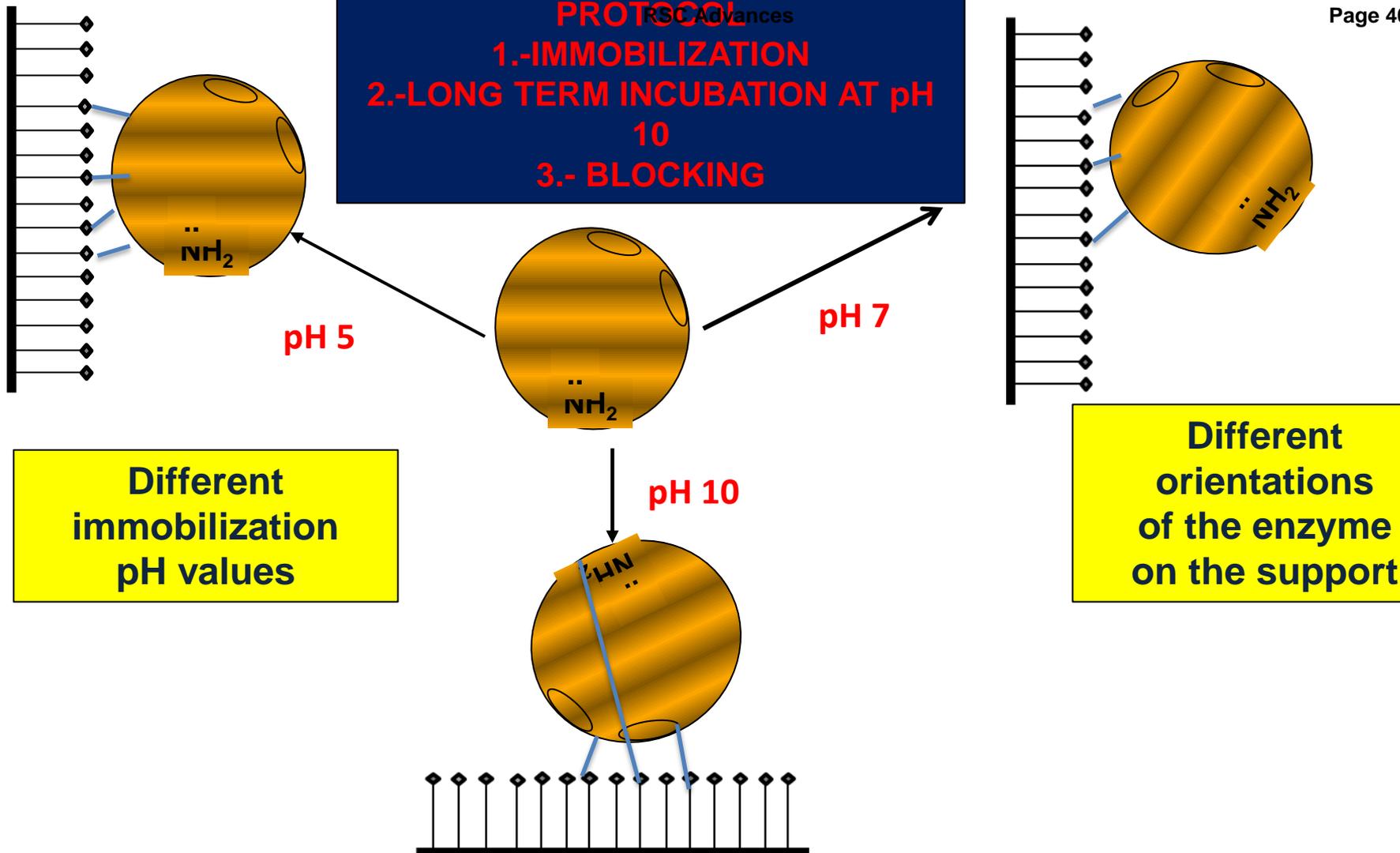


Figure 7

RSC Advances
PROTOCOL
 1.-IMMOBILIZATION
 2.-LONG TERM INCUBATION AT pH
 10
 3.- BLOCKING



CALB BIOCATALYSTS WITH VERY DIFFERENT STABILITY, ACTIVITY AND SPECIFICITY PROPERTIES