Disassembling the plant Cell Wall to obtain energy

Marcos Buckeridge

Departamento de Botânica

Instituto de Biociências – USP

msbuck@usp.br

Cell walls from leaves (left), root (below) of legumes and maize

Buckeridge et al. 2008. Parede Celular, Cap 9 in Kerbauy G.B. Fisiologia Vegetal. Guanabara Koogan

The wall in the context of plant composition

Obtained from CO_2 and water

96% {
Carbon...45%
Oxigen...45%
Hidrogen..6%
}

| Cellulose, hemicelluloses & pectins 96-10%=86% |

Macronutrients

3.6% {
Nitrogen...1.5% **X** 6.25 = 9.4% (10%)
Potassium...1.0% **X**
Calcium...0.5%
Magnesium.......................................0.2%
Phosphorous.....................................0.2% **X**
Sulfur..0.1% **X**
Silicium...0.1%
}

| Proteins and Nucleic acids |

| Pectins = 0.7% |

| Pectins? = 0.7% |

Micronutrients

0.4% {
Boron...................................
Manganese..........................
Chloride................................ **X**
Iron.. **X**
Sodium................................. **X**
Zinc...................................... **X**
Copper................................. **X**
Nickel................................... **X**
Molibdenium........................ **X**
}

| Pectins = traces |

Lipids are approximately 15% of plant tissues

Thus, the wall corresponds to ca. 70 % of the plant

In sugarne = leaves contain 68% and stem 50% plus 18% of sucrose

A

H bridges

Glycosidic linkage beta-(1,4)

B

200 µm

paper

Cellulose: the most abundant polymer on Earth.

Photograph by Cesar Gustavo Lisboa e Marcos Buckeridge, 2005

Ferulic acid

Arabinose

Arabinose

Xylose

Glucuronoarabinoxylan

Glucuronic acid

Fucose

Galactose

Xylose

Glicose

Xyloglucan

Xylose

Galactose

Glucose

Galactomannan

Galactose

- Oxigen
- Carbon
- Hydrogen

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alpha-(1,4)

HOMOGALACTURONNAN

methyl

A

Egg boxes divalent ion, maily calcium and magnesium induce the formatio of gels in regions that are not methylated of homogalacturonan

B

arabinoalactan II

beta (1,3)

GAL

GAL

GAL

GAL

GAL

GAL

ARA

beta (1,6)

alpha (1,6)

arabinogalactan I

GalA

RHA

GalA

RHA

GAL

GAL

GAL

ARA

alpha (1,5)

beta (1,4)

ARA

ARA

alpha (1,2)

GalA

RHA

arabinnan

alpha (1,4)

GalA

RHA

GalA

RHA

GalA

RHA

GalA

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CELL WALL

Design: Wanderley dos Santos

microfibril

Hemicellulose strongly likd to cellulose

Hemicelluluse loosely bound to cellulose

Pectins

Proteins

Ferulic acid

Type I

Type II

fotossíntese e aumento na concentração de açúcares

expressão de genes expansina e XET

intussucepção

estômatos abrem influxo de água

DIA

NOITE

degradação do amido e transporte de açúcares

aumenta transporte de auxina

expressão dos genes de síntese de parede

expansão e alongamento celular

Buckeridge et al. 2008. Parede Celular, Cap 9 in Kerbauy G.B. Fisiologia Vegetal. Guanabara Koogan

WALL BIOSYNTHESIS

Biosynthesis of cellulose: the only wall polymer made in the plasma membrane

Cellulose biosynthesis in plants

β-(1,4)-glucan chain ⟶ Cellulose microfibril

CesA — Rosette subunit — Rosette

A

α₂ — α₁ — β

B

1 mm

1 mm

Cellulose
microfibril

Plasma
membrane

CYTOSOL

Rosettes (cellulose-
synthesizing enzymes)

The remaining wall polymers are made in the Golgi Complex

Hemicellulose biosynthesis

PLANT DEVELOPMENT AND WALL DEGRADATION

Cell expansion in papaya during development

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A — ATACKS OF XTH AND EXPANSIN

Microfibril 1 · Microfibril 2 · expansin · XTH

B — RELINK OF XYG BY XTH AND INTUSSUCEPTION

Microfibril 1 · New Microfibril · Microfibril 2

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Cotyledons of
Hymenaea courbaril (jatobá)
Storage walls can be
very complex

M1 antibody binds specifically to fucosylated XGs, which are present only in primary cell walls

Tiné, Braga, Hahn, Freshhour & Buckeridge, unpublished results

PhD thesis Aline Brandão

Cotyledons of Lupin: one enzyme does the job

1.6

1.7

⇨ Galactomannan degradation in *S. virgata*

Time (days)

0   1   2   3   4

emb
(cot+rad)

end

sc

germinação e pós-germinação

THE FOUR GENERATIONS OF BIOTHANOL

From 1999 to 2001, the SUCEST genome program produced 238,000 ESTs from various tissues of the sugar cane plant.

Since then we found:
1) 469 cell wall related genes in different cane tissues
(*Lima et al. 2001, GMB*)
1) Determined the chemical composition and structure of the cell wall polymers of different sugarcane tissues

Diferulato livre

Ácido ferúlico interligando dois polissacarídeos

Ácido ferúlico esterificado à arabinose

OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY BIOSYNTHESIS AND DEGRADATION OF THE CELL WALL IN SUGARCANE

How to modify the wall to obtain energy?

Activity of xylanase (detail)

Polarized light microscopy from sugarcane stems

A, B, C = 10×; D, E, F = 20×; A, D = control, B, E = MDCA 500 mM; C, F = PIP 100 mM.

"Skin"

Sheath

New

Older

Cell Division
Gene expression
Biosynthesis

CW

Golgi

Culm

1th Sheath

2nd Sheath

Monostele

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Sugarcane stem (culm)

FOCAL POINTS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Understanding and controlling biosynthesis

- Regarding stem development:
    - Isolate Golgi
    - Characterize enzymes
    - Find genes
    - Integrate and transform

Understanding and controlling wall degradation

- Regarding plasmodesmata:
    - Characterize the phenomenon
    - Detect enzymes
    - Topology of enzymes (immunolocalization)
    - Topology of genes (in situ hibridization)
    - Integrate and transform

THANK YOU

Marcos Buckeridge

Departamento de Botânica
Instituto de Biociências – USP
msbuck@usp.br

Cell wall deposition is not uniform

Buckeridge et al. 2004, Cereal Chemistry, Vol. 81 pg. 115