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Title: Importance of the methyl-citrate cycle on glycerol metabolism in the yeast Yarrowia lipolytica

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Abstract: A novel approach to trigger lipid accumulation and/or citrate production in vivo through the inactivation of the 2-methyl-citrate dehydratase in Yarrowia lipolytica was developed. In nitrogen-limited cultures with biodiesel-derived glycerol utilized as substrate, the Delta phd1 mutant (JMY1203) produced 57.7 g/L of total citrate, 1.6fold more than the wild-type strain, with a concomitant glycerol to citrate yield of 0.91 g/g. Storage lipid in cells increased at the early growth stages, suggesting that inactivation of the 2-methyl-citrate dehydratase would mimic nitrogen limitation. Thus, a trial of JMY1203 strain was performed with glycerol under nitrogen-excess conditions. Compared with the equivalent nitrogen-limited culture, significant quantities of lipid (up to similar to 31% w/w in dry weight, 1.6-fold higher than the nitrogenlimited experiment) were produced. Also, non-negligible quantities of citric acid (up to similar to 26 g/L, though 0.57-fold lower than the nitrogen-limited experiment) were produced, despite remarkable nitrogen presence into the medium, indicating the construction of phenotype that constitutively accumulated lipid and secreted citrate in Y. lipolytica during growth on waste glycerol utilized as substrate. (C) 2013 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

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