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# Isolation and Characterization of Palm Wine Strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Potentially Useful as Bakery Yeasts

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## **Abstract**

A total of 12 yeast isolates from palm wine collected from various locations in Anyigba and its environs were selected for their leavening activities and were identified. The yeasts demonstrated high levels of leavening activities between 82-94. 7% as compared with commercial yeast (100%). Those that showed good leavening activities and were positive in assimilation tests for glucose, sucrose, maltose, galactose, lactose, raffinose and negative for lactose, xylose, lysine, nitrate and urea, were identified as Saccharomyces cerevisiae, while those that were positive in assimilating nitrate and lysine were identified as Candida spp. The yeasts were further assessed for attributes relevant to bakery operations such as production of CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature tolerance, ethanol tolerance, osmotic tolerance and flocculence. The rate of production of CO<sub>2</sub> from different sugars ranges from 0.043 to 0.078 ml/min. The levels of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the palm yeasts in the presence of maltose were appreciably lower than that of the commercial yeast. The yeasts were able to grow at temperatures 30, 37°C and a few grew at 45°C though very sparely. Also, the yeast were tolerant to 8 and 10% ethanol but had very low tolerance to 13% ethanol. There was an appreciable tolerance to 6 and 8% NaCl but a few numbers sparingly at 10% NaCl. Some of the isolates demonstrated flocculation ability. In general, the studies indicate that Saccharomyces cerevisiae strains from palm wine samples from Kogi State have good properties for industrial usefulness in bakery operations.

**Keywords:** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; Characterisation; Palm wine; Carbon dioxide; Fermentation; Leavening

## Introduction

Microbes are generally regarded as part of wildlife or undeveloped raw materials of a locality, region or nation. Therefore, the practice of isolating and evaluating local microbial strains for defined or potential commercial attributes is a common practice in industrial microbiology/microbial biotechnology. For isolating organisms of interest, diverse environments-soil, water, foods, are usually screened by using

appropriate techniques. Geographical and climatic factors influence abundance and physiology of microbes. Scientists often transverse international boundaries during environmental screening. For example, some British experts collected a sample of soil from Northern Nigeria and screened it with some success, for antibiotic producing microorganisms [1]. In general, various microbial isolates that have been appropriately preserved and routinely cultivated for commercial production of biomass, enzymes, antibiotics, organic acids, to mention but a few, have resulted from such screens [2].

Saccharomyces cerevisiae is yeast (a unicellular fungus). It is commonly isolated from sugary foods and alcoholic beverages including local ones such as palm wine and Burututu beer [3]. The organism has fermentative and oxidative capabilities; thus, it can ferment sugars and produce alcohol (mainly ethanol) and carbon dioxide under anaerobic conditions, and it can grow rapidly on sugar and produce high yields of biomass under aerobic conditions. Worldwide, the two attributes are exploited industrially, and suitable strains of yeast are used in production of beers, wines, breads, fuel alcohol, nutritional yeast biomass and by-products from these. Yeasts usually used for baking are carefully selected strains of Saccharomyces cerevisiae. By enzymatic action, it converts fermentable sugars and some of the starch present in the dough into carbon-dioxide and alcohol and the  $CO_2$  causes the dough to rise [4].

The discovery of the use of yeast to leaven bread centuries ago lead to the growth of bakery industry. However, bakers used brewer's yeast till about 80-1000 years ago due to its performance in the bakery which was low and variable. It was the isolation of a special strain-Saccharomyces cerevisiae possessing the desired characteristics that brought about revolutionary changes in the bakery industry. Fermented beverages are well known to harbor heterogeneous microfloras that invariably include yeasts. In Nigeria, especially the Southern part, palm wine, the fermented sap of oil palm tree (Elaeis guineensis) is a popular beverage. The microbiology has been well studied and review of literature is available [5]. Saccharomyces cerevisiae is a component of palm wine and many Nigerian workers have explored both biological and economic aspect of the species found in palm wine. For

example, Ayanru [6] observed morphological and physiological variants or races that could affect organoleptic qualities of palm wine. Other workers have described strains potentially useful as leavening agents or for production of wine, beer, and fuel ethanol, as appropriate [7-9].

An overwhelming wealth of information on genetics, molecular biology and physiology has accumulated on this organism making this traditional species the best-characterized eukaryotic system today. Several limitations, in terms of using *S. cerevisiae* as a tool for heterologous production, have been reported in the past. These included reduced biomass yield due to aerobic alcohol fermentation, very low yields (with a maximum of 1-5% of total protein), hyper glycosylation, plasmid instability, and the retention of protein in the periplasmic space. It is due to these limitations that attention was redirected to non-Saccharomyces or non-conventional yeasts as hosts for heterologous production of proteins [10].

Since the yeast cell is a living organism, it has numerous nutritional needs and it is only if these are met that it will grow vigorously and produce a large quantity of carbon dioxide. Food and moisture are needed for this growth [11].

Saccharomyces cerevisiae differs from other yeast species. It has more aerobic growth habit, maximum yielding capability stability during storage. It is usually derived from special selection of fast growing (short generation time) naturally occurring yeast strains [12].

Palm wine is a milky alcoholic beverage produced from the inflorescence of palm tree. It is the most widely used and cherished natural traditional alcoholic beverage especially in the southern part of Nigeria, and is the juice of the oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*), and raffia palm (*Raphia hookeri*) [13].

A milky juice containing initially well over 13% sucrose when it is collected in the calabash which is hung at the base of the incision of the inflorescence of palm tree soon after leaving the tree, yeast spores, especially those of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* infect the juice and soon start to ferment the fermentable sugar. Palm wine can be consumed as an alcoholic beverage. It could be allowed to ferment and subsequently distilled into gin. It could also be used for the leavening of dough for bread making [14].

The use of palm wine as a leavening agent for dough is attributed to the presence of a yeast strain contained in the palm sap. This yeast strain is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or baking yeast as it is called in the bakery industry [15].

The characteristics of palm wine are so unique that it has generated research interest [16] to investigate the practical applications and industrial applications. The determination the physiological characteristics of palm wine yeast isolates and some isolates showed tolerance to high sucrose and ethanol concentrations: the properties that can be exploited. Similarly, the efficiency of yeast isolates from palm wine in diverse fruit wine production and concluded that acceptable wine could be produced from fruits with palm wine yeasts [17].

#### Statement of problem of the study

The type or nature of yeasts with leavening activity from palm wine samples from Kogi State (Nigerian middle belt) may have peculiar characteristics. Information on physiological studies of such indigenous yeasts from Anyigba and environs is not available; this information is required for domesticating such yeasts for bakery operation.

Further studies on the yeasts may give some good qualities and properties which will improve products in the bakery industry.

## Justification for the study

Isolation and development of suitable microbes for use in production processes of economic importance are crucial in biotechnology. Indigenous strains must be isolated and subjected to rigorous studies before they can be reliably used for this purposes, as starter cultures.

The findings of this study would provide a basis for comparing palm wine yeasts from Nigeria middle belt with those described in earlier reports and would also help to confer middle belt palm wine yeasts with different industrial useful properties.

## **Methods**

# Sources and collection of samples

Fresh wine samples obtained from oil palm (*Elaensis guineensis*) were collected from palm wine tapers within 30-60 minutes of tapping in sterile 25 ml screw-capped bottles and were brought to the laboratory of Microbiology Department, Kogi State University, Anyigba, for analysis within two hours of collection. Sampling was done on three different occasions, from local markets of Anyigba, Abocho, Ajiolo, Egume, Okura and Ochadamu in Kogi State of Nigeria.

## Isolation and preliminary identification of yeasts

Each palm wine sample was shaken vigorously by hand within 1-2 hrs of collection and plated on triplicate potato dextrose agar (PDA) plates containing 0.05 mg/ml of chloramphenicol and gentamicin to inhibit bacterial growth.

**Table 1:** Sources and codes for palm wine samples.

Sample code	Sample	Source
AY	Palm wine	Anyigba
AB	Palm wine	Abocho
AJ	Palm wine	Ajiolo
EG	Palm wine	Egume
ОК	Palm wine	Okura
OC	Palm wine	Ochadamu

Plates were incubated at room temperature (25  $\pm$  2°C) for a maximum of 48 hrs. Representative colonies (confirmed to be

yeasts by microscopy) were purified by restreaking on PDA plates and isolates were stored on slopes of the same medium. Isolates were sub cultured as needed for the various experiments conducted in this work. Yeast isolates were identified by standard morphological and physiological methods and identification methods as described by Barnett et al. [18] and Phaff and Starmer [19] were used (**Table 1**).

#### Microscopy examination

Macroscopically, isolates were observed for the following feature: colony elevation, colour and other distinct and unique features. For microscopy, thin smear was prepared in accordance to Fawole and Oso [20], by emulsifying a loopful of an isolate under test on a clean slide with a drop of water. The film was spread to make a thin film and then air dried after which it was stained with a methylene blue dye and observed with a light microscope under X10 and X40 objective lenses.

#### Glucose fermentation test

The isolates were tested for their ability to assimilate and to ferment glucose. For the fermentative test, isolate was inoculated into a test tube containing an inverted Durham tube and peptone water containing 1-3 of the sugar (glucose) and a drop of Andrade's indicator. It was incubated for 24-48 hours, change in color (pink to yellow) or otherwise, of the indicator as well as liberation and trapping of gas trapped in the Durham's tube indicate the result of each test; the presence of gas was taken as an evidence of a reasonably high rate of fermentative activity [21].

#### Biochemical tests for the identification of yeasts

Carbon assimilation test: Yeast Nitrogen Base (Difco) (YNB) broth (the base contains all essential nutrients and vitamins necessary for the cultivation of yeasts except a source of carbon) was prepared by adding 6.7 g of base and 5 g of carbohydrate to 100 ml of distilled water (warmed). The preparation was thoroughly mixed, filter sterilized and stored in refrigerator at 2-8°C for a maximum of one week before use. An inoculum culture of the test organism was grown on PDA plates for two days at 25°C and used to inoculate the YNB carbohydrate broth medium which was incubated at 25°C for 6-7 days. After incubation, the tubes were shaken and released to determine whether growth had occurred. The carbohydrates tested using YNB were glucose, sucrose, maltose, xylose, galactose, lactose, raffinose, melibiose, mannitol, and trehalose [22].

**Nitrogen assimilation:** Yeast Carbon Base (Difco) broth was used. The base contains all essential nutrients and vitamins necessary for the cultivation of yeasts except a source of nitrogen. For the preparation of the broth, 11.7 g of the base and a 2 g of nitrogen source in 100 ml of distilled water, was thoroughly mixed, filter sterilized and stored at 2-8°C. The prepared medium was dispensed in tubes aseptically and inoculated with the test organism as described above for YNB assimilative test. After incubation, the tubes were shaken to access growth. The nitrogen sources for the experiment were lysine and nitrate [23].

**Urea hydrolysis:** Urea broth was prepared by mixing 9.68 g of Urea R broth (Difco) and distilled water of 250 ml, which was filter-sterilized. From which 0.5 ml volume was dispensed aseptically into sterile empty test tubes.

Each experimental organism was inoculated into its appropriately labeled tube by means of a flame-sterilized inoculation loop and was incubated for 24-48 hours at 37°C. The incubated broths were observed for color change from yellow to bright pink [24].

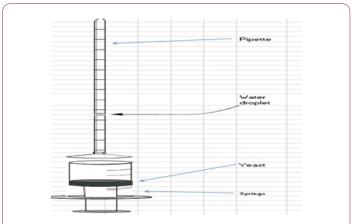
# Leavening activity of the yeast isolates

Propagation of yeasts for determination of leavening activities: Yeasts selected on the basis of their fermentative ability were propagated in the following way:

A loopful of each strain was suspended in 1-2 ml sterile distilled water in a test tube and 0.1 ml volume of the suspension was spread on two PDA plates which were incubated at room temperature for 24 hrs.

The lawns of cells were scraped off and suspended in tap water to give a standard turbidity; a 10-fold dilution of the suspension had an absorbance of 0.14 at 550 nm. A commercial brand of baker's yeast preserved on a slope, was propagated on agar plates and used to prepare a suspension using the same method [25].

Assessment of yeasts leavening activities: The leavening activity of the yeasts was tested by modification of the cylinder method. For each strain a smooth dough mixture containing wheat flour-20 g; sugar cane-2 g; and yeast suspension-15 ml was prepared. The mixture was poured slowly into a clean 100 ml measuring cylinder which had been smeared on the inside with a thin layer of groundnut oil to aid deposition of the dough at the bottom of the cylinder. After reading the initial volume of the dough in the cylinder, it was incubated at 37°C and subsequent volumes recorded at regular intervals [26].



**Figure 1** Respirometer apparatus for the determination of the rate of  $CO_2$  Production.

# Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production

The experiment performed was carried out using the respirometer apparatus shown in **Figure 1**.

The yeast suspension (prepared as in the leavening activity above) was placed into a syringe and the  $\rm CO_2$  released by the cells pushed a small water droplet up a pipette, which allowed the volume of  $\rm CO_2$  which was measured at different times over a period of 15-20 minutes.

The rate of cellular respiration by yeast cells was conducted by adding 10 ml of distilled water and 1.0 g of glucose to a 50 ml flask. Then 10 ml of the yeast suspension was transferred to the flask. The yeast suspension was incubated for 5 minutes, with occasional swirling. 3 ml of the yeast suspension was taken with a syringe. The syringe was inverted and 1 ml of air was drawn above the liquid.

A 2 ml pipette was attached to take measurement as soon as the water droplet reached the 0 ml mark and at 3 minutes intervals. The above experiment was also repeated for fructose, sucrose, maltose and mixed sugars, but for the mixed sugars composition (0.5% Glucose, 0.5% fructose, 3% sucrose and 1% maltose) to mimic sugar utilization in dough raising [27,28]. The data were recorded.

#### Stress exclusive tests

**Temperature tolerance test:** The ability of the yeast to grow at higher temperatures was verified by plating the yeast isolates onto Potato Dextrose Agar medium and incubated at 3 different temperatures i.e. 30, 37 and 45°C for 72 hours [29]. The resulting growth was observed and recorded in the results.

**Determination of ethanol tolerance:** The ability of the isolated yeast strains to grow in higher ethanol concentrations medium were tested in relation to varying sample locations by growing them in potato dextrose broth containing 3 different concentrations of ethanol, 10%, 13% and 15% (v/v), respectively and incubated at 30°C for 72 hours [30].

**Osmotolerance:** Yeast cells were harvested at the required phase of growth and washed twice in phosphate buffer, pH 5. 9 (89. 85 ml; 0.1 M NaHPO $_4$ :10.15 ml; 0.1 M Na $_2$ HPO $_4$  diluted to 200 ml). Two day old cells were resuspended in 100 ml of NaCl (4, 6, 8, and 10% w/v). The tubes were incubated at 25°C and readings taken after 40 hrs [31].

**Flocculation test:** In this test, isolates were inoculated in 10 ml of Potato Dextrose broth and incubated at 30°C for three days. After incubation, tubes were agitated to observe the flocculation formed. After incubation the culture supernatant was carefully decanted and the adhesion of the yeast sediment to the bottle was observed and recorded. The sediment was

then suspended and the degree of flocculation assessed visually [32].

#### **Results**

#### Morphological observations

After three days of incubation at 25°C on potato dextrose agar incorporated with tetracycline and gentamicin, colonies suspected to be yeasts had unique earthy smells. Other characteristics were color ranging from cream white to colorless, Shape and form of oval, round shapes and occurring singly. All the isolates had raised elevation. The colonies of yeast strains possessed morphological features which corresponded to *S. cerevisiae* species

In broth culture, the isolates had flocculent deposits. Microscopic observation of the isolates showed the cells to be ovoid to circular shape cells, the size ranged from 2 to 6  $\mu$ m. No filament was observed in any of the isolates when samples were taken from colonies growing on a potato dextrose agar. All the isolates had budding cells. Spores were not observed under the cultural condition used in this study

The colonies of yeast strains possessed morphological features which corresponded to *S. cerevisiae* specie.

#### Biochemical identification test result of the isolates

The result of sugar utilization test carried out showed that the isolates were capable of utilizing a wide range of sugars as carbon and energy sources. The utilization of sugars of carbohydrate fermentation was shown by the change in the color of the Andrade's indicator used in this test to pink, and by production of gas which was trapped in the inverted Durham's tubes.

A preliminary test was done for each of the isolates for fermentative and assimilation of glucose. Each isolate was then tested for assimilation of several sugars (the sugars were sucrose, maltose, xylose, galactose, lactose and raffinose) in other to identify the isolate to the genus *Saccharomyces* and also to the species level *S. cerevisiae*.

The ability of yeast to assimilate Glucose, Raffinose and Maltose confirmed for *S. cerevisiae* while some isolates that could assimilate lysine and nitrate confirmed *Candida spp*. Some of the isolates that could not ferment glucose, no further test were performed on them (**Table 2**).

**Table 2** Biochemical identification test result of the isolates.

	Assimil	Assimilation or Reactions												
Isolates	Carbon	Carbon compounds										Nitrogen compounds		
	Glu	Suc	Mal	Xyl	Gal	Lac	Raf	Mel	Man	Tel	Ery	Lys	Urh	NO <sub>3</sub>
AY1	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
AY3	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-

AY7	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
AB2	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
AB3	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
AB7	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
AJ2	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
AJ4	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
EG2	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
EG5	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
OK4	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
OC5	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-

GLU=Glucose; SUC=Sucrose; MAL=Maltose; XYL=Xylose; GAL=Galactose; LAC=Lactose; RAF=Raffinose; MEL=Melibiose; MAN=Mannitol; TEL=Trehalose; ERY=Erythritol; LYS=Lysine; URH=Urea Hydrolysis; +=Assimilation positive; -=Assimilation negative; NT=Not tested.

#### **Leavening activity results**

Appendix A shows the leavening activity of the yeasts that showed fermentation. It will be observed that leavening activity percentage ranges from 82 to 94.7% when compared with the commercial yeast that was used as control. Four (6) of the forty eight (12) isolates had leavening activity above 90% and the rest had activities between 80-90%.

The low leavening activity of the negative control (dough which lacked yeast) confirms the effect of yeast on the fermented baked dough (Table 3).

**Table 3** Leavening activity of isolates.

la alata a	Dough	volumes (ml)	at intervals (r	mins)*					Leavening %**
Isolates	0	30	60	90	120	150	180	210	
Control	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	N/A
CY	29	31	35	42	60	69	80	85	100
AY1	29	30.5	32	34	45	62	70	72	84.7
AY3	29	32	36	46	57	66	74	79	92.9
AY7	29	31	34	40	55	61	74	75	88.2
AB2	29	32	34	46	57.5	67	75	80.5	94.7
AB3	29	32	36	46	57	66	74	79	92.9
AB7	29	32	34	42	55	64	76	81.5	88.2
AJ2	29	32	36	42	55	71	78	80	94
AJ4	29	32	35	42	55	73	75	76	89.4
OK4	29	32	34	36	57	63	68	73	85.9
EG2	29	32	34	46	57.5	67	75	80.5	94.7
EG5	29	30	35	41.5	55	63	70.5	72	84.7
OC5	29	30	35	41.5	55	63	70.5	72	84.7

AB7=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AB7

<sup>\*</sup>All value are means of two readings

\*\* The leavening percentage (Leavening %)=Final dough height for isolate/final dough height for commercial yeast X 100%

Control=Dough prepared without yeast

Commercial Yeast=Dough prepared with commercial yeast

AY1=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AY1

AY3=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AY3

AY7=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AY7

AB2=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AB2 AB3=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AB3

AJ2=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AJ2 AJ4=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations AJ4 OK4=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations OK4 EG2=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations EG2 EG5=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations EG5 EG8=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations EG8 OC5=Dough prepared with yeasts from locations OC1

## The rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production from different sugars

The rate of  $\rm CO_2$  production for the different sugars are shown in **Tables 4-8**. The rate of  $\rm CO_2$  production was calculated as the gradient of  $\rm CO_2$  released per minute. This ranges from 0.04-0.063 ml/min for glucose with 0.067 ml/min for commercial yeast, 0.028-0.061 ml/min for fructose with 0.061

ml/min for commercial yeast, 0.044-0.067 ml/min for sucrose with 0.1 ml/min for commercial yeast, 0.028-0.061 ml/min for maltose with 0.078 ml/min for commercial yeast and 0.039-0.100 ml/min for mixed sugars with 0.164 ml/min for commercial yeast.

**Table 4** Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production in 5% glucose.

Isolates	CO <sub>2</sub> release	ed (ml/ minute)					Rate of CO <sub>2</sub> production (ml/ min)
	3	6	9	12	15	18	
CY	0.45	0.7	0.85	1.05	1.25	1.45	0.067
AY1	0.25	0.35	0.5	0.55	0.7	0.85	0.04
AY3	0.3	0.45	0.55	0.7	0.85	1.05	0.05
AY7	0.2	0.35	0.4	0.55	0.65	0.8	0.04
AB2	0.3	0.4	0.55	0.75	0.9	1.1	0.053
AB3	0.3	0.45	0.55	0.7	0.95	1.15	0.057
AB7	0.15	0.35	0.45	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.043
AJ2	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.85	0.043
AJ4	0.25	0.45	0.55	0.75	0.9	1.2	0.063
OK4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.85	1	0.053
EG2	0.15	0.35	0.5	0.55	0.7	0.8	0.043
EG5	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.6	0.75	0.95	0.05
OC5	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.7	0.85	0.043

All values are means of two readings.

Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> Production=slope of CO<sub>2</sub> released (ml per min) CY=Suspension prepared with commercial yeast

AY1=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY1

AY3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY3

AY7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY7

AB2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB2

AB3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB3 AB7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB7

AJ2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ2

AJ4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ4

OK4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OK4

EG2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG2

EG5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG5

EG8=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG8 OC5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OC1

**Table 5:** Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production in 5% fructose.

Isolates	CO <sub>2</sub> released in	n ml/minute					Rate of CO <sub>2</sub> production (ml/ min)
	3	6	9	12	15	18	

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CY	0.25	0.5	0.65	0.85	1.05	1.25	0.061
AY1	0.15	0.25	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.75	0.038
AY3	0.2	0.25	0.45	0.5	0.65	0.95	0.044
AY7	0.2	0.35	0.4	0.5	0.65	0.75	0.033
AB2	0.1	0.3	0.45	0.65	0.8	1.05	0.056
AB3	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.85	1.05	0.056
AB7	0.15	0.25	0.45	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.061
AJ2	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.7	0.95	0.039
AJ4	0.15	0.35	0.45	0.65	0.8	1.1	0.05
OK4	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.75	0.85	0.95	0.056
EG2	0.15	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.6	0.8	0.028
EG5	0.2	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.75	0.85	0.044
OC5	0.15	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.75	0.95	0.044

All values are means of two readings.

Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> Production=slope of CO<sub>2</sub> released (ml per min) CY=Suspension prepared with commercial yeast

AY1=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY1

AY3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY3
AY7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY7

AB2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB2 AB3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB3

AB7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB7 AJ2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ2 AJ4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ4

OK4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OK4

EG2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG2

EG5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG5

EG8=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG8 OC5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OC1

# **Table 6** Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production 5% sucrose.

Isolates	CO <sub>2</sub> releas	ed in ml/ minute					Rate of CO <sub>2</sub> production (ml. min)
	3	6	9	12	15	18	
CY	0.3	0.5	0.95	1.15	1.4	1.65	0.1
AY1	0.25	0.45	0.65	0.85	0.9	1.15	0.05
AY3	0.2	0.35	0.65	0.75	0.95	1.25	0.067
AY7	0.2	0.35	0.45	0.65	0.85	1.15	0.056
AB2	0.2	0.4	0.65	0.85	1.15	1.35	0.044
AB3	0.25	0.45	0.65	0.75	0.9	1.05	0.05
AB7	0.15	0.35	0.55	0.75	0.75	0.85	0.044
AJ2	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.7	0.75	0.95	0.056
AJ4	0.25	0.45	0.65	0.75	0.95	1.15	0.056
OK4	0.15	0.35	0.55	0.75	0.85	1.05	0.056
EG2	0.2	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.8	0.9	0.05
EG5	0.2	0.35	0.55	0.65	0.95	1.15	0.067
OC5	0.25	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.75	0.95	0.044

All values are means of two readings.

Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> Production=slope of CO<sub>2</sub> released (ml per min) CY=Suspension prepared with commercial yeast

AY1=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY1

AY3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY3

AY7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY7

AB2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB2

AB3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB3

AB7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB7

AJ2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ2

AJ4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ4 OK4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OK4

EG2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG2

EG5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG5 EG8=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG8

OC5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OC1

#### Table 7 Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production 5% maltose.

Isolates	CO <sub>2</sub> released	in ml/minute					Rate of CO <sub>2</sub> production (ml/ min)
	3	6	9	12	15	18	
CY	0.2	0.3	0.65	0.85	1	1.25	0.078
AY1	0.15	0.35	0.45	0.55	0.6	0.7	0.028
AY3	0.2	0.35	0.45	0.65	0.65	0.75	0.033
AY7	0.2	0.35	0.4	0.55	0.65	0.75	0.033
AB2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.75	0.85	0.9	0.061
AB3	0.15	0.2	0.3	0.45	0.6	0.75	0.044
AB7	0.25	0.45	0.55	0.65	0.85	0.95	0.044
AJ2	0.2	0.35	0.55	0.75	0.85	1.05	0.057
AJ4	0.25	0.4	0.65	0.85	0.95	1.15	0.061
OK4	0.15	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.75	0.95	0.044
EG2	0.15	0.35	0.5	0.65	0.8	0.95	0.05
EG5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.75	0.85	0.05
OC5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.65	0.75	0.85	0.05

All values are means of two readings.

Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> Production=slope of CO<sub>2</sub> released (ml per min)

CY=Suspension prepared with commercial yeast

AY1=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY1

AY3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY3 AY7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY7

AB2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB2

AB3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB3

AB7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB7 AJ2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ2

AJ4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ4

OK4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OK4

EG2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG2

EG5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG5

EG8=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG8 OC5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OC1

#### **Table 8** Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> production from mixed sugars.

Isolates	CO <sub>2</sub> released in	n ml/minute		Rate of CO <sub>2</sub> production(ml/min)			
isolates	18						
CY	0.45	0.7	0.95	1.25	1.55	1.8	0.164

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AY1	0.3	0.45	0.65	0.85	1.05	1.35	0.067
AY3	0.3	0.55	0.75	0.9	1.25	1.45	0.078
AY7	0.35	0.5	0.75	0.95	1.15	1.45	0.072
AB2	0.3	0.6	0.75	0.95	1.15	1.45	0.061
AB3	0.25	0.45	0.65	0.9	1	1.25	0.061
AB7	0.25	0.55	0.75	0.95	1.15	1.4	0.067
AJ2	0.25	0.45	0.55	0.75	0.9	1.05	0.05
AJ4	0.25	0.55	0.85	1.05	1.45	1.7	0.1
OK4	0.3	0.45	0.75	1	1.05	1.3	0.067
EG2	0.35	0.55	0.65	0.85	0.9	1.1	0.039
EG5	0.2	0.35	0.55	0.7	0.95	1.2	0.067
OC5	0.25	0.45	0.65	0.85	1	1.15	0.061

All values are means of two readings.

Rate of CO<sub>2</sub> Production=slope of CO<sub>2</sub> released (ml per min)

CY=Suspension prepared with commercial yeast

AY1=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY1 AY3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY3

AY7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AY7

AB2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB2

AB3=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB3

AB7=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AB7

AJ2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ2

AJ4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations AJ4

OK4=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OK4 EG2=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG2

EG5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG5

EG5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG5 EG8=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations EG8

OC5=Suspension prepared with yeasts from locations OC1

Table 9 Stress exclusion tests result.

Isolates	Growth at	temperatures	ı	Ethanol to	olerance		Osmotolerance				Flocculence
isolates	30°C	37°C	45°C	8%	10%	13%	4%	6%	8%	10%	
AY1	+++	++	-	+++	++	+	+++	++	+	-	+
AY3	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	-	-
AY7	+++	+++	-	+++	++	+	+++	++	+	-	-
AB2	+++	++	-	+++	++	+	+++	++	+	-	-
AB3	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	-	-
AB7	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	-	-
AJ2	+++	+++	+	++	+	-	+++	++	+	-	+
AJ4	+++	++	-	+++	+	-	+++	++	-	-	-
OK4	+++	+	-	++	++	+	+++	++	+	-	-
EG2	+++	++	-	+++	++	+	+++	+++	+	-	-
EG4	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	+++	++	-	-	+
OC5	++	+	-	++	+	-	++	++	+	-	-

<sup>+++=</sup>Intensive response

<sup>++=</sup>Moderate response

<sup>+=</sup>Low response

<sup>-=</sup>No response

#### Stress exclusion tests results

There was intensive response of growth with temperature 30°C, while at 37°C moderate to intensive responses were observed. Temperature 45°C witnessed a no response to scanty or low response to growth.

The ethanol tolerance was generally intensive at 8% concentration, moderate to slight at 10% and generally low or nil at 13% to growth of the isolate. The isolates were able to tolerate 6 and 8% w/v salt but very few tolerated 10%.

## **Discussion**

Palm wine is an abundant product in Nigeria. Anyigba and its environs are abundantly blessed with palm wine. The leavening activities of various yeasts isolated from palm wine in this study shows that the wine is a rich source of potential bakery yeasts. Interestingly, they occurred in palm wine from all the locations from which samples were taken.

All the yeast strains including the commercial strain did not ferment lactose and xylose. Tarek [33] reported the *S. cerevisiae* cells which were unable to ferment lactose were actually due to lack of lactase or  $\beta$ -galactosidase system. It was also shown that all yeast strains which utilized respective sugars also produced carbon dioxide (Table 2). The carbon dioxide released during dough fermentation process is prominent as a leavening agent of dough [34].

The assimilation of sugars varied among the isolates which indicated some metabolic diversity of palm wine yeasts that can be harnessed in industrial applications.

In primary role of baker's yeast in dough development, fermentative capacity using carbon source simultaneously with the production of carbon dioxide is an important parameter for bread making [35]. It is interesting that all yeast strains tested that were identified as *S. cerevisiae* were able to assimilate many of the sugars tested.

Palm wine contains a high level of sucrose (10%). This sugar level favors the growth of yeasts. It further gives credence to the general belief held in the early days of research that yeasts are found in sugary substances [36].

Yeast, specifically Saccharomyces cerevisiae, is used in baking as a leavening agent, where it converts the fermentable sugars present in the dough into carbon dioxide. This causes the dough to expand or rise as the carbon dioxide forms pockets or bubbles. When the dough is baked, the pockets remain, giving the baked product a soft and spongy texture. The data on leavening activity showed that the isolated yeasts increased the size of the dough which they fermented considerably are in agreement with the results of Okagbue [37]. The result is supported by the abilities of the yeasts to ferment sugars especially glucose and fructose, the breakdown of which brings about the release of carbon dioxide that caused the dough to rise.

The highest leavening activity recorded for *S. cerevisiae* indicates that it is the best biological wheat dough leavener obtained in this work because it can perform better than the

commercial yeasts used as controls. The result is in agreement with the findings of Somairi and Udoh [38] and Adenaike et al. [39] who reported that *Saccharomyces* species isolated from palm wine were found to be the best in leavening wheat dough.

The low leavening activity of the negative control (dough which lacked yeast) confirms the effect of yeast on the fermented baked dough. Yeast cells produce ethanol and  $CO_2$  as byproducts, and the ethanol produced becomes a valuable energy source. Ethanol and  $CO_2$  are produced by yeasts during fermentation (the  $CO_2$  is what leavens bread and gives beer its fizz). Carbon dioxide production can be measured quickly and accurately, and it affords an acceptable means of studying the effects of different variables on yeast fermentation. It is interesting that the release of quantifiable  $CO_2$  by the strains corresponded roughly with the leavening potential as shown with selected strains for  $CO_2$  production. Thus, the strains with high levels of  $CO_2$  production can be used in other processes where gas can be trapped for commercial purposes.

In bread manufacture, there are different sources of fermentable sugars. One, the sugar present in the dough at the start of the bread-making process (including the glucose, fructose, sucrose and maltose naturally present in the flour) and two, any other fermentable sugar such as sucrose added by the baker. The amount of fermentable sugar added by the baker varies, but can reach 25% w/w in some. In this sweet dough, the ability of the yeast to ferment under conditions of high osmotic stress is of crucial industrial importance. Also, maltose is produced by the amylolytic breakdown of starch. In bread made without added sugars (plain dough), the pre-existing free sugars are completely fermented within the first hour, leaving only the starch-derived maltose to sustain fermentation. In plain dough, the ability of the yeast to rapidly ferment maltose is thus of crucial industrial importance [40].

The Saccharomyces species in the samples under test had high ethanol tolerance [13% (v/v)] and were not inhibited by that level of ethanol (Table 9). Ethanol tolerance is a unique property of the yeast that makes it exploitable for industrial applications.

In stress exclusion test, yeast colonies were examined in order to select the strains which were able to adapt in bread making conditions. Using strains which were not effectively adapted to stress conditions could lead to stuck fermentation [41].

Survival of baker's yeast under various stress conditions could provide useful information on its ability to grow and carry out fermentation as impaired yeast. The growth of impaired yeast during fermentation may not be optimal especially when it is exposed to several stresses such as osmotic and ethanol stress [42]. In this work, as indicated in appendix B, some of the yeast strains were able to grow under stressful conditions. It is reported by Pataro et al. [43] who reported that most of *S. cerevisiae* strains isolated from conventional fermentation processes were physiologically adapted to extreme conditions. In that study the strains were able to grow on medium (yeast potato broth) containing 20% (w/v) glucose and 8% (v/v) ethanol and incubated at 37°C.

Since the yeast cells in bread making produce ethanol as secondary metabolite the ethanol stress tests were conducted to observe its tolerance to ethanol. A suitable concentration of alcohol is needed in bread making in order to achieve the preferred flavor. As shown in Table 9, all yeast strains were able to grow in a medium containing 10% (v/v) of ethanol. At 13% (v/v) of ethanol concentration, all yeast strains were able to grow in the respective broth medium. High concentration of alcohol is reported to be toxic to the yeast by inhibiting the cells growth due to the destruction of the cell membrane [44-46]. In this experiment, the highest concentration of ethanol in which the commercial yeast strain was able to survive was at 13% (v/v). Those strains which were capable of growing in similar concentration were expected to have ability to produce similar quality of bread as commercial strain.

The selected yeast strains were also tested for their growth at high temperature (Table 9). Most of the yeast strains could tolerate temperatures up to 37°C. Therefore it can be said that most yeasts isolated from different locations in Anyigba and its environs were able to grow at high ethanol concentration (13%) and at high temperature (37°C).

All the yeast strains show high tolerance to varying concentrations of salt (8%, 10%, and 13%). The significance of salt tolerance lies in the fact that in Nigeria, experience shows that some bakeries use salt instead of sugar because the former is cheaper and preferred by people with some health condition such as diabetes. Salt has several functions in baked goods. It modifies flavour, increases crust color and controls the rate of yeast fermentation and enzyme activity. Salt also strengthens gluten, making it more cohesive and less sticky. With salt present, gluten holds more water and carbon dioxide, allowing the dough to expand without tearing [47].

The flocculation abilities were also tested on the yeasts strains. According to Amri et al. [48] and Miki et al. [49], yeast cells which had ability to flocculate caused by cell adhesion process is an interesting process. The flocculation characteristic was determined by yeast cells sticking together and provides easy separation from the broth medium. This phenomenon has an economic effect on the production of yeast biomass due to the fact that it can reduce the energy cost involved in biomass centrifugation [50,51]. In addition, flocculation properties of S. cerevisiae ensure a high cell density and large volume of harvested cells and also able to raise the ethanol productivity during the fermentation process [52-54]. Initiation of flocculation ability of Saccharomyces cerevisiae cells was observed at the moment the cells stop dividing because of nitrogen limitation. A shift in concentration of the limiting nutrient resulted in a corresponding shift in cell division and initiation of flocculence [55].

# **Conclusion**

This work evaluated the properties of palm wine yeasts for possible bakery application. Palm wine has proved to be a reliable source from which to isolate strains of *S. cerevisiae* that have well defined industrial properties. The yeast cells had high

viability, high leavening capacity, CO<sub>2</sub> production, temperature tolerance, ethanol tolerance and osmotic tolerance.

# **Contribution to Knowledge**

From the work carried out, it can be seen that Saccharomyces cerevisiae strain isolated from all the locations possess properties such as leavening activity, high rate of  $CO_2$  production; hence, the are potentially useful as raw materials for bakery industry. This implies there can be a reduction of cost and time for yeast importation for bakeries.

## Recommendation

Further work will be needed to assess the ability of the isolates from this work to produce palatable bread comparable with that of commercial yeasts.

Also, process optimization in terms of studies on nutritional (e.g. vitamin) requirements of the yeasts would be necessary before they can be propagated on a large scale.

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