

Business from technology

# **Enzymes and biotechnology: could we overcome modern challenges?**

2nd International Conference on Genomics & Pharmacogenomics

**Dr. Junio Cota  
VTT Brasil LTDA**

## SUMMARY

- What is VTT?
- The OMICS Era
- New Enzyme Discovery
- Protein Engineering



## VTT Group in brief

Turnover 292 M€ (2010) ■ Personnel 3,167 (1.1.2011)

### Customer sectors

- Biotechnology, pharmaceutical and food industries
- Electronics
- Energy
- ICT
- Real estate and construction
- Machines and vehicles
- Services and logistics
- Forest industry
- Process industry and environment

### Focus areas of research

- Applied materials
- Bio- and chemical processes
- Energy
- Information and communication technologies
- Industrial systems management
- Microtechnologies and electronics
- Services and the built environment
- Business research

### VTT's operations

Research and Development ■ Strategic Research ■ Business Solutions ■ IP Business ■ Group Services

### VTT's companies

VTT Expert Services Ltd (incl. Labtium Ltd, Enas Ltd) ■ VTT Ventures Ltd ■ VTT International Ltd ■ VTT Memsfab Ltd

## VTT Group on the map



# BIOREFINERY

## Brazilian biomass raw material

Process

Sector

Key service &amp; offering

Key technologies

End products

### Wood and fibre processing

Pulp, paper & Packaging  
& Solid wood

Multi-technology  
solutions &  
pilot scale infrastructure

Fibre processing,  
Paper making, Coating,  
Modelling & Simulation

Novel fibre based products  
& Advanced wood products

### Biotechnical processing

Bio & Chemistry

Biotechnical  
conversion  
technologies

Biomass hydrolysis,  
Enzymes &  
Cell factories

Chemicals,  
Bio alcohols  
& Biomaterials

### Energy production

Energy

Thermal fuel  
& waste conversion  
technologies

Gasification, pyrolysis &  
combustion technologies

Biofuel, Electricity  
& Heat



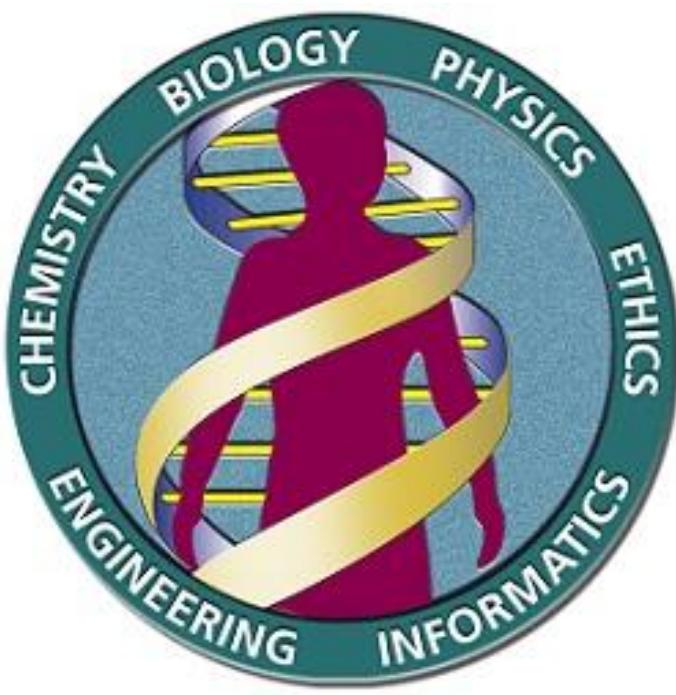
# BRAZIL



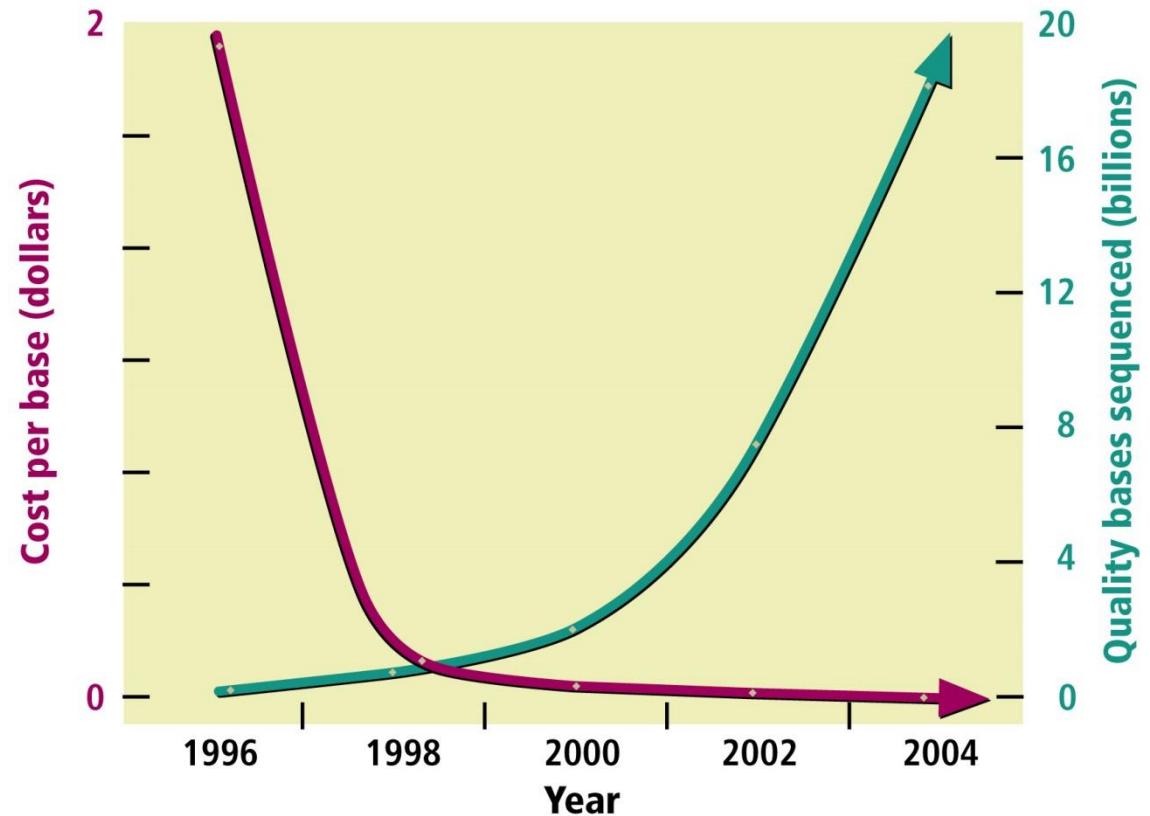
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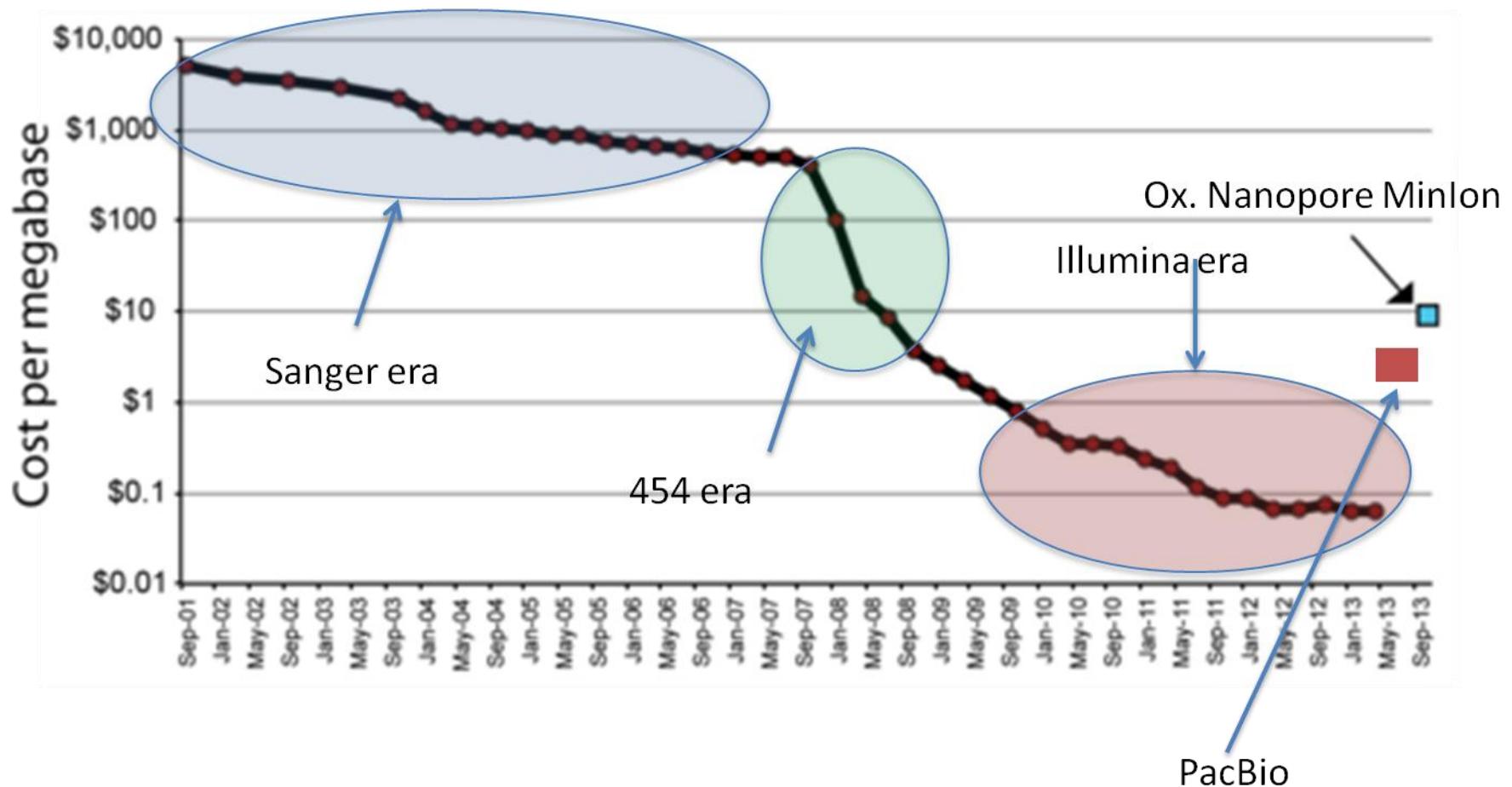
# Human Genome Project



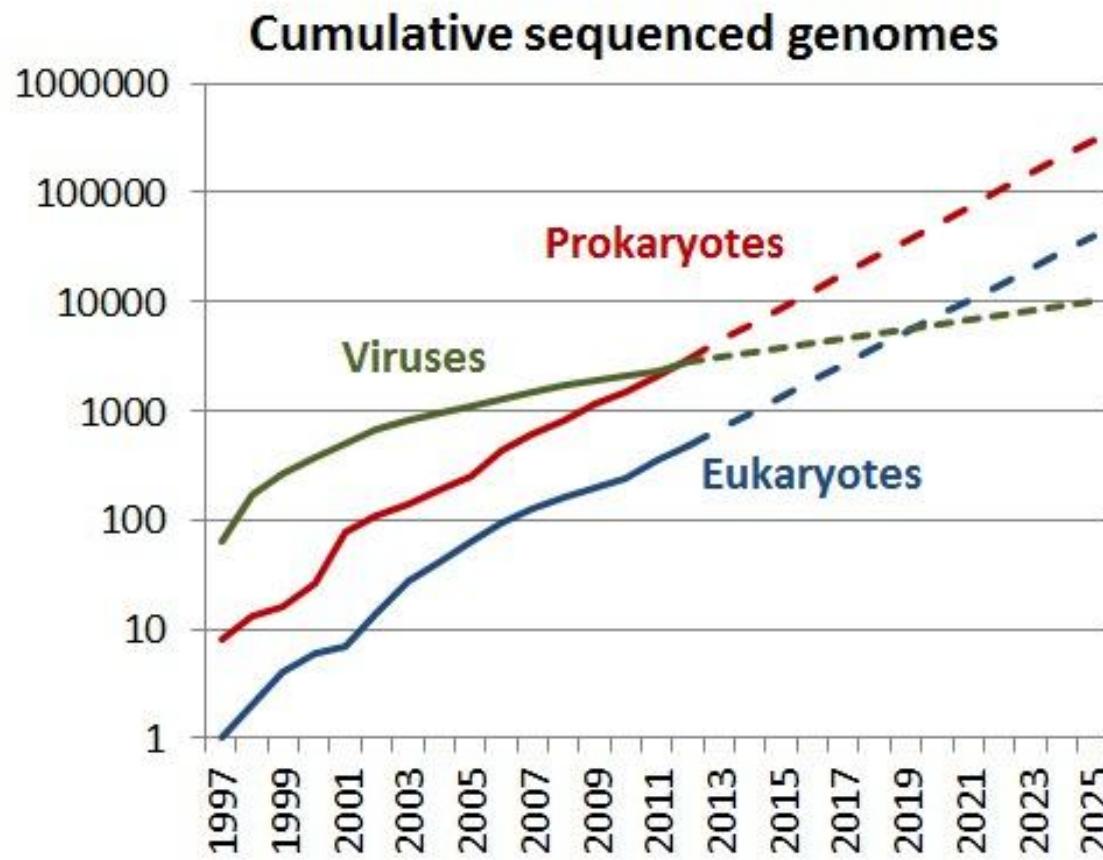
1990 - 2003



## Evolution of Cost per Megabase

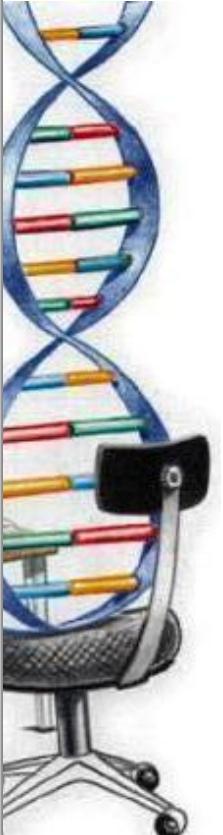


# Evolution of Whole-Genome Sequencing

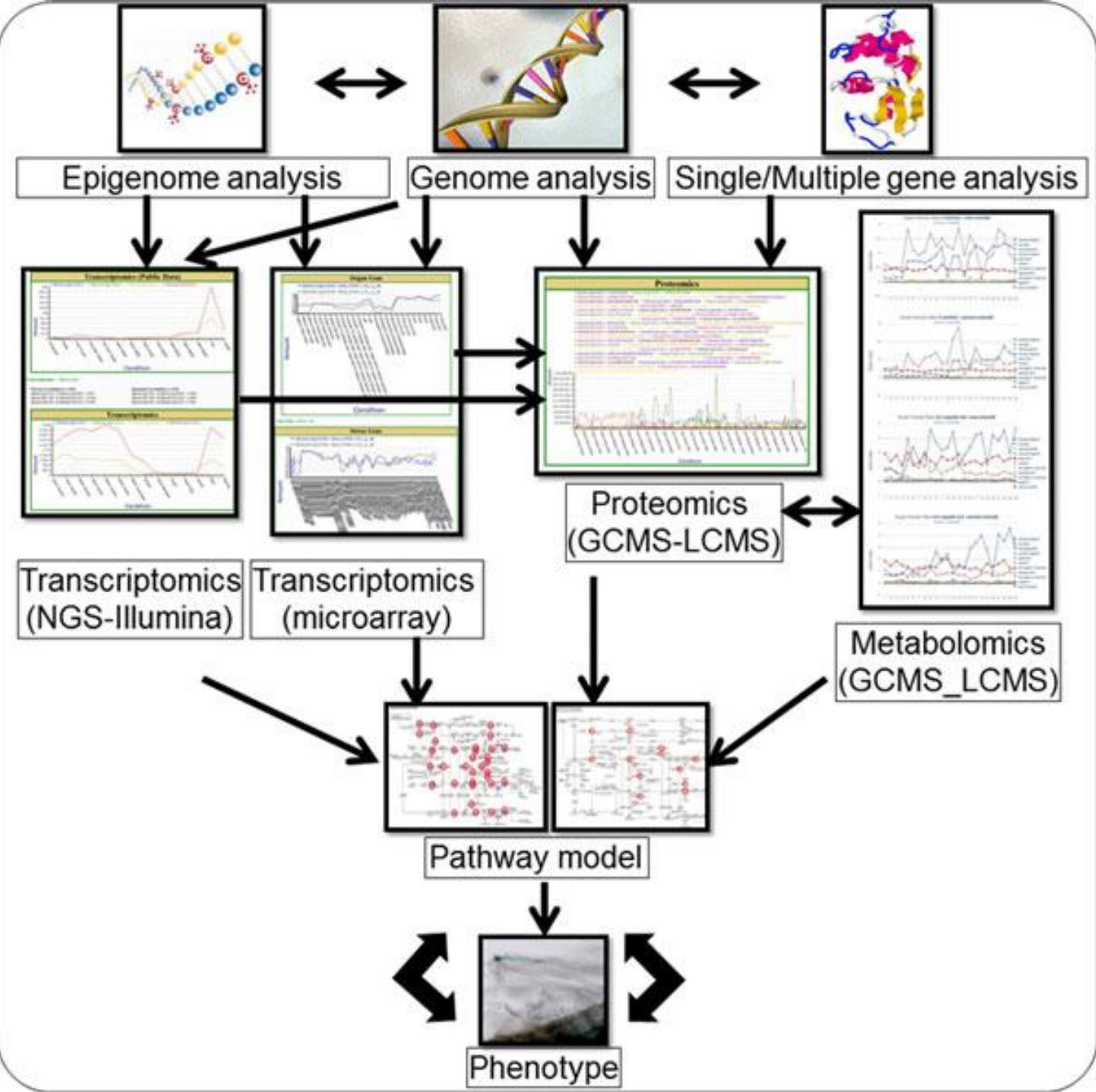




Big Data,

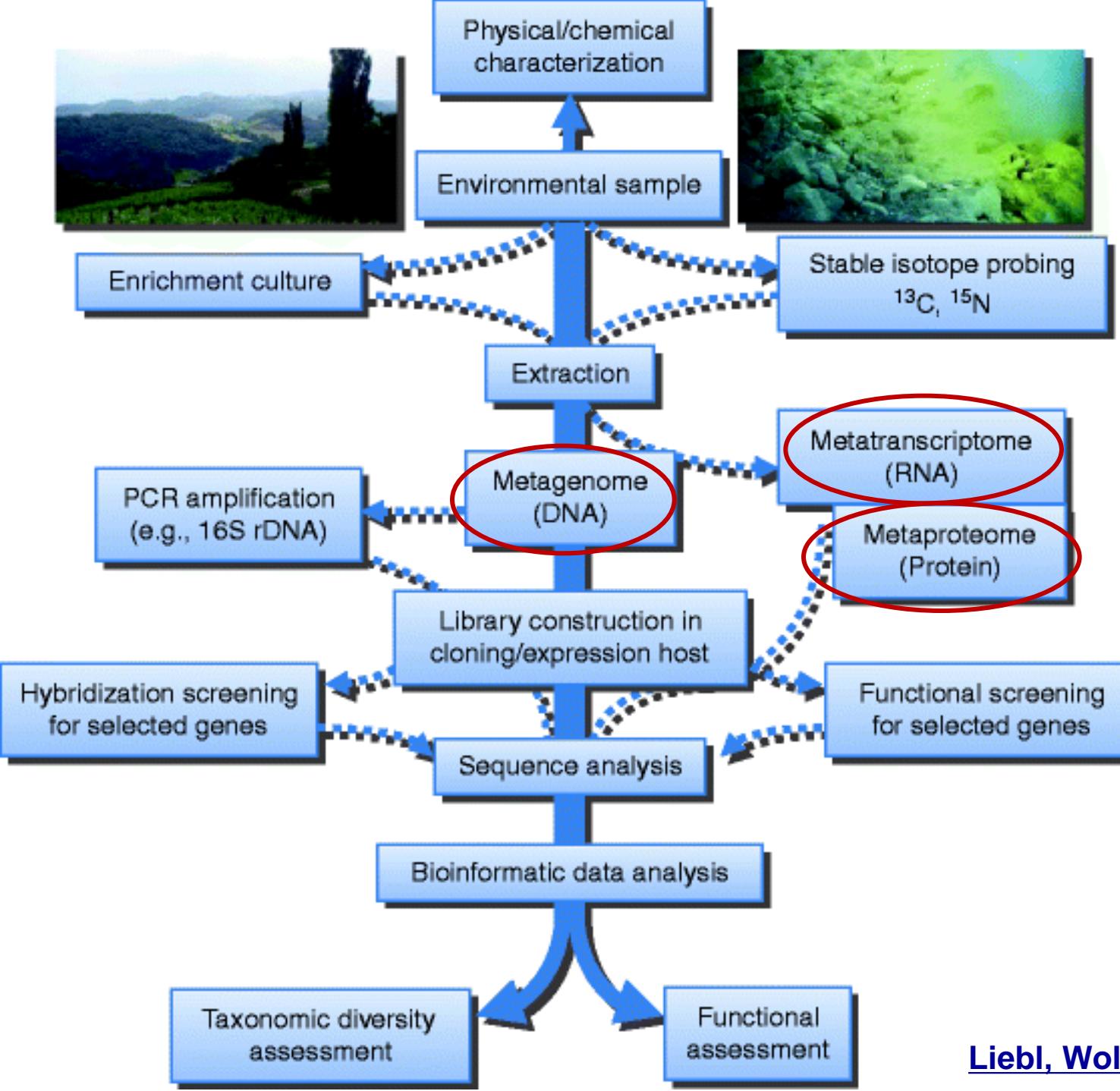


Modeling



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## Enzyme discovery in the OMICS Era

Liebl, Wolfgang (2011): Metagenomics

# New Enzymes for Biofuels: GH 10 Xylanase

OPEN  ACCESS Freely available online

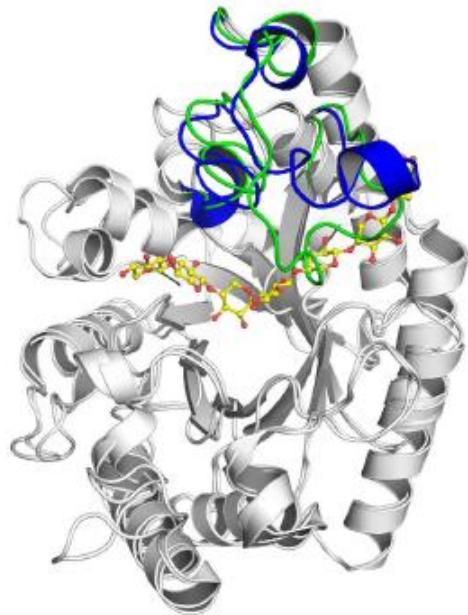
 PLOS | ONE

## Development and Biotechnological Application of a Novel Endoxylanase Family GH10 Identified from Sugarcane Soil Metagenome

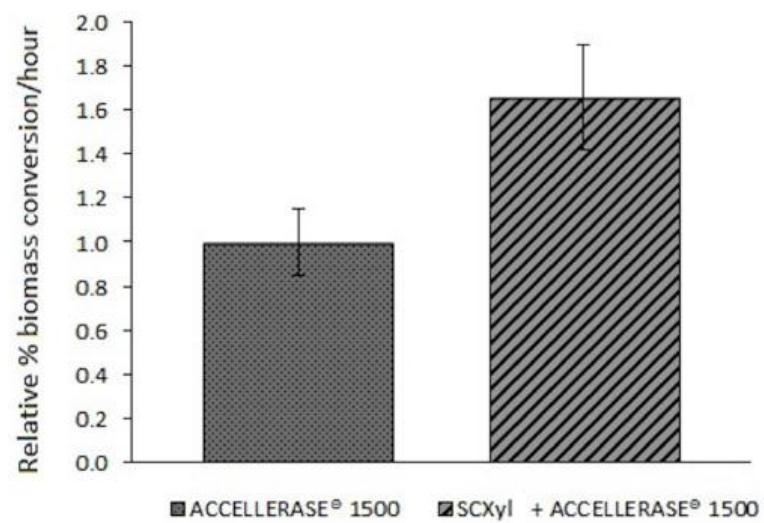
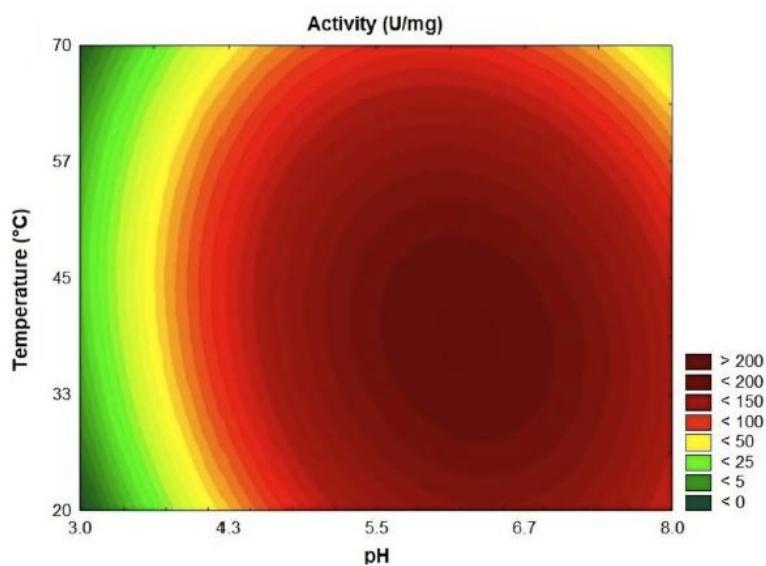
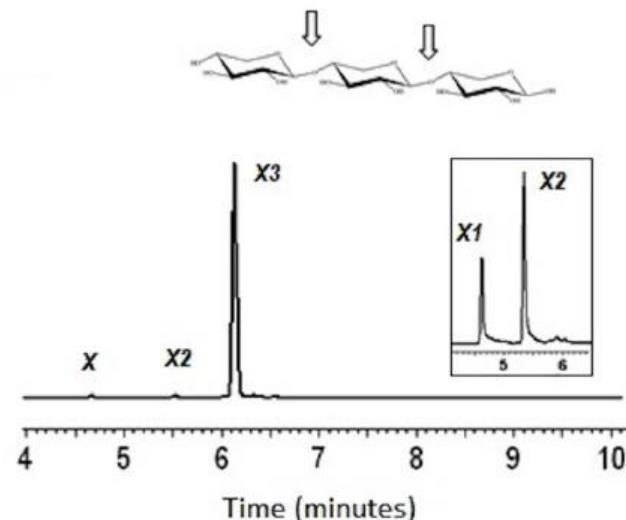
Thabata M. Alvarez<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Rosana Goldbeck<sup>1\*</sup>, Camila Ramos dos Santos<sup>3,9</sup>, Douglas A. A. Paixão<sup>1</sup>, Thiago A. Gonçalves<sup>1,2</sup>, João Paulo L. Franco Cairo<sup>1,2</sup>, Rodrigo Ferreira Almeida<sup>1</sup>, Isabela de Oliveira Pereira<sup>1</sup>, George Jackson<sup>1</sup>, Junio Cota<sup>1</sup>, Fernanda Büchli<sup>1,2</sup>, Ana Paula Citadini<sup>1</sup>, Roberto Ruller<sup>1</sup>, Carla Cristina Polo<sup>3</sup>, Mario de Oliveira Neto<sup>4</sup>, Mário T. Murakami<sup>3,\*</sup>, Fabio M. Squina<sup>1,\*</sup>

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## Enzymes for Biofuels: GH 10 Xylanase



# Proteomics: Secretome of *Penicillium equinulatum*

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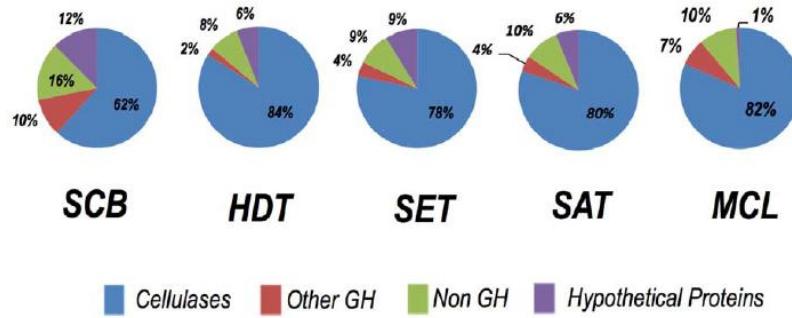
## The *Penicillium echinulatum* Secretome on Sugar Cane Bagasse

Daniela A. Ribeiro<sup>1</sup>, Júnio Cota<sup>1</sup>, Thabata M. Alvarez<sup>1</sup>, Fernanda Brüchli<sup>1</sup>, Juliano Bragato<sup>1</sup>, Beatriz M. P. Pereira<sup>1</sup>, Bianca A. Pauletti<sup>1</sup>, George Jackson<sup>1</sup>, Maria T. B. Pimenta<sup>1</sup>, Mario T. Murakami<sup>2</sup>, Marli Camassola<sup>3</sup>, Roberto Ruller<sup>1</sup>, Aldo J. P. Dillon<sup>3</sup>, Jose G. C. Pradella<sup>1</sup>, Adriana F. Paes Leme<sup>1</sup>, Fabio M. Squina<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratório Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia do Bioetanol (CTBE), Centro Nacional de Pesquisa em Energia e Materiais, Campinas, (CNPEM), Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil,

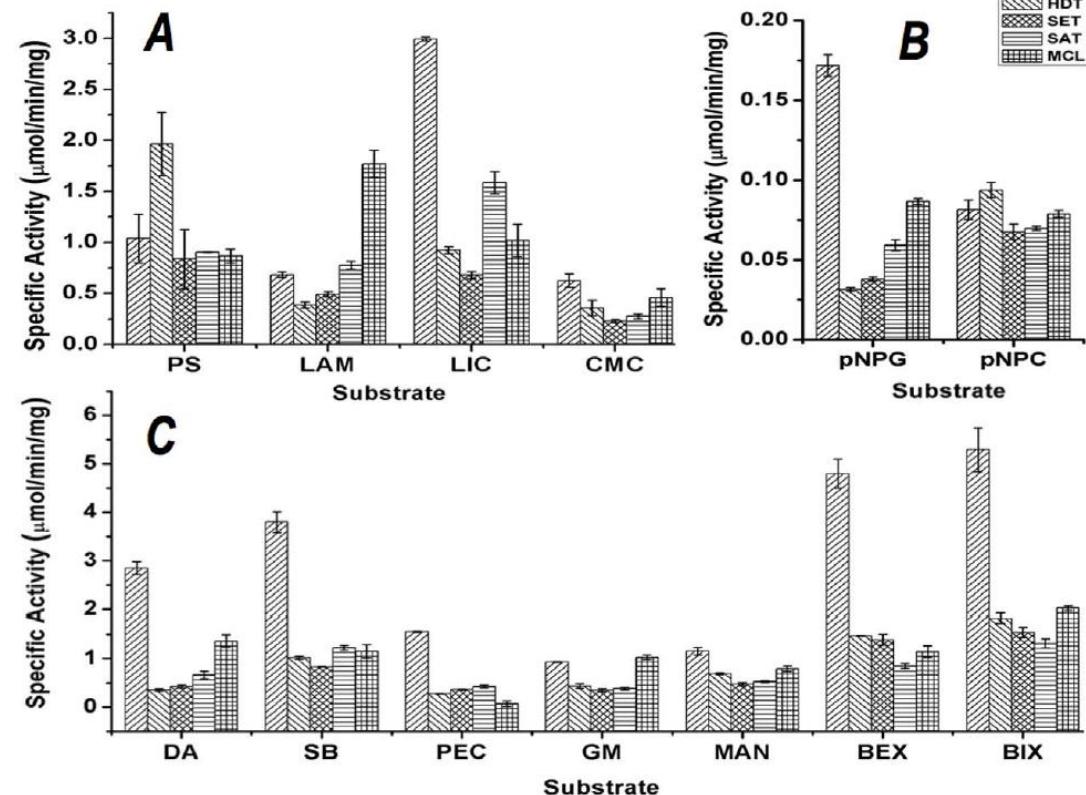
<sup>2</sup> Laboratório de Espectrometria de Massas, Laboratório Nacional de Biociências (LNBio), Centro Nacional de Pesquisa em Energia e Materiais, Campinas, (CNPEM), Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, <sup>3</sup> Instituto de Biotecnologia, Universidade de Caxias do Sul (UCS), Caxias do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

# Proteomics: Secretome of *Penicillium equinulatum*



	SCB	HDT	SET	SAT	MCL
GH3	4	0	0	0	3
GH5	29	26	28	25	31
GH6	16	20	22	21	18
GH7	22	38	30	30	25
GH12	5	0	0	0	2
GH17	2	0	0	1	1
GH61	1	0	0	0	0
GH10	3	0	3	1	0
GH11	2	0	1	0	0
GH62	2	1	0	0	0
GH43	2	0	0	0	0
PL4	2	0	0	0	0
CE1	1	0	0	0	0
GH18	1	0	0	2	4
GH20	0	1	0	0	2
GH13	0	0	0	0	0
GH65	0	0	0	1	0
GH92	0	0	0	0	1
PF	20	8	9	9	10
HYP	15	5	9	5	1

**SCB:** Sugar Cane Bagasse  
**HDT:** Hydrothermal Treatment  
**SET:** Steam Explosion Treatment  
**SAT:** Sulfuric Acid Treatment  
**MCL:** Microcrystalline Cellulose



# Proteomics: Secretome of *Trichoderma harzianum*

Bioresource Technology 131 (2013) 500–507



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Bioresource Technology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/biotech](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/biotech)



Understanding the cellulolytic system of *Trichoderma harzianum* P49P11  
and enhancing saccharification of pretreated sugarcane bagasse  
by supplementation with pectinase and  $\alpha$ -L-arabinofuranosidase

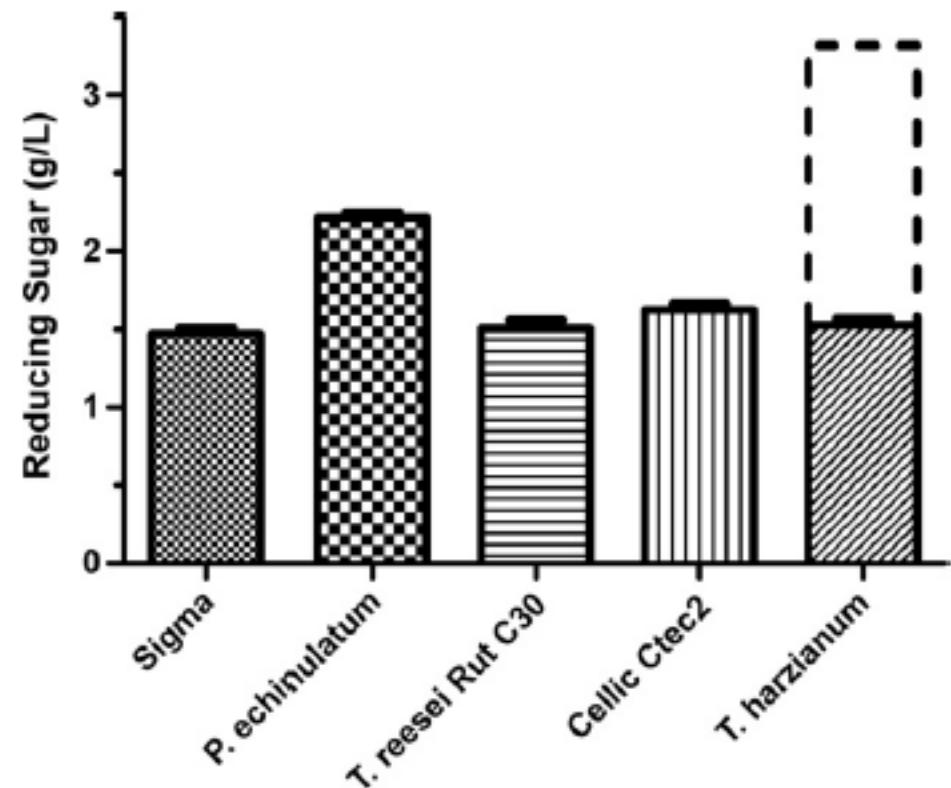
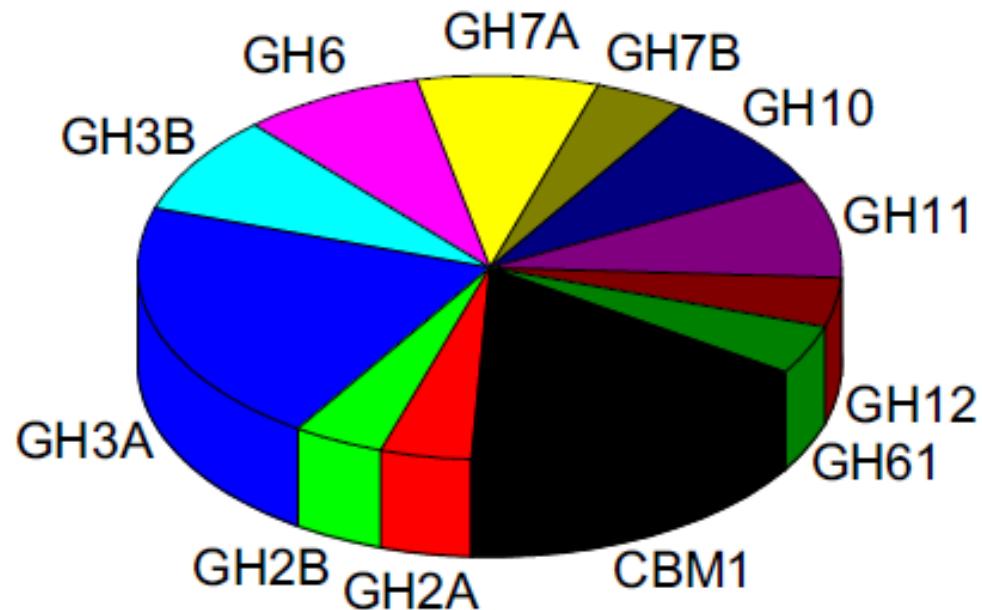


Priscila da Silva Delabona<sup>a,\*</sup>, Júnio Cota<sup>a</sup>, Zaira Bruna Hoffmam<sup>a</sup>, Douglas Antonio Alvaredo Paixão<sup>a</sup>,  
Cristiane Sanchez Farinas<sup>b</sup>, João Paulo Lourenço Franco Cairo<sup>a</sup>, Deise Juliana Lima<sup>a</sup>, Fábio Marcio Squina<sup>a</sup>,  
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<sup>a</sup> Brazilian Bioethanol Science and Technology Laboratory – CTBE, Rua Giuseppe Maximo Scolfaro 10000, Pólo II de Alta Tecnologia, Caixa Postal 6192, CEP 13083-970, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

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## Proteomics: Secretome of *Trichoderma harzianum*



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- Protein Engineering

# Protein Engineering is a tailor-made process

THE SCIENCE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE.™



What's on your mind?  
What's your need?

# Protein Engineering: Rational or Non-rational Design?

## Current Paradigms

Mechanism-based  
(Rational)

Detailed structural analysis



Empiricism-based  
(Non-rational)  
Libraries based

# Building a Xylanase – Lichenase Chimera

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 1834 (2013) 1492–1500



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/bbapap](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/bbapap)



Assembling a xylanase–lichenase chimera through all-atom molecular dynamics simulations



Junio Cota <sup>a,d,1</sup>, Leandro C. Oliveira <sup>a,b,1</sup>, André R.L. Damásio <sup>a</sup>, Ana P. Citadini <sup>a</sup>, Zaira B. Hoffmam <sup>a</sup>, Thabata M. Alvarez <sup>a</sup>, Carla A. Codima <sup>a</sup>, Vitor B.P. Leite <sup>b</sup>, Glaucia Pastore <sup>c</sup>, Mario de Oliveira-Neto <sup>d</sup>, Mario T. Murakami <sup>e</sup>, Roberto Ruller <sup>a</sup>, Fabio M. Squina <sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Laboratório Nacional de Ciência e Tecnologia do Bioetanol – CTBE/CNPEM, Campinas, SP, Brazil

<sup>b</sup> Departamento de Física, IBILCE, Universidade Estadual Paulista - UNESP, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil

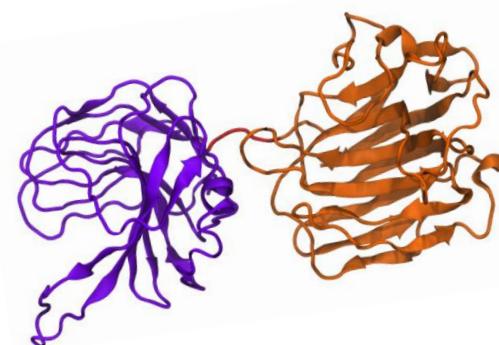
<sup>c</sup> Faculdade de Engenharia de Alimentos, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, SP, Brazil

<sup>d</sup> Departamento de Física e Biofísica, Instituto de Biociências, UNESP, Botucatu, São Paulo, Brazil

<sup>e</sup> Laboratório Nacional de Biociências – LNBio/CNPEM, Campinas, SP, Brazil

## Chimeras: Multidomain Proteins

- ✓ Multidomain/multifunctional proteins can reduce costs with enzyme load;
- ✓ End-to-end fusion between the N and C termini of the parental enzymes can result in nonfunctional chimeras.



S.Y. Hong et al., Biotechnology Letters, 29, 931-936 (2007)

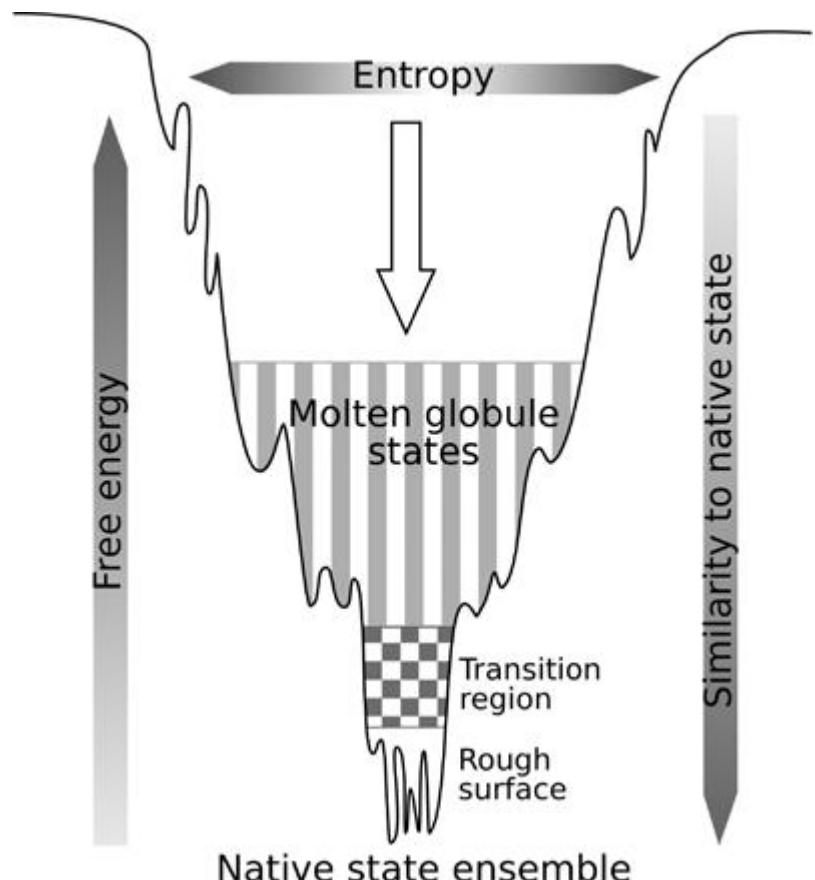
## Chimeras: Multidomain Proteins

- ✓ The selection of the linker sequence is particularly important for the construction of functional fusion proteins

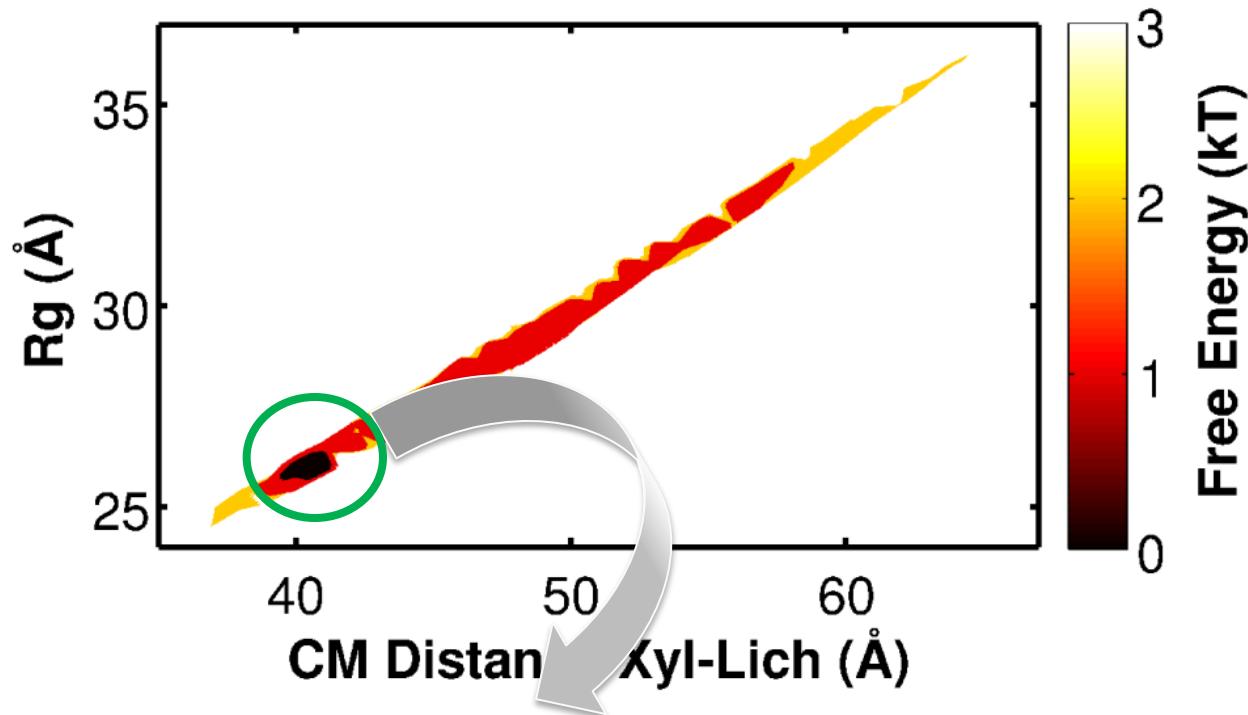


## Building Chimeras: Molecular Dinamics

- ✓ Energy Landscape Theory
- ✓ Structure Based Models
- ✓ The topology could drives the protein folding
- ✓ Save computational time



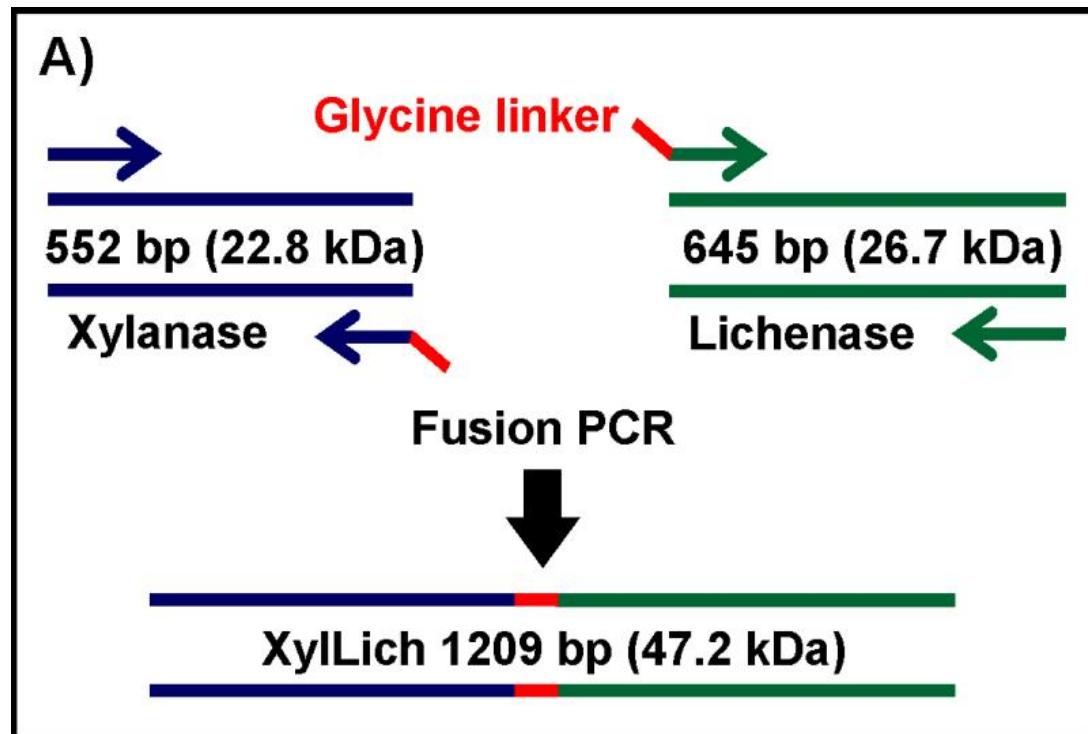
## Structure Based Models (SB)



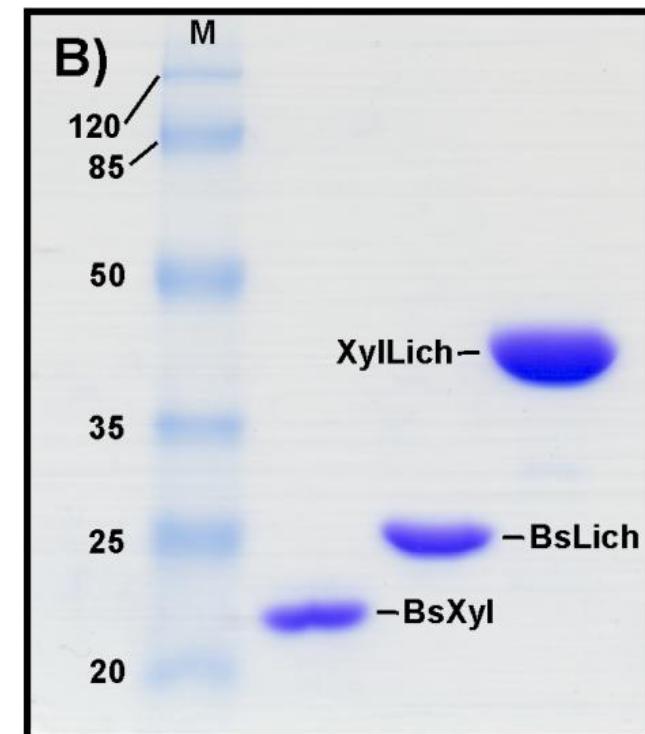
The unique Free Energy basin suggests a group of structures candidates: simulations are mainly driven by the entropy of the system

## Building Chimera

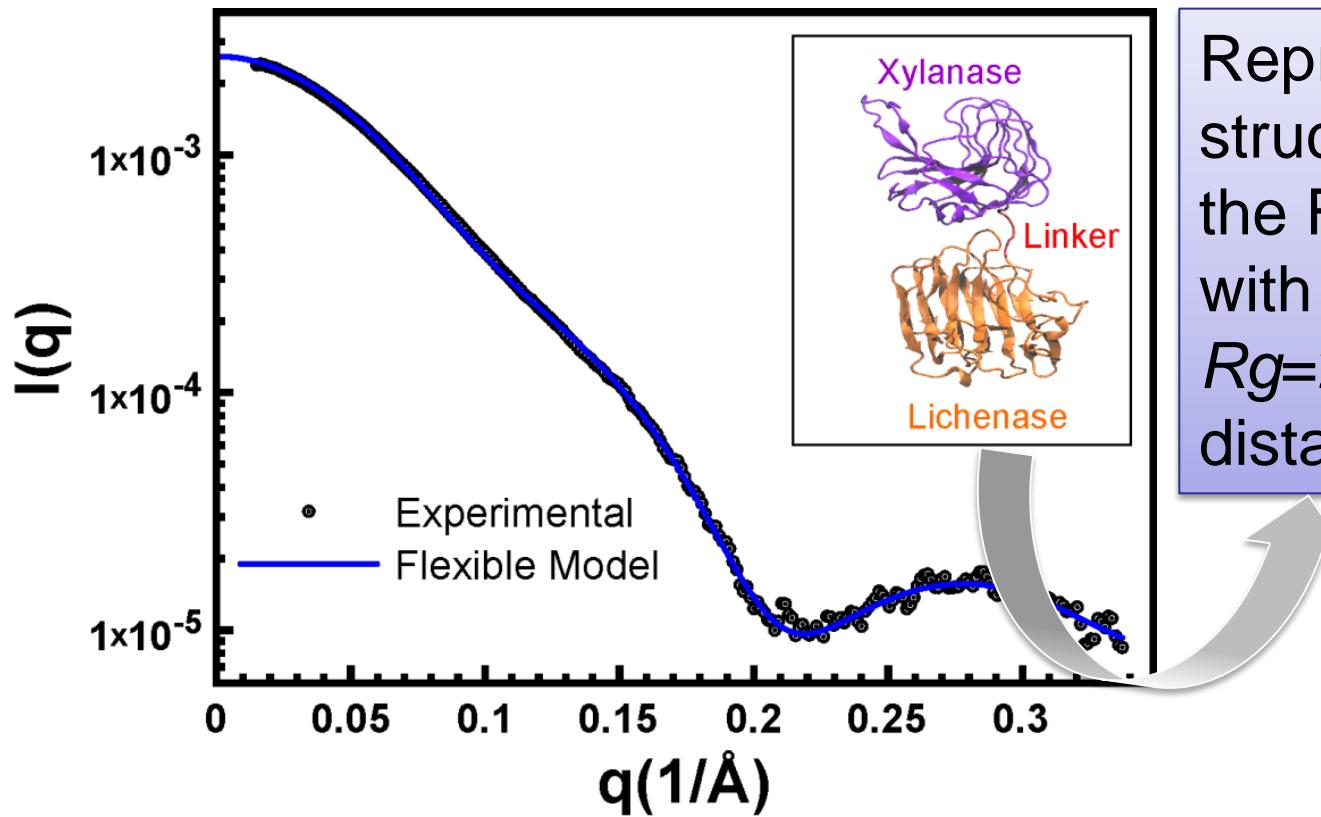
### Overlap PCR



### SDS-PAGE



## SAXS experimental and theoretical curves

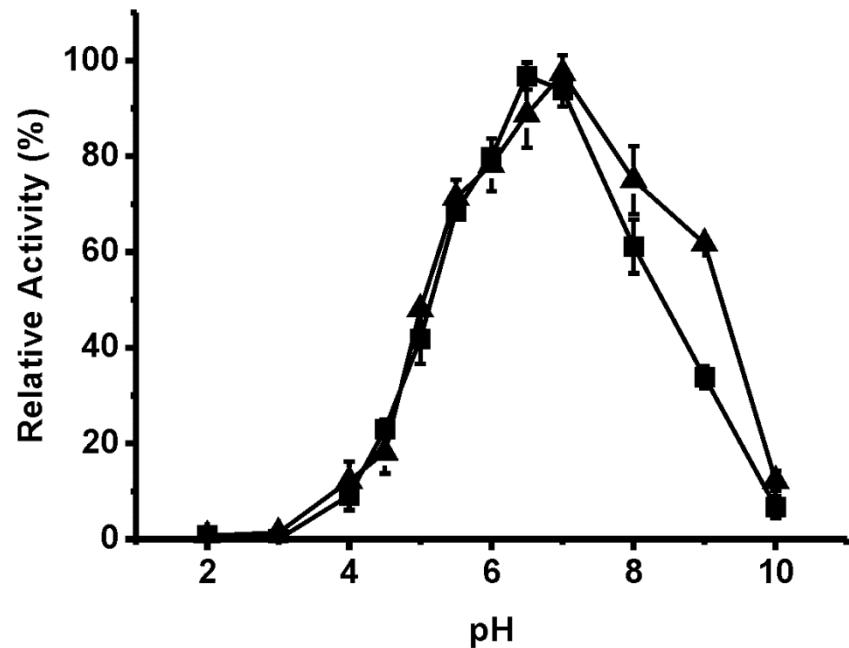


Representative structure taken from the Free Energy basin with  $\chi^2=2.80$ ,  $Rg=26.0\text{\AA}$  and CM distance=40.7 $\text{\AA}$  inset

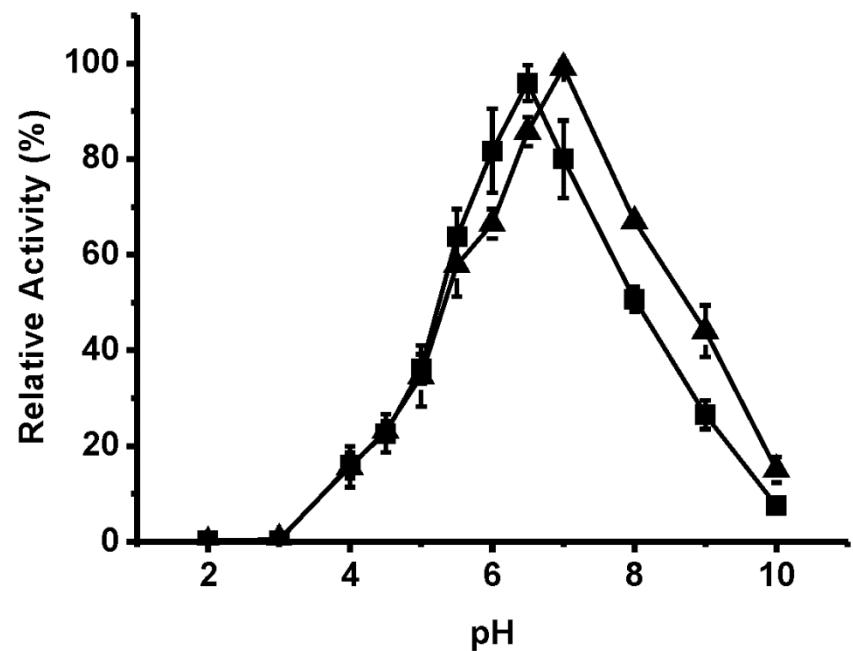
Theoretical scattering curve was generated in CRYSTAL and the representation in VMD

## Optimal pH

Xylan



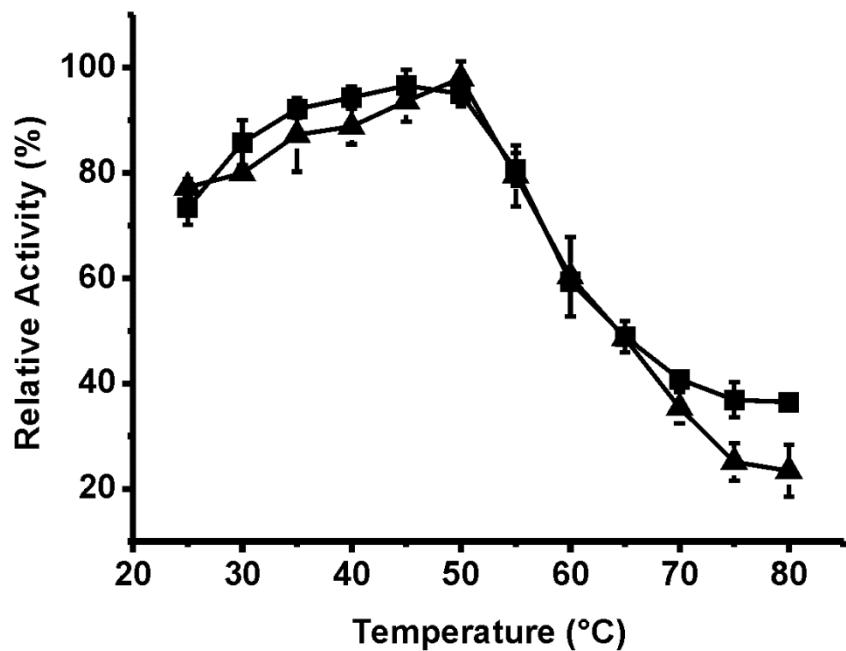
Lichenan



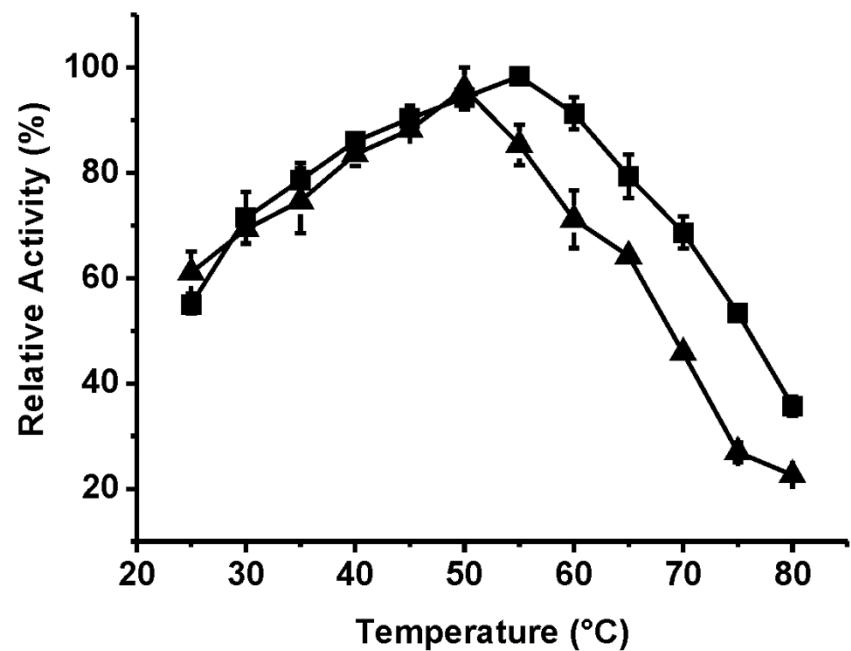
▲ Parental enzyme  
■ Chimera

## Optimal Temperature

Xylan



Lichenan



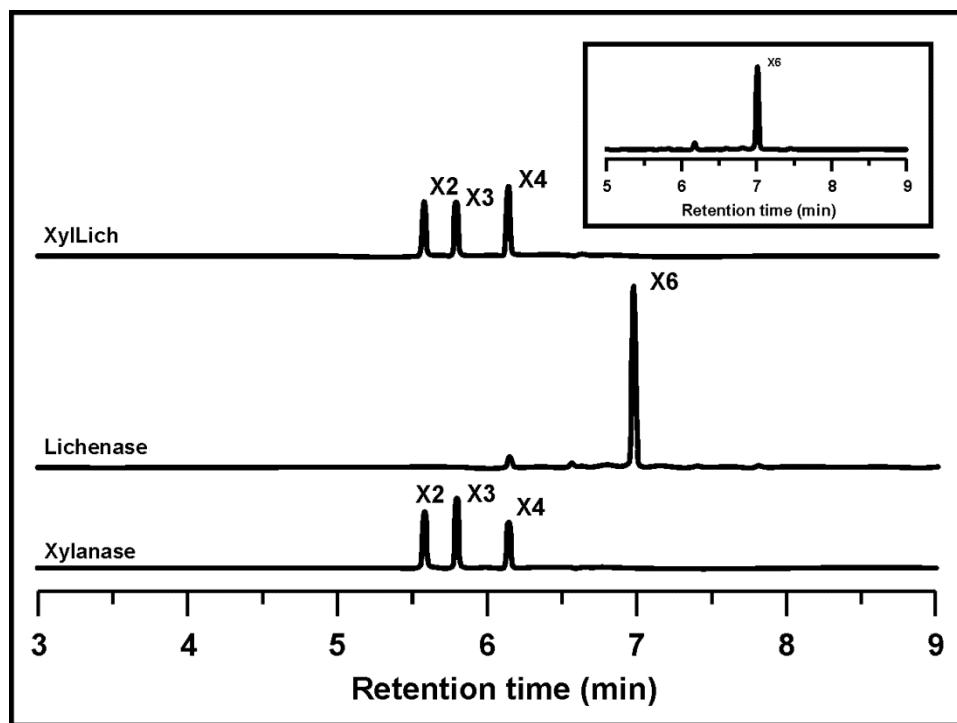
▲ Parental enzyme  
■ Chimera

## Substrate Specificity

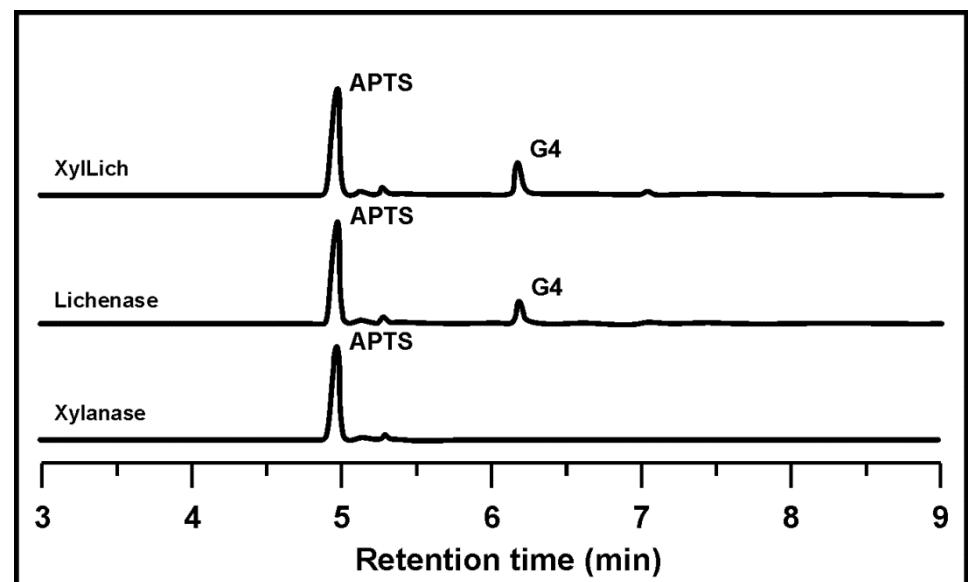
Substrate	Specific activity (U/nmol)		
	Xylanase	Lichenase	XylLich
Birchwood Xylan	3.73 ± 0.29	ND	2.71 ± 0.13
Beechwood Xylan	3.17 ± 0.07	ND	2.87 ± 0.08
Rye Arabinoxylan	3.73 ± 0.14	ND	3.03 ± 0.15
Wheat Arabinoxylan	1.36 ± 0.12	ND	0.88 ± 0.07
Oat Spelt Xylan	3.28 ± 0.27	ND	2.15 ± 0.06
Lichenan	ND	3.65 ± 0.29	3.85 ± 0.16
β-Glucan	ND	5.03 ± 0.20	5.11 ± 0.07
Laminarin	ND	ND	ND
Xyloglucan	ND	ND	ND
Glucomannan (Konjac)	ND	ND	ND

# Capillary Electrophoresis

## Xylohexaose

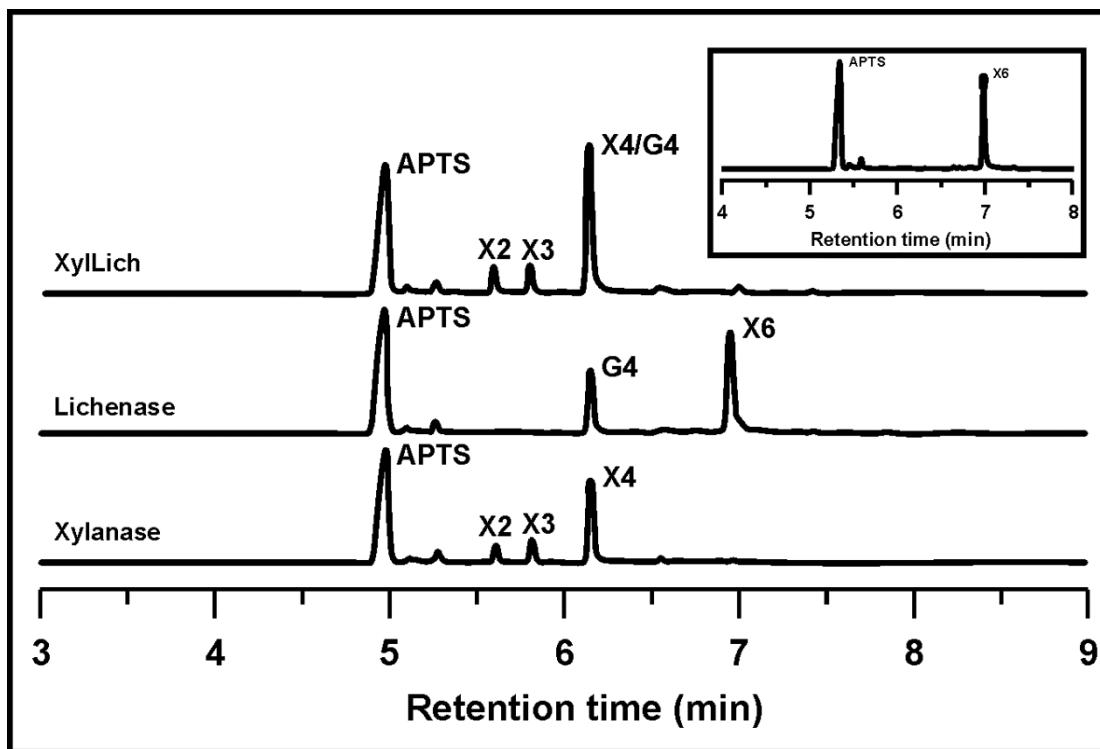


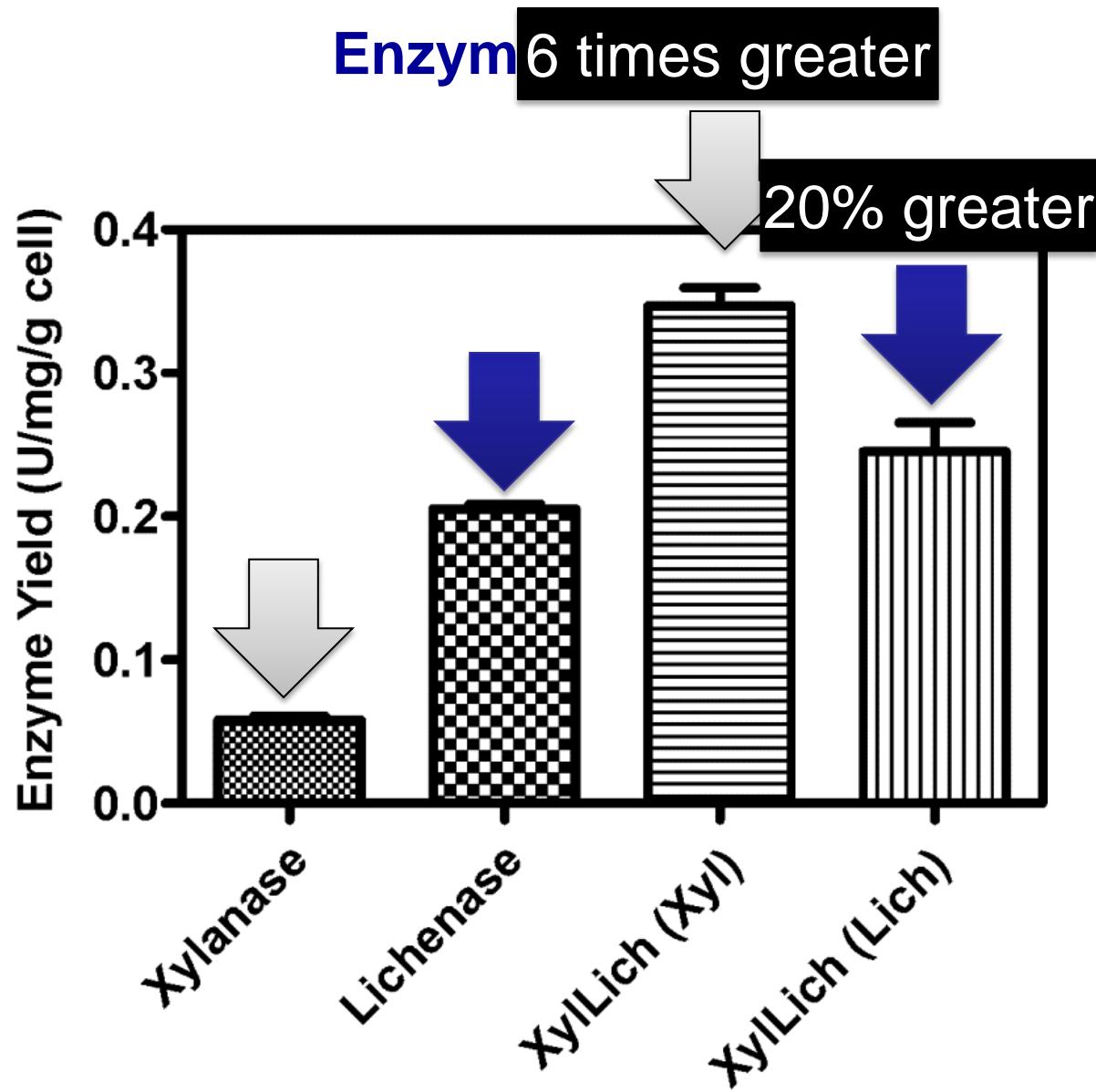
## Lichenan



# Capillary Electrophoresis

Xylohexaose + Lichenan





## Conclusions

- ✓ This work presented a novelty way to predict the disposal of chimera domains in solution before experimental assays;
- ✓ A potential tool for screening and development of enzyme cocktails for second generation biofuels;
- ✓ The expansion of hydrolase activities in an unique protein could be a route for increase cost-effective of biomass saccharification;
- ✓ Enzyme production data suggests an advantage on producing the fused protein instead the wild type ones separated.

## Protein Engineering: Typical Challenges

- Design proteins with certain function;
- Design proteins which bind novel ligands;
- Alter binding affinity and specificity of proteins;
  - Increase activity of enzymes;
- Change thermal tolerance, pH stability;
  - Alter allosteric regulation;
- Decrease inhibition of enzymes;
- Increase protease resistance;
- Reactivity in nonaqueous solvents;
- Eliminate cofactor requirement.





## Acknowledgements



**VTT BRASIL LTDA**

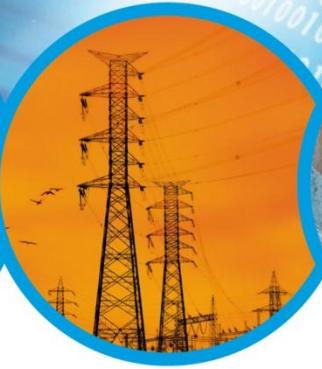


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