

1 New biotransformation process for the production of the  
2 **fragrance**  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone from 10-hydroxystearate by  
3 permeabilized *Waltomyces lipofer* cells

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5 **Jung-Ung An, Young-Chul Joo, Deok-Kun Oh\***

6  
7 *Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Konkuk University, Seoul 143-701,*  
8 *Republic of Korea*

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16  $\gamma$ -DODECALACTONE PRODUCTION BY *WALTOMYCES LIPOFER* CELLS

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18 \*Corresponding author. Mailing address: Department of Bioscience and  
19 Biotechnology, Konkuk University, 1 Hwayang-Dong, Gwangjin-Gu, Seoul 143-701,  
20 Republic of Korea. Phone: 82-2-454-3118. Fax: 82-2-444-6176. E-mail:  
21 deokkun@konkuk.ac.kr.

22

23 **ABSTRACT**

24

25 **A new biotransformation process for the production of the flavor lactone was**  
26 **developed by permeabilized *Waltomyces lipofer*, which was selected as an efficient**  
27  **$\gamma$ -dodecalactone-producing yeast among 10 oleaginous yeast strains. The optimal**  
28 **reaction conditions for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by permeabilized *W. lipofer***  
29 **cells were pH 6.5, 35°C, 200 rpm, 0.7 M Tris, 60 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, and**  
30 **30 g/liter of cells. Under these conditions, non-permeabilized cells produced 12**  
31 **g/liter  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone after 30 h, with a conversion yield of 21% (w/w) and a**  
32 **productivity of 0.4 g/liter/h, whereas permeabilized cells obtained after sequential**  
33 **treatments with 50% ethanol and 0.5% Triton X-100 produced 46 g/liter  $\gamma$ -**  
34 **dodecalactone after 30 h, with a conversion yield of 76% (w/w) and a productivity**  
35 **of 1.5 g/liter/h. These values were 3.7- and 3.8-fold higher than those obtained**  
36 **using non-permeabilized cells. This is the highest reported concentration,**  
37 **conversion yield, and productivity for the production of the bioflavor lactone.**

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39

**INTRODUCTION**

40

41  $\gamma$ -Lactones are industrially important flavor compounds that are widely distributed in  
42 foods, fruits, and beverages and used in many fruity aromatic foods and cosmetics (1, 2).  
43  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone is a flavor compound that exists in apricot, peach, strawberry (3),  
44 pineapple (4), mango (5), plum (6), acerola (7), and milk (8).  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone has been  
45 used as an aroma or taste component of consumable materials such as foodstuffs,  
46 chewing gums, toothpastes, cosmetic powders, hair preparations, medicinal products,  
47 smoking tobaccos, detergents, perfume compositions, and perfumed articles (9).

48 Many synthetic  $\gamma$ -lactones have been utilized as artificial flavors. However, the  
49 consumer perception that natural is good has led to the increased demand for natural  
50 flavors. Natural lactones, such as  $\gamma$ -decalactone and  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone, have been  
51 produced from free fatty acids, hydroxy fatty acids, or oils through several enzymatic  
52 steps in the  $\beta$ -oxidation system of yeast. A microbial process for producing  $\gamma$ -lactones  
53 exhibits higher conversion yield than a natural process. However, microbial production  
54 has a critical problem such as a low conversion yield that results from the barrier effect  
55 of the cell wall or membrane (10). Cell permeabilization improves the transfer of the  
56 reaction substrate and product across the cell membrane, and thus increases the  
57 production of metabolites (11-14).

58 10-Hydroxystearic acid is metabolized to 4-hydroxydodecanoic acid and acetic acid  
59 through  $\beta$ -oxidation cycle. 4-Hydroxydodecanoic acid is converted to  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
60 by lactonization and acetic acid is used to the synthesis of oleic acid by the several  
61 reactions of acetyl-CoA synthase, acetyl-CoA carboxylase, fatty acid synthetase, fatty

62 acid elongase, and fatty acid desaturase in the yeast strains *Rhodospiridium toruloides*  
63 (15), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (16). Oleic acid is  
64 converted to 10-hydroxystearic acid by baker's yeast (17) and it is converted to  $\gamma$ -  
65 dodecalactone by *Sporobolomyces odorus* (18). Thus, the metabolic pathway from 10-  
66 hydroxystearic acid to  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone by yeast could be proposed (Fig. 1).

67 In this study, to increase  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by effectively transferring the  
68 substrate and product into cells, permeabilization was attempted for *Waltomyces lipofer*,  
69 which was selected as an efficient  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone-producing yeast among 10  
70 oleaginous yeast strains. The reaction conditions were optimized for the whole  
71 permeabilized cells, and a new biotransformation process for the production of  $\gamma$ -  
72 dodecalactone from 10-hydroxystearic acid was developed under the optimized  
73 conditions.

74

## 75 MATERIALS AND METHODS

76

77 **Microorganisms, media, culture conditions, and reaction conditions.** *Candida*  
78 *oleophila* KTCT 7652, *Candida palmioleophila* KTCT 17452, *Cryptococcus curvatus*  
79 KTCT 7225, *Lipomyces spencermartinsiae* KTCT 17184, *Myxozyma lipomycoides*  
80 KTCT 7899, *Rhodotorula aurantiaca* KTCT 7776, *Rhodotorula glutinis* KTCT 7948,  
81 *Rhodospiridium toruloides* KTCT 7130, *Waltomyces lipofer* KTCT 17657, and  
82 *Yarrowia lipolytica* KTCT 17170 were used as  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone-producing yeasts. A  
83 single colony was inoculated into 10 ml of yeast malt (YM) broth, which consisted of  
84 3.0 g/liter yeast extract, 3.0 g/liter malt extract, 5.0 g/liter peptone, and 10.0 g/liter

85 dextrose, and cultivated at 27°C with agitation at 200 rpm for 18 h. The seed was then  
86 transferred into a 2-liter baffled flask containing 500 ml of YM broth and cultivated at  
87 27°C with agitation at 200 rpm for 18 h. The cells were harvested from the culture broth  
88 by centrifugation at  $13,000 \times g$  for 20 min at 4°C and then washed twice with 50 mM  
89 Tris-HCl buffer (pH 6.5) to prepare a concentrated cell suspension, which was then used  
90 for the production of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone from 10-hydroxystearic acid. Unless otherwise  
91 stated, the reaction was performed in 0.7 M Tris, 10 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, 5  
92 g/liter whole cells, and 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80 at pH 6.5, 35°C, and 200 rpm for 10 h in  
93 a 500-ml baffled flask containing 50 ml of reaction medium.

94

95 **Preparation of 10-hydroxystearic acid and the reaction product obtained from**  
96 **10-hydroxystearic acid using permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells.** 10-Hydroxystearic acid,  
97 as a precursor substrate of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone (19), was produced from oleic acid by a  
98 recombinant *Escherichia coli* containing oleate hydratase from *Stenotrophomonas*  
99 *maltophilia* (20). An equal volume of ethyl acetate was added to the reaction solution  
100 containing oleic acid and 10-hydroxystearic acid, and the solvent was removed from the  
101 solution using a rotary evaporator. To prepare 10-hydroxystearic acid, a mixture of 30%  
102 acetonitrile and 70% acetone was added to the extract solution at room temperature. The  
103 solution was cooled in an ultra-low temperature freezer for 24 h at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After cooling,  
104 the liquid fraction of oleic acid was removed at room temperature, and the solvent was  
105 removed from the solid fraction of 10-hydroxystearic acid using a rotary evaporator.  
106 This fractionation procedure was repeated 3 times. As a result, 10-hydroxystearic acid  
107 was obtained with high purity (>99%) and used as a substrate in subsequent

108 experiments.

109 To purify the reaction product, an equal volume of mineral oil was added to the  
110 reaction solution, which was obtained from 10-hydroxystearic acid by the reaction of  
111 permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells. The product in the mixture was purified using vacuum  
112 distillation in a silicon oil bath held below 130°C and then the purified product (>99%)  
113 was obtained.

114

115 **Cell permeabilization by detergent and/or solvent treatment for increased**  
116 **production of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone.** To prepare permeabilized whole *W. lipofer* cells, the  
117 harvested cells were resuspended in 0.1% (w/v) detergent solutions, where the  
118 detergents were sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), Triton X-100, and Tween 80, and in  
119 50% solvent solutions, where the solvents were ethanol, methanol, and toluene. The  
120 solutions were incubated at 4°C for 15 min and washed twice with distilled water, and  
121 the cells were used for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production. The effects of treatments of ethanol  
122 and Triton X-100 at several concentrations were investigated by varying the  
123 concentrations from 0 to 90% and from 0 to 1.0%, respectively. To obtain the combined  
124 effect of cell permeabilization, the harvested cells were treated sequentially with 50%  
125 ethanol and 0.5% Triton X-100.

126

127 **Optimization of reaction conditions for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production.** The effect of  
128 nitrogen source on  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells was  
129 evaluated. Various nitrogen sources added to the reaction media with an equivalent  
130 amount of 0.1 g/liter of nitrogen. The nitrogen sources were yeast nitrogen base, yeast

131 extract, malt extract, beef extract, peptone, polypeptone, casitone peptone, proteose  
132 peptone, soytone, and tryptone as organic nitrogen sources; and ammonium chloride,  
133 ammonium sulfate, ammonium acetate, ammonium citrate, ammonium phosphate,  
134 calcium nitrate, Tris (2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-propane-1,3-diol), MES (2-(*N*-  
135 morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid), PIPES (1,4-piperazinediethanesulfonic acid), and urea  
136 as inorganic nitrogen sources. The effect of nitrogen concentration in Tris was  
137 investigated by varying it from 0 to 20 g/liter. To examine the effects of pH, temperature,  
138 and agitation speed on  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells,  
139 The pH, temperature, and agitation speed were varied from pH 5.5 to pH 7.5, from 25 to  
140 45°C, and from 0 to 250 rpm, respectively.

141 To determine the optimal concentrations of the permeabilized cells and substrate for  
142 maximum  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production, the concentration of permeabilized cells was  
143 varied from 10 to 50 g/liter in the presence of 50 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, and the  
144 substrate concentration was varied from 10 to 100 g/liter in the presence of 30 g/liter  
145 permeabilized cells. The time course reactions of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by non-  
146 permeabilized and permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells were investigated with 30 g/liter  
147 permeabilized cells and 60 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid.

148

149 **Analytical methods.** The cell mass was determined using a calibration curve that  
150 related optical density at 600 nm to the dry cell weight. The reaction solution was  
151 acidified at 100°C for 30 min by adjusting it to pH 2.0 with addition of 6 M HCl and  
152 then extracted with an equal volume of ethyl acetate. The solvent was removed from the  
153 extract using a rotary evaporator. The obtained sample containing 10-hydroxystearic

154 acid was silylated with a 2:1 mixture of pyridine and *N*-methyl-*N*-  
155 (trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide (20).  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone, silylated oleic acid, and  
156 silylated 10-hydroxystearic acid in the organic phase were analyzed using a gas  
157 chromatograph (GC) (Agilent 6890N) equipped with a flame ionization detector and a  
158 Supelco SPB-1 capillary column and the standard  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone (Sigma-Aldrich).  
159 The column temperature was increased from 150 to 210°C at 4°C/min and maintained at  
160 210°C. The injector and detector were maintained at 260 and 250°C, respectively. The  
161 column temperature was increased from 150 to 210°C at 4°C/min and maintained at  
162 210°C. The injector and detector were maintained at 260 and 250°C, respectively. The  
163 purified product (>99%) was identified by GC/mass spectrometry (MS) (Agilent  
164 5973N) with an electron impact ionization source. The ion source was operated at 70 eV  
165 and held at 230°C. Acetic acid were analyzed using a high-performance liquid  
166 chromatography (HPLC) system (Agilent 1100) equipped with a UV detector at 210 nm  
167 and an ODS-AQ column (YMC, Kyoto, Japan). The column was eluted with 20 mM  
168 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> at a temperature of 30°C and a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min.

169

170

171

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

172

173 **Identification of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone and selection of an efficient  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone-**  
174 **producing strain.** A mass spectrum of GC/MS was observed for the product obtained  
175 from 10-hydroxystearic acid by the action of *W. lipofer* cells (see Fig. S1 in the  
176 supplementary material). A peak at  $m/z$  85 resulted from the loss of C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>17</sub> and C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub>



177 for the product peak at  $m/z$  198, respectively, arising from the cleavage between the C4  
178 and C5 positions. These fragment peaks identified the product as a  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone. The  
179 main fragment peak, a peak for the pentagonal ring of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone, was reported as  
180 a peak at  $m/z$  85 (21).

181 As a typical yeast, *Y. lipolytica* has been used for the production of  $\gamma$ -decalactone  
182 and  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone; however, its production, productivity, and conversion yield are not  
183 high (9, 22, 23). To improve  $\gamma$ -lactone production, a new type of oleaginous yeast is  
184 required. To select an effective  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone-producing strain,  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
185 production was performed with 10 oleaginous yeast strains in the reaction medium  
186 containing 10-hydroxystearic acid. The  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone-producing activity of 10  
187 oleaginous yeast strains followed the order *W. lipofer* > *C. palmioleophila* > *L.*  
188 *spencermartinsiae* > *Y. lipolytica* > *C. oleophila* > *R. aurantiaca* > *M. lipomycoides* > *R.*  
189 *glutinis* > *R. toruloides* > *C. curvatus* (see Fig. S2 in the supplementary material). The  
190 activity of *W. lipofer* was the highest among the 10 oleaginous yeast strains, and was  
191 especially higher than that of the typical  $\gamma$ -lactone-producing yeast *Y. lipolytica*. Thus, *W.*  
192 *lipofer* was selected as an efficient  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone-producing yeast and was used in all  
193 subsequent experiments for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production. *W. lipofer* belongs to the genus  
194 *Lipomycetaceae* and can synthesize various fatty acids, including palmitic, palmitoleic,  
195 stearic, oleic, linoleic,  $\alpha$ -linolenic,  $\gamma$ -linolenic, dihomogamma-linolenic, and arachidonic  
196 acids (24). The yeast accumulates up to 60–70% of storage lipids in the lipid droplets or  
197 lipid particles, which promote  $\beta$ -oxidation of long-chain fatty acids (25). *W. lipofer*  
198 (Synonym: *Lipomyces lipofer*) used in the present study does not belong to GRAS  
199 microorganisms.  $\gamma$ -Lactone has been used not only food but also industrial aromatic

200 cosmetics. Thus, the application of the strain to cosmetics causes no problem.

201

202 **Permeabilization of *W. lipofer* by detergent and/or solvent treatment for**  
203 **increased production of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone from 10-hydroxystearic acid.** In the  
204 present study, permeabilized cells were first applied to the production of the flavor  
205 lactone.  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production by permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells after treatment of  
206 solvent or detergent followed the order ethanol > Triton X-100 > SDS > methanol >  
207 Tween 80 > non-treated > toluene (Fig. 2).  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production by cells treated  
208 with ethanol or Triton X-100 was 1.6- or 1.5-fold higher than that by non-treated cells,  
209 respectively. Treatment with ethanol or Triton X-100 was tested at concentrations  
210 ranging from 0 to 90% and from 0 to 1%, respectively. The maximum production of  $\gamma$ -  
211 dodecalactone was observed at concentrations of 50% ethanol or 0.5% Triton X-100. To  
212 obtain the combined effect for cell permeabilization, 50% ethanol and 0.5% Triton X-  
213 100 were sequentially treated. The sequential treatments provided the highest  $\gamma$ -  
214 dodecalactone production (Fig. 2). Thus, sequential treatments with 50% ethanol and  
215 0.5% Triton X-100 were chosen as the cell permeabilization method for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
216 production. Although the compounds used for permeabilization have been known to  
217 decrease the viability of permeabilized yeast cells, the cells as whole-cell biocatalysts  
218 are effective for increasing the activities of enzymes (10, 26). **The combined effect for**  
219 **cell permeabilization may be due to the different mechanism of action of alcohol and**  
220 **Triton X-100. Water-alcohol mixture damages not cell wall but cell membrane (27),**  
221 **whereas Triton X-100 damages both cell wall and cell membrane (28).**

222

223 **Optimization of reaction conditions for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by**  
224 **permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells.** The pH, dissolved oxygen, agitation and aeration rates  
225 for the microbial production of  $\gamma$ -lactone were optimized. However,  $\gamma$ -lactone  
226 production is still low yield (29, 30). The reaction conditions for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
227 production, including nitrogen source, pH, temperature, agitation speed, and the  
228 concentrations of the substrate and cells, were optimized as follows: Generally, yeast  
229 nitrogen base has been used as the nitrogen source for  $\gamma$ -lactone production (31, 32).  
230 However,  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production using Tris was 1.5-fold higher than that using  
231 yeast nitrogen base and was higher than that using other nitrogen sources (Fig. 3), and  
232 the optimal nitrogen concentration was 10 g/liter. Thus, 10 g/liter nitrogen in Tris, which  
233 corresponded to 0.7 M, was used for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production.

234 The effects of pH, temperature, and agitation speed on  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by  
235 permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells were investigated. The maximal activity for  $\gamma$ -  
236 dodecalactone production was observed at pH 6.5, 35°C, and 200 rpm in a 250-ml flask  
237 (see Fig. S3 and S4 in the supplementary material).  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production by  
238 baker's yeast (33), *Sporidiobolus salmonicolor* (34), and *Sporobolomyces odorus* (18)  
239 was performed at pH 7.0, 25°C, and 130 rpm in a 500-ml flask; pH 6.0, 25°C, and 250  
240 rpm in a 500-ml flask; and 22°C and 80 rpm (pH was not described) in a 1-liter flask,  
241 respectively.

242 The optimal cell concentration for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production was investigated using  
243 50 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid as a substrate by varying the concentration of  
244 permeabilized cells from 0 to 50 g/liter after 10 h (see Fig. S5A in the supplementary  
245 material). At concentrations less than 30 g/liter permeabilized cells,  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone

246 production increased as the concentration of the permeabilized cells increased; however,  
247 at concentrations higher than 30 g of permeabilized cells per liter,  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
248 production reached a plateau. Therefore, the optimal cell concentration was determined  
249 to be 30 g/liter. The production of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone from 10-hydroxystearic acid was  
250 assessed in 30 g of g/liter permeabilized cells by varying the concentration of 10-  
251 hydroxystearic acid from 0 to 100 g/liter after 10 h (see Fig. S5A in the supplementary  
252 material). Within 60 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, increases in the substrate  
253 concentration resulted in proportional increases in the production of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone.  
254 However, the production of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone reached a plateau at concentrations higher  
255 than 60 g/liter; the optimal substrate concentration was 60 g/liter. Thus, the production  
256 of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone from 10-hydroxystearic acid was optimal at pH 6.5, 35°C, 200 rpm,  
257 0.7 M Tris, 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80, 60 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, and 30 g/liter  
258 permeabilized cells.

259

260  **$\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production by non-permeabilized and permeabilized *W. lipofer***  
261 **cells under the optimized conditions.** Under the optimized conditions, time-course  
262 reactions for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production were performed using non-permeabilized and  
263 permeabilized whole *W. lipofer* cells (Fig. 4). Permeabilized cells of *W. lipofer* produced  
264 46 g/liter  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone (232 mM) from 60 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid (200 mM)  
265 after 30 h, with a molar conversion yield of 116% (76%, w/w), and a volumetric  
266 productivity of 1.5 g/liter/h, and a specific productivity of 0.05 g/g (dry weight) of  
267 cells/h, whereas non-permeabilized cells produced 12 g g/liter  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone after 30  
268 h, with a conversion yield of 21% (w/w), a volumetric productivity of 0.4 g/liter/h, and

269 a specific productivity of 0.01 g/g (dry weight) of cells/h. The conversion yield and  
270 volumetric and specific productivities of the permeabilized cells were 56%, 3.8-fold,  
271 and 5.0-fold higher than those of non-permeabilized cells, respectively, which indicates  
272 that cell permeabilization was an efficient method for increasing  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
273 production.

274 The maximal possible amount of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone produced from 60 g/liter 10-  
275 hydroxystearic acid based on the molar yield of 1 was 40 g/liter. However,  
276 permeabilized whole cells of *W. lipofer* produced 46 g/liter  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone, showing a  
277 molar yield of > 1 with the small amounts of the by-products acetic acid and oleic acid  
278 (Fig. 4A). To explain the higher yield, the transformations of acetic acid and oleic acid  
279 were investigated. After 20 h, the cells metabolized 15 mM acetic acid to 8 mM oleic  
280 acid with a molar conversion yield of 53% (Fig. 4B) and they converted 15 mM oleic  
281 acid to 11 mM 10-hydroxystearic acid with a molar conversion yield of 73% (Fig. 4C).  
282 Thus, acetic acid formed through  $\beta$ -oxidation cycle in *W. lipofer* cells was reused to the  
283 synthesis of 10-hydroxystearic acid, indicating that fatty acid synthesis occurred in the  
284 same time during  $\beta$ -oxidation and the molar conversion yield of 10-hydroxystearic acid  
285 to  $\gamma$ -dodecanolactone could be more than 100%.

286  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production from 10-hydroxystearic acid or fatty acid by yeast strains  
287 is summarized in Table 1. *Mortierella isabellina* produced 4.1 g/liter  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
288 from 19.2 g/liter dodecanoic acid after 24 h, which was previously the highest observed  
289 concentration of  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone (35). *Y. lipolytica* produced 3.5 g/liter  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
290 from 14.4 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid after 18 h, with a conversion yield of 24.3%  
291 and a productivity of 194 mg/liter/h, which were previously the highest observed

292 conversion yield and productivity for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone (9). The concentration, yield, and  
293 productivity achieved in the present study using permeabilized cells of *W. lipofer* were  
294 11.1-fold, 52%, and 7.9-fold higher than the highest previously observed values for  $\gamma$ -  
295 dodecalactone production. Recently,  $\gamma$ -decalactone productivity for batch cultures of *Y.*  
296 *lipolytica* was observed 168 mg/liter/h using 30 g/liter methyl ricinoleate (36). *Y.*  
297 *lipolytica* produced 12.3 g/liter  $\gamma$ -decalactone from 60 g/liter castor oil with a  
298 conversion yield of 21% and a productivity of 240 mg/liter/h (37), which was  
299 previously the highest reported concentration and productivity in the production of  
300 flavor lactones. The concentration and productivity of  $\gamma$ -lactone obtained in the present  
301 study were 3.7- and 6.3-fold higher than those obtained using *Y. lipolytica*, respectively,  
302 which indicates that  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production by permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells is the  
303 highest ever reported.

304 In the present study, a new biotransformation process for the production of the natural  
305 flavor lactone was developed using permeabilized cells.  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production by  
306 the new process using permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells was significantly higher than that  
307 using non-permeabilized cells and these cells displayed the highest concentration, yield,  
308 and productivity observed to date in the microbial production of the flavor lactone.  
309 These results will contribute to the industrial microbial production of  $\gamma$ -lactones.

310

311

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312

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316

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- 416
- 417
- 418

419 **Figure Legends**

420

421 FIG. 1. Proposed metabolic pathway from 10-hydroxystearic acid to  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone  
422 by yeast.

423

424 FIG. 2. Effect of detergent and/or solvent treatment on permeabilization of *W. lipofer*  
425 for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production from 10-hydroxystearic acid. The reactions were the  
426 performed in 0.7 M Tris, 10 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, 5 g/liter permeabilized cells,  
427 and 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80 at pH 6.5, 35 °C, and 200 rpm for 10 h. Data represent the  
428 means of three separate experiments and error bars represent the standard deviation.

429

430 FIG. 3. Effect of nitrogen source on  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production from 10-  
431 hydroxystearic acid by permeabilized cells of *W. lipofer*. The reactions were performed  
432 in 0.1 g/liter nitrogen, 10 g/liter 10-hydroxystearic acid, 5 g/liter permeabilized cells,  
433 and 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80 at pH 6.5, 35 °C, and 200 rpm for 10 h. Data represent the  
434 means of three separate experiments and error bars represent the standard deviation.

435

436 FIG. 4. Time-course reactions of for  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production from 10-  
437 hydroxystearic acid, acetic acid, and oleic acid using permeabilized *W. lipofer* cells  
438 under optimal conditions. (A) Acetic acid, oleic acid and  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production  
439 from 10-hydroxystearic acid.  $\gamma$ -Dodecalactone production (●) from 10-hydroxystearic  
440 acid (▲) by permeabilized cells with the byproducts acetic acid (□) and oleic acid (■);  
441 and  $\gamma$ -dodecalactone production (○) from 10-hydroxystearic acid (△) by non-

442 permeabilized cells. The reactions were performed in 0.7 M Tris, 60 g/liter 10-  
443 hydroxystearic acid, 30 g/liter cells, and 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80 at pH 6.5, 35°C, and  
444 200 rpm. (B) Transformation reaction of acetic acid to oleic acid. The reactions were the  
445 performed in 0.7 M Tris, 15 mM acetic acid, 30 g/liter cells, and 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80  
446 at pH 6.5, 35°C, and 200 rpm. Acetic acid (□) and oleic acid (■). (C) Transformation  
447 reaction of oleic acid to 10-hydroxystearic acid. The reactions were performed in 0.7 M  
448 Tris, 15 mM oleic acid, 30 g/liter cells, and 0.05% (w/v) Tween 80 at pH 6.5, 35°C, and  
449 200 rpm. 10-Hydroxystearic acid (▲) and oleic acid (■). Data represent the means of  
450 three separate experiments and error bars represent the standard deviation.

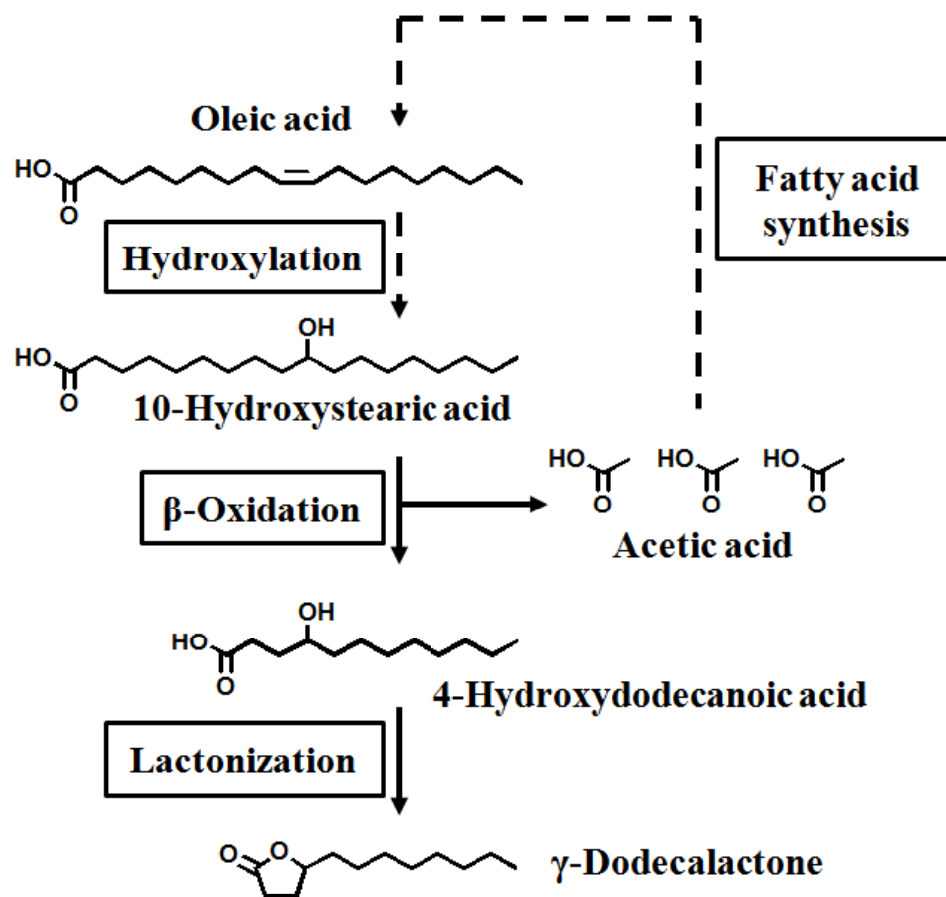


FIG. 1

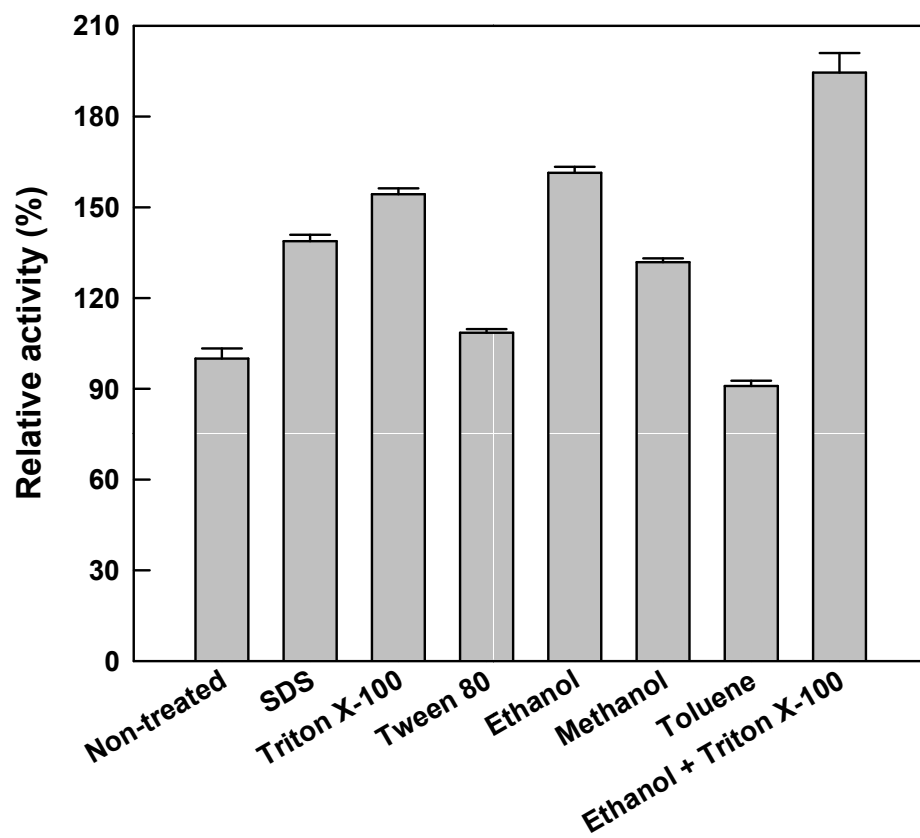


FIG. 2



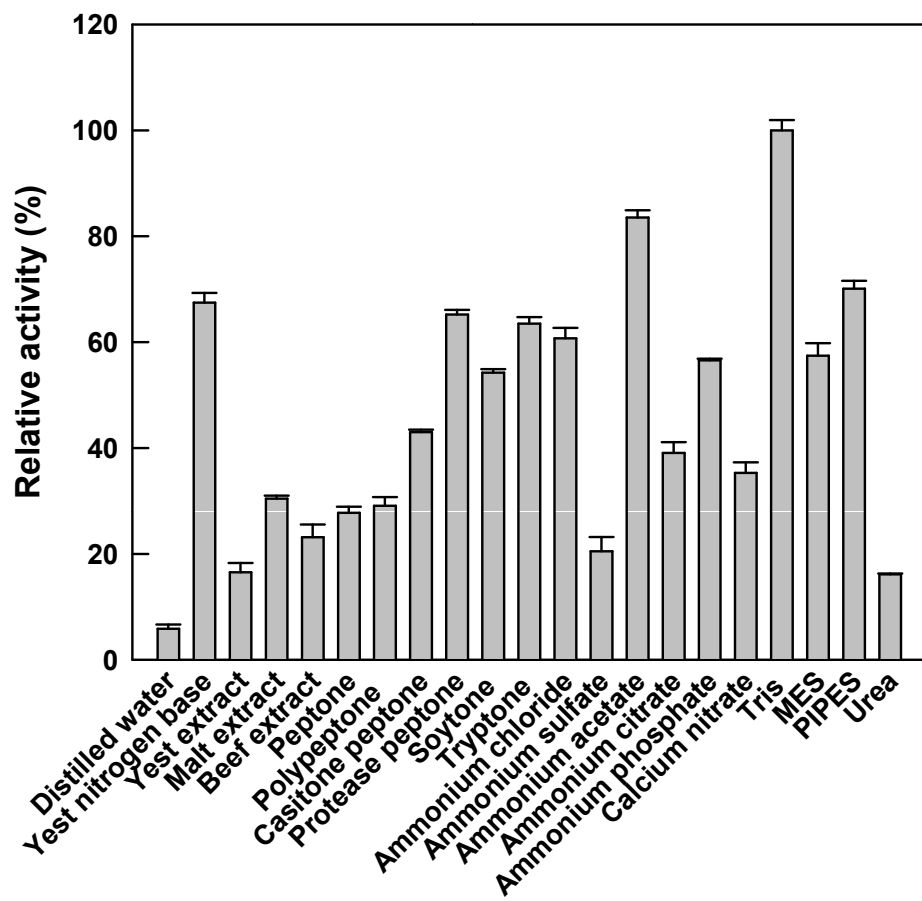


FIG. 3

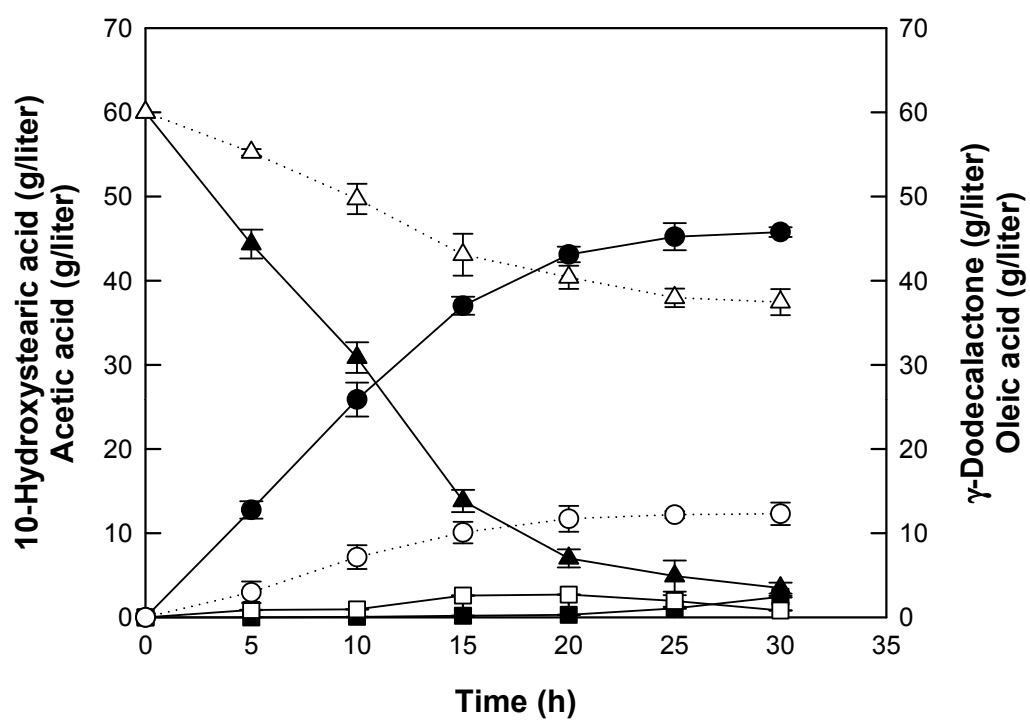


FIG. 4A

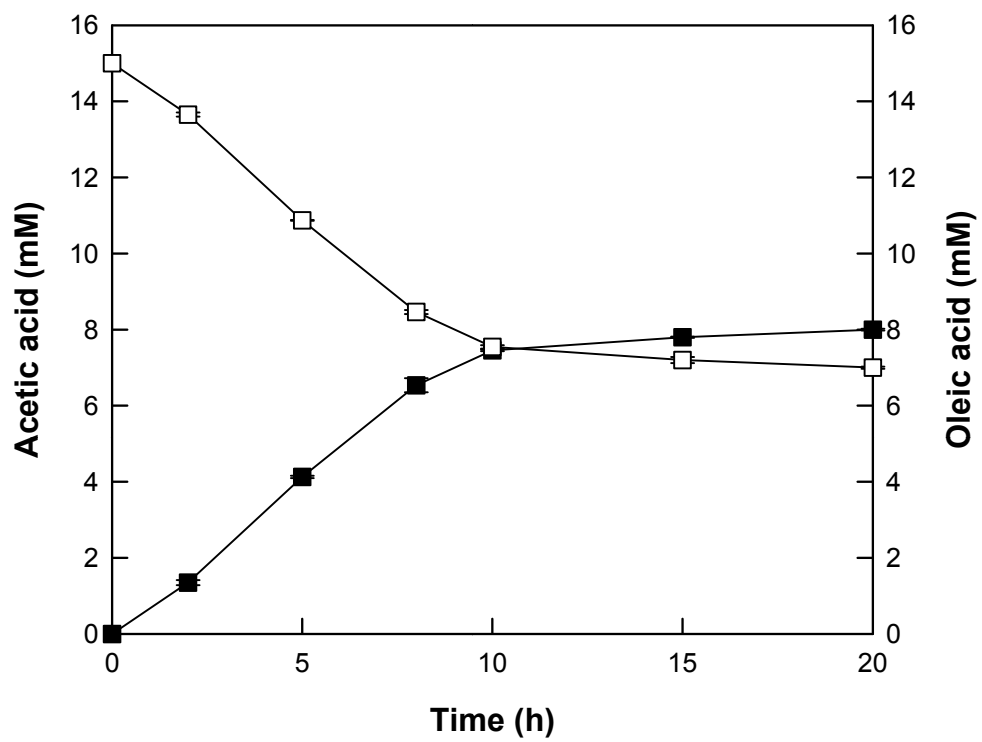


FIG. 4B

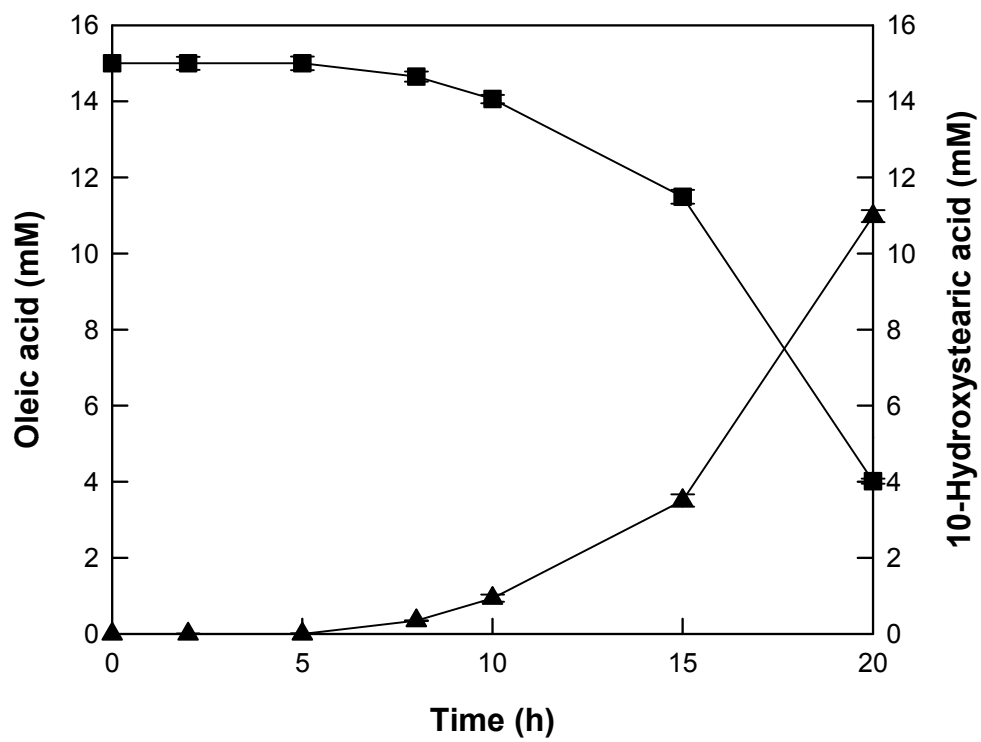


FIG. 4C

TABLE 1.  $\gamma$ -Dodecalatone production by fermentation and whole cell conversion of yeast strains

Biocatalyst	Source	Substrate (g/liter)	$\gamma$ -Dodecalatone (g/liter)	Productivity (mg/liter/h)	Conversion yield (% g/g)	Reference
Fermentation	<i>Yarrowia lipolytica</i>	10-Hydroxystearic acid (14.4)	3.5	194	24.3	(9)
	<i>Mortierella isabellina</i>	Dodecanoic acid (19.2) <sup>a</sup>	4.1	171	21.4	(35)
	<i>Sporobolomyces odorus</i>	Oleic acid (0.25)	< 0.035	NR	< 14.0	(18)
	<i>Sporidiobolus salmonicolor</i>	Culture medium (0)	< 0.0006	NR	NR	(34)
Whole cells	Baker's yeast	10-Hydroxystearic acid (0.5) and oleic acid	NR	NR	22.5	(33)
Permeabilized cell	<i>Waltomyces lipofer</i>	10-Hydroxystearic acid (60)	45.7	1,523	76.2	This study

NR: Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Dodecanoic acid at 0.8 g/liter was fed at a period of 24 h