

Transient expression of IpaB of *Shigella flexneri* in *Nicotiana tabaccum* in comparison to expressed protein in *Escherichia coli*

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Background and Aims: Shigellosis is caused by *Shigella* species and there is a high rate of morbidity and mortality. Because of the antibiotic increasing resistancy, vaccine development is one of the goals of World Health Organization. Invasion Plasmid coding Antigens are the major *Shigella* virulence factors and recently they became vaccine candidate proteins. "Molecular farming" is a low cost method for large scale production of pharmaceuticals recombinant proteins (vaccine, antibodies and pharmaceuticals) in plants.

Methods: In the present study IpaB protein was transiently expressed using agro-infiltration method in *Nicotiana tabaccum* leaves. Plant transformation was confirmed by expression of GFP that was coded by vector. The ipaB gene was cloned in pCambia1304 and the plasmid was transferred into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain LBA4404. Cloning of ipaB in *Escherichia coli* was done using pBAD/gIII vector and the expression was induced by arabinose. Expression of IpaB protein was compared in the two hosts using monoclonal antibody in western blotting.

Results: Our study showed that IpaB is better expressed in plant leaves than *E. coli*.

Conclusions: The aim of the present study was to investigate the possibility of expression of IpaB of *S. flexneri* in *Nicotiana tabaccum* which was difficult to express by *E. coli*. The results showed that the expression in plant is achievable and further studies on the level of expression are under progress.

Keywords: Shigellosis; Recombinant proteins; *Escherichia coli*; IpaB gene; Transient expression; Tobacco plant