

Elsevier Editorial System(tm) for Microbiological Research  
Manuscript Draft

Manuscript Number:

Title: Optimization of an anti Staphylococcus antibiotic produced by tropical soil dwelling Streptomyces parvulus

Article Type: Research Paper

Keywords: Streptomyces parvulus; Staphylococcus citreus; Bioassay

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Abstract: An antibiotic produced by strain Streptomyces parvulus showing activity against Staphylococcus citreus was subjected to various optimization parameters for enhancing its production. Nutritional and physiological parameters produced by S. parvulus under shaken flask conditions were determined. Optimization of these parameters led to 11% increase in antibiotic activity with a mean zone of inhibition of 42 mm.

Highest antibiotic production was obtained at 250 rpm for 14 days with optimum temperature of 28°C and pH 7. Kuster's modified medium containing glycerol 0.7% (v/v), casein 0.03% (w/v), NaCl 0% (w/v), phosphate 0.25% (w/v), KNO<sub>3</sub> 0.1% (w/v) and CaCO<sub>3</sub> 0.0015% (w/v) concentration was found ideal.

1 **Title:** Optimization of an anti *Staphylococcus* antibiotic produced by  
2 tropical soil dwelling *Streptomyces parvulus*

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20 **ABSTRACT**

21 An antibiotic produced by strain *Streptomyces parvulus* showing activity

22 against *Staphylococcus citreus* was subjected to various optimization

23 parameters for enhancing its production. Nutritional and physiological

24 parameters produced by *S. parvulus* under shaken flask conditions were

25 determined. Optimization of these parameters led to 11% increase in  
26 antibiotic activity with a mean zone of inhibition of 42 mm.  
27 Highest antibiotic production was obtained at 250 rpm for 14 days with  
28 optimum temperature of 28°C and pH 7. Kuster's modified medium  
29 containing glycerol 0.7% (v/v), casein 0.03% (w/v), NaCl 0% (w/v),  
30 phosphate 0.25% (w/v), KNO<sub>3</sub> 0.1% (w/v) and CaCO<sub>3</sub> 0.0015% (w/v)  
31 concentration was found ideal.

32 **Key words:** *Streptomyces parvulus*; *Staphylococcus citreus*; Bioassay

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## 62 **1. Introduction**

63

64 Novel antibiotics are continuously in demand due to the inevitable  
65 rise of antibiotic-resistant strains of pathogenic bacteria, reducing  
66 morbidity and mortality of life's expectancy (Fischbach and Walsh 2009).  
67 Among the pathogenic bacteria *Staphylococcus citreus* needs a special  
68 mention on account of its pathogenicity.

69 *S. citreus*, a virulent strain has risen due to spontaneous split off of  
70 pure line strains of pathogenic *S. aureus* (Pinner and Voldrich 1932)  
71 which causes skin infections, pneumonia, meningitis, endocarditis, toxic  
72 shock syndrome, septicemia and arthritis (Dilsen et al. 1961; Chambers  
73 2001).

74 Research done to harness potential drug candidates against this  
75 pathogen has not been reported, although concerted efforts to harness  
76 potential drugs against multi drug resistant strains of *Staphylococcus*  
77 *aureus* such as MRSA is underway (Demain and Sanchez 2009).

78 Actinobacteria have proven to be prolific producers of secondary  
79 metabolites among all microbial organisms, accounting for 45% of all  
80 microbial metabolites of which 80% (7,600 compounds) are produced by  
81 genus *Streptomyces* (Berdy 2005).

82 According to Watve et al. (2001) predictive modeling of genus  
83 *Streptomyces* suggests that over 150,000 bioactive metabolites from this  
84 genus still needs to be discovered.

85           Antibiotic biosynthesis in *Streptomyces* has been reported to be  
86 highly dependent on the nutritional and physiological factors prevailing  
87 during its growth as it helps in cell proliferation which expresses genetic  
88 information favoring secondary metabolism (Abbanat et al. 1999). These  
89 metabolic processes are species specific and can be enhanced or  
90 minimized under different physiological conditions (Yarbrough et al.  
91 1992; Abbanat et al. 1999; Selvin et al. 2009; Visalakchi and Muthumary  
92 2009; Rezuanul et al. 2009; Elleuch et al. 2010; Nanjwade et al. 2010;  
93 Panda et al. 2011; Chhabra and Keasling 2011; Darabpour et al. 2012;  
94 Mangamuri et al. 2012; Singh and Rai 2012; Luthra and Dubey 2012;  
95 Gunda and Charya 2013). Thus, it is essential to standardize growth  
96 conditions of the producer strain, for maximum synthesis of its bioactive  
97 molecules (Sujatha et al. 2005; Olmos et al. 2013).

98           Classical strain improvement despite being laborious and time  
99 consuming is still widely used due to its high success rate behind  
100 improved production titers of antibiotics such as penicillin, cephalosporin  
101 C, tylosin, salinomycin, chlortetracycline and tetracycline (Chhabra and  
102 Keasling 2011).

103           In the course of screening actinobacteria for antibiotic compounds,  
104 a strain identified as *Streptomyces parvulus* showed broad spectrum  
105 activity as revealed by perpendicular streak (Badji et al. 2007) and agar  
106 well diffusion method (Devillers et al. 1989). The present communication  
107 deals with the optimal parameters required for maximizing antibiotic

108 production by *S. parvulus* against pathogenic bacteria *Staphylococcus*  
109 *citreus*: We claim this to be the first such report.

110

## 111 **2. Methods**

### 112 *2.1. Location and sampling*

113

114 The actinobacterial strain CFA-9, deposited at Goa University  
115 Fungal Culture Collection (GUFCC 20101) was isolated from forest soil,  
116 Canacona, Goa, India (latitude 14°59'45.76"N and longitude  
117 74°03'02.17"E). Isolation of this strain was carried out using a novel  
118 baiting technique, which employs a microcosm with Arginine Vitamin  
119 Agar (AVA) medium coated slides to specifically capture *ex situ*  
120 actinobacterial diversity (Velho-Pereira and Kamat 2011; 2012).

121

### 122 *2.2. Taxonomic and molecular identification of the producer organism*

123

124 The morphological and cultural characteristics of the strain CFA-9 were  
125 studied by using traditional criteria of classification (Locci 1989; Cross  
126 and Goodfellow 1973). The micromorphological studies were done using  
127 light and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) (Williams and Davies  
128 1967).

129 For molecular identification, genomic DNA of the strain was  
130 extracted and its quality was evaluated as a single distinct band on 1.2%

131 agarose gel. The fragment 16S rRNA gene was amplified by PCR and the  
132 amplicon was purified to remove contaminants. Forward and reverse DNA  
133 sequencing reaction of PCR amplicon was carried out with 8F and 1492R  
134 primers using BDT v3.1 cycle sequencing kit on ABI 3730xl Genetic  
135 analyser. Consensus sequence of 1347bp 16S rRNA gene was generated  
136 from forward and reverse sequence data using aligner software. This work  
137 was done at Xcelris Labs Ltd. ([www.xcelerislabs.com](http://www.xcelerislabs.com)). The sequence has  
138 been deposited in Genbank database  
139 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/submit>).

140 Phylogenetic analyses were conducted using MEGA v5 (Tamura et  
141 al. 2011). The 16S rRNA gene sequence of strain CFA-9 was aligned  
142 using the Clustal W program against corresponding nucleotide sequences  
143 of representatives of *Streptomyces* genus retrieved from Genbank  
144 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank>). Phylogenetic tree was inferred by  
145 the maximum-likelihood method (Felsenstein 1985) based on the  
146 Hasegawa–Kishino–Yano (HKY) (Hasegawa et al. 1985) model. Tree  
147 topologies were evaluated by bootstrap analysis (Felsenstein 1985) based  
148 on 1000 resamplings.

149

### 150 2.3. Antibiotic production medium

151

152 Kuster's broth (Kuster and William 1964) composed of glycerol  
153 (0.8% v/v), Casein (0.03% w/v), NaCl (2% w/v), KNO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 w/v), K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>

154 (0.2% w/v), MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O (0.005% w/v), CaCO<sub>3</sub> (0.001% w/v), pH 7 was  
155 used as the basic fermentation medium. It was inoculated with a seven day  
156 old culture (5% inoculum) under sterile conditions. The culture flasks  
157 were fixed on a rotary shaker (Orbitek<sup>R</sup>, Scigenics Biotech, Pvt. Ltd.,  
158 India) 250 rpm; rotation diameter: 2.0 cm, placed in a thermostated  
159 cabinet at 28°C for fourteen days fermentation process. All these  
160 parameters formed the positive control of the experiment. The chemicals  
161 were procured from HiMedia, Mumbai, India.

162

#### 163 *2.4. Antibiotic bioassay and test organism*

164

165 Agar well diffusion method (Devillers et al. 1989) was used for  
166 detection of antimicrobial activity. Antibiotic bioassay was carried out  
167 using the cell free centrifugate (CFC) to detect extracellular production of  
168 bioactive metabolites. Uninoculated Kuster's broth was used as a negative  
169 control.

170 The culture broth was subjected to centrifugation at 4000 g for 20 min to  
171 obtain a CFC. Medium for bioassay was Muller Hinton agar (Himedia veg,  
172 Mumbai, India). Three cores of 6 mm diameter were excised from the  
173 Mueller Hinton agar plates, pre-seeded with the test organism using  
174 sterile swabs. The wells were filled with the supernatant (50-70 µl) using  
175 Accupipet model T1000 (Tarsons Products Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, India).The



176 plates were incubated at 28°C for 48h and inhibition zones (ZOI) were  
177 visualized and measured in millimeters.  
178 Since preliminary screening showed highest activity against  
179 *Staphylococcus citreus*, the same was chosen as a test pathogenic strain  
180 for optimizing all parameters. The test organism *S. citreus* was procured  
181 from Department of Microbiology, Goa Medical College, Goa and  
182 maintained on nutrient agar media (Himedia, Mumbai, India).

183

## 184 2.5. Optimization parameters

185

186 Antibiotic production was optimized by using different  
187 physiological and nutritional parameters *viz.*, days of incubation,  
188 temperature, pH, sodium chloride, organic and inorganic carbon and  
189 nitrogen sources and phosphate. The optimum conditions identified for  
190 one parameter were used for optimizing the other parameters sequentially.  
191 The efficiency of the optimized parameters was established on the basis of  
192 zone of inhibition (ZOI) in mm. All experiments were performed in  
193 triplicates (n=3).

194

### 195 2.5.1. Days of incubation

196

197 To study the effect of incubation period on antibiotic production, 10  
198 ml aliquot of the culture broth was collected aseptically at regular

199 intervals of 4, 7, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20<sup>th</sup> days and the CFC was subjected  
200 to bioassay.

201

#### 202 *2.5.2. Temperature*

203

204 The optimum temperature for antibiotic production was assayed by  
205 incubating the production medium at 25, 28, 32 and 37°C. The control was  
206 maintained at 28°C.

207

#### 208 *2.5.3. pH*

209

210 Influence of pH on antibiotic production of the strain was  
211 determined by adjusting the pH of production medium ranging from 3-11  
212 with 0.1 N NaOH/0.1 N HCl. pH 7 was used as the control.

213

#### 214 *2.5.4. NaCl concentration (ppm)*

215

216 The effect of sodium chloride on antibiotic production was studied  
217 using different salinity concentrations of 0; 10,000; 15,000; 20,000;  
218 25,000; 30,000 and 35,000 ppm. NaCl concentration of 20,000 ppm was  
219 kept as control.

220

221

222

223 *2.5.5. Organic Carbon and Nitrogen source (%)*

224

225 To study the influence of carbon and nitrogen source on antibiotic  
226 production, varied concentrations of the respective sources were tested.  
227 Glycerol being the sole organic carbon source of the Kuster's broth  
228 medium was studied using its varied concentration of 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8,  
229 0.9, 1, 1.2 and 1.3% (v/v). Glycerol concentration of 0.8% (v/v) was kept  
230 as control. Casein being the sole organic nitrogen source of the medium  
231 was studied using its varied concentration of 0.01-0.09% (w/v). Casein  
232 concentration of 0.03% (w/v) was kept as control.

233

234 *2.5.6. Phosphate concentration (%)*

235

236 To study the effect of phosphate mineral ( $K_2HPO_4$ ) on antibiotic  
237 production different concentrations, 0.00029; 0.00057; 0.00086; 0.0011;  
238 0.0014; 0.0017; 0.002; 0.0023; 0.0026 and 0.0029% (w/v) were tested.  
239 Phosphate concentration of 0.0011% (w/v) was kept as control.

240

241 *2.5.7. Inorganic nitrogen and carbon source (%)*

242

243 The influence of inorganic nitrogen ( $KNO_3$ ) and carbon source  
244 ( $CaCO_3$ ) present in the antibiotic production medium was studied using  
245 varied  $KNO_3$  concentration of 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5

246 and 0.55% (w/v). KNO<sub>3</sub> concentration of 0.1% (w/v) was kept as control  
247 and eight varied concentration of CaCO<sub>3</sub> i.e. 0, 0.0005, 0.001, 0.0015,  
248 0.002, 0.0025, 0.003, 0.0035% (w/v) was studied. CaCO<sub>3</sub> concentration of  
249 0.001% (w/v) was kept as control.

250

## 251 2.6. *Statistical Analysis*

252

253 Results are expressed as a mean of three experiments  $\pm$  standard  
254 deviations (SDs). Statistical analyses were performed using WASP (Web  
255 Based Agricultural Statistics Software Package 1.0,  
256 (<http://www.icargoa.res.in/wasp/index.php>) and differences were  
257 considered significant if  $p \leq 0.05$ .

258

259

## 260 3. Results

### 261 3.1. *Selection and molecular identification of the strain*

262

263 Among the five strains isolated from the forest soil, CFA-9 with  
264 broad spectrum antimicrobial activity of 66.7% against human pathogens  
265 namely Gram negative bacteria *Shigella flexneri*, *Enterobacter aerogens*  
266 and Gram positive bacteria *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus typhi* and *S.*  
267 *citreus* was selected. Highest zone of inhibition (31 mm) was observed  
268 against *S. citreus*.

269 The strain exhibited grey aerial mycelium, with spiral spore chains and  
270 produced a bright yellow pigment and was identified as *Streptomyces*  
271 *parvulus*, with gene bank accession number of KC904376 (Fig. 1).

272

### 273 *3.2. Optimization parameters*

274

#### 275 *3.2.1. Days of incubation*

276

277 The maximum antibiotic production resulting in a mean ZOI of 35  
278 mm was recorded over a period of 14 days. The activity was observed  
279 from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of incubation and reached a maximum on the 14<sup>th</sup> day  
280 showing significant variation ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Thereafter, with the increase in  
281 incubation period, the antibiotic production decreased (Fig. 2).

282

#### 283 *3.2.2. Temperature*

284

285 As seen in the Fig. 3, incremental temperature rise led to an  
286 increase in the antibiotic production till it reached the optimum, further  
287 increase in temperature was accompanied by a decrease in the antibiotic  
288 production. Maximum yield of bioactive metabolites was observed when  
289 the strain was cultured at optimum temperature of 28°C with a mean ZOI  
290 of 37 mm which was significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). 25°C and 32°C also showed an

291 appreciable mean ZOI of 29 and 32 mm respectively. The lowest mean  
292 ZOI of 24 mm was observed at 37°C (Fig. 3).

293

### 294 3.2.3. *pH*

295

296 Maximum antibiotic activity occurred at pH 7.0, exhibiting mean  
297 ZOI of 37 mm which was significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). No antibiotic production  
298 was observed at pH 3, 4 and 11. Increasing the pH value led to an increase  
299 in the antibiotic production up to certain threshold limit and further  
300 increase in values resulted in decrease in the antibiotic production (Fig.  
301 4).

302

### 303 3.2.4. *NaCl concentration*

304

305 Maximum antibiotic production in terms of mean ZOI of 37 mm,  
306 was obtained without NaCl and was significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). A significant  
307 difference was found over control (20,000 ppm concentration) exhibiting  
308 a mean ZOI of 33 mm. However activity was observed at all concentration  
309 of NaCl (Fig. 5).

310

### 311 3.2.4. *Organic Carbon and Nitrogen concentration (%)*

312

313 The onset and intensity of secondary metabolism is dependent on  
314 various nutritional factors like carbon and nitrogen sources.

315 Maximum antibiotic activity was observed with 0.7% glycerol  
316 concentration showing a mean ZOI of 35 mm and was significant ( $p \leq$   
317 0.05). Data indicated that increasing concentration of glycerol from 0.5-  
318 0.7% led to an increase in the antibiotic production, thereafter further  
319 increase in values from 0.8-1.2% resulted in its decrease (Fig. 6).

320 Maximum antibiotic activity was observed with 0.03% casein  
321 concentration showing a mean ZOI of 39 mm and was significant ( $p \leq$   
322 0.05). However, other concentration of casein also favoured the  
323 production of antibiotic compounds (Fig. 7).

324

#### 325 *3.2.5. Phosphate concentration (%)*

326

327 As seen in Fig. 9, 0.25% (w/v) concentration of phosphate resulted  
328 in maximum yield of antibiotic exhibiting a mean ZOI of 35 mm and was  
329 significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). The results also indicated other concentrations of  
330 phosphate exhibiting an appreciable ZOI (Fig. 8).

331

#### 332 *3.2.6. Inorganic Nitrogen and Carbon concentration (%)*

333

334 Maximum antibiotic activity was observed with its 0.1%  $\text{KNO}_3$   
335 concentration exhibiting a mean ZOI of 36 mm which was much higher to  
336 that of control (0.2%) with a mean ZOI of 29 mm and was significant ( $p \leq$   
337 0.05) (Fig. 9).

338 Maximum antibiotic activity was observed with 0.0015% and 0.002%  
339 CaCO<sub>3</sub> concentration with a mean ZOI of 37 mm in both cases and was  
340 significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) (Fig. 10).

341

#### 342 **4. Discussion**

343

344 A broad-spectrum antibiotic producing strain *Streptomyces parvulus*  
345 exhibiting maximum activity against human pathogenic bacteria  
346 *Staphylococcus citreus* was subjected to various optimization parameters.

347 The ability of actinobacterial cultures to produce antibiotics is not  
348 fixed and arises from intracellular intermediates through defined  
349 biochemical pathways. It can either be greatly increased or completely  
350 lost depending on the conditions in which they are grown (Kavitha and  
351 Vijayalakshmi 2009). The production of most antibiotics is regulated by  
352 complex biosynthetic pathways encoded by physically clustered genes  
353 (Sevcikova and Kormanec 2004).

354 *S. parvulus* have been reported to produce antibiotics like  
355 Actinocin, Actinomycin, Borrelidin, Hydroxyectoine and Manumycin  
356 (StreptomeDB, [www.pharmaceuticalbioinformatics.de/streptomedb](http://www.pharmaceuticalbioinformatics.de/streptomedb)).  
357 Studies dealing with optimizing such compounds are scarce with the  
358 exception of Actinomycin (Foster and Katz 1981; Sousa et al. 2001).



359 However, studies by Genilloud et al. (2011) have shown that inspite of  
360 taxonomic relatedness of these strains, the conditions for antibiotic  
361 production were strain dependent.

362 Period of incubation had a profound effect on antibiotic production  
363 with maximum zone of inhibition exhibited after 14 days. Further increase  
364 in incubation period led to decrease in the antibiotic production which is  
365 in accordance to the previous studies reporting that antibiotic production  
366 usually occurs in late exponential and stationary phase (El-Nasser et al.  
367 2010; Singh and Rai 2012).

368 Maximum antibiotic production at 28°C was in agreement to the  
369 previous reports indicating that optimal temperature for antibiotic  
370 production is usually in the range of 26°C to 35°C exhibited by several  
371 *Streptomyces* species (Elliah et al. 2004; Rizk et al. 2007; Mustafa 2009;  
372 Ghosh and Prasad 2010; Elleuch et al. 2010; Atta et al. 2011; Mangamuri  
373 et al. 2012; Singh and Rai 2012; Vijayakumar et al. 2012; Gunda and  
374 Charya 2013).

375 Antibiotic production in the present study was affected by change in  
376 pH of growth medium which is a significant factor affecting nutrient  
377 solubility and uptake, enzyme activity, cell membrane morphology by  
378 product formation and oxidative reduction reactions (Bajaj et al. 2009;  
379 Vijayabharathi et al. 2012). This study found pH 7 as the optimum for  
380 antibiotic production and decrease or increase in these values led to  
381 complete loss of antibiotic production. Thus the data, is in accordance to

382 the previous reports illustrating pH 7 as optimal for enhancing antibiotic  
383 production, exhibited by most *Streptomyces* sp. strains (Elleuch et al.  
384 2010; Singh and Rai 2012; Gunda and Charya 2013). Besides, *S.*  
385 *coelicolar* (Bystrykh et al. 1996), *S. hygroscopicus* D1.5 (Bhattacharya et  
386 al. 1998), *S. torulosus* KH-4 (Atta et al. 2010), *S. viridodiastaticus* (El-  
387 Nasser et al. 2010), *Streptomyces cheonanensis* (Mangamuri et al. 2012)  
388 also stated maximum activity at pH 7. This phenomenon could be  
389 attributed to the adaptation of the strain to alkaline soils from which it  
390 has been isolated (Rezuanul et al. 2009).

391 Sources like NaCl had no significant effect on the antibiotic  
392 production and were consistent with previous report with respect to  
393 neomycin production (Kavitha and Vijayalakshmi 2009).

394 Antibiotic synthesis is highly dependent on utilization of the  
395 preferred carbon sources. The results of this study revealed that maximum  
396 antibiotic activity was observed with 0.7% (v/v) glycerol concentration.  
397 Glycerol as the better carbon source for enhancing antibiotic production  
398 by *Streptomyces* has been reported in the previous studies (Selvin et al.  
399 2009; Elleuch et al. 2010; Singh and Rai 2012; da Silva 2012). According  
400 to Shikura et al (2002), when glycerol is used as the precursor, it forms a  
401  $\beta$ -ketoacyl-CoA, a process similar to polyketide biosynthesis where a  
402 dihydroxyacetone-type- $C_3$  unit is derived from glycerol to create a  $\beta$ -keto  
403 ester leading to a  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone autoregulators which is regarded as

404 *Streptomyces* hormones that trigger the onset of secondary metabolism in  
405 general and that of antibiotic production in particular.

406 Other than the carbon, assimilation of nitrogen source is also  
407 crucial for antibiotic production and is regulated by complex mechanisms  
408 of glutamate synthetases (Rodríguez-García et al. 2009, Kavitha and  
409 Vijayalakshmi 2009; Selvin et al. 2009; Saha et al. 2010; Vijayabharathi  
410 et al. 2012; da Silva 2012). Our study revealed 0.03% casein  
411 concentration as the optimal for maximum antibiotic production.

412 Phosphate is also a major factor in antibiotic biosynthesis and  
413 expression of phosphate-regulated genes in *Streptomyces* species is  
414 modulated by the two-component system PhoR-PhoP (Martin and Demain  
415 1980; Rodríguez-García et al. 2009). Dipotassium hydrogen phosphate  
416 ( $K_2HPO_4$ ) is being reported as the most favourable salt for its production.  
417 Our results showed 0.25% (w/v) phosphate as optimal for antibiotic  
418 production. This data corroborates with the findings of Harold 1966;  
419 Kishimoto et al. 1996; Kavitha and Vijayalakshmi 2009; El-Nasser et al.  
420 2010; Mangamuri et al. 2012.

421 Among the inorganic carbon and nitrogen sources, maximum  
422 antibiotic production was obtained with 0.0015% and 0.002% (w/v)  
423 concentration of  $CaCO_3$  and 0.1% (w/v) concentration of potassium  
424 nitrate.  $CaCO_3$  being used as a source of  $Ca^{+2}$  enhances antibiotic  
425 production and also aids in maintaining the pH of the medium (Hamedi et  
426 al. 2004; Basavaraj et al. 2011). Potassium nitrate as superior to other

427 inorganic nitrogen sources has been reported (El-Nasser et al. 2010) and  
428 present findings confirms the same.

429 This study identified a set of optimizing parameters such as a  
430 period of 14 days of incubation, with optimum temperature of 28<sup>o</sup>C and  
431 pH of 7 and Kuster's modified medium containing glycerol 0.7% (w/v),  
432 casein 0.03% (w/v), NaCl 0% (w/v), phosphate 0.25% (w/v), KNO<sub>3</sub> 0.1%  
433 (w/v) and CaCO<sub>3</sub> 0.0015% (w/v) concentration, that culminated in 11%  
434 higher yield of antibiotic production with a mean ZOI of 42 mm against  
435 clinical pathogenic strain, *Staphylococcus citreus*. It also highlights the  
436 need to screen tropical soil actinobacteria against such rising harmful  
437 human pathogen and obtain potential antibiotics that could also serve as  
438 targets to MRSA like pathogens.

439

#### 440 **Acknowledgements**

441 Authors acknowledge UGC-SAP for providing financial assistance to  
442 carry out the work and Dr. Savio Rodrigues, Goa Medical College for  
443 providing microbial test pathogens. The first author duly acknowledges  
444 the support of UGC-JRF Maulana Azad National Fellowship.

445

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700 **Legends for Figures**

701 Fig. 1. Maximum-likelihood tree based on 16S rRNA gene sequence  
702 showing the relations between antibiotic producer strain *Streptomyces*  
703 strain CFA-9 and type species of the genus *Streptomyces* within the order  
704 actinomycetales under actinobacteria. The numbers at the nodes indicate  
705 the levels of bootstrap support based on maximum-likelihood analyses of  
706 1000 resampled data sets (only values >50% are shown). The scale bar  
707 indicates 0.002 substitutions per nucleotide positions.

708

709 Fig. 2. Effect of incubation periods on antibiotic production. Bars indicate  
710 standard deviation of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant  
711 differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

712

713 Fig. 3. Effect of temperature on antibiotic production. Bars indicate  
714 standard deviation of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant  
715 differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

716

717 Fig. 4. Effect of pH on antibiotic production. Bars indicate standard  
718 deviation of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant differences  
719 ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

720



721 Fig. 5. Effect of NaCl (ppm) on antibiotic production. Bars indicate  
722 standard deviation of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant  
723 differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

724

725 Fig. 6. Effect of different concentrations of glycerol (%) as organic  
726 carbon source on antibiotic production. Bars indicate standard deviation  
727 of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant differences ( $p \leq$   
728 0.05).

729

730 Fig. 7. Effect of different concentrations of casein (%) as organic nitrogen  
731 source on antibiotic production. Bars indicate standard deviation of the  
732 mean and the superscripts indicate significant differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

733

734 Fig. 8. Effect of phosphate (%) on antibiotic production. Bars indicate  
735 standard deviation of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant  
736 differences ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

737

738 Fig. 9. Effect of different concentrations of  $\text{KNO}_3$  (%) as inorganic  
739 nitrogen source on antibiotic production. Bars indicate standard deviation  
740 of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant differences ( $p \leq$   
741 0.05).

742

743 Fig. 10. Effect of different concentrations of CaCO<sub>3</sub> (%) as inorganic  
744 carbon source on antibiotic production. Bars indicate standard deviation  
745 of the mean and the superscripts indicate significant differences ( $p \leq$   
746 0.05).

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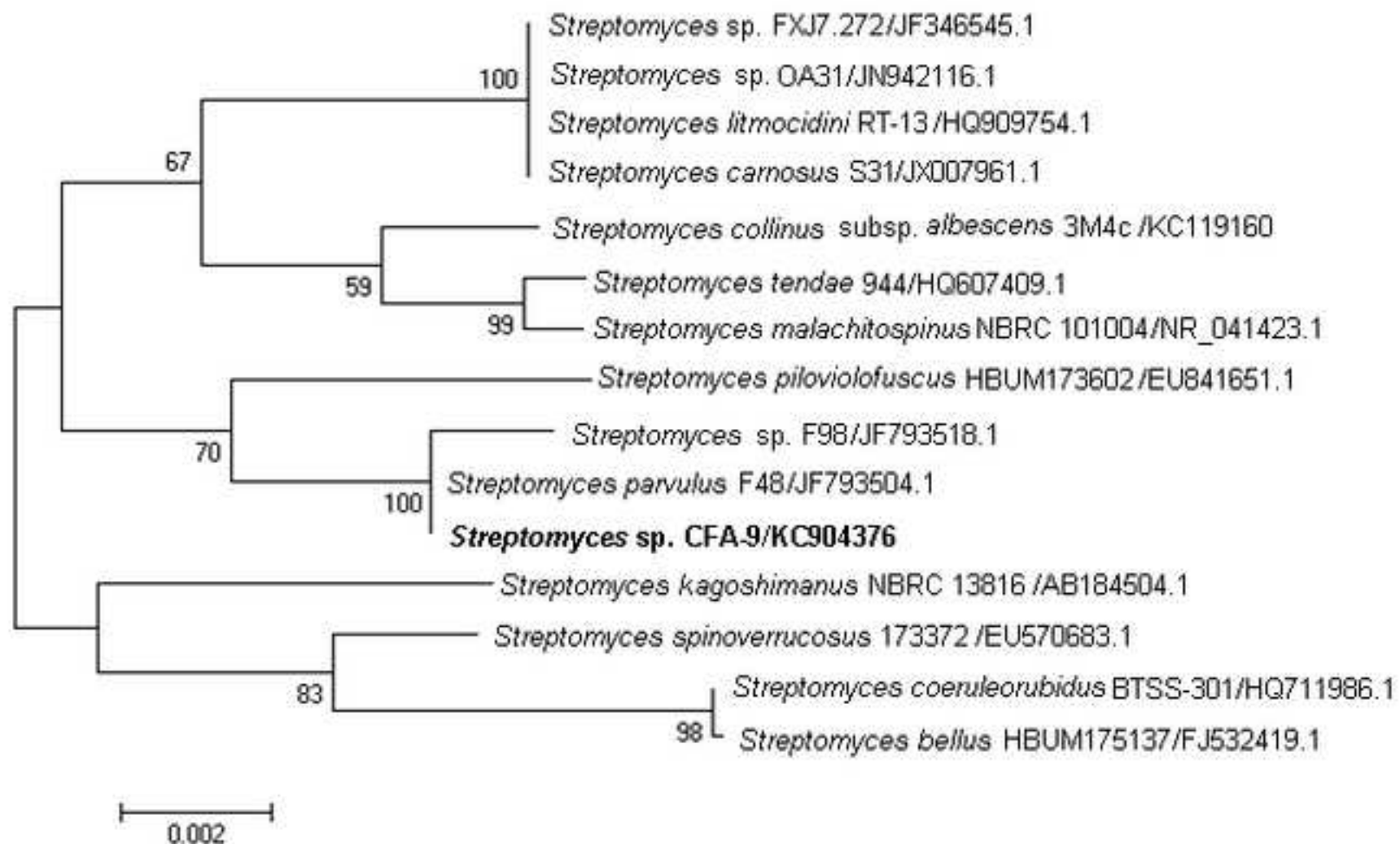


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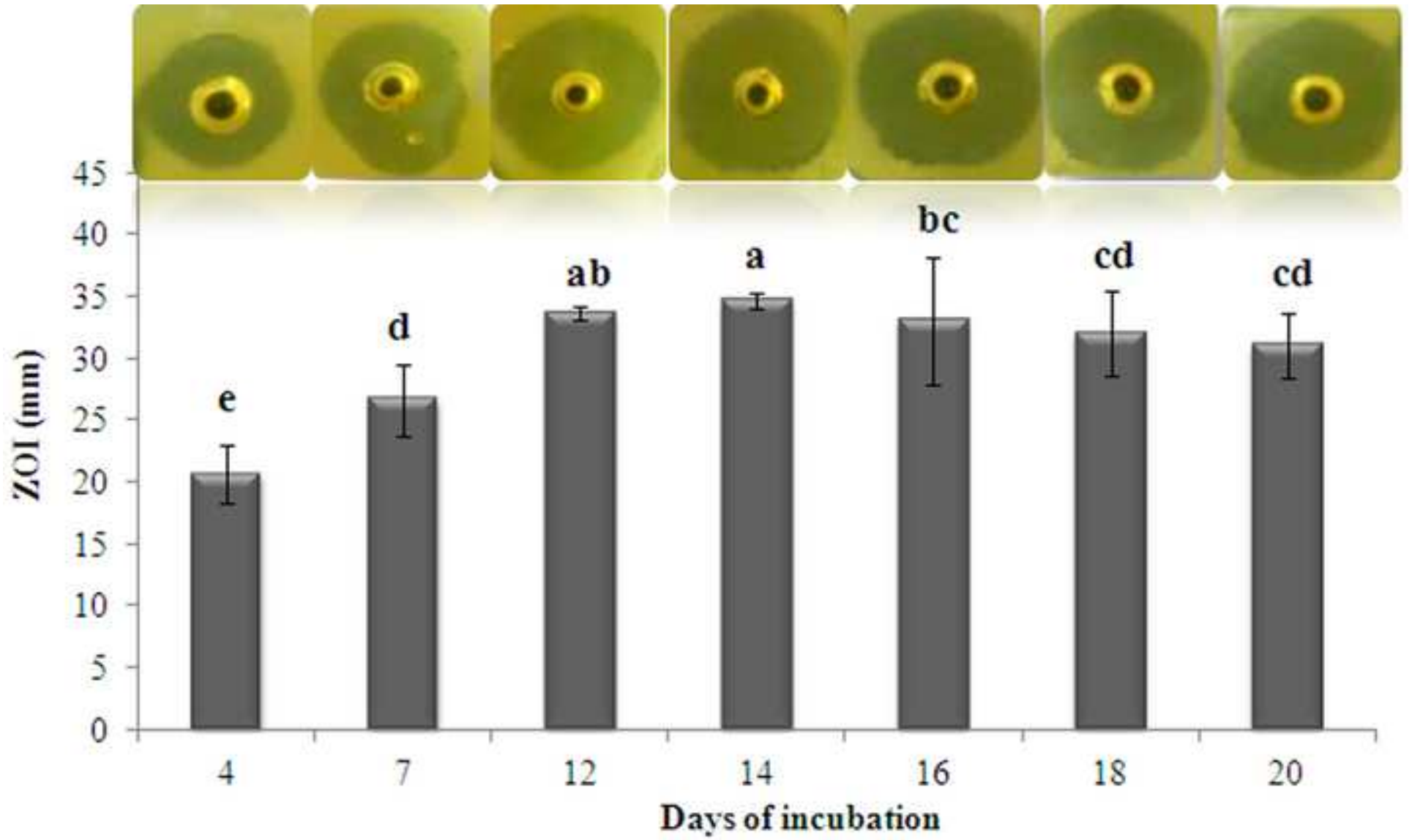


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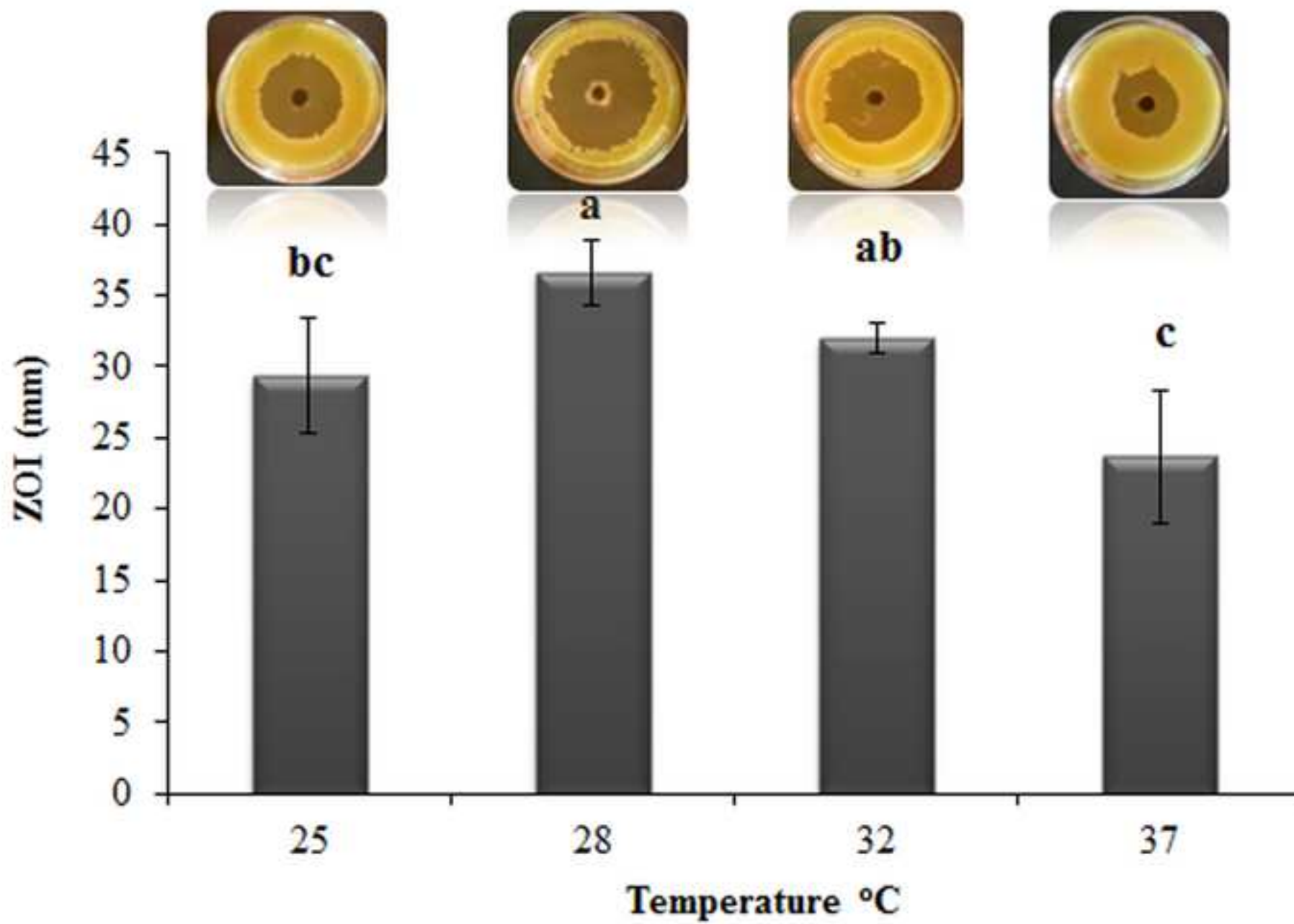
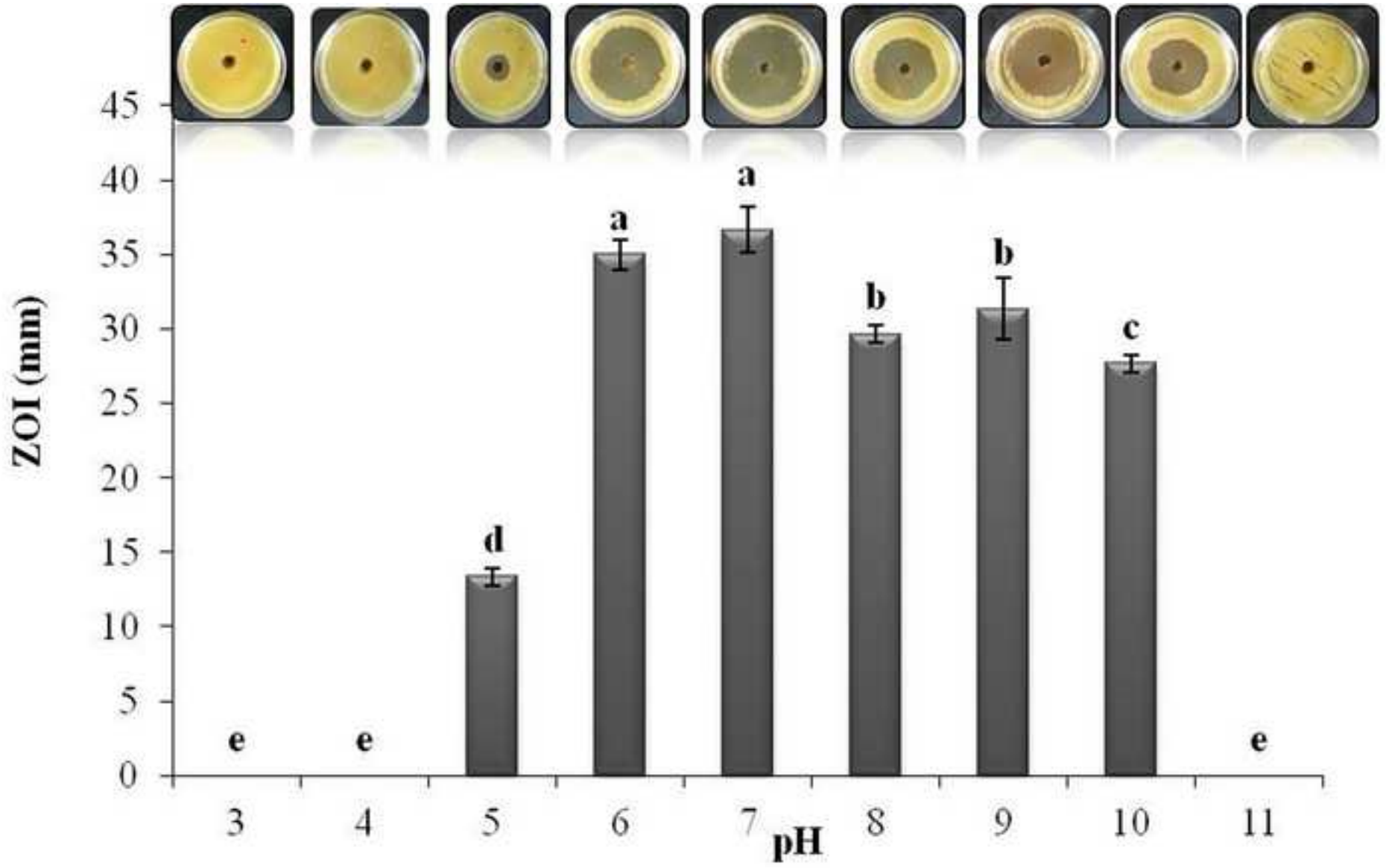
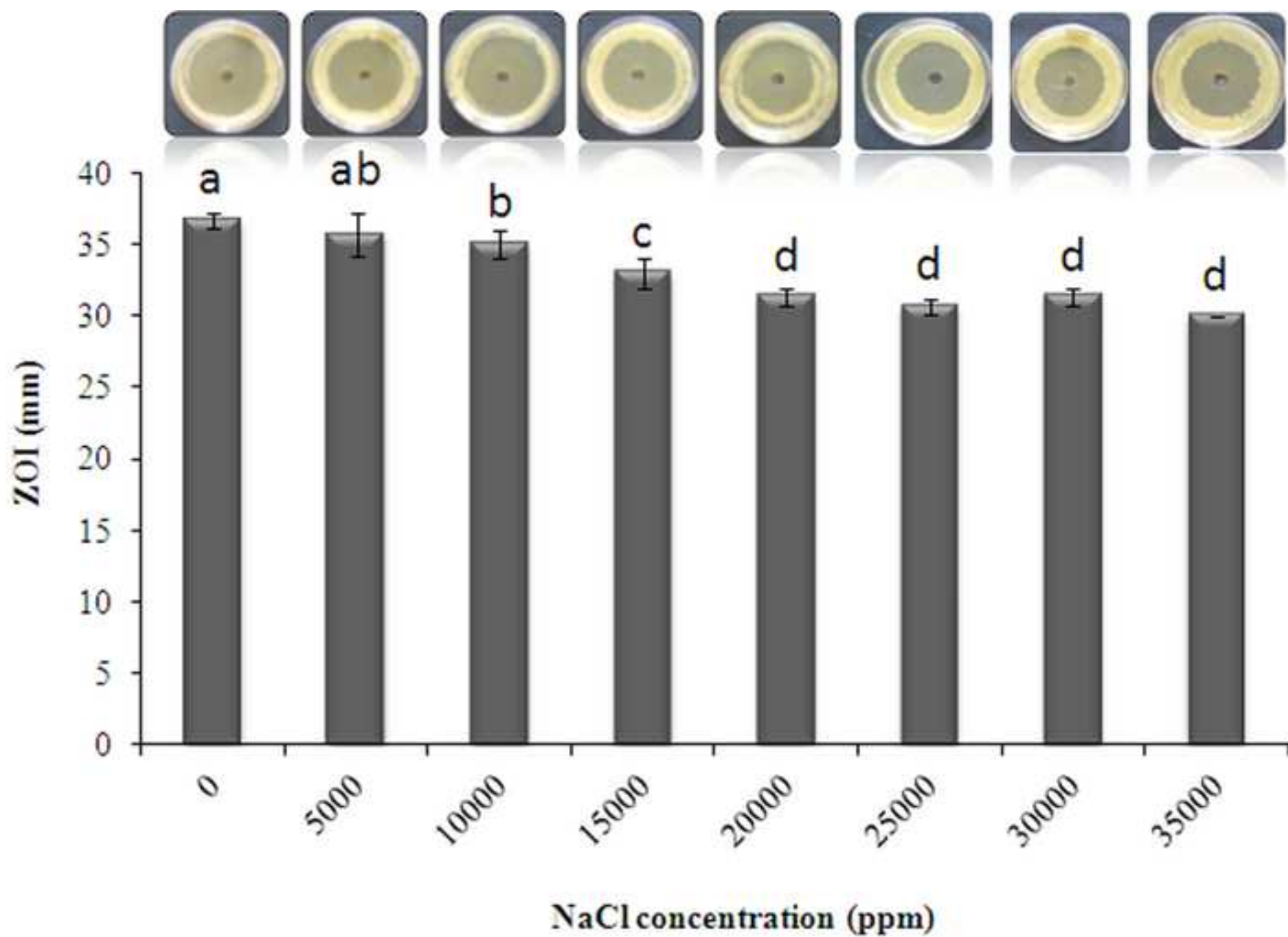


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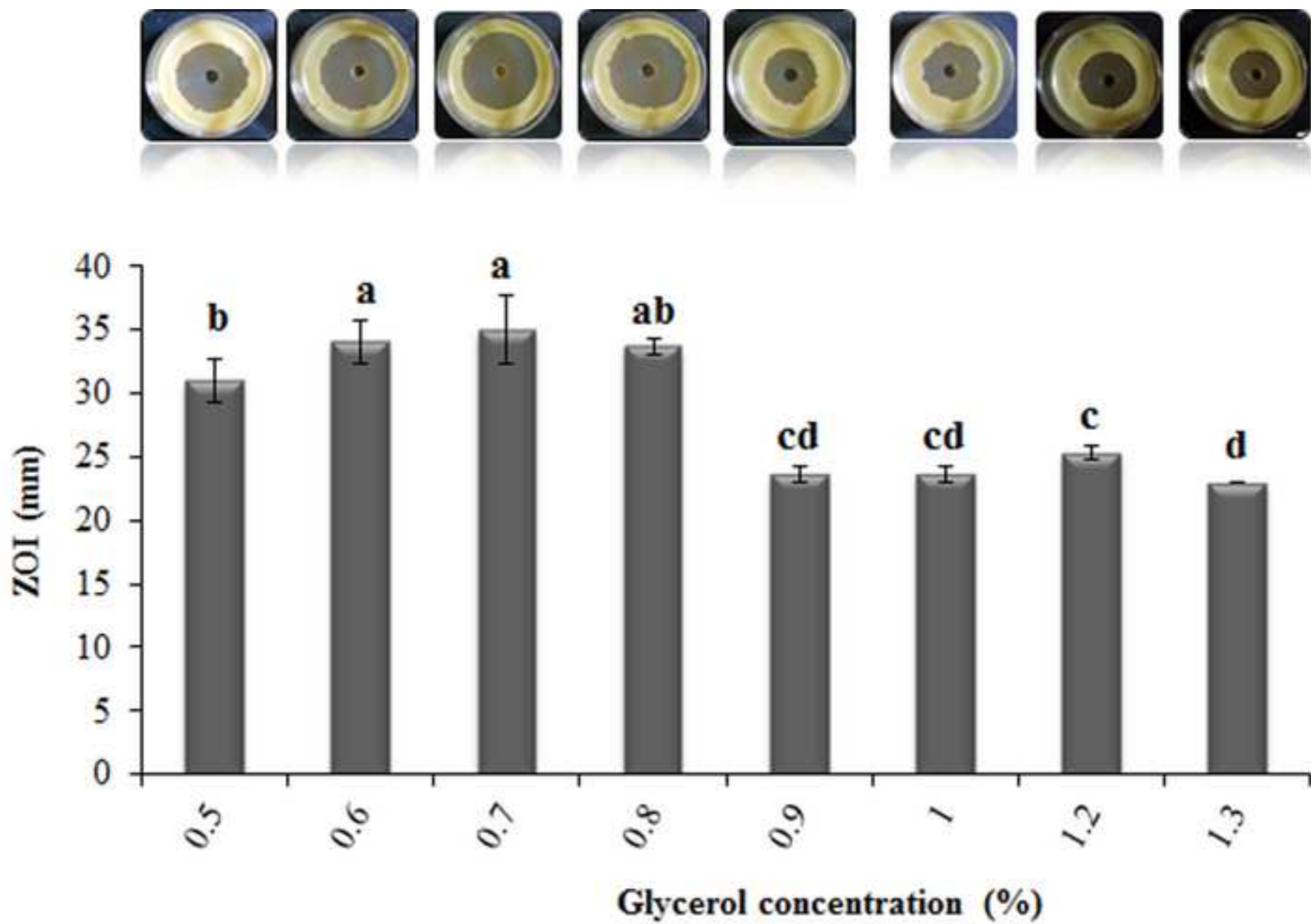
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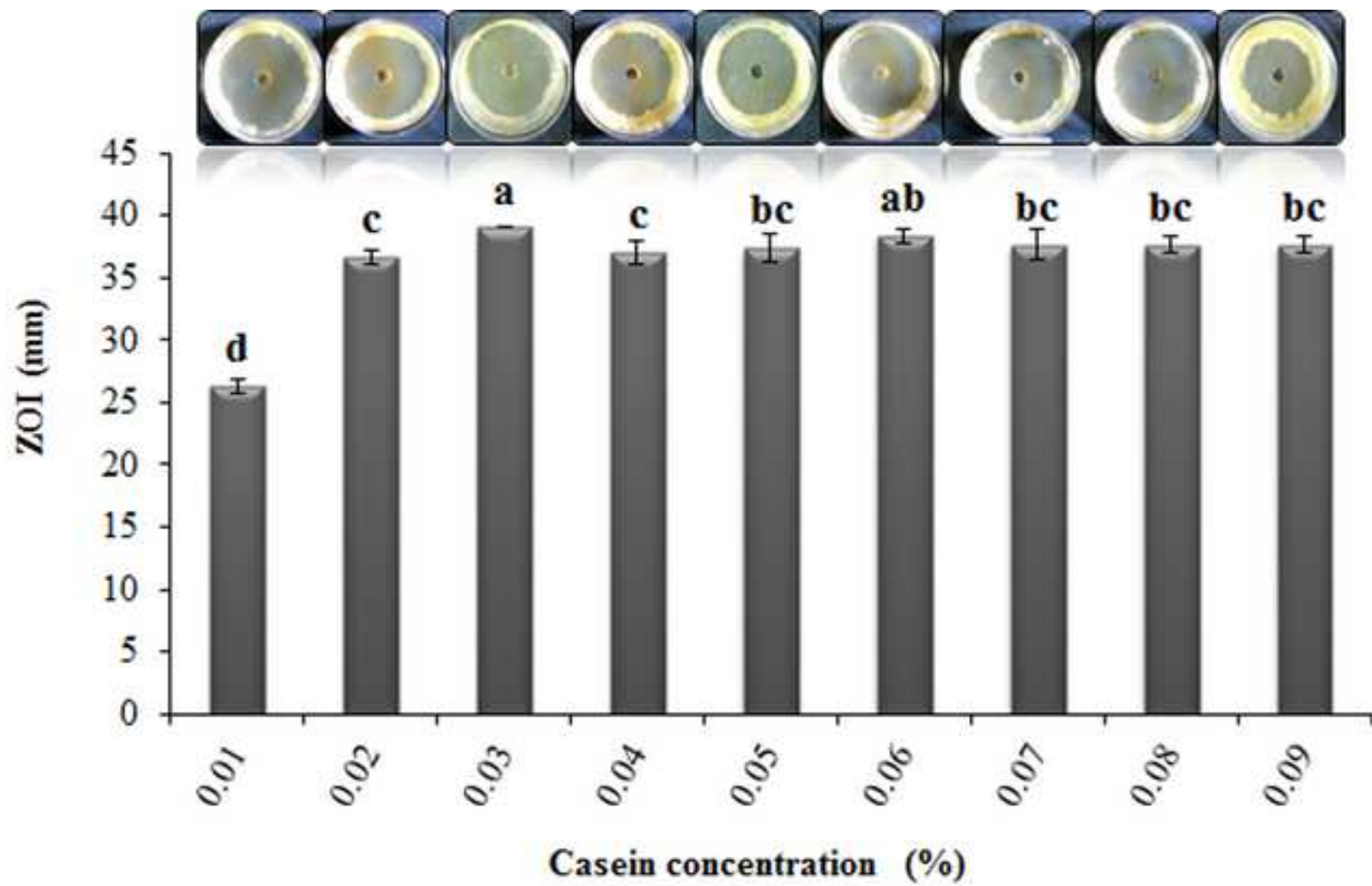


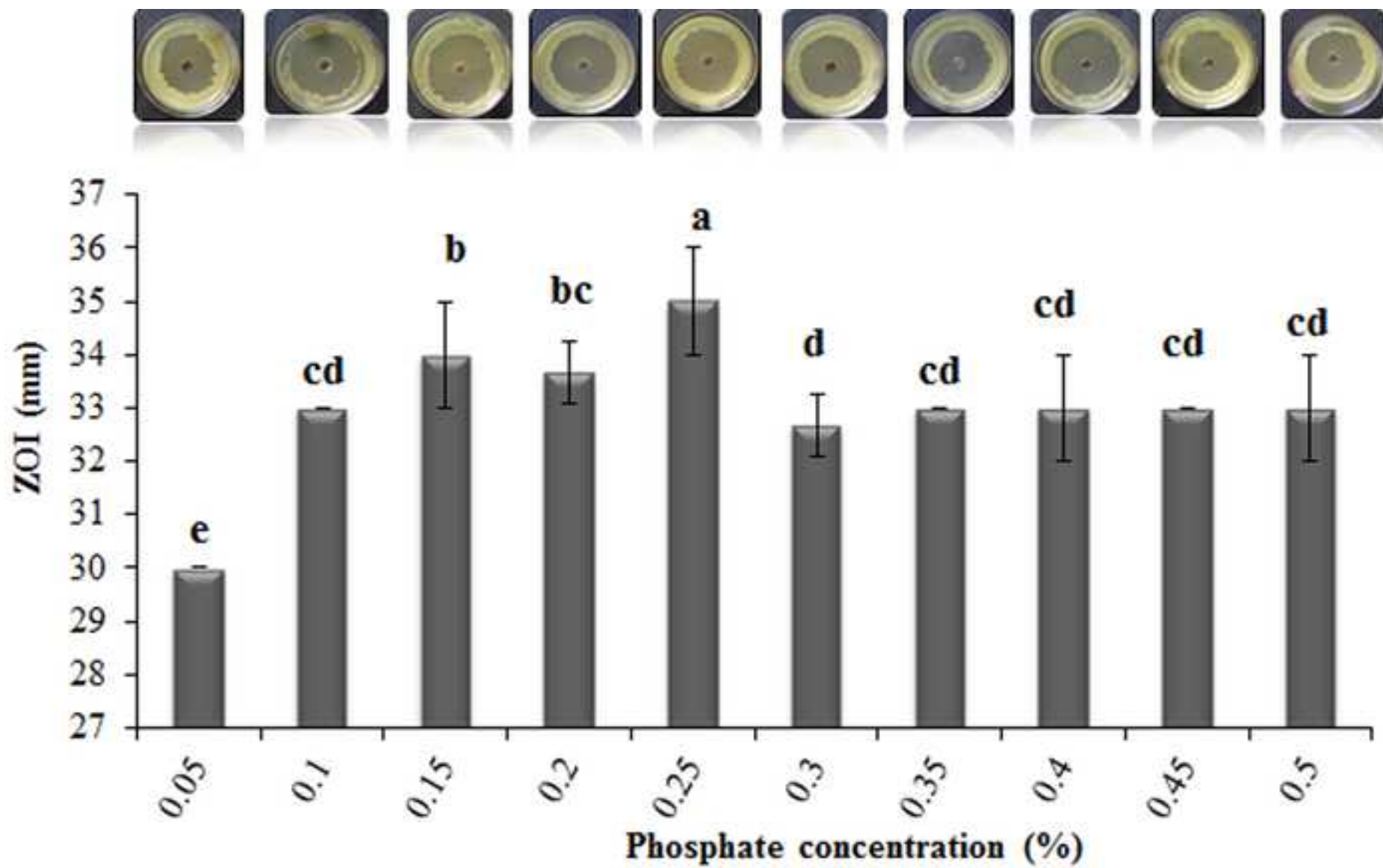
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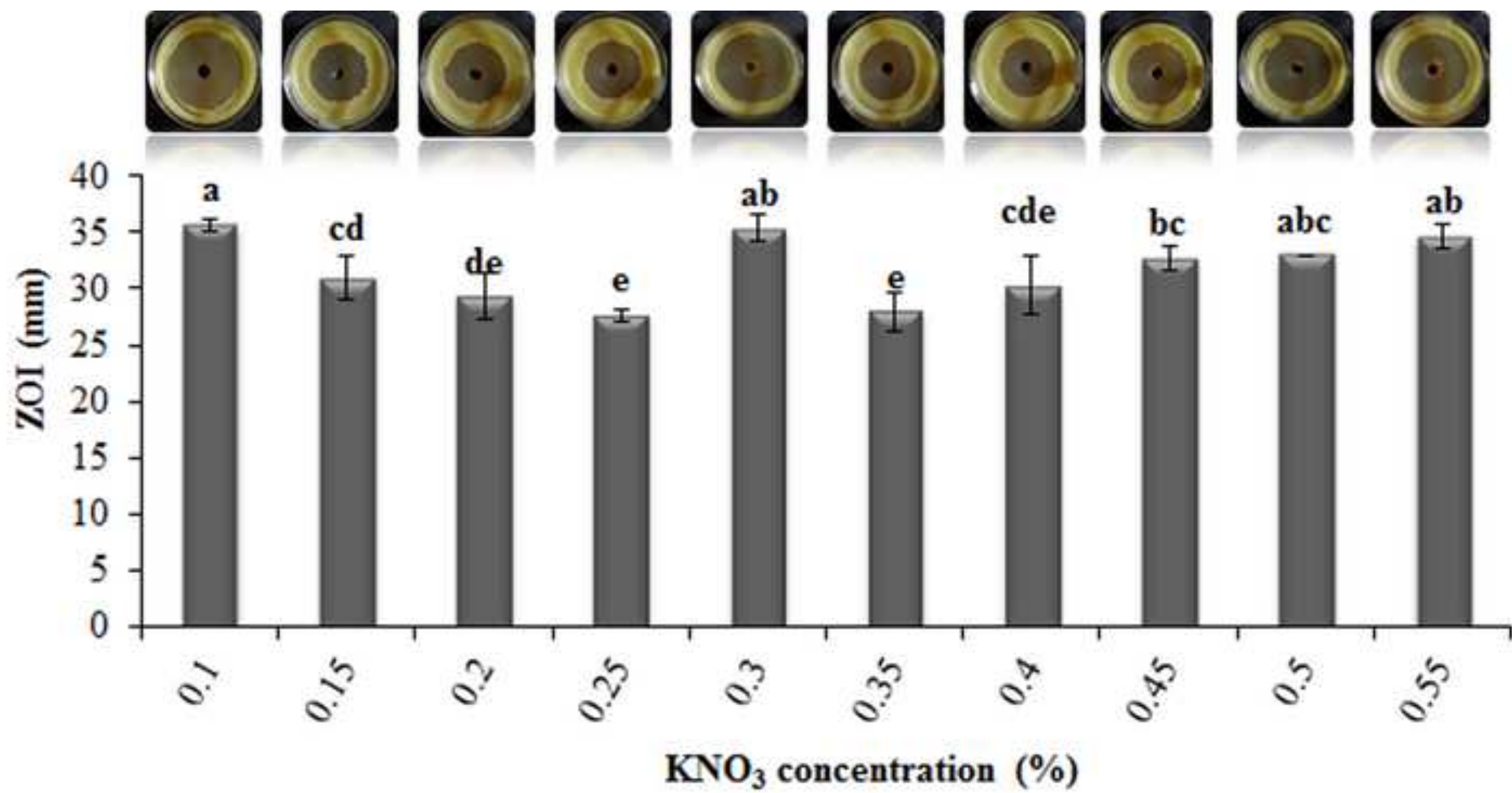
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