

# **Operational stability, regenerability, and thermodynamics studies on biogenic silica/magnetite/graphene oxide nanocomposite-activated *Candida Rugosa* lipase**

## **ABSTRACT**

Inorganic biopolymer-based nanocomposites are useful for stabilizing lipases for enhanced catalytic performance and easy separation. Herein, we report the operational stability, regenerability, and thermodynamics studies of the ternary biogenic silica/magnetite/graphene oxide nanocomposite (SiO<sub>2</sub> /Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> /GO) as a support for *Candida rugosa* lipase (CRL). The X-ray photo-electron spectroscopy (XPS), X-ray diffraction (XRD), field-electron scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), vibrating sample magnetometry (VSM), and nitrogen adsorption/desorption data on the support and biocatalyst corroborated their successful fabrication. XPS revealed the Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> adopted Fe<sup>2+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> oxidation states, while XRD data of GO yielded a peak at  $2\theta = 11.67^\circ$ , with the SiO<sub>2</sub> /Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> /GO revealing a high surface area ( $\approx 261 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ). The fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectra affirmed the successful fabricated supports and catalyst. The half-life and thermodynamic parameters of the superparamagnetic immobilized CRL (CRL/SiO<sub>2</sub> /Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> /GO) improved over the free CRL. The microwave-regenerated CRL/SiO<sub>2</sub> /Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> /GO ( $\approx 82\%$ ) exhibited higher catalytic activity than ultrasonic-regenerated ( $\approx 71\%$ ) ones. Lower activation ( $E_a$ ) and higher deactivation energies ( $E_d$ ) were also noted for the CRL/SiO<sub>2</sub> /Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> /GO (13.87 kJ/mol, 32.32 kJ/mol) than free CRL (15.26 kJ/mol, 27.60 kJ/mol). A peak at 4.28 min in the gas chromatograph-flame ionization detection (GC-FID) chromatogram of the purified ethyl valerate supported the unique six types of 14 hydrogen atoms of the ester (CAS: 539-82-2) in the proton nuclear magnetic resonance (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR) data. The results collectively demonstrated the suitability of SiO<sub>2</sub> /Fe<sub>3</sub> O<sub>4</sub> /GO in stabilizing CRL for improved operational stability and thermodynamics and permitted biocatalyst regenerability.