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Itaconic acid production in *Aspergillus*

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Curriculum Vitae

An Li was born on November 10, 1982 in Shi Jiazhuang, HeBei province, P. R. China. In 2001, she started to study biotechnology in the Chinese Agriculture University (CAO) in Beijing. Two years later (end 2003), she continued her education in Wageningen University in the Netherlands where she received both her Bachelor (April 2006) and Master (August 2007) degrees in Biotechnology. During her period in Wageningen, she obtained one year delta scholarship and joined three internship projects: in the field of metabolic engineering in plants at Plant Research International in Wageningen with Prof. Dr. Harro Bouwmeester, in the study of the generation of new reporter constructs of thyroid hormone reporter cell lines at BioDetection systems B.V. in Amsterdam with Dr. Edwin Sonneveld and in the research of identification of agonists for Ah-receptor occurring in fruits at RIKILT in Wageningen with Dr. Ron Hogenboom. In April 2008, she started her PhD project in the department of Microbiology and Systems Biology at TNO (Zeist, the Netherlands), under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Peter Punt. This project (presented in this thesis) focused on the improvement of the production level of itaconic acid in the filamentous fungus *Aspergillus niger*, combined with techniques involved in both genetic modification and production process optimization. From October 2012 until now, she works as a teacher/researcher at HAN Biocentre, in Nijmegen.

List of Publications

Li,A., van Luijk,N., ter Beek,M., Caspers,M., Punt,P. and van der Werf,M. (2011) A clone-based transcriptomics approach for the identification of genes relevant for itaconic acid production in *Aspergillus*. Fungal Genet Bio 48: 602-611.

Li,A., Pfelzer,N., Zuijderwijk,R. and Punt,P. (2012) Enhanced itaconic acid production in *Aspergillus niger* using genetic modification and medium optimization. BMC biotechnol 12.

Li A, Pfelzer N, Zuijderwijk R, Brickwedde A, van Zeijl C, and Punt P. (2013) Reduced by-product formation and modified oxygen availability improve itaconic acid production in *Aspergillus niger*. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol. 97(9):3901-11.

Li, A. and Peter, Punt. (2013) Industrial production of organic acids by Fungi-state of arts and opportunities. Applications of Microbial Engineering (chapter 2)

Li, A., Sachdeva, S., Urbanus, JH. and Peter, Punt. (2013) In-stream itaconic acid recovery from *Aspergillus terreus* fedbatch fermentation. Industrial Biotechnology 9(3): 139-145