

**A Certain Strain of Soil Bacteria capable of metabolizing D-Forms but not
L-Forms of *threo*-2-Phenylserine and Its Benzoyl Derivative***

While engaged in the study of metabolism by soil bacteria of benzoic acid derivatives, amino acids, and acylated amino acids,¹⁻⁴⁾ we observed that a strain of soil bacteria, KT 85 (*Pseudomonas* sp.), had the ability to utilize D-form but not L-form of *threo*-2-phenylserine and its benzoyl derivative as the sole source of carbon. The composition of the culture medium used in the experiment were as follows: NH_4Cl , 0.1 g.; K_2HPO_4 , 0.1 g.; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 0.05 g.; 1% $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 2 drops; 1% $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1 drop; organic substance to be tested, 0.2 g.; distilled water, 100 cc.; pH 7.0~7.2 (adjusted with 10% NaOH). Thus, we were able to demonstrate that KT 85 can be transferred without any reduction in the rate of population growth into the above medium containing *threo*-2-phenyl-D-serine or its benzoyl derivative, but not in that containing *threo*-2-phenyl-L-serine or its benzoyl derivative.

On the other hand, we were able to demonstrate that KT 85 attacked benzoyl-*threo*-2-phenyl-DL-serine to give benzoyl-*threo*-2-phenyl-L-serine as follows: KT 85, grown in slant bouillon agar, was inoculated into 200 cc. of the above culture medium containing 2 g. of benzoyl-*threo*-2-phenyl-DL-serine and incubated at 25° for 33 days. The culture medium thus obtained was heated at 80° for several minutes and centrifuged for 30 minutes at 3,000g to remove the insoluble mass. The supernatant was concentrated *in vacuo* to a small volume, acidified with HCl , and extracted several times with ether. The ether layer was evaporated to dryness and the residue was recrystallized from water to 0.93 g. of needle crystals, m.p. 119~120°; $[\alpha]_D^{15} -32.7^\circ$ (N NaOH , $c=2$), *Anal. Calcd.* for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4\text{N}$: C, 67.36; H, 5.30; N, 4.91. Found: C, 67.29; H, 5.25; N, 4.99. It gave no depression of melting point on admixture with benzoyl-*threo*-2-phenyl-L-serine (I), m.p. 119~120°, $[\alpha]_D^{15} -32.8^\circ$ (N NaOH , $c=2$), or with benzoyl-*threo*-2-phenyl-D-serine (II), m.p. 118~119°, $[\alpha]_D^{15} +33.0^\circ$ (N NaOH , $c=2$), it melted at ca. 149~153°. Incidentally, benzoyl-*threo*-2-phenyl-DL-serine melts at 160~161°. (I) and (II) were synthesized from *threo*-2-phenyl-L-serine⁵⁾ ($[\alpha]_D^{15} -31.5^\circ$ (H_2O , $c=2$)) and *threo*-2-phenyl-D-serine⁵⁾ ($[\alpha]_D^{15} +32.0^\circ$ (H_2O , $c=2$)), respectively.

KT 85 has the following characteristics: Aerobic; short rod-shaped; motile; polar flagella; gram-negative; yields water-soluble yellowish green pigment that diffuses through the medium; optimal temperature at around 28°. KT 85 belongs to the *Pseudomonas* group and can be cultivated in the above synthetic culture medium containing benzoic, *p*-hydroxybenzoic, phenylacetic, or cinnamic acid as the sole source of carbon.

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Laboratory of Antibiotics,
Faculty of Pharmacy,
Kanazawa University,
Kanazawa.

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Yukio Kameda (亀田幸雄)
Etsuko Toyoura (豊浦悦子)
Yukio Kimura (木村行男)
Yasuko Ohsumi (大墨恭子)

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