
Table of contents

Abstract, Zusammenfassung	III
Acknowledgments.....	IX
List of abbreviations and symbols	XIII
1 Introduction and theoretical background	1
1.1 Aim and structure of the thesis.....	1
1.2 Biology of <i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i>	4
1.3 Industrial relevance of <i>A. ochraceus</i> and the synthesis of steroids.....	6
1.4 Influence of sporulation conditions on the properties of conidia.....	11
1.4.1 Solid and liquid culture	11
1.4.2 The role of carbon, nitrogen and trace elements	12
1.5 Metabolite profiling.....	15
1.5.1 Relevance and application of metabolome analysis.....	15
1.5.2 Available technology for metabolite profiling	16
1.5.3 Compatible solutes and other metabolites in conidia.....	18
1.6 Fluorescence	19
1.6.1 Fluorescent dyes and autofluorescence	20
1.6.2 Fluorescence lifetime.....	21
1.6.3 Spatial information and fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM)	22
1.6.4 Two-photon fluorescence	23
1.6.5 Fluorescence of NAD(P)H and melanin.....	26
1.6.6 Fluorescence in flow cytometry	28
2 Materials and methods	30
2.1 Microorganism	30
2.2 Instruments	30
2.3 Chemicals, solutions and media	31
2.3.1 Chemicals and disposables	31
2.3.2 Media	32
2.3.3 Preparation of solid media, liquid media and additives	33
2.4 Production of spores on agar plates.....	33
2.5 Characterization of spores	34
2.5.1 Concentration and aggregation.....	34
2.5.2 Proteome analysis.....	34
2.5.3 Metabolome analysis	35

2.5.4	ATP analysis.....	36
2.5.5	Two-photon fluorescence microscopy	37
2.5.6	Flow cytometric analysis (fluorescence and size).....	38
2.5.7	Viability.....	39
2.5.8	Shake flask culture	39
2.5.9	HPLC reactant and product analysis	40
2.6	Statistical Analysis	41
3	Establishing methods for spore characterization	42
3.1	Determination of spore yield with microscopy, optical density and automated counting.....	42
3.1.1	Manual haemocytometer count (microscopical determination).....	42
3.1.2	Determination of spore concentration by optical density.....	43
3.1.3	Determination of spore concentration by flow cytometry.....	45
3.2	Determination of spore aggregation and wall constitution	46
3.2.1	Aggregation analysis by means of microscopy	46
3.2.2	Analysis of spore wall proteins	48
3.2.3	Electron microscopic imaging of spores	51
3.3	Determination of spore size with the COULTER principle.....	53
3.4	Determination of spore composition with metabolite profiling.....	54
3.5	Determination of ATP concentration with an enzyme assay	59
3.6	Determination of NAD(P)H composition in spores with two-photon fluorescence microscopy.....	61
3.7	Determination of spore visible longwave fluorescence with flow cytometry	64
3.8	Determination of spore viability on solid and liquid media.....	67
3.9	Determination of culture performance in submerged cultivation	69
3.9.1	pH of the cultivation broth	69
3.9.2	Biomass formation and morphology	70
3.9.3	Product formation and reactant consumption.....	75
3.10	Conclusion of the spore characterization	77
4	Influence of sporulation conditions on spores' constitution and performance.....	78
4.1	Effect of sporulation media	78
4.1.1	Spore yield depending on sporulation media	78
4.1.2	Spore aggregation depending on sporulation media	84
4.1.3	Spore metabolites depending on sporulation media.....	86
4.1.4	Spore ATP content depending on sporulation media.....	89

4.1.5	Spore NAD(P)H composition depending on sporulation media	91
4.1.6	Spore visible longwave fluorescence depending on sporulation media...	94
4.1.7	Spore viability as a function of sporulation media.....	95
4.1.8	Shake flask performance as a function of sporulation media.....	97
4.2	Influence of inoculum concentration on solid media	100
4.2.1	Spore yield depending on inoculum concentration	100
4.2.2	Effect of inoculum concentration on further quality indicators	101
4.3	Influence of sporulation duration	102
4.3.1	Spore yield depending on sporulation duration.....	102
4.3.2	Spore aggregation depending on sporulation duration.....	103
4.3.3	Spore visible longwave fluorescence depending on sporulation time ...	104
4.3.4	Spore viability depending on sporulation duration	105
4.4	Effect of storage on the constitution of conidia	108
4.4.1	Spore aggregation after storage	109
4.4.2	Spore metabolite profile after storage	114
4.4.3	Spore ATP content after storage.....	119
4.4.4	Spore NAD(P)H composition after storage.....	121
4.4.5	Spore visible longwave fluorescence after storage	122
4.4.6	Spore viability after storage.....	124
4.4.7	Shake flask performance after storage	129
4.5	Effect of early germination	133
4.5.1	Change of metabolite profile during early germination	133
4.5.2	Change of NAD(P)H distribution during early germination.....	139
5	Summary and conclusion.....	142
6	Outlook	145
7	References and appendix	146
7.1	References	146
7.2	List of metabolites.....	155
8	Eidesstattliche Erklärung (Originality statement)	157