

Recent Progress in Lignin Biodegradation Research

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Abstract

The recently discovered ligninases of the basidiomycete *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* Burds. have potential in bleaching and otherwise improving chemical and mechanical pulps, converting lignin to useful chemicals, and treating lignin-derived and other wastes. Rapid advances in basic research are bringing the time closer when these potentials can be evaluated. This lecture will summarize present knowledge of ligninases, which are powerful peroxidases: their discovery, production, purification, heterogeneity, mode of action and potential uses.

* Invited lecture