# Glucose Catabolism by Spirochaeta thermophila RI 19.B1

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Spirochaeta thermophila RI 19.B1 (DSM 6192) fermented glucose to lactate, acetate,  $CO_2$ , and  $H_2$  with concomitant formation of cell material. The cell dry mass yield was 20.0 g/mol of glucose. From the fermentation balance data and knowledge of the fermentation pathway, a  $Y_{ATP}$  of 9.22 g of dry mass per mol of ATP was calculated for pH-uncontrolled batch-culture growth on glucose in <sup>a</sup> mineral medium. Measurement of enzyme activities in glucose-grown cells revealed that glucose was taken up by a permease and then subjected to ATP-dependent phosphorylation by a hexokinase. Glucose-6-phosphate was further metabolized to pyruvate through the Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway. The phosphoryl donor for phosphofructokinase activity was PP<sub>i</sub> rather than ATP. This was also found for the type strain of S. thermophila, Z-1203 (DSM 6578). PP<sub>i</sub> was probably formed by pyrophosphoroclastic cleavage of ATP, with recovery of the resultant AMP by the activity of adenylate kinase. All other measured kinase activities utilized ATP as the phosphoryl donor. Pyruvate was further metabolized to acetyl coenzyme A with concomitant production of  $H<sub>2</sub>$  and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  by pyruvate synthase. Lactate was also produced from pyruvate by a fructose-1,6-diphosphate-insensitive lactate dehydrogenase. Evidence was obtained for the transfer of reducing equivalents from the glycolytic pathway to hydrogenase to produce H<sub>2</sub>. No formate dehydrogenase or significant ethanol-producing enzyme activities were detected.

Studies on carbohydrate catabolism of thermophilic eubacterial anaerobes have been carried out on only a limited range of bacterial types. These have been mainly *Clostrid*ium spp. and the related (4) Thermoanaerobium spp.  $(5, 18, 18)$ 20-22, 30). These organisms all use the Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway of glucose fermentation (40). This pathway is also used by the thermophilic Acetomicrobium spp. (35, 39).

Two strains of extremely thermophilic spirochaetes have been recently isolated from island hot springs with seawatermodified thermal waters. Strain Z-1203, isolated from the Kuril Islands (2), has been designated the type strain of a new species, Spirochaeta thermophila (1), and strain RI 19.B1, isolated from the Kermadec Islands (33), has been assigned to the same species (1). This species is able to grow at temperatures as high as 73°C and is able to grow on a number of carbohydrates, including cellulose and glucose, on a mineral medium. In the study reported in this communication, we set out to determine the pathway of glucose fermentation in S. thermophila RI 19.B1 and to apply this knowledge to fermentation balance and growth yield data to estimate the net ATP yield.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strains. S. thermophila RI 19.B1 (DSM 6192) was isolated in an earlier study (33). The organism was grown in sulfide-reduced bicarbonate-buffered mineral medium as previously described (33). S. thermophila Z-1203 (DSM 6578) (1, 2) was obtained from the Institute of Microbiology, Academy of Sciences of the former USSR, and supplied as a fresh cell pellet by F. A. Rainey (University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand). This strain was grown in the same medium with NaCl and  $MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  increased to 15 g and 2.3 g/liter, respectively, and with the addition of 1.0 g of yeast extract per liter.

Enzyme assays. Crude cell extracts were prepared from cells washed and resuspended in <sup>100</sup> mM Tris (pH 7.5 with HCl) as described by Janssen and Harfoot (16). Protein was estimated by a micromethod adaptation of the Lowry et al. method (34). Enzymes and biochemicals were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, Mo.). Gases were purchased from New Zealand Industrial Gases (Wellington, New Zealand). Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate was prepared from monobarium glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate diacetyl by treatment with Dowex-50W hydrogen form (100-200 mesh) as directed by the supplier (Sigma).

Acetate kinase assays were carried out at 50°C in stoppered  $N<sub>2</sub>$ -flushed test tubes. At each 5-min time point three assays (and appropriate controls) were halted and put on ice. The assay was essentially method <sup>I</sup> of Nishimura and Griffith (25), except that succinate was omitted and <sup>5</sup> mM ATP (EC 2.7.2.1) or 5 mM PP<sub>i</sub> (EC 2.7.2.12) was used as the phosphoryl donor. The activity measured is expressed as micromoles of hydroxamate derivative formed per minute per milligram of crude cell extract protein.

All other enzyme activities were measured in 1-ml volumes by using continuous spectrophotometric assays (13) carried out at 50°C. Under these conditions the mesophilic linking enzymes remained active to produce linear rates of measured enzyme activity for 2 to 10 min. Assays containing methylviologen (MV) were first slightly reduced with a few crystals of sodium dithionite and then gassed as appropriate for the assay with  $H_2$  or  $N_2$ , stoppered, and vigorously shaken to dissolve the gas in the buffer. Oxidation and reduction of pyridine nucleotides were followed at 340 nm (6). Other electron acceptors were measured as described by Moller-Zinkhan and Thauer (24). Enzyme activities are expressed as micromoles of substrate transformed per minute per milligram of crude cell extract protein. The reduction of 2  $\mu$ mol of MV was defined as the oxidation of 1  $\mu$ mol of substrate.

The following enzymes were assayed by using reaction

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mixtures as described by Lamed and Zeikus (21) with the following modifications: fructose-1,6-diphosphate aldolase (EC 4.1.2.13) omitting cysteine; glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (EC 1.2.1.12); glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase with NAD or NADP (EC 1.1.1.49) with 2.5 mM  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$  and 2 mM dithiothreitol; gluconate-6-phosphate dehydrogenase with NAD (EC 1.1.1.43) or NADP (EC 1.1.1.43/44) and with  $2.5 \text{ mM MgCl}_2$  and  $2 \text{ mM dithiothreitol}$ ; lactate dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.27/28) omitting fructose-1,6-diphosphate for fructose-1,6-diphosphate-insensitive activity; pyruvate synthase adding <sup>2</sup> mM reduced glutathione and using 2 mM MV (EC 1.2.7.1), NAD<sup>+</sup>, NADP<sup>+</sup>, FMN<sup>+</sup>, or FAD<sup>+</sup>; pyruvate kinase with 5 mM ADP (EC 2.7.1.40) or  $KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>$ . Glucose dehydrogenase with NAD (EC 1.1.1.118) or NADP (EC 1.1.1.119) was assayed by substituting glucose for glucose-6-phosphate in the assay for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase.

The following enzymes were assayed by using the reaction mixtures of Patni and Alexander (30) with the following modifications: phosphoglucose isomerase (EC 5.3.1.9) with <sup>2</sup> U of glucose-6-phosphate dehrogenase; phosphoglycerate mutase (EC 5.4.2.1) with <sup>2</sup> U each of enolase, pyruvate kinase, and lactate dehydrogenase; enolase (EC 4.2.1.11) with <sup>2</sup> U each of pyruvate kinase and lactate dehydrogenase; 3-phosphoglycerate kinase with <sup>2</sup> U of glyceraldehyde-3 phosphate dehydrogenase and 3.2 mM ATP (EC 2.7.2.3) or  $PP<sub>i</sub>$ 

Ethanol dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.12) was assayed by using method A of Lamed and Zeikus (22). Pyruvate decarboxylase (EC 4.1.1.1) was assayed by a modification of the method of Bergmeyer et al. (7), with <sup>200</sup> mM citrate buffer (pH 6.0), <sup>30</sup> mM sodium pyruvate, 0.2 mM NADH, and <sup>2</sup> U of ethanol dehydrogenase. Phosphotransacetylase (EC 2.3.1.8) was assayed as described by Bergmeyer et al. (7). Hydrogenase (EC 1.18.99.1) was assayed by the method of Badziong and Thauer (3). Hydrogen dehydrogenase (EC 1.12.1.2) was assayed by a modification of this method, replacing MV with  $1.2$  mM NAD<sup>+</sup> and adding 2 mM dithiothreitol. Phosphofructokinase was assayed by a modification of method B of O'Brien et al. (26) with the following reaction mixture: 60 mM imidazole,  $3.5$  mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>,  $1.5$  mM fructose-6-phosphate, 0.2 mM NADH, 0.35 U aldolase, <sup>5</sup> U of  $\alpha$ -glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, 50 U of triosephosphate isomerase, and  $1 \text{ mM ATP}$  (EC 2.7.1.11), PP<sub>i</sub> (EC 2.7.1.90), thiamine pyrophosphate, phosphoenolpyruvate, or  $KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>$  (pH 7.4 with HCl).

Hexokinase was assayed with the following reaction mixtures:  $100 \text{ mM Tris}$ ,  $2.5 \text{ mM } MgCl_2$ ,  $12.5 \text{ mM } glucose$ ,  $5 \text{ mM }$ dithiothreitol, <sup>2</sup> U of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase,  $0.5$  mM NADP<sup>+</sup>, and  $2$  mM ATP (EC 2.7.1.1), phosphoenolpyruvate, or  $PP_i$  (pH 7.5 with HCl).

Triosephosphate isomerase  $(EC 5.3.1.1)$  was measured with the following reaction mixture: <sup>250</sup> mM triethanolamine, <sup>4</sup> mM glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate, 1.25 mM NADH, and 2 U of  $\alpha$ -glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (pH 7.6) with HCl).

Acetaldehyde dehydrogenase (coenzyme A [CoA] acetylating) (EC 1.2.1.10) was measured with the following reaction mixture: <sup>100</sup> mM Tris, <sup>2</sup> mM dithiothreitol, 0.1 mM CoA, <sup>2</sup> mM reduced glutathione, <sup>7</sup> mM arsenate, <sup>10</sup> mM acetaldehyde, 0.5 U of phosphotransacetylase, and <sup>2</sup> mM  $NAD^+$  or  $NADP^+$  (pH 7.8 with acetic acid).

Formate dehydrogenase was assayed with the following reaction mixture: <sup>50</sup> mM 3-(N-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid, <sup>20</sup> mM sodium formate, <sup>2</sup> mM dithiothreitol, <sup>5</sup> mM  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$ , and 1.2 mM NAD<sup>+</sup> (EC 1.2.1.2), 1.2 mM NADP<sup>+</sup>  $(EC 1.2.1.43)$ , or 5 mM MV (pH 7.5 with KOH).

Ferredoxin:NAD oxidoreductase (EC 1.8.1.1/3/4) was assayed by monitoring MV reduction with the following reaction mixture: <sup>100</sup> mM Tris, <sup>5</sup> mM MV, and 0.25 mM NADH (pH 8.8 with HCI).

Adenylate kinase (EC 2.7.4.3), ATP pyrophosphatase (EC 3.6.1.8), and ATP:orthophosphate phosphotransferase were assayed with the following reaction mixture: <sup>100</sup> mM Tris, <sup>5</sup>  $mM$  MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 mM dithiothreitol, 10 mM glucose, 2 U of hexokinase, <sup>2</sup> U of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, and  $2 \text{ mM NADP}^+$  (pH 7.4 with HCl). Adenylate kinase assays also contained  $\overline{5}$  mM ADP. ATP pyrophosphatase assays also contained 5 mM AMP and 1 mM  $\overline{PP_i}$ . ATP:orthophosphate phosphotransferase assays also contained <sup>5</sup> mM ADP and 1 mM PP<sub>i</sub>.

Other methods. The methods used in the growth experiments and yield studies were described earlier (33). Fermentation end products were analyzed by high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) (28) and by gas chromatography with a thermal conductivity detector and gas-liquid chromatography with a flame ionization detector (29). In addition, the presence of further metabolic end products was checked by using the p-hydroxybenzoic acid hydrazine assay for reducing sugars (23), the anthrone assay for carbohydrates (11), the cuprizone assay for copper complexing compounds such as amino acids (15), and dinitrophenol hydrazine for aldehydes and ketones (17).

Glucose phosphorylation by decryptified cells was measured by using the assay for glucokinase described above but with added decryptified cells prepared by the method of Kornberg and Reeves (19) with a toluene-ethanol mixture (1:9) as the permeabilizing agent so that the final toluene concentration was  $1 \mu I/ml$ .

# **RESULTS**

Fermentation balances. Fermentation end products were analyzed by using a variety of techniques, including HPLC, gas chromatography, and a number of colorimetric methods. When glucose was exhausted, a residual level of carbohydrate could be detected with colorimetric methods and an unidentified peak was present on HPLC chromatograms. This unidentified peak was also formed in uninoculated media containing glucose, and the rate of production could be increased by incubation of uninoculated media at higher temperatures. The amount of glucose utilized was therefore corrected for this chemical transformation. The metabolic end products of glucose metabolism were lactate, acetate,  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , and H<sub>2</sub>, in agreement with the earlier study (33). The means of data from three independent cultures are given in Table 1. The oxidation/reduction ratio is low, indicating an excess of reducing equivalents, but this value is strongly influenced by the amount of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  evolved, which could only be estimated. Measurement of  $\tilde{CO}_2$  was not possible because of the use of a bicarbonate buffer. The balances of carbon and available H were good, indicating that all major end products were identified.

Glucose uptake. Toluene-permeabilized cells were assayed for their ability to phosphorylate glucose coupled to either ATP or phosphoenolpyruvate as the phosphoryl donor (Table 2). The addition of ATP resulted in measurable rates of glucose transformation, whereas the addition of phosphoenolpyruvate did not, indicating a hexokinase activity rather than a phosphoenolpyruvate-phosphotransferase for glucose uptake. This activity was confirmed by the measurement of





<sup>a</sup> Calculations were made as described by Gottschalk (9), assuming  $\langle C_6H_{10.84}N_{1.4}O_{3.07}\rangle$  as the empirical formula for cell material (37). The carbon balance (substrate carbon recovered in products was 97.5%, and the available H balance was 105.1%. The oxidation/reduction ratio was 0.73.

 $\cos^2$  CO<sub>2</sub> could not be measured because it was used as a buffer; instead, CO<sub>2</sub> production was calculated by assuming the formation of 1 mol of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  per mol of acetate, in accord with the measured pyruvate synthase activity (see Table

4). <sup>c</sup> Calculated from a mean dry weight cell yield of 173.4 mg/liter.

hexokinase activity in crude cell extracts. ATP acted as <sup>a</sup> phosphoryl donor, but phosphoenolpyruvate or  $PP_i$  did not (Table 2).

Pathway of glucose catabolism. Enzyme activities were measured in crude cell extracts of glucose-grown cells of strain RI 19.B1. The enzyme activities measured showed that a typical Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway was active (Table 3). Two interesting activities were detected: <sup>a</sup> very high activity of triose phosphate isomerase (EC 5.3.1.1) and a PP<sub>i</sub>-dependent phosphofructokinase (EC 2.7.1.90) instead of the more usual ATP-dependent phosphofructokinase (EC 2.7.1.11).

The phosphoryl donor for phosphofructokinase activity was also assayed in glucose-grown cells of strain Z-1203. This strain also had a PP<sub>i</sub>-dependent phosphofructokinase activity  $(0.30 \mu \text{mol/min per mg of protein})$ , whereas the addition ATP produced <sup>a</sup> much lower rate of fructose-1,6 diphosphate formation (0.0033  $\mu$ mol/min per mg of protein).

Low activities of ATP pyrophosphatase (EC 3.6.1.8) and good activities of adenylate kinase (EC 2.7.4.3) were measurable in crude cell extracts of strain RI 19.B1 (Table 3).

End product formation. Measurement of enzyme activities leading from pyruvate to end products (Table 4) showed that a pyruvate synthase (EC 1.2.7.1) was active. This activity was dependent on the addition of CoA. In the enzyme assays, MV was used as an artificial electron acceptor, but in

TABLE 2. Glucose uptake in decryptified cells and crude cell extracts of glucose-grown S. thermophila RI 19.B1

Assay or enzyme	Sp act $(\mu \text{mol}/\text{min per mg of})$ protein)
Glucose uptake by decryptified cells with:	
	0.15
	0.013
Glucose phosphorylation by crude cell extracts	
	0.52
	< 0.0001
PEP-phosphotransferase system	< 0.0001

<sup>a</sup> PEP, phosphoenolpyruvate.

TABLE 3. Glycolytic and related enzyme activities in crude cell extracts of glucose-grown S. thermophila RI 19.B1

Enzyme activity	EC no.	Sp act $(\mu \text{mol}/)$ min per mg of protein)
Phosphoglucose isomerase	5.3.1.9	1.29
Phosphofructokinase		
+ ATP	2.7.1.11	0.0033
$+$ TPP <sup>a</sup>		0.021
$+$ PEP <sup>b</sup>		< 0.0001
$+ PP.$	2.7.1.90	4.63
Fructose-1,6-diphosphate	4.1.2.13	1.87
aldolase		
Triosephosphate isomerase	5.3.1.1	34.3
Glyceraldehyde-3-		
phosphate		
dehydrogenase		
$+ NAD$	1.2.1.12	3.10
+ NADP	1.2.1.9	< 0.0001
3-Phosphoglycerate kinase		
$+$ ATP	2.7.2.3	4.88
$+ PP.$		< 0.0001
Phosphoglycerate mutase	5.4.2.1	7.06
Enolase	4.2.1.11	1.11
Pyruvate kinase		
$+$ ATP	2.7.1.40	0.96
+ PP.		< 0.0001
Glucose-6-phosphate		
dehydrogenase		
+ NAD	1.1.1.49	0.0003
+ NADP	1.1.1.49	0.046
Gluconate-6-phosphate		
dehydrogenase		
– NAD	1.1.1.43	0.0001
+ NADP	1.1.1.43/44	0.12
Glucose dehydrogenase		
+ NAD	1.1.1.118	< 0.0001
+ NADP	1.1.1.119	0.0024
ATP pyrophosphatase	3.6.1.8	0.0075
Adenylate kinase	2.7.4.3	0.13
ATP:P phosphotransferase		< 0.0001

<sup>a</sup> TTP, thiamine pyrophosphate.

 $b$  PEP, phosphoenolpyruvate.

vivo the acceptor is presumed to be ferredoxin. Lactate dehydrogenase, phosphotransacetylase, and acetate kinase activities were also detected, in agreement with the end products formed. Enzymes of ethanol-forming pathways were scarcely detectable.

Hydrogenase (EC 1.18.99.1) activity (with MV as <sup>a</sup> ferredoxin substitute) and ferredoxin:NAD oxidoreductase (EC 1.8.1.1/3/4) activity (again with MV as <sup>a</sup> substitute) were also measurable, indicating enzyme steps for the production of hydrogen from reduced electron-carrying cofactors. No formate dehydrogenase (EC 1.2.1.2/43) activities were detected.

#### DISCUSSION

Measurements of enzyme activities showed that glucose uptake was mediated by a permease and then ATP-dependent phosphorylation rather than by a phosphoenolpyruvatedependent phosphotransferase uptake system. This seems to be the case in glycolytic thermophiles investigated to date (20, 21, 30). The enzyme activities measured suggested that the pathway of glucose fermentation was <sup>a</sup> typical Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway, with the exception that the phos-

TABLE 4. Enzyme activities involved in end product formation in crude cell extracts of glucose-grown S. thermophila RI 19.B1

Enzyme activity	EC no.	Sp act $(\mu mol)$ min per mg of protein)
Lactate dehydrogenase		
$+$ FDP <sup>a</sup>	1.1.1.27/28	0.20
– FDP	1.1.1.27/28	0.20
Pyruvate synthase		
$+ MV$	1.2.7.1	0.29
$+$ NAD		0.0076
+ NADP		0.016
$+$ FMN		< 0.0001
$+$ FAD		0.0009
Phosphotransacetylase	2.3.1.8	1.36
<b>Acetate kinase</b>		
$+ATP$	2.7.2.1	2.07
$+PP.$	2.7.2.12	0.088
Ethanol dehydrogenase		
$+ NAD$	1.1.1.12	< 0.0001
$+$ NADP	1.1.1.12	0.0042
Acetaldehyde dehydrogenase (CoA acetylating)		
$+ NAD$	1.2.1.10	0.0024
+ NADP	1.2.1.10	0.0018
Formate dehydrogenase		
+ NAD	1.2.1.2	< 0.0001
+ NADP	1.2.1.43	< 0.0001
$+ MV$		< 0.0001
Pyruvate decarboxylase	4.1.1.1	< 0.0001
Hydrogenase		
$+ NAD$	1.12.1.2	< 0.0001
$+ MV$	1.18.99.1	0.066
Ferredoxin: NAD oxidoreductase	1.8.1.1/3/4	0.58

<sup>a</sup> FDP, fructose-1,6-diphosphate.

phorylation of fructose-6-phosphate was mediated by a PP<sub>1</sub>-dependent phosphofructokinase (EC 2.7.1.90) instead of by the more usual ATP-dependent phosphofructokinase (EC 2.7.1.11). PP<sub>i</sub>-dependent phosphofructokinase activity has been detected in a number of other microorganisms, for example, Anaeroplasma spp. (31), Propionibacterium shermanii (26), some methylotrophs (38), and some other bacteria (32). This activity was also found to be the phosphoryl donor to fructose-6-phosphate in S. thermophila Z-1203 isolated from Shiashkotan Island, Kamchatka, in the former USSR. Thus this enzyme activity appears to be a characteristic of this species, but it has not been reported to date to occur in other Spirochaeta spp.

A possible source of  $PP_i$  for the phosphorylation reaction is suggested by measured enzyme activities. A low level of ATP pyrophosphatase activity (EC 3.6.1.8) produces  $PP_i$ and AMP. AMP can then be converted to ADP at the expense of ATP by adenylate kinase (EC 2.7.4.3). The low level of ATP pyrophosphatase measured may be explainable by an equilibrium that does not favor the direction of measurement (AMP to ATP) or instability of the enzyme under assay conditions or by implicating adenylate kinase activity in removing AMP to drive the reaction of  $PP_i$ production. This may represent an important regulatory mechanism in the control of catabolism in this organism.

Glucose fermentation by the Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway has been reported in other Spirochaeta spp. and related bacteria (8, 10, 12, 27). In these organisms the resultant pyruvate is further metabolized to acetyl-CoA with concomitant ferridoxin reduction (8, 12). A CoA-dependent pyruvate:MV oxidoreductase (pyruvate synthase) activity was measurable in crude cell extracts of S. thermophila RI 19.B1, presumably with ferridoxin under physiological conditions.

The measured enzyme activities confirm the end product formation pattern. Lactate dehydrogenase (not stimulated by fructose-1,6-diphosphate) producing lactate, pyruvate synthase producing  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and acetyl-CoA, and then phosphotransacetylase and acetate kinase producing acetate confirm the carbon-containing end products detected. Formate dehydrogenase and ethanol-forming enzyme activities were not significant.

Pyruvate synthase activity produces reduced ferredoxin, which can then donate electrons to reduce protons to form H<sub>2</sub>. The reduced pyridine nucleotide cofactors (NADH) produced from the Embden-Meyerhof-Pamas pathway (at the step of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase activity) could apparently reduce MV and thus suggest <sup>a</sup> pathway for transfer of reducing potential to hydrogenase via ferredoxin or another carrier. This possibility is confirmed by the recovery as  $H_2$  of all reducing potential not transferred to lactate or cell material.

The reduction of ferredoxin by NADH normally only proceeds at a low partial pressure of  $H<sub>2</sub>$  (9). However, in a number of anaerobes (for example, Acetomicrobium spp.) this reaction appears to proceed against a high partial pressure of  $H<sub>2</sub>$  (35, 39). This also occurs in S. thermophila RI 19.B1. The mean final  $H_2$  partial pressure in the culture headspace in balance experiments with an initial <sup>10</sup> mM glucose concentration was 99 kPa (14), corresponding to a dissolved H<sub>2</sub> concentration of  $0.53$  mM at  $65^{\circ}$ C (calculated from data in reference 36). Under these conditions the reduction of ferredoxin is endergonic and theoretically requires an energy input; for example, some type of reverse electron transport (9). In the present study, cell extracts of glucose-grown S. thernophila RI 19.B1 were able to reduce MV with NADH as the electron donor. This activity indicates electron transfer to ferredoxin from the glycolytic pathway and thus to hydrogenase.

The purple pigmentation noted in the earlier study characterizing S. thermophila RI 19.B1 (33) was shown to be resazurin (14). The end product spectrum and ratios were not changed when cultures were grown without resazurin (producing unpigmented cells).

When the fermentation balance data and measured enzyme activities are applied to obtain <sup>a</sup> theoretical ATP yield, the following calculations can be made. From 8.67 mmol of glucose, 8.67 mmol of fructose-1,6-diphosphate is produced at the expense of 26.01 mmol of ATP. This is <sup>3</sup> mol of ATP per mol of glucose, rather than the 2 mol of ATP per mol of glucose that would be expected if a normal ATP-dependent phosphofructokinase activity were present. First 1 mol of ATP is expended per mol of glucose in the hexokinase reaction. One ATP is expended per mol of  $PP_i$  produced, i.e., per mol fructose-6-phosphate phosphorylated to fructose-1,6-diphosphate; then <sup>a</sup> further ATP is expended to recover the AMP produced by the activity of adenylate kinase. Further activity of the Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway then results in the transformation of the fructose-1,6-phosphate to 17.34 mmol of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate, which is then transformed to 17.34 mmol of pyruvate with the concomitant formation of 34.68 mmol of ATP by the activity of the enzymes 3-phosphoglcerate kinase and pyruvate kinase. Substrate-level phosphorylation then adds an additional 10.18 mmol ATP, estimated from the amount of acetate detected as an end product. Thus a net total of 18.85

mol of ATP was produced from 8.67 mmol of glucose, <sup>a</sup> yield of 2.17 mol/mol. The cell dry mass produced was 20.0 g/mol of glucose, and thus the  $Y_{ATP}$  can be calculated at 9.22 g of dry mass per mol of ATP.

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