***Bacterial strains, plasmids and growth conditions***

*E. coli* DH5α [*F - endA1 glnV44 thi-1 recA1 relA1 gyrA96 deoRnupGΔ(lacZYAargF)U169, hsdR17(rK - mK + ), λ-* ] [Grant et al., 1990] strain was used for the propagation of plasmid and *E. coli* BL21 [*fhuA2 [lon] ompT gal [dcm] ΔhsdS* ] [Giacalone et al., 2006] strain was used for the expression of the recombinant enzyme. Plasmid pET32a (+) (Novagen) was used as vector for cloning and expression of the PCR fragment. The calcium phytate substrate and other chemicals used for enzyme activity assay were procured from HiMedia and Sigma, respectively. Restriction enzymes were obtained from New England Biolabs (NEB) and primers were synthesized in Eurofins, India. Both the *E. coli* strains were routinely grown in Luria–Bertani (LB) medium at 37ºC, supplemented with 100 g/mlampicillin.