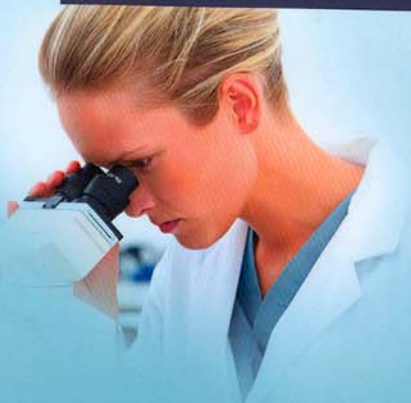


PROGRAM BOOK

FEMS 2011

4th Congress of European Microbiologists

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DEFINING CONSORTIUM OF HYDROCARBON-DEGRADING BACTERIA AND DETERMINATION OF THEIR BIODEGRADATION POTENTIAL

J. Milic¹, G. Gojic-Cvijovic¹, V. Beskoski¹, M. Ilic¹, T. Narancic², B. Vasiljevic², M.M. Vrvic³

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Background: Oil contaminated soil is a widespread problem that often requires clean-up of the contaminated site. It has been suggested that the addition of hydrocarbon-degrading microbes to polluted site is less effective in hydrocarbons removal than stimulating the growth of the indigenous microorganisms with potential in biodegradation.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to examine biodegradation potential of four hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria both individually and as consortium, primarily on PAHs and BTEX.

Methods: Bacteria were isolated from Oil refinery Pancevo (Serbia) and identified based on 16S RNA sequences. Cell respiration was determined by measuring dehydrogenase activity. Biofilm formation was investigated in stationary conditions [1]. Biodegradation potential of isolated bacteria individually and in consortium was tested by degradation of PAH (phenantrene, pyrene, dibenzothiophene) and BTEX, at 28°C and rotation of 120 rpm for one month. Criteria for microbial growth were weakly measurements of optical density (620 nm)

Conslusions: Isolated bacteria were identified as *Rhodococcus spp*, *Staphylococcus pasteuri*, *Planomicrobium sp* and *Micrococcus sp*, based on 16S RNA sequence. Results showed that *Rhodococcus spp* is the most efficient in degradation of all hydrocarbons used, while *Planomicrobium sp* is slowest hydrocarbon-degrader. However, this bacterium has strong ability for biofilm formation, and probably plays an important role in the consortium, in terms of the substrate initial degradation, thus making it more available to other constituents of the consortium. Experiments with defined consortium showed that community is more efficient in later stages of hydrocarbon degradation.

References:

[1] H. Mehdi, E. Giti, Int. Biodeter. Biodegr. Vol. 62 (2008) 170.

DEFINING CONSORTIUM OF HYDROCARBON-DEGRADING BACTERIA AND DETERMINATION OF THEIR BIODEGRADATION POTENTIAL

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BACKGROUND

Oil contaminated soil is a widespread problem that often requires clean-up of the contaminated site. It has been suggested that the addition of hydrocarbon-degrading microbes to polluted site is less effective in hydrocarbons removal than stimulating the growth of the indigenous microorganisms with potential in biodegradation.

The aim of this study was to examine biodegradation potential of four hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria both individually and as consortium primarily on PAHs and BTEX.

METHODS

Bacteria were isolated from Oil refinery Pancevo (Serbia) and identified based on 16S RNA sequences.

Cell respiration was determined by measuring dehydrogenase activity. Biofilm formation was investigated in stationary conditions [1].

Biodegradation potential of isolated bacteria individually and in consortium was tested by degradation of PAH (phenanthrene, pyrene, dibenzothiophene) and BTEX, at 28°C and rotation of 120 rpm for one month. Criteria for microbial growth were weakly measurements of optical density (620 nm).

RESULTS

Isolated bacteria were identified as *Rhodococcus sp.*, *Staphylococcus pasteurii*, *Planomicrobium sp.* and *Micrococcus sp.*, based on 16S RNA sequence.

Results showed that all bacteria has higher affinity to degrade PAH than BTEX. *Rhodococcus sp.* is the most efficient in degradation of all hydrocarbons used, while *Micrococcus sp.* is slowest hydrocarbon-degrader (Fig. 1.). However, *Micrococcus sp.* has strong ability for biofilm formation, and probably plays an important role in the consortium, in terms of the substrate initial degradation, thus making it more available to other constituents of the consortium (Fig. 2.). *Staphylococcus pasteurii* and *Planomicrobium sp.* have highest dehydrogenase activity, indicating these bacteria as important parts of microbial consortium. (Fig. 3)

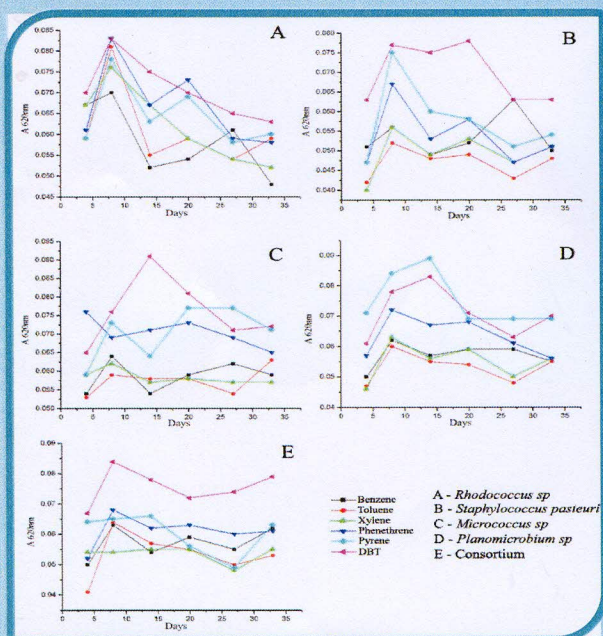


Fig. 1. Time course of the hydrocarbon concentration during the biodegradation process

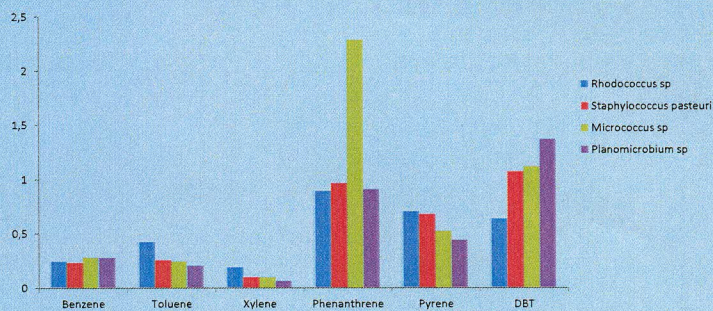


Fig. 2. Biofilm formation (A 620nm)

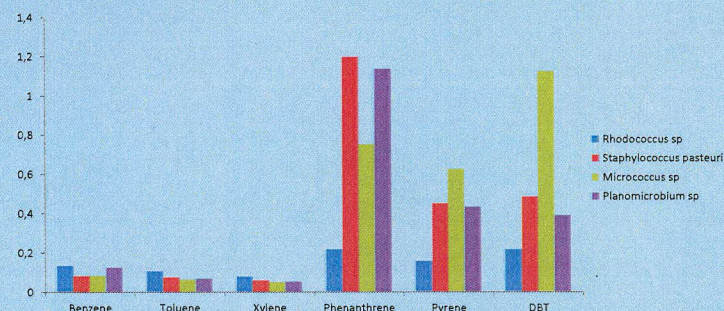


Fig. 3. Dehydrogenase activity (A 492nm)

CONCLUSIONS

Experiments with defined consortium showed that community is more efficient in later stages of hydrocarbon degradation.

REFERENCE

[1] H. Mehdi, E. Giti, *Int. Biodeter. Biodegr.* Vol. 62 (2008) 170.