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Hexavalent Chromate Reduction by Locally Isolated Bacteria

A Thesis

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Approval Sheet

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I dedicate this thesis to the memory of my beloved **mother**. She always encouraged me to be the best.

Alaa Fayez Abd Alraouf Elsayed

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ
شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ
صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة الآية رقم (٢٨٢)

This thesis has not been previously submitted for any degree at this or any other university.

Signed

Alaa Fayez Abd Alraouf Elsayed

CONTENTS

Subject	Page
Abstract	1
1. Introduction	3
2. Literature Review	5
2.1. Heavy metals contamination problem	5
2.2. Chromium	6
2.3. Essentiality of chromium	7
2.4. Chromium toxicity	8
2.5. Chromium in industry	10
2.6. Chromium treatment	11
2.6.1 Physical and chemical methods	11
2.6.1.1 Disadvantages of physical and chemical treatments	12
2.6.2 Biological treatment	12
2.7. Chromium determination	14
2.8. Impacts of Heavy Metals on the Environment	15
2.9. Heavy metal stress on microbial community	18
2.10. Cr(VI) reducing bacteria	20
2.11. Mechanisms of Cr(VI) resistance by bacteria	21
2.11.1 Mechanisms of Cr(VI) reduction by bacteria	25
2.12. Plasmids conferring resistance to metals	27
3. Materials and Methods	29
3.1. Sample collection	29
3.2. Enumeration of bacteria in sludge and soil samples	29
3.3. Isolation of chromium resistant bacterial isolates	30
3.4. Preservation and maintenance of pure bacterial isolates	30
3.5. Screening for chromate reducing bacteria	30
3.6. Analytical method	31

Subject	Page
3.7. Identification of bacterial isolates by 16S-rDNA Sequencing	33
3.7.1 DNA extraction and purification	33
3.7.2 PCR amplification of 16S-rDNA gene	33
3.7.3 Sequencing of 16S-rDNA	34
3.7.4 Sequence analysis	35
3.8. Optimization of microbial reduction of Cr(VI)	35
3.8.1 Incubation temperature	35
3.8.2 pH	36
3.8.3 Incubation period	37
3.8.4 Cr(VI) concentration	37
3.8.5 Aeration conditions	38
3.8.6 Inoculum size	39
3.9. Sonication	40
3.10. Efficiency of Cr(VI) reduction by consortium in soil	40
3.11. Electron microscopy	41
3.11.1 Scanning electron microscope imaging of the most potent isolates	41
3.11.2 Transmission electron microscope imaging of the most potent isolates	42
List of media used	44
4. Results	46
4.1. Bacterial counts	46
4.2. Isolation of Cr(VI) reducing bacteria	47
4.2.1 Gross morphology	47
4.3. Selection of the most potent Cr(VI) reducing isolates	50
4.4. Molecular Identification	51
4.4.1 16S-rDNA sequence analysis	51
4.4.2 Phylogenetic analysis	51
4.5. Optimization of Cr(VI) reduction conditions	54

Subject	Page
4.6. Sonication results	68
4.7. Efficiency of Cr(VI) reduction by consortium in soil	69
4.8. Electron microscopy	72
4.8.1 Scanning electron microscopy and EDX	72
4.8.2 Transmission electron microscopy	77
5. Discussion	80
6. English summary	89
7. References	93
8. Appendix	120
Arabic summary	

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. No.	Title	Page
Fig. (1):	Periodic table showing the location of Cr in d-block.	7
Fig. (2):	Mechanisms of chromate transport, toxicity and resistance in bacterial cells.	24
Fig. (3):	Mechanism of bacterial chromium reduction.	26
Fig. (4):	Standard calibration curve of Cr(VI) in nutrient broth.	32
Fig. (5):	Standard calibration curve of Cr(VI) in starch nitrate broth.	32
Fig. (6):	Phylogenetic tree of bacterial isolates Ia3, Ia4 and Sa1.	53
Fig. (7):	Effect of temperature on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	56
Fig. (8):	Effect of temperature on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	57
Fig. (9):	Effect of pH on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	58
Fig. (10):	Effect of pH on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	59
Fig.(11) :	Effect of incubation period on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	60

Fig. No.	Title	Page
Fig.(12) :	Effect of incubation period on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	61
Fig.(13) :	Effect of Cr(VI) concentration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	62
Fig.(14) :	Effect of Cr(VI) concentration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> .	63
Fig.(15) :	Effect of aeration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	64
Fig.(16) :	Effect of aeration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	65
Fig.(17) :	Effect of inoculum size on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	66
Fig.(18) :	Effect of inoculum size on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	67
Fig.(19) :	The effect of consortium on percent of Cr(VI) reduction in sterile and unsterile soils incubated with 200mg/L Cr(VI) and consortium. Sterile and unsterile controls are also shown in graph.	70
Fig.(20) :	The effect of consortium on percent of Cr(VI) reduction in sterile and unsterile soils incubated with 400mg/L Cr(VI) and consortium. Sterile and unsterile controls are also shown in graph.	71
Fig.(21)	Scanning electron microscope image of	73

Fig. No.	Title	Page
:	control sample of <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3.	
Fig.(22) :	Scanning electron microscope image of treated sample of <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 with Cr(VI).	73
Fig.(23) :	EDX of control sample of <i>Bacillus</i> sp.Ia3.	74
Fig.(24) :	EDX of treated sample of <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 with Cr(VI).	74
Fig.(25) :	Scanning electron microscope image of control sample of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	75
Fig.(26) :	Scanning electron microscope image of treated sample of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1 with Cr(VI).	75
Fig.(27) :	EDX of control sample of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	76
Fig.(28) :	EDX of treated sample of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1 with Cr(VI).	76
Fig.(29) :	Transmission electron microscope image of control sample of <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3.	78
Fig.(30) :	Transmission electron microscope image of treated sample of <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 with Cr(VI).	78
Fig.(31) :	Transmission electron microscope image of control sample of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	79
Fig.(32) :	Transmission electron microscope image of treated sample of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1 with Cr(VI).	79
Fig.(33) :	Location of sites from which sludge and soil samples were collected in cairo.	120

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (1):	Thermal cycling conditions.	34
Table (2):	The inoculum size and equivalent CFU of <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	39
Table (3):	The inoculum size and equivalent CFU of <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	40
Table (4):	Reagents and solutions.	45
Table (5):	Total bacterial counts of different sludge and soil samples.	46
Table (6):	Isolates source microscopy and Cr(VI) reduction ability.	48
Table (7):	Effect of temperature on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	56
Table (8):	Effect of temperature on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	57
Table (9):	Effect of pH on percent of Cr(VI) reduction for <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	58
Table (10):	Effect of pH on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	59
Table (11):	Effect of incubation period on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	60
Table (12):	Effect of incubation period on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	61

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (13):	Effect of Cr(VI) concentration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	62
Table (14):	Effect of Cr(VI) concentration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	63
Table (15):	Effect of aeration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	64
Table (16):	Effect of aeration on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	65
Table (17):	Effect of inoculum size on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Ia3 and <i>Pseudomonas chlororaphis</i> Ia4.	66
Table (18):	Effect of inoculum size on percent of Cr(VI) reduction by <i>Streptomyces rochei</i> Sa1.	67
Table (19):	The effect of consortium on percent of Cr(VI) reduction in sterile and unsterile soils incubated with 200mg/L Cr(VI) and consortium. Sterile and unsterile controls are also shown.	70
Table (20):	The effect of consortium on percent of Cr(VI) reduction in sterile and unsterile soils incubated with 400mg/L Cr(VI) and consortium. Sterile and unsterile controls are also shown.	71

Aim of work

The aim of this study was to isolate, identify bacteria that can biologically reduce hexavalent chromium and enhance their ability to reduce hexavalent chromium then examine their ability to reduce hexavalent chromium as a consortium in a microcosm under optimized conditions.

ABSTRACT

Hexavalent chromium is a toxic heavy metal used in different industries and causes environmental pollution. In this study, three bacterial isolates capable of growing at high concentration of chromium (up to 700 mg/L for some isolates) were isolated from sludge contaminated with Cr(VI). The bacterial isolates were identified by 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis as *Bacillus* sp., *Streptomyces rochei* and *Pseudomonas chlororaphis*. Optimization of different factors for Cr(VI) reduction was carried out. Results showed that the optimum pH, temperature and agitation were 7, 30 °C 200 rpm respectively for all isolates, while the percent of Cr(VI) reduction increased with the increase of incubation time and inoculum size and decreased with the increase of Cr(VI) concentration. Bacterial cell wall rupturing by sonication experiment indicated that 14.1 % and 22.3 % of Cr(VI) were accumulated intracellularly and 61.3 % and 21.7 % of Cr(VI) were reduced to Cr(III) for bacteria and actinobacteria respectively. The isolates were mixed and tested as a consortium in Cr(VI) contaminated soil microcosm under optimum conditions and proved a promising reduction with 100 % reduction of 200 mg/Kg and 400 mg/Kg after 4 and 7 days of incubation respectively. Scanning electron microscopy