Biodecolorization of azo dye using *Bacillus subtilis* strain CKCC isolated from compost residues

CHEM Chanchao^{1*}, PASON Patthra^{1,2}, WAEONUKUL Rattiya^{1,2}, RATANAKHANOKCHAI Khanok¹ and TACHAAPAIKOON Chakrit^{1,2} ¹Excellent Center of Enzyme Technology and Microbial Utilization, Division of Biochemical Technology, School of Bioresources and Technology, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, 10150, Thailand ²Pilot Plant Development and Training Institute, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Bangkok, 10150, Thailand *Corresponding Author: CHEM Chanchao (chemchanchao@gmail.com)

To cite this article: Chem, C., Pason, P., Waeonukul, R., Ratanakhanokchai, K & Tachaapaikoon, C. (2021). Biodecolorization of azo dye using *Bacillus subtilis* strain CKCC isolated from compost residues. *Cambodia Journal of Basic and Applied Research (CJBAR), 3*(1), 77–100.

សង្ខិត្តន័យ

ថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌អេហ្សូ (Azo dyes) គឺជាក្រុមថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌គីមីសំយោគមួយ ប្រភេទ ដែលត្រូវបានប្រើប្រាស់ក្នុងវិស័យឧស្សាហកម្ម និងផលិតកម្មផ្សេងៗយ៉ាង ច្រើនក្នុងទូទាំងពិភពលោក។ ថ្មីៗនេះ កម្រិតសារធាតុពុលនៃក្រុមថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌ អេហ្សូបានធ្វើឲ្យអ្នកស្រាវជ្រាវមានចំណាប់អារម្មណ៍យ៉ាងខ្លាំង។ កាកសំណល់រាវ ដែល ចេញពីដំណើរការនៃផ្នែកវាយនភ័ណ្ឌ សម្បូរទៅដោយសារធាតុពុលដែលមានផលប៉ះ ពាល់ធ្ងន់ធ្ងរនិងអាចបង្កជាជម្ងឺទៅលើអង្កត់ហ្សែន និងជម្ងឺមហារីកជាដើម។ ដើម្បីកាត់ បន្ថយនូវការប្រឈមមុខនឹងបញ្ហាធំៗទាំងនេះ អ្នកស្រាវជ្រាវបានសិក្សាទៅលើដំណើរ ការបំបែកសារធាតុពុលតាមបែបជីវិសាស្ត្រ ដោយដាក់សារធាតុពុលនៃកាកសំណល់ វាយនភ័ណ្ឌទាំងនោះឲ្យស្ថិតក្រោមសកម្មភាពបំផ្លាញរបស់អតិសុខមប្រាណ។ អត្ថបទ នេះបង្ហាញអំពីការកាត់បំបែកពណ៌តាមបែបជីវិសាស្ត្រ (Biodecolorization) ដែល គ្មានផលប៉ះពាល់ដល់បរិស្ថាន និងអាចជាជម្រើសល្អជាងវិធីបន្សាបតាមបែបគីមីរូប។ ការសិក្សានេះផ្តោតសំខាន់លើការពិនិត្យរក និងញែកចេញពីសំណល់ជីកំប៉ុសនូវអតិ

សុខុមប្រាណដែលពូកែបំបែកសារធាតុពុលនៃថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌អេហ្សូ។ ក្នុងការសិក្សា ស្រាវជ្រាវដំណាក់កាលដំបូង គេអាចញែកបាននូវអតិសុខុមប្រាណដែលអាចបំបែក សារធាតុពុលនៃថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌អេហ្សក្នុងមជ្ឈដ្នានជុំវិញខ្លួនរបស់វា ដោយសកម្មភាព អង់ហ្ស៊ីម។ ដោយផ្អែកទៅលើការវិភាគនៃអង្កត់ហ្សែន ១៦s rRNA អតិសុខុមប្រាណ នេះមាន់លក្ខណៈស្រដៀងគ្នាទៅនឹងអតិសុខុមប្រាណប្រភេទ *Bacillus subtilis* strain CKCC រហូតដល់៩៩,៣៥%។ ដោយដាក់ឲ្យស្ថិតក្នុងលក្ខខណ្ឌល្អបំផុត (សីតុណ្ហភាព ៣៧.០ អង្សាសេ, កម្រិត pH ៧.០, ស្ករភ្លុយកូស និង yeast extract (០.៥% w/ ν), កូររយៈពេលមួយនាទីឲ្យបាន ២០០ ជុំ, និងទុករយៈពេល ៩៦ ម៉ោង) ចំពោះ កំហាប់ដំបូងនៃថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌អេហ្ស ២០.០ mg/l គេទទួលបានបរិមាណនៃការកាត់ បំបែក ៨៩,០៦ ± ១,០៩%។ បើប្រៀបធៀបនឹងលទ្ធផលនៃការសិក្សាដែលគ្រាន់តែទុក ឲ្យស្ងៀមដោយមិនកូរ គេទទួលបានកម្រិតនៃការកាត់បំបែក ៧៨,៩៥ ± ២,៥១%។ អ្វី ដែលគួរឱ្យចាប់អារម្មណ៍ក្នុងការសិក្សានេះ គឺអតិសុខុមប្រាណថ្មីប្រភេទ Bacillus subtilis strain CKCC អាចកាត់បំបែកសារជាតុពុលនៃកាកសំណល់រាវវាយនភ័ណ្ឌបាន ទាំងពីរលក្ខខណ្ឌ (ការទុកស្ងៀមមិនកូរ និងការកូរឲ្យវិលជាជុំរយៈពេលមួយនាទី)។ ដូច្នេះ អតិសុខមប្រាណថ្មីប្រភេទ *Bacillus subtilis* strain CKCC ត្រូវបានគេចាត់ ទុកថាជាប្រភពអតិសុខុមប្រាណជីវសាស្ត្រដ៏មានសក្តានុពលមួយក្នុងការបន្សាប សារធាតុពុលក្នុងកាកសំណល់រាវវាយនភ័ណ្ឌ ដោយសារវាមានសមត្ថភាពកាត់បំបែក សារធាតុពុលនៃថ្នាំជ្រលក់ពណ៌អេហ្ស ទាំងក្នុងលក្ខខណ្ឌត្រូវការអុកស៊ីសែន និងមិន ត្រូវការអុកស៊ីសែន។

Abstract

Azo dyes are commonly used synthetic dyes found in various industrial applications globally. Recently the toxicity of these dyes has attracted the attention of researchers. The effluent from textile processes involving these dyes can have lethal consequences due to their genotoxicity, mutagenicity, and carcinogenicity. Concerns about secondary pollution from the physio-chemical treatment of textile effluents has driven research into biological treatment processes where azo dye effluent undergoes bacterial degradation. Biodecolorization has been presented in this paper as an eco-friendly

alternative to physio-chemical treatment. This study focuses on the screening and isolation of effective bacteria for the decolorization of azo dyes from compost residues. Primary screening was able to isolate bacterial strains that demonstrate decolorization of azo dye effluent due to enzymatic activity surrounding each colony. 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis identified that this isolated strain had 99.35% similarity with the *Bacillus subtilis* strain CKCC. Under optimal treatment conditions (37.0°C; pH of 7.0; agitated at 200 rpm, fed with a 0.5% *w/v* yeast extract), a decolorization efficiency of 89.06 ± 1.09% was achieved after 96.0 h for an initial azo dye concentration of 20.0 mg.L⁻¹. This compares with an efficiency of 78.95 ± 2.51% under static conditions. The *B. subtilis* CKCC strain has significant potential as a bioresource for effluent treatment in the textile due to its capacity to degrade azo dyes under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions.

Keywords: azo dyes, textile effluent, *Bacillus subtilis* CKCC strain, biodecolorization, toxicity.

Background

Natural dyes, made from plant extracts, insects, marine species, and minerals have been used since the Roman Empire (Kadolph, 2008). Blue and yellow dyes from plants have been in common use for at least 40,000 years (Mani et al., 2019). The first commercial synthetic dye, *mauveine*, was discovered in 1856 by the British chemist William Henry Perkin who attempted to replicate a red dye from the rubia root produced by French chemist Pierre Robique (1780-1840) in 1826 (Dave et al., 2015).

Synthetic azo dyes are polycyclic aromatic compounds obtained via the oxidation of anthracene. They are used extensively in the manufacture of dyes for use in the textile and paper industries (Ito, 2013). The word *azo* comes from *azote,* the French word for nitrogen. It is represented by the nomenclature R_1 -N=N- R_2 , where -N=N- is an azo bond, and R1 & R2 are either

aryl or alkyl compounds (Chung, 2016). In azo dyes, azo bonds are substituted with benzene or naphthalene, which may contain different functional groups. For instance, chloro (-Cl), methyl (-CH₃), nitro (-NO₂), amino (-NH₂), hydroxyl (-OH) and carboxyl (-COOH) groups produce different types of synthetic azo dyes (Dave et al., 2015). Azo dye effluent has been known to produce genotoxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic health impacts (Mahajan et al., 2019). For instance, benzedine, a byproduct of the production of azo dyes is well known as a carcinogen of the human bladder (Gičević et al., 2020).

Industrialization from the 19th century coincided with increased levels of pollution from textile industry effluent (Evans et al., 2012). Today, there are more than 100,000 types of commercial dyes, including at least 3,000 types of azo dyes used in the textile, paper, and leather industries, globally (Boonsong & Paksamut, 2018). Azo dyes have become popular in the textile industry as they are resistant to physicochemical, and biological degradation from exposure to sweat (Saratale et al., 2011). In 2013, it was reported that approximately 1.3 million tons of synthetic azo dyes are released each year in effluent from the industry globally (Singh et al., 2015) due to between 10 and 15% of dyes not being fixated during the dying process (Senthilkumar et al., 2014). Pollution from these dyes has become concentrated in low- and middle-income countries such as India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, where large quantities of textiles are produced (Gupta, 2009).

In 2011, it was estimated that between 17 and 20% of all industrial wastewater pollution stemmed from the textile industry (Kant, 2011), with a typical concentration of 16-20 mg.L⁻¹ (Guadie et al., 2017). In previous studies, the efficacy of physicochemical treatment methods including chemical

oxidation, adsorption, coagulation and flocculation, electrochemical processes, membrane filtration, and the use of nanomaterials to treat this waste have been studied (Shanker et al., 2017; Ramakrishna & Viraraghavan, 1997). However, technical constraints related to the economic feasibility of these approaches; and the secondary pollution caused by sludge production limit the usefulness of these methods (Thakur et al., 2012).

Textile effluent from dye manufacturing contains acids, alkalis, salts, and metal ions, with concentrations of up to 15 to 20% (Ali, 2010). High salinity levels in effluent present challenges for the development of biological treatment methods, as many bacteria are intolerant of these conditions (Manu & Chaudhari, 2003). However, some treatment processes involving bacteria, fungi, yeast or algae that can decolorize textile effluents by cleaving azo bonds via enzymatic processes (Telke et al., 2015; Singh et al., 2015) under either anaerobic or aerobic conditions.

Enzymatic oxidation via laccases or azoreductases is effective in decolorizing a wide range of azo dyes (Chacko et al., 2011). Ligninolytic enzymes produced by fungal decomposition, such as laccase, lignin peroxidase, versatile peroxidase, manganese peroxidase has also demonstrated high decolorization efficiency (Gold & Alic, 1993). While there are also some limitations in the use of fungi derived enzymes (Banat et al., 1997), many potential enzymes for use in the treatment of dye effluent have been reported (Karam & Nicell, 1997). Biodecolorization is a potentially eco-friendly alternative to physio-chemical treatment methods. The objective of this study is to isolate bacterium with the potential to decolorize azo dyes from agricultural compost residues and to determine optimal growth

conditions (pH, temperature, and the addition of nutrient supplements) for the degradation of azo dyes.

Research Methodology

Research materials

Reactive red 120 (RR120), a pure synthetic azo dye used in industry ($\lambda_{max} = 537$ nm), and Azure B (AB), an indicator dye ($\lambda_{max} = 650$ nm) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, USA. Nutrient broth medium containing 0.5% (*w/v*) peptone, 0.5% (*w/v*) NaCl, 0.15% (*w/v*) meat extract, and 0.15% (*w/v*) yeast extract; Berg's mineral salt medium (MS) at pH 7.0 containing 0.2% (*w/v*) NaNO₃, 0.05% (*w/v*) K₂HPO₄, 0.02% (*w/v*) MgSO₄.7H₂O, 0.002% (*w/v*) MnSO₄.H₂O, 0.002% (*w/v*) FeSO₄.7H₂O, and 0.002% (*w/v*) CaCl₂.2H₂O were also purchased. Agar (2%, *w/v*) was supplemented for the preparation of an agar medium. All chemicals were analytical grade.

Isolation and screening of the bacteria

A total of 450 x 10 g compost residue samples was collected from various sites in Suphanburi province, Thailand. The samples were maintained at a temperature below 37°C while being transferred to the laboratory. Then azo dye decolorizing bacteria were cultured in the nutrient broth medium. The culture was screened in 10 mL test tubes (pH 7.0) and inoculated with the compost residue samples, supplemented with Azure B at a concentration of 20 mg.L⁻¹. The samples were then incubated at 37°C, agitated at 100 rpm for 24 h. Potential Azure B samples were then removed using an aseptic serial dilution by a sterile NaCl solution (0.85% w/v) and spread on NB agar plates containing Azure B at a concentration of 20 mg.L⁻¹ then incubated at 37°C.

Single, morphologically different colonies demonstrating a clear halo zone was isolated from the samples. A culture of each strain was preserved in 50% glycerol stock and stored at (-20°C). The dye removal efficiency of each pure isolate was then verified in a liquid nutrient broth medium, with an Azure B indicator dye (20 mg.L⁻¹). An equal initial cell inoculation (OD = 600 nm) was performed. 100 mL of cell starter 5% (v/v) was inoculated in a 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask and agitated at 200 rpm. After 72 h, the most effectively decolorized samples were selected based on the color of the indicator dye.

Strain identification and phylogenetic analysis

Pure colonies of the decolorization bacteria were isolated before Genomic DNA was extracted using a DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (QIAGEN, Germany). Then, the 16S rRNA gene was amplified using PCR (Bio-Red, T100TM, Thermal cycle) and universal eubacteria specific primers 8F (5' AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCT CAG-3') and 1492R (5'GGTTACCTTGTTACGACTT-3'). The PCR procedure was performed under standard conditions following the instructions of the manufacturer. PCR amplifications were conducted on 50 µl samples with a T100TM Thermal Cycler at 95°C for an initial denaturation of 30 s over 30 cycles; annealing at 50°C for 30 s; and then extension at 68°C for 1.30s. The final elongation was conducted at 68°C for 5 min, before cooling at 10°C. The PCR products were then purified using a PCR Purification Kit (QIAGEN, Germany).

Sequencing data were then derived using the BioEdit Sequence Alignment Editor Program and compared with the NCBI GenBank online database using BLASTn. The phylogenetic relationship of the sequence was constructed using

the neighbor-joining method and a phylogenetic tree was created using MEGA-10 software.

Biodecolorization efficiency analysis

Experiments were conducted using an equal initial optical density (OD) with a cell inoculation of 5% (v/v). To evaluate the decolorization efficiency, 1 ml of the culture and control samples without cell inoculation were aseptically collected from the Erlenmeyer flask daily and centrifuged (Kubota 5922, Japan) at 8,000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant samples were measured at the relevant wavelength for each sample using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Model UV-160, Japan). The dye decolorization efficiency was calculated using the decolorization efficiency equation:

Where, OD initial = Absorbance before cell inoculation; and OD degraded = Absorbance after cell inoculation.

The effect of physicochemical treatment on biodegradation and biodecolorization efficiency

The effect of a nutrient supplement, as a source of carbon and organic nitrogen, on the decolorization efficiency was studied. A glucose and yeast extract were evaluated at concentrations between 0.3 and 0.5%, w/v. Both static and shaking culture conditions were applied, with effects of both pH and temperature on decolorization analyzed. To determine the robustness of each treatment, they were applied to a range of initial dye concentrations from 20 mg.L⁻¹ to 60 mg.L⁻¹. Cell growth (CFUs/ml) and decolorization efficiency

(% removal) were calculated daily for four days. The results of the experiments were analyzed and presented as mean values with a standard deviation and standard error.

Results and Findings

Screening and isolation of azo dye decolorizing bacteria

In total, 130 out of 450 test tubes demonstrated positive dye removal and were selected as part of a primary screening (data not shown). Following ten sub-cultures, a further 120 test tubes were excluded. As shown in Appendix 1, 17 morphologically pure bacterial colonies were isolated from these 10 test tubes. These were selected based on a defined clear zone on agar substrate and high removal efficiency (Figure 1), indicating bacteria with enzymatic degradation capacity (Chen et al., 2003). Isolates with an absence of a clear zone were rejected. The bacterial strain selected demonstrated a clear zone index of 1.56 \pm 0.11 (data not shown) and a decolorization efficiency of 91.78 \pm 0.50%.

Hereafter this is referred to as strain CKCC. The diameter of the clear zone was used to indicate whether primary hydrolysis of a multifunctional enzyme had occurred. The microbial ligninolytic enzymes used to degrade the dies included azoreductase, laccase, manganese peroxidase and lignin peroxidase. The enzymatic system applied in this study will be the focus of a later study.

Identification and phylogenetic analysis

The partial sequence of the 16S rRNA gene revealed that strain CKCC possessed a 99.35% similarity with *Bacillus subtilis* X-c. The phylogenetic tree indicated that strain CKCC belonged to the Bacillus genera (Figure 2). Many species in the Bacillus genus including *B. subtilis*, *B. cereus* and *B. coagulans*

have been studied as biodecolorization agents, isolated from different natural sources (Khan et al., 2013). Bacillus strains have also been of interest to other applications such as biotechnology, bioremediation, and biorefinery (Yusupova et al., 2020).

Figure 1. Primary screening of the samples (A) Initial inoculation of the compost residue samples; (B) After 24 h of inoculation; (C) Clear zone constructions on Azure B agar medium, indicative of a pure isolate, followed by Azure B liquid removal after 72 h



Strain *B. subtilis* is assessed as have a Level 1 biosafety risk (non-infectious bacteria). It is not considered pathogenic to humans, animals or plants. Strain *B. subtilis* is tolerant of multiple environmental stresses and has been applied as a probiotic for both humans and animals. The Bacillus genus has also been applied to azo dye decolorization aerobic, facultatively anaerobic, static, and

anoxic conditions (Saranraj et al., 2018). This suggests that the Bacillus species has high potential as a bio-resource for the novel and improved treatment of effluent from the textile industry.





Effects of physicochemical on decolorization efficiency

In this study, the performance of *B. subtilis* strain CKCC in the biodegradation of azo dyes was shown to be enhanced under optimal conditions. After 96 h of incubation, the decolorization efficiency of the *B. subtilis* strain CKCC was highest under agitation at 200 rpm and a neutral pH. Under these conditions, the removal efficiency for the azo dye (RR120) and indicator dye (Azure B) at an initial concentration of 20 mg.L⁻¹ was found to be 89.06 ± 1.09% and 91.78 ± 0.50%, respectively (Figure 3). Under static

conditions, the degradation efficiency of the azo dye was only $78.95 \pm 2.51\%$ (data not shown). Under aerobic conditions, cell growth was slow over the first 24 h of incubation but increased over the next 48 h, before reaching a stationary phase and then rapidly declining after 72 h, where it reached a death phase after 96 h (Figure 4).

Figure 3. The decolorization efficiency of *B. subtilis* strain CKCC strains under optimal conditions



Discussion

The application of microbial enzymes for the decolorization of azo dyes is an eco-friendly technology. In this study, a novel indicator plate method was developed as an effective method for screening bacteria with the capacity to degrade azo dyes in both anaerobic and aerobic conditions. A mechanism by which ligninolytic enzymes may be applied to the degradation of azo dyes was determined. Natural microbes produce extracellular enzymes with the capacity to break down the complex chemical structures that cause azo dye effluent to be toxic. The growth rate of the screened bacteria in response to organic nutrient availability was analyzed to consider the effect on the oxidation of azo dye structures (Mani et al., 2019; Hatvani & Mécs, 2002).

Figure 4. The association between cell growth and decolorization efficiency



The enzyme activity involved in the decolorization pathways was found to be more effective within a culture medium containing high amounts of organic nutrients (Buswell et al., 1995). In particular, yeast extracts were found to be the most effective nitrogen source for enhancing decolorization efficiency (Moosvi et al., 2005). In contrast, inorganic nitrogen sources were found to be unavailable for supporting bacterial growth, leading to low decolorization efficiency (Li et al., 2019). Strain CKCC also required oxygen to progress metabolic pathways via the transfer of electrons as previously reported by Reddy et al. (2016).

Bacterial strains such as Bacillus, Citrobacter, Pseudomonas, Clostridium, Staphylococcus, and Micrococcus have been reported to grow under aerobic conditions but not produce the enzymatic activity that enables a high decolorization efficiency under low oxygen, static or anaerobic conditions (Wang et al., 2009). In contrast, the *B. subtilis* strain CKCC demonstrated facultative anaerobic behaviours, capable of supporting aerobic respiration pathways, before converting to microaerophilic behaviours depending on the availability of oxygen. This is significant as in previous reports, only a small number of bacterial species have been identified with the potential to degrade the azo dyes under aerobic conditions (Lin & Leu, 2008), including Bacillus, Sphingomonas, Pseudomonas and Listeria (Kuberan et al., 2011).

Efficient azo dye decolorization via anaerobic or microaerophilic pathways using the *B. subtilis* strain CKCC requires more complex organic nutrient sources (Singh et al., 2017); neutral pH conditions (Wang et al., 2009; Moosvi et al., 2007); and moderate temperatures for optimal cell growth to occur (Asad et al., 2007). In addition, where there are high initial dye concentrations (60 mg.L⁻¹), toxicity has been found to directly inhibit cell growth, as outlined in previous investigations (Ray et al., 2016). This is due to the influence of azo dyes on the enzymatic systems responsible for elimination pathways (Pearce et al., 2003). This is in line with other studies that have shown that the aromatic compounds within complex azo dye structures strongly impact decolorization efficiency (Saratale et al., 2011).

To demonstrate that the toxic biodegradation products were not generated by secondary pollution, the presence of a clear zone construction in the isolates was used to indicate ligninolytic enzyme activity, using an indicator dye as a substrate (Chen et al., 2003). Phytotoxicity assessments were used to demonstrate that the ligninolytic enzymes that produce

bacterium in textile effluent significantly reduced toxicity during decolorization (Bharagava et al., 2018). This is aligned with a previous study, which found that the phytotoxicity of by-products of bio-decolorization was less toxic than the initial dye (Nouren et al., 2017). Another study found that plant growth-promoting bacteria (PGPB) screened from *Bacillus* sp. strain MR-1/2 both demonstrated a high decolorization efficiency for azo dyes while facilitating plant growth (Shahid et al., 2018).

The present study demonstrated that the *B. subtilis* strain CKCC possesses a high decolorization efficiency when treating azo dye RR120 effluent. The capacity to degrade azo dyes via different metabolic pathways is of particular interest for practical applications in the field.

Conclusion

A newly isolated azo dye decolorization agent was identified to have a 99.35% similarity with *B. subtilis* strain CKCC based on a 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis. Under optimal conditions (37.0°C; pH 7.0; agitated at 200 rpm), azo dye RR120 with an initial concentration of 20.0 mg.L⁻¹ was degraded by 89.06 \pm 1.09% after 96 h. This isolated strain demonstrated high decolorization efficiency and potential commercial viability for azo dye effluent treatment in the textile industry. The improved performance of the *B. subtilis* strain CKCC is attributed to its microaerophilic characteristics, which indicate a capacity to tolerate different environmental conditions. This provides significant advantages for the eco-friendly alternative treatment of colored azo dye textile effluents.

Thus, it is recommended that FT-IR and HPLC analysis of azo dye structures before and after breakdown and a phytotoxicity assessment of culture

residues in *B. subtilis* strain CKCC following treatment is conducted in future studies. This may help to better understand azo dye degradation pathways by this approach. Different oxidoreductive enzymes involve different reaction pathways for azo dye decolorization. Identifying new eco-friendly options, such as the *B. subtilis* strain CKCC are required for practical application. Further, the sequencing of these genes may be of interest for other purposes. The use of novel biocatalysts for azo dye degradation requires more research to realize commercial benefits from these results.

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi for funding this research through the *KMUTT 55th Anniversary Commemorative Fund*.

Author biographies

CHEM Chanchao is a researcher in the Department of Biochemistry at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, who holds a MSc. in Biochemical Technology from the Excellent Center of Enzyme Technology and Microbial Utilization, Division of Biochemical Technology, School of Bioresources and Technology, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi also in Bangkok. Authors' contributions: Conceptualization, Research methodology, Investigation, Data analysis, Manuscript preparation.

PASON Patthra is an Assistant Professor at the Excellent Center of Enzyme Technology and Microbial Utilization, Division of Biochemical Technology, School of Bioresources and Technology, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Bangkok, where she completed a PhD. Authors' contributions: Resources and Analytical tools.

WAEONUKUL Rattiya is an Assistant Professor at the Excellent Center of Enzyme Technology and Microbial Utilization, Division of Biochemical Technology, School of Bioresources and Technology, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Bangkok, where she completed a PhD. Authors' contributions: Resources and analytical tools.

RATANAKHANOKCHAI Khanok is a Professor and a research advisor at the Excellent Center of Enzyme Technology and Microbial Utilization, Division of Biochemical Technology, School of Bioresources and Technology, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Bangkok, He completed a PhD in Applied Biological Chemistry at Tokyo University of Agricultural and Technology in Japan. Authors' contributions: Supervision.

TACHAAPAIKOON Chakrit is an Associate Professor at Excellent Center of Enzyme Technology and Microbial Utilization, Division of Biochemical Technology, School of Bioresources and Technology, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Bangkok, where he completed a PhD. He is also a researcher at Pilot Plant Development and Training Institute. Authors' contributions: Conceptualization, Supervision, Review and editing.

References

- Ali, H. (2010) Biodegradation of synthetic dyes a review. *Water, Air, & Soil Pollution*, 213(1), 251-273. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11270-010-0382-4.
- Asad, S., Amoozegar, M. A., Pourbabaee, A., Sarbolouki, M. N., & Dastgheib, S.
 M. M. (2007) Decolorization of textile azo dyes by newly isolated halophilic and halotolerant bacteria. *Bioresource Technology*, 98(11), 2082–2088.

- Banat, I. M., Nigam, P., Singh, D., & Marchant, R. (1997). Microbial decolorization of textile-dye-containing effluents: A review. *Bioresource Technology*, 61(1), 103–103.
- Bharagava, R. N., Mani, S., Mulla, S. I., & Saratale, G. D. (2018) Degradation and decolourization potential of a ligninolytic enzyme-producing *Aeromonas hydrophila* for crystal violet dye and its phytotoxicity evaluation. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, 156, 166–175.
- Boonsong, P., & Paksamut, J. (2018) Efficiency Improvement of Some Agricultural Residue Modified Materials for Textile Dyes Absorption. *Materials Science and Engineering*, 317(1), 012–035.
- Buswell, J. A., Cai, Y., & Chang, S. T. (1995) Effect of nutrient nitrogen and manganese on manganese peroxidase and laccase production by *Lentinula* (*Lentinus*) edodes. FEMS microbiology letters, 128(1), 81–87.
- Chacko, J. T., & Subramaniam, K. (2011). Enzymatic degradation of azo dyes a review. *International Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 1(6), 1250–1260.
- Chen, K. C., Wu, J. Y., Liou, D. J., & Hwang, S. C. J. (2003) Decolorization of the textile dyes by newly isolated bacterial strains. *Journal of Biotechnology*, 101(1), 57–68.
- Chung, K. T. (2016) Azo dyes and human health: a review. *Journal of Environmental Science and Health*, 34(4), 233–261.
- Dave S.R., Patel T.L., Tipre D.R. (2015) Bacterial Degradation of Azo Dye Containing Wastes. In: Singh S. (eds) Microbial Degradation of Synthetic Dyes in Wastewaters. *Environmental Science and Engineering*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-109 42-83.

- Evans, A. E., Hanjra, M. A., Jiang, Y., Qadir, M., & Drechsel, P. (2012) Water Quality: Assessment of the Current Situation in Asia. *International Journal of Water Resources Development*, 28(2), 195–216.
- Gičević A., Hindija L., Karačić A. (2020) Toxicity of Azo Dyes in Pharmaceutical Industry. In: Badnjevic A., Škrbić R., Gurbeta Pokvić L. (eds) CMBEBIH (2019) CMBEBIH 2019. *IFMBE Proceedings*, vol 73. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-17971-788.
- Gold, M. H., & Alic, M. (1993). Molecular biology of the lignin-degrading basidiomycete *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*. *Microbiology and Molecular biology reviews*, 57(3), 605–622.
- Guadie, A., Tizazu, S., Melese, M., Guo, W., Ngo, H. H., & Xia, S. (2017) Biodecolorization of textile azo dye using *Bacillus* sp. strain CH12 isolated from an alkaline lake. *Biotechnology Reports*, 15, 92–100.
- Gupta, V. K. (2009). Application of low-cost adsorbents for dye removal a review. *Journal of environmental management*, 90(8), 2313–2342.
- Hatvani, N., & Mécs, I. (2002) Effect of the nutrient composition on dye decolorisation and extracellular enzyme production by *Lentinus edodes* on solid medium. *Enzyme and microbial technology*, 30(3), 381–386.
- Ito, T. (2013) Color-removal by microorganisms isolated from human hands. Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education: JMBE, 14(2), 244–247.
- Kadolph, S. (2008) Natural Dyes: A Traditional Craft Experiencing New Attention. *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*, 75(1), 14–17.
- Kant, R. (2011) Textile dyeing industry an environmental hazard. *Natural Science*, 4(1), 22–26. DOI:10.4236/ns.2012.41004.

- Karam, J., & Nicell, J. A. (1997) Potential applications of enzymes in waste treatment. Journal of Chemical Technology & Biotechnology: International Research in Process, Environmental AND Clean Technology, 69(2),141–153.
- Khan, R., Bhawana, P., & Fulekar, M. H. (2013) Microbial decolorization and degradation of synthetic dyes: a review. *Reviews in Environmental Science* and Bio/Technology, 12(1), 75–97.
- Kuberan, T., Anburaj, J., Sundaravadivelan, C., & Kumar, P. (2011)
 Biodegradation of azo dye by *Listeria* sp. *International Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 1(7), 1760–1769.
- Li, H. H., Wang, Y. T., Wang, Y., Wang, H. X., Sun, K. K., & Lu, Z. M. (2019) Bacterial degradation of anthraquinone dyes. *Journal of Zhejiang University Science B*, 20(6), 528–540.
- Lin, Y. H., & Leu, J. Y. (2008) Kinetics of reactive azo-dye decolorization by *Pseudomonas luteola* in a biological activated carbon process. *Biochemical Engineering Journal*, 39 (3), 457–467.
- Mahajan, P., Kaushal, J., Upmanyu, A., & Bhatti, J. (2019). Assessment of phytoremediation potential of *Chara vulgaris* to treat toxic pollutants of textile effluent. *Journal of toxicology*, 2019, 1–11.
- Mani, A., & Hameed, S. A. S. (2019) Improved bacterial-fungal consortium as an alternative approach for enhanced decolourisation and degradation of azo dyes: a review. *Nature Environment and Pollution Technology*, 18(1), 49–64.
- Manu, B., & Chaudhari, S. (2003) Decolorization of indigo and azo dyes in semicontinuous reactors with long hydraulic retention time. *Process Biochemistry*, 38(8), 1213–1221.

- Moosvi, S., Keharia, H., & Madamwar, D. (2005) Decolourization of textile dye Reactive Violet 5 by a newly isolated bacterial consortium RVM 11.1. *World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology*, 21(5), 667–672.
- Moosvi, S., Kher, X., & Madamwar, D. (2007) Isolation, characterization and decolorization of textile dyes by a mixed bacterial consortium JW-2. *Dyes and pigments*, 74(3), 723–729.
- Nouren, S., Bhatti, H. N., Iqbal, M., Bibi, I., Kamal, S., Sadaf, S., & Safa, Y. (2017) By-product identification and phytotoxicity of biodegraded Direct Yellow 4 dye. *Chemosphere*, 169, 474–484.
- Pearce, C. I., Lloyd, J. R., & Guthrie, J. T. (2003) The removal of colour from textile wastewater using whole bacterial cells: a review. *Dyes and pigments*, 58(3), 179–196.
- Ramakrishna, K. R., & Viraraghavan, T. (1997) Dye removal using low-cost adsorbents. *Water Science and Technology*, 36(2-3), 189–196.
- Ray, J. C. J., Wickersheim, M. L., Jalihal, A. P., Adeshina, Y. O., Cooper, T. F., & Balázsi, G. (2016) Cellular growth arrest and persistence from enzyme saturation. *PLoS computational biology*, 12(3), 1–21.
- Reddy, G. V., & Shah, M. P. (2016) Microbial Decolorization of various dyes by
 a *Bacillus subtilis* strain isolated from an industrial effluent treatment
 plant. *Journal of Advanced Research in Biotechnology*, 1(1),
 1–6.
- Saranraj, P., Sivasakthivelan, P., Jayaprakash, A., & Sivasakthi, S. (2018) Comparison of Bacterial Decolourization of Reactive Textile. Dyes under Static and Shaking Conditions. *Advances in Biological Research*, 12(6), 199–203.

- Saratale, R. G., Saratale, G. D., Chang, J. S., & Govindwar, S. P. (2011) Bacterial decolorization and degradation of azo dyes: a review. *Journal of the Taiwan Institute of Chemical Engineers*, 42(1), 138–157.
- Senthilkumar, S., Perumalsamy, M., & Prabhu, H. J. (2014) Decolourization potential of white-rot fungus *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* on synthetic dye bath effluent containing Amido black 10B. *Journal of Saudi Chemical Society*, 18(6), 845–853.
- Shahid, M., Mahmood, F., & Hussain, S. (2018) Enzymatic detoxification of azo dyes by a multifarious *Bacillus* sp. strain MR-1/2-bearing plant growth-promoting characteristics. *3 Biotech*, 8(10), 1–12.
- Shanker, U., Rani, M., & Jassal, V. (2017) Degradation of hazardous organic dyes in water by nanomaterials. *Environmental chemistry letters*, 15(4), 623–642.
- Singh, R. L., Singh, P. K., & Singh, R. P. (2015) Enzymatic decolorization and degradation of azo dyes - A review. *International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation*, 104, 21–31.
- Singh, R. P., Singh, P. K., & Singh, R. L. (2017) Role of azoreductases in Bacterial Decolorization of azo dyes. *Current Trends in Biomedical Engineering & Biosciences*, 9(3), 50–52.
- Singh, S., Chatterji, S., Nandini, P. T., Prasad, A. S. A., & Rao, K. V. B. (2015) Biodegradation of azo dye Direct Orange 16 by *Micrococcus luteus* strain SSN2. *International Journal of Environmental Science and Technology*, 12(7), 2161–2168.
- Telke A.A., Kadam A.A., Govindwar S.P. (2015) Bacterial Enzymes and Their Role in Decolorization of Azo Dyes. In: Singh S. (eds) Microbial Degradation

of Synthetic Dyes in Wastewaters. *Environmental Science and Engineering*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-10942-8 7.

- Thakur, M. C., Khan, A., & Doshi, H. (2012) Isolation and screening of dye degrading microorganisms from the effluents of dye and textile industries at Surat. *American Journal of Environmental Engineering*, 2(6), 152–159.
- Wang, H., Su, J. Q., Zheng, X. W., Tian, Y., Xiong, X. J., & Zheng, T. L. (2009)
 Bacterial decolorization and degradation of the reactive dye Reactive Red
 180 by *Citrobacter* sp. CK3. *International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation*, 63(4), 395–399.
- Yusupova, Y. R., Skripnikova, V. S., Kivero, A. D., & Zakataeva, N. P. (2020) Expression and purification of the 5'-nucleotidase YitU from Bacillus species: its enzymatic properties and possible applications in biotechnology. *Applied microbiology and biotechnology*, 104(7), 2957–2972.

No.	Strain code	Colony shape	Color	Clear zone	Removal efficiency (%)/Azure B (20
					mg.L ⁻⁺)
1	B26	Irregular	Gray	Less clear zone	77.13
2	B35	Circular	Gray	Less clear zone	72.94
3	B35.1	Circular	Gray	Less clear zone	51.32
4	B40	Circular	Gray	Less clear zone	61.94
5	B41	Circular	Gray	Less clear zone	55.23
6	CKCC*	<u>Circular</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Clear zone</u>	<u>91.78*</u>
7	G3	Circular	White	Clear zone	86.34
8	G7	Circular	White	Clear zone	85.89
9	PP26	Circular	White	Clear zone	83.33
10	PP34	Circular	White	Less clear zone	59.65
11	PP39	Circular	White	Less clear zone	49.64
12	PP45	Circular	White	Less clear zone	50.45
13	PP45S	Circular	White	Less clear zone	50.95
14	R23	Circular	White	Less clear zone	69.95
15	R23.1	Irregular	White	Less clear zone	49.48
16	R39	Circular	White	Less clear zone	69.75
17	R39.1	Circular	Orange	Less clear zone	70.85

Appendix 1. Morphologically pure colonies derived from primary screening