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Data Article

Data on the selection of biostimulating agents for the bioremediation of soil simultaneously contaminated with lindane and zinc



Mikel Anza*, Oihane Salazar, Lur Epelde, Carlos Garbisu

NEIKER-Tecnalia, Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Soil Microbial Ecology Group, c/ Berreaga 1, E-48160 Derio, Spain

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ABSTRACT

The bioremediation of contaminated soil often involves the addition of organic/inorganic amendments and mobilizing agents (e.g. surfactants, detergents), in order to stimulate the growth and degrading activity of soil microbial populations and increase contaminant bioavailability. For this data article we carried out an experiment to select biostimulating agents for the bioremediation of soil simultaneously contaminated with lindane (HCH, 10 mg kg⁻¹ DW soil) and Zinc (Zn, 1500 mg kg⁻¹ DW soil). To this purpose, a factorial design was used to test the effect of three organic amendments (i.e. hen manure, composted horse manure, cow slurry) and three mobilizing agents (i.e. sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate (SDS), rhamnolipids and Tween-80) on the reduction of total HCH and bioavailable Zn concentration in soil. Similarly, the effect of the addition of cyclohexane, as chemical inducer of HCH degradation, was also studied. The addition of SDS, rhamnolipids and Tween-80 significantly reduced HCH concentration in soil, regardless of the presence of other biostimulating agents. When added individually, the three organic amendments (hen manure, composted horse manure, cow slurry) significantly reduced bioavailable Zn concentration in soil. These data provide useful information for the bioremediation, through biostimulation, of soils simultaneously contaminated with HCH and Zn.

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* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: manza@neiker.eus (M. Anza).

Specifications table

Subject area	<i>Environmental sciences.</i>
More specific subject area	<i>Soil pollution, bioremediation, biostimulation.</i>
Type of data	<i>Table and Figures.</i>
How data was acquired	<i>A fractional factorial design was used to select biostimulating agents for the bioremediation of soil simultaneously contaminated with lindane and zinc.</i>
Data format	<i>Analyzed. Soil contaminant concentrations.</i>
Experimental factors	<i>Seven biostimulating agents were added to soil artificially contaminated with lindane and zinc: hen manure, composted horse manure, cow slurry, sodium dodecylbenzenesulfonate-SDS, rhamnolipids, Tween-80 and cyclohexane.</i>
Experimental features	<i>Lindane concentration in soil was determined by gas chromatography. Bioavailable zinc concentration in soil was measured by atomic absorption spectroscopy.</i>
Data source location	<i>Derio, Spain.</i>
Data accessibility	<i>Data are available in the article.</i>
Related research article	<i>No.</i>

Value of the data

- Data are useful for the bioremediation through biostimulation of soils simultaneously contaminated with lindane and zinc.
- Data are useful for the selection of organic amendments (hen manure, composted horse manure, cow slurry) and mobilizing agents in soil bioremediation.

1. Data

The objective of the present work was to select biostimulating agents (i.e. *organic amendments* to promote the growth and degrading activity of soil microbial populations; *mobilizing agents* to increase HCH bioavailability; and *a chemical inducer* to stimulate HCH degradation) for the bioremediation of soil simultaneously contaminated with lindane (10 mg kg⁻¹ DW soil) and Zn (1500 mg kg⁻¹ DW soil). To this purpose, a fractional factorial experiment with seven factors [2⁽⁷⁻¹⁾, Table 1] was used. Table 1 summarizes the 64 runs of the factorial design used here. Our experiment revealed that three factors (in order of importance: SDS, rhamnolipids and Tween-80) significantly reduced total HCH concentration in soil after 10 weeks of incubation (Fig. 1a: pareto chart; Fig. 1b: normal plot of the effects, $\alpha = 0.05$; Table 1). In fact, the analysis of interactions between factors showed that the addition of SDS, rhamnolipids and, to a lesser extent, Tween-80 reduced total HCH concentration in soil, independently of the presence of the other factors (Fig. 2). Regarding bioavailable Zn concentration in soil, the three organic amendments used here (in order of importance: hen manure, composted horse manure and cow slurry) led to lower values of this parameter (Fig. 3, $\alpha = 0.001$; Table 1). The analysis of the interactions between factors (Fig. 4) showed that the addition of organic amendments was effective only when they were added individually and not in combination.

2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

Soil was collected (upper 20 cm) from a local meadow and, then, air-dried for one week. The soil was a clay-loam, with a pH of 6.2 and an organic matter content of 6.3%. After sieving (< 5 mm), the soil was artificially contaminated with 10 mg γ -hexachlorocyclohexane kg⁻¹ DW (dry weight) soil

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