

Accepted Manuscript

Analysis and optimization of process parameters for production of Polyhydroxyalkanoates along with wastewater treatment by *Serratia* sp. ISTVKR1

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PII: S0960-8524(17)30391-7
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.03.110>
Reference: BITE 17814

To appear in: *Bioresource Technology*

Received Date: 30 January 2017
Revised Date: 15 March 2017
Accepted Date: 17 March 2017



Please cite this article as: Gupta, A., Kumar, M., Thakur, I.S., Analysis and optimization of process parameters for production of Polyhydroxyalkanoates along with wastewater treatment by *Serratia* sp. ISTVKR1, *Bioresource Technology* (2017), doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biortech.2017.03.110>

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Abstract

A previously reported biodegrading bacterial strain *Serratia* sp. ISTVKR1 was studied for polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) production along with wastewater contaminant removal. Nile red fluorescence, GC-MS, FT-IR, NMR and TEM confirmed the accumulation of homopolymer poly-3-hydroxyvalerate (PHV) within the bacterial cells. Analysis of culture after 72 h of bacterial treatment showed maximum COD removal (8.4 fold), non-detection of organic contaminants such as 1H-Cyclopropa [a] naphthalene (R.T.= 10.12) using GC-MS and increased proportion of elements like Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Cu, Cd and Pb in the bacterial cell pellets by SEM-EDX analysis. Optimization of process parameters for enhanced PHA production along with wastewater treatment done using Response Surface Methodology (RSM) showed 5 % and 0.74 % increase in the PHA production (0.3368 ± 0.13 g L⁻¹) and % COD reduction (88.93 ± 2.41) of wastewater, respectively. The study, thus established the production of PHA along with wastewater contaminant removal by *Serratia* sp. ISTVKR1.

Keywords: polyhydroxyalkanoate, *Serratia*, wastewater, RSM, hydroxyvalerate

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