Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0956-5663(16)31180-0

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2016.11.039 DOI:

BIOS9361 Reference:

To appear in: Biosensors and Bioelectronic

Received date: 10 September 2016 3 November 2016 Revised date: Accepted date: 15 November 2016

Cite this article as: M.R. Saidur, A.R. Abdul Aziz and W.J. Basirun, Recent advances in DNA-based electrochemical biosensors for heavy metal io detection: Review, Biosensors Bioelectronic A and http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2016.11.039

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Recent advances in DNA-based electrochemical biosensors for heavy metal

ion detection: A Review

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Abstract:

The presence of heavy metal in food chains due to the rapid industrialization poses a serious

threat on the environment. Therefore, detection and monitoring of heavy metals contamination

are gaining more attention nowadays. However, the current analytical methods (based on

spectroscopy) for the detection of heavy metal contamination are often very expensive, tedious

and can only be handled by trained personnel. DNA biosensors, which are based on

electrochemical transduction, is a sensitive but inexpensive method of detection. The principles,

sensitivity, selectivity and challenges of electrochemical biosensors are discussed in this review.

This review also highlights the major advances of DNA-based electrochemical biosensors for the

detection of heavy metal ions such as Hg²⁺, Ag⁺, Cu²⁺ and Pb²⁺.

Keywords:

DNA; Electrochemical biosensors; Heavy metal; T-Hg²⁺-T; DNAzyme; G-quadruplex.

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