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# Coupled iron-microbial catalysis for CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation with multispecies microbial communities

Elise Blanchet, Zoï Vahlas, Luc Etcheverry, Yan Rafrafi, Benjamin Erable, Marie-Line Délia,  
and Alain Bergel\*

*Laboratoire de Génie Chimique, CNRS, Université de Toulouse (INPT), 4 allée Emile Monso, 31432  
Toulouse, France.*

\* Corresponding author: [alain.bergel@ensiacet.fr](mailto:alain.bergel@ensiacet.fr)

**Abstract.** The hydrogenation of carbon dioxide offers a large range of possible reactions for converting hydrogen to chemical compounds that can be easily stored, transported and used as fuels or platform molecules. In this study, CO<sub>2</sub> hydrogenation was biocatalysed by multispecies microbial communities to produce formate, butyrate and acetate. A hybrid metal/microbial catalysis was pointed out in the presence of iron. Addition of FeCl<sub>3</sub> 10 mM increased the production of acetate by 265 % and butyrate by 73 %, to 5.26 and 14.19 g/L, respectively. A stable acetate production rate of 830 mg/L/d was thus sustained for more than 20 days. The presence of iron promoted the selection of Firmicutes and the best performances were linked to the growth of a restricted number of dominant species of two genera: *Clostridium* and *Megasphaera*. Various possible catalysis mechanisms are discussed and guidelines are proposed for further development and scale-up of the process.

**Keywords:** biocatalysis; gas-liquid; green chemistry; sustainable chemistry; environmental inoculum; electron transfer.

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