Bacteria-Based Bioremediation for Sustainable Management of Water Pollution in Aquatic Ecosystems

Prof. Dr. Sulaiman Ali Almwarai-Alharbi

Department of Zoology, College of Science, King Saud University
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Email: salharbi@ksu.edu.sa

1. INTRODUCTION

Water pollution from industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, pharmaceuticals, and heavy metals poses a serious threat to aquatic ecosystems and human health. Bacteria-based bioremediation harnesses the natural metabolic capabilities of bacteria to degrade, transform, or remove pollutants, offering an eco-friendly, cost-effective, and sustainable solution.

2. MECHANISMS OF BACTERIAL BIOREMEDIATION

BIODEGRADATION
Breakdown of complex organic compounds into simpler, non-toxic substances.

BIOACCUMULATION
Uptake and sequestration of heavy metals and other pollutants within bacterial cells.

BIOSORPTION
Binding of pollutants to bacterial cell walls through physical and chemical interactions.

BIOTRANSFORMATION
Conversion of toxic compounds into less toxic or non-toxic metabolites.

BIOSTIMULATION
Enhancing native microbial activity by optimizing environmental conditions.

3. BENEFITS

- Eco-friendly and reduces chemical usage
- Cost-effective and energy-efficient
- Capable of degrading a wide range of pollutants
- Restores ecological balance in aquatic systems
- Supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 6, 14, 15)

4. CHALLENGES

- Variability in environmental conditions
- Survival and activity of introduced bacteria
- Presence of multiple pollutants simultaneously
- Limited large-scale field applications
- Regulatory and public acceptance

5. WATER POLLUTANTS OF CONCERN

Organic Pollutants
- Dyes
- Phenols
- Pesticides
- Pharmaceuticals

Heavy Metals
- Pb, Cd, Hg
- Cr, As
- Ni, Cu, Zn

Nutrients
- Nitrate
- Phosphate
- Ammonia

Emerging Contaminants
- Antibiotics
- Microplastics
- Endocrine disruptors

6. APPLICATIONS

- Industrial Wastewater Treatment
- Agricultural Runoff Remediation
- Pharmaceutical & Antibiotic Removal
- Heavy Metal Detoxification
- Ecosystem Restoration

7. WHAT IS BACTERIA-BASED BIOREMEDIATION?

It utilizes living bacteria or their enzymes to detoxify or remove pollutants through natural biochemical processes, restoring water quality and ecosystem health.

Pollutants → Bacterial Action → Clean Water

- ✓ Natural and sustainable
- ✓ Cost-effective
- ✓ Environmentally friendly
- ✓ In-situ & ex-situ applicable
- ✓ Effective for diverse pollutants

8. THE FUTURE

- Use of indigenous and engineered bacterial strains
- Integration with nanotechnology and biochar
- Omics and AI for monitoring and optimization
- Towards circular bioeconomy and green solutions

9. CONCLUSION

Bacteria-based bioremediation is a promising and sustainable approach for managing water pollution. Through continued research, innovation, and implementation, it plays a vital role in protecting aquatic ecosystems and ensuring a cleaner, healthier water future for generations to come.

KEYWORDS

Bioremediation, Bacteria, Water Pollution, Aquatic Ecosystems, Sustainable Development, Heavy Metals, Biodegradation

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION · 14 LIFE BELOW WATER · 15 LIFE ON LAND

CONTACT

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Email: salharbi@ksu.edu.sa