



Biosorption of Lead by *Azadirachta indica*

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Abstract

Lead is a microelement naturally occurs in trace amounts in all biological materials, i.e. in soil, water, plants and animals. It has no physiological function in the organism According to Cibulka, the main source of lead contamination are smelting works, application of wastewater treatment sludge to soil, transportation, rain, snow, hail and other. Approximately 98% of lead in the atmosphere is from human activities. Neumann et al. have extended the sources of lead pollution by paints, lead wastes, cell batteries, lead solders and forms. Lead is absorbed through plants through roots where most of the lead is also accumulated. In the case of other than root uptake (along roads in urban regions) the content of lead decreases as follows: above ground part > roots > products Intoxication of animals by lead occurs particularly after grazing on pasture contaminated with lead .Lead enters the organism with food and air. In children it affects most the central nervous system. The toxic effects of lead in the prenatal stage cause a shortening of gravidity.

Keywords: Plant biotechnology, Biosorption, Microbial ecology, Metal selective, Antifeedant

Introduction

Development in Plant Biotechnology & Environmental Biotechnology gives rise to relatively new field of science and technology, discussing in 2nd International conference on Plant Science & Physiology, June26-28, 2017 Bangkok, Thailand & Environmental Toxicology October 19-20,2017 Atlanta, USA.

Plant biotechnology is a scientific technique that adapts plants for specific purposes by cross breeding, extending their growing seasons, adjusting heights, color & texture & several other mechanisms [1-10].

Biotechnology is the use of living system & organisms to develop or make products or any technological application that uses biological system, living organisms & derivative thereof, to make or modify products or processes for specific uses.

Green Biotechnology is defined as the utilization of biological techniques to plants [11-14] with the aim of improving the nutritional quality, quantity & production economics.

Plant Biotechnology has created unprecedented opportunities for the manipulation of biological system of plants. To understand biotechnology [15], it is essential to know the basic aspects of genes & their organization in the genome of plant cells. To increase the development studies in field of microbiology certain research associations are coming together to support new and challenging approaches using microbiological factors such as European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association (EBTNA) which aims to utilize Biotechnology and Microbiology tools for different applications in field of

Medical, Environment, Healthcare, and Microbiology [16-21]. The advantage of Plant Biotechnology includes curing infectious diseases, increasing farming yields. It may provide the solution to many major global issues, including world hunger, global warming & pollution [22].

Lead (Heavy Metal)

A heavy metal is a metallic component which is toxic and has a high density, specific gravity or atomic weight. Less commonly, any metal with a potential negative health effect or environmental impact may be termed a heavy metal [23], examples of heavy metals include lead, mercury, cadmium, cobalt, chromium, lithium and even iron. The important metals, Mercury, lead, cadmium, Arsenic and Chromium (VI) are regarded as harmful; whereas, others, such as copper, nickel, cobalt and zinc are not as toxic [24-27]. The heavy metal ions are detected in the waste streams from mining operations, tanneries, electronics, electroplating, batteries and petrochemicals [28] companies. They have harmful impact on human physiology and other biological systems when they exceed the tolerance levels. Lead deposited on the ground is transferred to the upper layers of the soil surface, where it may be retained for a long time (up to 2000 years). In undisturbed ecosystems, natural matter in the upper layer of soil surface retains environmental lead. In cultivated soils, this lead is mixed with soil to a depth of 25cm (i.e., within the root zone). Atmospheric lead in the soil will start to move into the micro-organism and grazing food chains, until equilibrium is reached. To highlight innovative researches in field of microbiology and environmental concern a number of research work published under different Journals such as Bioremediation & Biodegradation, Expert Opinion on Environmental Biology and many more. All the write-ups submitted to the Journals provide a range of individual opportunities to acknowledge internationally.

Plants on land tend to absorb lead from the soil and retain most of this in their roots. There is some proves that plant foliage may also take up lead (and it is conceivable that this lead is moved to different parts of the plant). The uptake of lead by the roots of the plant may be reduced with the exposure of calcium and phosphorus to the soil [29-31]. A few types of plant have the capacity to accumulate high concentrations of lead. Lead at the toxic concentrations occasionally found near roadsides (i.e., 10,000-40,000 ppm dry weight), can wipe out populations of bacteria and fungi on leaf surfaces and in soil. This can have a significant impact, given that many of these micro-organisms are a fundamental part of the decomposing food chain. The micro-organism populations [32-40] influenced are likely to be replaced by others of the same or different species, although these may be less effective at decomposing organic matter. Evidence also proposes that micro-organisms can make lead more soluble and hence more easily absorbed by plants. Lead affects the central nervous system of animals and inhibits their capacity to synthesize red blood cells. Lead blood concentrations of above 40µg/dl can produce observable clinical symptoms in domestic animals. Lead has many different impacts e.g. acute abdominal pain, kidney damage, high blood pressure and adverse reproductive consequences etc. [41-45]. Lead salts enter the environment through the exhausts of cars, autos. The larger particles will drop to the ground immediately and contaminate soils or surface waters, the smaller particles will travel long distances through air and stay in the atmosphere. Part of this lead will fall back on earth when it is raining. This lead-cycle [46] caused by human creation is much more extended than the natural lead-cycle. It has caused lead pollution to be a worldwide issue. Lead can cause several unwanted effects [47], such as:

- Disruption of the bio-production of hemoglobin and anemia
- A rise in blood pressure
- Kidney damage
- Miscarriages and subtle abortions

- Disruption of sensory systems
- Brain harm
- Declined fertility of men through sperm damage
- Decreased learning abilities of children
- Behavioral disruptions of children, such as aggression, impulsive behavior and hyperactivity

The presence of metal ions in final industrial effluents is extremely unwanted, as they are toxic to both lower and higher organisms [48]. Under certain natural conditions, metals may accumulate to lethal levels and cause ecological damage.

Major lead pollution can occur through automobiles and battery manufacturing. Lead particles that settle on the soil from leaded gasoline or paint can keep going for a considerable length of time. Lead-contaminated soil is still a noteworthy problem around highways and in some urban settings. Household dust can contain lead from lead paint chips or from contaminated soil brought in from outside. Glazes found on some ceramics, china and porcelain can contain lead that may leach into food. Heavy metals are toxic to aquatic organisms [49-55] even at very low focus. Most of these minerals were present in our surroundings only in minute amounts until recent centuries, when the orientation toward industrialization and production brought about our numerous technological advances. But technology, like medicine, has its side effects. At present, these harmful metals have polluted our atmosphere, our waters, our soil, and food chain. Approximately 98% of lead in the atmosphere is from human activities. Neumann et al. have extended the sources of lead pollution by paints, lead wastes, cell batteries, lead solders and forms.

***Azadirachta indica* (Neem)**

Other name of *Azadirachta indica*, are Neem, Nimtree, and Indian Lilac is a tree in the mahogany family Meliaceae. It is one of two species in the genus *Azadirachta*, and is native to India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh developing in tropical and semi-tropical regions. Neem tree is the official tree of the Sindh Province and is very common in all cities of Sindh, there are projects underway for planting this tree in all over Sindh Province [56-60].

Neem is a life giving tree, especially for the dry coastal, southern districts. It is one of the very few shade-giving trees that thrive in the drought prone zones. The trees are not at all delicate about the water quality and thrive on the merest trickle of water, whatever the quality. In very dry areas like Sivakasi, the trees are planted in large tracts of land, in whose shade fireworks companies function [61-70]. The biosorption of Pb(II), Cd(II) and Cr(III) by neem leaf under various conditions. The pH has much effect on the biosorption of these metal ions from watery solutions. The rate of the biosorption of these metal ions followed pseudo- second-order and Elovish kinetic models, with the former having better regression coefficients than the latter. The sorption isotherms of these metal ions onto the biosorbent [71-76] are well described by the Freundlich and Langmuir isotherm models.

Azadirachta indica is a fast-growing tree that can reach a height of 15-20m (49-66 ft.), rarely to 35-40m (115-130 ft.). It is evergreen, but in severe drought it may shed most or nearly all of its leaves. The branches are wide and spreading. The genuinely dense crown is roundish and may reach a diameter of 15-25m (49-70 ft.) in old, free-standing specimens. The neem tree is very similar in appearance to its relative, the Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) [77-82].



FIG 1: Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) leaves

The Neem tree is noted for its drought resistance. Normally it thrives in areas with sub-arid to sub-humid conditions, with a yearly rainfall between 400 and 1200 mm. It can grow in regions with a yearly rainfall below 400 mm, but in such cases it depends largely on ground water levels. *Azadirachta indica* can grow in many different types of soil, but it thrives best on well drained deep and sandy soils [83-89]. It is a typical tropical to subtropical tree and exists at yearly mean temperatures between 21-32°C. It can tolerate high to very high temperatures and does not tolerate temperature below 4°C.

Azadirachtin from *Azadirachta indica* effects insects in a variety of different ways: as an antifeedant, insect growth regulator and sterilant. As antifeedant sensitivity varies greatly between insects the overriding efficacy of *Azadirachta indica* insecticide use lies in its physiological toxic effects [90-96]. An understanding of the physiological effects of azadirachtin in neem has been reached and biochemical approaches have begun to define its method of activity at the cellular level. Further work is however required to fully understand its mode of action.



FIG 2: Flasks of Pb (25ppm) inoculated with neem extract in combination in different amount.

Conclusion

Development of Plant Biotechnology in coming current years will have a broad spectrum of application, usage and can serves to save a large range of pollution. The new technique has no side effects & will be more effective than previous techniques for removing several heavy metals from environment. Looking upon the development of Plant Biotechnology scientist and researchers need to accelerate in India [97-104]. In India we should take appropriate steps to develop Plant Biotechnology & Environment Biotechnology such as ICAR- National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, Agricultural College and

Research Institute-Killikulam, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi.

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