

Deinococcus Radiodurans as Extraordinary DNA Fixers



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Abstract

Deinococcus radiodurans is known for its exceptional tolerance potential against ionizing radiation, an unusual trait not found in any other bacterium. Radiation induced DNA damage in *Deinococcus radiodurans* seems, by all accounts, to be repaired through the involvement of enzymatic components i.e., RecA that cleaves and splice together the overlapping chromosomal fragments through homologues recombination. This swift mechanism of DNA repairing in these bacterium's accounts for their survival under extreme conditions and also their utilization in bioremediation of heavy metals such as *Deinococcus radiodurans* assisted biofilms involved in the bioremediation of nickel and cobalt metals.

Keywords: RecA; Dehydration; Radiations; Cleavage; DNA repair

Introduction

Deinococcus radiodurans is an extremophilic bacterium and one of the most radiation-tolerant life forms known [1,2]. It can survive under extreme conditions such as low temperatures, dehydration, vacuum, and corrosive environment, and subsequently is known as a polyextremophile [3]. *Deinococcus*, initially recognized as *Micrococcus*, are coccoid or rod-shaped nonsporulating microbes known for their highly resistant nature towards external stimuli [4]. In addition, their enhanced ability to fix DNA damage contrasted with other known bacterial species [5]. *Deinococcus radiodurans* can endure several thousand times the portion of radiation that would kill any other species [6]. *Deinococcus radiodurans* strain R1 was the first isolated bacterium in 1956 from X beam irradiated canned meat [7]. Above 60 unique species have been isolated from exceptionally different conditions, for example, air dust, activated sludge, enacted slime, desert soils, arsenic contaminated water, underground aquifers or biofilms, radioactive locales etc [8,9]. These species develop at temperatures going from 4 to 55°C and have been refocused in an unmistakable eubacterial phylogenetic heredity connected with the genus *Thermus* [10]. The neighboring *Deinococcus* relatives are non-pathogenic *Trueperaceae*, *Thermus*, *Oceanithermus* and *Vulcanithermus* [11,12].

However, this has perplexed researcher for a really long time, as no organic entity might have been presented to such extreme

radiation under regular conditions. Yet *Deinococcus radiodurans* displayed high resistance from radiation is more than likely a result of its way to cope with dehydration [13,14]. With regards to tolerating elevated degrees of radiation, the five known members from the family *Deinococcaceae* have no adversaries [15]. Every bacterium carries several duplicates of its single circular chromosome [16]. Whenever presented to somewhere in the range of 10 and 15kilo grays of radiation more than a few hours, each duplicate supports around 120 breaks that slice through the two strands of its DNA [17]. Contrasted to the fact that other microbe's demise if their chromosomes experience only a few such breaks, yet *Deinococcus radiodurans* can fix its broken chromosomes [18].

DNA Repair in *Deinococcus radiodurans*

Deinococcus radiodurans phenomenal DNA fixing framework probably developed to mend DNA damages caused by extreme stresses [19]. As most bacteria produces spores to prevent DNA damages or in most cases their genomes are irreversibly broken underneath steady circumstances while *Deinococcus radiodurans* possess specialized DNA repair system for reconstruction [20].

Repairing Mechanism

After dehydration, the bacterium needs to remake a duplicate of its chromosome from several fragments for which it requires

the assistance of RecA enzyme [21] which cleaves and splices together overlapping sections of DNA with partially matching sequences, thus can reconstruct a chromosome from irregular random fragments] through homologous recombination [22,23].

Role of RecA enzyme in repairing mechanism

Resistance from radiation in *Deinococcus radiodurans* is due to the presence of RecA gene [24]. Deleting it or even replacing it with the equivalent gene from a bacterium called *Shigella flexneri* did not restore *Deinococcus radiodurans* ability to fix its DNA [25]. Radiation-induced damaged chromosome should be held in their precise order for quick repair thus DNA is accumulated into bundles, as though the duplicates of its chromosome are piled up [26]. The damaged DNA end is recessed in an exceeding 5'-3' orientation, freeing single abandoned 3' overhangs which, through RecA and RadA interceded strand invasion, prime DNA amalgamation on overlapping fragments [27]. DNA synthesis is started by pol III and prolonged by pol I and hence the newly combined single strands standardize to correlative single abandoned expansions framing long twofold abandoned DNA intermediates that are constructed into circular chromosomes by RecA enzyme mediated homologous recombination [28,29].

Heavy metals-bioremediation by *Deinococcus radiodurans* biofilms

Throughout the recent years, atomic energy plants decontamination methods likewise generate high quantity of radioactive waste thereby raising environmental concerns [30]. *Deinococcus radiodurans* biofilms is accounted for the treatment of low active waste material based on the fact that biofilm-mediated bioremediation is more effective when contrasted with processes interceded by their planktonic partners [31,32]. However, little is documented regarding *Deinococcus radiodurans* biofilm creating capacity [33]. It was reported that recombinant *Deinococcus radiodurans* holding a plasmid containing *gfp* and *kan^R* gene induces biofilm forming characteristics to the bacterium [34,35]. *Deinococcus radiodurans* biofilms comprises basically of proteins and sugars with modest quantity of extracellular DNA (eDNA) [36]. Further their biofilm formation was enhanced at higher concentrations of calcium ions [37] and was capable of removing metals like Co and Ni from the waste [38]. The presence of Ca ions fundamentally improved exopolysaccharide and eDNA (both adversely charged) generation in the biofilm framework [39]. This demonstrated adsorption could be the significant system behind upgraded biofilm interceded expulsion of heavy metals [40].

Conclusion

Thus, *Deinococcus radiodurans* possess an effective DNA repair enzymatic mechanism which accounts for their resistance against ionizing radiations.

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