

The 24th International Biohydrometallurgy Symposium 2022

Biotechnology for resource sustainability and circular economy



Program

20-23 November 2022

Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough, Perth,
Western Australia (WA) and online

*Hosted by
the Commonwealth Scientific and
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in collaboration with Curtin University*

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Perth, Australia



Time	Wednesday 23.11.2022	
8:30	Arrival tea/coffee, Mentelle and Mentelle Pre-Function Area	
9:00-10:30	Preston B+C	
	Plenary session 3 Biostabilisation, bioremediation and ecological restoration (T5) and Biomining microbiology, molecular biology, systems biology and synthetic biology (T6) Chairs: Sabrina Hedrich (TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany), Himel Nahreen Khaleque (CSIRO, Australia)	
9:00	Keynote Presentation Biofilm lifestyle of bioleaching microorganisms Mario Vera (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Chile) OK-T6-176	
9:30	Bioleaching community dynamics during adaptation and process upscaling of a secondary polysulfidic ore Catherine Joulian (BRGM, France) O-T6-098	
9:45	Directed evolution biology in resource technology – From the identification of novel inorganic -binding biomolecules to their provision in future Robert Braun (Helmholtz-Institut Freiberg für Ressourcentechnologie (HIF) Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden - Rossendorf e.V. (HZDR), Germany) O-T6-133	
10:00	<i>Sporosarcina globispora</i> and <i>Glutamicibacter protophormiae</i> - two ureolytic strains with high potential in revalorization of heavy-metals Maria Dąbrowska (University of Warsaw, Poland) O-T5-044	
10:15	Can microbially-induced calcite precipitation alleviate the traditional shortcomings of the Co-disposal method? Ishaq Hajee (University of Cape Town, South Africa) O-T5-105	
10:30-11:00	Morning tea and networking, Mentelle and Mentelle Pre-Function Area	
Technical Sessions	Preston B	Preston C
11:00-12:30	Technical session 5A Biomining microbiology, molecular biology, systems biology and synthetic biology (T6) Chairs: Chris Bryan (BRGM, France) and Melissa Corbett (Curtin University, Australia)	Technical session 5B Biostabilisation, bioremediation and ecological restoration (T5) and Biological mineral formation and minerals exploration, biogeochemistry and biosensors (T7) Chairs: Sabine Willscher (University of Halle, Germany), Ka Yu Cheng (CSIRO, Australia)
11:00	A study of microbial induced changes on the surface of monazite Abolghasem Hedayatkah (Curtin University, Australia) O-T6-070	Mechanisms of antimony migration and transformation at iron-based mineral interfaces driven by acidophilic microorganisms Shichao Yu (Central South University, China) O-T5-085
11:15	A microbial cell surface display system for nickel and cobalt recovery Audrey Stephanie (Tohoku University, Japan) O-T6-149	Antibacterial activity against pure and mixed cultures of <i>Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans</i> (Peru) Jasmin Hurtado (Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru) O-T5-063
11:30	Encapsulin engineering for metal nanoparticle formation Matthew Scheier (The University of Edinburgh, UK) O-T6-135	Bio-accumulation of rare earth metals from vein-deposit monazite Sadia Ilyas (Hanyang University, South Korea) O-T7-167
11:45	Glutathione-binding proteins in sulfur-oxidizing acidophile <i>Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans</i> Jiri Kucera (Masaryk University, Czech Republic) O-T6-138	Arsenite and arsenate removal from acidic mine waters using an acidophilic sulfate-reducing bioreactor Ivan Nancucheo (Universidad San Sebastián, Chile) O-T5-126



Bio-accumulation of rare earth metals from vein-deposit monazite

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Abstract: The eventual consumption and increasing role of rare earth metals (REMs) in advanced technologies are creating immense pressure to exploit the low-grade ores. The vein-deposits monazite of South Korean iron ore mines requires economic processing to balance the low concentration of REMs therein. In this context, the bio-accumulation of REMs was studied using fungi, *Aspergillus niger*, which not only attacks to phosphate matrix of the monazite but also excretes REMs-binding organic acids. The potential role of microbial activities in REMs enrichment from monazite was revealed by forming the insoluble oxalates. A detailed study on influential parameters showed that the prolonged exposure of monazite to a culture of *Aspergillus niger* in modified Czapek-Dox medium could enable the dissolving of more than 73% of phosphorus. The simultaneous conversion of REMs phosphate into oxalate salt was evident by the patterns acquired by X-ray diffraction and Fourier transform infrared analysis, while scanning electron microscopy of the residual mass revealed the irregular shapes of the bio-accumulated REMs. The stepwise mechanism involved in the bio-accumulation phenomenon is underpinned, as follows: (i) breaking of the phosphate matrix, (ii) liberation of iron and rare earths from the mineral particles, and (iii) their subsequent conversion into insoluble organic compounds.

Keywords: bio-accumulation, fungi, low-grade monazite, rare earth metals,

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