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Wautersiella enshiensis sp. nov. – selenite-reducing bacterium isolated from a selenium-mining area in Enshi, China

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1 INTRODUCTION

Selenium (Se) is an essential trace element for human beings and is required for the synthesis of the essential amino acid selenocysteine for bacteria but it can be poisonous at high concentrations (Jong et al., 2015). A previous study revealed that a Se-mine drainage area in Enshi, Hubei contained Se concentrations as high as 20–500 mg/kg (DW) in soil/sediment (Yuan et al., 2013), but until now no Se-tolerant bacteria were reported from the sampling sites. This study focused on identifying and isolating Se-tolerant bacteria in the Se-mining area in Enshi.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

Soil samples were collected from the Se-mine drainage area in Enshi, China (Yuan et al., 2013) and cultured in a medium containing Se of 200 µg/L. Strain YLX-1^T was selected to perform 16S rRNA gene analysis. Cell morphology was examined by phasecontrast (Olympus BX51) and transmission electron microscopy (Hitachi H-8100). The metabolism parameters and enzyme activities on YLX-1^T were also tested. The DNA G + C content was determined using HPLC following the method by Mesbah and Whitman (1989). The fatty acids methyl esters were obtained and tested according to Sherlock Microbial Identification System's protocol and analyzed by Agilent 6890 N, MIDI Sherlock TSBA6 (Sasser, 1990). Polar lipids were extracted and analyzed as described by Tindall (1990) and Ventosa et al. (1993) using twodimensional TLC (silica gel 60 F254 plates, layer thickness 0.2 mm, Merck).

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The strain YLX-1^T cells were rod-shaped (0.4–0.7 × 0.8–2.0 μ m), non-spore-forming, Gramnegative, facultatively anaerobic and non-motile. Its colonies were yellow, smooth, circular, and convex with entire margins on TSA medium after 1 day at 28°C. Growth occurred at 4-37°C (but optimum 28°C) and at pH 5.0–9.0 (but optimum at pH 7), but no growth in the presence of \geq 1.0% NaCl. The strain was catalase- and oxidase-positive. Tween 40 was hydrolysed, but not Tween 20, 60, 80, starch, DNA and casein

The strain YLX-1^T was identified as Wautersiella enshiensis based on 16S rRNA data (Fig. 1). The GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ accession number for the 16S rRNA gene sequence of strain YLX-1^T is KF923410.In API ZYM strips, cells were positive for the activities of alkaline phosphatase, esterase (C4), esterase lipase (C8), leucine arylamidase, trypsin, acid phosphatase, naphthol-AS-BI-phosphohydrolase, αglucosidase and β -glucosidase, were weakly positive for the activities of valine arylamidase and negative for other reactions in the strip. In API 20NE and API 20E strips, the reduction of nitrate and the production of hydrogen sulfide did not occur. It is positive for urease, gelatinase, galactosidase, arginine dihydrolase, aesculin hydrolysis, citrate utilization and Voges-Proskauer reaction. Moreover, it could assimilate glucose, maltose, malic acid and sodium

In summary, this study showed that Wautersiella enshiensiswas can grow in selenite-enriched medium, having a Se concentration of up to 6000 µg/mL, and it is able to reduce selenite into red elemental nano-Se.

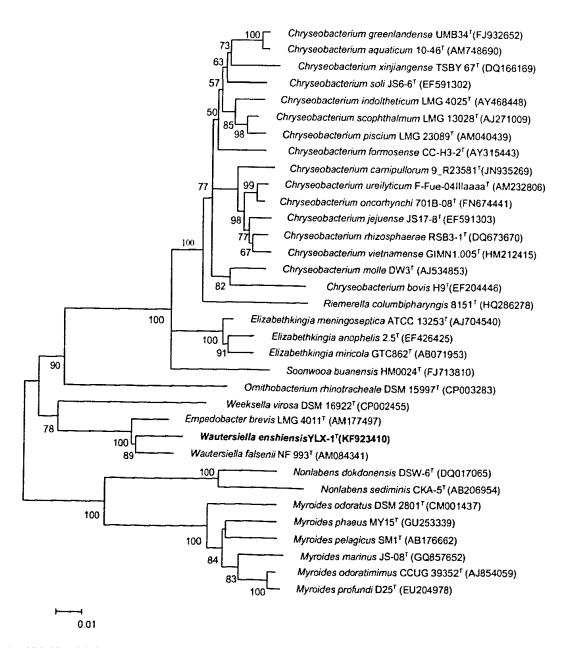


Figure 1. Neighbor-joining phylogenetic tree, based on 16S rRNA gene sequences, showing the phylogenetic position of strain YLX-1^T. Bootstrap values (1000 replications) are shown as percentage at each node only if they are 50% or greater. Bar, 1% sequence diverge.

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