



Kent Academic Repository

Biedendieck, Rebekka, Knuuti, Tobias, Moore, Simon J. and Jahn, Dieter (2021) *The “beauty in the beast”—the multiple uses of *Priestia megaterium* in biotechnology*. Applied microbiology and biotechnology . ISSN 1432-0614.

Downloaded from

<https://kar.kent.ac.uk/89509/> The University of Kent's Academic Repository KAR

The version of record is available from

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00253-021-11424-6>

This document version

Author's Accepted Manuscript

DOI for this version

Licence for this version

CC BY (Attribution)

Additional information

Versions of research works

Versions of Record

If this version is the version of record, it is the same as the published version available on the publisher's web site. Cite as the published version.

Author Accepted Manuscripts

If this document is identified as the Author Accepted Manuscript it is the version after peer review but before type setting, copy editing or publisher branding. Cite as Surname, Initial. (Year) 'Title of article'. To be published in *Title of Journal*, Volume and issue numbers [peer-reviewed accepted version]. Available at: DOI or URL (Accessed: date).

Enquiries

If you have questions about this document contact ResearchSupport@kent.ac.uk. Please include the URL of the record in KAR. If you believe that your, or a third party's rights have been compromised through this document please see our [Take Down policy](https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kar-the-kent-academic-repository#policies) (available from <https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kar-the-kent-academic-repository#policies>).

The “Beauty in the beast” – the multiple uses of *Priestia megaterium* in biotechnology

Rebekka Biedendieck^{1,*,#}, Tobias Knuuti^{1,#}, Simon J. Moore², and Dieter Jahn¹

¹Institute of Microbiology and Braunschweig Integrated Centre of Systems Biology (BRICS), Technische Universität Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany; ²School of Biosciences, University of Kent, United Kingdom; #contributing equally to this work.

*Corresponding author: r.biedendieck@tu-braunschweig.de; +49 531 391 55291

Keywords

Priestia megaterium • *Bacillus megaterium* • recombinant protein production • Vitamin B₁₂ • Cytochrome P450 • PHB • plant growth promoting bacterium • cell-free transcription-translation

Abstract

Over 30 years the Gram-positive bacterium *Priestia megaterium* (previously known as *Bacillus megaterium*) was systematically developed for biotechnological applications ranging from the production of small molecules like vitamin B₁₂, over polymers like polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) up to the *in vivo* and *in vitro* synthesis of multiple proteins and finally whole cell applications. Here we describe the use of the natural vitamin B₁₂ (cobalamin) producer *P. megaterium* for the elucidation of the biosynthetic pathway and the subsequent systematic knowledge-based development for production purposes. The formation of PHB, a natural product of *P. megaterium* and potential petro-plastic substitute, is covered and discussed. Further important biotechnological characteristics of *P. megaterium* for recombinant protein production including high protein secretion capacity and simple cultivation on value-added carbon sources are outlined. This includes the advanced system with almost 30 commercially available expression vectors for the intracellular and extracellular production of recombinant proteins at the g/L scale. We also revealed a novel *P. megaterium* transcription-translation system as a complementary and versatile biotechnological tool kit. As an impressive biotechnology application, the formation of various cytochrome P450 is also critically highlighted. Finally, whole cellular applications in plant protection are completing the overall picture of *P. megaterium* as a versatile giant cell factory.

Key points

- *The use of Priestia megaterium for the biosynthesis of small molecules, recombinant proteins through to whole cell applications is reviewed.*
- *P. megaterium can act as a promising alternative host in biotechnological production processes*

Introduction

Since its discovery in 1884 (de Bary 1884), *Priestia megaterium* (formerly known as *Bacillus megaterium* (Gupta et al. 2020)) provides a powerful cell-factory for biotechnology, with numerous patents and applications in industry. The bacterium serves as a model organism for genetics studies and recombinant protein production (Vary 1992; Vary 1994). With its large size of up to $2.5 \times 10 \mu\text{m}$ - “megaterium” literally means “big beast” - it has a significant larger volume compared to that of *Escherichia coli* (Vary et al. 2007) (Fig. 1).

P. megaterium is a Gram-positive rod, has a low G+C (~38%) genome and forms endospores. Its size alone has attracted microbiologists for many years to study its physiology and function including cell division, cell-wall biosynthesis, and sporulation (Vary 1994). Now within the last decades, recent advances in modern molecular biology have unlocked its potential for biotechnology. With the expansion of synthetic biology, the many advantages of *P. megaterium* make it an attractive microbial cell factory to rival other model microbes such as *E. coli* and *Bacillus subtilis* (Eisenstein 2016). This review will provide an overview of the diverse potential of *P. megaterium* as a model Gram-positive organism for biotechnological applications including small molecules like cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂), the polymer polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), the production of diverse intra- and extracellular recombinant proteins, whole cell transformations, and its function as a plant growth promoting bacterium.

***Priestia megaterium* - history and genome sequencing**

In October 2020, Gupta et al. showed that many *Bacillus* species in addition to the Subtilis and Cereus clade constitute a total of 17 new individual clades based on conserved signature indels (CSIs). They proposed that these clades should be recognized as new genera, with the name *Priestia* gen. nov. for the Megaterium clade containing the former *Bacillus* species *B. megaterium*, *B. abyssalis*, *B. aryabhatai*, *B. endophyticus*, *B. filamentosus*, *B. flexus*, and *B. koreensis* due to two CSIs in the oligoribonuclease NrnB which were uniquely shared by all clade members (Gupta et al. 2020).

P. megaterium can be found in diverse habits including honey (López and Alippi 2009), wine (von Cosmos et al. 2017), raw meat (Yucel et al. 2009), fish (Al Bulushi et al. 2010), sea water (Xu et al. 2014), the oral cavity of humans (Al-Thubiani et al. 2018), and most typically plants and soil (Dobrzanski et al. 2018). Consequently, its metabolism is adapted to a variety of different carbon sources including xylose (a byproduct of hemicellulose), glycerol (de Jesus Assis et al. 2016; Korneli et al. 2013; Moreno et al. 2015), disaccharides such as cellobiose, maltose or sucrose (Youngster et al. 2017), and a range of cheap mixed saccharide sources such as sugarcane molasses (Kanjachumpol et al. 2013).

The first genome sequences of two *P. megaterium* strains (DSM319 and QM B1551) were published a decade ago by Eppinger et al. (2011). Up to now, the full genome sequences including corresponding plasmids of around 20 distinct *P. megaterium* strains are available at the NCBI genome database. Five of these strains lack natural plasmids, while the remaining strains contain up to ten plasmids, consistent with studies already from the early 1980s which found plasmid-less strains to be an exception (Stahl and Esser 1983). The type strain DSM32 (ATCC14581) has been used to conduct basic genetic research. It is also known as the source of the cytochrome P450-BM3 (CYP102A1) (Narhi and Fulco 1986). The plasmid-less DSM319 and its variant MS941, which lacks the gene coding for the major extracellular protease NprM (Wittchen and Meinhardt 1995), are best suited candidates for plasmid-based genetic applications, including the generation of mutants and the recombinant production of proteins (Biedendieck et al. 2011). Strain QM B1551 is used in basic research, especially within the context of sporulation genetics (Manetsberger et al. 2018; Riyami et al. 2019). Strain WSH-002 has been used for co-cultivation with *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* (Zhang et al. 2010) or *Gluconobacter oxydans* (Lü et al. 2003) to produce vitamin C (Liu et al. 2011). Strain NCT-2, which was isolated from salinization soil from greenhouses, shows high capacity in bioremediation in salinized soil (Wang et al. 2020). Similarly, strain Q3 was described as an endophytic quinclorac-degrading bacterium for bioremediation purposes (Liu et al. 2014), while strains YC4-R4 and TG1-E1 show high salt tolerance as plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (Vílchez et al. 2018a; Vílchez et al. 2018b). Likewise, strain JX285 acts as plant growth

promoting bacterium, isolated from rhizospheric soil (Huang et al. 2019). Strain SR7 was identified in samples collected from a naturally supercritical carbon dioxide (scCO₂) rich environment. SR7 displays resistance to scCO₂, which is considered to be a promising alternative to classical organic solvents and is already used in *in vitro* applications (Boock et al. 2019; Freedman et al. 2018).

***P. megaterium* in biotechnological production processes – from the biosynthesis of small molecules through to whole cell applications**

These different properties clearly highlight the diversity of *P. megaterium* and provide the prerequisite for its diverse applications ranging from the biosynthesis of small molecules, recombinant proteins, biotransformations, and to whole cell bioremediation. Table 1 provides a summary of recombinant proteins and other products produced using *P. megaterium*. Outlined data show that major applications in recombinant protein production with *P. megaterium* rely on a strong protein export system for secretion into the surrounding environment. Overall, proteins with biomedical applications like *Clostridioides difficile* toxins (Yang et al. 2008), protein vaccines (Wang et al. 2018), urokinase-like plasminogen activators (Rygus and Hillen 1991), antibody fragments (Jordan et al. 2007; Lakowitz et al. 2017), and penicillin G acylase (Mayer et al. 2019) constitute major extracellular products. Another important class of proteins are involved in the metabolism of various carbohydrates. It consists of levansucrases (Biedendieck et al. 2007a; Korneli et al. 2013; Malten et al. 2006), α -cyclodextrin glycosyltransferase (Zhou et al. 2012), dextranase (Malten et al. 2005b), xylanase (Zheng et al. 2012), glucose dehydrogenase (Rygus and Hillen 1991), β -galactosidase (Rygus and Hillen 1991), and mannitol dehydrogenase (Baumchen et al. 2007), to name a few. Furthermore, enzymes of vitamin B₁₂ and heme biosynthesis (Biedendieck et al. 2010; Leech et al. 2003; Mobius et al. 2010; Moore et al. 2013a; Moore et al. 2014), reductive dehalogenases (Payne et al. 2015), and the model green fluorescent protein (GFP) (Biedendieck et al. 2007b; Biedendieck et al. 2007c; Gamer et al. 2009; Stammen et al. 2010a; Stammen et al. 2010b) complete the picture. Finally, the challenging cytochrome P450

enzymes, catalyzing for example stereospecific hydroxylation of steroids or vitamin D₃, for example, are naturally encoded by different *P. megaterium* genomes, and were recombinantly produced using this bacterium (Abdulmughni et al. 2017a; Abdulmughni et al. 2017b; Bleif et al. 2012; Brill et al. 2014; Ehrhardt et al. 2016; Gerber et al. 2015).

Production of small molecules: cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂) in *P. megaterium*

P. megaterium is a natural producer of vitamin B₁₂ (cobalamin) and has played a prominent role in the study of cobalamin biosynthesis and its industrial production. Cobalamin is a key vitamin for higher eukaryotes, which take it from their diet and require it for B₁₂-dependent enzymes (Banerjee and Ragsdale 2003). In nature, cobalamin is only produced by certain species of bacteria and archaea. Derived from the tetrapyrrole family, cobalamin contains a central cobalt ion octahedrally coordinated between four pyrrole nitrogens, a lower ligand (DMB - 5,6-dimethylbenzimidazole) and an interchangeable upper ligand (adenosyl or methyl group). Vitamin B₁₂ is officially named cyanocobalamin, where the upper ligand is replaced by cyanide during downstream processing (cyanide extraction), after microbial fermentation. However, the biologically active forms for cobalamin-dependent enzymes are either adenosylcobalamin (coenzyme B₁₂) or methylcobalamin (cofactor B₁₂). Microbes typically use cobalamin as a prosthetic group for enzymes in primary and secondary metabolism. *P. megaterium* possesses a number of cofactor B₁₂ or coenzyme B₁₂-dependent enzymes that aid its survival in the environment. This includes ribonucleotide reductase (NrdJ), methionine synthase (MetH), methylmalonyl CoA mutase (MutAB), and ethanolamine lyase (EutBC). In particular, the coenzyme B₁₂-dependent EutBC assimilates ethanolamine as a sole carbon and nitrogen source (Roof and Roth 1989; Wolf and Brey 1986).

P. megaterium as a model to study genetics and biosynthesis of cobalamin

The biosynthesis of cobalamin is complex and requires about 30 enzymes. Therefore, several decades of research has been required to fully decipher the biosynthesis of cobalamin. Originally, *P. megaterium* was identified as a natural producer of cobalamin by studying its

growth on ethanolamine, with auxotroph mutants deficient in cobalamin biosynthesis (Wolf and Brey 1986). Since then, it has provided a suitable model to study the biosynthesis of cobalamin. The biosynthesis of cobalamin in *P. megaterium* can be summarized in three stages: stage 1 - the synthesis of uroporphyrinogen III; stage 2 - assembly of the corrin ring; and stage 3 - attachment of the upper and lower axial ligands to the central cobalt ion (Warren et al. 2002). For *P. megaterium* DSM319, the majority of its cobalamin genes are organized into the following biosynthetic operons: *hem* (Stage 1), *cobI* (Stage 2) and *cobII* (Stage 3) (Eppinger et al. 2011) (Fig. 2). An exception to this rule includes the genes encoding for cobalt transport (*bmd_0328*, *cobO₁*, *cobO₂*) and a cobyrinic acid synthetase (*cbiP*), which are located separately within the genome (Fig. 2). Stage 1 uroporphyrinogen III (uro'gen III) biosynthesis is encoded by the *hem* operon (*hemAXCDBL*) in *P. megaterium*, whose genetic structure is similar to *B. subtilis* (Hansson et al. 1991). Then, cobalamin is built in two stages. For the first stage, *P. megaterium* operates the so-called anaerobic pathway to insert cobalt (Raux et al. 1998; Scott 2001) and build the corrin ring to achieve the first oxygen stable intermediate, cobyrinic acid (Moore et al. 2013b). Then the final steps in cobalamin biosynthesis attach the lower and upper axial cobalt ligands. This final stage is found in many prokaryotic lineages, since it also permits salvaging of vitamin B₁₂ precursors (Maggio-Hall and Escalante-Semerena 1999). Distinctly, *P. megaterium* assembles the lower-ligand (5,6-dimethylbenzimidazole) through an aerobic pathway for the final stages of its assembly (Collins et al. 2013). Therefore, *P. megaterium* has a customized cobalamin pathway to suit its requirement for molecular oxygen at different stages.

P. megaterium metabolic engineering of cobalamin production

Since cobalamin requires approximately 60 chemical steps for its total synthesis (Battersby 2000), it is essential for biotechnology to make cobalamin through microbial production. *P. megaterium* provides an excellent host for producing cobalamin (Biedendieck et al. 2010; Martens et al. 2002; Moore et al. 2013a; Moore et al. 2013b; Moore et al. 2014). For example, while *P. megaterium* wild-type strains (DSM319, DSM509 and QM B1551) make only low

levels (~0.2-1.0 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) of cobalamin in the lab, unpublished industrial strains are believed to reach up to 300 mg L^{-1} (Martens et al. 2002). Since cobalamin biosynthesis is complex (requires 30 enzymes) there are several bottlenecks that limit its production. This includes biosynthesis of precursors, import of cobalt (Fig. 2), feedback regulation and rate-limiting enzymes. We will discuss how these individual steps can be optimized in *P. megaterium*.

The supply of precursors such as uroporphyrinogen III (uro'gen III) for the main tetrapyrrole scaffold and S-adenosyl-L-methionine (SAM) for methylation, represents a major bottleneck for cobalamin biosynthesis in *P. megaterium*. For example, glutamyl-tRNA reductase (HemA) is regulated at both the transcriptional and post-translation level (Schobert and Jahn 2002), through a negative-feedback mechanism in heme biosynthesis. Overexpression of a proteolysis-resistant *hemA* mutant in *P. megaterium*, increases cobalamin levels 11-fold to 2.8 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (Biedendieck et al. 2010). Furthermore, to increase uro'gen III supply directly, chromosomal overexpression of the uro'gen biosynthesis operon (*hemAXCDBL* operon), increases cobalamin levels up to 8.5 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$. Therefore, the supply of 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) and uroporphyrinogen III is a major limiting factor in cobalamin biosynthesis.

Cobalt is essential for cobalamin biosynthesis (Martens et al. 2002). Crucially, like any transition metal, regulation is required to avoid toxicity. *P. megaterium* has a range of unique regulatory features to control cobalt levels. In *P. megaterium* DSM319, the addition of cobalt (1-10 μM) alone increases cobalamin levels up to 13 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (Moore et al. 2014). However, cobalt homeostasis and its incorporation into cobalamin biosynthesis is poorly understood. At the enzyme level, the cobaltochelatase CbiX^L inserts cobalt into the tetrapyrrole macrocycle and may play a role in cobalt homeostasis (Fig. 2). Overproducing CbiX^L in *P. megaterium* DSM509 in the presence of cobalt increases cobalamin levels by 6-fold (Biedendieck et al. 2010). Interestingly, CbiX^L has an extended C-terminal domain that harbors a 4Fe-4S cluster and polyhistidine rich motif (Leech et al. 2003). While the C-terminal extension is not essential for its chelatase activity (Leech et al. 2003), it may regulate or sense cobalt levels. For example, cobalt can substitute iron in Fe-S clusters (Ranquet et al. 2007) and polyhistidine motifs coordinate transition metals. For cobalt transport, *P. megaterium* has two potential

cobalt transporters from the *cbiO* ATPase family or a single-component dual cobalt and nickel transporter (*bmd_0328*) (Komeda et al. 1997). Interestingly, *bmd_0328* is part of two gene operon, containing an uncharacterized gene with another shorter polyhistidine motif (HXXXHH) (*bmd_0329*). Both genes are co-localized with an upstream cobalamin riboswitch (Fig. 2), suggesting their role in cobalamin biosynthesis. B₁₂ riboswitches are *cis*-regulatory RNA elements that provide tight negative feedback control when cobalamin levels are high by sequestering either the Shine-Dalgarno site or by forming a transcription attenuator. While the role of *bmd_0329* is unknown, overexpression of *bmd_0328* in *P. megaterium* DSM319 leads to growth-sensitivity in the presence of cobalt, suggesting increased cobalt import and toxicity (Moore 2011).

Unlike most prokaryotic metabolic pathways, there are no known specific transcription factors to regulate gene expression of cobalamin biosynthesis. Instead, global signals such as molecular oxygen repress cobalamin biosynthetic genes in *Salmonella typhimurium* (Escalante-Semerena and Roth 1987). Intriguingly, overproduction of the global anaerobic respiratory regulator FNR (fumarate and nitrate reductase regulator) in *P. megaterium* DSM509 increased cobalamin synthesis by 4-fold (Biedendieck et al. 2010), suggesting that cobalamin biosynthesis is globally regulated by oxygen. Instead of transcription factors, cobalamin biosynthesis is regulated by cobalamin riboswitches. The *P. megaterium* DSM319 genome contains eight cobalamin riboswitches. This includes genes encoding B₁₂-independent enzymes (*metE*, *nrdEF*), complete pathways (*cobI* and *cobII* operons), cobyrinic acid synthetase (*cbiP*) and cobalt homeostasis genes (*bmd_0328-bmd_0329*, *bmd_0512* (see above)) (Fig. 2). The *cobI* operon is regulated by a cobalamin riboswitch and transcription terminator and is highly sensitive (nM levels) to cobalamin (Moore et al. 2014). This is not surprising since prokaryotic cells only require trace levels of cobalamin for unrestricted growth. Instead scavenging cobalamin from the environment (Nahvi et al. 2004) is also supported by an ABC transporter *btuF* (located within the *cobII* operon) and an uncharacterized transporter (*bmd_0512*), both co-localized with a cobalamin riboswitch (Fig. 2).

The cobalamin riboswitches represent the major bottleneck in engineering cobalamin biosynthesis in *P. megaterium* (Fig. 2). To bypass this metabolic feedback, the entire *cobI* operon was placed under the control of a constitutive promoter on a multi-copy plasmid. Remarkably, expression in *P. megaterium* DSM319 in the presence of 10 μM cobalt, led to major increases in cobalamin levels to 220 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, a 27.5-fold increase over the control strain (Moore et al. 2014).

Production of biopolymers using *P. megaterium*: polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB)

Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) are naturally occurring biopolymers synthesized by many microorganisms in response to environmental stress. They are considered to have promising potential to substitute traditional petrol-based plastics, as these so called “bioplastics” show similar chemical and physical properties as conventional plastic (Chen 2009; Lu et al. 2009). PHAs were described in 1926 by the French scientist Lemoigne, who observed that *P. megaterium* accumulated polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB), a specific form of PHA, in the cells as distinct granules (Lemoigne 1926). Inside the cells, PHB acts as a storage device for carbon and energy and can be used again when conditions change. The hydrophobic granules are surrounded by a phospholipid-monolayer in which a number of specific proteins are embedded, thereby associating with the granules (Jendrossek 2009). For the biological synthesis of PHAs a variety of different C-sources, even crude waste material like glycerol derived from biofuel production, can be used (de Jesus Assis et al. 2016; Naranjo et al. 2013; Solaiman et al. 2006). The key step in this process, the enzymatic polymerization of hydroxyacyl-coenzyme A (CoA) to PHA and CoA, is catalyzed by a PHA synthase. In 2001, McCool and Cannon identified the genetic organization of the five involved *P. megaterium* genes in two divergent orientated operons consisting of *phaRBC* and *phaQP* (McCool and Cannon 2001). The *phaC* and *phaR* genes encode the two subunits of the PHA synthase (McCool and Cannon 2001; Tsuge et al. 2015). Within the heterodimer, PhaC is the catalytic subunit localized with the granules, while PhaR is needed for polymerization (McCool and Cannon 2001). PhaR from *P. megaterium* should not be confused with PhaR from other

organisms like *Ralstonia eutropha*, where the name designates a transcriptional regulator of PHB synthesis (Lee et al. 2004). For the protein PhaB, a NADPH-dependent acetoacetyl coenzyme A reductase function was proposed. PhaB is involved in the supply of (R)-3HB-CoA monomer for the polymerization of PHB (Tsuge et al. 2015). PhaP as a phasin is localized with the granules (McCool and Cannon 1999). These non-enzymatic proteins are commonly found in PHA producers and have been shown to influence the PHA granule morphology and size (Jendrossek 2009). In *P. megaterium* the *phaQ* gene codes for a transcriptional regulator that negatively regulates the expression of *phaP* and *phaQ*. It interacts directly with PHB like PhaR in *R. eutropha*, although it has evolved independently (Lee et al. 2004). To ensure the abundant occurrence of phasin PhaP, but secure the required low level of the regulator PhaQ, Lee et al. speculate that the *phaQ* mRNA, as part of the *phaQP* transcript, is systematically degraded (Lee et al. 2004).

Optimizing PHB production in P. megaterium

To date, there are hardly any attempts described to develop *P. megaterium* toward an increased production of PHB through genetic engineering. In contrast much effort has been placed on optimizing cultivation conditions of environmental isolates of *P. megaterium* to increase PHB production with mainly molasses as carbon source, resulting in almost 70% PHB of cell dry weight (Gouda et al. 2001; Rodríguez-Contreras et al. 2013). For the well-known and genome sequenced strain DSM319 Godard et al. (2020), observed that the PHB content increased 5-fold to almost 30 % of cell dry weight under high salt conditions (Godard et al. 2020). Further, the production of functionalized PHB granules provides an exciting new application for *P. megaterium*. One recent study showed that the mammalian cytochrome P450 CYP11A1 could be immobilized and purified with PHB granules produced in *P. megaterium*, thereby circumventing the problem of low stability of recombinantly produced cytochromes. Here, CYP11A1 was readily localized in the phospholipid monolayer of the PHB granule in its native form verified by denaturing PAGE (Stenger et al. 2018). Another study showed that the IgG binding domain of Protein A from *Staphylococcus aureus* (ZZ-domain) could be produced,

purified and presented on PHB granules when fused to PhaC in *P. megaterium*. The isolated functionalized PHB beads were capable of purifying IgG from human serum, thereby proving their functionality (Grage et al. 2017).

Production of recombinant proteins using *P. megaterium*: intra- und extracellular formation at g/L scale

The Gram-negative *E. coli* represents a well-established and heavily used host for the production and purification of recombinant proteins. However, *E. coli* has some major drawbacks including the presence of endotoxins (LPS) or limitations in the secretion of proteins into the growth medium, which permits easier downstream processing (Lakowitz et al. 2018; Terpe 2006). In contrast, Gram-positive bacteria lack an outer membrane, thereby omitting endotoxins and making protein secretion much more efficient. Many Gram-positives have shown promising potential for recombinant protein production, for example multiple members of the genus *Bacillus* (Terpe 2006).

In general, *P. megaterium* is renowned for its high stability of recombinant plasmids, even in the absence of selective antibiotics (Radha and Gunasekaran 2008). The production of recombinant proteins using *P. megaterium* is typically performed by plasmid-based gene expression. The majority of these plasmids are based on the *oriU/repU* system derived from the pBC16 plasmid, originally found in *Bacillus cereus* (Bernhard et al. 1978; Rygus and Hillen 1991; Rygus et al. 1991), or on the compatible *ori100/repM100* system from a plasmid found in *P. megaterium* QM B1551 (Eppinger et al. 2011; Gamer et al. 2009; Stevenson et al. 1998). In addition, the temperature-sensitive *ori^{ts}/E194^{ts}* system from plasmid pE194 is suited for genomic integration experiments (Biedendieck et al. 2010). All plasmids are designed as shuttle vectors enabling all cloning in *E. coli* and subsequent transfer to *P. megaterium* via protoplast transformation (Biedendieck et al. 2011), a technique even suited for new environmental *P. megaterium* isolates (Boock et al. 2019). Standard antibiotics such as tetracycline, kanamycin, chloramphenicol, erythromycin, or spectinomycin can be used as selection markers for *P. megaterium* (Fig. 3). Importantly, all plasmids allow stable replication

and production of recombinant proteins in *B. subtilis* or *Bacillus licheniformis* (Lakowitz et al. 2017; Larsen and Bjerga 2018).

Promoter systems for recombinant protein production in P. megaterium

A controlled high-level production of recombinant proteins in *P. megaterium* is based on the native xylose-inducible promoter/repressor system. The promoter P_{xyIA} is induced in the presence of xylose through a de-repression mechanism based on the inactivation of the repressor XylR via xylose binding. The corresponding gene *xyIR* is encoded on the same expression plasmid (Rygus and Hillen 1991; Rygus et al. 1991). The P_{xyIA} based expression system has undergone several systematic optimization steps resulting in intracellular recombinant protein production rates of up to 1 g L^{-1} (Stammen et al. 2010) and more than 500 mg L^{-1} extracellularly (Korneli et al. 2013). This has resulted in the widely used *P. megaterium* recombinant protein production system, which is comprised of almost 30 plasmids, four strains and is available for commercial use from MoBiTec (Göttingen, Germany).

Moving on from the xylose-inducible system, a number of alternative promoter systems has recently been studied for protein production, expanding the *P. megaterium* plasmid toolbox (Fig. 3). Among these promoters are homologous sugar-inducible promoters (sucrose, arabinose, galactose, lactose) which were identified from transcriptome analyses. The employment of these systems for recombinant protein production resulted in up to 80 % yield compared to the optimized P_{xyIA} -based system (Biedendieck et al. 2007b; Hartz et al. 2019). Also a heterologous starch-inducible promoter (P_{amyL}) from *Bacillus amyloliquifaciens* was found less effective compared to P_{xyIA} -based system (Radha and Gunasekaran 2008). Furthermore, the Isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranosid (IPTG) inducible hyper-spank promoter (P_{Hysp}) yielded approximately 60 % of recombinant proteins compared to the P_{xyIA} -based system (Boock et al. 2019). As an alternative to these bacterial systems, phage-derived RNA polymerase (RNAP) systems have been successfully applied for protein production in multiple bacteria. For *P. megaterium* the genes coding for the RNAPs from the bacteriophage T7 (Gamer et al. 2009) and the *E. coli* phage K1E (Stammen et al. 2010b) residing on a separate

plasmid were expressed under the control of P_{xyIA} . Upon xylose-based gene induction the phage RNAPs are produced and specifically recognize the corresponding phage promoters driving the target gene expression localized on the second plasmid. The phage promoter-dependent gene expression resulted in up to 10 times more recombinant protein compared to the P_{xyIA} -based system (Gamer et al. 2009; Stammen et al. 2010b).

Beside inducible promoters a number of constitutive and growth phase dependent homologous promoters were tested for recombinant protein production. The promoters of the pyruvate dehydrogenase operon (*pdhABCD*) and of genes involved in glycolysis and gluconeogenesis (*fba*, *fbp*, *gap*, *pgc*, *pgi*, and *pgk*) from strain DSM319 yielded up to 75% of recombinant proteins compared to optimized P_{xyIA} -based system (Moore et al. 2018). In addition, some growth phase-dependent promoters were identified with slightly increased protein yields as the P_{xyIA} -based optimized system (Hartz et al. 2021).

Secretion of recombinant proteins with P. megaterium

As mentioned above, *Bacillus* excels as a good secretion host for proteins. 90% of all extracellular *Bacillus* proteins are secreted by the secretion(SEC)-dependent pathway (Tjalsma et al. 2004; Tjalsma et al. 2000) guided by an N-terminally fused signal peptide (SP). The nascent and unfolded polypeptide is directly secreted, prior to spontaneous folding. Subsequently, the SP gets cleaved off outside of the cell, the protein is folded and released into the growth medium (Freudl 2018). For *B. subtilis* and others it has been demonstrated that the combination of a specific SP with a certain recombinant protein determines the efficiency of the overall secretion process which cannot be predicted (Brockmeier et al. 2006; Freudl 2018; Hemmerich et al. 2016; Mathiesen et al. 2008). The secretion of proteins using the SEC-dependent pathway provides an excellent route if a recombinant protein is known to form insoluble inclusion bodies intracellularly (Freudl 2018). For *B. subtilis* 173 SEC-dependent SPs were described (Brockmeier et al. 2006). A similar number of SEC-dependent SPs was identified for *P. megaterium* DSM319 (www.megabac.tu-bs.de; Hiller et al. 2004). The efficiency of seven *P. megaterium* SPs on secretion was evaluated using the heterologous

Thermobifida fusca hydrolase, resulting in highly variable levels of secreted protein (Stammen et al. 2010a) (Fig. 3). A later study found similar effects when looking at the secretion of the endoglucanase EGI1 and the multimodular cellulase Cel9AT with five (for EGI1) and four (for Cel9AT) different SPs, respectively, tested (Kalbarczyk et al. 2018). Furthermore, some studies show secretion of recombinant proteins using their original SP including the dextransucrase DsrS from *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* (Malten et al. 2005a), penicillin G acylases from different *Bacillus* species (Mayer et al. 2019; Yang et al. 2006), and a keratinase from *B. licheniformis* (Radha and Gunasekaran 2007; Radha and Gunasekaran 2008) (Tab. 1). For most secretion experiments the *P. megaterium* strain MS941, a DSM319 variant lacking the gene coding for the extracellular neutral metalloprotease NprM, was used as this strain reveals a reduction of 98.5% of extracellular protease activity (Wittchen and Meinhardt 1995).

Further adaptations of the recombinant plasmid system in P. megaterium

Subsequently, to enable one-step protein purification, various tag-based affinity chromatography methods can be used (Terpe 2003). Thus, the *P. megaterium* plasmid systems were designed to create a plethora of N- and/or C-terminal fusion with His₆- or StrepII-affinity tags in combination with protease cleavage sites for tag removal (Biedendieck et al. 2007c). When combined with extracellular protein production, affinity tags provide rapid tools for protein purification, especially along with continuous cultivation processes (Gädke et al. 2017a; Gädke et al. 2017b). Moreover, a codon plus system employing the co-expression of genes for tRNAs with rare codons often found in heterologous target genes showed a general positive effect on recombinant protein production by *P. megaterium* (Finger et al. 2015) (Fig. 3). For genomic modifications a plasmid system based on a temperature sensitive promoter was established allowing gene integration and deletion (Biedendieck et al. 2011). Just recently, the group of Hannemann developed a CRISPR-Cas9 system for the genome editing of *P. megaterium* with an efficiency up to 100% (Hartz et al. 2021).

Production of biotechnological important proteins: multiple cytochrome P450 suitable for whole cell transformations

P450 enzymes are frequently employed in metabolic reactions to catalyze challenging chemical reactions (Pochapsky 2020). They use a broad range of structurally diverse substrates and form their products with high stereo- and regio-selectivity. Humans carry 57 different P450 (CYP) enzymes involved in the metabolism of steroid hormones, other sterols, vitamin D₃, eicosanoids, fatty acids and retinoic acid (Luo and Liu 2020; Rendic and Guengerich 2021; Sarparast et al. 2020). They catalyze almost exclusively monooxygenase reactions through the activation of molecular oxygen using a single electron. The major type of reaction is the hydroxylation of difficult to activate C-H bonds. For this purpose, they contain a heme group as single electron transfer agent. Consequently, catalyzed reactions require electron donors like NADH or NADPH. Flavin or iron-sulfur proteins transfer electrons from NADH or NADPH to the P450-bound heme (Chiliza et al. 2020; Li et al. 2020).

Since most bacterial and fungal P450s are cytosolic and soluble, these variants are better suited for biotechnology applications compared to their membrane-bound plant and mammalian homologs (Distefano et al. 2020; Finnigan et al. 2020; Iizaka et al. 2021; Toplak et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2021b). In *P. megaterium* a number of different P450 enzymes were found. Seven cytosolic P450s (CYP) from different *P. megaterium* strains have been described. CYP106A2 from strain ATCC13368 (Berg et al. 1976; Schmitz et al. 2018) and the CYP109E1 from strain DSM319 (Jóźwik et al. 2016) rely on a FAD-dependent ferredoxin reductase and a corresponding ferredoxin as electron donor and transfer proteins. The best studied CYP102A1 from strain DSM32, also known as cytochrome P450-BM3, consists of an N-terminal P450 domain followed by a flavodoxin and a reductase domain. Therefore, this *in vitro* system is self-sufficient and channels electrons directly from NADPH, which accelerates monooxygenase rate in comparison to other P450s (Cook et al. 2016; Miura and Fulco 1974; Whitehouse et al. 2012). The remaining four *P. megaterium* P450s all require an external redox partner. These include CYP106A1 from strain DSM32 (He et al. 1989; Lee et al. 2015) and from strain DSM319 (Brill et al. 2014), CYP109A2 from strain DSM319 (Abdulmughni et al.

2017a), and CYP107DY1 from strain QM B1551. Interestingly, CYP107DY1 is the first plasmid encoded P450 found in *Bacillus* species. Since no CYP107 homologs can be found in the genomes of *P. megaterium* strains, CYP107DY1 may have been obtained by horizontal gene transfer. This observation suggests a possible role of P450s in the adaptation and even evolution of bacteria (Milhim et al. 2016).

Whole cell systems for recombinant production of P450s in P. megaterium

To study P450s, this is typically performed using *E. coli* recombinant expression and studied *in vitro* with corresponding electron transfer proteins and cofactors. However, *in vitro* substrate conversion rates are often limited, which may constitute a problem for large scale industrial applications. The use of whole cell systems can overcome these *in vitro* limitations, although the import of the substrates and the export of the product might also be limited (Bernhardt and Urlacher 2014). Whole cell systems have been biotechnologically employed for CYP106A1 from *P. megaterium* strain DSM319, CYP106A2 from *P. megaterium* strain ATCC13368 (Bleif et al. 2010; Bleif et al. 2012), CYP109A2 (Abdulmughni et al. 2017a) and CYP109E1 (Abdulmughni et al. 2017b) from strain DSM319, all using *P. megaterium* as a production host (Tab. 1). In addition, *E. coli*-based whole cell systems using CYP107DY1 from *P. megaterium* strain QM B 1551 (Milhim et al. 2016) and CYP102A1 from strain DSM32 (Chu et al. 2016) have been reported. Finally, membrane-bound mammalian P450 CYP11A1 was recombinantly produced in *P. megaterium* (Stenger et al. 2018).

Production of recombinant proteins: the *P. megaterium* cell-free transcription-translation system

For future progress with *P. megaterium*, a novel cell-free transcription-translation tool was recently developed to study fundamental molecular biology and accelerate the testing of gene expression systems (Moore et al. 2018). Within synthetic biology, there has been a renewed interest in cell-free transcription-translation systems (Tinafar et al. 2019; Cole et al. 2020). Cell-free systems requires a cell-extract, energy solution, and plasmid DNA to synthesize

recombinant proteins. These reactions can be performed in the microscale range (nL to mL range) either in test-tube reactions, microtiter (96, 384, 1536 well format) plates, or microfluidics (Laohakunakorn et al. 2020). While *E. coli* remains the dominant cell-free system, a range of new cell-free systems have recently been developed from other major prokaryotic expression systems, including *B. subtilis*, *Streptomyces* spp., *Clostridium autoethanogenum*, *Pseudomonas putida* and *Vibrio natriegens* (Gregorio et al. 2019; Cole et al. 2020). In terms of protein yield, although many systems are still in development, cell-free protein production is often monitored with GFP as a standard. For this, *P. megaterium* (134 ng μL^{-1} GFP) compares favorably to other popular Gram-positive hosts such as *B. subtilis* (21.6 ng μL^{-1}) and *Streptomyces lividans* 66 (~100-400 ng μL^{-1}) (Cole et al. 2020).

For *P. megaterium* DSM319, an optimized cell-free protocol (also active in DSM509) was recently developed (Moore et al. 2018). One key advantage of cell-free systems is the study of the biological numbers that underpin protein synthesis in combination with computational prediction models (Moore et al. 2018). A key finding of the *P. megaterium* cell-free system was potential rate-limiting steps in protein synthesis. For example, under the conditions studied, maximal translation rates were an order of magnitude slower than *E. coli* cell-free (Garamella et al. 2016).

In addition, the kinetics of the xylose-inducible promoter system (see above) were characterized in detail. For example, the dissociation constant for XylR and operator binding was determined at 12.9-14.2 nM with a Hill coefficient of 1.74-1.8. Finally, as an example of the power and speed of cell-free systems, using a liquid handling robot, up to 500 *P. megaterium* plasmids with varying promoter and RBS regions were rapidly screened for activity within 24 hours. This permits the rapid characterization of DNA plasmid designs for forward engineering in *P. megaterium* cells (Moore et al. 2018). In summary, this recent development provides a high-yield and rapid cell-free tool for the study and engineering of *P. megaterium* for future metabolic engineering and synthetic biology applications.

Whole cell applications: *P. megaterium* as a plant growth promoting bacterium

Recently, within the last 20 years, scientists have discovered that the plant microbiome is essential for the survival of plants in changing environmental conditions including invasion by pathogenic microorganisms and insects (Berger and Gutjahr 2021; Genre et al. 2020; Haskett et al. 2020; Ortiz and Sansinenea 2021; Prsic and Ongena 2020; Vishwakarma et al. 2020; Zhang et al. 2021a). In conclusion, the health and growth of cultural plants can be influenced by the composition of its root and leave microbiome (Ray et al. 2020). In recent years the beneficial effect of *P. megaterium* on plant-growth has become a growing matter of interest. It has been described for a number of different plants including the model organism *Arabidopsis thaliana* (López-Bucio et al. 2007; Ortíz-Castro et al. 2008), the commercially important plants tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) (Ibort et al. 2017; Porcel et al. 2014), tea (*Camellia sinensis*) (Chakraborty et al. 2006), maize (*Zea mays*) (Al-Enazy et al. 2017; Marulanda et al. 2010), mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) (Kang et al. 2014; Rajkumar and Freitas 2008), rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) (Feng et al. 2017), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) (Korir et al. 2017; Ortíz-Castro et al. 2008), soybean (*Glycine max*) (Zhou et al. 2017), and oilseed rape (*Brassica napus*) (Hu et al. 2013). Three different mechanisms of plant-growth promotion by *P. megaterium* have been described. The first role can be summarized as biofertilizer. Phosphorus is essential for plants growth, however, its bioavailable form is often present in very low amounts (Liu 2021). The transformation of phosphorus in minerals and organic sources to their bioavailable forms occurs through secretion of organic acid in combination with acid phosphatases and phytases (Kang et al. 2014; Martínez-Viveros et al. 2010). *P. megaterium* secretes organic acids providing the main basis of phosphate biofertilization using secreted acid phosphatase and phytases (Hu et al. 2013). In addition, *P. megaterium* can provide reduced nitrogen to plants (Ding et al. 2005; Liu et al. 2006; Singh et al. 2020). Currently, a number of different *P. megaterium* fertilizer preparations often in combination with other bacteria are commercially available by different manufacturers for large scale agricultural applications. These combinations including *P. megaterium* are also subjects of different patents. Wang et al. claim the release of potassium and phosphorus, the fixation of nitrogen, the inhibition of harmful bacteria in the soil and the

prevention of different diseases using a mixture of *P. megaterium*, further *Bacillus* strains and Gram negative bacteria (Wang et al. 2009). Recently a fertilizer and its preparation was patented for the hydrolysis of phosphorus containing only *P. megaterium* but combined with organic matter and ammonium sulfate (Jianzhong 2019). Secondly, plant growth promoting bacterium can also be responsible for changes in environmental concentrations of phytohormones and other regulators of plant-growth. Interestingly, the production of the auxin indole acetic acid (IAA) by *P. megaterium* resulted in a plant growth-promoting effect, as reported repeatedly for different plants (Chakraborty et al. 2006; Feng et al. 2017). Furthermore, the cultivation of *A. thaliana* with *P. megaterium* lead to higher concentrations of the isoprenoid plant hormone abscisic acids (ABA) in plant leaves, thus, improving drought-stress tolerance (Zhou et al. 2016). It was postulated that secretion of the polyamine spermidine by *P. megaterium* was responsible for the upregulation of ABA-associated genes and subsequent production of ABA in the plant. Ortíz-Castro et al. reported that cytokinin signaling plays a central role in the plant-growth promoting effect by *P. megaterium* on *A. thaliana* under defined lab conditions (Ortíz-Castro et al. 2008). In addition to the classical phytohormones, the role of so called volatile compounds as plant-growth promoting substances is recently gaining more interest (Ryu et al. 2003; Sharifi and Ryu 2018). For *P. megaterium* the positive effect of the volatile compound 2-pentylfuran on the growth of *A. thaliana* has been observed (Zou et al. 2010). The mechanism by which this compound promotes plant-growth is still unknown. Finally, acetoin produced by a *P. megaterium* strain promoted the growth of *A. thaliana* (Ryu et al. 2003).

Thirdly, *P. megaterium* can act as a biopesticide or biocontrol agent. The multiple anti-pathogenic mechanisms of *P. megaterium* are divers. An antifungal activity against the tea pathogen *Fomes lamaoensis*, the cause of brown root rot, is possibly related to the production of iron-chelating siderophores. Additionally, the enhanced secretion of the plant defense related peroxidase, phenylalanine ammonia lyase, chitinase, and β -1,3-glucanase by *P. megaterium* was observed (Chakraborty et al. 2006). These enzymes are postulated to act directly against the fungal cell-wall, thereby protecting the plant. The secretion of chitinase, β -

1,3-glucanase, and protease by *P. megaterium* also mediated a protective effect against the fungus *Rhizoctonia solani*, the causative agent of “Damping-off”, a destructive disease of plant seedlings and against root rot in tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill) (Solanki et al. 2012). The treatment of *R. solani* caused diseases with *P. megaterium* strain ATCC55000 was patented in 1995 where its function as a biological control agent was described but lack explanation. Moreover, the additional role of strain ATCC5500 in stimulating growth and yield in soybeans was part of the invention (Liu and Sinclair 1995). Another antifungal property of *P. megaterium* mediated by an unidentified volatile compound was found against the aflatoxin producing *Aspergillus flavus* found on rice grains (Mannaa et al. 2017). A mixture of the three rhizobacterial bacteria *P. megaterium*, (*Peri*)*Bacillus simplex* and *Sinarhizobium fredii* coated on soybean seeds revealed a clear protective effect against the “soybean cyst nematode” (*Heterodera glycines*) (Zhou et al. 2017).

Finally, coming back to the *P. megaterium* P450s, CYP102A1 (P450-BM3) most likely plays an important role in the regulation quorum-sensing by soil bacteria through the inactivation of acyl homoserine lactones (AHLs). These molecules are known signaling molecules in the communication of Gram-negative bacteria (Chowdhary et al. 2007). Interestingly, the ability of *P. megaterium* to degrade AHLs suggests a link of their plant-protective, quorum-quenching activity to the quorum-sensing of plant pathogenic bacteria (Dong et al. 2001). In summary, *P. megaterium* revealed a whole variety of molecular strategies of plant growth promoting effects.

Conclusion and perspectives

P. megaterium is a fast-growing giant cell factory, with past and current industrial applications, and a promising alternative to standard model organisms (Eisenstein 2016). In 1994, Patricia S. Vary wrote "Prime time for *Bacillus megaterium*" (Vary 1994) which was followed 13 years later by the update "*Bacillus megaterium* - from simple soil bacterium to industrial protein production host" (Vary et al. 2007). Now, 14 years later, we have a new name for our well known bacterium, while there are more than 20 fully sequenced genomes, a commercialized recombinant plasmid toolkit for high-yield recombinant protein production to the g per L scale

and a first cell-free transcription-translation *in vitro* system. In addition, our knowledge of whole-cell systems for the production of important P450 enzymes and also as a plant growth-promoting bacterium, the use in the production of bioplastics, as well as a prominent role in the understanding of B₁₂ biosynthesis increased significantly.

So, what is needed next to develop *P. megaterium* into a competitive biotechnological production host? To support rapid and more straightforward biotechnological research, a complete genome level single gene knock-out library will provide an accurate picture of all non-essential genes, as is available for many model microbes. This is desirable to identify genes that may limit/benefit questions relating to recombinant protein production, metabolic capacity, or self-regulatory processes. Although the transformation of *P. megaterium* protoplasts is completely sufficient for the introduction of single plasmids to test entire gene banks in this organism, a better transformation system is also needed. Since almost all genes necessary for the formation of a natural competence are present in *P. megaterium*, an easier integration of DNA should be possible, which will serve as another important developmental feature. In addition, due to its natural size, *P. megaterium* represents a perfect tool for cell biological studies. Combining time-lapse microscopic studies with corresponding bioinformatic tools and modeling approaches is of interest (Münch et al. 2015).

Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), within the priority program SPP1617, “Phenotypic heterogeneity and sociobiology of bacterial populations.” (TK). We are very grateful to Manfred Rohde (HZI, Braunschweig, Germany) for the wonderful EM images of *P. megaterium* and *E. coli*.

Authors' contributions

RB and TK contributed equally to this work and were involved in the conceptualization, RB, TK, SJM and DJ were involved in literature review and writing, RB, SJM and DJ finalized the

manuscript, RB and SJM have designed the figures, all authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Compliance with ethical standards

Funding

This work was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) within the priority program SPP1617 “Phenotypic heterogeneity and sociobiology of bacterial populations”.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical approval

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

References

- Abdulmughni A, Jóźwik IK, Brill E, Hannemann F, Thunnissen A-MWH, Bernhardt R (2017a) Biochemical and structural characterization of CYP109A2, a vitamin D₃ 25-hydroxylase from *Bacillus megaterium*. FEBS J 284:3881-3894 doi:10.1111/febs.14276
- Abdulmughni A, Jóźwik IK, Putkaradze N, Brill E, Zapp J, Thunnissen A-MWH, Hannemann F, Bernhardt R (2017b) Characterization of cytochrome P450 CYP109E1 from *Bacillus megaterium* as a novel vitamin D₃ hydroxylase. J Biotechnol 243:38-47 doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2016.12.023
- Al-Enazy AAR, Al-Oud SS, Al-Barakah FN, Usman ARA (2017) Role of microbial inoculation and industrial by-product phosphogypsum in growth and nutrient uptake of maize (*Zea mays L.*) grown in calcareous soil. J Sci Food Agric 97:3665-3674 doi:10.1002/jsfa.8226
- Al-Thubiani ASA, Maher YA, Fathi A, Abourehab MAS, Alarjah M, Khan MSA, Al-Ghamdi SB (2018) Identification and characterization of a novel antimicrobial peptide compound produced by *Bacillus megaterium* strain isolated from oral microflora. Saudi Pharm J 26:1089-1097 doi:10.1016/J.JSPS.2018.05.019
- Al Bulushi IM, Poole SE, Barlow R, Deeth HC, Dykes GA (2010) Speciation of Gram-positive bacteria in fresh and ambient-stored sub-tropical marine fish. Int J Food Microbiol 138:32-38 doi:10.1016/J.IJFOODMICRO.2009.11.021
- Banerjee R, Ragsdale SW (2003) The many faces of vitamin B₁₂: catalysis by cobalamin-dependent enzymes. Annu Rev Biochem 72:209-47 doi:10.1146/annurev.biochem.72.121801.161828
- Battersby AR (2000) Tetrapyrroles: the pigments of life. Nat Prod Rep 17(6):507-26 doi:10.1039/b002635m
- Baumchen C, Roth AH, Biedendieck R, Malten M, Follmann M, Sahm H, Bringer-Meyer S, Jahn D (2007) D-mannitol production by resting state whole cell biotransformation of D-fructose by heterologous mannitol and formate dehydrogenase gene expression in *Bacillus megaterium*. Biotechnol J 2(11):1408-16 doi:10.1002/biot.200700055
- Berg A, Gustafsson JA, Ingelman-Sundberg M (1976) Characterization of a cytochrome P-450-dependent steroid hydroxylase system present in *Bacillus megaterium*. J Biol Chem 251:2831-2838
- Berger F, Gutjahr C (2021) Factors affecting plant responsiveness to arbuscular mycorrhiza. Curr Opin Plant Biol 59:101994 doi:10.1016/j.pbi.2020.101994
- Bernhard K, Schrempf H, Goebel W (1978) Bacteriocin and antibiotic resistance plasmids in *Bacillus cereus* and *Bacillus subtilis*. J Bacteriol 133:897-903
- Bernhardt R, Urlacher VB (2014) Cytochromes P450 as promising catalysts for biotechnological application: Chances and limitations. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 98:6185-6203 doi:10.1007/s00253-014-5767-7
- Biedendieck R, Beine R, Gamer M, Jordan E, Buchholz K, Seibel J, Dijkhuizen L, Malten M, Jahn D (2007a) Export, purification, and activities of affinity tagged *Lactobacillus reuteri* levansucrase produced by *Bacillus megaterium*. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 74(5):1062-73 doi:10.1007/s00253-006-0756-0
- Biedendieck R, Borgmeier C, Bunk B, Stammen S, Scherling C, Meinhardt F, Wittmann C, Jahn D (2011) Systems biology of recombinant protein production using *Bacillus megaterium*. Methods Enzymol 500:165-95 doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-385118-5.00010-4
- Biedendieck R, Gamer M, Jaensch L, Meyer S, Rohde M, Deckwer WD, Jahn D (2007b) A sucrose-inducible promoter system for the intra- and extracellular protein production in *Bacillus megaterium*. J Biotechnol 132(4):426-30 doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2007.07.494
- Biedendieck R, Malten M, Barg H, Bunk B, Martens JH, Deery E, Leech H, Warren MJ, Jahn D (2010) Metabolic engineering of cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂) production in *Bacillus megaterium*. Microb Biotechnol 3(1):24-37 doi:10.1111/j.1751-7915.2009.00125.x

- Biedendieck R, Yang Y, Deckwer WD, Malten M, Jahn D (2007c) Plasmid system for the intracellular production and purification of affinity-tagged proteins in *Bacillus megaterium*. *Biotechnol Bioeng* 96(3):525-37 doi:10.1002/bit.21145
- Bleif S, Hannemann F, Bernhardt R, Lisurek M, Kries JpV, Jauch J, Zapp J (2010) Biokatalysator für die Hydroxylierung von Di- und Triterpenen. Germany Patent DE102009025996,
- Bleif S, Hannemann F, Zapp J, Hartmann D, Jauch J, Bernhardt R (2012) A new *Bacillus megaterium* whole-cell catalyst for the hydroxylation of the pentacyclic triterpene 11-keto-beta-boswellic acid (KBA) based on a recombinant cytochrome P450 system. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 93(3):1135-46 doi:10.1007/s00253-011-3467-0
- Boock JT, Freedman AJE, Tompsett GA, Muse SK, Allen AJ, Jackson LA, Castro-Dominguez B, Timko MT, Prather KLJ, Thompson JR (2019) Engineered microbial biofuel production and recovery under supercritical carbon dioxide. *Nat Commun* 10:587 doi:10.1038/s41467-019-08486-6
- Brill E, Hannemann F, Zapp J, Brüning G, Jauch J, Bernhardt R (2014) A new cytochrome P450 system from *Bacillus megaterium* DSM319 for the hydroxylation of 11-keto- β -boswellic acid (KBA). *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 98:1703-1717 doi:10.1007/s00253-013-5029-0
- Brockmeier U, Caspers M, Freudl R, Jockwer A, Noll T, Eggert T (2006) Systematic Screening of All Signal Peptides from *Bacillus subtilis*: A Powerful Strategy in Optimizing Heterologous Protein Secretion in Gram-positive Bacteria. *J Mol Biol* 362:393-402 doi:10.1016/j.jmb.2006.07.034
- Chakraborty U, Chakraborty B, Basnet M (2006) Plant growth promotion and induction of resistance in *Camellia sinensis* by *Bacillus megaterium*. *J Basic Microbiol* 46:186-195 doi:10.1002/jobm.200510050
- Chen GQ (2009) A microbial polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA) based bio- and materials industry. *Chem Soc Rev* 38:2434-2446 doi:10.1039/b812677c
- Chiliza ZE, Martinez-Oyanedel J, Syed K (2020) An overview of the factors playing a role in cytochrome P450 monooxygenase and ferredoxin interactions. *Biophys Rev* 12(5):1217-1222 doi:10.1007/s12551-020-00749-7
- Chowdhary PK, Keshavan N, Nguyen HQ, Peterson JA, González JE, Haines DC (2007) *Bacillus megaterium* CYP102A1 oxidation of acyl homoserine lactones and acyl homoserines. *Biochemistry* 46:14429-14437 doi:10.1021/bi701945j
- Chu LL, Pandey RP, Jung N, Jung HJ, Kim EH, Sohng JK (2016) Hydroxylation of diverse flavonoids by CYP450 BM3 variants: Biosynthesis of eriodictyol from naringenin in whole cells and its biological activities. *Microb Cell Fact* 15:135 doi:10.1186/s12934-016-0533-4
- Cole SD, Miklos AE, Chiao AC, Sun ZZ, Lux MW (2020) Methodologies for preparation of prokaryotic extracts for cell-free expression systems. *Synth Syst Biotechnol* 5(4):252-267 doi:10.1016/j.synbio.2020.07.006
- Collins HF, Biedendieck R, Leech HK, Gray M, Escalante-Semerena JC, McLean KJ, Munro AW, Rigby SEJ, Warren MJ, Lawrence AD (2013) *Bacillus megaterium* Has Both a Functional BluB Protein Required for DMB Synthesis and a Related Flavoprotein That Forms a Stable Radical Species. *PLoS ONE* 8(2):e55708 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0055708
- Cook DJ, Finnigan JD, Cook K, Black GW, Charnock SJ (2016) Cytochromes P450: History, Classes, Catalytic Mechanism, and Industrial Application. *Adv Protein Chem Struct Biol* 105:105-126 doi:10.1016/bs.apcsb.2016.07.003
- de Bary AH (1884) Vergleichende Morphologie und Biologie der Pilze, Mycetozen und Bacterien. Von A. de Bary. Engelmann : Leipzig, 1884. Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann, Leipzig:558 doi:10.5962/bhl.title.42380
- de Jesus Assis D, Gomes GVP, da Cunha Pascoal DR, Pinho LS, Chaves LBO, Druzian JI (2016) Simultaneous Biosynthesis of Polyhydroxyalkanoates and Extracellular Polymeric Substance (EPS) from Crude Glycerol from Biodiesel Production by

- Different Bacterial Strains. *Appl Biochem Biotechnol* 180:1110-1127
doi:10.1007/s12010-016-2155-z
- Ding Y, Wang J, Liu Y, Chen S (2005) Isolation and identification of nitrogen-fixing bacilli from plant rhizospheres in Beijing region. *J Appl Microbiol* 99(5):1271-81
doi:10.1111/j.1365-2672.2005.02738.x
- Distefano AM, Setzes N, Cascallares M, Fiol DF, Zabaleta E, Pagnussat GC (2021) Roles of cytochromes P450 in plant reproductive development. *Int J Dev Biol* 65:187-194
doi:10.1387/ijdb.200100gp
- Dobrzanski T, Gravina F, Steckling B, Olchanheski LR, Sprenger RF, Espírito Santo BC, Galvão CW, Reche PM, Prestes RA, Pileggi SAV, Campos FR, Azevedo RA, Sadowsky MJ, Beltrame FL, Pileggi M (2018) *Bacillus megaterium* strains derived from water and soil exhibit differential responses to the herbicide mesotrione. *PLoS One* 13:e0196166 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0196166
- Dong Y-H, Wang L-H, Xu J-L, Zhang H-B, Zhang X-F, Zhang L-H (2001) Quenching quorum-sensing-dependent bacterial infection by an N-acyl homoserine lactonase. *Nature* 411:813-817 doi:10.1038/35081101
- Ehrhardt M, Gerber A, Hannemann F, Bernhardt R (2016) Expression of human CYP27A1 in *B. megaterium* for the efficient hydroxylation of cholesterol, vitamin D₃ and 7-dehydrocholesterol. *J Biotechnol* 218:34-40 doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2015.11.021
- Eisenstein M (2016) Living factories of the future. *Nature* 531(7594):401-3
doi:10.1038/531401a
- Eppinger M, Bunk B, Johns MA, Edirisinghe JN, Kutumbaka KK, Koenig SS, Creasy HH, Rosovitz MJ, Riley DR, Daugherty S, Martin M, Elbourne LD, Paulsen I, Biedendieck R, Braun C, Grayburn S, Dhingra S, Lukyanchuk V, Ball B, Ul-Qamar R, Seibel J, Bremer E, Jahn D, Ravel J, Vary PS (2011) Genome sequences of the biotechnologically important *Bacillus megaterium* strains QM B1551 and DSM319. *J Bacteriol* 193(16):4199-213 doi:10.1128/JB.00449-11
- Escalante-Semerena JC, Roth JR (1987) Regulation of cobalamin biosynthetic operons in *Salmonella typhimurium*. *J Bacteriol* 169(5):2251-2258 doi:10.1128/jb.169.5.2251-2258.1987
- Feng F, Ge J, Li Y, He S, Zhong J, Liu X, Yu X (2017) Enhanced degradation of chlorpyrifos in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) by five strains of endophytic bacteria and their plant growth promotional ability. *Chemosphere* 184:505-513
doi:10.1016/j.chemosphere.2017.05.178
- Finger C, Gamer M, Klunkelfuß S, Bunk B, Biedendieck R (2015) Impact of rare codons and the functional coproduction of rate-limiting tRNAs on recombinant protein production in *Bacillus megaterium*. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 99:8999-9010 doi:10.1007/s00253-015-6744-5
- Finnigan JD, Young C, Cook DJ, Charnock SJ, Black GW (2020) Cytochromes P450 (P450s): A review of the class system with a focus on prokaryotic P450s. *Adv Protein Chem Struct Biol* 122:289-320 doi:10.1016/bs.apcsb.2020.06.005
- Freedman AJE, Peet KC, Boock JT, Penn K, Prather KLJ, Thompson JR (2018) Isolation, Development, and Genomic Analysis of *Bacillus megaterium* SR7 for Growth and Metabolite Production Under Supercritical Carbon Dioxide. *Front Microbiol* 9:2152
doi:10.3389/fmicb.2018.02152
- Freudl R (2018) Signal peptides for recombinant protein secretion in bacterial expression systems. *Microb Cell Fact* 17:1-10 doi:10.1186/s12934-018-0901-3
- Gädke J, Kleinfeldt L, Schubert C, Rohde M, Biedendieck R, Garnweitner G, Krull R (2017a) *In situ* affinity purification of his-tagged protein A from *Bacillus megaterium* cultivation using recyclable superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles. *J Biotechnol* 242:55-63
doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2016.11.018
- Gädke J, Thies JW, Kleinfeldt L, Kalinin A, Starke G, Lakowitz A, Biedendieck R, Garnweitner G, Dietzel A, Krull R (2017b) Integrated *in situ*-purification of recombinant proteins from *Bacillus megaterium* cultivation using SPION in stirred tank reactors. *Biochem Eng J* 126:58-67 doi:10.1016/j.bej.2017.07.001

- Gamer M, Frode D, Biedendieck R, Stammen S, Jahn D (2009) A T7 RNA polymerase-dependent gene expression system for *Bacillus megaterium*. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 82(6):1195-203 doi:10.1007/s00253-009-1952-5
- Garamella J, Marshall R, Rustad M, Noireaux V (2016) The All *E. coli* TX-TL Toolbox 2.0: A Platform for Cell-Free Synthetic Biology. *ACS Synth Biol* 5(4):344-55 doi:10.1021/acssynbio.5b00296
- Genre A, Lanfranco L, Perotto S, Bonfante P (2020) Unique and common traits in mycorrhizal symbioses. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 18(11):649-660 doi:10.1038/s41579-020-0402-3
- Gerber A, Kleser M, Biedendieck R, Bernhardt R, Hannemann F (2015) Functionalized PHB granules provide the basis for the efficient side-chain cleavage of cholesterol and analogs in recombinant *Bacillus megaterium*. *Microb Cell Fact* 14:1-13 doi:10.1186/s12934-015-0300-y
- Godard T, Zuhlke D, Richter G, Wall M, Rohde M, Riedel K, Poblete-Castro I, Krull R, Biedendieck R (2020) Metabolic Rearrangements Causing Elevated Proline and Polyhydroxybutyrate Accumulation During the Osmotic Adaptation Response of *Bacillus megaterium*. *Front Bioeng Biotechnol* 8:47 doi:10.3389/fbioe.2020.00047
- Gouda MK, Swellam AE, Omar SH (2001) Production of PHB by a *Bacillus megaterium* strain using sugarcane molasses and corn steep liquor as sole carbon and nitrogen sources. *Microbiol Res* 156:201-207 doi:10.1078/0944-5013-00104
- Grage K, McDermott P, Rehm BHA (2017) Engineering *Bacillus megaterium* for production of functional intracellular materials. *Microb Cell Fact* 16:211 doi:10.1186/s12934-017-0823-5
- Gregorio NE, Levine MZ, Oza JP (2019) A User's Guide to Cell-Free Protein Synthesis. *Methods Protoc* 2:24 doi:10.3390/mps2010024
- Gupta RS, Patel S, Saini N, Chen S (2020) Robust demarcation of 17 distinct *Bacillus* species clades, proposed as novel *Bacillaceae* genera, by phylogenomics and comparative genomic analyses: description of *Robertmurraya kyonggiensis* sp. nov. and proposal for an emended genus *Bacillus* limiting it only to the members of the *Subtilis* and *Cereus* clades of species. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 70(11):5753-5798 doi:10.1099/ijsem.0.004475
- Hansson M, Rutberg L, Schroder I, Hederstedt L (1991) The *Bacillus subtilis* hemAXCDBL gene cluster, which encodes enzymes of the biosynthetic pathway from glutamate to uroporphyrinogen III. *J Bacteriol* 173(8):2590-9 doi:10.1128/jb.173.8.2590-2599.1991
- Hartz P, Gehl M, Konig L, Bernhardt R, Hannemann F (2021) Development and application of a highly efficient CRISPR-Cas9 system for genome engineering in *Bacillus megaterium*. *J Biotechnol* 329:170-179 doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2021.02.006
- Hartz P, Mattes C, Schad M, Bernhardt R, Hannemann F (2019) Expanding the promoter toolbox of *Bacillus megaterium*. *J Biotechnol* 294:38-48 doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2019.01.018
- Haskett TL, Tkacz A, Poole PS (2020) Engineering rhizobacteria for sustainable agriculture. *ISME J* 15:949-964 doi:10.1038/s41396-020-00835-4
- He JS, Ruettinger RT, Liu HM, Fulco AJ (1989) Molecular cloning, coding nucleotides and the deduced amino acid sequence of P-450BM-1 from *Bacillus megaterium*. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1009:301-303 doi:10.1016/0167-4781(89)90120-6
- Hemmerich J, Rohe P, Kleine B, Jurischka S, Wiechert W, Freudl R, Oldiges M (2016) Use of a Sec signal peptide library from *Bacillus subtilis* for the optimization of cutinase secretion in *Corynebacterium glutamicum*. *Microb Cell Fact* 15:1-11 doi:10.1186/s12934-016-0604-6
- Hiller K, Grote A, Scheer M, Munch R, Jahn D (2004) PrediSi: prediction of signal peptides and their cleavage positions. *Nucleic Acids Res* 32(Web Server issue):W375-379 doi:10.1093/nar/gkh378
- Hu X, Roberts DP, Xie L, Maul JE, Yu C, Li Y, Zhang S, Liao X (2013) Development of a biologically based fertilizer, incorporating *Bacillus megaterium* A6, for improved

- phosphorus nutrition of oilseed rape. *Can J Microbiol* 59:231-236 doi:10.1139/cjm-2012-0579
- Huang F-l, Zhang Y, Zhang L-p, Wang S, Feng Y, Rong N-h (2019) Complete genome sequence of *Bacillus megaterium* JX285 isolated from *Camellia oleifera* rhizosphere. *Comput Biol Chem* 79:1-5 doi:10.1016/J.COMPBIOLCHEM.2018.12.024
- Ibort P, Molina S, Núñez R, Zamarreño ÁM, García-Mina JM, Ruiz-Lozano JM, Orozco-Mosqueda MDC, Glick BR, Aroca R (2017) Tomato ethylene sensitivity determines interaction with plant growth-promoting bacteria. *Ann Bot* 120:101-122 doi:10.1093/aob/mcx052
- Iizaka Y, Sherman DH, Anzai Y (2021) An overview of the cytochrome P450 enzymes that catalyze the same-site multistep oxidation reactions in biotechnologically relevant selected actinomycete strains. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 105:2647-2661 doi:10.1007/s00253-021-11216-y
- Jendrossek D (2009) Polyhydroxyalkanoate granules are complex subcellular organelles (carbonosomes). *J Bacteriol* 191:3195-3202 doi:10.1128/JB.01723-08
- Jianzhong Q (2019) A kind of bioactivation enzymatic hydrolysis phosphorus agent and preparation method thereof containing *Bacillus megaterium*. China Patent CN109134083
- Jordan E, Al-Halabi L, Schirrmann T, Hust M, Dubel S (2007) Production of single chain Fab (scFab) fragments in *Bacillus megaterium*. *Microb Cell Fact* 6:38 doi:10.1186/1475-2859-6-38
- Jóźwik IK, Kiss FM, Gricman Ł, Abdulmughni A, Brill E, Zapp J, Pleiss J, Bernhardt R, Thunnissen AMWH (2016) Structural basis of steroid binding and oxidation by the cytochrome P450 CYP109E1 from *Bacillus megaterium*. *FEBS J* 283:4128-4148 doi:10.1111/febs.13911
- Jugder BE, Payne KAP, Fisher K, Bohl S, Lebhar H, Manefield M, Lee M, Leys D, Marquis CP (2018) Heterologous Production and Purification of a Functional Chloroform Reductive Dehalogenase. *ACS Chem Biol* 13(3):548-552 doi:10.1021/acscchembio.7b00846
- Kalbarczyk KZ, Mazeau EJ, Rapp KM, Marchand N, Koffas MAG, Collins CH (2018) Engineering *Bacillus megaterium* strains to secrete cellulases for synergistic cellulose degradation in a microbial community. *ACS Synth Biol* 7:2413-2422 doi:10.1021/acssynbio.8b00186
- Kang SM, Radhakrishnan R, You YH, Joo GJ, Lee IJ, Lee KE, Kim JH (2014) Phosphate Solubilizing *Bacillus megaterium* mj1212 Regulates Endogenous Plant Carbohydrates and Amino Acids Contents to Promote Mustard Plant Growth. *Indian J Microbiol* 54:427-433 doi:10.1007/s12088-014-0476-6
- Kanjanachumpol P, Kulpreecha S, Tolieng V, Thongchul N (2013) Enhancing polyhydroxybutyrate production from high cell density fed-batch fermentation of *Bacillus megaterium* BA-019. *Bioprocess Biosyst Eng* 36:1463-1474 doi:10.1007/s00449-013-0885-7
- Knobloch D, Ostermann K, Rodel G (2012) Production, secretion, and cell surface display of recombinant *Sporosarcina ureae* S-layer fusion proteins in *Bacillus megaterium*. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 78(2):560-7 doi:10.1128/AEM.06127-11
- Komeda H, Kobayashi M, Shimizu S (1997) A novel transporter involved in cobalt uptake. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 94(1):36-41 doi:10.1073/pnas.94.1.36
- Korir H, Mungai NW, Thuita M, Hamba Y, Masso C (2017) Co-inoculation Effect of Rhizobia and Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria on Common Bean Growth in a Low Phosphorus Soil. *Front Plant Sci* 8:141 doi:10.3389/fpls.2017.00141
- Korneli C, Biedendieck R, David F, Jahn D, Wittmann C (2013) High yield production of extracellular recombinant levansucrase by *Bacillus megaterium*. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 97(8):3343-53 doi:10.1007/s00253-012-4567-1
- Kurniasih SD, Alfi A, Natalia D, Radjasa OK, Nurachman Z (2014) Construction of individual, fused, and co-expressed proteins of endoglucanase and β -glucosidase for

- hydrolyzing sugarcane bagasse. *Microbiol Res* 169:725-732
doi:10.1016/J.MICRES.2014.02.002
- Lakowitz A, Godard T, Biedendieck R, Krull R (2018) Mini review: Recombinant production of tailored bio-pharmaceuticals in different *Bacillus* strains and future perspectives. *Eur J Pharm Biopharm* 126:27-39 doi:10.1016/j.ejpb.2017.06.008
- Lakowitz A, Krull R, Biedendieck R (2017) Recombinant production of the antibody fragment D1.3 scFv with different *Bacillus* strains. *Microb Cell Fact* 16(1):14
doi:10.1186/s12934-017-0625-9
- Laohakunakorn N, Grasemann L, Lavickova B, Michielin G, Shahein A, Swank Z, Maerkl SJ (2020) Bottom-Up Construction of Complex Biomolecular Systems With Cell-Free Synthetic Biology. *Front Bioeng Biotechnol* 8:213 doi:10.3389/fbioe.2020.00213
- Larsen O, Bjerga GEK (2018) Development of Versatile Vectors for Heterologous Expression in *Bacillus*. *Microorganisms* 6(2) doi:10.3390/microorganisms6020051
- Lee GY, Kim DH, Kim D, Ahn T, Yun CH (2015) Functional characterization of steroid hydroxylase CYP106A1 derived from *Bacillus megaterium*. *Arch Pharm Res* 38:98-107 doi:10.1007/s12272-014-0366-9
- Lee T-R, Lin J-S, Wang S-S, Shaw G-C (2004) PhaQ, a new class of poly-beta-hydroxybutyrate (phb)-responsive repressor, regulates phaQ and phaP (phasin) expression in *Bacillus megaterium* through interaction with PHB. *J Bacteriol* 186:3015-21 doi:10.1128/JB.186.10.3015-3021.2004
- Leech HK, Raux E, McLean KJ, Munro AW, Robinson NJ, Borrelly GP, Malten M, Jahn D, Rigby SE, Heathcote P, Warren MJ (2003) Characterization of the cobaltochelatase CbiXL: evidence for a 4Fe-4S center housed within an MXCXXC motif. *J Biol Chem* 278(43):41900-7 doi:10.1074/jbc.M306112200
- Lemoigne M (1926) Produit de deshydratation et de polymerisation de l'acide B-oxxybutyrique. *Bull Soc Chim Biol* 8:770-782
- Li S, Du L, Bernhardt R (2020) Redox Partners: Function Modulators of Bacterial P450 Enzymes. *Trends Microbiol* 28(6):445-454 doi:10.1016/j.tim.2020.02.012
- Liu D (2021) Root Developmental Responses to Phosphorus Nutrition. *J Integr Plant Biol* doi:10.1111/jipb.13090
- Liu L, Li Y, Zhang J, Zou W, Zhou Z, Liu J, Li X, Wang L, Chen J (2011) Complete Genome Sequence of the Industrial Strain *Bacillus megaterium* WSH-002. *J Bacteriol* 193:6389-6390 doi:10.1128/JB.06066-11
- Liu M, Luo K, Wang Y, Zeng A, Zhou X, Luo F, Bai L (2014) Isolation, identification and characteristics of an endophytic quinclorac degrading bacterium *Bacillus megaterium* Q3. *PLoS ONE* 9:e108012 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0108012
- Liu X, Zhao H, Chen S (2006) Colonization of maize and rice plants by strain *Bacillus megaterium* C4. *Curr Microbiol* 52:186-190 doi:10.1007/s00284-005-0162-3
- Liu ZL, Sinclair JB (1995) *Bacillus megetarium* ATCC 55000 and method of use thereof to control *R. solani* US Patent 5403583
- López-Bucio J, Campos-Cuevas JC, Hernández-Calderón E, Velásquez-Becerra C, Fariás-Rodríguez R, Macías-Rodríguez LI, Valencia-Cantero E (2007) *Bacillus megaterium* Rhizobacteria Promote Growth and Alter Root-System Architecture Through an Auxin- and Ethylene-Independent Signaling Mechanism in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Mol Plant Microbe Interact* 20:207-217 doi:10.1094/MPMI-20-2-0207
- López AC, Alippi AM (2009) Diversity of *Bacillus megaterium* isolates cultured from honeys. *LWT - Food Sci Technol* 42:212 - 219 doi: 10.1016/j.lwt.2008.05.001
- Lu J, Tappel RC, Nomura CT (2009) Mini-Review: Biosynthesis of Poly(hydroxyalkanoates). *Polymer Reviews* 49:226-248 doi:10.1080/15583720903048243
- Lü S, Wang J, Yao J, Yu Z, Shujuan L, Jun W, Jianming Y, Zengliang Y (2003) Study on the effect of mutated *Bacillus megaterium* in two-stage fermentation of vitamin C. *Plasma Sci Technol* 5:2011-2016 doi:10.1088/1009-0630/5/5/014
- Luo Y, Liu JY (2020) Pleiotropic Functions of Cytochrome P450 Monooxygenase-Derived Eicosanoids in Cancer. *Front Pharmacol* 11:580897 doi:10.3389/fphar.2020.580897

- Maggio-Hall LA, Escalante-Semerena JC (1999) In vitro synthesis of the nucleotide loop of cobalamin by *Salmonella typhimurium* enzymes. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 96(21):11798-803 doi:10.1073/pnas.96.21.11798
- Malten M, Biedendieck R, Gamer M, Drews AC, Stammen S, Buchholz K, Dijkhuizen L, Jahn D (2006) A *Bacillus megaterium* plasmid system for the production, export, and one-step purification of affinity-tagged heterologous levansucrase from growth medium. Appl Environ Microbiol 72(2):1677-9 doi:10.1128/AEM.72.2.1677-1679.2006
- Malten M, Hollmann R, Deckwer WD, Jahn D (2005a) Production and secretion of recombinant *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* dextransucrase DsrS in *Bacillus megaterium*. Biotechnol Bioeng 89:206-218 doi:10.1002/bit.20341
- Malten M, Nahrstedt H, Meinhardt F, Jahn D (2005b) Coexpression of the type I signal peptidase gene *sipM* increases recombinant protein production and export in *Bacillus megaterium* MS941. Biotechnol Bioeng 91:616-621 doi:10.1002/bit.20523
- Manetsberger J, Ghosh A, Hall EAH, Christie G (2018) Orthologues of *Bacillus subtilis* spore crust proteins have a structural role in the *Bacillus megaterium* QM B1551 spore exosporium. Appl Environ Microbiol 84:e01734-18 doi:10.1128/AEM.01734-18
- Mannaa M, Oh JY, Kim KD (2017) Biocontrol activity of volatile-producing *Bacillus megaterium* and *Pseudomonas protegens* against *Aspergillus flavus* and Aflatoxin production on stored rice grains. Mycobiology 45:213-219 doi:10.5941/MYCO.2017.45.3.213
- Martens JH, Barg H, Warren MJ, Jahn D (2002) Microbial production of vitamin B₁₂. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 58(3):275-85 doi:10.1007/s00253-001-0902-7
- Martínez-Viveros O, Jorquera MA, Crowley DE, Gajardo G, Mora ML (2010) Mechanisms and practical considerations involved in plant growth promotion by Rhizobacteria. J Soil Sci Plant Nutr 10:293-319 doi:10.4067/S0718-95162010000100006
- Marulanda A, Azcón R, Chaumont F, Ruiz-Lozano JM, Aroca R (2010) Regulation of plasma membrane aquaporins by inoculation with a *Bacillus megaterium* strain in maize (*Zea mays* L.) plants under unstressed and salt-stressed conditions. Planta 232:533-543 doi:10.1007/s00425-010-1196-8
- Mathiesen G, Sveen A, Piard JC, Axelsson L, Eijsink VGH (2008) Heterologous protein secretion by *Lactobacillus plantarum* using homologous signal peptides. J Appl Microbiol 105:215-226 doi:10.1111/j.1365-2672.2008.03734.x
- Mayer J, Pippel J, Gunther G, Muller C, Lauermann A, Knuuti T, Blankenfeldt W, Jahn D, Biedendieck R (2019) Crystal structures and protein engineering of three different penicillin G acylases from Gram-positive bacteria with different thermostability. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 103(18):7537-7552 doi:10.1007/s00253-019-09977-8
- McCool GJ, Cannon MC (1999) Polyhydroxyalkanoate inclusion body-associated proteins and coding region in *Bacillus megaterium*. J Bacteriol 181:585-92 doi:10.1128/JB.181.2.585-592.1999
- McCool GJ, Cannon MC (2001) PhaC and PhaR Are Required for Polyhydroxyalkanoic Acid Synthase Activity in *Bacillus megaterium* J Bacteriol 183:4235-4243 doi:10.1128/JB.183.14.4235
- Meinhardt F, Stahl U, Ebeling W (1989) Highly efficient expression of homologous and heterologous genes in *Bacillus megaterium*. Appl Microbiol Biotechnol 30:343-350 doi:10.1007/BF00296622
- Milhim M, Putkaradze N, Abdulmughni A, Kern F, Hartz P, Bernhardt R (2016) Identification of a new plasmid-encoded cytochrome P450 CYP107DY1 from *Bacillus megaterium* with a catalytic activity towards mevastatin. J Biotechnol 240:68-75 doi:10.1016/j.jbiotec.2016.11.002
- Miura Y, Fulco AJ (1974) (Omega -2) hydroxylation of fatty acids by a soluble system from *Bacillus megaterium*. J Biol Chem 249:1880-8
- Mobius K, Arias-Cartin R, Breckau D, Hannig AL, Riedmann K, Biedendieck R, Schroder S, Becher D, Magalon A, Moser J, Jahn M, Jahn D (2010) Heme biosynthesis is coupled to electron transport chains for energy generation. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 107(23):10436-41 doi:10.1073/pnas.1000956107

- Moore SJ (2011) Elucidation of the Anaerobic Biosynthesis of Vitamin B₁₂ in *Bacillus megaterium*. Dissertation, University of Kent
- Moore SJ, Biedendieck R, Lawrence AD, Deery E, Howard MJ, Rigby SEJ, Warren MJ (2013a) Characterization of the enzyme CbiH60 involved in anaerobic ring contraction of the cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂) biosynthetic pathway. *J Biol Chem* 288:297-305 doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.422535
- Moore SJ, Lawrence AD, Biedendieck R, Deery E, Frank S, Howard MJ, Rigby SEJ, Warren MJ (2013b) Elucidation of the anaerobic pathway for the corrin component of cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂). *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 110:14906-14911 doi:10.1073/pnas.1308098110
- Moore SJ, MacDonald JT, Wienecke S, Ishwarbhai A, Tsipa A, Aw R, Kylilis N, Bell DJ, McClymont DW, Jensen K, Polizzi KM, Biedendieck R, Freemont PS (2018) Rapid acquisition and model-based analysis of cell-free transcription-translation reactions from nonmodel bacteria. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 115(19):E4340-E4349 doi:10.1073/pnas.1715806115
- Moore SJ, Mayer MJ, Biedendieck R, Deery E, Warren MJ (2014) Towards a cell factory for vitamin B₁₂ production in *Bacillus megaterium*: bypassing of the cobalamin riboswitch control elements. *N Biotechnol* 31(6):553-61 doi:10.1016/j.nbt.2014.03.003
- Moreno P, Yañez C, Cardozo NSM, Escalante H, Combariza MY, Guzman C (2015) Influence of nutritional and physicochemical variables on PHB production from raw glycerol obtained from a Colombian biodiesel plant by a wild-type *Bacillus megaterium* strain. *N Biotechnol* 32:682-689 doi:10.1016/J.NBT.2015.04.003
- Münch KM, Müller J, Wienecke S, Bergmann S, Heyber S, Biedendieck R, Münch R, Jahn D (2015) Polar Fixation of Plasmids during Recombinant Protein Production in *Bacillus megaterium* Results in Population Heterogeneity. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 81(17):5976-86 doi:10.1128/AEM.00807-15
- Nahvi A, Barrick JE, Breaker RR (2004) Coenzyme B₁₂ riboswitches are widespread genetic control elements in prokaryotes. *Nucleic Acids Res* 32(1):143-50 doi:10.1093/nar/gkh167
- Naranjo JM, Posada JA, Higuera JC, Cardona CA (2013) Valorization of glycerol through the production of biopolymers: the PHB case using *Bacillus megaterium*. *Bioresour Technol* 133:38-44 doi:10.1016/j.biortech.2013.01.129
- Narhi LO, Fulco AJ (1986) Characterization of a catalytically self-sufficient 119,000-dalton cytochrome P-450 monooxygenase induced by barbiturates in *Bacillus megaterium*. *J Biol Chem* 261 7160-7169
- Ortíz-Castro R, Valencia-Cantero E, López-Bucio J (2008) Plant growth promotion by *Bacillus megaterium* involves cytokinin signaling. *Plant Signal Behav* 3:263-265 doi:10.4161/psb.3.4.5204
- Ortiz A, Sansinenea E (2021) Recent advancements for microorganisms and their natural compounds useful in agriculture. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 105(3):891-897 doi:10.1007/s00253-020-11030-y
- Payne KA, Quezada CP, Fisher K, Dunstan MS, Collins FA, Sjuts H, Levy C, Hay S, Rigby SE, Leys D (2015) Reductive dehalogenase structure suggests a mechanism for B₁₂-dependent dehalogenation. *Nature* 517(7535):513-516 doi:10.1038/nature13901
- Pochapsky TC (2020) A dynamic understanding of cytochrome P450 structure and function through solution NMR. *Curr Opin Biotechnol* 69:35-42 doi:10.1016/j.copbio.2020.11.007
- Porcel R, Zamarreño AM, García-Mina JM, Aroca R (2014) Involvement of plant endogenous ABA in *Bacillus megaterium* PGPR activity in tomato plants. *BMC Plant Biol* 14:1-12 doi:10.1186/1471-2229-14-36
- Prsic J, Ongena M (2020) Elicitors of Plant Immunity Triggered by Beneficial Bacteria. *Front Plant Sci* 11:594530 doi:10.3389/fpls.2020.594530
- Radha S, Gunasekaran P (2007) Cloning and expression of keratinase gene in *Bacillus megaterium* and optimization of fermentation conditions for the production of

- keratinase by recombinant strain. *J Appl Microbiol* 103:1301-1310 doi:10.1111/j.1365-2672.2007.03372.x
- Radha S, Gunasekaran P (2008) Sustained expression of keratinase gene under P_{xyIA} and P_{amyL} promoters in the recombinant *Bacillus megaterium* MS941. *Bioresour Technol* 99:5528-5537 doi:10.1016/J.BIORTECH.2007.10.052
- Rajkumar M, Freitas H (2008) Effects of inoculation of plant-growth promoting bacteria on Ni uptake by Indian mustard. *Bioresour Technol* 99:3491-3498 doi:10.1016/j.biortech.2007.07.046
- Ranquet C, Ollagnier-de-Choudens S, Loiseau L, Barras F, Fontecave M (2007) Cobalt stress in *Escherichia coli*. The effect on the iron-sulfur proteins. *J Biol Chem* 282(42):30442-51 doi:10.1074/jbc.M702519200
- Raux E, Lanois A, Warren MJ, Rambach A, Thermes C (1998) Cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂) biosynthesis: identification and characterization of a *Bacillus megaterium* *cobI* operon. *Biochem J* 335 (Pt 1):159-66 doi:10.1042/bj3350159
- Ray P, Lakshmanan V, Labbe JL, Craven KD (2020) Microbe to Microbiome: A Paradigm Shift in the Application of Microorganisms for Sustainable Agriculture. *Front Microbiol* 11:622926 doi:10.3389/fmicb.2020.622926
- Rendic SP, Guengerich FP (2021) Human Family 1-4 cytochrome P450 enzymes involved in the metabolic activation of xenobiotic and physiological chemicals: an update. *Arch Toxicol* 95(2):395-472 doi:10.1007/s00204-020-02971-4
- Riyami BA, Ghosh A, Rees EJ, Christie G (2019) Novel cortex lytic enzymes in *Bacillus megaterium* QM B1551 spores. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 366(12) doi:10.1093/femsle/fnz146
- Rodríguez-Contreras A, Koller M, Miranda-de Sousa Dias M, Calafell-Monfort M, Braunegg G, Marqués-Calvo MS (2013) High production of poly(3-hydroxybutyrate) from a wild *Bacillus megaterium* Bolivian strain. *J Appl Microbiol* 114:1378-1387 doi:10.1111/jam.12151
- Roof DM, Roth JR (1989) Functions required for vitamin B₁₂-dependent ethanolamine utilization in *Salmonella typhimurium*. *J Bacteriol* 171(6):3316-23 doi:10.1128/jb.171.6.3316-3323.1989
- Rygun T, Hillen W (1991) Inducible high-level expression of heterologous genes in *Bacillus megaterium* using the regulatory elements of the xylose-utilization operon. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 35(5):594-9 doi:10.1007/BF00169622
- Rygun T, Scheler A, Allmansberger R, Hillen W (1991) Molecular cloning, structure, promoters and regulatory elements for transcription of the *Bacillus megaterium* encoded regulon for xylose utilization. *Arch Microbiol* 155:535-542 doi:10.1007/BF00245346
- Ryu C-M, Farag MA, Hu C-h, Reddy MS, Wei H-X, Pare PW, Kloepper JW (2003) Bacterial volatiles promote growth in *Arabidopsis*. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 100:4927-4932 doi:10.1073/pnas.0730845100
- Sarparast M, Dattmore D, Alan J, Lee KSS (2020) Cytochrome P450 Metabolism of Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids and Neurodegeneration. *Nutrients* 12:3523 doi:10.3390/nu12113523
- Schmitz D, Janocha S, Kiss FM, Bernhardt R (2018) CYP106A2 - A versatile biocatalyst with high potential for biotechnological production of selectively hydroxylated steroid and terpenoid compounds. *Biochim Biophys Acta Proteins Proteom* 1866:11-22 doi:10.1016/j.bbapap.2017.07.011
- Schobert M, Jahn D (2002) Regulation of heme biosynthesis in non-phototrophic bacteria. *J Mol Microbiol Biotechnol* 4(3):287-94
- Scott AI (2001) Reflections on the discovery of nature's pathways to vitamin B₁₂. *Chem Rec* 1(3):212-27 doi:10.1002/tcr.1009
- Sharifi R, Ryu CM (2018) Sniffing bacterial volatile compounds for healthier plants. *Curr Opin Plant Biol* 44:88-97 doi:10.1016/j.pbi.2018.03.004
- Singh RK, Singh P, Li HB, Song QQ, Guo DJ, Solanki MK, Verma KK, Malviya MK, Song XP, Lakshmanan P, Yang LT, Li YR (2020) Diversity of nitrogen-fixing rhizobacteria

- associated with sugarcane: a comprehensive study of plant-microbe interactions for growth enhancement in *Saccharum* spp. *BMC Plant Biol* 20(1):220
doi:10.1186/s12870-020-02400-9
- Solaiman DKY, Ashby RD, Foglia TA, Marmer WN (2006) Conversion of agricultural feedstock and coproducts into poly(hydroxyalkanoates). *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 71:783-789 doi:10.1007/s00253-006-0451-1
- Solanki MK, Robert AS, Singh RK, Kumar S, Pandey AK, Srivastava AK, Arora DK (2012) Characterization of mycolytic enzymes of *Bacillus* strains and their bio-protection role against *Rhizoctonia solani* in tomato. *Curr Microbiol* 65:330-336 doi:10.1007/s00284-012-0160-1
- Stahl U, Esser K (1983) Plasmid Heterogeneity in Various Strains of *Bacillus megaterium*. *European J Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 17:248-251
- Stammen S, Muller BK, Korneli C, Biedendieck R, Gamer M, Franco-Lara E, Jahn D (2010a) High-yield intra- and extracellular protein production using *Bacillus megaterium*. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 76(12):4037-46 doi:10.1128/AEM.00431-10
- Stammen S, Schuller F, Dietrich S, Gamer M, Biedendieck R, Jahn D (2010b) Application of *Escherichia coli* phage K1E DNA-dependent RNA polymerase for in vitro RNA synthesis and in vivo protein production in *Bacillus megaterium*. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 88:529-539 doi:10.1007/s00253-010-2732-y
- Stenger B, Gerber A, Bernhardt R, Hannemann F (2018) Functionalized poly(3-hydroxybutyric acid) bodies as new *in vitro* biocatalysts. *Biochim Biophys Acta Proteins Proteom* 1866:52-59 doi:10.1016/j.bbapap.2017.08.010
- Stevenson DM, Kunnimalaiyaan M, Müller K, Vary PS (1998) Characterization of a Theta Plasmid Replicon with Homology to All Four Large Plasmids of *Bacillus megaterium* QM B1551. *Plasmid* 40:175-189 doi:10.1006/PLAS.1998.1359
- Sun MZ, Zheng HC, Meng LC, Sun JS, Song H, Bao YJ, Pei HS, Yan Z, Zhang XQ, Zhang JS, Liu YH, Lu FP (2015) Direct cloning, expression of a thermostable xylanase gene from the metagenomic DNA of cow dung compost and enzymatic production of xylooligosaccharides from corncob. *Biotechnol Lett* 37(9):1877-86
doi:10.1007/s10529-015-1857-6
- Terpe K (2003) Overview of tag protein fusions: from molecular and biochemical fundamentals to commercial systems. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 60(5):523-33
doi:10.1007/s00253-002-1158-6
- Terpe K (2006) Overview of bacterial expression systems for heterologous protein production: from molecular and biochemical fundamentals to commercial systems. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 72:211-222 doi:10.1007/s00253-006-0465-8
- Tinafar A, Jaenes K, Pardee K (2019) Synthetic Biology Goes Cell-Free. *BMC Biol* 17(1):64
doi:10.1186/s12915-019-0685-x
- Tjalsma H, Antelmann H, Jongbloed JDH, Braun PG, Darmon E, Dorenbos R, Dubois F, Westers H, Zanen G, Quax WJ, Kuipers OP, Bron S, Hecker M, Dubois J-yF, Dijl JMV (2004) Proteomics of Protein Secretion by *Bacillus subtilis*: Separating the "Secrets" of the Secretome. *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev* 68:207-233
doi:10.1128/MMBR.68.2.207
- Tjalsma H, Bolhuis A, Jongbloed JDH, Bron S, van Dijl JM (2000) Signal Peptide-Dependent Protein Transport in *Bacillus subtilis*: a Genome-Based Survey of the Secretome. *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev* 64:515-547 doi:10.1128/MMBR.64.3.515-547.2000
- Toplak M, Matthews A, Teufel R (2021) The devil is in the details: The chemical basis and mechanistic versatility of flavoprotein monooxygenases. *Arch Biochem Biophys* 698:108732 doi:10.1016/j.abb.2020.108732
- Tsuge T, Hyakutake M, Mizuno K (2015) Class IV polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) synthases and PHA-producing *Bacillus*. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 99:6231-6240
doi:10.1007/s00253-015-6777-9
- Vary PS (1992) Development of genetic engineering in *Bacillus megaterium*. *Biotechnology* 22:251-310

- Vary PS (1994) Prime time for *Bacillus megaterium*. *Microbiology* 140:1001-1013
doi:10.1099/13500872-140-5-1001
- Vary PS, Biedendieck R, Fuerch T, Meinhardt F, Rohde M, Deckwer WD, Jahn D (2007) *Bacillus megaterium*-from simple soil bacterium to industrial protein production host. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 76:957-967 doi:10.1007/s00253-007-1089-3
- Vílchez JI, Tang Q, Kaushal R, Wang W, Lv S, He D, Chu Z, Zhang H, Liu R, Zhang H (2018a) Complete Genome Sequence of *Bacillus megaterium* Strain TG1-E1, a Plant Drought Tolerance-Enhancing Bacterium. *Microbiol Resour Announc* 7:e00842-18
doi:10.1128/MRA.00842-18
- Vílchez JI, Tang Q, Kaushal R, Wang W, Lv S, He D, Chu Z, Zhang H, Liu R, Zhang H (2018b) Genome Sequence of *Bacillus megaterium* Strain YC4-R4, a Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacterium Isolated from a High-Salinity Environment. *Genome Announc* 6:4-5 doi:10.1128/genomeA.00527-18
- Vishwakarma K, Kumar N, Shandilya C, Mohapatra S, Bhayana S, Varma A (2020) Revisiting Plant-Microbe Interactions and Microbial Consortia Application for Enhancing Sustainable Agriculture: A Review. *Front Microbiol* 11:560406
doi:10.3389/fmicb.2020.560406
- von Cosmos NH, Watson BA, Fellman JK, Mattinson DS, Edwards CG (2017) Characterization of *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus pumilus*, and *Paenibacillus polymyxa* isolated from a Pinot noir wine from Western Washington State. *Food Microbiol* 67:11-16 doi:10.1016/J.FM.2017.05.003
- Wang B, Zhang D, Chu S, Zhi Y, Liu X, Zhou P (2020) Genomic Analysis of *Bacillus megaterium* NCT-2 Reveals Its Genetic Basis for the Bioremediation of Secondary Salinization Soil. *Int J Genomics* 2020:4109186 doi:10.1155/2020/4109186
- Wang S, Lan B, Yuan J, Qu Y (2009) Microbial fertilizer and preparation thereof China Patent CN-101372425-A
- Wang S, Wang Y, Cai Y, Kelly CP, Sun X (2018) Novel Chimeric Protein Vaccines Against *Clostridium difficile* Infection. *Front Immunol* 9:2440 doi:10.3389/fimmu.2018.02440
- Warren MJ, Raux E, Schubert HL, Escalante-Semerena JC (2002) The biosynthesis of adenosylcobalamin (vitamin B₁₂). *Nat Prod Rep* 19(4):390-412
- Whitehouse CJC, Bell SG, Wong L-I (2012) P450 BM3 (CYP102A1): connecting the dots. *Chem Soc Rev* 41:1218-1260 doi:10.1039/C1CS15192D
- Wittchen KD, Meinhardt F (1995) Inactivation of the major extracellular protease from *Bacillus megaterium* DSM319 by gene replacement. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 42:871-877 doi:10.1007/BF00191184
- Wolf JB, Brey RN (1986) Isolation and genetic characterizations of *Bacillus megaterium* cobalamin biosynthesis-deficient mutants. *J Bacteriol* 166(1):51-8
doi:10.1128/jb.166.1.51-58.1986
- Xu H, Qin Y, Huang Z, Liu Z (2014) Characterization and site-directed mutagenesis of an α -galactosidase from the deep-sea bacterium *Bacillus megaterium*. *Enzyme Microb Technol* 56:46-52 doi:10.1016/J.ENZMICTEC.2014.01.004
- Yang G, Zhou B, Wang J, He X, Sun X, Nie W, Tzipori S, Feng H (2008) Expression of recombinant *Clostridium difficile* toxin A and B in *Bacillus megaterium*. *BMC Microbiology* 8:192 doi:10.1186/1471-2180-8-192
- Yang Y, Biedendieck R, Wang W, Gamer M, Malten M, Jahn D, Deckwer W-D (2006) High yield recombinant penicillin G amidase production and export into the growth medium using *Bacillus megaterium*. *Microb Cell Fact* 5:36 doi:10.1186/1475-2859-5-36
- Youngster T, Wushensky JA, Aristilde L (2017) Profiling glucose-induced selective inhibition of disaccharide catabolism in *Bacillus megaterium* QM B1551 by stable isotope labelling. *Microbiology* 163:1509-1514 doi:10.1099/mic.0.000540
- Yucel N, Aslim B, Özdoğan H (2009) *In vitro* antimicrobial effect of *Satureja wiedemanniana* against *Bacillus* species isolated from raw meat samples. *J Med Food* 12:919-923
doi:10.1089/jmf.2008.0144

- Zhang J, Cook J, Nearing JT, Zhang J, Raudonis R, Glick BR, Langille MGI, Cheng Z (2021a) Harnessing the plant microbiome to promote the growth of agricultural crops. *Microbiol Res* 245:126690 doi:10.1016/j.micres.2020.126690
- Zhang J, Liu J, Shi Z, Liu L, Chen J (2010) Manipulation of *B. megaterium* growth for efficient 2-KLG production by *K. vulgare*. *Process Biochem* 45:602-606 doi:10.1016/j.procbio.2009.11.016
- Zhang X, Guo J, Cheng F, Li S (2021b) Cytochrome P450 enzymes in fungal natural product biosynthesis. *Nat Prod Rep* doi:10.1039/d1np00004g
- Zheng H, Liu Y, Liu X, Han Y, Wang J, Lu F (2012) Overexpression of a *Paenibacillus campinasensis* xylanase in *Bacillus megaterium* and its applications to biobleaching of cotton stalk pulp and saccharification of recycled paper sludge. *Bioresour Technol* 125:182-7 doi:10.1016/j.biortech.2012.08.101
- Zhou C, Ma Z, Zhu L, Xiao X, Xie Y, Zhu J, Wang J (2016) Rhizobacterial strain *Bacillus megaterium* BOFC15 induces cellular polyamine changes that improve plant growth and drought resistance. *Int J Mol Sci* 17(6):976 doi:10.3390/ijms17060976
- Zhou J, Liu H, Du G, Li J, Chen J (2012) Production of alpha-cyclodextrin glycosyltransferase in *Bacillus megaterium* MS941 by systematic codon usage optimization. *J Agric Food Chem* 60(41):10285-92 doi:10.1021/jf302819h
- Zhou Y, Wang Y, Zhu X, Liu R, Xiang P, Chen J, Liu X, Duan Y, Chen L (2017) Management of the soybean cyst nematode *Heterodera glycines* with combinations of different rhizobacterial strains on soybean. *PLoS ONE* 12:e0182654 doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0182654
- Zou C, Li Z, Yu D (2010) *Bacillus megaterium* strain XTBG34 promotes plant growth by producing 2-pentylfuran. *J Microbiol* 48:460-466 doi:10.1007/s12275-010-0068-z

Figure legends

Figure 1: Electron microscope image of *Priestia megaterium* (large cells) and *Escherichia coli* (small cells). *P. megaterium* and *E. coli* were individually grown aerobically in rich medium at 37 °C, mixed in the middle of their exponential growth phases and examined in a field emission scanning electron microscope (FESEM) Zeiss DSM982 Gemini (magnification 6,500-fold). The white bar corresponds to 2 µm. The picture was taken by Manfred Rohde, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Braunschweig, Germany.

Figure 2: Summary of cobalamin genetics, biosynthesis, and regulation in *Priestia megaterium* DSM319. Upper part: Cobalt and cobalamin transporters are indicated in yellow, cobalt in pink, cobalt chaperon in green; middle part: Summary of cobalamin biosynthesis starting from 8 molecules of 5-aminolevulinic acid. The final product here is shown as adenosylcobalamin which can interact with the cobalamin riboswitches. CobI and CobII indicate all enzymes encoded by the *cobI*- and *cobII*-operons shown below. Lower part: All genes are represented as colored arrows. Black arrows upstream of the operons/single genes indicate promoters, black "T"s terminators and black stem-loop structures indicate cobalamin riboswitches. All genes clustered in operons or situated on their own are annotated. Hypothetical genes are annotated as open reading frames (*bmd_0000*) as shown in www.megabac.tu-bs.de.

Figure 3: Schematic summary of *Priestia megaterium* plasmids used for the production, secretion, and purification of recombinant proteins. All plasmids are constructed as shuttle plasmids for cloning in *E. coli* (yellow elements) and replication (dark blue, different compatibility classes), selection (light blue) and production of recombinant proteins in *P. megaterium*. Suitable promoters (black arrow) are the native (P_{xyIA}) and the optimized ($P_{xyIA}^{opt.}$) xylose inducible promoter, the lactose inducible (P_{lac}), sucrose (P_{suc} , P_{sacB}), arabinose (P_{ara}), galactosidase (P_{gal}), IPTG (P_{Hysp}), and starch (P_{amyL}) promoter, the T7-RNA-polymerase dependent promoter which bases on a two plasmid system, and several constitutive (P_{const}) and growth phase dependent (P_{growth}) promoters. Genes encoding recombinant proteins can be fused to coding sequences of different signal peptides (purple) of the lipase A (SP_{LipA}), the unknown secreted proteins YocH (SP_{YocH}) and YngK (SP_{YngK}), the natural protease NprM (SP_{NprM}) and the serine protease VPR (SP_{Vpr}). In addition original signal peptides of the foreign recombinant protein can be used (SP_{native}). For purification of intra- or extracellular recombinant proteins a fusion to N- or C-terminal His₆ or StrepII tag is possible (orange). N-terminal tags can be removed of using Tobacco etch virus (TEV) or Factor X_a protease cleavage. Black stars indicate stable places for integration of additional genetic elements as tRNAs or genes for coexpression.