



Review of the Use of Bacteriophages in Biotechnology

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ABSTRACT

Bacteriophages are ubiquitous entities that exhibit a specialty towards one or more host strains. They are the most prevalent entities on Earth, surpassing bacteria in quantity by a factor of ten. We can identify two categories of phages: lytic and temperate. This is about phages that can add their genetic material to the host genome. This makes a prophage that copies itself inside the host cell and may protect it from other phages of the same species that might try to infect it. Alternatively, lytic phages, which are of significant importance in biotechnology, encourage the host cell to undergo lysis after their reproductive cycle. In their lysogenic state, they can disseminate genes that provide antibiotic resistance to bacteria via horizontal gene transfer. Moreover, phage therapy has garnered support from the scientific community due to its distinctive ability to address issues associated with biofilm formation and microbial regulation that other prevalent methods struggle to resolve effectively. Bacteriophages are advantageous as they offer a feasible and promising alternative. This study aims to provide the latest knowledge on the application of phages for pathogen biocontrol in industrial and healthcare environments

Key words: Bacteriophage ; gene delivery; bio preservation; food safety ; biotechnological

INTRODUCTION

The most prevalent type of viruses on Earth are called phages, or bacteriophages, and they mostly infect bacteria. First independent discoveries of them were made in 1917 in France by Félix d'Hérelle and in 1915 by Frederick Twort in England [1]. They have contributed significantly to several developments in molecular tools since their discovery. Phages were used in the famous "Waring blender experiment" by Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase to show that genes are made of DNA [2]. In addition, among other findings, phages have helped investigate the genetic regulation of enzymes, virus generation, and the mutagenesis of bacterial genes for functional investigations [3-5]. As obligatory intracellular parasites, phages are composed of a nucleic acid encased in a three-dimensional structure known as the capsid. [6-8]. For a long while, the host range, morphology, and genome type of bacteriophages were the primary factors used to classify them taxonomically. Phage sizes and resistance to physicochemical agents vary, as Sir Macfarlane Burnet showed in 1937 [9]. Furthermore, in 1943, Holmes Ruska suggested a categorization of viruses using electron microscopy after observing the morphological variety of phages [10]. Based on their host range and illness symptoms, phages were grouped into three groups in this classification, also called the Holmes classification [11]. A viral taxonomy based on virion features, nucleic acid content, and a Latinized nomenclature system involving many phages was proposed by Lwoff, Horne, and Tournier in 1962 [12]. David Bradley then used acridine orange staining and electron microscopy in 1967 to divide tailed bacteriophages into three groups: those with contractile tails, those with long noncontractile tails, and those with short noncontractile tails. The three morphotypes of this classification system were given the



names Myoviridae, Styloviridae, and Pedoviridae by Hans-Wolfgang Ackermann and Abraham Eisenstark of the Bacterial Virus Subcommittee in 1975 after the International Committee on Nomenclature of Viruses (ICNV) formally adopted it in 1971 [13–16]. The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) recognized Myoviridae and Podoviridae, as they are presently called, in 1981. In 1984, Siphoviridae made a similar move. To continue with the phage taxonomy narrative, the order Caudovirales includes the Myoviridae, Siphoviridae, Podoviridae, Ackermannviridae, and Herelleviridae families. [17].

Similarly, additional phage families, such as Inoviridae (filamentous capsid), Microviridae, Tectiviridae, Corticoviridae, Leviviridae, and Cystoviridae (polyhedral capsid) and Plasmaviridae (pleomorphic capsid), were also categorized in 1978 according to their shape [17]. But with the development of genomics, more genomic variety has been discovered by the sequencing of phage genomes, which may be found in the human gut and the deep ocean [18]. This has led to the emergence of a taxonomy based on genome structure, which includes novel subfamilies and genera as well as viral relatedness ascertained by proteome comparisons and nucleotide or shared protein sequences. In situations where there are frequent horizontal gene transfers, widely diverse genome sequences and organizations, and mosaicism, this molecular analysis technique provides a strong categorization system for phages [19–23]. National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) states as [18]. Phage populations may be found in a variety of settings, including the ocean and the microbial environment inside microorganisms, as was previously described. Phage populations are essential to complex ecosystems [1]. Because of their diversity and abundance, bacteriophages are important in marine ecosystems because they affect microbial populations, encourage genetic variation, and aid in the cycling of nutrients by killing off bacteria. Phage variety is not limited to their morphology; seasonal fluctuations in the phage replicative cycle are also seen. For example, in the Canadian Arctic Shelf and the western Antarctic Peninsula, lytic infections predominate in the summer, while prophages predominate in the spring [18, 24].

LIFE CYCLES OF BACTERIOPHAGES

Regarding the characterization of phage life cycles, there are several methods for infection and release. Phage encapsidation and geographic distribution can be divided into three groups: (i) existing inside the cell and not being encapsulated. This stage can be further subdivided into three categories: (i) living inside the cell and encapsulated within fully-formed virions, which are differentiated from phage genomes and packaged only during the virion release stage; (ii) living within the cell and encapsulated. The latter category was defined by Lwoff in 1953 and includes the productive cycle against a prophage. This is the case where liberated phages are no longer detectable within their host bacterium [25,26]. PPhages can exhibit a variety of infection and release tactics, leading to the development of either lytic or chronic non-temperate phages. The former describes phages that do not go through lysogenic cycles, whereas the later describes phages that are released on a continuous basis but do not show lysogenic cycles. Lytic phages go through a vegetative phase during which their DNA is assembled into mature virions before to release. Similar to this, phages that are released on a continuous basis go through a vegetative phase, but the release mechanism packages the phage's DNA into mature virions. Since these lytic and non-temperate phages may lyse the host cell and continue the cycle through the progeny that follow, they are especially intriguing for the biological control of bacteria. The earliest stage of the phage life cycle is called adsorption, and it includes the interaction of the



virion with the bacterium. Diffusion and non-diffuse movement are two categories into which this process can be divided, depending on whether the phages are linked to other materials. Particle shape and size are two examples of parameters that might affect the phages' migration. On the other hand, non-diffuse mobility happens when the phages attach themselves to nonhost materials and might increase the probability of coming into contact with the target bacteria if they travel in the same direction. Furthermore, virions can act as mechanical vectors and spread across greater distances through the air, dust, sprayed water, or animals. It is important to remember, nevertheless, that mass movement may not always result in contact with bacteria that are sensitive. The phage's reversible attachment to the host bacterium is the next stage in the adsorption process. Since there have been no long-term changes to the virion's morphology, this attachment is reversible. The irreversible attachment of the free virion to a bacterial cell is the final result of the adsorption process, which is made possible by secondary attachment proteins binding to the secondary receptor. The strength of this binding is greater than that of the reversible attachment, when the primary attachment protein binds to the primary receptor. The phage's acquisition of bacteria occurs in the next stage of its life cycle, when a free virion (seeds or spores for multicellular organisms) is transformed into a virocell, the "living form" of the virus. The genetic material of the virion is transferred to the bacteria's cytoplasm during this phase. Phages must get past bacterial surface features such glycocalyx, S-layers, and peptidoglycan cell walls in order to accomplish this transfer. Genome injection is the technique by which most phages introduce their nucleic acid into the host cytoplasm by use of a mix of enzymatic and mechanical mechanisms. These enzymes are specifically designed to target these structures. The phage genes are expressed and the genome replicates once within the bacterial cytoplasm, starting the process of creating new virions. The phage virions then continuously collect inside the cells until the phage causes bacterial lysis. It is noteworthy that, for phages that are chronically infected, as was previously noted, there may be a loss of infection viability or a stop in phage formation. Similar to what has been previously reported in the context of chronic, temperate, or lytic phages, the phage moves, attaches itself to the host bacteria, and trans located its genome.

STRATEGIES OF BACTERIOPHAGE ATTACK ON HOST RANGE

Phage treatment has been shown in several trials to be beneficial in treating bacterial infections in people, with a particular emphasis on treating lung infections, otitis media, and cholera. The latter, nevertheless, has not yet been the subject of a controlled clinical investigation [27]. The three main species that have been studied in these investigations are *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The positive outcomes of using phages to fight various illnesses have been documented by these studies. Positive results were nevertheless seen in situations when phages were the only antimicrobial therapy used [27-34]. However, it should be highlighted that not all clinical trials have shown these advantageous outcomes in comparison to conventional therapies. To treat burn wounds infected with, for instance, a phage cocktail consisting of twelve bacteriophages was found to be efficacious in one investigation.

Phage tail-like bacteriocins (PTLBs)—also called tailoring—are an additional strategy against bacterial infections. These structures resemble the tails of bacteriophages, but they are devoid of a genome and a head. Like phages, PTLBs identify and target host bacteria by attaching to receptor-binding proteins (RBPs). PTLBs, in contrast to phages, depolarize bacterial cells by



creating holes in their membranes. These holes let ions into the cell, which eventually causes it to die. PTLBs only function on the cell surface, in contrast to phages, which carry out their whole life cycle within the host cell. Thus, the development of bacterial resistance to PTLBs can only take place at the level of cell receptors [35].

BACTERIOPHAGE AND EUKARYOTIC CELLS.

It was once thought that bacteriophages could not harm eukaryotic cells. However, new research has illuminated the dynamics between bacteriophages and eukaryotic cells, providing fresh perspectives. For example, it has been demonstrated that bacteriophages interact with mucus surfaces. T4 bacteriophages and a mucus-producing tissue cell line were used in an in vitro experiment. It was shown that the bacteriophages link to glycan residues on mucin glycoproteins through Ig-like domains found in the viral capsid protein [36]. Because of their adhesion to mucus surfaces, bacteriophages are more likely to come into contact with host bacteria, which may have an impact on the gastrointestinal microbiome and stop pathogens from colonizing the system. [36-38]. Furthermore, bacteriophages may converse with immune system cells. In one research, the bacteriophage ES2 was investigated for its effects on the expression of surface proteins CD86, CD40, and MHCII, as well as on dendritic cells' production of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , and TNF- α . The results showed that pro-inflammatory cytokines and surface proteins were expressed more when ES2 was present. The study also showed that NF- κ Bp65 was activated and translocated to the nucleus, which triggered the NF- κ B signaling pathway [39]. In a similar vein, two Escherichia coli bacteriophages were used to produce TNF- α , and the activation status of mammalian macrophages was examined in that investigation as well.

Applications of Phages in Livestock and Food Industry

The use of bacteriophages in biotechnology has produced a wide range of varied and constantly growing applications from the point of giving phages directly to living animals to the point of combining them into ready-to-eat food. Bacteriophages have been the subject of much research and study in addition to their intended use in the food business, particularly in the areas of health and sanitary treatment [40-46].

Applications in Live Animals (Animals Phage Therapy)

Ensuring food safety in agricultural settings and other settings that involve animal husbandry is essential for preserving public health. Numerous animals are frequently housed in these settings, most of them being restricted. Regrettably, the animal herds may become infected with new illnesses as a result of this confinement. These animals then serve as reservoirs for zoonotic bacterial infections, which can infiltrate the food chain and infect people, potentially leading to death. In light of this, employing bacteriophages to manage infections in animals becomes a practical choice. Animals can be given bacteria in a number of ways, such as by oral intake, intragastric injection, bacteriophage suspensions directly injected into food and drink, suspension application, through the muscle, transdermal, subcutaneous, and epidermal injections. Food goods such as meat, dairy, processed meals, fruits, vegetables, and food packaging can all be affected by bacteriophage. Bacterial populations are eliminated when lytic phages are applied to food. In a different technique called biofilm disaggregation, bacteria produce extracellular

Phage Development for Vaccines

The inherent qualities of these organisms make them suitable candidates for the role of vaccine delivery vehicles, and this article will discuss phages as such. The ease of large-scale phage production in bacterial host organisms, the simplicity of genetic modification, the phages' high stability in unfavorable environments and conditions, the stability and immunogenicity of the displayed antigens, and their capacity to induce humoral and cellular immunity are among the phage characteristics that make them particularly valuable for the development of vaccines [[63-66]. Phages can be utilized to produce vaccinations against phage DNA and phage display.[66] .

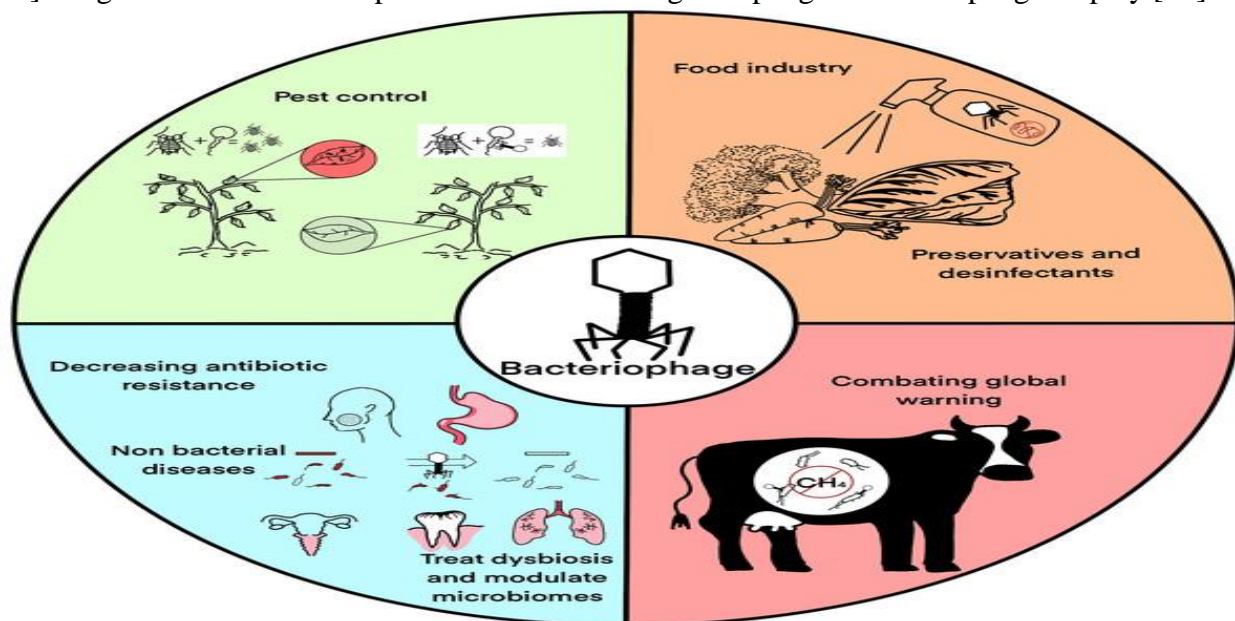


Figure 1: Main bacteriophage applications: pest control, food industry, medical applications excluding classical phage therapy, and global warming mitigation.
Confluent of interest: no Confluent of interest [67].

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Conflict of interests.

There is no conflict interest

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الخلاصة

تُعد العاثيات (البكتريوفاجات) كائنات منتشرة في كل مكان وتظهر تخصصًا تجاه سلالة أو أكثر من العوائل. وهي الكائنات الأكثر انتشارًا على الأرض، حيث تفوق في عددها البكتيريا بعشرة أضعاف. يمكننا تصنيف العاثيات إلى فئتين: العاثيات الحائلة والعاثيات المعتدلة. تتعلق هذه الدراسة بالعاثيات التي يمكنها إضافة مادتها الوراثية إلى جينوم العائل، مما يشكل طليعة العاثية (بروفاج) التي تتسخ نفسها داخل خلية العائل وقد تحميها من العاثيات الأخرى من نفس النوع التي قد تحاول إصابتها. من ناحية أخرى، تحت العاثيات الحائلة، التي لها أهمية كبيرة في التكنولوجيا الحيوية، خلية العائل على التحلل بعد دورة تكاثرها. في حالتها اللايتوجينية، يمكن أن تنتشر الجينات التي تمنح البكتيريا مقاومة للمضادات الحيوية عبر النقل الجيني الأفقي. علاوة على ذلك، حصل العلاج بالعاثيات على دعم من المجتمع العلمي بسبب قدرته الفريدة على معالجة المشكلات المرتبطة بتكوين الأغشية الحيوية وتنظيم الميكروبات، والتي تكافح الأساليب السائدة الأخرى في حلها بفعالية. تُعد العاثيات مفيدة لأنها توفر بديلاً ممكنًا وواعدًا. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقديم أحدث المعارف حول تطبيق العاثيات للتحكم البيولوجي في مسببات الأمراض في البيئات الصناعية والرعاية الصحية