

A MODERN VIEW AT SOME DIHYDROXYBENZOATE-CAPPED SIDEROPHORES: ECOLOGICAL, TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL ASPECTS

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Siderophores are non-toxic, environmentally unobjectionable compounds that exhibit a number of useful properties for solving some agriculture, environmental, technical problems and can determine the development of bacterial infections. Siderophores, in the chemical structure of which there is a dihydroxybenzoate fragment, effectively chelating iron, belong to dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores. Some dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores are acinetobactin, bacillibactin, enterobactin, petrobactin, salmoche-lins, trivanchrobactin, vanchrobactin, vibriobactin. The review article analyzes and summarizes information about microorganisms-producers such siderophores, the practical importance of these compounds for ecology, agriculture, technology, health. The considered dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores are represented in the group of catecholate siderophores and in the group of mixed siderophores. Their producers are both pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms. It was determined that among the considered siderophores only bacillibactin is used in agriculture, perspective bioremediation agents are bacillibactin and petrobactin. Biological control in the industry for corrosion protection can be an alternative to the use of corrosion inhibitors to address environmental, safety and health concerns. Attention is paid to the use of siderophores as smart-green corrosion inhibitors to prevent corrosion, in particular, microbiologically influenced. It is noted that bacillibactin and enterobactin should be considered as green smart-corrosion inhibitors. Intervention in the mechanisms of providing pathogens with iron by disrupting the biosynthesis of microbial siderophores, the use of siderophores as antimicrobial conjugates is discussed as a promising way to solve the problem of combating bacterial infections and maintaining human health. *Key words:* dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores, biological control, ecology, green smart-corrosion inhibitors, health, antimicrobials

Сучасний погляд на деякі дигідроксибензоат-кеповані сидерофори: екологічні, технічні та медичні аспекти. Ткачук Н., Зелена Л., Мазур П.

Сидерофори є нетоксичними, екодружніми сполуками, які проявляють низку корисних властивостей за вирішення деяких проблем сільського господарства, екологічних, технічних проблем і здатні визначати розвиток бактеріальних інфекцій. Сидерофори, в хімічній структурі яких є дигідроксибензоатний фрагмент, ефективно хелатуючий Ферум відносяться до дигідроксибензоат-кепованих сидерофорів. Деякими дигідроксибензоат-кепованими сидерофорами є акінетобактин, бацилібактин, ентеробактин, петробактин, сальмохелін, триванхробактин, ванхробактин, вібриобактин. В оглядовій статті проаналізовано й узагальнено інформацію про мікроорганізми-продуценти таких сидерофорів, практичне значення цих сполук для екології, сільського господарства, техніки, охорони здоров'я. Розглянуті дигідроксибензоат-кеповані сидерофори представлено у групі катехолатних сидерофорів і групі змішаних сидерофорів. Їхніми продуцентами є як патогенні, так і непатогенні мікроорганізми. Визначено, що серед розглянутих сидерофорів лише бацилібактин застосовується у сільському господарстві; перспективними агентами біоремедіації є бацилібактин і петробактин. Біологічний контроль у промисловості під час захисту від корозії може бути альтернативою використанню інгібіторів корозії задля вирішення проблем, пов'язаних із навколишнім середовищем, безпекою і здоров'ям. Приділено увагу використанню сидерофорів як розумних зелених інгібіторів для попередження корозії, зокрема мікробно індукованої. Зазначено, що в якості зелених розумних інгібіторів корозії слід розглядати бацилібактин та ентеробактин. Як перспективний напрямок розв'язання проблеми боротьби зі збудниками бактеріальних інфекцій і проблеми збереження здоров'я людини обговорено втручання у механізми забезпечення патогенів Ферумом шляхом порушення біосинтезу мікробних сидерофорів, використання сидерофорів як антимікробних кон'югатів. *Ключові слова:* дигідроксибензоат-кеповані сидерофори, біологічний контроль, екологія, зелені розумні інгібітори корозії, здоров'я, антимікробні сполуки.

Problem statement. Siderophores are low molecular weight compounds that chelate Fe (III) ions, convert insoluble Fe (III) to the bioavailable form of Fe (II), and are synthesized by some bacteria, fungus, and plants with iron ion deficiency in the medium [1-2]. Recent studies have also identified mammalian siderophore – like biomolecules, such as norepinephrine and 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid that also partake in iron transport and homeostasis [3]. Siderophores are non-toxic, envi-

ronmentally unobjectionable compounds [4], which exhibit a number of useful properties to solve some agriculture, environmental, technical problems and can determine the development of bacterial infections [4-6].

Relevance of research. Currently, studies of siderophores for use in agriculture, industry, environmental protection [1; 6-7] and health [5-6; 8] are relevant. Their use is a biological control approach [1]. Currently, dihydroxybenzoate-capped (DHB-capped)

siderophores deserve attention, which in the chemical structure contain a fragment that effectively chelates iron – 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate, and in the case of petrobactin 3,4-dihydroxybenzoate [9]. In the processes of biosynthesis of such siderophores there is a stage of dihydroxybenzoate adenylation, for which inhibitors are being developed [5]. In addition, there are reports that 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate and bacillibactin play an essential role in biofilm formation [10]. Therefore, in our review we paid attention to these compounds.

Analysis of recent research and publications. In agriculture, siderophores are used as promoters of plant growth, plant nutrition and control plant pathogens [1; 7-8; 11-12]. In industry, the biological method using siderophores is promising for the prevention of corrosion (smart-green corrosion inhibitors) [13], in particular microbiologically influenced [14]. However, this issue is currently controversial, as the use of a biological method to prevent corrosion has shown efficacy only in the laboratory [15]. Corrosion inhibitors used to protect against corrosion losses can lead to environmental, safety and health problems [16-17]. Siderophores as chelating compounds are involved in solving some environmental problems [1; 6-8; 11-12]. Some siderophores are factors of virulence of microorganisms, target in the development of modern antimicrobial agents and are considered in the future of new antimicrobial drugs, therapeutic compounds [1; 5-8; 11-12; 18-20].

The article is devoted to highlighting previously unsolved parts of the common problem. The available literature comprehensively characterizes the possibilities and prospects for the use of siderophores, but they do not define, do not separate information about DHB-capped siderophores. In addition, there is no generalized information on the use of siderophores as green smart-inhibitors. The outlined aspects confirm **the novelty** of the study.

Methodological or general scientific significance. The aim of this article is to analyze and summarize information on DHB-capped siderophores with a view to using them to address some practical issues of agriculture, ecology, technology, human and animal health. To achieve this aim in the research process formed and solved important scientific and practical tasks, namely:

- to characterize the essence of the concept of DHB-capped siderophores, to generalize information about microorganisms-producers of these siderophores;
- to analyze the use of some DHB-capped siderophores to address some practical issues of agriculture, ecology, technology, health;
- outline the prospects of using some DHB-capped siderophores to address practical issues in agriculture, ecology, technology, health.

Research methodology. The investigation used general scientific methods (methods of theoretical research of available information), analytical and generalized methods (for the analysis of scientific and literary sources on the problem); empirical (for the accumula-

tion of facts); methods of argumentation (to prove our own judgments).

Presentation of the main material

DHB-capped siderophores: structure and producers

DHB-capped siderophores are, in particular, acinetobactin, bacillibactin, enterobactin, petrobactin, salmochelins, trivanchrobactin, vanchrobactin, vibriobactin, the chemical structures of which are shown in Figure 1.

Acinetobactin is the siderophore which producing by *Acinetobacter baumannii* [21]. Bacillibactin is producing by the Gram-positive *Bacillus subtilis* [22-23] and related species such as human and/or animal pathogenic *Bacillus anthracis*, *B. cereus* and *B. thuringiensis* [9; 23], pathogenic *Paenibacillus larvae* [24], non-pathogenic bacteria *B. velezensis* [25-27]. Presence of gene cluster for producing bacillibactin in the genome *B. atrophaeus* GQJK17 has been reported [28]. Enterobactin, also known as enterochelin, is producing by a number of bacteria including bacteria of the family *Enterobacteriaceae* (*E. coli*) [29-31], some nitrogen-fixing bacteria, including *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *K. terrigena* [31], some strains of streptomycetes (the nikkomycin-producing strain *Streptomyces tendae* Tü 901/8c and strain *Streptomyces* sp. Tü 6125) [30]. Salmochelins are C-glucosylated enterobactins [32]. These are excreted by *Salmonella enterica* and uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* [32-34]. Petrobactin is producing by *Bacillus anthracis* [35-36], oil-degrading marine bacterium *Marinobacter hydrocarbonoclasticus* [37]. Vanchrobactin and trivanchrobactin (a linear trimer of the vanchrobactin peptide formed through serine ester linkages) are producing by marine *Vibrio* species. [38-41]. Vibriobactin is producing by *Vibrio cholerae*, the pathogenic bacterium responsible for causing cholera [41-42].

Thus, DHB-capped siderophores are represented in the group of catecholate siderophores and the group of siderophores of mixed type. Their producers are both pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms.

Some dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores in agriculture, ecology, technology

Agriculture

Siderophores are plant-growth-promoting agents [44]. Among the siderophores that are the subject of this article, only for bacillibactin are there reports of use in agriculture. Thus, inoculation of cells suspension of bacillibactin-producing *Bacillus* sp. promotes plant growth, plant nutrition and control plant pathogens [44-45]. Bacillibactin is considered an antimicrobial compound [46-47], in particular due to the fact that it chelates iron and limits access to iron that allows bacillibactin-producing bacteria to antagonize the growth of other surrounding microbes (for example, phytopathogenic *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *capsici*) [47].

Ecology

Siderophores can be involved in solving some environmental problems [8]. It is noted that enterobactin has been suggested to be involved in catalysis of gold nano-

particle formation by catechol redox cycling [48]. This is distinctive property of such siderophores and can be utilized for gold detection and extraction [8].

Bacillibactin produced by *B. subtilis* can bind Fe(III) at 1:1 ratio [49]. Possibilities of siderophores for complexation of heavy metal and use in bioremediation are discussed [6; 8; 50]. Egidi et al. were shown that *Bacillus cereus* LCR12 has genes encoding for siderophores (bacillibactin and petrobactin), that provides the genetic basis for its potential application to reme-

diate contaminated soils in association with plants [51]. In our opinion, non-pathogenic bacteria *B. velezensis*, which produce bacillibactin, and siderophore itself can be considered as promising bioremediation agents. Currently, there are no reports on the use of bacillibactin and/or its non-pathogenic producers for bioremediation in the available scientific and methodological base. Most publications indicate that siderophore-producing microorganisms involved in bioremediation are bacteria of the genus *Pseudomonas* [4; 6].

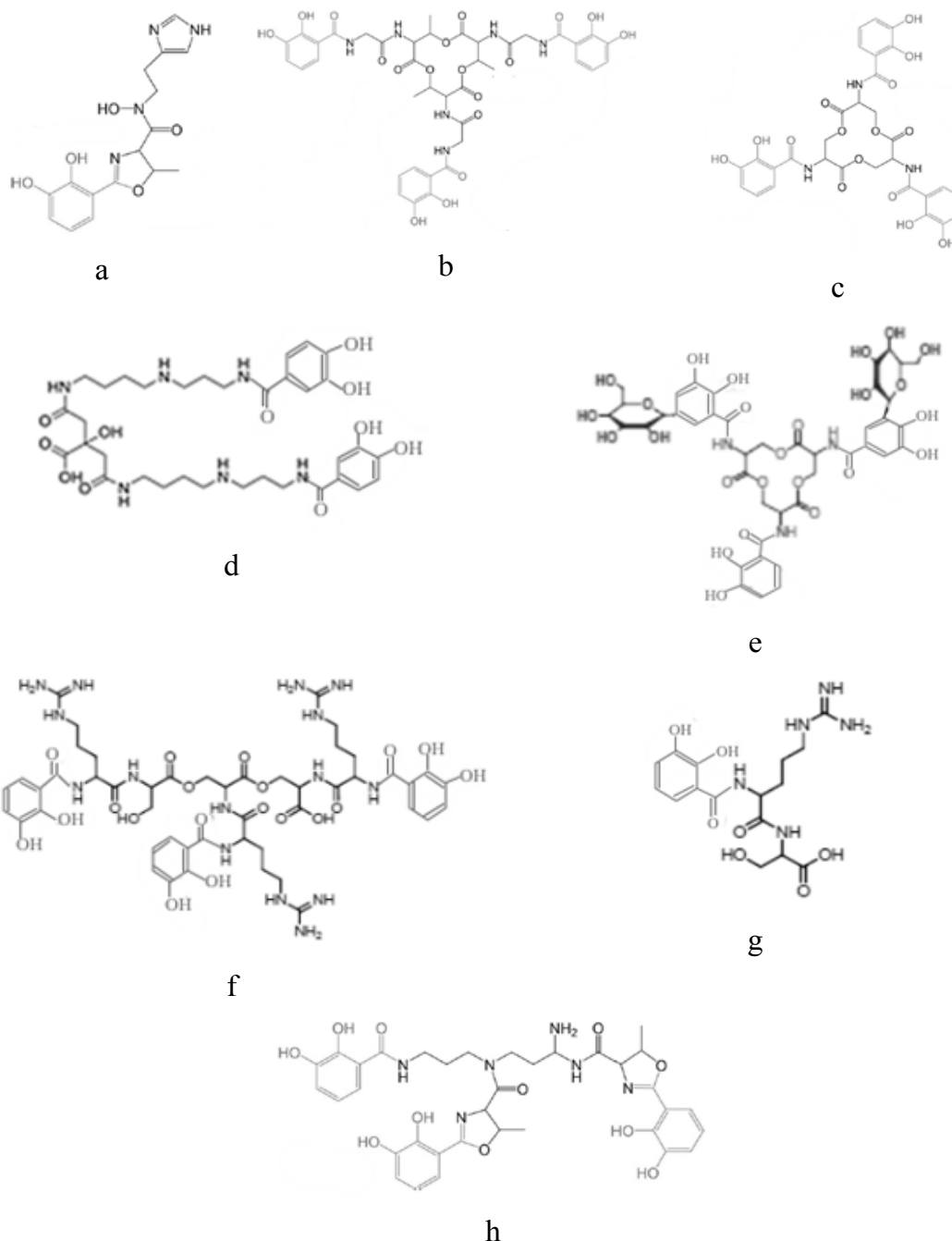


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of DHB-capped siderophores:

a – acinetobactin [5]; b – bacillibactin [5]; c – enterobactin [5]; d – petrobactin [41]; e – salmochelin-S4 [43]; f – trivanchrobactin [34]; g – vanchrobactin [41]; h – vibriobactin [41]

The involvement of some siderophores produced by marine bacteria (particularly petrobactin), in the biogeochemical cycling of Fe, in the remediation of petroleum hydrocarbons in the marine environment is discussed [4; 6].

Technology

Siderophores are environmentally unobjectionable compounds with high corrosion inhibitory properties of steel [13-14; 52-53], promoting passivation of metals [54-56].

They are classified as green corrosion inhibitors along with macromolecules, bacteria, alkaloids, polyphenols [13]. In the last decade, the research on green corrosion inhibitors has been booming because they do not pose problems of toxicity, bioaccumulation and biodegradation [13]. However, there is an opinion that stable corrosion layers could be broken down by siderophore action – changing Fe(III)ions into Fe(II)ions [57].

Enterobactin has now been shown to be one of the most effective (among siderophores studied by McCafferty and McArdle in 1995 [52]) corrosion inhibitors against Ferrovac E iron in 1N HCl because it has the optimal combination of relatively high pK_{a1} value and the largest molecular cross-sectional areas [52]. Enterobactin was also identified in a study by Zanna et al. [56], which shows modifications of the passive

film on stainless steel (316 L) after *E. coli* adhesion in the early stage of biofilm formation.

In general, microbiologically influenced corrosion processes occur in the biofilm that forms on the surface of the damaged material [58]. From the end of the 20th to the beginning of the 21st century the prospect of preventing corrosion damage to materials by forming protective aerobic bacterial biofilms capable of producing siderophores has been discussed [59]. At the same time, siderophores are able to prevent the formation of biofilms of microorganisms on surfaces [27]. Kostakioti et al. note [60] that chelating agents inhibit and/or disrupt the formation of the biofilm in stages 2 and 3 of the formation of the biofilm – the formation of microcolonies and the maturation of the biofilm, respectively [60]. We found that bacillibactin-producing strains of *B. velezensis* inhibit the formation of sulfate-reducing bacteria (the main agents of microbiologically influenced corrosion) biofilms on the polymeric material poly(ethylene terephthalate) during its long-term exposure (50 days) under conditions of sufficient iron supply [27]. This may be one of the reasons for slowing down the degradation of this polymer [27]. It is likely that bacillibactin-producing strains or bacillibactin will inhibit the process of microbiologically influenced corrosion of steel, which is a prospect for further research.

Table 1

Practical meaning/application some dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores

Dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophore	Practical meaning/application	References
Acinetobactin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[21]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]
Bacillibactin	Chelator of Fe (III)	[9]
	Promoter of plant growth, plant nutrition and control plant pathogens	[44-45]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]
	Perspective bioremediation agent	[51], this article
	Perspective environmentally friendly corrosion/microbiologically influenced corrosion inhibitor	this article
Enterobactin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[29-31]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]
	Perspective environmentally friendly corrosion/microbiologically influenced corrosion inhibitor	[5; 56]
Petrobactin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[35-36]
	Target for new generation antimicrobial	[5]
	Perspective bioremediation agent	[4; 6]
Salmochelin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[32-34]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]
Trivanchrobactin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[38-40]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]
Vanchrobactin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[38-40]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]
	Antimicrobial conjugate	[65]
Vibriobactin	Chelator of Fe (III), virulence factor	[42]
	Target for new generation antimicrobials	[5]

Some dihydroxybenzoate-capped siderophores for medicine

Information about siderophores important for medicine and veterinary medicine has been summarized in reviews [5; 61]. The siderophores considered by us provide cells of pathogenic bacteria with Ferrum and are a factor of virulence (except for bacillibactin) [62].

Gaddy et al. [63] was showed that the ability of *A. baumannii* ATCC 19606^T to persist inside A549 human alveolar epithelial cells and cause their apoptosis depends on the expression of active acinetobactin-mediated iron utilization functions, the production of the acinetobactin siderophore. The ability of *A. baumannii* ATCC 19606^T cells to express active acinetobactin biosynthesis and transport functions визначає the infection and killing of mice and *G. mellonella* larvae. Also the observation suggests that acinetobactin intermediates or precursors play a virulence role, although their contribution to iron acquisition is less relevant than that of mature acinetobactin [63].

Vanchrobactin is one key virulence factor for the fish pathogen *V. anguillarum* [38-39].

Yeremenko notes [9] that bacillibactin and petrobactin functions are realized on different stages of *B. anthracis* growth *in vivo*, whereas petrobactin synthesis is also necessary for manifestation of bacteria virulence. Enterobactin is considered as an oxidative stress protector for *E. coli* colony development [64].

In the literature it is noted that siderophore-mediated iron acquisition could be used as a target for therapeutic purposes [5; 63] highlight in the review the recent work toward exploiting the biosynthetic enzymes of siderophore production for the design of next generation antimicrobials [5].

Another use of siderophores is antimicrobial conjugates – siderophore is attached to an antibiotic and used to serve as a drug delivery agent (“Trojan horse”) [6]. Now vanchrobactin-norfloxacin conjugate showed antimicrobial activity against *V. anguillarum* and its mutants [65].

Therefore, generalizations about the practical significance of the siderophores considered by us can be presented in the form of Table 1.

Conclusions. Thus, dihydroxybenzoate-containing siderophores acinetobactin, bacillibactin, enterobactin, petrobactin, salmochelins, trivanchrobactin, vanchrobactin, vibriobactin are produced by some pathogenic and non-pathogenic bacteria and used by them to provide iron, are a factor of virulence (except bacillibactin). Interference in the mechanisms of providing pathogens with iron by disrupting the biosynthesis of siderophores is a promising way to solve the problem of combating bacterial infections and maintaining health. Among the considered siderophores only bacillibactin is used in agriculture. Perspective bioremediation agents are bacillibactin and petrobactin. Bacillibactin and enterobactin should be considered as promising green smart-corrosion inhibitors.

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