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**Sociedad Argentina de Microbiología General
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HOTEL UTHGRA

Los Cocos

Córdoba

Argentina

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MT2+R-N21.2 culture. Finally, the average metabolic diversity (BIOLOG EcoPlates) with control and residual vinasse from T-MT2+R-N21.2 presented the highest values. In opposite, the soil irrigated with water produced the lowest values. In general, the soils irrigated with residual vinasses enriched with microorganisms showed similar physico-chemical characteristics to the vinasse irrigation and better microbiological characteristics than the water irrigation. These results indicate that fertigation with vinasse utilized for the culture of agronomically important microorganisms does not damage the soil properties in short terms. At the same time, they give added value to a problematic effluent obtaining at the same time a new product that could be applied to the soil in an environmentally friendly way.

AS20-IMPACT OF NaCl ON THE MACROMOLECULAR COMPOSITION OF UNSATURATED *Pseudomonas capeferrum* WCS358 BIOFILMS

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High NaCl concentrations in soils affect negatively the production, nutritional, and economic value of crops, as well as its biodiversity. In response to this problem, a large number of studies on plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) have been developed, as they may improve the uptake of water and nutrients and alleviate different types of stresses in plants. These bacteria colonize the rhizosphere forming biofilms that are exposed to constant fluctuations in water availability. For this reason, in this work, we utilize an unsaturated biofilm model as an approximation to the conditions to which rhizobacteria are exposed. *Pseudomonas (P.) capeferrum* WCS358 produces pyoverdine and induces a systemic response in plants. Its Quorum Sensing (QS) system regulates physiological processes relevant to the colonization of the host and survival. The aim of this work was to analyze the impact of salt stress on growth and the characteristics of the unsaturated biofilm of *P. capeferrum* WCS358, and the influence of QS regulation. For this, we employed polycarbonate membranes and an artificial root exudates culture medium supplemented with 0.2 M NaCl as saline stress. Membranes were inoculated with bacterial suspensions (0.1 OD₆₀₀) and incubated at 30 °C for 72 hours. Unsaturated biofilms were broken up by vigorously vortexing the membrane in 1 mL physiological solution. CFU mL⁻¹ was determined after plating serial dilutions. Carbohydrates were quantified using the phenol-sulfuric method with glucose as a standard, extracellular proteins were quantified using the Bradford method. Acyl homoserine lactones (AHLs) production was determined after solvent extraction, separation by thin-layer chromatography, and subsequent detection with bioassays developed with *Agrobacterium (A.) tumefaciens* NT1 (pZLR4). Results showed that neither saline stress nor QS activity decreased biofilm growth of *P. capeferrum* WCS358. While the attenuation of the QS activity augmented 13% of the exopolysaccharides in the unsaturated biofilms, NaCl decreased by 28% of these values. Proteins in the matrix were not affected by QS. However, saline stress increased by 30% the protein concentration. RP-TLC developed with *A. tumefaciens* NT1 (pZLR4) showed smaller and weaker spots of AHLs. We conclude that saline stress and the QS system modify the characteristics of the unsaturated biofilms of *P. capeferrum* WCS358. At the same time, NaCl modulates the QS activity of this microorganism. These results are relevant for a PGPR, considering the large surfaces of saline soils in our country.