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## Q10 Review

2 **Biodegradation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by**  
 3 **fungal enzymes: A review**

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## A B S T R A C T

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a large group of chemicals. They represent an important concern due to their widespread distribution in the environment, their resistance to biodegradation, their potential to bioaccumulate and their harmful effects. Several pilot treatments have been implemented to prevent economic consequences and deterioration of soil and water quality. As a promising option, fungal enzymes are regarded as a powerful choice for degradation of PAHs. *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, *Pleurotus ostreatus* and *Bjerkandera adusta* are most commonly used for the degradation of such compounds due to their production of ligninolytic enzymes such as lignin peroxidase, manganese peroxidase and laccase. The rate of biodegradation depends on many culture conditions, such as temperature, oxygen, accessibility of nutrients and agitated or shallow culture. Moreover, the addition of biosurfactants can strongly modify the enzyme activity. The removal of PAHs is dependent on the ionization potential. The study of the kinetics is not completely comprehended, and it becomes more challenging when fungi are applied for bioremediation. Degradation studies in soil are much more complicated than liquid cultures because of the heterogeneity of soil, thus, many factors should be considered when studying soil bioremediation, such as desorption and bioavailability of PAHs. Different degradation pathways can be suggested. The peroxidases are heme-containing enzymes having common catalytic cycles. One molecule of hydrogen peroxide oxidizes the resting enzyme withdrawing two electrons. Subsequently, the peroxidase is reduced back in two steps of one electron oxidation. Laccases are copper-containing oxidases. They reduce molecular oxygen to water and oxidize phenolic compounds.

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Abbreviations: P, *Phanerochaete*; C, *Coriolus*; T, *Trametes*; P, *Pleurotus*; I, *Irpex*; LiP, lignin peroxidase; MnP, Mn-peroxidase; VP, versatile peroxidase; LAC, laccase; ABTS, 2,2-azinobis(3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulfonic acid); VA, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl alcohol, veratryl alcohol; PAHs, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; ANT, Anthracene; PHE, Phenanthrene; FLU, Fluorene; PYR, Pyrene; FLA, Fluoranthene; CHR, Chrysene; B[a]P, Benzo[a]pyrene; B[a]A, Benzo[a]anthracene; IP, Ionization potential; WRF, White-rot fungi.

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## Q12 Introduction

80 Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), or polyarenes, are a  
81 large group of chemicals with two or more fused aromatic  
82 rings in linear, angular or clustered arrangements. PAHs with  
83 less than six aromatic rings are often denominated as small  
84 PAHs and those containing more than six aromatic rings are  
85 often called large PAHs (Haritash and Kaushik, 2009). They  
86 occur as colorless, white/pale yellow solids with low solubility  
87 in water, high melting and boiling points and lower vapor  
88 pressure as seen in Table 1. With an increase in molecular  
89 weight, their solubility in water decreases; melting and boiling  
90 point increases and vapor pressure decreases (Patnaik, 2007).

91 The widespread occurrence of PAHs is due to their  
92 generation from the incomplete combustion or pyrolysis of  
93 numerous organic materials, such as coal, oil, petroleum gas,  
94 and wood. PAHs exhibit the most structural variety in nature  
95 compared to any other class of non-halogenated molecules in  
96 the eco- and biosphere. Moreover, with continued oil produc-  
97 tion and transport, the quantities of these hydrocarbons in

Q13 water and sediment will keep increasing (Arun et al., 2008).  
99 Fate of PAHs in the environment includes volatilization,  
100 photo-oxidation, chemical oxidation, adsorption on soil  
101 particles and leaching (Haritash and Kaushik, 2009). They are  
102 difficult to degrade in natural matrices and their persistence  
103 increases with their molecular weight. Therefore, these  
104 compounds represent an important concern due to their  
105 widespread presence in the environment, their resistance  
106 towards biodegradation, their potential to bio-accumulate  
107 and their mutagenic and carcinogenic effects that occur by  
108 breathing air containing PAHs in the workplace, or by coming

in contact with air, water, or soil near hazardous waste sites, 109  
or by drinking contaminated water or milk etc. (Lei et al., 2007; 110  
Albanese et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2014a; Zhao et al., 2014). Q14

Potential treatments have been implemented to prevent 112  
further economic consequences and deterioration of soil and 113  
water quality. Among such treatments, bioremediation initia- 114  
tives promise to deliver long lasting and low cost solutions for 115  
PAHs degradation. Biodegradation of hydrocarbons was car- 116  
ried out either by bacteria (Cybulski et al., 2003; Arulazhagan Q15  
and Vasudevan, 2011; Mao et al., 2012; Hamamura et al., 2013; 118  
Sun et al., 2014; Cébron et al., 2015; Darmawan et al., 2015; 119  
Ferreira et al., 2015; Okai et al., 2015; Singh et al., 2015), fungi 120  
(W. et al., 1999; Li et al., 2005; Chan et al., 2006; Elisabet Aranda, 121  
2009; Hadibarata et al., 2009; Hadibarata and Kristanti, 2014; 122  
Bonugli-Santos et al., 2015; Cébron et al., 2015; Jové et al., 2015; 123  
Marco-Urrea et al., 2015; Mineki et al., 2015; Simister et al., 2015; 124  
Young et al., 2015) or algae (Chan et al., 2006; Diaz et al., 2014; Luo 125  
et al., 2014). As a result of such a large experience, the fungi 126  
emerge as a powerful choice for degradation of polyaromatic 127  
hydrocarbons. They have advantages over bacteria due to their 128  
capability to grow on a large spectrum of substrates and at 129  
the same time, they produce extracellular hydrolytic enzymes, 130  
which can penetrate the polluted soil and remove the 131  
hydrocarbons (Balaji and Ebenezer, 2008; Messias et al., 2009; 132  
Venkatesagowda et al., 2012). 133

The rate of bioremediation of a pollutant depends on the 134  
environmental conditions, type of microorganism, as well as 135  
the nature and chemical structure of the compound to be 136  
removed. Therefore, to develop a bioremediation process, a 137  
number of factors are to be taken into account. The level and 138  
rate of biodegradation of PAHs by fungal enzymes rely upon 139

140 growth factors, such as, oxygen, accessibility of nutrients, and  
141 enzyme optimum conditions like pH, temperature, chemical  
142 structure of the compound, cellular transport properties, and  
143 chemical partitioning in growth medium (Singh and Ward,  
144 2004).











145 Enzymatic biodegradation of polycyclic aromatic hydro-  
146 carbons by fungal strains has not been significantly reviewed,  
147 to the best of our knowledge. The main objective of the  
148 present review is to understand the enzymatic biodegradation  
149 of PAHs using fungal strains. In this sense, the rate and  
150 pathways of biodegradation of PAHs are strongly related to  
151 the environmental conditions for the enzymatic activity and  
152 also for the fungal growth. It is also dependent on the system  
153 where the degradation takes place either *ex-situ* or *in-situ*, and  
154 on the nature and chemical structure of the pollutant.  
155 Also, the mechanisms of enzymes degrading PAHs should be  
156 highlighted. Therefore, to build a complete scenario of enzymatic  
157 fungal bioremediation many factors need to be considered at the  
158 time.

## 160 1. Fungal enzymes

161 Davis et al. (1993) demonstrated that all fungi have innate  
162 efficiency to degrade PAHs. Ligninolytic fungi have been exten-  
163 sively studied for the past few years (Haritash and Kaushik, 2009)  
164 because they produce extracellular enzymes with extremely  
165 reduced substrate specificity. This evolved due to the irregular  
166 structure of lignin but resulted in the ability to also degrade and  
167 mineralize various organopollutants (Hatakka, 1994; Vyas et al.,  
168 1994; Hammel, 1995). Latest research showed that extracellular  
169 peroxidases of these fungi are responsible for the initial oxidation  
170 of PAHs (Acevedo et al., 2011; Betts, 2012; Li et al., 2014; Zhang  
171 et al., 2015). Fungal lignin peroxidases oxidize a number of PAHs

172 directly, while fungal manganese peroxidases co-oxidize them  
173 indirectly through enzyme-mediated lignin peroxidation. Vyas  
174 et al. (1994a) have tested several white rot fungi and suggested  
175 that all of them oxidize anthracene to anthraquinone. The  
176 ligninolytic system contains three principal enzyme groups, 176  
177 i.e., lignin peroxidase (LiP), Mn-dependent peroxidase (MnP),  
178 phenol oxidase (laccase, tyrosinase), and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> producing en-  
179 zymes (Novotný et al., 2004a). Ligninolysis is oxidative, it is  
180 induced by high oxygen ranges in the culture medium, and is part  
181 of the organism secondary metabolism; it is expressed under  
182 nutrient limiting conditions, generally nitrogen (Haemmerli et al.,  
183 1986; Hammel et al., 1986; Sanglard et al., 1986; Novotný et al.,  
184 2004a) and their physiology have been broadly studied. Thus,  
185 there is an elaborated comprehension of the ligninolytic mech-  
186 anisms of basidiomycetes (Hatakka, 1994; Thurston, 1994).  
187 Novotný et al. (2004b) studied the degradation amounts and  
188 enzymatic activities of MnP, LiP and laccase in different species of  
189 ligninolytic fungi cultivated in liquid medium and soil and their  
190 impact on some xenobiotics including PAHs. They showed  
191 that degradation of anthracene and pyrene in spiked soil by  
192 *P. chrysosporium*, *Trametes versicolor* and *P. ostreatus* depends on the  
193 MnP and laccase levels secreted into the soil. Thus, fungal  
194 degradation of PAHs is not as fast or effective as bacteria, but  
195 they are very non-specific and have the capability to hydroxylate  
196 a large variety of xenobiotics. Furthermore, many fungi are  
197 naturally living in soil litter and could grow into the soil and  
198 propagate through the solid matrix to remove the PAHs. These  
199 criteria make the ecological role of ligninolytic fungi in bioreme-  
200 diation (Lee et al., 2014; Winquist et al., 2014; Kristanti and  
201 Hadibarata, 2015; Lee et al., 2015a, 2015b). In addition to MnP, LiP  
202 and laccase other fungal enzymes, such as Cytochrome P450  
203 monooxygenase, epoxide hydrolases, lipases, proteases and  
204 dioxygenases have been extensively studied for their ability to  
205 degrade PAHs (Bezalel et al., 1997; Balaji et al., 2014).

t1.1 **Table 1 – Physical–chemical characteristics of different polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.**

t1.3 t1.4	Compound	Formula	Mol. wt. (g/mol)	CAS registry No.	Vapor pressure (Pa at 25°C)	Boiling point (°C)	Melting point (°C)	Aqueous solubility (mg/l)	Ionization potential (eV) <sup>a</sup>	Structure
t1.5	Naphthalene	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>8</sub>	128	91-20-3	11.9	218	80.2	30	–	
t1.6	Anthracene	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	178	120-12-7	3.4 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	340	216.4	0.015	7.43	
t1.7	Phenanthrene	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	178	85-01-8	9.07 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>	339–340	100.5	1–2	8.03	
t1.8	Fluoranthene	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	202	206-44-0	1.08 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	375–393	108.8	0.25	7.90	
t1.9	Pyrene	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	202	129-00-0	5.67 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	360–404	393	0.12–0.18	7.53	
t1.10	Benz[a]anthracene	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	228	56-55-3	14.7 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	438	162	0.0057	<7.35	
t1.11	Benz[a]pyrene	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	252	50-32-8	0.37 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	495	179	0.0038	≤7.45	
t1.12	Benzo[b]fluoranthene	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	252	205-99-2	1.07 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	168	168.3	–	7.70	
t1.13	Benzo[k]fluoranthene	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	252	207-08-9	1.28 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	217	215.7	–	7.48	
t1.14	Benzo(ghi)perylene	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	276	191-24-2	1.33 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	525	277	–	7.31	

t1.15 <sup>a</sup> IPs for all the PAHs except benzo[b]fluoranthene and benzo[k]fluoranthene are from Pysh and Yang (1963). The IPs were determined by the polarographic oxidation method. IPs for benzo[b]fluoranthene and benzo[k]fluoranthene are from the modified neglect of diatomic overlap calculations of (Simonsick and Hites, 1986).

**Table 2 – Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons oxidized by different species of fungi and their corresponding metabolites.**

Compounds	Microorganisms	References	Metabolites	References
Q1 Acenaphthene	<i>Cunninghamella elegans</i>	(Pothuluri et al., 1992a, 1992b)	1-Acenaphthenone, 1,2-Acenaphthenedione, cis-1,2-Dihydroxyacenaphthene, trans-1,2-Dihydroxyacenaphthene, 1,5-Dihydroxyacenaphthene, 6-Hydroxyacenaphthenone	(Pothuluri et al., 1992a, 1992b)
Q2 Anthracene	<i>Bjerkandera</i> sp., <i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Naematoloma frowardii</i> , <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> , <i>Phanerochaete laevis</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Pleurotus sajor-caju</i> , <i>Ramaria</i> sp., <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>	(Bezalel et al., 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Bogan and Lamar, 1995; Cerniglia and Yang, 1984; Hammel et al., 1992; Johannes and Majcherzyk, 2000; Kotterman et al., 1998; Sack and Günther, 1993)	Anthracene trans-1,2-Dihydrodiol 1-Anthrol, 9,10-Anthraquinone, Phthalate, Glucuronide, Sulfate and Xyloside conjugates of hydroxylated intermediates	(Bezalel et al., 1996a; Cerniglia, 1982; Cerniglia and Yang, 1984; Collins and Dobson, 1996; Field et al., 1992; Hammel et al., 1991; Johannes et al., 1996; Sutherland et al., 1992)
Phenanthrene	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Naematoloma frowardii</i> , <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> , <i>Phanerochaete laevis</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>	(Bezalel et al., 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Bogan and Lamar, 1996; Bumpus, 1989; Cerniglia, 1997a, 1997b; Hammel et al., 1992; Kotterman et al., 1998; Sack and Günther, 1993)	Phenanthrene trans-1,2-dihydrodiol Phenanthrene trans-3,4-dihydrodiol Phenanthrene trans-9,10-dihydrodiol Glucoside conjugate of 1-phenanthrol 1-,2-,3-,4-, and 9-phenanthrol 1-methoxyphenanthrene, Phenanthrene-9,10-quinone 2,2-Diphenic acid	(Bezalel et al., 1996b; Casillas et al., 1996; Cerniglia et al., 1989; Cerniglia and Yang, 1984; Hammel et al., 1992; Sack et al., 1997a, 1997b; Sutherland et al., 1991)
Q3 Fluorene	<i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i> , <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>	(Bezalel et al., 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Bogan et al., 1996a, 1996b; Bogan and Lamar, 1996; Sack and Günther, 1993)	9-Fluorenone 9-Fluorenol 2-Hydroxy-9-fluorenone	(Bezalel et al., 1996a; Bogan et al., 1996a, 1996b; Pothuluri et al., 1993)
Q4 Fluoranthene	<i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Naematoloma frowardii</i> , <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i> , <i>Penicillium</i> sp., <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	(Sack and Günther, 1993)	Fluoranthene trans-2,3-dihydrodiol, 8 and 9-Hydroxyfluoranthene trans-2,3-dihydrodiols, Glucoside conjugates of hydroxylated intermediates	(Pothuluri et al., 1992a, 1992b; Pothuluri et al., 1990)
Q5 Pyrene	<i>Aspergillus niger</i> , <i>Agrocybe aegerita</i> , <i>Candida parapsilopsis</i> , <i>Crinipellis maxima</i> , <i>Crinipellis perniciosa</i> , <i>Crinipellis stipitaria</i> , <i>Crinipellis zonata</i> , <i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> ,	(Bezalel et al., 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Hammel et al., 1986; Manilla-Pérez et al., 2011)	1,6-Pyrenequinone 1,8-Pyrenequinone Glucoside conjugates 1-Pyrenol 1,6-dihydroxypyrene	(Bezalel et al., 1996a; Cerniglia et al., 1986; Hammel et al., 1986; Lange et al., 1996; Launen et al., 1995; Sack et al., 1997a)

	<i>Kuehneromyces mutablis</i> , <i>Marasmiellus ramealis</i> , <i>Marasmius rotula</i> , <i>Mucor</i> sp., <i>Naematoloma frowardii</i> , <i>Penicillium janczewskii</i> , <i>Penicillium janthinellum</i> , <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i> , <i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>		1,8-dihydroxypyrene 1-Pyrene sulfate 1-Hydroxy-8-pyrenyl sulfate 6-Hydroxy-1-pyrenyl sulfate Pyrene trans-4,5-Dihydrodiol	
Benzo[a]anthracene	<i>Candida krusei</i> , <i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> , <i>Phanerochaete laevis</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Rhodotorula minuta</i> , <i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i>	(Bogan et al., 1996a, 1996b; Cerniglia, 1984)	Benz[a]anthracene trans-3,4-dihydrodiol, Benz[a]anthracene trans-8,9-dihydrodiol, Benz[a]anthracene trans-10,11-dihydrodiol, Phenolic and tetrahydroxy derivatives of benz[a]anthracene, Glucuronide and Sulfate conjugates of hydroxylated intermediates	(Cerniglia et al., 1994; Cerniglia et al., 1980a, 1980b)
Benzo[a]pyrene	<i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i> , <i>Bjerkandera adusta</i> , <i>Bjerkandera</i> sp., <i>Candida maltosa</i> , <i>Candida tropicalis</i> , <i>Chrysosporium pannorum</i> , <i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Mortierella verrucosa</i> , <i>Naematoloma frowardii</i> , <i>Neurospora crassa</i> , <i>Penicillium janczewskii</i> , <i>Penicillium janthinellum</i> , <i>Phanerochaete chrysosporium</i> , <i>Phanerochaete laevis</i> , <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> , <i>Ramaria</i> sp., <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> , <i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i> , <i>Trametes versicolor</i> , <i>Trichoderma</i> sp., <i>Trichoderma viride</i>	(Bezalel et al., 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Bogan and Lamar, 1996; Bumpus et al., 1985; Haemmerli et al., 1986; Sack and Günther, 1993)	Benzo[a]pyrene trans-4,5-dihydrodiol Benzo[a]pyrene trans-7,8-dihydrodiol Benzo[a]pyrene trans-9,10-dihydrodiol Benzo[a]pyrene-1,6-quinone Benzo[a]pyrene-3,6-quinone Benzo[a]pyrene-6,12-quinone 3-Hydroxybenzo[a]pyrene 9-Hydroxybenzo[a]pyrene 7b,8a,9a,10b-tetrahydrobenzo[a]pyrene, 7b,8a,9a,10b-tetrahydroxy-7,8,9,10-tetrahydrobenzo[a]pyrene, Benzo[a]pyrene 7,8-dihydrodiol-9,10-epoxide, Glucuronide and Sulfate conjugates of hydroxylated intermediates	(Cerniglia et al., 1980a, 1980b; Cerniglia and Gibson, 1979, 1980a, 1980b; Haemmerli et al., 1986; Launen et al., 1995)
Chrysene	<i>Cunninghamella elegans</i> , <i>Penicillium janthinellum</i> , <i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i>	(Kiehlmann et al., 1996; Pothuluri et al., 1995)	2-Chrysenyl sulfate 2-Hydroxy-8-chrysenylsulfate Chrysene trans-1,2-dihydrodiol	(Kiehlmann et al., 1996; Pothuluri et al., 1995)
Benzo[e]pyrene	<i>Cunninghamella elegans</i>	(Pothuluri et al., 1996)	3-Benzo[e]pyrenyl sulfate 10-Hydroxy-3-benzo[e]pyrenyl sulfate Benzo[e]pyrene-3-0-b-glucopyranoside	(Pothuluri et al., 1996)

PROOF

## 2. Different species of fungus enzyme-degrading PAHs

207  
208

209 Since the effectiveness of bioremediation depends on the  
210 selection of species with matching properties, a vast range of  
211 fungi have been investigated for their capability to metabolize  
212 PAHs up to six rings and the metabolite secretion is strain-  
213 dependent. In fact, as reported by Pothuluri et al. (1992a, 1992b),  
214 *Cunninghamella elegans* degraded acenaphthene to its correspond-  
215 ing metabolites: 1-acenaphthenone, 1,2-acenaphthenedione, cis-  
216 1,2-dihydroxyacenaphthene, trans-1,2-dihydroxyacenaphthene,  
217 1,5-dihydroxyacenaphthene, 6-hydroxyacenaphthenone, also  
218 anthracene is degraded to anthracene trans-1,2-dihydrodiol  
219 1-anthrol, 9,10-anthraquinone, phthalate, glucuronide, sulfate  
220 and xyloside conjugates of hydroxylated intermediates using  
221 the strains: *Bjerkandera* sp., *C. elegans*, *Naematoloma frowardii*,  
222 *P. chrysosporium*, *Phanerochaete laevis*, *P. ostreatus*, *Pleurotus*  
223 *sajor-caju*, *Ramaria* sp., *Rhizoctonia solani*, *T. versicolor* (Cerniglia,  
224 1982; Cerniglia and Yang, 1984; Bezalel et al., 1996a, 1996b,  
225 1996c; Johannes and Majcherczyk, 2000) (Table 2).

Q18 Recently, Jové et al. (2016) have conducted a comparative  
227 study on degradation efficiency of anthracene by three  
228 ligninolytic white-rot fungi (*P. chrysosporium*, *Irpex lacteus* and  
229 *P. ostreatus*) and three non-ligninolytic fungi, and have shown  
230 that *P. chrysosporium* exhibited higher degradation efficiency of  
231 40% compared to 38% with *I. lacteus* and less than 30% of  
232 anthracene removal with *P. ostreatus*. Balaji et al. (2014) studied  
233 the capability of different fungal strains to secrete extracellular  
234 enzymes, such as lipase, laccase, peroxidase and protease,  
235 PAHs contaminated soil solution was used as the unique carbon  
236 source. The best lipase production was observed in *Penicillium*  
237 *chrysogenum* (112 U/mL), followed by *Lasiodiplodia theobromae*  
238 VBE1 (100 U/mL). However, *Colletotrichum gleosporioides* was  
239 unable to produce lipase enzyme during PAHs degradation,  
240 because of the toxic impact of PAHs in contaminated soil.  
241 The best laccase production was observed in *P. chrysogenum*  
242 (79 U/mL) and *Aspergillus fumigatus* (73 U/mL), while moderate  
243 peroxidase activity (52 U/mL) was noticed in *Mucor racemose*  
244 and *Rhizopus stolonifer*. Similar results were reported by  
245 Venkatesagowda et al. (2012) and Thiyagarajan et al. (2008)  
246 with a highest lipase production of 108 U/mL observed by  
247 *L. theobromae* and peroxidase production of 516 U/mL observed  
248 by *Coprinus* sp. The studies of Balaji and Ebenezer (2008) and  
249 Banu and Muthumary (2005) revealed highest lipase production  
250 by *C. gleosporioides* in solid-state fermentation. Lee et al. (2014)  
251 investigated the efficiency of 150 taxonomically and physiologi-  
252 cally diverse white rot fungi in a variety of biotechnological  
253 procedures, such as dye decolorization which corresponds to the  
254 beginning of lignin metabolism and is considered as a prediction  
255 of its capability to remove recalcitrant organopollutants, such as

Q19 PAHs (Antonella Anastasi, 2009; Barrasa et al., 2009), gallic  
257 acid reaction which can be carried out to rank the fungi by their  
258 capability to degrade the PAHs, ligninolytic enzymes, and  
259 tolerance to four different PAHs: phenanthrene, anthracene,  
260 fluoranthene, and pyrene. All the fungi in this study produced  
261 three ligninolytic enzymes, LiP, MnP, and laccase. Nevertheless,  
262 since the ligninolytic enzyme activities of the fungi were  
263 analyzed in a nitrogen-limited condition, higher enzyme activity  
264 did not correlate with higher efficiency in the dye decolorization

and gallic acid tests. Moreover, marine-derived fungi such as  
265 *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Mucor* sp., *Aspergillus* sp. AS 58, *Pichia*  
266 *guilliermondii* M-30, *Aspergillus niger* etc. can be considered as a  
267 source of enzymes of environmental interest. Bonugli-Santos et  
268 al. (2015) have reported that these strains produce hydrolytic and/  
269 or oxidative enzymes, such as alginate, lyase, amylase, cellulase,  
270 chitinase, glucosidase, inulinase, keratinase, ligninase, lipase,  
271 nuclease, phytase, protease, and xylanase. These enzymes have  
272 an optimal temperature from 35 to 70°C, and an optimal pH from  
273 3.0 to 11.0. For marine-derived fungal strains, salinity has to be  
274 taken into account in screening and production. 275

Almost all the fungi produce LiP, MnP and laccase but at  
276 different rates under the same culture conditions. As a result, the  
277 efficiency of enzymatic bioremediation is strongly dependent on  
278 the type of the fungal strain. Among all these studied fungi  
279 displaying lignolytic activity, the white rot fungi *P. chrysosporium*,  
280 *P. ostreatus* and *Bjerkandera adusta* have been intensively studied  
281 and have shown higher potential to metabolize PAHs (Haritash  
282 and Kaushik, 2009). 283

### 2.1. *P. chrysosporium*

284

The potential of *P. chrysosporium* fungi for use in PAHs bioreme-  
285 diation was first reported by Bumpus et al. (1985) who stated that  
286 this white-rot basidiomycete partly degraded benzo[a]pyrene to  
287 carbon dioxide. Accordingly, several studies have been carried  
288 out to degrade PAHs by *P. chrysosporium* under ligninolytic,  
289 nutrient-sufficient, or other induced culture conditions by the  
290 ligninolytic extracellular enzymes or intracellular catabolism  
291 (Syed and Yadav, 2012; Gu et al., 2015) Besides, *P. chrysosporium*  
292 was reported to be a potent candidate for PAHs degradation due  
293 to its special physiological characteristics and active adsorption  
294 sites. In fact, *P. chrysosporium* can adsorb PAHs compound in its  
295 mycelial pellets owing to its abundant conjugated structures  
296 (C=C and aromatic components), numerous chemical groups  
297 (-OH, -COO-, O=C=O, -NH<sub>2</sub>, CO-NH) and high carbon  
298 content (Gu et al., 2015). In fact, the capability to degrade PAH  
299 was attributed to the generation of an extracellular lignin  
300 degrading enzyme (ligninase) throughout secondary metabo-  
301 lism (Sanglard et al., 1986). Studies on xenobiotic degradation by  
302 *P. chrysosporium* implied a non-specific battery of enzymes  
303 produced by this fungus that degrades the lignin polymer as the  
304 main agent in pollutant metabolism. The key enzymatic  
305 constituents of the ligninolytic system of *P. chrysosporium* are  
306 thought to be lignin peroxidase (LiP) and manganese peroxidase  
307 (MnP) (Bogan and Lamar, 1995). LiPs are ideal candidates to be  
308 the catalysts of preliminary PAH oxidation in *P. chrysosporium*,  
309 and for anthracene, which is a LiP substrate (Hammel et al.,  
310 1992). Nevertheless, many of the organopollutants degraded  
311 by *P. chrysosporium* are not LiP substrates. As an example,  
312 phenanthrene was initially found not to be a LiP substrate  
313 (Hammel et al., 1986), but later was claimed to undergo  
314 degradation in nutrient limited *P. chrysosporium* cultures  
315 (Bumpus, 1989). *P. chrysosporium* strains are also able to degrade  
316 a large variety of PAHs even under nitrogen limiting conditions  
317 (Andreoni et al., 2004; Bumpus et al., 1985). Bumpus (1989) Q20  
318 demonstrated that *P. chrysosporium* is able to cleave 70 to 100%  
319 of at least 22 PAHs by substrate disappearance. Most of  
320 them profuse in anthracene oil within a period of 27 days of  
321 incubation with nitrogen-limited cultures of the fungus. 322

323 Actually, the radiolabeled carbon of [<sup>14</sup>C]phenanthrene, which  
 324 was the prevalent compound of this mixture, was oxidized  
 325 to <sup>14</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>. Moreover, HPLC experiments and mass balance  
 326 analysis revealed the conversion of [<sup>14</sup>C]phenanthrene to more  
 327 polar and water-soluble metabolites. These results were  
 328 corroborated by other researchers who have shown that  
 329 besides [<sup>14</sup>C]phenanthrene degradation, this fungus is able  
 330 to oxidize [<sup>14</sup>C]2-methylnaphthalene, [<sup>14</sup>C]biphenyl, and  
 331 [<sup>14</sup>C]benzo[a]pyrene to <sup>14</sup>CO<sub>2</sub> (Sanglard et al., 1986). Lee et al.  
 332 (2010) demonstrated the potential of two strains of *Phanerochaete*  
 333 *sordida* (KUC8369, KUC8370) among seventy-nine screened white  
 334 rot strains to degrade considerably higher amount of phenan-  
 335 threne and fluoranthene than the strains of *P. chrysosporium* and  
 336 have also proven that the strain KUC8369 was the best degrader  
 337 of fluoranthene despite the fact that it produced lower MnP than  
 338 *P. chrysosporium*. Phenanthrene metabolism in ligninolytic  
 339 *P. chrysosporium* was different from the pathway of most bacteria.  
 340 The PAH was cleaved between positions 3 and 4, and also  
 341 differed from the process in non-ligninolytic fungi and other  
 342 eukaryotes, unable to cause PAH ring fission. In fact, the  
 343 ligninolytic fungus, *P. chrysosporium*, oxidizes phenanthrene at  
 344 its C-9 and C10 position to give 2,2'-diphenic acid as a ring  
 345 cleavage product. On the other hand, the major site of enzymatic  
 346 attack by most bacteria is at the C-3 and C-4 position of  
 347 phenanthrene. Also, *P. chrysosporium*, under non-ligninolytic  
 348 conditions, metabolizes phenanthrene to phenols and trans-  
 349 dihydrodiols. This observation proves that several enzymatic  
 350 mechanisms may occur in *P. chrysosporium* for the initial oxidative  
 351 attack on PAHs (Cerniglia and Yang, 1984).

352 The potential of *P. chrysosporium* in PAHs degradation is  
 353 regarded to their extracellular enzymes. Therefore LiP and MnP.  
 354 LiPs are ideal candidates to be the catalysts of preliminary PAH  
 355 oxidation in *P. chrysosporium*. Nevertheless, it is suggested that  
 356 other LiP-independent mechanisms need to exist for the initial  
 357 oxidation of PAHs which are not lignin peroxidase substrates.  
 358 Also, different pathways for PAHs degradation by *P. chrysosporium*  
 359 can be considered.

## 360 2.2. *P. ostreatus*

361 *P. ostreatus*, considered as white-rot fungi has been well  
 362 documented for its capacity to degrade PAHs (Bezalel et al.,  
 363 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, 1997; Tortella et al., 2015). Bezalel et al.  
 364 (1996a, 1996b, 1996c) reported that the white rot fungi, *P. ostreatus*  
 365 cleaves a wide variety of PAHs, including phenanthrene, with  
 366 small correlation between PAH degradation and extracellular  
 367 laccase, manganese peroxidase, or manganese-independent  
 368 peroxidase activities. The same authors demonstrated in a  
 369 subsequent study that *P. ostreatus* is able to metabolize phenan-  
 370 threne to phenanthrene trans-9,10-dihydrodiol and 2,2'-diphenic  
 371 acid as well as mineralizing it to CO<sub>2</sub>. The formation of  
 372 phenanthrene trans-9R,10R-dihydrodiol, in which only one  
 373 atom of oxygen originated from molecular oxygen, this indicates  
 374 that *P. ostreatus* initially oxidizes phenanthrene stereoselectively,  
 375 via a cytochrome P-450 monooxygenase and an epoxide  
 376 hydrolase rather than a dioxygenase intervenes to form the  
 377 dihydrodiol (Bezalel et al., 1997). Schützendübel et al. (1999)  
 378 studied the degradation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons  
 379 (PAHs) with *P. ostreatus* in liquid cultures for the duration of  
 380 7 weeks. It removed 43% and 60% of fluorene and anthracene

381 after only 3 days of incubation. Phenanthrene, fluoranthene and  
 382 pyrene were degraded uniformly during the 7 weeks but to  
 383 a lower level than fluorene and anthracene, and their degrada-  
 384 tion rate reached a maximum of 15%. The removal of  
 385 anthracene at a different rate than fluorene implies the  
 386 synchronized existence of a minimum of two different degra-  
 387 dation pathways. In this study, an addition of milled wood to  
 388 the culture increased the secretion of MnP and laccase, but no  
 389 increase in the degradation of PAHs was recorded. Possibly, for  
 390 MnP, this can be due to the lack of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> during the secretion  
 391 time which would inhibit the oxidation process (Field et al.,  
 392 1992). The same reason could explain the clear correlation  
 393 between the degradation of PAHs and laccase activity since  
 394 there is a limitation of co-substrates for the oxidation mediated  
 395 by this enzyme.

## 396 2.3. *B. adusta*

397 Other than *P. ostreatus*, Schützendübel et al. (1999) investigat-  
 398 ed the degradation of phenanthrene, fluoranthene, pyrene,  
 399 fluorene and anthracene with *B. adusta* in the same culture  
 400 conditions. This fungus degraded 56% and 38% of fluorene  
 401 and anthracene, while other PAHs were removed uniformly  
 402 but to a lower rate. LiP and MnP activity was not detected  
 403 during this oxidation and the ending quinones resulting from  
 404 this oxidation were not observed as final products (Field et  
 405 al., 1992). These results suggest a new pathway than the  
 406 typical extracellular ones, as described for the removal of  
 407 phenanthrene by *P. chrysosporium* (Sutherland et al., 1991)  
 408 and *P. ostreatus* (Bezalel et al., 1996a), and the higher oxidative  
 409 potential produced in latter phase by these enzymes can  
 410 increase PAHs degradation.

411 Another study by Wang et al. (2002) investigated the  
 412 usefulness of a chemically modified manganese peroxidase  
 413 with cyanuric chloride-activated methoxypolyethylene glycol,  
 414 produced by *B. adusta*. The modified and native enzymes  
 415 demonstrated identical catalytic properties in the oxidation of  
 416 Mn(II) and other substrates including veratryl alcohol, guaiacol,  
 417 2,6-dimethoxyphenol, and 2,2-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzthiazoline-  
 418 6-sulfonate). However, the modified enzyme exhibited higher  
 419 level of resistance to denaturation by hydrogen peroxide and  
 420 stability to organic solvents such as N,N-dimethylformamide,  
 421 acetonitrile, methanol, ethanol and tetrahydrofuran. Likewise,  
 422 the modified enzyme demonstrated better stability to higher  
 423 temperatures and lower pH than the native enzyme. The same  
 424 author showed in later study that the oxidation rate of PAHs,  
 425 such as anthracene, pyrene, benzo[a]pyrene and PAHs with  
 426 ionization potentials of 7.43 eV or lower, decreased in the  
 427 presence of manganous ions in the purified manganese-lignin  
 428 peroxidase (MnLiP) hybrid isoenzyme from *B. adusta*. Therefore,  
 429 chemical modification of manganese peroxidase from *B. adusta*  
 430 improved its effectiveness.

## 432 3. Culture conditions

433 Natural resources polluted with PAHs usually raise their  
 434 mutagenic and carcinogenic impact in fresh-water, marine-  
 435 water and terrestrial species. This leads to unfavorable condi-  
 436 tions for growth of even indigenous microorganisms. To

437 overcome this limitation and obtain the highest enzyme  
438 production, culture conditions and inducers should be opti-  
439 mized (Balaji et al., 2014). Generally, microorganisms require  
440 suitable growth conditions (e.g., carbon source, nutrients,  
441 temperature, pH, redox potential and oxygen content which,  
442 strongly affect their growth (Adams et al., 2015). White rot fungi,  
443 in turn, appear to act because of their ability to penetrate  
444 contaminated soils with their hyphae and the production of  
445 extracellular oxidases (Wang et al., 2009).

446 Hadibarata and Kristanti (2014) reached higher rates of  
447 degradation of n-eicosane by adding glucose as a carbon  
448 source for *Trichoderma* S019 strain. In this regard, the  
449 incubation time was found to be critical parameter influenc-  
450 ing the degradation rate, for instance, Zafra et al. (2015b) have  
451 found that *Trichoderma asperellum* could degrade 74% of  
452 phenanthrene, 63% of pyrene, and 81% of benzo[a]pyrene  
453 after 14 days of incubation at concentration of 1000 mg/kg.  
454 Moreover, *Peniophora incarnata* KUC8836 was able to degrade  
455 up to 95.3% of phenanthrene and 97.9% of pyrene after  
456 2 weeks of incubation (Lee et al., 2014) and showed higher  
457 degradation rate of creosote at higher concentration of  
458 229.49 mg/kg (Lee et al., 2015a, 2015b). Furthermore, the  
459 concentration of the contaminant represents a key point  
460 which influenced the degradation of PHAs. Zafra et al. (2015a)  
461 have shown that the concentration of contaminant had a  
462 selective pressure on hydrocarbon-degrading organisms, and  
463 higher PAHs is a growth-limiting for microorganisms which  
464 developed a response against PAHs regarding cell membrane  
465 structure, mycelia pigmentation, and sporulation alterations.  
466 Likewise, the growth of fungi is inhibited in highly contam-  
467 inated soils and overall remediation by fungi is extremely  
468 slow, needing many days or even more than a month as  
469 reported by Drevinskas et al. (2016). In this sense Balaji et al.  
470 (2014) also tested different carbon sources for lipase produc-  
471 tion by *P. chrysogenum* and *L. theobromae* and cellulose in  
472 *M. racemosus* and sucrose induced the highest activity in these  
473 species. Similarly, nitrogen sources have to be taken into  
474 account, yeast extract was found to be the best inducer of  
475 maximum lipase production in the mentioned strains.  
476 Dharmstithi and Kuhasuntisuk (1998) also demonstrated  
477 that yeast extract, as a supplemental source increased lipase  
478 production by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* LP602 in lipid-rich  
479 wastewater treatment. Moreover, Mineki et al. (2015) investi-  
480 gated the degradation of PAHs with *Trichoderma/Hypocrea*  
481 genus which used pyrene as sole source of carbon, and  
482 found that the growth of the strain and pyrene-degrading  
483 activity was enhanced to 27% and 24–25% compared with the  
484 control after incubation for 7 and 14 days, respectively, by  
485 adding 0.02% yeast extract, 0.1% sucrose, or 0.1% lactose.  
486 Garapati and Mishra (2012) also reported the relevance of  
487 nutrients in biodegradation of hydrocarbon by a fungal strain  
488 Ligninolytic enzymes can be regulated by aromatic com-  
489 pounds, such as different dyes and PAHs, that way fungi can  
490 use these aromatic compounds as unique source of carbon  
491 (Yang et al., 2011). In fact, it is unwise to test ligninolytic  
492 enzyme activity when screening species with highest PAH  
493 removal in the absence of substrate as the use of xenobiotic as  
494 substrates can induce the enzyme activity (Lee et al., 2014).  
495 This technique is attainable for fungal species that produce  
496 ligninolytic enzymes with higher efficiency, such as *B. adusta*

KUC9107 and *Skeletocutis perennis* KUC8514 for LiP production; 497  
*Phanerochaete velutina* KUC8366 and *Phanerochaete* sp. KUC9015 498  
for MnP production; and *Cerrena consors* KUC8416 and 8421 for 499  
laccase production (Moreira et al., 2006). Hofrichter et al. (1998), 500  
found that a wide spectrum of aromatic compounds was in part 501  
mineralized by the manganese peroxidase (MnP) system of the 502  
white rot fungus *N. frowardii* and that mineralization was 503  
enhanced by peptide glutathione GSH (a natural peptide pro- 504  
duced by eukaryotic cells which protects cells against reactive 505  
oxygen species and free radicals) and depended on the ratio of 506  
MnP activity to concentration of GSH. 507

This suggests that carbon and nitrogen are essential for 508  
enzyme activity and consequently affects PAHs degradation. 509  
Furthermore, PAHs themselves can be used as a substrate and 510  
at the same time, as a nutrient source for enzymes inducing 511  
their activity reducing costs of culturing. 512

Simultaneously, the effect of different surfactants can affect 513  
PAHs removal. Balaji et al. (2014) showed that lipase production 514  
was maximized with Triton X-100 boosting activities to 68 U/mL 515  
in *P. chrysogenum*, 72 U/mL in *M. racemosus* and 62 U/mL in 516  
*L. theobromae* VBE1. Also, Gopinath et al. (2013) highlighted 517  
the relevance of surfactant in lipase production and its numerous 518  
applications. The highest lipase activity by *Metarhizium anisopliae*, 519  
occurs when Tween 80 and SDS were applied (Ali et al., 2009). Q22  
Likewise, Chen et al. (2006) investigated the effect of surfactants 521  
on PAHs degradation by white rot fungi in soil water system, 522  
and found that Triton X-100 and SDS restrained the removal of 523  
PAHs. Moreover, biosurfactants enhance the removal of PAHs 524  
(Arun et al., 2008). Thus, using surfactants is generally effective Q23  
for the biodegradation process, but previous testing is needed to 526  
prevent the inhibition in some cases. 527

Different temperatures were detected for optimal enzymes 528  
activity. Most of the enzymes have highest activity at mesophilic 529  
temperatures and it declines with very high and reduced 530  
temperatures. Several enzymes are claimed to be active even at 531  
extreme temperatures. At a temperature of 5°C, only the laccase 532  
activity is detected. The optimum temperature for laccase 533  
activity is 45°C, but it declines to 30% at 5°C, and 31% at 75°C. 534  
However, the activity of Mn-dependent peroxidase was higher 535  
even at 75°C (Haritash and Kaushik, 2009). Farnet et al. (2000) 536  
have shown that the activity of fungus, *Marasmius quercophilus* 537  
laccase was the highest at 80°C. 538

The extracellular enzyme release and polycyclic aromatic 539  
hydrocarbons (PAHs) removal in agitated and shallow stationary 540  
liquid cultures of *P. chrysosporium* requires the addition of two 541  
inducers of lignin peroxidase (LiP) and manganese peroxidase 542  
(MnP), veratryl alcohol and Tween-80, respectively (Ding et al., 543  
2008). However, if shallow stationary cultures are used, they also 544  
produce enzyme since it increased the contacting area between 545  
cells and oxygen without shear stress, while agitated cultures 546  
increased biodegradation rate by aiding interphase mass transfer 547  
of PAHs into aqueous phase. Simultaneously, they are recognized 548  
as inhibitors to the production of ligninolytic enzymes due to 549  
shear stress on mycelia. The use of a LiP stimulator, veratryl 550  
alcohol, did not increase PAH degradation but considerably 551  
improved LiP activity. In contrast, Tween-80 enhanced MnP 552  
secretion and PAH degradation in shallow stationary cultures. On 553  
the other side, high PAH degradation was noticed in agitated 554  
cultures in the absence of apparent LiP and MnP activities. 555  
Same results were proved by Schützendübel et al. (1999), who 556



mentioned that degradation of fluorene, anthracene, phenanthrene, fluoranthene and pyrene are not associated with the production of extracellular enzymes by *P. ostreatus* and *B. adusta*. Similar results were described by Bezalel et al. (1996a) and Verdin et al. (2004) who found degradation of PAH in fungal cultures in the absence of LiP and MnP activities. Mohammadi et al. (2009) have also tested the effect of the incubation mode on anthracene biodegradation and it was revealed that the culture agitation clearly increased the biodegradation capacity of bagasse immobilized fungal cells despite the repressive effect of culture agitation on the ligninase activity.

All these outcomes indicated that extracellular peroxidase activities are not directly associated with the PAH degradation, and the increased solubility may be essential in the enhancement of PAH degradation rather than enzyme activity and hence suggested the possibility of producing other oxidative and hydrolytic enzymes that were not analyzed but could probably have degraded PAHs. Another suggestion is the PAHs degrading role of intracellular enzymes, such as tyrosinases and dioxygenases secreted into the culture filtrate by different fungi (Milstein et al., 1983).

Enzyme immobilization allows an alternative procedure that enables an increase in the steady state of enzymes and significant environmental tolerance. Immobilized enzyme, which can be established by several methods, such as adsorption, entrapment, and covalent bonding based on chemical/physical mechanisms, has enhanced activity and stability. The immobilized enzyme can withstand a wider range of temperatures and pH, as well as significant substrate concentration changes; this makes the complex much more resistant to severe environments (Dodor et al., 2004). This results in a longer lifetime and higher productivity per active unit of enzyme. Immobilization enables the enzyme to be recycled, and such an approach is much better suited for hydrophobic PAHs-contaminated soil bioremediation (Chang et al., 2015).

#### 4. Ionization potential

Bogan and Lamar (1995) defined the behavior of intact fungus and the MnP-based lipid peroxidation system with respect to a larger variety of creosote PAHs. The disappearance of three- to six-ring creosote PAH components from intact fungal cultures and throughout lipid peroxidation *in vitro* was reported. In each of these cases, the approach is shown to be mainly dependent on IP, indicating that the contribution of one or more than one electron oxidants is included over the entire range of PAHs tested. One-electron oxidation of PAHs occurs by peroxidases (IP  $\leq$  7.35 eV), Mn dependent peroxidase (IP  $\leq$  8.19 eV), ligninase (IP  $\leq$  7.55 eV) and laccase (IP  $\leq$  7.45 eV) (Cavaliere et al., 1983). The IP values, referring to the energy needed to eliminate an electron and to form a cation radical are 8.12 for naphthalene, 8.03 for phenanthrene, 7.21 for benzo(a)pyrene, and 7.31 for benzo(g,h,i)perylene (Table 1) (Cavaliere et al., 1983). PAHs like benz[a]anthracene, pyrene, and anthracene, that have ionization potential  $<$ 7.35 eV, are LiP substrates, whereas PAHs, such as phenanthrene and benzo[e]pyrene that have ionization potentials  $>$ 7.35 eV, cannot be LiP substrates. The products of the enzymatic oxidation are PAH quinones. For example, benzo[a]pyrene is oxidized to its 1,6-, 3,6-, and 6,12-quinones,

pyrene to its 1,6- and 1,8-quinones, and anthracene to 9,10-anthraquinone (Hammel, 1995). Vyas et al. (1994) has suggested that *P. ostreatus* and *T. versicolor* produce enzyme(s) other than lignin peroxidase capable of oxidizing compounds with higher ionization potential, such as anthracene.

#### 5. Kinetics

The characteristics of the soil determine the diversity and activity of its microflora which is responsible for the degradation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and any other compound. In addition, soil characteristics influence the strength of interactions between the PAHs and individual soil compounds. Cutright (1995) indicated that *Cunninghamella echinulata* var. *elegans* efficiently degrades PAHs in the presence of these nutrients while any other indigenous microorganisms are not. Moreover, for a first-order reaction system, the rate of change in contaminant concentration is proportional to the contaminant concentration in the soil and time prediction tool in degradation depends on the microorganism, the contaminant type and its concentration.

The prediction of time for bioremediation of polluted soil is based mostly on the microorganisms, pollutant type and its concentration. Furthermore, the improvement of more appropriate kinetic model needs the monitoring of biomass, respiration studies, and investigation of interactions of different organisms. Although bioremediation has a larger rate of success than synthetic methods, still the kinetics is not completely understood, and the kinetics becomes more challenging when fungi are applied for bioremediation (Haritash and Kaushik, 2009). As described previously, the different enzymes involved in fungal degradation have maximum activity at different temperatures and some of them are active even at extreme temperatures. Therefore, monitoring the kinetics for various fungal strains is complicated, but most of them have good degradation capacities in a mesophilic range. The degradation rate can be improved by pretreatment at a high temperature which results in volatilization and decrease in the soil-water partition coefficient, as a result dissolution of pollutants increases the degradation rate.

#### 6. Soil and liquid cultures

Most research studies on the extracellular enzyme activity produced by fungi have primarily been focusing on experiments in liquid culture (Ruiz-Dueñas et al., 1999; Kwang Ho Lee, 2004; Eibes et al., 2006a; Rodrigues et al., 2008; Mäkelä et al., 2009; Dashtban et al., 2010). Nevertheless, some interest has been given to the changes of the enzymes produced by fungal strains during PAHs degradation in different soil types (Wang et al., 2009). When fungi get into non-sterile soil, they must compete with indigenous soil microbes for nutrients and the mycelia of the fungi may be affected. As a consequence, the production of enzymes may be influenced by more complicated elements (McErlean et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2014a).

Boyle et al. (1998) showed that white rot fungi growing in soil presented low amounts of degraded polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), even though they did degrade some other organopollutants. Nevertheless, in liquid culture, they

671 degraded several PAHs. The latter interpretation was supported  
 672 by Novotný et al. (2004b) who have demonstrated that the  
 673 importance of higher fungal enzyme levels for effective  
 674 degradation of recalcitrant compounds was better revealed in  
 675 liquid media in comparison to the same strains growing in soil.  
 676 Liquid culture reports have documented the degradation and/or  
 677 mineralization of an extensive range of PAHs with phenan-  
 678 threne, fluorene, benzofluorene, anthracene, fluoranthene,  
 679 pyrene, benz[a]anthracene, and benzo[a]pyrene, among them  
 680 (Bogan and Lamar, 1995).

681 PAHs existing in soil are largely differentiated because of  
 682 the higher heterogeneity of the soil structure (Li et al., 2007).  
 683 Furthermore, the forms of the sorbed contaminants in soils  
 684 are an essential element that affects the degradation (Yang  
 685 et al., 2009). A significant spectrum of PAHs is biodegradable in  
 686 aqueous culture but they are not biodegradable in soil. This  
 687 fraction is classified as persistent residue with highly reduced  
 688 bioavailability (Cornelissen et al., 2005).

689 PAH molecules can be divided into three categories consid-  
 690 ering the desorption and bioavailability: easily desorbing and  
 691 available fraction; the hardly desorbing and available fraction;  
 692 and the irreversible and completely unavailable fraction (Li  
 693 et al., 2007). Therefore, at the beginning of degradation, PAHs  
 694 are quickly desorbed, and the desorption could possibly not  
 695 present a limitation for biodegradation. The sorbed forms  
 696 or the bioavailability of a contaminant are controlled by the  
 697 characteristics of the contaminant and the soil, along with the

698 contact time between the contaminant and the soil (Wang et al.,  
 699 2014b).

700 Wang et al. (2009) observed a degradation of phenanthrene,  
 701 pyrene and benzo[a]pyrene in soils by *P. chrysosporium*. The  
 702 highest activity of LiP and MnP reached 1.92 U/g. Their high  
 703 molecular size with higher ring number, reduced aqueous  
 704 solubility and large octanol/water partition coefficient ( $K_{ow}$ ) of  
 705 these compounds, makes them firmly combined and entrapped  
 706 in soil micropores or soil organic matter (SOM) matrix. This  
 707 results in the limitation on their biodegradability by enzymes.  
 708 Huesemann et al. (2003) confirmed that the low rates of PAH  
 709 biodegradation were due to their low bioavailability in soil and  
 710 low mass transfer rate of hydrophobic organic contaminants to  
 711 the aqueous phase rather than deficiency in microorganisms  
 712 degrading them. Furthermore Wang et al. (2009) also demon-  
 713 strated that the degradation of pyrene by *P. chrysosporium*  
 714 decreased with increasing SOM content, confirming that the  
 715 SOM content can negatively affect the bioavailability of PAHs  
 716 (Gill and Arora, 2003). While the maximum of LiP and MnP  
 717 activities increased.

718 Also sorption of contaminants makes them less bioavailable  
 719 with elevated contact time (aging) in the soil (Antizar-Ladislao et  
 720 al., 2006; Li et al., 2008). The decrease in bioavailability induced  
 721 by aging fluctuates with the contaminants and soils and the  
 722 mechanisms are still to be investigated in deep (Northcott and  
 723 Jones, 2001; Nam and Kim, 2002; Watanabe et al., 2005). Some  
 724 studies suggested that the contaminants are slowly transported

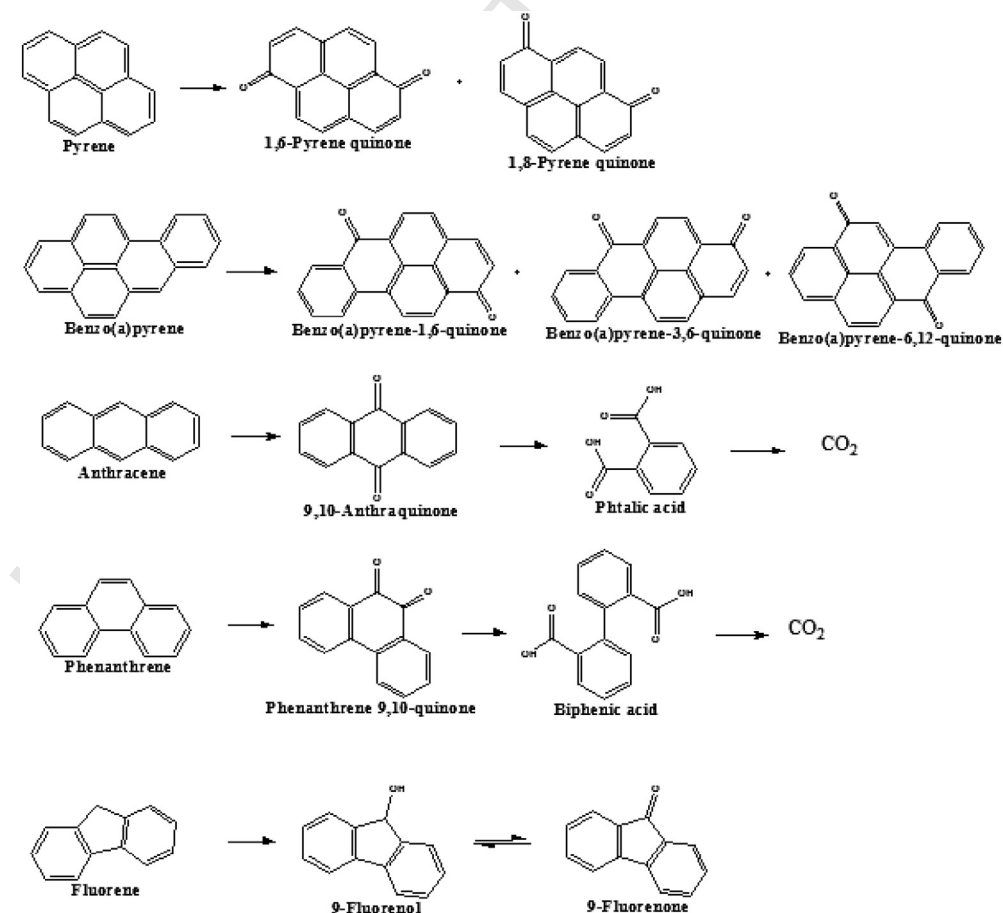


Fig. 1 – Oxidation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons by ligninolytic fungi.

725 from easily desorbing and bioavailable sites to hardly desorbing  
726 and less bioavailable sites where they accumulate throughout  
727 aging, and even to irreversible and non-bioavailable sites, which  
728 leads to reduced decontamination rates (Northcott and Jones,  
729 2001; Sun et al., 2008).

730 Furthermore, sterilization of the soil is typically employed  
731 when investigating biodegradation in laboratory experiments  
732 to ensure that the degradation capability is high. This  
733 situation is not applied in bioremediation field. Few studies  
734 have described the effects of soil sterilization on the bioavail-  
735 ability of sorbed contaminants and changes in SOM (Northcott  
736 Q26 and Jones, 2001; Nam et al., 2003; Kelsey et al., 2010). Wang  
737 et al. (2014a, 2014b) observed that sterilization increased the  
738 degradation of pyrene because of the removal of competition  
739 from indigenous microbes.

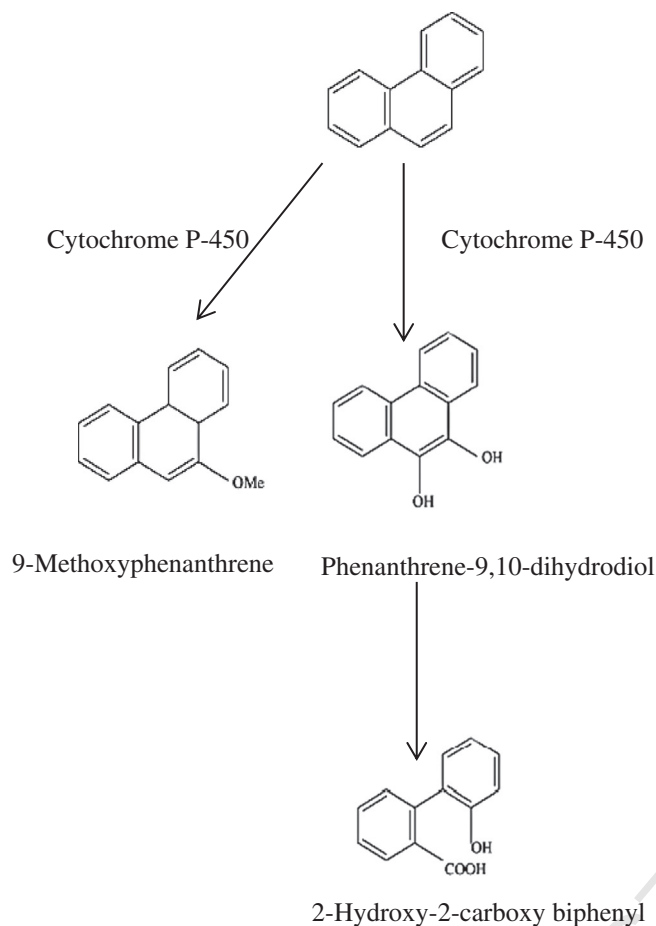
## 740 7. Degradation pathways

742 An understanding of the process for PAHs degradation in  
743 fungal strains would be a crucial step in the clarification of the  
744 enzymatic mechanisms. Ligninolytic enzymes undergo a one  
745 electron radical oxidation, producing aryl cation radicals from  
746 contaminants followed by generation of quinones (Vyas et al.,  
747 1994; Cerniglia, 1997a). As an example, the intact culture of  
748 *P. chrysosporium* degraded anthracene to anthraquinone  
749 (Hammel et al., 1991). Anthraquinone was further degraded  
750 to phthalic acid and carbon dioxide. Purified forms of lignin  
751 peroxidase and manganese peroxidase likewise were able to  
752 oxidize anthracene, pyrene, fluorene and benzo[a]pyrene to  
753 the corresponding quinones (Haemmerli et al., 1986; Hammel  
754 et al., 1986; Hammel et al., 1991; Hammel, 1992; Bogan and  
755 Lamar, 1996) (Fig. 1).

756 Also, the crude and the purified ligninase of *P. chrysosporium*  
757 oxidize the benzo(a)pyrene into three soluble organic com-  
758 pounds, which are benzo(a)pyrene 1,6-, 3,6-, and 6,12-quinones  
759 (Haemmerli et al., 1986). These facts support the suggestion  
760 that lignin-degrading enzymes were peroxidases, mediating  
761 oxidation of aromatic compounds through aryl cation radicals.  
762 The ligninase which was unstable in the presence of hydrogen  
763 peroxide could be stabilized by inclusion of veratryl alcohol to  
764 the reaction mixture. The oxidation of benzo(a)pyrene was  
765 stimulated by this alcohol. Likewise, Hammel et al. (1986)  
766 studied the oxidation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and  
767 dibenzo[p]-dioxins and found that the lignin peroxidase  
768 (ligninase) of *P. chrysosporium* catalyze the oxidation of a wide  
769 range of lignin-related compounds. Tests with pyrene as the  
770 substrate revealed that pyrene-1,6-dione and pyrene-1,8-dione  
771 are the main oxidation products (84% of total as determined  
772 by high performance liquid chromatography), and gas chromatog-  
773 raphy/mass spectrometry analysis of ligninase-catalyzed pyrene  
774 oxidations executed in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O revealed that quinone  
775 oxygens occur from water. Whole cultures of *P. chrysosporium*  
776 oxidized pyrene to these quinones in transient step. Experiments  
777 with dibenzo[p]dioxin and 2-chlorodibenzo[p]dioxin revealed  
778 that they are also substrates for ligninase. The immediate  
779 product of dibenzo[p]dioxin oxidation was the dibenzo[p]dioxin  
780 cation radical, which was noticed in enzymatic reactions by its  
781 electron spin resonance and apparent absorption spectra. The  
782 cation radical mechanism of ligninase thus was applied besides

lignin, to other environmentally important aromatics. Hammel 783  
(1992) also studied the oxidation pathway of phenanthrene and 784  
phenanthrene-9,10-quinone (PQ) by the ligninolytic fungus, 785  
*P. chrysosporium* at their C-9 and C-10 positions to result in a 786  
ring-fission product, 2,2'-diphenic acid (DPA), which was 787  
identified in chromatographic and isotope dilution experi- 788  
ments. DPA formation from phenanthrene was relatively 789  
higher in reduced nitrogen (ligninolytic) cultures than in 790  
high-nitrogen (non-ligninolytic) cultures and was not present 791  
in uninoculated cultures. The oxidation of PQ to DPA included 792  
both fungal and abiotic process, and was not affected by the 793  
amount of nitrogen added, and cleaved rapidly than phenan- 794  
threne to DPA. Phenanthrene-trans-9,10-dihydrodiol, which 795  
was earlier shown to be the major phenanthrene metabolite in 796  
non-ligninolytic *P. chrysosporium* cultures, was not formed in 797  
the ligninolytic cultures. Therefore, phenanthrene degradation 798  
by ligninolytic *P. chrysosporium* proceeded in sequence from 799  
phenanthrene to PQ and then to DPA, involving both 800  
ligninolytic and non-ligninolytic enzymes, and is not initiated 801  
by a common microsomal cytochrome P-450. The extracellular 802  
lignin peroxidases of *P. chrysosporium* were not able to oxidize 803  
phenanthrene *in vitro* and consequently were also less likely to 804  
catalyze the first step of phenanthrene degradation *in vivo*. Both 805  
phenanthrene and PQ were mineralized to identical range 806  
by the fungus, which supported the intermediacy of PQ in 807  
phenanthrene degradation, but both compounds were miner- 808  
alized considerably less than the structurally associated lignin 809  
peroxidase substrate pyrene. Hammel et al. (1991) reported that 810  
*Phanerochaete* was generally different from the bacteria, which 811  
proceeded through AC cis-1,2-dihydrodiol instead of AQ 812  
and has been suggested to yield salicylate rather than phthalate 813  
as a monocyclic cleavage product. The formation of quinone 814  
to prepare the aromatic ring for cleavage is an uncommon 815  
biodegradation approach and was showed to be of general 816  
significance in *P. chrysosporium*. LiPs have also been involved in 817  
the degradation of polychlorinated phenols by this organism. 818  
The monooxygenase system of cytochrome P-450 producing 819  
epoxides can also be included in degradation of PAHs. The 820  
epoxides can be rearranged into hydroxyl derivatives or can be 821  
hydrolyzed to vicinal dihydrodiols. Ligninolytic fungus, *I. lacteus* 822  
degraded anthracene and phenanthrene and the main degra- 823  
dation products were anthraquinone and phenanthrene-9,10- 824  
dihydrodiol, respectively as shown in Fig. 2. The study 825  
also suggested the degradation pathway of anthracene and 826  
phenanthrene (Cajthaml et al., 2002). Thus, several systems are 827  
involved in the degradation of PAHs with fungal enzymes 828  
including intracellular cytochrome P450 and extracellular lignin 829  
peroxidase, manganese peroxidase and laccase (Fig. 3). 830

The biodegradation of PAHs was studied under aerobic and 831  
anaerobic conditions. Fungal strains were grown on PAHs 832  
under static aerobic conditions for 6 and 10 days. The highest 833  
degradation of naphthalene (69%) was performed by a strain 834  
that had MnP activity, followed by strain that showed lignin 835  
peroxidase and laccase activities. Likewise, it was found that 836  
highest degradation of phenanthrene (12%) was observed 837  
with the strain that contained MnP and laccase activities 838  
(Clemente et al., 2001). Soil fungi *Aspergillus* sp., *Trichocladium* 839  
*canadense*, and *Fusarium oxysporum* degrade polycyclic aromatic 840  
hydrocarbons low-molecular-weight PAHs (2-3 rings) and 841  
produce ligninolytic enzymes also under microaerobic and 842



**Fig. 2 – Degradation pathway of phenanthrene using the fungus, *Irpex lacteus*. (Modified from Cajthaml et al., 2002).**

843 highly reduced oxygen conditions, but ligninolytic enzyme  
844 activities can vary among fungi and PAHs. Under microaerobic  
845 conditions, the 3 species demonstrated at least one of the

846 assayed ligninolytic activities (LiP, MnP, laccase). In contrast,  
847 under very-low-oxygen conditions, ligninolytic enzyme activity  
848 was frequently not observed (Silva et al., 2009).

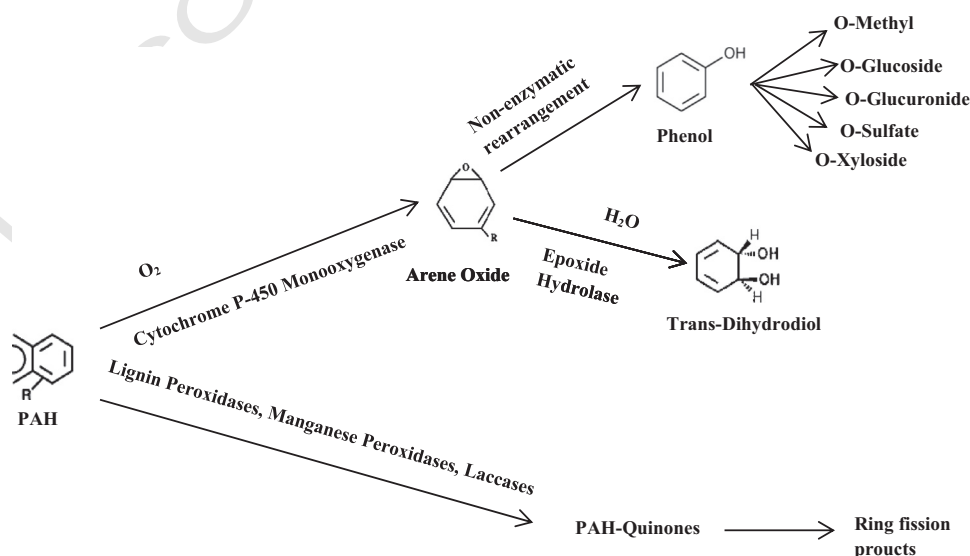
849 Marco-Urrea et al. (2015), described the biodegradation  
850 pathways of PAHs using non-ligninolytic fungi. These  
851 non-ligninolytic strains showed a particular type of resistance  
852 to different amounts of PAHs. The most common mechanism of  
853 PAHs transformation is the intracellular accumulation followed  
854 by the degradation, akin to benzo[a]pyrene degradation using  
855 intracellular enzymes of the strain *Fusarium solani* (Fayeulle et al.,  
856 2014). Likewise, extracellular enzymes, such as laccase, can also  
857 be produced by some of these non-ligninolytic fungi. But  
858 they are not as effective as intracellular enzymes degrading  
859 PAHs. The phase I of degradation pathway includes the  
860 formation of oxidized metabolites, such as hydroxyl-,  
861 dihydroxy-, dihydrodiol- and quinone-derivatives followed by  
862 the phase II which includes the conjugation with sulfate-,  
863 methyl-, glucose-, xylose- or glucuronic acid groups. These  
864 metabolites are less harmful than the original PAHs (Cerniglia  
865 and Sutherland, 2010).

## 8. Mechanism of degradation with enzymes

### 8.1. Characteristics of ligninolytic enzymes

#### 8.1.1. Characteristics of peroxidases

869 A couple of extracellular oxidative enzymes are responsible for  
870 lignin degradation: peroxidases and laccases (phenol oxidases).  
871 Both peroxidases were initially found in *P. chrysosporium* (Tien  
872 and Kirk, 1983). A number of other fungi also possess these  
873 enzymes, while others have either one or the other (Mester and  
874 Tien, 2000). In the majority of species, peroxidases are generally  
875 recognized to be families of isozymes occurring as extracellular  
876 glycosylated proteins which may enhance their stability  
877 (Thurston, 1994). The ratio between the isozymes varies with  
878 the culture age and the culture conditions (Leisola et al., 1987;  
879 Bogan and Lamar, 1995). They need hydrogen peroxide to 880



**Fig. 3 – Different pathways for the fungal metabolism of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.**

881 oxidize lignin and lignin-related compounds. Their molecular  
882 weights and isoelectric points range from 35 to 47 kDa and 2.8 to  
883 5.4 kDa, respectively (Leisola et al., 1987; Bogan and Lamar,  
884 1995; Johansson et al., 2002). The peroxidases are single heme-  
885 containing enzymes (protoporphyrin IX) so that the absorption  
886 spectrum of the native enzyme has a very particular absorbance  
887 maximum at 406–409 nm (Ten Have and Teunissen, 2001). The  
888 peroxidases are divided into two different types depending on  
889 their different substrate spectra: manganese peroxidase (MnP),  
890 for which Mn(II) is best reducing substrate and the lignin  
891 peroxidase (LiP). LiP oxidizes non-phenolic and phenolic  
892 aromatic compounds (Ten Have and Teunissen, 2001).

### 893 8.1.2. Characteristics of laccase

894 Laccase belongs to the copper oxidase family that is able to  
895 catalyze the oxidation of phenols, polyphenols and anilines,  
896 which are largely dispersed in higher plants, fungi and  
897 bacteria (Tavares et al., 2006). The enzyme is typically larger  
898 than peroxidases, having a molecular weight around and  
899 above 60 kD and have acidic isoelectric points (Ten Have and  
900 Teunissen, 2001). As with other extracellular enzymes,  
901 laccases are glycosylated. As an alternative to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, laccases  
902 use dioxygen as an oxidant, reducing it by four electrons to  
903 water. These types of enzymes have four copper per enzyme,  
904 that represents three different types, and consequently, every  
905 type has a different role in the oxidation of laccase substrates  
906 (Messerschmidt and Huber, 1990). The type 1 copper is  
907 suggested to be included in the reaction with the substrates.  
908 It has an absorption maximum at the wavelength of 610 nm  
909 which gives the enzyme the typical blue color. The type 2  
910 copper and the two type 3 coppers cluster in a triangular form  
911 which is involved in the binding and in the reduction of O<sub>2</sub> as  
912 well as the storage of electrons coming from the reducing  
913 substrates. The type 2 copper does not present visible  
914 absorbance, while the type 3 coppers have an absorption  
915 maximum at 330 nm (Mester and Tien, 2000; Ten Have and  
916 Teunissen, 2001). It was demonstrated that, in the presence of  
917 suitable mediators, laccase is capable to oxidize a consider-  
918 ably larger range of compounds, such as PAHs (Peng et al.,  
919 2015).

### 920 8.1.3. Mediators of laccase

921 Laccase has been well studied for its capacity to oxidize PAHs,  
922 xenobiotic and phenolic lignin model compounds (Majcherczyk  
923 et al., 1998; Peng et al., 2015). Earlier, its application was limited  
924 because of the low oxidation potential, thus, in the presence of  
925 an appropriate mediator, laccases show higher oxidation  
926 capability resulting in numerous biotechnological applications  
927 involving oxidation of non-phenolic lignin compounds and  
928 detoxification of various environmental pollutants (Upadhyay  
929 et al., 2016; Khambhaty et al., 2015). Recently, laccase has found  
930 applications in other sectors, such as in the design of biosensors  
931 and nanotechnology (Li et al., 2014; Upadhyay et al., 2016).  
932 Besides, they are used in the decolorization and detoxification  
933 of industrial effluents and the treatment of wastewater  
934 (Viswanath et al., 2014; Chandra and Chowdhary, 2015). These  
935 mediators include 1-hydrobenzotriazole (1-HBT) (Majcherczyk  
936 et al., 1998a), 2,2'-azino-bis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic  
937 acid) (ABTS) (Bourbonnais et al., 1997), and violuric acid  
938 (Xu et al., 2000), but also natural mediators have been

939 explored, such as phenol, aniline, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, 939  
4-hydroxybenzyl alcohol (Johannes and Majcherczyk, 2000), 940  
3-hydroxyanthranilate (Eggert et al., 1996). These natural 941  
mediators were as effective as the synthetic compounds 942  
(Johannes and Majcherczyk, 2000). Other natural compounds 943  
including cysteine, methionine, and reduced glutathione, 944  
containing sulfhydryl groups, were also efficient as mediator 945  
compounds (Johannes and Majcherczyk, 2000). 946

947 Many reports have studied the oxidation of PAH by purified 947  
fungal laccases (Table 3). LACs of *T. versicolor*, *C. hirsutus*, 948  
*P. ostreatus*, and *Corioliopsis gallica* were the most studied. 949

950 For example, *T. versicolor* LAC, in combination with HBT, was 950  
capable to oxidize two PAHs, acenaphthene and acenaphthyl- 951  
ene; ABTS did not clearly affect the oxidation rate. LAC without 952  
mediator oxidized about 35% of the acenaphthene and only 953  
3% of acenaphthylene. The principal products obtained after 954  
incubation were 1,2-acenaphthenedione and 1,8-naphthalic 955  
acid anhydride (Johannes et al., 1998). The purified LAC of 956  
*T. versicolor* did not transform PHE. The supplementation of a 957  
redox mediator, ABTS or HBT, to the reaction mixture improved 958  
the degradation of PHE by LAC about 40% and 30%, respectively 959  
(Han et al., 2004). LAC produced by *C. hirsutus* catalyzed The 960  
oxidation of five PAHs: FLA, PYR, ANT, B[a]P, and PHE in 961  
the presence of the redox mediators ABTS and HBT. B[α]P was 962  
the most effectively oxidized substrate. In the system mediated 963  
by ABTS, while ANT was the most effectively oxidized substrate 964  
in the one mediated by HBT. There was no clear correlation 965  
between the IP and the oxidation of the substrates. The rate of 966  
oxidation by LAC of *C. hirsutus* varied from 10.9 to 97.2% 967  
depending on the PAHs examined. The oxidation of FLA and 968  
PYR by *C. hirsutus* LAC was effective and ranged from 37.9 to 969  
92.7%. PYR which is one of the least oxidizable PAHs was still 970  
oxidized until 40% in the presence of all the mediators. 971

972 LAC from *T. versicolor* catalyzed the *in vitro* oxidation of 972  
ANT and B[a]P which have IPs  $\leq 7.45$  eV. The presence of ABTS 973  
improves the oxidation of ANT while it is crucial for the 974  
oxidation of B[a]P. Anthraquinone was recognized as the 975  
major end product of ANT oxidation (Sutherland et al., 1991). 976  
Consequently, the PAH-oxidizing abilities of LAC differ, 977  
depending on the fungal species from which it was produced 978  
(Cho et al., 2002). 979

980 ANT was entirely degraded by the LAC of *Ganoderma* 980  
*lucidum* fungus in the absence of a redox mediator. At the 981  
same time and in the presence of the mediator, this same LAC 982  
degraded B[a]P, FLU, acenaphthene, acenaphthylene, and B[a]A 983  
at a rate ranging from 85.3% to 100% (Pozdnyakova, 2012; 984  
Pozdnyakova et al., 2006a, 2006b). 985

986 The degradation of B[a]P by purified LAC of *Pycnoporus* 986  
*cinnabarinus* was investigated. The reaction required the pres- 987  
ence of the exogenous ABTS as a mediator. Almost all of the 988  
substrate (95%) was transformed within 24 hr. The enzyme 989  
principally oxidized the substrate to benzo[a]pyrene-1,6-, 3,6- 990  
and 6,12-quinones (Rama et al., 1998). 991

992 The effect of different mediators on LAC action was 992  
investigated by Pickard et al. (1999). Different PAHs were 993  
oxidized by *C. gallica* LAC such as B[a]P, 9-methylanthracene, 994  
2-methylanthracene, ANT, biphenylene, acenaphthene, and 995  
PHE. 9-methylanthracene was the most rapidly oxidized 996  
substrate. There was no apparent correlation between the 997  
ionization potential of the substrate and the first-order rate 998

**Table 3 – Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons oxidation by different enzymes.**

Enzymes	Microorganisms	PAHs	Products	References
LiP	<i>P. chrysosporium</i>	B[a]P	B[a]P-1,6-Quinone B[a]P-3,6-Quinone B[a]P-6,12-Quinone	(Haemmerli et al., 1986; Torres et al., 1997)
		ANT	9,10-Anthraquinone	(Field et al., 1996; Torres et al., 1997; Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		PYR	PYR-1,6-dione; PYR-1,8-dione	(Hammel et al., 1986; Torres et al., 1997; Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		FLA	ND	(Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		1-Methylanthracene	1-Methylanthraquinone	(Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		2-Methylanthracene	2-Methylanthraquinone	(Torres et al., 1997; Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		9-Methylanthracene	9-Anthraquinone; 9-methyleneanthranone; 9-Methanol-9,10-dihydroanthracene	(Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		Acenaphthene	1-Acenaphthenone; 1-acenaphthenol	(Torres et al., 1997; Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		Dibenzothiophene	Dibenzothiophene sulfoxide	(Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994)
		MnP	<i>Anthracoxyllum discolor</i>	PYR; ANT; FLA; PHE
<i>I. lacteus</i>	PHE; ANT; FLA; PYR ANT		9,10-Anthraquinone Anthrone; 9,10-anthraquinone; 2-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-benzoic acid; phthalic acid	(Baborová et al., 2006) (Eibes et al., 2006; Field et al., 1996; Hammel et al., 1991; Moen and Hammel, 1994)
<i>P. chrysosporium</i>	FLU PHE		9-Fluorenone PHE-9,10-quinone; 2,2-diphenic acid	(Bogan et al., 1996a, 1996b) (Moen and Hammel, 1994)
Q8	<i>Nematoloma frowardii</i> ( <i>Phlebia</i> sp.)	dibenzothiophene PHE; ANT; PYR; FLA; CHR; B[a]A; B[a]P; benzo[b]fluoranthene	4-Methoxybenzoic acid CO <sub>2</sub> from PHE; ANT; PYR; B[a]A; B[a]P	(Eibes et al., 2006) (Sack et al., 1997c; Thomas Günther, 1998)
	<i>Stropharia coronilla</i>	ANT; B[a]P	9,10-Anthraquinone; CO <sub>2</sub> ; B[a]P-1,6-quinone	(Steffen et al., 2002, 2003)
	LAC	<i>C. hirsutus</i> <i>Coriolopsis gallica</i>	ANT; PHE; PYR; FLA; B[a]P B[a]P; ANT; PHE; FLU; 9-Methylanthracene; 2-Methylanthracene; Acenaphthene; carbazole; N-ethylcarbazole; Dibenzothiophene	ND 9-Fluorenone; dibenzothiophene sulfone
Q9	<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>	ANT; FLU; B[a]A; B[a]P; Acenaphthene; Acenaphthylene	ND	(Hunsa Punnapayak, 2009)
	<i>P. ostreatus</i>	ANT; PHE; FLU; PYR; FLA; perylene	9,10-Anthraquinone; 9-fluorenone	(Pozdnyakova et al., 2006a, 2006b)
	<i>Pycnoporus cinnabarinus</i>	B[a]P	B[a]P-1,6-quinone; B[a]P-3,6-quinone; B[a]P-6,12-quinone	(Rama et al., 1998)
T. versicolor		Acenaphthene; PHE; ANT; Acenaphthylene, B[a]P; ANT; FLA; PYR; B[a]A; CHR; perylene; benzo[b]fluoranthene; benzo[k]fluoranthene; FLU	1,2-Acenaphthenedione 1,8-Naphthalic acid anhydride; 9,10-Anthraquinone; PHE-9,10-quinone, 2,2-Diphenic acid; B[a]P-1,6-quinone; B[a]P-3,6-quinone; B[a]P-6,12-quinone	(Binková and Šrám, 2004; Böhmer et al., 1998; Cañas et al., 2007; Collins et al., 1996; Johannes et al., 1998; Johannes and Majcherczyk, 2000; Majcherczyk et al., 1998)

t3.6  
t3.7

Q7

Q8

Q9

constant for substrate degradation *in vitro* by adding ABTS. The effects of mediating substrates were studied furthermore by applying ANT as a substrate. A synergistic effect of HBT and ABTS was detected. In fact, HBT supported approximately one-half ANT oxidation rate that ABTS supported, whereas HBT with ABTS enhanced the oxidation rate nine-fold, compared with the oxidation rate supported by only ABTS (Pickard et al., 1999).

The white-rot fungi generate yellow form of LAC during solid-state fermentation of a substrate containing natural lignin. The active center of this enzyme is transformed by the products of lignin degradation. Consequently, LAC becomes capable to catalyze the oxidation of nonphenolic compounds in the absence of mediators (Pozdnyakova et al., 2006a). The rate of degradation using the yellow LAC produced by *P. ostreatus* was also detected. The naphthalene derivatives  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -naphthols,  $\alpha$ -nitroso- $\beta$ -naphthol,  $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\beta$ -naphthoic acid, and  $\alpha$ -naphthylamine were all appropriate LAC substrates despite yellow LAC did not catalyze the degradation of the two-ring PAH naphthalene. Yellow LAC oxidized all the PAHs of three to five rings such as ANT, PYR, FLU, FLA, PHE, and perylene, with rates of degradation ranging from 40% to 100%. The efficiencies were greater than that observed for a blue LAC from the same fungus without and with ABTS and HBT mediators. The same product of ANT oxidation and several unknown products of FLU oxidation were noticed in solutions of various solvents (Pozdnyakova, 2012; Pozdnyakova et al., 2006a, 2006b).

## 8.2. Catalytic cycle of peroxidases

LiP and MnP have a common catalytic cycle, as also observed for other peroxidases (Ten Have and Teunissen, 2001). One molecule of  $H_2O_2$  oxidizes the native enzyme by withdrawing two electrons, creating compound I. The latter could be reduced back to two single-electron oxidation steps to the native form through an intermediate compound II. In the case of LiP, reduction of compound II is the rate-limiting step in the catalytic cycle. For this reason, this compound is regarded to be less effective than LiP compound I. As the reduction of compound II is relatively slow, it is available for longer time for a reaction with  $H_2O_2$  resulting in inactive enzyme, identified as compound III which is characterized to be a complex between LiP and superoxide (Cai and Tien, 1992). Other fungal enzymes could provide the needed hydrogen peroxide for peroxidase activity. As part of their ligninolytic system, white-rot fungi produce  $H_2O_2$ -generating oxidases (Kirk and Farrell, 1987), such as glucose oxidases, glyoxal oxidase, and aryl alcohol oxidase. White-rot fungi that lack  $H_2O_2$ -generating oxidases depend on the oxidation of physiological organic acids, such as oxalate and glyoxylate which indirectly results in  $H_2O_2$  (Ten Have and Teunissen, 2001). Also, the reduction of quinones to their equivalent hydroquinones and the subsequent autoxidation or enzymatically catalyzed oxidation may generate  $H_2O_2$  due to the involvement and reduction of  $O_2$  (Muñoz et al., 1997).

### 8.2.1. MnP

MnP is distinct from the other peroxidases due to the framework of its binding site. MnP oxidizes  $Mn^{2+}$  to  $Mn^{3+}$ , which cannot be substituted by other metals at physiological concentrations (Glenn et al., 1986). At the time of the

discovery of MnP, it was revealed that a number of aliphatic organic acids including lactate and oxalate induced  $Mn^{2+}$  oxidation rate (Glenn et al., 1986; Matsubara et al., 1996). These organic acids, e.g., oxalate and to a lower degree malonate and glyoxylate were demonstrated to be produced as de novo metabolites by white-rot fungi (Dutton and Evans, 1996). These acids are able to chelate  $Mn^{3+}$  resulting in a comparatively stable complex. The complexed  $Mn^{3+}$  can then oxidize phenolic lignin model compounds and many phenols via phenoxy radical configuration (Jensen et al., 1994). Beside phenolic structures, the MnP system has also been observed to oxidize nonphenolic lignin model compounds (Hofrichter et al., 1998).

PAH degradation studies revealed that MnP from *I. lacteus* was capable to effectively degrade three- and four-ring PAHs, including phenanthrene, anthracene and fluoranthene. MnP produced by *Anthracophyllum discolor*, degraded pyrene (>86%) and anthracene (>65%) alone or in mixture, and also degraded fluoranthene and phenanthrene but less effectively (<15.2% and <8.6%, respectively) (Acevedo et al., 2011). MnP-catalyzed oxidation of PAHs resulted in respective quinones. Anthrone, which is an expected intermediate was formed during the degradation of anthracene by MnP, and it was followed by the production of 9,10-anthraquinone. Anthraquinone has earlier been revealed as the typical oxidation product in *in vitro* reactions of peroxidases. More oxidation resulted in the production of phthalic acid, as it was shown in ligninolytic cultures of *P. chrysosporium* (Hammel et al., 1991). The characteristic ring-cleavage product 2-(2-hydroxybenzoyl)-benzoic acid shows that MnP is capable to cleave even the aromatic ring of a PAH molecule. One single report was found suggesting that MnP does not oxidize anthracene in the presence of  $Mn^{2+}$  (Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994).

Since the high hydrophobicity of PAHs significantly inhibits their degradation in liquid media, MnP degraded anthracene, dibenzothiophene, and pyrene in the presence of acetone (36% V/V), which is a miscible organic solvent. Anthracene was degraded to phthalic acid and had the highest degradation rate, followed by dibenzothiophene and then pyrene (Eibes et al., 2006b).

Degradation of PAHs by crude MnP produced by *N. frowardii* was experimented on separate PAHs: PHE, ANT, PYR, FLA, and B[a]A and then on a mixture of different PAHs: PHE, ANT, PYR, FLA, CHR, B[a]A, B[a]P, and benzo[b]fluoranthene. The oxidation of PAHs was enhanced in the presence of glutathione which is a mediator substance capable to generate reactive thyl radicals. Products of glutathione-mediated MnP mineralization were: 14C-PYR (7.3%), 14C-ANT (4.7%), 14C-B[a]P (4.0%), 14C-B[a]A (2.9%), and 14C-PHE (2.5%) (Sack et al., 1997c). The induction effect of reduced glutathione (GSH) was also investigated by Thomas Günther (1998) and showed an increase of the oxidative strength of MnP. As a consequence anthracene was fully reduced and 60% of pyrene was degraded after only 24 hr.

Therefore, alternative redox mediators, increasing the oxidative effect of MnP have been investigated. MnP was capable to oxidize FLU which has a high IP value (8.2 eV) and creosote which is a complex PAHs mixture in the presence of Tween-80. Also, Tween-80 enable MnP produced by *Stropharia coronilla* to oxidize a large amount of B[a]P into polar fragments (Steffen et al., 2003).

## 1116 8.2.2. LiP

1117 LiP is able to oxidize several phenolic and non-phenolic  
1118 substrates with calculated ionization potential, a measure for  
1119 the ease to abstract an electron from the highest filled molecular  
1120 orbital, up to 9.0 eV (Ten Have and Teunissen, 2001). LiP has  
1121 been revealed to entirely oxidize methylated lignin and lignin  
1122 model compounds as well as several polyaromatic hydrocar-  
1123 bons (Hammel et al., 1992). Among the oxidation reactions  
1124 catalyzed by LiP are the cleavage of C $\alpha$ -C $\beta$  and aryl C $\alpha$  bond,  
1125 aromatic ring opening, and demethylation (Kaal et al., 1995).  
1126 One secondary metabolite, veratryl alcohol (VA), has been the  
1127 focus of many studies. VA is a rich substrate for LiP and  
1128 increases the oxidation of otherwise weak or terminal LiP  
1129 substrates (Ollikka et al., 1993). Three main roles of VA have  
1130 been recommended so far. As defined earlier, VA could behave  
1131 as a mediator in electron-transfer reactions. Secondly, VA is a  
1132 good substrate for compound II; for that reason, VA is important  
1133 for completing the catalytic cycle of LiP through the oxidation of  
1134 terminal substrates. Thirdly, VA prevents the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-dependent  
1135 inactivation of LiP by reducing compound II back to native LiP. In  
1136 addition, if the inactive LiP compound III is established, the  
1137 intermediate VA<sup>+</sup> is able to reduce LiP compound III back to its  
1138 native form (Ten Have and Teunissen, 2001).

1139 Purified LiP from *P. chrysosporium* had been shown to attack  
1140 B[a]P using one-electron abstractions, causing unstable B[a]P  
1141 radicals which undergo further spontaneous reactions to hy-  
1142 droxylated metabolites and many B[a]P quinones (Haemmerli  
1143 et al., 1986). benzo[a]pyrene-1,6-, 3,6-, and 6,12-quinones were  
1144 detected as the products of B[a]P oxidation by *P. chrysosporium*  
1145 LiP. At the same time with the appearance of oxidation  
1146 products, LiP was inactivated. Similar to all peroxidases, LiP is  
1147 inhibited by the presence of hydrogen peroxide (Valderrama et  
1148 al., 2002); the addition of VA to the reaction mixture could  
1149 stabilize the enzyme. The oxidation rate is ameliorated more  
1150 than 14 times in the presence of VA, and the most of  
1151 the enzyme activity was retained during the B[a]P oxidation  
1152 (Haemmerli et al., 1986).

1153 Most of reports on the oxidation of PAHs with LiP concen-  
1154 trated on LiP from *P. chrysosporium* as shown in Table 3.  
1155 Anthraquinone is the major product of anthracene oxidation  
1156 by LiP produced by *P. chrysosporium* (Field et al., 1996). Hammel  
1157 et al. (1986) demonstrated that LiP produced by *P. chrysosporium*  
1158 catalyzes the degradation of certain PAHs with IP < 7.55 eV. As  
1159 a consequence, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-oxidized states of LiP are more oxidizing  
1160 than the analogous states of standard peroxidases.

1161 Studies on pyrene as a substrate showed that pyrene-  
1162 1,6-dione and pyrene-1,8-dione are the principle oxidation  
1163 products. Gas chromatography/mass spectrometry analysis of  
1164 LiP-catalyzed pyrene oxidation done in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>  
1165 revealed that the quinone oxygens come from water. The  
1166 one-electron oxidative mechanism of LiP is relevant to lignin  
1167 and lignin-related substructures as well as certain polycyclic  
1168 aromatic and heteroaromatic contaminants. The oxidation of  
1169 pyrene by entire cultures of *P. chrysosporium* also generated these  
1170 quinones. As a result, it can be concluded that LiP catalyzes the  
1171 first step in the degradation of these compounds by entire  
1172 cultures of *P. chrysosporium* (Hammel et al., 1986).

1173 Vazquez-Duhalt et al. (1994) utilized LiP from *P.*  
1174 *chrysosporium* to investigate the oxidation of anthracene, 1-,  
1175 2-, and 9- methylanthracenes, acenaphthene, fluoranthene,

pyrene, carbazole, and dibenzothiophene. Among the stud- 1176  
ied compounds, LiP was able to oxidize compounds with 1177  
IP < 8 eV. The greatest specific activity of PAHs oxidation was 1178  
shown when pHs are between 3.5 and 4.0. The reaction 1179  
products involve hydroxyl and keto groups. The product of 1180  
anthracene oxidation was 9,10-anthraquinone. The products 1181  
of LiP oxidation of 1- and 2-methylanthracene were 1- and 1182  
2-methylanthraquinone, respectively. 1183

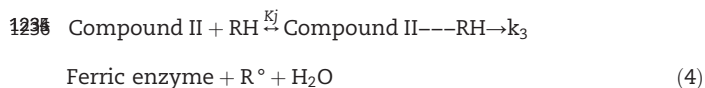
The 9,10-anthraquinone, 9-methyleneanthranone, and 1184  
9-methanol-9,10-dihydroanthracene were the products detected 1185  
by from the oxidation of 9-methylanthracene (Vazquez-Duhalt 1186  
et al., 1994). Anthraquinone resulting from carbon-carbon bond 1187  
cleavage of 9-methylanthracene, was also observed. The mass 1188  
spectra of the two products resulting from acenaphthene 1189  
correspond to 1-acenaphthenone and 1-acenaphthenol. 1190  
The comparison of the GC-mass spectrometry analysis of 1191  
dibenzothiophene oxidation by LiP with a sample of authen- 1192  
tic dibenzothiophene sulfoxide resulted in sulfoxide. The UV 1193  
spectrum of the product of pyrene oxidation most closely 1194  
fitted that of 1,8-pyrenedione. In spite fluoranthene and 1195  
carbazole were oxidized, their products were not established 1196  
(Vazquez-Duhalt et al., 1994). 1197

Torres et al. (1997) studied LiP, cytochrome c, and hemoglobin 1198  
for oxidation of PAHs in the presence of hydrogen peroxide and 1199  
demonstrated that LiP oxidized anthracene, 2-methylanthracene, 1200  
9-hexylanthracene, pyrene, acenaphthene, and benzo[a]pyrene; 1201  
the unreacted compounds included chrysene, phenanthrene, 1202  
naphthalene, triphenylene, biphenyl, and dibenzofuran. The 1203  
oxidation of the aromatic compounds by LiP matched with their 1204  
IPs; only those compounds that had IPs < 8 eV were trans- 1205  
formed. The reaction products from the three hemoproteins 1206  
(LiP, cytochrome c, and hemoglobin) were principally quinones, 1207  
which suggest that the three biocatalysts have the same 1208  
oxidation mechanism. The resulting product from anthracene 1209  
was anthraquinone, and the resulting product from 2- 1210  
methylanthracene was 2-methylanthraquinone. The ending 1211  
products for pyrene and benzo[a]pyrene oxidation were 1212  
pyrenedione and benzo[a]pyrenedione, respectively. The mass 1213  
spectra results of the products from acenaphthene degradation 1214  
catalyzed by LiP correlated well with 1-acenaphthenone and 1215  
1-acenaphthenol (Torres et al., 1997). 1216

Experiments on the catalytic properties of ligninolytic en- 1217  
zymes demonstrate that degradation by LiP is restricted to certain 1218  
range of compounds according to their IP values. Furthermore, 1219  
the catalytic activities of MnP and LAC are extended to the 1220  
following factors (a) the presence of some natural and synthetic 1221  
mediators such as ABTS for LAC and glutathione for MnP and 1222  
LAC; (b) the modification of the active center of LAC during 1223  
fermentation of a fungi on lignin-containing natural substrates; 1224  
(c) the combination of PAH oxidation with lipid peroxidation 1225  
(MnP and LAC). Therefore, MnP and LAC can be considered as 1226  
the most effective in PAH oxidation since their role extends to 1227  
the initial oxidation and production of quinones (Pozdnyakova, 1228  
2012). 1229







1240 RH represents the reducing substrate and R<sup>°</sup> represents the  
1242 reducing substrate after one electron oxidation.

### 1243 8.2.3. Catalytic cycle of laccase

1244 Laccases are known to catalyze the oxidation of a significant  
1245 variety of phenolic compounds and aromatic amines (Peng  
1246 et al., 2015). When certain substrates can potentially provide  
1247 two electrons such as ABTS, laccases carry out one-electron  
1248 oxidation. As a result, radicals are produced which undergo  
1249 subsequent non-enzymatic reactions as seen in Eq. (6).



1250 Hundreds of studies have been done on the characteristics of  
1253 fungal laccases. And most of the research has been investigating  
1254 tree laccases or other copper-containing oxidases (Tollin et al.,  
1255 1993).

1256 Even though, the redox potential of laccases (0.5–0.8 V) does  
1257 not favor the oxidation of non-phenolic compounds, numerous  
1258 studies have demonstrated that laccases are capable of oxidizing  
1259 compounds which have redox potentials higher than that of  
1260 the enzyme. In these studies, ABTS, 1-hydroxybenzotriazole  
1261 (HOBT) or 3-hydroxyanthranilate were applied as a cooxidant/  
1262 mediator, and non-phenolic lignin, veratryl alcohol, and PAH  
1263 were oxidized (Collins and Dobson, 1996; Eggert et al., 1996;  
1264 Bourbonnais et al., 1997; Majcherczyk et al., 1998a). The enzyme  
1265 kinetic background of these reactions is still not identified.

## 1266 9. Conclusions

1268 Enzymatic bioremediation is the tool to convert PAHs to less  
1269 harmful/non-harmful forms with less chemicals, energy, and  
1270 time. It is a solution to degrade/remove contaminants in an  
1271 eco-friendly way. From the early to the current research, vast  
1272 range of fungi have proved their efficiency in the bioremediation  
1273 of PAH-contaminated wastes through enzymes, such  
1274 as MnP, LiP, laccase and other fungal enzymes, such as  
1275 Cytochrome P450 monooxygenase, epoxide hydrolases, lipases,  
1276 protease and dioxygenases.

1277 The enzymatic bioremediation of a pollutant and the rate at  
1278 which it is reached relies upon the environmental conditions,  
1279 number and type of the microorganisms, characteristics of the  
1280 chemical compound to degrade. Hence, to improve the degradation  
1281 rate and develop a bioremediation system, various  
1282 factors are accountable which need to be dealt with and are to  
1283 be investigated, such as pretreatment at high temperature.

1284 Powerful and cost-effective bioremediation should involve  
1285 either entire mineralization of the PAHs or at minimum  
1286 biotransformation to less harmful compounds. Generally,  
1287 fungal rates of degradation of PAHs are slow and inefficient  
1288 compared to bacteria; however, since numerous fungi have the  
1289 ability to hydroxylate a wide variety of PAHs, their ecological

1290 role could be significant since these polar intermediates can  
1291 be mineralized by soil bacteria or detoxified to simpler non-  
1292 hazardous compounds. Additionally, fungi have an advantage  
1293 over bacteria since the fungal mycelium could grow into the soil  
1294 and spread itself through the solid matrix to degrade the PAHs.  
1295 To improve and empower biodegradative potential of fungi,  
1296 substantial research on the enzymes included in PAH degradation  
1297 pathways and on the molecular genetics and biochemistry  
1298 of catabolic pathways is required.

## Uncited reference

Clar and Schoental, 1964 1301

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