
Contents

Foreword – Donn J. Kushner and His Contributions to the Study of Halophilism	1
MORRIS KATES	
Introductory Chapter: Half a Lifetime in Soda Lakes	17
WILLIAM D. GRANT	
1 Trophic Ecology of Solar Salterns	33
CARLOS PEDRÓS-ALIÓ	
1.1 Introduction	33
1.2 Descriptive Biological Studies of Salterns	34
1.2.1 From Seawater to the Halite Domain	34
1.2.2 Beyond the Halite Domain	36
1.3 Quantitative Biological Studies in Salterns	37
1.3.1 Systems Considered	37
1.3.2 Phytoplankton and Primary Production	38
1.3.3 Heterotrophic Prokaryotic Plankton and Its Activity	39
1.3.4 Grazing on Phytoplankton	42
1.3.5 Grazing on Heterotrophic Prokaryotic Plankton	44
1.3.6 Viruses	44
1.4 Salterns as Model Systems	45
References	46
2 Microbial Molecular and Physiological Diversity in Hypersaline Environments	49
CAROL D. LITCHFIELD	
2.1 Introduction	49
2.2 Physiological/Metabolic Diversity	49

2.2.1	Lipid Analyses	49
2.2.2	Radiolabelled Substrates	51
2.2.2.1	¹⁴ C-Labelled Substrate Studies	51
2.2.2.2	Tritiated Thymidine and Leucine Studies	52
2.2.3	Whole Community Metabolic Analyses	53
2.2.4	Stable Carbon Isotope Studies	54
2.3	Molecular Diversity	54
2.3.1	16S rDNA Investigations	55
2.3.1.1	Solar Salterns	55
2.3.1.2	Other Hypersaline Waters	57
2.4	Conclusions	58
	References	59
3	Red, Extremely Halophilic, but not Archaeal: The Physiology and Ecology of <i>Salinibacter ruber</i>, a Bacterium Isolated from Saltern Crystallizer Ponds	63
	AHARON OREN, FRANCISCO RODRÍGUEZ-VALERA, JOSEFA ANTÓN, SUSANA BENLLOCH, RAMON ROSSELLÓ-MORA, RUDOLF AMANN, JULIE COLEMAN, NICHOLAS J. RUSSELL	
3.1	Introduction	63
3.2	Occurrence of Halophilic Bacteria in Spanish Saltern Crystallizer Ponds	65
3.3	Isolation and Characterization of <i>Salinibacter ruber</i> from Saltern Brines	66
3.4	Comparison of 16S rRNA Sequences from <i>Salinibacter</i> Cultures and Environmental Sequences	68
3.5	Physiological Properties of <i>Salinibacter ruber</i>	70
3.6	Characterization and Quantitation of the <i>Salinibacter</i> Pigment in Cultures and in Saltern Crystallizer Ponds	71
3.7	Final Comments	74
	References	74
4	The Potential Use of Signature Bases from 16S rRNA Gene Sequences to Aid the Assignment of Microbial Strains to Genera of Halobacteria	77
	MASAHIRO KAMEKURA, TORU MIZUKI, RON USAMI, YASUHIKO YOSHIDA, KOKI HORIKOSHI, RUSSELL H. VREELAND	
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	Differentiation of Halobacteria at the Generic Level	77

Contents		XI
4.3	Heterogeneity of 16S and 23S rRNA Gene Sequences	79
4.4	Signature Bases of the 16S rRNA Gene Sequences	79
4.5	Utility of Signature Bases in the Attribution at the Level of Genus	82
4.6	A Case Study – <i>Halosimplex carlsbadense</i>	84
4.7	Conclusions	86
	References	87
5	From Intraterrestrials to Extraterrestrials – Viable Haloarchaea in Ancient Salt Deposits	89
	HELGA STAN-LOTTER, CRHTISITAN RADAX, TERENCE J. MCGENITY, ANDREA LEGAT, MARION PFAFFENHUEMER, HEIDEMARIE WIELAND, CLAUDIA GRUBER, EWALD B.M. DENNER	
5.1	Introduction	89
5.2	Geological Setting, Stratigraphy and Rock Salt Samples	90
5.3	Cultured Subterranean Haloarchaea	93
5.4	Molecular Analysis of Uncultured Haloarchaea	94
5.5	How Old Are These Cells?	97
5.6	Extraterrestrial Halite	98
5.7	Conclusions	100
	References	100
6	Fungi in the Salterns	103
	NINA GUNDE-CIMERMAN, POLONA ZALAR, UROŠ PETROVIČ, MARTINA TURK, TINA KOGEJ, G. SYBREN DE HOOG, ANA PLEMENITAŠ	
6.1	Introduction	103
6.2	Isolation of Fungi from Salterns	104
6.3	Biodiversity of Fungi in the Salterns	105
6.3.1	Black Yeasts	105
6.3.2	Genus <i>Cladosporium</i>	106
6.3.3	Genus <i>Wallemia</i>	107
6.3.4	Genera <i>Aspergillus</i> , <i>Penicillium</i> and Their Teleomorphs	107
6.4	Studies of Adaptations of Black Yeasts to Hypersaline Environments	108
6.4.1	Ecology of Black Yeasts	108
6.4.2	Biochemical Adaptations of Black Yeasts to High Salinities	109
6.5	Conclusions	110
	References	111

7	Physiological and Molecular Responses of <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> to Hypertonicity: Utilization of Evolutionarily Conserved Adaptation Strategies	115
	GUDRUN HOLTSMANN, CLARA D. BOIANGIU, JEANETTE BRILL, TAMARA HOFFMANN, ANNE U. KUHLMANN, SUSANNE MOSES, GABRIELE NAU-WAGNER, NATHALIE PICA, ERHARD BREMER	
7.1	Introduction	115
7.2	The Cell and the Surrounding Solvent	116
7.3	Microbial Strategies for Coping with Hyperosmotic Environments	116
7.4	Compatible Solutes: Characteristics and Physiological Functions	117
7.5	The Initial Stress Response of <i>B. subtilis</i> : Uptake of K ⁺	118
7.6	Accumulation of Compatible Solutes by <i>Bacillus</i> spp. Through Biosynthesis	120
7.6.1	Osmoregulatory Synthesis of Proline	120
7.6.2	Osmoregulatory Synthesis of Ectoine	122
7.6.3	Osmoregulatory Synthesis of Glycine Betaine from Choline	123
7.7	Acquisition of Preformed Compatible Solutes by <i>B. subtilis</i> from Environmental Resources	125
7.8	Expulsion of Compatible Solutes: Protection Against Extreme Turgor	127
7.9	Perspectives	128
	References	130
8	Genetics of Osmoadaptation by Accumulation of Compatible Solutes in the Moderate Halophile <i>Chromohalobacter salexigens</i>: Its Potential in Agriculture Under Osmotic Stress Conditions	135
	CARMEN VARGAS, MARIA-ISABEL CALDERON, NIEVES CAPOTE, ROCÍO CARRASCO, RAÚL GARCIA, MARIA JESÚS MORON, ANTONIO VENTOSA, JOAQUÍN J. NIETO	
8.1	Introduction	135
8.2	<i>C. salexigens</i> as a Model Organism for Osmoadaptation Studies in Moderate Halophiles	138
8.3	Osmoadaptation Mechanisms in <i>C. salexigens</i>	139
8.3.1	Uptake of Osmoprotectants	140
8.3.2	<i>De Novo</i> Synthesis of Compatible Solutes	141
8.4	Transcriptional Regulation of the <i>C. salexigens</i> <i>ect</i> Genes	143
8.5	Overlapping Regulatory Networks Controlling the Intracellular Content of Compatible Solutes	145

8.6	Use of <i>ect</i> Genes for the Generation of Transgenic Agriculturally Important Organisms	146
8.6.1	Compatible Solutes Synthesis Genes as a Tool for the Production of Salt-Tolerant Crops	146
8.6.2	Metabolic Engineering of Beans to Generate Osmotic-Stress-Resistant Varieties	147
	References	150
9	Osmoregulated Solute Transport in Halophilic Bacteria . .	155
	HANS JÖRG KUNTE	
9.1	Introduction	155
9.2	Compatible Solute Transport Systems of Nonhalophiles . . .	156
9.3	Osmosensing by Osmoregulated Transporters	156
9.4	Osmoregulated Transport Systems in Halophilic Bacteria . .	157
9.4.1	TeaABC is an Osmoregulated TRAP-Transporter	158
9.4.2	TeaABC is a Recovery System for the Compatible Solute Ectoine	160
	References	163
10	Molecular and Functional Adaptations Underlying the Exceptional Salt Tolerance of the Alga <i>Dunaliella salina</i> . .	165
	A. ZAMIR, M. AZACHI, U. BAGESHWAR, M. FISHER, I. GOKHMAN, L. PREMKUMAR, A. SADKA, T. SAVCHENKO	
10.1	Introduction	165
10.2	Results	166
10.2.1	Salt Induction of Fatty Acid Elongase and Membrane Lipid Modifications	166
10.2.1.1	A Salt-Inducible β -Ketoacyl-CoA Synthase	166
10.2.1.2	Salt-Related Fatty Acid Modifications	167
10.2.2	Unique Salt Tolerance of Extracellular <i>Dunaliella</i> Proteins . .	169
10.2.2.1	The 60-kDa Dca (Duplicated Carbonic Anhydrase)	169
10.2.2.2	A 30-kDa Carbonic Anhydrase (p30)	172
10.3	Discussion	173
10.3.1	Proposed Role of Intracellular Membranes Modification in Salt Tolerance of <i>Dunaliella</i>	173
10.3.2	The Significance and Basis of Salt Tolerance of Extracellular Carbonic Anhydrases	174
	References	175

11	Multienzyme Complexes in the Archaea: Predictions from Genome Sequences	177
	MICHAEL J. DANSON, DAVID J. MORGAN, ALEX C. JEFFRIES, DAVID W. HOUGH, MICHAEL L. DYALL-SMITH	
11.1	Introduction	177
11.2	Dihydrolipoamide Dehydrogenase and Lipoic Acid in the Halophilic Archaea	179
11.2.1	Enzymological Studies	179
11.2.2	Detection of Lipoic Acid	179
11.3	2-Oxoacid Dehydrogenase Genes in the Halophilic Archaea	180
11.3.1	Homologous Expression of DHLipDH in <i>Haloferax volcanii</i>	180
11.3.2	A 2-oxoacid Dehydrogenase Complex Operon	180
11.3.3	Identification of the Genes and Structural Predictions of Their Protein Products	181
11.4	Functional Studies in <i>Haloferax volcanii</i>	183
11.4.1	Transcription	183
11.4.2	Knock-Out Mutants	183
11.5	2-Oxoacid Dehydrogenase Complex Genes in Other Archaea	184
11.5.1	<i>Halobacterium</i> sp. NRC-1	185
11.5.2	Aerobic Thermophilic Archaea: <i>Thermoplasma</i> , <i>Aeropyrum</i> and <i>Sulfolobus</i>	186
11.5.3	Anaerobic Thermophilic Archaea: <i>Pyrococcus</i> , <i>Archaeoglobus</i> and the Methanogens	187
11.6	Concluding Remarks	188
	References	189
12	Nitrate Assimilation in Halophilic Archaea	193
	MARÍA J. BONETE, FRUTOS C. MARHUENDA-EGEA, CARMEN PIRE, JUAN FERRER, ROSA M. MARTÍNEZ-ESPINOSA	
12.1	Introduction	193
12.1.1	Nitrate Metabolism	193
12.1.2	Physiology of Nitrate Assimilation	195
12.2	Haloarchaeal Nitrate Reductases (Nas)	196
12.2.1	Assimilatory Nitrate Reductases (Nas)	196
12.2.2	Respiratory Membrane-Bound Nitrate Reductases (Nar) . .	197
12.2.3	Dissimilatory Periplasmic Nitrate Reductases (Nap)	198
12.3	Haloarchaeal Nitrite Reductases	199
12.4	Concluding Remarks.	201
	References	201

13	The Archaeal Cardiolipins of the Extreme Halophiles	205
	ANGELA CORCELLI, VERONICA M. T. LATTANZIO, AHARON OREN	
13.1	Introduction	205
13.2	Two Cardiolipin Analogs in the Purple Membrane of <i>Halobacterium salinarum</i>	207
13.3	Occurrence of Archaeal Cardiolipins in Various Strains of Extreme Halophiles	210
13.4	The Role of Archaeal Cardiolipins in Extreme Halophiles . .	211
	References	212
14	Understanding Archaeal Protein Translocation: <i>Haloferax volcanii</i> as a Model System	215
	JERRY EICHLER, ZVIA KONRAD, GABRIELA RING	
14.1	Introduction	215
14.2	An Overview of Archaeal Protein Translocation	215
14.2.1	Protein Targeting in Archaea	216
14.2.1.1	Archaeal SRP	216
14.2.1.2	FtsY, the Archaeal SRP Receptor	218
14.2.2	The Archaeal Translocon	218
14.2.2.1	SecYE	219
14.2.2.2	SecDF	219
14.2.2.3	The Tat Pathway	220
14.2.3	Archaeal Signal Peptidases	220
14.3	Biochemical Reconstitution of Archaeal Translocation Using <i>Haloferax volcanii</i> as a Model System .	221
14.3.1	Inverted Membrane Vesicles	221
14.3.1.1	<i>Hfx. volcanii</i> IMVs Are Inverted and Sealed	221
14.3.1.2	<i>Hfx. volcanii</i> IMVs Are Functional	223
14.3.2	The S-Layer Glycoprotein – A Reporter of Translocation . .	223
14.3.2.1	Maturation of the S-Layer Glycoprotein Follows Translocation	223
14.3.2.2	The Basis of S-Layer Glycoprotein Maturation	224
14.3.2.3	A Role for Magnesium in S-Layer Glycoprotein Maturation .	225
14.4	Conclusions and Future Directions	226
	References	226

15	Gas Vesicle Genes in Halophilic Archaea and Bacteria . . .	229
	FELICITAS PFEIFER	
15.1	Introduction	229
15.2	Comparison of Genes Involved in Gas Vesicle Formation . .	230
15.2.1	The Gas Vesicle Gene Clusters of Halophilic Archaea	230
15.2.2	The <i>gvp</i> Gene Clusters of Bacteria	234
15.3	Regulation of <i>gvp</i> Gene Expression in Halophilic Archaea .	236
15.4	Conclusions	239
	References	239
16	Extremely Halophilic Archaea: Insights into Their Response to Environmental Conditions	243
	GUADALUPE JUEZ	
16.1	Introduction to Haloarchaea and Their Specialized World .	243
16.1.1	Extremely Halophilic Archaea and Their Habitat: A Brief Presentation	243
16.1.2	Specialization of Haloarchaea for Life under Extreme Conditions	244
16.1.3	Haloarchaea Must Withstand Harsh Environmental Stresses	245
16.2	Haloarchaeal Mechanisms Involved in Environmental Responses Are Not Yet Completely Understood	245
16.3	Global Response: A Contribution to the Knowledge of Adaptation Mechanisms in Haloarchaea	246
16.3.1	Osmotic Balance as Main Limiting Factor in the Adaptation to Changing Osmotic Conditions	246
16.3.2	Hypoosmotic Stress: Hard Conditions for Haloarchaea . . .	246
16.3.3	Specific Low- Versus High-Salinity Proteins, and General Stress Proteins	248
16.4	Adaptation to Osmotic Stress and to High Temperature Must Involve Certain Common Protection Mechanisms. A Possible Role of Molecular Chaperones	248
16.5	DNA Structure as a Global Regulatory Mechanism Allowing a Coordinate Response to Environmental Conditions	249
16.6	Future Perspectives	250
	References	251

17	Genome Sequences of the Head-Tail Haloviruses HF1 and HF2	255
	SEN-LIN TANG, CLARE FISHER, KATRINA NGUI, STEWART D. NUTTALL, MIKE L. DYALL-SMITH	
	References	261
18	Reporter Gene Systems for Halophilic Microorganisms . .	263
	CONSTANTIN DRAINAS	
18.1	Introduction	263
18.2	Conventional Gene Reporters	264
18.3	Non-conventional Gene Reporters	265
18.4	Gene Reporters for Moderately Halophilic Bacteria	266
18.4.1	Use of <i>inaZ</i> as a Reporter in Moderately Halophilic Bacteria	266
18.4.2	Use of the <i>gfp</i> gene of the jelly fish <i>Aequorea victoria</i> as a reporter in <i>Chromohalobacter salixigens</i>	268
18.5	Gene Reporters for Halophilic Archea	268
18.5.1	Gene Reporter Systems in Moderately Halophilic Archaea .	268
18.5.2	Reporter Gene Systems in Extremely Halophilic Archaea . .	269
18.6	Conclusions and Perspectives	270
	References	270
19	Industrial Enzymes: Do Halophiles and Alkaliphiles Have a Role to Play?	275
	BRIAN E. JONES	
19.1	Introduction	275
19.2	Industrial Enzymes	276
19.2.1	Industrial Enzymes: Safe Products	277
19.2.2	Environmental Sustainability	277
19.3	Laundry Enzymes	277
19.4	Textile Enzymes	281
19.5	Future Prospects	283
	References	284

20	Extracellular Hydrolytic Enzymes Produced by Moderately Halophilic Bacteria	285
	E. MELLADO, C. SÁNCHEZ-PORRO, S. MARTÍN, A. VENTOSA	
20.1	Introduction	285
20.2	Moderately Halophilic Bacteria as a Source of Extracellular Enzymes	286
20.2.1	Glycosyl Hydrolases: Amylases	287
20.2.2	Proteases	290
20.3	Future Prospects	292
	References	293
21	Moderately Halophilic, Exopolysaccharide- Producing Bacteria	297
	EMILIA QUESADA, VICTORIA BÉJAR, M. RITA FERRER, CONCEPCIÓN CALVO, INMACULADA LLAMAS, FERNANDO MARTÍNEZ-CHECA, SOLEDAD ARIAS, CRISTINA RUIZ-GARCÍA, RAFAEL PÁEZ, M. JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ-CÁNOVAS, ANA DEL MORAL	
21.1	Introduction	297
21.1.1	Moderately Halophilic Bacteria	297
21.1.2	Microbial Exopolysaccharides	297
21.2	Studies on Exopolysaccharide-Producing, Halophilic Bacteria	299
21.2.1	Isolation of Strains	299
21.2.2	Taxonomy of Moderately Halophilic, Exopolysaccharide-Producing Bacteria	301
21.2.3	Exopolysaccharide Production	304
21.2.4	Chemical Composition of Exopolysaccharides Synthesised by Halophilic Microorganisms	305
21.2.5	Functional Properties of the Exopolysaccharides Produced by <i>Halomonas eurihalina</i> and <i>Halomonas maura</i>	306
21.2.6	Recent Genetic Studies on Exopolysaccharide-Producing, Halophilic Bacteria	308
21.3	Conclusions and Future Prospects	310
	References	311

22 Biotransformation of Toxic Organic and Inorganic Contaminants by Halophilic Bacteria 315
 BRENT M. PEYTON, MELANIE R. MORMILE, VICTOR ALVA, CELSO OIE, FRANCISCO ROBERTO, WILLIAM A. APEL, AHARON OREN

22.1 Introduction 315

22.2 Biodegradation and Biotransformation of Contaminants Under Hypersaline Conditions – A Literature Review 316

22.2.1 Biotransformation of Hydrocarbon Contaminants by Halophilic Bacteria and Archaea 319

22.2.2 Biotransformation of Aromatic Contaminants by Halophilic Bacteria, Archaea, and Eucarya 320

22.2.3 Biotransformation of Organophosphorus Contaminants by Halophilic Bacteria 322

22.2.4 Tolerance of Halophilic Bacteria and Archaea to Inorganic Contaminants 322

22.2.5 Biotransformation of Inorganic Contaminants by Halophilic Bacteria 323

22.3 Degradation of Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons in Great Salt Lake, Utah, and Soap Lake, Washington – Recent Results 324

22.4 Epilogue 328

References 328

Epilogue

Cum Grano Salis – Salt in the History and Life of Mankind.
An Overview with Emphasis on Europe 333
 HANS G. TRÜPER

Subject Index 343