

عنوان مقاله:

Process Optimization of Microbially Induced Calcite Precipitation by Ureolytic Yeast *Spathospora* sp. NN04 using Box-Behnken Design: A Novel Approach towards Biocementation

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خلاصه مقاله:

Introduction: The present study was focused on the statistical optimization of growth parameters for enhancing the Microbially Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP) using ureolytic yeast strain. **Materials and Methods:** Thirteen yeast strains were tested for the synthesis of urease enzyme by phenol-hypochlorite assay and were further evaluated for calcite precipitation test. The growth parameters were optimized using the best ureolytic strain by Box-Behnken Design (BBD) and the extracted MICP was characterized through instrumental analysis. **Results:** Among thirteen yeast strains, *Candida tropicalis* NN4, *Spathospora* sp. NN04, *Wickerhamomyces anomalus* VIT-NN01 and *Candida dubliniensis* NN03 showed positive results for the synthesis of urease enzyme. *Spathospora* sp. was found to be the most potent strain for MICP. A significant enhancement in MICP by *Spathospora* sp. was observed under optimized conditions viz. A-urea concentration (8.0 g/L), B-calcium chloride (45.0 g/L), C-pH (9.0) and D-inoculum dosage (8%, v/v). The actual value (34.4±0.12 g/L) was in agreement with predicted value (34.7±0.01 g/L) with the R² value (0.9900), confirming the validity of the model. The FTIR of MICP confirmed the fundamental bands of CO₃ stretching and bending vibrations, observed at 1394.23 and 874.85 cm⁻¹. The Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) images of biomortar revealed aggregated polymorphs of MICP interconnected with yeast mycelium and spores. The Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometer (EDX) analysis indicated the presence of calcite in the biomortar. A remarkable improvement in the compressive strength (28 to 44 MPa) and morphological changes were observed in biocement mortar as compared to cement mortar. **Conclusions:** This result is the first report on the implementation of ureolytic *Spathospora* towards the application of biocementation through MICP using BBD.

کلمات کلیدی:

Biocementation, Box Behnken design, Compressive strength, Microbially Induced Calcite Precipitation, Ureolytic Yeast *Spathospora* sp. NN04

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