

REVIEW

Open Access

Bacterial degradation of chlorophenols and their derivatives

Pankaj Kumar Arora and Hanhong Bae*

Abstract

Chlorophenols (CPs) and their derivatives are persistent environmental pollutants which are used in the manufacture of dyes, drugs, pesticides and other industrial products. CPs, which include monochlorophenols, polychlorophenols, chloronitrophenols, chloroaminophenols and chloromethylphenols, are highly toxic to living beings due to their carcinogenic, mutagenic and cytotoxic properties. Several physico-chemical and biological methods have been used for removal of CPs from the environment. Bacterial degradation has been considered a cost-effective and eco-friendly method of removing CPs from the environment. Several bacteria that use CPs as their sole carbon and energy sources have been isolated and characterized. Additionally, the metabolic pathways for degradation of CPs have been studied in bacteria and the genes and enzymes involved in the degradation of various CPs have been identified and characterized. This review describes the biochemical and genetic basis of the degradation of CPs and their derivatives.

Keywords: Chlorophenol, Environmental pollutants, Bacterial degradation, Biodegradation

Introduction

Chlorophenols (CPs) are aromatic ring structures containing at least one chlorine atom (-Cl) and one hydroxyl (-OH) group at the benzene rings. Five groups of CPs have been recognized on the basis of their chemical structures, monochlorophenols (MCPs), polychlorophenols (poly-CPs), chloronitrophenols (CNP), chloroaminophenols (CAPs) and chloromethylphenols (CMPs) (Figure 1). These compounds are widely used (i) as mothproofing agents, miticides, germicides, algicides, fungicides and wood preservatives [1], as well as (ii) for the synthesis of dyes and drugs [2].

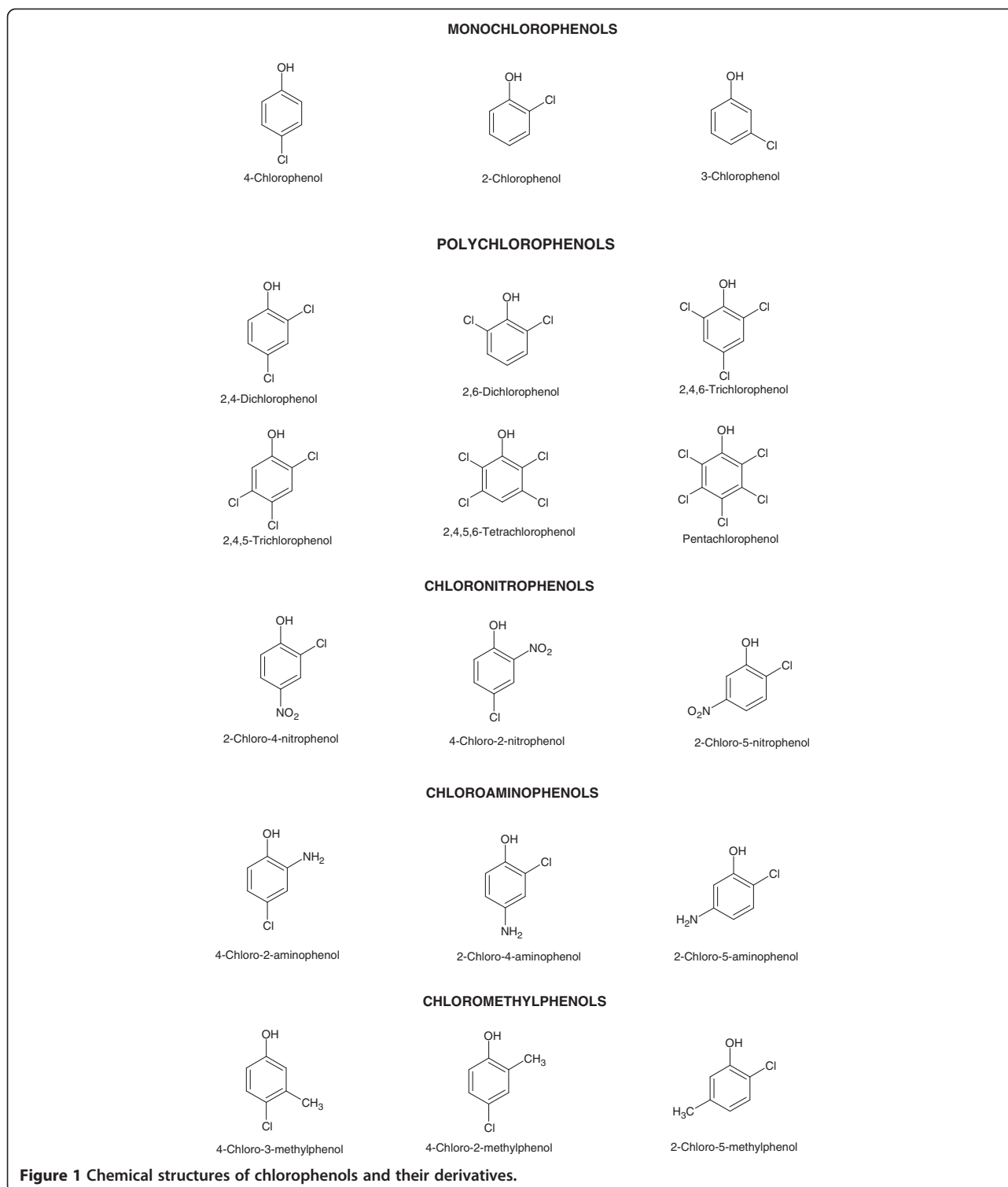
CPs have been introduced into the environment via anthropogenic activities [3]. The major sources of contamination are industrial wastes, pesticides, herbicides, and complex chlorinated hydrocarbons [3]. People may be exposed to CPs by eating or drinking substances that contain them or through skin contact [4]. CPs and their derivatives are highly toxic to living beings due to their carcinogenic, mutagenic and cytotoxic properties [5]. The World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancers have characterized several poly-CPs as potential

human carcinogens [5]. Similarly, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has included several CPs in its list of priority pollutants.

Several conventional methods such as adsorption, ion exchange, liquid-liquid extraction, and chemical oxidation and advanced oxidation processes have been used for the removal of CPs from wastewater [3,6]. These methods are expensive and not eco-friendly due to the formation of hazardous compounds as by-products [3]. Conversely, bioremediation is an effective and eco-friendly method of removing CPs from the environment. Biodegradation of CPs has gained attention due to the complete mineralization of CPs by microorganisms in the environment.

Several reviews dealing with the degradation and toxicity of CPs and their derivatives have been published [3,5,7,8]; however, these reviews were focused on the biodegradation/toxicity of MCPs or poly-CPs or both. The present review describes the biochemical and genetic basis of bacterial degradation of CPs and their derivatives including MCPs, poly-CPs, CAPs, CNPs and CMPs. Both aerobic and anaerobic bacterial degradation of CPs are discussed.

* Correspondence: hanhongbae@ynu.ac.kr
School of Biotechnology, Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan 712-749,
Republic of Korea



Bacterial degradation of CPs

Aerobic degradation of CPs and their derivatives have been extensively investigated in bacteria, and many bacteria with the ability to utilize CPs as their sole carbon and energy sources have been isolated [8]. One of the

following mechanisms may be involved in the bacterial degradation of CPs and their derivatives: (i) monooxygenases may catalyze hydroxylation at the *ortho*-positions of the chlorophenolic rings, which results in the formation of chlorocatechols that may be degraded

further via *ortho*- [9] or *meta*-cleavage [10,11] or hydroxylated prior to ring cleavage [12]; (ii) monooxygenases may catalyze the hydroxylation at *para*-positions of the chlorophenolic rings, resulting in the formation of chlorohydroquinones that may be degraded further via hydroxylation [12] or dehalogenation [13] prior to ring cleavage; (iii) the degradation of CNPs may be initiated via hydroxylation [14], reductive dehalogenation [15] or reduction of the nitro group [16], (iv) The degradation of ACPs may be initiated with the removal of ammonium ions by the enzyme deaminase followed by the ring cleavage [17] or the dehalogenation [18]. In this section, we describe the bacterial degradation pathways for MCPs, poly-CPs, CNPs, CAPs and CMPs.

Bacterial degradation of MCPs

MCPs, which are the simplest form of CPs, contain one chlorine atom at the phenolic rings. MCPs include 2-chlorophenol (2CP), 3-chlorophenol (3CP), 4-chlorophenol (4CP), 3-chlorocatechol (3CC), 2-chlorocatechol (2CC) and 4-chlorocatechol (4CC). Chlorocatechols (CCs) were detected as intermediate products of bacterial degradation of MCPs, chlorobenzoates, mono-chlorobiphenyls, 4-chlorosalicylate and 5-chlorosalicylate [19-23]. In this section, we have described the bacterial degradation of 4CP, 2CP and 3CP.

Bacterial degradation of 4CP

Many bacteria that utilize 4CP as their carbon and energy sources have been isolated, including *Pseudomonas knackmussii* B-13 (previously known as *Pseudomonas* sp. B-13) [24,25], *Ralstonia pickettii* LD1 (previously known as *Pseudomonas pickettii* LD1) [26], *Rhodococcus opacus* 1G [27], *Alcaligenes* sp. A7-2 [28], *Alcaligenes xylosoxidans* JH1 [29], *Arthrobacter ureafaciens* CPR706 [30], *Arthrobacter chlorophenolicus* A6 [31], and *Herbaspirillum chlorophenolicum* CPW301 (previously known as *Comamonas testosteroni* CPW301) [32,33]. The bacterial degradation of 4CP occurs via either the CC pathway [34] or the hydroquinone (HQ) pathway [35]. In the CC pathway, 4CP is first converted to 4CC by a 4CP-2-monooxygenase (EC = 1.14.13.-). Further degradation of 4CC then proceeds via the modified *ortho*-ring cleavage or *meta*-ring cleavage pathway [34]. In the modified *ortho*-cleavage pathway, 4CC is cleaved into 3-chloromuconate by a catechol-1,2-dioxygenase (EC 1.13.11.1) [7]. In the second step, 3-chloromuconate is transformed to *cis*-dienelactone through the release of chloride ion by a chloromuconate cycloisomerase (EC 5.5.1.7) [Figure 2a]. In the next step, *cis*-dienelactone is converted to maleylacetate by a dienelactone hydrolase (EC 3.1.1.45) [7]. Maleylacetate is then reduced to 3-oxoadipate by a maleylacetate reductase (EC = 1.3.1.32). In the *meta*-cleavage pathway, 4CC may be cleaved into a toxic compound, 5-chloro-2-hydroxymuconic

semialdehyde (5C2HMS) by a catechol-2, 3-dioxygenase (EC = 1.13.11.2) [7,36]. In several cases, 5C2HMS has been identified as a dead end product in the degradation pathway of 4CP [7,36]. However, the complete degradation of 5C2HMS was observed in the 4CP degradation pathway in *Comamonas testosteroni* JH5 [10]. In strain JH4, 5C2HMS was converted to 5-chloro-2-hydroxypenta-2,4-dienoic acid, which was further degraded via intermediates of the TCA cycle [Figure 2b].

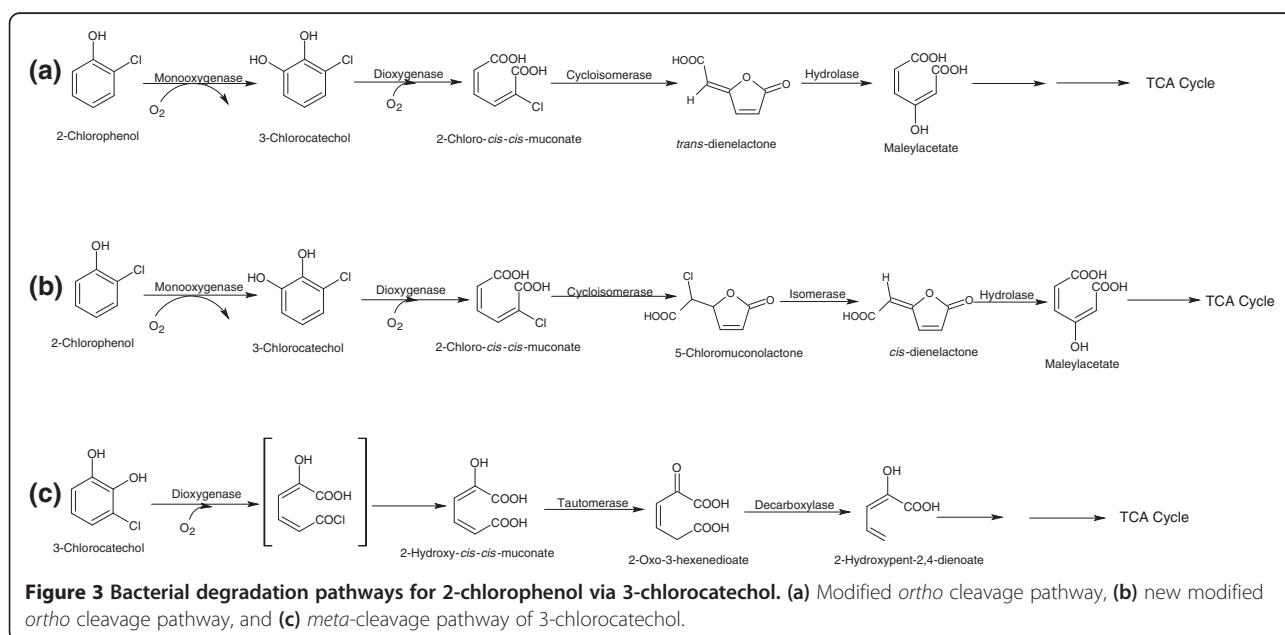
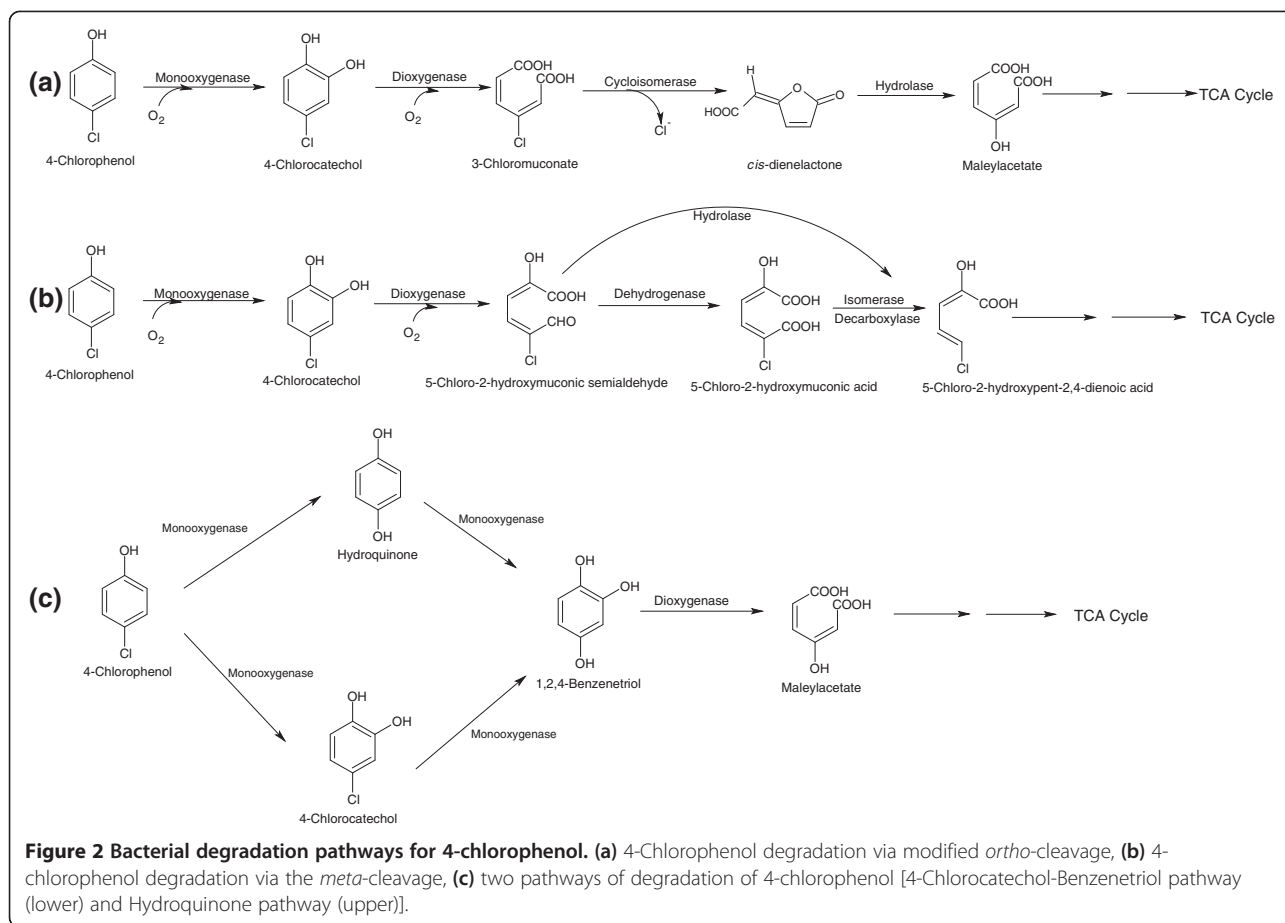
In addition to the modified-*ortho* or *meta*-ring cleavage pathway of 4CC, there is another pathway for degradation of 4CC, which is here designated as the 4CC-Benzenetriol (4CC-BT) pathway. In this pathway, 4CC is first hydroxylated to 1,2,4-benzenetriol (BT) through the release of chloride ion [12]. BT is then further degraded via ring cleavage and the formation of maleylacetate [12]. The 4CC-BT pathway was observed in the degradation of 4CP in *A. chlorophenolicus* A6 [12].

The 4CP degradation can also occur through the HQ pathway [12,37]. The first step of the HQ pathway is the formation of HQ through the release of chloride ion from 4CP by a 4CP-4-monooxygenase [Figure 2c]. In the next step, HQ is converted to BT, which is then cleaved into maleylacetate by a BT-dioxygenase [12]. A few bacterial strains degrade 4CP via two pathways. For example, *A. chlorophenolicus* A6 degrades 4CP via the HQ pathway as well as the 4CC-BT pathway [12].

Bacterial degradation of 2CP and 3CP

Several 4CP-mineralizing bacteria including *Ralstonia pickettii* LD1 [26], *Rhodococcus opacus* 1G [27] and *Alcaligenes xylosoxidans* JH1 [29] also utilize 2CP and 3CP as their sole carbon and energy sources. Other 2CP-mineralizing bacteria include *Alcaligenes* sp. A7-2 [28] and *Streptomyces rochei* 303 [38]. The bacterial degradation of 2CP occurs via the formation of 3CC, which is further degraded via the modified *ortho*-cleavage pathway or the *meta*-cleavage pathway [7,39]. In the modified *ortho*-cleavage pathway, 3CC is cleaved into 2-chloro-*cis,cis*-muconate by a catechol-1,2-dioxygenase [7]. In the next step, a chloromuconate cycloisomerase catalyzes the conversion of 2-chloro-*cis,cis*-muconate to *trans*-dienelactone [7], which degrades further via formation of maleylacetate by dienelactone hydrolase [Figure 3a].

A new modified *ortho*-cleavage pathway of the 3CC was reported in *Rhodococcus opacus* 1CP that degraded 2CP via 3CC [40,41]. The key enzymes of this pathway are chlorocatechol-1,2-dioxygenase, chloromuconate cycloisomerase (CMCI), chloromuconolactone isomerase (CMLI), and dienelactone hydrolase (DELH) [40]. Specifically, chlorocatechol-1,2-dioxygenase catalyzes the conversion of 3CC to 2-chloromuconate, while CMCI converts 2-chloromuconate into 5-chloromuconolactone, CMLI



converts 5-chloromuconolactone into *cis*-dienelactone and DELH converts *cis*-dienelactone into maleylacetate, which is further degraded via the TCA cycle [Figure 3b].

In the *meta*-cleavage pathway, there are two possibilities for 3CC degradation: (i) formation of a dead end product [39,42] and (ii) complete mineralization of 3CC [43]. In the first case, a suicide compound, 5-chloroformyl-2-hydroxypenta-2,4-dienoic acid, is formed due to the *meta*-cleavage of 3CC, which inactivates catechol-2,3-dioxygenase (EC = 1.13.11.2), resulting in 3CC accumulation in the media. In the second case, bacteria may utilize 3CC completely. This type of pathway has been observed in the degradation of chloro-aromatics by *Pseudomonas putida* GJ31 [43]. In strain GJ31, 3CC was cleaved into 2-hydroxy-*cis*-*cis*-muconate by a catechol-2,3-dioxygenase that was further degraded completely [43] [Figure 3c]. This pathway has been demonstrated in several other strains that are able to metabolize 3CC, including *Pseudomonas sp.* MG61, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* SK1 and *Pseudomonas veronii* 16-6A [44].

The degradation of 3CP occurred either via the formation of 3CC or via the formation of 4CC that may be further degraded via the modified *ortho*-cleavage pathway or the *meta*-cleavage pathway [7,39].

Bacterial degradation of poly-CPs

poly-CPs such as dichlorophenols (DCPs), trichlorophenols (TCPs), tetrachlorophenols (TeCPs) and pentachlorophenol (PCP) are more recalcitrant to bacterial degradation than MCPs due to the presence of the two or more chlorine atoms at the phenolic rings. Here, we have described the degradation of 2,4-dichlorophenol (2,4-DCP), 2,4,6-trichlorophenol (2,4,6-TCP), 2,4,5-trichlorophenol (2,4,5-TCP) and PCP.

Bacterial degradation of 2,4-DCP

2,4-DCP is the first intermediate in the degradation pathway of a herbicide, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D). Several bacteria that utilize 2,4-DCP as their sole source of carbon and energy have been isolated, including *Pseudomonas sp.* DP-4 [45], *Rhodococcus opacus* 1G [27], *Rhodococcus erythropolis* [46], and *Pseudomonas sp.* NCIB9340 [47]. Wang *et al.* [48] reported the removal of 2,4-DCP by the suspended and immobilized cells of *Bacillus insolitus*. They demonstrated that the immobilized cells showed faster degradation of lower concentrations of 2,4-DCP (10–50 mg/l), whereas the high concentrations (50–200 mg/ml) were removed by immobilized and suspended cells at the same rate [48]. The bacterial degradation of 2,4-D is initiated by the formation of 2,4-DCP by the enzyme, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetate- α -ketoglutarate dioxygenase (EC = 1.14.11.-) [49]. 2,4-DCP is further degraded via the formation of 3,5-dichlorocatechol by a 2,4-DCP-hydroxylase [EC = 1.14.13.20] [50]. In the third step, 3,5-

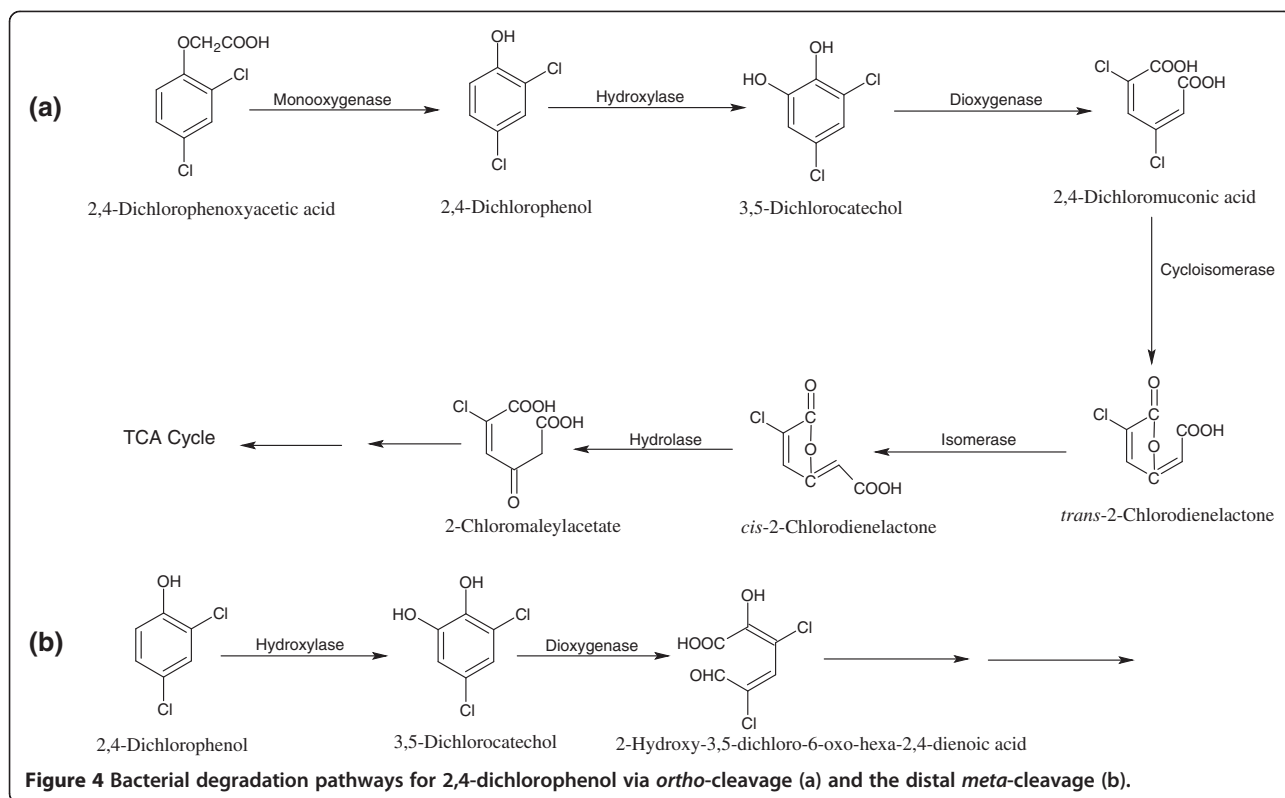
dichlorocatechol is *ortho*-cleaved to 2,4-dichloromuconic acid by 3,5-dichlorocatechol dioxygenase (EC = 1.13.11.-) (Figure 4a). In the next step, 2,4-dichloromuconic acid isomerase (EC = 5.2.1.10) catalyzes the conversion of 2,4-dichloromuconic acid to *trans*-2-chlorodienelactone via the removal of one chloro group, which is further converted to *cis*-2-chlorodienelactone by an isomerase that is subsequently degraded via formation of chloromaleylacetate by a hydroxylase [50]. The chloromaleylacetate is further degraded to maleylacetate by removal of the chloro group and then to 3-oxodipic acid by a maleylacetate reductase (EC = 1.3.1.32). Koh *et al.* [51] reported that *o*-cresol grown cells of *Cupriavidus necator* JMP222 (a derivative of *C. necator* JMP134 that had lost plasmid pJP4) degraded 2,4-DCP via a distal *meta*-cleavage pathway. In that process, 2,4-DCP is first oxidized to 3,5-dichlorocatechol, which is subsequently degraded via a distal *meta*-cleavage pathway through the formation of 2-hydroxy-3,5-dichloro-6-oxo-hexa-2,4-dienoic acid (Figure 4b).

Bacterial degradation of 2,4,6-TCP

Many bacteria that utilize 2,4,6-TCP as their sole carbon and energy source have been isolated and characterized including *Azotobacter sp.* Gp1 [52], *Ralstonia pickettii* [53], *Cupriavidus necator* [54,55], *Nocardioides sp.* K44 [56] and *Novosphingobium lentum* MT1 [57]. Bacterial degradation of 2,4,6-TCP was well-characterized in *Cupriavidus necator* JMP134 [54,55]. In the initial step of the TCP degradation, a reduced flavin adenine dinucleotide (FADH₂)-utilizing monooxygenase catalyzes the conversion of 2,4,6-TCP to 6-chlorohydroxyquinol via the formation of 2,6-dichlorohydroquinone [58]. 6-Chlorohydroxyquinol is then further cleaved to 2-chloromaleylacetate by 6-chlorohydroxyquinol-1,2-dioxygenase, which is subsequently converted to maleylacetate by removal of the chloro group (Figure 5a).

Bacterial degradation of 2,4,5-TCP

Burkholderia phenoliruptrix AC1100 (previously known as *B. cepacia*) uses 2,4,5-TCP as the sole source of carbon and energy [59,60]. The first step in degradation of 2,4,5-TCP involves conversion of 2,4,5-TCP to 2,5-dichloro-*p*-benzoquinone (DiCBQ) by FADH₂-dependent-2,4,5-TCP-4-monooxygenase (TftD) [EC = 1.14.14.-] [60,61]. DiCBQ is then reduced to 2,5-dichloro-*p*-hydroquinone (2,5-DiCHQ) by NADH. In the next step, 2,5-DiCHQ is oxidized to 5-chloro-2-hydroxy-*p*-benzoquinone by TftD, which is then further reduced to 5-chloro-2-hydroxy-*p*-hydroquinone (CHHQ) [60,61]. Another enzyme, flavin reductase TftC, supplies FADH₂ as a co-substrate to TftD [60,61]. In the next step, dehydrochlorinase TftG catalyzes the conversion of CHHQ to hydroxybenzoquinone, which is reduced to BT by hydroxylbenzoquinone reductase (EC = 1.6.5.7) [62].

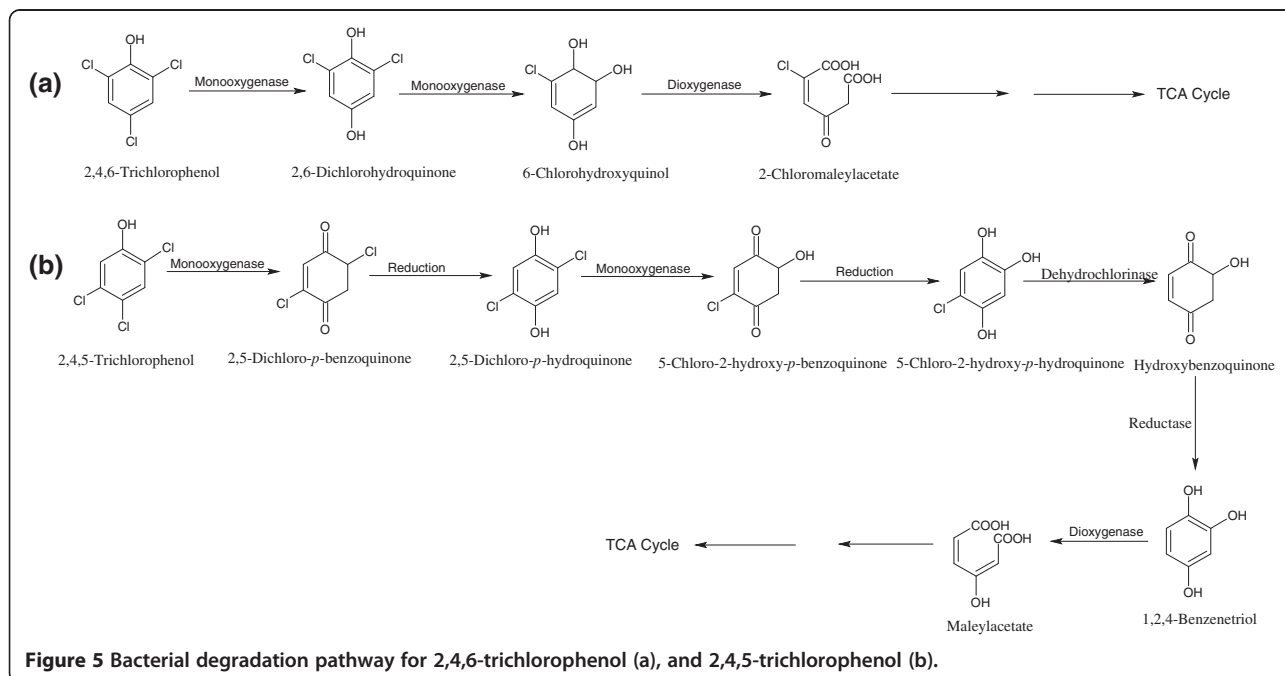


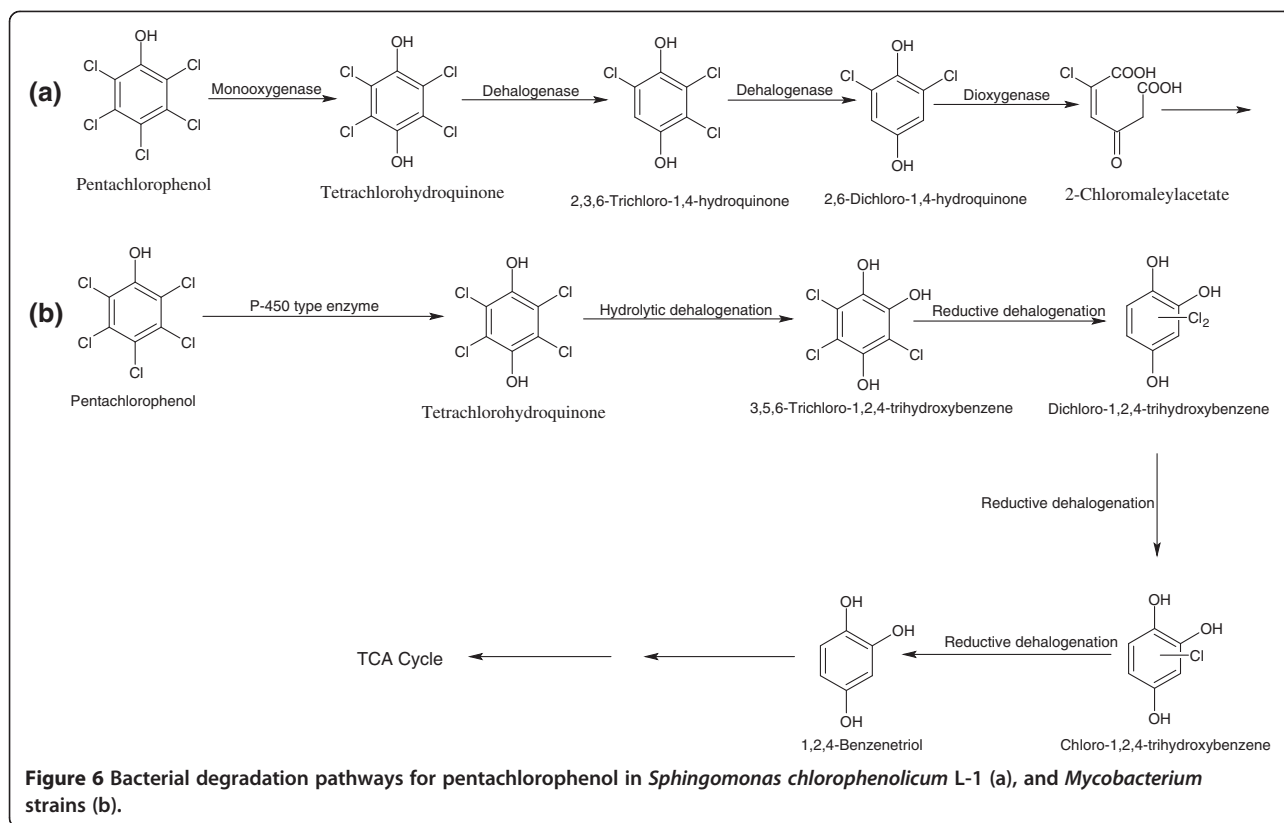
BT is subsequently converted to maleylacetate by BT-1,2-dioxygenase (EC = 1.13.11.37) (Figure 5b).

Bacterial degradation of PCP

PCP degradation is initiated by the formation of tetra-chlorohydroquinone (TeCHQ) due to hydroxylation at

the *para*-position by either PCP-4-monooxygenase (EC = 1.14.13.50) [63-65] or cytochrome P-450 type enzyme [66,67] [Figure 6]. In *Sphingomonas chlorophenolicum* L-1 (previously known as *Sphingomonas chlorophenolicum* ATCC 39723), PCP-4-monooxygenase (PcpA) catalyzes the conversion of PCP to TeCHQ via





the removal of chloride ions [63-65]. In the next step, TeCHQ is sequentially dehalogenated to 2,6-dichloro-1,4-hydroquinone (2,6-DCHQ) by a TeCHQ-reductive dehalogenase (EC = 1.8.99.-). The further degradation of 2,6-DCHQ occurs via ring cleavage by the 2,6-DCHQ-1,2-dioxygenase, leading to formation of 2-chloromaleylacetate that is further degraded via the TCA cycle [63-65]. In *Mycobacterium chlorophenolicum* PCP-1 and *Mycobacterium fortuitum* CG-2 (formerly *Rhodococcus* strains), PCP is hydroxylated to TeCHQ by a membrane bound cytochrome P-450 type enzyme [66,67]. Subsequently, TeCHQ undergoes hydrolytic dehalogenation followed by reductive dehalogenation to form dichloro-1,2,4-trihydroxybenzene, which produces BT after two successive reductive dehalogenation [68].

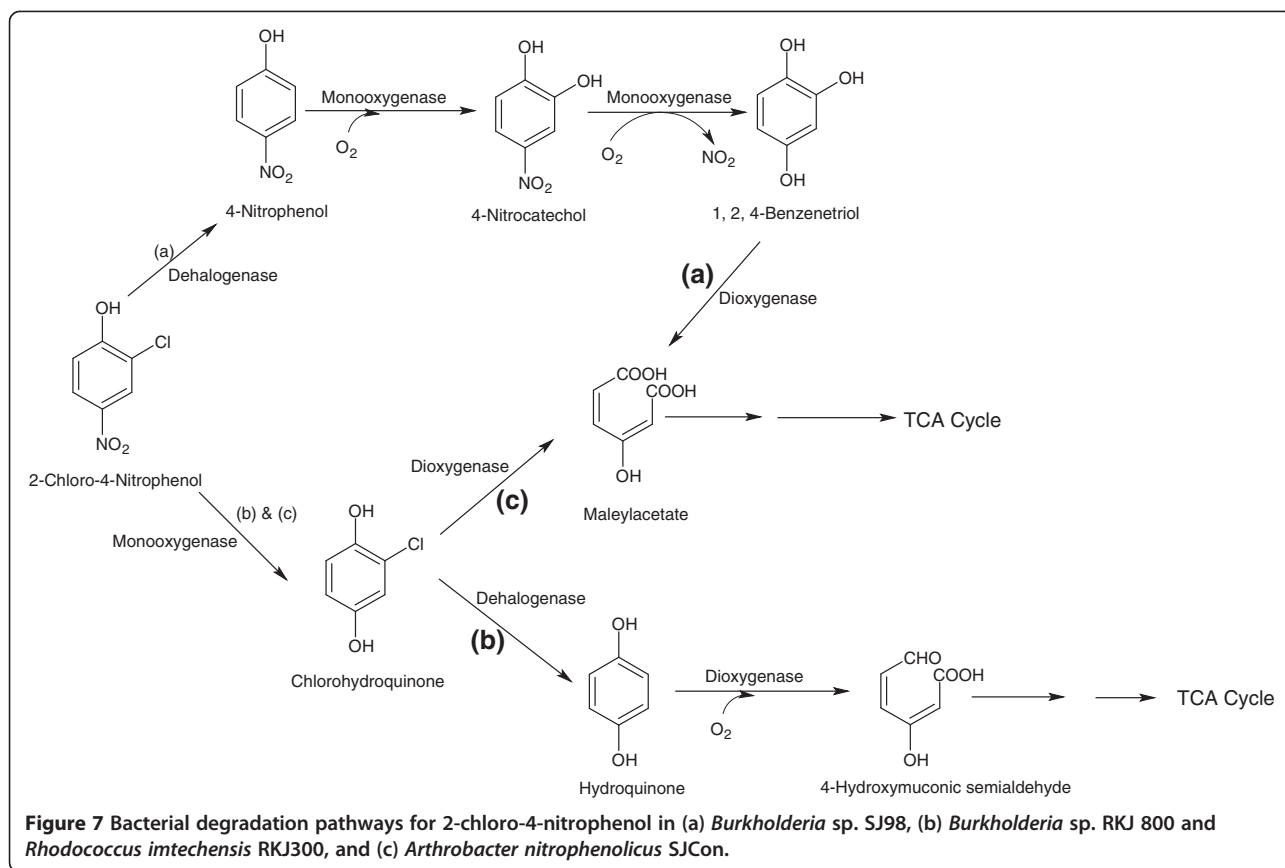
Bacterial degradation of CNPs

CNPs are nitro derivatives of MCPs. Examples include 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol (2C4NP), 4-chloro-2-nitrophenol (4C2NP), 4-chloro-3-nitrophenol (4C3NP), 2-chloro-5-nitrophenol (2C5NP) and 2-chloro-3-nitrophenol (2C3NP). In this section, we have summarized the bacterial degradation of various CNPs.

The degradation of 2C4NP has been studied in *Burkholderia* sp. SJ98 [15], *Burkholderia* sp. RKJ 800 [14], *Arthrobacter nitrophenolicus* SJCon [69] and *Rhodococcus imtechensis* RKJ300 [70]. Pandey *et al.* [15] proposed a

degradation pathway of 2C4NP in *Burkholderia* sp. SJ98 that utilized 2C4NP as the sole carbon, nitrogen and energy sources. The first step of the 2C4NP degradation in strain SJ98 involves the reductive dehalogenation of 2C4NP by 2C4NP-dehalogenase that leads to the formation of 4-nitrophenol (4NP) [Figure 7a]. In the next step, 4NP is converted to 4-nitrocatechol and then to BT, which is further cleaved into maleylacetate by BT-1,2-dioxygenase. Maleylacetate is further degraded via the β -ketoacid cycle [15]. Another pathway of the 2C4NP degradation was investigated in *Rhodococcus imtechensis* RKJ 300 [70] and *Burkholderia* sp. RKJ 800 [14]. In this pathway, 2C4NP is first transformed to chlorohydroquinone (CHQ) by 2C4NP-monoxygenase. CHQ is then dehalogenated to HQ by CHQ-dehalogenase [14]. In the next step, HQ is cleaved to γ -hydroxymuconic semialdehyde by HQ-1,2-dioxygenase (EC = 1.13.11.66) [Figure 7b]. Arora and Jain [69] reported a new degradation pathway of 2C4NP in *Arthrobacter nitrophenolicus* sp. SJCon. In strain SJCon, 2C4NP is first converted to CHQ and then further cleaved to maleylacetate by CHQ-dioxygenase [Figure 7c].

The first report of the 4C2NP degradation was documented in 1988 with construction of a genetically engineered bacterium, *Pseudomonas* sp. N31, which utilizes 4C2NP as a sole carbon, nitrogen and energy source [71]. The constructed strain degrades 4C2NP via the formation of 4CC and the release of chloride and nitrite



ions [Figure 8]. Beunink and Rehm [72] reported 4C2NP degradation via the formation of 4-chloro-2-aminophenol (4C2AP) by a co-culture of *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Alcaligenes* sp. TK-2 [Figure 8]. A detoxification mechanism for 4C2NP transformation has been proposed for two *Bacillus* species [73,74]. In this mechanism, detoxification is initiated by the formation of 4C2AP, which acetylates into 4-chloro-2-acetaminophenol (4C2AAP). 4C2AAP is then converted to a non-toxic compound, 5-chloro-2-methylbenzoxazole [Figure 8]. Another investigation of complete mineralization of 4C2NP was published following the isolation of a 4C2NP-mineralization bacterium, *Exiguobacterium* sp. PMA [16]. This strain initiates 4C2NP degradation by the formation of 4C2AP via a reduction mechanism, which is further dehalogenated into 2-aminophenol (2AP) through the release of chloride ions [16]. The further degradation of 2AP proceeds via ring cleavage and the removal of ammonium ions [Figure 8].

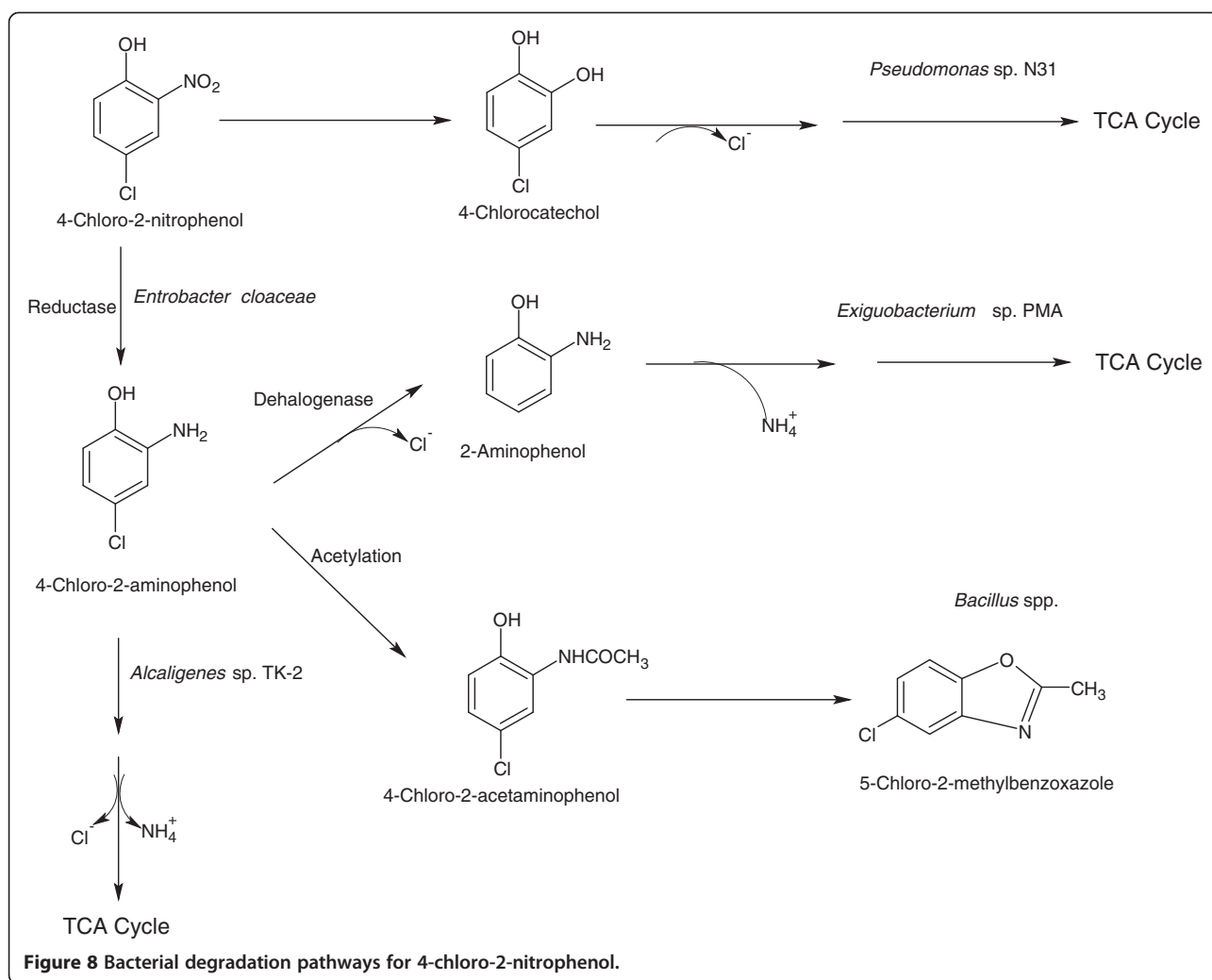
The metabolic pathway of 2C5NP has also been studied in *C. necator* JMP134, which utilizes 2C5NP as its sole carbon, nitrogen and energy source [75]. The first step of 2C5NP degradation involves the reduction of 2C5NP to 2-chloro-5-hydroxylaminophenol (2C5HAP) by 3NP-reductase [75]. In the second step, 2C5HAP undergoes Bamberger rearrangement to form 2-amino-

5-chlorohydroquinone (2A5CHQ) by mutase [Figure 9a]. In the next step, 2A5CHQ is reductively dehalogenated to 2-aminohydroquinone, which is further degraded by ring cleavage and ammonia release [75].

Pandey *et al.* [76] reported the biotransformation of 2C3NP to 3-nitrocatechol (3NC) in *Burkholderia* sp. SJ98. Initially, 2C3NP is reductively dehalogenated to 3NP, which is further hydroxylated to 3NC [Figure 9b].

Bacterial degradation of CAPs and CMPs

CAPs are amino derivatives of MCPs that are used in the manufacture of dyes. Examples include 4-chloro-2-aminophenol (4C2AP) and 2-chloro-4-aminophenol (2C4AP). Bacterial degradation of 4C2AP was studied in the Gram negative bacterium, *Burkholderia* sp. RKJ 800, which utilizes 4C2AP as a sole carbon and energy source [17]. The degradation of 4C2AP is initiated by the release of ammonium ion and the formation of 4CC by a deaminase. In the next step, 4CC is cleaved to *cis, cis*-chloromuconic acid by 4CC-1,2-dioxygenase (Figure 10a). Conversely, the bacterial degradation of 2C4AP was studied in a Gram positive bacterium, *Arthrobacter* sp. SPG, which utilized 2C4AP as its sole source of carbon and energy [18]. The first step of 2C4AP degradation involves removal of the ammonium ion by deaminase, which leads to formation of CHQ that is then dehalogenated to HQ by a CHQ-dehalogenase



(Figure 10b). In the next step, HQ is cleaved to γ -hydroxy-muconic semialdehyde by HQ-1,2-dioxygenase (EC = 1.13.11.66) [18].

CMPs are methyl derivatives of CPs used for the manufacture of herbicides such as 4-chloro-3-methylphenol and 4-chloro-2-methylphenol. Lechner *et al.* [77] investigated the degradation pathway of 4C2MP in a Gram negative strain, S-1. 4C2MP is first converted to 5-chloro-3-methylcatechol, which is *ortho*-cleaved into 4-chloro-2-methyl-*cis-cis*-muconate and then further degraded via the formation of 2-methyl-4-carboxymethylenbut-2-en-4-olide (Figure 10c).

Anaerobic degradation of CPs

Anaerobic degradation of CPs is well studied in bacteria or various enrichment cultures derived from sediments collected from a variety of the sources [8]. Anaerobic degradation of various CPs proceeds via reductive dehalogenation in which chlorine atoms are replaced by hydrogen atoms [8]. In fact, the reductive dehalogenation is a crucial step

for the anaerobic biodegradation of CPs especially for poly-CPs. Several poly-CPs are recalcitrant towards aerobic bacterial attack and can be reductively dehalogenated into lesser chlorinated phenols that further mineralized easily. PCP may be reductively dehalogenated to 2,3,4,5-tetrachlorophenol (2,3,4,5-TeCP), then to 3,4,5-trichlorophenol (3,4,5-TCP), then to 3,5-dichlorophenol, then to 3CP and finally to phenol which further degraded to CH_4 and CO_2 by anaerobic bacteria [78,79] (Figure 11a). The combination of phenol-dehalogenating and phenol-degrading cultures was used for complete mineralization of PCP under anaerobic conditions [80]. In this process, a phenol-dehalogenating culture dehalogenates PCP to phenol under anaerobic conditions. The phenol is then further degraded by phenol-degrading culture under iron reducing or sulfate reducing conditions [80]. Becker *et al.* [81] studied two biotransformation pathways for 2CP in the anaerobic sediment slurry reactors. In the first pathway, 2CP is reductively dehalogenated to phenol, then carboxylated to 4-hydroxybenzoate and finally dehydroxylated to benzoate

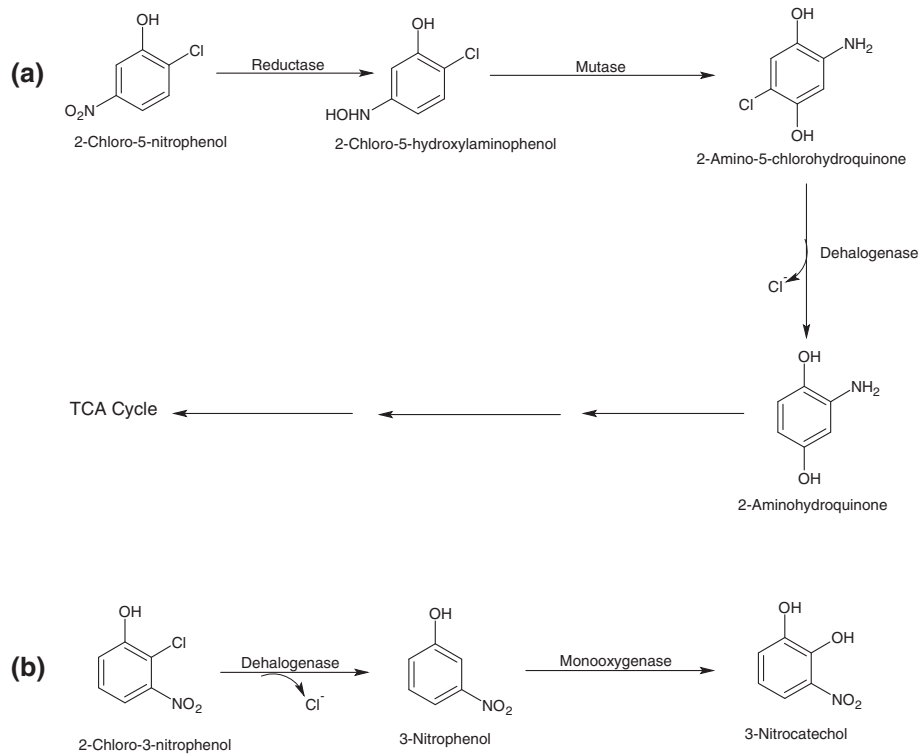


Figure 9 Bacterial degradation pathway for 2-chloro-5-nitrophenol (a), and 2-chloro-3-nitrophenol (b).

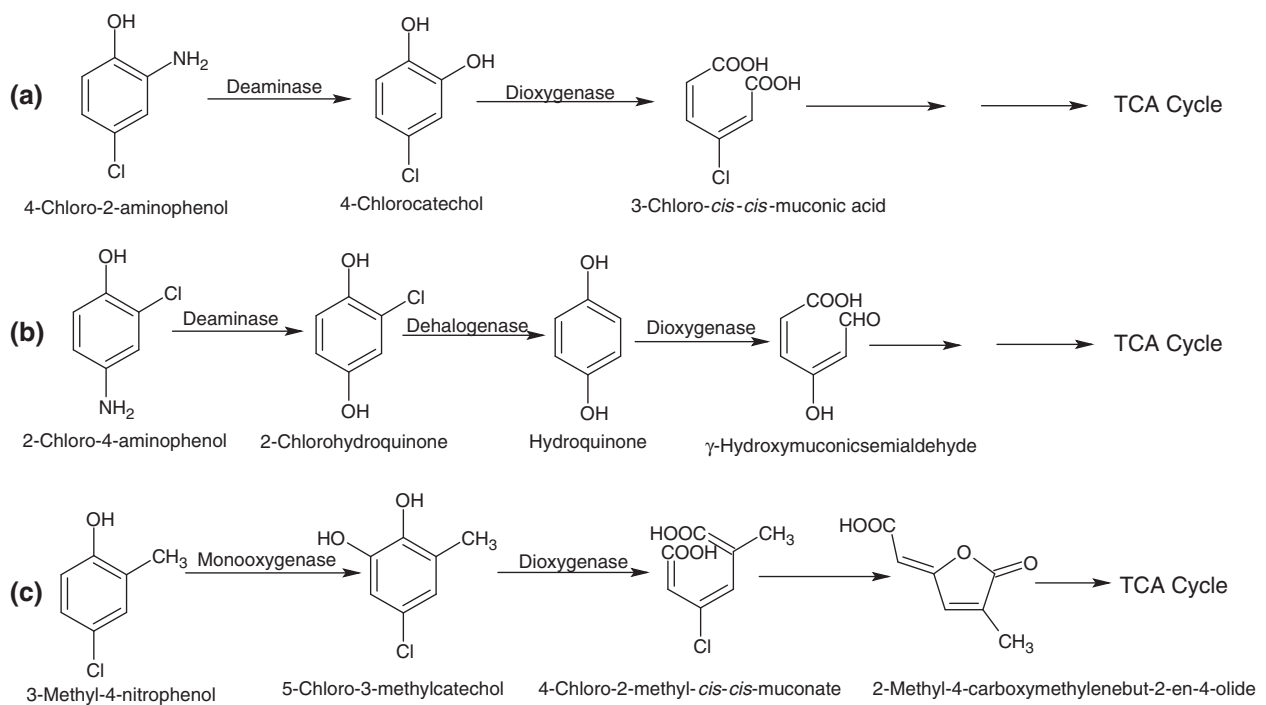
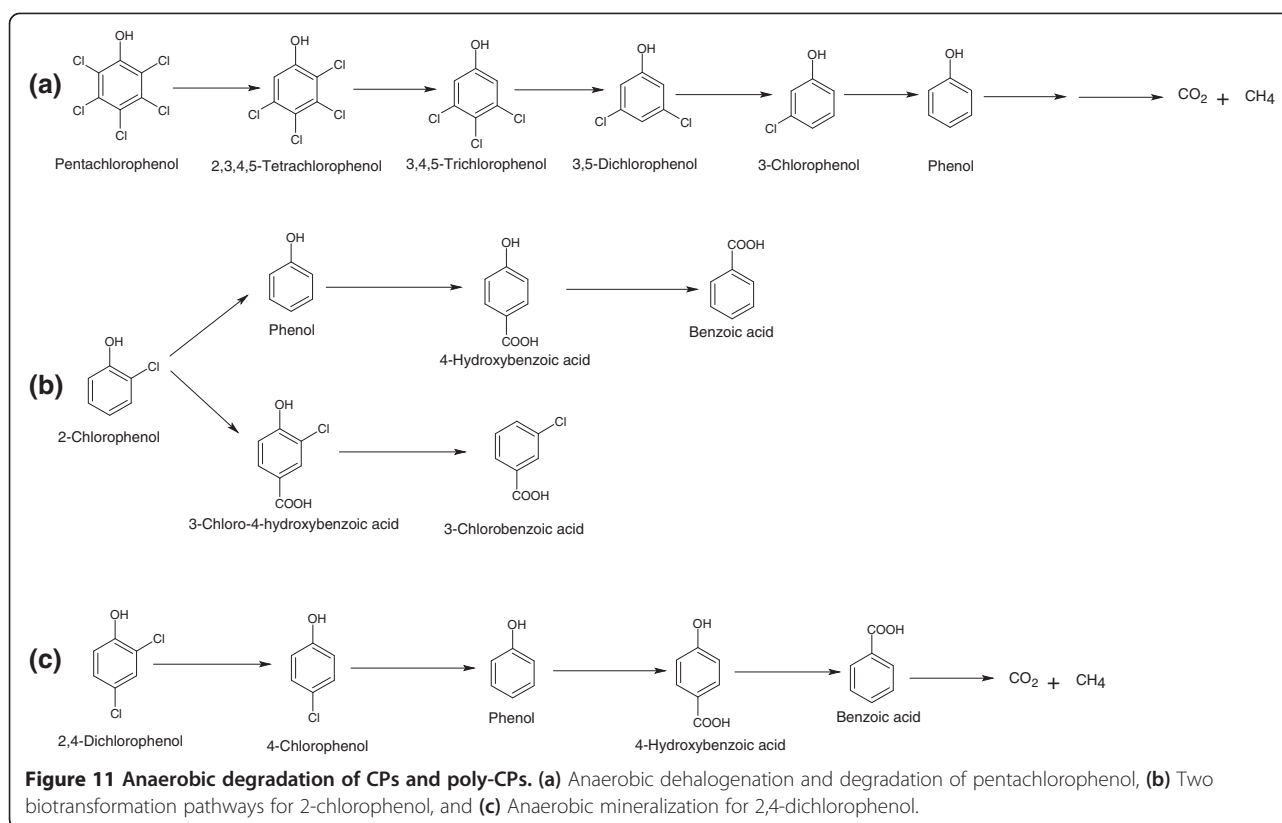


Figure 10 Bacterial degradation pathways for 4-chloro-2-aminophenol (a), 2-chloro-4-aminophenol (b), and 4-chloro-2-methylphenol (c).



(Figure 11b). In the second pathway, 2CP is *para*-carboxylated to 3-chloro-4-hydroxybenzoate, which is further dehydroxylated to 3-chlorobenzoate. The mineralization of ¹⁴C-radiolabeled 4CP, 2CP, and 2,4-DCP to ¹⁴CH₄ and ¹⁴CO₂ was studied in acclimated sludge [82]. In this process, 4CP is mineralized via phenol, 4-hydroxybenzoate and benzoate, while 2,4-DCP is mineralized via 4CP, phenol, 4-hydroxybenzoate and benzoate [82] (Figure 11c).

Methanogenic, sulfate reducing, iron-reducing and denitrifying conditions favor anaerobic degradation and reductive dechlorination of CPs. Anaerobic degradation and dechlorination of CPs have been extensively studied under methanogenic conditions [78,83-87]. A PCP acclimated methanogenic consortium reductively dechlorinated PCP and TeCPs [83]. In this process, PCP is first dechlorinated to 2,3,4,5-TeCP, 2,3,4,6-tetrachlorophenol and 2,3,5,6-tetrachlorophenol. These TeCPs are then further dehalogenated to TCPs, DCPs and MCPs. Another methanogenic enrichment culture derived from sewage sludge transformed 2,4,6-TCP, 2,4,5-TCP and 3,4,5-TCP [84]. In this process, 2,4,6-TCP is reductively dechlorinated to 4CP via 2,4-DCP, whereas 2,4,5-TCP and 3,4,5-TCP are dehalogenated to 3CP via 3,4-DCP [84]. The reductive dechlorination of 12 isomers of CPs and poly-CPs including MCPs, DCPs, TCPs, TeCPs and PCP was also investigated using methanogenic cultures [85]. Takeuchi *et al.*

[86] reported dehalogenation and transformation of 19 isomers of CPs under methanogenic conditions. A fresh water sediment mineralized 2,4-DCP into CO₂ and methane via 4CP, phenol and benzoate [87].

The mineralization of CPs has been found to be coupled with sulfate reduction. Haggblom and Young [88] developed a CPs-mineralizing sulfate reducing consortia from estuarine sediment that was maintained on 2CP, 3CP or 4CP as the only source of carbon and energy for several years [89]. Their experiments utilizing a 4CP-utilizing consortium revealed that mineralization of 4CP into CO₂ was coupled to sulfate reduction, and that 4CP depletion did not occur in the absence of sulfate. In this reaction, sulfate, thiosulfate or sulfite were used as electron acceptors [89]. The coupling of sulfate reduction with mineralization of CPs was also observed in degradation of 2CP or 4CP by sulfate reducing enrichment cultures derived from Hudson River sediment [90].

Under denitrifying conditions, the 2CP degradation was studied in enrichment cultures derived from activated sludge samples [91]. The presence of nitrate was essential as electron acceptors for the mineralization of 2CP into CO₂ [91]. Sanford and Tiedje [92] studied dechlorination and subsequent degradation of MCPs and DCPs in anaerobic microcosms supplemented with 1 mM or 5 mM nitrate.

CPs degradation is associated with reduction of Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} . An anaerobic enrichment culture derived from Hudson River sediments mineralized 2CP, 3CP and 4CP with concomitant reduction of Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} [93]. Several factors may affect dechlorination of CPs and reduction of Fe. For example, a low amount of nitrate enhances reductive dechlorination of PCP and Fe(III) reduction, while high concentrations of nitrate inhibit reductive dechlorination and Fe(III) reduction [94].

The reductive dehalogenation of MCPs and DCPs was investigated in the anaerobic sediment samples of estuarine Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaum [95]. Estuarine sediment enrichment cultures of lake Shinji dehalogenated 2CP, 3CP and 2,6-DCP, whereas enrichment cultures of Lake Nakaum dehalogenated 3CP and 2,6-DCP [95]. The dehalogenated product of MCPs was phenol, which was further degraded by the formation of benzoic acid. Itoh *et al.* [96] identified the bacterial consortia involved in dehalogenation of MCP into phenol and transformation of phenol to benzoic acid using polymerase chain reaction-denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (PCR-DGGE) of the 16S rRNA gene in the enrichment sample of Lake Shinji. The 4CP-dechlorinating culture had two dominant bacteria, in which one belonged to *Dehalobacter* sp. In the phenol transforming culture, *Cryptanaerobacter phenolicass* was present.

Li *et al.* [97] established a simple anaerobic upflow column system (15 cm long, 5 cm inner diameter) for complete PCP-mineralization using a microbial consortium requiring only lactate as an external nutrient. Anaerobic microbes dehalogenated PCP to 3CP and phenol using external lactate as an electron donor [97]. The further degradation of 3CP and phenol proceeded without an external electron donor and the nitrogen required for degradation was supplied by nitrogen-fixation [97]. The potential dechlorinators, *Dehalobacter* and *Desulfitobacterium*, and the phenol/3CP fermentative or syntrophic degraders, *Cryptanaerobacter* and *Syntrophus*, were found at the bottom of the column, whereas the nitrogen-fixing facultative anaerobe, *Rhizobiales*, was detected in the top of the upflow column, and other possible nitrogen-fixers were found at both the bottom and top of the upflow column [97].

A variety of pure bacterial cultures have been characterized for their ability to dechlorinate CPs under anaerobic conditions [98-101]. For example, several species of *Desulfitobacterium* with dehalogenating capabilities toward various CPs have been isolated and characterized, including *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* PCP-1 [98], *D. hafniense* DCB-2 [99], *D. dehalogenans* IW/IU-DC1 [102] and *D. chlororespirans* [103]. These strains utilize CPs as electron acceptors for growth during the oxidation of electron donating chemicals in a process known as halo-respiration [8]. Villemur [98] reported that *D.*

hafniense PCP-1 isolated from a methanogenic consortium was able to dehalogenate PCP to 3CP via the formation of 3,4,5-TCP and 3,5-DCP. Strain PCP-1 was also capable of dehalogenation of other TCPs and DCPs, but unable to dehalogenate MCPs [98]. *D. hafniense* strain DCB-2 removed the *ortho*-substituted chlorine from 2,4,6-TCP, 2,4,5-TCP, PCP, 2,4-DCP, and *meta*-substituted chlorine from 3,5-DCP [98]. Apart from *Desulfitobacterium* spp., other dehalorespiring bacteria include *Desulfomonile tiedje* DCB-1 [100] and *Anaeromyxobacter dehalogenans* [101]. Mohn and Kennedy [100] reported the dehalogenation of PCP into 2,4,6-TCP by 3-chlorobenzoate-induced cells of a sulfate reducing bacterium, *Desulfomonile tiedje* DCB-1. He and Sandford [104] reported *ortho*-dehalogenation of 2,6-DCP and 2CP to phenol by a facultative anaerobic bacterium, *Anaeromyxobacter dehalogenans* 2CP-C. Recently, Wang *et al.* [105] reported the removal of the *ortho*-chlorines from 2,4,6-TCP by *Dehalobacter* sp. PCP-1 that converted 2,4,6-TCP to 4CP via 2,4-DCP.

Genetics of bacterial degradation of CPs

The genes responsible for degradation of CPs are located on either plasmids or chromosomal DNA. Plasmid encoded genes include (i) two *tdf* operons on the *C. necator* JMP134 plasmid pJP4 [106], (ii) *tcpRXABCYD* cluster on *C. necator* JMP134 (pJP4) [107], (iii) the *clc* operon on the *Pseudomonas knackmussii* plasmid pB13 (pWR1) [108], and (iv) the *tcb* operon on the *Pseudomonas* sp. P51 plasmid pP51 [109]. Two *tdf* gene clusters (*tdfC_ID_IE_IF_I* and *tdfD_{II}C_{II}E_{II}F_{II}*) identified on plasmid pJP4 of strain JMP134 encode enzymes for 4CC metabolism. The genes *tdfC*, *tdfD*, *tdfE* and *tdfF* encode the enzymes chlorocatechol-1,2-dioxygenase (EC 1.13.11.-) (TfdC), chloromuconate cycloisomerase (TfdD) (EC = 5.5.1.7), dienelactone hydrolase (TfdE) (EC = 3.1.1.45), and maleylacetate reductase (TfdF) (EC = 1.3.1.32), respectively [106]. Van der Meer *et al.* [109] reported that genes *tcbC*, *tcbD* and *tcbE* located on the operon *tcb* (pP51) encoded a catechol 1,2-dioxygenase II (EC 1.13.11.1), a cycloisomerase II (EC = 5.5.1.7), and a hydrolase II (EC = 3.1.1.45), respectively which degraded 3,4-dichlorocatechol and 3,4,6-trichlorocatechol to chloromaleylacetate. The *clc* operon contains the genes for utilization of CCs on the *Pseudomonas* sp. P51 plasmid pP51 [108]. These genes include *cicA*, the gene encoding catechol oxygenase II (EC 1.13.11.1), *clcB*, the gene encoding muconate cycloisomerase II (EC = 5.5.1.7), and *clcD*, the gene encoding dienelactone hydrolase (EC = 3.1.1.45). The genes for degradation of 2,4,6-TCP are located on the *tcpRXABCYD* cluster from *C. necator* JMP134 (pJP4) [107]. The gene *tcpA* encodes a reduced flavin adenine dinucleotide (FADH₂)-dependent monooxygenase (TcpA) (EC = 1.14.13.-) that converts 2,4,6-TCP to 6-chlorohydroxyquinol. TcpA needs FADH₂ that is

supplied by the putative flavin reductase (TcpX) encoded by the *tcpX* gene [107]. The *tcpB* gene may also encode flavin reductase activity because it showed sequence similarity to genes coding for nitroreductases [107]. The gene *tcpC* encodes an enzyme 6-chlorohydroxyquinol-1,2-dioxygenase (TcpC) (EC = 1.13.11.-) that cleaves chlorohydroxyquinol to 2-chloromaleylacetate. The gene *tcpD* encodes an enzyme maleylacetate reductase (TcpD) (EC = 1.3.1.32) that converts chloromaleylacetate to β -keto adipate. The gene *tcpR* is a regulator that controls the expression of all *tcp* genes whereas the function of *tcpY* is not clear [107]. In *Ralstonia pickettii* DTP0602, two gene clusters (*hadXABC* and *hadYD*) are involved in the conversion of 2,4,6-TCP to 3-oxoadipate, where *hadXABC* and *hadYD* are regulated by *hadR* and *hadS*, respectively [110]. Torii *et al.* [111] investigated how HadR regulates 2,4,6-TCP catabolic pathway gene expression in *Ralstonia pickettii* DTP0602. They found that purified HadR binds to the *hadX* promoter and HadR–DNA complex formation is induced in the presence of 16 types of substituted phenols, including CPs, nitrophenols and tribromophenols.

A gene cluster containing four genes (*clcA2*, *clcB2*, *clcD2* and *clcF*) involved in a new modified *ortho*-cleavage pathway of 3CC was identified in *Rhodococcus opacus* 1CP [47]. The genes *clcA2*, *clcB2*, *clcD2* and *clcF* encode the enzymes 3-chlorocatechol-1,2-dioxygenase (ClcA2), chloromuconate cycloisomerase (ClcB2), dienelactone hydrolase (ClcD2) and muconolactone isomerase-related enzyme (ClcF), respectively. This organism also contains a second cluster of chlorocatechol degradation genes that are similar to the proteobacterial genes [41].

A 4CP-degradation gene cluster (*cph* genes) was identified in *A. chlorophenicus* [12]. This gene cluster contains 10 open reading frames that show similarity to the genes encoding the enzymes involved in CP degradation. Several open reading frames encode enzymes with similar functions. For example, two genes, *cphA-1* and *cph-11*, encode functional hydroxyquinol-1,2-dioxygenase. A mutant strain constructed by disturbing the gene *cphA-1* by site-directed mutagenesis was unable to utilize 4CP as the sole source of carbon energy. Other genes present on this cluster include *cphC-I*, *cphC-II*, *cphF-I*, *cphF-II*, *Cph B*, *CphX*, *CphR* and *CphS*. The genes *cphC-I* and *cphC-II* encode putative monooxygenase, whereas *cphF-I* and *cphF-II* encode putative maleylacetate reductase and *cphB* encodes a NADH:flavin adenine dinucleotide oxidoreductase. The roles of the remaining genes in the *cph* gene cluster have yet to be determined [112].

The *ccaBARCD* gene cluster is involved in CC degradation in *Pseudomonas reinekei* MT1 [112]. The genes *ccaA*, *ccaB*, *ccaC* and *ccaD* encode the enzymes catechol-1,2-dioxygenase, (chloro) muconate cycloisomerase, *trans*-dienelactone hydrolase and maleylacetate reductase, respectively. The gene, *ccaR* is a

putative regulator homologous to regulators of the IclR-type family [112].

Genes for degradation of 2,4,5-TCP have been identified and characterized from *Burkholderia phenoliruptrix* AC1100 [61,62,113-115]. Two gene clusters, *tftCD*, and *tftEFGH*, are involved in conversion of 2,4,5-TCP to 3-oxoadipate in *B. phenoliruptrix* AC1100 [61,62,113-115].

Several genes (*pcpB*, *pcpC*, *pcpA* and *pcpE*) involved in PCP degradation have been identified and characterized from *Sphingomonas chlorophenicum* L-1 [116]. The genes *pcpB*, *pcpC*, *pcpA* and *pcpE* encode the enzymes PCP-4-monooxygenase (PcpB) (EC = 1.14.13.50), TeCH-reductive dehalogenase (PcpC) (EC = 1.8.99.-), DiCHQ-1,2-dioxygenase (PcpA) (1.13.11.-), maleylacetate reductase (EC = 1.3.1.32), respectively. PcpB is a flavin monooxygenase that converts PCP to TeCHQ via hydroxylation at the *para*-position with removal of the chloride ion in the first step of the bacterial degradation of PCP. PcpB has broad substrate specificity and catalyzes reaction of various substituted aromatic compounds [117]. The *pcpB* gene has also been detected in three other strains of *Sphingomonium chlorophenicum* (RP-2, SR-3 and ATCC 33790). An identical *pcpB* gene sequence was found in three strains (L-1, RP-2, SR-3) [118,119], whereas the *pcpB* gene sequence of *Sphingomonads strain* UG-30 showed 90% sequence similarity with that of *Sphingomonium chlorophenicum* ATCC 39723 [120-122]. Homologues of the *pcpB* gene have also been detected in the polychlorinated degrading bacterium, *Novosphingonium* sp. strain MT1 [123], and in two non-PCP degrading β - and γ - proteobacterial strains [124]. In the second step of the PCP degradation, PcpC catalyzes the reductive dehalogenation of TeCHQ to 2,6-DCHQ, which is further cleaved to 2-chloromaleylacetate by PcpA. PcpE converts 2-chloromaleylacetate to 3-oxoadipate via maleylacetate. Another gene, *pcpR* is a LysR-type regulator that is essential to the induction of *pcpB*, *pcpA*, and *pcpE*.

Genetics of reductive dehalogenation

Reductive dehalogenation of CPs and poly-CPs is generally carried out by chlorophenol reductive dehalogenases (CprA) encoded by the *cprA* gene, which have been well-studied in *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* PCP-1, *D. dehalognase* IW/IU-DC1, and *D. chlororespirans* [98]. The *cprA* genes are associated with *cpr* gene clusters that also encode several accessory proteins (e.g., CprA-anchor protein [98,125], chaperones, regulators [126]). The *cpr* gene clusters composed of eight genes (*cprT*, *cprK*, *cprZ*, *cprE*, *cprB*, *cprA*, *cprC*, and *cprD*) have been identified in the genome of *Desulfitobacterium dehalogenans* IW/IU-DC1 and *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* DCB-2 [126,127]. CprK, a member of the CRP-FNR (cAMP-binding protein/fumarate nitrate reduction regulatory protein) family regulators, control transcription of the *cpr* genes [128]. The mechanism responsible for

regulation of transcription of *cpr* genes has been investigated [128]. An effector domain of CprK interacts with a chlorinated aromatic compound with high affinity which induces its binding to an upstream target DNA sequence known as the “dehalobox to activate the transcriptions of the *cpr* genes [128].

Four genes (*cprA2*, *cprA3*, *cprA4* and *cprA5*) encoding the putative chloroaromatic reductive dehalogenases (CprA2-A5) have been identified in *D. hafniense* PCP-1 [129-132]. Two gene products (CprA3 and CprA5) have been purified and characterized. CprA3 catalyzes *ortho*-dechlorination of highly chlorinated phenols including PCP, 2,3,4,5-TeCP, 2,3,4-TCP, 2,4,6-TCP and 2,3,6-TCP, whereas CprA5 catalyzes *meta*-dechlorination of 3,5-DCP and 2,3,5-TCP, *para*-dechlorination of PCP, 2,3,4,5-TeCP and 3,4,5-TCP, and *ortho*-dechlorination of 2,4,6-TCP, 2,4,5-TCP and 2,4-DCP [131,132]. The dehalogenation activities of the products of another two genes (*cprA2* and *cprA3*) are not yet known. The transcription levels of the *cprA2*, *cprA3*, *cprA4* and *cprA5* genes were measured in strain PCP cultures exposed to CPs by reverse transcription-quantitative PCR [133]. The genes *cprA2* and *cprA3* were upregulated in cultures amended with 2,4,6-TCP, whereas only *cprA5* was upregulated in 3,5-DCP-amended cultures. In PCP-amended cultures grown for 12 h, *cprA2* and *cprA3* were upregulated, but *cprA5* was not. The gene, *cprA4* was not upregulated significantly in cultures containing any tested CPs [133].

A non-CprA reductive dehalogenase known as CrdA from *D. hafniense* strain PCP-1 cultures amended with 2,4,6 TCP has been isolated and characterized. CrdA catalyzes *ortho*-dehalogenation of PCP and 2,4,6-TCP [134]. The gene (*crdA*) encoding CrdA has been cloned and sequenced from strain PCP-1 and also detected in several other strains of *Desulfitobacterium* [134]. Gauthier *et al.* [129] monitored the expression of the *crd* gene in *Desulfitobacterium* strains and transcripts of *crdA* were detected in *D. hafniense* strains PCP-1, DCB-2 and TCE-1.

Conclusions

The bacterial degradation of MCPs and poly-CPs has been extensively studied and several pathways have been proposed for degradation of MCPs and poly-CPs. The bacterial degradation of CPs and poly-CPs proceeded via formation of the corresponding CCs or the corresponding (chloro)HQs. The genes involved in the degradation of MCPs and poly-CPs have also been identified and characterized from CPs-degrading bacteria.

CAPs and CMPs are highly toxic compounds, and few studies have been conducted to investigate the biodegradation of these compounds. More CAPs and CMPs-degrading bacteria must be isolated to investigate the genetic and biochemical mechanism by which these compounds are degraded.

Anaerobic degradation of CPs has also been studied, and it has been established that MCPs and poly-CPs are initially dehalogenated to phenol, which is further transformed to benzoic acid and then mineralized to CO₂ under anaerobic conditions. However, further study is needed to elucidate the genetic and enzymatic basis of this mechanism. Furthermore, anaerobic degradation of other CPs such as CNPs, CAPs and CMPs should also be studied.

Abbreviations

CPs: Chlorophenols; MCPs: Monochlorophenols; poly-CPs: Polychlorophenols; CNPs: Chloronitrophenols; CAPs: Chloroaminophenols; CMPs: Chloromethylphenols; 2CP: 2-Chlorophenol; 3CP: 3-Chlorophenol; 4CP: 4-Chlorophenol; CC: Chlorocatechol; 4CC: 4-Chlorocatechol; 3CC: 3-Chlorocatechol; 2CC: 2-Chlorocatechol; HQ: Hydroquinone; 5C2HMS: 5-Chloro-2-hydroxymuconic semialdehyde; BT: 1,2,4-Benzenetriol; 4CC-BT pathway: 4-Chlorocatechol-benzenetriol pathway; CMC: Chloromuconate cycloisomerase; CML: Chloromuconolactone isomerase; DELH: Dienelactone hydrolase; DCPs: Dichlorophenols; TCPPs: Trichlorophenols; TeCPs: Tetrachlorophenols; PCP: Pentachlorophenol; 2,4-DCP: 2,4-Dichlorophenol; 2,4,6-TCP: 2,4,6-Trichlorophenol; 2,4,5-TCP: 2,4,5-Trichlorophenol; 2,4-D: 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid; DiCBQ: 2,5-Dichloro-*p*-benzoquinone; 2,5-DiCHQ: 2,5-Dichlorohydroquinone; CHHQ: 5-Chloro-2-hydroxy-*p*-hydroquinone; TeCHQ: Tetrachlorohydroquinone; 2,6-DCHQ: 2,6-Dichloro-1,4-hydroquinone; 2C4NP: 2-Chloro-4-nitrophenol; 4C2NP: 4-Chloro-2-nitrophenol; 4C3NP: 4-Chloro-3-nitrophenol; 2C5NP: 2-Chloro-5-nitrophenol; 2C3NP: 2-Chloro-3-nitrophenol; 4NP: 4-Nitrophenol; CHQ: Chlorohydroquinone; 4C2AP: 4-Chloro-2-aminophenol; 4C2AAP: 4-Chloro-2-acetaminophenol; 2AP: 2-Aminophenol; 2C5HAP: 2-Chloro-5-hydroxylaminophenol; 2A5CHQ: 2-Amino-5-chlorohydroquinone; 3NC: 3-Nitrocatechol; 4C2AP: 4-Chloro-2-aminophenol; 2C4AP: 2-Chloro-4-aminophenol; 2,3,4,5-TeCP: 2,3,4,5-Tetrachlorophenol; 3,4,5-TCP: 3,4,5-Trichlorophenol; TCA Cycle: Tricarboxylic acid cycle.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

PKA collected all the relevant publications, arranged the general structure of the review, drafted the text and produced figures. HHB revised and formatted the review and also help to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgement

This research was supported by a Yeungnam University Research Grant (213A345032).

Received: 15 January 2014 Accepted: 20 February 2014

Published: 3 March 2014

References

1. National Pollutant Inventory: Department of the environment, water, heritage and the arts, Australia. [http://www.npi.gov.au/resource/chlorophenols-di-tri-tetra]
2. Muller F, Caillard L: **Chlorophenols**. In *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc; 2011. DOI: 10.1002/14356007.a07_001.pub2.
3. Olaniran AO, Igbinosa EO: **Chlorophenols and other related derivatives of environmental concern: properties, distribution and microbial degradation processes**. *Chemosphere* 2011, **83**:1297–1306.
4. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR): *Toxicological Profile for Chlorophenols*. Atlanta, GA: U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service; 1999.
5. Igbinosa EO, Odjajare EE, Chigor VN, Igbinosa IH, Emoghene AO, Ekhaise FO, Iggehon NO, Idemudia OG: **Toxicological profile of chlorophenols and their derivatives in the environment: the public health perspective**. *Sci World J* 2013, **2013**:11. doi:10.1155/2013/460215.

6. Pera-Titus M, García-Molina V, Baños MA, Giménez J, Esplugas S: Degradation of chlorophenols by means of advanced oxidation processes: a general review. *Appl Catal B Environ* 2004, **47**(4):219–256.
7. Solyanikova IP, Golovleva LA: Bacterial degradation of chlorophenols: pathways, biochemistry, and genetic aspects. *J Environ Sci Health B* 2004, **39**(3):333–351.
8. Field JA, Sierra-Alvarez R: Microbial degradation of chlorinated phenols. *Rev Environ Sci Biotechnol* 2008, **7**:211–241.
9. Solyanikova I, Golovleva L: Biochemical features of the degradation of pollutants by *Rhodococcus* as a basis for contaminated wastewater and soil cleanup. *Mikrobiologiya* 2011, **80**(5):579–594.
10. Hollender J, Hopp J, Dott W: Degradation of 4-Chlorophenol via the meta Cleavage Pathway by *Comamonas testosteroni* JH5. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1997, **63**(11):4567–4572.
11. Mars AE, Kasberg T, Kaschabek SR, van Agteren MH, Janssen DB, Reineke W: Microbial degradation of chloroaromatics: use of the meta-cleavage pathway for mineralization of chlorobenzene. *J Bacteriol* 1997, **179**:4530–4537.
12. Nordin K, Unell M, Jansson JK: Novel 4-chlorophenol degradation gene clusterand degradation route via hydroxyquinol in *Arthrobacter chlorophenolicus* A6. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2005, **71**(11):6538–6544.
13. Xun L, Topp E, Orser CS: Purification and characterization of a tetrachloro-p-hydroquinone reductive dehalogenase from a *Flavobacterium* sp. *J Bacteriol* 1992, **174**:8003–8007.
14. Arora PK, Jain RK: Metabolism of 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol in a gram negative bacterium, *Burkholderia* sp. RKJ 800. *PLOS One* 2012, **7**(6):e38676.
15. Pandey J, Heipieper HJ, Chauhan A, Arora PK, Prakash D, Takeo M, Jain RK: Reductive dehalogenation mediated initiation of aerobic degradation of 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol (2C4NP) by *Burkholderia* sp. strain SJ98. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 2011, **92**:597–607.
16. Arora PK, Sharma A, Mehta R, Shenoy BD, Srivastava A, Singh VP: Metabolism of 4-chloro-2-nitrophenol in a gram-positive bacterium, *Exiguobacterium* sp. PMA. *Microb Cell Fact* 2012, **11**:150.
17. Arora PK, Srivastava A, Singh VP: Novel degradation pathway of 4-chloro-2-aminophenol via 4-chlorocatechol in *Burkholderia* sp. RKJ 800. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int* 2013. Doi: 10.1007/s11356-013-2167-y.
18. Arora PK, Srivastava A, Singh V: Novel degradation pathway of 2-chloro-4-aminophenol in *Arthrobacter* sp. SPG. *PeerJ Preprints* 2014, **2**:e194v1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.194v1>.
19. Nikodem P, Hecht V, Schlömann M, Pieper DH: New bacterial pathway for 4- and 5-chlorosalicylate degradation via 4-chlorocatechol and maleylacetate in *Pseudomonas* sp. strain MT1. *J Bacteriol* 2003, **185**(23):6790–6800.
20. Dorn E, Hellwig M, Reineke W, Knackmuss HJ: Isolation and characterization of a 3-chlorobenzoate degrading pseudomonad. *Arch Microbiol* 1974, **99**(1):61–70.
21. Weisshaar MP, Franklin FC, Reineke W: Molecular cloning and expression of the 3-chlorobenzoate-degrading genes from *Pseudomonas* sp. strain B13. *J Bacteriol* 1987, **169**(1):394–402.
22. Ajithkumar PV, Kunhi AA: Pathways for 3-chloro- and 4-chlorobenzoate degradation in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* 3mT. *Biodegradation* 2000, **11**(4):247–261.
23. Arensdorf JJ, Focht DD: Formation of chlorocatechol meta cleavage products by a pseudomonad during metabolism of monochlorobiphenyls. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1994, **60**(8):2884–2889.
24. Stolz A, Busse HJ, Kämpfer P: *Pseudomonas knackmussii* sp. nov. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2007, **57**(Pt 3):572–576.
25. Knackmuss HJ, Hellwig M: Utilization and cooxidation of chlorinated phenols by *Pseudomonas* sp B-13. *Arch Microbiol* 1978, **117**:1–7.
26. Fava F, Armenante PM, Kafkewitz D: Aerobic degradation and dechlorination of 2-chlorophenol, 3-chlorophenol and 4-chlorophenol by a *Pseudomonas pickettii* strain. *Lett Appl Microbiol* 1995, **21**(5):307–312.
27. Finkel'shtein ZI, Baskunov BP, Golovlev EL, Moiseeva OV, Vervoort J, Rietjens I, Golovleva LA: Dependence of the conversion of chlorophenols by rhodococci on the number and position of chlorine atoms in the aromatic ring. *Microbiology* 2000, **69**:40–47.
28. Menke B, Rehm HJ: Degradation of mixtures of monochlorophenols and phenol as substrates for free and immobilized cells of *Alcaligenes* sp. A7–2. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 1992, **37**:655–661.
29. Hollender J, Hopp J, Dott W: Cooxidation of chloro- and methylphenols by *Alcaligenes xylooxidans* JH1. *World J Microbiol Biotechnol* 2000, **16**:445–450.
30. Bae HS, Rhee SK, Cho YG, Hong JK, Lee ST: Two different pathways (a chlorocatechol and a hydroquinone pathway) for the 4-chlorophenol degradation in two isolated bacterial strains. *J Microbiol Biotechnol* 1997, **7**:237–241.
31. Westerberg K, Elvang AM, Stackebrandt E, Jansson JK: *Arthrobacter chlorophenolicus* sp nov., a new species capable of degrading high concentrations of 4-chlorophenol. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2000, **50**:2083–2092.
32. Bae HS, Lee JM, Kim YB, Lee ST: Biodegradation of the mixtures of 4-chlorophenol and phenol by *Comamonas testosteroni* CPW301. *Biodegradation* 1997, **7**:463–469.
33. Im WT, Bae HS, Yokota A, Lee ST: *Herbaspirillum chlorophenolicum* sp. nov., a 4-chlorophenol-degrading bacterium. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2004, **54**(Pt3):851–855.
34. Konovalova EI, Solyanikova IP, Golovleva LA: Degradation of 4-chlorophenol by the bacterium *Rhodococcus opacus* 6a. *Microbiol (Moscow, Engl Transl)* 2009, **78**(6):805–807.
35. Bae HS, Lee JM, Lee ST: Biodegradation of 4-chlorophenol via a hydroquinone pathway by *Arthrobacter ureafaciens* CPR706. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 1996, **145**(1):125–129.
36. Solyanikova IP, Golovleva LA: Biochemical Features of the degradation of pollutants by *Rhodococcus* as a basis for contaminated wastewater and soil cleanup. *Microbiology* 2011, **80**(5):591–607.
37. Cho YG, Yoon JH, Park YH, Lee ST: Simultaneous degradation of p-nitrophenol and phenol by a newly isolated Nocardioideis sp. *J Gen Appl Microbiol* 1998, **44**:303–309.
38. Golovleva LA, Zaborina O, Pertsova R, Baskunov B, Schurukhin Y, Kuzmin S: Degradation of polychlorinated phenols by *Streptomyces rochei* 303. *Biodegradation* 1992, **2**:201–208.
39. Farrell A, Quilty B: Degradation of mono-chlorophenols by a mixed microbial community via a meta- cleavage pathway. *Biodegradation* 1999, **10**(5):353–362.
40. Moiseeva OV, Belova OV, Solyanikova IP, Schlömann M, Golovleva LA: Enzymes of a new modified ortho-pathway utilizing 2-chlorophenol in *Rhodococcus opacus* 1CP. *Biochemistry (Mosc)* 2001, **66**(5):548–555.
41. Moiseeva OV, Solyanikova IP, Kaschabek SR, Gröning J, Thiel M, Golovleva LA, Schlömann MA: New modified ortho cleavage pathway of 3-chlorocatechol degradation by *Rhodococcus opacus* 1CP: genetic and biochemical evidence. *J Bacteriol* 2002, **184**(19):5282–5292.
42. Bartels I, Knackmuss HJ, Reineke W: Suicidal inactivation of catechol 2,3-dioxygenase from *Pseudomonas putida* mt-2 by 3-halocatechols. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1984, **47**(3):500–505.
43. Kunze M, Zerlin KF, Retzlaff A, Pohl JO, Schmidt E, Janssen DB, Vilchez-Vargas R, Pieper DH, Reineke W: Degradation of chloroaromatics by *Pseudomonas putida* GJ31: assembled route for chlorobenzene degradation encoded by clusters on plasmid pKW1 and the chromosome. *Microbiology* 2009, **155**(Pt12):4069–4083.
44. Gobel M, Kranz OH, Kaschabek SR, Schmidt E, Pieper DH, Reineke W: Microorganisms degrading chlorobenzene via a meta-cleavage pathway harbor highly similar chlorocatechol 2,3-dioxygenase-encoding gene clusters. *Arch Microbiol* 2004, **182**:147–156.
45. Tarao M, Seto M: Estimation of the yield coefficient of *Pseudomonas* sp. strain DP-4 with a low substrate (2,4-dichlorophenol [DCP]) concentration in a mineral medium from which uncharacterized organic compounds were eliminated by a non-DCP-degrading organism. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2000, **66**:566–570.
46. Goswami M, Shivaraman N, Singh RP: Kinetics of chlorophenol degradation by benzoate-induced culture of *Rhodococcus erythropolis* M1. *World J Microbiol Biotechnol* 2002, **18**:779–783.
47. Tyler JE, Finn RK: Growth rates of a *Pseudomonad* on 2,4-D and 2,4 dichlorophenol. *Appl Microbiol* 1974, **28**:181–184.
48. Wang CC, Lee CM, Kuan CH: Removal of 2,4-dichlorophenol by suspended and immobilized *Bacillus insolitus*. *Chemosphere* 2000, **41**(3):447–452.
49. Fukumori F, Hausinger RP: Purification and characterization of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetate/alpha-ketoglutarate dioxygenase. *J Biol Chem* 1993, **268**(32):24311–243117.
50. Perkins EJ, Gordon MP, Caceres O, Lurquin PF: Organization and sequence analysis of the 2,4-dichlorophenol hydroxylase and dichlorocatechol oxidative operons of plasmid pJP4. *J Bacteriol* 1990, **172**(5):2351–2359.
51. Koh S, McCullar MV, Focht DD: Biodegradation of 2,4-dichlorophenol through a distal meta-fission pathway. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1997, **63**(5):2054–2057.

52. Li DY, Eberspacher J, Wagner B, Kuntzer J, Lingens F: **Degradation of 2,4,6-trichlorophenol by *Azotobacter* sp. strain GP1.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1991, **57**:1920–1928.
53. Kiyohara H, Hatta T, Ogawa Y, Kakuda T, Yokoyama H, Takizawa N: **Isolation of *Pseudomonas pickettii* strains that degrade 2,4,6-trichlorophenol and their dechlorination of chlorophenols.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1992, **58**:1276–1283.
54. Matus V, Sanchez MA, Martinez M, Gonzalez B: **Efficient degradation of 2,4,6-trichlorophenol requires a set of catabolic genes related to tcp genes from *Ralstonia eutropha* JMP134(pJP4).** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2003, **69**:7108–7115.
55. Xun LY, Webster CM: **A monooxygenase catalyzes sequential dechlorinations of 2,4,6-trichlorophenol by oxidative and hydrolytic reactions.** *J Biol Chem* 2004, **279**:6696–6700.
56. Mannisto MK, Tirola MA, Salkinoja-Salonen MS, Kulomaa MS, Puhakka JA: **Diversity of chlorophenol degrading bacteria isolated from contaminated boreal groundwater.** *Arch Microbiol* 1999, **171**:189–197.
57. Tirola MA, Busse HJ, Kampfer P, Mannisto MK: ***Novosphingobium lentum* sp. nov., a psychrotolerant bacterium from a polychlorophenol bioremediation process.** *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 2005, **55**:583–588.
58. Louie TM, Webster CM, Xun L: **Genetic and biochemical characterization of a 2,4,6-trichlorophenol degradation pathway in *Ralstonia eutropha* JMP134.** *J Bacteriol* 2002, **184**(13):3492–3500.
59. Coenye T, Henry D, Speert DP, Vandamme P: ***Burkholderia phenoliruptrix* sp. nov., to accommodate the 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid and halophenol-degrading strain AC1100.** *Syst Appl Microbiol* 2004, **27**(6):623–627.
60. Webb BN, Ballinger JW, Kim E, Belchik SM, Lam KS, Youn B, Nissen MS, Xun L, Kang C: **Characterization of chlorophenol 4-monooxygenase (TfTd) and NADH:FAD oxidoreductase (TfTc) of *Burkholderia cepacia* AC1100.** *J Biol Chem* 2010, **285**(3):2014–2027.
61. Gisi MR, Xun L: **Characterization of chlorophenol 4-monooxygenase (TfTd) and NADH: flavin adenine dinucleotide oxidoreductase (TfTc) of *Burkholderia cepacia* AC1100.** *J Bacteriol* 2009, **185**(9):2786–2792.
62. Zaborina O, Daubaras DL, Zago A, Xun L, Saido K, Klem T, Nikolic D, Chakrabarty AM: **Novel pathway for conversion of chlorohydroxyquinol to maleylacetate in *Burkholderia cepacia* AC1100.** *J Bacteriol* 1998, **180**(17):4667–4675.
63. Ohtsubo Y, Miyauchi K, Kanda K, Hatta T, Kiyohara H, Senda T, Nagata Y, Mitsui Y, Takagi M: **PcpA, which is involved in the degradation of pentachlorophenol in *Sphingomonas chlorophenolica* ATCC39723, is a novel type of ring-cleavage dioxygenase.** *FEBS Lett* 1999, **459**(3):395–398.
64. Lange CC, Schneider BJ, Orser CS: **Verification of the role of PCP 4-monooxygenase in chlorine elimination from pentachlorophenol by *Flavobacterium* sp. strain ATCC 39723.** *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 1996, **219**(1):146–149.
65. Orser CS, Lange CC: **Molecular analysis of pentachlorophenol degradation.** *Biodegradation* 1994, **5**:277–288.
66. Uotila JS, Salkinoja-Salonen MS, Apajalahti JHA: **Dechlorination of pentachlorophenol by membrane boundenzymes of *Rhodococcus chlorophenolicus* PCP-I.** *Biodegradation* 1991, **2**:25–31.
67. Uotila JS, Kitunen VH, Saastamoinen T, Coote T, Haggblom MM, Salkinoja-Salonen MS: **Characterization of aromatic dehalogenases of *Mycobacterium fortuitum* CG-2.** *J Bacteriol* 1992, **174**:5669–5675.
68. Apajalahti JHA, Salkinoja-Salonen MS: **Complete dechlorination of tetrachlorohydroquinone by cell-extracts of pentachlorophenol-induced *Rhodococcus chlorophenolicus*.** *J Bacteriol* 1987, **169**:5125–5130.
69. Arora PK, Jain RK: **Pathway for degradation of 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol by *Arthrobacter* sp. SJCon.** *Curr Microbiol* 2011, **63**:568–573.
70. Ghosh A, Khurana M, Chauhan A, Takeo M, Chakraborti AK, Jain RK: **Degradation of 4-nitrophenol, 2-chloro-4-nitrophenol, and 2,4-dinitrophenol by *Rhodococcus imtechensis* strain RKJ300.** *Environ Sci Technol* 2010, **44**:1069–1077.
71. Bruhn C, Bayly RC, Knackmuss HJ: **The In vivo construction of 4-chloro-2-nitrophenol assimilatory bacteria.** *Arch Microbiol* 1988, **150**:171–177.
72. Beunink J, Rehm HJ: **Coupled reductive and oxidative degradation of 4-chloro-2-nitrophenol by a co-immobilized mixed culture system.** *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 1990, **34**:108–115.
73. Arora PK, Jain RK: **Biotransformation of 4-chloro-2-nitrophenol into 5-chloro-2-methylbenzoxazole by a marine *Bacillus* sp. strain MW-1.** *Biodegradation* 2012, **23**:325–331.
74. Arora PK: **Decolourization of 4-chloro-2-nitrophenol by a soil bacterium, *Bacillus subtilis* RKJ 700.** *PLoS One* 2012, **7**:e52012.
75. Schenzle A, Lenke H, Spain JC, Knackmuss HJ: **Chemoselective nitro group reduction and reductive dechlorination initiate degradation of 2-chloro-5-nitrophenol by *Ralstonia eutropha* JMP134.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1999, **65**:2317–2323.
76. Pandey J, Sharma NK, Khan F, Ghosh A, Oakeshott JG, Jain RK, Pandey G: **Chemotaxis of *Burkholderia* sp. strain SJ98 towards chloronitroaromatic compounds that it can metabolise.** *BMC Microbiol* 2010, **12**:19.
77. Lechner U, Baumbach R, Becker D, Kitunen V, Auling G, Salkinoja-Salonen M: **Degradation of 4-chloro-2-methylphenol by an activated sludge isolate and its taxonomic description.** *Biodegradation* 1995, **6**(2):83–92.
78. Mikesell MD, Boyd SA: **Complete reductive dechlorination and mineralization of pentachlorophenol by anaerobic microorganisms.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1986, **52**:861–865.
79. Londry KL, Fedorak PM: **Benzoic-acid intermediates in the anaerobic biodegradation of phenols.** *Can J Microbiol* 1992, **38**:1–11.
80. Yang S, Shibata A, Yoshida N, Katayama A: **Anaerobic mineralization of pentachlorophenol (PCP) by combining PCP-dechlorinating and phenol-degrading cultures.** *Biotechnol Bioeng* 2009, **102**(1):81–90.
81. Becker JG, Stahl DA, Rittmann BE: **Reductive dehalogenation and conversion of 2-chlorophenol to 3-chlorobenzoate in a methanogenic sediment community: Implications for predicting the environmental fate of chlorinated pollutants.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1999, **65**:5169–5172.
82. Boyd SA, Shelton DR: **Anaerobic biodegradation of chlorophenols in fresh and acclimated sludge.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1984, **47**:272–277.
83. Nicholson DK, Woods SL, Istok JD, Peek DC: **Reductive dechlorination of chlorophenols by a pentachlorophenol-acclimated methanogenic consortium.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1992, **58**:2280–2286.
84. Madsen T, Aamand H: **Anaerobic transformation and toxicity of trichlorophenols in a stable enrichment culture.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1992, **58**(2):557–561.
85. Wang YT, Muthukrishnan S, Wang ZM: **Reductive dechlorination of chlorophenols in methanogenic cultures.** *J Environ Eng-ASCE* 1998, **124**:231–238.
86. Takeuchi R, Suwa Y, Yamagishi T, Yonezawa Y: **Anaerobic transformation of chlorophenols in methanogenic sludge unexposed to chlorophenols.** *Chemosphere* 2000, **41**:1457–1462.
87. Zhang X, Wiegel J: **Sequential anaerobic degradation of 2,4-dichlorophenol in freshwater sediments.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1990, **56**:1119–1127.
88. Haggblom MM, Young LY: **Chlorophenol degradation coupled to sulfate reduction.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1990, **56**(11):3255–3260.
89. Haggblom MM, Young LY: **Anaerobic degradation of halogenated phenols by sulfate-reducing consortia.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1995, **61**:1546–1550.
90. Haggblom MM, Rivera MD, Young LY: **Influence of alternative electron acceptors on the anaerobic biodegradability of chlorinated phenols and benzoic acids.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1993, **59**(4):1162–1167.
91. Bae HS, Yamagishi T, Suwa Y: **Evidence for degradation of 2-chlorophenol by enrichment cultures under denitrifying conditions.** *Microbiology* 2002, **148**:221–227.
92. Sanford RA, Tiedje JM: **Chlorophenol dechlorination and subsequent degradation in denitrifying microcosms fed low concentrations of nitrate.** *Biodegradation* 1997, **7**:425–434.
93. Kazumi J, Haggblom MM, Young LY: **Degradation of monochlorinated and nonchlorinated aromatic-compounds under iron-reducing conditions.** *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1995, **61**:4069–4073.
94. Yu HY, Wang YK, Chen PC, Li FB, Chen MJ, Hu M, Ouyang X: **Effect of nitrate addition on reductive transformation of pentachlorophenol in paddy soil in relation to iron(III) reduction.** *J Environ Manage* 2013, **132C**:42–48.
95. Itoh K, Mihara Y, Tanimoto N, Shimada T, Suyama K: **Reductive dechlorination of chlorophenols in estuarine sediments of Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaumi.** *J Environ Sci Health B* 2010, **45**(5):399–407.
96. Itoh K, Mihara Y, Toshima Y, Suyama K: **Characterization of microbial consortia that reductively dechlorinate 4-chlorophenol and transform phenol to benzoate enriched from estuarine sediment of Lake Shinji.** *J Environ Sci Health B* 2011, **46**(2):181–190.
97. Li Z, Inoue Y, Suzuki D, Ye L, Katayama A: **Long-term anaerobic mineralization of pentachlorophenol in a continuous-flow system using**

- only lactate as an external nutrient. *Environ Sci Technol* 2013, **47**(3):1534–1541.
98. Villemur R: The pentachlorophenol-dehalogenating *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* strain PCP-1. *Philos Trans R Soc B* 2013, **368**:20120319.
99. Christiansen N, Ahring BK: *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* sp nov, an anaerobic, reductively dechlorinating bacterium. *Int J Syst Bacteriol* 1996, **46**:442–448.
100. Mohn WW, Kennedy KJ: Reductive dehalogenation of chlorophenols by *Desulfomonile tiedjei* DCB-1. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1992, **58**(4):1367–1370.
101. Sanford RA, Cole JR, Tiedje JM: Characterization and description of *Anaeromyxobacter dehalogenans* gen. nov., sp. nov., an aryl-halo-respiring facultative anaerobic myxobacterium. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2002, **68**(2):893–900.
102. Utkin I, Woese C, Wiegel J: Isolation and characterization of *Desulfitobacterium dehalogenans* gen. nov, sp. nov, an anaerobic bacterium which reductively dechlorinates chlorophenolic compounds. *Int J Syst Bacteriol* 1994, **44**:612–619.
103. Sanford RA, Cole JR, Löffler FE, Tiedje JN: Characterization of *Desulfitobacterium chlororespirans* sp nov, which grows by coupling the oxidation of lactate to the reductive dechlorination of 3-chloro-4-hydroxybenzoate. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1996, **62**:3800–3808.
104. He Q, Sanford RA: Induction characteristics of reductive dehalogenation in the ortho-halophenol-respiring bacterium. *Anaeromyxobacter dehalogenans*. *Biodegradation* 2002, **13**(5):307–316.
105. Wang S, Zhang W, Yang KL, He J: Isolation and characterization of a novel *Dehalobacter* species strain TCP1 that reductively dechlorinates 2,4,6-trichlorophenol. *Biodegradation* 2013. doi:10.1007/s10532-013-9662-1.
106. Don RH, Weightman AJ, Knackmuss HJ, Timmis KN: Transposon mutagenesis and cloning analysis of the pathways for degradation of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and 3-chlorobenzoate in *Alcaligenes eutrophus* JMP134(pJP4). *J Bacteriol* 1995, **161**(1):85–90.
107. Sánchez MA, González B: Genetic characterization of 2, 4, 6-trichlorophenol degradation in *Cupriavidus necator* JMP134. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2007, **73**(9):2769–2776.
108. Chatterjee DK, Kellogg ST, Hamada S, Chakrabarty AM: Plasmid specifying total degradation of 3-chlorobenzoate by a modified ortho pathway. *J Bacteriol* 1981, **146**(2):639–646.
109. van der Meer JR, van Neerven AR, de Vries EJ, de Vos WM, Zehnder AJ: Cloning and characterization of plasmid-encoded genes for the degradation of 1,2-dichloro-, 1,4-dichloro-, and 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene of *Pseudomonas* sp. strain P51. *J Bacteriol* 1991, **173**(1):6–15.
110. Hatta T, Fujii E, Takizawa N: Analysis of two gene clusters involved in 2,4,6-trichlorophenol degradation by *Ralstonia pickettii* DTP0602. *Biosci Biotechnol Biochem* 2012, **76**:892–899.
111. Torii H, Machida A, Hara H, Hatta T, Takizawa N: The regulatory mechanism of 2,4,6-trichlorophenol catabolic operon expression by HadR in *Ralstonia pickettii* DTP0602. *Microbiology* 2013, **159**:665–677.
112. Cámara B, Nikodem P, Bielecki P, Bobadilla R, Junca H, Pieper DH: Characterization of a gene cluster involved in 4-chlorocatechol degradation by *Pseudomonas reinekei* MT1. *J Bacteriol* 2009, **191**(15):4905–4915.
113. Hubner A, Danganan CE, Xun L, Chakrabarty AM, Hendrickson W: Genes for 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid metabolism in *Burkholderia cepacia* AC1100: characterization of the tftC and tftD genes and locations of the tft operons on multiple replicons. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1998, **64**:2086–2093.
114. Danganan CE, Ye RW, Daubaras DL, Xun L, Chakrabarty AM: Nucleotide sequence and functional analysis of the genes encoding 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid oxygenase in *Pseudomonas cepacia* AC1100. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1994, **60**:4100–4106.
115. Daubaras DL, Hershberger CD, Kitano K, Chakrabarty AM: Sequence analysis of a gene cluster involved in metabolism of 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid by *Burkholderia cepacia* AC1100. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 1995, **61**:1279–1289.
116. Cai M, Xun L: Organization and regulation of pentachlorophenol-degrading genes in *Sphingobium chlorophenolicum* ATCC 39723. *J Bacteriol* 2002, **184**(17):4672–4680.
117. Xun L, Topp E, Orser CS: Diverse substrate range of a *Flavobacterium* pentachlorophenol hydroxylase and reaction stoichiometries. *J Bacteriol* 1992, **174**:2898–2902.
118. Karlson U, Rojo F, vanElsas JD, Moore E: Genetic and serological evidence for the recognition of four pentachlorophenol degrading bacterial strains as a species of the genus *Sphingomonas*. *Syst Appl Microbiol* 1996, **18**:539–548.
119. Ederer MM, Crawford RL, Herwig RP, Orser CS: PCP degradation is mediated by closely related strains of the genus *Sphingomonas*. *Mol Ecol* 1997, **6**:39–49.
120. Cassidy MB, Lee H, Trevors JT, Zablotowicz RB: Chlorophenol and nitrophenol metabolism by *Sphingomonas* sp. UG30. *J Ind Microbiol Biotechnol* 1999, **23**:232–241.
121. Leung KT, Campbell S, Gan Y, White DC, Lee H, Trevors JT: The role of the *Sphingomonas* species UG30 pentachlorophenol-4-monoxygenase in *p*-nitrophenol degradation. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 1999, **173**:247–253.
122. Leung KT, Cassidy MB, Shaw KW, Lee H, Trevors JT, Lohmeier-Vogel EM, Vogel HJ: Pentachlorophenol biodegradation by *Pseudomonas* spp. UG25 and UG30. *World J Microbiol Biotechnol* 1997, **13**:305–313.
123. Tirola MA, Mannisto MK, Puhakka JA, Kulomaa MS: Isolation and characterization of *Novosphingobium* sp. strain MT1, a dominant polychlorophenol-degrading strain in a groundwater bioremediation system. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2002, **68**:173–180.
124. Saboo VM, Gealt MA: Gene sequences of the *pcpB* gene of pentachlorophenol-degrading *Sphingomonas chlorophenolica* found in non degrading bacteria. *Can J Microbiol* 1998, **44**:667–675.
125. Smidt H, van Leest M, van der Oost J, de Vos WM: Transcriptional regulation of the *cpr* gene cluster in ortho-chlorophenol-respiring *Desulfitobacterium dehalogenans*. *J Bacteriol* 2000, **182**:5683–5691.
126. Villemur R, Lanthier M, Beaudet R, Le'pine F: The *Desulfitobacterium* genus. *FEMS Microbiol Rev* 2006, **30**:706–733.
127. Smidt H, van Leest M, van der Oost J, de Vos WM: Transcriptional regulation of the *cpr* gene cluster in ortho-chlorophenol-respiring *Desulfitobacterium dehalogenans*. *J Bacteriol* 2000, **182**(20):5683–5691.
128. Gábor K, Veríssimo CS, Cyran BC, Ter Horst P, Meijer NP, Smidt H, de Vos WM, van der Oost J: Characterization of CprK1, a CRP/FNR-type transcriptional regulator of halo-respiration from *Desulfitobacterium hafniense*. *J Bacteriol* 2006, **188**(7):2604–2613.
129. Gauthier A, Beaudet R, Le'pine F, Juteau P, Villemur R: Occurrence and expression of *crdA* and *cprA5* encoding chloroaromatic reductive dehalogenases in *Desulfitobacterium* strains. *Can J Microbiol* 2006, **52**:47–55.
130. van de Pas BA, Smidt H, Hagen WR, van der Oost J, Schraa G, Stams AJM, de Vos WM: Purification and molecular characterization of ortho-chlorophenol reductive dehalogenase, a key enzyme of halo-respiration in *Desulfitobacterium dehalogenans*. *J Biol Chem* 1999, **274**:20287–20292.
131. Baisaillon A, Beaudet R, Le'pine F, Deziel E, Villemur R: Identification and characterization of a novel CprA reductive dehalogenase specific to highly chlorinated phenols from *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* strain PCP-1. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2010, **76**:7536–7540.
132. Thibodeau J, Gauthier A, Duguay M, Villemur R, Le'pine F, Juteau P, Beaudet R: Purification, cloning, and sequencing of a 3,5-dichlorophenol reductive dehalogenase from *Desulfitobacterium frappieri* PCP-1. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2004, **70**:4532–4537.
133. Baisaillon A, Beaudet R, Le'pine F, Villemur R: Quantitative analysis of the relative transcript levels of four chlorophenol reductive dehalogenase genes in *Desulfitobacterium hafniense* PCP-exposed to chlorophenols. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2011, **77**:6261–6264.
134. Boyer A, Page'Be' langer R, Saucier M, Villemur R, Le'pine F, Juteau P, Beaudet R: Purification, cloning and sequencing of an enzyme mediating the reductive dechlorination of 2,4,6-trichlorophenol from *Desulfitobacterium frappieri* PCP-1. *Biochem J* 2003, **373**:297–303.

doi:10.1186/1475-2859-13-31

Cite this article as: Arora and Bae: Bacterial degradation of chlorophenols and their derivatives. *Microbial Cell Factories* 2014 **13**:31.