



**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**ISOLATION, IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF BACTERIAL ISOLATES FROM SOIL SAMPLES AND THEIR POSSIBLE ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MALARIA VECTOR ANOPHELES STEPHENSI (L.)**

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**ABSTRACT**

The use of entomopathogen is a feasible substitute for insect control because of their virtual specificity and lower environmental impact. The search for microbial strains against Dipterans could have an impact on mosquito control programs. Bacterial pathogens are ubiquitous in soil and water. The potential for bacteria to play a role as pathogen of vectors is an important step towards ecosafe management of vectors. In the present investigation soil bacterial fauna were isolated to assess their insecticidal activities against *Anopheles stephensi* (L) larvae. The isolated bacterial colonies from soil were characterized according to morphological, physiological and biochemical parameters. High larvicidal activity was observed by three strains of bacillus i.e. *Bacillus polymyxa*, *Bacillus cerus* and *Bacillus subtilis* amongst all the identified strains. Further *Bacillus subtilis* strain IF5 (NCBI: KJ022639) displaying the highest activity stood first against both the second and fourth larval instar larvae with LC<sub>50</sub> of 1.865 and 3.361x6.5x10<sup>7</sup> cfu/ml respectively followed by *B. cerus* and *B. Polymyxa* (LC<sub>50</sub> 2.931 and 4.305 & LC<sub>50</sub> of 4.776 and 5.403 x6.5x10<sup>7</sup> cfu/ml). Second instar larvae were more susceptible than fourth instar for all the bacterial isolates. These findings are a valuable tool for the control of mosquitoes of medical importance, *B. subtilis* strain IF5 can be recommended for industrial production of bacterial preparations. Further work is required to assess the epidemiological impact of this finding.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Mosquitoes are a serious threat to public health transmitting several dangerous diseases in over 2 billi in recent year's measurement of ultrasonic investigations found extensive applications in determining the physicochemical behaviour of liquid mixture. Theoretical evaluations of ultrasonic velocity give a better understanding of molecular arrangements in liquids. Several researchers<sup>1-5</sup> carried out ultrasonic investigations and correlated the experimental results of ultrasonic velocity with the theoretical relations of Nomoto<sup>6</sup>, Junjie<sup>7</sup>, Van Deal and Vangeel<sup>8</sup>, Jacobson<sup>9</sup>, Schaaf<sup>10</sup> and Impedance dependence relation<sup>11</sup>. In the present communication the aforementioned relations have been used to predict ultrasonic velocity in ternary liquid mixture of tetrahydrofuran with octane and decane at temperatures of 303 K, 308 K and 313 K.

On people in the tropics (Odalo *et al.*, 2005). Among the disease transmitting insects, the mosquitoes are the primary hosts for transmission of diseases like malaria, dengue, chikungunya, lymphatic filariasis, yellow fever etc., which together are responsible for several million deaths and

hundreds of millions of cases every year (Chandel, *et al.*, 2013). Mosquito control and personal protection from mosquito bites are currently the most important measures employed to control these diseases. Many approaches have been developed that aim to diminish mosquito menace. The use of larvicides and repellents can be an economical and practical way to prevent the transmission of these diseases to humans. The common approach for the control of mosquito vectors and reducing the transmission of human pathogens is based on the chemical insecticides (Paul *et al.*, 2006). Chemical insecticides remained control which the insects quickly develop resistance which requires either increasing of dosages, or insecticide rotation. Lacking the selectivity of impact, chemical insecticides cause the death of non-target and often useful organisms. The accumulation of insecticides in natural constituents (water, soil, etc.) makes them environmentally hazardous. These shortcomings make it necessary to find new environmentally friendly methods of bloodsucking insect control. The main advantage of biological agents when compared to chemical ones is selectivity. As the extensive use of chemicals to control insect pests has been found to have detrimental effects on people and the the main

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way for bloodsucking insect control, to environment, there is a pressing need to discover and develop new entomopathogens to these insects biologically. Therefore, bacteria discovered in this study to have entomopathogenic potency against mosquitoes can be a good alternate in vector control. Based on the effects, *Bti* have been used for over 30 years, with almost no cases of their negative effect on other organisms. There was no on occurrence of insect resistance to these agents also. Given the ability of *Bti* to samples malaria vector *Anopheles stephensi*.

Synthesize 4 types of protein toxins; it is hardly possible to predict the emergence of resistance in the future. According to WHO (2012), in future the share of biological agents for bloodsucking insect control should grow by isolation of new effective strains of bacteria, improvement of formulations, cost reduction and development of sustainable tactics of their use. For adult insect control there is still no alternative to chemical agents, however for destruction of larvae the biologics are increasingly used. These considerations confirm the relevance of the present investigations. Hence, in the present investigation an attempt was made to evaluate the toxicity of different bacterial strains isolate from collected soil

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

**Mass Rearing of Mosquito Larvae**

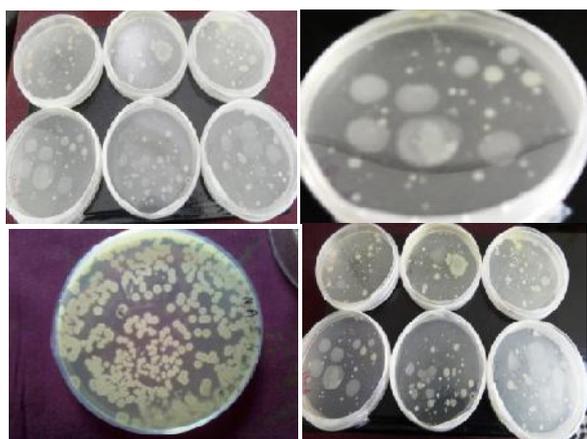


Figure 1 Isolated Bacterial Colonies

Mosquito larvae were collected from different water bodies. Species identification was carried out in Insect Microbial and herbal Control Research Laboratory, MLS University, Rajasthan, India. The mosquito larvae were identified as *Anopheles stephensi* (L). The collected larvae were acclimatized under proper temperature and humidity (Anjali *et al.*, 2011). The strain was maintained in our laboratory as per WHO protocol.

**Soil Sample Collection**

The soil samples were collected randomly from different locations and were brought to the laboratory in sterile polythene bags and stored at 4°C. We are considering here, isolation, characterization and identification of three bacterial species

**Isolation and identification of Bacillus Species**

Nutrient agar medium was prepared and sterilized at 121°C in 15lbs pressure for 15 minutes. One gram of soil sample was serially diluted. 100µl of the aliquots from the 10<sup>7</sup> was spread

over the NA plates and incubated at 28± 2°C for seven days. After the incubation period, the bacterial colonies were purified by streaking on nutrient agar plates. The bacterial isolates were identified on the basis of morphological (colony morphology, spore morphology, and pigmentation) and biochemical properties. Morphological method consisted of macroscopic and microscopic methods. The microscopic characterization was done by cover slip culture method (Kawato and Sinobu, 1959). The observed structures were compared with Bergey’s manual of determinative Bacteriology (Davies *et al.*, 1999).

**Larvicidal bioassay**

Larvicidal activity of *Anopheles stephensi* was assessed by following the standard WHO larval susceptibility test method (WHO, 2005). In brief, twenty early 2nd and 4th instar larvae were taken and treated with bacillus colonies. The serial dilutions ere done and doses were determined accordingly (0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 and 3.5 of 6.5x10<sup>7</sup>cfu/ml). Similarly the un inoculated culture medium was used as control. For each dose five replicates were maintained at a time. Additionally all the assay units were supplemented with larvae fed with a diet of finely ground brewer’s yeast and dog biscuits (3:1) ratio. The LC50 values were calculated after 24 h by probit analysis (Finney, 1971). The larvae of *An. Stephensi* were collected 2nd and 4th instar larvae were used for bioassay test. A total of 100 larvae were exposed in five replicates of 20 larvae each. Experiments were conducted for 24 h at room temperature (28 ±2 °C). The numbers dead larvae were counted after 24 h of exposure, and the percentage mortality was reported from the average of five replicates. The dead larvae were identified when they failed to move after probing with a needle in the siphon or cervical region:

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

In the present study different bacillus species were isolated from soil. These isolated bacterial colonies were identified on the basis of their morphological and biochemical properti

Table 1 Preliminary Identification of Isolated Bacteria

S.No	Organism	Grams Staining	Spore Staining	Catalase Test	Oxidase Test	HLA Test
1	B.polymyxa	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
2	B. subtilis	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
3	B. cerus	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve

Table 2 Biochemical Test

S.No	Organism	Indole	Methylene Red	Vogas Proskauer	Citrate	Urease	H <sub>2</sub> S
1	B.polymyxa	+ve	+ve	-ve	+ve	-ve	+ve
2	B. subtilis	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	-ve
3	B. cerus	+ve	-ve	+ve	+ve	+ve	-ve

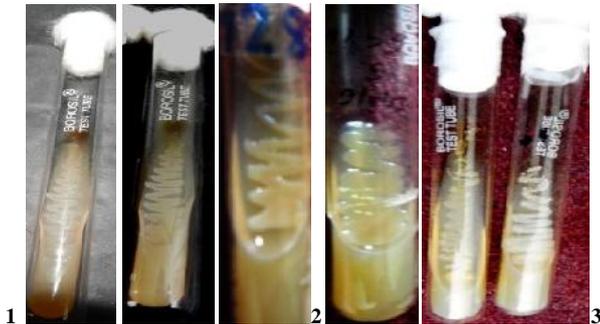
Table 3 Carbohydrate Fermentation Test (A-Acid, G-Gas)

S. No	Organism	Glucose	Manitole	Lactose	Sucrose
1	B.polymyxa	+ve	+ve	+ve	+ve
2	B. subtilis	+ve	+ve	+ve	-ve
3	B. cerus	+ve	-ve	+ve	+ve

The bioassay results revealed the toxicity level of different strains. The results of larvicidal activities of the selected strains,ie B. subtilis, B. cerus, B. polymyxa have been given in table 5 & 6.

**Table 4** Confirmative Biochemical Test

S. No	Organism	StarchAgr Test	NitrateBroth Reaction	Gelatin	Casein
1	B.polymyxa	+ve	-ve	-ve	+ve
2	B. subtilis	+ve	+ve	+ve	-ve
3	B. cerus	+ve	-ve	+ve	-ve



**Fig 2** pure culture of *B. subtilis*(1), *B. cerus*(2), *B. polymyxa*(3)

**Table 5** Relative potency of *B. polymyxa*, *B. subtilis* and *B. cerus* at second instar larvae of *An. Stephensi*

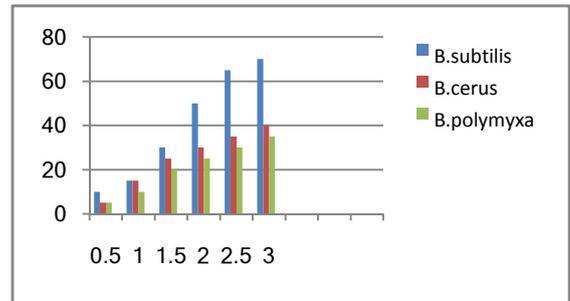
S.No	Organism	LC <sub>50</sub>	Lower limit	Upper limit	Index	RR	Slope
1	<i>B. subtilis</i>	1.865	0.433	1.219	100	1	1.249
2	<i>B. cerus</i>	2.931	1.23	2.501	44.64	2.24	0.296
3	<i>B. polymyxa</i>	4.776	4.42	7.243	14.924	6.701	1.116

**Table 6** Relative potency of *B. polymyxa*, *B. subtilis* and *B. cerus* at fourth instar larvae of *An. Stephensi*

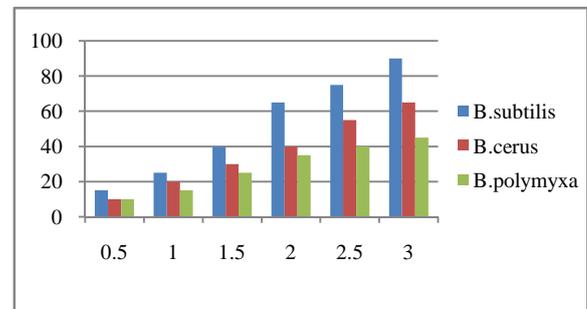
S.No	Oganism	LC <sub>50</sub>	Lower limit	Upper limit	Index	RR	Slope
1	<i>B. subtilis</i>	3.361	0.433	2.145	70.33	1	1.021
2	<i>B. cerus</i>	4.305	3.805	5.586	33.250	1.78	0.623
3	<i>B. polymyxa</i>	5.403	4.442	9.415	16.780	3.34	1.862

In all the treatments, the percentage mortality increased with increase in concentrations with *B. subtilis* treatment showing the highest percentage mortality and lowest LC<sub>50</sub> value.. Although, there was significant difference in percentage mortality of *B. cerus* and *B. polymyxa* at 24 h of exposure (Figure 3), at 48 h of exposure to all the treatments, gradual increase in percentage mortality was recorded and results from each treatment were significantly different from each other (Figure 4). In Figure 5, decrease in percentage mortality of the inoculated mosquito larvae was observed. This could be as a result of decrease in the ingestion rate due to the age of the larvae. During this present study, the mosquito larvae showed greatest susceptibility to *B. subtilis* when compared to the other tested bacterial isolates. Toxin concentration of 4 to 5 folds of *B. polymyxa* was necessary to induce the same effect of 50% mortality (LC<sub>50</sub>) on the larvae when compared to *B. subtilis* while 2 folds of *B. cerus* concentration will cause the same effect and resistance ratio (RR) showed that the three tested organisms in second instar varied. *B. cerus* showed that the resistance ratio (RR) values was 2.24 folds above that of *B. subtilis* olds of *B. polymyxa* was necessary to induce the same effect of 50% mortality (LC<sub>50</sub>) on the larvae when compared with *B. subtilis* while 2 folds of *B. cerus*. Concentration will cause the same effect and RR values of *B. cerus* were 1.78 folds above that of *B. subtilis* while *B. polymyxa* was 3.34 folds above *Bacillus subtilis* in fourth instar. The observed difference in the susceptibility might be due to their ingestion rate (Sun *et al.*, 1980). Hence more mortality of the mosquito larva was recorded in the second instar treatments.

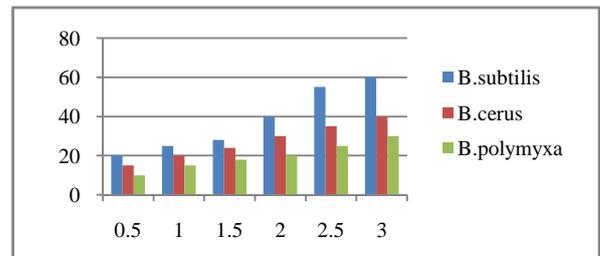
Isolate *Bacillus subtilis* having potential to kill larve of *An. stephensi* was sent for genetic level identification to Xcleris Lab Ahmedabad India for strain identification. The isolate was identified as a *Bacillus subtilis* strain IF 5 (GenBank Accession Number: KJ022639) based on nucleotide homology and phylogenetic analysis (Fig 5). And we registered these bacteria in NCBI ACCESSION NUMBER is KJ022639 while *B. Polymyxa* was 6.70 folds above *B. subtilis*. Toxin concentration of above 3 f



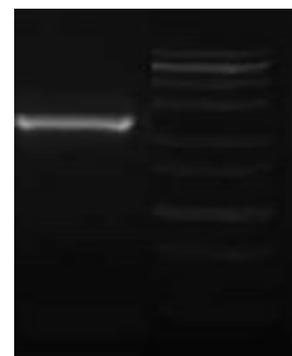
**Figure 3** Effect of different concentrations (0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 of  $6.5 \times 10^7$  cfu/ml) of bacterial isolates on the mortality of 2<sup>nd</sup> instar *Anopheles stephensi* larvae at 24 h.



**Figure 4** Effect of different concentrations (0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 of  $6.5 \times 10^7$  cfu/ml) of bacterial isolates on the mortality of 2<sup>nd</sup> instar *Anopheles stephensi* larvae at 48 h.



**Figure 5** Effect of different concentrations (0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 of  $6.5 \times 10^7$  cfu/ml) of bacterial isolates on the mortality of 4<sup>th</sup> instar *Anopheles stephensi* larvae at 48 h.



**Fig 6** Gel Image  
Lane 1: 16S rDNA amplicon band  
Lane 2: DNA marker

1. SAMPLE\_8F\_S6073\_023\_E03.ab1: Data obtained with Forward primer
2. SAMPLE\_1492R\_S6073\_021\_F03.ab1: Data obtained with Reverse primer

**SAMPLE\_8F\_S6073\_023\_E03 (522bp)**

GCTCCCTGATGTTAGCGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACAC  
GTGGGTAACCTGCCTGTAAGACTGGGATAACTCCGG  
GAAACCGGGGCTAATACCGGATGGTTGTTTGAACCG  
CATGGTTCAAACATAAAAGGTGGCTTCGGCTACCAC  
TTACAGATGGACCCGCGGCATTAGCTAGTTGGTG  
AGGTAACGGCTCACCAAGGCAACGATGCGTAGCCGA  
CCTGAGAGGGTGATCGGCCACACTGGGACTGAGACA  
CGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTAGGGAAT  
CTTCCGCAATGGACGAAAGTCTGACGGAGCAACGCC  
GCGTGAGTGATGAAGGTTTTTCGGATCGTAAAGCTCT  
GTTGTTAGGGAAGAACAAGTACGGTTCGAATAGGGC  
GGTACCTTGACGGTACCTAACCAGAAAGCCACGGCT  
AACTACGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGTAATACGTAGGTGG  
CAAGCGTTGTCCGGAATTATTGGGCGTAAAGGGCTC  
GCAGGCGTTTTCTTAAGT

**SAMPLE\_1492R\_S6073\_021\_F03 (930bp)**

ACTTCGGGCGTTACAACTCTCGTGGTGTGACGGGC  
GGTGTGTACAAGGCCCGGGAACGTATTCACCGCGGC  
ATGCTGATCCACGATTACTAGCGATTCCAGCTTCACG  
CAGTCGAGTTGCAGACTGCGATCCGAACTGAGAACA  
GATTTGTGGGATTGGCTTAACCTCGCGTTTTTCGCTGC  
CCTTTGTTCTGTCCATTGTAGCACGTGTGTAGCCAG  
GTCATAAGGGGCATGATGATTTGACGTCATCCCCAC  
CTTCTCCGGTTTTGTCACCGGCAGTACCTTAGAGTG  
CCCAACTGAATGCTGGCAACTAAGATCAAGGGTTGC  
GCTCGTTGCGGGACTTAACCCAACATCTCACGACAC  
GAGCTGACGACAACCATGCACCACCTGTCCCTCTGC  
CCCCGAAGGGGACGTCCTATCTCTAGGATTGCCAGA  
GGATGTCAAGACCTGGTAAGGTTCTTCGCGTTGCTTC  
GAATTAACACCATGCTCCACCGCTTGTGCGGGGCC  
CCGTCAATTCCTTTGAGTTTTAGTCTTGCAGCCGTAC  
TCCCCAGGCGGAGTGCTTAATGCGTTAGCTGCAGCA  
CTAAGGGGCGGAAACCCCTAACACTTAGCACTCAT  
CGTTTACGGCGTGGACTACCAGGGTATCTAATCCTGT  
TCGCTCCCCACGCTTTCGCTCCTCAGCGTCAGTTACA  
GACCAGAGAGTCGCTTCGCCACTGGTGTTCCTCCA  
CATCTACAGCATTTACCCGTACCGTACCGTGAATTCCA  
CTCTCCTTCTGCACTCAAGTTCCCCAGTTTCCAAT  
GACCCTCCCCGGTTGAGCCGGGGCTTTACATCAG  
ACTTAAGAAACCGCCTGCGAGCCCTTACGCCCAAT  
AATTCCGACAACGCTTGCCACCTACGTATTACCGC  
GGCTGCTGGCACGTAGTTAG

**Fig 6: 16S rRNA sequence of *Bacillus subtilis* species.**

The ideal method of controlling mosquitoes is by targeting them at the stage at which they are vulnerable i.e., the larval stage. Therefore, mosquitoes can be controlled by application of insecticides to their habitat, where, the mobility of the larvae is low (Wiseman & Chapagain, 2005). The use of synthetic-based pesticides over the past few years has increased the resistance toward the vectors (Rodriguez *et al.*, 2002), thus, instilling the need for finding alternative ways to control mosquitoes.

Biological control is the use of natural enemies to deal with mosquito populations. There are several types of biological

control including the direct introduction of parasites, pathogen and predators to target mosquitoes (Kenneth, 1995) or by using the dead spores of varieties of the natural soil bacteria which are used to interfere in the digestion systems of larvae. These spores were no longer effective after the larvae turn into pupae because they stop eating (Walker and Lynch, 2007). Bacterial larvicides have been used for the control of nuisance and vector mosquitoes for more than two decades. The discovery of bacterium like bacillus, which is highly toxic to dipteran larvae, has opened the possibility of its use as a potential biolarvicide in mosquito eradication program worldwide (Kalfon *et al.*, 1984). An important alternative measure to chemical insecticides is biological control measure which involves the regulation of pest population using natural control agents such as predators, nematodes and microbial insecticides (Merritt *et al.*, 2005). It is the use of one biological organism to control another; releasing bacteria, fungi or arthropods to limit pest infestation (Weinzierl *et al.*, 2005) noted that the organisms used in microbial insecticides are essentially non toxic and non pathogenic to non target organisms. The safety offered by microbial insecticides is their greatest strength. Bacteria and fungi have been shown to kill mosquitoes to varying degrees (Orduz *et al.*, 1991; Su *et al.*, 2001). *Bacillus thuringiensis* var *israeliensis* (BTI) and *B. sphaericus* are being used in worldwide field test designed to control mosquito's population (Philip *et al.*, 2001). These microorganisms have their own limitations which include low persistence of the bacteria larvicidal crystal protein in warm environment as a result of sunlight inactivation. The direct use of Bti strain also has its drawbacks as its cells do not exhibit stable in their environment. In addition, the strains of mosquito existing in a particular region appear different from that in another place. Thus one Bti strain may not be effective for use in all regions where mosquitoes are problematic. Therefore the isolation of other bacterial strain with larvicidal activity having a broad host range specifically, stable habitation and non hazardous properties is desired.

*Bacillus* is an important group that produces many biologically active compounds and secondary metabolites. They play an important role in biological control of many insects especially dipterans (Hussain *et al.*, 2002; Gadelhak *et al.*, 2005). Strong larvicidal activities against *Culex* and *Anopheles* larvae for *Bacillus* have been reported by many workers (Sundarapandian *et al.*, 2002). Hence isolation of such bacterial strain for the future use in mosquito control can be a welcoming step in the field of vector control.

## CONCLUSION

Mosquito borne diseases are extensively spreads in the world population and influenced the global economy also. Consequently it should be eradicated from the world through the usage of the non-polluted mosquitocidal agents like microbial metabolites. *Bacillus* exhibited its effect against mosquito *Anopheles stephensi*. So it can be used as, an alternative insecticides because they are free from harmful effects on the environment. Further studies needed for identification the active compounds that can be used in broad spectrum for controlling insects and also determination the mode of action of these compounds.

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### **Conflict Of Interest Statement**

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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