

## Treatment of Textile Dye Wastewater using Cynobacteria Spirulina Sp

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#### ABSTRACT

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Along with toxic dyes textile dye wastewater contains various xenobiotic compounds therefore their treatment is necessary before discharging into the environment. Bioremediation was considered as one of the eco-friendly and selfsustainable treatment systems and amongst them cyanobacteria was considered as one of the best resources for the bioremediation of organic pollutants. Thus, in this present study, Spirulina sp. was evaluated for the treatment of real textile dye wastewater (RTDW) along with the removal of metal ions and other organic pollutants. The metabolic activities to Spirulina sp. leads to complete more than 98% decolorization of Reactive Brown GR11, Reactive Magenta HBB 26, Reactive Red Bs11 and Reactive Yellow 160 dye. However, to enhance the treatment efficiency of Spirulina sp. carbon and nitrogen sources were optimized. In the presence of 1% glucose and yeast extract Spirulina sp. showed 86% American Dye Manufacturers' Institute (ADMI) removal and 83 % chemical oxygen demand (COD) reduction from the undiluted non-sterilize RTDW. The maximum treatment efficiency of Spirulina sp. was observed at pH-7 and 30 °C under optimized co-substrates. Degradation of RTDW and representative four azo dyes were further confirmed by using ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometry (UV-vis), High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), and Fourier- transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) analysis. Additionally, toxicity analysis was considered as the best method to evaluate the efficiency of treatment process. Phytotoxicity and cytotoxicity assay clearly show that Spirulina sp. treatment significantly reduces the toxic characteristics of RTDW. Keywords : Bioremediation, Real textile dye wastewater, Azo dyes, Cyanobacteria,

Phytotoxicity





#### I. INTRODUCTION

Synthetic dyes and dyestuffs are produced and applied in large quantities in textile dyeing and allied industries. In India, textile and allied industries comprise one of the largest sectors contributing 4% to the gross domestic product (GDP), and 17% earnings in exports (Teli M.D., 2008). The coloration of textiles is an integral part of the production processes, which requires dyestuffs and utilizes large quantities of water (Lin et al., 1994). Among the different dye classes, azo (-N=N-) dyes are the most common synthetic dyes used as colouring agents in the textile, food, paper, and cosmetic sectors (Cetin et al. 2006). More than 800,000 tons of dyes are produced annually worldwide, of which 60-70 % are the recalcitrant azo dyes (Kabra et al., 2013). Azo dyes consist of one or more azo group and aromatic rings mostly substituted by sulfonate groups. Azo dyes are widely used for textile dyeing, industrial, printing, clinical purpose, cosmetics, food, leather, plastics and many more due to their chemical stability, ease of synthesis, versatility & durability (Nahanishi et al., 2001). During manufacturing process, it was previously estimated 10-15 % is released into the environment (Moutaouakkil et al., 2003). In Indian dyestuffs and pigment manufacturing comprises of around 1050 units, with a total production of approximately 130,000 tonnes of dyes/year and supply majority of the colorants required by the domestic textile industries. Gujarat has more than 90,000 industrial units and most of these industries are located in the long stretch from Vatva in northern Gujarat to Vapi in southern Gujarat, known as Golden Corridor, which has now become one of the highly polluted industrial zones in India. The states of Maharashtra and Gujarat account for more than 90% of dyestuff production in India (Teli M.D., 2008).

Due to the the increasing demand for textile goods and the water-intensive nature of dyeing operations, these sectors are among the greatest producers of liquid effluent pollutants. (Kalyani et al. 2009). Textile and dye industry effluents are relatively containing high coloured, have high amounts of total dissolved solids (TDS), pH, and heavy metals, and have a high chemical oxygen demand. A typical textile effluent contains carcinogenic dyes, toxic heavy metals, phenolic compounds softeners and other chemicals used in dying process. During the water-intensive textile-dyeing process about 50% of the dye remains within the spent dye bath effluent. These dyes lose their affinity for the cloth in their hydrolysed form and cannot be re-used in the dyeing process (Saratale et al., 2011). It has been estimated that due to inefficiencies in the textile dyeing approximately 280,000 tons of textile dyes are discharged in industrial effluents every year across the globe (Solis et al. 2012). Industrial discharge of these dye bearing effluents into the environment poses enormous risks to living organisms, given the toxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic nature of these effluents.

Azo dyes are generally considered to be xenobiotic compounds which are rather recalcitrant against biodegradative processes in conventional treatment systems (Blumel et al., 2002). Azo dyes are resistant to degradation and remain persistent for long time due to its fused aromatic structure (Kalyani et al., 2009). Given, the recalcitrant nature of azo dyes, there is a need to devise treatment strategies for remediation of azo dye bearing effluents. Many physical and chemical procedures have been employed to remediate dye-containing effluents, including adsorption, coagulation, precipitation, filtration, and oxidation (Sheth and Dave 2009). However, physicochemical treatment methods are less ecosensitive and have higher operating costs. In the current scenario, microbial remediation strategies are sought after an eco-friendly, sustainable and economically feasible treatment option for azo dye bearing industrial effluents. Complete mineralization of dyes using microbes is an appealing alternative that takes use of microorganisms' metabolic plasticity, which may target a wide range of dye compounds (Kalyani et al., 2009 Saratale et al., 2010).

Previously many members of bacteria, fungi, yeasts, and algae have been reported for the degradation and decolorization of the textile dyes. Many reports indicate that textile dyes and effluents have toxic effects on germination rates and biomass of several plant species. Therefore, the treatment of industrial effluents containing aromatic compounds becomes necessary prior to their final discharge to the environment. Considering the bioremediation potential of the cynobacteria Spirulina sp. has been used in this study to evaluate its potential for degradation of real textile dye wastewater (RTDW) and representative four different types of azo dyes. Degradation of RTDW and azo dyes were analysed using Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR). Most of the bioremediation process is enzymatic there for laccase production during the remediation process has been also studied. Toxicity is a very important parameter for the evaluation of the treatment process therefore pytotoxicity and cytotoxicity has been evaluated before and after the treatment of RTDW through Spirulina sp.

#### II. METHODS AND MATERIAL

# 2.1 Collection of untreated real textile dye wastewater and dyes

The real textile dye wastewater (RTDW) and representative model dyes used in the study were obtained from the local textile dying industry at Vatva GIDC in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

#### 2.2 Chemicals and media

2, 2' Azino bis [3 ethylbenzthiazoline 6 sulfonate] (ABTS) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. HPLC grade methanol, acetonitrile and KBr were purchased from Rankem (Mumbai, India) and Merck (Germany) respectively. All other chemicals including solvents are of analytical grade or highest purity available. And other media and media components were purchased from HiMedia (Mumbai, India).

### 2.3 Organism and growth conditions

The *Spirulina* strain was obtained from the National Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (NCIM), which is located in Pune, India. Spirulina sp. was grown in the suitable medium BG-11 (N2 positive) under cool white fluorescent lights at a light intensity of 27 E m-2 s-1; photoperiod 12:12 h light:dark; temperature 30 °C.

# 2.4 Optimization of medium composition to achieve maximum decolourization of azo dyes

#### 2.4.1 Optimization of carbon source

BG-11 with yeast extract (0.1% w/v) along with different carbon sources such as glucose, sucrose, maltose, pyruvate, starch and carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) (0.1% w/v) amended with RTDW were inoculated with *Spirulina* sp. (10% v/v) and incubated at 30 °C. Samples were collected at regular intervals of 1 day starting from 0 to 12 day and analysed for ADMI removal and COD reduction.

#### 2.4.2 Optimization of nitrogen source

BG-11 medium with glucose (0.1% w/v) along with different nitrogen sources such as yeast extract, peptone, urea, ammonium nitrate, sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate (0.1% w/v) amended with RTDW were inoculated with *Spirulina* sp. (10% v/v) and incubated at 30 °C. Samples were taken at one-day intervals from 0 to 12 days and analysed for ADMI removal and COD reduction.

#### 2.4.3 Effect of pH on decolourization of azo dyes

Medium containing BG-11 along with glucose (0.1% w/v) and yeast extract (0.1% w/v) amended with RTDW with varying initial pH (5, 5.5, 6, 6.5,

7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10) was inoculated with *Spirulina* sp. (10% v/v) and incubated at 30 °C in static condition. The initial pH was adjusted to desired value using 1 N HCL and 1 N NaOH. Samples were collected at one-day intervals from 0 to 12 days and analysed for ADMI removal and COD reduction.

# 2.4.4 Effect of initial RTDW concentration on treatment efficiency of Spirulina sp.

Medium containing BG-11 along with glucose (0.1% w/v) and yeast extract (0.1% w/v) amended with different concentrations of RTDW (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100%) was inoculated with *Spirulina sp.* (10% v/v) and incubated at 30 °C . Samples were collected at one-day intervals from 0 to 12 days and analysed for ADMI elimination and COD decrease. As abiotic controls, uninoculated RTDW-containing media were used in each optimization parameter.

#### 2.5 Characterization of RTDW

The wastewater was characterized by analysing various parameters viz. chemical oxygen demand (COD), biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), American Dye Manufacturers' Institute (ADMI), total solid (TS), pH, phenols, total dissolved solids (TDS), total suspended solids (TSS), sulphate, nitrate, alkalinity, acidity, total hardness and presence of heavy metals. pH was measured using digital pH meter (ANALAB, India). BOD was measured by using DO meter (HACH, DO 6). COD was measured by using HACH DRB200 Thermo reactor and HACH DR6000 spectrophotometer. Metals were detected by using ICP-OES (Inductive Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometer) of Perkin Elmer Model: Optima 3300 RL. All other parameters were analysed as described in APHA 2005.

# 2.6 Decolorization and degradation profile of RTDW and representative azo dyes

The *Spirulina* sp. in BG-11 medium, supplement ted with 0.1 % (w/v) of each of glucose and yeast extract in presence of 100 % RTDW for 10 days, under

optimized condition. Cell mass was separated, and supernatant was collected at 10000 x g for 20 min at 4°C. The supernatant was combined with an equal amount of ethyl acetate, and the reaction mixture was dried overnight in a desiccation chamber (with sodium sulphate). The dried power (possible metabolites) was dissolved in HPLC grade KBr and used for UV-vis and IR spectroscopy and HPLC. HPLC of RTDW and degradation metabolites were performed using C18 column (4.6 mm X 250 mm), with flow rate of 1 ml/min using methanol as mobile phase.

Extracted metabolites were combined with KBr in a 5:95 ratio and evaluated using a Nicolet -6700 (Thermo Scientific, USA) in the mid-IR range of 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> with a scan speed of 35. Apart from studying the degradation profile of RTDW, four representative different azo dyes were also used to evaluate their degradation profile by *Spirulina* sp. For HPLC analysis, samples of four representative dyes were withdrawn after the maximum decolorizatrion.

#### 2.7 Enzyme assay

The Spirulina sp. was grown in 100% RTDW with optimized parameters cell mass was harvested by centrifuged at 10,000 X g for 20 min at 4°C, and supernatant was used as crude source of the enzyme. Laccase activity was determined at 30°C ABTS using 2mM (2,2'-azino-bis (3ethylbenzothiazoline- 6-sulphonic acid) in 0.1M glycine HCl buffer (pH 2.5The presence of laccase was verified by the green colour produced by ABTS oxidation. The absorbance rise of the assay mixture was measured at 405 nm using a Shimadzu UV-1800 spectrophotometer. ABTS had an extinction coefficient () of 36,000 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>. The enzyme activities were given in international units (U), which are defined as the quantity of enzyme required to generate one mol of product per minute at 30 ºC.

#### 2.8 Toxicity assays

#### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Different toxicity assays were performed to assess the bio-toxic nature of RTDW and their degraded intermediates obtained after the treatment. All toxicity experiments were performed in triplicate.

#### 2.8.1 Phytotoxicity assays

Phytotoxicity tests were carried out under ambient circumstances on two agriculturally significant plants (seeds), (1) Triticum aestivum and (2) Phaseolus mungo, using the methods described by Govindwar et al. (2014). Multiple seeds of each plant were sown separately in soil containing plastic pots. Five milliliters of RTDW, metabolites (1000)ppm each) extracted from treated wastewater, and distilled water (5 ml) was added for 7 d in the interval of 24 h. Seed germination and the length of plumule and radical were measured at the end of the experiments (8th d).

#### 2.8.2 Cytotoxicity assays

Cytotoxicity assays were performed on Poecilia sphenops (Molly fish) by studying the mortality rate and histolopathological changes in the gills tissues. Before experiments, all fishes were cultivated in the dechlorinated water and allowed to get acclimatized for 7 d under ambient conditions. To determine the bio-toxic nature of RTDW and treated textile wastewater (i.e. lethal dose), ten individual P. sphenops were kept in RTDW and treated wastewater ranging from 5 to 100%. The histopathological changes in the gill's tissues were observed after 7th day, by euthanizing fishes on ice for 15 min. The dissected gills were kept in Bouin's aqueous fluid for tissue fixation for about 12 h. After dehydration gills tissues were embedded in parafilm wax followed by sectioning of five microns (Rane et al., 2015). The sections were stained with Hematoxelene-Eosin stain and observed under light microscope 40 X.

#### 3.1 Treatment efficiency of *Spirulina* sp.

Removal of color from the industrial wastewater is considered as prime avidance of the suitability of the treatment process. ADMI is the hue independent color measuring index therefore, it has been used in this study to assess the color removal from the RTDW. As depicted in Table 1 the *Spirulina* sp. has removed 89% of ADMI and reduced 83% of COD along with BOD removal up to 56%.

Table 1 : Characterization of real textile dye wastewater

Parameter	Raw textile	After
	dye	treatm
	wastewater	ent
COD mg/L	1352±15	218±2.4
BOD mg/L	652±12	284±9
TSS mg/L	85±17	21±4
TDS mg/L	189±31	30±4
ADMI	924±18	125±3
Phenols mg/L	188±32	38±6
Sulphate mg/L	71±4	12±4
Nitrate mg/L	23±4	3±1
Alkalinity	18±7	6±2
mg/L		
Acidity mg/L	165±5	18±6
Total hardness	84±2	28±5
mg/L		
Iron mg/L	4.58	0.6
Copper mg/L	2.71	0.52
Zinc mg/L	1.5	N.D.
Barium mg/L	0.8	N.D.

N.D.= Not detected

Previously few studies have suggested that untreated textile effluent generally found to have low BOD<sub>5</sub>: COD ratios (<0.1), signifying the non- biodegradable nature of dye compounds (Azbar et al., 2004). It has been also observed that, for wastewater having high BOD<sub>5</sub>: COD ratio (>0.5), biological treatment



technologies is feasible for their treatment. But, if the ratio is lower (<0.5) pre- treatment either with physical or chemical methods is required prior to biological process (Han et al., 2015). BOD5: COD ratio, alternatively known as Biodegradability Index (BI) was 0.48 for RTDW used in the study (Table 2), signifying the treatment enhancing the biodegradability of the inter dye molecules. The treatment efficiency for textile wastewater always depends on the various parameters besides its dye content. Results from Table 1 further revealed that, TSS from RTDW was decreased to 21 mg/L from 85 mg/L, but rate of removal of TDS was comparatively less from 189 to 30 mg/L. Phenols, alkalinity, acidity and sulphate were efficiently decreased from RTDW after Spirulina sp. treatment. While significant reduction in metals were also observed due to the well-known absorption mechanism of the Spirulina sp.

## 3.2 Effect of carbon and nitrogen source on degradation of RTDW

Treatment of dye containing wastewater has been majorly depending on the presence of the electron donors. Previously various studies had the requirement carbon source for the bioremediation of the azo dyes (viz. carbon source). Results obtained in this study also showed the same behavior of decolorization by altering the carbon source. As shown in Fig. 1, the findings clearly highlighted the need for an additional carbon source, as 26 and 18 % of ADMI removal and COD reduction were seen in BG-11, respectively. However, when suitable carbon source glucose was added, ADMI removal and COD reduction increased. The results showed that replacing the nitrogen supply (yeast extract) increased ADMI removal and COD reduction by 69 and 57 %, respectively. In contrast, supplementation of both glucose and yeast extract resulted in nearly 82% ADMI elimination and 68 % COD reduction (Fig. 1). by 41 and 37% respectively. Additionally, nitrogen source has been proven for the enhancing of the RTDW degradation.



Figure 1 : ADMI removal and COD reduction of RTDW by Spirulina sp. at 30 °C, pH 7.0 in BG-11 medium, BG-11 ambeded with (0.1% w/v) glucose (BG-11+C), BG-11 ambeded with (0.1% w/v) yeast extract (BG-11+N), and BG-11 embedded with (0.1% w/v) glucose and yeast extract (BG-11 + C + N).

Results from Fig. 2, revealed that on supplementing glucose, maltose, acetate showed more than 70% ADMI removal along with 65>% COD reduction, while CMC did not show efficient treatment in terms of ADMI removal and COD reduction. The studies also revealed that glucose and acetate remove 86 and 77 % of ADMI and reduced 83 and 70% of COD respectively. Additionally, *Spirulina sp.* effectively showed the treatment at pH 7 at 30°C. Previously Chen et al., 1996 also showed the enhanced phycocyanin production of *Spirulina platensis* in photoheterotrophic culture. This result indicted that the *Spirulina* sp. is known to utilizing glucose which ultimately enhanced the dye decolorization in this study.





The efficiency of Spirulina sp. was studied in various nitrogen sources in BG-11 medium containing 0.1% (v/v) of glucose in substituting nitrogen sources along with 100% RTDW. When nitrate salts, sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate and ammonium nitrate was used as a nitrogen source ADMI removal is 36%, 40%, and 42% respectively with COD reduction of 24%, 39%, and 41% respectively. However, in bacteriological peptone, urea, beef extract and yeast extract ADMI removal is 61%, 53%, 81% and 86% with COD reduction of 53%, 42%, 74% and 83% (Fig. 3) compared to other nitrogen source yeast extract gives better decolorization and degradation while the increasing concentration (0.1-0.5 % v/v) of yeast extract did not affect the treatment efficiency Spirulina sp. Therefore, 0.1 (v/v) each of glucose and yeast extract found to be the best carbon and nitrogen source for the treatment of RTDW by Spirulina sp.

3.1 Effect of temperature and pH on decolorization and degradation of RTDW Spirulina sp. was able for decolorization and degradation of RTDW within in the range of 6 to 8.5 pH, but maximum ADMI removal and COD removal of more than 86% and 83% respectively was observed at pH 7. Whereas pH when increased from 8.5 up to 10 decolorization and degradation efficiency was decreased to 40% ADMI removal and 38% COD removal similarly with the decrease in pH from 6.5 to 5 decolorization and degradation was reduced to 74 and 64% respectively (Fig 4 a). Maximum decolorization and degradation of RTDW were observed at 30 °C nearly 86% ADMI removal and 83% COD removal was achieved. At lower or higher temperature than 30 °C decrease in treatment efficiency was observed (Fig. 4 b).



**Figure 3** : Effect of different carbon sources on treatment potential of *Spirulina* sp. from RTDW



Figure 4 : Effect of various pH (a) and temperature(b) on ADMI removal and COD reduction potential of *Spirulina* sp. from RTDW

3.4 Comparison of treatment between raw and sterilized RTDW

This study evaluates the ability Spirulina sp. for the decolourization and degradation of raw and sterilized RTDW, Spirulina sp. showed 68% of ADMI removal with 52% of COD reduction of sterilized RTDW after 15 d of incubation in optimized condition, after that there was no further increase was observed in the ADMI removal and COD reduction efficiency. The Spirulina sp., on the other hand, removed 86% of the ADMI and reduced COD by 83% within 12 days. Thus, the results clearly indicated that the indigenous microorganisms present in the un-autoclaved effluent plays a very important role in the decolorization and degradation of the effluent. This result suggested that the Spirulina sp. can remediate the pollutants present in ecosystem synergistically. Therefore, Spirulina sp. is suitable for on-site treatment of textile industry effluent.

Additionally, when different concentrations of RTDW were treated by Spirulina sp. Treatment time was reduced by 2 times at concentrations ranfing from 10 to 50% and ADMI removal and COD reduction was nearly 98%. Whereas above 50% RTDW concentration treatment effeciency was reduced to >80%.

## 3.5 Analysis of RTDW and its degraded metabolites formed after the treatment

In the comparison between HPLC chromatograms of RTDW and treated effluent, peak at the retention time 5.637 and 5.973 min were disappeared from RTDW after the Spirulina sp. treatment and formation of new peaks were observed in HPLC chromatogram of treated effluent at retention time 5.270 and 5.688 min (Fig 5 b). This change in peak at the different retention time indicated the degradation of RTDW and formation of new metabolites after treatment. The significant difference in the FTIR

spectrum of RTDW and its degraded metabolites obtained after its treatment indicated the biological treatment. Likewise, FT-IR spectrum indicates presence of functional groups such as nitriles, azides, alkynes, aliphatics, aromatics, unsaturated heterocyclic compounds, amides, organosilicon and phosphorus compounds in RTDW. FT-IR spectrum obtained after treatment showed formation of acid halides, aldehydes, amides, ketones and quinines (Fig 6). This result clearly indicated the biodegradation of RTDW by Spirulina sp.



**Figure 5.** HPLC chromatogram of RTDW and its generated degradation products after cynobacterial treatment

## 3.6 Decolorization and biodegradation analysis of representative dyes

The biodegradation of representative dyes was studied using UV-vis spectrum, HPLC, and FTIR in the mid-IR fingerprinting region (4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the IR spectrum, where the spectra of sample dyes and their degraded metabolites revealed distinct shifts in the peaks.

During decolorization process of representative dye *Spirulina* sp. showed more than 98% decolorization of each dye in the optimized conditions and media components.



**Fig 6.** FTIR spectrum of RTDW (a) and its degradation products generated after cynobacterial treatment.

The HPLC chromatogram of intact Reactive Brown GR11, Reactive magenta HBB, Reactive Red BS11 and Reactive yellow 160 showed peaks at retention time 5.416, 7.782, 5.388 and 5.609 respectively. Whereas, after the cynobacterial treatment

degradation peaks were sifted that idicated the formation of degradation products. After the degradation peak of Reactive Brown GR11 was shifted twowards 5.346, 5.676, Reactive magenta HBB peak was shifted to 5.428, 5.676, Reactive Red BS11 peak was shifted to 5.362, 5.628 and peak of Reactive yellow 160 was shifted to 5.406 and 5.823.



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**Figure 7.** UV–visible overlay spectra of (a) intact Reactive Brown GR11, (b) Reactive magenta HBB 26, (c) Reactive Red Bs11 (d) Reactive yellow 160

dye and its degradation products







Figure 8. HPLC chromatogram of (a) Reactive Brown GR11, (b) Reactive magenta HBB 26, (c) Reactive Red Bs11 (d) Reactive yellow 160, degradation products of (e) Reactive Brown GR11, (f) Reactive magenta HBB 26, (g) Reactive Red Bs11 and (h) Reactive yellow 160 formed after the cynobacterial treatment.

FTIR spectrum of Reactive Brown GR11 showed band at 1639.74,1557.76, 1416.43, 1260.45, 1207.73, 1102.75, 1042.59, 927.38, 804.58, 643.63 and 522.28 cm-1 indicated the presence of open chain azo, Vinyl C-H in plane band, aromatic amine mainly secondary, sulphonyile, sulphoxide S=O and 1,4 disubtituted aromatic (para) respectively. Whereas, degradation products of Reactive Brown GR11 showed major bands at 1627.71, 1452.52, 1385.31, 1118.85, 616.66 and 475.78 cm-1 indicated the presence of C=C stretch, symmetric and asymmetric S=O stretch (sulphate) and alkenes respectively. From this FTIR results SO3 is converted to SO2, and no aromatic peaks were detected in degradation metabolite samplewhich indicates the degradation of aromatic compounds.

FTIR spectrum of Reactive magenta HBB showed peaks between 620 to 930 indicates the presence of aromatics 1637.21, 1565.26, 1414.37, 1205.39, 1137.77 and 1043.43 peaks at cm-1 showed the presence of ether, mthylene CH2, conjugated C=C, aromatic N-O amine oxide and 1,4 disubtituted aromatic respectively. Degradation products of Reactive magenta HBB showed major peaks at 1631.18, 1424.58, 1099.42, 873.40, 656.14 and 604.72 cm-1 indicated the presence of Nitroso N=O, symmetric and asymmetric S=O stretch (sulphate) and C-O ester.

FTIR spectrum of Reactive Red BS11 showed major peaks at 1637.28, 1565.93, 1414.44, 1341.42, 1129.89, 1042.59, 90.43, 806.78, 771, 639.98, 617.45 and 523.93 cm-1 indicate the presence of open chain azo, C-O stretch. 1.4 disubituted (para) and monosubtitutude phenyl. Degradation products of Reactive Red BS11 showed the major peaks at 1629.21, 1500.25, 1436.60, 1124.32, 874.24, 622.81, 535.67 and 482.46 cm-1 indicated the presence of Nitroso N=O, symmetric and asymmetric S=O stretch (sulphate) and C-O ester.

FTIR spectrum of Reactive yellow 160 showed major peaks at 1639.75, 1569.82, 1414.58, 1207.09, 1135.66, 1047.91, 928.26, 642.41 and 520.93 cm–1 indicates the presence of secondary amines (azo), aromatic ethyr (aryl O- stretch), C-O stretch and sulphoxide S=O. In degraded products of Reactive yellow 160 peaks at 1629.28, 1418.02, 1323.88, 1098.55, 873.13, 654.37, 605.32 and 477.69 indicated the presence of Nitroso N=O, symmetric and asymmetric S=O stretch (sulphate) and C-O ester.

From whole FTIR analysis parent compounds have napthyl ring and phynile rings with toxic functional groups such as SO3, Nitrate etc. After the bacteriological treatment observed FTIR spectra aromatic rings are broken down and simpler low molecular weight compounds were detected, and other functional groups were metabolized these results indicates that due to metabolic activity all azo dyes were metabolized by Spirulina sp.







Figure 7. FTIR spectrum of (a) Reactive Brown GR11,(b) Reactive magenta HBB 26, (c) Reactive Red Bs11(d) Reactive yellow, degradation products of (e)Reactive Brown GR11, (f) Reactive magenta HBB 26,

(g) Reactive Red Bs11 and (h) Reactive yellow formed after the cynobacterial treatment.

#### 3.7 Laccase production

Laccase has been one of the prime focuses of the research due to its broad substrate specificity, synthesis of low molecular weight cofactors, and its stability in the external environment. Laccase, on the other hand, may oxidise a wide range of harmful and non-toxic chemicals. This enzyme eliminates the colour of numerous azo dyes with the help of an radical unspecified free mechanism. Various microorganisms have been reported for their ability of laccase production. Being one of the primary enzymes in dye decolorization and degradation it activity has been determined during the treatment of RTDW and all representative azo dyes. Experimental results indicated that the in the presence of RTDW Spirulina sp. Produced 102 U/ml enzyme whereas, in the presence of representative dyes Reactive Brown GR11, Reactive magenta HBB, Reactive Red BS11 and

Reactive yellow 160 the enzyme production was 86, 49, 78, and 33 U/ml respectively. These results indicated that the dye present in the RTDW was removed due to the laccase enzyme. Previously Afreen et al. 2017 have reported the characterization of laccase protein from Spirulina platensis CFTRI.

### 3.8. Toxicity

The immediate visible effect of released effluent in the water bodies often results in high mortality of indigenous fishes. Therefore, in this study fish model was used to evaluate the toxic nature of the RTDW.

### 3.8.1 Cytotoxicity

The results in this study also revealed a similar environmental situation, where in the presence of 100 % RTDW, all experimental fishes died within 2 h. But, when fishes were cultivated in tap water mortality rate was zero after 5 d exposure period. The sub-lethal concentration (LD50) of RTDW was achieved at 40% concentration after serial dilution. In a subsequent investigation, fish subjected to sublethal or deadly concentrations of RTDW showed severe histo-pathological alterations in the gills. As shown in Fig. 8 b, the most common histopathological changes were filament epithelial hyperplasia and hypertrophy, epithelial lifting aneurysum and rupture of lamellar epithelium. In a parallel study with fresh water, results from Figure 8 shows the intact and normal histo-pathological conditions of gills tissues. In another set of experiments, the degree and intensity of the histopathological changes were limited, when fishes were exposed to the treated RTDW. This result clearly indicated that the cynobacterial treatment was subsequently reducing the toxic nature of RTDW.



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Figure 8 : Cross-sections of gills of P. sphenops (a) in control gill structure was normal without lesions of primary and secondary lamellae, (b) in RTDW (black arrow) complete fusion of lamellae (red arrow) lamellar aneurysm and hemorrhages, in microaerophilic treated and in treated RTDW (c) no severe destruction.

#### 3.8.2 Phytotoxicity assay

In a parallel study phyto-toxicity bioassays were performed to measure the phytotoxic potential of RTDW. The two agriculturally corps P. mungo and T. aestivum were used to estimate the phytotoxicity. Results from Table 2, showed that only 20 and 30 % seeds of P. mungo and T. aestivum were germinated in the presence of RTDW (100 %), respectively. While the germination rate increases to 85 and 80 % after the treatment respectively. The toxicity of the RTDW decreases after the Spirulina sp. treatment and nearly 80% of both the seeds were germination.

#### **IV.CONCLUSION**

Various technologies have been developed and employed in treatment of real textile dye wastewater; however, no technologies have provided a universal solution. Here, we believe that there were no previous scientific reports, demonstrating a major single step degradation of RTDW along with toxicity elimination after the treatment by Spirulina sp. Considering the technical advantages of biological treatment methods, the Spirulina sp. degraded the RTDW in the presence of optimized co-substrate under optimized conditions.

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