



## Microbial degradation of textile effluent and in genotoxic effect on *Allium cepa*

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### Abstract

Textile effluent discharged from the small scale industries was assessed. There was a total difference in the physico chemical characteristics of effluent sample and bacterial and fungal consortia degraded samples. The untreated effluent samples were highly colored, fishy odour, slight alkaline. The other physico chemical properties like total solids (TS) total suspended solids (TSS), total dissolved solids (TDS), biological oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), dissolved oxygen (DO), hardness as  $\text{CaCO}_3$  alkalinity, bicarbonate ( $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ) alkalinity, chloride, calcium, magnesium, sodium, sulphate, zinc, chromium, copper and lead were found to be above to the permissible level of WHO standards, which ensure the presence of pollutants in the textile effluent. From the polluted sites, four bacterial strains which are identified as indicator bacterial strains able to degrade the effluent and dye were used for the decolourization and degradation in vitro experiments. They are *Bacillus subtilis* (NCBT 012), *Clostridium butyricum* (NCBT 017), *Enterobacter aerogens* (NCBT 024) and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (NCBT 046). Four fungal strains which are identified as indicator fungi, able to decolourize effectively were selected for the decolourization and degradation in vitro experimental work. They are *Aspergillus erythrocephalus* (NCBT 124), *Aspergillus fumigates* (NCBT 126), *Cladosporium herbarum* (NCBT 142) and *Fusarium oxysporum* (NCBT 156). The physico-chemical analysis of bacterial and fungal consortia mediated textile effluent degradation process have shown reduction in all these parameters tested for the untreated textile effluent. Between bacterial consortium and fungal consortium mediated degradation process, the fungal consortium mediated degradation process has shown much reduction in all the parameters than the bacterial consortium mediated degradation. The genotoxicity studies in relation to mitotic index and chromosomal abnormalities have shown gradual increase in active mitotic index and reduction in the chromosomal abnormalities which ensures the reduction in toxicity of textile effluent by bacterial and fungal consortia degradation.

**Keywords:** Physico-chemical parameters, textile effluent, decolourization and degradation, genotoxicity.

### Introduction

The untreated textile effluent contains chemicals like dyes, dispersant substances, leveling agents, acids and alkali were discharged into the nearby water bodies from textile industries without any treatment. This alters the physico chemical properties and makes the water bodies (rivers) intense colorations<sup>1,4</sup>. The presence of very small amounts of dyes as colouring agent in water is highly visible as intense colour and affects the aesthetic sense which alter water transparency and gas solubility in water bodies<sup>15</sup>. The treatment of textile effluents is still a major environmental problem because of synthetic dyes<sup>8,11</sup>. The synthetic dyes have varied structural properties that are not readily degradable and are not removed from contaminated source by conventional physical and chemical technologies such as coagulation, membrane filtration, precipitation, flotation, absorption, ion exchange and advanced chemical oxidation waste water treatment systems<sup>1,13</sup>. The main aim of this work was to study aerobic degradation of textile effluent and its major dye components containing Congo red, Crystal violet, Direct orange-102 and Malachite Green, used for

dying thread fibres. These four dyes were used in the dying house during the course of the research work. The decolourization and degradation study with indicator bacterial and fungal consortia and the results were presented.

### Materials and methods

**Collection of samples:** The area under the study for this research work was identified based on the need, diversity and extend of pollutants produced by the small scale textile dying houses located on the banks of the Amaravathy River, Karur, state of Tamil Nadu, and peppered with a number of large and small scale textile dying houses and industries. Textile effluent samples from the field receiving discharge from small scale cottage dying houses were collected. The samples were filled in properly cleaned, sterilized, wide mouth plastic bottles and stored in the dark at a temperature of 4°C, and utilized for physico-chemical decolourization and degradation studies. The soil samples for microbial isolation were collected at three sampling sites in the longitudinal section – Site-1: sample sources collected at the discharge site of the dying house; Site-2:

the samples collected 100 meters away from the discharge point; Site-3: 200 meters away from the discharge point. After thorough mixing, 200g representative samples from each point was collected and stored in polythene bags, transported to the microbiology research lab, PG and Research Department of Biotechnology, National College, Tiruchirappalli, in sealed, labeled containers and maintained a temperature of 4°C, to ensure minimal biological activity. Soil samples are processed in 24h for isolation, enumeration, identification and characterization of microbial flora. Another portion of the effluent and soil samples were acidified to  $\text{pH} \leq 2$  with Conc.  $\text{HNO}_3$ , refrigerated to prevent the volume change due to evaporation and the concentration of various heavy metal present in all the samples. A portion of moist soil samples were dried and sieved to remove the particles greater than 2 mm, homogenized and stored in a plastic bag for further analysis. The textile effluent and dyes Congo Red, Crystal Violet, Direct Orange-102, Malachite Green samples were obtained from small scale cottage dyeing house situated near the banks of Amaravathi River, Karur District, Tamil Nadu.

**Physico-chemical Analysis of Textile Dying House Wastewater:** Standard methods<sup>29</sup> were used for analyses of various physicochemical parameters of the textile effluent. The physico-chemical parameters like colour, odour, pH (pH meter Model EC10), were recorded at the spot.

## Results and discussion

The results of physico-chemical analysis of untreated textile effluent and degraded by bacterial and fungal consortia were presented in Table-1.

The bacterial consortium consists of *Bacillus subtilis*, NCTBT012 *Clostridium butyricum*, NCTBT017 *Enterobacter aerogens* NCTBT024 and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* NCTBT046. The fungal consortium consists of *Aspergillus erythrocephalus* NCTBT124, *Aspergillus fumigatu* NCTBT126, *Cladosporium herbarum* and NCTBT142, *Fusarium oxysporium* NCTBT156.

Physico-chemical effluent samples: Textile effluent discharged from the small scale industries was assessed. In the present investigation, there was a wide variation in the physico chemical characteristics of effluent sample and bacterial and fungal consortia degraded samples. The untreated effluent samples were highly colored, fishy in odour, alkaline and having moderate temperature, well above the limits<sup>1</sup>. Colour is regarded as the first contaminant to be recognized due to the presence of unused dye stuff in water, which affects the aesthetic as well as the biological activity of the ecosystem<sup>2</sup>. Photosynthesis active was affected due to dark coloration and disagreeable odor in water may be because of the presence of decaying vegetation, inorganic and organic materials in the effluent<sup>3</sup>. Temperature is an important ecological factor and an environmental variable, as it also fluctuates on daily or even hourly basis and it affects the other properties of waste water. It greatly influences on vital activities like metabolism, behavior, reproduction and

development of microorganisms. Temperature was noted at the site prior to its collection and recorded to be 40°C at site1, where the effluent is discharged directly and recorded to be 37°C at the termination (site-III) and the same was also reported by Arun Prasad and Bhaskara Rao<sup>4</sup>. The pH was alkaline, TSS 1750mg/l and TDS 5875mg/l. Different industries have recorded different amount of solid particulate matter either as suspended solid or total dissolved solids in the effluent samples. The TS, TSS and TDS affect the light intensity of water, influencing turbidity and transparency. In the present study, TS was  $2700 \pm 0.84$  for the untreated effluent and  $1800 \pm 0.21$  for bacterial consortium bioremediated sample whereas it was  $1700 \pm 0.64\text{mg/l}$  for fungal consortium remediated sample. The TSS was  $1780 \pm 0.75\text{mg/l}$  for the untreated effluent, reduced to  $1320 \pm 0.63$  and  $950 \pm 0.84\text{mg/l}$  for bacterial and fungal consortia mediated bioremediation samples respectively. The TDS  $3420 \pm 0.65\text{mg/l}$  for the untreated effluent, reduced to  $2150 \pm 0.84$  and  $1850 \pm 0.41\text{mg/l}$  for bacterial and fungal consortia mediated bioremediation process respectively. The results are in line with Arun Prasad and Bhaskara Rao<sup>4</sup> as mentioned earlier and also with Furaha et al.<sup>5</sup>, but the study results are opposing to Aklilu Asfaw<sup>6</sup>, who has reported TDS 88.6 to 334.1mg/l. Avasan Maruthi and Ramakrishna<sup>7</sup> observed the TSS content of sugar mill effluent was 220 to 790mg/l. Senthil Kumar et al.<sup>8</sup> observed the discharged mill effluent showed total solids of 4485-1520 mg/l. The possible reason for the differences of total solids and subsequent dissolved solids are due to collision of the colliding particles, influenced by pH of the effluents. The EC is reduced from  $4200 \pm 0.80$  in the untreated effluent to  $2720 \pm 1.21$  for bacterial consortium bioremediated effluent and  $2150 \pm 0.63\text{mhos/cm}$  for fungal consortium remediated effluent. Jamaluddin Ahmed and Nizamuddin<sup>9</sup> reported EC range from 487 to 6225mhos/cm, falls in line with the present investigation.

The aquatic ecosystem completely depends on dissolved oxygen, various biochemical changes and its effects are due to the metabolic activities of microorganism. Many literature collectively indicated the importance of the dissolved oxygen concentration. The recommended DO in normal drinking water standard was 6mg/l. DO is an index of physical and biological process occur in water and the most important parameter is to assess the water quality, in measuring the molecular oxygen utilized during specified incubation period in which degradation of organic material and oxygen occur, which normally used to oxidize as organic material. In general, BOD reflects the high concentration of substances that can be biologically degradable and consumption of oxygen by microbes, potentially results in dissolved oxygen. The results of the present study, i.e.  $160 \pm 1.23$  for the untreated textile effluent,  $42 \pm 1.04$  and  $18 \pm 0.54\text{mg/l}$  respectively for the bacterial and fungal consortia remediated samples show much less values when compare with the work of Okunade and Adekalu<sup>10</sup> who has reported BOD of Cassava industry varied between 70 to 290mg l<sup>-1</sup>. Ameer Basha and Rajaganesh<sup>11</sup> reported BOD ranging between 243 to 1842mg/l in textile dye effluent.

**Table-1:** Physico-chemical analysis of textile dying house effluent using microbial consortium mediated degradation process.

Parameters	Unit	Untreated effluent sample*	Bacterial consortium degraded sample*	Fungal consortium degraded sample*	WHO standards
Colour	-	Tann	Light Tann	Light Tann	-
Odour	-	Unpleasant	No odour	No odour	-
pH	-	7.8 $\pm$ 0.21	7.2 $\pm$ 0.21	7.2 $\pm$ 0.15	7.0–8.5
Total Solids	Mg/l	2700 $\pm$ 0.84	1800 $\pm$ 0.21	1700 $\pm$ 0.64	500–1500
Total Suspended Solids	Mg/l	1780 $\pm$ 0.75	1320 $\pm$ 0.63	950 $\pm$ 0.84	100–600
Total Dissolve Solids	Mg/l	3420 $\pm$ 0.65	2150 $\pm$ 0.84	1850 $\pm$ 0.41	850–1500
Electrical Conductivity	$\mu$ mhos/cm	4200 $\pm$ 0.80	2720 $\pm$ 1.21	2150 $\pm$ 0.63	500–1500
Biological Oxygen Demand	Mg/l	160 $\pm$ 1.23	42 $\pm$ 1.04	18 $\pm$ 0.54	$\geq$ 5.0
Chemical Oxygen Demand	Mg/l	570 $\pm$ 1.41	260 $\pm$ 1.63	180 $\pm$ 0.48	250
Dissolved Oxygen	Mg/l	20 $\pm$ 0.23	12 $\pm$ 0.34	8.0 $\pm$ 0.72	$\leq$ 6.0
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	Mg/l	1870 $\pm$ 0.64	1070 $\pm$ 0.81	780 $\pm$ 0.51	500
Carbonate alkalinity	Mg/l	36 $\pm$ 2.02	28 $\pm$ 1.02	28 $\pm$ 0.64	200
Bicarbonate alkalinity	Mg/l	370 $\pm$ 1.56	190 $\pm$ 1.02	170 $\pm$ 0.44	50
Chloride	Mg/l	980 $\pm$ 2.08	620 $\pm$ 1.06	580 $\pm$ 0.21	200–600
Calcium	Mg/l	330 $\pm$ 0.21	220 $\pm$ 0.42	210 $\pm$ 0.32	75–200
Magnesium	Mg/l	180 $\pm$ 0.48	140 $\pm$ 0.21	130 $\pm$ 0.46	50–150
Sodium	Mg/l	980 $\pm$ 0.84	520 $\pm$ 0.61	500 $\pm$ 0.81	1000–1500
Sulphate	Mg/l	520 $\pm$ 0.61	380 $\pm$ 0.61	320 $\pm$ 0.81	200–400
Nickel	Mg/l	1.06 $\pm$ 0.73	1.02 $\pm$ 0.43	1.00 $\pm$ 0.61	–
Zinc	Mg/l	1.12 $\pm$ 0.21	1.00 $\pm$ 0.21	1.00 $\pm$ 0.21	5.0
Chromium	Mg/l	4.38 $\pm$ 0.05	2.16 $\pm$ 0.31	1.80 $\pm$ 0.85	0.1
Manganese	Mg/l	1.24 $\pm$ 0.05	1.12 $\pm$ 0.21	1.10 $\pm$ 0.42	2.0
Copper	Mg/l	1.26 $\pm$ 0.02	0.10 $\pm$ 0.15	0.10 $\pm$ 0.01	0.2
Lead	Mg/l	0.80 $\pm$ 0.02	0.15 $\pm$ 0.22	0.10 $\pm$ 0.85	0.10
Iron	Mg/l	2.14 $\pm$ 0.15	1.82 $\pm$ 0.30	1.80 $\pm$ 0.45	4.5

\*The mean difference is significant at 0.01 level.

In textile effluent, the presence of free chlorine and toxic heavy metals leading to an oxygen sag in receiving water. In other words, a high degree of pollution is associated with high COD<sup>12</sup>. In present study the COD ranges from  $570 \pm 1.41$  in untreated textile effluent to  $260 \pm 1.63$  mg/l for bacterial consortium bioremediated effluent and  $250 \pm 0.48$  mg/l for fungal consortium remediated samples in a decreasing order due to bioremediation. However, high and low COD levels,  $584 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$  and  $160 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$  have also been reported to textile effluents. Mohabansi et al.<sup>2</sup> reported that the COD levels in textile effluent released from textile mill are within the WHO standard limits, though BOD and other parameters were found to be high. Rajeswari et al.<sup>13</sup> reported high COD of  $2865\text{-}997 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$  from textile dyeing effluent. If the Ratio of BOD: COD is above 0.5, the waste water is considered to be highly biodegradable. Azbar et al.<sup>14</sup> reported textile waste waters have shown low BOD: COD ratios ( $<0.1$ ), indicating non-biodegradable nature of dyes which is opposing to the present study.

The chloride content in the effluent also contributes to the increased TDS and found to be positively correlated with increased EC, TDS, TSS, %NaCl, alkalinity and sulfate content. The present study also agrees with the report and found to vary between  $980 \pm 2.08$  for untreated sample,  $620 \pm 1.06$  and  $580 \pm 0.21$  mg/l for bacterial and fungal consortia remediated samples respectively. Pratibha Mahawar and Azra Akhtar<sup>15</sup> reported that physico-chemical properties like EC ( $1470\text{-}2200 \mu\text{S/cm}$ ), BOD ( $488\text{-}1090 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ) and COD ( $3120\text{-}6864 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ) TDS ( $980\text{-}1440 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ), Total hardness ( $230\text{-}2250 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ) of the textile dye effluent were found to be higher than the WHO standards<sup>1</sup>. The Total Hardness (TH) of waste water which is a combined effect of Calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) and Magnesium ( $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ) metal cations present in effluent. The present study revealed  $1870 \pm 0.64$  in the case of untreated effluent, whereas  $1070 \pm 0.81$  for bacterial consortium and  $780 \pm 0.51 \text{ mg/l}$  for fungal consortium bioremediation of effluent. Okunade and Adekalu<sup>10</sup> reported a range of 195 to  $376 \text{ mg/l}$  in different location of samples tested. According to Deepali Gangwar<sup>16</sup> the TH value was  $676.95 \text{ mg/l}$  in Textile industry effluent. These results show much lesser value than the present investigation.

The major problem associated is the presence of heavy metal ions in Textile dyeing industries, which arise from material used in the dyeing process or in considerably higher amount from metal containing dyes. Metal based complex dyes release heavy metals are one of the source of pollutant added to nearby water bodies and the surrounding soil. The presence of heavy metals in the effluent samples were found to be above the recommended CPCB limits and guideline for irrigation. Metals like calcium, magnesium, nickel, sodium, zinc, chromium, manganese, copper, lead and iron have been detected in the untreated textile effluent. The concentration of these metals are much reduced during the biodegradation by both bacterial and fungal consortia. Calcium level  $330 \pm 0.21 \text{ mg/l}$  was reduced to  $220 \pm 0.42$  and  $210 \pm 0.32 \text{ mg/l}$ , magnesium  $180 \pm 0.48 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $140 \pm 0.21$ ,  $130 \pm 0.46 \text{ mg/l}$ , Nickel  $1.06 \pm 0.73 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $1.02 \pm$

$0.43$ ,  $1.00 \pm 0.61 \text{ mg/l}$ , sodium  $980 \pm 0.84 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $520 \pm 0.61$ ,  $500 \pm 0.89 \text{ mg/l}$ , zinc  $1.12 \pm 0.21 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $1.00 \pm 0.21$ ,  $1.00 \pm 0.21 \text{ mg/l}$ , chromium  $4.38 \pm 0.05 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $2.16 \pm 0.31$ ,  $1.80 \pm 0.85 \text{ mg/l}$ , manganese  $1.24 \pm 0.05 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $1.12 \pm 0.21$ ,  $1.10 \pm 0.42 \text{ mg/l}$ , copper  $1.26 \pm 0.02 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $0.10 \pm 0.15$ ,  $0.10 \pm 0.01 \text{ mg/l}$  respectively for untreated effluent and treated effluent by bacterial and fungal consortia. Lead level  $0.80 \pm 0.017 \text{ mg/l}$  was reduced to  $0.15 \pm 0.22$  and  $0.10 \pm 0.85 \text{ mg/l}$ , iron  $2.14 \pm 0.15 \text{ mg/l}$  to  $1.80 \pm 0.30$  and  $1.80 \pm 0.45 \text{ mg/l}$ <sup>17,18</sup>.

**Genotoxic Studies of Textile Effluent, Bacterial and Fungal Consortia Degraded Effluent grown Allium cepa:** The impact of Textile effluent as well as bacterial and fungal consortia mediated degraded effluent was tested for genotoxic effects. The results of mitotic index and chromosomal abnormalities due to genotoxic effect in *Allium cepa* was shown in Table-2 and Figure-1. A total of 500 cells were examined in all treatments, the control (deionised water) have shown 220 dividing cells and its Active Mitotic Index (AMI) percentage was  $44.0 \pm 1.50$ , the chromosomal abnormalities have shown vagrant and stickiness of chromosome and the Total Abnormality Percentage (TAP) was  $1.2 \pm 1.00$ . The textile effluent (20%) treatment have shown AMI percentage was  $28.0 \pm 0.45$ , the chromosomal abnormalities were chromosome break, chromosome bridge, C-mitosis, vagrant, chromosome loss and micro nuclei. The TAP was  $7.2 \pm 1.50$ . In the case of bacterial consortium mediated treatment, the AMI percentage was  $34.0 \pm 0.20$ , the chromosomal abnormalities were chromosome loss, localized nuclei, stickiness and binucleate cells. The TAP was  $4.4 \pm 0.45$ . In fungal consortium treated, the AMI percentage was  $38.0 \pm 1.50$ . The chromosomal abnormalities were chromosome break, C-mitosis, localized nuclei and stickiness, the TAP was  $2.8 \pm 0.20$ . Results of Sabour et al.<sup>19</sup>, Malik et al.<sup>20</sup> and Jaishree and Khan<sup>21</sup> are similar to the present study. They reported high amount of Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni and Pb and Zn from the fabric industry effluent. Similarly Joshi and Kumar<sup>22</sup> reported Cr ( $0\text{-}0.1126 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ), Zinc ( $1.05$  to  $8.77 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ), Pb ( $0.0029$  to  $0.1394$ ), Co ( $0$  to  $0.0290 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ), Ni ( $0$  to  $0.3721 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ), Cu ( $0$  to  $0.3517 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ ), Ameer Basha and Rajaganesh<sup>11</sup> reported lead  $11.12$  to  $32.10 \text{ mg/l}$  and Zn  $13.03$  to  $36.13 \text{ mg/l}$  in the textile effluents are complied within the permissible limit in the present study. Studies conducted by Pratibha Mahawar and Azra Akhtar<sup>15</sup> reported the metal concentrations Zn ( $0.3\text{-}6.8 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ), Cu ( $0.8\text{-}48.65 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ), Mn ( $4.3\text{-}11.5 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) and Fe ( $0.2\text{-}9.0 \text{ mg g}^{-1}$ ) were found to be higher than the guidelines for irrigation. The active mitotic index refers to the frequency of cell division which is a vital parameters for determining the rate of root growth<sup>23</sup>. The results of genotoxic studies of the present study show that there is an increase in the active mitotic index percentage by the bacterial and fungal consortia degraded effluent showed  $34.0 \pm 0.20$  and  $38.0 \pm 1.50$  respectively when compare with the textile effluent, it was  $28.0 \pm 0.45\%$ . The untreated dose of toxic substance reduce the active mitotic index whereas the degraded effluent show increase percentage of mitotic index seen in the present study are in line with the

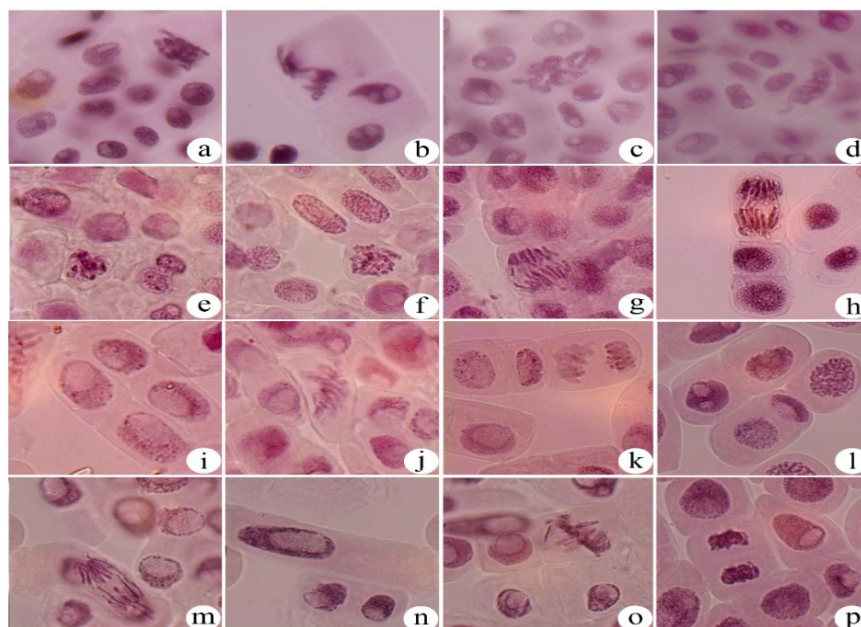
studies of Bianchi et al.<sup>24</sup>, Kuchyet al.<sup>25</sup> and Bruna de Campose Ventura-Camargo et al.<sup>26</sup>. The total abnormality percentage was high ( $7.2 \pm 1.50$ ) for textile effluent, whereas the bacterial and fungal consortia degraded textile effluent has shown the reduction in the total abnormality percentage ( $4.4 \pm 0.45$  and  $2.8 \pm 0.20$ ) respectively. The reduction in the abnormality percentage ensure the degradation and less toxic as reported by Bruna de Campose Ventura-Camargo et al.<sup>26</sup>. The chromosomal abnormalities like chromosome break, chromosome bridge, c-

mitosis, vagrant, chromosome loss and micronuclei were recorded for untreated textile effluent. Whereas the bacterial consortium degraded sample has shown chromosome loss, loculated nuclei, stickiness and binucleate cells and the fungal consortium degraded sample has shown chromosome bridge, c-mitosis, loculated nuclei and stickiness. Such occurrence was confirmed by the earlier findings by Gul et al.<sup>27</sup> and Mustafa and Arikan<sup>28</sup>.

**Table-2:** Genotoxic Studies: Mitotic Index and Chromosomal Abnormalities in *Allium cepa*.

Treatment	Total No. of cells Examined	No. of Dividing Cells	Active Mitotic Index % (AMI)	Percentage of Decolourization									Total no. of cells showing abnormalities	Total abnormalities (%) (TAP)
				CB	CBr	C-M	V	CL	MN	LN	S	BC		
Control (deionised water)	500	220	$44.0 \pm 1.50^*$	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	6	$1.2 \pm 1.00^*$
Textile effluent (20%)	500	140	$28.0 \pm 0.45^*$	8	10	4	6	4	4	0	0	0	36	$7.2 \pm 1.50^*$
Bacterial Consortium Degraded Effluent (20%)	500	170	$34.0 \pm 0.20^*$	0	0	0	0	4	0	8	6	4	22	$4.4 \pm 0.45^*$
Fungal Consortium Degraded Effluent (20%)	500	190	$38.0 \pm 1.50^*$	0	4	2	0	0	0	4	4	0	14	$2.8 \pm 0.20^*$

Note: CB: Chromosome break, CBr: Chromosome bridge, C-M: C-Mitosis, V: Vagrant, CL: Chromosome Loss, MN: Micro nuclei, LN: Loculated nuclei, S: Stickiness, BC: Binucleate cells \*: The mean difference is significant at 0.01 level.



**Figure-1:** Genotoxic study of textile effluent Bacterial and Fungal degradation effluent (1000X).

a-h) Genotoxic effect of textile effluent: a) Chromosome break, b) Chromosome bridge, c) Mitosis, d) Vagrant, e) Chromosome loss, f) Micro nuclei, g) Chromosome break & bridge, h) Chromosome bridge. i-l) Genotoxic effect of Bacterial degraded Textile effluent: i) Loculated nuclei, j) Chromosome loss, k) Stickiness, l) Binucleate cells, m-p) Genotoxic effect of Fungal degraded Textile effluent: m) Chromosome bridge, n) Loculated nuclei, o) C-Mitosis, p) Stickiness

## Conclusion

Disposal of dye effluents without proper treatment into the environment poses major hazards, through biomagnifications. The textile effluent used in the present study was ecotoxic since it extended hazardous effect to plant source namely *Allium cepa*. Monitoring of biodegradation by bacterial and fungal consortium rendered it an eco-friendly approach in reducing toxicity point of view.

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