

EMEC 22

22nd European Meeting on
Environmental Chemistry

BOOK of ABSTRACTS

5 – 8 December, 2022,
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Univerza v Ljubljani
Zdravstvena fakulteta



ASSOCIATION OF
CHEMISTRY AND THE
ENVIRONMENT





University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Health Sciences



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Organised by: University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Health Sciences),
Association of Chemistry and the Environment

Edited by: assist prof. dr. Mojca Bavcon Kralj, prof. dr. Polonca Trebše,
dr. Franja Prosenc, Urška Šunta, dr. Lara Čižmek

Published by: University of Ljubljana Press

For the publisher: Gregor Majdič, rector of the University of Ljubljana

Issued by: University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Health Sciences

For the issuer: Andrej Starc, Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of Ljubljana

Cover design: Tina Jeler

Cover page photo: ©Luka Esenko, Ljubljana Tourism photo library
(www.visitljubljana.com)

Printed by: A-media marketing in oblikovanje d.o.o., Slovenia

Print run: 125

Ljubljana, 2022

First edition

Publication is free of charge.

First e-edition. Digital copy of the book is available on: <https://e-knjige.ff.uni-lj.si>

DOI: 10.55295/9789612970352

Kataložni zapis o publikaciji (CIP) pripravili v Narodni in univerzitetni knjižnici v Ljubljani

Tiskana knjiga

COBISS.SI-ID 130826243

ISBN 978-961-297-034-5

E-knjiga

[COBISS.SI-ID 130983427](#)

ISBN 978-961-297-035-2 (PDF)

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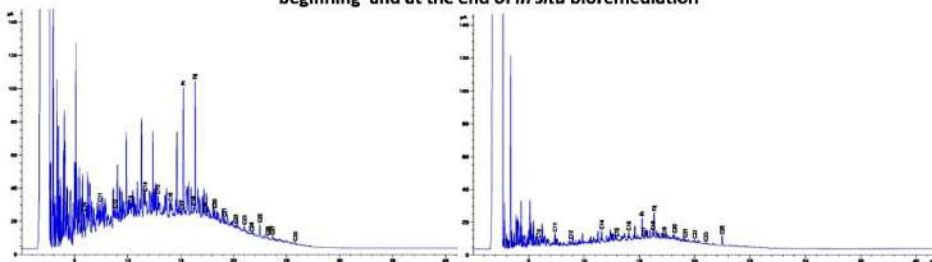
Engineered Bioremediation - Technology of Choice for Treatment of Aquifer Contaminated with Oil Pollutants

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Gas chromatogram of the total petroleum hydrocarbons extracted from aquifer at the beginning and at the end of *in situ* bioremediation



Aquifers contaminated by petroleum hydrocarbons is a major problem worldwide. During the exploitation, processing, accidental spills, transport, distribution, storage and use of crude oil and its products, these may be released into the hydrosphere in an uncontrolled manner. Bioremediation is a method of reducing petroleum pollution from environment which has been widely used in the last years. Bioremediation is a process which is based on the natural capacity of microorganisms to decompose toxic waste from the environment into harmless products. Engineered bioremediation is a preferable approach because it involves modification of polluted sites at desirable time intervals to accelerate the degradation of contaminants. This modification is achieved by biostimulation (providing nutrients, electron acceptors, biosurfactants, biopolymers, and slow-release fertilizers for increasing the microbial activity) [1], and bioaugmentation (addition of microbial biomass, preferably a consortium, for its greater degradation capacity, synergistic performance, and co-metabolic events)

This paper presents the engineered bioremediation of aquifers contaminated by petroleum hydrocarbons, in the process which lasted for 12 months. The contaminated area was located near the city of Belgrade (Serbia), on the terrace sediments of the Sava River. This remediation treatment was performed within the closed bipolar system (one extraction and two injection wells), with adsorption in the external unit.

In situ engineered bioremediation was started with addition of nutrients from the reservoir through the injection well into the aquifer. Together with nutrients, in order to stimulate chemical oxidation

and increase oxygenation of the aquifer, H₂O₂ was added. Finally, zymogenous hydrocarbon-degrading microbial consortia was added via the same injection well [2]. The zymogenous consortium of hydrocarbon-degrading microorganisms initially contained 7x10⁹ CFU dm⁻³ microorganisms. Reinoculation with the prepared microbial consortium was performed at 30-day intervals. Recirculation was achieved by extraction of contaminated groundwater using the extraction well followed by filtration through the filtration/adsorption column filled with natural inorganic hydrophobic adsorbents and finally injection to the subsurface through the injection well [2]. During water filtration, a biofilm of zymogenous microorganisms was formed on the material of the adsorption column.

During the engineered bioremediation, the content of petroleum hydrocarbon in aquifer decreased by 88% of the initial level. This indicates that the process was performed successfully.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (grant no 451-03-68/2022-14/200026).

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