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Ecological estimation of fresh water resources using the marker proteins of indicators species of *Bacillariophyceae*

Еколошка процена ресурса свеже воде употребом протеинских маркера индикатора врста *bacillariophyceae*

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Abstract

In the article, we suggested to use the *rbcL* protein as a marker for the identification of *Bacillariophyceae* in the bioindication method of the ecological estimation of fresh water resources. Here we perform the results of the Multiple alignments and 3D models respectively of 45 and 27 *rbcL* proteins indicator species of *Bacillariophyceae* from the V. Sladeczek (1973) list, which is available in the international database of proteins - GenPept (NCBI) at present time. Short (6-35) amino-acid sequences of 27 unique variable sites identified for 19 species of *Bacillariophyceae*, which normally used as bioindicators of water saprobity. These unique variable sites located on *rbcL* protein surface of *Bacillariophyceae* can be specifically found by antibodies in one water samples with use of the IFA-method. The use of the *rbcL* protein as marker for identification of *Bacillariophyceae* in water samples gives best reliable estimation of the water ecological condition in a compare with the traditional identification of the organisms under the microscope.

Keywords: *rbcL* protein marker, *Bacillariophyceae*, algae, indicator species

Introduction

At present new methods of molecular genetics and bioinformatics are using in the fields of the biology and the ecology. For example, the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL) plant working group has recommended a standard barcode comprising ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase large subunit (*rbcL*) for the barcoding of all land plants [1,2]. And the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 (CO1) is used for the barcoding of all animals [3, 4, 5]. The primary sequences of DNA and proteins of plants and animals are located in the international databases GenBank and GenPept [6].

In our previously articles we shown that the DNA barcode with gene CO1 good work for animals and we can designed the unique variable sites for the antibodies [7,8]. Here we continue our investigations for Bacillariophyceae using the *rbcL* gene product. We took 45 primary sequences of proteins of the indicator species of Bacillariophyceae which presented in database GenPept beginning from 2004 till 2014, most of them – 23 records – are from USA, 9 records from Germany and 5 records from France, 2 records from Belgium, and others on 1 record from China, Republic of Korea, Spain, South Korea, Russia [6]. Such approach based on molecular data increases the level of a confidence of the indicator species identification special in the Bioindication methods which use for the ecological estimation of water of fresh water resources.

At this stage, we conducted researches on use of *rbcL* protein as Bacillariophyceae identification marker which resulted in water samples, in more reliable assessment of reservoir ecological condition. We suggested to use the marker genes and their products for the identification of indicator species as a part of the method of Bioindication for the estimation of water environment. We used the marker genes and the proteins such as *COI* for animals and *rbcL* for plants. Our approach based on the way of search of the unique sites of marker genes and proteins for each organism using the methods of bioinformatics such as the Multiple alignments and Phylogenetic analysis, and 3D modelling for proteins.

Materials and methods

In this work indicator species of Bacillariophyceae from V. Sladeczek's list are used [9], amino-acid sequences of *rbcL* protein of Bacillariophyceae indicator species are received from the international database of proteins - GenPept database on the NCBI site [6].

Multiple alignment of *rbcL* protein amino-acid sequences of Bacillariophyceae indicator species is performed with using the Clustal Omega program [10], the *rbcL* protein amino-acid sequences of Bacillariophyceae are analysed in the Jalview program [11].

3D model operations of Bacillariophyceae indicator species of *rbcL* proteins is carried out in the SWISS-MODEL program [12], and the analysis of these models in the PDB format is carried out in the Jalview program.

Table 1. Ecologic-and-genetic database of indicator species of Bacillariophyceae

№	Species	Saprobity*	Indicator weight	Accession number in the database GenPept
1	<i>Achnanthescoarctata</i>	x	0.10	AEB91214
2	<i>Amphora normanii</i>	x	0.10	CAM97884
3	<i>Amphora ovalis</i>	o-b	1.65	AIT92093
4	<i>Asterionellaformosa</i>	o-b	1.40	AEB91253
5	<i>Caloneis amphisbaena</i>	b-a	2.35	AIT92083
6	<i>Cymbellaaspera</i>	b	2.20	AIY31910
7	<i>Cymbellacistula</i>	b	1.80	AIY31913
8	<i>Cymbella Helvetica</i>	x-o	0.50	AIY31915
9	<i>Cymbellalanceolata</i>	b	1.90	AIY31917
10	<i>Cymbellanaiculiformis</i>	b	2.00	AIY31926
11	<i>Didymospheniageminata</i>	x	0.10	AIY31931
12	<i>Epithemiaturgida</i>	b	2.00	AEB39377
13	<i>Eunotiapectinalis</i>	x	0.20	AEB91256
14	<i>Fragilariacapucina</i>	o-b	1.60	AGG86633
15	<i>Fragilariacrottonensis</i>	o-b	1.40	CAN84680
16	<i>Gomphonemaacuminatum</i>	b	1.70	AIY31964
17	<i>Gomphonemaangustatum</i>	o	1.15	AIY31946
18	<i>Gomphonemacapitatum</i>	b	2.00	AAT78574
19	<i>Gomphonemaclevei</i>	x	0.30	AFV95053
20	<i>Gyrosigmaacuminatum</i>	b	2.20	AEB91218
21	<i>Hantzschiaamphioxys</i>	a	2.90	AEB39371
22	<i>Melosiravarians</i>	b	1.85	AGN91098
23	<i>Naviculacryptocephala</i>	a	2.70	AEB91223
24	<i>Naviculapupula</i>	b	2.20	AGT21406
25	<i>Navicularadiosa</i>	o-b	1.60	AIT92055
26	<i>Navicularrhynchocephala</i>	a	2.70	AEZ56384
27	<i>Nitzschiapalea</i>	a	2.75	CBH19906
28	<i>Nitzschiasigmoidea</i>	b	2.00	CBH19911
29	<i>Pinnularia borealis</i>	x-o	0.40	AER42043
30	<i>Pinnulariamesolepta</i>	o	1.15	CAM97949
31	<i>Pinnulariamicrostaureon</i>	o	0.80	CAM97908
32	<i>Pinnulariasubcapitata</i>	o	1.00	AER42030
33	<i>Pinnulariaviridis</i>	b	2.10	CAM97948
34	<i>Rhizosoleniacurvata</i>	b	1.85	AGC59927
35	<i>Rhopalodiagibba</i>	o	1.00	AEB39374
36	<i>Stephanodiscushantzschii</i>	a	2.70	AFO84271
37	<i>Surirellabiseriata</i>	b	2.00	AGE34629
38	<i>Surirellacapronii</i>	b	2.00	AGE34620
39	<i>Surirellalinear</i>	b	2.20	AGE34603
40	<i>Surirellaovata</i>	b	1.85	AEB91278
41	<i>Surirellaspiralis</i>	o	1.00	AGE34584
42	<i>Surirellatenera</i>	b	2.10	AGE34632
43	<i>Synedraparasitica</i>	b-a	2.50	AEB91231
44	<i>Synedratabulata</i>	a	2.70	AEB91210
45	<i>Tabellariafenestrata</i>	o-b	1.40	AEB91204

* x-xenosaprobity; o-oligosaprobity; b – beta-mesosaprobity; a – alpha-mesosaprobity

As we can see from above table, 45 species of Bacillariophyceae are indicators of different zones of fresh water reservoir saprobity: from „clear” (xenosaprobic with weighing 0.1) to „dirty” (the alpha-mesosaprobic with weighing 2.7).

We believe that Bacillariophyceae indicator organisms can be identified by means of rbcL marker genes products and thus approach will increase reliability of reservoir ecological condition estimation.

Identification of rbcL proteins epitopes of Bacillariophyceae

For identification of unique sites of rbcL proteins in Bacillariophyceae Multiple alignment of 45 amino-acid sequences of rbcL protein indicators is carried out (Fig. 1).

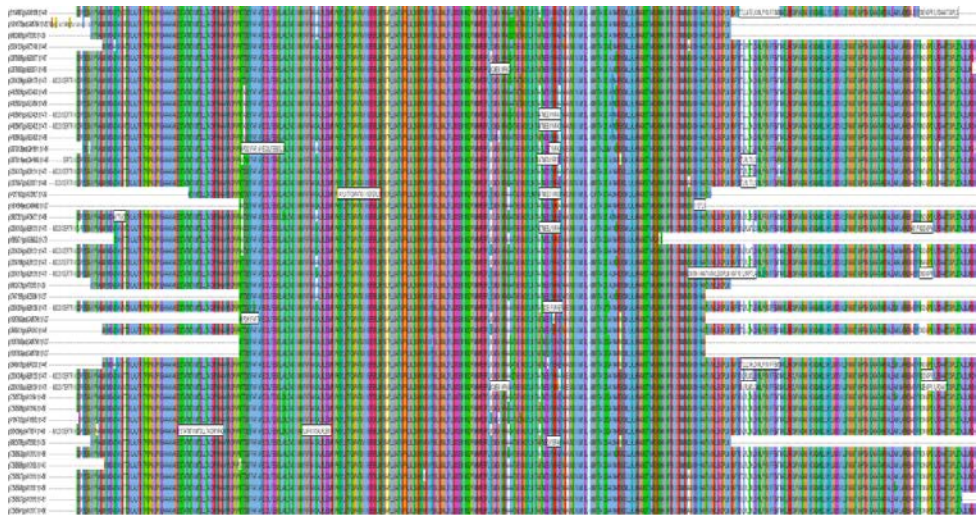


Figure 1. Multiple alignment of amino-acid sequences rbcLBacillariophyceae

Analysis of multiple amino-acid sequences alignment of rbcL protein in Bacillariophyceae organisms showed the existence of 27 unique sites for 19 species of Bacillariophyceae from 6 to 35 amino-acid (a.o.) with an optimum length from 6 to 20 a.o. for antibodies discernment (table 2).

Table 2. Unique variable sequences of the rbcL protein of indicator species of Bacillariophyceae

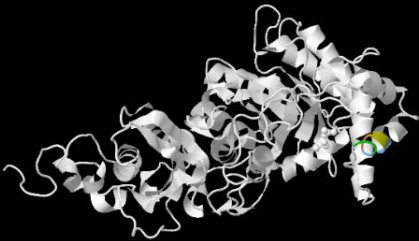
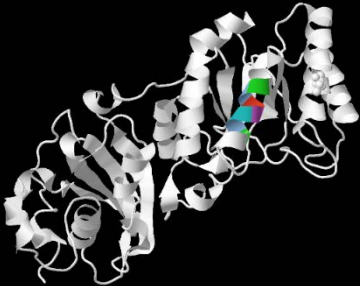
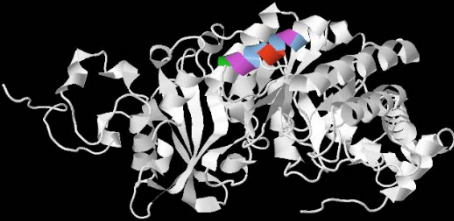
Species / Accession number in database GenPept	Saprobity*	Indicator weight	Unique fragments of amino acid sequences of the protein rbcL of indicators species of Bacillariophyceae with the positions in the alignment
<i>Asterionella formosa</i> AEB91253.1	o-b	1.40	QQVGPV (443-448)
<i>Caloneis amphisbaena</i> AIT92083.1	b-a	2.35	QVYERAN (234-240)
<i>Eunotipectinalis</i> AEB91256.1	x	0.20	QDEIFKRAEF (251-260)
<i>Fragilariacrotoneensis</i> CAN84680.1	o-b	1.40	IISTLV (232-237)
<i>Gomphonemacapitatum</i> AAT78574.1	b	2.00	YSTATWTVVWTDLLTACDRYRAQ (65-87) XLGFKXVSALRLNI (128-142)
<i>Gyrosigma acuminatum</i> AEB91218.1	b	2.20	CGVDHIHAGTVVGKLEGDPLMIKGFYDILRKPTLA (324-358) SNQVGPR (442-448)
<i>Hantzschia amphioxys</i> AEB39371.1	a	2.90	TLRLTTLS (350-357)
<i>Melosira varians</i> AGN91098.1	b	1.85	TTLLATELKVNLPGYIFFDMD (338-358) SNEVGPRILRDAAKTCGPLQ (430-449)
<i>Nitzschia palea</i> CBH19906.1	a	2.75	GATMEDVYERS (243-253) TLRLTSLQ (346-353)
<i>Nitzschia sigmoidea</i> CBH19911.1	b	2.00	APDQYFAFIAYECDLFEEGSL (82-103) TYKRAQ (239-244)
<i>pinnularia subcapitata</i> AER42030.1	o	1.00	TLLVLHLDVNLPGYIFFEMS (326-345)
<i>Pinnularia viridis</i> CAM97948.1	b	2.10	KPDHYFAFT (2-10)
<i>Rhizosolenia curvata</i> AGC59927.1	b	1.85	IAYLKTFGGPATGIIVERERLD (77-98) GTMDECIKRGD (180-190)
<i>Rhopalodia gibba</i> AEB39374.1	o	1.00	NCMEGINRAC (212-221)
<i>Stephanodiscus hantzschii</i> AFO84271.1	a	2.70	AYTVKD (20-25)
<i>Surirellabiseriata</i> AGE34629.1	b	2.00	ATMEEVYKRAI (249-259)
<i>Surirellatenera</i> AGE34632.1	b	2.10	GTMEEVYKRAS (249-259)
<i>Synedratabulata</i> AEB91210.1	a	2.70	ADYFNQQVGPA (438-448)
<i>Tabellaria fenestrata</i> AEB91204.1	o-b	1.40	NCMEGINRAV (224-233) VLRLMSLQ (351-358) EVGPVILRQAAS (444-455)

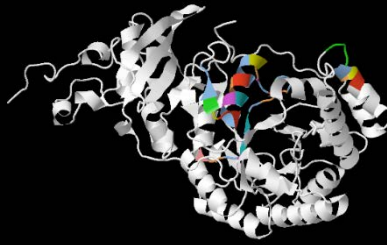
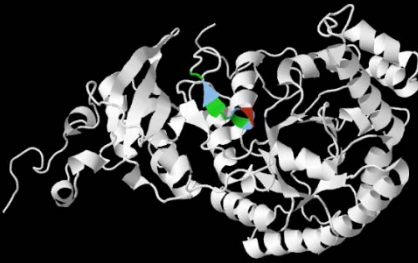
* x-xenosaprobity; o-oligosaprobity; b – beta-mesosaprobity; a – alpha-mesosaprobity

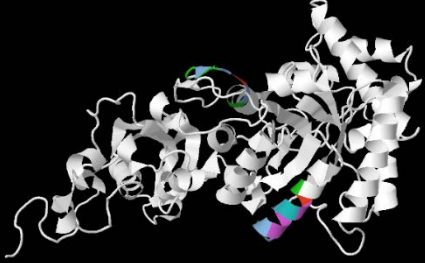
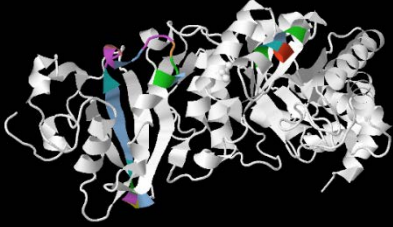
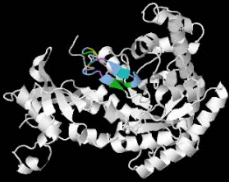
Verification of epitopes availability for antibodies discernment

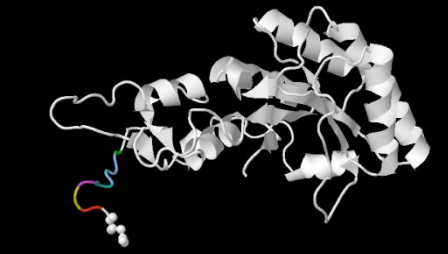
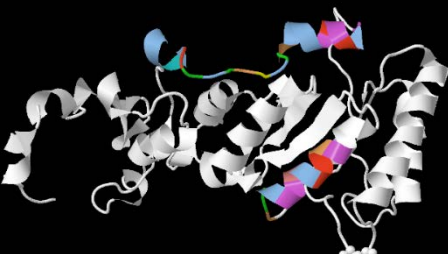
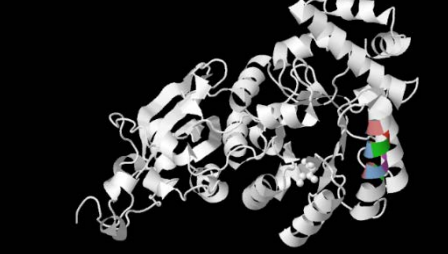
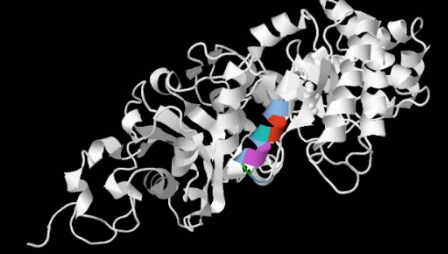
3D models are constructed for verification of 27 unique sites of rbcL proteins indicator in Bacillariophyceaeavailability for antibodies discernment (Tabl. 3).

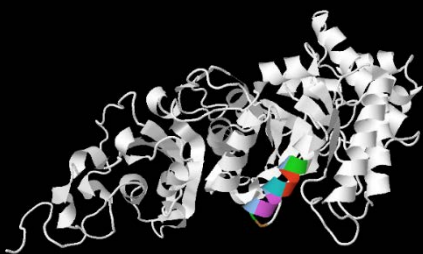
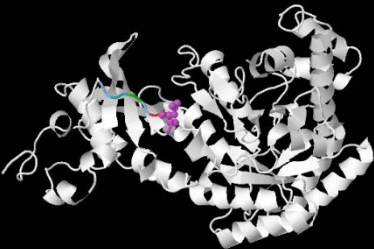
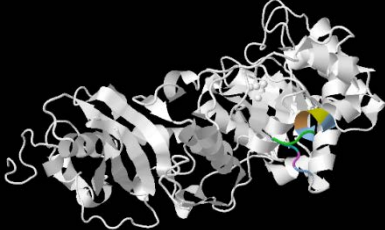
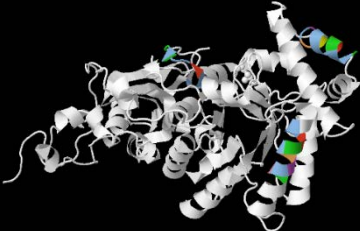
Table 3. 3D-models of amino-acid sequences rbcL of some indicator species of Bacillariophyceae

The indicator species of Bacillariophyceae / Accession number in the databank GenPept / saprobity*/ indicators weigh	3D-models of amino-acid sequences rbcL
<i>Asterionellaformosa</i> AEB91253 o-b/1.40	
<i>Caloneis amphisbaena</i> AIT92083.1 b-a/2.35	
<i>Eunotiapectinalis</i> AEB91256 x/0.20	

The indicator species of Bacillariophyceae / Accession number in the databank GenPept / saprobity*/ indicators weigh	3D-models of amino-acid sequences rbcL
<i>Fragilariacrotonensis</i> CAN84680 o-b/1.40	
<i>Gomphonemacapitatum</i> AAT78574.1 b/2.00	
<i>Gyrosigmaacuminatum</i> AEB91218 b/2.20	
<i>Hantzschiaamphioxys</i> AEB39371.1 a/2.90	

The indicator species of Bacillariophyceae / Accession number in the databank GenPept / saprobity*/ indicators weigh	3D-models of amino-acid sequences rbcL
<i>Melosiravarians</i> AGN91098 b/1.85	
<i>Nitzschiapalea</i> CBH19906 a/2.75	
<i>Nitzschiasigmoidea</i> CBH19911 b/2.00	
<i>Pinnulariasubcapitata</i> AER42030 o/1.00	

The indicator species of Bacillariophyceae / Accession number in the databank GenPept / saprobity*/ indicators weigh	3D-models of amino-acid sequences rbcL
<i>Pinnulariaviridis</i> CAM97948 b/2.10	
<i>Rhizosoleniacurvata</i> AGC59927 b/1.85	
<i>Rhopalodiagibba</i> AEB39374.1 o/1.00	
<i>Surirellabiseriata</i> AGE34629.1 b/2.00	

The indicator species of Bacillariophyceae / Accession number in the databank GenPept / saprobity*/ indicators weigh	3D-models of amino-acid sequences rbcL
<i>Surirellatenera</i> AGE34632.1 b/2.10	
<i>Stephanodiscushantzschii</i> AFO84271 a/2.70	
<i>Synedratabulata</i> AEB91210 a/2.70	
<i>Tabellariafenestrata</i> AEB91204 o-b/1.40	

* x-xenosaprobity; o-oligosaprobity; b – beta-mesosaprobity; a – alpha-mesosaprobity; p – polysaprobity

The analysis of 3D models on rbcL protein indicator for Bacillariophyceae organisms showed that all 27 unique sites are located on molecule surfaces. They are located on alpha spirals and can be therefore accessible to antibodies discernment. It should be noted that these Bacillariophyceae organisms are used as bioindicators for reservoir saprobity in the wide range, from xeno-saprobic zone with weighing 0.2, for example - *Eunotiapectinalis*, to an alpha saprobic zone with weighing 2.7, for example - *Stephanodiscushantzschii*.

Conclusion

The analysis of 45 rbcL proteins indicator of Bacillariophyceae organisms from the V. Sladeczek (1973) list revealed existence of 27 unique sites of rbcL amino-acid sequences for 19 indicator species of Bacillariophyceae organisms. Unique variable sites are located on rbcL protein surface of Bacillariophyceae organisms, they do not coincide with 27 unique variable sites of indicator Bacillariophyceae organisms, and can be specifically distinguished by antibodies for precise identification of Bacillariophyceae species among organisms in one water sample with use of the IFA-method.

The studied organisms are indicators of fresh-water reservoirs saprobity in the wide range: from „clear” to „dirty”, and, therefore, their identification on marker rbcL protein will allow to estimate reservoir ecological condition in shorter terms authentically.

Therefore, it allows us to use the antibodies for direct qualification and quantification of the indicator Bacillariophyceae species in the samples of water using the rbcL proteins and together with COI proteins of water indicator invertebrate species make the conclusion of ecological state of the water resources.

Acknowledgements

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