

**Keywords:** *Deinococcus radiodurans*; Biosorption; Fourier Transform Infrared; X-ray powder diffraction; Transmission electron microscope

## Introduction

Bioremediation is a natural process which depends on bacteria, fungi, and plants to alternating pollutants as these organisms carry out their normal life functions. Thus, bioremediation offers a substitute tool to destroy or reduce the harmful pollutants through biological activity with an effective cost. In the early 1980s, certain microorganisms were found to accumulate metallic elements at a high capacity [1,2].

There are a lot of studies about the bioremediation ability of *D. radiodurans* and its genetic engineering, for cleaning up heavy metals in nuclear waste contaminated sites [3-7]. The development of bioremediation strategies using *Deinococcus* spp is therefore vital for the cleanup of contaminated site with radioactive waste. Additional advantages of deinococci are that they are vegetative, easily cultured, and nonpathogenic. As these sites rarely contaminated by a single chemical, it is necessary to bio remediate strain to be multi resistant to various toxic agents. The present work describes the use of a combination of spectroscopic and microscopic methods to characterize the heavy metals around the cells of bacterial strains isolated from extreme habitats as well as to elucidate the interaction mechanisms of these bacteria with these metals.

## Materials and Methods

### Source of bacterial isolate

The tested isolates, *D. radiodurans* used in this study was isolated

selecting the silver section, picking up sections with a grid, then drying with filter paper. Finally the sections were stained with Uranyl acetate for 15 min, and washed by double distilled water. Lead sections were stained for 10 min, washed twice with distilled water. This analysis was done in the Electron Microscope Laboratory, Institute of Bioscience, University Putra Malaysia.

## Results and Discussion

### FT-IR

One of the most important characteristics of a biosorbent is the presence of its surface functional groups, which are largely characterized by the FTIR spectroscopy method. This technique can only provide a qualitative description for biosorbent functional groups. The studies of FTIR spectra on *Deinococcus* provided the basis to interpret the results with *Utricularia vesiculosus* [8], as shown in Figure 1 there was a shift in the bands corresponding to carboxyl (COOH) groups after the biosorption process. Following metal binding, the asymmetric carboxyl stretching band shifted from 1630 to 1636 and 1632  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for Cd and Pb respectively [9], and there was an increase in the distance between this band and the symmetric stretching of the same groups at 1418  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , to lower wave numbers after biosorption, indicating that chelating complexes were formed [10,11]. Therefore, chelation was another important mechanism involved in the biosorption of Cd and Pb with *Deinococcus*; as reported by Sheng et al. [12] for *Sargassum* with FTIR

acetate. Figure 3a shows the cells of *. radiodurans* before interaction

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