

· 综 述 ·

污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计与应用

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摘要: 氮素的过量累积是引起水体富营养化的重要因素, 开发廉价高效的污水脱氮工艺是水质净化研究的重要内容。微生物脱氮处理成本低、效率较高、环境适应性强, 已广泛应用于水质脱氮的净化处理。近年来, 基于合成生物技术的人工多细胞体系由于其独特的可定义性及可控性, 分解代谢路径和环境响应机制较天然菌群更为明确, 能够实现低细胞代谢负荷下高效脱氮, 在垃圾渗滤液、工业废水、海水养殖废水和生活污水的生物净化处理中具有广泛的应用潜力。本文聚焦污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计、构建与应用, 总结了脱氮微生物及其脱氮机制, 概括了人工多细胞体系的设计思路与构建方法, 并列举了人工多细胞体系在污水净化的应用案例, 对污水脱氮未来研究和应用实践进行了展望, 以期优化微生物污水脱氮处理提供新的思路和有效策略。

关键词: 污水脱氮; 人工多细胞; 协同机理; 环境修复

Design and application of artificial multicellular systems for nitrogen removal from wastewater

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Abstract: Excessive accumulation of nitrogen is a major cause of water eutrophication. Developing an inexpensive and efficient nitrogen removal technology is therefore essential for

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wastewater purification. The microbial technology for nitrogen removal has been widely used for its low cost, high efficiency, and strong environmental adaptability. Most recently, with the advances in synthetic biotechnology, artificial multicellular systems have been sufficiently developed and exhibited unique definability and controllability. Compared with those in the natural microbial consortia, the nitrogen removal pathways and environmental response mechanisms are easy to be clarified in the artificial multicellular systems, which allow for efficient nitrogen removal under low cellular metabolic loading. Therefore, artificial multicellular systems demonstrate great application potential in the purification of wastewater, including landfill leachate, industrial wastewater, seawater aquaculture wastewater, and domestic sewage. We focused on the design, building, and application of artificial multicellular systems for nitrogen removal from wastewater. Specifically, we summarized the functional microorganisms and their nitrogen removal mechanisms, introduced the design principles and building methods of artificial multicellular systems, illustrated the application of artificial multicellular systems with examples, and prospected the future research trend in nitrogen removal from wastewater. The conclusion is expected to provide new insights and efficient strategies for optimizing the microbial nitrogen removal from wastewater.

Keywords: nitrogen removal from wastewater; artificial multicellular; synergistic mechanism; environmental restoration

微生物群落在自然界中无处不在,并在生态系统中发挥着关键作用^[1]。在废水净化处理、有机污染物降解、食品加工、垃圾渗滤液处理和生物燃料发电等多个领域具有广泛的应用前景^[2-3]。污水脱氮微生物能够将水体中的氨氮($\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$)转换为氮气(N_2)排放到空气中,实现有效的氮循环。近年来,通过对脱氮微生物的挖掘筛选、机制解析、微生物群落代谢探究,脱氮微生物的研究取得了快速发展。但在自然环境中,天然微生物菌群种类繁多、分支代谢复杂,且99%的微生物通常无法通过标准技术进行分离和纯化培养^[4-5]。

相比于单菌,由多菌种组成的人工多细胞体系基于细胞间通信、劳动分工、细胞活动的合作协调、能量和物质转移,其组成更明确,功能更稳定^[6-7]。基于系统生物学、合成生物学和代谢工程策略构建的人工多细胞体系可以对

菌群的结构与功能进行精准控制与监测,特别适合于极端环境的应用,较天然微生物体系具有显著的优势^[8]。因此,构建组成更明确、功能更稳定的人工多细胞体系是应对复杂环境问题的新发展方向和应对策略。

本文聚焦污水脱氮的人工多细胞体系的设计、构建与应用的最新研究,首先概括了脱氮微生物及其参与脱氮代谢的关键酶,为设计人工多细胞体系提供了理论基础。随后分类汇总了污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计构建原理,包括:(1)人工多细胞体系的优势与污水脱氮应用构想;(2)构建人工多细胞体系的理论基础;(3)脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计与构建策略。最后结合课题组相关工作,分别列举了污水脱氮人工多细胞体系在垃圾渗滤液、工业废水、海水养殖废水和生活废水中的应用实例,并展望了污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的未来研究

与应用方向。

1 脱氮微生物及参与脱氮代谢的关键酶

氮是生态圈地球化学循环和能量流动最关键的元素之一,氮循环对水生生物的生长、繁殖和进化起重要作用^[9]。随着社会的快速发展,水体污染逐渐成为人们关注的话题。然而,过度的人类活动,如工业生产和农药的广泛使用,导致水生生态系统中氮污染物积累过多^[10-11],引起水体富营养化^[12]。因此,降低污染水体中的过量氮素对维持水质意义重大。

通常利用生物、物理、化学方法及其组合方法来去除含氮化合物,包括电化学、吸附、高级氧化、膜过滤和生物方法等。与物理或化学方法相比,生物脱氮是一种更经济、更环保的方法^[13-15]。越来越多的研究表明,在垃圾渗滤液、湖泊、水库、河流和湿地等各种自然或人工保护水体中,生物硝化和反硝化被广泛应用于氮素的脱除^[16-18]。在这些研究中,国内外研究者对生物脱氮机理和方法进行了深入的探究,发现了多种新型生物脱氮路径,为脱氮过程提供了新的思路和选择。

1.1 典型的脱氮微生物

目前已经报道的典型微生物脱氮路径包括好氧反硝化(aerobic denitrification, AD)^[19]、同步硝化反硝化(simultaneous nitrification and denitrification, SND)^[20]、短程硝化反硝化(shortcut nitrification and denitrification, SCND)^[21]、厌氧氨氧化(anaerobic ammonium oxidation, ANAMMOX)^[22]和直接氨氧化(direct ammonia oxidation, Dirammox)^[23]等,该方面内容在部分文献中进行了详细报道^[24-26]。近年来,从多

种富含氮源的环境中筛选并鉴定了多种新脱氮微生物功能菌株,主要存在于废水、生物反应器、垃圾填埋场处理系统、人工湿地、城市景观湖泊沉积物、河流和海洋沉积物等处。

自 20 世纪 80 年代分离出泛养硫球菌(*Thiosphaera pantotropha*) [现名脱氮副球菌(*Paracoccus denitrificans*)]以来^[27],已鉴定的具备好氧反硝化能力的微生物日益丰富,主要包括芽孢杆菌属(*Bacillus*)、产碱杆菌属(*Alcaligenes*)、假单胞菌属(*Pseudomonas*)和副球菌属(*Paracoccus*)等。与只能利用硝酸盐的传统反硝化菌相比,好氧反硝化菌(aerobic denitrifying bacteria, ADB)对氧气的耐受性更强,生长速度更快,可以利用有机底物作为碳源(电子供体),将硝酸盐(电子受体)转化为氮气进行反硝化,同时去除碳和氮^[28-29]。笔者课题组从城市污水处理厂的活性污泥中首次分离鉴定了印度不动杆菌(*Acinetobacter indicus*) ZJB20129,其表现出 AD 能力,可去除 98.73% 的 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 、97.26% 的 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 和 96.55% 的 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$,并通过对脱氮关键酶的分子鉴定预测了好氧反硝化的脱氮代谢途径^[30]。

在 SND 过程中,氨氧化菌(ammonia-oxidizing bacteria, AOB)和亚硝酸盐氧化菌(nitrite-oxidizing bacteria, NOB)可将 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 转化为硝酸盐($\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$),在反硝化菌的作用下转化为气态氮^[31]。由氧气扩散受限引起的氧浓度梯度导致污泥絮凝体中心或生物膜内部形成缺氧微环境,支撑了硝化和反硝化反应的同时发生^[32]。在该微环境中,异养反硝化细菌可在生物膜内部占据优势,而硝化细菌则在生物膜表面活跃,因此,硝化和反硝化过程可同步发生,并维持硝化和反硝化速率的动态平衡,致

使中间产物 NO_3^- -N 和亚硝酸盐(NO_2^- -N)的积累较少。该路径上的主要功能菌属有陶厄氏菌(*Thauera*)^[33]、康德拉氏副球菌(*Paracoccus kondratievae*) ZJB21134^[34]、亚硝基单胞菌(*Nitrosomonas*)、硝化螺菌(*Nitrospira*)^[35]和亚硝化球菌(*Nitrosococcus*)^[36]等,均具有良好的SND能力。

与传统活性污泥处理方法相比,SCND 具有如下优点:(1)节省耗氧量和有机碳。好氧硝化过程的耗氧量将降低 25%,缺氧反硝化阶段的碳源耗量将降低 40%;(2)缩短水力停留时间,实现更低的污泥产量,提高反硝化作用效率^[37]。该脱氮路径中具有包括阿巴菌(*Niabella*)、*Nitrosomonas*、*Nitrospira*、*Thauera* 和绿弯菌门(*Chloroflexi*)^[38-40]等微生物,某些微生物还可在低温条件下实现稳定的短程硝化,同时缓解低温和低 C/N 对反硝化的不利影响^[41]。

厌氧氨氧化(anaerobic ammonium oxidation, ANAMMOX)大多发生在缺氧或厌氧条件下,首先 NH_4^+ -N 被 AOB 氧化成 NO_2^- -N,厌氧氨氧化细菌(anaerobic ammonium oxidation bacteria, AnAOB)能够利用产生的 NO_2^- -N 作为终端电子受体,将其厌氧氧化为 N_2 ,为脱氮过程提供了一条捷径。迄今为止已经发现了 7 个 AnAOB 属,即 *Candidatus kuenenia*、*Candidatus brocadia*、*Candidatus anammoxoglobus*、*Candidatus jettenia*、*Candidatus scalindua*、*Candidatus brasilis* 和 *Candidatus anammoximicrobium*^[42-43]。由于 AnAOB 生长速度较慢,不能够实现纯化分离培养,目前通常在富集驯化后以菌群方式生长^[44]。

直接氨氧化(direct ammonia oxidation, Dirammox)细菌在全球氮循环和废水处理中具有重要作用^[45]。Dirammox 在好氧条件下通过羟

胺(NH_2OH)直接将 NH_4^+ -N 转化为化成 N_2 ,即 NH_4^+ -N $\rightarrow\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\rightarrow\text{N}_2$,最早定义于产碱杆菌属(*Alcaligenes ammonioxydans*) HO-1 中,由 *dnf* 基因簇编码的酶驱动,广泛存在于水生环境中^[46]。*A. ammonioxydans* HO-1 分别以醋酸盐、乙醇、丙酸盐、苹果酸盐、琥珀酸盐和柠檬酸盐为碳源进行好氧生长时,在很宽的氨氮浓度范围内都可有效去除氨氮。当以琥珀酸盐为碳源,菌株 HO-1 在 476.84 mg/L 氨氮浓度下的 NH_4^+ -N 平均去除速率为(195.59 \pm 0.00) mg/(L·d),在高达 3 406.00 mg/L 的高氨氮浓度下的 NH_4^+ -N 平均去除速率为(94.25 \pm 3.29) mg/(L·d)^[46]。Xu 等^[47]研究发现粪产碱杆菌(*Alcaligenes faecalis*) JQ135 在好氧条件下可通过 NH_2OH 有效地将氨转化为 N_2 ,并通过关键功能基因 *dnf* 的敲除和互补突变,表征并确定了该菌的 Dirammox 途径。以上所述的脱氮微生物的分布及其脱氮性能详见表 1。

1.2 参与脱氮代谢的关键酶

氮循环中包括各种氮转化途径,如固氮、硝化、反硝化、厌氧氨氧化、同化、氨化、硝酸盐异化成铵(dissimilatory nitrate reduction to ammonium, DNRA)和直接氨氧化等。微生物可以将-3 价的氮化合物通过氧化还原反应转化为+5 的氮化合物。参与氮转化过程的酶存在于各种各样的微生物中,其中许多酶在近期才被发现和鉴定。

氨氧化作为硝化过程的第一步反应,是全球氮循环中的一个关键步骤。氨单加氧酶(ammonia monooxygenase, AMO, EC: 1.4.3.21)是启动硝化途径的关键酶,该酶能够催化氨氧化反应,将 NH_4^+ -N 转化成 NH_2OH ,是氨氧化细菌和氨氧化古菌(ammonia-oxidizing archaea, AOA)中的关键酶之一^[58]。研究表明,除了已知的 AmoABC 亚基

表1 脱氮功能微生物分类、来源及性能

Table 1 Classification, sources, and performance of nitrogen removal microorganisms

Route	Source	Domain strain	Initial nitrogen concentration (mg/L)	NH ₄ ⁺ -N removal (%)	NO ₃ ⁻ -N removal (%)	NO ₂ ⁻ -N removal (%)	TN removal (%)	References	
Aerobic denitrification (AD)	Activated sludge	<i>Rhizobium</i> sp. WS7	Approximately 60.0	98.7	100.0	100.0	-	[48]	
	Denitrifying reactor	<i>Pseudomonas balearica</i> RAD-17	Approximately 300.0	96.2	99.0	99.6	-	[49]	
	Sediments and activated sludge	<i>Paracoccus denitrificans</i> Z195	138.0	-	98.1	-	90.2	[50]	
Simultaneous nitrification and denitrification (SND)	Recirculating aquaculture systems	<i>Halomonas alkaliphila</i> HRL-9	101.8	-	98.0	-	77.3	[51]	
	Pig farm	<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i> DK-6	Each component is approximately 100.0	87.0	94.7	100.0	-	[52]	
	Husk feed filtrate of a pig farm	<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> WXXN-23	415.1	86.7	90.7	100.0	82.1	[53]	
	Micro-pressure double-cycle reactor	<i>Dechloromonas</i> , <i>Thermomonas</i> , <i>Micropruina</i> , <i>Tetrasphaera</i>	76.8	96.6	61.0	60.9	73.6	[16]	
	The anoxic tank of the integrated validation plant	<i>Thauera</i> sp. SND5	Each component is approximately 90.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	[18]	
	Hybrid sequencing batch biofilm reactor	<i>Nitrosomonas</i> , <i>Nitrospira</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (40.0)	98.0-99.8	-	-	77.8-91.2	[35]	
	Sequencing batch reactor	<i>Nitrosomonas</i> , <i>Candidatus</i> , <i>Nitrospira</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (38.7-40.8)	91.1-97.9	-	-	63.3-72.3	[54]	
	Membrane bioreactor	<i>Nitrosococcus</i> , <i>Nitrosomonas</i> , <i>Nitrospira</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (19.4-31.2)	60.2-100.0	-	-	63.1-91.2	[36]	
	Shortcut nitrification and denitrification (SCND)	Sewage treatment plant	<i>Nitrospira</i>	Approximately 40.0	99.2	-	-	76.4	[41]
		Sequencing batch membrane bioreactor	<i>Nitrosomonas</i> , <i>Nitrospira</i> , <i>Thauera</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (811.0±6.6)	99.0	-	-	93.0	[40]
Granular sequencing batch reactor		<i>Nitrosomonas</i> , <i>Chloroflexi</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (31.0-34.0)	44.0-67.0	-	-	31.0-71.0	[39]	
Up-flow anaerobic sludge bed reactor		<i>Planctomycetes</i> , <i>Chloroflexi</i> , <i>Proteobacteria</i> , <i>Bacteroidetes</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (200.0); NO ₂ ⁻ -N (200.0)	-	42.3±3.9	93.5	-	[55]	
Three innovative reactors		<i>Candidatus Brocadia carolinensis</i> , <i>Candidatus Brocadia sinica</i> , <i>Candidatus Jettenia asiatica</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (160.0); NO ₂ ⁻ -N (500.0)	>95.0	-	>95.0	>90.0	[56]	
Direct ammonia oxidation (Dirammox)	Fixed bed reactor	<i>Proteobacteria</i> , <i>Planctomycetes</i>	NH ₄ ⁺ -N (300.0); NO ₂ ⁻ -N (300.0)	89.0	89.0	80.0	67.0±15.0	[57]	
	Activated sludge	<i>Alcaligenes ammonioxydans</i> HO-1	NH ₃ (476.8)	99.79±0.00	-	-	-	[46]	

-: Undetectable.

和早期预测的 AmoX 外, Hodgskiss 等^[59]鉴定了 2 个 AOA 特有的亚基, 即 AmoY 和 AmoZ, 具有高度保守和共调控性。AMO 与甲烷单加氧酶(methane monooxygenase, MMO, EC: 1.14.13.25)密切相关, 后者存在于甲烷氧化菌中。MMO 也可以将 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 氧化为 NH_2OH , 尽管效率非常低^[60]。同样, AMO 也可以氧化甲烷, 但效率低于 MMO^[61]。

目前公认的 AOB 代谢模型包括 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 通过单一专性中间体 NH_2OH 氧化为 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 。在该模型中, 羟胺氧化还原酶(hydroxylamine oxidoreductase, HAO, EC: 1.7.2.9)催化 NH_2OH 氧化为 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 。HAO 属于在多种微生物中发现的八血红蛋白家族, 具有同源三聚体构型^[62]。最近有研究表明, HAO 的催化产物不是 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$, 而是 NO, NO 被一种未知的酶进一步氧化为 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ ^[63]。虽然催化该步骤的酶还未最终确定, 但已鉴定的含铜亚硝酸盐还原酶(CuNir)被认为具备催化该反应步骤的能力^[63]。AnAOB 的基因组编码大约 10 种 HAO 样的蛋白质, 其中一种也能将 NH_2OH 氧化为 NO。在 AnAOB 中, 羟胺氧化酶(hydroxylamine oxidase, HOX, EC: 1.7.3.4)氧化 NH_2OH ^[64]。DnfA 是首次被鉴定的具备催化 NH_2OH 氧化成 N_2 能力的酶, 但 DnfA 与任何已知的 HOX 都不同源, 并且含有一个参与催化的二铁中心, 定位于 *A. ammonioxydans* HO-1 细胞的细胞质和周质以及管膜内^[26]。

亚硝酸盐氧化还原酶(nitrite oxidoreductase, NXR, EC: 1.7.6.1)是硝化细菌将 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 氧化为 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 的关键酶, 同时含有氧化亚硝酸盐和还原硝酸盐的功能性亚基, 于 1984 年由 Sundermeyer 等分离获得^[65]。NXR 是与膜偶联的酶, 若脱离细胞膜结构就会失去催化活性。虽然 NXR 在遗传进化过程中形成了多样化形

式, 但都保留了 *nxrA* 和 *nxrB* 两个保守的功能基因, 分别编码对应的两个亚基, 并受 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 和 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 诱导表达^[66]。NXR 氧化 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 是可逆反应, 而 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 和 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 对 NXR 的调控并不是简单的底物诱导和产物抑制关系, NXR 的催化方向同时受外界环境因素的影响, 尤其是溶解氧(dissolved oxygen, DO)浓度的变化^[67]。

硝酸还原酶(nitrate reductases, NR, EC: 1.9.6.1)可将 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 转化为 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 。根据细胞定位分为 3 种类型: 膜结合硝酸还原酶(membrane-bound nitrate reductase, NAR)、周质硝酸还原酶(periplasmic nitrate reductase, NAP)和同化性硝酸盐还原酶(assimilatory nitrate reductase, NAS)^[68]。有研究认为, NAR 是一种三聚体酶复合物, 在厌氧条件下进行 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 还原, 对氧分子敏感, 有氧条件下被抑制表达; 相反, NAP 主要存在于有氧环境, 在有氧反硝化中起主要作用^[69]。Zhang 等^[70]在 AD 过程中检测到 NAS 的相对表达, 表明 NAS 可能在 AD 过程中发挥重要作用。此外在碳限制的情况下, 会进一步诱导 NAP 的表达。研究者常通过扩增 *napA* 基因来鉴定表征 ADB 存在, *napA* 基因可作为生物标记分子来评价微生物群落多样性^[71]。

亚硝酸盐还原酶(nitrite reductase, NIR, EC: 1.7.2.1)是参与反硝化作用的第二个重要功能酶。存在于细胞膜周质空间中的两种不同的 NIR 进行 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 到 NO 的单电子还原, 其在好氧和厌氧条件下均可表达。亚硝酸盐还原酶分为细胞色素 cd1 亚硝酸盐还原酶(cd1Nir)和含铜亚硝酸盐还原酶(CuNir)。cd1Nir 由 *nirS* 基因编码, CuNir 由 *nirK* 基因编码^[12]。这两种酶在本质上是非同源的, 通常不在同一微生物中共存。然而, 也有在同一微生物中两种酶共存的报道, 如海洋嗜热盐菌(*Rhodothermus marinus*)^[72]和

慢生根瘤菌 (*Bradyrhizobium oligotrophicum*) S58^[73]。目前已经鉴定, *nirS* 和 *nirK* 基因编码的 NIR 能够单独或者共同参与催化有氧反硝化作用。其中, *nirS* 基因分离自好氧反硝化菌 *Vibrio* spp., *nirK* 基因分离自好氧反硝化菌粪产碱杆菌 (*Alcaligenes faecalis*) NR^[74-75]。

一氧化氮还原酶(nitric oxide reductase, NOR, EC: 1.7.2.5)是一种膜结合酶, 根据电子供体的差异分为两种类型: cNOR 和 qNOR。这些酶中任何一个都足以使 NO 还原为 N₂O^[76]。cNOR 仅在反硝化细菌中发现, qNOR 酶具有更广泛的分类分布, 在一些古菌和非反硝化病原菌中被发现, 在 NO 解毒中发挥作用^[77]。

一氧化二氮还原酶(nitrous oxide reductase, NOS, EC: 1.7.2.4)催化 N₂O 还原为 N₂, 参与最后的反硝化作用, 是完成整个脱氮路径的关键酶之一。在大多数反硝化细菌中, 是一种定位于细胞外周质的二聚体铜酶(NosZ)^[12]。如在反硝

化假单胞菌中, 细胞色素 c (cytochrome c, Cyt c) 能够将电子转移到 NOS, 最终转变为 N₂。

ANAMMOX 过程以 NO₂⁻为电子受体, 最终转化为 N₂的发现, 推翻了氨只能被氧分子激活、生物可利用的氮只能通过反硝化作用以 N₂的形式损失的理论^[78]。肼合成酶(hydrazine synthase, HZS, EC: 1.7.2.7)是已知的唯一能厌氧激活氨的酶, 存在于厌氧氨氧化细菌中。HZS 也是已知的唯一由两个独立的氮化合物形成N-N键的酶, 在两步反应中产生肼(N₂H₄)作为自由中间体^[79]。N₂H₄ 可被肼脱氢酶 (hydrazine dehydrogenase, HDH, EC: 1.7.2.8)氧化成 N₂。根据氨基酸序列分析, 该酶与 HOX 和 HAO 相关, 但受 NH₂OH 的抑制, 仅能氧化 N₂H₄^[80]。HDH 负责向大气中释放大量的 N₂, 在过去的 10 年中, 厌氧氨氧化过程是海洋中一个主要的氮汇, 它也可能在陆地生态系统中发挥重要作用^[81-82]。以上所述的氮转化途径如图 1 所示。

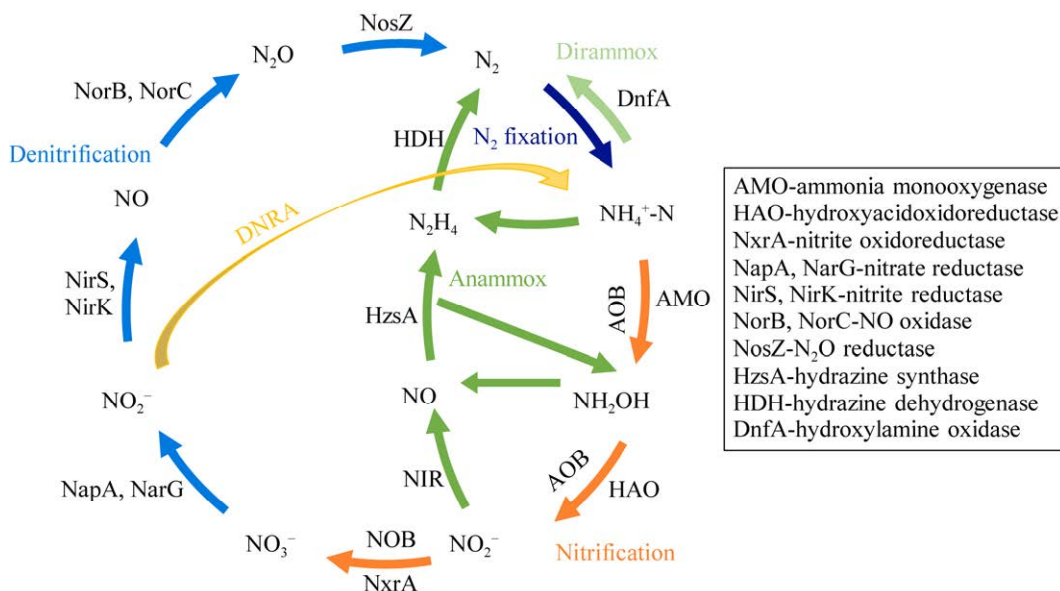


图 1 N 循环转化示意图(包括系统中的各种酶^[83-84])

Figure 1 Schematic diagram of nitrogen cycling transformation, including various enzymes in the system^[83-84].

2 污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计构建原理

2.1 人工多细胞体系的优势与污水脱氮应用构想

微生物群落在自然界中无处不在,是生态系统不可分割的部分^[1,3]。人工多细胞体系是由两种或多种微生物组成的微生物群落系统^[85-86]。该群落基于细胞间通信、协同代谢、电子传递等细胞间协同执行单个种群无法完成的复杂功能,相比传统混菌体系或单一微生物具有更高的鲁棒性与稳定性,更适合应用于复杂环境^[3,86]。

人工多细胞体系具有较强的环境响应机制。微生物多细胞集群由不同性状、不同功能的单个细胞组成,细胞之间的协同作用会提高其酶促反应能力,保证复杂生物合成途径的完整性,每个细胞相互影响以维持动态平衡,从而形成互利共生关系^[2,87-89]。因此,对环境扰动会有更强的适应性、稳定性和系统鲁棒性。例如,将分离获得的产碱菌属(*Alcaligenes* sp.) S84S3 和变形杆菌属(*Proteus* sp.) S19 菌株进行共培养后,在处理含 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 、 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 和 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 的废水的过程中具有更强的硝化和反硝化反应潜力,还可降低污泥产量^[90]。卵形鼠抱菌(*Sporomusa ovata*) DSMZ 2662 和反硝化菌 *P. stutzeri* JCM 20778 组成的共培养系统,以 H_2 作为唯一的外源电子供体, CO_2 作为唯一的外源碳源进行反硝化,将 $\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$ 还原为 N_2 气体,且没有 $\text{NO}_2^-\text{-N}$ 和 N_2O 的积累^[91]。从反应过程分析, *S. ovata* 产生的乙酸盐促进了 *P. stutzeri* 的异养反硝化作用。这些微生物集群互惠共生增加了潜在的生物修复效率,赋予非生物胁迫更大的抗性。从废水处理到有机污染物降解,再到食品加工、医疗废物处理、生物燃料发电,人工多细胞正在执行更加复杂的任务,适应更极端

的环境^[3,92]。

人工多细胞体系具有可定义性和可控性。根据研发和应用需求,可对人工多细胞体系的成员进行组合,较天然微生物多细胞模型更简化^[93]。从微生物学、生态学和生物技术的学科角度出发,结合基因组学、转录组学、蛋白质组学和代谢组学等组学技术,理解人工多细胞体系的构建方法,探究人工多细胞体系的影响因素,可掌握其更明确的遗传特性^[8,94-95]。重建的代谢网络和化学计量模型不仅可以预测单个生物的代谢通量和生长表型,还可以捕获简单细菌群落的生长参数和群落组成^[96]。Salimi 等提出了第一个基因组尺度的纤维素分解梭菌(*Clostridium cellulolyticum*)代谢模型,该模型已通过实验数据进行了验证^[97]。

2.2 构建人工多细胞体系的理论基础

作为全球氮和碳循环的关键参与者,微生物群落同一环境中不断相互作用,利用其生理特性共同进化以生存^[96]。依据不同的共培养利害关系,两种微生物之间可能存在中立、互惠、偏利、偏害、合作、竞争和捕食或寄生关系。这些复杂的种间关系对微生物群落的稳定性提出了挑战,而稳定性是制约其应用的关键因素^[98]。下面会从微环境因子适配、电子传递耦合、代谢协同以及群体感应效应等方面分析构建人工多细胞体系的理论基础。

2.2.1 微环境因子适配

复杂的微环境因素,如温度、pH 值、DO 浓度等,能够显著影响脱氮微生物菌群的结构分布,通过菌群间的相互协同从而适应环境因子的扰动,实现更为有效的脱氮过程。以相对阐明的好氧反硝化(aerobic denitrification, AD)过程为例,由于微生物胶团中 O_2 扩散限制,容易形成以 DO 浓度梯度依赖的不同微观环境,使得微生物胶团外部的环境类似于好氧环境;相应地,微

生物胶团内部形成以反硝化细菌为主的厌氧微环境。降低反应器中 DO 的含量,提高微生物胶团中缺氧或厌氧微环境的比例有利于反硝化反应进行。反应器内微生物结构复杂,导致生化反应中底物分布和代谢活性不均衡,从而丰富了微生物胶团的微环境多样性^[99]。不同的微环境,尤其是 DO 浓度的梯度差异,在以生物转盘为代表的脱氮生物反应器中形成了功能生物膜,在不同微环境下富集的硝化细菌和反硝化细菌的协同分解代谢为 AD 过程的进行提供了可能。

2.2.2 电子传递耦合

细菌的有氧呼吸和反硝化的氧化还原过程都依赖电子传递链的协助。电子转移链的基本组分包括复合体 I、醌池、复合体 III 和 Cyt c^[100]。好氧反硝化利用末端氧化酶(复合体 IV)和反硝化酶来构建电子传递链。ADB 利用电子供体并将提供的电子传递给 O₂,同时也通过 NAP 作用将电子传递给 NO₃⁻-N 进行氮的还原,NO₃⁻-N 和 O₂在这一过程中都是电子的最终受体。但存在特殊的脱氮酶不受 O₂的抑制,仍可以实施好氧脱氮过程^[101],具体如图 2 所示。Sánchez 等^[73]发现在 NO₃⁻-N 存在下,NirK 不再受的 O₂限制,该发现进一步拓展了 AD 电子转移过程中的菌群协作效应。

在人工多细胞菌群构建中,电子传递效率在脱氮过程中起着重要作用。人工多细胞体系中,希瓦氏菌(*Shewanella oneidensis*) MR-1 可通过在

细胞间形成纳米管促进电子转移,从而使反硝化酶活性、碳源代谢、ATP 水平和细胞活力的增加。*S. oneidensis* MR-1 通过增强电子的产生、传递和消耗,从而提高反硝化能力^[102]。共培养 *S. oneidensis* MR-1 与 *P. denitrificans* 对废水中磺胺甲恶唑(sulfamethoxazole, SMX)的生物去除率由 48.9%显著提高到 94.2%。因 *P. denitrificans* 从外质向细胞质获取铁的能力增强,电子传递链中与复合体 I、III 和 Cyt c 相关蛋白的表达水平增加,并且 *S. oneidensis* MR-1 可促使 *P. denitrificans* 分泌更多的胞外聚合物,从而增强了胞外电子传递能力^[47,103]。在去除 SMX 过程中,所有的 NO₃⁻-N 都被去除,且几乎没有 NO₂⁻-N 的积累,该共培养策略为去除废水中的多种污染物提供了一种新的思路。

2.2.3 代谢协同

人工多细胞体系利用代谢产物交换在低细胞代谢负荷下实现污染物的高效脱除。单一微生物由于其有限的代谢能力,导致脱除效率百分比降低,而微生物多细胞集群利用物种多样性、拓宽底物谱和生物量积累有效脱除污染物,且脱除效率远远超过单一细胞^[7,86,88]。在基因表达方面,多细胞体系可能会激活常规单菌培养条件下的“沉默”基因簇,为单细胞创造了独特的生长微环境,淡化了细胞之间的拮抗作用,提高了微生物间的协同代谢能力^[104]。烟曲霉(*Aspergillus fumigatus*)与雷帕霉素链霉菌

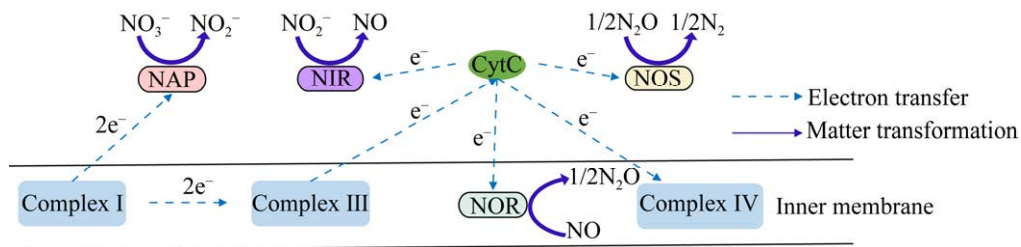


图 2 好氧反硝化过程中的物质转化和电子转移^[101]

Figure 2 Matter transformation and electron transfer in aerobic denitrification process^[101].

(*Streptomyces rapamycinicus*) 共培养可激活 *A. fumigatus* 中由表观遗传控制的“沉默”基因簇, 产生一种不常见的丁烯基多酚^[105]。共培养小单孢菌属(*Micromonospora* sp.) 和红球菌属(*Rhodococcus* sp.) 可诱导产生出一种对革兰氏阳性菌具有选择性活性的新型抗生素 keyicin^[106]。此外, 多细胞体系可通过实施“劳动分工”的策略, 有效地减轻了单菌底盘的代谢负担^[7,107]。例如, 在活性污泥中通过共生微生物群落即反硝化菌和 AnAOB 的协同作用, 在去除废水中的氮的同时还可去除硫氰酸盐, 增强了化合物的复杂转化和废水中污染物的去除, 还证明了在一定的初始条件下, 共生群落可以完全去除大部分污染物^[108]。

2.2.4 群体感应效应

负责协调群体行为的群体感应(quorum sensing, QS)是稳定复杂种群关系的关键因素^[95]。QS 系统中的信号分子主要有以下 3 类: 调控革兰氏阴性菌的 N-酰基-高丝氨酸内酯(N-acyl-homoserine lactones, AHLs), 调控革兰氏阳性菌的寡肽类物质, 以及同时调控二者的喹啉硼酸二酯^[109]。由于其特殊的协调机制, QS 在有机物降解、生物脱氮等废水生物处理过程中的调控作用受到越来越多的关注。在污水处理厂中已经发现了多种 QS 系统^[110-111], 其中 AHLs 介导的 QS 系统被广泛研究, 被认为是影响微生物群落结构和脱氮的主要信号分子^[112]。Wang 等^[113]发现 AHLs 在生物膜中的浓度分布与环境变量密切相关, Feng 等^[114]发现 AHLs-QS 系统是微生物通过 HdtS-QS 家族进行相互作用的主要途径。在传统活性污泥工艺中, 特别是在好氧颗粒污泥的形成过程中, 信号分子已经得到了广泛的研究和鉴定。QS 可以改变细胞膜表面的相关性质和细菌的运动, 进而影响污泥造粒过程^[115]。Tan 等^[116]发现, QS 会促进三磷

酸腺苷的合成, 增加污泥胞外聚合物的分泌, 促进好氧颗粒污泥的形成。Wen 等^[117]发现解淀粉芽孢杆菌(*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*) 中参与碳代谢的 QS 信号分子“surfactin”, 因此有望通过结合信号分子实现废水处理中化学需氧量(chemical oxygen demand, COD)的降低和 CO₂ 的减排, 加快碳排放峰值的到达, 实现碳中和。

2.3 脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计与构建策略

当前, 人工多细胞体系的研究尚处于起步阶段, 应用合成生物学理念, 以设计(design)-构建(build)-测试(test)-学习(learn)循环(DBTL)为核心(图 3), 逐级解决人工多细胞体系构建与应用中面临的挑战, 将推动人工多细胞体系基础理论的完善与发展, 进而实现对其组成和功能的精准调控和优化。人工多细胞体系的设计与构建需要考虑多个影响因素, 并运用系统生物学和合成生物学的方法和理论。其中, 自然界物种间的相互作用关系如共生和合作等是重要考虑因素之一^[118]。设计人工多细胞体系通常采用两种方法: 自上而下(top-down)方法和自下而上(bottom-up)方法。

2.3.1 基于自上而下的方法构建人工多细胞体系

自上而下的构建策略不依赖选定的细胞群及其已知代谢途径, 而是通过使用精心选择的环境参数(如底物加载率、平均细胞保留时间和氧化还原条件等), 利用生态选择迫使自然发生或接种的现有微生物体系执行所需的生物过程并实现特定功能, 多细胞体系成员最终由从特定的复杂微生物群落中挑选的关键物种构成^[119](图 3)。

现存 3 种常见的方法来实现自上而下的人工多细胞体系: 富集培养、人工选择和定向进化。富集培养是指在一定的环境条件下, 通过将种子微生物菌群置于给定的生长环境中, 通过多次稀释和循环驯化, 获得适应给定生长条件的人工多细胞体系^[120]。富集培养的结果主要受环

境参数的影响,如温度、养分可利用性、pH和碳源。富集过程也受随机因素的驱动,获得良好的自上而下的人工多细胞体系的关键步骤是确定最佳的稀释因子^[8,121]。本课题组通过定向富集策略,构建一种人工多细胞SND脱氮体系,该人工多细胞体系从某污水处理厂中分离,经历7次连续驯化富集获得。该体系在高浓度含氮条件下可快速适应并稳定生长,对水体中的 NO_3^- -N在48 h内去除率达到93.88%,且对 NH_4^+ -N和 NO_2^- -N均有良好的去除效果^[122]。人工选择即从自然群落中选择性培育,目的是产生具有特定特征的人工多细胞体系。其具体的步骤是使用“出生-成熟-繁殖”周期的微生物体系进行选择^[123],每个周期从低密度的“新生”群落开始,这些群落在给定的时间跨度内成长(成熟)为“成人”群落。然后,选择特定数量的成熟微生物群落进行“繁殖”,使每个社区都被随机划分为多个新生社区,以开始下一个周期。经过足够的选择周期,获得了具有所需功能性状的人工多细胞体系。使用这种方法,微生物组在选择周期中不断被选择,以更好地发挥所需的功能,从而获得比使用富集方法获得的更好的结果。虽然人工选择被认为是一种很有用的自上而下的构建策略,但其存在一定的局限性。Sánchez等^[124]提出的定向进化策略可以成为人工微生物体系自上而下方法的新工具,以此克服人工选择的局限性。定向进化的一个关键步骤是施加扰动,其方法包括用于富集和人工选择的方法和其他方法,如物种插入和物种敲除等。因此,它结合了富集和人工选择的组成部分,形成了一个更合理的框架。

2.3.2 基于自下而上的方法构建人工多细胞体系

自下而上的方法指通过预测代谢网络的控制及其相互作用创建具有所需功能的人工多细胞体系,一般设计过程是获得微生物体系中单

一菌株的基因组(特别是已知的关键种)^[125],重建其代谢网络^[126],并使用建模或网络分析工具来指导设计(图3)。

多种生态因素决定了微生物菌群的结构和功能特性,是微生物多细胞体系工程化应用的理论基础。此原则可通过使用天然菌株组成的多细胞体系来得出^[8]。多细胞体系中天然菌群的组成受到多种可变环境因素的影响,如温度^[127]、养分可得性^[128]、养分复杂性^[129]和pH^[129]。例如,高温有利于多菌株群落中生长缓慢的细菌菌株^[127]。

对于一个自然群落而言,成员之间的相互作用方式可能会随着环境条件的改变而变化,其潜在机制难以完全描述。在这种情况下,研究人员可以直接构建具有预定义交互模式的人工多细胞体系,避免不可预测的影响^[130-131]。此设计可基于QS设计微生物体系间的代谢或通过构建遗传电路来模拟细胞-细胞通信来实现。这种设计使得微生物菌落间的交互变得简单而清晰。因此,可以进行可控研究,以确定既定的交互模式如何影响微生物体系,从而实现人工多细胞体系的理性设计。

3 脱氮人工多细胞体系的工程应用

随着动植物蛋白利用的增加,氮源污染日益引起人们的关注。特别是含氮污水排入环境的量显著增加,造成水体富营养化、水质恶化和对水生生物产生毒性,影响水体生态平衡,还会造成各种环境和生态健康问题,对人类和动物健康构成潜在威胁^[12,132]。富营养恶化水质,容易导致藻华,威胁淡水生态系统、水产养殖安全和公众健康^[133]。因此,废水脱氮问题日益受到社会的关注,处理含氮废水已成为关系到环境可持续发展的重要内容。

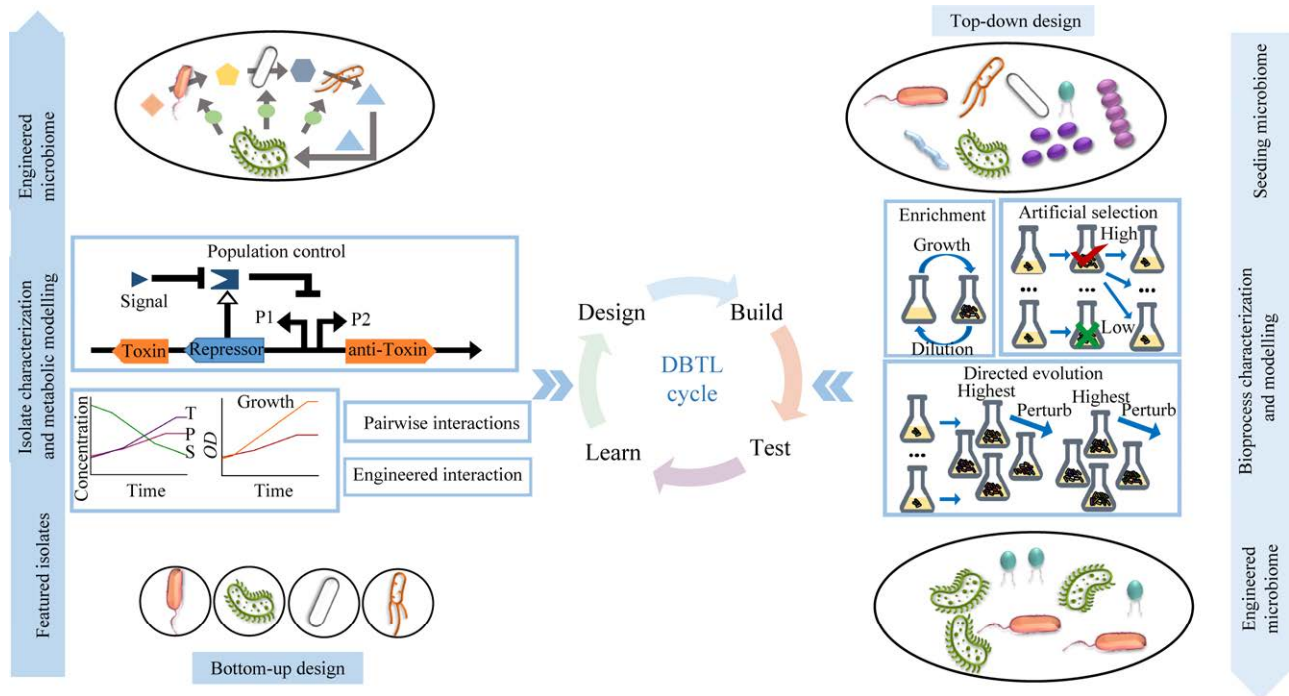


图3 自下而上和自上而下设计微生物群落的方法^[8,118]

Figure 3 Bottom-up and top-down approaches to design microbiomes^[8,118].

微生物是地球上最多样化的生命体形式，驱动着地球的物质转化与循环，分布于不同的环境生态位。氮素在生物地球化学循环中起到至关重要的作用^[134-135]。随着对环境质量要求的不断提高，对垃圾渗滤液、工业废水、海水养殖废水和生活污水的排放标准逐年提高，天然活性污泥微生物菌群受多变环境条件、复杂有机成分和工艺流程的影响，已难以满足污水处理的技术需求^[136]。

通过人工选择，筛选具有特定功能的微生物群落，可以很大程度上帮助污水脱除氮素^[137]。共培养体系中的每一种微生物参与部分脱除途径，避免了单一菌株过度的代谢负担，且群落中的互惠共生可为生物脱氮开发新的途径，从而提高氮素的去除率^[138]。利用系统生物学和合成生物学理念构建人工多细胞体系，可为污水脱氮提供一种有效可行的生物处理策略。由于人工多细胞体系具有诸多优势，在垃圾渗滤液、工业废

水、海水养殖废水和生活污水等典型含氮废水的生物脱氮处理中呈现了较好的工业应用前景。

3.1 垃圾渗滤液

填埋作为城市固体废物的最终处理方法在世界范围内被广泛使用^[139]。垃圾渗滤液是由沉淀物通过废物体渗透形成的有机液体，是一种复杂多变的混合物，含有可溶性有机、无机、细菌成分和悬浮物(suspended solids, SS)^[140]。垃圾渗滤液的常规表征参数包括化学需氧量(chemical oxygen demand, COD)、总有机碳(total organic carbon, TOC)、生化需氧量(biochemical oxygen demand, BOD)、SS、pH、 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 和重金属浓度。BOD₅/COD和COD/TOC比值是有机化合物可生物降解性和有机碳氧化状态的典型指标^[141]。由于好氧/厌氧微生物分解，垃圾渗滤液中含有中间产物以及有毒有机物、重金属和其他有害物质。影响垃圾渗滤液质量的因素有垃圾类型、操作条

件、填埋场年龄、水文地质和气候等^[142-143]。

垃圾渗滤液的生物处理主要包括厌氧和好氧处理、厌氧氨氧化。生物处理因其经济成本低、对环境影响小而得到广泛应用,特别适用于可生化性较强的垃圾渗滤液^[140-141]。其中藻菌混菌体系可应用于垃圾渗滤液的处理,是一种可持续且降本增效的人工多细胞体系^[144-145]。

藻菌混菌体系之间可以直接进行物质交换。微藻生长的氮素、维生素 B 和铁载体可以由细菌提供,细菌通过呼吸产生的 CO₂ 和无机物可维持微藻生长,细菌需求溶解的有机碳可由微藻提供,微藻通过光合作用产生的 O₂ 供细菌消耗。底物间的相互依赖有助于藻菌混菌体系的快速生长并且使其更具有鲁棒性,最大限度地减少其他物种的入侵,并提高营养物质的整体吸收^[146]。藻菌混菌体系除了直接进行物质交换外,还可以进行 QS,介导多种集体行为和生态功能,如养分获取、生态位构建和繁殖^[147]。此外,细菌的次级栖息地也可以由微藻提供,保护细菌免受环境波动的影响^[148],而多数细菌可以产生多糖和蛋白质以此促进微藻的生物絮凝,从而使其过程更加高效和经济可行^[149]。

笔者课题组基于自上而下的构建策略,构建出以海内氏芽孢杆菌(*Bacillus haynesii*)、枯草芽孢杆菌(*Bacillus subtilis*)和鞘氨醇杆菌(*Sphingobacterium* sp.)作为优势脱氮菌株的同步硝化反硝化(co-culture simultaneous nitrification and denitrification consortia, Co-CSND)菌群。对 Co-CSND 菌群进行了大规模发酵、固定化和复配,制备了高效脱氮的微生物菌剂,并应用于日处理 4 700 t 垃圾渗滤液(进水 NH₄⁺-N 浓度为 2 000 mg/L)的生物脱氮工艺。日投加量 0.03%处理 181 d 后,Co-CSND 菌群中功能脱氮菌种占比得到显著提升(数据未发表)。相对应地,宏基因组测序结果表明氮分解代谢和相关基因的丰

度得到了有效提高,即人工多细胞在优化天然菌群结构、强化脱氮功能方面具有良好的工程实践效果。用于生物修复的嗜热嗜酸红藻(*Galdieria sulphuraria*)在 5 倍稀释的城市垃圾渗滤液中生长良好,最终生物量密度和脱氮效率均高于 2.5 倍稀释的城市垃圾渗滤液。*G. sulphuraria* 能够在高 NH₄⁺-N 浓度(>950 mg/L)下生长,并实现高达 40 mg/(L·d)的脱氮速率^[150]。长期运行的实验结果表明,采用半连续模式运行的藻类系统可以实现稳定的营养物去除和生物质生产,还可为大规模的藻类处理垃圾渗滤液提供必要的工艺参数。He 等^[151]研究了藻菌混菌体系,体系中普通小球藻(*Chlorella vulgaris*)对氮和磷的去除作用占主导地位,而细菌对城市废水中大部分有机物的去除作用最大。在总氮(total nitrogen, TN)水平为 29–174 mg/L 的条件下,藻菌联合处理的 NH₄⁺-N 去除率为 97%,磷去除率为 98%,溶解性有机碳去除率为 26%。此体系中,超过 44% 的氮被藻类吸收,为废水中氮的回收提供了一条可行的途径。综上,人工多细胞体系可实现垃圾渗滤液的高效脱氮和净化,且无须复杂的设备重建。

值得注意的是,微藻与细菌之间存在共生关系,但其拮抗作用或抑制作用也不容忽视,包括养分竞争、毒素释放和杀藻物质的产生(图 4)。细菌产生有毒代谢物即藻毒素,抑制微藻过度生长;而微藻能够释放外毒素,作为抑制细菌生长和维持群落平衡的化合物^[149]。在某些情况下,细菌会产生对微藻的有害影响。当环境中变形杆菌数量增加时,细菌会竞争藻类的营养物质,导致鞭毛藻捕获营养物质的能力降低 33.3%^[152]。因此,在选择藻菌混菌体系处理垃圾渗滤液时需要选择不具有或者影响较小的拮抗作用和抑制作用的微藻和细菌组合。藻菌混菌体系之间的相互作用如图 4 所示。

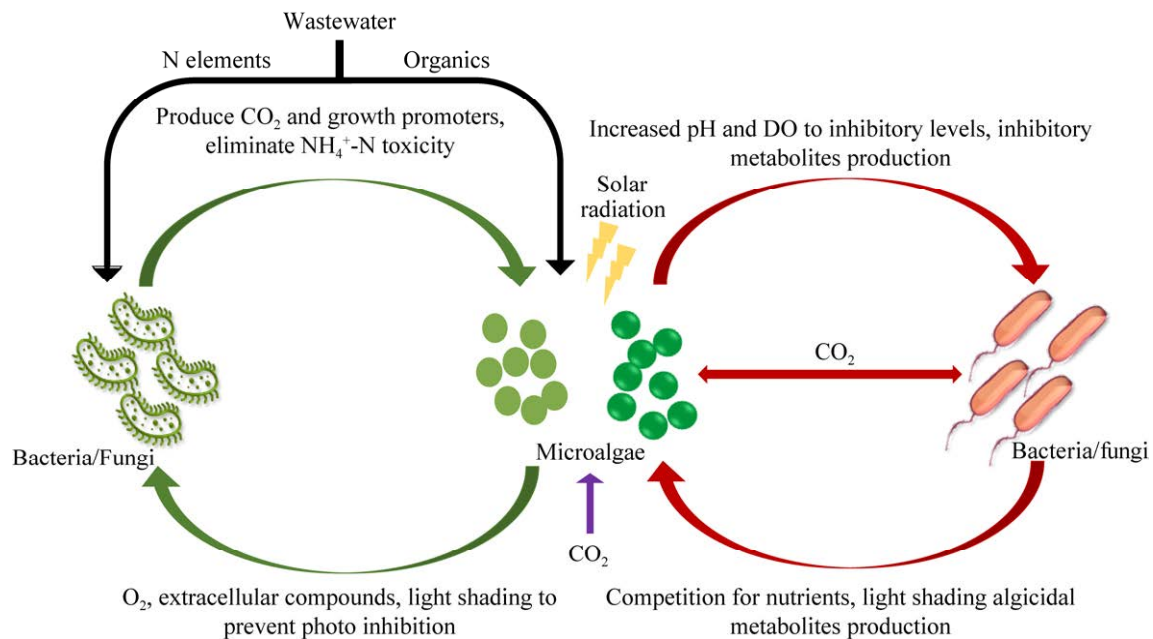


图 4 细菌/真菌与微藻的相互作用 图左为在废水处理中细菌/真菌与微藻的协同相互作用；图右为细菌/真菌与微藻的竞争和对抗作用^[84,153]

Figure 4 The Interaction between bacteria/fungi and microalgae. Left: The synergistic interaction between bacteria/fungi and microalgae in wastewater treatment; Right: The competitive and antagonistic interaction between bacteria/fungi and microalgae^[84,153].

3.2 工业废水

工业废水主要来源于造纸业、石化工业、屠宰场、制革厂和畜牧业等^[154-155]。氮是工业废水的主要污染物之一，不及时地处理与扩散会造成严重的环境污染，导致生态系统的破坏，最终影响人类健康^[156-158]。废水中的含氮污染物主要包括无机氮和有机氮^[159]，有机氮污染物可被微生物催化形成无机污染物^[160]。其中，废水处理的首要任务是去除无机氮。因此，制定绿色和可持续的方法来去除无机氮污染物至关重要。

生物处理工业废水去除氮污染是一种绿色、高效的方法。在污水处理厂，主要通过氨化、硝化、反硝化和厌氧氨氧化过程去除含氮污染物^[161-162]。这些脱氮过程将氮污染物转化为几种不同价态的氮，每种过程都需要特殊的

运行参数^[163]。具有脱除污染物中氮素能力的微生物菌群可使用高通量测序技术、宏基因组学和其他微生物组策略分析^[164]。不同氮污染物在去除的过程中，优势微生物有很大的多样性，但大多数微生物是变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)、拟杆菌门(*Bacteroides*)和 *Nitrospira*，其中氨化、硝化和反硝化过程中的一些细菌已经被分离出来，为人工多细胞体系的构建奠定了基础^[24]。

用于脱除工业废水中氮素的 3 种新型混合培养好氧反硝化细菌 (mix-cultured aerobic denitrifying bacteria, Mix-CADB) 菌群 (D14、X21 和 CL) 表现出优异的总有机碳去除能力和好氧反硝化能力，去除效率分别高于 93% 和 98%。D14、X21 和 CL 群落中以 *P. stutzeri*、*Paracoccus* sp. 和 *P. denitrificans* 为主。3 个菌群的共培养通过种间相互作用形成更完整的营养

代谢途径,表现出高碳代谢活性。Mix-CADB在氮污染水生生态系统具有很强的适应性和去除氮素能力,在氮污染水处理应用中具有巨大的潜力,将人工多细胞体系成功应用于工业废水中^[165]。因微藻在不同环境下的强大适应能力和其低能量需求,基于微藻的废水处理(microalgae-based livestock wastewater treatment, MbWT)受到了广泛的关注,而且能够将废水中营养物质转化为高质量生物活性化合物。微藻可耐受高浓度的铵,且作为光合微生物可通过光合作用实现碳的固定,这使得它们可以在畜牧废水中生长。由于微藻的光合作用, MbWT 去除畜牧废水中含有的氮和磷,且能量需求低,还可以从大气中固定大量的 CO_2 ^[166]。此外,使用该技术脱除畜牧废水中营养物质需水量更低,具有生物吸附有毒金属能力,并可能获得高附加值生物产品^[163,167]。通过人工多细胞体系处理工业废水,不仅表现出高效脱氮能力,且在降低能源需求、回收有价值生物质、减少温室气体(CO_2)排放方面具有高效性。

3.3 海水养殖废水

因海洋生物饲料残留物和排泄物的积累,海水养殖废水中含有溶解的有机物和含氮化合物^[168]。未经适当处理的海水养殖废水直接排放会对周围河口生态系统和人类健康产生不利影响^[169]。但与垃圾渗滤液和工业废水相比,海水养殖废水具有污染物浓度低但盐度高的特点,增加了海水养殖废水处理的难度^[170]。

人工多细胞体系为海水养殖废水提供了新的解决方案。Qi 等^[171]研究在不同盐度(0%和25%)下处理人工养殖废水的反硝化性能,微生物群落分析和细菌-真菌共生网络分析表明,区域间存在关联,反硝化细菌与真菌群落间的相互作用在复合降解和反硝化过程中起着重要作用。但此研究中通过细菌-真菌的相互作用,还

未达到更高和稳定的反硝化速率。Guo 等^[172]使用碳纤维(carbon fiber, CFBR)或聚氨酯(polyurethane, PFBR)为生物膜载体的固定折流板反应器(fixed-bed baffled reactors, FBRs)处理海水养殖废水。在初始 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 浓度为 120 mg/L, 0.10–30.00 g/L 的盐度冲击下, CFBR 和 PFBR 的最大 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 去除率分别为 107.31 mg/(L·d)和 105.42 mg/(L·d),表现出高效稳定的脱氮能力。其中, *Thauera*、噬甲基菌(*Methylophaga*)、铁还原杆菌(*Fontibacter*)和短波单胞杆菌(*Brevundimonas*)在 CFBR 显著富集, *Bacteroidetes vadinHA17*、长绳菌(*Longilinea*)、SC-I-84、AKYH767、*Methylotenera* 和 *Denitratisoma* 在 PFBR 显著富集。不同功能菌属在生物膜材料 CFBR 和 PFBR 中的特定富集,使它们发挥不同的作用,其功能细菌的相互作用并形成稳定的功能性微生物群落结构为海水养殖废水中氮素的更高效脱除产生了重要影响。

3.4 生活污水

近年来,随着社会的发展和全球人口数量的增加,生活污水排放量逐年增加^[173]。由于大量污水的不规范排放和收集困难,我国每年约有 80 亿 t 农村污水直接排入河道,城市生活污水中积累的过量氮素也会被输送到地表水和地下水中,造成了严重的水体污染,对人类健康构成了威胁^[174-175]。因此,许多国家都实行严格的氮排放标准,我国允许城市污水处理厂排放低于 5 mg/L 的 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 和 15 mg/L 的 TN^[176]。生物法可有效去除污水中的氮化合物,活性污泥工艺是目前最常用的生活污水脱氮净化的微生物处理方式^[177]。在该工艺中,硝化和反硝化需要在两个独立的反应池中进行,且理论脱除 1 g 氮需要 3 g 以上的氧,生化系统耗能极高。当污水中有机碳源受限时,会严重抑制脱氮效率^[178]。通过微生物强化技术,实现高效

脱氮微生物的富集和培养,能够改善天然活性污泥的菌群结构,实现脱氮过程强化^[179]。鉴于人工多细胞体系的鲁棒性、可定义性和可控性等特点,其成为了未来实现生活污水高效微生物脱氮处理的新方向。

生活污水因碳氮比低,导致反硝化碳源不足,脱氮效果不理想^[180]。Cheng等^[181]采用厌氧/好氧(A/O)复合生物膜工艺,针对性地对多级A/O复合生物膜反应器的厌氧区、好氧区和缺氧区富集出了不同的功能微生物,包括厌氧区的优势属 *Pseudomonas*,对有机污染物的去除和反硝化有重要作用;好氧区的优势属 *Nitrospira*,与硝化和反硝化过程有关;缺氧区有较多异养反硝化菌属,如 *Denitratisoma*,该体系具有良好的协同效应,实现了生活污水的高效脱氮。利用该体系,生活污水中的COD、SS、 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 、TN被有效去除,并且减少了剩余污泥的产生。反应器中生活污水 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 平均进水浓度为40 mg/L, TN平均进水浓度为45 mg/L,后期出水 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 去除率稳定高于90%, TN去除率最高可达57.72%。此外,藻菌混菌体系为生活污水脱氮也提供了有效的途径。该共培养体系中富集了 β -变形菌(*Betaproteobacteria*)、 γ -变形菌(*Gammaproteobacteria*)和黄杆菌(*Flavobacterium*)等细菌,以及绿藻等(*Chlorophyta*)、共球藻纲(*Trebouxiophyceae*)和硅藻(*Bacillariophyceae*)等藻类微生物^[182]。微藻和细菌在光照下聚集,且以颗粒的形式聚集,有利于好氧造粒。成熟的藻菌颗粒结构致密,粒径大,沉降性能好。光照能诱导胞外聚合物的产生,微藻-细菌颗粒可抵抗温度波动,提升生活污水的脱氮效率,平均 $\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$ 去除率为99.0%, TN的去除率为59.8%–70.5%,是人工多细胞共培养体系在生活污水脱氮应用中的典型案例。

4 总结与展望

人工多细胞体系具有较强的环境响应机制,在低细胞代谢负荷下可实现污染物高效率去除、具有可定义性和可控性,使用人工多细胞体系生物修复技术具有维护成本低、性能好、减少污水产生等优点,被应用于环境修复中的污水脱氮,其关键是筛选合适的微生物。本文总结概括了脱氮微生物及参与脱氮的关键酶、污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计构建原理和脱氮人工多细胞体系的工程应用,为污水脱氮人工多细胞体系的设计与应用提供了重要参考。

然而,目前针对人工多细胞体系的研究仍然处于起步阶段,其工业实际应用仍面临诸多挑战:(1)通过自下而上的方法构建人工多细胞体系受到限制。首先是许多具有脱氮功能的微生物不能够实现纯种的分离和传代培养;其次是阐明不同微生物之间的相互作用机制仍然有一定难度。部分污水中的污染物显著抑制微生物的生长,同时限制了微生物的脱氮能力,且该抑制作用的分子机理尚未阐明,导致适合微生物净化处理的污染物种类仍十分有限;最后,在环境修复的实际应用过程中,发挥人工多细胞体系的功能,应避免对自然生态系统的破坏。(2)关于微藻-细菌联合体之间的相互作用机制了解仍较为有限。之前的研究一般是从代谢互补和微环境协同的角度来研究微藻与细菌的关系,但更深层次的机理,如物种间基因转移和细胞间信号传递等形成的在分子和生化水平上的协同机理,直到近期才引起科学界的兴趣。目前仍缺乏对微藻和细菌之间互作机制的深入了解,特别是如何将这种了解整合应用到工业污水脱氮过程中。(3)利用人工多细胞体系进行生物污水脱氮,其过程由复杂的酶介导

进行,具有多步硝化反硝化反应。在污水系统中可变和恶劣的环境条件下,人工多细胞体系的鲁棒性就显得尤其重要,但如何高效利用其性质还有待探究。针对以上问题,未来可以从以下几个方面进一步研究。

(1) 人工多细胞体系的构建中使用了合成生物学、系统生物学和代谢工程技术,其作为生物修复技术的一种,克服了限制微生物污水脱氮的障碍,在有效降解污染物的同时,还可获得部分高附加值产品。通过宏基因组分析微生物群落,特别是从污染源点取样的微生物群落,可提供微生物群落结构、功能以及多样性等信息,有助于从微观尺度上深入了解并指导开发新型污染物的生物修复。具体而言,从环境样本中提取微生物总 DNA,克隆到表达载体中,用于构建工程菌株的宏基因组文库。用含有目标污染物的特定培养基筛选亚克隆,从宏基因组文库中鉴定出功能酶。最终,通过 DNA 测序和基因组组装能够从细菌群落中发现新的酶和新的生物降解途径。因此,挖掘天然菌库的功能基因而不依赖培养的微生物分离策略,为探索自然界中未知的生物修复代谢途径开辟了新的途径。此外,还可以用自上而下的方法替代自下而上方法打破该策略的局限,该方法更方便快捷,适配不同的自然环境筛选需求。

(2) 迄今为止,大规模运行微藻-细菌联合体进行污水处理的工程实践尚未开展,但此联合体在低能耗、高污染去除、减少碳排放和获得高附加值产品方面推动了藻菌处理技术的发展。利用微藻和细菌之间的相互作用具有改善生物系统、实现可持续性和经济可行性的特点。宏基因组学和其他组学方法(例如代谢组学、转录组学和蛋白质组学)为揭示微藻和细菌之间的互作机制提供了有力线索。然而,在深入分析微藻-细菌相互作用机制以及在大规模应用实践方面

仍需要更多研究。

(3) 可考虑将微环境代谢组学原位分析与生物传感器中的 QS 调控结合起来,为之后构建具有高效鲁棒性的人工多细胞体系调控提供有力的指导。为了更好地发挥多细胞体系的作用,可根据不同应用场景需求,综合考虑水质特点和环境因素,利用合成生物学技术个性化定制人工多细胞体系,从而提高对垃圾渗滤液、工业废水、海水养殖废水及生活污水等不同类型的废水的处理效果。同时,还需研发适用的污水处理工艺和设备,使其能够更好地结合人工多细胞体系,实现高效、可持续的污水处理。

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