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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PROTEOMES EXPRESSED BY SINGLE-CELL OR FILAMENTOUS FORM OF SPHAEROTILUS NATANS

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Background and aims:

Filamentous bulking is a widespread problem in activated sludge WWTP. The molecular mechanisms of bacteria filamentous growth are still widely unknown. *Sphaerotilus natans* is a sheathed bacteria sometimes responsible of this type of event, which can exist under single-cell or filamentous forms. The objective of this study is to identify proteins involved into the filamentation mechanism by proteome comparison of *S. natans* both morphologies by LC-MS-MS analyses, and characterization of proteins differently expressed, in order to improve the understanding of filamentous growth mechanisms.

Methods:

Proteins were extracted from pure cultures of single cells and filamentous form of *S. natans* ATCC 15291, and were separated by SDS-PAGE. Bands exhibiting differences in intensities between the two forms of *S. natans* were cut out, trypsin digested and analyzed by LC-MS-MS. Proteins were identified by using Bioworks 3.3 software, and their relative abundances in the two different forms were compared using spectra and peptide counting.

Results:

Among the 32 proteins identified, 13 are overexpressed in the single cell form. Most of them are proteins involved in cell division and enzymes of energetic metabolism. 19 proteins, belonging mainly to stress protein family and specific sheath amino acid synthesis, are overexpressed in the filamentous form of the bacteria

Conclusions:

The identification of proteins differently expressed between filamentous and single cell of *S. natans* will provide a better understanding of filamentous growth mechanisms. This will lead to the constitution of a model for the filamentation mechanisms of others bacteria species more frequently responsible of bulking events.

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