Influence of nitrogen assimilation on biomigration and transformation of arsenic in the groundwater systems

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Arsenic is a toxic metalloid. Long-term exposure to arsenic environment can lead to arsenicosis. In this study, Shewanella Oneidensis MR-1 (S. Oneidensis MR-1) was applied to investigate the effects of nitrogen assimilation on biomigration and biotransformation of arsenic in the groundwater system. NH₄Cl and NaNO₃ were used as nitrogen nutrient source. It was found that S. Oneidensis MR-1 had rapider growth in the medium with NH₄Cl than with NaNO₃, showing that NH₄Cl may promote the bacterial growth or be used as directly nitrogen nutrient for bacterial growth. As(III) was oxidized to As(V) by S. Oneidensis MR-1. Nevertheless, the bacterial oxidation of arsenite abated with increasing arsenite concentration, indicating that arsenite was toxic for bacteria and restrained bacterial oxidation. In anaerobic condition, nitrite and ammonium was found, and arsenic removed from sediment into aqueous phase in the microcosm with nitrate and S. Oneidensis MR-1. However, ammonium had little effect on arsenic migration. Hence, we can come to the conclusion that the bacterial strain is helpful for nitrate reduction and arsenite oxidation, and then arsenate released from sediment into groundwater.