

CONTENTS

Item	Page No.
Declaration	i
Certificate	ii
Acknowledgement	iii-iv
Plagiarism analysis report	v
Abstract	vi-x
Preface	xi-xii
List of Tables	xiii-xiv
List of Figures	xv-xx
List of Appendices	xxi
Abbreviations	xxii-xiv
1. Introduction	1-9
2. Literature review	10-44
2.1. Arsenic: Overview	10
2.1.1. Occurrence of arsenic in the environment	10
2.1.1.1. Source of arsenic	11
2.1.1.1.1. Natural sources	11
2.1.1.1.2. Anthropogenic sources	11
2.1.1.2. Arsenic as a pollutant	11
2.1.1.2.1. Arsenic in ground water	11
2.1.1.2.2. Arsenic in soil	16
2.1.1.2.3. Arsenic in food crops	16
2.1.2. Arsenic toxicity	18
2.1.2.1. Toxicity in plants	18
2.1.2.2. Toxicity in humans	19
2.1.3. Bioremediation of arsenic	22
2.1.3.1. Microbial bioremediation	22
2.1.3.1.1. Microorganisms used in bioremediation	22

2.1.3.2. Mechanisms of microbial bioremediation	23
2.1.3.2.1. Biosorption	24
2.1.3.2.2. Bioaccumulation	24
2.1.3.2.3. Microbial redox reaction	25
2.1.3.2.4. Methylation and demethylation	29
2.1.3.3. Phytoremediation	29
2.2. Biocontrol agents	31
2.2.1. Rhizospheric bacteria as biocontrol agents	32
2.2.2. Mechanisms of biocontrol	33
2.2.2.1. Antibiosis	33
2.2.2.2. Production of lytic enzymes	33
2.2.2.3. Induction of plant systemic resistance	34
2.2.2.4. Competitive rhizosphere colonization	34
2.3. Siderophores in the soil environment	35
2.3.1. Hydroxamate siderophores	36
2.3.2. Catecholate siderophores	37
2.3.3. Carboxylate siderophores	37
2.3.4. Mixed siderophores	38
2.4. Biotechnological applications of siderophore	38
2.4.1. Pathogen control	38
2.4.2. Bioremediation of arsenic and other heavy metal pollutants	41
2.5. Application of arsenic resistant bacteria in agriculture	44
3. Materials and Methods	45-89
3.1. Isolation of bacteria from rhizosphere soil	45
3.1.1. Collection of soil sample	45
3.1.2. Isolation of bacteria	45
3.2. Screening for siderophore production by bacterial isolates on CAS agar medium	53
3.3. Screening for arsenic resistance by siderophore producing isolates	53
3.4. Screening for antifungal property of selected isolates	54
3.4.1. Source of fungal pathogens	54

3.4.2. Evaluation of <i>in vitro</i> antagonism by dual culture method	54
3.4.3. Quantitative evaluation of <i>in vitro</i> antagonism of selected antifungal isolates	55
3.4.4. Quantitative evaluation of <i>in vitro</i> antagonism of potent antifungal isolates in liquid medium	56
3.5. Production of antifungal metabolites by antifungal isolates	56
3.5.1. Production of hydrolytic enzymes	57
3.5.1.1. Amylase activity	57
3.5.1.2. Protease activity	57
3.5.1.3. Lipase activity	57
3.5.1.4. Chitinase activity	57
3.5.1.5. Cellulase activity	58
3.5.1.6. Pectinase activity	58
3.5.2. Test for HCN production	58
3.6. Evaluation of PGPR traits	58
3.6.1. Phosphate solubilization	59
3.6.2. Detection and quantification of IAA	59
3.7. Evaluation of biofilm formation	59
3.8. Phenotypic and phylogenetic characterization of potent isolates	60
3.8.1. Morphological characterization	60
3.8.2. Motility test	61
3.8.3. Biochemical characterization	61
3.8.3.1. Gram staining	61
3.8.3.2. Indole test	61
3.8.3.3. Methyl red (MR) and Voges-Proskauer (VP) test	62
3.8.3.4. Citrate test	62
3.8.3.5. Urease test	62
3.8.3.6. Oxidase test	62
3.8.3.7. Catalase test	63
3.8.3.8. TSI agar test	63
3.8.3.9. Gelatin hydrolysis	63

3.8.3.10. DNase (Deoxyribonuclease) test	63
3.8.3.11. Nitrate reduction test	63
3.8.3.12. Production of acid and gas from carbohydrates	64
3.8.4. Phylogenetic characterization	64
3.8.4.1. DNA isolation from bacteria	64
3.8.4.2. Quantification of DNA	65
3.8.4.3. Gel electrophoresis	65
3.8.4.4. PCR amplification of 16S rRNA gene	66
3.8.4.5. Detection of PCR amplicon in agarose gel	66
3.8.4.6. Purification and sequencing of the PCR amplicons	67
3.8.4.7. Phylogenetic analysis	68
3.9. Hemolytic activity of antifungal isolates	68
3.10. Determination of minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of AsV and AsIII in LB medium and minimal salt (MS) medium against potential bacterial isolates	69
3.11. Arsenic transformation assay	69
3.12. PCR detection of genetic determinants of arsenic resistance	70
3.13. Cloning and sequencing of <i>arsC</i> and <i>aoxB</i> genes	71
3.13.1. Preparation of <i>E. coli</i> JM109 competent cells	71
3.13.2. Preparation of ligation mixture	71
3.13.3. Transformation	72
3.13.4. Selection of positive clone by colony PCR	72
3.13.5. Sequencing and homology searching	73
3.14. Studies on effect of arsenic on bacterial growth and morphology by scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	73
3.15. Arsenic removal efficiency of potent bacterial strains	74
3.16. Arsenic bioremediation in soil	75
3.16.1. Collection of soil sample	75
3.16.2. Simulating the arsenic contaminated soil	75
3.16.3. Evaluating the bioremediation efficiency of bacterial strains	75
3.16.4. Arsenic analysis	76
3.17. Quantitative assay for siderophore production	76

3.18. Characterization of siderophore	77
3.18.1. Arnow's test for detection of catecholate siderophore	77
3.18.2. Tetrazolium test for detection of hydroxamate siderophore	78
3.18.3. Vogel's test for detection of carboxylate siderophore	78
3.19. Extraction, purification and characterization of siderophore	78
3.19.1. Amberlite XAD-2 chromatography	79
3.19.2. Sephadex LH-20 chromatography	79
3.19.3. Thin layer chromatography	80
3.19.4. Chemical characterization of purified siderophore	80
3.19.4.1. Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) spectroscopic analysis	80
3.19.4.2. Liquid Chromatography-Mass spectroscopy (LC-MS) analysis	80
3.19.4.3. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopic analysis	81
3.20. Evaluation of metal chelating ability of purified siderophore and studying its metal complexation	81
3.21. Selection and cultivation of host plant for <i>in vivo</i> study of antagonistic ability of potent isolate BM3	82
3.22. Test for pathogenicity of <i>F. oxysporum</i> and verification of Koch's postulates	83
3.22.1. Microscopic study of fungal morphology	83
3.22.2. Isolation of fungal genomic DNA	84
3.22.3. PCR amplification of 18S rRNA gene and its sequencing	84
3.23. Scanning electron microscopic (SEM) study of <i>in vitro</i> antagonism by isolate BM3 against <i>F. oxysporum</i>	85
3.24. PCR detection of the genetic determinants for antifungal metabolites of isolate BM3	86
3.25. <i>In vivo</i> study for management of <i>Fusarium</i> wilt in brinjal using bioformulation with antagonistic bacterial strain <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain BM3	87
3.25.1. Preparation of bio-formulation using talc	87
3.25.2. Preparation of fungal inoculum	88
3.25.3. <i>In vivo</i> study for management of <i>Fusarium</i> wilt in brinjal	88

3.25.4. Assessment of wilt incidence	89
3.26. Determining the viability of <i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> BM3 in talc based formulation	89
3.27. Statistical analysis	89
4. Results	90-181
4.1. Chapter I: Isolation of siderophore producing and arsenic resistant bacteria from rhizosphere soil	90-96
4.1.1. Isolation of bacteria from rhizosphere soil	90
4.1.2. Screening of siderophore producing bacteria	90
4.1.3. Screening for arsenic resistance	95
4.2. Chapter II: Evaluation of antagonistic potential of bacterial isolates against plant pathogenic fungi	97-112
4.2.1. Screening for antifungal property of selected isolates	97
4.2.2. Evaluation of <i>in vitro</i> antagonism of antifungal isolates	97
4.2.3. <i>In vitro</i> antagonism in liquid medium	98
4.2.4. Production of hydrolytic enzymes by antifungal isolates	102
4.2.5. Detection of HCN production	106
4.2.6. Detection of PGPR traits	106
4.2.7. Biofilm formation assay	111
4.3. Chapter III: Characterization and taxonomic identification of potentially beneficial isolates	113-134
4.3.1. Morphological characterization of isolates	113
4.3.2. Biochemical characterization of isolates	117
4.3.3. Phylogenetic characterization of isolates	125
4.3.4. Test for hemolytic activity	126
4.4. Chapter IV: Arsenic resistance and bioremediation potential of selected bacterial isolates	135-156
4.4.1. Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of arsenic (AsV and AsIII) against potential isolates	135
4.4.2. Arsenic transformation assay	135
4.4.3. PCR detection of genetic determinants of arsenate reductase and arsenite oxidase	139
4.4.4. Effect of arsenic on bacterial growth	144

4.4.5. Studying the effect of arsenic on bacterial morphology	145
4.4.6. Arsenic removal efficiency of potent isolates	149
4.4.7. Bioremediation of arsenic from soil by <i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> and <i>M. luteus</i>	154
4.5. Chapter V: Purification and characterization of siderophore and studies on metal-siderophore complexation with iron and arsenic	158-167
4.5.1. Quantitative estimation of siderophore production by potent isolates	157
4.5.2. Chemical nature of siderophores	157
4.5.3. Purification and characterization of siderophore	161
4.5.4. Metal complexation study of siderophore bacillibactin	162
4.6. Chapter VI: Evaluation of the biocontrol potential of <i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> in the management of <i>Fusarium</i> wilt in brinjal	168-181
4.6.1. SEM study of antagonism by isolate BM3 against <i>F. oxysporum</i>	168
4.6.2. Detection of the genetic determinants for antifungal nature of isolate BM3	168
4.6.3. Pathogenicity test for <i>F. oxysporum</i> and verification of Koch's postulates	173
4.6.4. <i>In vivo</i> study for management of <i>Fusarium</i> wilt in brinjal by <i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> BM3	176
4.6.5. Viability of bacterial cells of isolate BM3 in talc based formulation	176
5. Discussion	182-206
6. Bibliography	207-265

Appendix A : Chemicals and Reagents
Appendix B : Buffers and Reagents
Appendix C : Growth media
Appendix D : Nucleotide sequences
Appendix E : Figures of spectral analysis
Appendix F : List of publications
Appendix G : Reprints