


RESEARCH

Open Access



Biofabrication of gold nanoparticles by *Shewanella* species

Jhe-Wei Wu and I-Son Ng* 

Abstract

Background: *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1 (MR-1) and *Shewanella xiamenensis* BC01 (SXM) are facultative anaerobic bacteria that exhibit outstanding performance in the dissimilatory reduction of metal ions. *Shewanella* species have been reported to produce metal nanoparticles, but the mechanism and optimization are still not extensively studied and clearly understood. Herein, the effects of pH, biomass, gold ion concentration, and photoinduction are evaluated to optimize gold nanoparticle (Au@NP) production by *Shewanella*.

Results: The highest amount of Au@NPs produced by SXM and MR-1 were 108 and 62 ppm, respectively, at pH 5 when 2.4 g/L biomass was immersed in 300 ppm gold ions and 50 mM lactate under a light intensity of 100 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$. By scanning electron microscopy and zeta potential analysis, the proposed mechanism of Au@NP formation was that *Shewanella* used lactate as electron donors for the Mtr pathway, stimulated by photosensitive proteins resulting in the nucleation of NPs on the cell membrane. Besides, the resting cells retained the ability for biofabrication of nanoparticles for nearly 25 days.

Conclusions: The optimal conditions evaluated for Au@NPs production by *Shewanella* were biomass, pH, ions concentration, and photoinduction. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first attempt to explore a two-step mechanism for Au@NPs formation in *Shewanella*. First, the HAuCl_4 solution reacted with sodium lactate to form metallic gold ions. Second, the metallic gold ions were adsorbed onto the outer membrane of cell, and the formation of Au@NPs at the surface was triggered. *Shewanella*-based Au@NPs production could be a potential ecofriendly solution for the recovery of Au ions from secondary resources like industrial waste.

Keywords: *Shewanella*, Gold nanoparticle, Resting cell, Optimization, Photoinduction

Background

Because of global modernization and industrialization, pollution caused by the release of heavy metals into the environment has become a critical issue, and thus concerns surrounding the recovery of such heavy metals have been rising (Dodson et al. 2015). Among all metals commonly seen in wastes, gold is a noble metal and can be used in luxury jewelry, electronics, and medical applications because of its unique physical and chemical properties such as high biocompatibility and long-term stability (Ramesh et al. 2008; Spitzer and Bertazzoli 2004). Gold ions fabricated in nanoscale (gold nanoparticles or Au@

NPs) with shape-dependent and optoelectronic properties have broadly applicable physicochemical characteristics and biological functions, and are thus of great interest to scientists (Klaus et al. 2001; Shedbalkar et al. 2014; Suresh et al. 2011).

Many traditional methods of gold recovery, such as cyanide leaching, precipitation and filtration, and electrochemical treatments, have been reported (Mata et al. 2009). However, these methods are challenged by restricted selectivity and large amounts of toxic chemicals involved in the process resulting in secondary pollution (He et al. 2015). Compared with traditional methods, biological methods have great appeal because of their simplicity, elimination of toxic chemicals (Mishra et al. 2014), and capability of controlling nanoparticle size (Bai et al. 2009; Sathishkumar et al. 2010a). Over the

*Correspondence: yswu@mail.ncku.edu.tw
Department of Chemical Engineering, National Cheng Kung University,
Tainan 70101, Taiwan

last decade, adsorption and reduction of heavy metals by microorganisms including bacteria, yeast, and fungi have been reported (Farooq et al. 2010; Lo et al. 2014; Tan et al. 2017). The biofabrication of nanoparticles with optimal conditions, such as pH, incubation time, and metal ion concentration (Narayanan and Sakthivel 2010) also showed high potential in commercial applications and large-scale production.

Shewanella species, which are dissimilatory metal-reducing bacteria widely distributed in sediment or seawater, grow optimally between 25 and 40 °C and can reduce metal ions via a special electron pathway called the Mtr pathway (Fredrickson et al. 2008; Shi et al. 2012; Wang et al. 2017). *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1, isolated from Oneida Lake, New York (Myers and Nealson 1988), has been reported to reduce Au³⁺ into discrete spherical Au@NPs that are well dispersed with homogeneous sizes. The nanoparticle sizes of gold produced by MR-1 were in the range of 2–50 nm and had high potential for use in biomaterials (Suresh et al. 2011). In the MR-1 strain, the outer membrane c-type cytochromes, MtrC and OmcA, were considered as important proteins for metal reduction (Wu et al. 2013a). However, the MR-1 wild type and its mutants *omcA* and *mtrC* were still capable of reducing Au³⁺ into Au@NPs (Wu et al. 2013b), while the particle size of the extracellular nanoparticles were decreased *mtrC* and *omcA* mutants (Ng et al. 2013). On the other hand, *Shewanella xiamenensis*, which is isolated from coastal sediment collected off Xiamen, China, is a close-related strain to *S. oneidensis* based on phylogenetic tree analysis by 16S rRNA and gyrase gene (Huang et al. 2010). It has also been reported to reduce mediators from the medium to nanoparticles (Ng et al. 2015a) and also showed resistance to different kinds of metal ions (Ng et al. 2015b).

The mechanism and conditional optimization of Au@NP production by *Shewanella* have never been reported. The aim of this study is to explore the mechanism and to accomplish optimization by determining the effects of pH, biomass, and gold concentration on Au@NP production by *S. oneidensis* MR-1 and *S. xiamenensis* BC01 (SXM). Finally, the resting cell activity on the biofabrication of Au@NPs and silver nanoparticles (Ag@NPs) is also examined.

Methods

Chemicals

For the reduction of gold and silver ions, chloroauric acid (HAuCl₄·3H₂O) was purchased from Alfa Aesar, silver nitrate (AgNO₃) was purchased from Sigma (209139), and sodium lactate (50% w/w) was purchased from Showa (G1510E). For scanning electron microscopy, formvar solution was purchased from Sigma (09823), and

tert-butanol was purchased from Shimadzu Chemical Co. Ltd.

Bacteria culture

Both *S. xiamenensis* BC01 (SXM) and *S. oneidensis* MR-1 were grown in Luria–Bertani broth containing yeast extract (5 g/L), sodium chloride (10 g/L), and tryptone (10 g/L). The cells were maintained at 4 °C on LB plates, and a single colony was inoculated into 2 mL of LB medium and cultured at 30 °C and 150 rpm for 12 h for preculture. Then, 1% (v/v) of the precultured cells was transferred into a 50-mL flask containing 10 mL of LB medium and grown aerobically at 30 °C and 150 rpm for another 12 h.

Biofabrication and characterization of nanoparticles

Cells were collected by centrifugation at 8000×g for 5 min and washed twice with 0.5 mL of distilled water to obtain a final biomass concentration of 2.4 g/L. The precipitate was resuspended in 50 mM sodium lactate as the electron donor with 0.5 mL of 300 ppm Au³⁺ or 100 ppm Ag⁺ solution. The samples were incubated at room temperature (approximately 30 °C) with a light intensity of 100 μmol/m²/s for 24 h.

UV–vis spectroscopy analysis of nanoparticle formation

The nanoparticles were analyzed using UV–vis spectroscopy (Molecular Devices, SpectraMax 340PC³⁸⁴, USA) to measure the surface plasmon resonance at 530 nm for Au@NPs and 410 nm for Ag@NPs. The color of the sample changed from pale yellow to purple to indicate the formation of Au@NPs (Kumar et al. 2008). For Ag@NPs, the color changed from pale yellow to orange.

Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)

The samples were fixed in 2.5% (w/v) glutaraldehyde for 2 h and washed three times with phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.4). The sample (100 μL) was carefully dropped onto a formvar-coated silicon chip for 1 h and washed three times with phosphate buffer. The cells were dehydrated in a series of ethanol washes with increasing ethanol concentration (30, 50, 70, and 100%). After three final washes in 100% ethanol, the samples were immersed in tert-butanol and dried by lyophilization (KINGMECH, FD3-12P, Taiwan) for 0.5 h. Dehydrated samples were analyzed using SEM (JEOL JSM-6700F, Japan).

Inductively coupled plasma-optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES)

Cells were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 min, and the supernatant was filtered using a 0.22-μm filter (Millipore, USA). Au³⁺ concentration was measured using ICP-OES (ULTIMA 2000, Japan). A standard solution

containing 1000 ppm Au³⁺ (High-Purity Standards, USA) or 200 ppm Ag⁺ was used as the starting solution and diluted in the range from 0 to 100 ppm for ICP-OES analysis.

Zeta potential

Samples for zeta potential measurement were prepared as follows. Cells were added into 1 mL of distilled water in Falcon tubes with a final biomass concentration of 1.2 g/L. Different samples with a volume of 750 μ L were introduced into cuvettes, and the zeta potential was measured (Malvern, Zetasizer Nano ZS, UK).

Preparation of resting cells

Strains were grown aerobically at 30 °C and 150 rpm in 250-mL flasks containing 50 mL of Luria–Bertani medium for 12 h. Cells were collected by centrifugation at 8000 \times g for 10 min and washed twice by distilled water. The precipitate was resuspended by 1 mL of distilled water, and the sample was quickly frozen in liquid nitrogen. The resting cells were generated by overnight lyophilization into a powder and stored at – 20 °C for long-term storage.

Results and discussion

Effect of pH

There have been reports on the biosynthesis of metal nanoparticles using *Shewanella* species (Ng et al. 2013; Suresh et al. 2011), but the physical factors for optimization have rarely been reported. Therefore, it is critical and meaningful to explore the optimal conditions of Au@NP biofabrication by SXM and MR-1. By adjusting the pH to 3, 4, 5, and 6, *Shewanella* produced different quantities of Au@NPs. It was obvious that SXM produced more Au@NPs than MR-1 did, as shown in Table 1. SXM produced 116 and 108 ppm Au@NPs at pH 4 and 5, respectively, while MR-1 only produced 62 ppm Au@NPs at pH 5. The production of Au@NPs by both strains decreased dramatically at pH 6. The value of pH was considered an important factor for gold reduction and nanoparticle formation (Mishra et al. 2012), as the different pH values affect the zeta potential, thus influenced the electric properties on the cell surface to form nanoparticles. The effect of pH was consistent with the results of *S. haliotis*, which has an optimal pH of 5 (Zhu et al. 2016). In addition, neutral conditions were not appropriate for *Shewanella* for the production of Au@NPs.

Effect of biomass and concentration of gold ions

As shown in Fig. 1a, the dark purple colors indicated Au@NPs formation by both *Shewanella*. As shown in Fig. 1b, the gold ions were adsorbed onto the cell surface

Table 1 The effect of pH on *Shewanella* at biomass of a 0.6 g/L to produce Au@NP with 300 ppm Au³⁺ after 24 h

pH	Au@NPs (ppm)	
	<i>S. xiamenensis</i> BC01	<i>S. oneidensis</i> MR-1
3	17.0 \pm 3.5	33.1 \pm 4.2
4	116.7 \pm 27.5	44.7 \pm 7.9
5	108.0 \pm 9.2	62.0 \pm 9.1
6	45.9 \pm 4.6	1.6 \pm 4.7

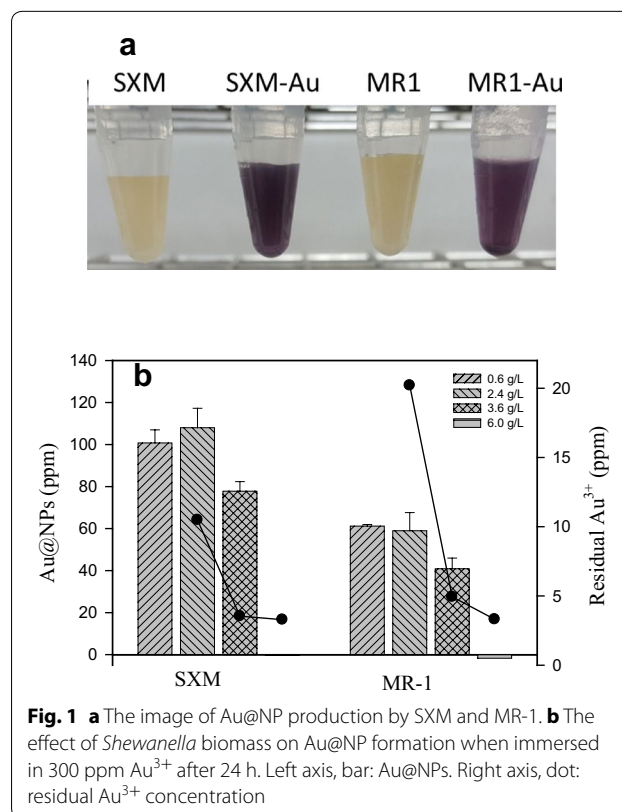


Fig. 1 a The image of Au@NP production by SXM and MR-1. b The effect of *Shewanella* biomass on Au@NP formation when immersed in 300 ppm Au³⁺ after 24 h. Left axis, bar: Au@NPs. Right axis, dot: residual Au³⁺ concentration

when the biomass increased, and the concentration of gold dropped from 300 to 3 ppm with 6 g/L biomass. As a result, the residual concentration of Au decreased significantly when 3.6 g/L biomass was used, and residual Au³⁺ was relatively low (i.e., < 5 ppm) in both strains. However, the quantity of Au@NPs did not increase when the biomass increased from 2.4 to 6.0 g/L (Fig. 1b, bar graph). Maximal amounts of Au@NPs were generated at 2.4 g/L biomass (108 and 58.9 ppm for SXM and MR-1, respectively). The morphology of *Shewanella* in different biomass concentrations and the amounts of Au@NPs formed could be further analyzed by SEM as shown in Fig. 2. It was evident that Au@NPs were fabricated on the outer membrane of cells at 2.4 and 3.6 g/L biomass. When the biomass increased to 6.0 g/L, the cell

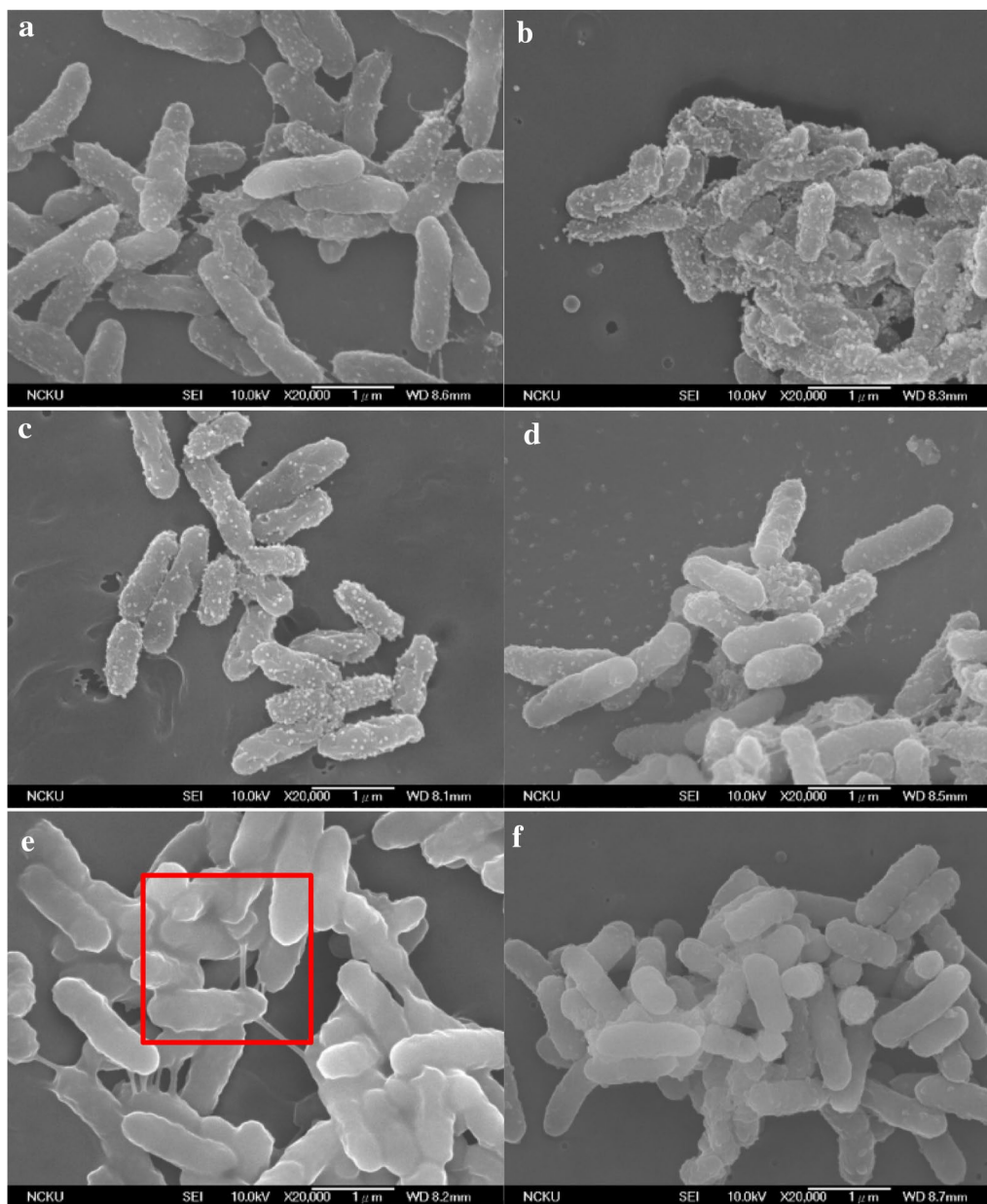


Fig. 2 SEM analysis of SXM at biomass of **a** 0.6 g/L, **c** 2.4 g/L, and **e** 6.0 g/L, and of MR-1 at **b** 0.6 g/L, **d** 2.4 g/L, and **f** 6.0 g/L when immersed in 300 ppm Au^{3+} for 24 h

membrane became thicker and sticky (shown in red rectangle in Fig. 2e). Although gold ions would adsorb on the cell surface, it was not beneficial to generate Au@NPs through nucleation layer by layer when biomass increased up to 3.6 g/L.

The effect of gold concentration on Au@NP formation was tested within the range of 10–300 ppm Au^{3+} . As shown in Table 2, no Au@NPs were produced at 0.6 and 2.4 g/L biomass when the concentration of gold

ions was 50 ppm. Even when the concentration of gold ions increased to 100 ppm, only approximately 5 ppm Au@NPs were generated in (i.e., 5% conversion). When the gold concentration was greater than 100 ppm, *Shewanella* produced Au@NPs that proportionally increased when the Au^{3+} increased from 100 to 300 ppm. As shown in Table 2, it was obvious that SXM produced more Au@NPs than MR-1 with the increasing amount of Au^{3+} . Moreover, the threshold of gold concentration for

Table 2 The effect of gold ion concentration on *Shewanella* in Au@NP formation after 24 h

Au ³⁺ (ppm)	Au@NPs (ppm)			
	<i>S. xiamenensis</i> BC01		<i>S. oneidensis</i> MR-1	
	0.6 g/L	2.4 g/L	0.6 g/L	2.4 g/L
50	Nd	Nd	Nd	Nd
100	5.3	Nd	4.9	Nd
200	33.9	48.2	31.9	12.8
300	100.8	108.0	61.2	59.0

Nd not detected

Shewanella to produce Au@NPs is reported here for the first time.

A comparison of Au@NP formation using other microbes is shown in Table 3. The optimal biomasses of *S. haliotis*, *Aspergillus oryzae* var. *viridis*, and *Sargassum* sp. were 5.3, 10, and 5 g/L, respectively (Binupriya et al. 2010; Sathishkumar et al. 2010b; Zhu et al. 2016). Herein, the optimal biomass of SXM and MR-1 was 2.4 g/L, which was much lower than those of the other bacteria. Moreover, the formation of Au@NPs occurred within 4 h, which was much faster than those shown in previous reports. The absorbance intensities of SXM and MR-1, corresponding to the amounts of Au@NPs, were significantly higher than those of the other species. Because of the lower biomass used, higher reaction rates, and higher productivity, MR-1 and SXM have great advantages in gold reduction to nanoparticles.

Photo effect on Au@NP formation

As shown in Fig. 3a, the color of the solution changed rapidly within 4 h from pale yellow to purple when exposed to light at an intensity of 100 μmol photons/m²/s, indicating that the reaction rate of *Shewanella* in the presence of light was far greater than that of the solution in darkness. We also compared the wild type *Shewanella* (i.e., MR-1

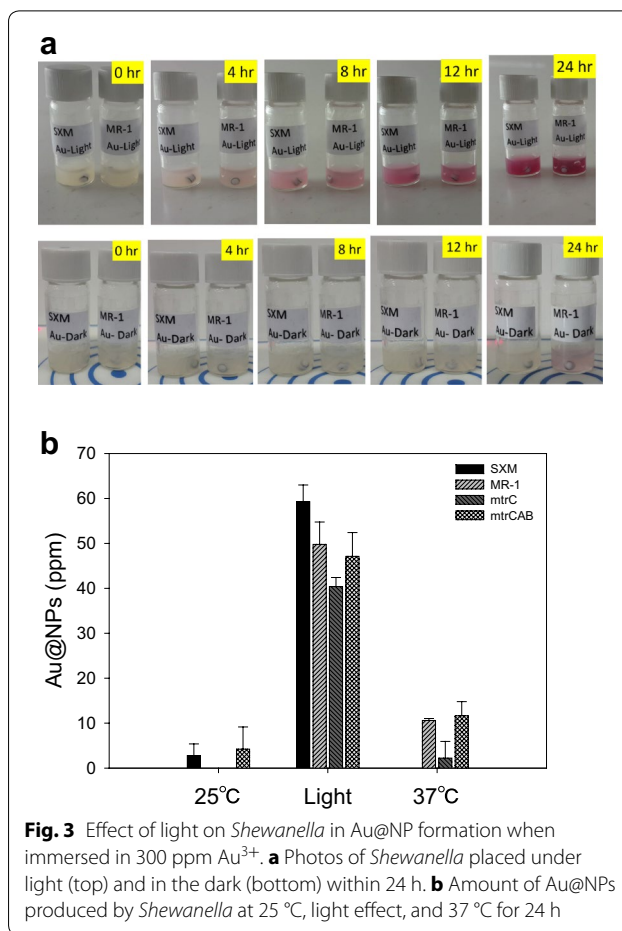


Fig. 3 Effect of light on *Shewanella* in Au@NP formation when immersed in 300 ppm Au³⁺. **a** Photos of *Shewanella* placed under light (top) and in the dark (bottom) within 24 h. **b** Amount of Au@NPs produced by *Shewanella* at 25 °C, light effect, and 37 °C for 24 h

and SXM) and genetically modified strains (i.e., cells harboring *mtrC* and *mtrCAB* genes). As shown in Fig. 3a, cells placed in light produced more Au@NPs in the time series from 0 to 24 h. Temperature was not a critical factor for Au@NP formation as shown in Fig. 3b. Very low levels of Au@NPs were produced at 25 and 37 °C without light induction. In addition, the MR-1 strains harboring

Table 3 Comparison of different strains in biofabrication of Au@NPs

Microorganisms	pH	Temp (°C)	Biomass (g/L)	Light density (μmol photons/m ² /s)	Color change time (h)	Absorbance intensity after 24 h	References
<i>Shewanella xiamenensis</i> BC01	5	RT	2.4	100	4	2.5	This study
<i>Shewanella oneidensis</i> MR-1	5	RT	2.4	100	4	1.7	This study
<i>Shewanella haliotis</i>	5	30	5.3	X	12	1.0	(Zhu et al. 2016)
<i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> var. <i>viridis</i>	7	25	10	X	10	0.4	(Binupriya et al. 2010)
<i>Sargassum</i> sp.	8	RT	5	X	0.5	0.05	(Sathishkumar et al. 2010b)

RT room temperature

mtrC or *mtrCAB* genes showed the same levels of nanoparticle production under light induction, which implies that the Mtr pathway proteins are not stimulated by light. It is known that cyanobacteria possess light-sensitive phytochromes to control photosynthesis, phototaxis, and production of pigments (Schmitz et al. 2000; Yeh et al. 1997). A phytochrome is a two-component system, with a membrane-bound sensor protein and an intracellular response regulator protein, which function in sequence in response to an extracellular signal. An *E. coli* strain has been artificially engineered to respond to light by replacing the osmolarity sensing domain EnvZ to a photosensing domain from the cyanobacteria in the native EnvZ–OmpR two-component system (Levskaia et al. 2005). The engineered *E. coli* strain was photosensitive and could turn on or shut down the expression of the reporter gene according to illumination. Therefore, we hypothesize that photoinduction in *Shewanella* which caused the formation of Au@NPs could be regulated by a two-component protein system. In our experiments, the formation of Au@NPs was significantly increased by photoinduction. From the genomic database of MR-1 (Accession Number NC004347), a putative two-component system with a photoreactivation-associated protein (PhrA) and photolyase (PhrB) could be involved in sensing of light. These light-sensitive proteins may be the key factor in stimulating the formation of Au@NPs. The search for key proteins by genetic method, i.e., knock-out *phrA* and *phrB*, is an inevitable further research motive for this study. In the past, the *S. algae* strain BRY was found to reduce Au^{3+} to Au using hydrogen as the electron donor (Kashefi et al. 2001). Alternatively, *Shewanella* species have been considered for the bioremediation of different kinds of metals ions or for use in microbial fuel cells (Chen et al. 2015; Liu and Logan 2004; Xu et al. 2006). This is the first attempt to discover the effects of temperature and light on the formation of Au@NPs.

The proposed mechanism of Au@NP formation

The zeta potential analysis is shown in Fig. 4a. Significant differences in zeta potential were observed at biomasses of 2.4 and 1.2 g/L for SXM and MR-1, respectively. The difference in zeta potential gradually decreased when the biomass was greater than 3.6 g/L. At 6.0 g/L biomass, no difference in zeta potential was detected. This shows the disadvantage of high biomass (6.0 g/L) for Au@NP formation. Recent research shows that the changes in zeta potential of MR-1 not only reflect on the production of Au@NPs, but also the formation of biofilm (Ishiki et al. 2017). Therefore, with higher cell density, increased biofilm formation could affect the nucleation of gold atoms to NPs. On the other hand, the ICP-OES analysis of residual ion concentration after immersion of SXM or

MR-1 in 300 ppm gold solution or 100 ppm silver solution with biomass concentrations ranging from 2.4 to 6 g/L, we found that only 20.8 to 3.29 ppm of residual gold ions or 2.26 to 0.81 ppm of residual silver ions were present for both SXM and MR-1 at lower or higher biomass (Table 4). Our hypothesis for the mechanism of Au@NPs formation by *Shewanella* is shown in Fig. 4b.

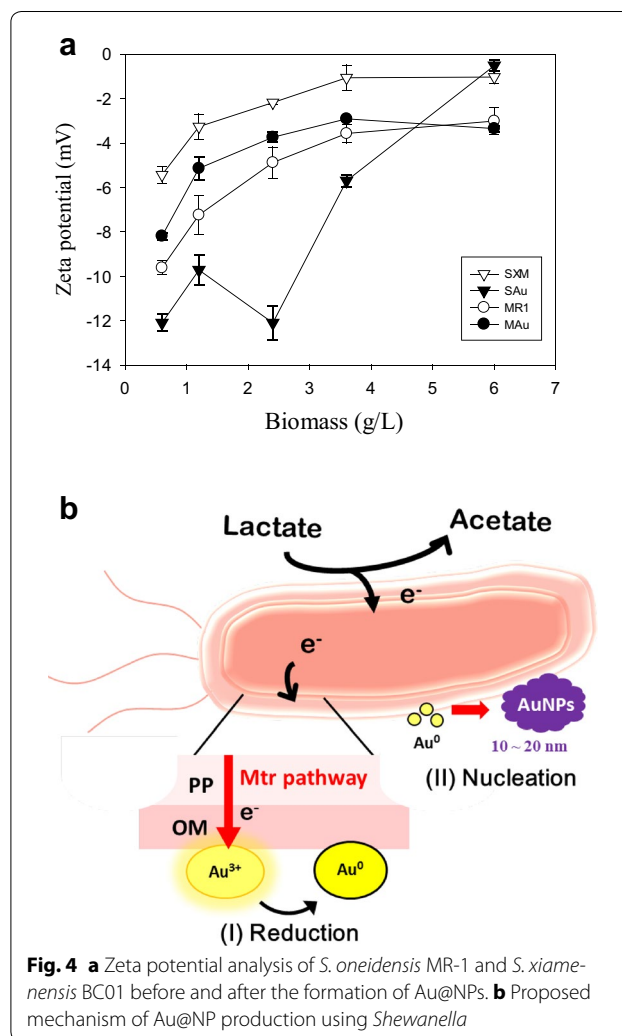


Fig. 4 a Zeta potential analysis of *S. oneidensis* MR-1 and *S. xiame-nensis* BC01 before and after the formation of Au@NPs. b Proposed mechanism of Au@NP production using *Shewanella*

Table 4 ICP-OES analysis of residual ion concentration after immersion in Au^{3+} or Ag^+ by SXM or MR-1 at different biomasses for 24 h

Metal conc.	Biomass conc. (g/L)	Final conc. (ppm)	
		SXM	MR-1
300 ppm Au^{3+}	2.4	11.9 ± 0.12	20.8 ± 0.11
300 ppm Au^{3+}	6.0	3.29 ± 0.08	3.31 ± 0.13
100 ppm Ag^+	2.4	2.21 ± 0.02	2.26 ± 0.05
100 ppm Ag^+	6.0	0.81 ± 0.03	1.17 ± 0.04

Sodium lactate acted as the electron donor at a final concentration of 50 mM. Then, *Shewanella* adsorbed the gold ions, and nucleation was triggered on the cell membrane layer by layer, while higher biomass blocked the nucleation. Because of the distinct electron pathway of *Shewanella*, gold ions were reduced on the outer membrane of the cells, further accomplishing the process of nanoparticle fabrication and resulted in different zeta potentials on cell.

In the formation of Au@NPs, the first step is the reduction of gold ions to metallic gold atoms. This process is supposed to be the common reduction, where the electron donor lactate goes through the Mtr pathway (i.e., *mtrA*, *mtrB*, *mtrC*, and *omcA*) and excess electrons enter the cytoplasmic membrane-anchored tetrahaem c-type cytochrome CymA to accomplish the reduction. The importance of proteins in Mtr pathway and cytochrome c-type has also been demonstrated in DMSO or dinitrotoluene reduction (Coursolle and Gralnick 2010; Liu et al. 2017). Moreover, as Au@NPs formation by *Shewanella* was photoinduced, there is the supposed involvement of a prospective two-component system [photoreactivation-associated protein (PhrA) and photolyase (PhrB)] which was activated by light energy to drive electron transfer and accelerate the reduction (Ng et al. 2000; Sancar 2003). Second, the nucleation of gold atom as a nanoparticle on cell surface should be a “layer by layer” processing, obeying thermodynamics and kinetic behavior. Thus, with higher cell density, the thicker biofilm formed would be a drawback for nanoparticles formation.

The activity of resting cells

Apart from the fresh cells, resting cells were also used for Au@NP formation. Resting SXM and MR-1 cells were

prepared based on the method described in “Preparation of resting cells”. They were stored at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for long-term conservation as shown in Fig. 5a. The ability of resting cells to produce Au@NPs was analyzed after 1, 15, 20, and 25 days. The resting cells had nearly 60% capability for Au@NPs production after 25 days (Fig. 5b), the variations in the activity could be attributed to the nonuniform cell powder. The resting cells were preferable as they could be used at any time without several repeated steps. Although there was a report showing that resting *S. algae* cells generated reduced amounts of platinum nanoparticles (Konishi et al. 2007), this is also the first attempt in showing that resting *Shewanella* cells possess long-term stability for the fabrication of Au@NPs.

The selectivity of gold and silver ions by *Shewanella*

The ability for Ag@NPs formation by SXM and MR-1 was shown in the blue line shown in Fig. 6. The Ag@NPs exhibited surface plasmon resonance at 410 nm. In order to confirm the selectivity of Au³⁺ and Ag⁺ ions by *Shewanella*, both strains were examined in a solution containing 100 ppm Au³⁺ and 100 ppm Ag⁺ ions (red line in Fig. 6) or 250 ppm Au³⁺ and 100 ppm Ag⁺ ions (green line in Fig. 6) for 24 h. The results showed that both SXM (Fig. 6a) and MR-1 (Fig. 6b) reduced silver ions at the same concentration, and reduced Au³⁺ when immersed in 250 ppm Au³⁺ and 100 ppm Ag⁺ ions. The selectivity can also be controlled by the concentration of ions inside the system.

Conclusions

Shewanella xiamenensis BC01 and MR-1 reduced Au³⁺ to Au@NPs, which were localized on the surface. By measuring the optimal condition, the highest amounts

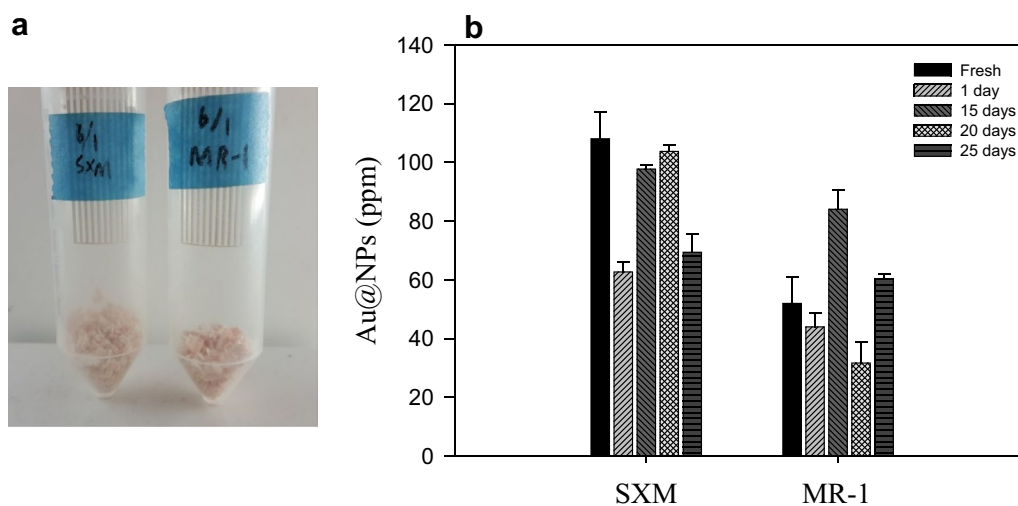
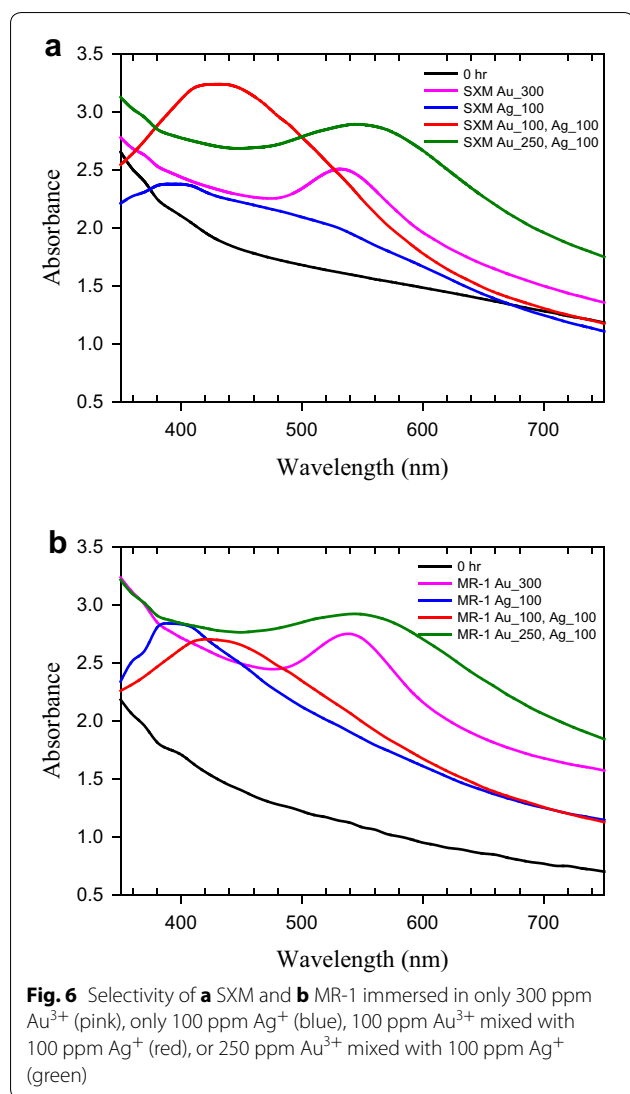


Fig. 5 a Resting *Shewanella* cells. b Biofabrication of Au@NPs by resting cells after 1, 15, 20, and 25 days



of Au@NPs were 108 ppm for SXM and 62 ppm for MR-1, respectively. It was found that an increase in biomass resulted in a decrease in Au@NPs. The presence of light dramatically accelerated nanoparticle formation. The mechanism of Au@NP formation and light-induced effect in *Shewanella* have been reported for the first time. The recovery of Au ions from industrial waste via *Shewanella* is a potential bioremediation option.

Abbreviations

Au@NPs: gold nanoparticles; Ag@NPs: silver nanoparticles; SXM: *Shewanella xiamenensis* BC01; MR-1: *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1; SEM: scanning electron microscopy; ICP-OES: inductively coupled plasma-optical emission spectrometry.

Authors' contributions

ISN designed the experiment and analyzed the data, JWW performed most of experiments. ISN and JWW wrote the manuscript. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful for the financial support for this study provided by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST 105-2221-E-006-225-MY3 and MOST-105-2621-M-006-012-MY3) in Taiwan.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Availability of data and materials

The authors have agreed to provide the data and material for open access.

Consent for publication

The authors approved the consent for publishing the manuscript.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

All the authors have read and agreed the ethics for publishing the manuscript.

Funding

This work was supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST 105-2221-E-006-225-MY3 and MOST 105-2621-M-006-012-MY3) in Taiwan.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received: 24 August 2017 Accepted: 27 November 2017

Published online: 01 December 2017

References

- Bai H, Zhang Z, Guo Y, Jia W (2009) Biological synthesis of size-controlled cadmium sulfide nanoparticles using immobilized *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*. *Nanoscale Res Lett* 4(7):717–723
- Binupriya A, Sathishkumar M, Vijayaraghavan K, Yun SI (2010) Bioreduction of trivalent aurum to nano-crystalline gold particles by active and inactive cells and cell-free extract of *Aspergillus oryzae* var. *viridis*. *J Hazard Mater* 177(1):539–545
- Chen T, Zhou Y, Ng IS, Yang CS, Wang HY (2015) Formation and characterization of extracellular polymeric substance from *Shewanella xiamenensis* BC01 under calcium stimulation. *J Taiwan Inst Chem Eng* 57:175–181
- Coursolle D, Gralnick JA (2010) Modularity of the Mtr respiratory pathway of *Shewanella oneidensis* strain MR-1. *Mol Microbiol* 77(4):995–1008
- Dodson JR, Parker HL, Muñoz García A, Hicken A, Asemave K, Farmer TJ, He H, Clark JH, Hunt AJ (2015) Bio-derived materials as a green route for precious & critical metal recovery and re-use. *Green Chem* 17(4):1951–1965
- Farooq U, Kozinski JA, Khan MA, Athar M (2010) Biosorption of heavy metal ions using wheat based biosorbents—a review of the recent literature. *Bioresour Technol* 101(14):5043–5053
- Fredrickson JK, Romine MF, Beliaev AS, Auchtung JM, Driscoll ME, Gardner TS, Nealon KH, Osterman AL, Pinchuk G, Reed JL, Rodionov DA, Rodrigues JLM, Saffarini DA, Serres MH, Spormann AM, Zhulin IB, Tiedje JM (2008) Towards environmental systems biology of *Shewanella*. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 6(8):592–603
- He YR, Cheng YY, Wang WK, Yu HQ (2015) A green approach to recover Au(III) in aqueous solution using biologically assembled rGO hydrogels. *Chem Eng J* 270:476–484
- Huang J, Sun B, Zhang X (2010) *Shewanella xiamenensis* sp. nov., isolated from coastal sea sediment. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 60(7):1585–1589
- Ishiki K, Okada K, Le DQ, Shiigi H, Nagaoka T (2017) Investigation concerning the formation process of gold nanoparticles by *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1. *Anal Sci* 33(2):129–131
- Kashefi K, Tor JM, Nevin KP, Lovley DR (2001) Reductive precipitation of gold by dissimilatory Fe(III)-reducing bacteria and archaea. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 67(7):3275–3279
- Klaus T, Joerger R, Olsson E, Granqvist CG (2001) Bacteria as workers in the living factory: metal-accumulating bacteria and their potential for materials science. *Trends Biotechnol* 19(1):15–20

- Konishi Y, Ohno K, Saitoh N, Nomura T, Nagamine S, Hishida H, Takahashi Y, Uruga T (2007) Bioreductive deposition of platinum nanoparticles on the bacterium *Shewanella algae*. *J Biotechnol* 128(3):648–653
- Kumar SA, Peter YA, Nadeau JL (2008) Facile biosynthesis, separation and conjugation of gold nanoparticles to doxorubicin. *Nanotechnology* 19(49):495101
- Levskaya A, Chevalier AA, Tabor JJ, Simpson ZB, Lavery LA, Levy M, Davidson EA, Scouras A, Ellington AD, Marcotte EM, Voigt CA (2005) Synthetic biology: engineering *Escherichia coli* to see light. *Nature* 438(7067):441–442
- Liu H, Logan BE (2004) Electricity generation using an air-cathode single chamber microbial fuel cell in the presence and absence of a proton exchange membrane. *Environ Sci Technol* 38(14):4040–4046
- Liu DF, Min D, Cheng L, Zhang F, Li DB, Xiao X, Sheng GP, Yu HQ (2017) Anaerobic reduction of 2,6-dinitrotoluene by *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1: roles of Mtr respiratory pathway and NfnB. *Biotechnol Bioeng* 114(4):761–768
- Lo YC, Cheng CL, Han YL, Chen BY, Chang JS (2014) Recovery of high-value metals from geothermal sites by biosorption and bioaccumulation. *Bioresour Technol* 160:182–190
- Mata YN, Torres E, Blazquez ML, Ballester A, Gonzalez F, Munoz JA (2009) Gold(III) biosorption and bioreduction with the brown alga *Fucus vesiculosus*. *J Hazard Mater* 166(2–3):612–618
- Mishra A, Tripathy SK, Yun SI (2012) Fungus mediated synthesis of gold nanoparticles and their conjugation with genomic DNA isolated from *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Process Biochem* 47(5):701–711
- Mishra A, Kumari M, Pandey S, Chaudhry V, Gupta KC, Nautiyal CS (2014) Biocatalytic and antimicrobial activities of gold nanoparticles synthesized by *Trichoderma* sp. *Bioresour Technol* 166:235–242
- Myers CR, Nealon KH (1988) Bacterial manganese reduction and growth with manganese oxide as the sole electron acceptor. *Science* 240(4857):1319
- Narayanan KB, Sakthivel N (2010) Biological synthesis of metal nanoparticles by microbes. *Adv Colloid Interface Sci* 156(1):1–13
- Ng WO, Zentella R, Wang Y, Taylor AJ, Pakrasi BH (2000) PhrA, the major photoreactivating factor in the cyanobacterium *Synechocystis* sp. strain PCC 6803 codes for a cyclobutane-pyrimidine-dimer-specific DNA photolyase. *Arch Microbiol* 173:412–417
- Ng CK, Sivakumar K, Liu X, Madhaiyan M, Ji L, Yang L, Tang C, Song H, Kjelleberg S, Cao B (2013) Influence of outer membrane c-type cytochromes on particle size and activity of extracellular nanoparticles produced by *Shewanella oneidensis*. *Biotechnol Bioeng* 110(7):1831–1837
- Ng IS, Xu F, Zhang X, Ye C (2015a) Enzymatic exploration of catalase from a nanoparticle producing and biodecolorizing algae *Shewanella xiamenensis* BC01. *Bioresour Technol* 184:429–435
- Ng IS, Ndive CI, Zhou Y, Wu X (2015b) Cultural optimization and metal effects of *Shewanella xiamenensis* BC01 growth and swarming motility. *Bioresour Bioprocess* 2(1):28
- Ramesh A, Hasegawa H, Sugimoto W, Maki T, Ueda K (2008) Adsorption of gold(III), platinum(IV) and palladium(II) onto glycine modified crosslinked chitosan resin. *Bioresour Technol* 99(9):3801–3809
- Sancar A (2003) Structure and function of DNA photolyase and cryptochrome blue-light photoreceptors. *Chem Rev* 103:2203–2237
- Sathishkumar M, Sneha K, Yun YS (2010a) Immobilization of silver nanoparticles synthesized using *Curcuma longa* tuber powder and extract on cotton cloth for bactericidal activity. *Bioresour Technol* 101(20):7958–7965
- Sathishkumar M, Mahadevan A, Vijayaraghavan K, Pavagadhi S, Balasubramanian R (2010b) Green recovery of gold through biosorption, biocrystallization, and pyro-crystallization. *Ind Eng Chem Res* 49(16):7129–7135
- Schmitz O, Katayama M, Williams BS, Kondo T, Golden SS (2000) CikA, a bacteriophytochrome that resets the cyanobacterial circadian clock. *Science* 289:765–768
- Shedbalkar U, Singh R, Wadhvani S, Gaidhani S, Chopade BA (2014) Microbial synthesis of gold nanoparticles: current status and future prospects. *Adv Colloid Interface Sci* 209:40–48
- Shi L, Rosso KM, Clarke TA, Richardson DJ, Zachara JM, Fredrickson JK (2012) Molecular underpinnings of Fe(III) oxide reduction by *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1. *Front Microbiol* 3:50
- Spitzer M, Bertazzoli R (2004) Selective electrochemical recovery of gold and silver from cyanide aqueous effluents using titanium and vitreous carbon cathodes. *Hydrometallurgy* 74(3):233–242
- Suresh AK, Pelletier DA, Wang W, Broich ML, Moon JW, Gu B, Allison DP, Joy DC, Phelps TJ, Doktycz MJ (2011) Biofabrication of discrete spherical gold nanoparticles using the metal-reducing bacterium *Shewanella oneidensis*. *Acta Biomater* 7(5):2148–2152
- Tan SI, Ng IS, Yu YY (2017) Heterologous expression of an acidophilic multicopper oxidase in *Escherichia coli* and its applications in biorecovery of gold. *Bioresour Bioprocess* 4:20
- Wang G, Zhang B, Li S, Yang M, Yin C (2017) Simultaneous microbial reduction of vanadium(V) and chromium(VI) by *Shewanella loihica* PV-4. *Bioresour Technol* 227:353–358
- Wu C, Cheng YY, Li BB, Li WW, Li DB, Yu HQ (2013a) Electron acceptor dependence of electron shuttle secretion and extracellular electron transfer by *Shewanella oneidensis* MR-1. *Bioresour Technol* 136:711–714
- Wu R, Cui L, Chen L, Wang C, Cao C, Sheng G, Yu H, Zhao F (2013b) Effects of bio-Au nanoparticles on electrochemical activity of *Shewanella oneidensis* wild type and $\Delta omcA/mtrC$ mutant. *Sci Rep* 3:3307
- Xu M, Guo J, Zeng G, Zhong X, Sun G (2006) Decolorization of anthraquinone dye by *Shewanella decolorationis* S12. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* 71(2):246–251
- Yeh KC, Wu SH, Murphy JT, Lagarias JC (1997) A cyanobacterial phytochrome two-component light sensory system. *Science* 277:1505–1508
- Zhu N, Cao Y, Shi C, Wu P, Ma H (2016) Biorecovery of gold as nanoparticles and its catalytic activities for p-nitrophenol degradation. *Environ Sci Pollut Res Int* 23(8):7627–7638

Submit your manuscript to a SpringerOpen® journal and benefit from:

- Convenient online submission
- Rigorous peer review
- Open access: articles freely available online
- High visibility within the field
- Retaining the copyright to your article

Submit your next manuscript at ► springeropen.com