

## **Research Article**

# **Biodegradation of diazinon using gas chromatography method**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** for many years, human have been used physical and chemical methods to eliminate pesticides such as Diazinon. However, due to its time-consuming and non-cost-effectiveness nature, nowadays, microorganisms, particularly bacteria are prioritized to remove this hazardous compound.

**Materials and Methods:** In the present research during two consecutive seasons of the year (fall and winter 2014) soil samples were taken in three stations from the river Kur - Marvdasht-Iran. According to standard protocol, having been extracted, soil samples were subjected to gas chromatography to measure the amount of diazinon. In order to enrich and separation of bacteria resistant to cadmium enrichment medium, MSM culture and solid nutrient agar plate were used respectively. Conventional biochemical tests were used to identify bacteria.

**Results:** using morphology and biochemical tests some bacteria such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Enterobacter*, *Bacillus* were isolated and identified so that *Pseudomonas* strains accounted for the highest degradation, which is the indicators related to the upon concentration 0.2 gram per liter in 72 hours it degraded 32% diazinon followed by bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (45%), *Enterobacter* (38%), and *Bacillus* (25%).

**Conclusion:** Isolated bacteria, especially *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Enterobacter* serve as suitable candidate to eliminate diazinon in contaminated water. The bacteria growth in different concentrations of diazinon initially was increased, and in the end was reduced.

**Key words:** *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, diazinon, gas chromatography, biodegradation.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As a phosphorus compound, Diazinon is applied both in soil and on plant aerial organs. Diazinon is a broad spectrum insecticide and is widely applied against household and garden pests, insects, ornamental plants, pets and even mosquitoes and flies in stables. In order to eliminate pests of fruit trees such as mites, aphids, *tomato hornworm* moth, apples maggot, pears worms, cherry flies

and pear psylla about 1 to 5.1 kg 40% diazinon suspended powder per thousand liters water is applied. This solution is used for spraying parks as well. Diazinon is perceived as a phosphorous compound with heterocyclic leaving group. This insecticide is characterized with high neutral pH stability, but at alkaline and acid pH is hydrolyzed. Under acidic pH, hydrolysis rate is

much more compared to alkaline one. The half-life (DT50) of diazinon is found to be 3.1,12 hours. Diazinon is hydrolyzed in mammals body, to form diethyl dithiophosphoric acid . Upon GSH, diazinon is converted to conjugate glutathione. This reaction is takes place in the housefly. At the same time, by removing ethyl agent, glutathione detoxify diazinon. The same reaction is occurred in the housefly too. On the other hand, under monooxygenases system diazinon turns into Diazoxon as one of the strongest inhibitors of cholinesterase and cholinesterase I50 (half-life) in fly is  $3.5 \times 10^{-9}$  moles. Diazoxon is hydrolyzed by esterase type A to release its pyrimidine derivative. Insecticides can enter water bodies and environment directly or indirectly (Lu et al., 1974) and directly penetrate to water and environment in direct way to control vermin insects. Insecticides are used for two purposes: to stop the destruction of agricultural production especially in rice fields and to control root. Widespread use of insecticides to control insects causes waster and environment contamination. For many years, human have been used physical and chemical methods to eliminate pesticides such as Diazinon. However, due to its time-consuming and non-cost-effectiveness nature, nowadays, microorganisms, particularly bacteria are prioritized to remove this hazardous compound. Enormous bacteria have been isolated for diazinon biodegradation, most of which are gram-negative belonged to *Pseudomonas* family. Both gram-negative and gram-positive family of bacteria has been reported as diazinon decomposers i.e. *Agrobacterium*.sp (Jumeslevegilia et al. 1977), *Felavobacterium* (Chaudhry et al., 1988), genus *Bacillus subtilis* (Yasuno et al. 1965) *Streptomyces* (Gauger et al., 1986), actinomycetes ( Collins et al. 1998) and yeasts (Digrak in 1996 and Collins 1989). Foregoing bacteria exploits diazinon as carbon and energy source.

### Experimental

Sampling was carried out in sterile containers during autumn and winter. For each sampling,

number 9 samples were taken from the waters of the river Kur (for each station, three sampling times). Immediately, in less than 2 hours samples in flask containing ice were sent to laboratory.



Figure 1: sampling points

Enrichment and isolation of diazinon biodegrading bacteria in water and sediment samples

First, a mixed solution of diazinon was prepared in acetone and stored in biological hood to evaporate acetone (15 mm water sample.)( Xu et al.,2008) and was added to broth and 11 g sediment samples were put separately in Erlenmeyer flasks containing 251 ml, 51 ml broth mineral salt and 25 mg diazinon and incubated for 24 hours in shaking incubator. Sediment samples diluted in 151 rpm at 27 ° C and, for any dilution, 1 ml samples from each flask was inoculated to tubes containing 9 mm broth. Each dilution was characterized with 5 replications. Then tubes were kept for a week in incubator at 37 C. one tube containing 9 ml broth and diazinon in 151 rpm but in absence of bacteria were considered as control. The emergence of turbidity is a sign for the growth of bacteria. Tubes showing turbidity were cultured in mineral salt medium contain agar with 25 mg diazinon and incubated for 7 days in 31C. Analysis of biodegradation metabolites using GC: To monitor diazinon biodegradation by isolated bacteria, gas chromatography (GC) was used. In this method, bacterial suspension was added to a

flask containing salt medium with the desired substrate according to McFarland standard and was kept for one week in incubator at 30 C. A medium containing diazinon without microbial inoculums was prepared as a control. The culture is removed after 72 hours and sieved through milipowder filter. The resulting liquid is used to GC test. the sample is taken to GC equipped with column characterized with  $30 \times 0.25 \times 32 \mu\text{m}$ ,

absorbent pheny dimethyl siloxane 5%, injector temperature 25 c and MASS type detector in which column temperature was began in 80 C and after 4 minutes was reached to a 260 C in 20 C/min gradient.

Results of experiment

Stations I, I, III were located at Kamfiruz , Markazi and Seyedan districts.

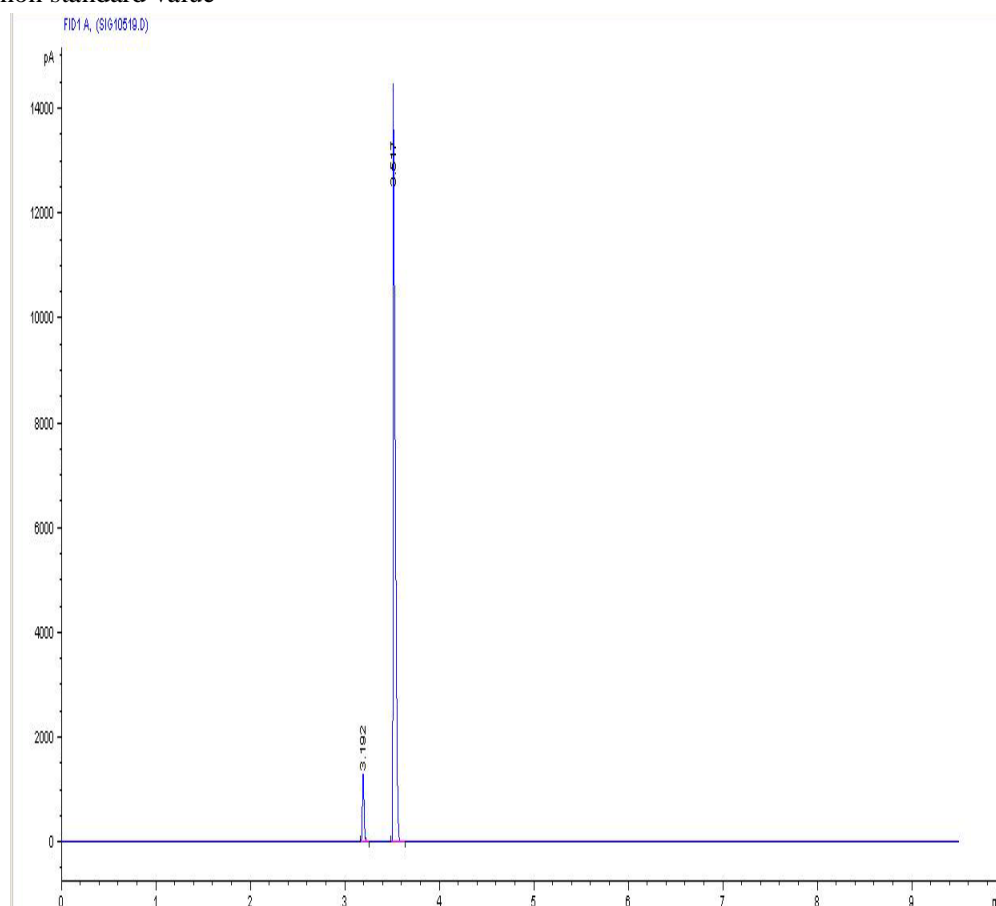
**Table 4- 1** bacteria counting

| winter               |                      |                     | autumn               |                      |                     | season   |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| II                   | II                   | I                   | III                  | II                   | I                   | station  |
| $135 \times 10^{-3}$ | $95 \times 10^{-3}$  | $55 \times 10^{-3}$ | $270 \times 10^{-3}$ | $100 \times 10^{-4}$ | $55 \times 10^{-3}$ | diazinon |
| $195 \times 10^{-3}$ | $125 \times 10^{-3}$ | $90 \times 10^{-3}$ | $300 \times 10^{-3}$ | $250 \times 10^{-3}$ | $86 \times 10^{-3}$ | control  |

Identification of diazinon degrading bacteria

Diazinon degrading bacteria were isolated in river Kur-Iran and the bacteria include *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Enterobacter*, *Bacillus*. Analysis of biodegradation metabolites by GC:

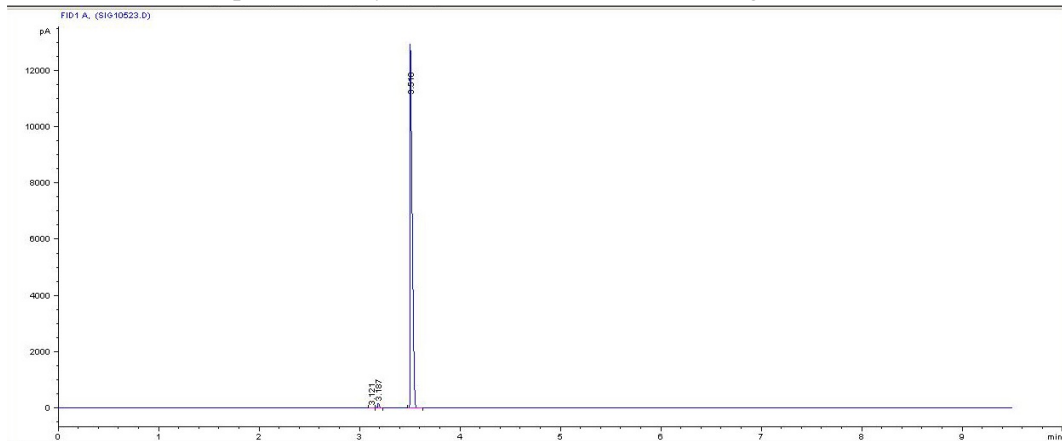
The diazinon standard value



**Figure 2:** diazinon standard

Percent of Diazinon decomposition at a concentration of 0.2 g l by the bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

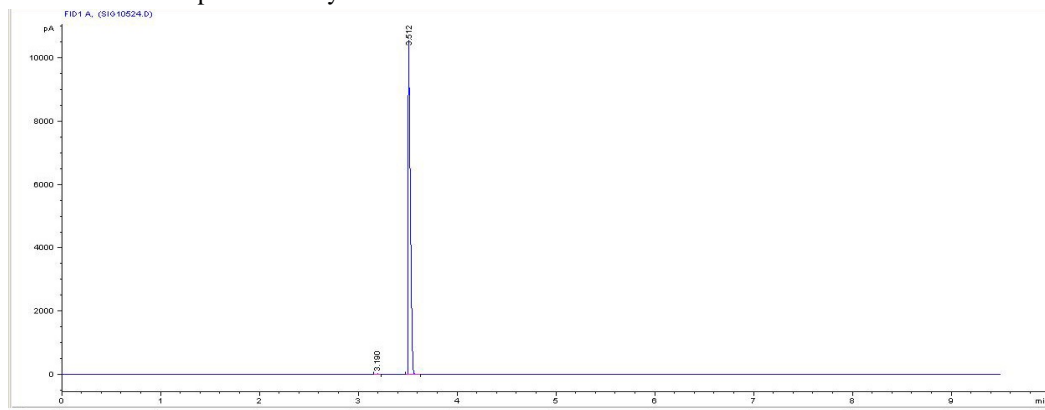
Percent of Diazinon decomposition at by the bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* after 72 hours was 45%.



**Figure 3:** Diazinon degradation at a concentration of 0.2 g l by the bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Diazinon degradation at a concentration of 0.2 g l by the Enterobacter

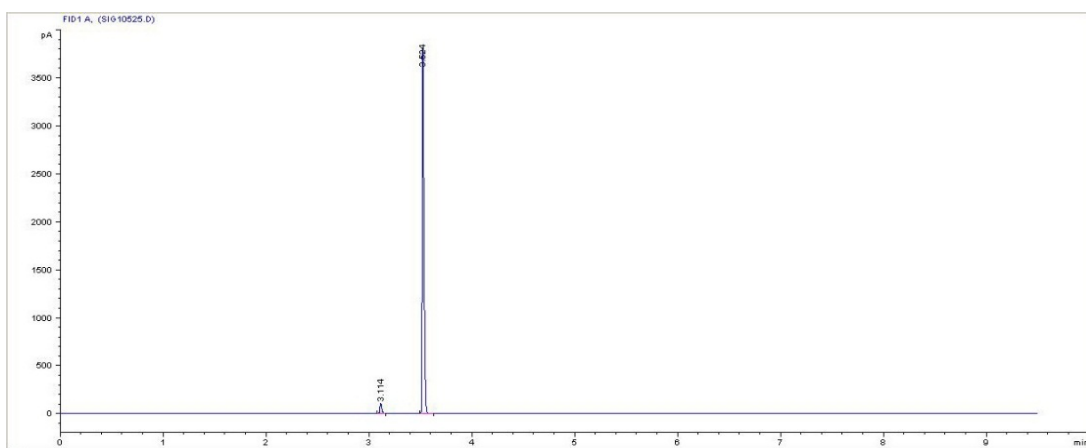
Percent of Diazinon decomposition at by the bacteria Enterobacter after 72 hours was 38%.



**Figure 4:** Diazinon degradation at a Concentration of 0.2 g l by the bacteria Enterobacter

7-4-4 percent of Diazinon degradation at a concentration of 0.2 g l by the Bacillus

Percent of Diazinon decomposition at by the bacteria Enterobacter after 72 hours was 25%.



**Figure 5:** Diazinon degradation at a concentration of 0.2 g l by the bacteria Bacillus

**CONCLUSION:**

Digrak et al. 1995 proved that some organophosphate insecticides such as Diazinon, chlorpyrifos, cationic, malathion and gusathion are susceptible to microbial degradation in *Pseudomonas* sp, *Arthrobacter* sp, *Flavobacterium* sp as monoculture and mixed for carbon. In the present study *Pseudomonas* and *flavobacterium* were identified as diazinon biodegrading agent and used it as carbon source. By enrichment method in 1999, Ramanathan and Lalithakumari isolated *Pseudomonas* sp soil strains able to degrade Parathion methyl, malathion, and was Foso-diazinon. In the present study *Pseudomonas* was isolated. Ghassempouret al., 2002 isolated diazinon degrading bacteria *Agrobacterium* sp and *Flavobacterium* sp, *Pseudomonas* sp in soil and surface water in rice field of Gilan which used diazinon as carbon source. in this research *pseudomonas* was identified and isolated.

**Concluding remarks**

In the light of results, any Gram-negative bacteria have potential to biodegrade pesticides diazinon and analysis of strains isolated during a week, the ability of bacteria to pesticides was evaluated. *Pseudomonas* strains accounted for the highest degradation, which is the indicators related to the upon concentration 0.2 gram per liter in 72 hours it degraded 32% diazinon followed by bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (45%), *Enterobacter* (38%), and *Bacillus* (25%).

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