BIOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS OF NANOPARTICLES

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**ABSTRACT**

Nanotechnology has emerged as a very promising branch of science. Nanoparticles with wide application in various industries have received global attention. Recently, synthesis of nanoparticles using green methods has gained importance as it has been considered cost effective, environment safe as well as efficient. This method uses microorganism and plants working as nano-factories to mediate synthesis of nanoparticles with different size, shape and characteristics. This chapter includes green methods of nanoparticle synthesis, advantages of biological methods and characterization techniques of nanoparticles.

**Key Words**- Nanoparticles, green method, cost effective, plant, microbe,

1. **INTRODUCTION**

 Nanotechnology as a field of research is growing day by day creating an impact in almost every aspect of human lives. It is considered as one of the most promising approach to many areas such as biomedicine, electronics, agriculture, antimicrobials and cosmetics, etc. (Shah *et al*. 2022; Salvioni *et al.* 2022; Jha *et al.* 2021). The physical, chemical and optical properties of Nanoparticles (NP) differ from their respective bulk matters. These Properties of NPs change with the change in size, surface properties and morphology of the particle. The novel idea of nanotechnology was given for the very first time in 1959 by Richard Feynman in his visionary talk “There’s Plenty of Room at the Bottom”. But the term Nanotechnology was coined in 1974 by Tokyo science university professor Norio Taniguchi. Since then Nanotechnology has set many milestones. Currently, the more commercially viable and environment friendly approach to synthesize the NPs are being worked upon by the scientist all over the world which may eliminate the adverse effects of already existing physical and chemical methods.

1. **METHODS OF NANOPARTICLE SYNTHESIS**

**Figure 1. Nanoparticles synthesis methods**

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 Methods of Synthesis

 Chemical

 Biological

 Physical

Chemical precipitation, micro emulsior, spray method etc.

Use of Plants, Algae, Bacteria, Fungi etc.

Laser ablation, ultrasonication, high energy ball milling etc.

**Generally** there are 3 ways to produce NPs i.e. chemical, physical, and biological methods. (Fig-1). The physical and chemical methods of the NP synthesis are traditional methods with many attractive advantages such as high yield in less time, precise control over structure of NPs, and extensive scalability. However, potential harm associated with these methods overshadows the advantages of these approaches. The excessive use of chemicals as capping agent and precursor leading to the production of toxic by-products, disposal of these by products, high pressure and high temperature working conditions are some disadvantages that raises grave concern. Therefore, there is an urgent need for environment friendly, non-toxic, and cost effective approach for NP synthesis. These disadvantages can be overcome by applying biological method or green technology which uses the biological entities as nano-factories (Fig. 2). In this approach, natural sources like plants, fungi, yeast, actinomycetes, and bacteria etc. are used to synthesize intracellular and extra cellular NPs having natural reducing and stabilizing properties (Bahrulolum *et al.,* 2021).

**Fig 2 Advantages of the biological method of Nanoparticle synthesis**

1. **BIOSYNTHESIS OF NANOPARTICLES**

In the current scenario the green method of NPs synthesis using plants, bacteria, fungi etc. has gained attention as they are compatible to be used in biomedical and pharmaceutical sectors (Geethalakshmi and Sarada, 2010). Basically, in biosynthesis, the metal salt is reduced to ions by bioactive compounds. Various factors like temperature, concentrations of precursor metal, and pH affects the process of synthesis. Thus, it becomes important to understand the interaction mechanism of biological systems and precursor metal to get the control the entire process.

1. **Synthesis of Nanoparticles by Microorganisms**

 The NPs are formed when metal salts are reduced to ions (Sadowski *et.al*, 2008). Prokaryotes are commonly used for the synthesis of metallic Nps (Gobinath *et al*., 2021). Bacteria mediated synthesis have gained attention as bacterial cultures are easy to grow and their genetic code can be easily manipulated. The first ever bacteria mediated NP synthesis was reported in 1984 when a strain of *Pseudomonas stutzeri* AG259, isolated from silver mine was found to be capable of synthesizing silver NPs (Venkataraman *et al.*, 2011).

 There are reports of fungal mediated synthesis as well (Wang *et al.,* 2021). Higher tolerance to toxicity, easy culture methods and simple biomass handling characteristics has made fungus a very significant medium of NP synthesis. They also secrete a large amount of enzymes.

 Algae are capable of merging heavy metals from the surroundings. They reduce these metals to NPs. Fucus vesiculosus, is one such algae which was reported to absorb Au [III] ions (Mata *et al*., 2009).

1. **Plant mediated synthesis of Nanoparticles**

Plants contain many bioactive elements which are responsible for the formation of NPs. Plant extracts based synthesis has advantages as it’s single step process, cost-effective and nonpathogenic (Fig. 3) (Roy and Bharadvaja, 2017a, b; Nagore et al., 2021; Mittal and Roy, 2021). It also eliminates the tedious process of maintenance of cell cultures and release of hazardous by-products.

**Fig 3 Synthesis of the Nanoparticles from Plants**



1. **CHARACTERIZATION OF NANOPARTICLES**
2. **Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)**

SEM determines the surface properties of any sample. In SEM, electrons beam are used to strikes a sample surface to get the information about sample’s surface characteristics (Begum *et al.,* 2022)*.*

**B. Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM)**

 TEM studies the size and structure of NPs. When electrons are passed through a sample, some of the electron beam interacts with the sample, remaining is diffracted. Thus an image is formed revealing the information about size and shape of NPs.

C. **Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS)**

 DLS determines the size and size distribution of particles (Begum *et al.,* 2022)*.*When a sample is illuminated with the laser, some of the light is scattered. The change in the intensity is measured which corresponds to the size of the sample particle.

D. **UV-Vis Spectroscopy**

 Nps are able to absorb and scatter optical light. The absorption spectrum is indicative of their size and shape.

**E. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)**

 Functional groups present on the surface of NPs can be identified using FTIR. These groups can be responsible for synthesis and stability of NPs (Eid, 2022).

1. **CONCLUSION**

Various studies are reported for the green synthesis of the NPs. The physical and chemical methods bring about many drawbacks including hazardous by-products, use of toxic chemicals, high energy consumption etc. Therefore it can be assumed that in future a clean, safe and green method of the NP synthesis will be largely accepted. Greater understanding of mechanism involved with biological nano-factories will help to regulate the process more efficiently.

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