

Biosorption of metal ions by *Azotobacter vinelandii*

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Azotobacter vinelandii was better than either *Derxia gummosa* or *Rhizobium trifolii* for sorption of UO_2^{2+} . Its maximum binding capacity was 0.25 mmol UO_2^{2+} /g dry biomass with an affinity constant of 333 l/mmol at pH 4.1 according to the Langmuir model. In a semisynthetic medium, *A. vinelandii* showed the highest sorption capacity in the early stationary phase. The binding of UO_2^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Ca^{2+} and Zn^{2+} was affected by the pH of the solution. With HCl as eluent, virtually all the sorbed UO_2^{2+} was released. The presence of Cu^{2+} , Cd^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , and Zn^{2+} inhibited the UO_2^{2+} biosorption whereas Mg^{2+} and K^+ had no effect. © 1992 Rapid Communications of Oxford Ltd.