

Original Article

The potential use of *Pseudomonas* in terrestrial and space agriculture

O uso potencial de *Pseudomonas* na agricultura terrestre e espacial

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Abstract

In the last few years, there has been an increasing interest in solutions for sustainable agriculture to reduce negative impacts on the environment resulting from modern agricultural practices. The use of environmentally beneficial bacteria, like *Pseudomonas*, which can increase plant productivity by reducing growth time, is a promising opportunity for sustainable agriculture. *Pseudomonas* is a gram-negative bacterium genus, commonly present in soils, plants, and irrigation water. *Pseudomonas* has a wide range of metabolic routes that could benefit agriculture, such as nutrient uptake, pathogen suppression, heavy metal solubilization, drought tolerance, and high salt concentration tolerance. *Pseudomonas* may even be proposed as a potential tool for future agriculture on other planets, where the use of microorganisms would be essential for crop development in hostile and inhospitable environments. Hence, the present review discusses the potential use of *Pseudomonas* in sustainable agriculture on planet Earth and potentially on Mars, highlighting its role in plant growth enhancement and plant protection from pathogenic microorganisms.

Keywords: heavy metals, *Pseudomonas*, sustainable agriculture, space agriculture.

Resumo

Nos últimos anos, tem havido um interesse crescente em soluções para que a agricultura sustentável reduza os impactos negativos no ambiente, resultantes de práticas agrícolas modernas. A utilização de bactérias ambientalmente benéficas, como *Pseudomonas*, que podem aumentar a produtividade das plantas ao reduzir o tempo de crescimento, é uma oportunidade de investigação promissora para a agricultura sustentável. *Pseudomonas* são um gênero de bactérias Gram-negativas, comumente presentes em solos, plantas e água irrigada. Essas bactérias possuem uma gama de rotas metabólicas que podem beneficiar a agricultura, como absorção de nutrientes, supressão de patógenos, solubilização de metais pesados, tolerância à seca e a altas concentrações de sal. *Pseudomonas* podem até ser propostas como ferramenta potencial para a agricultura futura em outros planetas, onde o uso de microrganismos seria essencial para o desenvolvimento de culturas em ambientes hostis e inóspitos. Assim, a presente revisão discute o uso potencial de *Pseudomonas* na agricultura sustentável no planeta Terra e potencialmente em Marte, destacando o seu papel na melhoria do crescimento das plantas e na proteção delas contra microrganismos patogênicos.

Palavras-chave: metais pesados, *Pseudomonas*, agricultura sustentável, agricultura espacial.

1. Introduction

Every country on the planet depends on agriculture for its economy and well-being, however, contemporary farming methods, like monocropping, overreliance on chemicals, and deforestation, result in harmful ecological consequences such as soil erosion, reduced biodiversity, water contamination, and increased greenhouse gas emissions, underscoring the necessity for sustainable approaches to mitigate damage and guarantee lasting sustainability (Adedibu, 2023; Rahman et al., 2022).

In recent years, the development of new strategies to mitigate the effects caused by intensive agriculture

and that can be used in polluted environments has become more relevant, which is why the practice of using various soil microorganisms that can provide nutrients to plants and soil, improve production yields and reduce the environmental impact caused by heavy metals or hydrocarbons has arisen (Arora et al., 2019; Prashar and Shah, 2016) some of these microorganisms are bacteria such as *Pseudomonas* with the ability to promote growth and survival in toxic environments (Misra et al., 2022).

Pseudomonas is a gram-negative bacterium genus with more than 120 distinct species commonly found

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in soil and water (Streeter and Katouli, 2016). Some *Pseudomonas* species are known for their capability to facilitate plant growth and protect plants against diseases (Backer et al., 2018). Additionally, *Pseudomonas* can help solubilize nutrients and heavy metals in soil, making them more accessible to plants and other nonpathogenic microorganisms (Fakhar et al., 2020).

For example, *P. putida*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *P. fluorescens* produce molecules that decrease plant growth time, such as organic acids, amino acids, antibiotics, and siderophores (Kim et al., 2013; Yeğın et al., 2020; De Werra et al., 2009). *Pseudomonas*-based bioinoculants for sustainable agriculture have been created based on these metabolic properties. Additionally, the presence of these *Pseudomonas* species in soils used in agriculture has awakened growing interest due to the provided benefits in various stages of plant development. Furthermore, *Pseudomonas* species contribute to the restoration of soils contaminated by herbicides, fertilizers, heavy metals, and hydrocarbons, thus decreasing growth time and increasing root size (Gutiérrez-Albanchez et al., 2021; Shahid et al., 2018; Velivelli et al., 2014). Therefore, the use of bacteria in agriculture possesses several benefits for crops since it optimally increases plant growth while protecting it from pathogens that can damage both seed and seedling growth.

2. Positive Effects of *Pseudomonas* Inoculation in the Soil

The positive effects of introducing beneficial microorganisms through bioinoculation with *Pseudomonas* are due to the adaptability to a hostile environment that may be polluted with heavy metals, herbicides, or fertilizers that can be solubilized or degraded. Most *Pseudomonas* have the ability to degrade hydrocarbons, nitrogenous compounds, and herbicides and decrease time required for plant growth (Kiki, 2022). For example, *P. protegens* (formerly known as *P. fluorescens*) may consume 80% of glyphosate, glufosinate, and phosphine in the presence or absence of iron atoms (Li et al., 2021). One of the key attributes of *Pseudomonas* is their ability to solubilize or degrade a wide range of contaminants, including hydrocarbons (Medić and Karadžić, 2022; Mullaeva et al., 2022), nitrogenous compounds (Yang et al., 2018), and herbicides (Yu et al., 2023). This versatile capacity not only contributes to the detoxification of the environment but

also significantly reduces the time required for optimal plant growth.

2.1. The impact of heavy metals and hydrocarbons contamination on soil health

Currently, one-third of the world soils are contaminated with heavy metals (such as Cu^{+2} , Ni^{+2} , Cr^{+2} , Pb^{+2} , Zn^{+2} , and Cd^{+2}) from disparate sources, such as mining or hydrocarbon production. On the other hand, the concentration of naturally encountered metals is usually $<1000 \text{ mg}^* \text{kg}^{-1}$, and most are nonbiodegradable. Nonetheless, the vast majority comes from anthropogenic activities (Alegría-Torres et al., 2020; Osman et al., 2019; Castro-González et al., 2019; Laghlimi et al., 2015). *Pseudomonas* bacteria have demonstrated the ability to withstand the toxic effects of heavy metals, showcasing their tolerance towards these harmful substances (see Table 1). Moreover, these bacteria possess the remarkable capability to release metabolites that can effectively bind and remove heavy metals from their surroundings through a process known as chelation.

On the other hand, species of *Pseudomonas* have been found in soils contaminated with hydrocarbons. For instance, *P. aeruginosa* is known for its ability to produce siderophores that chelate heavy metals (Zaynab et al., 2022; Shi et al., 2017), as well as rhamnolipids or surfactants that improve the solubility and mobility of hydrocarbons and heavy metals (Soberón-Chávez et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2019; Vilasó-Cadre et al., 2017; Agnello et al., 2016), as *P. puteola* and *P. stutzeri*. It has been reported that *Pseudomonas* species can degrade oil by the production of rhamnolipids (Ossai et al., 2020). These findings highlight the potential of *Pseudomonas* species in the bioremediation of contaminated soils, particularly those impacted by hydrocarbons and heavy metals.

2.2. Heavy metals chelation and soil bioremediation

Pollution of agricultural soils by heavy metals is a major concern causing ecological and environmental issues. Improving plant tolerance to heavy metal stress ought to enable crop growth with minimal or zero accumulation of heavy metals in edible parts of plants that fulfill the safe food requirements for a rapidly growing world population (Etesami, 2018). Plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria or PGPRs, such as *Pseudomonas*, are bacteria inhabiting the rhizosphere, an area around plant roots (Santoyo et al., 2021). The aforementioned is also recognized for promoting plant

Table 1. Tolerance to heavy metals by different *Pseudomonas* species; in the case of *P. reptilivora*, it has not yet been determined whether they tolerate the metals shown.

Organism	Heavy metals								Reference
	Cd	Cr	Hg	Cu	Pb	As	Mn	U	
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	Choudhary and Sar (2011)
<i>P. putida</i>	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	Hussein et al. (2005)
<i>P. fluorescens</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yang et al. (2018)
<i>P. reptilivora</i>	NA	NA	NA	+	NA	NA	+	NA	Yeğın et al. (2020)

NA = Not available, (+) can tolerate, (-) can't tolerate/inhibit growth.

growth by supplying nutrients, producing hormones, and protecting plants from pathogens (Sun et al., 2021; Morales-Cedeño et al., 2021). Additionally, it has also been found that PGPRs are effective in remediating contaminated soils (Feng et al., 2022; Anuroopa et al., 2021; Pandey and Gupta, 2020), and the ability of some PGPRs to produce organic acids such as gluconic acid has been described (Sun et al., 2020). The function of gluconic acid in heavy metal chelation is to bind to metal ions and form a more stable complex than the metal ion itself. Formation of this complex decreases the bioavailability of the metal ions by making them less toxic to plants and other organisms (Jain et al., 2020; Kour et al., 2019).

Figure 1 shows the benefits produced by different species of *Pseudomonas*, i.e., *P. aeruginosa* was able to bind 900 mg/L of Cd^{+2} at when added to a growth medium (Chellaiah, 2018), also *P. fluorescens* gim-3 could solubilize and dissolve 75.315 mg/L of Cd^{+2} found in soil (1.952 ± 0.084 mg/kg) using GA (Yang et al., 2018).

Gluconic acid is one of many metabolites produced by *Pseudomonas*, that could help to reduce the contamination of heavy metals in polluted soils. In summary, harnessing the abilities of PGPRs, particularly *Pseudomonas*, offers a promising avenue for mitigating the ecological and environmental impacts of heavy metal pollution in agricultural soils. By facilitating safe and sustainable crop growth, these beneficial bacteria contribute to the global effort to ensure food security while safeguarding our environment, Table 2 shows different heavy metals solubilized by different *Pseudomonas*.

2.3. *Pseudomonas* in sustainable agriculture, their capacity for disease biocontrol and plant growth

Pseudomonas spp. are effective biocontrol agents due to their catabolic adaptability, their ability to colonize roots, and their production of antifungal metabolites (Das et al., 2020). Fluorescent *Pseudomonas* are particularly adept at counteracting phytopathogens and stimulating disease resistance in host plants (Raio and Puopolo, 2021; Tienda et al., 2020; Mohammed et al., 2020); among these species, *P. aeruginosa*, *P. putida*, *P. cichori*, and *P. chlororaphis* are commonly found; these protect plants against pathogens by efficiently consuming root exudates and resisting predation by soil predators through antipredatory mechanisms such as toxicity and production of secondary metabolites, which reduce bacterial resistance (Kang et al., 2020; Arrebola et al., 2019). *Pseudomonas* relies on their ability to efficiently consume root exudates (substances released by plant roots) and resist being devoured by soil predators like nematodes and protozoa to defend themselves against these predators.

2.4. Pathogen suppression

Pseudomonas spp. have developed several antipredator mechanisms, such as the production of secondary metabolites, which interact with predators in a complex way by affecting their physiology and behavior. Depending on the specific metabolite, it can act as a repellent, stressor, or toxin. The production of these secondary metabolites

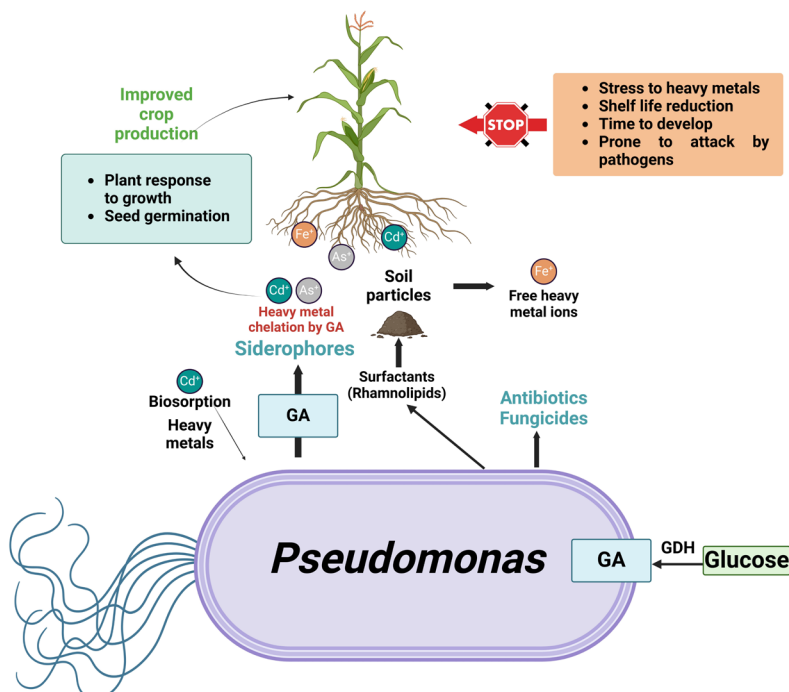


Figure 1. *Pseudomonas* is a beneficial bacteria that can improve the soil quality and plant growth in polluted environments. It produces various substances, such as siderophores, rhamnolipids, antibiotics, fungicides, and organic acids, that can help plants cope with stress from heavy metals and pathogens, improving crop production. For example, gluconic acid (GA) which is produced by an enzymatic reaction between glucose and glucose dehydrogenase (GDH) that when combined with rhamnolipids can bind to heavy metals and reduce their toxicity, (taken and modified from Singh et al., 2019, created with BioRender, 2023).

Table 2. Various heavy metals that were solubilized by different *Pseudomonas* species (taken and modified from Fakhar et al., 2020).

Heavy metal	Effects in plants or humans	Species	BE	Reference
Cadmium (Cd)	Affects seed development, inhibits DNA-mediated transformation, and alters the functions of enzymatic activities.	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	900 mg/L	Abbas et al. (2017)
		<i>P. fluorescens</i>	94%	
Crome (Cd)	Decreases growth and disrupts enzyme activity.	<i>P. stutzeri</i>	25.6 mg/g	Yaashikaa et al. (2019)
		<i>P. alcaliphilia</i>	200 mg/L	El-Naggar et al. (2020)
		<i>P. putida</i>	1000 mg/L	
		<i>Pseudomonas</i> sp.	32%	
Cobalt (Co)	Causes cell membrane instability, readily oxidizes lipids, inhibits oxidative phosphorylation, and denatures proteins.	<i>P. alcaliphilia</i>	96.32%	Elsayed et al. (2022)
		<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	100 mg/L	Al-Dhabi et al. (2020)
Mercury (Hg)	A leading cause of cancer and leukemia in humans. Alters DNA and damages cell walls.	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	99.70%	Imron et al. (2021)
		<i>P. putida</i>	98%	Xue et al. (2022)
Uranium (U)	In humans causes respiratory disease and nephrotoxicity (mostly cell necrosis).	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	275 mg/g (95%)	Choudhary and Sar (2011)

BE = Bioremediation Efficiency.

by biocontrol bacteria such as *Pseudomonas* spp. serves multiple functions, including plant protection against pathogens and enhancement of bacterial resistance. This was demonstrated in a study by Kang et al. (2020), in which they found that *P. korensis* and *P. entomophilia* possess traits as nitrogen fixation, phosphate solubilization, heavy metal chelation (Kang et al., 2020), and phytohormone production that directly facilitate the proliferation of their plant hosts (Zboralski and Filion, 2023).

P. aeruginosa acts as a biocontrol agent in potatoes, tomatoes, and taro presenting various biologically active metabolites with the capacity to be used against different fungi and bacteria, facilitating the solubilization of nutrients so the plant assimilates them, thus increasing the size of the root, leaves and chlorophyll levels (Ghadamgahi et al., 2022). On the other hand, *P. parahaemolyticus* affects bacterial pustules in soybean plants by using production through the VILS2 lipopeptide pathway (Kakembo and Lee, 2019). Indeed *P. aeruginosa* isolated from the soil rhizosphere (part of the soil immediate to the roots) had a fungicidal effect against *Penicillium citreosulfuratum*, *P. citrinum* and *Stromatinia gladioli* pathogens of safranine (*Crocus satvus* L.), with inhibition percentages of 23.16%, 49.17%, and 79.76% respectively (Hu et al., 2021).

2.5. Drought tolerance

Drought tolerance refers to a plant's ability to resist dehydration and maintain its physiological functions even under water-deficient conditions (Ilyas et al., 2020). Droughts associated with low rainfall are currently one of the most important factors affecting agricultural production and are expected to increase further in the future, posing major challenges to mankind., it has been reported that many agricultural regions are affected from

drought up to 50%, and could even lose more however some strains of *Pseudomonas* can improve drought tolerance and crop production (Uzma et al., 2022), and different gene expression and induced drought tolerance (Humaira et al., 2020), on the other hand, other *Pseudomonas* have been shown to showed effective plant growth promotion and antifungal activity under drought stress conditions (Vurukonda et al., 2022), *P. putida* favors drought tolerance in tomato plants and promotes yields (Saglam et al., 2022).

2.6. Salt stress tolerance

Soil salinity has emerged as a great threat to the agricultural ecosystems, presence of water-soluble salts in excess negatively impacts plants physiological processes including seed germination, photosynthesis, membrane transport, antioxidants and ethylene production (Chang et al., 2014). The application of salt-tolerant plant growth promoting bacteria has shown remarkable success in enchanting productivity of saline soils (Arora et al., 2020). According to Do et al. (2022), two *Pseudomonas* (strain ND06 and ND09) showed potential in promoting peanut growth under salinity conditions, the study concluded that ND09 may be used as a biological ecofriendly agent in agriculture practices, it has also been reported that *P. pseudoalcaligenes* is more effective in reducing salt stress soybean (Humaira et al., 2020). According to Lu et al. (2021), *P. aeruginosa* can alleviate the effects of the salt stress on plants and induce accumulation of free proline, simengly *P. simiae* showed increases in proline production when subjected to salt stress (Vaishnav and Choudhary, 2018). There before, soil salinity would be an important factor in the modern agriculture.

2.7. Limitations of using *Pseudomonas*

Unlike the studies discussed previously, it is important to mention that there are certain restrictions of using *Pseudomonas*. For example, they can slow root growth if the strains excrete high concentrations of indole-3-acetic acid, a plant hormone that can regulate plant growth and development and can promote phytopathogenic disease if used with *P. fluorescens* and *P. syringae* (Djami-Tchatchou et al., 2022; Xie et al., 1996). On the other hand, *P. aeruginosa* is an opportunistic pathogen that causes severe infections such as bloodstream, skin infections, and pneumonias, these infections can lead to high mortality of hosts or patients with suppressed immunity, therefore, caution is recommended with this strain (Reynolds and Kollef, 2021). Some *Pseudomonas* can produce cyanide which may cause an inhibitory effect on pathogens., however, cyanide has an inhibitory effect on plant growth like lettuce (Saharan and Nehra, 2011; Parikh and Jha 2012).

Overall, *Pseudomonas* shows promise as a biocontrol agent in modern agriculture, with its ability to defend plants against soil-borne phytopathogens but depends on the specific species and their interactions with plants and the environment. Therefore, it's important to know which strain of *Pseudomonas* that could be chosen for its use in agricultural fields, contrasting with the risk on human health (see Table 3).

3. *Pseudomonas* Beyond Earth

NASA plans to launch the Artemis II mission in 2024, which will orbit the lunar surface and establish a sustainable base of operations. This base will play a crucial role in simulating the growth of plants and microorganisms in microgravity, providing valuable insights for future missions to Mars. The findings from these experiments will serve as prototypes for the establishment of the first human colony on the red planet in 2033 (Koehle et al., 2023). Whether bacteria can survive in space is a novel topic that still requires research. A bacterial species that has had positive effects on space radiation is *Deinococcus radiodurans*, which has been able to survive the harmful effects of radiation for a 3-year period (Ott et al., 2020; Canganella and Bianconi, 2007). Research has also been carried out on the survival of *Pseudomonas* in space on the International Space Station (ISS). In a study conducted by Boyle et al. (1990), the potential survival of *P. aeruginosa* and *S. aureus* in harsh growth conditions was investigated. The findings indicated that *Pseudomonas* has the ability to endure nutrient deprivation in water, a capability not shared by *Staphylococcus* strains.

3.1. The potential use of *Pseudomonas* on the planet Mars

As outlined in the study "Grand Challenges for Synthetic Biology in Space" by Menezes et al. (2015), bacteria in

Table 3. Commonly applied biotechnological potential in *Pseudomonas*.

Organism	BSL	Dangerous to humans	¿Has it been studied for use in agriculture?	Benefit	Reference
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	2	Yes	Yes	It produces various antibiotics, antifungals, rhamnolipids. Increases root size and produces antibiotics.	LaBauve and Wargo (2012)
<i>P. putida</i>	1	No	Yes		Clark and Pazdernik (2015)
<i>P. reptilivora</i>	1	No (highly pathogen to reptiles)	No, but it could be used in outer-space environments	It has not been studied for field use, however, degrades nitrogen compounds, heavy metals, produces antibiotics, and tolerates high salinity.	Yeğin et al. (2020)
<i>P. syringae</i>	2	No (highly pathogen to plants)	Yes	Produces highly destructive molecules against phytopathogens	Xin et al. (2018)
<i>P. stutzeri</i>	1	No	Yes	Promotes seed germination	Lami et al. (2020)
<i>P. fluorescens</i>	1	No	Yes	Efficient biocontrol, some strains use NO ₃ instead of O ₂	O'Callaghan (2016)
<i>P. chlororaphis</i>	1	No	Yes	Provides protection against fungal phytopathogens.	Galloway et al. (2011)
<i>P. chlororaphis sub. Aurantiaca</i>	1	No	Yes	Antifungal activity, plant growth promotion Mehnaz et al. (2020)	Hu et al. (2014)
<i>P. protogens</i>	1	No	Yes	Biocontrol agent against diseases Vesga et al. (2020)	Murthy et al. (2021)

BSL = Biosafety level.

general are needed to produce food, drugs, clean water, air, building materials, carbon, nitrogen, and light. This is done by using the resources available on Mars without needing to be brought from Earth (which otherwise may result in high transportation costs). The core issue of Martian soil is the amount of perchlorate lying in the soil (approximately 0.5 to 1%), which was detected by NASA's Phoenix probe in 2008, and since then, perchlorate has been found in multiple areas of the red planet (Qu et al., 2022). Nevertheless, although perchlorate increases the chances of finding microorganisms, these are highly toxic to humans and pose a health risk for future explorations. The main advantage of its use is the production of O₂ (Dávila et al., 2013). *P. stutzeri* USD1 has been shown to metabolize medium concentrations of perchlorates (≥ 1 mM to 10 mM) with 100% solubilization, making them more accessible to plants and other microorganisms, although in lower yield than *Azospirillum brasilense* (Sunilkumar and Lal, 2021).

Based on the chemical analysis performed on the rocks, different atoms have been detected that are beneficial for *Pseudomonas* growth, like Fe²⁺, Mg²⁺, Al³⁺, Ca²⁺, K⁺, and O₂, as well as boron in the Gale crater with a concentration of 0.05% w/v, which is an element that could support life on Mars (Gasda et al., 2017). The challenge of growing plants on Mars involves providing the essential resources for their development, such as sunlight, oxygen, water, and nutrients. The issue is that ultraviolet radiation is far more dangerous than on Earth due to the lack of atmospheric ozone, so specialized greenhouses are needed (Sadler and Giacomelli, 2002). The radiation that plants would receive on Mars would be 17 times higher than that received on Earth, so there would be damage to plant leaves (Tack et al., 2021). Likewise, biomass produced in the simulated Martian soil is very similar to that in the

terrestrial soil and bacteria are needed for plant growth due to the presence of many heavy metals in Martian soil (see Figure 2) (Tack et al., 2021; Wamelink et al., 2014). In addition, one of the limiting factors is the lack of nitrogen, an essential nutrient for optimal plant growth and performance. However, most *Pseudomonas* species are known to fix atmospheric nitrogen and convert it into soluble nitrogen. (Maggi et al., 2018; Mylona et al., 1995), for example many *Pseudomonas* can produce nitrogen by the degradation of urea, a compound that is commonly found in human urine (Tang et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2021; Ralphs et al., 2015; Putnam, 1971).

The quest for sustaining life in extraterrestrial environments, such as Mars, hinges on the availability of essential resources like water. Previous discoveries have found evidence of liquid water on Mars, however Martian soil does present challenges due to its low organic carbon content and limited water retention capacity, innovative approaches are being explored to overcome these hurdles, this can be improved by using *Pseudomonas* strains that produces polysaccharides or adhesives proteins that bind soil particles thereby increasing the moisture of soil (Ralphs et al., 2015; Maggi and Pallud, 2010) such biotechnological advancements could pave the way for future agricultural endeavors on the Red Planet, marking a significant milestone in the human pursuit of interplanetary habitation. Another crucial factor is energy, microbial energy production has gained much interest in the last decade, according to Billi et al. (2019), many scientists have turned toward the use of microbial fuel cells (MFC). MFCs have indeed become a focal point in sustainable energy research due to their ability to harness the power of microorganisms, known as electrogens, to convert organic compounds into electricity as a sustainable energy source on Earth.

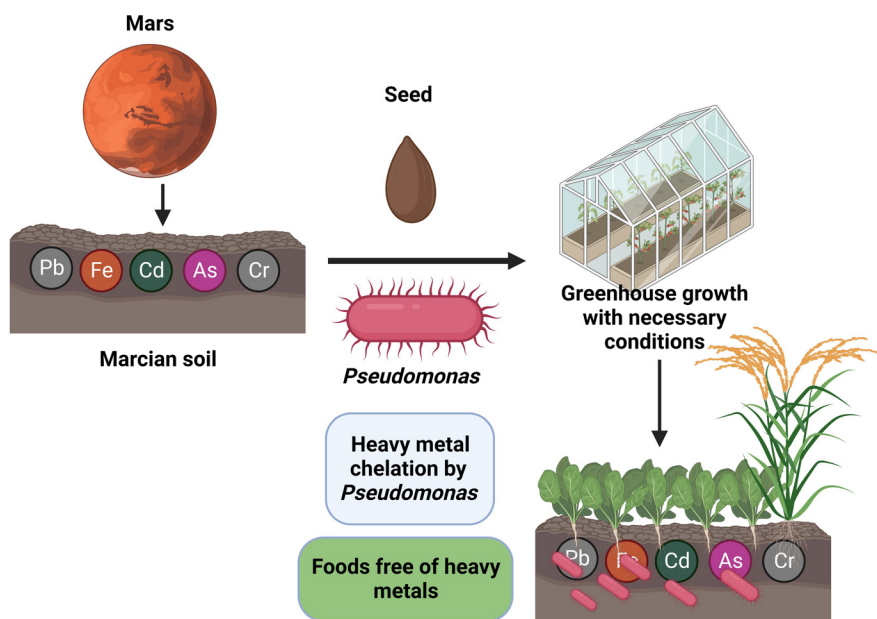


Figure 2. Theoretical growth of plants in Martian soil where *Pseudomonas* chelate heavy metals by being left in soil and the plant free of toxic pollutants (adapted and modified from Wamelink et al., 2014, created with BioRender, 2023).

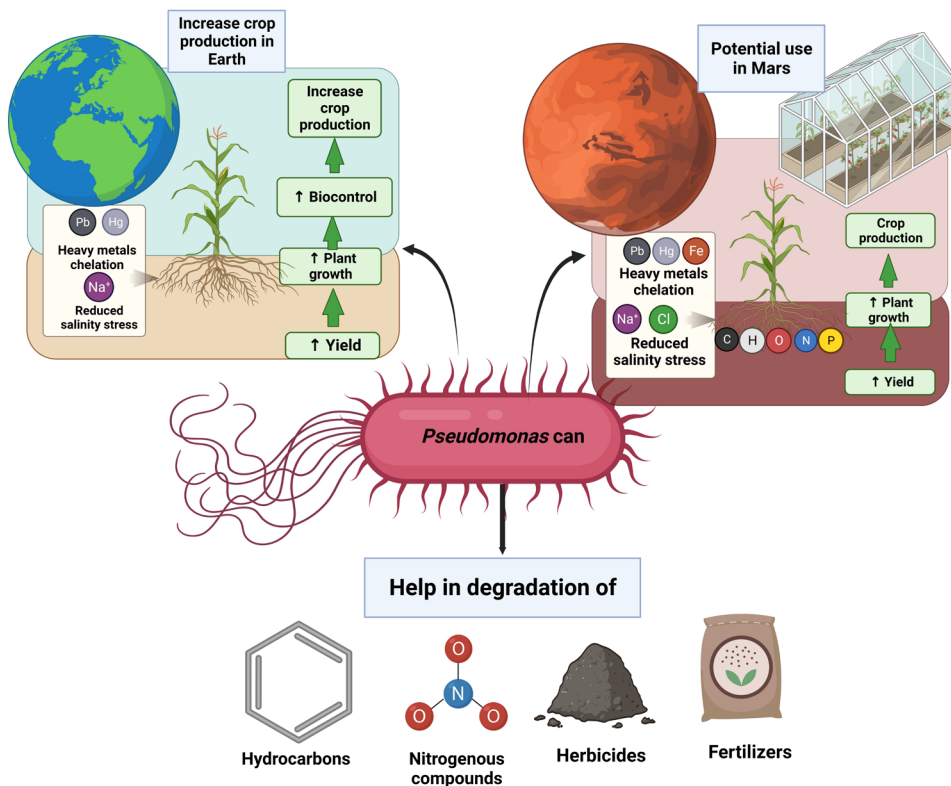


Figure 3. *Pseudomonas* species are versatile bacteria that can degrade various pollutants, such as hydrocarbons, heavy metals, herbicides, and fertilizers. They can also produce useful compounds, such as biosurfactants, biopolymers and biofuels.

For instance, *P. aeruginosa*, an electrogenic bacteria, has shown promise in electricity generation, highlighting the potential of MFCs in renewable energy applications (Arkatkar et al., 2021), however, since *P. aeruginosa* is harmful to humans more research is needed by using other *Pseudomonas* like *P. putida* or *P. reptilivora*.

According to Trapero et al. (2017) and Ren et al. (2016), MFC's can produce up to 5.61 W/m² and can be used for waste management and bioremediation (Bose et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2019; Cao et al., 2015). As research continues, the scalability and economic viability of MFCs remain key areas of focus, with the goal of transitioning from laboratory-scale models to real-world applications that can sustainably meet the growing energy demands.

In summary, *Pseudomonas* is a genus of bacteria that can adapt to various environments and perform diverse metabolic functions. Some of its species have been shown to degrade organic pollutants, produce biofuels, and synthesize biopolymers. These capabilities make *Pseudomonas* a potential candidate for bioremediation and bioengineering applications, especially in the context of terraforming Mars. By introducing *Pseudomonas* to the Martian soil, it may be possible to enhance its fertility, increase its nitrogen and oxygen content, reduce its toxicity, increase moisture of the soil, and produce energy. Therefore, *Pseudomonas* can be regarded as a powerful microorganism in the need to terraform Mars (see Figure 3).

These characteristics make them potential candidates for bioremediation and biotechnology applications on Earth and Mars.

4. Conclusions

Pseudomonas genera are found in most soils also play a role in a wide range of biotechnological processes, including enhancing plant growth, controlling diseases or pathogens, cycling nutrients, fixing nitrogen, or bioremediating heavy metals. *Pseudomonas* are important for modern agriculture and have been shown to protect plants from pathogens, toxic herbicides, or fertilizers. Without a doubt, *Pseudomonas* is a key bacterium for removing heavy metals from terrestrial soil and has the potential to be used in Martian soil.

By 2025 or 2026, it is expected that the Artemis missions will be working to establish a base of operations on the Moon as well as Mars. Thus, it is vital for space exploration to seek biotechnological alternatives such as *Pseudomonas* assistance to meet the objectives set for human survival in space. That is, by boosting the growth and development of plants with the aid of microorganisms, the planet Mars may be colonized in the future.

Pseudomonas in extreme substrate conditions can help resolve the environmental impact generated by pollutants, such as heavy metals. Our team has focused

on the use of *P. reptilivora* B-6bs as a biotechnological producer of different primary metabolites, such as amino acids L-proline and L-glutamic acid using urea as a substrate; organic acids, such as gluconic acid, 2-ketogluconic acid and 5-ketogluconic acid; the generation of polyhydroxyalkanoates; and different antibiotics. Conversely, our team has observed that *P. reptilivora* B-6bs can withstand heavy metals like copper, iron, manganese, and cobalt, in a culture medium, producing various antibiotics. Last, as a team, we emphasize that *Pseudomonas* (in general) and *P. reptilivora* B-6bs can be exploited both on Earth and in outer space. In addition, perhaps in the future, on another planet like Mars.

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