The study of stress conditions on growth and proteome of *Raoultella planticola*: a new emerging pathogen

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Received: 5 January 2021 / Revised: 26 March 2021 / Accepted: 29 March 2021 / Published online: 12 April 2021 © The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2021

Abstract

All bacteria can survive and adapt to different stresses, such as fluctuations in temperature, pH oxidative, and osmotic pressure occurring in their surrounding environments. This study aims to evaluate the effects of a variety of stress conditions on the growth, and proteome of *Raoultella planticola* PTCC 1598. *R. planticola* cells were exposed to different values of temperatures, sodium chloride, pH, and hydrogen peroxide stresses. Among the stress conditions, oxidative stress, upon exposure to hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) at 4000 ppm concentration was selected for proteomics analysis in detail. Approximately, 1400 spots were identified in two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE). Among the identified spots, 85 spots were repeatable using 2D-Platinum software and eye confirmation and, nine protein spots were differentially expressed. Among nine proteins, six proteins identified successfully with an MASCOT score greater than 40 (*p* < 0.05) were 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate-2,3-dehydrogenase (oxidoreductase family), hypothetical protein G787-04832, periplasmic d-galactose-binding protein, uridine phosphorylase (glycosyltransferases), a single peptide match to cysteine-binding periplasmic protein, and NADP(H) nitroreductase. All identified proteins showed decreased level expression. Based on the obtained results, we concluded that hydrogen peroxide as an antiseptic compound could affect cell growth and proteomics of *R. planticola*. Therefore, we recommend using an antiseptic solution containing H₂O₂ to prevent the spread of *R. planticola* as a new emerging pathogen.

Keywords *Raoultella planticola* PTCC 1598 · Stress conditions · Proteomics · Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis · Mass spectrometry

Introduction

*Raoultella planticola* is a gram-negative, nonmotile, aerobic bacillus that was first introduced by Bagley et al. (1981). *R. planticula* previously classified as *Klebsiella planticula* and *Klebsiella trevisanii*, first was combined into one species, i.e., *K. planticula*, based on the DNA–DNA homology in 1986. Then it was reclassified as *Raoultella* sp. based on the 16S rRNA and rpoB gene sequencing results in 2001. Some characteristics, such as the utilization of L-sorbose as a carbon source and the growth ability at 10 Centigrade are hallmarks of the genus *Raoultella*. The new genus includes the three species, *Raoultella planticola*, *Raoultella ornithinolytica*, and *Raoultella terrigena* (Fager and Yurteri-Kaplan 2019; Westerveld et al. 2017; Young and Gibson 1969).

*Raoultella planticola* has been considered as a nonclinical, aquatic, botanical, and soil organism. But nowadays it is considered as an emerging pathogen that causes some cases of human infections, including bacteremia, soft tissue infection (O’Connell et al. 2010), pancreatitis (Niedergethmann et al. 2007), and urinary tract infection (Olson et al. 2013). Also, other disorders, such as prostate, conjunctiva, and gallbladder have recently been reported by *R. planticola*.

*Raoultella planticola* has the ability to convert histidine to histamine and able to produce scombroid poisoning upon consumption of poorly prepared seafood (Lam and Salit 2014).

Different environmental stress conditions reduce bacterial cell viability and put them at risk. Acute stress requires an immediate and specific response to maximize cell survival (Bartholomäus et al. 2016). There are stress response pathways in bacteria which, dynamically monitor cellular status,
and mediate adaptive changes by altering the proteome, largely accomplished by remodeling at transcriptional and protein degradation levels (Guo and Gross 2014). Proteomics analysis has been widely used in different basic and applied research and its analysis provides important information about changes in the synthesis, degradation, post-translation modification, and interactions among proteins. One of the most important aspects of proteomics is to study the expression levels and characterization of proteins in cells when we expose them to different stress conditions (Daware et al. 2012).

Hypoxia, UV radiation, and visible light changes across the day–night cycle are representative of oxidative stresses. Recently the impact of human activity on the environment, and the toxic effects of manmade compounds also induced oxidative stresses in all organisms (Siauciunaite et al. 2019). Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) including hydrogen peroxides (H₂O₂), superoxide radicals (O₂−), hydroxyl radicals (OH), and singlet oxygen (O₂) are controlled by a balance between pro-oxidant and antioxidant elements. When increased levels of ROS are not disputed by increases of the antioxidant activity or reducing equivalents, a cell endures an oxidative stress state. Increasing the concentrations of ROS represent a potential source of damage for many macromolecules due to the induction of single and double-stranded DNA breaks, and irreversible denaturation of proteins through oxidation and carbonylation of arginine, proline, lysine, and threonine residues (Hayyan et al. 2016; Nathan and Ding 2010). Among the ROS factors affecting bacteria, oxidative stress using oxidizing compounds, such as H₂O₂ as a disinfectant is important. Also, hydrogen peroxide is used to treat inflammation of the gums, disinfect (drinking) water and, combat excessive microbial growth in water systems. In this study, the effect of different stress conditions was evaluated on the growth of R. planticola PTCC 1598. Among the stress conditions, hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) at a concentration of 0.4% was selected for proteome study of R. planticola PTCC 1598.

Materials and methods

Bacterial strain, media, and growth conditions

All media and materials used in this study obtained from (Merck Co. Darmstadt, Germany). The strain R. planticola PTCC 1598 was obtained from Persian Type Culture Collection (PTCC, Tehran, Iran). For primary culture, the lyophilized vial of R. planticola PTCC 1598 was streaked on nutrient agar (NA) and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. For growth curve determination, an initial population of 4.5 ± 0.5 log CFU mL⁻¹ at 37 °C was inoculated in nutrient broth (NB) medium. Samples were taken at intervals of 2 h and counted using spiral plating (Spiral Biotech model Autoplate 4000, USA) on NA medium in duplicate until the bacterial growth had reached the stationary phase by 20 h.

Condition used for different stresses

For evaluating stress conditions, a single colony of R. planticola PTCC 1598 grown on nutrient agar (NA) was inoculated in nutrient broth (NB) medium. The optical density of growth was measured at 600 nm until the cells reach to mid-log phase (OD₆₀₀ = 0.4–0.5). Then cells were harvested by centrifugation at 7000g at 4°C for 30 min. The harvested cells were washed three times in 5 mL of phosphate buffer (PB) and resuspended in 10 mL of pre-chilled (4 °C) 0.1 M phosphate buffer (PB) and kept in a refrigerator.

For stress treatments, R. planticola PTCC 1598 cells in pre-chilled phosphate buffer were grown in nutrient broth to reach to mid-log phase (OD₆₀₀ = 0.4–0.5). For osmotic stress, cells were transferred into nutrient broth containing sodium chloride (NaCl) at 0.0% (control), 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10% (w/v). For oxidative stress, R. planticola PTCC 1598 cells were treated at concentrations of 500, 1000, 2000, 4000,
8000, and 16,000 (ppm) of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂). For acidic and alkaline stresses, Hydrochloric acid (HCl, 0.1 M) and Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH, 0.1 M) were used for adjusting the desired pH. Nutrient broth containing pH values of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12 were inoculated by *R. planticola* PTCC 1598 cells. The bacterial cell suspension was heat-stressed by inoculation into a fresh nutrient broth at temperatures of 45, 55, 65, 75, 85, and 100 °C. In this study, the *R. planticola* cells were kept for 2 h in all stress conditions. Then, the cells were centrifuged at 7000 rpm for 30 min at 4 °C. Cell pellets were resuspended in 50 µL of nutrient broth and inoculated in 100 mL-Erlenmeyer containing 25 mL fresh nutrient broth medium. For growth curve determination, incubation was performed at 37 °C for 24 h. Samples were taken at intervals of 2 h, and survival curves were presented by plotting the logarithm of survival cell as log CFU mL⁻¹, using spiral plating (Spiral Biotech model Autoplate 4000, USA) on NA medium. For control following Eqs. (1 and 2):

\[
\mu = \frac{(\ln X_2 - \ln X_1)}{\Delta t}
\]

where \(X_1\) and \(X_2\) are the absorbance values measured at 600 nm at 4 and 16 h, respectively. Doubling time for the exponentially growing cultures was calculated as (Montero et al. 2019):

\[
t_d = \frac{\ln 2}{\mu}
\]

**Sample preparation for 2-DE and protein extraction from *R. planticola* cells**

*R. planticola* cells were grown in nutrient broth until reaching to mid-log phase in two conditions including treatment with H₂O₂ at 4000 concentration and control. Then, cells were harvested by centrifugation at 7000g at 4 °C for 30 min. The harvested cells were washed three times with phosphate buffer (PB) and transferred into 1 mL Eppendorf tubes, kept at –80 °C for further use. For protein extraction, the cells in Eppendorf tubes were thawed and, grown in 75 mL nutrient broth medium then harvested by centrifuging at 10,000×g at 4 °C for 10 min. The pellets were washed twice with distilled water and resuspended in lysis buffer containing 7 mol L⁻¹ urea (Merck, Germany), 2 mol L⁻¹ Thiourea (Merck, Germany), 40 mmol L⁻¹ Tris, 4% CHAPS, 0.2% (w/v) Biolyte 4/7 ampholyte (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA), and 50 mmol L⁻¹ DTT, 100 µL of 1% (v/v) protease inhibitor, and 1 mmol L⁻¹ of PMSF were added freshly to one milliliter of lysis buffer. Then cells were sonicated on the ice at 20 kHz for 5 × 20 s with the 40 s of cooling breaks off. The supernatant was collected by centrifugation at 10000×g for 30 at 4 °C. Proteins were precipitated by TCA/ acetone precipitation method (Nandakumar et al. 2003) and the protein concentration was determined by Bradford assay using bovine serum albumin as the standard (Bradford 1976).

**Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE)**

Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis was performed using the method used by (Farahat et al. 2013) with some modifications. Isoelectric focusing (IEF) was performed using a gradient gel (17 cm, linear-gradient pH 3–10). 300 µg of lysates were diluted with a rehydration buffer (8 mol L⁻¹ Urea, 4% CHAPS, 0.2% Biolyte 3/10, 0.0002% Bromophenol Blue and 50 mmol L⁻¹ DTT) to 300 µL. The samples were loaded onto the immobilized pH gradient strips, 17 cm, pH 3–10 (Bio-Rad Laboratories). Following the rehydration passively for 16 h at 25 °C, Isoelectrofocusing (IEF) was performed using the PROTEAN® IEF Cell System (Bio-Rad Laboratories) for a total of 50 kVh at 20 °C. For the second dimension, the rehydrated IPG strips were equilibrated in equilibration buffer 1 (6 mmol L⁻¹ urea, 2% SDS, 20% glycerol, 0.05 mol L⁻¹ Tris–HCl, and 2% DTT) and equilibration buffer 2 (6 mmol L⁻¹ urea, 2% SDS, 20% glycerol, 0.05 mol L⁻¹ Tris–HCl, and 2.5% Iodoacetamide) each for 20 min. The second-dimensional separation was performed on 12% sodium dodecyl sulfate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) gels, and electrophoresis was performed at 16 mA/gel for 30 min followed by 24 mA/gel for 5 h, using PROTEAN® II xi electrophoresis cell (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA).

For protein spot visualization, the gels were stained with the silver nitrate method. The analysis of gel images was performed using Image Master 2D-Platinum software (GE Healthcare, USA) followed by scanning at a resolution of 300 dpi via densitometer GS-800 (Bio-Rad, USA). Statistical analysis of protein differences was carried out using the t test with p < 0.05 on % volume of matched spots with CV% of less than 40 for each spot.

**Mass spectrometry analysis**

Protein spots were manually cut from 2-DE gels and dried completely. Silver dye was removed from gel pieces by Farmer’s reagent (15 mM potassium ferricyanide/50 M sodium thiourea). Gel spots were covered by Farmer’s reagent and left at room temperature for 10 min until the
gels go clear, then the supernatant was removed. The Ettan Spot Handling Workstation (GE Healthcare, UK) is used for automatic in-gel digestion of samples. Each silver removed gel plug was soaked in 100 mM ammonium bicarbonate for 1 h and washed twice in 50% ACN/100 mM ammonium bicarbonate. The gel pieces were then dehydrated by incubation with 0.1 mL ACN for 10 min. Samples then were rehydrated by the addition of freshly prepared trypsin solution (0.5 µg modified porcine trypsin in 25 µL 20 mM NH₄HCO₃) and incubated for 240 min at 37 °C. Peptides were extracted from the gel plugs, by washing twice in 100 µL of 50% ACN, 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), and transferred in solution to a fresh 96 well plate, where samples were dried. Tryptic peptides were resuspended in 3 µL of 50% ACN, 0.1% TFA. 0.3 µL of resuspended tryptic peptides were spotted onto a steel Applied Biosystems 192 sample MALDI target plate, and mixed (while wet) with 0.3 µL of a 90% saturated CHCA in 50% ACN, 0.1% TFA. The dried samples were analyzed using a MALDI-TOF/TOF MS (4700 Proteomics Analyzers, Applied Biosystems, UK), performing MS analysis and subsequent MS/MS analysis on up to 10 precursor peptides. Each sample was internally calibrated by reference to specific autolytic fragments of trypsin. The PMF and MS/MS information were automatically searched against the NCBI mouse database using the Mascot search engine (Matrix Science, UK). Mass tolerance settings of 1.2 Da for parent ion and 0.5 Da for fragment ions were applied. Search settings allowed one missed cleavage with trypsin and two modifications (carboxamidomethylation of cysteine and oxidation of methionine). Statistical confidence limits of 95% were applied for protein identification (Farahtaj et al. 2013).

**Results**

**Effects of stress conditions on the growth of *R. planticola***

Cell viability of *R. planticola* cells exposed to different stresses as shown in Fig. 1a–d. As shown, increasing the severity of all stress conditions (acid, alkaline, heat, oxidative, and osmotic pressure) reduced viable counts (CFU mL⁻¹) of *R. planticola* cells as compared to the nonstress conditions. Shifting temperature from 37 to 45 °C decreased logarithm colony forming unit per milliliter (CFU mL⁻¹) of *R. planticola* about 1.39-fold, no bacterial growth was observed above 85 °C. Sodium chloride at a concentration of 14% (w/v) inhibited the growth of *R. planticola*, completely. *R. planticola* viable cell count (CFU mL⁻¹) was decreased about 7.62 upon exposure to hydrogen peroxide at a sublethal concentration of 4000 ppm. For pH, the maximum reduction in viable cell

![Fig. 1](https://example.com/fig1.png)
count of *R. planticola* cells was observed at pH 3.0. The effect of each stress condition on the growth parameters of *R. planticola* is shown in Table 1. Under normal growth conditions, we observed that cells reach the stationary plateau at \(OD_{600} = 1.30\). Upon increasing each stress parameter including temperature, NaCl concentration, and oxidative stress (H\(_2\)O\(_2\)) decreasing of optimal cell density of *R. planticola* cells were observed as shown in Table 1. In the case of alkaline and acidic stress conditions, optimal growth of *R. planticola* observed at pH 7.0. Other growth parameters, such as specific rate \((\mu)\) and doubling time followed the same pattern, which is indicated above, also shown in Table 1.

### Proteome analysis of oxidative stress on *R. planticola*

Among all stress conditions, H\(_2\)O\(_2\) at 4000 ppm concentration had significant effects on *R. planticola* cells. So, this condition was selected for proteomics analysis. The results of two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE) are presented in Fig. 2a, b. Approximately 1400 spots were identified in two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE). Among the identified spots, 85 spots were repeatable using 2D-Platinum software via densitometer GS-800, and eye confirmation. Among the repeatable spots, 9 spots showed a statistically significant difference in expression level (more than 1.2 fold) using T-student analysis. The statistically significant spots were labeled on the 2D gel as shown in Fig. 2a, b. Six proteins were successfully identified through MALDI-TOF–MS analysis and MASCOT searching in the NCBI database.

Each protein’s spot number, protein name, experimental and theoretical pI, and molecular weight, mascot score, percentage of sequence coverage, accession number, and the fold change in expression for the six identified proteins are given in Table 2. The identified proteins were 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate-2,3-dehydrogenase (oxidoreductase family), Hypothetical Protein G787-04832 (*Escherichia coli* HVH 127), \(\alpha\)-galactose-binding periplasmic protein, uridine phosphorylase (glycosyltransferases), and a single peptide match to cystine-binding periplasmic protein and NADP(H) nitroreductase, respectively. All these identified proteins showed decreased level expression in comparison to the controls.

Comparison of two-dimensional gel electrophoresis of six identified differently expressed protein spots are presented in Fig. 3. As shown, all six identified protein spots: 1 (30666), 2 (29202), 3 (30260), 5 (30561), 6 (30627), and 7 (31093) showed downregulated expression pattern. The histogram chart for each protein spot is shown on the right side of each spot (Fig. 3). All data are mean ± SD \((p < 0.05)\) of triple determinations according to the t test.

### Discussion

Recently, *Raoultella* spp. have been identified as important emerging pathogens and should be completely considered. *R. planticola* have similar pathogenetic features as *Klebsiella* species, especially in hospitalized and immunocompromised patients, and have been estimated to cause between 3 to 7% of all nosocomial infections (Cho et al. 2016; Fager and Yurteri-Kaplan 2019). Between 2015 till 2019, about 50% of *R. planticola* infections were UTIs and, cystitis is the most common type of infection. Following a burn injury, *R. Planticola* was revealed in a case of bacteremia-induced fatal septic shock (Fager and Yurteri-Kaplan 2019).

### Table 1  Comparison of the growth rate, doubling time of exponential phase, and maximum optimal density of *R. planticola* PTCC 1598 culture after 16 h of growth

| Stress condition | Specific growth rate \((h^{-1})\) | Doubling time \((h)\) | Maximum OD at 600 nm |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Temperature (°C) |                                  |                       |                      |
| 37               | 0.84 ± 0.011                     | 0.83 ± 0.016          | 1.28                 |
| 45               | 0.43 ± 0.007                     | 1.13 ± 0.024          | 1.03                 |
| 55               | 0.29 ± 0.003                     | 1.83 ± 0.015          | 0.67                 |
| 65               | 0.21 ± 0.015                     | 2.21 ± 0.022          | 0.36                 |
| 75               | 0.13 ± 0.008                     | 3.08 ± 0.181          | 0.15                 |
| NaCl (% (W/V))   |                                  |                       |                      |
| 2                | 0.79 ± 0.005                     | 0.88 ± 0.028          | 1.17                 |
| 4                | 0.64 ± 0.012                     | 0.96 ± 0.036          | 1.09                 |
| 6                | 0.56 ± 0.006                     | 1.09 ± 0.021          | 0.87                 |
| 8                | 0.43 ± 0.005                     | 1.23 ± 0.126          | 0.55                 |
| 10               | 0.36 ± 0.017                     | 1.69 ± 0.221          | 0.46                 |
| 12               | 0.23 ± 0.009                     | 2.35 ± 0.181          | 0.15                 |
| 14               | 0.18 ± 0.012                     | 2.97 ± 0.217          | 0.09                 |
| H\(_2\)O\(_2\) (PPM) |                                |                       |                      |
| 500              | 0.68 ± 0.006                     | 1.31 ± 0.019          | 1.22                 |
| 1000             | 0.47 ± 0.017                     | 1.79 ± 0.022          | 1.03                 |
| 2000             | 0.25 ± 0.009                     | 2.67 ± 0.141          | 0.77                 |
| 4000             | 0.05 ± 0.004                     | 3.38 ± 0.091          | 0.10                 |
| pH               |                                  |                       |                      |
| 3                | 0.11 ± 0.013                     | 2.49 ± 0.131          | 0.12                 |
| 4                | 0.18 ± 0.019                     | 1.96 ± 0.081          | 0.34                 |
| 5                | 0.32 ± 0.010                     | 1.21 ± 0.210          | 0.58                 |
| 6                | 0.63 ± 0.009                     | 0.98 ± 0.028          | 0.76                 |
| 7                | 0.88 ± 0.027                     | 0.88 ± 0.018          | 1.31                 |
| 8                | 0.73 ± 0.016                     | 1.12 ± 0.032          | 1.21                 |
| 9                | 0.56 ± 0.006                     | 1.71 ± 0.101          | 0.78                 |
| 12               | 0.31 ± 0.012                     | 2.13 ± 0.212          | 0.63                 |

Values are mean ± SD of triple determinations.
Westerveld et al. 2017 reported the third case of *R. planitcola* pneumonia in an immunocompromised patient with no history of attributable environmental exposure risks. So, with increasing reports concerning *R. plantitcola*, in the future, it can be considered a more prevalent pathogen in the health care setting. Although according to the recent reports *R. plantitcola* remains widely susceptible to many antibiotics, another problem is the emerging of antibiotic-resistant strains causing significant mortality (Westerveld et al. 2017). Due to the above reasons, studies regarding better understandings of the mechanisms by which *R. plantitcola* responds to different stress conditions could be useful to prevent infections by this bacterium in health care systems.

In this study, we evaluated the effect of a variety of stress conditions on cell growth of *R. plantitcola* PTCC 1598. When comparing cell growth parameters, we observed reaching the exponential phase for 16 h in control and stress conditions. Cells grown on control nutrient broth medium have a doubling time \( t_d \) around 0.9 (h), whereas cells were grown on different stress conditions certain increase in doubling time.

### Table 2

| Spot no. (code) | Protein name                                              | \( pI \) observed/calculated | Mw (kDa) observed/calculated | Accession number (NCBI) | Mascot score | % SC | Protein level ratio (fold change) |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 1 (30666)       | 2,3 dihydroxybenzoate-2,3-dehydrogenase                  | 5.4/5.6                       | 26.438/26.35                  | WP-004859369             | 164          | 17   | 1.9                              |
| 2 (29202)       | Hypothetical Protein G787-04832 (*Escherichia coli* HVH 127) | 6.85/7.05                    | 18.455/18.24                  | EQR47256                 | 42           | 5    | 1.5                              |
| 3 (30260)       | d-galactose-binding periplasmic protein                   | 6.73/6.92                    | 36.912/36.94                  | EEW43536                 | 117          | 6    | 1.5                              |
| 5 (30561)       | Uridine phosphorylase (*Enterobacteriaceae and Raoltella spp.*) | 5.68/5.89                    | 27.243/27.09                  | WP-004869655             | 631          | 40   | 1.3                              |
| 6 (30627)       | Single peptide match to cystine-binding periplasmic protein | 5.83/6.21                    | 31.49/31.07                   | EFT85938                 | 63           | 4    | 1.4                              |
| 7 (31093)       | NADP(H) nitroreductase                                   | 6.34/6.74                    | 20.150/20.00                  | WP-004860825             | 125          | 14   | 1.2                              |

![Two-dimensional gel electrophoresis of cell extract proteins of *R. planitcola* PTCC 1598 cells grown in nutrient broth medium control (a) and in presence of 4000 ppm H\(_2\)O\(_2\) (b). The identified protein spots indicated by arrows.](image)
was observed. The results showed that with increasing intensity in each stress condition, an increase in the doubling time of *R. planticola* is observed. Maximum doubling time ($t_d$) of 3.38 (h) was observed upon oxidative stress containing sublethal concentration (4000 ppm) of H$_2$O$_2$. Specific growth rate determination was another parameter in each stress condition that was investigated in this study. A decrease in the specific growth rate was observed with the increasing intensity of each stress condition.

Thus, changing growth parameters could be reflected in activities and protein expression patterns of *R. planticola* under different stress conditions. According to the obtained results, a proteomic analysis was carried out to investigate the oxidative stress response of this bacterium at a sublethal concentration of H$_2$O$_2$ (4000 ppm). Based on the obtained results, six successfully identified proteins that showed acceptable levels in expression were downregulated. The first identified protein (spot 1, 30666) is 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate-2,3-dehydrogenase (EntA), belongs to the genus *Raoultella* which also has been identified in *Raoultella ornithinolytica* strains. This enzyme catalysis the chemical reaction of 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate

| Match ID | Normal | Treated |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 30666(1) | ![Image](image1.png) | ![Image](image2.png) |
| 29202(2) | ![Image](image3.png) | ![Image](image4.png) |
| 30260(3) | ![Image](image5.png) | ![Image](image6.png) |
| 30561(5) | ![Image](image7.png) | ![Image](image8.png) |
| 30627(6) | ![Image](image9.png) | ![Image](image10.png) |
| 31093(7) | ![Image](image11.png) | ![Image](image12.png) |
and NAD\(^+\) to 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate NADH\(^+\) and H\(^+\). This enzyme belongs to the family of oxidoreductases, specifically those acting on the CH–CH group of donors with NAD\(^+\) or NADP\(^+\) as acceptor, and participates in the biosynthesis of siderophore group, such as enterobactin (Khalil and Pawelek 2011; Young and Gibson 1969). Enterobactin biosynthesis occurs through the activity of six enzymes. At first, EntC, EntB, and 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate-2,3-dehydrogenase (enta) enzymes catalyze the conversion of chorismate into dihydrobenzoic acid. Then, EntD, EntE, EntB, and EntF enzymes act to condense the three molecules each of DHB and L-serine into one enterobactin molecules (Khalil and Pawelek 2011). According to a study performed by Holden et al. (2016), Klebsiella pneumoniae requires secretion of siderophores, for bacterial replication and full virulence. The combination of siderophores secreted by K. pneumoniae during infection can affect tissue localization, systemic dissemination, and host survival (Holden et al. 2016).

It seems that R. planticola strains to cause human infections siderophore secretions play an important role in pathogenesis, and suppressing the genes encoding the key enzymes of the metabolic route leads to decreasing pathogenesis of the bacterium. In our proteomics analysis, expression of 2,3-dihydroxybenzoate-2,3-dehydrogenase (enta) decreased upon exposure to oxidative stress which, could reduce the pathogenicity of R. planticola. The second protein (spot 2, 29202) is a hypothetical protein G787-04832, which has been identified in Escherichia coli HVH 127, and Klebsiella oxytoca MGH 42 strains. According to surveys, studies have not shown a specific role for this protein in E. coli and Klebsiella genera. Also, we could identify this hypothetical protein in the genus R. planticola.

The third protein (spot 3, 30260) is a periplasmic \(\beta\)-galactose-binding protein was identified, which has been reported in K. pneumoniae subsp. rhinoscleromatis ATCC 13884. This protein encodes by the mgbB gene, and its functions are chemotaxis and sugar transport. So, decreasing the expression level of this protein can impair sugar transportation, and causes nutrient deficiencies in R. planticola. In this study, oxidative stress could reduce the expression of this protein. The fourth identified protein (spot 5, 30561) is a uridine phosphorylase, which has been specifically identified in Raoultella spp. Uridine phosphorylase belongs to the family of glycosyltransferases, specifically the pentosyltransferases, which catalyze the formation of uracil and alpha-\(\beta\)-ribose 1-phosphate from uridine substrate. This enzyme participates in pyrimidine metabolism. Pyrimidines are essential biomolecules and are structural components of nucleotides, nucleic acids, and vitamins. Also, pyrimidines can be degraded to simple metabolites, which become the source of carbon and nitrogen (Garavito et al. 2015).

Decreased uridine phosphorylase activity can stop the synthesis of pyrimidine bases, and all related metabolic pathways to pyrimidines in R. planticola. This can be very harmful to bacterial growth and multiplication. In our study sublethal concentration of H\(_2\)O\(_2\) could significantly decrease uridine phosphorylase activity in proteome analysis.

According to the NCBI database, the fifth identified protein (spot 6, 30627) is a cystine binding periplasmic protein found in E. coli MS 196. This protein catalyzes the transport of cystine into the cytoplasm. The inducible l-cysteine/l-cystine shuttle system plays an important role in detoxifying hydrogen peroxide before lipid peroxidation occurs (Ohtsu et al. 2015).

Since catalase does not occur in the periplasm, the H\(_2\)O\(_2\) generated by the electron transport chain in the inner membrane is detoxified by this shuttle system. Thus, we assume, like E. coli, cystine periplasmic protein has a similar role in the detoxification of H\(_2\)O\(_2\) generated by R planticola cells. Upon stress condition and inactivation of this protein, cytotoxic reactive oxygen species (ROS) destroys DNA, proteins, and cellular membrane lipids.

NADP(H) nitroreductase was the last identified protein (spot 7, 31093) in our oxidative stress condition. This protein belongs to Raoultella and Klebsiella spp. Three NADP(H)-dependent nitroreductases can transform 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) by two reduction pathways were detected in Klebsiella sp. C1 by (Kim and Song 2005). Nitroaromatic compounds are recalcitrant, and we should prevent the accumulation of these compounds in manufacturing areas (Kim and Song 2005). In environmental biotechnology, the biodegradation of nitroaromatic compounds, such as 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT) is one of the potential uses of Klebsiella spp. We assume that R. planticola has the ability to degrade nitroaromatic compounds as well as Klebsiella spp. But in oxidative stress conditions, this ability may reduce. According to our study, there is not much information about the effect of environmental stresses and proteomics study on R. planticola to compare. In the case of a related genus, a proteomic analysis on Klebsiella oxytoca after exposure to succinonitrile was reported (Tang et al. 2008). Succinonitrile is an environmental pollutant, which its degradation has been shown by K. oxytoca. The growth rate of K. oxytoca was decreased upon exposure to succinonitrile. They could identify 7 differently expressed proteins in K. oxytoca treated with succinonitrile in comparison to the cells treated with ammonia. Expression of superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), and PsaA, a metal-binding protein was increased upon treatment of succinonitrile, which suggests that biodegradation of succinonitrile was accompanied by the occurrence of oxidative stress (Tang et al. 2008).

So, the ability of R. planticola for detoxifications of succinonitrile could be considered for further studies. The effect of pH, temperature, NaCl concentration, and heat resistance was studied by Tantasuttikul and Mahakarnchanakul (2019)
on *R. ornithinolytica* and *R. terrigenous* strains isolated from a seafood processing plant in Thailand. The obtained results showed that the optimum pH, temperature, and NaCl concentration for growth were 6–9, 15–37 °C, and 1–4.5%, respectively. For heat resistance, D values of both species gave similar results about 0.66–0.79 min at 57 °C, with Z values 4.2–4.5 °C. The results obtained in this study are similar to the study of Tantasuttikul and Mahakarnchanakul (2019). Optimum pH and temperature for *R. planticola* were 6–7 and 37 °C, respectively. Also, *R. planticola* could tolerate NaCl concentration up to 10% (W/V) in nutrient broth medium.

Effects of arsenic stress on growth and proteome of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were studied by Daware et al. (2012). Arsenic is widely dispersed in natural environments, such as volcanic areas, during weathering of rocks and mining as well as from anthropogenic sources, including pesticide usage, high-temperature combustion, and smelting of metals. The most oxidation states of arsenic are the pentavalent arsenate, As(V), and the trivalent arsenite, As(III). Between two, As(III) is 100 times more toxic than As(V) to living organisms. It binds to sulfhydryl groups of amino acids, thus inactivating a wide range of enzymes. Treated *K. pneumoniae* cells with 2.5 mM As(III) were analyzed using two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DGE) and matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight-time of flight (MALDI-TOF/TOF). The results showed that 60 proteins were differentially expressed under As(III) stress, of which 39 proteins were successfully identified. Among 39 identified proteins, some such as outer membrane proteins downregulated, and some including antioxidant proteins upregulated. These proteins play an important role during arsenic stress conditions. In the present study, six identified proteins were downregulated, including those incorporated into sugar transport, siderophore, and pyrimidine biosynthesis. The impaired expression of proteins can cause metabolic defects and growth retardation in *R. planticola* cells upon exposure to hydrogen peroxide. Based on the obtained results in this study, and due to increasing reports of *R. planticola* infections, there is a need to find the best ways to prevent its spread, especially in health care systems. From a medical standpoint, hydrogen peroxide has been used as a disinfectant, due to its cheap cost and widespread availability. H₂O₂ has activity against bacteria, viruses, and even spores. It can cause cellular damages from the oxidation of membranes, proteins, and even DNA (Pan et al. 2019). In a study by Van Meurs et al. (2014), H₂O₂ was found to have a minimal bactericidal concentration of 1% against both *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (Van Meurs et al. 2014).

Also, it has been shown that H₂O₂ shows cytotoxicity activity at concentrations as low as 0.03–0.06%. In this study, H₂O₂ at a concentration of 8000 ppm (0.8%) could inhibit the growth of *R. planticola* cells completely. Also, in our proteomic study, using a sublethal concentration of 4000 ppm (0.4%) H₂O₂ could affect the proteome of *R. planticola* cells. In conclusion, based on the results obtained in this study, we recommend using an antiseptic solution containing H₂O₂ at 8000 ppm (0.8%) concentration to prevent the spread of *R. planticola* in health care, seafood processing systems. This is especially important for the elderly and immunocompromised patients, which are at high risk and susceptible to different infectious diseases.

Acknowledgements The laboratory facilities of microbial experiments were provided by Lahijan Branch, Islamic Azad University, Lahijan, Iran. The authors are grateful to Dr. Behrouz Vaziri and Mrs. Bahareh Azarian at Protein Chemistry Unit, Biotechnology Research Center, Pasteur Institute of Iran and Proteomics/Technology Facility, Department of Biology, the University of York UK for their helpful assistance in proteomics analysis.

Author contributions This study was performed based on a Master of Science (MSc) thesis addressed to Zeynab Hajian. ZH, MFG, and FEA contributed almost equally to this study, MFG, designed the study, ZH and FEA did the experiments and performed research; MFG analyzed all data and wrote the paper.

Funding This research did not receive any specific Grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors and the authors financially supported this work.

Declarations

Conflict of interest The author declares that they have no conflict of interest.

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