

**TREATMENT OF COMPLEX DYES AND
EFFLUENTS USING ENGINEERED
LACCASE 1 OF *Cyathus bulleri***

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**DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMICAL ENGINEERING &
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

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LACCASE 1 OF *Cyathus bulleri***

by

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BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Submitted

*In fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
to the*



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

OCTOBER 2022

DEDICATION

In loving memory of my Mom and Dad...

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Treatment of complex dyes and effluents using engineered Laccase 1 of *Cyathus bulleri***” being submitted by **Ms. Manju** to the Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, for the award of the degree of ‘**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**’, is a record of the bonafide research work carried out by her, which has been prepared under our supervision and guidance in conformity with the rules and regulations of the ‘Indian Institute of Technology Delhi’. The research reports and the results presented in this thesis have not been submitted for any degree or diploma in any other University or Institute.

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Acknowledgement

PhD, a journey in which every day has four seasons, with some sunny and some gloomy moments, the progress with day-to-day variation is really fantastic. The challenge during this phase is finding strength for keeping calm and remaining motivated during moments of hardship when things don't work as expected. But we all know, "truly meaningful journeys are hard". Here invaluable support along with best possible advice of the people we are associated with is the best antidote. I am loving to acknowledge these people at this moment as without their support I would not have witnessed this day.

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I thank Almighty for his blessings throughout my journey till here and I wish it continues.....

...Manju

ABSTRACT

Textile industry accounts for nearly 14% of the total manufacturing output in India and is highly water intensive using 50-100 liters/kg textiles in wet processing. According to a recent World Bank report, 17-20% percent of global water contamination is contributed solely by finishing and coloring procedures. Fungal laccases have high biotechnological potential for bioremediation processes owing to their ability to degrade phenolics, aminophenols, aryldiamines and polyamines. In the present study, the efficiency of engineered Laccase1 isoform (LCC1) of *Cyathus bulleri* is reported in decolorizing and detoxification of Indigo Carmine (IC), effluent containing this dye as well as real effluent from a textile mill. The gene (*LCC1*) encoding wild type (WT) LCC1, was modified through site-directed mutagenesis at predefined positions generating three catalytically superior High-Activity-Variants (HAVs), viz., [LCC1-35; (Gly₄₆₃Arg), LCC1-61; (Ser₃₁₈Thr), LCC1-62; (Ile₄₉₀Met)]. The extracellularly produced laccases in *Pichia pastoris* were partially purified and exhibited 2-9 X times higher decolorization of real effluents than the WTLCC1 even in the absence of a mediator. More than 90% decolorization (~1.6 times higher than that of the WTLCC1) was shown of IC in 18 h by the three HAVs without the addition of any mediator. To increase the rate of decolorization, several natural and synthetic mediators were screened which dramatically increased the rates and reduced the treatment time to 20 min. Maximum increase in the rate (23 X relative to the WTLCC1) was obtained with the HAV LCC1-62 with the natural mediator 2,6-Dimethoxy Phenol (DMP) making it an attractive option for mediator-assisted laccase treatment. Examination of the mediator-laccase variant combination on decolorization of IC at molecular level, through *in-silico* studies, provided evidence that His₁₃₂, Ser₁₃₄, Leu₄₇₅, and Glu₄₇₆ were associated with the hot-spot regions in the active pocket of LCC1. Apart from identifying the binding residues, the binding efficiency, strength of the hydrogen bonds, conformation of the ligand, and size of the active size pocket were identified as important factors contributing to the

higher catalytic efficiency of the HAVs. Identified laccase variant, LCC1-62, was very effective in treating real effluent in the membrane reactor in batch as well as continuous mode giving 94% decolorization without any mediator. Our findings strongly suggest the feasibility of application of LCC1-62 at larger scale for textile effluent treatment.

सारांश

कपड़ा उद्योग भारत में कुल विनिर्माण उत्पादन का लगभग 14% हिस्सा है और गीले प्रसंस्करण में 50-100 लीटर/किलोग्राम वस्त्रों का उपयोग करके अत्यधिक पानी की खपत होती है। विश्व बैंक की एक हालिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वैश्विक जल प्रदूषण का 17-20% प्रतिशत पूरी तरह से परिष्करण और रंग भरने की प्रक्रियाओं से होता है। फंगल लैकेसेस में बायोरेमेडिएशन प्रक्रियाओं के लिए उच्च जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी क्षमता होती है, जो फेनोलिक्स, एमिनोफेनोल्स, एरिलडायमाइन और पॉलीमाइन को नीचा दिखाने की उनकी क्षमता के कारण होती है। वर्तमान अध्ययन में, *सायथस बुलेरी* के इंजीनियर लैकेस₁ आइसोफॉर्म (एलसीसी₁) की दक्षता को इंडिगो कारमाइन (आईसी) के रंगहीन और विषहरण में बताया गया है, इस डाई से युक्त अपशिष्ट के साथ-साथ एक कपड़ा मिल से वास्तविक अपशिष्ट भी। जीन (LCC1) जंगली प्रकार (WT) LCC1 को कूटबद्ध करता है, जिसे साइट-निर्देशित उत्परिवर्तजन के माध्यम से पूर्वनिर्धारित पदों पर संशोधित किया गया था, जो तीन उत्प्रेरक रूप से बेहतर उच्च-गतिविधि-वेरिएंट (HAVs) उत्पन्न करता है, अर्थात्, [LCC1-35; (Gly₄₆₃Arg), LCC1-61; (Ser₃₁₈Thr), LCC1-62; (Ile₄₉₀Met)]। *पिचिया पेस्टोरिस* में बाह्य रूप से उत्पादित लैकेसेस को आंशिक रूप से शुद्ध किया गया था और एक मध्यस्थ की अनुपस्थिति में भी WTLCC1 की तुलना में वास्तविक अपशिष्टों के 2-9 X गुना अधिक विवर्णकरण का प्रदर्शन किया गया था। 90% से अधिक विरंजन (WTLCC1 की तुलना में ~ 1.6 गुना अधिक) बिना किसी मध्यस्थ को शामिल किए तीन एचएवी द्वारा 18 घंटे में आईसी का दिखाया गया था। रंग बदलने की दर को बढ़ाने के लिए, कई प्राकृतिक और सिंथेटिक मध्यस्थों की जांच की गई, जिन्होंने नाटकीय रूप से दरों में वृद्धि की और उपचार के समय को घटाकर 20 मिनट कर दिया। दर में अधिकतम वृद्धि (WTLCC1 के सापेक्ष 23 X) HAV LCC1-62 के साथ प्राकृतिक मध्यस्थ 2,6-डाइमैथॉक्सी फिनोल (DMP) के साथ प्राप्त की गई, जिससे यह मध्यस्थ-सहायता प्राप्त लैकेस उपचार के लिए एक आकर्षक विकल्प बन गया। *इन-सिलिको* अध्ययनों के माध्यम से आणविक स्तर पर आईसी के रंग बदलने पर मध्यस्थ-लैकेस प्रकार के संयोजन की जांच ने इस बात का सबूत दिया कि His₁₃₂, Ser₁₃₄, Leu₄₇₅, और Glu₄₇₆ LCC1 के सक्रिय पॉकेट में हॉट-

स्पॉट क्षेत्रों से जुड़े थे। बाध्यकारी अवशेषों की पहचान करने के अलावा, बाध्यकारी दक्षता, हाइड्रोजन बांड की ताकत, लिगैंड की संरचना, और सक्रिय आकार की जेब के आकार को एचएवी की उच्च उत्प्रेरक दक्षता में योगदान करने वाले महत्वपूर्ण कारकों के रूप में पहचाना गया। पहचाने गए लैकेस वैरिएंट, LCC1-62, बैच में झिल्ली रिएक्टर में वास्तविक बहिःस्राव के उपचार के साथ-साथ निरंतर मोड में बिना किसी मध्यस्थ के 94% विवर्णीकरण देने में बहुत प्रभावी था। हमारे निष्कर्ष कपड़ा अपशिष्ट उपचार के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर एलसीसी 1-62 के आवेदन की व्यवहार्यता का दृढ़ता से सुझाव देते हैं।

CONTENTS

CERTIFICATE	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	II
ABSTRACT	IV
सारांश	VI
CONTENTS	VIII
LIST OF FIGURES	XI
LIST OF TABLES	XVI
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED	XVII
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES	2
1.1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1.1 <i>Textile industries: environmental impact</i>	2
1.2 OBJECTIVES	8
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1 ENZYMES USED IN BIOREMEDIATION OF TEXTILE EFFLUENTS	10
2.1.1 <i>Lignin peroxidase (EC 1.11.1.14)</i>	10
2.1.2 <i>Manganese peroxidase (MnP): (EC 1.11.1.13)</i>	12
2.2 LACCASE (EC 1.10.3.2, PARA-BENZENEDIOL:DIOXYGEN OXIDOREDUCTASE)	13
2.2.1 <i>Laccase: structure</i>	14
2.2.2 <i>Redox potential</i>	16
2.3 LACCASE ENGINEERING: BEYOND NATURAL	19
2.4 APPLICATION OF LACCASE FOR TREATMENT OF TEXTILE EFFLUENT: BIOREACTOR STUDIES	22
CHAPTER 3 CONSTRUCTION OF LACCASE 1 VARIANTS OF <i>CYATHUS BULLERI</i> (BRODIE 195062) AND EVALUATING THEIR CATALYTIC EFFICIENCY ON REAL TEXTILE EFFLUENT.	27
3.1 INTRODUCTION	27
3.2 MATERIALS AND METHODS	28
3.2.1 <i>Chemicals</i>	28
3.2.2 <i>Strain, plasmid, and growth conditions</i>	28
3.2.3 <i>Generation of single and double mutant variants through site-directed mutagenesis</i>	29
3.2.4 <i>Transformation of the mutated plasmid in DH5α (<i>E. coli</i>) and electroporation in <i>P. pastoris</i></i>	32

3.2.5	<i>Nucleotide sequencing</i>	33
3.2.6	<i>Confirmation of laccase gene integration into P. pastoris genomic DNA and laccase expression</i>	33
3.2.6.1	Genomic DNA isolation from recombinant <i>P. pastoris</i> cells	33
3.2.6.2	Screening of the <i>P. pastoris</i> transformants for active laccase production	34
3.2.7	<i>Computational studies</i>	34
3.2.8	<i>Production of laccase at shake-flask level in P. pastoris transformants</i>	34
3.2.9	<i>Analytical methods</i>	35
3.2.9.1	Laccase activity and protein estimation	35
3.3	RESULTS	35
3.3.1	<i>Creation of laccase variants</i>	35
3.3.2	<i>Molecular explanation for loss of laccase activity in the double mutants</i>	38
3.3.3	<i>Production of laccase using recombinant P. pastoris clones and partial purification of laccase⁴²</i>	
3.3.4	<i>Evaluation of the decolorization potential of P. pastoris produced WTLCC1 and its variants on industrial effluents</i>	44
3.4	DISCUSSION	46
CHAPTER 4 EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF DIFFERENT MEDIATOR-MUTANT COMBINATIONS ON (INDIGO CARMINE) IC AND <i>IN-SILICO</i> STUDIES		52
4.1	INTRODUCTION	52
4.2	MATERIALS AND METHODS	54
4.2.1	<i>Chemicals</i>	54
4.2.2	<i>Production of WTLCC1 and mutant laccases at shake-flask level by recombinant Pichia pastoris clones and partial purification of laccases</i>	54
4.2.3	<i>Decolorization of IC using partially purified WTLCC1 and the HAVs of laccase</i>	55
4.2.4	<i>Determination of physico-chemical properties of the WTLCC1 and prediction of secondary structure</i>	56
4.2.5	<i>Construction of homology models of the WTLCC1 and the HAVs and validation of the models</i>	56
4.2.6	<i>Preparation of ligands and protein docking</i>	57
4.3	RESULTS	58
4.3.1	<i>Action of WTLCC1 and the HAVs on IC: detailed studies</i>	58
4.3.1.1	IC treatment using partially purified laccase and the HAVs	58
4.3.1.2	Decolorization of IC by WTLCC1 and HAV's in presence of different mediators	60
4.3.1.3	Kinetics of decolorization of IC by laccases	63
4.3.2	<i>Molecular basis for the superior catalytic properties of the engineered laccase variants</i>	65
4.3.2.1	Physico-chemical properties and secondary structure prediction	65

4.3.2.2	3D Homology Modeling of WTLCC1 and HAVs	67
4.3.2.3	3D structure validation of protein models	69
4.3.2.4	Molecular docking	71
4.3.3	<i>ESI–MS analyses of IC degradation products</i>	76
4.4	DISCUSSION	80
CHAPTER 5 TO EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SELECTED MUTANT VARIANT ON REAL EFFLUENT IN A MEMBRANE REACTOR.		88
5.1	INTRODUCTION	88
5.2	MATERIALS AND METHODS	90
5.2.1	<i>Chemicals</i>	90
5.2.2	<i>Production and partial purification of laccase variant</i>	90
5.2.3	<i>Characteristics of the real effluent</i>	90
5.2.4	<i>Ray-flow membrane reactor</i>	90
5.2.5	<i>Decolorization studies</i>	91
5.2.5.1	Membrane studies	91
5.2.5.2	Membrane adsorption studies	92
5.2.5.3	Batch studies	92
5.2.5.4	Continuous studies	92
5.2.6	<i>Determination of mutagenicity of the untreated and the treated effluent</i>	93
5.3	RESULTS	93
5.3.1	<i>Fouling characterization</i>	93
5.3.2	<i>Effluent decolorization</i>	94
5.3.2.1	Control study	95
5.3.2.2	Enzymatic decolorization of real effluent	96
5.3.2.2.1	Batch mode of reactor operation	96
5.3.2.2.2	Continuous mode of reactor operation	98
5.3.2.3	Toxicity analysis of the effluent	103
5.4	DISCUSSION	104
CHAPTER 6 SUMMARY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS		110
6.1	SUMMARY	110
6.2	FUTURE PROSPECTS	111
REFERENCES		115
ANNEXURE I		141
CURRICULUM VITAE		153

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Textile effluent overview: Environmental hazards. Adapted from Sghaier et al. 2019	3
Figure 2.1 Lignin molecule: Oxidative cleavage of β -1 linkage by LiP. Adapted from Falade et al. 2017	11
Figure 2.2 Catalytic cycle of LiP. Adapted from Abdel-Hamid et al. 2013	11
Figure 2.3 Catalytic cycle of MnP. Adapted from Chang et al. 2021	12
Figure 2.4 Laccase: modeled structure (<i>Trametes trogii</i> ; PDB ID: 2HRG) depicting three domains (D1, D2, and D3). Blue spheres represent the copper ions while coordinating water molecules are shown in the form of red spheres. Residues colored in yellow are involved in making the transfer pathway from T1 to T2-T3 TNC. Dashed lines, in black, represent the interactions established by residues in the first coordination sphere with catalytic coppers (adapted from Mate and Alcade 2015)	16
Figure 2.5 Catalytic cycle of laccase in presence of mediator, adapted from Riva 2006	18
Figure 2.6 Reaction mechanism of laccase on phenolics (a) and non-phenolic (b), adapted from Archibald et al. 1997	18
Figure 2.7 Laccase engineering: Targeted mutations at selected sites, adapted from Stanzione et al. 2020	19
Figure 3.1 Strategy of mutagenesis through site-directed mutagenesis in C-terminus region of <i>C. bulleri</i> laccase 1 gene for generation of laccase variants	31
Figure 3.2 Gradient SDM-PCR results (amplicon size→5.1kb). For generation of single mutant variants of wild type laccase using pPICZ α Bwtlcc1 as template best amplifications (bond highlighted using red box) were observed at (a) 64°C: pPICZ α Blcc1-35, (b) 65.3°C: pPICZ α Blcc1-61, (c) 57.8°C: pPICZ α Blcc1-62. SDM-PCR amplified products for double mutant variants, pPICZ α Blcc1(61+62) (c: lane 7-11) using pPICZ α Blcc1-61 as template (d) pPICZ α Blcc1(62+35) using pPICZ α Blcc1-35 as template. (e) pPICZ α Blcc1(61+35) using pPICZ α Blcc1-35 as template	36
Figure 3.3 Colony-PCR for confirmation of positive transformants. Lane1- DNA ladder (1 kb); Lane 2 to 17 - Amplified C-terminus region (highlighted band at 862 bp) of 17 randomly selected transformants	37
Figure 3.4 Minimal methanol plate assay: A comparison between WTLCC1 (A) with, High Activity single mutation variants, LCC1-35 (B), LCC1-61 (C), and LCC1-62 (D) generated through SDM-PCR technique. Double mutation variant forms, LCC1-(61+35) (E), LCC1-(62+61) (F), and LCC1-(35+62) (G) were found to be inactive in terms of their activity	38
Figure 3.5 Solvent accessibility profile of the double mutant variants of laccase. The residues shown in capital letters were found to have reversed geometry due to incorporation of two	

substitution mutations. Reversal in geometry of these residues is depicted by bars on their heads, with white and black portions of the bar representing exposed and buried geometry respectively. Mutated residues are shown by red capital letters. The residues highlighted with red circles are of prime importance in terms of 3-D geometry of protein molecule	40
Figure 3.6 3D model of the double variants and the WTLCC1 showing solvent accessibility profile of the protein residues. Residues observed to have reversed geometry in terms of solvent accessibility are highlighted in red. Amino acid residues of prime importance in terms of activity of protein are marked with saffron circles on the respective variant	41
Figure 3.7 Culturing of <i>P. pastoris</i> for expression of laccase	43
Figure 3.8 Treatment of real effluent from denim Industry using WTLCC1 and its High-Activity-Variant, LCC1-35, with and without the aid of ABTS as mediator. Absorption spectrum of the real effluent overlapped with that of IC, indicating that effluent had indigo carmine as its ingredient	44
Figure 3.9 Percentage decolorization of the combined effluent with WTLCC1 and its mutant variant, LCC1-35 (A). Visual depiction of decolorization (B)	45
Figure 3.10 Decolorization data obtained by treatment of four effluents. A. Percent decolorization of E1-E4 when treated with either WTLCC1 or the hyper-active variant in the absence of any mediator. (B) Actual color of the untreated and the treated effluent after incubating with enzyme (100 U/L reaction mixture). Time of treatment is shown against each row.	46
Figure 4.1 Comparative representation of the extent of IC decolorization by all three HAVs relative to the WTLCC1. A. Time profile of residual IC treated with different laccases. B. Contrast in the effectiveness of abiotic (Control) and enzymatic treatment of IC, represented as percentage decolorization achieved at 3h intervals during the entire treatment process. Statistical significance represented by *** for $p < 0.001$. C. Visual depiction of IC decolorization in absence of mediators.	59
Figure 4.2 Absorption spectrum of IC treated abiotically	61
Figure 4.3 Percentage decolorization of IC at different concentrations of six different mediators. Blue bars represent the percentage decolorization achieved with WTLCC1, while orange bars represent the percentage decolorization achieved with LCC1-62 at the same mediator concentration	61
Figure 4.4 Effect of varying concentration of 2,6-DMP on IC decolorization by LCC1-62. Rate constant, K_{app} , in inset, calculated at three different concentrations of the mediator, viz., 10 μ M, 100 μ M, and 200 μ M.	62
Figure 4.5 Comparative analysis of decolorization of IC with the WTLCC1 and the HAVs. Residual IC in the reaction vial after treatment with laccases in the presence of ferulic acid (A), HOBt (B), guaiacol (C), and 2,6-DMP (D). Respective percentage decolorization is presented as inset in the figures	63

- Figure 4.6 Visible-spectral scans of enzymatically treated IC samples, with the aid of 2,6-DMP, showing highest rate of coerulignone formation with LCC1-62 64
- Figure 4.7 Graphical representation of relative abundance of amino acid residues in *Cyathus bulleri* laccase isoform-1 (WTLCC1). Glycine (9.2%) was the most abundant amino acid found in its sequence while methionine (0.8%) was observed to have lowest abundance 66
- Figure 4.8 Cartoon model depiction of predicted models for WTLCC1 and its HAVs. The active site region of the enzyme is highlighted with white circle. A closer look on the encircled region clearly depicts the broadest active site pocket in case of LCC1-62 68
- Figure 4.9 A. Ramachandran plot of ϕ - ψ distribution of wild type laccase and its variants produced by PROCHECK. [A, B, L] most favoured regions; [a, b, l, p] additional allowed regions; [\sim a, \sim b, \sim l, \sim p] generously allowed regions; white areas are disallowed regions. Percentage of residues in the allowable regions of respective Ramachandran plots of our proteins approves high accuracy of predicted models. B. Analysis of statistical potential of 3D models using ProSA-web service. Group of protein structures built using NMR-spectroscopy (dark blue) or X-ray crystallography (light blue) are illustrated. It is clear that the Z-score of input structures (highlighted with red circles) is well within the range of scores typically observed for native proteins of comparable size. C. The local model quality is depicted in terms of energy plots of structures, where energies are plotted as a function of residue sequence position. For smoothening the curve (thick green line), average energy calculation is done over 40-residue long fragments (i, i+39), and the value is assigned to central residue at position i+19. Thin green line in the background depicts a smaller window size with energy of 10 residues averaged together 70
- Figure 4.10 3D profile of modeled structures of the WTLCC1 and its variants, generated by using Verify-3D web server. Above zero values (≥ 0.2) of overall compatibility scores of all models indicate that their respective residues are accurately folded. 71
- Figure 4.11 Docked enzyme-ligand poses predicted based on binding affinity and RMSD values. Active site residues are highlighted in yellow and deep teal. All images were generated using PyMOL molecular graphic software 73
- Figure 4.12 Interactions established between ligand and receptor molecules. Only amino acids residues in contact with mediator compounds are shown with H-bonds pattern. Bond lengths are measured in angstrom (\AA) 75
- Figure 4.13 ESI-MS profile of IC before treatment (A), and after enzymatic treatment, without any aid of mediator by WTLCC1, LCC1-35, LCC1-61 (B, C, D respectively), and in the presence of ABTS by WTLCC1 (E), and LCC1-62 (F). Identified peaks are encircled with red color. Exclusive peaks in case of LCC1-62_ABTS treated samples are encircled with pink color 78

Figure 4.14 Proposed route for IC degradation through enzymatic treatment using high activity variants of WTLCC1	79
Figure 4.15 Dimensions of active pocket of WTLCC1 (A), LCC1-35 (B), LCC1-61 (C), and LCC1-62 (D). Active pocket of the enzyme is shown on protein surface (A-D). Protein mesh showing active pocket region of enzyme measured using distance between the residues making boundary of active pocket (a-d). It was found that active pocket of wild form of laccase enzyme was narrower when compared to the that of three HAVs, while, LCC1-62 was observed to possess widest active pocket	83
Figure 4.16 WTLCC1, active site residues are highlighted with yellow and teal color (A). Receptor-Ligand complex (WTLCC1:2,6-DMP), showing binding of ligand into the pseudo pocket, P1, of WTLCC1. It can be clearly observed that active pocket residues highlighted with teal color (enclosed with black circle), are extended till the pseudo pocket region (B)	84
Figure 5.1 Membrane reactor set up running on recirculation mode	91
Figure 5.2 Schematic diagram of the membrane reactor	92
Figure 5.3 Fouling characterization of the PES membrane using combined effluent. The permeate flux was recorded as a function of TMP. The permeate flux was also recorded in samples containing the enzyme solution (0.5 U/ml). The duration of operation of the reactor is shown in the parenthesis in the inset. Black solid squares show relation between flux and TMP of clean water (control).	94
Figure 5.4 Absorption spectrum of the permeate samples collected at regular intervals during control study. Membrane adsorption was observed to cease after 20 h of reactor operation. The inset figure shows percentage increase in color of the permeate samples collected at regular intervals	95
Figure 5.5 Percentage decolorization of combined effluent during batch mode of reactor operation. Highest decolorization was obtained at an HRT of 6 h	96
Figure 5.6 Absorption spectrum of the combined effluent before and after treatment (A). The actual color of the untreated (B) and the treated effluent (C).	97
Figure 5.7 Enzyme stability in the reactor studied at standard operating conditions. A maximum drop of 40% was observed in enzyme activity over all reactor experiments above 3 h of reactor operation	97
Figure 5.8 Laccase activity profile over different “times of reactor operation” in batch mode under different HRTs A. 1.5 h, B. 4 h, C. 6 h, D. 9 h.	98
Figure 5.9 Enzyme activity replenishment profile in two different experiments in continuous mode of reactor operation at 6 h HRT. Red squares and green triangles show the trend of replenishment for activity range 0.14 – 0.039 U/ml and 0.14 – 0.009 U/ml respectively	99
Figure 5.10 Concentrations of the dye in the permeate, drawn as a function of time during the reactor operation. The variance of concentrations of dye in permeate for the enzyme activity	

ranging from 0.14-0.009 U/ml was significantly higher when compared to that of the dye concentration in permeate for the enzyme activity ranging from 0.14-0.039 U/ml.	100
Figure 5.11 Percentage decolorization of combined effluent using LCC1-62 in continuous reactor at 3 h and 6 h HRT	101
Figure 5.12 Plots showing continuous reactor operation at 3 h and 6 h HRT. The corresponding data without any enzyme treatment is shown on the left.	101
Figure 5.13 Variance of dye concentration under pseudo-steady state of reactor operation at 3- and 6-h HRT. The mean concentration of the dye is shown as a straight line.	102
Figure 5.14 TDS (Total Dissolved Salts) profile of reactor operated over 3 h and 6 h HRT	102
Figure 5.15 The membrane flux as a function of TMP recorded before the start and after completion of reactor run conducted at the HRT of 3 and 6 h.	103
Figure 5.16 Graphical representation of percent revertants obtained respectively for different samples listed in table 5.1 (A). The plates showing His ⁺ revertant in case of untreated combined effluent (B) and LCC1-62 treated effluent (C).	104

List of Tables

Table 1.1 Type of dyes, chemical classes, and their application (Adapted from Adane et al. 2021)	4
Table 2.1 Laccases engineered using site directed mutagenesis approach	21
Table 3.1 Primers designed for introducing substitution mutation in pPICZ α Bwtlcc1	30
Table 3.2 Summary of the purification steps of laccase from different recombinant <i>P. pastoris</i> clones	43
Table 3.3 Rate of decolorization of effluent by laccase variants in absence and presence of ABTS (as mediator).	45
Table 3.4 lists few interesting studies reporting the use of engineered laccases in industrial dyes and effluent treatment	48
Table 4.1 Percentage decolorization of IC studied over 18h	59
Table 4.2 Rate of IC decolorization when treated with different laccases	60
Table 4.3 Rate of IC decolorization in presence of different mediators	65
Table 4.4 Physico-chemical properties of WTLCC1 and its variants calculated using ExPASy ProtParam	66
Table 4.5 Secondary structure elements of WTLCC1 and its variants predicted using SOPMA web server	67
Table 4.6 Quality evaluation of 3D models predicted by I-TASSER	68
Table 4.7 G-factor values for evaluation of accuracy of 3D homology models	71
Table 4.8 Summary of enzyme-ligand docking with six different mediators as ligand	74
Table 4.9 List of amino acid residues of modeled laccases in contact with ligand model compounds through H-bonding.	76
Table 5.1 Number of His ⁺ revertant as observed in case of treated and untreated samples of combined effluent.	103

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED

%	Percent
~	Approximately
°C	Degree Celsius
€	Exposed geometry of amino acid residue
μM	Micromolar
μg	Microgram
μl	Microliter
3D	Three-dimensional
λ _{max}	Wavelength at which there is max absorbtion
Å	Angstrom
ABTS	2,2'-azinobis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid)
BME	β Mercaptoethanol
BMGY	Buffered complex glycerol medium
BMMY	Buffered complex methanol medium
Bp	Base pair
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTP	Deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate
2,6-DMP	2,6 Dimethoxyphenol
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraaceticaci
FA	Ferulic acid
G	Gram

H	Hour/hours
HAV	High Activity Variants of laccase isoform-1
HRT	Hydraulic Retention Time
HOBt	1-Hydroxybenzotriazole
IC	Indigo carmine
Kb	Kilobase pair
K_{cat}	Turn over number (Catalytic rate constant)
kDa	Kilodalton
K_m	Michaelis Menten constant
LA	Luria Agar
LB	Luria Broth
LCC1-35	Laccase mutant 35
LCC1-61	Laccase mutant 61
LCC1-62	Laccase mutant 62
M	Molar
Mg	Milligram
Min	Minute
ml	Millilitre
mM	Millimolar
E	Molar extinction coefficient
Ng	Nanogram
nm	Nanometer
OD ₆₀₀	Optical density measured at 600 nm
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction

rpm	Revolution per minute
RB 21	Reactive Blue 21
SDS	Sodium dodecyl sulphate
sec	Second
Tris	Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane
U	Enzyme activity Unit
mU	Milli unit
UV	Ultra violet
v/v	Volume/volume
V_{\max}	Maximum velocity of reaction
w/v	Weight/volume
WTLCC1	Wild type recombinant laccase isoform 1
E°	Redox potential
YPD	Yeast Peptone Dextrose