

**UNRAVELLING THE FUNCTION AND THE REGULATORY  
MECHANISM OF SMALL NONCODING RNAS IN  
*DEINOCOCCUS RADIODURANS***

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**Unravelling the function and the regulatory mechanism of small  
noncoding RNAs in *Deinococcus radiodurans***

**By**

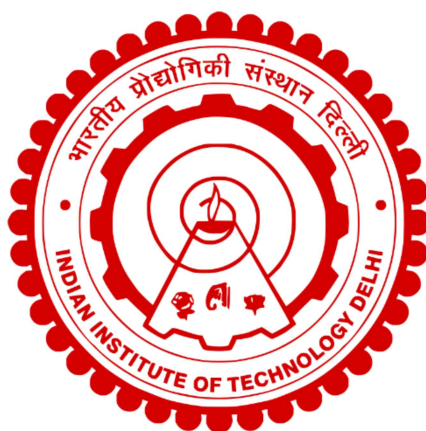
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**Department of Chemistry**

in Fulfilment of the Requirements of the Degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy**

**to the**



**Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**

**September 2024**

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Unravelling the function and the regulatory mechanism of small noncoding RNAs in *Deinococcus radiodurans***” being submitted by Mr. **Shiv Narayan Rai** to the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi for the award of the degree of *Doctor of Philosophy* in Chemistry is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him. **Mr. Shiv Narayan Rai** has worked under my guidance and supervision and has fulfilled the requirements for the thesis submission, which has reached the requisite standard to my knowledge.

The results contained in this dissertation have not been submitted in part or full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



Date: September 21, 2024,  
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Dr. Tanmay Dutta  
Professor of Department of Chemistry  
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**Shiv Narayan Rai**

## **Abstract**

Small regulatory RNAs (sRNAs) have emerged as critical regulators of gene expression in response to environmental stress in bacteria. This study investigates the role of sRNAs in the extremophilic bacterium *Deinococcus radiodurans*, particularly in regulating manganese (Mn) homeostasis under stress conditions. *D. radiodurans* is known for its exceptional resistance to ionizing radiation and desiccation, largely attributed to its ability to maintain Mn (II) homeostasis. However, the molecular mechanisms driving this regulation remain largely unexplored.

Through RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq), we identified a set of sRNAs responsive to Mn stress, which were further characterized by gene knockout and overexpression strategies. Our analysis revealed that these sRNAs regulate key genes involved in Mn transport and oxidative stress response. The use of binding assays and in vitro transcription provided mechanistic insights into the RNA-RNA interactions involved in this regulation. Additionally, RT-qPCR and Northern blotting confirmed the differential expression of these sRNAs under varying Mn concentrations.

This study highlights the significance of sRNAs in the adaptive stress response of *D. radiodurans*, with potential implications for understanding Mn homeostasis in other extremophiles. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of post-transcriptional regulation in microbial stress responses, offering new perspectives on the resilience mechanisms of extremophilic organisms.

## सार

छोटे नियामक आर. एन. ए. (एस. आर. एन. ए.) बैक्टीरिया में पर्यावरणीय तनाव के जवाब में जीन अभिव्यक्ति के महत्वपूर्ण नियामकों के रूप में उभरे हैं। यह अध्ययन एक्सट्रिमोफिलिक बैक्टीरिया डीनोकोकस रेडियोड्यूरन्स में एस. आर. एन. ए. की भूमिका की जांच करता है, विशेष रूप से तनाव की स्थिति में मैंगनीज (एम. एन.) होमियोस्टेसिस को नियंत्रित करने में। डी. रेडियोड्यूरन्स आयनीकरण विकिरण और निर्जलीकरण के लिए अपने असाधारण प्रतिरोध के लिए जाना जाता है, जिसका मुख्य कारण एमएन (II) होमियोस्टेसिस को बनाए रखने की इसकी क्षमता है। हालांकि, इस विनियमन को चलाने वाले आणविक तंत्र काफी हद तक अज्ञात हैं।

आर. एन. ए.-अनुक्रमण (आर. एन. ए.-एस. ई. क्यू.) के माध्यम से हमने एम. एन. तनाव के प्रति उत्तरदायी एस. आर. एन. ए. के एक समूह की पहचान की, जिसे आगे जीन नॉकआउट और अति-अभिव्यक्ति रणनीतियों द्वारा चिह्नित किया गया। हमारे विश्लेषण से पता चला है कि ये एसआरएनए एमएन परिवहन और ऑक्सीडेटिव तनाव प्रतिक्रिया में शामिल प्रमुख जीनों को नियंत्रित करते हैं। आर. एन. ए. बाइंडिंग परख और इन विट्रो प्रतिलेखन के उपयोग ने इस विनियमन में शामिल आर. एन. ए.-आर. एन. ए. अंतःक्रियाओं में यांत्रिक अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान की। इसके अतिरिक्त, आरटी-क्यूपीसीआर और नॉर्दर्न ब्लॉटिंग ने अलग-अलग एमएन सांद्रता के तहत इन एसआरएनए की अंतर अभिव्यक्ति की पुष्टि की।

यह अध्ययन डी. रेडियोड्यूरन्स की अनुकूली तनाव प्रतिक्रिया में एस. आर. एन. ए. के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालता है, जिसमें अन्य चरमपंथियों में एम. एन. होमियोस्टेसिस को समझने के लिए संभावित निहितार्थ हैं। निष्कर्ष सूक्ष्मजीव तनाव प्रतिक्रियाओं में प्रतिलेखन के बाद के विनियमन की भूमिका की गहरी समझ में योगदान करते हैं, जो चरम जीवों के लचीलापन तंत्र पर नए दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करते हैं।

**Certificate**

**Acknowledgments**

**Abstract (Hindi/English)**

**Table of Contents**

List of Tables.....12

List of Figures.....13-14

**Chapter One.....1**

**Introduction and background.....1-19**

1.1 *D. radiodurans* and mechanism of its radioresistance

1.2 Regulatory Role of sRNAs in Bacteria

1.3 Role of sRNAs in *D. radiodurans* R1

1.4 Status of sRNAs worldwide

1.5 Research objectives

**Chapter Two**

**Material and Methodologies.....21-36**

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Material

2.3 Strain and Growth Culture

2.4 Ionizing irradiation, oxidative stress, and genotoxic stress

2.5 RNA extraction

2.6 RNA-seq analysis

2.7 5' RACE analysis

2.8 Quantitative real-time PCR

2.9 Northern blot analysis

2.10 Strains and plasmid construction

2.11 Cell viability assay

2.12 Catalase assay

2.13 Biocomputational Methods

2.14 In vitro transcription

2.15 Gel-shift assay

2.16 ICP-MS to measure intracellular  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{2+}$

2.17 Measurement of intracellular protein carbonylation

2.18 Intracellular ROS estimation

2.19 Antioxidant property

2.20 Growth curve

2.21 Stability of Target

2.21 Bioimaging of *Deinococcus radiodurans* in oxidative stress

2.22 Reporter Assay

## **Chapter Three**

### **Identification of Small RNAs in *Deinococcus radiodurans* by RNA seq in response to Ionizing radiations.....36-40**

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Results and Discussion

3.2.1 Identification of two hundred-eight small RNA by RNA Sequencing Analysis.

3.2.2 Genomic Portioning and Differential Expression of sRNA

3.2.3 Validation of randomly selected small RNA by RT-qPCR and Northern blot.

3.2.3 Genomic map and Secondary structure of Selected small RNA

## Chapter Four

### **A novel ionizing radiation-induced small RNA *DrsS* promotes the detoxification of reactive oxygen species in *Deinococcus radiodurans*. 48-71**

#### 4.1 Introduction

#### 4.2 Results

4.2.1 DrsS a newly identified small RNA (sRNA) elicited by  $\gamma$ -radiation.

4.2.2 DrsS is also induced in response to oxidative and genotoxic stress.

4.2.3 Deletion of the *drsS* gene from the chromosome of *D. radiodurans* results in a compromised growth phenotype when exposed to  $\gamma$ -radiation.

4.2.4 Ectopic expression of DrsS mitigates intracellular ROS levels during oxidative stress.

4.2.5 Deletion of the *drsS* allele reduces intracellular  $Mn^{2+}$  concentration.

4.2.6 DrsS shields cytosolic proteins from carbonylation induced by  $\gamma$ -radiation.

4.2.7 Elevated levels of DrsS lead to the upregulation of the *katA* gene.

4.2.8 DrsS directly binds to the coding region of *katA* mRNA.

#### 4.3 Discussion and Conclusions.

## **Chapter 5**

### **DrsS-mediated Mn (II) homeostasis in *Deinococcus radiodurans*.72-87**

5.1 Introduction

5.2 results

5.2.1 DrsS Modulates Mn (II) Homeostasis and Oxidative Stress Response.

5.2.2 DrsS upregulates Manganese Transporter expression (Dr\_2283).

5.2.3 DrsS Binding to Mn Transporter 5'UTR.

5.2.4 DrsS expose Ribosome binding Site (RBS) to activate the translation.

5.2.5 DrsS regulates Mn transporter expression and activity during oxidative stress.

5.3 Discussion and Conclusion

## **Chapter 6**

### **Role of *Yrn2* under oxidative stress in *Deinococcus radiodurans* ....87-103**

6.1 Introduction.

6.2 Result.

6.2.1 Yrn2 is also induced in  $\gamma$ -radiation.

6.2.2 Oxidative and genotoxic stress upregulates Yrn2.

6.2.3 Excessive levels of Yrn2 do not alter the cell's growth rate.

6.2.4 Increased intracellular levels of Yrn2 mitigate reactive oxygen species (ROS).

6.2.5 Elevated Yrn2 improves intracellular Mn levels and reduces protein carbonylation.

6.2.6 Yrn2 promotes antioxidant properties.

6.3 Discussion and Conclusion

## **Chapter 7**

### **Conclusion and Perspectives.....104-105**

References .....105

Publications.....145

Biodata.....146

**List of Tables.....**

Table 1. List of oligonucleotides used in the study.....

Table 2. list of strain

<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Title of Figure</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>Figure 1</b>	<b>The general model of action of small RNA</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Schematic representation of RNA <i>seq.</i> Method.</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Figure 3</b>	<b>Heat map of Differently expressed small RNA</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Figure 4</b>	<b>Our findings reveal a significant pattern</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Figure 5</b>	<b>Genomic portioning and Differential Expression of sRNA</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Figure 6</b>	<b>Validation of small RNA</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Figure 7</b>	<b>Genomic map of randomly Selected sRNA</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Figure 8</b>	<b>Hypothetical Model of Biosynthesis of <i>DrsS</i></b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Figure 9</b>	<b>Genetic Map of the <i>drsS</i> Gene</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Figure 10</b>	<b>Effect of <math>\gamma</math>-rays on <i>D. radiodurans</i></b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Figure 11</b>	<b>Impact of Oxidative and Genotoxic Stress on <i>drsS</i></b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Figure 12</b>	<b><i>DrsS</i> Abundance in Wild-Type, <math>\Delta</math><i>drsS</i>, and <math>c\Delta</math><i>drsS</i></b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Figure 13</b>	<b>Measurement of ROS</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Figure 14</b>	<b>Measurement of Mn and Fe</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Figure 15</b>	<b>Relative Expression of <i>katA</i> mRNA</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Figure 16</b>	<b>Base Pairing Region Between <i>DrsS</i> and <i>katA</i> mRNA</b>	<b>70</b>

<b>Figure 17</b>	<b>Mechanism of small RNA</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Figure 18</b>	<b>Expression of <i>DrsS</i> in Mn starvation</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Figure 19</b>	<b>Expression of <i>DrsS</i> in Wt, <math>\Delta</math><i>drsS</i>, and <i>cA</i><i>drsS</i></b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Figure 20</b>	<b>Expression of MntB</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Figure 21</b>	<b>Expression of MntB in Wild-Type in <math>\gamma</math>-Radiation, and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> stress, low Mn.</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Figure 22</b>	<b>Gel Shift Assay</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Figure 23</b>	<b>Reporter assay</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Figure 24</b>	<b>Secondary Structure of 5 UTR of MntB</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Figure 25</b>	<b>Genetic Map of <i>yrn2</i> Gene</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Figure 26</b>	<b>Impact of Varying <math>\gamma</math>-Radiation Dosages on <i>Yrn2</i></b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Figure 27</b>	<b>Effect of oxidative and genotoxic stress on <i>yrn2</i></b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Figure 28</b>	<b>Expression of <i>Yrn2</i></b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Figure 29</b>	<b><i>Yrn2</i> overabundance in <i>D. radiodurans</i> cells</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Figure 30</b>	<b>Intracellular ROS Estimation</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Figure 31</b>	<b>Intracellular Metal Content by ICP-MS</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Figure 32</b>	<b>Antioxidant Assay</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Figure 33</b>	<b>Schematic description of Mechanism of <i>Yrn2</i></b>	<b>104</b>