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# PIGMENT CONTENT OF Chlorella vulgaris Beij. UNDER INFLUENCE OF SODIUM SELENITE AND METALS IONS

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The aim of the research was to determine the conditions of *Chlorella vulgaris* Beij. algosubstantion enriched with selenium and bioactive metals obtaining in aquaculture. The content of seaweed pigments under the action of sodium selenite in concentrations of (calculated using  $Se^{4+}$ ): 0.5, 5.0, 10.0 and 20.0 mg/dm³ within 1, 3 and 7 days and under simultaneous action of selenite (10.0 mg  $Se^{4+}$ /dm³) and  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$  in concentrations of 5.00, 0.25, 0.002, 0.008 and 0.05 mg/dm³, respectively, within 7 days of cultivation was investigated. The content of pigments was determined spectrophotometrically; the cell wall was separated in percoll gradient and investigated microscopically. The pigments content in *Ch. vulgaris* increases 1.5–2.5 times in comparison with the retention sample under the influence of 10.0 mg of  $Se^{4+}$ /dm³ with and without of metal ions; chlorophylls a/b ratio increases, that is accompanied by formation of the secondary cell wall in cells, and is the sign of successful chlorella adaptation for these factors. The cultivation of chlorella enriched with selenium and bioactive metals is possible within 7 days under the influence of selenite (10 mg of  $Se^{4+}$ /dm³) and mentioned concentration of appropriate metal ions.

Key words: Chlorella vulgaris Beij., sodium selenite, metal ions, pigments.

Selenium as an essential trace element in algae is involved in many metabolic processes, including the regulation of photosynthesis [1]. However, selenium compounds in high concentrations have a toxic effect, inhibit growth, disrupt metabolism and can cause seaweed death [2]. In addition, the effect of selenium on algae depends on morphological and functional features of their individual species, compounds concentration and selenium degree of oxidation in them, as well as on physical and chemical characteristics of water environment [3]. The availability of selenium compounds for microalgae substantially depends also on the content of metal ions in the culture medium [4]. Previously we found that some metal ions, especially biogenic ones, can cause a violation of physiological and biochemical processes in algae and regulate their metabolism within adaptive responses [5, 6]. The results of these studies show that certain amounts of selenium compounds have the ability to reduce the toxic effect of some metals. Selenites are considered also as a source of this trace element and they are able to interact with metal ions and promote their accumulation by cells [4, 7]. High bioaccumulation of inorganic salts and their biocomplexes with algae cell macromolecules formation *in vitro* may be used to produce dietary supplements that contain essential minerals, including selenium and ions of biogenic metals [8–10].

Algae stability as response to environmental factors changing is provided primarily by photosynthetic activity adaptation. Since the synthesis of lipids in chlorella takes place mainly in chloroplasts [11], the changes of photosynthetic apparatus are also markers for evaluating the overall functional status and effectiveness of algae adaptive reactions formation in response to the impact of cultivation conditions.

Photosynthetic apparatus of cells is primarily changed under the influence of stressors on algae [12]. Adaptive role of photosynthetic pigments — chlorophylls a, b, carotenoids, and pheophytins — is of particular interest for the study [13]. In addition, the changes that cause extreme states in cells induce the formation of secondary cell wall, which is a structure that is observed in many plant cells, located between the first cell wall and plasma membrane [12]. We have previously

found the formation of such wall, called the phenomenon of "double concentric membranes" formation [14] under the action of zinc ions if it reaches critical accumulation levels. At that from pool of metabolites necessary compounds for toxins binding withdraw that also needs biosynthetic processes strengthening [15]. So the study of changes occurring in *Ch. vulgaris* photosynthetic apparatus is an important stage for the comprehensive assessment of sodium selenite and metal ions impact on the algae.

The aim of the study was to establish the changes in pigment composition and morphology of the cell wall in *Ch. vulgaris* by action of sodium selenite separately and by its joint action with metal ions, and also to determine the optimal concentration of these substances for algosubstantion enriched with selenium and bioactive metal ions obtaining.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study was performed with the micropopulations of algologically pure culture *Ch. vulgaris* Beij. CCAP-211/11B, which is grown in batch culture in Fitzgerald nutrient media in the modification of Zehnder and Gorham  $\mathbb{N}$  11 at a temperature of 22–25 °C and under 2 500 lux lighting for 16/8 hours [16]. In the experiment sodium selenite aqueous solution in concentrations of (calculated using Se<sup>4+</sup>) 0.5; 5.0; 10.0 and 20.0 mg/dm<sup>3</sup> was added to the algae culture taken in the logarithmic growth phase. Biomass of living cells was collected at the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> day of experiment.

Studying the combined effect of sodium selenite and metal ions, we introduced selenite (calculated using  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$ ) —  $10~\mathrm{mg/dm}^3$ , and metal salts (calculated using metal ions):  $\mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$  ( $\mathrm{ZnSO_4}\cdot 7\mathrm{H_2O}$ ) —  $5~\mathrm{mg/dm}^3$ ,  $\mathrm{Mn}^{2+}$  ( $\mathrm{MnSO_4}$ ) —  $0.25~\mathrm{mg/dm}^3$ ,  $\mathrm{Cu}^{2+}$  ( $\mathrm{CuSO_4}\cdot 5\mathrm{H_2O}$ ) —  $0.002~\mathrm{mg/dm}^3$ ,  $\mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$  ( $\mathrm{Fe_2}(\mathrm{SO_4})_3$ ) —  $0.008~\mathrm{mg/dm}^3$ ,  $\mathrm{Co}^{2+}$  ( $\mathrm{CoSO_4}$ ) —  $0.05~\mathrm{mg/dm}^3$ . The culture which was grown in a medium without selenite and metal salts served as a control. Sampling analysis was performed on the  $7^{\mathrm{th}}$  day of cultivation.

The content of chlorophylls a and b and carotenoids was determined spectrophotometrically, after their 90 % acetone extraction, at wavelengths corresponding to the absorption maximum of: 430 nm, 480 nm, 630 nm, 645 nm, 663 nm, 750 nm [16]. Pheopigments determination was performed by measuring the difference in optical density of pigment extract at 665 nm before acidification of the sample with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid and 5 min later [17].

The cell wall was isolated from algae homogenates in 40 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.6) by the technique of Findley and Evans [18] as described previously [14]. Morphological changes in cells were fixed with the microscope MBI-15 followed by integrated digital analysis with the complex SSTU-camera Manual Vision SSD-color-WOYV00020 after their painting with chlorine-zinc-iodine reagent [19].

### **Results and Discussion**

The maximum increase of chlorophyll a as compared to the retention sample (more than 3 times) was detected under the influence of sodium selenite in concentrations of  $0.5~\text{mg/dm}^3$  and  $20.0~\text{mg/dm}^3$  at the  $7^{\text{th}}$  day of action (Table 1).

Under the action of selenite at the concentration of  $0.5 \ mg/dm^3$  at the  $1^{st}$  and the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of exposition the content of chlorophyll a increased by 36.21% and 68.48% as related to control, respectively, and at the concentration of 20 mg/dm<sup>3</sup> — more than 2.6 times, starting from the 1st day of the experiment. Under selenite action at the concentration of 10.0 mg/  $dm^3$  the chlorophyll a content at the  $3^{rd}$  and the 7<sup>th</sup> day increased respectively by 48.71% and 81.68% towards control. Under the action of selenite at the concentration of 5.0 mg/dm<sup>3</sup> the reduction of this pigment content against control by 16.77% at the 1st day of exposition and by 27.37% — at the  $3^{rd}$  day of the action was marked. On the 7th day the amount of chlorophyll a was slightly higher than in retention sample.

As concerns the content of chlorophyll b, then under the action of sodium selenite in all investigated concentrations, its increase relating to the control was found; as in the case of chlorophyll *a* the maximal magnification was observed under the action of 0.5 and 20.0 mg of Se<sup>4+</sup>/dm<sup>3</sup>. Thus, at the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the experiment under the actions of selenite in the concentration of 0.5 mg/dm<sup>3</sup> the pigment content increased by 79.22% compared to control. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the  $7^{th}$  day the chlorophyll b content exceeds its content in retention sample more than twice. Under selenite at the concentration of 20.0 mg/ dm<sup>3</sup> action the content of this pigment increased by 69.67 % when compared to control. At the  $3^{\rm rd}$  day the content of chlorophyll b exceeded the benchmark 2 times. At the 7<sup>th</sup> day the amount of pigment decreased, but was higher than the value in the control by 69.58%.

Carotenoids content under the action of sodium selenite in all investigated concentrations increased (Table 2).

Table 1. Pigments content in Ch. vulgaris Beij. cells under the influence of sodium selenite

Se <sup>4+</sup> concentration, mg/dm <sup>3</sup>	Duration of chlo- rella cultivation with sodium sele- nite, days	Pigments content				
		Chlorophyll <i>a</i> , µg/dm <sup>3</sup>	Chlorophyll b, µg/dm <sup>3</sup>	Chlorophylls ratio, $a/b$	Pigment index: the sum of carotenoids / chlorophyll <i>a</i>	
Control		$160.14 \pm 9.02$	$81.70 \pm 4.98$	1.96	0.22	
0.5	1	$218.15 \pm 12.17*$	$146.42 \pm 8.78 **$	1.49	0.33	
	3	269.80 ± 14.69**	$190.80 \pm 10.45 \text{**}$	1.41	0.27	
	7	494.20 ± 30.17**	$231.80 \pm 15.70 \text{**}$	2.13	0.20	
5.0	1	$133.28 \pm 5.71*$	$106.12 \pm 6.52 *$	1.26	0.38	
	3	$116.31 \pm 9.21*$	$102.92 \pm 7.43*$	1.13	0.62	
	7	$168.71 \pm 8.25$	$131.03 \pm 9.41*$	1.29	0.32	
10.0	1	$208.26 \pm 22.16$	$105.79 \pm 12.81$	1.97	0.42	
	3	$309.70 \pm 21.68*$	$137.05 \pm 10.87$	2.26	0.34	
	7	378.37 ± 26.83**	$149.52 \pm 9.82*$	2.53	0.27	
20.0	1	431.14 ± 24.21**	$138.60 \pm 7.19$ **	3.11	0.11	
	3	435.80 ± 24.62**	$199.55 \pm 11.05 **$	2.18	0.14	
	7	501.31 ± 30.35**	$238.50 \pm 13.92 **$	2.10	0.13	

*Note*. Hereinafter:  $M \pm m$ , n = 5; differences of the indicators in comparison with the control are significant: \*-P < 0.05; \*\*-P < 0.01.

Table 2. Carotenoids and pheophytins content in Ch. vulgaris Beij. cells under the influence of sodium selenite

Solonito concentro	Duration of chlorella cultivation	Pigments content		
Selenite concentra- tion, mg Se <sup>4+</sup> /dm <sup>3</sup>	with sodium selenite, days	Carotenoids, mcSPU/dm <sup>3</sup>	Pheophytins, µg/dm <sup>3</sup>	
Control		$35.05 \pm 1.91$	$154.90\pm9.32$	
	1	$71.30 \pm 3.98 **$	$217.62 \pm 11.97 *$	
0.5	3	$73.05 \pm 4.11$ **	273.04 ± 14.77**	
	7	$97.02 \pm 5.70 **$	478.67 ± 26.86**	
	1	$50.01 \pm 2.31$ *	$112.20 \pm 10.46$ *	
5.0	3	$72.00 \pm 3.67 *$	$107.04 \pm 2.99*$	
	7	$54.00 \pm 4.16$ *	$97.45 \pm 0.77 *$	
	1	$87.52 \pm 7.30$	$211.46 \pm 26.53$	
10.0	3	$104.20 \pm 9.12$	$215.19 \pm 3.93*$	
	7	$103.09 \pm 7.21$	$166.77 \pm 17.78 *$	
	1	$46.30 \pm 2.9*$	413.33 ± 23.36**	
20.0	3	62.02 ± 3.52**	320.45 ± 18.05**	
	7	$64.45 \pm 3.40 **$	340.40 ± 18.50**	

The maximal increase of these pigments content was observed under the action of selenite at the concentration of  $0.5~\text{mg/dm}^3$  over the entire exposure and at the concentration of  $5.0~\text{mg/dm}^3$  at the  $3^{\text{rd}}$  day of the experiment — more than 2 times against control. Under the action

of selenite at the concentration of  $10.0~\rm mg/dm^3$  at the  $3^{\rm rd}$  and the  $7^{\rm th}$  day of the experiment, the carotenoids content exceeded the benchmarks by 19.06% and 17.79%, respectively. Under the action of seleunite at the concentration of  $20.0~\rm mg~Se^{4+}/dm^3$  the carotenoids content

increased by 32.10% and 76.35% at the  $1^{\rm st}$  and the  $3^{\rm rd}$  day, respectively. At the  $7^{\rm th}$  day the content of these pigments was higher than benchmarks by 83.88%.

Regarding pheophytins, the dynamics of their content was similar to the changes of chlorophyll a content, namely, on the  $7^{\rm th}$  day under selenite action at the concentration of  $0.5~{\rm mg/dm^3}$ , and throughout the duration of the experiment at the concentration of  $20.0~{\rm mg}$  Se<sup>4+</sup>/dm³, the increase of their number more than twice toward control was noted (Table 2). At the concentration of  $5.0~{\rm and}~10.0~{\rm mg/dm^3}$  the reduction of pheophytins content relative to control at the  $7^{\rm th}$  day by 37.09% and 21.13%, respectively, was observed.

It should be noted that despite the increase in the total content of photosynthetic pigments under the influence of selenite at the concentration of  $0.5~\mathrm{mg/dm^3}$  the ratio of chlorophyll a/b decreased as related to the control at the  $1^{\mathrm{st}}$  day by 23.99%, at the  $3^{\mathrm{rd}}$  — by 27.86%. As for the pigment index, then under the action of selenite at this concentration, due to the increased carotenoid biosynthesis versus chlorophyll a, its value increased: at the  $1^{\mathrm{st}}$  day by 49.33%, at the  $3^{\mathrm{rd}}$  — by 23.71% toward the control. At the  $7^{\mathrm{th}}$  day of exposition the characteristic values of the ratio between pigments were close to the values in the control.

Under the action of 5.0 mg of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}/\mathrm{dm}^3$  the ratio between the two forms of chlorophyll changed: at the  $1^{\mathrm{st}}$  day the characteristic value decreased by 35.92% compared to control, at the  $3^{\mathrm{rd}}$  — by 42.34%, at the  $7^{\mathrm{th}}$  — by 34, 31%. Pigment index still rose: at the  $1^{\mathrm{st}}$  day by 71.44%, at the  $3^{\mathrm{rd}}$  — 2.8 times and at the  $7^{\mathrm{th}}$  — by 46.24%. Perhaps this is due to the conversion of the "young" molecules of chlorophyll a into the chlorophyll b, which takes place in the dark phase of photosynthesis [20].

Selenite adding at the concentrations of  $10.0~\rm mg~Se^{4+}/dm^3$  as well as at the concentration of  $0.5~\rm mg/dm^3$  helped increase the total amount of photosynthetic pigments. However, the ratio of chlorophylls a/b was higher than the benchmarks during the entire period of the experiment: at the  $3^{\rm rd}$  day by 14.80%, at the  $7^{\rm th}$  — by 28.55%, that is due to the prevalence of chlorophyll a formation. Pigment index as a result of lower intensity of carotenoids formation compared to green pigments reduced: at the  $3^{\rm rd}$  day — by 19.27%, at the  $7^{\rm th}$  day — by 35.17%. The same tendency was observed for the action of  $20.0~\rm mg$  of  $8^{\rm cm}$ /dm³ — a significant increase in the content

of all pigments and increase of chlorophylls a/b ratio: at the  $1^{\rm st}$  day — by 58.71%, at the  $3^{\rm rd}$  — by 11.14%, and at the  $7^{\rm th}$  — by 7.24% as compared to the control. Thus, as under the action of 0.5 mg of  ${\rm Se}^{4+}/{\rm dm}^3$  the characteristic value of this ratio at the end of the exposure was approaching the characteristic values in the control. Pigment index reduced by half at the  $1^{\rm st}$  day, whereas at the  $3^{\rm rd}$  day it exceeded benchmarks by 34.98% and at the  $7^{\rm th}$  — by 41.26%, respectively.

Chlorophyll a/b ratio can characterize the potential photochemical and biosynthetic activity of algae. Thus under stress action a decrease in chlorophyll a content, as less stable in comparison with chlorophyll b, takes place, and accordingly the relationship between these two forms of pigment decreases. When this happens, pigment index increases due to enhanced formation of carotenoids that perform a supporting and protective function in the course of photosynthesis. These changes were observed under the influence of 5.0 mg of  $Se^{4+}/dm^3$ . Chlorophyll a content increase, and hence the increase of chlorophyll a/bratio when compared with the control is a sign of successful formation of chlorella physiological adaptation that appeared most clearly at 10.0 mg of Se<sup>4+</sup>/dm<sup>3</sup> within 7 days of action [9, 21]. Just these conditions have been simulated in subsequent investigations.

Under the combined action of sodium selenite and metal ions in all variants of the experiment the content of green pigments in chlorella was growing (Table 3).

Thus, under the  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}+\mathrm{Co}^{2+}$  action the amount of chlorophyll a increased by 33.33% compared to the control and was close to the values registered for selenite. Under the action of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}+\mathrm{Mn}^{2+}$  these characteristic values increased by 77.32% and 30.58%, respectively, under the  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}+\mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$  action — by 96.91% and 45,01%,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}+\mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$  — by 80.83% and 33.16%,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Cu}^{2+}$  — 2.1 and 1.5 times, respectively.

The content of chlorophyll b increased by 94.77% compared with the control for  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Co}^{2+}$  action compared to the effect of selenite separately (by 30.96%), in the event of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Mn}^{2+}$  these indicators increased 3.1 and 2.1 times, respectively,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Zn}^{2+} = 3.8$  and 2.6 times,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Fe}^{3+} = 4.0$  and 2.7,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Cu}^{2+} = 4.0$  and 2.6 times, respectively (Table 3).

The content of carotenoids in chlorella cells under the action of  $Se^{4+}$  ions and metal ions also increased compared with the control (Table 4).

In this case the amount of carotenoids under simultaneous action of selenite and

Table 3. Pigments content in Ch. vulgaris Beij. cells under simultaneous influence of sodium selenite					
and metal ions within 7 days of cultivation					

Variant of experiment	Chlorophyll a, µg/dm <sup>3</sup>	Chlorophyll b, µg/dm <sup>3</sup>	Chlorophylls ratio a/b	Pigment index: the sum of carotenoids/ chlorophyll a
Control	$142.22 \pm 19.03$	$60.59 \pm 5.20$	2.35	0.33
$10~\mathrm{mg~Se}^{4+}/\mathrm{dm}^3$	$193.13 \pm 12.18$	$90.11 \pm 9.70$	2.14	0.33
Se <sup>4+</sup> +Co <sup>2+</sup>	$189.62 \pm 10.01$	$118.01 \pm 3.37*$	1.61	0.37
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+}\mathrm{+Mn}^{2+}$	$252.18 \pm 8.11$ *	$185.55 \pm 16.25$ *	1.36	0.32
Se <sup>4+</sup> +Cu <sup>2+</sup>	$295.65 \pm 9.90 *$	$239.48 \pm 9.15$ *	1.23	0.25
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+} + \mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$	$280.05 \pm 10.60$ *	$229.79 \pm 2.54*$	1.22	0.27
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+}\mathrm{+Fe}^{3+}$	$257.17 \pm 20.30 *$	$243.75 \pm 5.71 *$	1.06	0.28

Table 4. Carotenoids and pheophytins content in Ch. vulgaris Beij. cells under the simultaneous influence of sodium selenite and metal ions within 7 days of cultivation

Variant of experiment	Carotenoids, mcSPU/dm <sup>3</sup>	Pheophytins, μg/dm <sup>3</sup>
Control	$46.41 \pm 6.50$	$211.46 \pm 26.53$
$10~\mathrm{mg~Se}^{4+}/\mathrm{dm}^3$	$64.03 \pm 4.04$	$166.77 \pm 6.57$ *
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$ + $\mathrm{Co}^{2+}$	$70.25 \pm 4.02*$	$88.71 \pm 8.16$
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+}\mathrm{+Mn}^{2+}$	$81.08 \pm 5.28$ *	$240.36 \pm 5.26 *$
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+} + \mathrm{Cu}^{2+}$	$74.65 \pm 6.86$	$211.61 \pm 20.02$
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+} + \mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$	$74.61 \pm 9.23$	$137.11 \pm 6.11$
$\mathrm{Se}^{4+}\mathrm{+Fe}^{3+}$	$71.00 \pm 6.89$	$159.13 \pm 2.29$

metals slightly differed from that under the action of selenite separately. Under the action of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Co}^{2+}$  the content of these pigments increased by 51.37% compared with the control and by 9.7% compared with the effect of selenite separately. Carotenoids amount under the action of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Mn}^{2+}$  increased by 74.7% as compared to control and by 26.63% for selenite action,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Cu}^{2+}$  — by 60.85% and 16.59%, respectively,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$  — by 60.76% and 16 52%,  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$  — by 52.98% and 10.89%, respectively.

Regarding pheophytins, under the selenite action their number decreased by 21.13% compared with the control. The same tendency has kept in the event of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$  action (by 48.09% in comparison with the control) and  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$  (by 54.89%). Under the action of  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Cu}^{2+}$  the pheophytins content was close to the benchmarks, and  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}$  and  $\mathrm{Mn}^{2+}$  by 13.67% more than characteristic values in the control (Table 4).

Thus, under the combined influence of sodium selenite and metal ions when compared with the effect of selenite alone the content of chlorophylls a and b increased

considerably. The content of carotenoids increased significantly relative to the control, but compared with the effect of selenite the changes of their amount in algae cells were minor. An interesting fact is that against the background of the increase in the amount of pigments under the influence of sodium selenite, the pigment index and the ratio of chlorophylls a/b has not been changed essentially, indicating that there is no negative impact of selenite on chlorella photosynthetic system. However, addition of metal salts into the medium with sodium selenite for chlorella cultivation caused chlorophylls ratio reduction by half. Pigment index was mostly lower compared with the control and only under the action of Se<sup>4+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> has increased by 12.27%. This may be due to the increasing of chlorophyll a amount as a result of its degradation and also chloroplasts membrane lipids oxidation preventing by the action of selenite providing antioxidant effect, which increases in the presence of metal ions that are included in active centers of enzymes [22].

Chlorophyll a is the part of reaction centers and peripheral complexes of the photosystems

I and II, and chlorophyll b is the component of light-collecting complex of the photosystem II. Therefore, changing the ratio of chlorophylls a/bmay indicate a shift of stoichiometric balance between the reaction center complexes of both photosystems and light-collecting complex of the photosystem II. It is believed that the main causes decreased the activity of the photosystem II under excess of metal ions in cells is the change of reaction center proteins structure and replacing of metal atoms in the reaction center  $(Mn^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, etc.)$  by some metal ions. Usually the target of metal ions action is a primary electron donor of the photosystem II reaction center — P-680, which is a reducing agent of pheophytin. Perhaps, metal ions, damaging P-680, cause the reduction of pheophytin in algae cells (Table 4). Pheophytins are the first electron carriers in the photosystem II. Since it is known that the amount of these pigments is directly proportional to the number of the reaction centers of the photosystem II, such changes of their content show the reduction of the functional activity of photosynthetic reaction centers [23]. Possible cause of photosynthetic electron transport inhibition by metal ions is changes in chloroplast ultrastructure, including thylakoids damage [24].

Changes in chlorophyll content may depend on the amount of carotenoids. The last, due to their antioxidant properties, are involved in the photosynthetic membranes protecting against photooxidation and in peroxide radicals neutralization, preventing lipid membranes of chloroplasts and chlorophyll degradation [22] and, consequently, increases the amount of green pigments in cells.

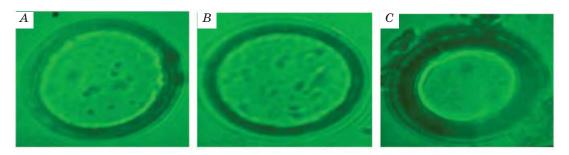
Adding of sodium selenite in chlorella cultivation medium was accompanied by increased content of photosynthetic pigments in the algae cells in almost all experiments. Perhaps this is due to the need of chloroplasts, which partially lost photosynthetic efficiency, updating. The latter could occur as a result of  $SeO_3^{2-}$  ions binding by lipids and chlorophyll-

protein complexes [1]. It has been established that selenium is present in all lipid fractions, and the maximal amount of selenium-containing lipids has been found in carotenoids [25, 26]. Carotenoids content increase plays an important role in antioxidant activity of photosynthetic membranes that protects chlorophyll [27] and, therefore, increases its amount in cells. These changes in the functioning of *Ch. vulgaris* photosynthetic apparatus affect the whole complex of metabolic transformations.

The pigment index increase is explained by chlorophyll a initially destruction under unfavorable conditions, whereas carotenoids are more stable. The lasts are important protectors for green pigment and no-enzyme antioxidant components of cells. In addition, in the biotransformation of these pigments the biologically active metabolites are formed which are involved in the regulation of adaptation to the environment, including the impact of sodium selenite and metal ions. Formation of algae adaptations to stress factors is observed under the action of selenite in the concentration of 10.0 mg Se<sup>4+</sup>/dm³ and under its simultaneous action with Zn²+.

Under the action of sodium selenite at a concentration of  $10.0~\rm mg~Se^{4+}/dm^3$  at the  $7^{\rm th}$  day the thickening of the membrane in chlorella cells is revealed (Figure). Dimensions of nuclear-cytoplasmatic volume of cells are changed by 3.55%, and the thickness of the outer part of the shell — by 12.23% compared to the control (Table 5). Previously it has been shown that zinc ions at a concentration of  $5.0~\rm mg/dm^3$  cause the reduction of chlorella cells linear dimensions twice and the formation of the second ring of cell wall [14].

Under the simultaneous action of selenite and zinc ions at the  $7^{\rm th}$  day the nuclear-plasmatic volume reduction is also observed (by 4.42%) and the thickening of concentric cell wall system (by 29.14%). However, as mentioned above, the changes in photosynthetic



Photomicrographs of *Ch. vulgaris* cells:  $A-\text{control}; B-\text{under the action of Se}^{4+}$  at a concentration of  $10~\text{mg/dm}^3; C-\text{under simultaneous action of Se}^{4+}+\text{Zn}^{2+}. \times 9~000$ 

Conditions of algae cultivation	The diameter of the cells, µm	The distance from the center of the cell to the inner ring of the cell wall, µm	The distance from the center of the cell to the outer ring of the cell wall, µm	The thickness of the cell wall, μΜ
Control	$3.948\pm0.355$	$1.518 \pm 0.156$	$1.976 \pm 0.177$	$0.458 \pm 0.124$
$10~\rm mg~Se^{4+}/dm^3$	$3.808 \pm 0.491$	$1.39\pm0.205$	$1.904 \pm 0.245$	$0.514 \pm 0.095$
Se <sup>4+</sup> +Zn <sup>2+</sup>	$3.564 \pm 0.481$	$1.172 \pm 0.165$	$1.782 \pm 0.24$	$0.61 \pm 0.095$

Table 5. The main morphometric parameters of Ch. vulgaris cells under the influence of sodium selenite at a concentration of  $10~{\rm mg~Se^{4+}/dm^3}$ 

apparatus pointed to the successful formation of chlorella cells adaptation to these factors.

Therefore, according to research the dynamics of photosynthetic pigments content, changes in their ratio as well as morphological parameters indicate chlorella adaptation in response to the impact of metal ions at

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sodium selenite adding in the culture medium. In this regard, at selenite concentration of  $10.0~\rm mg$  of  ${\rm Se}^{4+}/{\rm dm}^3$  and mentioned metal ions concentration, selenium and biogenic metals enriched chlorella cultivation for 7 days can be successful. This, in turn, is essential for appropriate plants obtaining for the production of biotechnological products.

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# ПІГМЕНТНИЙ СКЛАД Chlorella vulgaris ВЕІЈ. ЗА ДІЇ СЕЛЕНІТУ НАТРІЮ ТА ІОНІВ МЕТАЛІВ

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Метою роботи було встановлення умов отримання в аквакультурі Chlorella vulgaris Веіј. альгосубстанції, збагаченої селеном та біоактивними металами. Досліджували вміст пігментів водоростей за дії селеніту натрію у концентраціях з розрахунку на  $Se^{4+}$ : 0,5; 5,0; 10,0 i 20,0 мг/дм<sup>3</sup> протягом 1, 3 та 7 діб і за одночасної дії селеніту  $10,0\,$  мг  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}/\mathrm{дм}^3$  та іонів  $\mathrm{Zn}^{2+},\mathrm{Mn}^{2+},\mathrm{Co}^{2+},\mathrm{Cu}^{2+},\mathrm{Fe}^{3+}$  у концентраціях 5,00; 0,25; 0,002; 0,008 та 0,05 мг/дм<sup>3</sup> відповідно упродовж 7 діб культивування. Вміст пігментів визначали спектрофотометрично, клітинну стінку виділяли центрифугуванням у градієнті перколу і досліджували під мікроскопом. За дії 10,0 мг  $Se^{4+}/дм^3$  окремо та одночасно з іонами зазначених металів вміст пігментів у хлорели збільшується порівняно з контролем в 1,5-2,5 раза, зростає співвідношення хлорофілів a/b, що супроводжується утворенням у клітинах вторинної клітинної стінки і є ознакою успішної адаптації хлорели до цих чинників. За концентрації селеніту  $10,0 \text{ мг Se}^{4+}/\text{дм}^3$ та зазначених концентрацій іонів відповідних металів протягом 7 діб можливе культивування хлорели, збагаченої селеном та біоактивними металами.

Ключові слова: Chlorella vulgaris Beij., селеніт натрію, іони металів, пігменти.

# ПИГМЕНТНЫЙ COCTAB Chlorella vulgaris ВЕІЈ. ПРИ ДЕЙСТВИИ СЕЛЕНИТА НАТРИЯ И ИОНОВ МЕТАЛЛОВ

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Целью работы было установление условий получения в аквакультуре Chlorella vulgaris Beij. альгосубстанции, обогащенной селеном и биоактивными металлами. Исследовали содержание пигментов водорослей при действии селенита натрия в концентрациях из расчета на  $Se^{4+}$ : 0,5; 5,0;10,0 и 20,0 мг/дм<sup>3</sup> в течение 1,3 и 7 сут и при одновременном воздействии селенита 10,0 мг  $Se^{4+}/дм^3$  и ионов  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{3+}$ в концентрациях 5,00; 0,25; 0,002; 0,008 и  $0.05 \, \text{мг/дм}^3$  соответственно в течение 7 сут культивирования. Содержание пигментов определяли спектрофотометрически, клеточную стенку выделяли центрифугированием в градиенте перкола и исследовали под микроскопом. При действии 10,0 мг  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}/\mathrm{дм}^3$  отдельно и одновременно с ионами указанных металлов содержание пигментов у хлореллы увеличивается по сравнению с контролем в 1,5-2,5 раза, возрастает соотношение хлорофиллов a/b, что сопровождается образованием в клетках вторичной клеточной стенки и является признаком успешной адаптации хлореллы к этим факторам. При концентрации селенита 10,0 мг  $\mathrm{Se}^{4+}/\mathrm{дm}^3$  и указанных концентраций ионов соответствующих металлов в течение 7 сут возможно культивирование хлореллы, обогащенной селеном и биоактивными металлами.

**Ключевые слова:** Chlorella vulgaris Beij., селенит натрия, ионы металлов, пигменты.