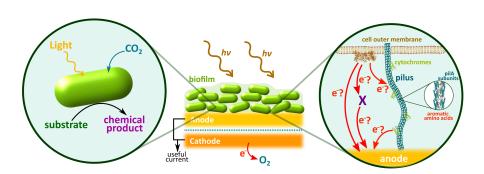
Electron transport in photosynthetic biofilms

Mary Wood

08th October 2024

Biophotovoltaics



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Biophotovoltaics in action



University of Cambridge researchers use algae to power computer





S INDEPENDENT

Scientists create computer powered by algae that will never run out of battery

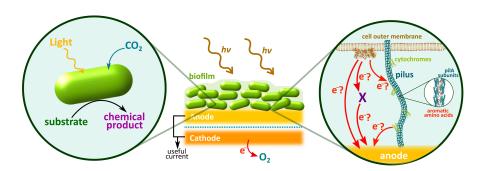


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Biophotovoltaics in action



Limitations



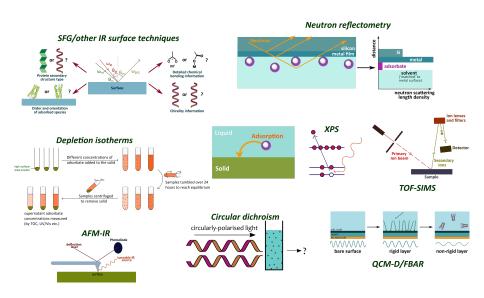
Outstanding questions

 What are the electron-transfer mechanisms between the biofilm and electrode?

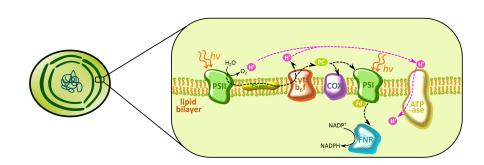
• How could these be improved?

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Techniques

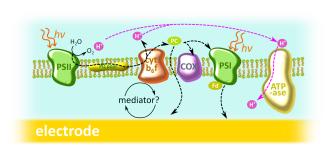


Example: thylakoid membranes



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Example: thylakoid membranes



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Example: thylakoid membranes

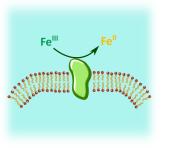


- Buckled bilayer with buffer layer.
- Only forms at < -400 mV (vs SHE).
- Irreversible adsorption.

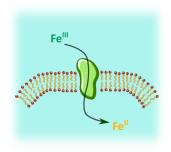
- Bilayer flat but asymmetric.
- Potential-dependent reversible adsorption.
- Light-dependent proximity to electrode.

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Example: Fe mapping

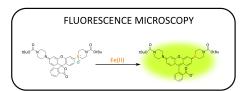


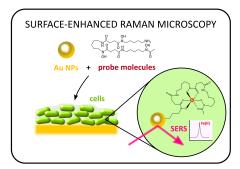
dissimilatory

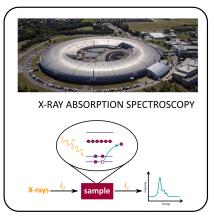


assimilatory

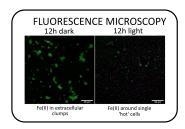
Example: Fe mapping

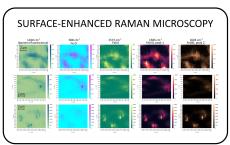


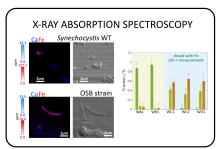




Example: Fe mapping

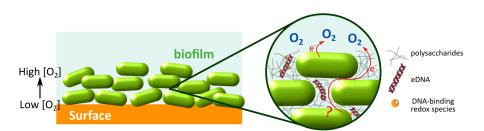






Fe(II) detected on outer cell membrane (light/dark dependent).

Extracellular matrix—a big unknown



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