



Secondary Structural Analysis of rRNA Sequences of Hydrogen Producing Purple non Sulphur Phototrophic Bacteria

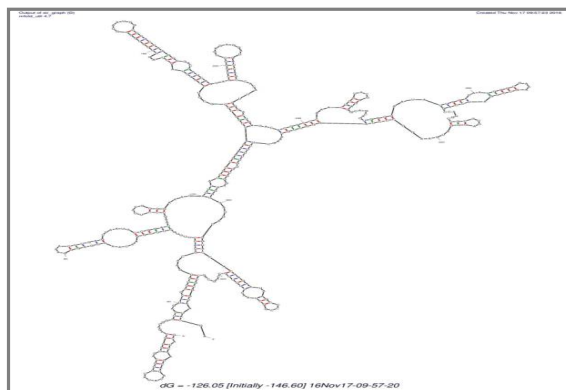
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ABSTRACT

In the present investigation, genetic variability has been observed at RNA secondary structures, indicating evolution apparently acting at structural levels of RNA. It has also been observed that the rRNA folding pattern in KF011915 *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* SMR001 is the most stable energetically (i.e. $-425.40 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$) compared to other *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* strain. On the contrary, the rRNA folding energy of KM189155 *Rhodopseudomonas faecalis* MPPR 001 is $-146.60 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ and KJ881378 *Rhodopseudomonas palustris* strain SMR001 (310.00 kcal/mol) is more stable among all the *Rhodopseudomonas* species. The 16S ribosomal divergence has been carried in order to understand its variability

Graphical Abstract



Keywords: Secondary structural analysis, rRNA sequences, Purple non sulphur phototrophic bacteria, Hydrogen.

INTRODUCTION

The most widely accepted method for molecular identification is 16S rRNA gene sequencing [1]. The 16S rDNA also plays a significant role in molecular identification due to the conserved and variable regions within the gene [2]. Compared to it the 16S rRNA secondary structure of the gene is more conserved, hence it is used in the phylogenetic analysis [3]. The prime objective of the present study

was to compare the secondary structures of 16S rRNA gene sequences of the hydrogen producing purple non sulphur phototrophic bacteria. The stability of rRNA sequences was investigated from different species of phototrophic bacteria. The organisms which were involved included species from *Rhodobacter* and *Rhodospseudomonas*, both of which are the most widespread organisms in the group of purple non sulphur bacteria. Both have been widely investigated for the production of biohydrogen. The sequences of the hydrogen producing bacteria were downloaded from the NCBI website and are presented below.

>KT824856 *Rhodospseudomonas palustris* SMR006:

TAAACGATGAATGCCAGCCGTTAGTGGGTTTACTCACTAGTGGCGCAGCTAACGCTTTAA
GCATTCCGCTGGGGAGTACGGTCGCAAGATTA AAACTCAAAGGAATTGACGGGGGCC
GCACAAGCGGTGGAGCATGTGGTTTAAATTCGACGCAACGCGCAGAACCTTACCAGCCCT
TGACATGTCCAGGACCGGTCGCAGAGATGTGACCTTCTTTCGGAGCCTGGAGCACAGGT
GCTGCATGGCTGTCGTCAGCTCGTGTGCTGAGATGTTGGGTTAAGTCCCGCAACGAGCGC
AACCCCGTCCTTAGTTGCTACCATTTAGTTGAGCACTCTAAGGAGACTGCCGGTGATAA
GCCGCGAGGAAGGTGGGGATGACGTCAAGTCCTCATGGCCCTTACGGGCTGGGCTACAC
ACGTGCTACAATGGCGGTGACAATGGGATGCTAAGGGGCGACCCCTCGCAAATCTCAA
AAGCCGTCTCAGTTCGGATTGGGCTCTGCAACTCGAGCCCATGAAGTTGGAATCGCTAGT
AATCGTGGATCAGCA

>KT824855 *Rhodospseudomonas palustris* SMR005:

CGGGCGTAGCAATACGTCAGTGGCAGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGGGAACGTACCTTTTG
GTTCCGGAACA ACTGAGGGAACTTCAGCTAATACCGGATAAGCCCTTACGGGGAAAGAT
TTATCGCCGAAAGATCGGCCCGCTCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGTGGGGTAATGGCCACCA
GGCGACGATCAGTAGCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGC
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AGCCATGCCGCGTGAGTGATGAAGGCCCTAGGGTTGTAAAGCTCTTTTGTGCGGGAAGA
TAATGACGGTACCGCAAGAATAAGCCCCGGCTAACTTCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATA
CGAAGGGGGCTAGCGTTGCTCGGAATCACTGGGCGTAAAGGGTGCCTAGGCGGGTTTCT
AAGTCAGAGGTGAAAGCCTGGAGCTCAACTCCAGA ACTGCCTTTGATACTGGAAGTCTT
GAGTATGGCAGAGGTGAGTGGAACTGCGAGTGTAGAGGTGAAATTCGTAGATATTCGCA
AGAACACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTCACTGGGCCATTACTGACGCTGAGGCACGAAAGCG
TG

>KT824852 *Rhodospseudomonas palustris* SMR002:

TACGTCAGTGGCAGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGGGAACGTACCTTTTGGTTCCGGAACAAC
TGAGGGAAACTTCAGCTAATACCGGATAAGCCCTTACGGGGAAAGATTTATCGCCGAAA
GATCGGCCCGCTCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGTGGGGTAATGGCCACCAAGGCGACGATCA
GTAGCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAACTCCTA
CGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGGACAATGGGCGCAAGCCTGATCCAGCCATGCCG
GTGAGTGATGAAGGCCCTAGGGTTGTAAAGCTCTTTTGTGCGGGAAGATAATGACGGTA
CCGCAAGAATAAGCCCCGGCTAACTTCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATACGAAGGGGGCT
AGCGTTGCTCGGAATCACTGGGCGTAAAGGGTGCCTAGGCGGGTTTCTAAGTCAGAGGT
GAAAGCCTGGAGCTCAACTCCAGA ACTGCCTTTGATACTGGAAGTCTTGAGTATGGCAG
AGGTGAGTGGAACTGCGAGTGTAGAGGTGAAATTCGTAGATATTCGCAAGAACACCAGT
GGCGA

>KJ881378.1 *Rhodospseudomonas palustris* SMR00:

CGGGGGCATACTGTCAGTGGCGACGGGTGAGTACGCGTGGGAACGTACCTTTTGGTTCCG
AACAAACACAGGGAACTTGTGCTAATACCGGATAAGCCCTTACGGGGAAAGATTTATCG
CCGAAAGATCGGCCCGCTCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGTGGGGTAATGGCTCACCAAGGCGA
CGATCAGTAGCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAA
CTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGGACAATGGGCGAAAGCCTGATCCAGCCA

TGCCGCGTGAGTGATGAAGGCCCTAGGGTTGTAAAGCTCTTTTGTGCGGGAAGATAATG
ACGGTACCGCAAGAATAAGCCCCGGCTAACTTCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATACGAAG
GGGGCTAGCGTTGCTCGGAATCACTGGGCGTAAAGGGTGCCTAGGCGGGTTTCTAAGTC
AGAGGTGAAAGCCTGGAGCTCAACTCCAGAAGTGCCTTTGATACTGGAAGTCTTGAGTAT
GGCAGAGGTGAGTGGAAGTGCAGTGTAGAGGTGAAATTCGTAGATATTCGCAAGAACA
CCAGTGGCGAAAGCGGCTCACTGGGCCATTACTGACGCTGAGGCACGAAAGCGTGGGGA
GCAACAGGATTAGATACCCTGATAGTCCACGCCGTAACGATGAATGCCAGCCGTTAGT
GGTTTACTCACTAGTGGCGCAGCTAACGCTTTAAGCATTCCGCCTGGGGAGTACGGTCGC
AGATTAAGAACTCAAAGGAATTGACGGGGCCCGCACAAGC

>KM189155*Rhodopseudomonas faecalis* MPPR 001:

GCACCAAGCATAACATACGTGCAGTGGGCAGACGGGTGAGTACGCGTGGGAACGTACCTT
TTGGTTCGGAACAACCTGAGGGAACTTGAGCTAATACCGGATAAGCCCTTACGGGGAAA
GATTTATCGCCGAAAGATCGGCCCGCGTCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGTGGGGTAATGGCCAC
CAAGGCGACGATCAGTAGCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACAC
GGCCAAACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGGACAATGGGCGAAAGCCTGA
TCCAGCCATGCCGCGTGAAGGCCCTAGGGTTGTAAAGCTCTTTTGTGCGGGAA
GATAATGACGGTACCACAAGAATAAGCCCCGGCTAACTTCTTGCCAGCAGCCGCGGTAA
TACGA

>KJ873881 *Rhodopseudomonas faecalis* SMRJVI:

CGCCCTGGTCTTCATTGCCGACGGGTGCCTGCGCGTGGGGACGTACCTTTTGGTTCCTGC
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TG

>KJ131189*Rhodopseudomonas faecalis* SMR001:

ACCCTTTTTCGTGGCGACGGGTGAGTACGCGTGGGACGTACCTTTTGGTTCGGACAACCTG
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GCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTACGG
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AGCCTGGAGCTCAACTCCAGAAGTGCCTTTGATACTGGAAGTCTTGAGTTCAGGAGAGGT
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AAGGCGGCTCACTGGCCCGATACTGACGCTGAGGCACAAAAGCGTGGGGAGCAAACAG
GATTAGATACCCCTGGTAGTCCTCTCGTAAACGATGAATGCCAGCCCGTTTCGTGGGTTTT
ACTCACTCGTGGCGCACCTAACCCTTTTAAGCATTCCCGCCTGGGGAGTACTGGTCTCAA
GATTAAGAACTCAAAGGAATCTGTACGGGGGCTCCCCAAGCCGTGGAAGCCT

>KF011915 *Rhodobactersphaeroides* SMR001:

CCTAAAACATGCAGTCGAGCGAGGACTTCGGTCTTAGCGGCGGACGGGTGAGTAACGCG
TGGGAACGTGCCCTTTGCTTCGGAATAGCCCTGGGAAACTGGGAGTAATACCGAATGTG
CCCTACGGGGGAAAGATTTATCGGCAAAGGATCGGCCCGCGTTGGATTAGGTAGTTGGT
GGGGTAATGGCCTACCAAGCCGACGATCCATAGCTGGTTTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACA

CTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAGACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATCTTAGACAA
TGGGCGCAAGCCTGATCTAGCCATGCCGCGTGAGCGATGAAGGCCTTAGGGTTGTAAAG
CTCTTTTCGTGGGGGAAGATAATGACTGTACCCCAAGAAGAAGCCCCGGCTAACTCCGTG
CCAGCAGCCGCGGTAATACGGAGGGGGCTAGCGTTGTTTCGGAATTACTGGGCGTAAAGC
GCACGTAGGCGGACTGGAAAGTCAGGGGTGAAATCCCGGGGCTCAACCCCGGAACTGCC
TTTGAAACTCCCAGTCTTGAGGTTCGAGAGAGGTGAGTGGAAATTCGAGTGTAGAGGTGA
AATTCGTAGATATTCGGAGGAACACCAGTGGCGAACGCGGCTCACTGGCTCGATACTGA
CGCTGAGGTGCGAAAGCGTGGGGAGCAAACAGGATTAGATACCCTGGTAGTCCACGCCG
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CATACCCACCACAGTGCTGCATGGCTGTCAGTCAGCTCGGTTGTCGTGGAGAATGTTTCGA
TTAAGTACGGCAACGAGCGCATCCACACTTCAGTGCATCATTCAGTTGGGCACTC

>KT824854 *Rhodopseudomonas palustris* SMR004:

TAACGCGTGGGAACGTACCTTTTGGTTCGGAACAACACTGAGGGAACTTCAGCTAATACC
GGATAAGCCCTTACGGGGAAAGATTTATCGCCGAAAGATCGGCCCGCGTCTGATTAGCT
AGTTGGTGGGGTAATGGCCACCAAGGCGACGATCAGTAGCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATC
AGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATAT
TGGACAATGGGCGCAAGCCTGATCCAGCCATGCCGCGTGAGTGATGAAGGCCCTAGGGT
TGTAAGCTCTTTTGTGCGGGAAGATAATGACGGTACCGCAAGAATAAGCCCCGGCTAA
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GTAAAGGTGCGTAGGCGGGTTTCTAAGTCAGAGGTGAAAGCCTGGAGCTCAACTCCAG
AACTGCCTTTGATACTGGAAGTCTTGAGTATGGCAGAGGTGAGTGGAACTGCGAGTGTA
GAGGTGAAATTCGTAGATATTCGCAAGAACACCAGTGGCGAAGGCGGCTCACTGGGCCA
TTACTGACGCTGAGGCACGAAAGCGTGGGGAGCAAACAGGATTAGATACCCTGGTAGTC
CACGCCGTAAAC

>KT824853 *Rhodopseudomonas palustris* SMR003:

TACGTCAGTGGCAGACGGGTGAGTAACGCGTGGGAACGTACCTTTTGGTTCGGAACAAC
TGAGGGAAACTTCAGCTAATACCGGATAAGTCCTTACGGGGAAAGATTTATCGCCGAAA
GATCGGCCCGCGTCTGATTAGCTAGTTGGTGGGGTAATGGCCACCAAGGCGACGATCA
GTAGCTGGTCTGAGAGGATGATCAGCCACATTGGGACTGAGACACGGCCAAACTCCTA
CGGGAGGCAGCAGTGGGGAATATTGGACAATGGGCGCAAGCCTGATCCAGCCATGCCG
GTGAGTGATGAAGGCCCTAGGGTTGTAAAGCTCTTTTGTGCGGGAAGATAATGACGGTA
CCGCAAGAATAAGCCCCGGCTAACTTCGTGCCAGCAGCCGCGTAATACGAAGGGGGCT
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GAAAGCCTGGAGCTCAACTCCAGAACTGCCTTTGATACTGGAAGTCTTGAGTATGGCAG
AGGTGAGTGGAACTGCGAGTGTA

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Phylogenetic analysis: Phylogenetic analysis of genes has served as a useful technique to study evolutionary relationships among different bacteria and virus population [4]. Nucleotide sequences of primarily identified hydrogen producing phototrophic bacteria were collected from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) web server to perform a sequence analysis. Multiple Sequence Alignments (MSAs) and construction of a phylogenetic tree among these sequences were performed using the maximum likelihood algorithm [5] in MEGA 6.0 (Molecular Genetics Evolutionary Analysis) package [6].

RNA secondary structure prediction: 16S rRNA of each bacterial sequence was predicted in the Mfold web server [7] to study and compare folding patterns among them. The minimum Gibb's free

energy, ΔG , was computed by the mfold algorithm for each sequence, as the lowest ΔG maps to evolutionary stability of RNA structures for ten hydrogen producing bacterial sequences. The temperature was fixed to 37°C. RNA sequences were taken as linear; the ionic conditions were fixed at $[Na^+] = 1\text{ M}$ and $[Mg^{++}] = 0$. These were compared according to methods discussed earlier [8].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In silico molecular phylogenetic analysis and study of rRNA folding patterns along with phenotypic characterization of 16S rRNA genes [8-10] have served together as a more useful method for identification of bacteria than when these techniques are used alone. Characterization of bacteria isolated from the different ecological niches shows the dominance of gram-negative purple non sulphur bacteria which have the ability to produce hydrogen. The evolutionary relationship has been studied through a molecular phylogenetic approach (Figure 1), which revealed a strong closeness among hydrogen producing isolates of various ecological niches.

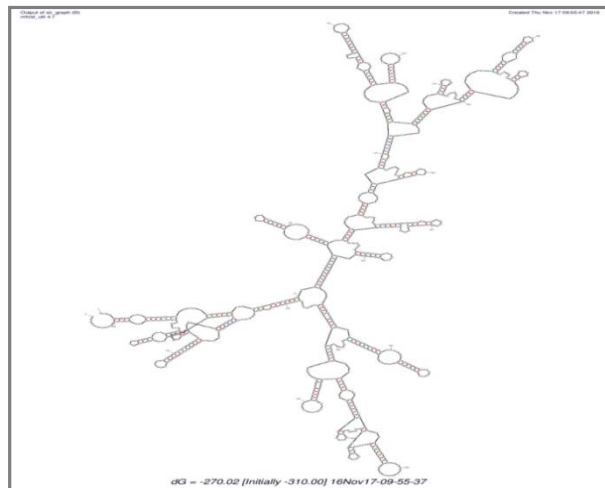
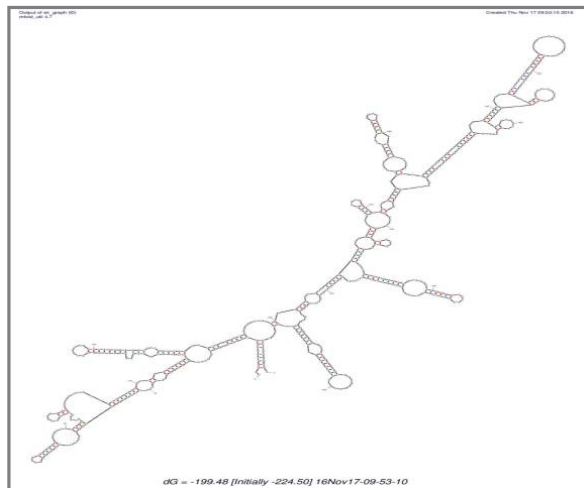
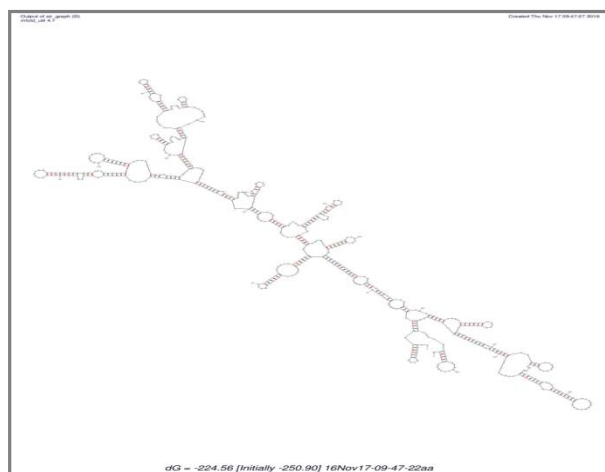
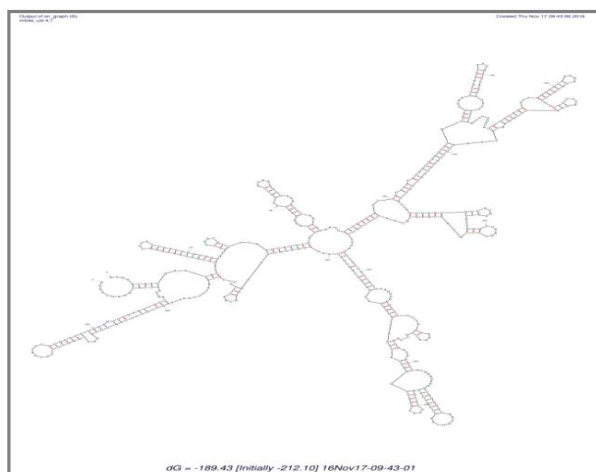


Figure 1. Phylogenetic analysis of the species.

The secondary structure of a 16S rRNA is more conserved than its counterpart DNA sequence. Thus, in the present investigation, genetic variability has been observed at RNA secondary structures, indicating evolution apparently acting at structural levels of RNA. It has also been observed that the r-RNA folding pattern in KF011915 *Rhodospirillum rubrum sphaeroides* SMR001 is the most stable energetically (i.e. -425.40 kcal mol⁻¹) compared to other *Rhodospirillum rubrum sphaeroides* strain. On the contrary, the r-RNA folding energy of KM189155 *Rhodospirillum rubrum faecalis* MPPR 001 is -146.60 kcal/mol and KJ881378 *Rhodospirillum rubrum palustris* strain SMR001 (310.00 kcal mol⁻¹) is more stable among all the *Rhodospirillum rubrum* species (Table 1 and Figure 2). The 16S ribosomal divergence has been carried in order to understand its variability. The secondary structure of RNA has been predicted using MFold (Web address) software in order to study the 16s rRNA conserved pattern at the structural level. Two different bacterial genus strains have been analyzed for phylogenetic analysis by looking into their 16s r-RNA structural divergence. Bacterial strain 1, 5 and 6 showed the similar structural pattern as compared to other 10 strains whereas strain 2, 3, 7 and 9 share a common folding pattern. Strain 4, 8 and 10 have the same type of branching i.e. stem and the loop may belong to the same group.

Table 1. ΔG values of the rRNA folding patterns of the species

1	$\Delta G = -212.10$ kcal/mol, (KT824856 Rhodopseudomonaspalustris strain SMR006)
2	$\Delta G = -250.90$ kcal/mol (KT824855 Rhodopseudomonaspalustris strain SMR005)
3	$\Delta G = -224.50$ kcal/mol, (KT824852 Rhodopseudomonaspalustris strain SMR002)
4	$\Delta G = -310.00$ kcal/mol, (KJ881378 Rhodopseudomonaspalustris strain SMR001)
5	$\Delta G = -146.60$ kcal/mol, (KM189155 Rhodopseudomonasfaecalis strain MPPR 001)
6	$\Delta G = -197.30$ kcal/mol (KJ873881 Rhodopseudomonasfaecalis strain SMRJVI)
7	$\Delta G = -309.70$ kcal/mol, (KJ131189 Rhodopseudomonasfaecalis strain SMR001)
8	$\Delta G = -425.40$ kcal/mol, (KF011915 Rhodobactersphaeroides strain SMR001)
9	$\Delta G = -256.50$ kcal/mol, (KT824854 Rhodopseudomonaspalustris strain SMR004)
10	$\Delta G = -204.60$ kcal/mol, (KT824853 Rhodopseudomonaspalustris strain SMR003)



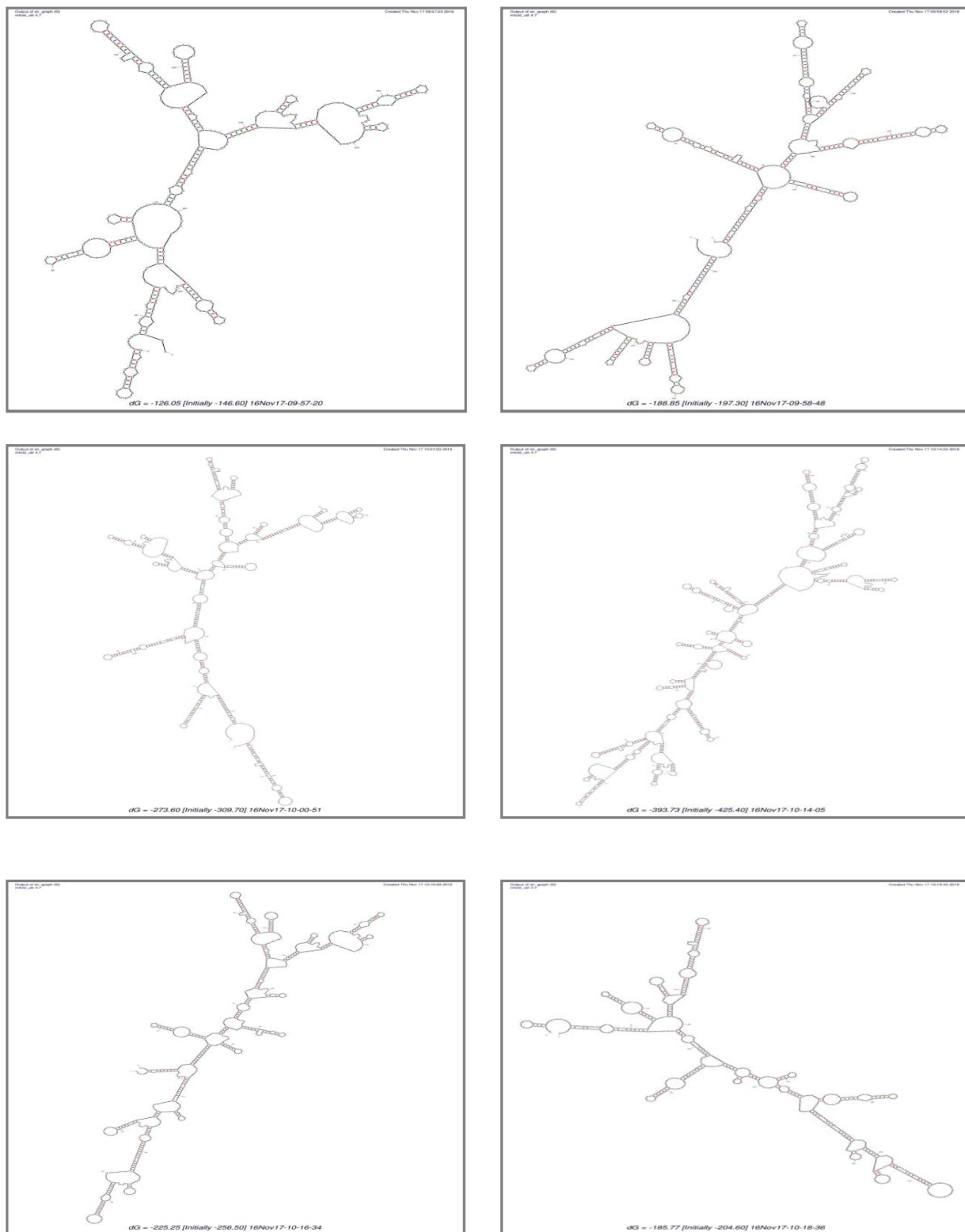


Figure 2. Secondary structure prediction of the 16srRNA.

APPLICATION

Earlier studies have correlated the relation between the rRNA folding patterns and metabolite production from other bacteria. Similarly this study can be applied for knowing whether a correlation can be found between the secondary structure of rRNA and the rates of hydrogen production.

CONCLUSION

Two different hydrogen producing bacterial genus strains have been analyzed for phylogenetic analysis by looking into their 16s r-RNA structural divergence. Bacterial strain 1, 5 and 6 showed the similar structural pattern as compared to other 10 strains whereas strain 2, 3, 7 and 9 share a common folding pattern. Strain 4, 8 and 10 have the same type of branching i.e. stem and the loop may belong to the same group. Based on the experimental rates of hydrogen production further studies of any correlation between hydrogen producing ability and rRNA folding can be made.

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