# Article information:

Characterization of stratified EPS and their role in the initial adhesion of anammox consortia - ScienceDirect  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0043135419309972>

# Article summary:

1. Anammox bacteria tend to self-aggregate and form biofilms for nitrogen removal from wastewater.

2. The role of stratified extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) in the initial adhesion of anammox consortia was studied.

3. The extraction of stratified EPS increased the aggregation and adhesion of anammox consortia, leading to the formation of a compact biofilm structure.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Characterization of stratified EPS and their role in the initial adhesion of anammox consortia" explores the role of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) in the initial adhesion of anammox bacteria. The study aims to understand the mechanism behind the aggregation of anammox bacteria and the formation of biofilms, which are commonly used for nitrogen removal from wastewater.

The article begins by highlighting that anammox bacteria tend to self-aggregate, but the specific mechanisms for their initial adhesion remain unclear. The authors then describe how they extracted EPS from anammox granules and characterized them using various methods. They conducted experiments to examine the adhesion properties of anammox consortia to biotic and abiotic surfaces before and after extracting three stratified EPS.

One potential bias in this article is that it focuses solely on the positive effects of EPS on the adhesion and formation of biofilms by anammox consortia. While it is important to understand these positive effects, it would also be valuable to explore any potential negative impacts or limitations associated with EPS. For example, are there any risks or challenges associated with excessive biofilm formation? Are there any drawbacks or trade-offs in terms of system performance or stability?

Additionally, the article does not provide a comprehensive discussion on alternative explanations or counterarguments. It assumes that the initial adhesion among anammox consortia is solely due to the ability of bacteria to express adhesion molecules on their surfaces and that EPS play a role in adhering inert particulates and forming compact biofilm structures. However, other factors such as physical forces, environmental conditions, or interactions with other microorganisms could also contribute to biofilm formation.

Furthermore, while the article mentions that functional groups on cell surfaces play a role in aggregation, it does not provide detailed evidence or analysis supporting this claim. The use of Fourier transform infrared spectrometry is mentioned briefly, but the results or specific findings from this analysis are not discussed in detail.

The article also lacks a discussion on the potential practical implications of the research findings. How can this knowledge be applied to improve anammox biofilm processes? Are there any engineering or operational strategies that can be developed based on these findings?

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into the role of EPS in the initial adhesion and formation of anammox biofilms, it has some limitations in terms of bias, unsupported claims, missing evidence, and unexplored counterarguments. A more comprehensive analysis and discussion would enhance the scientific rigor and applicability of the research.

# Topics for further research:

* Negative impacts of excessive biofilm formation in wastewater treatment
* Trade-offs and limitations of EPS in anammox biofilm processes
* Factors contributing to biofilm formation in anammox consortia
* Role of physical forces and environmental conditions in anammox biofilm formation
* Interactions between anammox bacteria and other microorganisms in biofilm formation
* Practical applications of understanding EPS in improving anammox biofilm processes

# Report location:

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