

Review Paper:

# Actinomycetes: An envelope of innovative bioactive substances

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## Abstract

During the golden age of antibiotic discovery, *Actinomycetes* demonstrated legendary capacity in order to create biologically functional products. Gram-positive filamentous bacteria that are part of the order *Actinomycetales* and fall under division *Actinobacteria*, are respected for producing 75% of the antimicrobial drugs. Numerous bioactive secondary metabolites with intriguing abilities such as antibacterial, antiviral and antitumoral, immunosuppressants have been made available by *actinomycetes*. Filamentous *actinomycetes* like *Streptomyces* species have a significant economic and medical importance since 1950's.

The natural occurrence of *actinomycetes* has the potential to generate metabolites that can lead to the discovery of antimicrobials which favours antibiotics for strains with Pan-drug resistance (PDR) resistance. While looking for new antibiotics, *actinomycete* continues to be a gold mine. Contemporary genetical studies add power to research for the identification and isolation of bioactive *actinomycetes*. Among rare *actinomycetes*, including new species of formerly documented *actinomycetes* and cutting-edge molecular tools, access to substantial new sources of chemical variety is anticipated. This study extensively reviews the diversity and various bioactive molecules of *actinomycetes*.

**Keywords:** Actinomycin, rare *Actinomycetes*, antitumoral, immunosuppressives.

## Introduction

Diversity of environmental and geographical characteristics support a large variety of microorganisms that are powerful sources of antimicrobial compounds<sup>64</sup>. As with bacterial infections with multiple drug resistance, hunt for new natural bioactive molecules has been growing at a great speed<sup>65</sup>. Among soil-living *actinomycetes*, there are a handful of genera that are most frequently utilized for various purposes.

Additionally, there has been an increasing demand of isolating *actinomycetes* from harsh environments in order to investigate the adaptability of novel strains and the secondary metabolites for multiple industrial uses,

particularly those related to nutrition, agriculture and medications<sup>66</sup>. Often the case, the majority of *actinomycetes* possess intricate life cycle (Figure 1)<sup>53</sup>. They are omnipresent and can live alone or in symbioses with both higher-order organisms and other microorganisms<sup>76</sup>.

*Actinomycetes* also create specific metabolites in large quantities; in particular, representatives of the genus *Streptomyces* do this. These bacteria are responsible for two-thirds of the antimicrobial drugs that are used in clinical settings and a large variety of industrially significant enzymes<sup>77</sup>. This natural compound biosynthesis is inextricably tied to the intricate developmental life cycle of the organisms particularly in *streptomyces* species. Numerous circumstances such as microbial competition, abiotic stress, or nutritional scarcity, can cause this progression, which calls for complex regulatory systems to manage production and formation of specific metabolic products<sup>77</sup>. Biotic substances found in mangrove ecosystems, are produced by cellulolytic organisms which actively take part in the cycling of soil nutrients and the physiological transformation of dead and decaying organic materials<sup>10</sup>.

More than 10,000 of the more than 23,000 bioactive chemicals that have been identified as being generated by microbes were isolated from *actinomycetes*<sup>84</sup>. Out of 10,000 chemicals, *streptomyces*, the most productive species in the microbial world, has produced around 80% of them<sup>80</sup>. For example, of the twenty marine anticancer drugs that are undergoing clinical trials, sixteen are sourced from microorganisms<sup>66</sup>. Currently, 95% of all farmed and published species belong to the five phylum: *Actinobacteria*, *Bacteroidetes*, *Cyanobacteria*, *Firmicutes* and *Proteobacteria*, all are well known bioactive compound producers<sup>83</sup>. Furthermore, the sequencing of the genomes of marine *actinomycetes* could yield information helpful in searching for novel microbial metabolites<sup>21,33</sup>.

**Distribution of *Actinomycetes*:** Numerous habitats and settings such as freshwater, soil, marine environments, animals, plants, insects and fertilizer, are home to *actinomycetes*<sup>22</sup> (Figure 2). They can exist as self-sustaining saprophytes in settings like soil pores or as endophytes in plants<sup>22</sup>. The *actinomycete* group is made up of pathogens that affect plants, animals, or insects such as *Corynebacterium*, *Mycobacterium*, or *Nocardia* species, organisms found in soil or water such as *Streptomyces*, *Micromonospora*, *Rhodococcus* and *Salinispora* species and plant symbiotic organism such as *Frankia* spp<sup>25,51</sup>. They are

present in arid environments, especially in psychrophilic environments such as the terra of Antarctica and the soil of deserts<sup>39</sup>.

**Soil:** The target audience of actinomycetes is recognized as a soil habitant. Only 10% of actinomycetes are isolated in the wild<sup>38,55</sup>. Therefore, more actinomycetes that have not yet been identified, can produce novel antibiotics that are effective against bacteria that have developed resistance to existing antibiotics need to be screened by scientists<sup>39</sup>. Antifungal drugs from *Streptomyces* protect plant from fungus. Actinomycetes are particularly vital for many plants<sup>27</sup>.

**Actinomycorrhizal plants:** Nodules of legumes with actinomycetes such as *Frankia* sp., are the characteristic development in the roots of these plants. According Udwyar et al<sup>74</sup>, *Frankia* sp. developed calcimycin, a new antibiotic.

**Marine Actinomycetes:** Occurrence of ancestral actinomycetes in oceans is still unknown, as is the dispersion

of these organisms in aquatic environments. This is because no efforts made to find marine actinomycetes taxa, even though land actinomycetes have recently made valuable origin of novel biomolecules<sup>49</sup>. Recent research has shown that the ocean floor is home to a diverse range of actinomycetes. They are extensively dispersed across the ocean. Seawater is necessary for the growth of certain uncommon marine actinomycetes<sup>89</sup>. The distinctive adaptability feature of actinomycetes<sup>33</sup> in the marine setting is a possible source of medicinally significant chemicals as well as a source of intriguing study for new species compared to the land environment, the seas offer a rich and reasonably accessible origin of novel microbial natural products.

More than 10,000 of the more than 23,000 bioactive chemicals that have been identified to date, are derived from actinomycetes<sup>84</sup>. In spite of this promise, not much research has been done on marine actinomycetes and even less of that has been focused on biochemical characteristic analysis<sup>40</sup>.

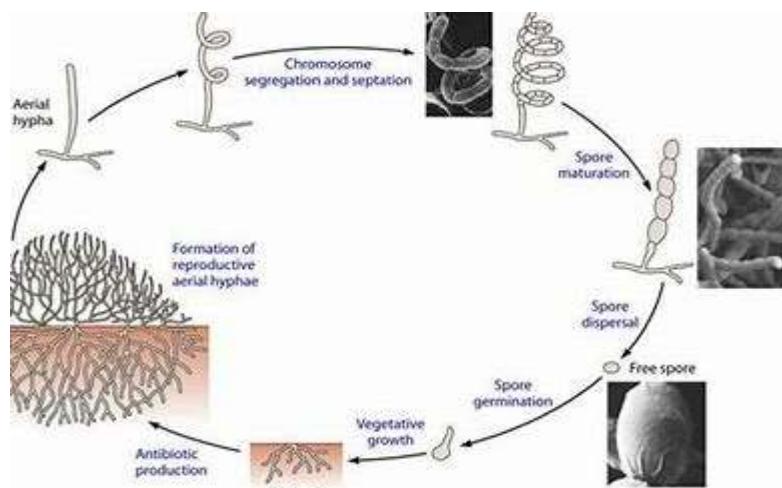


Figure 1: The depiction summarizing the life cycle of the genus Actinomycetes.

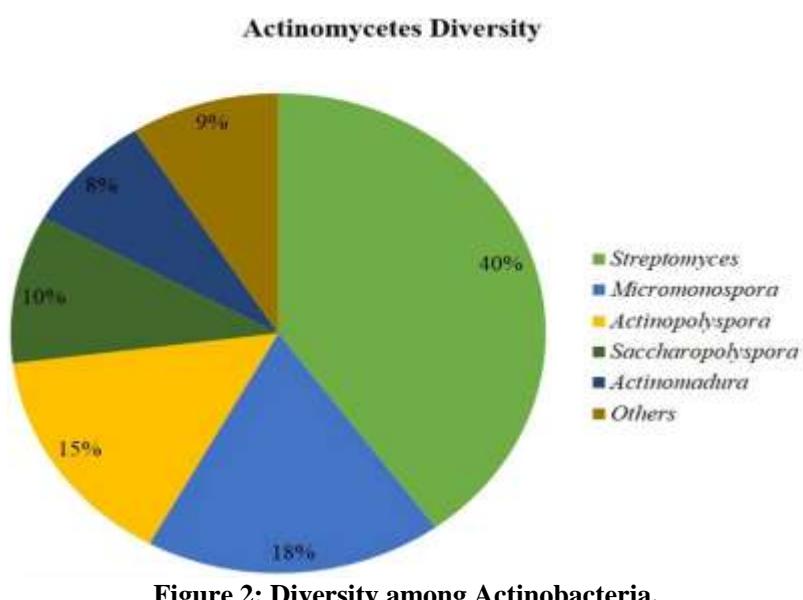


Figure 2: Diversity among Actinobacteria.

**Table 1**  
**Bioactive secondary metabolites from marine actinomycetes**

| Organisms                                   | Compounds            | Effectivity                  |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Salinispora tropica</i>                  | Salinosporamide A    | Anticancerous; antimalarial  |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp. CNQ-085             | Daryamides           | Anticancerous, fungicidal    |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp.                     | Piperazimycins       | Anticancerous                |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> <i>corchorusii</i> AUBN | Resistomycin         | Viricidal                    |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp.                     | Streptokordin        | Anticancerous                |
| <i>Actinoalloteichus cyanogriseus</i>       | Cyanogrisides E–H    | Cytotoxic                    |
| <i>Nocardiopsis</i> sp.                     | Nocardiamide A and B | Antimicrobial                |
| <i>Amycolatopsis</i> sp.                    | Amycolactam          | Cytotoxic                    |
| <i>Actinomadura carminata</i>               | Carminomycin         | Anticancerous                |
| <i>Verrucosipora</i> sp.                    | Proximicins          | Antibacterial; Anticancerous |
| <i>Actinomadura pelletieri</i>              | MM461156             | Bactericidal, viricidal      |
| <i>Amycolatopsis</i> sp.                    | Amythiamicins        | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Micromonospora</i> sp.                   | Levantilide C        | Antiproliferative activity   |
| <i>Chiana rubra</i>                         | Napyradiomycins      | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Actinomadura verrucosospora</i>          | Verucopeptin         | Anticancerous                |
| <i>Actinomycetospora chloro</i>             | Thiasporines A–C     | Cytotoxic                    |
| <i>Actinoplanes coloradoensis</i> sp. nov.  | Coloradocin          | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Marinispora</i>                          | Marinomycins         | Anticancerous, Bactericidal  |
| <i>Micromonospora harpali</i>               | Tetrocarcin P        | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Actinomadura</i> sp.                     | Forazoline A         | Anti-fungal activity         |
| <i>Nocardiopsis</i> sp.                     | Nocazines F and G    | cytotoxic                    |
| <i>Micromonospora matsumotoense</i>         | Paulomycin G         | cytotoxic                    |
| <i>Nocardiopsis alba</i>                    | Isomethoxyneihumicin | Cytotoxic                    |
| <i>Actinomadura rubra</i>                   | Maduramycins         | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Nocardia</i> sp. SANK 64282              | Spirocardins A and B | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Actinomadura</i> sp.                     | ZHD-0501             | Anticancerous                |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp.                     | Cyclomarin A         | Anti-inflammatory, Viricidal |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp.                     | Staurosporine        | Anticancerous                |
| <i>Pseudonocardia carboxydivorans</i>       | Branimycins B and C  | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Amycolatopsis mediterranei</i> U-32      | Rifamycin            | Bactericidal                 |
| <i>Micromonospora</i> sp.                   | Quinoline alkaloid   | Bactericidal                 |

Since marine environments differ greatly from those on land, it is thought that marine actinomycetes may have unique traits from those on land, perhaps laid stone for novel metabolites and medicines<sup>17,50</sup>. Furthermore, genomic sequencing of actinomycetes could yield information helpful in developing metabolite products<sup>33</sup> (Table 1).

**Antibiotics from rare marine actinomycetes:** Oceanic Streptomyces are commercially important group of microbes that set limits for actinomycetes. They are the main source of many different therapeutically active compounds<sup>8</sup>.

A sizable number of compounds of agricultural significance and over 75% of all identified antibacterials with economic and medical significance<sup>63</sup> were derived from Streptomyces. Furthermore, the majority of antibiotics

used in agriculture and around 60% of antibiotics discovered in 1990 belong to the streptomyces genus.

Furthermore, the majority of antibiotics used in agriculture and around 60% of antibiotics discovered in 1990 belong to the streptomyces genus. Streptomyces are major commercial microbes having ability to synthesize antibacterial<sup>7,23,72</sup>, insecticidal, antitumor<sup>12</sup>, anti-inflammatory<sup>61</sup>, anti-parasitic, antiviral, antifouling<sup>85</sup>, anti-infective, nematicidal activity<sup>60</sup> and herbicidal and plant growth promoting compounds<sup>21,68</sup>.

Streptomyces have a great capacity to produce ribonucleases and other extracellular hydrolyzing enzymes. Because of these traits, this genus is a valuable study topic for both academic and commercial purposes. Actinomycetes are

known for creating biomolecules. Currently, all indications point to the fact that there are still undiscovered compounds with possible medical uses, particularly those made by actinomycetes. They are highly efficient in creating secondary metabolites that have biological functions<sup>60</sup>. Secondary metabolites are metabolic by-products that are not necessary for the vegetative development of the organisms that produce them.

However, they are regarded as compounds that play a role in differentiation, giving the organisms an adaptive advantage. For instance, they can act as protective substances or as signals in interactions with other organisms in the environment. They are manufactured at the conclusion of the rapid expansion stage and their creation heavily relies on the growth environment. Manufacturing typically occurs when growth is constrained by the depletion of a crucial element like carbon or nitrogen<sup>6</sup>. These organisms exhibit structural variations and a majority possess biological functions, including antimicrobial properties, toxins, pesticides, ionophores, bioregulatory substances and signaling molecules related to group size. These bioactive metabolites are widely indicated for the management of various illnesses as antimicrobial agents<sup>75</sup>.

Marine actinomycete extracts yielded three diketopiperazine dimers: aspergilazine A, naseazeine B and a novel compound called iso-naseazeine B<sup>7,83</sup> showing that *streptomyces* sp. MBT76 produces secondary metabolites such as undecylprodiginine, isocoumarins, streptorubin B, fervenulin, acetyltryptamine, 1H-pyrrole-2-carboxamide<sup>46</sup>.

Studies on the biosynthesis of metabolites from saline actinomycetes have also been conducted on the cytotoxic compound thiocoraline which involved cloning and analyzing the thiocoraline biosynthesis gene cluster from marine isolate of *micromonospora*. Typical chemical moieties found in secondary metabolites include sugars, amino acid derivatives and polyketide backbones. Numerous enzymes, most of which are encoded by genes, catalyze the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites. These genes are found in a cluster next to each other. All the genes required for the synthesis of a specific secondary metabolite are present in the gene cluster. This comprises of the genes encoding the regulatory proteins, biosynthetic enzymes, genes resistant to the harmful effects of secondary metabolites and genes involved in metabolite secretion.

Secondary metabolite synthesis is aided by enzymes like non-ribosomal peptide synthetase (NRPS) and synthase (PKS)<sup>15</sup>. Genes next to the gene cluster frequently encode other enzymes involved in the synthesis of other constitutive compounds like sugars. Transcriptional regulators and transporters tightly control the entire process of producing and moving secondary metabolites<sup>28</sup>. PKS and NRPS genes are frequently found next to the genes encoding for transporters, transcriptional regulators and tailoring enzymes.

Actinomycetes like *Micromonospora*, *Actinomadura*, *Streptoverticillium*, *Actinoplanes*, *Nocardia*, *Saccharopolyspora*, *Amycolatopsis*, *Streptomyces*, *Streptoalloteichus* generate antibiotic chemicals. A growing number of *Dactylosporangium*, *Streptosporangium*, *Frankia* species are contributing significantly to the synthesis of numerous antibiotic metabolites that are extremely valuable to the pharmaceutical industry. Aminoglycosides, lipopeptides, glycopeptides, asamycins, peptides, anthracyclines, polyenes, polyethers, macrolides, nucleosides, tetracycline and  $\beta$  lactams are among the significant types of antibiotics generated by actinomycetes.

**Aminoglycosides** Streptomycin is an antibiotic that was initially developed as part of the aminoglycoside medication class. It was also the antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis. It comes from *Streptomyces griseus*. One bactericidal antibiotic is streptomycin.

**Aminoglycosides** are typically inhibitors of protein synthesis. *Streptomyces spectabilis*, *Streptomyces krestomuceticus*, *Streptomyces kanamyceticus* and *Streptomyces tenebrarius*, were the sources of the aminoglycoside antibiotics Kanamycin, Spectinomycin, Tobramycin and Paromomycin which were used to treat a variety of bacterial infections. An aminoglycoside antibiotic Neomycin is produced by *Streptomyces fradiae*. It is found in a variety of topical drugs including eyedrops, ointments and creams. An antibiotic called vancomycin is a glycopeptide that is used to prevent and cure infections brought on by bacteria that are Gram positive bacteria, *Amycolatopsis orientalis*, soil actinobacterium. A polyene antifungal drug called nystatin (Fungicidin) is sensitive to numerous molds and yeast infections. Generally, certain *Streptomyces* species are used to produce these polyene antimycotics.

**Peptides:** The majority of actinobacterial peptides comprise of additional unique structural components like chromophores or unusual amino acids. From *Thermoactinomyces spp*, a novel cytotoxic compound was isolated called Mechercharmycins as marine-derived. YM3-251 is among the peptides. Mechercharmycin A's cyclic nature demonstrated a more robust anticancer activity, but its related molecule, mechercharmycin B, showed no such activity<sup>37</sup>. *Micromonospora* sp L-13-ACM2-092 produced the new cyclic thiodepsipeptide thiocoraline, which exhibited strong anticancer activity against MEL288 (melanoma), A549 (lung adenocarcinoma) and P388 (leukemia)<sup>62</sup>. A novel cyclic heptapeptide called cyclomarin A (CymA) is generated by a strain of *streptomyces*. It has strong anti-inflammatory properties.

The cytotoxic hexadepsipeptides known as piperazimycins are derived from the fermentation broth of a *Streptomyces* sp. strain CNQ-593 that was isolated from maritime sediments close to the island of Guam, at a depth of around 20 meters. *In vitro*, piperazimycin A demonstrated strong

cytotoxic effects on the colon carcinoma cell line HCT-116<sup>54</sup>, produced by *Streptomyces* sp. CNB-091 and isolated from *Cassiopeia xamachana* (jelly fish). These metabolites have medicinal efficacy as anti-inflammatory and antibacterial medications<sup>56</sup>. Cyclohexadepsipeptides - arenamides A-C A was found in marine Actinobacteria *Salinopora arenicola* CNT-088 which has cytotoxic activity against gut cancer.

Lucentamycins A-D (3-methyl-4-ethylidene proline-containing peptides) were extracted from *Nocardiopsis lucentensis* CNR712<sup>13</sup>. Aminofuran antibiotic called Proximicins (4-amino-furan-2-carboxylic acid) is synthesized by *Verrucosispora* strain MG-37<sup>13</sup>. An unidentified aminoacid called proximycin works against development of human hepatocellular carcinoma Hep G264 and gastric adenocarcinoma.

**Chloramphenicol, Tetracyclines, Anthracyclines and Nucleosides:** Typhoid disease was treated with chloramphenicol, an antibiotic produced from *Streptomyces venezuelae*<sup>15</sup>. A broad-spectrum antibiotic, tetracycline is a byproduct of *Streptomyces aureofaciens* and *Streptomyces rimosus*. It is recommended to utilize *Streptomyces* sp. to treat various bacterial illnesses<sup>35</sup>. Anthracyclines are a class of pharmaceuticals produced from *Streptomyces peucetius* used in cancer chemotherapy. Daunorubicin and doxorubicin, which are naturally generated by the actinobacterium *Streptomyces peucetius*, were the first anthracyclines to be discovered<sup>35</sup>. The new nucleoside antibiotic oxanosine was discovered from *Streptomyces capreolus* MG265-CF368.

**Macrolides:** Macrolides are macrocyclic lactone ring to which one or more deoxy sugars may be linked. All things considered; macrolides prevent the production of proteins. *Streptomyces* sp. M491 produced chalcomycin A, a macrolide antibiotic, showed activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *E. coli*<sup>82</sup>. Chalcomycin B, a new antibiotic, was obtained from *Streptomyces* sp. B7064 from mangroves of Pohoiki, Hawaii, Pacific Ocean<sup>5</sup>.

**Antimalarial compound:** Plasmodium is the genus of protozoan parasite that causes malaria, a disease that is extremely contagious. Five Plasmodium species—*Plasmodium malariae*, *Plasmodium vivax*, *Plasmodium ovale*, *Plasmodium knowlesi* and *Plasmodium falciparum*, are linked with malarial fever. The most virulent of them is *P. falciparum* while *P. vivax* is more widespread and comparatively less virulent worldwide, the remaining three species are connected to sporadic outbreaks in various regions of the world. Three strategies were taken into consideration for the management of the highly pathogenic *Plasmodium falciparum* malarial parasite. The manifestation of diverse antigenicity makes vaccine development challenging. There is not much success with vector control. However, new antimalarial drugs are desperately needed

because malarial parasites are becoming more resistant to the current medication<sup>31,58</sup>.

Trioxacarcin A-C is isolated from *Streptomyces bottropensis* and *Streptomyces ochraceus*<sup>52</sup>. Artemisinin, the powerful compound has high antiplasmoidal activity. The malaria parasite's target of salinosporamide A is the proteasome, as indicated by the parasite's exponential development in red blood cells and the mildly preserved sequences of its proteasome subunits all over species. With an IC50 of 11.4 nM, salinosporamide has an inhibitory action that is comparable to most traditional antimalarials like artemisinin or chloroquine. Salinosporamide A, the pure chemical, was examined for its ability to prevent the growth of parasites both *in vivo* (*P. yoelii*) and *in vitro* (*P. falciparum*). Finding that *Plasmodium* proteasome inhibitors have a higher selectivity, is made easier by structural divergence<sup>1</sup>.

**Antifungal Agents:** Among the many kinds of medications available, antifungal antibiotics are a relatively small yet important class of medications because of their crucial function in managing fungal infections. Antifungal medications find widespread use in human health, veterinary care and agriculture. Antifungal chemicals can be classified into five major classes: (i) polyene molecules (ii) thiocarbamates/allylamines (iii) derivatives of azoles (iv) morpholines (v) analogues of nucleosides<sup>71</sup>. The first polyene macrolide antibiotic from *Streptomyces* species was identified in the late 1950s<sup>19,24</sup>.

For fungal infections, polyene antifungal drugs like amphotericin B are the norm. Amphotericin B works by interacting with membrane sterol to produce aqueous pores with the polyene hydroxyl residues pointing inward. This alters conductivity, allows essential cytoplasmic components to flow out and ultimately kills the organism<sup>20</sup>. Similar to polyene antibiotics, thiocarbamate families, allylamine, the azole, also target ergosterol. The nucleoside analogue family targets DNA synthesis while the morpholine class suppresses the production of sterols. *Streptomyces* has been found to produce the majority of modern antifungal metabolites. The rest were discovered in uncommon actinomycetes belonging to the following genera: *Saccharothrix*, *Amycolatopsis*, *Actinokineospora*, *Nocardia*, *Pseudonocardia* and *Actinomadura*.

**Anti-tumor compounds produced by Actinomycetes:** The process of discovering new anticancer drugs is typically carried out by marine microorganisms that produce natural products. One of the most promising options for anticancer chemical screening is actinomycetes produced from marine environments. *Salinispora*, *Verrucosispora* and *Micromonospora* were the major producers of secondary metabolites from 2007 to 2017<sup>69</sup>. Based on natural product classifications, the reported chemicals in earlier publications were divided into four groups: quinones, polyketides, alkaloids and peptides. Actinomycetes possess significant therapeutic potential against cancer, particularly those

whose compounds salinosporamide A, have less side effects than traditional chemotherapeutic agents<sup>42</sup>. Isolated from *Streptomyces peucetius*<sup>4</sup>, adriamycin is an anticancer medication that prevents DNA replication.

Mitosanes (mitomycin C), actinomycin D, bleomycin and anthracyclines (daunorubicin) are further medicines that are successful as cancer chemotherapeutics. *S. caespitosus*, *Streptomyces peucetius* and *Streptomyces verticillus* were the source of these medications<sup>32</sup>. Butenolides, actinofuranones, aureoverticillactam, chalocomycin B, Streptochlorin, cyanosporasides, komodoquinones, resitoflavine, tetracenomycin D, thiocoraline, echinosporins, nonactin, rakinidin D, t-muurolol, sporolides and streptokordin are among the marine Actinomycetota chemicals with anticancer potential<sup>29,32</sup>. Marine actinomycetes produce significant secondary metabolites that have the potential to treat cancer.

Metabolites such as streptochlorin, thiocoraline, lynamicins, cyclo-(L-Pro-L-Met) and streptopyrrolidine are some of them. The chemical extracts ULDF5 and ULDF4 are obtained from *Streptomyces* spp that are present in Nigeria and are two instances of anticancerous chemical compounds. Human acute promyelocytic leukemia, human gastric carcinoma, human cervical cancer, human breast adenocarcinoma and human acute myelocytic leukaemia are all susceptible to cytotoxicity from ULDF4 and ULDF5.

The chemicals kigamicin and staurosporine which are known to cause necrosis thereby apoptosis, including both are structurally identical to ULDF4 and ULDF5. Another possible anticancer agent is ketomycin. At nontoxic doses, ketomycin reduced the 3D invasion of breast cancer cells, reduced nuclear factor kappa-B (NF- $\kappa$ B) activity in upstream signaling by preventing the autophosphorylation of inhibitory- $\kappa$ B kinases alpha (IKK- $\alpha$ ) and beta (IKK- $\beta$ ) and repressed the migration and invasion of breast cancer cells<sup>44</sup>. Thus, for mammalian cells, ketomycin is both a potent antibiotic and a structurally straightforward anticancer drug. Complementary anticancer treatments in *Streptomyces* have been found by pharmaceutical companies to obtain novel secondary metabolites and chemotherapeutic drugs from hybrid BGCs and CGCs. More research should be done on the application of streptomyces substances such as ketomycin, kigamicin, staurosporine and BGCs/CGCs in the development of novel anticancer therapies. The majority of newly discovered anticancer metabolites came from *Streptomyces*. *Micromonospora*, *Nocardiopsis*, *Nonomuraea*, *Tsukamurella*, *Umezawaea*, *Verrucosispora*, *Amycolatopsis*, *Actinalloteichus*, *Actinokineospora*, *Catenuloplanes*, *Dietzia*, *Microbacterium*, *Nocardiopsis*, *Saccharomonospora*, were the genera in which the remaining actinomycetes were discovered.

**Antitubercular compounds:** A portion of global population has *M. tuberculosis*, putting them at risk for developing active TB<sup>67</sup>. Many potent antitubercular

medications were identified in the late 1940s and early 1950s; rifampicin was first commercially available in the 1960s<sup>59</sup>. The first medication to treat tuberculosis (TB) was streptomycin, which was released in the 1940s. However, many patients developed resistance to this antibiotic right away<sup>79</sup>. The combination of rifampicin and isoniazid resistance has a significant effect on the tuberculosis control program.

*Streptomyces cinnamonensis* is the primary source of the two naturally occurring antibiotics monensin and lasalocid. These medicines are effective against TB because of their metal complexes with Gd (III), La (III) and Tl (I) belonging to carboxylic polyethers. These ionophores may have antitubercular properties in the future when new drugs are discovered<sup>2</sup>. Treponemycin is an anti-tuberculous polyketide macrolide that was recently discovered from soil samples in Saudi Arabia by *Streptomyces mutabilis*<sup>88</sup>. Both in actively growing aerobic circumstances and in dormant conditions produced by hypoxia, nybomycin, which was isolated from *Streptomyces* spp, demonstrated strong activity against *Mycobacterium*. Additionally, the substance was effective against clinically separated strains of *Tubercle bacilli*<sup>3</sup>. To lessen the rediscovery of known chemicals, plant endophytes represent the uncommon and until unknown microbial species.

The structurally distinct heraclemycins A–D are obtained by fractionations guided by bioassay. HRMSEI, 1D NMR and 2D NMR were among the spectroscopic methods used to determine the structures. Heraclemycin C exhibited potent anti-BCG efficacy, as evidenced by its MIC of 6.25 $\mu$ g/mL. This suggested that new natural compounds and even novel molecular scaffolds for drug development could be found more easily by the endophytic microorganisms linked with TCMs<sup>45</sup>. The marine-derived *Streptomyces* sp. culture broth included nybomycin, which exhibited strong anti-microbial action versus *Mycobacterium* sp. under both dormant, hypoxic circumstances and aerobic growth conditions.

**Anti-diabetic drugs:** The symptoms of DM include hyperglycemia, glycosuria and occasionally ketonemia and negative nitrogen balance arising from one or more of causes, insufficient insulin secretion, or insufficient target cell responsiveness to insulin. A pancreatic functional dysfunction is the cause of insulin insufficiency. Among other chronic illnesses, diabetes mellitus is the leading cause of mortality. Non-insulin dependent diabetes (Type 2 diabetes) accounts for 95% cases of diabetes<sup>11</sup>.

Although there is no treatment for this, it can be managed. Therefore, a lot of work has gone into creating oral hypoglycemic medications and finding substances that can improve the way insulin acts in certain tissues. A lot of effort has been put into looking for novel drug sources among terrestrial microorganisms and these bacteria have produced several novel antibiotic families.

Adiposin-1, acarbose, valienamine, voglibose and trestatin-B have all been found to be effective in the treatment of Non-insulin dependent diabetes and come from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*<sup>11,36</sup> *S. calvus*<sup>48,73</sup> and *S. dimorphogenes* respectively. For those with diabetes mellitus, voglibose is an alpha-glucosidase inhibitor that decreases PPBS (post-prandial blood sugar) levels. Alpha-glucosidase and alpha-amylase inhibitors, such as acarbose, were initially introduced by Bayer in Switzerland in 1989 to treat type-2 diabetes mellitus orally<sup>73</sup>. A novel aminocyclitol, vitelamine, was discovered from *S. hygroscopicus* subspecies *limoneus*. It is a precursor to voglibose.

**Insecticides:** As number of hazardous pesticides in the environment rises, research into alternate methods of managing insect populations has taken precedence. Ecological or biological management techniques have been developed to reduce the harmful effects of insect populations<sup>47</sup>. Along with the house fly, actinomycetes are important players in the biological control of insects: *Anopheles* mosquito larvae<sup>1</sup>, *Culex pippins*<sup>16</sup>, *Drosophila melanogaster* cotton leaf worm *Spodoptera littoralis*, *Musca domestica* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*<sup>70</sup>.

The final cotton leaf worm larvae *S. littoralis* was the target of an investigation on the biological activity of biomolecules. The two most powerful actinomycetes that induce death in larvae and pupae are *Streptomyces* and *Streptoverticillum*<sup>18</sup>. Investigations were conducted on *S. littoralis* and some phytopathogenic fungi. They demonstrated that various streptomyces isolates' pellets had more anti-cotton leaf worm activity than culture filtrates. The antibiotic known as aminoglycoside, derived from *Streptomyces bikiniensis*, has been found to be active against the larvae of *Spodoptera littoralis*, a kind of cotton leaf worm<sup>87</sup>.

**Antiviral activity of actinomycetes:** Marine antiviral compounds, also known as MAVAs, are a unique type of naturally occurring marine resource with a multitude of potential uses. The natural control of disease transmission and sewage-contaminated rivers is by human enteropathogenic viruses (Table 2).

**Enzyme inhibitors from actinomycetes:** Enzyme inhibitors are becoming more and more recognized as valuable instruments for studying enzyme structures and reaction processes as well as having potential applications in pharmacology<sup>30</sup> describing many forms of enzyme inhibitors, including  $\alpha$ -amylase,  $\beta$ -glucosidase, pyroglutamyl peptidase and Nacetyl- $\beta$ -D-glucosaminidase serving as a provider for the synthesis of enzyme inhibitors. Pyrinostatin is a pyroglutamyl peptidase inhibitor that was extracted from a streptomyces sp. SA2289113 culture<sup>71</sup>.

**Vaccines from actinomycetes:** Chronizing the process is a typical issue linked to infectious infections. This may be the result of the patient's weakened immune system or their reduced susceptibility to the antibacterial medications used to treat infectious microbes. Prolonged infections can cause serious harm to tissue and those who are sick for an extended period of time may serve as a stable reservoir for pathogens into the general public. Furthermore, treating a persistent or recurring illness is frequently time-consuming and difficult. The so-called autovaccine was an early attempt to treat acute, recurring and chronic illnesses<sup>57</sup>.

In human medicine, autovaccination was a common practice during the start of the 1900s. Since then, however, the usage of autovaccination treatment has slowly declined, with the exception of a few Nations in Eastern Europe. In veterinary medicine today, autogenous vaccinations, also known as autovaccines, are frequently utilized for treating chronic disease conditions<sup>34</sup>.

**Future perspectives on actinomycetes:** Actinomycetes possess a handful bio metabolites, several of which are significant lead molecules for therapeutic applications. As a result, their investigation may provide a vast pool of chemical molecules with promise<sup>9</sup>.

They may be kept apart from vegetation, insects, water, sediments and soil<sup>78</sup>. They produce potential secondary metabolites with potentially enormous benefits, despite the fact that they already supply a variety of therapeutic medications that are accessible on the commercial market.

**Table 2**  
Antiviral metabolites derived from Actinomycetes.

| Actinomycetes   | Antiviral metabolites           |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp. JA74 <sup>50</sup>                | Dihydromaniwamycin E            |
| <i>Streptomyces bacillaris</i> <sup>11</sup>              | Zelkovamycins F, G              |
| <i>Kutzneria albida</i> DSM 43870 <sup>11</sup>           | Huimycin                        |
| <i>Streptomyces kebangsaanensis</i> WS-68302 <sup>8</sup> | Napyradiomycin A4, A80915 H     |
| <i>Streptomyces koyangensis</i> SCSIO 5802 <sup>9</sup>   | Neoabyssomicins F, G            |
| <i>Actinomadura</i> sp. 2EPS <sup>50</sup>                | Decatromicins                   |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp. AM-2504 <sup>9</sup>              | Virantmycins B                  |
| <i>Kibdelosporangium persicum</i> <sup>71</sup>           | Persicamidines A-E              |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp. HK18 <sup>88</sup>                | Xiamycins D                     |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp. SMU 03 <sup>88</sup>              | dichloromethane extracts (DCME) |
| <i>Streptomyces</i> sp. CPCC 200267 <sup>88</sup>         | Geninthiocins E, F              |

Understanding the biodiversity of the strains, looking into and identifying new groups and optimizing substance manufacturing procedures are therefore vital<sup>41</sup>. It is advisable to think about and employ an exploratory strategy for screening and choosing novel strains that may have a medicinal metabolite. Additionally, their genomic sequence often has a large number of BGCs and silent clusters. It could be possible to find novel compounds by activating these quiet gene clusters<sup>14</sup>.

Investigating the diversification of strains in several settings and identifying their BGCs can be aided by the first discovery of the complete genome sequence. Identifying the silent BGCs in their analysed genome sequences may be done by genome-dependent mining<sup>43</sup>. It is well known that in the presence of other bacteria or fungus, one bacterium can create new metabolites.

As a result, co-cultivation techniques have been used and effective activation of several silent gene clusters has been achieved<sup>26</sup>. The target host strain may produce new compounds in response to compete for resources. Co-cultivation can occasionally mute certain gene clusters while activating others. As such, choosing co-cultivation partners is difficult. To find novel possible metabolites, a deeper comprehension and clarification of the primary signal inducing quiet gene cluster expression are required.

## Conclusion

Understudied environments hold a mainly undiscovered reservoir of substances with unusual molecular structures. Recently isolated actinomycete strains usually exhibit varying degrees of action against fungus and bacteria that are Gram positive. While anti-Gram negative active natural products are more likely to be found in rich, highly diversified terrestrial communities, active chemicals against Gram-negative bacteria are nevertheless rare in most settings. This is most likely the result of stronger selection pressure brought on by microorganisms competing with one another for resources and available space in crowded niches.

Because nature has eliminated most of the competition in harsh settings by making them uninhabitable, it was once thought that the necessity for surviving bacteria to use secondary metabolites was significantly reduced. Another barrier to accessing items derived from extremophiles is the absence of understanding regarding the isolation of these organisms in laboratory settings. Technologies like the I-Chip base can support scientific advancements in the process of separating and fermenting uncultivated bacteria as part of stepped-up efforts to break through this bottle neck. These cutting-edge microbiology-based techniques are still not widely used in natural product discovery processes.

It is important to keep in mind that current discovery pipelines are primarily concerned with obtaining rare actinomycetes by exploring new, non-extreme habitats. This approach can be interpreted as a way to get around the

requirement for exceptional growing conditions. This strategy is highly understanding and preferred strategy, despite the fact that it cannot grant access to extremophiles and uncultured microorganisms. Once microorganisms can be maintained in a laboratory setting, genome mining can be used, genetic tools can be applied to activate clustering of dormant synthesizing genes and further metabolites can be examined with a variety of delicate methods for analysis.

Multiple approaches across different domains whenever coupled are able to provide access to the whole range of special natural chemicals present in just one type of bacteria. In the event that fresh actinomycete strains are not consistently produced, this combination of techniques might improve the availability of novel organic substances. Although many microbes are unable to thrive in an indoor testing facility, the development of culture-independent techniques is necessary prior to the compounds they produce. Thereby, metagenomic addresses remain out due to its capacity to eradicate the natural obstruction of culture.

Researchers in this field will be encouraged to get potential candidates for battling emerging infections and numerous illnesses, including non-communicable diseases, as a result of the rapid development of genetic aspects. There are still unknown actinomycetes from various ecosystems that need to be found in new genera and species. The metabolites of marine ecosystems have great promise for commercial uses since they represent an understudied ecosystem with a large diversity of compounds and microbes.

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