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For RSC advances,

## **Supporting Information for:**

# Reversible adsorption of Iridium in lyophilized cells of the unicellular red alga *Galdieria sulphuraria*

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### Supplementary materials method

#### Separating coefficients

Separating coefficients were determined by the experimental results of metal recovery from polymetallic solutions using lyophilized cells, ion-exchange resin, and activated carbon (Fig. 3). Value is calculated as the ratio of the elements (Ir and another element) after separation divided by the ratio before separation.

#### Adsorption isotherm

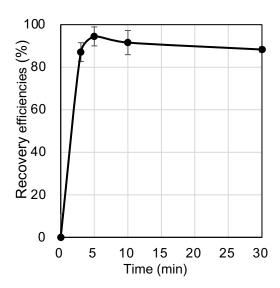
Ir(IV) adsorption data on lyophilized *G. sulphuraria* cells were obtained after incubating the cells in 0.2 M HCl solution containing different initial metal concentrations for 30 min at 25°C (Fig. 2). These data were analyzed using the Langmuir (Langmuir, 1918) and Freundlich (Freundlich, 1907) isotherm models. The following Langmuir isotherm equation was used:

$$Qe/Qm = (1/Qm)Ce + 1/k_LQm,s$$

where Qe is the adsorption capacity (mg g<sup>-1</sup>), Qm is the maximum adsorption capacity (mg g<sup>-1</sup>), Ce is the initial concentration of the precious metals in solution (mg L<sup>-1</sup>), and  $k_L$  is the Langmuir constant. The following Freundlich isotherm equation was used:

$$\lg Qe = \lg k_F + 1/n\lg Ce,$$

where Qe is the adsorption capacity (mg  $g^{-1}$ ), Ce is the initial concentration of the precious metals in solution (mg  $L^{-1}$ ), and  $k_F$  and n are the Freundlich constants.



**Fig. S1** Time dependence of the efficiency of Ir recovery using lyophilized G. *sulphuraria* cells. Lyophilized cells were incubated at a loading of 20 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> for 30 min in 0.2 M HCl solution containing 10 ppm Ir.

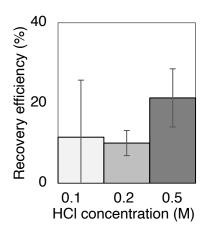


Fig. S2 Recovery efficiencies of Rh from HCl solutions containing 10 mg  $L^{-1}$  Rh. 20 mg m $L^{-1}$  of lyophilized *Galdieria sulphuraria* cells was incubated for 30 min in HCl solutions containing 0.1–0.5 M HCl and 10 mg  $L^{-1}$  Rh. Values are expressed as the average  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experiments.

## Table S1

Table S1 Separating coefficients for Ir in lyophilized *G. sulphuraria* cells, ion-exchange resin, and activated carbon

	Ir/Rh	Ir/Zn	Ir/Cd	Ir/Mn	Ir/Fe	Ir/Cu	Ir/Ni
Lyophilized G. sulphuraria cells	9.8	44	11	22	1.3	15	13
Ion-exchange resin	12	9.7	1.4	11	7.9	11	31
Activated carbon	2.8	3.5	2.1	_	_	2.3	24

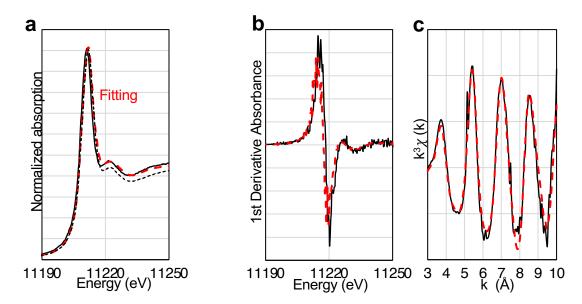
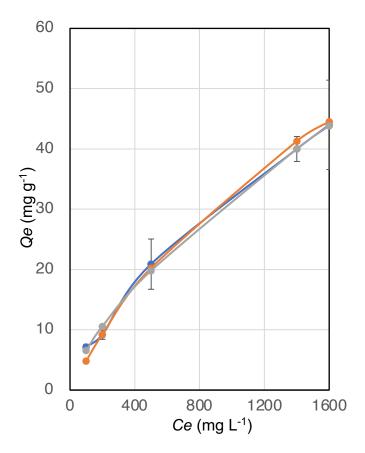


Fig. S3 Ir-L<sub>III</sub> edge spectra and LC-XANES fits (a), the first derivatives of XANES spectra (b) and  $k^3$ -weighted  $\chi(k)$  EXAFS spectra (c) for Ir-adsorbed lyophilized G. sulphuraria cells incubated for 30 min. For the linear combination (LC) fittings, 7 standards were tested for the LC fits of the Ir-adsorbed lyophilized cells. Lyophilized cells were incubated for 30 min in 0.2 M HCl solution containing 200 mg L<sup>-1</sup> Ir. The LC fitting parameters were as follows: R-factor = 0.07397, reduced  $\chi^2 = 0.02448$ .

# Table S2

Table S2 Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm constants

Langmuir	
Qm (mg.g)	98.04
b (l/mg)	0.00
R2	1.00
Freudlich	
kF (mg/g)	0.28
n	1.46
<u>R2</u>	0.99



**Fig. S4 Adsorption isotherms of Ir in lyophilized** *G. sulphuraria* **cells.** Langmuir (orange) and Freundlich (blue) isotherms were compared with experimental data (black) for Ir in 0.2 M HCl solution.