## **Supplementary information**

## Biofixation of high-concentration carbon dioxide using a deep-sea bacterium: *Sulfurovum lithotrophicum* 42BKT<sup>T</sup>

Hyuk-Sung Kwon,<sup>1</sup> Jae Hyuk Lee,<sup>1</sup> TaeKyoung Kim,<sup>1</sup> Jae Jeong Kim,<sup>1,2</sup> Philip Jeon,<sup>1,2</sup> Chang-Ha Lee,<sup>1,2</sup>\* & Ik-Sung Ahn<sup>1</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Yonsei University, 50 Yonsei-ro, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 120-749, Republic of Korea

<sup>2</sup> Converged Energy Materials Research Center, Yonsei University, 50 Yonsei-ro, Seodaemungu, Seoul 120-749, Republic of Korea

\*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: leech@yonsei.ac.kr, iahn@yonsei.ac.kr

\*These corresponding authors contributed equally to this work.



**Figure S1**. Schematic diagram of the 120 mL stainless steel reactor used to culture *Sulfurovum lithotrophicum* 42BKT<sup>T</sup> at 10.0 atm. The three ports on the top of the reactor (1/8 inch I.D.) were connected to the gas inlet, the gas outlet, and the pressure gauge (accuracy  $\pm 0.01$  atm). The inner surface of the steel reactor was coated with glass.



Figure S2. Flowchart of CO<sub>2</sub> biofixation experiments and quantitative analyses.



**Figure S3**. Images of *Sulfurovum lithotrophicum* 42BKT<sup>T</sup> cells grown in medium in which the inorganic carbon source was supplied as either CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> gas (A–D) or NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (E–H). A, B, C and D correspond to cultures in which the initial CO<sub>2</sub> pressures ( $p_{CO_2}^0$ ) were 0.3, 0.6, 1.4 and 2.0 atm ( $P_{total}^0 = 1.5, 3.0, 7.0$  and 10.0 atm), respectively. E, F, G and H correspond to cultures in

which the initial concentrations of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and the total (N<sub>2</sub>) pressures were 0.41 g  $L^{-1}$  and 1.5 atm, 1.31 g  $L^{-1}$  and 3.0 atm, 4.62 g  $L^{-1}$  and 7.0 atm and 8.59 g  $L^{-1}$  and 10.0 atm, respectively.



**Figure S4**. Images of *Sulfurovum lithotrophicum* 42BKT<sup>T</sup> cells cultured with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> as the carbon source and initial total pressures [i.e.,  $P_{total}^0 (= p_{N_2}^0)$ ] varying from 3.0 to 30.0 atm. The initial concentration of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was 1.31 g L<sup>-1</sup> in all cultures. The values of  $P_{total}^0$  were 3.0, 15.0, and 30.0 atm for A, B, and C, respectively.

	1.5 atm		3 atm		7 atm		10 atm	
Y <sub>X/S</sub>	0.535		0.592		0.556		0.572	
Y <sub>P/X</sub>	Extracellular metabolites				Intracellular metabolites			
	1.5 atm	3 atm	7 atm	10 atm	1.5 atm	3 atm	7 atm	10 atm
Succinate	0.23	0.17	0.21	0.20	0.71	0.33	0.53	0.68
Lactate	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.15	2.96	2.12	1.87	3.65
Aspartate	0.00	0.00	0.22	1.40	14.0	9.76	5.62	8.25
Pyroglutamate	0.00	0.00	1.61	3.96	96.2	85.9	57.6	38.1
Glutamate	1.77	1.80	2.30	6.42	294	275	241	235

**Table S1.** Values of  $Y_{X/S}$  and  $Y_{P/X}^{a}$  in culture experiments performed at 29°C in which the carbon source was a  $CO_2/N_2$  gas mixture.<sup>b</sup>

 $^{a}$   $Y_{X/S}$  and  $Y_{P/X}$  are expressed in units of g cell g CO2  $^{-1}$  and mg metabolite g cell  $^{-1},$  respectively.

<sup>b</sup> The pressures given in this table (i.e., 1.5, 3.0, 7.0 and 10 atm) correspond to the total pressures, which were initially controlled with a mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> gases in a ratio of 2:8 (i.e.,  $p_{CO_2}^0$ :  $p_{N_2}^0 = 2:8$ ).

	1.5 atm		3 atm		7 atm		10 atm	
Y <sub>X/S</sub>	0.484		0.591		0.580		0.580	
Y <sub>P/X</sub>	Extracellular metabolites				Intracellular metabolites			
	1.5 atm	3 atm	7 atm	10 atm	1.5 atm	3 atm	7 atm	10 atm
Succinate	0.44	0.35	0.12	0.72	0.71	0.29	0.53	2.23
Lactate	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	3.44	1.43	4.87	6.94
Aspartate	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.03	22.8	13.7	10.7	19.7
Pyroglutamate	0.00	0.00	1.22	3.02	114	84.0	54.1	41.1
Glutamate	3.34	2.38	1.86	5.93	322	285	276	278

**Table S2.** Values of  $Y_{X/S}$  and  $Y_{P/X}^{a}$  in culture experiments performed at 29°C in which the carbon source was NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.<sup>b</sup>

 $^{a}$   $Y_{X/S}$  and  $Y_{P/X}$  are expressed in units of g cell g CO2 $^{-1}$  and mg metabolite g cell  $^{-1},$ 

respectively.

<sup>b</sup> The pressures given in this table (i.e., 1.5, 3.0, 7.0 and 10 atm) correspond to the total pressures, which were controlled only with  $N_2$  gas.

**Table S3.** Fractions of carbon in the dry cell masses obtained from cultures grown at 29°C in which the carbon source was either a gas mixture of  $CO_2/N_2$  or NaHCO<sub>3</sub>.

	CO <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> gas mixture <sup>a</sup>				NaHCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>b</sup>			
	1.5 atm	3 atm	7 atm	10 atm	1.5 atm	3 atm	7 atm	10 atm
Carbon	50.90	46.01	48.86	47.19	56.19	46.01	47.03	46.61
fraction (%) <sup>c</sup>								

<sup>a</sup> The pressures given in this table (i.e., 1.5, 3.0, 7.0 and 10 atm) correspond to the total pressures, which were initially controlled with a mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> gases in a ratio of 2:8 (i.e.,  $p_{CO_2}^0$ :  $p_{N_2}^0 = 2:8$ ).

<sup>b</sup> The pressures given in this table (i.e., 1.5, 3.0, 7.0 and 10 atm) correspond to the total pressures, which were controlled using only  $N_2$  gas. The initial concentrations of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> were 0.41 g L<sup>-1</sup>, 1.31 g L<sup>-1</sup>, 4.62 g L<sup>-1</sup> and 8.59 g L<sup>-1</sup> when the total (N<sub>2</sub>) pressures were 1.5, 3.0, and 10.0 atm, respectively.

<sup>c</sup> Expressed as weight percentage.

## Determination of CO<sub>2</sub> solubility in the MJ modified medium

Once  $CO_2$  (g) is dissolved in water, aqueous carbon dioxide ( $CO_2(aq)$ ), carbonic acid ( $H_2CO_3(aq)$ ), bicarbonate ( $HCO_3^-$ ), and carbonate ( $CO_3^{2-}$ ) are generated by the following dissolution and dissociation reactions:

$$\mathrm{CO}_2(\mathrm{g}) = \mathrm{CO}_2(\mathrm{aq}) \tag{1}$$

$$CO_2(aq) + H_2O = H_2CO_3(aq)$$
 (2)

$$H_2CO_3(aq) = H^+ + HCO_3^-$$
 (3)

$$HCO_3^{-} = H^+ + CO_3^{-}$$
 (4)

Instead of differentiating between  $CO_2(aq)$  and  $H_2CO_3(aq)$ ,  $[H_2CO_3^*]$ , which corresponds to the sum of  $[CO_2(aq)]$  and  $[H_2CO_3(aq)]$ , is used to describe the following dissociation equilibria of carbonic acid:

$$K_0 = [H_2 CO_3^*] / f(CO_2)$$
(5)

$$K_{1} = [H^{+}][HCO_{3}^{-}]/[H_{2}CO_{3}^{*}]$$
(6)

$$K_{2} = [H^{+}][CO_{3}^{2^{-}}]/[HCO_{3}^{-}]$$
(7)

where  $f(CO_2)$  is the fugacity of  $CO_2$  (g).

At a given partial pressure of  $CO_2$  (g), the corresponding  $f(CO_2)$  was calculated using the Reference Fluid Thermodynamic and Transport Properties (REFPROP) database.<sup>1</sup> K<sub>0</sub> was determined using the following equation of Weiss:<sup>2</sup>

$$\ln K_0 = -58.0931 + 90.5069 \left(\frac{100}{T}\right) + 22.2940 \ln \left(\frac{T}{100}\right)$$

$$+ S[0.027766 - 0.025888(T/100) + 0.0050578(T/100)^2]$$
(8)

where S and T denote the salinity  $(g L^{-1})$  and temperature (K) of the medium. K<sub>0</sub> is expressed in

moles L<sup>-1</sup> atm<sup>-1</sup>. K<sub>1</sub> and K<sub>2</sub> were determined from the following equations of Millero.<sup>3</sup>

$$\ln K_{1} = 2.18867 - \frac{2275.0360}{T} - 1.468591 \ln(T) + (-0.138681 - 9.33291/T)S^{0.5} \quad (9)$$
$$+0.0726483S - 0.00574938S^{1.5}$$
$$\ln K_{2} = 0.84226 - \frac{3741.1288}{T} - 1.437139 \ln(T) - \left(0.128417 - \frac{24.41239}{T}\right)S^{0.5} \quad (10)$$
$$+0.1195308S - 0.00912840S^{1.5}$$

Since the biofixation experiments were performed at 29°C, the value of T in Eqs. (8)-(10) was set to be 302 K. S was calculated as the sum of the mass concentrations of all soluble components in the modified MJ medium (i.e., by adding the concentrations of NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, NaNO<sub>3</sub>, and PIPES expressed in g L<sup>-1</sup> to the salinity of the MJ-N synthetic seawater). At the given partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>, the value of  $[H_2CO_3^*]$  was calculated from Eq. (5) with K<sub>0</sub> and f(CO<sub>2</sub>). Then, the values of  $[HCO_3^-]$  and  $[CO_3^{2-}]$  were calculated from Eqs. (6) and (7) with K<sub>1</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>, and pH. For these calculations, pH was measured separately using a high pressure online pH probe (high-pressure glass-based pH electrodes and Ag/AgCl reference electrodes, Corr Instrument, San Antonio, TX, USA). The solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> at the given partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> (g), T, S, and pH was predicted to be the sum of the values of  $[H_2CO_3^*]$ ,  $[HCO_3^-]$ , and  $[CO_3^{2-}]$ .

To evaluate the ability of Eqs. (8)-(10) to accurately predict  $CO_2$  solubility,  $CO_2$  solubility (i.e., the concentrations of the total dissolved  $CO_2$  species) was experimentally measured and compared with the predicted value. The equipment used to measure the solubility of  $CO_2$  (g) is shown in Figure S5. The left vessel in an oven (designated as 1) was filled with high pressure  $CO_2$ , using a P-50 pump (Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA) to prevent pressure fluctuation in the right vessel in the oven (designated as 2). The right vessel was filled with modified MJ medium and stirred using an agitator to reduce the time needed to reach equilibrium for  $CO_2$  dissolution. The  $CO_2$  gas in the left vessel was supplied to the right vessel. After a 24 hr, the  $CO_2$ -saturated modified MJ medium in the right vessel was sampled using a floating piston sampler containing 8N KOH solution.<sup>4</sup> Hence, all of the dissolved  $CO_2$  species ( $CO_2(aq)$ ,  $H_2CO_3(aq)$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ , and  $CO_3^{2-}$ ) were converted to carbonate ( $CO_3^{2-}$ ). The concentration of the converted carbonate was then determined using a TIC (Total Inorganic Carbon) analyzer (UIC Inc., Rockdale, IL, USA). The pressure of each vessel was controlled using a high pressure regulator and measured with a Heise gauge 901B digital pressure indicator (Ashcroft Inc., Stratford, CT, USA), with a total uncertainty span of ±0.035%. The temperature of the oven was maintained within ±0.5K. The temperature of each vessel was monitored using an Omega DP41-B resistance temperature detector (Omega Engineering Inc., Stamford, CT, USA), with an uncertainty of ±0.1K.

The experimentally measured and theoretically predicted concentrations of the total dissolved  $CO_2$  species (i.e.,  $CO_2$  solubility) in modified MJ medium are shown in Figure S6. The two concentration values were almost the same at all  $CO_2$  pressures. Therefore, Eqs. (8)–(10) were used to calculate the concentrations of the total dissolved  $CO_2$  species when the culture medium in the biofixation reactor was in equilibrium with  $CO_2$  gas at 0.3, 0.6, and 2.0 atm.



Figure S5. Apparatus for measuring the solubility of  $CO_2$  in modified MJ medium.



**Figure S6.** Experimentally measured ( $\blacktriangle$ ) and predicted ( $\bullet$ ) values of CO<sub>2</sub> solubility in modified MJ medium. Eqs. (8)-(10) were used to calculate the predicted values.

## Reference

- 1. E. Lemmon, M. McLinden and M. Huber, REFPROP: Reference fluid thermodynamic and transport properties v. 8.0 in *NIST standard reference database*, 2007.
- 2. R. F. Weiss, Marine chemistry, 1974, 2, 203-215.
- 3. F. J. Millero, Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, 1995, 59, 661-677.
- 4. C. Rochelle and Y. Moore, British Geological Survey Commissioned Report CR/02/052, 2002.