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## **Manganese is a *Deinococcus radiodurans* growth limiting factor in rich culture medium**

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**Abbreviations:** TGY: tryptone, glucose, yeast extract; BODIPY: boron dipyrromethene; TBS: Tris-Buffered-Saline; PBS: Phosphate-Buffered-Saline; EMCDD: electron multiplying charge-coupled-camera; CHAPS: 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio]-1-propanesulfonate; EDTA: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; IPG: immobilized pH gradient; DTT: 1,4-dithiothreitol; MS: mass spectrometry; LC-MS: liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry.

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**ABSTRACT**

To understand the effects triggered by  $Mn^{2+}$  on *Deinococcus radiodurans*, the proteome patterns associated to different growth phases were investigated. In particular, we tested under physiological conditions the growth rate and the biomass yield of *D. radiodurans* cultured in rich medium supplemented or not with  $MnCl_2$ . The addition to the medium of 2.5-5.0  $\mu M$   $MnCl_2$  did neither alter the growth rate nor the lag phase, but significantly increased biomass yield. When higher  $MnCl_2$  concentrations were used (10-250  $\mu M$ ), biomass was again found to be positively affected, although we did observe a concentration-dependent increase of the lag phase. The *in vivo* concentration of  $Mn^{2+}$  was determined in cells grown in rich medium supplemented or not with 5  $\mu M$   $MnCl_2$ . By atomic absorption spectroscopy we estimated 0.2 and 0.75 mM  $Mn^{2+}$  concentration in cells grown in control and enriched medium, respectively. We qualitatively confirmed this observation using a fluorescent turn-on sensor designed to selectively detect  $Mn^{2+}$  *in vivo*. Finally, we investigated the proteome composition of cells grown for 15 or 19 h in medium to which 5  $\mu M$   $MnCl_2$  was added, and we compared these proteomes with those of cells grown in control medium. The presence of 5  $\mu M$   $MnCl_2$  in the culture medium was found to alter the pI of some proteins, suggesting that manganese affects post-translational modifications. Further, we observed that  $Mn^{2+}$  represses enzymes linked to nucleotide recycling, and triggers overexpression of proteases and enzymes linked to amino acids metabolism.

## 25 INTRODUCTION

26

27 *Deinococcus radiodurans* is a Gram-positive bacterium, belonging to the Deinococcales order,  
28 whose members feature outstanding resistance to DNA-damaging agents [1]. Indeed, after its  
29 isolation from canned meat samples exposed to  $\gamma$  rays [2], *D. radiodurans* was the subject of  
30 quite a number of studies dealing with the competence of this bacterium in withstanding  
31 exposure to ionizing radiations. Early work was devoted to the investigation of the biochemical  
32 mechanisms exerted by *D. radiodurans* to repair damaged DNA [3-10]. Rather surprisingly, cells  
33 of *D. radiodurans* exposed to 14 kGy, and containing fragmented chromosomes, are able to  
34 reassemble their genomes within 6-7 h after radiation exposure [1]. Contrary to the vast  
35 majority of prokaryotes, *D. radiodurans* cells are polyploid, with the actual ploidy number being  
36 affected by growth phase [11] and culture medium [12]. Each genome copy consists of two  
37 chromosomes (containing 2.6 and 0.4 Mbp) and two plasmids, featuring  $177 \cdot 10^3$  and  $45.7 \cdot 10^3$   
38 bp, respectively [13]. When this complex genome undergoes fragmentation, the essential 5'-3'  
39 exonuclease RecJ [14] produces 3' overhangs at the chromosomal/plasmid fragments, inducing  
40 the RecFOR-mediated loading of RecA onto DNA. The concerted action of RecA and DNA  
41 Polymerase DnaE recombine and extend the overlapping homologous fragments [15],  
42 according to a mechanism denoted ESDSA (Extensive Synthesis-Dependent Strand Anneling).  
43 While polyploidy is an obvious requisite for genome reconstruction competence, *D.*  
44 *radiodurans* does also feature additional and peculiar biochemical properties, responsible for  
45 genome integrity maintenance. Considering that ionizing radiations induce severe oxidative  
46 stress, it was realized that the radiation-resistance of *D. radiodurans* is mainly due to  
47 biochemical factors preserving the proteome of this bacterium from oxidation damages [1].  
48 Among these biochemical factors, manganese is considered a relevant component, mainly  
49 because of the following observations: i) the cellular concentration of manganese in *D.*

50 *radiodurans* is high, ranging from 0.2 to 4 mM [16-18]; ii) *in vitro*, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, in complex with  
51 phosphate ions, peptides, or amino acids, catalyzes the scavenging of superoxide radical [19,  
52 20] and hydrogen peroxide [21]; iii) the depletion of Mn<sup>2+</sup> from the culture medium triggers  
53 oxidative stress in *D. radiodurans* [22]. Therefore, it is not surprising that Mn<sup>2+</sup> represents one  
54 of the main determinants of *D. radiodurans* ability to survive ionizing radiations. Remarkably,  
55 it was shown that the addition of 2.5 μM Mn<sup>2+</sup> to solid medium was necessary for the growth of  
56 *D. radiodurans* cells in Petri dishes exposed to 50 Gy/hour [17]. In addition, it was also shown  
57 that a positive correlation exists between the level of radioresistance and the intracellular  
58 Mn/Fe molar ratio observed in different bacteria [17]. It should however be noted that the  
59 addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> to the growth medium is not necessarily beneficial to *Deinococcus radiodurans*.  
60 It was indeed shown that Mn<sup>2+</sup> can induce a futile Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas pathway, and  
61 decreases the survival of *D. radiodurans* to UV light [23]. Moreover, the addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> to  
62 liquid cultures of *D. radiodurans* at early stationary phase triggers, in comparison with control  
63 cultures, an increase of biomass first, and a subsequent and pronounced decrease of live  
64 individuals in the bacterial population [24].

65 While the information relative to the protective role of manganese against ionizing radiations  
66 and oxidative damage is quite consistent, the effects that this metal can exert *per se* on the  
67 growth of *D. radiodurans* are poorly characterized. Early enough, it was recognized, and  
68 subsequently confirmed, that Mn<sup>2+</sup> added to liquid cultures in rich medium at early stationary  
69 phase induces about 3 additional cell cycles and doubles the biomass yield [23-25]. Similar  
70 observations were reported for *Deinococcus geothermalis* [26]. Recently, the addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup>  
71 to cultures of *D. radiodurans* at logarithmic phase in rich liquid medium was reported to  
72 increase biomass yield, although it did not affect the growth rate [27]. However, it was also  
73 reported that the addition of 5 μM Mn<sup>2+</sup> to rich liquid medium decreased the growth rate of *D.*  
74 *radiodurans* [28], and that the effect of Mn<sup>2+</sup> on the biomass yield is lower when compared with

75 the increase in population density triggered by  $Mg^{2+}$ , under optimal growth conditions [22].  
76 Nevertheless, it was demonstrated that  $Mn^{2+}$  is essential for *D. radiodurans* growth. Indeed, no  
77 significant growth was observed in a defined minimal medium (DMM) in the absence of  $Mn^{2+}$   
78 [17]. Moreover, it was shown that supplementing the medium with  $Mn^{2+}$  in the 0.25-500 nM  
79 concentration interval did progressively increase both the growth rate and the biomass yield  
80 [17]. No further effects were observed when the divalent cation was present at concentrations  
81 higher than 500 nM.

82 A detailed study of the *D. radiodurans* growth kinetics as affected by the addition of  $Mn^{2+}$  to TGY  
83 (Tryptone, Glucose, Yeast extract) rich medium is presented here, along with a parallel  
84 comparison of the proteomes of cells collected at late logarithmic and stationary phase, and  
85 grown in standard or  $Mn^{2+}$ -enriched TGY medium. The observations accordingly obtained are  
86 discussed, taking into account the intracellular  $Mn^{2+}$  levels, experimentally determined in the  
87 different *D. radiodurans* populations considered.

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## 95 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

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### 97 ***Strain and growth medium***

98 *Deinococcus radiodurans* DSM 46620 was obtained from the Deutsche Sammlung von  
99 Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen (DSMZ, Braunschweig, Germany), and grown in TGY  
100 medium (Tryptone, Glucose, and Yeast extract at 5, 1, and 3 g/L, respectively) at 30 °C under  
101 constant shaking (200 rpm).

### 102 ***Determination of growth in liquid media***

103 The growth of *D. radiodurans* DSM 46620 in TGY liquid medium, supplemented or not with  
104 MnCl<sub>2</sub>, was evaluated spectroscopically, and by cell and colony counting. Aliquots withdrawn  
105 from liquid cultures as a function of time were used to determine their Absorbance at 600 nm.  
106 In addition, the same aliquots were used for cell and colony counting, by means of a Thoma  
107 chamber (depth 5 µm, Poly-Optik GmbH, Blankenburg, Germany) and TGY solid medium,  
108 respectively.

### 109 ***Microscopy***

110 From Petri dishes, 2 isolated colonies were used to obtain 2 independent pre-cultures in TGY  
111 medium at 30 °C. Each pre-culture was used after 24 h to inoculate 2 flasks containing 25 mL  
112 of TGY each. Morphology of cells from cultures incubated in TGY medium containing 0, 5, 25 or  
113 250 µM MnCl<sub>2</sub> was evaluated 0, 12, 15 and 25 hours after dilution. Intracellular levels of Mn<sup>2+</sup>  
114 were revealed using a turn-on BODIPY-based fluorescent probe, the selectivity of which was  
115 previously described [29]. From cultures incubated in TGY medium containing 0, 5, 25, or 250  
116 µM MnCl<sub>2</sub>, a 1mL aliquot was taken and washed 3 times with TBS to remove the excess of MnCl<sub>2</sub>  
117 of the medium. The BODIPY-based Mn<sup>2+</sup> sensor (70 µM) was added to each sample and  
118 incubated at 30 °C for 15 minutes. Samples were washed 3 times with PBS and imaged with a

119 Nikon Eclipse T1 microscope (Nikon Plan Fluor × 100/1.30 Oil Ph3 DLL objective) coupled to  
120 an EMCCD camera. Images were analyzed using ImageJ software [30].

### 121 ***Sample preparation for 2D-PAGE***

122 In order to remove lipids and carotenoids from the more external layers, frozen cells from 25  
123 mL of cultures were incubated with absolute ethanol for 15 minutes on ice. Cells suspensions  
124 were then centrifuged at 16,000 g for 10 minutes and pellets were resuspended in 0.5 mL of  
125 lysis buffer (7 M Urea, 2 M Thiourea, 4% w/v CHAPS, 50 mM DTT, 1 mM Sodium EDTA, 20 mM  
126 Tris base, IPG buffer 3-10, pH 6.8), containing Protease Inhibitors Cocktail (GE Healthcare,  
127 Piscataway, USA). Cells were sonicated for 2.5 minutes (cycles of 15 seconds with 1 minute  
128 intervals) on ice using a Branson Digital Sonifier (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA) at  
129 20 % of amplitude, and then centrifuged for 20 minutes at 16,000 g to pellet insoluble  
130 components. Supernatants were collected, and protein concentration was determined using  
131 the Bradford Quick Start™ reagent (BioRad, Hercules, USA). Then, about 500 µg of total  
132 proteins from each sample were purified by ReadyPrep 2D Clean Up kit (BioRad), according to  
133 manufacturer's instructions, and precipitated proteins were resuspended in lysis buffer. The  
134 protein concentration of purified samples was determined as above, and aliquots were stored  
135 at -80°C.

### 136 ***2D Electrophoresis***

137 For each sample, a 190 µg of total protein was diluted to 250 µl with rehydration solution,  
138 containing 7 M Urea, 2 M Thiourea, 4 % CHAPS, 0.5 % IPG buffer 4-7 (GE Healthcare), 1.2 %  
139 DeStreak™ reagent (GE Healthcare) and Bromophenol Blue in trace amount. Immobiline Dry  
140 Strips gels (pH 4-7, 11 cm, GE Healthcare) were passively rehydrated overnight in strip holders  
141 and electrofocused in Ettan IPGphor 3 (GE Healthcare). Focusing (20000 V•hrs) was carried  
142 out at 50 µA/strip and 15 °C, 500 V (5 h), 1000 V (2 h), gradient to 8000 V, 8000 V to end. IPG  
143 strips were incubated for 15 minutes in equilibration buffer (6 M Urea, 30 % v/v glycerol, 2 %

144 w/v SDS, 75 mM Tris HCl buffer, pH 8.8) containing 130 mM DTT, and then for further 15  
145 minutes in equilibration buffer containing 135 mM Iodoacetamide. Strips were sealed in place  
146 on top of Criterion Precasted Gels–Any kD (BioRad) using 1 % w/v agarose in running buffer  
147 with trace amount of bromophenol blue. The second dimension was performed using a  
148 Criterion electrophoresis cell (BioRad) under constant current (30 mA/gel and 250 V max).  
149 Gels were fixed in 40 % v/v Methanol and 10 % v/v Acetic Acid solution for 2 hours, and then  
150 stained overnight with Colloidal Coomassie Blue G solution. After several washes, gels were  
151 scanned with Pharos-FX system and analyzed using Proteomweaver™ software (both from  
152 BioRad).

### 153 ***Preparation of samples for mass spectrometry***

154 Spots were excised from gels and treated as reported by Shevchenko et al. [31]. Briefly, spots  
155 were destained in 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate in acetonitrile (ACN) and dehydrated with  
156 pure ACN. Samples were then reduced with 10 mM DTT, and alkylated with 55 mM  
157 iodoacetamide in 100 mM ammonium bicarbonate (Millipore-Sigma, St. Louis, USA). After  
158 dehydration in ACN, gel pieces were equilibrated at 4 °C in solution A (10 mM ammonium  
159 bicarbonate, 10 % ACN) containing 13 ng/μl of porcine trypsin for MS (Millipore-Sigma) for 2  
160 hours, and then incubated at 37 °C overnight. After spinning, supernatants were harvested and  
161 gel pieces were covered by extraction solution (5 % formic acid in ACN). After 15 minutes of  
162 incubation at 37 °C, supernatants from this step were pooled to the corresponding  
163 supernatants of the previous step and dried in SpeedVac (Savant™).

### 164 ***Mass spectrometry***

165 Separation of peptides were performed as previously described [32]. The resulting peptides  
166 were analyzed by LC-MS/MS using an Orbitrap XL instrument (Thermo Fisher Scientific)  
167 equipped with a nano-ESI source coupled with a nano-Acquity capillary UPLC (Waters, Milford,  
168 USA). Briefly, peptides were separated with a capillary BEH C18 column (0.075 x 100 mm, 1.7

169  $\mu\text{M}$ , Waters) using aqueous 0.1 % formic acid (A) and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  containing 0.1 % formic acid (B)  
170 as mobile phases. Peptides were eluted by means of a linear gradient from 5 to 50 % of B in 90  
171 minutes, at a 300 nL/minute flow rate. Mass spectra were acquired over an  $m/z$  range from 400  
172 to 1800. To achieve protein identification, MS and MS/MS data underwent Mascot Search  
173 Engine software analysis to interrogate the National Center for Biotechnology Information non  
174 redundant (NCBI nr) protein database. Parameters sets were: trypsin cleavage;  
175 carbamidomethylation of cysteines as a fixed modification, and methionine oxidation as a  
176 variable modification; a maximum of two missed cleavages; false discovery rate, calculated by  
177 searching the decoy database, was set at 0.05.

#### 178 ***Atomic absorption spectroscopy***

179 The concentration of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in liquid samples was determined using a Varian Spectra AA•100  
180 GTA110 Spectrometer, equipped with a graphite furnace. The calibration curve was obtained  
181 by dilution of a commercial standard (1000 ppm, Carlo Erba, Cornaredo, Italy) to 20, 40, 60,  
182 and 80 ppb. For the analysis of glucose, tryptone and yeast extract, 1 g of each sample was  
183 individually dissolved in 24.75 mL of ultrapure  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to which 250  $\mu\text{L}$  of  $\text{HNO}_3$  was added. The  
184 solutions accordingly obtained were then analyzed. For the estimation of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in *D.*  
185 *radiodurans* cells, aliquots of liquid cultures (1 mL) were centrifuged and the resultant pellets  
186 were washed twice with ultrapure  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Finally, the washed pellets were resuspended and  
187 subjected to analysis.

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## 191 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

192

### 193 ***Growth of Deinococcus radiodurans in TGY medium enriched with Mn<sup>2+</sup>***

194 As a first test, we assayed the growth of *Deinococcus radiodurans* at 30 °C in TGY medium to  
195 which 0, 2.5, 5, 10, 25, or 250 μM Mn<sup>2+</sup> was added. Accordingly, we spectroscopically  
196 determined the growth kinetics of the corresponding bacterial populations, of which the  
197 majority did reach the stationary phase within 35 h (Fig. 1a). The addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> to the  
198 medium positively affected the biomass yield, and at concentrations ≥ 10 μM increased the time  
199 length of the lag phase. In particular, when compared to the control, all the cultures grown in  
200 manganese-enriched TGY medium featured a higher population density at the end of the time  
201 interval considered (Fig. 1a). When the lag phase is analyzed, 10, 25 and 250 μM Mn<sup>2+</sup> did  
202 significantly delay the onset of growth, by about 10, 15, and 20 h, respectively (Fig. 1a). In  
203 contrast, the addition of 2.5 or 5 μM manganese to TGY medium did neither alter the lag phase  
204 nor the growth rate, but increased the biomass yield about 1.5 fold when compared to the  
205 control culture (Fig. 1a). We further tested this effect by comparing control and manganese-  
206 supplemented cultures. To this aim, 3 single colonies of *D. radiodurans* were used to inoculate  
207 3 independent pre-cultures, whose growth was performed in TGY medium at 30 °C for 48 h.  
208 Each pre-culture was then diluted in TGY and in the same medium to which 5 μM Mn<sup>2+</sup> was  
209 added, and the 6 cultures accordingly obtained were incubated for 15 h at 30 °C, under constant  
210 shaking. Based on the determined growth kinetics of each culture, we observed significant  
211 higher biomass yields in the manganese-supplemented cultures (Supplementary Fig. S1). To  
212 better define the stimulation of *D. radiodurans* growth exerted by Mn<sup>2+</sup>, the biomass yield by  
213 cell and colony counting, after 19 h of growth at 30 °C, was estimated. When the number of  
214 individuals per unit volume was determined using a Thoma chamber, we observed that the  
215 addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> doubled the population density (Fig. 1b). A similar magnitude of the effect

216 induced by manganese was also observed by colony counting (Fig. 1b). Not surprisingly, the  
217 absolute values were in this case slightly lower than those relative to the number of total cells  
218 per unit volume, for both the control and the manganese-supplemented cultures. It is important  
219 to note that the addition of manganese to TGY medium, besides inducing a significant increase  
220 in biomass yield (Fig. 1b), did not dramatically affect the partition of the bacterial population  
221 among single cells, diads, and tetrads (Fig. 2). The only significant effect observed was indeed  
222 a slight increase of the occurrence of diads and tetrads in the population grown in manganese-  
223 supplemented medium (Fig. 2).

224 The formulation of a defined minimal medium (DMM) for *Deinococcus radiodurans* [33] was a  
225 mandatory step to recognize manganese as essential for the growth of this microorganism [17].  
226 The effect on *D. radiodurans* growth eventually induced by the addition of manganese to rich  
227 media was tested under different conditions. Generally, high concentrations (100-500  $\mu\text{M}$ ) of  
228  $\text{MnCl}_2$  were chosen to inoculate a TGY-enriched medium [24, 28], or to supplement TGY at  
229 stationary [23-25] or logarithmic phase [27]. Nevertheless, Chou and Tan observed that  
230 concentrations of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in the 0-2.5  $\mu\text{M}$  interval suffice to increase the biomass yield of *D.*  
231 *radiodurans* in rich medium [24]. Overall, these observations agree in suggesting that the  
232 concentration of manganese in rich media is sub-optimal when the biomass yield is considered.  
233 Despite this agreement, conflicting evidence was reported about the effect of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  towards the  
234 growth kinetics of *D. radiodurans* in rich media. The divalent cation was indeed shown to be  
235 ineffective [23, 27] or detrimental [23, 25, 28] towards the growth rate. We reported here that  
236 concentrations of  $\text{MnCl}_2$  ranging from 2.5 to 250  $\mu\text{M}$  did not significantly alter the growth rate  
237 of *D. radiodurans*, albeit triggering higher biomass yields (Fig. 1a). However, we observed a  
238 consistent increase of the time length of the lag phase as the TGY medium was supplemented  
239 with manganese at concentrations higher than 10  $\mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 1a). The divergence between our  
240 and previous observations is quite likely due to the method we used to prepare the cultures:

241 contrary to what customarily done [23, 28], we did not pre-culture cells in manganese-enriched  
242 medium, but we instead used a single pre-culture grown in TGY medium, and this single pre-  
243 culture was subsequently split in 2 cultures, in TGY and in TGY supplemented with  $\text{MnCl}_2$ ,  
244 respectively. This means, in turn, that the cells we grew in TGY  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ -enriched medium were  
245 adapting to the presence of the divalent cation, most likely by expressing proteins useful to deal  
246 with the presence of manganese. In our view, this was important to obtain meaningful samples  
247 for protein extraction and mass spectrometry, with the aim to identify components of the  
248 proteome responsible for the positive response of *D. radiodurans* to manganese.

#### 249 **$\text{Mn}^{2+}$ levels in *Deinococcus radiodurans* cells**

250 To evaluate the propensity of *D. radiodurans* cells to accumulate  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , we analyzed by atomic  
251 absorption spectroscopy the concentration of this divalent cation both in TGY medium and in  
252 whole cells. First, we determined the concentration of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in the 3 components of TGY, *i.e.*  
253 tryptone, yeast extract, and glucose. Using solutions at 40 g/L of each compound, we were able  
254 to determine  $3.05 \pm 0.09$ , and  $2.19 \pm 0.08$   $\mu\text{g/g}$  (ppb) of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in tryptone and yeast extract,  
255 respectively. The content of the divalent cation in glucose was below the detection limit of our  
256 procedure, equal to 0.4  $\mu\text{g/g}$ . Accordingly, and considering the composition of TGY (Tryptone,  
257 Glucose, and Yeast Extract at 5, 1, and 3 g/L, respectively), the concentration of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in the  
258 medium was equal to 21.82  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , *i.e.* 0.4  $\mu\text{M}$ . The manganese concentration was then  
259 determined in whole cells grown for 15 or 19 h in TGY, or in the same medium to which 5  $\mu\text{M}$   
260  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  was added. To estimate the manganese concentration *in vivo*, the number of cells of each  
261 sample was counted with a Thoma chamber, and the volume of a single cell was assumed as  
262 equal to 8  $\mu\text{m}^3$ . According to this assumption, the data obtained for cells cultured for 15 h  
263 (Supplementary Fig. S2a) correspond to 0.2 and 0.75 mM of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  per single cell, grown in TGY  
264 or in manganese-supplemented medium, respectively. For cells grown for 19 h, this difference  
265 does hold, the  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  concentration being indeed equal to 0.5 and 1.45 mM for cells grown in

266 control and in manganese-supplemented medium, respectively (Supplementary Fig. S2b).  
267 Accordingly, the addition of 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  to TGY induces a 3-fold increase of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  concentration  
268 *in vivo*, independently of the growth phase. This suggests that the enrichment of TGY with  $\text{MnCl}_2$   
269 should induce significant changes in *D. radiodurans* proteome at early stages of growth.  
270 Considering the effect exerted by  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  on cell growth, we also evaluated whether  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  addition  
271 to the medium affects the cell morphology. Among the comparisons considered, some  
272 significant differences were observed (Table 1): i) at 12 h of incubation or later, the cells axes  
273 of control cells were longer than those of cells grown in the presence of manganese; ii) at 20-  
274 25 h of incubation, cells incubated in the presence of 250  $\mu\text{M}$  manganese featured shorter axes;  
275 iii) the addition of 25 or 250  $\mu\text{M}$  manganese shortened the diameter of cells incubated for 12  
276 or 20 h, and this effect lasted for 25 h of incubation for cells grown in the presence of 250  $\mu\text{M}$   
277 manganese. The peculiar morphology of control cells does nicely correlate with the observation  
278 that the growth of these cells slows down after 15 h of incubation (Fig. 1a), suggesting a  
279 phenotypic link between the elongation of cells axis and the onset of stationary phase. In  
280 addition, we observed a significant shortening of cells diameter in those populations featuring  
281 a prolonged lag phase (Table 1, Fig. 1a). It is also important to note that no aberrant  
282 morphologies were observed for any of the concentrations of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  tested (Fig. 3a).  
283 We also determined in another experiment the cytosolic accumulation of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  in cells cultured  
284 in the absence (control) or in the presence (5, 25 or 250  $\mu\text{M}$ ) of  $\text{MnCl}_2$ , under the same growth  
285 conditions. To this aim, we used a BODIPY-based turn-on fluorescent  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  sensor, which can  
286 pass the cell membrane and bind specifically to intracellular  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  [29]. Cells grown in the  
287 absence of  $\text{MnCl}_2$  show a total fluorescence equal to  $45.82 \pm 20.64$ . This signal increases 3.2  
288 ( $146.97 \pm 68.40$ ), 3.64 ( $166.97 \pm 85.02$ ) and 4.91 ( $225.02 \pm 71.69$ ) times for the samples grown  
289 in the presence of 5, 25 and 250  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$ , respectively (Figs 3b and 3c). However, the only  
290 significant difference among those detected is the divergence between the total fluorescence of

291 cells grown in the absence of manganese and the fluorescence levels of cells grown in  
292 manganese-enriched media (Fig. 3c). This could be due to the following reasons: i) the probe  
293 concentration is limiting; ii) most of the  $Mn^{2+}$  is bound to proteins and DNA, and therefore is  
294 not accessible to the probe. In addition, we observed that at high  $Mn^{2+}$  enrichment (250  $\mu M$ ) of  
295 the growth medium, the cytosolic probe bleached faster than the membrane bound.

### 296 ***Mn<sup>2+</sup> and the proteome of Deinococcus radiodurans***

297 Taking into account the growth-promoting effect induced in *D. radiodurans* by manganese (Fig.  
298 1), and the concomitant accumulation *in vivo* of this divalent cation (Fig. 3), we investigated in  
299 detail the proteome of cells grown in TGY or in the same medium enriched with 5  $\mu M$   $Mn^{2+}$ .  
300 Considering the kinetics of growth in both media (Fig. 1a), we decided to harvest cells from  
301 cultures grown for 15 and 19 h. By this means, we compared the proteome of control and  
302 manganese-enriched cells when their growth phase was comparable (15 h, Fig. 1a) and when  
303 the difference in population density between the 2 cultures was well established (19 h, Fig. 1a).  
304 From each sample total proteins were extracted to perform 2D electrophoresis, and the spot  
305 patterns of the 4 gels were compared. A total of 68 spots that were absent or overexpressed  
306 (spots whose intensity was at least 2-fold higher or lower than the matched spot on the other  
307 gel) in the control or in the  $Mn^{2+}$ -treated culture were selected for MS analysis. The complete  
308 list of the proteins associated to these spots is reported in Supplementary Table ST1, where it  
309 is shown that some proteins could not be identified, and others were identified as sample  
310 contaminants (e.g. keratin in spot 19, Supplementary Table ST1). In addition, some spots were  
311 found to contain *D. radiodurans* proteins whose function is hypothetical. Excluding from further  
312 analysis the proteins not identified, and those representing contaminants or featuring  
313 hypothetical functions, a total of 52 spots was left for the comparison of the 4 proteomes  
314 considered.

315 Interestingly, among these spots we observed 5 whose electrophoretic mobility was  
316 significantly affected by the enrichment with manganese of the growth medium (Table 2, Figs  
317 4 and 5). These 5 proteins isolated from manganese-enriched cultures featured higher pI  
318 values, with shifts up to 1.4 pH units (Table 2). It is important to note that the most consistent  
319 pI shift (1.4) is associated to an iron ABC transporter, the molecular mass of which was found  
320 almost invariant (Table 2). The regulation of ABC transporters by phosphorylation is well  
321 documented [34], and the importance of kinases as well as the presence of phosphorylation  
322 sites has been reported [35-37]. Accordingly, we propose that in cells grown in Mn<sup>2+</sup>-enriched  
323 medium the extent of phosphorylation of the iron ABC transporter is significantly reduced  
324 when compared to that at the expense of the protein from control cells, leading to a higher pI.  
325 This would, in turn, lead to a decreased activity of the iron transporter in manganese-enriched  
326 cells. It was previously shown that the radio-resistance of *D. radiodurans* is correlated to high  
327 manganese/iron ratio, *in vivo* [17]. Accordingly, the behaviour reported here for the iron ABC  
328 transporter suggests a mechanism for the beneficial effect exerted by Mn<sup>2+</sup> under physiological  
329 growth conditions. In addition, the observations listed in Table 2 suggest to attempt, with  
330 future work, the identification of post-translational modification systems affected by  
331 manganese.

332 When the proteomes of control and manganese-enriched cells were compared after 15 h of  
333 growth, we detected 7 and 9 proteins preferentially expressed in control (Supplementary Table  
334 ST2, Fig. 4) and in manganese-enriched (Supplementary Table ST3, Fig. 4) cells, respectively.  
335 Furthermore, by comparing the two proteomes after 19 h of growth, we identified 9 and 21  
336 proteins selectively expressed in control (Supplementary Table ST4, Fig. 5) and in manganese-  
337 enriched (Supplementary Table ST5, Fig. 5) cells, respectively. The 46 proteins accordingly  
338 identified can be classified into 4 major groups: i) the extracellular nuclease (Gi10957459) and  
339 the ribosomal 50S L5 protein (Gi15805352) are exclusively expressed in control cells, both

340 after 15 and 19 h of growth (spots 1 and 11, 2 and 13, Supplementary Tables ST2 and ST4); ii)  
341 the transcription termination/anti-termination factor NusA (Gi15806798) is selectively  
342 expressed in manganese-enriched cells, both after 15 and 19 h of growth (spots 10 and 24,  
343 Supplementary Tables ST3 and ST5); iii) the phage shock protein A (Gi15806486) is earlier  
344 expressed in control cells (spots 4 and 63, Supplementary Tables ST2 and ST5); the V-type  
345 ATPase subunit A (Gi15805727) is earlier expressed in manganese-enriched cells (spots 31 and  
346 40, Supplementary Tables ST3 and ST4); iv) the remaining 38 proteins were peculiar of both  
347 the medium and the growth phase (i.e. expressed in one medium only, at 15 or 19 h of growth).  
348 Concerning the extracellular nuclease, its selective expression in control cells suggests that this  
349 enzyme sustains the recycling of nucleotides from DNA exported into the growth medium after  
350 oxidative damage, whose occurrence could be prevented by  $Mn^{2+}$ . This suggestion is sustained  
351 by the observation that purine nucleoside phosphorylase, a well-known phosphate-dependent  
352 component of the purine salvage pathway [38, 39], is also selectively expressed in control cells  
353 (Supplementary Table ST2). To this, it could be related the concomitant selective expression in  
354 control cells of the phosphate ABC transporter (Supplementary Table ST2). The exclusive  
355 detection (Supplementary Tables ST2 and ST3) and the overexpression (Supplementary Tables  
356 ST4 and ST5) of NusA in manganese-enriched cells can be related to the higher biomass yield  
357 triggered by  $Mn^{2+}$  addition to TGY medium. Remarkably, the rate of synthesis of NusA was  
358 quantified in *Escherichia coli* as a function of medium composition, and it was shown that the  
359 expression of this transcriptional regulator is increased five-fold in cells grown in rich medium,  
360 when compared to the level detected in cells grown in minimal medium [40]. The ribosomal  
361 proteins reported in Supplementary Tables ST2-ST5 deserve a detailed comment. *D.*  
362 *radiodurans* is known to contain 3 ribosomal operons [41], featuring low diversity among the  
363 23S rRNA genes. Despite this redundancy at the genomic level, our proteomic data reported in  
364 Supplementary Tables ST2-ST5 could erroneously suggest that control or manganese-enriched

365 *D. radiodurans* cells are devoid of a particular ribosomal protein. On the contrary, it has to be  
366 noted that: i) for ribosomal protein L1 a shift in pI was detected (Table 2); ii) for the same L1  
367 protein we also detected an additional spot in control cells (Supplementary Table ST2), but this  
368 spot does contain a truncated form of the L1 protein (25 kDa vs. the 30 kDa of full-length  
369 protein); iii) the L5 ribosomal protein is apparently expressed only by control cells  
370 (Supplementary Tables ST2 and ST4); it should however be remarked that the observed pI of  
371 this protein was extremely lower (4.25) than the theoretical value (9.88); therefore, it is quite  
372 likely that the L5 protein associated to these spots (2 and 13) represents a post-translationally  
373 modified sub-population of the total amount of this ribosomal protein; iv) a particular situation  
374 was observed for the 30S ribosomal S2 protein (Supplementary Table ST5): in this case, the  
375 molecular mass of the protein detected in manganese-enriched cells was determined as higher  
376 (37 kDa) than the expected value (30 kDa), therefore representing a pool of S2 protein  
377 exclusively modified in manganese-enriched cells.

378 It should be noted that 15 h old cells represent individuals entering the stationary phase or  
379 engaged in the logarithmic phase in the absence or in the presence of additional  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  
380 respectively (Fig. 1a). Therefore, the proteins reported in Supplementary Table ST3 should be  
381 diagnostic of the competence of manganese-enriched cells to sustain additional cell cycles  
382 before reaching the stationary phase. In this frame, the identification of enzymes involved in  
383 peptide and amino acids metabolism (Alanine-DH, Serine-OH methyl transferase, oligo  
384 endopeptidase F) seems particularly meaningful when considering that *D. radiodurans* is a  
385 proteolytic bacterium [1]. Moreover, the presence in this group of the molecular chaperone  
386 DnaJ, which is known to assist DnaK in the hydrolysis of ATP [42], further suggests that *D.*  
387 *radiodurans* cells grown for 15 h in  $Mn^{2+}$ -enriched medium are competent in sustaining  
388 additional doublings. A similar situation does likely hold for cells collected after 19 h of growth,  
389 which correspond to full stationary and late-logarithmic phase for control and manganese-

390 enriched cells, respectively (Fig. 1a). Among the proteins selectively detected in manganese-  
391 enriched cells, it is interesting to outline the presence of enzymes diagnostic of active  
392 metabolism and growth (S-protease, protease I, translation IF-2, N-acetyl-muramoyl-L-Ala  
393 amidase, Supplementary Table ST5). In addition, it should however be noted that among these  
394 proteins we detected enzymes involved in stress-responses (catalase, DNA-binding stress  
395 response) and in the regulation of ATP availability (adenylate kinase), diagnostic of the  
396 incoming stationary phase (Fig. 1a).

### 397 **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

398 We have shown here that under physiological conditions the addition of  $Mn^{2+}$  to the TGY rich  
399 medium stimulates the growth of *D. radiodurans*, and significantly alters the proteome of this  
400 bacterium. In particular, we observed that  $Mn^{2+}$  can affect both the expression level and the  
401 post-translational modification of proteins. Accordingly, future work will be devoted to identify  
402 these post-translational modifications and to characterize the phenotype of *D. radiodurans*  
403 strains bearing mutations at the expense of some of the proteins identified here.

404

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### 407 **Conflicts of interest**

408 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

409

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- 518

519 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

520 **Figure 1**

521 Manganese and growth of *Deinococcus radiodurans*. **(a)** Growth kinetics of *D. radiodurans*  
522 in TGY liquid medium (green circles) or in the same medium supplemented with 2.5, 5, 10,  
523 25, or 250  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  (blue, red, purple, dark green, and cyano circles, respectively). **(b)**  
524 Population density of *D. radiodurans* cultures grown for 19 h in TGY medium (red bars) or  
525 in the same medium to which 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  was added (green bars), as determined  
526 spectroscopically (Absorbance at 600 nm), using a Thoma chamber (Individuals/mL) or by  
527 colony counting (c.f.u./mL). Diads and tetrads were considered as single individuals. The  
528 error bars represent standard deviation ( $n = 3$ ). The experimental mean values were  
529 compared by the Student's t test (\*\*, \*\*\*, and \*\*\*\* indicate  $P < 0.01$ ,  $<0.001$ ,  $<0.0001$ ,  
530 respectively).

531

532 **Figure 2**

533 Distribution of *Deinococcus radiodurans* populations among single cells, diads, and tetrads.  
534 Cultures of *D. radiodurans* were grown for 19 h in TGY medium (dark green bars) or in the  
535 same medium supplemented with 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  (green bars), and aliquots were withdrawn  
536 for direct counting with a Thoma chamber. About 300 individuals were considered for each  
537 sample, and the analysis was repeated in triplicate. Error bars represent standard deviation  
538 ( $n = 3$ ). The experimental mean values were compared by the Student's t test (\* indicates  $P$   
539  $< 0.05$ ).

540

541 **Figure 3**

542 Phenotypes of *Deinococcus radiodurans* cells grown in TGY medium supplemented or not  
543 with  $\text{MnCl}_2$ . **(a)** Representative cells of *D. radiodurans* cells grown at 30 °C in TGY medium,

544 to which 0 (control), 5, 25 or 250  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  was added; samples were harvested 0, 12, 20  
545 and 25 hours after pre-cultures dilution (for a morphological analysis see Table 1). **(b)**  
546 Phase contrast and fluorescence images of *D. radiodurans* cells incubated with a BODIPY-  
547 based  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  sensor. **(c)** Total Fluorescence determined in *D. radiodurans* cells as a result of  
548 the accumulation of a BODIPY-based  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  sensor that specifically binds intracellular  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ .  
549 Number of cells analyzed was 895, 1012, 622, and 235 for the control, 5, 25, and 250  $\mu\text{M}$   
550  $\text{MnCl}_2$ , respectively. Scale bar equals 2  $\mu\text{m}$ . The experimental mean values were compared  
551 by the Student's t test (\*\*\*) indicates  $P < 0.001$ .

552

#### 553 **Figure 4**

554 Manganese and the proteome of *Deinococcus radiodurans*. 2D electrophoresis of protein  
555 extracts isolated from *D. radiodurans* cells grown for 15 h in TGY medium **(a)** or in the same  
556 medium supplemented with 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  **(b)**. The molecular mass in kDa of the markers  
557 used for the second dimension is reported on the left.

#### 558 **Figure 5**

559 Manganese and the proteome of *Deinococcus radiodurans*. 2D electrophoresis of protein  
560 extracts isolated from *D. radiodurans* cells grown for 19 h in TGY medium **(a)** or in the same  
561 medium supplemented with 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  **(b)**. The molecular mass in kDa of the markers  
562 used for the second dimension is reported on the left.

#### 563 **Supplementary Figure S1**

564 Manganese and growth of *Deinococcus radiodurans*. Growth kinetics of *D. radiodurans* in  
565 TGY liquid medium (green circles, squares, and triangles) or in the same medium  
566 supplemented with 5  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{MnCl}_2$  (blue circles, squares, and triangles). The growth kinetics

567 was determined for 3 independent cultures (3 different single colonies were used) of each  
568 sample (green symbols: TGY medium; blue symbols: TGY medium supplemented with 5  $\mu$ M  
569  $MnCl_2$ ). The horizontal bars represent the mean of the final Absorbance values determined  
570 for the two groups of cultures (the error bars indicate standard deviation). The  
571 experimental mean values were compared by the Student's t test (\*\*\*) indicates  $P < 0.001$ ).

## 572 **Supplementary Figure S2**

573 Manganese levels in cells of *Deinococcus radiodurans*. Cultures of *D. radiodurans* were  
574 grown for 15 and 19 h (Panels a and b, respectively) in TGY medium, or in the same medium  
575 supplemented with 5  $\mu$ M  $MnCl_2$ . The content of  $Mn^{2+}$  in whole cells grown in TGY (green  
576 squares) or in medium supplemented with 5  $\mu$ M  $MnCl_2$  (blue squares) was determined by  
577 atomic absorption spectroscopy, and compared with appropriate standards (open circles).  
578 The analyses were performed using 1 mL of each cell suspension (in ultrapure water). The  
579 number of cells per mL was determined on sample aliquots, and the volume of a single cell  
580 was assumed as equal to 8  $\mu m^3$ . It should be noted that the cells volume accounted for about  
581 0.1% of the sample volume. To avoid underestimation of the  $Mn^{2+}$  concentration in cells  
582 grown for 19 h in manganese-enriched medium, the sample was diluted 1:2 with ultrapure  
583 water.

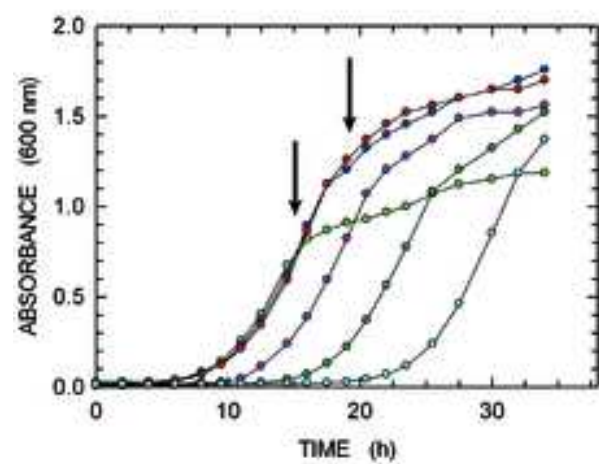
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585

586

Figure 1

A



B

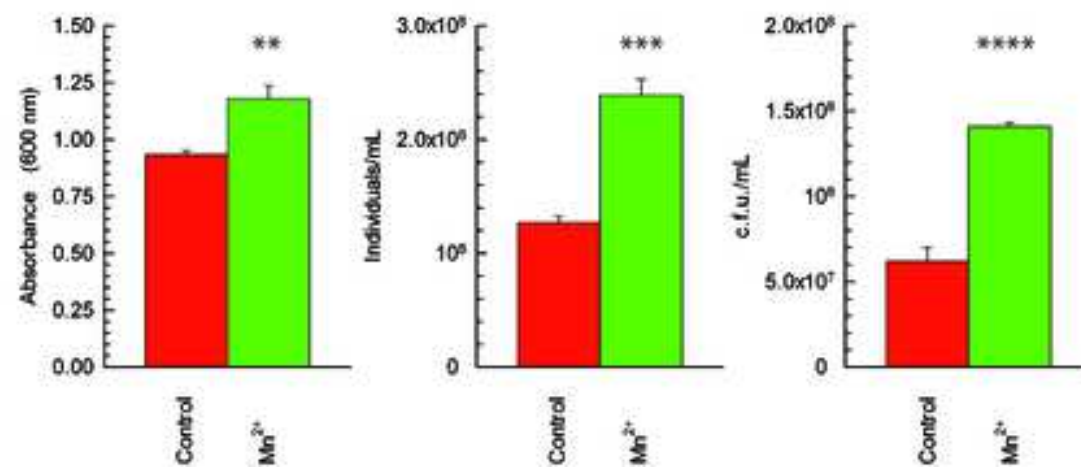


Figure 2

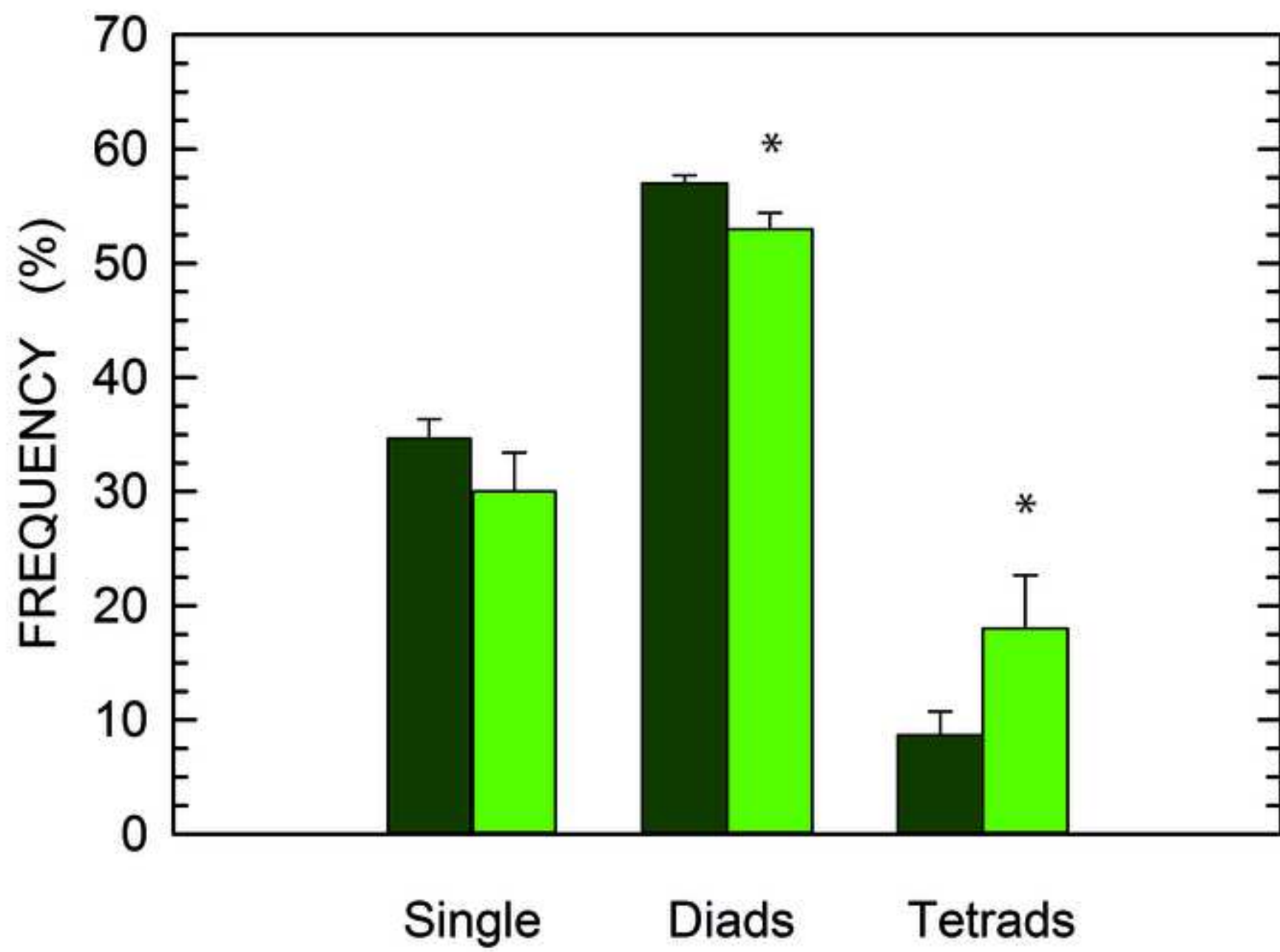


Figure 3

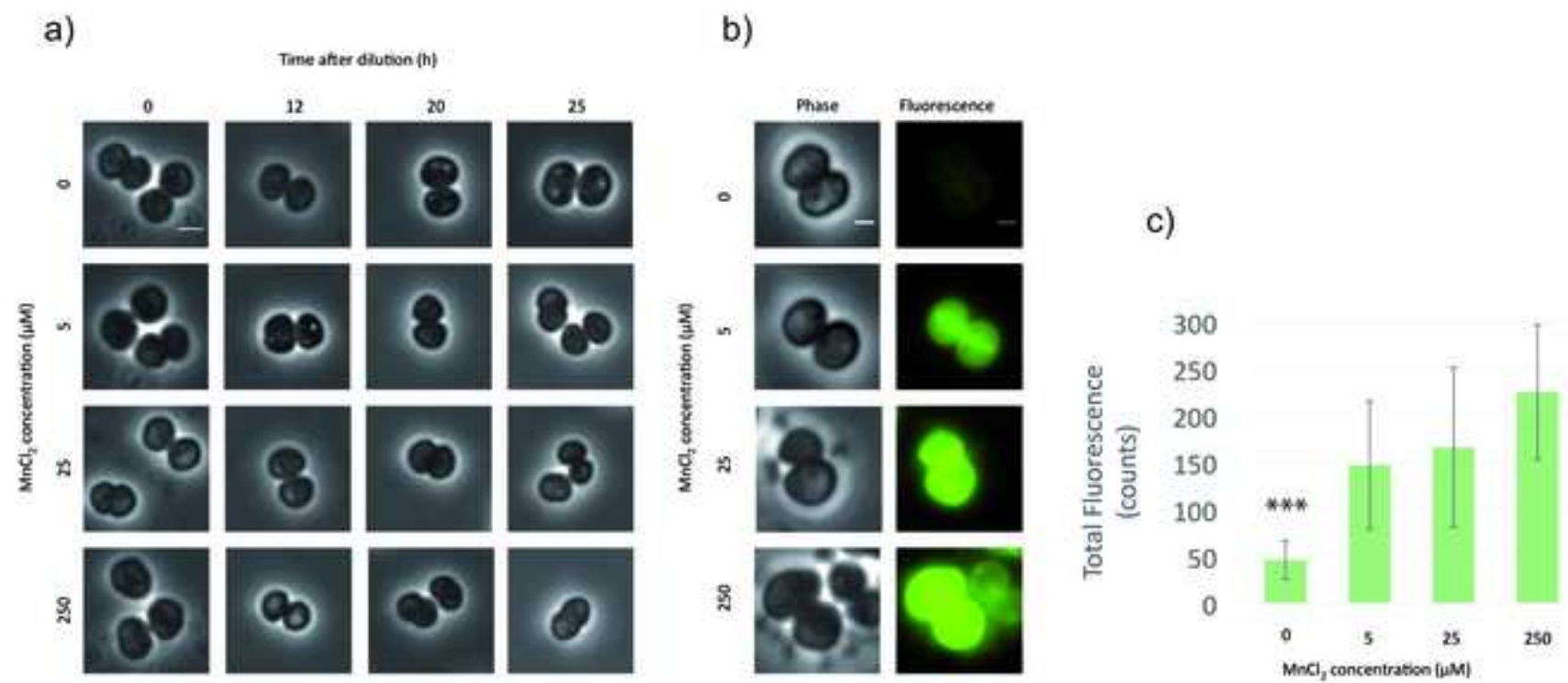


Figure 4

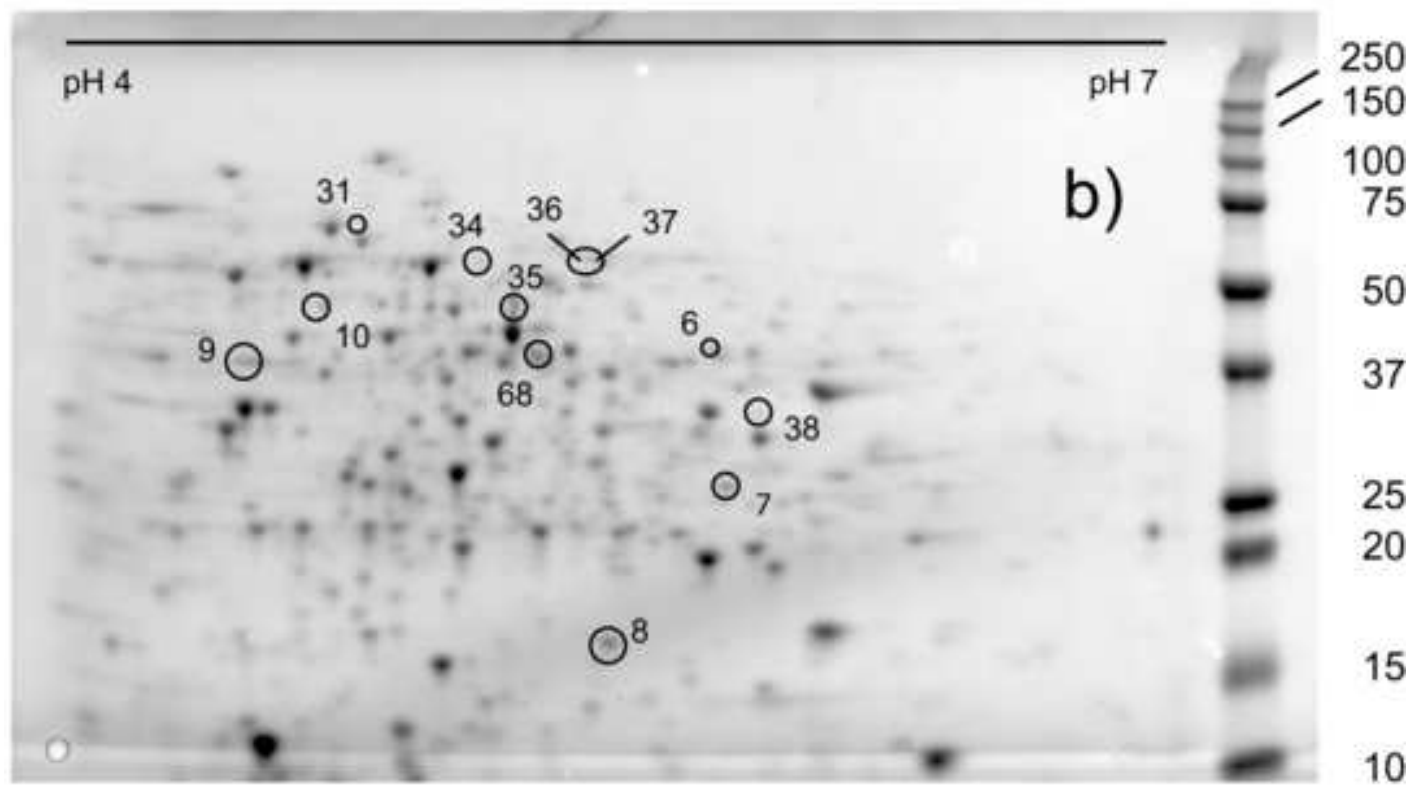
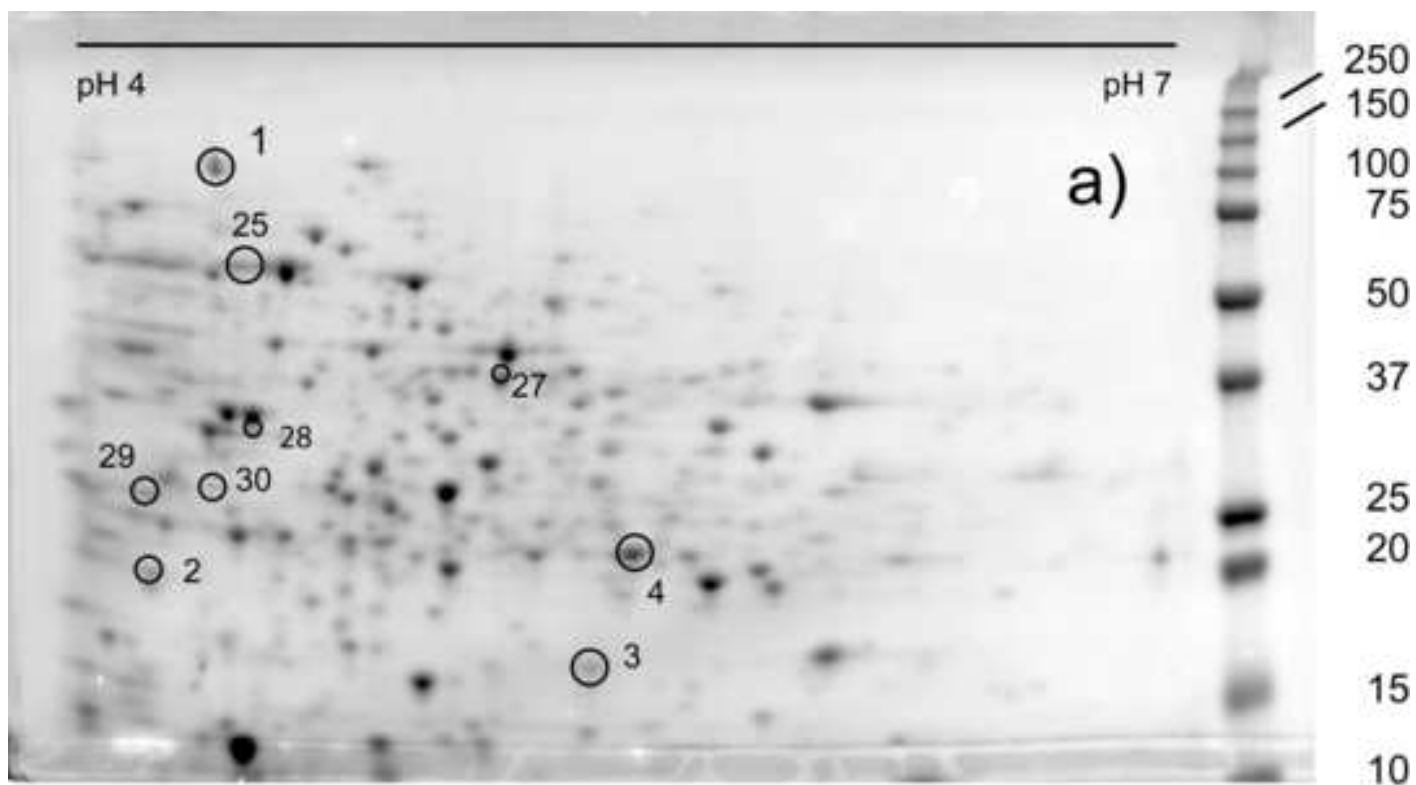
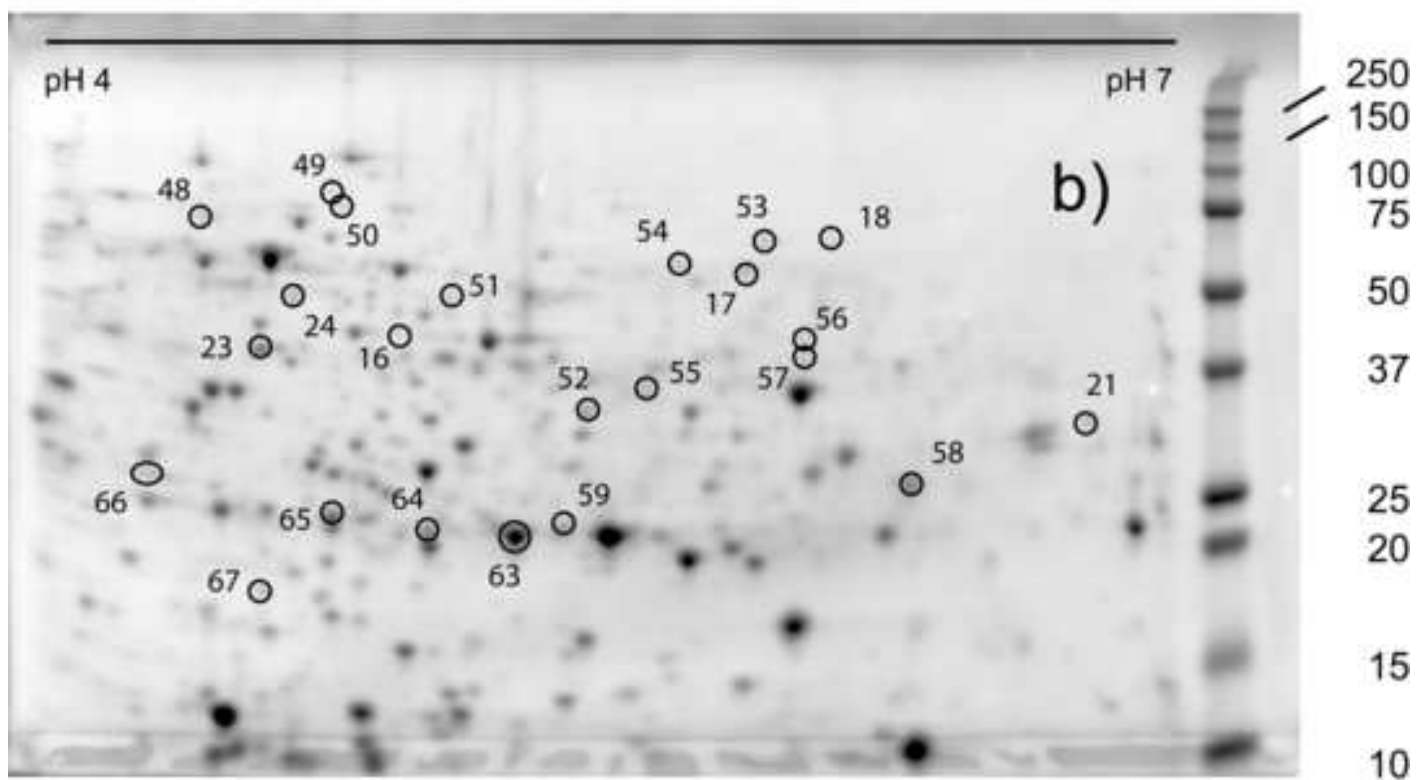
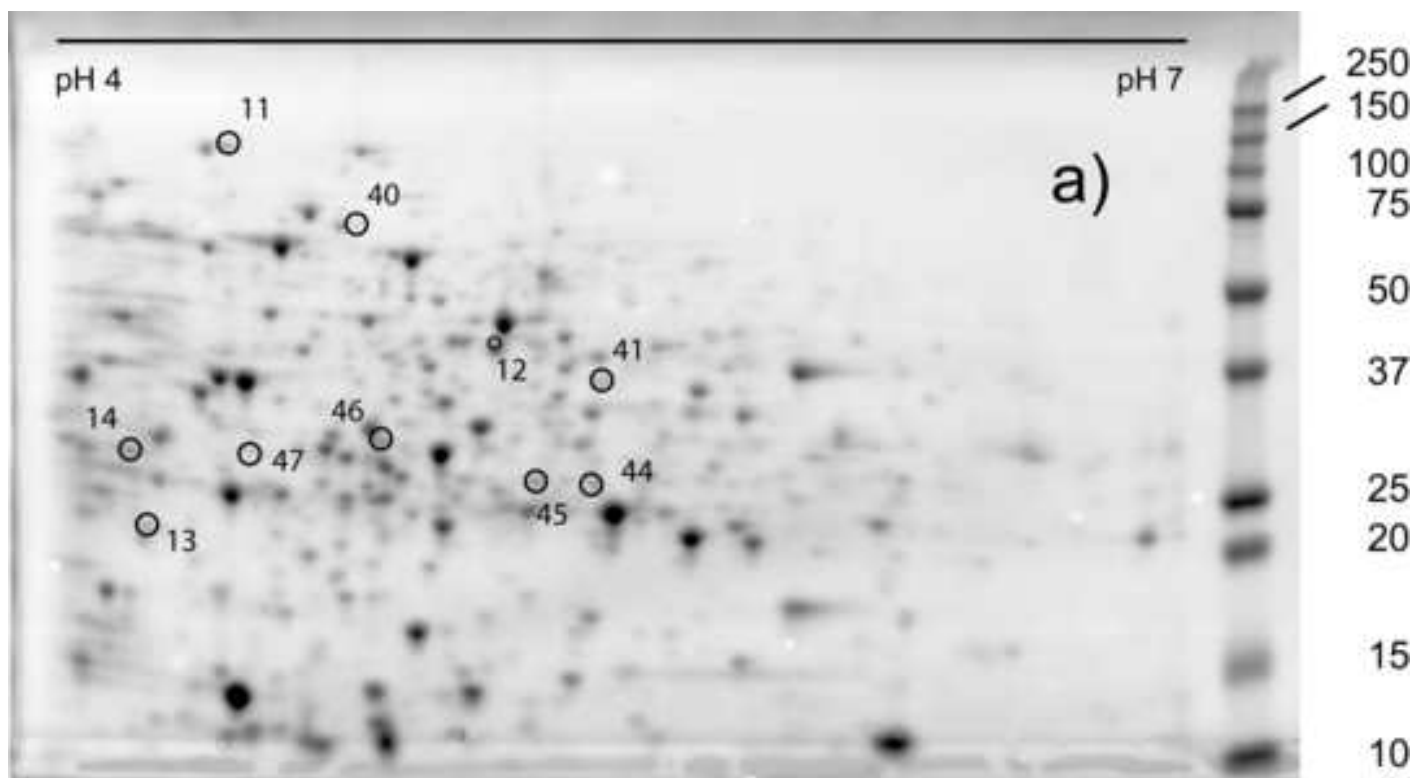


Figure 5



Interval	Sample	Axis	Diameter	n
0 h	Control	2.73 ± 0.72	2.17 ± 0.38	213
	5 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.76 ± 0.33	2.17 ± 0.36	246
	25 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.77 ± 0.26	2.11 ± 0.33	217
	250 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.76 ± 0.33	2.22 ± 0.33	247
12 h	Control	*2.81 ± 0.37	2.23 ± 0.21	328
	5 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.74 ± 0.33	2.19 ± 0.20	252
	25 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.70 ± 0.34	*2.11 ± 0.16	177
	250 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.66 ± 0.29	*2.08 ± 0.18	450
20 h	Control	*2.88 ± 0.37	2.20 ± 0.23	217
	5 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.73 ± 0.34	2.19 ± 0.21	242
	25 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.70 ± 0.29	*2.10 ± 0.24	501
	250 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	*2.64 ± 0.27	*2.06 ± 0.33	258
25 h	Control	*2.80 ± 0.36	2.11 ± 0.29	691
	5 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.69 ± 0.36	2.11 ± 0.24	600
	25 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	2.68 ± 0.37	2.10 ± 0.28	586
	250 µM MnCl <sub>2</sub>	*2.59 ± 0.32	*2.05 ± 0.23	283

**Table 1**

Addition of Mn<sup>2+</sup> to TGY medium and morphology of *D. radiodurans* cells. Measurements of cells axis and diameter of *D. radiodurans* cells incubated in the presence of 0 (control), 5, 25 or 250 µM MnCl<sub>2</sub> for 0, 12, 20 and 25 hours after dilution in TGY medium, at 30 °C. The experimental mean values were compared by the one-way ANOVA test (\* indicates P < 0.05).

Identity	Function	Observed pI/Mr	
		-Mn	+Mn
Gi15807484 (DR_2499)	Nucleoside PPI kinase	<b>5.45/16</b> (spot 3)	<b>5.5/16</b> (spot 8)
Gi15807466 (DR_2480)	AcCoA Acetyltransferase	<b>5.25/40</b> (spot 27)	<b>5.36/40</b> (spot 68)
Gi15805338 (DR_0309)	Elongation factor Tu	<b>5.25/40</b> (spot 27)	<b>5.28/48</b> (spot 35)
Gi15807570 (DR_2588)	Iron ABC transporter	<b>4.38/27</b> (spot 30)	<b>5.78/26</b> (spot 7)
Gi15807039 (DR_2045)	50S ribosomal protein L1	<b>4.18/30</b> (spot 14)	<b>4.35/30</b> (spot 66)

**Table 2**

The addition of  $Mn^{2+}$  to TGY medium triggers a shift of the isoelectric points of some *D. radiodurans* proteins. Observed isoelectric points (pI) and molecular masses (Mr) of *D. radiodurans* proteins extracted from cells grown in TGY medium (-Mn) or in the same medium supplemented with 5  $\mu$ M  $MnCl_2$  (+Mn). The number of the spot from which proteins were extracted is indicated in brackets.