

Physiological Versatility of the Genus *Rhodocista*

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A new purple bacterium (strain T4), capable of heterotrophic aerobic and phototrophic anaerobic growth, was isolated from waste water of a noodle factory near Hanoi, Vietnam. A comparison of 16S rDNA sequences revealed its association with the genus *Rhodocista*. The isolate, tentatively named “*Rhodocista hanoiensis*”, forms cysts after growth on butyrate-containing plates at 42 °C. The vegetative cells form short (under aerobic conditions) or long curve-shaped rods. In contrast to other species of this genus T4 does not need any supplies (growth factors, not synthesized by the organisms). Comparative studies of T4 with *Rhodocista centenaria* (*Rhodospirillum centenum*) and *Rhodocista pekingensis* revealed a remarkable physiological versatility regarding nutrient spectra and survival properties of this genus.

Key words: *Rhodocista hanoiensis*, Cyst Formation, 16S rDNA