



Table of Content

1	Introduction	1
1.1	<i>Redox reactions – the energetics of electron transfer.....</i>	2
1.2	<i>Bioelectrochemical systems – making use of the energy from redox reactions</i>	3
1.3	<i>Electrochemically active bacteria</i>	6
1.4	<i>Extracellular electron transfer by G. sulfurreducens and S. oneidensis.....</i>	7
1.5	<i>Techniques used to study electrochemically active bacteria</i>	12
1.6	<i>Specific research questions regarding the goals of this thesis</i>	14
1.6.1	<i>Mixed or pure culture – who's the winner?</i>	14
1.6.2	<i>What is the optimal anode potential?.....</i>	15
1.6.3	<i>Special characteristics of the metabolism of G. sulfurreducens</i>	17
2	Materials and Methods	21
2.1	<i>Bacterial strains and cultivation media.....</i>	21
2.2	<i>Cultivation conditions for precultures.....</i>	24
2.3	<i>Setup of microbial electrolysis cell</i>	26
2.4	<i>Electrochemical cultivation and techniques</i>	27
2.5	<i>Cell fixation and flow cytometry analysis</i>	30
2.6	<i>Confocal laser scanning microscopy.....</i>	31
2.7	<i>Microaerobic cultivation in bioreactor system</i>	32
2.8	<i>Determination of volumetric mass transfer coefficient and maximum dissolved oxygen concentration</i>	34
2.9	<i>Microarray based transcriptome analysis</i>	35
2.10	<i>High performance liquid chromatography methodology</i>	36
3	Results and Discussion	38
3.1	<i>Mixed and pure cultures in microbial electrolysis cell.....</i>	38
3.1.1	<i>Current production of pure cultures and mixed culture</i>	38
3.1.2	<i>Long-term behaviour of defined mixed culture</i>	45
3.1.3	<i>Biofilm formation on anodes</i>	51
3.1.4	<i>Electrochemical characterisation by cyclic voltammetry</i>	55
3.2	<i>Influence of the anode potential on defined mixed culture.....</i>	60
3.3	<i>Microaerobic growth of Geobacter sulfurreducens</i>	66
3.3.1	<i>Comparison of aerobic and anaerobic growth conditions</i>	66
3.3.2	<i>Metabolisation of selected organic acids.....</i>	70
3.3.3	<i>Transcriptome analysis under anaerobic and microaerobic conditions</i>	76
4	Conclusion	83
5	References.....	85
6	Appendix.....	96