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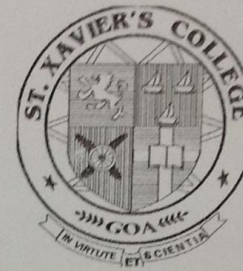
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Application of google earth for rational bioprospecting of metal tolerant microorganisms in mining belt of Goa

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Abstract: The free availability Public Domain Software like Google Earth has made it possible to conduct rational field work and sampling in areas like Geology, Biology and Microbiology. Extremophilic Metal Tolerant Microorganisms (MTMs) are in high demand in area bioremediation and biotechnology . Most of the approaches used in high frequency isolation of MTMs employ random sampling strategies. However, now it is possible to combine Geoinformatics, Eco-informatics and Bio-informatics datasets for rational field surveys bioprospecting of MTMs. Except sporadic published reports on MTMs (Harithsa et al 2012, Nazareth and Marbaiang, 2008., Ballav et al 2012., Gazem and Nazareth, 2013., Naik Futardo, 2014) from Goa exhaustive attempts to tap the immense potential for bioprospecting the precambrian ore deposits along the entire mining belt are missing. This paper presents a simple , novel approach combining Geological, Mineralogical and Geochemical data with 2D and 3D terrain images obtained from Google Earth Satellite imagery database. Rational surveys can be conducted for sampling specific areas within the mining belt pinpointing the microhabitats of MTMs adapted to a precambrian metallogenic environment. These MTMs may include Iron and Manganese oxidizing bacteria and other microbial species which could tolerate high concentration of heavy metals and Rare Earth Elements (REE). Application of this approach is in progress in our laboratory aimed at rational bioprospecting of MTMs from mining belts of Goa.

According to Ehlrich (1997) – Microbes encounter metals and metalloids of various kinds in the environment and it is therefore, not surprising that they should interact with them, sometimes to their benefit, at other times to their detriment. The base metal including Vanadium, Chromium, Manganese, Iron, Cobalt, Nickel, Molybdenum, Silver, Cadmium and Lead; precious metal Gold and Silver; and the metalloids Arsenic, Selenium and Antimony are important. In nature these metals and metalloids exist mostly as cation, oxyanions, or both in aqueous solutions, and mostly as salts or oxides in crystalline (minerals) form or as amorphous precipitates in insoluble form. A few like Iron, Copper, and Gold, may also exist in metallic state in nature, but the first two of these are very rare. All microbes, whether prokaryotic or eukaryotic, employ metal species for structural functions and/or catalytic functions. The alkali metals Ca and Mg serve structural as well as catalytic functions. The metals V, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Mo and W, and the metalloid Se may participate in catalytic functions. Considering the present knowledge of different types of metallogenic rocks on G

paper presents a simple, new approach to pinpoint specific metal rich areas in Goa for systematic bioprospecting of MTMs (Table 1).

Study of rocks and minerals of Goa, Geological and Geochemical database. Using published literature it is possible to identify the metals present in the respective local rocks. Google Earth software makes it possible to locate the MTMs rich areas. Areas like Rivers, Forests, Urban settlements, etc are excluded from the work as they are not accessible for sampling. Prospected areas are highlighted for bioprospecting MTMs. The approach presented in this paper has been tested in the North Goa mining belt for systematic bioprospecting of MTMs since different rock types in Goa under Western Dharwad Craton (WDC) have been analysed geochemically. It is now possible to geoindex this information for bioprospecting work. The energy, resources, saved using this approach and would be helpful in extensive rational microbiological explorations of MTMs diversity of Goa, useful in biotechnological applications.

- 1:- Showing different types of rocks found in Goa
- 2:- bioprospecting of Fe, Mn oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 3:- bioprospecting of Ti, Fe, Mn, Mg oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 4:- bioprospecting of Mn, Mo, Ni, Co, Cr, Zn oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 5:- bioprospecting of Rb, Sr oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 6:- bioprospecting of Zn, Mo, Cu oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 7:- bioprospecting of Fe, Mg oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 8:- bioprospecting of Zn, Zr, Mo, Cu oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 9:- bioprospecting of Mn, Mo, Cu, Zn oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.
- 10:- bioprospecting of Fe, Mn, Co, Ni, Zn, Cr, V, Cu, Ti, Pb oxidizing MTMs is possible from circled areas.

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Table 1 Biologically Important Metals

Atomic No	Element	Atomic No	Element
12	MAGNESIUM	28	NICKEL
23	VANADIUM	29	COPPER
24	CHROMIUM	30	ZINC
25	MANGANESE	42	MOLYBDENUM
26	IRON	74	TUNGSTEN
27	COBALT		

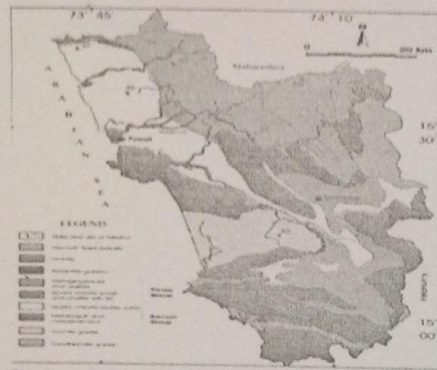


Fig 1

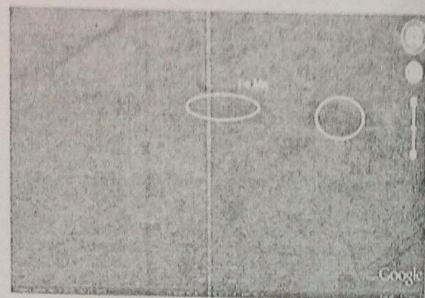


Fig 2

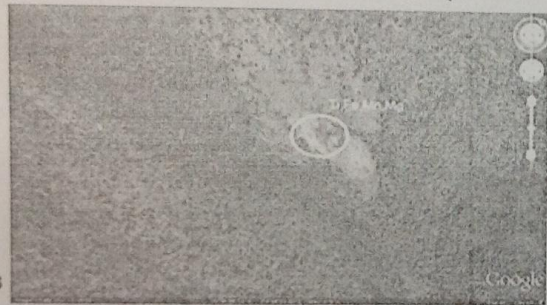


Fig 3

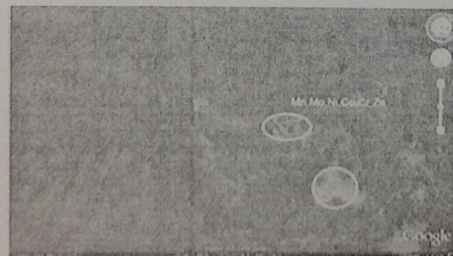


Fig 4

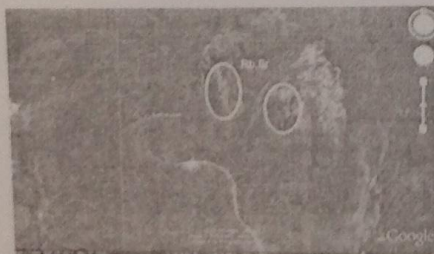


Fig 5

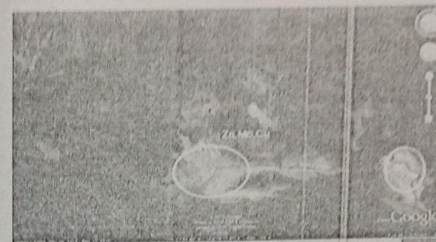


Fig 6

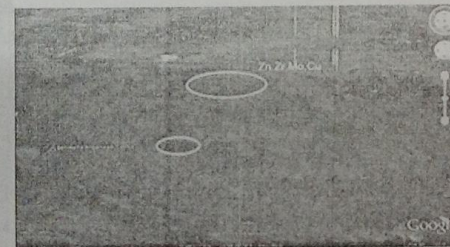


Fig 8

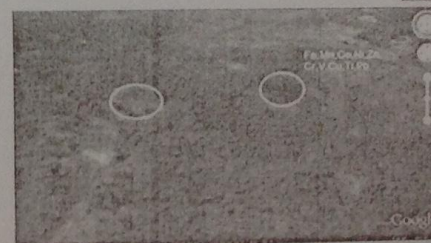
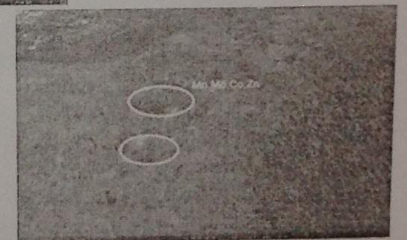


Fig 10