

**Table 1.** Identity of the isolates based on 16S rRNA gene sequencing

<b>Isolate</b>	<b>Closest relative in the GenBank</b>	<b>Accession Number</b>	<b>Similarity (%)</b>
B5	<i>Burkholderia cepacia</i> ATCC 27515	AY741343	1363/1369 (99.6%)
B1	<i>Ralstonia basilensis</i>	AB109778	1320/1321 (99.9%)
T1	<i>Pseudomonas panipatensis</i> Esp1	EF424401	1359/1362 (99.8%)
X5	<i>Cupriavidus</i> sp. KU-21	AB266610	1276/1277 (99.9%)

**Table 2.** Growth characteristics of bacterial isolates in select PAHs compounds.

(-) No growth    (+) Low growth    (++) Medium growth

<b>Isolate</b>	<b>fluorene</b>	<b>phenanthrene</b>	<b>anthracene</b>	<b>pyrene</b>
B5 <i>Burkholderia cepacia</i> ATCC 27515	++	++	++	++
B1 <i>Ralstonia basilensis</i>	-	-	++	-
T1 <i>Pseudomonas panipatensis</i> Esp1	-	-	++	-
X5 <i>Cupriavidus</i> sp. KU-21	-	-	+	+