

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract (Thai)	v
Abstract (English)	vii
Table of contents	ix
List of Tables	xii
List of Figures	xiii
Abbreviations and Symbols	xx
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Objectives	3
Chapter 2 Literature reviews	4
2.1 Cyanobacteria and their roles in biosphere	4
2.2 Hypersaline environments	8
2.3 Halophilism and halotolerance	13
2.4 Cyanobacteria and their adaptation in high salt concentrations	15
2.5 Diversity of cyanobacteria in hypersaline environments	17

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continue)

	Page
Chapter 3 Materials and Methods	24
3.1 Sampling	24
3.2 Soil physic-chemical analysis	29
3.3 Evaluation of cyanobacterial morphotypes	31
3.4 Isolation and cultivation procedure	32
3.5 Ecophysiology studies	32
3.5.1 Growth dependence under salinity gradients	32
3.5.2 Crossed gradient experiments	33
3.6 The intensive studies of <i>Oxynema</i>	36
3.6.1 Study of phylogenetic position	37
3.6.2 Ultrastructure studies	40
Chapter 4 Results	42
4.1 Description of studied sites	42
4.2 Soil physico-chemical properties	48
4.3 Evaluation of cyanobacterial morphotypes	61
4.3.1 Taxonomic part	63

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continue)

	Page
4.4 Isolation and cultivation of cyanobacteria	106
4.5 Ecophysiology studies	106
4.5.1 Growth dependence under salinity gradients	106
4.5.2 Crossed gradients experiments	112
4.6 <i>Oxynema</i> genus novum	114
Chapter 5 Discussions	136
Chapter 6 Conclusion	146
References	149
Appendices	170
Curriculum vitae	191

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Main ionic compositions in northern and southern arm of the Great Salt Lake between 1975-1977.	11
2	Geographic positions and some characteristic of each area.	26
3	Textures and composition of soil samples from 4 study sites during February-May and October-December 2009.	51
4	Diversity and abundance of cyanobacterial species from natural and cultures (from soils) found in Phetchaburi, Samut Songkhram and Sakon Nakhon solar salterns during evaporation periods with different salinities.	64
5	Diversity and abundance of other algal species from Natural found in Phetchaburi, Samut Songkhram and Sakhon Nakhon solar salterns during evaporation periods with different salinities.	66
6	Main characteristics of cyanobacterial morphotypes found in cultures.	108
7	Morphology of other species in <i>Phormidium</i> group I according to Komárek and Anagnostidis (2005) and other similar species with <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> .	119

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Schematic drawing of a building of typical microbial mat formed by cyanobacteria.	7
2	Schematic diagram shows the procedures of sea salt productions.	13
3	Some compatible solute structures were found in cyanobacteria.	16
4	Map of Thailand and showing of 6 studied saltern areas.	27
5	The areas of 6 studied locations in different part of Thailand.	28
6	All instruments used in growth dependence under salinity gradients experiments.	34
7	The crossed gradients unit of temperature and light.	35
8	Model of the settle of 42 serological plates on the crossed gradients unit of temperature and light.	36
9	The highest, lowest and average mean temperature of Phetchaburi areas between the years 2006-2010.	44
10	Rain-days of Phetchaburi province between the year 2008-2010.	45
11	Total rainfalls of Phetchaburi province between the year 2008-2010.	45
12	Monthly rainfalls of Phetchaburi province between the year 2008-2009.	46
13	Percent of relative humidity of Phetchaburi province between the year 2008-2010.	46

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

Figure		Page
14	Some species of plants and bird found surrounding the study areas of Phetchaburi solar salterns.	47
15	The natural characteristics of cyanobacteria presented at Petchaburi and Samut Songkhram areas.	50
16	Moisture content values of soil samples of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	51
17	The pH values of soil samples of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	52
18	Salinity level of soil samples of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	53
19	The electrical conductivity (EC) of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	54
20	The organic matters (OM) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	54
21	Ammonium nitrogen ($\text{NH}_4^+\text{-N}$) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	55
22	Nitrate nitrogen ($\text{NO}_3^-\text{-N}$) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	55

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

Figure		Page
23	Phosphorus values (P) of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	57
24	Potassium values (K) of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	57
25	Sulfur values (S) of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	58
26	Manganese values (Mn) of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	58
27	Irons (Fe) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October- December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	59
28	Sodium ion (Na^+) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	59
29	Calcium ion (Ca^{2+}) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October-	60
30	Magnesium ion (Mg^{2+}) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October- December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	60

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

Figure		Page
31	Chloride ion (Cl ⁻) values of 14 sampling sites from 4 studied areas during February-May (PPA, SSA, CPA and SNA) and October- December (PPB and SSB) 2009.	61
32	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Aphanocapsa salina</i> , <i>Aphanothece halophytica</i> , <i>Cyanosarcina</i> sp1 <i>Chroococcus</i> spp., <i>Cyanobium</i> sp.and <i>Pseudocapsa</i> sp.	84
33	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Coleofasciculus chthonoplastes</i>	85
34	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Geitlerinema lacus-solaris</i> , <i>Geitlerinema</i> , and <i>Halomicronema</i> sp.	86
35	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Gloeocapsa</i> sp., <i>Halothece</i> spp. and <i>Leptolyngbya</i> sp.1	87
36	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Johannesbaptistia pellucida</i> .	88
37	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Komvophoron</i> cf. <i>skujae</i>	89
38	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Leptolyngbya</i> spp.and <i>komvophoron</i> sp.	90
39	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Merismopedia</i> sp. and <i>lyngbya</i> spp.	91
40	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Nostoc</i> spp.	92
41	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> .	93

LIST OF FIGURES (continued)

Figure		Page
42	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Psudanabaena</i> sp. and <i>Spirulina subsalsa</i>	94
43	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Xenococcus schousboei</i> , <i>Tricocoleus</i> sp. and <i>Tyconema</i> sp.	95
44	Light microscopy photographs of cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Wollea</i> sp.	96
45	Illustration of coccoid cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Aphanocapsa salina</i> ., <i>Aphanothece halophytica</i> ., <i>Chroococcus</i> spp., <i>Pseudocapsa</i> sp.and <i>Cyanosarcina</i> spp.	97
46	Illustration of coccoid cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Halothece</i> spp., <i>Cyanobium</i> sp., <i>Gloeocapsa</i> sp. and <i>Merismopedia</i> sp.	98
47	Illustration of coccoid cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Xenococcus schousboei</i> and <i>Johannesbaptistia pellucida</i> .	99
48	Illustration of filamentous cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Geitlerinema</i> spp., <i>Coleofasciculus chthonoplastes</i> and <i>Halomicronema</i> sp.	101
49	Illustration of filamentous cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Komvophoron</i> spp., <i>Psudanabaena</i> sp.and <i>Leptolyngbya</i> sp.1	100
50	Illustration of filamentous cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Lyngbya</i> spp. and <i>Leptolyngbya</i> spp.	102
51	Illustration of filamentous cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Oxytoma thailanum</i> .	103
52	Illustration of filamentous cyanobacteria found in this study: <i>Tricocoleus</i> sp., <i>Spirulina subsalsa</i> and <i>Tyconema</i> sp.	104

LIST OF FIGURES (continue)

Figure		Page
53	Illustration of heterocytous cyanobacteria found in this study <i>Wollea</i> sp. and <i>Nostoc</i> spp.	105
54	The growth of <i>Leptolyngbya</i> sp.1 strain isolated from this study, cultured in various concentrations of salt.	109
55	The growth of <i>Nostoc</i> sp.1 strain isolated from this study, cultured in various concentrations of salt.	109
56	The growth of <i>Wollea</i> sp. strain isolated from this study, cultured in various concentration of salt.	110
57	The growth of <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> strain isolated from this study, cultured in various concentrations of salt.	110
58	The growth of <i>Nostoc</i> sp.2 strain isolated from this study, cultured in various concentration of salt.	111
59	Morphological changing of some selected strains growing under gradients of salt concentrations (<i>Nostoc</i> sp.1 and <i>Wollea</i> sp.).	113
60	Morphological changing of some selected strains growing under gradients of salt concentrations (<i>Nostoc</i> sp.2).	114
61	Growth rates of <i>Nostoc</i> sp.1 strain in crossed gradients of temperature and light.	115
62	Growth rates of <i>Nostoc</i> sp.2 strain in crossed gradients of Temperature and light.	116
63	Illustration of other species in <i>Phormidium</i> group I and others similar species with <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> (I).	124
64	Illustration of other species in <i>Phormidium</i> group I and others similar species with <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> (II).	125

LIST OF FIGURES (continue)

Figure		Page
65	Photos from the type specimens of <i>Oxynema lloydianum</i> and <i>Oxynema acuminatum</i> .	126
66	Position of the <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> strain CCALA 960 in phylogenetic tree.	131
67	Ultrastructure (SEM) of filaments of <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> (strain CCALA 960).	133
68	Ultrastructure (TEM) of filaments of <i>Oxynema thaianum</i> (strain CCALA 960).	134
69	Transmission electron micrographs of <i>Microcoleus cthonoplastes</i> (after Hernández-Mariné, 1996).	135

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

bp	base pair
°C	degree celsius
comb. nov.	combinatio nova (latin word) = new combination
cf.	confer (latin word) = compare
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTPs	deoxynucleotide triphosphate
etc.	et cetera (latin word) = and other things
et	latin word = and
et al.	et alibi (latin word) = and others
ex	latin word = from
f.	forma (latin word) = form
g	gram
g/l	gram per litre
g/ml	gram per milliliter
gen. nov.	genus novum (latin word) = new genus
i.e.	id est (latin word) = that is
in	in (latin word) = in
<i>in vitro</i>	latin word = in an artificial environment outside the living organism

km ²	square kilometre
M	molar
mM	millimolar
mm	millimetre
m ²	square metre
mg/l	milligram per litre
nm	nanometer
OD	optical density
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reactions
ppm	part per million
ppt	part per thousand
rpm	revolution per minute
RNA	ribonucleic acid
rRNA	ribosomal ribonucleic acid
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulfate
sensu	latin word = perception, opinion, thought, sense, view signification, meaning
spec. nov. or sp. nov.	species nova (latin word) = new species
T _m	melting temperature
μl	microliter
μm	micrometer
μmol.m ⁻² .s ⁻¹	micro photon mole

The code of sampling site of each study areas in different periods of investigation.

Site names	Code
Sakon Nakhon Saltern in Sakon Nakhon province	SN
Udon Thani Saltern in Udon Thani province	UT
Phetchaburi Saltern in Phetchaburi province	PP
Chantaburi Saltern in Chantaburi province	CP
Samut Songkhram Saltern in Samut Songkhram province	SS
Natural hypersaline area in Nakhon Ratchasima province	NR
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.1 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	PP ₁ A
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.2 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	PP ₂ A
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.3 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	PP ₃ A
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.4 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	PP ₄ A
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.1 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	PP ₁ B
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.2 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	PP ₂ B
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.3 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	PP ₃ B
Phetchaburi saltern pond no.4 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	PP ₄ B
Samut Songkhram pond no.1 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	SS ₁ A

The code of sampling site of each study areas in different periods of investigation.

Site names	Code
Samut Songkhram pond no.2 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	SS ₂ A
Samut Songkhram pond no.3 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	SS ₃ A
Samut Songkhram pond no.4 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	SS ₄ A
Samut Songkhram pond no.1 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	SS ₁ B
Samut Songkhram pond no.2 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	SS ₂ B
Samut Songkhram pond no.3 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	SS ₃ B
Samut Songkhram pond no.4 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	SS ₄ B
Chanthaburi pond no.1 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	CP ₁ A
Chanthaburi pond no.1 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	CP ₁ B
Sakon Nakhon pond no.1 in evaporation step during February-May 2009	SN ₁ A
Sakon Nakhon pond no.1 in evaporation step during October-December 2009	SN ₁ B