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## **Supplementary information**



**Supplementary Fig 1(a)**. Autofluorescence image of photogranules showing filamentous cyanobacteria and microalgae as seen under confocal microscope. **(b)** Epifluorescence photomicrographs of photogranules stained with acridine orange showing heterotrophic bacteria (green) and cyanobacteria (orange-red). (Reproduced from Kumar and Venugopalan, 2015).<sup>19</sup>



**Supplementary Fig 2.** Absorption spectrum of [Co(II)EDTA]<sup>2-</sup> and [Co(III)EDTA]<sup>-</sup> in the visible range (reproduced from Paraneeiswaran et al., 2015).<sup>21</sup>



**Supplementary Fig 3.** Schematic illustration to explain the hypothesis of the role of quinone electron shuttle in [Co(III)-EDTA]<sup>-</sup> reduction by phototrophic granules [adapted from Abicht et al. (2013)<sup>42</sup>].