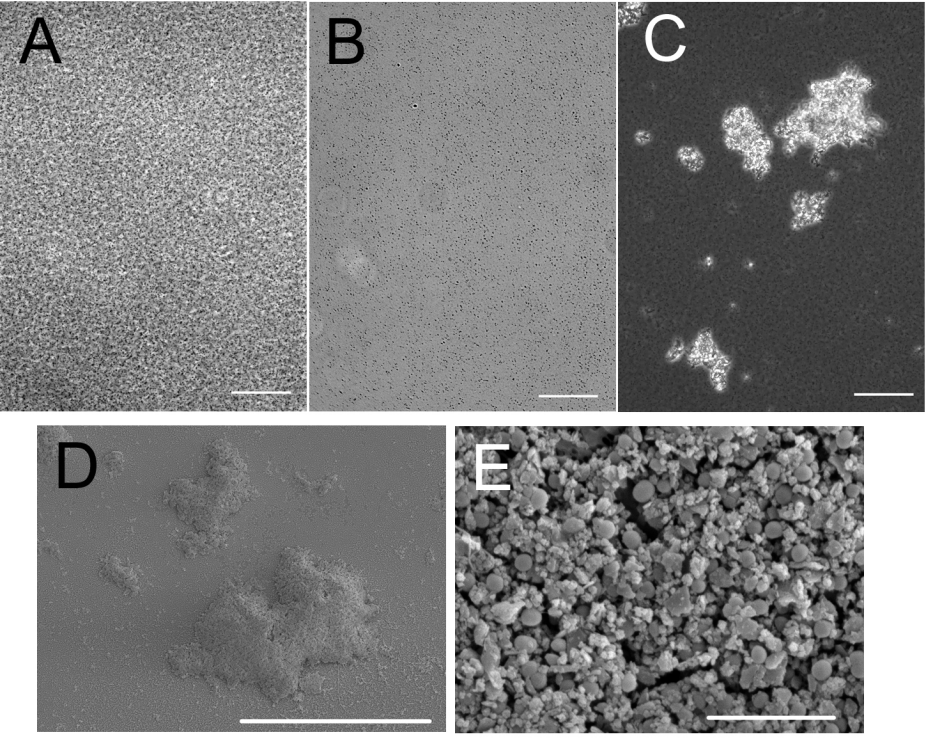

SDC2. Light microscopic view of Enterobacter cloacae in brightfield modus (A), microparticulate clinoptilolite at 1mg/ml in brightfield modus (B) and Enterobacter cloacae incubated for 4 hours at room temperature with microparticulate clinoptilolite at 1mg/ml in phase contrast modus (C). Images D and E show agglomerates of Staphylococcus epidermidis and microparticulate clinoptilolite incubated in the same conditions and observed by scanning electron microscopy. Incubations were all performed in standard growth medium. Images A, B, C were taken without further preparation with a Zeiss Axiovert200M light microscope at 20x magnification. Image C was taken in phase contrast modus to increase the contrast of the agglomerates. Samples for scanning electron microscopy were first fixed in 5% glutaraldehyde/5% formaldehyde in hepes buffer (50mM, pH 7), followed by dehydration in a grade series of ethanol (25-50-70-95-100%) and an incubation of 2h at room temperature in pure hexamethyldisilazane. After drying at room temperature, the samples were sputter-coated with gold (Cressington Sputter Coater 108 auto). Images D and E were taken with a Tescan Vega scanning electron microscope operated at 10kV at a magnifications of 800-fold and 21,000-fold, respectively. The scale bars for A, B, C correspond to 100 µm, for D and E to 200 µm and 5 µm, respectively.