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**Benzoate Catabolite Repression of the Phthalate Degradation
Pathway in *Rhodococcus* sp. Strain DK17**

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Rhodococcus sp. strain DK17 exhibits a catabolite repression-like response when provided simultaneously with benzoate and phthalate as carbon and energy sources. Benzoate in the medium is depleted to detection limits before the utilization of phthalate begins. The transcription of the genes encoding benzoate and phthalate dioxygenase paralleled the substrate utilization profile. Two mutant strains with defective benzoate dioxygenases were unable to utilize phthalate in the presence of benzoate, although they grew normally on phthalate in the absence of benzoate.