

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE NO:
1.0	INTRODUCTION	
1.1	The Petrochemical Industry and its Wastes	01
1.2	Method of treating industrial wastes	09
1.3	Significance of biological treatment procedure	11
1.4	Microbial degradation of Xenobiotics	13
1.5	Detoxification of Organic nitriles (Cyanides)	16
1.6	Microbial metabolism of organo nitriles	21
1.7	Enzymes involved in the metabolism of nitriles	28
1.8	Regulation of the enzymes involved in nitrile metabolism	31
1.9	Characteristics of Nitrile hydratase nitrilase and amidase	34
1.10	Genetics of microorganisms involved in degradation of Xenobiotics	39
1.11	Biotransformation of nitriles to amides and acids	48
1.12	Aims and Objectives of this study	51
2.0	MATERIALS AND METHODS	
2.1	MATERIALS	54
2.1.1	Composition of modified basal salt medium (Willets and Child, 1978)	54
2.1.2	Composition of Luria Broth	56

(Contd.)

2.1.3	Composition of Acrylonitrile and Acrylamide agar	57
2.2	Reagents and solutions used for various assay procedures	57
2.3	Methods	67
2.3.1	Isolation of acrylonitrile utilizing organism	67
2.3.2	Identification of bacteria	68
2.3.3	Growth of bacteria	69
2.3.4	Estimation of ammonia	69
2.3.5	Preparation of whole (resting) cells.	70
2.3.6	Gas chromatography of nitriles and amides	71
2.3.7	Determination of nitriles and amides by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	72
2.3.8	Preparation of cell free extracts	72
2.3.9	Enzyme assays	73
2.3.9.1	Nitrilase and Amidase	73
2.3.9.3	Glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH) and Glutamate synthase (GOGAT)	73
2.3.9.4	Protein Estimations	76
2.3.10	High speed size exclusion chromatography for protein separation	76

2.3.11	SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis	76
2.3.12	Antibiotic Sensitivity	78
2.3.13	Screening and Detection of Plasmids	78
2.3.14	Other methods	82
2.3.15	Immobilization of cells in poly acrylamide gel matrix	82
2.3.15.1	accumulation of acrylamide by intact cells and immobilized cells.	83
3.0	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	
3.1	Isolation and charecterisation of a bacteria capable of utilising acrylonitrile as a sole source of carbon and nitrogen	84
3.2	Optimization of growth conditions	88
3.3	Studies on acrylonitrile breakdown by whole (resting) cells of <i>Arthrobacter BCl</i>	98
3.4	Studies on cell free extracts of <i>Arthrobacter</i>	108
3.5	Induction of nitrile hydratase and amidase with various carbon and nitrogen sources.	121
3.6	Purification of Nitrile hydratase and Amidase	129
3.7	Genetics of Nitrile hydrolysis in <i>Arthrobacter BCl</i>	147

(Contd.)

3.8 Bioconversion of acrylonitrile to acrylamide and acrylic acid	163
3.9 Assimilation of ammonia liberated during acrylonitrile breakdown by <i>Arthrobacter BC 1</i> .	175
Conclusions	177
Summary	179
Bibliography	183