

## CHAPTER 16

### ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

#### Doctoral Theses

183. KANCHANA DEVI (K.)  
**Investigations on Cyanide Producing Pseudomonad Bacterial Species and Their Potential for Application Against Termite *Odontotermes Obesus*.**  
Supervisor : Dr. David Kothamasi  
Th 19094

#### *Abstract*

Investigates HCN producing bacteria can be effective against soil borne insect pests like termites. *O. obesus* is used as a model termite species. *O. obesus* is an important pest of the Indian subcontinent, causing extensive damage to major agricultural crops and forest plantation trees. The study demonstrated that HCN producing rhizobacteria can be effective biocontrol agents against termite *O. obesus* under in-vitro conditions. Further the finding indicated that cyanide poisoning is the main mechanism by which the HCN producing bacteria are killing the termite *O. obesus*. and finally it indicates that sequence information can be used to select HCN producing bacterial species that are most suitable as biocontrol agents for a particular habitat.

#### *Contents*

1. General introduction. 2. Hydrogen cyanide producing rhizobacteria kill subterranean termite *odontotermes obesus* (Rambur) by cyanide poisoning under in vitro conditions. 3. Pseudomonad bacterial species can kill subterranean termite *odontotermes obesus* by inhibiting cytochrome c oxidase of the termite respiratory chain. 4. Polymorphism in *hcnAB* gene in *Pseudomonas* species reveal ecologically distinct hydrogen cyanide producing populations. 5. General discussion. 6. Summary.

184. RAU (Nupur)  
**Functional and Taxonomic Diversity Among Rhizobacteria of Saccharum Ravennae and Cynodon Dactylon from Fly Ash Dumps of Delhi and Their Potential to Promote Plant Growth in Fly Ash.**  
 Supervisors : Sh. Radhey Shyam Sharma and Vandana Mishra  
Th 19009

*Abstract*

Assesses the functional and taxonomic diversity of rhizobacteria of *Saccharum ravennae* and *Cynodon dactylon* colonizing Indraprastha and badarpur fly ash dumps, the variations in plant growth promoting traits and tolerance to different heavy metals among rhizobacteria and to test the efficacy of bacterial consortia in the establishment of *S. ravennae* in fly ash and to analyze the effect of selected multi-metal tolerant rhizobacterial strains on the growth and heavy metal uptake by *Zea mays* grown in fly ash.

*Contents*

1. Remediation of Fly Ash disposal sites - Literature Review. 2. Evaluation of functional diversity in rhizobacterial taxa of *saccharum ravennae* and *Cynodon dactylon* colonizing a recent fly as (Indraprastha) and an old abandoned fly ash dump (Badarpur) in Delhi urban ecosystem.

185. SINGH (Kavita)  
**Efficacy of Synthetic merB Gene as Selection Marker.**  
 Supervisor : Prof. P. Pardha Saradhi  
Th 19010

*Abstract*

Evaluates potency of a synthetic gen for organomercury lyase designated as the merBps gene to effectively express in model plant, tobacco (*Nicotiana tabcum* L. Var. Petit Havana) and as a positive conditional marker gene with phenyl mercury acetate (PMA) as selection agent in comparison with the nptII gene/kanamycin selection system. Efforts are also made to evaluate feasibility of using the merBps gene/PMA as an ecologically viable and simple selection marker system as an alternate to the prevailing most prominently used marker systems.

*Contents*

1. Introduction. 2. Review of literature. 3. Materials and methods. 4. Results. 5. Discussion. 6. Summary and Conclusion. References.

186. SRIVASTAVA (Swati)  
**Identification of Genetic Signatures in High Altitude Stress.**  
Supervisor : Prof. P. Pardha Saradhi  
Th 19093

*Abstract*

Identifies and categorizes hypoxia responsive genes using microarray gene-expression profiling and computational data analysis algorithms. The findings presented in the study demonstrated for the first time that the genes such as endothelin converting exzymel, NADPH oxidase 1, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase1, aldehyde dehdrogenase, DnaJ (Hsp40), Hsp 90, IL11, carbonic anhydrase IX, tumor necrosis factor, vascular endothelial growth factor, apoptotic genes etc. play a critical role in determining sensitivity/acclimatization of individuals to the adverse conditions of high altitude.

*Contents*

1. Introduction. 2. Literature review. 3. Material and methods. 4. Results. 5. Discussion. 6. Summary and conclusions.