

Biosurfactant Production by a New *Pseudomonas putida* Strain

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Observation of both tensio-active and emulsifying activities indicated that biosurfactants were produced by the newly isolated and promising strain *Pseudomonas putida* 21BN. The biosurfactants were identified as rhamnolipids, the amphiphilic surface-active glycolipids usually secreted by *Pseudomonas* spp. Their production was observed when the strain was grown on soluble substrates, such as glucose or on poorly soluble substrates, such as hexadecane, reaching values of 1.2 g l⁻¹. When grown on hexadecane as the sole carbon source the biosurfactant lowered the surface tension of the medium to 29 mN m⁻¹ and formed stable and compact emulsions with emulsifying activity of 69%.