Naphthalene Degradation and Biosurfactant Activity by *Bacillus cereus 28BN*

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Biosurfactant activity and naphthalene degradation by a new strain identified as *Bacillus cereus 28BN* were studied. The strain grew well and produced effective biosurfactants in the presence of *n*-alkanes, naphthalene, crude oil and vegetable oils. The biosurfactants were detected by the surface tension lowering of the medium, thin layer chromatography and infrared spectra analysis. With (2%) naphthalene as the sole carbon source, high levels of rhamnolipids at a concentration of 2.3 g l^{-1} were determined in the stationary growth. After 20 d of incubation 72 ± 4% of the initial naphthalene was degraded. This is the first report for a *Bacillus cereus* rhamnolipid producing strain that utilized naphthalene under aerobic conditions. The strain looks promising for application in environmental technologies.

Key words: Naphthalene Degradation, Rhamnolipids, *Bacillus cereus*