

Screening of petroleum degrading *Bacillus* spp. strains isolated from different non-contaminated soil samples

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Oil spill has become a global problem in industrialized and developing countries. Oil spills that occur during discharge from the refineries, accidents of ships/tankers, their grounding, rupture on seabed and on shore pipelines, on shore oil production and exploration platforms do affect these habitats causing irreversible damage to the biodiversity. The toxic effects of crude oil and refined petroleum oils on plants, animals, humans and the environment are devastating. The aim of this study was to evaluate the potential of petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC)-degrading 105 *Bacillus* spp. strains isolated from different non-contaminated soil samples. These *Bacillus* spp. strains were screened for bacterial oil degradation using 3.5% petrol and 7 % diesel as sole carbon sources in Bushnell-Nelson medium.

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