

I F C O N

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**3RD INTERNATIONAL
FOOD CONVENTION
7-12 SEPTEMBER, 1993
MYSORE, INDIA**

POSTER SESSIONS' ABSTRACTS



FOOD TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

**BTM-66 SCREENING OF FUNGAL CULTURES FOR PRODUCTION OF
EXTRACELLULAR NUCLEASE**

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Nuclease enzymes find a number of potential industrial applications such as reduction in nucleic acid content of single cell protein (SCP), production of flavour nucleotides by RNA hydrolysis. Fungal (138) belonging to isolates a wide variety of genera, isolated in the laboratory or procured from various culture collections, were screened for extracellular nuclease production. Out of them, 25 were found to produce large amounts of potent RNAase in glucose-peptone mineral medium which degraded RNA to form 3' nucleotides. None of the RNAases produced by the screened cultures, however, yielded 5'nucleotides. This points to the fact that 3'nucleases are more predominant in nature, than 5' nucleases.