

Table 3 Effect of heat, pH, NaCl and CaCl₂ on the emulsification activity of culture supernatant of *A. paraffineus*

Condition	Emulsification activity
Control	0.36
Heat treatment, 90°C for 15 min	0.32
pH = 5	0.34
pH = 10	0.38
NaCl, 10%	0.35
CaCl ₂ , 0.3%	0.35

stable, effective in saline, acidic and alkaline conditions.

The yield of emulsifier isolated by acetone precipitation was about 1.2 g/l. Although, the emulsifier produced by *A. paraffineus* showed lower yield than reported in the literature, it is quite stable in a wide pH range, at high temperature and salt concentration. The above properties and considerable scope in improvement in the yields of emulsifier, make this organism a potential candidate for the enhanced oil recovery.

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NEWS

POLYMER CURE FOR MYOPIA

Soviet eye specialists have developed a promising new treatment for myopia involving the injection of polymers mixed with medicinal additives.

Polymers have been used in Soviet ophthalmology for several years now. A foamy liquid synthetic material "penogel" is injected into the eyeball. The material hardens in a minute, enveloping and strengthening the flabby and elastic sclera.

Penogel is itself soon replaced by germinating natural tissues. Over 3,000 patients have already undergone the new treatment.

Professor Eduard Avetisov, Deputy Director of the Helmholtz Institute of Eye Diseases, described the new method as simple and safe and as effective as the traditional surgical treatment. It could be made more reliable by the addition of medicine to penogel. (*Soviet Features*, Science and Technology, Vol. xxvii, No. 130. Published by Information Department, USSR, Embassy in India, P.B. No. 241, New Delhi 110 001).