CONTENTS

Acknowledgement i - ii
Abbreviation iii - iv
Summary v - vii

CHAPTER- I
Introduction

CHAPTER- II
Study Site
2.1 Geographical location 9
2.2 Climate 11
2.3 Coal production in the area 14
2.4 Vegetation 14
2.5 Soil characteristics 16
2.6 Sampling sites 16

CHAPTER- III
Physico-chemical characterization of coal mine spoil
3.1 Introduction 19
3.2 Materials and Methods
   3.2.1 Soil sampling procedures 21
   3.2.2 Physical analysis of soil
      3.2.2.1 Soil texture 22
      3.2.2.2 Bulk density 23
      3.2.2.3 Water holding capacity 23
      3.2.2.4 Soil moisture 24
   3.2.3 Chemical analysis of soil
      3.2.3.1 Soil pH 24
      3.2.3.2 Soil organic carbon 24
      3.2.3.3 Total soil nitrogen 25
      3.2.3.4 Extractable phosphorous 26
3.3 Results
   3.3.1 Soil texture 27
   3.3.2 Bulk density, WHC & Moisture content 28
   3.3.3 Soil pH 29
   3.3.4 Soil organic carbon 30
   3.3.5 Total soil nitrogen 31
   3.3.6 Extractable phosphorous 33
3.4 Discussion 34
### CHAPTER- IV
Microbiological characterization of coal mine spoil

4.1 Introduction 43

4.2 Materials and Methods
- 4.2.1 Determination of MB-C 49
- 4.2.2 Determination of MB-N 50
- 4.2.3 Determination of MB-P 51
- 4.2.4 Basal soil Respiration 52
- 4.2.5 Determination of Amylase activity 52
- 4.2.6 Determination of Invertase activity 53
- 4.2.7 Determination of Dehydrogenase activity 53
- 4.2.8 Determination of Urease activity 54
- 4.2.9 Determination of Phosphatase activity 55

4.3 Results
- 4.3.1 Microbial Biomass Carbon 56
- 4.3.2 Microbial Biomass Nitrogen 57
- 4.3.3 Microbial Biomass Phosphorous 59
- 4.3.4 Basal soil Respiration 60
- 4.3.5 Microbial Metabolic Quotient 61
- 4.3.6 Amylase activity 62
- 4.3.7 Invertase activity 63
- 4.3.8 Dehydrogenase activity 64
- 4.3.9 Urease activity 65
- 4.3.10 Phosphatase activity 67

4.4 Discussion 68

### CHAPTER- V
Genetic diversity among microbial populations in coal mine spoil using RAPD markers

5.1 Introduction
- 5.1.1 Genetic diversity and its significance 79
- 5.1.2 RAPD: A molecular tool for diversity study 80
- 5.1.3 Objectives of the present study 84

5.2 Materials and Methods
- 5.2.1 Mine spoil sampling 85
- 5.2.2 CFU 85
- 5.2.3 Isolation of DNA 86
- 5.2.4 RAPD amplification 87
- 5.2.5 Resolving power of the primers 88
- 5.2.6 Data collection and analysis 88

5.3 Results
- 5.3.1 Bacterial colony forming units 89
- 5.3.2 DNA content 90
- 5.3.3 DNA amplification 91
- 5.3.4 RAPD marker size and patterns 92
- 5.3.5 Dendrogram with RAPD markers 95
- 5.3.6 Genetic diversity and diversity analysis 96

5.4 Discussion 102
CHAPTER VI

Isolation of bacteria from coal mine spoil

6.1 Introduction
6.1.1 Sulphur oxidizers
6.1.2 Iron oxidizers
6.1.3 Bacteriological study of coal mine spoil
6.1.4 Objectives of the investigation

6.2 Materials and Methods
6.2.1 Sampling
6.2.2 Isolation of heterotrophic bacteria
6.2.3 Isolation of Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans
6.2.4 Growth analysis of Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans
6.2.5 Isolation of Thiobacillus thermosulfatus
6.2.6 Growth analysis of Thiobacillus thermosulfatus
6.2.7 Determination of Thermal death time (TDT)

6.3 Results
6.3.1 Isolation of heterotrophic bacteria
6.3.2 Isolation of Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans
6.3.3 Growth analysis of Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans
6.3.4 Isolation of Thiobacillus thermosulfatus
6.3.5 Growth analysis of Thiobacillus thermosulfatus
6.3.6 TDT of Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans
6.3.7 TDT of Thiobacillus thermosulfatus

6.4 Discussion

DISCUSSION

REFERENCES