CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 History 7
2.2 Particle associated bacteria and particle size 9
2.3 Nature 12
2.4 Particle associated bacterial abundance 15
2.5 Biomass, production and activity 16
2.6 Characteristics of bacteria associated with particles 20
2.7 Taxonomy 22
2.8 Role of particle associated bacteria 23

CHAPTER 3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1 Description of sampling sites 27
  3.1.1 Mandovi estuary
  3.1.2 Zuari estuary
  3.1.3 Coastal station
3.2 Sampling method and frequency 29
3.3 Physiochemical parameters 29
3.4 Particle parameters 31
  3.4.1 Numbers
  3.4.2 Size
    3.4.2.1 Gravimetric method
    3.4.2.2 Laser counter method
    3.4.2.3 Scanning electron microscopy
  3.4.3 Nature
    3.4.3.1 Mineral estimation
    3.4.3.2 DNA estimation
    3.4.3.3 RNA estimation
3.5 Biological parameters 34
  3.5.1 Primary production
  3.5.2 Chlorophyll ‘a’
3.6 Microbial parameters 35
  3.6.1 Total microbial biomass
  3.6.2 Total bacterial counts (TC)
  3.6.3 Viable bacterial counts (VC)
  3.6.4. Retrievable bacterial counts (colony forming units)
    3.6.4.1 Total aerobic counts
3.6.5 Hydrolytic activities
3.7 Bacterial Production
3.8 Heterotrophic activity
3.9 Instantaneous growth rate (μ)/ generation time (g)
3.10 Identification of particle associated bacteria
3.11 Statistical analysis

CHAPTER 4. RESULTS

4.1 Hydrological parameters
   4.1.1 Depth
   4.1.2 Temperature
   4.1.3 pH
   4.1.4 Salinity
   4.1.5 Suspended particulate matter
   4.1.6 Particulate organic matter
   4.1.7 Particulate organic nitrogen
   4.1.8 C:N ratio
   4.1.9 Phytoplankton and detrital carbon
   4.1.10 Dissolved organic carbon

4.2 Particle characteristics
   4.2.1 Particle numbers
   4.2.2 Size
   4.2.3 Chemical characteristics
      4.2.3.1 Mandovi
         Inorganic content
         Mineral content
         Organic content
      4.2.3.2 Zuari
         Inorganic content
         Mineral content
         Organic content
      4.2.3.3 Coastal
         Inorganic content
         Mineral content
         Organic content
      4.2.3.4 Mandovi
         Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
         Ribonucleic acid (RNA)
         DNA:RNA
      4.2.3.5 Zuari
         Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
         Ribonucleic acid (RNA)
         DNA:RNA
4.2.3.6 Coastal
Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)
Ribonucleic acid (RNA)
DNA:RNA

4.2.4 Scanning electron microscopy

4.3 Microbiological parameters
4.3.1 Microbial biomass
4.3.2 Bacterial numbers
  4.3.2.1 Total bacterial counts
  4.3.2.2 Viable bacterial counts
  4.3.2.3 Retrievable bacterial counts
4.3.3 Bacterial production on particles
4.3.4 Heterotrophic activity
  4.3.4.1 Mandovi
  4.3.4.2 Zuari
  4.3.4.3 Coastal
4.4 Functional mode of particle associated bacteria
4.5 Statistical analysis
  4.5.1 Modeling
  4.5.2 Principle Component Analysis

CHAPTER 5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 Bacterial abundance
5.2 Bacterial productivity
5.3 Heterotrophic activity
5.4 Food web
5.5 Control of bacterial mediated carbon

CHAPTER 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

CHAPTER 7.0 REFERENCES

CHAPTER 8.0 APPENDIX