CONTENTS

List of Tables ... ... vi - x

CHAPTER I

Introduction ... ... 1 - 19

1. Alkaloids ... ... 1
2. Alkaloid synthesis in plants ... 2
3. Role of alkaloids in plants ... 3
4. Ergot alkaloids ... ... 4
   a) Pharmaceutical importance ... 5
   b) Chemistry ... ... 7
   c) Biogenesis of ergot alkaloids ... 8

5. Plant tissue culture as a tool
to study alkaloid production ... 11

CHAPTER II

Materials and Methods ... ... 20 - 30

1. Plant material ... ... 20
2. Culture medium
   (a) Preparation of the media ... 20
   (b) Culture vessels ... ... 22
   (c) Sterilization of media and culture vessels 22

3. Aseptic Techniques
   (a) Inoculation chamber ... 23
   (b) Surface Sterilization ... 23

4. Culture Techniques
   (a) Initiation of leaf cultures ... 24
   (b) Stock cultures ... ... 25
   (c) Suspension cultures ... 25
5. Measurement of growth
(a) Fresh weight ... ... 26
(b) Dry weight ... ... 26

6. Chemical Analysis
(a) Extraction and estimation of total alkaloid ... ... 26
(b) Chromatographic procedures ... 27
   (i) Thin-Layer-Chromatography for alkaloid... ... 27
   (ii) Paper Chromatography for amino acids 28

7. Enzyme assays ... ... 29
8. Photography ... ... 30

CHAPTER III
Results ... ... 31-121

Section A. "In vivo" Studies on alkaloid production in Evolvulus alsinoides L. 31
Section B. Initiation and establishment of callus from the leaves of E. alsinoides. 34
Section C-1. Influence of auxins on growth and alkaloid production in E. alsinoides callus cultures ... 35
C-2. Effect of cytokinin on growth and alkaloid production in Evolvulus callus cultures ... 38
C-3. Effect of Gibberellic acid on growth and alkaloid production in Evolvulus callus cultures 41
C-4. Effect of Auxin, cytokinin combinations on growth and alkaloid production in Evolvulus callus cultures ... ... 41
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-5</td>
<td>Periodical changes in growth and alkaloid production in MS medium supplemented with optimal hormonal concentrations in <em>Evolvulus</em> callus cultures</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-6</td>
<td>Tryptophan synthetase activity in <em>Evolvulus</em> static and suspension cultures</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Influence of Inoculum : Volume ratio on growth and alkaloid production in <em>E. alsinoides</em> suspension cultures</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-1</td>
<td>Effect of different sugars on growth and alkaloid production in cell suspensions</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-2</td>
<td>Effect of sucrose levels on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity in suspension cultures</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Effect of total nitrogen level on growth and alkaloid production in suspension cultures</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Effect of different levels of Micro-element and Macroelement salts on growth and alkaloid production</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Effect of Tweens on growth and alkaloid production in <em>Evolvulus</em> suspension cultures</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Effect of precursors on growth and alkaloid production in <em>Evolvulus</em> suspension cultures</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-1</td>
<td>Effect of L-tryptophan on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I-2. Effect of periodic addition of Tryptophan on growth and alkaloid production ... 77
I-3. Effect of 5-methyl tryptophan on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity 80
I-4. Effect of DL-mevalonic acid on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity 82
I-5. Effect of Methionine on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity ... 85
I-6. Effect of Anthranilic acid on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity. ... 87
I-7. Effect of Indole on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity ... 87
I-8. Effect of DL-serine on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity ... 90
I-9. Effect of DL-serine + Indole on growth, alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity ... 94

Section - J. Studies on amino acids during the course of culture in Evolvulus suspension cultures ... 97

Section - K. Phosphate inhibition of alkaloid and its control by Tryptophan and its analogs in Evolvulus suspension cultures 99
K-1. Phosphate inhibition of alkaloid in Evolvulus suspension cultures 99
### Chapter IV.

Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section - I. &quot;In vivo&quot; studies on alkaloid production in <em>Evolvulus alsinoides</em> L.</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section - II. A. Effect of cultural parameters on growth of tissue in <em>E. alsinoides</em> suspension cultures.</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section - II. B. Effect of cultural parameters on alkaloid production and tryptophan synthetase activity in <em>Evolvulus alsinoides</em> suspension cultures</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter V.

**SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>141-146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>147-162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...