Contents

1. Introduction. 01

2. Review of literature. 04

3. Experiments.

3.1. Growth and cyclosporine A production under shake flask conditions using *Tolypocladium* sp. 34

3.1.1. Effect of media constituents on cyclosporine A yield. 34

3.2. Studies on the immobilization of *Tolypocladium* sp. 48

3.2.1. Diffusional and mechanical properties of calcium alginate gel beads. 48

3.2.2. Production of cyclosporine A using the immobilized *Tolypocladium* sp. 62

3.2.3. Studies on the chemical identity and biological activity of cyclosporine A obtained from *Tolypocladium* sp. 79

3.3. Studies on the biosynthesis of cyclosporine A. 101

3.3.1. Characterization of S-Adenosylmethionine synthetase (ATP:L-methionine S-adenosyltransferase, E.C. 2.5.1.6) and cyclosporine synthetase from *Tolypocladium* sp. 101

4. Summary. 152

5. Bibliography. 157