Feather degradation bacteria for agricultural applications

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Feather is a waste from the poultry processing industry and it contains over 90% crude protein and about 15% N. Feather meals have a potential use as a slow-release N fertilizer for traditional agricultural practices and organic agricultural practices. Therefore, degradation of feather to feather meal is important for agricultural applications. Steam pressure cooked method and chemical treatment method have been used to produce feather meals, however, the meals produced under these methods showed low agricultural values. Biodegradation of feather waste by microorganisms is a viable alternative. A screening program to isolate micro-organisms exhibiting keratinase activity has been conducted in this laboratory. Several bacteria isolates showed good ability to degrade feathers will be discussed in this conference.

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