

## S U M M A R Y

The natural water retting of coconut husk is a microbiological process. The source and types of these microorganisms are worked out. During the process of retting these microorganisms breakdown pectin and polyphenol which is found in the binding material of the fibre. The bacterial genera Aerobacter, Bacillus, Escherichia, Micrococcus, Pseudomonas, and Staphylococcus showed pectolytic activity while only Pseudomonas showed polyphenolytic activity. Similarly among yeast genera Saccharmyces and Candida showed pectolytic activity, while Saccharomyces, Rhodotorula & Candida showed polyphenolytic activity. The factors influencing retting is discussed and the possible ways of reducing the long period of retting are suggested.