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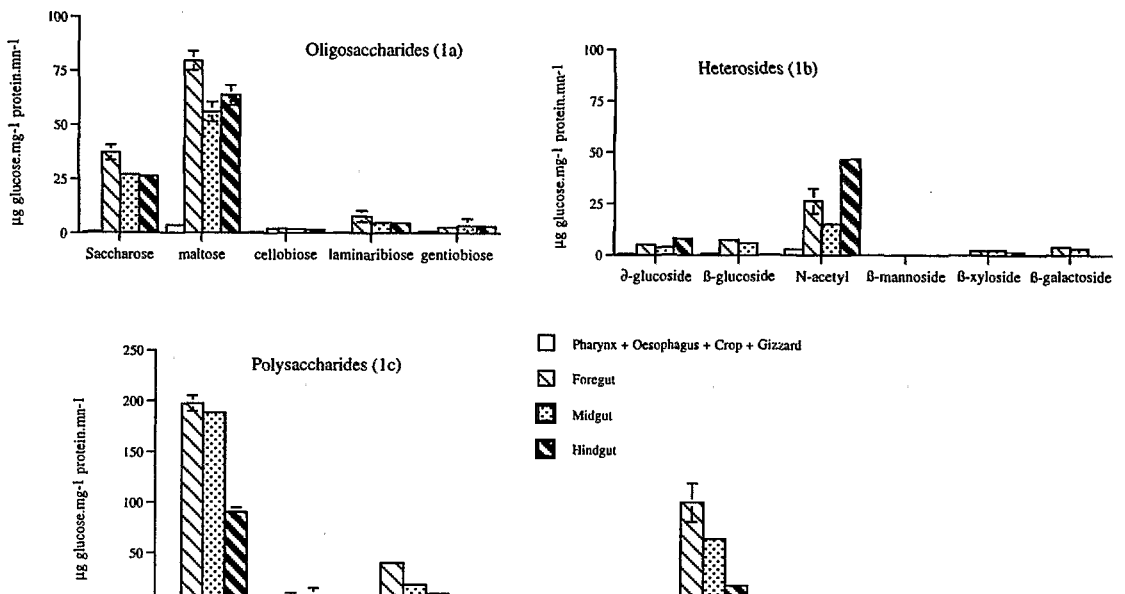
ACTIVITIES OF THE DIGESTIVE ENZYMES IN THE GUT  
AND IN TISSUE CULTURE OF A TROPICAL GEOPHAGOUS  
EARTHWORM, *POLYPHERETIMA ELONGATA*  
(MEGASCOLECIDAE)

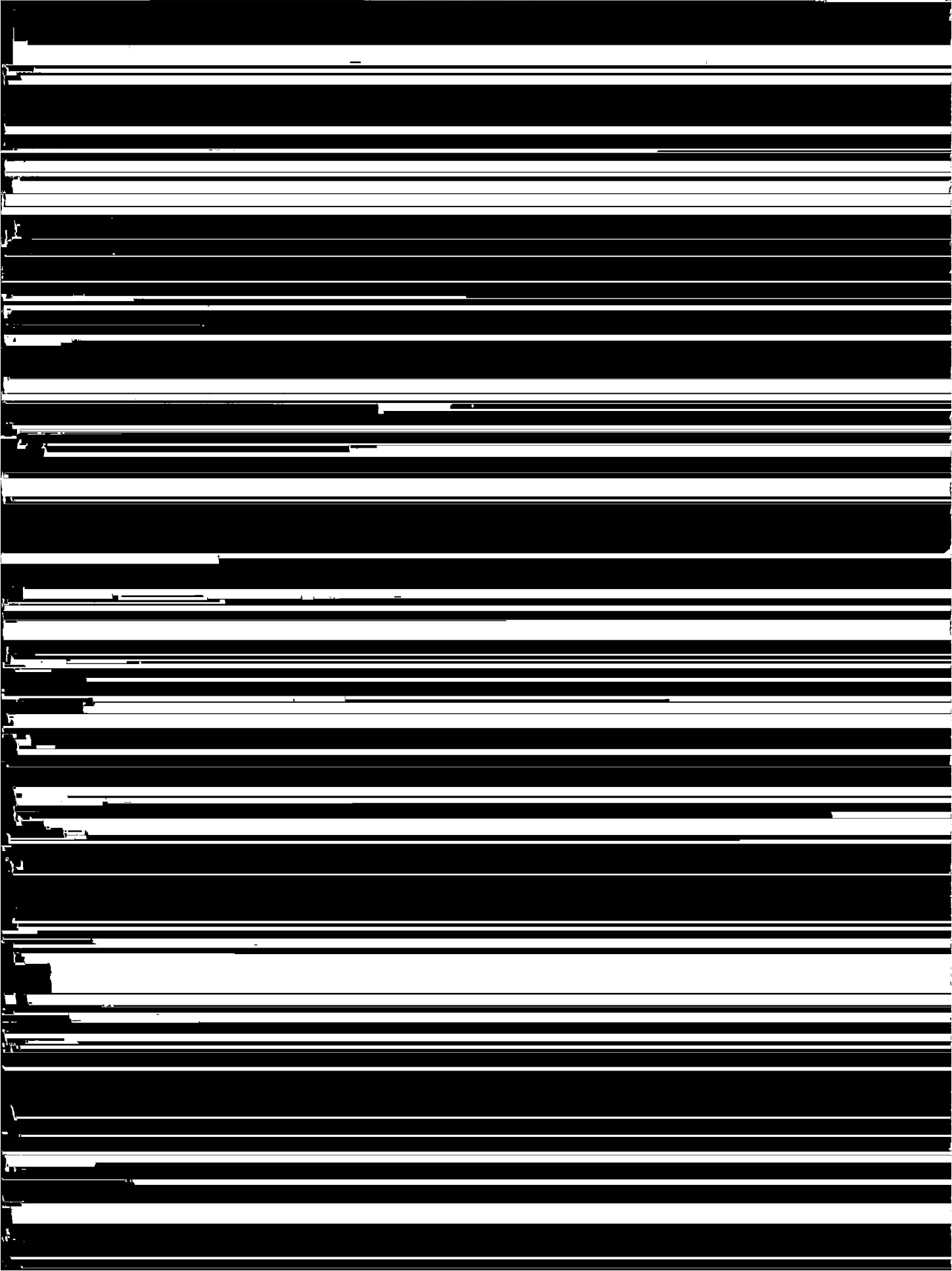
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**Summary**—Endogeic geophagous earthworms from tropical areas seem to digest soil organic matter through a mutualist earthworm microflora–digestion system and the intestinal mucus produced by earthworms was supposed to play a central role in the process of digestion. A large range of glucosidic





foregut culture medium. It is difficult to explain the  $\beta$  xylopyranaosidic activity detected in the foregut culture medium, when midgut and hindgut tissues

organisms possess these enzymes in order to degrade cellulose and mannan which are the main plant constituents and they make use, like *P. corethrurus*

In the course of their digestion, the geophagous endogeic earthworms seem to display rather variable

du premier maillon. *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences Paris* **302**, 11-14.  
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