n° 27.

## Biotreatment of tannery wastes with a PhytoSystem

**Cristina M Menezes, A OSS Rangel and Paula ML Castro**

Industrial activities have led to the build-up of considerable quantities of waste in several sites. Biological treatment processes are an attractive alternative to physical and chemical techniques, not least in terms of public acceptability, perceived lower costs in application and lessened disruption to the environment. Among them, phytoremediation is an emerging technology. Effluents derived from the tannery industry have a high organic load, and often contain chromium, in varying concentrations of constituents. A phytoremediation system installed at an industrial site will form the basis of a broader study on biotreatment efficiency, both in terms of organic load reduction, and metal removal by the plants. The biological phenomena occurring during the treatment will be investigated.

We grateful acknowledge the collaboration of Eng. Manuel Dias.