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## Enzymology and regulation of the atropine metabolism in *pseudomonas putida*

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**ENZYMOMOLOGY AND REGULATION OF  
THE ATROPINE METABOLISM IN  
PSEUDOMONAS PUTIDA**

**W. F. STEVENS**



# ENZYMOMOLOGY AND REGULATION OF THE ATROPINE METABOLISM IN PSEUDOMONAS PUTIDA

PhD THESIS

TO OBTAIN THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR IN MATHEMATICS  
AND SCIENCE AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY LEIDEN,  
ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE RECTOR MAGNIFICUS  
DR L. KUKENHEIM Ezn, PROFESSOR IN THE FACULTY OF  
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, IN THE PRESENCE OF A COMMITTEE OF THE  
SENATE, TO DEFEND ON WEDNESDAY  
18 JUNE 1969 EXACTLY ON THE STROKE OF 16.45

BY

WILLEM FRANS STEVENS  
BORN 's HERTOGENBOSCH IN 1941

PROMOTOR: PROF. DR. A. RÖRSCH

This thesis was written in the Dutch Language in 1969 and at that time deposited in the Repetitorium of the Library of the Technical University, Delft, The Netherlands [https://repository.tudelft.nl/view/tno; # 268336](https://repository.tudelft.nl/view/tno;#268336).

Only in 2019 the thesis was translated by the author in English as precise copy nearly page by page of the 1969 version (no update) and deposited at the same Library under nr [https://repository.tudelft.nl/view/tno; #](https://repository.tudelft.nl/view/tno;#)  
The English translation is only meant to disseminate the scientific data, described in the Dutch version. It does not intend to add any new data. In case of differences in the interpretation of the intellectual property only the Dutch version counts.

*Dedicated to*

*my parents*

*Yvonne*

The thesis started off with the Homer-like poem in hexameter below. It is an explanation of the aim of this thesis. Atropos, as fate goddess on the Olympus, had the task to cut randomly the life-lines of the mortals with a pair of scissors. And as extract of Belladonna, she determined the fate of the new couple: by widening woman's eye: she was almost blind, he dazzled, so both made the wrong choice.

What will happen to You, now Hades' imperium has released a bacterium which contains an enzyme that will cut your life line?



Atropos in bronze,  
by Peter Hoogerwerf

*Atropos, gij waart godin van het noodlot en vrees'lijke rampspoed.  
Gij waart bij machte ten gronde te richten, gij had een onzalige invloed  
Door tot de Vader van Goden en Mensen het onheil te fluist'ren  
Hiermee de sterv'ling voorgoed aan zijn blinde bestemming te kluist'ren  
En als extract van bell'dona verwijdend het oog der beminde  
Zodat gij aanstaande man alswel vrouw in hun keuze verblindde,*

*Welk lot brengt U een bacil die uit Hades' rijk vrij is gegeven  
Die in haar handen de schaar heeft die knipt aan de draad van Uw leven ?*