



Fig. 3. Photomicrograph of cultured HEp-2 cells incubated with strains of *Escherichia coli* showing diffuse pattern of adhesion ($\times 800$).

Distribution of the various EPEC serogroups among plankton, water and sediment is shown in Fig. 2. There were 16 sediment isolates belonging to 7 serogroups, 7 water isolates belonging to 6 serogroups, and 7 plankton isolates belonging to 3 serogroups. Water isolates showed the greatest serological diversity. No dominance of any single serogroup during a particular season was evident. However, serotypability of the strains on a seasonal basis was highest during summer months and progressively declined with the approach of the post-monsoon and winter months.

None of the 150 representative *E. coli* strains from the environment produced LT, ST or VT or caused keratoconjunctivitis in the guinea-pig eye model, indicating that none of the strains were enterotoxigenic, cytotoxin producers or enteroinvasive. Only four of the 150 *E. coli* isolates were found to be enteroadherent. Two strains belonging to the EPEC serogroups (O127: K63 and O26: K60) and two other untypable strains exhibited diffuse adherence pattern (Fig. 3) on HEp-2 cell line indicating that these untypable isolates belong to the enteroadherent group of *E. coli* (EAEC).

The frequencies of resistance of the 31 EPEC isolates to individual antibiotics is given in Table 5. The most commonly found resistance was to tetracycline fol-

