## Evaluation of Cellulase Production by Yeast Isolates and Application on Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Delignified Cellulose

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The interest in the practical applications and biodiversity of yeasts has been increased in the last decade to new biotechnological applications avoid brewing and winemaking technology. On the other hand, there is great interest for the conversion of cellulose from lignocellulosic biomass into glucose aimed at producing second-generation ethanol. Although a large number of fungi are capable of degrading cellulose, only a few yeasts have been described as producer of cell-free enzymes capable of completely hydrolyzing crystalline cellulose in vitro. The objectives of the present work were isolate cellulase producer yeast species from Brazilian ecosystem, evaluate biochemical and physiological parameters to promote cellulases (endoglucanase, exoglucanase and beta-glucosidase) production by submerse fermentation and evaluate the action of these enzymatic complexes on bagasse delignified cellulose hydrolysis. The yeasts were isolated from rotting wood samples collected from natural parks from Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Rondônia and São Paulo states; and each sample was placed separately in flasks and plates containing carboximetilcellulose as sole carbon source to cellulase activity evaluation. Eight selected isolates (identified as Cryptococcus, Trichosporon and Pichia species) were cultured in 125mL Erlenmeyer flasks containing 25mL Vogel's minimum salts medium, carboximetilcellulose and/or Avicel 1% (m/v) under shaking conditions (200rpm) at 30°C. Endoglucanase, exoglucanase, cellobiase and βglucosidase titres were evaluated. All yeast isolates growth and produced cellulolytic enzymes in different extents according the strain evaluated. Bagasse from five different sugarcane varieties (CTC-9, CT99-1906, SP81-3250, RB867515 and CT99-1902) were milled (20 mesh) and used to obtainment of cellulose under acidic and alkaline pretreatments. These celluloses were utilized to carry out enzymatic hydrolysis which resulted in partial saccharification (<50%) after 48h of incubation. The results are important in determining the biotechnological potential of these new species to produce cellulases.

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