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Pranati Kundu, Sandeep Kumar, Vivek Ahluwalia, Sushil Kumar Kansal, Sasikumar Elumalai



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Extraction of arabinoxylan from corn cob through modified alkaline protocol to improve xylooligosaccharides synthesis

Pranati Kundu,^{1,2} Sandeep Kumar,^{1,2} Vivek Ahluwalia,¹ Sushil Kumar Kansal,² and Sasikumar Elumalai^{1,†}

¹ *Chemical Engineering Division, Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB), Mohali, Punjab 140306 India*

² *Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar University Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology, Panjab University, Chandigarh 160014 India*

Abstract

A modified alkaline protocol involving a combination of NaOH and NH₄OH was employed for the isolation of hemicellulose from corncob. During the extraction of hemicellulose, alkaline reagents promoted selective cleavage of ester and ether linkages in corncob biomass. It was possible to obtain a hemicellulose fraction consisted of considerable branching constituents (arabinose and uronic acid, and low lignin). Based on modeling analysis, reaction parameters such as alkali concentration and temperature significantly influenced the amount of total hemicellulose extracted. Subsequent hydrolysis of isolated hemicellulose in the presence of H₂SO₄ resulted in better conversion (69% wt.) with enriched XOs conc. (73.68% with DP up to 4) than other fractions under milder conditions. Advantageously, gas phase NH₃ formation was achieved during the reaction, where NaOH and NH₄OH mix was used at an equal ratio that

[†] Author correspondence email: sasikumar@ciab.res.in (Tel: +91-172-5221-444).

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