## Accepted Manuscript

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 PII:
 \$1350-4177(18)30804-6

 DOI:
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ultsonch.2018.06.014

 Reference:
 ULTSON 4212

To appear in: Ultrasonics Sonochemistry

Received Date:28 May 2018Revised Date:15 June 2018Accepted Date:17 June 2018



Please cite this article as: B.Z. Tizazu, K. Roy, V.S. Moholkar, Mechanistic Investigations in Ultrasound-Assisted Xylitol Fermentation, *Ultrasonics Sonochemistry* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ultsonch.2018.06.014

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## Mechanistic Investigations in Ultrasound-Assisted Xylitol Fermentation

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## Abstract

This study has investigated ultrasound-assisted xylitol production through fermentation of dilute acid (pentose-rich) hydrolysate of sugarcane bagasse using free cells of *Candida tropicalis*. Sonication of fermentation mixture at optimum conditions was carried out in ultrasound bath (37 kHz and 10% duty cycle). Time profiles of substrate and product in control (mechanical shaking) and test (mechanical shaking + sonication) fermentations were fitted to kinetic model using Genetic Algorithm (GA) optimization. Max. xylitol yield of 0.56 g/g and 0.61 g/g of xylose was achieved in control and test fermentations, respectively. The biomass yield also increased marginally (~17%) with sonication. However, kinetics of fermentation by the cells. With comparative analysis of kinetic parameters in control and test experiments, this result was attributed to enhanced permeability of cell membrane that allowed faster diffusion of nutrients, substrates and products across cell membrane, higher enzyme-substrate affinity, dilution of toxic components and reduced inhibition of intracellular enzymes by substrate.

Keywords: Xylitol, Fermentation, Sonication, Cavitation, Flow cytometry, Sugarcane Bagasse

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