Improvement in Xylitol Production from Sugarcane Bagasse Hydrolysate Achieved by the Use of a Repeated-Batch Immobilized Cell System

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\textit{Candida guilliermondii} cells were immobilized in Ca-alginate beads and used for xylitol production from concentrated sugarcane bagasse hydrolysate during five successive fermentation batches, each lasting 48 hours. The bioconversion efficiency of 53.2\%, the productivity of 0.50 g/l $\times$ h and the final xylitol concentration of 23.8 g/l obtained in the first batch increased to 61.5\%, 0.59 g/l $\times$ h and 28.4 g/l, respectively, in the other four batches (mean values), with variation coefficients of up to 2.3\%. 