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ENZYMATIC PROCESS FOR THE FRACTIONATION OF BAKER'S YEAST CELL WALL (*SACCHAROMYCES CEREVIAE*)

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5030 Gembloux, Belgique**Mots Clés / Keywords :** β -Glucans; Baker' s yeast; Saccharomyces cerevisiae; Enzymatic process; Yield; Chemical properties.**Résumé / Abstract :**

β -glucans, homopolymers of glucose, are widespread in many microorganisms, mushrooms and plants. They have attracted attention because of their bioactive and medicinal functions. One important source of β -glucans is the cell wall of yeasts, especially of the baker's yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Several processes for the isolation of β -glucans using alkali, acid or a combination of both, result in degradation of the polymeric chains. In this paper, we have an enzymatic process for the isolation of glucans from yeast cell walls. As a result, β -glucans were obtained at a yield of 71.94% of the original ratio in the yeast cell walls. Therefore, this isolation process give best yield and high β -glucan content compared to traditional isolation methods. Furthermore, results showed that the each extraction step of β -glucan had significant effects on its most chemical properties.