

Biocatalysts

Immobilization techniques and
biotechnological applications of
cells and enzymes

BIOCATALYSTS

Biological catalysts to obtain a product of interest by a biotransformation

Microorganisms

the microorganism is grown in medium A

cells are harvested and resuspended in medium B that contains the substrate to be transformed

growth and biotransformation conditions must be optimized separately

Purified enzymes

membrane permeability problems are solved

side-reactions are avoided

possible stability problems

it is necessary to purify the enzyme!

BIOCATALYSTS IMMOBILIZED VS SOLUBLE

Table 1 The comparison of immobilized and non-immobilized biocatalytic processes

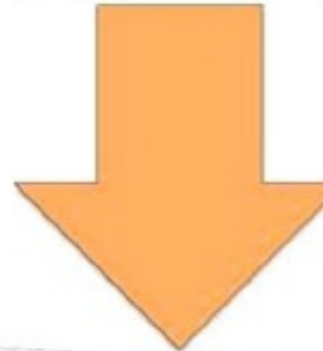
Properties	Non-immobilized biocatalytic processes	Immobilized biocatalytic processes
Cost of design	No additional cost is necessary	Additional cost for design of support material and technique
Overall cost-effectiveness	Loss of valuable biocatalysts	Valuable biocatalysts can be reused
Mass transfer and diffusion limitations	Biocatalyst can interact with environment with no limitation	Mass transfer is limited due to the support material
Downstream Process	Difficult separation due to biocatalyst/ substrate/product mixture	Facilitates separations from the production medium
Contamination	Risk of contamination by reaction mixture	Minimizes or eliminates product contamination
Biomass growth (for cell biocatalysts)	Biomass reaches high concentrations in a short time that complicates the control of process	Biomass growth remains same along the process
Movement (for cell biocatalysts)	Free movement—high mobility	Limited movement due to the physical/chemical interaction with support material
Recovery and reuse	Minimal or null reuse of biocatalyst	Efficient recovery and reuse
Stability	Low stability	Enhanced operational stability against different operational conditions (temperature, pH)
Productivity	Low productivity (kg product/kg enzyme)	High catalyst productivity (kg product/kg enzyme)
Industrial application	Can be applied in various industrial production	New techniques and support materials are necessary to be improved to apply in different industries

Catalytic activity must be preserved in the immobilization procedure!

BIOCATALYSTS IMMOBILIZED VS SOLUBLE

Repetitive use of biocatalyst;
Enhancement of stability and enzyme activity;
Facilitates the separation of biocatalyst;
Reaches high enzyme-substrate ratio;
Easier process control;
Minimizes contaminations.

Disadvantages



Biocatalyst Immobilization



Advantages

Fragility of support material;
Causes high stress on biocatalyst;
Alterations in biocatalyst conformation and activity;
Reduction on accessibility of biocatalyst to its substrate;
Specific reactor system and high engineering design;
High cost because of new techniques.

IMMOBILIZED BIOCATALYSTS

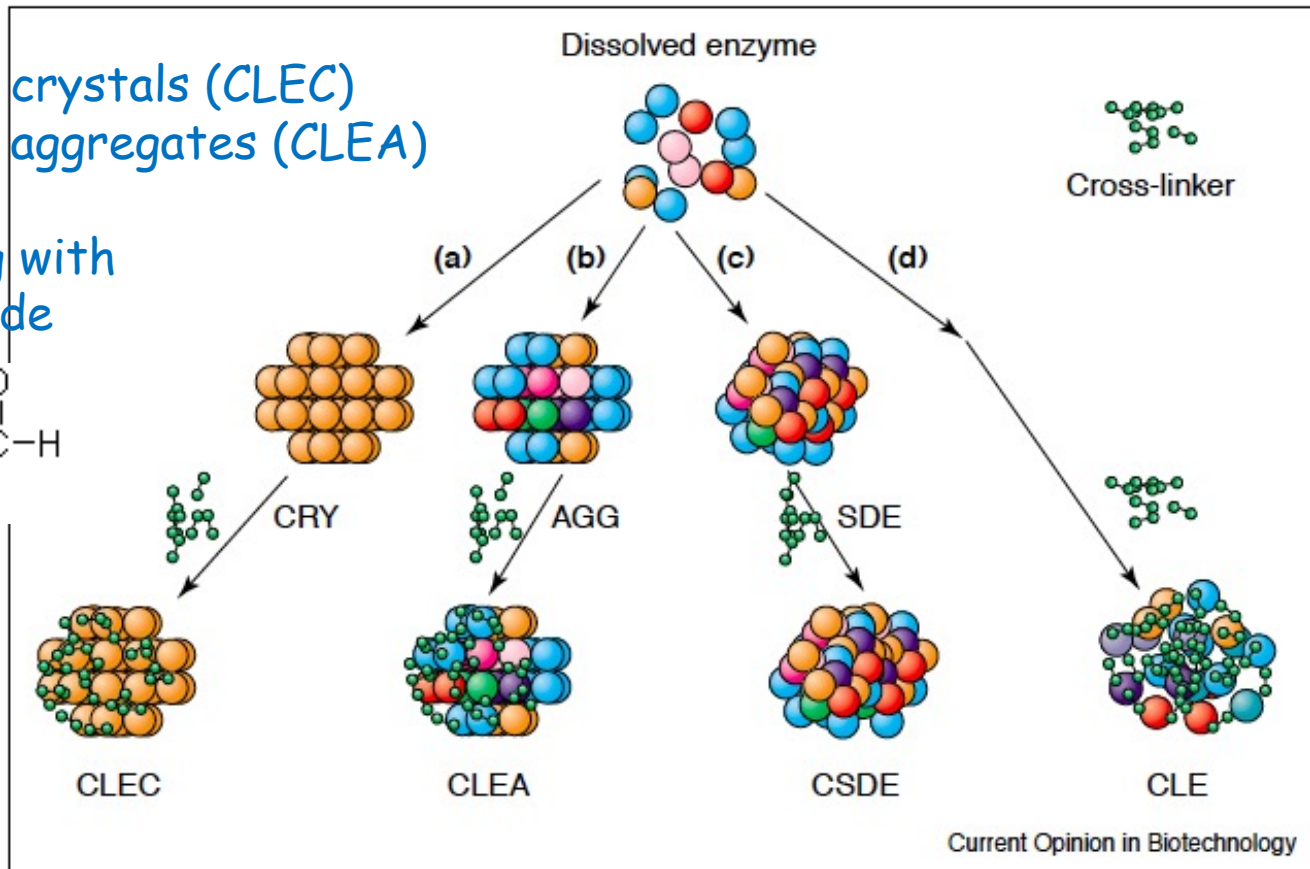
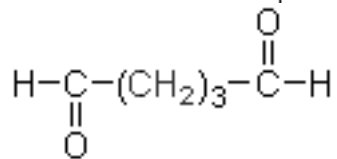
- Carrier-free immobilization
- Carrier-mediated immobilization

- Main active groups on the biocatalyst that can be used for covalent immobilization:
 - NH_2 (N-terminal and Lys side-chain)
 - COOH (C-terminal and Glu and Asp side-chains)
 - SH (Cys side-chain)

Carrier-free immobilization methods (self-immobilization)

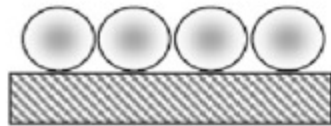
Cross-linked crystals (CLEC)
Cross-linked aggregates (CLEA)

Cross-linking with
glutaraldehyde

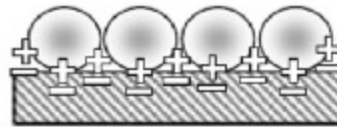


The different approaches to the production of carrier-free immobilised enzymes: **(a)** crystallization; **(b)** aggregation; **(c)** spray-drying; **(d)** direct cross-linking. AGG, aggregates; CRY, crystals; SDE, spray-dried enzyme.

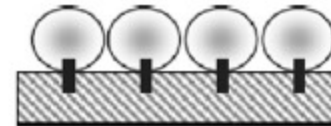
Methods for immobilization of biocatalysts



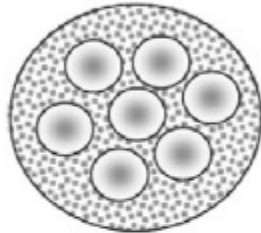
Adsorption
on a surface



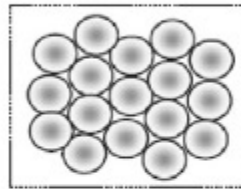
Electrostatic binding
on a surface



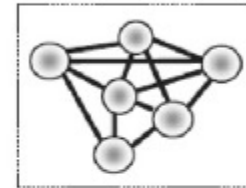
Covalent binding
on a surface



Entrapment within a
porous matrix



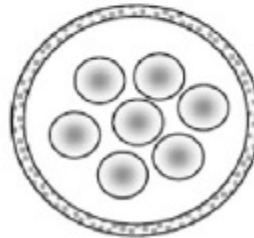
Natural flocculation
(Aggregation)



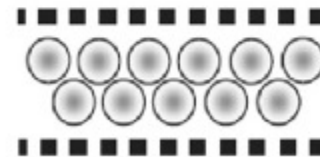
Artificial flocculation
(cross-linking)



Microencapsulation

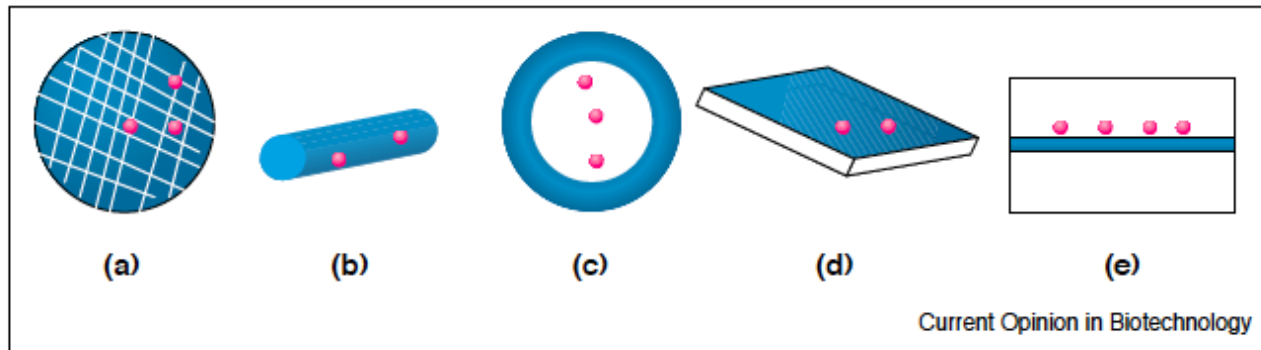


Interfacial
microencapsulation



Containment
between microporous
membranes

Carrier formats



Carrier-bound immobilised enzymes of defined size and shape. Insoluble carriers vary in their geometric parameters, different shapes and types of enzyme carrier are illustrated: **(a)** bead, **(b)** fibre, **(c)** capsule, **(d)** film and **(e)** membrane.

Immobilization techniques: merits and demerits

Adsorption
 Entrapment
 Encapsulation
 Covalent bonding
 Cross-linking

Table 1
 Comparative evaluation of merits and demerits of various immobilization types.

Immobilization type	Merits	Demerits
Adsorption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Easy to carry out ✓ No reagents are required ✓ No pore diffusion limitation ✓ Minimum activation steps involved ✓ Comparatively cheap method of immobilization ✓ Less disruptive to enzyme than chemical methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Lower efficacy level × Desorption of enzymes from the carrier
Covalent bonding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Wider applicability ✓ Comparatively simple method ✓ No leakage or desorption problem ✓ A variety of support/carrier available ✓ Strong linkage of enzyme to the support ✓ Multifunctional groups availability from the support/carrier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Competitive inhibition issues × Chemical modification of enzyme × Loss of functional conformation of enzyme
Entrapment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mild conditions are required ✓ Easy to practice at small scale ✓ Fast method of immobilization ✓ Can be used for sensing application ✓ Cheap (low cost matrixes available) ✓ Less chance of conformational changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Leakage of enzyme × Pore diffusion limitation × Chance of microbial contamination × Lower level of industrial implementation
Cross-linking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No matrix or support involved Comparatively simple method Widely used in industrial applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poly-functional reagents are required e.g. glutaraldehyde Denaturation or structural modification by cross-linker
Encapsulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cost effective method ✓ Enzymes are stable for long time ✓ No extraction/purification steps are required ✓ "One-pot" immobilization of multiple enzymes ✓ Native conformation of enzyme is best maintained ✓ Cell organelles e.g. mitochondria can be immobilized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Less concentration of enzymes × Generation of unwanted products × Modification of end products by other enzymes

Support materials for immobilization

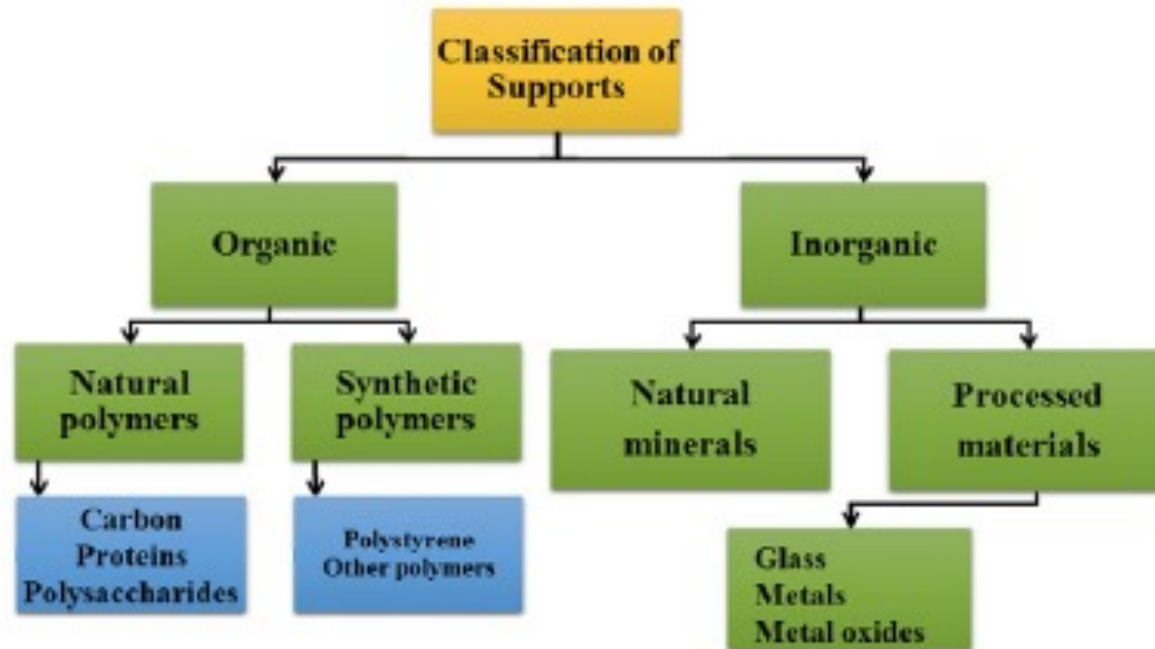


Fig. 1. A schematic illustration of the classification of support materials used for immobilization purposes.

Support materials for immobilization

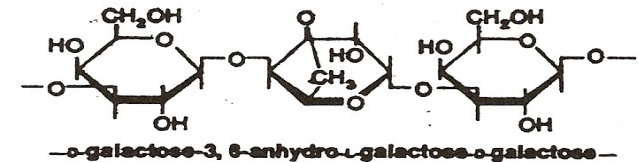
Natural and synthetic organic supports used for immobilization of cells or enzymes must be stable and unreactive.
 Matrices have to be activated.

Table 1. Organic Supports for Cell Immobilization

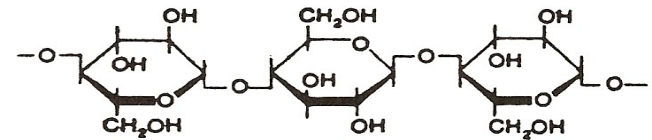
Polysaccharides:	Cellulose Agar/agarose Chitosan Dextran Carrageenan Alginate Pectate Xanthan gum
Proteins:	Collagen Gelatin Albumin Fibrin
Synthetic Polymers:	Polyacrylamide Methacrylate Polyurethane Epoxy resin Polystyrene Polyester Polypropylene Polyphenylene oxide Polyvinyl alcohol Polyvinyl chloride

Polysaccharides and polyamides frequently serve as matrices

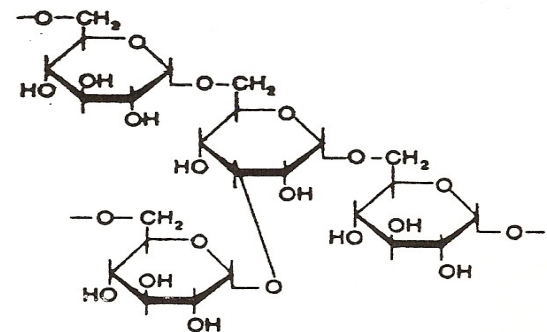
Agarose



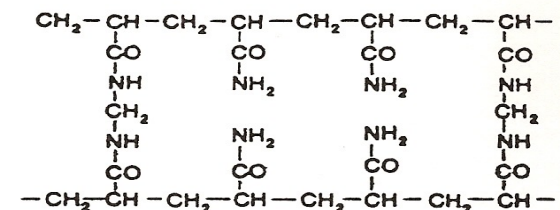
Cellulose



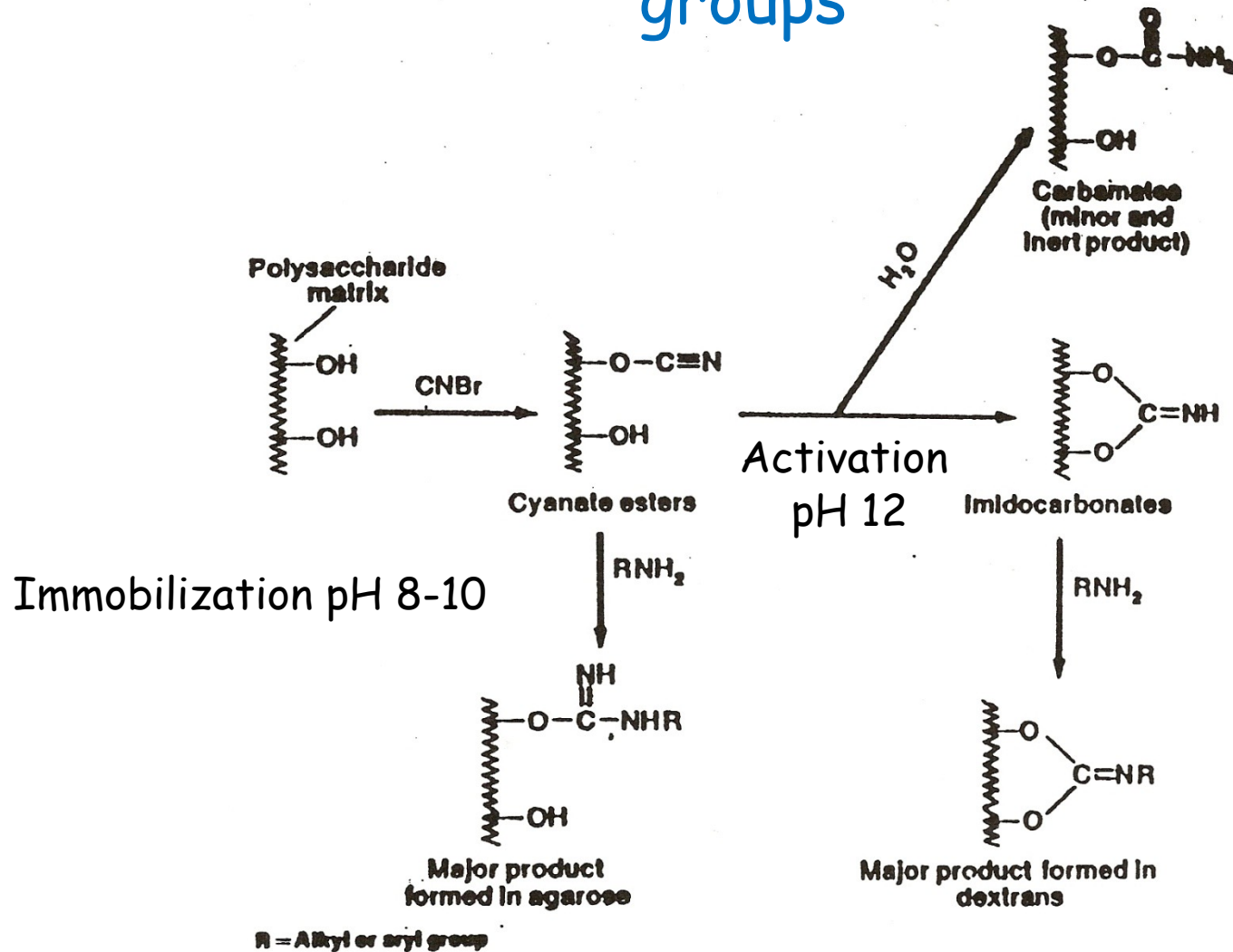
Crosslinked dextran (Sephadex)



Crosslinked polyacrylamide



Activation of a polysaccharidic matrix with cyanogen bromide (CNBr) to immobilize $-NH_2$ groups



Derivatized and activated matrices for reaction with different groups in proteins (-NH₂, -COOH, -SH, aromatic aminoacids ecc.)

The presence of a **spacer** group on the matrix reduces steric problems and favours active site accessibility of the immobilized enzyme

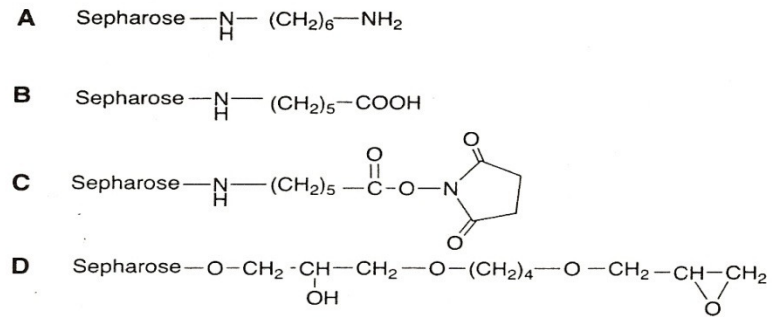


Figura 4.9 Strutture parziali di (A) AH-Sepharose, (B) CH-Sepharose 4B, (C) CH-Sepharose 4B attivato e (D) Sepharose 6B epossì-attivato. Gentile concessione di Pharmacia.

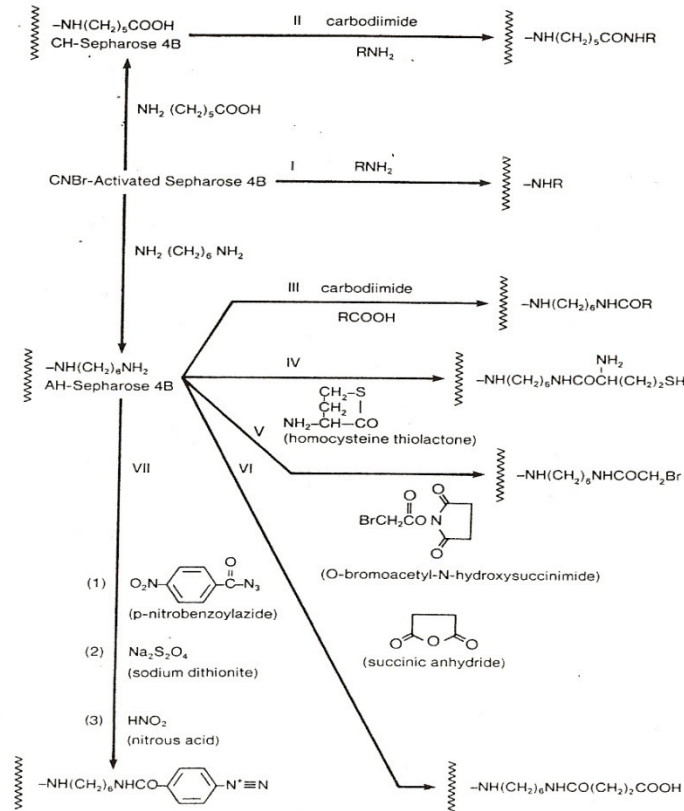
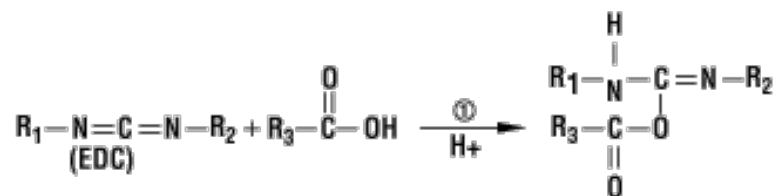
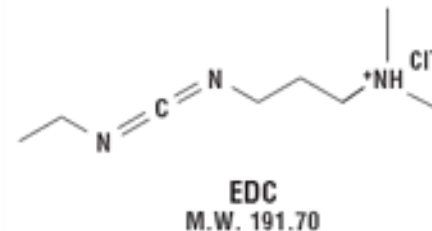


Fig. 3.6. Reactions used to couple ligands to Sepharose.

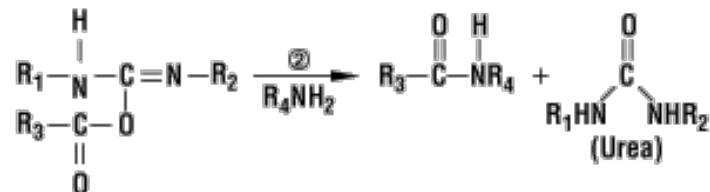
Carbodiimides: cross-linkers specific for carboxyl/amine groups

EDC

1-Ethyl-3-[3-dimethylaminopropyl]carbodiimide hydrochloride



EDC reacts with carboxylic acid group and activates the carboxyl group, allowing it to be coupled to the amino group (R_4NH_2) in the reaction mixture.

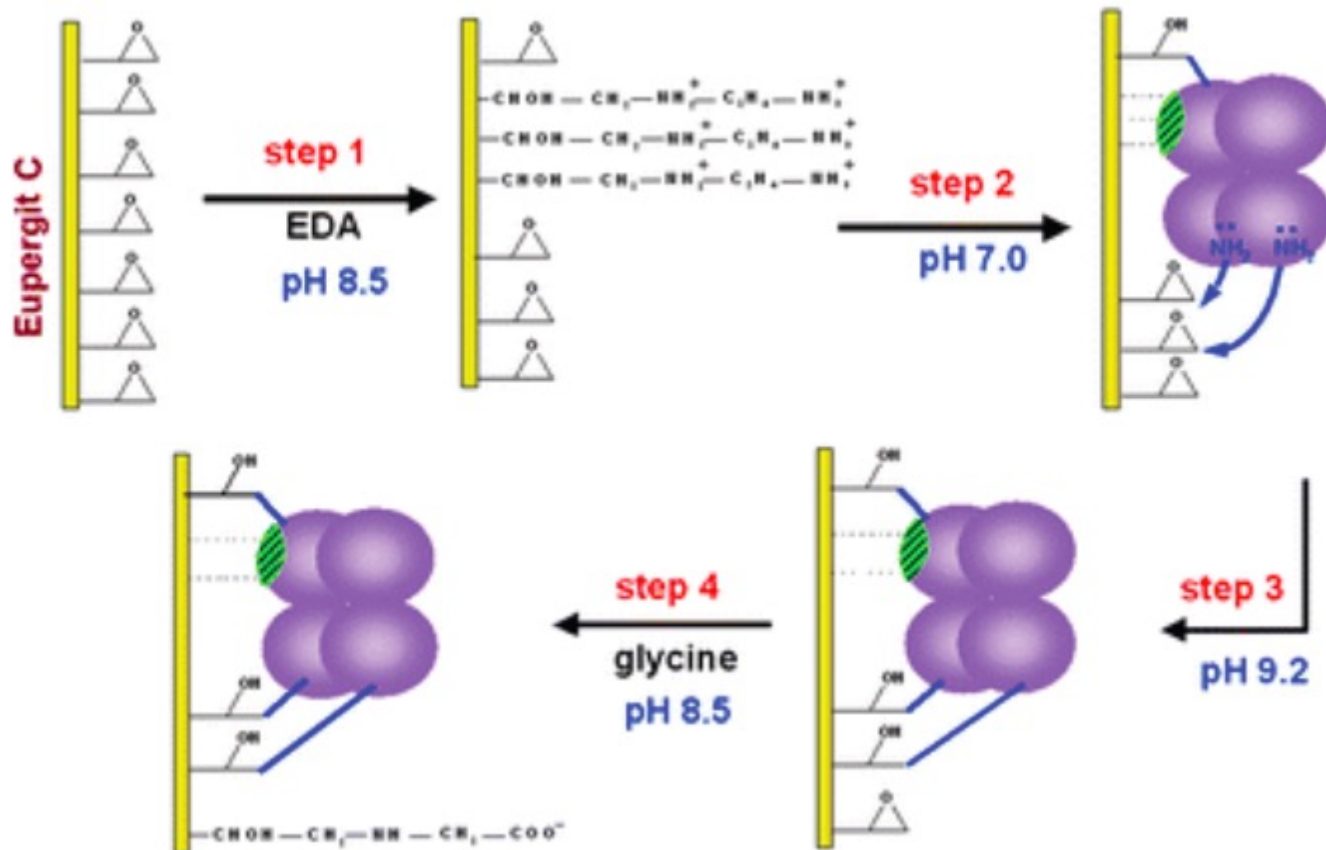


EDC is released as a soluble urea derivative after displacement by the nucleophile, R_4NH_2 .

EDC reacts with a carboxyl group on molecule 1 to form an *O*-acylisourea intermediate. This intermediate can react with an amine group on molecule 2, forming a covalent bond between the two molecules.

Multi-point attachment on Eupergit C

Eupergit: macroporous spheres of acrylamide-derived co-polymers, activated with epoxides (preferential reaction with amine groups)



Immobilization methods: multi-layered encapsulation

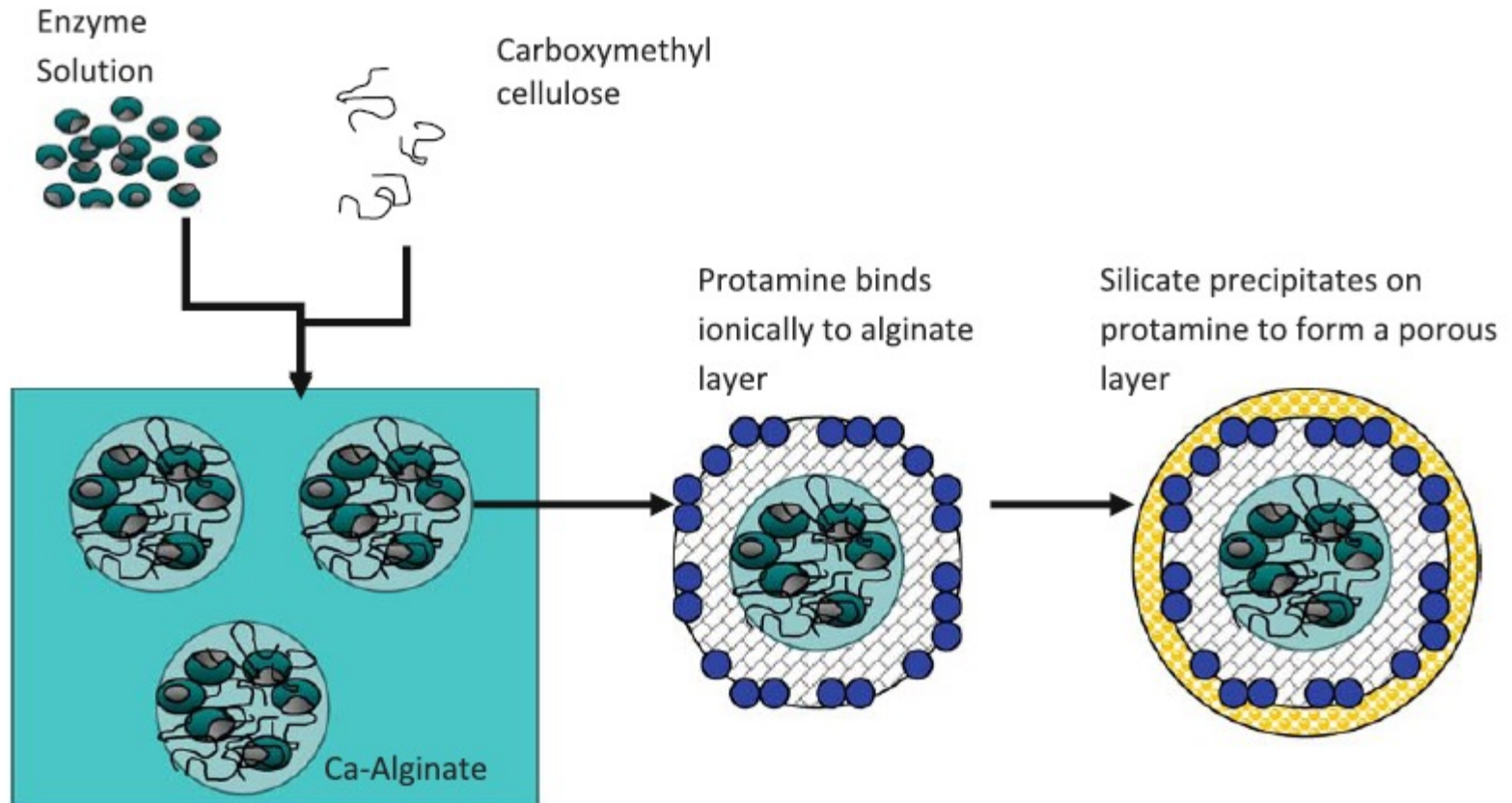


Fig. 2 The multi-layered encapsulation method of Zhang et al. (2008)

Bioreactors

- Polymeric supports: particles, membranes and nanofibers
- Packed-bed reactors (biocatalyst 'packed' in a column)
- Fluidized-bed reactors (biocatalyst maintained 'in motion' by a continuous flux of substrate)
- Continuous flow stirred reactors (biocatalyst mixed with a continuous flow of substrate)
- Membrane reactors (biocatalyst 'separated' by a membrane)

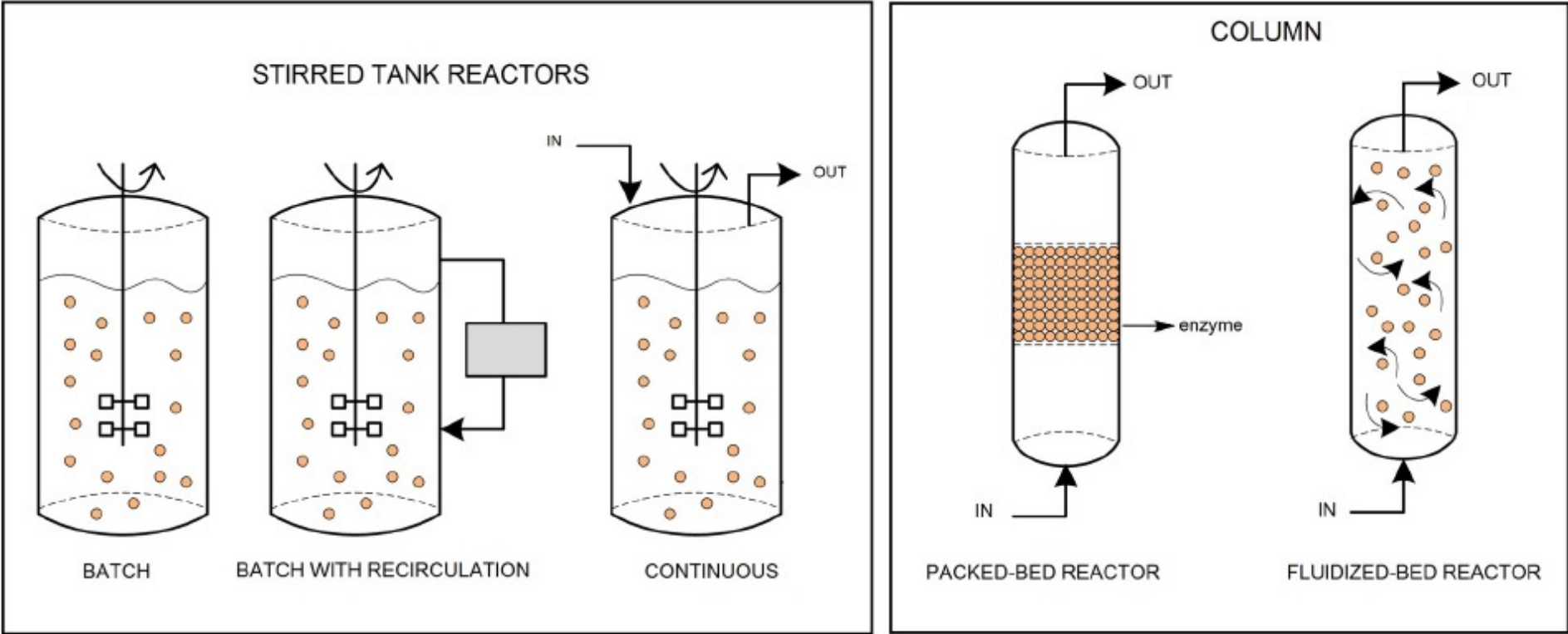


Fig. 3. Schematic representation of the main types of reactors.

Biocatalysis in the winemaking industry: Challenges and opportunities for immobilized enzymes

Carminna Ottone  | Oscar Romero  | Carla Aburto  | Andrés Illanes |
Lorena Wilson 

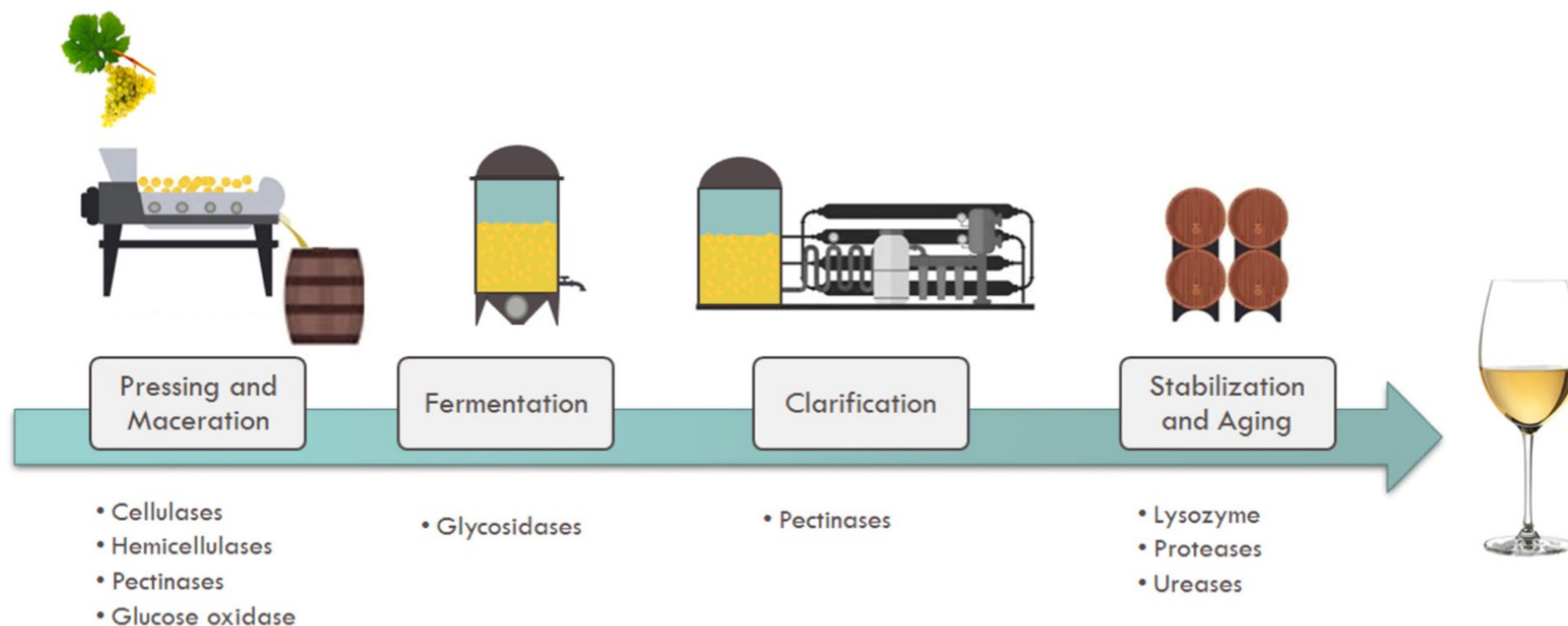


FIGURE 1 Diagram of the main steps in the winemaking process

Biotechnological application of immobilized enzymes for aroma production in wine

Many components of wine aroma are volatile terpenes bound to glucose, which is linked to another sugar (arabinose, rhamnose or apiose). The terpene is released by the sequential action of specific glycosidases.

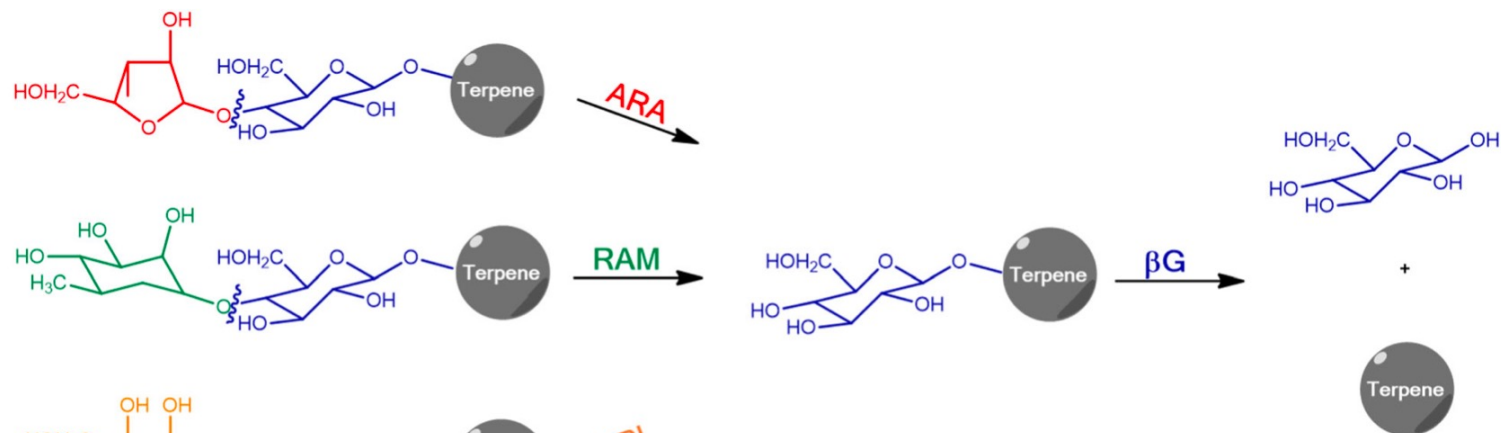


FIGURE 2 Scheme of the cascade reaction mechanism for the release of the glycosylated precursor molecules catalyzed by four different glycosidases: α -L-arabinofuranosidase (ARA), α -L-rhamnopyranosidase (RAM) and β -D-apiofuranosidase (API), and β -D-glucopyranosidase (β G). Modified from (Ahumada et al., 2016)

β -glycosidases for aroma liberation

Soluble enzymes



White
Wine

Combi-CLEAs



- More stable catalyst
- Possible reuse



White
Wine



More Aroma
in product

Without enzymes



White
Wine



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Aroma enhancement in wines using co-immobilized *Aspergillus niger* glycosidases



Paula González-Pombo^a, Laura Fariña^b, Francisco Carrau^b, Francisco Batista-Viera^a, Beatriz M. Brena^{a,*}

^a Cátedra de Bioquímica, Departamento de Biociencias, Facultad de Química, Gral Flores 2124, CC1157 Montevideo, Uruguay

^b Sección Enología, Departamento de Ciencia y Tecnología de Alimentos, Facultad de Química, Gral Flores 2124, CC1157 Montevideo, Uruguay

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ABSTRACT

A major fraction of monoterpenes and norisoprenoids in young wines is conjugated to sugars representing a significant reservoir of aromatic precursors. To promote their release, β -glucosidase, α -arabinosidase, and α -rhamnosidase from a commercial *Aspergillus niger* preparation, were immobilized onto acrylic beads. The aim of this work was the development and application of an immobilized biocatalyst, due to the well-known advantages over soluble enzyme preparations: control of the reaction progress and preparation of enzyme-free products. In addition, the obtained derivative showed increased stability in similar wine conditions. After the treatment of Muscat wine with the biocatalyst for 20 days, free monoterpenes increased significantly (from 1119 to 2132 $\mu\text{g/L}$, $p < 0.01$) with respect to the control wine. Geraniol was increased 3,4-fold over its flavor thresholds, and accordingly its impact on sensorial properties was very relevant: nine of ten judges considered treated wine more intense in fruit and floral notes.

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Table 1
Effect of protein load on the immobilization efficiency.

mg Applied protein/g support	Bound protein		Immobilization yield (%)			Immobilization efficiency (%)		
	mg/g	%	BG	Ara	Rha	BG	Ara	Rha
35	22 ± 2.1	63 ± 6.0	68 ± 7.0	85 ± 8.5	77 ± 7.5	83 ± 8.4	91 ± 9.0	100 ± 9.0
70	42 ± 4.6	60 ± 6.2	70 ± 7.1	65 ± 6.9	75 ± 7.5	89 ± 8.5	92 ± 9.0	88 ± 9.0
145	48 ± 5.1	33 ± 4.1	33 ± 3.8	43 ± 5.5	49 ± 5.2	76 ± 7.8	55 ± 6.3	80 ± 8.5

Mean ± standard deviation (S.D.).

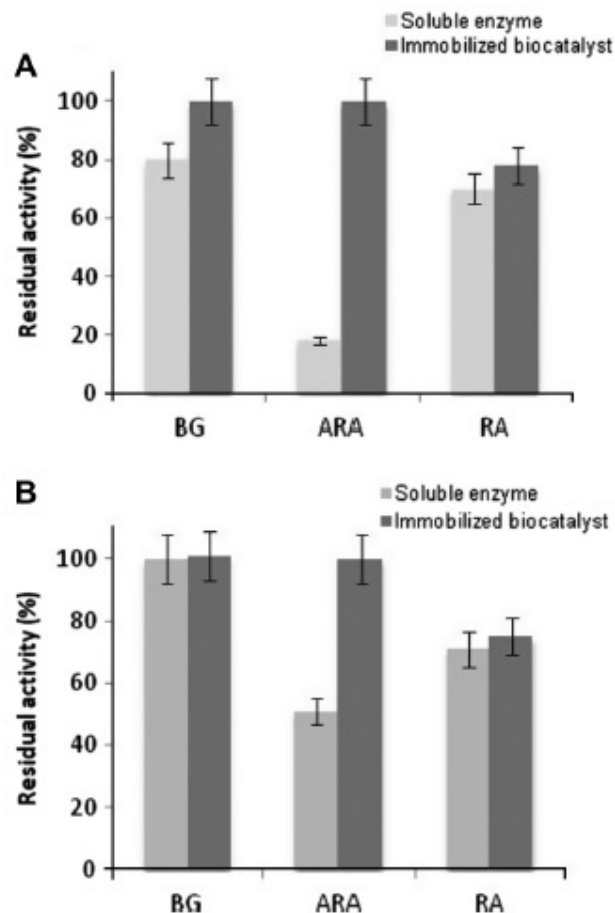


Fig. 4. Stability of glycosidases in model wine at pH 3.5 (A) and pH 4.0 (B), after 70 days of incubation at 23 °C. Model wine consisted of ethanol 12% v/v, containing 3.5 g/L tartaric acid, 2.5 g/L malic acid and 60 mg/L sodium metabisulfite.

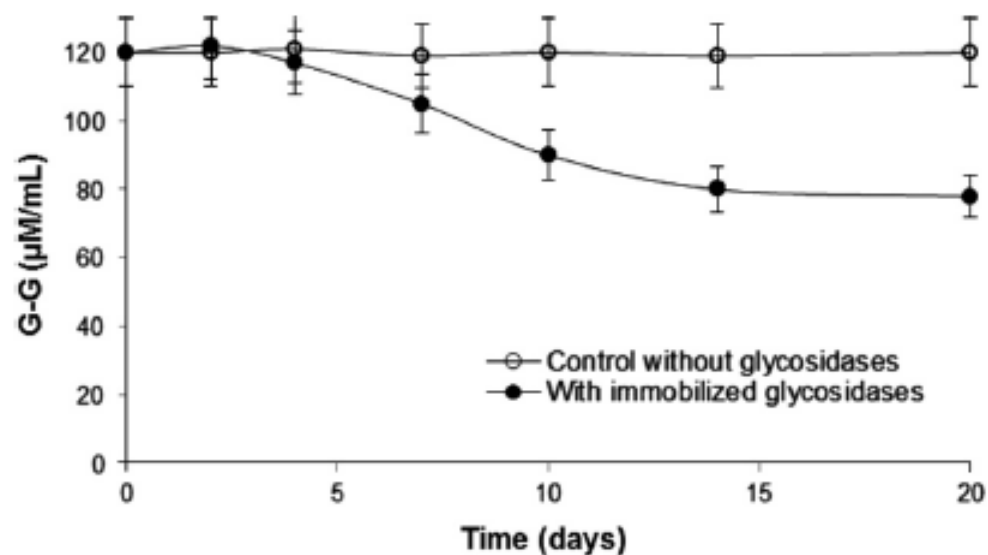


Fig. 5. Variation of glycoside content (G-G values) of Muscat wine at pH 4.0 and 23 °C, incubated with immobilized glycosidases or without glycosidases (control).

Table 2

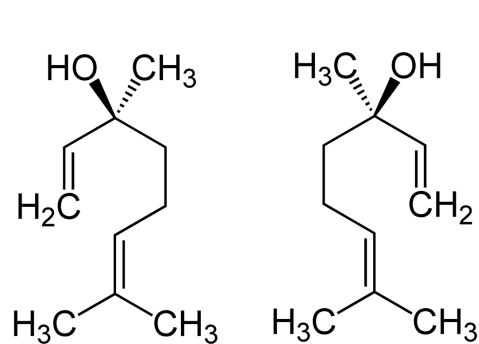
Effect of immobilized glycosidases on the concentration of monoterpenes and norisoprenoids in Muscat wine. Mean concentrations of compounds ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and relative standard deviations ($n = 3$).

Aromatic compounds	Descriptor	Odor threshold ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Control wine without glycosidases ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Wine treated with immobilized glycosidases ($\mu\text{g/L}$)	Significance (p value)
Linalool	Rose	50 ^a	555 \pm 86	615 \pm 25	n.s.
α -Terpineol	Floral, pine	400 ^a	182 \pm 20	246 \pm 17	<0.05
Geraniol	Fruit, floral	130 ^a	98 \pm 11	438 \pm 26	<0.001
Oxide A (trans-furanic of linalool)	Leafy, sweet, floral, creamy, earthy	>6000 ^b	47 \pm 15	213 \pm 79	<0.05
Oxide B (cis-furanic of linalool)	Leafy, sweet, floral, creamy, earthy	>6000 ^b	28 \pm 9	100 \pm 3	<0.001
Oxide C (trans-piranic of linalool)	Leafy, sweet, floral, creamy, earthy	3000-5000 ^b	151 \pm 53	386 \pm 28	<0.01
Oxide D (cis-piranic of linalool)	Leafy, sweet, floral, creamy, earthy	3000-5000 ^b	59 \pm 12	135 \pm 56	n.s.
Total terpenes			1119 \pm 182	2132 \pm 211	<0.01
Vomifolol	Dried fruit, raisins	–	nd	20 \pm 3	<0.001
3-Oxo- α -ionol	Honey, apricots	–	nd	7 \pm 1	<0.001
Total norisoprenoids			nd	27 \pm 3	<0.001

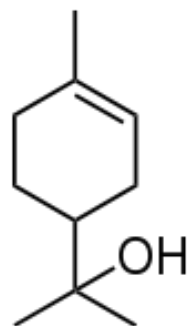
nd: Below the limit of detection, ns: not significant.

^a Riberau-Gayon, P., Glories, Y., Maujean, A., Dubourdieu, & D. (1998). Handbook of Enology, vol. 2, The chemistry of wine. Stabilization and treatments (2nd ed.), Wiley.

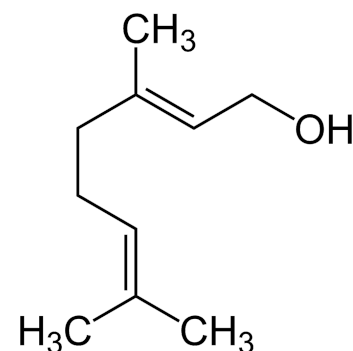
^b Ribéreau-Gayon, P., Boidron, J. N., Terrier, A. (1975) Aroma of muscat grape varieties. J Agricultural Food Chem 23, 1042–1047.



Linalool



Terpineol



Geraniol

Biotechnological application of immobilized cells for ethanol production

Table 4
Comparison of immobilised systems proposed for ethanol production.

Microorganism	Method	Matrix	Bioreactor	Conversion (%)
<i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i>	Entrapment	Alginate beads	Packed-bed bioreactor	84–88%
<i>Kluyveromyces fragilis</i>	Adsorption	Shell side of an industrial size hollow fibre module	Hollow fibre reactor	30–60 g L ⁻¹ h ⁻¹
Kefir yeast	Adsorption	Delignified cellulosic material	Static fermentation	~90%; 5.9% (v/v) ethanol
<i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i>	Adsorption	Delignified cellulosic material	0.500 L shaking flask (150 rpm)	9.3 g L ⁻¹
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	Entrapment	Ca alginate beads	Packed-bed reactor	–
Recombinant <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	Aggregation (natural flocculation)	Yeast flocs-flocculent strain	0.600 L bubble column	7% (v/v) ethanol; 53% theoretical; ~90%
<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	Co-immobilised yeast cells with enzyme β -galactosidase	Ca alginate beads cross-linked with GA	5L PBR with circulation	15.6% (m/v)
<i>Kluyveromyces marxianus</i>	Adsorption	Olive pits	Continuous packed column bioreactor	~95%

Table 2
Typical composition of sweet and acid whey [2].

Components	Sweet whey (g L ⁻¹)	Acid whey (g L ⁻¹)
Total solids	63.0–70.0	63.0–70.0
Lactose	46.0–52.0	44.0–46.0
Protein	6.0–10.0	6.0–8.0
Calcium	0.4–0.6	1.2–1.6
Phosphate	1.0–3.0	2.0–4.5
Lactate	2.0	6.4
Chloride	1.1	1.1

Conversion of lactose in whey (waste product of cheese-making industry)

Application of enzymes immobilized on Eupergit C for lactose biotransformation

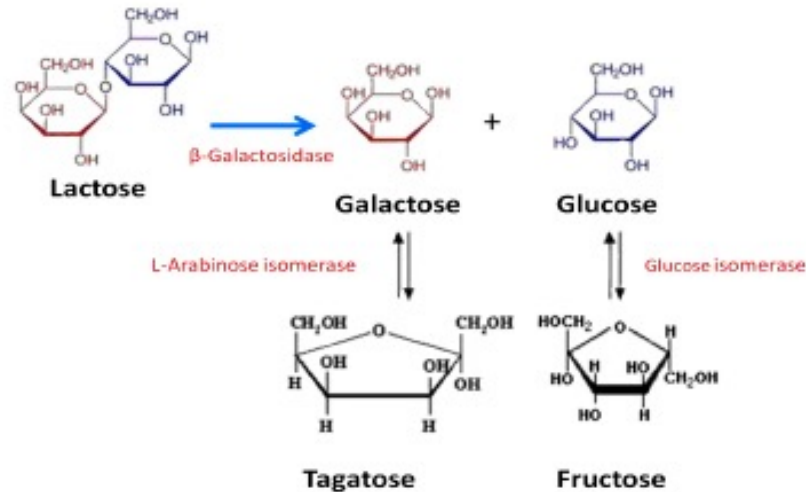


Figure 1. Diagram of reactions for enzymatic production of ketohexoses from lactose. Structures of main products of interest are depicted with enlarged sizes.

Table 5. Lactolysis and isomerization in Mozzarella cheese whey at 50 °C by tri-enzymatic systems ¹.

System	Lactolysis (%)	Tagatose (%) ²	Fructose (%) ²
Soluble enzymes	76 ± 1	22 ± 3	21 ± 1
Immobilized derivatives (sequential use)	86 ± 1	31 ± 2	24 ± 2
Immobilized derivatives (simultaneous use)	93 ± 3	40 ± 1	29 ± 3

¹ Results are means of triplicate determinations ± SD; ² Conversion percentages (6 h operation) according to HPLC analysis (see supporting information in supplementary materials).

Application of enzymes in starch hydrolysis.

Properties and applications of hydrolyzed starch products

Table 1

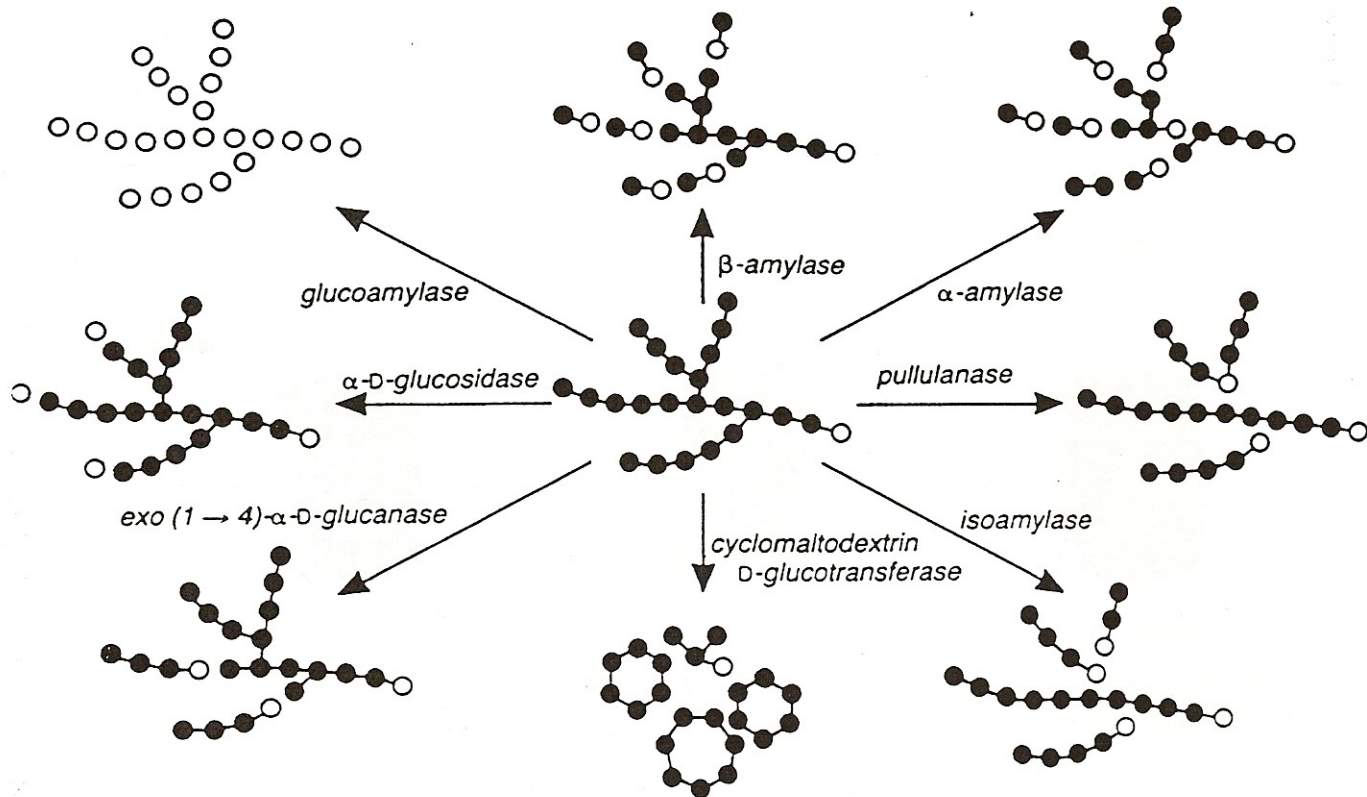
Properties and industrial applications of hydrolysed starch products

Type of syrup	DE ^a	Composition (%)	Properties	Application
Low DE maltodextrins	15–30	1–20 D-glucose 4–13 maltose 6–22 maltotriose 50–80 higher oligomers	low osmolarity	clinical feed formulations; raw materials for enzymic saccharification; thickeners, fillers, stabilizers, glues, pastes
Maltose syrups	40–45	16–20 D-glucose 41–44 maltose 36–43 higher oligomers	high viscosity, reduced crystallization, moderately sweet	confectionary, soft drinks, brewing and fermentation, jams, jellies, ice cream, conserve, sauces
High maltose syrups	48–55	2–9 D-glucose 48–55 maltose 15–16 maltotriose	increased maltose content	hard confectionary, brewing and fermentation
High DE syrups	56–68	25–35 D-glucose 40–48 maltose	increased moisture holding, increased sweetness, reduced content of higher sugars, reduced viscosity, higher fermentability	confectionary, soft drinks, brewing and fermentation, jams, conserves, sauces
Glucose syrups	96–98	95–98 D-glucose 1–2 maltose 0.5–2 isomaltose	commercial liquid 'dextrose'	soft drinks, caramel, baking, brewing and fermentation, raw material
Fructose syrups	98	48 D-glucose 52 D-fructose	alternative industrial sweeteners to sucrose	soft drinks, conserves, sauces, vognurts, canned fruits

^aDextrose equivalent (see Glossary).

Application of enzymes in starch hydrolysis for production of high-fructose syrup

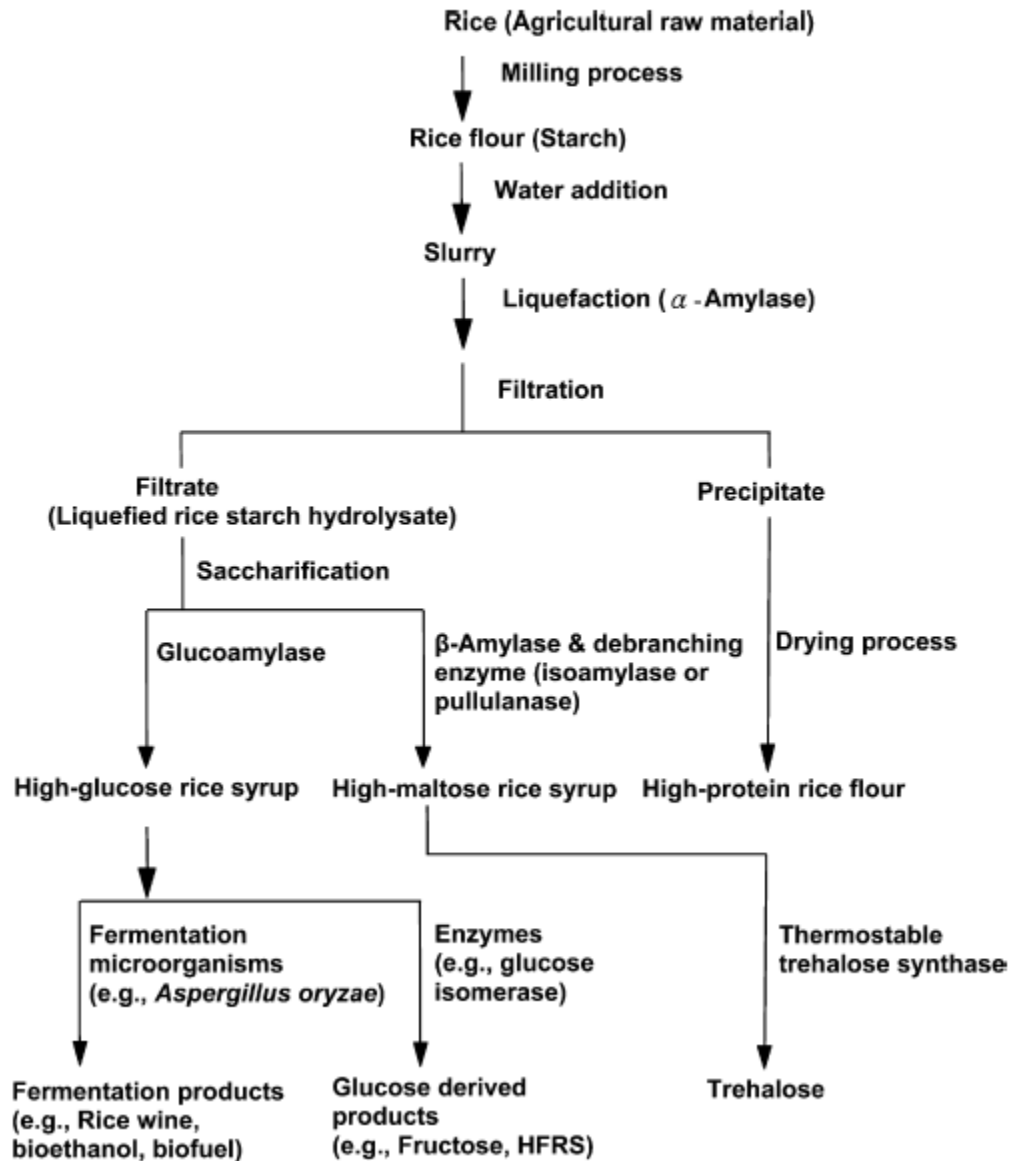
— Fig. 1 —



The enzymic hydrolysis of starch. ●, Non-reducing D-glucosyl residue; ○, reducing D-glucosyl residue or D-glucose.

Enzymes involved in the hydrolysis of starch

Scheme 1. Schematics of the Process for Converting Raw Material Rice Starch to Industrial and Functional Food Products^a



Application of enzymes in starch hydrolysis for production of high-fructose syrup

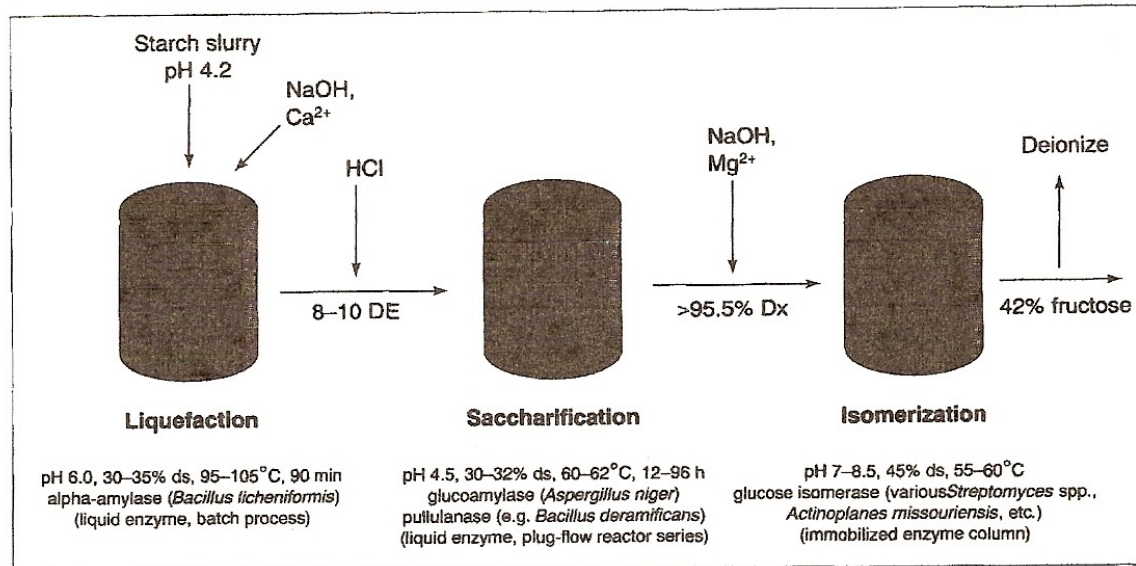


Figure 1

The starch process for high-fructose corn syrup. Schematic outline of the enzymatic steps in the processing of slurried corn starch to fructose, showing individual enzyme-usage conditions and typical processing parameters. Arrows indicate adjustment points within the process for pH and/or ion components. The process parameters may be different when producing ethanol from corn. The term 'ds' refers to the percentage of starch or glucose dry solids suspended in the slurry. DE is 'dextrose equivalent', a measure of the number of reducing ends present in a starch hydrolysate; each reducing end of an oligosaccharide is equivalent to a single dextrose residue. The greater the degree of starch liquefaction or hydrolysis, the higher the DE. Undegraded starch has a DE approaching zero; a fully hydrolysed starch would have a DE of 100. DE is related to average chain length of the oligosaccharide by the following formula: $DE = 180 / (162n + 18) \times 100$, where n is the average oligosaccharide chain length. For example, a starch slurry with a DE of eight has an average chain length of ten glucose residues. The term '%Dx' is the percent of dextrose in the solution. In the example shown, after saccharification, the process stream would have 32% dry solids with greater than 95.5% dextrose (DX).

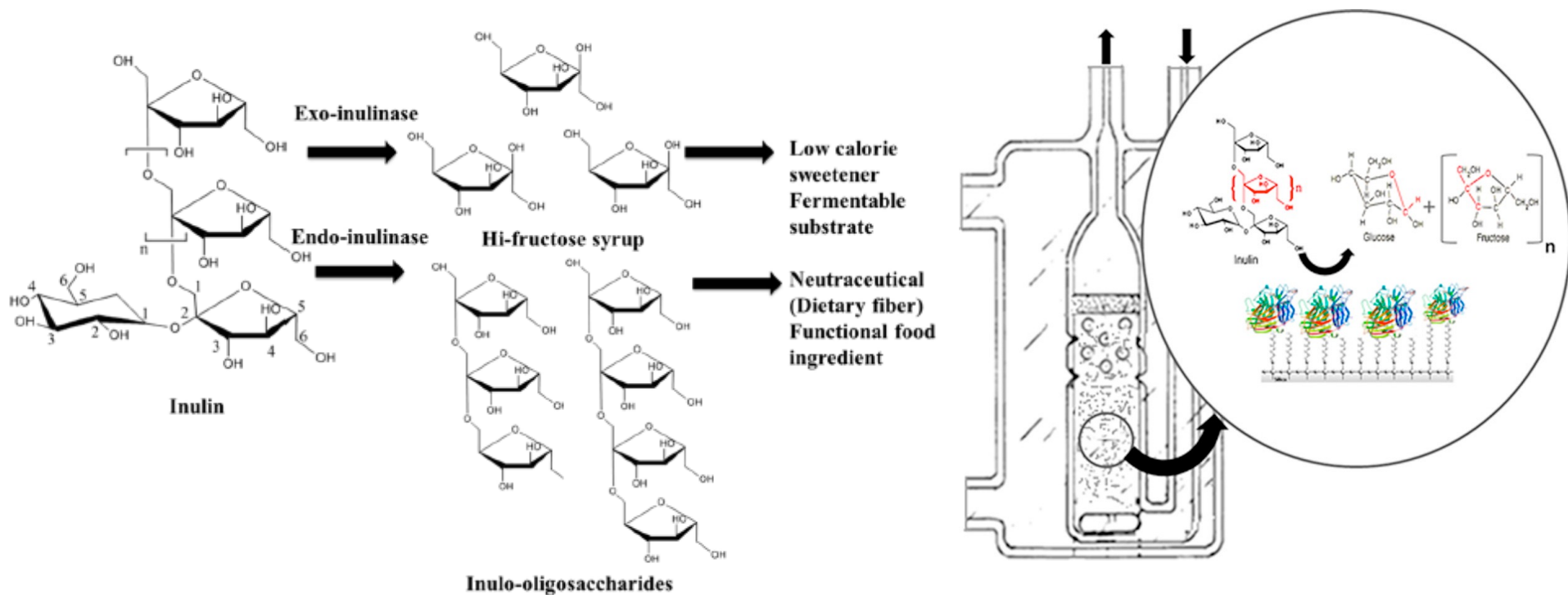


REVIEW ARTICLE

Immobilized inulinase: a new horizon of paramount importance driving the production of sweetener and prebiotics

Gerard Neeraj, Shobana Ravi, Ravindran Somdutt, ShriAishvarya Kaliyur Ravi and Vaidyanathan Vinoth Kumar

Bioprocess Engineering Laboratory, Department of Biotechnology, School of Bioengineering, SRM University, Chennai, India



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Functional expression of a novel α -amylase from Antarctic psychrotolerant fungus for baking industry and its magnetic immobilization



Lei He¹, Youzhi Mao¹, Lujia Zhang¹, Hualei Wang¹, Siti Aisyah Alias², Bei Gao^{1*} and Dongzhi Wei¹

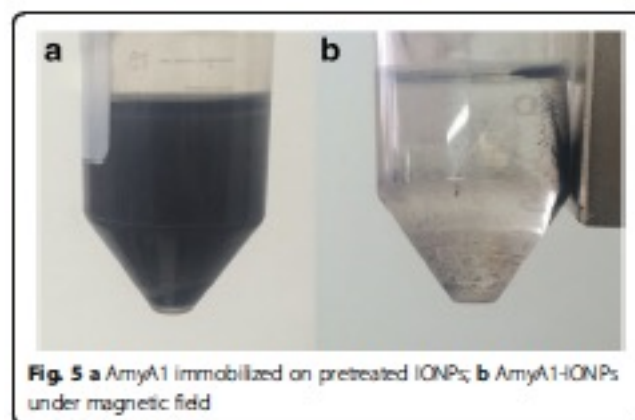


Fig. 5 **a** AmyA1 immobilized on pretreated IONPs; **b** AmyA1-IONPs under magnetic field

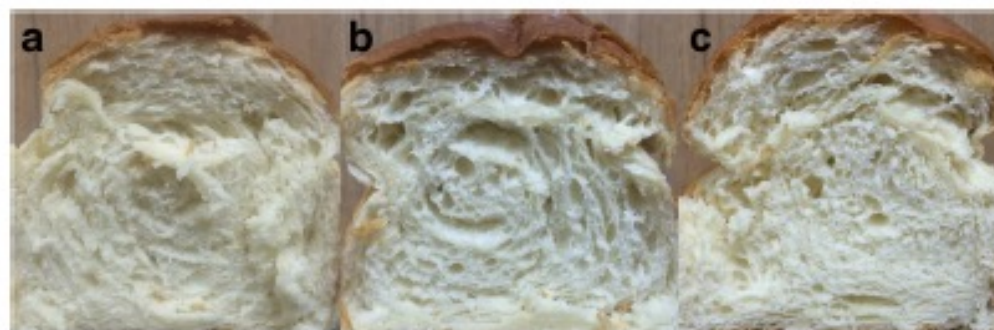


Fig. 4 Crumb structure of the loaf supplemented with: control (without enzyme) (a); AmyA1 (b); α -amylase TAA from *A. oryzae* (c)