SUMMARY

Four yeast strains capable of resisting zinc were isolated from samples collected from different industrial areas of Lahore and Sheikhupura. Bioremediation by the isolates was assessed from their growth on medium in which Zinc was added. All the isolates showed resistance up to specific level. All isolates showed rapid growth in YEPD medium. Growth was slow with the addition of metal. All isolates showed resistance up to 675 µg/ml of zinc. The Optimum pH for the growth of GC.Zn-1 and 4 was 5.5 and for GC.Zn-3 was 7.0. All isolates showed best growth at 30°C. The isolates were characterized biochemically as well as physically. Their tolerance to other heavy metals, such as cobalt, stannus, nickel and manganese was also studied. All the isolates showed highest resistance against nickel. The isolates were also evaluated for their efficiency of cleaning up the environment. GC.Zn-1 and GC.Zn-4 could remove 78%, GC.Zn-2 72% while GC.Zn-3 could remove 80% of the zinc from the medium.