



6th WORKSHOP

Green Chemistry and Nanotechnologies
in Polymer Chemistry



July 15-17, 2015

Polytechnic Institute of Bragança | PCT-TMAD Brigantia EcoPark
Bragança - Portugal

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Eds. - M. F. Barreiro, O. Ferreira, A.I. Pereira

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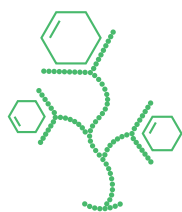
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Green Chemistry and Nanotechnologies
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Following the success of the previous five Workshops held in Pardubice (CZ) 2010, Riga (LV) 2011, Cracow (PL) 2012, Pisa (IT) 2013 and San Sebastian (SP) 2014, the **6th Workshop on Green Chemistry and Nanotechnologies in Polymer Chemistry** took place in Bragança (PT) on 15-17 July 2015.

The conference aimed at exploring and discussing the latest trends in research and technology covering the following topics:

- Bio-based monomers and polymers
- Bio-based blends, composites and hybrids
- Bionanofillers and nanocomposites
- Nanostructured polymeric materials
- Nano- and microencapsulation
- Advanced functional polymers
- Biodegradation, LCA, safety and environmental issues

We hope that you have enjoyed the Conference and the hospitality of Bragança.

The Organizing Committee



Temporary exhibition at Centro de Arte Contemporânea Graça Morais, Bragança (Photo by Pedro Silva)

Table of Contents

INVITED LECTURES	1
IL I. THE CHEMICAL MODIFICATION OF NATURAL POLYMERS BY THE DIELS-ALDER REACTION	2
A. Gandini	
IL II. NANOSTRUCTURED MULTILAYERS OBTAINED FROM NATURAL-BASED POLYMERS: BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS	2
J.F. Mano	
IL III. GREEN SYNTHESIS OF POLYMERS USING SUPERCRITICAL CO₂	3
J.F. Rodriguez, C. Gutierrez	
IL IV. APPLICATIONS OF NATURAL POLYMERS IN INDUSTRY AND MEDICINE	3
M.H. Gil, P. Alves, P. Coimbra, P. Ferreira	
ORAL PRESENTATIONS	4
O01. INFLUENCE ON ISOCYANATE INDEX ON SELECTED PROPERTIES OF FLEXIBLE POLYURETHANE FOAMS MODIFIED WITH VARIOUS BIO-COMPONENTS	5
A. Prociak, E. Malewska, S. Bąk	
O02. OXYPROPYLATION OF GREY ALDER BARK AND ITS FRACTIONS TO OBTAIN POLYOLS USABLE FOR PRODUCTION OF RIGID POLYURETHANE FOAMS	7
L. Vevere, A. Arshanitsa, G. Telysheva	
O03. SYNTHESIS, STRUCTURE AND PROPERTIES OF NOVEL POLYHYDROXYURETHANES OBTAINED BY NON-ISOCYANATE ROUTE	9
M. Włoch, J. Datta	
O04. RIGID POLYURETHANE FOAMS AS THERMAL INSULATION MATERIAL BASED ON RECYCLED PET AND RAPESEED OIL	10
A. Paberza, A. Fridrihsone-Girone, A. Abolins, U. Cabulis	
O05. BALANCE BETWEEN RENEWABLE AND RECYCLABLE FEEDSTOCK FOR RIGID POLYURETHANE FOAMS	12
U. Cabulis, M. Kirpluks, A. Paberza, A. Fridrihsone-Girone, I. Vitkauskienė	
O06. WATERBORNE POLYURETHANE-CELLULOSE NANOCRYSTALS NANOCOMPOSITES	14
A. Santamaría-Echart, A. Saralegi, L. Martín, M.A. Corcuera, A. Eceiza	
O07. BIO-BASED POLYURETHANE ELASTOMERS - SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION	16
J. Datta	
O08. POLYURETHANE FOAMS OBTAINED FROM RECOVERED POLYOL THROUGH CHEMICAL RECYCLING	17
P. Kopczyńska, J. Datta	
O09. INFLUENCE OF PROCESS VARIABLES IN ESTOLIDE SYNTHESIS AND THEIR ESTER DERIVATIVES FROM OLEIC ACID	18
J.C. de Haro, M.P. Garrido, A. Pérez, M. Carmona, J.F. Rodríguez	
O10. GREEN POLYMERS FROM BIOBASED-MONOMERS: KINETICS OF FREE-RADICAL POLYMERIZATION OF ITACONIC ACID	20
A. Wesołowska, S. Bednarz, D. Bogdał	
O11. THE INFLUENCE OF VARIOUS CATALYSTS OF EPOXIDATION OF SOYBEAN OIL ON THE COURSE OF EPOXY FUSION PROCESS AND THE FUNCTIONALITY OF PRODUCTS OBTAINED	22
A. Sienkiewicz, P. Czub	
O12. PREPARATION OF NANO-HYDROXYAPATITE/CHITOSAN SPONGE-LIKE SCAFFOLDS FOR TISSUE ENGINEERING	24
G. Ruphuy, M.M. Dias, J.C. Lopes, M. F. Barreiro	
O13. MAGNETIC AND pH RESPONSIVE MICROCAPSULES WITH PROTEIN IMMOBILIZATION	26
N. Dencheva, J. Braz, Z. Denchev	

O14. NOVEL BIOBASED THERMALLY-RESPONSIVE BIOPOLYURETHANES	28
T. Calvo-Correas, S. Gómez-Fernández, L. Ugarte, M.A. Corcuera, A. Eceiza	
O15. STUDIES OF MICROENCAPSULATION AND CONTROLLED RELEASE OF CHLOROGENIC ACID – A NATURAL ANTIOXIDANT	30
B. Gonçalves, M. Moenfar, F. Rocha, A. Alves, B.N. Estevinho, L. Santos	
O16. MICROENCAPSULATION OF PHENOLIC EXTRACTS IN CALCIUM ALGINATE BEADS FOR NUTRACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS	32
M.I. Dias, L. Barros, C. Santos-Buelga, I.C.F.R. Ferreira, M.F. Barreiro	
O17. OPTIMISATION OF TOMAC MICROENCAPSULATION BY SUSPENSION POLYMERISATION	34
Á. Alcázar, A.M. Borreguero, C. Gutierrez, A. De Lucas, M. Carmona, M.J. Carrero, J.F. Rodríguez	
O18. APPLICATIONS OF BIO-POLYETHYLENE IN ACTIVE FOOD PACKAGING	36
C. Mellinas, E. García-Serna, M.C. Garrigós, A. Jiménez	
O19. PROCESSING AND PROPERTIES OF BIO-POLYESTER/PROTEIN BLENDS FOR HIGHLY RECYCLABLE MULTILAYER PACKAGING	38
M.B. Coltelli, S. Salvadori, P. Cinelli, M. Schmid, A. Stäbler, E. Bougnicourt, A. Lazzeri	
O20. EFFECT OF DIFFERENT NUCLEATING AGENTS ON CRYSTALLIZATION AND PROPERTIES OF PLA	40
L. Aliotta, P. Cinelli, I. Anguillesi, M.B. Coltelli, A. Lazzeri	
O21. DISPERSION OF A LAYERED CLAY IN POLYPROPYLENE BY TWIN SCREW EXTRUSION	42
M.F. Almeida, J.A. Covas	
O22. DENSITY INFLUENCE ON IMPACT ABSORPTION MATERIAL FROM RECYCLED PET FOR AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATION	44
M. Kirpluks, U. Cabulis, K. Kalnins, G. Japins	
O23. FROM POLYMER LATEXES TO MULTIFUNCTIONAL LIQUID MARBLES	46
A.M. Fernandes, D. Mantione, R. Gracia, J.R. Leiza, M. Paulis, D. Mecerreyes	
O24. GREEN TECHNOLOGIES TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENHANCED BIOMATERIALS: THE VERSATILITY OF SUPERCRITICAL FLUIDS	48
A.R.C. Duarte, J.F. Mano, R.L. Reis	
O25. THE SYNTHESIS OF ZnS(Se) NANOFILLERS FOR POLYMER NANOCOMPOSITES	49
K. Matras-Postolek, S. Sovinska, K. Michalak, D. Bogdal, A. Zaba	
O26. NANOFIBRILLAR CELLULOSE FROM <i>Prunus amygdalus</i>: MECHANICAL PROPERTIES AND MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES	51
R. Khiari, F. Bettaieb, M.N. Belgacem, A. Dufresne, S. Boufi	
O27. POLYMERIC SYSTEMS MODIFIED BY ZnO NANOPARTICLES	52
J. Zelenka, E. Matysova, M. Zelenkova, S. Cousy, Tomas Válek	
O28. ANALYSIS OF THE MORPHOLOGY AND THERMAL AND ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES OF CELLULOSE ACETATE/CARBON NANOTUBES NANOCOMPOSITES	53
A. Delgado-Lima, M.C. Paiva, A.V. Machado	
O29. FOOTWEAR WITH ENHANCED COMFORT PROPERTIES BASED ON FUNCTIONAL NANOPARTICLES	55
M.J. Ferreira, V. Pinto, J. Gomes, C. Pereira, V. Fernandes, E. Calpena, M. Palacios, F. Arán, R. Fornasiero, C. Brondi	
O30. PRODUCTS FROM RENEWABLE LIGNOCELLULOSIC MATERIALS AS PRECURSORS OF THE BIO INDUSTRY	57
T. Faria, A. Gaspar	
O31. SURFACE TREATMENTS OF RECYCLED AGGREGATES FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ALL-WASTE BASED CONCRETE	59
D. Coelho, J. Branquinho, P. Ramos, A. Attanasio, A. Largo	
O32. SUPERHYDROPHOBIC AND OLEOPHOBIC UV-CURABLE SURFACE TREATMENTS FOR CELLULOSE-BASED SUBSTRATES	61
A. Sampaio, J.M.R.C.A. Santos, A. Vieira, J. Branquinho	

O33. CORK COMPATIBILITY IN POLYMERS	63
S.P.M. Silva, P.S. Lima, J.M. Oliveira	
POSTER PRESENTATIONS	65
P01. DEVELOPMENT OF BIOPLASTICS FROM AGRO-WASTES	66
M.J. Macedo, I. Moura, A.V. Machado	
P02. THE USE OF BAMBOO POWDER AND GLASS MICROSPHERES TO REDUCE THE HYDROPHILICITY OF CASSAVA STARCH FILMS FOR POTENTIAL APPLICATION IN THE PACKAGING INDUSTRY	68
L.C.G.S. Santos, E. Ayres, F.R.G. Padula	
P03. PREPARATION OF β-CYCLODEXTRIN / LATEX DISPERSION FOR COATING OF CELLULOSE FABRIC	70
M.A. Cotrim, J.C.O. Villanova, E. Ayres	
P04. EDIBLE FILMS OBTAINED FROM OKRA MUCILAGE (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>) ASSOCIATED WITH LEMON GRASS OIL (<i>Cymbopogon flexuosus</i>) WITH POTENTIAL ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY	72
M.A. Cotrim, V. Alves, E. Ayres	
P05. PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC SKILLS IN SECONDARY EDUCATION FROM DIFFUSION OF NANOSCIENCE AND NANOTECHNOLOGY	74
K. Ramírez, A. Rivera, J. Vega, R. Hernández, K. Montero, R. Granados	
P06. NOVEL BIOCOMPOSITES FROM NATURAL RUBBER AND LIGNIN: THE EFFECT OF FILLER CONTENT ON MORPHOLOGY AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES	76
P. Kopczyńska, J. Datta, P. Parcheta	
P07. PREPARATION AND PROPERTIES OF NATURAL RUBBER COMPOSITES FILLED BY MIXTURE OF CALCIUM CARBONATE AND BARIUM FERRITE	78
J. Datta, M. Włoch, P. Lis, P. Parcheta	
P08. SYNTHESIS, STRUCTURE AND PROPERTIES OF POLY(ESTERURETHANE-UREA)S SYNTHESIZED WITH USING BIO-BASED DIAMINE	79
M. Włoch, J. Datta	
P09. ULTRASOUND-ASSISTED SYNTHESIS OF SUCROSE AND FRUCTOOLIGOSACCHARIDES ESTERS AS BIO PLASTICIZERS	80
D. Vassilev, N. Petkova, P. Denev, M. Koleva	
P10. CHITOSAN DERIVED FROM BEE ABDOM	83
D. Malina, B. Tyliczszak, K. Bialik-Wąs, A. Sobczak-Kupiec	
P11. FABRICATION AND PROPERTIES CHARACTERIZATION OF EPOXY POLYMER MODIFICATED WITH DIFFERENT CARBON NANOPARTICLES	85
L. Stiebra, S. Gaidukovs, A. Arnautovs	
P12. GAMMA IRRADIATION: A GREEN TOOL FOR THE PREPARATION, MODIFICATION AND FUNCTIONALIZATION OF POLYMERIC-BASED MATERIALS	87
J.J.H. Lancastre, L.M. Ferreira, M.H. Casimiro, F.M.A. Margaça, A.N. Falcão, I.M. Miranda Salvado	
P13. ENCAPSULATION OF ROSMARINIC ACID INTO CHITOSAN AND MODIFIED CHITOSAN MICROPARTICLES FOR TOPICAL DELIVERY	89
F. Casanova, B.N. Estevinho, L. Santos	
P14. RHEOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR OF CELLULOSE NANOFIBER SUSPENSIONS FROM <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>: EFFECT OF OXIDATION TREATMENT	91
F. Bettaieb, O. Nechyporchuk, R. Khiari, M. F. Mhenni, M. N. Belgacem, A. Dufresne	
P15. EFFICIENT FLUOROPHORES DERIVED FROM CITRIC ACID	92
W. Kasprzyk, S. Bednarz, P. Żmudzki, M. Galica, D. Bogdał	
P16. VISUALIZATION OF A PMMA BLOOD ANALOGUE FLUID FLOWING THROUGH A HYPERBOLIC MICROCHANNEL	94
J. Calejo, D. Pinho, V. García, F.J. Galindo-Rosales, R. Lima, L. Campo-Deaño	

P17. FLOW FOCUSING TECHNIQUE TO PRODUCE PDMS MICROPARTICLES FOR BLOOD ANALOGUE FLUIDS	96
S.F. Silva, E.J. Vega, D. Pinho, V. García, R. Lima, J.M. Montanero	
P18. GREEN POLYURETHANE PUMICES FOR COSMETIC APPLICATIONS	98
M. Kurańska, M. Zieleniewska, L. Szczepkowski, J. Ryszkowska, A. Prociak	
P19. PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF HYDROGEL MATRIX MODIFIED BY CHITOSAN	100
A. Sobczak-Kupiec, B. Tyliczszak, K. Bialik-Wąs, M. Wójcik, A. Drabczyk, D. Malina	
P20. HYDROTHERMAL METHOD OF PRODUCING HYDROXYAPATITE	102
A. Sobczak-Kupiec, D. Malina, B. Tyliczszak	
P21. INFLUENCE OF BIO-POLYOLS BASED ON RAPESEED OIL ON MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF FLEXIBLE POLYURETHANE FOAMS	103
S. Michałowski, A. Prociak	
P22. THE COMPOSITES OF RIGID POLYURETHANE FOAMS WITH NATURAL FILLERS FOR APPLICATION IN THE COSMETIC INDUSTRY	105
M. Zieleniewska, L. Szczepkowski, K. Sałasńska, J. Ryszkowska	
P23. CO-PRECIPIATION SYNTHESIS OF MAGNETIC NANOPARTICLES	107
J. Jaśkowska, B. Tyliczszak, K. Bialik-Wąs, D. Walczyk, A. Sobczak-Kupiec	
P24. OPTIMIZATION OF THE SYNTHESIS OF N-ACRYLOYLAMINOCAPROIC ACID (A6ACA) AS A MONOMER FOR THE HYDROGEL MATRIX	109
B. Tyliczszak, K. Bialik-Was, J. Jaśkowska, A. Sobczak-Kupiec	
P25. CORALINE HYDROXYAPATITE AS A BONE SUBSTITUTE	111
K. Bialik-Wąs, A. Sobczak-Kupiec, D. Malina, K. Pluta, B. Tyliczszak	
P26. STUDY ON SYSTEMS CONTAINING PROTEIN-CHITIN-MELANIN COMPLEXES	113
K. Bialik-Wąs, B. Tyliczszak, Dorota Walczyk, A. Sobczak-Kupiec, D. Malina, A. Drabczyk	
P27. PREPARATION OF PROTEIN-CHITIN-MELANIN COMPLEXES ATTAINED BY EXTRACTION	115
B. Tyliczszak, K. Bialik-Wąs, D. Malina, Sonia Kudłacik, A. Sobczak-Kupiec	
P28. BIOCOMPATIBLE POLYMERIC MATRICES - AN OVERVIEW	117
A. Sobczak-Kupiec, D. Walczyk, K. Bialik-Wąs, B. Tyliczszak	
P29. STUDY ON MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF HYBRID EPOXY-POLYURETHANE BIO-BASED MATERIALS	118
A. Sienkiewicz, P. Czub	
P30. BIONANOCOMPOSITE HYDROGELS FROM CROSS-LINKED CELLULOSE NANOCRYSTALS	120
C. García-Astrain, K. González, T. Gurrea, A. Eceiza, N. Gabilondo	
P31. SYNTHESIS OF RIGID POLYURETHANE FOAMS FROM <i>Stipa tenacissima</i> L. OXYPROPYLATED LIGNIN	122
B. Berrima, G. Mortha, S. Boufi, L. El Aloui, M.N. Belgacem	
P32. ISOLATION OF NANOCELLULOSES BY SUCCESSIVE CHEMICAL TREATMENTS	123
G. Mondragon, C. Peña, A. Orue, A. Arbelaiz, A. Eceiza	
P33. HYBRID BIONANOCOMPOSITES BY <i>in-situ</i> ASSEMBLING OF BACTERIAL CELLULOSE/MONTMORILLONITE CLAY	125
I. Algar, C. Garcia-Astrain, A. Gonzalez, L. Martin, O. Guaresti, N. Gabilondo, A. Retegi, A. Eceiza	
P34. MINIEMULSION POLYMERIZATION: A SIMPLE AND VERSATILE WAY TO LUMINESCENT NANOSPHERES	127
M. Galica, D. Bogdał	
P35. GREEN SYNTHESIS OF METALLIC NANOPARTICLES BY A VEGETAL EXTRACT	129
M.M. Sánchez-Navarro, M.Á. Pérez-Limiñana, F. Arán-Ais, C. Orgilés-Barceló	
P36. INFLUENCE OF THE EXTRACTION TEMPERATURE ON THE GELATINE MICROENCAPSULATING PROPERTIES OBTAINED FROM TANNERY WASTES BY AN ENZYMATIC PROCESS	131
M.A. Pérez-Limiñana, M.M. Sánchez-Navarro, M.J. Escoto-Palacios, F. Arán-Aís, C. Orgilés-Barceló	

P37. MICROENCAPSULATION OF <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L. (ROSEMARY) AQUEOUS EXTRACT FOR APPLICATION IN FUNCTIONAL FOODS	133
A. Ribeiro, C. Caleja, L. Barros, C. Santos-Buelga, I.C.F.R. Ferreira, M.F. Barreiro	
P38. MICROENCAPSULATION OF FENNEL AND CHAMOMILE AQUEOUS EXTRACTS FOR APPLICATION IN COTTAGE CHEESE.....	135
C. Caleja, A. Ribeiro, I.C.F.R. Ferreira, M.F. Barreiro	
P39. FUNCTIONAL SYNTHETIC TURF SYSTEM WITH IMPROVED COMFORT	137
B. Moura, S. Silva, N. Durães, D. Coelho, L. Rodrigues, F. Monteiro, R. Silva, A. Moreira	
P40. CERAMIC MATERIALS WITH IMPROVED THERMAL COMFORT	139
A. Sampaio, J. Sousa, J. Branquinho, D. Coelho	
P41. MELAMINE-FORMALDEHYDE RESINS MODIFIED WITH GLYCEROL	141
A. Henriques, J. Ferra, J.M. Martins, F. Magalhães, L. Carvalho	
P42. MODIFYING RIGID POLYURETHANE FOAM MECHANICAL PROPERTIES BY HIGH RENEWABLE CARBON CONTENT POLYOL MIXTURES	143
L. Ugarte, T. Calvo-Correas, A. Santamaría-Echart, S. Gómez-Fernández, M.A. Corcuera, A. Eceiza	
P43. THE USE OF BIO-BASED ADDITIVES (LIGNIN, STARCH AND CELLULOSE) IN THERMOPLASTIC POLYURETHANE FORMULATIONS TO ENHANCE THE BIODEGRADABILITY OF FOOTWEAR COMPONENTS	145
I.P. Fernandes, M. Barbosa, J.S. Amaral, V. Pinto, M.J. Ferreira, M.F. Barreiro	
P44. SYNTHESIS OF HYDROXYAPATITE WITH NANOPARTICLES INCLUSIONS.....	147
D. Malina, A. Sobczak-Kupiec, K. Pluta, K. Bialik-Wąs, B. Tyliśszczak	
P45. DRYING KINETICS AS TOOL FOR DYNAMIC POROSITY OF CATALYST-SUPPORT MATERIALS..	149
J.F. Mata-Segreda	
P46. PREPARATION OF POLY(URETHANE-UREA) MICROCAPSULES BY INTERFACIAL POLYMERIZATION: EFFECT OF PEG MOLECULAR WEIGHT	151
M. Silva, I.M.D. Martins, M.F. Barreiro, M.M.Q. Dias, A.E. Rodrigues	
P47. BIODEGRADATION PRETREATMENT OF WOOD OF <i>E. grandis</i>, <i>E. dunni</i>, AND <i>E. bentami</i> TO WORK IN BIORREFINERY PROCESSES.....	153
M. Lopretti, S. Baldyga, M. Gonzalez, L. Olazabal, M. Torres	
P48. MICROENCAPSULATION OF <i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> L. EXTRACT FOR FOOD PURPOSES: EFFECT OF EXTRACT/ALGINATE RATIO	155
I. Rached, I.P. Fernandes, L. Barros, A.E. Rodrigues, A. Ferchichi, I.C.F.R. Ferreira, M.F. Barreiro	
P49. NATURAL ADDITIVES FOR REDUCING FORMALDEHYDE EMISSIONS IN UREA-FORMALDEHYDE RESINS.....	157
F. Pereira, N. Paiva, J. Ferra, J.M. Martins, F. Magalhães, L. Carvalho	
P50. PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF POLYSACCHARIDES/PVA BLEND NANOFIBROUS MEMBRANES PREPARED BY ELECTROSPINNING	160
A. Sampaio, C. Silva, D. Coelho, A. Zille	
P51. VALORISATION OF ALMOND AGRO-INDUSTRIAL RESIDUES: PRODUCTION OF BIOPOLYOLS FROM ALMOND SHELL.....	162
J.A. Pinto, I.P. Fernandes, M.F. Barreiro	
P52. MICROENCAPSULATION OF PLANT EXTRACTS RICH IN APIGENIN TO BE USED AS CHEMOPREVENTIVE AGENTS IN FUNCTIONAL FOODS.....	164
F.S. Oliveira, R.C. Calhelha, I.P. Fernandes, B.D. Junior, I.C.F.R. Ferreira, M.F. Barreiro	
P53. POLYUREAURETHANES WITH RAPESEED POLYOL FOR TECHNICAL APPLICATIONS.....	166
M. Auguścik, J. Ryszkowska, M. Zieleniewska, M. Kurańska, A. Prociak, W. Karalus, K. Pietrzak	
P54. INVESTIGATION OF TUNISIAN AGRICULTURAL RESIDUES TO PRODUCE CELLULOSE NANOCRYSTALS AND NANOFIBRILLAR CELLULOSE: APPLICATION TO NANOCOMPOSITE MATERIALS	168
F. Bettaieb, R. Khiari, F. Mhenni, N. Belgacem, A. Dufresne, S. Boufi	

P41. MELAMINE-FORMALDEHYDE RESINS MODIFIED WITH GLYCEROL

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Introduction

Melamine-formaldehyde resins represent an important class of aminoplastic resin and are made by the reaction of formaldehyde with mainly melamine.

Melamine-formaldehyde resins are used as adhesives for plywood and particleboard for use in humid and exterior conditions and are also used for the impregnation of paper sheets in the production of self-adhesive overlays for the surface of wood-based panel products and of self-adhesive laminates [1].

During the last decade the interest in using raw materials based on bio-renewable resources for synthetic polymers and composite materials increased largely [2]. Recent developments in eco-efficient bio-based adhesives for wood bonding include the use of tannins, lignin, proteins, and carbohydrate derived natural binders.

The main goal of this work is the partial replacement of melamine in melamine-formaldehyde resins by glycerol, yielding a stable resin with potential for use in impregnated paper based laminates.

Experimental

Resin synthesis

Modified resin was synthesized by substitution of 7.5 wt% of the melamine content by glycerol in four different stages, namely: Stage A) at the beginning of the synthesis; Stage B) after total solubilisation of melamine; Stage C) at the beginning of condensation phase; Stage D) at the end of the reaction.

Viscosity

The kinematic viscosity was determined with a flow cup viscometer according to the DIN standard cup at 25 °C. (DIN EN ISO 2431) In this method, the time required for a sample of liquid resin to flow from a cup of defined volume is measured and used as an estimate of the viscous behaviour of the tested liquid.

Paper impregnation and pressing

Papers were impregnated with modified MF resin through impregnation process, where the papers were soaked in the modified melamine resin, and then dried at 130 °C.

Impregnated sheets are laid with the desire number of plies and submitted to a hot pressing, where the range of pressures varies from 5.5 to 10.3 MPa, with the layers consolidates at temperatures of 120-150 °C.

Results and discussion

In comparison with the melamine standard the modified resins show the same translucent aspect as the standard.

However, the melamine formaldehyde resin is considered usable for impregnate papers if its flow time is less than 25 s (measured by the DIN cup) and it remains translucent. The initial tests show that the addition of glycerol, without the use of additives, reduced significantly storage stability of all modified resins whereby it will be need to add additives to the resin in order to increase the storage time.

When used as impregnation resins, the modified resins show a comparable performance to the standard resin in terms of penetration and distribution in the paper matrix.

Standardized surface quality tests were used to characterize the performance of the HPL, and it was verified that the modified melamine resin show better performance in terms of resistance to immersion un boiling water and resistance to water vapour.

Conclusions

Because of the promising performance of glycerol-modified resins, further tests will be performed using stabilization agents in order to increase the stability of the resin.

Other tests will be performance, to check the technical performance of the new resins.

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P49. NATURAL ADDITIVES FOR REDUCING FORMALDEHYDE EMISSIONS IN UREA-FORMALDEHYDE RESINS

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Introduction

Wood has followed mankind throughout its evolution. The development of science has led to the emergence of wood based products, whose main raw material is wood waste/residues and a binder system usually called resin or adhesive. One of the most important classes of wood based panels is particleboard, which is mainly produced with urea-formaldehyde (UF) resins.

UF resins represent 80% of the total production of amino resins due to their various advantages, such as good performance, low cost and high reactivity. However, these resins and their products emit formaldehyde, both due to the presence of non-reacted formaldehyde and due to the hydrolytic degradation of the polymer [1, 2].

In 2004, this problem became even more pertinent due to the reclassification of formaldehyde by the International Agency of Research on Cancer (IARC) as a carcinogenic to humans, Group 1 [3]. This way, methods such as lowering the molar ratio of formaldehyde to urea (F/U) of the resins, one of the most used at the industry level, have become insufficient to meet the market requirements [4]. Thus, new efforts have been taken to deal with this challenge. The use of formaldehyde scavengers both in the synthesis of resins and in the production of the wood-based panels has been one of the most studied methods [5].

In the past 10 years, the concept of bioadhesives has emerged, which, in a very simplified way, is based in the incorporation of bio molecules in the synthesis of resins [6-9] or in the production of the particleboards or, in a more radical approach, in the synthesis of a bio-based resin, as, for instance, soy or casein, among others [10].

The main goal of this work is the incorporation of soy or, more specifically, soy protein, either directly in the production of wood panels or in the synthesis of urea-formaldehyde resins, used in the production of panels.

Experimental

Soy protein solution

The soy protein solution was obtained through the dissolution/dispersion of the soy protein in water at 70 °C under agitation, adding afterwards 3 ml of 50 wt% sodium hydroxide solution and keeping it for 1 h.

Resin preparation

The resins were synthesized according to the so-called alkaline-acidic process, which consists of three steps: the methylation under alkaline conditions, followed by the condensation reaction under acidic conditions and the addition of the final urea. The incorporation of the soy protein, as a solution (13,5 wt%), was performed in each of the three steps, to analyse the effect of the addition phase. Percentages of 5%, 10% e 15% of soy protein incorporation were studied, based on the total quantity of resin.

Resin properties determination

Viscosity, pH and solids content were determined at the end of each synthesis. Viscosity was measured with a Brookfield viscometer at 25 °C. The resin pH was measured using a combined glass electrode. The solid content was determined by evaporation of volatiles in 2 g of resin for 3 h at 120 °C.

Production of particleboard panels

The production process of the particleboards is divided into three steps: blending of wood particles with the adhesive system, mat forming and pressing. The panels are composed by three layers: two face and one core layers. In an initial approach, particleboard panels were produced only with a commercial resin, supplied by the company *Euroresinas – Indústrias Químicas S.A.*, and 5%, 10% and 15% of soy protein powder was added to wood particles, during the blending process of the core layer. Three-layer particleboard were hand-formed in an aluminium container with 220x220x80 mm and boards were then pressed at 190 °C during 150 s in a laboratory scale hot-press controlled by computer. In a second approach, panels were produced with the resins synthesized with the incorporation of soy, which were subjected to the same pressing conditions and the resin was used in both layers.

Board testing

After pressing, boards were tested according to European standards. The internal bond strength was determined according to NP EN 319 (tensile strength perpendicular to the plane of the board) and formaldehyde content was determined according to NP EN 120 (perforator method).

Results and discussion

This work consisted of two stages: addition of soy protein powder in the production process of the panels and synthesis of UF resins with addition of soy protein as a solution for later manufacture of panels.

In the first stage, where soy protein powder was mixed with the core layer particles, it was observed that, in fact, an increase in the percentage of added soy protein leads to a slight decrease in the formaldehyde content from the particleboard, without any significant change in its properties, namely the IB (Figure 1).

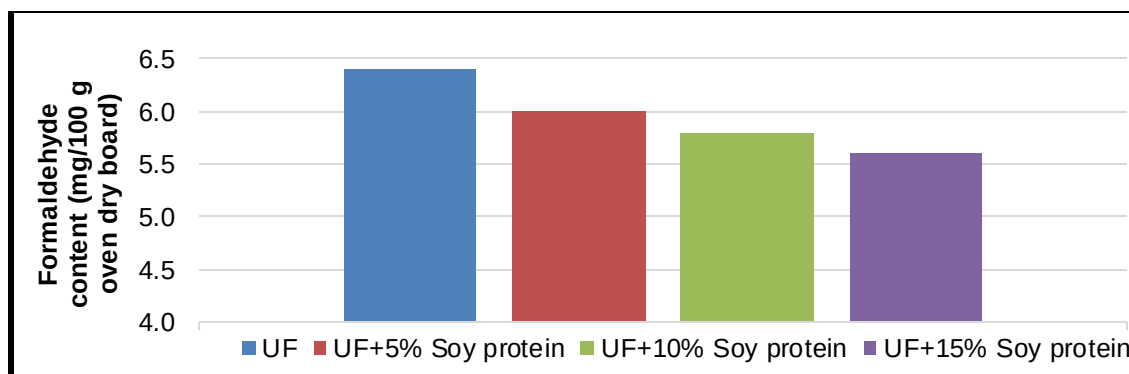


Fig. 1. Formaldehyde content (mg/100 g oven dry board) of particleboards produced with soy protein powder in the core layer

The second part was the synthesis of a UF resin (control) and 3 resins with soy protein and the difference between these was the phase of the addition of the soy protein solution (methylation, condensation or final step). It was observed that, when the addition of soy protein is performed in the methylation step, there is a small reduction in the formaldehyde content when compared to the panels produced with the other two resins (Figure 2). Once again, the mechanical properties of the particleboard did not experience any significant changes.

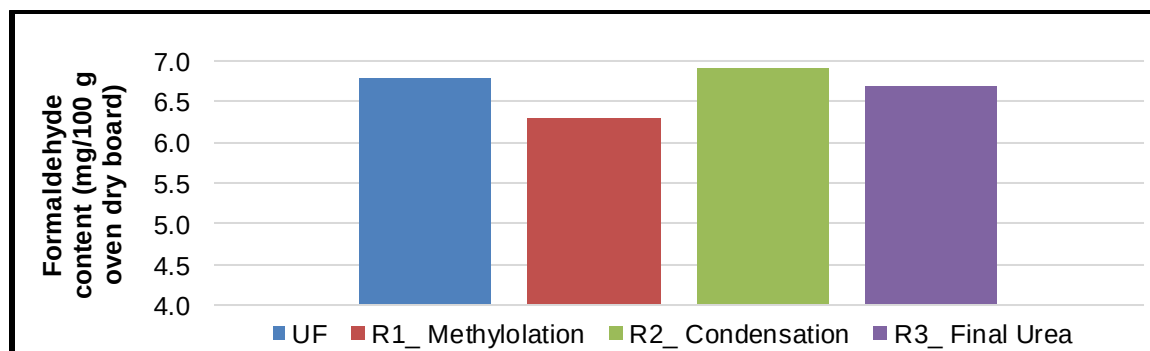


Fig. 2. Formaldehyde content (mg/100 g oven dry board) from particleboards produced with UF resin with soy protein solution in the two layers

Conclusion

With this work, we can conclude that the incorporation of soy protein can contribute to a decrease in the formaldehyde content of particleboard panels and also that it is possible to produce UF resins with the incorporation of natural compounds, namely soy protein, without changing their production process, as well as without any significant change in their properties.

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