

8th Edition of

BIOPOLYMERS & BIOPLASTICS

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POLYMER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CONFERENCES

October 15-16, 2018 | Las Vegas, USA

Production of bioplastics from banana pseudo-stem to use as packaging

Siriporn Tengrang, Wimonwan Wattanawichit Kanoksak Loylerd and Napatsorn Leabwan
Crop Processing Research and Development Group, Thailand

The aim of this study was to produce the bioplastic packaging from banana pseudo-stem. The pseudo-stem of banana was extracted for cellulose using sodium hydroxide and then lignin removed with hydrogen peroxide. The cellulose powder was then synthesized to carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) by chloroacetic acid in alkaline condition. The percent yield of cellulose from banana pseudo-stem was 20.25% whereas the yield of CMC was 140.89%. The obtained CMC powder had 95.33% purity and a degree of substitution (DS) at 0.768. It was water soluble with low viscosity at 114 cPs and appeared in a pale yellow color. CMC solutions were added with 3 different additives viz. glycerol, sorbitol and polyethylene glycol at 10, 20, 30 and 40% (w/v) concentrations to form a plastic film. The higher content of all additives resulted in the thicker film, greater elongation (%), poorer water solubility and lower tensile strength. A film without any additives had the highest tensile strength. The films formed with 40% sorbitol had the highest elongation while oxygen could transmit through the film with 40% polyethylene glycol at a greater rate than other films. Besides, films with 10% glycerol had the highest water solubility. All CMC-based films could be degraded within 24 hours by burying it in high moisture content soil. Afterward, CMC films were processed into sachets for storing dry coffee powder. CMC-20% polyethylene glycol sachets could maintain the quality of dry coffee powder if stored in refrigerated condition whereas CMC-30% polyethylene glycol could retain the quality of dry coffee as similar as the coffee packed in aluminum foil bags at ambient air. The results indicated that bioplastic derived from the pseudo-stem of banana could be a potential material for dry food packaging.

aom153@hotmail.com