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Obtaining antimicrobial bilayer starch and polyester-blend films with carvacrol

Raquel Requena, María Vargas, Amparo Chiralt

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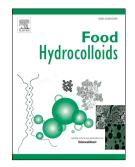
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Obtaining antimicrobial bilayer starch and polyester-blend films with carvacrol. Raquel Requena¹; María Vargas¹; Amparo Chiralt¹

4 ¹ Institute of Food Engineering for Development, Universitat Politècnica de València, Valencia, Spain.

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6 Abstract

7 Bilayer films using polyester blends (P) and starch (S) were obtained and characterized, 8 incorporating carvacrol as active compound. Carvacrol was incorporated by spraying it 9 between melt blended and compression moulded sheets or through its incorporation into the 10 chloroform P solution used to obtain P cast films. Different PLA-PHBV ratios (75:25 and 65:35) were tested, with and without 15 wt.% of PEG1000, whereas the 75:25 ratio with PEG was only 11 12 used for cast sheets, based on its better overall properties. Mono and bilayers were 13 characterised as to their tensile and water vapour barrier properties and thermal behaviour. 14 Release kinetics of carvacrol in different food simulants and in in vitro antibacterial activity 15 against Listeria innocua and Escherichia coli were also analysed. Incorporating carvacrol by 16 spraying it between the polyester and starch sheets was not effective at retaining the 17 compound in the bilayers. However, the incorporation of carvacrol into cast P films, and the 18 subsequent formation of bilayers with the S sheets, was highly effective at providing practically 19 total carvacrol retention. These active bilayers exhibited highly improved tensile and water 20 vapour barrier capacity with respect to the S monolayer (87% reduction in WVP, 840% increase 21 in elastic modulus) and inhibited the growth of *L. innocua* and *E. coli* from both P or S contact 22 sides of bilayers, depending on the internal diffusion of carvacrol through the bilayer and its 23 adequate release of the compound into the culture medium.

24

Keywords: starch; polylactic acid, polyhydroxybutyrate-co-hydroxyvalerate, carvacrol,
packaging properties, antibacterial properties.

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28 **1. Introduction**

With society's growing concern for the environment and the great dependence on fossil fuels for plastic production, there is a need to find suitable environmentally-friendly solutions to the outbreak of plastic-based packaging. In this context, bio-based and biodegradable polymers such as polylactic acid (PLA) and polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) have emerged as suitable Download English Version:

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