Accepted Manuscript

Preparation and characterization of natural rubber composites highly filled with brewers' spent grain/ground tire rubber hybrid reinforcement

Łukasz Zedler, Xavier Colom, Mohammad Reza Saeb, Krzysztof Formela

PII: \$1359-8368(18)30251-8

DOI: 10.1016/j.compositesb.2018.03.024

Reference: JCOMB 5583

To appear in: Composites Part B

Received Date: 23 January 2018

Accepted Date: 13 March 2018

Please cite this article as: Zedler Ł, Colom X, Saeb MR, Formela K, Preparation and characterization of natural rubber composites highly filled with brewers' spent grain/ground tire rubber hybrid reinforcement, *Composites Part B* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.compositesb.2018.03.024.

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4 Łukasz Zedler^a, Xavier Colom^b, Mohammad Reza Saeb^c, Krzysztof Formela^{a*}

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- ^aDepartment of Polymer Technology, Faculty of Chemistry, G. Narutowicza Str. 11/12,
- 7 Gdańsk University of Technology, 80-233 Gdansk, Poland
- 8 ^bUniversitat Politècnica de Catalunya Barcelona Tech, Department of Chemical
- 9 Engineering, Colom 1, 08222-Terrassa, Barcelona, Spain
- ^cDepartment of Resin and Additives, Institute for Color Science and Technology, P.O.
- 11 Box: 16765-654, Teheran, Iran
- *Corresponding author: Krzysztof Formela, e-mail: krzysztof.formela@pg.gda.pl ,
- 13 <u>kformela.ktp@gmail.com</u>, Tel. No.: +48 58 347 2234/ Fax. No.: +48 58 347 2134
- 14 Abstract
- Brewers' spent grain (BSG) and ground tire rubber (GTR) were applied as low-cost
- 16 hybrid reinforcement natural rubber (NR). The impact of BSG/GTR ratio (in range:
- 17 100/0, 75/25, 50/50, 25/75 and 0/100 phr) on processing and performance properties of
- 18 highly filled natural rubber composites was evaluated by oscillating disc rheometer,
- 19 Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy, thermogravimetric analysis, scanning electron
- 20 microscopy, swelling behavior, tensile tests and impedance tube measurements. It was
- 21 found that increasing content of GTR in NR/BSG/GTR composites accelerate cross-
- 22 linking reactions during their preparation, which resulted in decrease of scorch time and
- optimal cure time. Simultaneously, higher content of GTR filler in NR/BSG/GTR
- 24 composites significantly improved their physico-mechanical, thermal, morphological
- and acoustical properties. This indicates better compatibility between natural rubber
- 26 matrix and GTR than with BSG, which is related to correlation between two factors.
- 27 First factor is obvious differences in particles size and polarity of GTR and BSG, which
- affected physical interactions into phase boundary between NR matrix and BSG/GTR
- 29 hybrid reinforcement. Second factor is possible migration of unreacted curing additives
- and carbon black particle from GTR filler to NR matrix, which played a significant role
- on processing and final properties of NR/BSG/GTR composites.

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- 33 **Keywords:** Brewers' spent grain; Ground tire rubber; Natural rubber; Biocomposites;
- 34 Structure-property relationships

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