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Novel composite films based on cellulose reinforced with chitosan and polyvinyl alcohol: Effect on mechanical properties and water vapour permeability

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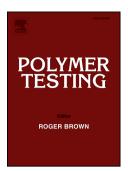
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Novel composite films based on cellulose reinforced with chitosan and polyvinyl
2	alcohol: effect on mechanical properties and water vapour permeability
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12	ABSTRACT
13	Novel composite films were prepared by dissolving microcrystalline cellulose (3-5%
14	w/w) in NaOH/urea solution, followed by coagulation in acetic acid solution. The
15	regenerated cellulose films were immersed in chitosan-polyvinyl alcohol solutions at
16	concentrations of 0-1% w/w and 0-4% w/w, respectively. Tensile strength, percentage
17	of elongation at break, Young's modulus and water vapour permeability were measured
18	to assess the effect of each compound on the mechanical and barrier properties.
19	Polynomial models were obtained to evaluate the effect of the formulation on the
20	measured properties. The microstructure was analysed by scanning electron
21	microscopy. Results showed tensile strength values in the range 27.75-78.48 MPa,
22	similar to usual synthetic polymer films. Percentage of elongation at break ranged from
23	0.98 to 12.82 %, increasing when polyvinyl alcohol and chitosan increased. Young's
24	modulus ranged from 2727.04 to 4217.25 MPa, showing values higher than pure
25	chitosan and polyvinyl alcohol films. The highest value was reached combining

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