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Authors: László Lendvai, Anton Apostolov, József

Karger-Kocsis

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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Characterization of layered silicate-reinforced blends of thermoplastic starch (TPS) and poly(butylene adipate-co-terephthalate)

László Lendvai<sup>a\*</sup>, Anton Apostolov<sup>b</sup> and József Karger-Kocsis<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Polymer Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Muegyetem rkp. 3., H-1111 Budapest, Hungary; E-mails: lendvai@pt.bme.hu (L.L.); karger@pt.bme.hu (J.K.-K.)

<sup>b</sup>Laboratory on Structure and Properties of Polymers, Department on Applied Organic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, University of Sofia, 1 James Bourchier Blvd., BG-1164 Sofia, Bulgaria; E-mail: ohtaa@chem.uni-sofia.bg

\*Corresponding author: László Lendvai

Tel.: +36-1-463-1594 Fax: +36-1-463-1527

E-mail:lendvai@pt.bme.hu

Postal address: Department of Polymer Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Budapest

University of Technology and Economics, Muegyetem rkp. 3., H-1111 Budapest, Hungary

#### **Highlights**

Effects of organophilic (oMMT) and pristine (BT) clays in TPS/PBAT blends studied

Ductility of blends increased when PBAT became one of the continuous phases

Dehydration of TPS, also in PBAT blends, depended on the types of clay

Unlike oMMT BT was intercalated during TPS production

#### **ABSTRACT**

A two-step melt blending procedure was used to produce binary systems composed of thermoplastic starch (TPS) and poly(butylene adipate-*co*-terephthalate) (PBAT). To improve the properties of the blends, two different layered silicates, viz. bentonite (BT) and organically modified montmorillonite (oMMT) were incorporated. First, TPS and its layered silicate nanocomposites were prepared *via* 

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