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Isolation of cellulose nanocrystals from plum seed shells, structural and morphological characterization

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Abstract

Plum seed shells (PS) have been successfully used as a source for cellulose nanocrystals isolation. Alkali treatment or hot-water extraction and acid hydrolysis removed non-cellulosic components and released cellulose nanocrystals (CNC). CNC with different lengths between 100 and 800 nm and no more than 14 nm in height were detected by AFM. The crystallinity strongly increased after these treatments, from 38 % for raw PS to 51 % and 54 % depending on the treatment, due to hemicelluloses and lignin removal. The results showed that a low-cost by-product of food industry can be converted into a valuable material, cellulose nanocrystals.

Keywords: Plum seed shells, Cellulose, AFM, Biomaterials, Thermal analysis, X-ray diffraction

1. Introduction

Many food and agricultural residues were studied as sources of high added value products like nanocellulose [1-5]. Cellulose nanocrystals (CNC) and nanofibers (CNF) are valuable biomaterials with a wide range of applications, from medical, cosmetics and food to paperboard, electronics and body armor [6-9]. CNC and CNF are increasingly studied as reinforcements in bioplastics, only a few percentages of these nanofillers determining significant increase of mechanical properties [10]. The isolation of nanocellulose from wastes or by-products is attractive both in economic terms and regarding environmental responsibility. Wheat straw, rice or corn husks, Download English Version:

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