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1 MICROALGAE PROTEIN HEATING IN ACID/BASIC SOLUTION FOR

2 NANOFIBERS PRODUCTION BY FREE SURFACE ELECTROSPINNING

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11 Abstract

- The objective of this work was to evaluate the effect of the biopolymers heating in alkaline
- and acidic solutions in the formation of nanofibers using protein concentrate from *Spirulina*
- sp. LEB 18 for potential application in food packaging field. With the highest protein
- concentration, the mean diameter of nanofibers was approximately 450 nm. For nanofibers
- developed with 5% (w.w-1) of protein concentrate, the peaks in FTIR spectra were observed at
- 17 1641 cm⁻¹ (amide I) and 1533 cm⁻¹ (amide II). Moreover, the increasing of protein
- concentration of 5 to 10% (w.w⁻¹) enhanced the initial temperature of degradation of the
- nanofibers at 34 °C, when the poly (ethylene oxide) (PEO) was added after solution heating.
- 20 The possibility of formation of uniforms nanofibers using the acidic solution with a low
- 21 concentration of PEO (0.8%, w.w⁻¹) shows the potential of the protein concentrate from
- 22 Spirulina sp. LEB for the production of these materials.
- 23 **Keywords:** biopolymer; denaturation; electrospinning; microalgae biomass; poly (ethylene
- 24 oxide); Spirulina.

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