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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Pectin impacts cellulose fibre architecture and hydrogel mechanics in the absence of calcium. Patricia Lopez-Sanchez^{a1*}, Marta Martinez-Sanz^{a,b}, Mauricio R. Bonilla^c, Dongjie Wang^a, Cherie T. Walsh^d, Elliot P. Gilbert^b, Jason R. Stokes^c, Michael J. Gidley^a

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Highlights:

- Cellulose hydrogels were synthesised in pectin solutions, as a cell wall model.
- A major pectin fraction did not interact at the molecular level with cellulose.
- Despite the lack of strong interaction, this pectin fraction impacted the mechanics.
- A minor pectin fraction was able to interact intimately with cellulose fibrils.
- These results support a role of pectin in cell wall architecture and mechanics.

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