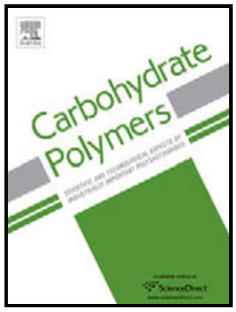

Title: Surface esterification of cellulose nanofibers by simple organocatalytic methodology

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Highlights

- ✓ Surface esterified cellulose nanofibers were obtained by an organocatalytic route.
- ✓ Reaction involved a non-toxic natural-origin catalyst and no cosolvent was used.
- ✓ The substitution degree was tailored by the esterification time interval used.
- ✓ Esterified BNC showed increased thermal stability and reduced polar character.
- ✓ NMR, FTIR, XRD and TGA results indicated surface-only reaction.