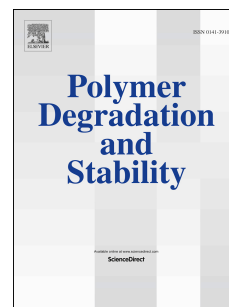


Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0141-3910(18)30178-2

DOI: [10.1016/j.polymdegradstab.2018.05.025](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polymdegradstab.2018.05.025)

Reference: PDST 8559

To appear in: *Polymer Degradation and Stability*

Received Date: 3 November 2017

Revised Date: 5 May 2018

Accepted Date: 22 May 2018

Please cite this article as: Botlhoko OJ, Ramontja J, Ray SS, A new insight into morphological, thermal, and mechanical properties of melt-processed polylactide/poly(ϵ -caprolactone) blends, *Polymer Degradation and Stability* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.polymdegradstab.2018.05.025.

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A new insight into morphological, thermal, and mechanical properties of melt-processed polylactide/poly(ϵ -caprolactone) blends

Orebotse Joseph Botlhoko^{a,b}, James Ramontja^a, and Suprakas Sinha Ray^{a,b*}

^aDepartment of Applied Chemistry, University of Johannesburg, Doornfontein 2028, Johannesburg, South Africa

^bDST-CSIR National Centre for Nanostructured Materials, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

*Corresponding authors. E-mail addresses: rsuprakas@csir.co.za; ssinharay@uj.ac.za

Highlights

- PLA/PCL blends with different compositions are processed using melt-blending.
- The relationship between the obtained morphology and properties is reported.
- Unique thermal stability of dispersed phase improves the degradation of blends.
- 60PLA/40PCL blend shows significantly improved thermal stability and mechanical properties.
- The results inform technologically advanced PLA-based materials for commercial applications.

ABSTRACT: Biodegradable polylactide (PLA)/poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL) blend is a well-studied immiscible polymer blend system; however, there is no fundamental understanding of how the dispersed phase morphology controls the thermal stability, and the thermal and mechanical properties of the blend systems. Addressing this research question, a series of PLA/PCL blends were processed using melt-blending technique. The results show that the unique thermal stability of the dispersed PCL domains prolonged the complete degradation process of PLA. Furthermore, altering the activation energies (E_a) of PLA/PCL blends revealed that thermal stability depends not

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