

**Cairo University
Faculty of Science
Chemistry Department**

**Improving the Compatibility of Natural and Synthetic Polymer
Blends by Radiation Treatments for Using in Practical
Application**

**Thesis
Submitted In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the PhD Degree in Chemistry**

To

**Chemistry Department
Faculty of Science
Cairo University**

By

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M.Sc. Organic Chemistry (2006)**

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Dedication

To my Parents may God
bless their souls?

Aim of the Work

Recently, polymer blends and composites provided an economical way to produce new materials with wide properties and applications. However, the especially most important blends are those based on natural and synthetic polymers, which they are immiscible in most cases. The incompatibility in polymer blends so far has a great influence on the entire physical and chemical properties. Thus, the present work was undertaken to prepare three hydrophilic blends based on natural and synthetic polymer. These blends are based on: (1) carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) and polyethylene glycol (PEG), (2) carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) and polyethylene oxide (PEO) and (3) Polyacrylamide and sodium alginate (AG). These blends are miscible in water. Also, the present work was aimed at studying the effect of gamma radiation on the compatibility and the physical and chemical properties of these blends. The different polymer blends of different compositions were evaluated for different industrial and pharmaceutical applications such as removal of heavy metals from wastewater, removal of dyes from wastewater and as drug delivery systems.

Abstract

Student Name: Faten Ismail Abu El Fadle

Title of the thesis: Improving the compatibility of natural and synthetic polymer blends by radiation treatment for using in practical applications

Degree: PhD

Different polymer blends based on the natural polymers carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) and sodium alginate as well as the synthetic polymers poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG), poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) and poly acrylamide (PAM) were prepared by solution casting in the form of films. The common solvent used was water. The different blends prepared in this study were subjected to gamma radiation. The compatibility and structure-property behaviour of these blends was studied by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis, thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and tensile mechanical testing before and after irradiation. In addition, the swelling properties of different polymer blends were studied at different conditions of temperature and pH. The controlled release characters of the different blends of different drugs were investigated. In addition, the different polymer blends were used for the removal of heavy metals and dyes waste.

Keywords: Carboxymethyl cellulose, Polyethylene glycol; Polyethylene oxide, Sodium alginate, Polyacrylamide, FTIR, DSC, TGA, SEM.

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List of Abbreviations

Symbol	Scientific Meaning
FTIR	Fourier-Transform Infrared Analysis
DSC	Differential Scanning Calorimetry
TGA	Thermogravimetric Analysis
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
CMC	Carboxymethyl Cellulose
PEG	Poly(Ethylene Glycol)
PEO	Poly(Ethylene Oxide)
PAM	Poly(Acrylamide)
DDS	Drug Delivery System

Contents

CHAPTER I

Introduction and Literature reviews

		Page
1.1.	Ionizing Radiation	1
	1.1.1. Interaction of Radiation with Materials	1
	1.1.2. Radiation Chemistry of Natural Polymers	2
	1.1.3. Radiation Processing and Applications of Natural and Synthetic Polymers	4
1.2.	Polymer blends	8
	1.2.1. Types of Polymer Blends	9
	1.2.1.1. Thermoplastic Polymer Blends	9
	1.2.1.2. Thermoplastic Rubber Blends	9
	1.2.1.3. Elastomer-Elastomer Blends	10
	1.2.1.4. Natural Polymer Blends	11
	1.2.1.5. Natural/Synthetic Polymer Blends	14
	1.2.2. Miscibility of Polymer Blend	17
	1.2.3. Compatibilization of Polymer Blends	24
	1.2.4. Applications of Natural and Synthetic Polymer Blends	30
	1.2.4.1. Removal of Toxic Metals from Water	30
	1.2.4.2. Removal of Dyes from Wastewater	37
1.3.	Drug Delivery	40
	1.3.1. Mechanism of Controlled Drug Delivery	41
	1.3.1.1. Diffusion Controlled Release	41
	1.3.1.2. Swelling-diffusion Controlled Release	42
	1.3.1.3. Drug Release through Biodegradation	43

CHAPTER II

EXPERIMENTAL

MATERIALS, METHODS AND MEASUREMENTS

2.1.	Materials	52
	2.1.1. Homopolymers	52
	2.1.2. Chemical Reagents and Drugs	52
2.2	Technical Procedure	53

	2.2.1. Preparation of Carboxymethyl Cellulose/poly(ethylene Glycol) Blends (CMC/PEG)	53
	2.2.2. Preparation of Carboxymethyl Cellulose/poly(ethylene Oxide) Blends (CMC/PEO)	53
	2.2.3. Preparation of Polyacrylamide/Sodium Alginate Blends (PAM/AG)	54
	2.2.4. Preparation of Blend Hydrogels	54
	2.2.5. Preparation of Drug Loaded Blends	54
	2.2. 6. Preparation of Ketoprofen Loaded Blends	54
	2.2.7. Gamma Irradiation	55
2.3.	Measurements and Analysis	55
	2.3.1. IR Spectroscopic Analysis	55
	2.3.2. Ultraviolet (UV) Measurements	55
	2.3.3. Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)	55
	2.3.4. Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)	56
	2.3.5. Scanning Electron Microscopy	56
	2.3.6. Tensile Mechanical Measurements	56
	2.3.7. Swelling Measurements	57
	2.2.8. Dye Adsorption Measurements	58
	2.2.9. Metal Uptake Measurement	58
	2.3.10. Drug Release Measurements	59

CHAPTER III

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1.	Effect of Gamma Irradiation on the Physical and Chemical Properties of Carboxymethyl Cellulose (CMC)/ Poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) Blends		
	3.1.1.	Characterization	60
		3.1.1.1. IR spectroscopic analysis	61
		3.1.1.2. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)	66
		3.1.1.3. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)	72
		3.1.1.4. Tensile mechanical properties	76
		3.1.1.5. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)	83
	3.1.2.	Water Uptake	85
	3.1.2.1.	Swelling and Diffusion Studies	89
	3.1.3.	Dye Uptake	91

	3.1.4.	Metal Sorption	97
	3.1.5.	Adsorption and Controlled release Properties of Chlortetracycline HCL Drug	103
		3.1.5.1.	Adsorption of Chlortetracycline HCl
		3.1.5.2.	Release of Chlortetracycline HCl
	3.1.5.	Adsorption and Controlled Release Properties of Caffeine Drug	109
		3.1.5.1.	Adsorption of Caffeine
		3.1.5.2.	Release of Caffeine
	3.1.6.	Conclusion	116
3.2.	Effect of Gamma Irradiation on the Physical and Chemical Properties of Carboxymethyl Cellulose (CMC)/ Poly(ethylene oxide) Blends		
	3.2.1.	Characterization	117
		3.2.1.1.	IR spectroscopic analysis
		3.2.1.2.	Differential scanning calorimetry(DSC)
		3.2.1.3.	Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)
		3.2.1.4.	Tensile mechanical properties
		3.2.1.5.	Scanning Electron Microscopy
	3.2.2.	Water Uptake	134
	3.2.2.1.	Swelling and Diffusion Studies	138
	3.2.3.	KetoprofenDrug Uptake-Release Properties	140
	3.2.4.	Conclusion	144
3.3.	Effect of Gamma Irradiation on the Physical and Chemical Properties of Polyacrylamide/Sodium Alginate Blends		
	3.3.1.	Characterization	147
		3.3.1.1.	IR spectroscopic analysis
		3.3.1.2.	Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)
		3.3.1.3.	Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)
		3.3.1.4.	Tensile Mechanical Properties
	3.3.2.	Swelling Properties of PAM/AG Blends	165
	3.3.2.1.	Swelling and Diffusion Studies	168
	3.3.3.	Drug Uptake-Release Properties of PAM/AG Blends	170
		3.3.3.1.	Uptake of Chlortetracycline HCl

		3.3.3.2.	Release of Chlortetracycline HCl	170
	3.3.4.	3.3.3.3.	Release of Ketoprofen	167
	3.3.5.	Conclusion		178
Conclusions				179
References				181
English Summary				
Arabic Summary				

List of Tables

		Page
Table 1	List of natural polymers	14
Table 2	Weight loss (%) at different decomposition temperatures of CMC and PEG and their blends at different ratios before and after gamma irradiation to various doses	71
Table 3	Temperature of the maximum rate of reaction for pure CMC, PEG and their blends at different compositions before and after gamma irradiation	71
Table 4	DSC kinetic parameters of CMC and their blends of different ratios before and after gamma irradiation to various doses	76
Table 5	Yield properties of CMC and PEG homopolymers and their blends at different compositions before and after gamma irradiation to various doses	82
Table 6	Break properties of CMC and PEG homopolymers and their blends at different compositions before and after gamma irradiation to various doses	82
Table 7	Swelling and Diffusion Parameters of CMC/PEG different blends in water at different pH values and 25 °C.	91
Table 8	Atomic, ionic radii and electronic configuration for different metal Ions investigated	98
Table 9	DSC kinetic parameters of CMC, PEO and their blends of different ratios before and after gamma irradiation to various doses	124
Table 10	Weight loss (%) at different decomposition temperatures of CMC and PEO and their blends CMC/PEO at different ratios before and after gamma irradiation to various doses	130
Table 11	Temperature of the maximum rate of reaction for pure CMC, PEO and their blends at different compositions before and after gamma irradiation	130
Table 12	Swelling and Diffusion Parameters of CMC/PEO different blends in water at different pH values and 25 °C.	139

Table 13	Temperature of the maximum rate of reaction for pure AG, pure PAM and their blends at different compositions before and after gamma irradiation	162
Table 14	Swelling and Diffusion Parameters of PAM/AG different blends in water at different pH values and 25 °C.	168

List of Figures

Chapter III-Part 1 Effect of Gamma Irradiation on the Physical and Chemical Properties of Carboxymethyl cellulose/ poly(ethylene glycol) Blends		
		Page
Figure 1	Drug delivery from a typical matrix drug delivery system	42
Figure 2	Drug delivery from (a) reservoir and (b) matrix	43
Figure 3	Drug delivery through polymer degradation (a) Bulk erosion (b) Surface erosion	43
Figure 4	IR spectra of unirradiated pure CMC, PEG polymers and their blends at different composition	63
Figure 5	IR spectra of pure CMC, PEG polymers and their blends at different ratios exposed to a dose of 20 kGy of gamma irradiation	64
Figure 6	IR spectra of pure CMC, PEG polymers and their blends at different ratios exposed to a dose of 40 kGy of gamma irradiation	65
Figure 7	IR spectra of pure CMC, PEG polymers and their blends at different ratios exposed to a dose of 100 kGy of gamma irradiation	66
Figure 8	TGA thermograms and rate of reaction of unirradiated CMC, PEG polymers and their blends of different ratios	69
Figure 9	TGA thermograms and rate of reaction curves of CMC, PEG polymers and their blends of different ratios gamma irradiated to different	70

	doses	
Figure 10	DCS thermograms of unirradiated pure CMC, PEG polymers and their blends of different ratios	73
Figure 11	DSC thermograms of CMC/ PEG blends of different ratios exposed to a dose of 20 kGy of gamma radiation	74
Figure 12	DSC thermograms of CMC/ PEG blends of different ratios exposed to a dose of 40 kGy of gamma radiation	75
Figure 13	Yield stress and strain of CMC/PEG blends of different ratios exposed to different doses of gamma radiation	80
Figure 14	Break stress and strain of CMC/PEG blends of different ratios exposed to different doses of gamma radiation	81
Figure 15	SEM micrographs of unirradiated pure CMC and CMC/PEG (50/50%) blends before and after gamma irradiation to a dose of 20 kGy	84
Figure 16	Water uptake at different pH values by CMC/PEG (80/20%) blends exposed to a dose of 20 kGy of gamma radiation	87
Figure 17	Water uptake at different pH values of CMC/PEG (50/50%) blends exposed to a dose of 20 kGy of gamma radiation	87
Figure 18	Water uptake as a function of time at different temperatures by CMC/PEG (50/50%) blends exposed to a dose of 20 kGy of gamma irradiation	88
Figure 19	Water uptake as a function of time at different temperatures by CMC/PEG (80/20%) blends exposed to a dose of 20 kGy of gamma irradiation	88
Figure 20	Linear fit line $\ln F$ versus $\ln t$ at different pH values for 50/50 CMC/PEG blend hydrogel in water at 25⁰ C and dose: 20 kGy	90
Figure 21	Linear fit line $\ln F$ versus $\ln t$ at different pH values for 80/20 CMC/PEG blend hydrogel in water at 25⁰ C and dose: 20 kGy	90
Figure 22	Effect of pH on the dye uptake of different dyestuffs by CMC/PEG (50/50%) blends from initial dye concentration of 100 ppm	94

Figure 23	Effect of pH on the dye uptake of different dyestuffs by CMC/PEG (60/40%) blends from initial dye concentration of 100 ppm	94
Figure 24	Effect of pH on the dye uptake of different dyestuffs by CMC/PEG (80/20%) blends from initial dye concentration of 100 ppm	95
Figure 25	Dye uptake at pH 5 of different dyestuffs by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends from initial dye concentration of 100 ppm	96
Figure 26	Dye uptake at pH 5 of different dyestuffs by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends from initial dye concentration of 100 ppm	96
Figure 27	Dye uptake at pH 7 of different dyestuffs by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends from initial dye concentration of 100 ppm	97
Figure 28	Effect of initial concentration on the metal ion uptake for (50/50) CMC/PEG	99
Figure 29	Effect of initial concentration on the metal ion uptake for (60/40) CMC/PEG	99
Figure 30	Effect of initial concentration on the metal ion uptake for (80/20) CMC/PEG	100
Figure 31	Effect of (CMC/PEG) blend compositions on the metal ion uptake (mg/g) for different metal ions, initial conc. 100 ppm	100
Figure 32	Effect of pH on the metal ion uptake for (50/50) CMC/PEG	102
Figure 33	Effect of pH on the metal ion uptake for (60/40) CMC/PEG	102
Figure 34	Effect of pH on the metal ion uptake for (80/20) CMC/PEG	103
Figure 35	uptake of different concentrations of Chlortetracycline by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends	104
Figure 36	Uptake of different concentrations of Chlortetracycline by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends	105
Figure 37	Release profile of different concentrations of Chlortetracycline at pH 2 by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends	106
Figure 38	Release profile of different concentrations of Chlortetracycline at pH 5 by different ratios of CMC/PEG blends	106
Figure 39	Release profile at concentrations (0.5 mg/ml) of	107