



جامعة عين شمس
كلية العلوم
قسم الكيمياء

التحضير والتطوير بالإشعاع لمواد بوليمرية تطبق فى عمليات تعبئة الغذاء ونشاطها وتحللها الحيوى

رسالة مقدمة من

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(ماجستير فى الكيمياء 2015)

للحصول على درجة الدكتوراة فى فلسفة العلوم
(الكيمياء)

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2018



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Radiation Synthesis And Modification Of Polymeric Material Applied In Food Packaging And Their Bioactivity And Biodegradation

*Submitted to
Chemistry Department, Faculty Of Science Ain Shams
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For The Degree Of Ph.D. Of Science In Chemistry
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2018

Acknowledgement

First of all, the main thanks to "Allah" to whom I always pray and under the light of his "HOLLY FACE" I live and go.

*I would like to offer my deep thanks to **Prof. Dr. Maher A. El-hashash**; Professor of Organic Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Chemistry Department, Ain shams University For his continouse guidance, interest, valuable discussion, supervision and advices throughout this work .*

*I am grateful to **Prof. Dr. Sabrnal Hanfy El-Hamouly**; Prof of Polymer Chemistry, Manoufia University, Faculty of Science , Chemistry Department. For his great efforts, and continuous Encouragement, supervision and help to have this work done.*

*Also, I would like to offer my deep thanks to **Prof. Dr. Nabila Ahmad Maziad**; Prof. Of Radiation Chemistry, National Center for Radiation Research and Technology For her suggesting the topic of this work, continues guidance, interest, valuable discussion, encouragement, supervision and advices throughout this work .*

*I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to **Assist. prof. Dr. Amany Badr El-deen Abd El- Aziz**; Prof. of microbiological Department , in National Center for Radiation Research & Technology, for her masterly teaching, valuable advices, honest assistance. Kind supervision and continuous encouragement.*

*Also, I am grateful to **Dr. Sameh A Rizk**; **Assist. prof. Dr.** of Organic Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University for priceless help and support.*

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the members and colleagues in the National Center for Radiation Research & Technology, for their efforts, help and friendship throughout my research.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to members of Polymer Chemistry Department and microbiological Department in National Center for Radiation Research and Technology, Atomic Energy Authority for the various opportunities that have helped to make this work, honest assistance and friendship throughout my research.

***This Work Is Dedicate To
My Parents,
and
My Family
Without
Their Support, Endless Help and
Continues Encouragement
All the Time I Could Never Finish This Work.
I Would Like To Express the Deep Thanks
To
My Lovely Daughters
Rahaf & Zeina.***

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List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Name
$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$	Ammonium sulfate
σ	Bending
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
cm	Centimeter
$^{\circ}\text{C}$	Degrees celsius
DSC	Differential scanning calorimetry
K_2HPO_4	Di-potassium hydrogen phosphate
$\text{K}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Di-potassium hydrogen phosphate tri-hydrate
$\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Ferrous sulfate heptahydrate
FTIR	Fourier transfer infrared spectra
γ	Gamma rays
g%	Gel fraction
G	Glycerol
gm	Gram meter
gm/l	Gram per liter
h	Hour
HCl	Hydrogen chloride
OH	Hydroxyl group
I_2	Iodine

List of abbreviation

kGy	Kilo grey
kJ/mol	Kilo joule per mol
LA	Lactic acid
MgSO₄. 7H₂O	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate
MPa	Mega pascal
μl	Microliter
ml	Milliliter
mm	Millimeter
MSM	Minimal salt medium
(NCRRT)	National Center For Radiation Research and Technology
NR	Natural rubber
N₂	Nitrogen
N	Normal
O₂	Oxygen
%	Percent
PLST	Plasticizer
PLA	Poly lactic acid
PVA	Poly vinyl alcohol
KBr	Potassium bromide
KI	Potassium iodide
KH₂PO₄	Potassium phosphate monobasic
rpm	Revolutions per minute
SEM	Scanning electron microscope

List of abbreviation

NaCl	Sodium chloride
v	Stretching
S%	Swelling percent
TS	Tensile strength
TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis
v/v	Volume/Volume
w/v	Weight/Volume
w/w	Weight/Weight

Characterization of Radiation Prepared Copolymer and Studies of Their Biodegradability

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How to cite this paper: Author 1, Author 2 and Author 3 (2018) Paper Title. *Journal of Biosciences and Medicines*, 6, *-*. https://doi.org/10.4236/jbm.2018.6****

Received: ****, **

Accepted: ****, **

Published: ****, **

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Abstract

Blends of biodegradable copolymer based on starch, poly lactic acid (PLA), poly vinyl alcohol (PVA) and natural rubber (NR) have been prepared. Gamma radiation induced synthesis and modification of polymer hydrogel was studied. The polymer blends have been chemically surface modified by glycerol. The modified polymer blends have been investigated for swelling ratio, tensile strength and scanning electron microscopy. The swelling ratio of polymer blends increased significantly after surface modification with glycerol. The swelling of polymer was decreased as a function of (NR) content in polymer blends. The gel fraction (PVA-starch-PLA) and (PVA-starch-NR) blends increased by increasing the radiation doses (kGy) to reach the maximum amount of (~99%) and (~88.2%), respectively. Addition of 2.5% (PLA) led to greater increase of the swelling ratio than 10% (NR) to blends and the maximum swelling was found at dose (5 kGy). At concentration of glycerol (5.0% w/w), tensile strength decreased and elongation at break % increased. The polymers degrading microorganisms were isolated from soil samples. The degradation ability of the microbial isolates for each polymeric material was tested on agar plates. Among these isolates, the most efficient degrader isolates for prepared blends in MSM shaking flasks were selected and the degradation was confirmed by scanning electron microscopy.

Keywords

Radiation, Biodegradation, (NR), (PLA), Renewable Resources, Mechanical Properties, Scanning Electron Microscopy