



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF UNTREATED AND ALKALINE
TREATED KENAF AND RAMIE FABRIC REINFORCED EPOXY
COMPOSITES**

KHAIRUL AZMI BIN MD. REZALI

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By

KHAIRUL AZMI BIN MD. REZALI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

November 2008



DEDICATION

*First of all and before every thing , I submit in humility and gratitude to my beloved creator “ **Allah Subhana Wa Taala** ” for having blessing me this opportunity and protecting me from major obstacles in fulfilling this thesis.*

I would not be truly thankful also if I did not express gratitude towards my mum, Rokiah and my dad, Md. Rezali, who always motivate and support during my works in finishing my thesis.

Finally, this thesis is dedicated to all those who believe in the richness of learning.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master Science

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF UNTREATED AND ALKALINE TREATED KENAF AND RAMIE FABRIC REINFORCED EPOXY COMPOSITES

By

KHAIRUL AZMI BIN MD REZALI

June 2008

Chairman: Profesor Dr. Mohd. Sapuan Salit, PEng., Ph.D

Faculty: Engineering

This research work is concerned with the determination of tensile, flexural and impact properties of kenaf and ramie fabric reinforced epoxy composites at three and eleven layers of fibre and different treatment (i.e. alkaline or non-alkaline) methods. The specimens were prepared using hand lay-up technique. The tensile and flexural tests were performed using an INSTRON 5507 universal testing machine and the high velocity impact test were performed using Ballistic Automated Network Gun systems (BANG) at projectile speed of 73 m/s, 160 m/s, 230 m/s and 278 m/s. In this study, the fibre has been treated by 6% alkaline treatment. Two main purposes of this thesis are to determine and compare the result of tensile, flexural and impact properties for kenaf and ramie composite, and also for composite (kenaf and ramie) with and without 6% of alkaline treatment. The result shows that 6% of alkaline treated of composites possess decreased value of tensile and flexural strength for kenaf and ramie composite because of high percentage of alkaline treatment. However, the increased value of impact properties found after adding 6% of alkaline



treated. The outcome of the result clearly shows that ramie composite is better than kenaf composite in tensile and flexural properties. But in impact properties, the outcome result shows that kenaf composite is better than ramie composite.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master

**SIFAT MEKANIKAL KOMPOSIT KENAF DAN RAMIE FABRIK
BERTETULANG EPOKSI MATRIKS TANPA DAN DENGAN RAWATAN
KIMIA ALKALI**

Oleh

KHAIRUL AZMI BIN MD REZALI

Jun 2008

Pengerusi: Profesor Dr. Mohd. Sapuan Salit, PEng., Ph.D

Fakulti: Kejuruteraan

Penyelidikan ini adalah berkaitan untuk menentukan sifat tegangan, lenturan dan hentaman untuk komposit epoksi gentian fabrik kenaf dan ramie pada 3 dan 11 lapisan fabrik dengan dan tanpa rawatan kimia alkali. Pembuatan spesimen komposit ini dijalankan dengan menggunakan teknik bengkalai tangan dan pemampatan acuan. Ujian tegangan dan lenturan dibuat dengan menggunakan mesin INSTRON 5507 dan ujian hentaman pula dibuat menggunakan sistem rangkaian senjata ballistik automatik (BANG) pada halaju peluru 73 m/s, 160 m/s, 230 m/s and 278 m/s. Fabrik dalam penyelidikan ini telah dirawat dengan 6% rawatan alkali. Tujuan kajian ini adalah bertumpu kepada dua tujuan utama iaitu mendapatkan hasil sifat tegangan, lenturan dan hentaman halaju tinggi pada komposit kenaf dan ramie, dan untuk komposit (kenaf dan ramie) yang ditambah dan tidak ditambah dengan 6 peratus rawatan kimia alkali. Keputusan menunjukkan 6% rawatan alkali memberikan nilai yang berkurangan pada sifat tegangan dan lenturan untuk komposit kenaf dan ramie disebabkan jumlah peratusan pada alkali yang terlalu tinggi. Walau bagaimanapun,

peningkatan nilai dapat ditunjukkan pada sifat hentaman selepas 6% rawatan alkali. Keputusan tesis ini juga menunjukkan komposit ramie adalah lebih baik berbanding komposit kenaf pada sifat tegangan dan lenturan. Tetapi pada sifat hentaman, keputusan menunjukkan komposit kenaf adalah lebih baik daripada komposit ramie.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 17 November 2008 to conduct the final examination of Khairul Azmi bin Md. Rezali on his thesis entitled "**Mechanical Properties of Untreated and Alkaline Treated Kenaf and Ramie Fabric Reinforced Epoxy Composites**" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

KHAIRUL AZMI MD. REZALI

Date: 25 May 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	i
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF TABLES	xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxi
LIST OF SYMBOL	xxiv
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	4
1.4 Scope of Study	4
1.5 Layout of the Thesis	5
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.2. Natural Fibre Composites	8
2.2.1 Reason for choose Natural Fibre for Composite Material	9
2.2.2 Tensile and Flexural Properties of Natural Fibre Composites	11
2.2.3 Tensile and Flexural Properties of Synthetic Fibre Composite	15
2.2.4 Reason of choose Alkali Treatment of Fibre	18
2.2.5 Tensile Strength before and after Alkali Treatment	22
2.3 Kenaf Fibre Composite	24
2.3.1 Processing Kenaf Fabric	28
2.3.2 Ramie Fibre Composite	29
2.3.3 Reason for choose Kenaf and Ramie as Fabric Fibre for Composite	32
2.3.4 Tensile Strength of Kenaf and Ramie Composite	37
2.3.5 Tensile Strength of Treated Kenaf Composite	40
2.4 High Velocity and Ballistic Impact Event	44
2.5 Ballistic Vest	45
2.5.1 Ballistic Vest Performance Standard	46
2.5.2 Ballistic Limit	47
2.5.3 High Velocity and Ballistic Impact Mechanism of Failure	49
2.6 Impact Damage Mode of Natural Fibre Composite	52
2.6.1 Impact Properties of Natural Fibre Composite	54
2.7 Summary of Literature Review	58



3	METHODOLOGY	60
	3.1 Introduction	60
	3.2 Progress Flow	60
	3.3 Materials	61
	3.4 Method for Density Measurement	64
	3.4.1 Method for Fibre Volume Fraction Measurement	64
	3.4.2 Method for Weight Fraction Measurement	65
	3.5 Alkaline Fibre Treatment	65
	3.6 Composite Manufacturing Method	66
	3.7 Specimen Preparation	69
	3.7.1 Tensile and Flexural Specimen Preparation	69
	3.7.2 Impact Test Specimen Preparation	71
	3.8 Mechanical Properties Testing Method	72
	3.8.1 Tensile Test	72
	3.8.2 Method for Maximum Tensile Strength Measurement	72
	3.8.3 Method for Maximum Flexural Strength Measurement	73
	3.8.4 Flexural Test	74
	3.8.5 High Velocity Impact Test	74
4	RESULTS AND ANALYSIS	79
	4.1 Introduction	79
	4.2 Density Measurement	79
	4.2.1 Fibre Volume Fraction Measurement	81
	4.2.2 Fibre Weight Fraction Measurement	83
	4.3 Maximum Tensile Strength Measurement	84
	4.3.1 Maximum Flexural Strength Measurement	86
	4.3.2 Maximum Tensile Strength Measurement for Epoxy	87
	4.4 Tensile and Flexural Test Results	88
	4.4.1 Damage Characteristic for Tensile and Flexural tests	104
	4.5 High Velocity Impact Test Results	106
	4.5.1 Damage Characteristic for High Velocity Impact Test	122
	4.5.2 No Penetration Damage Characteristic	122
	4.5.3 Partial Penetration Damage Characteristic	122
	4.5.4 Complete Penetration Damage Characteristic	123
	4.6 Summary	125
	4.6.1 Highest Tensile, Flexural and Impact Properties of Material	126
	4.6.2 Correlation of Tensile Strength to Flexural Strength	127
	4.6.3 Correlation of Tensile and Flexural Strength to Impact Properties	129
	4.6.4 Percentage change of Tensile, Flexural Strength Impact Depth of Penetration by Material Type after Alkaline Treatment	130

4.7	Compare Result of Tensile Strength and Flexural Strength with Kenaf and Ramie Fibre Composite from Literature Review	131
4.7.1	Compare Result of Tensile Strength and Flexural Strength with Synthetic Fibre Composite from Literature Review	134
4.7.2	Comparison of Results of High Velocity Impact to Glass Fibre Composite	138
4.7.3	Comparison of Results of High Velocity Impact to Different Composite Material	141
4.8	Discussion Overall Result	142
5	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	143
5.1	Conclusions	143
5.2	Recommendations for Future Research	145
	REFERENCES	146
	APPENDICES	159
	Appendix A Matrix Properties	159
	Appendix B Projectile	165
	Appendix C Blunt Trauma Box	171
	Appendix D Sample Data	175
	BIODATA OF THE STUDENT	179

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Composite Materials	7
2.2	Growth Outlook for Bio-based Composites by Application in United State, 2000-2005	10
2.3	Use of Natural Fibre for Automotive Composite in Germany Austria 1996-2002	11
2.4	Kenaf Field	27
2.5	Structures of Kenaf Plant	28
2.6	Ramie Fibres and Leave	31
2.7	Different Type of Plant Fibre	33
2.8	Tensile Strength of Natural Fibre and Glass Fibre Reinforced PP (Fibre Content of 30 wt %)	34
2.9	A Crop of Ramie	37
2.10	Definition of Perforation and Partial Penetration from Protection Ballistic Limit Range	47
2.11	Impact below Ballistic Limit	48
2.12	Impact above Ballistic Limit	48
2.13	Schematic Demonstrating the Three Principal Damage Mechanism for Low Velocity Impact	49
2.14	Representation of Global deformation in Low Velocity Impact and Local Deformation in High Velocity Impact	50
2.15	Schematic Representation of the Shear Plug Damage Mechanism	51
2.16	Schematic of Delamination Process in Cross-Ply Composite During High and Ballistic Velocity Impact	52
2.17	Damage Modes in Composite Laminate from Impact Event	53
3.1	Flowchart of the Project	61
3.2	Ramie and Kenaf Fabric in Rolls before Cutting	62

3.3	Kenaf and Ramie Fabric ready for Experiment	62
3.4	Epoxy and Hardener	63
3.5	Flowchart of Alkaline Fibres Process	66
3.6	Compression Mould to Fabricate Specimen	67
3.7	Laminate Plastic Cover	67
3.8	Taking out Completed Composite	68
3.9	Flow chart of Composite Fabrication	68
3.10	Standard Dimensions of ASTM D 638-99 for tensile testing	70
3.11	Standard Dimensions for ASTM D790-99 for flexural testing	70
3.12	Ramie and Kenaf Fibre Composites with Specimen Dimension of 100 mm x 100 mm	71
3.13	UPM Compressed Gas Gun of BANG-SYSTEMS	75
3.14	Three type of Projectiles	76
3.15	Hemispherical Projectile	76
3.16	Blunt Trauma Box for Measurement in BANG System	77
3.17	Top and Side View of Effects Blunt Trauma	78
4.1	Graphs Tensile Load vs. Displacement for Three Layers of Non-Treated Kenaf Fabric Reinforced Composite (K3N)	85
4.2	Graphs Flexural Load vs. Displacement for Three Layers of Non-Treated Ramie Fabric Reinforced Composite (R3N)	86
4.3	Graphs Tensile Load vs. Displacement for Epoxy Resin	88
4.4	Tensile Strength of Kenaf Composite	89
4.5	Tensile Strength of Ramie Composite	91
4.6	Flexural Strength of Kenaf Composite	93
4.7	Flexural Strength of Ramie Composite	95
4.8	Comparison of Tensile Strength Kenaf and Ramie Composite (Non-Treatment)	97

4.9	Comparison of Tensile Strength Kenaf and Ramie Composite (Alkaline Treatment)	99
4.10	Comparison of Flexural Strength Kenaf and Ramie Composite (Non-Treatment)	101
4.11	Comparison of Flexural Strength Kenaf and Ramie Composite (Alkaline Treatment)	102
4.12	Tensile test Failure Mechanism of Kenaf and Ramie Composite Specimen	104
4.13	Flexural Test Failure Mechanism of Kenaf and Ramie Composite Specimen	105
4.14	Impact Depth of Penetration for Kenaf Composite at 73 m/s	106
4.15	Depth of Penetration for Kenaf Composite at 73 m/s	107
4.16	Impact Depth of Penetration for Kenaf Composite at 160 m/s	108
4.17	Depth of Penetration for Kenaf Composite at 160 m/s	109
4.18	Impact Depth of Penetration for Ramie Composite at 73 m/s	110
4.19	Depth of Penetration for Ramie Composite at 73 m/s	111
4.20	Impact Depth of Penetration for Ramie Composite at 160 m/s	112
4.21	Depth of Penetration for Ramie Composite at 160 m/s	113
4.22	Impact Depth of Penetration for Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 73 m/s	114
4.23	Comparison Depth of Penetration for Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 73 m/s	115
4.24	Impact Depth of Penetration for Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 160 m/s	116
4.25	Comparison Depth of Penetration for Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 160 m/s	117
4.26	Impact Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 73 m/s	118
4.27	Comparison Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 73 m/s	119

4.28	Impact Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 160 m/s	120
4.29	Comparison Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite at 160 m/s	121
4.30	Front and Back Face of Kenaf Composite Specimen for No Penetration Mechanism of Failure	122
4.31	Front and Back Face of Kenaf Composite Specimen for Partial Penetration Mechanism of Failure.	123
4.32	Front and Back Face of Ramie Composite Specimen For Partial Penetration Mechanism of Failure.	123
4.33	Front and Back Face of Kenaf Composite for Complete Penetration Mechanism of Failure	124
4.34	Front and Back Face of Ramie Composite for Complete Penetration Mechanism of Failure	124
4.35	Correlation Result of Tensile and Flexural Strength of Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite	127
4.36	Correlation Result of Tensile and Flexural Strength of Alkaline Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite	128
4.37	Correlation Result of Tensile and Flexural Strength to Fibre Volume Fraction of Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite	128
4.38	Correlation Result of Tensile and Flexural Strength to Impact Properties of Non-Treated Kenaf and Ramie Composite	129
4.39	Comparison of Tensile Strength to Kenaf Composite From Other Researcher	132
4.40	Comparison of Flexural Strength to Kenaf Composite From Other Researcher	133
4.41	Comparison of Tensile Strength to Ramie Composite From Other Researcher	134
4.42	Comparison of Tensile Strength to Synthetic Fibre Composite from Other Researcher	136
4.43	Comparison of Flexural Strength to Synthetic Fibre Composite from Other Researcher	137

4.44	Comparison Impact Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf Composite to Non-Treated Glass Composite at 160 m/s	138
4.45	Comparison Impact Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf Composite to Non-Treated Glass Composite at 230 m/s	139
4.46	Comparison Impact Depth of Penetration for Alkaline Treated Kenaf Composite to Non-Treated Glass Composite at 280 m/s	140
4.47	Comparison for Complete Penetration of High Velocity Impact in Different Composite Material	141

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Advantages and Disadvantages of Commercial Composite	9
2.2	Summary Result of Tensile Strength for Natural Fibre Composite	15
2.3	Summary Results of Tensile and Flexural Strength for Glass and Aramid Fibre Composite	17
2.4	Effect of Treatment to Tensile and Flexural Strength of Natural Fibre Composite	23
2.5	Effect of Treatment Hours and Percentage of Treatment to Tensile and Flexural Strength of Composite	24
2.6	Summary Tensile and Flexural strength of Kenaf and Ramie Composite	40
2.7	Summary Tensile and Flexural Strength of Alkaline Treated Kenaf Composite	43
2.8	Categorize Impact Event and Velocity Ranges	44
2.9	Ballistic Vest Performance Standard	46
2.10	Ballistic Limit of Non-Treated and Alkaline Treated Kenaf Composite	55
2.11	Impact Result for Glass Fibre Epoxy Reinforced Composite	56
2.12	High Velocity Impact Test Result for Cocunut Shell Epoxy Composite (COEX) and Twaron Panel (TW)	58
2.13	Summary of selected materials and method with its reason of selection	59
3.1	Composite Layer with Thickness	69
3.2	Weight of Impact Composite Specimen	71
4.1	Summary Density Measurement	81
4.2	Summary Result of Volume Fraction	82
4.3	Summary Result of Weight Fraction	84

4.4	Summary Result of Tensile Strength, Flexural Strength, Penetration Type, Impact Depth of Penetration for Kenaf and Ramie Non-Treated and Alkaline Treated Composites	125
4.5	Percentage of Decline and Improvement of Tensile Strength, Flexural Strength, Impact Depth of Penetration for Kenaf and Ramie Composites after Alkaline Treatment of Fibre.	131
4.6	Comparison of Tensile Strength to Kenaf Composites from Other Researcher	132
4.7	Comparison of Flexural Strength to Kenaf Composites from Other Researcher	133
4.8	Comparison of Tensile Strength to Ramie Composites from Other Researcher	134
4.9	Comparison of Tensile Strength to Synthetic Fibre Composites from Other Researcher	135
4.10	Comparison of Flexural Strength to Synthetic Fibre Composites from Other Researcher	137
4.11	Comparison for Complete Penetration of High Velocity Impact in Different Composite Material	141

NOMENCLATURE

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AP	Armor Piercing
A_{t0}	original cross sectional area of tensile specimen
ASTM	American Standard Testing Method
BANG	Ballistic Automated Network Gun Systems
b_f	width of flexural specimen
b_t	width of tensile specimen
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
CNSL	Cashew nut shell liquid
COEX	Coconut shell powder-epoxy composite
E-Glass	A type of borosilicate glass used to produce glass fibers for reinforced plastics designed for applications requiring high electrical resistivity. Also known as electric glass
FMJ	Full Metal Jacketed
FMJ RN	Full Metal Jacketed Round Nose
GA^3	gibberellic acid
GF	Glass Fibre
G11N	Glass fabric fibre reinforced epoxy composite
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
HIVAC	high velocity data acquisition system
h_f	thickness of flexural specimen
h_t	thickness of tensile specimen
H1	Treatment of Choline Chloride, Gibberellin (GA^3), Benzyladenine (6-BA) and $NaHSO^3$ at 20:9:5:800 mg kg ⁻¹
H3	Treatment of Choline Chloride, Gibberellin (GA^3), Benzyladenine (6-BA) and $NaHSO^3$ at 20:42:43:2350 mg kg ⁻¹
H ₂ CO	Formaldehyde is a chemical compound with the formula H ₂ CO



INTROP	Institute of Tropical Forestry and Forest Products
ITMA	Institute of Advanced Technology
JIS K	Japanese Industrial Standards for Chemical Engineering
JIS L	Japanese Industrial Standards for Textile Engineering
K3A	Kenaf of three layer alkaline treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
K3N	Kenaf of three layer non-treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
K11A	Kenaf of eleven layer alkaline treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
K11N	Kenaf of eleven layer non-treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
L_f	span between centre of support of flexural specimen
LR LRN	Long Rifle Lead Round Nose
MARDI	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
m_f	mass of fabric fibre in air
m_{fa}	mass of fabric fibre suspended in acetone
NaHSO ₃	Sodium hydrogen sulfite
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
NH ₄ NO ₃	Ammonium Nitrate
NIJ	National Institute of Justice
PAT/607 -/PCM	PAT-607/PCM is specially developed water based micro emulsion, no silicone or natural wax is used and the PAT-607/PCM film forms on polished and chromed steel perfectly
PA66	Polyamide 6, 6 (Nylon patented by Dupont)
PP	Polypropylene
REMOTE	Remote Online Monitoring and Testing system
R3A	Ramie of three layer alkaline treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite

R3N	Ramie of three layer non-treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
R11A	Ramie of eleven layer alkaline treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
R11N	Ramie of eleven layer non-treated fabric reinforced epoxy composite
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
SJHP	Semi jacketed Hollow Point (SJHP)
SPI	Soy protein isolate
Technora	A para-aramid fiber independently developed by Teijin, which has been commercially available since 1987
Twaron	Brandname of Teijin Aramid for a para-aramid.
Twintex®	A thermoplastic textile composite consisting of direct glass filaments and co-produced, commingled thermoplastic fibres
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
US	United States
W_f	weight layer of fabric fibre
W_m	weight of matrix
6-BA	6-benzylaminopurine
ρ_f	density of fabric fibre
ρ_a	density of acetone
ρ_m	matrix density
ρ_f	fibre density
σ_{fm}	maximum flexural strength of flexural specimen
P_{fm}	maximum applied load to flexural specimen