



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF
POLY(METHYL METHACRYLATE) GRAFTED
SAGO STARCH**

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POLY(METHYL METHACRYLATE) GRAFTED
SAGO STARCH**

By

ISAM YASSIN MAHMOOD QUDSIEH

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xii
ABSTRACT.....	xvi
ABSTRAK.....	xix
CHAPTER	
I	
INTRODUCTION.....	1
Polysaccharides.....	1
Starch.....	2
Methyl Methacrylate.....	3
Graft and Free Radical Polymerization.....	3
Enzymatic Degradation of Starch by α -Amylase Hydrolysis.....	5
Scope of the Study.....	7
Objectives of the Study.....	8
II	
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	9
Sago Starch.....	9
Graft Copolymerization of Vinyl Monomers onto Wool.....	10
Graft Copolymerization of Vinyl Monomers onto Fibre.....	12
Graft Copolymerization of Vinyl Monomers onto Chitin and Chitosan.....	13
Graft Copolymerization of Vinyl Monomers onto Starch and Cellulose.....	16
Methods of Initiation.....	16
Graft Copolymerization of Vinyl Monomers onto Other Backbones.....	32



III	MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	37
	Materials.....	37
	Methods.....	38
	Graft Copolymerization.....	38
	Extraction of Homopolymer and Determination of Grafting Level.....	39
	FTIR Spectra of Polymers.....	40
	Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC).....	40
	Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA).....	41
	Acid Hydrolysis of Sago Starch-g-PMMA by Hydrochloric Acid Solution.....	41
	Viscosity Measurement and Determination of the Average Molecular Weight.....	41
	Enzymatic Degradation of PMMA Grafted Sago Starch by α -Amylase.....	43
	Estimation of Total Sugar.....	43
IV	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	45
	Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) Grafted Sago Starch Prepared by Using Ceric Ammonium Nitrate as an Initiator.....	45
	FTIR Spectrum Analysis.....	45
	Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) of the Copolymers.....	46
	Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA).....	47
	Effects of the Reaction Temperature.....	47
	Effects of the Reaction Period.....	48
	Effects of the Initiator Concentration.....	49
	Effects of the Nitric Acid Concentration....	49
	Effects of the Monomer Concentration.....	49
	FTIR Spectra of Acid Hydrolysis of Sago Starch- g-PMMA.....	50
	Viscosity Measurement and Determination of the Average Molecular Weight.....	51
	Degradation of the Copolymers by α -Amylase Enzyme.....	51
	Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) Grafted Sago Starch Prepared by Using Potassium Persulfate as an Initiator.....	53
	FTIR Spectrum Analysis.....	53
	Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) of the Copolymers.....	54
	Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA).....	54



	Effects of the Reaction Temperature.....	54
	Effects of the Monomer Concentration.....	55
	Effects of the Initiator Concentration.....	56
	Effects of the Reaction Period.....	56
	Grafting Sites and Copolymerization Reaction.....	57
	FTIR Spectra of Acid Hydrolysis of Sago Starch- g-PMMA.....	57
	Viscosity Measurement and Determination of the Average Molecular Weight.....	58
V	CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS.....	100
	Conclusion.....	100
	Suggestions.....	102
	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	103
	APPENDICES	
A	Effects of the Parameters for the Grafting of Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) onto Sago Starch Prepared by Using Ceric Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) and Potassium Persulfate (PPS) as the Initiators.....	114
B	Viscosity Measurement and Average Molecular Weight for the Grafting of Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) onto Sago Starch Prepared by Using Ceric Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) and Potassium Persulfate (PPS) as the Initiators.....	123
C	Biodegradation by α -Amylase for the Grafting of Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) onto Sago Starch Prepared by Using Ceric Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) as an Initiator.....	125
	VITA.....	129



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Effects of the reaction temperature on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (CAN initiator).....	114
2	Effects of the reaction period on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (CAN initiator).....	115
3	Effects of the CAN concentration on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch.....	116
4	Effects of the nitric acid concentration on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (CAN initiator).....	117
5	Effects of the MMA concentration on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (PPS initiator).....	118
6	Effects of the reaction temperature on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (PPS initiator).....	119
7	Effects of the MMA concentration on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (PPS initiator).....	120
8	Effects of the PPS initiator concentration on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch.....	121
9	Effects of the reaction period on the grafting of MMA onto sago starch (PPS initiator).....	122
10	Reduced viscosity of 18.26, 58.02, 90.07, 137, 185.70, and 246%G (CAN initiator) and their Average Molecular Weights.....	123
11	Reduced viscosity of 19.63, 48.80, 65.84, 83.45 and 90%G (PPS initiator) and their Average Molecular Weights.....	124
12	The amount of glucose liberated from sago starch using different concentrations of enzyme.....	125



13	The maximum amount of glucose liberated from 90.07% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA.....	126
14	The amount of glucose liberated from 90.07% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA using different concentration of enzyme.....	127
15	The maximum amount of glucose liberated from sago starch.....	128



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Chemical structure of methyl methacrylate.....	3
2	Graft copolymerization using Boron Trifluoride Diethyletherate as an Initiator.....	22
3	FTIR spectra of PMMA (A1), sago starch (A2), Grafted sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator (A3)	60
4	DSC thermogram of sago starch (heating rate: 10 °C/min)	61
5	DSC thermogram of PMMA (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	62
6	DSC thermogram of sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	63
7	TGA and DTG curves of sago starch (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	64
8	TGA and DTG curves of sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	65
9	TGA and DTG curves of PMMA (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	66
10	Effects of the reaction temperature on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; CAN, 0.2742 g; nitric acid, 1 ml of 0.1 M; MMA, 10 ml; reaction period, 2 hrs; distilled water volume, 33 ml).....	67
11	Effects of the reaction period on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; CAN, 0.2742 g; nitric acid, 1 ml of 0.1 M; MMA, 10 ml; reaction temperature, 70 °C; distilled water volume, 33 ml).....	68
12	Effects of the CAN initiator concentration on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; nitric acid, 1 ml of 0.1 M; MMA, 10 ml; reaction period 2 hrs; reaction temperature, 70 °C; distilled water volume, 33 ml).	69



13	Effects of the nitric acid concentration on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; MMA, 10ml; reaction period, 2 hrs; reaction temperature, 70 °C; CAN, 1.0965 g; distilled water volume, 33 ml)...	70
14	Effects of the monomer concentration on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; CAN, 1.0965 g; nitric acid, 4 ml of 0.1 M; reaction period, 2 hrs; reaction Temperature, 70 °C; distilled water volume, 33 ml)	71
15	FTIR spectra of grafted sago starch (sago starch-g-PMMA) prepared by using CAN as an initiator (A3);, and PMMA collected after hydrolysis (C1).....	72
16	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 18.26% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	73
17	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 58.02% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	74
18	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 90.07% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	75
19	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 137% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	76
20	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 185.7% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	77
21	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 246% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	78
22	Average molecular weight with different percentages of grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	79
23	The standard curve of glucose (reaction conditions: volume of glucose solution, 1.00 ml; phenol reagent, 1.00 ml of 5%; H ₂ SO ₄ (98%), 5.0 ml; wave length, 490 nm).....	80
24	The amount of glucose liberated from 90.07% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator at different concentration of enzyme.....	81



25	The maximum amount of glucose liberated from 90.07% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using CAN as an initiator.....	82
26	The amount of glucose liberated from sago starch at different concentrations of enzyme.....	83
27	The maximum amount of glucose liberated from sago starch.....	84
28	FTIR spectra of PMMA (B2), sago starch (A2), Grafted sago starch prepared by using PPS as an initiator (B1).....	85
29	DSC thermogram of sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	86
30	TGA and DTG curves of sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator (heating rate: 10 °C/min).....	87
31	Effects of the reaction temperature on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using PPS as an initiator. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; PPS, 1.00 g; MMA, 5 ml; reaction time, 1 hr; distilled water volume, 33 ml).....	88
32	Effects of the monomer concentration on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using PPS as an initiator. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; PPS, 1.00 g; reaction period, 1 hr; reaction temperature, 50 °C; distilled water volume, 33 ml).....	89
33	Effects of the PPS initiator concentration on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; MMA, 5 ml; reaction period, 1 hr; reaction temperature, 50 °C; distilled water volume, 33 ml).....	90
34	Effects of the reaction period on the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using PPS as an initiator. (Other reaction conditions: sago starch, 1.00 g; initiator, 1.00 g; MMA, 5 ml; reaction temperature, 50 °C; distilled water volume, 33 ml).....	91
35	Reaction mechanism for the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using CAN as an initiator.	92
36	FTIR spectra of grafted sago starch (sago starch-g-PMMA) prepared by using PPS as an initiator (B1) and PMMA collected after hydrolysis (D1).....	93



	(G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator.....	94
38	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 48.80% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator.....	95
39	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 65.84% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator.....	96
40	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 80.45% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator.....	97
41	Reduced viscosity of PMMA obtained from 90% (G) sago starch-g-PMMA prepared by using PPS as an initiator.....	98
42	Average molecular weight with different percentages of the grafting of PMMA onto sago starch prepared by using PPS as an initiator.....	99



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**PREPARATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF POLY(METHYL
METHACRYLATE) GRAFTED SAGO STARCH**

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Chairman: Professor Wan Md Zin Wan Yunus, PhD.

Faculty : Science and Environmental Studies

The graft copolymerization of poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) onto sago starch (sago starch-g-PMMA) was carried out using ceric ammonium nitrate (CAN) and potassium persulfate (PPS) as initiators. PMMA was first grafted onto sago starch using CAN as an initiator under nitrogen gas atmosphere. The maximum percentage of grafting (%G) was determined to be 246% when the optimum conditions (reaction temperature: 70 °C, reaction period: 2 hrs, the amount of CAN: 2.0 mmoles, the amount of nitric acid: 0.4 mmoles, and the amount of methyl methacrylate (MMA): 141 mmoles). When PPS was used as an initiator, the maximum %G achieved was 90%. The optimum conditions for this initiator were as follows: reaction



temperature: 50 °C, the amount of monomer: 47 mmoles, the amount of PPS: 1.82 mmoles, and reaction period: 1.5 hr.

The copolymers produced were characterized by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometry (FTIR), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). The FTIR spectra of the copolymers clearly indicated the presence of characteristic peaks of PMMA and sago starch, which suggested that PMMA had been successfully grafted on the sago starch. DSC and TGA thermograms showed that the copolymerization products were made up of two different polymers.

The copolymers of various percentages of grafting were hydrolysed with 0.5 M hydrochloric acid and the viscosity measurements of PMMA produced were carried out using Ubbelohde viscometer. The average molecular weight (\bar{M}_v) of PMMA grafted onto the sago starch (246%G) prepared by using CAN as the initiator was 4.3×10^4 , and from PMMA grafted sago starch (90%G) prepared by using PPS as the initiator was 1.3×10^4 .

Biodegradability studies of sago starch-g-PMMA and sago starch were carried out by α -amylase enzyme. The rate of degradation



of sago starch was higher than the rate of degradation of sago starch-g-PMMA. Maximum biodegradation of the sago starch was achieved after 3 days of incubation, while for the copolymer was 7 days.



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**PENYEDIAAN DAN PENCIRIAN KOPOLIMER
POLI (METIL METAKRILAT)-KANJI SAGU**

Oleh

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Jun 1999

Pengerusi : Profesor Wan Md Zin Wan Yunus, PhD.

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Pengkopolimeran cangkuk poli (metil metakrilat) (PMMA) ke atas kanji sagu telah dikaji dengan menggunakan serium ammonium nitrat (CAN) dan kalium persulfat (PPS) sebagai pemula. Kajian dimulakan dengan mencangkukkan PMMA ke atas kanji sagu dengan menggunakan CAN sebagai pemula tindak balas dilakukan dibawah atmosfera nitrogen. Peratus pencangkukan PMMA adalah 246% apabila tindak balas dijalankan dibawah keadaan optimum (suhu tindak balas: 70 °C, tempoh tindak balas: 2 jam, amaun CAN: 2.0 mmol, amaun asid nitrik: 0.4 mmol dan amaun metil metakrilat (MMA):141 mmol). Kalium persulfat telah digunakan sebagai pemula



tindak balas yang kedua untuk mengcangkukkan PMMA ke atas kanji sagu juga di bawah atmosfera nitrogen. Peratus pengcangkukan tindak balas paling tinggi yang dicapai adalah 90% dengan menggunakan keadaan optimum suhu tindak balas: 50 °C, amaun monomer: 47 mmol, amaun kalium persulfat: 1.82 mmol, dan tempoh tindak balas: 1.5 jam.

Pengcangkukkan PMMA ke atas kanji sagu telah dicirikan dengan teknik-teknik spektrofotometri inframerah (FTIR), kalorimetri pengimbasan pembezaan (DSC) dan analisis termogravimetri (TGA). Spektrum inframerah kopolimer jelas menunjukkan kehadiran puncak-puncak serapan PMMA dan kanji sagu. Ini menunjukkan pengkopolimeran telah berjaya dilakukan. Termogram-termogram DSC dan TGA juga menunjukkan bahawa hasil pengkopolimeran mengandungi dua polimer yang berbeza.

Kopolimer ini telah dihidrolisis dengan menggunakan 0.5 M asid hidroklorik dan pengukuran kelikatan larutan PMMA yang dihasilkan telah dikaji untuk pelbagai peratus pengcangkukan dengan menggunakan viskometer Ubbelohde. Jisim molekul purata (\bar{M}_v) untuk kopolimer (246% pencangkukkan) kanji sagu-g-PMMA yang diperolehi dengan menggunakan CAN sebagai pemula tindak

balas adalah 4.3×10^4 , dan untuk kanji sagu-g-PMMA (90% pencangkukan) yang diperolehi dengan menggunakan PPS sebagai pemula tindak balas adalah 1.3×10^4 .

Biodegradasi ke atas kanji sagu-g-PMMA dan kanji sagu telah dijalankan dengan enzim α -amilase. Kadar penguraian untuk kanji sagu adalah lebih tinggi daripada kadar penguraian untuk kanji sagu-g-PMMA. Biodegradasi maksimum bagi kanji sagu dicapai selepas 3 hari manakala bagi kanji sagu-g-PMMA adalah 7 hari.



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Polysaccharides

Several hundred natural polysaccharides are currently known and become one of the richest and oldest reservoirs of structurally and functionally diverse biopolymers. Polysaccharides have played an essential role in the development of life on this planet, and constitute important members of the family of industrial water-soluble polymers. Innumerable uses have been established for carbohydrate polymers, and many new ones are constantly being discovered¹. Polysaccharides present a variety of chemical structures, solubility, and molecular weights. Plant polysaccharides do not have uniform repeating-unit-type structures; rather they are polymolecular; i.e. their structures vary from molecule to molecule. In addition, the average structure can vary with the source and conditions under which the plant is grown².



Starch

Starch is one of the cheapest and most readily available of all natural polymers. Starch is a high polymer composed of repeating *1,4- α -D*-glucopyranosyl units (often called anhydroglucose units or simply AGU) and is, generally, a mixture of linear and branched components. The linear component, amylose, has a molecular weight of several hundred thousand; while the molecular weight of the branched amylopectin is of the order of several million. Branching in amylopectin occurs at C-6 of the glucopyranosyl unit. Starch occurs in living plants in the form of discrete granules, which range from about 5-40 μm in average diameter, depending on the source. Starch granules contain regions of crystallinity; and if starch is slurred in water at room temperature, its solubility is negligible, even though it is a hydrophilic polymer. Starch in this form will be designated here as unswollen. When the water slurry of starch is heated, hydrogen bonds are broken, and a measurable fraction of the starch is dissolved. The granules swell and lose their birefringence. If the temperature of the water slurry is raised near the boiling point, the granules will largely disintegrate to form a smooth dispersion³.

Methyl Methacrylate

Methyl methacrylate (MMA) is a colourless volatile liquid monomer. Its boiling point is 101 °C and its density is 0.943. The monomer is slightly soluble in water, and in most organic solvents. It is readily polymerized by light, heat, ionizing radiation, and catalysts. MMA can be polymerised with other methacrylate esters and many other monomers. MMA is flammable and a dangerous fire risk. It is used for polymethacrylate resins and impregnation of concrete. The chemical structure of MMA is presented in Figure 1.

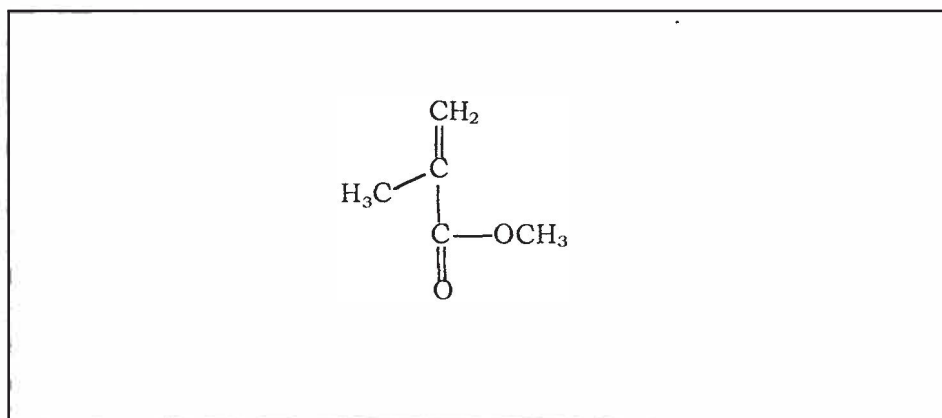


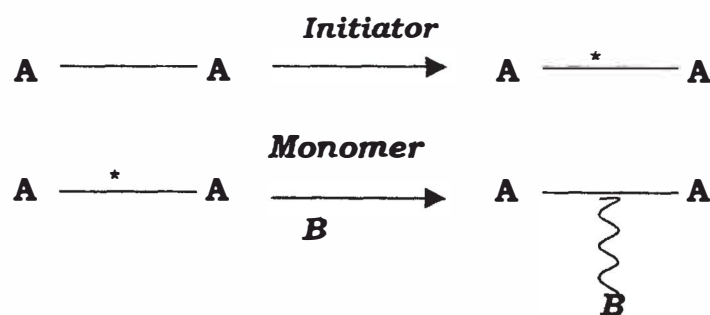
Figure 1: Chemical structure of methyl methacrylate

Graft and Free Radical Polymerization

Graft polymerization of monomers onto polysaccharides is one of the universal, effective and accessible methods of chemical

modification of high molecular weight compounds. The polarity of polysaccharides stipulates for this purpose and the predominant application of radical graft polymerization. The advantage of radical polymerization is that it takes place in water media with a good yield of a final product. Methods of radical graft polymerization of monomers onto polysaccharides are based on the ability of the polysaccharides to become activated under the influence of mechanico-chemical, physical or chemical actions.

The graft copolymers can be synthesised by the reaction of polymer chains and different monomers by free radical initiation of the active sites on the polymer backbone (A) where the monomer (B) can be grafted, as illustrated in Scheme I. The free radical can also be produced by the radiation technique.



Scheme I: Grafting steps