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Graft Copolymerization of Acrylonitrile onto Cassava Starch  
via Gamma Radiation

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Science

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พิมพ์ต้นฉบับบทคัดย่อ วิทยานิพนธ์ภายในกรอบสี่เหลี่ยมนี้เพียงแผ่นเดียว

CHAROEN NAKASON : GRAFT COPOLYMERIZATION OF ACRYLONITRILE  
ONTO CASSAVA STARCH VIA GAMMA RADIATION: ASSO. PROF. SUDA  
KIATKAMJORNWONG, Ph.D. 149 PP.

Native cassava starch was chemically modified into starch-g-polyacrylonitrile under a grafting copolymerization of acrylonitrile onto the polysaccharide backbone via gamma ray initiation method. Prior to the grafting reaction, starch was gelatinized at 85°C.

In addition to the cassava starch-g-polyacrylonitrile a homopolymer of polyacrylonitrile (PAN) was a by-product which was latter removed by extraction with dimethyl formamide (DMF). The purified grafted copolymer was subsequently saponified with an 8.5 % aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide at 100°C to convert the nitrile groups into a mixture of acrylamide and carboxylate groups which were responsible for water absorbency.

Infrared spectrometer was used as a tool to follow up the chemical changes of grafting and saponification. The saponified starch-g-PAN was then characterized in terms of grafting efficiency, percent add-on, the amount of polyacrylonitrile formation, percent conversion of monomer, grafting ratio, grafting frequency, and viscosity average molecular weight of grafted PAN. This information provided a guideline to judge an optimum total dose (kgy), dose rate (gray/min) of gamma rays, and ratio between starch/acrylonitrile.

Water absorption of newly synthesized copolymer was carried out in deionized distilled water, NaCl, MgCl<sub>2</sub>, K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. 3H<sub>2</sub>O, KCl, NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, and (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> solutions. The water absorption capacity in pure water was ranged 31 to 665 times their original dried weight. Water absorption capacity in saline solutions decreased dramatically with increasing the salt concentrations. Water retention in sand by mixing it with the grafted copolymer at concentrations of 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 % showed a linear relationship of water increase with increasing amount of absorbent added.

ภาควิชา.....  
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ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม.....

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°๗.	องศาเซลเซียส
°C	degrees Celsius
Ce(IV)	cerium ion
CAN	ceric ammonium nitrate
AN	acrylonitrile
S-PAN	starch-polyacrylonitrile
HSPAN	hydrolyzed soaponified polyacrylonitrile
HWAP	high water absorbing polymer
DMF	N,N - dimethylformamide
PAN	polyacrylonitrile
WRV	water retention value
M.W.	molecular weight
$\bar{M}_v$	viscosity average molecular weight
G value	the number of free radicals formed per 100 e.v. absorbed, is a measure of radiation sensitivity
kgy	kilogray
%	per cent
Mn <sup>3+</sup>	manganese (III)
AGU	anhydroglucose unit
$\alpha$	alpha
$\gamma$	gamma
D.P.	degree of polymerization
BU	bushel unit

g	gram
ml	milliliter
M	molarity
cm <sup>-1</sup>	unit of wavenumber
microns	micrometers
C≡N	nitrile group
w/v	weight by volume
w/w	weight by weight
Co <sup>60</sup>	cobalt-60
I	intensity of radiation
P	backbone polymer
P·	polymer radical
M	grafting monomer
PM <sub>m</sub>	graft copolymer
PM <sub>n</sub>	graft copolymer
PM <sub>m+n</sub>	graft copolymer
r	rate of initiation of polymer radical
r <sub>i</sub>	rate of initiation of graft reaction
r <sub>p</sub>	rate of propagation
r <sub>t</sub>	rate of termination
k	rate constant for initiation of polymer radicals
k <sub>i</sub>	rate constant for initiation of graft reaction

$k_p$	propagation rate constant
$k_t$	termination rate constant
Eur. Polym. J	European Polymers Journal
Makromol. Chem.	Makromolekulare Chemie
J. Polym. Sci. A	Journal of Polymer Science, part A
J. Polym. Sci. C	Journal of Polymer Science, Part C
J. Appl. Polym. Sci.	Journal Applied Polymer Science
J. Macromol. Sci. Chem.	Journal of Macromolecular Science and Chemistry
Polym. lett.	Polymer letter
Chem. Tech.	Chemical Technology
Radiat. Phys. Chem.	Radiation Physics and Chemistry