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Comparative Study of the Physical and Mechanical Properties of Biopolymer Films from Various Sources

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Original scientific paper

Received: 17.04.2019

Accepted: 25.04.2019

Published: 05.09.2019

SUMMARY

The present study is related to the development of technology for the production of biodegradable mono-component and two-component films based on collagen, gelatin, alginate and pectin. The obtained films have good optical and structural-mechanical characteristics. The tensile strength (TS) values measured were 3.24 MPa for collagen films and 10.54 MPa for gelatin films. The results of the test for elongation at ultimate strength (E) varied from 32.08% to 173.4%. For alginate films TS was 18.30 MPa and E – 78.14 %, while for pectin films the values were much lower: TS – 2.21 MPa, E – 273.3%. In two-component films made from alginate-pectin mixtures with a ratio of 1:2; 1:1; 2:1, a significant improvement in mechanical properties was observed, with the best values in 1:1 mixtures with TS –

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53.52 MPa 1:1
- 34.4 %.

TS -

53.52 MPa and E – 34.4%.

The final products of the proposed technology provide a good basis for the inclusion of antimicrobial and antioxidant substances of plant origin or other natural functional ingredients and can be used as active packaging for the food industry.

Key words: biopolymer films, renewable raw materials, optical properties, mechanical properties

INTRODUCTION

Increasing waste from non-degradable synthetic packaging has a negative impact on the environment and animal and human health. For this reason, a lot of research is aimed towards the development of new environmentally friendly materials based on natural biopolymers (proteins, polysaccharides and lipids).

Collagen, gelatin, sodium alginate and pectin are biopolymers that are considered safe and are used in the food industry as gelling, thickening and stabilizing agents. They are also biodegradable; obtained from widespread, renewable materials and have good film-forming properties.

Collagen is the most common fibrous insoluble protein in nature. It is obtained from skin, bones, tendons and other animal by-products. The fibrillar structure of collagen is a prerequisite for the good structural and mechanical properties of the resulting products, making it a suitable raw material for films and packaging for the food industry (Bourtoom, 2008).

Gelatin is a partially hydrolysed collagen. The films that are formed with it are usually compact with a smooth contour without pores and cracks. Their

(Bourtoom, 2008).

- barrier properties are good - they do not omit oxygen and retain good aroma but have high moisture sensitivity (Ramos et al., 2016).

- Alginates are polysaccharides derived from different kinds of brown algae. They are unbranched binary copolymers composed mainly of linked units of D-mannuronic acid and its isomer L-guluronic acid. The most commonly used salt of alginic acid is sodium alginate. In the presence of polyvalent cations (e.g. Ca^{2+}) it is able to form three-dimensional networks. The films, based on sodium alginate are smooth and elastic (Koushki et al., 2015).

- Pectins are plant heteropolysaccharides mainly found in the cell wall of terrestrial plants. The basic chain of the pectin molecule is composed of D-galacturonic acid units while the side chains contain L-arabinose, L-rhamnose, D-xylose, D-glucose and D-galactose. Depending on the degree of esterification, the pectins are divided into two main categories – high-esterified and low-esterified pectin.

- Due to its biodegradability, biocompatibility, edibility and film-forming properties, it is a suitable raw material for making biopolymer films (Espitia et al., 2014).

- Plasticizers and crosslinking agents are included to the biopolymer matrix in order to improve the structural-mechanical and physicochemical properties of the film. Plasticizers used in film development should be compatible with the basic matrix component, the most important factors being molecular weight, configuration and total number of functional groups of the plasticizer (Wittaya, 2012). The polyols (glycerol, sorbitol, polyethylene glycol), mono- and disaccharides (sucrose, glucose, fructose) and lipids and their derivatives (monoglycerides, phospholipids and

(Ramos et al., 2016).

D-
L-

(Ca^{2+})

(Koushki et al., 2015).

D-
L-
D-
D-

(Espitia et al., 2014).

(Wittaya, 2012).

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(Azaredo and Waldron, 2016).

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(Rhim, 2004).

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(Azaredo and Waldron, 2016).

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(De Cavalho and Crosso, 2006), (Bigi et al., 2002), . (Araghi et al., 2015).

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surfactants) are authorized for use in the food industry.

- In the process of crosslinking, mobility in the polymeric structure is reduced, the barrier properties are improved and the strength of the film is increased. The crosslinking agents of the proteins and the polysaccharides in most cases represent symmetrical bifunctional compounds with reactive groups interacting with specific functional groups in the macromolecular matrix (Azaredo and Waldron, 2016). In alginates and pectins, the crosslinking is carried out by ionic interaction between polyuronates and divalent metal ions (Rhim, 2004).

- Aldehydes (formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde) are the most commonly used crosslinking agents in protein films. They are relatively inexpensive and react with the free unprotonated -amino groups in the polypeptide chains. Their use in materials, which are in contact with food is undesirable due to concerns about the toxic effect of aldehyde residues in the cases of their migration to the food product (Azaredo and Waldron, 2016).

- For this reason, many studies have been carried out over recent decades on alternative cross-linking agents for use in the food industry. There is data for the use of microbial transglutaminase (De Cavalho and Crosso, 2006), genipin (Bigi et al., 2002), phenols, polyphenols etc. (Araghi et al., 2015).

The aim of the present study is to obtain new mono-component films based on collagen, gelatin, alginate and pectin, and composite alginate-pectin films and determining their physical and mechanical properties.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- **Materials:** apple pectin (high-esterified, degree of esterification 56.90%)

56.90%) (CpCelso),
(P.I.C.C.O), , 260 Bloom
(), (-
). -
Merck.
:
.
: 1)
: (C), (G); 2) -
: (AG), -
(P) 3) :) -
: 2:1 (AG-P₁),
1:1 (AG-P₂), -
1:2 (AG-P₃).

(CpCelso), sodium alginate (P.I.C.C.O.),
gelatin 260 Bloom (ALFROST Ltd),
collagen type I (manufactured by ICFT).
All reagents and chemicals used were of
analytical grade and purchased from
Merck.

Methods:

Preparation of biopolymer films.

Three types of films were obtained by
dissolution method: 1) proteins: collagen
(C), gelatin (G); 2) polysaccharides:
sodium alginate (AG), pectin (P), and 3)
composites: a) sodium alginate – pectin
in a ratio 2:1 (AG-P₁); b) sodium alginate
– pectin in a ratio 1:1 (AG-P₂); c) sodium
alginate – pectin in a ratio 1:2 (AG-P₃).

The concentration of polymers in
the solution and the basic dissolution
parameters are given in Table 1.

1.

1.

Table 1. Composition and parameters of obtaining the different variants of biopolymer films

Films	/ Parameters					
	Conc. of the polymer (%)	Proportion	Solvent		t° / t° of dissolving/mixing	Cross-linking agent
Protein						
• K (C)	2.0	-		6.4	20°	
• Collagen (C)			Distilled water			Gallotannin
• (G)	10.0	-	40% ethanol	6.5	60°	Gallotannin
• Gelatine (G)						
Polysaccharide						
• (AG)	2.5	-		5.2	20°	I ₂
• Alginate (AG)			Distilled water			
• (P)	2.5	-		2.9	20°	I ₂
• Pectin (P)			Distilled water			
Composite						
• AG-P ₁	2.5	2:1		4.7	20°	I ₂
• AG-P ₂	2.5	1:1	Distilled water	3.8	20°	I ₂
• AG-P ₃	2.5	1:2		3.3	20°	I ₂

(FS)
(300-600 rpm),
rpm

All film forming solutions (FS) were
homogenized with constant stirring
(300-600 rpm), then the rate was reduced
to 100 rpm and plasticizer was added (0.8
g/g polymer in gelatin and alginate films

g/g
 0.6 g /g
 (1% 0.1 M CaCl₂)
 1 %
 (10 min system, M7652)
 FS, Ultrasonic
 FS/cm² (0.325 g (20 kPa, SPT-200 Vacuum Drier) 35°C.
 CaCl₂ 0.3 M
 Ca²⁺, 25° C.
 50 ± 1%.
 (Sartorius Thermo Control YTC 01 L).
 (1g) 100°
 0.01mm ±5%
 CIE L*a*b*
 Colorgrad 2000 (BYK-Gatdner Inc., USA).
 CIE L*a*b*
 L*:
 (0) (100), * (+)
 (-), b* (-) (+)

and 0.6 g glycerol/g polymer in all others) as well as crosslinking agent (1% 0.1 M CaCl₂ solution for polysaccharide based films or 1% gallotannins from sumac for protein based films).

The prepared hydrocolloid FS were sonicated (10 min on ultrasonic bath, Ultrasonic system, M7652) and treated under vacuum to remove air bubbles.

Thereafter, the film-forming solutions were cast in plates (0.325 g FS/cm²) and dried under vacuum (20 kPa, SPT-200 Vacuum Drier) at 35°C. Dry samples of sodium alginate films were placed in 0.3 M CaCl₂ solution for additional crosslinking, washed with distilled water to remove excess Ca²⁺, and dried at 25°C. Before testing, all films were stored at room temperature and relative humidity 50 ± 1%.

Moisture content. Determined by an express weighting method on an electronic scale with infrared heating (Sartorius Thermo Control YTC 01 L). For this purpose, a weighed amount of film (about 1g) was placed on the apparatus plate. It was dried at 100° with the help of an infrared lamp until constant weight. The amount of moisture in the sample is expressed as a percentage.

Film thickness - The thickness of the film was determined with a digital micrometer with accuracy up to 0.01mm ±5% in five randomly taken sectors of the film. Mean thickness values for each sample were calculated and used in tensile strength calculations.

Optical properties - The colour parameters of the biopolymer films were determined using the CIE L*a*b* system with Colorgrad 2000 colorimeter (BYK-Gatdner Inc., USA). In the CIE L*a*b* system, the colour coordinates are: L*: from black (0) to white (100), *: red (+) green (-), b*: yellow (+) blue (-). Measurements were performed on a white

(-).
 $a^* = -0.92$ $b^* = -0.65$.
 $(L^* = 94.26,$
 (U)
 :

standard background ($L^* = 94.26, a^* = -0.92, b^* = -0.65$). All measurements were performed three times. The total colour difference (U) is calculated using the formula:

$$\Delta E^* = \sqrt{(L^* - L)^2 + (a^* - a)^2 + (b^* - b)^2} \quad (1),$$

L^*, a^*, b^*
 b
 $(Whiteness$
 index, WI)
 :

where L^*, a^*, b^* are standard, while L, a and b are the values of the colour parameters in the sample films.
 Whiteness index (WI) is calculated using the formula:

$$WI = 100 - \sqrt{100 - (100 - L)^2 + a^2 + b^2} \quad (2)$$

(LT)
 ASTM (2009)
 U-Vis
 Biochrom, USA)
 560 nm
 22±2°
 (TSM).
 Rhim et al. (1998).
 (d=2 cm)
 100 ml
 ("Inkubations-Schüttelschrank B.Braun", 100 rpm)
 25° 24
 24
 105°
 ra:

Light transmission (LT) of the films is determined by the ASTM (2009) method using a U-Vis spectrophotometer (Libra S 22 U-Vis, Biochrom, USA) with wavelength 560 nm and a temperature of 22±2°. Three measurements of three films of each biopolymer were performed.

Total soluble matter (TSM) - TSM is determined using the method described by Rhim et al. (1998). Pre-weighed samples of the equal size films (d = 2cm) were placed in iodine flasks containing 100 ml of distilled water (with added sodium azid to inhibit eventual microbial growth).

The flasks were incubated in a shaker system ("Inkubations-Schüttelschrank BS-4 B.Braun", 100 rpm) at 25° for 24 hours. The undissolved substances were removed by filtration and dried at 105° for 24 hours and then weighed. The quantity of dissolved substances is determined by the formula:

$$TSM = [(wi - wf) / wi] \times 100 \quad (3),$$

wi
 wf
 :

where wi is the initial weight, wf – weight after filtration and drying.

Strength, TS) -
 (Elongation at Ultimate strength, E),
 BDS EN ISO 527-
 3:2003 -
 UMT:2M (CETR-USA). -
 6 -
 mm – 55/6. -
 0.017mm/s, (20±2°), -
 6 -
 Microsoft Excel 2013. -
 (ANOVA). -
 (SD). ± -
 <0.05.

Mechanical properties
 Tensile strength (TS) and
 Elongation at Ultimate strength (E) tests
 were conducted, according to the BDS EN
 ISO 527-2:2002 (2002) standard with a
 UMT:2M macromechanical test apparatus
 (CETR-USA). Of each type of biopolymer
 material, 6 sample bodies (dimensions in
 mm - 55/6) were tested. The test was
 performed at room temperature (20±2°),
 speed – 0.017 mm/s, sensor – 1000 N.
 The results are presented as averages of
 6 measurements for each sample.

Statistical analysis. The results of
 the experiments were analyzed using a
 statistical program of Microsoft Excel
 2013. One-way analysis of variables
 (ANOVA) was used. Data are presented
 as mean ± standard deviation (SD). A
 significance level of p <0.05 was assumed
 for all comparisons.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Appearance, moisture content and
 total soluble matter:*

(T 2).
 (0.325 g FS/cm²)
 0.06 mm
 0.20 mm

Visually, all films are homo-
 geneous, flexible, with no brittle areas or
 air bubbles (Table 2). With an equal
 amount of film-forming mixture per area
 (0.325 g FS/cm²) the thickness of the
 resulting films ranges between 0.06 mm
 for alginate films to 0.20 mm for gelatin-
 based films, which have the highest
 percentage of biopolymer content. The
 thickness of the resulting materials
 depends on the biopolymer concentration,
 the plasticizers and crosslinking agents
 used and the applied technology.

The residual moisture content of
 the protein films is comparatively lower,
 due to the formation of a more compact
 polymer structure and a higher degree of
 crosslinking. The higher residual moisture

42,85%

99,13%.

TSM

(42.9%

66.6%

(AG-P2)

(47,88%).








(Mohajer, 2017).

- content of the other film variants is due to
- the high hygroscopicity of the polysaccharides.

The total amount of soluble substances is an indication of the degree of dissolution of the biopolymer matrix in water medium. In the summarised test results, it can be seen that for films on various basis, TSM ranges from 42.85% to 99.13%. Protein and composite films showed significantly less solubility (from 42.9% for collagen to 66.6% for AG-P2) compared to the one-component pectin film. Their results are similar to those obtained with the alginate film (47.88%). The obtained results (with the exception of those of pectin film) are comparable to the solubility of edible films (Mohajer, 2017).

2.

Table 2. Characteristics of the biopolymer films

Films	Appearance	Thickness (mm) [*]	Moisture (%) (n=3) [*]	TSM (%) [*] (n=3)
G		0.20±0.01	10.35±0.25	51.04 ±0.09
C		0.10±0.01	10.49±0.29	42.85±0.10
AG		0.06±0.01	11.52±0.21	47.88±0.10
P		0.10±0.01	13.09±0.37	99.13±0.22
V₁AG-P		0.07±0.01	12.05±0.32	48.47±0.12
V₂AG-P		0.07±0.01	11.10±0.24	49.57±0.10
V₃AG-P		0.09±0.01	14.85±0.41	66.61±0.23

* Data reported are average values ± standard deviations

b), (L, a, (Δ), (WI) (LT). 3

L Δ (p<0,05).

LT (p<0,05).

560 nm Ogur and Erkan (2015). LT

3.

Optical properties

For a better understanding of the optical characteristics of the films, color parameters (L, a, b), total color difference (E), whiteness index (WI) and light transmission are analyzed. As can be seen from Table 3, alginate films are the brightest while pectin and protein films have a yellowish colour.

They have a significant decrease in L values and an increase in b and E values (p<0.05). We assume that colour differences are due to the differences in types and properties of the biopolymers, as well as to the influence of the cross-linking agents.

Light transmission (LT) was measured to determine light barrier properties. The highest LT value is measured for the gelatin film, while the lowest – for the other protein film – collagen, the difference being statistically significant (p<0.05). The light transmission value of the alginate film is close to the that of the gelatin film and comparatively higher than those of collagen and pectin based films. In composite films, LT decreases with the increase in the percentage content of pectin. To our knowledge, data on light transmission values, measured at wavelength of 560 nm is only available in work of Ogur and Erkan (2015). The TL values of gelatin and collagen films in our study are similar to those reported by the authors for gelatin and collagen films.

Table 3. Colour parameter and light transmission (LT) of biopolymer films*

/Films	L	a	b	Δ	WI	LT,%
C	65,72±0,33	-0,87±0,04	8,53±0,09	30,03±0,15	64,47±0,31	21,70±0,01
G	67,49±0,34	0,66±0,01	17,22±0,10	32,22±0,16	62,87±0,32	61,10±0,01
AG	83,94±0,47	-1,61±0,01	1,53±0,01	10,85±0,09	83,60±0,71	60,40±0,01
P	65,40±0,32	-1,36±0,02	5,94±0,09	29,69±0,14	64,71±0,32	47,00 ±0,01
AG-P ₁	74,00±0,37	-0,76±0,01	1,91±0,01	20,50±0,10	74,00±0,37	57,40±0,01
AG-P ₂	71,69±0,36	-0,90±0,01	1,67±0,02	22,76±0,12	71,63±0,35	49,10±0,01
AG-P ₃	68,20±0,34	-0,69±0,01	2,18±0,04	26,26±0,24	68,03±0,40	48,00 ±0,01

* Data reported are average values ± standard deviations

Mechanical properties

The mechanical characteristics of films and coatings directly affect their quality and functional properties. The most important parameters in these tests are tensile strength (TS) and elongation at ultimate strength (E). TS is an estimate of the mechanical strength due to the cohesive forces between the polymer chains in the film structure. E expresses the maximum change in length of the test material before tearing, expressed as a percentage of the original length of the undeformed sample.

The data obtained show that the films have good structural and mechanical characteristics (Figures 1 and 2). Protein films were found to have a tensile strength (TS) of 3.24 MPa (collagen) and 10.54 MPa (gelatin films). The results of the elongation at ultimate strength test (E) varied from 32.08% to 173.4%. For alginate films TS was 18.30 MPa, and -78.14 %, while for pectin films the values of TS were much lower: TS - 2.21 MPa, and for - much higher (273.3%).

In composite films made from alginate-pectin mixtures in a ratio of 1:2; 1:1; 2:1, there was a significant improvement in mechanical properties compared to mono-component alginate and pectin based films. The best results were found for mixtures with a ratio of 1:1 - TS - 53.52 MPa and - 34.47%.

The mechanical strength of the developed gelatin and collagen films corresponds to the data quoted in literature (De Carvalho and Grosso, 2006). TS values for alginate films are similar to those of Olivas and Barbosa-Cánovas (2008), but differ from other data (Benavides et al., 2012), as lower TS values and higher E values can be explained by differences in biopolymer concentration, plasticizer applied, and

(TS)
TS

(E).

2).

(TS) - 3.24 MPa () 10.54 MPa
().

() 32.08 %
173.4%. TS

18.30 MPa, -78.14 %, TS
: - 2.21 MPa,

(273.3%).

1:2; 1:1; 2:1

1:1 TS 53.52 MPa
- 34.47 %.

(De Carvalho and Grosso, 2006). TS

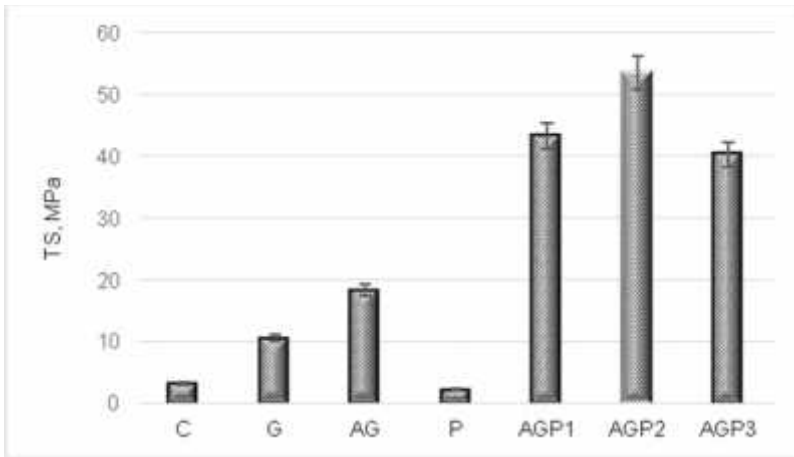
Olivas and Barbosa-Cánovas (2008),

(Benavides et al., 2012), TS

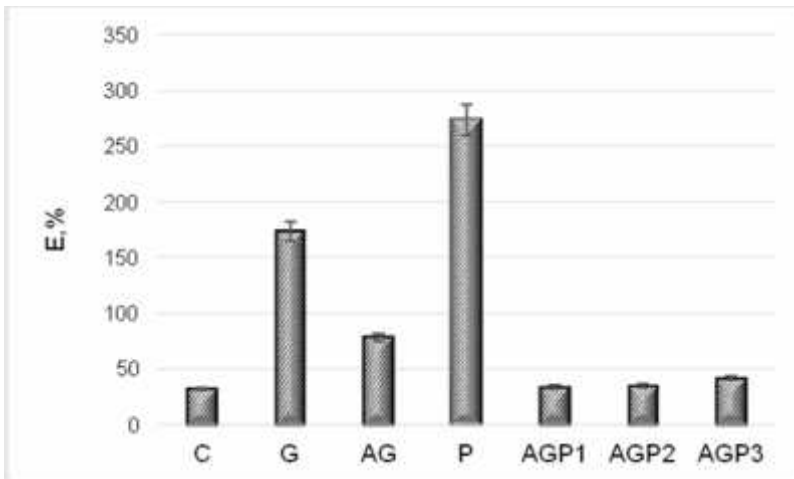
crosslinking method.

The values for the mechanical properties of the resulting biopolymer films (protein, polysaccharide and composite) are comparable to those of synthetic films such as low density polyethylene with TS values of 8.2 to 31.4 MPa (umar et al., 2010), high density polyethylene with values of 22-31 MPa and polypropylene with TS 31-38 MPa (Rhim, 2012).

TS
31.4 MPa (umar et al, 2010),
22-31 MPa
MPa (Rhim, 2012).
TS 31-38



1. (TS)
Fig. 1. Tensile strength (TS) of the biopolymer films



2. (E)
Fig. 2. Elongation at ultimate strength (E) of the biopolymer films

CONCLUSIONS

- The end products of the proposed
- technology are environmentally friendly
- films derived from biopolymers from
- renewable sources. Of the samples
- tested, the best structural and mechanical
- characteristics were obtained in alginate-
- pectin mixtures in 1:2; 1:1 and 2:1 ratios.
- Significant improvement in mechanical
- properties compared to monocomponent
- alginate-based and pectin-based films
- was observed. All developed films are a
- good basis for including antimicrobial and
- antioxidant substances of plant origin or
- other natural functional ingredients, which
- can increase the nutritional value and
- improve the quality of the food packaged
- in them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science under the National Research Programme "Healthy Foods for a Strong Bio-Economy and Quality of Life" approved by DCM # 577 / 17.08.2018".

DCM # 577 / 17.08.2018.

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¹ “ . ”
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Establishment the Effect of Waste Lime Materials on the Yield and Quality of Plant Production

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Original scientific paper

Received: 17.04.2019

Accepted: 13.06.2019

Published: 05.09.2019

SUMMARY

- Pot experiment was conducted to establish the effect of lime sludge and ash from wood which is the secondary product from "Ognyanovo K" output. It was established the effect on the yield and quality of crop production from corn and green beans. Several norms of lime was tested: adding studied materials into the soil in amount necessary to neutralize ½ of exchangeable acidity, double exchange acidity and the total acidity (H_{8,2}).
- The results of the pot experiments found, that by increasing the rate of lime materials the yield of two tested crops is increased in comparison to the controls variants. This trend is well noticeable in variants with added wood ash.
 - The highest yield for both crops are produced by variants with double aluminum exchangeable acidity.

The chemical characterization of plant production in two indicator crops found, that the measured values are in optimal concentrations and is not presenting a risk for consumption by animals and human.

Key words: lime materials, acid soils, chemical characterization of crop production, corn, green beans

INTRODUCTION

The process of making the soils acidity is a process with unfavourable results for their fertility and the development of the plants, so that by low values of pH of the soil the plants are depressed, and by very low levels of pH the plants died (Nikolov et al., 2004). In the acid soils the development of the plants can be limited from different specific soil chemical factors. The toxicity of aluminum and manganese and the deficit of calcium, magnesium, nitrogen and phosphorus are probably the most important limiting factors for the development of the crops in the acid soils. (Ganev, 1990; Taneva and Vladeva, 2004). In this case it is important to make a correction the acid reaction of the soil with import of different kinds of meliorates with the aim to receive quality production over acid soils (Ganev, 1990; Baligar et al., 1991; Borisov and Dinev, 2000).

By our and in the world practice is determined, that by irregular and liming over the norms, the depression by the development of the crops and decrease of the crop yield production are higher in comparison of the direct influence of the acid-manganese characteristic (Donev et al., 1990).

The aim of this research is to determine the influence of the lime sludge and ashes from the wood in the production firm "Ognyanovo K" Ltd over the crop yields production and the quality of the maize and green beans by the pot experiments.

(Nikolov et al., 2004).

(Ganev, 1990; Taneva and Vladeva, 2004).

(Ganev, 1990, Baligar et al., 1991, Borisov and Dinev, 2000).

(Donev et al., 1990).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

/ / -	- For determination of the effect of the both waste products – calcium precipitant /lime sludge/ and ashes from the wood is made pot experiment with two tested crops – maize and green beans over acid soil from Zvanitchevo – village, Pazardshik region. The estimation of both products and the realized changes in the acid characteristics after the ending of the pot experiments are shown in another article /Zlatareva and Marinova, 2016/.
, -	.
, .	-
-	-
2016/. /Zlatareva and rinova,	-
, :	-
1. -	-
2. -	-
NPK 3. 0,5	-
, + NPK	-
4. 2,0	-
, + NPK	-
5. 8,2 + NPK	-
, 300 mg.kg ⁻¹ , NH ₄ NO ₃ ,	-
(2 4)2.2 2 , KCl	-
. - 3 kg. 3	-
, 2SO ₄ 30% 2O ₂ .	-
- “ ”	-
20% HCl	-

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

– Influence of the using of lime sludge and ashes from wood over the crop yield production from tested plants – maize and green beans.

After the harvesting of the experiments is determined the production of biomass from over soil of the tested plants and it is made mathematical-statistical calculations of the received information. By the experiment the fresh biomass of the plants is determined in grams for every container. The pot experiments show us that the maize and the green beans are developing normally over soil with the both kind of meliorates.

From the results, given in Table 1, can be shown that with the increase of the norms of the lime materials /lime sludge and ashes/ increases the crop yield production from the both tested plants in comparison to the control variants /Borisov et al., 1997, Nikolov and Zlatareva, 2007/. By the highest norm of the meliorates it can be shown slow decrease of the crop yield production. Probably reason of the depression of the development of the maize plant is disturb of the balance by the income and assimilation of the food elements from the plants by great increase of the pH of the soil. By the maize the highest middle crop yield production from container is received by the variant 14 – limed with ashes in norms 2 times by exchangeable Al +NPK. It is shown the difference by the received biomass from maize between the both meliorates. By the use of ashes from wood the crop yield production is greater in comparison to this by utilization of lime sludge for the variants by using of lime with 0,5 and 2 times for exchangeable aluminum. This is probably as a result from the better agro-chemical parameters of the ashes.

Variant	Al	NPK	Yield (g)
1	0	0	14
2	0,5	2	14
3	0,5	2	14
4	0,5	2	14
5	0,5	2	14
6	0,5	2	14
7	0,5	2	14
8	0,5	2	14
9	0,5	2	14
10	0,5	2	14
11	0,5	2	14
12	0,5	2	14
13	0,5	2	14
14	0,5	2	14
15	0,5	2	14
16	0,5	2	14
17	0,5	2	14
18	0,5	2	14
19	0,5	2	14
20	0,5	2	14
21	0,5	2	14
22	0,5	2	14
23	0,5	2	14
24	0,5	2	14
25	0,5	2	14
26	0,5	2	14
27	0,5	2	14
28	0,5	2	14
29	0,5	2	14
30	0,5	2	14

1.

Table 1. Yield green mass of the test crops in grams of container

Variants	-st repetition	-nd repetition	-rd repetition
/ Lime sludge			
a / Test crop corn			
1. Control	35,88	40,08	29,40
2. Control +NPK	51,12	56,66	45,96
3. Lime sludge by $\frac{1}{2}$ from exch. AI +NPK	53,78	64,48	45,89
4. Lime sludge 2 times from exch, AI +NPK	60,74	68,16	52,76
5. Lime sludge by $\frac{8,2}{8,2}$ +NPK	50,62	62,64	59,26
/ Test crop green beans			
6. Control	11,80	11,85	10,37
7. Control +NPK	20,82	24,18	20,66
8. Lime sludge by $\frac{1}{2}$ from exch. AI +NPK	30,60	28,84	21,52
9. Lime sludge 2 times from exch, AI +NPK	30,41	29,00	22,80
10. Lime sludge by $\frac{8,2}{8,2}$ +NPK	26,78	23,24	22,66
/ Ash wood			
/ Test crop corn			
11. Control	37,60	42,10	40,74
12. Control +NPK	61,32	65,38	46,04
13. Ashes by $\frac{1}{2}$ from exch. AI +NPK	71,36	63,20	66,48
14. Ashes 2 times from exch, AI +NPK	72,02	71,52	68,44
15. Ashes by $\frac{8,2}{8,2}$ +NPK	56,62	58,18	55,04
/ Test crop green beans			
16. Control	15,46	11,00	11,08
17. Control +NPK	26,78	30,76	30,74
18. Ashes by $\frac{1}{2}$ from exch. AI +NPK	30,36	33,02	29,82
19. Ashes 2 times from exch, AI +NPK	38,04	31,29	29,54
20. Ashes by $\frac{8,2}{8,2}$ +NPK	26,8	28,92	31,66

By the green beans the quantity of the crop yield production increases with the increases with the norm of the imported meliorates. Higher crop yield production is by the utilization of ashes. Like by maize, the greatest biomass is received by the variants with liming with ashes in the norm 2 times by

<p>AI - 32,96 g.</p> <p>.</p> <p>, / oncheva et al., 2015a; 2015b/.</p> <p>,</p> <p>,</p> <p>,</p>	<p>-</p> <p>,</p>	<p>exchangeable AI - 32,96 g. By the highest norm of meliorates and by the green beans can be shown slow depression in the crop yields production,</p> <p>For estimation of the influence of the soils fertilizer over the crop yield production by maize and green beans it is made dispersion analyze of the received data. /Toncheva et al., 2015a; 2015b/.</p> <p>The results of the statistical calculation show, that the influence of the controlled lime sludge over the crop production from maize, imported as a soil fertilizer, is statistical determined by probably mistake from $p < 1\%$. The determination of the differences in the crop production is only between the control and the all other variants, so between the other variants there are no determined differences.</p>
<p>p<0,1%.</p> <p>,</p> <p>NPK</p> <p>4 (0,5</p> <p>AI + NPK 2</p> <p>AI + NPK).</p> <p>,</p> <p>,</p> <p>3 (0,5</p> <p>AI + NPK 0,5</p> <p>AI + NPK) / 2/.</p>	<p>-</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>0,5</p> <p>0,5</p> <p>2/.</p>	<p>It is determined, that the influence of the tested fertilizer ashes over the crop production of maize is statistical determined by level of probably $p < 0,1\%$. It exists determination of the differences between the control and all other variants of fertilization and the variants with imported NPK and the variants 3 and 4 (with ashes by 0,5 exchangeable AI + NPK and ashes 2 times from the exchangeable AL+NPK). By the other variants they are no determined difference of the crop production.</p> <p>By the complex analyze of the data for the crop production of maize fresh biomass with imported lime sludge and ashes is determined, that the determinate differences by the crop production, received by the both fertilizers, exist only by variants 3 (lime sludge by 0,5 from the exchangeable AI + NPK and ashes by 0,5 from exchangeable AI + NPK) /Table 2/.</p>

2.

Table 2. Comparative assessment of dispersion analysis of data on yields of corn – lime sludge and ash

Source of lime	DF	SS	SS (%)	S ²	F- / % F-relation/ %
Common	29	3947,003	100,00	-	-
Variants (V)	4	2718,130	68,87	679,53	18,131***
(F)	1	324,131	8,21	324,13	8,648 **
V*F	4	155,163	3,93	38,791	1,035
/ Mistake	20	749,580	18,99	37,479	-

Variants of fertilization	Kind fertilizer	(g . . .) Middle crop production
1	1 lime sludge	35,120
2	2 ashes	40,147
		51,247
		57,580
		54,717
		67,013
		60,553
		70,660
		57,507
		56,613

5%= 10,427

1%=14,221

0,1%=19,245

p<0,1%.

0,1%).

(1%

2

Al
Al /

3/.

The dispersion analyze of the data for the crop production of green beans shows, that the influence of the imported lime sludge as a soil fertilizer and with ashes, is statistical determined by probably mistake p<0,1%. By imported lime sludge it is not determined a difference for the crop production by the variants with imported fertilizer. It exists only differences between the control and the all other variants by the experiments (determined by probably 0,1%). By experiments with ashes the results are the analogous.

By the complex analyze of the data from the crop production from green beans, received by the both experiments it is shown, that the determination difference is only by the variants 4 (1% by import of ashes 2 times by exchangeable Al and of limed sludge 2 times of exchangeable AL) /Table 3/.

3.

Table 3. Comparative assessment of dispersion analysis of data on yields of green beans - lime sludge and ash

Source of lime	DF	SS	SS (%)	S ²	F- / % F-relation/ %
/ Common	29	1674,957	100,00	-	-
(V)	4	1300,384	77,64	325,096	36,124***
Variants (V)					
(F)	1	162,122	9,68	162,122	18,015***
V*F	4	32,464	1,94	8,116	-
/ Mistake	20	179,987	10,74	8,999	-

Variants of fertilization	Kind of fertilization	(g . . .) Middle crop production
1	1 1 lime sludge	11,340
1	2 2 ashes	12,513
2	1	21,887
2	2	29,427
3	1	26,987
3	2	31,067
4	1	27,403
4	2	32,957
5	1	24,227
5	2	29,127

5%= 5,109

1%=6,968

0,1%=9,43

4 (, - 2)
Al Al 2) ,
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/
e
/Begman, 1996/
4.

The middle crop production, received by all experiments, is highest by variant 4 (imported ashes by 2 time from the exchangeable Al and of limed sludge by 2 times of exchangeable Al for the both tested plants), but statistical it is not determined the difference between this crop production and the received by the other two variants of fertilization – variants 3 and 5.

B/ Chemical characteristic of the crop production

The optimal content of food elements by the tested plants is shown in the Table 4 /Begman, 1996/

Table 4. Optimal content of basic chemical elements in the aboveground part of green beans and corn

Crops	Cu	Zn	Mn	P	K	Ca	Mg	N
	mg/kg Dry matter			%				
Green beans, Start of flowering	7-15	30-70	40-150	0,35-0,60	3,0-4,5	0,3-1,0	0,25-0,60	3,5-5,0
Maize 40-60 cm high	6-12	20-60	30-150	0,30-0,60	3,5-5,0	0,3-1,0	0,15-0,30	2,5-5,0

g.kg⁻¹.

38 61 g.kg⁻¹

1,7 4,9

/Nikova, 2008/.

/ 5/.

5.

Table 5. Chemical composition of corn and green beans

Variants	Zn	Cu	Mn	Fe	P	K	Ca	Mg	N
	mg.kg-1				g.kg-1				
Test crop corn									
1.	25	4	50	133	2,8	29	4,3	2,5	4,8
2.	40	6	122	155	4,9	39	7,5	3,3	11,0
3.	27	3	98	147	4,1	38	6,8	3,4	11,5
4.	16	5	52	146	4,0	40	6,9	3,5	12,5
5.	21	5	28	128	3,2	34	6,9	3,7	10,8
Test crop green beans									
6.	30	5	87	266	2,4	26	8,0	3,5	8,5
7.	43	6	220	522	4,5	32	38	5,3	16,0
8.	43	6	343	385	4,5	26	46	6,0	17,2
9.	32	6	115	299	4,3	30	44	5,2	17,9
10.	41	5	76	410	4,1	33	41	4,5	17,0
Test crop corn									
11.	23	3	40	126	1,7	28	4,2	3,1	6,2
12.	36	5	116	143	4,4	38	6,8	3,4	7,3
13.	34	5	95	149	4,6	40	7,1	3,4	12,5
14.	34	4	51	142	3,6	40	7,6	3,5	12,7
15.	25	5	41	119	3,5	42	7,8	3,5	9,8
Test crop green beans									
16.	32	12	74	501	2,8	28	27	4,2	11,6
17.	39	16	167	302	4,2	31	38	4,7	16,7
18.	45	6	177	390	4,4	29	50	6,0	27,0
19.	42	5	167	284	4,6	32	45	5,3	20,3
20.	31	7	91	268	4,2	36	41	4,9	19,2

From the plant analyze of the leaf mass from maize it is shown, that with the increase of the norms of lime sludge and the ashes, the content of the common nitrogen in the plant mass increases slow. The content of P in the plants by the both meliorates is between 1,7 and 4,9 g.kg⁻¹. The content of K is between 38 and 61 g.kg⁻¹ and has no clear expressed regularity to increase its concentration in the texture of the plant by the increase of the norm of the meliorates. By the variant with meliorates the content of heavy metals by nearly all tested texture of the plants maize decrease as a result of blocking of the heavy metals in the soil /Nikova, 2008/. The trends is opposite by calcium and magnesium /Table 5/.

(N,)

The measured content of food elements (common N, and) by green beans by using of the both meliorates is

4.

corresponding to the optimal values in the Table 4. Their changes for the variants have the same trends as by maize. Calcium considerable is concentrated in the texture of the plants of the green beans and is over the optimal content. It is not shown clear expressed regularity by the concentration of iron by the green beans after the made meliorations. The received data are diverse.

CONCLUSIONS

1.

1. The results from the pot experiments determinate, that with the increase of the norm of the lime materials /lime sludge and ashes from wood/ increases the crop production by the tested plants in comparison with the control. By the highest norm – liming with 8,2 it is shown slow decrease of the crop production. By the green beans the crop production increases slow with the increase of the norm of meliorate. Higher crop production is received by using of ashes from wood. The highest and statistical determined crop production for the both tested plants is received by variants, which are meliorated with ashes from wood in the norm of liming 2 times by the exchangeable Al.

2.

(N,)

2. The measured content of food elements by the plants (common N, and) in the test with maize is compared to the given optimal values by the both meliorates. Under the optimal values are the values of microelements cooper and zinc. By the green beans with the increase of the norm of lime sludge and ashes from wood, the concentration of the food elements in the plant mass increases. By microelements the data are diverse. Totally, the chemical characteristic of the crop production from the both tested plants determinate that the estimated concentration of food elements and of the heavy metals are in the limited area and can be used as a food for

human and animals.

3.

- 3. The organized studies for estimation of the tested meliorates calcium carbonate precipitant /lime sludge/ and ashes from wood are the base for determination them as a good meliorates for correction of the unfavourable characteristics of acid soils and have no harmful influence over the quality and the safety of the crop production.

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***Ocimum americanum* L. ()**

1* , 2 , 3 ,
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1 1407 , . “ ” 53,
2 ” 29, .3, 4000 ’ ,
3 4122 , . ” ” 2,

Study of the Antifungal Activity of Bioactive Extracts of *Ocimum americanum* L.

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Original scientific paper

Received: 08.04.2019

Accepted: 30.07.2019

Published: 05.09.2019

SUMMARY

- Basil is a traditional herb and spice
- for our country. The shoot of the plant is
- used, most often the leaves in fresh form,
- picked during flowering and for drying –
- before flowering.

- Basil contains essential oils, glycosides,
- tannins, organic acids, mineral salts.

- The aim of the present study is to
- investigate the extracts containing
- Eugenol obtained from lemongrass basil
- in leaves grown *in vitro* and under field

vitro

- conditions by the low temperature
- extraction method for their antifungal
- activity. With Eugenol are treated seeds of
- cereals and legumes infected with fungal
- phytopathogens isolated in the Laboratory
- of Phytopathology of the Institute of Plant
- Genetic Resources - Sadovo in order to
- prove its practical applicability as a
- biofungicide for treatment of seeds for
- storage under the conditions of medium
- and long term storage.

Key words: basil, Eugenol, biofungicide, antifungal activity, fungal phytopathogens

INTRODUCTION

Fusarium is caused by fungi of the genus *Fusarium*. Cerebral fusariosis (*F. culmorum*) occurs in three forms – rotting germination, rotting the plant foundations and damaging the class. The first symptoms are most common in the fall – brown germination of the germs leading to early rotting.

Cereal fusariosis is a disease of economic importance mainly in the case of attack of spikes. The disease occurs on separate clusters, but under favourable conditions may extend to individual sectors or the whole spike. The attacked spikes gradually fade, earlier turning green to pale cream to pink.

These symptoms are very different from healthy, non-infected classes. In the infected parts of the class, the grains remain white and whitish. Under wet conditions, a pink mold is formed on them.

The control of this pathogen is of particular importance for maintaining crop yields (Arikpo Ikpi Okoi et al., 2013). A major challenge for agricultural science is the application of biological methods for disease control.

In this trend, in recent years, when

Fusarium.
(*F. culmorum*)

(Arikpo Ikpi Okoi et al., 2013).

growing plants on organic farms, solutions have been sought using substances isolated from natural sources. An example is the use of extracts obtained from traditionally strong plants with proven antimicrobial properties, such as the various types of essential oil species.

With a clearly expressed antifungal action are those essential oil plants that produce the substance Eugenol (Basil, Cloves, Lilac, Oilseed Rose, etc.) (Neveen Helmy Abou El-Soud et al., 2015; Renata-Maria Sumalan et al., 2013).

Basil is a traditional herb and spice for our country with wide application. The shoot part of the plant is used, most often the leaves in fresh form, harvested during flowering, and for drying – before flowering. They contain essential oils, glycosides, tannins, organic acids, mineral salts.

The purpose of the present work is to investigate the extracts containing Eugenol obtained from the leaves of lemon basil (*Ocimum basilicum* L.) grown in vitro and in garden conditions by the low temperature extraction method for their antifungal activity.

With Eugenol are treated cereal and leguminous seeds contaminated with fungal phytopathogens isolated in the laboratory of Phytopathology of the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources - Sadovo to prove it's practical applicability as a biofungicide for long-term storage conditions for medium storage.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The extract used for treatment is a fungal pathogen of the genus *Fusarium*, obtained by enzymatic treatment of *O. basilicum* leaf mass in aqueous solution with 1% citric acid added, without the use

(*Ocimum basilicum* L.), in vitro

Fusarium

O. basilicum, 1%

18-22 °C.

Fusarium culmorum

“
”

O. basilicum *Fuzarium culmorum*.

28

100µl
1.10⁶

2
: 1.

; 2.

10 000 / min.,

7 °C, 10 min.

of organic solvents. The enzyme treatment was carried out at a temperature of 18-22 °C.

For the purpose of this experiment the fungal pathogen *Fusarium culmorum* was grown in the plant pathology laboratory of IRGR - Sadovo. In the Microbiology Laboratory of the “P. Hiledarski” investigated the antimicrobial activity of the resulting extract of *O. basilicum* against *Fuzarium culmorum*. For this purpose, the working strain was cultured on liquid Potato Dextrose medium at 28 degrees. The agar diffusion method was used by surface plating on agar medium with 100µl of seed containing 1.10⁶ spores per milliliter determined using a homocytometer. There are 2 types of extracts used in three repetitions: 1. A directly separated sample from the enzyme-treated solution; 2. The supernatant is separated from the enzyme-treated solution after centrifugation at 10,000 rpm at 7 °C for 10 min.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The activity of *Ocimum basilicum* extract against *Fuzarium culmorum* was investigated. For this purpose, the pathogen was grown on a liquid potato dextrose medium at 28 °C.

The agar diffusion method was used by surface culture on an agar medium with 100 µl of seed containing 1.10⁶ spores per milliliter determined using a homocytometer. 2 types of extracts were used, with only extract 1 showing a marked delay in the development of the strain used, since in the treated area of 20 mm the strain did not form spores during the cultivation period. All experiments were performed in 3 replicates.

In the sample directly extracted from the enzyme-treated solution, all the substances present in the *O. basilicum* plant are present, including the essential

Ocimum basilicum *Fuzarium culmorum*.

28 °C.

100 µl
1.10⁶

2
1

20 mm

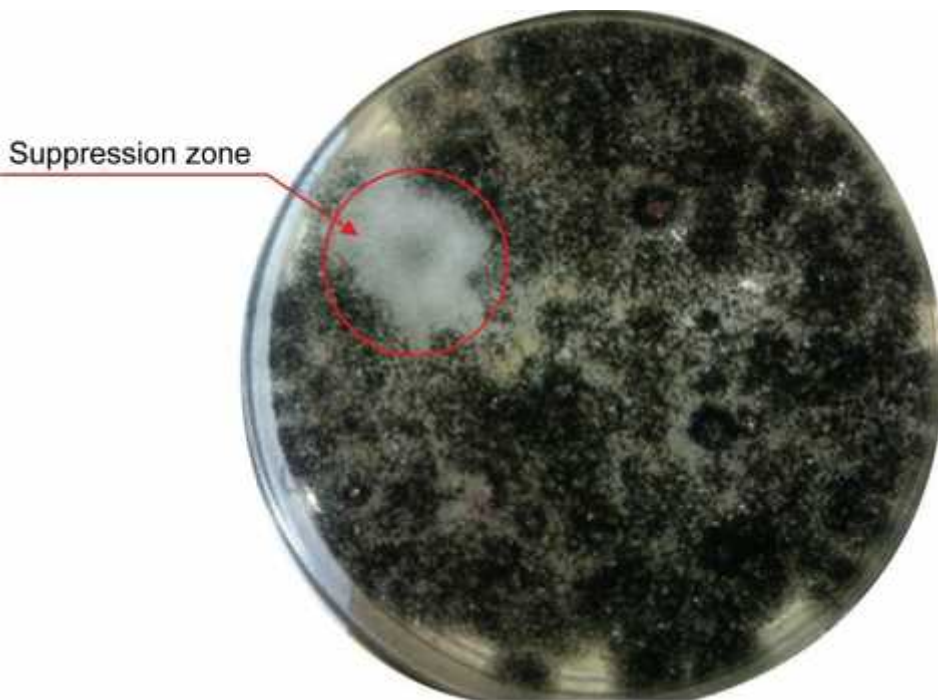
3

O. basilicum,

oil components, which are most likely due to the antimicrobial action.

2

In extract 2, the antimicrobial agents were transferred to the precipitate after centrifugation, so the supernatant did not show such action.



. 1.

F. culmorum

Fig. 1. Result of treatment of *F. culmorum* with a directly separated sample of the enzyme-treated solution

CONCLUSIONS

From the results obtained, it can be concluded that in the development of methods for the preparation of biological preparations for plant diseases using the method of enzymatic digestion, the whole extract obtained, without separation, should be used.

The present experiment demonstrates the antimicrobial activity of an extract of *O. basilicum* obtained by enzymatic digestion against the pathogen *F. culmorum*.

O. basilicum,

culmorum.

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