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CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
GAMMA IRRADIATED FOOD CONTACT
RESIN POLYMERS

Z. Irawati, E. Miller, J. Hannecart, A. Chandrasekhar
and G. Sadler

KARAKTERISTIKA KIMIA DARI POLIMER RESIN BAHAN PENGEMAS MAKANAN YANG DIIRADIASI GAMMA

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ABSTRAK

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yaitu etilen vinil alcohol, Vista CON dan Nilon 12 dihaluskan, lalu dikondisikan
n oven vakum pada suhu 40°C semalam, dan diiradiasi dengan dosis 25 kGy p
kamar. Sampel kemudian diekstraksi dengan alat GC/MS yang dihubungkan den
Automatic Thermal Desorption (ATD). Hasil yang diperoleh kemudian di karakterisasi
identifikasi sesuai dengan referensi pustaka *data base*. Komponen yang ditemu
agian besar adalah terdiri dari unsur hidrokarbon dan turunannya. Larutan standar y
akan untuk mengidentifikasi resin yang diiradiasi diformulasikan dan diganda
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el dan 2 larutan standar yang disertakan. Hasil yang diperoleh menunjukkan bah
agian besar jenis komponen radiolitik dari sampel yang diteliti terdiri dari alkol
id, keton dan asam karboksilat. Pembentukan komponen tersebut akan bertam
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. Response Factor yang diperoleh berdasarkan konsentrasi atom C yang ditarget
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ABSTRACT

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GAMMA IRRADIATED FOOD CONTACT RESIN POLYMERS. Characterization methods of potential toxic radiolysis products of gamma irradiated three different resin polymers have been carried out. Ethyl alcohol (EVOH), Vista CON, and Nylon 12 resins were ground into fine powder respectively, then conditioned in a vacuum oven at 40°C overnight and followed by gamma irradiation at a dose of 25 kGy room temperature prior to its analysis. The samples were characterized and were extracted on a GC/MS instrument coupled with Automatic Thermoprecipitation (ATD). The individual organic compounds within the polymers both before and after irradiation were identified by using a computerized reference library data base. The compounds observed in irradiated resins were mostly hydrocarbon derivatives. Standard mixture used for these classes was formulated in order to represent multiple of FDA threshold limit value. Various chemical compounds from the predicted radiolytic products i.e. alcohols, acids, aldehydes, ketones, and alkenes were respectively dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane. The

results show that the identified compounds found in irradiated resin polymers were hydrocarbons, alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, and carboxylic acids. It is also obvious from the molecular results that any document applied for analysis as well as GC/MS method, ATR-FTIR, and ATD sequence would give various differences in the retention time, molecular weight, and peak area of each finding compounds. Response Factor based upon concentration of C-atom in the analyte shows an increase by increasing the number of C-atom but it shows a decrease after

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RAK

KARAKTERISTIKA KIMIA DARI POLIMER RESIN BAHAN PENGEMAS MAKANAN YANG DIIRADIASI GAMMA. Metode karakteristik produk radiolisis yang dihasilkan dari paparan racun pada 3 jenis polimer resin yang diiradiasi gamma telah diteliti. Setiap jenis polimer resin, yaitu etilen vinil alkohol, Vista CON dan Nilon 12 dihaluskan, lalu dikondisikan dalam oven vakum pada suhu 40°C semalam, dan diiradiasi dengan dosis 25 kGy pada suhu kamar. Sampel kemudian diekstraksi dengan alat GC/MS yang dihubungkan dengan Atomic Thermal Desorption (ATD). Hasil yang diperoleh kemudian diidentifikasi dan dikarakterisasi dengan menggunakan pustaka *data base*. Komponen yang ditemukan dalam jumlah besar adalah terdiri dari unsur hidrokarbon dan turunannya. Larutan standar yang digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi resin yang diiradiasi diformulasikan dan digandakan dengan *FDA threshold of regulation*. Alkohol, asam, aldehid, keton dan alkena masing-masing dilarutkan ke dalam 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene kemudian dielusikan bersama-sama

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atom C kesepuluh.

RODUCTION

Irradiation is an effective technology for reduction and elimination of foodborne pathogens. Food irradiation recently received an increase in use after FDA approved red meat irradiation in 1997 (FDA,1997). To prevent contamination the food should be pre packaged then irradiated prior to shipping and distribution. Selection of packaging materials for use in food irradiation depends on the performance or stability of the material to chemical changes when it is irradiated at commercial doses. The chemical compounds initially present and/or the degradation products upon irradiation could migrate into food during storage and pose a safety risk. As a result, a pre market safety evaluation by the FDA for the material is required via food additive petition or exemption under the Threshold Regulation Policy. Without evaluation procedures, chemical composition and migration data are required. Because the number of FDA-approved food packaging materials for irradiation is limited and most were approved in the 1960's the suitability and safety for newer packaging materials for irradiation has not been established. This has become an impediment to large scale implementation of food irradiation. Although gamma irradiation is currently the most common process, the packaging material to be used for irradiated foods should be properly

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Three different types of resin polymers, i.e., ethylene vinyl alcohol (EVOH), Vinyon H, and Nylon 12 as selected food packaging materials were ground respectively in a mill, of 0.5 mm diameter, then used as starting samples prior to radiation sterilization. The samples were obtained from food packaging industry in the USA. Qualification data by GC/MS methods and *nbs75k.1* as data base library were applied in order to identify the presence of certain chemical compounds in the irradiated samples. Various organic compounds [1-4] such as alcohols (methanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, 1-butanol, 1-pentanol, 1-hexanol, 3-heptanol, 1-nonanol, 2-nonanol, 1-undecanol, 2-undecanol, 6-undecanol, 1-dodecanol, and 1-pentadecanol), acids (acetic, propanoic, butanoic, pentanoic, heptanoic, octanoic, undecanoic, and pentadecanoic), aldehydes (pentanal, octanal, decanal, dodecanal, and tetradecanal), ketones (2-butanone, methyl isobutyl ketone, 2-heptanone, 2-nonanone, and 2-undecanone), alkanes (pentane, hexane, cyclohexane, n-heptane, n-nonane, n-undecane, n-tridecane, tetradecane, hexadecane, and tetracosane). Standard solutions used were n-undecane (10 ng/10 μ l), n-dodecane (50 μ l/5 ml), and 1 TOR Dibutylphthalate (8.62 μ l/5 ml). Benzophenone

ation treatment

The γ -irradiation was conducted at Sterigenics International, as a commercial irradiator in Schamburg, Illinois using ^{60}Co as a source and the dose rate was 3 kGy/h. Dose uniformity was 1.03. Far west dosimeter was applied during the radiation process.

ation of radiolytic products and relative response factor

Both irradiated and unirradiated samples were respectively extracted for 1 and 20 minutes using a GC/MS thermal extraction system in order to get good separation and peak resolution. The obtained chromatogram, and to assure the best representation for polar and non polar compounds. Tetracosane was applied as internal standard at level of 10 ng/10 μl . Regarding the above results, the work was then continued to develop quantification method based on relative response factor. Relative response Factors can be calculated according to the following equation :

$$\text{RRF} = \frac{\text{AcCis}}{\text{AisCc}} \quad [5]$$

The obtaining RRF value of each organic compound is considered acceptable in $RRF < 0.76$. The various organic compounds were separately prepared at different multiples of the FDA's USA Threshold of Regulation (TOR) values i.e., 0.25; 0.50; 1.00; 5.00; 10.00; 25.00 respectively. Calculation of individual internal standards were prepared equivalent to 1 TOR in each syringe injection. Benzophenone at 25 TOR was prepared by 25 ml ($\cong 1.1148\text{g}$) of the standard solution, and benzophenone at 1 TOR was prepared according to the following method : 4.46 g benzophenone was diluted in 25 ml organic solvent. The quantity (g) for 1 TOR in 5 ml solution was : $1.1148/(25 \times 5) = 8.92 \times 10^{-3}$ g. Final concentration of 1 TOR benzophenone was : $(0.00892 \times 25)/4.46 \mu\text{l} = 50 \mu\text{l}$. Dibutylphthalate has purity of 99% degree of purity. Volume at 1TOR of this standard in 5 ml solvent was calculated as : $(8.92 \times 10^{-3})/(1.045 \times 0.99) \mu\text{l} = 8.62 \mu\text{l}$.

The instrument condition used for qualification sample resin polymers was set up as follows : temperature injection, detector and oven temperatures were at 260, 280, and 325°C respectively. Purge time was 1 min; holding time 6 min. at 12°C then elevated to 250°C and held for 49 min. The carrier gas used was Helium at flow speed 1 ml/min. Type of column was a 60 m ZB wax with internal diameter of 0.25mm. Maximum elution time for sample was 70 min. The dynamic thermal extraction in the samples was carried out at different times, i.e., 1 and 20 min. respectively. A GCMS

ities, presence of additive, and temperature applied during measurement. Unsaturated carboxylic acid production shows an increase by increasing time induced by thermal irradiation. The result in the irradiated sample also shows the increasing some aliphatic carbons as well as saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons. However, the presence of antioxidant or other filler compounds added in the resin during the process in the factory such as butylated hydroxy toluene (BHT), $C_{15}H_{24}O$, play an important role in order to reduce the oxidation process during irradiation [1-3]. The action of antioxidants might be to combine with radiation generated free radicals in the irradiated resin polymer or to transform free radicals into inactive species. BHT might inhibit the formation of carboxylic acids in irradiated polymers. BHT is insoluble in water, freely soluble in some alcohol groups, and other hydrocarbon solvents. BHT is more soluble in food oil and fats [6].

The result shows in Table 3 indicating the presence of caprolactam ($C_6H_{11}NO$) in irradiated Nylon 12. caprolactam is a non-reacted monomer and having low molecular weight. It is soluble in water and chlorinated hydrocarbons, cyclohexene, and petroleum fractions. It is used for synthetic fibres of the polyamide type in the plastic manufacture. It is obvious from the particular results that any document applied during the analysis using GC/MS method should include injection temperature, ramp, and type of column, ATD method and ATD sequence.

Give significant differences in the elution pattern, retention time, and peak area of

- c. Alcohols : methanol (± 5.88), isopropyl alcohol (± 6.76), 1-propanol (± 9.67), butanol (± 12.04), 1-pentanol (± 14.06), 3-heptanol (± 14.73), 1-heptanol (± 17.01), 2-nonanol/undecanol (± 17.83), and 1-pentadecanol (± 25.87).
- d. Acids : acetic (± 17.01), propanoic (± 18.12), butyric (± 19.19), valeric (± 20.43), heptanoic (± 22.60), nonanoic (± 24.78), undecanoic (± 25.52), and pentadecanoic (± 27.47).
- e. Aldehydes : pentanal (± 8.18), octanal (± 14.72), decanal (± 17.66), and undecanal (± 18.93).
- f. Ketones : 2-butanone (± 5.90), methyl isobutyl ketone (± 8.75), 2-heptanone (± 8.75), 5-nonanone (± 15.24), and 2-nonanone/2-undecanone (± 16.17).
- g. Alkanes : pentane (± 2.20), hexane (± 4.36), cyclohexane (± 6.83), n-heptane (± 8.51), n-nonane (± 13.45), n-undecane (± 16.89), tridecane (± 19.62), tetradecane (± 20.84), hexadecane (± 23.10), and tetracosane (± 25.11).

The relative response factor was calculated using the formulation resulted that the RTF show an increase by increasing the number of atom carbon, but the RTF show a decrease after Carbon number 8-10. This result suggested that the injector temperature has an effect on the value of RTF. This result suggested that the injector temperature has an effect on the value of RTF.

Table 1. Identification of organic compounds in irradiated EVOH by thermal extraction at 1 and 20 minutes respectively analysed by GC/MS

Resin Polymers/extr. (min).	Type of identified compounds*	
	Control	Irradiated at 25 kGy
EVOH/(1 min).		
	CO ₂	CO ₂
	- α methyl styrene	- α methyl styrene (-50%)
	cyclohexanol 3,5 dimethyl	-
	acetic acid	acetic acid
	butanoic acid butyl ester	-
	Propanoic acid 2 methyl-2 ethyl 2-hyd.	Propanoic acid 2 methyl butyl ester
	Propanoic acid 2 methyl 2,2-dimethyl	Propanoic acid 2 methyl 2,2-dimethyl
	Butylated hydroxy toluene	Butylated hydroxy toluene
	phenol	Phenol
	-	Decanoic acid
	2,4diphenyl-4methyl(1(E) pentene	2,4diphenyl-4methyl(1(E) pentene
	eicosane	-
	docosane	Docosane
	Dibutyl-phtalate	Dibutyl-phtalate
	tetracosane	Tetracosane
	Heptacosane (-50%)	Heptacosane
	-	Heptacosane
	-	Benzoic acid
EVOH/(20min).		
	CO ₂	CO ₂
	Isopropyl alcohol	-
	ethanol	Ethanol
	2-butanol	2-butanol
	Benzene-1-methylethyl (25%)	Benzene-1-methylethyl
	3-hexanol	3-hexanol
	Benzene-tert-butyl-ol	Benzene-tert-butyl
	-	Benzene-2-methylpropyl

Table 1. Identification of organic compounds in irradiated EVOH by thermal extraction at 1 and 20 minutes respectively analysed by GC/MS (cont. 'd)

Resin Polymers/extr. (min).	Type of identified compounds*	
	Control	Irradiated at 25 kGy
EVOH/(20 min).	Hexanoic acid	Hexanoic acid
	Heptanoic acid	Heptanoic acid
	Nonanoic acid	Nonanoic acid
	2,4-diphenyl4-methyl-2(z) pentene	2,4-diphenyl4-methyl-2(z) pentene
	tetracosane	Tetracosane (+10%)
	2,4-diphenyl4-methyl-1(E) pentene	2,4-diphenyl4-methyl-1(E) pentene
	2,4-diphenyl4-methyl-2(E) pentene	2,4-diphenyl4-methyl-2(E) pentene
	Docosane	Docosane
	hentacosane	Hentacosane

- *) 1. bold letters express similar compounds are presence both in control and irradiated samples
 2. percentage number between the bracket expresses increasing (+) or decreasing(-) of peak area.

Table 2. Identification of organic compounds in irradiated Vista CON by thermal extraction at 1 and 20 minutes respectively analysed by GC/MS

Resin Polymers/extr. (min).	Type of identified compounds*	
	Control	Irradiated at 25 kGy
Vista CON (1min).	CO ₂	CO ₂
	-	Dodecane
	-	1-undecene 2-methyl
	-	Tridecane
	Cyclopentane 3-hexyl 1,1-dimethyl	Cyclopentane 3-hexyl 1,1-dimethyl
	-	Tetradecane
	Cyclohexane 1,5-diethenyl	Cyclohexane 1,5-diethenyl
	3-methyl...	

Table 2. Identification of organic compounds in irradiated Vista CON by thermal extraction at 1 and 20 minutes respectively analysed by GC/MS (cont. 'd)

Resin Polymers/extr. (min).	Type of identified compounds*	
	Control	Irradiated at 25 kGy
Vista CON (20 min).	CO ₂	CO ₂ (+150%)
	Dodecane	Dodecane
	Tridecane	Tridecane
	-	1-undecene-2-methyl
	cyclopentane	-
	Tetradecane	Tetradecane
	-	1-dodecanol 2 methyl
	Pentadecane	Pentadecane
	-	2 methyl, 1 tetradecane
	hexadecane	Hexadecane
	-	Hexadecane 2 methyl
	heptadecane	Heptadecane
	octadecane	Octadecane
	nonadecane	Nonadecane
	Butylatedhydroxy toluene	-
	-	Tetradecanal
	-	Docosane
	-	2-heptadecanone
	-	Decanoic acid
	-	Tetracosane
	-	Dodecanoic acid
	phenol	phenol
	-	1-octadecene
	cyclohexadecane	-
	Tetradecanoic acid	Tetradecanoic acid (+150%)
	-	Pentadecanoic acid
	Hexadecanoic acid	Hexadecanoic acid (+200%)
	Octadecanoic acid	Octadecanoic acid (+50%)

*) 1. bold letters express similar compounds are presence both in control and irradiated samples
 2. percentage number between the bracket expresses increasing (+) or decreasing (-) of compound

Table 3. Identification of organic compounds in irradiated Nylon 12 by thermal extraction at 1 and 20 minutes respectively analysed by GC/MS

Resin Polymers/extr. (min).	Type of identified compounds ^{wt}	
	Control	Irradiated at 25 kGy
Nylon 12 (1min).	CO ₂	CO ₂ (+ 50%)
	-	Acetaldehyde
	-	2-butanone
	-	Pentanal
	-	1-butanol
	-	α-methyl styrene
	Acetic acid	Acetic acid (+50%)
	-	Formic acid
	-	Propanoic acid
	-	Butanoic acid
	acetamide	Acetamide (+50%)
	-	Octanoic acid
	hexadecane	-
	-	Nonanoic acid
	docosane	Docosane
	heptadecane	-
	tetracosane	tetracosane
	-	Benzoic acid
	-	Docosane
	-	Hexacosane
-	heneicosane	
Nylon 12 (20 min).	CO ₂	CO ₂
	-	Pentanal
	-	Isopropyl alcohol
	-	1-butanol
	-	Pyridine (%)
	-	Tetradecane
	Acetic acid	Acetic acid
	-	Pentadecane

Table 3. Identification of organic compounds in irradiated Nylon 12 by thermal extraction at 1 and 20 minutes respectively analysed by GC/MS (cont. 'd)

Resin Polymers/extr. (min).	Type of identified compounds*	
	Control	Irradiated at 25 kGy
Nylon 12 (20 min).	Nonanoic acid	Nonanoic acid
	-	caprolactam
	heptadecane	-
	tetracosane	tetracosane
	-	Benzoic acid
	-	Heeneicosane
	heptadecane	-
	tetracosane	tetracosane
	-	Benzoic acid
	-	Heeneicosane
	heptadecane	-
	docosane	docosane
	heneicosane	-
	-	Heptacosane
	-	Dibutylphtalate
	-	benzamide
	Hexadecanoic acid	Hexadecanoic acid

- *) 1. bold letters express similar compounds are presence both in control and irradiated samples
 2. percentage number between the bracket expresses increasing (+) or decreasing (-) of peak area.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from the obtaining results that some radiolytic products have developed in irradiated plastics. The *nbs 75k.1* data bank has the ability in order to identify some individual compounds such as caprolactam found in irradiated nylon, some acids, ketones, alkanes, and alcohols. Further work on the quantification of some radiolytic products in the irradiated plastics based on response factor needs to be done.

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