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(54) Title: METHOD FOR PREPARING PULP FROM CORNSTALK

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a pulp preparing method and, more particularly, to a method for preparing a paper pulp form cornstalks including the steps of high-pressure cooking, beating, dispersion and drying performed in a moderate condition that has little noxious effect on the environment. Using cornstalks as a raw material for paper pulp can replace import of wood raw material, save foreign currency, increase rural income and can make high quality paper similar to Korean paper.

METHOD FOR PREPARING PULP FROM CORNSTALK

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to a pulp making technology using herbaceous plants, more particularly, to a method for making pulp from cornstalk.

Using cornstalks as a raw material for pulp making can replace import of raw wood material, so that it can save foreign currency, increase rural income and make high-quality paper.

At present, Korea, with increasing national income, is a tenth manufacturing country in the world (paper and board production of 5,830,000 tons/year) as well as being a seventh paper consuming country in publications, newspapers, boards for publishing, graft papers and bulk papers. Total amount of pulps to produce papers, however, entirely (100%) depends on foreign markets. Because developing pulp industries will impair forest resources, new pulp materials should be developed. To do so, we should manufacture and process cellulose materials from various plant species and improve their utility value. Species of trees in Korea are not proper for pulp making, domestic wood production for pulp preparing is not enough, and thus raw materials for pulp making can't be secured. Therefore studies to find new turning point are frequently reported.

Conventionally, pulp for paper-making are mostly from wood. However, as recently worldwide shortage of wood resources is deepened, it has become a big issue to manufacture pulp and paper without destroying forests and environment. As a plan to solve this problem, technologies of pulp making from non-wood plant fibres, using one or two years plants as main materials, have been taken notice. To ensure providing materials for pulp making, in China, Middle-East and India, which face the shortage of forests resources, nations widely tend to concentrate on developing pulp material using herbs such as farm wastes and bamboos, and developing pulp manufacturing processes using wastes of sugar cane stalks abolished after sugar production.

Generally, non-wood plants tend to contain lost of pectin, hemi-celluloses and inorganic substances, but a little bit of lignin. In order to make pulp from non-wood plant, chemical, semi-chemical or mechanical methods are used, and

unbleached or bleached pulp can be obtained under very mild conditions compared with wood materials. Each non-wood pulp has different characteristics according to its fibre form, chemical composition, and types and amount of non-fibre cells. Therefore, papers manufactured from non-wood pulp alone or appropriately combined with wood pulps have used in more various usages according to strength, permeance, electrical characteristics, luster, dimension stability and feature of publishing performance, and their utilisations have been extended.

Paper mulberry inner bark, flax, hemp, cotton plant, Manila hemp, and etc. are examples of non-wood plants. There have previously been attempts in the art to provide pulp manufacturing methods using bagasses (as disclosed in Korean Patent Laid-open No. 84-005762), dry pine needles gathered from fallen leaves (in Korean Patent Laid-open No. 91-3216), or rice stalks (in Korean Patent Laid-open Nos. 98-9651 and 93-2604), as law materials for pulp making. In addition, Korean Laid-Open No. 85-5895 discloses a method for preparing a pulp from cigarette stalks.

To the inventor's knowledge, a method for preparing pulp from cornstalks has not been recognised in any document, nor mentioned in any report to date.

Corn cultivated in rural district is used for food or livestock feed. Most cornstalks are crushed and scattered to fertilise the soil, although some of those are used as a livestock. It is seriously required to find the alternative raw materials for preparing pulp, so as to minimize unnecessary foreign currency waste, and need to use farm wastes usefully to increase rural income. There is also a need of developing high-quality paper. Therefore, it is necessary to process cornstalks in novel way and raise their utility value in making pulp or other pulp-like materials.

Now, the present invention made an attempt to prepare a novel and peculiar pulp from cornstalks and manufacture the paper having high quality and unique characteristics. At present, because paper making and dissolving pulp is prepared by separating fibrous cellulose from wood sources in most of countries, more than 90% of pulp production in the world are wood pulps.

Koreans have long been producing Korean paper from paper mulberry barks, as a Korean pure speciality having peculiar characteristics distinct from

western paper in terms of physical properties. Korean paper is much superior in terms of durability, heat insulation and air permeability.

In a conventional Korean paper preparation, paper mulberry barks are collected every October and November, boiled in a kettle, and debarked to leave white inner bark alone. The outer barks are boiled well in the buckwheat lye and mashed by beating with a wooden hammer so as to be softened. Then, the obtained paper mulberry juice is added into a paper peeling tank to obtain paper sheets.

In the manufacture of a wood-based cellulose pulp, it is necessary to develop a selective reagent reactive not to cellulose but to lignin under exposure to the timber. Since the pulp making process is a combination of wastewater recovery and waste treatment processes in terms of environment conservancy, the wood pulp manufacturing industry is considered as a capital-intensive large-scaled equipment and an energy-intensive industry using a great amount of water.

The chemical pulp preparation is composed of a pulping step for removing lignin among wood ingredients, and a pulp bleaching and purifying step for selectively eliminating residual impurities in the pulp. The chemical pulp preparation method considerably varies depending on the usage and required quality of the final pulp product. The conventional pulp used for paper manufacturing is made from softwood and hardwood. Such raw materials are processed into wood pulp by mechanical, chemical and semi-chemical methods. The mechanical pulping process consists of debarking, cutting, grinding, coarse screening, fine screening, centrifugal cleaning, thickening, bleaching, washing, drying and packing. Meanwhile, the chemical pulping process consists of debarking, chipping, cooking, coarse screening, fine screening, washing, centrifugal cleaning, thickening, bleaching, drying and packing.

Specifically, there are two types of pulp, paper-making pulp and dissolving pulp. The dissolving pulp is prepared by the pre-treatment and chemical pulping to get high purity cellulose product and used for manufacture of various cellulose polymer products and preparation of cellulose derivatives having a high alpha-cellulose content of 90-98%. Semi-chemical pulping

process consists of mild chemical treatment and mechanical defibering process to separate pulp fiber.

In a kraft method, for removing lignin from timber, nucleophilic groups such as –OH, -SH and $-S_2$ in alkaline cooking liquor attack the lignin polymer constituted by phenylpropane units to produce phenol hydroxyl groups, quinonmethide formed thereby reacts with the nucleophilic reagent to generate a sulfurisation reaction, and then the lignin polymer is degraded to be dissolved in the alkaline solution. In an acidic sulfite method, phenol ether bonds are hydrolysed by H^+ to produce, bisulfite ions bind to carbonium ions, and the lignin polymer is converted to water-soluble lignosulfate. However, in the methods using a cooking reagent selectively reactive to lignin polymer rather than other polymer ingredients of the wood, the cooking liquor is a strong alkaline or acid solution. Also, high purity fibrous celluloses cannot be separated by those methods, because parts of the celluloses are decomposed at high temperature controlled in the range of about 150-170°C to achieve an economical lignin separation rate. Accordingly, considering pulp yield and economical aspects, the paper making pulp must be subjected to a bleaching step to obtain a high level of brightness through a selective removal method for residual lignin comprising at least five-stage oxidation and/or reduction, and alkaline extraction.

The discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles and the like is included in this specification solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not suggested or represented that any or all of these matters formed part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present invention as it existed in Australia before the priority date of each claim of this application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is contrived to provide a method for preparing pulp of good quality from cornstalks, whereby the cornstalks can be used to prepare high quality pulp as substitution for the conventional wood pulp. The pulp preparing method further includes a bleaching step.

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The present invention is also provides a method for preparing pulp from cornstalks, comprising the steps of pulverizing cornstalks, high-pressure cooking washing and dispersing, wherein cooking step is performed with a weight ratio (wt/wt) of an aqueous reagent solution to a cornstalk material being 3:1 to 6:1 at the reaction temperature of 120-200^{0}C for 1.5 to 4 hours, and the aqueous reagent solution is selected from the group consisting of NaOH+Na_2S, Na_2SO_3+Na_2CO_3 and NaOH+Na_2SO_3+ Na_2CO_3+anthraquinine.

The present invention also provides a pulp composition prepared by the methods as herein described.

Throughout the description and the claims of this specification the word "comprise" and variations of the word, such as "comprising" and "comprises" is not intended to exclude other additives, components, integers or steps.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a pulp preparing method using herbaceous plants and, specifically, to a method for preparing a pulp from cornstalk.

The raw material used in the present invention, corns are classified into eight species; i.e., dent corn, flint corn, sweet corn, pop corn, flour corn, starchy sweet corn, waxy corn and pad corn, depending on the shape and property of the grain. Fruits of corns are used as food, and ensilages of stalks and leaves thereof loosely cut off are used as animal feed. Besides, the corns are utilised as construction materials, fuel, filler, mat, straw sandals, medical stuff, and so forth.

The conventional main source of pulp, timber is a tree grown with cells accumulated by the cell division. In timber, microfilaments are densely arranges in an alternative manner in a lignin matrix having a structure similar to concrete structure, and partially associated with each other by chemical bonds to strengthen the timber. Feudenberg et al. analysed degradation products of the timber through hydrolysis, pyrolysis, replacement, oxidation and reduction, and found that the timber has a distinct structure depending on the type of the source of timber; softwood, hardwood, or herbaceous plant. Softwood is used

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as an industrial material, and its usefulness as an industrial material relies on the structure of lignin units existing in cell walls and the type of tree.

In regard to composition, the cornstalk pulp of the present invention contains hemi-cellulose in the highest content and lignin in low content, while the wood has the highest cellulose content and high lignin content. For

example, the wood comprises 45 wt.% of cellulose, 27 wt.% of hemi-cellulose, 28 wt.% of lignin, and 3 wt.% of other extractives. The cornstalk has filaments 1-4mm long, 20-40 μm in width and 5-10 μm in thickness.

The present invention is contrived to provide a cornstalk pulp preparing method comprising the step of pulverisation, cooking, beating, paper making and drying. This preparation method of cornstalk pulp is much analogous to that of wood pulp, but requires less severe conditions to obtain pulp, considering low lignin content and so on. However, the cornstalk pulp takes a relatively long time in manufacturing, compared with other herbaceous pulp.

The cornstalk pulp preparing method may further include a pulp bleaching step, generally using an oxidising and/or reducing agent as a pulp bleaching agent. The method may further include a chlorination step using chlorine only in the first stage of the process in order to remove residual lignin. The chlorination step makes the lignin hydrophilic through reaction with an unsaturated aliphatic compound, fluorogum chemicals or resinate. After the chlorination step, a thermal alkaline extraction step, which involves alkaline saponification of fatty acid, wax and other esters into free fatty acid in the form of soap, is performed. The fatty acid dissolves fluorogum chemical an decomposes lignin fragments. One of the most effective surfactants used in the alkaline extraction step is nonylphenol having polyethylene having a branched chain of glycol. Like wood pulp, the cornstalk pulp is subjected to hypochlorite bleaching, chlorine dioxide bleaching or hydrogen peroxide bleaching in order to improve brightness.

Wood pulp, herbaceous pulp or recycled pulp may be added to cornstalk pulp in order to improve and/or provide various properties.

Alternatively, a water-soluble polymer material may be added to the pulp composed of the cornstalks only or further comprising another pulp, for purpose of enhancing the property of the pulp. The water-soluble polymer may be preferably polyvinylalcohol of polyacrylamide. The reason for adding such water-soluble polymer pulp is to improve surface conditions and paper strength, expand the usage and provide water resistance.

In the pulp preparation, additional ingredient materials, such as starch, paper strength enhancer, fibre expansion agent, fluorescent brightener or polymer electrolyte, may be added. Preferably, examples of the polymer

electrolyte may include polyamine, polyethylene amine, polyethylene oxide, etc. The polymer electrolyte prevents entanglement and disperse pulp. The other additives make the structure of pulp dense and provide fibre expansion, printability and opaqueness of the paper, as well as lower the production cost of the paper. Examples of the other additives may include aluminium sulfate, calcium carbonate, China clay, aluminium hydroxide, diatomaceous earth, lipid glucose, talc, carboxymethylcellulose, diethylamine ethyl chloride, gum rosin, wood rosin, and the like.

Among the pulp preparation steps, the high-pressure cooking step preferably may use pressurised pulping methods such as kraft pulping, sulfite pulping, alkaline sulfite pulping of soda pulping, because the paper making is not executable by an atmospheric pulping method. By the atmospheric pulping method, the keratin layer and the inner fibre of the cornstalks can not be sufficiently cooked and a considerable loss of a cooking reagent may be occurred in the process of the test.

The reaction conditions of the high-pressure cooking step are almost the same in the four above-mentioned pulping methods, excepting the type of the reagent. For example, the alkaline sulfite pulping method and the soda pulping method are performed under the same conditions, but using a different reagent. The kraft pulping method uses an aqueous solution of NaOH and Na_2S, the sulfite pulping method an aqueous solution of NaOH, Na_2CO_3 and AQ (anthraquinone), the soda pulping method an aqueous solution of NaOH alone.

The high-pressure cooking is preferably carried out under the following conditions: the reaction time of 1.5 to 4 hours; the reaction temperature of 120 to 200°C; and the ration (wt:wt) of the aqueous solution of the reagent to the pulp material in the range of 6:1 to 3:1. If the ration (wt:wt) of the aqueous solution of the reagent to the pulp material exceeds the above range, the above-mentioned chemicals makes all weak celluloses dissolved and remain strong fibres, to increase the paper strength. Thus, the ration of the aqueous solution of the reagent to the pulp material must be adjusted to such an adequate level as to meet the economic requirements.

The cornstalks are collected are removed of the flesh texture, subjected to pulverising and defibrating to achieve fibre cooking and, after removal of the keratin layer and other impurities, dispersed through beating. Subsequently,

papers are made by forming shape of paper sheets from the dispersed pulp using a sheet machine, sizing and drying.

Each paper manufactured by soda pulping, kraft pulping or alkaline sulfite pulping was measured for their physical properties.

The specific volume was largest for the soda-treated pulp made of cornstalks alone, which showed that the fibrous structure of the soda-treated pulp was very soft and defibrated to bulky structure. A tensile strength test revealed that the kraft pulp was most superior in the tensile strength and best cooked. The results demonstrated that the kraft pulp was mostly composed of fibrous tissue. The kraft pulp was most superior in the bursting strength and the folding endurance and the alkaline-sulfite pulp has the highest tearing strength, to other pulps.

[Table 1]

Items	Bleached Soda Pulp	Bleached Kraft Pulp	Bleached Alkaline-Sulfite Pulp	Softwood Bleached Kraft Pulp (SwBKP)
Specific Volume (m^3/g)	2.15	1.87	1.92	2.12
Tensile Index (Nm/g)	17.52	28.82	23.12	39.40
Burst Index ($Kpa \cdot m^2/g$)	0.08	0.15	0.12	0.41
Folding Endurance (double fold no.)	1.33	2	1.67	4.36
Tear Index ($mN \cdot m^2/g$)	0.43	0.41	0.46	2.59

Each paper sheet prepared by mixing 40 wt.% of cornstalk soda pulp, cornstalk kraft pulp or cornstalk alkaline-sulfite pulp with about 60 wt.% of softwood bleached kraft pulp (SwBKP) was much superior in physical properties to pulp made of cornstalks alone. The three pulps of soda pulp, kraft pulp and alkaline-sulfite pulp mixed with SwBKP showed almost two-fold specific volume and burst index, at least about seventy-fold folding endurance and at least five-fold tear index, compared with pulp made of cornstalks alone. This suggests the characteristics, economic worth and expectation of infinite development of the pulp made of cornstalks.

[Table 2] Properties of Paper Sheets Comprising NBKP (60 wt.%) and Cornstalk Bleached Pulp (40 wt.%)

Items	Bleached Soda Pulp		Bleached Kraft Pulp		Bleached Alkaline-Sulfite Pulp		Softwood Bleached Kraft Pulp (SwBKP)	
	A		A		A		A	
Fiber Composition (wt.%)	60	40	60	40	60	40	60	40
Specific Volume (m^3/g)	1.98		1.89		1.98		2.12	
Tensile Index (Nm/g)	32.58		36.27		34.42		39.40	
Burst Index ($KPa \cdot m^2/g$	0.27		0.27		0.29		0.41	
Folding Endurance (double fold no.)	77		85		78		4.36	
Tear Index ($mN \cdot m^2/g$)	1.69		2.08		1.52		2.59	

Note: A: SwBKP B: cornstalk

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The present invention will be described below in further detail with reference to the following examples, which illustrate but are not intended to limit the present invention.

Reagent and Material

In the present invention, NaOH, Na_2SO_3, Na_2S and Na_2CO_3 were used as cooking agents and sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) and calcium hypochlorite ($Ca(ClO)_2$) were used as bleaching agents.

Cornstalks harvested on the farm and completely dried in the shadow were used as the raw material for pulp. The dried cornstalks were cut off in 3-4 cm, removed of leaves and other unnecessary parts from the outer skin, split to remove the inner skin, i.e., flesh texture, and then pulverised in a regular size through a crusher and a grinder.

As apparatuses for the pulp preparation, a 3-liter beaker, a heating plate, a magnetic stirrer and a double boiler were used under atmospheric conditions, and a $10kg/cm^2$ heated pressure vessel was used with shaking under the pressurised conditions. An automatic shaking apparatus was used for washing and neutralisation, and a special apparatus for pulverisation for the liquid pulp

material. A PFI-milling machine (beating conditions; selecting pressure 1.8 kg/cm^2, clearance 0.3 mm) was used for pulp beating and a specific standard sheet machine (Hand sheet machine, TMI Inc., 173 mm in diameter) for making sheets from pulp. Herein, the radius of a pouring basin was 17.3 cm and the hole size of a sieve was 0.38-0.39mm.

A thick non-woven fabric, pushing rollers and a double cylinder type mechanism were used for giving the form of the prepared paper sample and preventing a wrinkle on the dry surface of the paper sample. The characteristics of pulp were measured with a specific volumenometer and a tensile strength tester (Schopper type, Toyo seik Inc.), a bursting strength tester (Mullen type, B.F. Perkin Inc.), a folding endurance tester (MIT Fordering Endurance Tester, Timus Olsen testing machine Inc.) and a tearing strength tester (Elmendorf Testing Tester, Thwing Alert Instrument Inc.).

Comparative Example 1

In the atmospheric experiment, 100g of cornstalk sample (removed of flesh texture) was tested using NaOH with a concentration of 10% and Na_2SO_3 with a concentration of 1% in the temperature range of around 150°C for 2, 3 and 4 hours, respectively. After filtering the cooked sample with a 100 mesh sieve, the residual was settled in water for about one day to be neutralised, and dried at 80°C for 5 days. The dried product was used as pulp material. In the present invention the amount of the obtained product was 65.4g, 63.2g and 62.3g when treated with 15% NaOH at 150°C for 2, 3 and 4 hours, respectively; and 68.34g, 65.12g and 62.7g when treated with 15% Na2SO3 at 150°C for 2, 3 and 4 hours, respectively. Thus, the yield amounted to about 65%. A hundred (100)g of the cooked sample was filtered with a 100 mesh sieve and the residual was settled in water for about one day, followed by beating. The final product was intended to use as pulp material, but the paper was not made therefrom.

To calculate the yield of pulp, the cornstalk sample was cooked under the respective pulping conditions, washed, defibrated with a pulp disintegrator at 3,000 rpm, dried at 80°C for 5 hours and weighted. The yield of pulp is calculated by the following equation.

$$\text{Yield (\%)} = \frac{\text{dry weight of the obtained product}}{\text{dry weight of cornstalk removed of flesh texture}} \times 100$$

Example 1

In the high-pressure cooking step of the present invention, 500g of cornstalk sample was added into an electrical heater type rotary cooking machine (selecting pressure 0-10 kg/cm^2, temperature 0-200°C, capacity 40 litres) and subjected to cooking at a liquid ration (wt/wt) of 4:1 to 6:1 (weight of cooking aqueous solution to dry weight of sample) and the maximum cooking temperature of 150°C for 1.5 to 4 hours, according to the soda pulping method.

Specifically, in the first step of the soda pulping method, 500g of the sample was added into an electrical heater type rotary cooking machine (selecting pressure 0-10kg/cm2, temperature 0-200°C, capacity 40 litres) and treated with 15% NaOH at a fixed liquid ration (wt/wt) of 4:1 (aqueous solution to dry weight of sample) and the maximum cooking temperature of 150oC for 1.5 hour. It was found that the nodes of the cornstalks were not well cooked and restored to the original state, which made it difficult to use the resulting material as pulp. However, in the second step of the soda pulping method, 500g of the sample was added into an electrical heater type rotary cooking machine (selecting pressure 0-10 kg/cm^2, temperature 0-200°C, capacity 40 litres) and treated with 20% NaOH at a fixed liquid ratio (wt/wt) of 6:1 (aqueous solution to dry weight of sample) and the maximum cooking temperature of 150°C for 3 hours. As a result, the cornstalk was well cooked into pulp with the yield of 21-35 wt.%.

Example 2

The cornstalk sample was subjected to soda pulping using a first cooking liquor of 14% Na_2SO_3 and 4% Na_2CO_3, at a fixed liquid ration (wt/wt) of 4:1 (aqueous solution to dry weight of sample) and the maximum cooking temperature of 150°C for 2 hours. The cornstalk sample was not well cooked into a pulp. Meanwhile, the cornstalk sample was subjected to soda pulping using a second cooking liquor of 28% Na_2SO_3 and 8% Na_2CO_3, at a fixed liquid ratio (wt/wt) of 6:1 (aqueous solution to dry weight of sample) and the maximum cooking temperature of 150°C for 4 hours. As a result, the cornstalk sample was well cooked into pulp with the yield of about 26-41wt.%.

Example 3

The same procedures as described in Example 1 were performed excepting that 500g of cornstalk sample was subjected to soda pulping, using cooking liquor of 10% NaOH, 20% Na_2SO_3, 4% Na_2CO_3 and 0.1% anthraquinone, at a fixed liquid ration (wt/wt) of 6:1 (aqueous solution to dry weight of sample) for 1.5 hours. The yield of the obtained pulp was about 25-32 wt.%.

Example 5: First Beating and Paper Making

Thirty (30)g of the pulped dry sample was settle in water with the concentration of 10% (wt/wt) for at least 2 hours, added to a beating machine-PFI mill (beating conditions: selection pressure 1.8 kg/cm^2, clearance 0.3 mm), and then, applied 500 revolutions in the case of kraft pulp and 1100 revolutions in the case of kraft pulp and 1100 revolutions in the case of alkaline sulfide pulp to get 40° SR.

Example 6: Pulp Bleaching

Sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) and calcium hypochlorite ($Ca(ClO)_2$) were used as a bleaching agent and sodium hydroxide and sodium silicate were added to adjust the pH in the range of pH 9-11. The pulp concentration was in the range of 4-6% at the reaction temperature of 40°C and 10-16% at 35°C.

Following the pulp bleaching step, the remaining alkaline component was extracted with the pulp concentration of 10-20% at 45-80°C for 1 to 2 hours.

The pulps obtained in the above examples were processed into paper sheets using a special sheet machine (Hand Sheet Machine, TMI Inc., 173 mm in diameter).

Example 7

The four different pulps, i.e., soda pulp, kraft pulp, alkaline sulfite pulp and sulfite pulp prepared in the above examples were measured for their physical properties. To enhance the physical properties and extend the usage of the cornstalk pulp, each 40 wt.% of the individual pulps was mixed with about 60 wt.% of bleached kraft pulp from softwood. Thereafter, the pulp samples

were measured in regard to specific volume, tensile strength, bursting strength, folding endurance and tearing strength. The results are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

As described above, the present invention provides a pulp preparing method, specifically, a method for preparing paper pulp from cornstalks comprising the steps of cooking, washing, screening, thickening, bleaching, beating and drying, performed under moderate conditions which have little noxious effects on the environment. By using cornstalks as raw materials for paper pulp, it becomes possible to replace import of wood raw materials, to save foreign currency, to increase rural income, and to make high quality paper.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method for preparing pulp from cornstalks comprising the steps of pulverizing cornstalks, high-pressure cooking, washing and dispersing, wherein cooking step is performed with a weight ratio (wt/wt) of an aqueous reagent solution to a cornstalk material being 3:1 to 6:1 at the reaction temperature of 120-200°C for 1.5 to 4 hours, and the aqueous reagent solution is selected from the group consisting of $NaOH+Na_2S$, $Na_2SO_3+Na_2CO_3$ and $NaOH+Na_2SO_3+Na_2CO_3$+anthraquinone.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of bleaching after the step of washing.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding 20-80 wt% of herbaceous pulp other than cornstalk pulp and wood pulp to the cornstalk pulp.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a water-soluble polymer material including polyvinylalcohol or polyacrylamide to the cornstalk pulp.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding an additive including starch, strength enhancing agent, fibre expansion agent, fluorescent whitening agent polymer electrolyte to the cornstalk pulp.

6. A pulp composition prepared by the methods claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, substantially as hereinbefore described with the reference to any one of the Examples.

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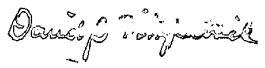

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