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(54) Titre : REVETEMENTS CONTENANT DE L'HEMICELLULOSE
 (54) Title: HEMICELLULOSE-CONTAINING COATINGS

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The present invention describes methods of treating cellulosic materials with a composition comprising hemicellulose and/or lignin and sucrose fatty acid esters to modify barrier functions of such materials. The methods as disclosed use hemicellulose or lignin combined with saccharide fatty acid esters to form films on cellulosic materials, including that the disclosure provides products made by such methods. The materials thus treated exhibit more effective barrier functions, and mechanical properties, and may be used in any application where such features are desired.

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Abstract:

The present invention describes methods of treating cellulosic materials with a composition comprising hemicellulose and/or lignin and sucrose fatty acid esters to modify barrier functions of such materials. The methods as disclosed use hemicellulose or lignin combined with saccharide fatty acid esters to form films on cellulosic materials, including that the disclosure provides products made by such methods. The materials thus treated exhibit more effective barrier functions, and mechanical properties, and may be used in any application where such features are desired.

HEMICELLULOSE-CONTAINING COATINGS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates generally to treating hemicellulose, and more specifically to methods of generating hemicellulose-based coatings that overcome resistance to high relative humidity using biobased esters which bind to hemicellulose, where such esters and methods are useful in modifying hemicellulose for the development of coatings for paper, paperboard and packaging products.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[0002] In many food packaging applications it is important to protect the food from oxygen as oxidation of aroma compounds, fatty compounds and vitamins due to the ingress of oxygen, reduces the quality and/or the flavor of the product. This can be done by using a barrier material, which has low permeability to oxygen. Furthermore, it is desirable that the material is flexible, mechanically resistant, transparent and of low cost. Also other barrier properties, such as aroma barrier and grease barrier can be of great importance.

[0003] Hemicelluloses are polysaccharides that are biosynthesized in the majority of plants, where they act as a matrix material present between the cellulose micro fibrils and as a linkage between lignin and cellulose. Hemicelluloses have been commercially used as sweetening agents, thickeners and emulsifiers in food. So far, the non-food utilization of hemicelluloses has been very limited.

[0004] Hemicellulose interacts with liquid/moisture and the permeability of oxygen, aroma, and grease increases at high relative humidities. The water solubility of the material is an advantage in coating processes, but can be a draw-back for many packaging applications.

[0005] This problem is usually addressed in the industry by coating the hemicellulose with some kind of hydrophobic organic material/fluorocarbons, silicones, which would physically shield the underlying hemicellulose from the water/lipids in the contents, including the prevention of wicking in the fiber interstices, grease flowing into creases, or allowing the release of attached materials. For example, materials such as PVC/PEI/PE are routinely used for this purpose and are physically attached (i.e., spray coated or extruded) on the surfaces to be treated.

[0006] It would be desirable to design a "green", biobased coating which is hydrophobic/lipophobic and compostable, that could be used with hemicellulose, without sacrificing biodegradability and/or recyclability of products made therefrom.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The present disclosure relates to methods of treating cellulosic material with a hemicellulose containing coating, including treating cellulose-containing materials with a composition that provides increased hydrophobicity and/or lipophobicity while maintaining biodegradability/recyclability of the cellulosic components. The methods as disclosed provide combining saccharide fatty acid esters (SFAE) with hemicellulose and do not require the use of organic carriers, bases or separate catalysts to bind said coating to cellulose based material. The binding reactions may be applied to cellulose or pre-formed materials.

[0008] In embodiments, a composition comprising a SFAE-hemicellulose bound cellulose-based material is disclosed, where the SFAE and hemicellulose are present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit low permeability to oxygen. In a related aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester contains at least one saccharide and at least one aliphatic group comprising 8 to 30 carbons, and the coating is present at a sufficient concentration to make the bound cellulose-based material hydrophobic compared to the same material with no coating. In another aspect, the SFAE-hemicellulose coating is releasably or non-releasably bound to the cellulose-based material.

[0009] In a further aspect, the SFAE is present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound hemicellulose-based material to exhibit a water contact angle of equal to or greater than 90°, where the water contact angle is effected in the absence of any secondary hydrophobes. In a related aspect, the coating comprises a hemicellulose content in % by dry weight of 1-99%

[0010] In embodiments, a composition is disclosed including a SFAE-lignin bound cellulose-based material, where the SFAE and lignin are present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit water resistance.

[0011] In a related aspect, the compositions containing cellulose based material include paper, paper sheets, paperboard, paper pulp, a food storage carton, parchment paper, cake board, butcher paper, release paper/liner, a food storage bag, a shopping bag, a shipping bag, bacon

board, insulating material, tea bags, a coffee or tea container, a compost bag, eating utensil, a hot or cold beverage container, cup, a lid, plate, a carbonated liquid storage bottle, gift cards, a non-carbonated liquid storage bottle, wrapping food film, a garbage disposal container, a food handling implement, a fabric fibre (e.g., cotton or cotton blends), a water storage and conveying implement, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink container, an outer casing or screen for electronic goods, an internal or external piece of furniture, a curtain and upholstery.

[0012] In embodiments, a method of producing a molded cup lid is disclosed including applying a composition containing a SFAE and hemicellulose to a foldable paper sheet; drying said folded sheet for a sufficient time to allow the composition to adhere to the sheet; placing the sheet into a cup lid mold, and allowing the sheet to completely dry; and optionally heating the lid for an additional time to sufficiently shape the lid.

[0013] In one aspect, the foldable paper is microembossed. In another aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester contains at least one saccharide and at least one aliphatic group comprising 8 to 30 carbons, and the composition is present at a sufficient concentration to make the bound cellulose-based material hydrophobic compared to the same material with no composition.

[0014] In a related aspect, the SFAE and hemicellulose are present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit low permeability to oxygen. In a further related aspect, an article of manufacture containing the molded cup lid produced by the method is disclosed.

[0015] In embodiments a method of producing a molded cup lid is disclosed including applying a composition containing a SFAE and lignin to a foldable paper sheet; drying said folded sheet for a sufficient time to allow the composition to adhere to the sheet; placing the sheet into a cup lid mold, and allowing the sheet to completely dry; and optionally heating the lid for an additional time to sufficiently shape the lid. In one aspect, the foldable paper is microembossed.

[0016] In a related aspect, an article of manufacture containing a molded cup lid produced by the method is disclosed. In a further related aspect, the SFAE is saturated or unsaturated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] FIG. 1 shows a scanning electron micrograph (SEM) of untreated, medium porosity Whatman Filter Paper (58x magnification).

[0018] FIG. 2 shows an SEM of untreated, medium porosity Whatman Filter Paper (1070x magnification).

[0019] FIG. 3 shows a side-by-side comparison of SEMs of paper made from recycled pulp before (left) and after (right) coating with microfibrillated cellulose (MFC) (27x magnification).

[0020] FIG. 4 shows a side-by-side comparison of SEMs of paper made from recycled pulp before (left) and after (right) coating with MFC (98x magnification).

[0021] FIG. 5 shows water penetration in paper treated with various coating formulations: polyvinyl alcohol (PvOH), diamonds; SEFOSE® + PvOH at 1:1 (v/v), squares; Ethylex (starch), triangles; SEFOSE® + PvOH at 3:1 (v/v), crosses.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0022] Before the present composition, methods, and methodologies are described, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to particular compositions, methods, and experimental conditions described, as such compositions, methods, and conditions may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for purposes of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to be limiting, since the scope of the present invention will be limited only in the appended claims.

[0023] As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an", and "the" include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, references to "a saccharide fatty acid ester" includes one or more saccharide fatty acid esters, and/or compositions of the type described herein which will become apparent to those persons skilled in the art upon reading this disclosure and so forth.

[0024] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein may be used in the practice or testing of the invention, as it will be understood that modifications and variations are encompassed within the spirit and scope of the instant disclosure.

[0025] As used herein, "about," "approximately," "substantially" and "significantly" will be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art and will vary in some extent depending on the context in which they are used. If there are uses of the term which are not clear to persons of

ordinary skill in the art given the context in which it is used, "about" and "approximately" will mean plus or minus <10% of particular term and "substantially" and "significantly" will mean plus or minus >10% of the particular term. "Comprising" and "consisting essentially of" have their customary meaning in the art.

[0026] In embodiments, the present disclosure shows that by treating cellulose with saccharide fatty acid ester-hemicellulose combination the resulting material is, *inter alia*, made resistant to high relative humidity. These saccharide fatty acid esters, for example, once removed by bacterial enzymes, are easily digested as such. The derivatized surface displays a great deal of heat resistance, being able to withstand temperatures as high as 250°C and may be more impermeant to gases than the base substrate underneath. The material is therefore an ideal solution to the problem of derivatizing cellulose, in any embodiment in which cellulose containing materials may be employed.

[0027] Advantages of the products and methods as disclosed herein include that the coating composition is made from renewable agricultural resources – saccharides and vegetable oils; is biodegradable; has a low toxicity profile and suitable for food contact; can be tuned to reduce the coefficient of friction of the paper/paperboard surface (i.e., does not make the paper too slippery for downstream processing or end use), even at high levels of water resistance; may or may not be used with special emulsification equipment or emulsification agents; and is compatible with traditional paper recycling programs: i.e., poses no adverse impact on recycling operations, like polyethylene, polylactic acid, or wax coated papers do.

[0028] As used herein, "biobased" means a material intentionally made from substances derived from living (or once-living) organisms. In a related aspect, material containing at least about 50% of such substances is considered biobased.

[0029] As used herein, "bind", including grammatical variations thereof, means to cohere or cause to cohere essentially as a single mass.

[0030] As used herein, "cellulosic" means natural, synthetic or semisynthetic materials that can be molded or extruded into objects (e.g., bags, sheets) or films or filaments, which may be used for making such objects or films or filaments, that is structurally and functionally similar to cellulose, e.g., coatings and adhesives (e.g., carboxymethylcellulose). In another example, cellulose, a complex carbohydrate $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_n$ that is composed of glucose units, which forms the main constituent of the cell wall in most plants, is cellulosic.

[0031] As used herein, "coating weight" is the weight of a material (wet or dry) applied to a substrate. It is expressed in pounds per specified ream or grams per square meter.

[0032] As used herein, "compostable" means these solid products are biodegradable into the soil.

[0033] As used herein, "edge wicking" means the sorption of water in a paper structure at the outside limit of said structure by one or more mechanisms including, but not limited to, capillary penetration in the pores between fibers, diffusion through fibers and bonds, and surface diffusion on the fibers. In a related aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester containing coating as described herein prevents edge wicking in treated products. In one aspect, a similar problem exists with grease/oil entering creases that may be present in paper or paper products. Such a "grease creasing effect" may be defined as the sorption of grease in a paper structure that is created by folding, pressing or crushing said paper structure.

[0034] As used herein, "effect", including grammatical variations thereof, means to impart a particular property to a specific material.

[0035] As used herein, "hemicellulose", including grammatical variations thereof, means a heteropolymer (i.e., matrix polysaccharides), such as arabinoxylan, present along with cellulose in almost all terrestrial plant cell walls. While cellulose is crystalline, strong, and resistant to hydrolysis, hemicelluloses have random, amorphous structure. In embodiments, a coating as disclosed herein may have a hemicellulose content in % by dry weight of 1-99%, preferably 30-90%, and most preferably 60-90%, and a content of cross-linking agent or hydrophobizing agent in % by dry weight of 0-30%, preferably 0-20%, more preferably 0-15%, especially 0-10%, and most preferably 0-5%.

[0036] As used herein, "hydrophobe" means a substance that does not attract water. For example, waxes, rosins, resins, saccharide fatty acid esters, diketenes, shellacs, vinyl acetates, PLA, PEI, oils, fats, lipids, other water repellent chemicals or combinations thereof are hydrophobes.

[0037] As used herein, "hydrophobicity" means the property of being water-repellent, tending to repel and not absorb water.

[0038] As used herein, "lipid resistance" or "lipophobicity" means the property of being lipid-repellent, tending to repel and not absorb lipids, grease, fats and the like. In a related aspect, the grease resistance may be measured by a "3M KIT" test or a TAPPI T559 Kit test.

[0039] As used herein, "cellulose-containing material" or "cellulose-based material" means a composition which consists essentially of cellulose. For example, such material may include, but is not limited to, paper, paper sheets, paperboard, paper pulp, a carton for food storage, parchment paper, cake board, butcher paper, release paper/liner, a bag for food storage, a shopping bag, a shipping bag, bacon board, insulating material, tea bags, containers for coffee or tea, a compost bag, eating utensil, container for holding hot or cold beverages, cup, a lid, plate, a bottle for carbonated liquid storage, gift cards, a bottle for non-carbonated liquid storage, film for wrapping food, a garbage disposal container, a food handling implement, a fabric fibre (e.g., cotton or cotton blends), a water storage and conveying implement, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks, an outer casing or screen for electronic goods, an internal or external piece of furniture, a curtain and upholstery.

[0040] As used herein, "release paper" means a paper sheet used to prevent a sticky surface from prematurely adhering to an adhesive or a mastic. In one aspect, the coatings as disclosed herein can be used to replace or reduce the use of silicon or other coatings to produce a material having a low surface energy. Determining the surface energy may be readily achieved by measuring contact angle (e.g., Optical Tensiometer and/or High Pressure Chamber, Dyne Testing, Staffordshire, United Kingdom) or by use of Surface Energy Test Pens or Inks (see, e.g., Dyne Testing, Staffordshire, United Kingdom).

[0041] As used herein "releasable" with reference to the SFAE means that the SFAE coating, once applied, may be removed from the cellulose-based material (e.g., removeable by manipulating physical properties). As used herein "non-releasable" with reference to the SFAE means that the SFAE coating, once applied, is substantially irreversibly bound to the cellulose-based material (e.g., removable by chemical means).

[0042] As used herein, "fibers in solution" or "pulp" means a lignocellulosic fibrous material prepared by chemically or mechanically separating cellulose fibers from wood, fiber crops or waste paper. In a related aspect, where cellulose fibers are treated by the methods as disclosed herein, the cellulose fibers themselves contain bound saccharide fatty acid esters as isolated entities, and where the bound cellulose fibers have separate and distinct properties from free fibers (e.g., pulp- or cellulose fiber- or nanocellulose or microfibrillated cellulose-saccharide

fatty acid ester bound material would not form hydrogen bonds between fibers as readily as unbound fibers).

[0043] As used herein "foldable paper" means sheet of cellulose where they have been treated in such a way that they have plasticity (e.g., can be deformed without losing integrity). Such paper may contain microembossing (i.e., small creases that allow for shapes to stand out in relief) or may be inherently moldable (e.g., FIBREFORM®, available from BillerudKornäs, SWEDEN).

[0044] As used herein, "repulpable" means to make a paper or paperboard product suitable for crushing into a soft, shapeless mass for reuse in the production of paper or paperboard.

[0045] As used herein, "tunable", including grammatical variations thereof, means to adjust or adapt a process to achieve a particular result.

[0046] As used herein, "water contact angle" means the angle measured through a liquid, where a liquid/vapor interface meets a solid surface. It quantifies the wettability of the solid surface by the liquid. The contact angle is a reflection of how strongly the liquid and solid molecules interact with each other, relative to how strongly each interacts with its own kind. On many highly hydrophilic surfaces, water droplets will exhibit contact angles of 0° to 30°. Generally, if the water contact angle is larger than 90°, the solid surface is considered hydrophobic. Water contact angle may be readily obtained using an Optical Tensiometer (see, e.g., Dyne Testing, Staffordshire, United Kingdom).

[0047] As used herein, "water vapour permeability" means breathability or a textile's ability to transfer moisture. There are at least two different measurement methods. One, the MVTR Test (Moisture Vapour Transmission Rate) in accordance with ISO 15496, describes the water vapor permeability (WVP) of a fabric and therefore the degree of perspiration transport to the outside air. The measurements determine how many grams of moisture (water vapor) pass through a square meter of fabric in 24 hours (the higher the level, the higher the breathability).

[0048] In one aspect, TAPPI T 530 Hercules size test (i.e., size test for paper by ink resistance) may be used to determine water resistance. Ink resistance by the Hercules method is best classified as a direct measurement test for the degree of penetration. Others classify it as a rate of penetration test. There is no one best test for "measuring sizing." Test selection depends on end use and mill control needs. This method is especially suitable for use as a mill control

sizing test to accurately detect changes in sizing level. It offers the sensitivity of the ink float test while providing reproducible results, shorter test times, and automatic end point determination.

[0049] Sizing, as measured by resistance to permeation through or absorption into paper of aqueous liquids, is an important characteristic of many papers. Typical of these are bag, containerboard, butcher's wrap, writing, and some printing grades.

[0050] This method may be used to monitor paper or board production for specific end uses provided acceptable correlation has been established between test values and the paper's end use performance. Due to the nature of the test and the penetrant, it will not necessarily correlate sufficiently to be applicable to all end use requirements. This method measures sizing by rate of penetration. Other methods measure sizing by surface contact, surface penetration, or absorption. Size tests are selected based on the ability to simulate the means of water contact or absorption in end use. This method can also be used to optimize size chemical usage costs.

[0051] As used herein, "oxygen permeability" means the degree to which a polymer allows the passage of a gas or fluid. Oxygen permeability (Dk) of a material is a function of the diffusivity (D) (i.e., the speed at which oxygen molecules traverse the material) and the solubility (k) (or the amount of oxygen molecules absorbed, per volume, in the material). Values of oxygen permeability (Dk) typically fall within the range $10\text{-}150 \times 10^{-11}$ ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ ml O}_2$)/(s ml mmHg). A semi-logarithmic relationship has been demonstrated between hydrogel water content and oxygen permeability (Unit: Barrer unit). The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has specified permeability using the SI unit hectopascal (hPa) for pressure. Hence $Dk = 10^{-11}$ ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ ml O}_2$)/(s ml hPa). The Barrer unit can be converted to hPa unit by multiplying it by the constant 0.75.

[0052] As used herein "biodegradable", including grammatical variations thereof, means capable of being broken down especially into innocuous products by the action of living things (e.g., by microorganisms).

[0053] As used herein, "recyclable", including grammatical variations thereof, means a material that is treatable or that can be processed (with used and/or waste items) so as to make said material suitable for reuse.

[0054] As used herein, "Gurley second" or "Gurley number" is a unit describing the number of seconds required for 100 cubic centimeters (deciliter) of air to pass through 1.0 square inch of

a given material at a pressure differential of 4.88 inches of water (0.176 psi) (ISO 5636-5:2003)(Porosity). In addition, for stiffness, "Gurley number" is a unit for a piece of vertically held material measuring the force required to deflect said material a given amount (1 milligram of force). Such values may be measured on a Gurley Precision Instruments' device (Troy, New York).

[0055] HLB-The hydrophilic-lipophilic balance of a surfactant is a measure of the degree to which it is hydrophilic or lipophilic, determined by calculating values for the different regions of the molecule.

[0056] Griffin's method for non-ionic surfactants as described in 1954 works as follows:

$$HLB = 20 * M_h / M$$

[0057] where M_h is the molecular mass of the hydrophilic portion of the molecule, and M is the molecular mass of the whole molecule, giving a result on a scale of 0 to 20. An HLB value of 0 corresponds to a completely lipophilic/hydrophobic molecule, and a value of 20 corresponds to a completely hydrophilic/lipophobic molecule.

[0058] The HLB value can be used to predict the surfactant properties of a molecule:

< 10 : Lipid-soluble (water-insoluble)

> 10 : Water-soluble (lipid-insoluble)

1.5 to 3: anti-foaming agent

3 to 6: W/O (water in oil) emulsifier

7 to 9: wetting and spreading agent

13 to 15: detergent

12 to 16: O/W (oil in water) emulsifier

15 to 18: solubiliser or hydrotrope

[0059] In some embodiments, the HLB values for the saccharide fatty acid esters (or composition comprising said ester) as disclosed herein may be in the lower range. In other embodiments, the HLB values for the saccharide fatty acid esters (or composition comprising said ester) as disclosed herein may be in the middle to higher ranges.

[0060] As used herein, "SEFOSE®" denotes a sucrose fatty acid ester made from soybean oil (soyate) which is commercially available from Procter & Gamble Chemicals (Cincinnati, OH) under the trade name SEFOSE 1618U (see sucrose polysoyate below), which contains one or more fatty acids that are unsaturated. As used herein, "OLEAN®" denotes a sucrose fatty acid ester which is available from Procter & Gamble Chemicals having the formula $C_{n+12}H_{2n+22}O_{13}$, where all fatty acids are saturated.

[0061] As used herein, "soyate" means a mixture of salts of fatty acids from soybean oil.

[0062] As used herein, "oilseed fatty acids" means fatty acids from plants, including but not limited to soybeans, peanuts, rapeseeds, barley, canola, sesame seeds, cottonseeds, palm kernels, grape seeds, olives, safflowers, sunflowers, copra, corn, coconuts, linseed, hazelnuts, wheat, rice, potatoes, cassavas, legumes, camelina seeds, mustard seeds, and combinations thereof.

[0063] As used herein "wet strength" means the measure of how well the web of fibers holding the paper together can resist a force of rupture when the paper is wet. The wet strength may be measured using a Finch Wet Strength Device from Thwing-Albert Instrument Company (West Berlin, NJ). Where the wet strength is typically effected by wet strength additives such as kymene, cationic glyoxylated resins, polyamidoamine-epichlorohydrin resins, polyamine-epichlorohydrin resins, including epoxide resins. In embodiments, SFAE coated cellulose based material as disclosed herein effects such wet strength in the absence of such additives.

[0064] As used herein "wet" means covered or saturated with water or another liquid.

[0065] In embodiments, a process as disclosed herein includes binding of a saccharide fatty acid ester to a cellulosic surface or contacting a cellulosic surface with an emulsion containing said saccharide fatty ester as a carrier for a coating agent which can bind to a cellulosic surface, where said process comprises contacting a cellulose-based material with either the saccharide fatty acid ester, emulsion or both and exposing the contacted cellulose-based material to heat, radiation, a catalyst or a combination thereof for a sufficient time to bind the saccharide fatty acid ester or coating agent to the cellulose based material. In a related aspect, such radiation may include, but is not limited to UV, IR, visible light, or a combination thereof. In another related aspect, the reaction may be carried out at room temperature (i.e., 25°C) to about 150°C, about 50°C to about 100°C, or about 60°C to about 80°C.

[0066] Further, the binding reaction between the SFAE and the cellulosic material may be carried out with substantially pure saccharide fatty acid ester or said saccharide fatty acid ester may be part of an emulsion. In one aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester emulsion may contain a mixture of mono-, di-, tri-, tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta-, or octaesters. In another aspect, the emulsion may contain proteins, polysaccharides and lipids, including but not limited to, milk proteins (e.g., casein, whey protein and the like), wheat glutens, gelatins, prolamines (e.g., corn zeins), soy protein isolates, starches, modified starches, acetylated polysaccharides, alginates, carrageenans, chitosans, inulins, long chain fatty acids, waxes, and combinations thereof.

[0067] In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid esters or emulsion may be mixed with epoxy derivatives of said esters (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 9,096,773, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), where such epoxy derivatives may function, for example, as adhesives.

[0068] In embodiments, cellulosic material may be made lipophobic by the addition of polyvinyl alcohol (PvOH) and/or prolamines. In one aspect, the prolamines include zein, gliadin, hordein, secalin, katirin and avenin. In a related aspect, the prolamine is zein.

[0069] In embodiments, no catalysts and no organic carriers (e.g., volatile organic compounds) are required to carry out the binding reaction, including that no build-up of material is contemplated using the method as disclosed. In a related aspect, the reaction time is substantially instantaneous (i.e., less than 1 second). Further, the resulting material exhibits low blocking.

[0070] As disclosed herein, fatty acid esters of all saccharides, including mono-, di-saccharides and tri-saccharides, are adaptable for use in connection with this aspect of the present invention. In a related aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester may be a mono-, di-, tri-, tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta-, or octaester, and combinations thereof, including that the fatty acid moieties may be saturated, unsaturated or a combination thereof.

[0071] While not being bound by theory, the interaction between the saccharide fatty acid ester and the cellulose-based material may be by ionic, hydrophobic, van der Waals interaction, or covalent bonding, or a combination thereof. In a related aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester binding to the cellulose-based material is substantially irreversible (e.g., using an SFAE comprising a combination of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids).

[0072] Further, at a sufficient concentration, the binding of the saccharide fatty acid ester alone is enough to make the cellulose-based material hydrophobic: i.e., hydrophobicity is achieved in the absence of the addition of waxes, rosins, resins, diketenes, shellacs, vinyl acetates, PLA, PEI, oils, other water repellent chemicals or combinations thereof (i.e., secondary hydrophobes), including that other properties such as, *inter alia*, strengthening, stiffing, and bulking of the cellulose-based material is achieved by saccharide fatty acid ester binding alone.

[0073] An advantage of the invention as disclosed is that multiple fatty acid chains are reactive with the cellulose, and with the two saccharide molecules in the structure, for example, the sucrose fatty acid esters as disclosed give rise to a stiff crosslinking network, leading to strength improvements in fibrous webs such as paper, paperboard, air-laid and wet-laid non-wovens, and textiles. This is typically not found in other sizing or hydrophobic treatment chemistries. The saccharide fatty acid esters as disclosed herein also generate/increase wet strength, a property absent when using many other water resistant chemistries.

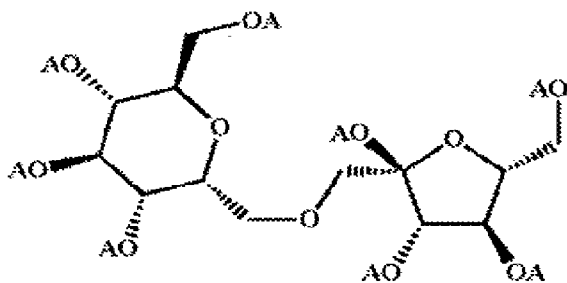
[0074] Another advantage is that the saccharide fatty acid esters as disclosed soften the fibers, increasing the space between them, thus, increasing bulk without substantially increasing weight. In addition, fibers and cellulose-based material modified as disclosed herein, may be repulped. Further, for example, water cannot be easily "pushed" past the low surface energy barrier into the sheet.

[0075] Saturated SFAE are typically solids at nominal processing temperatures, whereas unsaturated SFAE are typically liquids. This permits the formation of uniform, stable dispersions of saturated SFAE in aqueous coatings without significant interactions or incompatibilities with other coating components, which are typically hydrophilic. In addition, this dispersion allows for high concentrations of saturated SFAE to be prepared without adversely affecting coating rheology, uniform coating application, or coating performance characteristics. The coating surface will become hydrophobic when the particles of saturated SFAE melt and spread upon heating, drying and consolidation of the coating layer. In embodiments, a method of producing bulky, fibrous structures that retain strength even when exposed to water is disclosed. Generally fibrous slurries that are dried form dense structures that are easily broken down upon exposure to water. Formed fiber products made using the method as disclosed may include paper plates, drink holders (e.g., cups), lids, food trays and packaging that would be light weight, strong, and be resistant to exposure to water and other liquids.

[0076] In embodiments, saccharide fatty acid esters are mixed with polyvinyl alcohol (PvOH) to produce sizing agents for water resistant coatings. As disclosed herein, a synergistic relationship between saccharide fatty acid esters and PvOH has been demonstrated. While it is known in the art that PvOH is itself a good film former, and forms strong hydrogen bonds with cellulose, it is not very resistant to water, particularly hot water. In aspects, the use of PvOH helps to emulsify saccharide fatty acid esters into an aqueous coating. In one aspect, PvOH provides a rich source of OH groups for saccharide fatty acid esters to crosslink along the fibers, which increases the strength of paper, for example, particularly wet strength, and water resistance beyond what is possible with PvOH alone. For saturated saccharide fatty acid esters with free hydroxyls on the saccharide, a crosslinking agent such as a dialdehyde (e.g., glyoxal, glutaraldehyde, and the like) may also be used.

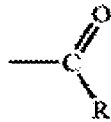
[0077] In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid esters comprise or consist essentially of sucrose esters of fatty acids. Many methods are known and available for making or otherwise providing the saccharide fatty acid esters of the present invention, and all such methods are believed to be available for use within the broad scope of the present invention. For example, in certain embodiments it may be preferred that the fatty acid esters are synthesized by esterifying a saccharide with one or more fatty acid moieties obtained from oil seeds including but not limited to, soybean oil, sunflower oil, olive oil, canola oil, peanut oil, and mixtures thereof.

[0078] In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid esters comprise a saccharide moiety, including but not limited to a sucrose moiety, which has been substituted by an ester moiety at one or more of its hydroxyl hydrogens. In a related aspect, disaccharide esters have the structure of Formula I.



Formula I

[0079] where "A" is hydrogen or of Structure I below:



Structure I

[0080] where "R" is a linear, branched, or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic or aromatic moiety of about eight to about 40 carbon atoms, and where at least one "A," is at least one, at least two, at least three, at least four, at least five, at least six, at least seven, and all eight "A" moieties of Formula are in accordance with Structure I. In a related aspect, the saccharide fatty acid esters as described herein may be mono-, di-, tri-, tetra-, penta-, hexa-, hepta-, or octa-esters, and combinations thereof, where the aliphatic groups may be all saturated or may contain saturated and/or unsaturated groups or combinations thereof.

[0081] Suitable "R" groups include any form of aliphatic moiety, including those which contain one or more substituents, which may occur on any carbon in the moiety. Also included are aliphatic moieties which include functional groups within the moiety, for example, an ether, ester, thio, amino, phospho, or the like. Also included are oligomer and polymer aliphatic moieties, for example sorbitan, polysorbitan and polyalcohol moieties. Examples of functional groups which may be appended to the aliphatic (or aromatic) moiety comprising the "R" group include, but are not limited to, halogens, alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, ether and ester functional groups. In one aspect, said moieties may have crosslinking functionalities. In another aspect, the SFAE may be crosslinked to a surface (e.g., activated clay/pigment particles). In another aspect, double bonds present on the SFAE may be used to facilitate reactions onto other surfaces.

[0082] Suitable disaccharides include raffinose, maltodextrose, galactose, sucrose, combinations of glucose, combinations of fructose, maltose, lactose, combinations of mannose, combinations of erythrose, isomaltose, isomaltulose, trehalose, trehalulose, cellobiose, laminaribiose, chitobiose and combinations thereof.

[0083] In embodiments, the substrate for addition of fatty acids may include starches, hemicelluloses, lignins or combinations thereof.

[0084] In embodiments, a composition comprises a starch fatty acid ester, where the starch may be derived from any suitable source such as dent corn starch, waxy corn starch, potato starch, wheat starch, rice starch, sago starch, tapioca starch, sorghum starch, sweet potato starch, and mixtures thereof.

[0085] In more detail, the starch may be an unmodified starch, or a starch that has been modified by a chemical, physical, or enzymatic modification.

[0086] Chemical modification includes any treatment of a starch with a chemical that results in a modified starch (e.g., plastarch material). Within chemical modification are included, but not limited to, depolymerization of a starch, oxidation of a starch, reduction of a starch, etherification of a starch, esterification of a starch, nitrification of a starch, defatting of a starch, hydrophobization of a starch, and the like. Chemically modified starches may also be prepared by using a combination of any of the chemical treatments. Examples of chemically modified starches include the reaction of alkenyl succinic anhydride, particularly octenyl succinic anhydride, with starch to produce a hydrophobic esterified starch; the reaction of 2,3-epoxypropyltrimethylammonium chloride with starch to produce a cationic starch; the reaction of ethylene oxide with starch to produce hydroxyethyl starch; the reaction of hypochlorite with starch to produce an oxidized starch; the reaction of an acid with starch to produce an acid depolymerized starch; defatting of a starch with a solvent such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, methylene chloride, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, and the like, to produce a defatted starch.

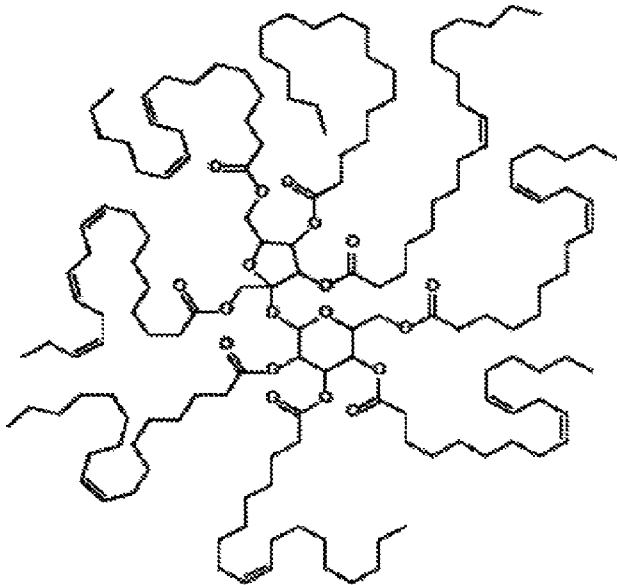
[0087] Physically modified starches are any starches that are physically treated in any manner to provide physically modified starches. Within physical modification are included, but not limited to, thermal treatment of the starch in the presence of water, thermal treatment of the starch in the absence of water, fracturing the starch granule by any mechanical means, pressure treatment of starch to melt the starch granules, and the like. Physically modified starches may also be prepared by using a combination of any of the physical treatments. Examples of physically modified starches include the thermal treatment of starch in an aqueous environment to cause the starch granules to swell without granule rupture; the thermal treatment of anhydrous starch granules to cause polymer rearrangement; fragmentation of the starch granules by mechanical disintegration; and pressure treatment of starch granules by means of an extruder to cause melting of the starch granules.

[0088] Enzymatically modified starches are any starches that are enzymatically treated in any manner to provide enzymatically modified starches. Within enzymatic modification are included, but not limited to, the reaction of an alpha amylase with starch, the reaction of a protease with starch, the reaction of a lipase with starch, the reaction of a phosphorylase with starch, the reaction of an oxidase with starch, and the like. Enzymatically modified starches may be prepared by using a combination of any of the enzymatic treatments. Examples of enzymatic modification of starch include the reaction of alpha-amylase enzyme with starch to produce a depolymerized starch; the reaction of alpha amylase debranching enzyme with starch to produce a debranched starch; the reaction of a protease enzyme with starch to produce a starch with reduced protein content; the reaction of a lipase enzyme with starch to produce a starch with reduced lipid content; the reaction of a phosphorylase enzyme with starch to produce an enzyme modified phosphated starch; and the reaction of an oxidase enzyme with starch to produce an enzyme oxidized starch.

[0089] Disaccharide fatty acid esters may be sucrose fatty acid esters in accordance with Formula I wherein the "R" groups are aliphatic and are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated and have between about 8 and about 40 carbon atoms.

[0090] As used herein the terms "saccharide fatty acid esters" and "sucrose fatty acid ester" include compositions possessing different degrees of purity as well as mixtures of compounds of any purity level. For example, the saccharide fatty acid ester compound can be a substantially pure material, that is, it can comprise a compound having a given number of the "A" groups substituted by only one species of Structure I moiety (that is, all "R" groups are the same and all of the sucrose moieties are substituted to an equal degree). It also includes a composition comprising a blend of two or more saccharide fatty acid ester compounds, which differ in their degrees of substitution, but wherein all of the substituents have the same "R" group structure. It also includes compositions which are a mixture of compounds having differing degrees of "A" group substitution, and wherein the "R" group substituent moieties are independently selected from two or more "R" groups of Structure I. In a related aspect, "R" groups may be the same or may be different, including that said saccharide fatty acid esters in a composition may be the same or may be different (i.e., a mixture of different saccharide fatty acid esters).

[0091] For compositions of the present invention, the composition may be comprised of saccharide fatty acid ester compounds having a high degree of substitution. In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid ester is a sucrose polysoyate.



A Sucrose Polyoate (SEFOSE®

1618U)

[0092] Saccharide fatty acid esters may be made by esterification with substantially pure fatty acids by known processes of esterification. They can be prepared also by trans-esterification using saccharide and fatty acid esters in the form of fatty acid glycerides derived, for example, from natural sources, for example, those found in oil extracted from oil seeds, for example soybean oil. Trans-esterification reactions providing sucrose fatty acid esters using fatty acid glycerides are described, for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,963,699; 4,517,360; 4,518,772; 4,611,055; 5,767,257; 6,504,003; 6,121,440; and 6,995,232, and WO1992004361 A1, herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

[0093] In addition to making hydrophobic sucrose esters via transesterification, similar hydrophobic properties may be achieved in fibrous, cellulosic articles by directly reacting acid chlorides with polyols containing analogous ring structures to sucrose.

[0094] As mentioned above, sucrose fatty acid esters may be prepared by trans-esterification of sucrose from methyl ester feedstocks which have been prepared from glycerides derived from natural sources (see, e.g., 6,995,232, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). As a consequence of the source of the fatty acids, the feedstock used to prepare the sucrose fatty acid ester contains a range of saturated and unsaturated fatty acid methyl esters having fatty acid

moieties containing between 12 and 40 carbon atoms. This will be reflected in the product sucrose fatty acid esters made from such a source in that the sucrose moieties comprising the product will contain a mixture of ester moiety substituents, wherein, with reference to Structure I above, the "R" groups will be a mixture having between 12 and 26 carbon atoms with a ratio that reflects the feedstock used to prepare the sucrose ester. Further to illustrate this point, sucrose esters derived from soybean oil will be a mixture of species, having "R" group structures which reflect that soybean oil comprises 26 wt. % triglycerides of oleic acid ($\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$)₇-CH=CH-[CH₂]₇-C(O)OH), 49 wt. % triglycerides of linoleic acid ($\text{H}_3\text{C}-[\text{CH}_2]_3-[-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}]_2-[-\text{CH}_2-]$ ₇-C(O)OH), 11 wt. % of triglycerides of linolenic acid ($\text{H}_3\text{C}-[-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-]_3-[-\text{CH}_2-]$ ₇-C(O)OH), and, 14 wt. % of triglycerides of various saturated fatty acids, as described in the Seventh Ed. Of the Merck Index, which is incorporated herein by reference. All of these fatty acid moieties are represented in the "R" groups of the substituents in the product sucrose fatty acid ester. Accordingly, when referring to a sucrose fatty acid ester herein as the product of a reaction employing a fatty acid feed stock derived from a natural source, for example, sucrose soyate, the term is intended to include all of the various constituents which are typically found as a consequence of the source from which the sucrose fatty acid ester is prepared. In a related aspect, the saccharide fatty acid esters as disclosed may exhibit low viscosity (e.g., between about 10 to 2000 centipoise at room temperature or under standard atmospheric pressure). In another aspect, the unsaturated fatty acids, may have one, two, three or more double bonds.

[0095] In embodiments of the present invention, the saccharide fatty acid ester, and in aspects, the disaccharide ester, is formed from fatty acids having greater than about 6 carbon atoms, from about 8 to 16 carbon atoms, from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms, from about 14 to about 18 carbons atoms, from about 16 to about 18 carbon atoms, from about 16 to about 20 carbon atoms, and from about 20 to about 40 carbon atoms, on average.

[0096] In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid ester may be present in different concentrations to achieve hydrophobicity depending on the form of the cellulose-based material. In one aspect, when a saccharide fatty acid ester (SFAE) is bound as a coating on the cellulose-based material, the SFAE is present at a coating weight of at least about 0.1g/m² to about 1.0g/m², about 1.0g/m² to about 2.0g/m², about 2g/m² to about 3g/m² on a surface of the cellulose-based material. In a related aspect, it may be present from about 3g/m² to about 4g/m², about 4g/m² to about 5g/m², about 5g/m² to about 10g/m², about 10g/m² to about 20g/m². In another aspect, when the cellulose-based material is a solution containing cellulose fiber, the SFAE is present at a concentration of at least about 0.025% (wt/wt) of the total fiber present. In a

related aspect, it may be present at about 0.05% (wt/wt) to about 0.1% (wt/wt), about 0.1% (wt/wt) to about 0.5% (wt/wt), about 0.5% (wt/wt) to about 1.0% (wt/wt), about 1.0% (wt/wt) to about 2.0% (wt/wt), about 2.0% (wt/wt) to about 3.0% (wt/wt), about 3.0% (wt/wt) to about 4.0% (wt/wt), about 4.0% (wt/wt) to about 5.0% (wt/wt), about 5.0% (wt/wt) to about 10% (wt/wt), about 10% (wt/wt) to about 50% (wt/wt) of the total fiber present. In a further related aspect, the amount of SFAE may be equal to the amount of fiber present. In some embodiments, the SFAE may coat the entire outer surface of a cellulose-based material (e.g., coat an entire piece of paper or cellulose-containing article).

[0097] In other embodiments, a coating may comprise between about 0.9% to about 1.0%, about 1.0% to about 5.0%, about 5.0 to about 10%, about 10% to about 20%, about 20% to about 30%, about 40% to about 50% saccharide fatty acid ester by weight of the coating (wt/wt). In a related aspect, the coating may contain between about 25% to about 35% saccharide fatty acid ester by weight of the coating (wt/wt).

[0098] In embodiments, the cellulose-based material includes, but is not limited to, paper, paperboard, paper sheets, paper pulp, cups, boxes, trays, lids, release papers/liners, compost bags, shopping bags, shipping bags, bacon board, tea bags, insulating material, containers for coffee or tea, pipes and water conduits, food grade disposable cutlery, plates and bottles, screens for TV and mobile devices, clothing (e.g., cotton or cotton blends), bandages, pressure sensitive labels, pressure sensitive tape, feminine products, and medical devices to be used on the body or inside it such as contraceptives, drug delivery devices, container for pharmaceutical materials (e.g., pills, tablets, suppositories, gels, etc.), and the like. Also, the coating technology as disclosed may be used on furniture and upholstery, outdoors camping equipment and the like.

[0099] In one aspect, the coatings as described herein are resistant to pH in the range of between about 3 to about 9. In a related aspect, the pH may be from about 3 to about 4, about 4 to about 5, about 5 to about 7, about 7 to about 9.

[00100] In embodiments, an alkanolic acid derivative is mixed with a saccharide fatty acid ester to form an emulsion, where the emulsion is used to treat the cellulose-based material.

[00101] In embodiments, the cellulose-containing material generated by the methods as disclosed herein exhibits greater hydrophobicity or water-resistance relative to the cellulose-containing material without the treatment. In a related aspect, the treated cellulose-containing material exhibits greater lipophobicity or grease resistance relative to the cellulose-containing

material without the treatment. In a further related aspect, the treated cellulose-containing material may be biodegradable, compostable, and/or recyclable. In one aspect, the treated cellulose-containing material is hydrophobic (water resistant) and lipophobic (grease resistant).

[00102] In embodiments, the treated cellulose-containing material may have improved mechanical properties compared to that same material untreated. For example, paper bags treated by the process as disclosed herein show increased burst strength, Gurley Number, Tensile Strength and/or Energy of Maximum Load. In one aspect, the burst strength is increased by a factor of between about 0.5 to 1.0 fold, between about 1.0 and 1.1 fold, between about 1.1 and 1.3 fold, between about 1.3 to 1.5 fold. In another aspect, the Gurley Number increased by a factor of between about 3 to 4 fold, between about 4 to 5 fold, between about 5 to 6 fold and about 6 to 7 fold. In still another aspect, the Tensile Strain increased by a factor of between about 0.5 to 1.0 fold, between about 1.0 to 1.1 fold, between about 1.1 to 1.2 fold and between about 1.2 to 1.3 fold. And in another aspect, the Energy of Max Load increased by a factor of between about 1.0 to 1.1 fold, between about 1.1 to 1.2 fold, between about 1.2 to 1.3 fold, and between about 1.3 to 1.4 fold.

[00103] In embodiments, the cellulose-containing material is a base paper comprising microfibrillated cellulose (MFC) or cellulose nanofiber (CNF) as described for example in U.S. Pub. No. 2015/0167243 (herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), where the MFC or CNF is added during the forming process and paper making process and/or added as a coating or a secondary layer to a prior forming layer to decrease the porosity of said base paper. In a related aspect, the base paper is contacted with the saccharide fatty acid ester as described above. In a further related aspect, the contacted base paper is further contacted with a polyvinyl alcohol (PvOH). In embodiments, the resulting contacted base paper is tuneably water and lipid resistant. In a related aspect, the resulting base paper may exhibit a Gurley value of at least about 10-15 (i.e., Gurley Air Resistance (sec/100 cc, 20 oz. cyl.)), or at least about 100, at least about 200 to about 350. In one aspect, the saccharide fatty acid ester coating may be a laminate for one or more layers or may provide one or more layers as a laminate or may reduce the amount of coating of one or more layers to achieve the same performance effect (e.g., water resistance, grease resistance, and the like). In a related aspect, the laminate may comprise a biodegradable and/or composable heat seal or adhesive.

[00104] In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid esters may be formulated as emulsions, where the choice emulsifying agent and the amount employed is dictated by the nature of the

composition and the ability of the agent to facilitate the dispersion of the saccharide fatty acid ester. In one aspect, the emulsifying agents may include, but are not limited to, water, buffers, polyvinyl alcohol (PvOH), carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), milk proteins, wheat glutens, gelatins, prolamines, soy protein isolates, starches, acetylated polysaccharides, alginates, carrageenans, chitosans, inulins, long chain fatty acids, waxes, agar, alginates, glycerol, gums, lecithins, poloxamers, mono-, di-glycerols, monosodium phosphates, monostearate, propylene glycols, detergents, cetyl alcohol, and combinations thereof. In another aspect, the saccharide ester:emulsifying agent ratios may be from about 0.1:99.9, from about 1:99, from about 10:90, from about 20:80, from about 35:65, from about 40:60, and from about 50:50. It will be apparent to one of skill in the art that ratios may be varied depending on the property(ies) desired for the final product.

[00105] In embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid esters may be combined with one or more coating components for internal and surface sizing (alone or in combination), including but not limited to, pigments (e.g., clay, calcium carbonate, titanium dioxide, plastic pigment), binders (e.g., starch, soy protein, polymer emulsions, PvOH), and additives (e.g., glyoxal, glyoxalated resins, zirconium salts, calcium stearate, lecithin oleate, polyethylene emulsion, carboxymethyl cellulose, acrylic polymers, alginates, polyacrylate gums, polyacrylates, microbiocides, oil based defoamers, silicone based defoamers, stilbenes, direct dyes and acid dyes). In a related aspect, such components may provide one or more properties, including but not limited to, building a fine porous structure, providing light scattering surface, improving ink receptivity, improving gloss, binding pigment particles, binding coatings to paper, base sheet reinforcement, filling pores in pigment structure, reducing water sensitivity, resisting wet pick in offset printing, preventing blade scratching, improving gloss in supercalendering, reducing dusting, adjusting coating viscosity, providing water holding, dispersing pigments, maintaining coating dispersion, preventing spoilage of coating/coating color, controlling foaming, reducing entrained air and coating craters, increasing whiteness and brightness, and controlling color and shade. It will be apparent to one of skill in the art that combinations may be varied depending on the property(ies) desired for the final product.

[00106] In embodiments, the methods employing said saccharide fatty acid esters may be used to lower the cost of applications of primary/secondary coating (e.g., silicone-based layer, starch-based layer, clay-based layer, PLA-layer, PEI-layer and the like) by providing a layer of material that exhibits a necessary property (e.g., water resistance, low surface energy, and the like), thereby reducing the amount of primary/secondary layer necessary to achieve that same property.

In one aspect, materials may be coated on top of an SFAE layer (e.g., heat sealable agents). In embodiments, the composition is fluorocarbon and silicone free.

[00107] In embodiments, the compositions increase both mechanical and thermal stability of the treated product. In one aspect, the surface treatment is thermostable at temperatures between about -100°C to about 300°C. In further related aspect, the surface of the cellulose-based material exhibits a water contact angle of between about 60° to about 120°. In another related aspect, the surface treatment is chemically stable at temperatures of between about 200°C to about 300°C.

[00108] The substrate which may be dried prior to application (e.g., at about 80-150°C), may be treated with the modifying composition by dipping, for example, and allowing the surface to be exposed to the composition for less than 1 second. The substrate may be heated to dry the surface, after which the modified material is ready for use. In one aspect, according to the method as disclosed herein the substrate may be treated by any suitable coating/sizing process typically carried out in a paper mill (see, e.g., Smook, G., *Surface Treatments in Handbook for Pulp & Paper Technologists*, (2016), 4th Ed., Cpt. 18, pp. 293-309, TAPPI Press, Peachtree Corners, GA USA, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

[00109] No special preparation of the material is necessary in practicing this invention, although for some applications, the material may be dried before treatment. In embodiments, the methods as disclosed may be used on any cellulose-based surface, including but not limited to, a film, a rigid container, fibers, pulp, a fabric or the like. In one aspect, the saccharide fatty acid esters or coating agents may be applied by conventional size press (vertical, inclined, horizontal), gate roll size press, metering size press, calender size application, tube sizing, on-machine, off-machine, single-sided coater, double-sided coater, short dwell, simultaneous two-side coater, blade or rod coater, gravure coater, gravure printing, flexographic printing, ink-jet printing, laser printing, supercalendering, and combinations thereof.

[00110] Depending on the source, the cellulose may be paper, paperboard, pulp, softwood fiber, hardwood fiber, or combinations thereof, nanocellulose, cellulose nanofibres, whiskers or microfibril, microfibrillated, cotton or cotton blends, cellulose nanocrystals, or nanofibrillated cellulose.

[00111] In embodiments, the amount of saccharide fatty acid ester coating applied is sufficient to completely cover at least one surface of a cellulose-containing material. For example, in embodiments, the saccharide fatty acid ester coating may be applied to the complete outer

surface of a container, the complete inner surface of a container, or a combination thereof, or one or both sides of a base paper. In other embodiments, the complete upper surface of a film may be covered by the saccharide fatty acid ester coating, or the complete under surface of a film may be covered by the saccharide fatty acid ester coating, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the lumen of a device/instrument may be covered by the coating or the outer surface of the device/instrument may be covered by the saccharide fatty acid ester coating, or a combination thereof. In embodiment, the amount of saccharide fatty acid ester coating applied is sufficient to partially cover at least one surface of a cellulose-containing material. For example, only those surfaces exposed to the ambient atmosphere are covered by the saccharide fatty acid ester coating, or only those surfaces that are not exposed to the ambient atmosphere are covered by the saccharide fatty acid ester coating (e.g., masking). As will be apparent to one of skill in the art, the amount of saccharide fatty acid ester coating applied may be dependent on the use of the material to be covered. In one aspect, one surface may be coated with a saccharide fatty acid ester and the opposing surface may be coated with an agent including, but not limited to, proteins, wheat gluteins, gelatins, prolamines, soy protein isolates, starches, modified starches, acetylated polysaccharides, alginates, carrageenans, chitosans, inulins, long chain fatty acids, waxes, and combinations thereof. In a related aspect, the SFAE can be added to a furnish, and the resulting material on the web may be provided with an additional coating of SFAE.

[00112] Any suitable coating process may be used to deliver any of the various saccharide fatty acid ester coatings and/or emulsions applied in the course of practicing this aspect of the method. In embodiments, saccharide fatty acid ester coating processes include immersion, spraying, painting, printing, and any combination of any of these processes, alone or with other coating processes adapted for practicing the methods as disclosed.

[00113] By increasing the concentration of saccharide fatty acid ester, for example, the composition as disclosed herein may react more extensively with the cellulose being treated with the net result that again improved water-repellent/lipid resistance characteristics are exhibited. However, higher coat weights do not necessarily translate to increased water resistance. In one aspect, various catalysts might allow for speedier "curing" to precisely tune the quantity of saccharide fatty acid ester to meet specific applications.

[00114] It will be apparent to one of skill in the art that the selection of cellulose to be treated, the saccharide fatty acid ester, the reaction temperature, and the exposure time are process

parameters that may be optimized by routine experimentation to suit any particular application for the final product.

[00115] The derivatized materials have altered physical properties which may be defined and measured using appropriate tests known in the art. For hydrophobicity the analytical protocol may include, but is not limited to, the contact angle measurement and moisture pick-up. Other properties include, stiffness, WVTR, porosity, tensile strength, lack of substrate degradation, burst and tear properties. A specific standardized protocol to follow is defined by the American Society for Testing and Materials (protocol ASTM D7334 – 08).

[00116] The permeability of a surface to various gases such as water vapour and oxygen may also be altered by the saccharide fatty acid ester coating process as the barrier function of the material is enhanced. The standard unit measuring permeability is the Barrer and protocols to measure these parameters are also available in the public domain (ASTM std F2476-05 for water vapour and ASTM std F2622-8 for oxygen).

[00117] In embodiments, materials treated according to the presently disclosed procedure display a complete biodegradability as measured by the degradation in the environment under microorganismal attack.

[00118] Various methods are available to define and test biodegradability including the shake-flask method (ASTM E1279 – 89(2008)) and the Zahn-Wellens test (OECD TG 302 B).

[00119] Various methods are available to define and test compostability including, but not limited to, ASTM D6400.

[00120] Materials suitable for treatment by the process of this invention include various forms of cellulose, such as cotton fibers, plant fibers such as flax, wood fibers, regenerated cellulose (rayon and cellophane), partially alkylated cellulose (cellulose ethers), partially esterified cellulose (acetate rayon), and other modified cellulose materials which have a substantial portion of their surfaces available for reaction/binding. As stated above, the term "cellulose" includes all of these materials and others of similar polysaccharide structure and having similar properties. Among these the relatively novel material microfibrillated cellulose (cellulose nanofiber) (see e.g., US patent US4,374,702 and US Pub. Nos. 2015/0167243 and 2009/0221812, herein incorporated by reference in their entireties) is particularly suitable for this application. In other embodiments, celluloses may include but are not limited to, cellulose triacetate, cellulose

propionate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, nitrocellulose (cellulose nitrate), cellulose sulfate, celluloid, methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, ethyl methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, cellulose nanocrystals, hydroxyethyl methyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and combinations thereof.

[00121] The modification of the cellulose as disclosed herein, in addition to increasing its hydrophobicity, may also increase its tensile strength, flexibility and stiffness, thereby further widening its spectrum of use. All biodegradable and partially biodegradable products made from or by using the modified cellulose disclosed in this application are within the scope of the disclosure, including recyclable and compostable products.

[00122] Among the possible applications of the coating technology such items include, but are not limited to, containers for all purpose such as paper, paperboard, paper pulp, cups, lids, boxes, trays, release papers/liners, compost bags, shopping bags, pipes and water conduits, food grade disposable cutlery, plates and bottles, screens for TV and mobile devices, clothing (e.g., cotton or cotton blends), bandages, pressure sensitive labels, pressure sensitive tape, feminine products, and medical devices to be used on the body or inside it such as contraceptives, drug delivery devices, and the like. Also, the coating technology as disclosed may be used on furniture and upholstery, outdoors camping equipment and the like.

[00123] The following examples are intended to illustrate but not limit the invention.

EXAMPLES

[00124] Example 1. Saccharide Fatty Acid Ester Formulations

[00125] SEFOSE® is a liquid at room temperature and all coatings/emulsions containing this material were applied at room temperature using a bench top drawdown device. Rod type and size were varied to create a range of coat weights.

Formulation 1

[00126] 50 ml of SEFOSE® were added to a solution containing 195 ml of water and 5 grams of carboxymethylcellulose (FINNFIX® 10; CP Kelco, Atlanta, GA). This formulation was mixed using a Silverson Homogenizer set to 5000 rpm for 1 minute. This emulsion was coated on a 50 gram base sheet made of bleached hardwood pulp and an 80 gram sheet composed of unbleached

softwood. Both papers were placed into an oven (105°C) for 15 minutes to dry. Upon removal from the oven, sheets were placed on the lab bench and 10 drops of water (room temperature) applied via pipette to each sheet. The base sheets selected for this testing would absorb a droplet of water immediately, whereas sheets coated with varying amounts of SEFOSE® showed increasing levels of water resistance as coat weight increased (see Table 1).

Table 1. Base Sheet Results with SEFOSE®

| Coat weight g/m² | 50g Hardwood Base Water Holdout (minutes) | 80g Softwood Base Holdout (minutes) |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3.2 | 1 | 0.5 |
| 4.1 | 14 | 9 |
| 6.4 | 30 | 25 |
| 8.5 | 50 | 40 |
| 9.2 | 100+ | 100+ |

[00127] It was observed that water resistance was less in the heavier sheet and no water resistance was achieved unless the sheet was dry.

Formulation 2

[00128] Addition of SEFOSE® to cup stock: (note this is single layer stock with no MFC treatment. 110 gram board made of Eucalyptus pulp). 50 grams of SEFOSE® was added to 200 grams of 5% cooked ethylated starch (Ethylex 2025) and stirred using a bench top kady mill for 30 seconds. Paper samples were coated and placed in the oven at 105°C for 15 minutes. 10-15 test droplets were placed on the coated side of the board and water holdout time was measured and recorded in the table below. Water penetration on the untreated board control was instant (see Table 2).

Table 2. Penetration of Hot Water for SEFOSE® Treated Cup Stock

| Quantity Applied g/m² | Time Required for Hot (80°C) Water to Penetrate |
|---|--|
| 2.3 | 0.05 hr |
| 4.1 | 0.5 hr |
| 6.2 | 1.2 hr |
| 8.3 | 3.5 hr |
| 9.6 | ~ 16 hr |

Formulation 3

[00129] Pure SEFOSE® was warmed to 45°C and placed in a spray bottle. A uniform spray was applied to the paper stock listed in the previous example, as well as to a piece of fiberboard and an amount of cotton cloth. When water drops were placed on the samples, penetration into the substrate occurred within 30 seconds, however after drying in the oven for 15 minutes at 105°C beads of water evaporated before being absorbed into the substrate.

[00130] Continued investigation concerned whether SEFOSE® might be compatible with compounds used for oil and grease resistant coatings. SEFOSE® is useful for water resistance as well as stiffness improvements. 240 gram board stock was used to do stiffness tests. Table 3 shows the results. These data were obtained at a single coat weight: 5 grams/square meter with a 5 sample average being reported. Results are in Taber stiffness units recorded with our V-5 Taber stiffness tester Model 150-E.

Table 3. Stiffness Test

| Sample tested | Machine Direction Stiffness | Cross Direction Stiffness |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Control board - no coating | 77.6 | 51.8 |
| SEFOSE® | 85.9 | 57.6 |
| Erucic Acid | 57.9 | 47.4 |
| Palmitoyl chloride | 47.7 | 39.5 |

[00131] Example 2. Bonding of Saccharide Ester to Cellulosic Substrate

[00132] In an effort to determine whether SEFOSE® was reversibly bound to a cellulosic material, pure SEFOSE® was mixed with pure cellulose at ratio of 50:50. The SEFOSE® was allowed to react for 15 min at 300°F and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride (non-polar solvent) or distilled water. The samples were refluxed for 6 hours, and gravimetric analysis of the samples was carried out.

Table 4. Extraction of SEFOSE® from Cellulosic Material

| Sample | Total Mass | SEFOSE® Mass | SEFOSE® Extracted | % SEFOSE® Retained |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| CH ₂ Cl ₂ | 2.85 | 1.42 | 0.25 | 83% |

| | | | | |
|------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| H ₂ O | 2.28 | 1.14 | 0.08 | 93% |
|------------------|------|------|------|-----|

[00133] Example 3. Examination of Cellulosic Surfaces

[00134] Scanning electron microscope images of base papers with and without MFC illustrate how a less porous base has potential to require far less waterproofing agents reacted to the surface. FIGs. 1-2 show untreated, medium porosity Whatman filter paper. FIGs. 1 and 2 show the relative high surface area exposed for a derivitizing agent to react with; however, it also shows a highly porous sheet with plenty of room for water to escape. FIGs. 3 and 4 show a side by side comparison of paper made with recycled pulp before and after coating with MFC. (They are two magnifications of the same samples, no MCF obviously on the left side of image). The testing shows that derivitization of a much less porous sheet shows more promise for long term water/vapor barrier performance. The last two images are just close ups taken of an average "pore" in a sheet of filter paper as well as a similar magnification of CNF coated paper for contrast purposes.

[00135] The data above demonstrate a critical point: that addition of more material results in a corresponding increase in performance. While not being bound by theory, the reaction appears to be faster with unbleached papers, suggesting that the presence of lignin may speed the reaction.

[00136] The fact that a product like the SEFOSE® is a liquid, it can readily emulsify, suggesting that it can easily be adapted to work in coating equipment commonly used in paper mills.

Example 4. "Phluphi"

[00137] Liquid SEFOSE® was mixed and reacted with bleached hardwood fiber to generate a variety of ways to create a waterproof handsheet. When the sucrose ester was mixed with pulp prior to sheet formation it was found that the majority of it is retained with the fiber. With sufficient heating and drying, a brittle, fluffy but very hydrophobic handsheet was formed. In this example, 0.25 grams SEFOSE® was mixed with 4.0 grams bleached hardwood fiber in 6 Liters of water. This mixture was stirred by hand and the water drained in a standard handsheet mold. The resulting fiber mat was removed and dried for 15 minutes at 325°F. The produced sheet exhibited significant hydrophobicity as well as greatly reduced hydrogen bonding between the fibers themselves. (Water contact angle was observed to be greater than 100 degrees). An emulsifier may be added. SEFOSE® to fiber may be from about 1:100 to 2:1.

[00138] Subsequent testing shows that talc is only a spectator in this and was left out of additional testing.

Example 5. Environmental Effects on SEFOSE® Coating Properties

[00139] In an effort to better understand the mechanism of sucrose esters reaction with fiber, low viscosity coatings were applied to a bleach kraft sheet that had wet strength resin added, but no water resistance (no sizing). Coatings were all less than 250 cps as measured using a Brookfield Viscometer at 100 rpm.

[00140] SEFOSE® was emulsified with Ethylex 2025 (starch) and applied to the paper via a gravure roll. For comparison, SEFOSE® was also emulsified with Westcote 9050 PVOH. As shown in FIG. 5, oxidation of the double bonds in SEFOSE® is enhanced by the presence of heat and additional chemical environments that enhance oxidative chemistry (see also, Table 5).

Table 5. Environmental Effects on SEFOSE® (Minutes to Failure)

| Time | SEFOSE® | | | |
|------|---------|-------|---------|-----|
| | PVOH | -PVOH | Ethylex | 3:1 |
| 0 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.15 | 2 |
| 1 | 0.083 | 0.11 | 0.15 | 1.8 |
| 2 | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.13 | 1.8 |
| 5 | 0.09 | 0.25 | 0.1 | 1.3 |
| 10 | 0.08 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| 30 | 0.08 | 1.1 | 0.08 | 0.8 |
| 60 | 0.08 | 3.8 | 0.08 | 0.8 |
| 120 | 0.08 | 8 | 0.08 | 0.7 |
| 500 | 0.07 | 17 | 0.07 | 0.4 |

Example 6. Effect of Unsaturated vs. Saturated Fatty Acid Chains

[00141] SEFOSE® was reacted with bleached softwood pulp and dried to form a sheet. Subsequently, extractions were carried out with CH₂Cl₂, toluene and water to determine the extent of the reaction with pulp. Extractions were performed for at least 6 hours using Soxhlet extraction glassware. Results of the extractions are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Extraction of SEFOSE®-bound Pulp

| | Water | CH ₂ Cl ₂ | Toluene |
|------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Mass of Dry Pulp | 8.772g | 9.237g | 8.090g |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| SEFOSE® added | 0.85g | 0.965g | 0.798g |
| Amount Extracted | 0.007g | 0.015g | 0.020g |

[00142] The data indicate that essentially all of the SEFOSE® remains in the sheet. To further verify this, the same procedure was carried out on the pulp alone, and results shows that approximately 0.01g per 10g of pulp was obtained. While not being bound by theory, this could easily be accounted for as residual pulping chemicals or more likely extractives that had not been completely removed.

[00143] Pure fibers of cellulose (e.g., α -cellulose from Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) were used, and the experiment repeated. As long as the loading levels of SEFOSE® remained below about 20% of the mass of the fibers, over 95% of the mass of SEFOSE® was retained with the fibers and not extractable with either polar or non-polar solvents. While not being bound by theory, optimizing baking time and temperature may further enhance the sucrose esters remaining with the fibers.

[00144] As shown, the data demonstrate a general inability to extract SEFOSE® out of the material after drying. On the other hand, when the fatty acids containing all saturated fatty acid chains are used instead of SEFOSE® (e.g., OLEAN®, available from Procter & Gamble Chemicals (Cincinnati, OH)), nearly 100% of the of the material can be extracted using hot water (at or above 70°C). OLEAN® is identical to SEFOSE® with the only change being saturated fatty acids attached (OLEAN®) instead of unsaturated fatty acids (SEFOSE®).

[00145] Another noteworthy aspect is that multiple fatty acid chains are reactive with the cellulose, and with the two saccharide molecules in the structure, the SEFOSE® gives rise to a stiff crosslinking network leading to strength improvements in fibrous webs such as paper, paperboard, air-laid and wet-laid non-wovens, and textiles.

Example 7. SEFOSE® Additions to Achieve Water Resistance

[00146] 2 and 3 gram handsheets were made using both hardwood and softwood kraft pulps. When SEFOSE® was added to the 1% pulp slurry at a level of 0.1% or greater and water was drained forming the handsheet, SEFOSE® was retained with the fibers, where it imparted water resistance. From 0.1% to 0.4% SEFOSE®, water beaded on the surface for a few seconds or less. After SEFOSE® loading went above 0.4%, the time of water resistance quickly increased to minutes and then to hours for loading levels greater than 1.5%.

Example 8. Production of Bulky Fibrous Material

[00147] Addition of SEFOSE® to pulp acts to soften the fibers, increase space between them increasing bulk. For example, a 3% slurry of hardwood pulp containing 125g (dry) of pulp was drained, dried and found to occupy 18.2 cubic centimeters volume. 12.5g of SEFOSE® was added to the same 3% hardwood pulp slurry that contained an equivalent of 125g dry fiber. Upon draining the water and drying, the resulting mat occupied 45.2 cubic centimeters.

[00148] 30g of a standard bleached hardwood kraft pulp (produced by Old Town Fuel and Fiber, LLC, Old Town, ME) was sprayed with SEFOSE® that had been warmed to 60°C. This 4.3 cm³ was placed in a disintegrator for 10,000 rpm and essentially repulped. The mixture was poured through a handsheet mold and dried at 105°C. The resulting hydrophobic pulp occupied a volume of 8.1 cm³. A 2 inch square of this material was cut and placed in a hydraulic press with 50 tons of pressure applied for 30 seconds. The volume of the square was reduced significantly but still occupied 50% more volume than the same 2 inch square cut for the control with no pressure applied.

[00149] It is significant that not only is an increase in bulk and softness observed, but that a forcibly repulped mat when the water was drained resulted in a fiber mat where all of the hydrophobicity was retained. This quality, in addition to the observations that water cannot be easily "pushed" past the low surface energy barrier into the sheet, is of value. Attachment of hydrophobic single-chains of fatty acids do not exhibit this property.

[00150] While not being bound by theory, this represent additional evidence that SEFOSE® is reacting with the cellulose and that the OH groups on the surface of the cellulose fibers are no longer available to participate in subsequent hydrogen bonding. Other hydrophobic materials interfere with initial hydrogen bonding, but upon repulping this effect is reversed and the OH groups on the cellulose are free to participate in hydrogen bonding upon redrying.

Example 9. Bag Paper Testing Data

[00151] The following table (Table 7) illustrates properties imparted by coating 5-7g/m² with a SEFOSE® and polyvinyl alcohol (PvOH) mixture onto an unbleached kraft bag stock (control). Also included for reference are commercial bags.

Table 7. Bag Paper Tests

| Paper Type | Caliper (0.001 in) | Tensile (lb/in ²) | Burst (psi) |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Trial bag (control) | 3.26 | 9.45 | 52.1 |
| Trial bag with SEFOSE® | 3.32 | 15.21 | 62.6 |
| Sub Sandwich bag | 2.16 | 8.82 | 25.2 |
| Home Depot leaf bag | 5.3 | 17.88 | 71.5 |

[00152] As may be seen in the Table, tensile and burst increase with the coating of the control base paper with SEFOSE® and PVOH.

Example 10. Wet/Dry Tensile Strength

[00153] 3 gram handsheets were made from bleached pulp. The following compares wet and dry tensile strength at different levels of SEFOSE® addition. Note that with these handsheets SEFOSE® was not emulsified into any coating, it was simply mixed into the pulp and drained with no other chemistry added (see Table 8).

Table 8. Wet/Dry Tensile Strength

| SEFOSE® Loading | Wet Strength (lb/in ²) | Dry Strength (lb/in ²) |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 0% | 0.29 | 9.69 |
| 0.5% | 1.01 | 10.54 |
| 1% | 1.45 | 11.13 |
| 5% | 7.22 | 15.02 |

[00154] Note also, that the 5% addition for the wet strength is not far below the dry strength of the control.

Example 11. Use of Esters Containing Less Than 8 Saturated Fatty Acids

[00155] A number of experiments were carried out with sucrose esters produced having less than 8 fatty acids attached to the sucrose moiety. Samples of SP50, SP10, SP01 and F20W (from Sisma, The Netherlands) which contain 50, 10, 1 and essentially 0% monoesters, respectively. While these commercially available products are made by reacting sucrose with saturated fatty

acids, thus relegating them less useful for further crosslinking or similar chemistries, they have been useful in examining emulsification and water repelling properties.

[00156] For example, 10g of SP01 was mixed with 10g of glyoxal in a 10% cooked PvOH solution. The mixture was "cooked" at 200°F for 5 mins and applied via drawdown to a porous base paper made from bleached hardwood kraft. The result was a crosslinked waxy coating on the surface of the paper that exhibited good hydrophobicity. Where a minimum of 3g/m² was applied, the resulting contact angle was greater than 100°. Since the glyoxal is a well-known crystallizer used on compounds having OH groups, this method is a potential means to affix fairly unreactive sucrose esters to a surface by bonding leftover alcohol groups on the sucrose ring with an alcohol group made available in the substrate or other coating materials.

Example 12. HST Data and Moisture Uptake

[00157] To demonstrate that SEFOSE® alone provides the water proofing properties observed, porous Twins River (Matawaska, ME) base paper was treated with various amounts of SEFOSE (and PvOH or Ethylex 2025 to emulsify, applied by drawdown) and assayed by Hercules Size Test. The results are shown in Table 9.

Table 9. HST Data with SEFOSE®.

| HST-seconds | SEFOSE® pickup g/m ² | Emulsifier g/m ² |
|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <1 | - | - |
| 2.7 | 0g/m ² | 2.7g/m ² PvOH |
| 16.8 | 0g/m ² | 4.5g/m ² Ethylex 2025 |
| 65 | 2.2g/m ² | 2.3g/m ² Ethylex 2025 |
| 389.7 | 1.6g/m ² | 1.6g/m ² PvOH |
| 533 | 3.0g/m ² | 4.0g/m ² PvOH |
| 1480 | 5.0g/m ² | 5.0g/m ² Ethylex 2025 |
| 2300+ | 5.0g/m ² | 5.0g/m ² PvOH |

[00158] As can be seen in Table 9, increased SEFOSE® applied to the surface of the paper lead to increased water resistance (as shown by increased HST in seconds).

[00159] This may also be seen using coatings of a saturated sucrose ester product. For this particular example, the product, F20W (available from Sistema, The Netherlands) is described as a very low% monoester with most molecules in the 4-8 substitution range. Note that the F20W product pickup is only 50% of the total coating, as it was emulsified with PvOH using equal parts

of each to make a stable emulsion. So, where the pickup is labeled "0.5 g/m²" there is also the same pickup of PvOH giving a total pickup of 1.0 g/m². Results are shown in Table 10.

Table 10. HST Data F20W.

| HST-Seconds | Sisterna F20W pickup |
|-------------|----------------------|
| <1 | 0 |
| 2.0 | 0.5g/m ² |
| 17.8 | 1.7g/m ² |
| 175.3 | 2.2g/m ² |
| 438.8 | 3.5g/m ² |
| 2412 | 4.1g/m ² |

[00160] As can be seen from Table 10, again, increase F20W increases the water resistance of the porous sheet. Thus, the applied sucrose fatty acid ester itself is making the paper water resistance.

[00161] That the water resistance is not simply due to the presence of a fatty acid forming an ester bond with the cellulose, softwood handsheets (bleached softwood kraft) were loaded with SEFOSE® and oleic acid was directly added to the pulp, where the oleic acid forms an ester bond with the cellulose in the pulp. The mass at time zero represents the "bone dry" mass of the handsheets taken out of the oven at 105°C. The samples were placed in a controlled humidity room maintained at 50% RH. The change in mass is noted over time (in minutes). The results are shown in Tables 11 and 12.

Table 11. Moisture Uptake SEFOSE®.

| Time (Min) | 2% SEFOSE® | 30% SEFOSE® | Control |
|------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| 0 | 3.859 | 4.099 | 3.877 |
| 1 | 3.896 | 4.128 | 3.911 |
| 3 | 3.912 | 4.169 | 3.95 |
| 5 | 3.961 | 4.195 | 3.978 |
| 10 | 4.01 | 4.256 | 4.032 |
| 15 | 4.039 | 4.276 | 4.054 |
| 30 | 4.06 | 4.316 | 4.092 |
| 60 | 4.068 | 4.334 | 4.102 |

| | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| 180 | 4.069 | 4.336 | 4.115 |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|

Table 12. Moisture Uptake Oleic Acid.

| Time (hrs) | 30% Oleic Acid | 50% Oleic Acid | Control |
|------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| 0 | 4.018 | 4.014 | 4.356 |
| 0.5 | 4.067 | 4.052 | 4.48 |
| 2 | 4.117 | 4.077 | 4.609 |
| 3 | 4.128 | 4.08 | 4.631 |
| 5 | 4.136 | 4.081 | 4.647 |
| 21 | 4.142 | 4.083 | 4.661 |

[00162] Note the difference here where oleic acid is directly added to the pulp forming an ester bond greatly slows moisture uptake. In contrast, only 2% SEFOSE® slows moisture uptake, at higher concentrations, SEFOSE® does not. As such, while not being bound by theory, the structure of the SEFOSE® bound material cannot be simply explained by the structure formed by simple fatty acid esters and cellulose.

Example 13. Saturated SFAEs

[00163] The saturated class of esters are waxy solids at room temperature which, due to saturation, are less reactive with the sample matrix or itself. Using elevated temperatures (e.g., at least 40°C and for all the ones tested above 65°C) these material melt and may be applied as a liquid which then cools and solidifies forming a hydrophobic coating. Alternatively, these materials may be emulsified in solid form and applied as an aqueous coating to impart hydrophobic characteristics.

[00164] The data shown here represent HST (Hercules Size test) readings obtained from papers coated with varying quantities of saturated SFAEs.

[00165] A #45, bleached, hardwood kraft sheet obtained from Turner Falls paper was used for test coatings. The Gurley porosity measured approximately 300 seconds, representing a fairly tight base sheet. S-370 obtained from Mitsubishi Foods (Japan) was emulsified with Xanthan Gum (up to 1% of the mass of saturated SFAE formulation) before coating.

[00166] Coat weight of saturated SFAE formulation (pounds per ton) HST (average of 4 measurements per sample).

Table 13

| Coat weight of S-370 (pounds per ton) | HST (average of 4 measurements per sample) |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Control only #0 | 4 seconds |
| #45 | 140 seconds |
| #65 | 385 seconds |
| #100 | 839 seconds |
| #150 | 1044 seconds |
| #200 | 1209 seconds |

[00167] Lab data generated also supports that limited amounts of saturated SFAE may enhance water resistance of coatings that are designed for other purposes/applications. For example, saturated SFAE was blended with Ethylex starch and polyvinyl alcohol based coatings and increased water resistance was observed in each case.

[00168] The examples below were coated on a #50, bleached recycled base with a Gurley porosity of 18 seconds.

[00169] 100 grams of Ethylex 2025 were cooked at 10% solids (1 liter volume) and 10 grams of S-370 were added in hot and mixed using a Silverson homogenizer. The resulting coating was applied using a common benchtop drawdown device and the papers were dried under heat lamps.

[00170] At 300#/ton coat weight, the starch alone had an average HST of 480 seconds. With the same coat weight of the starch and saturated SFAE mixture, the HST increased to 710 seconds.

[00171] Enough polyvinyl alcohol (Selvol 205S) was dissolved in hot water to achieve a 10% solution. This solution was coated on the same #50 paper described above and had an average HST of 225 at 150 pounds/ton of coat weight. Using this same solution, S-370 was added to achieve a mixture in which contained 90% PVOH /10% S-370 on a dry basis (i.e., 90 ml water, 9 grams PVOH, 1gram S-370): average HST increased to 380 seconds.

[00172] Saturated SFAEs are compatible with prolamines (specifically, zein; see U.S. Pat. No. 7,737,200, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Since one of the major barriers to

commercial production of the subject matter of said patent is that the formulation be water soluble: the addition of saturated SFAEs assists in this manner.

Example 14. Other Saturated SFAEs

[00173] Size press evaluations of saturated SFAE based coatings were done on a bleached lightweight sheet (approx. 35 #) that had no sizing and relatively poor formation. All evaluations were done using Exceval HR 3010 PVOH cooked to emulsify the saturated SFAE. Enough saturated SFAE was added to account for 20% of the total solids. The focus was on evaluating the S-370 vs the C-1800 samples (available from Mitsubishi Foods, Japan). Both of these esters performed better than the control, some of the key data are shown in Table 14:

Table 14

| | Average HST | Kit Value |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 10% polyvinyl alcohol alone | 38 sec. | 2 |
| PVOH with S-370 | 85 sec. | 3 |
| PVOH with C-1800 | 82 sec. | 5 |

[00174] Note that the saturated compounds appear to give an increase in kit, with both the S-370 and the C-1800 yielding a ~100% increase in HST.

Example 15. Wet Strength Additive

[00175] Laboratory testing has shown that the chemistry of the sucrose esters can be tuned to achieve a variety of properties, including use as a wet strength additive. When the sucrose esters are made by attaching saturated groups to each alcohol functionality on the sucrose (or other polyol), the result is a hydrophobic, waxy substance having low miscibility/solubility in water. These compounds may be added to cellulosic materials to impart water resistance either internally or as a coating, however, since they are not chemically reacted to each other or any part of the sample matrix they are susceptible to removal by solvents, heat and pressure.

[00176] Where waterproofing and higher levels of water resistance are desired, sucrose esters containing unsaturated functional groups may be made and added to the cellulosic material with the goal of achieving oxidation and/or crosslinking which helps fix the sucrose ester in the matrix and render it highly resistant to removal by physical means. By tuning the number of

unsaturated groups as well as the size of the sucrose esters, a means is obtained for crosslinking to impart strength, yet with a molecule that is not optimal for imparting water resistance.

[00177] The data shown here is taken by adding SEFOSE® to a bleached kraft sheet at varying levels and obtaining wet tensile data. The percentages shown in the table represent the percent sucrose ester of the treated 70# bleached paper (see Table 15).

Table 15

| % SEFOSE® | Load | Strain/Modulus |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 0% | 4.98 | 0.93/89.04 |
| 1% | 5.12 | 1.88/150.22 |
| 5% | 8.70 | 0.99/345.93 |
| 10% | 10.54 | 1.25/356.99 |
| Dry/untreated | 22.67 | |

[00178] The data illustrate a trend in that adding unsaturated sucrose esters to papers increases the wet strength as loading level increases. The dry tensile shows the maximum strength of the sheet as a point of reference.

Example 16. Method of producing sucrose esters using acid chlorides.

[00179] In addition to making hydrophobic sucrose esters via transesterification, similar hydrophobic properties can be achieved in fibrous articles by directly reacting acid chlorides with polyols containing analogous ring structures to sucrose.

[00180] For example, 200 grams of palmitoyl chloride (CAS 112-67-4) were mixed with 50 grams of sucrose and mixed at room temperature. After mixing the mixture was brought to 100°F and maintained at that temperature overnight (ambient pressure). The resulting material was washed with acetone and deionized water to remove any unreacted or hydrophilic materials. Analysis of remaining material using C-13 NMR showed a significant quantity of hydrophobic sucrose ester had been made.

[00181] While it has been shown (by BT3 and others) that the addition of fatty acid chlorides to cellulosic materials could impart hydrophobic properties, the reaction itself is undesirable on site as the by-product given off, gaseous HCl, creates a number of problems including corrosion of surrounding materials and is hazardous to workers and surrounding environment. One additional problem created by the productions of hydrochloric acid is that as

more is formed, i.e., more polyol sites are reacted, the weaker the fibrous composition becomes. Palmitoyl chloride was reacted in increasing amounts with cellulose and cotton materials and as hydrophobicity increased, strength of the article decreased.

[00182] The reaction above was repeated several times using 200 grams of R-CO-chloride reacted with 50 grams each of other similar polyols, including corn starch, xylan from birch, carboxymethylcellulose, glucose and extracted hemicelluloses.

Example 17. SFAE-LIGNIN AND SFAE-HEMICELLULOSE COMBINATIONS

[00183] Hemicellulose may be obtained from sugarcane bagasse. Extraction is carried out at a ratio of 1:5 bagasse to NaOH solvent. After filtration, the supernatant is adjusted to pH 5.5 with HCl. The suspension is then filtered and then the supernatant is added to four volumes of ethanol to obtain a pellet. Subsequently, the pellet is dried at 50°C.

[00184] Various concentrations of hemicellulose are prepared in dH₂O. SFAEs are added as aqueous emulsions to the hemicellulose solution and mixed for 15 min. at 45°C using a magnetic stirrer. The hemicellulose and SFAE solution is then applied to a substrate and dried. The dried paper is then ready for analysis (e.g., water contact angle, water vapor transmission, O₂ transmission).

Molded Paper Cup Lid.

[00185] A) Lignin coated fiber

[00186] Lignin cellulose fibers may be obtained by the methods as described in US Pub. No. 20150233057 (herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and may be isolated as a suspension.

[00187] The lignin fibers are mixed with an aqueous emulsion of SFAE to form a composite. The suspension of cellulose fibers and SFAE is applied to a foldable sheet (microembossed or FIBREFORM®) and dried for 120 minutes or more at an ambient temperature (23°C) and placed into a cup lid mold.

[00188] The resultant molded composite is measured for oxygen permeability and water vapor permeability. The molded composite may be further hold for 30 minutes in a thermostat chamber set to a heating temperature and allowed to cool for 2 hours or more at an ambient temperature (23°C) to obtain a treated molded composite.

[00189] B) Hemicellulose Molded Cup.

[00190] Cellulose fibers may be obtained by the methods as described in US Pub. No. 20110262731 (herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and may be isolated as a suspension.

[00191] The hemicellulose is isolated and combined with the SFAE as described above.

[00192] The cellulose fibers are mixed with the hemicellulose-SFAE solution to form a composite. The suspension of cellulose fibers and hemi-cellulose SFAE is applied to a foldable sheet (microembossed or FIBREFORM®) and dried for 120 minutes or more at an ambient temperature (23°C) and placed into a cup lid mold.

[00193] The resultant molded composite is measured for oxygen permeability and water vapor permeability. The molded composite may be further hold for 30 minutes in a thermostat chamber set to a heating temperature and allowed to cool for 2 hours or more at an ambient temperature (23°C) to obtain a treated molded composite.

Exhibit 18. Other uses

[00194] Cup base stock was found to be heavily treated with rosin to increase water resistance. However, the Gurley on this board was found to be 50 seconds indicating a fairly porous board. This material is repulpable and steam quickly penetrates to soften it. Pure SEFOSE® was applied to this board and dried in an oven at 100°C overnight. The resulting material had a plastic like feel and was completely waterproof. By mass, it was 50% (wt/wt) cellulose/50% (wt/wt) SEFOSE®. The Gurley was too high to measure. Submerging a sample in water for 7 days did not significantly soften the material, however, from greenhouse data it seems to biodegrade in approximately 150 days. Common tapes and glues would not stick to this composite material.

[00195] Experiments with saturated SFAE and zein have been carried out, as zein has been shown to impart grease resistance to paper. Stable aqueous dispersions of zein (up to 25% in water) to which saturated SFAE was added from 2 to 5% were generated. Observations demonstrated that saturated SFAE "locks down" zein on paper by imparting water resistance (in addition to grease resistance) to the formulation.

[00196] Although the invention has been described with reference to the above examples, it will be understood that modifications and variations are encompassed within the spirit and scope

of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is limited only by the following claims. All references disclosed herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A composition comprising a SFAE-hemicellulose bound cellulose-based material, wherein the SFAE and hemicellulose are present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit low permeability to oxygen.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the saccharide fatty acid ester contains at least one saccharide and at least one aliphatic group comprising 8 to 30 carbons, and the composition is present at a sufficient concentration to make the bound cellulose-based material hydrophobic compared to the same material with no composition.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the SFAE-hemicellulose composition is releasably or non-releasably bound to the cellulose-based material.
4. The composition of claim 1, the SFAE is present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound hemicellulose-based material to exhibit a water contact angle of equal to or greater than 90°, where the water contact angle is effected in the absence of any secondary hydrophobes.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a hemicellulose content in % by dry weight of 1-99%.
6. A composition comprising a SFAE-lignin bound cellulose-based material, wherein the SFAE and lignin are present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit water resistance.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the saccharide fatty acid ester contains at least one saccharide and at least one aliphatic group comprising 8 to 30 carbons.
8. The composition of claim 6, wherein the SFAE-lignin composition is releasably or non-releasably bound to the cellulose-based material.

9. The composition of claim 6, the SFAE is present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound lignin-based material to exhibit a water contact angle of equal to or greater than 90°, where the water contact angle is effected in the absence of any secondary hydrophobes.

10. The composition of claim 1 or claim 6, wherein the cellulose based material is selected from the group consisting of paper, paper sheets, paperboard, paper pulp, a food storage carton, parchment paper, cake board, butcher paper, release paper/liner, a food storage bag, a shopping bag, a shipping bag, bacon board, insulating material, tea bags, a coffee or tea container, a compost bag, eating utensil, a hot or cold beverage container, cup, a lid, plate, a carbonated liquid storage bottle, gift cards, a non-carbonated liquid storage bottle, wrapping food film, a garbage disposal container, a food handling implement, a fabric fibre (e.g., cotton or cotton blends), a water storage and conveying implement, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink container, an outer casing or screen for electronic goods, an internal or external piece of furniture, a curtain and upholstery.

11. A method of producing a molded cup lid comprising:

- a. applying a composition containing a SFAE and hemicellulose to a foldable paper sheet;
- b. drying said folded sheet for a sufficient time to allow the composition to adhere to the sheet;
- c. placing the sheet into a cup lid mold, and allowing the sheet to completely dry;
and
- d. optionally heating the lid for an additional time to sufficiently shape the lid.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the foldable paper is microembossed.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the saccharide fatty acid ester contains at least one saccharide and at least one aliphatic group comprising 8 to 30 carbons, and the composition is present at a sufficient concentration to make the bound cellulose-based material hydrophobic compared to the same material with no composition.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the SFAE and hemicellulose are present at a sufficient

concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit low permeability to oxygen.

15. An article of manufacture comprising the molded cup lid produced by the method of claim 11.

16. A method of producing a molded cup lid comprising:

- a. applying a composition containing a SFAE and lignin to a foldable paper sheet;
- b. drying said folded sheet for a sufficient time to allow the composition to adhere to the sheet;
- c. placing the sheet into a cup lid mold, and allowing the sheet to completely dry;
and
- d. optionally heating the lid for an additional time to sufficiently shape the lid.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the foldable paper is microembossed.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the SFAE and lignin are present at a sufficient concentration to cause the bound cellulose-based material to exhibit water resistance.

19. An article of manufacture comprising a molded cup lid produced by the method of claim 16.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein said SFAE is saturated or unsaturated.

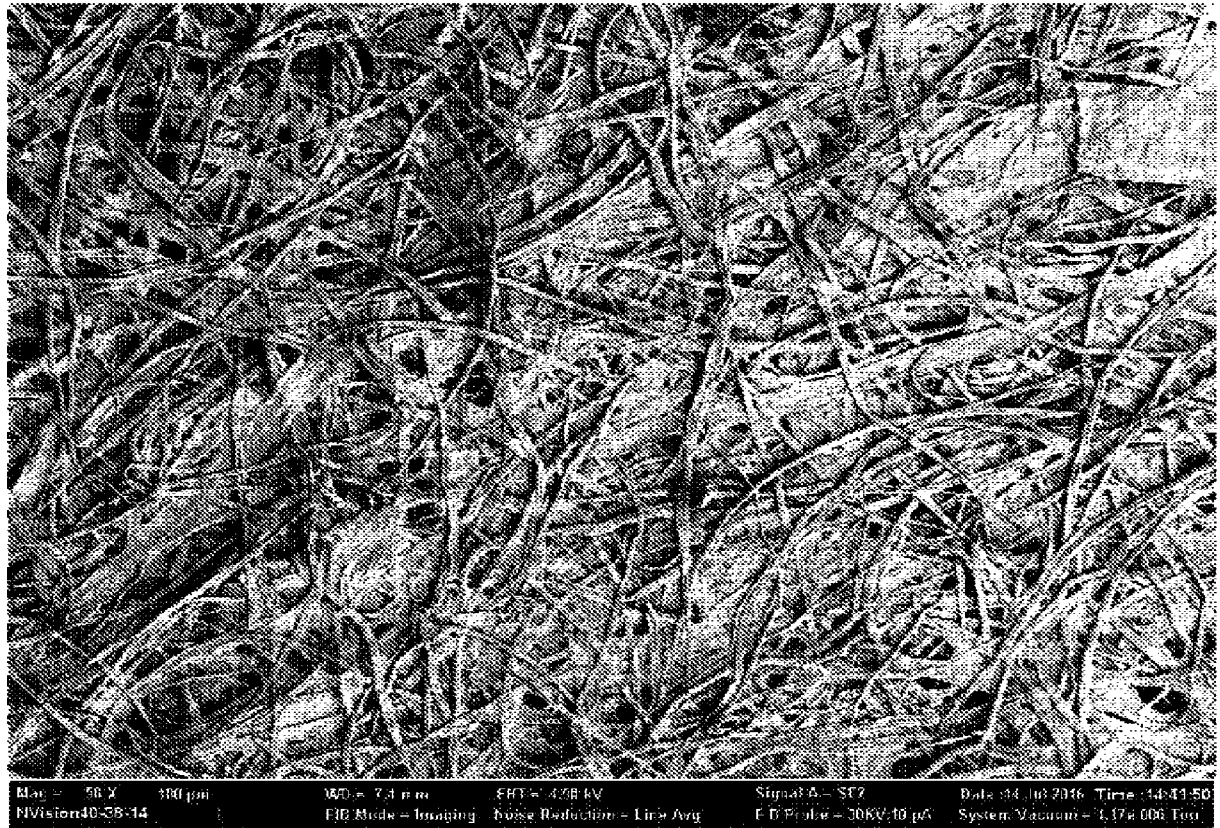


FIG. 1

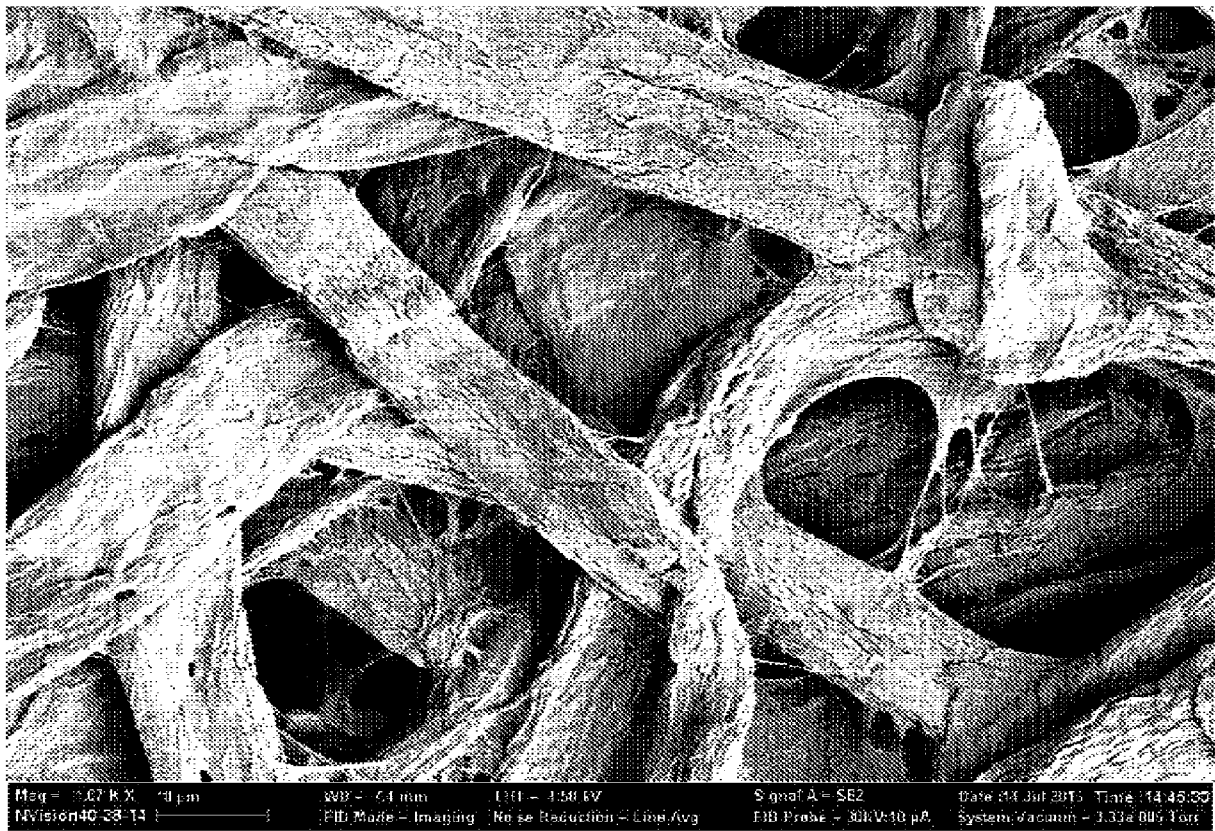


FIG. 2

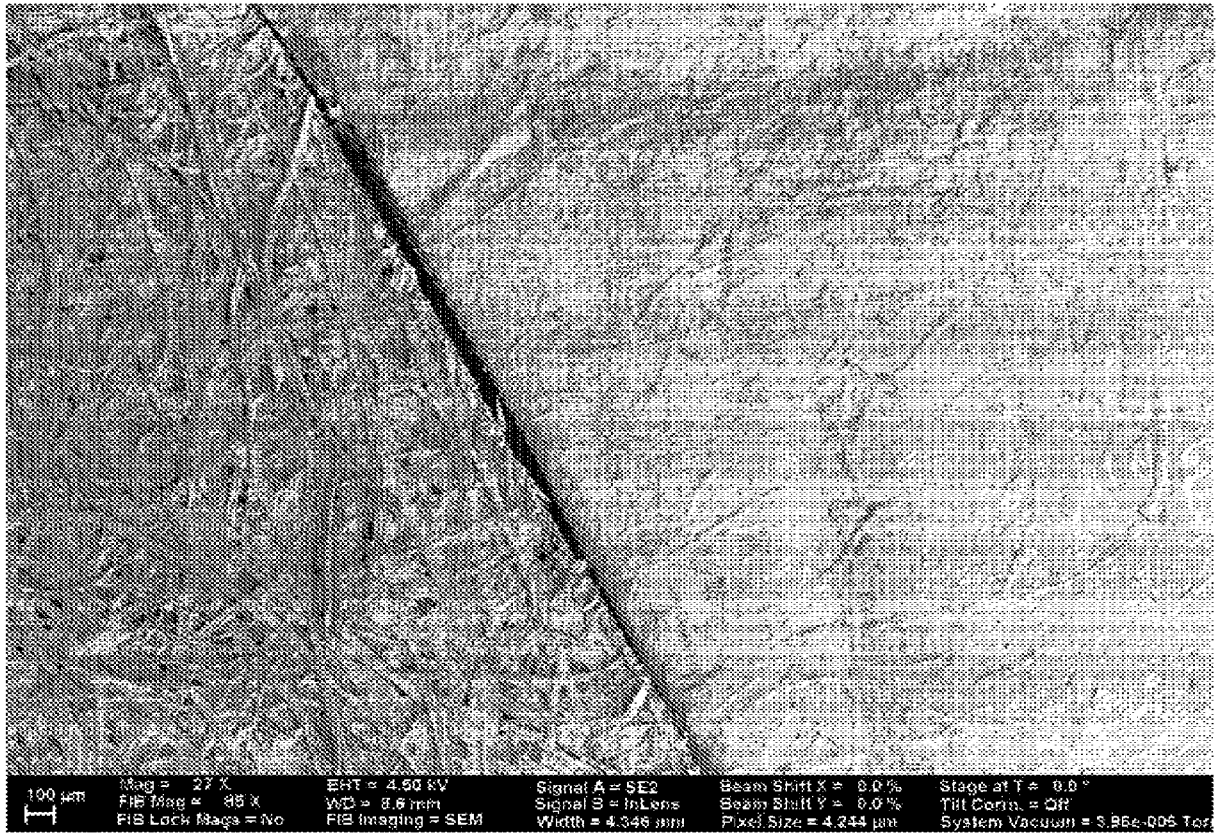


FIG. 3

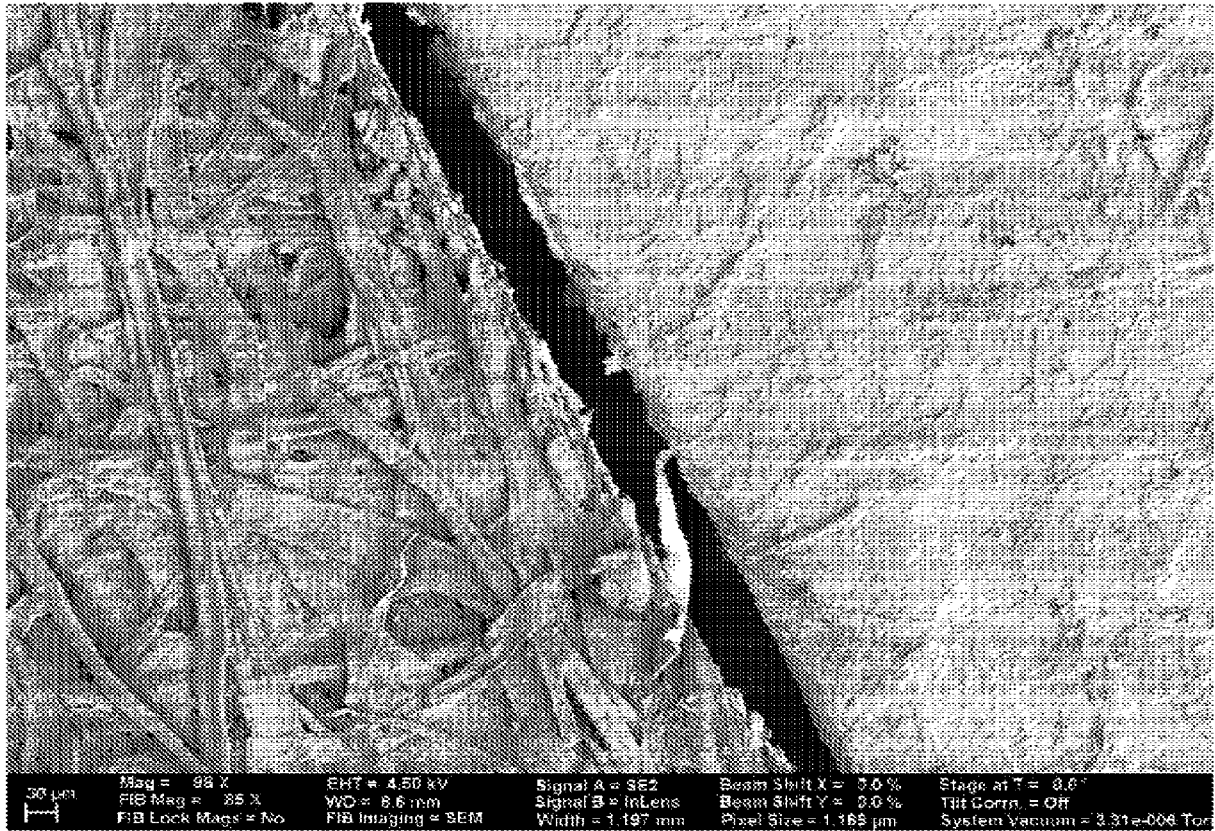


FIG. 4

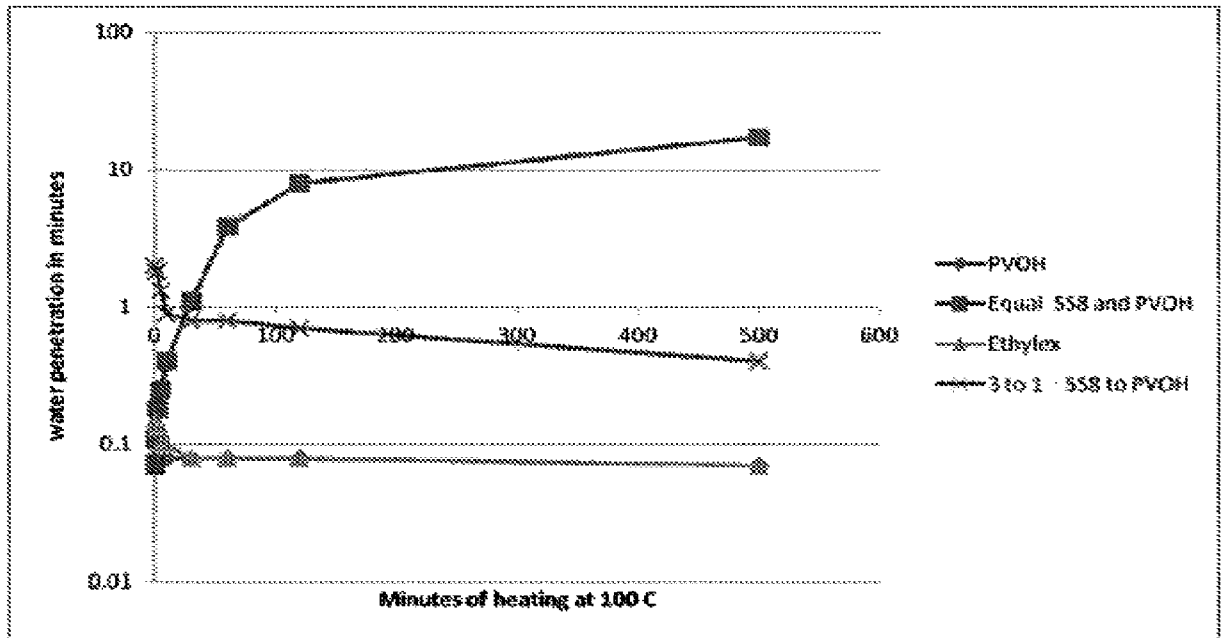


FIG. 5