Carbohydrate Polymers **8** (1988) 137–141

News and Views

PROFESSOR M. RINAUDO, 1988 BELFORT LECTURER AT THE WHISTLER CENTER FOR CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH, PURDUE UNIVERSITY, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, USA

The Belfort Lectures were established by Dr Anne D. Belfort in memory of her late husband, Dr Alan M. Belfort, who studied under Professor Whistler and earned a PhD degree in carbohydrate chemistry at Purdue University in 1960. Those honoured by being chosen to give a Belfort Lecture are scientists who have made outstanding contributions to an area of carbohydrate chemistry.

Professor Rinaudo, a recognized international authority on the functional properties of polysaccharides, holds the title of Professor at the Scientific, Technological, and Medical University of Grenoble, France, and is Director of the Center for Research on Plant Macromolecules (CERMAV), a laboratory of the National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS).

Professor Rinaudo's research has been performed in the CERMAV section concerned with studies of sol and gel states. She is best known for a series of elegant determinations of the secondary and tertiary structures of xanthan in aqueous solutions and factors that effect conformational transitions. She has also contributed to our understanding of the interactions of various counterions with pectins and pectinic acids, the gelation of pectinic acids with calcium ions, the mechanism of kappa-carrageenan gel formation, and chitosan.

Her 1988 Belfort Lecture entitled 'Characterization and Properties of Some Water-Soluble Bacterial Polysacccharides' was given on 16 February 1988.

Previous Belfort Lecturers have been as follows: Biochemistry Series: 1979 — Melvin I. Simon, University of California, San Diego; 1980 — Gottfried Schatz, University of Basel; 1981 — Michael S. Brown, University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas; 1982 — Lawrence Bogorad, Harvard University; 1983 — Leroy E. Hood, California Institute of Technology. Carbohydrate Chemistry Series: 1984 — James N. BeMiller, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Darrell G. Medcalf, Hershey Foods Corporation; 1987 — Louise Slade, Nabisco Brands, Inc.

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SUMMARIES OF UK PATENT APPLICATIONS

Mouldable Starch Compositions. GB 2190 093A. Filed 1 May 1987, published 11 November 1987. Applicants — Warner Lambert Company, New Jersey, USA.

A particulate free-flowing starch based formulation which can be used for preparing moulded bodies, e.g. capsules for filling with pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, is described.

Flocculant Polygalactosamine. GB 2191 497A. Filed 5 February 1987, published 16 December 1987. Applicants — Higeta Shoyu Co. Ltd, Tokyo.

A flocculating material which is isolated from a fungus is described. In its pure form it comprises 99% polygalactosamine. The average molecular weight is at least 160 000.

Filtration of Thick Gluten. GB 2192 003A. Filed 24 January 1987, published 31 December 1987. Applicants — Rohm GmbH, Darmstadt, FRG.

The filtration of thick gluten which is obtained as a biproduct of the manufacture of maize starch can be improved by the action before or during filtration of an amylase- and proteinase-free xylanase, hemicellulase and/or glucanase, and results in more rapid removal of water and in retention of the starch content of the thick gluten.

Bonded Composite of Cellulose Based Fibres in Vinyl Chloride Polymer Characterized by a Silane Bonding Agent. GB 2192 397A. Filed 4 March 1987, published 13 January 1988. Applicants — Bohuslav Vaclav Kokta, Quebec, Canada.

Composites are made from cellulose fibres dispersed in a matrix of vinyl chloride polymer and a silane bonding agent, optimally with a plasticizer and/or inorganic filler. The composites can be moulded or extruded.

Composites of Cellulose Fibres and Vinyl Chloride Polymer Bonded by an Isocyanate Bonding Agent. GB 2192 398A. Filed 4 March 1987,

published 13 January 1988. Applicants — Bohuslav Vaclav Kokta, Quebec, Canada.

Composites are made from cellulose fibres dispersed in a matrix of plasticized vinyl chloride polymer and bonded with an isocyanate bonding agent dispersed in a polymer matrix. The composites can be moulded or extruded.

Stabilization of Xanthan Gum in Aqueous Solution. GB 2194 02A. Filed 9 January 1986, published 13 January 1988. Applicants — Nitto Chemical Industry Co. Ltd, Tokyo, Japan.

A method of stabilizing an aqueous solution of xanthan gum by incorporating at least one stabilizing agent selected from thiol derivatives of heterocyclic compounds is described.

Continuous Belt of Sponge or Foamed Material for Use in Liquid/Solid Reactions. GB 2192 403A. Filed 9 January 1986, published 13 January 1988. Applicant — G. E. Jowett, Swansea, UK.

A continuous web or belt of compresssible activated sponge material, e.g. activated regenerated porous cellulose or a foamed synthetic polymer can be used for carrying out liquid/solid reactions such as ion exchange and/or chromatographic separations in a continuous manner.

Improvements in or Relating to Pullanase Production. GB 2192 890A. Filed 20 June 1986, published 27 January 1988. Applicants — A.B.M. Chemical Ltd, Stockport, UK.

A pullanase-producing microorganism such as *Klebsiella aerogenes* is incubated in a simple culture medium comprising any of sucrose, glucose and fructose as a carbohydrate source. The medium is free of starch, proteins, yeast extract or other complex nutrients.

A Thickening Agent and Cosmetic Compositions Containing It. GB 2193 501A. Filed 15 May 1987, published 10 February 1988. Applicants — L'Oreal, Paris, France.

A thickening or gelling composition prepared from a synergistic mixture of a cationic polymer which is cellulose (or a cellulose derivative) which is grafted with a quaternary ammonium salt of a water soluble monomer and a carboxylic anionic polymer, e.g., polymethacrylic acid. The composition is used primarily in hair treatment.

Bonded Composites of Cellulose Based Fibres in Polystyrene Polymers Characterized by a Bonding Agent. GB 2193 503A. Filed 4 March 1987, published 10 February 1988. Applicants — Bohuslav Vaclav Kokta, Quebec, Canada.

Composites are made from cellulose fibres dispersed in a matrix of polystyrene and 0·1–10% of a bonding agent which may be isocyanate.

NOTICES

● = new entry; for full information on other meetings refer to the issue of this journal given in brackets.

1988

Tenth Cellulose Conference
Syracuse, NY, USA, 29 May–1 June [*see* **7** (3) 245]

First International Symposium on Polymer Analysis and Characterization
University of Toronto, Canada, 2–3 June [*see* **8** (1) 66]

ACHEMA 88 — International Meeting on Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology 22nd Exhibition-Congress
Frankfurt, FRG, 5–11 June [*see* **8** (1) 66]

● **Polymer Production and Processing**
Royal Society of Chemistry Residential School, University of Leeds, UK, 11–14 July.
Lecture programme supplemented by demonstrations and videos.
Further details and application forms available from:
Ms L. A. Hart,
Royal Society of Chemistry,
30 Russell Square,
London WC1B 5DT, UK

Eighth International Biotechnology Symposium
Palais des Congres, Paris, France, 17–22 July [*see* **8** (1) 66]

International Symposium on Cereal Carbohydrates
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, 9–11 August [*see* **8** (1) 67]

4th International Conference on Chitin and Chitosan
Trondheim, Norway, 22–24 August [*see* **7** (2) 167]

Biochemical Engineering VI
Santa Barbara, California, USA, 2–7 October [*see* **7** (5) 405]

1989

Water Relationships in Foods Symposium
Dallas, Texas, USA, 9–14 April [*see* **8** (1) 67]

Cellucon 89. Cellulose: Sources and Exploitation
UK, 11–15 September [*see* **7** (3) 245]