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Determining the amount of biobased (renewable resource) content in "BioSak" film

Background: It is claimed that "BioSak" is a 100% compostable and 100% biodegradable bag. Main applications for this product are kitchen and yard bags. W. Ralston manufacturers the BioSak bag.
W.Ralston advertises that BioSak bags are made from Novamont resins, which are based on corn starch and derivatives of vegetable oil. W. Ralston is advertising the BioSak bag is a renewable resource/biobased product.

Purpose: Determine if BioSak bags are based on a renewable resource (biobased).

Method: Wallac rackbeta liquid spectrophotometer analyzation
Quantulus 1220 Ultra Low Level Liquid Scintillation Spectrophotometer analyzation

Materials: "BioSak" kitchen bag,
"BioSak" yard bag,
Wallac rackbeta liquid spectrophotometer
Quantulus 1220 Ultra Low Level Liquid Scintillation spectrophotometer

Procedure: The above tests were performed according to standard procedures for each.

Results: See Attached

Conclusion:

(1) The renewable resource content in the product "BioSak" kitchen bag, is 23.7%, much less than what is advertised.
(2) The renewable resource content in the product "BioSak" yard bag, is 31.2%, much less than what is advertised.

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Mr. Bob Berg
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Dear Mr. Berg:

Here are the results for the samples you submitted in May.

A-number	Sample	C14 content, percent modern carbon (pMC)	Biobased content, %*	$\boxtimes^{13}C$, ‰
14289	Bio sak leaf bag	32.8 ± 0.3	31.2	-26.0
14290	Bio sak kitchen bag	24.9 ± 0.2	23.7	-28.3
14291	S14 bio	95.6 ± 0.5	91.1	-24.2
14292	S-10F	88.5 ± 0.6	84.3	-33.9
14293	VpCI-641	72.5 ± 0.5	69.1	-30.3

* Using the mean pMC, and assuming that 100% biobased content would correspond to 105.0 pMC, the value we measured for rural atmosphere (without urban contamination effects) in Arizona in 2005.

The data are corrected for $\boxtimes^{13}C$.

Best wishes with your research!

Chris Eastoe
Staff Scientist