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Additional Information

1	Effect of the citric acid addition on the properties and ageing time of starch-
2	polycaprolactone based films
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11	ABSTRACT
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14	1. INTRODUCTION
15	The packaging films, made of synthetic polymers, cause serious ecological problems
16	due to their non-biodegradability. The increase of the consumers' conscience for the
17	environmental protection is causing the intensification in research about biodegradable
18	packaging materials (Fajardo, Martins, Fuciños, Pastrana, Teixeira, & Vicente, 2010).
19	The development of biodegradable materials designed to maintain or improve the shelf
20	life of food is very important today (García, Pinotti, Martino, & Zaritzky, 2004). In last
21	decade, many research about materials for food packaging has been brought out, these
22	research have had in common the work with economically viable natural sources.
23	Among these materials, the starch is known for its low cost, its renewability and its
24	processability by mean of traditional techniques (Yoon, Chough & Park, 2006;
25	Ghanbarzadeh, Almasi & Entezami, 2011).

Starch represents more than 60% of cereal grains produced in the world and it is 26 27 relatively easy separate it from other chemicals compounds (Lourdin, Della Valle & Colonna, 1995). It has great importance in the packaging industry compared to other 28 biopolymers by its technical characteristics. The starch based films are continuous, 29 homogeneous, odourless and colourless and its oxygen permeability is very low (Dole, 30 Joly, Espuche, Alric, & Gontard, 2004; Liu, 2005; Ortega-Toro, Jiménez, Talens & 31 Chiralt, 2014a). However, starch films have some disadvantages such as high 32 hydrophilicity (water sensitivity) and poor mechanical properties compared to 33 conventional synthetic polymers (Averous & Boquillon, 2004). Furthermore, the 34 temperature and relative humidity (RH) during storage, have an effect on the 35 crystallinity of the films and therefore on its physical properties (Rindlava, Hulleman, & 36 Gatenholma, 1997; Bergo, Sobral & Prison, 2010). For improve or maintain their 37 properties, is necessary to add plasticizers, fillers and cross-linking agents. The most 38 common plasticizer in the starch based films is the glycerol. This polyol reduces the 39 intermolecular attractive forces in the native starch and increases the flexibility and the 40 resistance to fracture (Mali, Grossmann, García, Martino & Zaritzky, 2005). 41 On the other hand, the polycaprolactone (PCL) is a biodegradable thermoplastic 42 polymer obtained by chemical synthesis from crude oil (Flieger, Kantorová, Prell, 43 Rezanka & Votruba, 2003). It has some interesting characteristics like it is waterproof 44 and has great flexibility (Averous, Moro, Dole, & Fringant, 2000). Several authors have 45 shown that blends of polycaprolactone and starch are readily biodegradable and 46 processible by conventional methods (Matzinos, Tserki, Gianikouris, Pavlidou, & 47 Panayiotou, 2002; Rosa, Lopes & Calil, 2005; Calil, Gaboardi, Bardi, Rezende & Rosa, 48 2007). However these mixtures are chemically incompatible and therefore have a phase 49

- separation as occurs with other polymers (Annable, Fitton, Harris, Philips, & Williams,
- 51 1994; Mathew & Abraham, 2008; Ortega-Toro, Talens & Chiralt, 2015)
- In previous works, Ortega-Toro et al. (2015) have observed the separation between
- 53 these two polymers by mean of Scanning Electron Microscopy and Atomic Force
- Microscopy, concluding that it is necessary the incorporating of a compatibilizer
- 55 compound to improve the blends. One way to increase the number of interactions
- between polymers is the addition of cross-linking agents. An appropriate compatibilizer
- 57 could be the citric acid (CA) because is a cheap organic acid and widely used in the
- food industry as a cross-linking agent (Ghanbarzadeh, Almasi, & Entezami, 2010;
- Ortega-Toro, Jiménez, Talens & Chiralt, 2014b). The CA use is interesting due to the
- 60 three carboxyl groups in its structure which can interact with the hydroxyl groups of the
- starch molecules through the formation of esters. According to other works, the
- 62 esterification reaction using polycarboxylic acids occur with the polymer's hydroxyl
- 63 groups, at high temperatures (about 160 °C), through the formation of anhydride groups
- 64 (Reddy & Yang, 2010; Ortega-Toro et al., 2014b). This blend can improve the water
- vapour barrier properties, due to the reduction of available hydroxyl groups (Borredon,
- 66 Bikiaris, Prinos & Panayiotou, 1997) through the formation of strong hydrogen bonds
- 67 (carboxyl- hydroxyl) in order to decrease the crystallization and retrogradation (Shi,
- Zhang, Liu, Han, Zhang, Chen, & Tian, 2007). However, the action mechanisms of the
- 69 CA are not clear and it can to act like compatibilizer, plasticizer and depolymerization
- agent over different polymers according to processing conditions (Chabrat, Abdillahi,
- 71 Rouilly, & Rigal, 2012).
- The aim of this work was to study the influence of the citric acid addition, and the effect
- of the storage time, on the structural, thermal and physicochemical properties of starch-
- 74 polycaprolactone based films obtained by compression molding.

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#### 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### **2.1. Materials**

- 78 Corn starch was purchased from Roquette (Roquette Laisa España, Benifaió, Spain).
- 79 Glycerol was obtained from Panreac Química, S.A. (Castellar del Vallès, Barcelona,
- 80 Spain). Polycaprolactone (pellets ~3 mm, average M<sub>n</sub> 80.000, impurities <1.0% water)
- was provided by Fluka (Sigma–Aldrich Chemie, Steinheim, Germany). Citric acid was
- provided by Fisher (Scientific Afora, Valencia, Spain). Phosphorus pentoxide (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)
- and Magnesium nitrate-6-hydrate (Mg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) were obtained from Panreac Química,
- 84 S.A. (Castellar Vallés, Barcelona).
- NaOH and phenolphthalein was provided by ???

### 2.2. Film preparation

- 87 Eleven formulations based on starch and PCL, with and without CA, were prepared.
- 88 Starch:PCL ratios were 100:0, 90:10, 80:20, 70:30, 60:40 and 0:100, and starch:CA
- ratio was 1:0.01. A 30% of glycerol was added respect to the starch content. Firstly,
- 90 native starch and glycerol were dispersed in water. Afterwards, PCL was added to the
- aqueous mixture of starch-glycerol. The blends were named as: S, S-CA, S90, S90-CA,
- 92 S80, S80-CA, S70, S70-CA, S60, S60-CA and PCL. The controls used were starch-
- 93 glycerol (S) and pure PCL (PCL).
- 94 The formulations were gradually mixed on a two-roll mill (Model LRM-M-100,
- Labtech Engineering, Thailand) at 160 °C and 8 rpm for 30 min until a homogeneous
- 96 paste sheet was obtained. The CA was added to the formulations 10 min before the
- 97 homogenization. Paste sheet formed was conditioned at 25 °C and 53% RH using
- $Mg(NO_3)_2$  oversaturated solutions for 48 h.

The films were obtained by compression molding (Model LP20, Labtech Engineering, Thailand). Four grams of the paste were put onto steel sheets and preheated on the heating unit for 5 min. The films were performed at 160 °C for 2 min at 30 bars, followed by 6 min at 130 bars; thereafter a cooling cycle was applied for 3 min. The films obtained were conditioned at 25 °C and 53% RH for 1 and 5 weeks for the initial and final time characterization.

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### 2.3. Film characterization

# 2.3.1. Film thickness and extensibility

- The film thickness was measured with a Palmer digital micrometer (Palmer–Comecta,
- Spain, +/- 0.001 mm) at six random positions around the film. The extensibility was
- calculated by the relation between the surface and the weight of films with known
- dimensions. This parameter was expressed in cm<sup>2</sup>/g of film.

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## 2.3.2. Structural properties

The surface morphology of the samples, conditioned for 5 weeks at 25  $^{\circ}$ C and 53% RH

115 , was analyzed using an Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) (Multimode 8, Bruker AXS,

Santa Barbara, USA) with a NanoScope® V controller electronics. Measurements were

taken using the PeakForce QNM® mode (Quantitative Nanomechanical Mapping). The

statistical parameters: average roughness (Ra: average of the absolute value of the

height deviations from a mean surface), root-mean-square roughness (Rq: root-mean-

square average of height deviations taken from the mean data plane), and roughness

factor (r: ratio between the three-dimensional surface and two-dimensional area

projected onto the threshold plane), were calculated according to the method ASME

B46.1 (ASME, 1995). The DMT Modulus mode, derived from PeakForce QNM, was considered. Three replicates for each formulation were taken to obtain these parameters. The microstructural analysis of cross-sections of films was carried out by using a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) (JEOL JSM-5410, Japan). The film samples were maintained in desiccators with P2O5 for 2 weeks at 25 °C and the measurements were taken in duplicate for each formulation. Pieces about 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup> were cut from films and mounted on copper stubs perpendicularly to their surface. Samples were gold coated and observed, using an accelerating voltage of 10 kV. A diffractometer (XRD, Bruker AXS/D8 Advance) was used for obtained X-ray diffraction patterns. All samples (equilibrated for 1 and 5 weeks) were analyzed at 25 °C and 53% RH, between  $2\theta$ : 5° and 30° using K $\alpha$  Cu radiation ( $\lambda$ : 1.542 Å), 40 kV and 

40 mA with a step size of 0.05°. For this analysis, the samples were cut into 4 cm<sup>2</sup>.

## 2.3.3. Thermal properties

A Differential Scanning Calorimeter DSC 1 Star<sup>e</sup> System (Mettler-Toledo Inc., Switzerland) was used to analyze the thermal properties. Weighted amounts of samples were placed into aluminum pans, sealed and drilled to promote moisture loss during the heating. The thermograms were obtained using a triple scan. First, a scan from -80 °C to 160 °C at a rate of 50 °C/min was used for obtaining the PCL melting temperature (T<sub>m</sub>) and to eliminate the bonded water in the film. The initial and final weights of the pans were registered to assess water loss during the first heating Then, the temperature was lowered to -80 °C at a rate of 50 °C/min. In this cooling step the PCL crystallization temperature (T<sub>c</sub>) was obtained. Finally, samples were heated to 160 °C at a rate of 20 °C/min in order to analyze the starch glass transition and the second melting temperature of PCL..

2.3.4. Physicochemical properties

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The film water content was determined conditioning the samples at 53% RH and dried 151 for 24 h at 60 °C using a convection oven (J.P. Selecta, S.A. Barcelona, España). 152 Afterwards, the samples were placed in a desiccator at 25 °C with P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> for 2 weeks. 153 154 This assay was realized for triplicate. The film solubility was determined holding the sample in bidestilled water for 48 h. The 155 film:water ratio was 1:10. These samples were transferred to a convection oven (J.P. 156 157 Selecta, S.A., Barcelona, Spain) for 24 h at 60 °C to remove free water and then were transferred to a dessicator with P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> at 25 °C for 2 weeks to remove the linked water. 158 The initial and final weights were registered for calculating the solubility in water. 159 160 Three replicates were analyzed from each formulation Bonded citric acid in the film, was determined using the water solution of the solubility assay.. Free CA was assumed 161 162 to dissolve in the aqueous phase and was determined by titration of an aliquot of the solution with NaOH (0.1 N), using phenolphthalein as indicator. Three replicates were 163 considered for each formulation. 164 An universal test machine (TA.XTplus model, Stable Micro Systems, Haslemere, 165 England) was used to determine the tensile strength (TS), the elastic modulus (EM), and 166 the elongation (E) of the films, according to the ASTM standard method D882 (ASTM, 167 2001). 2.5 cm wide and 5 cm long equilibrated samples were mounted in the film-168 extension grips of the testing machine and stretched at 50 mm min<sup>-1</sup> until breaking. Ten 169 replicates were analyzed from each formulation. 170 The ASTM E96-95 (ASTM, 1995) gravimetric method was used for determining the 171

Water Vapour Permeability (WVP) of the films, considering the modification proposed

by McHugh, Avena-Bustillos & Krochta (1993).. Distilled water was placed in Payne permeability cups (3.5 cm diameter, Elcometer SPRL, Hermelle/s Argenteau, Belgium) to expose the film to 100% RH on one side. Each cup was placed in a cabinet equilibrated at 25 °C and 53% RH, with a fan placed on the top of the cup in order to reduce the resistance to water vapor transport, thus avoiding the stagnant layer effect in this exposed side of the film. The relative humidity of the cabinet (53%) was held constant using Mg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> oversaturated solutions. The cups were weighed periodically (0.0001 g) and the water vapor transmission (WVTR) was determined from the slope obtained from the regression analysis of weight loss data versus time. From WVTR data, the vapor pressure on the film's inner surface (p<sub>2</sub>) was obtained with eq. (1), proposed by McHugh *et al.* (1993) to correct the effect of concentration gradients.

$$WVTR = \frac{P \cdot D \cdot L_n \left[P - p_2 \setminus P - p_1\right]}{R \cdot T \cdot \Delta z} \tag{1}$$

where P, total pressure (atm); D, diffusivity of water through air at 25 °C (m<sup>2</sup>/s); R, gas law constant (82.057 x  $10^{-3}$  m<sup>3</sup> atm kmol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>); T, absolute temperature (K);  $\Delta z$ , mean stagnant air gap height (m), considering the initial and final z value; p<sub>1</sub>, water vapor pressure on the solution surface (atm); and p<sub>2</sub>, corrected water vapor pressure on the film's inner surface (atm). Water vapor permeance was calculated using eq. (2) as a function of p<sub>2</sub> and p<sub>3</sub> (pressure on the film's outer surface in the cabinet).

$$permeance = \frac{WVTR}{p_2 - p_3} \tag{2}$$

The permeability was calculated by multiplying the permeance by film thickness. This study was carried out for triplicate.

The Oxygen Permeability (OP) of the films was determined using an OX-TRAN Model 198 2/21 ML (Mocon Lippke, Neuwied, Germany) according to the ASTM Standard 199 Method D3985-05 (2010). Three samples conditioned at 53% RH and 25 °C for each 200 formulation were studied. The transmission values were determined every 20 min until 201 to reach the equilibrium. The area used for the tests was 50 cm<sup>2</sup>. The film thickness was 202 considered in all cases for obtaining the OP. 203 The transparency, using the Kubelka-Munk theory for multiple scattering (Hutchings, 204 1999) and the gloss, at 85° angle from normal to the surface, according to the ASTM 205 standard D523 method (ASTM, 1999) were determined on the films. The surface 206 reflectance spectrum was determined from 400 to 700 nm with a spectro-colorimeter 207 CM- 3600d (Minolta Co., Tokyo, Japan) on both a white and a black background. As 208 light passes through the film, it is partially absorbed and scattered, which is quantified 209 210 by the absorption (K) and the scattering (S) coefficients. Internal transmittance (Ti) of films was determined using eq. (3). 211

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$$T_i = \sqrt{(a - R_0)^2 - b^2} \tag{3}$$

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where  $R_0$  is the reflectance of the film on an ideal black background. The parameters a and b were calculated by eqs. (4) and (5).

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$$a = \frac{1}{2} \left( R + \frac{R_0 - R + R_g}{R_0 R_g} \right) \tag{4}$$

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$$b = \sqrt{a^2 - 1} \tag{5}$$

222	where R is the reflectance of the sample layer backed by a known reflectance R <sub>g</sub> . Three
223	replicates were used for each formulation. For the analysis was considered a wavelength
224	of 650 nm.
225	The gloss was determinate using a flat surface gloss meter (Multi.Gloss 268, Minolta,
226	Germany). Three films of each formulation were considered taken three measurements
227	in each sample. All results are expressed as gloss units (GU), relative to a highly
228	polished surface of black glass standard with a value near to 100 GU.
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230	2.3.5. Statistical analysis
231	Statgraphics Plus for Windows 5.1 (Manugistics Corp., Rockville, MD) was used for
232	carrying out statistical analyses of data through analysis of variance (ANOVA). Fisher's
233	least significant difference (LSD) was used at the 95% confidence level.
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235	3. RESULTS
236	3.1. Thickness and extensibility
237	According to Chabrat et al., 2012, in blends of starch and PCL processed at high
238	temperature, the use of citric acid could act like a compatibilizer (esterification,
239	hydrogen bonds), as a starch plasticizer and/or as a depolymerization agent for starch
240	and PCL.
241	Table 1 shows the thickness and extensibility of the studied films. The PCL films had
242	lower thickness, and greater extensibility (area per mass unit in the compression
243	molding) than the other formulations. By contrast, the thickness tends to increase when
244	increase the amount of starch in the matrix, due to their reduced ability to flow. On the
245	other hand, the plasticizer effect of citric acid was masked with the high plasticity of
246	PCL.

# 3.2. Structural analysis

Atomic Force Microscopy on mode PeakForce QNM was used to acquire the images of 249 the Figure 1. For the study of the nano-mechanical properties of the material the DMT 250 modulus was considered. The control formulations (S and PCL) did not presented 251 252 marked changes in its structure, showing more homogeneous colors than the starch-PCL 253 blends. When the PCL was added to the starch matrix, the heterogeneity of the material was higher and the DMT modulus values were greater than control formulations. The 254 blends exhibit dark and light zones corresponding to amorphous and crystalline 255 256 fragments (Baker, Miles & Helbert, 2001; Ortega-Toro et al., 2014b). Regarding the effect of citric acid, in the S formulation, a hardening on the surface of films was 257 observed when citric acid was added. The same effect was observed for blends that had 258 259 high content of starch. This phenomenon suggests an effect of cross-linking or an increasing in the hydrogen bonds in the structure of polymeric matrix (Ortega-Toro et 260 al., 2014b), which is masked when the content of PCL is higher. 261 Figure 2 shows SEM micrographs of the cross-section of the studied films, with or 262 without citric acid, conditioned at 25 °C and 53% RH for one week. S and PCL 263 formulations have a continuous and homogeneous structure; the PCL showed 264 deformations caused by the cryo-fracture with liquid nitrogen. When the PCL was 265 added to the starch matrix, the films were more heterogeneous, manifesting the 266 immiscibility of the polymers. In the formulations with less PCL (S90-S80) the 267 distribution of PCL was more effective. When the proportion of PCL was increased 268 (S70 and S60) zones rich in PCL and zones rich in starch were observed. 269 The addition of citric acid provoked changes in the polymers interaction's. . The S 270 formulation has a continuous matrix with some cracks when the CA was added (S-CA). 271

This suggests the formation of a matrix with less deformation capacity. However, the 272 273 S-CA formulation was more homogeneous than the S formulation, caused by citric acid which can promotes the fragmentation and dissolution of the native starch granules (Yu, 274 Wang, & Ma, 2005; Ma, Chang, Yu, & Stumborg, 2009). On the other hand, in the 275 formulations with less PCL (S80-CA and S90-CA), the CA promotes a change in the 276 PCL structure doing the PCL more thin and with better distribution. Similar results were 277 reported by Chabrat et al., 2012, in blends of starch and PCL in presence of citric acid. 278 279 In the formulations S70-CA and S60-CA the changes were less marked because the high amount of PCL could mask the citric acid effect. These phenomena may be due to 280 281 the depolymerization effect on the PCL; this could induce to better affinity between the polymers (Reddy & Yang, 2010; Chabrat et al., 2012). 282 Figure 3 shows the X-ray diffraction patterns of the films stored for 1 and 5 weeks at 283 284 controlled conditions. In all formulations which contain starch, the typical crystalline forms of amylose V type at 20: 7°, 14° and 20° were observed (Lesmes, Cohen, Shener, 285 286 & Shimoni, 2009). When the amount of PCL increased the peaks were less marked and the peak at 20: 14° was the only observed. Thinnest peaks and more intense were 287 observed in the PCL diffractogram due to crystalline zones biggest at 2θ: 22° and 24° 288 289 (Mark, 1999). On the other hand, the amorphous zones were less pronounced with the PCL increasing. In the formulations containing PCL, the peaks intensity were smaller 290 with the storage time because of the reduction of the polymeric matrix crystallinity. 291 Regarding the citric acid effect, the displacement of peaks were observed, which 292 suggest polymorphisms in the polymeric matrix (Reddy & Yang, 2010), and a decrease 293 in the peaks intensity with the citric acid presence was observed on both the initial and 294 the final time of storage. These phenomena are interesting because this could suggest 295 the partial inhibition of starch retrogradation. These results are in accordance with other 296

authors demonstrating that the CA can protect the thermoplastic starch from retrogradation (Yu *et al.*, 2005; Ortega-Toro *et al.*, 2014b). During the process, the CA penetrates the starch granule and replaces partially the intermolecular hydrogen bonds of starch. This causes the crystallinity reduction of the thermoplastic starch (Xie, Liu, & Cui 2006; Ma *et al.*, 2009)

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### 3.3. Thermal analysis

Table 2 shows the thermal properties of the studied films conditioned for 1 and 5 weeks. 304 Two heating scans and one cooling scan were performed. In the first heating scan the 305 melting temperature (Tm) of PCL was determined as the peak temperature of the 306 endotherm. In the first scan, the Tm and  $\Delta$ Hm of the initial and the final storage time 307 were considered. During cooling, the crystallization temperature (Tc) of PCL was 308 309 determined as the peak temperature of the exotherm. Finally, during the second heating scan another fusion temperature value was taken (PCL crystallized during cooling) and 310 311 the glass transition temperature (Tg) of starch at the midpoint was determined. The 312 values of enthalpy of fusion ( $\Delta$ Hm) and crystallization ( $\Delta$ Hc) are also shown in Table 2. The Tg of starch decreased significantly (p < 0.05) with the PCL incorporation (S90). 313 This decrease only was promoted with the addition of 10% of PCL. When the amount 314 was bigger than 10%, the effect was not progressive and the values were almost 315 constants. On the other hand, the  $\Delta$ Cp increased with the PCL addition in concordance 316 with a decrease in average molecular weight or a higher molecular mobility in the 317 polymeric matrix. 318 Moreover, the Tc values of the PCL was about 12 °C with ΔHc about 52 J/g PCL, and 319 among the formulations were not observed significant differences. Besides, the Tm 320 value of PCL in the first scan was approximately 63°C and ΔHm was observed about 321

72 J/g of PCL. Similar results have been reported by other authors (Averous et al., 2000; Matzinos, et al., 2002; Kweon, Kawasaki, Nakayama & Aiba, 2003). With the storage time, a slight increase in Tm and  $\Delta$ Hm were observed, which suggests that it is necessary an amount bigger of energy for melt the crystals formed during the storage and the interactions among the PCL molecules could be stronger. Additionally, the Tm and  $\Delta$ Hm on the second scan were lower than the values obtained in the first scan, according with other authors for pure PCL (Koenig & Huang, 1995); the ΔHm values on the second scan were very close to ΔHc values, this suggests that the crystals formed during the cooling cycle can melt completely during the second heating cycle (Campos, Marconcini, Martins-Franchetti & Mattoso, 2012). Regarding the citric acid, the principal effects were on the Tg and  $\Delta$ Cp of starch. The Tg value of starch was decreased significantly (p < 0.05) when the CA was added in the S formulation; and also decreased the Tg values in the films containing PCL until about 101 °C, remaining constant among these formulations. Meanwhile, the  $\Delta$ Cp values were lower with the CA addition in every case; perhaps the interactions among starch and PCL were more effective with the citric acid at least when the PCL was in less amount, as was observed in the SEM micrographs. Furthermore it is possible to observe that the Tm and  $\Delta$ Hc decreased slightly when the CA was added, this may be caused by the decrease in the interactions among the starch molecules, suggesting a possible hydrolysis or a plasticizer effect.

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### 3.4. Physicochemical properties

Figure 4 shows the tensile properties of studied films stored under controlled conditions for 1 and 5 weeks. When the starch is blend with PCL, EM is bigger than the control formulations (S and PCL) except for the S90 formulation, where EM is significantly

smaller (p < 0.05). The blend between starch and PCL could improve the elastic 347 modulus of the resulting material (Avella, Errico, Laurienzo, Martuscelli, Raimo & 348 Rimedio, 2000). In general, TS decreased when the PCL was added, and the elongation 349 at break point was smaller than the S formulation except in the S90. These results, in 350 accordance with the thermal properties and the structural properties, suggest that the 351 interaction between starch and PCL is better when the PCL is presented in low 352 proportion in the polymer blend. . 353 Figure 5 shows the typical stress-strain curves of the PCL films at initial storage time. 354 Pure PCL films presented permanent deformation after the first break. The tensile 355 356 strength (18.17  $\pm$  1.06 MPa) and deformation (13  $\pm$  4%) at the yield point were determined. Pure PCL is a ductile polymer so it can be deformed until 1100% in 357 agreement with other authors (Ishiaku, Pang, Lee, & Mohd, 2002). In the present work, 358 359 the universal test machine used was unable to register the maximum deformation (only 150% was possible). 360 The CA effect caused in elongation was especially remarkable; when the citric acid was 361 added, the elongation had a significant increase (p < 0.05) for S90-CA and S80-CA but 362 decreased for the S formulation, which suggested a plasticizer effect of the citric acid 363 unbound (Ghanbarzadeh et al., 2011). Regarding EM and TS, the citric acid promoted 364 the increased in these parameters for the S formulation, especially with the storage time, 365 and a decreased in formulations containing less PCL, although in most cases the 366 changes were slight. 367 On the other hand, the formulations showed two trends with the storage time, when the 368 PCL was in low proportion, the EM and TS parameters increased and the elongation 369 decreased. The changes were not marked when the amount of PCL was high (\$70, \$70-370

372 reorganization and therefore the retrogradation during storage. Table 3 shows the values and standard deviation of water content, film solubility and 373 bonded citric acid of studied films conditioned under controlled conditions at initial and 374 final storage time. The water content (Xw) decreased with the increasing of PCL due to 375 its hydrophobic character. In general, the formulations with citric acid presented 376 significantly less (p < 0.05) water content than the CA-free films. This phenomenon 377 indicates a possible esterification of the hydroxyl groups of starch; during the process of 378 films formation (blend in roll mills and compression molding), the temperature used 379 380 was high (160 °C) and therefore the matrix was in absence of water and, the citric acid had the adequate conditions for take the anhydrous form, it could lead to esterification 381 reactions described by Reddy & Yang (2010). Cross-linking of starch reinforces the 382 383 intermolecular binding by introducing covalent bonds, which strengthen natural intermolecular hydrogen bonds, so as to improve the water uptake resistance (Yu et al., 384 385 2005; Krumova, Lopez, Benavente, Mijangos & Perena, 2000; Ghanbarzadeh et al., 2011). Besides, a significant increased (p < 0.05) in Xw during the storage time was 386 observed in every case, except in S70 and pure PCL. 387 Regarding the film solubility, a significant decrease (p < 0.05) with the PCL addition 388 was observed compared with the S formulation; however, were not observed differences 389 among the formulations containing PCL. On the other hand, the film solubility 390 increased when CA was added, except for the formulations with higher PCL content 391 (S60 and S60-CA). The increase in this parameter suggests partial hydrolysis of starch 392 molecules caused by the presence of citric acid, resulting in the increase of linear and 393 smaller fragments of starch compared to the native starch (Carvalho, Zambon, da Silva 394 Curvelo, & Gandini 2005; Wang, Yu, Chang, & Ma, 2007; Ortega-Toro et al., 2014b). 395

CA, S60 and S60-CA); perhaps, high amount of PCL limited the molecular

- Other works reported similar results for starch-polyvinyl based films in presence of
- citric acid (Yoon et al., 2006), as also in modified starch-based films in combination
- with polyvinyl alcohol and citric acid like plasticizer (Lee, Youn, Yun & Yoon, 2007;
- 399 Yun, Wee, Byun & Yoon, 2008). Other authors reported similar results for
- thermoplastic starch co-plasticized with citric acid/glycerol (Shi *et al.*, 2007).
- The values of bonded CA ratio with respect to the amount in the film did not present
- 402 marked differences among the formulations. Considering that the proportions between
- the starch and CA were equal, maybe the CA does not act directly with the PCL and/or
- 404 the PCL presence does not affect the reactions between the CA and the starch
- 405 molecules.
- Table 4 presents the water vapor permeability (WVP) and oxygen permeability (OP) of
- studied films conditioned at 53% RH and 25 °C for 1 and 5 weeks. In food packaging
- applications, the WVP should be as low as possible. The addition of PCL promoted a
- significant decreased (p < 0.05) in the WVP of studied films due its hydrophobic
- character. The effect of PCL was more market than the citric acid effect, however, the
- addition of CA promotes a slight decreased in the values of this parameter. The CA
- trend has been observed for other authors (Ma et al., 2009; Reddy & Yang, 2010;
- Ghanbarzadeh et al., 2011; Olivato, Grossmann, Yamashita, Eiras, & Pessan, 2012),
- which could attribute to the hydrophilic OH groups substitution with hydrophobic ester
- groups, and probably introduced a tortuous path for water molecules to pass through
- with hydrophobic ester groups. Significant differences were not observed through the
- storage time.
- The OP values for S and PCL formulations were not presented because the S
- formulation had very low OP and the pure PCL presented high OP and it was out of
- range of the equipment used (OX-TRAN Model 2/21 ML Mocon). The values of OP

increased significantly (p < 0.05) with the PCL, and the CA addition did not present a 421 considerable effect. Regarding the storage time, the changes were very slight. 422 Table 5 presents the values and standard deviation of roughness parameters, internal 423 transmittance at 650 nm and gloss at 85° of studied films conditioned under controlled 424 conditions for 1 and 5 weeks. In general, the roughness parameters did not present 425 marked differences, and showed a slight trend to decrease with the PCL addition. As 426 expected, the pure PCL showed the less roughness (Ra and Rq) than the other 427 formulations. On the other hand, a slight trend to decrease with the CA addition was 428 observed because the acidity of citric acid promotes the fragmentation and dissolution 429 of starch granules (Yu et al., 2005; Wang, Zhang, Han, & Bai, 2009; Chabrat et al., 430 2012). In the analysis of this parameter it is necessary to take into account that the 431 compression molding could affect the surface roughness and mask the effect caused by 432 433 the components of the polymeric matrix. The gloss of the films was related with the roughness (Sánchez-González, Cháfer, 434 435 Chiralt, González-Martínez, 2010) and therefore the obtaining process could have an influence in it, in general, the gloss is proportional to the smoothness of the material. 436 The pure PCL and S90-CA have showed the higher values of gloss and the formulation 437 438 S80-CA has showed the least value of gloss, according to Ra and Rq parameters obtained by AFM. 439 On the other hand, the internal transmittance has trended to decrease with the PCL 440 incorporation, which indicated higher heterogeneity and therefore with a higher opacity. 441 Also is possible to observe that the incorporation of CA to S90 promoted a higher 442 transmittance and a contrary effect was presented for the other blends. This suggests a 443

highest effect of CA when the PCL is less in the formulation, such as occur in the tensil

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properties and thermal properties.

446	Is possible to deduce that the interaction between the starch and PCL is stronger when
447	the PCL is least in the formulation, and the CA could interact with these polymers and
448	improve the blends although its effect could be masked when the PCL have high
449	proportion.
450	
451	4. CONCLUSIONS
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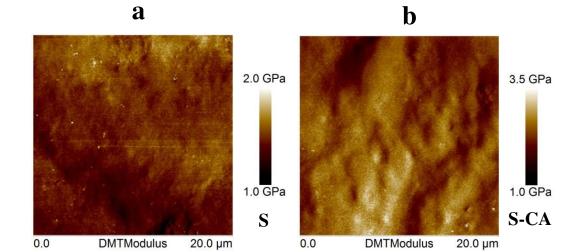
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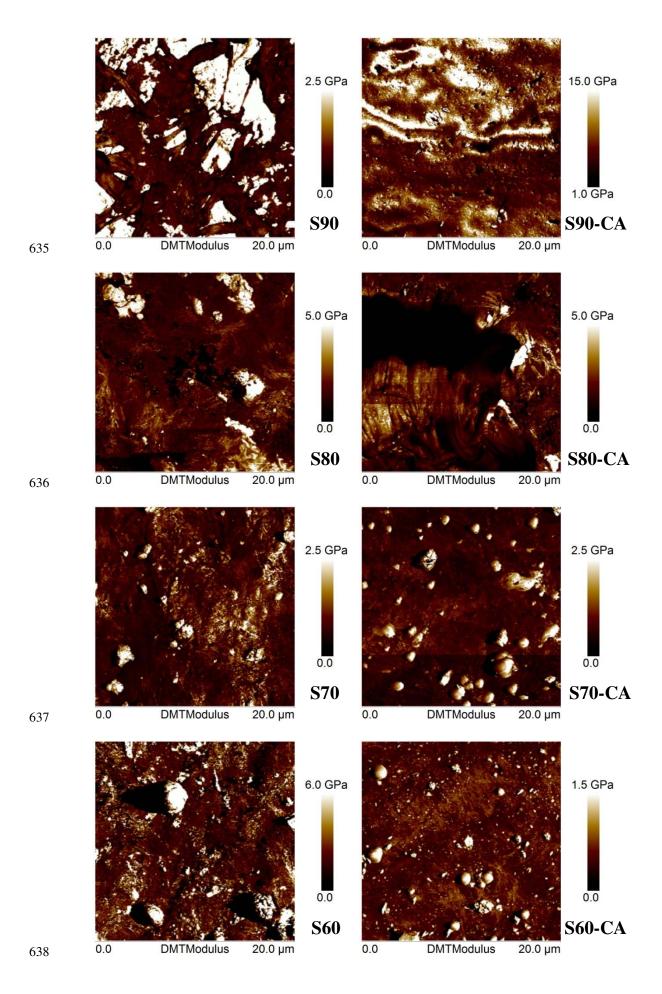
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Yoon, S.-D., Chough, S.-H., and Park, H.-R. (2006). Properties of starch-based blend 593 594 films using citric acid as additive. II. Journal of Applied Polymer Science, 100 (3), 2554-2560. 595 Yu, J., Wang, N., & Ma, X. (2005). The effects of citric acid on the properties of 596 thermoplastic starch plascitized by glycerol. Starch–Stärke, 57 (10), 494-504. 597 Yun, Y.H., Wee, Y.J., Byun, H.S., & Yoon, S.D. (2008). Biodegradability of 598 chemically modified starch (RS4)/PVA blend films: Part 2. Journal of Polymers 599 and the Environment, 16 (1): 12-18. 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 Figure captions Figure 1. - AFM images of starch:PCL films without (a) and with (b) citric acid at initial time of storage 610 611 at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C. Figure 2. -SEM micrographs of starch:PCL films without (a) and with (b) citric acid at initial time of 612 613 storage at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C. 614 Figure 3. -X-Ray diffraction patterns of starch:PCL films without (a) and with (b) citric acid at initial and 615 final time of storage at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C. Figure 4.- Mean values of elastic modulus and stress and strain at break for the different films stored for 1 616 617 (black bars) and 5 (grey bars) weeks at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C. LSD intervals (95% confidence 618 level) for each mean value are shown. 619 Figure 5.-Typical stress-strain curves of PCL at initial time.





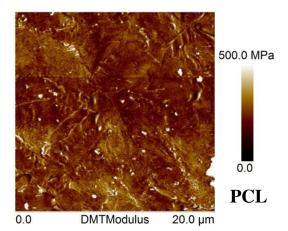
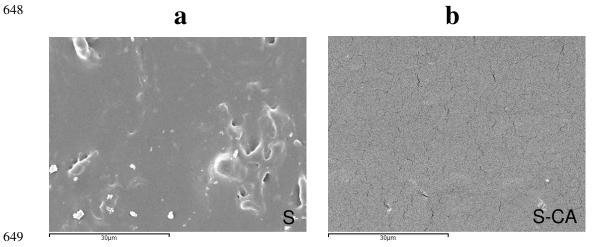
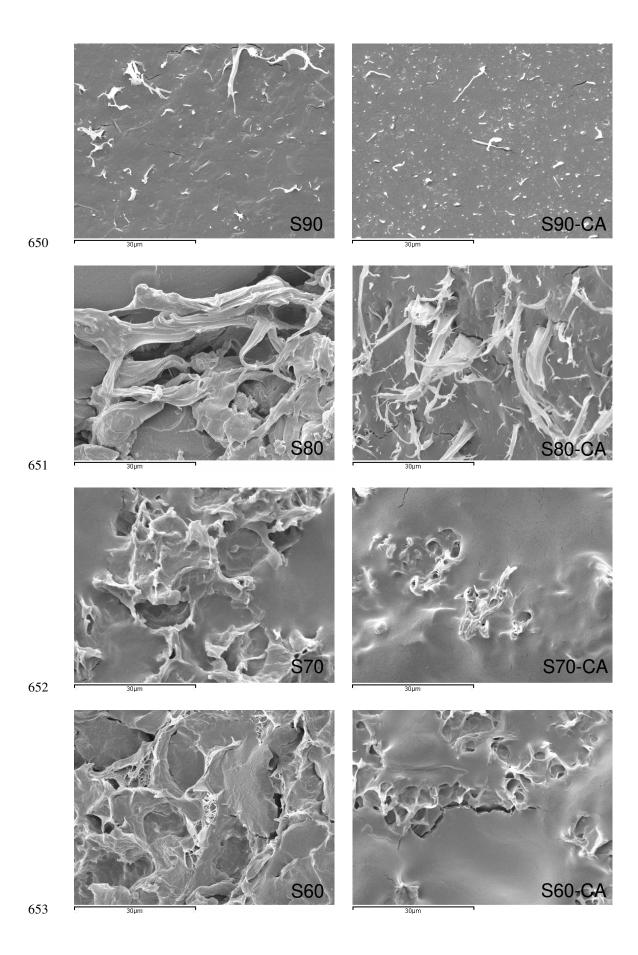


Figure 1. - AFM images of starch:PCL films without (a) and with (b) citric acid at initial time of storage at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C.





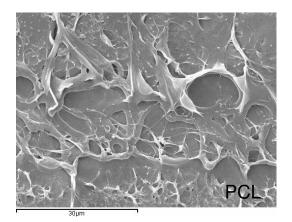


Figure 2. -SEM micrographs of of starch:PCL films without (a) and with (b) citric acid at initial time of storage at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C.

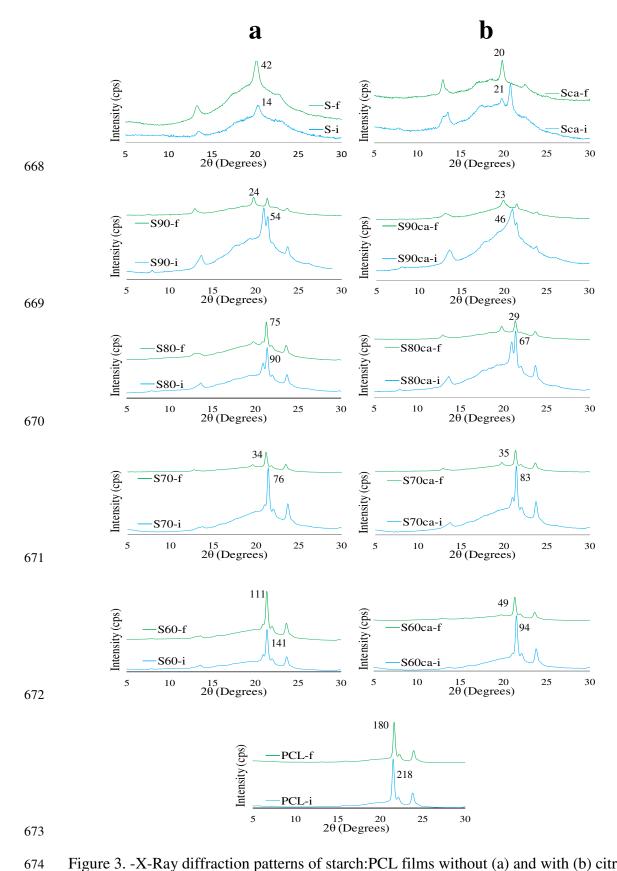
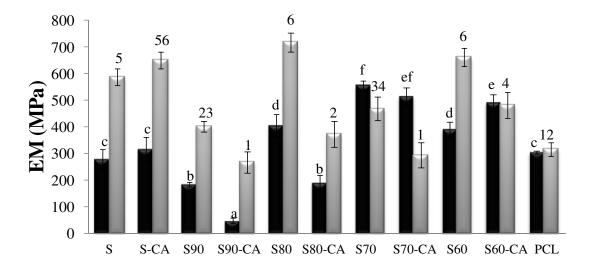


Figure 3. -X-Ray diffraction patterns of starch:PCL films without (a) and with (b) citric acid at initial and final time of storage at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C.



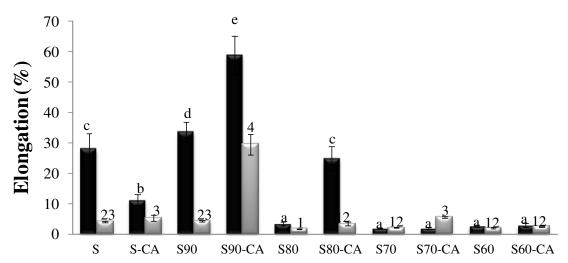


Figure 4.- Mean values of elastic modulus and stress and strain at break for the different films stored for 1 (black bars) and 5 (grey bars) weeks at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C. LSD intervals (95% confidence level) for each mean value are shown.

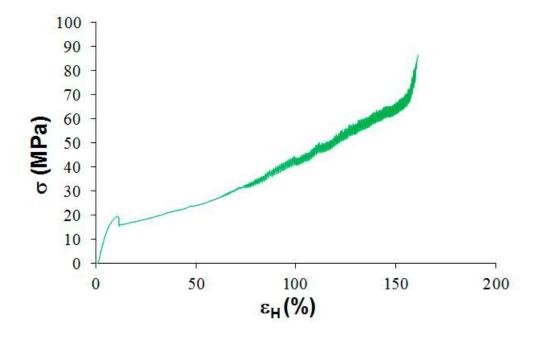


Figure 5.-Typical stress-strain curves of PCL at initial time.

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Films	Thickness (µm)	Extensibility (cm²/g)
S	268 (22)e	23.9 (1.1) <sup>a</sup>
S-CA	217 (22) <sup>c</sup>	32 (4) <sup>bc</sup>
S90	232 (17) <sup>cd</sup>	28 (2) <sup>abc</sup>
S90-CA	293 (27) <sup>f</sup>	23.7 (0.7) <sup>a</sup>
S80	221 (9) <sup>cd</sup>	32 (2)°
S80-CA	239 (17) <sup>d</sup>	27 (2) <sup>ab</sup>
S70	224 (9) <sup>cd</sup>	31.1 (1.1) <sup>bc</sup>
S70-CA	227 (11) <sup>cd</sup>	29.8 (0.6)bc
S60	168 (13) <sup>b</sup>	45 (6) <sup>d</sup>
S60-CA	172 (14) <sup>b</sup>	41 (2) <sup>d</sup>
PCL	149 (17) <sup>a</sup>	57 (9) <sup>e</sup>

Different superscript letters within the same column indicate significant differences among formulations (p < 0.05).

Table 2. Mean values and standard deviation of thermal properties of the starch:PCL films equilibrated at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C

	Glass transition		Cervoto 11	Convertallization		Fusion on the first scan				Fusion on the second scan	
Films	Glass	u ansition	Crystallization		Initial		Final		rusion on the second scan		
FIIIIIS	Tg midpoint	ΔСр	Tc peak	ΔHc (J/g PCL)	Tm peak	ΔHm (J/g PCL)	Tm peak	ΔHm (J/g PCL)	Tm peak	ΔHm (J/g PCL	
S	126.0 (0.3) <sup>d</sup>	$0.112 (0.002)^{b}$									
S-CA	$113.0 (0.7)^{b}$	0.054 (0.009) <sup>a</sup>									
S90	114.5 (0.7) <sup>c</sup>	$0.17 (0.02)^{d}$	12.0 (0.2) <sup>a</sup>	51.4 (0.9) <sup>bc</sup>	62.4 (0.7) <sup>bc</sup>	72.4 (0.4) <sup>a</sup>	63.9 (0.6) <sup>b</sup>	81.9 (1.0) <sup>ab</sup>	55.18 (0.05) <sup>bcd</sup>	51.8 (1.3	
S90-CA	101.6 (0.2) <sup>a</sup>	$0.112(0.008)^{b}$	12.10 (0.14) <sup>a</sup>	49.2 (0.9)a	61.1 (0.9) <sup>a</sup>	72.1 (0.5) <sup>a</sup>	63.84 (0.08) <sup>b</sup>	79.7 (0.5) <sup>a</sup>	54.0 (0.2) <sup>a</sup>	50 (2) <sup>a</sup>	
S80	114.31 (0.05) <sup>c</sup>	0.1280 (0.0014) <sup>bc</sup>	12.5 (0.6) <sup>ab</sup>	52.3 (0.3) <sup>c</sup>	62.9 (0.6) <sup>c</sup>	72.3 (1.3) <sup>a</sup>	63.29 (0.11) <sup>ab</sup>	82.3 (0.7) <sup>b</sup>	$55.4 (0.3)^{d}$	51.2 (1.3	
S80-CA	101.2 (0.2) <sup>a</sup>	0.131 (0.010) <sup>bc</sup>	12.6 (0.4) <sup>ab</sup>	49.3 (0.9) <sup>a</sup>	60.97 (0.12) <sup>a</sup>	72.2 (0.4) <sup>a</sup>	63.92 (0.11) <sup>b</sup>	81.0 (1.5) <sup>ab</sup>	54.11 (0.05) <sup>a</sup>	50.5 (0.9	
S70	114.35 (0.13) <sup>c</sup>	0.139 (0.013) <sup>c</sup>	12.3 (0.3) <sup>ab</sup>	52.0 (0.6) <sup>c</sup>	62.32 (0.62) <sup>bc</sup>	72.1 (0.3) <sup>a</sup>	63.32 (0.04) <sup>ab</sup>	81.7 (0.9) <sup>ab</sup>	54.9 (0.2) <sup>bc</sup>	51.4 (1.4	
S70-CA	101.53 (0.13) <sup>a</sup>	0.052 (0.014) <sup>a</sup>	12.95 (0.07) <sup>b</sup>	50.7 (1.1) <sup>abc</sup>	61.55 (0.03) <sup>ab</sup>	72.4 (0.4) <sup>a</sup>	63.39 (0.11) <sup>ab</sup>	79.9 (0.6) <sup>a</sup>	54.8 (0.4) <sup>b</sup>	49.9 (1.1	
S60	114.8 (0.2) <sup>c</sup>	0.126 (0.004) <sup>bc</sup>	12.33 (0.07) <sup>ab</sup>	52.2 (0.8) <sup>c</sup>	63.0 (0.2) <sup>c</sup>	72.5 (0.6) <sup>a</sup>	63.3 (0.2) <sup>ab</sup>	81.9 (1.0) <sup>ab</sup>	55.13 (0.04) <sup>bcd</sup>	51.0 (1.3	
S60-CA	100.9 (0.5) <sup>a</sup>	$0.041 (0.004)^a$	12.3 (0.3) <sup>ab</sup>	50.3 (0.2) <sup>ab</sup>	61.51 (0.02) <sup>ab</sup>	$72.2 (0.4)^{a}$	63.07 (0.04) <sup>a</sup>	79.8 (0.4) <sup>a</sup>	54.88 (0.14) <sup>b</sup>	49.7 (1.0	
PCL			$12.6 (0.6)^{ab}$	52.4 (0.3) <sup>c</sup>	$63.5 (0.6)^a$	72.8 (1.4) <sup>a</sup>	$63.7 (0.6)^a$	82.2 (1.5) <sup>b</sup>	55.4 (0.4) <sup>cd</sup>	51.0 (1.2	

Different superscript letters within the same column indicate significant differences among formulations (p < 0.05).

Table 3. Mean values and standard deviation of water content (g water/g dried film), film solubility (g solubilised film/g initial dried film) and bonded citric acid (ratio with respect to amount in the film) of the different films stored at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C.

Films	X	y Film solu		ıbility	Bonded	
FIIIIS	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	citric acid	
S	0.0613 (0.0006) <sup>h1</sup>	0.079 (0.004)g2	0.19 (0.07) <sup>d1</sup>	0.24 (0.05) <sup>d1</sup>		
S-CA	$0.059 (0.002)^{gh1}$	$0.076 (0.002)^{fg2}$	0.35 (0.03) <sup>f1</sup>	0.371 (0.012) <sup>f1</sup>	0.80 (0.03)a	
S90	0.0664 (0.0004) <sup>i1</sup>	0.074 (0.003) <sup>ef2</sup>	0.120 (0.009) <sup>bc1</sup>	0.138 (0.002) <sup>b2</sup>		
S90-CA	0.0543 (0.0007) <sup>ef1</sup>	0.0713 (0.0005) <sup>e2</sup>	$0.328 (0.005)^{f1}$	0.331 (0.005) <sup>e1</sup>	0.84(0.03) <sup>a</sup>	
S80	0.0535 (0.0008) <sup>e1</sup>	$0.061 (0.002)^{d2}$	0.132 (0.003)bc1	0.137 (0.013) <sup>b1</sup>		
S80-CA	0.056 (0.003) <sup>ef1</sup>	0.06161 (0.00015) <sup>d2</sup>	0.362 (0.013) <sup>f1</sup>	0.32 (0.02) <sup>e2</sup>	0.86(0.03) <sup>a</sup>	
S70	$0.057 (0.003)^{fg1}$	0.063 (0.004) <sup>d1</sup>	0.099 (0.003) <sup>b1</sup>	0.106 (0.006) <sup>b1</sup>		
S70-CA	$0.047 (0.003)^{d1}$	$0.0578 (0.005)^{c2}$	0.24 (0.02) <sup>e1</sup>	$0.30 (0.02)^{e2}$	$0.81(0.04)^{a}$	
S60	0.0409 (0.0006) <sup>c1</sup>	0.046 (0.002) <sup>b2</sup>	0.13 (0.03) <sup>bc1</sup>	0.13 (0.02) <sup>b1</sup>		
S60-CA	0.03331 (0.00014) <sup>b1</sup>	0.0458 (0.0014) <sup>b2</sup>	0.16 (0.02) <sup>cd1</sup>	0.19 (0.02) <sup>c1</sup>	0.83(0.04) <sup>a</sup>	
PCL	0.003 (0.002) <sup>a1</sup>	$0.0021 (0.0005)^{a1}$	0.00022 (0.00011) <sup>a1</sup>	0.0004 (0.0002) <sup>a1</sup>		

Different superscript letters within the same column indicate significant differences among formulations (p < 0.05).

Different superscript numbers within the same row indicate significant differences due to storage time (p < 0.05).

Films	WVP (g·mm·	kPa <sup>-1</sup> ·h <sup>-1</sup> ·m <sup>-2</sup> )	OP · 10 <sup>14</sup> (cm <sup>3</sup> ·m <sup>-1</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> ·Pa <sup>-1</sup> )		
FIIIIS	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	
S	18.1 (1.4) <sup>h1</sup>	16 (2) <sup>e1</sup>	< D.L.	< D.L.	
S-CA	12 (2) <sup>de1</sup>	15.6 (1.2) <sup>e1</sup>	0.26 (0.05) <sup>a1</sup>	0.281 (0.004) <sup>a1</sup>	
S90	14.5 (0.7) <sup>f1</sup>	15.8 (1.2) <sup>e1</sup>	0.22 (0.09) <sup>a1</sup>	0.23 (0.15) <sup>a1</sup>	
S90-CA	13.0 (1.4) <sup>ef1</sup>	15 (2) <sup>e1</sup>	0.4 (0.2) <sup>a1</sup>	0.54 (0.06) <sup>a1</sup>	
S80	11 (2) <sup>de1</sup>	9.3 (0.6) <sup>cd1</sup>	6.5 (0.3) <sup>ab1</sup>	6 (3) <sup>b1</sup>	
S80-CA	10.0 (0.6) <sup>d1</sup>	10.8 (1.0) <sup>d1</sup>	2.4 (0.3) <sup>a1</sup>	3.9 (0.2) <sup>ab2</sup>	
S70	7.5 (0.7) <sup>c1</sup>	10.4 (0.7) <sup>cd2</sup>	17.1 (0.9) <sup>cd1</sup>	14.6 (1.1) <sup>c1</sup>	
S70-CA	6.3 (0.7) <sup>c1</sup>	8.5 (0.3) <sup>c1</sup>	11.6 (1.2) <sup>bc1</sup>	12 (2) <sup>c1</sup>	
S60	8 (2) <sup>c1</sup>	5.4 (0.4) <sup>b1</sup>	33 (12) <sup>e1</sup>	26 (3) <sup>d1</sup>	
S60-CA	2.9 (0.8) <sup>b1</sup>	3.55 (0.11) <sup>b1</sup>	24 (2) <sup>d1</sup>	27.1 (0.8) <sup>d1</sup>	
PCL	0.120 (0.04) <sup>a1</sup>	0.117 (0.011) <sup>a1</sup>	> D.L.	> D.L.	

D.L.: 0.1-200 cc/(m<sup>2</sup>.day)

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Different superscript numbers within the same row indicate significant differences due to storage time (p < 0.05).

Table 5. Mean values and standard deviation of surface roughness parameters and optical properties of the different films at 1 (Initial time) and 5 (Final time) weeks of storage at 53% relative humidity and 25 °C.

Eilma	Roughness parameters			Glos	s (85°)	Ti (650nm)		
Films	r (%)	Ra (nm)	Rq (nm)	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	
S	6.1 (0.9) <sup>abc</sup>	215 (61) <sup>a</sup>	263 (63) <sup>a</sup>	40 (5) <sup>c1</sup>	37.2 (1.5) <sup>bcd1</sup>	85.1 (0.3) <sup>h1</sup>	84.2 (0.2) <sup>fg2</sup>	
S-CA	2.5 (0.2) <sup>a</sup>	165 (59) <sup>a</sup>	206 (72) <sup>a</sup>	39 (5) <sup>c1</sup>	32 (2) <sup>b1</sup>	85.5 (0.6) <sup>h1</sup>	85.9 (0.8) <sup>g1</sup>	
S90	13 (5) <sup>d</sup>	198 (60) <sup>a</sup>	247 (65) <sup>a</sup>	37 (9) <sup>bc1</sup>	35 (6) <sup>bc1</sup>	77.3 (0.6) <sup>bc1</sup>	79.8 (0.6) <sup>cd2</sup>	
S90-CA	3.2 (1.2) <sup>a</sup>	148 (30) <sup>a</sup>	200 (38) <sup>a</sup>	52 (3) <sup>d1</sup>	43 (17) <sup>de2</sup>	79.4 (0.3) <sup>def1</sup>	81 (0.4) <sup>de2</sup>	
S80	8 (3)bc	202 (26) <sup>a</sup>	255 (26) <sup>a</sup>	29 (9) <sup>c1</sup>	31 (9) <sup>b1</sup>	82.4 (0.6)g1	82.5 (1.1) <sup>ef1</sup>	
S80-CA	14 (4) <sup>d</sup>	390 (216) <sup>b</sup>	497 (35) <sup>b</sup>	20 (13) <sup>a1</sup>	14 (2) <sup>a1</sup>	73.6 (0.6) <sup>a1</sup>	76 (0.7) <sup>a1</sup>	
S70	8 (3)bc	220 (57) <sup>a</sup>	271 (68) <sup>a</sup>	34 (10) <sup>bc1</sup>	46 (4) <sup>e2</sup>	80.9 (0.14) <sup>efg1</sup>	80.9 (0.4) <sup>de1</sup>	
S70-CA	11 (3) <sup>cd</sup>	199 (58) <sup>a</sup>	265 (72) <sup>a</sup>	31(9) <sup>bc1</sup>	35 (10) <sup>bcd1</sup>	76.2 (0.7) <sup>b1</sup>	77.1 (0.6) <sup>ab1</sup>	
S60	5.6 (1.4) <sup>ab</sup>	163 (60) <sup>a</sup>	210 (79) <sup>a</sup>	38 (6) <sup>c1</sup>	37 (4) <sup>bcd1</sup>	81.2 (1.3) <sup>fg1</sup>	81.6 (0.7) <sup>de1</sup>	
S60-CA	9.2 (1.3) <sup>bcd</sup>	163 (26) <sup>a</sup>	214 (26) <sup>a</sup>	50 (7) <sup>d1</sup>	41 (10) <sup>cde2</sup>	78.8 (0.8) <sup>cde1</sup>	79.4 (0.8) <sup>cd1</sup>	
PCL	6.0 (0.9) <sup>ab</sup>	154 (16) <sup>a</sup>	195 (25) <sup>a</sup>	59 (16) <sup>e1</sup>	57 (9) <sup>f1</sup>	78 (2) <sup>cd1</sup>	78 (2) <sup>bc1</sup>	

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Different superscript numbers within the same row indicate significant differences due to storage time (p < 0.05).