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# Making Plastic from Potato Starch



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ORIGINAL PAPER



## Study of Renewable Silica Powder Influence in the Preparation of Bioplastics from Corn and Potato Starch

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### Abstract

In the present study, 0.5–1.5% silica powder, from sugarcane waste ash, was incorporated into corn and potato starch bioplastics doped with sodium silicate solution to improve the properties of elongation at break and increase the thermal resistance of the bioplastics. The starch-based bioplastics were produced by casting and characterized by color analyses, transparency, opacity, apparent humidity, thickness, tensile strength, elongation at break, FTIR, DSC, SEM, and biodegradation assay. The addition of 0.5% of silica powder improved the elongation at break of the corn starch-based bioplastics. The sample CS5-P0.5 presented the highest percentage of elongation at the break among the studied samples, increased from 59.2% (without silica powder) to 78.9% (with silica powder). For potato starch bioplastic the addition of 0.5% of silica powder did not improve elongation at break but increased the thermal resistance. Increased until 17 °C for PS5-P0.5 sample and until 11 °C for PS7.5-P0.5 sample. The bioplastics of potato starch were biodegraded in 5 days, and those of corn starch took almost 40 days. Silica powder inhibited the growth of fungi in starch bioplastics.

**Electronic supplementary material** The online version of this article (https://doi.org/10.1007/s10924-020-01911-8) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

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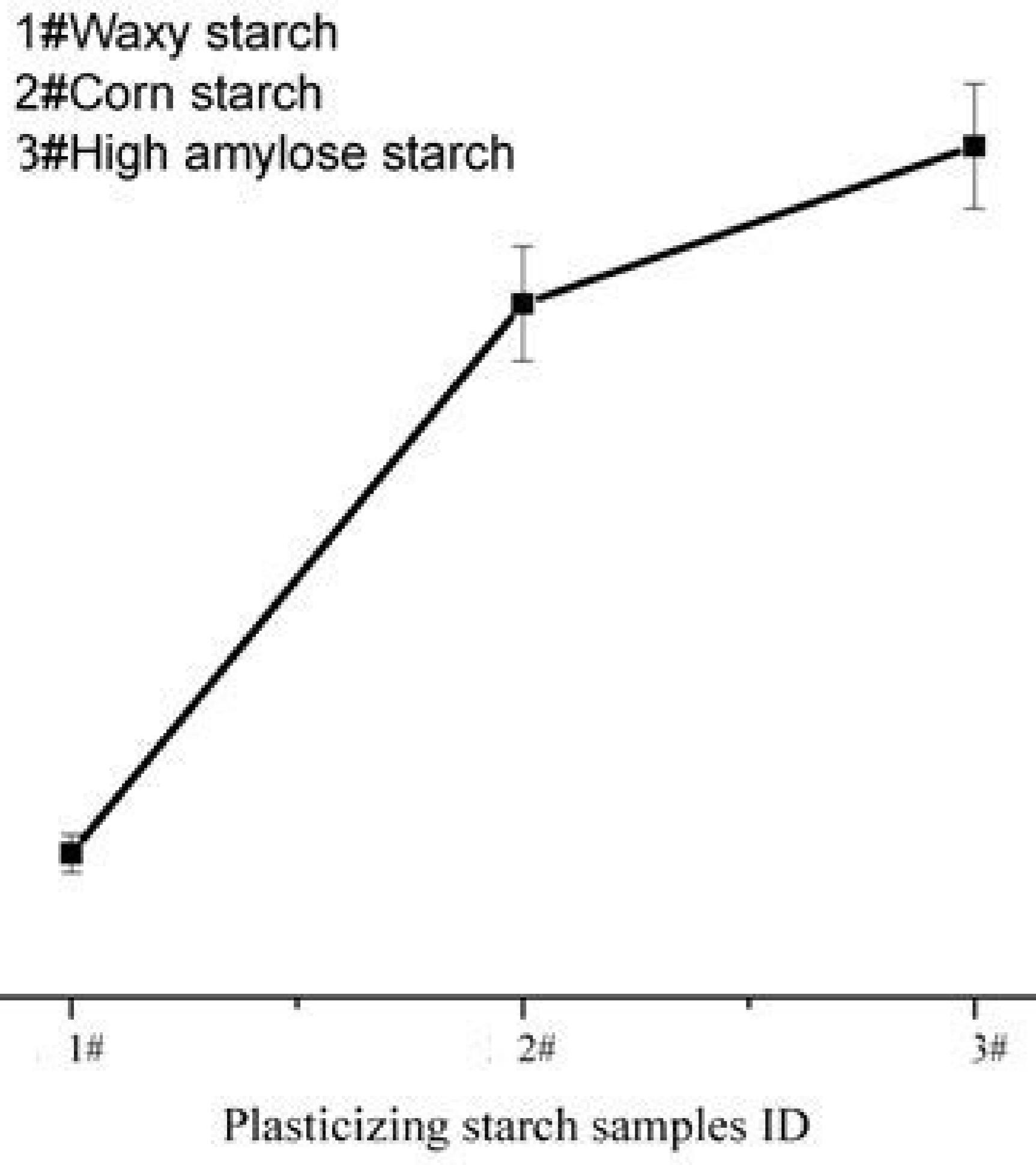
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# COMMUNIST STUDIES RECENT SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL TRENDS



component make it susceptible to moisture over time, and that is why pre-sequencing is strongly recommended. Additional considerations include accommodating the physical property requirements of the finished part as well as mold design. For example, parts with thin wall sections may require higher fusion flows. How is the future? Future research in starch-based plastics will probably be aimed at biodegradable applications. The challenge is to increase the physical properties of the compounds through changes in chemical or polymer formulation. We will also see a wide range of renewable, recovered and compostable materials that replace traditional oil-based plastics (a movement that is already in progress). Where can I learn more? Interested in learning more? Read about the differences between traditional biocompounds and plastics, lowering our white paper Biocomposites vs. traditional plastics or scheduling a consultation with a Green Dot Bioplastics representative. V. Siracusa, P. 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