

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Rapid Dissolution of High Concentration Poly(3-hydroxybutyrate) using Neoteric Biosolvent: Experiment and Molecular Dynamics Simulation

*Joseph Kinyanjui Muiruri^{a,‡}, Jayven Chee Chuan Yeo^{b,‡}, Tang Yuanting Karen^b, Ke Li^b, Enyi
Ye *^{a,b} Xian Jun Loh *^{a,b}, Zibiao Li *^{a,b,c}*

^aInstitute of Sustainability for Chemicals, Energy and Environment, 1 Pesek Road, Jurong Island, Singapore 627833

^b Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), 2 Fusionopolis Way, Innovis, Singapore 138634

^c Department of Materials Science and Engineering, National University of Singapore, 9 Engineering Drive 1, Singapore 117576

[‡]The author contributed equally to this work.

Correspondence to: yeey@imre.a-star.edu.sg (E. Ye); lohxj@imre.a-star.edu.sg (X. J. Loh); lizb@imre.a-star.edu.sg (Z. Li)

This file contains:

Number of pages: 4

Number of Figures: 2

Number of Tables: 3

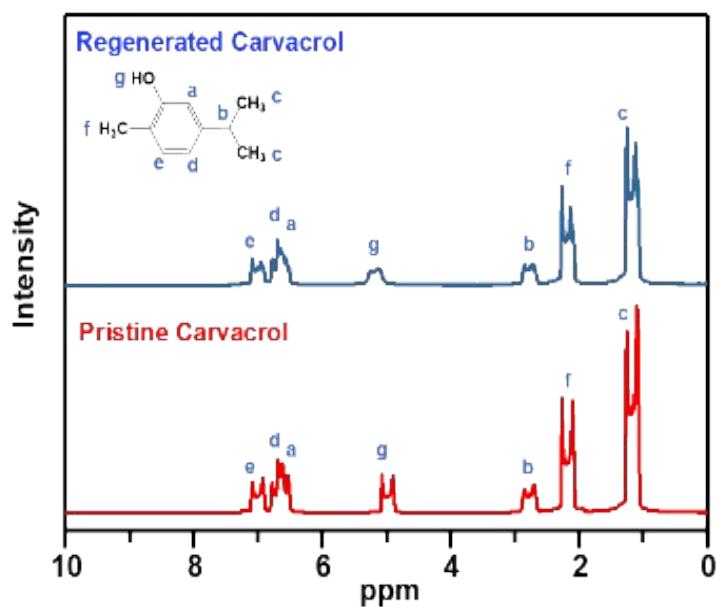


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectra for pristine carvacrol (bottom) and recovered/regenerated carvacrol (top).

Table S1. Activation energies of selected Carv-PHB_x samples

| Samples | Activation energy | |
|------------|-------------------|-------|
| | (kJ/mol) | R |
| Carv-PHB3 | 35.63±0.30 | 0.993 |
| Carv-PHB5 | 35.82±0.23 | 0.996 |
| Carv-PHB10 | 36.58±0.18 | 0.998 |
| Carv-PHB20 | 27.26±0.16 | 0.997 |

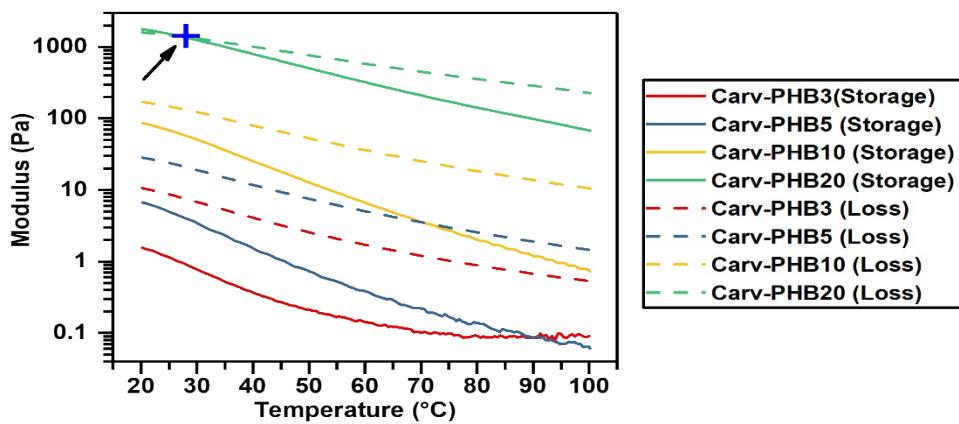


Figure S2. Storage modulus (G') and Loss modulus (G'') of carvacrol/PHB samples as a function of temperature.

Table S2. Composition of bioadhesive formulation (Carv-PHB_Adh)

| Ingredient | (~% w/w) |
|-----------------|------------|
| PHB | 22.3 |
| Gum rosin | 17.8 |
| Natural Beeswax | 4.5 |
| Carvacrol | 55.4 |
| Total | 100 |

Table S3. H-bond densities obtained using Molecular Dynamic (MD) simulation for Carv-PHBx samples

| Samples | Total H-bonds density | | Carv-Carv H bonds | | PHB-Carv H bonds | | PHB-PHB H bonds | | Diffusion coefficient ($1 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$) | | H bond breaking (20-100 °C) |
|------------|--------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---|--------|-----------------------------------|
| | 20 °C | 100 °C | 20 °C | 100 °C | 20 °C | 100 °C | 20 °C | 100 °C | 20 °C | 100 °C | |
| Carv-PHB1 | 493 | 291 | 479 | 280 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0.033 | 0.92 | 202 |
| Carv-PHB3 | 517 | 309 | 475 | 276 | 42 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 0.03 | 0.76 | 208 |
| Carv-PHB5 | 532 | 325 | 463 | 271 | 67 | 51 | 2 | 3 | 0.026 | 0.69 | 207 |
| Carv-PHB10 | 581 | 372 | 427 | 254 | 150 | 111 | 4 | 7 | 0.014 | 0.54 | 209 |
| Carv-PHB20 | 651 | 472 | 383 | 220 | 245 | 236 | 22 | 17 | 0.0081 | 0.37 | 179 |