

Supporting Information

NaClO-oxidized Cellulose Nanofibers/Chitosan Composite Films with Improved Water Resistance and High Mechanical Strength

Madhurangika Panchabashini Horathal Pedige¹, Rika Onishi¹, Yoshiro Hatanaka²,
Akihide Sugawara^{1*}, Hiroshi Uyama^{1*}

¹Department of Applied Chemistry, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of
Osaka, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Japan

²Research Division of Biomaterials and Commodity Chemicals, Osaka Research
Institute of Industrial Science and Technology Morinomiya Center, 1-6-50, Morinomiya,
Joto-ku, Osaka 536-8553, Japan

AS: a_sugawara@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp

HU: uyama@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac

Number of pages	8 (page S2-S7)
Number of figures	11 (figure S1 – S11)
Number of tables	4(table S1 – S4)

Table S1. The yield and the carboxylate content of the OCNFs oxidized in different conditions.

NaClO% (w/w)	18	15	13	13
Time (h)	2	2	2	3
COONa (mmol/g)	0.55	0.47	0.43	0.61
Yield (%)	57.7	69.6	83.4	62.8

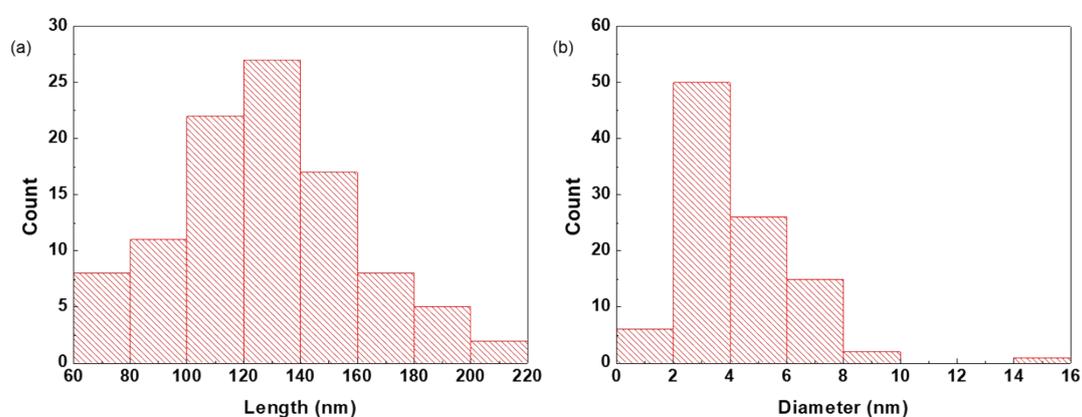


Figure S1. Distribution graphs of the OCNFs (a) length, (b) diameter, calculated from TEM images using the ImageJ.

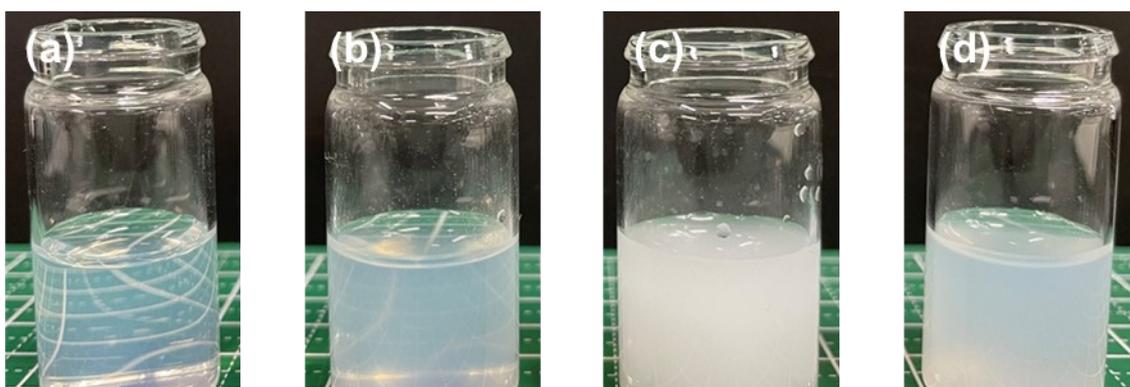


Figure S2. Images of OCNF dispersions oxidized using (a) 18% (w/w), (b) 15% (w/w), and (c) 13% (w/w) NaClO_(aq) for 2 h, and (d) 13% (w/w) NaClO_(aq) for 3 h.

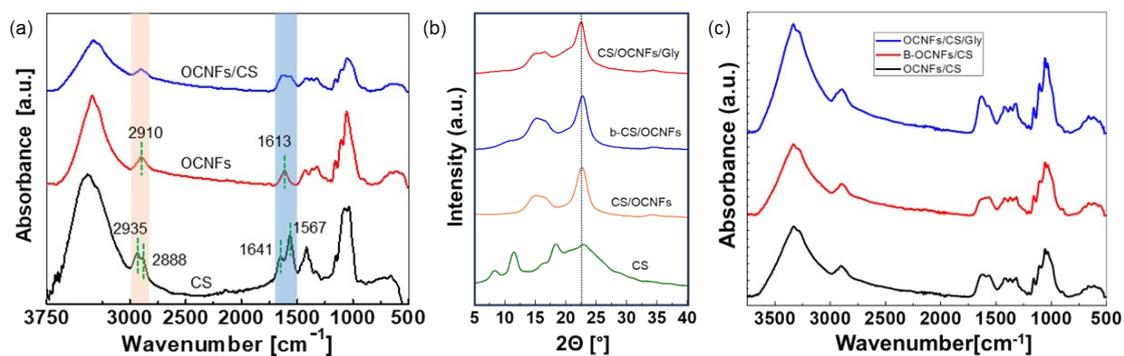


Figure S3. (a) FTIR spectra of CS, OCNFs, and CS/OCNFs film (b) XRD patterns of CS and composites (c) FTIR spectra of OCNFs/CS, b-OCNFs/CS, and OCNFs/CS/Gly films.

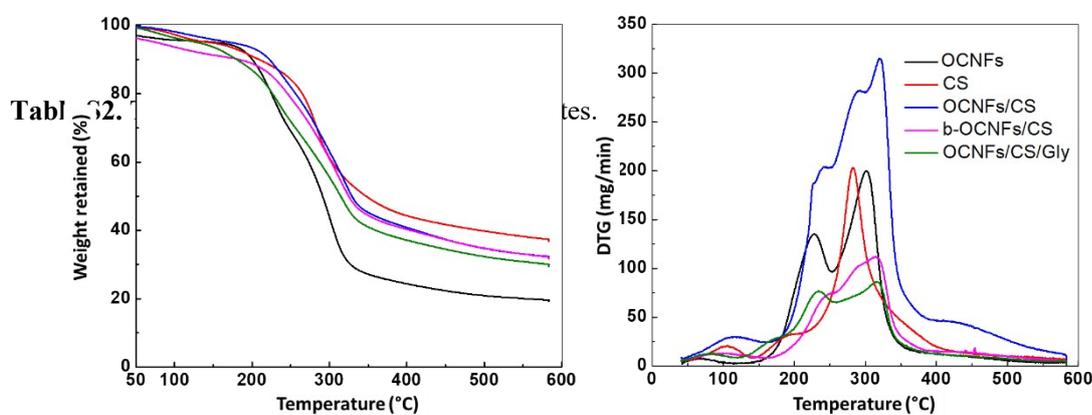


Figure S4. Weight retained percentage and DTG curves at different temperatures of CS, OCNFs, OCNF/CS, b-OCNFs/CS, and OCNFs/CS/Gly composite films.

Table S3. Mechanical properties of bio-based composite materials fabricated using different methods.

Sample	CS	OCNFs	OCNF/CS	b-OCNFs/CS	OCNFs/CS/Gly
T_{onset} (°C)	145	154	172	76	129
T_{peak} (°C)	282	300	319	314	314
$T_{50\%}$ (°C)	347	291	329	325	314

Table S3. Mechanical strength properties of materials fabricated by PLA and PHBV using different methods.

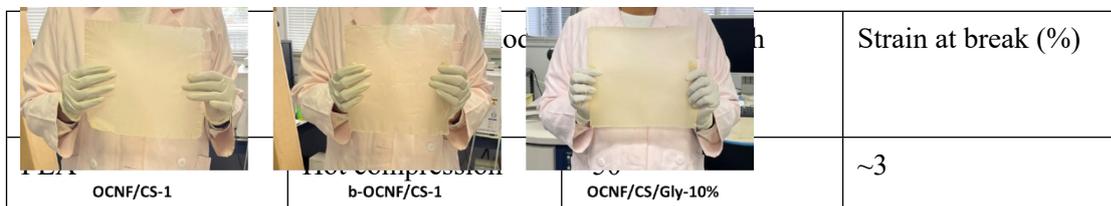


Figure S5. Images of prepared larger-scaled films of OCNF/CS-1, b-OCNF/CS-1, and OCNF/CS/Gly-10%.

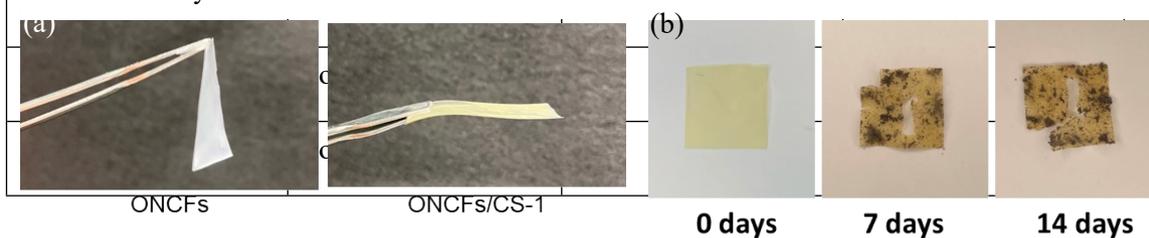


Figure S6. (a) Images of the films immersed in DI water. (b) Images of the film, which was buried in soil under natural weather conditions.

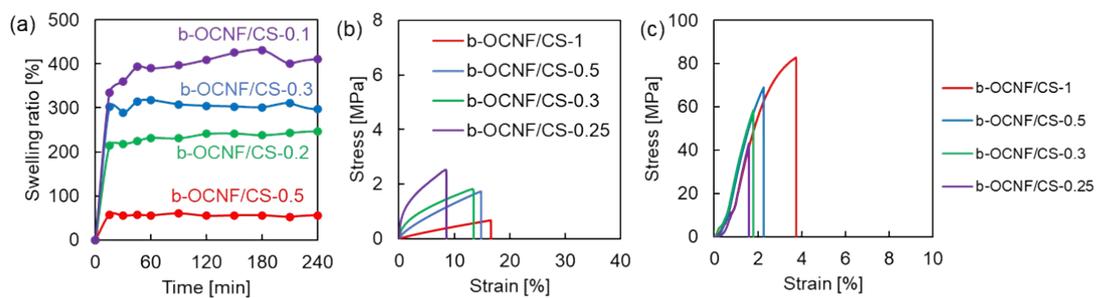


Figure S7. (a) Swelling ratio and stress-strain curves of b-OCNF/CS with increasing OCNFs content in (b) wet and (c) dry state.

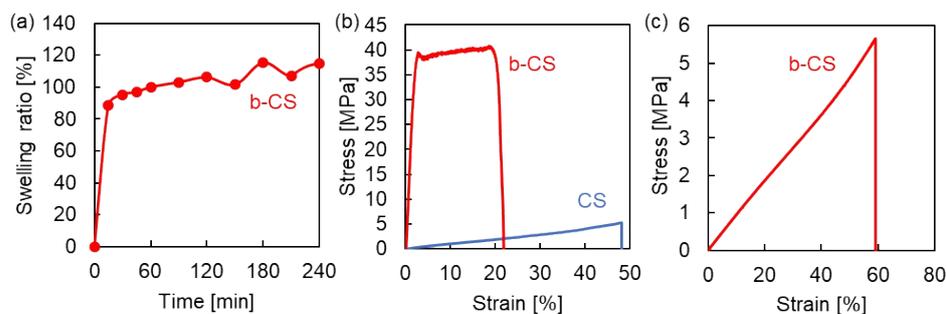


Figure S8. (a) Swelling ratio and stress-strain curves in (b) dry and (c) wet state of b-CS film.

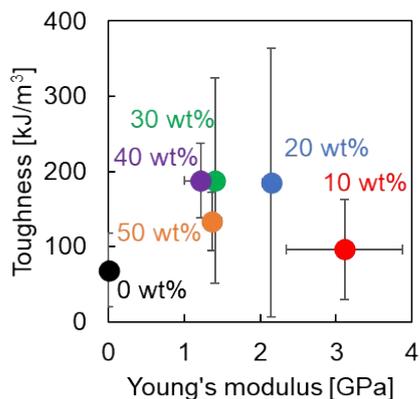


Figure S9. Young's modulus and toughness plots of OCNF/CS/Gly in the wet state.

Table S4. Swelling ratios of the OCNF/CS/Gly-10% sample in different time intervals for 24

hours.	weight (w) in different time intervals (g)	Sample 1	Sample 2
Dry	0.0165	0.0168	
W 0.5 h	0.0231	0.0267	
W 1 h	0.0265	0.0273	0.0273
W 1.5 h	0.0273	0.027	
W 2 h	0.0265	0.0274	
W 3 h	0.0275	0.0271	
W 3.5 h	0.0269	0.0272	
W 4 h	0.0277	0.0271	
W 4.5 h	0.0277	0.0277	
W 5 h	0.0279	0.0274	
W 24 h	0.0276	0.0279	

Figure S10. FTIR spectra of OCNFs/CS/Gly composite films at the varied amounts of glycerol.

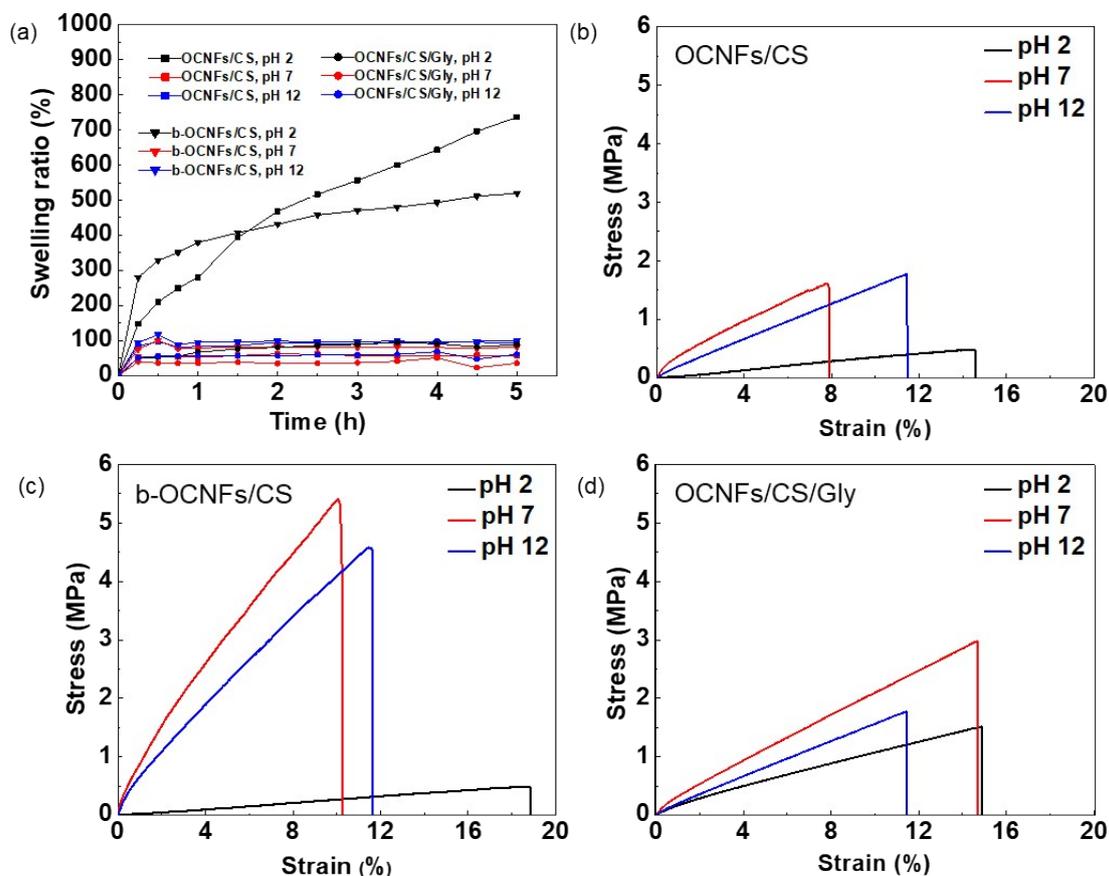


Figure S11. (a) Swelling behavior of the composite films at various pH conditions. Stress-strain curves of (b) OCNFs/CS, (c) b-OCNFs/CS, and (d) OCNFs/CS/Gly films in the wet state with different pH conditions.

References

1. Mirkhalaf, S. M.; Fagerstrom, M. The mechanical behavior of polylactic acid (PLA) films: fabrication, experiments and modelling. *Mech Time-Depend Mater.* **2021**, *25*, 119-131. DOI: 10.1007/s11043-019-09429-w
2. Ataeian, P.; Tring, B. M.; Mekonnen, T. H. Effect of pro-oxidants on the aerobic biodegradation, disintegration, and physio-mechanical properties of compostable polymers. *J Appl Polym Sci.* **2024**, *141*, e54970. DOI: 10.1002/app.54970
3. Luo, S.; Netravali, A. N. A study of physical and mechanical properties of poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-hydroxyvalerate) during composting. *Polym. Degrad. Stabil.* **2003**, *80*, 59-66. DOI: 10.1016/S0141-3910(02)00383-X

4. Jeong, H.; Rho, J.; Shin, J. Y.; Lee, D. Y.; Hwang, T.; Kim, K. J. Mechanical properties and cytotoxicity of PLA/PCL films. *Biomed. Eng. Lett.* **2018**, *8*, 267-272. DOI: 10.1007/s13534-018-0065-4
5. Beniwal, P.; Toor, A. P. Advancement in tensile properties of polylactic acid composites reinforced with rice straw fibers. *Ind. Crops Prod.* **2013**, *192*, 116098. DOI: 10.1016/j.indcrop.2022.116098
6. Borui, Z.; Zhao, S.; Guo, J.; Song, K.; Liu, S.; Zhou, X. Enhancing the mechanical properties of polylactic acid (PLA) composite films using Pueraria lobata root microcrystalline cellulose. *Int. J. Biol. Macromol.* **2024**, *279*, 135579. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2024.135579