

## INTISARI

Komposit serat sisal (*Agave sisalana*) diperkuat *polymethylmethacrylate* (PMMA) telah dikembangkan sebagai kandidat bahan untuk aplikasi biomedis karena serat sisal dan PMMA biokompatibel bagi tubuh manusia dan harganya murah, dan serat sisal memiliki kekuatan mekanis tinggi dibandingkan dengan serat alam lainnya seperti rami, sabut kelapa, dan kenaf. Hidrofilisitas serat sisal dan hidrofobisitas PMMA menyebabkan ketidaksesuaian diantara keduanya merupakan masalah signifikan dalam pembuatan komposit. Penambahan *maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene* (MAPP) sebagai *coupling agent* diharapkan dapat mengatasi masalah tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membuat dan mengkarakterisasi sifat tarik dan lentur komposit PMMA/sisal dengan dan tanpa MAPP.

Sisal mentah dan sisal alkalisasi dengan merendam serat dalam 6% NaOH selama 4 jam pada suhu ruangan digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Komposit PMMA/sisal dengan panjang serat 6 mm yang memuat serat 30% difabrikasi menggunakan mesin press dingin dengan tekanan 120 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> pada suhu ruangan selama 60 menit. Dalam hal ini, konsentrasi variasi dari MAPP (0, 3, 5 dan 10 wt.%) ditambahkan pada komposit PMMA/sisal mentah, namun tidak pada komposit PMMA/sisal alkalisasi. Semua spesimen komposit diuji mekanis mengacu pada standar ASTM D638-01 dan ASTM D790-02 untuk uji tarik dan lentur. Pengujian *Scanning electron microscopy* (SEM) pada permukaan patahan dilakukan pada spesimen yang telah diuji tarik.

Hasil menunjukkan bahwa alkalisasi pada serat sisal meningkatkan kekuatan mekanis komposit. Kekuatan mekanis PMMA/sisal mentah dengan 5% MAPP lebih tinggi daripada MAPP 3 dan 10%. Kekuatan tarik dan modulus dari komposit dengan MAPP 5% adalah 44,97 MPa dan 1,486 GPa. Sedangkan kekuatan bending dan modulus adalah 74,87 MPa dan 2,121 GPa. Penambahan 5% MAPP ke dalam komposit PMMA/sisal mentah lebih efektif meningkatkan kekuatan mekanis dibandingkan dengan komposit PMMA/sisal alkalisasi.

Kata kunci: Serat sisal, alkali, PMMA, MAPP, uji tarik, uji bending, SEM

## ABSTRACT

Sisal fiber (*Agave sisalana*) reinforced polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) composites have been developed as a candidate material for biomedical applications on account of the biocompatibility and low price of sisal fiber and PMMA, and high mechanical strength of sisal compared to other natural fibers such as flax, coconut coir, and kenaf. Hydrophilicity of sisal fiber and hydrophobicity of PMMA lead to be an incompatibility between them, which is a significant problem in the composite fabrication. The addition of maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene (MAPP) as a coupling agent is expected to be able to overcome the problem. The present work aims to fabricate and characterize the tensile and bending properties of sisal/PPMA composites with and without MAPP.

The untreated sisal and alkali-treated sisal by soaking the fibers in 6% NaOH for 4 h at room temperature were used in this study. The sisal/PMMA composites with a fiber length of 6 mm and 30% fiber loading were fabricated using a cold press machine under pressure 120 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> at room temperature for 60 minutes. In this case, various concentrations of MAPP (0, 3, 5 and 10 wt. %) were added in the raw-sisal/PMMA composites, but not in the alkalinized sisal/PMMA composite. All composite specimens were mechanically tested following ASTM D638-01 and ASTM D790-02 standards for tensile and bending tests, respectively. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) of the fracture surface was carried out on the tensile tested specimens.

The results showed that alkalization on sisal fiber increased the composite mechanical strength. The mechanical strength of raw-sisal/PMMA with 5% MAPP was higher than that of 3 and 10% MAPP. The tensile strength and modulus of the composites with MAPP 5% were 44.97 MPa and 1.486 GPa, respectively. While the bending strength and modulus were 74.87 MPa and 2.121 GPa, respectively. The addition of 5% MAPP into the raw sisal/PMMA composites resulted in more effective in increasing the mechanical strength compared to the composite alkalized sisal/PMMA.

Key words: Sisal fiber, alkalization, PMMA, MAPP, tensile test, bending test, SEM