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Bio-Based Flame-Retardant and Smoke-Suppressing Wood Plastic Composites Enabled by Phytic Acid Tyramine Salt. Riya Patel, and Ram K. Gupta

Abstract

Bio-based chemicals and waste plastic recycling play important parts in the development of a circular economy. Woodplastic composites (WPCs), composed of recycled plastic and wood-processing residues, offer environmentally friendly alternatives. However, their inherent flammability poses fire hazards. While biobased flame retardants offer advantages conventional counterparts, their WPCs into remains integration underexplored. In response, a fully biobased flame retardant, phytic acid-tyramine salt (PATA), was designed and synthesized using a green approach with deionized water as the solvent. PATA was then combined with ammonium polyphosphate (APP) to synergistically enhance the flame-retardant properties of WPCs. The PATA/APP demonstrated system significant improvements, augmenting flame retardancy and suppressing smoke generation. This system notably increased the limiting oxygen index by 31% and achieved a V-0 rating in vertical combustion tests. Moreover, it reduced the peak heat release rate, total heat release, and maximum smoke density by 49%, 22%, and 15%, respectively. During combustion, the PATA/APP system generated phosphoric acid substances, facilitating the formation of stable char layers containing P-N-C or P-O-C structures from wood flour decomposition. Overall, this study presents an environmentally friendly approach to enhance the flame retardancy of WPCs. By harnessing bio-based materials and recycling principles, the PATA/APP system offers a promising solution to mitigate fire risks associated with WPCs while contributing to the sustainable utilization of resources in the circular economy paradigm.



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