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Novel PBAT-based biocomposites reinforced with bioresorbable phosphate glass microparticles

Elena Togliatti^{1,3}, Diego Pugliese^{2,3}, Alberto Giubilini^{2,3}, Massimo Messori^{2,3}, Daniel Milanese^{1,3}, Corrado Sciancalepore *^{1,3}

¹ *Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura, Università di Parma, Parco Area delle Scienze 181/A, 43124 Parma, Italia; E-mail: corrado.sciancalepore@unipr.it*

² *Dipartimento di Scienza Applicata e Tecnologia, Politecnico di Torino, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129 Torino, Italia*

³ *INSTM, Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale di Scienza e Tecnologia dei Materiali, Via G. Giusti 9, 50121 Firenze, Italia*

Biocomposites based on poly(butylene adipate terephthalate) (PBAT) and reinforced with micro-particles of inorganic biodegradable phosphate glass (PG) at 2, 10 and 40 wt% are prepared and characterized from a mechanical and morphological point of view. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) images show a good dispersion of the PG micro-grains, even at high concentrations, in the PBAT matrix, resulting in homogeneous composites. Tensile and dynamic-mechanical tests respectively indicate that Young's and storage moduli increase with PG concentration. The reinforcement of PBAT aims at modifying and tailoring the mechanical and viscoelastic properties of the material to expand its application field especially in the food and agricultural packaging sector, thanks to the similarity of PBAT performance with polyethylene.

Keywords: biopolymers, composites, poly(butylene adipate terephthalate), phosphate glass