

## Paper Strength Development with Beating and Polyamideamine-epichlorohydrin (PAE)

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**Abstract-** The character of coir handsheets prepared with beating and addition of polyamideamine-epichlorohydrin (PAE) was investigated. Pulp coir from soda-anthraquinone pulping was used as raw material for manufacture of coir handsheets. Physical and mechanical properties obtained with different beating level and PAE dosage were measured. The addition of PAE 10% w/w and beating on pulp stock of 3000 rev increased grammage and density at 1.9 and 15.8%, respectively. Instead it decreased thickness by 15.8%. Addition PAE dosage of 10% w/w at 10000 rev improved the density, but decreased the porosity and Cobb<sub>60</sub> at 5.8; 10.2; and 19 %, respectively. The highest dry and wet tensile were obtained at 20 % w/w of PAE. Combination of beating and addition of PAE on pulp stock formed wet-strength handsheets with range between 28.0 to 34.2%.

**Keywords :** coir, handsheets, beating, Polyamideamine-epichlorohydrin, wet-strength

### INTRODUCTION

Coir pulp that produced soda-anthraquinone process contains lignin (>30), which affect the quality of the paper, e.g. degree of brightness and mechanical properties (Joedodibroto, 1990). Mechanical properties of paper could be improved physically and chemically. Physically, development of mechanical properties could be done by refining or beating fibers. This treatment improves the internal and external fibrillation in the fiber that form a better fiber-to-fiber bonding on handsheet (Gao et al., 2012). Addition wet-strength additive on stock pulp was chemically to improve the mechanical properties (Su et al., 2012). To lessen the reduction of paper strength upon contact with water, reactive water-soluble polymers such as polyamideamine-epichlorohydrin (PAE) are commonly used to improve the bonding between fibers, which constitutes the weak link in wet paper (Davison, 1972). According to Suet al. (2012), the addition of PAE on the

stock pulp of eucalyptus that has been bleached increased the mechanical properties of paper, especially wet tensile index.

Beating process of coir pulp in this study was a wet method using water. This method causes some physical changes in fibers such as the formation of fines which facilitated the swelling of fibers due to the hydrophilic of fiber; fibers were more flexible; fiber cut off; and occurs fibrillation external and internal (Mohlin, 1995; Mohlin and Daniel, 2004).

This study aims to assess the effect of wet-strength additive (PAE) and beating on the physical and mechanical properties of coir handsheets.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Materials

Coir fibers that contain free pith ( $\pm 15\%$  moisture content) were weight and charged into the tube digester capacity of 3 L with the require amount of chemical solution at a liquor

to solid ratio 8:1. The digester was heated to the operating temperature (160 °C) and time (90 min). As for concentration of cooking liquors were added 15% NaOH and 0.15% AQ (w/w, based on o.d.w). The resulting pulp thoroughly washed with tap water to avoid chunks of fiber (fiber bundles). Further pulp milled and pressed to remove the water content in pulp. The pulp was transferred to disintegrator (Model MKIIC, Messmer Instruments Ltd) diluted to 2 L with deionized water, and disintergrated for 75,000 propeller revolutions.

**Methods**

*Handsheets preparation*

Coir handsheets were prepared according to TAPPI standard method T 205 sp-95.

Basically, the stock of coir pulp have beendisintergrated forall variations ofbeating level(0, 750, 1500, 3000and10000rev). Prior to handsheet forming, the PAE solution was added to pulp slurry (0, 10and20mg/g).The addition quantity of PAE was based on oven dry grammage of previously refined pulps were then used to prepare coir handsheets with grammage of 60 g.m<sup>-2</sup>. After manual and couching and wet-pressing at 0.4 MPa for about 15 seconds, the sheet were cured in a drum-dryer at 100 °C for 10 min, in order to activate the bonds between the PAE and the cellulose surface.

*Characterization*

The important strength properties of coir handsheets performed in this study were dry and wet tensile strength (TAPPI T494 om-01). An Instron tensile tester (Instron 5566) was used to record maximum tensile force with constant rate of elongation at 10 mm/min. The morphology of the obtained handsheets was observed using a Phenom Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Each sample was prepared with a gold/palladium coating before the analysis. Then, grammage (TAPPI T 410 om-08), thickness (TAPPI T 411 om-10), density (TAPPI T426 wd-70) were measured. Porosity (Bendtsen method) on paper made reference to the standard TAPPI T547 om - 02.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Physical properties**

Grammage of handsheets obtained in this study ranged from 58.98 to 66.18 g.m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1). The highest grammage was produced by the combined treatment of addition of PAE 20% w/w and beating level 3000 rev (an increase of 3.57% from the grammage of handsheet at a PAE concentration of 0%). The addition of PAE increased grammage due to higher concentrations of PAE.

Fig. 1 shows addition PAE dosage of 10 % w/w and beating level of 750 rev has grammage

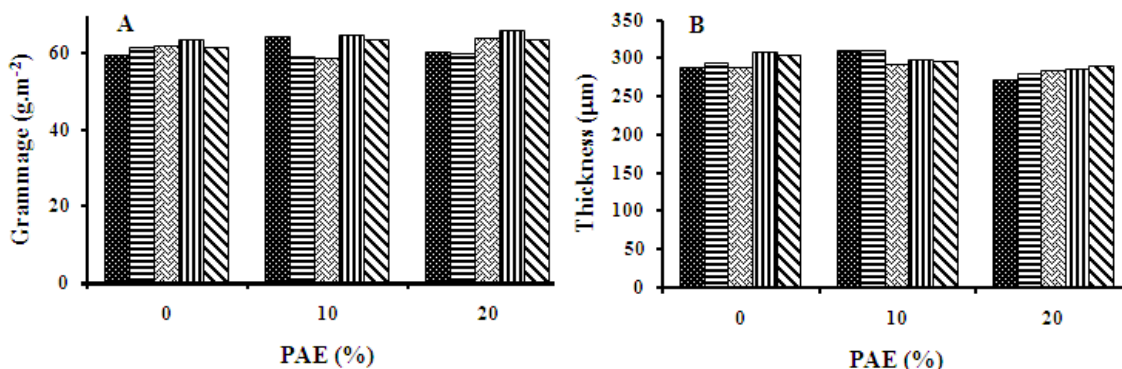


Figure 1. The effect of beating level (■ 0 rev, ▨ 750 rev, ▩ 1500 rev, ▪ 3000 rev, ▫ 10000 rev) and PAE dosage on grammage (A) and thickness (B) of coir handsheets

that below target but the highest thickness (311.2  $\mu\text{m}$ ). This shows the beating level not enough affected individual fiber shorten, reduce cell wall thickness, and fibrillation. Addition PAE dosage of 10% w/w and beating level of 3000 rev increased the grammage and decrease the thickness at 1.9 and 3.5%, respectively. This means that an increase PAE dosage increased the density of handsheets (15.8%) as seen in Fig. 2).

The thickness of the handsheets highly influenced by the amount and distribution of fibers on the plane of handsheet or the thickness is directly proportional to grammage. However, the thickness of the handsheets decreased with the addition of PAE. The fines together with PAE filled the gap in the plane of the handsheets with co-crosslinking and homo-crosslinking (Fig. 3) so that handsheets display were thinned with increasing PAE dosage.

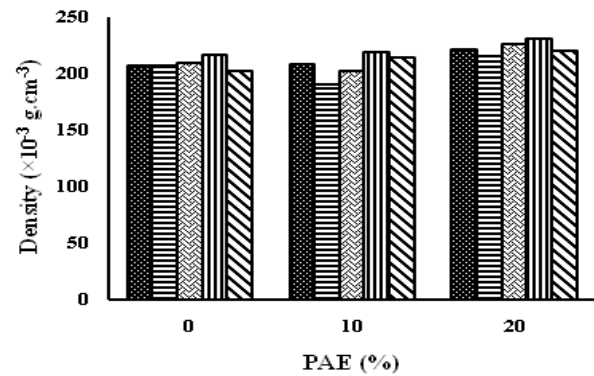


Figure 2. The effect of beating level (■ 0 rev, ▨ 750 rev, ▩ 1500 rev, ▪ 3000 rev, ▫ 10000 rev) and PAE dosage on density of coir handsheets

The porosity of handsheets is closely related to density and ability to absorb water which is expressed by the value  $\text{Cobb}_{60}$ . Over beating level (10000) affected more individual fiber cut and shorten. Handsheets composed of short sized fiber bonding increased the surface area of absorption or has a low density

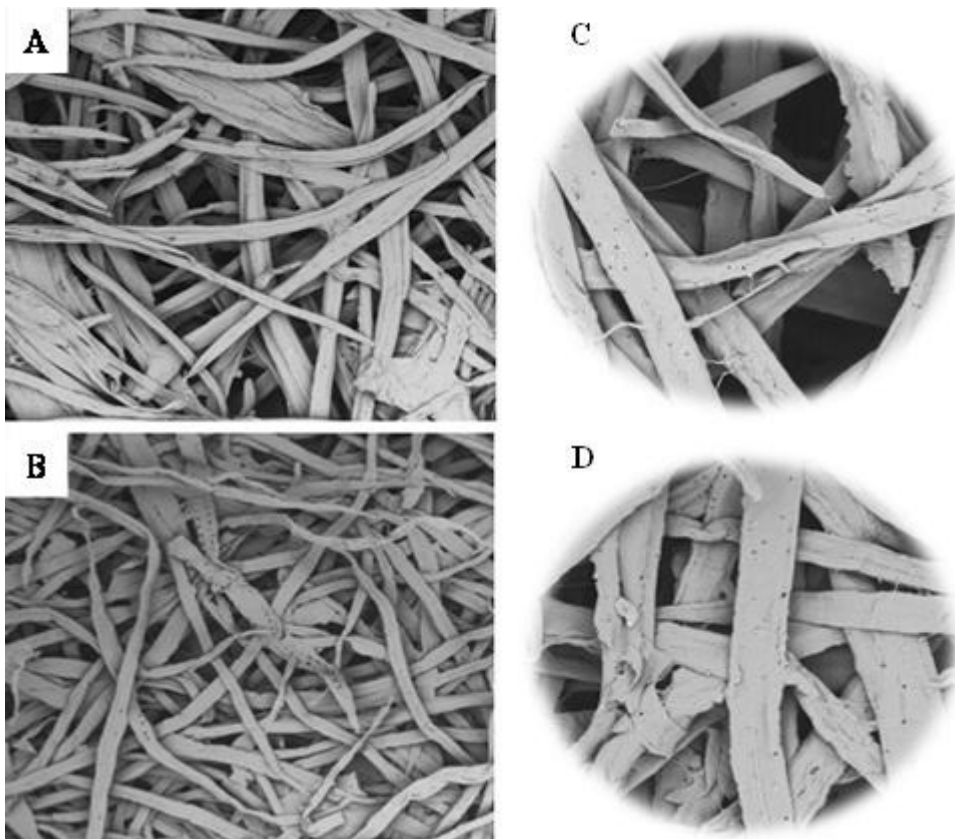


Figure 3. Morphology of coir handsheet before (A,C) and after (B,D) addition of PAE (A and B 500 $\times$  magnification; C and D 1000 $\times$  magnification)

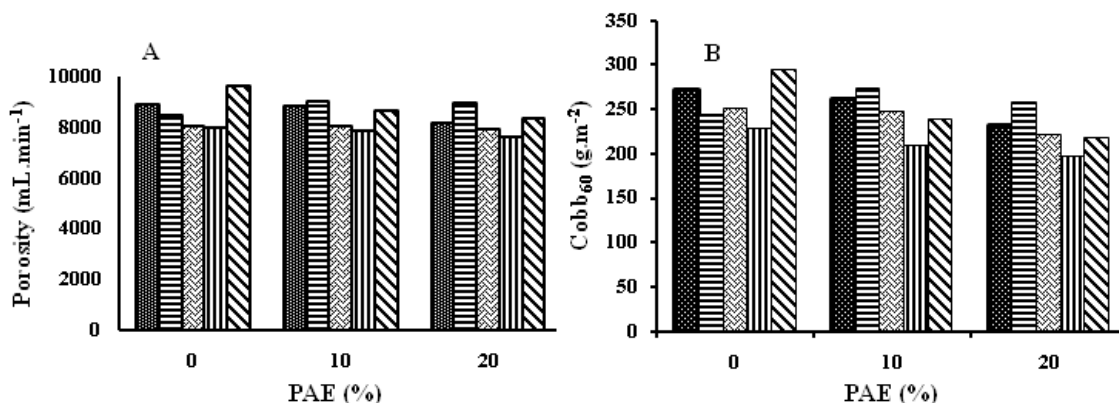


Figure 4. The effect of beating level (■ 0 rev, ▨ 750 rev, ▩ 1500 rev, ▪ 3000 rev, ▫ 10000 rev) and PAE dosage on porosity (A) and Cobb<sub>60</sub> (B) of coir handsheets

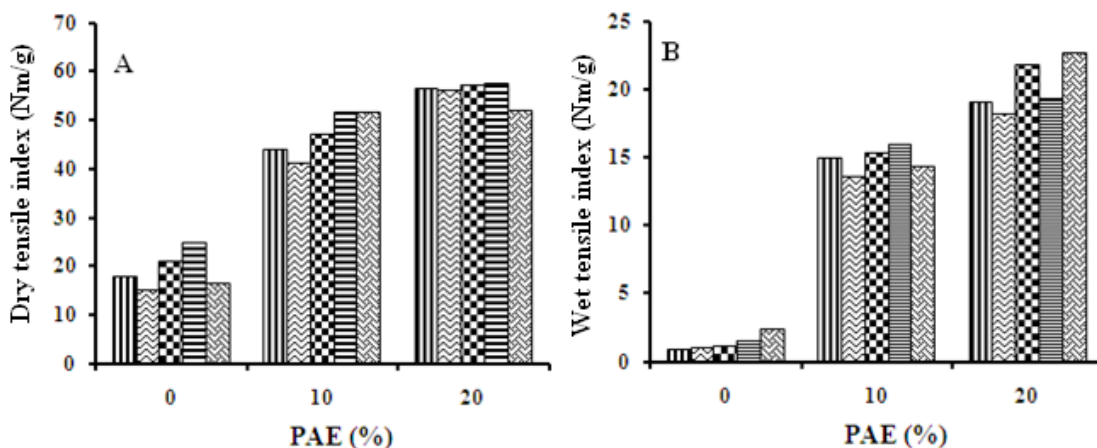


Figure 5. The effect of beating level (■ 0 rev, ▨ 750 rev, ▩ 1500 rev, ▪ 3000 rev, ▫ 10000 rev) and PAE dosage on dry tensile index (A) and wet tensile index (B) of coir handsheets

and a high porosity and Cobb<sub>60</sub>. Addition PAE dosage of 10% w/w improved the density, lower porosity and Cobb<sub>60</sub> at 2.3 ; 3.4 ; and 19 %, respectively ( Fig.4).

**Mechanical properties**

The range of dry tensile index of coir handsheet was 15.24-57.70 Nm/g (Fig. 5A). The highest dry tensile was 57.70 Nm/g at PAE dosage of 20% w/w and 3000 rev. Meanwhile, the highest wet tensile index was 22.67 Nm/g at PAE dosage of 20% w/w and 10000 rev. Combination of beating and addition of PAE on pulp stock formed wet-strength handsheets with range between 28.0 to 34.2%.

Figure 5 shows both graph demonstrate that when adding PAE continues to raise. The mechanical properties will develop until the saturation point and drop when adding PAE continues. Wet-strength development of PAE-containing cellulose sheets is primarily ascribed to the ester bond formation between azetidinium groups of PAE and carboxyl groups of cellulose fibers (co-crosslinking), i.e. the covalent bond formation. The decrease in paper strength at high PAE dosage could be attributed to homo-crosslinking of PAE, which was very sensitive to water and is weaker than the co-crosslinking of PAE and fibres (Bates, 1969; Espy and Rave, 1988; Obokata and Isogai, 2007).

## CONCLUSION

The effect of beating and the ability of Polyamideamine-epichlorohydrin (PAE) to improve physical and mechanical properties were investigated by preparing handsheets with coir pulp. The addition of PAE dosage of 10 % w/w at 3000 rev improved grammage and density but decreased the porosity and Cobb<sub>60</sub>. The maximum enhancement of dry and wet strength properties was achieved at different beating levels and the same as PAE dosage. Combination of beating and addition of PAE on pulp stock formed wet-strength handsheets with range between 28.0 to 34.2%.

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