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The valorization of municipal grass waste for the extraction of cellulose nanocrystals

Danial W.H.^a✉, Mohd Taib R.^a, Abu Samah M.A.^a, Mohd Salim R.^a, Abdul Majid Z.^b[📧 Save all to author list](#)^a Department of Chemistry, Kulliyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, 25200, Malaysia^b Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru Johor, 81310, Malaysia

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The study reports on the valorization of municipal grass waste (MGW) for the extraction of cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs), as an eco-friendly and sustainable low-cost precursor for cellulose nanomaterial production. The raw MGW was subjected to boiling in water pretreatment, and alkali and bleaching treatments for the extraction of cellulose fibers, followed by isolation of the CNCs through a conventional acid hydrolysis technique. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy was used to analyze the cellulose fibers extracted while scanning electron microscopy and transmission electron microscopy images confirmed the presence of cellulose fibers and CNCs, respectively. The chemical composition of MGW was ascertained through the TAPPI-222 om-02 standard for lignin content and determination of α -cellulose. The diameters of CNCs are in the range of 5-15 nm with the length ranging from 100 nm to 500 nm, while a crystallinity index of 58.2% was determined from X-ray diffraction analysis. The production of CNCs from MGW is an avenue to convert green waste into a value-added product, in addition to reducing the volume of cumulative waste in the environment. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry.

PaperChem Variable

Acidolysis; Boiling; Cellulose Fibers; Extraction; Production; Scanning Electron Microscopy; TAPPI; Wastes

Engineering controlled terms

Cellulose; Cellulose nanocrystals; Crystallinity; Extraction; Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy; High resolution transmission electron microscopy; Natural fibers; Scanning electron microscopy; Textile fibers; X ray powder diffraction

Engineering uncontrolled terms

Bleaching treatment; Cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs); Chemical composition; Crystallinity index; Low cost

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Bleaching treatment; Cellulose nanocrystal (CNCs); Chemical compositions; Crystallinity index; Low-cost precursor; Transmission electron microscopy images; Value added products; Water pretreatment

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