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Additional Information

Influence of the plasticizer and biocide on functional properties of gelatin-based adhesives used in the consolidation of paintings

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Influence of the plasticizer and biocide on functional properties of gelatin-based adhesives used in the consolidation of paintings

The study presented here focus on the influence of glycerol and citronella oil, added to gelatin dispersions as plasticizer and biocide, respectively, on the mechanical, water barrier and other functional properties of gelatin-based adhesives used in treatments of painting consolidation. For this purpose, ATR-FTIR spectroscopy, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), atomic force microscopy (AFM) analyses combined with tensile, water vapour permeability, water content and water solubility tests, have been performed on gelatin films prepared by adding glycerol and citronella oil. These two products have been chosen owing to their low toxicity and eco-friendly properties. Evaluation of the modification in the behaviour of the gelatin-based adhesives as consequence of the addition of glycerol and citronella oil has been carried out on the basis of the changes in microstructure of the adhesive and the changes in the three-dimensional structure of the protein molecules due to their interaction with glycerol and the citronella oil, all these data provided by the analytical techniques applied. In a second step, stability to the light of the proposed adhesive has been assessed in order to establish its suitability for painting consolidation. The results obtained suggest that citronella oil enhances the effectiveness of glycerol in improving mechanical and water barrier properties. Light ageing of specimens containing the proposed additives resulted in no remarkable changes in structure, mechanical, water barrier and other functional properties of the adhesives.

Keywords: glycerol, citronella oil, plasticizer, gelatin, painting, FTIR spectroscopy, GC-MS, AFM.

Introduction

Animal glue prepared by heating of collagen is the structural protein of connective tissues (skin, muscle tissue, tendons, bone and hide) in mammalian and fishes. Since ancient times this material has found wide application as strong adhesive for wood and fabric, as binding medium and as adhesive for paintings and grounds of easel paintings. Reports of the use of such material as medium of paintings (glue tempera) are found in

a number of treatises dated back to the earlier centuries of the Middle Age worldwide (Europe and the Mediterranean Basin countries as well as in India, China and Japan).

[1-3]

Gelatin, which is obtained by partial degradation of collagen, has gained attention for its abundance and biodegradability. Commercial gelatin is presented as a colorless or slightly yellow, transparent, brittle sheets, flakes or coarse powder. It swells up and absorbs 5-10 times its weight of water to form a gel in solutions below 30-40°C. Gelatin is a hydrocolloid that consists of a heterogeneous mixture of water-soluble proteins of high average molecular mass that forms thermo-reversible films, which have found important applications in pharmaceutical,[4] food (confectionery, jellies, ice cream), as rubber substitutes, adhesives, photographic plates and films, matches and clarifying agent.[5] Gelatin is mainly composed of glycine and proline and contains remarkable amount of hydroxyproline. Aromatic amino acids tyrosine and phenylalanine are also present in low amount.

Use of gelatins (from mammalian and fishes) as consolidants and adhesives in conservation treatments performed on paintings has increased progressively in recent years due to the interest of conservators in replacing synthetic polymers by more eco-friendly materials.[6] Technical gelatin forms a three-dimensional network with zones of intermolecular microcrystalline junctions. Due to this microstructure, the dehydration of this system may result in an increase of the brittleness that, consequently, reduces the ability for consolidating of this material when is applied on a painting in a conservation treatment. This problem can be reduced by adding a plasticizer that increases workability and improves flow, extensibility and flexibility to the gelatin-based consolidant and reduces the risk of shrinking.

Most commonly used plasticizers for biopolymers are polyols, mono-, di- and oligosaccharides. Among them, polyols (glycerol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol) have been found to be particularly effective in plasticization of hydrophilic proteinaceous polymers such as gelatin.[7-16]

Plasticization results in lowering the glass-rubber transition temperature of the polymer, concomitant to the reduction of the viscosity, with a positive impact in the gas permeability of the film. It is attributed to a reorganization of the polymer network that results in a reduction of the intermolecular hydrogen bonding and an increase of the intermolecular spacing and chain mobility. [7]

Pinus oils of turpentine, distilled from the resin have been extensively used as solvents of varnishes based on diterpenoid and triterpenoid resins and drying oils. Oil of turpentine is composed of a variety of monoterpenoids among which α - and β -pinene are the major components. Besides them, other essential oils, composed of complex mixtures of monoterpenoids, have been used in the preparation of varnishes and paints at different extent and thus, a number of recipes including them can be found in old artists' treatises. In particular, camphor (*Cinammomum camphorae* Nees) has found use as plasticizer. [3,17] Other essential oils such as clove oil (*Syzygium aromaticum* (L.)), oil of spike (*Lavandula spica* DC) and oil of rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) have been mainly used as weak preservatives for paintings.[18] Additionally, their ability for slowly evaporating has been used for retarding the drying of the varnishes.[18] In general, biocide properties of essential oils are well known and thus, a number of studies can be found in recent literature in which the antioxidant and inhibitory

properties [19,20] as well as the fungicide [21-25] and antibacterial activity [26-28] of essential oils easily available commercially such as citronella, cedar leaf and geranium is evaluated.

The study presented here focus on the evaluation of the influence of glycerol and citronella oil, added to gelatin dispersions as plasticizer and biocide, respectively, on the mechanical, water vapour barrier and other functional properties of gelatin-based adhesives used in treatments of painting consolidation. For this purpose, ATR-FTIR spectroscopy, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), atomic force microscopy (AFM) analyses, tensile, water vapour permeability, water content and water solubility tests have been performed on gelatin films prepared by adding glycerol and citronella oil. These two products have been chosen owing to their low toxicity and eco-friendly properties. The study focuses on the evaluation of the modification in the behaviour of the gelatin-based adhesives as consequence of the addition of glycerol and glycerol-citronella oil. Discussion has been carried out on the basis of the changes in microstructure of the adhesive and the changes in the three-dimensional structure of the protein molecules due to their interaction with glycerol and the citronella oil, all these data provided by the analytical techniques applied. In a second step, photoresistance of the proposed adhesive has been assessed in order to establish its suitability for painting consolidation purposes.

Experimental

Reagents and materials

Technical gelatin of pure skin was purchased from CTS ® (Spain). This material is a glue of proteinaceous nature composed quite exclusively of collagen, obtained by

grinding skins and other animal cartilaginous parts, soluble in water. Citronella oil (Cymbopogon nardus) was purchased from Anshin camphor oil, Ltd. (Hsingchu, Taiwan). Glycerol (1, 2, 3-Propanetriol) was purchased from Guinama ® (Spain).

Preparation of test specimens

Test specimens prepared as thin films were obtained from film forming dispersions of pure gelatin, gelatin plasticized with glycerol and gelatin plasticized with glycerol including citronella essential oil as biocide agent. Rectangular strips of dimensions (30x10) mm were prepared. Film thickness was measured with a micrometer with a sensitivity of 0.001 mm. Five to ten thickness measurements were taken for each film, and the average was taken as the mean value. From these specimens were taken samples of specific dimensions for performing the different analyses and tests carried out in this study.

Three series of specimens were prepared. The first series was prepared by dispersing the gelatin in water with constant stirring at 80°C. The concentration of proteins in the final film-forming solutions was 25 (w/w)% (specimen A). Value of pH of all the gelatin aqueous solutions was 7 ± 0.5 . A second series was prepared adding pure plasticizer to the gelatin solution so that the plasticizer:gelatin ratio was 0.51 (w/w) (specimen AG). The glycerol was added when the adhesive reaches 30 °C (± 3 °C). The third series of specimens was prepared in the same way that second series by adding an amount corresponding to 1 (w/w) % of citronella to glycerol (specimen AGC). After addition of glycerol or glycerol-citronella emulsion to the gelatin solution, a new dispersion step was carried out for 15 min to remove air bubbles. The film-forming solution was then spread on a glass plate coated with a special sheet of polyacrylamide to facilitate the film recovery. After a drying period of 1 week, the film was peeled off

the plate and equilibrated for 3 days in an environmental chamber under constant temperature and relative humidity conditions (20°C; RH 60%) before performing the analyses and tests.

Instrumentation and testing methods

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

A gas chromatograph Agilent 6890N (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) coupled to an Agilent 5973N mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies) has been used. A capillary column HP-5MS (5% phenyl–95% methylpolysiloxane, 30 m, 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25 μm film thickness, Agilent Technologies) was used in order to provide the adequate separation of components. The samples were injected in split mode (split ratio 1:20). The chromatographic conditions were as follows: initial temperature of 50 °C held for 15 min and then increased at 2 °C.min⁻¹ up to 295 °C held for 10 min. Helium gas flow was set at 1.3 mL.min⁻¹. The electronic pressure control was set to constant flow mode with vacuum compensation. Ions were generated by electron ionisation (70 eV). The mass spectrometer was scanned from m/z 20 to m/z 800, with a cycle time of one second. An Agilent Chemstation software G1701CA MSD was used for GC–MS control, peak integration and mass spectra evaluation. Tuning of the mass spectrometer was checked using perfluoro-tributylamine. EI mass spectra were acquired by total ion monitoring mode. The temperatures of the interface and the source were 280 and 150°C, respectively. Wiley Library of Mass Spectra and NIST were used for identifying compounds.

1.5 μL of pure citronella unaged and light aged were injected in the GC-MS system.

FTIR spectroscopy

The IR spectra in the ATR mode of the films were obtained using a Vertex 70 (Bruker Optik GmbH, Germany) Fourier-transform infrared spectrometer with an FR-DTGS (fast recovery deuterated triglycine sulphate) temperature-stabilised coated detector and a MKII Golden Gate Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) accessory. A total of 32 scans were collected at a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} and the spectra were processed using the OPUS 5.0/IR software (Bruker Optik GmbH, Germany).[29]

For performing the determination of the secondary structure of the gelatin proteins in the films, main features of the commonly used procedure including second derivative, Fourier Self-Deconvolution (FSD) and curve fitting analysis has been applied. [30-35] The position of overlapped IR bands that appear as shoulders of most intense bands in the IR absorption spectra were made to correspond to the frequency of the minima in the second derivative of the undeconvoluted spectra with a nine point Savitsky-Golay smoothing filter. [29,35] The selected band frequency values were further used as starting parameters for curve fitting analysis. In a second step, Fourier self-deconvolution (FSD) of the IR spectra covering amide I region ($1595\text{-}1705\text{ cm}^{-1}$) was performed using Lorentzian line shape. Apodization with a Blackman-Harris function was always performed automatically at the same time in the software. FSD was performed using a bandwidth at half height of 13 cm^{-1} and a resolution enhancement factor of 2.4. These values, commonly used for quantitatively estimate the protein secondary structures, [32,33,36,37] were selected in an attempt to avoid possible random noise artefacts indistinguishable from amide bands appearing in samples of gelatin. [33,38] Prior to curve fitting, a straight base line passing through the ordinates at 1700 cm^{-1} and 1600 cm^{-1} was subtracted.[38] Curve fitting was performed in a third

step. As previously mentioned, number and position of the fitted bands were taken from the second derivative spectrum. Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm was used for the curve fit of Lorentzian band shape profiles. This band shape function was used in this study as it yields slightly better results than Gaussian band shape function.[36] The base line was modified again by the least-squares curve-fitting program, which allows for a horizontal baseline to be adjusted as an additional parameter to obtain the best fit. The areas of all bands assigned to a given secondary structure were then summed up and divided by the total area. The number so obtained was taken to be the proportion of the gelatin protein chains in that conformation. [38]

Atomic Force Microscopy

A Multimode AFM (Digital Instruments VEECO Methodology Group, USA) with a NanoScope IIIa controller and equipped with a J type scanner (max scan size of 150x150x6 mm) was used. The topography of samples was studied in tapping mode. A silicon tip mounted on a cantilever (Bruker Tapping Mode etched silicon probes, model OTESPA-R3) with a spring constant of $\sim 26 \text{ N.m}^{-1}$ was used. Images were obtained using probe excitation frequencies of 300 kHz. All images were captured at a scan rate of 0.5-1 Hz.

For performing the AFM morphological study, specimens were prepared by adapting the studied gelatin dispersions to the method previously described by Diaz-Calderón et al.[39] Solutions A, AG and AGC were diluted to 10^{-4} g.L^{-1} in an attempt to obtain satisfactory resolution in images and then stored at 5°C for 48 h. A small drop of the diluted dispersions was poured and extended to form a thin layer on the surface of a high oriented pyrolytic graphite plate (HOPG) with the help of a thin glass slide. After

drying by Ar gas flow the sample was inserted in the AFM cell. For all samples, several images were recorded at different locations to verify the reproducibility of the observed features.

Mechanical properties

Tensile strength (TS), elongation to break (EB) and elastic modulus (EM) were measured on a microcomputer controlled electronic testing machine Deben-Gatan Microtest. Samples were conditioned at 22°C and 50±3% relative humidity in a desiccator containing magnesium nitrate saturated solution ($\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{HNO}_3$) for, at least, 2 days prior to analysis. The initial grip separation was set at 10 mm, the rectangular strip had a length of 30 mm, and a width of 10 mm, and the crosshead speed was set at 0.4 mm.min⁻¹. The mechanical parameters of the strips were measured in a static mode. The measurement was performed immediately when a sample was removed from the desiccators, measurements for each type of film were repeated at least three times, and the averages were taken as the results.

Water vapour permeability (WVP)

WVP of the films was determined gravimetrically in three replicate according to the ASTM E96-01 method. [40] The films were sealed with paraffin and O-ring rubber on glass cells which were 2 cm (o.d.), 2 cm (i.d.), 2 cm (depth) filled with silica gel. The cells were then placed in a desiccator containing saturated $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{HNO}_3$ solution 52 %±2 RH, which was maintained at 22°C. The RH gradient was 50:0 (RH outside: RH inside of cells). The cells were weighed (±0.0001 g) at intervals until the change in weight became constant. The WVP was calculated with equation (1):

$$WVP = (G/t) \cdot \delta' [A\rho_o (RH_1 - RH_2)] \quad (1)$$

Where δ is the average film thickness, ρ_o is the vapour pressure of pure water (22°C, 2.635 kPa), A is the permeation area, RH_1 is the RH inside the chamber, RH_2 is the RH inside the cell and the term G/t (g water/s) was calculated by linear regression from the weight variation over time data, in steady state.

Water content (WC)

According to literature [41] triplicate strips of (30x10) mm for each type of gelatin-based adhesives studied were weighed (w_1), dried at 105°C for 24 h, and weighted (w_2) again. Water content (WC) was determined as the percentage of initial film weight lost during drying and reported on a wet basis according to equation (2).

$$WC(\%) = 100(w_1 - w_2)/w_1 \quad (2)$$

Water solubility (WS)

This test is based on a reported method.[42,43] Triplicate strips of (30x10) mm for each type of gelatin-based adhesives studied were dried in oven at 100°C for 24 h until weight (w_1) (± 0.0001 g) became constant. After this, the specimens were immersed in deionized water for 24 h followed by re-drying in oven at 100°C for 24 h and weighted again (w_2). Water solubility was calculated according to equation (3):

$$WS(\%) = 100(w_1 - w_2)/(w_1) \quad (3)$$

Accelerated light ageing

In order to study the stability of the adhesives prepared from gelatin plasticized with glycerol and including citronella essential oil as biocide, specimens were light exposed. Light exposure tests were carried out in a QUV-BASIC model Q-Panel chamber with fluorescent Lamp Type UVA that emits 25 W.m^{-2} at 300–400 nm

(115,000 lx). The average temperature was 40 °C. RH was 35–40%. Samples of the prepared specimens were irradiated for 100 h (A-UV, AG-UV and AGC-UV).

The behaviour of the polymers used as artists' media, adhesives and consolidants in paints is notably influenced by the characteristics of radiation to which these materials were exposed. For this reason, a UVA-type radiation source, close to sunlight spectrum, was selected. Thus, the photo-ageing test was performed in experimental conditions close to those to which the studied polychromies are subjected in indoor conditions.

The radiation exposure time of 100 h was chosen according to Feller's stability classification of materials.[44] Thus, the exposure dose to which specimens were subjected can be equated to the exposure doses on display in indoor conditions of a member material of Feller's stability "class A". According to Feller's model, the materials included in class A adequately maintain their properties up to 100 years. For establishing the light exposure time value in the accelerating ageing test, the corresponding exposure dose was equated to the equivalent value of dose in indoor environments, as previously reported in the literature, by following Bunsen and Roscoe's classical model [45] for the reciprocity principle. Thus, a "museum year" value of 100 was obtained as the equivalent to the artificial ageing dose reached after 100 h, based on the indoor exposure dose value provided by Whitmore and Colaluca.[46]

Results and discussion

Effect of additives

FTIR spectroscopy

Figure 1 shows the IR absorption spectra of specimens A and AGC that correspond to the films formed from pure gelatin and gelatin containing glycerol and citronella. The IR spectra show characteristic IR bands of gelatin films, which are also summarized in Table 1. The amide A band is broad and merges with methyl and methylene stretching bands. This broadening has been previously described as consequence of the intermolecular associations formed prevalently between low molecular gelatin fractions in high-temperature extracted gelatins or surviving crosslinks of the former collagen.[47] Some band associated to glycerol and citronella is recognized in the spectrum of specimen AGC at 1034 cm^{-1} (OH bend) and 1725 cm^{-1} (C=O stretch), respectively. Additionally, a number of shoulders are also recognized in the gelatin bands that appear in the $3000\text{-}2800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ region, which are ascribed to the specific stretches of the hydrocarbon skeletons of glycerol and the monoterpene mixture that composes the citronella essential oil (*vide infra*). The lower intensity showed for amide III region, if compared with amide I and II bands, is associated with loss of triple helix state during thermal gelatin extraction.[47] Interestingly, increase of the intensity of the amide II band and small shift towards higher frequencies of the maximum of the amide I band are observed in the plasticized specimens AG and AGC. Amide I band, which dominates the IR spectrum, exhibits a broadening of its individual components indicative of a general disordering of the protein backbone. This disordering is probably due to the multiple stable conformations adopted by the protein upon dehydration.[48] The amide I band presents an asymmetric shape with maximum at 1627 cm^{-1} . [32,47,49] This feature indicates that β -sheet conformation is prevalent in

the gelatin films studied.[47,48,50] Plasticized specimens exhibit a band shift towards higher wavenumber (1630 cm^{-1}). The displacement observed was related to the conformational changes undergone by the protein in the gelatin film in presence of glycerol and citronella monoterpenoids. Three prominent shoulders at ca 1660 , 1652 and 1645 cm^{-1} are also observed in pure gelatin and plasticized specimens, which are associated with helical and random coil conformations.[32,47,49,50] These features suggest a noticeable contribution of the helical and random coil conformations in the protein structure of the formed films.

Use of glycerol as plasticizer of films from pigskin gelatin or pea proteins has also been reported recently.[16,42,51] It is interesting to note that, analogously to the values reported in the present study, maximum of amide I band in these studies was found at ca. 1632 and 1630 cm^{-1} , respectively. Additionally, band ascribed to bend vibrations of OH group, that in pure glycerol occurs at 1036 cm^{-1} (data not shown), presents slight displacement in plasticised specimens, changing to 1034 cm^{-1} (see table 1). This shift has been related to the possible extra interactions that arise between the plastiziser and the protein molecules.[51,52]

Accurate study of the amide I band by means of mathematical treatment, which includes deconvolution followed by curve fitting, [32] provides information on secondary structure of proteins. Figure 2 (a,b), shows the curve fitted Fourier self deconvoluted (FSD) spectra of amide I band for specimens A and AGC. The high number of individual bands that conforms the whole amide I band is indicative of the high degree of complexity of the secondary structure of the gelatin molecules. Frequency for each individual band position has been established from the second

derivative spectra. Range of frequencies for each predominant conformation has been established according to literature.[30,32,33,35,47,50,53,54] Table 2 summarizes the calculated percent area contribution of the different amide I components for the films of pure and plasticized gelatin. According to Dong et al [54] and Prystupa and Donald [50] and taking into account prior seminal literature [32,35,53,55] individual deconvoluted bands in the range 1611-1630 cm^{-1} and band at 1698 cm^{-1} have been assigned to protein aggregates and intermolecular β -sheet structures associated with β -turns with contribution of solvent-gelatin H bonds. Bands in the range 1631-1640 cm^{-1} are associated prevalently to intramolecular β -sheet conformations.[36] Bands in the range 1640-1650 cm^{-1} are associated prevalently with random coils and solvent-gelatin H-bonds. Bands in the range 1650-1660 cm^{-1} are ascribed to random coils and helical conformations with contribution of β -turns whereas bands in the range 1661-1689 cm^{-1} are assigned to turns. As it can be seen in Table 2, the film A prepared from pure gelatin dispersion exhibits values higher than 50 % area contribution for β -sheet conformation. Additionally, the low position of the maximum of the amide I band (1627 cm^{-1}), the intense shoulder at 1620 cm^{-1} and the band at 1694 cm^{-1} confirm that forces in the hydrogen bonded planes of the β -sheet regions of the protein molecules are prevalently intermolecular and confirms that conformational changes, resulting in intermolecular association probably preceded of unfolding, have taken place at large extent during the drying of the film.[36,54]

Self-aggregation of proteins can take place during the drying of the protein-based adhesive. The amount of water covering the surface of a protein in a fully hydrated state is around 0.3 g/g protein, while the water content of a dried protein product is usually less than 10%. Therefore, the drying process removes part of the

hydration layer, which disrupts the native state of the protein and cause protein aggregation.[43] Dehydration induces conformational changes maximizing intra and inter chain hydrogen bonding in an attempt for compensating loss of hydrogen bonding interactions with water. Thus, the preferred conformation in the dried state is β -sheet regardless of the initial conformation in the aqueous solution as at low hydration levels. β -sheet conformation, which requires a lower degree of solvation, is energetically more favourable.[48] This has been attributed to the stronger dipole moment of alpha-helices than that of β -sheets.[43,56]

Addition of plasticizer and biocide has had a minimal effect on the IR spectra of both types of gelatin former solutions in concordance with prior studies focused on the effect of additives of polyalcohol type on drying of proteins. [48] In agreement with the up shift of the maximum of the amide I band (1627 to 1630 cm^{-1}), the AG and AGC glycerol-plasticized specimens exhibited a slight decrease in the percentage of area contributed by intermolecular β -sheet and helical and, conversely, an increase in the percentage of area contributed by random coil and turns (see Table 2). These changes could be indicative of a partial opening/unfolding of the ordered structure into random coils, turns and bends,[43] which should result in the spacing apart of the protein chains and the increase of the "free volume", and consequently, lowering the glass transition temperature for the adhesive and making it softer (*vide infra*). The results obtained are in agreement with reported use of glycerol to inhibit protein aggregation during refolding of proteins.[57,58] or increase the folding yield of reduced proteins.[59,60] As it can also be seen in Table 2, addition of low amount of citronella does not modify the trend exhibited by specimen AG in the percentage areas contributed by the different

conformations. This result suggest that citronella at low concentration is not interfering glycerol to modify the gelatin film structure and hence, to plasticizing the film.

GC-MS

Chemical composition of commercial citronella oil has been characterized by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. Main compounds identified are summarized in Table 3. Figure 3-a shows the chromatogram of citronella oil. Citronella oil is mainly composed of monoterpenoids that appear in the range 5-13 min. The main components are citronellal, β -citronellol, geraniol and citronellyl acetate. Geraniol acetate, dl-limonene, linalool, eugenol, β -elemene, α -muurolene, α -cadinene, δ -cadinene, naphthalene, 1,2,4a,5,6,8a-hexahydro-4,7-dimethyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-, [1S-(1 α ,4 α β ,8 α)]-, elemol, germacrene D-4-ol, τ -eudesmol, τ -cadinol and α -cadinol are present at moderate extent. Monoterpenoids also present at lower concentration are myrcene, α -thujene, α -pinene, camphene, β -phellandrene, α - phellandrene, myrcene 2- β -pinene, among others. Mass spectra from these series of compounds are dominated by fragment ions with m/z values of 41, 55 and 69, which are characteristic of direct and consecutive cleavage of allylic bonds in compounds containing aliphatic alkene chains such as myrcene, linalool, citronellal, citronellol or geraniol.[61] The results obtained are consistent with those other previously reported in literature corresponding to other botanical species of citronella oil.[62]

Plasticizers have been described, in general, as high boiling point compounds including linear or cyclic carbon chains of 14-40 carbons, with average molecular mass in the range 300-600. In the more particular case of biopolymers, in addition to water, the most commonly used pasticizers are polyols and oligosaccharides.[63] The GC-MS analysis performed on citronella oil confirms that this essential oil is a mixture of

hydrocarbons, aldehydes, ketones and alcohols with molecular mass in the range 46-222. Interestingly, most of the major compounds found in citronella oil are alcohols (citronellol, geraniol, elemol, linalool, eugenol). Therefore and, in coherence with the mechanical results obtained (*vide infra*), it could be assumed that these molecules should be contributing, at some extent, to plasticization of the gelatin films together with glycerol molecules.

AFM

Although the effects of polymer additives such as plasticizers have been studied over the past decades, a fundamental understanding of how these products affect the polymer properties is still incomplete. Free volume theories developed by Fujita-Doolittle [64] and Ventras-Duda [65] are postulated for discussing mobilities of the solvent and chain segments in concentrated polymer solutions and thus, these models are applicable to the initial stages during the formation of the gelatin film. Deviations of the theoretical predictions related to the diffusion coefficient of small molecules (glycerol and complex mixture of citronella monoterpenoids) in the polymeric matrix of the drying films during the ultimate stages of the drying, could have taken place at some extent. On the other hand, blending in miscible components such as plasticizers impacts the nucleation and growth of crystalline spherical nuclei and the intermolecular links (hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic interactions and electrostatic repulsions) connecting these crystalline domains.[66,67] On these basis, it should be expected that the molecules of glycerol and citronella distribute between the gelatin chains and, preferably, form some kind of compatible microdomains, in the present study. Incompatibility between biopolymer and additive (glycerol or citronella) could generate, eventually, phase separation[63] and phase inversion processes at some extent.[68]

Figure 4 shows topological graphs of precursor aqueous dispersions of specimens A, AG and AGC conveniently diluted at 10^{-4} g.L⁻¹. HOPG has been chosen for this series of experiments as it is a hydrophobic substrate that could promote a faster release of water during fixing the gelatin by inert gas so that morphological changes of the gelatin dispersion in presence of additives as consequence of drying can be enhanced. Fig. 4-a shows features that are associated to rounded nuclei or crystalline domains formed by association of entangled gelatin chains strongly bonded. Dimensions of rounded nuclei are in the range 200-20 nm with a maximum high of 9 nm. Strands formed by a few single gelatin chains 100-20 nm long are identified which emerge from nuclei or connect them forming small chains. Addition of glycerol (Fig. 4-b) results in a decrease of the average size of nuclei (85-20 nm) and a slight increase of their maximum high (11nm). Increase of number of the strands emerging and connecting nuclei is also evident. Fig. 4-c shows the effect of the addition of citronella to the gelatin dispersion. Size of nuclei is maintained in the range 50-10 nm whereas the maximum high is increased to 14 nm. A larger number of connected nuclei is observed in the image. Increase in the amount of nuclei connected by single strands observed in the gelatin dispersion plasticised with glycerol suggests that this last additive promotes the appearance of a network of interconnected nuclei that could be precursor structures of larger clusters conforming the dense gelatin-glycerol film. The smaller size of the nuclei forming the network and the highest degree of cross-linking observed in the specimen containing glycerol point out to structural differences responsible for the improvement in the functional properties observed in the plasticized specimen (*vide infra*). Addition of citronella to the plasticizer results in a reduction of the size of the interconnected nuclei of associated gelatin chains. These structural changes could also

contribute to the observed changes in the functional properties of the gelatin films modified with the combination of plasticizer plus biocide.

Figure 5 shows the amplitude error channel graphs obtained after depositing a drop of A, AG and AGC aqueous dispersions onto a HOPG substrate. The significantly higher concentration of the precursor gelatin dispersions results in a continuous film deposited on the HOPG substrate in all cases. Nevertheless it is possible identify some features that protrude the film surface, which are associated to larger clusters of gelatin chains strongly entangled. Maximum diameter and high of these features are 1.2 μm and 64 nm, respectively, in A film, 1.0 μm and 55 nm in AG film and 0.3 μm and 17 nm for AGC film.

These results correlate with reported evidence that protein chains aggregate in the dilute regime by forming fractal structures. These aggregates have been described as clusters occluding solvent.[69] On the other hand the results presented here suggest that addition of plasticizer(biocide) improves the microscopic texture of the cast films by reducing the size of nuclei of entangled gelatin chains and thus promoting appearance of interstitial spaces between precursor nuclei during the coalescence phase.

Mechanical Test

Table 4 summarizes the values of elastic modulus (EM) obtained in the specimens prepared with pure gelatin (A), gelatin plasticized with glycerol (AG) and gelatin plasticized with glycerol including citronella (AGC). Film A prepared without addition of plasticizer exhibited high EM up to 14000 $\text{MPa}\cdot\text{mm}^{-1}$. Glycerol has an important plasticizing effect on gelatin films that is characterized by a notable decrease in the EM value, as it can be seen by comparing the values of mechanical parameters

obtained for specimens A and AG. Addition of citronella improved the plasticizing effect of glycerol as suggested by the slightly lower value of the elastic modulus obtained in specimen AGC. These results are in agreement with prior studies dealing with plasticization of protein films with glycerol.[9,12,15,16,42,51,70,71]

FTIR spectroscopy data obtained on the plasticized films of gelatin AG and AGC also support the mechanical results obtained. Plasticized specimens exhibited an up shift of the maximum of the amide I band from 1627 cm^{-1} to 1630 cm^{-1} together with a decrease in the percentage area contributed by β -sheet conformation and an increase in the percentage area contributed by random coil conformations, if their values are compared with the values from pure gelatin film A. These conformational changes can be associated with a larger scale three-dimensional changes involving unfolding of the molecules and decrease in the aggregation of gelatin chains. These changes correlate well with the effect of the small plasticizer molecules establishing new linkages with gelatin and occupying intermolecular spaces between polymer chains and thus resulting in a wider reorganization of the polymer network.[72] AFM experiments performed with A, AG and AGC gelatin dispersions and their diluted counterpart solutions could also support that mechanism. As it was previously described, addition of glycerol reduces the size of nuclei of entangled proteins and promotes the formation of a network of well interconnected small protein aggregates that should result in a more homogeneous three-dimensional network with increased interstitial spaces and flexibility at macroscopical scale.

Water vapour permeability

The *WVP* of film samples prepared with pure gelatin (A) and blends of gelatin-glycerol (AG) and gelatin-glycerol(citronella) (AGC) are shown in Table 4. The

addition of glycerol caused an increase in the *WVP* value of gelatin films in agreement with values previously reported in literature.[12,42,71,73] This is caused by the increase of free volume as consequence of the reorganization of the gelatin network.

Interestingly, addition of citronella resulted in an additional increase in the *WVP* thus confirming that compatible microdomains between gelatin glycerol and citronella molecules are mainly formed.

Water content

Analogously to *WVP* values, the *WC* values (see Table 4) obtained in plasticized gelatin films were higher than that found in pure gelatin film A. AGC specimen including citronella showed similar *WC* value to that obtained for AG specimen.

Water solubility

This parameter is of great interest in the field of conservation of heritage. Reversibility of the adhesives applied to the painting in an intervention treatment is an important requirement. Thus, the highest solubility of the dried film, the better behavior as reversible adhesive. Analogously to previously barrier properties described, *WS* values for plasticized specimens AG and AGC were higher than that exhibited by pure gelatin film A.

Light ageing

FTIR spectroscopy

The most remarkable change in the IR spectra of the films after subjected them to UV irradiation is the decrease of the absorbance of the bands at 3300, 3274, 3070 and 2853 cm^{-1} , which are ascribed to the reduction of the content of $-\text{CH}_2\text{-N=}$ and

=CH₂ bonds in the gelatin main chain. These results suggest that, as previously reported [74], photodegradation of gelatin along its main chains, with scission of these bonds, is taking place at some extent in the gelatin. Decrease of band at 3450 cm⁻¹, which is associated with loss of water bonded to gelatin, is also observed.

Aged specimen A-UV prepared from pure gelatin film-forming dispersion showed similar content of β -sheet percentage of band area contribution than specimen A. Slight decrease of the β -sheet percentage of band area contribution was found in plasticized films AG-UV and AGC-UV when these values were compared with those from the unaged counterparts as it is illustrated in Figure 6 where is shown, as an example, the Fourier self-deconvolution curve-fitting graphs for the 100 h UV-irradiated glycerol(citronella)-gelatin film (specimen AGC-UV). Therefore, in addition to the scission of protein chains, UV light ageing carried out in the conditions of the experiment seems to promote the partial conversion of short segment of gelatin to form other conformations in a similar way to that taking place in the gelation process. [75]

GC-MS

Due to the notable volatility of essential oils, a parallel study of compositional changes undergone by citronella oil during ageing has been carried out by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. Main compounds identified are summarized in Table 3. Figure 3-b shows the chromatogram of citronella oil 100 h photoaged. In this chromatogram the monoterpenoid fraction in the range 5-13 min exhibits identical features than that from unaged citronella and, in general, relative proportion between main compounds is not significantly modified. Interestingly, a second terpenoid fraction is observed in the chromatogram of the irradiated sample of citronella, which appears in the range 14.5 to 17 min. These compounds have been recognized as dimers formed

from combination of monoterpenoids as result of the UV light irradiation. Mass spectra from these series of compounds, analogously to the compounds of the monoterpenoid fraction, are also dominated by fragment ions with m/z values of 41, 55 and 69. Additionally, molecular ions with m/z values of 290, 308 and 310 are also recognized whose m/z value is exactly equal to the summation of molecular masses of 136+154, 154+154 and 156+154, respectively, which correspond to the major monoterpenoids composing citronella oil (limonene, citronellal, citronellol, geraniol). Other involatile trimer, oligomer or polymer species probably have been formed during ageing, which owing to their higher molecular mass can not be detected by GC-MS. This finding suggests that polymerization of monoterpenoids from citronella oil probably could have taken place at some extent in the aged gelatin films. Similar polymerization processes have been reported for diterpenoid resins. [76]

Mechanical test

As reflected in Table 4, UV light irradiation results in no significant changes in the studied series of specimens. EM value of pure gelatin film A after UV light irradiating resulted unchanged. A slight decrease in the EM value of the plastized specimen AG-UV was found, compared with the unaged counterpart, whereas film AGC-UV exhibited a slight increase of EM.

The results obtained suggest that, in general, UV light ageing carried out in the conditions of the experiment seems to promote two opposite processes. Firstly, the scission of segments in protein chains with the consequent lowering of the average molecular weight of the protein molecules and the increase in stiffness. According to the results obtained in specimen A, this process seems not be dominating the

mechanical behavior of ageing of gelatin films. On the other hand, the deaggregation of gelatin molecules, which should result in a loss of cross-linking in the gelatin network, could also take place. The latter is in good agreement with the FTIR spectroscopic data previously described that showed a decrease in the contribution of the β -sheet structures, associated to a decrease in the unfolding/aggregation of protein molecules in specimen AG-UV. Other processes associated with the addition of citronella should be considered for justifying the slight increase in stiffness observed in AGC-UV. Thus, the results provided by the GC-MS analyses indicate that polymerization of the main components of citronella takes place during UV light irradiation in parallel to evaporation of the most volatile components at some extent.

Water vapour permeability

The WVP of 100 h light aged films prepared with pure gelatin (A) and blends of gelatin-glycerol (AG) and gelatin-glycerol(citronella) (AGC) are also shown in Table 4. Values obtained in the UV-aged specimens were slightly lower than those exhibited by their unaged counterparts.

Water content

Analogously to WVP values, the WC values (see Table 4) obtained in the UV aged films were slightly lower than those exhibited by their unaged counterparts. Like in the unaged series of films, the plasticized specimens AG and AGC exhibited higher WC values than A film.

Water solubility

Solubility of aged films was, in all cases, lower than that exhibited by the unaged ones as shown in Table 4. Nevertheless, decrease of *WS* values for plasticized

specimens AG and AGC was lower than that exhibited by pure gelatin film A, in particular, for film AG. This result denotes a lesser loss of solubility properties on ageing and, hence, of reversibility for plasticized specimens.

Conclusions

In this paper has been presented a study on the effect of two specific additives, namely, glycerol and citronella oil, on several functional properties of gelatin-based adhesives used in painting conservation treatments. On the basis of prior studies of the effect of glycerol as plasticizer of gelatin films used for drug and food packaging, and studies on the capabilities of the citronella oil as low-toxic biocide, the study developed here has focused on evaluating the synergistic effects resulting on the combination of both additives incorporated at a suitable concentration in the gelatin adhesive dispersion. Spectroscopic and microscopy studies carried out indicate that combination of glycerol and citronella oil influences the process of formation of the gelatin film and its final properties and structure in a complex way. The results obtained here also confirm the excellent properties of glycerol as plasticizer of gelatin-based adhesives and indicate that citronella oil is not only acting as biocide but also is contributing, together with glycerol, to the improvement of the mechanical, water barrier and other functional properties of the adhesive.

Photoageing carried out in the present study, equivalent to 100 years of natural ageing of specimens containing the proposed additives, resulted in a slight increase of stiffness and slight loss of *WVP*, *WS* and *WC*, thus denoting the high degree of photoresistance exhibited by the proposed gelatin-based adhesive. According with prior studies, main structural changes observed are related, in general, to changes in the three dimensional polymer network and, in particular, to changes in the secondary structure

of gelatin molecules induced by the plasticizer, as suggested by the decrease in the β -sheet percentage of band area contribution found in the plasticized films. Small amounts of trimer, oligomer or polymer species, which should be formed from the main components of citronella oil during ageing could also contribute to structural changes in the polymeric network in the aged specimen containing citronella.

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Table captions

Table 1. IR absorption bands and assignments for untreated gelatin specimen A and plasticized specimens AG and AGC.

Table 2. Percent area contribution of amide I components for untreated gelatin specimen A and plasticized specimens AG and AGC. Position of individual bands from second derivative spectra, in agreement with literature. [30,32,33,35,47,50,53,54]

Table 3. Main compounds identified by GC-MS in the samples of commercial unaged citronella (C) and 100 h UVA light aged (C-UV) together with molecular weight, retention time and main fragment ion identified in the mass spectra (base peak underlined).

Table 4. Mean value and standard deviation of elastic modulus (*EM*), water vapour permeability (*WVP*), water solubility (*WS*), and water content (*WC*) obtained in the studied specimens.

Figure captions

Figure 1. IR absorption spectra of specimens A (bottom) and AGC (top) that correspond to the film of gelatin and gelatin containing glycerol with 1% citronella oil.

Figure 2. (a) Amide I curve fitted band for specimen A prepared from pure gelatin dispersion with fitted band components. Assignment of individual bands: (β) β -sheet: 1612, 1619, 1626, 1634 and 1695 cm^{-1} . (rc) random coil and helical: 1640, 1645 and 1652 cm^{-1} . (α) triple helical: 1660 cm^{-1} . (t) turns: 1668, 1674, 1682 and 1689 cm^{-1} . (b) Amide I curve fitted band for specimen AGC prepared from gelatin-glycerol with 1% citronella dispersion with fitted band components. Assignment of individual bands: (β) β -sheet: 1612, 1619, 1624, 1629, 1634 and 1693 cm^{-1} . (rc) random coil and helical: 1640, 1645, 1652 and 1657 cm^{-1} . (α) triple helical: 1661 cm^{-1} . (t) turns: 1668, 1674, 1682, 1689 cm^{-1} . Residual RMS error of curve fitting less than 0.006.

Figure 3. Chromatogram of: a) citronella oil b) citronella oil photoaged 100 h.

Figure 4. Amplitude error channel graphs that illustrate typical structures obtained after depositing a drop of aqueous dispersion previously aged 48 h at 5°C, onto a HOPG substrate kept at 22°C: a) gelatin dispersion (10^{-4} g.L^{-1}); b) gelatin-glycerol dispersion (10^{-4} g.L^{-1}); c) gelatin-glycerol with 1% citronella dispersion (10^{-4} g.L^{-1}).

Figure 5. Amplitude error channel graphs that illustrate typical structures obtained after depositing a drop of aqueous dispersion, previously aged 48 h at 5°C, onto a HOPG substrate kept at 22°C: a) gelatin dispersion A; b) gelatin-glycerol dispersion AG; c) gelatin-glycerol with 1% citronella dispersion AGC.

Figure 6. Amide I curve fitted band for specimen AGC-UV prepared from UV-aged specimen AGC with fitted band components. Assignment of individual bands: (β) β -sheet: 1612, 1619, 1624, 1629, 1635 and 1693 cm^{-1} . (rc) random coil and helical: 1640, 1645 1652 1657 cm^{-1} . (α) triple helical: 1661 cm^{-1} . (t) turns: 1668, 1674, 1682 and 1689 cm^{-1} . Residual RMS error of curve fitting less than 0.006.

Table 1

Frequency (cm ⁻¹)			Assignment
A	AG	AGC	
3450	3450	3450	Bond water
-	-	3400 ^{sh}	OH stretch (citronella)
-	3300 ^{sh}	3300 ^{sh}	OH stretch (glycerol)
3274	3274	3274	Amide A, N-H stretch
3070	3070	3070	Amide B, N-H Fermi resonance between amide II overtone and N-H stretch
2957	2957	2957	Antisymmetric stretch CH ₃
-	2934 ^{sh}	2934 ^{sh}	Antisymmetric stretch CH ₃ (glycerol)
-	-	2925 ^{sh}	Antisymmetric stretch CH ₂ (citronella)
2923	2923	2923	Antisymmetric stretch CH ₂
-	-	2913 ^{sh}	Antisymmetric stretch CH ₂ (citronella)
-	2880 ^{sh}	2880 ^{sh}	Symmetric stretch CH ₂ (glycerol)
2875	2875	2875	Symmetric stretch CH ₃
-	-	2872 ^{sh}	Symmetric stretch CH ₃ (citronella)
-	-	2856 ^{sh}	Symmetric stretch CH ₂ (citronella)
2853	2853	2853	Symmetric stretch CH ₂
-	-	1725	C=O stretch (citronella)
1627	1630	1630	Amide I, C=O stretch/hydrogen bond coupled with COO ⁻
1539	1545	1545	Amide II, NH bond coupled with CN stretch
1450	1450	1450	CH ₂ bend
1401	1401	1401	C-O symmetric stretch carboxyl group
-	-	1377 ^{sh}	CH ₃ bend (citronella)
1334	1334	1334	CH ₂ wagging
1237	1237	1237	Amide III, C-O stretch
-	1034	1034	OH bend (glycerol)
1030	1030 ^{sh}	1030 ^{sh}	Skeletal stretch

sh: shoulder

Table 2

Predominant conformation	Frequency range (cm ⁻¹)	A		AG		AGC	
		unaged	light aged	unaged	light aged	unaged	light aged
β-sheet	1611-1640, 1690	54	54	48	44	48	46
Random coil, helical	1641-1659	18	21	26	32	27	26
Triple Helical	1660	19	13	16	14	15	15
Turns	1662-1689	9	12	10	10	10	13

Table 3

Peak	Compound	R _t (min)	m/z	M _w	C	C-UV
1	Ethanol	1.57	<u>31</u> ,45	46	√	-
2	2-propanone	1.64	<u>31</u> ,43, 58	58	√	√
3	1-methyl-3-(1-methylethyl)-cyclopentane	4.64	<u>55</u> ,67, <u>83</u> ,111	126	√	√
4	α-thujene	5.46	77,91, <u>93</u> , 136	136	√	√
5	α-pinene	5.56	77,79, 91, <u>93</u>	136	√	√
6	Camphene	5.77	79, <u>93</u> ,107,121	136	√	√
7	β-phellandrene	6.06	77,91, <u>93</u> ,136	136	√	√
8	2-β-pinene	6.11	41,69,79, <u>93</u>	136	√	√
9	6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one	6.18	<u>43</u> ,55,69,108	126	√	√
10	α-myrcene	6.23	41, <u>69</u> ,93,95	136	√	√
11	α-phellandrene	6.43	77, <u>93</u> ,136	136	√	√
12	1-methyl-4-(1-methylethyl)-benzene	6.67	77,91, <u>119</u> ,134	134	√	√
13	dl-limonene	6.74	<u>68</u> ,79,93, 121	136	√	√
14	Eucalyptol	6.79	<u>43</u> ,81,108,154	154	√	√
15	2,6-dimethyl-5-heptenal	6.98	41, 55,67, <u>82</u>	140	√	√
16	3-carene	7.08	77, <u>93</u> ,121,136	136	√	√
17	Terpinolene	7.42	79,93, <u>121</u> , 136	136	√	√
18	Linalool	7.51	41,55, <u>71</u> , 93	154	√	√
19	β-pinene oxide	7.63	41, <u>67</u> , 82,123	152	-	√
20	Tetrahydro-4-methyl-2-(2-methylpropenyl)-2H pyran	7.65	41,69,83, <u>139</u>	154	√	√
21	Citronellal	8.14	<u>41</u> ,69,95,121	154	√	√
22	Isopulegol	8.28	41, <u>69</u> ,84, 121,136	154	√	√

23	5-methylcyclohexanone	8.33	69, <u>112</u> ,139,154	154	-	√
24	Isopulegol 2	8.38	41, 69, <u>81</u> ,95,121	154	√	√
25	α-terpineol	8.55	<u>59</u> , 93,121,136	154	√	√
26	2-decen-1-ol	8.62	41, <u>57</u> ,70,82	156	√	√
27	β-citronellol	8.89	41, <u>69</u> ,81,95	156	√	√
28	β-citral	9.03	<u>41</u> ,69, 94,109	152	√	√
29	Geraniol	9.23	41, <u>69</u> ,93,123	152	√	√
30	α- citral	9.32	41, <u>69</u> ,84,109	152	√	√
31	Citronellyl formate	9.34	<u>41</u> ,55,69,81,95	184	√	√
32	Geraniol formate	9.57	41, <u>69</u> ,93,136	182	√	√
33	Citronellic acid	9.69	41,55, <u>69</u> ,95,110	170	√	√
34	Pulegone	9.86	41, <u>67</u> , <u>81</u> ,109	158	√	√
35	2-(2-hydroxy-2-propyl)-5-methyl-cyclohexanol	9.98	43,59, <u>81</u> ,96	172	√	√
36	Citronellyl acetate	10.04	<u>43</u> , 69,81,95	198	√	√
37	Eugenol	10.17	103,131,149, <u>164</u>	164	√	√
38	Geraniol acetate	10.33	41, <u>69</u> ,93,121	196	√	√
39	β-Elemene	10.51	68, <u>81</u> ,93,107	204	√	√
40	β-Cubebene	10.79	91,105,120, <u>161</u>	204	√	√
41	Cariophyllene	10.83	41, <u>69</u> ,93,133	204	√	√
42	ν-Cadinene	10.87	91,105,119, <u>161</u>	204	√	√
43	Naphthalene, 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octahydro-7-methyl-4-methylene-1-(1-methylethyl)-/germacrene-D	11.01	81,91, 119, <u>161</u>	204	√	√
44	Trans-α-bisabolene	11.11	80, <u>93</u> ,121,161	204	√	√
45	ν-muurolene	11.26	105,119, <u>161</u> ,204	204	√	√
46	Germacrene D	11.34	105,119, <u>161</u> ,204	204	√	√
47	α-muurolene	11.45	91, <u>105</u> ,161,204	204	√	√
48	α-cadinene	11.59	105,119, <u>161</u> ,204	204	√	√
49	δ-cadinene	11.66	119,134, <u>161</u> ,204	204	√	√

50	Naphthalene, 1,2,4a,5,6,8a-hexahydro-4,7-dimethyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-, [1S-(1 α ,4a β ,8a α)]-	11.78	<u>105</u> ,161,189,204	204	√	√
51	Elemol	11.86	<u>59</u> , 93, 161,189	222	√	√
52	Germacrene D-4-ol	12.12	43, <u>81</u> ,123,161	222	√	√
53	τ -Eudesmol	12.56	43, <u>161</u> ,189,204	222	√	√
54	τ -cadinol	12.61	43, 105, <u>161</u> ,204	222	√	√
55	α -cadinol	12.73	<u>43</u> ,95,121,204	222	√	√
56	Dimer	14.99	41, <u>69</u> ,81,95	290	-	√
57	Dimer	15.09	41, <u>55</u> , <u>69</u> , 109	290	√	√
58	Dimer	15.14	<u>41</u> ,55,69,95	222	-	√
59	Dimer	15.19	41, <u>69</u> ,109,121	290	-	√
60	Dimer	15.36	41, <u>69</u> ,95,121	288	-	√
61	Dimer	15.45	<u>69</u> ,81,95,137	306	-	√
62	Dimer	15.62	41, <u>69</u> ,81,95	308	-	√
63	Dimer	15.71	41, <u>69</u> ,81,95	306	-	√
64	Dimer	15.74	41, <u>69</u> ,81,109	308	-	√
65	Farnesol isomer β	15.76	41, <u>69</u> ,81,95	222	√	-
66	Farnesol isomer α	15.79	41, <u>69</u> ,81,93	222	√	-
67	Dimer	15.81	41, <u>69</u> ,81,95	308	-	√
68	Dimer	15.87	41, <u>69</u> ,81,109	308	-	√
69	Dimer	15.91	41, <u>69</u> ,81,109	306	-	√
70	Dimer	15.98	41, <u>69</u> ,95,109	310	-	√
71	Dimer	16.08	41, <u>69</u> , 95,109	310	-	√
72	Dimer	16.23	41, <u>69</u> ,81,109	310	-	√
73	Dimer	16.32	41, <u>69</u> , 95,109	310	-	√

Table 4.- Mean value and standard deviation of elastic modulus, water vapor permeability (WVP), water solubility (WS), and water content (WC) obtained in the studied specimens.

Series	Elastic Modulus (MPa/mm)	WVP (g.m/m².Pa.day)	WS (%)	WC (%)
A	14000±3000	$2.0 \times 10^{-5} \pm 4 \times 10^{-6}$	20.2 ±1.1	14.5±0.2
A-UV	14000±3000	$1.7 \times 10^{-5} \pm 2 \times 10^{-6}$	11.1 ±0.9	14.7±0.3
AG	65±10	$2.4 \times 10^{-5} \pm 5 \times 10^{-6}$	23.1 ±1.5	24.5±0.7
AG-UV	54±4	$2.3 \times 10^{-5} \pm 6 \times 10^{-6}$	20.3±1.5	23.3±0.6
AGC	16±2	$3.7 \times 10^{-5} \pm 4 \times 10^{-6}$	26.6±1.5	22.8±0.5
AGC-UV	21±1	$3.2 \times 10^{-5} \pm 6 \times 10^{-6}$	18.5±1.5	21.5±0.5

Figure 1
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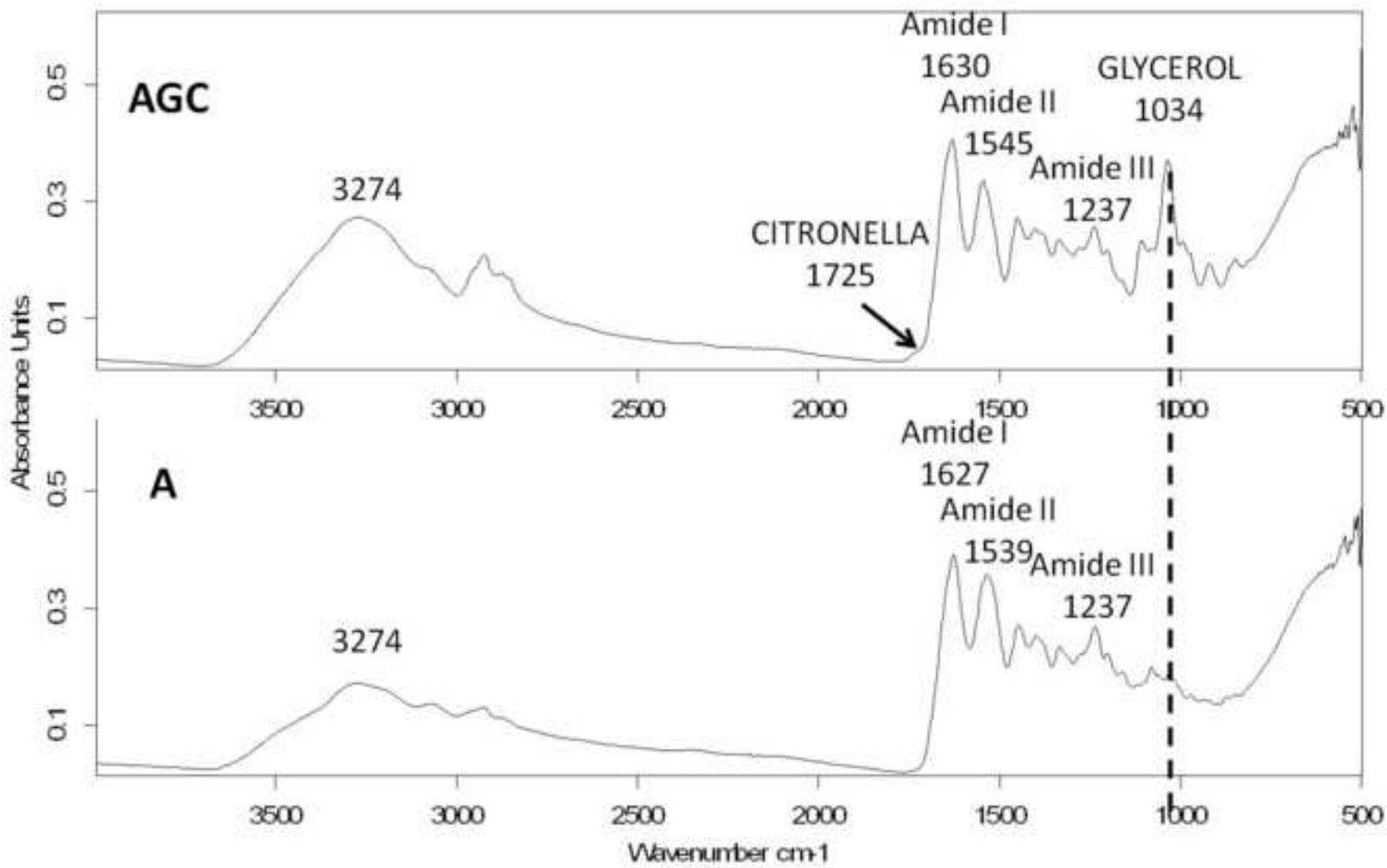


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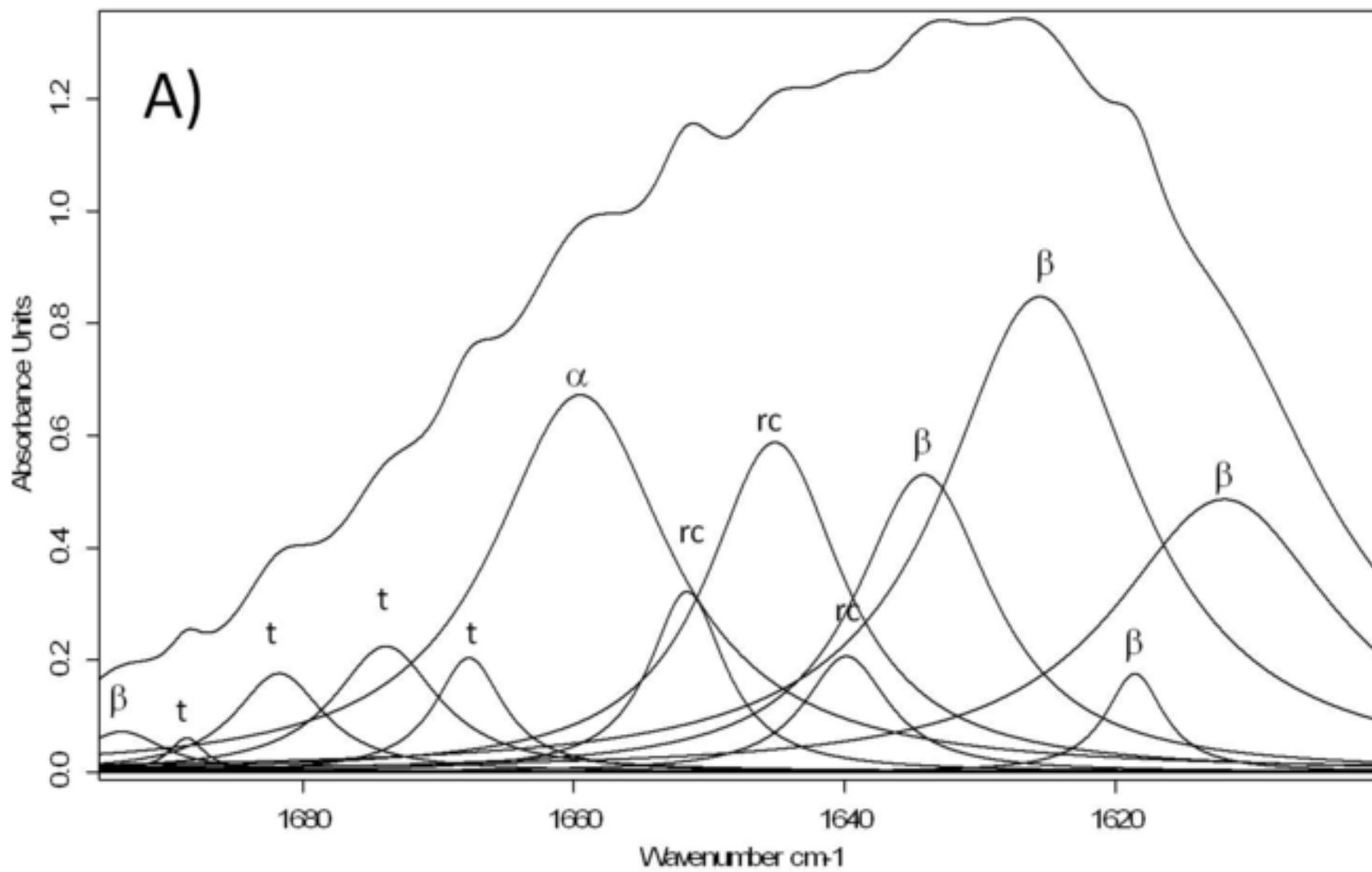


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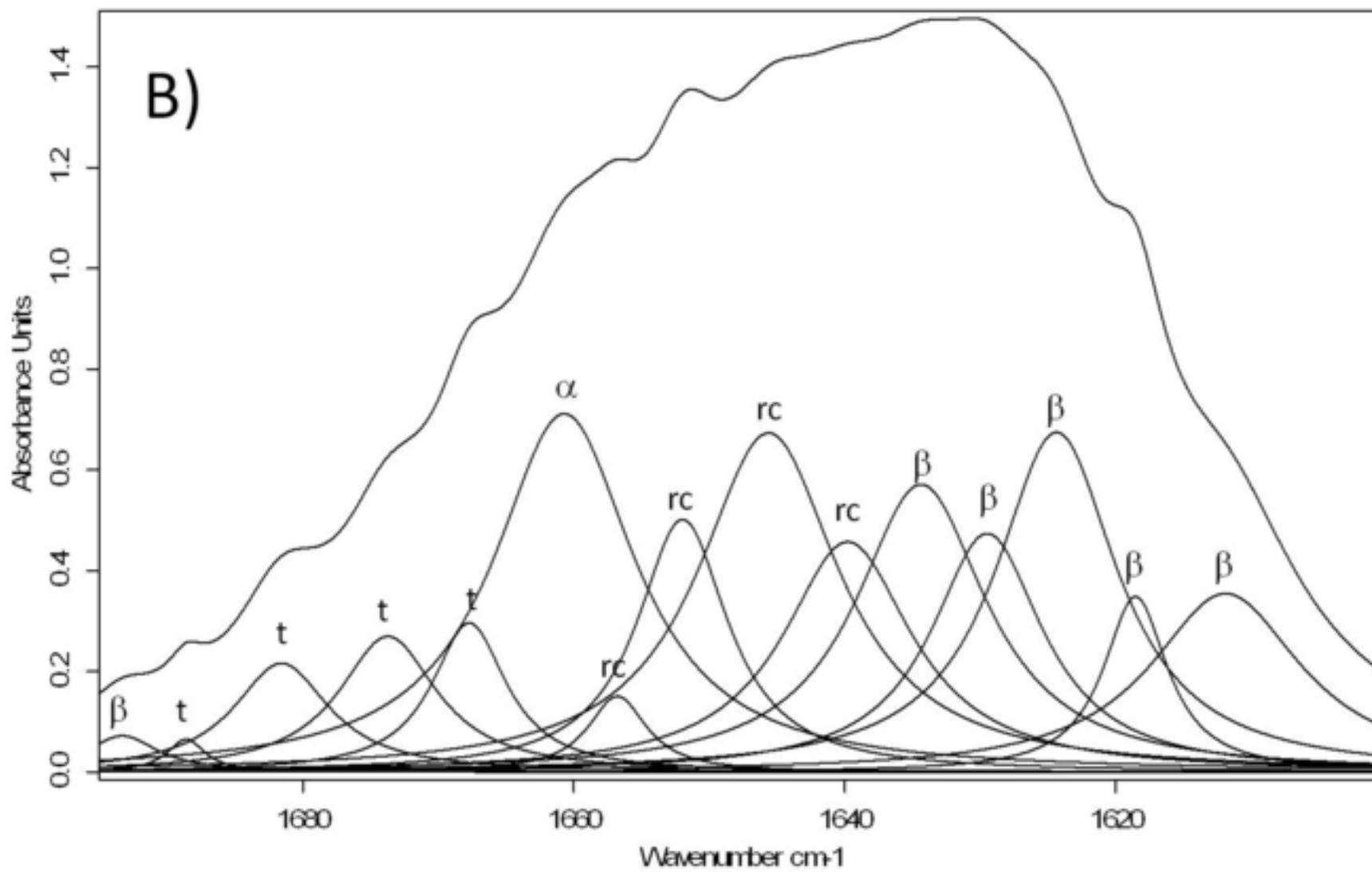


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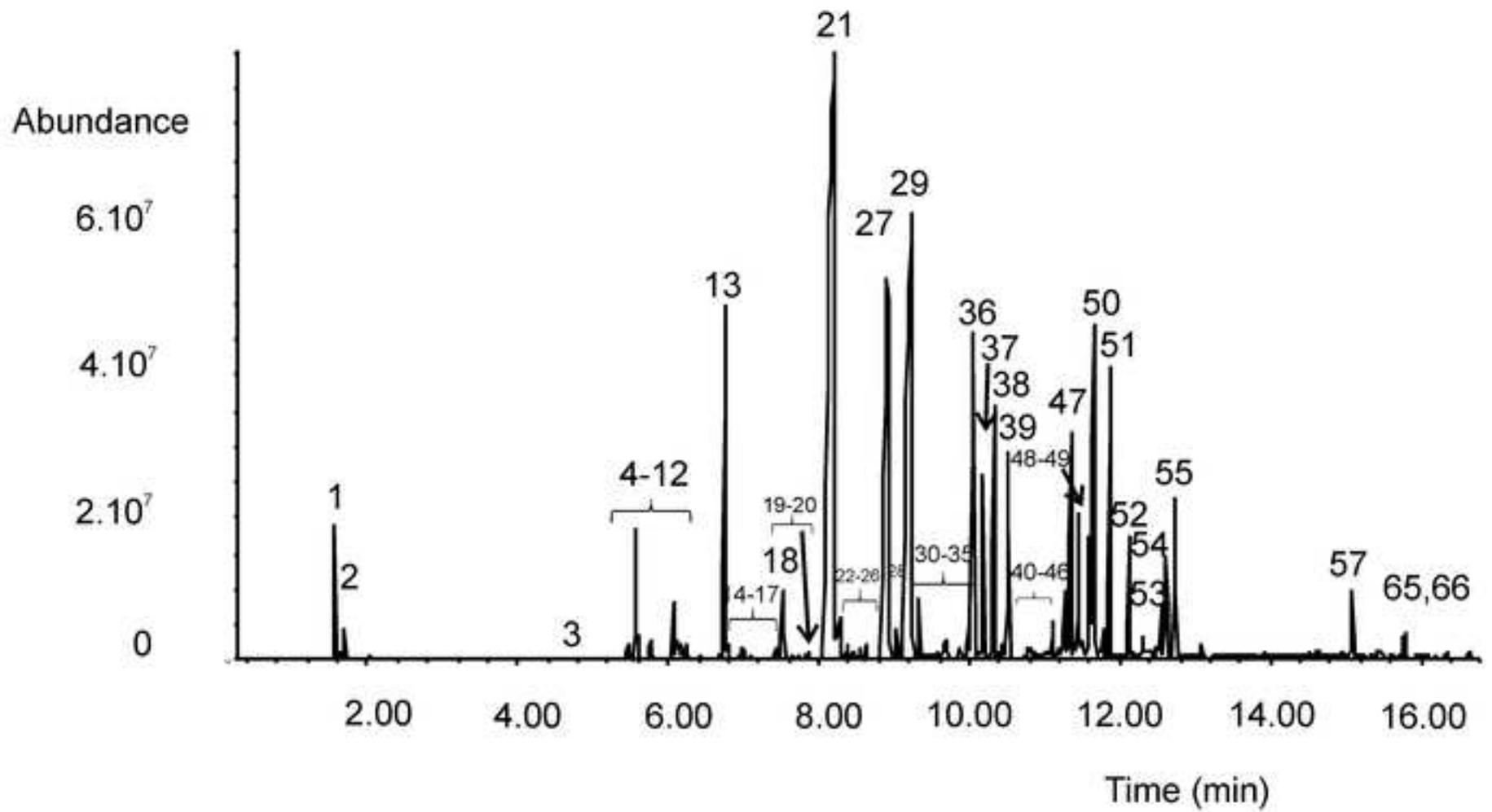


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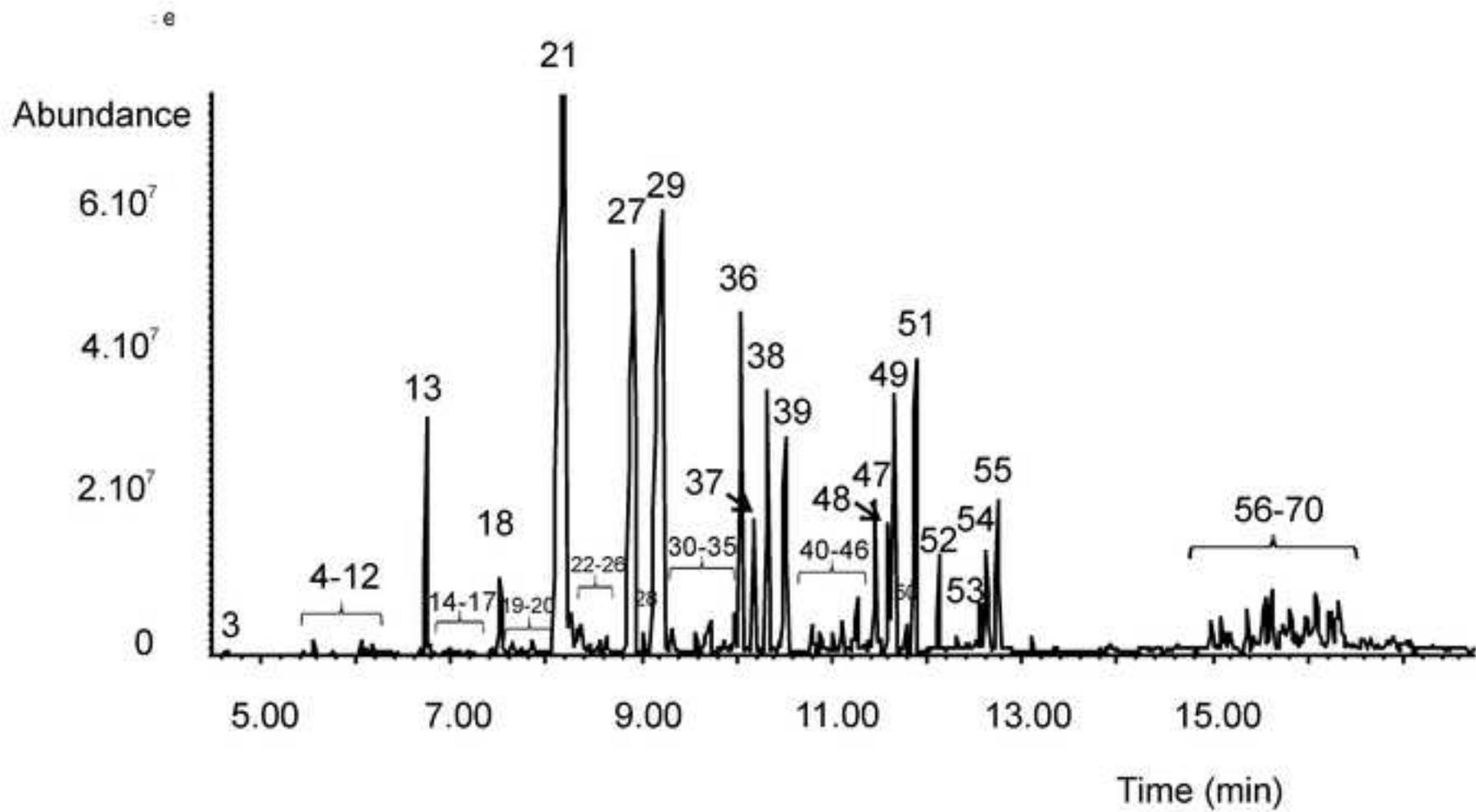


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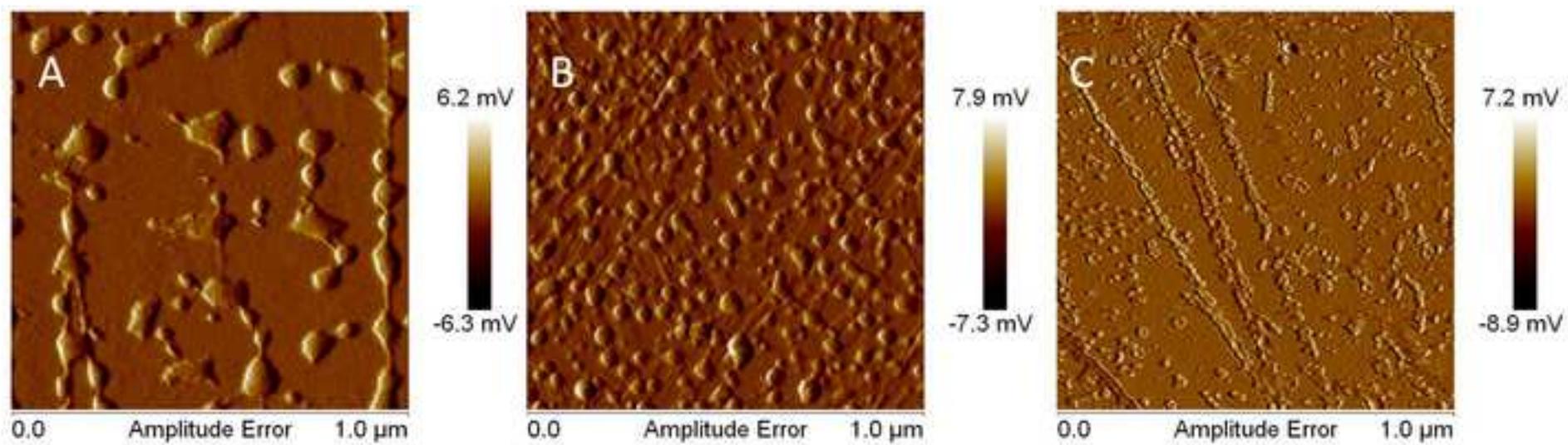


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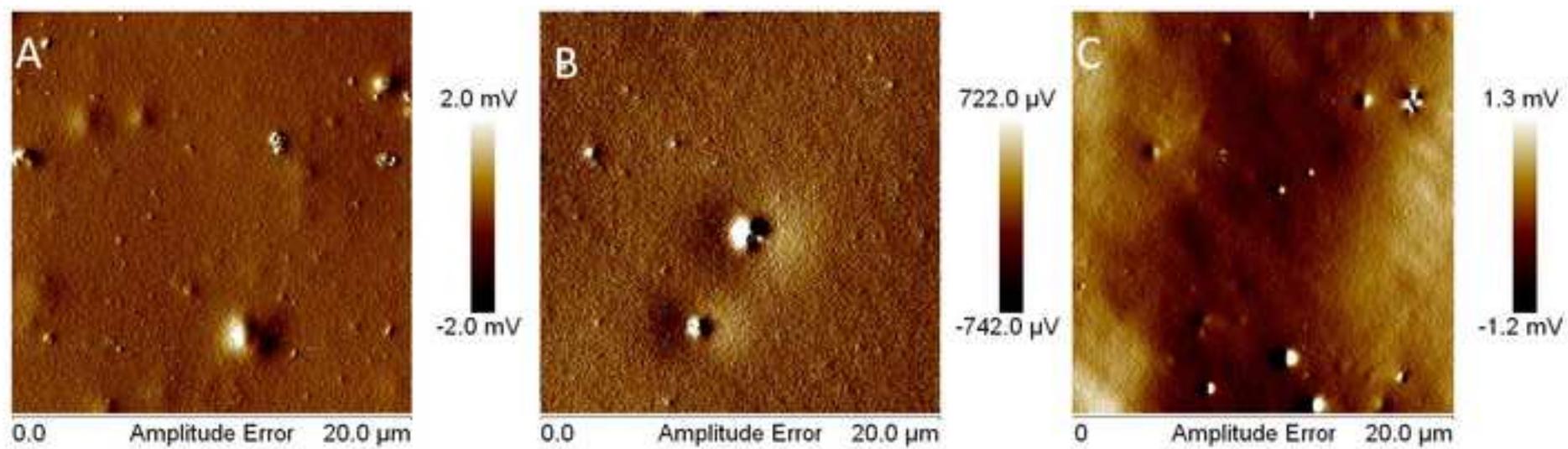


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