



Synthesis of (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan – An amino sugar anionic surfactant under microwave irradiation and its application

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Chitosan, a biopolymer with 97% degree of deacetylation, was used herein, to synthesize an amino sugar anionic surfactant of varied alkyl chain length, using a microwave-assisted synthesis. We were also examined their properties in aqueous form. **Objectives:** The objectives of the study were to increase the surface activity and water solubility of chitosan derivatives. **Materials and Methods:** Structural features and crystallinity were confirmed using Fourier transform infrared, ¹H-nuclear magnetic resonance, and X-ray diffraction. The chitosan by itself was found to have weak surface-active properties since it has no hydrophobic segment. **Results:** The microwave-assisted synthesized sugar amino-based anionic surfactant, synthesis of (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan-succinyl chitosan was found to have excellent surface-active and detergency properties. The aggregation behavior of amino sugar anionic surfactant was characterized by surface tension, which indicated that it had good surface activity. **Conclusion:** We believe that good surface activities of synthesized water-soluble surfactants can be used in the formulations of face wash, body wash, liquid detergents, more applications in pharmaceutical, medicine and food industry, etc.

Keywords: Biologically extracted chitosan, Microwave irradiation, Chitosan-soluble derivatives, ¹H-Nuclear magnetic resonance, Chitosan, Anionic surfactants

INTRODUCTION

Chitin is a substance that is abundantly present in the exoskeleton of insects, crustaceans, and from other sources such as fungi, mushrooms, worms, and diatoms.^[1,2] Chitin was found to be the second abundant natural polymer in nature after cellulose.^[1,2] Chitin and its chitosan, a linear polysaccharide derivative, has several applications, such as emulsion stabilizers, rheology modifiers (particularly thickening agents), and in paints, oil recovery, cosmetic or foods industries, biomedical, food, emulsifying agent, wastewater treatment, biocatalysts, textile, paper

industry, and agriculture.^[3-8] Chitin can be extracted by means of either biological or chemical method (use of chemicals, as deproteinization reagents including NaOH, Na₂CO₃, NaHCO₃, and Na₂S), of which biological method has added advantage of environmentally benign approach.^[9] Chitin isolation from shellfish requires the removal of the two major constituents of the shell, proteins by deproteinization and inorganic calcium carbonate by demineralization, together with small amounts of pigments and lipids that are generally removed during the two previous steps.^[10] In some cases, an additional step of decolorization is applied to remove residual pigments. Many methods have been proposed and used over the years to

prepare pure chitin; however, no standard method has been adopted. Both deproteinization and demineralization could be carried out using chemical or enzymatic treatments.

Chitin and chitosan are the homo-polysaccharides.^[11] Chitosan is derived from *N*-alkaline deacetylation of chitin. Chitosan is a aminoglycopolysaccharide composed of *N*-acetylglucosamine and glucosamine (GlcN) residues with β -1,4 linkages.^[11] A high-molecular-weight chitosan is having a very viscous nature; hence, it is less soluble.^[11] Therefore, depolymerization of chitosan gives low-molecular-weight chitosan, which is less viscous and more soluble.^[12-14] These polymers have specific functions due to their biological activity, biocompatibility, and complete biodegradability.

Chitosan biopolymer is available as an easily accessible reagent, because of its less crystalline nature than chitin.^[12-14] After heating, chitosan decomposes before melting; therefore, it has no melting point.^[12-14] The depolymerized chitosan has good solubility in dilute aqueous, organic, or mineral acids below pH 6.5.^[15] To increase the solubility of chitosan, lots of efforts have been reported to synthesize functional derivatives by chemical modifications.

Surfactants are ubiquitously used in day-to-day life such as in medicines, cosmetics, soaps and detergents, and other household items.^[16-18] They are used to decrease the surface tension between two liquids. By adding minute quantity of surfactant, changes in surface and interfacial properties of system can be observed. They tend to produce wetting, emulsifying, foaming, and dissolving characteristics. Out of four types of surfactants, cationic surfactants are used in hair shampoos, hair conditioners, and also in hard surface cleansers.^[16-18] However, the performance of cationic surfactants is worse than that of anionic surfactants due to the higher percentage of non-polar portion,^[19] which is difficult for their packing at molecular level.

Cationic surfactants are usually phytotoxic.^[20] Non-ionic surfactants are usually used with another type of surfactants. As they are incapable to properly stabilize the air system created by them, they tend to lead coalescence and bubble coarsening. Thus, they are not frequently used as a single component. Like non-ionic surfactant, amphoteric surfactants are also less widely used, while anionic surfactants are most commonly used surfactants.^[21] Anionic surfactants are the oldest development, the largest production, and the widest species in various types of surfactants. Anionic surfactants are used to remove clay, dirt, and some oily stains. Due to this property, they are the main component in detergents. A molecule of anionic surfactant is composed of a hydrophilic water-soluble "head" (such as SO_3^-) and a lipophilic oil-soluble "tail" (typically an organic molecule $\text{C}_{12}\text{--C}_{14}$). Because of the excellent foam and lather characteristics of anionic surfactant, they are used in face wash, body wash, detergents, soaps, etc.^[22]

Microwave synthesis represents a major breakthrough in synthetic chemistry for its excellent yield and low reaction time.^[23-28] It can be seen that with the aid of the high-performance microwave reactor, one can achieve volumetric and selective heating, extremely rapid heat transfer, speed of switching on and off, pollution-free environment, and compactness of

equipment as there are no products of combustion.^[23-28] There are several reports available, who depict the advantage of microwave irradiation for chitosan modifications but very few papers compare these two techniques.^[23-28]

Amino sugar anionic surfactant synthesized from chitosan by microwave synthesis would possess good surface active, detergency properties and act as excellent emulsifying agent. Surfactant molecules obtained from renewable source and raw materials which have natural lipoamino acids are best preferred choice for cosmetic and pharmaceutical application. They are biodegradable and non-toxic because of their simple and natural structures.^[29] They can be easily synthesized using chemicals or by adopting an enzymatic route using raw materials such as vegetable oils and amino acid. Amphiphilic structure molecules with a high surface activity can be produced by the combination of amino acids or peptides as a hydrophilic part and the long-chain compounds as a hydrophobic part.

The current work presents the microwave-assisted synthesis of sugar amino acid-based anionic surfactants from the biologically extracted chitosan with 97% degree of deacetylation (DAD) [Figure 1]. As one of the water-soluble derivatives of chitosan, succinyl chitosan (SCCHS) has favorable properties as a drug carrier such as biocompatibility, low toxicity, and long-term retention in the body.^[30] The free amino and hydroxy groups of SCCHS can act as useful intermediate, which permits other chemical modifications. Thus, based on a very recent study,^[30] we thought worthwhile to modify the SCCHS by reacting chitosan with succinic anhydride under microwave irradiation, which was further treated with butyl glycidyl ether (BGE) to synthesize (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-SCCHS (HBP-SCCHS) [Figures 1-8 and Tables 1-3]. The structure of the anionic surfactant was analyzed using Fourier-transform infrared (FT-IR) spectroscopy, proton nuclear magnetic resonance ($^1\text{H-NMR}$), and X-ray diffractometer (XRD).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Biologically extracted chitosan with 97% DAD and molecular weight of 50 kDa was used to carry out known synthesis. BGE and 98–99% sulfuric acid were supplied from Thomas Baker; hypo-phosphorous acid was received from S.D. Fine Chemicals; and formaldehyde (35% w/v) solution, potassium hydroxide, succinic anhydride, phthalic anhydride, acetone, methanol, propan-2-ol, and glacial acetic acid were also received from Sigma-Aldrich Chemicals and used without further purification.

HBP-SCCHS

A 1526 mg of chitosan was mixed with the 1% solution of $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ in a microwave glass reactor and stirred to dissolve at room temperature for 20 min. After the addition of about 1 g of succinic anhydride, the mixture was stirred and subjected to microwave irradiation for 15 min at 50°C . In conventional synthesis, similar procedure was carried out for 3 h^[30] at room temperature. The product was precipitated by adding acetone was centrifuged to separate the precipitate. The precipitate obtained was further washed with ethanol-water,

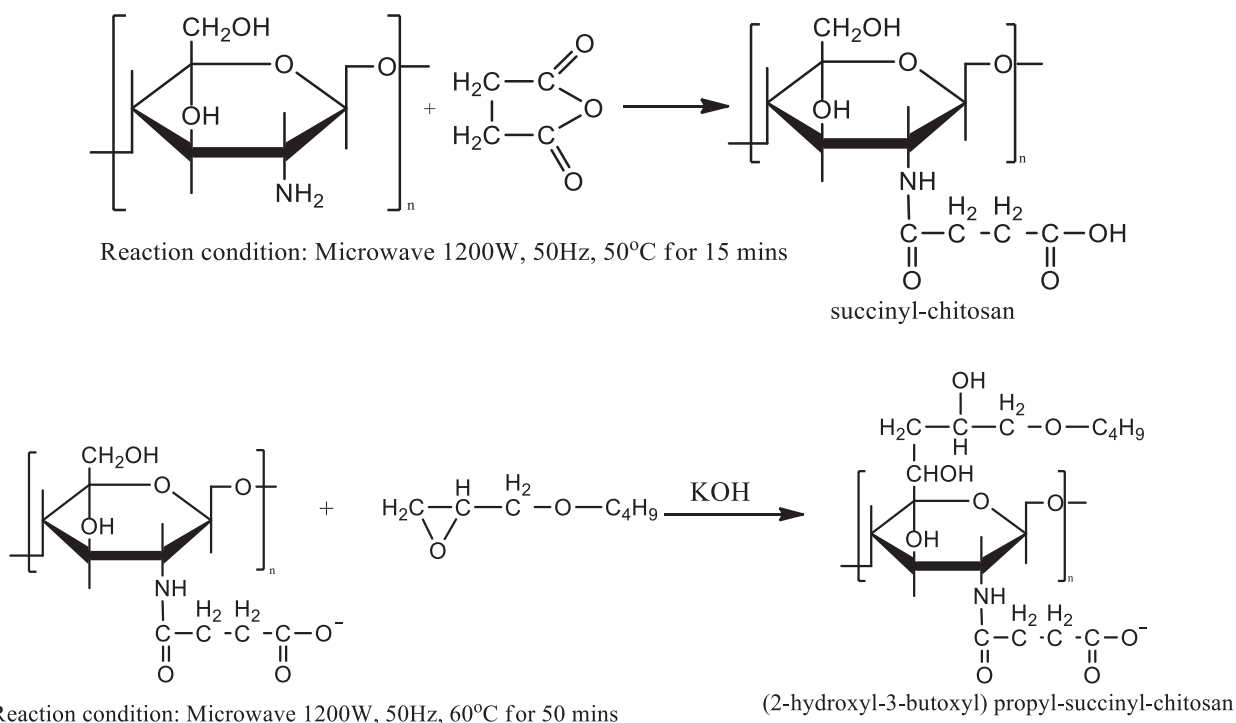


Figure 1: Synthesis of succinyl-chitosan (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan

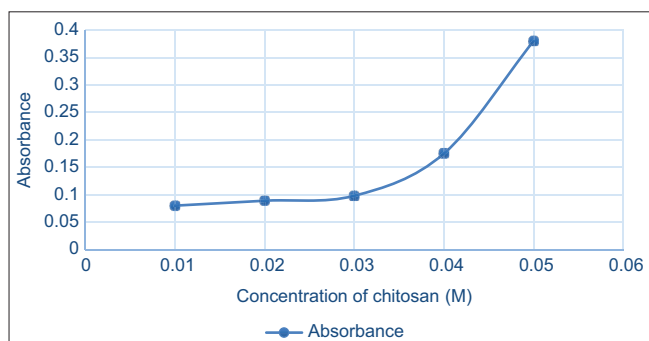


Figure 2: Plot of degree of deacetylation analysis

centrifuged, and dried in the vacuum at 50°C to get crystalline powder of SCCHS; yield: 92% [Figure 1].

A 1500 mg of prepared SCCHS was dissolved into the mixture of 20% (w/v) potassium hydroxide/isopropanol in a glass reactor, then 4.97 mL of BGE was added and mixture was irradiated under microwave at 60°C for 50 min with an interval of every 10 min. In conventional synthesis, HBP-SCCHS was synthesized by heating at 50°C for 24 h. The mixture was allowed to cool down to room temperature and obtained products were centrifuged, washed 2–3 times with acetone and isopropanol, and again centrifuged. The product obtained was purified and dried in vacuum at 55°C (92% yield of HBP-SCCHS was retained) [Figure 1 and Table S1 and S2].

Characterization of HBP-SCCHS

FT-IR spectroscopy

As FT-IR spectroscopy would give information on various functional groups present in the molecule, we were detailed

FT-IR spectra of synthesized HBP-SCCHS on Shimadzu MIRacle 10 instrument. It was recorded with the aid of KBr pellets on a Shimadzu UV-1800 spectrometer. The FT-IR measurements were performed in the transmission mode. The ratio for the mixture used was 100:1 (50 mg KBr and 0.5 mg sample). Then, mixture was uniformly mixed using mortar and pestle. The spectra of chitosan samples were obtained within a frequency range of wavelength from 400 to 4000 cm^{-1} , each spectrum was an average of 45 scans with a resolution of 2 cm^{-1} .

^1H -NMR spectroscopy

^1H -NMR spectroscopy was used to characterize the molecular structure of chitosan derivatives. The ^1H -NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer. The SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS were dissolved in D_2O .

Deacetylation degree (DAD)

DAD and molecular weight of chitosan were computed as per the published procedure.^[31] In the our synthesis, we used the enzymatically extracted chitosan; whose DAD was 97.69% as calculated using UV spectrophotometer in the following way:^[32] 10–20 mg of chitosan was dispersed in 10 mL of 0.01 mol.L^{-1} HCl in a 100 mL volumetric flask. As chitosan dissolved completely, deionized water was added up to the mark. As per the standard plot, the acetyl concentration can be determined by calculating the absorbance of solution at wavelength 199 nm. DAD can be measured according to the equation:

$$\text{DAD} = 100\% - \frac{C_1}{C} \quad (1)$$

Where, C_1 is the concentration of acetyl of sample and C is sample concentration.

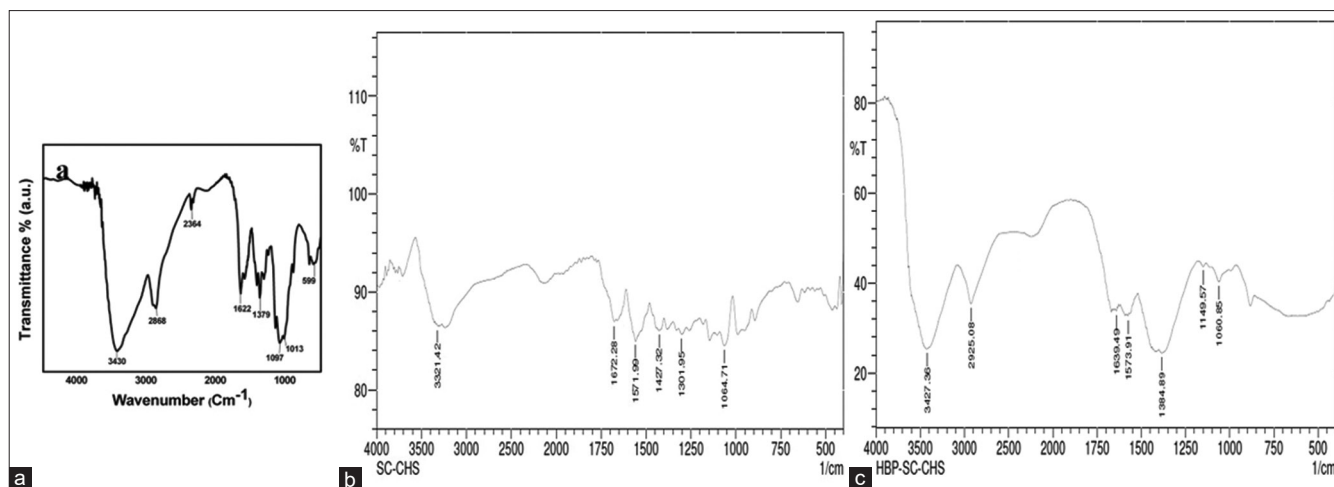


Figure 3: Fourier transform infrared spectra of (a) chitosan, (b) succinyl chitosan, and (c) (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan

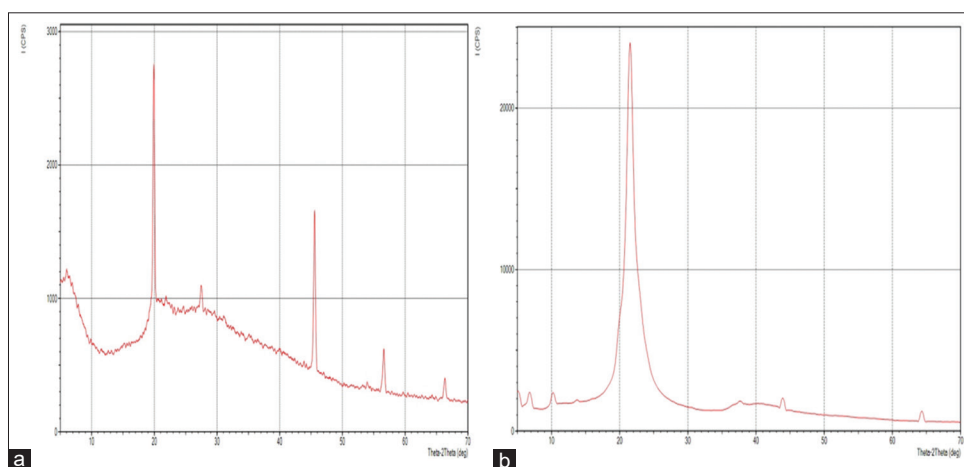


Figure 4: X-ray diffractometer diffractogram of (a) succinyl chitosan and (b) (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan

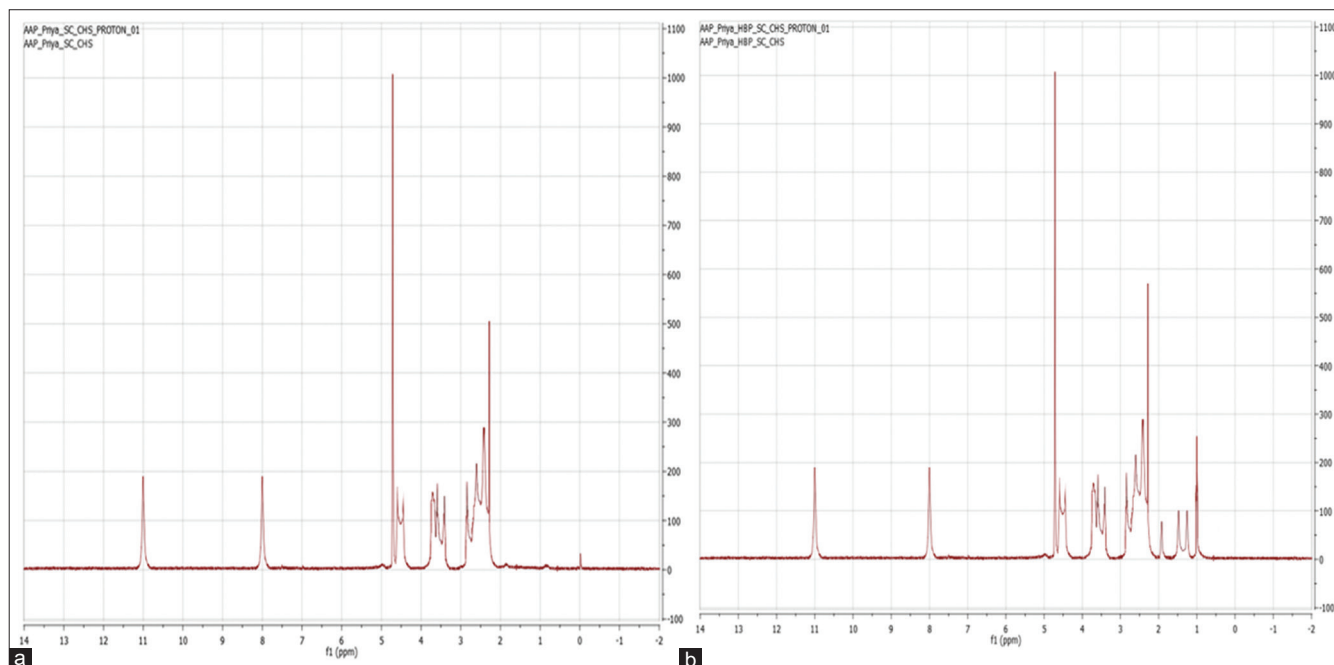


Figure 5: Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra of (a) succinyl chitosan and (b) (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan

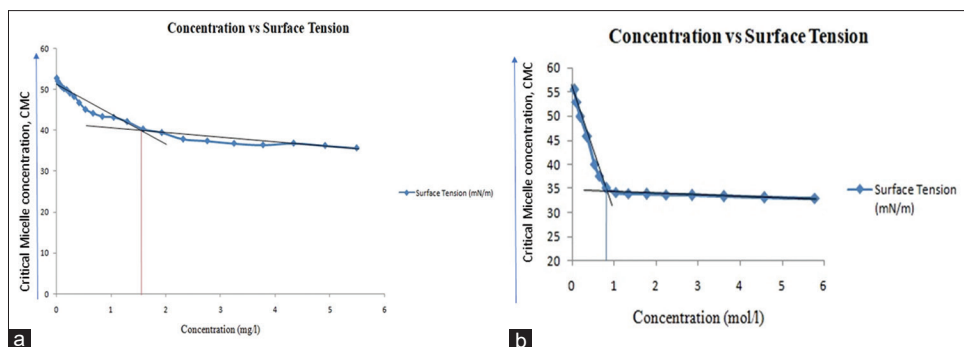


Figure 6: Critical micelle concentration graph of (a) succinyl chitosan and (b) (2-hydroxyl-3-butoxyl) propyl-succinyl-chitosan

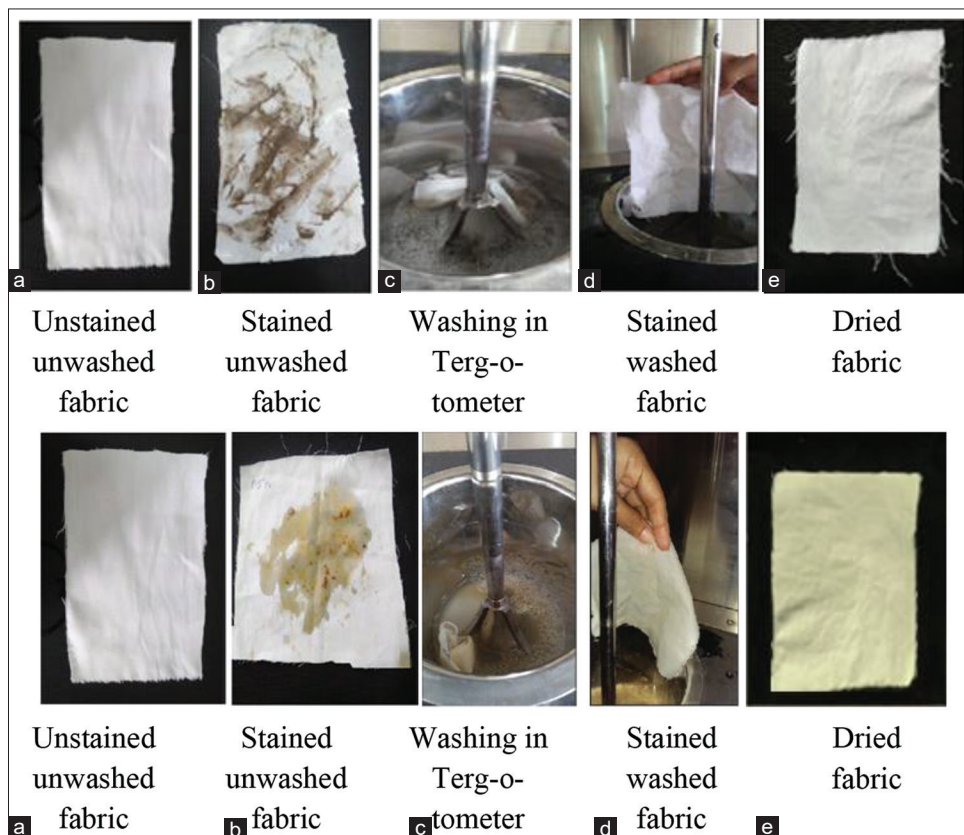


Figure 7: Detergency test of mud stain and oily stain

XRD

XRD diffractogram (XRD) pattern of chitosan sample was obtained using the X-ray (XPRT-PRO) diffractometer operating at a voltage of 40 kV and a current of 30 mA with Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54060 \text{ \AA}$). The XRD pattern was recorded as per the procedure reported in literature (in the 2θ range of 10° – 80° in a fixed time mode at room temperature). Thus, with the aid of XRD analysis, crystalline nature of the obtained product was confirmed.

Thin-layer chromatography (TLC)

TLC is a useful technique to monitor a progress of chemical reactions and for assessing a purity of organic compounds. The reaction product mixture of SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS were

subjected onto a pre-coated Silica Gel 60 TLC plate (Omkar Traders) and dipped in the solvent system consisting of n-butanol/water/acetic acid (5:3:1, v: v).

Ash Content Analysis

Ash content of chitosan was calculated using calcination process.^[32] A 2–5 g of chitosan was combusted in the constant weight crucible in a muffle furnace at 555°C for 3 h. Then, crucible was allowed to cool in a desiccator for a $\frac{1}{2}$ h and reweighed (W_1). To get constant weight (W_2) of crucible, it was firstly heated and then cooled after every 1.5 h. The ash percentage was estimated by the equation:

$$\text{Ash \%} = \frac{W_2 - W_0}{W_1 - W_0} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

Where, W_0 is the constant weight of crucible, W_1 is the sample weight with crucible, and W_2 is the ash weight with crucible.

Measurement of Surface Tension

The surface tension measurement was done with K1HRSS digital tensiometer (Kruss) using Wilhelmy plate method.^[33,34] A platinum plate was contacted with a liquid sample and surface tension was measured as the downward force applied to Wilhelmy plate and CMC was then calculated by the plot of surface tension versus concentration.

Formulation of Liquid Laundry Detergent and Testing [SI Table S3]

Propylene glycol, anionic surfactant (HBP-SCCHS), chitosan, sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS), boric acid, anhydrous calcium chloride, and sodium chloride were dissolved in the deionized water. This mixture was then heated to dissolve SLS and boric acid. Then, pH of solution was adjusted to 7–8 using sodium hydroxide solution. The mixture was further cooled down below 100 Fahrenheit degree. Further, protease and lipase were mixed in the solution at room temperature. The detergent stability test was done by storing the detergent at

35–40°C for 30 days and it was found that there was no phase separation. Foaming power was determined by Ross-Miles method.^[35] We observed 8 cm of foam in stoppered measuring cylinder and after 5 min foam level was decreased by 2 cm. Washability and color fastness tests were determined using ASTM D3050 and ASTM D4008 methods, respectively.^[36]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of Chitosan Derivatives Using Microwave versus Conventional Method

For our current synthesis, we optimized our reactions for both conventional and microwave modes. We noticed that microwave methods offer immediate advantages like reaction temperature reaches quickly to the desired temperature with a minimal amount of energy. As soon as the target temperature was reached, we, thus, decreased or were shut off the microwave power. This offered us added advantage of power saving, and also, most of our optimized reactions worked at extremely low or no microwave irradiation. In conventional synthesis, similar procedure was carried out for 3 h^[30] at room temperature, while in microwave, we required microwave irradiation for 15 min at 50°C. This comparison is based on similar experimental conditions, such as same vessel, same reaction volume, and same microwave reactor. Moreover, microwave-assisted synthesis gave better yield of products, that is, chitosan derivatives SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS.

Characterization of Chitosan

DAD

DAD of chitosan was found to be 97.7% (calculated) according to known procedure^[31] mentioned under section 2.3.3. Figure 2 indicates the plot of absorbance versus concentration; where, slope was measured as $8.3 \text{ L}^1\text{mol}^{-1}$.^[31] Thus, according to Beer-Lambert's law, molar absorptivity was calculated as $8.3/3.7$ (length of cuvette was 3.7 cm), that is, $2.24 \text{ L}^1\text{mol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ and acetyl concentration (C_i) was reported as 0.2306 M .^[31] Hence, DAD was computed as 97.69% [Figure 2]. Similarly, previously reported calculations for DAD were found in-line with our calculations.^[31]

Ash content

The ash content was computed for two samples. From the above procedure 2.4, the ash content was found to be 57.14%. This value depicted lower values of ash content, and thus, a better quality of chitosan used comparable to the known literature.^[31]

Amine value was determined by AOCS official method, Tf 1b-64 and acid value by AOCS official method, Te 2a-64.^[37] The saponification value was calculated by AOCS official Db 8-48 method.^[37] Tables 1 and SI. Table S1 depict the amine value, acid value, and saponification value of chitosan-derived anionic surfactant.

FT-IR analysis

On comparing the FT-IR spectra [Figure 3 and Table 2] for SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS, we noticed that the SCCHS had a new absorption peak at 1427.32 cm^{-1} , which corresponds to the SCCHS carboxyl group. The increment of amide peak (1672.28

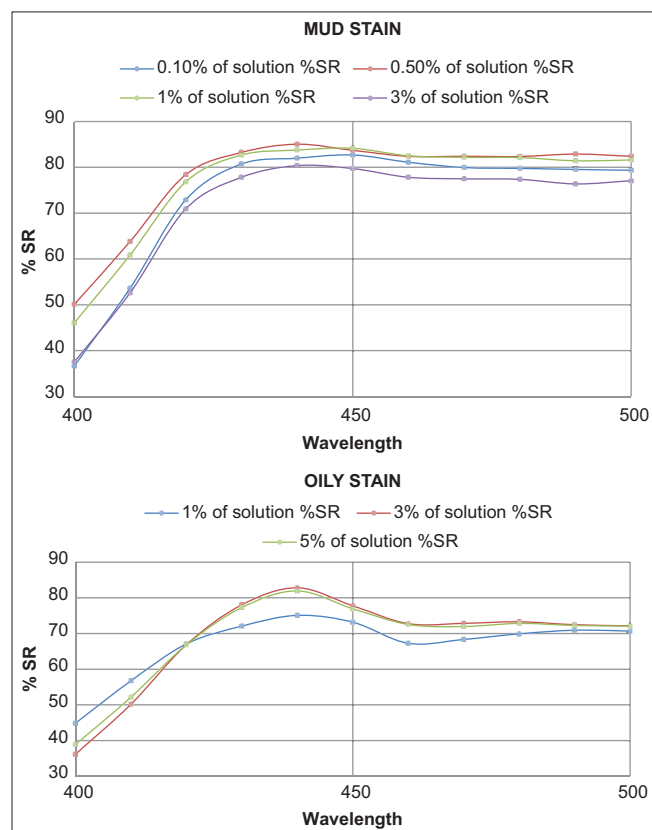


Figure 8: Plot of % stain removal versus wavelengths

Table 1: Characterization of chitosan*

DAD	Ash %	Acid Value	Amine value
97.69±0.02	57.14±0.01	2205.57±0.5	1639.45±0.21

*Each experiment was repeated twice ($n=2$) and values are reported as average±S.D

Table 2: FT-IR of SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS

Wavelength (cm ⁻¹)	SCCHS		Wavelength (cm ⁻¹)	HBP-SCCHS	
	Assignments	Comments		Assignments	Comments
1064.71	C-H stretching	Strong peak	1384.89	O-H bending	Weak peak of alcohol group
1301.95	C-N stretching	Aliphatic amine band	1431.18	C-H bending	CH ₃ bending band
1427.32	-COO stretching	These medium peaks show the presence of succinyl carbonyl group	1573.91	N-H stretching	Tertiary amine stretching
1672.28	C=O stretching	Conjugated acid	1639.49	C=O stretching	These peaks show the presence amide group
2152.86	N=C = O	These broad and strong peaks show the isocyanate group	2925.08	C-H stretching	Medium peak of alkyl group
3321.42	O-H stretching	Presence of alcohol	3427.36	O-H stretching	These medium peaks show the presence of free alcohol

Table 3: Testing of detergent formulation

Test	Liquid laundry detergent
pH	7.0–7.5
Stability	No phase separation
Irritation	NO
Foaming height	8 cm
Density	0.953 g/cc

cm⁻¹) and decrement of another amine peak (1427.32 cm⁻¹) depicted amidation reaction of chitosan with succinyl. Further, in the IR spectrum of SCCHS, the two peaks at 1064.7 and peak at 1030 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum of HBP-SCCHS were credited to the methyl rocking and C-CH₃ stretching vibration, respectively.^[30] These evidences denoted that the hydrophilic group and hydrophobic group were introduced to chitosan.^[30] Thus, the peak at 1384.89 cm⁻¹ in FT-IR spectra might be coming from aliphatic alcohol Table 2. IR spectra [Figure 3] indicate functional groups present in the synthesized SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS.

XRD analysis

X-ray diffraction is a common technique used for the study of atomic spacing and the crystal structure. With the help of this technique, one can get the atomic and molecular structure of a compound. The crystalline nature of SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS chitosan derivatives was investigated by XRD. Chitosan exhibited characteristic crystalline peak at $2\theta = 20.20^\circ$ as reported in several literature (which, herein, were little shifted to a higher diffraction angle).^[38] At the same time, chitosan contained only one broad diffraction peak centered at $2\theta = 20.20^\circ$. Similar studies also exhibited different diffraction peak at $2\theta = 20^\circ$, revealing a typical identification for semi-crystalline chitosan.^[39] The 2θ values of the chitosan derivatives were found to be at 20° for SCCHS and 22° for HBP-SCCHS, typical to the reported values for chitosan,^[39] and thus, they indicated the presence of crystalline nature of chitosan derivatives [Figure 4].

¹H-nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) analysis

¹H-NMR technique is used for determining the content and purity of sample as well as its molecular structure. ¹H-NMR technique helps us to determine the number of protons present

in a compound. SI. Table S2 shows the structural confirmation of the anionic surfactant HBP-SCCHS on the basis of their chemical shift. The proton NMR analysis was used for the final confirmation of the structure of SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS, which indicated the formations of chitosan derivatives using microwave irradiation [Figure 5].

TLC

TLC is a useful technique to monitor a progress of chemical reactions and for assessing a purity of organic compounds. Solvent system would always play a very important role in TLC analysis. The TLC plate shown in Figure S1 was scanned, digitized, and analyzed using UV chamber.

The behavior of every component in TLC is determined by a quantity called as retention factor (R_f) and is expressed in a decimal fraction. The R_f is defined as the distance travelled by the compound from the baseline divided by the distance travelled by solvent from the baseline (the solvent front).

$$R_f = \frac{\text{distance travelled by component}}{\text{distance travelled by solvent}} \quad (3)$$

From SI. Figure S1, it is clear that R_f for SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS was obtained at 0.879 and 0.744, respectively.

Surface Tension

The procedure for measuring the surface activity was followed from several literature.^[40-45] It can be seen from Figure 6, that with the increase of degree of substitution of the SCCHS, the surface tension observed to be decreasing at the same concentration of the chitosan derivatives (as there are more hydrophobic groups get to the surface of the solution) [Table S1]. The surface tension of SLES at CMC for a single surfactant was measured to be 34 mN/m (literature – above 28 mN/m).^[40] The surface activity was found to be nearly equal to the commercial anionic surfactant like sodium lauryl ether sulfate (SLES) having CMC (0.80 mM).^[41]

CONCLUSION

We prepared chitosan-derived anionic surfactants, SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS using greener route, that is, microwave

irradiation. The FT-IR and $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra were confirmed the successful synthesis of the chitosan derivative, SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS. This route offered us several advantages including the ease of synthesis, higher yields, minimum time for reactions, and higher product purity. As we know that, chitosan is insoluble in aqueous neutral and basic media. To overcome this problem, water-soluble derivatives of chitosan were prepared and tested for surfactant property. Results for surface tension of SCCHS and HBP-SCCHS showed that these derivatives can act as a good wetting agent; therefore, we can use it in a formulation of liquid laundry detergents. Thus, chitosan-based anionic surfactants can also be used in various cosmetics applications such as body wash, face wash, and shower gel.

APPLICATION

The synthesized anionic surfactant, that is, chitosan derivative (HBP-SCCHS) was used in the formulation (as per section 2.6, SI. Table S3) of liquid laundry detergent. An excellent foam was retained with liquid laundry detergent.

Testing of Detergent [Table 3]

Terg-o-tometer was used for optimization of washing condition and assessment of brightening, softening, and foaming. Initially, the mud stain and oil stain were applied on fabric, and then, it was washed up in terg-o-tometer using various concentration of liquid detergent (0.1%, 0.5%, 1%, 3%, and 5%) for 25 min at 35°C and at 75 RPM [Figure 7]. Then, washed fabric was subjected to reflectometer, and % SR (stain removal) was determined. Using the equation:

$$\%SR = \left(\frac{R_w - R_u}{R_n - R_u} \right) \times 100 \quad (5)$$

Where, R = Reflectance, n = normal unstained unwashed fabric, u = stained unwashed fabric, and w = stained washed fabric.

This detergency test showed the best SR (stain removal) for mud stain fabric at 0.5% concentration and oily stain fabric at 3% concentration of liquid detergent [Figure 8 and SI Table S4]

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