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Determination of lignin in lignocellulosic biomass

Magdiel Lainez¹¹Centre of Investigation and Assistance in Technology and Design of the State of Jalisco. CIATEJ, A.C.**1** Works for me dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bumtnu6n

CIATEJ



Magdiel Lainez

Centre of Investigation and Assistance in Technology and Des...

ABSTRACT

Explanation of NREL/TP-510-42618¹ laboratory analytical procedure.

¹A. Sluiter, B. Hames, R.O. Ruiz, C. Scarlata, J. Sluiter, D. Templeton, D. Croker, Determination of Structural Carbohydrates and Lignin in Biomass, Biomass Analysis Technology Team Laboratory Analytical Procedure, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Golden, CO, 2010 NREL/TP-510-42618.

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Preparation of biological material

- 1 First, mill the material until reaching a particle size between **0.250 mm** and **0.425 mm** for better results. If previously it's necessary to wash the material use distiller water. Do this with the objective to remove starch, gums, and non-structural carbohydrates. Then dry the biomass.














- 2 Take ready a glass Gooch crucible. Dry until constant weight a glass Gooch crucible of pore fine [type F].



Glass Gooch crucible

Characterization of lignin

2h 30m

- 3  5m
- Weight  **300 mg** of dry biomass into an assay tube. Be accurate!
- 4 Add  **3 mL** of 72% H_2SO_4 to the assay tube and put into a water bath at  **30 °C** during  **01:00:00** 1h
- Use a glass rod or magnetic stirrer to homogenize the mix.
- 5 Transfer the mix to a glass bottle. Add  **84 mL** of distiller water to dilute at 4% H_2SO_4 . 5m
- Take care to add only  **84 mL** . You can do this using an analytical balance. The total weight of biomass and 4% H_2SO_4 will be  **89.19 g** . See the calculations in the file attached  **Water to Add.xlsx**
- 6 Autoclave the material at  **121 °C** during  **01:00:00** 1h
- 7  20m
- Filter the material autoclaved using the glass Gooch crucible, previously record its weight.
- Take a sample of the filtered for subsequent analysis and then wash** the lignin to remove the residual acid solution.
- Can be used  **0.45 µm** MCE membrane filter.
- Lignin will be retained into the glass Gooch crucible.
Carbohydrates will be soluble in the filtered. To determinate the carbohydrate concentration [To calculate cellulose and hemicellulose content], the sample should be analyzed by HPLC.
- 8 Dry until constant weight a glass Gooch crucible [or MCE membrane filter] with lignin. Determine lignin content by the difference in weight.

