

CORRECTION

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Correction: Nanocellulose/wood ash-reinforced starch–chitosan hydrogel composites for soil conditioning and their impact on pea plant growth

 Dure Najaf Iqbal,^{*a} Zaryab Tariq,^a Boiz Philips,^a Ayesha Sadiqa,^a Muhammad Ahmad,^b Khairia Mohammed Al-Ahmary,^c Ijaz Ali^d and Mahmood Ahmed^{*b}

 Correction for 'Nanocellulose/wood ash-reinforced starch–chitosan hydrogel composites for soil conditioning and their impact on pea plant growth' by Dure Najaf Iqbal *et al.*, *RSC Adv.*, 2024, **14**, 8652–8664, <https://doi.org/10.1039/D3RA08725E>.

The authors regret that the coding of the raw data for the FTIR results was incorrect, leading to the generation of inaccurate FTIR spectra in Fig. 3.

The figure and associated text in Section 3.1, FTIR and XRD analysis, should have been:

Because of its random coil shape, CS usually exhibits the amide band at $1700\text{--}1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The amide band moves to a lower wavenumber (about $1580\text{--}1390\text{ cm}^{-1}$) following crosslinking, signifying the creation of new amide bonds with citric acid. The characteristic peaks were observed at $2940\text{--}2920\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $1580\text{--}1524\text{ cm}^{-1}$, $1395\text{--}1390\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $1150\text{--}1143\text{ cm}^{-1}$ for all hydrogel composite samples. This confirms the cross-linking reaction between the amino group ($-\text{NH}_2$) of CS and the carboxyl group ($-\text{COOH}$) of citric acid. A characteristic peak for all hydrogel composite samples was observed in a region of $1713\text{--}1710\text{ cm}^{-1}$, which is accompanied by a strong peak at $1001\text{--}1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (C–O stretch). This indicated the presence of an ester group in their chemical structure and confirmed the esterification reaction (chemical cross-linking) between the carboxyl group ($-\text{COOH}$) of citric acid and the hydroxyl group ($-\text{OH}$) of SC. Before crosslinking, the citric acid peak is around $1650\text{--}1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ due to its free carboxyl groups. After cross-linking, this peak diminishes or disappears as the carboxyl groups react with chitosan amine groups and the hydroxyl group ($-\text{OH}$) of starch. The FTIR spectrum of the WAC-2 hydrogel composite sample, which contains wood ash as an additive, showed two new peaks: one for carbonate (C–O bending) at 889 cm^{-1} and the other for CO_2 bending at 662 cm^{-1} , which are found in the wood ash.⁴ Two new peaks for ammonium, one for N–H bending at 1625 cm^{-1} and the other at 3211 cm^{-1} due to N–H stretching, were also observed in the FTIR spectrum of the FCC-4 hydrogel sample, which contains NPK fertilizer (ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphate and potassium chloride) as an additive.

^aDepartment of Chemistry, The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan. E-mail: dure.najaf@chem.uol.edu.pk

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Division of Science and Technology, University of Education, Lahore, 54770, Pakistan. E-mail: mahmood.ahmed@ue.edu.pk

^cDepartment of Chemistry, College of Science, University of Jeddah, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

^dCentre for Applied Mathematics and Bioinformatics (CAMB), Gulf University for Science and Technology, Hawally, Kuwait



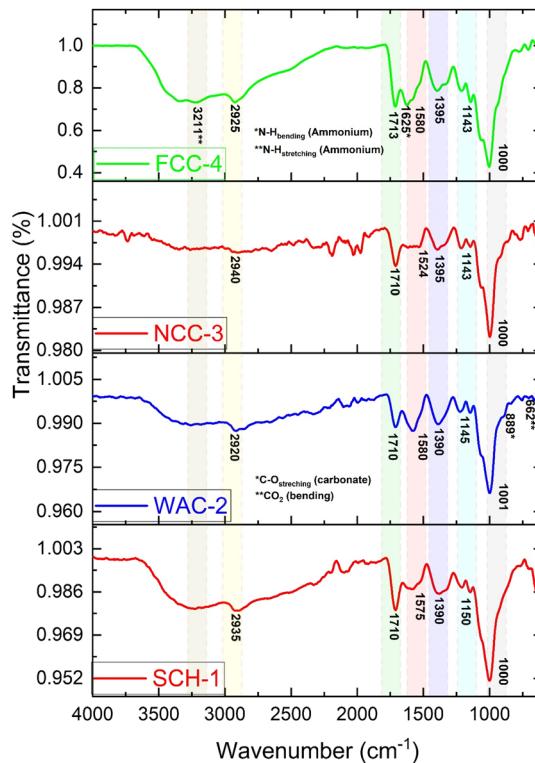


Fig. 3 FTIR spectra of hydrogel/hydrogel composites.

An independent expert has viewed the corrected Fig. 3 and text, and confirmed that it is consistent with the discussions and conclusions presented.

The Royal Society of Chemistry apologises for these errors and any consequent inconvenience to authors and readers.