

## **Controlling the Degree of Esterification of Citrus Pectin for Demanding Applications by Selection of the Source**

**Rosaria Ciriminna,<sup>a</sup> Alexandra Fidalgo,<sup>b</sup> Riccardo Delisi,<sup>a</sup> Alfredo Tamburino,<sup>c</sup> Diego Carnaroglio,<sup>c,d</sup> Giancarlo Cravotto,<sup>c</sup> Laura M. Ilharco,<sup>b,\*</sup> Mario Pagliaro<sup>a,\*</sup>**

*<sup>a</sup>Istituto per lo Studio dei Materiali Nanostrutturati, CNR, via U. La Malfa 153, 90146 Palermo, Italy; <sup>b</sup>Centro de Química-Física Molecular and IN-Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Av. Rovisco Pais 1, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal; <sup>c</sup>Dipartimento di Scienza e Tecnologia del Farmaco and Centre for Nanostructured Interfaces and Surfaces, Università degli Studi di Torino, via P. Giuria 9, 10125 Torino, Italy; <sup>d</sup>Milestone, via Fabenefratelli, 1-5, 24010 Sorisole, Bergamo, Italy; <sup>e</sup>Dipartimento Agricoltura, Legambiente Sicilia, via Tripoli 3, 90138 Palermo, Italy*

### **Supplementary Information**

**Table S1.** Assignment of the DRIFT spectra of pectin from different sources, present work

Assignment	Orange outer skin	Lemon outer skin	Orange peel	Lemon peel	Grapefruit peel	Orange waste	Lemon waste
$\nu$ O-H	3483 <sub>S,sh</sub>	3510 <sub>VS</sub>	3496 <sub>VS</sub>	3516 <sub>VS</sub>	3479 <sub>VS,sh</sub>	3465 <sub>VS</sub>	3467 <sub>S</sub>
$\nu$ O-H	3303 <sub>VS</sub>	3271 <sub>VS</sub>	3253 <sub>VS</sub>	3290 <sub>VS</sub>	3290 <sub>VS</sub>	3373 <sub>VS</sub>	3270 <sub>VS</sub>
$\nu$ CH		2943 <sub>S</sub>		2941 <sub>S</sub>			2941 <sub>S</sub>
$\nu$ CH	2933 <sub>S</sub>		2929 <sub>VS</sub>		2931 <sub>VS</sub>	2935 <sub>S</sub>	
$\nu$ CH	2914 <sub>S</sub>	2910 <sub>S</sub>		2910 <sub>S</sub>			2912 <sub>S</sub>
$\nu$ CH	2897 <sub>S,sh</sub>				2895 <sub>VS</sub>	2895 <sub>S,sh</sub>	
$\nu$ (C=O) <sub>carb.ac.</sub>	1724 <sub>m</sub>	1729 <sub>m</sub>	1724 <sub>m</sub>	1728 <sub>VS</sub>	1720 <sub>m</sub>	1726 <sub>m</sub>	1724 <sub>VS</sub>
		1670 <sub>m</sub>			1626 <sub>m</sub>		
$\nu_{as}$ (COO')	1603 <sub>S</sub>	1591 <sub>m</sub>	1601 <sub>S</sub>	1595 <sub>S</sub>	1603 <sub>S</sub>	1606 <sub>S</sub>	1597 <sub>VS</sub>
	1516 <sub>w</sub>		1514 <sub>m</sub>	1516 <sub>w</sub>	1518 <sub>m</sub>	1514 <sub>w</sub>	1512 <sub>m</sub>
					1500 <sub>m</sub>		1458 <sub>S</sub>
		1444 <sub>m</sub>			1442 <sub>S</sub>	1443 <sub>S,sh</sub>	1440 <sub>VS</sub>
$\delta_{as}$ (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>ester</sub>	1417 <sub>S</sub>	1427 <sub>m</sub>	1427 <sub>S</sub>		1421 <sub>S</sub>	1425 <sub>S</sub>	1419 <sub>VS</sub>
$\nu_s$ (COO')		1415 <sub>m</sub>	1414 <sub>S</sub>	1414 <sub>m</sub>	1412 <sub>S</sub>		1412 <sub>VS</sub>
$\delta_s$ (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>ester</sub>	1375 <sub>m</sub>	1369 <sub>m</sub>	1377 <sub>m</sub>	1371 <sub>m</sub>	1377 <sub>S</sub>	1372 <sub>S</sub>	1377 <sub>S</sub>
					1365 <sub>S</sub>		1365 <sub>S</sub>
					1296 <sub>S</sub>		
					1282 <sub>S</sub>		
$\nu$ (C-O-C) <sub>ester</sub>		1265 <sub>m</sub>	1265 <sub>m</sub>	1261 <sub>m</sub>	1263 <sub>S</sub>	1261 <sub>m</sub>	1257 <sub>S</sub>
$\nu$ C-O		1236 <sub>m</sub>		1232 <sub>m</sub>		1232 <sub>m,sh</sub>	1240 <sub>S</sub>
					1209 <sub>m</sub>		
					1176 <sub>m</sub>		
$\nu$ (C-O-C) <sub>pyranose</sub> + $\nu$ (C-OH) + $\nu$ (C-C)+...	1146 <sub>S,sh</sub>	1138 <sub>m</sub>	1132 <sub>m</sub>	1144 <sub>m,sh</sub>	1134 <sub>S</sub>	1142 <sub>S,sh</sub>	1146 <sub>S,sh</sub>
					1126 <sub>S</sub>		
	1101 <sub>VS,sh</sub>	1099 <sub>m</sub>	1101 <sub>m</sub>	1097 <sub>S,sh</sub>	1090 <sub>S</sub>	1099 <sub>S</sub>	1101 <sub>VS,sh</sub>
	1072 <sub>VS,sh</sub>	1078 <sub>m</sub>	1068 <sub>m</sub>	1070 <sub>S</sub>	1074 <sub>S</sub>	1078 <sub>S</sub>	1066 <sub>VS</sub>
	1046 <sub>VS</sub>				1043 <sub>S</sub>	1039 <sub>S,sh</sub>	1051 <sub>VS</sub>
	1032 <sub>VS,sh</sub>	1034 <sub>m,sh</sub>	1032 <sub>m,sh</sub>	1033 <sub>m,sh</sub>			1031 <sub>VS</sub>
$\gamma_{op}$ (O-H)		993 <sub>w,sh</sub>	990 <sub>m,sh</sub>	987 <sub>m,sh</sub>		995 <sub>m,sh</sub>	993 <sub>S,sh</sub>
$\rho$ (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>ester</sub>	920 <sub>vw</sub>	916 <sub>vw</sub>	924 <sub>vw</sub>	920 <sub>vw,sh</sub>	920 <sub>vw</sub>	921 <sub>vw</sub>	916 <sub>vw</sub>
				910 <sub>vw</sub>			
		900 <sub>vw</sub>		895 <sub>vw</sub>	895 <sub>vw</sub>		897 <sub>vw</sub>
	866 <sub>vw</sub>	864 <sub>vw</sub>	866 <sub>vw</sub>	866 <sub>vw</sub>	866 <sub>vw</sub>	868 <sub>vw</sub>	868 <sub>vw</sub>
	818 <sub>w</sub>	818 <sub>vw</sub>	820 <sub>vw</sub>	816 <sub>w</sub>	820 <sub>w</sub>	818 <sub>vw</sub>	818 <sub>vw</sub>
	777 <sub>m</sub>	777 <sub>w</sub>	777 <sub>vw</sub>	775 <sub>m</sub>	779 <sub>w</sub>	777 <sub>w</sub>	777 <sub>w</sub>

VS – very strong; S – strong; m- medium; w – weak; vw – vwey weak, sh – shoulder.

### Brief analysis

The 3800-2200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region is dominated by broad bands related to the stretching vibrations of hydroxyl and  $\text{CH}_x$  groups ( $\nu\text{O-H}$  and  $\nu\text{C-H}$ ). The  $\nu\text{O-H}$  band, with maximum at 3200-3300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , is associated with hydroxyl groups of the pyranose rings and adsorbed water, interacting in different intra- and intermolecular hydrogen bonds; the fraction of OH groups with weaker hydrogen-bond interactions is responsible for the high wavenumber shoulder (at  $\sim 3500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The maximum at 2930-2940  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned to  $\nu\text{CH}$  and  $\nu_{\text{as}}\text{CH}_3$  modes of the pectin backbone, and to  $\nu_{\text{as}}\text{CH}_2$  modes of galactose and arabinose rings of the “hairy” regions. The shoulder at 2860-2890  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  correlates with the  $\nu_{\text{s}}\text{CH}_3$  modes of the backbone and also with different  $\nu\text{CH}$  modes of the pyranose rings, both in HG and RG regions. Two shoulders located near 2700 and 2500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are frequently assigned as satellite  $\nu(\text{CO})\text{O-H}$  bands of carboxylic acid dimers. The two strong bands in the 1800-1500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region, with maxima at  $\sim 1730$  and  $\sim 1610 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , are assigned to the stretching modes of carbonyl groups (mostly from esterified galacturonic acid,  $\nu(\text{C=O})\text{ester}$ ) and of carboxylate groups ( $\nu_{\text{as}}\text{COO}^-$ ), respectively. The weaker band at 1670  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  may correlate with nonesterified hydrogenated acidic carbonyl groups,  $\nu(\text{C=O})$  acid. The main  $\text{CH}_x$  and C-O-H deformation modes appear partially overlapped, in the 1500-1200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region. The band at 1230  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , visible in all the spectra, and the one at 1330  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , only detected in the orange derived samples, are assigned to in-plane deformation modes of alcohol hydroxyl groups in the pyranose rings of the pectin chain,  $\delta(\text{C-O-H})\text{pyranose}$ . The band at 1370  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned to the symmetric methyl deformation mode,  $\delta_{\text{s}}(\text{CH}_3)$ , of ester methyl groups in the galacturonic rings and of rhamnase rings of the pectin backbone. The corresponding antisymmetric mode is hardly identified as a shoulder, at  $\sim 1440 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The other ester-related band in this region is the C-O-C stretching mode,  $\nu(\text{C-O-C})\text{ester}$ , which appears at 1265  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , partially overlapped with the 1230  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  band. The band at 1410  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned to the symmetric stretch of carboxylate groups,  $\nu_{\text{s}}\text{COO}^-$ , present in all the samples. The group of five intense and partially overlapped bands observed in the 1200-950  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region is typical of pectin. These are assigned to the skeletal and C-O-C stretching modes of the pyranose ring,  $\nu(\text{C-C})\text{pyranose}$  and  $\nu(\text{C-O-C})\text{pyranose}$ , to C-O-C stretching vibrations of the glycosidic bond,  $\nu(\text{C-O-C})\text{glycoside}$ , and to a combination of the  $\nu\text{C-OH}$  and  $\nu\text{C-C}$  modes from the pyranose rings. The 950-700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  region contains the bands related to the external deformation vibrations of methyl, methylene and methyne groups. The band at 919  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned to the rocking mode of the ester methyl group,  $\rho(\text{CH}_3)\text{ester}$ .

**Table S2.** Summary of the results obtained by deconvolution of the DRIFT spectra in the 1850 to 1500 and 1150 to 950  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  regions:  $\tilde{\nu}$  - wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ); FWHM - full width at half maximum; A - integrated area.

Orange outer skin			Orange peel			Orange waste			Grapefruit peel			Assignment
$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	
1720	89	41.70	1731	73	41.10	1736	61	28.03	1720	85	47.29	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{ester}}$
1658	42	6.27	1666	66	24.37	1672	89	31.38	1648	49	18.83	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{acid}}$
1601	86	58.67	1596	91	69.47	1599	86	54.98	1596	90	74.95	$\nu_{\text{as}}\text{COO}^-$
1140	59	27.88	1141	64	31.96	1153	39	16.14	1140	52	23.08	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C})_{\text{pyranose}}$
1106	21	1.91	1100	43	13.15	1116	60	35.71	1089	69	49.63	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C})_{\text{pyranose}}$
1069	81	82.86	1069	46	15.20	1063	71	51.30	1036	56	30.92	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C})_{\text{glycoside}}$
1015	54	28.34	1023	73	37.36	1014	51	23.27	1001	39	12.16	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{OH})_{\text{pyranose}} + \nu(\text{C}-\text{C})_{\text{pyranose}}$

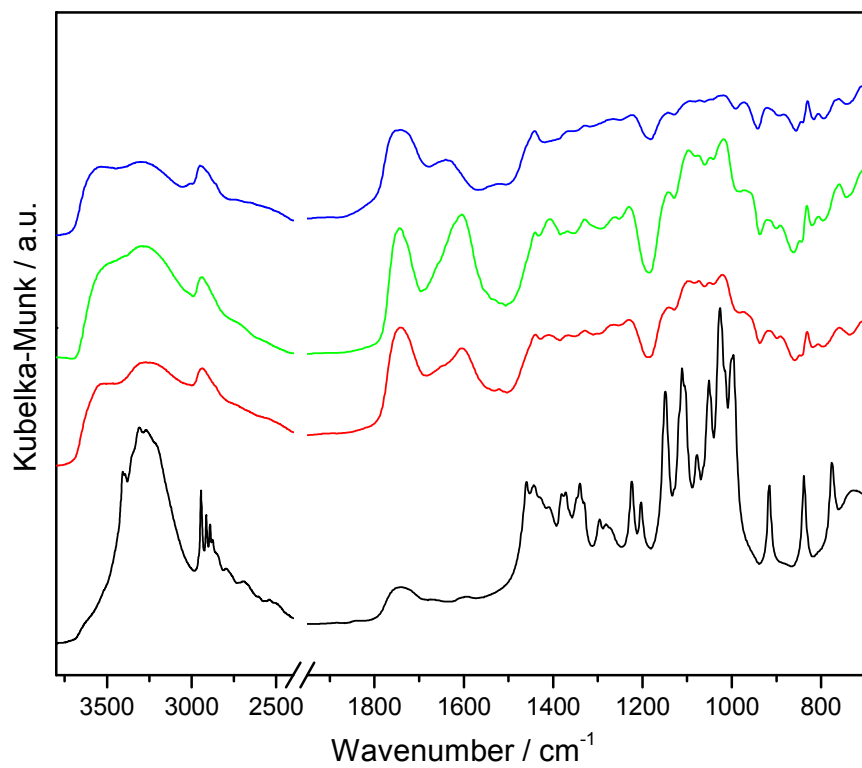
Lemon outer skin			Lemon peel			Lemon waste			Assignment
$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	
1738	56	22.14	1733	60	32.27	1728	73	77.38	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{ester}}$
1675	62	19.08	1683	79	26.08	1668	64	29.33	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{acid}}$
1599	92	49.53	1596	78	36.18	1594	93	88.34	$\nu_{\text{as}}\text{COO}^-$
1148	32	5.55	1147	25	3.66	1149	27	3.64	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C})_{\text{pyranose}}$
1109	32	3.17	1096	80	62.03	1096	90	76.57	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C})_{\text{pyranose}}$
1082	110	104.10	1051	54	30.34	1050	52	26.30	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{C})_{\text{glycoside}}$
1018	67	38.73	1014	50	33.68	1012	49	34.14	$\nu(\text{C}-\text{OH})_{\text{pyranose}} + \nu(\text{C}-\text{C})_{\text{pyranose}}$

**Table S3.** Summary of the results obtained by deconvolution of the DRIFT spectra of commercial citrus pectins in the 1850 to 1500 and 1150 to 950  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  regions:  $\tilde{\nu}$  - wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ); FWHM - full width at half maximum; A - integrated area.

Citrus Pectin A			Citrus Pectin B			Citrus Pectin C <sup>a</sup>			Citrus Pectin D <sup>b</sup>			Assignment
$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	$\tilde{\nu}$	FWHM	A	
1758	49	2.55	1760	29	1.94	1756	31	0.33	1764	26	0.46	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{ester}}$
1722	47	2.14	1735	57	10.84	1731	48	0.79	1734	83	5.78	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{ester}}$
1670	55	1.60	1671	77	4.32	1680	43	0.15	1666	42	0.69	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})_{\text{acid}}$
-	-	-	1628	90	6.69	1627	84	1.24	1631	50	1.76	$\delta\text{H-O-H} (\text{H}_2\text{O})$
1600	43	0.60	1598	49	3.64	1595	55	0.40	1594	41	0.34	$\nu_{\text{as}}\text{COO}^-$
1149	18	5.94	1149	47	6.43	1146	45	0.77	1152	52	2.90	$\nu(\text{C-O-C})_{\text{pyranose}}$
1110	26	10.02	1100	46	8.62	1103	38	0.80	1106	48	1.80	$\nu(\text{C-O-C})_{\text{pyranose}}$
1052	17	6.03	1051	23	1.82	1049	19	0.09	1052	93	6.46	$\nu(\text{C-O-C})_{\text{glycoside}}$
1025	21	11.15	1022	50	10.05	1021	54	1.37	1009	42	1.25	$\nu(\text{C-OH})_{\text{pyranose}} + \nu(\text{C-C})_{\text{pyranose}}$

<sup>a</sup> esterified potassium salt

<sup>b</sup> esterified



**Figure S1.** DRIFT spectra of commercial pectins: black – citrus pectin A; red – citrus pectin B; green – citrus pectin C; blue – citrus pectin D.