



Identifying an Improved Jute Variety Preferring Physico-chemical Properties

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Abstract: There are so many fibres, but not all of them are textile. Textile materials are generally soft, flexible, and capable of being transformed into desired shapes without resistance and durable over a reasonable period of wear. Jute –the Golden fibre of Bangladesh is used widely for various purposes. For the assessment of fibre quality of three types of jute fibre e.g. newly released jute variety-72, bleached fibre and variety O-9897 were considered for the analysis of physical properties (Reed jute fibre length, Brightness index, Whiteness index, Bundle strength and Fineness index) and chemical analysis (Cellulose, Hemicellulose, Lignin, Ash content, Fat/Oil content, Oil content in jute seed, Pectin content and saponification value) under the present study. Some field level morphological information was taken as quality contributing characteristics. The study was conducted at the Chemistry Division, Textile Physics Division and Pilot Plant and Processing Division of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh during 2017-2019. The assessment of physico-chemical properties of the variety O-72 was blue seeded with lower percentage of oil content than naturally brown seeded but saponification value was higher, Brightness (22.04%), fineness (36.26%) and bundle strength (06.20 lb/mg) index were very much comparable to bleached jute samples using 6% hydrogen peroxide. Cellulose content was 65.68% as well as lignin and hemicelluloses content were 13.95% and 17.94% respectively which were more prominent than O-9897 varieties of jute fibres.

Keywords: Brightness, Whiteness, BundleStrength, Cellulose and Lignin

1. Introduction

Jute is not only a major textile fibre but also a raw material for non- traditional and value added non-textile products. Jute is used extensively in the manufacture of different types of traditional packaging fabrics, manufacturing hessian, sacking, carpet backing, mats, bags, tarpaulins, ropes and twines. Recently jute fibres are used in a wide range of diversified products: decorative fabrics, chic-saris, salwar kamizes, soft luggage's, footwear, greeting cards, molded door panels and other innumerable useful consumer products. Supported by several technological developments today jute can be used to replace expensive fibres and scarce forest materials. The quality of jute fibre is very much important for the development of jute products (diversified jute products). Jute is a lignocellulosic bastfibre. It consists of cellulose cemented by non-cellulosic materials i.e., pectin, lignin, hemicellulose etc. The usual composition of chemical constituents in jute fibre is alpha cellulose (58-63%),

hemicellulose (21-24%), lignin (12-14%), wax (0.4-0.8%), pectin (0.2-0.5%), ash (0.6-1.2) and traces of other coloring materials [1]. It was reported that hemicellulose and lignin act as cementing materials for small ultimate cell of jute fibre and partial removal of lignin and hemicellulose makes fibre soft and more flexible [2] The percentages of different chemicals in jute fibre are responsible and influenced the quality of fibre significantly. Brightness and whiteness index of jute fibre is very important property for jute grading and end uses. For upgrading the jute fibre different types of chemicals and finishing treatment has been carried out but it is very costly. Jute fibres are composed primarily of the plant materials i.e. cellulose and lignin. It is thus a lignocellulosic fibre that is partially a textile fibre. Jute fibres are lignocellulosic [3] and thus the secondary wall development of the sclerenchymatic fibre cells involves deposition of lignin over the cellulose matrix [4-5]. Presence of lignin in the fibre cell wall makes it impermeable and resistant to microbial degradation [6]. In these dicotyledonous plants,

the commercial fibres are sclerenchyma cells with copious secondary wall thickening [7-8]. The lignin content of the fibre cell wall varies from species to species. While it is around 15% in jute, it is less than 5% in flax and ramie [9-10]. Attention is always given to the development of improved variety of jute. Based upon the information [11-14] for increasing whiteness and brightness of jute fibre different bleaching treatments have been carried out. If a new jute variety is invented where there is no need of any bleaching treatment of diversified uses, that type of variety should be very valuable. Present work indicates to find out an improved jute variety which will be mostly comparable with the bleached jute fibre.

2. Materials and Methods

The study was conducted at the Chemistry Division, Textile Physics Division and Pilot Plant and Processing Division of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh during 2017-2019. The matured jute fibre of the variety O-72 was collected from the Agricultural Wing of Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI). For proper investigation of comparative study, jute fibre of variety O-9897 was also taken as control jute sample.

2.1. Physical Parameters

Reed fibre length, brightness/whiteness index, bundle strength fineness etc. were determined according to standard methods followed by BJRI. Bundle strength test: To measure bundle strength a bundle of fibre of each sample was combed to make the fibres parallel and suitable for carrying out the test. Fineness test: To measure fineness of the fibre, samples were inserted through a 6 inches length sample holder tightly and the elongated fibres were cut at the edge of the sample holder by a cutting machine. Then weighed as 54.2g and again inserted into a 3 inches length sample holder. After cutting the elongated fibres from both ends of the holder, it was used to measure fibre fineness and then again weighed and calculated the actual fineness.

2.2. Chemical Parameters

Chemical parameters were taken on the basis of moisture correction it was very much essential to estimate correct results. Percentage of moisture content was determined by standard method [15]. Pectin content was determined by boiling the sample with oxalic acid and ammonium oxalate

Table 2. Major chemical constituents of new variety jute sample O-72 in comparison with O-9897 jute samples.

Name of samples	Cellulose (%)	Hemicellulose (%)	Lignin (%)
Jute fibre O-72	65.68	17.94	13.95
Bleached jute samples (6% H ₂ O ₂)	64.29	17.47	13.56
Jute Fibre O-9897	63.24	18.47	14.04

From table 2, it was found that major chemical constituents in new variety O-72 indicated a good

quality jute fibre owing to higher percentage of cellulose content with lower percentage of lignin and hemicellulose

solution. Fatty/oily materials were extracted from jute seed and jute fibre with petroleum ether in a Soxhlet apparatus [16]. The content of alpha cellulose and hemicellulose was determined by the TAPPI method. Lignin content was determined by the TAPPI sulphuric acid standard method [17]. Ash content was determined by ashing the sample in Muffle furnace in a porcelain crucible according to a standard method [18].

2.3. Bleaching Treatment Was Done by the Following Way

- (1) Scouring has been carried out by heating jute sample at 80-90°C with 8-10 g/l sodium carbonate solution containing slight amount of wetting agent for half an hour.
- (2) Bleaching was done with hydrogen peroxide by using Hydrogen peroxide = 6% on the weight of jute sample. Sodium silicate = 3%, Sodium carbonate = 3%, Wetting agent = 0.1%, PH = 10-11. Time = one hour, Temperature = Up to boiling after bleaching treatment jute sample was washed and air dried.

3. Results and Discussions

Result of some physico-chemical properties of variety O-72 in comparison with O-9897 jute samples were summarized in the table 1, table 2 and table 3.

Table 1. Physical parameter of O-72 variety and O-9897 jute samples.

Physical parameters	Types of jute sample		
	Jute variety O-72	6% H ₂ O ₂ Bleached	Jute variety O-9897
Reed jute fibre length (meter)	3-3.5	-	03-3.5
Brightness index (%)	22.04	44.62	21.50
Whiteness index (%)	35.63	45.79	17.31
Bundle strength (Kg/mg.)	06.20	04.31	04.95
Fineness (micron)	36.26	-	35.39

Reed jute fibre length of O-72 variety was found to be 3-3.5 m which was same values as O-9897 variety jute samples. In table 1, brightness index of O-72 was observed higher than that of the O-9897 jute fibre and more or less same as like as 6% H₂O₂ bleached sample. Bundle strength of jute fibre is another important physical parameter. After bleaching, about 12% bundle strength was deteriorated than unbleached sample. Variety O-72 was not affected to loss bundle strength like bleached jute samples, on the other hand having higher brightness index without bleaching. Fineness parameter of jute variety O-72 is also nearly to O-9897 jute samples.

than that of normal jute fibre. Another significant indication is 6% H₂O₂ bleached jute sample showed nearly about same value on the lignin and hemicellulose content (on the basis of bleached sample) like unbleached fibre.

Table 3. Minor chemical constituents present in O-72 and O-9897 jute samples.

Name of samples	Pectin content (%)	Fat/Oil content(%)	Ash content (%)	Oil content in juteseed (%)	Saponificationvalue
O-72	0.21	0.87	0.67	8.109	232.27
O-9897	0.20	0.50	0.80	10.94	212.72

Minor chemical constituents were shown in table 3, oil content in jute seed of O-72 was found lower than that of conventional O-9897 jute seed but oil percentage is higher in jute fibre O-72 as well as saponification value. Higher percentage of oil content in any textile fibre is helpful for spinning which acts as a softener and lubricating agent. Lower content of ash also supports the quality jute fibre like O-72. By chemical analysis of blue jute seed O-72, extracted oil content showed higher percentage of saponification value having lower percentage of oil content than conventional jute fibre. On the overall survey it may be concluded that the new variety O-72 jute fibre would be very helpful/useful as cost effective raw materials for diversified end uses of jute fibre.

4. Conclusion

The present study focused on the physico-chemical properties of newly released jute variety O-72. From the result it is clear that physical parameters of O-72 fibre have been found better quality in regards of strength, fineness and whiteness. On the other hand chemical properties is also an important factor for jute fibre where alpha cellulose is the most important chemical constituent which was higher in the O-72 fibre than other types of jute fibre. From the overall discussion it can be concluded that the variety of O-72 fibre is superior (i.e. better quality) considering the good looking and maximum amount of fibrous materials which are most important in the field of diversified uses of jute fibre.

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