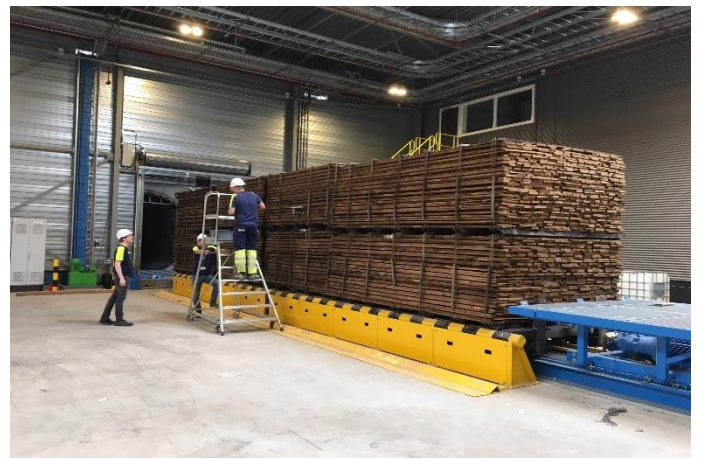


# 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Wood Modification ECWM9

September 17 and 18, 2018, Arnhem, The Netherlands

## PROCEEDINGS



ECWM<sup>9</sup>  
The 9th European Conference on **Wood** Modification  
The Netherlands • Arnhem • September 17-18, 2018

# **PROCEEDINGS**

## **9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Wood Modification**

Burgers' Zoo  
Arnhem, The Netherlands  
17-18 September 2018

In association with:  
COST FP1407 ModWoodLife

Edited by:  
Jos Creemers, Thomas Houben, Bôke Tjeerdsma, Holger Militz, Brigitte Junge  
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## Preface

SHR was one of the first research institutes in Europe, who already in the 1990's did substantial research work to develop wood modification processes. It appeared, that this research area was very complex, and that for a successful application of potential processes different expertise's was needed. A good network between research partners and industry was needed and the "European Network on Wood Modification" was created. 15 years ago, in 2003, the first European Conference on Wood Modification "ECWM" was held to present the outcomes of this EU financed network. Since than, ECWM's were held each 2-3 years at different places around Europe, and now we can celebrate the 9<sup>th</sup> ECWM in the Netherlands, organized by SHR where it all began.

As already before, ECWM 9 is linked up to the European COST organisation. Thanks to the COST Action FP 1407 ModWoodLife to join and strengthen our network!

The participation of researchers of all around the world make it obvious that the name "European conference" is much too small...so: a warm welcome to researchers from industry and academia from Europe and abroad! This success has led, once again, to a large number of abstracts submitted to the organizers. In general, these abstracts were of a high quality and the members of the Scientific Committee had a hard time to select 44 full presentations and 50 poster presentations out of the many applications. We hope we have found the right balance between scientific and applied presentations to reach the key goal of ECWM: to attract researchers from academia and industry to join their expertises in this very exciting research area "wood modification".

The local conference organizers from SHR have done a great job this past year to make us feel welcome in The Netherlands and to let the conference be a success. Thank you very much to Bôke and team!



Prof. Dr. Holger Militz  
Chairman of Scientific Committee  
Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany

### **Scientific Committee**

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Mr. Jos Creemers, SHR	SHR; The Netherlands
Dr. René Klaassen,SHR	SHR; The Netherlands
Mr. Bas Holleboom, SKH	SKH; The Netherlands
Mrs. Mariena Mooi, SHR	SHR; The Netherlands
Mrs. Jos Gootjes, SHR	SHR; The Netherlands

## Wood modification in practice

The European Conference on Wood Modification takes place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 in Arnhem, The Netherlands and is organised by SHR. At this conference researchers and people from industry from all over the world will come together to share their knowledge and experiences with the latest developments on wood modification methods, applications and products. The conference was given the subtitle “Wood modification comes home”, which refers to the role The Netherlands and SHR have played – and still play – in the development and industrial application of modified wood.

Techniques and methods designed for improving wood properties are almost as old as mankind itself. However the scientific and industrial rise of wood modification became significant under the influence of a number of social and economic developments in the eighties and nineties of the previous century. A strong need was felt to find alternatives for the use of tropical hardwoods and preservative treated wood, which were both under pressure for a variety of reasons. The discussions regarding a clean environment, sustainable forest management, wood use and the increasing wood demands from emerging markets in Asia also had a big impact. Wood modification was recognized to have the ability to offer a more, better and sustainable way of making use of wood as a durable material in a broad range of applications. Besides that, it was found to be a supreme method for upgrading the properties of lesser used timber species and to provide technical solutions to overcome some of the natural deficiencies of wood as water uptake, decay and dimensional changes.

Over the last decades an enormous amount of scientific work has been performed and published. We have seen many innovative modification ideas, methods and techniques passing by during the previous eight ECWM's. To make a real impact, ideas need to be developed further and put into practice. We are proud that in The Netherlands we have created a setting with a high level of knowledge, innovative thinking combined with entrepreneurship, which lead to a variety of flourishing companies involved in industrial production of modified wood. Not only producing companies, but also the wood processing industry has adopted modified wood as a highly appreciated durable material. We can declare that modified wood has become a lasting factor in the wood processing industry.

For these reasons SHR and we as the organising team, are excited to welcome you all here in The Netherlands for the 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Wood Modification. We hope you will enjoy your stay here in Arnhem and become inspired by all attendees, presenters and new insights this conference has to offer.

Welcome!

The organising team

## **COST 1407 - Foreword**

It is our pleasure that COST Action FP1407 “Understanding wood modification through an integrated scientific and environmental impact approach” (ModWoodLife) in part of 9th European Conference of Wood Modification. The conference brings together researchers from across Europe and beyond that jointly are addressing the mounting pressure on renewable resources (as a material source, for recreational, ecological, and other uses). By maximising the efficiency of materials derived from them, the wood modification community plays an important role. The efficiency can only be achieved if new methods to improve the functionality, durability, properties, and environmental impacts will be developed. Wood modification addresses these requirements directly, allowing wood to be used in more applications, including increased use of under-utilised species. Wood modification also addresses undesirable characteristics of wood such as fungal resistance, UV-stability, and moisture sensitivity. The COST Action FP1407 has been successful in addressing these needs in the past 3 years. We are in the last year of the Action and therefore it is even more important for us to be at ECWM9. Only sustainable collaboration and joint efforts will deliver the impacts. That objective of the Action FP1407, to characterise the relationship between wood modification processing, product properties, and the associated environmental impacts in order to maximise sustainability and minimize environmental impacts, has great value for the forest sector, for researchers, and society at large.

Wishing you a successful and memorable conference full of fruitful discussions.

Andreja Kutnar  
Chair, COST FP1407

Denis Jones  
Vice-Chair, COST FP1407

## Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Table of contents</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Session One: Wood Modification World-wide - keynote presentations</b>	
<b>Modified wood in circular economy – a critical review</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Henrik Heräjärvi, Janni Kunttu, Elias Hurmekoski, Teppo Hujala</i>	
<b>A review of wood modification across Europe as part of COST FP1407</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>Dennis Jones, Dick Sandberg, Andreja Kutnar</i>	
<b>What is wrong with Wood Modification in the U.S.?</b>	<b>32</b>
<i>Jeffrey Morrell</i>	
<b>Session Two: Commercial and Market Opportunities for Modified Wood</b>	
<b>New Standards for Approval of Modified Wood within the Nordic Wood Preservation Council (NWPC)</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Niels Morsing, Søren Bang-Achton, Emil Englund Thybring, Morten Klamer</i>	
<b>Kebony Clear – Produced in Belgium</b>	<b>48</b>
<i>Per Brynildsen, Omar Roels, Bruno Van den Branden</i>	
<b>Improved dimensional stability of polypyrrole enriched spruce as an indication for chemical change</b>	<b>56</b>
<i>Andries van Eckeveld, Rabi Malki, Michael Sailer, Jacco Eversdijk</i>	
<b>Practical experience of acetylated wood fibre panel products in Dutch door manufacturing</b>	<b>64</b>
<i>Jeroen Lücker</i>	
<b>Wood Modification with DMDHEU (1.3-dimethylol-4.5-dihydroxy-ethyleneurea) – Status quo and latest research activities</b>	<b>74</b>
<i>Lukas Emmerich, Holger Militz</i>	
<b>Architects perception of modified wood: a parallel study in selected countries of Europe</b>	<b>82</b>
<i>Manja Kitek Kuzman, Eva Haviarova, Dick Sandberg</i>	
<b>Enhancing the Properties of ThermoWood® with Phenolic Resin Treatment</b>	<b>91</b>
<i>Reeta Stöd, Janne Pynnönen, Duncan Mayes, Bodo Caspar Kielmann</i>	



## Session Three: Poster Session 1

<b>Effect of Thermo-Mechanical Treatment on Properties of Parica Laminated Veneer Lumber (<i>Schizolobium amazonicum</i> Huber ex Ducke)</b>	<b>98</b>
<i>Mírian de Almeida Costa, Cláudio Henrique Soares Del Menezzi</i>	
<b>TanWood®: The Brazilian Process of Thermal Modification of Wood</b>	<b>104</b>
<i>Leonardo Puppi Bernardi, Djeison Cesar Batista</i>	
<b>Examining the coating performance of finishes on acetylated hornbeam wood (<i>Carpinus betulus</i> L.)</b>	<b>112</b>
<i>Fanni Fodor, Róbert Németh</i>	
<b>Colour response of heat treated spruce and pine with different surface coatings in outdoor exposure</b>	<b>119</b>
<i>Niclas Björngrim, Marie Hartwig, Olle Hagman, Tom Morén</i>	
<b>New substrates for wood modification. Characterising pore size distributions in variously dried softwood</b>	<b>123</b>
<i>Warren Grigsby, Elizabeth Dunningham, Hank Kroese</i>	
<b>Determination of resistance of thermally treated wood to weather conditions in different countries (HTW) - Preliminary results</b>	<b>126</b>
<i>Idalina Domingos, José Ferreira, Luisa Cruz-Lopes, Júlia Carmo, Jorge Martins, René Herrera, Lina Nunes, Bruno Esteves</i>	
<b>Investigation of <i>Abies alba</i> wood thermal stability according to its radial position</b>	<b>131</b>
<i>Joël Hamada, Anélie Pétrissans, Julien RuellE, Frédéric Mothe., Francis Colin, Mathieu Pétrissan, Philippe Gérardin</i>	
<b>Properties improvement of bamboo materials through furfurylation</b>	<b>137</b>
<i>Li Wanju, Wang Hankun, Liu Minghui, Yu Yan</i>	
<b>Veneer modification with fire retardant chemicals</b>	<b>143</b>
<i>Saara Hautamäki, Michael Altgen, Tuomas Hänninen, Lauri Rautkari</i>	
<b>Natural Weathering and Photostability of Wood Modified by Fatty Acid esters</b>	<b>149</b>
<i>Mohamed Jebrane, Nasko Terziev, Ivo Heinemaa</i>	
<b>Effects of thermal modification on bending properties and chemical structure of Iroko and Padauk</b>	<b>155</b>
<i>Michal Kroupa, Milan Gaff, Olov Karlsson, Olena Myronycheva, Dick Sandberg</i>	
<b>Modified wood in actual use and its weathering performance after outdoor exposure</b>	<b>162</b>
<i>Ville Lahtela, Tim Kärki</i>	
<b>Performance of thermal modified radiata pine in real cases of facades and deckings in North Spain</b>	<b>167</b>
<i>David Lorenzo, Alfonso Lozano, Juan Fernández-Golfin, Manuel Touza, René Herrera</i>	

## Table of Contents

<b>Water free PEG impregnation of hardwood veneer using a roll press</b>	<b>173</b>
<i>Tillmann Meints, Axel Rindler, Niklas Bugelnig, Christian Hansmann</i>	
<b>The impact of cerium dioxide nanoparticles on thermally modified wood-coating system during weathering</b>	<b>177</b>
<i>Josip Miklečić, Vlatka Jirouš-Rajković</i>	
<b>Application of time-temperature-humidity superposition to the hygrothermally accelerated ageing of spruce wood</b>	<b>181</b>
<i>Eiichi Obataya, Nanami Zeniya, Kaoru Endo, Miyuki Matsuo-Ueda</i>	
<b>Preliminary studies on the effect of acetylation and subsequent weathering on tensile strength and stiffness of Rubber wood (<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>)</b>	<b>187</b>
<i>Samuel Olaniran, E. Cabane, M. Rüggeberg</i>	
<b>Mild torrefaction pre-treatment of eucalypts aiming at its energetic valorisation</b>	<b>193</b>
<i>Solange de Oliveira Araújo, Duarte M. Neiva, Angélica de Cássia Carneiro, Bruno Esteves, Jorge Gominho, Helena Pereira</i>	
<b>Influence of various polyethylene glycol treatments on the dimensional stability of beech wood.</b>	<b>199</b>
<i>Sabrina Puttmann, Lukan Müller, Bertil Burian, Marcus Müller</i>	
<b>Adhesion of coatings to plasma modified wood at accelerated weathering</b>	<b>205</b>
<i>Ladislav Reinprecht, rADOVANTiño, Marek Šomšák</i>	
<b>Measuring Accessibility of OH groups in Scots Pine with Dynamic Vapour Sorption Apparatus</b>	<b>210</b>
<i>Tuuli Uimonen, Saara Hautamäki, Maija Kymäläinen, Lauri RauTkari</i>	
<b>Plasma treatment of wood veneers: a review</b>	<b>216</b>
<i>Richard Wascher, Georg Avramidis, Holger Militz, Wolfgang Viöl</i>	
<b>Saturated gaseous ammonia treatment for improved densification of beech wood – Sorption and mechanical properties</b>	<b>224</b>
<i>Mario Zauer, Tobias Dietrich, Herwig Hackenberg, André Wagenführ</i>	
<b>Water vapour diffusion through acetylated wood with different weight percent gain (WPG)</b>	<b>230</b>
<i>Ava Khodabakhshi Koulaei, Asghar Tarmian, Davood Efhamisisi, Ali Abdulkhani</i>	
<b>Session 4A: Properties 1</b>	
<b>The potential for use of acetylated wood in musical instruments making</b>	<b>236</b>
<i>Stergios Adamopoulos, Sheikh Ali Ahmed, Chiel Lankveld</i>	
<b>Influence on acoustical properties of resonant soundboard material through different processes of thermal modification</b>	<b>244</b>
<i>David Zerbst, Lothar Clauder, Dave Olson, Alexander Pfriem</i>	

## Table of Contents

<b>Measuring the Free Hydroxyl Content in Wood Modified by Acetic or Propionic Anhydride</b>	<b>251</b>
<i>Callum Hill, Greeley Beck, Erik Larnøy, Sarah Strohbusch, Holger Militz</i>	
<b>Pre-treatment with Ionic Liquids or Organic Superbases to Reduce Spring-Back and Set-Recovery of Surface-Densified Scots pine</b>	<b>259</b>
<i>Benedikt Neyses, Olov Karlsson, Dick Sandberg</i>	
<b>Potential solutions for gluing acetylated wood in load bearing constructions</b>	<b>267</b>
<i>Andreas Treu, Ronny Bredesen, Ferry Bongers</i>	
<b>Combustion behaviour of wood chemically modified with DMDHEU-, PF-, and MF-resins</b>	<b>275</b>
<i>Zhijun Zhang, Zefang Xiao, Holger Militz, Carsten Mai, Yanjun Xie</i>	
<b>Session 4B: Thermal Modification</b>	
<b>Potential to limit variation in durability of thermally modified timber</b>	<b>284</b>
<i>Joris van Acker, Jan Van Den Bulcke</i>	
<b>Thermovuoto thermal modification of eight European wood species</b>	<b>292</b>
<i>Ignazia Cuccui, Nasko Terziev, Giovanna Bochicchio, Ottaviano Allegretti</i>	
<b>Differences in the mechanical behaviour of wood after thermal modification in oven-dry or water-saturated state</b>	<b>300</b>
<i>Michael Altgen, Tuuli Uimonen, Lauri Rautkari</i>	
<b>Thermal modification of wax impregnated wood</b>	<b>308</b>
<i>Miha Humar, Davor Kržišnik, Boštjan Lesar, Nejc Thaler, Aleš Ugovše, Gregor Rep</i>	
<b>The role of accessible hydroxyl groups in reversible and irreversible EMC changes by thermal wood modification</b>	<b>316</b>
<i>Wim Willems, Michael Altgen, Lauri Rautkari</i>	
<b>Session 5: COST FP 1407</b>	
<b>Wood Furfurylation as a way to valorise European Beech and promote Circular and Bio-Economy</b>	<b>323</b>
<i>Christine Gérardin, Aurélie Imbert, Prabu Satria Sejati, Emmanuel Fredon, Stéphane Dumarçay, Eric Masson, Arnaud Besserer, Benoit Laibe, Rémi Laibe, Hugo Sellier, Philippe Gérardin</i>	
<b>Dynamic Mechanical Thermal Analysis of Wood Modified with Bio-Polyesters</b>	<b>331</b>
<i>Charlotte Grosse, Morwenna Spear, Simon Curling, Marion Noël, Lauri Rautkari, Tuuli Uimonen, Philippe Gérardin</i>	
<b>Perception and evaluation of modified wood</b>	<b>339</b>
<i>Dean Lipovac, Michael D. Burnard, Andreja Kutnar</i>	

## Table of Contents

<b>Valorization of Beech Wood through Development of Innovative Friendly Environmentally Chemical Modification Treatments</b>	<b>347</b>
<i>Mahdi Mubarak, Stéphane Dumarçay, Holger Militz, Philippe Gérardin</i>	
<b>Infrared spectroscopy and chemometric methods for the evaluation of the thermal/chemical treatment effectiveness of hardwoods</b>	<b>355</b>
<i>Carmen Mihaela Popescu, Davor Kržišni, Miha Hočevár, Miha Humra, Nejc Thelar, Maria-Cristina Popescu, Dennis Jones</i>	
<b>Performance of modified wood in service – multi-sensor and multi-scale evaluation</b>	<b>363</b>
<i>Anna Sandak, Jakub Sandak, Marta Petrillo, Paolo Grossi</i>	
<b>Carbon footprint of decking materials- a comparison of modified wood and preservative treated wood</b>	<b>371</b>
<i>Lars Tellnes, Gry Alfredsen, Per Otto Flæte, Lone Ross Gobakken</i>	
<b>Session Six A: Properties 2</b>	
<b>Strength classification of acetylated radiata pine</b>	<b>380</b>
<i>Ferry Bongers, John Alexander</i>	
<b>Effect of DMDHEU modification on physical and mechanical properties of top-layer lamellas for multi-layer parquet flooring</b>	<b>386</b>
<i>Lukas Emmerich, Holger Militz</i>	
<b>Cutting forces when machining thermally modified poplar – preliminary results</b>	<b>396</b>
<i>Giacomo Goli, Rémi Curti, Bertrand Marcon, Antonio Scippa, Marco Fioravanti, Gianni Campatelli, Louis Denaud</i>	
<b>Properties of MMA treated thermally modified Norway spruce wood</b>	<b>401</b>
<i>Boštjan Lesar, Luka Škrlep, Miha Humar</i>	
<b>Differential expression of <i>Postia placenta</i> wood decay genes in modified wood</b>	<b>410</b>
<i>Rebecka Ringman, Annica Pilgård, Martina Kölle, Klaus Richter</i>	
<b>Session Six B: Chemical Modification</b>	
<b>Suitability of Lignin-Derived Monophenols to Replace Phenol in Phenol-Formaldehyde Resin for the Use in Wood Treatment</b>	<b>419</b>
<i>Vladimirs Biziks, Marco Fleckenstein, Carsten Mai, Holger Militz</i>	
<b>A new method of wood protection by chemical modification with polyglycerol succinate copolymer</b>	<b>427</b>
<i>Clément L'Hostis, Emmanuel Fredon, Marie France Thevenon, Philippe Gérardin</i>	
<b>The effect of humidity and temperature on the dynamic-mechanical behaviour of phenol-formaldehyde impregnated beech wood veneer</b>	<b>435</b>
<i>Leo Felix Munier, Tom Franke, Nadine Herold, Alexander Pfriem</i>	

## Table of Contents

<b>Biopolyesters for wood modification: technical validation towards implementation</b>	<b>441</b>
<i>Marion Nožl, Charlotte Grosse, Ingunn Burud, Marie-France Thévenon, Philippe Gérardin</i>	
<b>The Maillard reaction for wood modification: The influence of reagent concentrations, reaction temperature and soaking time on the leachability and cell wall penetration of reagents</b>	<b>449</b>
<i>Kelly Peeters, Andreja Kutnar, Črtomir Tavzes, Jaka Pečnik, Callum A.S. Hill</i>	
<b>Session Seven: Poster Session 2</b>	
<b>Wood thermal modification and impregnation: some aspects of double treatment</b>	<b>458</b>
<i>Bruno Andersons, Dace Cirule, Nina Kurnosova, Ilze Irbe, Ingeborga Andersone, Oskars Bikovens, Andis Antons, Edgars Kuka, Žanete Zommere</i>	
<b>Hydrophobisation of hardwood surfaces by means of environmentally-friendly fine wax particles</b>	<b>464</b>
<i>Benjamin Arminger, Wolfgang Gindl-Altmutter, Christian Hansmann</i>	
<b>Further Treatment Option after Longitudinal Wood Compression</b>	<b>469</b>
<i>Mátyás Báder, Róbert Németh</i>	
<b>Effect of combined modification processes on the physical properties of wood</b>	<b>475</b>
<i>Miklós Bak, Róbert Németh, Norbert Kelemen</i>	
<b>Bending properties and strain fields around knots in thermally modified timber</b>	<b>481</b>
<i>Joran van Blokland, Stergios Adamopoulos, Anders Olsson, Jan Oscarsson</i>	
<b>Thermomechanical (TM) treatment of beech wood (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.) to substitute Indian rosewood (<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> ROXB.) in musical instruments - mechanical and acoustic properties</b>	<b>487</b>
<i>Tobias Dietrich, Dr. Mario Zauer, Robert Krüge, Prof. Dr. André Wagenführ</i>	
<b>4 years field study in contact with the ground of thermomodified Scots pine sapwood</b>	<b>493</b>
<i>Andrzej Fojutowski, Andrzej Noskowiak and Aleksandra Kropacz</i>	
<b>Mineralization of wood with calcium oxalate</b>	<b>498</b>
<i>Tom Franke, Thomas Volkmer</i>	
<b>Preparation of thin functional coatings on wood and WPC materials using atmospheric pressure plasma jets</b>	<b>504</b>
<i>Sven Gerullis, Andreas Pfuch, Florian Kettner, Katharina Plaschkies, Bernd Grünler, Mario Beyer, Gennadi G. Volokitin</i>	

## Table of Contents

<b>Investigation of Birch Wood Impregnation with Phenol-Formaldehyde (PF) Resins</b>	<b>510</b>
<i>Juris Grinins, Ilze Irbe, Vladimirs Biziks, Janis Rizikovs, Sascha Bicke, Holger Militz</i>	
<b>Thermal properties and density profile of poplar wood (<i>Populus nigra L.</i>) thermally and thermo-mechanically modified</b>	<b>516</b>
<i>Marek Grzeškiewicz, Karol Poddębski</i>	
<b>Water sorption properties of surface charred wood</b>	<b>522</b>
<i>Maija Kymäläinen, Saara Hautamäki, Lauri Rautkari</i>	
<b>Energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence (ED-XRF) for the multi-elemental analysis of thermally modified wood treated with coatings systems</b>	<b>528</b>
<i>René Herrera Díaz, Marco Fellin, Martino Negri, Jalel Labidi</i>	
<b>Thermowood® vs Termovuoto process – comparison of thermally modified timber in industrial conditions</b>	<b>533</b>
<i>Mohamed Jebrane, Ignazia Cuccui, Ottaviano Allegretti, Ernesto Uetimane Jr., Nasko Terziev</i>	
<b>Study on Drying Characteristics of Poplar Wood Impregnated with Urea-formaldehyde Resin</b>	<b>539</b>
<i>Yang Lihu, Yuan Haiguang</i>	
<b>Life cycle assessment of bio-based façades during and after service life: maintenance planning and re-use</b>	<b>545</b>
<i>Marta Petrillo, Jakub Jakub, Anna Sandak, Paolo Grossi, Andreja Kutnar</i>	
<b>Raman spectral imaging of chemically modified Scots pine</b>	<b>551</b>
<i>Carmen Mihaela Popescu, Lauri Rautkari, Michael Altgen, Tiina Belt, Mikko Mäkelä</i>	
<b>Changes in longitudinal modulus of elasticity of Douglas-fir during low temperature thermal treatment</b>	<b>557</b>
<i>Dan Ridley-Ellis, Carmen-Mihaela Popescu</i>	
<b>Investigation of the effect of moderate heat treatment on wood hygroscopicity by NMR relaxometry</b>	<b>563</b>
<i>Leila Rostom, Denis Courtier-Murias, Stéphane Rodts, Sabine Caré</i>	
<b>Effect of wood modification and weathering progress on the radiation emissivity</b>	<b>569</b>
<i>Anna Sandak, Jakub Sandak, Marta Petrillo, Paolo Grossi</i>	
<b>Composition of monosaccharides in aqueous extracts from thermally modified wood</b>	<b>575</b>
<i>Ekaterina Sidorova, Olov Karlsson, Dick Sandberg</i>	
<b>Insights into stability of glued joints between thermally modified timber: adaptation of an artificial weathering test</b>	<b>581</b>
<i>Morwenna Spear, Raisa Teciu, Graham Ormondroyd</i>	

## Table of Contents

<b>Water resistant tannin polymers</b>	<b>587</b>
<i>Gianluca Tondi, Lukas Sommerauer</i>	
<b>Dynamic and static mechanical properties of <i>Eucalyptus nitens</i> thermally modified in an open and closed reactor system</b>	<b>592</b>
<i>Maximilian Wentzel, Christian Brischke, Holger Militz</i>	
<b>Session 8: Performance</b>	
<b>Enhancing the material properties of wood through furfurylation</b>	<b>600</b>
<i>Wanju Li, Changhua Fang, Hankun Wang, Xuexia Zhang, Dan Ren, Yan Yu</i>	
<b>Comparative studies on the biological durability of identical thermally modified wood from field and laboratory tests</b>	<b>608</b>
<i>Sven Hertrich, Lothar Clauder, Silke Lautner, Alexander Pfriem</i>	
<b>Appearance of solid wood decking: requirements and assessment</b>	<b>616</b>
<i>Wolfram Scheiding, Philipp Flade, Katharina Plaschkies, Björn Weiß</i>	
<b>Monitoring the performance of Accoya in different applications</b>	<b>623</b>
<i>René Klaassen, Bôke Tjeerdsma, René Hillebrink</i>	
<b>Performance of chemically modified wood under marine conditions during nine years of exposure</b>	<b>630</b>
<i>Christian Brischke, Antje Gellerich, André Klüppel, Holger Militz</i>	

## Effect of wood modification and weathering progress on the radiation emissivity

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### ABSTRACT

The research reported here is a part of the BIO4ever project, which aims to develop numerical models simulating performance of the bio-based cladding materials in relation to the exposure time or so-called “weather dose”. The value of emissivity is one of the thermodynamic material constants, highly affecting heat transfer calculations. The lack of reliable emissivity data for several investigated materials was discovered during model’s preparation, especially in a case of modified woods and coated samples. It was especially important since the emissivity is directly affecting the surface state/condition, and might change due to the weathering process. The overall objective of this research was therefore to determine actual emissivity coefficients for diverse cladding materials (various wood species and modification processes) in different ambient conditions (temperature).

The thermographic (radiometric) measurements were conducted with the thermal camera FLIR T200, covering a spectral range from 7.5 to 13  $\mu\text{m}$ . Tests were carried out on preselected samples to highlight the differences between diverse materials. The emissivity coefficient was determined at different surface temperatures by conditioning samples in climatic chambers for a period of at least six hours. The emissivity values obtained experimentally were used for improvement of finite element method models of the solar irradiation and of the surface moisture content changes for all investigated bio-materials. Subsequently, simulation of the façade appearance implemented within BIO4ever project, considering simultaneously time of service, geographic location, local microclimate and intrinsic material characteristic, become more realistic and trustworthy.

### INTRODUCTION

Infrared thermography is a non-destructive and non-contact testing method that is applied in building physics to evaluate structure’s energetic performance (Barreira *et al.* 2016). The technology is especially interesting nowadays when infrared measuring instruments become portable and affordable, being reasonably accurate at the same time (Sandak and Sandak 2017). The emissivity (material property), is defined as an amount of electromagnetic energy radiated from the material’s surface to that radiated from a blackbody. The emissivity is usually defined in two spectral bands, including solar (short wavelength  $\lambda < 2.5\mu\text{m}$ ) and ambient (long wavelength  $\lambda > 2.5\mu\text{m}$ ) ranges. The usual procedure of emissivity estimation bases on the measurements of a single sample conditioned to the thermodynamic equilibrium (heating or cooling) with the surrounding ambient (Pitarma *et al.* 2016). The main disadvantage of this



procedure is relatively long time that elapses before the thermal image readings, especially when the difference of temperature between the sample and the ambient is high.

In alternative, the emissivity can be determined according to ASTM1933 standard, using a radiometer (IR camera, spot IR thermometer) with two complementary methods, namely “contact thermometer method” or “noncontact thermometer method”. The first method requires a direct measurement of the target surface temperature through a contact thermometer. This measurement became the reference value used to manually adjust the settings of the radiometer (first iterative step). The material specific value of emissivity is properly adjusted when equal temperatures are determined by both reference thermometer and radiometer. The second method bases on an emissivity value correction by comparing instrument readings with these performed on reference material. It is important to assure that both, reference and characterized materials are at the thermal equilibrium. The reference temperature is determined with reference material, considering its known emissivity and specific boundary conditions. In the second step, the radiometer settings are adjusted to correct the apparent temperature according to the value of reference surface temperature. Both methods are considered to have a good precision and reproducibility.

The research reported here is a part of the BIO4ever project, which aims to develop numerical models simulating performance of the bio-based cladding materials in relation to the exposure time or so-called “weather dose”. The emissivity is one of the thermodynamic material properties (constants) used for heat transfer calculations. The lack of real emissivity data for several investigated materials was discovered during FEM (finite element method) model’s preparation, especially in a case of modified woods and coated samples. The motivation for this research was therefore to experimentally determine real emissivity coefficients for diverse cladding materials (various wood species and modification processes) in different ambient conditions (temperatures).

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

### ***Experimental samples***

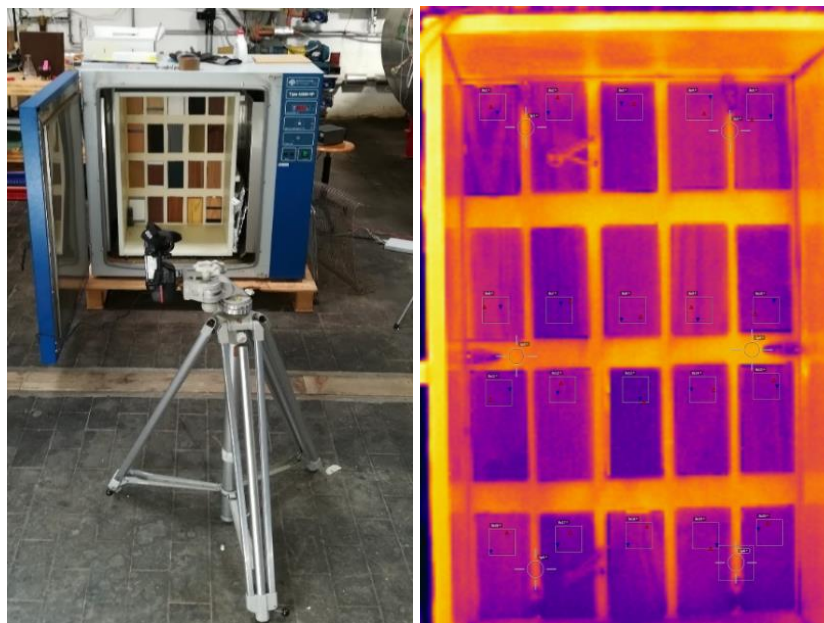
Twenty different cladding materials investigated within BIO4ever project were selected as experimental samples (Table 1). The set included natural, thermally modified, chemically modified, impregnated, coated, surface treated wood and bio-based composites.

### ***Experimental set-up***

The setup of experimental determination of emissivity coefficient is presented in Figure 1. A thermal IR camera (FLIR T200) with a 240×180 pixels resolution with a shutter time of 100ms was used to acquire the thermal images. The camera was fixed on a tripod and exposed in the front of a sample holder (made of polyester box), minimizing infrared reflections from surround. The spectral range of the IR camera covered 7.5 to 13µm. The measurable temperature range was from -20 to 350°C, with a producer declared accuracy of ±2%. The thermal sensitivity (smallest temperature difference measurable) at 30°C was <0.08°C. The vision angle of used lenses was 25° with a minimum focusable distance between the object and the camera of 0.4 m.

*Table 1: Materials investigated within this research*

Sample#	Species	Material category (modification)						
		natural	composite	thermal	chemical	impregnated	surface	hybrid
A1	larch	●						
A2	scots pine					●		
A3	bamboo	●						
A4	frake			●				
A5	acetylated fiberboard		●					
B1	spruce			●				
B2	bamboo	●						
B3	acetylated fiberboard		●					
B4	radiate pine						●	
B5	bamboo fiberboard		●					
C1	pine				●			
C2	spruce					●		
C3	WPC		●					
C4	larch						●	
C5	larch	●						
D1	spruce							●
D2	pine							●
D3	spruce						●	
D4	radiate pine				●			
D5	beech					●		



*Figure 1: FLIR T200 thermal camera test setup (left), thermal image result of a test (right).*

### Calculations

The electrical signal recorded by the camera was transformed into a temperature value according to Equations 1, 2 and 3. The total radiation received by the camera ( $W_{tot}$ ) can be expressed as the sum of the radiation emitted by the object ( $E_{obj}$ ), radiation reflected by surroundings ( $E_{refl}$ ) and the emission of the atmosphere ( $E_{at}$ ).

$$W = E_{obj} + E_{refl} + E_{at} \quad (1)$$

$$W_{tot} = \varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{obj}^4 \cdot \tau_{at} + (1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{refl}^4 \cdot \tau_{at} + (1 - \tau_{at}) \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{at}^4 \quad (2)$$

$$T_{obj} = \sqrt[4]{\frac{W_{tot} - (1 - \varepsilon_{obj}) \cdot \tau_{at} \cdot \sigma \cdot (T_{refl})^4 - (1 - \tau_{at}) \cdot \sigma \cdot (T_{amb})^4}{\varepsilon_{obj} \cdot \tau_{atm} \cdot \sigma}} \quad (3)$$

where;  $\varepsilon_{obj}$  is the target emissivity,  $T_{refl}$  is the reflected temperature,  $T_{amb}$  is the ambient temperature,  $T_{at}$  is the transmittance of the atmosphere,  $\sigma$  is the Stefan Boltzman constant.

The energy emission from the object and the reflected radiation detected by the sensor is reduced because the atmospheric air absorbs a part of the radiation. The effect of the atmosphere on the signal is compensated when setting of temperature ( $T_{amb}$ ), considering also relative humidity of the air and distance between target and camera.

### Testing procedure

The set of 20 samples was conditioned at different temperatures in two environments; low temperature (-2.5°C) in a refrigerator and the high temperature (35.0°C) in a laboratory oven. The reference temperatures in both climatic chambers were assessed with different thermometers. Six DHT22 sensors measuring temperature and relative humidity and two MLX9014 infrared thermometers were placed in diverse positions over the sample holder box. It was possible therefore to determine detailed temperature gradient (reference sample temperature) within the chamber after sample conditioning. Signals from sensors were acquired with Arduino controller and post-processed on the PC. The software used for thermal images analysis was FLIR Reporter.

The raw thermometric image was acquired using value of emissivity  $\varepsilon = 1.00$ . The real value of  $\varepsilon$  was determined according to Equation 4 on the base of information collected by the thermal camera and temperature sensors.

$$\varepsilon_{obj} = \frac{T_{obj,r}^4 - T_{amb}^4}{T_{obj}^4 - T_{amb}^4} \quad (4)$$

where.  $T_{obj,r}$  - the sample surface temperature from the thermal image at  $\varepsilon = 1.00$ ,  $T_{obj}$  - the real surface temperature of conditioned samples measured by the nearest thermometer,  $T_{amb}$  - the temperature of the ambient measured close to the thermal camera.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The summary of experimentally determined values of emissivity  $\varepsilon$  is presented in Table 2. Five independent tests were conducted at each ambient condition in order to improve statistical reliability of  $\varepsilon$  values computed. The variations within measurements were related to the limited accuracy of IR thermal camera as well as to the uncertainty of the reference temperatures of the evaluated samples surface. The latest temperature was measured as close as possible, but anyway not directly on the sample surface.

It is evident from the results obtained that the emissivity  $\varepsilon$  values are different for all cladding materials characterized. In the extreme cases the value of  $\varepsilon$  ranged from 0.84 (material A4 – thermally modified frake) to 0.96 (material C3 – wood-plastic composite).

Table 2: Emissivity  $\varepsilon$  of bio-based materials conditioned in diverse climatic conditions

Material	temperature $T_{amb} = -2.5^{\circ}\text{C}$						temperature $T_{amb} = 35.0^{\circ}\text{C}$					
	Test #1	Test #2	Test #3	Test #4	Test #5	Mean	Test #1	Test #2	Test #3	Test #4	Test #5	Mean
A1	0.90	0.92	0.93	0.94	0.91	<b>0.92</b>	0.92	0.91	0.95	0.92	0.89	<b>0.92</b>
A2	0.93	0.90	0.92	0.90	0.89	<b>0.91</b>	0.88	0.88	0.91	0.89	0.87	<b>0.89</b>
A3	0.93	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.91	<b>0.92</b>	0.90	0.90	0.93	0.93	0.89	<b>0.91</b>
A4	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.86	<b>0.87</b>	0.86	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.87	<b>0.88</b>
A5	0.89	0.91	0.91	0.89	0.88	<b>0.90</b>	0.88	0.93	0.92	0.89	0.89	<b>0.90</b>
B1	0.91	0.89	0.90	0.88	0.89	<b>0.89</b>	0.88	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.88	<b>0.89</b>
B2	0.96	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.93	<b>0.94</b>	0.92	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.91	<b>0.93</b>
B3	0.90	0.92	0.91	0.90	0.91	<b>0.91</b>	0.90	0.92	0.91	0.9	0.88	<b>0.90</b>
B4	0.89	0.90	0.91	0.89	0.90	<b>0.90</b>	0.90	0.92	0.89	0.88	0.89	<b>0.90</b>
B5	0.92	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.94	<b>0.94</b>	0.91	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.9	<b>0.92</b>
C1	0.95	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.93	<b>0.94</b>	0.92	0.92	0.94	0.93	0.89	<b>0.92</b>
C2	0.93	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.90	<b>0.92</b>	0.91	0.93	0.92	0.89	0.88	<b>0.91</b>
C3	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.96	0.96	<b>0.96</b>	0.94	0.92	0.95	0.95	0.92	<b>0.94</b>
C4	0.93	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.94	<b>0.94</b>	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.9	0.91	<b>0.92</b>
C5	-	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.94	<b>0.94</b>	0.91	0.93	0.91	0.91	0.9	<b>0.91</b>
D1	0.91	0.90	0.91	0.90	0.89	<b>0.90</b>	0.90	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.89	<b>0.91</b>
D2	0.97	0.95	0.93	0.94	0.93	<b>0.94</b>	0.92	0.92	0.94	0.93	0.91	<b>0.92</b>
D3	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.90	0.91	<b>0.91</b>	0.89	0.89	0.9	0.9	0.88	<b>0.89</b>
D4	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.88	<b>0.89</b>	0.89	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.88	<b>0.89</b>
D5	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.89	<b>0.91</b>	0.90	0.90	0.9	0.9	0.89	<b>0.90</b>

It has to be mentioned that IR camera detects infrared radiation emitted not only by the target object but also related to other sources of heat, such as neighbor objects in the measurement field and/or ambient (FLIR T200 user manual (2009)). The infrared radiation can be easily reflected from the sample surface into direction of the camera falsifying measurements (Olson and Talghader 2012). The measured temperature may be highly inaccurate when the operator cannot eliminate (or at least minimize) the influence of such external IR radiation sources. The same is related to the proper setting the emissivity  $\varepsilon$  (López *et al.* 2013). It is even more essential when physical modeling of heat and mass transfer within biomaterials is simulated. The availability of experimentally determined  $\varepsilon$  allowed improvement of the FEM models and better representation of the temperature distribution over the building façade as studied within BIO4ever project.

Nevertheless, in several practical applications, such as monitoring of electric connectors/fuses or detecting thermal bridges (moisture spots) in building, the exact value of temperature gradients is not critical. In that case, even tabular values of emissivity may be sufficient for successful qualitative assessments.

### CONCLUSIONS

The value of emissivity measured and calculated experimentally for different cladding materials are within the  $\epsilon$  range reported in the scientific literature (emissivity of natural wood usually varies from 0.85 to 0.95 according to different authors). Nevertheless, the experimental results revealed noticeable differences in samples of the same wood species but modified with different processes. The emissivity parameters obtained experimentally are essential for precise numerical modelling of the solar radiation and of the moisture content changes in all investigated bio-materials. Consequently, more realistic simulation of the façade appearance and its aesthetical changes become possible (the overall goal of the BIO4ever project).

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