



Oxidation of Lignin Using $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\text{--O}_3$

Synergistic System for sustainable leather manufacturing

Yue Yu

Ningqiang You, Ya-nan Wang, Bi Shi

National Engineering Laboratory for Clean Technology of Leather Manufacture, Sichuan University

Lyon (France), XXXVIII IULTCS CONGRESS, 9th, September 2025



Background

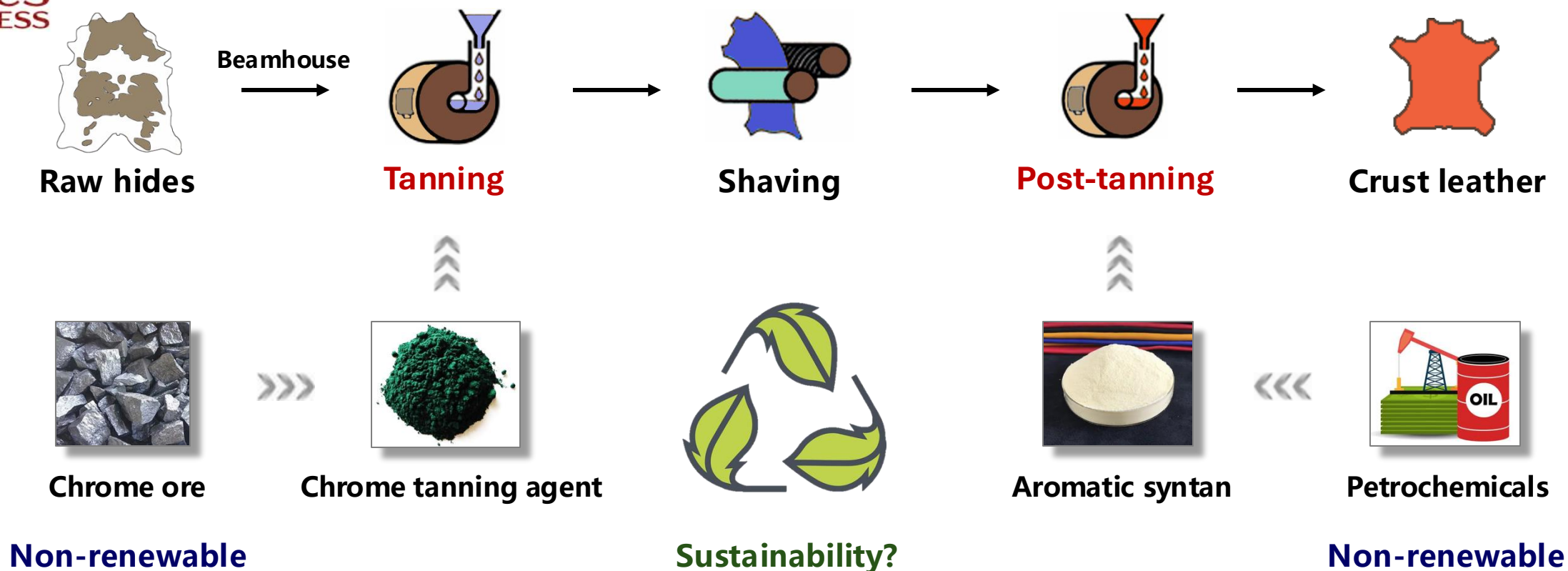


Tanning application



Retanning application

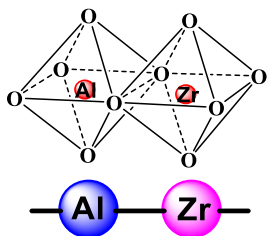
- Tanning is the key process—Post-tanning is the “golden touch”



Innovative renewable tanning and retanning agents are expected to enhance leather sustainability

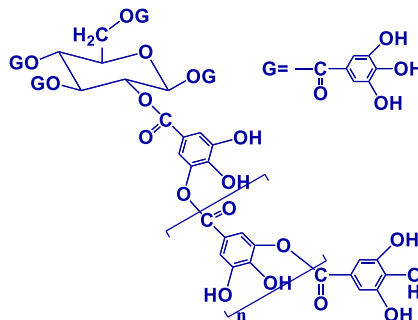
Chrome-Free tanning agent

Tanning agents

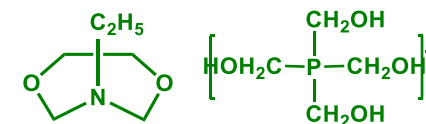


Al-Zr tanning agent

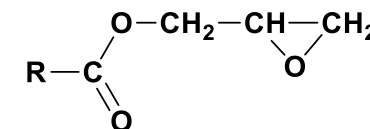
Similar cationic nature to Cr



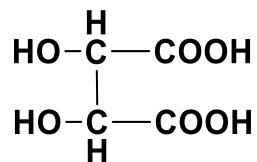
Vegetable tannin



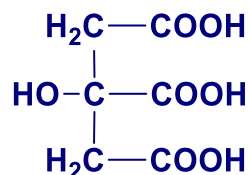
Aldehyde tanning agent



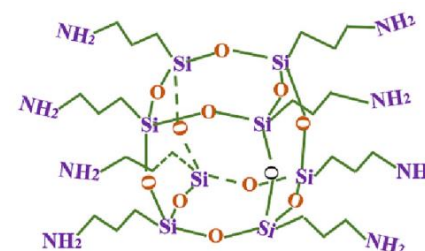
Epoxy tanning agent



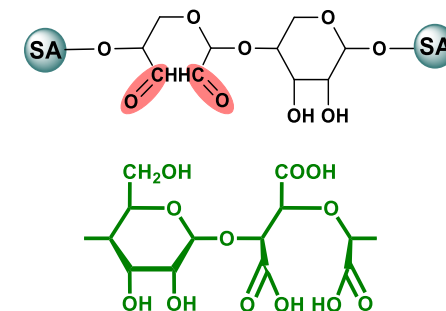
Tartaric acid



Citric acid



Silsesquioxane



Oxidized polysaccharides

Ligands for Al-Zr

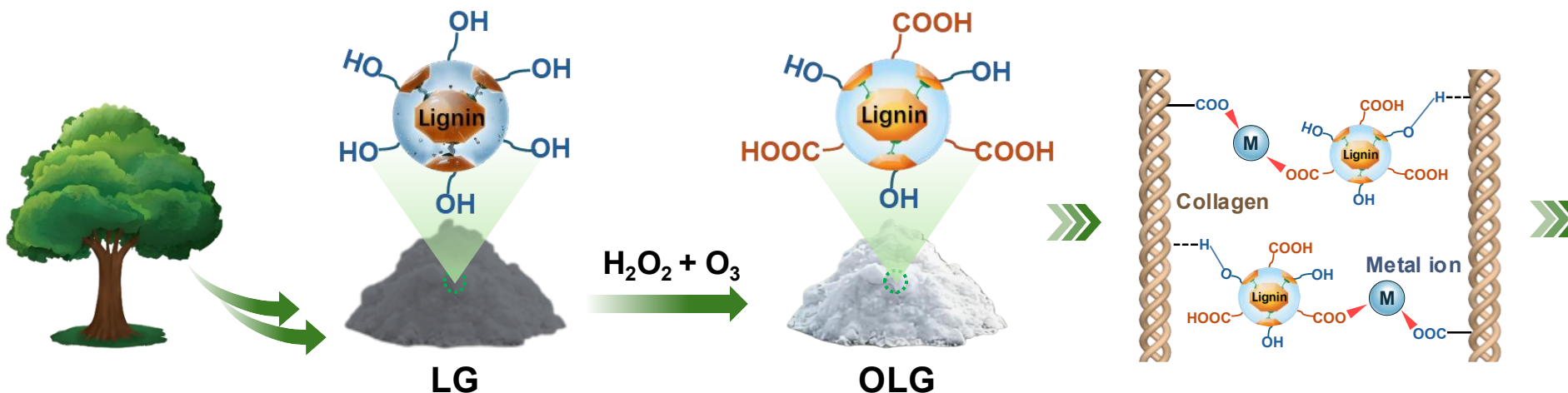
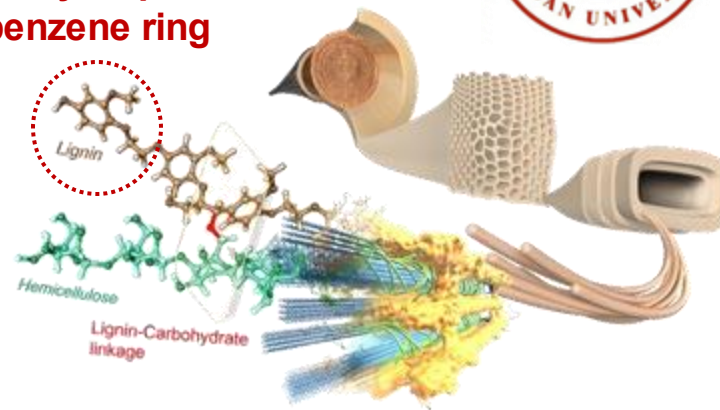
Defects: derived from petrochemicals; insufficient rigidity and hydrophobicity

Background

□ Lignin-based leather chemicals

- Multi-functional groups, abundant modification sites
- The only renewable resource that provides aromatic compounds

Rigid hydrophobic benzene ring



- ✓ Light color
- ✓ Strong tanning/filling effect
- ✓ Green sustainability

Rich reactivity groups

+

Controllable molecular weight

+

Light color



Tanning agent

Retanning agent

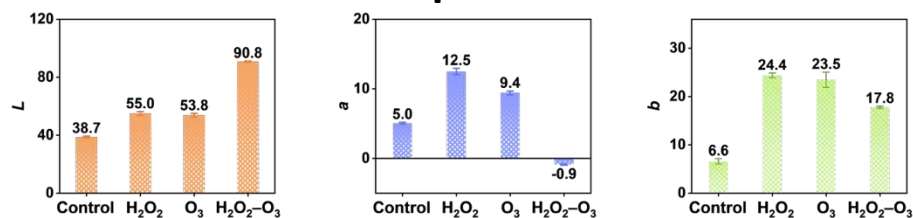
Tanning application

Colority of OLGs

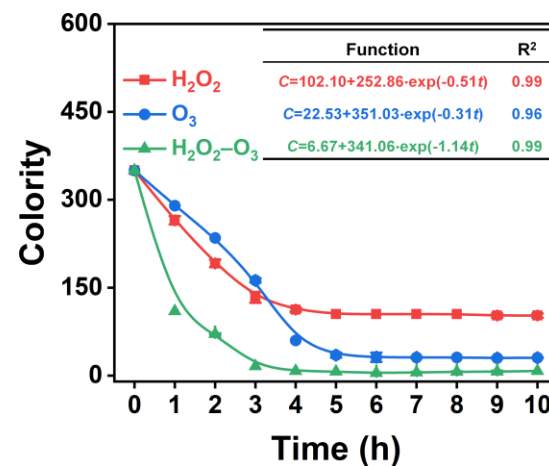


Reaction equipment

Color parameters



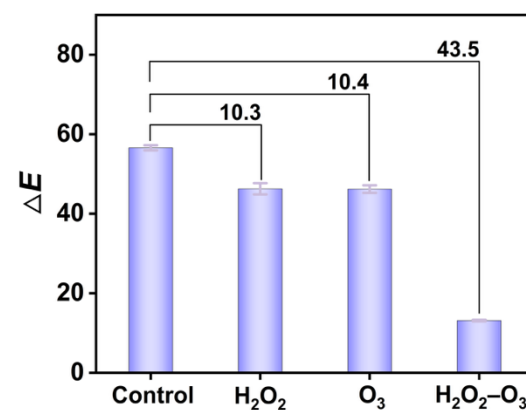
Colority



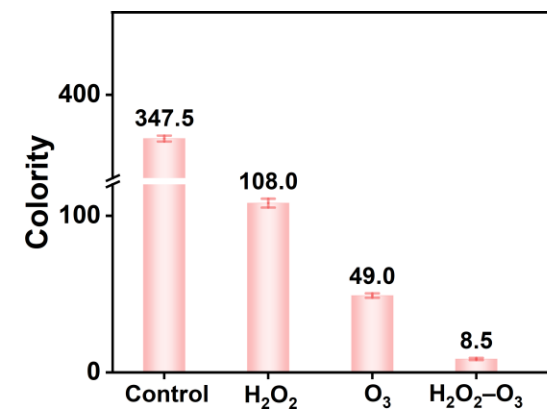
Appearance



Solid color



Liquid colority

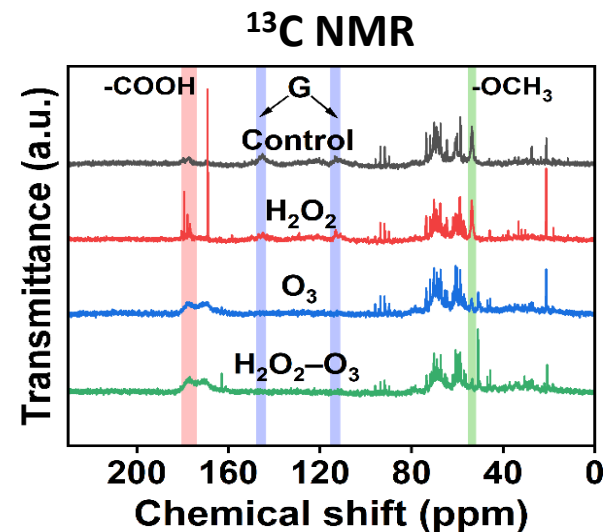
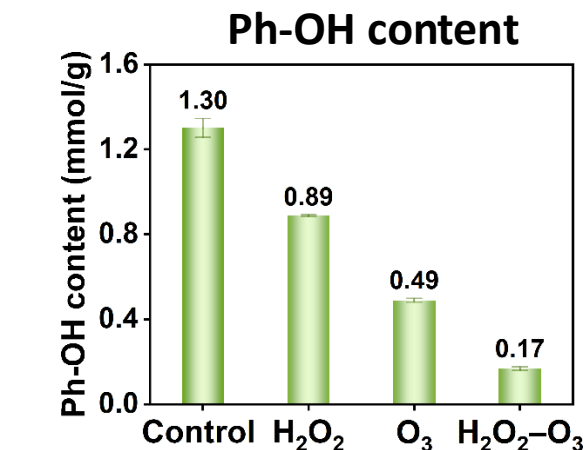
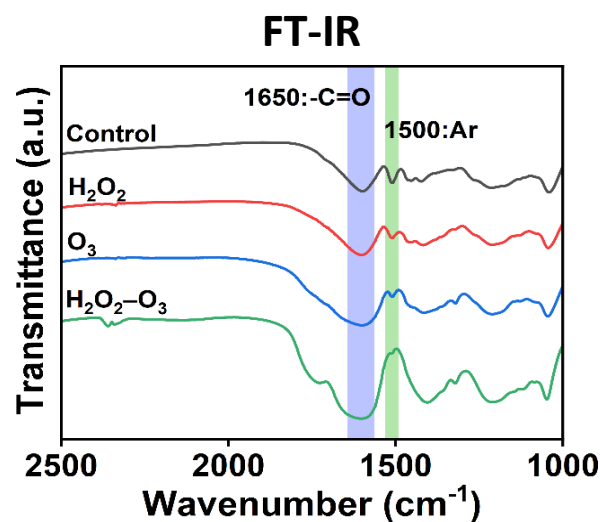
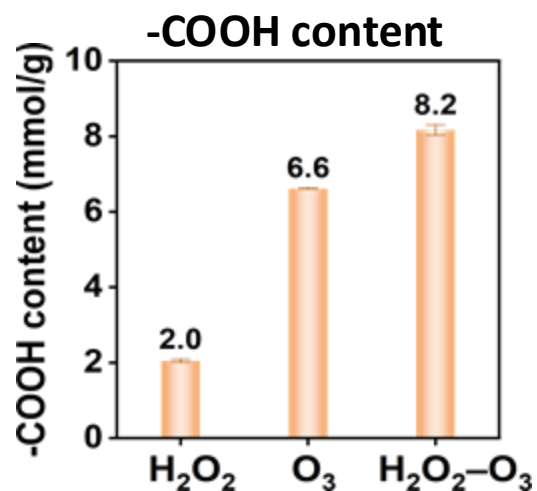
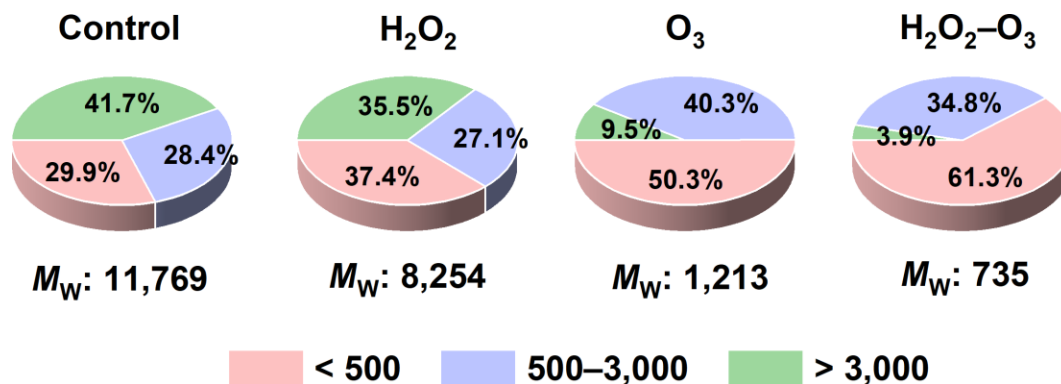


$H_2O_2-O_3$ system shows a synergistic effect on lignin decolorization

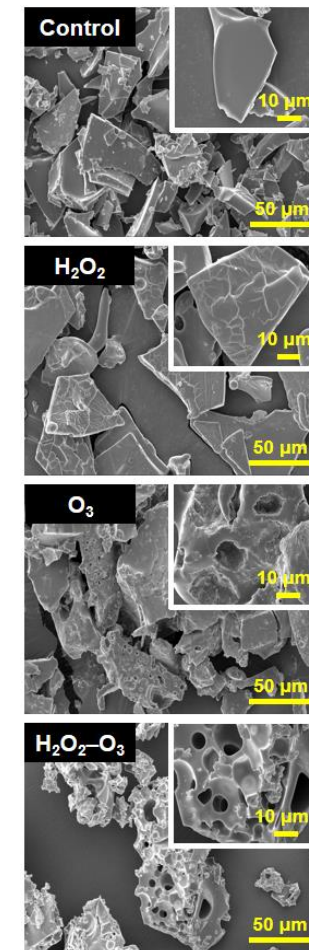
Tanning application

Chemical structure of OLGs

Molecular weight



SEM

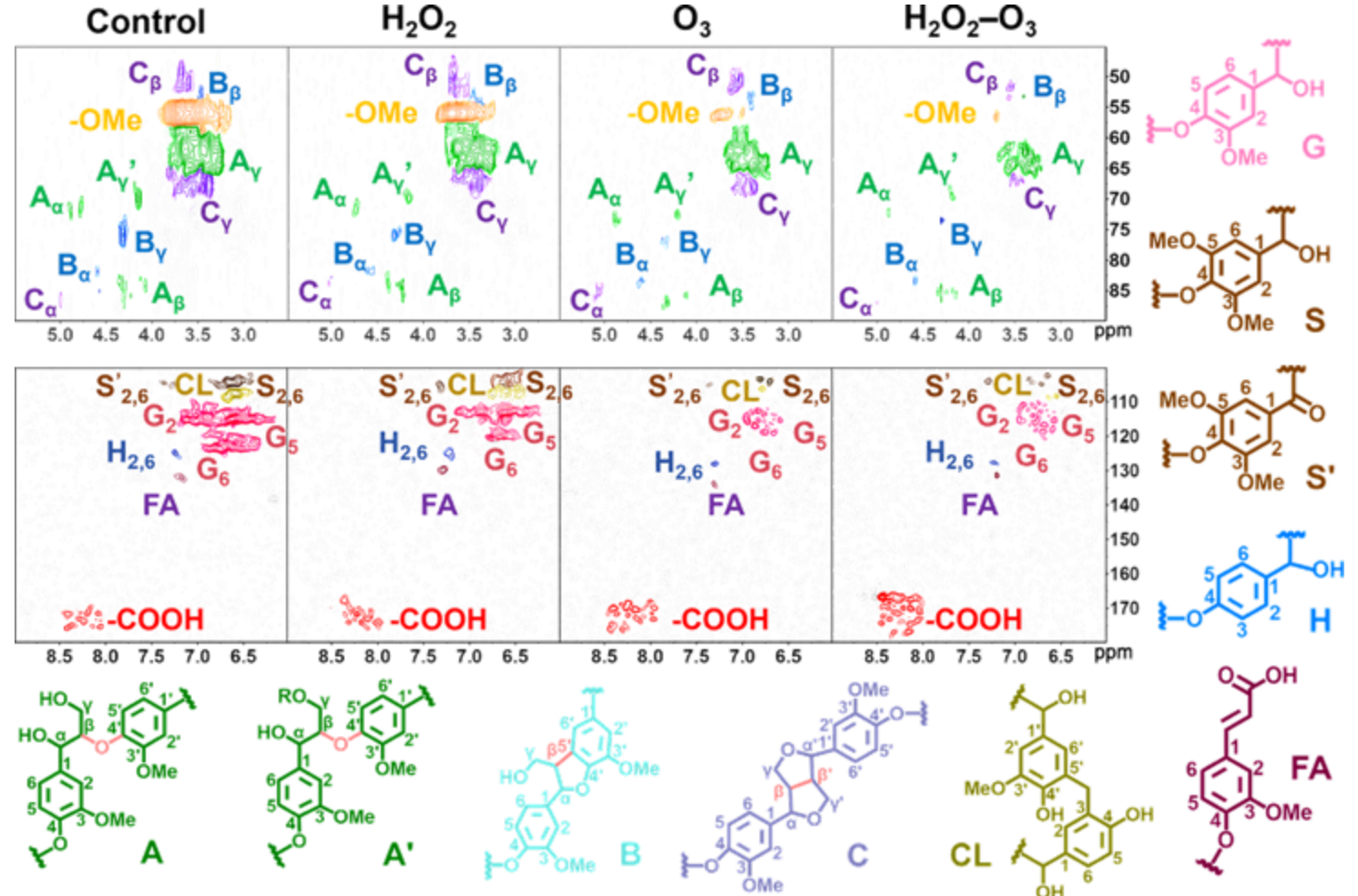
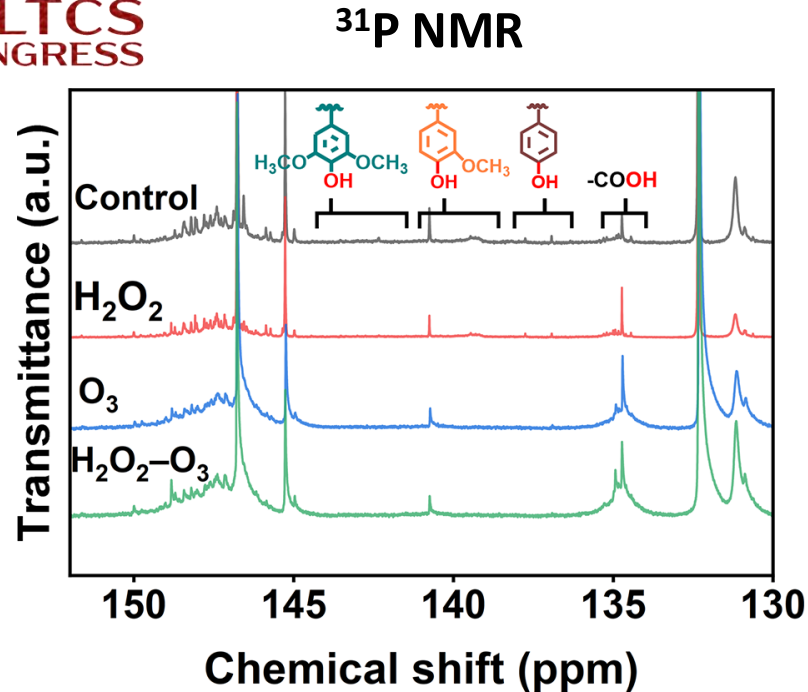


$H_2O_2-O_3$ system increased the -COOH and decreased the M_w of the OLGs

Tanning application

Chemical structure of OLGs

2D HSQC NMR

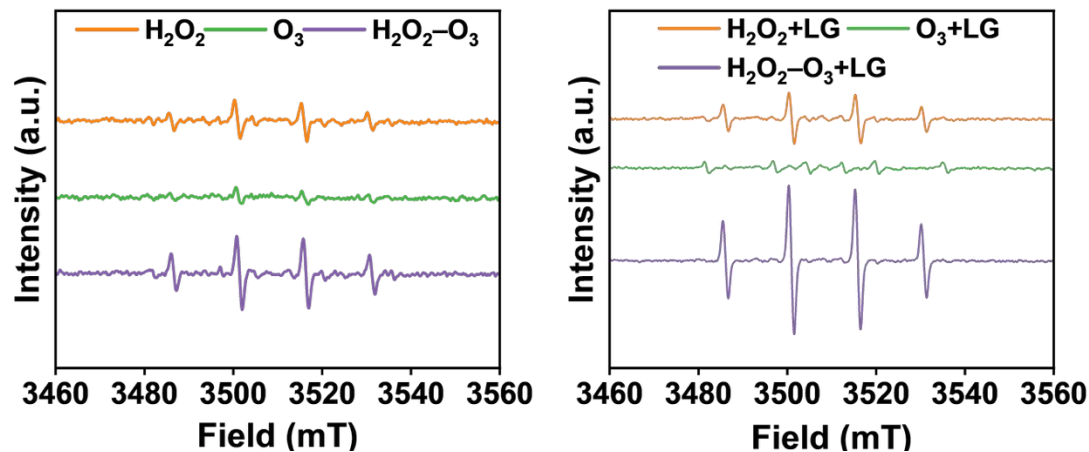


- Ring open
- C-C cleavage
- -OH oxidation
- C-O cleavage

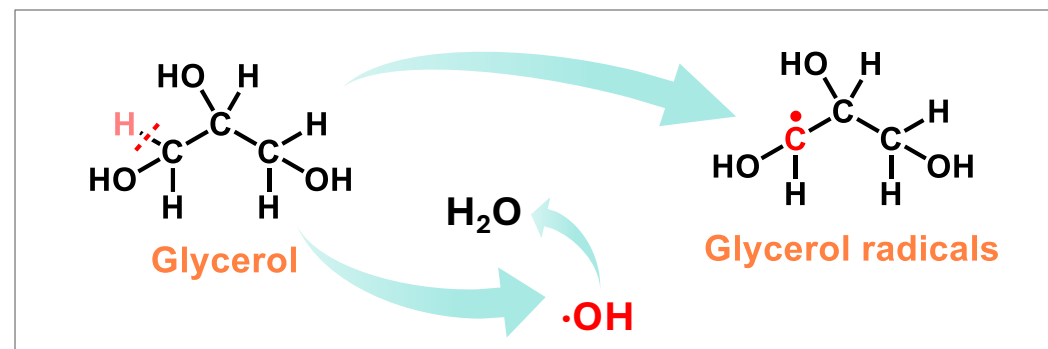
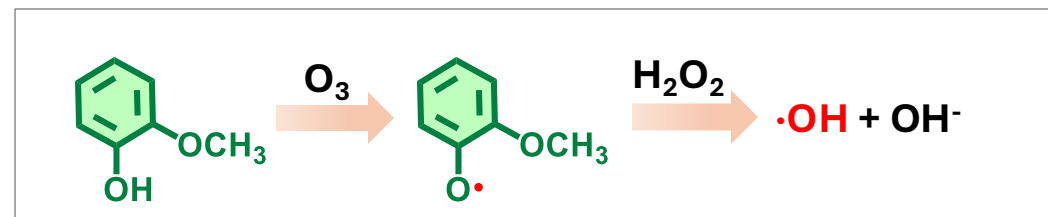
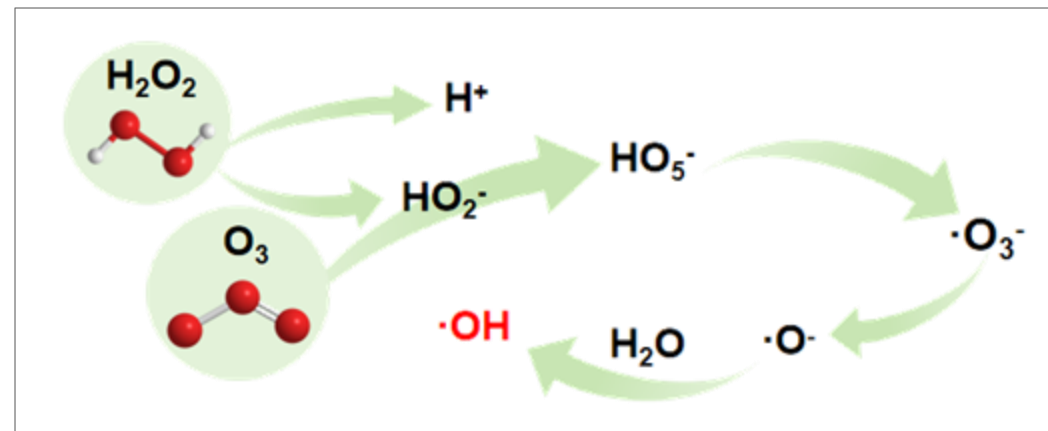
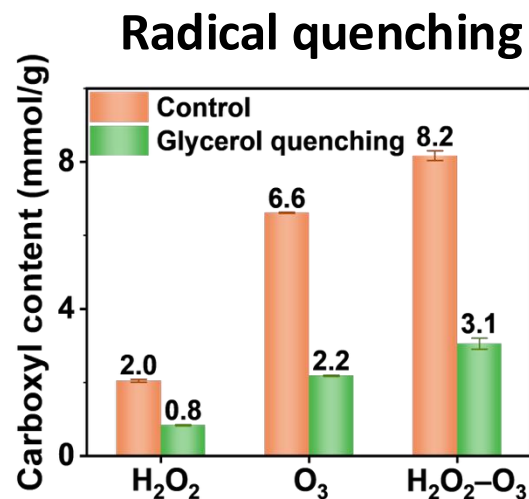
$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2\text{-O}_3$ system oxidizes both side-chain and aromatic ring structures

Tanning application

Role of radicals in oxidation



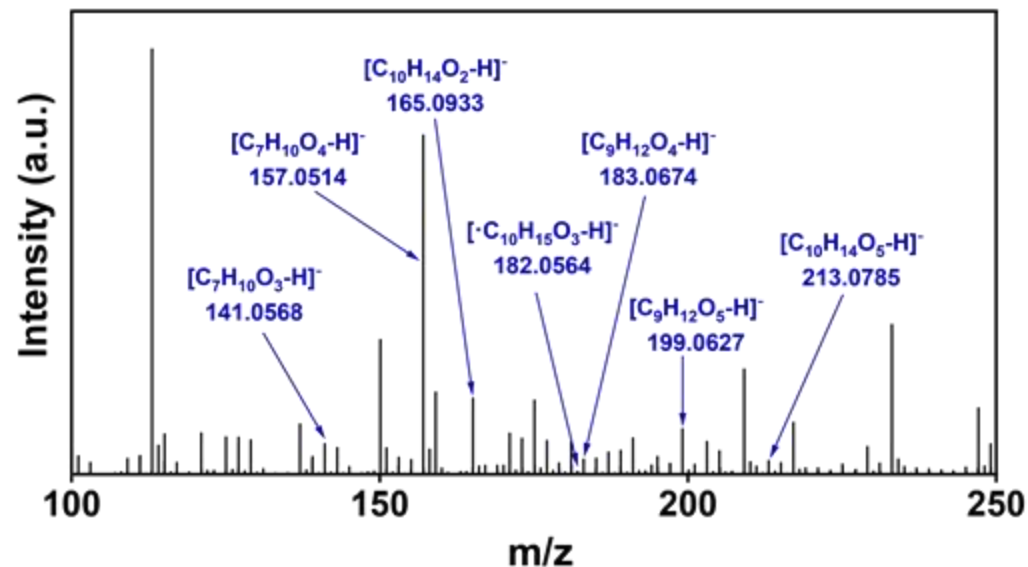
- **·OH: key reactive species**
- **H₂O₂-O₃ facilitates efficient ·OH generation**
- **Enhancing decolorization and functional groups**



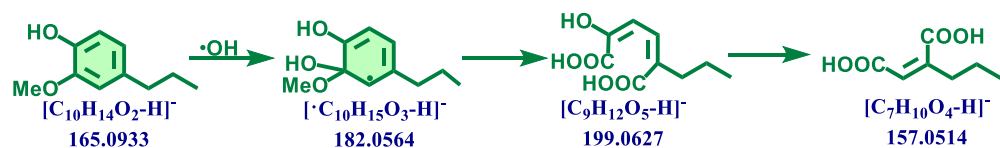
Tanning application

Analysis of oxidized lignin model compound

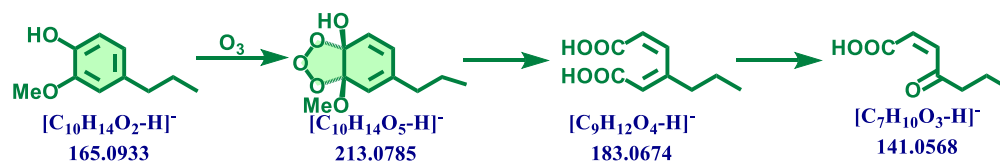
ESI-MS



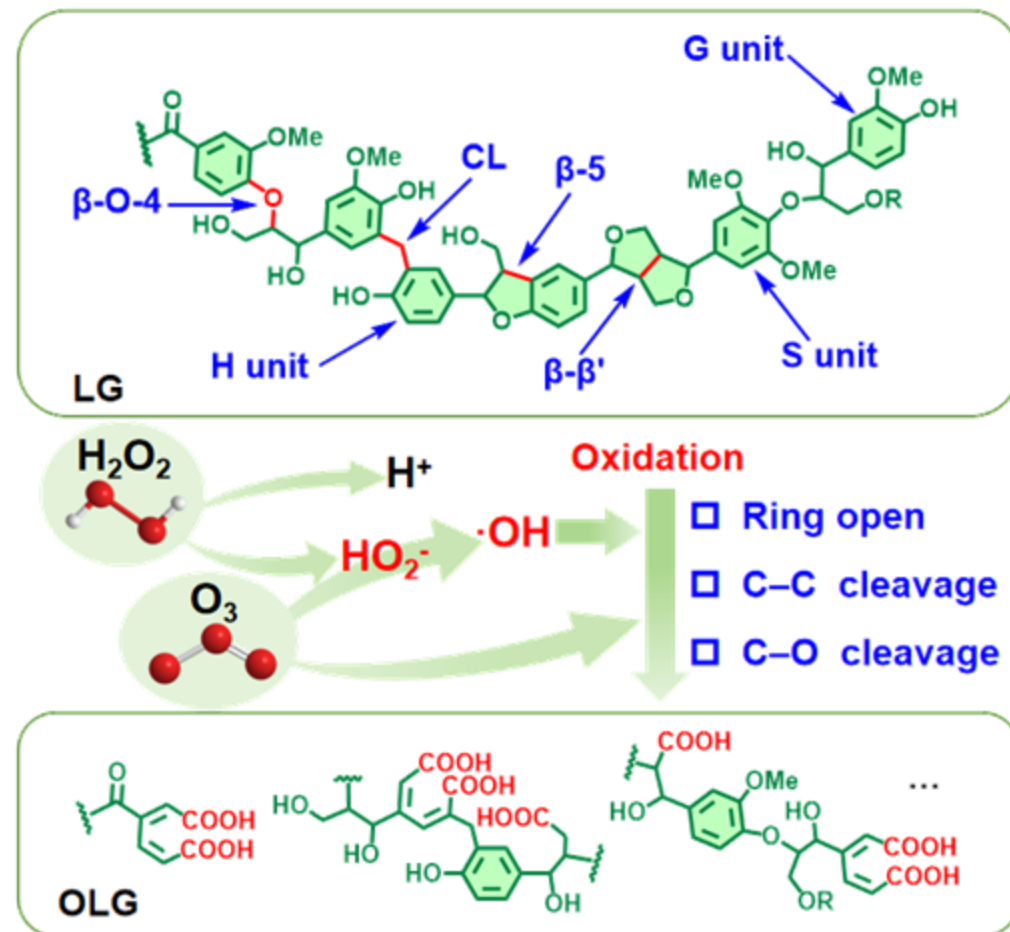
Path 1



Path 2



Oxidation mechanism

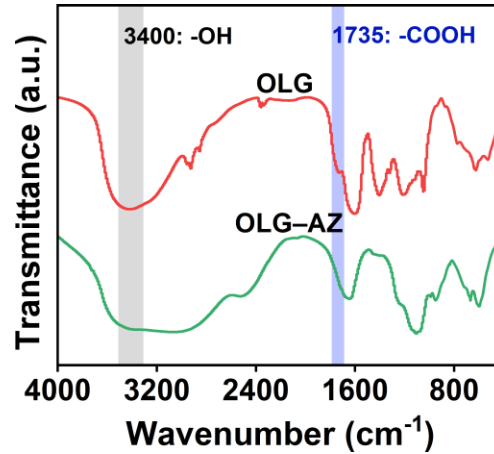


·OH and O₃ react with LG, facilitating benzene ring opening and -COOH formation

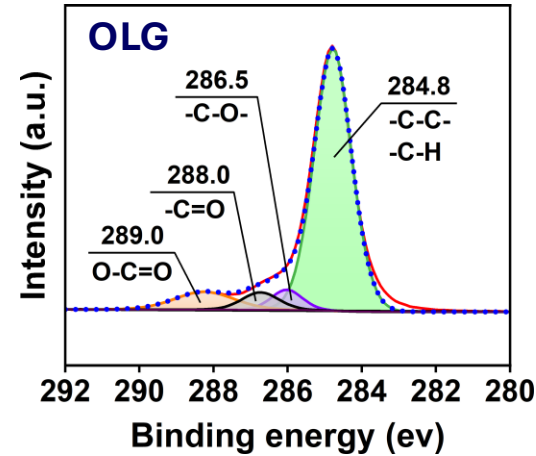
Tanning application

Tanning mechanism of OLG-AZ

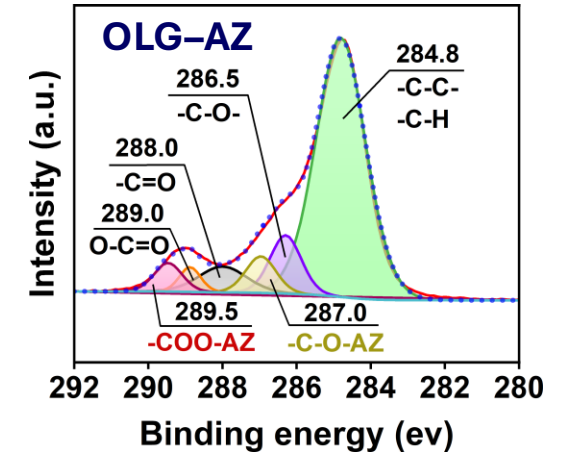
FT-IR



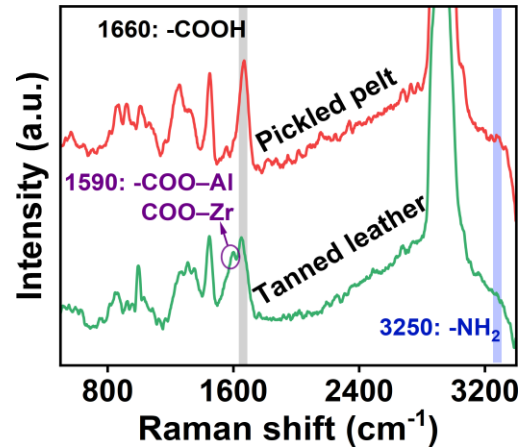
XPS



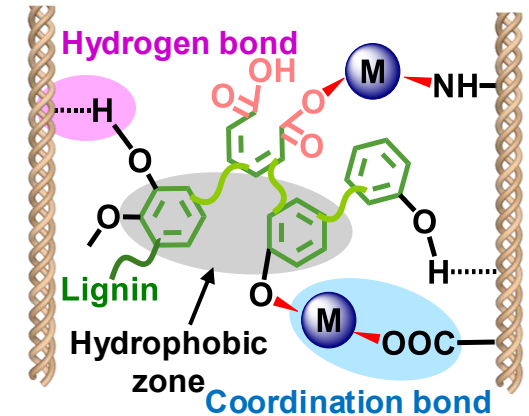
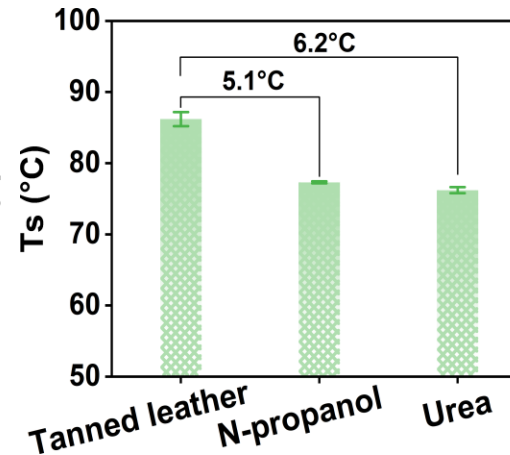
XPS



Raman



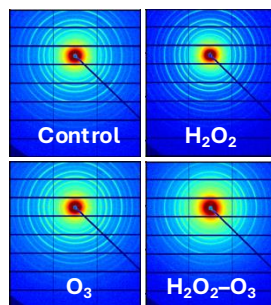
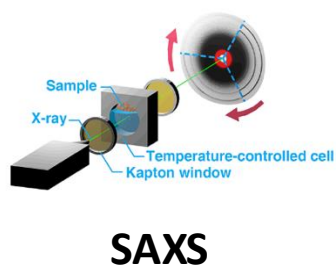
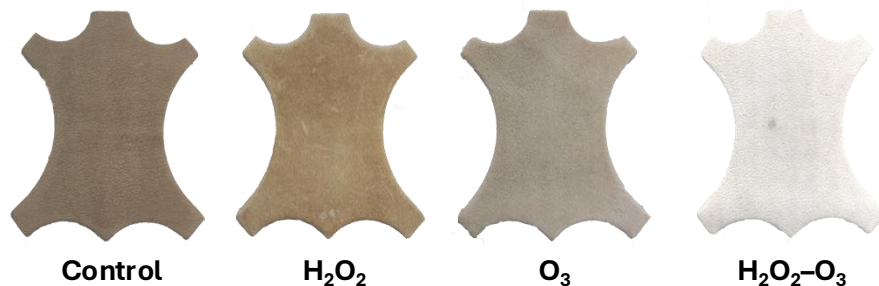
Washing



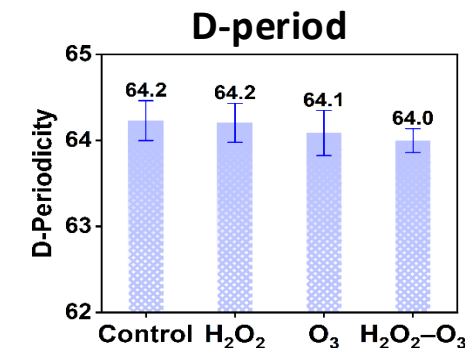
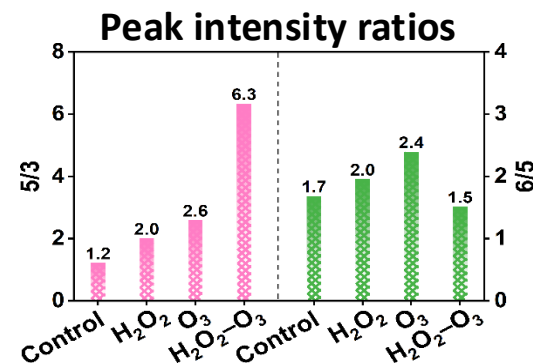
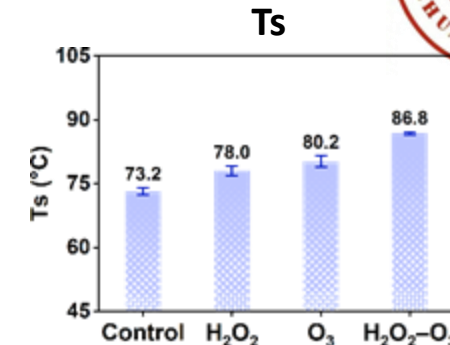
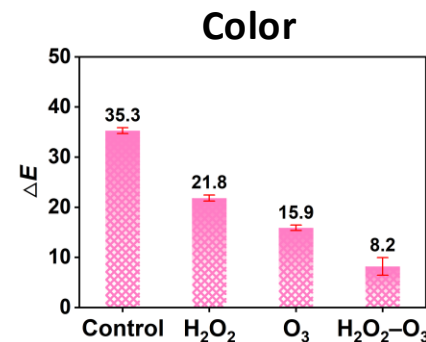
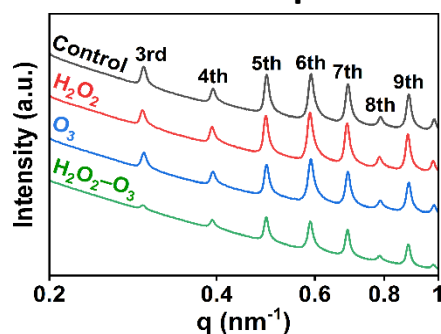
Cross-linking network formed by coordination bonds, hydrogen bonds, and hydrophobic interactions

Tanning application

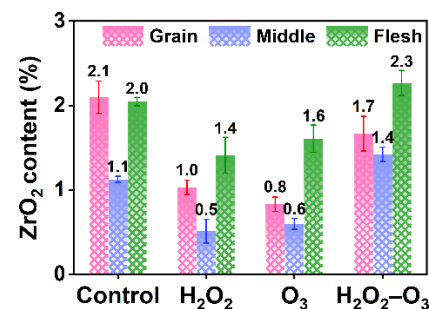
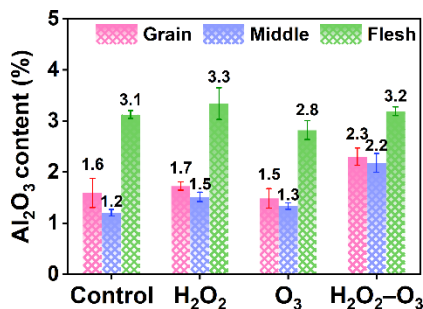
Tanning effects of OLG-AZ



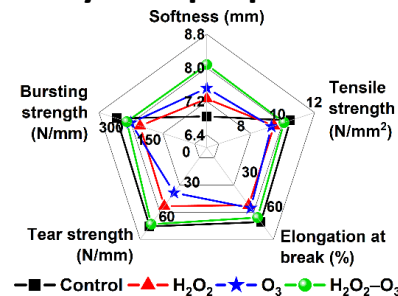
Diffraction peak



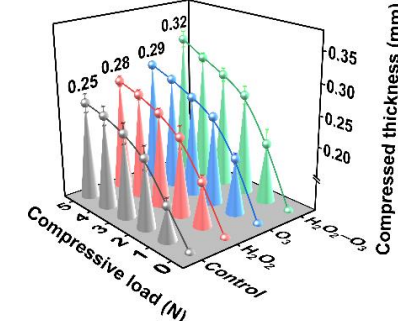
Metal distribution



Physical properties



Fullness

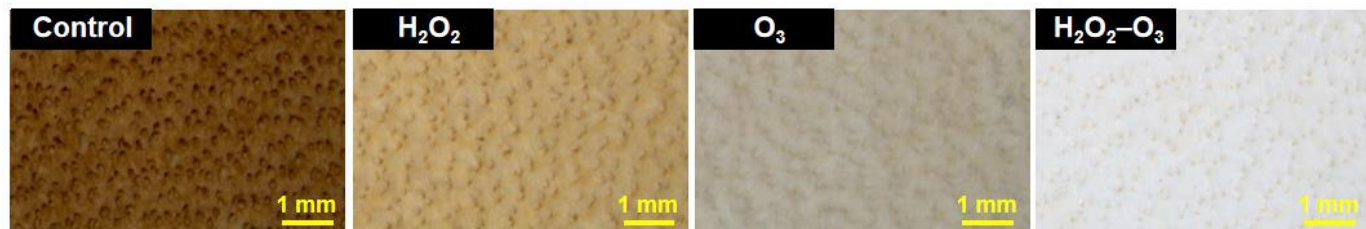


White color, high Ts, uniform AZ distribution, and desirable physical properties

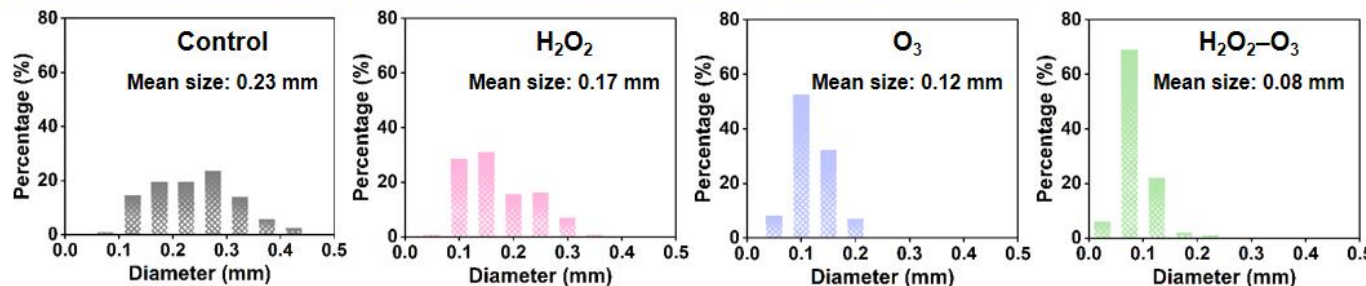
□ Morphology analysis

LG: dark brown; OLG: light color

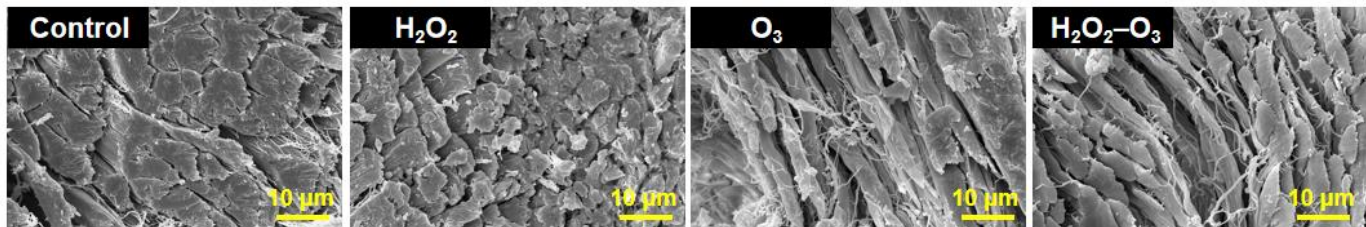
Grain surface



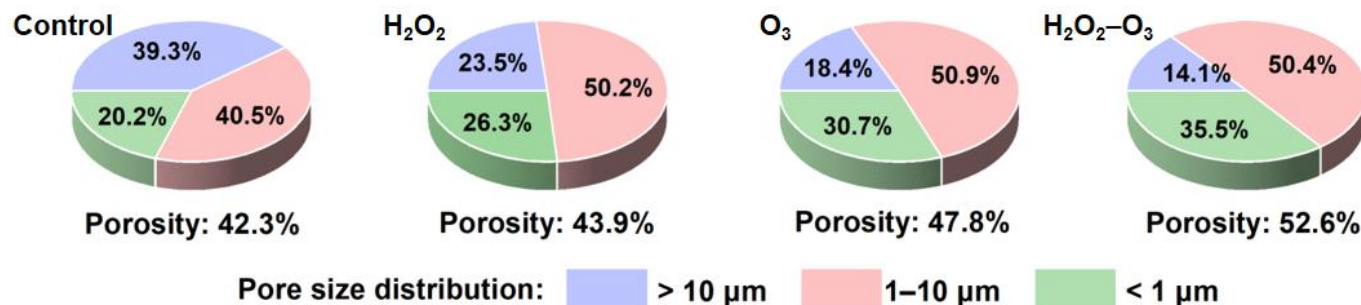
Pore size
distribution



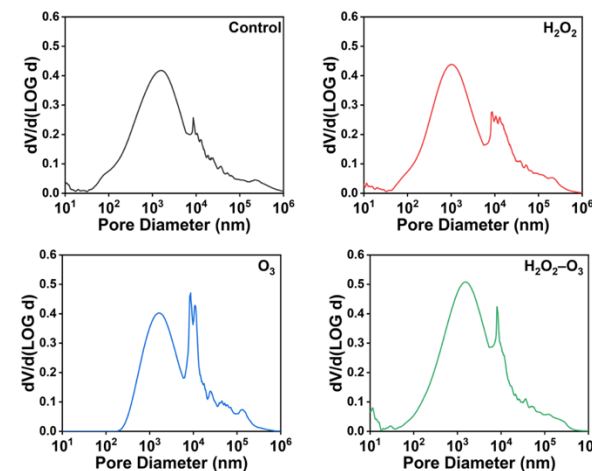
SEM
Images



Porosity and
distribution



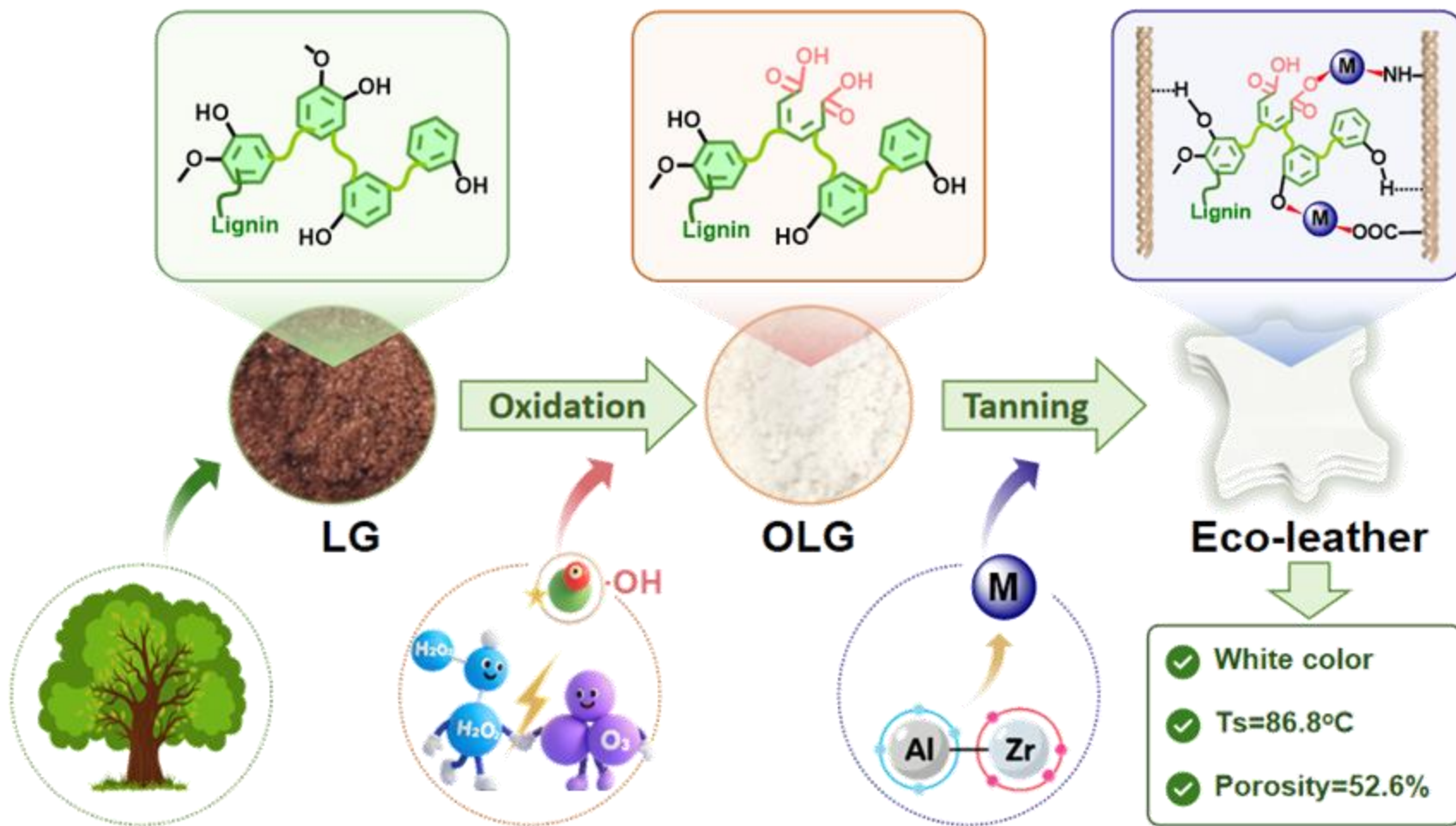
Porosity distribution



- Fine grain, 0.08 mm pore size
- High fiber dispersion: 52.6%

- Demonstrate its practicality

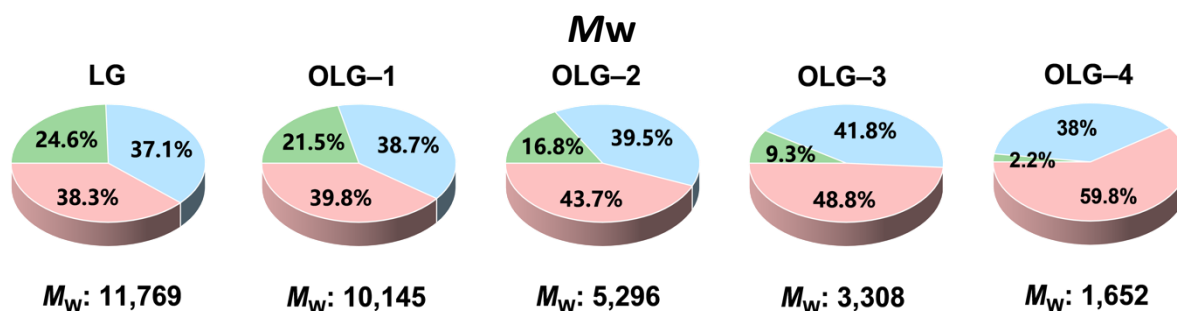
Summary



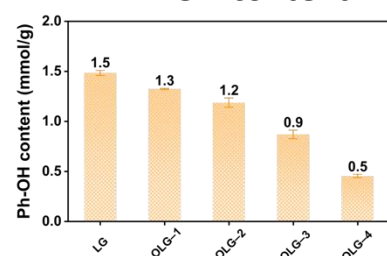
Retanning application

Chemical structure of retanning agents

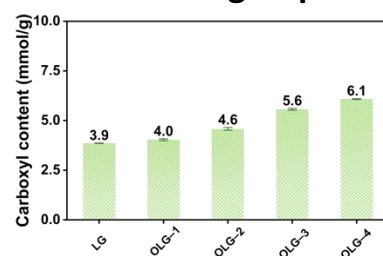
Appearance



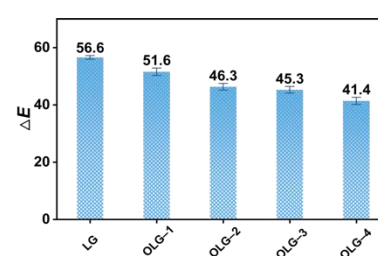
Ph-OH content



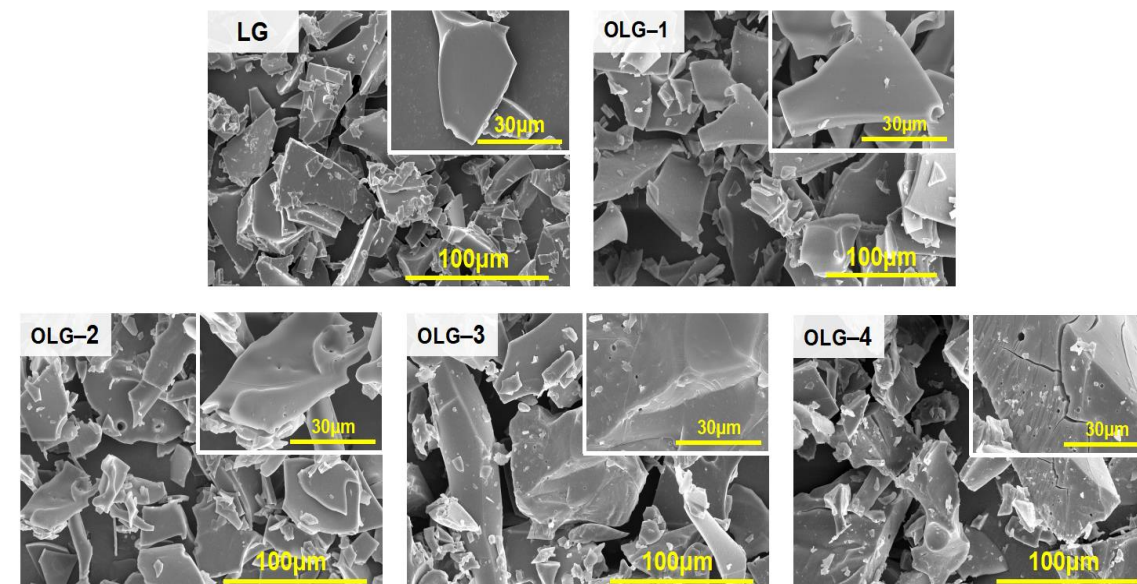
-COOH group



Color



SEM image

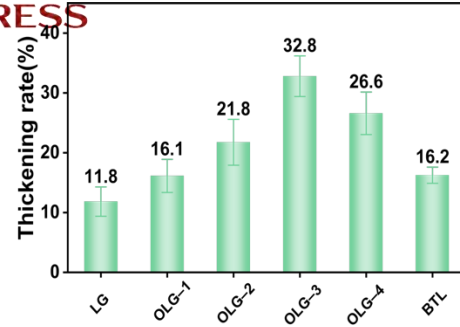


- Controllable color, molecular size, and functional group content
- Different chemical structures work better for different post-tanning needs

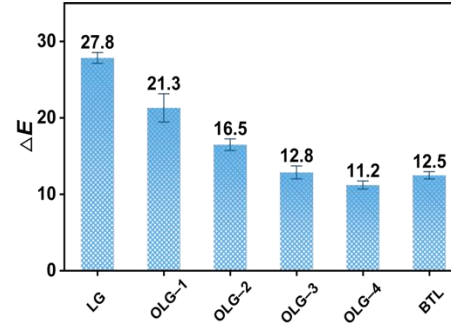
Retanning application

Retanning effects of OLGs

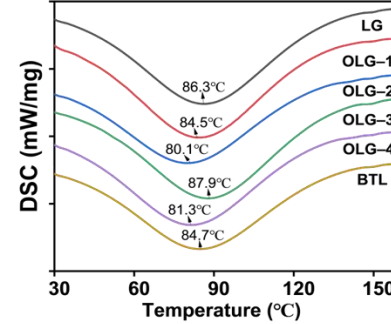
Thickening rates



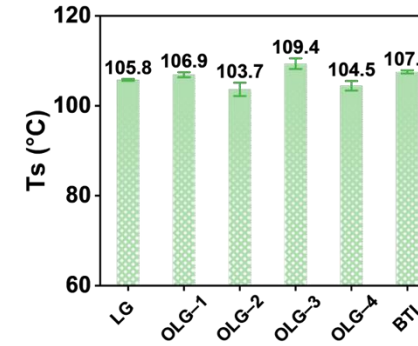
Color



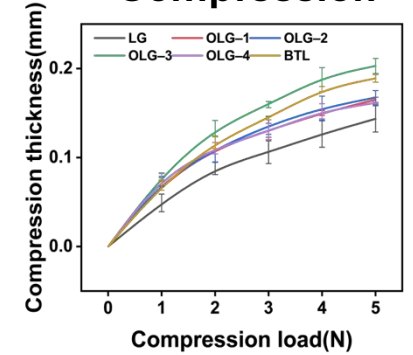
DSC



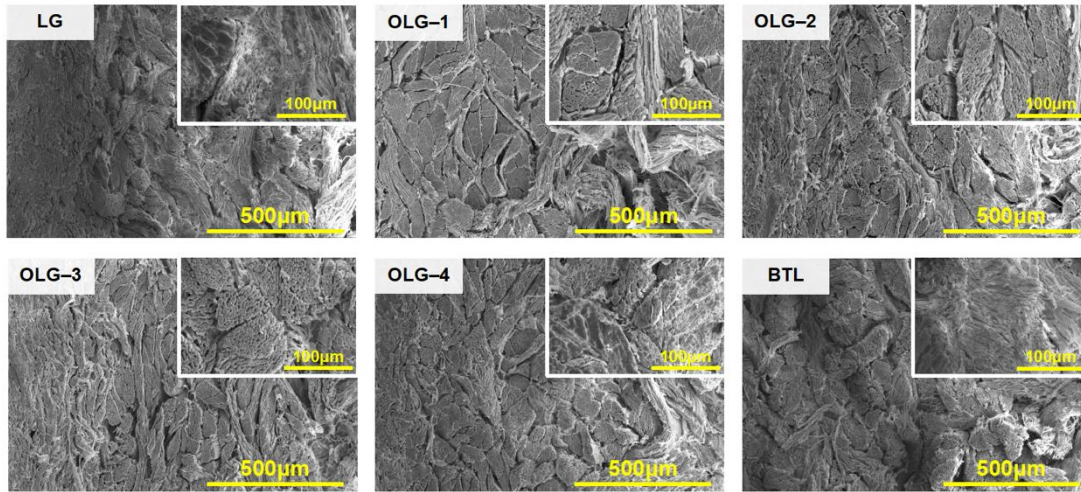
Ts



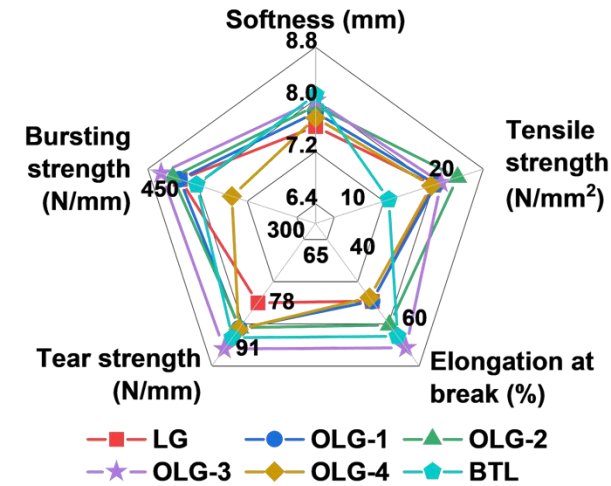
Compression



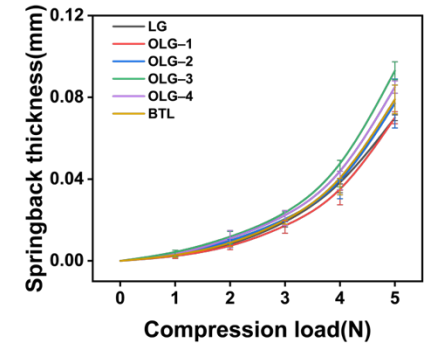
SEM images



Physical properties



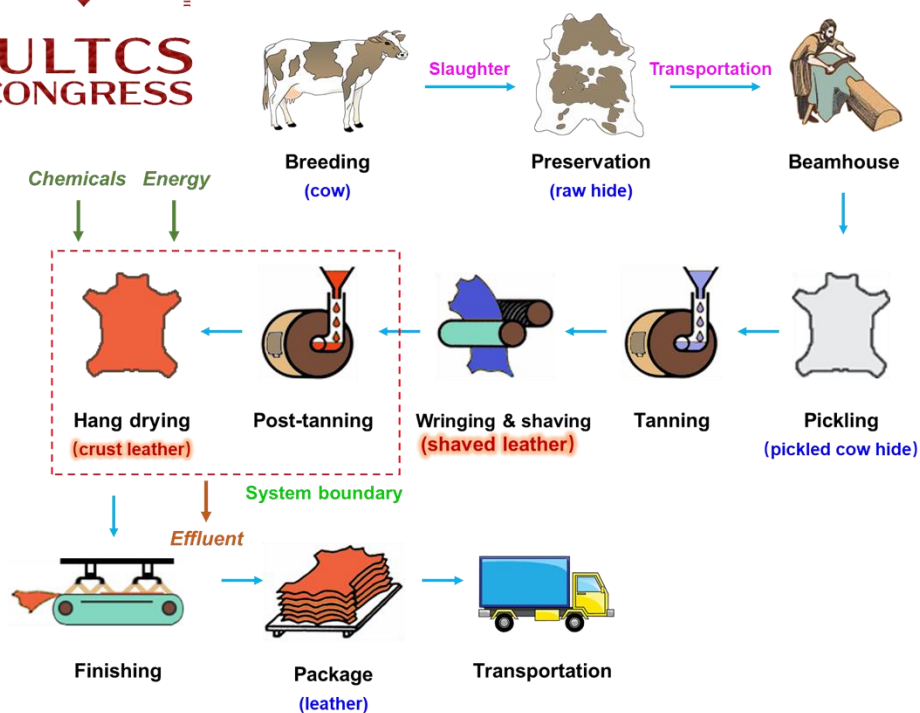
Resilience



OLGs-3 provides desirable retanning effects compared to traditional aromatic syntans

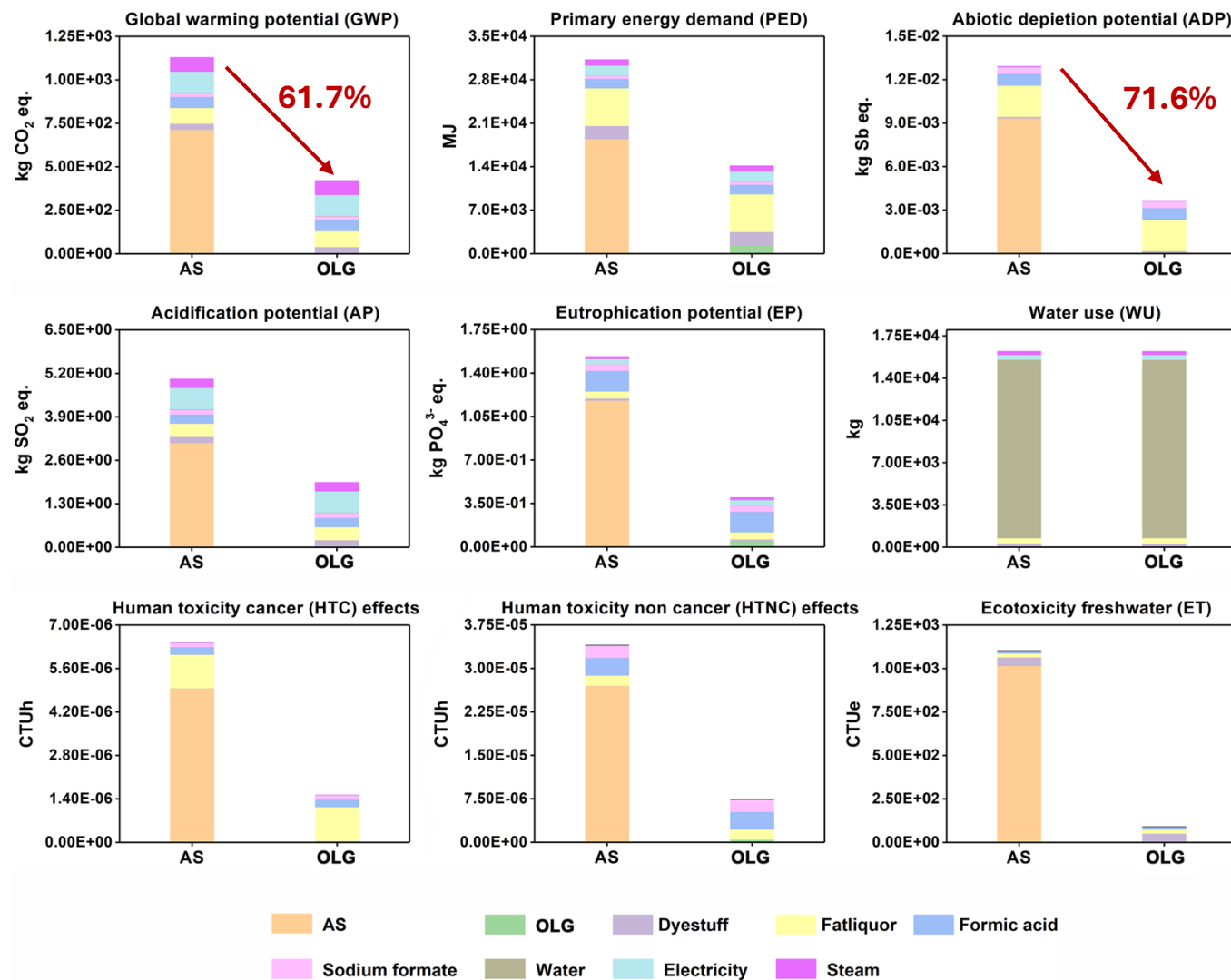
Retanning application

Life cycle assessment



- **61.7% reduction in carbon emissions**
- **71.6% reduction in resource consumption**
- **Low ecotoxicity and human toxicity**

AS (aromatic syntan) vs. OLG



Acknowledgement

- 2023 IULTCS Young Leather Scientist Grants
- NSFC (22208227 and 22278280)
- Other co-authors:

Ningqiang You

Prof. Ya-nan Wang

Prof. Bi Shi
- Conference Organizing Committee



Collagen and Leather

ESCI EI Scopus

IF 9.2
CiteScore 10.2

Q1



Editor-in-Chief

Bi Shi

Professor of Sichuan University
Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering



Editor-in-Chief

Anthony Dale Covington

Emeritus Professor of the University
of Northampton

Scope

Fundamental researches of collagen
Collagen biomaterials
Collagen functional materials
Novel utilization of collagen
Collagen utilization in food industry
Tanning chemistry
Leather chemicals
Novel technology of leather manufacture
Polymeric materials and coating technology
Cleaner production and environmental management
Transdisciplinary researches related with collagen and leather
Biomass conversion and renewable materials

Submit at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jlse/default2.aspx>

Editors-in-Chief

Prof. Bi Shi

Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering

Prof. Anthony Dale Covington

Emeritus Professor of the University of Northampton

Scope

Fundamental researches of collagen
Novel utilization of collagen
Tanning chemistry
Leather chemicals
Novel technology of leather manufacture
Polymeric materials and coating technology
Cleaner production and environmental management
Collagen biomaterials
Collagen functional materials
Collagen utilization in food industry
Transdisciplinary researches related with collagen and leather
Biomass conversion and renewable materials

COLLAGEN
and LEATHER

● Open Access

● APC Free

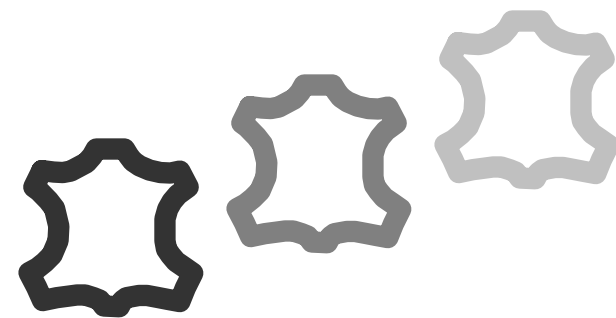
● ESCI, EI, Scopus

● IF 9.2, CiteScore 10.2

● Chemistry, Applied (7th, top 9%);
Materials Science, Multidisciplinary
(66th, top 14%) **Q1**



Thank you for your attention!



Email: yuyue@scu.edu.cn