PRODUCTION OF CHALK FROM CRAB (Scylla serrata) SHELLS

RESEARCH STUDY

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ABSTRACT

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The research study entitled "Production of Chalk from Crab (Scylla serrata) Shells" was conducted at 525 P. Burgos St. Indang, Cavite from June 2003 to November 2003. This was conducted to determine if the crab shells could be used in making chalk as substitute to calcium carbonate and other chemicals. Generally, this study aimed to use crab shell in the manufacture of chalk.

Four treatments replicated three times were used in the study: T₁ (30 grams of powdered crab shells + 100 ml of cassava sap); T₂ (90 grams of powdered crab shells + 100 ml of cassava sap); T₃ (150 grams of powdered crab shells + 100 ml of cassava sap); and T₄ (210 grams of powdered crab shells + 100 ml of cassava sap). Complete Randomized Design (CRD) was used in the study. One – way analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to analyze the data for physical evaluation and Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) for the comparison of treatments. It was found out that T₂ got the highest score in terms of texture (mean= 4.0000), brittleness (mean=4.2111), adherence, (mean=2.7222) and in general acceptability with the mean of 2.8889. On the other hand, T₄ got the mean score of 3.1222 in terms of compactness.

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that crab shells can be used in the manufacture of chalk. Ninety grams of powdered crab shells: 100 ml cassava

sap is the optimum ratio needed to produce a good quality chalk. The cost of the produced chalk is almost the same as the cost of the commercial chalk.

Chalk from crab shells does not contain harmful chemicals that may cause breathing problems and skin allergies. Production of chalk from crab shells is inexpensive, simple and easy.

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Use of Crab (Scylla serrata) shells in the Production of Chalk

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A research study submitted to the faculty of Laboratory School, College of Education of Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for graduation under the supervision of Ms. Miriam C. Du.

INTRODUCTION

Chalk is an indispensable writing tool used in teaching-learning process. It is a variety of fined-grained limestone that is porous, soft and also composed of minute fossil fragments of cellular organism along with larger ones and crystal of calcite. Because calcite and the fragments of the marine organism are composed of calcium carbonate, usually more than fifty percent of chalk is made of this compound and other minerals, which include quartz, various types of clay, mica, iron oxide, and pyrite. Hardness and texture ranges from very soft smooth varieties to close-grained types, while its color ranges from pure white to yellow-white due to some impurities (Cachola, 1993).

Chalk is used in the manufacture of rubber goods, paint, putty, polishing powder, Portland cement, and as a soil conditioner (Grolier Encyclopedia, 1998).

Crabs (Scylla serrata) are crustacean arthropods living in both fresh and salt water. One of its main body parts is a shield like shell also called the carapace. The