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polymers Article Cold Plasma-Based Fabrication and Characterization of Active Films Containing Different Types of Myristica fragrans Essential Oil Emulsion Bara Yudhistira 1,2 , Andi Syahrullah Sulaimana 3 , Fuangfah Punthi 1, Chao-Kai Chang 1 , Chun-Ta Lung 1, Shella Permatasari Santoso 4,5, Mohsen Gavahian 6 and Chang-Wei Hsieh 1,7,* 1 Department of Food Science and Biotechnology, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung City 40227, Taiwan; barayudhistira@staff.uns.ac.id (B.Y.); fuangfahp3@gmail.com (F.P.); kai70219@nchu.edu.tw (C.-K.C.); as920227@gmail.com (C.-T.L.) 2 Department of Food Science and Technology, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta City 57126, Indonesia 3 Department of Agro-Industrial Technology, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia; andisyahrullahs@mail.ugm.ac.id 4 Department of Chemical Engineering, Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University, Surabaya 60114, Indonesia; shella@ukwms.ac.id 5 Department of Chemical Engineering, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei 10607, Taiwan 6 Department of Food Science, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Pingtung 91201, Taiwan; mg@mail.npust.edu.tw 7 Department of Medical Research, China Medical University Hospital, Taichung City 40402, Taiwan ????????? * Correspondence: welson@nchu.edu.tw; Tel.: +886-4-22840385 (ext. 5010) ??????? Citation: Yudhistira, B.; Sulaimana, Abstract: Myristica fragrans essential oil (MFEO) is a potential active compound for application as A.S.; Punthi, F.; Chang, C.-K.; Lung, an active packaging material. A new approach was developed using a cold plasma treatment to C.-T.; Santoso, S.P.; Gavahian, M.; incorporate MFEO to improve the optical, physical, and bacterial inhibition properties of the film. Hsieh, C.-W. Cold Plasma-Based The MFEO was added as coarse emulsion (CE), nanoemulsion (NE), and Pickering emulsion (PE) at Fabrication and Characterization of different concentrations. The PE significantly affected ($p < 0.05$) the optical, physical, and chemical Active Films Containing Different properties compared with CE and NE films. The addition of MFEO to low-density polyethylene Types of Myristica fragrans Essential (LDPE) film significantly reduced

38 **water vapor permeability (WVP) and oxygen permeability (OP)** Oil Emulsion.
Polymers

2022, 14, 1618. and showed marked activity against *E. coli* and *S. aureus* ($p < 0.05$). The release rate of PE films after <https://doi.org/10.3390/> 30 h was 70% lower than that of CE and NE films. Thus, it can be concluded that the fabrication of polym14081618 active packaging containing MFEO is a potential food

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1. Introduction **Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral**

20**Active film is a new form of food packaging**

technology that includes functional with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations. additions to the packaging, such as antioxidants or antibacterial functions [1]; these are distinguished by the slow

20**release of biologically active molecules into the food**

matrix over a long storage time [2].

20**Essential oils (EOs) are defined as volatile compounds**

, with preservation effects and several health benefits that can be isolated from plant materials through various techniques [3]; these are used in active packaging and have the status of Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. "generally recognized as safe" [4]. Myristica fragrans (nutmeg) has a long history of use Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. in traditional medicine as an antibiotic, antioxidant, and antithrombotic agent [5]. This article is an open access article active compounds in M. fragrans essential oil (MFEO) are sabinene, α -pinene, β -pinene, distributed under the terms and limonene [6], myristicin, and safrole and it contains high phenolic content [7]. Moreover, conditions of the Creative Commons it has bacteriostatic properties [8]. Previous research by Balakrishnan et al. [9] showed Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/> MFEO can be used for the fabrication of silver nanoparticles against MDR (multidrug- 4.0/). resistant) Salmonella enterica. MFEO has bacteriostatic properties as evidenced by very low Polymers 2022, 14, 1618. <https://doi.org/10.3390/polym14081618> <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/polymers> concentrations that can inhibit bacteria and yeasts including Arizona, Salmonella, Morganella, Entrobacter, Escherichia coli, Klebsia pesudomon, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus, Candida albicans, Cryptococcus neoformans, Aspergillus flavous, Tericophyton verruco, and Epider- mophyton floccodum. The highest inhibition effectiveness was on Escherichia coli. Based on a previous study, storage of Bovine loin (Longissimus dorsi) coated with an active film with polyvinyl alcohol, gelatin, and MFEO was shown to suppress the increase in total volatile nitrogen base and peroxide value and maintain color parameters, which in turn can extend the shelf life of meat [10]. It can be used as a potential candidate for inclusion in packaging. According to Liu et al. [11], EOs have volatile compounds that readily evaporate during film formation and storage. The major challenges in incorporating EO into films are the development of poor miscibility and transparency, phase separation in the film production process, and the

5**sensitivity of bioactive compounds to environmental factors**

[4]. Nanoencapsulation can cover the odor and taste of EOs and can mitigate the effect on food sensory properties and provide an effective distribution of the EO release properties [12].

5**Biopolymer-stabilized emulsions, referred to as Pickering emulsions (PEs), are interesting; the advantages of**

PEs include the increased stability to coalescence, increased load capacity, enhanced protection of the encapsulated component, and decreased release rate [2]. In a previous study, it was proven that the addition of PEs to a chitosan film increased the oxygen barrier property [13]. PEs have many advantages and are potential materials for use in packaging development to improve the function of packaging, particularly the protective effects and the release of active compounds. EOs have drawbacks, including high volatility and sensitivity to oxidation, light, and thermal decomposition [14]. For this reason, efforts are needed to improve the application of EOs; one method uses different wall materials, including biopolymers. For the core material of PEs, protein complexation with polysaccharides can be used. Protein matrix filler agents can use carbohydrates that can protect active compounds [15]. In a previous study, the encapsulation of marjoram EO using inulin (a polysaccharide) with whey protein isolate in pectin film showed

51 good mechanical and water barrier properties due to their highly dense and less permeable structure

[16]. Cold plasma is an emerging technology that has been used for several purposes, including microbial inactivation and removal of hazardous chemicals [17]. It is an efficient, cost-effective, and ecologically acceptable means of substituting pollutants and dangerous coating techniques [18]. However, the application of this technology to develop essential oil-based packaging is a newly developed topic. The studies on active packaging prepared by cold plasma treatment use free EO or coarse emulsion (CE). Those studies are related to EOs in film, such as oregano EO [11], lemongrass EO [19], and marjoram EOs [16]. In addition, the use of active components from other natural sources has been investigated, including the use of cellulose nanofibers and filmogenic soy protein, which can improve the mechanical properties of the film [20] and

28 the physicochemical properties of soy protein isolate-oil emulsion films

are affected by oil droplets and the heating temperature of soy protein isolate [21], edible coating of whey protein isolate nanofibers and carvacrol showed antibacterial activity that can maintain the quality of salted duck egg yolk [22]. Furthermore, other active components that were investigated are exopolysaccharides from *Lactobacillus plantarum*, which show inhibitory properties of α -glucosidase and α -amylase and have antioxidant activity [23]. According to the above, the application of the PE system to packaging prepared by cold plasma treatment is still rare. The addition of EO to the film is expected to increase the biological activity which necessitates research regarding the effect of adding external materials to improve film properties [24]. In this sense, the aim of this work was to use cold plasma to develop an active packaging containing MFEO and to characterize the properties of CEs, NEs, and PEs of MFEO-loaded LDPE films and to evaluate the effect of MFEO addition on the optical properties, physical properties, microbial inhibition characteristics, and release properties of LDPE films. 2. Materials and Methods 2.1. Materials Myristica fragrans essential oil (MFEO) with a 95% purity was purchased from Pulau Pinang, Malaysia. The

1 Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) strains 328 (BCRC 15211) and Escherichia coli (E. coli O1:K1:H7) strains NCTC 9001 (BCRC 10675

)

1 were purchased from Bioresource Collection and Research Centre (BCRC) of the Food Industry Research and Development Institute in Hsinchu, Taiwan

. Chemical reagents were obtained from Sigma- Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). 2.2. Preparation of Emulsion CEs, NEs, and PEs were used in this study with MFEO concentrations of 1%, 3%, and 6%. The CEs and NEs were prepared using the

5 method of Noori et al. [25]. The CE was

prepared by the gradual addition of MFEO (

51% wt) and Tween 80 (30% of MFEO) into distilled water with stirring at

314.16 rad/s. Nanoemulsification used a sonicator (Sonopuls HD 4200, Bandelin, Berlin, Germany) to produce NEs operating at 20 kHz and 200 W. The method of Hosseinnia et al. [15] was used to prepare WPI/inulin-stabilized PE. A ratio of 1:1 for

5 WPI (2% wt) and inulin (2% wt) in distilled water was used as the

biopolymer suspension. Then, 1 g of MFEO was added slowly to the biopolymer dispersion with stirring at 523.60 rad/s

5 to obtain a pre-emulsion with a core-coating ratio of 1:4

. Ultrasonication was conducted

34for 20 min at room temperature to the prepare PE, which was then

dried using a freeze dryer (FD50-6S-S, Kingmech, New Taipei, Taiwan) at 0.007 atm and -40°C for 48 h. The PE was stored in an airtight container that was dark in color and stored in a refrigerator. Dynamic light scattering was used to assess the diameter and polydispersity index (PDI) of droplets (Zetasizer Nano ZS-90, Malvern Instruments, Worcestershire, UK) [19]. 2.3. Preparation of LDPE-Treated Film LDPE-treated film was prepared using the method of Wong et al. [26]. The films were first cut into 7×9 cm and cleaned using 75% alcohol. A

1vacuum plasma reactor uses a cold radiofrequency plasma (13.56 MHz

) (Model 1000W, Junsun Tech Co., New Taipei, Taiwan) and a pressure of 0.0643 Torr. The film was treated

26for 60 s at a power of 30 W

. After the nanocarriers were mixed using a magnetic stirrer (15 min) [16], the CE, NE, and PE

1solutions (1 mL) were then evenly coated on plasma-treated LDPE films

. The solution was spread evenly over the entire surface of the LDPE film using a glass tu stick triangle dish and dried for approximately 24 h. The control was an LDPE film without plasma treatment and without coating of MFEO [27]. 2.4. Optical Properties The method of Mendes et al. [19]

22was used to determine the optical characteristics (L, a, b, and yellowness index (YI)) of the film

using a color difference meter (ZE6000, Nippon Denshoku Co., Tokyo, Japan). The following formulas were used: $\Delta E = \Delta L^2 + \Delta a^2 + \Delta b^2$ (1) $\sqrt{YI} = (142.86 \times b)/L$ (2) Film opacity was determined using a UV-visible spectrophotometer (CT-8600, Chrom Tech, Taipei, Taiwan) at an absorbance of 600 nm [28]. The water contact angle (WCA)

34was measured in accordance with the method of Grzegorzewski et al. [29] and

was determined using a water contact angle instrument (Si-plasma CAM-120, Creating Nano Tech., Tainan, Taiwan).

26Drops of liquid distilled water were dispersed on the adaxial surface of each film using a microliter pipette

. WCA analysis was performed in five different measurement positions for each film. 2.5. Physical and Mechanical Properties Film thickness was measured to the closest 0.001 mm using a hand-held digital micrometer (Mitutoyo 293-185-30 Quantumike, Digimatic, Elgoibar, Spain). The texture profile analyzer (TA-XT2i, Stable Micro Systems Ltd., Surrey, UK) detected the film's tensile strength (TS).

33A load cell of 500 N and a gauge length of 100 mm

were used in line with the ASTM D882-91 standard test procedure [30]. Shearing strength measurements

49were performed on a texture profile analyzer (TA-XT2i, Stable Micro Systems Ltd., Surrey, UK) with a load cell of 40 N and a

gauge length of 80 mm. Tensile and shear strength were determined using three replications of the sample and analysis. Tensile strength =

1 $F/(W \times D)$ (3) where F is the force required to break the film (N), W denotes the film width (mm), and D denotes the film thickness (mm). The film

17 water vapor permeability (WVP) was determined using the ASTM E96 standard. The film was placed in an aluminum cell containing silica gel and placed in a desiccator containing distilled water (100% RH, 30 °C). The aluminum cells were weighed from day 0

to day 10 to ensure steady-state permeation [31]. The following formula was used: $WVP = \Delta g/\Delta$

8 $t(x/A \times \Delta P)$ (4) where $\Delta g/\Delta t$ is the rate of weight change (g/h), x is the film thickness (mm), A is the permeation area (0.0032 m²), and ΔP is the partial pressure difference of water vapor saturation across the film (4244.9 Pa at 30 °C

). The deoxidizer absorption method was used to measure the film oxygen permeability (OP). The bottle was filled with a deoxidizing agent (3 g) and the

6 film was placed on the bottle and closed. The bottles were weighed before being put in a desiccator at

a temperature of 23 °C with 75% RH for 48 h [32]. The following formula was used: $OP = (\Delta$

6 $m \times d)/(A \times t \times P)$ (5) where Δm is the weight variation in the test bottle (kg), d is the thickness of the film (m), A is the effective area of the film (m²), t is the time interval (s), and P is the partial pressure difference of oxygen on both sides of the

film (Pa).

13 An attenuated total reflection Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (Thermo Nicolet 6700 ATR-FTIR

, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Taichung, Taiwan) was

50 used to determine the chemical composition of the

film surface [30]. A

1 scanning electron microscopy (SEM) (JEOL JSM-7800F Prime Schottky

) was performed for the evaluation of film morphology [26]. 2.

106. Antioxidant Properties The DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) method was used to measure the antioxidant activity

of the films [33] with slight modifications [26]. A total of 35 mg of film was dissolved in 3 mL of distilled water, and then 1 mM of DPPH methanol solution was added and reacted for 30 min in the dark. The following formula was used: DPPH scavenging (%) = $(\text{absDPPH} - \text{absextract})/\text{absDPPH}$ (6) The total phenolic content (TPC) was measured by weighing 100 mg of film and soaking it in 10 mL of distilled water prior to incubation for 3 h [34]. Then, 2 mL of the supernatant was analyzed using the Folin–Ciocalteu method. The solution was homogenized and determined using a UV-visible spectrophotometer (CT- 8600, Chrom Tech, Taipei, Taiwan) at 725 nm. The TPC was expressed in mg gallic acid equivalent per 100 g sample [35]. 2.7. Antibacterial Assay

43 *Staphylococcus aureus* (S. aureus) and *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) were used to examine the inhibitory effect of the film on bacterial growth. The cells were

cultured by

inoculating 100 μ L from 10 mL of nutrient broth pre-cultures and incubated

1 for 16–18 h. Each bacterial culture was adjusted to a cell concentration of 105 CFU/mL using Mueller–Hinton broth. Each film was dipped into 10 mL of cell suspension in the

microbe and shaken at 150 rpm. Finally, 100 μ L of the suspension

13 was placed on plate count agar and stored at 37 °C for 24 h

[36]. 2.8. Release Properties The MFEO release was measured from a film (2 \times 2 cm²) inserted into a vial containing 95% ethanol (10 mL) and the vials were placed

19 in the dark at room temperature for 34 h. Then, 1 mL of solution was

examined using a UV-visible spectrophotometer (CT-8600, Chrom Tech, Taipei, Taiwan) at 329 nm (with slightly modification) [1,16].

18 The absorbance of the sample was compared with the total absorbance of the

film until a constant absorbance was reached, indicating that all active compounds were released to the simulant. The following formula was used: Release rate (%) = $\frac{abstotal - abs_{sample}}{abs_{sample}} \times 100$ (7) (%)

11 The Higuchi and Korsmeyer–Peppas equations were used to fit cumulative release

data over time to determine the EO's release kinetics. The following formula was used: Higuchi : $M_t^\infty = K_1 t^{1/2}$ (8) Korsmeyer – Peppas : $M_t^\infty = K_2 t^n$ (9) where M_t^∞

2 M_t^∞ is the percentage of EOs released at time t; k_1 and k_2 are constant characteristics of the bioactive-polymer system; n is the diffusion index, which denotes the parameters relating to the mechanism

of release. 2.9. Statistical Analysis The mean \pm standard deviation is shown for all data. The statistical analysis was calculated using SPSS (version 20) software

13 with one-way ANOVA and Duncan's multiple-range test (significance $p < 0.05$)

). All parameters used three replicates for sample and

1 analysis. 3. Results and Discussions 3.1. Emulsion Properties The

MFEO concentrations were maintained at constant levels (1%, 3%, and 6%); based on Shokri et al. [37], 3% of *Ferulago angulata* EO had good bacterial inhibition but poor antioxidant activity. Therefore, in this study, an attempt was made to increase the concentration of EO. As shown in Table 1, the CE droplet size was larger and significantly different from NE and PE ($p < 0.05$). It can be seen that the CE treatment has the same subset as the NE and PE treatments. The droplet size for all samples is in the range of 170.93–1731.23 nm, where NE and PE have droplet sizes below 250 nm. Emulsion stability in a film matrix is indicated by the small droplet size. Furthermore, it can reduce the rate of droplet aggregation, flocculation, and coalescence [11]. In addition, NE has the advantage of more stability and more transparency [16] based on the zeta potential parameters (Table 1) for all samples are in the range of 8.47–40.80 mV. The difference in the type of emulsion and the concentration of MFEO had a significant effect on the zeta potential ($p < 0.05$). In the CE treatment, there was a significant difference in the level of each different concentration ($p < 0.05$), while in the NE and PE treatments, the relative zeta potentials were not so different. In a previous study, increasing the concentration of *Grammosciadium ptoecarpum* Bioss. EO (GEO) decreased the zeta

potential [1] and the NE has a lower zeta potential than the CE [25]. Zeta potential estimates the interaction and surface charge characteristics at the molecular level, where an emulsion with a potential zeta value of ≤ -30 mV or $\geq +30$ mV provides emulsion stability [38]. In a previous study, ultrasonic treatment of 300 W for 20 min on microgel particles can provide the highest potential. This is because ultrasonic treatment causes a redistribution of charged chains on the particle surface so that the interfacial and internal structures change [39]. PE can be stabilized by whey protein isolate nanofibrils where oil droplets can be dissolved and wrapped by whey protein isolate nanofibrils to

12 prevent oil droplets from coalescing. This is because fibrillation

increases the zeta potential and flexibility of whey protein isolate nanofibrils, allowing

12 them to self-assemble at the oil-water interface to form a layer with higher electrostatic repulsion and the stretched structure can have more intermolecular hydrogen bonds and Van der Waals force, enhancing the interface layer's rigidity

and preventing oil droplet coalescence, stabilizing the PE [40]. In this study, it was shown that the stable emulsion was only in CE 1% and CE 3% samples. This is possible because the power and time of ultrasonication in the production of each emulsion use the same power and time, so it is necessary to optimize the power and time of ultrasonication to obtain an emulsion with a zeta potential that leads to a stable emulsion. Table 1. The droplet

22 size, zeta potential, and polydispersity index of MFEO emulsion prepared with different concentration and

emulsion type. Emulsion Droplet Size (nm) Zeta Potential (mV) Polydispersity Index
 CE 1% 1533.15 \pm 0.31 a 40.80 \pm 0.25 a 0.66 \pm 0.37 a
 CE 3% 1615.70 \pm 0.13 a 38.38 \pm 0.29 b 0.81 \pm 0.32 a
 CE 6% 1731.23 \pm 0.24 a 26.54 \pm 0.58 c 0.93 \pm 0.11 a
 NE 1% 170.93 \pm 0.11 b 8.47 \pm 0.26 d 0.22 \pm 0.01 c
 NE 3% 197.46 \pm 0.52 b 12.10 \pm 0.01 c,d 0.38 \pm 0.02 b
 NE 6% 155.60 \pm 0.10 b 11.13 \pm 0.03 c,d 0.25 \pm 0.02 c
 PE 1% 244.76 \pm 0.86 b 21.30 \pm 0.26 c 0.39 \pm 0.01 b
 PE 3% 236.98 \pm 0.07 b 18.34 \pm 0.10 c,d 0.29 \pm 0.04 c
 PE 6% 233.56 \pm 0.11 b 19.43 \pm 0.08 c,d 0.32 \pm 0.04 b,c
 a–d The values

25 in the table are the average \pm standard error of n = 3 samples and the

14 different lowercase letter in each column indicate significant differences ($p < 0.05$)

). CE: coarse emulsion; NE: nanoemulsion; PE: Pickering emulsion. As shown in Table 1, the Pdl parameters in the CE treatment resulted in a significant difference compared with

18 NE and PE ($p < 0.05$). In the CE treatment, the

Pdl did not differ significantly for different MFEO concentrations, while the PE treatment had the lowest Pdl, especially at 3% and 6% MFEO concentrations. In a previous study, the Pdl of ginger EO emulsion at NE (0.222) was lower than at CE (0.584). Ultrasonication produces a lower Pdl in NE and a uniform particle size [25]. Emulsions that have a Pdl lower than 0.3 indicate a stable emulsion and have uniformity of emulsion droplets [16]. 3.2. Optical Properties

9 As shown in Table 2, the L value of the treated film was significantly lower than that of the control film ($p < 0.05$)

). In the color parameters, especially L and a, it can be seen that the film with PE 6% and NE 6% treatment had the highest

19 value and was significantly different from the film with other treatments

. In addition, the increase in MFEO concentration significantly increased the red–green (a) and blue–yellow (b) values ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2). An increase in EO causes the film to become more yellow. The ΔE in all the treated films was less than 2, indicating only a slight difference in film appearance [19]. PE films of marjoram essential oil (MEO) had higher ΔE than NE films [16], this demonstrated that emulsion type and concentration affect the color of films. The YI

44 **increased as the MFEO concentration increased and was higher than the**

control film ($p < 0.05$) (Table 2). This shows something similar to the color parameter at the b value. In this study, in PE films the increase in yellowness was due to the natural bright yellow color of the whey protein isolate. This is because the type and concentration of EOs, as well as the presence of additives, directly affect the color of the emulsified film [16]. Table 2. Optical characteristics of LDPE film-treated cold plasma-stabilized MFEO. Emulsion L a b ΔE YI Opacity WCA Control CE 1% CE 3% CE 6% NE 1% NE 3% NE 6% PE 1% PE 3% PE 6% 93.01 \pm 0.10 a 27.79 \pm 0.16 b,c 24.76 \pm 0.55 c 25.20 \pm 0.35 c 25.20 \pm 0.13 c 31.21 \pm 0.65 b 30.95 \pm 0.21 b 27.05 \pm 0.55 b,c 26.72 \pm 0.49 b,c 31.24 \pm 0.02 b 0.10 \pm 0.16 a -6.76 \pm 0.16 d -10.38 \pm 0.16 e 0.45 \pm 0.16 f 4.88 \pm 0.01 e -11.80 \pm 0.19 e 2.35 \pm 0.18 c 1.70 \pm 0.16 12.10 \pm 0.18 d 1.05 \pm 0.04 e 6.22 \pm 0.01 d -10.09 \pm 0.09 c 2.88 \pm 0.88 c 0.08 \pm 0.88 16.40 \pm 0.49 c 1.07 \pm 0.05 e 7.63 \pm 0.01 b -9.47 \pm 0.15 b 3.15 \pm 0.61 c 0.35 \pm 0.31 17.89 \pm 0.35 b,c 1.06 \pm 0.15 e 7.73 \pm 0.01 b -10.78 \pm 0.18 d 4.22 \pm 0.29 b 0.31 \pm 0.04 23.92 \pm 0.08 b 1.10 \pm 0.05 d 4.94 \pm 0.05 d,e -11.01 \pm 0.50 d 6.58 \pm 0.40 a 0.49 \pm 0.71 30.10 \pm 0.66 a 1.15 \pm 0.05 c 5.72 \pm 0.10 d -12.18 \pm 0.07 e 6.77 \pm 0.10 a 0.36 \pm 0.21 31.24 \pm 0.21 a 1.15 \pm 0.06 c 8.83 \pm 0.09 a -13.70 \pm 0.55 g 5.91 \pm 0.14 a 0.50 \pm 0.22 21.55 \pm 0.60 b 1.46 \pm 0.47 b 4.66 \pm 0.05 e -12.86 \pm 0.33 f 4.19 \pm 0.69 b 0.40 \pm 0.43 22.57 \pm 0.55 b 1.44 \pm 0.10 b 6.62 \pm 0.01 c -11.68 \pm 0.12 e 4.71 \pm 0.54 b 0.40 \pm 0.03 31.42 \pm 0.04 a 2.34 \pm 0.05 a 8.28 \pm 0.07 a a–g The values

25 **in the table are the average \pm standard error of n = 3 samples and the**

14 **different lowercase letter in each column indicate significant differences ($p < 0.05$)**

). CE: coarse emulsion; NE: nanoemulsion; PE: Pickering emulsion. In this study, the opacity of all film samples was significantly higher than the control (Table 2). The opacity parameter for films with 6% PE treatment has the highest value and is significantly different from other treatments.

41 **An increase in the concentration of MFEO caused an increase in the**

opacity. A high opacity indicates that the films have low transparency. The PE films had the largest opacity because there was a matrix formed from inulin and WPI, and the existence of

52 **an oil phase in the protein matrix increases light dispersion and the light-scattering impact of the oil**

[41]. From Table 2, it also can be seen that an increase in the MFEO concentration causes an increase in the WCA. As in the opacity parameter, the film with PE 6% treatment had the highest WCA

19 **value and was significantly different from other treatments**

. The incorporation of hydrophobic compounds and plasma treatment increases the surface hydrophobicity [26,27]. However, according to Liu et al. [11], WCA is not only related to surface hydrophobicity but also influenced by porosity and roughness on the film surface. In addition,

36 **plasma active species may lower the surface hydrophobicity by increasing the number of polar anchors on the surface**

[42]. Based on a previous study by Wong et al. [43], LDPE films increased in tensile strength parameters due to an

36 **increase in plasma treatment time, which was caused by**

the formation of interfacial roughness and polar groups. The process of coating the

20 active ingredient is easier on the surface of the film

with high roughness. This study also compared the surface morphology of the control LDPE film (without plasma treatment) with that of the LDPE film with plasma treatment. Wherein, the control film has a uniform and smooth surface. Meanwhile, the film with plasma treatment had an increase in roughness due to the plasma treatment producing etched characters with irregularly shaped textures. In another study by Theapsak et al. [30] plasma treatment can modify the surface of the PE film by producing

29 oxygen containing polar functional groups (OH, C-O, and C=O) and increasing the surface roughness. Plasma treatment can increase the

binding affinity of MFEO with LDPE film. This is because plasma treatment can cause conformational changes. Based on a previous study, through exposure to hydrophilic groups, plasma treatment can increase the

1 affinity of LDPE film for chitosan, hence boosting the effect of

chitosan and gallic acid on LDPE [26,43]. In another study by Loke et al. [27], plasma treatment of LDPE film which was then coated with gallic acid and chitosan showed that the structure of LDPE could not be damaged by plasma, but there was an increase in the

1 affinity of LDPE film for chitosan through exposure to hydrophilic

groups. In addition, collagen has a polarity and function closer to cinnamaldehyde, which has better affinity, and more essential oils are retained in the film. In addition, with the use of Pickering emulsion film, there was a decrease in the hydrophobicity of EO, which led to an increase in its affinity (as a hydrophilic material) with the film [44]. 3.3. Physical and Mechanical Properties The physical and mechanical properties of the LDPE films prepared in this study are presented in

31 Table 3. The physical properties of the

film examined were shear strength (SS), tensile strength (TS), thickness, WVP, and OP. The SS and TS of the film increased as the MFEO concentration increased; a significant difference was found for PE ($p < 0.05$), greater than the increase observed for the CE and NE films. The SS and TS parameters have the same pattern, where the PE 6% treatment has the highest value and is significantly different from the other treatments. Based on previous studies, plasma treatment can reduce TS in the LDPE films [27]. The TS value in the LDPE film was 18.19 MPa, but after plasma treatment, the TS value decreased to 13.71 MPa. In addition, the increase in plasma treatment power of LDPE film had no effect on TS compared with LDPE film without plasma treatment. However, increasing plasma treatment time had a significant effect on decreasing TS in LDPE films. This phenomenon is caused by increased roughness and the formation of polar groups. In addition, prolonged exposure to plasma causes slower aging effects in samples. Increased surface roughness makes preventive coating easier [43]. In Table 3, it can be seen that CE and NE treatment can reduce the TS of LDPE film, although the NE 6% treatment has an increase in TS. This is consistent with previous studies in which the addition of NE to WPI-based films reduces the tensile strength of the films caused by the plasticizing effect of NE droplets so that it can weaken the intermolecular interactions between polymer chains [1]. In another study, the addition of rosemary essential oil to carboxymethyl cellulose-polyvinyl alcohol blend films resulted in a film with a decrease in film strength. This was attributed to the effect of EO plasticization on the film structure [45]. Table 3.

31 Physical and mechanical properties of LDPE film-treated

cold plasma-stabilized MFEO. Emulsion SS (Mpa) TS (Mpa) Thickness

35 WVP OP (mm) ($\times 10^{-7} \text{ g}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{Pa}^{-1}$) ($\times 10^{-12} \text{ g}\cdot\text{m}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{Pa}^{-1}$)

) Control CE 1% CE 3% CE 6% NE 1% NE 3% NE 6% PE 1% PE 3% PE 6% 20.0 ± 0.26 a 15.5 ± 0.26 d 15.5 ± 0.28 d 14.5 ± 0.28 e 14.3 ± 0.01 e 14.9 ± 0.26 d 15.1 ± 0.05 d 17.0 ± 0.28 c 19.4 ± 0.23 b 23.3 ± 0.40 a 18.3 ± 0.25 a 18.6 ± 0.34 a 12.3 ± 0.25 d 11.5 ± 0.28 d 11.3 ± 0.01 d 11.8 ± 0.01 d 18.9 ± 0.05 a 13.4 ± 0.12 c 15.3 ± 0.01 b 18.4 ± 0.02

24 **a** 0.034 ± 0.03 **b** 0.034 ± 0.01 **b** 0.034 ± 0.00 **b** 0.034 ± 0.10 **b** 0.034 ± 0.01 **b** 0.035 ± 0.00 **b** 0.038 ± 0.02 **a** 0.035 ± 0.01 **b** 0.039 ± 0.11 **a**

0.039 ± 0.01 **a** 2.45 ± 0.01 **a** 6.16 ± 0.01 **a** 1.47 ± 0.01 **b** 4.50 ± 0.01 **b** 1.41 ± 0.06 **c** 4.37 ± 0.01 **b** 1.39 ± 0.01 **c** 4.42 ±

41 **0.01 b** 1.46 ± 0.01 **b** 4.98 ± 0.01 **b** 1

.45 ± 0.01 **b** 3.18 ± 0.01 **c** 1.20 ± 0.01 **c** 2.37 ± 0.01 **d** 1.46 ± 0.01 **b** 3.32 ± 0.01 **c** 1.52 ± 0.09 **b** 3.04 ± 0.01 **c** 1.59 ± 0.20 **b** 3.05 ± 0.01 **c** a–e The values

25 **in the table** are **the** average ± **standard** error of **n = 3** samples and **the**

14 **different lowercase letter in each column indicate significant differences (p < 0.05)**

). CE: coarse emulsion; NE: nanoemulsion; PE: Pickering emulsion; SS: Shearing strength; TS: Tensile strength; WVP:

33 **Water vapor permeability; OP: Oxygen permeability. The LDPE film with PE treatment had a higher**

TS value than the CE and NE treatment, but even at PE 6% treatment, it was not significantly different from the control film. Based on previous studies, the addition of PE from SiO₂ nanoparticles and functional oil phase resulted in an increase in the tensile strength of the epoxy composite compared with the reference sample [46]. The addition of cellulose nanofiber to sandalwood oil Pickering emulsion can increase the tensile strength of the film. It is

30 **associated with the formation of a rigid continuous network of cellulose nanofibers linked through hydrogen**

bonds, and is also attributed

30 **to the geometry and rigidity of the nano-filler [47]. The**

thickness parameter for the PE treatment shows a significant increase (

50 **p < 0.05) compared with the CE and NE treatments**

(Table 3). The thickness parameter for CE and NE films was not significantly different except for NE 6% films. In the study of Fasihi et al. [45], the increase in thickness after the addition of a PE was proposed to be due to the increased solid material content of the film. This was in accordance with the results of our study, the CE and NE treatments did not have a significant effect on thickness. As

48 **shown in Table 3, increasing the concentration of**

MFEO reduced the WVP of film ($p < 0.05$). Treatment of CE, NE, and PE films for all MFEO concentrations had lower WVP values than control films. According to Ghadetaj et al. [1] the hydrophobic nature of lipid compounds from MFEO can reduce WVP, where the film with CE treatment absorbs less than the film with NE. This is related to the nano size which can limit the droplet size and reduce its plasticizing effect on the film. Different types of emulsion type result in different WVP values; the CE treatment resulted in a significantly lower value than the NE or PE treatments ($p < 0.05$). The study by Fasihi et al. [45] showed that the addition of 5% PE from rosemary essential oil, can reduce WVP in the carboxymethyl cellulose- polyvinyl alcohol blend film. This is attributed to the PE providing decreased water vapor diffusion due to increased tortuous paths. In a previous study, the use of PE in the chitosan matrix interfered with the formation of hydrogen bonds between chitosan molecules and weakened the chitosan network in the film, which facilitated the migration of water vapor molecules [13]. In Table 3, the control group had a

29 significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher OP than the treated film. The

addition of MFEO decreased the OP of the LDPE film. OP parameters can be seen NE 6% is the lowest OP value. In another study, cinnamaldehyde increased the oxygen barrier, resulting in a decrease in OP [48], which was possibly a result of the antioxidant properties of cinnamaldehyde, which conferred the oxygen-capturing capacity [49]. The PE film can reduce the OP parameter, it can be seen that PE film has a lower OP than the control film. In a previous study, the loading of zein/chitosan-stabilized PEs increased the oxygen barrier properties of the films. This is because the zein/chitosan-stabilized PEs film has a thick and firm network so that it can act as a natural barrier to oxygen. In addition, the increase in the barrier properties of the chitosan film was related

28 to the delicate interactions between the Pickering emulsion and the chitosan matrix [13]. The infrared spectra of the films

shown in Figure 1 indicate the specific functional groups and their vibrational modifications after cold plasma treatment. This analysis was performed only on films treated with 3% MFEO. FTIR showed that there were differences between control films and plasma-treated films including films that were coated with CE, NE, and PE. In the film, with the addition of MFEO, new peaks appear and can be seen in the band between 800 and 1800 cm^{-1} . The CE and NE films have quite similar trends because the two emulsions only have size differences, while for PE films there are significant differences (Figure 1). The film with MFEO coating shows the addition of a peak, thus indicating that the active compound from MFEO was successfully added to the LDPE film. The MFEO spectrum contained a high number of peaks, indicating the existence of a variety of volatile compounds and functional groups. In a previous study, Silva-Damasceno et al. [50] found that

4 sharp peaks of MFEO consisted of peaks at 775

and 824 cm^{-1} (

4 aromatic-CH bending), 922 cm^{-1} (-OH bending), 1037

cm^{-1} (-

4 CH₂ group vibration), 1238 cm^{-1} (carbonyl vibration), 1507 cm^{-1} (-CH bending), 1715 cm^{-1} (C=C stretching at aromatic groups), 2920 cm^{-1} (-CH stretch- ing), and 3455 cm^{-1} (-OH stretching). The incorporation of MFEO into the matrix led to minor changes in the wavenumber of different peaks, as well as increased peak intensity at 1107 cm^{-1} (P=O), 1418 cm^{-1} (-CH stretching), 1554 cm^{-1} (-NH bending), and 2920–3411 cm^{-1} (broadening of-CH stretching

). The flavonoid functional groups correspond to aromatic ring vibrations [51]. Functional groups of flavonoids

23 are located in the range of 1610–1600 cm^{-1} and 1480–1450 cm^{-1}

[52]. Based on previous studies, the plasma-treated gallic acid film resulted in hydroxyl stretching of the film where the -OH bond showed a radical scavenging capacity which may have antioxidant properties [26].

PoPloylmymeresr2s022022,21,41,4x, 1F6O1R8 PEER REVIEW FiFgiugruer1e.1. ATR-FTIRofLFDLDPEPEfilimlmttraetaetdedwwithhoclodldplasma containingCEC-E,-N,NE-E,-a,nadnd PE-stabilized MMFEFOEO.. Inna previous study related to the FT-IR spectrum ofopolyvinylalcaolhcoohloalndancdar- carboxymethylcellulose filmfismcosmcbomnebdinwedithwdiitfherdeniffecroenntenctornactieonntsraotfiornossemofarryoseesmseanryial esosieln,ttihael oliRI,

tshpeeclRtruspmecprauttmerpnawtearsnnwoatssnigontisfiigcannifilcyandtilfyedriefnfetr,einntd,iicnadiicnagtingthgatthdautdriungingthe thiencorporation of roofsemary esseensstieanltoiaill ionitointhoe fithimefilmatrmixa,ttrhixe,stthruecstuttruecoturfeheofiftmhemfialmatrix mdaitdrixnodtidchnaontgceh[a4n5g].eW[4i5th]. tWheitahtdthietiaodndoiftiPonE otot tPhEe tfilmth,ethfielmr,e,wthaesrae swhaifst aatshthifet paetatkeof p1ea0k37ofcm10-317 ccomm-1pcaormedpawreitdhwCiEthaCndE aNnEd fiNImEfsi.ImBsa.sBedasoend opnprevious studies, increasing the thecontent ofocfchitosan anadndbabsailsioliolilninththePeoly (L-Lactic Acid) film resulted ininaadecrease in inthe characteristic peak of the FT-IR plot, possibly due to the film's low transmittanceinin ththe wave numberranagnegoef of 1050-13c0m0-c1m.-1. FurthermnooreP,onlyo(PLo-Llyac(Lti-

cLAacctidic) Apcaidk)shpiefatk wsahsifotbwsearsvoebdseinrvPedoliyn(PLo-Llyac(Lti-cLAacctidic)A-
cchiido)-scahnitoorsaPnoolyr P(Lo-ILya(cLT-iLcactic Acid)-chitosan-boaislil films. This suggests that the
chemical groups PLLA and CS have no interaction [53].

32 **Polymers 2022, 14, x FOR PEER REVIEW 12 of 22** oil films. This

suggests that the chemical groups PLLA and CS have no interaction [53]. Figure 1 shows

that the PE film has a smooth surface, while the PLLA film has a rough surface.

The surface morphology of the films was analyzed using SEM. The images show that the

PLLA film has a rough surface, while the PE film has a smooth surface.

This is because PLLA is a hydrophilic polymer, while PE is a hydrophobic polymer.

The rough surface of the PLLA film increases its surface area, which

allows for a higher loading of the active compound.

The smooth surface of the PE film results in a lower loading of the active compound.

This is because the smooth surface has a lower surface area.

Therefore, the rough surface of the PLLA film is more suitable for the loading of the active compound.

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The images show that the PLLA film has a rough surface, while the PE film has a smooth surface.

This is because PLLA is a hydrophilic polymer, while PE is a hydrophobic polymer.

The rough surface of the PLLA film increases its surface area, which allows for a higher loading of the active compound.

11 **during the drying process. The surface of the modified film**

when combined evaporate

11 **during the drying process. The surface of the modified film**

when combined with polymer compounds can increase EO loading [27]. Plasma treatment can improve with

polymer compounds can increase EO loading [27]. Plasma treatment can improve interfacial adhesion and

polymer matrix compatibility [26]. interfacial adhesion and polymer matrix compatibility [26]. Figure 2. Cont.

PPoollymmeerSS 22002222,, 1144,, x16F108R PEER REVIEW 13120off2221 Figure 2. Cont.

PPoollymmeerSS 22002222,, 1144,, 1x6F108R PEER REVIEW Figure 2. Surface

characterizFaigtuorneo2f. pSularsfnacae-ctrhaartaecdtelriDzaPtEiofnilomfpclaaastmeda-

wtreitahdeddflfeDrPenEtftyImpecooaafteemduwlistihondi(fafe)rCenotnttropylo(obuf)eCmEulsion 6% (c) NE

6% and (d) PE 6%(a)bCsoernvteodl u(bn)dCerE160%,00(c0)NmEa6g%nfaincadt(i)odn).PE 6% observed

under 10,000× magnification. 3.4. Antioxidant Properties As shown in Figure 3, increasing the MFEO

concentration significantly (p < 0.05) increased the total phenolic content (TPC) and antioxidant activity

(DPPH scavenging activity) of the films. TPC and antioxidant activity have a close relationship with EO

concentration, and the phenolic group has an important role in antioxidant activity. MFEO contains

23 **sabinene, α-pinene, β-pinene, limonene [6], myristicin, and safrole and it**

contains high phenolic content [7]. Nutmeg essential oil was analyzed using GC-MS and revealed 27

components. myris- ticin,

15 **terpineol-4, alpha-terpinol, dodecanoic acid, torreyol, palmitin, and safrol**

are some of the compounds found in seeds. Whereas the IC50 value of the

15 essential oil of fuli and fruit

is higher than that of

15 other nutmeg parts such as seeds, roots, and bark. The IC50

values for mace and fruit essential oils are

15 185,943 ppm and 221,036 ppm, respectively [54]. The

antioxidant activity of CE incorporated film samples was not significantly different ($p < 0.05$) with NE and PE in the same concentration. In this phenomenon, phenolic acids and terpenoids were found to be responsible for the emulsion, including the film's DPPH scavenging properties [16]. The antioxidant activity in this study is stronger than in Shokri et al. [37], maximum antioxidant activity was only 30.17% on film containing 3% CE or NE of Ferulago angulata EO. The NE films displayed

22 fast and efficient free radical absorption

because the formation of NE results in an increase in the specific surface area [25]. In addition, PE films result in the low mobility of the loaded compounds [55] and their slower release is associated with lower antioxidant activity [1]. The antioxidant properties of EO related to the redox factors contained in EO can stop and stabilize radical chain reactions.

47 However, it is difficult to trace the antioxidant activity of the whole EO to one or a few active molecules because

16 both minor and major constituents must be taken into account to account for its biological

action [56].

32 Polymers 2022, 14, x FOR PEER REVIEW 15 of 22

Total phenolic content (mg GAE /100 g) 14 12 10 8 6 4 2 0

42 c c c b b b a a a

(aa) 100 Control CE1% NE1% PE1% CE3% NE3% PE3% CE6% NE6% PE6%

21 DPPH Scavenging

ing (%) 80 60 40 (

42b) a b b b a a c c c

20 0 Control CE1% NE1% PE1% CE3% NE3% PE3% CE6% NE6% PE6% Figure 3. Effectiveness of LDPE film treated with cold plasma containing CE-, NE-, and PE-stabilized superscripts are significant as indicated by different letters (p < 0.05). The error bars represent the standard deviations (n = 3). 3.5. Anti-Bacterial Assay As shown in Figure 4, the MFEO film caused a reduction in E. coli and S. aureus of up to 3.25–4.01 log CFU/mL. In general, there were slight differences in the bacterial inhibition of the CE, NE, and PE treatments, and the reduction in E. coli was greater than that in S. aureus ($p < 0.05$). An increase in the concentration of MFEO led to an increase in bacterial inhibition, which was indicated by the

lower number of bacteria. In addition, MFEO has bacteriostatic properties that can inhibit bacteria and yeasts, including Arizona, Salmonella, Enterobacter, E. coli, Klebsiella pseudomonas, S. aureus, and Aspergillus flavus, although the highest inhibitory effectiveness is against E. coli [8]. In a previous study, S. aureus and E. coli were reduced

1 to 4.61–5.14 log CFU/mL

after plasma treatment of a cinnamaldehyde coating on LDPE [27]. The inhibition of microbial growth by NE occurs in a variety of ways depending on the encapsulated antimicrobial agents (e.g., EOs, proteins, and surfactants) and the structure of the NE droplets (e.g., composition, charge, and size) [57]. In a previous study, the antibacterial activities of Origanum majorana EO were attributed to α -pinene, γ -terpinene, and sabinene [58]. These compounds improved the permeability and fluidity of fungal cells. Terpenes are considered to cause changes

16 in cell permeability by penetrating the fatty acyl chains that comprise the membrane lipid bilayers, altering lipid packing and inducing changes in the membrane functions and

properties [1,16]. The increase in anti-bacterial activity depends on the concentration of EO. In addition, the nanoemulsification process in EO can also increase anti-bacterial activity, where the smaller droplet size provides

40 faster penetration of antimicrobial compounds through the bacterial cell membrane [37]. The

inhibitory effects of CE and NE treatment were slightly different but were significantly different from the PE film ($p < 0.05$).

40 Nanoemulsification increased the antibacterial activity of coating solutions

[37]. The PE films resulted in a significantly slower release than NE, which was the cause of the low antibacterial activity [16]. However, within a short storage time, controlled release, such as NE, may reduce their functional activity [1].

44 Due to the protective effects of the stable interfacial film, the

PE exhibited greater antibacterial activity [45] and could release the active compounds for a longer time. 3.6. Release Properties In order to determine the film's possible application, the

2 release capacity and corresponding release mechanism of active substances loaded in the film matrix were in

- investigated. As shown in Figure 5, there was a slight significant difference in the release properties for all films ($p < 0.05$) after 30 h. In general, the release rate of PE films was lower than that of CE and NE films. After 2 h, similar trends were found for all film samples. This is similar to Ghadetaj et al. [1], who reported that WPI-based films containing NE-loaded EOs had antioxidant activity that was not significantly different from films containing free EOs. The release of compounds loaded in PE films is slower than NE films, resulting in the reduced mobility of loaded compounds [55]. However, over a long storage time, the release of PE is enhanced and causes the retention of their functional activity in a variety of environments [2]. The PE-treated film had lower antioxidant activity than the NE-treated film owing

5 to the slower release of the encapsulated MEO from the film matrix

[16].

18 The PE is stabilized by the WPI-inulin complex, which is absorbed at the oil-water phase interface

, thereby shielding MEO from external factors and inhibiting the coalescence of EO [1]. The decrease in the release rate and anti-bacterial activity in the PE film in the short term is possible due to the decrease in the diffusivity of the MFEO in the film matrix [44]. Polymers 2022, 14, x FOR PEER REVIEW 17 of 22 8 a(a)) 6 Vi abi l i ty (Log CFU/m L)

21a b b c c 4 d d d e e

2 0 Control CE1% CE3% CE6% NE1% NE3% NE6% PE1% PE3% PE6% 8 6 Vi abi l i ty (Log CFU/m L) 4 2 b(

21b)) a b c d c d d d e e

0 Control CE1% CE3% CE6% NE1% NE3% NE6% PE1% PE3% PE6% Figure 4. Effectiveness of FiofugLreD4P.EEffielcmtivterneeastesdofwLDithPEcfiolldm ptrleaastmeda wcoitnhtcaoinldinpjlaCsmE-a, cNonEt-a,inainndg CPEE--,sNtaEb-i,liaznedd PME-FsEtaOb.ili(zae)d antimicrobial assay agaMinFstESO..a(uar)eaunst,i(mbi)aronbtiiimaliacrsosabyialgaasisnasyt Sag.aauinresutsE..(bco)ai.nat-iemTihcerovbaialuleassswayithagdaiifnfestreEn.tcoslui.pae-rescTThipetvsaalurees significantly different atwpit<h0d.0if5fe.rTehnet seurrpoersbcarripstrseaprresseignntitfihceanstalynddaifrderdenevtiatpio<ns0.(0n5=. T3h).e

1 error bars represent the standard deviations (n = 3

). PPoolymmeerrss 22002222,, 1144,, x16F1O8R PEER REVIEW 100 90 80 70 Release rate (%) 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 CE 1% a CE 3% a CE 6% a NE 1% b NE 3% b NE 6% b b PE 1% c PE 3% c PE 6% a a 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 Time (hours) Figure 5. Release rate of LDPE film treated with cold plasma containing CE-, NE-, and PE-stabilized MFEO in 95% alcohol.

1 Values with different superscripts are significantly different at $p < 0.05$. The error bars represent the standard deviation (n = 3

). Higuchi and Korsmeyer–Peppas models were utilized

2 to further define the in vitro release properties of the active compounds in loaded films

. The correspondence between the actual active compounds released is indicated by the R value close to 1. The previous study by Ritger and Peppas [59], showed that

2 when $n > 1$ the composite Case-II transport mechanism

was valid;

2 when $0.5 < n < 1$ the diffusion behavior followed non-Fickian diffusion; and when

$nn < 0.5$. The diffusion behavior of the active compounds was determined by the Higuchi model. The correlation coefficients of all films generated in this investigation were desirable when applying the Higuchi equation ($R^2 = 0.9687–0.9912$) (Table 4). The release of active compounds

2 in the Higuchi model is based on Fick's laws of diffusion, with the assumption that the matrix's swelling and dissolution are minor or non-existent, and that the matrix exhibits square root time dependency. The Korsmeyer–Peppas equation was also utilized to confirm and explain the

aforsaid findings [24].

38 Based on the values in Table 4, it shows that the opening of

all

2films was based on the Fickian diffusion pattern. In addition, the release of

active compounds from the film structure can be encouraged due to the larger concentration difference between the inner and outer environment [24].

11Table 4. Parameters of Higuchi/Korsmeyer–Peppas model

for release properties of LDPE film treated with cold plasma containing CE-, NE-, and PE-stabilized MFEO. Emulsion Higuchi K1 R2 CE 1% 2.5627 0.9727 CE 3% 2.5829 0.9890 CE 6% 2.6465 0.9843 NE 1% 2.8933 0.9809 NE 3% 2.8512 0.9687 NE 6% 2.8522 0.9844 Korsmeyer–Peppas K2 n 1.1136 0.1334 1.0464 0.2295 1.0669 0.1872 1.1831 0.0707 1.2052 0.0236 1.0586 0.2529 R2 0.9805 0.9816 0.9721 0.9643 0.9638 0.9659

11Table 4. Parameters of Higuchi/Korsmeyer–Peppas model

for release properties of LDPE film treated with cold plasma containing CE-, NE-, and PE-stabilized MFEO. Emulsion

2Higuchi Korsmeyer–Peppas K1 R2 K2 n R2

CE 1% 2.5627 0.9727 1.1136 CE 3% 2.5829 0.989 1.0464 CE 6% 2.6465 0.9843 1.0669 NE 1% 2.8933 0.9809 1.1831 NE 3% 2.8512 0.9687 1.2052 NE 6% 2.8522 0.9844 1.0586 PE 1% 3.1184 0.9894 1.0212 PE 3% 2.9334 0.9862 1.1089 PE 6% 2.49 0.9912 1.0225 0.1334 0.2295 0.1872 0.0707 0.0236 0.2529 0.0348 0.2674 0.4515 0.9805 0.9816 0.9721 0.9643 0.9638 0.9659 0.9968 0.9859 0.9746 CE: coarse emulsion; NE: nanoemulsion; PE: Pickering emulsion. 4. Conclusions Cold

31plasma treatment can improve the properties of LDPE films

by facilitating MFEO coating, it is supported by the FTIR results that showed the differences between the control film and plasma-treated film and showed the presence of a new group of active compounds from MFEO on the LDPE coating. The use of different types of emulsion causes different characteristics of the film; in general, the use of CE and NE results in better optical characteristics than PE.

48Increasing the concentration of MFEO provides increased antioxidant activity and inhibition of

bacteria. However, PE has more stability and improved controlled release, where PE can inhibit coalescence of MFEO. PE is suitable, especially over long-term storage. There needs to be more research on how to use emulsions in cold plasma treatment protocols and how to apply them to food.

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S.S., F.P., C.-K.C., M.G., S.P.S. and

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