

VIABILITY OF THE USE OF TUCUPI FOR THE PRODUCTION OF RIBBED
SMOKED SHEET¹

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The coagulating activity of tucupi (fermented juice of cassava roots, Manihot esculenta Crantz) on Hevea latex is long known by the Amazonian people. Later ALBUQUERQUE et al, 1975 e MORAES & ROCHA NETO, 1976, confirmed the possibility of its use as a substitute for acetic acid to coagulate latex, observing that no adverse effect is produced on the quality of the rubber. This paper relates the results in the usage of fermented yellow tucupi as an acetic acid substitute to coagulate fresh and preserved latex in the production of RSS. In the experiment no problem was encountered concerning the processing and drying of the product in smoke-houses neither was there any significant alteration in the water and dirt contents and colour when compared to the sheets coagulated using acetic acid. Several samples of the fermented yellow tucupi, purchased around Manaus representing widely sources, were analysed by high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC). The results revealed an acetic acid content of 6-8% with a mean pH of 3.6 for all the samples, justifying the efficient coagulating action of tucupi.

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