



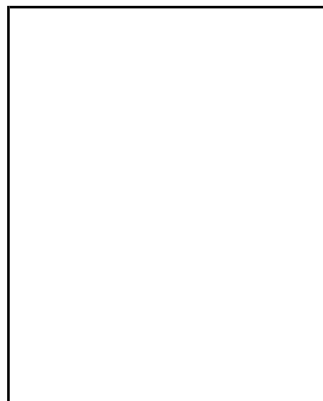
Papermaking Project Manual

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Project Title Kombucha without Borders

Description

Collaboration with IIT, Alex Eisenberg. SCOBY collected and jarred, refrigerated at CCC. Looking to see if material can be pulped and used for hand papermaking. Investigators at Columbia also interested in possibilities for "vegan leather" for book binding.



Project Methods and Results

SAMPLE

The Method

SCOBY was pulse beaten in a traditional kitchen blender. Initially too chunky, and reblended to look more like dark methyl-cellulose/gelatin-like. 2 deckle-box formed, one couched on pellow, one couched directly on fabric in hot press. Other experiments: one poured in frame taped to wood, another poured on fabric in deckle box and left to dry in frame.

Materials

SCOBY, approximately 5 cups; sugeta, cotton sheet fabric, pellow, mould and deckle, wood, kitchen blender, paint strainer bag, small vat.

Results

Thin sheets are too sticky, particularly for pellow (has a "tooth"). Fabric worked much better for removal. Very thin sheet when released was rattly, totally transparent. Some larger chunks could be seen. One half of sheet was thicker, and even slightly thicker takes on a more "stretchy", leather-like quality, even pressed in hot press which tends to change overall nature of final material. Plastic mesh moulds too large-gauge to pour SCOBY and would go through screen. Waiting to see results of the pour sheets. One other observation: when strained, Molly Berkson suggested the material got bloated and coagulated, which formed chunks. Approximately 4-5 sheets of 9 x 12/8.5 x 10 produced.

Recommendations

Recommend additional tests with various fabrics, thickness, drying systems including drying on sheets in CCC drying system. Consider whether additional water would make more material, explore how many sheets/SCOBY volume.