

Supplementary Information

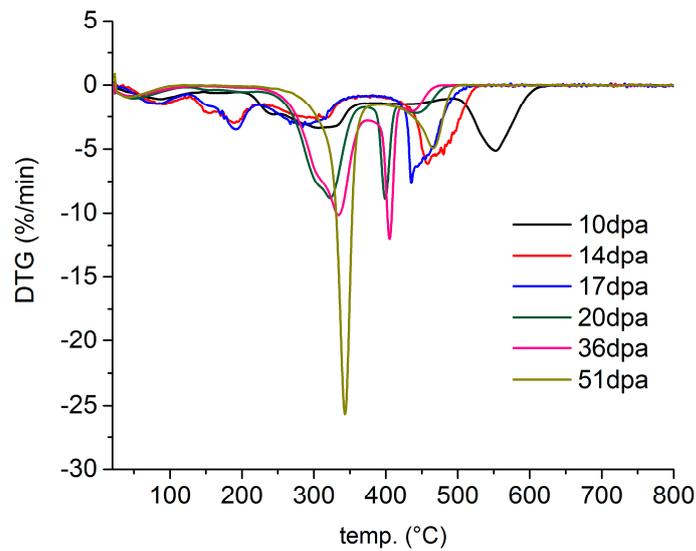


Figure S1. First derivative of the thermal profiles of raw/washed *G. hirsutum* fibers harvested at different stages of development (10, 14, 17, 20, 36 and 51 dpa) obtained from Fig. 4a.

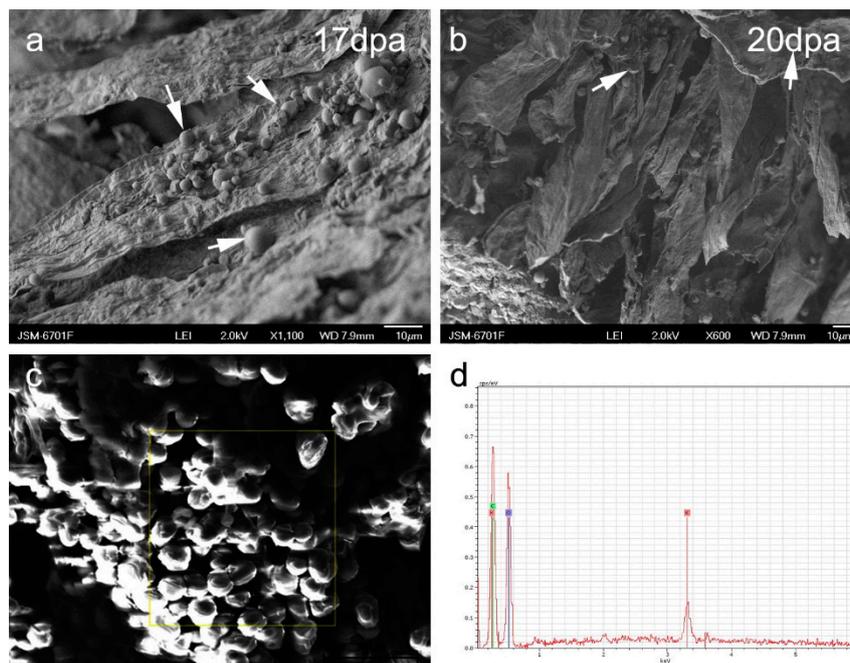


Figure S2. Representative scanning electron microscope images of fibers taken at (a) 17dpa and (b) 20 dpa (days post-anthesis) showing a spherical features; (c) higher magnification of spherical features. The electron accumulation suggests an organic nature. The square represents the area where the chemical analysis was carried out; (d) representative spectra obtained for the chemical elemental analysis of the spherical features showing the presence of high concentration of potassium and confirming the organic nature of these features.