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Sami Boufi, Sihem Bel Haaj, Albert Magnin, Frédéric Pignon, Marianne Impérator-Clerc, Gérard Mortha

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## Ultrasonic assisted production of starch nanoparticles: Structural characterization and mechanism of disintegration

Sami Boufi<sup>1</sup>, Sihem Bel Haaj<sup>1</sup>, Albert Magnin<sup>4,5</sup>, Frédéric Pignon<sup>4</sup>, Marianne Impérator-Clerc<sup>5</sup>,  
Gérard Mortha<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Sfax- Sfax Faculty of Science-LMSE BP 802-3018 Sfax, Tunisia

<sup>2</sup>Univ. Grenoble Alpes, LGP2, F-38000 Grenoble, France

<sup>3</sup>CNRS, LGP2, F-38000 Grenoble, France

<sup>4a</sup>Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Grenoble INP\*, LRP, 38000 Grenoble, France

\* Institute of Engineering Univ. Grenoble Alpes <sup>5</sup>Laboratoire de Physique des Solides, CNRS, Université Paris-Sud, Université Paris-Saclay, 91400 Orsay, France

### Abstract

In this paper, the disintegration of starch (waxy and standard starch) granules into nanosized particles under the sole effect of high power ultrasonication treatment in water/isopropanol is investigated, by using wide methods of analysis. The present work aims at a fully characterization of the starch nanoparticles produced by ultrasonication, in terms of size, morphology and structural properties, and the proposition of a possible mechanism explaining the top-down generation of starch nanoparticles (SNPs) via high intensity ultrasonication. Our dynamic light scattering measurements have indicated a leveling of the particle size to about 40 nm after 80 min of ultrasonication. The WAXD, DSC and Raman have revealed the amorphous character of the SNPs. FE-SEM. AFM observations have confirmed the size measured by DLS and suggested that SNPs exhibited 2D morphology of platelet-like shapes. This morphology is further supported by SAXS. On the basis of data collected from the different characterization techniques, a possible mechanism explaining the disintegration process of starch granules into NPs is proposed.

Key words: Starch, nanoparticles, ultrasonication,

\* Corresponding author:

Sami Boufi

University of Sfax-Faculty of science

BP 1171-3000 Sfax-Tunisia-Fax: 216 74 274 437

E-mail Sami.Boufi@fss.rnu.tn

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