Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0167-577X(17)31435-0

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2017.09.089

Reference: MLBLUE 23203

To appear in: Materials Letters

Received Date: 21 February 2017
Revised Date: 5 September 2017
Accepted Date: 23 September 2017



Please cite this article as: Z. Chen, Y. Chang, Z. Jiang, Facile fabrication of polylactic acid stereocomplex microspheres, *Materials Letters* (2017), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matlet.2017.09.089

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Facile fabrication of polylactic acid stereocomplex microspheres

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Abstract

An efficient and scalable method to prepare polylactic acid stereocomplex microspheres (sc-PLA-MPs) is achieved. Low molecular weight polylactic acid containing triethoxysilane end-groups (Si-PLA) were firstly synthesized via coupling reaction of 3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl isocyanate with low molecular weight poly (L-lactic acid) (PLLA) and poly (D-lactic acid) (PDLA). Then, the triethoxysilane terminated poly (L-lactic acid) and poly (D-lactic acid) were dissolved in 1,4-dioxane where the triethoxysilane end-groups could hydrolytic condense in-situ, leading to the formation of the architecture having both PLLA and PDLA arms in one molecule, and consequently the stereocomplex microparticles spontaneously precipitated in the form of spherical microspheres with size of approximately ~5 μm.

Keywords: polylactic acid; microspheres; powder technology; structural

1. Introduction

Preparations of biodegradable microspheres have been attracting much attention because of their potential application in the fields of materials science, bioengineering and environmental science [1-3]. Polylactic acid stereocomplex (sc-PLA) formed by the mixed of poly (L-lactic acid) and poly (D-lactic acid) is a favorable polymer due to its biocompatibility, biodegradability, good mechanical performance, good thermal

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