Accepted Manuscript

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PII:	S0032-5910(17)30506-5
DOI:	doi:10.1016/j.powtec.2017.06.051
Reference:	PTEC 12627

To appear in: Powder Technology

Received date:	25 February 2017
Revised date:	14 June 2017
Accepted date:	17 June 2017



Please cite this article as: Tao Qin, Peng Zhang, Ishtiaq Hassan Wani, Yuanyuan Han, Klaus Leifer, Fredrik Nikolajeff, Håkan Engqvist, A general strategy for template-free and low-cost synthesis of inorganic hollow spheres, *Powder Technology* (2017), doi:10.1016/j.powtec.2017.06.051

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A General Strategy for Template-free and Low-cost Synthesis of Inorganic Hollow Spheres

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Abstract

Inorganic hollow spheres have a great potential in many fields, such as calcium phosphate $(Ca_3(PO_4)_2)$ as carriers of active ingredients and local delivery. They are typically synthesized by the methods that reply on template-based strategies. However, the template residue and energy consumption during template removal are drawbacks. Currently developed template-free methods remain challenges such as time, cost and complicated procedures. In this paper, we introduce a general low-cost and template-free precipitation method with simple procedure. A series of inorganic hollow spheres, including calcium phosphate, calcium fluoride, strontium phosphate, strontium fluoride, barium phosphate and barium fluoride via magnesium were successfully synthesized, respectively. Based on these experimental results, a new model is proposed to explain the mechanism of the hollow inorganic spheres formation. This paper provides a general method to synthesize inorganic hollow spheres, which may have an important indication to other systems.

Key words: inorganic, spheres, hollow, mechanism

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