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Effect of chitin nanofibrils on electrospinning of chitosan-based composite nanofibers

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Highlights

- The study of electrical conductivity, surface tension, as well as the dependence of viscosity on the shear rate of solutions of chitosan of different concentrations and mixtures containing chitin nanofibrils and polyethylene oxide was carried out.
- It is shown, that electrical conductivity of chitosan solutions and the mixtures containing chitin nanofibrils is 3-4 orders of magnitude higher than the corresponding parameters for the polymers with high rate of electrospinning. Surface tension of chitosan solutions decreases after introducing chitin nanofibrils in relatively low amounts (about 1 wt.%).
- Introducing 20 wt.% of chitin nanofibrils into chitosan solution leads to increase in viscosity of the mixture, and its dependence on shear rate becomes more pronounced.
- It is assumed that this phenomenon is caused by the formation of cluster structures involving filler particles, and orientation of chitin nanofibrils under the action of shear stresses that appear in electromagnetic field.
- X-ray diffraction analysis revealed the orientation of chitin nanofibrils with respect to the axes of composite nanofibers. It was demonstrated that the presence of chitin

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