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Title: Effect of plasticizers on the barrier and mechanical properties of biomimetic composites of chitosan and clay

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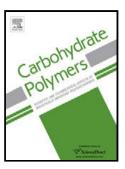
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### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### **Highlights**

- The effect and efficacy of two plasticizers on chitosan were compared.
- Ionic liquid was more efficient, due to their ionic interaction with amino groups.
- Biomimetic composites of chitosan/clay were prepared and plasticized.
- Ductile composites with adequate barrier properties were prepared with ionic liquid.
- Such biomimetic composites could be used as flexible barrier coatings.

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