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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	Supramolecular Hydrogels as Drug Delivery Systems
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5	
6	Abstract
7	Drug delivery from a hydrogel carrier implanted under the kidney capsule is an innovative
8	way to induce kidney tissue regeneration and/or prevent kidney inflammation or fibrosis. We
9	report here on the development of supramolecular hydrogels for this application. Chain-
10	extended hydrogelators containing hydrogen bonding units in the main chain, and
11	bifunctional hydrogelators end-functionalized with hydrogen bonding moieties, were made.
12	The influence of these hydrogels on the renal cortex when implanted under the kidney
13	capsule was studied. The overall tissue response to these hydrogels was found to be mild, and
14	minimal damage to the cortex was observed, using the infiltration of macrophages, formation
15	of myofibroblasts, and the deposition of collagen III as relevant read-out parameters.
16	Differences in tissue response to these hydrogels could be related to the different physico-
17	chemical properties of the three hydrogels.
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21	Keywords: Drug delivery, Supramolecular hydrogels, physical properties.
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