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#### Decision on submission to Journal of Molecular Liquids

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Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 05:07 PM GMT+7

Manuscript Number: MOLLIQ\_2019\_5319R1

Aqueous sorption of tetracycline using rarasaponin-modified nanocrystalline cellulose

Dear Dr Santoso,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript to Journal of Molecular Liquids.

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication.

My comments, and any reviewer comments, are below.

Your accepted manuscript will now be transferred to our production department. We will create a proof which you will be asked to check, and you will also be asked to complete a number of online forms required for publication. If we need additional information from you during the production process, we will contact you directly.

We appreciate you submitting your manuscript to Journal of Molecular Liquids and hope you will consider us again for future submissions.

Kind regards, Artur Valente Editor-in-Chief

Journal of Molecular Liquids

Editor and Reviewer comments:

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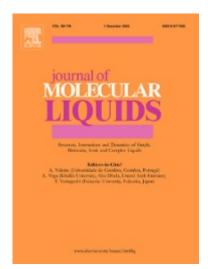
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Aqueous sorption of tetracycline using rarasaponin-modified nanocrystalline cellulose

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#### **Manuscript Details**

Manuscript number MOLLIQ\_2019\_5319\_R2

Title Aqueous sorption of tetracycline using rarasaponin-modified nanocrystalline

cellulose

Article type Full length article

#### **Abstract**

The sorption ability of NCC and its modified form against tetracycline were investigated. NCC modification was carried out using a natural surfactant, namely rarasaponin, to improve the NCC adsorption capacity. The modification was made with a mass ratio of NCC to rarasaponin 10:1 (10N1R) and 20:1 (20N1R). The modified NCC characteristics were investigated using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR), zeta potential analyzer, X-ray diffraction (XRD), and scanning electron microscope (SEM). There are no structural changes to the modified NCC, as revealed by SEM. However, other characterizations show that the incorporation of rarasaponin indeed altered some characteristics of NCC. The modified NCC shows higher adsorption capacity towards TET. The adsorption capacity of TET was 13.97, 16.47, and 18.11 mg/g (at 60°C) for NCC, 10N1R, and 20N1R, respectively. The kinetic release (desorption) study of TET@20N1R showed a release efficiency of 18.28% at pH 3 and 55.49% at pH 7.

**Keywords** cellulose; nanocrystal; rarasaponin; surface modification; tetracycline; drug

delivery.

Manuscript category Simple organic liquids and mixtures

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Santoso

Suggested reviewers Ali Ahmadpour, Ahmed Fazary, Ali Demirci

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October 7, 2019

W. Schröer

Editors-in-Chief, Journal of Molecular Liquids

University of Bremen Faculty 2 Biology Chemistry

Leobener Str. NW2, 28359, Bremen, Germany

Dear Prof. Schröer,

I am submitting a manuscript for consideration of publication in Journal of Molecular Liquids. The

details of the manuscript are as follows:

Manuscript Title: Aqueous sorption of tetracycline using rarasaponin-modified nanocrystalline

cellulose

Rationale of the manuscript:

Cellulose has been chemically modified to prepare nanocrystalline cellulose (NCC). NCC is charged

particles that can form stable suspension in aqueous phase. NCC is a nanoparticle which has been widely

used for drug carrier due to its biocompatibility. However, the amount of drug that can be loaded

onto NCC is limited due to its high surface charge density. In this study we investigate the potency

of a natural surfactant, namely rarasaponin, to enhanced the loading capacity of NCC. The

attachment of rarasaponin onto NCC cause some structural alteration in the NCC. The alteration caused

by rarasaponin allow more drug adsorbed onto NCC. The thermodynamic investigation has been

performed to investigate the spontaneity of the adsorption. The drug release study also conducted in a

phosphate buffer. The effect of pH in controlling the drug release have been investigated.

For the purpose of review, we have listed 3 potential referees:

1. Dr. Ali Demirci

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The prepared manuscript entitled "Aqueous sorption of tetracycline using rarasaponin-modified nanocrystalline cellulose" has not been previously submitted and published by any of the authors and the content is not under consideration for publication in another journal at the time of submission. We hope that this original article fits the journal scope and its standard quality to be considered for publication in *Journal of Molecular Liquids*. Thank you for your consideration and I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,



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