## Turkish Journal of Chemistry

of

**Turkish Journal** 

## Chemistry

Keywords Authors



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Scientific Journals Home Page Inclusion and release of theophylline from chitosan based microparticles

Inclusion and release of theophylline from chitosan based microparticles Niculina POPA<sup>1</sup>, Ovidiu NOVAC<sup>1</sup>, Lenuta PROFIRE<sup>2</sup> Doina HRITCU<sup>1</sup>, Marcel Ionel POPA<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>Technical University Iasi, Faculty Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection Bd D. Mangeron, 700050, Iasi-ROMANIA e-mail: mipopa@ch.tuiasi.ro <sup>2</sup>University of Medicine and Pharmacy Gr. T. Popa, Universitatii 16 700115, Iasi-ROMANIA

Abstract: Chitosan (CS) based microparticles for controlled release of theophylline (THP) were obtained by ionic gelation. The microparticles were characterized by laser diffraction analysis (particle size), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), FTIR spectroscopy, and thermogravimetric analysis. The average diameter of the CS-THP microparticles was 182  $\mu$  m. The FTIR spectra confirmed that new hydrogen bonds had formed between the carbonylic group belonging to THP and the amino group of CS, while the thermogravimetric analysis showed a modified stability in the obtained particles and confirmed the presence of an interaction between the drug and CS. The