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## Polysaccharide-based nano-/micro-gels for the food sector

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Polysaccharides, as major components of natural origin, have garnered extensive attention and utilization across diverse fields, including the nutritional manufacturing sector. Due to their advantageous properties such as safety, stability, biocompatibility, biodegradability and nontoxicity, polysaccharide-based complex systems have a significant potential in the fields of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and food engineering. Microencapsulation of active ingredients such as flavors, antioxidants, vitamins, and lipids into biopolymer nano-/micro-gels offers greater bioavailability, effectiveness, lower toxicity, and more lasting stability than conventional formulations. Therefore, understanding the physicochemical properties of these micro- and nanogels, as well as their encapsulation and release ability under various conditions, is crucial for optimizing their use in the food sector.

In our study we present *k*-carrageenan and  $\lambda$ -carrageenan-based nanogels obtained as a result of electrostatic coassembly with BSA protein as macro-ionic crosslinking agent. Such systems are of interest as carriers for bioactive ingredients, therefore we compared the microstructure of unloaded and VD3-loaded gels under various pH and temperature conditions applying scattering (LS, SAXS, SANS) and spectroscopic (FTIR, CD, Fluorimetry) techniques.

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