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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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MICROENCAPSULATION

Sir, - I wish to point out a major error in Dr. K.C. Dhupar's article entitled "A Method of preparing gelatin microcapsules" [13(6), 1023-1030, 1987]. The procedure given in this article will only result in the production of matrix particles (microbeads/microspheres/microparticles) rather than microcapsules as claimed in the title. The process described is in fact matrix polymerisation, where a core material is imbedded in a polymer matrix during the formation of the particles.[1,2]

Microencapsulation is a process by which small particles or droplets are surrounded by a coating to produce small capsules known as microcapsules[1]. In its simplest form, a microcapsule is a small sphere with a seamless thin uniform wall around it. The material inside the capsule is referred to as the core, internal phase or fill, whereas the wall is sometimes called a shell, coating or membrane. When no distinct coating and core region are distinguishable, the term microparticle is used.

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1. R.E. Sparks, Kirk-Othmer : Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Volume 15, Third Edition, page 483 (John Wiley & Son, Inc. 1981).

2. P.B. Deasy, Microencapsulation and Related Drug Processes, page 256 (Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1984).

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