

# Fate and behavior of polymeric based nanoformulations in aquatic media Poly(3hydroxybutyrate)(PHB) loaded with tebuconazole as case study

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## Introduction

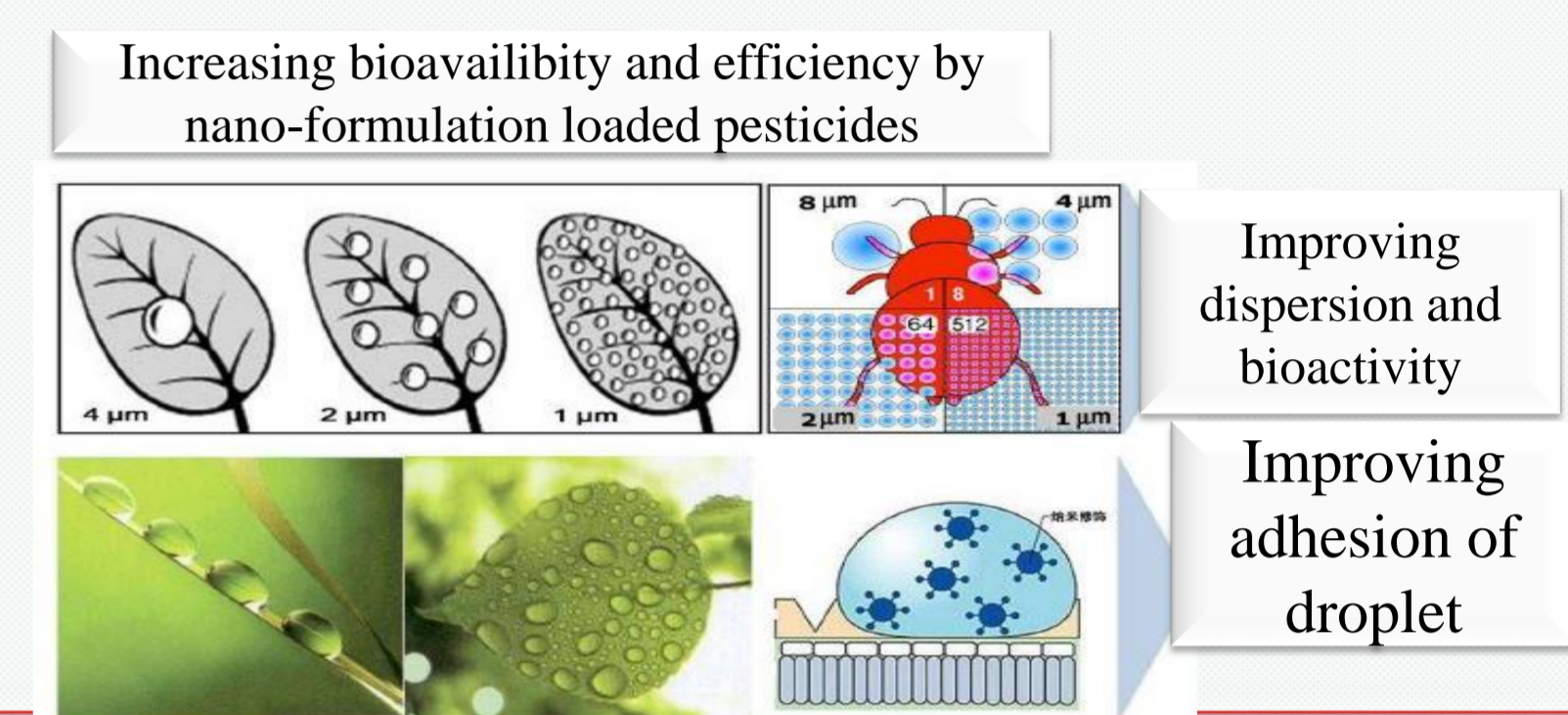
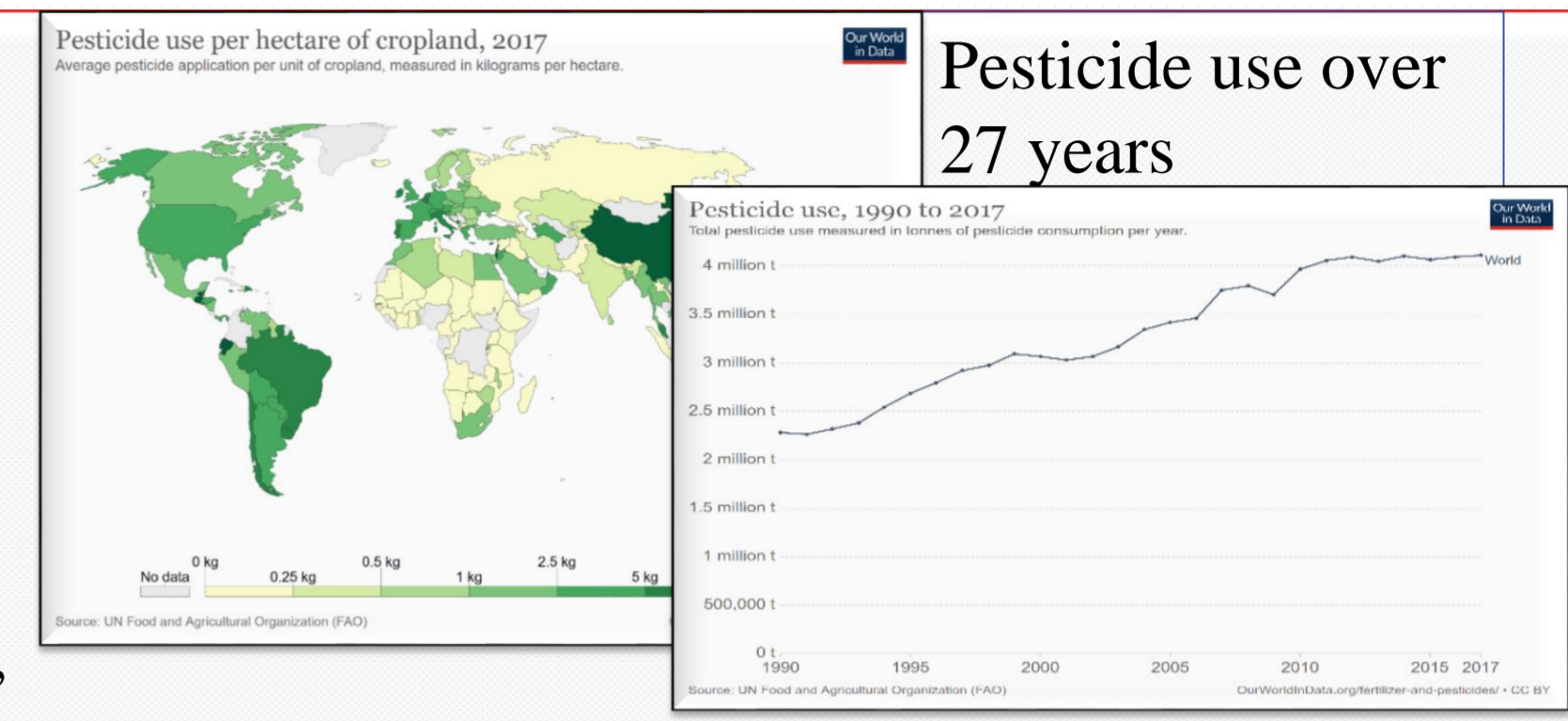
- Huge use of pesticides in the world → contamination of soil, water and air → risks for ecosystem and human health
- nanopesticides (e.g. polymer-nanoparticle carriers) = new technologies as potential alternatives to conventional pesticides: smaller amount needed, slow release, lower toxicity to non-target species etc.
- polymers such as PHB are completely biodegradable, inexpensive, easily produced, making them important for the production of release systems for bioactive materials
- polymeric nanocarriers for a variety of bioactive compounds allow altering the physico-chemical properties, employing coating techniques to modify the interactions of the particles with the target medium etc.

Hypotheses:

- PHB is stable duration by means of particle size and concentration, AI concentration and encapsulation efficiency.
- changing behaviour and bioavailability of the nanoformulated AI and pure AI in water
- the stability of tebuconazole reactivity is dramatically influenced when the dilution comes to solubility limit of AI.

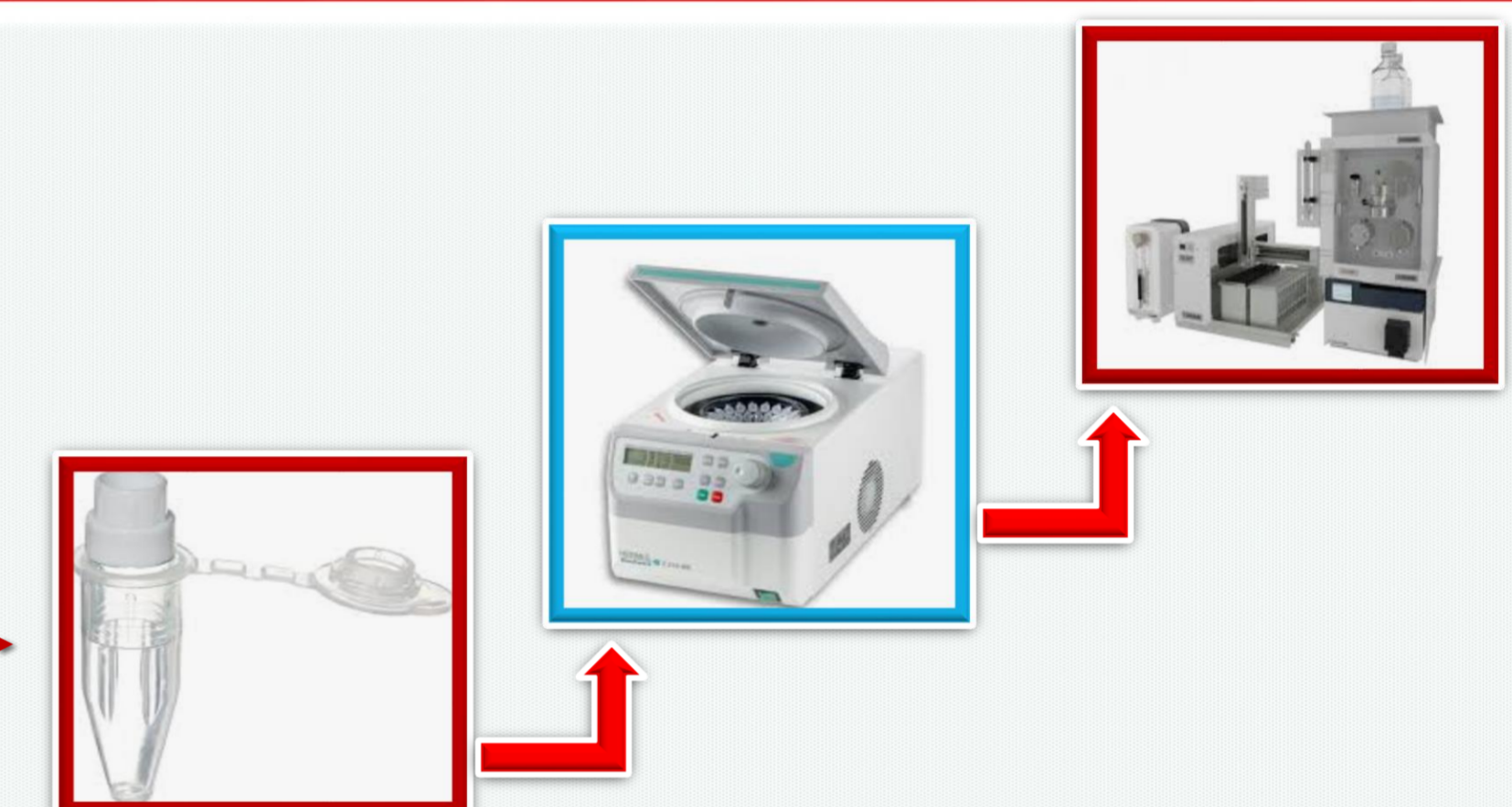
Objective:

Chemistry and physics characterization of NF-PHB-TBZ in different concentrations in aquatic media, effect of dilution, time and medium properties, targeting ability and precise control release of nanocapsules of PHB containing fungicide over time



## Method and material

- Nanoformulation was prepared through emulsion solvent evaporation method.
  - 6 nano-formulation concentration; C1: 50000, 25000, 5000, 500, 50, 10 ng/ml and 2 AI concentration; C3: 5000, C4: 500ng/ml, Blank
  - 7 sampling point; 0,4,8, 24.48, 240, 672h
  - 2 different aquatic media: Reconstituted water (RCW), Mili-Q water (autoclaved mediums used)
  - Chemical characterization:
    1. release: 0.5ml solution → microcon → 14000 rcf centrifugation for 30min → measuring free AI by LC- MS-MS
    2. Total concentration; dilution in acetonitrile → filtration through a 0.22 μm Millipore membrane
  - Physical characterization; Zeta average, concentration and polydispersity (PDI) by dynamic light scattering (DLS)
- Ongoing experiments:
- Ecotoxicity assay: acute and chronic of Daphnia Magna, chironomids and algae test according to OECD guideline
- Future experiments:
- Evaluating of NF-PHB-TBZ in soil



## Result

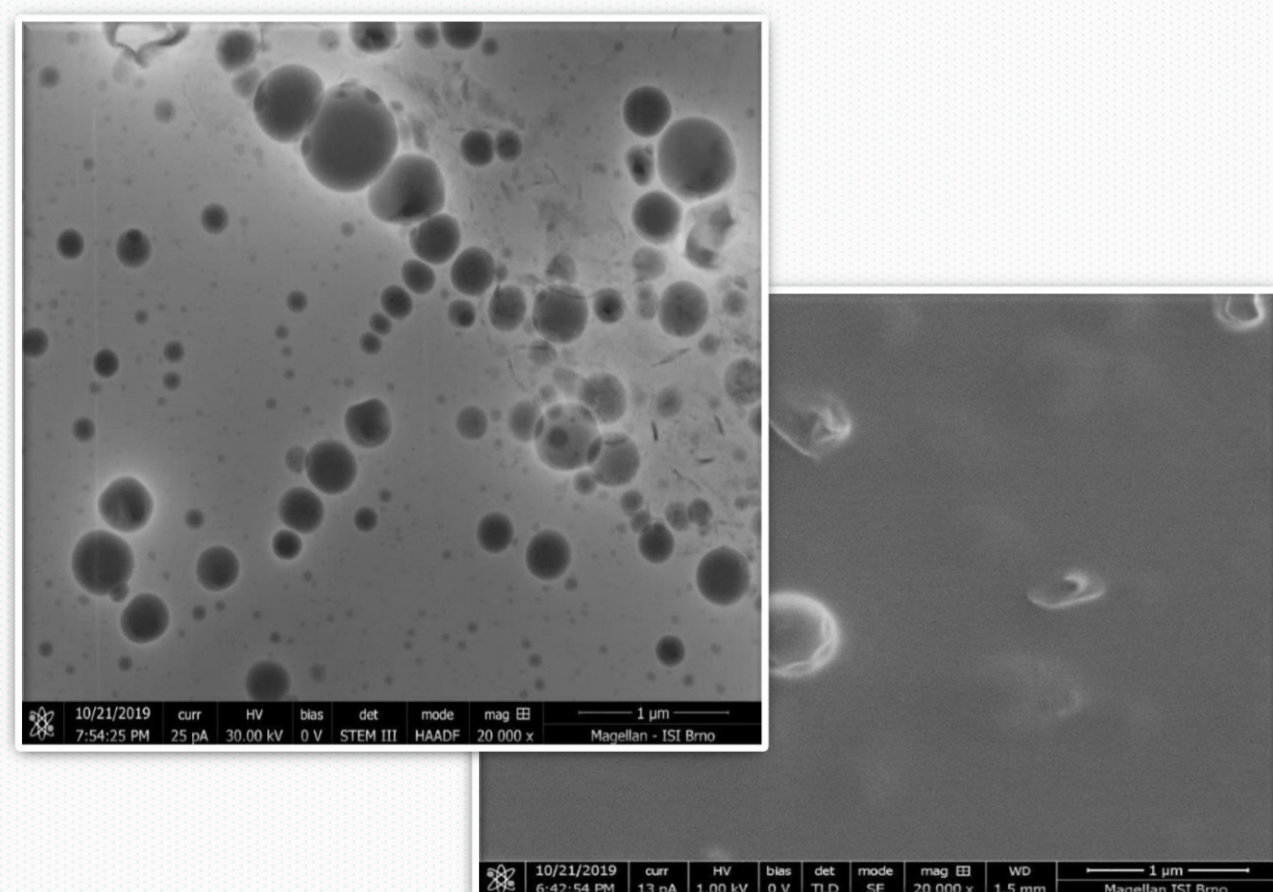
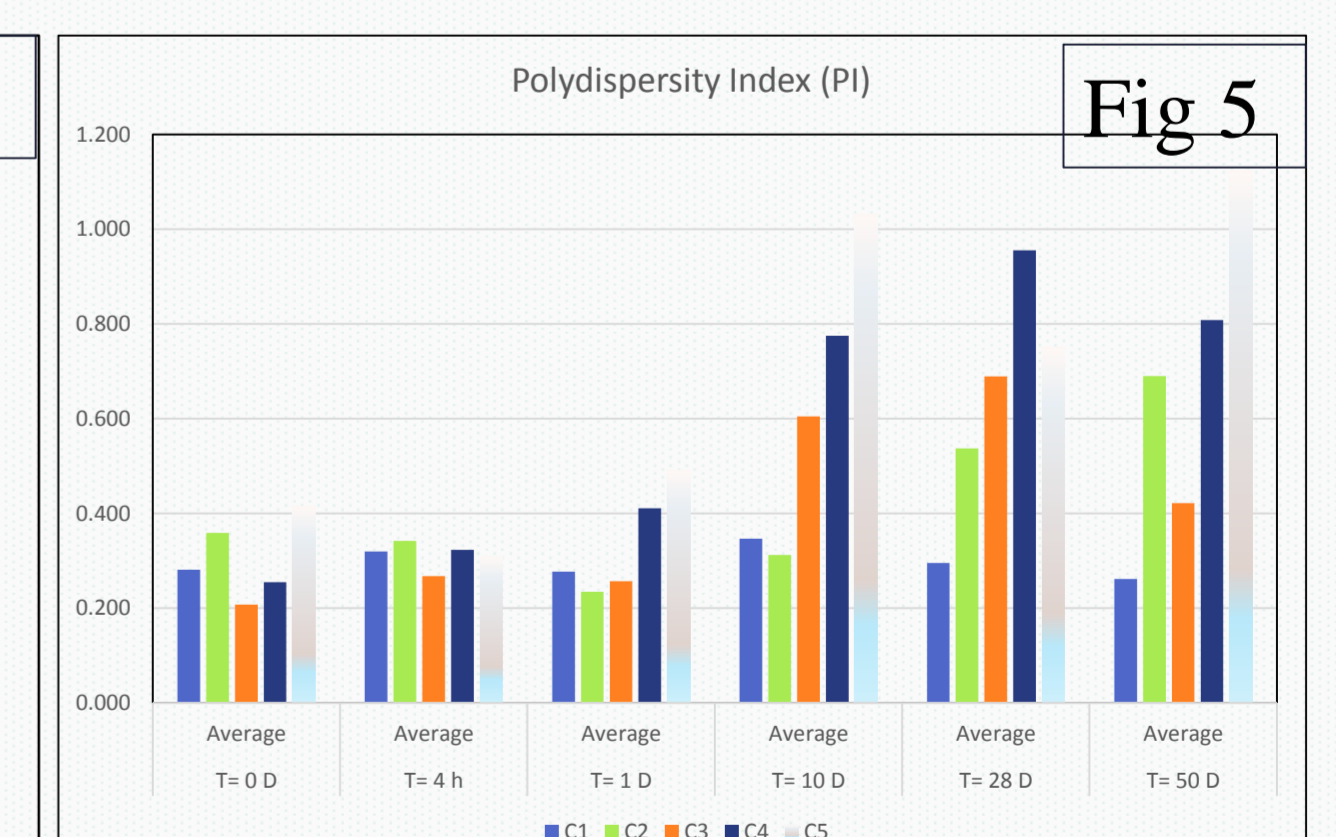
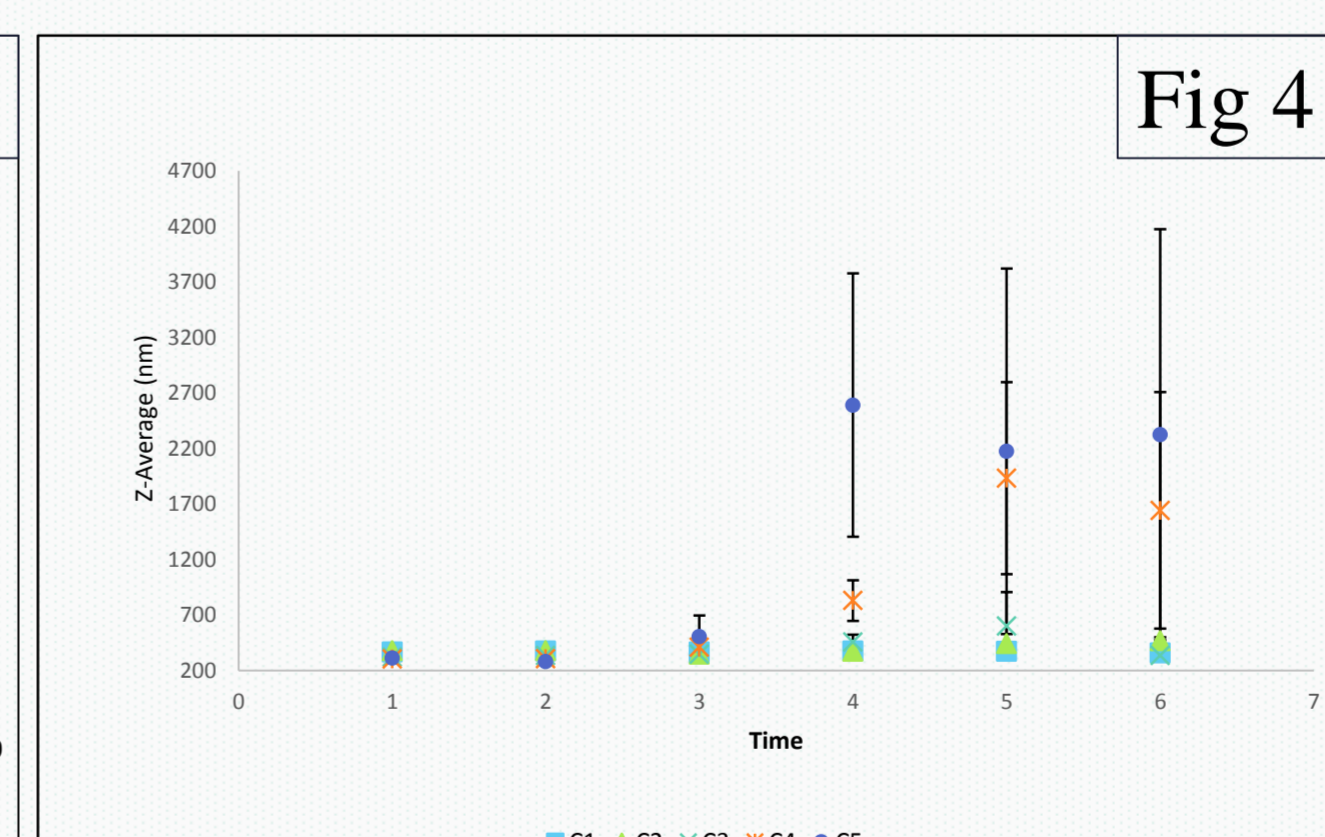
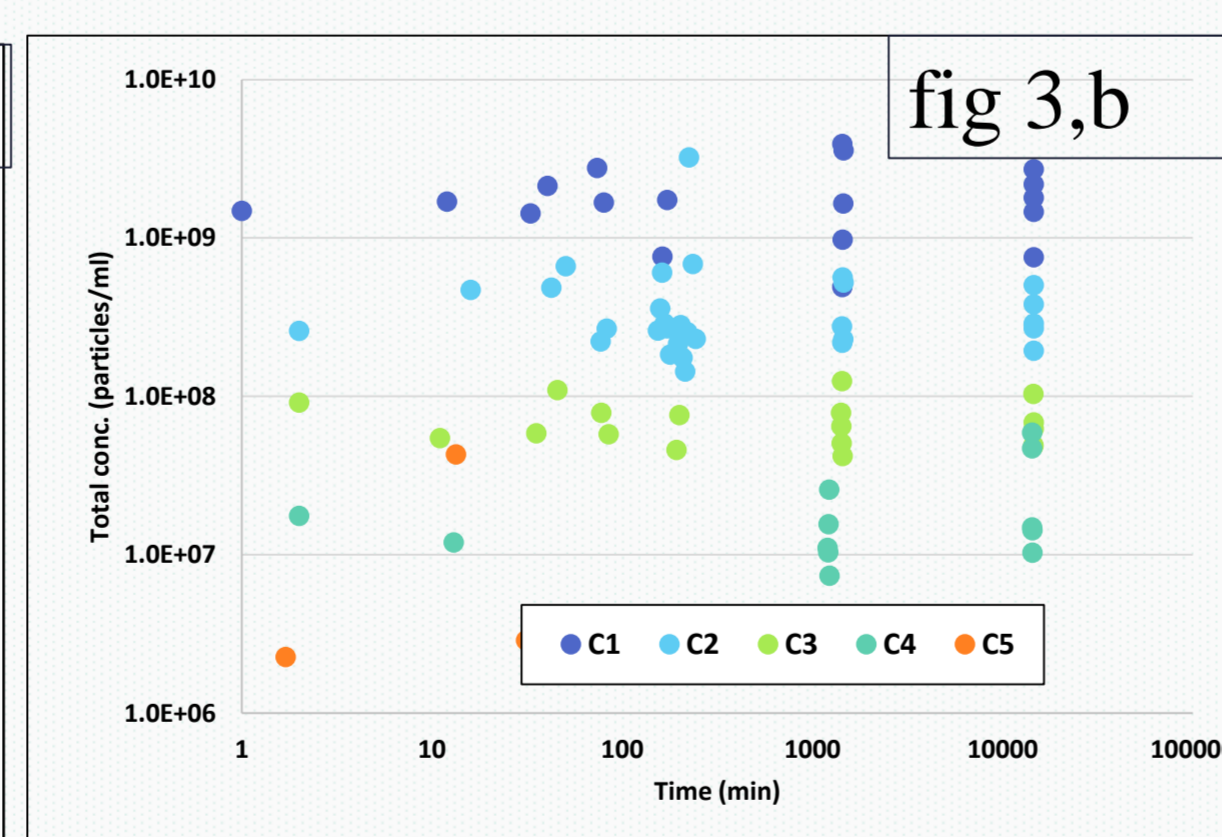
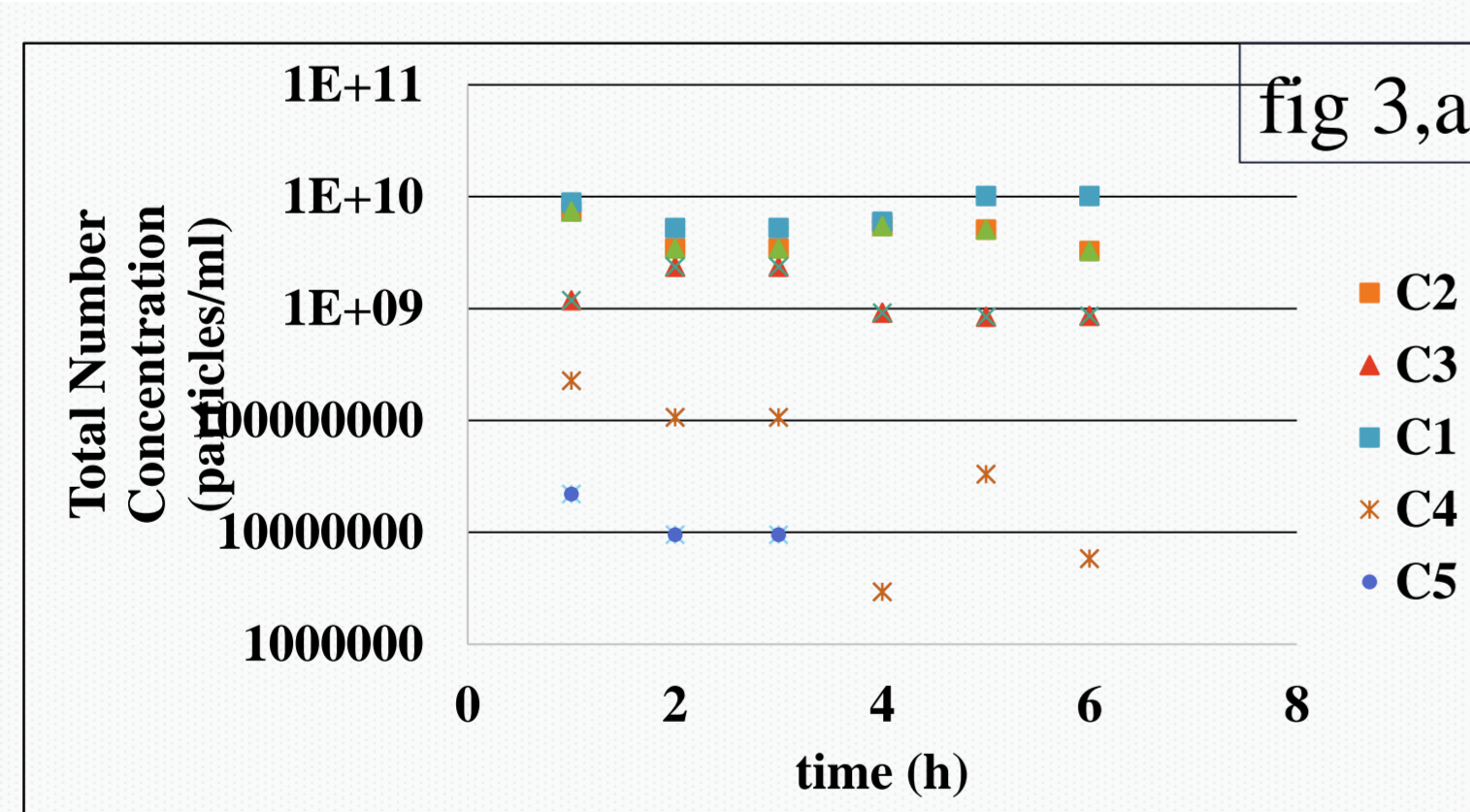
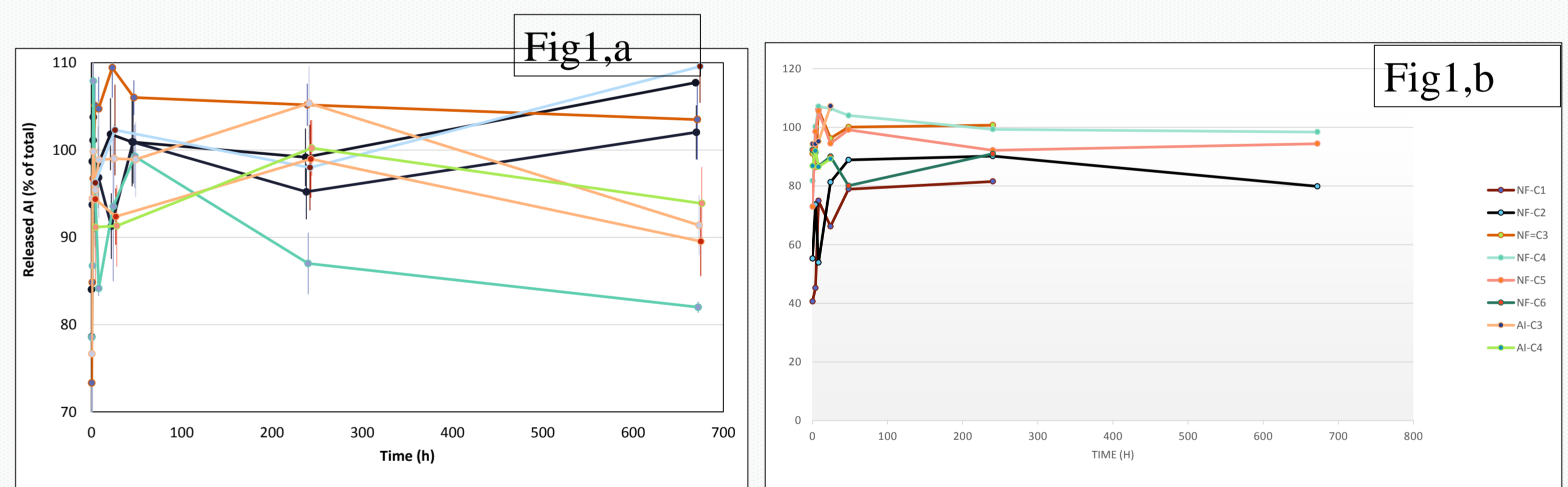


Fig2: SEM (scanning electron microscope) images showing no aggregation in NF-PHB-TBZ, spherical particles



Physical characterization of NF-PHB-TBZ in RCW and mili-Q:

Fig3. total number concentration (a:RCW and b: mili-Q water) over 50 d were almost stable

Fig4. particle sizes over 50 d of study in RCW medium slightly changed despite in C5 showing possible aggregation.

Fig5. Polydispersity

## Conclusion

- Dilution effect on release of AI over time was evaluated
- Higher dilutions seem to release faster than lower dilution and reaching the burst effect sooner
- Compared to RCW, release in mili-Q water seem to be faster
- slightly increasing the zeta average in higher diluted samples may be referred to PVA dilution as stabilizer in this NF.