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Remarks:

This application was filed on 07-02-2013 as a divisional application to the application mentioned under INID code 62.

(54) **Mesoporous silica microparticles**

(57) Mesoporous silica microparticles with an average diameter of up to about 50 μm synthesized by a method comprising: preparing a sol from an ammonium catalysed hydrolysis and condensation reaction of a pre-sol solution comprising a silica precursor and a structure directing agent dissolved in a mixed solvent system comprising an alcohol and water; hydrothermally treating the particles to increase the pore size; treating the particles to remove residual structure directing agent; and further increasing the pore size using controlled dissolution.

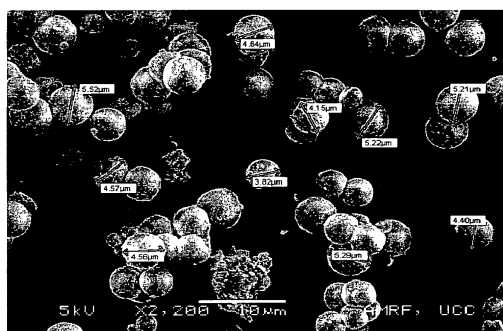


Fig. 10