

Chitosan Nanocomposites-Based Electrochemical Sensors: A Review

Abstract

Chitosan nanocomposites are a unique combination of chitosan and nanomaterials, a relatively new concept gaining relevance across all fields. Their promising potentials stem from the synergistic output between chitosan and the nanomaterials' individual properties. Chitosan is a bio-derived polymeric compound with desirable features such as biocompatibility, natural availability, high film-formability, tunable functionality, and good gel-forming ability. On the other hand, nanomaterials are a class of materials that exhibit excellent properties and efficiency exceeding that of their bulky counterparts or derivatives. Chitosan's thermal, electrical, and mechanical deficiencies are compensated when engrafted with nanocomposites. Therefore, the blend of chitosan and nanomaterials has opened up a remarkable vista for numerous applications in different fields, especially as electrochemical sensors. This review provides an up-to-date compilation of the most recent advances in the application of chitosan-based nanocomposites for electrochemical sensing and highlights their tremendous significance, as well as prospects. Different chitosan-based nanocomposites are discussed including their efficient methods of preparation.

Keywords: Chitosan Nanocomposites, Electroanalytical Methods

Sensors/Biosensors, Environmental/Food monitoring, Nanomaterials, Analytical Chemistry

1.0 Introduction

Chitosan is a bio-derived polymeric compound with unique features such as biocompatibility, natural availability, high film-formability, tunable functionality, and gel-forming ability. Other properties include biodegradability, non-toxicity, biocompatibility, high adsorption capacity, solubility in weak acids, and pH sensitivity (Kumar et al., 2019; Karrat& Amine, 2020). Certain undesirable properties of chitosan such as its non-conductivity have limited its application in the preparation of sensors of interest (Amjadi et al., 2020; Chauhan & Thakur, 2023), therefore its combination with Nanomaterials provides an opportunity to improve sensitivity, better electron transfer kinetics and wider applications (Karrat& Amine, 2020, Liu and Wang 2020, Sivanesan et al., 2021; Spoială et al., 2021 Wypij et al., 2023).

Chitosan's structure is based on two monomeric units repeating units of deacetylated D-glucosamine and Nacetyl-D-glucosamine, which are linked by glycosidic β -bond (1 \rightarrow 4) to form a chain polymer (Zargar *et al.*, 2015; Karrat& Amine, 2020), as displayed in Figure 1. Of the several biopolymers that exist, chitosan has been recognized as the most important for electrochemical purposes (Vinodh et al., 2021). It is the most important derivative of chitin (Raja, 2020), a naturally existing polymer that forms the structural basis of all exoskeletons of arthropods (such as crabs, shrimps, and insects) and the endoskeletons of cephalopods (e.g cuttlefish) (Karrat& Amine, 2020). It is found more abundantly in the shells of crabs, prawns, and lobsters, making them the main source of industrial extraction (Broquáet *et al.*, 2019; Vinodh *et al.*, 2021). The discovery of chitosan began by chance by Charles Hatchett in 1799 when he treated crab shells and shrimps with acetone and dilute nitric acid and found a color change in the shells into pale yellow (Iber et al., 2022).

Chitosan nanocomposites have also received great interest in recent times due to their ability to act as a stabilizing agent for the immobilization of biological components (such as enzymes), effectiveness in electrochemical measurements, excellent film-forming ability (Muthusankar & Ragupathy 2018, Kumar *et al.*, 2019).

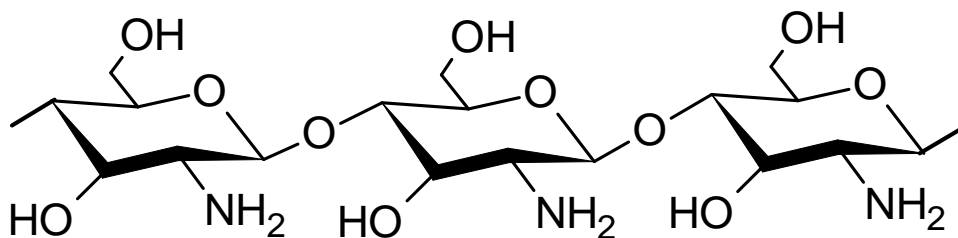


Figure 1. Chemical structure of chitosan biopolymer.

This review article captures the recent progress and advancements in the use of chitosan nanocomposites for electrochemical sensor and biosensor development within 5 years. It also presents their application for the investigation of important analytes in medical, pharmaceutical, food, beauty/cosmetics, and environmental fields, such as heavy metals, caffeine, dopamine, glucose, and hydrogen peroxide, which is one of the most studied reactive oxygen species.

2.0 Method of Chitosan synthesis

2.1 Preparation of Chitosan and Chitosan-Nanocomposites

Chitosan is the synthetic derivative of the second most abundant polysaccharide biopolymer, chitin (Negm *et al.*, 2020; Zouaoui *et al.*, 2020; Iñiguez-Moreno *et al.*, 2021) whose structural component is based on 2-acetamido-2-deoxy- β -D-glucose linked by β -bonds (1 \rightarrow 4). It is its deacetylated derivative, obtained through three major stages: Demineralization, Deproteinization, and Deacetylation.

Demineralization is carried out to eliminate the mineral contents of the crude source material which consists of calcium carbonate and calcium chloride. (Zouaoui *et al.*, 2020; Vinodh, *et al.*, 2021; El-Araby *et al.*, 2022; Kandile *et al.*, 2018). The deproteinization step involves the use of sodium hydroxide solution to remove protein contents before the deacetylation process to obtain chitin, whose hydrophobic nature limits its uses, owing to the presence of several acetyl groups. (Zouaoui *et al.*, 2020, El Knidriet *et al.*, 2018). The final and most important stage in the conversion of chitin to chitosan is the deacetylation process involving the use of concentrated alkali at an elevated temperature to produce at least a 70% deacetylation (Ling *et al.*, 2018; Muthusankar & Ragupathy 2018; Vinodh, *et al.*, 2021). The degree of deacetylation of chitin determines (Vinodh, *et al.*, 2021). Spectroscopic methods such as UV-vis, Infrared (IR), Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis, and Conductometric and Potentiometric (Kumar *et al.*, 2019, Zouaoui *et al.*, 2020). For the resulting product to be considered chitosan, it must have a degree of deacetylation of over 50%. Figure 2 provides a summary of the processes involved in the conversion of crab source material into chitosan.

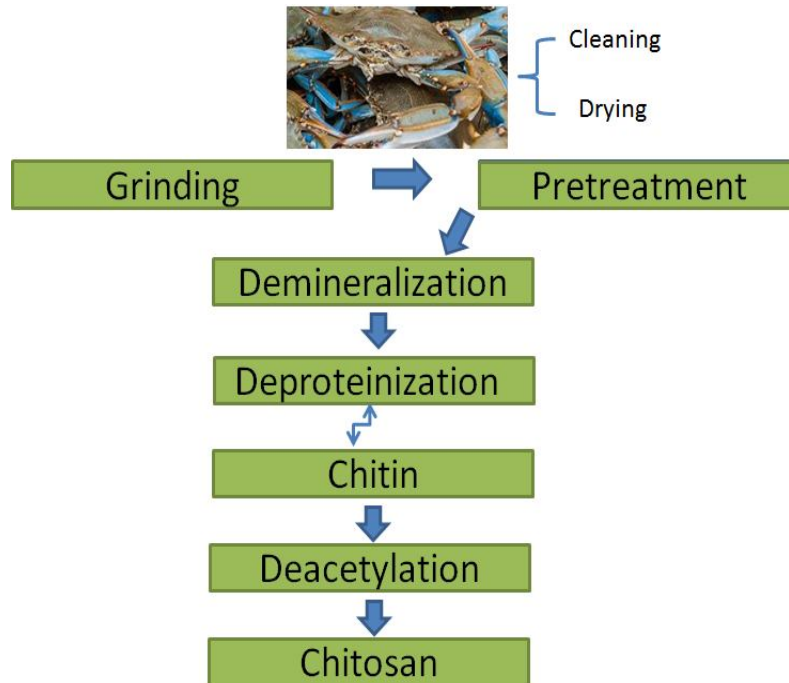


Figure 2. Preparation of Chitosan from Crabshell source.

The preparation of chitosan nanocomposites has been carried out through different means which involve physical, mechanical, or chemical procedures. Examples of techniques that have been previously employed in the synthesis of chitosan nanocomposite include electrospinning, screen printing, ultra-sonication, phase separation, and self-assembly (Muthusankar& Ragupathy 2018). Figure 3 provides a summary of some methods for the preparation of nanomaterials before they are integrated into Chitosan to form a composite

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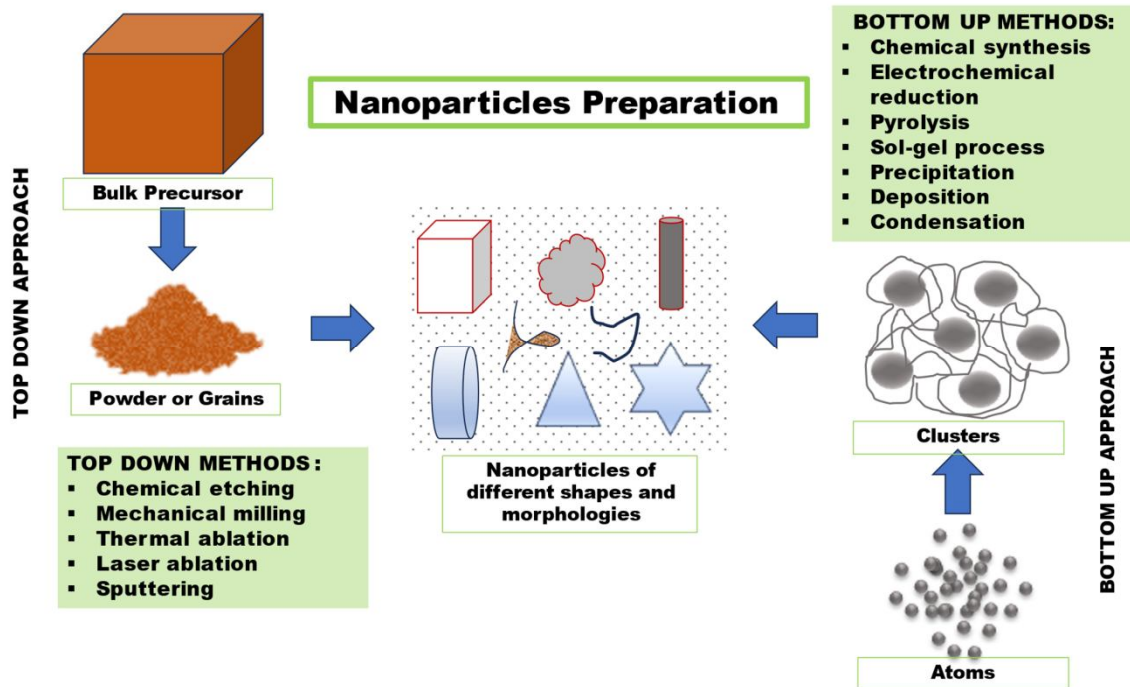


Figure 3 Methods for nanomaterials preparation

3.0 Electrochemical (Bio)Sensors Based on Chitosan-Nanocomposites

Electrochemically modified electrodes using chitosan-nanocomposites have attracted growing interest due to their ease of immobilization, high sensitivity, low detection limit, and wide range of applications (Jiang & Wu, 2019). In this section, recent applications of chitosan nanocomposites in the manufacture of different electrochemical sensors and biosensors are discussed.

3.1 Chitosan-Nanocomposite Sensors Based on Silver Nanoparticles

Silver nanocomposites have been the most attractive chitosan-based nanocomposite sensor due to their remarkable features such as high electrical conductivity, thermal conductivity, nonlinear optical feature, catalytic capacity, and enhanced surface Raman scattering (Sadasivuniet *al.*, 2019).

In the past five years, chitosan-silver nanocomposites have had a wide range of applications in several fields including agriculture (Shakeel *et al.*, 2016, Rashed *et al.*, 2022), environment (Saenchoopet *al.*, 2021, Wang *et al.*, 2021), food (Sano *et al.*, 2020, Khalaf *et al.*, 2020, Han *et al.*, 2022), engineering, and most especially chemical analysis and material science.

These reports are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on silver nanoparticles.

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	Reference
Chitosan/Ag Nanoparticles	Nitrite	Water and ham samples	Cyclic Voltammetry (CV), Differential Pulse Voltammetry (DPV)	4.0–1000 μM	$7.9 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$	Hui <i>et al.</i> 2024
“Silver nanoparticles and carbon nanotubes nanocomposite”	Diazinon (DZN)	Water and food samples	“Batch injection analysis system with	0.1 to 20 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	0.35 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Porto <i>et al.</i> , 2022

			multiple pulse amperometric detection (BIA-MPA)”			
“Silver nanoparticles and carbon nanotubes nanocomposite”	Malathion (MLT)	Water and food samples	BIA-MPA	1 to 30 Mmol L ⁻¹	0.89 μmol L ⁻¹	Porto <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Silver nanoparticles and carbon nanotubes nanocomposite”	Chlorpyrifos (CLPF)	Water and food samples	BIA-MPA	0.25 to 50 μmol L ⁻¹	0.53 μmol L ⁻¹	Porto <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Silver/manganese oxide nanoparticles (Ag-mnoxnps/PAYR)”	2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid Herbicide	Water samples	CV	22 to 11,752 μmol L ⁻¹	7.33 μmol L ⁻¹	Fathi, <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Silver/manganese oxide nanoparticles (Ag-mnoxnps/PAYR)”	2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid Herbicide	Water samples	DPV	6 to 14,308 μmol L ⁻¹	2 μmol L ⁻¹	Fathi <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Multiwalled carbon nanotube chitosan-functionalized silver	Nitrite	River water sample	CV	100 nmol L ⁻¹ to 50 μmol	30 nmol L ⁻¹	Bibi <i>et al.</i> , 2019

nanoparticles (MWCNT) nitrite (Chit-agnps)”				L ⁻¹		
“Chitosan polymer complex derived nanocomposite (agnps/NSC)”	Glucose	Not stated	CV, chronoampero metry and EIS	5 μmol L ⁻¹ to 3 mmol L ⁻¹	0.046 m mol L ⁻¹	Khalaf <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Flower-like molybdenum disulfide/Ag nanoparticle-chitosan (mos ₂ /Ag nps-CS) composite”	Butylated hydroxyanis ole (BHA	Food	Molecularly imprinted electrochemic al sensor	1 × 10 ⁻⁹ to 1 × 10 ⁻⁴ mol L ⁻¹	7.9 × 10 ⁻⁹ mol L ⁻¹	Han <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Silver nanoparticles on chitosan/polyvinylpyrr olidone modified micro-needle electrode (agnps/CTS/PVP/MN E)”	Nitrate (NO ₃ ⁻)	Seawater samples	Amperometry	5 to 2000 μmo l L ⁻¹	1.2 μmol L ⁻¹	Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Composite layer of silver nanowires,	Hg (II)	Commercial drinking water	Screen- Printed	5 to 25 μmol L ⁻¹	3.94 μmol L ⁻¹	Saenchoop <i>aet al.</i> ,

hydroxymethyl propyl cellulose, chitosan, and urease (agnws/HPMC/CS/Urease)”		samples	Carbon Electrode (SPCE)			2021
“Silver nanoparticles using chitosan as stabilizer”	P-Nitrophenol	Surface water rice samples	DPV	1.0×10^{-6} to 1.0×10^{-4} mol L ⁻¹	6.0×10^{-7} mol L ⁻¹	Laghribet <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Silver decorated chitosan nanocomposite (Ag@CTSN)”	Thiourea	Spiked samples	CV	200 to 3600 μ mol L ⁻¹	18 μ mol L ⁻¹	Rashed <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Silver nanoparticles embedded chitosan-carbon nanotube hybrid composite (agchit-CNT)”	Clopidogrel	Urine and pharmaceutical formulations	DPV	5×10^{-8} to 12×10^{-6} M.	30 nmol L ⁻¹	Satyanarayana <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Silver nanoparticles embedded chitosan-carbon nanotube hybrid composite (agchit-CNT)”	Clopidogrel	Urine and pharmaceutical formulations	Amperometry	5×10^{-8} to 12×10^{-6} mol L ⁻¹	10 nmol L ⁻¹	Satyanarayana <i>et al.</i> , 2019

3.2 Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on copper and other metallic/magnetic nanoparticles.

Recently, nanocomposites based on copper are receiving considerable attention, especially because of their wide applications in the energy field in the production of batteries, gas sensors, and electrical, optical, and solar energy exchange tools (Vasantharajet *al.*, 2019). The table 2 below shows recent work sensors designed on copper electrodes

Table 2. Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on copper and other metallic/magnetic nanoparticles.

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	REF
“Copper–chitosan–black phosphorus nanocomposite CuNPs–Chit–BP”	Hydrogen peroxide	Standard samples	CV and Amperometry	10 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ to 10.3 mmol L^{-1}	0.390 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Zhao <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Copper nanoparticle/C spheres composite (Cu NPs/C)”	Azathioprine (AZP)	Environmental application	CV	0.01 to 1401 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	3.5 nmol L^{-1}	Anupriya <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Cerium oxide-copper oxide (CeO ₂ -Cu ₂ O) /	4-Nitrophenol	Water samples	CV	74 to 375 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	2.03 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Khan <i>et al.</i> , 2019

chitosan (CeOC-Cu ₂ O/CH ⁺) nanocomposites						
“Self-assembled chitosan capped with gold nanoparticles (Cs + AuNPs)”	Acetylsalicylic acid ASA or aspirin)	Urine samples	Voltammetric electronic tongue (VE-Tongue	1 pg mL ⁻¹ to 1 μg mL ⁻¹	0.03 pg mL ⁻¹	Diouf <i>et al.</i> , 2020.
“V _{3.6} Mo _{2.4} O ₁₆ chitosan (MV-CHT) nanocomposite chitosan-molybdenum vanadate nanocomposite”	Paracetamol	Drug samples	CV	0.0019 to 194.0 μmol L ⁻¹	0.224 nmol L ⁻¹	Monsef, R., & Salavati-Niasari, M. (2022).
“Pt-Pd nanoparticles/chitosan/nitrogen-doped graphene (N-Gra) nanocomposite”	Ascorbic acid	Drug samples	CV	2 to 400 μmol L ⁻¹	0.97 μmol L ⁻¹	Luo <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Pt-Pd nanoparticles/chitosan	Sulfite	Drug samples	CV	8 to 600 μmol L ⁻¹ ,	5.5 μmol L ⁻¹	Luo <i>et al.</i> , 2021

an/nitrogen-doped graphene (N-Gra) nanocomposite						
“Pt-Pd nanoparticles/chitosan/nitrogen-doped graphene (N-Gra) nanocomposite”	Oxalic acid	Drug samples	CV	1.5 to 500 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	0.84 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Luo <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Chitosan/SnO ₂ -SiC”	Acrylamide	Drinking water and food samples.	CV	187 \pm 12.3 ng kg^{-1} to 104 \pm 8.2 $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$	45.9 \pm 2.7 ng kg^{-1}	Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2019

3.3 Chitosan-Nanocomposite Sensors Based on Gold Nanoparticles

Sensors based on gold-chitosan nanocomposites have also been significantly explored for sensing applicability owing to their desirable properties and outstanding performances (Devi *et al.*, (2019, Ghalehnoet *et al.*, 2019, Diouf *et al.*, 2020, Lavanya *et al.*, 2021, Lvet *et al.*, 2023).

The high compatibility of carbon nanotubes with gold nanoparticles has given rise to several chitosan-gold hybrids which has been applied in several fields for the detection of a wide range of

analytes. Table 3 gives the summary of reports related to chitosan-nanocomposite-gold nanoparticles sensors.

Table 3. Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on gold nanoparticles

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	REF
Gold chip surface	Amlodipine	Urine samples	CV	0.05–150 μM	50 nm	Hassan <i>et al.</i> 2024
“Chitosan capped with gold” nanoparticles (SPCE/Cs + aunps)	Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or aspirin)	Urine, saliva and pharmaceutical	VE-Tongue	1 pg ml^{-1} and 1 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$	0.03 pg ml^{-1}	Diouf <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Chitosan/gold nanoparticles Nanocomposite Film (Chi/aunps)”	Bisphenol A (BPA)	Water samples	CV	0.4 to 20 Mmol L^{-1}	0.32 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Almeida <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Gold nanoparticle–chitosan/graphene paste modified carbon paste electrode	Activated protein C	APC in human serum samples	Aptasensor	0.1 ng ml^{-1} to 40 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$	0.073 ng ml^{-1}	Ghalehno <i>et al.</i> , 2019.

(aunps-Chi/Gr paste)”						
“Chitosan gold nanoparticles decorated molecularly imprinted polymer (Ch-aumip)”	Ciprofloxacin (CIP) antibiotic	Tap water, mineral water, milk, and pharmaceutical formulation.	MIP/CV	1 to 100 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	210 nmol L^{-1}	Surya <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Gold nanoparticle decorated on a molybdenum disulfide/chitosan (Au@mos ₂ /Ch)”	Monosodium glutamate (MSG)	Food samples	Amperometry/ Immunosensor	0.05 to 200 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	0.03 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Devi <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Chitosan (CS) capped with gold nanoparticles (aunps)”	Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA)	Food samples	MIP	0.001 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$	0.01–20 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$	Motia <i>et al.</i> , (2021)
“Au/Carbon Nanofibers □ chitosan and Reduced	Mercury (Hg ²⁺)	Tap water.	Signal probe and Specific Single-	5.7×10^{-5} nmol L^{-1}	0.0001–460 nmol	Lvet <i>et al.</i> , 2023

Graphene Oxide. (dpau/cnfs-CS)- (RGO”			Stranded DNA (ssDNA) as recognition component		L^{-1}	
“Au□W bimetallic nanoparticles decorated graphene□chitosa n nanocomposite (aunps- wnps@Gr- Chi/PGE)”	Nitrite	Water, milk, and natural fruit juice samples.	CV	$0.12 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	From 10 to 250 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Lavanya <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Molecularly imprinted polymer (mips) made of chitosan (CS) biopolymer electrochemically deposited onto a gold microelectrode”	Glyphosate (N- (phosphonom ethyl-glycine (GLY)	River water sample	EIS	0.31 pg ml^{-1} to 50 ng ml^{-1}	0.31 pg ml^{-1} to 50 ng ml^{-1}	Zouaoui <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Nitrogen-doped	Glucose	Standard	Amperometry	10 nmol L^{-1}	3.3 n	Ran <i>et</i>

graphene quantum dots (N-gqds Au-N-gqds were stabilized with chitosan”		samples		to 5.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	$\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	<i>al.</i> , (2019
“Chitosan (CS) biopolymer electrochemically deposited onto a gold microelectrode”	Glyphosate	River water, Soybean sprout	EIS	0.31 pg ml^{-1} to 50 ng ml^{-1}	5 fg ml^{-1}	Zouaoui <i>et al.</i> , 2020

3.4 Chitosan-Nanocomposite Sensors Based on Carbon Nanotubes.

Table 4. Chitosan-Nanocomposite Sensors Based on Carbon Nanotubes.

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	Reference
“MWCNTs-nitrogen doped graphene (NGr) and chitosan	Anticancer drug, nilutamide	Biological environment and pharmaceutical	CV and DPV	0.005 to 20 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ and 20 to 900 μmol	1.6 nmol L^{-1}	Akhter <i>et al.</i> , 2020

(CTS) with electrodeposited copper (Cu)”		ical commercial preparations		L^{-1}		
“Nano-hydroxyapatite incorporated MWCNT-chitosan scaffolds (HANPs/MWCNTCS/GCE)”	Nitrofurantoin	Tap water	CV, EIS and amperometry	0.005 to 982.1 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	1.3 nmol L^{-1}	Velmurugan, <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Chitosan–gold nanoparticles composite cryogel on Prussian blue-coated multi-walled carbon nanotubes”	Histamine	Fish and shrimp sample	CV, SPE	2.50 to 125.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ and 125.0 to 400.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	1.81 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$.	Nontipichet <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“NanoAu/Poly(A BSA)-MWCNTs/GCE”	Hydroquinone	Lake water	CV, DPV	2 ~ 200 mmol L^{-1}	1.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2022
glassy carbon	Mycobacterium	real media	CV, DPV	1.0×10^{-15} –	1.53×1	Naghshgah

electrode	cterium avium subspeci es paratube rculosis (MAP)			1.0×10^{-12} mol L ⁻¹	0^{-13} mol L ⁻¹	<i>ret al.</i> , 2024
(chitosan/rGO/GC E)	Imatinib	Human serum samples	DPV	7.3 nM	1– 300 μM	Yongzhie <i>t al</i> 2024
“Multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs- graphene (GR)/ gold nanoparticles (AuNPs)/Nafion”	Lead (Pb ²⁺)	Water and milk samples	Ion- imprinted polymers (IIPs), CV	1.0×10^{-9} to $5.0 \times$ 10^{-5} mol L ⁻¹	$2.83 \times$ 10^{-10} mol L ⁻¹ .	Wu, <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> , 2020
“Gold nanoparticle (AuNP)-decorated multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNT) encapsulated in a	Catechol	Wine	CV	0 to 1 mmol L ⁻¹	$3.7 \times$ 10^{-5} mol L ⁻¹	Salvo- Comino <i>et al.</i> , 2020

polymeric chitosan (CS) CS /AuNPs / MWCNT”						
“CoNPs/chitosan-MWCNTs”	Insulin	Blood samples	SPCE, CV	0.05 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ to 5 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	25 nmol L^{-1}	Šišolákov áet al., 2020
“Ferricyanide-doped chitosan and multi-walled carbon nanotubes (FC/Chi-MWCNT)”	Ascorbic acid	Human serum and urine samples	DPV	10 to 2056.8 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	5.3 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Li et al., 2019
“FC/Chi-MWCNT”	Dopamine	Human serum and urine samples	DPV	1 to 94.1 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	1.1 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Li et al., 2019
“FC/Chi-MWCNT”	Uric acid	Human serum and urine samples	DPV	1 to 193.7 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ to 2.7 nmol L^{-1}	2.7 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Li et al., 2019
“FC/Chi-MWCNT”	Tryptophan	Human serum and	DPV	1 to 198.9 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	3.7 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Li et al., 2019

		urine samples				
“FC/Chi-MWCNT”	Xanthine	Human serum and urine samples	DPV	1 to 191.3 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	7.3 nmol L^{-1}	Li et al., 2019
“FC/Chi-MWCNT”	Caffeine	Human serum and urine samples	DPV	10 to 2.4 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	2.2 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Li et al., 2019
“Glucose-oxidase-chitosan-carbon nanotube hybrid (GOx-Chit-CNT)”	Glucose	Dialysis samples	CV	Not stated	Not stated	Choi <i>et al.</i> , 2019

3.5 Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on carbon quantum dots

Carbon quantum dots have amassed rising interest and attention, especially in recent years, due to many of their fascinating properties such as low cost of fabrication, high electrical conductivity, large surface area, and non-toxicity. The presence of superficial rich functional groups also provides a wealth of active, anchoring sites for the development of multi-component, high-performance composite materials (Tummala *et al.*, 2022). A summary of the reports on applications of Chitosan-nanocomposite-carbon quantum as sensors is shown in Table 5.S

Table 5. Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on carbon quantum dots.

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	Reference
“Carbon quantum dots/copper oxide nanocomposite (CQDs/CuO)”	Epinephrine	Chicken blood serum	CV	10 to 100 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	15.99 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Elugokeet <i>et al.</i> , 2023
“Carbon quantum dots (cqds) synthesized from candle soot”	Insulin detection	Human blood serum	Differential-Pulse Adsorptive Anodic Stripping Voltammetry (DPAdASV)	0.5 nmol L^{-1} to 10 nmol L^{-1}	106.8 p mol L^{-1}	Abazar & Noorbakhsh, 2020
“Nitrogen-doped carbon quantum dots (N-CQDS)”	Fluorescent sensor	Fe^{3+} ions in water samples	Fluorescent sensor	Not stated	0.15 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Zhao <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Graphene quantum dots, chitosan, and	Diazinon	Cucumber and tomato samples	CV	0.1 to 330 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	30 nmol L^{-1}	Eddin <i>et al.</i> , 2021

nickel molybdate (NiMoO ₄)”						
“Cu-doped carbon dots (Cu-CDS) with chitosan”	H ₂ O ₂	Human serum samples spiked with glucose.	Colorimetry	0.625 to 40 μM	0.12 μM	Tummala <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Cross-linked chitosan/thiolate d graphene quantum dots modified by gold nanoparticle (Au- NSS/GQDS- CS/Cysteamine	Ractopamine	Biological samples	DPV	0.0044 fm ol L ⁻¹ to 19.55 μm ol μmol L ⁻¹ L	0.0044 f mol L ⁻¹	Mirzaie <i>et al.</i> , 2019
Polypyrrole- chitosan/graphen e quantum dots nanocomposite	Glucose detection	Biological samples	Surface plasmon resonance sensor	Not stated	1 ppm	Sadrolhosse iniet <i>al.</i> , 2019

layer deposited on gold-coated glass”						
“Nitrogen-doped graphene quantum dots	Triclocarban	Personal care Products	CV	0.05 to 8.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	17.0 nmol L^{-1} ,	Santana, <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“T-Cyclodextrin-graphene quantum dots-chitosan modified SPE	Fluoroquinolones	Animal source products e.g. broths, bouillon cubes and milkshakes	CV and DPV	4 to 250 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	1.2 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Bartolomé <i>et al.</i> , 2023
“Integrated chitosan, poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride)-functionalized multi-walled carbon nanotubes and	Glucose	Human serum samples	Closed bipolar electrochemiluminescence (C-BP-ECL)	0.1 to 5000 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	64 nmol L^{-1}	Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2019

graphene quantum dots-gold nanoparticles (CS, PDDA-MWCNTs and GQDs-AuNPs)”						
“Carbon black and CdTe quantum dots in chitosan film”	Norfloxacin	Pharmaceutical formulation, synthetic urine and spiked serum.	Square Wave Adsorptive Stripping Voltammetry (SWADSV)	0.2 to 7.4 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	6.6 nmol L^{-1}	Santos <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Graphene quantum dots, chitosan, and nickel molybdate nanocomposites”	Diazinon	Cucumber and tomato samples.	DPV	0.1 to 330 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	30 nmol L^{-1}	Eddin <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Gold -Nitrogen-doped graphene quantum dots	Glucose	Standard samples	Electrochemiluminescence (ECL)	10 nmol L^{-1} to 5.0 $\mu\text{mol}\mu$	3.3 nmol L^{-1}	Ran <i>et al.</i> , 2019

(Au-N-GQDS) stabilized with chitosan”				mol L ⁻¹ L		
“Graphene quantum dots”	Epinephrine	Human serum	CV	0.36 to 380 μmol L ⁻¹ L	0.3 nmol L ⁻¹	Tashkhourian <i>et al.</i> , 2018

Table 6. Chitosan-Nanocomposite Sensors Based on Graphene.

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	REF
glassy carbon electrode/gold nanoparticle/gold nanodendrites/chitosan-reduced graphene oxide/Anti-CEA antibody	carcinoembryonic antigen	Human serum	Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) and Linear Sweep Voltammetry (LSV)	1×10^{-13} to 1×10^{-8} g/mL	2.23 (± 0.03) $\times 10^{-14}$ g/mL	Buddhadev <i>et al</i> 2024
glass carbon electrode (GCE)	Aflatoxin B ₁	CV, DPV, and Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy		0.05 to 25 ng/mL	0.021 ng/mL	Zhang <i>et al</i> 2024

		(EIS)				
“Chitosan-reduced graphene oxide (CS-rGO) Fe-hemin-MOFs/CS-rGO”	H ₂ O ₂	Human serum samples	Amperometry	1 to 61 μmol L ⁻¹	0.57 μmol L ⁻¹	Zhao <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Reduced graphene oxide-chitosan-ferrocene carboxylic acid/platinum nanoparticle (RGO-CS-Fc/Pt NPs)”	H ₂ O ₂	Clinical serum samples	Amperometry	0.5 to 4.0 mg mL ⁻¹	5.70 μg mL ⁻¹	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2019.
“Ion-imprinted chitosan-graphene nanocomposites (IIP-S)”	Cr(VI)	Tap water and river water	CV, EIS and DPV	1.0 × 10 ⁻⁹ to 1.0 × 10 ⁻⁵ mol/L	6.4 × 10 ⁻¹ mol/L	Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2018

<p>“Reduced graphene oxide-chitosan-ferrocene carboxylic acid/platinum nanoparticle (RGO-CS-Fc/Pt NPs)”</p>	Cholesterol	Clinical serum samples	Amperometry	0.5 to 4.0 mg mL ⁻¹	5.70 μg mL ⁻¹	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2019
<p>“Nitrogen-doped graphene quantum dots (N-GQDs Au-N-GQDs), stabilized with chitosan”</p>	glucose	Grape juice samples	CV, Electrochemiluminescence (ECL): and EIS	10 nmol L ⁻¹ to 5.0 μmol μmol L ⁻¹ L	3.3 nmol L ⁻¹	Ran <i>et al.</i> , 2019
<p>“Reduced graphene oxide (RGO) and carbon black (CB) in Chitosan” (rGO-CB-CS)</p>	Dopamine	Urine samples	Square Wave Voltammetry (SWV)	3.2 × 10 ⁻⁶ to 3.2 × 10 ⁻⁵ mol L ⁻¹	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁷ mol L ⁻¹	Baccarin <i>et al.</i> , 2017

RGO-CB-CS	Paracetamol	Urine samples	SWV	2.8×10^{-6} to 1.9×10^{-5} mol L ⁻¹	5.3×10^{-8} mol L ⁻¹	Baccarin <i>et al.</i> , 2017
“Graphene nanoplatelets (GNPs)-multiwalled carbon nanotube (MWCNTs) and chitosan (CS) (GNPs-MWCNTs-CS)”	Bisphenol A, BPA	Milk samples	DPV	0.1 to 100 μmol L ⁻¹	0.05 nmol L ⁻¹	Zou <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Sulfur-doped reduced graphene oxide (S-rGO)”	Mercury (Hg ²⁺)	Fish muscle	DPAdASV	0.125 to 6 μmol L ⁻¹	1.6 nmol L ⁻¹	Ran <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Functionalized Graphene (f-graphene) doped chitosan (CS)”	Ochratoxin A (OTA)	Grape juice samples	DPV	1 μgmL ⁻¹ to 1 fg mL ⁻¹	1 fg mL ⁻¹	Kaur <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Graphene, and titanium dioxide	Lead (Pb ²⁺)	Food sample	CV	1 ng L ⁻¹ to 1000 ng	0.33 ng L ⁻¹	Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2022

(CS/RGO/TiO ₂) ”		s		L ⁻¹		
“Imprinted chitosan/gold nanoparticles/graphene modified glassy carbon electrode (CS/AuNPs/GR/GCE)”	Cd(II)	Drinking water and milk samples.	Voltammetry	0.1 to 0.9 μmol μmol L ⁻¹ L.	1.62 × 10 ⁻⁴ μmol μmol L ⁻¹ L	Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2020).
“Chitosan–Graphene Glassy Carbon Modified Electrode”	Hydroxyflavonoid Morin	Food samples.	CV	0.30 μmol L ⁻¹ to 1.0 μmol L ⁻¹	0.30 μmol L ⁻¹	Naglese <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Ag-reduced graphene oxide (rGO) and chitosan (CS)”	Carbaryl pesticide	Pesticide residues	CV	1.0 × 10 ⁻⁸ to 1.0 μg mL ⁻¹	1.0 × 10 ⁻⁹ μg mL ⁻¹ .	Mashuniet <i>al.</i> , 2022
“Chitosan-graphene oxide composites polymer	Cu (II)	Tap and river water	DPAdASV	0.5 to 100 μmol L ⁻¹	0.15 μmol L ⁻¹	Wei <i>et al.</i> , 2019

modified glassy carbon electrode (CS/GO-IIP)		samples				
“Graphene oxide-chitosan composite (GO-chit)”	Phorate	Fresh vegetables	DPV	0.1 to 800 nmol L ⁻¹	0.1 nmol L ⁻¹	Fu <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“GO-chit”	Isocarbophos	Fresh vegetables	DPV	0.01 to 1000 nmol L ⁻¹	0.01 nmol L ⁻¹	Fu <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“GO-chit”	Omethoate	Fresh vegetables	DPV	0.1– 100 nmol L ⁻¹	0.1 nmol L ⁻¹	Fu <i>et al.</i> , 2020

Table 7. Chitosan-nanocomposite sensors based on carbon black/carbon paste.

Electrode	Analyte	Application	Technique	Linear range	LOD	REF
“Double imprinted Monomer acryloylated graphene oxide-carbon black	Dopamine (DA) Epinephrine (EP)	Blood serum, urine and pharmaceutical	DPAdASV	DA-0.115 to 5.909 ng mL ⁻¹	“Dopamine: 28 pg mL ⁻¹ (Water), 28 pg mL ⁻¹ (Serum), 61 pg mL ⁻¹ ”	Fatma <i>et al.</i> , 2019

composite polymer (aGO/CBOMNiDIP/SPE)”		samples		EP- 0.079 to 1.307 ng mL ⁻¹	(Urine) and 29 pg mL ⁻¹ (Pharmaceutical sample) Epinephrine: 17 pg mL ⁻¹ (Water), 18 pg mL ⁻¹ (Serum), 19 pg mL ⁻¹ (Urine) and 20 pg mL ⁻¹ (Pharmaceutical sample)”	
“Carbon black and CdTe quantum dots in a chitosan film”	Norfloxacin	Urine and spiked serum.	SWAdAS V	0.2 to 7.4 μmol L ⁻¹	6.6 nmol L ⁻¹	Santos <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Carbon black - chitosan-stabilized platinum nanoparticles (CB-Ch-PtNP)”	H ₂ O ₂	Natural water samples	Chronoamperometry		10 μmol L ⁻¹ .	Silva <i>et al.</i> , 2023
“Carbon black -	Bisphenol	Natural	DPAdASV		7.9 nmol L ⁻¹	Silva <i>et</i>

chitosan-stabilized platinum nanoparticles (CB-Ch-PtNP)”	A (BPA).	water samples				<i>al., 2023</i>
“Super P carbon black particles and chitosan”	Macrolide antibiotics, environmental samples	Water and pharmaceutical samples	CV	1.0–190.0 μmol	Not stated	Veloso <i>et al., 2022</i>
Carbon paste						
“Gold nanoparticle–chitosan/graphene paste modified carbon paste electrode. AuNPs-CS/Gr/CPE electrode”	Activated protein C (APC)	Human serum samples	CV, DPV & EIS	0.1 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ - 40 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$	0.073 $\text{ng}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$	Ghalehn <i>oet al., 2019</i>
“A carbon paste electrode, modified with chitosan-based magnetic molecularly	Lactic acid	Milk samples	CV and DPV	0.01–10.0 μM and 10.0–	0.005 μM	Mahmo <i>udi et al., 2022</i>

imprinted Polymer (CS-MIP)”				500.0 μM		
“Poly (chitosan) (P (CS))”	Riboflavin	Commercial multivitamins	CV, DPV, and SWV	24.6 to 176 μM	24.6 μM	Hassanpour <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Sn/Cs/PGE”	Riboflavin	Food samples.	CV and EIS	10 to 1200 nmol L^{-1}	5.56 nmol L^{-1}	Nagarajan & Vairamuthu (2021).
“Mung bean-derived porous carbon@ chitosan (MBC@CTS) composite”	Carbendazim	Juices	CV	0.1 to 20 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	20 nmol L^{-1}	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“Carbon paste electrode, modified with chitosan-based magnetic molecularly imprinted polymer	Lactic acid	In real milk samples	CV and DPV	0.01– 10.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ and 10.0–	0.005 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Mahmoudi <i>et al.</i> , 2022

(CS-MIP)”				500.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$		
“Pentoxide (V_2O_5) into the carbon paste electrode (CPE)”	H_2O_2	Cosmetic and personal care products.	EIS	5.0 to 1400.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	$2.5 \mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Ghanei- Motlagh <i>et al.</i> , 2019
“Hemoglobin–Iron Magnetic Nanoparticle– Chitosan Modified Carbon Paste Electrode”	Acrylamid e	French fries	CV	10 to 171 nmol L^{-1}	0.06 nmol L^{-1}	Navarro <i>et al.</i> , 2020
“Three-dimensional hierarchical porous carbon coupled with chitosan”	Niclosami de	Food samples	CV	0.01 to 10 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	6.7 nmol L^{-1}	Li <i>et al.</i> , 2022
“ $\text{V}_{3.6}\text{Mo}_{2.4}\text{O}_{16}$ - chitosan (MV-CHT) nanocomposite”	Paracetam ol	Drug samples	CV	0.0019 to 194.0 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	$0.224 \text{ nmol L}^{-1}$	Monsef, R., & Salavati -Niasari,

						M. (2022).
“Pt-Pd nanoparticles/chitosan/nitrogen-doped graphene (N-Gra) nanocomposite” (Pt-Pd-CS-N-Gra)	Ascorbic acid	Drug samples	CV	2 to 400 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	0.97 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Luo <i>et al.</i> , 2021
Pt-Pd-CS-N-Gra	Sulfite	Drug samples	CV	8 to 600 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	5.5 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Luo <i>et al.</i> , 2021
Pt-Pd-CS-N-Gra	Oxalic acid	Drug samples	CV	1.5 to 500 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	0.84 $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$	Luo <i>et al.</i> , 2021
“Chitosan/SnO ₂ -SiC”	Acrylamide	Drinking water and food samples.	Immensor	187 ± 12.3 ng kg ⁻¹ to 104 ± 8.2 $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$	45.9 ± 2.7 ng kg ⁻¹	Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2019

4.0 Conclusions and Future Perspectives

This review article has successfully presented many of the latest developments in the vast application of chitosan-based nanocomposite sensors within the past 5 years. The study of chitosan-

based material is robust, proving its wide applicability and modifiability because chitosan possesses several unique properties that make it very desirable in electrochemical studies. On another hand, nanomaterials, in the past few decades, have been one of the most studied topics in science. Their combination with chitosan has opened up a non-exhaustible vista in the production of novel materials with highly enhanced performances, which are utilized in all fields of life.

This review further emphasizes the importance and great prospects of chitosan-based nanocomposites as excellently promising materials in the production of sensors and biosensors.

In the very near future, developments in this area will continue to evolve for application in diverse fields and industries such as food, environmental, health, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, biotechnology and so much more. Sensors based on chitosan nanocomposites can be engineered and miniaturized into disposable, field testing kits in all of these field, allowing for easy, quick and reliable measurements without the need for bulky laboratory experiments.

These materials can also be integrated into microfluidic systems which would enable higher efficiency, lower reagent consumption and facilitate high throughput analysis.

As research in this field continue to evolve, eco-friendlier environmentally sustainable methods for their preparation continues to evolve, and this will help eliminate the effect of hazardous chemical practices in our world today.

By continuing to explore the versatility of sensors based on chitosan nanocomposites, their contributions to the advancement of chemical technology and solutions to critical societal challenges will remain boundless.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of manuscripts.

UNDER PEER REVIEW

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