Supplementary Information

Microcapsule oil dispersion for 1-methylcyclopropene’s controlled release in open environments

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1. Preparation and characterization of 1-MCP microcapsule granules (1-MCP/MCG)

1.1. Materials.

Sodium amide (NaNH$_2$) at a purity of 98%, tetrahydrofuran (THF) at a purity of 99+%%, were obtained from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Beijing Co., Ltd. (China). 3-Chloro-2-methylpropene (3-CMP) at a purity of 98%, alpha-Cyclodextrin (α-CD) at a purity of 98% were obtained from Sa’en Chemical Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. (China). Deionized water was obtained from College of Science, China Agricultural University.

1.2. Preparation of 1-MCP microcapsule granules (1-MCP/MCG).

Farley Fisher et al. prepared 1-MCP by using NaNH$_2$ and 3-CMP to remove hydrogen chloride by gamma elimination. In this study, the method was improved (Fig. S1) and 1-MCP gas was obtained. At the same time, 1-MCP gas was introduced into a saturated aqueous solution of α-CD. It was reported to be effective gas carriers that α-CD are used as a gas container. After precipitation of white suspension, 1-MCP/MCG was obtained by filtration, drying and pulverizing.

\[
\text{Cl} \quad + \quad \text{NaNH}_2 \quad \xrightarrow{\text{THF}} \quad + \quad \alpha\text{-CD} \quad \rightarrow \quad 1\text{-MCP/MCG}
\]

Fig. S1  The preparation of 1-MCP/MCG.

1.3. Characterization of 1-MCP/MCG

Qualitative and quantitative analysis.  The qualitative analysis of 1-MCP was measured
on a GCMS-QP2010 SE gas chromatograph mass spectrometer (SHIMADZU) with a Rtx-5Sil MS column (30 m, 0.25 mm ID, 0.25 μm; Restek, USA). The injection pot and detector temperatures were set at 150 and 200 °C, respectively. The column temperature was 150 °C with a hold time of 3 min and the totally analysis time was 3 min. The quantitative analysis of 1-MCP was measured on a GC-2010 Plus gas chromatograph (SHIMADZU) with a Rtx-5 column (30 m, 0.25 mm ID, 0.25 μm; Restek, USA). The injection pot and detector temperatures were set at 150 and 200 °C, respectively. The column temperature was 150 °C with a hold time of 3 min and the totally analysis time was 3 min. Quantification of 1-MCP was accomplished using an external standard method. The isobutylene gas standard of 100 μL/L concentration was used. It was presumed that quantities of 1-MCP had a response factor similar to that of isobutylene.

**Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR).** FTIR spectra were recorded from 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹, using a Fourier transform model Tracer-IR 1000 infrared spectrometer (SHIMADZU) on samples prepared as KBr disks.

**¹H nuclear magnetic resonance analysis (¹H NMR).** ¹H NMR spectra were obtained using a 300 MHz spectrometer (Bruker Avance DPX300 MHz). Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO-d₆) was adopted as the solvent to dissolve all the samples.

**Thermal analysis.** Thermogravimetric (TG) curves were recorded on a PerkinElmer
STA6000 (PerkinElmer) synchronous thermal analyzer. Samples of 8 mg were weighed into aluminum pans for analysis at a heating rate of 10 °C/min from 30 to 550 °C under a nitrogen flow at 20 mL min⁻¹.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. The results of qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The GCMS chromatogram and mass spectrogram of 1-MCP in 1-MCP/MCG are shown in Figs. S2 and S3, respectively. It was proved that 1-MCP was in 1-MCP/MCG. The content of 1-MCP in 1-MCP/MCG was 3.30% (w/w).

Fig. S2 The GCMS chromatogram of 1-MCP in 1-MCP/MCG.
Fig. S3  The GCMS mass spectrogram of 1-MCP in 1-MCP/MCG.

2.2. The Results of FTIR, $^1$H NMR and TG.

FTIR, $^1$H NMR and TG were used to characterize the products of 1-MCP/MCG. The results are shown in Fig. S4.
Fig. S4  Characterization results of 1-MCP/MCG, a. FTIR, b. $^1$H NMR, c. TG.

The FTIR spectrum (Fig. S4a) showed that the infrared spectra of α-CD and 1-MCP/MCG were very similar, because for small molecules such as 1-MCP, the content of 1-MCP in 1-MCP/MCG was very low by 3.30% (w/w). The characteristic peaks of 1-MCP were easily masked by the absorption peaks of α-CD. Compared with α-CD and 1-MCP/MCG, they exhibited strong-OH characteristic absorption near 3440 cm$^{-1}$ ($\nu$ (O-H)). Absorption peak of in-plane bending vibration was near 1640 cm$^{-1}$ ($\delta$ (O-H)). Asymmetric vibration of C-O-C bond and stretching vibration of C-C/C-O bond attributed to α-CD
occurred around 1028–1160 cm⁻¹ (ν (C-O)). This indicated that 1-MCP has been completely encapsulated by α-CD.

The ¹H NMR spectra of 1-MCP/MCG and α-CD are shown in Fig. S4b, and their characteristic displacements were shown in Table S1. The results showed that 1-MCP/MCG contained the host α-CD and the guest 1-MCP.

**Table S1** ¹H NMR characteristic shift (δ) data of α-CD and 1-MCP/MCG.

| Sample    | H-1 | H-2 | H-3 | H-4 | H-5 | H-6 | CH  | CH2 | CH3  |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| α-CD      | 4.796 | 3.385 | 3.774 | 3.269 | 3.585 | 3.654 |
| 1-MCP/MCG | 4.796 | 3.386 | 3.773 | 3.274 | 3.584 | 3.654 | 6.746 | 0.790 | 2.132 |

The TG diagrams of 1-MCP/MCG and α-CD are shown in Fig. S4c. For α-CD, weightlessness mainly occurred in two stages. The first weightlessness stage occurred at 50–100 °C, because the product loosed moisture. The second weightlessness stage occurred at 300–400 °C, because the product carbonized and decomposed. For 1-MCP/MCG, weightlessness mainly occurred in three stages. The first and third weightlessness stages were the same as the first and second weightlessness stages of α-CD. Compared with α-CD, the second weightlessness stage of 1-MCP/MCG occurred at 150–200 °C, because 1-MCP got away from 1-MCP/MCG. This proved that 1-MCP existed in 1-MCP/MCG.
**Fig. S5** Changes in backscattering (delta backscattering) as a function of sample height (0 to 42 mm) and time (from 0:00 to 26:00 h) of 1-MCP/MCOD prepared using PPGAC.

**Fig. S6** Changes in backscattering (delta backscattering) as a function of sample height (0 to 42 mm) and time (from 0:00 to 26:00 h) of 1-MCP/MCOD prepared using PIBS.

**Fig. S7** Changes in backscattering (delta backscattering) as a function of sample height (0 to 42 mm) and time (from 0:00 to 26:00 h) of 1-MCP/MCOD prepared using SSU.
Table S2  Physical and chemical properties of 1-MCP/MCOD formulation after and before storage stability test.

| Time        | Fresh formulation | After 7 days | After 14 days |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Temperature | Room temperature | 0 °C         | 54 °C         |
| Appearance  | White solid-liquid suspension | White solid-liquid suspension | White solid-liquid suspension |
| Content of 1-MCP | 0.80% | 0.80% | 0.79% |
| Particle size (D<sub>50</sub>) | 3.28 μm | 3.35 μm | 3.54 μm |
| Particle size (Span) | 1.984 | 1.841 | 1.452 |
| Density      | 0.9743 g/mL      | 0.9751 g/mL | 0.9790 g/mL |
| Viscosity    | 320 mPa·s        | 320 mPa·s   | 325 mPa·s    |
| pH (1%)      | 7.08             | 7.10         | 7.15          |
| Moisture     | 2.25%            | 2.24%        | 2.21%         |
| Emulsion stability | Qualified | Qualified | Qualified |
Table S3  Relationship between 1-MCP measured concentrations / relative concentration in the airtight box at different dilution factors.

| Time (h) | Measured concentration (μL L⁻¹) | Relative concentration |
|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
|          | Dilution factor 30 | Dilution factor 20 | Dilution factor 10 | Dilution factor 30 | Dilution factor 20 | Dilution factor 10 |
| 1        | 28.71                       | 42.37                  | 119.96                | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2        | 25.69                       | 39.90                  | 129.21                | 0.89 | 0.94 | 1.08 |
| 3        | 24.88                       | 34.25                  | 140.49                | 0.87 | 0.81 | 1.17 |
| 4        | 24.09                       | 32.77                  | 148.69                | 0.84 | 0.77 | 1.24 |
| 5        | 23.12                       | 30.78                  | 157.80                | 0.81 | 0.73 | 1.32 |
| 6        | 22.31                       | 28.34                  | 163.42                | 0.78 | 0.67 | 1.36 |
| 7        | 21.50                       | 26.67                  | 163.90                | 0.75 | 0.63 | 1.37 |
| 8        | 20.74                       | 25.94                  | 163.31                | 0.72 | 0.61 | 1.36 |
| 9        | 20.00                       | 25.09                  | 165.55                | 0.70 | 0.59 | 1.38 |
| 10       | 19.51                       | 23.75                  | 163.22                | 0.68 | 0.56 | 1.36 |
| 11       | 18.32                       | 23.95                  | 167.48                | 0.64 | 0.57 | 1.40 |
| 12       | 18.98                       | 22.35                  | 168.44                | 0.66 | 0.53 | 1.40 |
| 13       | 17.90                       | 21.12                  | 162.94                | 0.62 | 0.50 | 1.36 |
| 14       | 16.90                       | 20.55                  | 162.72                | 0.59 | 0.49 | 1.36 |
| 20       | 14.33                       | 16.74                  | 179.32                | 0.50 | 0.40 | 1.49 |
| 21       | 14.00                       | 16.03                  | 175.49                | 0.49 | 0.38 | 1.46 |
| 22       | 13.68                       | 15.75                  | 169.22                | 0.48 | 0.37 | 1.41 |
| 23       | 13.44                       | 15.43                  | 171.54                | 0.47 | 0.36 | 1.43 |
| 24       | 12.55                       | 15.11                  | 169.25                | 0.44 | 0.36 | 1.41 |
| 25       | 12.13                       | 14.76                  | 167.70                | 0.42 | 0.35 | 1.40 |
Fig. S8  The relationship between the release concentrations of 1-MCP at dilution factor 10 and the release time in the airtight box.

* Release concentrations of 1-MCP which have been obtained from GC method.  

\[(1\text{-MCP/MCOD + water}) / (1\text{-MCP/MCOD}) \text{ (weight)} = 10.\]
**Fig. S9**  The relationship between the release concentrations of 1-MCP at dilution factor 20 and the release time in the airtight box.

\(^a\) Release concentrations of 1-MCP which have been obtained from GC method. \(^b\) \((1\text{-MCP/MCOD + water}) / (1\text{-MCP/MCOD})\) (weight) = 20.

**Fig. S10**  The relationship between the release concentrations of 1-MCP at dilution factor
30 and the release time in the airtight box.

\(^a\) Release concentrations of 1-MCP which have been obtained from GC method. \(^b\) \((1-\text{MCP/MCOD + water}) / (1-\text{MCP/MCOD})\) (weight) = 30.

**Table S4** Days after application and cumulative fruit drop (No. apples per tree) of “Jinhong”.

| Treatment | Cumulative fruit drop (No. apples per tree) | Total number of apples |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|           | Aug. 11 | Aug. 14 | Aug. 15 | Aug. 16 | Aug. 23 |             |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 3 μL L\(^{-1}\) | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 5       | 302        |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 30 μL L\(^{-1}\) | 0       | 9       | 11      | 12      | 27      | 315        |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open 3 μL L\(^{-1}\) | 0       | 4       | 9       | 9       | 14      | 437        |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open 30 μL L\(^{-1}\) | 8       | 8       | 8       | 8       | 18      | 291        |
| CK-1      | 0       | 17      | 21      | 28      | 94      | 384        |
| CK-2      | 0       | 16      | 24      | 32      | 112     | 326        |
| Treatment                          | Cumulative fruit drop (%) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                   | Aug. 11 | Aug. 14 | Aug. 15 | Aug. 16 | Aug. 23 |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 3 μL L⁻¹ |     0    |     0    |     0    |     0    |    1.7   |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 30 μL L⁻¹ |    0.9   |    2.9   |    3.5   |    3.8   |    8.6   |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open, 3 μL L⁻¹         |     0    |     2.7   |    2.7   |    2.7   |    3.2   |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open, 30 μL L⁻¹        |     0    |    2.7    |    2.7   |    2.7   |    6.2   |
| CK-1                              |     0    |    4.4    |    5.5   |    7.3   |   24.5   |
| CK-2                              |     0    |    4.9    |    7.4   |    9.8   |   34.4   |
Table S6  Days after application and cumulative fruit drop (No. apples per tree) of “Longfeng”.

| Treatment | Cumulative fruit drop (No. apples per tree) | Total number of apples |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|           | Sept. 3 | Sept. 9 | Sept. 14 | Sept. 16 | Sept. 21 |                      |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 0.3 μL L⁻¹ | 0  | 23  | 50  | 73  | 135 | 887 |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 1 μL L⁻¹ | 0  | 11  | 18  | 21  | 25  | 501 |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, airtight tent, 3 μL L⁻¹ | 0  | 5   | 8   | 8   | 21  | 475 |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open | 0  | 8   | 18  | 24  | 71  | 197 |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open | 0  | 5   | 15  | 16  | 38  | 289 |
| 1-MCP/MCOD, open | 0  | 9   | 13  | 13  | 15  | 249 |
| 1-MCP/MCG fumigated | 0  | 13  | 26  | 27  | 33  | 635 |
| 1-MCP/MCG fumigated | 0  | 11  | 48  | 64  | 153 | 582 |
| CK-2      | 0  | 23  | 45  | 83  | 248 | 584 |
The two apple cultivars at different harvest time and different 1-MCP concentrations, which showed the efficacy of the 1-MCP/MCOD formulation, could be compared with each other.