

A smoking article (10) incorporates a liquid release component of a sustained release liquid delivery material (20) comprising a closed matrix structure having a polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains.-A liquid composition is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material. The polymer matrix is formed of one or more polysaccharides cross-linked by multivalent cations. The concentration of multivalent cations in the closed matrix structure varies such that along a line extending through the liquid release component from the outer surface of the closed matrix structure to the centre of mass of the liquid release component, the highest concentration of multivalent cations within 250 microns from the outer surface is at least 1.5 times the highest concentration of multivalent cations within 500 microns from the centre of mass.