

Membrane-water partition coefficients to aid ionogenic surfactant risk assessment



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ISSUE

- Surfactants are bulk volume down-the-drain chemicals
- Chemical fate & toxicokinetic models rely heavily on K_{OW} values
- K_{OW} guidelines 107/117 are not suitable for surfactants
- K_{OW} QSARs are highly uncertain for most surfactants
- ionic/permanently charged surfactants outside applicability dom.

SOLUTION

- Partitioning of surfactants into phospholipid membranes (K_{MW}) can be directly measured with small experimental error ^{1,2,5}
- Partitioning of **ionic surfactants** into phospholipid can be predicted using quantum-chemistry based calculations ^{2,3}
- K_{MW} likely dominates bioconcentration in organic tissue, ⁴ and thus likely relates to baseline toxicity

INNOVATIVE APPROACH

1. Calculate K_{MW} with COSMOmic DMPC³ for relevant species
2. Evaluate experimental feasibility² ($1.5 < \log K_{DMPCW} < 6$), look for smaller chain surfactant homologues for extrapolation
3. Evaluate need for experimental validation ($\log K_{DMPCW} > 3?$)
4. Select experimental methodology: dialysis^{1,6}, solid supported lipid membranes (SSLM)^{2,5}, IAM-HPLC^{2,7}

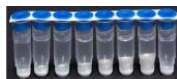
consider: narcotic LBB (~100 mmol/kg lipid) / $K_{MW} \approx LC_{50}$...
consider: K_{MW} does not replace soil sorption coefficients ...

K_{MW} DATA AVAILABILITY

- 9 alcohol ethoxylates + QSAR¹ (e.g. $\log K_{MW} C_{12}EO_8 = 3.4$)
- 18 cationic surfactants + COSMOmic validation² (e.g. $\log K_{MW} C_{10}$ benzalkonium = 4.0, dioctylamine = 4.6)
- 16 ionic liquid salt cations⁵ (e.g. $\log K_{MW} C_{12}$ imidazolium = 3.8)
- 15-20 anionic surfactants (in prep.) (e.g. $\log K_{MW} C_{12}SO_3^- = 4.0$)
- 5-10 zwitterionic surfactants (in prep.) (e.g. $\log K_{MW} C_{12}N^+O^- = 3.5$)
- fluorinated surfactants (in prep.)

needed: OECD protocol? K_{MW} QSARs +

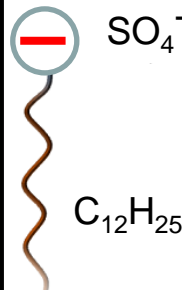
COSMOmic validation for all surfactant types



“SLS” example

<https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals>

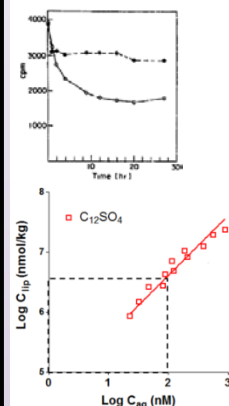
- K_{OW} is highly uncertain



“log K_{OW} ”	source
1.6	Leo & Hansch
0.8	OECD 123 (slow stirring)
1.7	EPISuite
-2.0	max. sol _{oct} / CMC (recommended)

log K_{OW} range -2 to 1.7: factor 5000

- K_{OW} also strongly underestimates K_{MW}



[Kalmanzon et al. 1997⁶](#)
³⁵S-SLS & liposome dialysis measured near CMC:

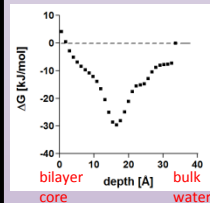
log K_{MW} = 3.5

[Droge 2018](#) (in preparation)
 SLS & solid supported lipid membranes << CMC:

log K_{MW} = 4.6

K_{MW} factor 3.000.000 > $K_{OW, recommended}$

- K_{MW} can be accurately predicted



[COSMOtherm's COSMOmic module](#)

TZVP level for all 3D conformers. 3D hydrated DMPC input.³ perform calculations in 33 steps: bulk water → membrane core.

weighted log K_{DMPC-W} = 4.4

$K_{DMPC-W, calculated}$ factor ~2 < $K_{MW, measured}$

K_{MW} + LBB approach: good toxicity predictor

fish (sheepshead minnow)
 experimental 96h-LC₅₀

14 μM

LBB predicted LC₅₀

2.5 μM



ref 1:
 Muller et al
 ET&C 1999,
 p. 2191



ref 2:
 Timmer & Droge
 ES&T 2017,
 p. 2890

ref 3:
 Bittermann et al.
 J. Phys Chem. B
 2014, p. 14833

ref 4:
 Armitage et al.
 ET&C 2013,
 p. 115

ref 5:
 Dolzonek et al
 Environ. Poll.
 2017, p. 378

ref 6:
 Kalmanzon et al.
 Bioch. Bioph. Acta
 1997, p.148

ref 7:
 Droge
 Anal. Chem.
 2016, p. 960

