Physical pharmacy Experiment NO. 3 Surface Active Agents



#### introductio

Surface-active agents or surfactants are molecules and ions that are adsorbed at interfaces. Surfactants are materials that lower the surface tension (or interfacial tension) between two liquids or between a liquid and a solid. An alternative term is *amphiphile*, which suggests that the molecule or ion has a certain affinity for both polar and non-polar solvents. When such molecule is placed in an air-water or oil-water system, the polar groups are attached or oriented toward the water, and the non-polar groups are oriented toward the air or oil. They are used in many pharmaceutical preparations as wetting agents, emulsifiers, solubilizing and antifoaming agents.

At the air-water interface, the lipophilic chains are directed upward into the air; at the oil-water interface, they are associated with the oil phase (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Adsorption of fatty acid molecule at a water-oil interface (left panel) and a water- air interface (right panel).

## Surfactants are classified

According to their chemical structure and, more specifically, their polar group:

Anionic surfactant such as sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS®)

Cationic surfactant such as cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB<sup>®</sup>)

Ampholytic (Zwitterionic<sup>®</sup>) surfactant such as phospholipids

Non-ionic surfactant such as poly oxy ethylene (Tween<sup>®)</sup>

There is an arbitrary scale that has been set up for expressing the hydrophilic and lipophilic characteristics of an emulsifying agent is known as HLB (hydrophilic-lipophilic balance). The higher HLB the more hydrophilic it is. The Spans, sorbitan ester are lipophilic and have low HLB; the Tween, polyoxyethylene derivetives of Spans, are hydrophilic and have high HLB.

18 15 Hydrophilic (water soluble) 12 9 Water dispersible 6 3 Hydrophobic (oil soluble)

Solubilizing agents (15-18) Detergents (13-15) o/w Emulsifying agents (8-16) Wetting and spreading agents (7-9) w/o Emulsifying agents (3-6) Antifoaming agents (2-3)

### Micelles and the critical micelle concentration

Amphipiles are characterised by having two distinct regions of opposing solution affinities within the same molecule or ion. When Surface active agents present in a liquid medium at low concentration, the amphiphiles exist separately (a size as a sub-colloidal).

As the concentration is increased, aggregation occurs over a narrow range of concentration .These aggregates which may contain 50 or more monomers, are called micelles. Because the diameter of each micelle is of the order of 50 Å micelle lies within the size range designed as colloidal.



In general, Micelles are lipid molecules that arrange themselves in a spherical form in aqueous solutions. The formation of a micelle is a response to the amphipathic nature of fatty acids, meaning that they contain both hydrophilic regions (polar head groups) as well **as** hydrophobic regions (the long hydrophobic chain). The location of the molecule undergoing solubilisation in a micelle is related to the balance between the polar and non-polar properties of the molecule. The increase in solubility is due to adsorption or incorporation of the solute molecules into or in the colloidal particle (micelle).



![](_page_7_Picture_0.jpeg)

*Critical Micelle Concentration (C.M.C):* The concentration of monomers at which micelles form. An important property of amphiphilic colloid in solution is the ability of the micelle to increase the solubility of materials that are normally insoluble or only slightly soluble in the dispersion medium used this phenomenon is known as solubilisation.

#### Experimental

**Part l**: bring Salicylic acid powder, Tween60, distilled water, phenol red indicator, volumetric flask (50ml), conical flask (50ml), graduated pipettes, burette, filter paper, funnel, and a balance. Prepare NaOH Solution (0.05N).

**Part ll:** The aim of the experiment is to show the effect of increasing the concentration of Tween on the solubility of salicylic acid.

### Procedure:

- Prepare different concentration of tween60 (0%, 0.05%, 0.5%, 1%, 2%, 3%), prepare 50 mL of each solution (use volumetric flask and pipette) from stock solution 5% (C1V1=C2V2).
- 2. Place 25ml of each concentration in a conical flask of (50mL) then add 0.25g salicylic acid to each flask.
- 3. Shake the flasks for 10 minutes.
- 4. Set to settle for another 10 minutes to permit the undissolved salicylic acid to settle down (filter if necessary).
- 5. Withdraw 10mL of filtrate solution and titrate with standardized NaOH solution (0.05N) using phenol red as indicator. The end point is a point when the colour changes from yellow to pink. Measure the end points.
- 6. Plot the total solubility (mg/mL) or (g/100ml) of salicylic acid against a concentration of tween 60.

#### CALCULATION

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

 $1\mathcal{M}.wt \text{ of salicylic acid} = 1\mathcal{M}.wt \text{ NaOH}$  1eq.wt of salicylic acid = 1eq.wt NaOH  $138.1g = 1L \text{ of } 1\mathcal{N} \text{ NaOH}$   $138.1g = 1000 \text{ ml of } 1\mathcal{N} \text{ NaOH}$   $(138.1/1000)g = 1\text{ ml of } 1\mathcal{N} \text{ NaOH}$   $138.1/1000^*0.05 = 1\text{ ml of } 0.05\mathcal{N} \text{ NaOH}$ 

Therefore, 0.0069g of salicylic acid is the chemical factor. Chemical factor\* end point=g salicylic acid/10 ml.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

# ANY QUESTIONS ?

![](_page_11_Picture_2.jpeg)