

Influence of amino acids on the micellar behaviour of non-ionic surfactant in aqueous medium

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of micellization in non-ionic surfactant Brij-58 (Bj-58) have been studied by measuring the cloud points (CP) of the pure surfactant and mixed system with Alanine (Ala) and Phenylalanine (PA). The CP of pure surfactant found to be decreased with increased [Bj-58]. The CP of mixed system also shows same trends with increased [Ala] and [PA]. This is mainly due to increase in micelle concentration. The phase separation results from micelle-micelle interaction. Considering CP as a threshold temperature of the solubility, the thermodynamic parameters of clouding process (ΔG_{cl}^0 , ΔH_{cl}^0 and ΔS_{cl}^0) have been evaluated using "Phase Separation Model". The findings of the present work supports to made the probable evidence of macromolecule-surfactant interactions in aqueous medium.

Key words: Micellization, Cloud Point (CP), Brij-58 (Bj-58), Alanine (Ala), Phenylalanine (PA), Phase Separation Model.

INTRODUCTION

The interaction of surfactants with the macromolecules in aqueous solution has been studied during past several years. Non-ionic surfactants can not withstand at elevated temperature and become perceptible even with the naked eye is known as "clouding". This temperature is referred as "Cloud Point" (CP), the cloud point is an important property of non-ionic surfactants, below CP a single phase of molecular solution or micellar solution exists; above CP the water solubility of surfactant is reduced and it results into cloudy dispersion². The nature of cloud point has been of interest recently and has been discussed from two points of view³⁻⁵. The first one assumes that the non-ionic micelles grow up as one heat the solution to the cloud point. Interpreting the observed data in the light of scattering intensity as due to the growth of micelles, the aggregation number of micelles as a function of the temperature has been measured⁶. On contrary, Corti and Degiorgio have interpreted the cloud point as critical point of a binary mixture with a lower consolute point⁴. They were able to

evaluate the critical exponents from the light scattering data. The critical phenomenon in micellar solution and the microemulsions is increasingly becoming important and has been investigated by a number of techniques⁶⁻¹¹. The interpretation of cloud point as a critical point implies that the critical point is approached the micelle come together and above the critical point they separate out as the second phase.

In this paper, the results of our study on the clouding phenomenon of Brij-58 in pure and in presence of said amino acids at various concentrations have been reported. These studies are supposed to be land mark in the field of interaction of medicinal preparations, agrochemicals, detergents etc.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The non-ionic surfactant Brij-58 was the product of SIGMA, USA. (M.Wt. 1122) and it was used as received. The amino acids; Alanine (M.Wt.89.09) and Phenylalanine (M.Wt.165.19)

Table 1: Cloud Points of Pure Brij-58

Wt %	Molarity x 10 ⁻³	Mole fraction x10 ⁻⁴	Cp/°C
0.5	4.456	0.8014	96.3
1.0	8.913	1.6028	95.0
2.0	17.825	3.2060	94.2
3.0	26.738	4.8090	93.5
4.0	35.651	6.4120	92.1
5.0	44.563	8.0150	91.7

Table 4: Thermodynamic Parameters of Brij-58

[Brij-58] Wt %	ΔG_{cl}^0 KJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta H_{cl}^0$ KJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta S_{cl}^0$ J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
0.5	29.0		654.56
1.0	26.7		650.84
2.0	24.6		646.57
3.0	23.3	212.78	644.09
4.0	22.3		643.90
5.0	21.6		642.70

Table 2: Influence of Alanine on CP of Brij-58

[Brij-58] Wt%	Wt % of Alanine					
	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0
0.5	90.1	88.6	86.2	75.2	72.0	69.0
1.0	89.0	87.7	85.3	74.2	70.7	68.2
2.0	87.8	85.2	83.5	72.6	69.0	67.4
3.0	86.3	84.5	81.8	69.5	68.4	65.6
4.0	85.2	83.4	79.2	68.2	66.2	63.8
5.0	84.5	82.0	76.5	65.5	64.3	61.5

Table 5: Thermodynamic Parameters of Brij-58 / Alanine System

[Ala] Wt %	ΔG_{cl}^0 KJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta H_{cl}^0$ KJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta S_{cl}^0$ J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
0.5	20.8	188.98	577.74
1.0	18.7	163.67	503.78
2.0	16.5	117.37	371.04
3.0	15.2	108.49	344.25
4.0	14.4	106.38	337.18
5.0	13.7	103.79	328.64

Table 3: Influence of Phenylalanine on CP of Brij-58

[Brij-58] Wt%	Wt % of Phenylalanine				
	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
0.5	91.4	87.6	86.2	75.0	74.7
1.0	89.0	86.0	83.5	72.7	69.5
2.0	88.4	85.0	82.1	71.2	67.3
3.0	87.0	84.0	81.1	70.0	66.8
4.0	85.6	83.0	79.6	68.6	62.6

Table 6: Thermodynamic Parameters of Brij-58 / Phenylalanine System

[PA] Wt %	ΔG_{cl}^0 KJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta H_{cl}^0$ KJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta S_{cl}^0$ J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
0.5	22.8	234.03	704.80
1.0	20.5	214.86	650.17
2.0	18.4	150.88	468.40
3.0	17.1	134.66	421.56
4.0	16.1	72.41	246.81

Thermodynamics of Clouding

Thermodynamic parameters of pure Brij-58, Brij-58 /Alanine System and Brij-58 / Phenylalanine System are given in Table 4, 5 & 6.

In case of non-ionic surfactant, the desolvation of hydrophilic groups of the surfactant leads to the formation of cloud or turbidity in the surfactant solution at elevated temperature. The appearance of cloud point is entropy dominated.

At the cloud point, the water molecules get totally detached from the micelles.

Considering cloud point as the phase separation point, the thermodynamic parameters such as standard free energy (ΔG_{cl}^0), enthalpy (ΔH_{cl}^0) and entropy (ΔS_{cl}^0) for the clouding process have been calculated using the Phase separation Model¹².

$$\Delta G_{cl}^0 = -RT \ln X_s \quad \dots(1)$$

Where c_l stands for clouding process and $\ln X_s$ is the mole fractional solubility of the solute.

The standard enthalpy ($\Delta H_{c_l}^0$) for the clouding process have been calculated from the slope of the linear plot of $d \ln X_s$ Vs T^{-1} as shown in Fig. 1.

$$d \ln X_s / dT = \Delta H_{c_l}^0 / RT^2 \dots(2)$$

The standard free energy ($\Delta S_{c_l}^0$) of the clouding process have been calculated from the following relationship

$$\Delta S_{c_l}^0 = (\Delta H_{c_l}^0 - \Delta G_{c_l}^0) / T \dots(3)$$

The thermodynamic parameters for pure surfactant and in mixed systems are given in Table: 3 and Table: 4. $\Delta H_{c_l}^0 < \Delta G_{c_l}^0$ indicating that overall

clouding process is exothermic and also $\Delta H_{c_l}^0 > T\Delta S_{c_l}^0$ indicate that the process of clouding is guided by both enthalpy and entropy¹³.

The present work would be supportive evidence regarding the probable interaction between non-ionic surfactant and macromolecules leading to the phase separation at the cloud point.

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