

Contribution ID : 149

Type : Oral

How Do Ion Specific Effects Operate in Ionic Liquids?

Friday, 26 November 2021 12:05 (15)

Recent work has found that the identity of a surfactant's counter-ion can affect the critical micelle concentration, and the size and shape of resultant micelles in ionic liquid (IL) and choline-based deep eutectic solvents.[1,2] This indicates the presence of ion specific effects for micellisation in these neoteric solvents despite their high ionic strength.[3] This project examines this phenomenon further, by investigating a range of choline salts (chloride, bromide, and nitrate) in different nitrate-based ILs (ethylammonium, propylammonium, and ethanolammonium nitrate) *via* measurements taken on the Small Angle Neutron Diffractometer for Amorphous and Liquid Samples (SANDALS) beamline at ISIS. These results bring new insight into how ion specific effects can exist in high ionic strength neoteric solvents, and the parameters involved in controlling this surprising phenomenon.

(1) Dolan, A.; Atkin, R.; G. Warr, G. The Origin of Surfactant Amphiphilicity and Self-Assembly in Protic Ionic Liquids. Chemical Science 2015, 6 (11), 6189–6198. https://doi.org/10.1039/C5SC01202C.

(2) Sanchez-Fernandez, A.; S. Hammond, O.; J. Edler, K.; Arnold, T.; Doutch, J.; M. Dalgliesh, R.; Li, P.; Ma, K.; J. Jackson, A. Counterion Binding Alters Surfactant Self-Assembly in Deep Eutectic Solvents. Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics 2018, 20 (20), 13952–13961. https://doi.org/10.1039/C8CP01008K.

(3) Warr, G. G.; Atkin, R. Solvophobicity and Amphiphilic Self-Assembly in Neoteric and Nanostructured Solvents. Current Opinion in Colloid & Interface Science 2020, 45, 83–96. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cocis.2019.12.009.

Level of Expertise

Early Career <5 Years

Presenter Gender

Man

Pronouns

He/Him

Which facility did you use for your research

None of the above

Students Only - Are you interested in AINSE student funding

No

Do you wish to take part in the Student Poster Slam

Condition of submission

Yes

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Session Classification : Chemistry, Soft Matter & Crystallography

Track Classification : Chemistry, Soft Matter & Crystallography

No