# **Water Solubilities of Polynuclear Aromatic and Heteroaromatic Compounds**

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## Water Solubilities of Polynuclear Aromatic and Heteroaromatic Compounds

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The water solubilities of several polynuclear aromatic and heteroaromatic hydrocarbons have been compiled and reviewed for consistency through correlations with parameters such as surface area, molecular volume, and boiling point. The carbocycles and oxygen and sulfur heterocycles were governed by the same correlative equations, thereby indicating that these heteroatoms entered into only a limited degree of hydrogen bonding. Equations representing the nitrogen heterocycles differed from their carbocyclic counterparts by an approximately constant amount, suggesting that while the solubilizing effect of the nitrogen heteroatom may be large, it tends to remain constant within a similar series of compounds.

Key words: boiling point; correlations; molecular volume; polynuclear hydrocarbons; surface area; water solubility.

## 1. Introduction

With the projected increased use of coal derived energy sources, the health and environmental impact of compounds associated with coal will receive progressively greater attention. Some of these compounds such as the polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons are potent mutagens or carcinogens,<sup>1</sup> and reliable data on the physical properties of these compounds must be available for meaningful health and environmental assessment to be made. Possibly the most important property from this viewpoint is water solubility, since apart from its importance in its own right, several other parameters such as lipophilicity, adsorption, and hioconcentration can be related to it.<sup>2-4</sup> We have compiled and reviewed values for several polynuclear compounds, tested them against available models, and reduced them to a set of validated data.

## ·2. Data Selection

Selection of compounds was based on the following criteria: presence of more than one ring, the absence of all except alkyl substituents and the restriction of heteroatoms to C,H,N,O, and S. An extensive literature search yielded the

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data presented in Table 1. For some compounds such as naphthalene where a large number of values were found, the· search was stopped after 10 to 12 similar values had been acquired.

Evaluation of the data was made in two stages. In the first step, results for a given compound were screened for internal consistency, and this assessment was made as objectively as possible. Initially, the possibility of a more critical evaluation based on weighting the data according to the appropriateness of analytical methodology used, experience of the investigators, etc., was considered, but a workable weighting scheme could not be devised. For example, much of the data reported by Davis *et al.1s* as early as 1942 was obtained by nephelometry, an indirect method for measuring solubility, and it might seem reasonable to weight these values somewhat more lightly than recent data obtained with more refined techniques. However, with the exception of picene, the data of Davis *et a/.* 15 were found to be of remarkably high quality, whereas in several cases, comparable data acquired later were suspect.

In general, where a large number of measurements were available, outliers were identified as such if they deviated from the mean by more than two standard deviations. On occasion, where only a few measurements were reported, the screening was, by necessity, much more subjective. For example, of the three values reported for diphenylmethane, the lower value (20  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>), while appreciably different from the other two (83.9 and 87.1  $\mu$  mol  $L^{-1}$ ), is nevertheless within the two standard deviation criterion of acceptability. However, the value was rejected on the grounds that it was obtained with the use of practical grade material, and it was therefore likely to be relatively inaccurate. The screened

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Table 1. Water Solubilities of Polycyclic Compounds

#### Table 1. Water Solubilities of Polycyclic Compounds (cont.)



 $\bar{z}$ 

## WATER SOLUBILITIES OF POLYNUCLEAR HYDROCARBONS

Table 1. Water Solubilities of Polycyclic Compounds (cont.)

Table 1. Water Solubilities of Polycyclic Compounds (cont.)



a Temperature of measurement in °C

 $^{\rm b}$  Outlier

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 $\bar{\tau}$  .

Table 2. Averaged Water Solubilities of Polycyclic Compounds

 $\mathcal{A}^{\prime}$ 

## **WATER SOLUBILITIES OF POLYNUCLEAR HYDROCARBONS**



Table 2. Averaged Water Solubilities of Polycyclic Compounds (cont.)

arrom Reference [38] and manufacturer's specifications.

b<br>Standard deviation expressed as a percentage of the mean. Where only two values were available the average deviation from the mean was used.

<sup>c</sup>Number of acceptable measurements from Table 1.

 $\mathrm{d}_{\text{Sublines}}$ 

 ${\bf e}_{\tt Outline}$ 

 $\mathbf{f}_{\texttt{Value}}$  could not be validated.

**B**iguid

 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{max}}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{max}}$ 

 $\mathcal{L}$ 

data from Table 1 were averaged, and the results are listed along with associated physical parameters in Table 2.

## 3. Correlation of Solubility with Other Parameters

In the second stage of data evaluation, equations that relate solubility to various physical parameters were used. The solubility of a crystalline hydrophobic solute can be expressed as in Eq.  $(1)$ , where *x* is the mole fraction solubility,  $\Delta S_f$  is the entropy of fusion,  $T_m$  is the melting point in °C, and  $\gamma_w$  is the activity coefficient of the compound in water. For liquids, where the entropy term does not apply,  $T_m$  is assigned a value of 25. Equation  $(1)$ ,

$$
\log x = -\frac{\Delta S_{\rm f}}{1364} (T_{\rm m} - 25) - \log \gamma_{\rm w}, \tag{1}
$$

is more conveniently represented by Eq.  $(2)$  where S is the solubility in units of  $\mu$  mol  $L^{-1}$ , *X* is any parameter that represents  $log \gamma_w$ , and *a,b,* and *c* are constants.

$$
\log S = a + bT_{\rm m} + cX. \tag{2}
$$

For rigid molecules,  $\Delta S_f$  approximates 13.5 cal K<sup>-1</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>39</sup> and the coefficient *b* should therefore equal  $-0.01$ .

Several parameters have been used to represent *X* in Eq. (2), and these have included both experimental and calculated properties. Examples of the former are molar volume, $40-42$  the octanol:water partition coefficient  $,6,39,43-45$ boiling point<sup>33</sup> and chromatographic retention indices.<sup>46</sup> Of the calculated parameters that have been used, surface area and molecular volume<sup>47-50</sup> have been the most widely applied. For evaluation of our compiled solubility data, we have selected surface area  $(A)$ , molecular volume  $(V)$ , and boiling point  $T<sub>b</sub>$ .

#### 3.1. Surface Area and Molecular Volume

For the surface area and volume calculations, each atom of a molecule was represented by a sphere centered at the equilibrium position of the nucleus. The radius of the sphere was that of the van der Waal's radius of the atom. The van der Waal surface was defined as the surface of the intersection of all the spheres in the molecule. The area of this surface and the volume contained by it were calculated by numerical integration using an algorithm and program described by Pearlman.<sup>47</sup> The calculated molecular volume is not to be confused with molar volume which is experimentally derived. The input to this program consists essentially of the Cartesian coordinates and van der Waal's radius of each atom in the molecule. The atomic coordinates were chosen to be those of the preferred molecular conformation, and the van der Waal's radii used for hydrogen, aromatic carbon, aliphatic carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen were 1.2, 1.7, 1.6, 1.5, and 1.4 A, respectively. An effective solvent radius, which is occasionally included in calculations of this type, was not used in this study.

With the exception of the nitrogen and oxygen heterocycles, indenopyrene and picene, the solubilities of all the components in Table 2 were well represented by Eq. (3) and



FIG. 1. Comparison of solubilities calculated from Eq. (3) with measured values.

the relationship is illustrated in Fig. 1.

$$
\log S = 6.62 - 0.0114T_m - 0.0229 A
$$
  
(*n* = 59, *r*<sup>2</sup> = 0.95). (3)

The terms *n* and  $r^2$  in Eq. (3) and in succeeding equations refer to the sample size and the coefficient of determination, respectively. The solubility-volume relationship is represented by Eq. (4), and for correlative purposes, there appears to be little to choose from between area and volume.

$$
\log S = 6.00 - 0.0103 T_{\text{m}} - 0.0244 V
$$

$$
(n = 59, r2 = 0.95).
$$
 (4)

The deviation of picene and indenopyrene from Eqs. (3) and (4) is probably caused by experimental factors rather than by a breakdown of the relationship. The solubility of picene was obtained through nephelometric<sup>15</sup> and spectrophotometric analysis,<sup>34</sup> and the presence of soluble impurities would tend to lead to artificially high values. The deviation of indenopyrene is more serious, since the procedure used to obtain its solubility is relatively new, and considerable effort<sup>22,36</sup> has been spent by the National Bureau of Standards to develop and validate it. The technique consists of pumping water through a column containing glass beads coated with the compound of interest, and analyzing the effiuent solution. Measurements are made over a range of flow rates to ensure that saturation has occurred. The method has been validated for a number of compounds, and it has been deemed to be both precise and accurate.<sup>36</sup> On the other hand, the solubility-area correlation applies to numerous hydrophobic compounds,<sup>39,48,50</sup> and indenopyrene does not appear to possess any distinguishing structural features which would cause it to deviate. Examination of the other data in Table 1 obtained by the column technique reveals that in almost all cases, the reported values are lower than



FIG. 2. Comparison of solubilities calculated from Eq. (5) with measured values

those measured by others or those obtained by calculation. As a case in point, values measured for the benzoftuoranthenes differ from their calculated counterparts by a factor of 6. In our view, a lower value obtained by the column method can be allowed only if discrepancies in the application of more traditional methods are clearly and unequivocally identified. This is not the case with indenopyrene, and we are therefore forced to regard the value as suspect.

#### 3.2. Boiling Point

The boiling points listed in Table 2 were either measured at 1 atm (0.1 MPa), or were extrapolated to 1 atm from data reported at lower pressures. With the exception of the nitrogen and oxygen heterocycles, picene, and cholanthrene, the solubility data were governed by Eq. (5), and the correlation is illustrated in Fig. 2. The melting point coefficient in Eq. (5) is lower than

$$
\log S = 5.55 - 0.004 \text{ } 04 \text{ } T_{\text{m}} - 0.0137 \text{ } T_{\text{v}}
$$

$$
(n = 37, r^2 = 0.981), \tag{5}
$$

that obtained in Eqs. (3) and (4). This is a consequence of a high degree of correlation ( $r^2 = 0.89$ ) between  $T_m$  and  $T_b$  for these compounds, and thus, a portion of the melting point coefficient is contained in the coefficient for boiling point. Picene, which was an outlier in the area and volume correlations, also deviated from Eq. (5), probably for the same reason. It is likely that the deviation of cholanthrene originates from an incorrect boiling point rather than from an incorrect solubility, since a similar deviation was not obtained with Eqs. (3) and (4).

### 4. DisCussion

Equations  $(3)$ - $(5)$  apply to hydrophobic compounds, and heterocycles will be governed by them only if the heteroatom does not enter into significant hydrogen bonding. The thiophenes and furans exemplify this situation, and benzoand dibenzothiophene and dibenzofuran are well correlated by one or more of Eqs. (3)–(5), as are thiophene ( $S = 1.7 \times 10^4$  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>,  $T_b = 84^{\circ}$  and furan (S = 3.2 × 10<sup>5</sup>  $\mu$ mol L<sup>-1</sup>,  $T_b$  $= 32^{\circ}$ . On the other hand, the azoles are expected to participate extensively in hydrogen bonding, and their deviation from Eqs.  $(3)$ - $(5)$  is therefore, not surprising. However, if the extent of hydrogen bonding remained constant, then the solubilizing effect of the heteroatom would tend to appear in the intercept  $a$  in Eq. (2) and leave the other coefficients essentially unaltered. This is indeed the case with the azoles as illustrated by Eq. (6), and despite the small sample set used, the close correspondence of

$$
\log S = 9.21 - 0.0103 \t Tm - 0.0303 \t A
$$

$$
(n = 5, r2 = 0.993),
$$
 (6)

the coefficients for melting point and area between Eq. (3) and Eq. (6) suggests that the latter equation holds promise for more general use. A similar approach to the azines in Table 2 led to the unexpected result shown in Eq. (7) that

$$
\log S = 5.20 - 0.024 \ T_m \ (n = 7, \ r^2 = 0.992), \tag{7}
$$

solubility was governed by melting point alone. This is a consequence of a fortuitous relationship between melting point and area, and the correlation is expected to breakdown in the presence of a larger data set. If the melting point coefficient is assigned a value of  $-0.01$ , then the data for the azines leads to Eq. (8) where the coefficient for the area term is similar to those obtained in Eqs. (3) and (6).

$$
\log S = 7.78 - 0.01 T_m - 0.020 A
$$
  
(*n* = 7, *r*<sup>2</sup> = 0.98). (8)

Compounds containing two or more heteroatoms would conform to Eqs.  $(3)$ - $(5)$  only if the degree of hydrogen bonding per heteroatom was additive. In order to test this hypothesis, we considered the difference in intercept between Eqs. (3) and (8) to be a crude measure of the extent of hydrogen bonding of aza nitrogen. This translates to a factor of 15 in solubility. For the compounds in Table 3 which bear more than one heteroatom, solubilities calculated from Eq. (3) for benzoxazole and Eq. (6) for the remaining compounds were multiplied by 15 to correct for hydrogen bonding of aza nitrogen. Comparison of the resulting values with experimental data in Table 3 shows that with the exception of inda~ zole, agreement is satisfactory in the light of the approxima~ tiona madc. Thc high calculated value for indazole is understandable since the heteroatoms in indazole are adja-

Table 3. Comparison of calculated and measured solubilities of s heterocycles

	Solubility (µM)	
	Calculated	Measured
Benzimidazole	24,000	17.000
Benzimidasolo-2-mothyl	4.100	11,000
Benzooxazole	23,000	70,000
Indazole	61.000	×. 7.000

cent to each other, and it is probable that their solubilizing effects are less than additive. '

In summary, we have compiled in Table 2 validated data for the solubility of polynuclear aromatics. Outlying values are identified, as are values for which validation was impossible. For the carbocycles, correlations with surface area, molecular volume, or boiling point led to comparable results. For the nitrogen heterocycles, preliminary evidence indicates that the solubilizing effect of the heteroatom may be constant, and in some cases, additive.

## 5. Acknowledgments

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