

Calbiochem®

## Biological Detergents

Guide for solubilization of membrane proteins  
and selecting tools for detergent removal

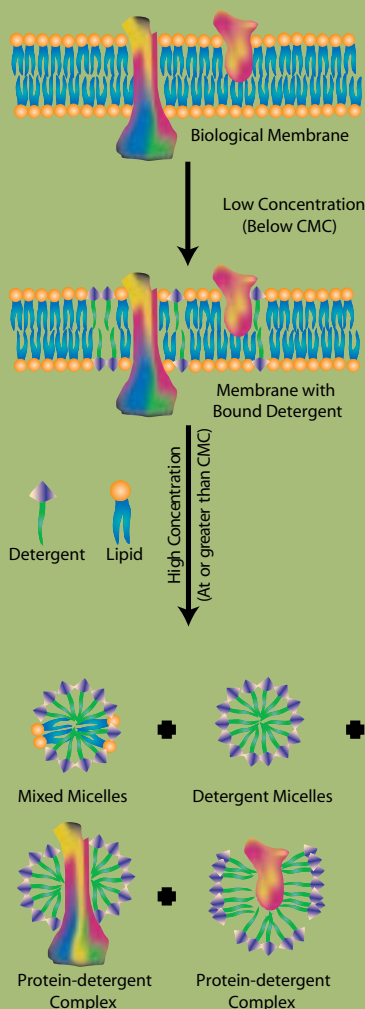
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# Biological Properties and Uses of Detergents

## Solubilization of Cell Membranes with Detergents



Biological membranes, composed of complex assemblies of lipids and proteins, serve as physical barriers in the cell and are sites for many cellular signaling events. The majority of membrane lipids contain two hydrophobic hydrocarbon tails connected to a polar head group. This architecture allows lipids to form bilayer structures in which the polar head groups are exposed outwards towards the aqueous environment and the hydrophobic tails are sandwiched between the hydrophilic head groups. Integral membrane proteins are held in the membrane by hydrophobic interactions between the hydrocarbon chains of the lipids and the hydrophobic domains of the proteins.

In order to understand the function and structure of membrane proteins, it is necessary to carefully isolate these proteins in their native form in a highly purified state. It is estimated that about one third of all membrane-associated proteins are integral membrane proteins, but their solubilization and purification is more challenging because most of these proteins are present at very low concentrations. Although membrane protein solubilization can be accomplished by using amphiphilic detergents, preservation of their biological and functional activities can be a challenging process as many membrane proteins are susceptible to denaturation during the isolation process. Detergents solubilize membrane proteins by mimicking the lipid bilayer environment. Micelles formed by the aggregation of detergent molecules are analogous to the bilayer of the biological membranes. Proteins can incorporate into these micelles by hydrophobic interactions. Hydrophobic regions of membrane protein, normally embedded in the membrane lipid bilayer, are surrounded by a layer of detergent molecules and the hydrophilic portions are exposed to the aqueous medium. This property allows hydrophobic membrane proteins to stay in solution.

Detergents are amphipathic in nature and contain a polar group at one end and long hydrophobic carbon chain at the other end. The polar group forms hydrogen bonds with water molecules, while the hydrocarbon chains aggregate via hydrophobic interactions. At low concentrations, detergent molecules exist

as monomers. When the detergent monomer concentration is increased above a critical concentration, detergent molecules self associate to form thermodynamically stable, non-covalent aggregates known as micelles. The critical micelle concentration (CMC) is an important parameter for selecting an appropriate detergent. At the CMC, detergents begin to accumulate in the membrane. The effective CMC of a detergent can also be affected by other components of the biological system, such as lipids, proteins, pH, ionic strength, and temperature of the medium. An important point to note here is that any addition of salts to ionic detergents, such as SDS, may reduce their CMC because salt would tend to reduce the repulsion between the charged head groups. Here micelles will form at a lower concentration.

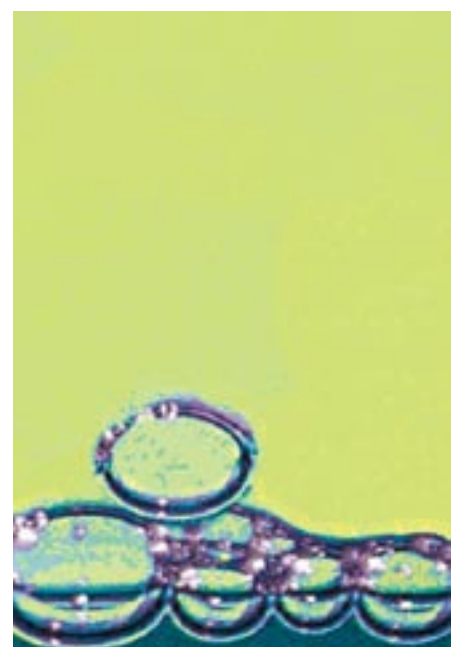
At low concentrations, detergents merely bind to the membrane by partitioning into the lipid bilayer. As the concentration of detergent increases, the membrane bilayer is disrupted and is lysed, producing lipid-protein-detergent mixed micelles. Any further increase in detergent concentration will produce a heterogeneous complex of detergent, lipid-detergent, and protein-detergent mixed micelles. In the detergent-protein mixed micelles, hydrophobic regions of the membrane proteins are surrounded by the hydrophobic chains of micelle-forming lipids.

Excessive amounts of detergents are normally used for solubilization of membrane proteins to ensure complete dissolution and provide for a large number of micelles to give one micelle per protein molecule. For further physicochemical and biochemical characterization of membrane proteins, it is often necessary to remove the unbound detergent. Excess amounts of detergents can be removed by hydrophobic absorption on a resin, gel chromatography (based on the difference in size between protein-detergent, lipid-detergent, and homogenous detergent micelles), ion-exchange chromatography (based on the charge difference between protein-detergent and protein-free detergent micelles), or by dialysis. Detergents with high CMC can be readily removed from protein-detergent complexes by dialysis, whereas low CMC detergents dialyze away very slowly.

## Guidelines For Selecting a Detergent

A membrane protein is considered solubilized if it is present in the supernatant after one hour centrifugation of a lysate or a homogenate at 100,000 x g. In most cases, the biological activity of the protein be preserved in the supernatant after detergent solubilization. Hence, the appropriate detergent should yield the maximum amount of biologically active protein in the supernatant. Given the large number of detergents available today, choosing an appropriate detergent can be a difficult process. Some of the points outlined below can be helpful in selecting a suitable detergent.

- First survey of the literature. Try a detergent that has been used previously for the isolation and characterization of a protein with similar biochemical or enzymological properties should be tried first.
- Consider the solubility of the detergent at working temperature. For example, ZWITTERGENT® 3-14 is insoluble in water at 4°C while TRITON® X-114 undergoes a phase separation at room temperature.
- Consider the method of detergent removal. If dialysis is to be employed, a detergent with a high CMC is clearly preferred. Alternatively, if ion exchange chromatography is utilized, a non-ionic detergent or a ZWITTERGENT® is the detergent of choice.
- Preservation of biological or enzymological activity may require experimenting with several detergents. Not only the type but also the quantity of the detergent used will affect the protein activity. For some proteins biological activity is preserved over a very narrow range of detergent concentration. Below this range the protein is not solubilized and above a particular concentration, the protein is inactivated.
- Consider downstream applications. Since TRITON® X-100 contains aromatic rings that absorb at 260-280 nm, this detergent should be avoided if the protocols require UV monitoring of protein concentration. Similarly, ionic detergents should be avoided if the proteins are to be separated by isoelectric focusing. For gel filtration of proteins, detergents with smaller aggregation numbers should be considered.
- Consider detergent purity. Detergents of utmost purity should be used since some detergents such as TRITON® X-100 are generally known to contain peroxides as contaminants. The Calbiochem® PROTEIN GRADE® or ULTROL® GRADE detergents that have been purified to minimize these oxidizing contaminants are recommended.
- Calbiochem also offers a variety of Molecular Biology Grade detergents for any research where contaminants such as DNase, RNase, and proteases are problematic.
- A non-toxic detergent should be preferred over a toxic one. For example, digitonin, a cardiac glycoside, should be handled with special care.
- For as yet unknown reasons, specific detergents often work better for particular isolation procedures. For example, EMPIGEN® BB (Cat. No. 324690) has been found to be the most efficient detergent for the solubilization of keratins while preserving their antigenicity. Similarly, *n*-Dodecyl-β-D-maltoside (Cat. No. 324355) has been found to be the detergent of choice for the isolation of cytochrome c oxidase. Hence, some “trial and error” may be required for determining optimal conditions for isolation of a membrane protein in its biologically active form.
- In some cases, it has been observed that the inclusion of non-detergent sulfobetaines (NDSBs) with detergents in the isolation buffer dramatically improves yields of solubilized membrane proteins.



Still not sure?

Try one of our detergent sets.

See page 9.

## Types of Detergents: Main Features

| Type of Detergent       | Examples  | Comments  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Ionic Detergents        | Anionic: Sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)<br><br>Cationic: Cetyl methyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contain head group with a net charge.</li> <li>• Either anionic (- charged) or cationic (+ charged).</li> <li>• Micelle size is determined by the combined effect of hydrophobic attraction of the side chain and the repulsive force of the ionic head group.</li> <li>• Neutralizing the charge on the head group with increasing counter ions can increase micellar size.</li> <li>• Useful for dissociating protein-protein interactions.</li> <li>• The CMC of an ionic detergent is reduced by increasing the ionic strength of the medium, but is relatively unaffected by changes in temperature.</li> </ul> |
| Non-ionic Detergents    | TRITON®-X-100, <i>n</i> -octyl- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncharged hydrophilic head group.</li> <li>• Better suited for breaking lipid-lipid and lipid-protein interactions.</li> <li>• Considered to be non-denaturants.</li> <li>• Salts have minimal effect on micellar size.</li> <li>• Solubilize membrane proteins in a gentler manner, allowing the solubilized proteins to retain native subunit structure, enzymatic activity and/or non-enzymatic function.</li> <li>• The CMC of a non-ionic detergent is relatively unaffected by increasing ionic strength, but increases substantially with rising temperature.</li> </ul>                                      |
| Zwitterionic Detergents | CHAPS, ZWITTERGENTS   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer combined properties of ionic and non-ionic detergents.</li> <li>• Lack conductivity and electrophoretic mobility.</li> <li>• Do not bind to ion-exchange resins.</li> <li>• Suited for breaking protein-protein interactions.</li> </ul>   |

## Non-detergent Sulfofetaines

| Product     | Cat. No. | M. W. | Size          |
|-------------|----------|-------|---------------|
| NDSB-195    | 480001   | 195.3 | 5 g<br>25 g   |
| NDSB-201    | 480005   | 201.2 | 25 g<br>250 g |
| NDSB-211    | 480013   | 211.3 | 1 g<br>5 g    |
| NDSB-221    | 480014   | 221.3 | 5 g<br>25 g   |
| NDSB-256    | 480010   | 257.4 | 5 g<br>25 g   |
| NDSB-256-4T | 480011   | 257.4 | 5 g<br>25 g   |
| NDSB Set    | 480012   |       | 1 set         |

## Ionic Detergents

| Product   | Cat. No. | M. W.*<br>(anhydrous) | CMC† (mM) | Size                  |
|---|----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Cetyltrimethylammonium Bromide, Molecular Biology Grade   | 219374   | 364.5                 | 1.0       | 100 g                 |
| Chenodeoxycholic Acid, Free Acid                          | 2204     | 392.6                 |           | 5 g                   |
| Chenodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                        | 220411   | 414.6                 |           | 5 g                   |
| Cholic Acid, Sodium Salt                                  | 229101   | 430.6                 | 9-15      | 50 g<br>250 g         |
| Cholic Acid, Sodium Salt, ULTROL® Grade                   | 229102   | 430.6                 | 9-15      | 1 g<br>5 g            |
| Deoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                             | 264101   | 414.6                 | 4-8       | 25 g<br>100 g<br>1 kg |
| Deoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt, ULTROL® Grade              | 264103   | 414.6                 | 2-6       | 5 g<br>25 g<br>100 g  |
| Glycocholic Acid, Sodium Salt                             | 360512   | 487.6                 | 7.1       | 1 g<br>5 g            |
| Glycodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                        | 361311   | 471.6                 | 2.1       | 5 g                   |
| Glycolithocholic Acid, Sodium Salt                        | 36217    | 455.6                 |           | 100 mg                |
| Glycoursodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                    | 362549   | 471.6                 |           | 1 g                   |
| Lauroylsarcosine, Sodium Salt                             | 428010   | 293.4                 |           | 5 g                   |
| LPD-12  | 437600   | 2839.4                | < 0.001   | 1 mg<br>2 mg          |
| Sodium <i>n</i> -Dodecyl Sulfate                          | 428015   | 288.4                 | 7-10      | 1 kg                  |
| Sodium <i>n</i> -Dodecyl Sulfate, High Purity             | 428016   | 288.5                 | 7-10      | 25 g                  |
| Sodium <i>n</i> -Dodecyl Sulfate, Molecular Biology Grade | 428023   | 288.4                 | 7-10      | 50 g<br>500 g         |
| Sodium <i>n</i> -Dodecyl Sulfate, 20% Solution (w/v)      | 428018   | 288.4                 | 7-10      | 200 ml                |
| Taurochenodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                   | 580211   | 521.7                 |           | 1 g<br>5 g            |
| Taurocholic Acid, Sodium Salt                             | 580217   | 537.7                 | 3-11      | 5 g<br>25 g           |
| Taurocholic Acid, Sodium Salt, ULTROL® Grade              | 580218   | 537.7                 | 3-11      | 1 g<br>5 g            |
| Taurodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                        | 580221   | 521.7                 | 1-4       | 5 g<br>50 g           |
| Tauroursodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                    | 580549   | 521.7                 |           | 1 g<br>5 g            |
| Ursodeoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt                         | 672305   | 414.6                 |           | 1 g                   |

Key:

\* : Average molecular weights are given for detergents composed of mixtures of different chain lengths.

† : Temperature = 20-25°C.

## Non-ionic Detergents

| Product  | Cat. No. | M. W.*<br>(anhydrous) | CMC† (mM)                                       | Size                         |
|--|----------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| APO-10   | 178375   | 218.3                 | 4.6   | 1 g                          |
| APO-12   | 178377   | 246.4                 | 0.568   | 1 g                          |
| Big CHAP   | 200965   | 878.1                 | 3.4   | 1 g                          |
| Big CHAP, Deoxy  | 256455   | 862.1                 | 1.1-1.4   | 250 mg<br>1 g                |
| BRIJ® 35 Detergent, 30% Aqueous Solution                                 | 203724   | 1199.6                | 0.092   | 100 ml<br>1 l                |
| BRIJ® 35 Detergent, PROTEIN GRADE®, 10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered       | 203728   | 1199.6                | 0.092   | 50 ml                        |
| C <sub>12</sub> E <sub>8</sub>   | 205528   | 538.8                 | 0.110   | 1 g                          |
| C <sub>12</sub> E <sub>8</sub> , PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent, 10% Solution  | 205532   | 538.8                 | 0.110   | 1 set                        |
| C <sub>12</sub> E <sub>6</sub> , PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent, 10% Solution  | 205534   | 582.8                 | 0.080   | 1 set                        |
| Cyclohexyl- <i>n</i> -hexyl-β-D-maltoside, ULTROL® Grade                 | 239775   | 508.6                 | 0.560   | 1 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Decanoylsucrose  | 252721   | 496.6                 | 2.5   | 1 g<br>5 g                   |
| <i>n</i> -Decyl-β-D-maltopyranoside, ULTROL® Grade                       | 252718   | 482.6                 | 1.6   | 1 g<br>5 g                   |
| Digitonin, Alcohol-Soluble, High Purity                                  | 300411   | 1229.3                |   | 250 mg<br>1 g                |
| Digitonin, High Purity   | 300410   | 1229.3                |   | 250 mg<br>1 g<br>5 g         |
| <i>n</i> -Dodecanoylsucrose  | 324374   | 524.6                 | 0.3   | 1 g<br>5 g                   |
| <i>n</i> -Dodecyl-β-D-glucopyranoside                                    | 324351   | 348.5                 | 0.130   | 1 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Dodecyl-β-D-maltoside, ULTROL® Grade                           | 324355   | 510.6                 | 0.1-0.6   | 500 mg<br>1 g<br>5 g<br>25 g |
| ELUGENT™ Detergent, 50% Solution   | 324707   |                       |   | 100 ml                       |
| GENAPOL® C-100, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent, 10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered | 345794   | 627                   |   | 50 ml                        |
| GENAPOL® X-080, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent, 10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered | 345796   | 553                   | 0.06-0.15                                       | 50 ml                        |
| GENAPOL® X-100, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent, 10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered | 345798   | 641                   | 0.15  | 50 ml                        |
| HECAMEG  | 373272   | 335.4                 | 19.5  | 5 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Heptyl-β-D-glucopyranoside                                     | 375655   | 278.3                 | 79  | 1 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Heptyl-β-D-thioglucopyranoside, ULTROL® Grade, 10% Solution    | 375659   | 294.4                 | 30<br>(remains unchanged<br>between 1 and 20°C) | 10 ml<br>50 ml               |
| <i>n</i> -Hexyl-β-D-glucopyranoside                                      | 376965   | 264.3                 | 250   | 1 g                          |

## Non-ionic Detergents *continued*

| Product  | Cat. No. | M. W*<br>(anhydrous) | CMC† (mM) | Size                         |
|--|----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| MEGA-8, ULTROL® Grade  | 444926   | 321.5                | 58        | 1 g<br>5 g                   |
| MEGA-9, ULTROL® Grade  | 444930   | 335.5                | 19-25     | 5 g                          |
| MEGA-10, ULTROL® Grade   | 444934   | 349.5                | 6-7       | 5 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Nonyl-β-D-glucopyranoside  | 488285   | 306.4                | 6.5       | 1 g                          |
| NP-40 Alternative  | 492016   |                      | 0.05-0.3  | 100 ml<br>500 ml<br>1000 ml  |
| NP-40 Alternative, PROTEIN GRADE®<br>Detergent, 10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered               | 492018   |                      | 0.05-0.3  | 50 ml<br>500 ml              |
| <i>n</i> -Octanoylsucrose  | 494466   | 468.5                | 24.4      | 5 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D-glucopyranoside  | 494459   | 292.4                | 20-25     | 500 mg<br>1 g<br>5 g<br>25 g |
| <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D-glucopyranoside, ULTROL®<br>Grade  | 494460   | 292.4                | 20-25     | 250 mg<br>1 g<br>5 g         |
| <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D-maltopyranoside  | 494465   | 454.5                | 23.4      | 1 g                          |
| <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D-thioglucopyranoside, ULTROL®<br>Grade                                    | 494461   | 308.4                | 9         | 5 g                          |
| PLURONIC® F-127, PROTEIN GRADE®<br>Detergent, 10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered                 | 540025   | 12,500<br>(avg.)     | 4-11      | 50 ml                        |
| Saponin  | 558255   |                      |           | 100 g                        |
| TRITON® X-100 Detergent  | 648462   | 650 (avg.)           | 0.2-0.9   | 1 kg<br>3 kg                 |
| TRITON® X-100, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent,<br>10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered                   | 648463   | 650 (avg.)           | 0.2-0.9   | 50 ml                        |
| TRITON® X-100 Detergent, Molecular Biology<br>Grade  | 648466   | 650 (avg.)           | 0.2-0.9   | 50 ml                        |
| TRITON® X-100 Detergent, Hydrogenated  | 648465   | 631 (avg.)           | 0.25      | 10 g                         |
| TRITON® X-100, Hydrogenated, PROTEIN<br>GRADE® Detergent, 10% Solution, Sterile-<br>Filtered | 648464   | 631 (avg.)           | 0.25      | 10 ml                        |
| TRITON® X-114, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent,<br>10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered                   | 648468   | 537 (avg.)           | 0.35      | 50 ml                        |
| TWEEN® 20 Detergent  | 655205   | 1228 (avg.)          | 0.059     | 250 ml                       |
| TWEEN® 20 Detergent, Molecular Biology<br>Grade  | 655204   | 1228 (avg.)          | 0.059     | 100 ml                       |
| TWEEN® 20, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent,<br>10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered                       | 655206   | 1228 (avg.)          | 0.059     | 50 ml                        |
| TWEEN® 80, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent,<br>10% Solution, Sterile-Filtered                       | 655207   | 1310 (avg.)          | 0.012     | 50 ml                        |

Key:

\*: Average molecular weights are given for detergents composed of mixtures of different chain lengths.

†: Temperature = 20-25°C.

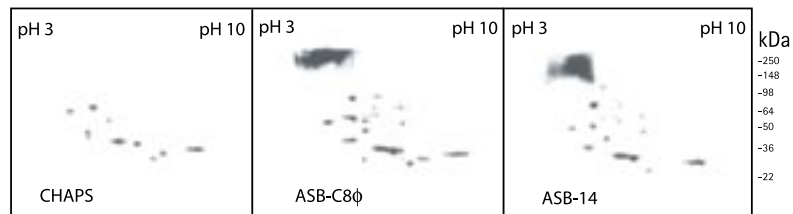
## Zwitterionic Detergents

The recent growing interest in analysis and identification of the total protein complement of a genome (proteomics) has prompted efforts in improving the existing techniques in two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DGE). The invention of immobilized pH gradients (IPGs) (1) to eliminate cathodic drift and the introduction of thiourea (2) as a powerful chaotrope are two such examples. However, solubilization of hydrophobic, notably membrane-type, proteins remains a great challenge in 2-DGE.

CHAPS is a sulfobetaine-type zwitterionic detergent, which has been employed in combination with nonionic detergents (e.g. TRITON® X-100, NP-40) in 2-DGE to minimize the loss of membrane proteins due to hydrophobic interactions between the proteins (which can cause problems in protein extraction), and between the proteins and the IPG matrix (which can cause problems in the recovery of proteins in 2-DGE). Chevallet et al. (3) have identified several new sulfobetaine-type zwitterionic detergents, among them are ASB-14, ASB-16,

and ASB-C8Ø, which show improved efficiency in protein solubilization with 2-DGE.

Similar to CHAPS, these newly discovered detergents contain a polarized sulfobetaine head group, followed by a three-carbon linkage between the quaternary ammonium and the amido nitrogen. What makes them different from CHAPS is that they contain mainly linear hydrocarbon tails that are composed of 13 to 16 carbons. This allows for higher urea compatibility and, in some instances, improved membrane protein recovery in 2-DGE as compared to CHAPS. Henningsen et al. (4) have shown that ASB-C8Ø was better than CHAPS at solubilizing an ion channel and a G-protein-coupled receptor. Using red blood cell ghosts as a model, Tastet et al. (5) have shown that detergents such as ASB-14, ASB-16 and ASB-C8Ø provide greater protein solubilization efficiency and, in general, better pattern and quality in 2-DGE than detergents with carboxybetaine hydrophilic heads or longer hydrophobic tails.



### References:

1. Bjellqvist, B., et al. 1982. *J. Biochem. Biophys. Methods* 6, 317.
2. Rabilloud, T., et al. 1997. *Electrophoresis* 18, 307.
3. Chevallet, M., et al. 1998. *Electrophoresis* 19, 1901.
4. Henningsen, R., et al. 2002. *Proteomics* 2, 1479.
5. Tastet, C., et al. 2003. *Proteomics* 3, 111.

## Zwitterionic Detergents

| Product   | Cat. No. | M. W. | CMC† (mM) | Size                       |
|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| ASB-C7BzO | 182729   | 399.6 |           | 1 g<br>5 g                 |
| ASB-14    | 182750   | 434.7 |           | 5 g<br>25 g                |
| ASB-14-4  | 182751   | 448.7 |           | 1 g<br>5 g                 |
| ASB-16    | 182755   | 462.7 |           | 5 g<br>25 g                |
| ASB-C6Ø   | 182728   | 412.6 |           | 1 g<br>5 g                 |
| ASB-C8Ø   | 182730   | 440.6 |           | 1 g<br>5 g                 |
| CHAPS     | 220201   | 614.9 | 6-10      | 1 g<br>5 g<br>10 g<br>25 g |



## Zwitterionic Detergents *continued*

| Product                             | Cat. No. | M. W. | CMC† (mM) | Size                 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|
| CHAPSO                              | 220202   | 630.9 | 8         | 1 g<br>5 g           |
| DDMAB                               | 252000   | 299.5 | 4.3       | 5 g                  |
| DDMAU                               | 252005   | 397.7 | 0.13      | 5 g                  |
| EMPIGEN® BB Detergent, 30% Solution | 324690   | 272   | 1.6-2.1   | 100 ml               |
| PMAL-B-100                          | 528200   | 9000  |           | 1 g                  |
| ZWITTERGENT® 3-08 Detergent         | 693019   | 279.6 | 330       | 5 g                  |
| ZWITTERGENT® 3-10 Detergent         | 693021   | 307.6 | 25-40     | 5 g<br>25 g<br>100 g |
| ZWITTERGENT® 3-12 Detergent         | 693015   | 335.6 | 2-4       | 5 g<br>25 g          |
| ZWITTERGENT® 3-14 Detergent         | 693017   | 363.6 | 0.1-0.4   | 5 g<br>25 g<br>100 g |
| ZWITTERGENT® 3-16 Detergent         | 693023   | 391.6 | 0.01-0.06 | 5 g<br>25 g          |

† : Temperature = 20-25°C.

## Detergent Sets

| Product                      | Cat. No. | Description   | Size   |
|------------------------------|----------|---|--------|
| APO Detergent Set            | 178400   | Contains 1 g each of the following non-ionic detergents: APO-8, APO-9, APO-10 (Cat. No. 178375), APO-11, and APO-12 (Cat. No. 178377).  | 1 set  |
| ASB ZWITTERGENT® Set         | 182753   | Contains 1 g each of the following zwitterionic amidosulfobetaine (ASB) detergents: ASB-14 (Cat. No. 182750), ASB-16 (Cat. No. 182755), and ASB-C8φ (Cat. No. 182730)   | 1 set  |
| Detergent Test Kit           | 263451   | Contains 1 g each of the following detergents: <i>n</i> -Hexyl-β-D- glucopyranoside (Cat. No. 376965), <i>n</i> -Heptyl-β-D- glucopyranoside (Cat. No. 375655), <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D- glucopyranoside, ULTROL® Grade (Cat. No. 494460), <i>n</i> -Nonyl-β-D- glucopyranoside (Cat. No. 488285), and <i>n</i> -Dodecyl-β-D- maltopyranoside, ULTROL® Grade (Cat. No. 324355). | 1 kit  |
| Detergent Variety Pack       | 263458   | Contains 1 g each of the following components: CHAPS (Cat. No. 220201), Deoxycholic Acid, Sodium Salt, ULTROL® Grade (Cat. No. 264103), <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D- glucopyranoside (Cat. No. 494459), <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D- thiogluco pyranoside ULTROL® Grade (Cat. No. 494461), and ZWITTERGENT® 3-14 (Cat. No. 693017).   | 1 pack |
| NDSB Set                     | 480012   | Contains 5 g each of NDSB-195 (Cat. No. 480001), NDSB-256 (Cat. No. 480010), and 25 g of NDSB-201 (Cat. No. 480005).  | 1 set  |
| ProteoExtract® Detergent Set | 539751   | Contains the following detergents: 10 g of TRITON® X-100 (Cat. No. 648462) and 1 g each of ASB-14 (Cat. No. 182750), ASB 14-4 (Cat. No. 182751), ASB-16 (Cat. No. 182755), C8φ (Cat. No. 182730), CHAPS (Cat. No. 220201), <i>n</i> -Dodecyl-β- D- maltopyranoside, ULTROL® Grade (Cat. No. 324355), and ZWITTERGENT® 3-10 (SB 3-10, Cat. No. 693021).                      | 1 set  |
| ZWITTERGENT® Test Kit        | 693030   | Contains 1 g each of the following components: ZWITTERGENT® 3-08 (Cat. No. 693019), ZWITTERGENT® 3-10 (Cat. No. 693021), ZWITTERGENT® 3-12 (Cat. No. 693015), ZWITTERGENT® 3-14 (Cat. No. 693017), and ZWITTERGENT® 3-16 (Cat. No. 693023).   | 1 kit  |

# Removal of Unbound Detergents

Excess detergent is normally employed in solubilization of membrane proteins. This helps to ensure complete dissolution of the membrane and to provide a large number of micelles such that only one protein molecule is present per micelle. However, for further physicochemical and biochemical characterization of membrane proteins, it is often necessary to remove the unbound detergent. Several methods have been used for detergent removal that take advantage of the general properties of detergents: hydrophobicity, CMC, aggregation number, and the charge. Four commonly used detergent removal methods follow:

## Hydrophobic Adsorption

This method exploits the ability of detergents to bind to hydrophobic resins. For example, CALBIOSORB™ Adsorbent is a hydrophobic, insoluble resin that can be used in batchwise applications to remove excess detergent. Generally, a solution containing a detergent is mixed with a specific amount of the resin and the mixture is allowed to stand at 4°C or room temperature. The resin with the bound detergent can be removed by centrifugation or filtration. This technique is effective for removal of most detergents. If the adsorption of the protein to the resin is of concern, the resin can be included in a dialysis buffer and the protein dialyzed. However, this usually requires extended dialyzing periods.

## Detergent Removal Products

| Product                                  | Cat. No. | Description   | Size             |
|--|----------|---|------------------|
| CALBIOSORB™ Adsorbent                    | 206550   | Off-white beads slurred in 100 mM sodium phosphate buffer, 0.1% NaN <sub>3</sub> , pH 7.0. Designed for the removal of detergents from protein solutions and other biological mixtures in aqueous medium.   | 50 ml            |
| CALBIOSORB™ Adsorbent, Prepacked Columns | 206552   | Designed for the removal of detergents from protein solutions and other biological mixtures in aqueous medium. Each set contains three columns. Each column has a 10 ml total volume (5 ml resin bed in 100 mM sodium phosphate, 0.1% NaN <sub>3</sub> , pH 7.0 with a 5 ml buffer reservoir) and an upper frit to protect the resin bed from disruption.   | 1 set            |
| Detergent-OUT™, Detergent Removal Kit    | 263455   | A simple and rapid column-based method to remove detergents such as TRITON® X-100 Detergent, NP-40, CTAB, CHAPS, Lubrol, TWEEN® Detergent, sodium deoxycholate, and others from protein solutions. Simply load protein solutions onto column and spin. Detergent is retained by the column matrix and the protein is collected in a small volume. Offered as a mini kit to process samples containing up to 3 mg detergent, or as a medi kit to process samples containing up to 15 mg detergent. | 1 mini<br>1 medi |
| Detergent-OUT™, SDS Removal Kit          | 263454   | A simple and rapid column based method to remove free SDS from protein solutions. Simply load protein solutions onto column and spin. The detergent is retained by the column matrix and the protein is collected in a small volume. An SDS test kit is provided for determining detergent removal efficiency. Offered as a mini kit with the capacity to remove 2 mg of SDS from solution or as a medi kit with the capacity to remove up to 10 mg of SDS from the protein solution.             | 1 mini<br>1 medi |

## Size Exclusion Chromatography

Gel chromatography takes advantage of the difference in size between protein-detergent, detergent-lipid, and homogeneous detergent micelles. In most situations protein-detergent micelles elute in the void volume. The elution buffer should contain a detergent below its CMC value to prevent protein aggregation and precipitation. Separation by gel chromatography is based on size. Hence, parameters that influence micellar size (ionic strength, pH, and temperature) should be kept constant from experiment to experiment to obtain reproducible results.

## Dialysis

When detergent solutions are diluted below the CMC, the micelles are dispersed into monomers. The size of the monomers is usually an order of magnitude smaller than that of the micelles and thus can be easily removed by dialysis. If a large dilution is not practical, micelles can be dispersed by other techniques such as the addition of bile acid salts. For detergents with high CMC, dialysis is usually the preferred choice.

## Ion exchange Chromatography

This method exploits the differences in charge between protein-detergent micelles and protein-free detergent micelles. When non-ionic or zwitterionic detergents are used, conditions can be chosen so that the protein-containing micelles are adsorbed on the ion-exchange resin and the protein-free micelles pass through. Adsorbed protein is washed with detergent-free buffer and is eluted by changing either the ionic strength or the pH. Alternatively, the protein can be eluted with an ionic detergent thus replacing the non-ionic detergent.



## CALBIOSORB™ Adsorbent

Solubilization of membranes by detergents is essential for their characterization and reconstitution. However, subsequent removal of detergents, particularly the non-ionic detergents with low CMC values, is difficult to achieve. Dialysis, the most common method of detergent removal, usually requires about 200-fold excess of detergent-free buffer with three to four changes over several days. However, it is ineffective for removal of detergents with low CMC values. In addition, prolonged exposure to detergents during dialysis can damage certain membrane proteins. Gel filtration, another common method for detergent removal, is highly effective in the reconstitution of AChR, (Ca<sup>2+</sup> + Mg<sup>2+</sup>)-ATPase, and lactose transporters. However, it gives a broader size distribution of vesicles com-

pared to the dialysis method. Therefore, an expeditious alternative in reconstititional studies is the prior removal of detergents by using a resin capable of effectively binding nondialyzable detergents of low CMC. We offer an excellent detergent removal product, CALBIOSORB Adsorbent. CALBIOSORB is a hydrophobic resin that is processed to eliminate unbound organic contaminants, salts, and heavy metal ions and is especially formulated for detergent removal from aqueous media. It is supplied in 100 mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.0, containing 0.1% sodium azide and can be easily re-equilibrated with any other buffer prior to use.

The following table highlights the adsorptive capacity of CALBIOSORB Adsorbent as tested for a variety of commonly used detergents.

### Detergent Adsorption Capacity of CALBIOSORB Adsorbent

| Detergent  | Cat. No. | M.W.          | Detergent Type | Adsorption Capacity (mg detergent/ml resin) |
|--|----------|---------------|----------------|---|
| Cetyltrimethylammonium Bromide (CTAB)              | 219374   | 364.5         | Cationic       | 120   |
| CHAPS  | 220201   | 614.9         | Zwitterionic   | 110   |
| Cholic Acid, Sodium Salt                           | 229101   | 430.6         | Anionic        | 73  |
| <i>n</i> -Dodecyl-β-D-maltoside, ULTROL® Grade     | 324355   | 510.6         | Non-ionic      | 66  |
| <i>n</i> -Hexyl-β-D-glucopyranoside                | 376965   | 264.3         | Non-ionic      | 78  |
| <i>n</i> -Octyl-β-D-glucopyranoside, ULTROL® Grade | 494460   | 292.4         | Non-ionic      | 132   |
| Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate (SDS)                       | 428015   | 288.5         | Anionic        | 94  |
| TRITON X-100, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent             | 648463   | 650 (avg.)    | Non-ionic      | 157   |
| TWEEN 20, PROTEIN GRADE® Detergent                 | 655206   | 1228.0 (avg.) | Non-ionic      | 122   |

Note: Detergent adsorption capacities were measured by allowing 1.0 g of buffer-free CALBIOSORB™ Adsorbent to equilibrate at room temperature with an excess of detergent (10 ml of 2.0% detergent in H<sub>2</sub>O) for 24 hours, then measuring the amount of unadsorbed detergent remaining in the supernatant by gravimetric analysis.

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