

## Nanostructure of Zinc(II) Tetraphenylporphyrinate Langmuir M–Monolayers Formed with Diluted Solution

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*Using quantitative analysis of isotherms the main characteristics of the structure of zinc tetraphenylporphyrinate (ZnTPP) floating M-monolayers formed with diluted solution have been determined. These include the size of M-nanoaggregates and the number of molecules in them, the distance between aggregates, the content of bound water and water between aggregates, the compressibility, and the pressure and current surface concentration ranges corresponding to stable states. The dependencies of main characteristics from the initial surface coverage found allow one to estimate the highest aggregation number.*

**Keywords:** Nanostructure, 2D-nanoaggregates, Langmuir M-monolayers, zinc tetraphenylporphyrinate.

## Наноструктура ленгмюровских M–монослоев тетрафенилпорфирината цинка(II), сформированных с использованием раствора низкой концентрации

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*С использованием метода количественного анализа изотерм определены основные характеристики плавающих M-монослоев тетрафенилпорфирината цинка (ZnTPP), сформированных из раствора малой концентрации ZnTPP. В частности, были определены: размер двумерных наноагрегатов, число молекул в них, расстояние между агрегатами, содержание связанной воды и воды между агрегатами, сжимаемость монослоя, область существования стабильного монослоя по давлению и текущей поверхностной концентрации. Установленная зависимость основных характеристик слоя от начальной степени покрытия поверхности позволила определить максимально возможное количество молекул в двумерных наноагрегатах ZnTPP.*

**Ключевые слова:** Наноструктура, 2D-наноагрегаты, M-монослои Ленгмюра, тетрафенилпорфиринат цинка.

## Introduction

Porphyrins which are aromatic macroheterocyclic compounds forming a specific class of organic ligands represent the components of perspective materials and important constituents of live matter. Feasibility of such compounds greatly depends on advances in methods of fabrication of functional materials.<sup>[1-3]</sup> Porphyrins are highly stable and tend to coalesce into supramolecular structures, so called stacks or one-dimensional aggregates. The aggregation takes place both in solutions (similar to formation of band-like structures in classic amphiphilic substances<sup>[4,5]</sup>) and in thin films (similar to formation of layered liquid-crystalline structures<sup>[6-8]</sup>). Said aggregation phenomena may be used as a natural tool for fabrication of functional nanosized and nanostructured materials.<sup>[9-11]</sup> The main difficulty in fabrication of such materials is how to control positioning of the molecules,<sup>[12-14]</sup> that is why the development of methods for controlled self-assembly of molecules is so important.<sup>[15,16]</sup> A formation of molecular layers at the liquid-air interface used in the LB technique provides possibilities for self-organization of the molecules not only in 3D-aggregates, but in 2D-nanostructures of different size as well. The latter consist of major nanoaggregates with diameter is in the range of 5-20 nm (M-aggregates).<sup>[17-23]</sup> By using the LB technique, one can examine interactions between main component and partner compounds (including natural ones), create artificial membranes *etc.*<sup>[24-26]</sup> Floating layers are described by Volmer equation<sup>[27]</sup> generalized for the case where nanoaggregates are structural elements of the layer.<sup>[28,29]</sup> Approaches for modeling of such layers are being elaborated;<sup>[30]</sup> first physical model of the layer is built and mathematically described.<sup>[30b,c]</sup> The model is tested against some copper and cobalt azaporphyrins with several substitutes.<sup>[31-34]</sup>

The present work is aimed for investigation of formation of nanoaggregates in Langmuir layers formed with diluted solution of zinc tetraphenylporphyrinate (ZnTPP); determination of parameters of the ZnTPP floating layer at varying initial surface coverage ( $c_{face}$ ); formation of stable *M*-monolayers with dissimilar structure of two-dimensional nanoaggregates.

## Experimental

The compound under study was synthesized according to techniques described elsewhere.<sup>[35]</sup> To produce a floating layer, the solution of the ZnTPP in chloroform ( $C=2.25 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mol·L<sup>-1</sup>) was deposited onto the surface of twice distilled water in the Langmuir trough (NT-MDT, Russia) using precision microsyringes (10, 25, and 100 μL, Hamilton, Sweden) at (20±1) °C. Then 15 min after the deposition a layer was compressed at 4.2 cm<sup>2</sup>/min. The initial degree of coverage of water surface by the porphyrin ( $c_{face}$ ) was varied from 8 to 12%; the accuracy of determination of the area per molecule ( $A$ ) is 2%. The surface pressure was measured with a Wilhelmy balance with the accuracy of 0.02 mN·m<sup>-1</sup>. The values of area per molecule in a nanoaggregate ( $A_{mol}$ ) and aggregation number ( $n$ ) were determined by linear least squares approximation of the part of the  $\pi A$ - $\pi$  plot (the error of the  $\pi A$  value is less than 3%). The error of determination of layer parameters does not exceed 3 % for  $A_{mol}$  and  $\Delta\pi$ ; 5 % for  $c_{face}$ ,  $c_{i-face}$ ,  $c_{f-face}$ , and  $r$ ; 7 % for  $D$  and  $w_{inter-M}$ ; 10 % for  $B$ ,  $c_{i-aggr}$ ,  $n$ ,  $w_{in-M}$ , and  $d_i$ .

## Results and Discussion

The structure of layers was analyzed within the framework of the model and the method of qualitative analysis of a nanostructured *M*-monolayer compression isotherms developed by the authors.<sup>[30b,30c,31]</sup> The area per molecule in a nanoaggregate ( $A_{mol}$ ) is determined from the slope of the approximating line, the  $\beta$  value is determined from the initial ordinate of the straight line, which describes a part of  $\pi A$ - $\pi$  isotherm corresponding to the stable state of the layer ( $\beta=kT/n$ ). According to the model used, the diameter of a circular *M*-aggregate may be calculated from its area:  $S_{aggr}=A_{mol} \cdot n$ ,  $D_{aggr}=\sqrt{4S_{aggr}/\pi}$ . Stable-state compressibility of the layer is  $B=(A_i-A_f)/(\pi_f-\pi_i)A_i$ , where  $\pi_i$ ,  $\pi_f$  are initial and final pressure of the range of existence of a stable monolayer,  $A_i$ ,  $A_f$  are initial and final x-coordinates of the linear part of the  $\pi$ - $A$  isotherm, respectively. The separation between boundaries of aggregates is calculated using the formula  $d_i=\sqrt{4A_i \cdot n/\pi}-\sqrt{4A_{mol} \cdot n/\pi}$ . The average distance between the molecules in a *M*<sub>face</sub>-aggregate along the water surface is determined as  $r=\sqrt{4A_{mol}/\pi}-\sqrt{4A_{proj}/\pi}$  ( $A_{proj}$  – area of molecular projection). Water content in *M*-aggregates (per molecule) and between them (at the onset point of the stable state) is  $w_{in-M}=A_{mol}-A_{proj}$  and  $w_{inter-M}=A_i-A_{mol}$ , respectively. The geometry parameters of molecules were determined from corresponding molecular models built in the HyperChem 7.01 software with the MM+ calculation method as follows: the area of projection  $A_{proj(face)}=1.72$  nm<sup>2</sup>,  $A_{proj(edge)}=0.72$  nm<sup>2</sup>; the areas of circumscribed rectangles are 2 nm<sup>2</sup> and 1 nm<sup>2</sup> ( $S_{face}$  and  $S_{edge}$ , respectively); and in a densely packed monolayer  $A_{mod(face)}=1.93$  nm<sup>2</sup> and  $A_{mod(edge)}=0.96$  nm<sup>2</sup>.

From a quantitative analysis of compression isotherms plotted in  $\pi$ - $A$  and  $\pi A$ - $\pi$  axes one can conclude that stable monolayers of ZnTPP are formed within the studied range of initial degree of water surface coverage. Main results of the analysis and parameters of ZnTPP floating layers are presented in the Table 1. With the  $2.25 \cdot 10^{-5}$  mol·L<sup>-1</sup> solution at low degrees of surface coverage *face-on* monolayers are formed ( $c_{face}$  from 8 to 12 %).

The monolayers have high aggregation numbers ( $n=11$ ) and high water content in aquaaggregates and between them: 81% of  $A_{mol}$  and 1.2 nm<sup>2</sup> per a ZnTPP molecule, respectively ( $c_{face}=12$  %). The monolayer parameters depend on the initial degree  $c_{face}$  of surface coverage as follows (Figure 1):

- the area per molecule in a nanoaggregate:  $A_{mol}=110/c_{face}$ ;
- the aggregation number:  $n=2,29+0,71 \cdot c_{face}$ .

The dependencies found allow one to estimate the highest aggregation number  $n_{max}=37.8$  ( $A_{mod(face)}=1.93$  nm<sup>2</sup>).

Scheme illustrating the key structural parameters of the ZnTPP monolayers with *face-on* *M*-aggregates are presented at Figure 2.

The size (diameter) of the *face-on* *M*-aquaaggregates does not depend on the initial degree of surface coverage ( $D_{aggr}=11.5$  nm, Table 1), what is a specific feature of this compound.

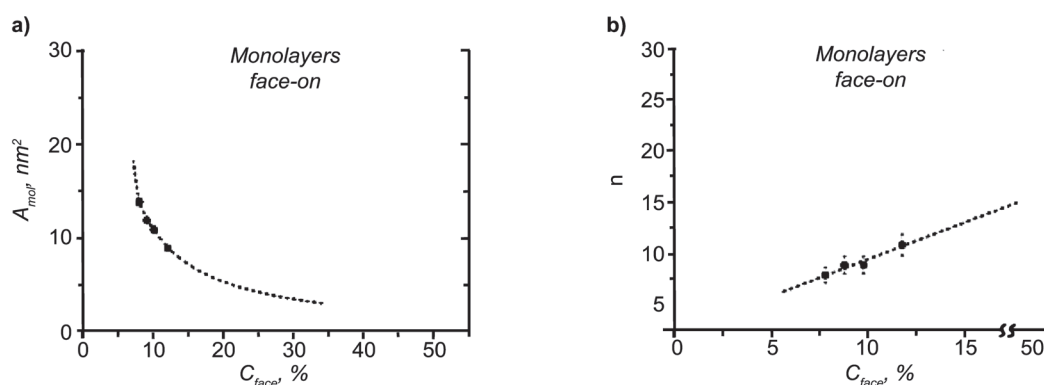
## Conclusions

It is shown that at different initial surface coverage one can create floating monolayers having varying structure

**Table 1.** Characteristics of floating layers of ZnTPP, obtained with different initial degrees of surface coverage

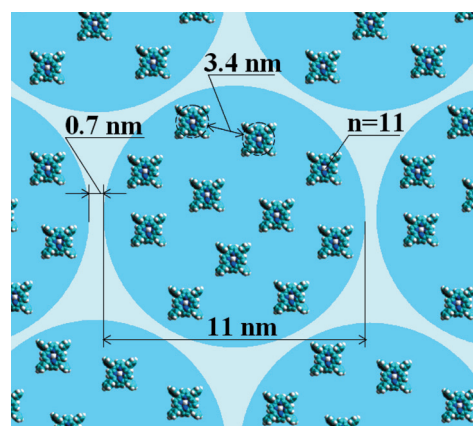
$c_{face}$ , %	Nanoaggregate-type	$c_{i-face} - c_{f-face}$ , % ( $\Delta c_{j-face}$ ) [ $c_{i-aggr}$ ]	$\pi_i - \pi_f$ , ( $\Delta\pi$ ), mN/m	$A_{mol}$	$N$	$D_{aggr}$ ( $S_{aggr}$ ), nm (nm <sup>2</sup> )	$\psi$ , °	$w_{in-M}/A_{mol}$ , %	$w_{inter-M-i}$ , nm <sup>2</sup>	$r$ , nm	$d_i$ , nm	$B$ , m/N
8	Mono face ( $M_{face}$ )	12-13 (1) <sup>[97]</sup>	0-2.5 (2.5)	14	8	12 (121)	0	87	1.2	4.3	0.5	32
9	Mono face ( $M_{face}$ )	13-15 (2) <sup>[91]</sup>	0-2 (2)	12	9	12 (118)	0	84	1.5	4	0.7	56
10	Mono face ( $M_{face}$ )	15-17 (2) <sup>[96]</sup>	0-2 (2)	11	9	11 (96)	0	82	1.6	3.7	0.8	68
12	Mono face ( $M_{face}$ )	18-21 (3) <sup>[94]</sup>	0-1.5 (1.5)	9	11	11 (100)	0	81	1.2	3.4	0.7	81

$c_{face}$ , % the *face-on* initial degree of surface coverage;  $c_{i-face}$  and  $c_{f-face}$  the degrees of surface coverage at the outermost points of the region of the stable state, respectively,  $c_{i-aggr}$  the degree of coverage of water surface by aggregates at the onset point of a stable state;  $A_{mol}$  the area per molecule in a nanoaggregate;  $\pi_i - \pi_f$  ( $\Delta\pi$ ), the pressure interval of existence of a stable state;  $n$  the aggregation number;  $D_{aggr}$  and  $S_{aggr}$  are the nanoaggregate diameter and surface area, respectively;  $\psi$  is the tilt angle of molecules;  $w_{in-M}$  and  $w_{inter-M-i}$  are the bound water content in M-aggregates and the water content per molecule between aggregates at the initial point of the stable state, respectively;  $r$  is the average distance between molecules in the aggregates;  $d_i$  is the distance between nanoaggregates at the onset point of the stable state; and  $B$  is the layer compressibility.

**Figure 1.** The dependence of area per molecule in the M-aggregate (a) and aggregation number (b) on the initial degree of surface coverage.

with  $M_{face}$  aqua-aggregates of zinc tetraphenylporphyrinate. With the use of quantitative analysis of isotherms the main parameters of the structure of M-nanoaggregates have been determined: the size of M-nanoaggregates formed within the layer, the number of molecules in the aggregates, the separation between the aggregates, the water content in the aggregates and between them, the value of compressibility, the range of pressure and surface concentration where the monolayers exist. It is shown that in this compound the size (diameter) of *face-on* M-aquaaggregates is uniquely independent of initial degree of surface coverage ( $D_{aggr} = 11.5$  nm).

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**Figure 2.** Scheme illustrating the model and the key structural parameters of the ZnTPP monolayer with *face-on* M-aggregates ( $c_{face} = 12\%$ ).



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