Linear Relationships between Partition Coefficients of Different Organic Compounds and Proteins in Aqueous Two-Phase Systems of Various Polymer and Ionic Compositions

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Received: 13 June 2020; Accepted: 28 June 2020; Published: 29 June 2020

Abstract: Analysis of the partition coefficients of small organic compounds and proteins in different aqueous two-phase systems under widely varied ionic compositions shows that logarithms of partition coefficients for any three compounds or proteins or two organic compounds and one protein are linearly interrelated, although for protein(s) there are ionic compositions when the linear fit does not hold. It is suggested that the established interrelationships are due to cooperativity of different types of solute–solvent interactions in aqueous media. This assumption is confirmed by analysis of distribution coefficients of various drugs in octanol-buffer systems with varied ionic compositions of the buffer. Analysis of the partition coefficients characterizing distribution of variety of drugs between blood and different tissues of rats in vivo reported in the literature showed that the above assumption is correct and enabled us to identify the tissues with the components of which the drug(s) may engage in presumably direct interactions. It shows that the suggested assumption is valid for even complex biological systems.

Keywords: aqueous two-phase systems; partitioning; organic compounds; drugs; proteins; blood–tissue distribution

1. Introduction

It has been shown [1] that for three different solutes (such as organic compounds, salts, and polymers), different physicochemical properties of their aqueous solutions (such as water activity, osmotic coefficient, relative permittivity, viscosity, and surface tension) are linearly related over a relatively wide range of solute concentrations and may be described as:

\[ Y_1^1(c_1^1) = k_1 + k_2 Y_2^t(c_2^t) + k_3 Y_3^t(c_3^t), \]  (1)
where \( Y_1^i(c_1^i), Y_2^i(c_2^i), \) and \( Y_3^i(c_3^i) \) are the properties of aqueous solutions of individual compounds 1, 2, and 3 at the same concentration \( i \) for each compound \( (c_1^i = c_2^i = c_3^i) \); \( k_1, k_2, \) and \( k_3 \) are the constants. It was suggested [1] that the above relationship is due to the properties of aqueous solutions that are derived from solute–water interactions.

Aqueous two-phase systems (ATPSs) are formed in aqueous mixtures of two polymers, such as dextran and poly (ethylene glycol) (PEG) or Ficoll, or in aqueous mixtures of a single polymer, such as PEG, and salt, such as sodium sulfate, phosphate or citrate, when the concentrations of the polymers/salt exceed certain threshold [2–6]. These systems have low interfacial tension and water constitutes up to 80–90 mol % of each phase, thereby providing benign media for biological products. The ATPSs may be used for extraction and separation of proteins, nucleic acids, viruses, cells, etc. [2–6]. An important fundamental advantage of ATPS is the solvent similarity between the two phases. This similarity enables the design of ATPSs with exquisite sensitivity to very small changes in the structure of the solute. As an example, changes in the protein structure, such as a single-point mutation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, and even conformation may be easily detected by analysis of the protein partitioning in ATPS [7]. The aforementioned high sensitivity of ATPS partitioning to the protein structural changes serves as the basis for development of a new generation of clinical diagnostic tests [8].

Solute partition behavior in a given ATPS is characterized by partition coefficient, \( K \), defined as the ratio of the solute concentration in the upper phase to that in the lower phase. It has been established that the logarithm of the partition coefficients of any solute (from small organic compound to proteins) may be described as a linear function of a sum of different solute–solvent interactions in the two phases [9,10]:

\[
\log K = S_α Δπ^* + B_α Δα + A_π Δβ + C_α c,
\]

where \( K \) is the solute partition coefficient; \( Δπ^*, Δα, Δβ, \) and \( c \) are the differences between the solvent properties of the top and bottom phases (solvent dipolarity/polarizability, \( π^* \), hydrogen-bond donor acidity, \( α \), hydrogen-bond acceptor basicity, \( β \), and electrostatic interactions, \( c \), respectively); and \( S_α, B_α, A_π, \) and \( C_α \) are constants (solute-specific coefficients) that describe the complementary interactions of the solute with the solvent media in the coexisting phases; the subscript ‘s’ designates the solute.

The differences between the solvent dipolarity/polarizability, \( Δπ^* \), hydrogen-bond donor acidity, \( Δα \), and hydrogen-bond acceptor basicity, \( Δβ \), may be quantified with some solvatochromic dyes [9,10]. The difference between the electrostatic properties of the phases may be determined based on the analysis of the partition coefficients of a homologous series of sodium salts of dinitrophenyl (DNP-) amino acids with aliphatic alkyl side-chains [6,9,10]. DNP amino acids contain a specific chromophore, 2,4-dinitrophenyl, which is used as a means for the evaluation of the concentrations of these modified compounds in phases by direct optical absorbance measurements, thereby significantly increasing the accuracy of determination of their partition coefficient values. It has been shown that for a given compound (including proteins), the solute-specific coefficients may be determined by multiple linear regression analysis of the partition coefficients of the compound in multiple ATPSs with the same ionic composition. It should be mentioned that the aforementioned Equation (2) is applicable to ATPS formed by two polymers [9,10] as well as to those formed by a single polymer and a salt [11].

Often, it is important to have a possibility to manipulate partition coefficient of a given solute in the ATPS of a fixed polymer composition. If ATPS is used for extraction, an increase (decrease) of the partition coefficient of the target solute is necessary to increase the recovery of the solute. In analytical applications, it is desirable for partition coefficient of the target solute to be within a certain range, in order to ensure that concentrations of the solute can be measured reliably in both phases. There are two types of additives that can be used to manipulate solute partition behavior in ATPS. One type includes nonionic organic compounds, such as trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO), sorbitol, and other additives capable of affecting the differences between the solvent properties of the coexisting phases, such as \( Δπ^*, Δα, \) and \( Δβ \) in Equation (1) [9,10]. The other more generally used type of additives includes various inorganic salts, such as NaCl, Na₂SO₄, NaClO₄, etc. [6]. Although these additives
do not affect the aforementioned solvent properties too significantly, their effects on the difference between the electrostatic properties of the phases may be very pronounced [12].

It was demonstrated [9,10] that the solute-specific coefficients $S_s$, $B_s$, $A_s$, and $C_s$ determined in ATPS formed by various pairs of two nonionic polymers are constant, if the ATPSs have the same ionic composition. This fact proves that solutes do not interact with the phase-forming polymers, and that partition coefficients of solutes in ATPSs are governed by the differences between the solvent properties of aqueous media in the coexisting phases. Hence, it is possible to assume that the solute partition coefficient may be viewed as a relative measure of the solute response to changes in its aqueous environment. If true, it follows that the solute partition coefficient may be considered as an important physicochemical property of a given solute.

If the solute partition coefficients in ATPSs of various ionic compositions may be considered as a physicochemical property of a given compound, it should be expected that the logarithms of partition coefficients of three different compounds are linearly interrelated according to Equation (1). In this case, however, $Y_{i1}$, $Y_{i2}$, and $Y_{i3}$ are logarithms of partition coefficients of solutes 1, 2, and 3 at the i-th ionic composition of aqueous two-phase system, since the partition coefficient of each solute is independent of the solute concentration (if the conditions do not induce solute aggregation).

The purpose of this work was to explore if the relationships described by Equation (1) do exist for partition coefficients of small organic compounds and proteins in aqueous two-phase systems, for the distribution coefficients of drugs in octanol-buffer systems, and finally to examine if the same relationship may exist for the partition coefficients of drugs between blood and various tissues in rats in vivo.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials

The data analyzed in this study and reported previously (see references in Supplementary Material) were obtained using the materials described below.

2.1.1. Polymers

Polyethylene glycol PEG-8000 with a number average molecular weight (Mn) of 8000 Da; polyethylene glycol PEG-10000 with Mn of 10,000 Da; polyethylene glycol 6000, Mn = 6000 Da; polyethylene glycol 4000, Mn = 4000 Da; polyethylene glycol 1000, Mn = 1000 Da, and polyethylene glycol 600, Mn = 600 Da were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) and Dextran-75 (Lot 119945) with an average molecular weight (Mw) of 75,000 Da by light scattering was purchased from USB Corporation (Cleveland, OH, USA). Ucon 50-HB-5100, Mw = 3930 Da was purchased from Dow-Chemical (Midland, MI, USA). Ficoll 70, Mw ~ 70,000 Da was purchased from GE Healthcare Biosciences AB (Sweden). All polymers were used without further purification.

2.1.2. Organic Compounds

Dinitrophenylated (DNP) amino acids—DNP-alanine, DNP-norvaline, DNP-norleucine, and DNP-α-amino-n-octanoic acid, were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich. The sodium salts of the DNP-amino acids were prepared by titration as described in [10,11,13–19]. Adenine, adenosine, adenosine monophosphate Na salt, adenosine diphosphate Na salt, adenosine triphosphate Na salt, 4-aminophenol, benzyl alcohol, caffeine, coumarin, methyl anthranilate, p-nitrophenyl-α-D-glucopyranoside, sorbitol, sucrose, trehalose, phenol, 2-phenylethanol, trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO), and vanillin were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification as reported in [10,11,13–19].

2.1.3. Drug Compounds

All drug compounds were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA) except atenolol which was obtained from MP Biomed (Santa Ana, CA, USA) and used as received. The purity of
compounds was >95%, as specified in accompanying documentation. 1-Octanol (J.T. Baker Cat# 9085-01) was purchased from Arctic White (Bethlehem, PA, USA).

All inorganic salts and other chemicals used were of analytical-reagent grade or HPLC grade.

2.1.4. Proteins

Human serum albumin (globulin and fatty acids free), bovine hemoglobin, human hemoglobin, α-chymotrypsin, α-chymotrypsinogen A from bovine pancreas, concanavalin A from Canavalia ensiformis (jack beans), cytochrome c from equine heart, β-lactoglobulin A and β-lactoglobulin B from bovine milk, ribonuclease A and ribonuclease B from bovine pancreas, subtilisin A from Bacillus licheniformis, and trypsinogen from bovine pancreas were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich. Lysozyme from bovine milk, ribonuclease A and ribonuclease B from bovine pancreas, subtilisin A from Bacillus licheniformis, and trypsinogen from bovine pancreas were purchased from Sigma–Aldrich. Lysozyme (salt free) from chicken egg white was obtained from Worthington Biochemical Corp. (Lakewood, NJ, USA). Porcine pancreatic lipase was purchased from USB Corp. (Solon, OH, USA). Purity of all proteins was verified by electrophoresis.

2.2. Methods

The relationships of the logarithms of partition coefficients for all compounds (including proteins) were examined with the software package TableCurve 3D, v.2.04 (Systat Software, Inc., San Jose, CA, USA).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Small Organic Compounds in Aqueous Two-Phase Systems

The partition coefficients (and their logarithms) reported for various organic compounds in different PEG-Na₂SO₄ ATPSs with and without various salt additives (NaCl, NaSCN, NaClO₄, and NaH₂PO₄) with the concentrations varied from zero to ~1.9 M [20] and in ATPSs formed by various pairs of nonionic polymers with different ionic compositions are listed in Table S1 (Supporting Information). Typical linear relationships observed for three different compounds, vanillin, phenol and benzyl alcohol, coumarin and methyl anthranilate, and adenine, adenosine monophosphate and adenosine diphosphate, are illustrated graphically in Figure 1A–C. The coefficients and statistical characteristics of the relationships typically observed in these analyses are listed in Table 1.

![Figure 1](image-url)

**Figure 1.** (A) Linear relationship between logarithms of partition coefficients of vanillin, phenol, and benzyl alcohol in various aqueous two-phase systems (Data from Table S1, Supplementary Information). The plane corresponds to Equation (1). Error bars are the same size as/or smaller than the symbols. (B) Linear relationship between logarithms of partition coefficients of vanillin, coumarin, and methyl anthranilate in various aqueous two-phase systems (Data from Table S1, Supplementary Information). The plane corresponds to Equation (1). Error bars are the same size as/or smaller than the symbols. (C) Linear relationship between logarithms of partition coefficients of adenine, adenosine diphosphate (ADP), and adenosine monophosphate (AMP) in various aqueous two-phase systems (Data from Table S1, Supplementary Information). The plane corresponds to Equation (1). Error bars are the same size as/or smaller than the symbols.
It should be noted that different organic compounds were examined in various sets of ATPSs, and that these sets for some compounds overlap to a very limited degree. As one of the most illustrative examples, partition coefficients for benzyl alcohol under 70 different ionic concentrations vary from 0.72 to 8.0, those for phenol under same conditions vary from 0.72 to 78.0, and those for vanillin—from 1.19 to 19.1. The relationship between logarithms of all these partition coefficients for the three compounds is very well described by Equation (1) (see Table 1). In one case, for the adenosine–phenol–glucoside relationship, the logarithms of the partition coefficients for adenosine do not fit the linear relationship under high concentrations of NaClO$_4$ and NaH$_2$PO$_4$ as indicated in the footnote to Table 1.

We can consider the change in the partition coefficient of a given compound under the varied ionic compositions of an ATPS as a measure of the response of this compound to the changes in the ATPS ionic composition. The relationships observed imply that the responses of all the organic compounds examined so far, being highly variable, appear correlated for any three different compounds. The only plausible explanation we may suggest is the previously reported [15] cooperativity of different types of polar solute–solvent interactions in aqueous media. It should be noted that all the relationships are observed for essentially nonionic compounds. If the logarithms of partition coefficients for a charged compound, such as DNP-norvaline Na, are used with those for two nonionic compounds, the linear relationship observed is much less robust, likely because the responses of a charged compound to changes in the ionic composition are different from those of nonionic compounds. With the total number of 14 organic compounds analyzed in this study, the number of the interrelationships between partition coefficients for three different compounds exceeds 360. Therefore, only some of the relationships are listed in Table 1.
3.2. Proteins in Aqueous Two-Phase Systems

Partition coefficients for various proteins show that under varied ionic compositions the K-values vary quite significantly. As an example, for lysozyme, the partition coefficients vary from 0.036 to ca. 94, for α-chymotrypsinogen—from 0.0098 to 76.6, and for trypsinogen—from 0.015 to 77.5. As expected, there are multiple ionic compositions, when the partition coefficients for one or more proteins do not fit the linear relationship described by Equation (1). Analysis of the ionic compositions, under which the partition coefficients of proteins do not fit the relationship, shows that most commonly, these compositions correspond to high concentration of salt in ATPSs formed by PEG and Na$_2$SO$_4$ (ATPSs #23–37, Table S2) or phosphate buffer (ATPS # 38, Table S2) or in two-polymer ATPSs with salt additives, such as 1.05 M NaCl (ATPS # 62, Table S2). More surprisingly, it seems to be the fact that for multitude of proteins examined here, there are many ionic compositions, where the proteins’ responses to their environment are correlated with the responses of small organic compounds. Several proteins were examined under ionic composition conditions used for studying small organic compounds. Analysis of these data from Tables S1 and S2 showed that there are several sets of linear relationships for two small compounds and one protein. Characteristics of these relationships are provided in Table 2. The aforementioned data imply that the similar forces are driving partition behavior of small compounds and proteins. It also follows from these observations that the linear relationships described by Equation (1) are typical for compounds in aqueous media.

The partition coefficients (and their logarithms) for proteins reported previously in various polymer–polymer and PEG–Na$_2$SO$_4$ ATPSs with various salt additives are listed in Table S2. For the total number of 15 proteins analyzed here, the overall number of the interrelationships between partition coefficients for three different proteins exceeds 450. Therefore, only some of the relationships are listed in Table 2. Analysis of the data for sets of three different proteins shows that Equation (1) holds for proteins. Typical relationships observed for various proteins, such as α-chymotrypsin (CHY), β-lactoglobulin A (bLGA), ribonuclease A (RNase A), lysozyme (HEL), and ribonuclease B (RNase B), are illustrated graphically in Figure 2A,B. Typical relationship between two small organic compounds and protein, benzyl alcohol, vanillin, and α-chymotrypsinogen (CHTG), is illustrated graphically in Figure 2C. The coefficients and statistical characteristics of the typical relationships observed are listed in Table 2. The ATPS compositions, under which each relationship does not hold are listed in Table 3 as the ID numbers of ATPSs. These ID numbers correspond to the compositions of the ATPSs listed in Table S2.

![Figure 2](Data from Table S2, Supplementary Information). The plane corresponds to Equation (1). Error bars are the same size as/or smaller than the symbols. (B) Linear relationship between logarithms of partition coefficients of ribonuclease A (RNase A), lysozyme (HEL), and ribonuclease B (RNase B) in various aqueous two-phase systems (Data from Table S2, Supplementary Information). The plane corresponds to Equation (1). Error bars are the same size as/or smaller than the symbols. (C) Linear relationship between logarithms of partition coefficients of benzyl alcohol, α-chymotrypsinogen (CHTG), and vanillin in various aqueous two-phase systems (Data from Table S2, Supplementary Information). The plane corresponds to Equation (1). Error bars are the same size as/or smaller than the symbols.
Table 2. Coefficients and statistical characteristics of linear relationships between logarithms of partition coefficients for various proteins * (see Table S2) and between logarithms of partition coefficients for two small compounds and one protein in ATPS of different polymer and ionic compositions (data see Tables S1 and S2).

| logK-X | logK-Y | logK-Z | k₁ | k₂ | k₃ | N  | r²  | SD  | F   | Conditions  |
|-------|-------|-------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| CHY   | RNase A | RNase B | −0.25₀,₀₂ | 0.94₉,₀₄ | −0.2₅₀,₀₇ | 30 | 0.984₀ | 0.05₆ | 83₁ | 2₃–2₈,3₉,4₂,6₃₀,₆₃ |
| RNase B | CHTG | CHY | −0.₁₁₀,₀₃ | 0.₈₅₀,₀₅ | 0.₅₈₀,₀₃ | 2₂ | 0.₉₈₈₂ | 0.₀₂₀ | 7₉₂ | 2₃–2₇,2₉–3₂,3₆,3₉–4₁,6₃,6₄,7₁,₇₅ |
| RNase A | BHb | CHY | 0.₂₈₀,₀₁ | 0.₆₆₀,₀₄ | 0.₂₄₀,₀₃ | 2₃ | 0.₉₉₂₅ | 0.₀₅₈ | 1₃₂₅ | 6₃ |
| BHb | CHTG | CHY | 0 | 0.₄₉₀,₀₄ | 0.₃₀₀,₀₄ | 1₉ | 0.₉₈₇₃ | 0.₀₂₀ | 6₂₃ | 2₇,3₆,₆₃ |
| CHY | bLGA | ConA | −0.₅₀₀,₀₂ | 0.₁₁₀,₀₃ | 0.₂₇₀,₀₂ | 2₇ | 0.₉₂₃₂ | 0.₀₅₉ | 1₄₄ | 2₉,3₀,3₂–₃₅,3₈–₄₁,₄₇,6₀ |
| HHb | TRY | BHb | −0.₃₁₀,₀₂ | 0.₇₉₀,₀₃ | 0.₁₄₀,₀₄ | 2₄ | 0.₉₈₉₁ | 0.₀₆₈ | 9₅₀ | 2₁,₂₇,₂₃ |
| bLGB | HEL | bLGA | 0 | 1.₁₀₀,₀₄ | −0.₁₈₀,₀₁ | 2₀ | 0.₉₈₇₆ | 0.₀₄₅ | 6₇₉ | 2₃–2₇,₃₅,3₈–₆₀,₆₇,₇₀,₇₂–₇₅ |
| Lipase | CHTG | CHY | 0 | 2.₇₀,₀₇ | 0.₇₇₀,₀₈ | 1₃ | 0.₉₉₁₀ | 0.₀₆₇ | ₅₅₁ | 4,₈,₉,₁₁,₁₂,₁₆,₅₇,₅₈ |
| CHY | bLGA | RNase A | −0.₂₅₀,₀₂ | 0.₈₅₀,₀₂ | −0.₀₉₀,₀₂ | 3₀ | 0.₉₈₇₀ | 0.₀₅₀ | 1₀₂₅ | 2₃–2₈,3₈–₄₀,₆₀,₆₃ |
| HSA | bLGA | RNase A | −0.₁₈₀,₀₄ | 0.₇₁₀,₀₄ | −0.₈₁₀,₀₉ | 1₀ | 0.₉₇₈₁ | 0.₀₅₇ | ₁₅₆ | 2₈,₃₁,₃₄,₃₅,₃₇ |
| Sub A | RNase A | RNase B | 0 | −₀.₈₀,₁₂ | 0.₅₈₀,₀₂ | 1₉ | 0.₉₈₀₃ | 0.₀₅₄ | ₃₉₈ | 2₅,₂₆,₂₈,₃₃,₃₇,₃₈,₆₀,₆₂ |
| RNase A | HEL | RNase B | −₀.₀₉₀,₀₂ | 0.₅₈₀,₀₂ | −₀.₁₃₀,₀₂ | 2₇ | 0.₉₆₇₆ | 0.₀₆₅ | 3₅₉ | 2₅,₃₈–₄₇,₄₉,₅₂,₆₄,₆₈,₇₀,₇₅ |
| HHb | CHTG | RNase A | −₀.₂₈₀,₀₂ | −₀.₂₀₀,₀₄ | 1.₄₂₀,₀₆ | 2₁ | 0.₉₈₈₈ | 0.₀₇₀ | ₇₉₇ | 2₄,₂₅,₃₀,₆₀,₆₂,₆₃,₆₆ |
| bLGB | HHb | ConA | −₀.₃₁₀,₀₄ | 0.₅₄₀,₀₅ | 0.₁₄₀,₀₂ | 2₂ | 0.₉₆₂₂ | 0.₀₅₁ | 2₄₂ | ₆₀,₆₂,₇₂–₇₅ |
| CHY | SubA | ConA | −₀.₉₁₀,₀₃ | 0.₄₀₀,₀₂ | 0.₅₀₁ | 1₉ | 0.₉₇₀₉ | 0.₀₅₀ | ₂₆₇ | ²₃,₃₀,₃₂,₃₇,₃₈,₆₂ |
| CHTG | ConA | Lipase | −₀.₁₃₀,₀₁ | 0.₀₈₀,₀₁ | ₀.₁₀₀,₀₂ | 2₁ | 0.₈₆₇₂ | 0.₀₂₉ | ₅₈₈ | - |
| TRY | RNase B | RNase A | 0 | 0.₅₁₀,₀₄ | 0.₆₁₀,₀₉ | 3₂ | 0.₉₇₈₇ | 0.₀₈₁ | ₆₆₇ | 2₃,₂₄,₂₈,₃₆,₆₀,₇₁,₇₃ |
| HEL | TRY | CHTG | 0.₃₉₀,₀₂ | 0.₁₅₀,₀₂ | 0.₅₈₀,₀₃ | 2₅ | 0.₉₆₇₈ | 0.₀₇₃ | ₃₁₆ | ₂₆,₃₂–₃₇,₅₀–₅₂,₆₂,₆₆,₇₃,₇₄ |
| bLGA | RNase A | bLGB | −₀.₂₅₀,₀₂ | 0.₅₀₀,₀₂ | 0.₀₈₀,₀₂ | 2₅ | 0.₉₈₈₄ | 0.₀₄₆ | ₉₃₄ | ²₃,₃₉–₄₁,₄₅–₄₇,₆₀,₆₂,₆₅–₆₇,₇₂–₇₅ |
| Benzyl alcohol | CHTG | Vanillin | 0.₀₅₀,₀₂ | 1.₂₅₀,₀₄ | −₀.₁₁₀,₀₂ | 3₁ | 0.₉₉₂₀ | 0.₀₃₆ | ₁₇₄₅ | - |
| Benzyl alcohol | HEL | Vanillin | −₀.₀₅₀,₀₂ | 1.₄₆₀,₀₃ | −₀.₁₆₀,₀₈ | 3₀ | 0.₉₈₉₈ | 0.₀₄₁ | ₁₃₁₃ | ₁₅ |
| Caffeine | CHY | Glucoside b | 0.₀₄₀,₀₃ | 0.₉₇₀,₀₈ | −₀.₀₆₀,₀₂ | 3₁ | 0.₉₆₆₄ | 0.₀₄₀ | ₄₀₃ | - |
| Caffeine | Phenol | Lipase | −₀.₀₆₀,₀₁ | −₀.₂₄₀,₀₇ | −₀.₁₂₀,₀₂ | 2₅ | 0.₉₅₀₁ | 0.₀₁₉ | ₂₀₉ | ₁₄ |

* Proteins: α-Chymotrypsinogen—CHTG; Chymotrypsin—CHY; Concanavalin A—ConA; Cytochrome c—CytC; Hemoglobin bovine—BHb; Hemoglobin human—HHb; β-Lactoglobulin A—bLGA; β-Lactoglobulin B—bLGB; Lysozyme—HEL; Subtilisin A—SubA; Trypsinogen—TRY; Ribonuclease A—RNase A; Ribonuclease B—RNase B. a ATPS in which the partition coefficients for the indicated proteins do not fit the linear relationships described by Equation (1) (the list of ATPSs see in Table S2 and Table S1 for small compounds). b Glucoside - 4-nitrophenol-α-D-glucopyranoside.
3.3. Drugs in Octanol-Buffer Systems

One of the important characteristics of a compound is its lipophilicity (which represents a measure of the tendency of a compound to move from the aqueous phase into lipids) that can be evaluated based on the partition of this compound in the octanol-water systems. In this case, lipophilicity of a given solute/compound is estimated based on the octanol-buffer partition coefficient measured as the ratio of the solute concentration in the organic phase to that in the aqueous phase. Analysis of distribution coefficients of drugs in octanol-buffer systems with different ionic composition reported in [21] and listed in Table S3 showed that the relationships described by Equation (1) hold for a very limited sets of compounds examined (see in Table 3). Three examples of such relationships for various sets of drugs are graphically illustrated in Figure 3A–C. There are multiple factors affecting the distribution of compounds in octanol-buffer system. As an example, the ionic composition of an aqueous phase may affect the octanol solubility in the phase, and the interactions of some drugs with octanol may differ significantly.

In any case, the changes in solute distribution in octanol-buffer system under varied ionic composition may hardly be considered in terms of the compound response to ionic composition only. The detailed analysis of compounds fitting the relationships according Equation (1) and those not fitting it is beyond the scope of the present study. Partition coefficients in octanol-buffer systems for various drug compounds were compared to verify the hypothesis that the linear relationship under discussion is valid mostly for aqueous media. It seems reasonable to suggest that only compounds with relatively similar energies of solute–solvent interactions with octanol may display the relationship described by Equation (1). The data presented here confirm our hypothesis that the Equation (1) is valid mostly for compounds in aqueous media.

| logK-X    | logK-Y  | logK-Z           | k1     | k2     | k3     | N   | r²     | SD    | F    |
|-----------|---------|------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|-------|------|
| Terbutaline | Piroxicam | Clonidine HCl    | 0.83±1 | 0.27±0.09 | -0.9±0.06 | 7   | 0.9888 | 0.038 | 176  |
| Atenolol HCl | Metoprolol (1/2 tartrate) | Propranolol | 0.97±0.04 | -0.24±0.05 | 1.02±0.08 | 7   | 0.9896 | 0.028 | 191  |
| Atenolol HCl | Desipramine HCl | Metoprolol (1/2 tartrate) | -0.60±0.07 | 0.70±0.09 | 0.45±0.06 | 8  | 0.9941 | 0.028 | 419  |
| Atenolol HCl | Desipramine HCl | Propranolol | 0    | -0.13±0.05 | 0.99±0.09 | 8  | 0.9850 | 0.057 | 165  |
| Minaprine 2HCl | Mefexamide HCl | Verapamil | 1.4±0.1 | 0.31±0.09 | 0.9±0.13 | 8  | 0.9782 | 0.11  | 112  |
| Furosemide | Diclofenac HCl | Metoprolol (1/2 tartrate) | 2.9±0.2 | 1.8±0.1 | 2±0.03 | 8  | 0.9852 | 0.047 | 167  |
| Doxepin HCl | Metoprolol (1/2 tartrate) | Verapamil | 0.39±0.08 | 0.98±0.04 | 0.22±0.08 | 8  | 0.9988 | 0.026 | 2128 |
| Atenolol HCl | Acebutolol HCl | Propranolol | 0.4±0.2 | 1.9±0.14 | -1.1±0.2 | 8  | 0.9656 | 0.23  | 70   |
| Verapamil HCl | Acebutolol HCl | 3-Hydroxytryptophan | -2.34±0.05 | 0.14±0.02 | -0.39±0.05 | 7   | 0.9533 | 0.015 | 32   |
| Chlorpromazine | Propranolol | Verapamil | 0    | 0.67±0.06 | 0.5±0.1 | 6   | 0.9996 | 0.016 | 3647 |
| Carbamazepine | Doxepin HCl | Acebutolol HCl | 2.5±0.3 | -2.4±0.2 | 0.47±0.02 | 6   | 0.9938 | 0.027 | 241  |

* 0.01 M NaPB; b 0.15 M NaCl in 0.01 M NaPB; c 0.15 M NaCl in 0.10 M NaPB; d 0.10 M NaPB (NaPB—sodium phosphate buffer); all the buffer composition indicated correspond to conditions under which the distribution coefficients for the indicated compounds do not fit the linear relationships.
The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results.

This research received no external funding.

As suggested above, the linear relationships described by Equation (1) hold for compounds in aqueous media. If this assumption is true, it should be expected that the relationships described by Equation (1) should be observed for the drug blood–tissue partition coefficients as well. We explored this issue using the data reported in [22] for in vivo rat blood–tissue distribution of multiple drugs. The data are presented in Table S4 in the convenient format. The examples of relationships observed for the logarithms of the partition coefficients of three different drugs are listed in Table 4, and two illustrative examples of the relationships observed for pindolol, metoprolol, and oxprenolol and for lomefloxacin, nalidixic acid, and ofloxacin are graphically presented in Figure 4A,B. These examples not only confirm the above conclusion but also suggest a convenient novel approach to the analysis of possible side-effects of drug candidates, since it provides a very simple route for comparison of drug candidates on the stage of testing in animals. The tissues for which the blood–tissue partition coefficients do not fit the relationship described by Equation (1) may be considered as those, where the compounds may be engaged in specific or non-specific interactions with some components of the tissue.

Table 3. Coefficients and statistical characteristics of linear relationships... described by Equation (1) should be observed for the drug blood–tissue partition coefficients as well. We explored this issue using the data reported in [22] for in vivo rat blood–tissue distribution of multiple drugs. The data are presented in Table S4 in the convenient format. The examples of relationships observed for the logarithms of the partition coefficients of three different drugs are listed in Table 4, and two illustrative examples of the relationships observed for pindolol, metoprolol, and oxprenolol and for lomefloxacin, nalidixic acid, and ofloxacin are graphically presented in Figure 4A,B. These examples not only confirm the above conclusion but also suggest a convenient novel approach to the analysis of possible side-effects of drug candidates, since it provides a very simple route for comparison of drug candidates on the stage of testing in animals. The tissues for which the blood–tissue partition coefficients do not fit the relationship described by Equation (1) may be considered as those, where the compounds may be engaged in specific or non-specific interactions with some components of the tissue.
Table 4. Coefficients and statistical characteristics of linear relationships (Equation (1)) between logarithms of partition coefficients for various drugs between blood and different tissues * in rats in vivo (data from [22], see Table S4).

| logK-X | logK-Y | logK-Z | k₁ | k₂ | k₃ | N   | r²  | SD  | F    | Tissues  |
|--------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|--------|
| Thiopental | Tenoxicam | Salicylic acid | −0.330.08 | 0.700.07 | 0.280.07 | 7    | 0.9947 | 0.088 | 372  | Liver, skin          |
| Pindolol  | Metoprolol | Oxprenolol | 0    | 0.680.09 | 0.360.09 | 7    | 0.9886 | 0.062 | 130  | Brain, heart, kidney |
| Imipramine | Diazepam | Flunisolide | 0.480.03 | 0.610.04 | 0.320.05 | 5    | 0.9998 | 0.025 | 4573 | Brain, heart         |
| Acebutolol | Ftorafur | Bisoprolol | 0.30.1  | 0.580.07 | 0.80.2   | 5    | 0.9885 | 0.088 | 86.2 | Brain, liver, lungs, skin |
| Ftorafur | Fentanyl | Barbital | 0    | 0.370.09 | −0.100.03 | 8    | 0.9469 | 0.030 | 53.5 | Kidney, liver          |
| Ceftazidime | Bisoprolol | Fentanyl | 0.320.05 | 0.130.04 | 0.600.04 | 5    | 0.9944 | 0.038 | 178  | Adipose, heart, liver |
| Fentanyl | Barbital | Acebutolol | 050.1 | 0.50.1 | 1.80.2   | 6    | 0.9693 | 0.096 | 47.3 | Adipose, brain, intestine |
| Acebutolol | Propranolol | Metoprolol | 0    | 0.180.07 | 0.600.06 | 5    | 0.9877 | 0.077 | 120  | Adipose, intestine, kidney, liver |
| Phenytoin | Phencyclidine | Pentazocine | 0.540.06 | 0.320.08 | 0.500.07 | 5    | 0.9885 | 0.075 | 660  | Adipose, brain | |
| Thiopental | Tenoxicam | Timolol | 1.150.03 | −0.580.04 | 0.610.02 | 5    | 0.9970 | 0.037 | 331  | Intestine, kidney, lungs, skin |
| Tolbutamide | Triazolam | Valproic acid | 0    | 1.9712 | 1.70.1    | 4    | 0.9969 | 0.027 | 161  | Kidney, liver          |
| Quinidine | Salicylic acid | Thiopental | 0.450.01 | 0.040.01 | 0.830.01 | 4    | 0.9998 | 0.004 | 2313 | Brain, liver, muscle |
| Lomefloxacin | Nalidixic acid | Ofloxacin | 0.330.05 | 0.880.04 | 0.520.08 | 9    | 0.9969 | 0.031 | 959  | Liver                  |
| Barbital | Alprazolam | PEB acid b | 0.440.09 | 1.60.3  | −0.80.2   | 7    | 0.9509 | 0.055 | 38.7 | -                  |
| Betaxol | Ceftazidime | Bisoprolol | 0    | 0.820.05 | 0.180.06 | 7    | 0.9903 | 0.071 | 209  | Intestine              |
| Cotinine | Ceftazidime | Cefazolin | 0.180.01 | 0.940.07 | 0.950.01 | 5    | 0.9999 | 0.009 | 10617 | Liver                  |
| Midazolam | Metoprolol | Lomefloxacin | 0    | −0.460.08 | 0.640.05 | 6    | 0.9842 | 0.055 | 93.2 | Brain, kidney, lungs |
| Nalidixic acid | Nicotine | Oxrenolol | 0.90.1  | 0.80.1  | 0.530.08 | 5    | 0.9936 | 0.061 | 155  | Brain, intestine, lungs, skin |
| Pindolol  | Oxprenolol | Phenytoin | 0    | −1.030.08 | 1.150.08 | 6    | 0.9859 | 0.030 | 105  | Kidney, lungs, muscle |
| Matrine  | Midazolam | Metoprolol | 0    | 0.710.07 | 0.680.08 | 4    | 0.9961 | 0.039 | 129  | Adipose, brain, heart, muscle |

* Tissues where the drug concentration was measured are different for each drug (see in Table S4). * Tissues indicated are those for which logK blood–tissue does not fit the linear relationship (suggested explanation see in text); b PEB acid—5-propyl-5-ethyl barbituric acid.
4. Conclusions

Analysis of the previously reported partition coefficients of small organic compounds and proteins in different aqueous two-phase systems under varied ionic compositions shows that the linear relationship between logarithms of partition coefficients for three solutes holds for all nonionic organic compounds under essentially all ionic compositions. For proteins it also hold though there are ionic compositions under which partition coefficients for one or more proteins in the set considered may not fit the linear relationship.

It was suggested that the linear relationship under consideration is valid mostly for conditions when water is the solvent in the two coexisting phases. This assumption was confirmed by results of analysis of distribution coefficients for drugs in octanol-buffer systems with varied ionic composition of the buffer indicating that the relationship holds only for the limited number of drugs (17 out of 28) and drugs combinations.

Based on the above assumption that the linear relationship under consideration is valid for aqueous media analysis of the partition coefficients for drugs between blood and various tissues in rats in vivo reported in the literature was performed. The results of this analysis not only confirm the assumption but enable one to detect the tissues with components of which the drug(s) may be engaged in direct interactions.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/2073-4360/12/7/1452/s1.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, B.Y.Z. and V.N.U.; methodology, B.Y.Z.; validation, N.R.d.S., L.A.F., P.P.M., J.A.T., and B.Y.Z.; formal analysis, B.Y.Z. and V.N.U.; investigation, N.K.S., L.A.F., P.P.M., and J.A.T.; data curation, N.R.d.S., L.A.F., P.P.M., J.A.T., and B.Y.Z.; writing—original draft preparation, N.R.d.S., L.A.F., P.P.M., J.A.T., V.N.U., and B.Y.Z.; writing—review and editing, V.N.U. and B.Y.Z.; visualization, L.A.F. and B.Y.Z.; supervision, J.A.T. and B.Y.Z. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses, or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript, or in the decision to publish the results.

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