EFFECT OF CONFINEMENT IN ENERGY TRANSFER DYNAMICS WITHIN MOLECULAR AGGREGATES

ANUSREE P V

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CERTIFICATE OF EXAMINATION

This is to certify that the dissertation titled "**Effect of confinement in energy transfer dynamics within molecular aggregates**" submitted by Ms. Anusree P V (Reg No: MS12125) for the partial fulfillment of BS MS dual degree program of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali, has been examined by the thesis committee duly appointed by the institute. The committee finds the work done by the candidate satisfactory and recommends that the report be accepted.

Dr. Sabyasachi Rakshit Dr. Ujjal K. Gautham Dr. Arijit K. De

(Committee member) (Committee member) (Supervisor)

Dated: April 21, 2017

DECLARATION

The work presented in this dissertation has been carried out by me under the guidance of Dr. Arijit Kumar De at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Mohali. This work has not been submitted in part or in full for a degree, a diploma, or a fellowship to any university or institute. Whenever contributions of others are involved, every effort is made to indicate this clearly, with due acknowledgement of collaborative research and discussion. This thesis is a bona-fide record of original work done by me and all sources listed within have been detailed in the bibliography.

> Anusree P V (Candidate) Dated: April 21, 2017

In my capacity as the supervisor of the candidate's project work, I certify that the above statements by the candidate are true to the best of my knowledge.

> Dr. Arijit K. De (Supervisor)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FRET: Förster resonance energy transfer

- Flu : Fluorescein
- R6G : Rhodamine 6G
- DLS : Dynamic light scattering
- TCSPC : Time correlated single photon counting
- AOT : Aerosol-OT, sodium bis(2-ethylhexyl) sulfosuccinate

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ABSTRACT:

Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET) happening between two dyes Fluorescein and Rhodamine 6G in aqueous solution and within the confinement of reverse micelle of fixed diameter was investigated. Energy transfer is occurring from Fluorescein to Rhodamine 6G, i.e. Fluorescein acts as a donor and Rhodamine 6G as an acceptor. pH variation of solutions from 7 to 9.2 is not affecting the energy transfer efficiency. Used reverse micelle as a confinement and tried to study the energy transfer from donor to acceptor. AOT in n-hexane and TritonX-100 in cyclohexane are used for making reverse micelles.

Chapter1. INTRODUCTION

Förster resonance energy transfer (FRET) or Fluorescence resonance energy transfer has wide applications in medical diagnostics, DNA analysis and optical imaging. This is because of the distance for energy transfer is of the size of a protein, or the thickness of a membrane¹. FRET is spreading its wings in sensing applications other than biosensors, like ion sensor², environmental sensors³. The extent of FRET is predictable from the spectral properties. Mostly FRET will not be affected by the biomolecules.

Photosynthesis is the process by which plants, algae, cyanobacteria, and anoxygenic photosynthetic bacteria convert light energy into chemical energy and this is initiated by a sequence of photophysical and photochemical reactions.

Photosynthetic pigments utilized in light harvesting process are chlorophyll, carotenoids and phycobilins. Energy absorbed by the pigment molecules in the photosynthetic unit transferred to the reaction center, where photoreactions get started. Pigment aggregates act as an antenna, which harvest the light energy and deliver to the reaction center. Typical PSU consists of two reaction centres photosystems I (PS I) and II (PS II). Photosynthetic pigments are examples of conjugated π electron systems with high molar extinction coefficient $\sim 10^5$ M⁻¹cm⁻¹. Light harvesting complex contains chromophores in very high concentration up to $0.6M⁴$. Our motivation is the energy transfer happening within the pigment protein complex. There are two limits of energy transfer- coherent and incoherent. FRET is coming under incoherent energy transfer.

FRET is a phenomenon that occurs between a donor molecule (D) in the excited state and an acceptor molecule (A) in the ground state. This energy transfer occurs without the emission of a photon and is the result of a long range dipole-dipole interaction between the donor and acceptor^{1, 5}. Energy transfer from donor to acceptor leads to reduction in the fluorescence intensity and excited state lifetime of donor, while that of acceptor increases.

This technique is good at measuring structural changes in protein. Even though the resolution of FRET spectroscopy is lower than X-ray diffraction, absolute distance measured remains problematic, because calculation of FRET distance assumes that the probes are able to undergo free isotropic motion⁶.

Resonance Energy Transfer Jablonski Diagram

Fig1: Jablonski diagram illustrating the coupled transition between donor and acceptor

Ref: Olympusmicro.com

The rate of energy transfer depends on -

- Fluorescence quantum yield of donor
- Refractive index of the medium
- Relative orientation of the donor and acceptor dipoles
- Spectral overlap of the emission of donor and absorption of acceptor.

Quantum yield is the number of emitted photons to the absorbed photons.

Fig2: Example of a Jablonski diagram

Ref: Principles of Fluorescence Spectroscopy, Lakowicz J.R

Where Γ is the rate of fluorescence and k_{nr} is the rate of non-radiative decay.

$$
Q = \frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma + k_{\text{nr}}} \tag{1}
$$

The lifetime of the excited state is defined by the average time of the molecule spends in the excite state before returning to the ground state, and it is given by

$$
\tau = \frac{1}{\Gamma + k_{\text{nr}}} \tag{2}
$$

The rate constant for energy transfer is inversely proportional to the sixth power of the distance between the groups⁵.

$$
k_T(r) = \frac{1}{T_D} \left(\frac{R_0}{r}\right)^6 \tag{3}
$$

Here r is the distance between donor and acceptor and **T^D** is the lifetime of the donor in the absence of acceptor. R_0 is called Förster distance.

The distance at which energy transfer efficiency is 50% efficient is called the Förster distance R₀. i.e., at this distance half of the donor molecules decay by energy transfer and half decay by the usual radiative and non-raidative rates¹. The distance over which energy can be transferred is in the range $10-100 \text{ A}^0$.

$$
R_0^6 = \left[\frac{9000 (\ln 10) K^2 \Phi_D}{128 \pi^5 N n^4}\right] \int_0^{\alpha} F_D(\lambda) \eta \, \varepsilon_A(\lambda) \, \lambda^4 d\lambda
$$

$$
R_0 = 0.2108 \left(K^2 n^{-4} \Phi_D J(\lambda) \right)^{1/6}
$$
4

Where J (**λ**) is

$$
J(\lambda) = \int_0^\alpha F_D(\lambda) \, \varepsilon_A(\lambda) \, \lambda^4 \, d\lambda
$$

Above expression says that the Förster distance to be calculated from the quantum yield of donor and spectral properties of the donor and acceptor. The term K^2 describes the relative orientation of the transition dipoles of donor and acceptor, is usually assumed to be 2/3.

Energy transfer efficiency for a single donor-acceptor pair at a fixed distance is given by the equation,

$$
E = \frac{R_0^6}{R_0^6 + r^6}
$$

The transfer efficiency is measured using the relative fluorescence intensity as

$$
E = 1 - \frac{F_{DA}}{F_D} \tag{6}
$$

Where F_D is the fluorescence intensity of the donor in the absence of acceptor and F_{DA} is the fluorescence intensity of the donor in the presence of acceptor¹.

From the fluoscence intensity of acceptor, relative energy transfer efficiency

$$
E = \frac{F_A}{F_A + F_D} \tag{7}
$$

Transfer efficiency can also be calculated from the lifetime of D:

$$
E = 1 - \frac{T_{DA}}{T_D} \tag{8}
$$

From the lifetime of acceptor

$$
E = 1 - \frac{T_A}{T_{AD}}
$$

INSTRUMENTATION

UV-Vis spectrometer: Used for measuring the absorbance of the samples and in turn concentration based on Beer-Lambert law.

$$
Absorbane, A = \varepsilon cl
$$

Where ε is the molar extinction coefficient C is the concentration of sample and l is the pathlength.

Fluorescence spectrophotometer: Used for measuring steady state intensity of fluorophore molecules.

Dynamic light scattering (DLS):

This is an optical technique used for analyzing dynamic properties and size distribution of a variety of physical, chemical and biological systems. Technique is based on the extraction of spectral information derived from time-dependent fluctuations of the light from the sample. From the scattered light one can obtain the diffusion coefficient D and by using the Stokes-Einstein equation the hydrodynamic radius R is

$$
R = \frac{kT}{6\pi\eta D} \tag{10}
$$

With k the Boltzmann constant, T the temperature in Kelvin, and η the viscosity of the suspending medium⁷.

Time correlated single photon spectroscopy (TCSPC):

Present day most of the time domain measurements are performed by using time correlated single photon counting. This instrument uses high repetition rate mode-locked picosecond (ps) laser light sources. Here the sample is excited with a pulse of light and conditions are adjusted so that less than one photon is detected per laser pulse. The detection rate is typically one photon per 100 excitation pulses. The response of the instrument to a zero lifetime sample is the instrument response function (IRF). This can be collected using a dilute scattering solution of Ludox (colloidal silica). This time profile represents the shortest time profile that can be measured by instrument.¹

The lifetime changes can be due to changes in the overlapping emission and absorption spectra of two dyes used or changes in the quenching intensity. TCSPC can be used to measure lifetime and anisotropy fluctuations⁸.

Fig3: Schematic diagram for TCSPC [Principles of Fluorescence Spectroscopy, Lakowicz J.R]

- Excitation pulse excites the sample and sends signal to the electronics. Laser diodes (LD) and Light emitting diodes (LED) can be used as light source.
- \div Signal gets passed through constant function discriminator (CFD) measures the arrival time of signal.
- \div Time to amplitude converter (TAC) generates a voltage ramp against the time. This voltage is proportional to the time delay between the excitation and emission signals.
- \triangle Programmable gain amplifier (PGA) is used to amplify the voltage and converted to a numerical value by the analog to digital converter (ADC).
- Almost all TCSPC measurements are taken in the reverse mode in which emission signal is used to start TAC and excitation signal to stop.

My investigation deals with the FRET between two dyes Fluorescein (Flu) and Rhodamine6G (R6G). These two molecules exist as anion and cation in alkaline pH, so that there will be a strong non covalent interaction which holds them closer. This closeness results in an increase in the energy transfer efficiency. Among the molecules under investigation absorption and fluorescence emission spectra are highly pH sensitive¹⁵. This will affect the process of FRET between Flu and R6G.

AOT [Aerosol-OT, sodium bis(2-ethylhexyl) sulfosuccinate] TritonX-100 Fig4: Structure of Fluorescein, Rhodamine 6G dye molecules, AOT and TritonX-100

Ref: sigmaaldrich.com

PROCEDURE

For this particular FRET pair, Flu acts as donor and R6G as acceptor, also electrostatic force of attraction plays an important role in bringing them closer for an efficient energy transfer.

Molecular weight of Fluorescein sodium salt $= 376.27$ g/mol

Molecular weight of Rhodamine6G $=479.01$ g/mol

For maintaining pH=7.0, we dissolved one buffer tablet in 100ml ultra pure water and this was used as solvent for dissolving dye molecules. We prepared 50ml solution of each dye. Prepared the same concentration of solutions for pH=9.2 also.

6mg of Flu in 50ml water gives a concentration of

$$
M = \frac{6 \times 10^{-3}}{376.27 \times 50} \times 1000
$$

$$
= 3.189 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}
$$

Then prepared 2×10^{-4} M, 10^{-4} M, 5×10^{-5} M, 2×10^{-5} M, 10^{-5} M, 5×10^{-6} M, 2×10^{-6} M, 10^{-6} M, 5×10^{-7} M, 2×10^{-7} M and 10^{-7} M solutions for Flu by using dilution formula M₁V₁=M₂V₂

For preparing 2×10^{-4} M from 3.1895 $\times 10^{-4}$ M,

$$
3.189\times10^{-4}M\times V=2\times10^{-4}M\times50
$$

=31.358ml

For preparing $10^{-4}M$ from $2\times10^{-4}M$,

```
2 \times 10^{-4}M\timesV=10^{-4}M\times50
```
 $=25$ ml

For preparing 5×10^{-5} M from 10^{-4} M,

$$
10^{-4}M\times V=5\times10^{-5}M\times50
$$

 $=25$ ml

For preparing 2×10^{-5} M from 10^{-4} M,

 10^{-4} M \times V $=2\times10^{-5}$ M \times 50

 $=10ml$

For preparing $10^{-5}M$ from $10^{-4}M$,

 10^{-4} M \times V= 10^{-5} M \times 50

 $=5ml=5000µl$

For preparing 5×10^{-6} M from 10^{-4} M,

 10^{-4} M×V=5×10⁻⁶×50

 $=2.5$ ml $=2500$ µl

 2×10^{-6} M from 10^{-5} M,

 10^{-5} M \times V=2 \times 10⁻⁶M \times 50

 $=1$ ml=1000 μ l

 10^{-6} M from 10^{-4} M,

 10^{-4} M×V= 10^{-6} M×50

 $=0.5$ ml=500 μ l

 5×10^{-7} M from 2×10^{-5} M,

 2×10^{-5} M \times V=5 $\times10^{-7}$ M \times 50

 $=1.25$ ml $=1250$ µl

 2×10^{-7} M from 2×10^{-6} M,

 2×10^{-6} M \times V $=2\times10^{-7}$ M \times 50

 $=5ml=5000\mu l$

 10^{-7} M from 2×10^{-6} M.

 2×10^{-6} M \times V=10⁻⁷M \times 50

 $=2.5$ ml $=2500 \mu$ l

8mg of R6G in 50ml water gives a concentration of

$$
M = \frac{8 \times 10^{-3}}{479.01 \times 50} \times 1000
$$

$$
= 3.34 \times 10^{-4} \text{M}
$$

For preparing 2×10^{-4} M from 3.34×10^{-4} M,

$$
3.34 \times 10^{-4} M \times V = 2 \times 10^{-4} M \times 50
$$

$$
=29.941
$$
ml

Prepared $10^{-4}M$, $5\times10^{-5}M$, $2\times10^{-5}M$, $10^{-5}M$, $5\times10^{-6}M$, $2\times10^{-6}M$, $10^{-6}M$ and $5\times10^{-7}M$ solutions for R6G as calculated above. Solutions of mix are prepared by mixing double concentrated solutions of each component i.e, 2×10^{-4} M, 2×10^{-5} M, 2×10^{-6} M, which gives a concentration of $10^{-4}M$, $10^{-5}M$ and $10^{-6}M$. Similarly mixing $10^{-4}M$ of Flu and R6G gives a solution of 5×10^{-5} M concentration.

UV-VIS absorption spectra, Fluorescence excitation spectra and Fluorescence emission spectra of pH =7.0 for different concentrations are given below.

 10^{-4} M

Fig5: Absorption, fluorescence excitation, fluorescence emission spectra for different concentration at pH=7

Measured the excited state lifetime of Flu and R6G in pure solutions and in mixture for different emission wavelengths.

Intensity decay follows a form as

 $I(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha i \exp(-t/\tau_i)$

 α_i is the fraction of molecules in each conformation at t=0, n is the number of decay times and τ_i are the decay times.

For calculating the energy transfer efficiency with respect to donor, we measured the excited state lifetime at emission wavelength 510,515,520nm.

$5x10-7M$ Flu				Mix			
α_1	$T_1(ns)$	T(ns)	X^2	α_1	$T_1(ns)$	T(ns)	X^2
	3.951	3.951	1.027		3.929	3.929	1.107
	3.941	3.941	0.858		3.943	3.943	1.007
	3.945	3.945	0.973		3.941	3.941	1.113

Table1: Measured lifetime of Flu and Mix. at 510,515,520nm

For calculating energy transfer efficiency w.r.t. acceptor, measured the lifetime of R6G at 590,595,600,610,620nm.

$5x10-7M$	R ₆ G			Mix				
	α_1	$T_1(ns)$	T(ns)	X^2	α_1	$T_1(ns)$	T(ns)	X^2
590		3.874	3.874	1.062		3.955	3.955	0.906
595		3.882	3.882	0.999		3.96	3.96	0.916
600		3.884	3.884	1.082		3.956	3.956	0.789
610		3.886	3.886	1.012		3.956	3.956	0.864
620		3.839	3.839	0.975		4.089	4.089	0.917

Table2: lifetime measured for R6G and mix at 590,595,600,610,620nm

$pH = 9.2$

UV-VIS absorption spectra, Fluorescence excitation spectra and Fluorescence emission spectra of pH =9.2 for different concentrations are given below.

 10^{-4} M

 $10^{-5}M$

Fig6: Absorption, fluorescence excitation, fluorescence emission spectra for different concentration

Table3: lifetime measured for Flu and mix. at 510,515,520nm

Lifetime measured w.r.t acceptor

Table4: lifetime measured for different concentrations of R6G and mix at 590, 595, 600, 610,620nm

Reverse micelle as a confinement:

We prepared reverse micelle of w=3 with surfactant AOT in n-hexane. The solution prepared is 50ml with a concentration of 0.1M

Molecular weight of $AOT = 444.56$ g/mol

Mass of AOT taken $= 2.2228g$

Molarity of 1000g of water in 1000ml is 55.56M

w=1, $55.56MxV = 50mlx0.1M$

 $V = 90.9 \mu l$

w=2, volume of aqueous solution taken $V=181.8\mu$ l

For preparing w=3, volume $V=272.7\mu$ l

Fluorescence emission spectra for pH=7

Fluorescence emission spectra for pH= 9.2

500 550 600 650

wavelength nm

Intensity

Fig7: Fluorescence emission spectra with reverse micelle (AOT) at pH=7 and 9.2

Prepared reverse micelle with TritonX-100, a size of $w=3$

Density of TritonX-100 = 1.07 g/ml

Molecular weight $=625g$

Molarity of the given surfactant= 1.07×1000 625

$$
=1.712M
$$

For preparing 0.2M, 25ml of surfactant solution in cyclohexane, volume of surfactant needed

 $1.712M \times V = 0.2 \times 25ml = 2.92ml$

For preparing reverse micelle of size $w=1$, volume solution needed V is,

```
0.2M x 25ml = 55.5M x V
```
 $V= 0.2$ ml x 25 ml

 $=90u1$

For w=3, Volume of solution needed V=270 μ l

Fluorescence emission spectra:

pH=7

0 20 40 60 80 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 &$

120 140

500520540560580600620640

wavelength nm

pH = 9.2

Fig8: Fluorescence emission spectra with reverse micelle (TritonX-100) at pH=7 and 9.2

Chapter2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

For **pH=7**

Energy transfer efficiency calculated by using equation (6) from steady state fluorescence emission spectrum by using the intensity in donor channel that is 510, 515,520 nm for different concentrations are given in table.

Table5: shows fluorescence intensity and energy transfer efficiency at 510,515,520nm

Energy transfer efficiency calculated by using equation (7) from steady state fluorescence emission spectrum by using the intensity in acceptor channel that is 590, 595, 600, 610, 620nm for different concentrations are given in table.

Table6: shows fluorescence intensity and energy transfer efficiency at 590, 595, 600, 610,620 nm

Calculated the energy transfer efficiency from the lifetime of the excited state of donor by using equation (8)

520 nm						
Conc.	Fluorescein	Mix	Efficiency			
	(n _s)	(n _s)				
$10-4M$	4.858	4.337	0.107			
$5x10^{-5}M$	4.964	4.802	0.033			
$10-5M$	4.259	4.337				
$5x10-6M$	4.129	4.164				
10^{-6} M	3.977	3.974	0.0007			
$5x10-7M$	3.945	3.941	0.0010			

Table7: calculated energy transfer efficiency from lifetime for different concentrations

Energy transfer efficiency from the lifetime measurement of acceptor.

Table8: energy transfer efficiency calculated for different concentrations at 590, 595, 600, 610, 620nm

For **pH=9.2**

Energy transfer efficiency calculated from steady state fluorescence emission spectrum by looking the donor channel that is 510, 515,520 nm for different concentrations are given in table.

Table9: intensity of fluorescein, mix and energy transfer efficiency at 510,515,520nm

Energy transfer efficiency calculated from steady state fluorescence intensity w.r.t. acceptor for different concentrations at 590, 595, 600, 610, 620nm are given below

Table10: intensity of R6G, mix and energy transfer efficiency for different concentrations at 590,595,600,610,620nm

Calculated the energy transfer efficiency from the lifetime of the excited state of donor by using equation (3)

520 nm						
Conc.	Fluorescein	Mix	Efficiency			
	(n _s)	(ns)				
$10-4M$	4.966	4.859	0.0215			
5x10.5M	5.066	4.932	0.0264			
10^{-5} M	4.161	4.094	0.0161			
5x10.6M	4.081	4.066	0.0036			
$10-6M$	3.966	3.976				
5x10 ⁷ M	3.963	3.959				

Table11: energy transfer efficiency calculated for different concentrations at 510,515,520nm

Energy Transfer efficiency calculated for samples w.r.t. acceptor

620 nm							
Conc.	Rhodamine	Mix	Efficiency				
	$6G$ (ns)	(n _s)					
$10-4M$	4.729	4.975	0.049				
$5x10^{-5}M$	4.414	4.495	0.018				
$10^{-5}M$	4.124	4.772	0.135				
5x10.6M	3.997	4.406	0.093				
$10^{-6}M$	3.935	4.067	0.032				
$5x10^7M$	3.918	3.975	0.014				

Table12: energy transfer efficiency calculated for different concentrations of R6G and Mix at 590, 595, 600, 610, 620nm

We chose high concentrations of sample that is $10^{-4}M$ and $5x10^{-5}M$ for preparing reverse micelles. These two concentrations gave high energy transfer efficiency in aqueous solution.

For reverse micelle with TritonX-100:

pH = 7:Energy transfer efficiency calculated with respect to donor

With respect to acceptor

Table13: Energy transfer efficiency w.r.t. donor and acceptor at pH=7

pH = 9.2

With respect to acceptor

Table14: Energy transfer efficiency w.r.t. donor and acceptor at pH=9.2

Comparison between steady state and Time resolved measurements

For pH=7

With respect to the donor

	TCSPC		
Conc.	510 _{nm}	515 _{nm}	520 _{nm}
10^{-4} M	0.124	0.122	0.107
$5x10^{-5}$ M	0.102	0.078	0.033
10^{5} M	0.0162	0.0046	
$5x10^{-6}$ M	0.0022		
			0.0007
10^{-6} M	0.0005	0.002	0.001
$5x10$ ⁻⁷ M	0.0056		

Table15: Energy transfer efficiency from steady state and lifetime w.r.t. donor at pH=7

With respect to acceptor

Table16: Energy transfer efficiency from steady state and lifetime w.r.t. acceptor at pH=7

For pH=9.2

With respect to the donor

	TCSPC		
Conc.	510	515	520
10^{4} M	0.053	0.028	0.021
$5x10^{-5}$ M	0.074	0.057	0.026
10^{5} M	0.027	0.022	0.016
$5x10^{-6}$ M	0.004	0.003	0.003
10^{6} M			
$5x10^7M$			

Table17: Energy transfer efficiency from steady state and lifetime w.r.t. donor at pH=9.2

With respect to acceptor

	TCSPC				
Conc.	590nm	595nm	600nm	610nm	620nm
$10-4M$	0.038	0.043	0.046	0.048	0.049
5x10 ⁵ M	0.014	0.012	0.013	0.019	0.018
10-5M	0.129	0.132	0.133	0.139	0.135
5x10 ⁻⁶ M	0.111	0.111	0.108	0.085	0.093
$10-6M$	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	0.032
$5x10-7M$	0.014		0.012	0.011	0.014

Table18: Energy transfer efficiency from steady state and lifetime w.r.t. acceptor at pH=9.2

For reverse micelle with TritonX-100,

Table19: efficiency at different wavelength for pH 7 and 9.2

CONCLUSION: Variation in pH from 7 to 9.2 is not affecting the energy transfer efficiency when we compare the steady state calculation. For the aqueous solution, steady state data are showing that high concentration is giving high energy transfer efficiency like 10^{-4} M and $5x10^{-5}$ M are giving more than 90% energy transfer efficiency for both pH 7 and 9.2 w.r.t. donor. With respect to acceptor, energy transfer efficiency for these two concentrations is more than 50%. Steady state energy transfer efficiency and energy transfer efficiency calculated from the lifetime measurement is not comparable directly; there is a large difference between these values.

In case of reverse micelle, that we prepared with AOT; AOT existing as anion at $pH=7$ and 9.2. R6G and Flu exist as cation and anion respectively at the same pHs. Electrostatic attraction which plays an important role in case of reverse micelle prepared with AOT. We think that R6G is going to the interfacial region of the reverse micelle and giving as observed; i.e., not giving FRET or decrement in intensity of Flu channel and increment in R6G channel.

In the case of reverse micelle that we prepared with TritonX-100 for both pH 7 and 9.2, from the steady state emission spectra; there is a decrement in the intensity of Flu channel and an increment in acceptor channel for the concentration $10^{-4}M$. For reverse micelle prepared with concentration $5x10^{-5}M$, it was not giving FRET for both pHs. Presence of a second peak around 600nm is observed in the fluorescence emission spectra for $5x10^{-5}M$ prepared with TritonX-100. Even though it is present in the higher concentration $10^{-4}M$ also, peak was not observed separately from the main peak that we got. This may be due to the dimer of each dye molecule is getting trapped in the reverse micelle and causing a shift in the dimer peak.

Near future we are planning to try some other neutral surfactant IGEPAL instead of TritonX-100. Use of some co-solvent like long chain alcohols with the hydrophobic phase cyclohexane in the preparation of reverse micelle has to be looked. It is also interesting to study the energy transfer efficiency with respect to size variation of reverse micelle.

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