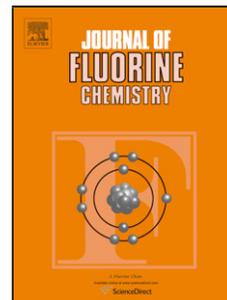


## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Novel fluorinated dialkylphosphonatocholines: synthesis, physicochemical properties and antiprotozoal activities against *Acanthamoeba* spp.

Author: Miloš Lukáč Mária Garajová Martin Mrva Ferdinand Devínsky František Ondriska Janka Kubincová



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1        Highlights

- 2        -    synthesis of fluorinated gemini zwitterionic surfactants
- 3        -    the physicochemical properties expressed as micellar and solubilization properties
- 4        -    biological activities of prepared compounds tested against *Acanthamoeba* spp.

5

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5 **Novel fluorinated dialkylphosphonatocholines: synthesis, physicochemical properties**  
 6 **and antiprotozoal activities against *Acanthamoeba* spp.**

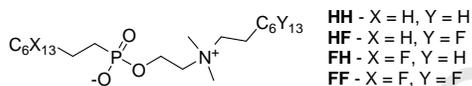
7  
 8 Miloš Lukáč<sup>a\*</sup>, Mária Garajová<sup>b</sup>, Martin Mrva<sup>b</sup>, Ferdinand Devínsky<sup>a</sup>, František Ondriska<sup>c</sup>,  
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14 **Graphical abstract**



16  
 17 **Abstract** – The synthesis of four new organophosphorous gemini surfactants is presented.  
 18 They belong to the class of dialkylphosphonatocholines. Tails are represented with two octyl  
 19 groups both non or partially fluorinated. The synthesis was performed by reaction of  
 20 alkylphosphonic acids with choline derivatives in the presence of 2,4,6-  
 21 triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl chloride. The micellar, surface active, and solubilization  
 22 properties of new surfactants were studied. Antiprotozoal activities were tested against  
 23 *Acanthamoeba lugdunensis* and *Acanthamoeba quina*.

24  
*Keywords:* critical micelle concentration, fluorinated surfactants, miltefosine, solubilization,  
 trophocidal activity

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25

26 **1. Introduction**

27

28 Alkylphosphocholines are compounds with interesting physicochemical [1-5] and biological  
29 properties [6,7]. These amphiphilic compounds are classified as pH non-sensitive zwitterionic  
30 surfactants. They contain two charges: the negative one, located at the phosphate anion, and  
31 the positive one represented by the ammonium cation. Ions are connected with a spacer,  
32 mainly ethylene. Critical micelle concentration (CMC) is one of the most important  
33 physicochemical parameters describing the properties of surfactants. Alkylphosphocholines as  
34 representatives of zwitterionic amphiphilic compounds have lower values of CMC than ionic  
35 surfactants with similar structure [8]. They are more related to non-ionic surfactants than to  
36 ionic ones. Antiprotozoal and anticancer activities of alkylphosphocholines are the most  
37 interesting and the most studied biological properties of this class of compounds.  
38 Hexadecylphosphocholine (HPC, miltefosine) is the main representative of  
39 alkylphosphocholines. It is used in treatment of skin metastases of breast cancer and visceral  
40 leishmaniasis [6].

41 Fluorinated surfactants have several advantages in comparison with surfactants containing  
42 only hydrocarbon alkyl chains. Their physicochemical and biological activities are improved  
43 in many cases in comparison with conventional surfactants [9]. They possess lower values of  
44 CMCs [10,11], decreasing of surface tension of surfactants solution is more effective, the  
45 values are lower in many cases than  $20 \text{ mN}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$  [12-14] or they form interesting aggregates  
46 [12,15-17]. Fluorinated surfactants also received attention for their interesting biological  
47 activities. They are used e.g. as stabilizers of fluorocarbon-in-water emulsions for the  
48 preparation of blood substitutes [18]. They have lower haemolytic activities [18,19] or  
49 enhanced activities against some microorganisms [20,21] compared to classical hydrocarbon

50 surfactants. Furthermore, they are also studied as antibody binding [22] or nucleic acids  
51 transfer agents [23].

52 The main goal of this work is the preparation and the study of physicochemical and biological  
53 properties of dialkylphosphonatocholines with hydrocarbon and highly fluorinated tails. The  
54 compounds are representatives of new types of organophosphorus heterogemini surfactants.  
55 Optimization of the synthesis of the compounds was also studied.

56

## 57 **2. Results and discussion**

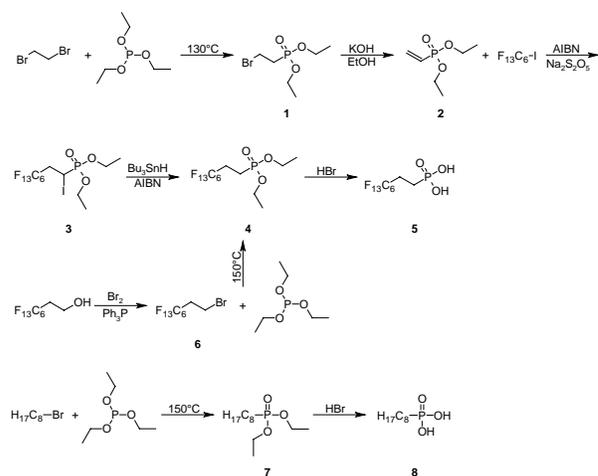
58

### 59 **2.1. Chemistry**

60

61 Altogether four new non-fluorinated and partially fluorinated dialkylphosphonatocholines  
62 were synthesised. The common structural motif of the prepared compounds is the presence of  
63 a phosphonate anion connected with an ammonium cation by an ethylene spacer and two  
64 eight carbon atom length alkyl chains ( $C_8$ ), which are attached to the phosphonate anion and  
65 to the quaternary nitrogen. Differences in the molecules are in alkyl chains. Compounds are  
66 possessing an octyl and/or 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-tridecafluorooctyl groups. One  
67 dialkylphosphonatocholine was prepared with two octyl groups (**HH**), two others with one  
68 partially fluorinated alkyl chain and one octyl group (**HF**, **FH**) and one with two partially  
69 fluorinated alkyl chains (**FF**).

70



71

72

73 Scheme 1. Preparation of alkylphosphonic acids

74

75 The synthesis started with the preparation of alkylphosphonic acids. *1H,1H,2H,2H*-76 Perfluorooctylphosphonic acid (**5**) was prepared with two synthetic approaches (Scheme 1).77 The main step in the first approach was the coupling of diethyl vinylphosphonate (**2**) with

78 perfluorohexyl iodide. Diethyl vinylphosphonate was prepared by a general procedure

79 [24,25]. The Michaelis-Arbuzov reaction of 1,2-dibromoethane with triethyl phosphite

80 yielded diethyl 2-bromophosphonate (**1**). This reaction was performed with excess of 1,2-

81 dibromoethane because tetraethyl ethylene-1,2-bisphosphonate was concurrently formed. 1,2-

82 Dibromoethane was in 4 fold excess to triethylphosphite. However, the yield of **1** was only

83 62% in spite of the excess of dibromide used. Higher yields can be obtained using microwave

84 synthesis. Jansa et al. [26] described microwave synthesis of dialkyl  $\omega$ -

85 bromoalkylphosphonates using an equivalent amount of dibromide to phosphite and with

86 higher yields and shorter reaction times. Hydrogen bromine was eliminated from **1** with87 potassium hydroxide and diethyl vinylphosphonate (**2**) was obtained in high yield after

88 distillation.

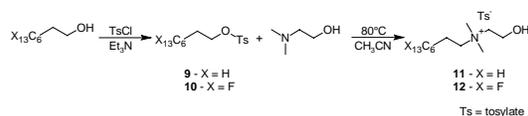
89 The addition of perfluorohexyl iodide to vinylphosphonate (**2**) was catalyzed by aza-bis-*iso*-  
 90 butyronitrile (AIBN). **3** was used in the next synthetic step without purification. Iodine in its  
 91 molecule was reduced by tri-*n*-butyltin hydride. The yield of **4** was very low (13%). This  
 92 could be caused by a competitive reaction of **3** with diethyl vinylphosphonate. Ester **4** was  
 93 hydrolyzed by concentrated HBr. The syntheses were performed according adopted  
 94 procedures [27,28]. Similar addition reaction of perfluorohexyl chloride to diethyl  
 95 vinylphosphonate was performed by Huang and Chen [29]. The reaction was carried out in  
 96 the presence of zinc, nickel dichloride and triphenylphosphine. Finally the compound **4** was  
 97 obtained. The advantage of this synthetic approach is in good yield of the product (71%) and  
 98 in the preparation of **4** in one synthetic step.

99 In view of the fact that **5** was prepared in low yield by the previously described procedure, a  
 100 second approach was performed. *1H,1H,2H,2H*-perfluorooctanol was firstly brominated.  
 101 Triphenylphosphine dibromide, which was generated *in situ* in the reaction mixture from  
 102 bromine and triphenylphosphine, was used as brominating agent [30]. Bromide **6** was used in  
 103 the following Michaelis-Arbuzov reaction. Without isolation the product **4** was hydrolyzed  
 104 with HBr.

105 The comparison of the overall yields of both synthetic approaches favored the second one. **5**  
 106 was prepared in 24% overall yield when the second approach was used instead of 5% overall  
 107 yield in the first approach.

108 The octylphosphonic acid (**8**) was obtained in two steps (Scheme 1): its diethyl ester **7** was  
 109 synthesized by Michaelis-Arbuzov reaction of 1-bromooctane with triethyl phosphite and  
 110 hydrolyzed by hydrobromic acid.

111



112

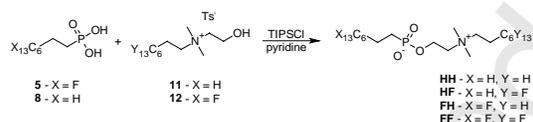
113

114 Scheme 2. Preparation of choline derivatives

115

116 The choline derivatives **11** and **12** needed in the last step of the synthesis of  
 117 dialkylphosphonatocholines were prepared by quaternization of 2-(dimethylamino)ethanol  
 118 with alkyl tosylates **9** or **10**, respectively (Scheme 2). An attempt was made to prepare  
 119 fluorinated derivatives of choline by quaternization of a tertiary amine with bromide **6**,  
 120 however, we were unsuccessful to isolate the product in solid state. Therefore, we prepared  
 121 tosylate **10** from *1H,1H,2H,2H*-perfluorooctanol and tosylchloride according to the procedure  
 122 described by Elshani et al. [31] and then 2-(dimethylamino)ethanol was quaternised with  
 123 tosylate **10**.

124



127

128

129 Scheme 3. Preparation of dialkylphosphonatocholines

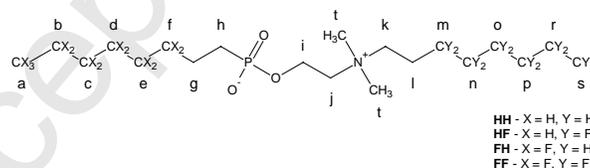
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131 The last step, the synthesis of non-fluorinated and fluorinated dialkylphosphonatocholines  
 132 (Scheme 3), was performed by the general method used in the preparation of  
 133 alkylphosphocholines [32,33] or dialkylphosphocholines [34]. Alkylphosphonic acids **5**, **8** and  
 134 choline derivatives **11**, **12** were coupled in the presence of 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl  
 135 chloride (TIPSCl) in anhydrous pyridine. Compounds **HH**, **HF**, **FH** and **FF** were obtained in  
 136 moderate or good yields.

137 The influence of fluorine on chemical shifts of some atomic groups of  
 138 dialkylphosphonatocholines in  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR is shown in Table 1. Substitution of

137 hydrogen by fluorine in the alkyl chains of dialkylphosphonatocholines shifted the signals of  
 138 methylene and methyl groups of partially fluorinated dialkylphosphonatocholines (except of  
 139 methylene groups of alkyl chain bounded to phosphate group of **HF**) observed in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR  
 140 to higher values in comparison with nonfluorinated dialkylphosphonatocholine. However,  
 141 **HF**, **FH** and **FF** had the signals of carbon atoms of methylene groups present at partially  
 142 fluorinated alkyl chains observed in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR at lower values in comparison with values of  
 143 the same methylene groups present at nonfluorinated alkyl chains. Similar situation was  
 144 observed in  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra. The chemical shifts of phosphorus of **FH** and **FF** with partially  
 145 fluorinated alkyl chain connected to phosphonate group were shifted to lower values in  
 146 comparison with dialkylphosphonatocholines which contained hydrocarbon alkyl chain  
 147 bounded to the phosphate group.

148  
 149 Table 1. Chemical shifts of the signal of some groups of dialkylphosphonatocholines in  $^1\text{H}$ ,  
 150  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR



153

Comp	$\text{H}_g$	$\text{H}_h$	$\text{H}_i$	$\text{H}_j$	$\text{H}_k$	$\text{H}_l$	$\text{H}_t$	$\text{C}_g^{[a]}$	$\text{C}_h^{[a]}$	$\text{C}_k$	$\text{C}_l^{[a]}$	$\text{F}_f$	$\text{F}_m$	P
<b>HH</b>	1.55	1.55	4.19	3.32	3.50	1.73	3.14	31.4 d $J=17.1$	27.6 d $J=136.0$	66.5	26.4	-	-	28.0
<b>HF</b>	1.55	1.55	4.22	3.37	3.76	2.79	3.24	31.3 d $J=17.3$	27.5 d $J=136.3$	58.2	25.1 t $J=21.6$	-	-113.9	29.0
<b>FH</b>	2.38	1.81	4.23	3.33	3.54	1.75	3.15	26.1 t $J=22.1$	18.1 d $J=138.8$	66.5	26.4	-115.7	-	23.5
<b>FF</b>	2.37	1.81	4.24	3.63	3.77	2.79	3.24	26.1 t $J=22.4$	18.1 d $J=139.3$	58.0	25.1 t $J=21.8$	-115.9	-114.0	24.0

154 <sup>[a]</sup> d = doublet, t = triplet; values of interaction constant are expressed in Hz

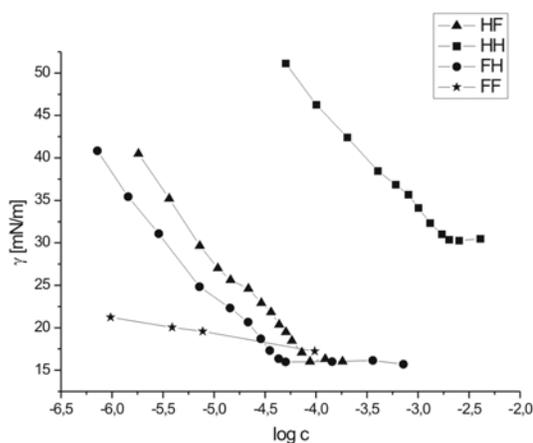
155

## 156 2.2. Surface active properties

157

158 The micellar and the surface-active properties of the investigated compounds **HH**, **HF**, **FH**  
 159 and **FF** were studied by measurements of surface tension of surfactant aqueous solutions by  
 160 the Wilhelmy plate technique. The plots of surface tension vs. log concentration curves of the  
 161 surfactants are shown in Figure 1. Critical micelle concentration (CMC), surface tension at the  
 162 CMC ( $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$ ), and the surface area at the surface saturation per head group ( $A_{\text{CMC}}$ ) of the  
 163 surfactants are shown in Table 2.

164



165

166

167 Figure 1. Plots of surface tension vs. log concentration curves of dialkylphosphonatocholines

168

169 Table 2. Physicochemical properties of dialkylphosphonatocholines

Comp	$c_1$ [mol.dm <sup>-3</sup> ]	CMC [mol.dm <sup>-3</sup> ]	$\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$ [mN.m <sup>-1</sup> ]	$A_{\text{CMC}}$ [Å <sup>2</sup> ]
<b>HH</b>	$(3.7 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-4}$	$(1.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	30.3	66 ± 3
<b>HF</b>	$(1.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-5}$	$(8.5 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-5}$	16.1	65 ± 1
<b>FH</b>	$(6.9 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-6}$	$(4.4 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-5}$	16.1	65 ± 3
<b>FF</b>	–	$< 1 \times 10^{-6}$	$> 21.2$	–

170

171 The CMC value of **HH** is comparable with similar compound (octyl 2-  
 172 [dimethyl(octyl)ammonio]ethyl phosphate) which was investigated by Peresykin and  
 173 Menger [35]. They obtained the CMC value for it equal to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol.dm<sup>-3</sup>. The replacement

174 of octyl group with partially fluorinated one led to a decrease of the CMC. The compounds  
175 with one partially fluorinated carbon chain possessed the CMC of about 1.5 orders of  
176 magnitude lower than **HH** and the compound with both partially fluorinated carbon chains  
177 had the CMC lower than  $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3}$ , only the postmicellar part of the curve was  
178 obtained (Figure 1).

179 A very interesting feature of the compounds investigated is the multilinear relationship  
180 between the surface tension and the concentration of the surfactant showing clearly two  
181 breaks in the curve (Figure 1). We assume that the first break (the break in the premicellar  
182 region of the curve, Figure 1) indicated premicellar aggregation. The formation of small  
183 aggregates from surfactant molecules is expected. We estimated that the values of surfactant  
184 concentrations when premicellar aggregates start to form ( $c_1$ ) are 5 to 7 times lower than the  
185 CMCs. This unusual phenomenon was previously observed in the case of some types of  
186 surfactants [36-38].

187 The measured values of surface tension at the CMC showed that the compounds with fluorine  
188 in the alkyl chains had lower values than the compound with hydrocarbon alkyl chains.  
189 However, it is interesting that the replacement of one hydrocarbon alkyl chain with partially  
190 fluorinated alkyl chains caused a decrease of the  $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$  but the compound with two partially  
191 fluorinated alkyl chains (**FF**) had the  $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$  higher ( $\gamma_{\text{CMC}} > 21.2 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$ ) than **HF** and **FH**. The  
192 most fluorinated surfactant did not have the lowest  $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$ . A similar effect of increasing the  
193  $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$  with decreasing lipophilicity (decrease of the CMC) in the ranges of partially fluorinated  
194 surfactants was also described in the literature [12,39]. However, when the value of surface  
195 tension ( $\gamma = 17.2 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$ ) of **FF** at a concentration ( $c = 9.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3}$ ) similar to CMCs  
196 of **HF** ( $\gamma_{\text{CMC}} = 16.1 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$ ) and **FH** ( $\gamma_{\text{CMC}} = 16.1 \text{ mN.m}^{-1}$ ) is compared, the differences are  
197 not high.

198 The values of  $A_{CMC}$  showed that partial fluorination of one alkyl chain of **HH** did not have an  
199 influence on the surface area of the surfactant at the water/air interface.

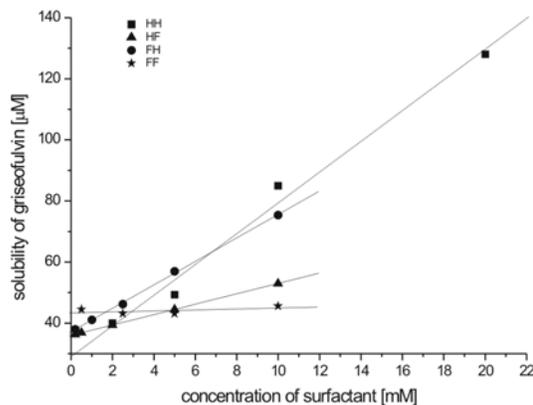
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### 201 **2.3. Solubilization properties**

202

203 Solubilization properties of the prepared surfactants were investigated by the solubilization of  
204 a poorly soluble drug, griseofulvin. This compound is a representative solute because it is  
205 solubilized almost exclusively in the hydrophobic micelle core [40]. Its solubility in water  
206 was estimated at  $3.34 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3}$ . The changes in the solubilities of griseofulvin with  
207 varying concentrations of surfactants solutions are shown in Figure 2. It is apparent that **HH**  
208 had the best solubilization properties. It has a molar solubilization ratio (MSR) of  $6.4 \times 10^{-3}$ .  
209 Surfactants with one partially fluorinated alkyl chain were poorer solubilizers than **HH**  
210 ( $MSR_{HF} = 2.0 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $MSR_{FH} = 4.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ) and **FF** was capable of solubilizing the lowest  
211 amount of griseofulvin ( $MSR_{FF} = 1.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ). One can say that increasing the number of  
212 fluorine atoms in the tails decreased the solubility of the solute. Fluorinated alkyl chains are  
213 more hydrophobic than hydrogenated alkyl chains and griseofulvin with many of its polar  
214 groups is more difficult to incorporate into the more hydrophobic perfluorinated micelle core.  
215 Matsuoka et al. [41] obtained similar results. Alkylbenzenes were better solubilized in  
216 hydrogenated surfactant micelles than the fluorinated ones. Solubilization of pyrene with  
217 tetraalkylammonium perfluorooctanoates also showed that the solute interacted better with  
218 hydrocarbon chains than with fluorinated chains. Pyrene was localised in the counterion layer  
219 of the micelle containing tetraalkylammonium ions and not in the micelle core containing  
220 perfluorinated alkyl chains of the perfluorooctanoates [42].

221



222

223 Figure 2. Plots of solubility of griseofulvin vs. concentration of dialkylphosphonocholines

224

225 **2.4. Antiprotozoal activities**

226

227

228 The biological activities of dialkylphosphonocholines were tested against opportunistic  
 229 parasites of the genus *Acanthamoeba* which are the causative agents of frequently fatal  
 230 granulomatous amoebic encephalitis and a serious sight threatening amoebic keratitis. Strains  
 231 of *A. lugdunensis* and *A. quina* were chosen because of their higher resistance to action of a  
 232 standard, HPC, than the other species, e.g., *A. polyphaga* or *A. lenticulata* [43,44]. The values  
 233 of minimal trophocidal concentrations (MTC) of the compounds against parasites after 24  
 234 hours of incubation are shown in Table 3. **HF** was the most active compound, as its MTCs  
 235 were four and two times lower than the MTCs of HPC against *A. lugdunensis* and *A. quina*,  
 236 respectively. The same value of activity against *A. quina* was reached also by **FH**. **HF** and **FH**  
 237 have optimal physicochemical properties (CMC), which is also a measure of the lipophilicity  
 238 of the surfactant, for the antiprotozoal activity. The activities of alkylphosphocholines could  
 239 be mainly caused by a non-specific mode of action, namely the biophysical destruction of the  
 240 cell membrane [45]. Their optimal CMCs caused that they are capable to solubilize cell

241 membranes of the parasites most efficiently among the investigated  
 242 dialkylphosphonatocholines. As we discussed previously [46], the bilinear type of cut-off  
 243 effect, well known in the case of surfactants [47], was observed in the amoebicidal activities  
 244 of alkylphosphocholines and therefore **HH** with high CMC and **FF** with low CMC were  
 245 inactive against parasites.

246

247 Table 3. Minimal trophocidal concentration of dialkylphosphonatocholines after 24 hours of  
 248 incubation

Compound	<i>A. lugdunensis</i> [ $\mu$ M]	<i>A. quina</i> [ $\mu$ M]
<b>HH</b>	> 500	> 500
<b>HF</b>	125	125
<b>FH</b>	> 500	125
<b>FF</b>	> 500	> 500
HPC <sup>[43]</sup>	500	250

249

### 250 3. Conclusion

251

252 In summary, we synthesised four new dialkylphosphonatocholines with two octyl groups, one  
 253 with hydrocarbon alkyl chains (**HH**) and three with partially fluorinated tails (**HF**, **FH**, **FF**).  
 254 The compounds were prepared by coupling the alkylphosphonic acids with choline  
 255 derivatives in the presence of 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl chloride. Partially fluorinated  
 256 alkylphosphonic acids were prepared by two methods. The first approach used radical  
 257 addition of perfluorohexyl iodide to diethyl vinylphosphonate as a key step of synthesis and  
 258 the second one employed the Michaelis-Arbusov reaction of partially fluorinated  
 259 octylbromide with triethyl phosphite. Concerning the yields the second approach was more  
 260 effective. The physicochemical properties were expressed as micellar, surface-active, and  
 261 solubilization properties. Increasing numbers of fluorine atoms in the molecules caused a  
 262 decrease of the values of CMC. The second break in the curve of surface tension vs. log c of  
 263 **HH**, **HF** and **FH** was also observed. One can suppose that the break indicated the formation

264 of small aggregates from surfactant molecules. The lowest values of the surface tension at the  
265 CMC were shown by compounds with one partially fluorinated tail. The best solubilization  
266 properties were obtained with **HH**. The reason is that the fluorinated alkyl chains of **HF**, **FH**  
267 and **FF** are more hydrophobic than the hydrogenated alkyl chains of **HH** and griseovulvin  
268 with many of its polar groups is more difficult to incorporate into the more hydrophobic  
269 perfluorinated micelle core. The antiprotozoal activities were tested against *A. lugdunensis*  
270 and *A. quina*. **HF** was the most effective compound. The cut-off effect was observed in  
271 antiprotozoal activities of series of dialkylphosphonatocholines. According to expectations the  
272 **HH** with high CMC and **FF** with low CMC were inactive against parasites.

273

## 274 **4. Experimental part**

275

### 276 **4.1. Chemistry**

277

#### 278 **4.1.1. Materials**

279

280 All chemicals used for the synthesis were purchased from commercial suppliers.  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$   
281 and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury plus spectrometer operating at 300,  
282 75.5, 282 and 121.5 MHz, respectively,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$  spectra being recorded with proton-  
283 decoupling. The spectra were measured in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\text{CD}_3\text{COCD}_3$ ,  $\text{CD}_3\text{SOCD}_3$ , or a mixture of  
284  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  relative to the internal standard TMS for  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra,  $\text{CCl}_3\text{F}$  for  
285  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra and to the external standard 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  for  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra. Infrared  
286 spectra were recorded on a FT-IR Impact 400 D spectrophotometer as potassium bromide  
287 discs or liquid films on potassium bromide discs. Molecular masses of final compounds were  
288 measured by high resolution spectrometer ESI-LTQ Orbitrap XL Thermo Scientific. Melting  
289 points were measured using a Koffler hot-stage apparatus and are uncorrected.

290 **4.1.2. Preparation of diethyl 2-bromoethylphosphonate**

291

292 Triethylphosphite (35 ml, 0.2 mol) was mixed with 1,2-dibromoethane (69 ml, 0.8 mol) in a  
293 round-bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser, heated at 160°C and stirred for 4 h. The  
294 reaction mixture was cooled and purified by distillation at reduced pressure.

295

296 **Diethyl 2-bromoethylphosphonate (1)**: colourless liquid, b.p. 133–135°C at  $p = 2$  kPa,  $n_D^{20}$   
297 = 1.4596, yield = 30.39 g (62%). FT-IR (liquid film):  $\nu_{\max} = 2981, 1443, 1392, 1368, 1285,$   
298  $1243, 1163, 1054, 1020, 961, 787$  cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 4.20\text{--}4.05$  (m, 4H),  
299  $3.53$  (q,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 2H),  $2.47\text{--}2.32$  (m, 2H),  $1.34$  (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,  
300 CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 62.1$  (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz),  $30.8$  (d,  $J = 133.5$  Hz),  $23.9, 16.4$  (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz). <sup>31</sup>P NMR  
301 (125.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 26.3$ .

302

303 **4.1.3. Preparation of diethyl vinylphosphonate**

304

305 Diethyl 2-bromoethylphosphonate (24.5 g, 0.1 mol) was slowly added to a cold solution of  
306 KOH (5.6 g, 0.1 mol) in 150 ml of ethanol. The reaction mixture was stirred at room  
307 temperature for 1 h then heated to reflux for 15 min. The formed solid was filtered off and  
308 washed with ethanol. Ethanol was removed under vacuum and the remaining oil was distilled  
309 under reduced pressure.

310

311 **Diethyl vinylphosphonate (2)**: colourless liquid, b.p. 94–96°C at  $p = 2.4$  kPa,  $n_D^{20} = 1.4283,$   
312 yield = 14.07 g (86%). FT-IR (liquid film):  $\nu_{\max} = 1445, 1393, 1243, 1164, 1050, 1022, 958,$   
313  $785$  cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 6.38\text{--}5.97$  (m, 3H),  $4.18\text{--}4.03$  (m, 4H),  $1.34$  (t,  $J$

314 = 7.3 Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 135.6 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz), 126.0 (d,  $J$  = 183.6 Hz),  
315 61.9 (d,  $J$  = 6 Hz), 16.4.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (125.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 18.0.

316

#### 317 **4.1.4. Preparation of diethyl 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctylphosphonate**

318

319 Diethyl vinylphosphonate (8.2 g, 50 mmol) was mixed with 1-iodo-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-  
320 tridecafluorohexane (22.3 g, 50 mmol) and heated at 60°C. AIBN (0.33 g, 2 mmol) was then  
321 added and the mixture was stirred for 4 h at 80°C. Diethyl 1-iodo-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-  
322 tridecafluorooctylphosphonate (**3**) was not isolated, but immediately used in the next reaction.

323 Replacement of iodine with hydrogen was performed by tri-*n*-butyltin hydride. AIBN (1.5  
324 mmol) was added to crude, cold diethyl 1-iodo-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-  
325 tridecafluorooctylphosphonate, followed by drop wise addition of tri-*n*-butyltin hydride (17.5  
326 g, 60 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred in argon atmosphere for 12 h at 80°C. After  
327 reaction, the lower phase was separated and distilled at reduced pressure.

328

329 **diethyl 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctylphosphonate (4)**: colourless liquid, b.p.  
330 86–89°C at  $p$  = 20 Pa, yield = 3.23 g (13%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 4.21–4.05 (m,  
331 4H), 2.50–2.28 (m, 2H), 2.08–1.92 (m, 2H), 1.35 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  
332  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 125–105 (m,  $6 \times \text{C}$ ), 62.2, 25.2 (t,  $J$  = 23.6 Hz), 17.2 (d,  $J$  = 146.7 Hz), 16.4.  $^{19}\text{F}$   
333 NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -80.73 (t,  $J$  = 9.6 Hz, 3F), 115.32 (m, 2F), 121.88 (m, 2F),  
334 122.81 (m, 2F), 123.30 (m, 2F), 126.12 (m, 2F).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (125.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 28.9.

335

#### 336 **4.1.5. Preparation of 1-bromo-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctane**

337

338 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctane-1-ol (20 g, 55 mmol) and triphenylphosphine  
339 (15.7 g, 60 mmol) were dissolved in 110 mL of anhydrous acetonitrile and deoxygenated with  
340 argon. The mixture was heated at 60°C and bromine (9.6 g, 60 mmol) was added drop wise.  
341 The mixture was stirred for 5 h at this temperature. After cooling down to room temperature,  
342 the reaction mixture was extracted with diethyl ether and the ether layers were washed with  
343 brine. After drying with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, the ether was evaporated and the crude product was  
344 dissolved in 100 mL of dichloromethane. This solution was stirred with 50 g of silica gel for 2  
345 h and then filtered and evaporated. The crude product was distilled at reduced pressure.

346

347 **1-bromo-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctane (6)**: colourless liquid, b.p. 93–94°C at  
348 12 kPa,  $n_D^{20} = 1.3312$ , yield = 16.4 g (70%). FT-IR (liquid film):  $\nu_{\max} = 1453, 1361, 1236,$   
349  $1196, 1144, 1123, 1079, 951, 845, 812, 745, 734, 702, 629 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  
350  $\delta = 3.51$  (t,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 2.80–2.60 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 125$ –105 (m,  
351  $6 \times \text{C}$ ), 35.0 (t,  $J = 21.8$  Hz), 20.2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = -81.27$  (t,  $J = 10.0$  Hz,  
352 3F), -114.72 (m, 2F), -122.39 (m, 2F), -123.35 (m, 2F), -123.97 (m, 2F), -126.63 (m, 2F).

353

#### 354 **4.1.6. General procedure for the preparation of phosphonic acid derivatives by**

##### 355 **Michaelis-Arbuzov reaction**

356

357 Alkylbromide (4.27 g of 1-bromo-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctane or 1.93 g of 1-  
358 bromooctane, 10 mmol) was heated with triethyl phosphite (1.83 g, 11 mmol) for 4h at  
359 150°C. After cooling, conc. HBr (12 mL) was added and heated for 4 h at 120°C. The excess  
360 HBr and bromoethane was then distilled off and the crude products were crystallised. The  
361 same procedure of hydrolysis of diester **4** obtained by first synthetic approach was also used.

362

363 **3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctylphosphonic acid (5)**: crystallised from a mixture  
364 of acetone : CHCl<sub>3</sub> 1 : 2, white powder, m.p. = 166–168°C, yield = 1.87 g (66%) for 1<sup>st</sup>  
365 synthetic approach (1 step), yield = 1.24 g (29%) for 2<sup>nd</sup> synthetic approach (2 steps). FT-IR  
366 (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 1445, 1367, 1302, 1229, 1212, 1186, 1141, 1074, 1012, 954, 778, 741, 697, 653  
367 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 4.33 (s, 2H), 2.60–2.38 (m, 2H), 2.10–2.02 (m,  
368 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 125–105 (m, 6 × C), 26.0 (t,  $J$  = 22.9 Hz), 18.9 (d,  
369  $J$  = 144.3 Hz). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = -80.62 (t,  $J$  = 10.4 Hz, 3F), -114.56 (m,  
370 2F), -121.40 (m, 2F), -122.37 (m, 2F), -122.83 (m, 2F), -125.70 (m, 2F). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (125.5  
371 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 28.7. HRMS calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F<sub>13</sub>PO<sub>3</sub> = 426.9763; found  $m/z$ : 426.9762  
372 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>

373  
374 **Octylphosphonic acid (8)**: crystallised from hexane, white powder, m.p. = 99–101°C, yield =  
375 1.44 g (74%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 2958, 2929, 2853, 1468, 1260, 1230, 1173, 1107, 1006,  
376 995, 947, 931, 780, 716 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>SOCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 5.36 (s, 2H), 1.58–1.40  
377 (m, 4H), 1.40 – 1.18 (m, 10H), 0.86 (t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>SOCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  =  
378 31.3, 30.1 (d,  $J$  = 16.2 Hz), 28.6, 28.5, 27.5 (d,  $J$  = 137.0 Hz), 22.6 (d,  $J$  = 4.8 Hz), 22.1, 13.9.  
379 <sup>31</sup>P NMR (125.5 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>SOCD<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 28.4. HRMS calcd. for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>18</sub>PO<sub>3</sub> = 193.0990; found  
380  $m/z$ : 193.0995 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>

#### 381 382 **4.1.7. General procedure for preparation of alkyl tosylates**

383  
384 Alcohol (8.74 g of 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctanol or 3.13 g of octanol, 24  
385 mmol) and tertiary amine (30 mmol, triethylamine (4.2 mL) in the case of fluorinated alcohol  
386 and pyridine (2.4 mL) in the case of octanol) were dissolved in 50 mL of dichloromethane and  
387 *p*-toluenesulfonyl chloride (4.77 g, 25 mmol) was added in small portions. The reaction

388 mixture was stirred overnight. The dichloromethane solution was then washed with water,  
389 dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and evaporated in vacuo. The crude product was crystallised  
390 from methanol in the case of 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl tosylate. Crude octyl  
391 tosylate was used in the next step without further purification.

392

393 **Octyl tosylate (9)**: colourless liquid, yield = 76%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.78 (d,  $J$   
394 = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.68–1.57 (m,  
395 2H), 1.36–1.16 (m, 10H), 0.88 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H).

396

397 **3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl tosylate (10)**: colourless crystals, m.p. = 54.5–  
398 55°C, yield = 11.4 g (92%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  = 1597, 1495, 1424, 1399, 1363, 1318, 1250,  
399 1202, 1173, 1137, 1079, 987, 972, 933, 892, 815, 778, 697, 663, 646  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300  
400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.80 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 2H),  
401 2.60–2.43 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 145.4, 132.3, 130.1, 128.0,  
402 125–105 (m, 6  $\times$  C), 61.6, 31.0 (t,  $J$  = 21.7 Hz), 21.7.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -  
403 81.29 (t,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 3F), -114.01 (m, 2F), -122.38 (m, 2F), -123.36 (m, 2F), -124.08 (m, 2F),  
404 -126.65 (m, 2F).

405

#### 406 **4.1.8. General procedure for the preparation of choline tosylates**

407

408 2-(*N,N*-Dimethylamino)ethanol (1.07 g, 12 mmol) and an alkyl tosylate (5.18 g of  
409 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl tosylate or 2.84 g of octyl tosylate, 10 mmol) were  
410 dissolved in 25 mL of acetonitrile and refluxed for 24 h. After cooling down the acetonitrile  
411 was evaporated in vacuum. The resulting mixture was crystallised from acetone.

412

413 ***N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N,N*-dimethyloctane-1-ammonium tosylate (11)**: white powder, m.p. =  
414 169–170°C, yield = 2.54 g (68%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 2956, 2923, 2856, 1492, 1467, 1219,  
415 1184, 1171, 1120, 1033, 1010, 819, 681  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.71 (d,  $J$  =  
416 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 5.43 (t,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 4.10–4.00 (m, 2H), 3.64–3.55  
417 (m, 2H), 3.39–3.28 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s, 6H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.64–1.54 (m, 2H), 1.37–1.12 (m,  
418 10H), 0.88 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 143.3, 139.8, 128.9, 125.8,  
419 65.8, 65.6, 56.3, 51.6, 31.8, 29.2, 26.3, 22.8, 22.7, 21.4, 14.1. HRMS calcd. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{28}\text{ON}$  =  
420 202.2165; found  $m/z$ : 202.2165 [M-Ts]<sup>+</sup>

421

422 ***N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctane-1-**  
423 **ammonium tosylate (12)**: white powder, m.p. = 219–221°C, yield = 1.64 g (27%). FT-IR  
424 (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 1495, 1362, 1320, 1296, 1231, 1203, 1189, 1144, 1121, 1108, 1009, 820, 723,  
425 683, 653  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{SOCD}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 7.48 (d,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (d,  $J$  = 7.9  
426 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (t,  $J$  = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.95–3.68 (m, 4H), 3.58–3.48 (m, 2H), 3.17 (s, 6H), 3.06–  
427 2.82 (m, 2H), 2.29 (s, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{SOCD}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = 145.7, 137.6, 128.0, 125.4,  
428 125–105 (m, 6 × C), 64.9, 55.7, 54.9, 50.9, 24.4 (t,  $J$  = 21.0 Hz), 20.7.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  
429  $\text{CD}_3\text{SOCD}_3$ ):  $\delta$  = -79.8 (t,  $J$  = 9.0 Hz, 3F), -111.97 (m, 2F), -121.21 (m, 2F), -122.15 (m, 4F),  
430 -125.32 (m, 2F). HRMS calcd. for  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{ONF}_{13}$  = 436.0941; found  $m/z$ : 436.0938 [M-Ts]<sup>+</sup>

431

#### 432 **4.1.9. General procedure for the preparation of dialkylphosphonatocholines**

433

434 Pyridinium salts of alkyl dihydrogen phosphonates were prepared by the treatment of  
435 alkylphosphonic acids (0.428 g of 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctylphosphonic acid  
436 or 0.194 g of octylphosphonic acid, 1 mmol) with pyridine (8 mL) for 2 h at 50°C. The excess  
437 pyridine was evaporated and the rest was dissolved in 5 mL of anhydrous pyridine. The

438 appropriate choline (0.911 g of *N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-  
439 tridecafluorooctane-1-ammonium tosylate or 0.374 g of *N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N,N*-  
440 dimethyloctane-1-ammonium tosylate, 1.5 mmol) and 2,4,6-triisopropylbenzenesulfonyl  
441 chloride (0.45 g, 2 mmol) in pyridine (15 mL) were added to the solution of pyridinium  
442 alkylphosphonate. The solution was stirred at 40 °C overnight. After cooling, the mixture was  
443 hydrolyzed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (1.5 mL) and stirred for 1 h at room temperature. The solvents  
444 were evaporated in vacuum, and the resulting crude solid was dissolved in a mixture of  
445 tetrahydrofuran and water (5:1, V/V). An exchange resin, Amberlite MB3, was added  
446 sequentially to the stirred solution until the colour of the resin ceased to change. Then the  
447 resin was filtered off and the solvents were evaporated in vacuum. The remaining mixture was  
448 coevaporated with propan-2-ol several times. The residue was dissolved in chloroform and  
449 precipitated with acetone. Dialkylphosphonatocholines were filtered off and crystallised from  
450 a mixture of chloroform and acetone. Products were dried in a vacuum dessicator over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub>.

451

452 **2-[dimethyl(octyl)ammonio]ethyl octylphosphonate (HH)**: white powder, m.p. = 227–  
453 227.5°C, yield = 0.131 g (33%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 3297, 2918, 2851, 1467, 1195, 1091,  
454 1057, 962, 936, 781, 717, 704 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500  $\mu$ L + CD<sub>3</sub>OD 100  $\mu$ L):  $\delta$   
455 = 4.24–4.16 (m, 2H), 3.55–3.45 (m, 2H), 3.37–3.26 (m, 2H), 3.14 (s, 6H), 1.80–1.66 (m, 2H),  
456 1.65–1.47 (m, 4H), 1.45–1.19 (m, 20H), 0.95–0.82 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500  
457  $\mu$ L + CD<sub>3</sub>OD 100  $\mu$ L):  $\delta$  = 66.5, 64.9, 56.7, 51.6, 32.0, 31.8, 31.4 (d,  $J$  = 17.1 Hz), 29.4(3),  
458 29.3(5), 29.2, 29.1, 27.6 (d,  $J$  = 136.0 Hz), 26.4, 23.8, 23.7, 22.8, 22.7, 14.1(2), 14.0(6). <sup>31</sup>P  
459 NMR (125.5 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 500  $\mu$ L + CD<sub>3</sub>OD 100  $\mu$ L):  $\delta$  = 28.0. HRMS calcd. for  
460 C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O<sub>3</sub>NPNa = 400.2951; found  $m/z$ : 400.2950 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>

461

462 **2-[dimethyl(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl)ammonio]ethyl octylphosphonate**  
463 (**HF**): white powder, m.p. = 188–189°C, yield = 0.136 g (22%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 3274,  
464 2933, 2860, 1240, 1222, 1139, 1097, 1060, 964, 920, 780, 738, 710  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  
465  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{L}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{L}$ ):  $\delta$  = 4.26–4.17 (m, 2H), 3.82–3.70 (m, 2H), 3.65–3.57 (m,  
466 2H), 3.24 (s, 6H), 2.89–2.69 (m 2H), 1.67–1.46 (m, 4H), 1.41–1.18 (m, 10H), 0.87 (t,  $J$  = 6.6  
467 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = 125–115 (m,  $6 \times \text{C}$ ), 64.9,  
468 58.2, 56.7, 51.8, 32.0, 31.3 (d,  $J$  = 17.3 Hz), 29.4, 29.3, 27.5 (d,  $J$  = 136.3 Hz), 25.1 (t,  $J$  =  
469 21.6 Hz), 23.6, 22.8, 14.1.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = -81.20  
470 (t,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 3F), -113.94 (m, 2F), -122.25 (m, 2F), -123.27 (m, 4F), -126.54 (m, 2F).  $^{31}\text{P}$   
471 NMR (125.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = 29.0. HRMS calcd. for  
472  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_3\text{NF}_{13}\text{PNa}$  = 634.1726; found  $m/z$ : 634.1725  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$

473

474 **2-[dimethyl(octyl)ammonio]ethyl 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctylphosphonate**  
475 (**FH**): white powder, m.p. = 214–216°C, yield = 0.312 g (50%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 3365,  
476 2932, 2857, 1212, 1143, 1061, 972, 928, 822, 775, 745, 732  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$   
477 500  $\mu\text{L}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{L}$ ):  $\delta$  = 4.29–4.18 (m, 2H), 3.62–3.49 (m, 2H), 3.42–3.28 (m, 2H),  
478 3.14 (s, 6H), 2.50–2.26 (m, 2H), 1.91–1.58 (m, 4H), 1.45–1.20 (m, 10H), 0.89 (t,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz,  
479 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = 125–115 (m,  $6 \times \text{C}$ ), 66.5,  
480 64.9, 57.1, 51.6, 31.8, 29.2, 26.4, 26.1 (t,  $J$  = 22.1 Hz), 22.8, 22.7, 18.1 (d,  $J$  = 138.8 Hz),  
481 14.0.  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = -81.27 (t,  $J$  = 10.0 Hz, 3F), -  
482 115.74 (m, 2F), -122.38 (m, 2F), -123.31 (m, 2F), -123.84 (m, 2F), -126.60 (m, 2F).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR  
483 (125.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = 23.5. HRMS calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{31}\text{O}_3\text{NF}_{13}\text{PNa}$   
484 = 634.1726; found  $m/z$ : 634.1727  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$

485

486 **2-[dimethyl(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl)ammonio]ethyl**  
 487 **3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl-phosphonate (FF)**: white powder, m.p. = 205.5–  
 488 207°C, yield = 0.211 g (25%). FT-IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\max}$  = 3409, 1230, 1185, 1139, 1058, 963, 776,  
 489 710  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{L}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{L}$ ):  $\delta$  = 4.32–4.16 (m, 2H),  
 490 3.84–3.70 (m, 2H), 3.68–3.58 (m, 2H), 3.23 (s, 6H), 2.90–2.68 (m, 2H), 2.50–2.24 (m, 2H),  
 491 1.90–1.72 (m, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = 125–115 (m, 12  
 492  $\times$  C), 65.0, 58.0, 56.9, 51.8, 26.1 (t,  $J$  = 22.4 Hz), 25.1 (t,  $J$  = 21.8 Hz), 18.1 (d,  $J$  = 139.3 Hz).  
 493  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = -81.33 (m, 6F), -114.03 (m, 2F), -  
 494 115.92 (m, 2F), -122.37 (m, 4F), -123.32 (m, 6F), -123.91 (m, 2F), -126.62 (m, 4F).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR  
 495 (125.5 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  500  $\mu\text{l}$  +  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  100  $\mu\text{l}$ ):  $\delta$  = 24.0. HRMS calcd. for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3\text{NF}_{26}\text{PNa}$   
 496 = 868.0501; found  $m/z$ : 868.0500  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$   
 497

#### 4.2. Equilibrium surface tension measurements

The critical micelle concentration values of the surfactants were determined from the surface tension isotherm. The solvent surface tension values were measured by the Wilhelmy plate technique using a Krüss 100 MK2 tensiometer. Deionised water was used in the preparation of all samples. The temperature of the measurements was kept at  $25 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ . Measurements of equilibrium surface tension were taken repeatedly (every 6 min.) until the change in surface tension was less than  $0.05 \text{ mN}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$ . The critical micelle concentrations (CMC) and surface tensions at the CMC ( $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$ ) were determined from the intersection of two lines – one premicellar and second one postmicellar – of the surface tension vs.  $\log c$  curve. The values of surfactant concentrations when premicellar aggregates start to form ( $c_1$ ) were calculated in a same way. From the surface tension data, the adsorbed amount of the surfactant  $\gamma_{\text{CMC}}$  is calculated utilising the Gibbs adsorption isotherm

$$\Gamma_{\text{CMC}} = -[d\gamma/d \log c]_{\text{T}}/(2.303iRT) \quad (1)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the surface tension ( $\text{mN}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$ ),  $c$  is the surfactant concentration,  $i$  is the prefactor,  $T$  is the absolute temperature and  $R$  the gas constant. Surface excess may be determined from the slope below the CMC in the surface tension vs.  $\log c$  plots. Surface area at the surface saturation per head group ( $A_{\text{CMC}}$ ) is obtained from the equation

$$A_{\text{CMC}} = 10^{20}/N_{\text{A}}\Gamma_{\text{CMC}} \quad (2)$$

498 were  $N_{\text{A}}$  is the Avogadro constant.

499

### 500 **4.3. Solubilization of griseofulvin**

501

502 Saturated griseofulvin solutions were prepared in glass vessels by mixing an excess powdered  
503 drug (5 mg) with 2.5 mL of deionised water or surfactant solution with an appropriate  
504 concentration ( $c_{\text{surf}}$ ) and stirring (250 rpm) at a constant temperature  $t = 25 \pm 1$  °C for 72  
505 hours before filtering (Millipore, 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$ ) to remove any unsolubilized material. The extent  
506 of dissolution was determined by UV spectroscopy. The filtered solution (1 mL) was diluted  
507 quantitatively with methanol in a 25 mL volumetric flask. Absorbance was measured at the  
508 optimum wavelength,  $\lambda = 292$  nm, which was then compared with the appropriate Beer's law  
509 plot for the drug in methanol. Water content in the measured solution was low enough to  
510 allow the calibration with methanol solutions to be used without correction. MSR was  
511 calculated according to the equation:

512

513  $MSR = (c - c_w)/(c_{surf} - CMC)$

514

515 where  $c$  is the concentration of griseofulvin in a solution of surfactant and  $c_w$  is concentration  
516 of griseofulvin in deionised water.

517

#### 518 **4.4. *In vitro* amoebicidal activity assay**

519 The cytotoxic activity of dialkylphosphonatocholines was tested on two clinical isolates of  
520 free-living amoebae, i.e., *Acanthamoeba lugdunensis* AcaVNAK02 and *Acanthamoeba quina*  
521 AcaVNAK03, isolated from the corneas of two patients with amoebic keratitis.

522 Briefly, from the 2-day monoxenic cultures on agar plates, the trophozoites were axenised by  
523 inoculation into the Bacto-Casitone/Serum medium (BCS) with penicillin and ampicillin.

524 After 72 h, the active trophozoites were transferred into peptone-yeast extract-glucose  
525 medium (PYG) with penicillin and ampicillin. After 5 passages, the trophozoites were  
526 transferred into a PYG medium without antibiotics and subsequently cultivated in this

527 medium. Cytotoxicity measurements were carried out in sterile 96-well microtitre plates. Each  
528 well was seeded with 100  $\mu$ L ( $2 \times 10^5$  cells  $\text{mL}^{-1}$ ) of a trophozoite suspension. Then, 100  $\mu$ L

529 of a freshly prepared medium containing a tested compound at 10 concentrations was added  
530 to all wells except untreated control wells that received 100  $\mu$ L of pure medium. Each

531 compound was tested at final concentrations of 500, 250, 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.6, 7.8, 3.9,  
532 1.95, and 0.98  $\mu$ M. The reduction of trophozoites was recorded after 24 h by counting the

533 surviving cells in a Bürker-Türk hemocytometer. Viability of trophozoites was determined by  
534 trypan blue exclusion; 100% eradication was confirmed by transferring 50  $\mu$ L of the

535 suspension to a PYG medium, then recording the amoeba growth for 14 days. The lowest  
536 concentration of tested compounds leading to 100% eradication of the trophozoites was

537 defined as the minimal trophocidal concentration (MTC). The experiments were repeated 8

538 times for each concentration. The cultivations and the cytotoxicity measurements were carried  
539 out at 37°C.

540

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- 626

626 **Figure and table captions**

627

628 Scheme 1. Preparation of alkylphosphonic acids

629 Scheme 2. Preparation of choline derivatives

630 Scheme 3. Preparation of dialkylphosphonatocholines

631

632 Figure 1. Plots of surface tension *vs.* log concentration curves of dialkylphosphonatocholines

633 Figure 2. Plots of solubility of griseofulvin *vs.* concentration of dialkylphosphonatocholines

634

635 Table 1. Chemical shifts of the signal of some groups of dialkylphosphonatocholines in  $^1\text{H}$ ,

636  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{19}\text{F}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR

637 Table 2. Physicochemical properties of dialkylphosphonatocholines

638 Table 3. Minimal trophocidal concentration of dialkylphosphonatocholines after 24 hours of

639 incubation