Biocatalysis in Supercritical Fluids, in Fluorous Solvents, and under Solvent-Free Conditions

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1. Introduction to Green Chemistry

In recent years, green chemistry has become an area of significant research interest. It is best defined as "the utilization of a set of principles that reduces or eliminates the use or generation of hazardous substances in the design, manufacture, and applications of chemical products".1 Key elements of any chemical reaction are the solvents used and the employment of catalysts; therefore, the search for new environmentally benign solvents and catalysts that operate efficiently in them and can be easily recycled is of significant academic and industrial interest. Currently, there are five main "green" solvent systems: supercritical fluids (SCFs), fluorinated solvents, ionic liquids (ILs), water, and solventfree reactions. In this review, we will focus on the research reported to date that combines enzymes (nature's catalysts) with SCFs, fluorous solvents, and under solvent-free conditions. One of the other reviews in this volume describes biocatalysis in ILs (van Rantwijk, F.; Sheldon, R. A. Biocatalysis in Ionic Liquids. *Chem. Re*V*.* **²⁰⁰⁷**, *¹⁰⁷*, http:// dx.doi.org/10.1021/cr050946x.) and, hence, complements this paper. There are several examples of ILs and SCFs being used together in a biphasic enzyme transformation. In this case, the role of the SCF is generally to extract and separate the products from the IL or poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG). We have included a specific section on these reactions.

1.1. SCFs

A SCF is defined as the state of a compound or element above its critical temperature (T_c) and critical pressure (p_c) but below the pressure required to condense it into a solid.² The phase behavior of substances at various temperatures and pressures can be represented most clearly on a phase diagram, as seen in Figure 1.

As both temperature and pressure increase, the gas-liquid coexistence curve moves upward. As the temperature increases, the liquid becomes less dense, due to thermal expansion, and as the pressure increases, the gas becomes more dense. Once the densities become equal, the phase distinction between liquid and gas disappears and the critical point has been reached. The substance is now said to be supercritical (sc), and this blurring of phases can be observed visually in a view cell (Figure 2). For instance, carbon dioxide (CO_2) at 25 °C and 50 bar can be seen as both liquid ^{*} To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel: $+44(0)115951$ and $\tan 25^\circ$ and $\tan 50^\circ$ and $\tan 50^\circ$

Helen Hobbs studied biochemistry and biological chemistry at the University of Nottingham where she obtained her degree in 2002. In September 2002, she started her Ph.D. in the Clean Technology Group at the University of Nottingham under the supervision of Prof. Martyn Poliakoff and Dr. Neil Thomas. Her research was focused on solubilizing biomolecules in fluorous solvents and supercritical carbon dioxide, including an in-depth characterization and activity study on these modified enzymes. She also studied the activity of cross-linked enzyme aggregates in supercritical carbon dioxide in collaboration with Prof. Roger Sheldon. After completion of her Ph.D. in November 2006, she started a postdoc at the School of Chemical, Environmental and Mining Engineering in collaboration with the Institute of Cell Signaling at the University of Nottingham. She is currently researching the hydrothermal synthesis of fluorescent nanoparticles for use in cell imaging, under the supervision of Dr. Ed Lester and Dr. Steve Briddon.

Neil R. Thomas was awarded a first-class B.Sc. (Honors) degree from the University of Southampton in 1987 and continued working there, under the supervision of Prof. David Gani, for his Ph.D. on the mechanisms of ammonia-lyases and pyridoxal 5′-phosphate-dependent enzymes. In 1990, during the final months of his Ph.D., the research group moved to the University of St. Andrews, where he completed his doctorate degree overlooking the Old Course. For the next 2 years, he worked under the supervision of Prof. Stephen J. Benkovic at Pennsylvania State University, State College, on the generation of catalytic antibodies, funded by a NATO/ SERC postdoctoral research fellowship. In 1992, he returned to take up a Royal Society University Research Fellowship initially in the School of Chemistry at Bath and then in Chemistry at the University of Nottingham in 1995. He is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham, and his research interests include biocatalysis in unusual solvents, developing inhibitors of Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Staphylococcus aureus cell wall biosynthesis, constructing small protein scaffolds as antibody replacements and minienzymes, developing uses for near-infrared quantum dots in biology, and late 19th/early 20th century architecture.

On simultaneously increasing the temperature and pressure, the meniscus slowly becomes indistinct until it is no longer visible as the densities of the two phases merge. At this point, the $CO₂$ is said to have become sc.

Figure 1. Phase diagram for a SCF. The critical point is the point at which the densities of the liquid and gas become identical and the fluid is said to be sc. Note that in this diagram the pressure scale is nonlinear. Adapted from ref 3. Copyright 2004 Royal Society of Chemistry.

In the sc region of the phase diagram, the fluid possesses both gaseous and liquid properties. For example, gaslike diffusivities and low viscosity coefficients allow the fluid to permeate through porous solids more quickly than a pure liquid could, hence overcoming mass transfer limitations. Liquidlike densities and dissolving powers allow the SCF to function as an effective reaction solvent. In addition, SCFs demonstrate tunable parameters such as dielectric constant, partition coefficient, and solubility. Small changes in temperature or pressure, particularly near the critical point, can result in up to 100-fold changes in solubility, and this can be useful in simplifying separations.⁴

The critical parameters for SCFs vary depending on the particular substance. A selection of the SCFs most often used for biocatalysis and their critical parameters are shown in Table 1.

The range of SCFs investigated for use as a solvent for enzyme-catalyzed reactions is relatively small due to the inherent nature of the proteins to unfold and become biologically inactive at elevated temperatures. Of those SCFs with suitable critical parameters for use with enzymes, the vast majority of reactions have employed scCO_2 . This is because $CO₂$ is cheap, chemically inert, nontoxic, and readily available and because its relatively low critical parameters facilitate the use of biocatalysts. Substances such as ethane, ethene, and propane are less attractive because of their higher cost and flammability, and the use of sulfur hexafluoride or xenon is limited due to their cost and poor solvent power. However, there are some benefits for using these alternative $SCFs$ over $scCO₂$, and these will be described below. The phase behavior of the fluid can facilitate a reaction through the use of controlled depressurization, which can allow the separation of substrates and products, without leaving harmful solvent residues. Diffusion is typically faster in SCFs as compared to liquids, which can speed up both homogeneous and heterogeneous reactions.2 It should also be noted that water in the sc state cannot be used with enzymes as its critical parameters are well above those tolerated by proteins (Table 1).

Figure 2. View cell showing the phase behavior as a substance becomes sc. (a) Biphasic system is observed at lower temperatures with a distinct meniscus between liquid and gas phases. (b) On increasing the temperature, the meniscus between the two phases starts to become blurred. (c) At a higher temperature, a homogeneous SCF is observed. The process is reversed on decreasing the temperature. Reprinted with permission from ref 3. Copyright 2004 Royal Society of Chemistry.

Table 1. SCFs Used for Biocatalysis and Their Critical Parameters2

substance	T_c (°C)	p_c (bar)
carbon dioxide $(CO2)$	31.0	73.8
chlorodifluoromethane (CIF_2CH)	-3.7	49.7
ethane (C_2H_6)	32.3	48.8
ethene (C_2H_4)	9.2	50.5
fluoroform (CHF_3)	26.2	48.5
propane (C_3H_8)	96.7	42.5
sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6)	45.5	37.7
water $(H2O)$	374.0	221.0
xenon(Xe)	17.0	5.8

1.2. Supercritical Carbon Dioxide (scCO₂)

 $\sec{CO_2}$ can be described as a "green" solvent due to its nontoxicity and nonflammability. It is the only readily available solvent that is sc under conditions amenable to biocatalysis that is both cheap and not a volatile organic compound (VOC).

1.3. Fluorous Solvents

Fluorinated or fluorous solvents can also be described as "green" solvents since they are nontoxic and generally benign in the environment provided that they have low volatility. A monograph on all aspects of fluorous chemistry has recently been published.⁵ One of the almost unique properties of fluorous solvents is their temperature-dependent miscibility with other organic solvents. This property has been elegantly exploited in fluorous biphasic systems (FBS) (see section 9). These were first described by Horváth and Rábai⁶ and consist of a fluorinated solvent containing a fluorous soluble catalyst and a second product phase, which may be any organic solvent with limited, temperature-dependent, solubility in the fluorous phase.⁵ This enables facile separation of products from catalysts (which can then be easily reused), which would otherwise be time-consuming and costly. Despite this advantage, there is a cloud of doubt over the "greenness" of the use of fluorous solvents due to their persistence in the environment, and this is still a matter of debate. Industrial interest in fluorous solvents is currently limited due to the high cost of these solvents.

1.4. Enzymes as "Green" Catalysts

Finally, the use of enzymes to catalyze reactions is also considered "green". For example, they have exceptionally high selectivity, which minimizes waste; they can operate

on a single compound in a complex mixture, which can reduce the requirement for chromatographic or other types of separations; and they require only mild reaction conditions in comparison to some standard chemical routes, which can lower cost and energy input. If treated appropriately, enzymes are sufficiently robust to be reused with numerous batches of substrate while the byproducts of enzyme production and the enzymes themselves are readily biodegradable. The area of biocatalysis in nonaqueous media has grown immensely over the last few decades since the realization that most enzymes can function extremely well under (near) anhydrous conditions, displaying a number of useful properties such as enhanced stability and different substrate selectivity.⁷ Hence, the combination of biocatalysis and SCFs or FBSs is attractive for the development of green chemistry.

2. Biocatalysis in SCFs

It has been over two decades since the first reports of enzyme-catalyzed reactions in SCFs were published. Randolph et al. 4 and Hammond et al. 8 both used enzymes as simple suspensions in SCFs. Since then, a number of new methods for stabilizing enzymes in SCFs have been investigated. Examples include the use of immobilized enzymes,⁹ lipid-coated enzymes,¹⁰ sol gels,¹¹ cross-linked enzyme crystals (CLECs), 12 cross-linked enzyme aggregates (CLEAs), 13 or enzymes combined with suitable surfactants to form reverse micelles/microemulsions.14

A number of reviews regarding biocatalysis in SCFs have been published since 1985 documenting the progress of the whole field¹⁵⁻²⁵ or of specific research groups.²⁶⁻²⁸ A wellbalanced and comprehensive review of the use of scCO_2 in the broader context of green chemical synthesis and processing has recently been produced by Eric Beckman, \bar{z}^9 while the earlier Chemical Reviews article on biocatalysis in SCFs by Messiano et al.15 provides a more in-depth analysis of the physical chemistry and other parameters that affect enzymatic catalysis in SCFs and is therefore complementary to this review. This review brings together details of all of the enzyme-catalyzed reactions investigated in SCFs, fluorous solvents, and solid-to-solid/eutectic mixtures in one comprehensive summary, documenting all readily accessible literature reports in these fields of research excluding patents to the end of 2006.

2.1. Which Solvent?

 $\sec CO_2$ tends to be the SCF of choice for biocatalysis because it is cheap, readily available, and considered the most Biocatalysis in SCFs, in Fluorous Solvents, and without Solvent Chemical Reviews, 2007, Vol. 107, No. 6 2789

Scheme 1. Reversible Carbamate Formation between CO₂ **and Lysine Residues on the Surface of an Enzyme31**

$$
R-NH_2 + CO_2 \longrightarrow R-N \longrightarrow N \longrightarrow R-N \longrightarrow N
$$

Scheme 2. Formation of Carbonic Acid and Its Dissociation to the Bicarbonate Anion in $\sec O_2$

$$
H_2O + CO_2 \longrightarrow H_2CO_3 \longrightarrow HCO_3^- + H^+
$$

"green" of the SCFs with suitable critical parameters that are compatible with conditions required for enzymatic reactions; hence, it is the sc solvent most widely used in industry. However, carbon dioxide is involved in two chemical processes that have the potential to reduce or destroy the catalytic activity of an enzyme. These are (i) the formation of carbamates between $CO₂$ and lysine residues on the surface of the enzyme and (ii) the formation of carbonic acid by reaction between $CO₂$ and any water present in the system.

2.2. Carbamate Formation

Carbamate formation with amine groups in carbon dioxide was first reported in 1948.³⁰ In the presence of large amounts of an amine, both the unstable carbamoylate and the relatively stable urea can be formed. In the case of enzymes and other proteins, the ϵ -amino group of lysine and potentially the imidazole side chain of histidine can react reversibly with carbon dioxide to form an unstable carbamate that reverts to the free amine on depressurization of the system, as shown in Scheme 1.31 In the case of enzymes, the formation of ureas is unlikely unless the proteins are highly aggregated.

Some reports have suggested that carbamate formation is advantageous as this can result in enhanced stereoselectivity of a reaction.³²⁻³⁴ On the other hand, some publications claim that carbamates are the cause of enzyme inactivation in $\sec CO_2^{31,35,36}$ either through blocking the active site or causing a detrimental conformational change in the enzyme, and so, an alternative reaction medium, sc or otherwise, may provide a better solution.

2.3. Carbonic Acid Formation

The second property of $CO₂$ that can be detrimental to enzyme activity is the lowering in pH of water present in $\sec CO_2$.¹⁸ In nonaqueous media, enzymes can change their catalytic activity if the pH of the microaqueous environment around them is altered. $CO₂$ can dissolve in the hydration layer associated with the enzyme, thereby altering the local pH by formation of carbonic acid by reaction between $CO₂$ and any water present (Scheme 2) and, hence, affecting enzyme activity.

In 1995, Toews et al. reported the first example of measuring the pH of water in the presence of $CO₂$.³⁷ They found that the pH of water in the presence of scCO_{2} varies from pH 2.84 to pH 2.80 at 40 $^{\circ}$ C and 70-200 bar. Furthermore, Niemeyer and Bright³⁸ used a pH sensitive probe to examine the pH of the water core of water-in- $CO₂$ (w/c) reverse micelles generated with a perfluoropolyether (PFPE) surfactant and demonstrated that the pH was between 3.1 and 3.6. Comparison of this value with calculations assuming complete $CO₂$ saturation of the PFPE reverse micelle water pool shows that the micelle provides a barrier of 0.5 pH units to the $CO₂$ partitioning into the water pool.

Figure 3. Effect of sodium bicarbonate concentration on the measured pH of water in contact with CO₂ ($T = 20$ °C, $p = 450$) bar). Reprinted with permission from ref 39. Copyright 1998 American Chemical Society.

2.4. Methods of Controlling the pH of Water in scCO2

The control of the pH of water in $CO₂$ has been described by Holmes et al.³⁹ The proton concentration in water is primarily determined by the dissociation of carbonic acid into protons and the bicarbonate anion (Scheme 2). A simple method to control the pH would therefore be to suppress this dissociation by the addition of sodium bicarbonate, which shifts the equilibrium position of Scheme 2 to the left, reducing the proton concentration. This approach was found to be true, especially at $HCO₃⁻$ concentrations ≥ 1 M for which a pH of between 6 and 7 could be achieved (Figure which a pH of between 6 and 7 could be achieved (Figure 3). The pH of the buffered water was measured by ultraviolet/ visible (UV/vis) spectroscopy using the indicators methyl orange, methyl red, and *p*-nitrophenolsulfonate.³⁹

The same research group also reported that the addition of organic and inorganic buffers to the w/c microemulsion droplets stabilized by ammonium PFPE results in an increase in pH from 3 to values of $5-7.^{40}$

Ziegler et al.⁴¹ reported that they were able to modulate the pH of water in $\sec O_2$ by more than 1.5 pH units by adding NaOH and simply varying the $CO₂$ pressure over a range of 400 bar. Also reported for the first time was an aqueous phase pH within a w/c microemulsion system above neutrality.

The inhibition of enzymes in $scCO₂$ has, on several occasions, been attributed to the formation of carbonic acid resulting in a drop in the pH of the medium.42,43 In particular, Fontes et al. studied the activity of subtilisin Carlsberg (Sub) $CLECs$ in $scCO₂$ and suggested that the protonation of residues in the catalytic triad caused by a drop in pH results in a loss of activity as certain residues of the triad must be deprotonated for optimal catalytic function.⁴³

Kamat et al.¹⁸ calculated that the pH of water in $CO₂$, in the absence of buffer, is approximately 3.0 at 101 bar. On buffering the $CO₂/H₂O$ system with, for example, phosphate buffer of pH 7.8, they demonstrated that the final pH of the buffer following $CO₂$ dissolution was 7.75, a negligible change. In addition, experiments with *Muchor miehei* lipase (MML) and *Candida cylindracae* lipase (CCL) show a lower activity in $\sec O_2$ as compared with aqueous media yet have no pH sensitivity over a wide range in aqueous solution (pH

Scheme 3. Acetylation of *rac***-1-(***p***-Chlorophenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethanol with Vinyl Acetate in** $\sec O_2$ **at 55** °C^{*a*}

 a Matsuda et al. demonstrate that the *E* value changes continuously on increasing pressure.^{47,48}

 $2-10$).^{18,31} Chulalasananukul et al.⁴⁴ studied the effect of pH on the transesterification of propyl acetate with geraniol catalyzed by MML. Different pH buffers (pH $2-10$) were added to $\sec O_2$ at 40 °C, and no significant change in catalytic activity was observed over the pH range studied. In all cases, the apparent maximum velocity (V_{max}) was ca. five times higher in hexane than in $\sec O_2$, suggesting that pH was *not* the main reason for the lower activity observed in scCO_2 .⁴⁴ Care has to be taken in the interpretation of the above results as the addition of buffer salts can have a significantly different effect in systems where they dissolve in a distinct aqueous phase from those systems where the water present is limited to that directly bound to the enzyme, as discussed further in section 2.8.

Finally, Erickson et al.⁴⁵ studied the reaction between trilaurin and palmitic acid catalyzed by *Rhizopus arrhizus* lipase (RAL), in both $\sec O_2$ and \sec -ethane. The same drop in rate was observed on increasing pressure in both solvents; therefore, it was concluded that the drop in rate was not due to a lowering in pH.

2.5. Effects of Changing Pressure

A number of studies on the effect of changes in pressure on enzyme-catalyzed reactions have been reported, and this area has very recently been reviewed.⁴⁶ For example, Matsuda et al.47,48 reported the enantioselective acetylation of *rac*-1-(*p*-chlorophenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethanol with vinyl acetate (VA) (Scheme 3) catalyzed by Novozym SP435 (NZ 435) or *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase (PCL) in scCO₂ at 55 $\rm{^{\circ}C}.$

For the reaction catalyzed by NZ 435, on increasing the pressure from 91 to 145 bar, the *E* value (a measure of enantioselectivity; $E \ge 100$ indicates a highly enantioselective reaction⁴⁹) decreased from 38 to 23 while conversions remained very similar (25 and 24%, respectively). For the reaction catalyzed by PCL, the *E* value increased from 8 to 17 on increasing the pressure from 91 to 145 bar; yet, conversion was considerably reduced at the higher pressure (43% at 91 bar cf. 17% at 145 bar).

A wider range of pressures was explored for the reaction catalyzed by NZ 435, and the changes in *E* value can be seen in Figure 4. The results depicted in Figure 4 show that the *E* value changed continuously from 50 to 10 when the pressure was changed from 80 to 190 bar, regardless of the reaction time. The reasons for this tuneable enantioselectivity are currently unclear but must be the result of a change in the way the enzyme interacts with the two substrate enan-

Figure 4. Effect of pressure on the enantiomeric ratio (E) for the reaction catalyzed by NZ 435. Reprinted from ref 47, Copyright 2001, with permission from Elsevier.

tiomers. Several suggestions have been made in the literature; for example, Kamat et al.⁵⁰ attributed the change in enantioselectivity of proteases from *Bacillus licheniformis* (subtilisin) and *Aspergillus* by manipulation of the pressure of sc-fluoroform to the change in the polarity of the fluoroform. Indeed, the dielectric constant for sc-fluoroform changes from 1 to 8 with a relatively small change in pressure (59-²⁸⁰ bar); yet, the authors were quick to state that it was not necessarily solely the solvent dielectric constant that controls activity.⁵¹ However, in Matsuda's work, conducted in scCO_2 rather than in sc-fluoroform, $47,48$ there is not such a marked difference in dielectric constant over the studied pressure range, but in contrast, the density of $\sec O_2$ significantly changes from 0.20 to 0.42 kg/L on increasing the pressure from 80 to 110 bar at 55 \degree C; this could be a reason for the change in enantioselectivity. In fact, it has been suggested by Ikushima that the changes in enantioselectivity with pressure are due to the interaction of $CO₂$ and enzyme molecules.32,33,52 Specifically, Ikushima studied the catalytic activity of CCL and found that the enzyme was activated near the critical point of $CO₂$. He suggested that $CO₂$, in the near critical (nc) region, triggered this activation by causing movement of the α -helical lid from a closed conformation (enzyme inactive) to an open conformation (enzyme active).^{32,33} In addition, Mase et al.³⁴ reported enhanced enantioselectivity for the lipase-catalyzed desymmetrization of 1,3-propanediacetate in $\sec O_2$ as compared to that in organic solvents. This is also attributed to the transformation of lysine groups by reaction with $CO₂$ to form carbamates.

However, there is a lack of consistency in the literature regarding enzyme activity in $\sec O_2$, and this makes the prediction of how to optimize new biocatalytic systems in scCO₂ difficult. Hartmann et al.⁵³ describe the peak in E value at 103 bar for the hydrolysis of 3-hydroxy-5-phenyl-4 pentenoic acid ethyl ester catalyzed by PCL in a biphasic buffer/scCO₂ system. Above and below 103 bar, the *E* value decreases, and this effect is attributed to a direct inactivation of the biocatalyst by formation of carbamates, in direct contrast to the findings of Ikushima, who reports that these interactions are the very cause for enzyme activation.

Albrycht et al.⁵⁴ demonstrate that the reactivity and selectivity of the kinetic resolution (KR) of *P*-chiral hydroxymethanephosphinates, catalyzed by NZ 435, can be controlled by tuning the pressure at values high above the critical point. The reaction was reported to be fastest at 130 bar, way above the p_c .

Some reports have suggested that reactions are enhanced near the critical point. For example, Nakaya et al.55 describe the transesterification of triolein and stearic acid [catalyzed by lipozyme TL IM (LZ)] and classified the reaction into three regions according to the pressure. Below 50 bar, the reaction rate was very slow and limited in the liquid triolein phase; in the nc region $(50-100 \text{ bar})$, the rate was maximal at 59 bar possibly due to stabilization of the enzyme substrate complex; in the sc region $(>100$ bar), the reaction rate increased with increasing pressure, reflecting the increase in substrate solubility. In addition, Miller et al.⁵⁶ have demonstrated that an increase in pressure increased the selectivity of the reaction for the transesterification as compared with the hydrolysis of triglycerides (TGs). Erickson et al.45 report a drop in reaction rate as the pressure increases, especially as the p_c is approached, for the reaction between trilaurin and palmitic acid catalyzed by RAL.

Conversely, Matsuda et al.⁹ demonstrated that changes in pressure for the continuous KR of *rac*-1-phenylethanol catalyzed by NZ 435 in $\sec O_2$ did not greatly affect either conversion or E values. Steytler et al.⁵⁷ stated that on increasing the pressure of $\sec O_2$ to 500 bar, the synthesis of butyl laurate catalyzed by *Candida antarctica* lipase B (CALB) was not significantly affected. Also, nonyl acetate synthesis catalyzed by MML was not affected significantly by changes in pressure,58 and the effect of changes in pressure (100-250 bar) was small on the hydrolysis of blackcurrant oil catalyzed by LZ.59

In fact, there seems to be no "rule of thumb" for predicting enzyme activity and enantioselectivity in $scCO₂$. Some authors say that working near the critical point is advantageous for good selectivity,32,33,55 some say that it is sufficient that the conditions are at or above the critical point,⁵⁶ and yet still others report that it does not make any difference.^{9,57-59} It may be that the effect of $CO₂$ on enzyme activity is very dependent on the specific enzyme, substrates, and reaction studied.

2.6. Effects of Pressurization and Depressurization

For green reactions, it is important that the enzyme can be easily recycled and that it will retain its activity over many reaction cycles; hence, the enzyme needs to be stable to many pressurization and depressurization cycles. Kasche et al.60 provided evidence that a rapid depressurization of reactions in $scCO₂$ caused the enzymes chymotrypsin, trypsin, and penicillin amidase to become inactive, possibly through irreversible conformational changes occurring during depressurization. More recently, Bertoloni et al. have observed similar inactivation of acid and alkaline phosphatase, ATPase, and pectinase.⁶¹

In contrast, Habulin et al.^{35,36} exposed the crude enzymes *Pseudomonas fluorescens* lipase (PFL), *Rhizopus ja*V*anicus* lipase (RJvL), *Rhizopus niveus* lipase (RNL), and porcine pancreatic lipase (PPL) to scCO_2 , and also to nc-propane, and reported no activity change for the esterification of *n*-butyric acid following the depressurization step. The ability to perform the reaction, catalyzed by PPL in nc-propane, numerous times with the same batch of enzyme was also demonstrated. The conversion level only decreased to half the initial value after 10 reaction cycles (Figure 5), and the decrease was shown to be due to the increase in water

Figure 5. Half-life of PPL in nc-propane at 40 °C and 100 bar for the esterification of *n*-butyric acid with ethanol. Reprinted with permission from ref 36. Copyright 2001 Wiley Interscience.

released during the esterification reaction at the enzyme surface³⁶ and not inactivation due to the pressurization and depressurization steps.

Bauer et al.62 examined the activity of both crude and purified preparations of esterase EP10 from *Burkholderia gladioli*. They found that after 30 pressurization and depressurization cycles of $\sec O_2$ at 35 °C and 150 bar, the catalytic activity of the crude solution increased, possibly due to the removal of lipids, triglycerides (TGs), and fatty acids from the preparation, while there was no effect on the purified enzyme. One option available for those enzymes that are found to be highly sensitive to pressurization/depressurization is to employ a continuous reaction system that would significantly reduce the number of pressure changes to which the enzyme is subjected. A number of examples of enzymes being used in continuous SCF reactors are described in Tables 3-13. The effect of pressurization/depressurization on whole cell systems is discussed in section 4.7.

2.7. Effects of Changing Temperature

It is well-known that many enzymes are able to retain their catalytic activity in nonaqueous, hydrophobic solvents at higher temperatures in comparison to water. One reason for this may be that the enzyme is kinetically trapped in its active conformation in the hydrophobic solvent due to the lack of water that would normally lubricate its conformational flexibility;⁶³ this factor may also hold true in SCFs.

The thermal stability of enzymes in $\sec O_2$ has also been demonstrated. For instance, Nakaoki et al. have shown that NZ 435 is still active even after heating to 140 °C in $\rm{scCO_2}$.⁶⁴ Overmeyer et al.⁶⁵ also observe good NZ 435 activity and enantioselectivity at temperatures above 95 °C for the KR of ibuprofen with *rac*-1-phenylethanol, and this is supported by the work of Turner et al. for the hydrolysis of retinyl palmitate acetate by the same enzyme.66 It is suggested that the dry compressed $CO₂$ stabilizes the protein structure of NZ 435⁶⁵ or that there is a faster mass transfer of the substrate to the active site of the enzyme plus higher reaction rates at elevated temperatures.⁶⁶ In contrast, Primozic et al. demonstrated the deactivation of lipolase 100T (L 100T) above 50 °C.67 They suggest that this is due to the denaturation of the enzyme. For the esterification of oleic acid, LZ gains activity from 40 to 60 °C but is thermally denatured at 80 °C,⁶⁶ and this is in agreement with the observations of Habulin et al.⁶⁸

Other reports suggest an increase in enzyme thermal stability in nc-propane as compared to that in water; for example, the optimum reaction temperature for PPL in water is 40 °C, but in nc-propane, the optimum temperature is 50 °C.35 It is suggested that this is probably a consequence of protein structural and conformational rigidity in propane,35 and this may give better substrate specificity for the reaction studied.³⁶

An optimum temperature of 40 $^{\circ}$ C in scCO₂ is reported for the synthesis of butyl laurate catalyzed by crude CALB,⁵⁷ for the synthesis of geranyl acetate catalyzed by $LZ₁₄₄$ and for the resolution of 3-hydroxyoctanoic acid methyl esters catalyzed by PCL.⁶⁹ However, 62 °C has been reported as the optimum temperature for the hydrolysis of 3-hydroxy-5-phenyl-4-pentenoic acid ethyl ester catalyzed by PCL.⁵³

Conversely, Peres et al.⁷⁰ report that changes in temperatures between 40 and 60 °C have little effect on geranyl acetate synthesis by NZ 435, and Sovova et al.⁵⁹ demonstrated that changes in temperature between 30 and 40 °C also have little effect on the catalytic activity of LZ.

The temperature dependence of the enantioselectivity of enzyme-catalyzed reactions and the importance of both entropic and enthalpic factors were first systematically studied in the late $1980s$.⁷¹ More recently, Hult et al. have conducted a number of detailed studies on the temperature dependence of the enantioselectivity of lipase-catalyzed reactions in organic solvents.72,73 One of the first reports exploiting temperature to improve the enantioselectivity of a lipase-catalyzed reaction in an organic solvent came from Sakai.74 An initial experiment demonstrated that 1-azirine methanols could be esterified with BCL in diethyl ether with an *E* value of 99 at -40 °C in diethyl ether, but an *E* value of only 17 was observed at room temperature. In scCO_2 , Matsuda et al. looked at the NZ 435 catalyzed enantioselective acetylation of *rac*-1-(*p*-chlorophenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethanol with VA at 31, 40, 55, and 60 $^{\circ}$ C.⁴⁸ A rapid change in *E* value was observed between 31 and 40 °C, and a more gradual change was observed at the higher temperatures. The authors note that these changes correlate well with the changes in $CO₂$ density and go on to evaluate E values at various temperatures and pressures but at the same density. They reported that the *E* values were affected by temperature with higher temperatures resulting in lower enantioselectivity in line with the observations of enzyme-catalyzed reactions in either aqueous or organic solvents.

2.8. Effects of Changing Water Content (wo)

In the complete absence of water, enzymes are catalytically inactive. The most common explanation for this is that a minimum of a single layer of water molecules is required at critical points on the enzyme surface to maintain the native protein structure.75 Zaks and Klibanov were the first to note that enzymes are more active in hydrophobic rather than in hydrophilic organic solvents, and they suggested that this was due to differences in water partitioning between the enzyme and the bulk solvent.⁷⁶ In essentially nonaqueous systems, any water present will partition between the enzyme and the solvent. On considering hydrophilic solvents, water will partition preferably into the solvent, and this will tend to strip the essential water off the enzyme, hence destroying the native structure and any enzyme activity. In contrast, hydrophobic solvents will not strip the essential layer of

Increasing rate of reaction **Increasing hydrophobicity**

$CO₂$ CHF_3 C_2H_4 C_2H_6 C_3H_8 SF_6

Figure 6. Comparison of reaction rates and hydrophobicity of the $SCFs$ tested by Kamat et al.⁷⁹ Reaction rates increase on increasing hydrophobicity of the SCF due to reduced stripping of essential water molecules surrounding the enzyme.

water from the enzyme, as these solvents become saturated with water at much lower concentrations; hence, the activity of the enzyme is maintained.

Early experiments in SCFs demonstrated that scCO_{2} could strip the water off enzymes, reducing their activity.^{77,78} In addition, Kamat et al.⁷⁹ reported the lipase (CCL)-catalyzed transesterification of methylmethacrylate in several SCFs and observed a marked decrease in enzyme activity in $scCO₂$. Reaction rate increases were found to correlate with increasing hydrophobicity of the SCFs (Figure 6). Hence, it appears that the loss of activity was the result of the enzyme losing essential water. This is surprising since $CO₂$ is generally considered to be a hydrophobic solvent (its w_0 has been determined at 0.31 wt % at 50 °C and 344.8 bar⁸⁰); yet, it is more hydrophilic than fluoroform or hexane and is therefore capable of stripping essential water from an enzyme thereby inactivating it. This is supported by the findings of Habulin et al.,36 who demonstrate increased enzyme activity in ncpropane as compared with $\sec O_2$ for the lipase-catalyzed esterification of *n*-butyric acid with ethanol, and they suggest that this is due to the stripping of water from the enzyme into CO₂.

In addition, Steytler et al.⁵⁷ studied the synthesis of butyl laurate using crude CALB in $\sec O_2$ and demonstrated that the reaction was enhanced on addition of water. Three experiments were reported as follows: (i) dry enzyme-in the absence of water, the performance of the enzyme in $\sec O_2$ was comparable with that in toluene under equivalent conditions of temperature and pressure; (ii) water-saturated enzyme-the reaction was severely retarded and hydrolysis was forced; and (iii) water-saturated scCO_{2} was added above the enzyme contained in the water phase. In this case, the transfer of water between the two phases was minimized since both enzyme and solvent were hydrated; therefore, the reaction rate was enhanced.

Dijkstra et al.¹² have recently demonstrated a similar phenomenon for the enantioselective esterification of *rac*-1-phenylethanol by VA catalyzed by CLECs of *Candida antarctica* lipase B (ChiroCLEC-CALB). This reaction is very sensitive to the amount of water present, a concentration of 0.05 g/L resulted in optimum CLEC activity, while the enzyme is (reversibly) deactivated at lower water concentrations. This was attributed to the stripping of catalytically important water molecules from the surface of the enzyme. However, in contrast, Kmecz et al.⁸¹ report that the use of dry or humid $CO₂$ makes little difference to the activity of the Amano lipase AK (AK) from *Pseudomonas fluorescens* for the acylation of 3-benzyloxypropane-1,2-diol.

Alternative studies have looked at the effect of varying w_o in the system. For example, Vermue et al.⁵⁸ describe the decrease in transesterification of nonanol and ethyl acetate by LZ in ncCO_2 on increasing w_0 from 0.05 to 0.2% (volume per volume, v/v). Srivasta et al.⁸² studied the hydrolysis of *p*-nitrophenyl laurate to *p*-nitrophenyl catalyzed by hog pancreas lipase (HPL) or *Penicillium roqueforti* lipase (PRL)

^a Increasing *w*^o hinders enzyme activity.82

Scheme 5. Esterification of Oleic Acid with an Alcohol*^a*

^{*a*} Faster synthesis⁸⁹ and improved conversions^{90,91,93} for alkyl oleate are observed in $scCO₂$.

in $\sec O_2$ (Scheme 5) and reported that both enzymes were hindered on increasing the w_0 due to either the inactivation of the enzyme or the formation of an aqueous layer around the enzyme that contributes to mass transfer resistance.

Still others report that changes in w_0 do not affect the intrinsic activity of the enzyme^{56,59} although it is generally agreed that the higher the w_o is, the greater the degree of unwanted substrate/product hydrolysis observed.

2.9. Water Activity (aw)

Halling has suggested that the thermodynamic activity of water rather than water concentration is the key parameter in understanding the effect of water on enzymatic reactions.⁸³ The term water activity (a_w) describes the amount of water available for hydration of materials. A value of one indicates pure water while zero indicates the total absence of "free" water molecules; the addition of solutes always lowers *a*w. a_w is defined as the product of the activity coefficient of water in the solvent (a method for estimating this value in SCFs has been described 84) and the mole fraction of water in the solvent (eq 1).

$$
a_{\rm w} = \gamma x_{\rm w} \tag{1}
$$

Equation 1 demonstrates the calculation of a_w from the activity coefficeint (γ) and the water concentration (x_w) of the solvent.

A low a_w can be achieved and fine-tuned in $\sec O_2$ using zeolite molecular sieves, such as NaA,⁸⁵ or salt hydrates, such as $Na_2CO_3 \cdot H_2O/Na_2CO_3 \cdot 1OH_2O$.⁸⁶ The effect of these solid state buffers has been extensively studied and it was found state buffers has been extensively studied, and it was found that an acid-base effect was actually occurring.⁸⁵ A transesterification reaction, catalyzed by subtilisin CLECs, was noted to increase up to 10-fold with increasing amounts of zeolite, and therefore corresponding a_w , in scCO_2 . The initial hypothesis was that *a*^w was low enough to decrease carbonic acid formation (hence minimize changes in pH) but still adequate for the function of subtilisin; the same observations

were made in sc-ethane. However, it was also observed that the increase in reaction rate corresponded with the increase in the amount of zeolite present, and it could be possible that an acid-base exchange between the zeolite and the acid residue of the enzyme (eq 2) could be occurring, resulting in enhanced activity.

$$
\text{protein} - \text{COO}^{-}H^{+} + \text{Na}^{+} \rightleftharpoons \text{protein} - \text{COO}^{-}\text{Na}^{+} + \text{H}^{+} \tag{2}
$$

Equation 2 demonstrates equilibria to describe changes in the ionization state of a protein.7

It was also noted that subtilisin requires a formal negative charge on the catalytic triad for full activity. This would require removal of a proton and replacement by a counterion such as $Na⁺$ for electroneutrality. This was tested by performing the reaction under three conditions in sc-ethane: (i) with zeolite only, (ii) with both zeolite and CAPSO [3-(cyclohexylamino)-2-hydroxy-1-propanesulfonic acid (sodium salt), a sodium/proton acid-base buffer], and (iii) with CAPSO only. The initial rate in the presence of buffer, regardless of the presence of zeolite, was reasonably similar; therefore, it was concluded that the zeolite effect must be of an acid-base nature.^{85,87} Other such reports have been made, including the investigation into the best solid state acidbase buffer to use in SCFs. The buffer $Na₂CO₃/NaHCO₃$ was shown to increase enzyme activity up to 54-fold, probably due to its high basicity and capacity to counteract the deleterious effect of carbonic acid.⁸⁶ Six zwitterionic proton/ sodium buffers were tested, and it was concluded that the higher the basicity (p*K*a) of the buffer is, the higher the catalytic activity obtained.88 Hence, this work highlights the need for the evaluation of the acid-base behavior of an extensive set of salt hydrates to identify one that is able to optimize the activity of an enzyme in scCO_{2} . Overall, Fontes et al. strongly recommend the use of acid-base buffers in enzymatic reactions in nonaqueous solvents, especially in SCFs where the use of salt hydrates still remains the most practical technique for setting and controlling a_w .⁸⁷

3. Comparison of Activity of Lipase Enzymes in SCFs with Organic Solvents

There are plenty of papers suggesting that an enzymecatalyzed reaction in scCO_2 provides superior results to those obtained in conventional organic solvents or solvent-free systems. For example, Yu et al.⁸⁹ report the faster synthesis of ethyl oleate catalyzed by CCL in $scCO₂$ as compared to that in organic solvents, Knez et al.^{90,91} describe improved conversions for the synthesis of oleyl oleate (Scheme 5) catalyzed by LZ in $\sec O_2$ as compared with solvent-free conditions, and Tewari et al.⁹² demonstrate that the reaction rate for the transesterification of benzyl alcohol and butyl acetate by lyophilized CAL was higher in $\sec O_2$ than in hexane or toluene or under solvent-free conditions.

In addition to improved reaction rates and conversions, enhanced enantioselectivity in $\sec O_2$ has been reported on several occasions, $32-34,52,94,95$ and this has been attributed to the specific properties of $\sec O_2$ such as low viscosity and higher diffusivity of the substrates 94 as well as favorable carbamate formation on the surface of the enzyme. $32,33$

In comparison with other SCFs and gases, $\sec O_2$ has been shown to be a superior reaction medium for the esterification of oleic acid with oleyl alcohol, catalyzed by LZ, when

similar enzyme concentrations were used in *n*-butane, *n*-propane, and a mixture of *n*-butane and *n*-propane.⁹³ Yet other reports suggest that in fact alternative SCFs are better media than scCO_2 . For instance, Habulin et al.^{35,36} report that the enzymes PFL, RJvL, RNL, PPL, and *Candida rugosa* lipase (CRL) are more stable in nc-propane than in scCO_2 . The large loss in enzyme activity in $\sec O_2$ was attributed to the interactions between $CO₂$ and enzyme molecules since this loss was not observed in nc-propane. Others report similar findings: PPL immobilized as a sol gel demonstrates much improved conversions for the esterification of butyric acid with isoamyl alcohol in nc-propane as compared to $\sec CO_2$;¹¹ Peres et al.⁷⁰ reported that NZ 435 is more active in sc-ethane compared with $\sec O_2$ for the esterification of geraniol with acetic acid and that NZ 435 demonstrates higher catalytic activity in sc-ethane and compressed propane than in $\sec O_2$ for the transesterification of butyl acetate with n -hexanol;⁹⁶ and Madras et al.⁹⁷ suggest that sc-methane is the SCF of choice for the synthesis of octyl palmitate catalyzed by NZ 435, possibly due to high solubility of substrates or a more favorable enzyme conformation in this medium.

Conversely, there have been a handful of reports suggesting that some enzyme-catalyzed reactions perform better in organic solvents when compared to scCO_2 .^{31,44,58,98,99} A few workers have suggested possible reasons for this phenomenon, the most favored argument for enzyme inactivation being the formation of carbamates on the surface of the enzyme as discussed earlier (section 2.2).³¹

Alternatively, several publications report comparable enzyme activities in $\sec O_2$ and in organic solvents. Reaction rates for the esterification of ibuprofen with *n*-propanol catalyzed by LZ were similar in both $\sec O_2$ and *n*-hexane,¹⁰⁰ and two reactions (a lipase-catalyzed hydrolysis of *p*nitrophenol butyrate and lipoxygenase-catalyzed peroxidation of linoleic acid) showed essentially equivalent activity in both w/c microemulsions and water-in-heptane microemulsions.³⁹

4. Stabilizing Enzymes in SCFs

Because of the relatively low activity of crude preparations of enzymes in SCFs, many attempts have been made to stabilize the enzyme by modifying the form in which it is used, such as the use of immobilized enzymes, lipid-coated enzymes, sol gels, CLECs, CLEAs, the use of reverse micelles or microemulsions, and the use of whole cells.

4.1. Immobilized Enzymes

There are a large number of enzymes immobilized on a solid support that are currently commercially available such as NZ 435 (CALB), Lipozyme (RML), Chirazymes [*Candida antarctica* lipase A (CALA), CALB, PCL, *Burkholderia cepacia* lipase (BCL) etc*.*], and Lipolases [*Aspergillus oryzae* lipase (AOL) and *Humicola lanuginosa* lipase (HLL)]. Other research groups have immobilized enzymes on glass beads, ACR silica gel, Celite, polypropylene granules, etc.¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰³ All of these show varying degrees of enzymatic catalysis in SCFs (see Tables $3-13$ for specific details). The solid support generally makes the enzyme more robust under mechanical stress and easier to remove from the reaction and recycle as well as increases the accessibility of individual enzyme active sites.

4.2. Lipid-Coated Enzymes

The research group of Mori has pioneered the work of coating enzymes with lipids so that they are dissolved/

Figure 7. Structure of didodecyl *N*-D-glucono-L-glutamate, the surfactant used to coat enzymes such as \overline{RDL} and β -D-galactosidase to solubilize them in scCO_2 and $\text{sc-fluoroform}.$ ^{105,106}

dispersed in the solvent and catalyze homogeneous reactions¹⁰⁴ in scCO₂^{105,106} and sc-fluoroform.^{107,108} Two enzymes have been lipid coated with the nonionic didodecyl *N*-Dglucono-L-glutamate (Figure 7): lipase D from *Rhizopus* $delemar$ $(RDL)^{105}$ and β -D-galactosidase from *Bacillus circulans*. ¹⁰⁶ In these cases, the ratio of surfactant molecule to enzyme is [∼]200:1. The lipid-enzyme complexes were found to catalyze the esterification of di- and triglycerides and the transgalactosylation of 1-*O*-*p*-nitrophenyl-*â*-D-galactoside, respectively, in $\sec O_2$ with rate increases of 15fold compared with those in conventional organic solvents. In particular, lipid-coated *â*-D-galactosidase was reported to be soluble (ca. 0.1 mg/mL) in $\sec O_2$ in the range 32–60 °C and 74-200 bar. Furthermore, the same enzyme complex was found to be soluble in sc-fluoroform in the range 30-60 °C and 50-250 bar $(0.1-0.5 \text{ mg/mL})$.¹⁰⁷ Again, a transgalactosylation reaction was successfully catalyzed with a 95% yield after 5 h. The rate of reaction was 20-fold faster than in diisopropyl ether and marginally faster than in $\secq 0_2$ in this case.

Finally, a lipid-coated lipase B from *Pseudomonas fragi* (PFrL) was prepared and found to be soluble in sc-fluoroform at 0.1 mg/mL. An enantioselective acetylation was performed, and the rate was found to be very dependent on the pressure and hence dielectric constant of the solvent. Maximum conversions were a disappointing 60% within 40-100 bar.108

4.3. Sol Gels

The entrapment of PPL in a sol gel and its enzyme activity in both $\sec O_2$ and nc-propane (40 °C and 100 bar) have been described by the research group of Habulin.^{11,35} PPL in a sol gel form was shown to be much more active in a range of SCFs than the non-immobilized lipase for the esterification between butyric acid and isoamyl alcohol. It was suggested that in $\sec O_2$, the sol gel protects the lipase from the adverse effects of $CO₂$ (carbamate formation, stress during depressurization) and that in propane the sol gel support prevents the lipase molecules from aggregating, thereby making the majority of their active sites available for catalysis. This contrasts with the nonimmobilized (native) lipase, which forms aggregates in propane.

4.4. CLECs

CLECs were developed in the 1960s, with carboxypeptidase A the first enzyme to be crystallized and then crosslinked and reported to show substantial enzyme activity.¹⁰⁹ CLECs are robust and maintain high activity and stability in both scCO_2 ¹² and sc-ethane.^{86,88} However, the main disadvantage is that the crystallization of the enzyme is often a lengthy procedure and requires high enzyme purity, which is not possible in many cases, and results in CLECs being expensive.

Table 2. Proteins and Biocatalysts in Reverse Micelles/Microemulsions in SCFs

4.5. CLEAs

More recently, CLEAs have been prepared by Sheldon et al.110 and have the advantage over CLECs since the need for a laborious crystallization of the protein is removed; yet, one obtains an immobilized enzyme, which is composed of almost entirely protein and just a small amount of crosslinking agent. To date, only three examples of the enzymatic activity of CLEAs in $\sec O_2$ have been reported,^{13,110,224} in all cases using CALB. In the first report by Matsuda et al., the activity of the CALB CLEA is compared with that of other forms of the CALB enzyme in $scCO₂$. In the study reported by Hobbs et al.,110 the KR of tetralol and of *rac*-1-phenylethanol was demonstrated in a continuous reactor yielding the resolved product in excellent conversion and enantioselectivity. In addition, it was shown that a two stage reaction involving the lead-catalyzed reduction of acetophenone to *rac*-1-phenylethanol could be performed with subsequent KR of this alcohol with VA catalyzed by the CALB CLEA, avoiding the need for depressurization/ repressurization between reactions. In the final example, Dijkstra et al. have shown that the CALB CLEA can be used to catalyze the formation of isoamyl acetate.224

Chen et al.111 have shown that CLEAs can be made from trypsin in a AOT/water/isooctane reverse micellular solution on addition of glutaraldehyde (5% v/v). The CLEA was then precipitated by applying compressed carbon dioxide at 25.2 °C and 40 bar for 2 h. A transmission electron microscopy (TEM) study of the precipitated CLEAs showed that they had a dendritic morphology, and the size of individual

CLEAs was much smaller than those produced using conventional CLEA manufacture. The size was found to be dependent on the w_0 of the system: When $w_0 = 20$, the CLEAs produced were $7-14$ nm in diameter, but when w_0 $=$ 40, they were 13-23 nm diameter. The catalytic activity of the CLEAs produced by this method could be optimized to 0.133 U/mg, similar to the activity of the native enzyme.

4.6. Reverse Micelles and Microemulsions

Reverse (or inverted) micelles are small, dynamic aggregates of surfactant molecules surrounding a polar (typically aqueous) core dispersed in a nonpolar continuous (oil) phase. Reverse micelle solutions are clear and thermodynamically stable. As water is added to a reverse micelle solution, a microemulsion is formed that contains nanosized water droplets dispersed in a continuous oil phase. These are known as water-in-oil (w/o) microemulsions. The term microemulsion was coined by Jack H. Shulman from Columbia University in 1959.112 In contrast to ordinary emulsions, microemulsions form upon simple mixing of the components and do not require high shear conditions.

Following from the pioneering work of Luisi et al. on the use of reverse micelles as hosts for proteins in organic solvents,¹¹³ a number of groups have examined the potential of both dissolving proteins in reverse micelles/microemulsions (Table 2, first section) and conducting chemical reactions in them (Table 2, second section). It was demonstrated by Smith et al. in 1990 that the surfactant commonly used to form reverse micelles in organic solvents, aerosol

PFPE ammonium salt derived from Fomblin Y (Solvay Solexis)

F-Pentanol (2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5-octafluoro-1-pentanol)

Krytox FS biotin amide

Figure 8. Structures of the surfactants used to solubilize proteins.

OT (AOT) (Figure 8), could be used to extract a small amount of the protein cytochrome c (Cc) from a sodium phosphate buffer solution into sc-propane.¹¹⁴ Using dynamic light scattering (DLS), they demonstrated that the hydrodynamic diameter of the reverse micelles formed in the scpropane layer was ∼18 nm and that the size was constant at pressures between 150 and 250 bar. This study was repeated with hemoglobin, which was found not to be extracted as efficiently. In a later study, Hakoda et al. demonstrated that the lipase from *Rhizopus delemari* could be solubilized in AOT reverse micelles in sc-ethane at 32 °C and 48.8 bar.¹¹⁵ The hydrodynamic diameter of the reverse micelles at 37 °C and 325 bar was found to change little with changes in the pressure or temperature of the system or the addition of the lipase. However, the diameter was significantly affected by the w_0 of the system and the addition of triolein, which was hydrolyzed by the lipase to oleic acid. The use of AOT to solubilize proteins in $\sec O_2$ was briefly investigated by Franco et al.¹¹⁶ However, their paper reports that, while there was some visual evidence for the protein being solubilized in $\sec O_2$, no protein was recovered from this phase, primarily because of the very low solubility of AOT in scCO_2 .

Meier et al. have shown that lysozyme (14.3 kDa) and trypsin (23.8 kDa) could be solubilized in AOT reverse micelles in sc-xenon at 25 $^{\circ}$ C and 350-600 bar.¹¹⁷ These solutions were examined by NMR, but no significant information is provided in regards to the structure of the protein that is solubilized in the reverse micelles. Previously, Gaemers et al. had used NMR to examine the structure of the smaller peptides cyclosporin A and pancreatic trypsin inhibitor (BPTI) in liquid $CO₂$.¹¹⁸ In these cases, perfluoroheptanoic acid ammonium salt and trifluoroethanol were added to the liquid $CO₂$ to help dissolve the peptides.

During this period, there was significant research into the development of "CO2-philic" surfactants that would be soluble in $\sec 0_2$ (Figure 8).¹¹⁹ The main driving force for this research was the potential use of $scCO₂$ and suitable surfactants for dry cleaning as a more environmentally friendly replacement for perchloroethylene.¹²⁰ Most of the early surfactants were highly fluorinated, making them expensive and difficult to produce and dispose. More recently, it has been shown that polyoxygenated surfactant molecules can also be used to form water in $CO₂$ (w/c) microemulsions. The structural and electronic requirements for a good $\sec O_2$ soluble surfactant have recently been reviewed by Beckman¹²¹ and Eastoe et al.,¹²² and these have culminated in the identification of a number of good nonfluorinated surfactants.123-¹²⁶ Some research has also been performed on the use of dendritic surfactants to solubilize hydrophilic molecules in scCO_2 ,¹²⁷ but the use of these molecules to solubilize proteins has not yet been reported.

The formation of thermodynamically stable reverse micelles and w/c microemulsions formed by fluorinated surfactants, water, and $\sec O_2$ was achieved for the first time in 1991.128 The potential advantage of these systems for biocatalysis is that the enzyme is maintained in a water pool and, hence, is less likely to undergo the structural changes that are sometimes observed when a protein is exposed to near anhydrous conditions, causing it to be inactivated. However, there are some significant disadvantages in employing reverse micelles or w/c microemulsions in scCO_2 , particularly reduced pH (~ 3.5) for the unbuffered water pool,38 promotion of undesirable hydrolysis reactions due to the higher w_0 of the system, and difficulty in separating the products from the surfactant.

Johnston et al. were the first to demonstrate unequivocally that proteins could be dissolved within the water pools of w/c microemulsions using a PFPE surfactant through their study on bovine serum albumin (BSA) in 1996.¹²⁹ Since then, Webb et al.¹³⁰ have described a methodology for solubilizing ionic and biological species within w/c microemulsions prepared using fluorinated surfactants. Feng et al.131 studied the effect of compressed $CO₂$ on the solubilization of BSA in water/AOT/isooctane reverse micelles. They determined the pH values within the water cores of reverse micelles at different $CO₂$ pressures and demonstrated that protein solubility increased on increasing $CO₂$ pressure within the low-pressure range but decreased at higher CO₂ pressures, so that the micelles eventually lost their ability to solubilize the protein. Liu et al.^{132,133} formed w/c microemulsions using the surfactant Ls-54, despite it being a nonfluorinated and nonsiloxane, nonionic surfactant, and demonstrated the solubility of lysozyme within the water domain of the microemulsion. These examples all report the solubilization of proteins in w/c microemulsions while Ghenciu et al. have investigated the solubilization of subtilisin in macro- or biphasic emulsions formed in the presence of a distinct aqueous layer. They explored the use of both ionic and

nonionic perfluoroether surfactants (Twin 7500, PEG900, and Twin 7500 sodium sulfate) and demonstrated that the anionic perfluoroether surfactant was able to extract between 6.8 and 27.2% of the subtilisin from aqueous buffer into $\sec O_2$ at 22 °C and 125 bar as the ratio of surfactant to protein increased from 28:1 to 75:1.134

The authors suggest that the increase in the amount of protein extracted at higher surfactant ratios may be due to an ion-pairing effect. The long-term stability of these systems is uncertain. Using an alternative strategy, Ghenciu and Beckman were able to extract avidin into carbon dioxide via inverse and three-phase emulsions by using a fluoroether to give [Krytox FS(H)]-tagged biotin molecule (Figure 8).¹³⁵ This approach utilizes the extremely high binding affinity that avidin has for biotin (K_d ∼ 10⁻¹⁴ M) and the fact that avidin is a tetrameric protein and hence is able to bind four of the fluoroether-biotin ligands. From an inverse emulsion formed from a buffer to $CO₂$ ratio of 4:1 with a surfactant concentration of 0.4 mmol L^{-1} , up to 40% of the avidin could be extracted. Because this process relies on the high affinity of biotin for avidin, it cannot be directly applied to the extraction of other proteins except those with a high affinity for the ligand such as streptavidin.

There have also been a handful of publications regarding the enzymatic activity in these systems as discussed below. The first published example of an enzymatic reaction conducted in pH-controlled w/c reverse micelles was reported by Holmes et al. in 1998.³⁹ They described the successful lipase-catalyzed hydrolysis of *p*-nitrophenol butyrate and lipoxygenase-catalyzed peroxidation of linoleic acid in reverse micelles formed by di-HCF4 (a fluorinated AOT analogue) (Figure 8) at 20 \degree C in liquid CO₂. This was followed by a paper from Kane et al. in 2000 describing the use of a similar solubilizing system with cholesterol oxidase from *P*. *fluorescens* and catalase from *Aspergillus niger*. 14

Stanescu et al.136 used horseradish peroxidase, hemoglobin, Cc, and soybean peroxidase in emulsions formed using PFPE as the surfactant in $\secq 0$, \sec -methane, \sec -ethane, and \sec trifluoromethane. They report the "bio-oxidation" of dibenzothiophenes (DBT) in $\sec O_2$ with the reaction resulting in higher product yields as compared to that in aqueous systems. Research in a similar vein has also been described in an abstract from Hauck et al.¹³⁷ The systems used to solubilize proteins in SCFs are summarized in Table 2.

Finally, in 2006, Blattner et al.¹³⁸ encapsulated CALB and MML in lecithin w/o microemulsion-based organogels (MBG). These modified enzymes were shown to catalyze the esterification of lauric acid and 1-propanol in $\sec O_2$ at 35 °C and 110 bar, and initial rates observed were higher than that in isooctane. It is also possible to make $CO₂$ in water emulsions that are stabilized by the presence of proteins,139 but no catalytic studies have been performed on these recently reported systems.

 $\sec CO_2$ has also been used as an antisolvent to precipitate both native BSA, lysozyme and trypsin, and CLEAs from reverse micelles formed by AOT in isooctane as described earlier,^{111,140,141} while compressed $CO₂$ has also been shown to modulate the catalytic action of chloroperoxidase for the halogenation of 1,3-dihydroxybenzene in cetyltrimethylammonium chloride (CTAC)/H2O/octane/pentanol reverse micelles.146

4.7. Reactions Using Whole Cells

High-pressure $CO₂$ has been known to have a sterilizing effect on bacteria since the $1950s^{147}$ with scCO₂ having been

Scheme 6. Whole Cell Reaction in scCO₂:Carboxylation of **Pyrrole**

investigated more recently. $61,148,149$ There has been considerable debate over the mechanism of the bacteriocidal activity of SCFs. It was initially supposed that a rapid release of pressure in a SCF caused the rupture of the cell envelope of the bacteria and hence results in their death in a similar manner to depressurization causing protein denaturation as discussed before in section 2.6. However, Dillow et al.¹⁴⁸ have recently reported a scanning electron microscope study of the morphology of *Staphylococcus aureus* (Gram-positive) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Gram-negative) cells before and after exposure to nc-CO₂ for 1 h at 25 \degree C and 205 bar. This demonstrated that most of the cells were intact after several pressurization-depressurization cycles, suggesting that neither cell rupture nor the extraction of lipids from the cell membrane was the cause of death. The authors suggest that cell death occurs because $CO₂$ is able to diffuse rapidly into the cell reducing the pH in the cytoplasm to ∼3.0 on reacting with the water present there. More recently, the lifetime of mammalian cells in $\sec O_2$ has been investigated and certain cell types have been shown to survive for extended periods in this solvent.¹⁵⁰ It is therefore interesting to see that there are several examples of whole cells being used as biocatalysts in $\sec O_2$. In some ways, these experiments can be considered as being similar to the reactions with enzymes in reverse micelles where the cytoplasm of the cell is equivalent to the water pool of the reverse micelle, albeit with a highly complex enzyme content. Whole cells offer the significant advantage of providing any additional coenzymes and cofactors that may be required, although since the cells used in these studies are in the resting state, the supply of coenzyme may become quickly exhausted. The best studied example is the use of *Bacillus megaterium* for the carboxylation of pyrrole to pyrrole-2-carboxylate reported by Matsuda et al. (Scheme 6).28,151

This "carbon fixation" reaction does not require an atmosphere of $CO₂$ to occur.¹⁵²⁻¹⁵⁴ After 1 h, the yield at just above the p_c of CO_2 (76 bar) was found to be ca. 12 times that at atmospheric pressure (1 bar). More recently, phenylphosphate carboxylase contained in *Thauera aromatica* cells has been shown to catalyze the conversion of phenol via phenylphosphate to *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid in the presence of scCO_2 . Unlike the same reaction in aqueous buffer, the addition of sodium bicarbonate is unnecessary as the $CO₂$ can be used directly as a reactant.¹⁵⁵ Another example of the use of whole cells is that of the xylanase activity of *Aureobasidium pullulans* KK415 cells (ATCC 201145). These cells have been used to prepare *N*-octyl β -Dxylotrioside, xylobioside, and xyloside in a one-step reaction of xylan and *n*-octanol using the acetone-dried cells of Aureobasidium pullulans in both scCO₂ and sc-fluoroform.156,157 In these cases, the cells in their acetone powder form were found to be more effective as catalysts than the resting cells. This may be due to the resting cells having both higher β -xylosidase activity and higher w_0 leading to an increase in the hydrolysis of β -D-xylotriose and xylobiose before they can react with the *n*-octanol.

A final example is the use of resting cells from the fungus *Geotrichum candidum* IFO5767 immobilized on polymer BL-100 (Osaka Yuki Kagaku Kogyo Co. Ltd.) in scCO₂ at 35 °C and 100 bar for 12 h for their alcohol dehydrogenase activity. These cells were used to reduce a range of prochiral ketones in yields of 11-96% with enantiomeric excess (*ee*) values in the range 96–99% being achieved.¹⁵⁸ This example has the advantage of not requiring additional expensive nicotinamide reducing agents or another enzyme such as formate dehydrogenase to recycle the coenzyme in situ.

5. Carboxylation: CO² as both Reagent and Solvent

A number of examples exist in which $\sec O_2$ is utilized not only as a solvent but also as a reactant (see also Sakakura et al. *Chem. Re*V*.* **²⁰⁰⁷**, *¹⁰⁷*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/ cr068357u). Until recently, such reactions did not involve enzymes, for example, the fixation of $CO₂$ as propylene carbonate using an immobilized zinc pyridine bromide catalyst with propylene oxide¹⁵⁹ or the photolysis of anthracene leading to the production of 9,10-dihydroanthracene-9-carboxylic acid.¹⁶⁰

One example of an enzyme capable of using $CO₂$ as a substrate under sc conditions is given by Matsuda et al.¹⁵¹ They reported biocatalysis of the reversible carboxylation of pyrrole to pyrrole-2-carboxylate by whole cells of *Bacillus megaterium* (Scheme 6). Wieser et al. had previously shown that these cells can utilize bicarbonate as the carboxylate source and, by conducting the reaction under a $CO₂$ atmosphere (1.38 bar), the equilibrium position could be shifted to favor the production of pyrrole-2-carboxylate.^{152,153} Under an atmosphere of $\sec O_2$ (100 bar, 40 °C) with the cells in a potassium phosphate buffer at pH 5.5 containing ammonium acetate and potassium hydrogen carbonate, the yield of pyrrole-2-carboxylate was found to be 59%, around 12-fold higher than that at atmospheric pressure (1 bar).¹⁵¹

In a second very recently reported example, whole cells of *Thauera aromatica* containing the enzyme phenylphosphate carboxylase were shown to catalyze the conversion of phenol to 4-hydroxybenzoic acid.155,161 This enzyme displayed excellent regioselectivity, as none of the ortho isomer was observed. The authors report that these cells did not require bicarbonate to catalyze the carboxylation but were able to use the $CO₂$ directly. However, given the reaction described in Scheme 2, it is obvious that some bicarbonate would be present in the reaction.

6. Enzyme-Catalyzed Polymerizations

The solubilizing properties of SCFs can be modulated using pressure as well as temperature; therefore, these solvents offer the possibility of controlling polymerization processes and the size and composition of the polymers generated. Hence, there has been considerable research on polymerization reactions in sc media.162,163 In parallel with developments in polymerization in SCFs, there has been a rise in the use of enzymes in the preparation of synthetic polymers.164-¹⁶⁷ Below, we discuss the examples where enzymes and SCFs have been combined.

In 1995, Chaudhary et al.¹⁶⁸ formed a polyester polymer from 1,4-butanediol and *bis*-(2,2,2-trichloroethyl)adipate in a lipase-catalyzed reaction in sc-fluoroform at 50 °C. It was demonstrated that low-dispersity polyesters could be generated and that, as the pressure of the system increased from 62 to 207 bar, the average molecular mass increased from an average of 700 to 1338 Da, and the polydispersity from 1.07 to 1.23. Later, the same group reported the polymerization of 2,2,3,3-tetrafluoro-1,4-butanediol and divinyl adipate with NZ 435 in scCO₂ at 50 °C for 24 h at $100-200$ bar. The resulting polyester had an average molecular mass of 8232 Da and a polydispersity of 1.76.169

In 1996, Ryu and Kim reported the horseradish peroxidasecatalyzed polymerization of *p*-cresol to a phenolic resin in $\sec CO_2$ at 40 °C and 76 bar in the presence of 2 mM *p*-cresol and 1 mM hydrogen peroxide. The conversion, however, was poor, with less than 50% of the *p*-cresol being converted after 5 h.170

Much of the recent research has focused on the ringopening polymerization (ROP) of ϵ -caprolactone that avoids the need for a metallic Lewis acid catalyst. This was initially demonstrated with a surfactant-coated enzyme in scCO_2 .¹⁷¹ The polymerization of ϵ -caprolactone (as well as 11undecanolide and 15-pentadecanolactone) was shown to be accelerated in $\secq 0_2$ as compared with microemulsions using organic solvents with the lipase from *Pseudomonas cepacia* coated in glutamic acid dioleyl ester ribitol amide. Further studies on ϵ -caprolactone polymerization have primarily utilized lipase B from *Candida antartica* supported on macroporous beads (NZ 435).^{64,172-174} The poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (pCL) produced possessed M_n values in the range $12 37$ kDa and polydispersities in the range of $1.4-1.6$, in overall reaction yields of 95-98%. Because the enzyme was immobilized in this case, it could be readily separated from high mw polymers and recycled, and in addition, the $\sec O_2$ could also be used to extract any remaining monomers and low mw polymers from the product.

More recently, it has been demonstrated that the use of NZ 435 to catalyze ROP of lactones could be combined with either atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP) (see Hutchinson et al. *Chem. Re*V*.* **²⁰⁰⁷**, *¹⁰⁷*, http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1021/cr060943k) of methyl methacrylate to produce block copolymers [pCL-b-poly(methylmethacrylate) (pMMA) and pCL-b-p(MMAco-2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA)]¹⁷⁵⁻¹⁷⁸ or with reversible addition-fragmentation chain transfer (RAFT)-mediated radical polymerization of styrene (Scheme 7).179

Matsumura et al. have shown that NZ 435 can be used to depolymerize poly(ϵ -caprolactone) ($M_n = 100K$) to form the cyclic dicaprolactone dimer (1,8-dioxacyclotetradecane-2,9 dione), which can then be repolymerized to give poly $(\epsilon$ caprolactone) ($M_n = 33K$) in scCO₂ at 40 °C and 80 bar for 24 h.180,181 This process has recently been modified into a continuous flow system with toluene as a cosolvent, using NZ 435. In this case, poly(*R*,*S*-3-hydroxybutanoate), poly- (butylene adipate), and $poly(\epsilon$ -caprolactone) were depolymerized into cyclic oligomers.182

7. Biocatalysis Involving scCO² and ^a Second Neoteric Solvent

As described in this issue of *Chemical Reviews* (van Rantwijk, F.; Sheldon, R. A. Biocatalysis in Ionic Liquids. *Chem. Re*V*.* **²⁰⁰⁷**, *¹⁰⁷*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/cr050946x) and elsewhere,^{183,184} ILs are another type of neoteric (mean-

Scheme 7. Enzyme-Catalyzed Ring-Opening Polymerization Reactions in $\sec O_2$

ing: "modern", "recent in origin" derived from Greek *neoterikos* meaning "younger") solvent that offers the possibility of eliminating the use of VOCs/volatile organic solvents (VOSs) and hence can be used in cleaner chemical processes. ILs have negligible vapor pressure and hence are not readily lost to the atmosphere, which is the fundamental property that causes them to be considered as "green solvents". However, this also means that a second phase is required to separate products generated in the IL away from the IL and any catalyst it may contain. In early studies, this second phase was normally a VOC, which therefore reduced the clean aspect of the system. In 1999, however, Blancard et al. demonstrated that CO2 was highly soluble in 1-*n*-butyl-3-methylimidazolium [BMIM+]-derived ILs but that the IL, being highly polar, was virtually insoluble in scCO_2 .¹⁸⁵ Having observed this phenomenon, they were able to very efficiently extract naphthalene from $[BMIM^+] [PF_6^-]$ into $\sec CO_2$, which could then be separated, and the naphthalene was recovered after depressurization, leaving the pure IL. Since that study, it has been shown that many different ILs can dissolve considerable quantities of $CO₂$, 186 and more recently, the group has demonstrated that it is possible to use $CO₂$ as a "switch" to separate ILs from either organic solvents¹⁸⁷ or water.¹⁸⁸ The exact reasons that determine the solubility of scCO_{2} in an IL have also been investigated.^{189,190} On the basis of the different miscibilities of scCO_2 and ILs, a two-phase system combining these solvents has been used for a range of reactions including hydrogenation, hydroformylation, and asymmetric hydrovinylation, employing organometallic catalysts. This area is beyond the scope of this article and has recently been reviewed by Jessop, Heldebrant, and other authors.¹⁹¹⁻¹⁹³

In 2001, Laszlo and Compton reported the activity of α chymotrypsin (CMT) for the transesterification of *N*-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ethyl ester (APEE) with 1-propanol in the ILs BMIM hexafluorophosphate [BMIM+][PF6 -] and its 1-*n*octyl analogue [1-*n*-octyl-3-methylimidazolium (OMIM)+]- $[PF_6^-]$, both with and without scCO₂. The w_0 of the system was found to be crucial for the reactions in the absence of \rm{scCO}_{2} with a minimum of 0.25% v/v being required. In the presence of $\sec O_2$ (138 bar/45 °C), additional water was not required for the reaction to occur, but with water at 1% v/v, a doubling of the yield of the propyl ester, *N*-acetyl-Lphenylalanine propyl ester (APPE), was observed with α -chymotrypsin (CMT) freeze-dried in the presence of PEG.^{194,195} In this paper, the possibility of using the scCO_2 phase to separate the product from the IL was suggested, and recovery of 66% of the APPE was demonstrated, but this process was not pursued further. It should be noted that in all of the studies of biocatalysis in a combination of ILs-SCFs reported to date, the enzyme does not dissolve in the IL. In early examples where the protein was soluble in the IL, it was generally found to be catalytically inactive.196-¹⁹⁸ More recently, a number of studies have identified ILs that dissolve proteins and retain their structure (Cc in [BMIM+]- $[H_2PO_4^-]$ ¹⁹⁹ and catalytic activity (CALB in [Et₃NMe⁺]- $[MeSO_4^-]$ ²⁰⁰ while Goto et al. have demonstrated that Cc can be extracted into ILs using dicyclohexano-18-crown-6,201 and PEG-modified subtilisin is able to dissolve in $[EMIM^+]$ - $[BTA^-]$ $[EMIM = 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium;$ $BTA = bis$ -(trifluoromethanesulfonamide)] and retain their structure and activity.202,203

Two other groups described the use of $IL/secO₂$ systems with biocatalysts in papers that appeared almost simultaneously in 2002 ^{204,205} In these cases, the scCO₂ was also shown to have a crucial role in separating the reactants and products from the catalyst and IL. Lozano and co-workers²⁰⁴ demonstrated that an aqueous solution of CALB in either $[BMIM^+][BTA^-]$ or $[EMIM^+][BTA^-]$ immobilized on glass wool was able to catalyze the irreversible transesterification of vinyl butyrate with 1-butanol to form *n*-butyl butyrate and acetaldehyde. In this case, the vinyl butyrate had to be introduced into the $\sec O_2$ in hexane reducing the "greenness" of the reaction. The reaction was examined at 150 bar and at a range of temperatures (40-100 °C). It was shown that, at 40 °C, the enzyme only lost ca. 15% catalytic activity after the reactor had been used 11 times.²⁰⁴ In the same paper, the authors describe the use of CALB immobilized on Celite in the presence of $[BMIM^+][BTA^-]$ or $[EMIM^+][BTA^-]$ for the KR of *rac*-1-phenylethanol with vinyl propionate. This reaction demonstrated very good enantioselectivity (99.9% *ee*), and the enzyme was found to be eight times more active when immobilized on Celite in the presence of the ILs. The authors have reported a second study on this system in which

both free and immobilized CALB were subjected to temperatures of up to 150 °C and 100 bar and exhibited excellent thermal stability.206 More recently, they have explored the effects of a range of five other ILs on CALB-catalyzed ester synthesis.^{207,208} As part of this study, the stability of CALB in the ILs at 50 °C was compared with that in hexane over 50 days and it was found that there was a 2000-fold improvement in the half-life of the enzyme in the ILs. In a further study, some members of this group examined the activity of CALB immobilized on an α -alumina microporous dynamic membrane209,210 for the synthesis of *n*-butyl propionate from 1-butanol and vinyl propionate both in $\sec 0₂$ on its own and also in $IL/secCO₂$ biphasic system with three different room temperature ILs $\{RTILs: [BMIM^+][PF_6^-],$ $[1-n$ -butyl-2,3-dimethylimidazolium $(BDiMIM)^+][PF_6^-]$, and [OMIM⁺]-[PF₆⁻]} at 50 °C and 80 bar. It was found that the rate of transesterification with the three different $IL/secCO₂$ biphasic systems was lower than with $\sec O_2$ alone, and this was related to possible limitations in the mass transfer of substrates/products across the IL surrounding the enzyme rather than enzyme deactivation. The research of the Lozano group on combining $\sec O_2$ with ILs has recently been reviewed.211

Reetz et al.²⁰⁵ examined biocatalysis in biphasic $\sec O_2$ / IL systems and initially utilized the same IL $[BMIM^+] [BTA^-]$, but with unmodified CALB, and examined the irreversible acylation of 1-octanol with VA. There was one significant difference in their reactor setup in that the reaction was carried out initially as a batch process with the IL functioning as a solvent rather than as a protective coating around the enzyme. This had the advantage that the substrates could be added to the IL/suspended CALB directly rather than employing a carrier solvent such as hexane. In this case, the $scCO₂$ was employed as an extraction solvent since it was only added after 30 min (at 39 °C and 95 bar) to extract the *n-*octyl acetate in 92% yield together with acetaldehyde and unreacted VA from the system for collection in a cold trap once the $CO₂$ had evaporated (Scheme 8).²⁰⁵ The IL phase containing the CALB was recycled giving yields of 97, 98, and 98% on subsequent batches, demonstrating that the enzyme retains good activity. This system was then modified into a continuous process with $\sec O_2$, allowing the production of 0.1 kg of *n-*octyl acetate per liter of reactor volume per hour, which was maintained over a 24 h period, giving an overall yield of 94%. Reetz et al. also investigated the KR of *rac*-1-phenylethanol with VA in batch where the enantioselectivity of the reaction remained very high [>98.6% of the (R) -acetate over four cycles].²⁰⁵

In a follow-up paper, the KR of secondary alcohols was transformed from a batch to a continuous process, and the choice of IL, ester, and the preparation of enzyme was examined. It was found that vinyl laureate, a cheaper acylating agent than VA, gave an ester that had a much lower solubility in $\sec O_2$ than the unreacted *rac*-1-phenylethanol and so facilitated its downstream separation by controlled density reduction of the $\sec O_2$ via a change in temperature and/or pressure. The use of NZ 435 or a sol gel immobilized CALB in place of the suspended lyophilized CALB was explored, but these catalysts gave considerably lower yields with VA as the acylating species. 212

In a related study, Reetz and Wiesenhöfer have shown that polyethylene glycol (PEG, mw 1500), which is liquid at 50 °C and 150 bar, can be used in place of the IL for the KR of *rac*-1-phenylethanol with VA.213 Heldebrant and **Scheme 8. Kinetic Resolution of** *rac***-1-Phenylethanol with VA in a CO2-Expanded IL with Products Extracted into the CO2 Phase205**

Jessop had previously demonstrated that PEG and $\sec O_2$ formed a similar biphasic system to that of $ILs/secO₂$ with CO2 being soluble in liquid PEG but PEG having very low solubility in scCO_2 .²¹⁴ The enantioselectivities in the PEG/ scCO₂ system were marginally lower than those observed with the ILs (*ee* > 98.1%). After 5 h, all of the (*R*)-1 phenylethanol was converted into the desired ester. It should be noted that PEG contains two free terminal alcohol groups, but these were only acylated after extended periods (85- 92% after 48 h depending on the vinyl acylating agent used). Again, changing the density of the $\sec O_2$ allowed control over the relative amounts of the ester and alcohol extracted. At 50 °C/80 bar, considerably more of the (*R*)-ester (73%) was extracted from the PEG system than the IL (56%) under similar conditions. It was also demonstrated that the enzyme retained its activity and selectivity through 11 batches.

PEG offers significant advantages over current ILs in clean synthesis as it is considerably less expensive and is nonhalogenated, simplifying disposal. It has already been approved for use as a food additive, having had its toxicity fully evaluated.

Garcia et al.²⁵ have examined the catalytic activity of NZ 435 and *Fusarium solani pisi* cutinase immobilized on zeolite NaY in $\text{scCO}_2/\text{[BMIM^+][PF_6^-]}$ in a continuous system (35 °C/100 bar, $a_w = 0.12$) for the reaction of 2-phenyl-1propanol and vinyl butyrate. In these cases, the enantioselectivity of both enzymes for this substrate was found to be low $(E = 1.5-3)$; more positively, the IL appears to have protected the cutinase from inactivation by the scCO_2 . For both enzymes, the rate observed in the $\rm{scCO_{2}/[BMIM^{+}]}$ - $[PF_6^-]$ system was higher than for the IL on its own. This enhancement was attributed to the $CO₂$ dissolved in the IL, decreasing its viscosity and hence improving the mass transfer of substrates to the enzyme active site.

In one final example, which is not strictly a "clean" synthesis, Broering et al. used $CO₂$ as a reversible switch to modulate the miscibility of aqueous and organic phases in an organic-aqueous tunable solvent (OATS) system.²¹⁵ Unmodified CALB was used to catalyze the hydrolysis of 2-phenethyl acetate in a 40:60 dioxane:buffer (150 mM

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sodium phosphate) mixture to give a yield of 55% after 2 h. Addition of carbon dioxide at 50 bar caused the dioxane and aqueous layers to separate, and the organic layer was separated off and the amount of 2-phenylethanol was determined by gas liquid chromatography (GC).

8. Enzyme-Catalyzed Reactions in SCFs

The tables in this section summarize all of the enzyme reactions in SCFs reported since this area of research was first reported from 19854,8 to the end of 2006, excluding the

Table 4. Lipase-Catalyzed Reactions Involving Long Chain Fatty Acids or Esters (C12-**C18) in SCFs**

Table 4. (Continued)

Table 5. Lipase Catalysis of Reactions Involving Oils in SCFs

Table 5. (Continued)

Table 6. Lipase-Catalyzed Stereospecific Reactions Involving *rac***-1-Phenylethanol in SCFs**

Table 7. Other Sterospecific Esterification Reactions Catalyzed by Lipases in SCFs

Table 7. (Continued)

Table 8. Sterospecific Hydrolysis Reactions Performed in SCFs and Catalyzed by Lipases

Table 9. Lipase-Catalyzed Polymerizations and Depolymerizations in SCFs

Table 10. Esterification and Glycosylation Reactions Catalyzed by Nonlipase Enzymes in SCFs

Table 10. (Continued)

Table 11. Hydrolysis Reactions Catalyzed by Nonlipase Enzymes in SCFs

Table 11. (Continued)

Table 12. Oxidation and Carboxylation Reactions Catalyzed by Nonlipase Enzymes in SCFs

Table 13. Biocatalysis in Carbon Dioxide and a Second Neoteric Solvent

Table 13. (Continued)

patent literature. Lipases are the most popular choice for enzymatic reactions studied in SCFs; therefore, these are grouped together at the beginning of section 8. Tables $3-5$ are focused on esterifications. Table 3 lists reactions involving short chain acids and esters, with reactions sorted by acid substrate chain length, starting with the shortest chain first (acetic acid) and ending with the longest chain molecule (octanoic acid). Table 4 lists reactions involving longer chain fatty acids, again sorted with the shortest fatty acid first (lauric acid) and ending with the longest fatty acids (stearic and oleic acid). Table 5 focuses on the esterification of oils with the reactions listed alphabetically by type of oil.

Tables 6-8 summarize all stereospecific reactions. The substrate *rac*-1-phenylethanol is one of the most popular substrates for study, so these reactions have been grouped in Table 6 and all other stereospecific esterifications are listed in Table 7. Table 8 completes the set with the remaining hydrolysis reactions performed in SCFs. Finally, Table 9 lists all of the polymerization and depolymerization reactions performed in SCFs with lipases.

Tables $10-12$ list all of the other non-lipase enzyme reactions carried out in SCFs. These reactions are grouped as follows: Table 10 lists esterification and glycosylation reactions, Table 11 lists hydrolysis reactions, and Table 12 lists oxidation, reduction, and carboxylation reactions. The reaction conditions, rates, and percentage conversions are given where they have been provided in the paper cited. If a wide range of substrates is tested with an enzyme, typically the data for the "best" substrate are presented and other substrates are listed in the remarks section. Earlier versions of this tabulation first appeared in the theses of Helen M. Kirke²¹⁶ and Helen R. Hobbs²¹⁷ at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

9. Biocatalysis in Fluorous Solvents

The number of reports regarding biocatalysis involving fluorous solvents is limited to just a handful of publications, partly due to the insolubility of enzymes in fluorous solvents and also to a lack of examples of enzyme substrates that are soluble in fluorous solvents. Recently, however, there have been a variety of attempts to exploit some of the properties of fluorous solvents in combination with the benefits of using

enzymes for catalysis to develop cleaner synthetic processes, and these are discussed below.

9.1. Basic Properties of Fluorous Solvents

Fluorous solvents have been produced for commercial use in a range of roles: low boiling point compounds as alternatives to chlorofluorohydrocarbons (CFCs) as refrigerants (R-134, R-227ea); greases and lubricants based on polyfluoropolyethers that operate at >300 °C; and compounds such as 1-bromoperfluorooctane that are used as a component of artificial blood. Because the intermolecular reactions in a fluorous solvent are very weak, the *n*perfluoroalkanes have lower boiling points than their corresponding *n-*alkanes and exhibit extremely low polarities. The solubility of water in fluorous solvents is, therefore, very low due to the lack of suitable H-bonding interactions, while gases such as carbon dioxide, oxygen, and hydrogen are much more soluble in fluorous solvents than in water and exhibit several fold better solubility than in hydrophobic organic solvents.309 Table 14 summarizes the physical properties of the fluorous solvents that have been used in processes involving enzymes.

The cheapest commonly available perfluorinated solvent is perfluorohexane, also known as FC-72. This is composed of an undefined mixture of isomers in a similar manner to the "hexanes" used in conventional synthesis. Therefore, many chemical reactions reported to date make use of perfluoromethylcyclohexane (PFMC), a more expensive alternative, but one that ensures improved reproducibility.

From the synthetic chemistry viewpoint, perhaps the most useful general property of fluorous solvents is their temperature-dependent miscibility with organic solvents. This behavior is an example of a thermomorphic effect, which manifests itself in many different forms. In the context of synthesis, this property can be used to switch a reaction that is heterogeneous into homogeneous with the mass transfer benefits that this can accrue. This property has been exploited widely in synthetic chemistry in the form of fluorous biphasic catalysis.311,312 The miscibilities of fluorous and nonfluorous solvents as a function of temperature is an area that has not been extensively reported.310 Table 15 summarizes the upper "critical" or consolute temperatures for a range of solvents mixed in a 1:1 ratio. Above this temperature, the two solvents

Table 14. Basic Data on the Fluorous Solvents Used in Biocatalysis*^a*

solvent	formula	bp $(^{\circ}C)$	mp $(^{\circ}C)$	density (g/cm^3)	code name	ClogP
perfluorohexane	C_6H_{14}	57.1	-90	1.669	$FC-72$	5.653
perfluoroheptane	C_7F_{16}	82.4	-78	1.745		6.542
perfluorooctane	CsF_{18}	$97 - 104$	-25	1.766	FC-77 FC-3255	7.432
PFMC	$CF3C6F11$	76.1	-37	1.784	PFMC	5.166
PFPE	F(CF ₂ O)CF ₃ $mw \sim 350$	57	\sim	1.65	HT55	
1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane	F_3CCH_2F	-26.1	-103.3	0.0425 (gas phase)	$R-134a$	0.44
$1,1,1,2,3,3,3$ -heptafluoropropane	$F_3CCHFCF_3$	-16.4	-131	1.46 at -16° C	$R-227ea$	1.742
difluoromethane	H_2CF_2	-51.6	-136	0.5265 at $-52 °C$	R-32 Freon 32	0.304
$1-HFE$ $(1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-$ nonafluoro-4-methoxybutane)	$MeO(CF2)3CF3$	61	-135	1.520	CF 61 HFC 7100 (NOVEC)	4.669
α Modified from ref 310.						

Table 15. Summary of the Consolute Temperatures of Different FBSs (Except the Three Component Final Entry)310

involved cannot be separated into two distinct phases. Those chosen can be partitioned on cooling below 60 °C and hence would be amenable to use with enzymes. It should be borne in mind that the ratio of the two solvents and the presence of dissolved species can both have an affect on its phase behavior.

The following sections describe the reports of the use of biocatalysis in conjunction with fluorous solvents ending with the only example to date of a biocatalyst being used in conjunction with a flurous biphasic system.

9.2. Biocatalysis in Fluorous Solvents

A number of enzyme-catalyzed reactions have been conducted in sc fluoroform, and these are collected together in the first section of Table 16. Fluoroform offers some advantages over $\sec O_2$ as a reaction medium as discussed in section 1.1. In this section, we focus on the reports of biocatalysis in perfluorinated solvents that have been conducted under non-sc conditions.

In 2002, Panza et al. $316-318$ reported the attachment of a PFPE tail to nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD), forming a fluorinated NAD molecule (FNAD) soluble in fluorous solvents. They demonstrated that FNAD forms micelles when dissolved in a fluorous solvent (methoxynonafluorobutane, HFE) and these micelles were able to extract the enzyme horse liver alcohol dehydrogenase (HLADH) from an aqueous phase into the fluorous phase. The addition of butyraldehyde and ethanol as cosolvents enhanced the efficiency of HLADH extraction into the reverse micelles. The catalytic activity of the enzyme was reported for the reduction of butyraldehyde to butanol in HFE. The enzyme in FNAD reverse micelles was also shown to be both soluble and active in liquid $CO₂$.³¹⁷

In 2004, Saul et al. reported heterogeneous biocatalysis in low boiling point fluorous solvents used as refrigerants $(R-134a, R-227ea).$ ³¹⁹ The activity of NZ 435 for the KR of *rac*-1-phenylethanol was shown to be increased both in rate and in yield in hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as compared to

those in hexane and methyl *tert*-butyl ether (MTBE). This increase was attributed to the low viscosity and consequently increased solute diffusivity in the HFC. Improved activity of subtilisin for the transesterification of *rac*-*N*-phenylalanine propyl esters in HFCs was also demonstrated in 1,1,1,2 tetrafluoroethanol (R-134a) when compared to that in conventional organic solvents.

9.3. Fluorous Tagging and Facile Separations

Theil and co-workers have reported the use of chirazyme L-2 (CZ L-2) for the KR of racemic alcohols, including *rac*-1-phenylethanol using a highly fluorinated carboxylic acid in acetonitrile.320-³²³ The corresponding fluorinated (*R*)-ester and nonfluorinated (*S*)-alcohol are then partitioned into a fluorous solvent (perfluorohexane) and methanol, respectively, hence removing the need for a costly chromatographic separation. In addition, the reverse reaction was also performed such that the racemic fluorinated ester was enantioselectively hydrolyzed by CALB in acetonitrile to the nonfluorinated (*R*)-alcohol, leaving the fluorinated (*S*)-ester unreacted. These are separated by partitioning into methanol and perfluorohexane, respectively.324

In addition to this research, the resolution of *rac*-1-(2 napthyl)ethanol in combination with a fluorous triphasic separative reaction has been reported.³²⁵ Alcoholysis of the corresponding fluorinated ester was performed by CZ L-2 in acetonitrile, and the resulting products and a fluorinated acid (catalyst) were transferred to the source phase (methanol) of a U-tube. The nonfluorinated (*R*)-alcohol remained in the source phase while both fluorinated (*S*)-ester and catalytic fluorinated acid passed to the fluorous phase (FC-72). The (*S*)-ester undergoes alcoholysis whereby its fluorous tag is removed and the resulting (*S*)-alcohol passes to the receiving phase (methanol) on the opposite side of the U-tube to the source phase. Hence, both enantiomers of 1-(2 napthyl)ethanol are obtained and separated in high yields and enantioselectivities as shown in Scheme 9. Teo et al. have also described the use of fluorous tagging for the KR of *rac*-1-phenylethanol by NZ 435 catalysis and partitioning using a fluorous solvent.³²⁶ These techniques are not strictly termed FBS, but it seems that there is great potential to combine the KR and partitioning in one step.

9.4. Biocatalysis in a FBS

The concept of a FBS was first described by Horváth and Rábai in 1994.⁶ The idea is elegant in its simplicity: A catalyst is dissolved in a fluorous solvent and combined with substrates dissolved in an organic solvent to form a biphasic system. On warming the system, the two phases become

Table 16. Biocatalysis in Supercritical Fluoroform and Involving Fluorous Solvents

miscible to form a single phase, and a homogeneous reaction can occur. The catalyst and products can then be easily separated from each other by simply recooling the reaction mixture, and the two phases separate; the catalyst remains in the fluorous solvent, and the product is retained in the organic solvent, as shown in Scheme 10.

Catalysts that are soluble in fluorous solvents need to be highly fluorinated themselves since "like dissolves like".³²⁷ There are two possibilities for the design of such catalysts: New catalysts can be specifically designed to dissolve in the fluorous environment, or many "conventional" catalysts can be converted to "fluorous-like" ones by incorporation of fluorous ponytails.⁶

The temperature at which a single phase or two phases are observed will vary depending on the composition of the system. For example, Horváth and Rábai describe the phase

^a Nonfluorinated (*R*)-2 alcohol remains in the source phase. The fluorinated carboxylic acid and (*S*)-alcohol pass into the fluorous phase (FC-72) where the fluorous tag of the (*S*)-ester is hydrolyzed by base in the receiving phase, yielding nonfluorinated (*S*)-alcohol, which subsequently passes into the receiving methanol phase, leaving the methyl ester of the fluorous tag in the fluorous phase.

coalescence of *n*-hexane:toluene:PFMC in the ratio 3:1:3 on hand warming (36.5 $^{\circ}$ C), which reverts to a two phase solution after cooling to room temperature.⁶ The temperatures at which a variety of solvent systems become one phase and separate to form two phases have been reported elsewhere (Table 15).310,328

Only one FBS incorporating heterogeneous biocatalysis has been reported. In 2002, Beier and O'Hagan reported the high activity of crude CRL for the enantioselective esterification reaction of *rac*-methylpentanoic acid with a fluorinated alcohol in a FBS (perfluorohexane and hexane).^{329,330} The acid was solubilized in hexane, and the alcohol and corresponding fluorinated ester product were both solubilized in perfluorohexane. In this case, the catalyst was not soluble in either solvent but was used as a suspension and was easily filtered off at the end of the reaction. CRL selectively catalyzed the esterification of (*S*)-methylpentanoic acid to the corresponding (*S*)-fluorinated ester product, which was retained in the fluorous solvent, and the remaining (*R*) methylpentanoic acid could be easily removed following phase separation on cooling of the system (Scheme 11).

In 2004, Maruyama et al. reported the use of PEG-lipase complexes to catalyze the alcoholysis of vinyl cinnamate with benzyl alcohol in perfluoro-octane.³³¹ On screening five PEG-lipase complexes, the authors found that PEG-lipase from *Alcaligence* sp. (PEG-AS) demonstrated the highest alcoholysis activity, >16-fold that of the native AS (lipase from *Alcaligences* sp.) powder. The lipase activity in fluorous solvents was remarkably high as compared with that in conventional organic solvents, such as isooctane and *n*hexane, possibly due to the hydrophobicity of the fluorous solvents. A small volume of isooctane was required to dissolve the nonfluorinated substrates, but on increasing this volume, the activity of the PEG-AS complex was reduced.

True fluorous biphasic catalysis as defined by Rábai and Horváth has yet to be demonstrated, as it would require the enzyme to be modified to be highly soluble in both the fluorous solvent on its own and the single phase formed when the organic and fluorous solvents are warmed above their consolute temperature. Beier and O'Hagan have, however, elegantly demonstrated that a FBS involving a suspended

Scheme 10. Fluorous Biphasic System (FBS)*^a*

^a At ambient temperature, the fluorous and organic phases are immiscible. On warming, the two phases become miscible and a homogeneous reaction occurs. On cooling, the phases separate, thereby removing the catalyst from the product without the need for costly separation techniques.

enzyme that can be filtered off and potentially recycled can be used to separate a fluorinated ester product generated from a racemic carboxylic acid in a KR catalyzed by a suspension of the lipase from *Candida rugosa*.

Biocatalysis in FBS is a relatively new area of research, and it seems that its full potential has yet to be realized. Most reports within this area have discussed the use of fluorous tagging of a single enantiomer by enzyme catalysis and then demonstrated facile separation by partitioning the two enantiomers into a fluorous and organic solvent. It is disappointing that only one project has made the crucial next step of combining enzyme catalysis and fluorous tagging in a one pot FBS.329

A different thread to this field of research was tackled by Panza, Russell, and Beckman, 316,317 whereby an enzyme was solubilized in the fluorous solvent by means of forming fluorinated reverse micelles. The enzyme was successfully extracted from aqueous solution into the fluorous phase and above all retained excellent enzyme activity. However, separation of enzyme from products is surely made complex in such a system. Would it be possible to produce a system whereby the enzyme is solubilized in the fluorous phase and substrates are solubilized in the organic phase? This would provide a homogeneous reaction mixture at elevated temperatures and straightforward separation of the products from the biocatalyst on simply cooling the solution, thereby facilitating phase separation.

The combination of biocatalysis and FBSs, although relatively new, is an attractive one and further research would certainly be of interest especially in the area of green chemistry. Facile separations of biocatalyst from product provide cost- and time-effective processes, plus the biocatalyst is easily reused and recycled. It is just unfortunate that there is a cloud of doubt over the persistence in the environment of the fluorinated solvents and their byproducts; however, this is still a topic of debate in this field.

10. Solvent-Free and Solid-to-Solid Biocatalysis

An alternative strategy to the use of scCO_2 , ILs, or fluorous solvents is to avoid the use of solvents completely with the reaction involving only reagents and any associated catalystsso-called solvent-free or solventless reactions (see Walsh et al. *Chem. Re*V*.* **²⁰⁰⁷**, *¹⁰⁷*, http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/ cr0509556).332-³³⁵ This approach is relatively simple if one or more of the reagents is a liquid, or as described in section 5, a SCF or gas, but if both substrates and catalysts are solids, then the accessibility of the catalyst to the substrates will limit the speed and yield of the reaction. In the case of biocatalysis, a further concern is the stability of the enzyme in the substrate when this is also used as the solvent, especially as it is known that polar organic compounds such as alcohols that are widely used in (trans)esterification reactions can denature enzymes when employed as solvents.75 There are numerous examples of "solvent-free" biocatalysis with liquid substrates involving either free enzymes or immobilized enzymes.³³⁶⁻³³⁹ These reactions generally proceed in a similar manner to those involving enzymes in nonaqueous solvents, except that the initial rates of reaction and levels of conversion at equilibrium may be higher. Solvent-free polymerization reactions may exhibit unusual kinetics due to the lack of monomer availability and entanglement of the catalyst in the polymer during the late stages of the reactions. Of more relevance to this review are the studies on heterogeneous systems involving "mainly

undissolved" substrates. The research in this area has followed two approaches that have been termed "heterogeneous eutectic" and "solid-to-solid" reactions. In many ways, the composition of the reaction systems used in either of these approaches shares many common features. The essential requirement of both solid-to-solid and heterogeneous reactions is that they require a small amount of a liquid phase in which the enzyme can conduct the reaction, generally to give a product that then precipitates out of solution.

Solid state enzyme reactions date back to the early 1970s with the work of Roslyakov and co-workers on the hydrolysis of cinnamoyl-modified CMT340 and *N*-succinyl-L-phenylalanine- p -nitroaniline by the same enzyme³⁴¹⁻³⁴³ together with work on subtilisin.³⁴⁴ This research was primarily concerned with investigating the mechanism of action of the enzyme rather than its use in biotransformations. Later studies on papain and proteinase K^{345} demonstrated that the rates of reaction were highly dependent on the w_0 of the system, the physicomechanical properties of the reactants and products, and the presence of buffer salts and lyoprotectants.

The potential advantages of solid state biocatalysis are the requirement for smaller reactor volumes, and the associated cost savings from not needing to purchase or dispose of a solvent. Solid state biocatalysis does have limitations in that most industrial scale chemical plants are designed with the handling and transportation of liquid intermediates in mind. The solvent can also provide a useful role in dissipating heat in an exothermic reaction, and the biocatalyst and substrates must be well-mixed during the reaction to ensure that the substrate is brought in close proximity to the active site of the enzyme. For most of the solid state reactions described to date, the products would need to be separated from the reactants through chromatography or other means.

10.1. Heterogeneous Eutectic Reactions

The heterogeneous eutectic method requires that the mixture of substrates either on their own or in combination with a very small amount of an adjuvant (water or an organic compound) possesses a sufficiently low melting (eutectic) point (generally ≤ 60 °C) to make it compatible with the thermal stability of a biocatalyst.³⁴⁶⁻³⁵⁴ In their initial investigations of the eutectic method, Gill and Vulfson demonstrated in 1993 that it was possible to perform peptide coupling reactions on substrate mixtures that formed heterogeneous mixtures or eutectics (low melting point mixtures made up of two or more components).³⁴⁸ Both subtilisin and CMT were used in their initial study. Immobilized subtilisin was shown to catalyze the formation of the dipeptide from solid L-Leu-NH₂, L-Met-NH₂, and GlyNH₂ dispersed in liquid L-Phe-OEt in 83, 75, and 36% yields, respectively.³⁴⁶⁻³⁵⁴ In parallel,346,355-³⁵⁷ a range of proteases were investigated together with the use of an adjuvant, a small quantity of an organic solvent added to ensure eutetic formation. A range of commercially important peptides were produced using this methodology including aspartame, sweet lysine peptide, kyotorphin amide, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibiting and immunoactive tripeptides, Leu-enkephalin amide, and fragments of the so-called "delicious octapeptide", with overall yields of $21-84%$ (Table 17). Through the use of Fourier transform infrared (IR) microscopy and polarizing microscopy, López-Fandiño et al. demonstrated that the reaction was occurring in the liquid phase formed just above the eutectic point.356

Table 17. Selected Solventless/Solid-to-Solid/Eutectic Reactions Involving Biocatalysts

More recently, Gill and Valivety achieved the multigram scale stepwise synthesis of a tetrapeptide under eutectic conditions using Celite-deposited chymopapain and subtilisin and the presence of $16-20\%$ w/w water and ethanol as an adjuvant.³⁴⁷ The peptide bonds were formed in yields of 73, 74, and 76%. Other groups have examined alternative enzymes and different adjuvants in the synthesis of the precursor of aspartame (*N*-CBZ-L-Asp-L-PheOMe)^{349,351} and the kyotorphin precursor, *N*-carbobenzoxyl-L-tyrosine-Larginine amide $(N-CBZ-L-Tyr-L-ArgNH₂)$,³⁵⁸ using the enzymes thermolysin, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* KCCM 12091 protease, and CMT, respectively. A synthesis of a protected precursor of the artificial sweetner alitame (L-Asp-D-Ala) was achieved from *N*-Cbz-L-Asp(OEt)OEt and D-alanine amide using CMT. 350 These form a semiliquid mixture with a eutectic point of 27 °C in the presence of an adjuvant composed of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), 2-methoxy ethyl acetate, and water.

10.2. Solid-to-Solid Reactions

The alternative approach began from the work of Kuhl et al. looking at biocatalysis of suspensions of substrates in organic solvents with salt hydrates being added to provide the only source of water $359-361$ or with small amounts of water.³⁶² This system was then developed further by Halling et al. who coined the term "solid-to-solid" reaction.³⁶³ In this approach, most of the reactants remain in the solid state with a small amount progressively dissolving in the added solvent whereupon they are converted into products that then precipitate. The system is not at its eutectic point but requires an added liquid phase to be present. It is the precipitation of the products that drives the reaction to give high yields. This area has been reviewed previously.353,354,364,365 Using the solid-to-solid approach, a range of amides, esters, and glycosides have been produced. Halling et al. have investigated the underlying kinetics³⁶⁶ and thermodynamics^{363,367-370}

In 2002, Youshko and Svedas described the use of Eupergit C-immobilized penicillin acylase for the synthesis of ampicillin.373,374 In this reaction, equimolar amounts of lyophilized 6-APA and D-phenylglycine methyl ester (D-PGM) lyophilized at pH 6.5 were combined and mixed with the immobilized penicillin acylase and a salt hydrate (Na2- $SO_4 \cdot H_2O$, Mg $SO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$, or AcONa $\cdot 3H_2O$) to provide an overall w_0 of between 5 and 30% w/w. This system was shown to catalyze the synthesis of ampicillin with a rate comparable to that of a homogeneous system saturated with 6-APA. A similar approach has recently also been used for the preparation of the related β -lactams amoxicillin³⁷⁵ and cephalexin376 with penicillin acylase and in the use of immobilized glutaryl acylase for the hydrolysis of glutaryl-7-aminocephalosporanic acid, respectively.377

One major concern with solid-to-solid reactions is how these can be scaled up to be useful on an industrial scale. The production of *Z*-aspartame has been conducted at the 3 mol level using a stirred tank reactor to give the product in ca. 90% yield. Erbeldinger et al. have examined methods of scaling up the thermoase-catalyzed synthesis of *Z*-Asp-Phe-OMe using a jacketed reactor with an anchor stirrer and also suggested a method to isolate and recycle the enzyme.^{387,388} Computer modeling and experimental studies on the formation of eutectic mixtures of protected amino acids (AAs) have been conducted by Kim et al.^{389,390} to investigate the fact that *N-*carbobenzoxy (*Z*)-protected AA/second amino-acid/ methanol mixtures preferentially form eutectic melts while mixtures in which both AAs have free amines do not. The area of reactor design for solid-to-solid reactions has been discussed in detail by Michielsen et al.³⁹¹ However, the perceived problems with scale-up of these types of reactions have so far prevented them from being more widely investigated.

11. The Future

This review brings together a number of strands of research in the field of biocatalysis under "green" conditions that have taken place over the past 21 years. Much of the initial research focused on examining the activity of enzymes in SCFs, especially carbon dioxide. Major hurdles to this research have been carbamate formation on the enzyme and the control of the pH of the reaction due to carbonic acid formation. Therefore, it has proved difficult to obtain conditions in which enzyme turnover was sufficiently better than in other solvents to justify the establishment of a commercial process based on biocatalysis in scCO₂. This problem appears to have been circumvented recently with the use of $\sec O_2$ in combination with an IL, where the IL appears to protect the enzyme from the detrimental effects of direct contact with $\sec O_2$. There is plenty of scope for the further study of biocatalysis in $\sec O_2$ or other SCFs in combination with ILs and other neoteric solvents such as liquid PEG.

The study of enzyme reactions in fluorous solvents is much more recent with only a handful of examples where the enzyme is actually catalyzing the reaction in the fluorous

phase. Beier and O'Hagan's work has elegantly demonstrated that biocatalysis and fluorous biphasic separation can be combined.329,330 To be completely true to the original fluorous biphasic catalysis system described by Horváth and Rábai,⁶ the enzyme should be soluble in the fluorous and homogeneous mixed phases and retained in the fluorous phase at the end of the reaction for reuse. Maruyama's study on the PEG-modified enzyme that shows good activity in perfluorooctane is a step toward this goal.392 The combination of fluorous phases with SCFs, ILs, and other neoteric solvents in both chemical and biocatalysis is also currently under explored.

The study of solvent-free biocatalysis on solid substrates was an area of significant activity in the period $1992-2002$, but publications in this area have become more infrequent. This is due primarily to the perceived problems with poor mass transfer in the solid-to-solid reaction systems, and the absence of large amounts of solvent in these systems is currently not a paradigm with which many synthetic chemists are comfortable. However, Halling and co-workers and others have demonstrated that it is possible to get high yields in these reactions, especially in the preparation of commercially useful peptides; therefore, a broader exploration of the potential of this approach is certainly warranted.

12. Abbreviations

Ionic Liquids:

BDiMIM 1-*n*-butyl-2,3-dimethylimidazolium

BMIM 1-*n*-butyl-3-methylimidazolium BTA *bis*-(trifluoromethylimidazolium) EMIM 1-*n*-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium OMIM 1-*n*-octyl-3-methylimidazolium TOMA trioctylmethylammonium

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