

# Supplementary material

## Extraction of ofloxacin from water using hydrophobic eutectic solvents

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## Tables

**Table S1.** Summary of some recent studies employing HES-based LLE for extracting various pharmaceuticals from water-based samples.

Analytes	Sample matrix	HES (mol:mol)	Method	Recovery (%)	Key findings	Ref.
Oxytetracycline, Doxycycline, Tetracycline	Water	Thymol: Octanoic acid (1:1)	Dispersive LLME	74-113	Choline chloride: ethylene glycol HES was used as disperser solvent. Thymol: Octanoic acid HES was used as extraction solvent. The addition of beta-cyclodextrin ( $\beta$ -CD) to the extraction phase improved extraction efficiencies.	[1]
Levofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin	Spiked water	Thymol: Hexanoic acid (2:1)	LLME	94-110	Four HES were used as extraction solvent. The impact of the solution pH, of the phase transition behavior of the HES was studied.	[2]
Salicylic acid, Oxaprozin, Diclofenac, Ibuprofen	Water and Milk	Thymol: 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine chloride (2:1)	Ultrasound-assisted Dispersive LLME	79-107	Three HES composed of guanidinium chloride and thymol, methyltriocylammonium chloride and thymol, and choline chloride and thymol were used as extraction solvent.	[3]
Ofloxacin, Norfloxacin, Ciprofloxacin, Enrofloxacin	Surface water	Thymol: Heptanoic acid (2:1)	LLME	84-113	The developed method based on in situ formation of twenty one HES (composed of thymol, menthol, and camphor and fatty acids) coupled with shaker-assisted LLME (in situ HES-SA-LLME) was validated.	[4]
Sulfamethoxazole, Sulfamethazine, Sulfapyridine	Urine	Vanillin: Menthol (1:1) Vanillin;Thymol (1:1)	LLME	91-93	Thymol and Vanillin were used as both media for Schiff bases formation and the precursor of HES.	[5]
Ketoprofen, Diclofenac	Urine	Menthol: Analytes	LLME	93-97	The procedure was applied based on in-situ HES formation and menthol used as extractant solvent.	[6]
Terbutaline, Clorprenaline, Tulobuterol, Clenbuterol, Salbutamol	Water	Tetra butyl ammonium chloride: Decanoic acid (1:3)	Dispersive LLME	56 - 91	Nine HES based on quaternary ammonium salts and fatty acids were prepared.	[7]
Ciprofloxacin	Water	Decanoic acid: Dodecanoic acid (2:1)	LLE	90	Ten HES based on quaternary ammonium salts, menthol and fatty acids were prepared.	[8]
Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline, Chlortetracycline	Water	Methyltriocylammonium chloride: Nonanoic acid (1:2)	LLME	77- 87	Ten HES based on quaternary ammonium salts, fatty acids and fatty alcohol as extraction solvents were prepared.	[9]

Tetracycline, Doxycycline, Oxytetracycline	Water	Choline chloride: Thymol: Nonanoic acid (1:2:2)	Dispersive LLME	74–95	Four new thymol-based ternary HES were prepared. The ES hydrophobicity and its effect on the pH of water samples was studied.	[10]
Levofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin	Water	Tricaprylylmethylammonium chloride: 1-octanol (1:1)	LLME	94.8	Sixteen HES based on quaternary ammonium salts; fatty acids and fatty alcohol were prepared.	[11]
Sulfadiazine, Sulfamerazine, Sulfamethoxydiazine, Sulfamethoxazole	Water	Choline chloride: o-cresol Choline chloride: m-cresol Choline chloride: p-cresol (1:2)	Dispersive LLME	80–93	The three HES showed commendable performance for extraction of sulfonamides compared to hydrophilic DESs.	[12]
Carbamazepine	Aqueous solution	Menthol: acetic acid (1:1)	Reactive LLE	> 90	The study used of various carboxylic acid based deep eutectic liquids (DEL) such as menthol: acetic acid / formic acid --Diethyl succinate and DEL were used as diluent and extractant.	[13]
Diclofenac	Aqueous solution	DL-menthol: Acetic acid (1:1)	Reactive LLE	47- 78	The designed HES enhanced the removal of diclofenac by more than 2.7 to 4.5 times compared to a conventional solvent. Diethyl succinate and HES were used as diluent and extractant.	[14]
Valsartan	Aqueous solution	L-menthol: (+)-Di-p-toluoyl-D-tartaric Acid (8:1)	LLE	91	Four hydrophobic DESs with five hydrophilic DESs were studied for enantioseparation of valsartan.	[15]

**Table S2.** Compound, CAS number, molecular weight ( $M_w$ ), supplier, purity, and logarithm of the octanol-water partition coefficients ( $\log K_{ow}$ ).

<b>Compound</b>	<b>CAS number</b>	<b><math>M_w</math> (g/mol)</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Purity (wt%)</b>	<b><math>\log K_{ow}</math> [16]</b>
Ofloxacin	82419-36-1	361.40	TCI	98.0	1.56
L-menthol	1490-04-6	156.26	Acros Organics	99.5	2.66
Octanoic acid	124-07-2	144.21	Thermo Scientific	98.0	2.7
Decanoic acid	334-48-5	172.26	Thermo Scientific	99.0	3.59
Dodecanoic acid	143-07-7	200.32	Acros Organics	99.0	4.48
1-Decanol	112-30-1	158.28	TCI	98.0	3.47
1-Dodecanol	112-53-8	186.33	Alfa Aesar	98.0	4.36

**Table S3.** Melting points of the selected HES along with their individual components.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Molar ratio (HBA:HBD)</b>	<b>Melting point (°C)</b>	<b>Ref.</b>
Pure compounds	L-Menthol	-	42.6	[17]
	1-Decanol	-	6.9	
	Octanoic acid	-	16.4	
	Decanoic acid	-	31.7	
	Dodecanoic acid	-	44.4	
HES	L-Menthol: Octanoic acid	(1:1)	-4.35	[18]
	L-Menthol: Octanoic acid	(1:2)	2.3	
	L-Menthol: Decanoic acid	(1:1)	13.2	
	L-Menthol: Decanoic acid	(1:2)	20.1	
	L-Menthol: Decanoic acid	(1:3)	24.4	
	Octanoic acid: Decanoic acid	(1:1)	13.84	[19]
	Octanoic acid: Decanoic acid	(2:1)	6.4	
	Decanoic acid: Dodecanoic acid	(2:1)	18.1	[20]
	Decanoic acid: Dodecanoic acid	(3:1)	20.3	
	Octanoic acid: 1-Decanol	(1:1)	-1.3	[21]
	Octanoic acid: 1-Decanol	(2:1)	3.1	
	Decanoic acid: 1-Decanol	(1:1)	14.9	
	Decanoic acid: 1-Decanol	(2:1)	22.4	
Decanoic acid: 1-Decanol	(3:1)	24.2		

**Table S4.** Solubility in water of individual components of HES.

HES components	Water solubility (g/100 g water)	Temperature (°C)	Ref.
L-menthol	0.038	25	[22]
Octanoic acid	0.079	30	
Decanoic acid	0.018	30	[23]
Dodecanoic acid	0.0063	30	
1-Decanol	0.0037	25	
1-Dodecanol	0.0004	25	[24]

**Table S5.** 2<sup>3</sup> factorial planning.

Run	Coded variables		
	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>
1	-1	-1	-1
2	1	-1	-1
3	-1	1	-1
4	1	1	-1
5	-1	-1	1
6	1	-1	1
7	-1	1	1
8	1	1	1
9	-1.68	0	0
10	1.68	0	0
11	0	-1.68	0
12	0	1.68	0
13	0	0	-1.68
14	0	0	1.68
15	0	0	0
16	0	0	0
17	0	0	0
18	0	0	0
19	0	0	0
20	0	0	0

**Table S6.** Coded levels of independents variables used in the factorial planning of response surface methodology.

Independent variables	Axial	Factorial	Central	Factorial	Axial
	-1.682	-1	0	1	1.682
X <sub>1</sub> - pH	2.0	2.8	4.0	5.2	6.0
X <sub>2</sub> - OFX concentration(mg/ml)	0.5	0.9	1.5	2.1	2.5
X <sub>3</sub> - ES-water ratio (v/v)	0.6	0.9	1.3	1.8	2.1

**Table S7.** Predicted logarithm of partition coefficient of OFX ( $\log(K_{\text{OFX}})$ ) for the HES in different molar ratios (2:1, 1:1 and 1:2), at 25 ° C using COSMO-RS.

ES	Molar ratio		
	1:2	1:1	2:1
Menthol: C8 acid	2.36	2.04	1.53
Menthol: C10 acid	2.53	2.18	1.66
Menthol: C12 acid	2.61	2.24	1.79
Menthol: C10 alcohol	0.93	0.63	0.60
Menthol: C12 alcohol	0.83	0.43	0.51
C8 acid: C10 acid	2.93	2.58	3.33
C8 acid: C12 acid	3.44	3.04	3.71
C10 acid: C12 acid	3.55	3.23	4.41
C8 acid: C10 alcohol	1.38	1.90	3.17
C8 acid: C12 alcohol	1.34	1.73	2.91
C10 acid: C10 alcohol	1.57	2.16	3.51
C10 acid: C12 alcohol	1.15	1.71	2.36

**Table S8.** The measured partition coefficient of OFX and extraction efficiency of OFX along with the initial pH of each system for the selected ES at 25 °C.

HES	Molar ratio	pH	Measured $K_{\text{OFX}}$	Error	Measured $EE_{\text{OFX}}$ (%)	Error
Menthol: C8 acid	(1:2)	3.98	3.11	0.21	75.64	1.30
Menthol: C10 acid	(1:2)	4.55	6.58	0.31	86.80	0.54
Menthol: C10 acid	(1:3)	4.32	6.38	0.07	86.64	0.35
C8 acid: C10 acid	(2:1)	3.80	3.75	0.22	78.95	0.72
C8 acid: C12 acid	(2:1)	3.92	4.51	0.07	81.83	0.31
C10 acid: C12 acid	(2:1)	4.40	7.35	0.24	88.02	0.35
C10 acid: C12 acid	(3:1)	3.93	5.50	0.04	84.62	0.09
C8 acid: C10 alcohol	(2:1)	4.05	2.77	0.11	73.49	0.77
C10 acid: C10 alcohol	(2:1)	4.60	7.01	0.12	82.87	1.16
C10 acid: C10 alcohol	(3:1)	4.10	4.66	0.33	82.30	1.04



**Table S9.** Summary of different characteristics and prices of some of the compounds used in LLE of OFX. Prices sourced from official pages of Merck in Portugal (<https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/PT/>) and Alibaba (<https://www.alibaba.com/>) as of 19/03/24.

Compound	Solvent Type	CAS	Melting Point (°C)	Boiling Point (°C)	Merck	Alibaba	
					Price (€/kg or €/L*)	Price (\$/kg)	Price (€/kg)**
<b>Decanoic acid</b>	Fatty Acid	334-48-5	31.7	268.7	72.0	0.3 - 20.0	0.3 - 17.0
<b>Dodecanoic acid</b>	Fatty Acid	143-07-7	44.3	297.9	52.1	1.0 - 10.0	0.9 - 8.5
<b>Heptanoic acid</b>	Fatty Acid	111-14-8	-10.5	223	147.2	1.0 - 5.0	0.9 - 4.3
<b>Nonanoic acid</b>	Fatty Acid	112-05-0	12.5	255.6	75.3	0.8 - 20.0	0.7 - 17.0
<b>1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium trifluoromethanesulfonate</b>	Ionic Liquid	145022-44-2		---	1,730.0	50.0 - 220.0	42.5 - 187.0
<b>Thymol</b>	Terpene	89-83-8	47-51	232-234	178.0	1.0- 35.0	0.9 - 29.8
<b>Tetrachloroethane</b>	Volatile Organic	79-34-5	-22.9	146.7	226.0	2.1- 3.5	1.8 - 3.0
<b>L-menthol</b>	Terpene/Alcohol	2216-51-5	42-45		137.0	1.0- 50.0	0.9 - 42.5
<b>Decanol</b>	Alcohol	112-30-1	9.4		64.3	1.0- 10.0	0.9 - 8.5

\*Tetrachloroethan; \*\*Assuming exchange rate of 1 US dollar (USD) being equivalent to 0.85 euros (EUR).

**Table S10.** Experimental data of the partition coefficient and extraction efficiency of OFX obtained through a central composite design, using C10 acid: C12 acid (2:1) HES.

Run	Real variables			OFX extraction efficiency ( $EE_{\text{OFX}}\%$ )
	pH	OFX concentration	HES-water ratio (v/v)	
1	2.8	0.9	0.85	15.43
2	5.2	0.9	0.85	98.06
3	2.8	2.1	0.85	14.19
4	5.2	2.1	0.85	98.10
5	2.8	0.9	1.75	27.01
6	5.2	0.9	1.75	98.74
7	2.8	2.1	1.75	14.27
8	5.2	2.1	1.75	98.83
9	2.0	1.5	1.30	2.94
10	6.0	1.5	1.30	99.25
11	4.0	0.5	1.30	85.22
12	4.0	2.5	1.30	86.81
13	4.0	1.5	0.54	85.85
14	4.0	1.5	2.06	77.18
15	4.0	1.5	1.30	79.06
16	4.0	1.5	1.30	77.80
17	4.0	1.5	1.30	78.91
18	4.0	1.5	1.30	78.85
19	4.0	1.5	1.30	79.20
20	4.0	1.5	1.30	78.33

**Table S11.** Regression coefficients of the predicted second-order polynomial model for the OFX extraction efficiency obtained from the RSM,  $R^2 = 0.94$  and  $R_{adj}^2 = 0.89$ .

	<b>Regression coefficients</b>	<b>Standard deviation</b>	<b>t-student (10)</b>	<b>p-value</b>
Mean/Interc.	-207.03	3.55	-58.25	<0.0001
(1) pH (L)	100.13	0.98	101.59	<0.0001
pH (Q)	-8.89	0.10	-91.74	<0.0001
(2) C <sub>OFX</sub> (mg/ml) (L)	-0.45	1.82	-0.25	0.81
C <sub>OFX</sub> (mg/ml) (Q)	-1.27	0.39	-3.29	0.02
(3) HES-Water ratio (v/v) (L)	43.50	2.51	17.30	<0.0001
HES-Water ratio (v/v) (Q)	-10.12	0.69	-14.68	<0.0001
1L by 2L	2.45	0.26	9.41	<0.0001
1L by 3L	-2.37	0.35	-6.84	<0.0001
2L by 3L	-5.30	0.69	-7.64	<0.0001

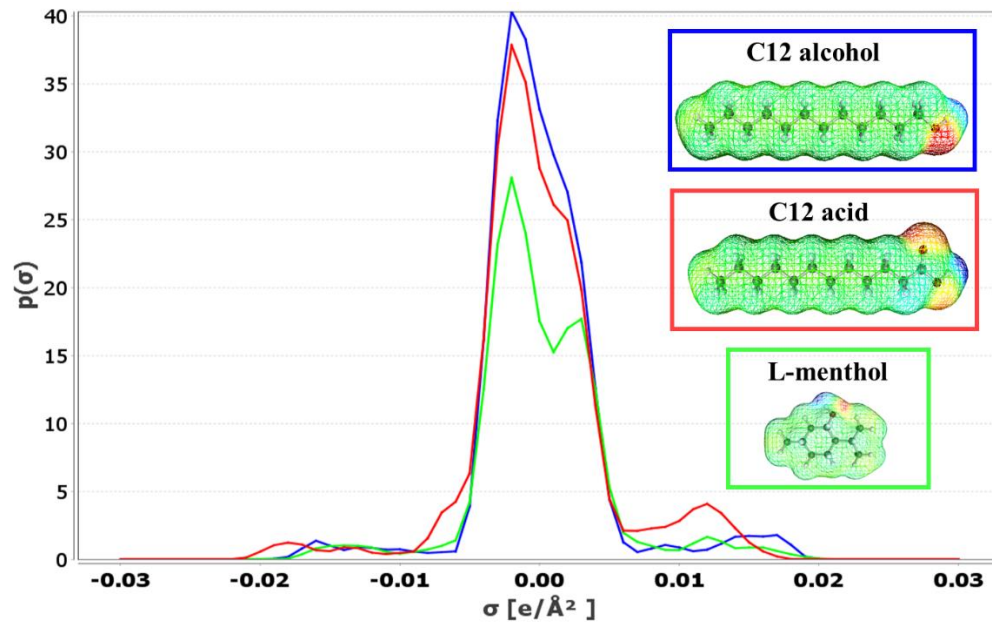
**Table S12.** ANOVA data for the OFX extraction efficiency obtained from the RSM.

	<b>SS</b>	<b>DF</b>	<b>Mean square</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>p-value</b>
Regress.	19657.08	9	2184.12	17.98	<0.0001
Residual	1214.58	10	121.46		
Total	20871.66				

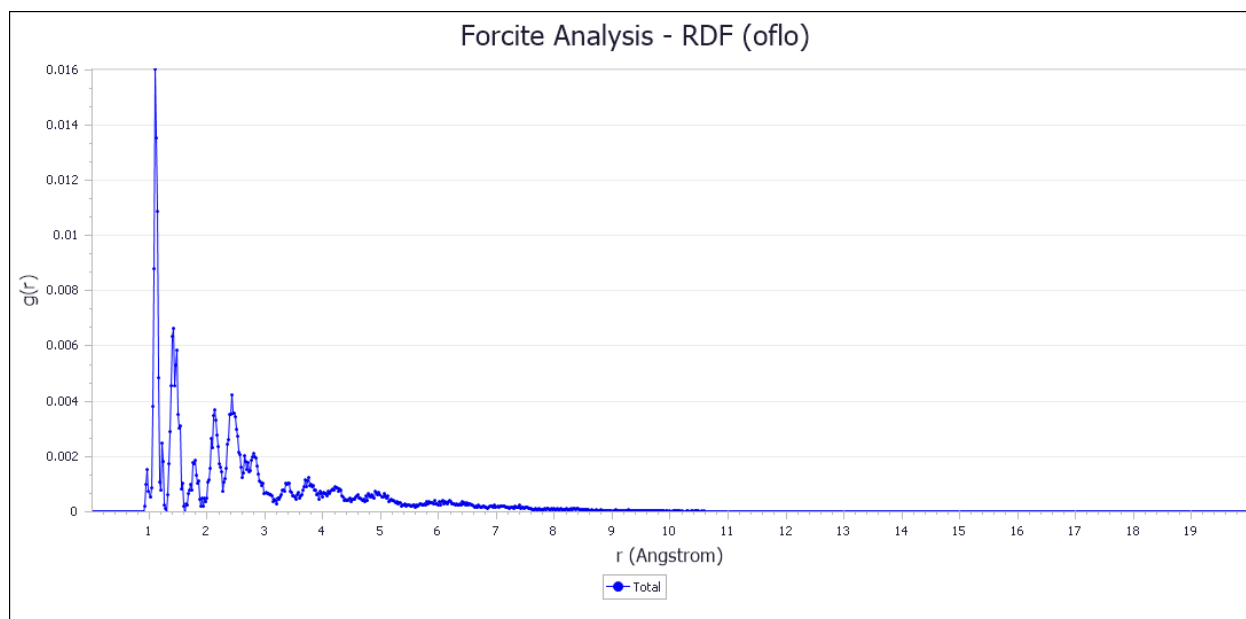
**Table S13.** The simulation parameters for RDF analysis.

<b>Molecule 1</b>	<b>Molecule 2 (HES)</b>	<b>Molar ratio (HBA:HBD)</b>	<b>Density (g/cm<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>Molecule1:Molecule2</b>	<b>Box size A×B×C (Å<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Ofloxacin	L-menthol:C10 acid	(1:2)	0.896	5:100	21.5×21.5×21.5
Ofloxacin	L-menthol:C10 acid	(2:1)	0.896	5:100	21.3×21.3×21.3
Ofloxacin	C8 acid:C10 acid	(2:1)	0.901	5:100	20.9×20.9×20.9
Ofloxacin	C10 acid:C12 acid	(2:1)	0.892	5:100	22.1×22.1×22.1
Ofloxacin	C10 acid:C10 alcohol	(2:1)	0.849	5:100	21.9×21.9×21.9

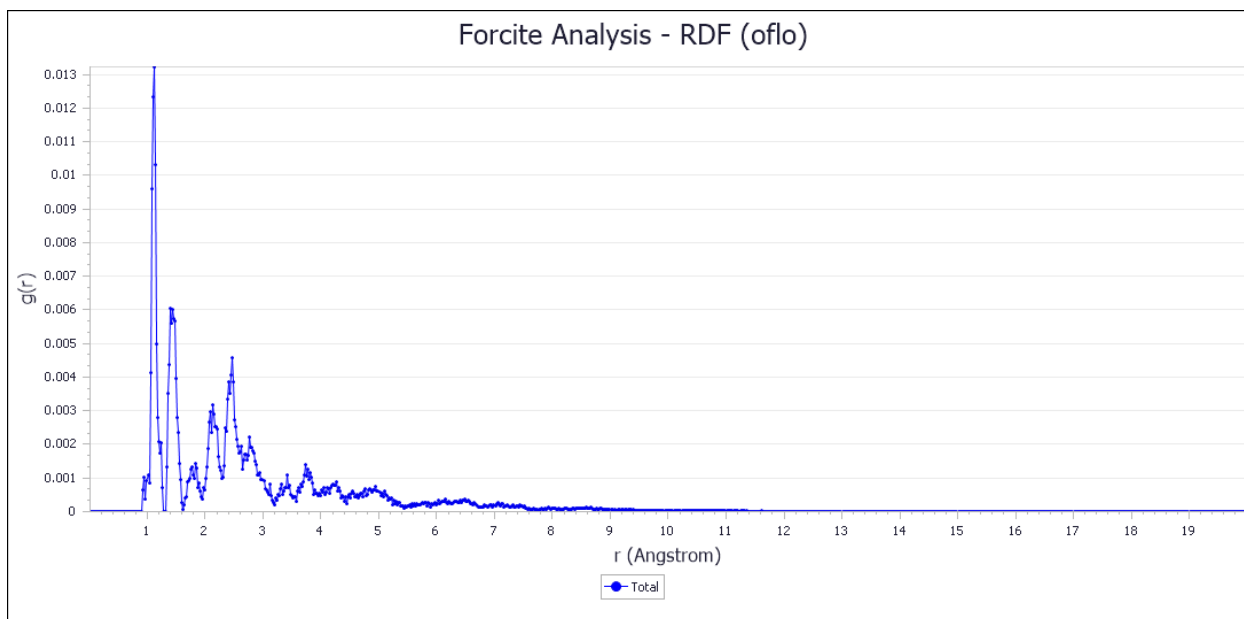
## Figures



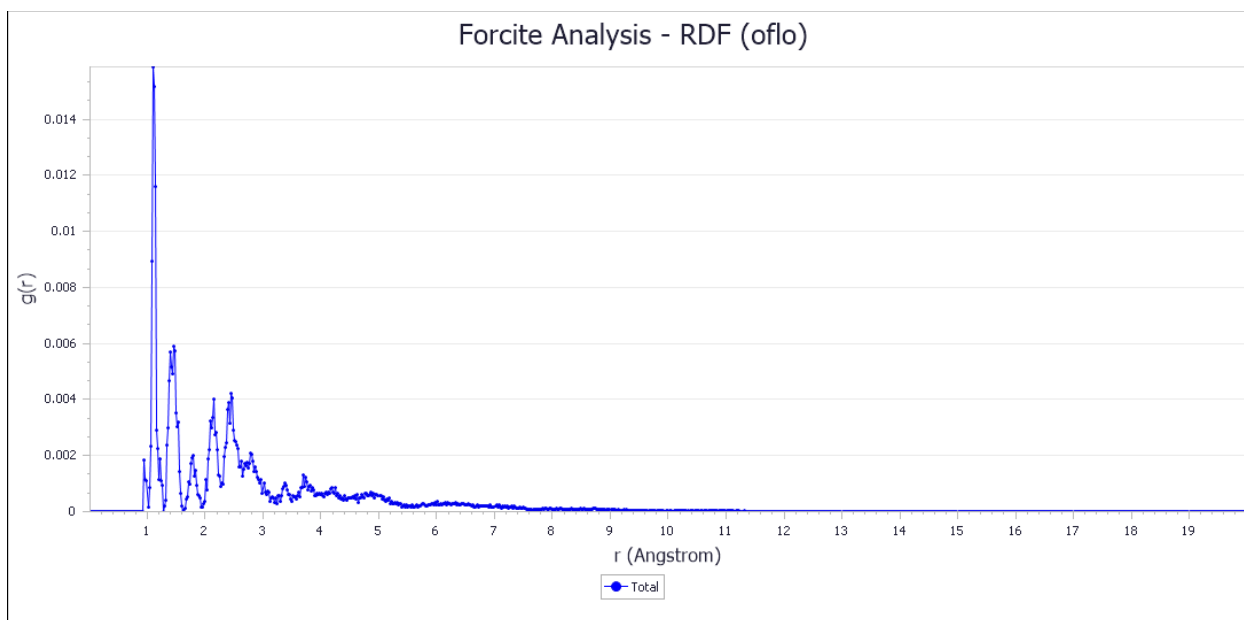
**Figure S1.** The  $\sigma$ -profiles of the components studied in the HES formation.



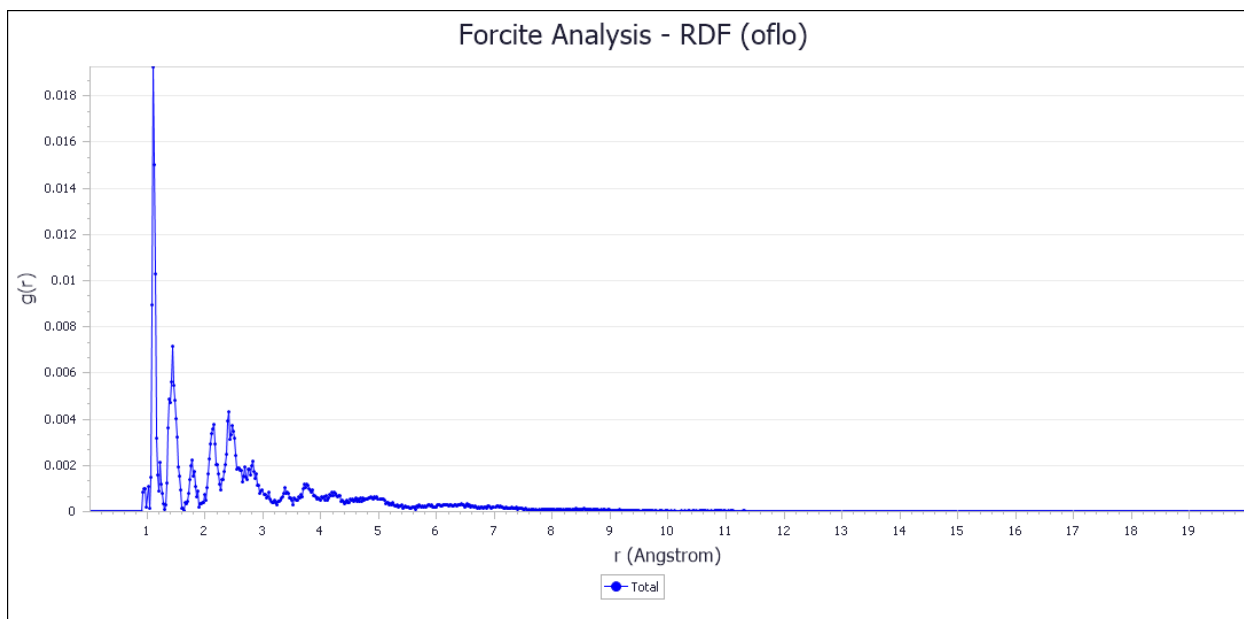
**Figure S2.** Radial distribution function (RDF) L-menthol:C10 acid (1:2) between the and OFX.



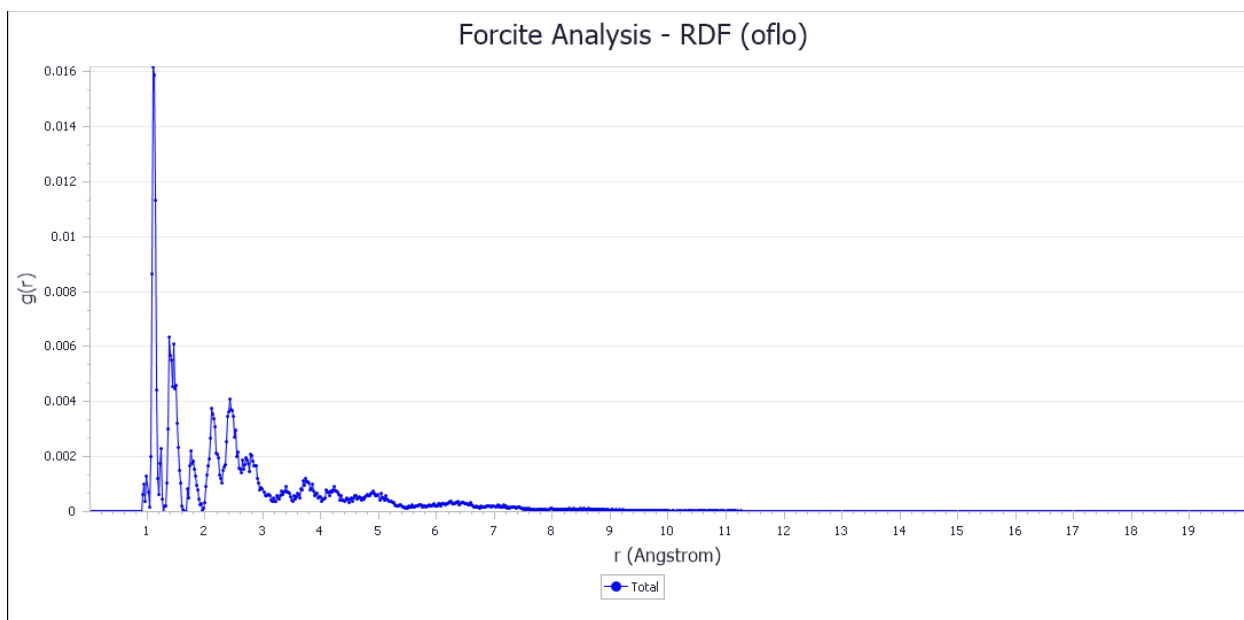
**Figure S3.** Radial distribution function (RDF) L-menthol:C10 acid (2:1) between the and OFX.



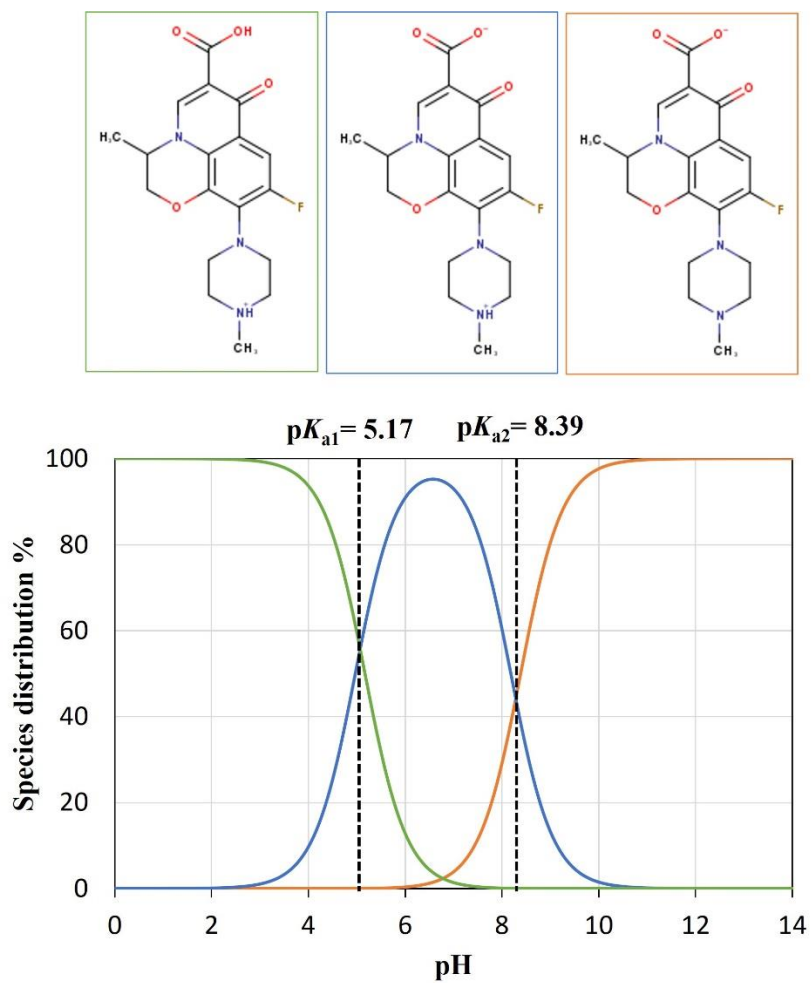
**Figure S4.** Radial distribution function (RDF) C8 acid:C10 acid (2:1) between the and OFX.



**Figure S5.** Radial distribution function (RDF) C10 acid:C12 acid (2:1) between the and OFX.

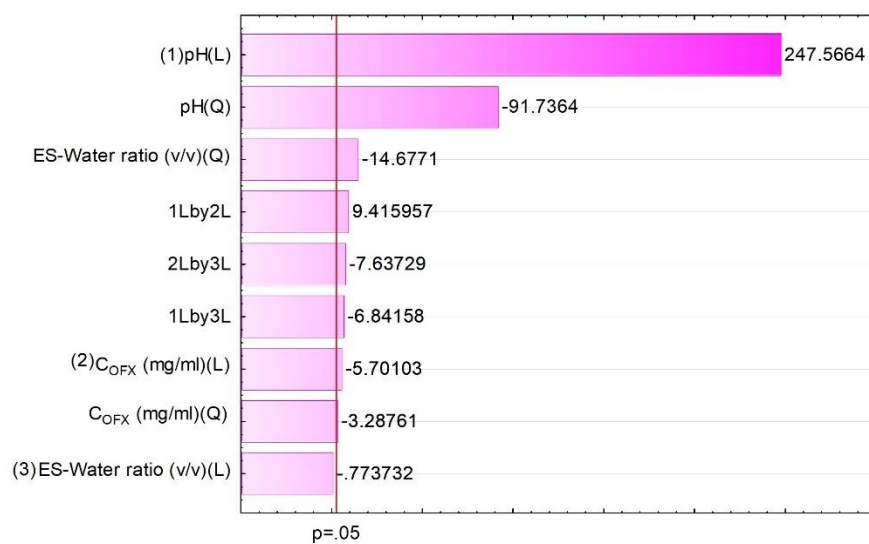


**Figure S6.** Radial distribution function (RDF) C10 acid:C10 alcohol (2:1) between the and OFX.

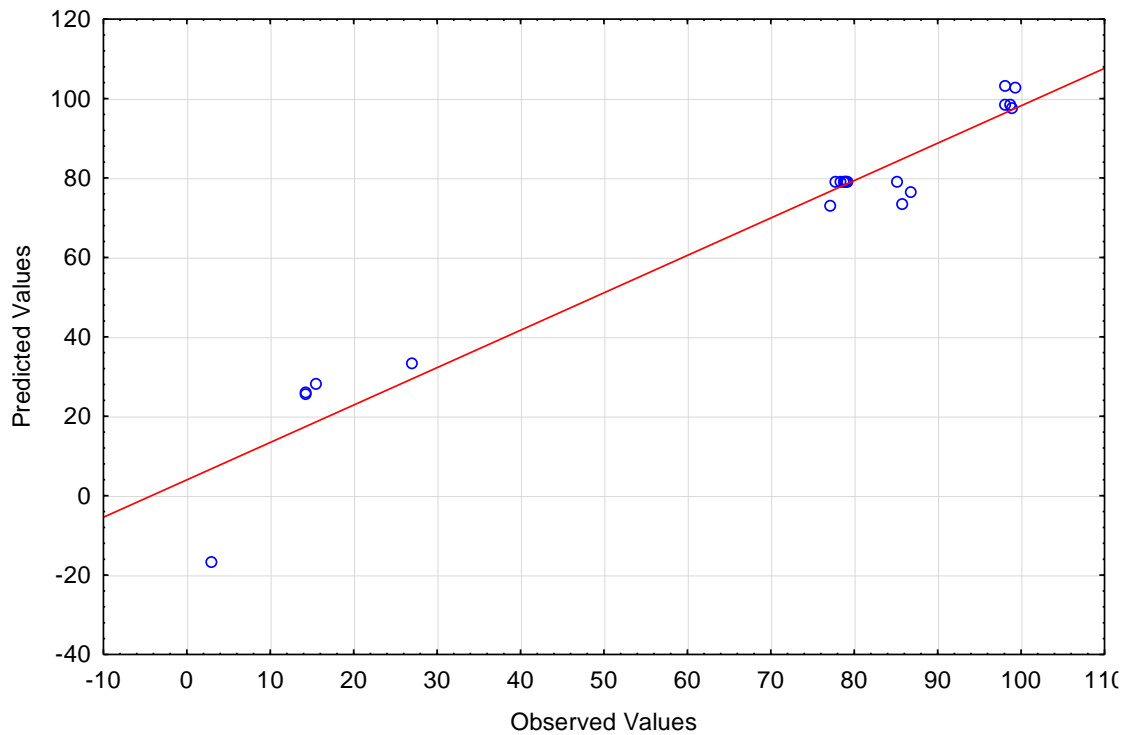


**Figure S7.** Distribution of distinct forms of OFX at different values of pH [25].

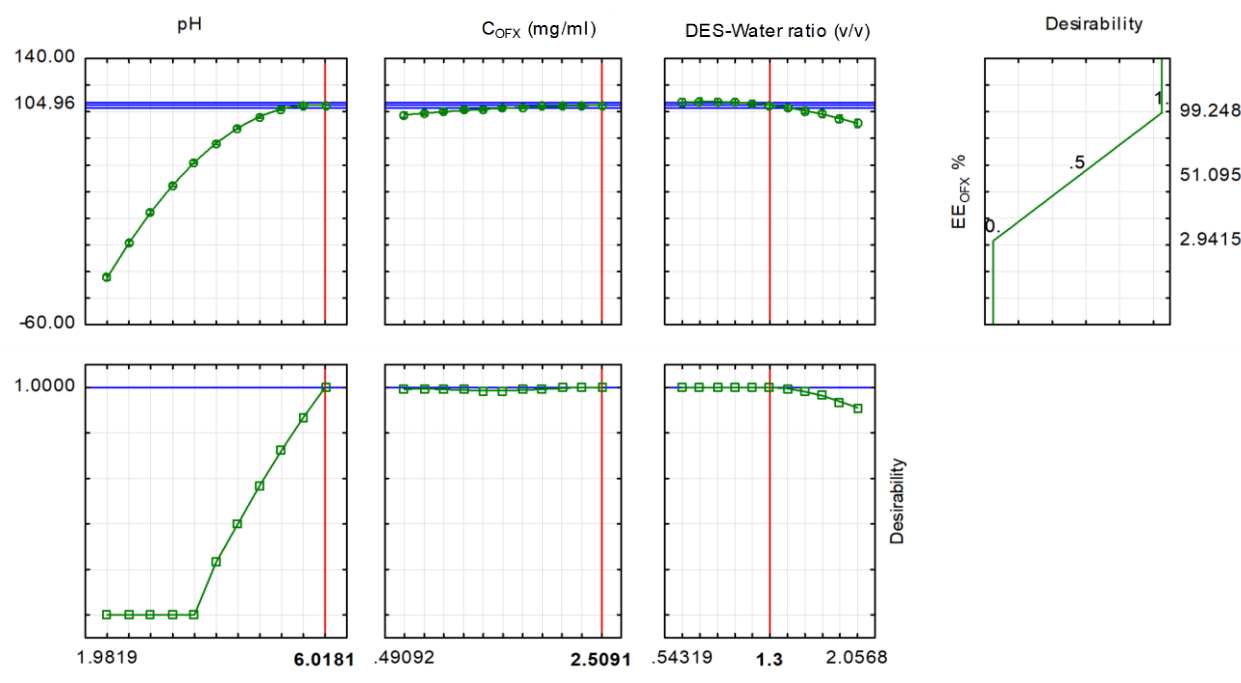




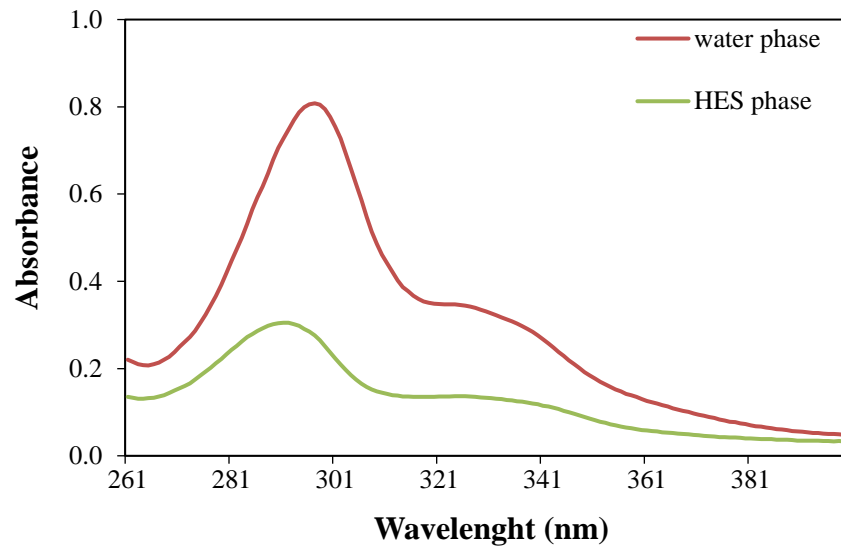
**Figure S8.** Pareto chart for the standardized main effects in the factor central composite design for the OFX extraction efficiency ( $EE_{\text{OFX}}\%$ ), with 95% of confidence.



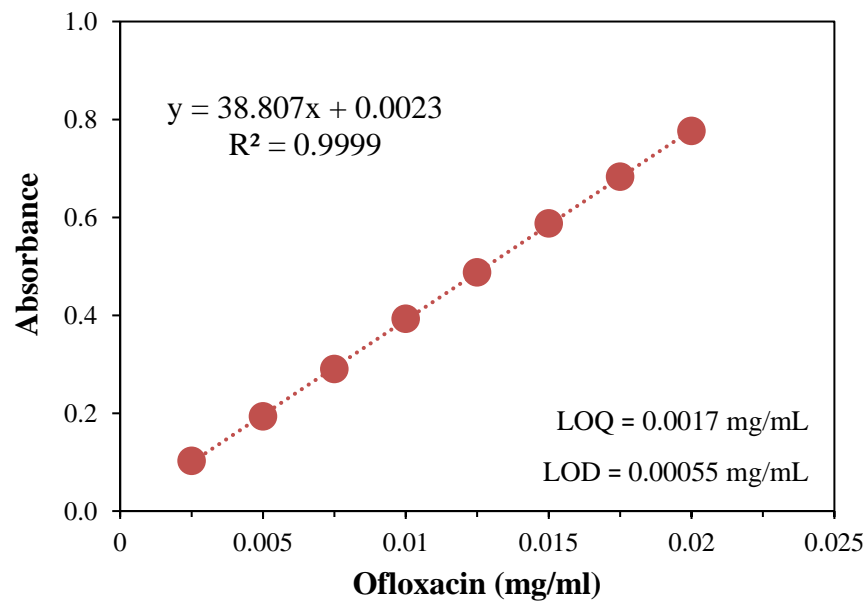
**Figure S9.** Predict vs observed values of the OFX extraction efficiency ( $EE_{\text{OFX}}\%$ ) from central composite design.



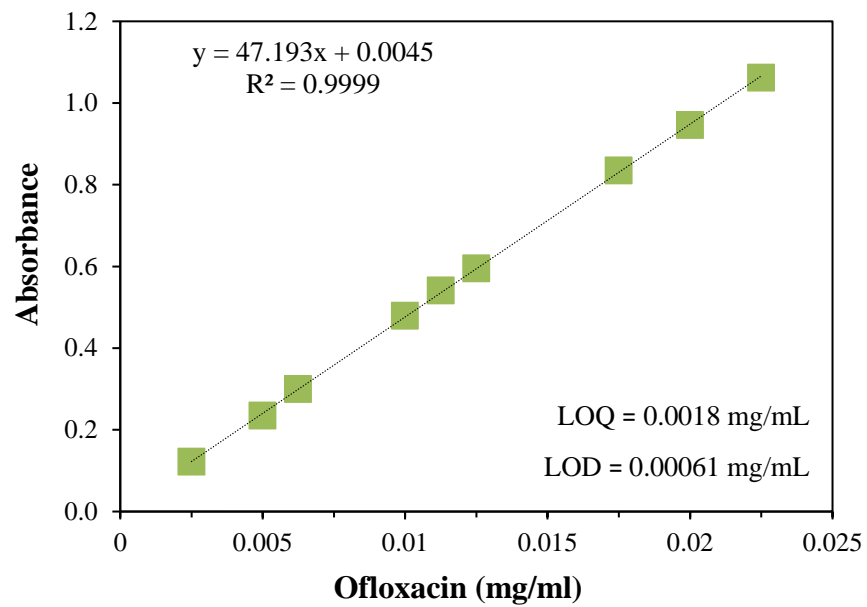
**Figure S10.** The optimized conditions for maximum partition and extraction of OFX.



**Figure S11.** UV-Vis spectra showing the maximum wavelengths of OFX in water and HES phases.



**Figure S12.** Calibration curve of ofloxacin for HES phase, where LOQ corresponds to the limit of quantification and LOD corresponds to the limit of detection.



**Figure S13.** Calibration curve of ofloxacin for HES phase, where LOQ corresponds to the limit of quantification and LOD corresponds to the limit of detection.

## **Procedures**

### **Liquid-Liquid Extraction (LLE)**

The extraction was performed by mixing an equal volume of the HES and an aqueous solution containing OFX at a concentration of 1 mg/ml. The initial mixture was stirred at 50 rpm and  $(25 \pm 1)$  °C for at least 12 h to promote contact between the two phases. Afterward, the HES was completely separated from the water phase by centrifugation (at 10000 rpm for 10 min in an Eppendorf 5804 centrifuge). In the studied LLE, the top phase corresponds to the HES phase, while the bottom phase is the water phase. After a careful separation of phases, the OFX was quantified in both phases by a UV-spectrophotometry utilizing a SYNERGY|HT microplate reader, BioTek, at a wavelength of 297 nm and 292 nm for HES and water phases (see Figure S11), respectively, using calibration curves (see Figures S12 and S13) previously established. At least three different experiments were performed to determine the average values for partition coefficient and extraction efficiency and their respective standard deviations. In addition, the possible influence of solvents on the quantification method was evaluated using blank control samples.

### **The radial distribution function (RDF) analysis**

The radial distribution function analysis (RDF) for measuring intermolecular interactions was conducted using Material Studio's forcite module, following reported methods from previous studies and Material Studio tutorials [26]. To ensure consistent and accurate results during the simulation, specifying input parameters such as the number of molecules and density is crucial (refer to Table S13 for these data). Moreover, in Material Studio, the choice of forcefield and step length is pivotal, as their sizes influence the duration of computer simulations and the accuracy of performance. In the present analysis, a step length of 1fs and the COMPASS forcefield were selected through extensive trial and error. Following the replication of 3D structures of molecules, geometry optimization was carried out to attain the stable molecular structure. The initial simulation model in the Materials Studio Software was created using the Amorphous Cell module. Initially, the atoms of the model do not evenly share the cubic unit cell. To address this, geometry optimization is performed in the forcite module to minimize the overall energy of the simulation box. Employing three-dimensional periodic boundary

conditions, the cell utilizes the Ewald electrostatic summation method [26]. Energy minimization is carried out using the smart minimization method. Subsequently, under the NVT ensemble (a simulation protocol where the number of atoms (N), volume (V), and temperature (T) are assumed to be constant), a 200 ps Molecular Dynamics (MD) run is conducted to achieve appropriate cell equilibration [26]. To produce a more realistic model, the amorphous cell or simulation model undergoes annealing. A time step of 1fs is chosen to prevent overlap of molecules within the box. To maintain a constant pressure of 1 atm and attain equilibrium density, The simulation box includes 100 molecules of each HES and 5 molecules of ofloxacin.

## References

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