

Molecular imprinting of bovine serum albumin and lysozyme within the matrix of polyampholyte hydrogels based on acrylamide, sodium salt of 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid and (3-acrylamidopropyl) trimethyl ammonium chloride

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Molecularly-imprinted polyampholyte (MIP) hydrogels based on nonionic monomer – acrylamide (AAm), anionic monomer – sodium salt of 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid (AMPS) and cationic monomer – (3-acrylamidopropyl)trimethyl ammonium chloride (APTAC) were obtained by immobilization of bovine serum albumin (BSA) and lysozyme *in situ* polymerization conditions. It was found that the best ampholytic hydrogel for sorption of BSA is APTAC-75H while for sorption of lysozyme is AMPS-75H. The sorption capacity of APTAC-75H and AMPS-75H with respect to BSA and lysozyme is 305.7 and 64.1-74.8 mg per 1 g of hydrogel respectively. Desorption of BSA and lysozyme from MIP template performed by aqueous solution of 1M NaCl is equal to 82-88%. Separation of BSA and lysozyme from their mixture was performed on MIP templates. The results of adsorption-desorption cycles of BSA on adjusted to BSA polyampholyte hydrogel APTAC-75H and of lysozyme on adjusted to lysozyme polyampholyte hydrogel AMPS-75H show that the mixture of BSA and lysozyme can be selectively separated with the help of MIP hydrogels.

Keywords: molecularly imprinted polyampholyte hydrogels; bovine serum albumin, lysozyme, sorption-desorption; separation of proteins.

Акриламид, 2-акриламидо-2-метил-1-пропансульфон қышқылының натрий тұзы және (3-акриламидопропил)-триметиламмоний хлориді негізіндегі полиамфолитті гидрогельдер матрицасынан бұқа сарысу альбумині (БСА) мен лизоцимнің молекулалық импринтингі

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Бейионды мономер – акриламид (ААм), анионды мономер – 2-акриламидо-2-метил-1-пропансульфон қышқылының натрий тұзы (АМПС) және катионды мономер – (3-акриламидопропил)-триметиламмоний хлориді (АПТАХ) негізіндегі молекулалық – импринтингті полиамфолитті гидрогельдерге (МИП) бұқа сарысу альбумині (БСА) мен лизоцимді *in situ* полимерлеу жағдайында иммобилизациялау арқылы синтезделді. Гидрогельдердің ақуыздарға қатысты максималды сорбциялық қасиеттері БСА үшін АПТАХ-75Г, ал лизоцим үшін АМПС-75Г екендігі анықталды. АПТАХ-75Г және АМПС-75Г гидрогельдердің БСА және лизоцим үшін сорбциялық сымдылығы 1 г гидрогелге сәйкес 305,7 және 64,1-74,8 мг құрады. МИП гидрогель матрицасынан 1М NaCl сулы ерітіндісіне БСА және лизоцимнің десорбциялану дәрежесі 82-88% құрайды. Ақуыздардың қоспасынан БСА және лизоцимді бөліп алу тәжірибелері жүргізілді. БСАны АПТАХ-75Г және лизоцимді АМПС-75Г МИП гидрогельдеріне бірнеше рет адсорбция-десорбция жасау арқылы, гидрогельдерді талғампаздыққа бейімдеп, оларды одан әрі селективті бөлуде қолдануға болатынын көрсетті.

Түйін сөздер: молекулалық-импринтингті полиамфолитті гидрогельдер; бұқа сарысу альбумині; лизоцим; сорбция-десорбция; ақуыздарды бөлу.

Молекулярный импринтинг бычьего сывороточного альбумина (БСА) и лизоцима в матрицу полиамфолитных гидрогелей на основе акриламида, натриевой соли 2-акриламидо-2-метил-1-пропансульфонової кислоты и (3-акриламидопропил)-триметиламмоний хлорида

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Молекулярно-импринтированные полиамфолитные гидрогели (МИП) на основе неионогенного мономера – акриламида (ААм), анионного мономера – натриевой соли 2-акриламидо-2-метил-1-пропансульфонової кислоты (АМПС) и катионного мономера – хлорид (3-акриламидопропил)-триметиламмония (АПТАХ) получены путем иммобилизации бычьего сывороточного альбумина (БСА) и лизоцима в условиях *in situ* полимеризации. Установлено, что максимальную сорбционную способность по отношению к БСА проявляет гидрогель АПТАХ-75Г, тогда как для лизоцима – гидрогель АМПС-75Г. Сорбционная емкость АПТАХ-75Г и АМПС-75Г по отношению к БСА и лизоциму составляет 305,7 и 64,1-74,8 мг на 1 г гидрогеля соответственно. Степень десорбции БСА и лизоцима из матрицы МИП гидрогеля водным раствором 1М NaCl составляет 82-88%. Проведены эксперименты по разделению БСА и лизоцима из их смеси. Результаты циклической адсорбции-десорбции БСА на МИП гидрогеле АПТАХ-75Г и лизоцима на МИП гидрогеле АМПС-75Г показывают, что смесь БСА и лизоцима может быть селективно разделена с помощью настроенных МИП гидрогелей.

Ключевые слова: молекулярно-импринтированные полиамфолитные гидрогели; бычий сывороточный альбумин; лизоцим; сорбция-десорбция; разделение белков.



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(This paper is dedicated to 70th anniversary of Professor Sarkyt E. Kudaibergenov)

1. Introduction

Molecularly imprinted polyampholyte (MIP) hydrogels and cryogels [1] are perspective materials for biomedical applications [2-6]. Macroporous amphoteric polyampholytes based on *N,N*-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate and methacrylic acid (MAA) [7], *N*-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] methacrylate and MAA [8], *N,N*-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide and acrylic acid (AA) [9], acrylamide, methacrylic acid and *N,N*-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate [10] were used as a templates, adsorbents and carriers with respect to bovine serum albumin (BSA), lysozyme and cytochrome C.

The imprinting capability of polyampholyte cryogels as templates with respect to lysozyme, pepsin, ovalbumin, hemoglobin, and γ -globulin was compared [11]. An imprinting factor (IF) calculated by the formula: $IF = k_{MIP}/k_{NIP}$ (where k_{MIP} and k_{NIP} are the retention factors on the molecularly imprinted polyampholyte – MIP and non imprinted polyampholyte – NIP) changed in the following order: lysozyme >> ovalbumin > hemoglobin > pepsin > γ -globulin.

Molecularly imprinted polyampholyte hydrogel with respect to BSA was prepared from acrylamide (AAm), *N*-isopropylacrylamide (NIPAM), [2-(methacryloyloxy)ethyl] trimethylammonium chloride (METMAC), and 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid (AMPS) monomers with MBAA as the crosslinker [12]. The morphology of molecularly imprinted polyampholyte hydrogels (MIPAHs) and non-imprinted polyampholyte hydrogels (NIPAHs) showed that the pore

diameter of MIPAHs is larger than NIPAHs. The ideal conditions for preparing MIPAHs were found, including AAm concentration, NIPAM/AAm molar ratio, charge density ratio (expressed as METMAC/AMPS molar ratio), and crosslinking density.

Earlier [13-15] we described the synthetic protocol of linear and crosslinked quenched polyampholytes based on sodium salt of 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid (AMPS) and cationic monomer – (3-acrylamidopropyl)trimethyl ammonium chloride (APTAC), studied the behavior in aqueous-salt solutions, evaluated the swelling properties and complexation with respect to ionic dyes and surfactants. The rheological, mechanical and self-healing properties of hydrophobically-modified AMPS-APTAC hydrogels were investigated [16]. Behaviors of quenched polyampholytes in solution and gel state were also reviewed [17].

In spite of numerous publications devoted to imprinting of proteins within polyampholyte hydrogels available information on molecularly imprinted quenched polyampholytes for immobilization of biomacromolecules are frequently lacking. This paper considers the molecular imprinting of BSA and lysozyme within quenched polyampholyte hydrogels to develop the molecularly imprinted polyampholyte system for binding, separation and purification of target proteins from a mixture.

2. Experiment

2.1. Materials

Proteins – bovine serum albumin (BSA), lysozyme, and monomers – 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid

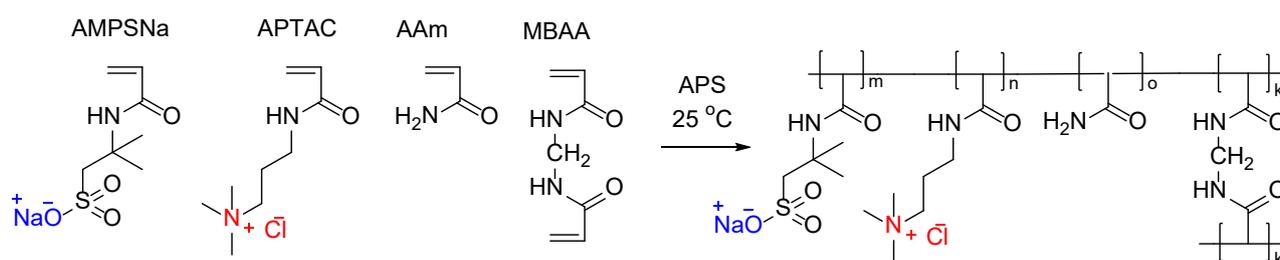


Figure 1 – Polymerization protocol of AMPS-75H and APTAC-75H hydrogels

sodium salt (AMPS, 50 wt.%) and (3-acrylamidopropyl) trimethylammonium chloride (APTAC, 75 wt.% in water), acrylamide (AAm, 99% purity), crosslinking agent *N,N'*-methylenebisacrylamide (MBAA, 99% purity), red-ox initiator ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$, 99% purity) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co., and used without further purification. Reagent grade sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid were used.

2.2. Methods

UV-Vis spectra were recorded on UV-Vis spectroscopy (Specord 210 plus, Germany). FTIR spectra of samples were registered on a Cary 660 FTIR (Agilent, USA). Dynamic light scattering (DLS) and zeta-potential measurements were provided with the help of Zetasizer NanoZS 90 (Malvern, UK). pH of the solution was measured by 905 Titrand (Metrohm, Switzerland). Centrifugation of samples was carried out on the centrifuge Z 206 A (HERMLE Labortechnik, Germany) at 6000 r.p.m.

2.3. Synthesis of APTAC-AMPS-AAm (APTAC-75H) and AMPS-APTAC-AAm (AMPS-75H) polyampholyte hydrogels

APTAC-AMPS-AAm (APTAC-75H) and AMPS-APTAC-AAm (AMPS-75H) hydrogels were synthesized at various initial molar ratio of monomers and crosslinker (Figure 1). The content of charged monomers in APTAC-75H was equal to 10 and 20 mol.% while in AMPS-75H is 10 mol.% respectively (Table 1).

After polymerization the AMPS-75H and APTAC-75H hydrogel samples were washed sequentially using distilled and deionized water for one week, in order to remove the sol fraction.

Table 1 – Synthetic protocol of AMPS-75H and APTAC-75H hydrogels

Polyampholyte hydrogels	APTAC, mol.%	AMPS, mol.%	AAm, mol.%	MBAA, mol.%
APTAC-75H	7.5	2.5	85	5
APTAC-75H	15	5	75	5
AMPS-75H	2.5	7.5	85	5

2.4. Imprinting of proteins into the matrix of AMPS-75H and APTAC-75H polyampholytic hydrogels

Imprinting of BSA and lysozyme within the strong charged polyampholyte hydrogels was carried out by the following scheme (Figure 2):



Figure 2 – Immobilization scheme of proteins within the network of polyampholytes

The sense of molecular imprinting is that after removal of the template the leaving cavities possess size, shape and functional environment which are complementary to the target molecule. In our case the selected protein or enzyme was mixed with AMPS, APTAC and crosslinker – MBAA (5 mol.%) and polymerized at room temperature. The template was removed by washing of hydrogel samples by 1M NaCl several times. APTAC-75H with excess of cationic monomer was suitable for adsorption of BSA while AMPS-75H with excess of anionic monomer – for adsorption of lysozyme.

The synthetic protocol of MIP adjusted to BSA is the following. To vial containing 0.1 g of BSA preliminary dissolved in 20 mL of deionized water the monomers APTAC, AMPS, AAm and crosslinking agent MBAA were added, stirred 30 min and purged 20 min by nitrogen to remove the dissolved oxygen. After addition of red-ox initiator ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$), the mixture was stirred 20 sec and the vial was sealed with screwing band. The mass concentration of monomers in mixture was equal to 10 mol.%. To avoid the denaturation of BSA, the polymerization reaction was carried out at room temperature during 18-20 h. The obtained monolithic gel sample was washed by deionized water and crushed through the sieve with mesh screen 125 μm .

For removal of the imprinted BSA from the AMPS-75H hydrogel matrix 1 g of hydrogel paste was added to 20 mL of 1M NaCl solution and shaken in centrifugal shaker at 300-350 r.p.m. during 20 min. The microgel particles were precipitated on

centrifuge at 6000 r.p.m. and an aliquot was taken from the supernatant to determine the concentration of BSA by UV-Vis spectrophotometer at 279 nm. The microgel particles were washed out by 1M NaCl until disappearance of absorption peak of BSA in supernatant. The absence of BSA in supernatant was qualified as washing out of all imprinted BSA from hydrogel matrix.

The procedure described above was used for imprinting of lysozyme to and washing out from the polyampholyte hydrogel matrix APTAC-75H.

2.5. Sorption of BSA and lysozyme by imprinted MIP

Templated microgel particles preliminary adjusted to BSA (AMPS-75H) and/or lysozyme (APTAC-75H) were used afterwards for sorption of proteins. For this 10 mL 0.2 wt.% BSA (or lysozyme) was added to templated microgel particles, shaken in centrifugal shaker at 300-350 r.p.m. during 20 min. Then the mixture of BSA (or lysozyme) and microgel particles was centrifuged at 6000 r.p.m. during 10 min. The supernatant was separated from the precipitate, weighed followed by determination of protein concentration at $\lambda = 279$ nm. Such procedure was repeated until the concentration of protein in supernatant remained constant showing the completeness of adsorption process.

2.6. Desorption of BSA and lysozyme from the MIP

Desorption of BSA (or lysozyme) from the MIPs preliminary adjusted to BSA (AMPS-75H) and/or lysozyme (APTAC-75H) was performed as described in previous section. Threefold washing of AMPS-75H and APTAC-75H by 1M NaCl leads to full removal of BSA and lysozyme from imprinted hydrogel matrix.

2.7. Separation of the mixture of BSA and lysozyme by MIPs

For separation of the mixture of BSA and lysozyme by MIPs the following experiments were carried out. 10 mL 0.1 wt.% mixture of BSA and lysozyme was added to templated microgel particles AMPS-75H adjusted to BSA or to templated microgel particles APTAC-75H adjusted to lysozyme, shaken in centrifugal shaker at 300-350 r.p.m. during 20 min. Then the microgel particles was centrifuged at 6000 r.p.m. during 10 min. The supernatant was separated from the precipitate followed by determination of the isoelectric points of proteins and concentrations at $\lambda = 279$ nm.

2.8. Determination of the isoelectric points (IEPs) of BSA and lysozyme in water

The IEPs of BSA and lysozyme were determined in aqueous solution measuring the pH dependence of zeta-potential. In our case the values of the IEPs of BSA and lysozyme determined by zeta-potential measurement were equal to 4.58 and ≈ 10 respectively. However the IEP of lysozyme deviates from the value of the IEP determined at the ionic strength 0.1 ($\text{pH}_{\text{IEP}} 11.3$) [18]. This is probably due to different ionization degree of acid-base groups of lysozyme in pure water and saline solution.

3. Results and Discussion

Figure 3 shows the amount of removed BSA during three times washing of APTAC-75H crosslinked by 10 and 20 mol.% of MBAA by 0.1M NaCl.

It is seen that comprehensive removal of BSA from APTAC-75H crosslinked by 10 and 20 mol.% of MBAA takes place during 3 times washing by 1M NaCl. Approximately 82-84% of BSA is desorbed from the molecularly-imprinted APTAC-75H. Figure 4 demonstrates the amount of adsorbed and desorbed BSA by APTAC-75H the cavity of which was preliminary adjusted to BSA. Charge density in APTAC-75H plays the crucial role in adsorption of BSA. APTAC-75H with charge density 20 mol.% much higher retains BSA (306 mg) compared to APTAC-75H containing 10 mol.% of ionic monomers.

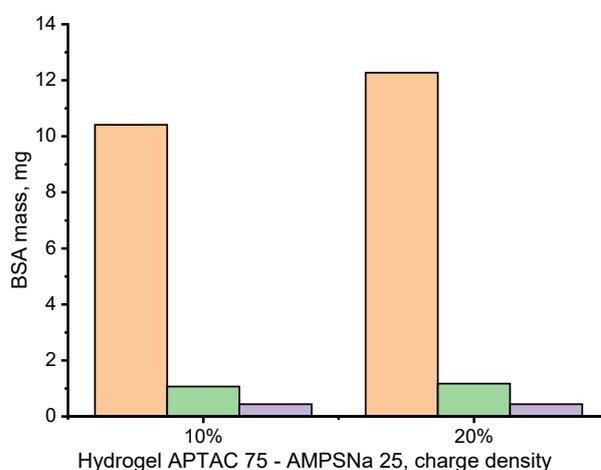


Figure 3 – Amount of BSA washed out from the APTAC-75H crosslinked by 10 and 20 mol.% of MBAA during three times washing by 1M solution of NaCl

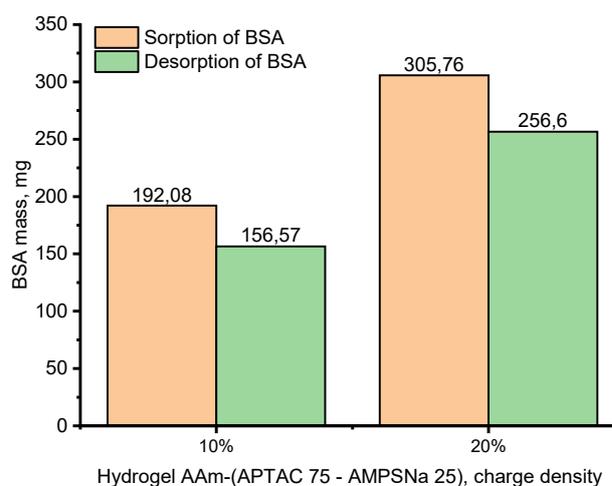


Figure 4 – Sorption to and desorption from molecularly-imprinted samples of APTAC-75H preliminary adjusted to BSA. The crosslinking degree of APTAC-75H is 10 and 20 mol.%

Analogous experiments were carried out with lysozyme that is positively charged at initial pH 6.57 (Figures 5,6). It is seen that comprehensive removal of lysozyme from AMPS-75H crosslinked by 10 and 20 mol.% of MBAA takes place during 3 times washing by 1M NaCl. Adsorption of lysozyme on AMPS-75H is much lower and in the range of 66-74.8 mg irrespective the charge density. Approximately 74-85.7% of lysozyme is washed out from the molecularly-imprinted AMPS-75H by 1M NaCl.

Table 2 represents the results of sorption of BSA and lysozyme on APTAC-75H imprinted for BSA and AMPS-75H imprinted for lysozyme.

Table 2 – Sorption of BSA and lysozyme on APTAC-75H and AMPS-75H imprinted for BSA and lysozyme

Protein	Concentration, %	Sorption, %	Sorption, mg/g
APTAC-75H			
Lysozyme	0.1	1.02	7.58
AMPS-75H"			
BSA	0.1	No sorption	No sorption

As seen from Table 2 the positively charged lysozyme at pH 6.57 is not adsorbed on positively charged APTAC-75H while the negatively charged BSA at pH 6.57 is not adsorbed on AMPS-75H that has the negatively charged matrix. However it should be noted that some parts of proteins can be retained on the "dead" volumes of hydrogels as a result of mechanical capturing or physically adsorption on the surface of hydrogels.

Separation of the mixture of BSA and lysozyme by MIPs adjusted to either BSA (APTAC-75H) or lysozyme (AMPS-75H) was complicated due to complex formation between two proteins in the range of pH 7.5-10.8. Our results are in good agreement with data of authors [18].

Table 3 shows the results of selective adsorption-desorption cycles of BSA on imprinted for BSA APTAC-75H polyampholyte hydrogel and selective adsorption-desorption cycles of lysozyme on imprinted for lysozyme AMPS-75H polyampholyte hydrogel from the mixture of BSA and lysozyme when the solution is turbid due to complexation of proteins (formation coacervate complexes) in the range of pH 7.4-10.8.

Table 3 – Cyclic selective sorption-desorption of BSA and lysozyme from their mixture by molecularly-imprinted polyampholyte hydrogels (MIPH) AMPS-75 and APTAC-75

MIP/ Protein	Cycle 1		Cycle 2		Cycle 3	
	Sorption, mg	Desorption, mg/%	Sorption, mg	Desorption, mg/%	Sorption, mg	Desorption, mg/%
APTAC-75H/BSA	20.37	16.7/82	15.42	13.41/87	12.01	10.09/84
AMPS-75H/Lysozyme	9.52	7.9/83	6.31	5.55/88	4.64	3.62/78

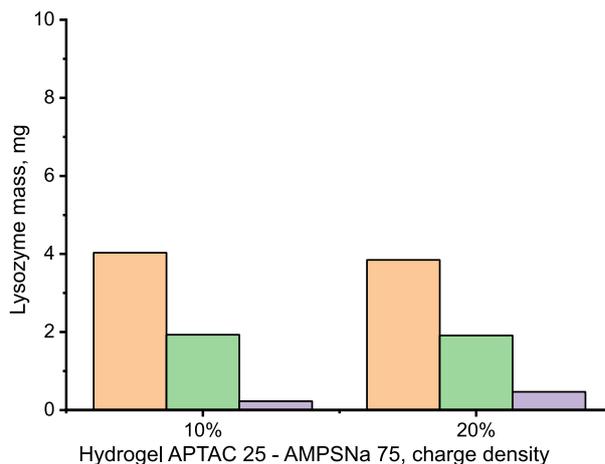


Figure 5 – Amount of lysozyme washed out from the AMPS-75H hydrogel matrix crosslinked by 10 and 20 mol.% of MBAA during three times washing by 1M solution of NaCl

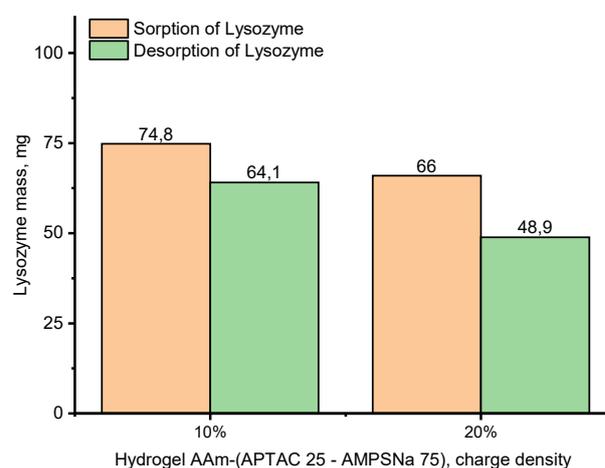


Figure 6 – Sorption to and desorption from molecularly-imprinted samples of AMPS-75H preliminary adjusted to lysozyme. The crosslinking degree of AMPS-75H is 10 and 20 mol.%

In the course of sorption BSA-lysozyme complex by APTAC-75H or AMPS-75H it is expected at first the destruction of protein complex and then adsorption of the target protein.

Table 4 – Sorption efficiency of MIP hydrogels with respect to proteins and drugs.

MIP hydrogels	Protein or drug	Sorption, mg/g	Reference
APTAC-75H	BSA	3060	present work
AMPS-75H	Lysozyme	660-750	
AAm-MAA-DMAEMA ^a	Lysozyme	22	19
AAm-MAA-DMAEMA ^{a,d}		<10	
AAm-MAA-DMAEMA ^b		431	
AAm-MAA-DMAEMA ^{b,d}		150	
AAm-MAA-DMAEMA ^c		125	
AAm-MAA-DMAEMA ^{c,d}		44	
NIPA-APMA-Ibu ^e	Ibuprofen	275	
NIPA-AAc-Prop ^f	Propranolol	80	
M15M'01DC05L10 ^g	Lysozyme	39	21
M15M'02DC05L10 ^g		199	
M15M'05DC05L10 ^g		313	
AAm-NIPAAm-DMC-AMPS-MBAAm	BSA	1,7	22
AAm-NIPAAm-DMC-AMPS-MBAAm	Lysozyme	0,75	
AAm-NIPAAm-DMC-AMPS-MBAAm	Ovalbumin	0,7	

a – monomer concentration in hydrogel is 4 % w/w.

b – monomer concentration in hydrogel is 20 % w/w.

c – monomer concentration in hydrogel is 40 % w/w.

d – runs are carried out at the different concentration of aqueous NaCl solution.

e – hydrogels were immersed 4.75 mM drug aqueous solutions at 4°C

f – hydrogels were immersed 1 mM drug aqueous solutions at 4°C

g – hydrogel based on NIPAAm-MAA-MBAAm

Table 4 shows the sorption capacity of different MIP hydrogels tested with respect to various proteins and drugs. It is seen that MIP hydrogels based on APTAC-75H and AMPS-75H demonstrate considerable high efficiency towards BSA and lysozyme respectively in comparison with described in literature.

4. Conclusion

Molecularly-imprinted polyampholyte hydrogels AMPS-75H and APTAC-75H are proved effective tool for separation of

the mixture of BSA and lysozyme. The cyclic selective sorption-desorption of BSA and lysozyme from their mixture is in the range of 78-84% and clearly demonstrates the separation of target proteins by MIP.

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