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Data Article

Visualization data on the freezing process of micrometer-scaled aqueous citric acid drops

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ABSTRACT

The visualization data (8 movies) presented in this article are related to the research article entitled "Freezing and glass transitions upon cooling and warming and ice/freeze-concentration-solution morphology of emulsified aqueous citric acid" (A. Bogdan, M.J. Molina, H. Tenhu, 2016) [1]. The movies recorded in-situ with optical cryo-microscopy (OC-M) demonstrate for the first time freezing processes that occur during the cooling and subsequent warming of emulsified micrometer-scaled aqueous citric acid (CA) drops. The movies are made publicly available to enable critical or extended analyzes.

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Specifications Table

Subject area Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, Tissue Engineering
More specific subject area Freezing step in lyophilization
Type of data Movies

Data in Brief 10 (2017) 144–146
Movies were recorded using an Olympus BX51 optical cryo-microscope equipped with a Linkam cold stage, Linksys32 temperature control and video capture software.

Movies were prepared by magnetic stirring of CA/H₂O solutions with a Halocarbon-0.8-oil/lanolin matrix.

Emulsion samples were placed in between a standard 75 × 25 mm microscope slide and a cover glass. OC-M measurements were performed at the cooling and warming rate of 3 and 5 K/min between 193 and 300 K.

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Movies are presented in this article.

The movies provide visual insights into the physical chemistry of freezing dispersed aqueous solutions and can be used by other researchers who work with freezing phenomenon in fields ranging from life sciences and biotechnology to geophysics and high-altitude ice clouds.

The movies demonstrating the freezing process were recorded in-situ using OC-M and can be compared to freezing results obtained with other techniques, for example, confocal fluorescence microscopy as well as to results obtained by computer simulations.

Since the movies are first of their kind, they can be used/give an impetus in/for the development of further experiments in different fields of science and technology where freezing phenomena play an important role.

The movies presented in this data article provide the visualization evidence of a freeze-induced phase separation (FIPS) into pure ice and a freeze-concentrated solution (FCS) which occurs during the freezing of micrometer-scaled CA/H₂O drops. These movies also demonstrate how the ice/FCS morphology of frozen drops changes with decreasing drop size.

We prepared 10–60 wt % CA solutions by mixing > 99% anhydrous citric acid (Merck) with the corresponding amount of ultrapure water. For emulsion preparation we used an oil-surfactant matrix consisting of 80 wt % halocarbon 0.8 oil (Halocarbon Products Corp.) and 20 wt % lanolin (Sigma Aldrich). CA/H₂O/oil-surfactant-matrix of 1/10 by volume were subjected to magnetic stirring at different speeds in order to obtain CA/H₂O drops of different size distributions [1]. In our measurements, we used methodology based on a ‘2-dimensionál’ solution strategy designed for the in-situ observation of FIPS and ice/FCS morphology by applying OC-M [2,3].

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