

Development Of Quantitative Structure-Property Relationships For Screening Of Tropodegradable Halocarbons

Lawrence R Grzyll and Dwight D. Back
Mainstream Engineering Corporation
Rockledge, Florida 32955

Juan A. Vitali
Applied Research Associates, Inc.
Tyndall AFB, Florida 32403

Giovanni Linscheer
Department of Civil Engineering
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

INTRODUCTION

This paper describes the development of quantitative structure-property relationships (QSPRs) for screening the key fire suppression agent properties of tropodegradable halocarbon agents, which included halogenated alcohols, halogenated alkenes and alkynes, halogenated amines, halogenated aromatics, halogenated carbonyls (carboxylic acids, esters, aldehydes, and ketones), halogenated ethers, hydrobromocarbons (HBCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The goal was to develop an accurate screening technique that would allow consideration of a large set of compounds from these families with unmeasured or unknown properties. The techniques of computational chemistry were applied to develop QSPRs that correlated structural features of these compounds to selected fire suppression agent properties. Once developed, the QSPRs were then used to predict the key properties of a large set of potential fire suppression agents from these families with previously unmeasured properties. Compounds with promising properties were then selected for synthesis and experimental evaluation.

DISCUSSION OF QSPRs

The computational chemistry system used to develop the QSPRs was ADAPT, which was installed on a Sun SPARC II workstation. The approach used by ADAPT begins with the assumption that there is a relationship between chemical structure and the property of interest. The steps are:

1. Select a list of key properties of interest and a study set of compounds from the families being considered with measured property data. These compounds, and their properties, are used for QSPR development. Another set of compounds, with **unknown** property data, are also selected and their properties are predicted by the QSPRs.

2. Draw the molecular structures of the compounds with molecular drawing software.
3. Generate computational-chemistry-based molecular descriptors for the compounds in the study set. Approximately 150 descriptors can be generated that are based on topological, electronic, or physicochemical features of the molecule. Topological descriptors encode information based on connectivity of the molecule, such as molecular shape, connected paths, molecular size and branching, number and types of atoms, bonds, rings, lone pairs, etc., and structural symmetry. Electronic descriptors encode the electronic features of molecules from two contributions: sigma charges, based on charge transfer due to atomic orbital electronegativity differences; and pi charges, from simple molecular orbital calculations on each conjugated pi system in the structure. Physicochemical descriptors include properties such as molecular polarizability and molar refraction that can be estimated using computational chemistry methods. Finally, substructure-based descriptors were generated that were counts of any definable atomic or functional group on the molecule, such as the carboxylic acid functional group, the ether functional group, the amine functional group, etc.
4. Perform descriptor reduction analysis using statistical techniques to develop a smaller set of unique, independent descriptors for use in QSPR development. This analysis identifies and eliminates descriptors with identical values, or those descriptors that correlate highly with one another. The result of this analysis is a set of unique descriptors for QSPR development.
5. Develop a series of QSPRs using multiple regression or other statistical techniques that correlate the properties of interest to the molecular descriptors. Selection of the best models is based on the R^2 of the model, the F-statistic of the model (a measure of the statistical significance of the model), the standard deviation of the model, the T-statistic for each variable in the model (a measure of the statistical significance of each variable), and the ratio of compounds with measured data to model variables (this ratio should be greater than 5).
6. Investigate the QSPRs for internal consistency and statistical significance by identifying and eliminating outlier data points based residual statistical parameters. New QSPRs are then developed. The best QSPR for the property of interest is then selected.
7. Generate the necessary descriptors (those used by the QSPRs) for the compounds with unknown properties.
8. Use the QSPRs to predict the properties of the compounds with unknown properties.

QSPR DEVELOPMENT

Seven properties were selected for screening and QSPR development: fire suppression effectiveness, tropospheric lifetime, ozone depletion potential (ODP), global warming potential (GWP), normal boiling point, inhalation toxicity, and cardiac sensitization toxicity.

Fire Suppression Effectiveness

The flame extinguishing concentration (FEC) using the cup burner apparatus was selected as a measure of fire suppression effectiveness. Experimental data for 31 tropodegradable halocarbons, largely ethers and HFCs, was collected from various sources (Refs. 1-7). The FEC QSPR correlated the logarithm of the FEC to three ADAPT descriptors. There were 27

observations used for QSPR development and three outlier compounds identified that were eliminated from further consideration (two alkenes and one hydrofluorocarbon). Table 1 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the QSPR model and its statistics.

TABLE 1- SUMMARY OF FEC QSPR

$$\log_{10} \text{FEC} = 1.30315 - 0.27519 \cdot \text{VI} + 0.0392576 \cdot \text{NLP} + 0.786641 \cdot \text{V5P}$$

$$R^2 = 0.824 \quad \text{F-statistic} = 37.478 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.0682$$

VI - 1st order valence molecular connectivity (T-statistic = -9.650)

NLP - number of lone pairs of electrons (T-statistic = 3.631)

V5P - 5th order valence path molecular connectivity (T-statistic = 5.791)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total	Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
Alcohols	0	0 %	Ethers	8	29.6 %
Alkenes	3	11.1 %	Unsaturated Ethers	0	0 %
Amines	0	0 %	Hydrobromocarbons	3	11.1 %
Aromatics	2	7.4 %	Hydrofluorocarbons	10	37.1 %
Carbonyls	1	3.7 %	Polvethers	0	0 %

Tropospheric Lifetime and Hydroxyl Radical Reaction Rate Constant

The tropospheric lifetime of a compound was calculated from the inverse ratio of its reaction rate constant with hydroxyl radicals in the atmosphere (k_{OH}) to the k_{OH} of 1,1,1-trichloroethane (Reference 8). This inverse ratio is then multiplied by the tropospheric lifetime of 1,1,1-trichloroethane. This calculation methodology does not account for other mechanisms that can further reduce the lifetime of a molecule in the atmosphere, such as photolysis, rainout, reaction with atmospheric ozone, or other mechanisms. Thus, the calculated values for tropospheric lifetime are conservatively high. The following equation was used:

$$t_{trop} = t_{CCl_3CH_3} \frac{[k_{OH}]_{CCl_3CH_3}}{[k_{OH}]_{agent}}$$

where: t_{trop} = tropospheric lifetime of compound (years)

$t_{CCl_3CH_3}$ = tropospheric lifetime of CCl_3CH_3

k_{OH} = hydroxyl radical reaction rate constant ($\text{cm}^3/\text{molecule}\cdot\text{sec}$)

The k_{OH} data used on this effort were obtained from the NIST Chemical Kinetics Database (Reference 9), which contained data for 83 tropodegradable halocarbons. The k_{OH} QSPR correlated the logarithm of k_{OH} to three ADAPT descriptors. There were 71 observations used for QSPR development and 12 outlier compounds identified that were eliminated from

further consideration (five alkenes, one aromatic, and six carbonyls). Table 2 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the QSPR model and its statistics. The k_{OH} QSPR was developed largely from alkene, aromatic, carbonyl, ether, hydrobromocarbon, and hydrofluorocarbon data; little data was available for alcohols, amines, unsaturated ethers, or polyethers.

TABLE 2 - SUMMARY OF k_{OH} QSPR

$$\log_{10} k_{OH} = -13.1571 - 3.2640 * NFPH + 1.2011 * NDB + 0.3886 * KAPA5$$

$$R^2 = 0.917 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 255.48 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.3618$$

NFPH - number of fluorine atoms/potential halogen sites (T-statistic = -20.13)

NDB - number of double bonds (T-statistic = 11.24)

KAPA5 - Kappa 5 index (T-statistic = 9.427)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total	Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
Alcohols	3	4.2 %	Ethers	10	14.1 %
Alkenes	11	15.5 %	Unsaturated Ethers	0	0 %
Amines	0	0 %	Hydrobromocarbons	14	19.7 %
Aromatics	10	14.1 %	Hydrofluorocarbons	17	23.9 %
Carbonyls	6	8.5 %	Polyethers	0	0 %

ODP

ODP data for 31 compounds was obtained from various sources (Refs. 8, 10-12). Twenty-nine of the 31 data points were outside of the tropodegradable halocarbon families considered on this effort (i.e. halogenated alkanes). By definition, compounds with no chlorine, bromine, or iodine were assigned an ODP of zero. Literature agrees with this, stating that HFCs have ODPs ranging from 4×10^{-4} or less (Reference 13). The ODP QSPR correlated the logarithm of ODP to four ADAPT descriptors. Table 3 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the QSPR model and its statistics. There were 27 observations used for QSPR development and four outlier compounds identified that were eliminated from further consideration.

GWP

GWP data for 26 compounds was obtained from various sources (Refs. 8, 10-12, 14). Ten of the 26 data points were outside of the tropodegradable halocarbon families considered on this effort (hydrochlorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons). The GWP QSPR correlated the logarithm of GWP to four ADAPT descriptors. Table 4 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the QSPR model and its statistics. There were 23 observations used for QSPR development and three outlier compounds identified that were eliminated from further consideration (one HFC, one hydrochlorofluorocarbon, and one ether).

TABLE 3 - SUMMARY OF ODP QSPR

$$\log_{10} \text{ODP} = -0.1977 + 2.5596 * S4C + 0.5493 * S6C - 1.0490 * NC + 0.7832 * NBR$$

$$R^2 = 0.901 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 49.97 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.2871$$

S4C, S6C - 4th and 6th order simple cluster molecular connectivity (T-statistics = 7.285, 5.072)

NC - number of carbon atoms (T-statistic = -8.791)

NBR - number of bromine atoms (T-statistic = 7.237)

Family	# of Data Points	% of Total	Family	# of Data Points	% of Total
chlorocarbons	1	3.7 %	hydrobromofluorocarbons	2	7.4 %
hydrochlorocarbons	2	7.4 %	bromochlorofluorocarbons	1	3.7 %
chlorofluorocarbons	8	29.6 %	hydrobromochlorofluorocarbons	1	3.7 %
hydrobromocarbons	1	3.7 %	hydrochlorofluorocarbons	9	33.3 %
bromofluorocarbons	2	7.4 %			

TABLE 4 - SUMMARY OF GWP QSPR

$$\log_{10} \text{GWP} = 1.0493 - 0.1329 * KAPA3 + 1.6242 * S4C + 3.6193 * NFPH - 0.5985 * S5C$$

$$R^2 = 0.902 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 41.4 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.290$$

S4C, S5C - 4th and 5th order simple cluster molecular connectivity (T-statistics = 5.005, -7.81)

NFPH - number of fluorine atoms/potential halogen sites (T-statistic = 11.51)

KAPA3 - Kappa-3 index (T-statistic = -4.076)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
hydrochlorocarbons	3	13.0 %
hydrofluorocarbons	12	52.2 %
ethers	2	8.7 %
hydrochlorofluorocarbons	6	26.1 %

Normal Boiling Point

Normal boiling point data for 187 tropodegradable halocarbons was obtained from various sources (Refs. 5-7, 15-22). The normal boiling point QSPR correlated the normal boiling point (K) to three ADAPT descriptors. There were 164 observations used for QSPR development and 17 outlier compounds identified that were eliminated from consideration (four alcohols, five alkenes, seven carbonyls, and one hydrofluorocarbon). The QSPR was developed largely from alkenes, aromatics, ethers, HBCs, HFCs, and carbonyls. There was less data available for alcohols, amines, unsaturated ethers, and polyethers. Table 5 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the QSPR model and its statistics.

TABLE 5 - SUMMARY OF NORMAL BOILING POINT QSPR

$$T_{boil} (K) = 130.6062 + 19.7344 * MPOL - 211.1438 * QNEG - 82.5252 * S4C$$

$$R^2 = 0.927 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 699.7 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 17.34$$

MPOL - molecular polarizability (T-statistic = 45.38)

QNEG - charge on most negative atom in molecule (T-statistic = -10.65)

S4C - 4th order simple cluster molecular connectivity (T-statistic = -18.03)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total	Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
Alcohols	3	1.8 %	Ethers	30	18.0 %
Alkenes	52	31.1 %	Unsaturated Ethers	1	0.6 %
Amines	6	3.6 %	Hydrobromocarbons	16	9.6 %
Aromatics	18	10.8 %	Hydrofluorocarbons	19	11.4 %
Carbonyls	15	9.0 %	Polyethers	7	4.2 %

Inhalation Toxicity

Inhalation toxicity data was obtained for numerous tropodegradable halocarbons from various sources (Refs. 5-7, 15-19, 23-24). Data for both rats and mice, with endpoints of LC₅₀ and LC, were obtained, with durations ranging from 10 minutes to 24 hours.

Attempts were made to separately correlate the mouse and rat LC,, data to both molecular descriptors and exposure duration. Unsatisfactory models were obtained using the rat LC₅₀ data. Two QSPRs were developed for the mouse LC₅₀ data; one for families containing oxygen atoms (alcohols, carbonyls, and ethers) and one for families with no oxygen atoms (alkenes, amines, aromatics, hydrobromocarbons, and hydrofluorocarbons).

The QSPR for oxygenated compounds correlated the logarithm of the product of LC,, and duration to eight ADAPT descriptors. There were 43 observations and five outlier compounds eliminated from the study (one alcohol, two carbonyls, and two ethers). Table 6 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the statistics of the QSPR. There were no unsaturated ethers used to develop the QSPR.

The QSPR for families with no oxygen atoms correlated the logarithm of LC₅₀ to five ADAPT descriptors and the logarithm of exposure duration. There were 38 observations and three outlier compounds eliminated from the study (two alkenes and one aromatic). Table 7 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPRs by family and also lists the QSPR models and their statistics.

TABLE 6 - SUMMARY OF MOUSE LC₅₀ QSPR FOR OXYGENATED FAMILIES

$$\log_{10}(LC_{50} * duration) = 2.1956 + 6.8665 * NFPH + 7.0566 * NCPH + 3.91748 * RALK + 4.1857 * REST - 0.989786 * KAPA2 + 0.39866 * KAPA3 + 4.81205 * V5P - 1.2063 * V4PC$$

$$R^2 = 0.850 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 23.99 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.5737$$

duration = exposure duration (hrs.)

NFPH = number of fluorine atoms/potential halogen sites (T-statistic = 9.389)

NCPH = number of chlorine atoms/potential halogen sites (T-statistic = 4.131)

RALK = number of C=C groups/total number of carbon atoms (T-statistic = 3.315)

REST = number of ester carbon atoms/total number of carbon atoms (T-statistic = 4.201)

KAPA2 = kappa-2 index (T-statistic = 8.710)

KAPA3 = kappa-3 index (T-statistic = 5.503)

V5P = 5th order valence path molecular connectivity (T-statistic = 3.909)

V4PC = 4th order valence path-cluster molecular connectivity (T-statistic = 2.971)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total	Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
Alcohols	5	11.6 %	Ethers	10	23.3 %
Carbonyls	28	65.1 %			

TABLE 7 - SUMMARY OF MOUSE LC₅₀ QSPR FOR NON-OXYGENATED FAMILIES

$$\log_{10} LC_{50} = 5.47618 - 3.48023 * NFPH + 0.66948 * NC + 1.18777 * V2 - 0.298067 * MREF + 534.274/bp(K) - 0.860115 \log_{10}(duration)$$

$$R^2 = 0.841 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 27.399 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.5739$$

NFPH = number of fluorine atoms/potential halogen sites (T-statistic = -4.449)

NC = number of carbon atoms (T-statistic 7.042)

V2 = 2nd order valence molecular connectivity (T-statistic = 3.540)

MREF = molar refraction (T-statistic = 5.949)

1/bp(K) = inverse boiling point in Kelvin (T-statistic = 2.983)

log₁₀(duration) = logarithm of duration in hours (T-statistic = 2.831)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total	Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
Alkenes	22	57.9 %	Hydrobromocarbons	3	7.9 %
Aromatics	10	26.3 %	Hydrofluorocarbons	3	7.9 %

Cardiac Sensitization Toxicity

Cardiac sensitization toxicity data for 31 halogenated halocarbons was obtained from numerous sources (Refs. 25-40). Twenty-one of the 31 data points, were outside of the tropodegradable halocarbon families considered on this effort (hydrochlorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons). The cardiac sensitization QSPR correlated the logarithm of cardiac sensitization NOAEL (no observed adverse effect level) to four ADAPT descriptors. Table 8 provides a summary of the data used to develop the QSPR by family and also lists the QSPR model and its statistics. There were 30 observations used for QSPR development and one outlier compound identified that was eliminated from further consideration (one HFC).

TABLE 8 - SUMMARY OF CARDIAC SENSITIZATION NOAEL QSPR

$$\log_{10} CS\text{-NOAEL} = 1.31908 + 771.048/bp(K) + 0.49868*KAPA2 - 0.923602*SYMM - 4.1726*V6C$$

$$R^2 = 0.921 \quad F\text{-statistic} = 73.32 \quad \text{standard deviation} = 0.2031$$

bp(K) - normal boiling point in Kelvin (T-statistic = 10.54)

KAPA2 - Kappa-2 index (T-statistic = 8.671)

SYMM - structural symmetry (T-statistic = -4.384)

V6C - 6th order valence cluster molecular connectivity (T-statistic = -4.245)

Family	Number of Data Points	Percentage of Total
hydrochlorocarbons	2	6.7%
perfluorocarbons	5	16.7 %
chlorofluorocarbons	5	16.7 %
hydrochlorofluorocarbons	4	13.3 %
bromofluorocarbons	1	3.3 %
bromochlorofluorocarbons	1	3.3 %
alkenes	2	6.7 ,%
hydrofluorocarbons	7	23.3 %
others (hydrocarbons and ethers)	3	10.0 %

COMPOUND SCREENING AND SELECTION

A database containing 493 compounds from the tropodegradable halocarbon families was assembled for screening purposes. Where experimental data for the key properties was available, it was used. In the absence of data; the QSPR prediction for that property was used. An initial screening/selection criteria was developed to select compounds for experimental work. The initial criteria developed was: 1) normal boiling $\leq 125^{\circ}\text{C}$, 2) FEC $\leq 6.0\%$, 3) ODP ≤ 0.02 , 4) GWP ≤ 4000 , 5) tropospheric lifetime ≤ 1 year, 6) 2-hour mouse LC₅₀ $\geq 5,000$ ppm (0.5 %), and 7) cardiac NOAEL \geq FEC.

Application of the criteria to the compounds in the database resulted in the selection of seven compounds: 1-bromodifluoromethoxy-2-trifluoromethyl-3,3,3-trifluoro-1-propene [(CF₃)₂C=CH-O-CF₂Br], 1-bromodifluoromethoxy-2-trifluoromethoxy- ethene [CF₃-O-CF=CF-O-CF₂Br], 3,3,3-trifluoro-2-trifluoromethyl-1-propene [CH₂=C(CF₃)CF₃], perfluorotoluene [c-C₆H₅-CF₃], 1-bromodifluoromethoxy-1,2,3,3,3-pentafluoro-1-propene [CF₃CF=CF-O-CF₂Br], 1-bromodifluoromethoxy-2-trifluoromethyl-ethene [CF₂Br-O-CH=CHCF₃], and (2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)(2-bromo-2,2-difluoroethyl) ether [CF₃CH₂-O-CH₂CF₂Br]. Table 9 lists the key properties of these compounds.

TABLE 9 - KEY PROPERTIES OF RECOMMENDED AGENTS

Compound	Boiling Point (C)	FEC (%)	ODP	GWP	Trop. Life (yrs.)	LC ₅₀ (ppm)	NOAEL (ppm)
(CF ₃) ₂ C=CH-O-CF ₂ Br	86.9	3.4	0.007	2730	0.08	101,151	146,507
CF ₃ -O-CF=CF-O-CF ₂ Br	83.4	4.6	0.016	682	0.04	207,955	143,161
CH ₂ =C(CF ₃)CF ₃	-5.9	5.7	0.000	1686	0.60	9,519	117,966
c-C ₆ H ₅ -CF ₃	104.0	5.5	0.000	335	1.14	6,114	69,764
CF ₃ CF=CF-O-CF ₂ Br	72.4	4.1	0.013	1334	0.14	183,008	68,427
CF ₂ Br-O-CH=CHCF ₃	65.8	4.6	0.016	238	0.06	> 1.0e6	52,187
CF ₃ CH ₂ -O-CH ₂ CF ₂ Br	88.6	4.5	0.016	238	0.96	584,884	45,488

Values on boldface italic are measured data, all others are QSPR predictions.

This criteria could obviously be modified, resulting in other compounds being recommended. Synthesis and manufacturability of these compounds is currently being investigated. Laboratory evaluations of these compounds will take place once sufficient quantities have been synthesized.

CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this effort was to develop quantitative structure-property relationships (QSPRs) for screening the key fire suppression agent properties of tropodegradable halocarbon fire suppression agents with unmeasured properties. The properties selected for study were the cup burner FEC, tropospheric lifetime (calculated from k_{OH}), ODP, GWP, normal boiling point, inhalation toxicity (mouse LC₅₀), and cardiac sensitization NOAEL. QSPRs were developed for these properties with correlation coefficients (R²) ranged from **0.824** to **0.927**. A database of **493** tropodegradable halocarbon compounds was assembled and the QSPRs were used to predict the unmeasured properties of these compounds. Application of an initial selection criteria resulted in the recommendation of seven compounds for synthesis and experimentation. Synthesis and manufacturability of the recommended compounds is underway.

The tropodegradable halocarbons appear to offer significant potential as a halon replacement. The computational chemistry approach used on this project enabled the consideration of a large set of compounds from the tropodegradable halocarbons. The QSPRs developed successfully predicted previously unmeasured properties of compounds from this group, providing a systematic technique to screen the 493 compounds considered. **This** screening process, in its current form or modified, allowed for a rational recommendation of compounds for experimental evaluation. This approach **was** demonstrated to be a cost effective way to evaluate compounds with unmeasured properties without experimental evaluation.

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