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# Solubilities of Biologically Active Phenolic Compounds: Measurements and Modeling

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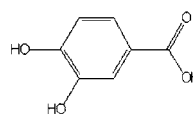
Aqueous solubilities of natural phenolic compounds from different families (hydroxyphenyl, polyphenol, hydroxybenzoic, and phenylpropenoic) were experimentally obtained. Measurements were performed on tyrosol and ellagic, protocatechuic, syringic, and *o*-coumaric acids, at five different temperatures (from 288.2 to 323.2 K), using the standard shake-flask method, followed by compositional analysis using UV spectrophotometry. To verify the accuracy of the spectrophotometric method, some data points were measured by gravimetry, and in general, the values obtained with the two methods are in good agreement (deviations lower than 11%). To adequately understand the solubilization process, melting properties of the pure phenolics were obtained by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and apparent acid dissociation constants were measured by potentiometry titration. The aqueous solubilities followed the expected general exponential trend. The melting temperatures did not follow the same solubility tendency, and for tyrosol and ellagic acid, not only the size and extent of hydrogen bonding, but also the energy associated with their crystal structures, determine the solubility. For these binary systems, acid dissociation is not important. Approaches for modeling the measured data were evaluated. These included an excess Gibbs energy equation, the modified UNIQUAC model, and the cubic-plus-association (CPA) equation of state. Particularly for the CPA approach, a new methodology that explicitly takes into account the number and nature of the associating sites and the prediction of the pure-component parameters from molecular structure is proposed. The results indicate that these are appropriate tools for representing the water solubilities of these molecules.

## 1. Introduction

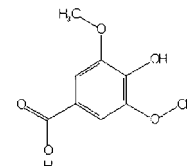
Phenolic compounds are a chemical family whose members have one or more hydroxyl groups attached directly to an aromatic ring. These compounds are characteristic of plants, some fruits, and vegetables,<sup>1</sup> and as a group, they are usually found as esters or glycosides rather than as free compounds.<sup>1</sup> Interest in phenolic compounds has grown greatly, with attention focused on finding naturally occurring antioxidants for use in foods or medical materials to replace synthetic components.<sup>2</sup>

There is significant evidence that phenolic compounds have positive effects on human health,<sup>3</sup> with many recently published studies reporting anti-inflammatory and cardioprotective activities,<sup>4</sup> as well as antioxidant properties.<sup>5-7</sup> Recently, some of these compounds were reported to exhibit protective effects on hormone-dependent breast tumors,<sup>3</sup> as well as other types of cancers.<sup>8-10</sup> Perhaps the oldest medical application of phenolic compounds is the use of phenol as an antiseptic.<sup>1</sup> Another very common use of phenolic compounds is in sunscreens. The presence of the aromatic ring results in the effective absorbance (and filtering) of UV-B radiation (between 280 and 315 nm) from the sun, thus preventing sunburn and other major consequences, such as skin cancer. Aside from medical applications, phenolic compounds, including flavonoids and tannins, are an integral part of human and animal diets, because

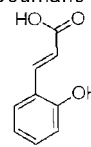
Protocatechuic acid



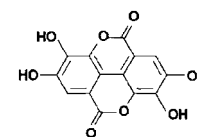
Syringic acid



*o*-Coumaric acid



Ellagic acid



Tyrosol

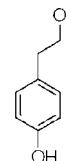


Figure 1. Structures of the five studied phenolic compounds.

they represent one of the most numerous and ubiquitous groups of plant metabolites.<sup>10</sup>

In this work, the aqueous solubilities of some natural phenolic compounds such as tyrosol and ellagic acid, the hydroxybenzoic acids protocatechuic and syringic acids, and the phenylpropenoic *o*-coumaric acid are addressed. Their chemical structures are presented in Figure 1.

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56 The scarcity of data reported in the literature increases the  
57 importance of the development of correlation and prediction  
58 models. Different approaches can be found for modeling the  
59 solid solubilities of phenolic compounds.

60 Noubigh et al.<sup>11,12</sup> obtained experimental values for the  
61 solubilities in pure water and in some chloride solutions, at 298.2  
62 K, of syringic, gallic, protocatechuic, vanillic, and ferulic acids,  
63 as well as vanillin. They represented the solubility data using  
64 an activity coefficient thermodynamic model based on the  
65 Pitzer–Simonson–Clegg formalism<sup>12</sup> and used van't Hoff  
66 plots<sup>11</sup> to obtain solution standard molar enthalpies. Apelblat  
67 et al.<sup>13</sup> measured the aqueous solubilities of some polycarboxylic  
68 acids, expressing the solubility with the Williamson equation.  
69 Lu and Lu<sup>14</sup> reported the solubilities of gallic acid and its esters  
70 in water as a function of temperature. They proposed an  
71 empirical equation to fit the data for gallic acid and octyl gallate,  
72 whereas for the other esters, the data were better represented  
73 with the simplified  $\lambda-h$  equation. Also for gallic acid, Daneshfar  
74 et al.<sup>15</sup> calculated the temperature dependence of the solubility  
75 data using the modified Apelblat model. The solubility of  
76 salicylic acid was investigated in pure solvents as a function of  
77 temperature by Nordström and Rasmuson,<sup>16</sup> who observed a  
78 correlation between the solubility and van't Hoff enthalpy of  
79 solution. Shalmashi and Eliassi<sup>17</sup> used an empirical correlation,  
80 with two parameters, to fit the solubility data of salicylic acid.

81 Although the importance of phenolic compounds is well-  
82 known, very few solubility data are available, and comprehen-  
83 sive experimental studies combining solubility with melting  
84 properties and acidity constants are clearly lacking in the  
85 literature. This work follows a previous one where the aqueous  
86 solubilities of other hydroxybenzoic (gallic and salicylic) and  
87 phenylpropenoic (cinnamic, ferulic, and caffeic) acids were  
88 addressed.<sup>18</sup> The final aim is to determine, and accurately predict,  
89 the solubilities of these molecules in different solvents in order  
90 to adequately understand the fate and separation processes of  
91 these compounds. To accomplish this, experimental measure-  
92 ments of solubility as a function of temperature were performed,  
93 and models were used for its estimation, namely, the modified  
94 UNIQUAC model<sup>19,20</sup> and an associating equation of state (EoS),  
95 the cubic-plus-association EoS.<sup>21,22</sup>

## 96 2. Experimental Section

97 **2.1. Materials.** In all experiments, bidistilled water ( $\sim 2.5-3$   
98  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) was used. *o*-Coumaric acid ( $\geq 98\%$  purity; CAS no. 614-  
99 60-8), protocatechuic acid ( $\geq 99\%$  purity; CAS no. 99-50-3),  
100 syringic acid ( $\geq 99\%$  purity; CAS no. 530-57-4), ellagic acid  
101 (99% purity; CAS no. 476-66-4), and tyrosol (98% purity; CAS  
102 no. 501-94-0) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. All chemicals  
103 were used without any further purification.

104 **2.2. Experimental Procedure.** **2.2.1. Solubility Measure-**  
105 **ments.** Aqueous solubilities were determined for each phenolic  
106 compound using the standard analytical shake-flask method, with  
107 constant-temperature jacketed glass cells, at five different  
108 temperatures ranging from 288.2 to 323.2 K. Saturated solutions  
109 were generated using an excess of solid and bidistilled water.  
110 These mixtures were then stirred on a plate stirrer for a period  
111 of time determined by continuously sampling the aqueous phase  
112 until no concentration change was observed. After equilibrium  
113 had been attained, the solutions were kept still. Maximum  
114 stirring times of 140 and 120 h were found for the lower and  
115 higher temperatures, respectively; settling times between 24 and  
116 40 h were sufficient to guarantee thermodynamic saturation.  
117 Thermostatization was ensured by a constant-temperature ( $\pm 0.10$

118 K) circulating water bath (Grant LTC1) and monitored with  
119 four-wire platinum resistance probes [Pt(100)] placed in the  
120 thermostatic jackets and connected to an Agilent 34970A data  
121 acquisition unit ( $\pm 0.01$  K), previously certified with a maximum  
122 deviation of 0.06 at 303.67 K. Samples of the saturated solutions  
123 were taken using thermostated plastic syringes coupled with  
124 syringe filters (0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and analyzed by spectrophotometry  
125 (Thermo Electron Corporation UV1). The wavelengths used for  
126 analysis were 290 nm for *o*-coumaric, ellagic, protocatechuic,  
127 and syringic acids and 272 nm for tyrosol. The analysis was  
128 not done at the maximum absorption wavelength because of  
129 linearity problems. Further details about the solubility experi-  
130 mental procedure can be found elsewhere.<sup>18</sup> To verify the  
131 accuracy of the data measured using the spectrophotometric  
132 method, some analyses were carried out using the gravimetric  
133 method, with the same solubilization and sampling procedure.  
134 For each determination, three samples were withdrawn and  
135 inserted into preweighed glass vessels; the vessels were left to  
136 cool and were then weighed. The samples were then placed in  
137 the freezer (Christ lyophilizer, model Alpha 1-4 equipped with  
138 an FTS system vacuum pump) for 24 h and afterward were  
139 lyophilized for 48 h, to evaporate water. Finally, the vessels  
140 were again weighed. Each experimental value reported is an  
141 average of at least three different measurements.

142 **2.2.2. DSC Measurements.** Thermograms of the solid phe-  
143 nolics were obtained with a Netzsch DSC 200 F3 Maia  
144 differential scanning calorimeter. Samples of 4–6 mg ( $\pm 0.1$ )  
145 were sealed in aluminum crucibles and heated under nitrogen,  
146 while using an empty crucible as reference. Initial estimates of  
147 the melting temperatures were obtained using a 10 K/min  
148 heating rate over a larger temperature range. Afterward, several  
149 runs at a rate of 1 K/min around the expected melting  
150 temperature were averaged. To ascertain the precision of the  
151 instrument, an indium standard was run, and the obtained  
152 melting temperatures and heats of fusion were compared with  
153 the reported values. All experiments were conducted at least in  
154 triplicate.

155 **2.2.3. Potentiometric Measurements.** Phenolic compounds  
156 are typically acidic, so evaluate the extent of solubilization due  
157 to acid dissociation, the pH values of the saturated aqueous  
158 solutions and the acid dissociation constants ( $\text{p}K_{\text{a}}$ ) were  
159 measured by potentiometry, using a glass electrode and a VWR  
160 SympHony SB70P meter. Apparent acid dissociation constants  
161 were obtained by potentiometric titration of aqueous solutions  
162 of the phenolic acids with a sodium hydroxide solution.

## 163 3. Thermodynamic Properties of Dissolution

164 The most common way to evaluate the effect of temperature  
165 on solubility is the calculation of solubility products at different  
166 temperatures. Alternatively, the thermodynamic properties of  
167 dissolution, namely, the molar Gibbs energy ( $\Delta_{\text{sol}}G$ ), enthalpy  
168 ( $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H$ ), and entropy ( $\Delta_{\text{sol}}S$ ) of dissolution can be calculated  
169 using experimental solubility data. These parameters reflect the  
170 modification of the solution properties due to the presence of  
171 the solute at infinite dilution, at a given temperature. Assuming  
172 that the activity coefficient of the solute is equal to 1 in the  
173 hypothetical dilute ideal solution and starting from the  
174 Gibbs–Helmholtz equation and the thermodynamic definition  
175 of the equilibrium constant (eq 2), the following equation can  
176 be obtained<sup>23</sup>

$$177 \Delta_{\text{sol}}H = RT^2 \left( \frac{d \ln x_s}{dT} \right)_p \quad (1)$$

178 where the molar enthalpy of dissolution,  $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H$ , is the difference

179 between the partial molar enthalpy of the compound in solution  
180 and the pure molar enthalpy at temperature  $T$ ,  $x_s$  is the mole  
181 fraction solubility of the solute,  $R$  is the ideal gas constant, and  
182  $P$  is the pressure. By plotting  $\ln x$  versus temperature and  
183 considering this plot as a straight line,  $\Delta_{\text{sol}}H$  can be obtained.  
184 The remaining thermodynamic functions are obtained from the  
185 following expressions

$$186 \quad \Delta_{\text{sol}}G = -RT \ln(x_s)_P \quad (2)$$

$$187 \quad \Delta_{\text{sol}}S = \frac{\Delta_{\text{sol}}H - \Delta_{\text{sol}}G}{T} \quad (3)$$

#### 188 4. Modeling

189 Considering a pure solid phase with no solid–solid phase  
190 transitions, assuming the difference in the heat capacities  
191 between the liquid and solid phases of the solute ( $\Delta C_p$ ) to be  
192 constant in the temperature range  $[T, T_m]$ , and neglecting the  
193 effect of pressure (melting temperature and enthalpy, heat  
194 capacities, and Poynting term), the solubility of a solute  $s$  can  
195 be calculated from the following generalized expression that  
196 relates the reference-state fugacities<sup>24</sup>

$$197 \quad \ln \left[ \frac{f_s^{\text{liq}}(T, P)}{f_s^{\text{sol}}(T, P)} \right] = \frac{\Delta_{\text{fus}}H}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_m} \right) -$$

$$198 \quad \frac{\Delta C_p}{R} \left[ \frac{T_m}{T} - \ln \left( \frac{T_m}{T} \right) - 1 \right] \quad (4)$$

199 where  $\Delta_{\text{fus}}H$  is the enthalpy of fusion,  $T$  is the absolute  
200 temperature,  $T_m$  is the melting temperature,  $\Delta C_p$  is the difference  
201 of the liquid and solid molar heat capacities, and  $R$  is the ideal  
202 gas constant.

203 Using an activity coefficient model, the following expression  
204 for the mole fraction solubility ( $x_s$ ) is obtained<sup>24</sup>

$$205 \quad x_s = \frac{1}{\gamma_s} \exp \left\{ -\frac{\Delta_{\text{fus}}H}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_m} \right) + \right.$$

$$206 \quad \left. \frac{\Delta C_p}{R} \left[ \frac{T_m}{T} - \ln \left( \frac{T_m}{T} \right) - 1 \right] \right\} \quad (5)$$

207 where  $\gamma_s$  is the solute activity coefficient.

208 When an equation of state is selected, eq 6 is used instead

$$209 \quad x_s = \frac{\varphi_s^{\text{liq}_0}}{\varphi_s^{\text{liq}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{\Delta_{\text{fus}}H_s}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_m} \right) + \right.$$

$$210 \quad \left. \frac{\Delta C_p}{R} \left[ \frac{T_m}{T} - \ln \left( \frac{T_m}{T} \right) - 1 \right] \right\} \quad (6)$$

211 where  $\varphi$  is the fugacity coefficient and the subscript 0 refers to  
212 a pure component.

213 In this work, both an activity coefficient model (the modified  
214 UNIQUAC model<sup>19,20</sup>) and an equation of state (the cubic-plus-  
215 association EoS<sup>21,22</sup>) were used to represent the measured data.  
216 Both models have already been successfully employed for  
217 mixtures of water with other associating compounds.<sup>18,20,22,25</sup>

218 **4.1. Modified UNIQUAC Model.** Abrahams and Prausnitz<sup>26</sup>  
219 derived an equation that in a sense extends the quasichemical  
220 theory of Guggenheim for nonrandom mixtures to solutions  
221 containing molecules of different sizes. This extension was  
222 therefore called the UNIversal QUAsiChemical theory (UNI-  
223 QUAC).<sup>24</sup> The UNIQUAC equation consists of two parts: a  
224 combinatorial term that attempts to describe the dominant  
225 entropic contribution (that depends on the composition and the  
226 sizes and shapes of the molecules) and a residual term that is

227 due mainly to the intermolecular forces responsible for the  
228 enthalpy of mixing.

Larsen et al.<sup>19</sup> proposed a modified version of this model that  
229 was successfully used to study the solubility of highly associat-  
230 ing compounds in water and also in mixed solvents.<sup>20</sup> The  
231 results achieved were very good and consistent over broad  
232 temperature and composition ranges.

The combinatorial part is given by the Flory–Huggins  
234 expression, and the residual part is given by the original Abrams  
235 and Prausnitz expression.<sup>26</sup> Although a temperature dependence  
236 was suggested for the binary interaction parameter ( $a_{ij}$ ), this is  
237 not considered here because of the reduced number of experi-  
238 mental data available.

The volume and area parameters of the molecules were  
240 calculated from the volume and area parameters of the groups,  
241 using the UNIFAC parameter tables presented elsewhere.<sup>27</sup>

**4.2. Cubic-Plus-Association (CPA) Equation of State.** In  
243 this work, we are considering water and phenolic compounds,  
244 which means that both the solute and the solvent can associate.  
245 Traditional cubic equations of state have proved to have good  
246 predictive capabilities for nonassociating fluids, but they typi-  
247 cally fail in describing these particular interactions. This  
248 handicap of cubic equations of state was solved with the cubic-  
249 plus-association equation of state (CPA EoS).<sup>21,22</sup>

The CPA EoS combines a cubic contribution [from the  
251 Soave–Redlich–Kwong (SRK) or the Peng–Robinson (PR)  
252 equation of state] with an association contribution,<sup>28</sup> originally  
253 proposed by Wertheim and used in other associating equations  
254 of state such as the statistical associating fluid theory (SAFT),<sup>29</sup>  
255 accounting for intermolecular hydrogen bonding and solvation  
256 effects. Using a generalized cubic term<sup>30</sup> (for the SRK approach,  
257  $\delta_1 = 1$ ,  $\delta_2 = 0$ ; for the PR approach,  $\delta_1 = 1 + \sqrt{2}$ ,  $\delta_2 = 1 -$   
258  $\sqrt{2}$ ), the cubic and association contributions to the Helmholtz  
259 energy ( $A$ ) are the following

$$261 \quad A^{\text{cubic}} = \frac{an}{b(\delta_2 - \delta_1)} \ln \left( \frac{1 + b\rho\delta_1}{1 + b\rho\delta_2} \right) -$$

$$262 \quad nRT \ln(1 - b\rho) \quad (7)$$

$$263 \quad A^{\text{assoc}} = RT \sum_i n_i \sum_{A_i} \left[ \ln(X_{A_i}) - \frac{X_{A_i}}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right] \quad (8)$$

264 where  $i$  is a component index,  $b$  is the covolume parameter,  $a$   
265 the energy parameter,  $\rho$  is the molar density,  $n_i$  is the number  
266 of moles of molecules of component  $i$ ,  $n$  is the total number of  
267 moles,  $g$  is a simplified radial distribution function,<sup>31</sup> and  $X_{A_i}$   
268 is the mole fraction of component  $i$  not bonded at site  $A$ .

269 The pure-component energy parameter is given by

$$270 \quad a(T) = a_0 [1 + c_1(1 - \sqrt{T_r})^2] \quad (9)$$

271 where  $a_0$  and  $c_1$  are constants to be calculated and  $T_r$  is the  
272 reduced temperature. Only a binary interaction parameter,  $k_{ij}$ ,  
273 on the cross energy parameter  $a_{ij}$  is introduced in the cubic  
274 contribution, as in previous works.<sup>32,33</sup>

275  $X_{A_i}$  is related to the association strength,  $\Delta^{A_i B_j}$ , between two  
276 sites belonging to two different molecules and is calculated by  
277 solving a set of equations, involving all nonbonded mole  
278 fractions

$$279 \quad X_{A_i} = \frac{1}{1 + \rho \sum_j x_j \sum_{B_j} X_{B_j} \Delta^{A_i B_j}} \quad (10)$$

280 For cross-associating systems, such as those considered in  
281 this work, both self- and cross-association  $\Delta$  functions need to

**TABLE 1: Experimental Solubilities (S) of Hydroxybenzoic Acids in Pure Water and the Corresponding Saturation pH Values**

<i>T</i> (K)	protocatechuic acid		syringic acid	
	<i>S</i> ± $\sigma^a$ (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	pH	<i>S</i> ± $\sigma^a$ (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	pH
323	49.3 ± 0.5	2.41	5.8 ± 0.2	2.90
	52.8 ± 0.2 <sup>b</sup>			
313	28.1 ± 0.9	2.61	4.4 ± 0.1	3.07
303	17.4 ± 0.1	2.97	2.7 ± 0.0	3.31
298	12.7 ± 0.2	3.06	2.3 ± 0.0	3.42
288	7.6 ± 0.6	3.08	1.1 ± 0.0	3.52

<sup>a</sup> Standard deviation. <sup>b</sup> Value measured by gravimetry.

be obtained. Additionally, for multifunctional associating molecules, such as the phenolic compounds under study (Figure 1), different associating groups can be present on the same molecule, in some cases with multiple substitutions. Applications of associating equations of state to these complex multifunctional molecules have traditionally been performed with a single association energy and volume for the entire molecule.<sup>22,25</sup> Only the group-contribution-association (GCA)<sup>34</sup> and, very recently, the CPA equations of state<sup>18</sup> have been adopted for multifunctional associating molecules with explicit association energies and volumes for the different associating groups.

The procedure followed in this work is the same as that recently proposed by the authors.<sup>18</sup> The cubic-term parameters are calculated from the critical temperature ( $T_c$ ), critical pressure ( $P_c$ ), and van der Waals volume (vdWV)

$$a_0 = 0.2267 + 24.38 \frac{T_c^2}{P_c} \quad (11)$$

$$c_1 = -3.557 + (6.289 \times 10^{-3})T_c \quad (12)$$

$$b = -2.328 \times 10^{-5} + 1.884 \text{vdWV} \quad (13)$$

where  $T_c$  is in K,  $P_c$  is in Pa, and the van der Waals volume is in m<sup>3</sup>/mol.

The corresponding association energies and volumes to be used in the association term are obtained from a set of model molecules for which vapor pressure and liquid density data are available using the cubic-term parameters from eqs 11–13. This is further discussed in the following section.

## 5. Results and Discussion

Solubility results, in grams per liter, and the corresponding pH of each saturated solution are reported in Tables 1 and 2. As can be observed for all compounds, the solubility follows a general exponential trend with temperature. In a previous work,<sup>18</sup> we reported the solubilities of other phenolic compounds, and the results were in good agreement with most of the available literature data.

Among the hydroxybenzoic acids (Table 1), the extent of hydrogen bonding with water seems to be an important variable during the solubilization process. Protocatechuic acid is more soluble than syringic acid (and salicylic acid,<sup>18</sup> both having one hydroxyl group), but less soluble than gallic acid (which has three hydroxyl groups in the aromatic ring<sup>18</sup>). Literature data for these two hydroxybenzoic acids were found only in the works of Noubigh et al.,<sup>11,35,36</sup> but the disagreement with our data is relevant (Figure 2). Such disagreement was also found before for gallic acid, where the data from these authors were in considerable disagreement with our data and those of Lu and Lu.<sup>14</sup> For all of these hydroxybenzoic acids and for ferulic acid,

Noubigh et al.'s data do not increase significantly with temperature, in contrast to what would be expected.

For *o*-coumaric acid (Table 2), no literature data were found to compare with our results, but comparison with previous data for other phenylpropenoic acids such as *trans*-cinnamic, ferulic, and caffeic acids<sup>18</sup> shows that the obtained results follow the expected trend in solubility (*trans*-cinnamic acid < *o*-coumaric acid < ferulic acid < caffeic acid) considering the extent of hydrogen bonding with water. As found before, for other hydroxybenzoic and phenylpropenoic acids, the latter usually present lower solubilities, as was also found in this work.

Among the studied phenolic compounds, ellagic acid (Table 2) is the one with the lowest solubilities. Only one value obtained by Bala et al.<sup>37</sup> at 310 K (9.7 mg/L) was found for comparison with our results at the nearest temperatures (4.4 and 5.9 mg/L for 303.2 and 313.2 K, respectively). The deviation from our results is significant, but the standard deviation found by Bala et al.<sup>37</sup> is so high (±3.2 mg/L) that the value measured in this work shows consistency with their findings.

Tyrosol (Table 2) is the most soluble phenolic, and no solubility data for it were found, except for a single point at 293.2 K available in the Merck Index (124 g/L).<sup>38</sup> Our results compare well with that value. The density of the saturated solution of tyrosol at 298.2 K was measured and found to be 998.86 g/L. As this compound has high solubilities, for the calculation of mole fractions for modeling purposes, the mass of the solute cannot be considered negligible in comparison to the solvent mass, and this density value was used.

As mentioned previously, to verify the accuracy of the spectroscopic method, some measurements at the higher temperatures were also done by the gravimetric method. The analytical gravimetric method is a quite simple technique, very accurate and highly reproducible, and it has already been applied to a large range of compounds. For *o*-coumaric acid, the difference between the results from the two methods is 1.5%; for protocatechuic acid, 7%; and for tyrosol, 11%. These differences are not significant, meaning that the spectrophotometric method is reliable.

Relative differences in solubility can also be understood with the help of the thermodynamic properties of solvation presented in Table 3. These were obtained by considering the plots of  $\ln x$  vs  $T$  to be linear functions, so that the derivatives in eq 1 are the slopes of the corresponding linear fits.

In terms of enthalpy, we can see that ellagic acid would be more favorably solubilized than the other phenolics, but this is not the case, as there is also a very strong entropic effect. This can be explained by the considerable number of water hydrogen bonds that must be broken to solubilize such a large molecule, even though the molecule has four hydroxyl groups that can hydrogen bond with water.

It is also curious to note that tyrosol, although not expected because of its highest dissolution enthalpy, is very soluble because it has the highest dissolution enthalpy. Still, opposite to ellagic acid, tyrosol has a very high entropic contribution favoring dissolution. Protocatechuic and *o*-coumaric acids have very similar enthalpic contributions for dissolution, but protocatechuic acid is more soluble because of a more favorable entropic term. Finally, syringic acid is slightly more soluble than *o*-coumaric acid because of a more favorable enthalpic contribution.

For all of the compounds, it was found that the solubilization process is endergonic ( $\Delta_{\text{sol}}G > 0$ ) and, therefore, nonspontaneous.

Other important information about the solubilization of solids in liquids is related to fusion enthalpies and melting tempera-

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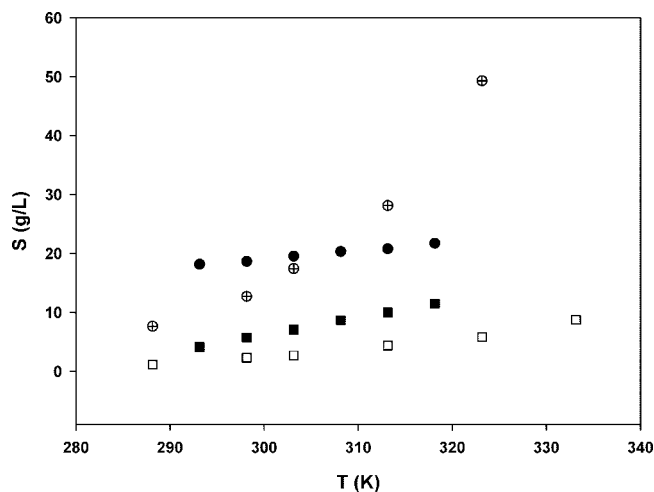
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**TABLE 2: Experimental Solubilities (*S*) of Tyrosol, *o*-Coumaric Acid, and Ellagic Acid in Pure Water and the Corresponding Saturation pH Values**

<i>T</i> (K)	tyrosol		<i>o</i> -coumaric acid		ellagic acid	
	<i>S</i> ± $\sigma^a$ (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	pH	<i>S</i> ± $\sigma^a$ (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	pH	<i>S</i> ± $\sigma^a$ (g L <sup>-1</sup> )	pH
323	647.2 ± 7.8	4.34	1.3 ± 0.0	3.37	7.2 ± 0.3	4.38
	572.9 ± 6.7 <sup>b</sup>		1.3 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>			
313	300.8 ± 3.9	4.97	0.8 ± 0.0	3.45	5.9 ± 0.2	4.51
303	154.9 ± 2.5	5.19	0.5 ± 0.0	3.56	4.4 ± 0.1	4.65
298	106.9 ± 1.5	5.49	0.3 ± 0.0	3.73	3.8 ± 0.1	4.84
288	63.2 ± 0.5	5.50	0.2 ± 0.0	3.79	2.7 ± 0.1	4.89

<sup>a</sup> Standard deviation. <sup>b</sup> Value measured by gravimetry.



**Figure 2.** Aqueous solubilities of hydroxybenzoic acids as a function of temperature: this work (⊕, protocatechuic acid; □, syringic acid) and results obtained by Noubigh et al.<sup>11</sup> (●, protocatechuic acid; ■, syringic acid).

tures, with lower values of both properties favoring solubility (eqs 5 and 6). The melting properties of the compounds measured in this work are compiled in Table 4, together with the numbers of measurements and standard deviations. For all of the phenolic compounds, except *o*-coumaric and ellagic acids, a linear baseline and a single peak were observed. The melting peak of *o*-coumaric acid is not symmetric, with other peaks continuously connected to the melting peak, indicating that decomposition processes might occur upon melting. For this reason, the fusion enthalpy of this acid could not be determined, so it was calculated using a third-order group-contribution approach proposed by Marrero and Gani<sup>39</sup> that was found to give accurate estimates for both melting temperatures and enthalpies of fusion of different phenolics. The same was done for ellagic acid, as the apparent melting peak was quite large and not symmetrical. All DSC crucibles were weighed before and after the DSC measurement to check for mass loss. Literature data were found only for the melting temperature of tyrosol,<sup>40</sup> with our data deviating by less than 0.3%.

For the three compounds for which we measured and predicted the melting data, higher disagreements between the experimental values and the Marrero and Gani method were found for the melting temperature (3%) and enthalpy of fusion (25%) of syringic acid, which can be considered as good predictive results. From the measured solubility and the measured and predicted melting data, it can be seen that only for tyrosol and ellagic acid did these variables seem to have a significant influence on the relative solubility: the most soluble,

tyrosol, is the phenolic compound with the lowest melting temperature and enthalpy of fusion, whereas ellagic acid is the least soluble and the one requiring the highest temperature and energy to break the crystal structure. For the other three compounds, these data do not seem to be a determining factor in solubility.

Liquid and solid experimental heat capacities are available for a limited number of compounds. From the DSC thermograms, we could determine these values for protocatechuic and syringic acids and tyrosol (Table 4), but no literature data were found for the other studied phenolics. Therefore, a three-level group-contribution method reported by Marrero and Gani<sup>39</sup> and extended by Kolská et al.<sup>41</sup> was used for the estimation of the heat capacities of the liquids. These authors presented group-contribution parameters that were determined by both nonhierarchical and hierarchic approaches and tested the model performance in terms of extrapolation features, predictive capability, and consistency. Although the nonhierarchical approach proved to be slightly superior, the heat capacity of ellagic acid was estimated using the hierarchic approach, because the other parameters led to a too-high heat capacity value. For the estimation of the heat capacities of the solids, a correlation based on molecular structure was used.<sup>42</sup> This model was tested by the authors with an average accuracy of approximately 13%. For the three compounds with experimental values, the results were in good agreement (5%, 8%, and 4% deviations, respectively, for protocatechuic acid, syringic acid, and tyrosol).

As most of the studied compounds are organic acids, measurements of apparent equilibrium constants,  $K_{a,app}$ , were carried out at 298.2 K, and the results are presented in Table 5. These are apparent dissociation constants, because only the H<sup>+</sup> activity is considered, as given by the pH measuring system

$$K_{a,app} = \frac{[A^-](H^+)}{[HA]} \quad (14)$$

where activities are represented by parentheses and concentrations are represented by square brackets.

For the purposes of this work, this is a consistent procedure, as we are mostly interested in the ratio of the basic to the acidic form, in order to evaluate the extent of acid dissociation on the solubility. The obtained  $pK_{a,app}$  results and the reported saturated pH values presented in Tables 1 and 2 lead to the conclusion that the extent of dissociation at equilibrium is very small and, thus, acid dissociation is not an important factor for determining the solubilities of the studied phenolic compounds in pure water. Tyrosol is the least acidic phenolic compound, with a  $pK_a$  very close to that of phenol (9.89), as expected, followed by ellagic acid, *o*-coumaric acid, and the hydroxybenzoic acids.

Finally, the measured data were used to evaluate the performance of the modified UNIQUAC and CPA EoS for their estimation.

TABLE 3: Thermodynamic Properties for the Dissolution of the Phenolic Compounds in Pure Water:  $\Delta_{30}G$  (kJ/mol),  $\Delta_{30}H$  (kJ/mol), and  $\Delta_{30}S$  [J/(mol K)]

T (K)	protocatechuic acid			syringic acid			ellagic acid			o-coumaric acid			tyrosol		
	$\Delta_{30}H \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}G \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}S \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}H \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}G \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}S \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}H \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}G \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}S \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}H \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}G \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}S \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}H \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}G \pm \sigma^a$	$\Delta_{30}S \pm \sigma^a$
323	46.4 ± 0.8	13.9 ± 0.2	100.6 ± 0.7	38.6 ± 2.9	20.2 ± 0.1	56.9 ± 0.3	23.61 ± 1.3	39.4 ± 0.1	-48.9 ± 0.4	49.1 ± 4.4	23.7 ± 0.0	78.7 ± 0.1	76.5 ± 7.3	4.4 ± 0.3	222.9 ± 0.7
313	43.5 ± 0.8	14.9 ± 0.2	91.5 ± 0.5	36.3 ± 2.7	20.4 ± 0.1	50.8 ± 0.2	22.2 ± 1.2	38.7 ± 0.1	-52.8 ± 0.2	46.2 ± 4.1	24.3 ± 0.0	69.8 ± 0.1	71.8 ± 6.9	7.6 ± 0.3	204.9 ± 1.0
303	40.8 ± 0.7	15.6 ± 0.2	83.1 ± 0.6	34.0 ± 2.6	20.9 ± 0.0	43.1 ± 0.1	20.8 ± 1.1	38.2 ± 0.0	-57.4 ± 0.1	43.3 ± 3.9	24.8 ± 0.1	60.8 ± 0.3	67.3 ± 6.4	9.5 ± 0.2	190.7 ± 0.7
298	39.5 ± 0.7	16.2 ± 0.0	78.2 ± 0.1	32.9 ± 2.5	21.0 ± 0.0	39.8 ± 0.1	20.1 ± 1.1	37.9 ± 0.2	-59.7 ± 0.2	41.8 ± 3.7	25.8 ± 0.1	53.7 ± 0.4	65.1 ± 6.2	10.4 ± 0.4	183.6 ± 1.4
288	36.9 ± 0.6	16.8 ± 0.2	69.5 ± 0.7	30.7 ± 2.3	22.0 ± 0.1	30.1 ± 0.2	18.8 ± 1.0	37.4 ± 0.0	-64.7 ± 0.2	39.1 ± 3.5	25.7 ± 0.0	46.5 ± 0.1	60.8 ± 5.8	11.4 ± 0.5	171.6 ± 1.7

<sup>a</sup> Standard deviation.

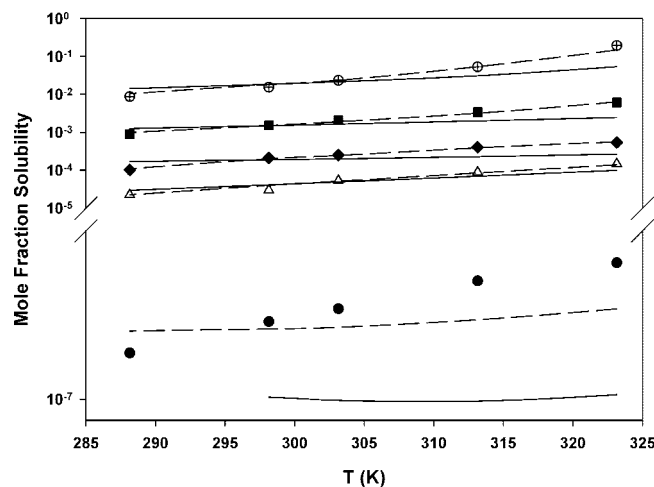


Figure 3. Solubilities of phenolic compounds in water as a function of temperature: experimental results (■, protocatechuic acid; ◆, syringic acid; △, o-coumaric acid; ⊕, tyrosol; ●, ellagic acid) and modeling results (—, CPA; ---, UNIQUAC).

For the modified UNIQUAC model, the residual term binary interaction parameters were fitted to the measured data. Two temperature-independent interaction parameters were regressed per each binary water + phenolic system. The values are presented in Table 6. Table 6 also contains the volume and area parameters.

In Figure 3, the experimental and calculated solubilities are compared. An excellent description is obtained, using the melting data presented in Table 4. The absolute average deviations (AADs) are good: 5% for syringic and protocatechuic acids, 6% for coumaric acid, 8% for tyrosol, and 27% for ellagic acid.

The CPA EoS was used with the SRK cubic term (eq 7). In the traditional way, the CPA parameters would be obtained from pure-component vapor pressure and liquid density data, but because these data are not available for the studied molecules, the cubic-term parameters were calculated as proposed before for other phenolics (eqs 11–13) using  $T_c$  and  $P_c$  obtained from the Marrero and Gani group-contribution procedure<sup>39</sup> and the van der Waals volumes from the Bondi group-contribution approach.<sup>43</sup> These parameters are presented in Table 7. Water parameters from a previous work were used<sup>18</sup> ( $a_0 = 0.12 \text{ Pa m}^6/\text{mol}^2$ ,  $c_1 = 0.67$ ,  $b = 1.45 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^3/\text{mol}$ ,  $\epsilon = 16555 \text{ J/mol}$ ,  $\beta = 0.069$ , four-site model). For the association contribution, values of the association energy and volume for the different associating groups involved in each molecule are presented in Table 8. These values were obtained from a previous work where the parameters were estimated from pure-component vapor pressure and liquid density data of model molecules.<sup>18</sup> For the case of the hydroxyl group in a phenylethanol molecule (Table 8, last line), the association energy and volume were regressed from data for 2-phenylethanol obtained from the DIPPR database.<sup>44</sup> For acid groups, both the association energies and volumes are considerably dependent on whether there is ring substitution with or without intramolecular association or phenylpropenoic substitution. For hydroxyl groups, the values depend on whether there are intramolecular hydrogen bonds. From this methodology, all of the cubic and associating parameters of the molecules under study can be estimated, without requiring experimental pure-component data. In the case of syringic and ellagic acids, the ether and ester groups are not considered to cross-associate with water.

The CPA modeling results are presented in Figure 3. A good description of the data can be obtained using a single temper-

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**TABLE 4: Average Melting Points, Enthalpies of Fusion, and Differential Heat Capacities of the Studied Phenolic Acids**

	scans	$T_m$ (K)	$\Delta_{fus}H \pm \sigma^a$ (kJ/mol)	$\Delta C_p \pm \sigma^a$ [J/(mol K)]
protocatechuic acid	7	472.3 $\pm$ 1.6	31.2 $\pm$ 1.6	108.0 $\pm$ 6.2
	–	469.3 <sup>b</sup>	34.2 <sup>b</sup>	102.4 <sup>c</sup>
syringic acid	7	480.3 $\pm$ 0.6	33.7 $\pm$ 1.8	76.8 $\pm$ 3.4
	–	463.8 <sup>b</sup>	25.0 <sup>b</sup>	83.0 <sup>c</sup>
tyrosol	6	364.0 $\pm$ 0.2	25.9 $\pm$ 1.6	125.6 $\pm$ 21.4
	–	372.8 <sup>b</sup>	20.3 <sup>b</sup>	120.5 <sup>c</sup>
ellagic acid	–	560.4 <sup>b</sup>	59.7 <sup>b</sup>	394.0 <sup>c</sup>
<i>o</i> -coumaric acid	–	429.9 <sup>b</sup>	32.2 <sup>b</sup>	117.5 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Standard deviation. <sup>b</sup> Calculated using a group-contribution method.<sup>39</sup> <sup>c</sup> Calculated using a group-contribution method for the estimation of the heat capacities of liquids<sup>41</sup> and a correlation based on molecular structure for the heat capacity of solids.<sup>42</sup>

**TABLE 5: Apparent Acid Dissociation Constants of the Studied Phenolic Acids at 298.15 K**

phenolic acid	$pK_{a,app}$
protocatechuic acid	4.63
syringic acid	4.71
<i>o</i> -coumaric acid	4.82
ellagic acid	6.54
tyrosol	10.0

**TABLE 6: Modified UNIQUAC Model Parameters in Water ( $j$ ) and Volume and Area Parameters for Each Compound<sup>a</sup>**

$i$	$a_{ij}$ (K)	$a_{ji}$ (K)	$r_i$	$q_i$
protocatechuic acid	−309.81	913.32	5.0508	3.9040
syringic acid	−10.75	363.18	6.6447	5.2400
<i>o</i> -coumaric acid	−11.39	574.56	5.8036	4.4910
ellagic acid	54.91	1056.37	8.8387	6.0000
tyrosol	−86.13	377.71	5.7344	4.6800

<sup>a</sup> Water:  $r_j = 0.92$ ;  $q_j = 1.40$ .

**TABLE 7: Critical Properties and van der Waals Volumes Used in the CPA EoS**

compound	$T_c$ (K)	$P_c$ (MPa)	vdWV ( $10^{-5}$ m <sup>3</sup> /mol)
protocatechuic acid	855.0	6.47	7.85
syringic acid	856.6	3.77	10.53
<i>o</i> -coumaric acid	831.8	4.26	8.82
ellagic acid	1056	13.75	14.9
tyrosol	762.3	4.71	8.03
2-phenylethanol	684.0	3.92	7.43

**TABLE 8: Association Parameters in the CPA**

position	$\epsilon$ (J mol <sup>−1</sup> )	$\beta$
COOH Group		
benzoic acid	32010	$9.820 \times 10^{-6}$
phenylpropenoic acid	27560	$3.698 \times 10^{-3}$
OH Group		
ring, single OH	18370	$1.185 \times 10^{-2}$
ring, orto with OH	11340	$6.225 \times 10^{-2}$
aliphatic OH in phenylethanol	23367	$1.417 \times 10^{-2}$

ature-independent parameter  $k_{ij}$  for each binary system. A maximum average absolute deviation (in mole fraction solubility) of 66% was obtained for ellagic acid, whereas for the other phenolics, the average deviations did not exceed 39%, which can be considered as good results, given that these water + organic systems are frequently difficult to model accurately.<sup>32</sup> It is important to focus on the fact that the ellagic acid solubilities are too low, and therefore, a deviation of 60% in the prediction is not so bad. We also consider that this is a quite complex molecule for which we do not know whether the

predictivity of the proposed CPA model and the correlations for the melting properties and  $\Delta C_p$  are or not sufficiently accurate. All of the correlated  $k_{ij}$  values are negative (tyrosol,  $k_{ij} = -0.14$ ; protocatechuic acid,  $k_{ij} = -0.06$ ; syringic acid,  $k_{ij} = -0.13$ ; *o*-coumaric acid,  $k_{ij} = -0.03$ ; ellagic acid,  $k_{ij} = -0.12$ ), indicating that the water–phenolic interactions are stronger than expected. This is particularly the case for ellagic and syringic acids, where the presence of the ester and ether groups, respectively, was not considered to increase solvation.

As shown, the predictive ability of the proposed procedure for the pure-component parameters leads to good results provided that a single  $k_{ij}$  value is employed.

## 6. Conclusions

In this work, aqueous solubility data were measured for some phenolic compounds, namely, tyrosol and ellagic, *o*-coumaric, protocatechuic, and syringic acids, in pure water, in the temperature range from 288.2 to 323.2 K, using the shake-flask method coupled with spectrophotometric analysis. All solubilities were found to increase with temperature, as expected. From the aqueous solubility data, thermodynamic molar properties of dissolution were derived. The studied compounds can be divided into two groups: substituted phenols (tyrosol), which have higher solubilities, and hydroxybenzoic acids (protocatechuic and syringic acids), phenylpropenoic acids (*o*-coumaric acid), and tannins (ellagic acid), which have lower solubilities. In addition to solubility data, melting temperatures, enthalpies of fusion, and apparent dissociation constants were also determined, providing broader knowledge about the solubilization processes of these molecules. From all of the measurements, it was concluded that the extent of solubilization is mostly governed by the degree of hydrogen-bond formation with water, but the energetics of the solid state also play an important role for some of the studied molecules.

The modified UNIQUAC model, with two adjustable parameters from solubility data, provided an excellent description of the solubilities of these phenolic compounds. The CPA EoS, with a single binary interaction parameter, can also be used to estimate the solubilities of these molecules, although with a worse description compared to that of the modified UNIQUAC. It was also demonstrated that the CPA parameters of these molecules can be obtained solely from their molecular structure, avoiding the need for pure-component data. The methodology proposed in this work is expected to be an important tool for the modeling of the phase equilibria of multifunctional associating molecules.

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### 573 List of Symbols

574  $a_0$  = parameter in the cubic term of CPA (Pa m<sup>6</sup>/mol<sup>2</sup>)  
575  $b$  = covolume parameter in the CPA (m<sup>3</sup>/mol)  
576  $c_1$  = parameter in the cubic term of the CPA  
577 CPA = cubic plus association  
578 EoS = equation of state  
579  $f$  = fugacity  
580  $n$  = number of moles  
581  $P$  = pressure (Pa)  
582  $q$  = UNIQUAC area parameter  
583  $r$  = UNIQUAC volume parameter  
584  $K_{a,app}$  = apparent acid dissociation constant  
585  $R$  = gas constant [8.314 J/(mol K)]  
586  $S$  = solubility  
587  $T$  = absolute temperature (K)  
588 vdWV = van der Waals volume (m<sup>3</sup>/mol)  
589  $x$  = mole fraction  
590  $X_{A_i}$  = fraction of molecule  $i$  not bonded at site A

### 591 Greek Symbols

592  $\epsilon$  = association energy (J/mol)  
593  $\beta$  = association volume  
594  $\gamma$  = activity coefficient  
595  $\Delta^{A,B_j}$  = association strength between site A on molecule  $i$   
596 and site B on molecule  $j$   
597  $\Delta C_p$  = difference between the liquid and solid molar heat  
598 capacities  
599  $\Delta_{sol}G$  = molar Gibbs energy of dissolution  
600  $\Delta_{sol}H$  = molar enthalpy of dissolution  
601  $\Delta_{sol}S$  = molar entropy of dissolution  
602  $\Delta_{fus}H$  = fusion enthalpy (J/mol)  
603  $\rho$  = mole density (mol/m<sup>3</sup>)  
604  $\sigma$  = standard deviation  
605  $\varphi$  = fugacity coefficient

### 606 Subscripts

607  $c$  = critical  
608  $i, j$  = component indexes  
609  $m$  = melting  
610  $r$  = reduced  
611  $s$  = solute

### 612 Superscripts

613 assoc = association term  
614 cubic = cubic term  
615 liq = liquid phase  
616 sol = solid phase  
617 0 = pure component

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