Effects of Nonionic Surfactant Lauryl Alcohol Ethoxylated on *Stratum corneum* Alternative Model Biomembranes Evaluated by Biophysical Techniques

André R. BABY 1, Áurea C.L. LACERDA 1, Paula S. PRESTES 1, Maria V.R. VELASCO 1, Yoshio KAWANO 2 & Telma M. KANEKO 1

1 Department of Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of São Paulo 580, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
2 Department of Fundamental Chemistry, Institute of Chemistry, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

SUMMARY. The influence of the nonionic surfactant lauryl alcohol ethoxylate with 12 moles ethylene oxide (LAE-12OE) was evaluated on the *Stratum corneum* model biomembrane (SCMM) of shed snake skin (*Bothrops jararaca* and *Spilotes pullatus*) through the biophysical techniques Fourier transform Raman spectroscopy (FT-Raman) and Fourier transform infrared photoacoustic spectroscopy (PAS-FTIR). The surfactant was used in aqueous solutions above and below the critical micelle concentration (cmc), 50.0 and 0.21 g/L, respectively. The SCMM samples were pre-treated for periods of 8 h (whole SCMM) and for 12 h (SCMM after tape stripping procedure). The LAE-12OE did not promote increase in the hydration of the *B. jararaca* and *S. pullatus* SCMM but exhibited some action as far as lipid extraction.

**KEY WORDS:** Biomembrane, *Bothrops jararaca*, FT-Raman, Lauryl alcohol ethoxylated, PAS-FTIR, *Spilotes pullatus*.

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: andrerb@usp.br