

1 Concentration by pervaporation of representative  
2 brown crab volatile compounds from dilute  
3 model solution.

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6 In this work, the pervaporation technique is investigated in the separation of dilute  
7 solutions of volatile compounds from brown crab effluent in order to obtain a valuable food  
8 flavouring fraction. A systematic study of the pervaporation process has been carried out on  
9 dilute model solutions of some of the compounds identified in the brown crab effluent as  
10 typical volatile compounds. The membrane used in this work was a hydrophobic membrane  
11 with a selective layer of POMS (polyoctylmethyl siloxane). The effect of some operating  
12 variables, such as feed flow rate, feed concentration, feed temperature and permeate  
13 pressure was analyzed on the pervaporation performance of the membrane.

14 *Keywords:* volatile compounds, concentration, pervaporation, POMS membrane

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## 15 **1. Introduction**

16 Brown crabs are found in the Eastern Atlantic and are heavily exploited commercially  
17 being available throughout the year. The brown crab liquid effluent produced during  
18 boiling is believed to contain important amounts of volatile flavour components (Cha et al.  
19 1993). This work is part of a wider study to consider the conversion of this by-product into  
20 valuable volatile concentrate. Concentrates of the volatile species have considerable  
21 commercial utility, especially in the food industry due to longer shelf life, reduced  
22 packaging and lower distribution and storage costs (She and Hwang, 2006). Additionally,  
23 organic removal from water at low concentrations involves an important environmental  
24 challenge.

25 Cha et al. (1993) studied the concentration of the liquid effluent produced during snow crab  
26 boiling by steam distillation. However, this technique involves high energy consumption as  
27 well as physical aroma losses (García et al. 2008). In this work, the pervaporation process  
28 has been considered to recover the volatile fraction from brown crab effluent.  
29 Pervaporation is a membrane process which has been developed rapidly in the last 20 years  
30 for aroma concentration (She and Hwang, 2006) since the addition of chemical solvents is  
31 avoided. Additionally moderate operating temperatures help to minimize degradation of  
32 aroma character.

33 Brown crab effluent was supplied by IDOKI SCF Technologies S.L. (Spain). The first step  
34 in this work was to determine the main volatile organic compounds present in the industrial  
35 effluent. More than 150 compounds were identified in the brown crab effluent. These  
36 included mainly aldehydes, ketones, alcohols, esters, aromatic compounds and sulphur and  
37 nitrogen-containing compounds. To study the ability of pervaporation process to recover

38 the volatile fraction from the brown crab effluent seven of the identified compounds have  
39 been selected for a model aqueous solution of brown crab effluent: 1-octen-3-ol, 1-penten-  
40 3-ol, 3-methylbutanal, hexanal, benzaldehyde, 2,3-pentadione and ethyl acetate.

41 A systematic study of the pervaporation process of the dilute model solution was performed  
42 in order to analyze the influence of some operating variables on the pervaporation  
43 performance. The permeation flux and enrichment factor of the selected volatile  
44 compounds were analyzed at different operating conditions: feed flow rate, feed  
45 temperature, feed concentration and permeate pressure.

## 46 **2. Theory.**

47 On the basis on the solution/diffusion model the flux of component  $i$  through the membrane  
48 is proportional to the difference in partial vapor pressure at both sides of the membrane  
49 (Blume et al. 1990):

$$50 \quad J_i = Q_{OV,i} (x_i \gamma_i p_i^s - y_i p_p) \quad (1)$$

51 where  $J_i$  is the partial permeation flux,  $Q_{OV,i}$  the pressure-normalized permeation flux  
52 (permeance),  $x_i$  the mole fraction of component  $i$  in the feed,  $\gamma_i$  the activity coefficient and  
53  $p_i^s$  the saturation vapor pressure at the temperature of the feed,  $y_i$ , the mole fraction in the  
54 permeate and  $p_p$  the permeate pressure. In case of pervaporation of dilute aqueous solutions  
55 activity coefficients at infinite dilution in water ( $\gamma_i^\infty$ ) are used as feed-side activity  
56 coefficients due to the very low concentrations of aroma compounds in the feed (Trifunovic  
57 and Trägårdh, 2006). In this work, the activity coefficients at infinite dilution in water were  
58 estimated with the help of the software Aspen plus (2008) by using UNIQUAC equation

59 when binary interaction parameters were available, otherwise the predictive method  
60 UNIFAC-Dortmund was used.

61 According to the resistance-in-series model, the two main mass transfer resistances that  
62 affect the pervaporation process are the liquid boundary layer resistance and the membrane  
63 resistance. At steady state the flux through the different mass transfer layers is equal:

$$64 \quad J_i = Q_{ov,i} (x_i \gamma_i p_i^s - y_i p_p) = k_{bl,i} \rho (x_i - x_i^m) = Q_{m,i} (p_i^m - y_i p_p) \quad (2)$$

65 where  $k_{bl}$  is the liquid boundary layer mass transfer coefficient,  $\rho$  the total mass volume  
66 concentration of the feed,  $x_i^m$  mol fraction of  $i$  at the membrane-fluid interface,  $Q_{m,i}$  the  
67 pressure normalized permeation flux across the membrane and  $p_i^m$  the partial vapor  
68 pressure of  $i$  at the membrane-fluid interface. The rest of the symbols are the same as in  
69 Equation 1. The overall mass transfer coefficient in the steady state can be expressed as the  
70 sum of these two resistances:

$$71 \quad \frac{1}{Q_{ov,i}} = \frac{\gamma_i p_i^s}{k_{bl,i} \rho} + \frac{1}{Q_{m,i}} \quad (3)$$

72 The term  $\gamma_i p_i^s / \rho$  is the conversion factor from a concentration driving force to a partial  
73 vapour pressure driving force. The overall mass transfer coefficient  $Q_{OV,i}$  of Eq. 1 can be  
74 obtained from experimental measurements of the permeate flux and feed concentration of  
75 the permeating component  $i$ . The liquid boundary layer mass transfer coefficient,  $k_{bL}$ , is  
76 related to the feed hydrodynamic conditions and it can be estimated from the Sherwood  
77 correlation in terms of Reynolds (Re) and Schmidt (Sc) numbers for a plate-and-frame  
78 module (Dotremont et al. 1994):

$$79 \quad Sh = \frac{k_{bl}d_h}{D_{i,water}} = 1.86 Re^{1/3} Sc^{1/3} \left( \frac{d_h}{L} \right)^{1/3} \quad (4)$$

80 where  $d_h$  is the hydraulic diameter,  $L$  a characteristic measure of the module defined by  
 81 Dotremont et al. (1994) for a similar plate and frame module and  $D_{i,water}$  the diffusion  
 82 coefficient of  $i$  in water estimated using the Wilke-Chang correlation (Poling et al. 2001).

83 For pervaporation of dilute organic solutions, the boundary layer mass transfer resistance  
 84 for water transport is assumed to be negligible (Ji et al. 1994):

$$85 \quad J_w = Q_w^m (p_w^s \gamma_w x_w - y_w p_p) \quad (5)$$

86 for dilute aqueous solutions activity coefficient and molar fraction of water are  
 87 approximately equal to 1.

88 The separation performance of a pervaporation membrane can be described in terms of the  
 89 permeation flux and the separation factor of the membrane (Huang and Rhim, 1991). The  
 90 enrichment factor of a given component is the relationship between the concentration in the  
 91 permeate and the feed:

$$92 \quad \beta_i = w_{i,p} / w_{i,f} \quad (6)$$

93 In dilute systems, as aroma recovery systems, the solvent enrichment factor is close to one,  
 94 so aroma enrichment factors can be considered equal to the corresponding separation  
 95 factors.

### 96 **3. Experimental section**

#### 97 *3.1. Materials*

##### 98 *Pervaporation membrane*

99 The membrane used in this work was a hydrophobic membrane kindly supplied by GKKS  
100 Research Center (Germany). This membrane has a selective layer of POMS  
101 (polyoctylmethyl siloxane) on a PEI (poly ether imide) support (batch 03/011).

## 102 Volatile compounds

103 The identification of the main volatile components present in the brown crab effluent was  
104 performed by using a headspace-solid phase dynamic extraction-gas chromatography/mass  
105 spectrometry (HS-SPDE-GC/MS). More than 150 compounds were identified in the brown  
106 crab effluent. Among them, seven compounds have been selected for a model aqueous  
107 solution of brown crab effluent. The selected volatile compounds belong to different  
108 chemical classes: 1-octen-3-ol (Sigma Aldrich, 98 %), 1-penten-3-ol (Sigma Aldrich,  
109 99 %), 3-methylbutanal (Sigma Aldrich, 97 %), hexanal (Sigma Aldrich, 98 %),  
110 benzaldehyde (Sigma Aldrich, >=99 %), 2,3-pentadione (Sigma Aldrich, 98 %) and ethyl  
111 acetate (Sigma Aldrich, HPLC grade). These compounds are characteristic of seafood  
112 flavour: 1-octen-3-ol has been reported to be one of the volatile components widely  
113 distributed in fresh and saltwater fish, 1-penten-3-ol contributes to a butter-like odor  
114 (although its aroma treshold value is rather high), 3-methylbutanal is one of the most  
115 abundant volatile compound in boiled and pasteurized crabmeat, hexanal is one of the most  
116 abundant volatiles generated during lipid oxidation at moderate temperatures, benzaldehyde  
117 contributes to characteristic cooked crab flavour and ketones such as 2,3 pentadione  
118 contribute to the sweet floral, fruity flavour of many crustacean (Cha et al., 1993;  
119 Josephson, 1990; Matiella and Hsieh, 1990). Ethyl acetate was also found in the brown  
120 crab effluent and it was included in the model solution since could be considered as model  
121 molecule (Baudot et al., 1999).

122 Table 1 summarizes the organoleptic characteristics of the selected volatile compounds  
123 including the aroma threshold values (ATV), defined as the lowest concentration in a water  
124 solution at which an aroma compound is perceptible. Table 2 lists some thermodynamic  
125 properties of the selected compounds, including activity coefficients at infinite dilution and  
126 vapor pressure of the volatile compounds. Vapor pressure correlations were obtained or  
127 predicted by using Aspen Plus (2008) except for 2,3-pentadione which Antoine constants  
128 were obtained from the literature (Soni et al., 2008). Figure 1 shows the vapor pressure of  
129 the volatile compounds including water vapor pressure as a function of temperature.

### 130 *3.2. Feed solutions*

131 Different feed solutions were used in this work. First, pervaporation experiments were  
132 performed using pure water as feed solution to check the performance of the POMS  
133 membrane. Further, separations of binary mixtures (water/1-octen-3-ol) and  
134 multicomponent mixtures were carried out in order to evaluate the influence of some  
135 operating variables such as: feed flow rate, feed concentration, feed temperature and  
136 permeate pressure on pervaporation performance.

### 137 *3.3. Pervaporation experiments*

138 The pervaporation experiments were performed under steady state with a plate and frame  
139 laboratory stainless steel permeation cell (Sulzer Chemtech<sup>®</sup>) with an effective membrane  
140 area in contact with the feed mixture of 170 cm<sup>2</sup> (Delgado et al., 2009). The temperature of  
141 the feed liquid mixture was kept constant ( $\pm 0.5$  °C) by using a thermostat to heat the stirred  
142 tank feed reactor of 5 L capacity. Permeate pressure was regulated with an air-inlet located  
143 between the condensers and the vacuum pump. The chemical stability of the membrane

144 was checked between each experiment, measuring pure water flux at reference operating  
145 conditions.

### 146 *3.4. Sample analysis*

147 Permeate and feed concentrations were measured off-line using a Hewlett Packard (6890)  
148 gas chromatograph (GC) equipped with series connected thermal conductivity (TCD) and  
149 flame ionization (FID) detectors. Helium, 99.999 % pure, was used as carrier gas. The GC  
150 column was a 007 FFAP 25 m × 0.25 mm bonded phase fused silica capillary column. The  
151 injector and detectors were at 200 °C and 250°C respectively. The oven was operated at  
152 programmed temperature, from 40°C to 220°C. 1-hexanol was used as internal standard for  
153 analysis of the samples.

## 154 **4. Results and discussion**

### 155 *4.1 Pure water as feed solution*

156 The effect of feed temperature and permeate pressure on membrane performance was  
157 studied using pure water as feed solution to check the behaviour of the POMS membrane.  
158 Feed temperature was varied in the range 26 °C to 45 °C. By increasing feed temperature,  
159 water permeation flux also increases mainly due to the increase of saturated water pressure  
160 on the feed side of the membrane (Eq. 5). The temperature dependence of water permeation  
161 flux,  $J_{\text{water}}$ , can be expressed by an Arrhenius-type relation:

$$162 \quad J_{\text{water}} = J_{\text{water},o} \exp\left(-E_{a,\text{water}}/RT\right) \quad (7)$$

163 where  $E_{a,\text{water}}$  is the apparent activation energy of permeation,  $J_{\text{water},o}$  the preexponential  
164 factor and T the absolute temperature. An apparent activation energy of 46.65 kJ/mol



165 (Figure 2) was found by fitting water permeation flux obtained in this section (pure water  
166 as feed solution) as well as water permeation flux obtained in the pervaporation of volatile  
167 compounds dilute aqueous solutions (section 4.3).

168 Permeate pressure was varied in the range 100 Pa to 1200 Pa. Figure 3 shows the water  
169 permeation flux dependence on permeate pressure. This Figure shows experimental data  
170 obtained using pure water as feed solution and the results obtained in subsequent studies  
171 (section 4.3). Figure 3 shows that by increasing the permeate pressure, water permeation  
172 flux decreases as consequence of a decrease in the driving force (Equation 5). Water  
173 permeances for the POMS membrane, calculated as the ratio of the permeation flux to the  
174 permeant driving force, were constant whatever the feed temperature and permeate pressure  
175 considered ( $1.95 \cdot 10^{-7} \pm 1.23 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ mols}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$  for all the experiments performed in this  
176 work).

## 177 *4.2 Binary feed solution*

### 178 4.2.1 Boundary layer effect

179 First, the boundary layer effect was studied in the pervaporation of the binary system  
180 water/1-octen-3-ol by varying the feed flow rate between 25 kg/h to 92 kg/h. According to  
181 resistance-in-series model when boundary layer is dominant resistance, mass transfer  
182 across the membrane increases with feed flow rate due to a decrease of the boundary layer  
183 thickness. Figure 4 shows the effect of increasing feed flow rate on partial (water and 1-  
184 octen-3-ol) permeation flux. Water and organic permeation fluxes were approximately  
185 constant inferring that little concentration polarization takes place. The mass transfer  
186 coefficient  $k_{bl}$  was calculated according to Sherwood correlation (Eq. 4). The relative  
187 significance of the boundary layer mass transfer resistance was estimated less than 2% of

188 the total resistance in the range of feed flow rates studied in this work. However this result  
189 must be carefully considered since Olsson and Tragardh (1999a) in their study of the  
190 influence of feed flow velocity on pervaporative aroma recovery pointed out that Sherwood  
191 correlation could overestimates the mass transfer coefficient of the liquid feed boundary  
192 layer.

#### 193 4.2.2. Effect of feed concentration

194 The effect of organic feed concentration was studied for water/1-octen-3-ol by varying the  
195 volatile feed concentration in the range of 0.1 to 10 ppm. By increasing the concentration  
196 of the volatile component in the feed solution, organic partial permeation flux increases. A  
197 linear dependence of organic permeation flux can be assumed in the range of  
198 concentrations studied in this work ( $r^2 = 0.97$ ). However, water permeation flux remained  
199 constant whatever the feed concentration (within the experimental error) and similar to the  
200 values obtained when using pure water as feed solution. The mean value found for 1-octen-  
201 3-ol enrichment factor was  $37 \pm 5$ .

#### 202 *4.3 Multicomponent feed solution*

203 Finally the effect of feed concentration, feed temperature and permeate pressure was study  
204 in the pervaporation of a feed model solution consisting of seven volatile compounds: 1-  
205 octen-3-ol, 1-penten-3-ol, 3-methylbutanal, hexanal, benzaldehyde, 2,3-pentadione and  
206 ethyl acetate.

#### 207 4.3.1. Effect of feed concentration

208 The feed concentration of all the organic compounds studied in this work was varied in the  
209 range of 0.1 to 10 ppm at a fixed feed temperature (26°C) and permeate pressure (300 Pa).  
210 Volatile organic concentration found in the brown crab effluent was rather low (less than 2

211 ppm). A wider range has been studied to minimize errors in the volatile organic compound  
212 determination. Figure 5 shows an acceptable linear relationship between organic  
213 permeation flux and feed concentration ( $r^2 > 0.95$ , except for benzaldehyde and 3-  
214 methylbutanal,  $r^2 = 0.93$ ). This behaviour indicates that a constant normalized permeation  
215 flux (permeance) can be assumed in the studied concentration range. Figure 6 shows the  
216 membrane permeance for the volatile compounds studied in this work as a function of  
217 organic concentration in the feed. The greatest deviations were shown for benzaldehyde.  
218 The lower values of the permeances correspond to 3-methylbutanal and ethylacetate, these  
219 are the organic compounds with the greater vapour pressure. The enrichment factor for the  
220 volatile compounds was independent of concentration in the range investigated in this  
221 work. The observed tendency of enrichment factor was the following:  $\beta_{1\text{-octen-3-ol}} (\approx 121) >$   
222  $\beta_{\text{benzaldehyde}} (\approx 93) > \beta_{1\text{-penten-3-ol}} (\approx 25) > \beta_{\text{hexanal}} (\approx 22) > \beta_{2,3\text{-pentanedione}} (\approx 7) \approx \beta_{\text{ethylacetate}} (\approx 7) >$   
223  $\beta_{3\text{-methylbutanal}} (\approx 5)$ .

224 Water permeation flux remains constant and equal to the flux of pure water (within the  
225 experimental error) whatever the feed concentration of the different aroma compounds.

226 Compared to the binary system previously studied 1-octen-3-ol shows an increase in  
227 permeability in model multicomponent mixtures. This indicates that the presence of other  
228 organic compounds in the feed solution can affect the membrane selectivity due to  
229 interactions between the different aroma compounds. In this case a positive effect was  
230 observed in the 1-octen-3-ol permeation. Other studies of the pervaporation of organic  
231 compounds multicomponent mixtures (Isci et al., 2006; Kanani et al., 2003;  
232 Sampranpiboon et al., 2000) have also observed positive or negative interactions between  
233 the permeating aroma compounds. Isci et al. (2006) explained that higher fluxes than

234 expected can be obtained when a permeant of low diffusivity is dragged through the  
235 membrane polymer by a permeant of higher diffusivity; the opposite can also happen.

#### 236 4.3.2. Effect of feed temperature

237 Feed temperature is an important operating variable since it affects the feed/membrane  
238 characteristics and the driving force of the process. The operating temperature was changed  
239 in the range 26 °C to 35.7 °C at a fixed permeate pressure (300 Pa) and different fixed feed  
240 concentration (0.1, 5 and 10 ppm). Moderate feed temperature is recommended in the study  
241 of pervaporation of flavour compounds to avoid any damage to heat-sensitive compounds.  
242 (She and Hwang, 2006). Figure 7 shows the effect of temperature on volatile compounds  
243 permeation fluxes at an organic feed concentration of 10 ppm for all the volatile  
244 compounds. For all the organic compounds, when the temperature increases the organic  
245 permeation flux increases. The variation of the volatile compounds permeation flux with  
246 temperature was found to follow an Arrhenius type relationship (Eq. 7). Apparent  
247 activation energy for permeation of aroma compounds follows the order:  $E_{a,\text{benzaldehyde}}$   
248 (49.47 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,1\text{-octen-3-ol}}$  (58.64 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,\text{hexanal}}$  (79.55 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,1\text{-penten-3-ol}}$  (84.77  
249 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,\text{ethylacetate}}$  (86.81) <  $E_{a,3\text{-methylbutanal}}$  (87.66 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,2,3\text{pentadione}}$  (155.01 kJ/mol).  
250 The apparent activation energy found for all volatile compounds is higher than that of water  
251 ( $E_{a,\text{water}} = 46.65$  kJ/mol). A higher value of the apparent activation energy indicates a more  
252 sensitive behaviour towards temperature changes, inferring that water permeation flux is  
253 less temperature dependence than that of volatile compounds. Therefore, the enrichment  
254 factor of all volatile compounds increases with an increase in the feed temperature.  
255 According to the values found for the apparent activation energy this trend was more  
256 noticeable for the most volatile component than for the less volatile components considered

257 in this work. Figure 8 shows the enrichment factor at the three temperatures studied in this  
258 work at a fixed feed concentration of 10 ppm for the volatile compounds. Similar behaviour  
259 has been described in the literature in the recovery by pervaporation of different volatile  
260 aroma compounds through different pervaporation membranes (Aroujalian and Raisi, 2007;  
261 Olsson and Trägårdh, 1999b; Raisi et al., 2008). The results found in this section show a  
262 strong dependence on temperature for 2,3-pentadione. Further studies are necessary to  
263 confirm such behaviour.

264 With increasing temperature, the driving force increases because of the increasing vapour  
265 pressure, and therefore the permeate flux will also increase (see Eq. 1). Additionally, an  
266 increase in the operating temperature causes an increase in the motion of the polymer  
267 chains improving the diffusion of the permeant molecules. Figure 9 shows the ratio of  
268 partial permeation fluxes obtained at 35.7 °C and 26 °C for all the volatile compounds and  
269 water. According to Olsson and Trägårdh (1999b) the contribution from improved diffusion  
270 and increasing driving force to the increase of partial permeation flux has been also shown.  
271 This Figure shows that for water and the less volatile components (benzaldehyde, 1-octen-  
272 3-ol and 1-penten-3-ol) the increase in partial permeation flux is mainly due to an increase  
273 in the driving force. However the contribution due to an increasing diffusion becomes  
274 important for the more volatile compounds.

275 Enrichment factor values seem to decrease with the apparent activation energy values. The  
276 activation energy that characterizes the temperature dependence of the membrane can be  
277 estimated by subtracting the heat of vaporization (ranging from 35 kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup> for ethyl  
278 acetate to 57 kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup> for 1-penten-3-ol) from the calculated apparent activation energy  
279 (Feng and Huang, 1996). Activation energy of aroma compounds follows the order:  
280  $E_{a,\text{benzaldehyde}} (-0.17 \text{ kJ/mol}) < E_{a,1\text{-octen-3-ol}} (8.26 \text{ kJ/mol}) < E_{a,1\text{-penten-3-ol}} (27.72 \text{ kJ/mol}) <$

281  $E_{a,\text{hexanal}}$  (36.73 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,3\text{-methylbutanal}}$  (50.23 kJ/mol) <  $E_{a,\text{ethylacetate}}$  (51.57) <  $E_{a,2,3\text{pentadione}}$   
282 (116.82 kJ/mol). From the values of activation energy, it could be concluded that sorption  
283 contributes more to permeation of 1-octen-3-ol and benzaldehyde molecules (the more  
284 hydrophobic compounds and less volatile). In contrast, the permeation for the rest of the  
285 volatile compounds studied in this work seems to be a diffusion dominating process.

#### 286 4.3.3. Effect of permeate pressure

287 Permeate pressure is another operating parameter that affects the pervaporation  
288 performance as well as the operating cost of the process (Raisi et al., 2008). Different  
289 behavior was observed for organic permeation fluxes when varying permeate pressure in  
290 the range studied in this work (100 Pa – 1800 Pa). Trifunovic et al. (2006) state that in  
291 general components that are less volatile are more sensitive to changes in permeate  
292 pressure than compounds with higher volatility due to their smaller driving force. Figure 10  
293 presents the effect of permeate pressure on the enrichment factor of the aroma compounds  
294 considered in this work. For the low volatile components (1-octen-3-ol and benzaldehyde)  
295 the enrichment factor decreases as permeate pressure increases. However, other  
296 components such as 1-penten-3-ol, hexanal and 2,3-pentadione are less sensitive to changes  
297 in permeate pressure. Figure 10 shows that the enrichment factor of the components with  
298 higher equilibrium vapour pressure than water (3-methylbutanal and ethyl acetate) tends to  
299 increase as permeate pressure increases. These results agree with other findings that appear  
300 on literature. According to Aroujalian and Raisi (2007) if the less volatile component is the  
301 more rapidly permeating species, selectivity decreases as permeate pressure increases. On  
302 the other hand, if the more rapidly permeating species are also the more volatile, selectivity  
303 increases as permeate pressure increases. As pointed out by Wijmans et al. (1996), this

304 indicates a unique characteristic of pervaporation process since separation can be improved  
305 by decreasing the driving force of the process.

## 306 **5. Conclusions**

307 In this work, the recovery of volatile components from a model solution was performed by  
308 pervaporation with a POMS membrane. Pervaporation seems to be a promising technique  
309 for the recovery of aroma compounds from brown crab effluent. POMS membrane has been  
310 able to separate the organic compounds although organic partial permeation fluxes were not  
311 very high. A constant water permeance was observed for all the experiments carried out in  
312 this study. The membrane used in this work has shown higher selectivity towards the less  
313 volatile components. Organic permeation fluxes increase with feed concentration as a  
314 consequence of a higher driving force for the mass transport. In general partial permeation  
315 fluxes and enrichment factors increase as the feed temperature increases. However different  
316 behavior was observed for organic permeation fluxes with permeate pressure. As permeate  
317 pressure increases enrichment factor of the less volatile component was found to decrease,  
318 however for the most volatile components enrichment factors tend to increase by  
319 decreasing the driving force of the process. Operating conditions can be optimized to obtain  
320 permeates with a maximum organoleptic quality in its aroma profile. Further research is  
321 needed to account the influence of other substances present in brown crab effluent such as  
322 salt content.

## 323 **Nomenclature**

324  $d_h$  = hydraulic diameter, m

- 325  $D =$  diffusion coefficient,  $\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
- 326  $E_a =$  apparent activation energy of permeation,  $\text{kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$
- 327  $J =$  mass permeation flux,  $\text{g} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$
- 328  $k_{bl} =$  liquid boundary layer mass transfer coefficient,  $\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
- 329  $L =$  characteristics of the module, m
- 330  $p =$  pressure, Pa
- 331  $Q_{OV} =$  pressure-normalized permeation flux,  $\text{g} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{Pa}^{-1}$
- 332  $Q_m =$  pressure-normalized permeation flux across the membrane,  $\text{g} \cdot \text{s}^{-1} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{Pa}^{-1}$
- 333  $R =$  gas constant,  $\text{kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$
- 334  $T =$  absolute temperature, K
- 335  $x, y =$  mol fraction
- 336  $\rho =$  total mass volume concentration of the feed,  $\text{g} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
- 337  $\gamma =$  activity coefficient
- 338  $\beta =$  enrichment factor
- 339 **upperscripts**
- 340  $i =$  component
- 341  $m =$  membrane
- 342  $p =$  permeate
- 343  $s =$  saturation



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409 **Table 1.** Aroma compounds used in the model solution (Flavor-Base Professional, 2007).

Aroma compound	Organoleptic characteristics	ATV, ppb
1-Octen-3-ol	Very strong, sweet, earthy mushroom odor and taste	1.0
1-Penten-3-ol	Pungent, grassy, alliaceous-like, green vegetable, fruity taste	400
3-Methylbutanal	Powerful, penetrating, cheesy-sweaty-fruity in dilution	0.2-2
Hexanal	Strong, penetrating, fatty-green, grassy unripe fruit odor	4.5
Benzaldehyde	Odor of bitter almond oil, characteristic sweet cherry taste	350
2,3-Pentadione	Oily-buttery, fatty odor, butter, cream, milk taste	30
Ethyl Acetate	Ethereal, sharp, wine-brandy like odor	5.0

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413 **Table 2.** Physicochemical properties of the volatile compounds

Compound	1-Octen-3-ol	1-Penten-3-ol	3-Methylbutanal	Hexanal	Benzaldehyde	2,3-Pentadione	Ethyl acetate
MW	128.2	86.1	86.1	100.2	106.1	100.1	88.1
BP (°C)	174-5	114.4	92.5	128.3	178.8	108	77.1
$p^s$ (26°C), Pa	65	1348	7035	1540	181	2918	13045
$\gamma^{\infty}$ (26°C)	4955.4	17.0	164.6	1047.2	273.7	282.4	75.3
$VM^{BP}$ (cc/mol)	186.6	117	118.9	140.0	118.6	121	106.3

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415 **List of Figure Caption**

416 **Figure 1.** Vapor pressure of water and volatile compounds as a function of temperature.

417 **Figure 2.** Effect of temperature on water permeation flux ( $p_p = 300$  Pa).

418 **Figure 3.**Effect of permeate pressure on water permeation flux ( $T = 26^\circ\text{C}$ ).

419 **Figure 4.** Water ( $\blacktriangle$ ) and 1-octen-3-ol (i,  $\Delta$ ) permeation flux at different Reynolds ( $p_p =$   
420 400 Pa,  $T = 26^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $C_{i,\text{feed}} \approx 5$  ppm).

421 **Figure 5.** Effect of volatile feed concentration on volatile compound permeation flux ( $T =$   
422  $26^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $p_p = 300$  Pa).

423 **Figure 6.** Volatile compound permeance as a function of volatile feed concentration ( $T =$   
424  $26^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $p_p = 300$  Pa).

425 **Figure 7.** Effect of feed temperature on volatile compound permeation flux ( $C_{i,\text{feed}} \approx$   
426 10 ppm,  $p_p = 300$  Pa).

427 **Figure 8.** Enrichment factor of volatile compound at different operating temperatures  
428 ( $C_{i,\text{feed}} \approx 10$  ppm,  $p_p = 300$  Pa).

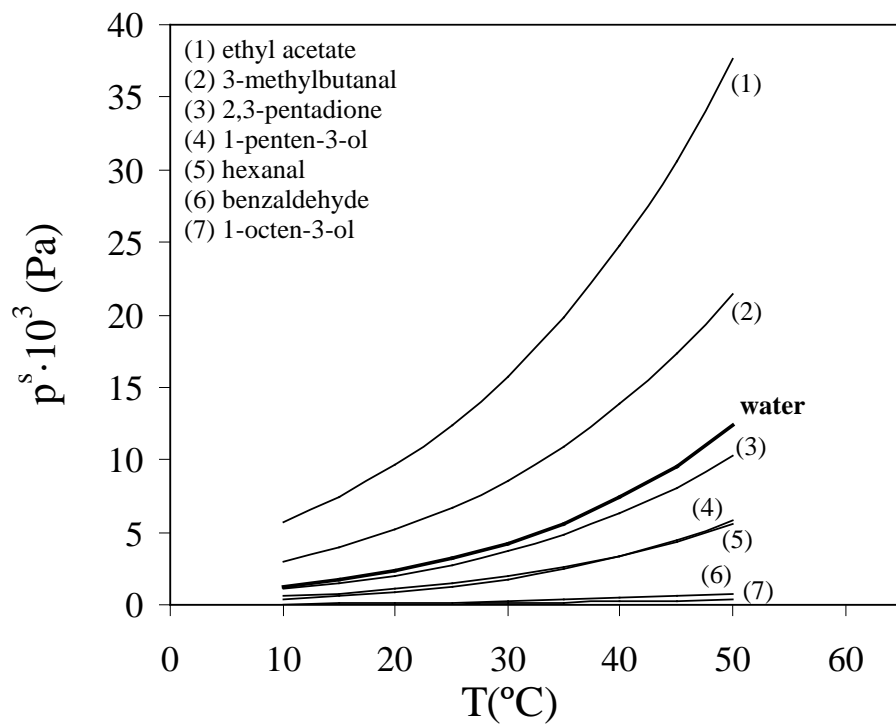
429 **Figure 9.** Ratio of volatile compound permeation flux at  $35.7^\circ\text{C}$  and  $26^\circ\text{C}$ .

430 **Figure 10.** Enrichment factor of volatile compound at different operating permeate  
431 pressure ( $C_{i,\text{feed}} \approx 10$  ppm,  $T = 26^\circ\text{C}$ ).

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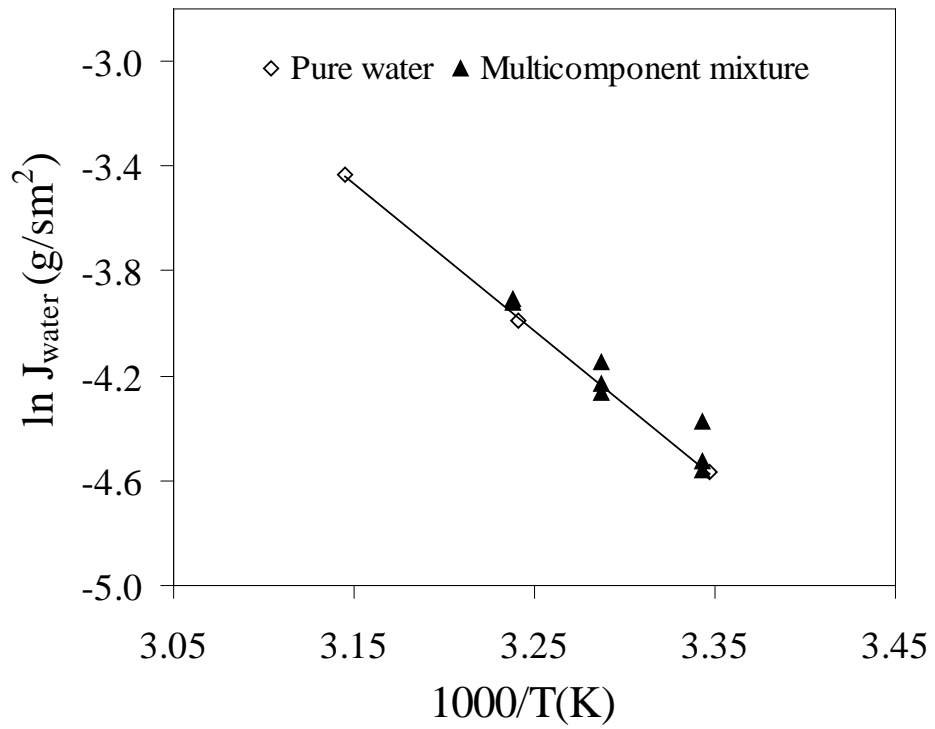
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**Figure 1.** Vapor pressure of water and volatile compounds as a function of temperature.

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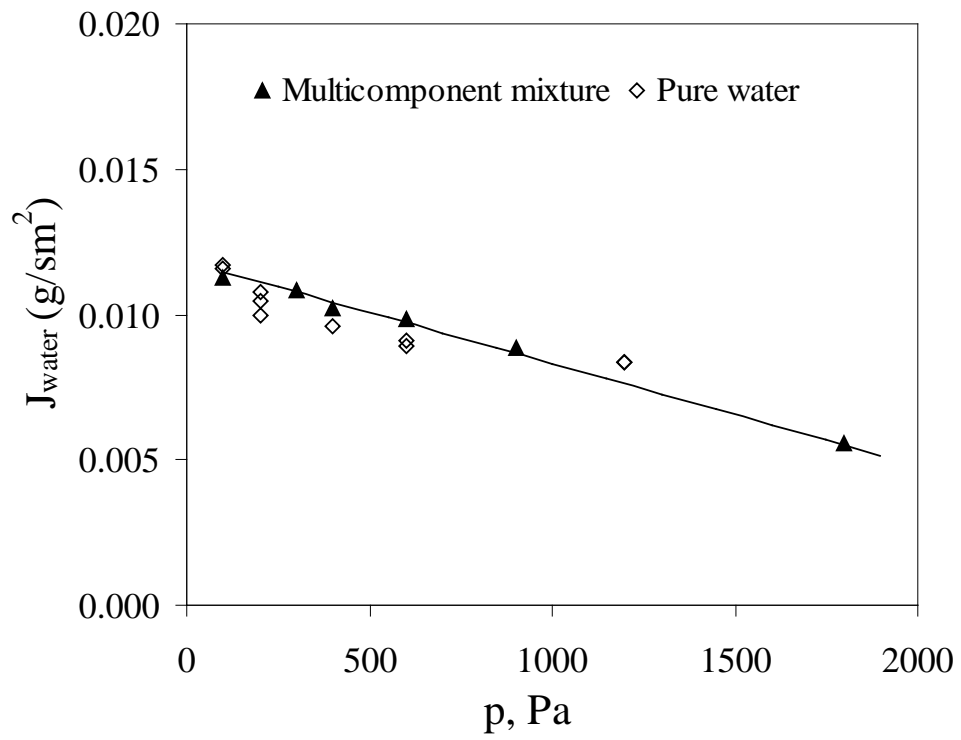


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**Figure 2.** Effect of temperature on water permeation flux ( $p_p = 300 \text{ Pa}$ ).



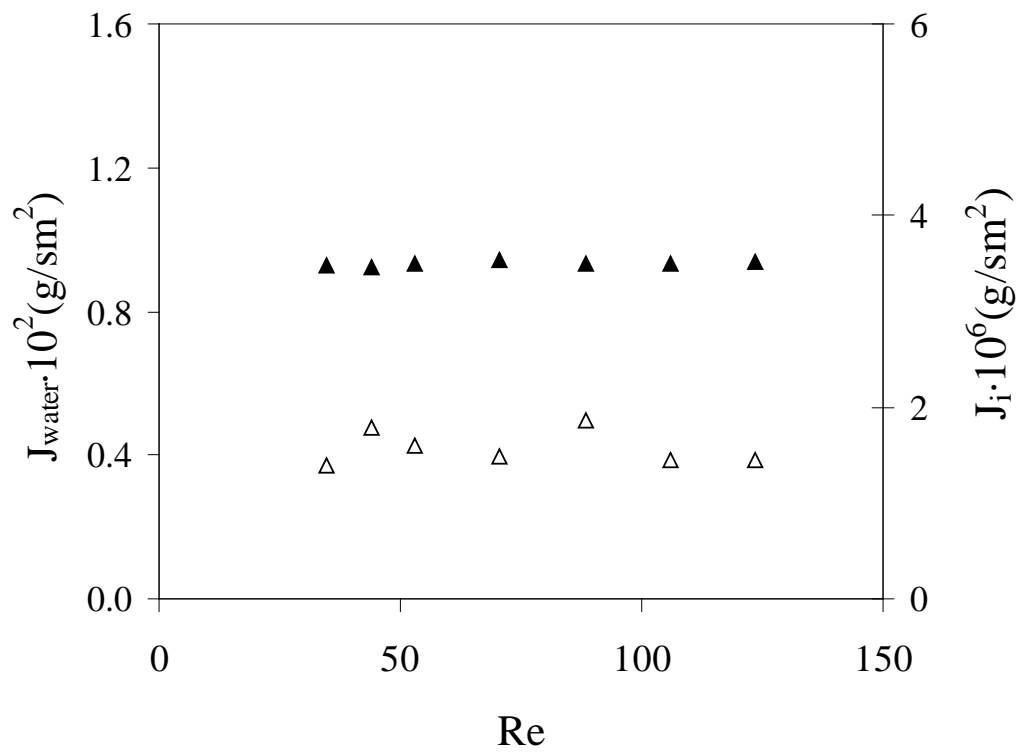
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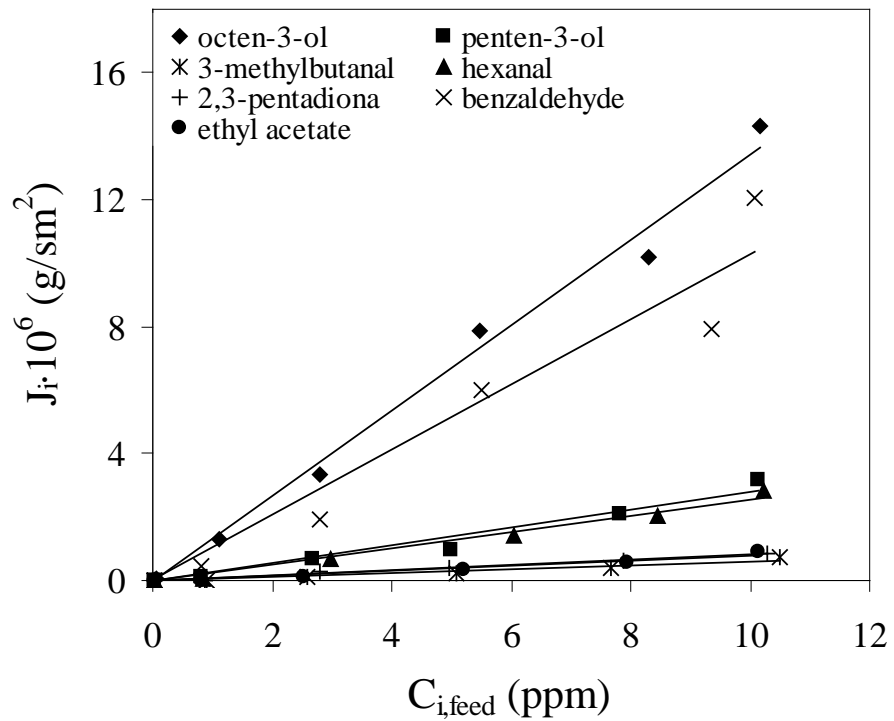
**Figure 3.** Effect of permeate pressure on water permeation flux (T = 26°C).

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474 **Figure 4.** Water (▲) and 1-octen-3-ol (i, Δ) permeation flux at different Reynolds ( $p_p =$   
475 400 Pa,  $T = 26^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $C_{i,\text{feed}} \approx 5 \text{ ppm}$ ).  
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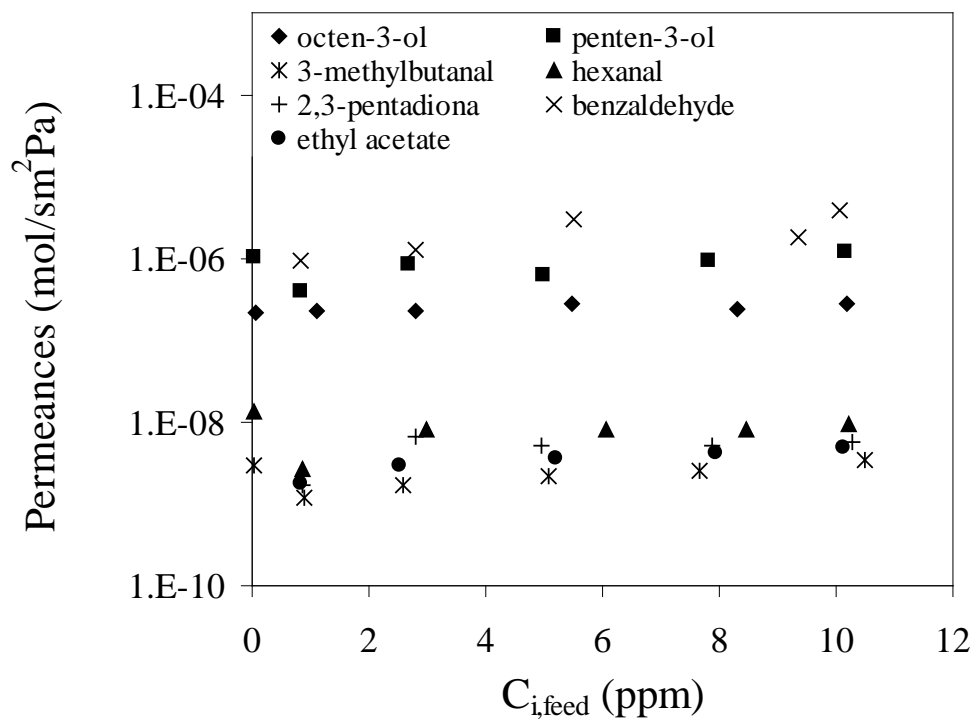
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**Figure 5.** Effect of volatile feed concentration on volatile compound permeation flux ( $T = 26\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $p_p = 300\text{ Pa}$ ).

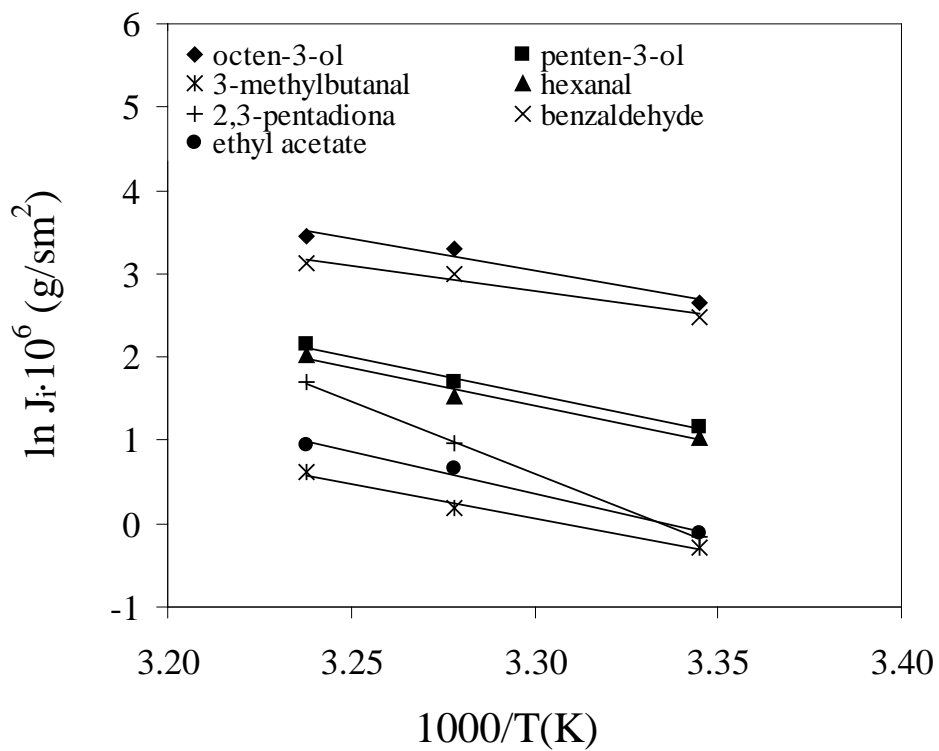
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**Figure 6.** Volatile compound permeance as a function of volatile feed concentration (T = 26 °C, p<sub>p</sub> = 300 Pa).

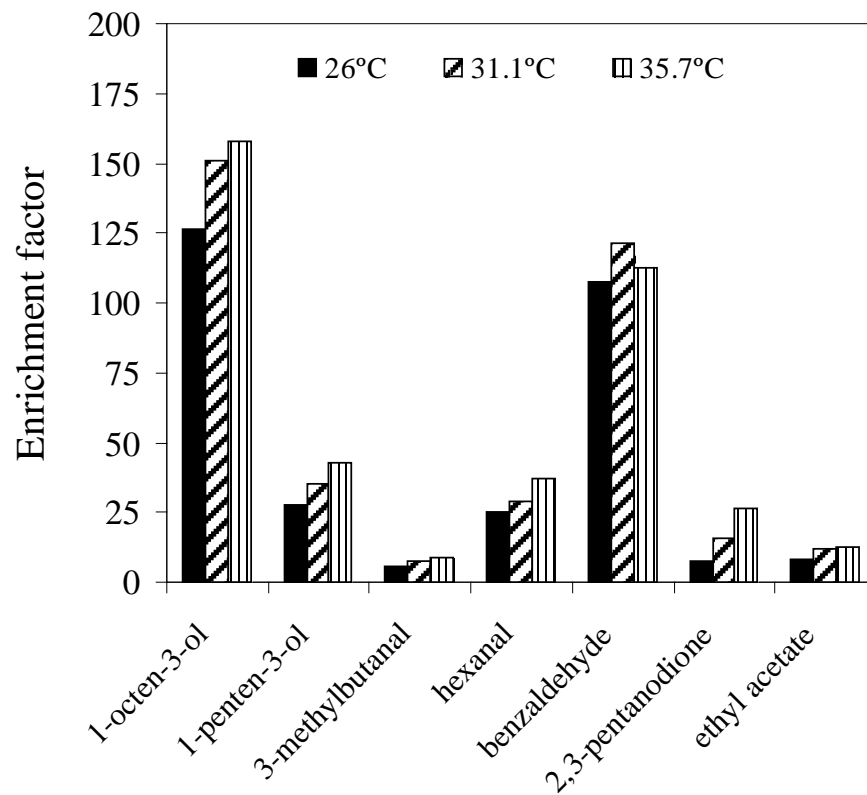
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**Figure 7.** Effect of feed temperature on volatile compound permeation flux ( $C_{i, \text{feed}} \approx 10$  ppm,  $p_p = 300$  Pa).

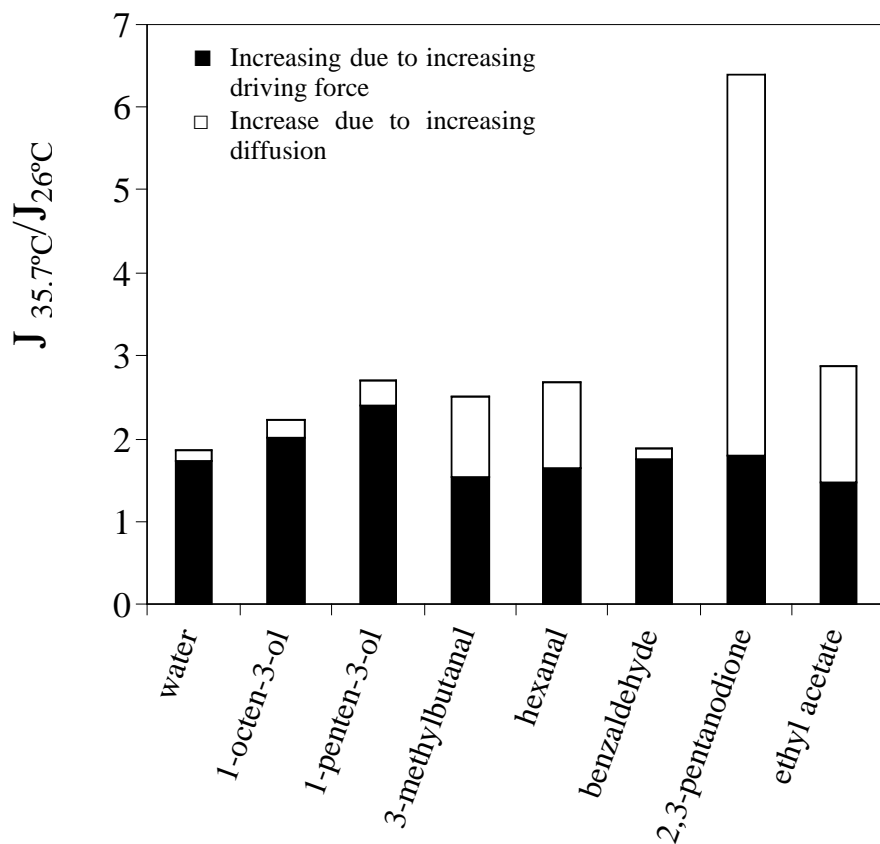
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**Figure 8.** Enrichment factor of volatile compound at different operating temperatures ( $C_{i,feed} \approx 10$  ppm,  $p_p = 300$  Pa).

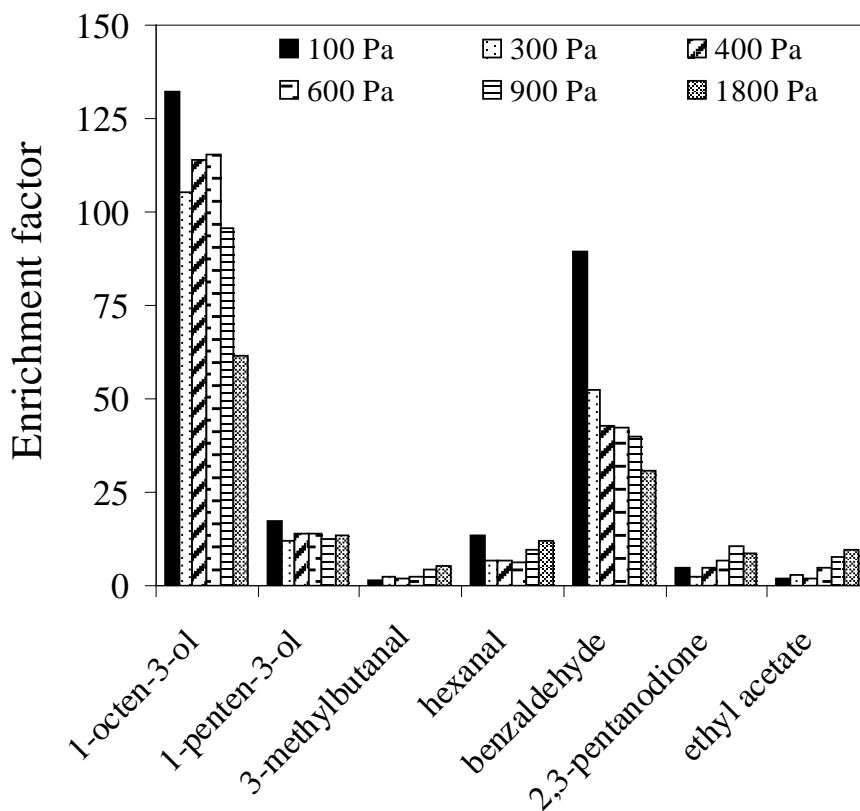
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**Figure 9.** Ratio of volatile compound permeation flux at 35.7 °C and 26°C.

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**Figure 10.** Enrichment factor of volatile compound at different operating permeate pressure ( $C_{i,feed} \approx 10$  ppm,  $T = 26$  °C).