



NATURAL
ORGANIC
MATTER
RESEARCH



Antioxidant Hydrogen Atom Transfer by Humic Acids & HA-NanoHybrids:

*Understanding the fundamentals & connecting it to
technology/industry*

Yiannis Deligiannakis, Eleni Bletsas

Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of Materials and Environment

Department of Physics

www.nanomaterials.uoi.gr

University of Ioannina, Greece

{ 1 }



OUTLINE



NATURAL
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RESEARCH



1. Antioxidant (background)

Electron transfer

Hydrogen Atom Transfer (HAT)

2. Polyphenols-Humics

H⁺-shuttling (known)

e⁻ donation capacity (known)

Radical stabilization capacity (known)

Hydrogen Atom Transfer (HAT) capacity (unknown)

3. HA-nanohybrids

Motivation

HA-Nanotechnology-Industrial interest

New dimension in fundamental research:: HA-Antioxidant

4. Results

HA/HA@SiO₂ Antioxidant Thermodynamics

5. What we learn-Conclusions-Challenges

Antioxidants in cosmetics

○ Skin care

- UV irradiation forms radicals^[1]
- Radicals induce skin aging, wrinkles
- Facial photo-aging
 - Antioxidants prevent aging by inhibiting radical activity
 - Antioxidant compounds (e.g. Q10, caffeine)



Antioxidant Face Cream



ANTIOXIDANT



DAILY ANTIOXIDANT
FACIAL SERUM

[1] Griffiths. *Drugs & Aging* **14**, 289 (1999).

Antioxidants in food & nutrition

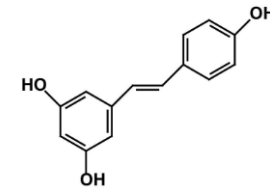
- Exist naturally in foods^[1]
 - Fruits, vegetables, wine, tea, coffee,...
- Recent years in supplements too
 - e.g. Resveratrol, green tea extract...
- Promote immune system health^[2]
 - Prevent diseases



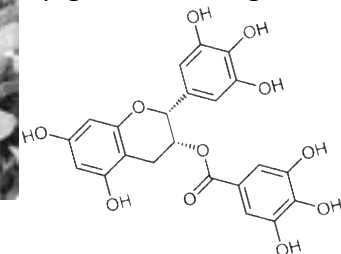
resVida®



Resveratrol^[2]



Epigallocatechin gallate^[2]



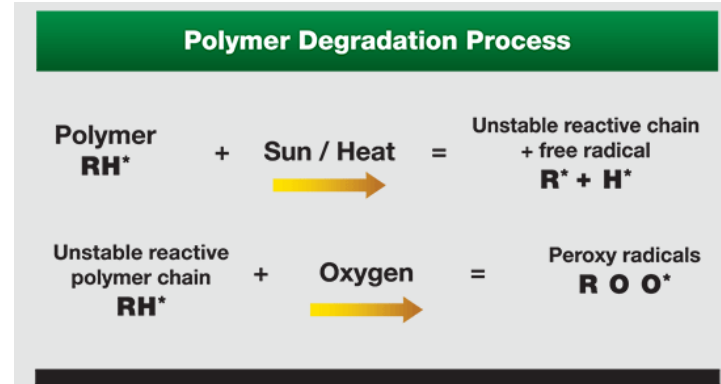
www.dsm.com^[2]

[1] Halliwell. *Annu. Rev. Nutr.* **16**, 33(1996).

[2] Press release DSM Nutritional Products. Kaiseraugst, 3 October 2012.

Antioxidants in polymer-industry

- UV irradiation, thermal stress can induce radicals in the polymers^[1]
- Radicals degrade the polymer
- Loses performance
 - Mechanical strength
 - Coloristic changes
- Antioxidant additives



exposed outside

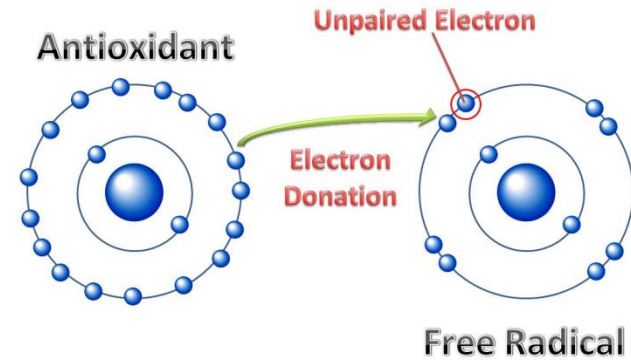
new

[1] Haider, Karlsson. *Polym. Degrad. Stab.* **64**, 321 (1999).

Antiradicals & Antioxidants

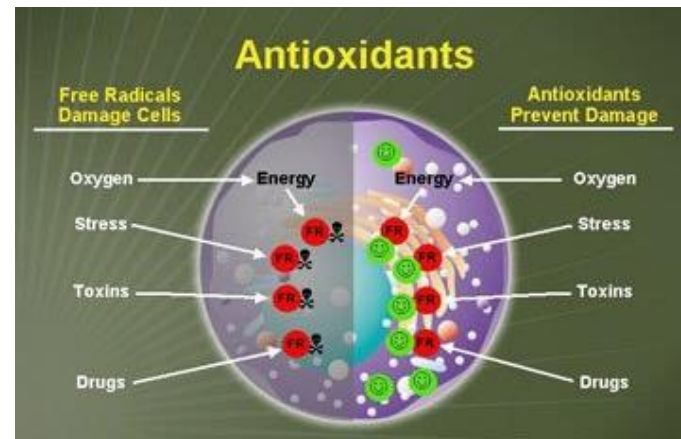
○ Compounds that inhibit oxidation of molecules ^[1]

- Donate electron to *free radicals*
- Prevent oxidative stress
- Food antioxidants
 - Fruits, vegetables, tea, coffee
 - Vitamin E, carotenoids (fat soluble)
 - Vitamin C (water soluble)



○ Mechanisms^[2]

- Electron transfer
- Hydrogen atom transfer
POLYPHENOLS ACT via THIS MECAHNISM
- Radical addition



[1] Halliwell. *Annu. Rev. Nutr.* **16**, 33(1996).

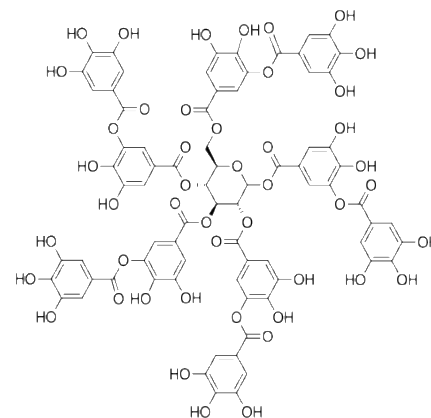
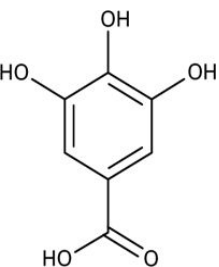
[2] ValKo, Rhodes, Moncol, Izakovic, Manzul. *Chem-Biol. Inter.* **160**, 1(2006).

Phenolic antioxidants

Antioxidant amount to reduce the radicals by 50% (lower is better)



Compound	EC ₅₀ (10 ⁻⁶ M)
Phenolic acids	
Gallic acid	5.1 ± 0.1
Protocatechuic acid	11.1 ± 0.0
Gentisic acid	7.6 ± 0.2
Siringic acid	12.3 ± 0.0
Caffeic acid	12.1 ± 0.2
Caftaric acid	20.4 ± 0.4
Other compounds	
Resveratrol	31.4 ± 0.3
Ascorbic acid	11.8 ± 0.2
Trolox	14.1 ± 0.0



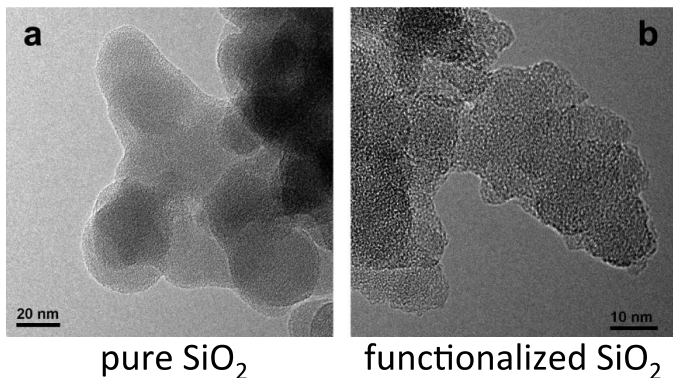
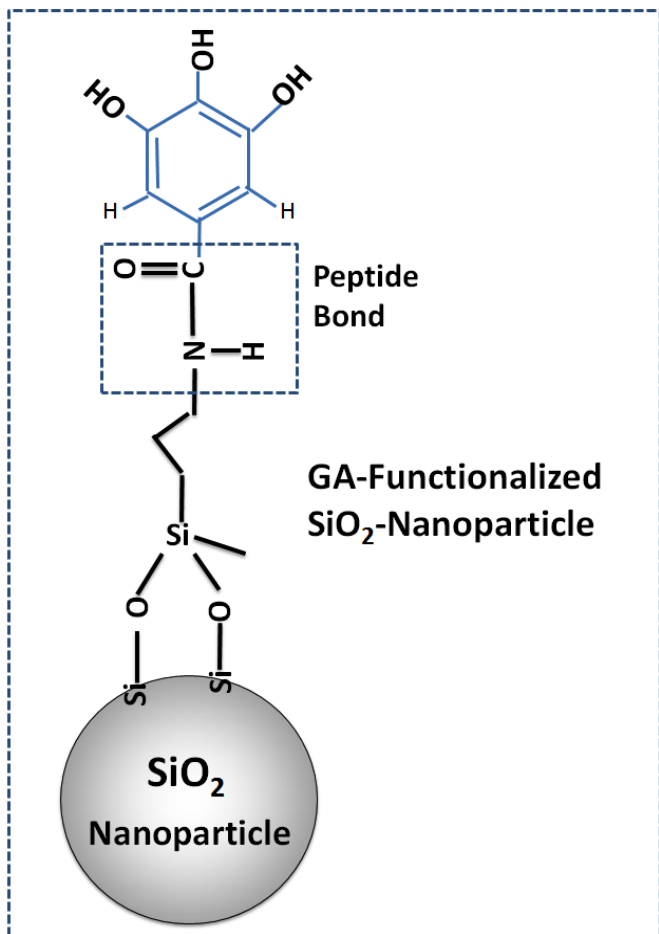
gallic acid

tannic acid

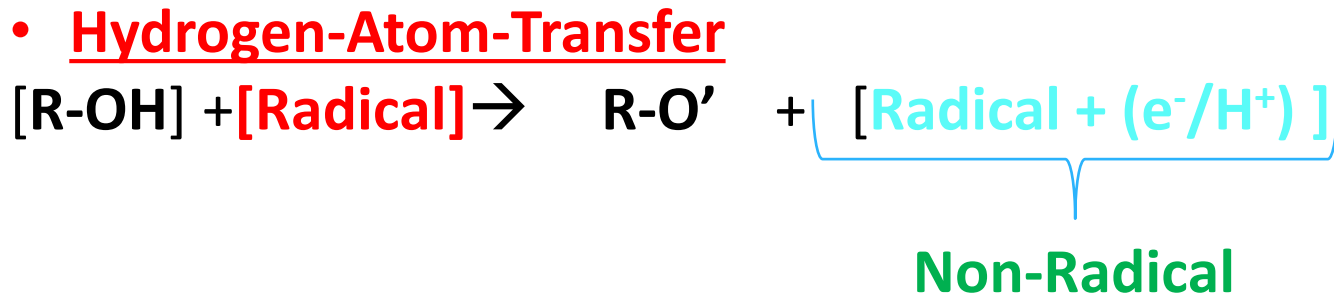
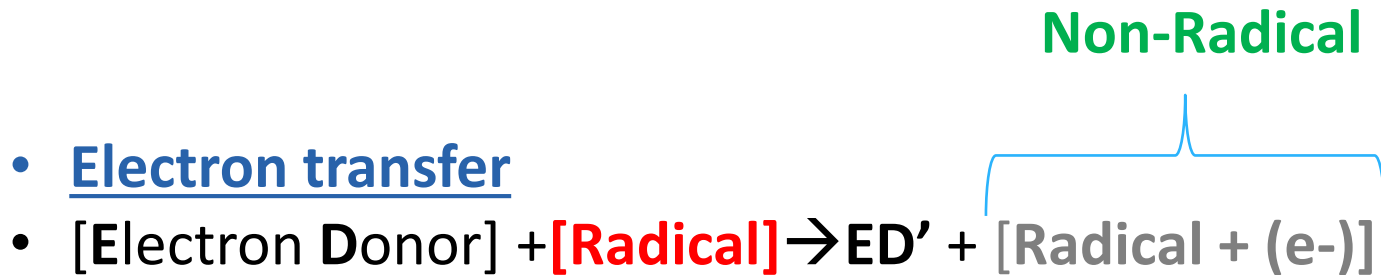
Villano, Fernandez-Pachon, Moya, Troncoso, Garcia-Parilla. *Talanta* **71**, 230 (2007).

Nanoantioxidant: Gallic acid grafting on SiO₂ nanoparticles

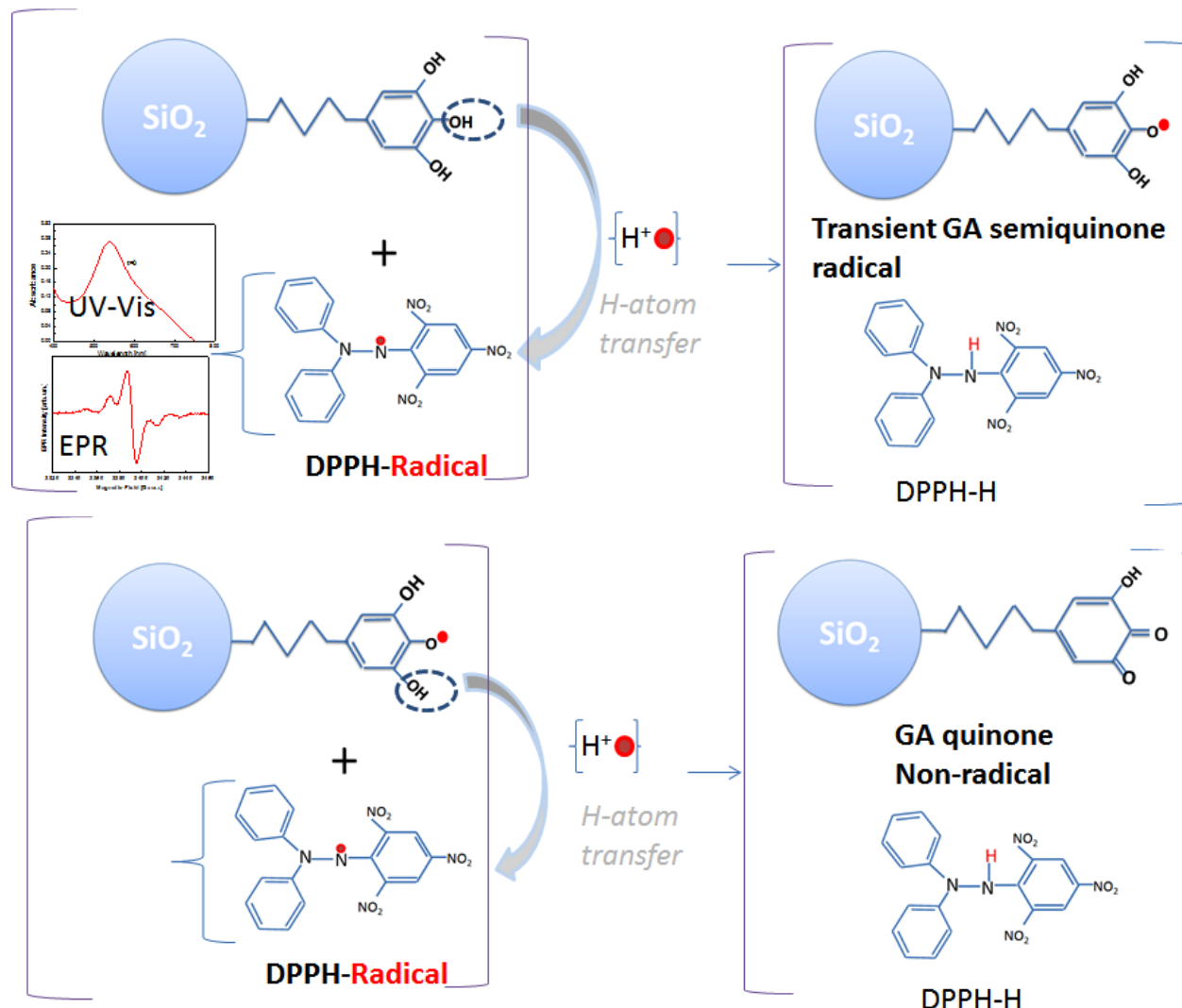
- Composition:
 - SiO₂ (FDA approved) – E551
 - Gallic acid (FDA approved)
 - E310 Propyl gallate
 - E311 Octyl gallate
 - E312 Dodecyl gallate
- Covalent grafting = stability
- Not compromising the –OH
 - responsible for antioxidant activity



Antioxidant mechanism : Basics



Mechanism: Hydrogen atom transfer (HAT) in Polyphenols



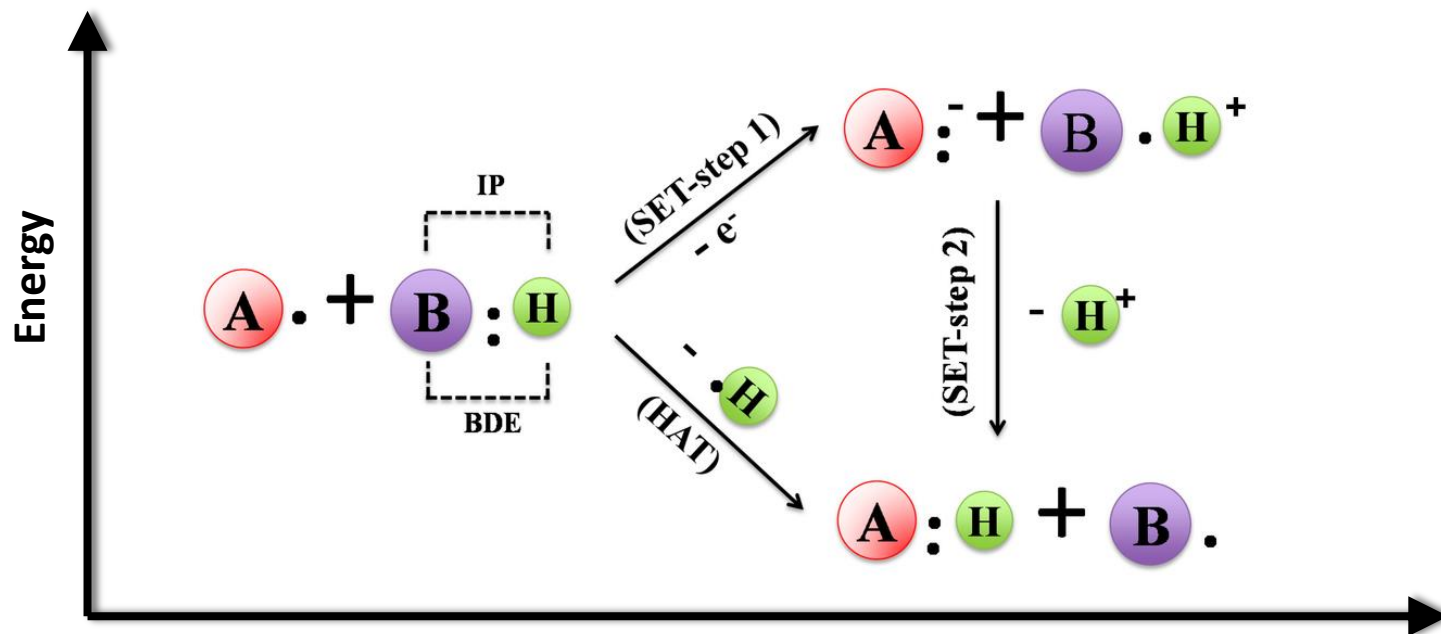
WHAT MAKES A “GOOD” ANTIOXIDANT ?

(.....the energy cost of HAT)

Antioxidant HAT Energetics

HAT is energetically favored vs. ET

Hydrogen Atom = $[e^- + H^+]^0$ is a NEUTRAL entity



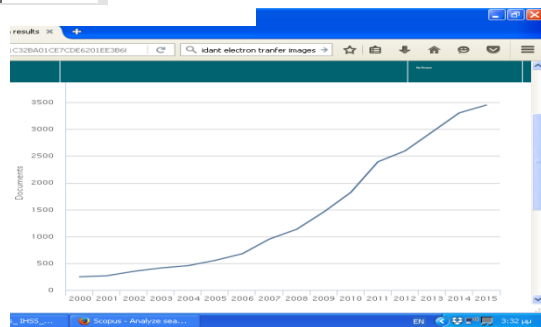
A· : free radical; **B** : **H** : antioxidant;

“IP” represents “ionization potential”; “BDE” represents “bond dissociation enthalpy”

Thus...

**polyphenols are the stars of Antioxidants
(strongly marketed already)**

Humics.....???????



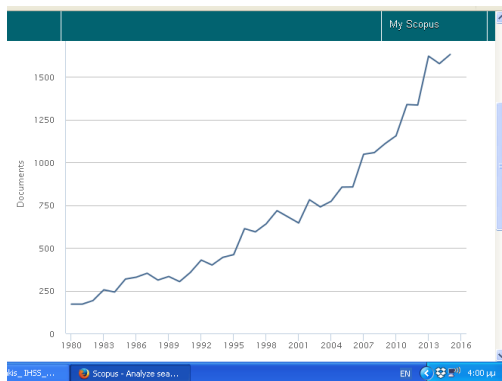
**TITLE-ABS-KEY (phenol
AND antioxidant)
36,692 document results**



**TITLE-ABS-
KEY (humic AND antioxidant)
155 document results**

**TITLE-ABS-KEY (humic)
27,523 document results**

**TITLE-ABS-
KEY (hydrogen atom transfer)
| 12,317 document results**



**TITLE-ABS-KEY
(humic AND hydrogen atom transfer)
1 document result**

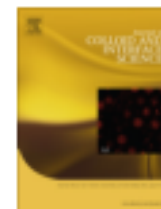


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www.elsevier.com/locate/jcis



Interfacial Hydrogen Atom Transfer by nanohybrids based on Humic Acid Like Polycondensates



Eleni Bletsa^a, Panagiota Stathi^b, Konstantinos Dimos^c, Maria Louloudi^b, Yiannis Deligiannakis^{a,*}

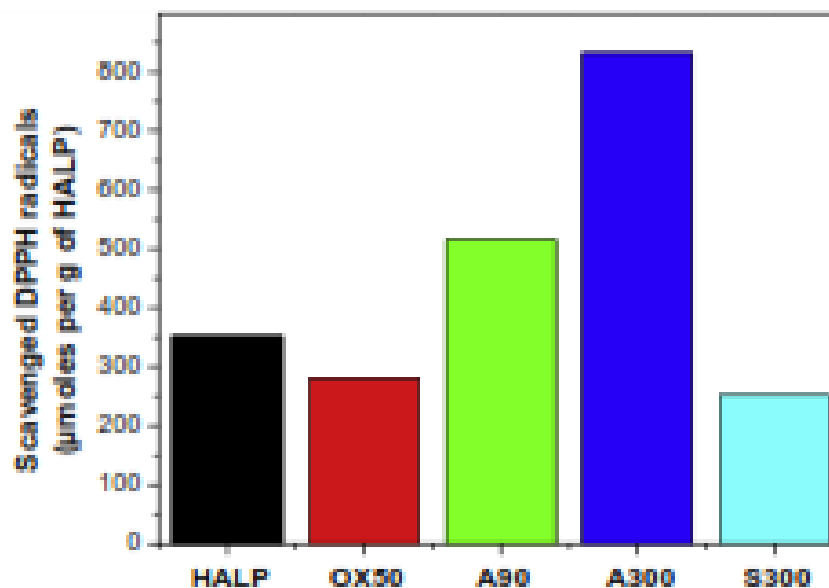
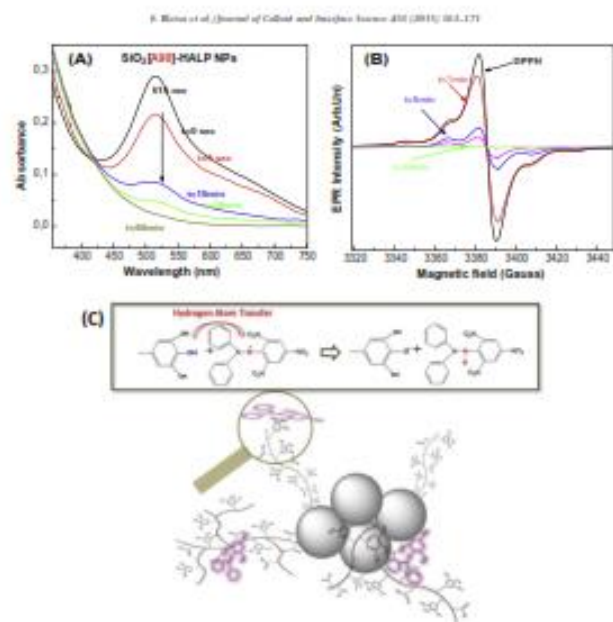
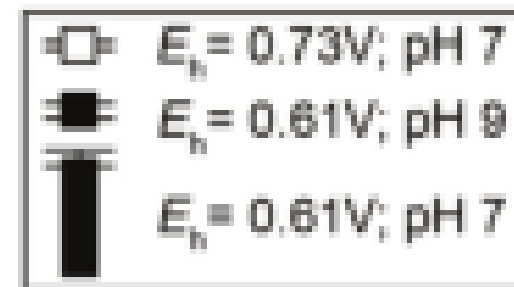
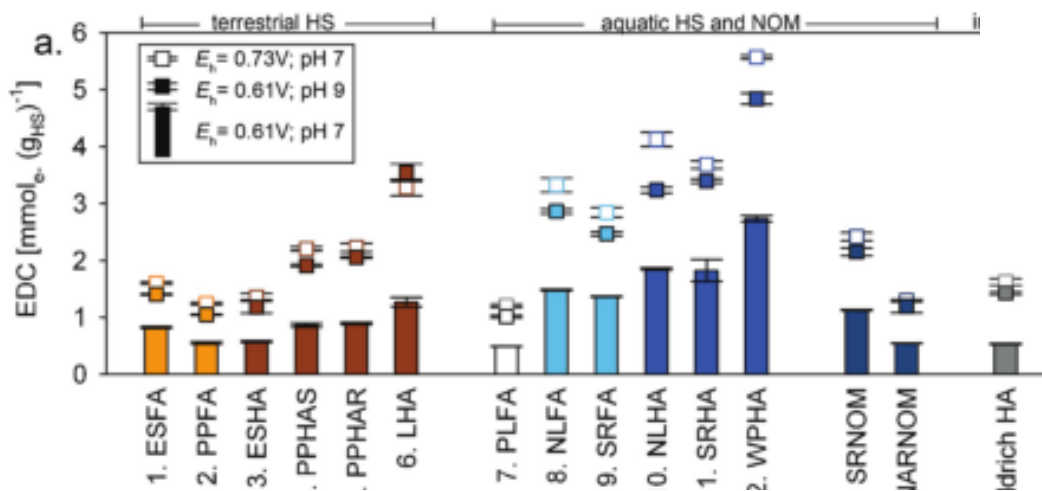
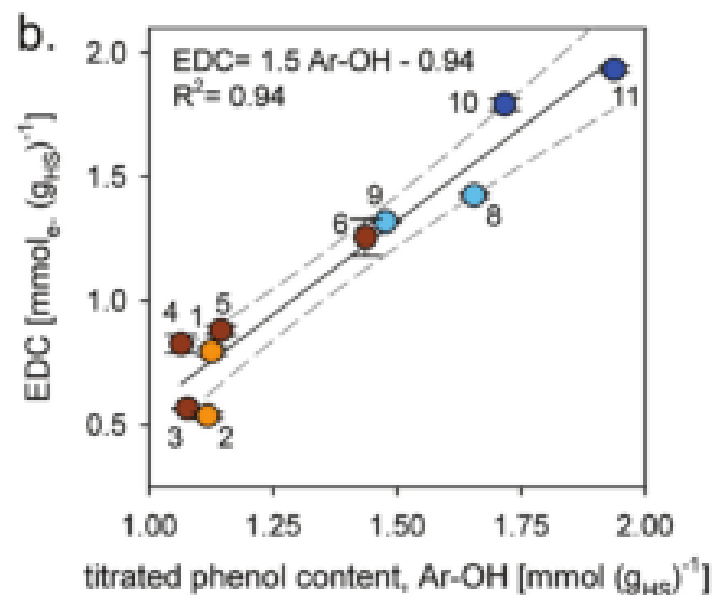
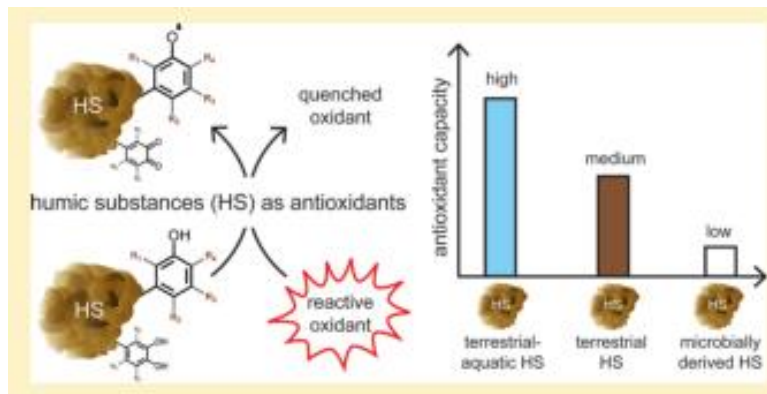


Fig. 9. The total DPPH radicals scavenged by the SiO_2 -HALP NPs normalized per same mass of HALP.

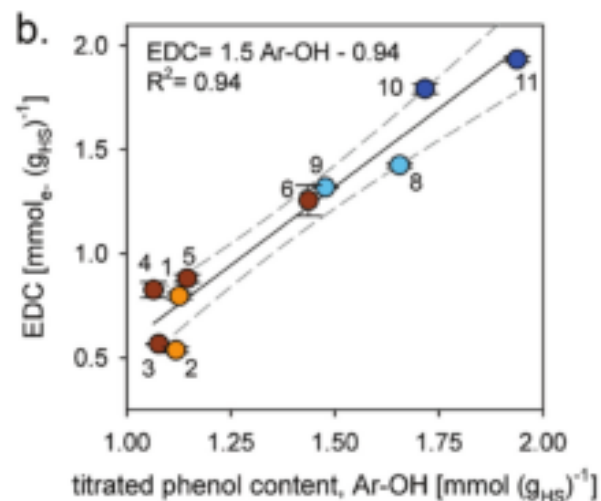


Antioxidant Properties of Humic Substances

Michael Aeschbacher, Cornelia Graf, René P. Schwarzenbach, and Michael Sander*

Antioxidant Properties of Humic Substances

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KEY RESULT (Sander/Schwarzenbach-2012)

UNDER STRONGLY OXIDIZING CONDITIONS (Eh>600mVolts)

Almost all (90%) of Humic Polyphenol–OH groups can donate 1electron to a STRONG OXIDANT

TRUE almost for ALL Humics tested so far.

At lower/more realistic Eh (-50 to +50mV) this drops by more than 10⁴ times
1/10000 of OH are able to perform antioxidant ELECTRON TRANSFER

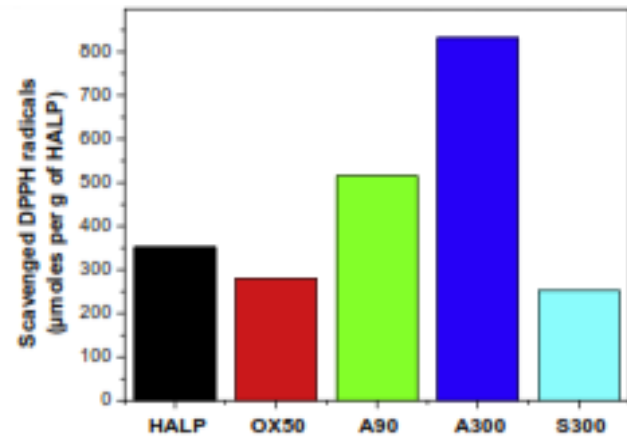


Fig. 9. The total DPPH radicals scavenged by the SiO₂-HALP NPs normalized per same mass of HALP.

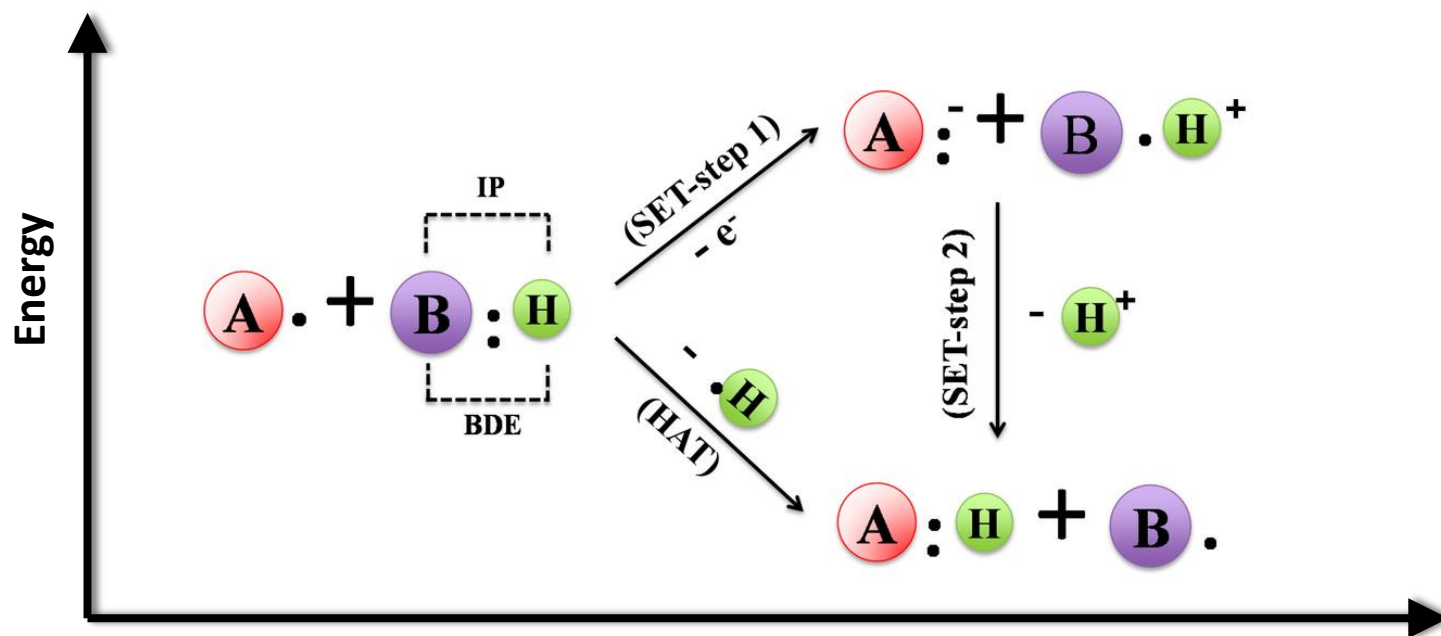
KEY RESULT (Bletsa/Deligiannakis 2015)

UNDER REAL OXIDIZING CONDITIONS (Eh -50/+50mVols)

[a] 20% of Humic Polyphenol-OH groups can perform HAT

**[b] This antioxidant activity is improved by 300%
when HA is attached on an appropriate SiO₂ nanoparticle**

HAT is energetically favored vs. ET



A· : free radical; **B** : **H** : antioxidant;

“IP” represents “ionization potential”; “BDE” represents “bond dissociation enthalpy”

AIM

IS TIME TO BUILD

A FIRM PHYSICOCHEMICAL BASIS

**of Antioxidant Hydrogen Atom Transfer
by Humic Acids and HA@SiO₂ Nanohybrids**

Then ...

Discuss it vs.

H⁺ binding

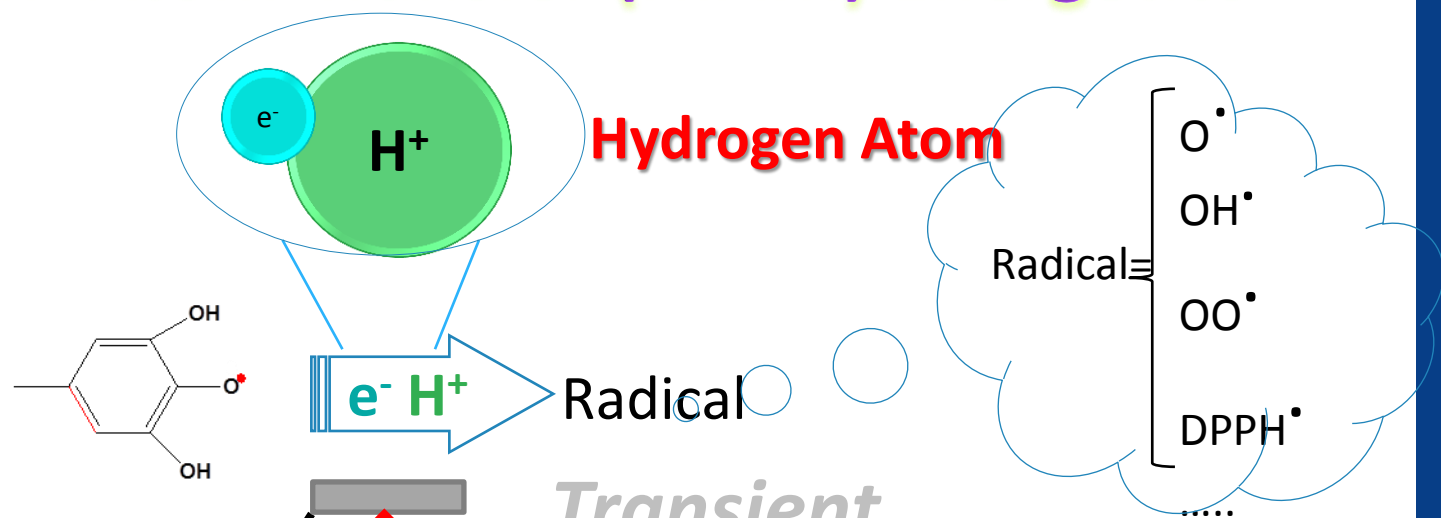
Stable Radicals

Polyphenol Concentration

our

Thermodynamic Context

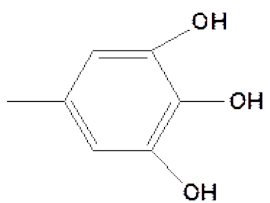
Hydrogen-Atom-Transfer (H.A.T.) Energetics-Kinetics



Transient Intermediate state

Activation energy (E_a)

Initial equilibrium state



+ Radical

REACTANTS: A + B

$$\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta H^\ddagger - T\Delta S^\ddagger$$

Final equilibrium state



PRODUCTS

RESULTS

Nanoparticles + Humics → SiO₂@HA Nanohybrids

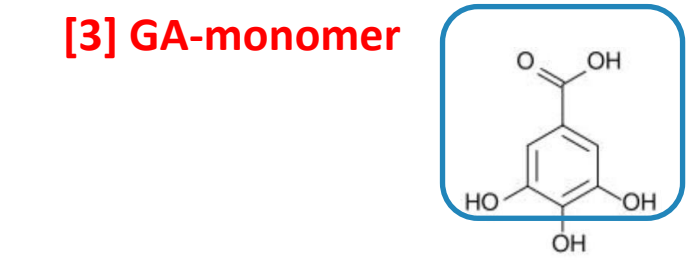
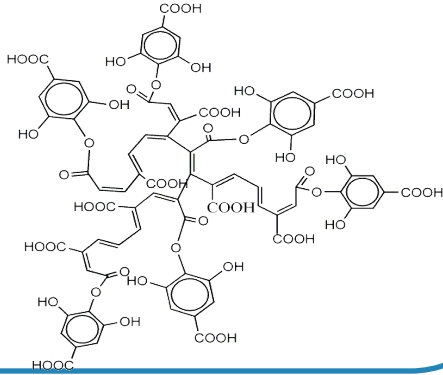
SiO₂ Nanoparticles

SSA=50m²/g
R=40nm

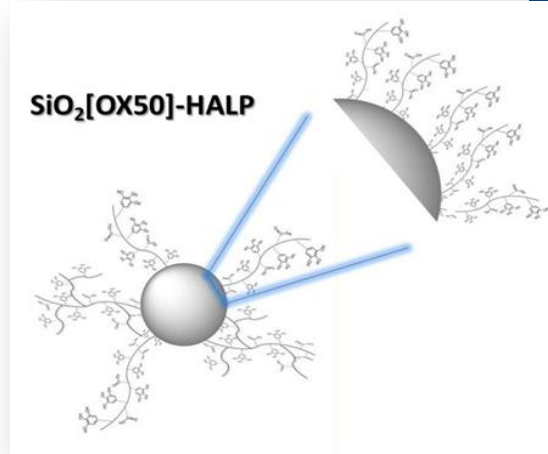


[1] NATURAL Lignite HA
Well characterized Lignite HA
(~IHSS Leonardite HA LH4)
Drosos, Deligiannaksi JCIS 2009

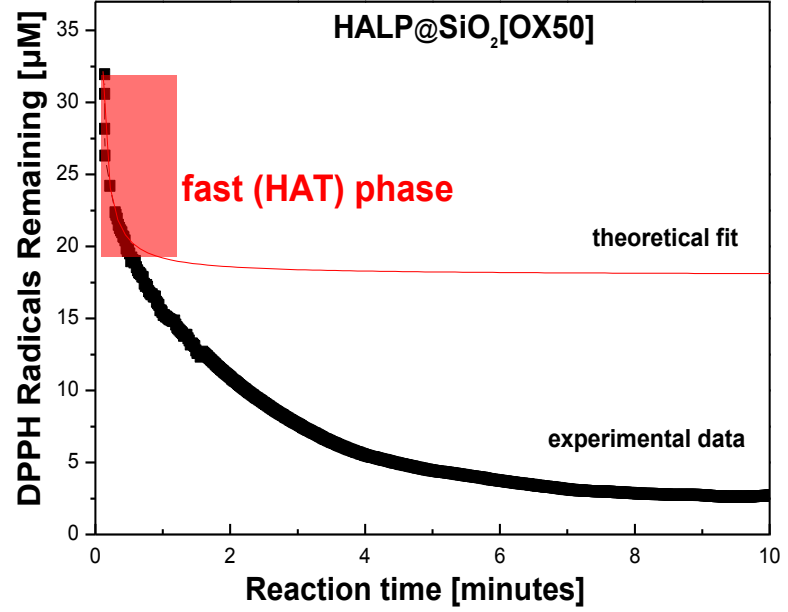
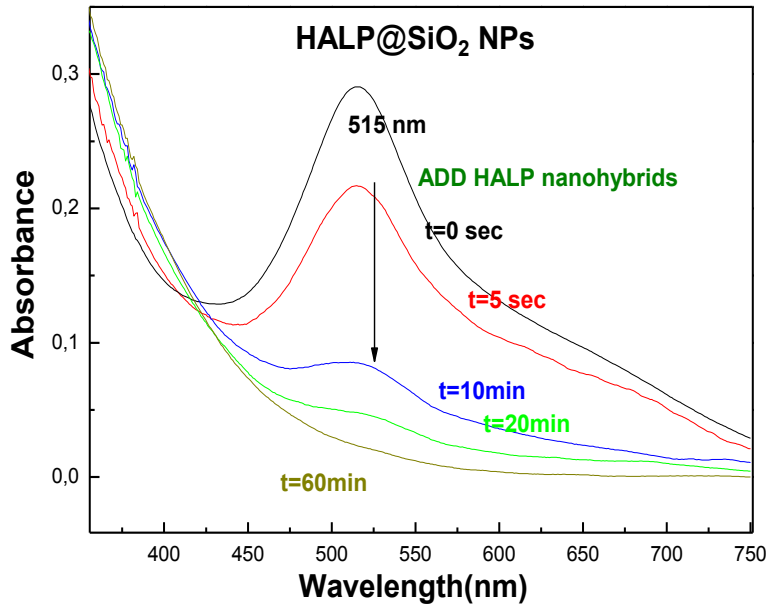
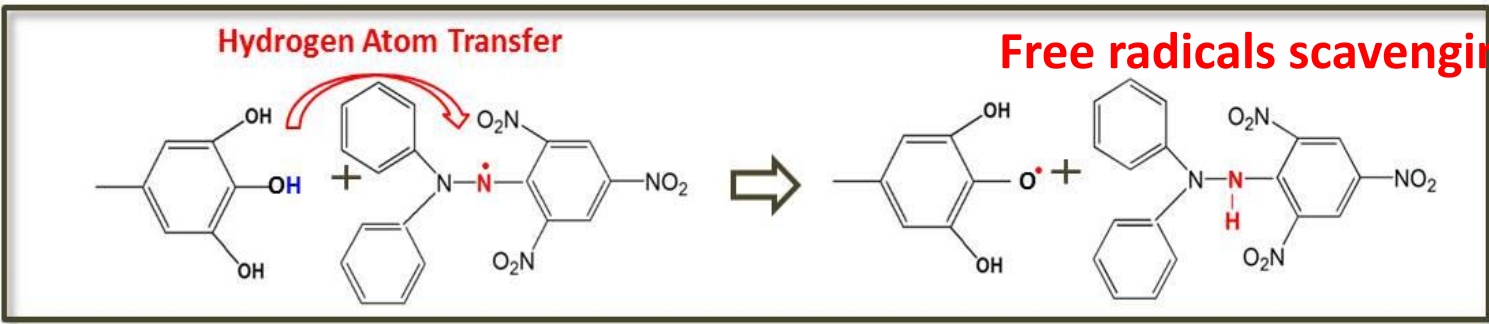
[2] Humic Acid Like Polycondensate (HALP)
Well characterised model
Giannakopoulos Coll. Surf.-A 2010)



Covalent immobilization



Evaluation of Hydrogen Atom Transfer for HALP nanohybrids by the DPPH[•] method



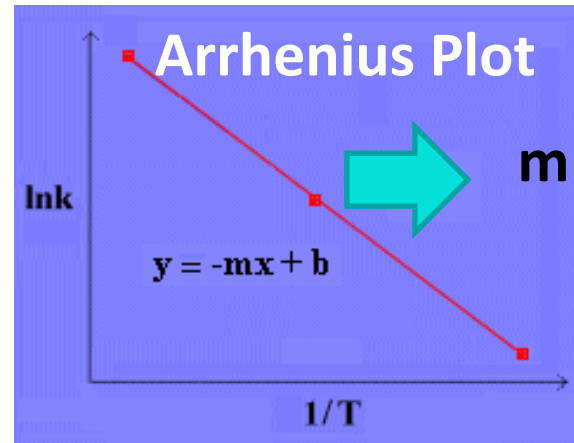
E. Bletsa, P. Stathi, K. Dimos, M. Louloudi, Y. Deligiannakis, *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science* 455 (2015) 163.
 Brand-Williams, G., Cuvelier, M. E., Berset, C. *LWT-Food Sci. Technol.* 1995, 28, 25-30
 Y. Deligiannakis, G.A. Sotiropoulos, *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces* 4 (2012) 6609.
 Sotiropoulos, Y., Deligiannakis, Y., *Journal of Colloid and Interface Science* 455 (2015) 163.

Thermodynamic analysis 1min

Arrhenius equation → **ACTIVATION ENERGY(Ea)**

Activation Energy (Ea)

$$k = A * e^{-\frac{E_a}{RT}}$$



Eyring-Polanyi equation

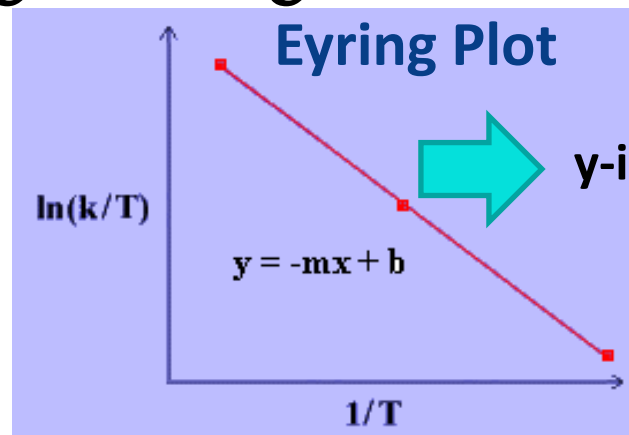
$$k = \frac{k_B * T}{h} * e^{-\frac{\Delta H}{RT}} * e^{\frac{\Delta S}{R}}$$

Reaction rate

Enthalpy of activation

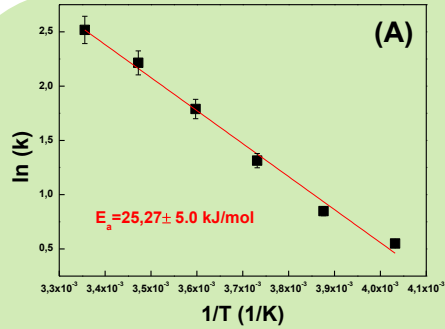
Entropy of activation

Reaction rate

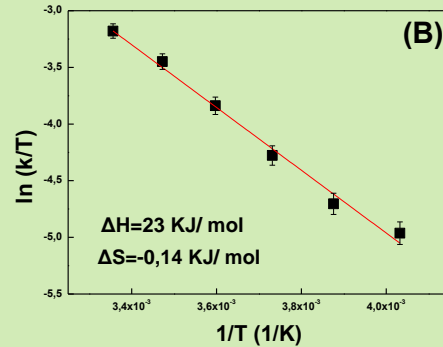


Thermodynamic analysis

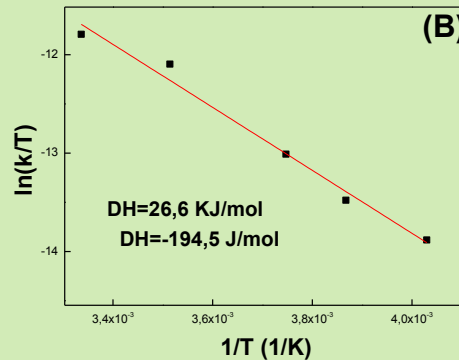
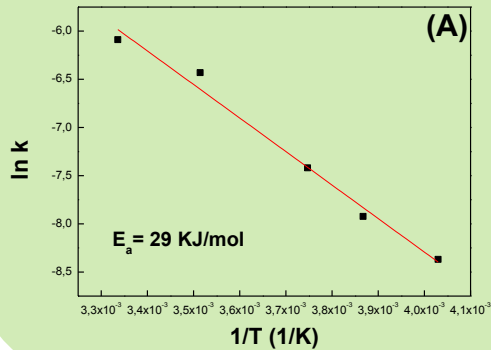
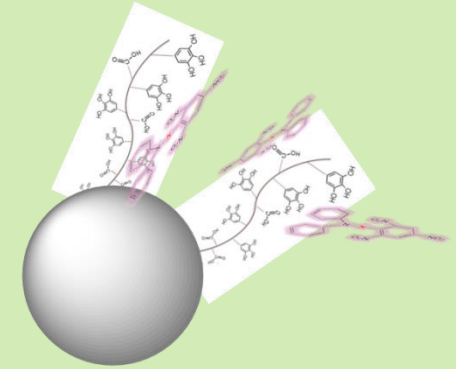
Arrhenius Plots



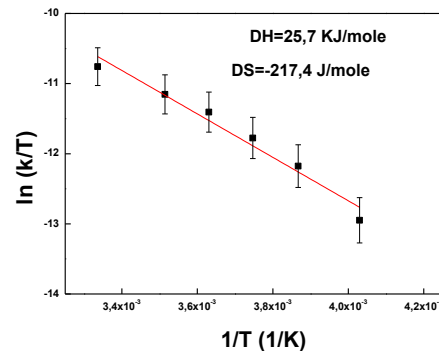
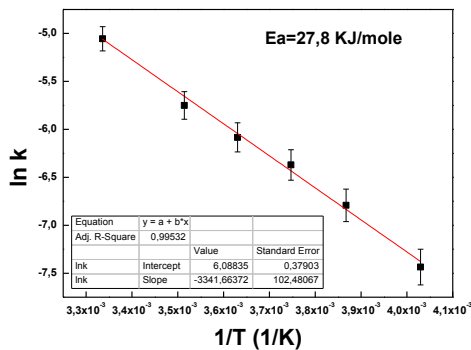
Eyring-Polanyi Plots



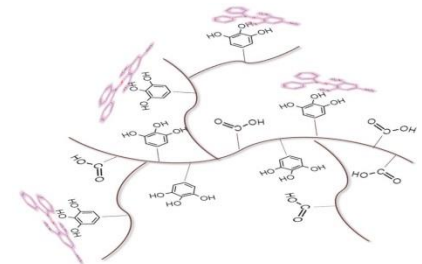
HALP@SiO₂[50]+DPPH*



HALP@SiO₂[300]+DPPH*



HALP+DPPH*



Thermodynamic comparison of H-Atom transfer between LHA, HALP, GA & their nanohybrids

Sample	E_a (kJ/mol)	ΔH^\ddagger (kJ/mol)	ΔS^\ddagger (kJ/mol)	ΔG^\ddagger (kJ/mol)
Ligntite HA (LHA)	+28.0±0.5	+25.7±0.5	-0.218±0.02	+90.9±1
LHA@SiO ₂ [50]	+11.8±0.5	+9.5±0.5	-0.27±0.03	+90.5±1
HALP	+27.8±0.2	+24.8±0.3	-0.21±0.03	+88.3±1
HALP@SiO ₂ [50]	+23.8±0.5	+21.4±0.3	-0.22±0.03	+87.4±1
GA	+35.7±0.2	+33.5±0.2	-0.187±0.03	+89.6±1
GA@SiO ₂ [50]	+23.2±1	+20.1±1	-0.174±0.05	+72.9±1

$E_a \rightarrow$ LHA~HALP < GA (HAs are better than monomeric GA)

$E_a \rightarrow$ HA@SiO₂ < HA in solution (SiO₂=no effect on HA.

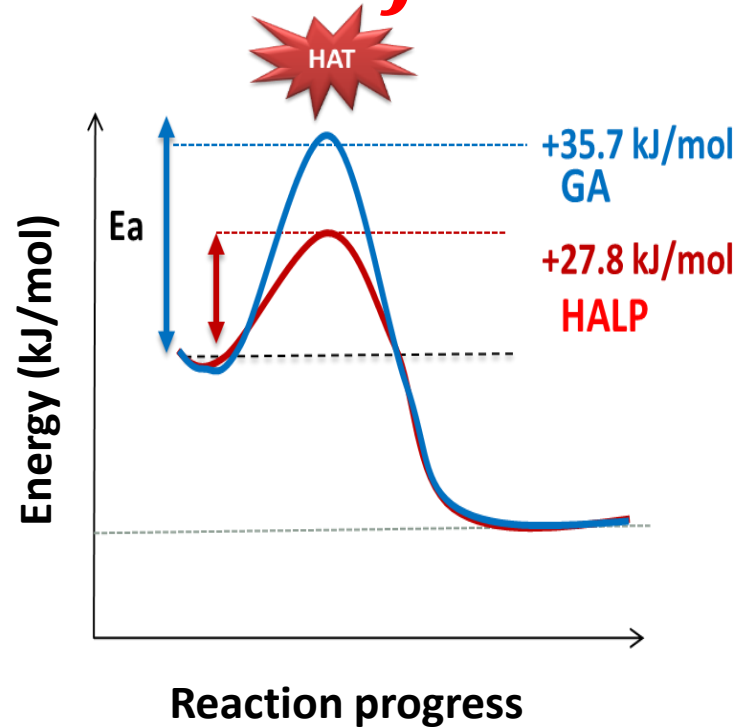
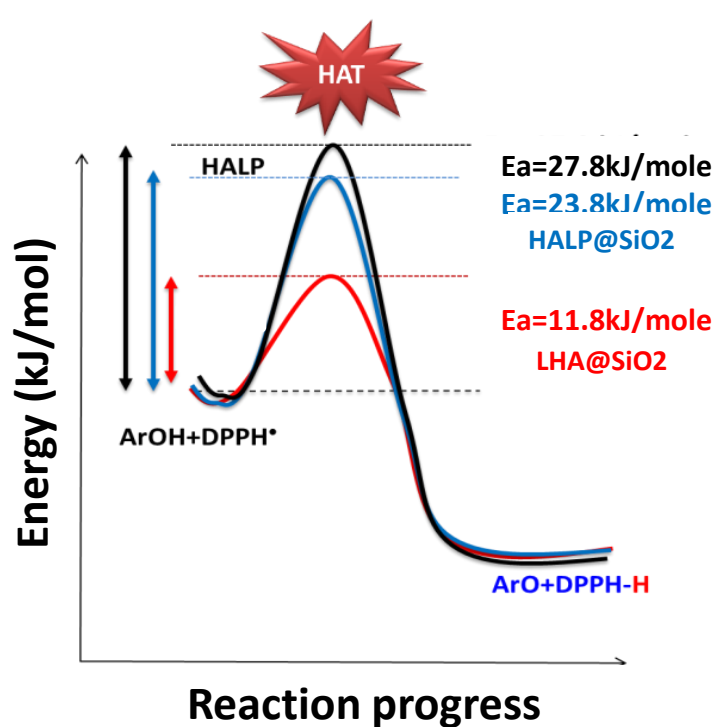
$E_a \rightarrow$ LHA@SiO₂ < HALP@SiO₂ in solution (HA 'macrostructure' determines E_a)

$E_a \rightarrow$ GA@SiO₂ < GA in solution

$E_a \rightarrow$ GA@SiO₂ NPs~HALP@SiO₂ NPs

Dispersion of polyphenolic molecules on SiO₂ NPs: \rightarrow lowers E_a

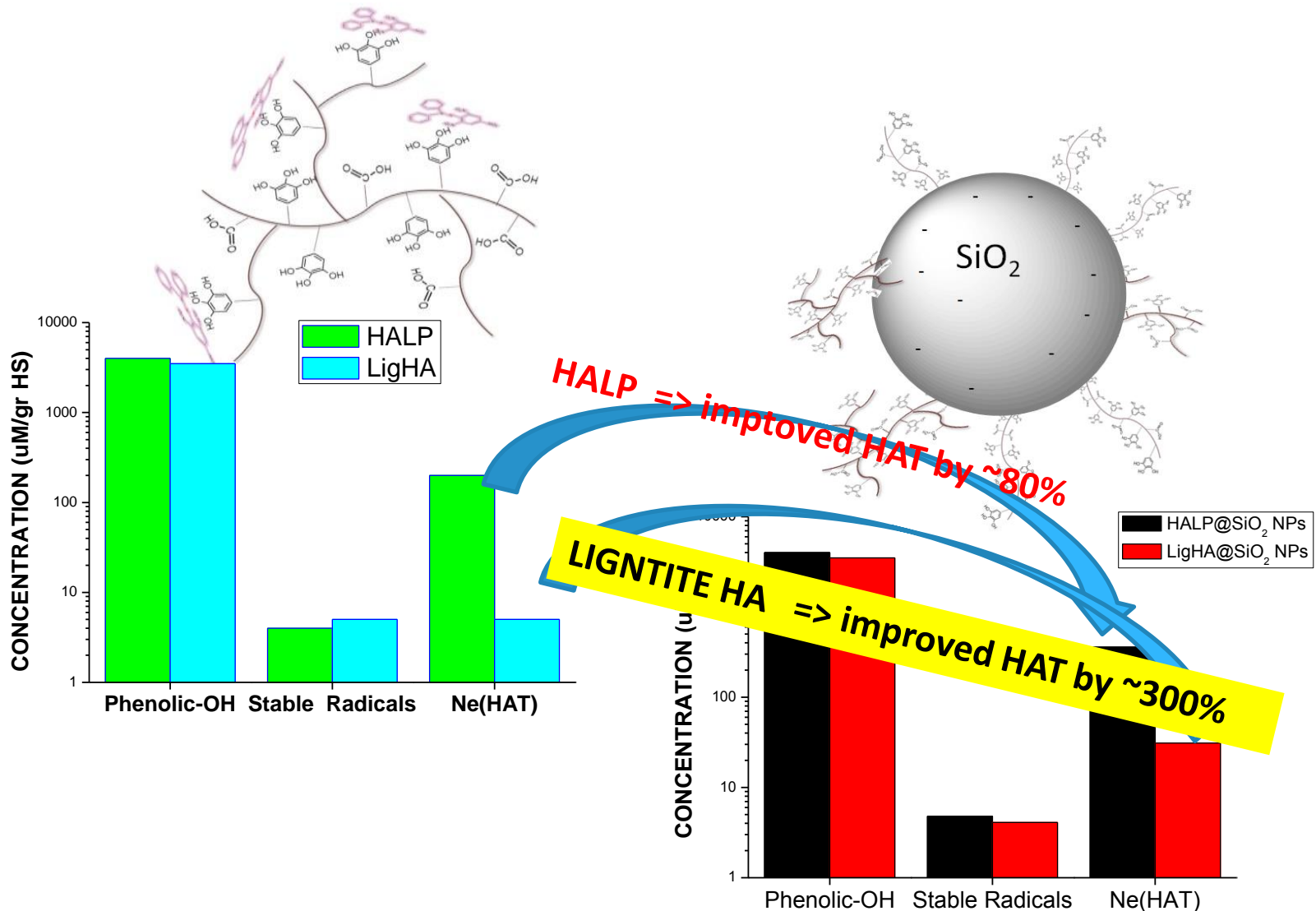
Key RESULT-1: ENERGETICS of Antioxidant H-Atom Transfer



- ✓ HAs are more efficient than GA monomer in Antioxidant HAT (lower Ea by ~ 17 kJ/mole)
- ✓ SiO2 particles lower (Ea) on HAT performance by HA monomer
- ✓ HA-local network determines the Energetics of HAT/ it lowers Ea

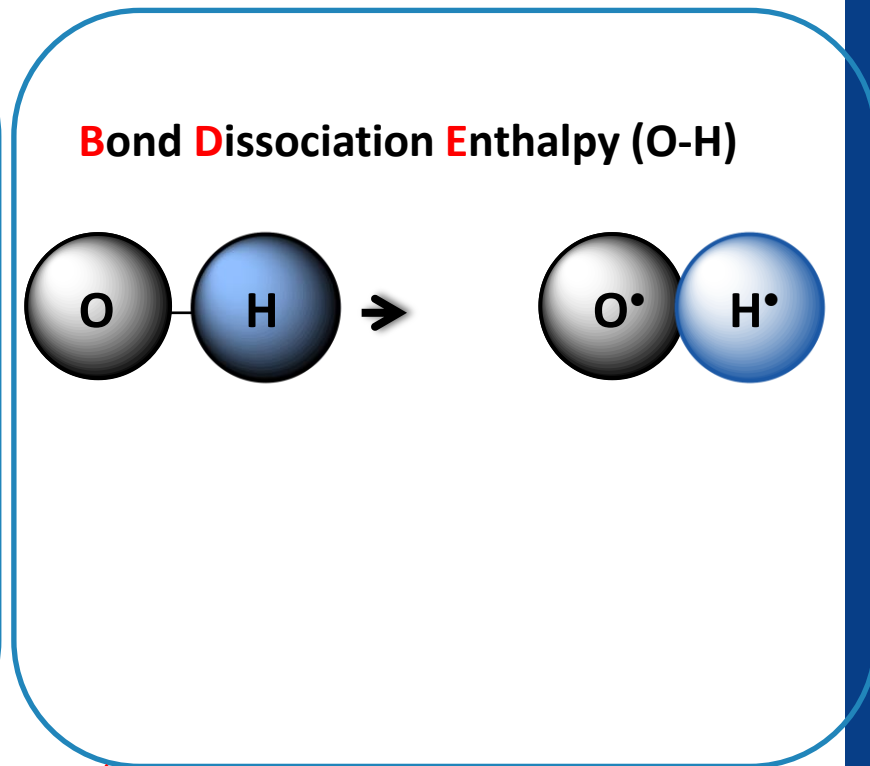
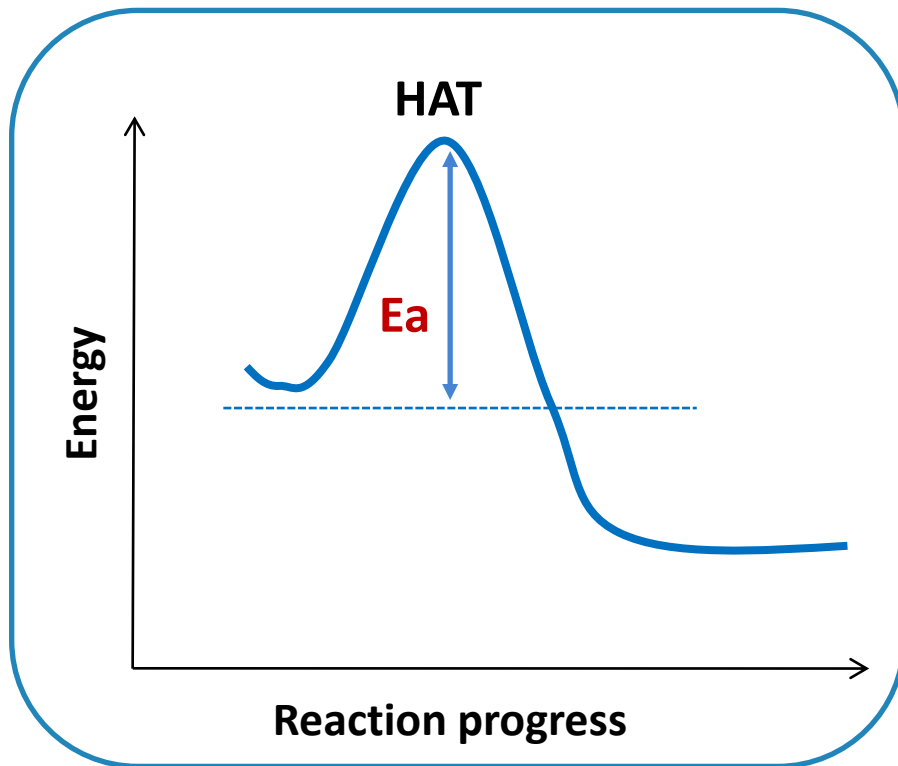
Key Result-2

HA-NanoHybrids: better Antioxidant-HAT than homogeneous HA



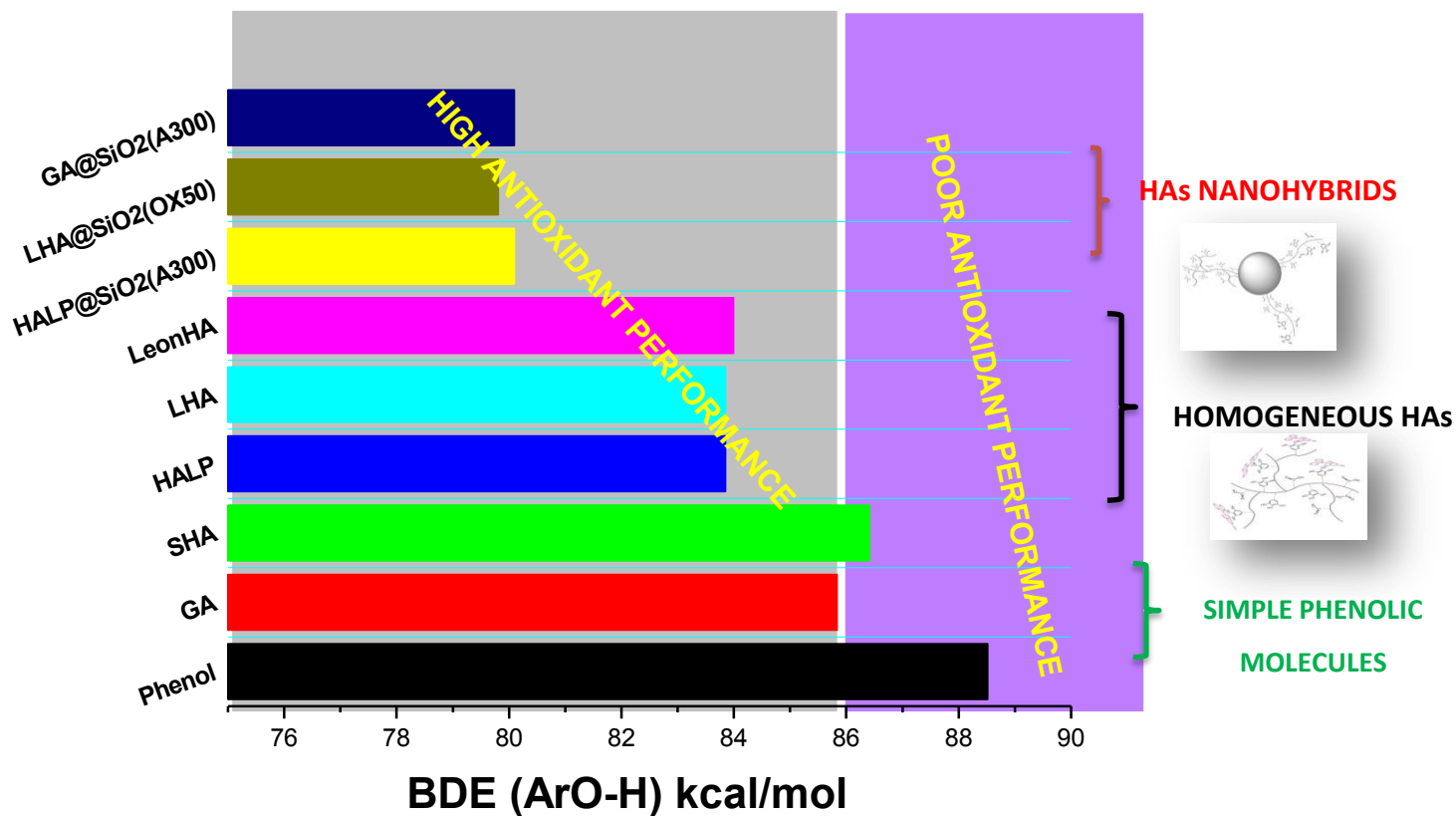
Key Result-3

HA-NanoHybrids: Thermodynamics vs. chemical information



$$E_a(\text{kcal/mol}) = 0.918 \text{ BDE} - 70.27$$

$$\text{Bond Dissociation Enthalpy (BDE kcal/mole)} = (E_a + 70.27) / 0.918$$



✓ Immobilization of HAs on SiO₂ particles → lower BDE (O-H) → better HAT performance by HA-nano-hybrids

New Technology Opportunities in Humics Technology

Humic Acid-Nanoparticle-NanoHybrids

More efficient than solution-phase Humics (Bletsa et al *Env. Sci. Techn.* 2017)

[antioxidant / Si-work + Bletsa et al *JCIS* 2015 + Deligiannakis et al *ACS App Mat Interfaces* 2012]

+EU Patent

[metal removal from waters, filtering / Stathi, Deligiannakis *JCIS* 2012]

REUSABLE

(we can recover HA@SiO₂ by a simple spinning and reuse it)

EASY TO HANDLE

(process engineering at industrial scale)

+++++ OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: **Humic Acid-NanoHybrids**

--CONTROLLED RELEASE OF NUTRIENTS,

---TRACERS IN "HA-technological " products

SCALE UP PRODUCTION ON NANOMATERIALS\ by **F**LAME **S**PRAY **P**YROLYSIS-TECHNOLOGY CONNECTING LAB-TO-INDUSTRY



Nanotechnology Flame Spray Pyrolysis at the Lab of Physical Chemistry of Materials & Environment at Univ. of Ioannina



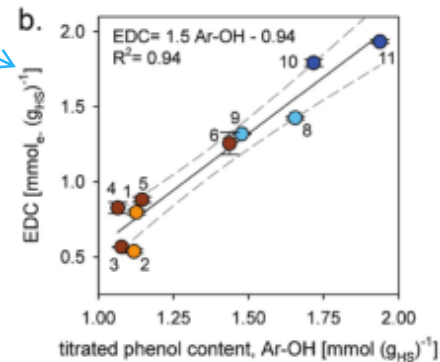
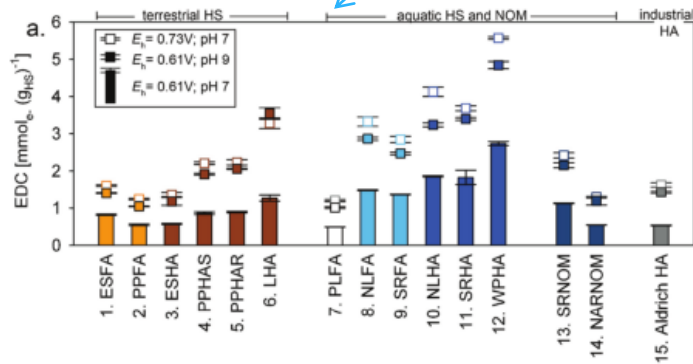
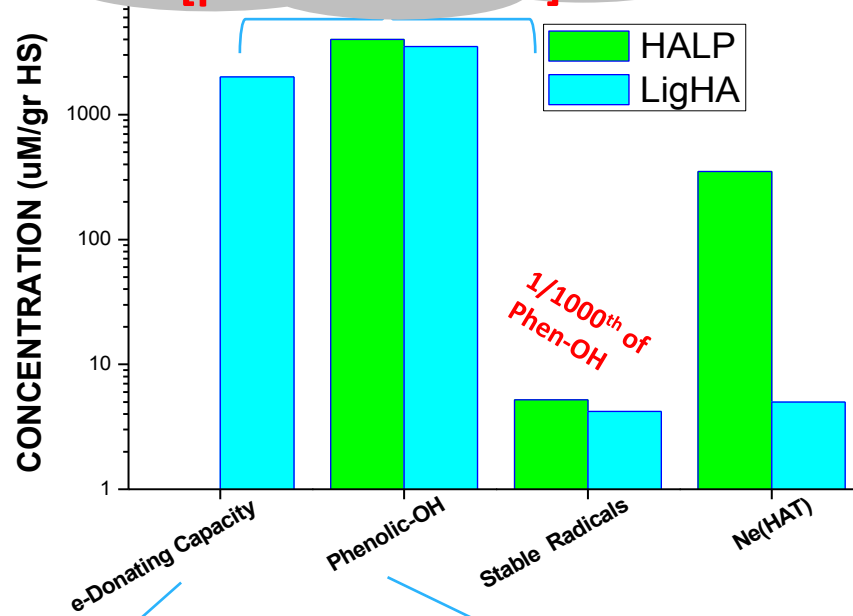
Flame Spray Pyrolysis Lab at UoI



Key Result-3

Arithmetics of functional moieties: R-OH, e-donation, stable Radicals, HAT

e-donation capacity
~[phenol content]



SUMMARY-I (on the performance of Natural Lignite HA in solution phase)

[1] Humic Acids' -Phenolic OH => Efficient in Antioxidant HAT

Lower activation energy in HA than in GA monomers

Kinetic limitations are imposed by Diffusion from solution into the HA-polymer

(NOT by Hydrogen Atom Transfer -this is FAVORED in HA)

[2] Natural Lignite HA : severe inhibition of the NUMBER of active HAT-performing R-OH (280umole by HALP, 5um/gram by LHA)

[3] Activation energy of these active R-OH is the SAME in Natural HA as in synthetic HALP

CONCLUSION-1

SAME HAT MECHANISM (thermodynamics) in LHA, HALP and monomeric GA

NUMBER of active R-OH sites (to perform antioxidant HAT) are 100-fold less available in LHA than in HALP.

SUMMARY-II (on the performance SiO₂@HA vs. Solution phase HA)

[1] SiO₂@HA hybrids have improved Antioxidant efficiency

[2] Ligtite HA has 300% improved Antioxidant efficiency

This is not because of change in the HAT energy cost (E_a is the same in HALP, LHA, SiO₂@HALP, SiO₂@LHA)

CONCLUSION-2

***The better performance of SiO₂@HA hybrids is
Better arrangement of the HA-macromolecules on the SiO₂ particles thus lowering
diffusion barriers.***

***Other factors.....: a fraction of R-OH in LHA is “occluded” in LHA domains with low
accessibility by solvent dynamics (to be tested by screening various soil/lignite
HAs***

CONCLUSION-Challenges

Antioxidant HAT at physiological conditions can be accurately evaluated by the DPPH protocol.

Natural HAs of different compositions have comparable [R-OH] (1-4 mmol/gram), however the Antioxidant R-OH fraction will be determined by the local macrostructural profile of each HA (to be screened –tabulated in soil vs. aquatic vs. lignite vs. pyrolysed carbons etc)

HA-Nano composites offer novel technology/research opportunities.

Thus, the FIRM structural/functional data accumulated -so far- by the rerearchers working on HA science (guided by IHSS and HA-research pioneers) CAN be capitalised in competitive technology-oriented applications.



Thank you!!!



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