An 8-sulfonamidoquinoline derivative with imidazolium unit as an extraction reagent for use in ionic liquid chelate extraction systems

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## 16 Abstract

17 To evaluate the superiority of using a task-specific onium salt (TSOS), a novel 18 TSOS reagent 1-methyl-3-[2-(8-quinolinylaminosulfonyl)ethyl]imidazolium chloride 19 (HmimesqCl) was synthesized, and its performance in extraction of different divalent 20 metal cations was investigated. This TSOS reagent has has both a cationic imidazolium 21 unit and an anionic (proton-dissociable) complexation unit for the extraction of metal 22 cations into an ionic liquid. In the use of HmimesqCl, relatively high extraction of 23 metals resulted in comparison with the use of its non-imidazolium analogs, without 24 changing the extraction selectivity. 25

26 *Keywords:* Ionic liquids; Chelate extraction, Divalent metal cations;

27 8-Sulfonamidoquinoline derivative; Task-specific onium salt.

## 29 **1. Introduction**

Ionic liquids (ILs) have attracted much interest as novel solvents [1-16]. They are
salts with low melting points (< 100 °C in general) and are hydrolytically stable.</li>
Furthermore, several ILs, such as 1,3-dialkylimidazolium hexafluorophosphates and
bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)imides, are immiscible with water; therefore, they can be
used as extraction solvents for liquid-liquid extraction.

The use of ILs as an extraction phase in solvent extraction was reported for organic materials by Huddleston et al. in 1998 [17] and for metal cations by Dai et al. in 1999 [18]. Many researchers have studied the use of ILs in extraction, and several reviews have been published [19-28].

39 In metal extraction, the low solubility of extraction reagents into the ILs is a 40 serious disadvantage; low extraction capacity often results [19]. Reagents do not solvate 41 well because many ready-made extraction reagents are optimized for use in normal 42 solvent extraction and most have high solubility in low-polar organic solvents. In other 43 words, the development of novel extraction reagents with high affinity to ILs is an 44 important subject. Thus, several researchers have investigated the possible use of 45 several reagents as extraction reagents in an IL-extraction system [29-35]. These 46 reagents contain both a cationic imidazolium unit and a neutral complexation unit, and 47 they are classified as task-specific ionic liquids (TSILs) or task-specific onium salts 48 (TSOSs). Unfortunately, both the imidazolium units and the complexed parts of the 49 TSOSs have positive charges, which lower complexation stability with the metal cation 50 due to electrostatic repulsion [32]. Namely, these TSOSs often have lower extraction 51 ability than their imidazolium-free analogs that show no repulsion in complexation.

52 We have investigated the use of anionic (proton-dissociable) complexants, 53 including 8-quinolinol derivatives [36-38], β-diketones [38-44] and

54 8-sulfonamidoquinoline derivatives [38,45] such as 55 4-methyl-*N*-(8-quinolinyl)benzenesulfonamide (8-(p-toluenesulfonamido)quinoline, 56 Htsq), in the IL-extraction. In this system, named the "ionic liquid chelate extraction 57 system", complexation of the reagents to the metals neutralizes the positive charge of 58 the metals, resulting in a lower positive, neutral or negative charge. Therefore, TSOSs 59 having both the imidazolium and proton-dissociable complexation units can result in 60 suppression of the electrostatic repulsion mentioned above and enhancement of the 61 extraction of the metal in the IL phase. However, the use of a proton-dissociable TSOS 62 has received limited study. To date, only Ouadi et al. [46] has reported on the nature of 63 1-butyl-3-[3-(2-hydroxybenzylamino)propyl]imidazolium salts as extraction reagents 64 for americium (III); unfortunately, the 2-hydroxybenzylamine unit had limited ability to 65 complex.

66 In this study, we performed a one-pot synthesis to form a proton-dissociable 67 **TSOS** containing 8-sulfonamidoquinoline complexation an unit. 68 1-methyl-3-[2-(8-quinolinylaminosulfonyl)ethyl]imidazolium chloride 69 (8-{2-[1-(3-methylimidazolio)]ethanesulfonamido}guinoline chloride, HmimesqCl; see 70 Fig. 1 (a)). We also displayed its possible use for the extraction of different divalent 71 metal cations into an IL, 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate 72 ([bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>]). The 8-sulfonamidoquinoline unit was selected due to the high metal 73 extractability of various other known 8-sulfonamidoquinoline derivatives [38,45,47-57]. 74 When compared to а simple derivative, 8-quinolinylaminosulfonylethane 75 (8-ethanesulfonamidoquinoline, Hesq; see Fig. 1 (b)), the HmimesqCl showed higher 76 extractability for these metals in the IL-extraction system.

77

## 78 **2. Experimental**

## 79 2.1. Reagents

The one-pot synthesis of HmimesqCl was performed as follows: To 100 cm<sup>3</sup> of 80 CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution containing 1.73 g (12 mmol) of 8-aminoquinoline and 2.9 cm<sup>3</sup> (37 81 mmol) of 1-methylimidazole, 40 cm<sup>3</sup> of CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution containing 1.2 cm<sup>3</sup> (11 mmol) 82 83 of 2-chloroethanesulfonyl chloride was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at 50 84 °C for 5 h after which it was stirred at room temperature overnight. The resulted solid 85 was filtered and colorless needles were obtained after recrystallization from ethyl 86 acetate – methanol. Yield: 1.93 g (5.5 mmol, 50 %), Anal. calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: C 51.06, H 4.86, N 15.88. Found: C 50.58, H 4.90, N 15.86. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta =$ 87 88 3.80 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-), 3.94 (t, 2H, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-), 4.75 (t, 2H, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-), 89 7.59–7.73 (m, 4H, Ar), 7.80–7.85 (m, 2H, Ar), 8.47 (d, 1H, Ar), 8.97–9.01 (m, 1H, Ar), 90 9.26 (s, 1H, Ar), 9.96 (br s, 1H, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>-).

91 The synthesis of Hesq was performed from 8-aminoquinoline and 92 1-ethanesulfonyl chloride using the reported procedure for the preparation of Htsq [58]. 93 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta = 1.21$  (t, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-), 3.25 (q, 2H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-), 7.54-7.77 (m, 4H, 94 Ar), 8.42-8.46 (m, 1H, Ar), 8.93-8.96 (m, 1H, Ar), 9.30 (br s, 1H, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>-).

The IL [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] was synthesized from 1-chlorobutane, 1-methylimidazole and hexafluorophosphoric acid according to reported procedure [17]. Metal standard solutions for atomic absorption spectrometry (1,000  $\mu$ g cm<sup>-3</sup> dissolved in dil. nitric acid) were used as metal standards. Other chemicals included reagent-grade materials, which were used without further purification. Distilled deionized water was used throughout.

101

102 2.2. Apparatus

103

A Hitachi model Z-6100 polarized Zeeman atomic absorption spectrophotometer

104 was used for the determination of the concentration of the metals in the aqueous phase.
105 A Horiba model F-52 pH meter equipped with a Horiba 9678-10D combined glass
106 electrode was used to determine the pH values. The absorption spectra of solutions were
107 recorded on a JASCO V-570 UV/visible/near-infrared spectrophotometer using 1 cm
108 matched quartz cells.

- 109
- 110 2.3. Distribution of the extraction reagents

111 Distribution of the extraction reagents between the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] and aqueous phases was measured as follows: In a centrifuge tube, an aliquot  $(10 \text{ cm}^3)$  of aqueous 112 solution containing  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> of each reagent,  $1 \times 10^{-1}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> of sodium 113 114 chloride.  $1 \times 10^{-2}$ mol  $dm^{-3}$ of buffer (chloroacetic acid, acetic acid, 115 2-(*N*-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid, 3-(*N*-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid. 116 *N*-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-3-aminopropanesulfonic acid *N*-cyclohexylor 2-aminoethanesulfonic acid) and an appropriate amount of NaOH and 1 cm3 of 117 118  $[bmim][PF_6]$  were shaken at 25±1 °C to be equilibrated. After the two phases were 119 separated by centrifugation, the pH in the aqueous phase was determined, and the 120 measured pH was used as the equilibrated pH. To the aqueous phase, a small amount of concentrated hydrochloric acid was added to acidify to ca. 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HCl. From the 121 [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase, a small amount was dissolved into 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HCl. Absorbance of 122 each the solution at 315 nm (maximum absorption wavelength for H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>; see 123 124 below) was measured, and the distribution ratio was calculated.

125

## 126 *2.4. Distribution of the metals*

127 In a centrifuge tube, an aliquot  $(1 \text{ cm}^3)$  of  $[\text{bmim}][\text{PF}_6]$  containing  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol 128 dm<sup>-3</sup> of HmimesqCl or Hesq and 5 cm<sup>3</sup> of an aqueous phase containing  $1 \times 10^{-5} - 1 \times 10^{-4}$ 

mol dm<sup>-3</sup> of M<sup>2+</sup> (M = Co, Cu, Zn or Cd),  $1 \times 10^{-1}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> of potassium nitrate,  $1 \times 10^{-2}$ 129 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> of buffer (chloroacetic acid, acetic acid, 2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid, 130 131 3-(*N*-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid, *N*-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-3-aminopropanesulfonic acid or N-cyclohexyl-2-aminoethanesulfonic acid) and an 132 133 appropriate amount of NaOH were shaken at 25±1 °C for 45 min. After the two phases 134 were separated by centrifugation, the pH and the metal concentration in the aqueous 135 phase were determined. The measured pH was used for numerical analysis as 136 equilibrated pH. The metal concentration in the extraction phase ([bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>]) was determined after back-extraction into a 10-fold volume of 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> nitric acid. The 137 138 extraction ratio (%E) of the metal was calculated as  $100 \times$  (extracted amount of the 139 metal) / (initial amount of the metal in the aqueous phase), and the distribution ratio (D)140 was calculated as (total metal concentration in the extraction phase) / (total metal 141 concentration in the aqueous phase).

142

#### 143 3. Results and discussion

#### 144 3.1. Acid dissociation equilibria of the reagents

The reagent HmimesqCl dissociates in aqueous solution to Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup>. 145 The Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> can show the following acid dissociation equilibria: 146

14

47 
$$H_2 \text{mimesq}^{2+} \rightleftharpoons \text{Hmimesq}^+ + \text{H}^+$$
 (1)

148 
$$\operatorname{Hmimesq}^+ \rightleftharpoons \operatorname{mimesq} + \operatorname{H}^+$$
 (2)

where Eq. (1) corresponds to the acid dissociation of the quinolinium $-NH^+$  and Eq. (2) 149 corresponds to that of the sulfonamide-NH. To evaluate these equilibria and to 150 determine respective acid dissociation constants, absorption spectra of  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol 151  $dm^{-3}$  HmimesaCl aqueous solutions containing  $1.0 \times 10^{-1}$  mol  $dm^{-3}$  sodium chloride 152 were measured at different pHs. Some of the spectra are shown in Fig. 2. The two 153

154 isosbestic points at 294 nm and 319 nm correspond to Eqs. (1) and (2), respectively. Maximum absorption wavelengths and molar absorptivities for H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>, Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> 155 and mimesq were estimated to be 315 nm for  $6.5 \times 10^2$  dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>, 304 nm for 156  $3.5 \times 10^2$  dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> and 342 nm for  $3.5 \times 10^2$  dm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. 157 Furthermore, the acid dissociation constants were obtained as  $K_{a1} = 10^{-2.82\pm0.01}$  and  $K_{a2} =$ 158  $10^{-7.60\pm0.01}$  from the non-linear least-squares fitting of absorbance (at 315 and 342 nm) 159 versus pH. These constants were also determined for Hesq were obtained through the 160 same technique ( $K_{a1} = 10^{-3.41 \pm 0.01}$  and  $K_{a2} = 10^{-9.01 \pm 0.01}$ ). 161

162

# 163 *3.2. Distribution of the extraction reagents*

It is well known that not only neutral species but also charged species are extractable into a hydrophobic IL phase from an aqueous phase [17]. Consequently, IL/water distribution behavior of extraction reagents can be complicated. Fig. 3 shows aqueous phase pH dependency of the distribution ratio ( $D_R$ ) between the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase and the aqueous phase for HmimesqCl and Hesq.

170 
$$H_2 \text{mimesq}^{2+} + 2\text{bmim}^+_{\text{IL}} \rightleftharpoons H_2 \text{mimesq}^{2+}_{\text{IL}} + 2\text{bmim}^+$$
 (3)

171 
$$\operatorname{Hmimesq}^{+} + \operatorname{bmim}^{+}_{\mathrm{IL}} \rightleftharpoons \operatorname{Hmimesq}^{+}_{\mathrm{IL}} + \operatorname{bmim}^{+}$$
 (4)

172 
$$mimesq \rightleftharpoons mimesq_{IL}$$

where subscript IL denotes the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase. The cation-exchange distribution equilibrium constants ( $K_{CED}$ ) for Eqs. (3) and (4) can be expressed as follows:

(5)

175 
$$K_{CED}(H_2 mimesq^{2+}) = [H_2 mimesq^{2+}]_{IL}[bmim^+]^2 / [H_2 mimesq^{2+}][bmim^+]_{IL}^2 (6)$$
  
176  $K_{CED}(Hmimesq^+) = [Hmimesq^+]_{IL}[bmim^+] / [Hmimesq^+][bmim^+]_{IL}$  (7)

177 In these cases, the  $[bmim^+]_{IL}$  and  $[bmim^+]$  values are regarded as constant (the aqueous 178 phase is saturated with  $[bmim][PF_6]$  salt), and the following values (e.g. apparent 179 distribution coefficients,  $K_D$ ') are also considered constant:

180 
$$K_{\rm D}$$
 '(H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>) = [H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>IL</sub> / [H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>]  
181 =  $K_{\rm CED}$ (H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>)[bmim<sup>+</sup>]<sub>IL</sub><sup>2</sup> / [bmim<sup>+</sup>]<sup>2</sup> (8)

182 
$$K_{\rm D}$$
'(Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>) = [Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>]<sub>IL</sub> / [Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>]

183 = 
$$K_{\text{CED}}(\text{Hmimesq}^+)[\text{bmim}^+]_{\text{IL}} / [\text{bmim}^+]$$
 (9)

Furthermore, the distribution constant  $(K_D)$  for neutral mimesq (Eq. (5)) can be expressed as follows:

186 
$$K_{\rm D}({\rm mimesq}) = [{\rm mimesq}]_{\rm IL} / [{\rm mimesq}]$$
 (10)

By using a non-linear least-squares fitting, the values of log  $K_D$  (H<sub>2</sub>mimesq<sup>2+</sup>), log  $K_D$  (Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>) and log  $K_D$ (mimesq) were determined as 0.71±0.07, 2.82±0.06 and 0.04±0.01, respectively.

In the same manner, the two plateaus in Fig. 3 (b) corresponds to the followingtwo equilibria and constants:

192 
$$H_2 esq^+ + bmim^+_{IL} \iff H_2 esq^+_{IL} + bmim^+$$
(11)

193 
$$K_{\text{CED}}(\text{H}_2\text{esq}^+) = [\text{H}_2\text{esq}^+]_{\text{IL}}[\text{bmim}^+] / [\text{H}_2\text{esq}^+][\text{bmim}^+]_{\text{IL}}$$
 (12)

194 
$$K_{\rm D}'({\rm H_2esq}^+) = [{\rm H_2esq}^+]_{\rm IL} / [{\rm H_2esq}^+]$$

195 = 
$$K_{\text{CED}}(\text{H}_2\text{esq}^+)[\text{bmim}^+]_{\text{IL}} / [\text{bmim}^+]$$
 (13)

196  $\text{Hesq} \rightleftharpoons \text{Hesq}_{\text{IL}}$  (14)

197 
$$K_{\rm D}({\rm Hesq}) = [{\rm Hesq}]_{\rm IL} / [{\rm Hesq}]$$
(15)

198 The values of log  $K_D$  (H<sub>2</sub>esq<sup>+</sup>) and log  $K_D$ (Hesq) were determined as 0.43±0.04 and 199 2.84±0.01, respectively. (The distribution of esq<sup>-</sup> into the IL phase was not observed.)

It is interesting to note that the values of  $K_D$  (Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>) and  $K_D$ (Hesq) are similar to one another regardless of their different electric charges. This fact suggests that introduction of the cationic imidazolium unit to Hesq not only enhanced the hydrophilicity through its positive charge but also maintained IL-philicity because of its 204 structural similarity to Hesq.

205

206 3.3. Extraction behavior of  $M^{2+}$ 

The %*E* values of  $M^{2+}$  into the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] extraction phase were plotted as a 207 208 function of aqueous phase pH (equilibrated pH). The results are shown in Fig. 4. When using HmimesqCl as the extraction reagent, > 95 % of the reagent existed as Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> 209 in the [bmim][ $PF_6$ ] phase at pH > ca. 2.8 as shown in Section 3.2 and "Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>" will 210 replace the use of "HmimesqCl" hereafter. Alternatively, > 95 % of Hesq existed as the 211 212 neutral form in the IL phase at pH > ca. 3.0. The %*E* values, calculated from each metal 213 concentration in the back-extracted solution, were compatible with the metal 214 concentration remaining in the equilibrated aqueous phase. Thus, it was confirmed that the back-extraction using 1 mol  $dm^{-3}$  nitric acid was effective not only with the Hesq 215 system but also with the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> system. 216

For all of the  $M^{2+}s$ , Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> showed higher extractability than its imidazolium-free analog Hesq. On the other hand, these two systems showed similar extraction selectivity ( $Cu^{2+} > Zn^{2+} > Cd^{2+} \approx Co^{2+}$ ) as shown in Fig. 4. Namely, the introduction of the imidazolium unit to the Hesq resulted in the enhancement of its extraction performance.

On a side note,  $Mn^{2+}$  was not able to be extracted in the examined extraction conditions, and the extraction of Ni<sup>2+</sup> needed more time to reach equilibration as was reported previously in the use of other 8-sulfonamidoquinoline derivatives [45,54].

When most 8-sulfonamidoquinoline derivatives extract  $M^{2+}$  into the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase, as neutral 1:2 complex has been reported to result [45]. Therefore, by using Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>, the extraction equilibrium and the extraction constant ( $K_{ex}$ ) can be expressed as follows:

229 
$$M^{2+} + 2Hmimesq^+_{IL} \rightleftharpoons M(mimesq)_2^{2+}_{IL} + 2H^+$$
 (16)

230 
$$K_{\text{ex}} = [M(\text{mimesq})_2^{2^+}]_{\text{IL}} [\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{M}^{2^+}] [\text{Hmimesq}^+]_{\text{IL}}^2$$
(17)

231 In these cases, the *D* for  $M^{2+}$  is expressed as follows:

232 
$$D = [M(mimesq)_2]_{IL} / ([M^{2+}] + [M(OH)^+] + [M(OH)_2])$$
  
233 
$$= ([M(mimesq)_2]_{IL} / [M^{2+}]) (1 + \beta_1 [OH^-] + \beta_2 [OH^-]^2)^{-1}$$

234 = 
$$(K_{\text{ex}}[\text{Hmimesq}^+]_{\text{IL}}^2 / [\text{H}^+]^2) (1 + \beta_1[\text{OH}^-] + \beta_2[\text{OH}^-]^2)^{-1}$$
 (18)

235 where  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  are stability constants for hydroxo complexes of M(OH)<sup>+</sup> and M(OH)<sub>2</sub>,

respectively. Assumingly, the following approximate relationship can be true:

237  $\log D(1 + \beta_1 [\text{OH}^-] + \beta_2 [\text{OH}^-]^2)$ 

$$238 = \log K_{\rm ex} + 2 \log C(\rm HmimesqCl)_{\rm IL} + 2pH$$
(19)

where  $C(\text{HmimesqCl})_{\text{IL}}$  is the initial concentration of HmimesqCl in the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase.

241 To confirm the extracted species and the extraction equilibria, the relationships between log  $D(1 + \beta_1[OH^-] + \beta_2[OH^-]^2)$  of  $M^{2+}$  and aqueous phase pH at a fixed 242 243  $C(\text{HmimesqCl})_{\text{IL}}$  and between the log  $D(1 + \beta_1[\text{OH}^-] + \beta_2[\text{OH}^-]^2)$  and log  $C(\text{HmimesqCl})_{\text{IL}}$  at fixed pH (equilibrated pH) were determined. The following  $\beta_i$ 244 values for  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  were used for the calculation: log  $\beta_1 = 4.35$ , 6.30, 245 5.04 and 3.92, and log  $\beta_2 = 9.19$ , 10.70, 11.09 and 7.64, respectively [59]. The obtained 246 247 plots are shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively. In all cases, the plots formed straight lines with slopes close to 2. Based on these plots, the extraction mechanism for  $M^{2+}$  must be 248 expressed as Eq. (16) for the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> system. 249

The log  $K_{ex}$  values in the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> system were calculated from experimental data (pH > 2.8) using Eq. (19). The obtained values are shown in Table 1 alongside those of the Hesq and Htsq [45] systems. The log  $K_{ex}$  values in the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> system were 1.3 – 2.3 higher than those in the Hesq system, which correspond to 0.7 – 1.2 pH 254 units in the %E vs. pH plots. Furthermore, these values were higher than those of the 255 more hydrophobic Htsq. From these facts, it can be deduced that the use of a TSOS, 256 which has a proton-dissociable complexation (chelation) group, as an extraction reagent 257 in the IL-extraction system is effective for the high-performance extraction of metal 258 cations in the IL phase.

259 While the solubility of Hesq in  $[bmim][PF_6]$  was ca.  $10^{-2}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup>, HmimesqCl 260 dissolved in  $[bmim][PF_6]$  at more than 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>. Because of this higher value, this 261 TSOS posseses a much higher extraction capacity. Furthermore, by adding aqueous 262 sodium hexafluorophosphate to an aqueous solution of HmimesqCl, a phase separation 263 was brought about. The newly formed viscous lower phase, probably [Hmimesq][PF\_6], 264 may be a hydrophobic IL, but further detailed investigation concerning the species is 265 required.

266

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### 364 **Figure/Table legends**

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Fig. 2 Absorption spectra of the  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> HmimesqCl aqueous solutions containing  $1.0 \times 10^{-1}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> sodium chloride at different pH conditions (0.93, 2.26, 2.66, 3.05, 3.81, 4.69, 6.95, 7.44, 7.96, 8.63 and 11.29).

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Fig. 3 Relationship between logarithmic distribution ratio (log  $D_R$ ) for extraction reagents and aqueous phase pH. Initial reagent concentration in the aqueous phase was  $5.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup>. The solid curves were obtained by a non-linear least squares fitting. Reagent: (a) HmimesqCl, (b) Hesq.

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Fig. 4 Plots of the extracted ratios (%*E*) for some divalent metals as a function of the aqueous phase pH equilibrated with extraction phase in the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> (a) and Hesq (b) systems. Initial reagent concentration in the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase was  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup>. Sample: ( $\diamond$ ) Co<sup>2+</sup>, ( $\blacksquare\Box$ ) Cu<sup>2+</sup>, ( $\blacklozenge\odot$ ) Zn<sup>2+</sup>, ( $\blacktriangle\Delta$ ) Cd<sup>2+</sup>.

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Fig. 5 Plots of the log  $D(1 + \beta_1[OH^-] + \beta_2[OH^-]^2)$  for some divalent metals as a function of the aqueous phase pH in the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup> system. Initial HmimesqCl concentration in the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase was  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup>. The broken line, with a slope of 2, was obtained by a least squares fitting. Sample; ( $\blacklozenge$ ) Co<sup>2+</sup>, ( $\blacksquare$ ) Cu<sup>2+</sup>, ( $\blacklozenge$ )  $Zn^{2+}$ , ( $\bigstar$ ) Cd<sup>2+</sup>.

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388 Fig. 6 Plots of the log  $D(1 + \beta_1[OH^-] + \beta_2[OH^-]^2)$  for some divalent metals as a

function of logarithmic initial concentration of HmimesqCl in the extraction phase. Equilibrated aqueous phase pH was 4.1 ( $Co^{2+}$ ), 2.6 ( $Cu^{2+}$ ), 5.0 ( $Zn^{2+}$ ) and 6.2 ( $Cd^{2+}$ ). The broken line, with a slope of 2, was obtained by a least squares fitting. Sample: (a)  $Co^{2+}$ , (b)  $Cu^{2+}$ , (c)  $Zn^{2+}$ , (d)  $Cd^{2+}$ .

- 393
- 394 Table 1 Determined log  $K_{ex}$  values for the divalent metal cations in the [bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>]
- 395 phase for each of the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>, Hesq and Htsq systems ( $25\pm1$  °C)

# Table 1Determined log $K_{ex}$ values for the divalent metal cations in the<br/>[bmim][PF<sub>6</sub>] phase for each of the Hmimesq<sup>+</sup>, Hesq and Htsq systems<br/>( $25\pm1$ °C)

Cation	Extraction reagent	Extraction reagent				
	Hmimesq <sup>+</sup>	Hesq	Htsq [45]			
Co <sup>2+</sup>	-6.12±0.11	$-7.95 \pm 0.26$	-7.54±0.18			
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	1.33±0.13	-0.07±0.12	0.83±0.14			
$Zn^{2+}$	$-3.81 \pm 0.04$	-5.12±0.13	-4.35±0.12			
$\mathrm{Cd}^{2+}$	$-6.07 \pm 0.02$	-8.34±0.02	$-6.84{\pm}0.03$			











