## **Supporting Information**

## Aqueous Biphasic Systems: A boost brought about by using ionic liquids

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**Fig. S1** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of chloride-based ionic liquids +  $K_2HPO_4/KH_2PO_4$  at 298 K:  $\Box$ ,  $[C_4C_1pyr]Cl$ ;  $\blacklozenge$ ,  $[C_4C_1im]Cl$ ;  $\blacktriangle$ ,  $[C_4C_1pip]Cl$ ; ×,  $[C_4-3-C_1py]Cl$ .<sup>45</sup>



**Fig. S2** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_nC_1im]Cl$  ionic liquids + K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> at 298 K:  $\blacktriangle$ ,  $[C_1C_1im]Cl$ ;  $\blacklozenge$ ,  $[C_2C_1im]Cl$ ; +,  $[C_4C_1im]Cl$ ;  $\circlearrowright$ ,  $[C_6C_1im]Cl$ ; -,  $[C_7C_1im]Cl$ ;  $\Box$ ,  $[C_8C_1im]Cl$ ; ×,  $[C_{10}C_1im]Cl$ ; •,  $[C_{12}C_1im]Cl$ ; \*,  $[C_{14}C_1im]Cl$ .<sup>18</sup> (b) is an expansion of



**Fig. S3** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_2C_1im]$ -based ionic liquids +  $K_3PO_4$  at 298.15 K:  $\blacklozenge$ ,  $[C_2C_1im][C_1SO_4]$ ;  $\blacksquare$ ,  $[C_2C_1im][C_4SO_4]$ ;  $\blacktriangle$ ,  $[C_2C_1im][C_6SO_4]$ ;  $\times$ ,  $[C_2C_1im][C_8SO_4]$ .<sup>11</sup>



**Fig. S4** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of imidazolium-based ionic liquids +  $K_3PO_4$  at 298 K:  $\blacksquare$ ,  $[C_4C_1C_1im]Cl$ ;  $\blacktriangle$ ,  $[C_4C_1im]Cl$ ;  $\bullet$ ,  $[C_6C_1im]Cl$ .<sup>18</sup>



Fig. S5 Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of pyridinium-chloride-based ionic liquids + K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>/KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> at 298 K: ◆, [C<sub>4</sub>-2-C<sub>1</sub>py]Cl; ■, [C<sub>4</sub>-3-C<sub>1</sub>py]Cl; ▲, [C<sub>4</sub>-4-C<sub>1</sub>py]Cl.<sup>45</sup>



**Fig. S6** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im][BF<sub>4</sub>] + sodium-based salts at 298.15 K: ▲, NaCH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>; ■, Na<sub>2</sub>C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>; ◆, Na<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.<sup>21</sup>



**Fig. S7** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_4C_1im][BF_4]$  + amino acids at 298 K: •, L-proline; •, glycine;  $\blacktriangle$ , L-serine;  $\Box$ , D,L-lysine·HCl; •, L-lysine.<sup>14,58</sup>



**Fig. S8** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_4C_1im][BF_4] + lysine at: <math>\blacksquare$ , 298 K;  $\blacklozenge$ , 308.15 K;  $\blacktriangle$ , 318.15 K.<sup>58</sup>



Fig. S9 Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of ionic liquids + sucrose at 298 K:
▲, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im][CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>]; ◆, [aC<sub>1</sub>im]Cl; ■, [aC<sub>1</sub>im]Br; ●, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im][BF<sub>4</sub>].<sup>17,51</sup>



Fig. S10 Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of ionic liquids + glucose at 298 K:
[C<sub>3</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im][BF<sub>4</sub>]; •, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im][BF<sub>4</sub>].<sup>8</sup>



**Fig. S11** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im][CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>] + dissacharides at 298 K: ◆, D-(+)-maltose; ▲, sucrose.<sup>17</sup>



**Fig. S12** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_4C_1im][CF_3SO_3] + polyols at 298 K: <math>\blacksquare$ , D-maltitol;  $\bigstar$ , D-sorbitol;  $\diamondsuit$ , xylitol.<sup>17</sup>



**Fig. S13** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of ionic liquid + PPG 400 at 298 K: •,  $[C_4C_1im]Br$ ; •,  $[C_2C_1im]Br$ ; •,  $[C_4C_1im]Cl$ ; •,  $[aC_1im]Cl$ ; •,  $[C_4C_1im][C_1CO_2]$ .<sup>63-64</sup>



**Fig. S14** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of ionic liquid + PEG 2000 at 298 K: ■, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl; ○, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>py]Cl; ●, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>pyr]Cl; ▲, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>pip]Cl; ◆, [P<sub>4444</sub>]Cl.<sup>60</sup>



**Fig. S15** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of ionic liquid + PEG 2000 at 298 K: ◆, [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl; ▲, [C<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl; ●, [aC<sub>1</sub>im]Cl; ■, [OHC<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl.<sup>60</sup>



Fig. S16 Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl + polymer at 298 K:
, PPG 400; ■, PEG 1000; ▲, PPG 1000.<sup>60,63</sup>



Fig. S17 Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl + polymer at 298 K:
■, PEG 1000; ◆, PEG 2000; ▲, PEG 3400; ●, PEG 4000.<sup>60</sup>



**Fig. S18** Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_2C_1im]Cl + PEG 2000$  at:  $\blacktriangle$ , 323 K;  $\blacklozenge$ , 308 K;  $\blacksquare$ , 298 K.<sup>60</sup>



Fig. S19 Ternary phase diagrams for ABS composed of  $[C_2C_1im]Br + PPG 400 at: \square$ , 298.15 K;  $\blacklozenge$ , 318.15 K.<sup>64</sup>



**Fig. S20** Phase diagrams for ABS composed of PEG 600 + Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> + 5 wt % ionic liquid at 298 K:  $\blacklozenge$ , no ionic liquid;  $\blacksquare$ , [im]Cl;  $\diamondsuit$ , [C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl,  $\times$ , [C<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl;  $\triangle$ , [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl;  $\blacklozenge$ , [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl;  $\blacklozenge$ , [C<sub>4</sub>C<sub>1</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl;  $\circlearrowright$ ,



Fig. S21 Phase diagrams for ABS composed of PEG 600 + Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> + 5 wt % ionic liquid at 298 K: ◆, no ionic liquid; ■, [OHC<sub>2</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl; Δ, [aC<sub>1</sub>im]Cl, ●, [C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>7</sub>C<sub>1</sub>im]Cl.<sup>61</sup>



**Fig. S22** Partition coefficients of caffeine and nicotine in different ABS at 298 K, obtained from the direct extraction of alkaloids from a synthetic biological sample – artificial human urine – and from simple aqueous phases.<sup>74</sup>



**Fig. S23** Comparison of the partition coefficients of penicillin in ABS composed of several imidazolium-based ionic liquids and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> or Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>.<sup>26,90</sup>



Fig. S24 Partitioning coefficients of L-tryptophan between  $[C_4C_1im][CF_3SO_3]$ - and carbohydrate-rich aqueous phases at 298 K. The effect of inorganic salt K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> on the partition coefficient is also depicted to address the extraction efficiency of carbohydrates.<sup>17,43</sup>



Fig. S25 Effect of the tie-line length (TLL) on the partitioning coefficients of amino acids for the  $[C_4C_1im]Br + potassium citrate/citric acid + H_2O ABS at pH = 6, a pH close to the$ isoelectric point, at 298.15 K.<sup>95</sup>



Fig. S26 Effect of the pH on the partitioning coefficients of tryptophan in the  $[C_4C_1im]Br$ + potassium citrate/citric acid + H<sub>2</sub>O ABS at 298.15 K.<sup>95</sup>