

Table S1 Hydrolysis formation constants of Zn^{2+} and Cu^{2+} in NaCl

		$\log\beta^{\text{a)}}$				
Species	M	$I = 0.15^{\text{b)}$	$I = 0.5^{\text{b)}$	$I = 1^{\text{b)}$	$I = 0.15^{\text{b)}$	$I = 0.15^{\text{b)}$
		$T = 298.15 \text{ K}$	$T = 298.15 \text{ K}$	$T = 298.15 \text{ K}$	$T = 288.15 \text{ K}$	$T = 305.15 \text{ K}$
MOH ⁺	$\text{Zn}^{2+ \text{ c)}$	-9.14	-9.07	-8.88	-10.48	-8.38
M(OH) ₂ ⁰		-17.1	-17.1	-16.9	—	-14.8
M(OH) ₃ ⁻		-28.4	-28.35	-28.3	—	—
M(OH) ₄ ²⁻		-40.8	-40.4	-40.2	-41.5	-41.5
M ₂ OH ³⁺		-8.7	-9.3	-9.9	—	—
M ₂ (OH) ₆ ²⁻		-57.5	-57.3	-57.1	—	—
MOH ⁺	$\text{Cu}^{2+ \text{ d)}$	-7.6	-7.6	-7.5	-7.9	-7.5
M ₂ OH ³⁺		-6.10	-6.07	-6.11	-6.40	-5.88
M ₂ (OH) ₂ ²⁺		-10.72	-10.79	-10.77	-11.13	-10.36
M ₃ (OH) ₄ ²⁺		-21.36	-22.64	-23.95	-22.43	-20.70

^{a)} Refer to the reaction: $p\text{M}^{2+} + q\text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{M}_p(\text{OH})_q^{(2p-q)} + q\text{H}^+$; ^{b)} Expressed in mol L⁻¹; ^{c)} Baes, C. F.; Mesmer, R. E., *The hydrolysis of cations*. John Wiley & sons: New York, 1976; Pettit, L. D.; Powell, K. J. *IUPAC Stability Constants Database*, Academic Software, IUPAC: 2001. ^{d)} MOH, M₂OH, M₂(OH)₂ data: (De Robertis, A.; De Stefano, C.; Foti, C.; Signorino, G., Thermodynamic Parameters for the formation of Dimeric Hydrolytic Species of Copper(II) in Aqueous NaClO₄ Solution at Different Ionic Strengths. *Talanta* **1997**, 44, 1839-1846; Cu₃(OH)₄ data: Rigano, C.; De Robertis, A.; Sammartano, S., Computer Analysis of Equilibrium Data in Solution. A Method for Computing the Formation Constants of two Mass Balance Systems, from Potentiometric Measurements, Applied to the Hydrolysis of Copper(II). *Transition Met. Chem.* **1985**, 10, 1-4.

Table S2 Protonation constants of AsO_4^{3-} at different temperatures and ionic strengths in NaCl

$I / \text{mol L}^{-1}$	T / K	$\log\beta_1^{\text{a) b)}$	$\log\beta_2^{\text{a) b)}$	$\log\beta_3^{\text{a) b)}$
0.15	298.15	11.03	17.64	19.86
0.5	298.15	10.62	17.00	19.08
1	298.15	10.51	16.78	18.81
0.15	288.15	11.14	17.81	20.04
0.15	310.15	10.91	17.49	19.66

a) Refer to the reaction: $\text{pH}^+ + \text{AsO}_4^{3-} = \text{H}_p\text{AsO}_4^{(3-p)-}$

b) Chillè, D., Foti, C., Giuffrè, O., 2018. Thermodynamic parameters for the protonation and the interaction of arsenate with Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} and Sr^{2+} : Application to natural waters. *Chemosphere* 190, 72-79; Cassone, G., Chillè, D., Foti, C., Giuffrè, O., Ponterio, R.C., Sponer, J., Saija, F., 2018. Stability of hydrolytic arsenic species in aqueous solutions: As^{3+} vs. As^{5+} . *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 20, 23272-23280.

Table S3 Calculation trials on Cu^{2+} - AsO_4^{3-} (L) system at $T = 298.15$ K and $I = 0.15$ mol L^{-1} in NaCl

Species				$\log\beta^{\text{a)}}$
MLH ₂	—	—	—	20.85(7) ^{b)}
MLH	—	—	13.6(2) ^{b)}	15.47(8)
ML	9.86(1) ^{b)}	9.99(1) ^{b)}	9.99(1)	10.71(5)
MLOH	—	1.85(3)	1.84(3)	2.73(6)
$\sigma^2/\sigma_0^2 = 1.91^{\text{c)}$ $\sigma^2/\sigma_0^2 = 1.15^{\text{c)}$ $\sigma^2/\sigma_0^2 = 1.13^{\text{c)}$ $\sigma^2/\sigma_0^2 = 1.00^{\text{c)}$				

^{a)} Refer to the reaction $\text{M} + \text{L} + r\text{H} = \text{MLH}_r$, charges omitted for simplicity; ^{b)} 95% confidence interval; ^{c)} variance ratio, σ^2/σ_0^2 (σ_0^2 = variance for the best fit, σ^2 = variance of the fit).

Table S4 Experimental formation constant values of $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{M})\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}(\text{L})$ species obtained by spectrophotometry at $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ in NaCl and $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$

Species	$\log\beta^{\text{a)}}$
MLH_2	21.44
MLH	15.88
ML	$10.83(4)^{\text{b)}}$
MLOH	2.40

^{a)} According to the reaction $\text{M} + \text{L} + r\text{H} = \text{MLH}_r$; ^{b)} least-squares errors on the last significant figure are given in parentheses.

Table S5 Maximum values of molar extinction coefficients and wavelengths corresponding to the individual $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{M})$, hydrolytic and $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{M})\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}(\text{L})$ complex species, at $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$ and $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ in NaCl

Species	$\epsilon_{\text{max}} / \text{L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$	λ / nm
M	2 828(51) ^{a)}	207
$\text{M}_2(\text{OH})_2$	6 099(100)	206
ML	3 490(73)	207

^{a)} Least-squares errors on the last significant figure are given in parentheses..

Table S6 Mass spectrometry data of $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{M})\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}(\text{L})$ species, reported as m/z values, formulae assignments, MS/MS values for fragment ions

		m/z	Δppm
[MLH₂]⁺	[CuH₂AsO₄]⁺	203.85	5
MS/MS	[CuH ₂ AsO ₃] ⁺	187.85	13
	[CuAsO ₃] ⁺	185.84	11
	[CuH ₃ AsO ₂] ⁺	172.87	12
	[AsH ₄ O ₄] ⁺	142.93	15
	[AsH ₂ O ₂] ⁺	108.93	13
	[CuOH] ⁺	79.93	12
	[Cu] ⁺	62.93	10

Table S7 Mass spectrometry data of $\text{Zn}^{2+}(\text{M})\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}(\text{L})$ species, reported as m/z values, formulae assignments, MS/MS values for fragment ions

		m/z	Δppm
[MLH₂]⁺	[ZnH₂AsO₄]⁺	204.85	5
MS/MS	[ZnH ₂ AsO ₃] ⁺	188.85	17
	[ZnAsO ₃] ⁺	186.84	12
	[ZnAsO ₂] ⁺	170.84	10
	[AsH ₄ O ₄] ⁺	142.93	17
	[AsH ₂ O ₂] ⁺	108.93	11
	[ZnH ₃ O ₂] ⁺	98.94	12
	[ZnOH] ⁺	80.93	11
	[Zn] ⁺	63.93	10
[ML₂H₅]⁺	[ZnH₅As₂O₈]⁺	344.77	5
MS/MS	[ZnH ₃ As ₂ O ₇] ⁺	328.76	9
	[ZnH ₂ AsO ₄] ⁺	204.85	5
	[ZnAsO ₃] ⁺	186.84	12
	[ZnOH] ⁺	80.93	11

Table S8 Recalculated formation constant values of Cu^{2+} - $\text{AsO}_4^{3-}(\text{L})$ and Zn^{2+} - $\text{AsO}_4^{3-}(\text{L})$ species

Species	$\log\beta^{\text{a)}}$				
	$I = 0.0016^{\text{b)}}$	$I = 0.15^{\text{b)}}$	$I = 0.5^{\text{b)}}$	$I = 0.7^{\text{b)}}$	$I = 1^{\text{b)}}$
CuLH_2	22.38(9)	20.91(9)	20.25(8)	20.07(9)	19.89(9)
CuLH	17.03(7)	15.50(5)	14.71(8)	14.45(9)	14.16(9)
CuL	12.06(9)	10.73(8)	9.98(5)	9.73(5)	9.42(8)
CuLOH	3.69(7)	2.70(6)	1.96(3)	1.65(3)	1.25(6)
ZnL	9.02(4)	7.65(9)	6.81(8)	6.50(6)	6.12(6)
ZnL_2	11.99(5)	11.35(4)	11.02(3)	10.93(3)	10.82(5)

^{a)} Referred to the reaction $\text{M} + \text{L} + r\text{H} = \text{MLH}_r$; ^{b)} expressed in mol L^{-1} .

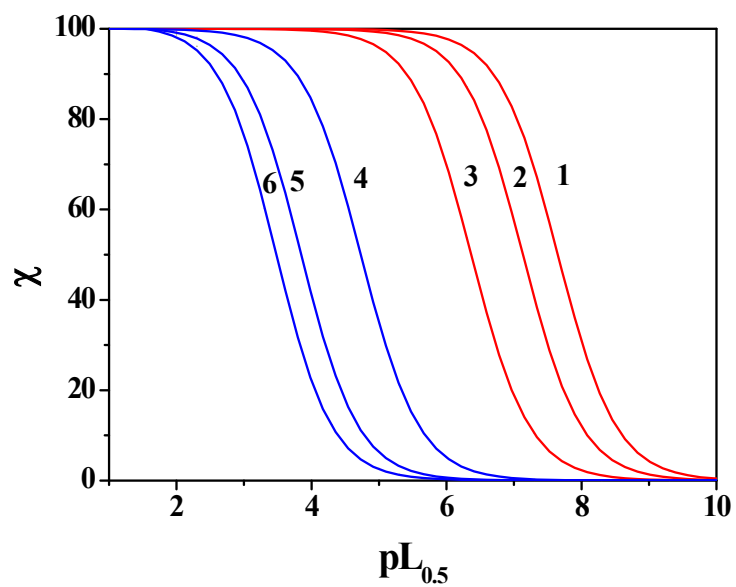


Fig. S1 Sum of the species fractions for Cu^{2+} - AsO_4^{3-} (in red) and Zn^{2+} - AsO_4^{3-} (in blue) systems at $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ (**1, 4**), $I = 0.5 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ (**2, 5**), $I = 1 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ (**3, 6**) in NaCl, at $\text{pH} = 8.1$ and $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$.

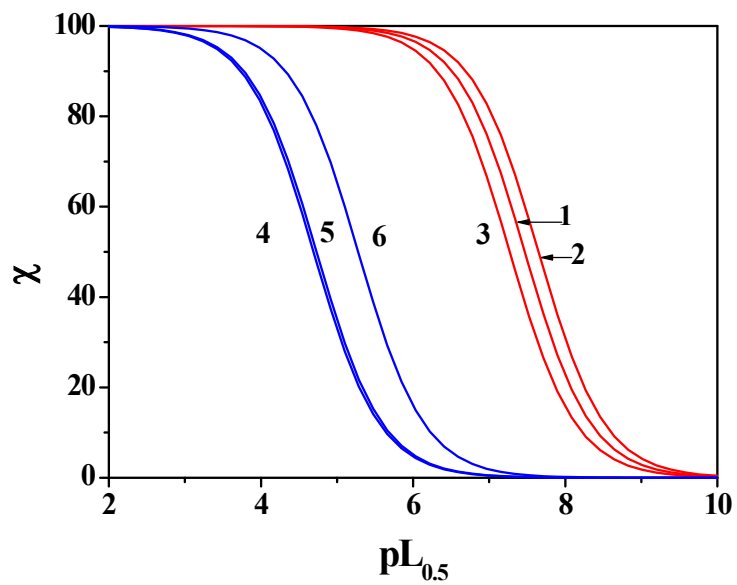


Fig. S2 Sum of the species fractions for $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}$ (in red) and $\text{Zn}^{2+}\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}$ (in blue) systems at $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ in NaCl, $\text{pH} = 8.1$, $T = 288.15 \text{ K}$ (**1, 4**), $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$ (**2, 5**), $T = 310.15 \text{ K}$ (**3, 6**).

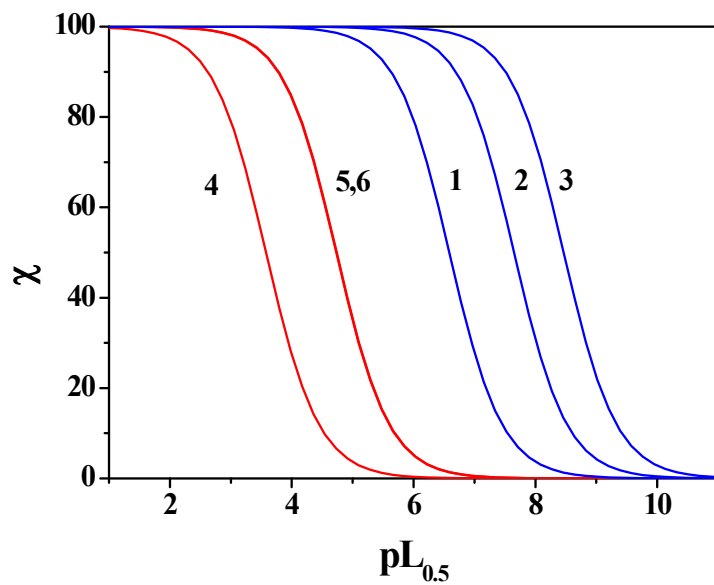


Fig. S3 Sum of the species fractions for $\text{Cu}^{2+}\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}$ (in red) and $\text{Zn}^{2+}\text{-AsO}_4^{3-}$ (in blue) systems at $\text{pH} = 7.0$ (**1, 4**), $\text{pH} = 8.1$ (**2, 5**), $\text{pH} = 9.0$ (**3, 6**), at $I = 0.15 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ in NaCl, $T = 298.15 \text{ K}$.