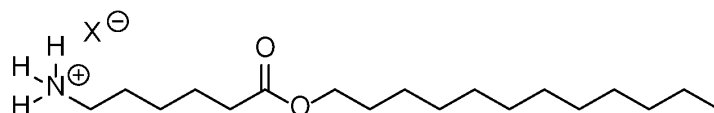


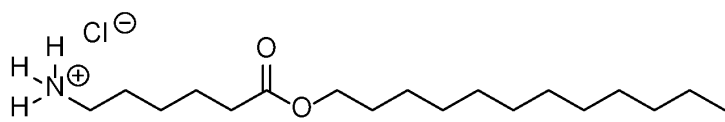
CLAIMS

1. A compound of the following formula:

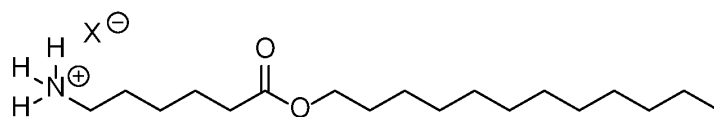


wherein X is an anion chosen from chloride, bromide, and iodide.

2. The compound of Claim 1, wherein the compound is 6-(dodecyloxy)-6-oxohexan-1-aminium chloride, having the following formula:

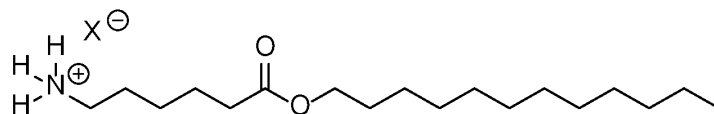


3. The compound of Claim 1, having a critical micelle concentration (CMC) in water of 0.75 mmol.
4. The compound of Claim 1, having a plateau value of a minimum surface tension in water of about 23 mN/m.
5. The compound of Claim 1, having a surface tension in water equal to or less than 23.2 mN/m at a concentration of 0.7 mmol or greater.
6. The compound of Claim 1, having a surface tension in water equal to or less than 29 mN/m at a surface age of 3185 ms or greater.
7. A method of synthesizing an amino acid surfactant, comprising the steps of: (1) opening a lactam to yield an amino acid having a C-terminus and an N-terminus;
 (2) reacting the C-terminus with an alcohol under acidic conditions to yield an amino acid ester having an N-terminus; and
 (3) reacting the N-terminus of the amino acid ester with an acid to yield an amino acid surfactant of the following formula:



wherein X is an anion chosen from chloride, bromide, and iodide.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein in step 1, the lactam is caprolactam.
9. The method of Claim 7, wherein in step 2, the alcohol is dodecanol.
10. The method of Claim 7, wherein in step 2, the acid is *p*-toluene sulfonic acid.
11. The method of Claim 7, wherein in step 3, the acid is hydrochloric acid.
12. A liquid composition comprising:
 - a medium; and
 - a surfactant of the following formula:



wherein X is an anion chosen from chloride, bromide, and iodide.

13. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the medium is water.