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Investigation of multiphoton-induced fluorescence from solutions of 5-hydroxytryptophan

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ABSTRACT

It is reported (Shear *et al*, Photochem.Photobiol. 65, 931 (1997)) that multiphoton near infrared excitation of 5-hydroxytryptophan results in a transient product with green fluorescence. Visible fluorescence from multiphoton excitation enables detection of 5-hydroxytryptophan with extremely high sensitivity and also has potential applications in imaging of biological systems and investigation of protein dynamics. The characteristic fluorescence at 500 nm has now also been observed on one-photon photolysis of solutions at 308 nm, followed by excitation of fluorescence at 430 nm. Fluorescence was observed in aerated and deaerated solutions and in the presence of ascorbate. Enhancement of fluorescence was observed on addition of ethanol. Transient absorption experiments with 308 nm photolysis showed the formation of three transient species. In the presence of ascorbate the radical formed by photoionisation was removed, revealing a long-lived species ($\tau > 1$ ms) with a similar absorption spectrum, which is ascribed to the fluorescing species. Fluorescence induced by multiphoton excitation had a lifetime of 910 ± 10 ps and was also unaffected by ascorbate. In the presence of organic solvents there was an increase in fluorescence lifetime, but a decrease in overall fluorescence intensity. The fluorescence intensity and fluorescence lifetime both decreased in acidic solution (pH < 3). It is suggested that the fluorescence originates not from the 5-indoxyl radical, but from a transient product formed by intramolecular rearrangement.

INTRODUCTION

Multiphoton excitation of chromophores in biological imaging^{1,2} and quantitative fluorescence measurements³ reduces background luminescence and has the potential to increase sensitivity and selectivity. Multiphoton excitation is usually used to excite the same fluorescent species as normally obtained under conventional one photon ultraviolet or visible illumination. In the case of 5-hydroxytryptophan (5HT), multiphoton excitation with the output of a Ti-sapphire laser in the region of 720 to 800 nm gives rise to an additional luminescent signal with a maximum at about 500 nm (described as “hyperluminescence”), compared with the normal UV-excited fluorescence of 5HT at around 340 nm⁴. This visible has allowed as little as 70 zmol of 5HT to be detected⁵. In addition, the visible fluorescence from multiphoton excitation of proteins containing 5HT in place of tryptophan itself allows them to be imaged separately from other proteins⁶. The fluorescence lifetime of multiphoton-induced hyperluminescence from 5HT in aqueous solutions has been determined to be about 0.8 ns and the intensity of hyperluminescence shown to depend on oxygen concentration and the presence of buffer solutes⁷.

The origins of the visible fluorescence of 5HT are unknown. Webb and co-workers have shown that the emission arises from an overall 6-photon process with 830 nm photons, and may be resolved into a 4-photon excitation of 5HT to the transient fluorescing intermediate, and a 2-photon excitation of fluorescence⁴. Luminescence in the region of 550 nm has also been reported from 5-hydroxytryptamine in acidic solutions⁸. Shear *et al*⁴ suggest that multiphoton-induced hyperluminescence from 5HT might arise from the 5-indoxyl radical, known to be formed by photoionisation of 5HT by 248 nm laser flash photolysis⁹, and which has also been studied by pulse radiolysis¹⁰⁻¹³. In neutral solutions the 5-indoxyl radical has an absorption maximum at 410-420 nm^{10,13}, consistent with two-photon excitation of hyperluminescence by ca. 800 nm laser pulses.

In the present experiments we have attempted to characterise the fluorescence from photo-excited 5HT using both one-photon and multiphoton excitation. The results suggest that the fluorescence does not arise from the 5-indoxyl radical.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

5-Hydroxytryptophan and other chemicals were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. Solutions were prepared in water purified by ion-exchange and filtration in a Barnstead unit, and buffered to the indicated pH values with phosphate or HCl.

The fluorescence induced by one-photon excitation (OPE) of 5-HT was measured using a pump-probe technique with the same apparatus as previously employed in nanosecond time-resolved resonance Raman experiments¹⁴. Photochemically-generated transients in 5HT

solutions were produced by a 308 nm pump pulse (ca. 1 mJ, 10 ns) from a XeCl laser (Lumonics). This was followed after a set time interval by a 430 nm probe laser pulse (ca. 1 mJ, 5 ns) from a dye laser (Continuum YAG-pumped Sirah). Luminescence excited by both lasers was dispersed by a Spex Triplemate spectrograph and detected by a Princeton Instruments CCD. Spectra were averaged over 200 laser pulses. Due to the low dispersion of the spectrograph, fluorescence spectra we recorded over ca. 25 nm ranges and normalised by reference to fluorescence from a solution of coumarin 102 in methanol excited only by the 430 nm laser. A corrected spectrum of the same coumarin 102 solution was recorded in a Spex Fluoromax spectrofluorimeter, employing the manufacturer's correction curve, and used to correct the 5HT luminescent spectrum. For the measurements, the solutions were recirculated through a quartz tube (i.d. 2 mm) at a rate sufficient to ensure the sample was completely replenished between laser pulses. Laser flash photolysis experiments used only the XeCl laser and conventional detection of transient species by time-resolved absorption spectroscopy.

For the multiphoton excitation (MPE) experiments the output of a titanium sapphire laser (Spectra-Physics) operating at 710-820 nm, 80 MHz with 120 fs pulse width was focussed at a microscope stage (Olympus IMT-2) and into the sample using a x40 objective, numerical aperture 0.85. Samples were illuminated with a laser power of 10 mW for determination of emission spectra and fluorescence lifetimes. The same objective collected the hyperluminescence that was re-imaged at the slit of a monochromator (IBH Ltd). Emission was detected with a single-photon counting micro-channel plate photomultiplier (Hamamatsu R3809-U) with a response time of 35 ps. Lifetime measurements were performed using a Becker and Hickl GmbH time-correlated single photon counting PCI module (SPC-700) with a time resolution of 830 fs/channel.

Pulse radiolysis experiments were performed using the linac (10 MeV, 500 ns electron pulses) at the Facility for Free Radical Research at the Daresbury Laboratory (FFRR@DL). Transient species were detected by time-resolved absorption spectroscopy in the UV/visible region.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1) Fluorescence from one-photon excitation (OPE)

At neutral pH, 5HT has a significant absorption at $\lambda < 320$ nm, and may therefore be excited by the 308 nm output of a XeCl excimer laser. Fluorescence spectra recorded from one-photon excitation of a deaerated solution of 5HT at pH 7 are shown in Figure 1. The spectra are corrected for detector response and spectrometer efficiency by comparison with a spectrum of coumarin 102 in methanol recorded under identical conditions, itself normalised to the corrected spectrum of coumarin 102 recorded using a Spex Fluoromax fluorimeter

with the manufacturer's correction response curve. The sample was initially illuminated with a 308 nm (10 ns) laser pulse (the 'pump' pulse) to generate the photochemical intermediate(s) from 5HT. Figure 1 shows that in the pump-only experiment, curve A, fluorescence is generated with a peak at ca. 500 nm. The additional fluorescence at $\lambda < 450$ nm is believed to be the red tail of the normal fluorescence of 5HT, which has a peak at ~ 340 nm. An increase in luminescence intensity was observed when the sample was subsequently illuminated after a short time delay with a second laser pulse at 430 nm (the 'probe' pulse). At a time delay of only 10 ns between pump and probe laser pulses, curve B, slightly increased fluorescence is observed to result from the 430 nm excitation. Increasing the time delay to 1 μ s (curve C) and 100 μ s (curve D) results in further increase in the 500 nm fluorescence. The inset to Figure 1 shows that the increase in fluorescence intensity at 500 nm with delay between pump and probe pulses occurs with a time constant (τ) of 3.5 μ s. Curve E in Figure 1 shows the emission resulting when the pump laser is turned off and the sample receives only the 430 nm pulse. Under these conditions only a weak and relatively much narrower peak at 504 nm is observed. This peak clearly corresponds to the Raman band of the water solvent¹⁵ at 3400 to 3450 cm^{-1} .

Table 1 shows the fluorescence intensities at 500 nm under a range of conditions. With the sample irradiated only with the pump laser (308 nm) pulse there was no difference between solutions saturated with oxygen or deoxygenated with argon. A similar situation was found with the pump (308 nm) laser pulse followed by a probe (430 nm) laser pulse delayed by only 10 ns. However the presence of oxygen decreased the fluorescence intensity by 15 % when the delay between pump and probe laser pulses was increased to 200 μ s. The presence of ascorbate in the 5-hydroxytryptophan solutions at concentrations up to 4 mmol dm^{-3} was found to have no effect on the fluorescence intensity. The intensity of the 500 nm fluorescence was also measured in an ethanol/water (50:50 v/v) mixture with a pump to probe delay of 50 μ s and found to be 1.9 times higher than in water alone.

Fluorescence from multiphoton excitation (MPE)

a) Excitation and emission spectra. Spectra from multiphoton excitation of 5HT were recorded in a number of solvents. The excitation spectrum of an aqueous solution of 5HT (10 mmol dm^{-3}) buffered to pH 7.0 with phosphate (50 mmol dm^{-3}) shown in Figure 2 indicates a peak at 740 nm. This represents an unresolved superimposition of the spectra for photochemical activation of 5HT and for excitation of fluorescence from the intermediate. Without our being able to modulate power in the laser as described by Shear *et al*⁴, we are unable to resolve separate excitation spectra for the two processes or ascertain relative contributions. The emission spectra on multiphoton excitation at 773 to 785 nm for 5HT in aqueous buffer and in ethanol are shown in Figure 3. The spectra have been corrected by reference to the emission spectrum of coumarin 102 in the same way as described for the nanosecond results. In neutral aqueous buffer the emission spectrum peaks at 500 nm and is very similar to that

measured in the nanosecond pump-probe experiment. The slight discrepancy at long wavelengths may be due to deficiencies in the correction. The fast photomultiplier used for the detection of the multiphoton excited fluorescence has very poor red response, compared with the virtually flat response over the wavelength region of interest of the CCD detector used for the nanosecond measurements. The inset to Figure 3 shows a log-log plot of emission intensity versus 5HT concentration for multiphoton excitation in neutral aqueous solution. The slope of this plot is 1.31 ± 0.05 . In ethanol the emission spectrum of 5HT on multiphoton excitation is slightly blue shifted to 490 nm compared with the spectrum measured for 5HT in aqueous solution.

b) Fluorescence lifetimes In buffered solution at pH 7, the fluorescence of the 500 nm emission from 5HT on multiphoton excitation between 740 and 780 nm was found to decay as a single exponential with a lifetime of 910 ± 10 ps ($\tau = 910 \pm 10$ ps). This is in good agreement with the value of ≈ 0.8 ns obtained by Gostkowski *et al*⁷. Figure 4 shows that the fluorescence lifetime remains constant with this value between pH 5 and pH 8.5, but is reduced in acidic solutions with the fluorescence intensity showing a corresponding decrease. The process shows an apparent pK_a of about 1.5. The inset to Figure 4 shows a Stern-Volmer analysis of the lifetime data as if the excited state was quenched in a dynamic process by protons in acid solution. This leads to a value of $(9.1 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{10} \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for the quenching constant of the excited state by H^+ .

The fluorescence lifetime of the 5HT measured with multiphoton excitation at 740 nm was found to be solvent dependent as shown in the inset to Figure 2. In neutral buffered D_2O solution the lifetime was found to increase to 1.76 ns compared with 0.91 ns in H_2O solution. The lifetime also increased in non-aqueous solutions. Figure 5 shows that in solutions containing 60% and 90% ethanol (remainder H_2O) the fluorescence lifetime increased from 0.94 ns in unbuffered H_2O to 2.25 ns and 3.1 ns respectively. In acetonitrile (90% v/v) the lifetime of 3.05 ns was also increased relative to that in water. Despite these increases in fluorescence lifetimes, the integrated emission intensity in non-aqueous solvents was considerably lower than in water.

The lifetimes and intensities of 5-hydroxytryptophan fluorescence on multiphoton excitation were also measured in solution containing acrylamide (up to 100 mmol dm^{-3}) and ascorbate (up to 20 mmol dm^{-3}). With both solutes there was no significant quenching of fluorescence intensity or reduction in fluorescence lifetime.

Laser flash photolysis

Laser flash photolysis with a 308 nm laser pulse was used to investigate the species formed on photoexcitation. The results are shown in Figure 6. In deaerated solution a short-lived transient ($\tau \sim 1$ ps) is observed which has increasing absorbance towards the red end of the

spectral range investigated and which is quenched in the presence of air. This is clearly the hydrated electron and indicates that, at least in part, photoexcitation leads to photoionisation. The data in Figure 6 for air-saturated solutions shows the formation of another species absorbing at ~360 nm which decays with a lifetime of about 5 ns. The remaining spectrum at 100 ns shows a peak at 410-420 nm. This is very similar to the spectrum of the 5-indoxyl radical from 5HT at neutral pH observed by pulse radiolysis^{10, 13} and confirmed by us in our own pulse radiolysis experiments on oxidation of 5HT by the Br₂⁻ radical at pH 7 (results not shown). In the laser flash photolysis experiments it was found that in air-saturated solution in the presence of ascorbate there was a partial decay of the 410-420 nm peak (inset to Figure 6) and that with 5 mmol dm⁻³ ascorbate approximately half the absorption remains after the initial decay. The remaining spectrum also has a peak at about 400 nm, but is relatively more intense at 360 nm where the ascorbate radical absorbs¹⁶. A plot of the first order rate for the partial decay of the 410 nm transient produced by laser flash photolysis versus ascorbate concentration (Figure 7) gives a second order rate constant of $(7.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^7 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for the reaction of ascorbate. In a corresponding pulse radiolysis experiment the authentic 5-indoxyl radical was produced by oxidation of 5HT (5 mmol dm⁻³) with Br₂⁻ at pH 7.0. Addition of ascorbate (200-900 μmol dm⁻³) resulted in complete loss of the transient absorption at 410 nm with a second order rate constant of $(11 \pm 1) \times 10^7 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Given that determination of second order rate constants are subject to overall uncertainties of 15-20%, the two rate constants measured in the laser flash and pulse radiolysis experiments are essentially the same.

DISCUSSION

The formation of a transient fluorescent species upon photo-excitation of 5-hydroxytryptophan has been studied by nanosecond laser photolysis and by femtosecond near-infrared laser multiphoton excitation. Very similar fluorescence spectra from an unknown transient product were measured using both methods, suggesting that the same species is produced by one photon at 308 nm and multiphoton absorption within the sub-picosecond ca. 750 nm laser pulse. The nanosecond experiments therefore might be used to explore the nature of the transient fluorophore. Nanosecond laser photolysis with 308 nm laser pulses produces fluorescence with a peak at 500 nm. Since this fluorescence is not observed in the same solutions using a conventional fluorimeter, it suggests that an intense 308 nm laser pulse may both create a transient intermediate from 5HT and also excite it to fluoresce. A second laser pulse at 430 nm, delayed by up to 100 ns after the 308 nm pulse, results in additional fluorescence. This increases in intensity with increasing delay between pump and probe pulse, showing a 3.5 microsecond time constant. No fluorescence was observed on illumination of the sample with the 430 nm pulse only and without the 308 nm photolysis laser pulse. The 308 nm photo-induced species responsible for the 500 nm fluorescence could be an excited state, radical or covalent product. The results eliminate the excited singlet state as the fluorescent species, the latter being too long lived and actually increasing over a

microsecond period. Further evidence eliminating the triplet state is seen in the effects of oxygenation (Table 1) where only a 15 % reduction is observed 200 ns after the photolysis laser pulse. Assuming a typical second order quenching rate constant of the order of $10^9 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, a triplet state would be expected to be quenched by oxygen (ca. 1 mmol dm^{-3} in oxygen saturated water) with a half life of about a microsecond.

It is known that the 5-indoxyl radical from one-electron oxidation of 5-HT absorbs at 400-420 nm in neutral aqueous solution^{10,13}. The radical has shown to be produced by laser flash photolysis at 308 nm in neutral solution (present work) and at 248 nm in alkaline solution⁹, and suggested by Shear *et al*⁴ as possibly the species responsible for the transient fluorescence. Whilst fluorescence from radicals is unusual, there are reports of fluorescence from phenoxyl radicals produced by oxidation of vitamin E¹⁷ and 1,3,5-trioxybenzene derivatives¹⁸. However, the laser flash photolysis results show that 308 nm photolysis gives rise to 2 products absorbing at 400-420 nm. One component is eliminated by reduction with ascorbate with a rate constant of ca. $10^8 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The one-electron reduction potential (E_1) of the 5-indoxyl radical from 5HT has been measured as 208 mV at pH 13.5¹¹ and 550 mV at pH 9.1⁹ and is consistent with rapid reduction of the 5-indoxyl radical by ascorbate (E_1 (pH 7) = 300 mV)¹¹. In the pump-probe nanosecond laser experiments it was found that ascorbate at concentrations up to 4 mmol dm^{-3} had no effect on the fluorescence intensity at 200 ns after the photolysis pulse. Based on the second order rate constant of $10^8 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, at this concentration of ascorbate the 5-indoxyl radical would have a lifetime of 2.5 ns, and so would completely eliminate the radical within 200 ns. It was also found that ascorbate had no significant effect on the fluorescence intensity in the multiphoton experiments. These results therefore strongly argue against the 5-indoxyl radical being the fluorescing species. A further possibility is that the fluorescence originates from a decay product of the 5-indoxyl radical. This is most likely to be a dimerization or disproportionation product, since the radical is observed in the pulse radiolysis experiments to decay by second order kinetics. The likelihood of such products being responsible is also diminished by the ascorbate results. However, the concentration of reactive intermediates produced by the conditions of the nanosecond pump-probe experiments is unknown. It is therefore not possible to compare the time constant of the second order process for radical-radical reaction (typically with a second order rate constant of $10^8 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) with that for reaction with ascorbate.

Recently it has been shown that mercaptoethylamine sharply decreases hyperluminescence from 5-hydroxytryptamine¹⁹. This is claimed to be supporting evidence for the 5-indoxyl radical as the species responsible for hyperluminescence. Whilst mercaptoethylamine may be a quencher of some types of radicals and singlet oxygen, in the present case this is unlikely. It is known²⁰ that the reduction potential of aliphatic thiyl radicals are ca. 1300 mV at pH 6. Comparison with the reduction potential for the 5-indoxyl radical indicates that repair of the 5-indoxyl radical by mercaptoethylamine is thermodynamically extremely unlikely. Indeed, the

reverse reaction has been demonstrated in which a thiyl radical causes the rapid oxidation of acetaminophen²¹, a compound structurally related to 5HT and which has a similar oxidation potential.

A further remaining possibility is that the fluorescent species results from photochemical conversion of the short-lived singlet state to a covalently rearranged product. This would account for the fluorescence species being produced and excited within the 10 ns, 308 nm laser pulse, but does not explain why the additional fluorescence excited by the probe laser pulse at 430 nm continues to grow in intensity with increasing time delay between the two pulses. Further work is required to study the time course of evolution of the fluorescence species under better-defined conditions, such as in the conventional laser flash photolysis experiment. Additional structural information provided by other detection techniques such as time-resolved resonance Raman spectroscopy might also prove useful.

The 500 nm hyperluminescence induced by multiphoton infrared absorption has been shown to be an extremely sensitive method for the detection of 5-hydroxytryptophan and related compounds⁵. Other results show that hyperluminescence may be used in the intracellular imaging of proteins in which tryptophanyl residues are replaced by 5-hydroxytryptophan⁶. Intracellular imaging of serotonin by multiphoton excitation of the normal UV emission, but not by hyperluminescence, has also been reported^{22,23}. Our picosecond time-resolved studies using such multiphoton excitation indicate that the fluorescence lifetime is invariant over the normal physiological pH range, but has the interesting property of being sensitive to solvent polarity. In proteins bearing a single tryptophan residue, the fluorescence of a substituted 5HT residue might therefore be used to report on exposure to the aqueous solvent. It is noted that whilst the fluorescence lifetime increases with decreasing solvent polarity, the fluorescence intensity unexpectedly decreases. This might result from the separate effects of solvent on the two step process leading to hyperluminescence. In the nanosecond pump-probe experiment, addition of ethanol leads to an increase in fluorescence intensity as might be expected from the increased lifetime of fluorescence in ethanol on multiphoton excitation. The significantly reduced emission intensity on multiphoton excitation in non-aqueous solvents, including ethanol, therefore suggests that the yield of the fluorescent intermediate produced in the multiphoton experiments is markedly reduced in less polar environments.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

FIGURE 1 Fluorescence spectra recorded from a deaerated aqueous solution of 5-hydroxytryptophan (1 mmol dm^{-3}) buffered to pH 7.0 with phosphate (20 mmol dm^{-3}). Curve A shows the fluorescence when the solution was excited by a pump laser pulse (308 nm, 10 ns, ca. 1 mJ). Additional excitation by a probe laser pulse (430 nm, 5 ns, ca. 1.5 mJ) produced curves B, C and D with pump-to-probe delays of 10 ns, 1 μ s and 100 μ s respectively. Excitation with the 430 nm probe pulse only resulted in curve E. Spectra have been corrected as described in the text.

Inset:- Effect of pump-to-probe pulse delay on the relative intensity of the fluorescence at 500 nm. The solid curve shows an exponential fit with a time constant of 3.55 μ s.

FIGURE 2 Multiphoton excitation spectrum of 5-hydroxytryptophan (10 mmol dm^{-3} , emission at 495 nm) in water buffered to pH 7 with phosphate (50 mmol dm^{-3}). The inset shows the fluorescence decays (excitation 785 nm, emission 495 nm) of 5HT in H_2O and D_2O measured by time-correlated single photon counting. Also shown is the laser profile (impulse response function, IRF) determined by the apparatus. The curves have been offset vertically for clarity.

FIGURE 3 Emission spectrum from 5-hydroxytryptophan (10 mmol dm^{-3}) in phosphate buffer (50 mmol dm^{-3} , pH 7) on multiphoton excitation at 773 nm (\square - - - - \square). This is compared with the emission spectrum of 5-hydroxytryptophan in 90% ethanol - 10% water (v/v) on multiphoton excitation at 770 nm (\square - - - - \square), and the single photon emission spectrum in aqueous solution from the nanosecond experiment in Figure 1 (solid line). The spectra are shown normalised in intensity. **Inset:-** Effect of 5-hydroxytryptophan concentration on emission intensity (495nm) on multiphoton excitation at 773 nm.

FIGURE 4 Effect of pH on the lifetime of fluorescence (495 nm) from 5-hydroxytryptophan on multiphoton excitation at 750 nm.

Inset:- Stern-Volmer plot of reciprocal fluorescence lifetime versus proton concentration.

FIGURE 5 Effect of solvent on fluorescence intensity and fluorescence lifetime of 5-hydroxytryptophan on multiphoton excitation at 770 nm. The non-aqueous solutions contained 10% H_2O (v/v) to assist solubility of 5-hydroxytryptophan.

FIGURE 6 Transient absorption spectra from laser flash photolysis (308 nm) of 5-hydroxytryptophan ($200 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$) in phosphate buffer (20 mmol dm^{-3} , pH 7.0):- deaerated, 0.5 μs after the laser pulse (\square); air-saturated measured 1 μs (\square), 4 μs (\square) and 100 μs (\square) after the laser pulse; and in the presence of ascorbate (5 mmol dm^{-3}) 50 μs after the laser pulse (\square). **Inset:-** transients measured at 420 nm in the absence (trace A) and presence of ascorbate (0.5 mmol dm^{-3} , trace B). The traces are offset for clarity.

FIGURE 7 Second order plot for partial reaction of ascorbate with the transient from laser flash photolysis (308 nm) of 5-hydroxytryptophan ($200 \mu\text{mol dm}^{-3}$) in air saturated phosphate buffer (20 mmol dm^{-3} , pH 7.0).

TABLE 1 – Effects of sample illumination and additives on relative fluorescence intensity (arbitrary units) at 500 nm observed from nanosecond laser pump (308 nm) - probe (430 nm) photolysis of aqueous solutions of 5-hydroxytryptophan (1 mmol dm⁻³) buffered to pH 7.0 with phosphate (20 mmol dm⁻³).

Lasers and time delay	Gas	Additive	Relative Intensity
Pump Only	Argon	-----	100
	Oxygen	-----	104
Pump & Probe, 10 ns	Argon	-----	151
	Oxygen	-----	157
	Argon	Ascorbate (1 mmol dm ⁻³)	159
Pump & probe, 200 □s	Argon	-----	323
	Oxygen	-----	276
	Argon	Ascorbate (1 mmol dm ⁻³)	314
	Argon	Ascorbate (2 mmol dm ⁻³)	313
	Argon	Ascorbate (4 mmol dm ⁻³)	313

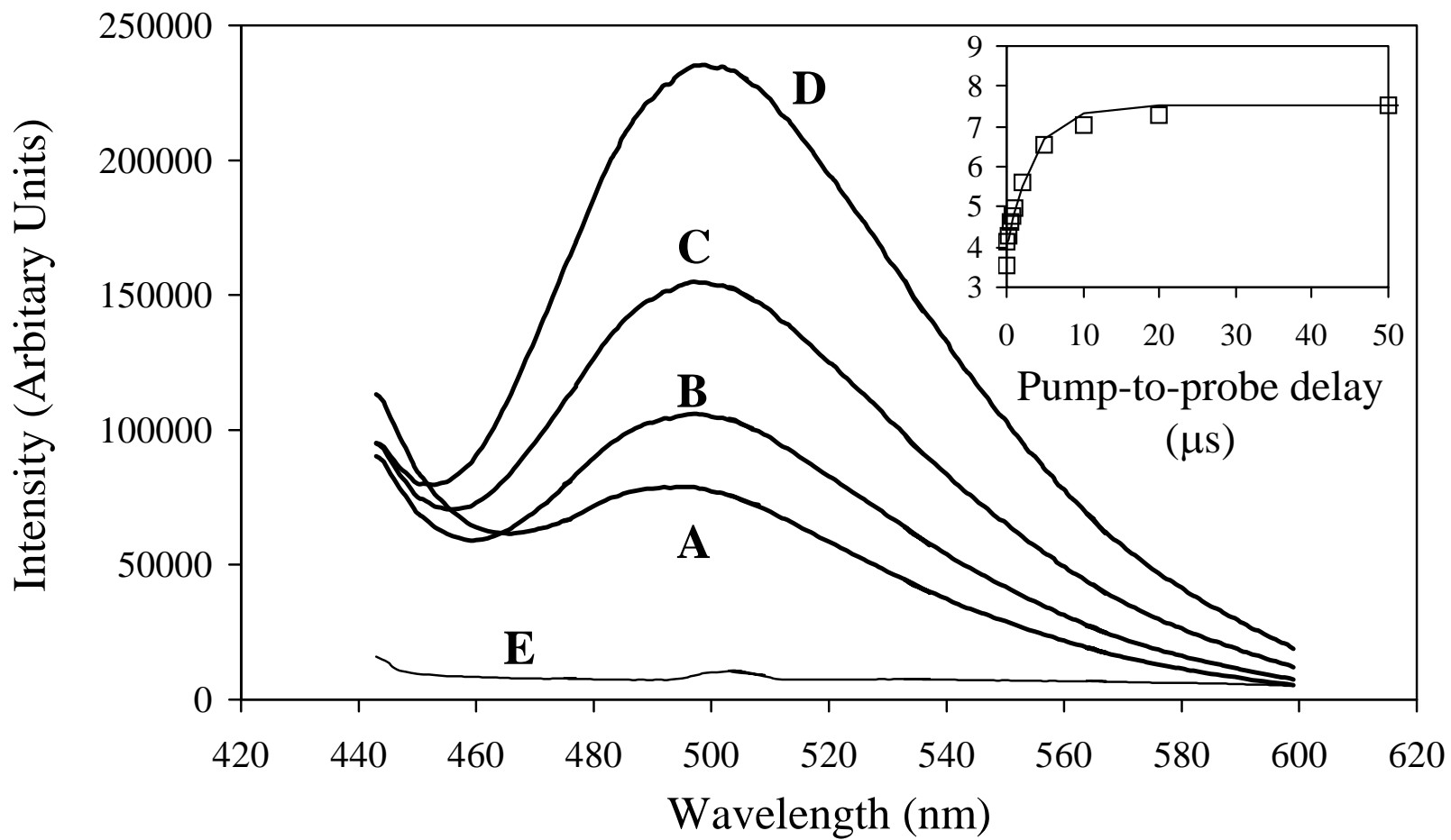


FIGURE 1

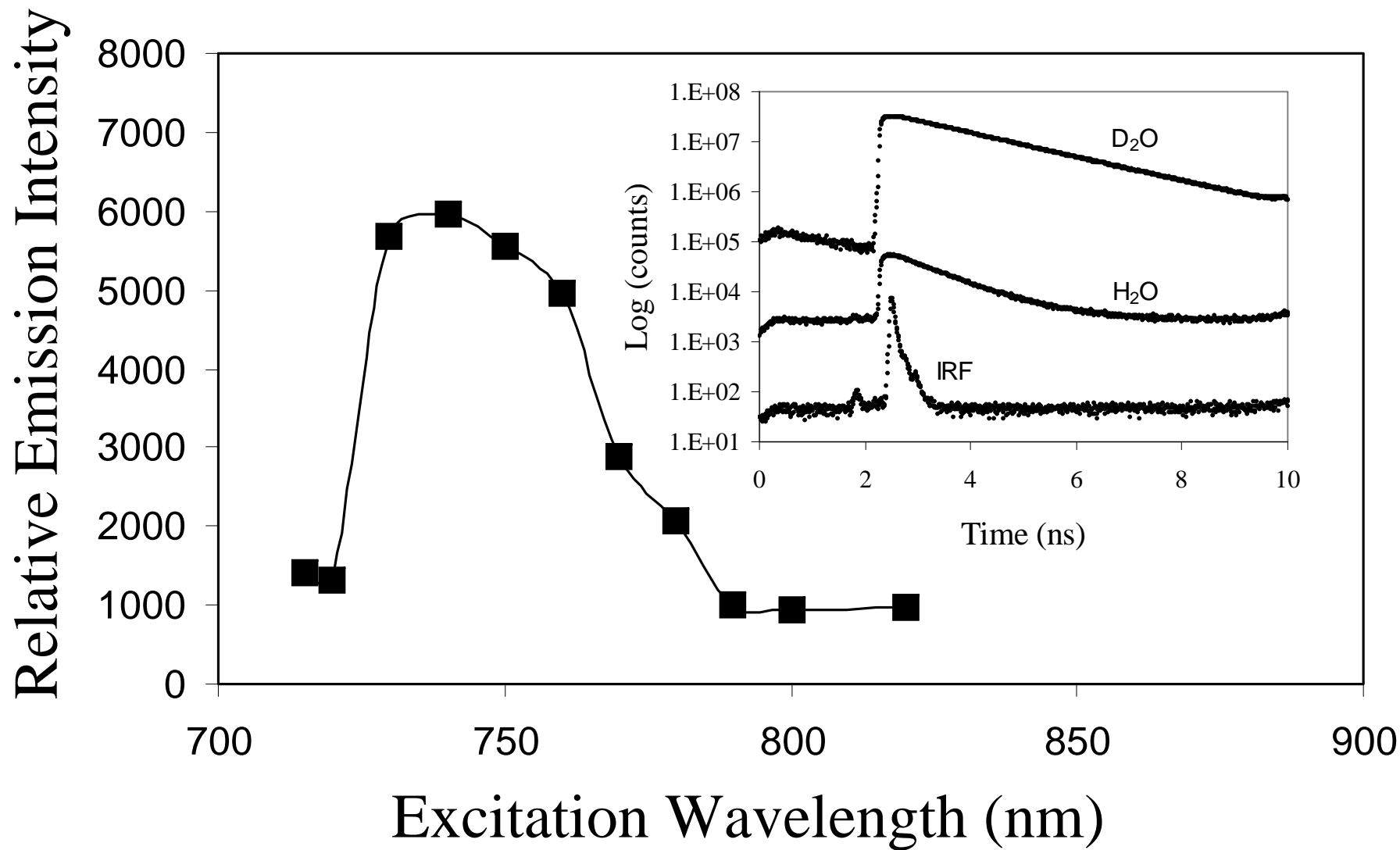


FIGURE 2

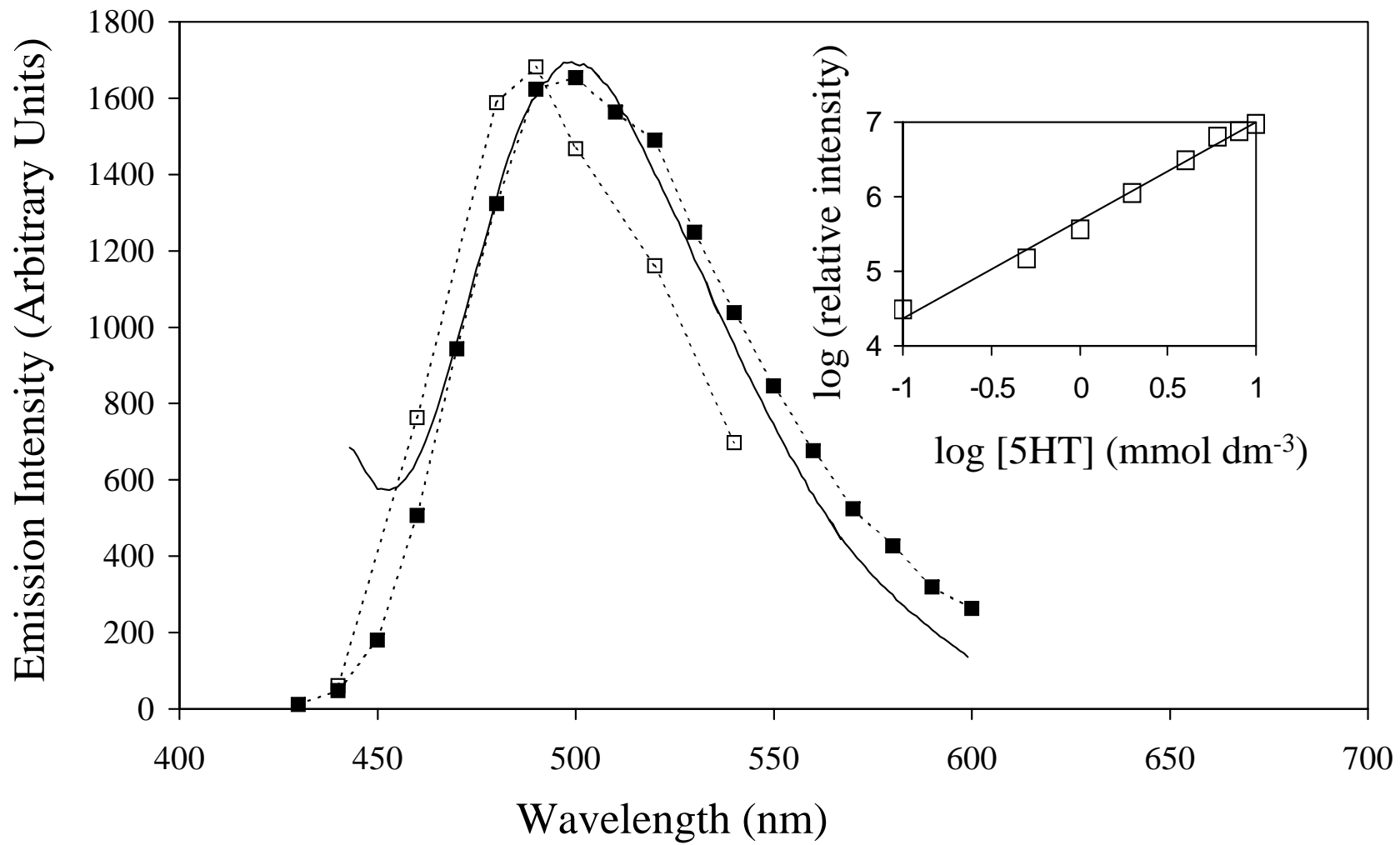


FIGURE 3

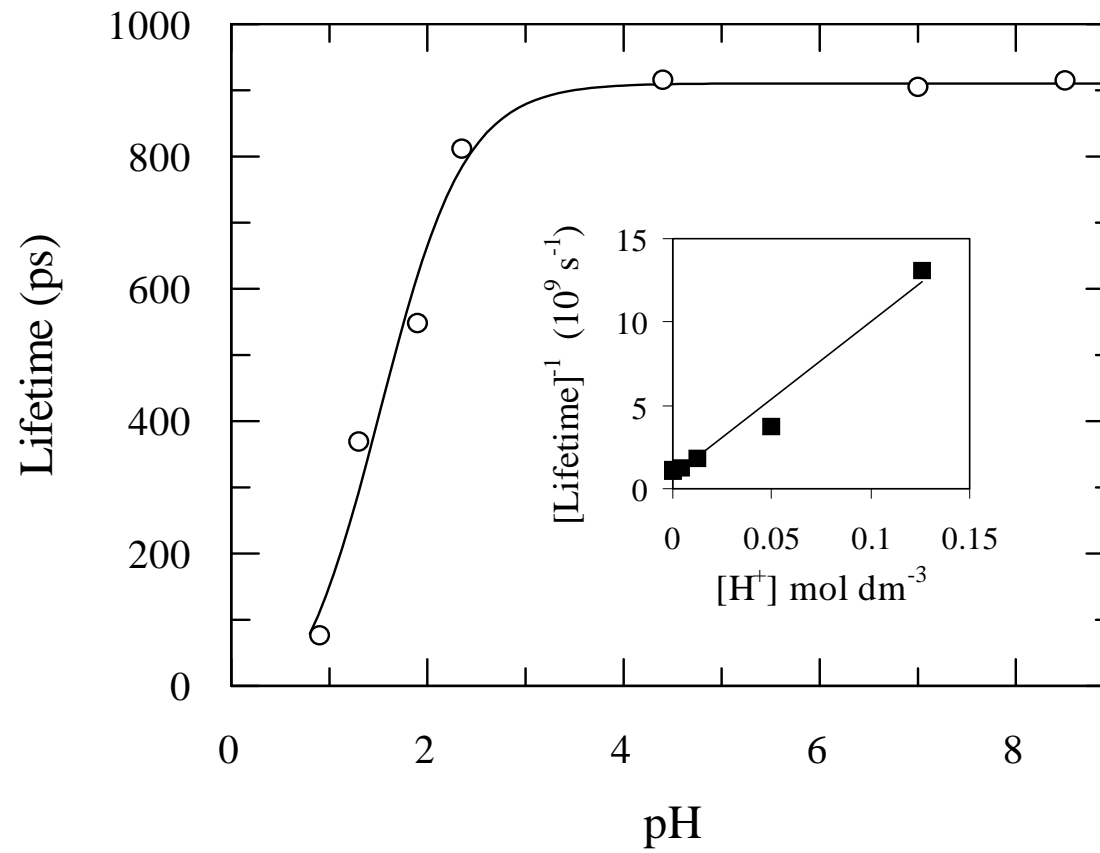


FIGURE 4

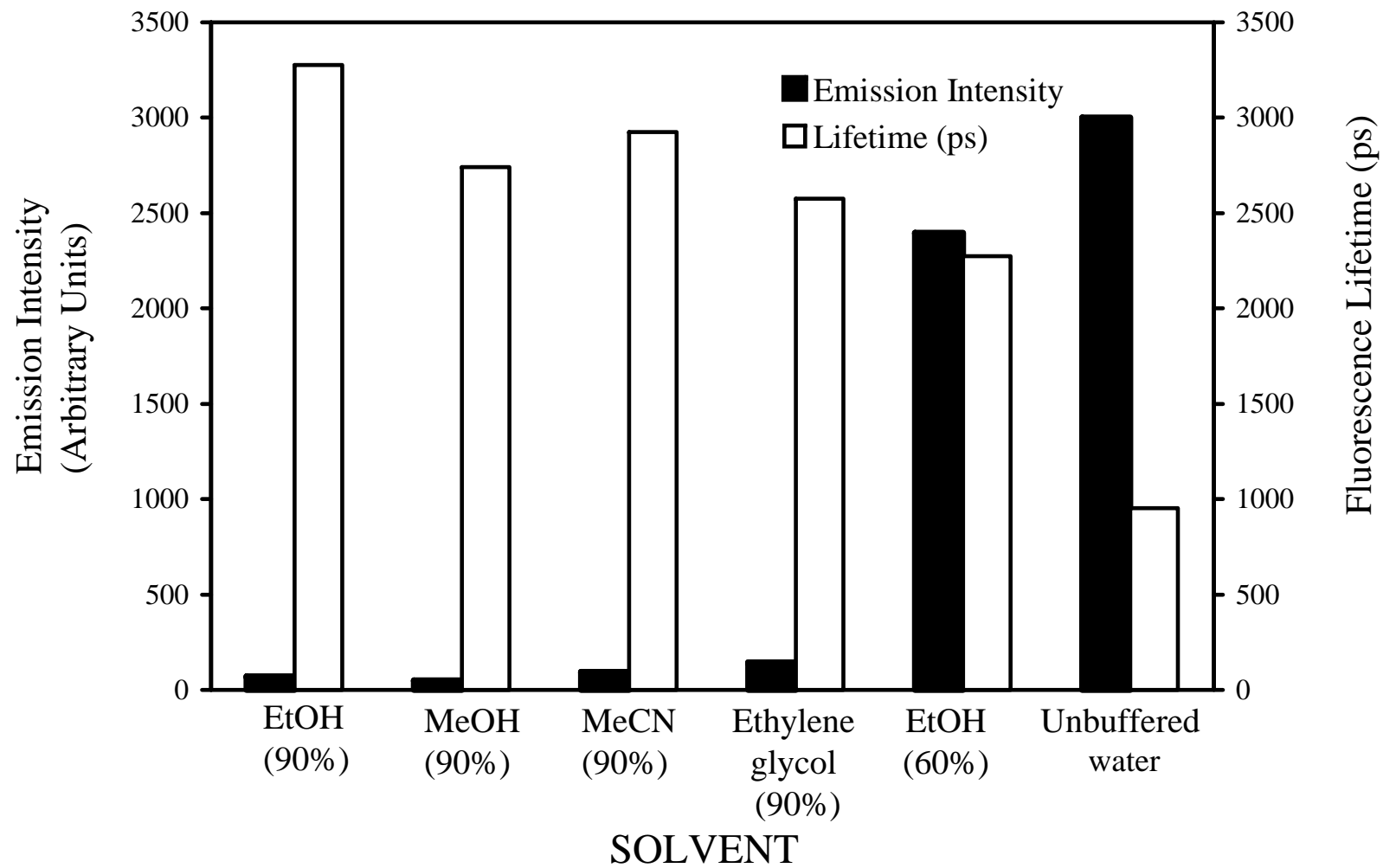


FIGURE 5

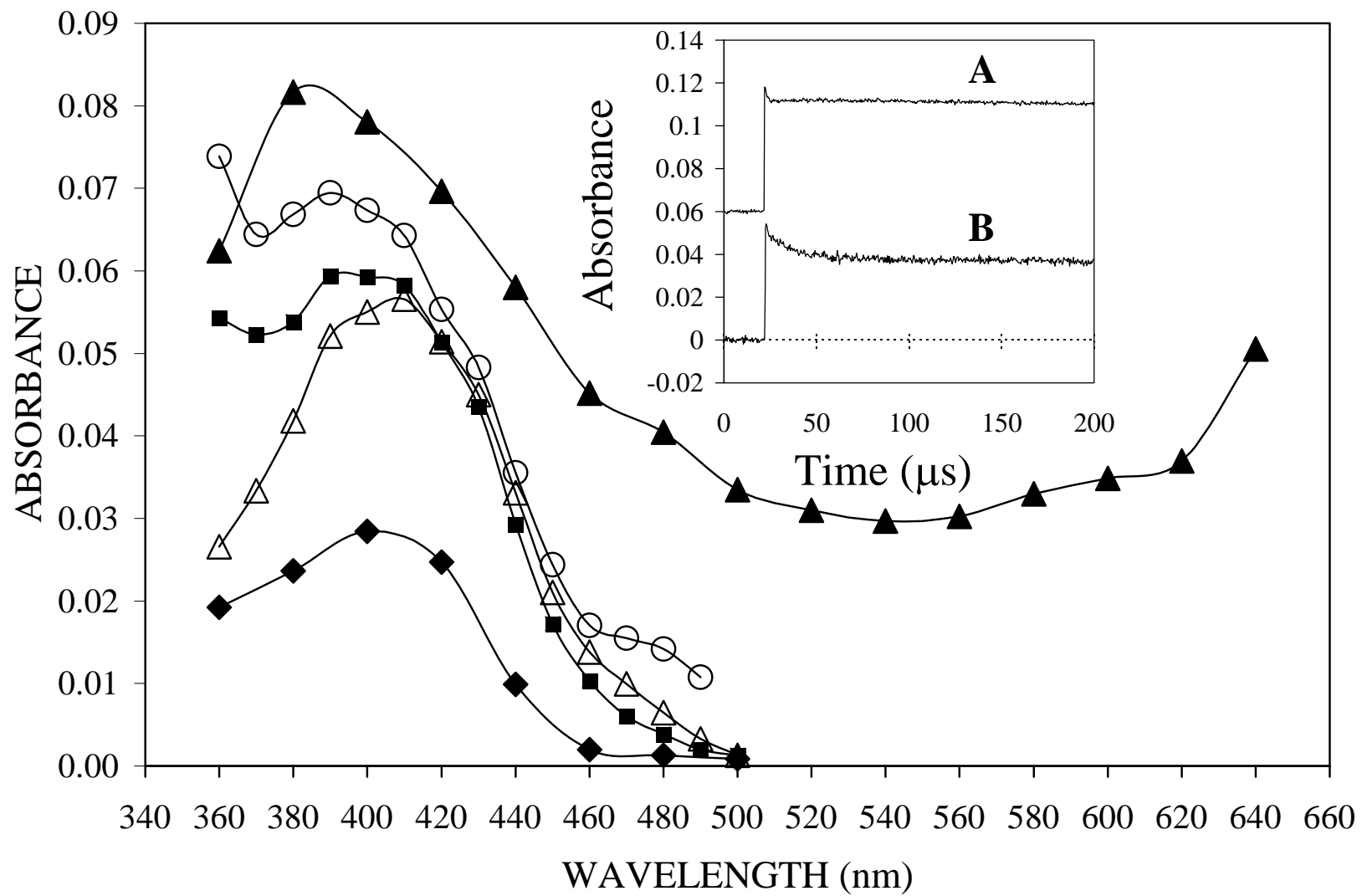


FIGURE 6

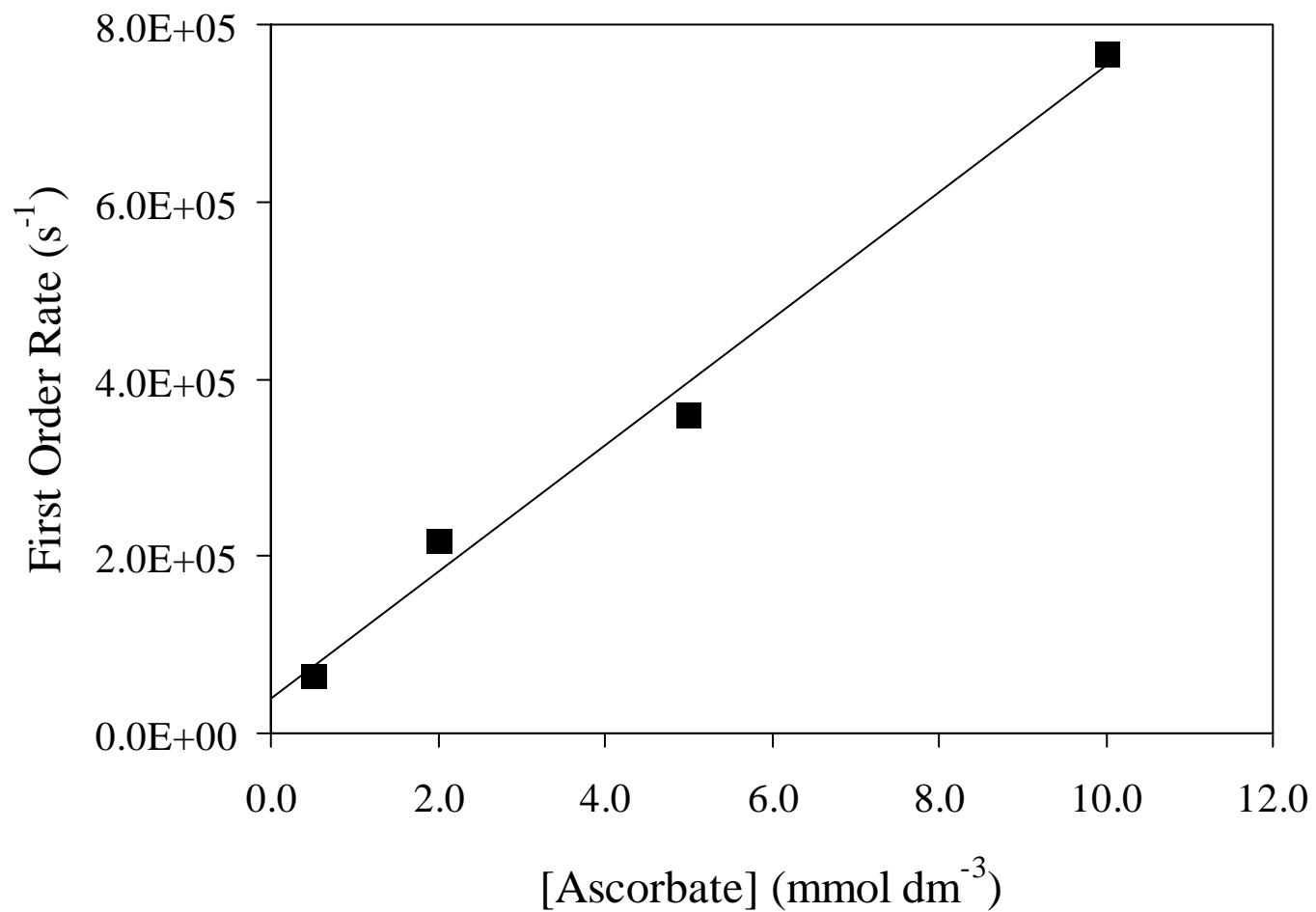


FIGURE 7