

Liquid Configuration in Angular Pores under Microgravity. (S01-tuller212137-Poster)

Authors:

- M.Tuller - *University of Idaho*
- S.B.Jones - *Utah State University*
- D.Or - *Utah State University*

Abstract:

Understanding liquid behavior in plant growth media is of interest for design of advanced life support systems as part of NASA's long-duration space missions. Reduced gravity conditions could affect pore-scale liquid organization by enhancing phase entrapment and changing interfacial configurations. Such effects should be considered in the choice of plant growth media and the design of root modules for reliable water, air, and nutrient supply. It has recently become evident that macroscopic quantities such as gaseous diffusion and hydraulic conductivity are strongly affected by the physical behavior of the fluid at the pore-scale level. To investigate these effects we first employ the Augmented Young-Laplace equation that simultaneously considers the contributions of capillary and adsorptive forces with and without gravity term. Liquid vapor interfacial configurations under gravity are compared with microgravity conditions for pores of various shapes and sizes. Potential implications of changes on liquid behavior at the root module scale and aspects of media selection are discussed.

Corresponding Author Information:

Markus Tuller
University of Idaho
Dept. of Plant, Soil, and
Entomological Sciences
Moscow, ID 83844-2339

phone: 208 885 7219
fax: 208 885 7760
e-mail:
mtuller@uidaho.edu

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Presentation Time: 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Poster Board Number: 1332

Keywords:

Liquid Configuration, Microgravity, Angular Pores, Plant
Growth Media for Space