

## Article

# Machine Learning-Driven Classification of Urease Inhibitors Leveraging Physicochemical Properties as Effective Filter Criteria

Natalia Morales <sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Valdés-Muñoz <sup>2</sup>, Jaime González <sup>1</sup>, Paulina Valenzuela-Hormazábal <sup>3</sup>, Jonathan M. Palma <sup>4</sup>, Christian Galarza <sup>5</sup>, Ángel Catagua-González <sup>5</sup>, Osvaldo Yáñez <sup>6</sup>, Alfredo Pereira <sup>7,\*</sup> and Daniel Bustos <sup>8,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Magíster en Ciencias de la Computación, Universidad Católica del Maule, Talca 3460000, Chile; nmoralesr@ucm.cl (N.M.); jaime.gonzalez@alu.ucm.cl (J.G.)

<sup>2</sup> Doctorado en Biotecnología Traslacional, Centro de Biotecnología de los Recursos Naturales, Universidad Católica del Maule, Talca 3480094, Chile; elizabeth.valdes@alu.ucm.cl

<sup>3</sup> Departamento de Farmacología, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad de Concepción, Concepción 4030000, Chile; paulinvalenzuela@udec.cl

<sup>4</sup> Facultad de Ingeniería, Universidad de Talca, Curicó 3344158, Chile; jonathan.palma@utalca.cl

<sup>5</sup> Departamento de Matemáticas, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Matemáticas, Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Guayaquil EC090903, Ecuador; chedgala@espol.edu.ec (C.G.); anglucat@espol.edu.ec (Á.C.-G.)

<sup>6</sup> Núcleo de Investigación en Data Science, Facultad de Ingeniería y Negocios, Universidad de las Américas, Santiago 7500000, Chile; oyanez@udla.cl

<sup>7</sup> Facultad de Ingeniería, Arquitectura y Diseño, Universidad San Sebastián, Bellavista 7, Santiago 8420524, Chile

<sup>8</sup> Laboratorio de Bioinformática y Química Computacional, Departamento de Medicina Traslacional, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Católica del Maule, Talca 3480094, Chile

\* Correspondence: alfredo.pereira@uss.cl (A.P.); dbustos@ucm.cl (D.B.)

**Citation:** Morales, N.; Valdés-Muñoz, E.; González, J.; Valenzuela-Hormazábal, P.; Palma, J. M.; Galarza, C.; Catagua-González, Á.; Yáñez, O.; Pereira, A.; Bustos, D. Machine Learning-Driven Classification of Urease Inhibitors Leveraging Physicochemical Properties as Effective Filter Criteria. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2024**, *25*, 4303. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms25084303>

Academic Editor: Dong-Jun Yu

Received: 15 March 2024

Revised: 3 April 2024

Accepted: 8 April 2024

Published: 13 April 2024



**Copyright:** © 2024 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

**Table S1.** Physicochemical descriptors obtained from rCDK program.

Feature name	Description
Topological parameters	
ECCEN	Calculation that integrates distance and adjacency information.
fragC	Calculate the complexity of a molecule
Kier1 Kier2 Kier3	Calculate the Kier and Hall kappa molecular shape indices, which are descriptors used to quantify the shape of molecules. These indices provide a numerical value that represents the overall structural characteristics of a molecule.
khs.sLi khs.ssBe khs.ssssBe	Compute the occurrences of the E-state fragments.
khs.ssBH khs.sssB khs.ssssB	
khs.sCH3 khs.dCH2	
khs.ssCH2	
khs.tCH khs.dsCH	
khs.aaCH khs.sssCH	
khs.ddC khs.tsC	
khs.dssC khs.aasC khs.aaaC	
khs.ssssC khs.sNH3	
khs.sNH2 khs.ssNH2	
khs.dNH khs.ssNH	
khs.aaNH khs.tN khs.sssNH	
khs.dsN khs.aaN khs.sssN	
khs.ddsN khs.aasN khs.ssssN	
khs.sOH khs.dO	
khs.ssO khs.aaO	
khs.sF khs.sSiH3 khs.ssSiH2	
khs.sssSiH khs.ssssSi	
khs.sPH2 khs.ssPH khs.sssP	
khs.dsssP khs.sssssP	
khs.sSH khs.dS	
khs.ssS khs.aaS khs.dssS	
khs.ddssS khs.sCl khs.sGeH3	
khs.ssGeH2 khs.sssGeH	
khs.ssssGe khs.sAsH2	
khs.ssAsH khs.sssAs	
khs.sssdAs khs.sssssAs	
khs.sSeH khs.dSe	
khs.ssSe khs.aaSe	
khs.dssSe khs.ddssSe	

khs.sBr	khs.sSnH3	
khs.ssSnH2	khs.sssSnH	
khs.ssssSn	khs.sI	khs.sPbH3
khs.ssPbH2	khs.sssPbH	
khs.ssssPb		

MDEC-11	MDEC-12	Calculate the molecular distance edge descriptors, which are used to assess the distances between specific atoms in a molecule. In the case of carbon (C), nitrogen (N), and oxygen (O) atoms, these descriptors can provide valuable information about the connectivity and spatial arrangement of these elements within a molecule.
MDEC-13	MDEC-14	
MDEC-22	MDEC-23	
MDEC-24	MDEC-33	
MDEC-34	MDEC-44	
MDEO-11	MDEO-12	
MDEO-22	MDEN-11	
MDEN-12	MDEN-13	
MDEN-22	MDEN-23	
MDEN-33		

PetitjeanNumber	Calculate the Petitjean Number, which is a descriptor used to quantify the topological complexity of a molecule. It provides a numerical value that represents the branching and connectivity of atoms within a molecular structure.
TopoPSA	Compute the topological polar surface area based on fragment contributions.

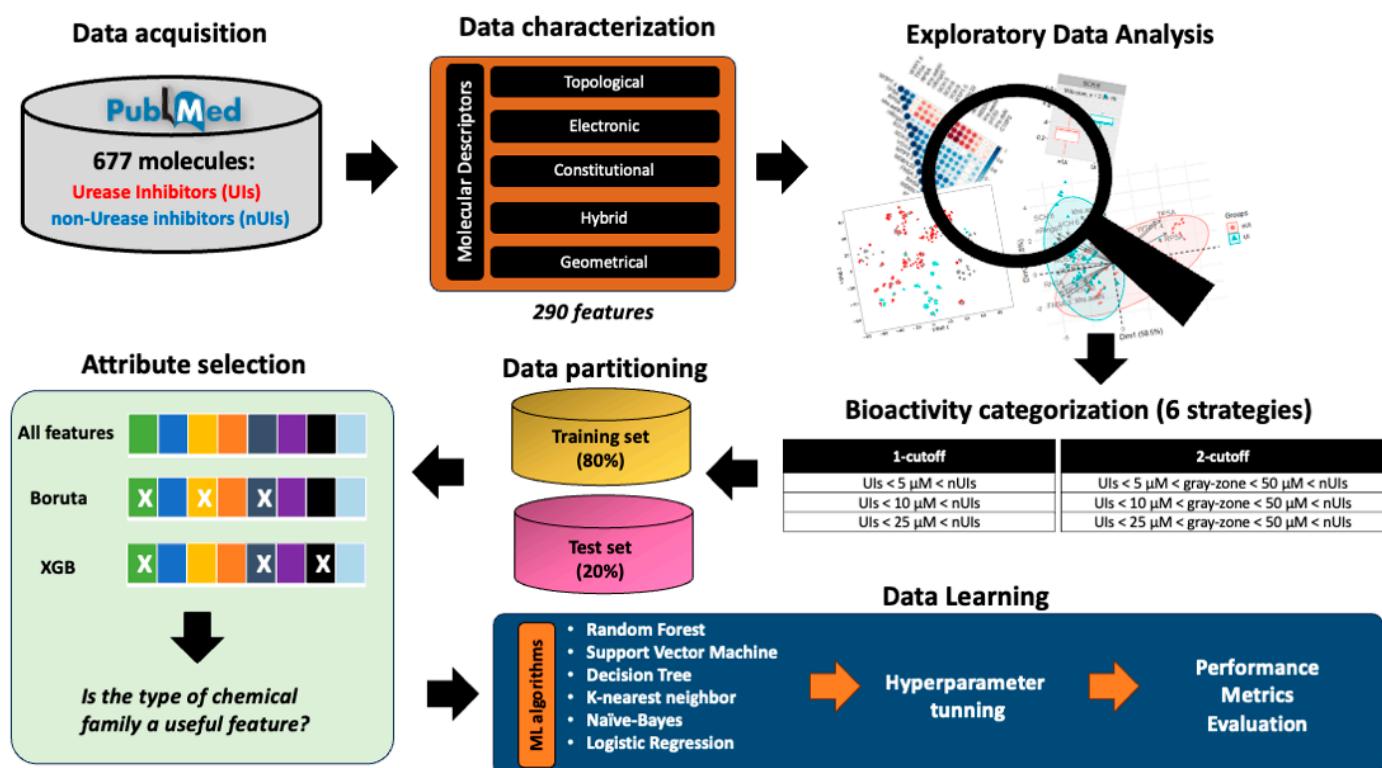
WTPT-1	WTPT-2	Calculate the weighted path (molecular ID) descriptors, as described by Randic, are used to characterize the branching patterns within a molecule. These descriptors assign weights to the paths between atoms in a molecular graph, reflecting the importance of each path in terms of molecular branching.
WTPT-3	WTPT-4	
WTPT-5		

WPATH	WPOL	The Wiener path number and Wiener polarity number are descriptors used to quantify the topological complexity and polarity of a molecule, respectively. The Wiener path number calculates the sum of the distances between all pairs of atoms in a molecular graph. It provides a measure of the overall molecular size and branching. On the other hand, the Wiener polarity number evaluates the sum of the distances between pairs of atoms in the molecular graph, considering the type of bond connecting them. It characterizes the polar nature of a molecule by considering the differences in electronegativity between bonded atoms.
Zagreb		The sum of the squared atom degrees of all heavy atoms is a descriptor used to measure the complexity and connectivity of heavy atoms in a molecule.

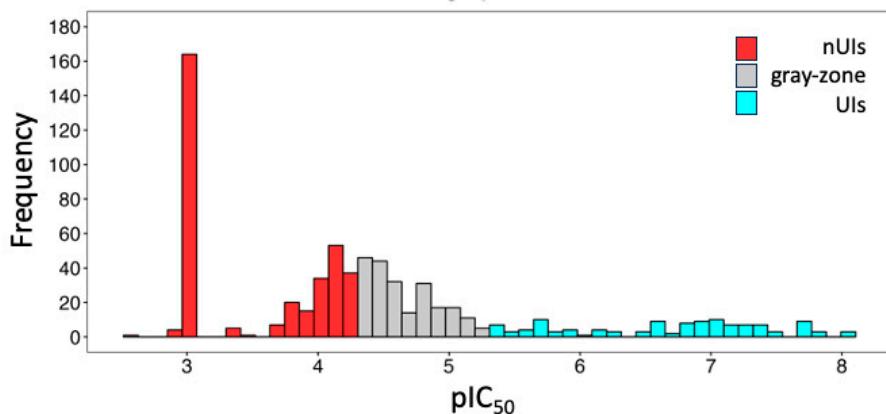
### Electronic parameters

Apol	Calculate the sum of the atomic polarizabilities, including implicit hydrogens, is a measure of the overall electron cloud distortion capability of a molecule.
Bpol	Calculate the sum of the absolute value of the difference between the atomic polarizabilities of all bonded atoms in the molecule, including implicit hydrogens, quantifies the variation in electron cloud distortion between bonded atoms
PPSA-1 PPSA-2 PPSA-3 PNSA-1 PNSA-2 PNSA-3 DPSA-1 DPSA-2 DPSA-3 FPSA-1 FPSA-2 FPSA-3 FNSA-1 FNSA-2 FNSA-3 WPSA-1 WPSA-2 WPSA-3 WNSA-1 WNSA-2 WNSA-3 RPCG RNCG RPCS RNCS THSA TPSA RHSA RPSA	A list of descriptors that combine partial charge information with surface area
nHBAcc	Hydrogen bond acceptors
nHBDon	Hydrogen bond donors
<b>Constitutional parameters</b>	
nA nR nN nD nC nF nQ nE nG nH nI nP nL nK nM nS nT nY nV nW	
naAromAtom	Number of amino acids
nAtom	Number of aromatic atoms
nB	Number of atoms
nAtomLC	Number of bonds
nAtomP	Number of atoms located in the longest chain
nRotB	Number of atoms located in the longest $\pi$ chain
LipinskiFailures	Number of non-rotatable bonds
MW	Number of violations of Lipinski's Rule Of Five
XLogP	Molecular Weight
	Partition coefficient
<b>Hybrid parameters</b>	
BCUTw-1l BCUTw-1h BCUTc-1l BCUTc-1h BCUTp-1l	BCUTp-1h
Wlambda1.unity	Eigenvalue based descriptors used in chemical diversity described by Pearlman et al.
Wlambda2.unity	
Wlambda3.unity	
Wnu1.unity	
Wnu2.unity	
Wgamma1.unity	
Wgamma2.unity	
Wgamma3.unity	
Weta1.unity	
Weta2.unity	
Weta3.unity	
WT.unity WA.unity WV.unity	
WK.unity WG.unity WD.unity	

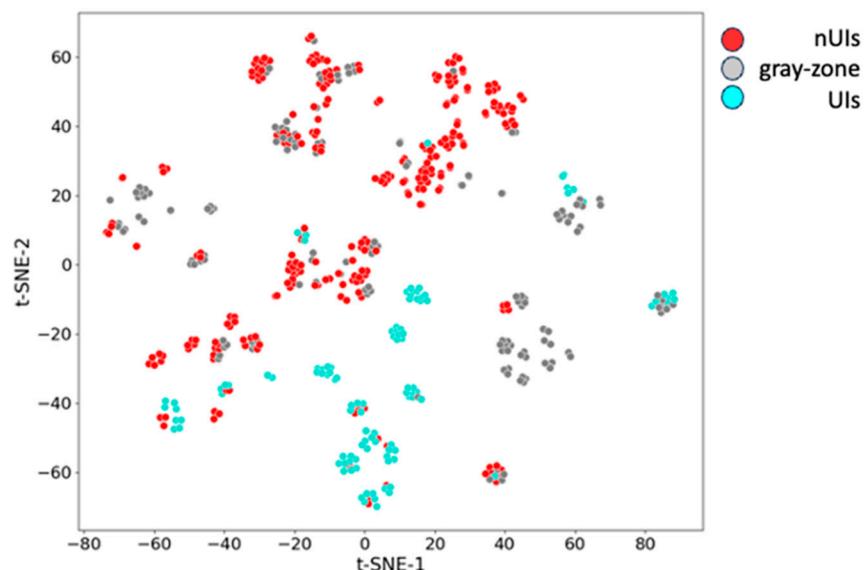
Holistic descriptors described by Todeschini et al.										
Geometrical parameters										
GRAV-1	GRAV-2									
GRAV-3	GRAVH-1	GRAVH-2	GRAVH-3	GRAV-4	GRAV-5					
LOBMAX	LOBMIN			Characterizes the mass distribution						
MOMI-X	MOMI-Y	Calculates the proportional relationship between the length and breadth dimensions of a molecule								
MOMI-Z	MOMI-									
XY	MOMI-XZ	MOMI-YZ								
MOMI-R										
topoShape	geomShape	Compute the principal moments of inertia and ratios of the principal moments. Calculate the topological and geometric shape indices described by Petitjean and Bath et al. respectively, are measures that assess the anisotropy or shape asymmetry of a molecule.								



**Figure S1. Schematic workflow.** Each stage of the protocol is represented as follow: 1) Data acquisition, 2) Data characterization, 3) Exploratory Data Analysis, 4) Bioactive categorization, 5) Data partitioning, 6) Attribute selection, and 7) Data Learning.



**Figure S2. Distribution of the dataset based on bioactive characterization.** The histogram illustrates the frequency of the three labeled groups: non-urease inhibitors (nUIs) in red, urease inhibitors (UIs) in cyan, and molecules falling within the  $4.3 > \text{pIC}_{50} < 5.3$  range, referred to as the gray-zone, shown in gray.



**Figure S3. t-SNE dimensional map,** where each data point represents a distinct compound categorized as a urease inhibitor (UIs) indicated in cyan, encompassing molecules exhibiting an  $\text{IC}_{50} \leq 5 \mu\text{M}$ . Similarly, non-urease inhibitors (nUIs) are denoted in red, encompassing molecules with an  $\text{IC}_{50} \geq 50 \mu\text{M}$ . Additionally, compounds existing in the gray-zone, defined by  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values falling within the range of  $5 > \text{IC}_{50} < 50$ , are shaded in gray.

**Disclaimer/Publisher's Note:** The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.