



Step 3: Count the number of drops of solution needed to occupy 3 mL (or 3 cm³) in the graduated cylinder. Do this three times, and find the average number of drops in 3 cm³ of solution.

number of drops in 3 cm³ = _____

Divide 3 cm³ by the number of drops in 3 cm³ to determine the volume of a single drop.

volume of drop = _____ cm³

Step 4: The volume of the oleic acid alone in the circular film is much less than the volume of a single drop of the solution. The concentration of oleic acid in the solution is 5 cm³ per 1000 cm³ of solution. Every cubic centimeter of the solution thus contains only 5/1000 cm³ of oleic acid. The ratio of oleic acid to total solution is 0.005 for any volume. Multiply the volume of a drop by 0.005 to find the volume of oleic acid in the drop. This is the volume of the layer of oleic acid in the tray.

volume of oleic acid = _____ cm³

Compute length of molecule.

Step 5: Estimate the length of an oleic acid molecule by dividing the volume of oleic acid by the area of the circle.

length of molecule = _____

Analysis

1. What is meant by a monolayer?

2. Why is it necessary to dilute the oleic acid?

3. Which substance forms the monolayer film—the oleic acid or the alcohol?

4. The shape of oleic acid molecules is more like that of a rectangular hot dog than a cube or marble. Furthermore, one end is attracted to water so that the molecule actually “floats” vertically like a log with a heavy lead weight at one end. If each of these rectangular molecules is 10 times as long as it is wide, how would you compute the volume of one oleic acid molecule?
