## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0278-6915(18)30017-6

DOI: 10.1016/j.fct.2018.01.017

Reference: FCT 9530

To appear in: Food and Chemical Toxicology

Received Date: 3 November 2017

Revised Date: 9 January 2018

Accepted Date: 11 January 2018

Please cite this article as: Kaddah, S., Khreich, N., Kaddah, F., Charcosset, C., Greige-Gerges, Héè., Cholesterol modulates the liposome membrane fluidity and permeability for a hydrophilic molecule, *Food and Chemical Toxicology* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.fct.2018.01.017.

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## Cholesterol modulates the liposome membrane fluidity and permeability for a hydrophilic molecule

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## ABSTRACT

The effect of cholesterol (CHOL) content on the permeability and fluidity of dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC) liposome membrane was investigated. Liposomes encapsulating sulforhodamine B (SRB), a fluorescent dye, were prepared by reverse phase evaporation technique (REV) at various DPPC:CHOL molar ratios (from 100:0 to 100:100). The release kinetics of SRB was studied during 48 h in buffer (pH 7.4) containing NaCl at 37°C. The DPPC:CHOL formulations were also characterized for their size, polydispersity index and morphology. Increasing CHOL concentration induced an increase in the mean liposomes size accompanying with a shape transition from irregular to nanosized, regular and spherical vesicles.

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