

hydrophobic interaction

The tendency of hydrocarbons (or of *lipophilic* hydrocarbon-like groups in solutes) to form *intermolecular* aggregates in an aqueous medium, and analogous intramolecular interactions. The name arises from the attribution of the phenomenon to the apparent repulsion between water and hydrocarbons. However, the phenomenon ought to be attributed to the effect of the hydrocarbon-like groups on the water-water interaction. The misleading alternative term 'hydrophobic bond' is discouraged.

1994, 66, 1123