

**Table 1. Predicted relative binding affinities of p-xylene to T4L/L99A compared with benzene using various methods**

Starting conformation	Method	$\Delta G$ in complex	$\Delta\Delta G$
Trans	FEP	$-3.31 \pm 0.10$	$0.95 \pm 0.15$
	$\lambda$ -hopping	$-3.36 \pm 0.10$	$0.90 \pm 0.15$
	FEP/REST	$-3.78 \pm 0.10$	$0.48 \pm 0.15$
Gauche	FEP	$-3.96 \pm 0.10$	$0.30 \pm 0.15$
	$\lambda$ -hopping	$-3.83 \pm 0.10$	$0.43 \pm 0.15$
	FEP/REST	$-3.77 \pm 0.10$	$0.49 \pm 0.15$
Exp			$0.52 \pm 0.09$

Free energies in kcal/mol;  $\Delta G$  in solvent is  $-4.26 \pm 0.05$  kcal/mol.