

Table 1. Morphometric and physical parameters for acini in various mammals

Parameter	Species				
	Mouse	Rat	Rabbit	Human	
				Acinus	1/8 subacinus
Acinus volume, $V_a$ , $10^{-3}\cdot\text{cm}^3$	0.41	1.70	3.40	187	23.4
Acinus surface $S_a$ , $\text{cm}^2$	0.42	1.21	1.65	69	8.63
Average membrane thickness $\tau$ , $10^{-4}$ cm	0.60	0.75	1.0	1.1	1.1
Unscreened length $\Lambda$ , cm	15.2	18.9	25.3	27.8	27.8
Acinus size $L_a = V_a^{1/3}$ , cm	0.074	0.119	0.150	0.572	0.286
Acinus perimeter $L_p \approx S_a/L_a$ , cm	5.6	10.2	11.0	120.6	30
Alveolus size $\ell \approx 4 V_a/S_a$ , $10^{-4}$ cm	39	56	82	162	162
Reduced perimeter $L_p/\ell$	717	910	670	7,600	925
$\Lambda/L_p$	2.7	1.85	2.3		0.93
Hilbert acinus efficiency (generation 4)	0.21	0.17	0.19		0.11

Data are taken from refs. 7, 11, and 12.

7. Weibel, E. R., Federspiel, W. J., Fryder-Doffey, F., Hsia, C. C., Konig, M., Stalder-Navarro, V. & Vock, R. (1993) *Respir. Physiol.* **93**, 125–149.

11. Sapoval, B., Filoche, M., Karamanos, K. & Brizzi, R. (1999) *Eur. Phys. J. B* **9**, 739–753.

12. Haefeli-Bleuer, B. & Weibel, E. R. (1988) *Anat. Rec.* **220**, 401–414.