

1. INTRODUCTION

The growing demand for clean and renewable energy, supported by stricter environmental regulations, has driven scientists to develop environmentally friendly chemical products [1]. Ionic liquids (ILs) have garnered significant attention due to their low volatility, high thermal stability, and tunable physicochemical properties, making them ideal for applications like solvents, electrolytes, and catalysts [2]. However, extensive IL use raises environmental and health concerns, particularly regarding their toxicity to biological systems [3]. Studies suggest that ILs containing pyridinium and imidazolium inhibit enzyme activity, with acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibition in fish causing up to 70% mortality [4, 5]. Despite their antimicrobial benefits, ILs can harm vital unicellular organisms in ecosystems. Research has also shown that exposure to IL can alter microbial communities in soil and water, leading to reduced biodiversity and altered nutrient cycling [2].

AChE, an enzyme critical for nerve signal transmission, is commonly used to assess chemical toxicity due to its susceptibility to IL inhibition [5, 6, 7]. This enzyme breaks down acetylcholine into acetic acid and choline, and its inhibition poses neurotoxic risks [8]. Given the vast diversity of ILs—stemming from numerous cation and anion combinations—traditional toxicity testing methods are costly, laborious, and time-intensive [1, 10]. This highlights the need for *in silico* approaches to predict IL toxicity efficiently, with various computational models already developed for this purpose [1, 6]. Previous studies have explored IL toxicity prediction using different models. In 2008, Toreccilla achieved an R^2 of 0.973 using Multilayer Perceptron (MLP), while Yan et al. (2012) reached an R^2 of 0.877 with Multiple Linear Regression (MLR) and Topological Indexes [11, 12]. In 2015, Basant et al. reported an improved R^2 of 0.910 using Support Vector Machine (SVM) [9]. Further studies combining MLR and Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) with larger datasets also confirmed the superiority of non-linear models for IL toxicity prediction [1, 9]. However, these results could be enhanced through more advanced models like Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs).

Currently, ANN implementation often relies on manual parameter tuning, a time-consuming process that can yield inconsistent results [13]. To address this, auto-tuning methods such as metaheuristic algorithms have been introduced for architecture optimization [14]. One promising method is the Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO), inspired by the hunting behavior of grey wolves, which offers efficient local search capabilities for parameter optimization [16].

This study focuses on predicting IL toxicity to AChE using an ANN optimized with GWO. The combination of ANN's ability to model complex, non-linear data and GWO's robust search mechanism is expected to enhance predictive accuracy [15, 16].