

## Direct Spectrophotometric determination of Aluminum (III) using 5-Bromo-2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde-P- hydroxybenzoic hydrazone

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**Abstract:** Highly sensitive and selective direct spectrophotometric method is proposed for the determination of aluminium in various real samples. 5-Bromo-2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde-p-hydroxybenzoic hydrazone reacts with Al(III) forming yellow coloured soluble complex in aqueous dimethyl formamide which has a  $\lambda_{max}$  at 390 nm in the pH range 3.0-7.0. The system obeyed Beer's law in the range 0.053 – 0.755  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  of Al(III). The molar absorptivity is  $2.66 \times 10^4 \text{ L mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and The Sandell's sensitivity is  $0.00104 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ . The standard deviation of the method for ten determinations of 0.42281  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of Al(III) is 0.0075. The correlation coefficient ( $\gamma$ ) of the calibration equation of the experimental data is 0.9999. Studies on effect of diverse ions showed almost all the anions, except F and a majority of the cations do not interfere in more than 50 fold excess. The interference from Ni(II), Fe(III), Cu(II) and Ti(IV) was eliminated by using suitable masking agents. The direct method was applied for the determination of aluminium in silicate minerals, industrial sludges, soil samples plant extracts, hair, tea and water samples.

**Key words:** Al (III), Direct spectrophotometric determination, 5-BHMBHBH.

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### I. Introduction

The industrial and biological applications of aluminium are quite abundant. Today this cost – effective metal is widely available through out and its alloys are widely used for adding strength and utility<sup>1</sup>. Aluminium is used for dialysis dementia<sup>2</sup>. High amounts of aluminium is toxic for human beings<sup>3</sup>. However, its micro nutrient role is well recognized. Its applications range from aerospace industry, transportation, building and electrical transmission, packaging and water treatment. Certain aluminium salts serve as an immune response booster to allow the protein in vaccine to achieve sufficient potency as an immune stimulant. The other side of its effects is increased amounts of dietary aluminium reduced skeletal mineralization (osteopenia) resulting in growth retardation. Aluminium can cause neurotoxicity in very high doses which can alter the function of blood brain barrier<sup>4</sup>. Aluminium increases estrogen related gene expression in human breast cancer cells grown in the laboratory<sup>5</sup>. Hence, accurate determination of aluminium in trace quantities in various natural systems is very important. Spectrophotometry is a good trace analysis technique. Recently several spectrophotometric methods<sup>6-30</sup> based on the use of various organic reagents are reported for the determination of aluminium. Some of these methods are not sensitive, some suffer from interference, some have limited applications, certain methods are used surfactants, some utilize solvent extraction and some are temperature dependent. The potential analytical applications of hydrazone derivatives by Singh et al<sup>31</sup>. Krishnareddy et al<sup>32</sup> recently reported a sensitive method for the determination of aluminium, but it uses a surfactant. We now report a sensitive and reasonably selective direct spectrophotometric method for the determination of aluminium with out use of surfactant and is applied for its determination in a number of naturally occurring complex samples.

### II. Experimental

The chromogenic reagent, 5-bromo-2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde-p-hydroxy benzoic hydrazone was synthesized in the laboratory by condensing 5 - Bromo-2- hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde and p-hydroxybenzoic hydrazone. A 0.01M DMF solution of the reagent is used in the studies.

0.01M stock solution of Al(III) was prepared by dissolving requisite amount of aluminium ammonium sulphate in distilled water and standardized volumetrically<sup>33</sup>. The working solutions were prepared by diluting the stock solutions with distilled water. Buffer solutions of pH 4.0 were prepared by mixing 0.2M sodium acetate and 0.2M acetic acid in suitable proportions and the pH was adjusted by a pH meter.

The absorbance and pH measurements were made on a Perkin Elmer (LAMDA 25) UV-Visible spectrophotometer (Model UV-160A) controlled by a computer fitted with 1cm path length quartz cells and an ELICO digital pH meter of (Model LI 613) respectively.

### III. Procedure

To 5 ml of buffer solution (pH 4.0) 0.5 ml of 5-BHMBHBH ( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ M) in DMF was taken in each of a set of 10 ml volumetric flasks, variable amounts of Al(III) were added and diluted to 10 ml in a volumetric flask with distilled water. The absorbance of these solutions was measured at 390 nm against reagent blank and plotted against the amount of aluminium. A straight line corresponded to the equation  $A_{390} = 0.98721C + 0.00119$ . (C is the amount of aluminium in  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ).

### IV. Results And Discussion

The absorption spectrum [Al(III)–5-BHMBHBH] complex showed maximum absorbance at 390 nm where the reagent showed negligible absorbance. The absorbance was found to be maximum and constant in the pH range 3.0-7.0. Therefore, the analytical studies were carried out at pH 4.0. A 5 fold molar excess of the reagent is sufficient to obtain maximum colour intensity for a given amount of metal ion.

#### Table 1. Analytical characteristics of [Al(III)–5-BHMBHBH]

The molar absorptivity Beer's law ranges, detection limit, determination limit shown in the table-1 indicate the high sensitivity of the method. The effect of diverse ions on the absorbance of the experimental solution showed that all the anions tested(except  $\text{F}^-$ ) do not interfere in more than 100 fold excess. Fluoride is tolerable upto 45 fold excess. Among the cations Pb(II), La(III), Hg(II), V(V) and Th(IV), do not interfere in more than 100 fold excess. Y(III), Bi(III), Mo(VI), Zn(II) and Zr(IV) are tolerable up to 50 fold excess. The tolerance limits of other metal ions are 40 fold of Cd(II), Se(IV), 30 fold of Au(III), Ru(III) and Mn(II), 20 fold of Tl(III), Ag(I), Cr(VI) and Ce(IV) and 10 fold excess of W(VI) and Pd(II). The tolerance limits of Ni(II), Co(II), Fe(III), Ti(IV) and Cu(II) which interfere seriously, are made tolerable to more than 100 fold in the presence of EDTA or iodide as masking agents. The results are presented in Table -2.

#### Applications

The direct method was applied for the determination of aluminium in carbonate and silicate minerals, industrial sludges and soil samples. The sample solutions were prepared as per the recommended procedures for silicate minerals<sup>34</sup>, industrial sludges.<sup>35</sup> Variable aliquots of the sample solutions were treated with suitable amounts of 5-BHMBHBH and c.p.c. (surfactant) under the prescribed conditions and the absorbances were measured at 390 nm. The amounts of aluminium present in these samples were computed from predetermined calibration plots and presented in Table 3, 4 and 5.

The results obtained in the present method with regard to sludges were compared with those obtained by flame atomic absorption spectrophotometric method and presented. The spectrophotometric method was employed for the determination of aluminium in plant extracts, human hair, tea and waste water samples. The solutions of plant, extract<sup>36</sup>, human hair and tea<sup>37</sup> were prepared according to the recommended procedures and their aluminium content were determined by the proposed. The plant extract samples were also analysed by flame atomic absorption spectrophotometric method and compared with those of present method and IPE<sup>38</sup> reported data. The results are presented in Table 6 and 7.

The proposed direct and derivative spectrophotometric methods are simple, sensitive, less tedious, reasonably selective and are applicable for the analysis of complex materials. The present direct method is found to be more sensitive than those proposed by Nemcova *et al*<sup>39</sup>, Zhong fang *et al*<sup>40</sup>, and Sergio *et al*<sup>41</sup>.

#### Determination of Aluminum in Alloys and Steels

A 0.1 g of alloy or steel sample containing (3.34-90.5)% Al was weighed accurately into a 50 ml Erlenmeyer flask following a method recommended by Parker<sup>42</sup>. To this added 5 ml each of conc. Hydrochloric and nitric acid and the mixture was heated gently 1-ml of perchloric acid (sp, Gr. 1.70) was added to the solutions and evaporated until strong fuming. The solution was cooled to room temperature. The soluble salts were dissolved in deionized water. The solution was filtered into a 10-ml calibrated flask. The residue (silica and tungstic acid) was washed with a small volume (5-ml) of hot (1:99) sulfuric acid by water. The

filtrate and washing were collected in the same calibrated flask. The contents of the flask were neutralized with dilute ammonia solution. The volume was made up to the mark with deionized water.

An aliquot (1-2)-ml of this solution was pipetted into a 10-ml calibrated flask and the Al content was determined as described in general procedure. The results are shown in table 8.

**Determination of Aluminum in Environmental Water Sample**

Each filtered (through a Whatman no. 40 filter paper) environment water sample (500-mL) was evaporated to dryness with a mixture of 1.5-mL HCl and 5-mL concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> in a fume cupboard, following a method recommended by Greenberg *et al* [43]. The salts were dissolved in 10ml of distilled water by heating the contents. The solution was then cooled, neutralized with dilute ammonia solution and transferred into 50ml volumetric flask. The contents were made up to the mark with distilled water.

1ml of the solution was pipetted into 10 ml calibrated flask and the Al content was determined as described in general procedure. The analysis of various environmental water samples for aluminium is shown in table-9.

**V. Conclusions:**

The present method is a new, simple, sensitive, selective and less expensive method with Al(III) - 5-BHMBHBH complex was developed for the determination of aluminium in some real, soil and environmental water samples. Although many sophisticated techniques such as pulse polarography, HPLC, AAS, ICP-AES, ICP-MS, etc. are available for the determination of aluminium at trace levels in numerous complex materials, factors such as the low cost of the instrument, easy handling, lack of requirement for consumables and almost no maintenance have caused spectrophotometry to remain a popular technique, particularly in laboratories of developing countries with limited budget. The sensitivity in terms of molar absorptivity and precision in terms of relative standard deviation of the present method are very reliable for the determination of aluminium in real samples.

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**Table 1. Analytical characteristics of [Al(III) – 5-BHMBHBH]**

Parameter	Direct method (390 nm)
Beer's law range ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m l}^{-1}$ )	0.053 -0.755 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m l}$
Molar absorptivity ( $\text{L mol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$2.66 \times 10^4 \text{ L mol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$
Sandell's sensitivity ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{c m}^2$ )	$0.00104 \mu\text{g}/\text{c m}^2$
correlation coefficient (r)	0.9999
Relative standard deviation (%)	1.773
Y- intercept(b)	0.00119
Detection limit( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m l}^{-1}$ )	0.0076
Determination limit( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m l}^{-1}$ )	0.0232
Composition (Metal :Ligand)	1:1
Stability constant( $\beta$ )	$1.99 \times 10^6$

**Table -2. Tolerance limit of foreign ions. Amount of Al (III) = 0.431  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  pH = 4.0**

Ion	Tolerance Limit ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ )	Ion	Tolerance Limit ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ )
Ascorbate	1925	Pb(II)	205
EDTA	990	La (III)	140
Iodide	880	Hg (II)	90
Thiourea	660	Th (IV)	50
Tartrate	520	Y (III)	45
Phosphate	360	Bi (III)	45
Thiosulphate	490	Mo (VI)	9
Citrate	480	Zr (IV)	19
Sulphate	490	Cd (II)	20
Bromide	400	Se(IV)	20
Thiocyanate	300	Au (III)	36
Carbonate	280	Ru (III)	10
Nitrate	230	Zn (II)	20

Chloride	190	Tl (III)	25
Oxalate	150	Ag(I)	20
Fluoride	30	Mn(II)	40
Fe(III)	<1,20 <sup>a</sup>	Cr (VI)	30
Cu(II)	<1,65 <sup>b</sup>	Ce (IV)	30
Ti(IV)	<1,60 <sup>a</sup>	U (VI)	8
Ni(II)	<1,79 <sup>a</sup>	V(V)	50
Co (II)	<1,90 <sup>a</sup>	W(VI)	30
		Pd(II)	5

a = Masked with EDTA

b =Masked with iodide

**Table -3. Determination of Al (III) in carbonate and silicate minerals**

Sample	Aluminium (%)		
	Certified value(µg/ml)	Found*	Relative error (%)
Silica brick (NBS 102)	1.96	1.98±0.006	+1.02
Optical glass (NBS 128)	1.89	1.88±0.007	+0.52
Glass frit(NBS-128)	1.80	1.77±0.006	+1.33

\* Average of five determinations ± S.D

**Table -4.Determination of Al (III) in Sludge samples**

Sludge samples	Amount of aluminium (mg/g)*	
	Present method	AAS method
1402 -2	30.156±0.032	30.4328±0.0026
1402 -3	35.558±0.028	35.466±0.0015
1402 -4	32.890±0.016	33.346±0.002

\* Average of five determinations ± S.D

**Table -5. Determination of Al (III) in soil samples**

Sample	Composition (%) Certified (µg/ml)	Composition (%) Found*(µg/ml)	Relcovery (%)
Singanamala (ground nut cultivation soil)	- 20.0	20.45±0.006 41.04±0.003	- 101.45
Gooty (Bengal gram cultivation soil)	- 20.0	25.49±0.009 45.65±0.010	- 100.35
Bathalapalli(Sunflower cultivation soil)	- 20.0	16.76±0.006 35.36±0.011	- 96.19

\* Average of five determinations± S.D

**Table -6.Determination of Al (III) in soil sample**

Sample	Amount of Al(III) (µg/ml <sup>-1</sup> )		IPE reported <sup>38</sup> data accepted range <sup>a</sup> (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )
	Present method*	AAS method*	
Grass	289±16	286±10	252-658
Maize 638	138±9	137±11	109-237
Sprouts 599	99±5	101±4	67-128

\* Average of five determinations

**Table -7.Determination of Al (III) in human hair, tea and waste water**

Sample	Amount of aluminium (µg/ml <sup>-1</sup> )				Reference <sup>39</sup> method	Relative error(%)
	Added	Found*	RSD(%)	Recovery(%)		
Tea <sup>a</sup>	-	210	1.41	-	211.5	+0.71
	5.0	215.4	1.10	100.2	216.1	+0.32
Human hair	-	18.8	0.90	-	18.3	-1.09
	5.0	23.4	0.91	98.3	23.2	-0.86
Waste water <sup>b</sup>	-	0.484	0.11	-	0.480	-0.83
	5.0	5.408	0.14	98.7	5.420	+0.22

\*Average of five determinations

a = Taj mahal tea sample, b = Domestic sewage water.

**Table 8** Determination of aluminum in certified reference materials.

Certified Reference Materials (Composition,%)	Aluminium, %		
	Certified value	Found*	Error%
Bureau of Analyzed samples Ltd. No.BAS-20b (Al,90.5;Mg,1.6;Cu,4.1; Ni,1.9;Fe,0.43;Mn,0.19; Si,0.24)	90.50	90.41	0.09

\*Average of five determinations

**Table 9** Determination of aluminum in some environmental water samples.

sample	Aluminium $\mu\text{g/L}^{-1}$		Recovery $\pm\text{S}(\%)$
	Added	Found <sup>a</sup>	
Tap water	0	49.0	99.7 $\pm$ 0.4 99.4 $\pm$ 0.5
	25	73.8	
	50	98.5	
Well water	0	33.0	100.5 $\pm$ 0.5 100.4 $\pm$ 0.4
	25	58.3	
	50	83.4	

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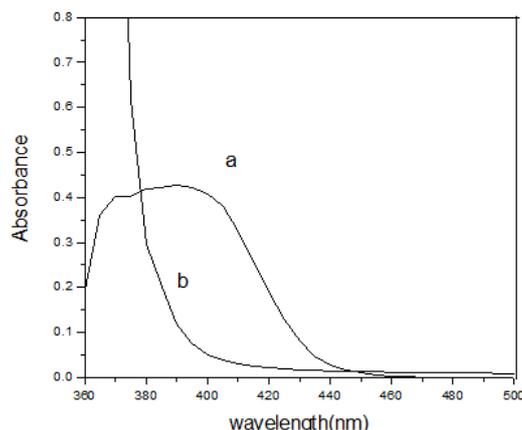


Fig: 1 Absorption spectra of (a) 5-BHMBHBH Vs buffer blank (b) [Al (III)]-5-BHMBHBH Vs reagent bank [Al (III)]=  $1.6 \times 10^{-5}$ M: 5-BHMBHBH=  $1.0 \times 10^{-2}$ M pH =4.0