

## Letter

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### Adsorption of Co(III) complexes on cellulose

In a recent note Ray and Kauffman<sup>1</sup> reported  $R_F$  values of Co(III) complexes on Whatman No. 1 paper developed with various aqueous solutions of inorganic salts.

We were very interested in their reporting rather strong adsorption for  $[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_6]\text{Cl}_3$  and  $[\text{Co}(\text{en})_3]\text{Cl}_3$  (where en = ethylenediamine) when developed with 0.1 M potassium iodide ( $R_F$  values 0.40 and 0.30, respectively). The adsorption of these complexes had been examined in our laboratory by M. Casillo with very similar electrolyte solutions (in connection with a paper electrophoretic study of ion-pair formation<sup>2</sup>) and no such adsorption was noted.

We thus repeated the chromatographic runs of  $[\text{Co}(\text{en})_3]\text{Cl}_3$  with 0.01 M potassium iodide on Whatman No. 1 paper as well as on Whatman No. 3MM paper and on cellulose thin layers and in all experiments we obtained a single fast-moving spot near the liquid front with an  $R_F$  value of *ca.* 0.9.

These results were communicated to Professor Kauffman on April 25th, 1988. In his letter of May 23rd, 1988, he informed me that he had forwarded my letter to Dr. Ray with the request to reply to me directly. Unfortunately, to date I have not yet received the authors' comments on the above discrepancy.

We thus feel that we should publish our observations that the work of Ray and Kauffman<sup>1</sup> contains results which we could not repeat.

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1 R. K. Ray and G. B. Kauffman, *J. Chromatogr.*, 442 (1988) 381.

2 M. Casillo, M. Lederer and L. Ossicini, *J. Chromatogr.*, 135 (1977) 256.

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