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Spectrophotometric Investigations on Uranium(VI) N-(Thiobenzoyl)-N-phenylhydroxylamine Complexes

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ABSTRACT

Uranium (VI) forms an intense yellow-colored complex with N-(thiobenzoyl)-N-phenylhydroxylamine. The complex has maximum absorbance at 410 nm at pH 5.1-5.7. Beer's law is valid up to 29.4 ppm of uranium (VI). The molar absorptivity is 1.87×10^4 mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹. The effects of diverse ions, stability constants, and the structure of the complex are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Complexation reactions of thiols and other sulfur-containing ligands have recently been investigated because of their biological applications [1-5]. A study of the literature reveals that very little work has been carried out on the chelating behavior of thiohydroxamic acids in solution [6-8]. The present investigations are aimed at determining the

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composition and stability of uranium(VI) complexes with N-(thiobenzoyl)-N-phenylhydroxylamine (TBPHA). TBPHA reacts with uranyl ion to give an intense yellow color.

EXPERIMENTAL

TBPHA was prepared by the thionation of N-benzoyl-N-phenylhydroxylamine with phosphorous pentasulfide [9]. The purity of the compound was checked by elemental analysis, TLC, and IR spectroscopy.

The solution of uranium (VI) was prepared by dissolving uranyl nitrate (AR) in ethanol. The metal content was determined by the gravimetric method [10].

All chemicals used were of Analar grade.

<u>Instruments</u>. A Beckmann model DU spectrophotometer was used for all spectrophotometric measurements. All pH measurements were made with a Cambridge bench-type pH meter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

<u>Spectral Characteristics of Complex</u>. Absorption spectra were recorded by mixing the reagent with the solution of reagent in the ratios 1:1, 1:2, and 1:3 against the reagent blank prepared under identical conditions. The maximum absorbance was found at around 395-410 nm. All absorption measurements were taken against a reagent blank at 410 nm.

The pH of the system was maintained in the limit 5.1-5.7 because there was no change in the absorbance in this range. It was observed that there was no change in absorbance at room temperature $(30^{\circ}C)$. The color so formed remained stable up to $70^{\circ}C$. After $70^{\circ}C$ the color faded slowly. The color intensity was not affected by 20 h at room temperature.

Beer's law is valid up to 29.4 ppm of uranium(VI), and Ringbom's method [11] was employed for evaluating the optimum concentration range for the effective photometric determination of uranium. The optimum range is 13.4-22.8 ppm. The molar absorptivity of the complex as calculated from Beer's law is 1.87×10^4 mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹.

Effect of Diverse Ions. The tolerance to diverse ions was studied for the uranium (VI)-TBPHA system. Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻, Mg(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), and Co(II) do not interfere with the estimation, while F^- , citrate, tartrate, and titanium ions interfere seriously.

<u>Composition of Complex</u>. Stability constants and the stepwise formation constants $\log K_1$ and $\log K_2$ of uranium(VI) complexes ML₁ and ML₂, respectively were calculated from graphical extrapolation methods of Leden [12] and Yatsimirskii [13]. The values of $\log K_1$.

Method	For 1:2 (metal:ligand) complex		
	log K1	log K2	$\log \beta$
Leden [12]	6.29	5.16	11.45
Yatsimirskii-Fedorova [13]	6.38	5.24	11.62
Harvey-Manning [14]	-	-	11.53

TABLE 1. Stepwise Stability Constants of Uranium Complexes at 30 ± 0.5 °C

and log K_2 obtained by the above two methods are in agreement with the values obtained by the Harvey-Manning method [14]. The results are given in Table 1.

The composition of the complex was established by the continuous method of Job [15], the slope ratio method, and the mole ratio method [16].

The complexation between this reagent (TBPHA) and uranium (VI) is attributed to the presence of the thicketo and oxime groups. Assuming that the oxime hydrogen is replaced by the uranyl ion which coordinates through the thicketo sulfur with the fact that the mole ratio between uranium(VI) and ligand is 1:2, it has been assumed that absorbance corresponds mainly to a mononuclear colored complex species of uranium(VI). However, the stability data alone cannot definitely decide the nature of the bonding and the structure of the complex.

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