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### Thin-Layer Chromatography of Metal Ions. I. The Quantitative Separation of Cd<sup>2+</sup> from Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, and Pb<sup>2+</sup>. The Quantitative Separation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> from Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup>

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## **Thin-Layer Chromatography of Metal Ions. I. The Quantitative Separation of Cd<sup>2+</sup> from Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, and Pb<sup>2+</sup>. The Quantitative Separation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> from Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

The quantitative separations of Cd<sup>2+</sup> from Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, and Pb<sup>2+</sup>, and of Cu<sup>2+</sup> from Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> have been studied in details using varying concentrations of NaCl solution in acetone. In order to find the optimum conditions for the separation of these metal ions, a systematic study was made of various important factors, such as sample concentrations, eluent concentrations, pH, and ionic strength. The chromatographic behavior of 47 metal ions was also investigated using 1.0 M NaCl solution in 30% acetone.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Thin-layer chromatography is very efficient for the separation of metal ions. Recent work done up to 1972 has been admirably summarized by Brinkman (1). After 1972 only a few studies have been made on the thin-layer chromatography of metal ions on silica gel G (2, 3). Soljic and co-workers (4) separated Cu, Pb, Bi, Cd, Hg, As, Sb, and Sn by thin-layer chromatography on cellulose using 25: 5 BuOH—3 M HCl.

All these studies suffer from the following limitations:

- (a) The quantitative aspects of the separations have not been examined.
- (b) The effect of various factors such as sample concentrations, eluent concentrations, pH, and ionic strength has not been systematically studied.

Without the study of these factors, the separation cannot be put to much practical use. The present work was therefore undertaken to remove these limitations. The chromatographic behavior of 47 metal ions was investigated using 1.0 M NaCl solution in 30% acetone.

Sodium chloride was chosen because it enables one to study the effect of  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentration on the separations. In the earlier studies HCl was invariably chosen. However, if the HCl concentration varies, then the  $[\text{H}^+]$  and  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  are both simultaneously varied. Acetone was used because it does not solvate the ions and it suppresses hydrolysis to give more compact spots. The results obtained are summarized in the form of two papers.

Paper I deals with the following separations:

$\text{Cd}^{2+}$  from  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ .  
 $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  from  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ .

Paper II deals with

$\text{Fe}^{2+}$  from  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ .  
 $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  from  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^+$ , and  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ .

All the separations are quantitative.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### Apparatus

Thin-layer chromatography apparatus (Toshniwal, India) for the preparation of silica gel plates on  $20 \times 3.5$  cm glass plates was used. The chromatography was performed in  $24 \times 6$  cm glass jars. Elico pH meter Model LI-10, Bausch and Lomb Spectronic 20 Colorimeter were used for pH and spectrophotometric measurements, respectively.

### Reagents

Silica gel G (E. Merck), cadmium sulfate, cadmium nitrate (made in Poland), zinc sulfate (B.D.H.) cobalt sulfate (Sarabhai M. Chemical,

India), lead nitrate (B.D.H.), cobalt sulfate (B.D.H.), nickel sulfate (B.D.H.), sodium chloride (B.D.H.), dithizone (B.D.H.), sodium diethyl-dithiocarbamate (made in Hungary), acetone (B.D.H.), chloroform (B.D.H.), and carbon tetrachloride (B.D.H.) were used. All other reagents were of AnalaR grade.

### Test Solutions

Sulfates of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  and nitrates of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  were used. The solutions (0.1 M) of chlorides, nitrates, and sulfates of most of the cations were prepared in 0.1 M solutions of the corresponding acids. The 0.1 M antimony and bismuth chloride solutions were prepared in 30% v/v and 4 M hydrochloric acid, respectively. Niobium pentachloride solution (1%) was prepared in 10% tartaric acid. Selenium dioxide was dissolved in water and made alkaline with 1 M potassium hydroxide. The 1% solution of gold chloride was prepared in 4 M hydrochloric acid. Tantalum ptaoxide was dissolved in concentrated sulfuric acid and ammonium sulfate. 0.1% Pt solution was prepared by dissolving Pt wire in aqua regia. Sodium molybdate, sodium tungstate, potassium chloride, and rubidium chloride solutions were prepared in water. Ceric sulfate (0.1 M) was prepared in 3.6 N sulfuric acid. Stannous chloride (0.1 M) was prepared in 4 M hydrochloric acid.

### Detection

$\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{Tl}^+$ ,  $\text{Hg}^+$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Bi}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{As}^{5+}$ , and  $\text{Sb}^{5+}$  were detected with yellow ammonium sulfide solution. A 1% aqueous solution of aluminon was used to detect  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ga}^{3+}$ , and  $\text{Be}^{2+}$ , and 0.1% alcoholic alizarin red-S solution was used for  $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Y}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Pr}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Lu}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Sm}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Gd}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Dy}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ho}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Er}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Tm}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Zr}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Th}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Ce}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Sn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Sn}^{4+}$ , and  $\text{Nb}^{5+}$  spots. To detect  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  a 1% alcoholic diphenyl carbazide solution was used.  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  spots were detected with 1% alcoholic dimethylglyoxime solution, and  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{VO}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{UO}_2^{2+}$  were detected with 2% aqueous potassium ferrocyanide solution. A 1% alcoholic solution of pyrogallol was used to detect  $\text{W}^{6+}$ , and  $\text{Ta}^{5+}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{6+}$ ,  $\text{Pt}^{4+}$ ,  $\text{Se}^{4+}$ , and  $\text{Au}^{3+}$  spots were detected with 0.1 M stannous chloride solution in 4 M hydrochloric acid. Aqueous potassium ferricyanide solution was used to detect  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , and 1% alcoholic chromotropic acid solution was used to detect  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ .

### Preparation of Silica Gel Plates

The slurry used was prepared by mixing the silica gel with constant shaking for 5 min in conductivity water in the ratio of 1:3. This slurry was used immediately to coat the clean glass plates with the help of an applicator to give a layer of 0.25 mm thickness for qualitative studies and 0.50 mm thickness for quantitative studies. These plates were first dried at room temperature and then in an electrically controlled oven at  $100 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 hr for complete drying. They were then stored in an oven at room temperature until used.

### Procedure

Approximately 3  $\mu\text{l}$  of the test solutions (0.1  $M$ ) were applied on each silica gel plate by using a micropipette. The solvent was allowed to ascend 10 cm from the starting line on the plate in all cases. After the development was over, the plates were dried in an air oven and the cations were detected with the usual reagents. For the quantitative separation, each metal ion was eluted with 0.1  $N$  sulfuric acid from silica gel and determined spectrophotometrically. Dithizone (8 mg in 100 ml chloroform) and a 1% solution of sodium diethyldithiocarbamate were used as color reagents for the spectrophotometric determination of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , respectively (5, 6).

### Electrophoresis

In order to explain the  $R_F$  values, electrophoresis studies were performed in a NaCl system using the Shandon Electrophoresis Apparatus (Shandon Scientific Company, London).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The chromatographic behavior of 47 metal ions was first studied in a solution which was 1.0  $M$  in NaCl and 30% in acetone. The results are summarized in Table 1. From this study a number of separations were found to be possible. These were then studied more thoroughly and the effect of various factors was investigated.

### The Separation of $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ from $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , and $\text{Pb}^{2+}$

In order to find the optimum conditions for the separation of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$

TABLE 1  
Chromatographic Behavior of 47 Metal Ions in 1.0 M NaCl and 30% Acetone

Tl <sup>+</sup> (0.00)	Ag <sup>+</sup> (0.00-0.56)	Hg <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> (0.50-1.00)
Fe <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.84)	Hg <sup>2+</sup> (0.89)	Cu <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.21)
Cd <sup>2+</sup> (0.87)	UO <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.39)	VO <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.92)
Ni <sup>2+</sup> (0.90)	Co <sup>2+</sup> (0.94)	Sn <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.80)
Zn <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.48)	Pb <sup>2+</sup> (0.00)	Be <sup>2+</sup> (0.0-0.88)
Cr <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.88)	Fe <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.88)	Bi <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.87)
Ga <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.08)	Al <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.49)	Au <sup>3+</sup> (0.97)
La <sup>3+</sup> (0.0)	Pr <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.91)	Y <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.44)
Lu <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.68)	Nd <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.40)	Sm <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.47)
Eu <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.42)	Gd <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.40)	Tb <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.40)
Dy <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.44)	Ho <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.63)	Er <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.47)
Tm <sup>3+</sup> (0.0-0.48)	Zr <sup>4+</sup> (0.0-0.57)	Ce <sup>4+</sup> (0.00)
Ti <sup>4+</sup> (0.0-0.99)	Th <sup>4+</sup> (0.0-0.22)	Sn <sup>4+</sup> (0.0-0.82)
Se <sup>4+</sup> (0.00)	Pt <sup>4+</sup> (0.93)	Sb <sup>5+</sup> (0.0-0.87)
As <sup>5+</sup> (0.0-0.78)	Ta <sup>5+</sup> (0.0-1.00)	Nb <sup>5+</sup> (0.0)
Mo <sup>6+</sup> (0.00)	W <sup>6+</sup> (0.00)	

from Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, and Pb<sup>2+</sup>, a systematic study was made of the various important factors as given below.

*Effect of Cl<sup>-</sup> Concentration (Figs. 1a, b, and c)*

The Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration was varied from 0.1 M NaCl-saturated NaCl. In all of these solutions Cd<sup>2+</sup> has a high *R<sub>F</sub>* and it can be separated from Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, and Pb<sup>2+</sup> using dilute solutions of sodium chloride. The best results are obtained with 0.35 M NaCl for Zn<sup>2+</sup>, 0.50 M for Cu<sup>2+</sup>, and 0.10 M for Pb<sup>2+</sup>. The *R<sub>F</sub>* values of Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup> increase as the chloride ion concentration increases until in the saturated solution these ions have *R<sub>F</sub>* values very close to that of Cd<sup>2+</sup>. However, because the spots are compact, separation is still possible, but the plates are deformed on drying. At a high Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup> form anionic complexes such as ZnCl<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and PbCl<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, while copper forms complexes of low stability; hence there is no effect of Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration on the *R<sub>F</sub>* value of Cu<sup>2+</sup>. It is interesting to compare these results with the work of Kraus and Moore (7). In this comparison it must be noted that we have studied concentrations from 0.0 to 2.0 M in greater detail.

Cd<sup>2+</sup> forms the strongest complex, and in 1 M HCl it is completely in the anionic form, leading to maximum adsorption at this point. However, as the HCl concentration is increased the chlorocomplex is unable to compete successfully with the chloride ion, and there is a decrease in the

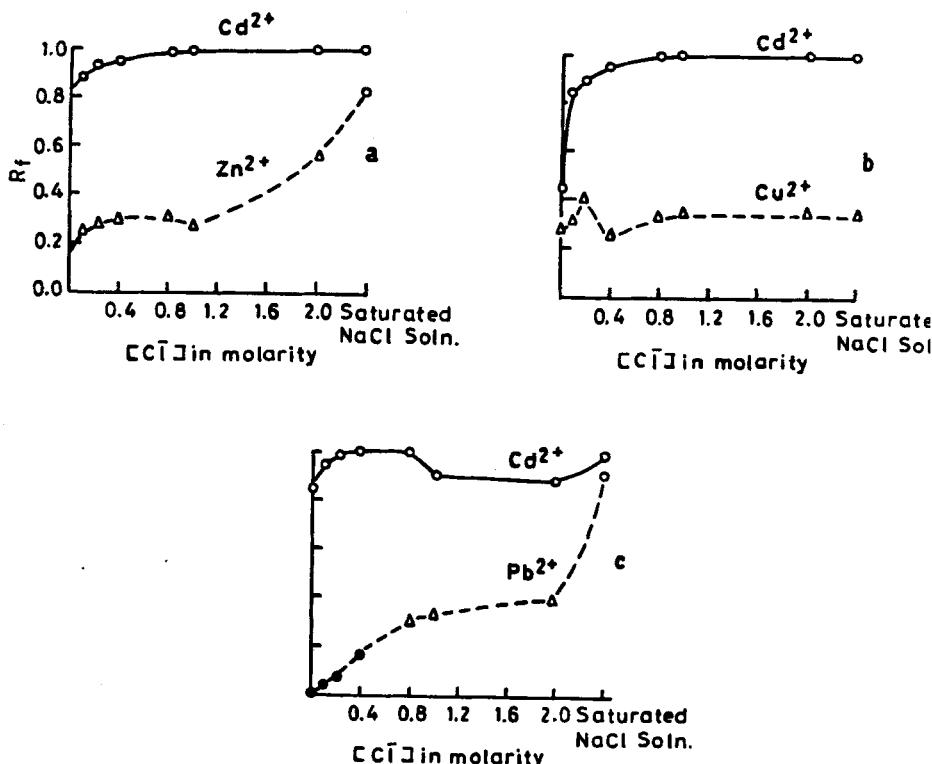
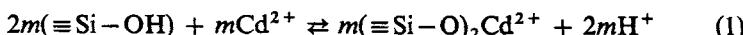


FIG. 1. (○) Compact spots; (●) tailing spots with  $RL - RT < 4$ ; (△) tailing spots with  $RL - RT > 4$ .

$K_d$  value. In our case the minimum NaCl concentration used was 0.01 M. This is apparently able to complex most of the Cd<sup>2+</sup> ions. Hence the  $R_F$  of Cd<sup>2+</sup> is very large. As silica acts as a weak cation exchanger (see Eq. 1), the anionic chlorocomplex is not adsorbed, thus leading to a high  $R_F$ .



As the Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration reaches 1 M the complex formation is complete and there is no further increase in  $R_F$ . Zn<sup>2+</sup> also forms the very stable ZnCl<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> complex, but it is slightly less stable than that of Cd<sup>2+</sup>. Hence at lower Cl<sup>-</sup> concentrations the  $K_d$  value of Zn<sup>2+</sup> is smaller than that of

$\text{Cd}^{2+}$ . We also find that in our case at low  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentrations that the  $R_F$  value of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  is smaller than the  $R_F$  value of  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ , making the  $\text{Cd-Zn}$  separation possible.

According to Kraus (7),  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  is only slightly adsorbed, even from 2 M HCl. We also found that the  $R_F$  of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  is low and unaffected by the  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentration.

According to Kraus (7), complex formation of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  increases with an increase in chloride ion concentration until it reaches a maximum at 1.0 M HCl. However, we found that as the  $\text{Cl}^-$  concentration increases the  $R_F$  increases until it becomes a maximum in saturated NaCl solution.

Thus it is apparent that TLC on silica gel is more effective than anion exchange chromatography on Dowex 1-X10 as it is possible to separate  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  by TLC but not by anion exchange chromatography.

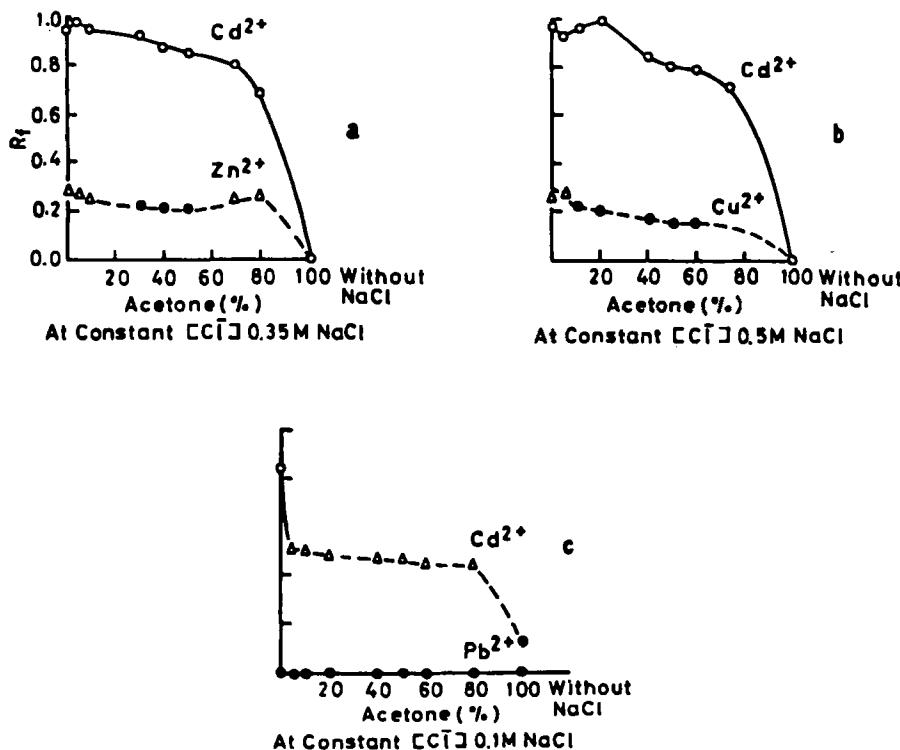


FIG. 2. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

### *Effect of the Addition of Acetone*

As the acetone concentration increases there is a considerable decrease in the tailing of  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ , and  $Pb^{2+}$ . The  $Cd^{2+}$  spot remains compact but there is a slight decrease in the  $R_F$  value of  $Cd^{2+}$  as the acetone concentration increases from 0 to 80%. The  $R_F$  values of  $Zn^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$  remain almost constant up to 80% acetone concentration and then there is a sharp decrease in  $R_F$  values. In 100% acetone (i.e.,  $Cl^-$  is absent) the  $R_F$  values of  $Cd^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ , and  $Pb^{2+}$  are zero. The best solvent for the separation of  $Cd^{2+}$  from  $Zn^{2+}$  is found to be a solution which is 0.35 M in sodium chloride and 30% in acetone. For  $Cd^{2+}$ - $Pb^{2+}$  and  $Cd^{2+}$ - $Cu^{2+}$  separations, 0.1 M NaCl (without acetone) and 0.5 M NaCl in 20% acetone are best. The results are given in Figs. 2a, b, and c.

### *Effect of pH*

At a low pH (i.e., 1.5) the  $Zn^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$  spots are in the form of fine streaks. As the pH increases (i.e., 1.5 to 6.30) the  $R_F$  values of  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Zn^{2+}$  become almost constant. There is no effect of pH on the  $R_F$  value of  $Cd^{2+}$ . The optimum pH for the separation of  $Cd^{2+}$  from  $Zn^{2+}$  and of  $Cd^{2+}$  from  $Cu^{2+}$  is  $3.3 \pm 0.5$  where the spots are comparatively compact.

At  $pH < 2$  the spot of  $Pb^{2+}$  splits into two subspots: the lower one is compact and the upper one is in the form of a fine streak. These two spots are clearly separated from each other. This behavior may be due to the formation of two chlorocomplexes of  $Pb^{2+}$ , with one being more strongly adsorbed than the other.

$Cu^{2+}$  and  $Zn^{2+}$  have high  $R_F$  values at low pH. This is because at low pH a large number of  $H^+$  ions compete with  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Zn^{2+}$  ions for the exchange sites and the equilibrium is shifted to the left (Eq. 1). The results are given in Figs. 3a, b, and c. In the case of  $Cd^{2+}$ , the  $R_F$  is already very high, so it cannot increase further.

### *Effect of Ionic Strengths*

There is no effect of ionic strength on the  $R_F$  value of  $Cd^{2+}$ . The  $Cd^{2+}$  spot remains very compact as the ionic strength increases from 1 to 6. The  $R_F$  of  $Zn^{2+}$  and  $Cd^{2+}$  decreases slightly as the ionic strength increases from 2 to 3 and then remains constant, but the  $R_F$  of  $Pb^{2+}$  increases with the ionic strength and then becomes constant. The separation of  $Cd^{2+}$  from  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ , and  $Pb^{2+}$  is possible even at higher ionic strengths, but the plates are deformed on drying. The results are given in Figs. 4a, b, and c.

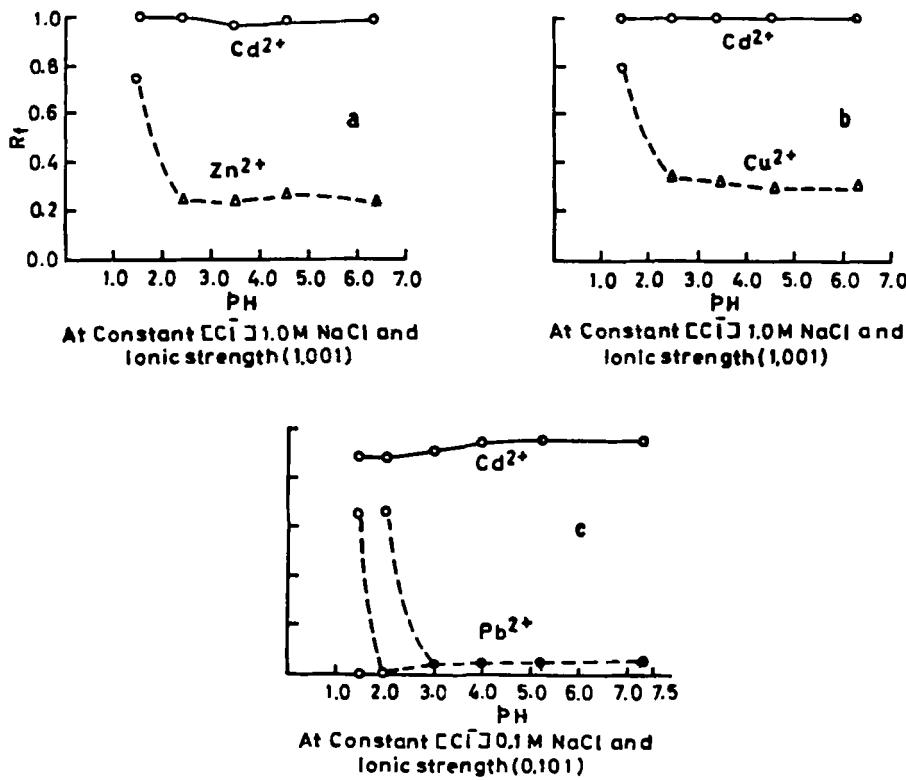


FIG. 3. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

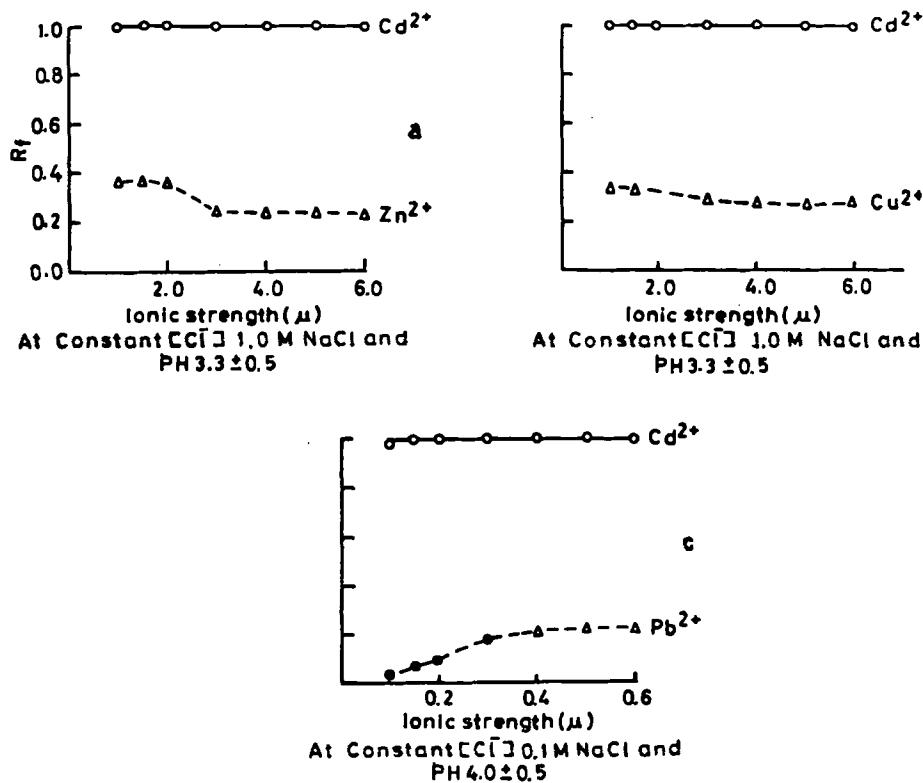


FIG. 4. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

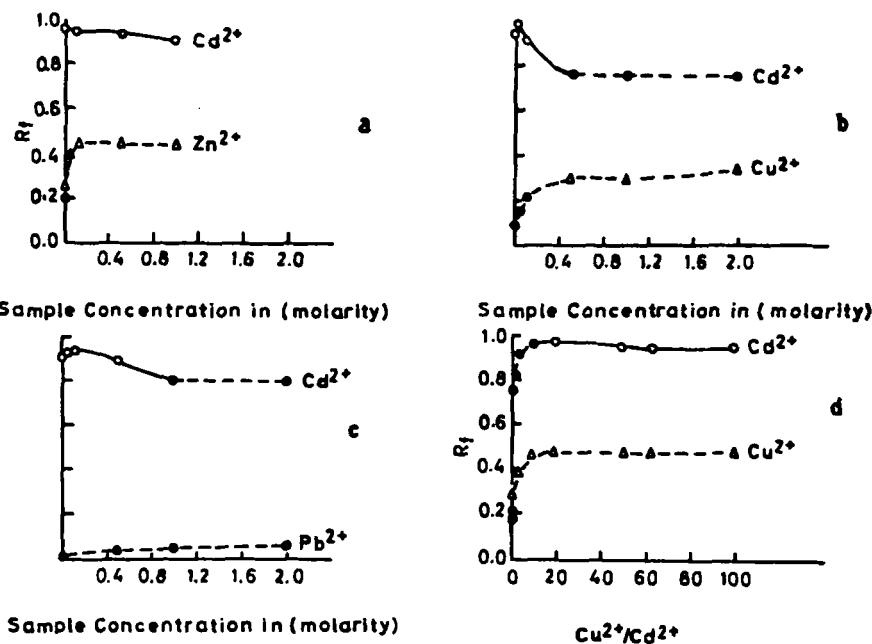


FIG. 5. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

TABLE 2

The Quantitative Separation of Cd<sup>2+</sup> from Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, and Pb<sup>2+</sup> by Thin-Layer Chromatography

Amount of Cd <sup>2+</sup> loaded (μg)	Amount of interfering metal ions loaded (μg)	Amount of Cd <sup>2+</sup> found (μg)	Percent error
Zn <sup>2+</sup>			
337.00	0.98	330.00	-2.07
1.70	2.70	1.85	+8.82
2.70	2.70	2.65	-1.85
Cu <sup>2+</sup>			
674.00	1.00	670.00	-0.59
2.70	20.00	2.80	+3.70
4.40	4.40	4.20	-4.54
Pb <sup>2+</sup>			
674.00	3.11	670.00	-0.59
2.70	1244.00	2.65	-1.85
4.40	4.40	4.30	-2.27

### Loading Effect

The  $R_F$  value of  $Zn^{2+}$  increases abruptly as the concentration of the applied solution becomes greater than 0.01  $M$ , and it becomes constant after 0.05  $M$ . Thus one cannot separate  $Zn^{2+}$  at a higher concentration ( $>2 \mu g$ ) from  $Cd^{2+}$ . The applied solution increases and separation is possible only up to 0.15  $M$  of  $Cu^{2+}$ . As the sample concentrations are increased there is very little effect on the  $R_F$  values of  $Pb^{2+}$  and  $Cd^{2+}$ . The separation of these metals is possible up to a 2.0  $M$  concentration of each metal ion.

Thus 2.70 to 337.00  $\mu g$  of  $Cd^{2+}$  can be separated from 0.98 to 2.70  $\mu g$  of  $Zn^{2+}$ . 2.70 to 674.00  $\mu g$  of  $Cd^{2+}$  can be separated from 1.00 to 20.00  $\mu g$  of  $Cu^{2+}$  and 3.11 to 1244.00  $\mu g$  of  $Pb^{2+}$ . The results are given in Figs. 5a, b, c, and d and Table 2.

### The Separation of $Cu^{2+}$ from $Ni^{2+}$ and $Co^{2+}$

In order to find the optimum conditions for the separation of these metal ions, a systematic study was made of the various important factors. The behavior of  $Cd^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$  has been discussed earlier.

#### Effect of $Cl^-$ Concentration

The  $R_F$  values of  $Ni^{2+}$  and  $Co^{2+}$  are almost independent of the  $Cl^-$  concentration. In the saturated solution of sodium chloride the  $Cu^{2+}$  spot goes along that of  $Ni^{2+}$  and separation is not possible. The separation of  $Cu^{2+}$  from  $Co^{2+}$  is possible even in saturated solutions of sodium chloride, but the deformation of plates takes place. The results are given in Figs. 6a and b.

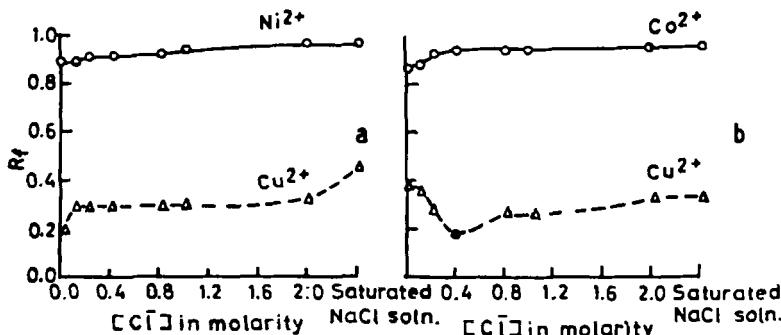


FIG. 6. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

TABLE 3

Electronegativity, Hydrated Ionic Radii in Aqueous Solution at 25°C ( $\alpha^0$  in  $A^0$ ) of Metal Ions, and Favorable pH Values at Which Certain Ions Begin to Precipitate as Hydrous Oxides

Metal ions	Electronegativity ( $\delta$ )	Hydrated (9) ionic radii	pH (10)
Ag <sup>+</sup>	1.42	1.25	9
Cd <sup>2+</sup>	1.46	2.50	8
Ni <sup>2+</sup>	1.75	3.00	8
Co <sup>2+</sup>	1.70	3.00	8
Zn <sup>2+</sup>	1.66	3.00	6
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	1.75	3.00	6
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	1.64	3.00	—
Hg <sup>2+</sup>	1.44	2.50	—
Pb <sup>2+</sup>	1.55	2.25	—
Bi <sup>3+</sup>	1.67	—	—

It is difficult to explain why Cu<sup>2+</sup> has a lower  $R_F$  than do Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup>. Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, and Co<sup>2+</sup> have almost the same electronegativity. Their hydrated radii are also the same, as shown in Table 3.

According to Kraus and Moore (7), Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, and Co<sup>2+</sup> in 2 M HCl do not form any chlorocomplex and hence their  $R_F$  should be low. But Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> have high  $R_F$  values while Cu<sup>2+</sup> has a low  $R_F$  value.

It appears that NaCl behaves differently than HCl. It is possible that when the pH of the solution is 6, copper is hydrolyzed and precipitated as Cu(OH)<sub>2</sub>. However, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> are precipitated at pH 8 and hence they are still in the form of ions. Since the NaCl concentration is high, the Na<sup>+</sup> ions compete with the Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> ions and hence these ions have high  $R_F$  values.

#### *Effect of the Addition of Acetone*

The  $R_F$  values of Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, and Co<sup>2+</sup> decrease as the acetone concentration increases. In 100% acetone (i.e., Cl<sup>-</sup> absent) the  $R_F$  values of these metal ions are zero. The optimum solvents for the separation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> from Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> are 0.20 M NaCl in 50% acetone and 0.50 M NaCl in 50% acetone, respectively. The results are given in Figs. 7a and b.

#### *Effect of pH*

The spot of Cu<sup>2+</sup> is in the form of a streak at pH 1.45 to 2.00. The  $R_F$  value of Cu<sup>2+</sup> decreases as the pH increases, but the  $R_F$  values of Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> are not affected throughout this pH range. The optimum pH

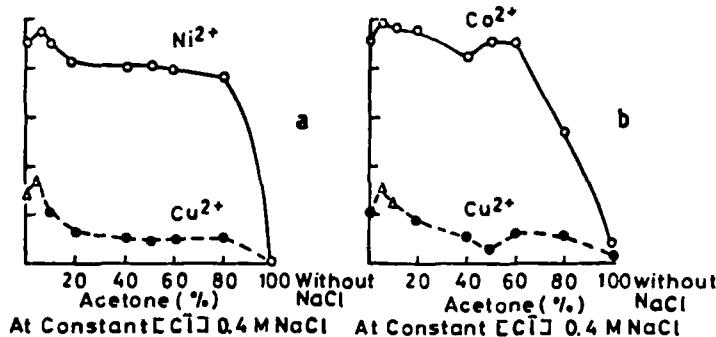


FIG. 7. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

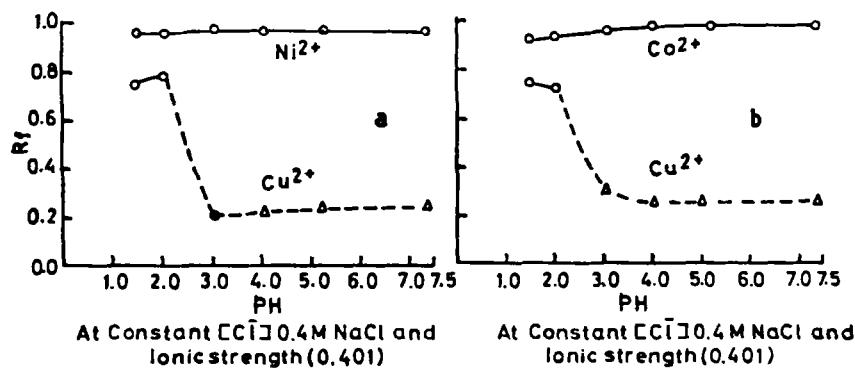


FIG. 8. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

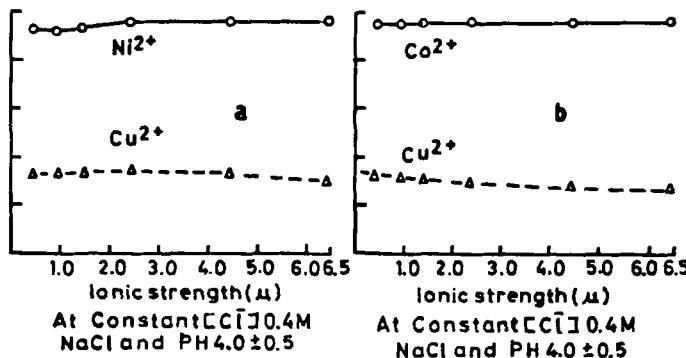


FIG. 9. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

for the separation of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  from  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  is  $4.0 \pm 0.5$ . The results are shown in Figs. 8a and b. The  $R_F$  values of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  cannot be increased further at low pH because they are already high.

#### *Effect of Ionic Strength*

There was little effect on the  $R_F$  values of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ . Separation is possible even at higher ionic strength (i.e., 6.40) but the plates are deformed on drying. The results are shown in Figs. 9a and b.

#### *Loading Effect*

The  $R_F$  value of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  increases and those of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  decrease as the concentration of metal ions increases. At higher concentrations of metal ions, the spot of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  moves with the spots of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ . Thus 5.00 to 20.00  $\mu\text{g}$  of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  can be separated from 1.00 to 360.00  $\mu\text{g}$  of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ , and 5 to 19.06  $\mu\text{g}$  of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  can be separated from 1.00 to 180.00  $\mu\text{g}$  of  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ . The results are given in Figs. 10a, b, c and Table 4.

TABLE 4  
The Quantitative Separation of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  from  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Cd}^{2+}$

Amount of $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ loaded ( $\mu\text{g}$ )	Amount of interfering metal ions ( $\mu\text{g}$ )	Amount of $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ found ( $\mu\text{g}$ )	Percent error
$\text{Ni}^{2+}$			
20.00	1.00	20.50	+2.50
10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00
5.00	180.00	5.00	0.00
5.00	360.00	5.00	0.00
$\text{Co}^{2+}$			
19.06	1.00	20.00	+4.93
10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00
5.00	18.00	5.00	0.00
5.00	180.00	5.20	+4.00
$\text{Cd}^{2+}$			
20.00	2.00	19.00	-5.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00
5.00	168.00	5.00	0.00
5.00	674.00	4.85	-3.00

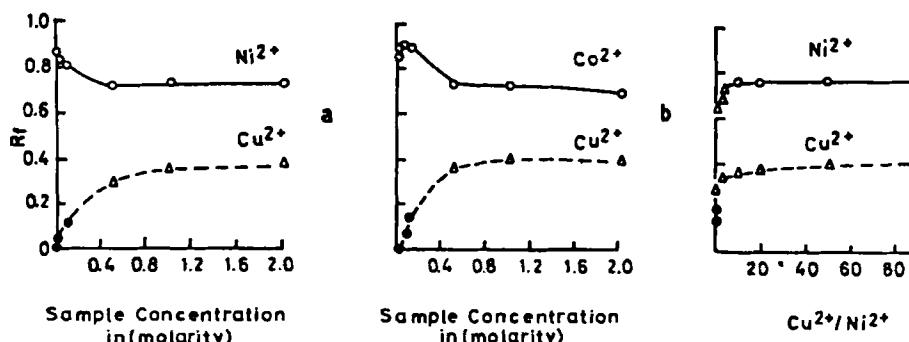


FIG. 10. See Fig. 1 for key to symbols.

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