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### 1-(2-Quinolylazo)-2,4,5-trihydroxybenzene as a Reagent for the Spectrophotometric Determination of Nickel(II) and Lead(II)

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1-(2-QUINOLYLATO)-2,4,5-TRIHYDROXYBENZENE  
AS A REAGENT FOR THE SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC  
DETERMINATION OF NICKEL(II) AND LEAD(II)

Key words: Spectrophotometry, Pb-QATB, Ni-QATB

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ABSTRACT

The reagent 1-(2-quinolylazo)-2,4,5-trihydroxybenzene (QATB) has been used for developing a method for the spectrophotometric determination of nickel (II) and lead (II). Variables influencing the sensitivity of this method such as wavelength, pH and time have been investigated. The limitations of this method and the effect of interfering ions have also been investigated. Few properties of the complexes formed between QATB and metal ions (Ni and Pb) such as composition, stability and free energy of formation have been determined.

### INTRODUCTION

The toxicity of both lead ions and nickel ions has been known for several years<sup>[1]</sup>. Understanding and controlling the toxicity effects of these ions require the development of sensitive methods of determination for these elements. In this aspect the visible and UV spectrophotometric methods of analysis have the advantage of being simple and sensitive.

Several reagents have been suggested for the determination of lead (e.g. dithizone<sup>[2]</sup>, 4-(2-pyridylazo)resorcinol<sup>[3]</sup>, Arsazen<sup>[4]</sup>, 2-(5-bromopyridylazo)-5-diethylaminophenol<sup>[5]</sup> and 3-methyl-1,2-cyclopentadione dithiosemicarbazone<sup>[6]</sup>) and for the determination of nickel (e.g. dimethylglyoxime<sup>[7]</sup>,  $\alpha$ -furildioxime<sup>[8]</sup>, 2-(2-thiazolylazo)-5-dimethylaminophenol<sup>[9]</sup>, 4-(2-pyridylazo)thymol<sup>[10]</sup> and 2-(5-bromo-2-pyridylazo)-5-diethylaminophenol<sup>[11]</sup>). The aim of this paper is to introduce a new reagent, 1-(2-quinolylazo)-2,4,5-trihydroxybenzene (QATB), for the spectrophotometric determination of lead and of nickel and to study the complexes of these elements with the reagent QATB.

### EXPERIMENTAL

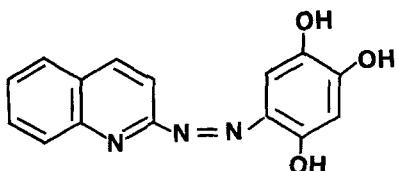
#### APPARATUS

A Bausch and Lomb 2000 Spectronic UV Spectrophotometer was used for recording the absorption spectra. A Corning pH-meter, Model 140, was used for the pH measurements.

#### REAGENTS

The QATB reagent was prepared by refluxing equimolar amounts of 2-hydrazinoquinoline (dissolved in dilute HCl) and 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-benzoquinone (dissolved in ethanol) for one hour. Ammonium hydroxide was added and the excess of ammonia was then boiled off. The product was then precipitated as brown solid and when recrystallized it turned to a dark red product with a melting point of 275°C. The structure of

this reagent is shown below<sup>[12]</sup>:



A stock solution of  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  M of the reagent QATB was prepared by dissolving the proper amount in 95% ethanol. Stock solutions of lead and of nickel ions were prepared by dissolving the proper amounts of the nitrate salt of each metal in distilled water.

The buffer solutions used were:

HCl-KCl mixtures for pH values below 2.0,

HCl-KHP mixtures for pH values between 2.0 and 4.0,

KHP-NaOH mixtures for pH values between 4.0 and 6.0,

$\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ -NaOH mixtures for pH values between 6.0 and 8.0,

Borax-HCl mixtures for pH values between 8.0 and 9.0,

Borax-NaOH mixtures for pH values between 9.0 and 10.8,

KCl-NaOH mixtures for pH values above 10.8.

All pH values used for studying the effect of pH on absorption spectra were determined experimentally after preparation and immediately before use.

All solutions were prepared from ANALAR grade reagents.

#### RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE

Transfer a sample containing not more than 25  $\mu\text{g}$  of nickel or 150  $\mu\text{g}$  lead into a 10 ml standard flask. Add 2.5 ml of buffer solution (pH 11.0 in case of nickel analysis and pH 10.5 in case of lead analysis) and then add 2.5 ml of 0.002 M QATB solution and 2.5 ml pure ethanol. Dilute to volume with distilled water and shake well. After 40 min in the case of nickel analysis or 55 min in the case of lead analysis measure the absorbance of the complex formed at 585 nm or at 610 nm for Ni-QATB

and Pb-QATB, respectively. Use 1-cm cell and read absorbance against a reagent blank. Compare the measured absorbance with preconstructed calibration curves in the range 0-2.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of nickel or 0-15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of lead to determine the concentration of nickel or lead in solution.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### ABSORPTION SPECTRA

The absorption spectra of the ligand QATB and its complexes with  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and with  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  are shown in Fig. 1. The results of this figure show that the maximum absorption of the free ligand is at 420 nm, of Ni-QATB complex is at 585 nm. These results show also that the absorption of lead gives two broad maxima at  $\approx 540$  and at  $\approx 610$  nm.

From the above it can be concluded that the suitable wavelength for the determination of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  is at 585 nm. At this wavelength the absorption of the free ligand is negligible. The best wavelength for the determination of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  is at 610 nm where no absorption from the free ligand interferes. Using the wavelength of the other maximum of absorption of Pb-QATB complex (i.e. 540 nm) is not suitable because of the high absorption of the free ligand at this wavelength.

##### COMPOSITION OF THE COMPLEXES

The composition of the complexes was determined by applying the continuous variation method and the molar ratio method. Both methods indicated the formation of 1:3 complexes of metal ion: ligand ratio for both  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  complexes with QATB.

##### THE EFFECT OF pH

The effect of pH on the formation of the Ni-QATB and the Pb-QATB complexes is shown in Fig. 2. The results show that in acidic pH range these complexes were not formed. In the alkaline pH range there was a

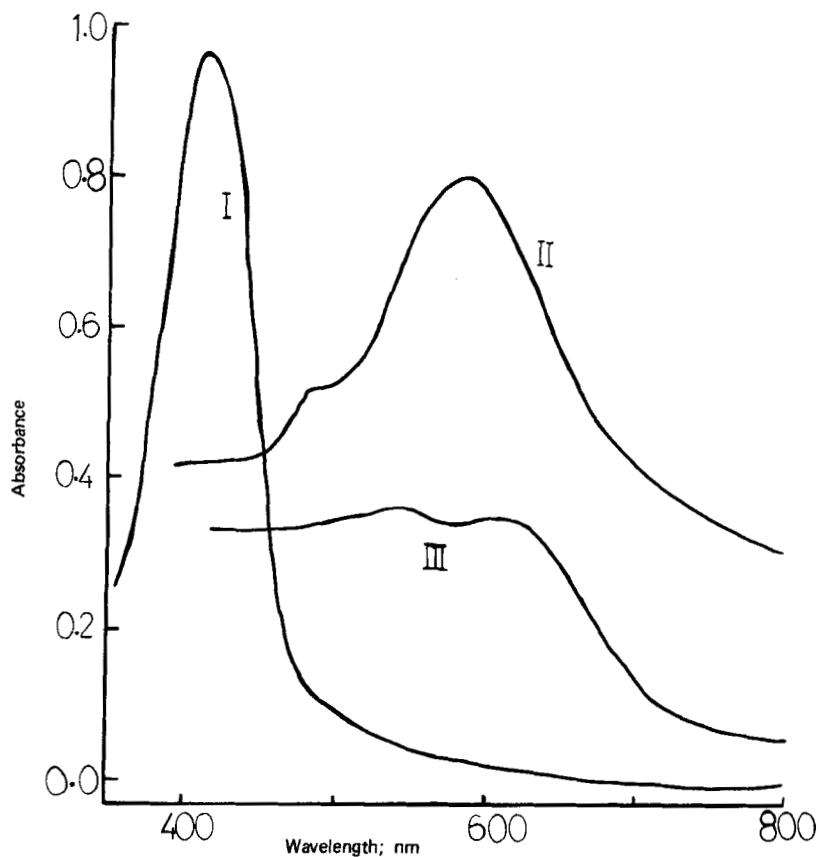


Fig. 1. Absorption spectra of: (I) QATB -  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M.  
 (II) Ni-QATB complex. ligand conc. =  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M; nickel conc. =  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M.  
 (III) Pb-QATB complex. ligand conc. =  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M; lead conc. =  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M.

great influence of pH on the formation of the two complexes with a maximum color development of Ni-QATB complex occurring at pH 11.0 and of Pb-QATB complex occurring at pH 10.5.

From the above it can be concluded that for getting the maximum sensitivity the nickel ions should be determined at pH 11.0 and the lead ions should be determined at pH 10.5.

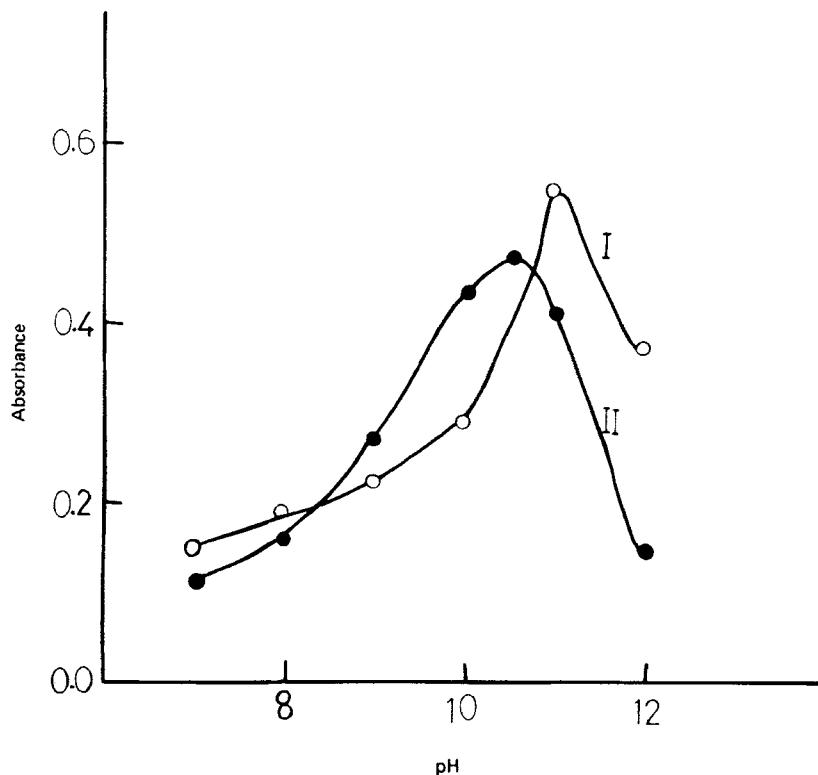


Fig. 2. Effect of pH on complex formation:

(I) Ni-QATB complex;  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  conc. =  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M, QATB conc. =  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M.  
 (II) Pb-QATB complex;  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  conc. =  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M, QATB conc. =  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M.

#### STABILITY OF THE COMPLEXES

QATB forms bluish red complexes with  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and with  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . The color of the Ni-QATB complex develops fully within 40 min and remains stable up to twelve hours. The color of the Pb-QATB complex develops fully within 55 min and remains stable up to twelve hours.

The average value of the apparent stability constant ( $\beta$ ) was determined from the results of the molar ratio and the continuous variation

methods and found to be  $2.39 \times 10^{11}$  for the Ni-QATB complex and  $2.98 \times 10^{11}$  for the Pb-QATB complex. The free energy change of formation of the complexes were calculated using the relation  $\Delta G^{\circ} = - RT \ln \beta$  and were found to be - 15.67 and - 15.54 K cal/mol for the Ni-QATB complex and for the Pb-QATB complex, respectively.

#### BEER'S LAW AND MOLAR ABSORBTIVITY

Measuring the absorbance of standards of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  solutions at pH 11.0 using the wavelength of 585 nm gave a straight relationship between absorbance and nickel concentration, in accordance with Beer's law, in the range 0 - 2.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ .

Measuring the absorbance of standards of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  solutions at pH 10.5 using the wavelength of 610 nm gave the range 0-15  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  as a range for application of Beer's law.

The average molar absorptivity ( $\epsilon$ ) of the complexes was calculated using the linear portion of Beer's law plots and found to be  $1.79 \times 10^3$  and  $4.34 \times 10^3 \text{ liters} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  for Ni-QATB and for Pb-QATB complexes, respectively.

#### THE EFFECT OF FOREIGN IONS

Several ions were investigated for their interferences with the formation of Ni-QATB and Pb-QATB complexes. This was done by measuring the absorbance of complex in presence of 200:1 ratio of foreign ion:metal ion. The concentration of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  used was  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  M and the measured absorbance for this concentration was 0.49. The concentration of  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$  used was also  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  M and the measured absorbance for this concentration was 0.25. The deviations in the absorbance reading caused by the presence of foreign ions are given in Table 1.

From the above results it can be concluded that: (i) most of the common cations such as the alkali and alkaline earth metals (except potassium)

TABLE 1  
The Effect of Foreign Ions on the Absorbance of Ni-QATB and  
of Pb-QATB complexes

Cation	Deviation in absorbance of complex		Anion	Deviation in absorbance of complex	
	Ni-QATB	Pb-QATB		Ni-QATB	Pb-QATB
Al <sup>3+</sup>	- 0.25	- 0.16	Br <sup>-</sup>	0.00	0.00
Ba <sup>2+</sup>	0.00	0.00	CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup>	0.00	0.00
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	0.00	0.00	Cl <sup>-</sup>	0.00	0.00
Cd <sup>2+</sup>	0.00	0.00	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.75	1.46
Ce <sup>3+</sup>	0.00	0.00	C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	ppt	ppt
Co <sup>2+</sup>	0.00	0.00	HPO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	- 0.05	0.27
Cr <sup>3+</sup>	0.44	0.51	I <sup>-</sup>	0.00	0.00
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	0.05	0.25	NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.00	0.00
K <sup>+</sup>	0.48	0.12	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.28	0.18
La <sup>3+</sup>	- 0.10	- 0.02	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.00	0.00
Mg <sup>2+</sup>	0.00	0.00	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	0.00	0.00
Mn <sup>2+</sup>	+ 0.26	- 0.06			
Na <sup>+</sup>	0.00	0.00			
Ni <sup>2+</sup>	-	- 0.06			
Pb <sup>2+</sup>	0.01	-			
Zn <sup>2+</sup>	- 0.19	- 0.08			
Y <sup>3+</sup>	- 0.18	- 0.08			

do not interfere with the formation of both Ni-QATB and Pb-QATB complexes, (ii) potassium ion interferes highly with the formation of both complexes and should be avoided during the determination of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ , (iii) other cations such as  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Y}^{3+}$  also interfere with the formation of both complexes and should be avoided during the determination of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ , (iv) all common anions except  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  anions do not interfere with the determination of nickel or lead.

#### COMPARISON WITH OTHER REAGENTS

The reagent QATB provides a method for the spectrophotometric determination of nickel and lead in aqueous solutions. This method is simple, direct, and sensitive enough for determining traces of nickel or lead in solution. Although the sensitivity of the present method is not the best amongst the spectrophotometric methods using other reagents for the determination of lead or nickel but it is still more sensitive than several reagents used for this purpose. In addition, this method has the advantage of not requiring extraction. This avoids several problems of extraction which accompany the use of many of the more sensitive spectrophotometric reagents used for the determination of nickel or lead in solution.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The reagent QATB is a useful and sensitive reagent for the spectrophotometric determination of both  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . It forms bluish red complexes with either  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ . These complexes become stable after 40 min in the case of Ni-QATB complex and after 55 min in the case of Pb-QATB and both complexes stay stable after that for at least up to twelve hours.

For maximum sensitivity the pH used for the determination of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  should be 11.0 and the wavelength used should be 585 nm. The pH used for

the sensitive determination of  $Pb^{2+}$  should be 10.5 and the wavelength should be 610 nm.

Beer's law is applicable, using the present method, in the range 0-2.5  $\mu g/ml$  for  $Ni^{2+}$  and 0-15  $\mu g/ml$  for  $Pb^{2+}$ . The average molar absorptivity ( $\epsilon$ ) of the Ni-QATB complex is  $1.79 \times 10^3$  and of Pb-QATB is  $4.34 \times 10^3$   $liters. mol^{-1}. cm^{-1}$ .

Both  $Ni^{2+}$  and  $Pb^{2+}$  complexes with QATB are formed in the ratio 1:3 of metal ion:ligand. The average apparent stability constants ( $\beta$ ) of the formed complexes are  $2.39 \times 10^{11}$  and  $2.98 \times 10^{11}$  for Ni-QATB and Pb-QATB, respectively. The free energy change of formation ( $\Delta G^0$ ) of the complexes are - 15.67 and - 15.54 K cal/mol for Ni-QATB and Pb-QATB, respectively.

The Reagent QATB forms colored complexes with a number of ions and these interfere with the determination of  $Ni^{2+}$  or  $Pb^{2+}$ . These ions include  $K^+$ ,  $Cr^{3+}$ ,  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Y^{3+}$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ , and  $NO_3^-$ . All other common cations and anions do not interfere with the determination of nickel or lead when the foreign ion is present in up to two hundred folds of concentration of  $Ni^{2+}$  or  $Pb^{2+}$ .

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