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ON THE INTERACTION BETWEEN AZIDE AND MANGANESE IONS AT SEVERAL OXIDATION STATES

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ABSTRACT

The interaction between azide and manganese ions, at several oxidation states (II, III, IV, V, VI and VII), has been investigated in aqueous medium at $25.0 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ and ionic strength $2.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ (NaClO_4). Spectral data were obtained from absorbance measurements in order to calculate the molar absorptivity. The molar absorptivity values calculated, at 430 nm, for $[\text{Mn}(\text{N}_3)_3]$, $[\text{Mn}(\text{N}_3)_4]^-$ and $[\text{Mn}(\text{N}_3)_5]^{2-}$ were 230, 3,700 and $6,600 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$, respectively. Mn(IV) and Mn(V) are not stable in azide aqueous solution medium and spectral characteristics are similar to $\text{Mn}(\text{III})/\text{N}_3^-$ complexes. Additions of permanganate or manganese(VI) solution, as K_2MnO_4 , to several azide buffers solutions,

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N_3^-/HN_3 , have produced species which have shown similar spectral characteristics with $\bar{\epsilon} \cong 10^4 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ at 438 nm.

Key Words: Azide; Manganese; Spectrophotometric studies

INTRODUCTION

It has been shown that azide medium, $[\text{N}_3^-] = 0.5 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ($\text{pH} = 5.5$) is an optimal experimental condition, representing a sensitive analytical method, for the determination of S(IV) in environmental samples as the hydrolysis product of SF_6 ¹. This reaction was based on the Co(II) induced autoxidation, as formerly studied by P. Senise², since the concentration of Co(III) azide complex formed is a linear relationship with the initial S(IV) concentration. As the molar absorptivity of Co(III) at 365 nm is high ($\bar{\epsilon} \cong 22,000 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$), it is possible to determine S(IV) in the range of 10^{-6} to $10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$.

The synergistic effect of the Mn(II) ions on the S(IV) induced autoxidation of metal ions, accelerates the entire process, such that Mn(II) becomes essential in the working solution³. This synergistic effect has been the object of other studies involving the autoxidation of metal ions, such as Fe(II)⁴ and Co(II)⁵, with an interpretative study where free radical formation takes an important role in the process^{4,5}.

This paper deals with the interaction between manganese with azide ions in aqueous solution in order to obtain some additional information about spectrophotometric characteristics of the manganese ion at several oxidation states in azide medium.

EXPERIMENTAL

Reagents

All reagents were from AR or CP specification from Merck or Fluka Chemie A. G. Sodium perchlorate solution ($5.00 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) utilized to make up the ionic strength of working solutions, was standardized by taking small volume of the solution and drying in an oven at 120°C until constant weight.

Manganese(II) perchlorate solution ($1.80 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) was prepared from the direct reaction of excess carbonate with $6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ perchloric acid for 2 days, constantly stirring at room temperature. After filtering, free



perchloric acid was used to adjust pH to 5.5, in order to avoid hydrolysis. Standardization was carried out by complexometric titration with EDTA⁶.

Sodium azide solution ($4.80 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) was prepared directly from the salt. Standardization was carried out by adding a known volume of standard sulfuric acid solution, boiling to remove volatile hydrazoic acid, HN_3 , followed by back titration of the remaining strong acid with standard sodium hydroxide solution.

Standard perchloric acid solution ($2.00 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) was added to the working solutions to displace hydrazoic acid from the azide ions to promote a buffer solution.

Potassium permanganate solution was prepared and standardized using the conventional method⁷.

Potassium manganate(VI) solution and sodium manganate(V) salt were prepared as described in the literature⁸.

Hydrogen peroxide solution ($0.01 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) was prepared by dilution from concentrated reagent (30% v/v) and standardized by using KMnO_4 solution⁷.

In order to keep such working solutions free from oxygen, all standard solutions were previously bubbled with purified nitrogen before mixing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The $\text{Mn(II)}/\text{N}_3^-$ Complexes

Recent studies of Mn(II) in azide buffers solutions, N_3^-/HN_3 , lead to four stepwise overall constants ($\beta_1 = 4.15 \text{ M}^{-1}$, $\beta_2 = 6.61 \text{ M}^{-2}$, $\beta_3 = 3.33 \text{ M}^{-3}$ and $\beta_4 = 0.63 \text{ M}^{-4}$)⁹ and showed a tendency to change colour of the solution with a formation of brownish Mn(III) azide complexes, which have a maximum absorbance peak at 430 nm (Fig. 1). Spontaneous oxidation of Mn(II) to Mn(III) by dissolved oxygen or hydrazoic acid took place at azide concentrations higher than $0.5 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and it was markedly dependent on HN_3 concentration (Fig. 2).

Figure 1 shows the absorbance changes at 430 nm due to the spontaneous oxidation of Mn(II), by dissolved oxygen, in air saturated azide buffer solutions containing Mn(II). The oxidation is more effective at high azide concentration ($E^{\text{o}}/\text{Mn(III)}/\text{Mn(II)} = 0.42 \text{ V}$ vs. SCE, in $\text{N}_3^- = 1.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.01 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$)¹⁰. In the absence of oxygen the oxidation is almost non existent under small HN_3 concentration ($5.0 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$).

Figure 2 shows that the oxidation depends on the HN_3 concentration, so hydrazoic acid or oxygen can act as oxidizing agent (Eqns. 1 and 2):



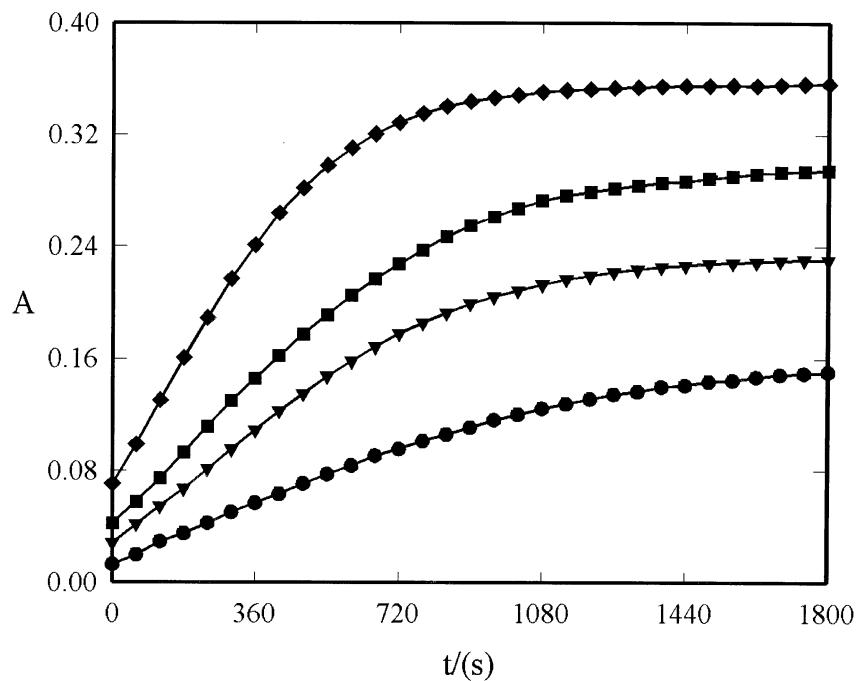
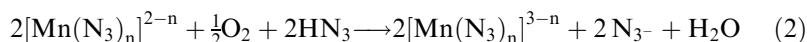
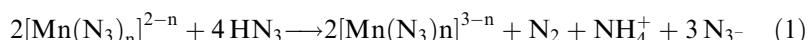


Figure 1. Absorbance changes of air saturated solutions of $\text{Mn}(\text{II})/\text{N}_3^-$. $\text{Mn}(\text{II}) = 1.0 \times 10^{-1} \cdot \text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 5.0 \times 10^{-2} \cdot \text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \cdot \text{N}_3^-$: $\bullet = 1.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\blacktriangledown = 1.2 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\blacksquare = 1.4 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\blacklozenge = 1.6 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. $\lambda = 430 \text{ nm}$, path-length = 1.00 cm.



The $\text{Mn}(\text{III})/\text{N}_3^-$ Complexes

The $\text{Mn}(\text{III})$ (10^{-6} to $10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) was generated by coulometric oxidation in a solution containing a large excess of $\text{Mn}(\text{II})$ ($0.5 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) in the N_3^-/HN_3 buffer at constant ionic strength¹⁰. The overall formation constants for the $\text{Mn}(\text{III})/\text{N}_3^-$ system are: $\beta_1 = 1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$, $\beta_2 = 6.0 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-2}$, $\beta_3 = 2.4 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-3}$, $\beta_4 = 1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-4}$ and $\beta_5 = 9.6 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-5}$. The β_1 and β_2 constants were obtained by graphic extrapolation¹⁰.



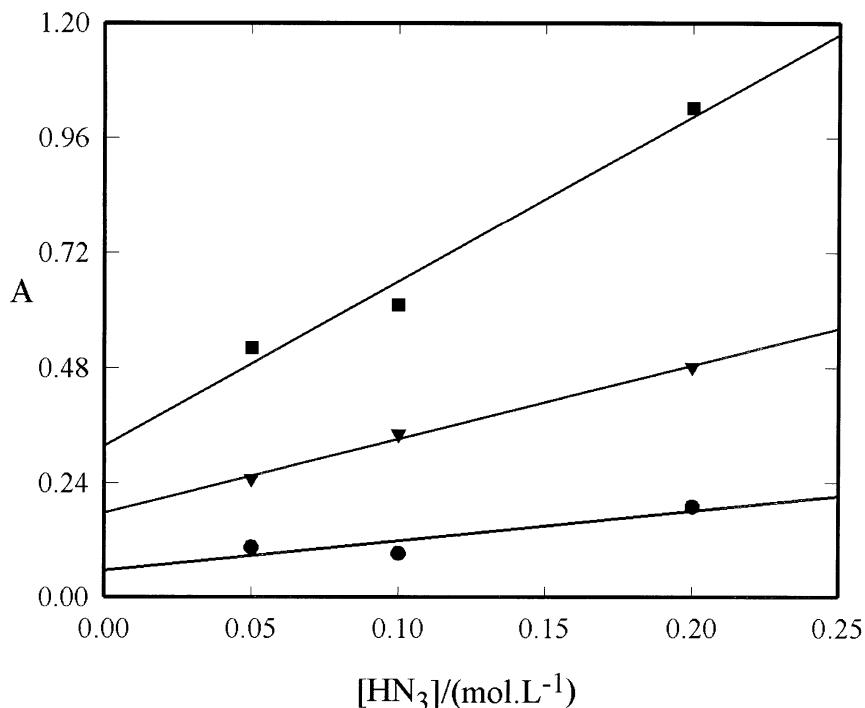


Figure 2. Absorbance changes of $1.0 \times 10^{-1} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ Mn(II), in several HN_3/N_3^- buffers solutions, Initially prepared in absence of air. N_3^- : $\bullet = 0.5 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\nabla = 1.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\blacksquare = 1.5 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. $\lambda = 430 \text{ nm}$, Path-length = 1.00 cm. Measurements after 50 minutes keeping the solution in contact of air without stirring.

Determination of the Molar Absorptivity for Each Species in the $\text{Mn}(\text{III})/\text{N}_3^-$ System

The average molar absorptivity, at the maximum absorbance peak of 430 nm, increases with azide concentration (0.44 to $3.9 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) from $3,100$ to $6,600 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$, showing a stepwise complex formation¹⁰. Measurements in solutions containing free azide concentration lower than $0.44 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ were not considered because the Mn(III) complexes becomes unstable and the brownish colour fades.

The average molar absorptivity, $\bar{\epsilon}$, at 430 nm at a given free ligand concentration is:

$$\bar{\epsilon} = \frac{A}{C_{\text{Mn}} \cdot b} \quad (3)$$



where A is the absorbance of the solution with C_{Mn} , the total concentration of Mn(III), and b is the pathlength.

The method used to calculate the molar absorptivity of each $Mn(III)/N_3^-$ complex species is based on the equation:

$$\bar{\epsilon} = \frac{(\epsilon_0 + \beta_1 \cdot [N_3^-] \cdot \epsilon_1 + \beta_2 \cdot [N_3^-]^2 \cdot \epsilon_2 + \dots + \beta_n \cdot [N_3^-]^n \cdot \epsilon_n)}{(1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \beta_n \cdot [N_3^-]^n)} \quad (4)$$

And the free azide concentration can be calculated using:

$$[N_3^-] = C_{N_3^-} - [HN_3] - n_{II} \cdot [Mn(II)] - n_{III} \cdot [Mn(III)] \quad (5)$$

where n_{II} and n_{III} are the average ligand numbers calculated with stability constants of Mn(II) and Mn(III) azide complexes, respectively¹⁰.

Since that in the ligand range concentration studied (0.44 to $1.8 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) only the $[Mn(N_3)_3]$, $[Mn(N_3)_4]^-$ and $[Mn(N_3)_5]^{2-}$ species are present, the average molar absorptivity at higher azide concentration ($2.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$) refers to the last species ($\epsilon_5 = 6,600 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$)¹⁰.

The equation (4) can be written as:

$$\Phi = \frac{\bar{\epsilon} \cdot (1 + \sum_{n=1}^5 \beta_n \cdot [N_3^-]^n) - \beta_5 \cdot [N_3^-]^5 \cdot \epsilon_5}{\beta_3 \cdot [N_3^-]^3} = \epsilon_3 + \frac{\beta_4 \cdot [N_3^-]}{\beta_3} \cdot \epsilon_4 \quad (6)$$

From this equation, where $\epsilon_5 = 6,600$, ϵ_3 and ϵ_4 can be calculated from the intercept and the slope of the straight line Φ vs. $\beta_4 \cdot [N_3^-]/\beta_3$.

The molar absorptivity values calculated, at 430 nm, for $[Mn(N_3)_3]$, $[Mn(N_3)_4]^-$ and $[Mn(N_3)_5]^{2-}$ species were 230, 3,700 and $6,600 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$, respectively.

Mn(IV) in Azide Medium

Kinetic studies performed in extremely high concentrated acid perchloric¹² and acetic¹³ medium have shown that complexes manganese(IV)/ N_3^- can be formed as intermediate species from the reaction between manganese(III) and HN_3 .

To evaluate the possible formation and stability of Mn(IV) complexes in azide medium, spectrophotometric measurements have been made by two different ways. The first step was the preparation of Mn(IV), as $MnO(OH)_2$,



freshly precipitated, by adding NaOH solution in the presence of dissolved oxygen or NaOH/H₂O₂ mixture, to Mn(II) (5.10^{-4} mol · L⁻¹) solution. After some minutes, to allow the complete precipitation, a solution of NaClO₄ was carefully added drop by drop. Then a buffer solution of N₃⁻/HN₃ (in the range N₃⁻ = 1.0 to 2.0 mol · L⁻¹ and HN₃ = 0.05 to 1.0 mol · L⁻¹) was added and all precipitate was completely dissolved with the solution homogenization. This procedure avoids the instantaneous mixing of the reagents because the more concentrated solution of NaClO₄ does not allow the direct contact of the reagents. Absorption spectra of these solutions were coincident with the one obtained for Mn(III)/N₃⁻ solution. The second way was made using commercial MnO₂. When this oxide is added to the buffer the solubilization is much slower (about 2 days), and the obtained solution shows the same spectrophotometric characteristics of the Mn(III)/N₃⁻ complexes. Thus, we could not conclude the presence of Mn(IV) in the presence of N₃⁻/HN₃ buffer solution.

Mn(V) in Azide Medium

Mn(V) is uncommon and is only known as manganate, which is not stable in aqueous solution. When manganese(V), as a light blue salt Na₃MnO₄ · 10H₂O⁸, was added to a N₃⁻/HN₃ buffer solution, a brownish colour appeared. The spectra of this solution is very similar to the Mn(III)/N₃⁻ solution. Nevertheless, no quantitative conclusion could be achieved since the water content of the salt, Na₃MnO₄ · xH₂O, could not be determined.

Mn(VI) and Mn(VII) in Azide Medium

The azide ion is thermodynamically unstable and is potentially a very powerful reducing agent, as inferred from the standard reduction potential of the N₂/N₃⁻ system of -3.4 V¹⁴. In spite of that, the reactivity of the ligand toward oxidizing agents is fairly low under a variety of conditions and in the absence of a catalyst. The ligand is not oxidized by MnO₄⁻ or H₂O₂ in alkaline medium¹⁵. Hydrazoic acid, HN₃, is much more reactive and can be oxidized by strong oxidizing agents such as MnO₄⁻, Ce(IV) and Cr₂O₇²⁻. The stabilization of Mn(III) is possible only due to the inertia of the azide ions towards oxidation.

However, previous qualitative studies have shown that addition of KMnO₄ solution to a different buffer azide solution (*e.g.*, N₃⁻ = 2.5 mol · L⁻¹ and HN₃ = 0.5 mol · L⁻¹) produces evolution of nitrogen but



also the reduction of Mn(VII) to a species which has a high molar absorptivity value at 438 nm¹⁶.

In the present work several quantitative experiments were carried out in order to obtain more information about this manganese ion, at higher oxidation state, which can have some analytical interest due the high molar absorptivity value at 438 nm.

Small volumes of KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 solutions were added to N_3^-/HN_3 buffer, at ionic strength $2.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ kept with NaClO_4 . The final concentration in azide ion were 0.050, 1.00 and $1.50 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, and HN_3 0.050, 0.1 and $0.2 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. The final concentrations of manganese, as KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 , were 1.25×10^{-5} and $2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. The

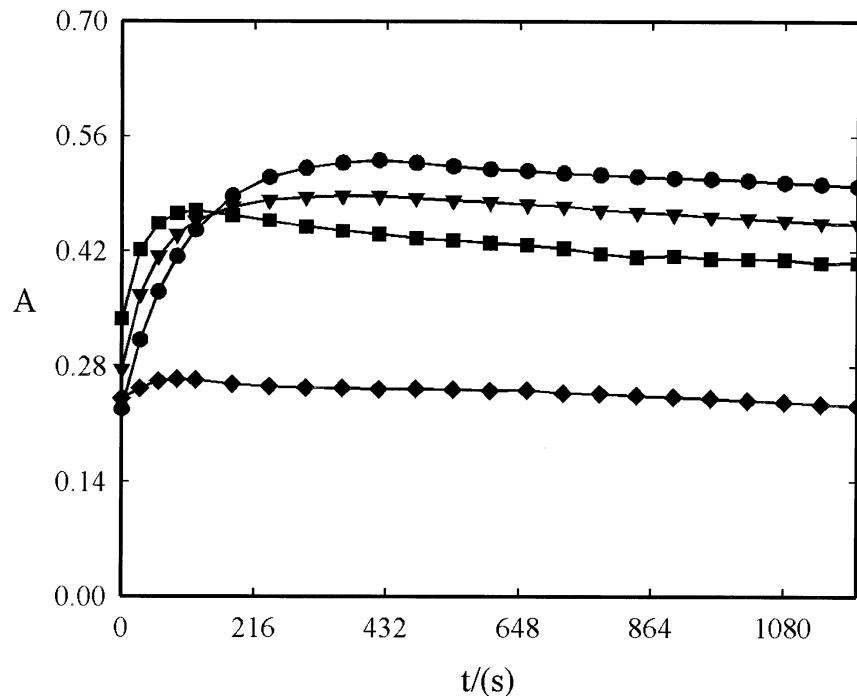


Figure 3. Absorbance changes, at 438 nm, After addition of Mn(VII) or Mn(VI) solutions in a different azide buffer. (●: $\text{KMnO}_4 = 2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.05 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, ▼: $\text{KMnO}_4 = 2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.10 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, ■: $\text{KMnO}_4 = 2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.20 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and ◆: $\text{K}_2\text{MnO}_4 = 1.25 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.1 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. $\text{N}_3^- = 1.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, path length = 1.00 cm, reference solution: $\text{KMnO}_4 = 2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ or $\text{K}_2\text{MnO}_4 = 1.25 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, freshly prepared and in a absence of buffer).



absorption spectra (300–500 nm) presented a maximum absorption peak at 438 nm, when KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 were used.

The manganese ion complex formed, when KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 were added, was quite stable in a azide buffer solution $\text{N}_3^- = 1.00 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.050 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. This manganese species formed is stable for about 10 minutes and then the absorbance value slowly decrease (Fig. 3).

The molar absorptivity calculated at 438 nm is approximately $2 \times 10^4 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ order of magnitude, which is about nine times higher than permanganate ion in aqueous solution, in a non complexing medium, and about three times higher than the $[\text{Mn}(\text{N}_3)_5]^{2-}$ species ($\epsilon = 6,600 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$).

Thus, this species formed by addition of KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 to a N_3^-/HN_3 buffer must be neither Mn(VII) nor Mn(III), which has much smaller molar absorptivity, at 430 nm.

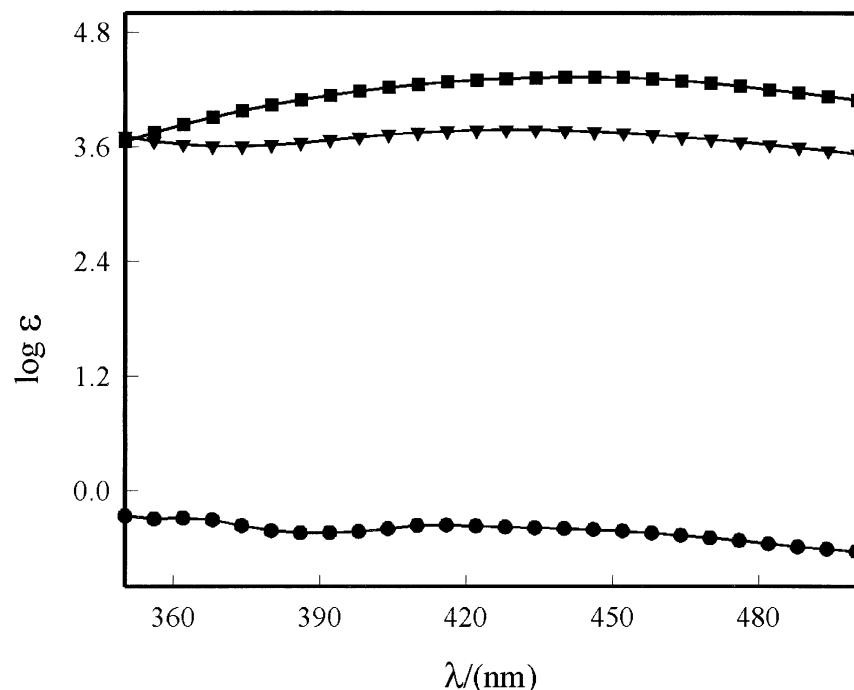


Figure 4. Logarithm of the average molar absorptivity, $\bar{\epsilon}$, for each species of manganese ion as a function of wavelength. ● = Mn(II), ▼ = Mn(III), ■ = probably Mn(VI) obtained by addition of KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 in a azide buffer solution ($\text{N}_3^- = 1.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ and $\text{HN}_3 = 0.10 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$).



It is interesting to note that the formation and stability in solution of this unusual manganese species depends on the concentration and Ph value of the N_3^-/HN_3 buffer (Fig. 3). This species formation was not observed in the absence of HN_3 . At lower acidity the reaction is slower and is much faster at higher acidity ($0.20 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1} \text{ HN}_3$) and at N_3^- concentration higher than $3.0 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ as well.

The results were similar when KMnO_4 or K_2MnO_4 solution were employed, since the average molar absorptivity is about the same (Fig. 4).

This unusual manganese species could be Mn(VI) , although MnO_2^{2+} has not been described in the literature thus far.

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