

Quantitative Determination of Sugars with Ammonium Metavanadate Reagent: Micro Analysis of Medicinal Compounds

Kumari Anita Sinha¹, Afshan Suraiya¹ and R. P. S. Chauhan^{2,*}

¹(Department of Chemistry, G. B. M. College, Gaya, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar 824234)

²(PG Department of Chemistry, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Bihar 824234)

*Corresponding author: R. P. S. Chauhan

Abstract: The current study shows that taking advantage of the oxidizing capacity of ammonium metavanadate (v) with certain organic compounds, the oxidation of certain sugars was studied an accurate and quantitative procedure has been described for the determination of certain mono and disaccharides on micro scale. 1-5 mg of sample was allowed to react with excess of ammonium metavanadate (v) for about 30 (monosaccharides) to 40 (disaccharides) minutes at 40°C temp. The unreacted ammonium metavanadate (v) was titrated against ferrous ammonium sulphate using N-Phenylanthranilic acid as indicator. A blank was also run under identical conditions and the recovery of the sugars was calculated. For establishing exact reaction condition following variables were carried out.

Background: Drugs are substances or products that are used or intended to be used to modify or explore physiological systems or pathological states for the benefit of the recipient. It is only logical that these drugs might arise from several sources. The sources of drugs have travelled through a complete arc, being derived mainly from natural sources in the early centuries to being synthetically manufactured today. Lindberg and Missionry employed sodium borohydride as the reductant for determining carbohydrates. The sample was dissolved in water and treated with solution of sodium borohydride. After the reaction is completed the residual borohydride is determined by measuring the hydrogen evolved upon the addition of acid. Peat, Whelan and Roberts' determined the degree of polymerization of reducing oligosaccharides, by means of sodium borohydride.

Materials and Methods: Aliquots, containing 1.5 mg of the sample were taken in 100 ml Erlenmeyer flask followed by the addition of 1 ml of 0.3 N, V(v) reagent and 5 ml of 10 N sulphuric acid. The reaction contents were shaken gently and kept on a boiling water bath for 30 minutes. After the reaction was over the reaction mixture was cooled at room temperature. The unconsumed V(v) reagent was titrated against 0.025N ferrous ammonium sulphate using N-phenyl anthranilic acid as an indicator.

Results: In the view of the above reactions and considering the amount of ammonium metavanadate (v) consumed per mole of the sugars the following reaction mechanism are proposed for complete oxidation of mono and disaccharides. It has been found that sugars containing aldehydic group are oxidized to formic acid only. In case of Ketonic sugars also formic acid is the end product but ketonic group appear to be oxidized to carbon dioxide. Xylose which is a pentose is oxidized as follows with V(v) reagent. Disaccharide consume 26 equivalents of V(v). On the basis of the following oxidation reaction is proposed for disaccharides. The proposed method has been applied for the determination of monosaccharide and disaccharide using 0.3N, V(v) reagent. The sample size of determination ranges from 1 to 5 mg and error does not exceed + 1%.

Conclusion: The current study shows that taking advantage of the oxidizing capacity of ammonium metavanadate (v) with certain organic compounds, the oxidation of certain sugars was studied an accurate and quantitative procedure has been described for the determination of certain mono and disaccharides on micro scale. 1-5 mg of sample was allowed to react with excess of ammonium metavanadate (v) for about 30 (monosaccharides) to 40 (disaccharides) minutes at 40°C temp. The unreacted ammonium metavanadate (v) was titrated against ferrous ammonium sulphate using N-Phenyl anthranilic acid as indicator. A blank was also run under identical conditions and the recovery of the sugars was calculated. For establishing exact reaction condition following variables were carried out.

Key Word: Sugars, Ammonium Metavanadate Reagent, Medicinal Compounds

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I. Introduction

Drugs are substances or products that are used or intended to be used to modify or explore physiological systems or pathological states for the benefit of the recipient. These drugs might arise from several sources. The sources of drugs have travelled through a complete arc, being derived mainly from natural sources in the early centuries to being synthetically manufactured today.

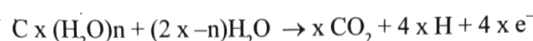
Lindberg and Missionry^{1,2} employed sodium borohydride as the reductant for determining carbohydrates. The sample was dissolved in water and treated with solution of sodium borohydride. After the reaction is completed the residual borohydride is determined by measuring the hydrogen evolved upon the addition of acid. Peat, Whelan and Roberts' determined the degree of polymerization of reducing oligosaccharides, by means of sodium borohydride.

Colorimetric methods are also available for the determination of sugars. The first procedures were developed by Flouin and Wu⁴ in 1919 which is based in the conversion of cupric ions to the cuprous sulphate by the presence of reducing sugars. The cuprous ions subsequently reduce phosphotungstic acid to a blue complex which is measured calorimetrically. Dearing⁵ described a micro method for the estimation of cellulose. Wahba and Coworkers⁶ converted glucose to glucosazone and measured the yellow colour of its solution. Shallenberger and Mooros⁷ developed the colour with a reagent containing copper sulphate and arsenomolybdates and measured the solution at 500mg. Various phenolic compounds have been recommended for the colorimetric determination of carbohydrates. Dubois⁸ used phenol for the determination of reducing sugars. Tillmans⁹ determined the reducing sugars with the use of thymol. Sorenson, Fisher and Lindh¹⁰⁻¹² used resorcinol and phloroglucinol for the determination of reducing sugars.

Livingston, Maurmeyer and Worthman¹³ described a specific method for fructose which is based on the formation of green colour when the sample is treated with concentrated sulphuric acid and phenol then diluted with glacial acetic acid. Nitro compounds have also been used for the determination of carbohydrates as the colorimetric reagents. Kestermann used picric acid for the determination of carbohydrates. While others used 3,4- dinitrobenzoic acid, dinitrosalicylic acid, 2,4-dinitrophenyl-sulphoner, p-aminosalicylic acid¹⁴ and o-aminodiphenyl¹⁵ for the determination of aldose. Anthrone has also been used for the quantitative analysis of carbohydrates. Helbert and Brown reported that colour is unstable and varies with temperature and time. Cheronis and Co-workers¹⁶ determined reducing sugar using tetrazolium salts. Hass and Lynch²² developed a method for the

determination of carbohydrates. Mayer and Isbel²³ employed radioactivity and determined end groups in carbohydrates. Browne²⁴ determined carbohydrates by biological methods. Figueiredo²⁵ have developed an improved complexometric method for the analysis of reducing sugars. Amongst the various oxidimetric methods for the determination of sugars, cuprimetry has been of great use from early times. Divalent copper complexed with tartarate or citrate in alkaline medium known as Fehling's solution²⁶⁻²⁹ and Benedict's solution respectively.

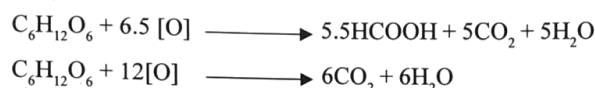
A number of attempts have been made to modify the cuprimetry with greater advantages. Eschmann³² and Eschmann and Co-workers replaced tartaric and citrate with EDTA and claimed to get better results. In a series of papers published by Ablov and Batyr³⁴⁻³⁸ and Kats and Shoikhet³⁷ trihydroxy glutarate complex of Cu has been used as oxidising agent for sugars where in many irregularities attending Fehling's and Benedict's method have been claimed to be removed. Likewise, Rebege³⁸ and Rebege and coworkers³⁹ used cuprithiosalicylate as oxidising agent and have determined sucrose, fructose and glucose empirically. Celsi and Sarraioxidised glucose, sucrose and lactose with Cu(II) in the mixture of K₂CO₃ and KCNS. The precipitated CuSCN was estimated using Fe(III) and Ag(I). Defrates and castles estimated reducing sugars with Fehling's solution using electrometric end point detector. Potassium ferricyanide has been widely used in determining sugar^{42, 48}. According to Blom and Rosted⁴⁹ this method of estimation so sugars with ferricyanide is much inferior to cuprimetry method in as much as ferricyanide procedures, side reactions and it attacks other organic substances present in the sugar. Lately there have been good deal of attempts to regularise the oxidation of sugars with ferricyanide better results have been claimed when sugar is treated against a boiling alkaline solution of hexacyanoferrate (III)⁵⁰. Yamagishi and Yoko⁵¹ using phosphate buffer instead of carbonate and bicarbonate showed enhanced regularity in the determination of sugars. They also found that under these conditions, sucrose, trehalose and cellulose were oxidized with ferricyanide. Zelawski and Co-workers⁵², Wollslieger modification in which the quantity of phosphate buffer and ZnSO₄-K¹ mixture solution were reduced to 25% and 40% respectively of those in procedure of Fuzita and Iwatake unsuitable because of incomplete oxidation of sugars, and hence Fuzita and Iwatake used phosphate buffer for oxidation of sugars, is not recommended with ferricyanide. Friedemann and co-workers demonstrated that the irregularities in the oxidation of sugars observed earlier due to ferricyanide and sodium carbonate ratio presence of NaHCO₃ size of test tube, volume of the reaction mixture, time of standing before heating and cooling become insignificant when sodium carbonate and ferricyanide ratio was greater than 10:1 They further gave an equation relating concentration of ferricyanide and sugars.



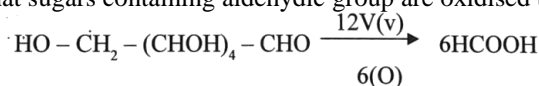
x = 5	n = 5	pentoses
x = 6	n = 6	hexoses
x = 12	n = 11	disaccharides

The present study has revealed that ammonium metavanadate(v) is a good oxidising reagent for mono and disaccharides. The determination was done by using different variables such as reaction time, temperature concentration of the reagent and amount of the reagent of the different samples like glucose, maltose, galactose, fructose, sorbose, xylose and sucrose. The result shows that the percentage recovery of the sample is fairly constant with the varying amount of 1-5 mg. Various reaction mechanisms have been proposed for sugar using different reagents. Fleury and Co-workers⁵⁶ shows that formic acid and formaldehyde are the products when aldoses are oxidized while glycolic acid is an additional product when ketoses were oxidized with periodic acid.

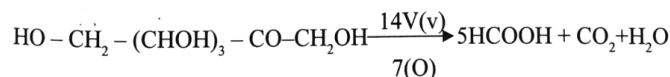
Bhansali and Mathur⁹⁹ photochemically oxidised sugars with Ce(IV) sulphate with and without the use of catalyst they suggested the following reaction path.



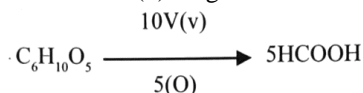
In the view of the above reactions and considering the amount of ammonium metavanadate (v) consumed per mole of the sugars the following reaction mechanisms are proposed for complete oxidation of mono and disaccharides. It has been found that sugars containing aldehydic groups are oxidised to formic acid only.



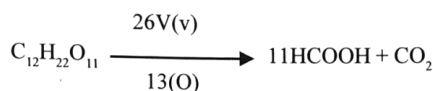
In case of Ketonic sugars also formic acid is the end product but ketonic groups appear to be oxidized to carbon dioxide.



Xylose which is a pentose is oxidized as follows with V(v) reagent.



Disaccharides consume 26 equivalents of V(v). On the basis of the following oxidation reaction is proposed for disaccharides.



The proposed method has been applied for the determination of monosaccharide and disaccharide using 0.3N, V(v) reagent. The sample size of determination ranges from 1 to 5 mg and error does not exceed + 1%.

IV. Conclusion

The current study shows that taking advantage of the oxidizing capacity of ammonium metavanadate (v) with certain organic compounds, the oxidation of certain sugars was studied. An accurate and quantitative procedure has been described for the determination of certain mono and disaccharides on a micro scale. 1-5 mg of sample was allowed to react with excess of ammonium metavanadate (v) for about 30 (monosaccharides) to 40 (disaccharides) minutes at 40°C temp. The unreacted ammonium metavanadate (v) was titrated against ferrous ammonium sulphate using N-Phenylanthranilic acid as indicator. A blank was also run under identical conditions and the recovery of the sugars was calculated. For establishing exact reaction conditions following variables were carried out.

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