



CMFRI SPECIAL PUBLICATION

Number 7

**MANUAL OF RESEARCH METHODS FOR
CRUSTACEAN BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

Issued on the occasion of the **Workshop on
CRUSTACEAN BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHYSIOLOGY**
jointly organised by
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Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute,
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Manual of Research Methods for Crustacean Biochemistry and Physiology

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14.1. PRINCIPLE

Chloride in the sample displaces thiocyanate from mercuric thiocyanate, which in turn combines with iron of ferric nitrate to become ferric thiocyanate, which is a coloured compound. The colour intensity is proportional to the iron complexed with thiocyanate which in turn depends on the amount of Cl^- ions which have displaced thiocyanate from mercuric thiocyanate (Schorenfeld & Lewellen, 1964).

14.2. REAGENTS

1. Colour reagent

(a) *Saturated mercuric thiocyanate solution*: Dissolve 2 gm of mercuric thiocyanate ($\text{Hg}(\text{SCN})_2$) in 1000 ml of water. Keep the solution at room temperature for 48 hours or longer and shake frequently, filter it before use.

(b) *Ferric nitrate solution*: Dissolve 13 gm of ferric nitrate in approximately 400 ml of distilled water and 1.5 ml of Conc. HNO_3 . Then to the whole volume of solution b, add 500 ml of solution a and make up to 1000 ml. Then add 5 to 6 ml of 6% mercuric nitrate until the absorbance of 80 m Eq/L Chloride standard is between 0.07 and 0.1.

2. *Standard Cl^- solution*: Dissolve 585 mg of dry pure NaCl in 100 ml of distilled water. This standard is equivalent to 100 m Eq Cl^-/L .

* Prepared and verified by K. Kannan & M. Arumugam, School of Pathobiology, Department of Zoology, University of Madras, Madras-600 005.

14.3. PROCEDURE

1. 0.1 ml of blood, 0.1 ml of distilled water (blank) and 0.1 ml of standard solution are added to 1 ml of 80% of ethanol individually and centrifuge at 3500 rpm for 5 minutes.
2. Take 0.1 ml of supernatant from all the tubes and add 3 ml of colour reagent separately.
3. After 10 minutes, find the optical density at 480 nm in a spectrophotometer.

14.4. CALCULATION

$$\frac{\text{O.D. of sample}}{\text{O.D. of standard}} \times \frac{\text{Concentration of standard}}{\text{Vol. of sample}} \times \frac{1000}{1000} = m \text{ Eq/L.}$$

14.5 REFERENCE

SCHOENFELD, R. S. & C. J. LEWELLEN, 1964. Colorimetric method for determination of serum chloride. *Clin. Chem.*, 10 : 533-539.

For your own notes

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