# Development of Spectrophotometric Method for Iodide Determination Based on Starch-Iodine Complex Formation with Hypochlorite Oxidizing Agent

Qurrata Ayun<sup>1,2</sup>, Hermin Sulistyarti<sup>1\*</sup>, and Atikah<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of PGRI Banyuwangi, Banyuwangi, Indonesia

Corresponding email: hermin@ub.ac.id

Received 7 August 2014; Accepted 24 March 2015

#### ABSTRACT

Iodine is one of the most important elements for human body. Both, the overage and the deficiency supply of iodine give negative impact for human health. In this research, a simple and inexpensive spectrophotometric method is developed is based on starch-iodine complex formation, where iodide was oxidized with hypochlorite to form iodine, which then reacted with starch to form a blue starch-iodine complex. In this research, the common analytical parameters were optimized regarding to sensitivity and selectivity. It was noted that maximum wavelength for starch-iodine complex was 618 nm, optimum time for complex formation and oxidation was 15 minutes, and optimum hypochlorite concentration was 6 ppm. Under the obtained optimum conditions, the proposed method showed linearity from 0-20 ppm iodide (r2 = 0.994), with limit detection of 0.20 ppm. Determination of iodide with this method was unaffected by Cl-, and Br-; but SCN-affected the measurement of iodide at concentration of 1 ppm. Application to synthetic and urinary samples showed that the proposed method), and can be used as an alternative method for iodide measurement.

Keyword: Iodide, starch-iodine, hypochlorite, spectrophotometry, optimization

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Iodine is one of the most important elements for human body, in which the excess and the deficiency of iodine supply will give negative impact for human health, such as hyperthyroidism that causes the body's metabolic processes take place too quickly and iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) which causes cell–growth inhibition both cognitive and motoric function, hypertension, osteoporosis, and mortality [1,2]. IDD is a set of symptoms or abnormalities are caused by the body suffers from a lack of iodine continuously for long periods of time, so that it can have an impact on a person's growth and development [3]. Urinary iodine concentration (UIC) is commonly used to determine iodine supply [4]. Iodine in food and beverages, which mostly in the form of iodide and iodate will be changed in the body to iodide used for thyroid hormone formation, and finally secreted through urine in form of iodide. Iodide level in urine corresponds to iodine intake [5,6]. Iodine content in urine is classified as follows: severe iodine (<  $25 \mu g/L$ ), moderate ( $25-50 \mu g/L$ ), mild ( $50-100 \mu g/L$ ), optimal ( $100-200 \mu g/L$ ), more than adequate ( $200-300 \mu g/L$ ), and excessive (> $300 \mu g/L$ ) [7, 8, 9].

The journal homepage www.jpacr.ub.ac.id p-ISSN : 2302 – 4690 | e-ISSN : 2541 – 0733

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World Health Organization (WHO) recommends spectrophotometry as standard method to determine iodide level based on redox reaction. Iodine is most commonly quantified by measuring the catalytic effect of iodide on the reaction between cerium (IV) and arsenic (III) in the Sandell-Koltoff reaction [7]. This method has quite high accuracy and precision. However this method required complicated analysis steps and some materials are difficult to obtain.

This research develops a spectrophotometry method that is simple and inexpensive while maintain good accuracy and precision. This method is based on the formation of a blue starch-iodine complex, where iodide is oxidized to iodine with hypochlorite as colorless and a relatively strong oxidant [10] prior to reaction with starch. This method is then validated by comparing the results with those obtain from standard leuco crystal violet (LCV) method [11]. The result from both methods was tested using t-student test with 95 % confidence level, to examine whether both methods have no significant difference.

#### **EXPERIMENT**

#### **Chemicals and Instrumentation**

Materials used for this experiment had analytical reagent grade or as mentioned, i.e.: potassium iodide (KI), starch,  $H_2SO_4$  (96 %,  $\rho = 1,84$  g/mL), sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl), citric acid (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>7</sub>), ammonium hydroxide (NH<sub>4</sub>OH), leuco crystal violet, potassium peroxymonosulfate (KHSO<sub>5</sub>), ammonium dihydrogen phosphate (NH<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>), mercuric chloride (HgCl<sub>2</sub>), and distilled water.

The instrumentations used for the experiment were analytical balance (Adventer AR 2130), oven, UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu 1601), pH meter, glassware, pipette volume, Mohr pipette, magnetic stirrer, hot plate, and desiccators.

#### **Reagents and Sample Solutions**

Reagents used for spectrophotometric method include stock solution of 1000 ppm iodide, 1000 ppm hypochlorite solution, 1 % starch, 1M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution, citric buffer pH 3.5 and stock KHSO<sub>5</sub> solution of 0.01 M. Urine sample of  $\pm$  20 mL was placed in plastics bottle of polyethylene and kept in the fridge at temperature of  $\pm$  4 <sup>0</sup>C; afterwards, each urine sample taken 10 mL, after filtered with Whatman filter paper, each urine sample was added with 0.5 mL H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and stirred.

#### **Method Optimization**

Several parameters optimized in this research include time for starch-iodine complex formation, hypochlorite concentration, pH, and interfering ions. These parameters optimized to obtain optimum condition of the proposed method to determine iodide. Maximum wavelength was determined by directly reacting iodine solution with 0.1 % starch, and scanned at wavelength from 400 to 700 nm. Complex formation time was monitored from 0-30 minutes. Variation of hypochlorite concentration was ranged from 1 to 10 ppm, while pH solutions were varied from 0 to 6. Several ions used to study the selectivity are Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, and SCN<sup>-</sup> with concentrations of 1, 10, 50, and 100 ppm for each ion. The obtained optimum conditions were then used to determine the linearity of the method, limit of detection, and validity test by analyzing iodide in synthetic sample and urine sample and compared the results to those obtained from the standard method.

### **Determination of Iodide in Urine Sample**

Iodide solution of 1 mL was placed in 10 mL volumetric flask, then added with 0.1 % starch solution, hypochlorite solution, 5 drops of 0.1 M  $H_2SO_4$  to adjust solution to pH 1, and then the solution is mixed and diluted to 10 mL and stand for 15 minutes. Then, the absorbance of blue starch-iodine was read at maximum wave length of 618 nm.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## **Optimization of the Wavelength of Starch-Iodine Complex**

The reaction of iodine with starch solution gave an intense blue-colored product of starch-iodine complex, and the absorption spectra of the blue colored product were monitored at 400-700 nm. Based on the results (Figure 1), the maximum wavelength for the blue starch-iodine complex is 618 nm, and therefore wavelength of 618 nm was selected for the optimal experimental condition and used for further experiment.



Figure 1. The spectrum of starch-iodine complex for determination  $\lambda_{max}$ 



Figure 2. Time for formation of starce iodine complex

# **Optimization of Time for the Formation of Starch-Iodine Complex**

The time for starch-iodine complex formation was conducted similarly using iodine solution which instantaneously reacted with 0.1 % starch. The absorbance of blue starch-iodine was then monitored from 0-30 minutes (with interval of 5 minutes). The results (Figure 2) showed that the absorbance increase by increasing time with maximum absorbance obtained at 15 minutes and the absorbance was relatively constant by further increasing time up to 30 minutes. Therefore, 15 minutes was chosen as optimum condition for complex formation and used for further experiment.

# **Optimization of Hypochlorite Concentration**

Concentration of hypochlorite was optimized in order to ensure the sufficiency of hypochlorite for oxidizing iodide to iodine. This experiment was conducted by reacting iodide with hypochlorite with various concentrations from 1-10 ppm in the presence of starch solution. Starch solution should be added before oxidation process to prevent the loss of iodine produced. The absorbance of blue starch-iodine was measured at 618 nm, and the results are depicted in Figure 3. The absorbance of starch-iodine complex increased by increasing hypochlorite concentration, and gave maximum absorbance under concentration of 6 ppm and relatively constant up to 7 ppm. However, further addition of hypochlorite more (8-10 ppm), the blue starch-iodine was found unstable, and decrease the absorbance. Thus, hypochlorite 6 ppm was selected as the optimum concentration of hypochlorite and used for further experiment.



# **Optimization of Starch-Iodine Complex Formation**

The effect of pH on the absorbance of blue starch-iodine corresponds to iodine species under solution pH. Most of iodine species is in iodine form under acidic condition (pH  $\leq$ 2) resulting in optimum formation of starch-iodine complex. Results of this experiment indicated that under solutions pH of 0-2, the solution exhibited maximum absorbance and the color was stable (Figure 4). However, when the pH of solution was > 2, the blue complex was found unstable shown by decreasing the absorbance. This is because above pH 2 some of iodine hydrolyzed to form hypoiodous (HIO), which perform disproportionation at higher pH to form iodate (IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) and iodide (I<sup>-</sup>) [12]. Thus, the hydrolysis and disproportionation reactions lower the amount of iodine, and consequently lower the absorbance of starchiodine. So, in order to achieve high sensitivity for determining iodide, solution pH of 1 was selected as the optimal experimental condition.

# **Interference Studies**

In order to examine the selectivity of the method, the effect of several common ions present together with iodide in real sample, such as chloride (Cl<sup>-</sup>), bromide (Br<sup>-</sup>), and thiocyanate (SCN<sup>-</sup>) were studied. Those three ions have potential reduction standard lower than hypochlorite oxidizing agent used in the experiment. The order of reduction potential standards of those three ions and hypochlorite is as followed: OCl<sup>-</sup> (E<sup>0</sup> = 1.63 V) > Cl<sup>-</sup> (E<sup>0</sup> = 1.36 V) > Br<sup>-</sup> (E<sup>0</sup> = 1.07 V) > SCN<sup>-</sup> (E<sup>0</sup> = 0.77 V) > I<sup>-</sup> (E<sup>0</sup> = 0.54 V). Therefore, the presence of those ions will affect the availability of hypochlorite required for oxidizing iodide to iodine, resulting in the decrease of iodine produced and the absorbance of starch-iodine complex. It is clear from Figure 5 that the determination of iodide with this method was unaffected by Cl<sup>-</sup> and Br<sup>-</sup> up to 100 ppm. This is because the potential reduction standards of both ions (chloride and bromide) are close to that of hypochlorite. However, the presence of thiocyanate affected the measurement although only at concentration of 1 ppm, and the absorbance of starch-iodine decreased more significantly at higher concentration. This is because the potential reduction standards of

### **Linearity of Measurement**

Under the obtained optimum conditions (618 nm, time of measurement of 15 minutes, pH 1, 6 ppm hypochlorite), linear relationship between the absorbance and concentration was observed at the range concentration of iodide from 0 to 20 ppm. Beer's law is obeyed and the equation of the linearity of y = 0.017x + 0.012, where, y is the absorbance and x is

concentration in ppm. The correlation coefficient  $(r^2)$  of the linear calibration is 0.994 and the method exhibited limit detection of 0.20 ppm.



# Validation Method

Validity of the proposed method was done by analyzing iodide in synthetic and urine and then compared the results to those obtained from the standard samples. spectrophotometry (LCV method). The results obtained were also statistically compared with those from LCV method by applying the student's t-test. The accuracy of the proposed method is shown by % recovery of iodide, whilst the precision is shown by % coefficient of variants (CV).

Table 1 illustrates a very good agreement between the recoveries of iodide determined by the proposed method and those determined by the standard spectrophotometric method when the proposed method was applied to synthetic samples. The accuracy (shown by % recovery) of hypochlorite method ranges from 95-102 % for synthetic sample, which is close to those obtained from LCV standard method. The proposed method also showed better precision (% CV < 2 %) compared to the LCV standard method (% CV up to 5.55 %).

Table 1. Analysis of synthetic sample						
Sample	% recovery		% CV			
	Hypochlorite	LCV	Hypochlorite	LCV		
	method	method	method	method		
1	$102.00 \pm 0.1\%$	$94.30 \pm 0.10\%$	1.56	5.55		
2	$98.50\pm0.1\%$	$104.25 \pm 0.07\%$	1.27	2.27		
3	$95.20\pm0.2\%$	$96.60 \pm 0.70\%$	1.32	1.33		

Table 2. Analysis of urine sample						
Sample	% recovery		% CV			
	Hypochlorite	LCV method	Hypochlorite	LCV		
	method		method	method		
1	$104.00 \pm 0.10\%$	$105.67 \pm 0.07\%$	1.75	3.92		
2	$101.50 \pm 0.17\%$	$104.00 \pm 0.01\%$	2.37	5.89		
3	$101.00 \pm 0.17\%$	$103.40 \pm 0.07\%$	1.93	2.36		

When the proposed method was applied to the determination iodide in urine sample, the proposed method also provided acceptable accuracy at the range of 101-104 % recovery, similarly to those of the standard method. However, the precision (shown by % coefficient of variants, CV) of the proposed method ( $\sim 2.00\%$ ) is slightly better than the standard LCV method (up to 5.55%).

Based on the student t-test with 95 % level of confidence, the results obtained from the proposed method when it was applied to synthetic and urine samples gave no significant difference ( $t_{calculated} < t_{table}$ ). Therefore, the proposed method can be used as an alternative method for determination of iodide in hyperthyroid patient's urine and other iodide samples such as food, beverages, and KI tablets which have concentration more than 0.2 ppm.

# CONCLUSION

The proposed method provided simple, cheap, accurate, and precise method which can be used as an alternative method for determination of iodide in hyperthyroid patient's urine and other samples containing iodide concentration more than 0.2 ppm.

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