

COMMUNICATIONS

DE LA FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'ANKARA

Série B : Chimie

TOME : 31

ANNÉE : 1985

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ALDEHYDES AND KETONES**

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Faculté des Sciences de l'Université d'Ankara
Ankara, Turquie

**Communications de la Faculté des Sciences
de l'Université d'Ankara**

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A SIMPLE TITRIMETRIC METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF ALDEHYDES AND KETONES

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(Received July 11, 1984 and accepted April 2, 1985).

SUMMARY

A simple titrimetric method has been developed for the determination of aldehydes and ketones. The method is based on the reaction of hydroxylamine hydrochloride in alkaline medium with carbonyl group to form the corresponding oxime. Excess hydroxylamine was determined by titration with ferricyanide solution with or without phenolphthalin as indicator. Acetaldehyde, p-nitrobenzaldehyde, salicylaldehyde, benzaldehyde, Anisaldehyde, cyclohexanone, methyl ethyl ketone, ethyl-acetoacetate, acetylacetone and acetophenone give satisfactory results with maximum error 2.67 % and an average recovery of 101.45 %.

The oximation of carbonyl compounds has been used widely for the determination of aldehydes and ketones^{1,4}. The reaction rates are normally quite slow in neutral, aqueous media but the reactions are known to be catalysed by both acids and bases⁵. The amount of unreacted hydroxylamine has been determined by acid-base titration⁶, redox titration⁷, or polarography⁸. The serious limitations of the acid-base titration are that the end point leaves something to be desired and that numerous interferences are obtained from strong inorganic and organic acids and bases.

Polarographic determination of aliphatic aldehydes^{9,10} and ketones⁹⁻¹¹ which is recommended by directly polarographic determination suffered from interfering side-reactions such as hydration or acetal formation.

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Potassium hexacyanoferrate (III) is available as a primary standard. Its possible application as a general purpose oxidimetric titrant has received considerable attention. The indicators which have been used are diphenylamine¹², Fe (II)-dimethylglyoxime¹³, methylene blue¹⁴ thionine¹⁴ and phenolphthalin¹⁵. Potassium ferricyanide possesses other active features such as high purity, high equivalent weight, stability in solution (in absence of light) and applicability to alkaline medium.

The present investigation was directed to study a simple titrimetric method for the determination of carbonyl function (aldehydes and ketones) through the reaction of hydroxylamine-hydrochloride in alkaline medium with carbonyl group to form oxime. Excess hydroxylamine was determined by titration with ferricyanide solution either in presence of phenolphthalin as indicator or without any indicator.

EXPERIMENTAL

All chemicals used were of analytical grade unless otherwise specified and double distilled water was used throughout.

Carbonyl free ethanol was obtained by refluxing absolute ethanol (2 l) with 5 g of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine and 1.5 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid for 4 hours, and then redistilled twice.

Carbonyl compounds 0.05 M were prepared by dissolving the required calculated weight of carbonyl (aldehyde or ketone) compounds and dissolved in carbonyl free ethanol. Phenolphthalin indicator¹⁶ (0.4 %) The indicator was prepared by mixing phenolphthalein (2 g), sodium hydroxide (10 g), zinc dust (5 g) and water (20 ml) and heating for two hours under reflux. After cooling, the liquid was passed through hardened filter paper and colourless filtrate made up to 50 ml with bi-distilled water. This indicator was kept in a dark bottle containing a few granules of zinc. Under this condition it remains colourless for at least one week.

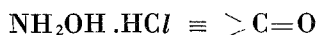
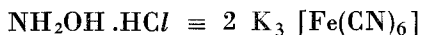
Hydroxylammonium chloride: 0.05 M.

Potassium ferricyanide: 0.1 M solution.

Procedure

1-5 ml of aldehyde or ketone solution (0.05 M) was transferred to 100 ml conical flask, 10 ml of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.05 M), 3-5 ml of 5 % NaOH solution were added, followed by 2 drops of the

indicator. This solution was titrated slowly with standard 0.1 N potassium ferricyanide until solution became red. Volume of potassium ferricyanide equivalent to 10 ml of hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.05 M) was measured by using the same procedure in absence of ketones and aldehydes.



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Molarity of aldehyde or ketone} &= \frac{1/2 (V_0 - V') 0.1}{V_1} \\ &= \frac{1/2 (V_0 - V') N}{V_1} \end{aligned}$$

where V_0 volume of ferricyanide = total hydroxylamine

V' volume of ferricyanide = remained hydroxylamine

V_1 volume of aldehyde or ketone

N normality of potassium ferricyanide

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aldehydes and ketones react with hydroxylamine hydrochloride to give the corresponding oxime. The presence of sodium hydroxide is essential to insure the conversion of hydroxylamine hydrochloride to free hydroxylamine and to catalyse the reaction⁵.

Sant¹⁷ described a method for determining hydroxylamine with potassium ferricyanide at pH 8–10 and the only product of oxidation is elemental nitrogen. Recently, potassium ferricyanide was used as a titrant for hydroxylamine in presence of sodium hydroxide¹⁵. Therefore, the excess of hydroxylamine after the formation of oxime could be determined according to the equation:



The titration of hydroxylamine in presence and in absence of oxime (e.g., dimethylglyoxime) gave the same results. So the formed oxime has no effect on the titration.

Stoichiometry of reaction was found to be one mole of hydroxylamine required 2 moles of ferricyanide whereas carbonyl group reacted with only one mole of hydroxylamine.

Table 1: Determination of Aldehydes and Ketones by Hydroxylamine and Potassium ferricyanide⁺

| Substance | Vol. of 0.05M soln. | Vol. of potassium ferricyanide 0.1M (Vo) | Recovery % |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|------------|
| Hydroxylamine | 10 | 10 | |
| p-Nitrobenzaldehyde | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| | 3 | 7 | 100 |
| | 2 | 7.95 | 102.5 |
| | 1 | 8.975 | 102.5 |
| m-Chlorobenzaldehyde | 5 | 4.95 | 101.00 |
| | 3 | 6.95 | 101.70 |
| | 2 | 7.975 | 101.25 |
| | 1 | 8.988 | 110.20 |
| Salicylaldehyde | 5 | 4.9 | 102.0 |
| | 3 | 6.92 | 102.67 |
| | 2 | 7.95 | 102.50 |
| | 1 | 8.975 | 102.50 |
| Benzaldehyde | 5 | 4.9 | 102.0 |
| | 3 | 6.95 | 101.70 |
| | 2 | 7.95 | 102.50 |
| | 1 | 8.98 | 102.00 |
| Anisaldehyde | 5 | 4.90 | 102.0 |
| | 3 | 6.92 | 102.67 |
| | 2 | 7.90 | 102.50 |
| | 1 | 8.975 | 102.50 |
| Acetaldehyde | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| | 3 | 7 | 100 |
| | 2 | 8 | 100 |
| | 1 | 9 | 100 |
| Cyclohexanone | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| | 3 | 7 | 100 |
| | 2 | 8 | 100 |
| | 1 | 9 | 100 |
| Methyl ethyl ketone | 5 | 4.95 | 101.0 |
| | 3 | 6.95 | 101.7 |
| | 2 | 7.95 | 102.5 |
| | 1 | 9.025 | 102.5 |
| Ethyl acetoacetate | 5 | 4.95 | 101.0 |
| | 3 | 7 | 100.0 |
| | 2 | 7.97 | 101.5 |
| | 1 | 9 | 100.0 |
| Acetyl acetone | 5 | 4.95 | 101.0 |
| | 3 | 6.95 | 101.7 |
| | 2 | 7.95 | 102.5 |
| | 1 | 9 | 100 |
| Acetophenone | 5 | 4.95 | 101.0 |
| | 3 | 6.95 | 101.7 |
| | 2 | 7.95 | 102.5 |
| | 1 | 8.975 | 102.5 |

⁺Mean of 4 titrations

Mean 101.45

The sequence of addition of aldehyde, hydroxylamine and sodium hydroxide has no effect.

Phenolphthalein is an acid-base indicator whereas reduced phenolphthalien (phenolphthalin) has been used as redox indicator. It is oxidised by potassium ferricyanide to give a distinct red colour. So it is used as indicator in this work. Some trials were carried out for the use ferricyanide as selfindicator. It succeeded in the case of hydroxylamine alone and in presence of some carbonyl compounds. The produced coloured eximes required phenolphthalin indicator to get a distinct end point.

The results are tabulated in Table (1). It is clear that all aldehydes and ketones give good results with maximum error 2.67 % and an average recovery of 101.45 %.

Acetyl acetone which contains two carbonyl groups was found to react as containing one carbonyl group only, this may be due to the conversion to enol form. Mixture of two ketones, two aldehydes or aldehydes and ketones gives the total carbonyl groups, i.e., this method can be applied for determination of carbonyl function.

Carboxylic acids and amides do not interfere. In contrast, acid chlorides and anhydrides make interference in oximation and must be absence.

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