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VOLTAMMETRIC DETERMINATION OF VITAMIN B12 USING SOME AZO DYES

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of the voltammetric activity of Co(II) in the presence of azo dyes with further using of the results obtained in analytical practice. The azo compounds belong to the largest class of organic reagents which are used in analytical chemistry as metallochromic indicators and complexants. The voltammetric behaviour of Co(II) complexes with eriochrome red B, eriochrome black T, kalces and 1-[(5-(3-nitrobenzyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)diazenyl]naphthalen-2-ol was investigated using cyclic linear sweep voltammetry. The optimal conditions for complex formation were established. New peaks caused by the reduction of the Co(II)-azodye complex compounds are observed on the voltammograms. Sensitive and highly reproducible methods for cobalt determination were developed using the linear dependence of peaks height on metal concentration with limit of detection of 10^{-7} mol·L⁻¹. The accuracy of the proposed method was assessed by the method of standard additions. The developed method was successfully applied for the determination of vitamin B12 in pharmaceutical formulations.

Keywords: voltammetry; azodye; cobalt; reduction; vitamin B12.

ВОЛЬТАМПЕРОМЕТРИЧНЕ ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ ВІТАМІНУ В12 З ВИКОРИСТАННЯМ АЗОБАРВНИКІВ

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Анотація

Стаття присвячена дослідженню вольтамперометричної активності Co(II) у присутності азобарвників з наступним використанням одержаних результатів в аналітичній практиці. Досліджено процес взаємодії кобальту з еріохром чорним Т, еріохром червоним В, кальцесом та 1-[(5-(3-нітробензил)-1,3-тіазол-2-іл)діазеніл]нафтален-2-олом методом вольтамперометрії з лінійною розгорткою потенціалу. Встановлено оптимальні умови комплексоутворення. Зафіксовано появу нових піків, що відповідають відновленню комплексних сполук Co(II) – азобарвник. На підставі лінійної залежності висоти піку від концентрації металу, яка охоплює широкий концентраційний інтервал, запропоновано достатньо чутливі, добре відтворювані методики визначення кобальту (межа виявлення $\approx 10^{-7}$ моль·л⁻¹). Правильність та відтворюваність результатів перевіряли методом «введено-знайдено». Методики апробовано при визначенні вітаміну В12.

Ключові слова: вольтамперометрія; азобарвник; кобальт; відновлення; вітамін В12.

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ВОЛЬТАМПЕРОМЕТРИЧЕСКОЕ ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ ВИТАМИНА В12 С ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕМ АЗОКРАСИТЕЛЕЙ

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Аннотация

Статья посвящена исследованию вольтамперометрической активности Со (II) в присутствии азокрасителей с последующим использованием полученных результатов в аналитической практике. Исследован процесс взаимодействия кобальта с эриохромом черным Т, эриохромом красным В, кальцесом и 1-[(5-(3-нитробензил)-1,3-тиазол-2-ил)диазенил]нафтален-2-олом методом вольтамперометрии с линейной разверткой потенциала. Установлены оптимальные условия комплексообразования. Зафиксировано появление новых пиков, соответствующих восстановлению комплексных соединений Со (II) – азокраситель. На основании линейной зависимости высоты пика от концентрации металла, которая охватывает широкий концентрационный интервал, предложено достаточно чувствительные, хорошо воспроизводимые методики определения кобальта (предел обнаружения $\approx 10^{-7}$ моль·л⁻¹). Правильность и воспроизводимость результатов проверяли методом «введено-найдено». Методики апробированы при определении витамина В12.

Ключевые слова: вольтамперометрия; азокраситель; кобальт; восстановление; витамин В12.

Introduction

The azo compounds belong to the largest class of organic reagents which are used in analytical chemistry as metallochromic indicators and complexants. In addition, the azo compounds are widely used in food industry [1], as well as in medical practice [2–4]. These compounds participate in a number of biological reactions, characterized by antimicrobial and anticarcinogenic activity.

The presence of the azo group –N=N– promotes the formation of strong complex compounds with a large number of metal ions, what is the basis for their further quantitative determination [5–7]. Azo dyes are the analytical reagents for determination of Cu(II), Ni(II), Co(II), Co(III) [6–17], Zn(II), Cd(II), Mn(II), Fe(III) [14–21], Hg(II), Ag(I), Pd(II), Os(IV) [21–29], Th (III), and U(VI) [21; 30]. The azo group can be electrochemically reduced on the electrodes of different nature giving an opportunity to use the azo dyes not only for spectrophotometric determination of metals but also for the voltammetric methods of analysis [16; 26; 31].

Nowadays analytical chemistry is developing in direction of using already known organic reagents, as well as new ones, synthesized with previously known characteristics. Synthetic possibilities of organic chemistry allow modifying the structure of reagents through involving the functional groups that will provide selectivity of analytical reactions [32–34]. The transformation of the planar structure of azodye into a branched form allows creating a steric barrier for the ions of accompanying elements, which increases the selectivity of analytical methods. The reagent with such characteristics (branched form) is 1-(5-

benzylthiazol-2-yl)azonaphthalen-2-ol (BnTAN) having a dihedral angle between the planes of phenil and thiazol equal to 56.7 °C [5; 34]. This reagent and its derivatives were effectively used for the determination of transition metals [5; 11–13; 15; 19; 22–25; 34].

The aim of this work is to develop the voltammetric method for cobalt determination in complex biological systems. Cobalt is very important element not only for industry but also for the biological systems, as well as for all living organisms. It is present in vitamin B12. The vitamin B12 is a cofactor in DNA synthesis, and in both fatty and aminoacids metabolism. It is used for prevention of anemia. However, excess of vitamin B12 is toxic and causes pulmonary disorders, dermatitis and nausea. Vitamin B12, unlike most vitamins produced by chemical synthesis, is obtained by biosynthesis during fermentation [35]. In this process the addition of the small amount of cobalt to the microbial environment is necessary to increase the yield of vitamin B12.

Methods of vitamin B12 determination are mainly based on two approaches: direct determination of cianocobalamin (liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry, electroluminescence and capillary electrophoresis) and determination of cobalt (radioimmunoassay and atomic absorption spectroscopy, voltammetry) [36–40]. Methods of the first group are characterized by high sensitivity of determination up to 80 ng·mL⁻¹ (high performance liquid chromatography). However, these methods suffer from the high cost of equipment. The methods for the cobalt determination of the second group are less

sensitive with a limit of quantitative determination of $1 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ (raman spectroscopy) and have a low selectivity, requiring extensive sample preparation.

As can be understood from the standard procedure, there are no specific methods for determining vitamin B12. The recommended procedures refer to microbiological methods. Such assays can be considered routine for vitamin B12 but require overnight incubation, can be subject to contamination and include considerable laboratory set-up and maintenance time. The sensitivity is high enabling the detection of low concentrations of vitamin B12 but other components (food, antibiotics) may interfere with the determination. In this work, the simple indirect method has been proposed for the vitamin B12 determination based on cobalt assay as a constituent of vitamin B12. The voltammetric determination of cobalt in vitamin B12 was carried out using both existing and newly synthesized organic reagents having azo group. The influence of metal ions and matrix components on the determination of vitamin B12 was examined. Under the found optimal conditions for the complexation of Co(II) with azo dyes, the proposed methods which are accurate and well reproducible, can be used to determine Co(II) and vitamin B12 in biological systems, as well as in pharmaceuticals.

Materials and Methods

Apparatus. Voltammetric measurements were carried out on digital device MTEch OVA-410 equipped with personal computer and temperature-controlled three-electrode cell of 30 mL volume. A dropping mercury electrode, a saturated calomel electrode, and platinum wire electrode were used as indicator, reference and auxiliary electrodes, respectively. The parameters for potential scanning were as follows: waveform voltage – triangular; scan rate – 0.1 V/s ; the potential was set from 0.0 to -2.0 V . Characteristics of the capillary in a $0.16 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ sodium chloride solution without polarization voltage were as follows: $m = 0.706 \text{ mg/s}$, $t = 7.5 \text{ s}$. The dissolved oxygen was removed by purified argon purging for 10 min. All measurements were carried out at room temperature. The solution pH was controlled potentiometrically using pH-meter pH-150M with combined glass electrode.

Reagents. All solutions were prepared from double distilled water. Stock solutions (10^{-2} M) of metal ions were prepared by dissolving the appropriate quantity of pure metal containing 99.999 % of the major substance in a mixture of

conc. HCl and conc. HNO_3 (cp grade). The solutions of metal ions were standardized using complexometry.

Stock solutions ($10^{-3} \text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$) of eriochrome red B (ERB), eriochrome black T (EBT), and kalces (KLC) were prepared by dissolving the exact amount of reagents in aqua ethanol mixture (where ethanol content was 40 % for ERB, 50 % for EBT, and 10 % for KLC). These solutions were standardized spectrophotometrically.

A $10^{-3} \text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ alcoholic solution of 1-[(5-(3-nitrobenzyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)diazenyl]naphthalen-2-ol (NBnTAN) was prepared by the dissolution of exact previously purified amount of sample in pure ethanol. 1-[(5-(3-nitrobenzyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl)diazenyl]naphthaene-2-ol was purified by double recrystallization from acetone and ethanol followed by filtration and vacuum distillation.

The following supporting electrolytes were employed: acetate and ammonium buffer solutions, sodium hydroxide.

2.3 Procedure. Working solutions for voltammetric investigations were prepared by adding reagents to the volumetric flask in the following order: supporting electrolyte with ionic strength more than 0.2 (acetate or ammonium buffer solutions, or sodium chloride), solution of Co(II) with concentration $(0.2 - 1)\cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, azo dye solution with concentration $(2 - 8)\cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$. Finally double distilled water was added up to the mark. The obtained solutions were stirred and transferred to the voltammetric cell. Before obtaining the voltammograms, the argon was purged into solutions for 10-15 min.

Preparation of samples. The sample preparation was performed as described in [37]. Pharmaceutical preparation containing about $250 \mu\text{g}$ of vitamin B12 was taken into porcelain crucible. The sample was burned to ash first on the flame, then in an oven at 500°C for 30–40 min. After burning, the residue was dissolved in 1-2 mL of conc. HNO_3 and evaporated to dryness in a boiling water bath. Then 5 mL of mixture of conc. HCl and HNO_3 (3 : 1) was added to the obtained residue and heated to completely dissolve it. Then $2.5 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ HCl solution was added and the solution was cooled to room temperature and transferred into a 25.0 mL volumetric flask.

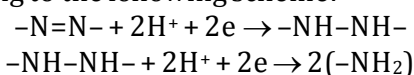
Results and Discussion

Investigation of Co(II) interaction with azo dyes.

The reduction of Co(II) ammonium complex occurs at potential -1.2 V in the ammonium buffer solution at $\text{pH} > 8.0$. The increase of concentration of Co(II) ions in solution leads to linear increase in

the height of the peak corresponding to the reduction of Co(II) ($E_{p}^{Co} = -1.2$ V). This linear relationship corresponds to the equation (at pH 9.0): $I_{p}^{Co} = 0.16 + 2.25 \times 10^4 \times C(\text{Co(II)})$. The limit of quantification (LOQ) was equal to $8.33 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$. However, the reduction peak of the Co(II) ammonia complex is close to the discharge potential of the background electrolyte. The magnitude of the potential of this peak substantially depends on the composition of the matrix of the samples under study. Co(II) reduction peak may disappear when Co(II) ions are in other non ammonia forms. Thus, this peak cannot be used for the analysis of real objects.

The process of the reduction of azo dyes is multistage and was described in [31]. The peaks observed in the presence of ligand alone are caused by the reduction of the azo group. The reduction mechanism involves the formation of hydrazo derivatives followed by the cleavage of the -N=N- bond and the final formation of amines, according to the following scheme:



In the presence of some metal ions, a new peak appears at more negative potentials, related to the

reduction of the ligand involved in the complexation, allowing the detection of the metal ions [26; 31; 41].

The reduction of Co(II) ions in the presence of azo dyes (ERB, EBT, KLC, NBnTAN) has been investigated in wide range of pH (1.0 – 11.5). It has been established that there was no complex formation of Co(II) with these reagents in acidic medium up to pH 4.0.

When Co(II) ions were introduced into solutions containing azo dyes (ERB, EBT, KLC) at $\text{pH} \geq 4$, new reduction peaks appeared at potentials -0.94 V (ERB), -0.9 V (EBT), and -0.82 V (KLC) (Table 1). The new peaks corresponded to the reduction of -N=N- group in ligand.

The new peaks are shifted towards more negative potentials compared to the reduction peaks of free azo dyes (Fig. 1). The authors [31] explained the potential shift by the involvement of the azo group in complexation with a consequent stabilization of the nitrogen electrons in the ring, what made them less available to the reduction. The reduction of complexes is an irreversible process, as evidenced by the absence of anodic peaks on polarograms.

Table 1

Voltammetric characteristics of free azo dyes and its complexes with Co(II)			
Dye	pH	Peaks	$-E_{c,p}$, V
EBT	4.0	P1	0.57
	10.0	P2	0.62
EBT + Co(II)	4.0	P2	0.63
		P1	0.56
	10.0	P3	0.75
		P2	0.60
ERB	4.0	P3	0.90
		P4	1.18
	10.0	P1	0.69
		P1	0.69
ERB + Co(II)	4.0	P2	0.75
		P1	0.71
	10.0	P3	0.77
		P1	0.67
KLC	4.0	P2	0.76
		P3	0.94
	10.0	P4	1.2
		P1	0.44
KLC + Co(II)	4.0	P1	0.56
		P1	0.46
	10.0	P2	0.7
		P1	0.54
NBnTAN	5.0	P2	0.82
		P3	1.2
	11.0	P1	0.46
		P1	0.77

The shape of voltammograms significantly depends on the acidity of the solution and the ratio of metal to dye in solution. When azo dye is in excess, reduction peaks of the dye and small peak

of Co(II) complex reduction are observed. The peaks that appear on the voltammograms of complexes of the studied azo dyes with ions of Co(II), In(III), Re(III) Ga(III), Ni(II), Al(III) [31; 41]

are close each to other, what indicates the reduction of ligands in complex compounds of cobalt(II) with the corresponding azo dyes. A small shift to the anodic region of the reduction potentials of complex compounds of Co(II) ions with azo dyes is due to the difference in the values of their stability constants. In addition to these peaks, there is also a peak at a potential of -1.2 V , which corresponds to the reduction of Co(II) ions on the background of ammonia buffer solution.

Voltammetric reduction of Co(II) in presence of NBnTAN differs from that in the presence of azo dyes described above. The reduction of NBnTAN on a mercury dropping electrode is accompanied by appearance of new peak at potential -0.77 V (Fig. 1). The presence of cobalt ions, in contrast to the previous cases, does not lead to the formation of new peak registered closely before reduction of

the background electrolyte. The decrease of cathode current of NBnTAN reduction when Co(II) ion were present at $\text{pH} > 5$ was observed. This is the evidence of interaction between NBnTAN and Co(II) ions. The formation of complex compounds between NBnTAN and transition metal ions, including Co(II) ions in an alkaline medium [34] was confirmed by spectrophotometry [34]. The interaction of NBnTAN with Cu(II) and Pd(II) occurs in the acidic medium under similar conditions [24; 34]. Thus, the decrease in the peak height of the reagent reduction is the confirmation of the interaction of Co(II) ions with NBnTAN in an alkaline medium. The reduction peak of complex compound was not observed due to the overlapping with the reduction of the background electrolyte.

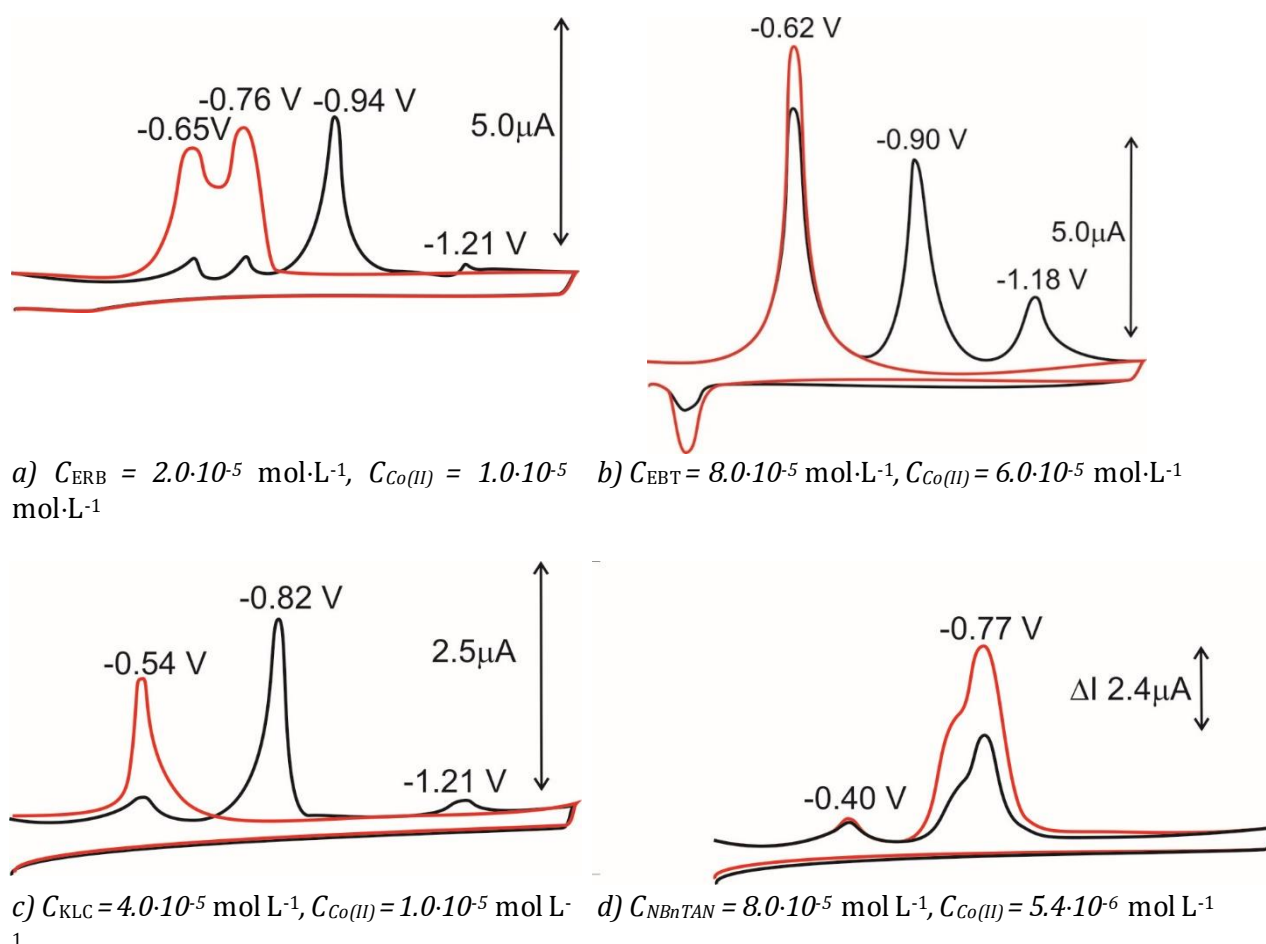


Fig.1 Voltammograms of ERB(a), EBT(b), KLC(c) in the presence of Co(II) ions, NBnTAN and NBnTAN + Co(II) (d).

Effect of ionic strength of solution. The solutions of NaCl, $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}/\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$, NaClO_4 were used as media for the determination of optimal value of ionic strength. The best characteristics of electrochemical reduction were obtained in the presence of ammonium buffer solution for Co(II) in the presence of ERB, EBT, KLC, and in the

medium of NaCl for the reduction of Co(II) in the presence of NBnTAN. The influence of ionic strength of the solution on voltammetric characteristics of the reduction process of studied complexes has been investigated. Increase of solution ionic strength leads to small decrease in the cathodic potential reaching the constant value

at $\mu \geq 0.2$. This ionic strength of the solution was recommended for further analytical investigations.

Effect of pH. The influence of hydrogen-ions concentration on voltammetric characteristics of ions Co (II) reduction in the presence of azo dyes

was investigated. The view of dependences of reduction current of complex compounds on pH is very similar. Reduction peaks of complex compounds appear under $\text{pH} > 4.0$ and reach the maximum value in ammonium buffer solution at $\text{pH} > 8.0$ (fig. 2). The solution pH 9.0 was chosen as optimal.

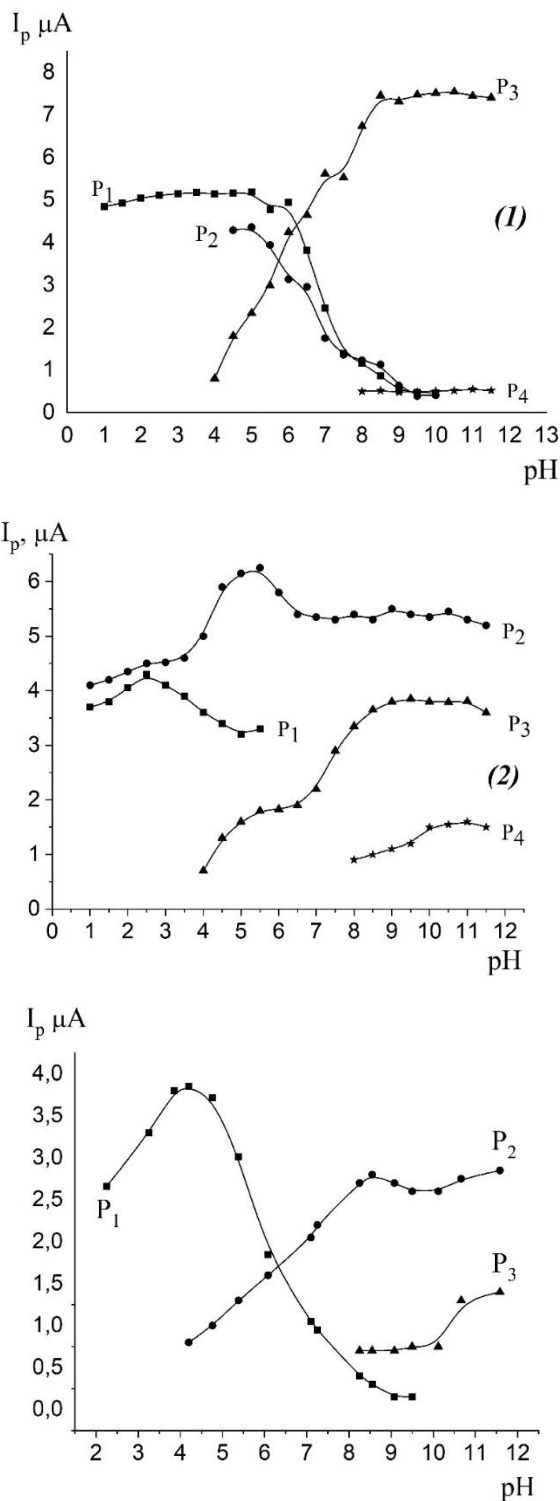


Fig. 2. Effect of pH on the peak current for Co(II) - ERB (1), Co(II) - EBT (2), Co(II) - KLC (3) $C_{\text{azodye}} = 4.0 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $C_{\text{Co(II)}} = 2.0 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$

It was established that the reduction peak of metal ions ($E_{c_p} = -1.2 \text{ V}$) at Co (II) to azodye ratio

1 : 2 exists only at $\text{pH} > 8.0$, and its height slightly increases with decrease of medium acidity. The

value of cathodic current of EBT reduction process in the presence of Co (II) is almost independent on medium acidity in the range pH 1.0 – 5.0 and further decrease of hydrogen ions concentration leads to the sharp decrease of height of corresponding peaks.

The presence of Co (II) ions has an influence on voltammetric characteristics of reduction process of EBT (P₁, P₂) under optimal conditions of determination, namely at pH 9.0 (see Table 1). Three peaks were registered on voltammograms, including reduction peak of EBT (P₂ at -0.6 V), reduction peak of complex compound (P₃ at -0.9 V) and reduction peak of metal (P₄ at -1.18 V). Peak P₁ disappeared at pH = 6.0.

The reduction processes of complexes of azo dyes solutions of ERB and KLC with Co (II) are very similar to those described above. The potentials of peaks (P₃, P₄) of investigated Co (II) complexes with ERB and KLC are in the same range as for the complex with EBT. We observed

appearance of four peaks at pH 10 for ERB – Co (II) complex (-0.67, -0.76, -0.94, -1.2 V) and three peaks for KLC – Co (II) complex (-0.54, -0.82, -1.2 V) corresponding to reduction peaks of azo dyes (two peaks for ERT and one peak for KLC), complex ERT or KLC with Co (II) and reduction of metal Co (II) by itself (Table 1). The reduction peak of KLC disappeared at pH > 9.5.

The investigation of interaction of Co (II) with NBnTAN showed that decrease in height of reduction peak of NBnTAN depended on pH. In acidic medium at pH 5 the interaction did not occur what was confirmed by the constant value of cathode current of reduction peak of NBnTAN in the presence and absence of Co (II) ions respectively. With increase of solution pH, the height of reduction peak of NBnTAN in the presence of Co(II) increases and reaches the maximum value at pH 11. Thus the investigation of free NBnTAN and its complex with Co(II) was carried out at pH 11.

Table 2

The values of slope for dependence of E_p^c from pH;
C_{Co(II)} = 2.0 × 10⁻⁵ mol L⁻¹, C_{azo dye} = 4.0 × 10⁻⁵ mol L⁻¹.

Azodye	Peak	ΔE/ΔpH, mV/pH	pH
ERB	P ₁	25	1.0 – 6.0
	P ₂	34	4.5 – 8.5
	P ₃	37	4.5 – 8.5
EBT	P ₁	55	2.5 – 5.5
	P ₂	65,7	2.5 – 6.0
	P ₃	120; 50	4.0 – 5.0; 5.0 – 8.0
KLC	P ₁	90	2.0 – 7.0
	P ₂	62; 25	4.0 – 6.0; 8.5 – 11.5
NBnTAN	P ₁	52	1.0 – 11.0

The potentials of reduction peaks of azo dyes and its complex compounds with Co(II) depend on medium acidity. With increase of solutions pH the reduction peak has been shifted towards negative values of potential (Table 2). The values of slope ΔE/ΔpH did not give us possibility to calculate the exact number of hydrogen ions taking part in electrochemical process, since studied processes are limited by adsorption on electrode. The

reduction potential of Co(II) ions is almost independent on solution acidity.

The difference of reduction potentials of azo dyes and complex compounds (ΔE_p) is almost independent on acidity medium and concentration of metal ions at optimal conditions of determination (Table 3). We can assume that obtained complex compounds did not dissociate on electrode surface and ligand was reduced in bound form.

Table 3

The effect of pH on the difference of reduction potentials of azo dyes and complex compounds (ΔE_p); C_{ERB} = C_{EBT} = 4.0 · 10⁻⁵ mol · L⁻¹, C_{KLC} = 8.0 · 10⁻⁵ mol · L⁻¹, C_{Co(II)} = 2.0 · 10⁻⁵ mol · L⁻¹, v = 0.48 V/s.

pH	-E _p complex ^c , V	-E _p azodye ^c , V	-ΔE _p ^c , V
ERB			
8.0	0.92	0.66	0.26
9.0	0.94	0.66	0.28
10.5	0.93	0.66	0.27
EBT			
8.0	0.87	0.58	0.29
9.0	0.90	0.62	0.28
10.5	0.91	0.60	0.29
KLC			
9.0	0.84	0.55	0.29
10.5	0.82	0.53	0.29
11.0	0.83	0.56	0.27

Analytical characteristics of the voltammetric determination of Co(II) with azo dyes.

Effect of Co (II) concentration. The value of current of reduction of complex compounds and Co (II) ions increases with increase of metal concentration in solution. The analytical signal responsible for the azodye reduction process decreases (Fig. 3). Very similar dependences were observed for other azo dyes (ERB, EBT and KLC). The reduction peaks of ERB and KLC disappears at the ratio $C(\text{Me}) : C(\text{azodye}) = 1 : 2$, which possibly characterizes the composition of complex.

The presence of Co(II) ions in the solutions of NBnTAN at optimal conditions of the determination leads to linear decrease in the reduction peak height of NBnTAN (Fig. 4).

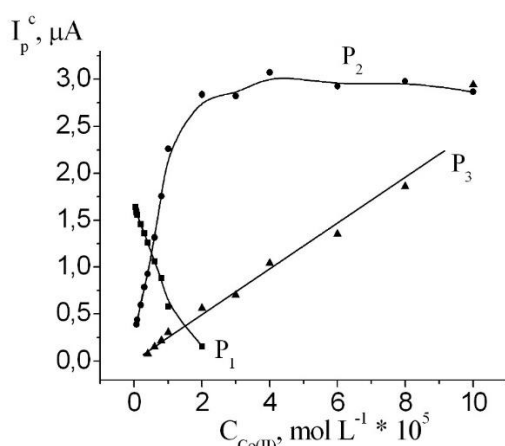


Fig. 3. Dependence of cathodic current of reduction of complex formed between Co(II) and KLC on metal concentration; $C_{\text{KLC}} = 4.0 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, pH 9.0.

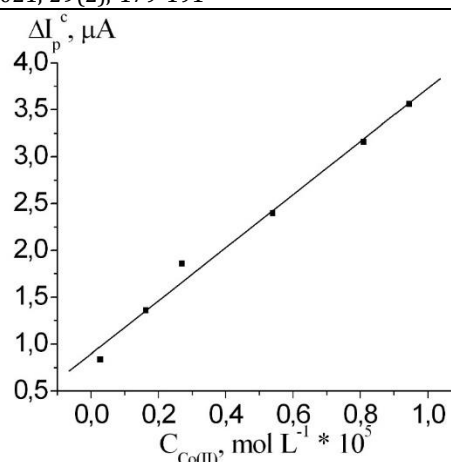


Fig. 4. Dependence of difference of value of cathodic current of NBnTAN reduction in the presence of Co (II) ions; $C_{\text{NBnTAN}} = 4.0 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, pH = 11.0.

The obtained dependence $\Delta I - f(C_{\text{Co(II)}})$ remains linear within two orders of concentrations.

The specific character of Co(II) ions reduction in the presence of azo dyes is a prerequisite for development of a new, sensitive method of its determination. Consequently, the linear dependence of complex reduction peaks from concentration of Co (II) in the voltammetric determination of Co (II) ions can be used. Decreasing the reduction of NBnTAN's peak height with using ERB, EBT, KLC and NBnTAN as reagents proves it too. Table 4 gives the metrological characteristics of procedures of voltammetric determination of Co (II) in model solutions.

Table 4
Metrological characteristics of the procedures for the voltammetric determination of Co(II) using ERB, EBT, NBnTAN, KLC, $C_{\text{azodye}} = 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (R - correlation coefficient, SD - standard deviation)

Reagent	Calibration equation	R	SD	Range of linearity ($\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$)	LOD ($\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$)
EBT	$I_p^c = 0.19 + 2.26 \cdot 10^5 C$	0.996	0.013	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-6} - 4.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.70
ERB	$I_p^c = 0.22 + 3.26 \cdot 10^5 C$	0.997	0.029	$2.0 \cdot 10^{-6} - 1.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.50
KLC	$I_p^c = 0.20 + 1.97 \cdot 10^5 C$	0.996	0.018	$6.0 \cdot 10^{-6} - 4.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.40
NBnTAN	$\Delta I_p^c = 0.89 + 2.83 \cdot 10^5 C$	0.995	0.012	$3.0 \cdot 10^{-7} - 1.0 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.20

Table 5
Accuracy of the voltammetric determination of Co(II) with organic ligands in model solutions, n=3; P=0.95

Added Co(II), $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$	DYE	Found Co(II)	
		$\bar{X} \pm \frac{St_a}{\sqrt{n}}$, $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$	Sr, %
1.0	KLC	0.90 ± 0.10	4.4
	NBnTAN	1.10 ± 0.12	4.6
	EBT	1.1 ± 0.1	3.7
	ERB	1.1 ± 0.1	3.7
5.0	KLC	4.9 ± 0.2	1.6
	NBnTAN	5.1 ± 0.3	2.3
	EBT	4.8 ± 0.2	1.6
	ERB	4.9 ± 0.2	1.6
10.0	KLC	10.1 ± 0.2	0.8
	NBnTAN	9.8 ± 0.4	1.6
	EBT	10.3 ± 0.3	1.2
	ERB	10.2 ± 0.3	1.2

The accuracy of cobalt(II) voltammetric determination with azo dyes in model solutions was tested using the «added-found» method. Results of the analysis showed that the calculated amount of Co(II) in model solutions correlated with the experimental results and the uncertainty of the obtained data was acceptable (Table 5). The investigation was carried out three times under the optimal conditions.

Effect of foreign species. The effect of ions that can interfere with the Co(II) determination was studied by an addition of a known amount of interfering ion into the solution before the voltammetric investigation, and then the content of Co (II) was determined as described above. The tolerance limit was considered as a value causing a $\pm 5\%$ change in the current. Maximum possible concentration of concomitant elements for voltammetric determination of cobalt in presence of ERB, EBT of and of KLC is very similar. It was observed that the determination of $4 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ Co(II) was not affected by the presence of Al(III), Fe(III) in the ratio 1 : 10, Pd(II) 1 : 30, Cd(II) 1 : 25, Mg(II), Ca(II) 1 : 100, Zn(II) 1 : 60, Cu(II) 1 : 2. The determination of $4 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ Co(II) with NBnTAN was not altered by the presence of Cu(II) in the ratio 1 : 1, Mn(II) 1 : 25, Fe(III) 1 : 30, Zn(II)

1 : 2, Pb(II), Cd(II) 1 : 50, Mg(II), Ca(II), Ba(II), Sr(II) 1 > 200.

Application. The vitamin B12 is known as cobalamin. Structure of B12 contains the biochemically rare element cobalt positioned in the center of a **corrin** ring with general formula $\text{C}_{63}\text{H}_{88}\text{CoN}_{14}\text{O}_{14}\text{P}$. It is necessary ~ 0.04 mgs of cobalt per day in form of B12 for normal functioning of organism. It is known that molecule of cyanocobalamin contains approximately 4.36 % cobalt of whole molecular mass of vitamin.

The developed techniques of cobalt voltammetric determination have been applied to vitamin B12 assay in solution of vitamin B12 and preparation Neurobex® NEO made in Indonesia. Preparation of vitamin B12 is a solution, thus ampoules were used for an analysis. Preparation of Neurobex is a mixture of vitamins (vitamins B1, B2, B6, B3, B5, B12 and vitamin C) in capsules. The content of capsules was used for analysis. The results of analysis are given in Table 6.

The atomic absorption spectroscopy was used as an alternative method for confirmation of accuracy and precision of the obtained results. Absorption was measured at $\lambda = 240.7 \text{ nm}$. Obtained data are in a good agreement with the content of cobalt in the studied objects by voltammetry and atomic absorption spectroscopy methods.

Table 6

The results of Co(II) determination with azo dyes using voltammetry and atomic absorption spectroscopy, n = 3; P = 0.95

Preparation: Vitamin B12 (ampoule, solution)						
Corresponding amount of B12 - 0.50 mg/ml						
Dye	Voltammetry			Atomic absorption spectroscopy		
	Amount of cobalt, $\mu\text{g/ml}$	calculated content of vitamin B12 mg/ml	Sr, %	Amount of cobalt, $\mu\text{g/ml}$	calculated content of vitamin B12 mg/ml	Sr, %
KLC	22.3 \pm 1.2	0.513 \pm 0.029	2.2	22.2 \pm 1.9	0.510 \pm 0.043	3.4
NBnTAN	21.8 \pm 2.2	0.500 \pm 0.050	4.0			
EBT	21.3 \pm 1.9	0.490 \pm 0.043	3.5			
ERB	22.0 \pm 1.2	0.507 \pm 0.029	2.0			
Preparation: Neurobex (capsule)						
Corresponding amount of B12 - 5.0 $\mu\text{g/capsule}$						
Dye	Voltammetry			Atomic absorption spectroscopy		
	Amount of cobalt, $\mu\text{g/capsule}$	calculated content of vitamin B12 $\mu\text{g/capsule}$	Sr, %	Amount of cobalt, $\mu\text{g/ml}$	calculated content of vitamin B12 mg/ml	Sr, %
KLC	0.220 \pm 0.027	5.07 \pm 0.62	5.0	0.213 \pm 0.022	4.90 \pm 0.50	4.1
NBnTAN	0.210 \pm 0.025	4.83 \pm 0.57	4.8			
EBT	0.213 \pm 0.019	4.90 \pm 0.43	3.5			
ERB	0.222 \pm 0.019	5.10 \pm 0.43	3.4			

Conclusion

Simple and sensitive voltammetric methods for the determination of cobalt using organic reagents containing an azo group (ERB, EBT, KLC and NBnTAN) have been developed. It was found that

the maximum yield of the reaction product is observed in the alkaline region at $\text{pH} > 8$. The formation of complex compounds is accompanied by the appearance of new peaks and a decrease of height of the reduction peaks of azo dyes on the

voltammograms. The developed methods are relatively sensitive, the detection limits are in the range of 10^{-6} – 10^{-7} mol·L⁻¹. The best sensitivity for the Co(II) determination of $2 \cdot 10^{-7}$ mol·L⁻¹ was obtained by using NBnTAN. Nevertheless, the selectivity is higher when using ERB. The studied effect of the accompanying elements showed the possibility of using the developed techniques for the analysis of complex objects. The proposed method can be applied for the determination of Co(II) in vitamin B12 in single and multi-component commercial preparation, natural, industrial and biological objects.

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