

NOVEL UV SPECTROSCOPIC METHOD FOR QUANTIFICATION OF CAFFEINE IN MARKETED ENERGY DRINKS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study is performed to quantitatively estimate caffeine in marketed energy drinks by using UV-Visible spectroscopic method.

Methods: This experiment was performed on various soft drinks and energy drinks available in the local market of India to determine the caffeine concentration. The quantitative method used was simple, easy UV-Visible spectrophotometric method by using carbon dichloromethane as diluent at 274 nm. UV-Vis spectroscopy is an analytical technique that measures the amount of discrete wavelengths of UV or visible light that are absorbed by or transmitted through a sample in comparison to a reference or blank sample.

Results: Among all the samples i.e. soft or energy drinks taken for this experiment sample 1 has low concentration of caffeine and the highest concentration was observed in sample 3.

Conclusion: Caffeine in an energy drink provides a stimulant effect, it gives energy. At lower levels, as it's typically used in soft drinks, it has less of a stimulant effect and is used mainly for its taste profile. However the concentration of caffeine should be within the limits specified. Excessive consumption of caffeine may lead to anxiety, caffeine dependence, increased urination, and may cause insomnia. Energy drinks can contain high levels of caffeine but are unlikely to be hazardous unless consumed with alcohol. This research is very important analytical process to safeguard the well being of people who are unaware to adverse effects of caffeine.

Keywords: Caffeine, Soft drinks, Energy drinks, UV visible spectrophotometer, Dichloromethane

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INTRODUCTION

Caffeine is a white crystalline xanthines alkaloid i.e. methyl xanthines group which is bitter in taste [1, 2]. The IUPAC name of caffeine is 1, 3, 7-trimethylpurine-2, 6-dione. Caffeine molar mass and density are 194.19 g/mol and 1.2g/ml respectively. In cold water caffeine has low solubility and it has better solubility in hot water, pyrrole, acetone, pyrimidine, and ethyl-acetate. Caffeine has very well solubility in petroleum ether, chloroform, benzene and ether. Chemical structure of caffeine is given in the fig. 1 below.

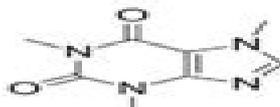


Fig. 1: Chemical structure of caffeine

Caffeine is present in leaves and seeds of different plants. Mostly it is derived from the tea leaves, coffee, cocoa or cola seeds. Big source of caffeine is tea. Higher concentrations of caffeine are present in black or oolong tea when compared with other kind of tea such as green tea. Tea was found in china and was initially used for medical purposes. It is extracted from *Cassia sinensis*, a plant that is indigenous to India and china. Tea has flavanoids and imparts anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective activity. In Asia green tea is most popular tea. It has large amount of caffeine, tastes bitter and is made of unfermented leaves. Black tea tastes much bitter and is made with fermented leaves. It has polyphenols such as flavanoids and has highest amount of caffeine. Flavanoids are effective against harmful agents [3].

In soft drinks like colas caffeine is most common ingredient. It is intentionally added to these drinks for the reason of their taste and to make the drink addictive. Depending on the drink type the content of caffeine in soft drinks varies which can be from 10 mg to 50 mg per serving portion [4]. The maximum amount of caffeine in carbonated drinks is restricted to 6 mg/ml by the USFDA [5]. In soft drinks the allowed amount of caffeine is in the range of 30 to 72 mg/335 ml or 8.45 to 20.28 mg/100 ml [6].

The popular drinks which contain caffeine are tea, coffee, soft and energy drinks. The most commonly used psychoactive compound worldwide is caffeine [7]. The amount of caffeine present in a cup of coffee is 100 mg. Even decaf coffee contains caffeine which can be 12 mg. The amount of caffeine present in a cup of tea is 85 mg. After 15 min of ingestion the effect of caffeine on human body may appear and can last for hours [8].



Fig. 2: Soft drinks

People will not have mood changes with consumption of less than 300 mg of caffeine. Consumption of caffeine causes dehydration due to its diuretic activity. Metabolism of caffeine takes place in liver by

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