



Application Note AN-V-235

Cadmium in chocolate

Determination using anodic stripping voltammetry after dry ashing in a muffle furnace

The element cadmium (Cd) is toxic to humans and can be found in the environment as a natural contaminant. Some soils contain increased cadmium concentrations in combination with high bioavailability. Under such conditions, the cacao tree can accumulate cadmium, mainly in the beans, which are then processed into cocoa. Chocolate produced from the affected beans will contain elevated cadmium levels.

To reduce the risk for consumers the maximum concentration in chocolate and other foods is often limited by the government. Typical limit values in the European Union are between 100

$\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ and 800 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ (EU Commission Regulation 1881/2006) depending on the cocoa content of the chocolate. Chocolate produced from cocoa beans with increased cadmium concentrations may exceed the maximum concentration limit.

Anodic stripping voltammetry (ASV) can be used to accurately determine trace quantities of cadmium in chocolate down to approximately 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. The method is simple to perform, specific, and free of interferences. Prior to determination the samples are ashed in a furnace at 450 ° C.

SAMPLES

Dark chocolate, milk chocolate, cocoa powder

EXPERIMENTAL

First, the samples are mineralized by dry ashing in a furnace at 450 ° C for 16 hours. The remaining ash is then dissolved in a small amount of concentrated nitric acid and diluted with ultrapure water. The cadmium determination is carried out on the 884 Professional VA with the Multi-Mode Electrode pro as working electrode using the parameters listed in **Table 1**. The concentration of Cd is determined by two additions of Cd standard addition solution.



Figure 1. 884 Professional VA

Table 1. Parameters for ASV analysis of Cd in chocolate

Parameter	Setting
Working electrode	HMDE
Mode	DP – Differential Pulse
Deposition potential	-0.8 V
Deposition time	60 s
Start potential	-0.8 V
End potential	-0.2 V
Peak potential Cd	-0.55 V

ELECTRODES

- Working electrode: Multi-Mode Electrode pro with silanized glass capillaries
- Reference electrode: Ag/AgCl/KCl (3 mol/L) reference electrode with electrolyte vessel. Bridge electrolyte: KCl (3 mol/L)
- Auxiliary electrode: Platinum rod electrode

RESULTS

The determination of Cd in dissolved ash of chocolate samples can be carried out in a simple and straightforward manner with ASV. The method is selective and free of interferences. It is

suitable for cadmium concentrations down to 10 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ with respect to the solid chocolate sample.

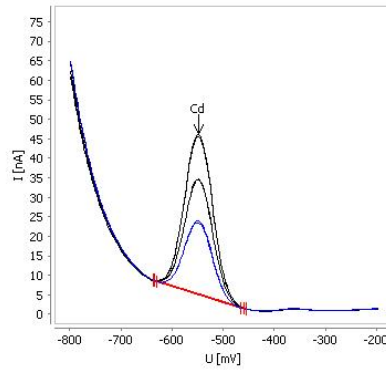


Figure 2. Determination of Cd in dark chocolate (72% cocoa).

Table 2. Results of Cd analysis with the 884 Professional VA

Sample	Cd [$\mu\text{g/kg}$]
Milk chocolate (29% cocoa)	10.4
Milk chocolate (34% cocoa)	37.0
Dark chocolate (72% cocoa)	164
Dark chocolate (87% cocoa)	346
Cocoa powder	98.2

Internal reference: AW VA CH4-0579-032019

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CONFIGURATION



(MME) 884 Professional VA manual

マルチモート電極（MME）のための 884 Professional VA manual は、マルチモート電極 pro、scTRACE Gold または滴下ヒスマス電極を使用したホルタンメトリーおよびホーラロクラフィーによるハイエント微量分析へのエントリーレベル装置です。高性能のホテنشヨスタット/カルハノスタットと、非常に柔軟な viva ソフトウェアとのコンビネーションにおける熟練した Metrohm の電極技術が重金属の測定に新たな展望を開きます。性能が認証されたキャリフレータの付いたホテنشヨスタットは、各測定前に自動的に新たに調整を行い、可能な限り高い精度を保証します。

この装置と組み合わせること、例えばCVS (サイクリックホルタンメトリーストリッピング)、CPVS (サイクリックハルスホルタンメトリーストリッピング)、CP (クロノホテنشヨメトリー) による電気めっき浴内の有機添加物の測定など、回転ディスク電極による測定を実施することも可能となります。交換可能な測定ヘッドにより、異なる電極を持つ様々なアプリケーション間の迅速な交換が可能となります。

コントロール、データ処理および評価のためにソフトウェア viva が必要となります。

884 Professional VA manual MME仕様は、多数の付属品およびマルチモート電極 pro のための測定ヘッドを付属して納品されます。電極セットおよび viva ライセンスは別途ご注文ください。



VA electrode equipment with Multi-Mode Electrode pro for Professional VA instruments

Complete electrode set for polarographic and voltammetric determinations. Includes Multi-Mode Electrode pro, reference electrode, platinum auxiliary electrode, measuring vessel, stirrer, electrolyte solution and additional accessories for setting up and operating the Multi-Mode Electrode.