



Application Note AN-V-210

Total arsenic in mineral water

Straightforward determination by voltammetry on a gold microwire electrode

Arsenic is ubiquitous in the earth's crust in low concentrations. Elevated levels can be found in mineral deposits and ores. Arsenic from such deposits leaches into the groundwater in the form of arsenite (AsO_3^{3-}) and arsenate (AsO_4^{3-}), causing its contamination. In addition to the arsenic originating from natural sources, industry and agriculture contribute to the contamination to a lower extent. The guideline value for inorganic total arsenic in the World Health Organization's «Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality» is set to 10 µg/L.

With a limit of detection (LOD) of 0.9 µg/L, anodic stripping voltammetry is a viable, less sophisticated alternative to atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) for the determination of arsenic. While AAS (and competing methods) can only be performed in a laboratory, anodic stripping voltammetry can be used conventionally in the laboratory or alternatively in the field using the 946 Portable VA Analyzer. The determination is carried out on the scTRACE Gold electrode.

SAMPLE

Bottled mineral water

EXPERIMENTAL

The scTRACE Gold is electrochemically activated prior to the first determination. In the next step, the water sample and the supporting electrolyte are pipetted into the measuring vessel. The determination of arsenic is carried out with the 884 Professional VA or with the 946 Portable VA Analyzer using the parameters specified in **Table 1**. The concentration is determined by two additions of an arsenic standard addition solution.



Figure 1. 946 Portable VA Analyzer (scTRACE Gold version)



Figure 2. 884 Professional VA fully automated for VA

Table 1. Parameters

Parameter	Setting
Mode	SQW – Square wave
Deposition potential	-1 V
Deposition time	60 s
Start potential	-0.3 V
End potential	0.4 V
Peak potential As	0V

ELECTRODES

- scTRACE Gold

RESULTS

With a 60 s deposition time, this method is suitable for the determination of arsenic in water samples in

concentrations from $\beta(\text{As}(\text{total})) = 0.9\text{--}10 \mu\text{g/L}$.

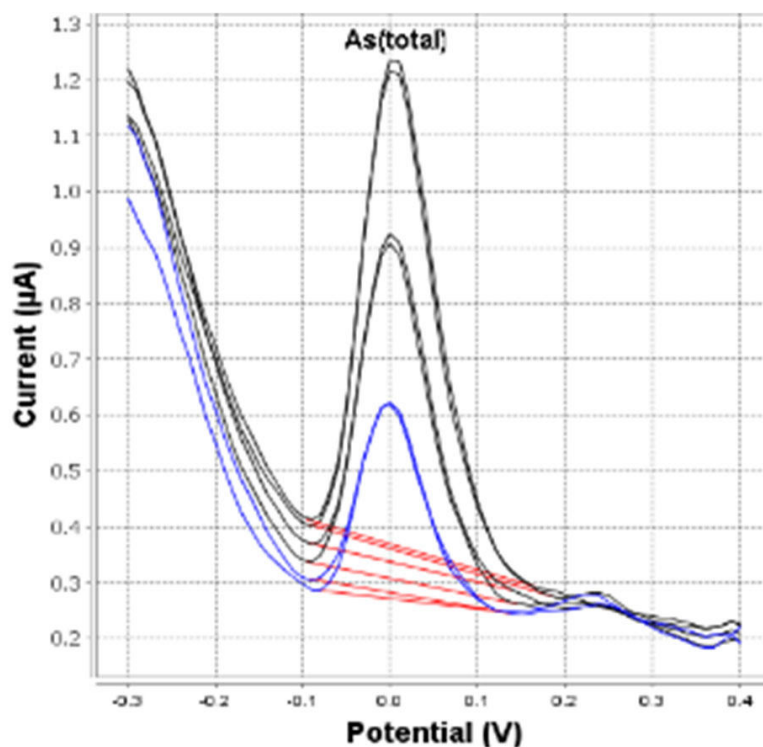


Figure 3. Determination of arsenic in bottled mineral water (946 Portable VA Analyzer; 60 s deposition time)

Table 2. Results of the determination of As in mineral water

Sample	As (µg/L)
Bottled mineral water	4.4

REFERENCES

Application Bulletin 416: [Determination of arsenic in water with the scTRACE Gold](#)

CONTACT

Metrohm Portugal
R. Frei Luis de Granada 14G
1500-680 Lisboa

vendas@metrohm.pt