

Fourth Derivative Spectrophotometric Method for the Determination of Fungicide Maneb Using Sodium Molybdate

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Abstract

A highly sensitive fourth derivative spectrophotometric method is presented for the residue analysis of ethylenebis dithiocarbamate fungicide Maneb. The fungicide maneb forms a blue complex with sodium molybdate on heating which is studied spectrophotometrically. The method has been successfully applied to maneb determination in wheat grains and soft drinks with high recoveries. The analytical sensitivity of the present method has been found to be $0.0011 \,\mu g/mL$.

Keywords: Derivative Spectrophotometry, Maneb, Sodium Molybdate

1. Introduction

Maneb (manganese ethylenebisdithiocarbamate) (Figure 1) is a common dithiocarbamate (DTC) fungicide available as dust and dispersible powder [1]. Maneb is active against a wide range of bacterial and fungal species, so, it is widely used on vegetable crops, in fields, orchards and vines, greenhouses, forestry and also for seed treatment [2]. Maneb is not systemic but rather a protective fungicide. Hence, its residues can be found on the fodder, fruit and other crops where it is sprayed. Ethylenebisdi-thiocarbamate (EBDC) fungicides like maneb have low human toxicity but their degradation to Ethylene thiourea (ETU) is of great toxicological concern [3-5] as it is associated with carcinogenic and teratogenic properties [6]. DTC complexes are toxic and have mutational effect [7]. Rathore et al. [8] have studied the mobility of DTC pesticides through soil and this aspect of their behavior presents severe hazards for the mankind as they can be washed in to drinking water sources thus entering our food chain. In the wake of above knowledge, it is imperative that highly sensitive and efficient methods be developed for the residue analysis of dithiocarbamate pesticides like maneb in various food and environmental samples. Most of the developed methods like spectrophotometry and gas chromatography [9] are based on the analysis of CS₂, H₂S or amines, which are evolved during decomposition of EBDCs.

One of the earliest colorimetric methods for Maneb determination was developed by Hylin et al. [10] Türker et al. devised a flame atomic absorption spectrometry method for indirect determination of dithiocarbamate fungicides [11]. Crnogorac and Schwack have provided insight into the various methods for the residue analysis of dithiocarbamate fungicides [12]. Waseem et al. have used a flow-injection method for the analysis of DTC fungicides with chemiluminescence detection [13]. A microwave assisted extraction method involving hydrolysis of dithiocarbamates and their analysis in tobacco leaves was developed by Vryzas et al. [14] A DPP (Differential pulse polarographic) technique has been employed for the determination of DTC residues by Schwack et al. [15] Lo et al. have determined propineb, zineb, maneb and mancozeb by an HPLC method [16]. Česnik et al. have developed validation for a GC-MS

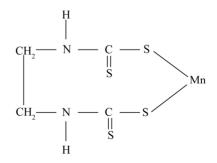


Figure 1. Structure of maneb.

method for the determination of DTCs in foodstuffs [17]. Cronogorac *et al.* have presented a method using hydrophilic interaction-LC-Tandem Mass Spectrometry for the determination for DTC fungicide residues in fruit and vegetables [18]. Dithiocarbamates (DTCs) can also be determined by methods, like iodometry [19,20], indirect complexometry [21] and FTIR spectrometry [22]. But the methods discussed above have various disadvantages like:

- 1) Most of the methods except for the gas chromatography are indirect, time consuming and less sensitive.
- 2) The Gas chromatographic methods are sensitive but not selective as all the dithiocarbamate pesticides evolve carbon disulphide on acid hydrolysis.
- 3) HPLC methods are out of bounds for several researchers as these are expensive and use toxic and expensive solvents.

In the present work, a relatively fast, simple, sensitive and selective derivative spectrophotometric method is presented for the analysis of Maneb by converting it into molybdenum complex. Maneb reacts with sodium molybdate on heating to form a blue coloured complex. Maneb and sodium molybdate combine in the ratio 1:2 to form complex. Maneb releases Mn²⁺ and dithiocar- bamate unit, the latter forms complex with sodium molybdate, which is then extracted into methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK) and determined by derivative spectrophotometry. The significant advantage of this method over the gas chromatographic methods is that it can be applied for the direct determination of Maneb in the presence of other dithiocarbamates like Ziram, Nabam and Zineb.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Equipment and Reagents

Elico SL-164, Double Beam UV-Vis spectrophotometer was used. Maneb standard was obtained from Riedel de Haën, Germany. A stock solution was prepared by heating 100 mg of Maneb in 100 mL of 0.1 mol·L⁻¹ of NaOH. Further dilutions were carried out with 0.1 mol·L⁻¹ of NaOH as required. A 2% (m/v) solution of sodium molybdate was prepared in doubly distilled water.

2.2. Procedures

2.2.1. Absorption Spectra

2 mL of 2% sodium molybdate solution and 1 mL of 2 mol· L^{-1} of H_2SO_4 were added to an aliquot containing 100 µg of Maneb. The mixture was boiled for 5 minutes, cooled and water was added to make the volume 5 mL. The blue complex formed was extracted into 5 mL of MIBK (methyl isobutyl ketone) with shaking. The or-

ganic layer was collected into a test tube containing fused CaCl₂ to remove any moisture. The solution was then decanted into a 1 cm cell and the spectra were taken against a reagent blank. The molybdenum complex shows peaks at 670 nm and 956 nm (Figure 2), but the peak at 956 nm has much higher absorbance; hence all the measurements were made at this wavelength. The first derivative, second derivative, third derivative and fourth derivative curves were given in Figures 3-6 respectively.

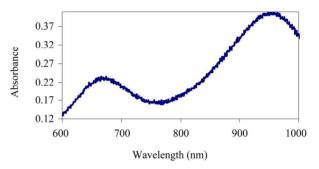


Figure 2. Zero order absorption spectra of Maneb-molyb-date complex.

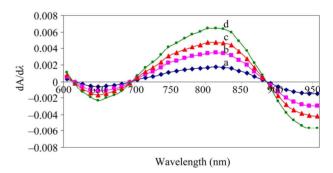


Figure 3. 1^{st} derivative curves of molybdenum-ethylenebisdithiocarbamate complex: a, b, c, d representing the amounts of Maneb in final solutions (a: 10, b: 20, c: 30 and d: 40 μ g·mL⁻¹).

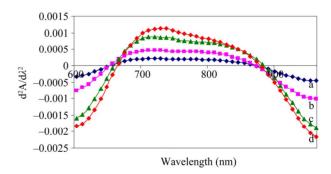


Figure 4. 2^{nd} derivative curves of molybdenum-ethylenebis-dithiocarbamate complex: a, b, c, d representing the amounts of Maneb in final solutions (a: 10, b: 20, c: 30 and d: 40 μ g·mL⁻¹).

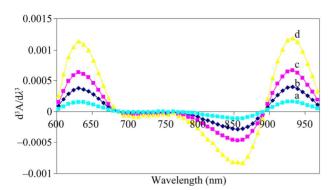


Figure 5. 3^{rd} derivative curves of molybdenum-ethylenebisdithiocarbamate complex: a, b, c, d representing the amounts of Maneb in final solutions (a: 10, b: 20, c: 30 and d: 40 µg·mL⁻¹).

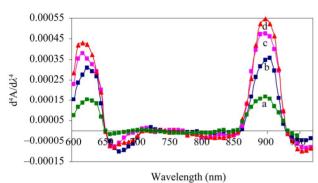


Figure 6. 4th derivative curves of molybdenum-ethylenebis-dithiocarbamate complex: a, b, c, d representing the amounts of Maneb in final solutions (a: 10, b: 20, c: 30 and d: 40 μ g·mL⁻¹).

In DS (Derivative Spectrophotometry), the λ reproducibility and S to N ratio are quite important. The features like peak height and noise level depend on parameters chosen like order of derivative; scan speed and integration time during recording of spectra. The use of optimum parameters will give better resolution and more sensitivity. For the 4th derivative spectra, $\Delta\lambda = 9$ nm was found to be ideal.

2.2.2. Preparation of Calibration Curve

The known volumes of sample solutions having 10 - $250~\mu g$ of Maneb were analysed by general procedure and the derivative spectra were obtained against a reagent blank prepared under the similar conditions. The characteristics of zero order spectrum are summarized in **Table 1**. The

Figures 3-6 show the derivative spectrum of different orders. The comparison of calibration curves of different derivative spectra are provided in the **Table 2**.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Beer's Law and Sensitivity

The optimum wavelength interval was found to be 9 nm for high resolution and sensitivity. The wavelength range to obtain spectra was selected from 600 nm to 1100 nm. The calibration curve was obtained by measuring the peak height between wavelength of 850 and 938 nm. Absorbance of sodium molybdate complex with Maneb recorded against a reagent blank was linear over the concentration range from 2 $\mu g/5~mL^{-1}$ to 40 $\mu g/5~mL^{-1}$ of the final solution. The detection limit is 0.0011 $\mu g \cdot mL^{-1}$ for Maneb when S/N ratio was 3.

3.2. Effect of Heating Time

It was observed that the absorbance of the complex increased up to a certain extent on increasing the heating time. Therefore, the reaction mixture was heated for different intervals of time. It was observed that an optimum heating time of 5 minutes was sufficient to obtain maximum absorbance. Increasing the heating time beyond this did not increase the absorbance as the complete complexation was achieved by heating for 5 minutes.

3.3. Effect of Acid Concentration

Maximum absorbance was observed when volume of acid added was between 1 mL to 1.5 mL. A decrease in absorbance was observed on further increasing the amount of acid added as higher acid concentration is not conducive for complex formation.

Table 1. Different parameters of zero order spectrum.

Serial No.	Parameter	Zero order spectrum of maneb-sodium molybdate complex
1.	Molar Absorptivity (L⋅mol ⁻¹ ⋅cm ⁻¹)	8.16×10^{4}
2.	Sandell's Sensitivity (µg⋅mL ⁻¹)	0.0049
3.	Analytical Sensitivity (µg⋅mL ⁻¹)	0.0011
4.	Linear Range (µg⋅mL ⁻¹)	2 to 40

Table 2. Comparison of calibration curves of Maneb using different derivative spectra.

Zineb Complex	Order of Derivative	λ (nm)	Regression Equation	\mathbb{R}^2	S.D. of Slope	Analytical Sensitivity $\mu g \cdot mL^{-1}$
1.	1 st	814	$y = 4 \times 10^{-5} x - 0.0001$	0.9997	1.2×10^{-6}	1.4
2.	2^{nd}	950	$y = 7 \times 10^{-6} x - 0.0002$	0.9992	2.4×10^{-7}	0.9
3.	$3^{\rm rd}$	932	$y = 3 \times 10^{-6} x - 5 \times 10^{-5}$	0.9995	1.4×10^{-8}	0.032
4.	4 th	904	$y = 8 \times 10^{-7} x + 7 \times 10^{-6}$	0.9994	2.3×10^{-9}	0.0011

3.4. Effect of Other Ions

Sample solutions containing 5 μg·mL⁻¹ of Maneb and various amounts of different alkali metal salts or metal ions were prepared and the general procedure was applied. It was observed that 20 mg of following foreign anions didn't interfere in the determination of Maneb: bromide (11 mg), acetate (15 mg), chloride (3.5 mg), fluoride (2 mg), citrate (20 mg) and EDTA (0.06 mg). Of the metal ions examined, Mn(II) (0.066 mg), Mo(IV) (0.14 mg), Ni(II) (0.30 mg), Co(II) (0.009 mg) did not interfere. Fe(II) and Zn(II) were masked with 1 mL of 5% NaF solution and 1 mL of 5% KCN solution respectively. 1 mL of 5% potassium iodide and thiourea were used to mask Hg(II) and Cu(II) respectively. It is thus clear that several ions like Fe, Zn, Hg etc. interfered in maneb determination

3.5. Effect of Standing Time

It was observed that the absorbance of the solution became constant after 2 - 3 min. so after extracting into MIBK a 5 min. standing time was selected. The absorbance of the complex remained practically constant for about 30 minutes with the R.S.D. of absorbance values varying between 0.69% to 1.6% for different concentrations.

4. Applications

4.1. Determination of Maneb from Fortified Samples of Wheat Grains and Soft Drinks

The method was applied to the determination of Maneb from fortified samples of wheat grains, cabbage and soft drink samples.

4.1.1. Sample Preparation for Food Stuffs

20 grams of the foodstuff was finely crushed and solu-

tion containing a known amount of maneb was added, it was mechanically shaken with 100 mL of ACN (Acetonitrile) for 1 hour. This mixture was filtered and the residue in funnel was washed with 3 \times 10 mL portions of ACN. The extracts were evaporated on a water bath (70 - 90°C). The last traces of solvent were removed using a current of dry air. The Maneb content in the residue was determined by the general procedure and the results indicated good recoveries in all cases. The results of the determinations were given in **Table 3**.

4.1.2. Sample Preparation for Soft Drinks

The soft drinks (coke and limca) were locally obtained. These were diluted ten times, filtered and spiked with known amount of maneb solution. The maneb content was determined by the general procedure using a reagent blank prepared under similar conditions.

4.2. Determination of Maneb in Commercial Samples

The method was applied for determination of Maneb in a commercial samples and. The formulated product sample solutions were prepared as discussed earlier and determined by the general procedure. The results of the determinations were given in **Table 4**.

4.3. Simultaneous Determination of Maneb in Presence of Ziram in Synthetic Mixtures

The method was applied for the simultaneous determination of Ziram and Maneb in synthetic mixtures. Ziram forms a yellow complex with sodium molybdate in cold, which absorbs at 420 nm (21) whereas Maneb forms complex on heating, all other conditions remaining the same. Synthetic mixtures of maneb and ziram were made in different proportions. To the binary mixture, 0.15 mL of 2 mol·L $^{-1}$ of $\rm H_2SO_4$ and 2 mL of 2% sodium molybdate were added. Molybdenum-ziram complex was extracted

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Table 3. Determination	of Maneb in fortific	ed sambles (mean	values and standai	rd deviations, $n = 5$).

Fungicide	Sample	Maneb added (µg)	Maneb found (µg)	Recovery (%) \pm RSD (%)
		10	9.8	98 ± 2.1
	Wheat	15	14.9	99.3 ± 1.9
		20	19.8	99 ± 1.9
	Cabbage	8	7.8	97.5 ± 2.2
		10	9.7	97 ± 1.9
Maneb		10	9.1	91 ± 2.4
	Coke	20	18.6	93 ± 2.1
		25	23.9	95.6 ± 2.5
		10	9.0	90 ± 2.2
	Limca	20	18.2	91 ± 1.8
		25	23.6	94.4 ± 1.8

Table 4. Determination of Maneb in commercial samples (mean values and standard deviations, n = 5).

Commercial	Maneb taken Maneb found (μg) Recovery (%) \pm RSD (%)		1 p	Rangaswamy et al. method ²²		
Sample			Maneb found (μg)	Recovery %		
D.4.	20	19.9	99.5 ±1.5	19.7	98.5	
Dithiane	30	30	100 ± 1.8	29.8	99.3	
M-45 (80% W.P.)	40	39.9	99.8 ± 1.6	39.8	99.5	
Did:	20	19.8	99 ± 1.6	19.7	98.5	
Dithiane M-22 (80% W.P.)	30	29.8	99.3 ± 1.4	29.6	98.7	
	40	39.9	99.8 ± 1.5	39.8	99.5	

Table 5. Determination of Maneb and Ziram in synthetic mixtures (mean values and standard deviations, n = 5).

Maneb added	Ziram added	Maneb found	Ziram found	Recovery (%) ± RSD (%)	
(µg)	(µg)	(µg)	(µg)	Maneb	Ziram
30	40	29.5	38.8	98.3 ± 2.3	97 ± 2.3
20	30	19.6	29.0	98.0 ± 2.6	96.7 ± 2.5
15	20	14.5	19.0	96.7 ± 2.1	95 ± 2.6

Table 6. Comparison of molar absorptivities of Maneb complexes.

Procedure	Molar Absorptivity (L⋅mol ⁻¹ ⋅cm ⁻¹)	Remarks	Reference
Molybdenum	0.4×10^{4}	Low sensitivity and selectivity	23
Rangaswamy et al. method	-	Low sensitivity, long tedious procedure	24
Complex formation with diphenylcarbazone and pyridine	6.5×10^4	Extraction not rapid and uses toxic pyridine	25
Complex formation with PAN	4.1×10^4	Less sensitive than present method	26
Molybdenum (at 956 nm) and derivative spectrophotometry	8.1×10^4	Better sensitivity	Present work

into 5 mL MIBK and maneb remained in aqueous phase. The absorbance of ziram-molybdenum complex was measured at 420 nm. To the aqueous phase containing maneb was added 1 mL 4 mol·L $^{-1}$ H $_2$ SO $_4$ and 2 mL of 2% Na $_2$ MoO $_4$ solution. The solution was boiled for 5 minutes, cooled and extracted into 5 mL MIBK, the spectra of blue complex of maneb was taken between 600 nm and 1100 nm. Thus, this method was applied for the simultaneous determination of ziram and maneb. Ziram was determined from the standard calibration curve. The results of the determinations are given in **Table 5**.

5. Conclusions

The present method is more sensitive than the carbon disulphide evolution methods. It is superior to the reported methods and the direct simultaneous determination of ziram and maneb is possible. The sensitivity of

the present method is comparable to other spectrophotometric methods (**Table 6**). The selectivity of the present method is superior to other methods. The wide applicability of this method makes it suitable for dithiocarbamate analysis in foodstuffs and in commercial samples.

6. References

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