

Studies of Uni-Univalent Ion Exchange Reactions Using Strongly Acidic Cation Exchange Resin Amberlite IR-120

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ABSTRACT

The selectivity behaviour of ion exchange resin Amberlite IR-120 for inorganic cations like sodium and potassium was predicted on the basis of thermodynamic data. The equilibrium constant K values calculated for uni-univalent ion exchange reaction systems were observed to increase with rise in temperature, indicating endothermic ion exchange reactions. From the K values calculated at different temperatures the enthalpy values were calculated. The low enthalpy and higher K values for K^+ ion exchange reaction indicates more affinity of the resin for potassium ions as compared to that for sodium ions also in the solution. The technique used in the present experimental work will be useful in understanding the selectivity behaviour of different ion exchange resins for ions in the solution. Although the ionic selectivity data for the ion exchange resins is readily available in the literature, it is expected that the information obtained from the actual experimental trials will be more helpful. The technique used in the present experimental work when applied to different ion exchange resins will help in their characterization.

Keywords: Ion Exchange Equilibrium; Equilibrium Constant; Enthalpy; Endothermic Reaction; Amberlite IR-120

1. INTRODUCTION

There are number of liquid processes waste streams at chemical processing, nuclear power plants, nuclear fuel reprocessing plants and nuclear research centers that requires treatment for removal of various contaminants. One of the most common treatment methods for such aqueous streams is the use of ion exchange, which is a

well developed technique that has been employed for many years in chemical as well as nuclear industries. While designing an ion exchange liquid waste processing system it is desirable to have an adequate knowledge about the distribution coefficient values and the selectivity behaviour of these ion exchange resin towards different ions present in liquid waste. Generally the selected ion exchange materials must be compatible with the chemical nature of the waste such as type and concentration of ionic species present as well as the operating parameters notably temperature. Considerable work was done by previous researchers to study the properties of the ion exchange resins, to generate thermodynamic data related to various uni-univalent and heterovalent ion exchange systems [1-6]. A number of researchers carried out equilibrium studies, extending over a wide range of composition of solution and resin phase [7-27]. Attempts were also made to study the temperature effect on anion exchange systems [10,22-29] for computing the thermodynamic equilibrium constants. However, very little work was carried out to study the equilibrium of cation exchange systems [7-21]. Therefore in the present investigation attempts were made to study the thermodynamics of uni-univalent cation exchange equilibrium, the results of which will be of considerable use in explaining the selectivity of ion exchanger for various univalent ions in solution.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

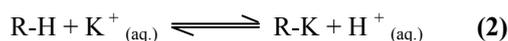
The ion exchange resin Amberlite IR-120 as supplied by the manufacturer (Rohm and Hass Co.,USA) was a strongly acidic cation exchange resins in H^+ form containing 8% S-DVB of 16-50 mesh size, having moisture content of ~45%. The maximum operating temperature is $120^{\circ}C$, operating in the pH range of 0-14. The exchange capacity of the resin is 1.9 meq/mL on wetted bed volume basis. For present investigation, the resin grains of 30-40 mesh size were used. The conditioning of the resins was done by usual methods [23-26].

The ion exchange resins in H^+ form weighing 0.500g were equilibrated with Na^+ ion solution of different concentrations at a constant temperature of $30.0^\circ C$ for 3 h. From the results of kinetics study reported earlier [30-41]; it was observed that this duration was adequate to attain the ion exchange equilibrium. After 3 h the different Na^+ ion solutions in equilibrium with ion exchange resins were analyzed for their H^+ ion concentration by potentiometric titration with standard 0.1N NaOH solution. From the results K value for the reaction



was determined at $30.0^\circ C$. Similar values of K for the above H^+ / Na^+ system was determined for different temperatures in the range of $30.0^\circ C$ to $40.0^\circ C$.

The study was also carried out as explained above for H^+ / K^+ system in the same temperature range, to study the K values for the reaction



The sodium and potassium ion solutions used in the entire experimental work, where prepared by dissolving potassium and sodium chloride salts (Analytical grade) in distilled deionised water. In the present study, a semi-micro burette having an accuracy of 0.05 mL was used in the titrations and the titration readings were accurate to ± 0.05 mL. Considering the magnitude of the titer values, the average equilibrium constants reported in the experiment are accurate to $\pm 3\%$.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The equilibrium constants for the uni-univalent ion exchange reactions (1 and 2) would be given by the expression

$$K = \frac{C_{RX} \cdot C_H^+}{(A - C_{RX}) \cdot C_X^+} \quad (3)$$

here A is the ion exchange capacity of the resin, x^+ represents Na^+ or K^+ ions.

For different concentrations of x^+ ions in solution at a given temperature, K values was calculated from which average value of K for that set of experiment was calculated. Similar values of K were calculated for both H^+/Na^+ and H^+/K^+ systems for different temperatures (Table 1).

Earlier researchers have expressed the concentration of ions in the solution in terms of molality and concentration of ions in resin in terms of mole fraction [21]. In view of above, the experimental results obtained in the present study have been substituted in the following equation by Bonner *et al.* [14, 18] and the equilibrium constant K' was calculated (Table 2).

$$K' = \frac{[N_x^+][m_{H^+}]}{[N_{H^+}][m_x^+]} \quad (4)$$

here N_x^+ = mole fraction of K^+ or Na^+ ions exchanged on the resin

m_{H^+} = molality of H^+ ions exchanged in the solution

N_{H^+} = mole fraction of H^+ ions remained on the resin

m_x^+ = molality of K^+ or Na^+ ions remained in the solution at equilibrium.

Since in the present study the solution was dilute, the molality and molarity of the ions in the solution were almost the same, with negligible error. Therefore the molality of the ions can be easily replaced by molarity. The equilibrium constant K' was calculated by Eq.4 and the average value of K' is reported (Table 2). Such K' values were calculated for different temperatures and the values were in good agreement with K values calculated by Eq.3 (Table 1 and Table 2). This justifies that the choice of units for the concentration in the present study is insignificant. The enthalpy value for the ion exchange reactions 1 and 2 were calculated by plotting the graph of $\log K$ against $1/T$ (Figure 1). Bonner and Pruet [14] studied the temperature effect on uni-univalent exchanges involving some bivalent ions. In all bivalent exchanges the equilibrium constant decreases with rise in temperature resulting in exothermic reactions. However in the present investigation, the equilibrium constant values increases with rise in temperature (Table 1 and Table 2), indicating the endothermic ion exchange reactions [23-26]. The low enthalpy and higher K values for H^+/K^+ exchange as compared to that for H^+/Na^+ exchange (Table 1 and Table 2), indicate that the resins in H^+ form are having more affinity for larger ionic size K^+ ions in solution as compared to that for Na^+ ions also in the solution.

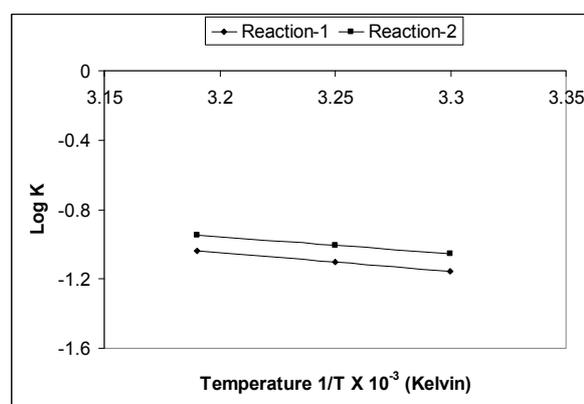


Figure 1. Variation of Equilibrium Constant with Temperature for the Ion Exchange Reactions (1) And (2) Using Ion Exchange Resin Amberlite IR-120. Amount of the ion exchange resin in H^+ form = 0.500g, Temperature Range = $30.0^\circ C - 40.0^\circ C$.

Table 1. Equilibrium constant for the uni-univalent ion exchange reactions using ion exchange resin Amberlite IR-120.Amount of the ion exchange resin in H⁺ form = 0.500g, Ion exchange capacity = 3.3 meq./g, Volume of external ionic solution = 80.0 mL

Reaction 1					Reaction 2				
Temperature = 30.0 °C									
Initial conc. of Na ⁺ ion solution (M)	Final conc. of Na ⁺ ions (M) C _{Na⁺}	Conc. of H ⁺ ions Exchanged in solution (M) C _{H⁺}	Amount of Na ⁺ ions Exchanged on the resin meq./ 0.5g C _{RNa}	Equilibrium constant K	Initial Conc. of K ⁺ ion solution (M)	Final conc. of K ⁺ ions (M) C _{K⁺}	Conc. of H ⁺ ions exchanged in solution (M) C _{H⁺}	Amount of K ⁺ ions Exchanged on the resin meq./0.5 g C _{RK}	Equilibrium constant K
0.01	0.0052	0.0048	0.24	0.072	0.01	0.0048	0.0052	0.26	0.099
0.02	0.0126	0.0074	0.37	0.074	0.02	0.0120	0.0080	0.40	0.099
0.025	0.0166	0.0084	0.42	0.074	0.025	0.0160	0.0090	0.45	0.096
0.03	0.0208	0.0108	0.46	0.072	0.03	0.0200	0.0100	0.50	0.096
0.04	0.0292	0.0112	0.54	0.072	0.04	0.0282	0.0118	0.59	0.098
Average equilibrium constant (K) = 0.073 Standard deviation (s) = ± 0.001					Average equilibrium constant (K) = 0.098 Standard deviation (s) = ± 0.001				
Temperature °C	30.0	35.0	40.0	Enthalpy (kJ/mol)	30.0	35.0	40.0	Enthalpy (kJ/mol)	
Equilibrium Constant (K)	0.073	0.079	0.094	19.9	0.098	0.107	0.120	15.0	

Table 2. Equilibrium constant for the uni-univalent ion exchange reactions using ion exchange resin Amberlite IR-120 calculated by Bonner et.al. Equation.Amount of the ion exchange resin in H⁺ form = 0.500g, Ion exchange capacity = 3.3 meq./g, Volume of external ionic solution = 80.0 mL

Reaction 1					Reaction 2				
Temperature = 30.0 °C									
Initial conc. of Na ⁺ ion solution (M)	Final conc. of H ⁺ ions (M) C _{Na⁺}	Mole fraction of Na ⁺ ions exchanged on the resin N _{Na⁺}	Mole fraction of H ⁺ ions remained on the resin N _{H⁺}	Equilibrium constant K'	Initial Conc. of K ⁺ ion solution (M)	Final conc. of K ⁺ ions (M) C _{K⁺}	Mole fraction of K ⁺ ions Exchanged on the resin N _{K⁺}	Mole fraction of H ⁺ ions Remained on the resin N _{H⁺}	Equilibrium constant K'
0.01	0.0052	0.073	0.927	0.072	0.01	0.0048	0.079	0.921	0.093
0.02	0.0126	0.112	0.888	0.074	0.02	0.0120	0.012	0.879	0.092
0.025	0.0166	0.127	0.873	0.074	0.025	0.0160	0.136	0.864	0.089
0.03	0.0208	0.164	0.836	0.081	0.03	0.0200	0.152	0.849	0.089
0.04	0.0292	0.170	0.830	0.075	0.04	0.0282	0.179	0.821	0.091
Average equilibrium constant (K) = 0.075 Standard deviation (s) = ± 0.004					Average equilibrium constant (K) = 0.091 Standard deviation (s) = ± 0.002				
Temperature °C	30.0	35.0	40.0	Enthalpy (kJ/mol)	30.0	35.0	40.0	Enthalpy (kJ/mol)	
Equilibrium Constant (K')	0.075	0.079	0.094	19.9	0.091	0.099	0.111	15.0	

4. CONCLUSION

Efforts to develop new ion exchangers for specific applications are continuing. In spite of their advanced stage of development, various aspects of ion exchange technologies have been continuously studied to improve the efficiency and economy in various technical applications. The selection of an appropriate ion exchange material is possible on the basis of information provided by the manufacturer. However, it is expected that the data obtained from the actual experimental trials will prove to be more helpful. The thermodynamic data obtained in the present experimental work will be useful to understand the selectivity behaviour of ion exchange resins for various ions in solution thereby helping in characterization of resins.

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