

# SPECIATION OF TOXIC METALS

Ayman S.M. HASSAN

\*ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2480-4420>

[\\*aymanmahfouzhasan@gmail.com](mailto:aymanmahfouzhasan@gmail.com)

[\\*aymansmhassan@arc.sci.eg](mailto:aymansmhassan@arc.sci.eg)

Pesticide Residue and Environmental Pollution Research Department, Central Agricultural  
Pesticide Laboratory, Agricultural Research Center, Dokki, Giza, Egypt

## 1.Introduction

Metal species determination “METAL SPECIATION” has had a pressing necessity (**Donard and Martin, 1992**). In small doses, several components are essential for plant, animal and human health (**Olle *et al.*, 2013**). Most of these elements are taken through food, water and air into the human body. Rocks, via weathering processes, are broken down into soils on which crops and animals are raised. Through the food chain and the inhalation of dust, human health is exposed. The natural constituents of metals and metal compounds are moving between the environment, with all the habitats, the lithosphere, biosphere, and hydrosphere (**Florea and Bu'sselberg, 2006**). Environmental contamination from organometallic compounds and other sources of elements is considered a major disaster, because of the high toxicity of these species (**Ph. Quevauviller *et al.*, 1992**). The toxicity of metal species is primarily based on their chemical composition (**Ebdon *et al.*, 2001**). Toxicological investigations clearly showed the various compounds – species - of the same variable may be largely different in effects that are adverse or essential (**Olle *et al.*, 2013**). There are ubiquitously distributed organometallic species in the the environment, both natural and anthropogenic. These species are often more toxic concentration compared to the relevant inorganic compounds or compounds of metal ions (**Douglas and Frech, 1993**). Analytical chemists have come to realise that the sum chemical element concentrations are unable to supply details about their versatility, bioavailability and eventual availability effect on natural processes of life beings. Only knowledge of an element's chemical species is capable of providing details on potential chemical and biochemical compounds. Responses contribute to a greater understanding of toxicity or essentiality. Consequently, the commitment of the content of the element itself is not sufficient to ensure adequate risk declaration. Recognizing that the levels of total metals and metalloids are not adequate for determining their effect on the environment, their bioavailability, and that their toxicity has stimulated the development of species-selective analytical methodologies (**Ebdon *et al.*, 2001**). Mercury, Ge, Sn, Pb, As, Sb, Se and others are among the elements are to be added to the list of growing interest to clinical chemists in metal-containing drug metabolite monitoring. In energy-related samples such as crude oils and gasoline, the identification of specific species is also important due to variations in behaviour in combustion and refinery processes (**Harrison and Rapsomanikis, 1989**).

## 2.General Metal Speciation

An appealing technique in speciation research to achieve accurate determinations which includes the online application of Isotope Dilution (ID) methodologies both with the HPLC-ICP-MS or GC-ICP-MS pairings was viewed. All the intrinsic benefits of this technique (Precision and accuracy) were added to the method of separation/determination and it is likely to be a broader future work(**Alonso *et al.*, 2001**). Hyphenated techniques, which undergo rapid and continuous growth, give the widely accepted approach to speciation analysis (**Donard and Martin, 1992**). Biological cells are flexible due to their extensive metal remediation and metal remediation applications speciation and preconcentration (**Ting Yang *et al.*, 2016**). A five-step method of sequential extraction was used in sediment samples for the speciaton of fractions of five heavy metals (**Jing Lin *et al.*, 2009**). They used a technique to distinguish five fractions of heavy metal exchangeable, bound to carbonate, attached to iron/manganese oxide, attached to residual fraction and organic matter. An ion-exchange preconcentration technique was used to assess the concentrations of trace metals in Texas rivers, with varying fractions (**KUO-TUNG JIANN, 1999**). Three metal fractions that have dissolved (labile, organic and inert), total concentrations of dissolved metals, total concentrations of recoverable and inert metals, concentrations of particulate metals were measured and compared to environmental conditions.

Chemical speciation and bioavailability was achieved in freshwater (**John David Murimboh, 2001**).

Minerals of the high quality gold and platinum category as syerskite, nevyanskite, ruthenplatosmiride, rutheniridosmine and rutheniridosmine, Pt-bearing, were discovered for the first time in the concentration of gravity (**Chernyshov and Ponamareva, 2012**). A technological mineralogical sample of jaspilite in the weathering crust of the deposit of Mikhailovka Magnetic phenomenon of Kursk (KMA), thus identifying a comprehensive deposit creation strategy. The distribution of geochemical speciation of five metals (Cu, Fe, Ni, Pb and Zn) was calculated (**Eduardo et al., 2017**). The geochemical speciation of Cu, Fe, Ni, Pb and Zn metals was performed using the changed three-stage BCR protocol. Metals were determined using atomic absorption spectrometry. X-ray diffractometry (XRD) was the tool used to classify crystalline phases of minerals.

### 3. Coupled Gas Chromatography-Atomic Absorption Spectrometry

Consideration of the theoretical aspects of the performance of GC-AAS detectors is necessary (**Douglas and Frech, 1993**). The expressions are derived to describe the relative sensitivity values of the detector (peak height/area) and Chromatographic efficiency and resolution in terms of the ratio of the analyte's time of residence in the atomizer and the standard deviation from the GC system by the (assumed) Gaussian peak eluting from the chromatographic system. There were various detector designs employed, the most critical one with regard to detection Limits of electrothermal graphite atomizers Type of tube and Quartz Tube flame electrically-heated atomizer or hydride generation (HGAAS) (**Dimitar Tsalev, 1999**). Automated flow injection and continuous flow injection HGAAS methods using accurate hyphenations with on-line sample/analyte (pre- or post-hydride generation) treatments or both. The potential caused by gas chromatography of microwave atmospheric pressure helium Plasma atomic emission spectrometry (GC-MIP-AES) is listed for organometallic and organometalloid compound of Hg, Ge, Sn, Pb, Ni, V, Fe and Se speciation research (**Ryszard and Adams, 1993**). Although GC techniques are useful for the study of volatile organometallics, the GC packed column also does not have sufficient resolution power to characterise complex environmental samples adequately (**Alexander et al., 1992**). The recent available microwave-induced industrial capillary GC Atomic Emission Spectrometer of plasma (GC-MIP-AES) using state-of-the-art methods of coupling has resulted in increasing the number of elemental speciation studies in these complex samples. Currently, however, GC-MIP-AES Needs high-purity, costly reagent gases and solvent venting to avoid the instability of plasma and accumulation of carbon. Similar issues are encountered on the discharge tube in GC-MIP-MS, where the mass cones of the spectrometer may be blocked, too. An automated technique that is sensitive and interference free for the simultaneous study of speciation of methylated species of mercury, tin and lead, and also inorganic mercury in water as well, with purge-and-trap injection-gas chromatography-atomic chromatography spectrometry of pollutants, established (**MICHEL AND ADAMS, 1996**).

### 4. Chromium

Chromium (III) is considered essential, while Cr(VI) is classified as carcinogenic (**Olle et al., 2013**) These species are polar and are Thermo-labile and thus liquid isolation of chromatography speciation research has acquired high importance.

### 5. Lead

The interface of an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer with a capillary gas chromatograph was Outlined (**Alexander et al., 1992**). The interfacing only required a simple adjustment to the traditional inductively coupled plasma torch for mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) and the creation of a heated transfer line. Chromatography of capillary gases ICP-MS is sensitive and element-specific with a high chromatographic resolving power. The process demonstrated a strong potential for the study of a wide variety of volatile organometallics to become a very useful tool of compounds in a complex hydrocarbon mixture of alkyl lead compounds with a detection limit of 0.7 pg and is also applicable to the study of organometallics that are relatively involatile.

### 6. Mercury

Organometals are present in the environment either as a consequence of direct methylation or as a consequence of direct anthropogenicity (**DONARD, 2001**). A very small proportion of the total is expressed in the solution. Under particular circumstances, natural methylation responses occur and the yield of these reactions, both in natural waters is usually very low as in sediments. Methylmercury is more toxic than metallic mercury. Mercury is less dangerous

than arsenic. Nonetheless, these modifications are in the form of the presence of the element results in significant changes to its physico-chemical nature properties, which can have a major effect on the toxicity and translocation between the numerous environmental compartments.

Two new and easy analytical techniques for obtaining volatile mercury and methylmercury species were described (Craig *et al.* 1992). This makes it possible to classify non-volatile analyte solutions by element-specific and species-selective solutions. Compounds of mercury(ii) and/or methylmercury(ii) non-volatile aqueous solutions  $\text{NaBH}_4$  or  $\text{LiB}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4$  are converted into volatile forms (including hydrides), followed by gas chromatographic separation. Atomic absorption detects the volatile derivatives divided by a column spectrometry or the mass spectrometry.

## References

- Alexander W. Kim, Mike E. Foulkes, Les Ebdon, Steve J. Hill, Richard L. Patience and Anthony G. Barwise, Steve J. Rowland (1992) Construction of a Capillary Gas Chromatography Inductively Coupled, JOURNAL OF ANALYTICAL ATOMIC SPECTROMETRY, 7.
- Alonso; J. Ignacio Garcia, Jorge Ruiz Encinar, Cristina Sariego Mufiiz, J. Manuel Marchante Gayon and Alfredo Sanz Medel (2001) ISOTOPE DILUTION ANALYSIS FOR TRACE METAL SPECIATION, <https://pubs.rsc.org> | doi:10.1039/9781847551696-00327
- Chernyshov; N. M. and M. M. Ponamareva (2012) New Data on Noble Metal Speciation in the Jaspilite Weathering Crust at the Mikhailovka Deposit, of the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly, Central Russia, Doklady Earth Sciences, 443, 1, 337–341.
- Craig; Peter J., Darren Mennie and Naman Ostah (1992) Novel Methods for Derivatization of Mercury(r1) and Methylmercury(ii) Compounds for Analysis, ANALYST, 117, 823.
- Dimiter L. Tsalev (1999) Hyphenated vapour generation atomic absorption spectrometric techniques, HPLC, J. Anal. At. Spectrom, 14, 147–162.
- Douglas C. Baxter and Wolfgang Frech (1993) Coupled Gas Chromatography-Atomic Absorption Spectrometry Using Semi-enclosed Tubular Atomizers: Theoretical Analysis of Detector Performance Characteristics, ANALYST, 118.
- DONARD, O.F.X. (2001) Metal Speciation for Improved Environmental Management, <https://pubs.rsc.org> |doi:10.1039/9781847552204-00115
- Donard; O.F.X. and EM. Martin (1992) Improvements of Speciation Analyses in Environmental Matrices, Trends Anal. Chem., 11, 17.
- Ebdon; L., L. Pitts, R. Cornelis, H. Crews, O. F. X. Donard, Philippe Quevauviller (2001) Trace Element Speciation for Environment, Food and Health, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, UK, [www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org).
- Eduardo Cimino Cervi, Felipe Fernandes, Renato Billia de Miranda, Frederico Fábio Mauad, Leandro Michalovicz, and Cristiano Poletto (2017) Geochemical speciation and risk assessment of metals in sediments of the Lobo-Broa Reservoir; Brazil, Management of Environmental Quality, 28, 3, 430-443.
- Florea; Ana-Maria and Dietrich Busselberg (2006) Occurrence, use and potential toxic effects of metals and metal compounds, BioMetals 19, 419–427.
- Harrison RM and Rapsomanikis S (1989) Environmental Analysis Using Chromatography Interfaced with Atomic Spectroscopy, Ellis Horwood, Chichester.
- Heltai; Gy. T. Józsa K. Percsich I. Fekete Zs. Tarr (1999) Application of MIP-AES as element specific detector for speciation analysis, Fresenius J Anal Chem, 363, 487–490.
- Jing Lin, Minggang Cai\*, Anxiang Qi, Hongyou Hu, Canrong Qiu, Yun Wang, Qingquan Hong (2009) Contamination level and speciation of heavy metals in sediments from Yundang Lake, Xiamen, Second International Conference on Environmental and Computer Science
- John David Murimboh (2001) Speciation dynamics in the freshwater environment: unifying concepts in metal speciation and bioavailability, PhD thesis, Department of Chemistry, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
- KUO-TUNG JIANN (1999) TRACE METALS IN TEXAS RIVERS: A TRACE METAL SPECIATION STUDY, A Dissertation
- Lakshmi Narayana Suvarapu and Sung-Ok Baek (2015) Recent Developments in the Speciation and Determination of Mercury Using Various Analytical Techniques, Journal of Analytical Methods in Chemistry, 1-18.
- MICHIEL CEULEMANS AND FREDDY C. ADAMS (1996) Integrated Sample Preparation and Speciation Analysis for the Simultaneous Determination of Methylated Species of Tin, Lead and Mercury in Water by

- Purge-and-trap Injection-Capillary Gas Chromatography-Atomic Emission Spectrometry, *Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry*, 11, 201-206.
- Olle Selinus, Brian Alloway, Jose´ A., Centeno, Robert B., Finkelman, Ron Fuge, Ulf Lindh and Pauline Smedley (2013)** *Essentials of Medical Geology*, Springer Dordrecht Heidelberg New York London.
- Philippe Quevauviller, Olivier F. X. Donard, Eddie A. Maier and Bernard Griepink (1992)** Improvements of Speciation Analyses in Environmental Matrices, *Mikrochimica Acta*, 109, 169-190.
- Ryszard tobiński and Freddy C. Adams (1993)** Recent advances in speciation analysis by capillary gas chromatography-microwave induced plasma atomic emission spectrometry trends in analytical chemistry, vol. 72, 2.
- Ting Yang, Xiao-Yan Wang, Li-Yun Wang, Ming-Li Chen\* and Jian-Hua Wang (2016)** Biological cells in the speciation analysis of heavy metals, *Anal. Methods*, 8, 8251.