

Determination of Ash Values of Crude Drugs

Practical 13 | Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry I

Aim

To determine Ash Values of Crude Drugs, and interpret the recorded observations.

Principle

- Total ash, acid-insoluble ash and water-soluble ash describe different residues. Each result must state the exact ash test and mass basis.
- The property is obtained from a defined observable under controlled conditions.
- Replicate measurements, instrument checks and consistent units are needed before comparison.

Materials and Apparatus

- Assigned drug, weighed crucible and completed ashing/residue records or supervised apparatus.
- Assigned test material and calibration or comparison material.
- The apparatus specified for this property, a balance or volumetric equipment where relevant, and a record sheet.

Method

1. Identify the measured property, units and controlled variables before setting up the apparatus.
2. Check the instrument, zero or calibration and record the relevant operating conditions.
3. Prepare a representative measured portion without changing its intended composition.
4. Obtain the readings specified for the property and repeat under the same conditions.
5. Calculate the required property, including corrections stated for the apparatus or method.
6. Summarize the replicate results and explain the effect of the variable studied.

Observation Record

Complete this record using actual laboratory findings or the provided teaching data.

Observation / parameter	Record / finding
Drug mass	_____
Crucible tare	_____
Total residue	_____
Specified insoluble residue	_____
Ash basis	_____

Calculations and Interpretation

- Ash (%) = specified residue mass/test-material mass $\times$ 100.
- For water-soluble ash, use the defined difference between total ash and water-insoluble residue.

Worked Illustration

Illustration: 0.100 g of the specified ash residue from 2.00 g material gives 5.00% ash on that stated test basis.

The values in this illustration are for calculation practice.

Result

Record the actual finding, calculated value with units where relevant, and a conclusion supported by the observations.

Finding: _____

Conclusion: _____

Precautions

- Keep temperature and test conditions consistent across comparative readings.
- Record raw readings before rounding calculated values.
- Do not compare results obtained with different methods as if they were interchangeable.

Viva Questions

1. Why control the test conditions?

A change in conditions may alter the measured property independently of the intended variable.

2. Why retain replicate readings?

They show repeatability and help identify an anomalous measurement.

Continue Learning with FirstHope

Complete Notes on the FirstHope App

Complete subject and semesters are available on FirstHope app only.

- Get complete subject and semester notes in the FirstHope app.
- Available for B.Pharm, D.Pharm, M.Pharm and Pharm.D students.

[Click here to get the FirstHope app](#)

Join the FirstHope Telegram Channel

Join FirstHope Notes and keep up with channel updates.

[Click here to join Telegram](#)

Instagram

@firsthope.official

[Click here to follow Instagram](#)

YouTube Channel

FirstHope-Pharmacy / Live streams

[Click here to watch the YouTube channel](#)

WhatsApp Channel

Follow FirstHope on WhatsApp.

[Click here to join the WhatsApp channel](#)

FirstHope Website

firsthopenotes.com

[Click here to visit the website](#)