

Isolation and Detection Study of Sennosides from Senna

Practical 11 | Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry II

Aim

To study Isolation and Detection Study of Sennosides from Senna, and interpret the recorded observations.

Principle

- Sennosides are glycosidic constituents studied by comparison with appropriate chromatographic or other analytical standards. A colour-class test cannot alone measure pure sennoside content.
- Crude-drug identity is established through a combination of macroscopic, microscopic and chemical characteristics.
- A chemical class test is supportive and does not alone distinguish all adulterants or substitute materials.

Materials and Apparatus

- Prepared senna teaching fractions and completed comparison chromatograms.
- Authenticated drug material, a prepared comparison specimen or atlas, and assigned test reagents.
- Hand lens, microscope with prepared sections or powder mounts, glassware and a record sheet.

Method

1. Identify the plant part and target chemical class in the provided teaching material.
2. Review the completed demonstration and explain the purpose of its separation stages.
3. Compare the labelled fractions with the target-class detection or standard data supplied.
4. Record the identity/purity evidence separately from a general class-test observation.
5. Calculate recovery only if a verified dry mass and defined starting-material basis are supplied.
6. Explain the separation rationale and the limitations of the identity evidence.

Observation Record

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

Observation / parameter	Record / finding
Starting material	_____
Prepared fraction labels	_____
Separation rationale	_____
Comparison identity evidence	_____
Recovery data	_____

Calculations and Interpretation

- Recovery (%) = recovered dry fraction mass/defined starting-material mass × 100, when valid masses are supplied.
- Call this fraction recovery unless purity and active-constituent content have been established.

Result

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

Finding: _____

Conclusion: _____

Precautions

- Use an authenticated comparison and retain the specimen identity.
- Do not taste crude drugs or infer a clinical dose from an identification test.
- Distinguish a characteristic finding from a feature that can vary with processing or age.

Viva Questions

1. Why combine several identification features?

One character may be shared by unrelated materials or altered by processing.

2. Does a class test establish drug purity?

No. It indicates a chemical group and must be combined with other evidence.

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