

Study of Preliminary Phytochemical Screening

Practical 01 | Herbal Drug Technology

Aim

To study Preliminary Phytochemical Screening, and interpret the recorded observations.

Principle

- Preliminary reactions suggest chemical classes such as alkaloids, phenolics, glycosides or saponins. Matrix interference and reagent controls prevent a class reaction from being mistaken for a confirmed individual compound.
- The property is obtained from a defined observable under controlled conditions.
- Replicate measurements, instrument checks and consistent units are needed before comparison.
- Record the material identity, extract/ingredient strength and the method used so the result remains traceable.
- Use the assigned product or material specification; general chemical-class findings alone do not establish clinical effectiveness.

Materials and Apparatus

- Prepared crude-drug extracts and completed or instructor-demonstrated class-test records.
- 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
Extract identity	_____
Chemical class	_____
Test and control	_____
Observed reaction	_____
Supported interpretation	_____

Calculations and Interpretation

- Record qualitative class findings with controls; no universal numerical concentration follows from a colour or precipitate.

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](#)