

# **Determination of thiabendazole in fruits and vegetables**

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# DETERMINATION OF THIABENDZOLE IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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**BY  
MARIA NAZ**

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**SESSION: 2015-2017**

**DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
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## **RESEARCH COMPLETION CERTIFICATE**

Certified that the research work contained in this thesis titled, **“Determition of thiabendazole in fruits and vegetables”** has been carried out and completed by Maria Naz, **ID: 15005140014**. The quantum and the quality of the work contained in this thesis are adequate for the award of Degree of MS.

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## DECLARATION

I, **Maria Naz D/O Muhammad Suleman ID: 15005140014** Session **2015-2017** hereby declare that the matter printed in the thesis titled “**Determinton of thiabendazole in fruits and vegetables**” is my own work and has not been printed, published and submitted as research work, thesis or publication in any form in any University, Research institution etc. in Pakistan or Abroad.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(**Maria Naz**)

## DEDICATION

Dedicated to ones who gave me life and grew me up  
Those angles who always my supportive.  
I owe them each moments of my life and praise  
them in every breath.  
Dedicated to the most holy person, **Mother**  
And the dearest person, **Father**  
And along with all hard working and respected  
**Teachers.**

# CONTENTS

List of Tables	vii
List of Figures& Graphs	viii
Acknowledgements	ix
Abstract	x
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-16</b>
1.1. Pesticides and their Classification	1
1.1.1. Chemical Pesticides	2
1.1.1.1. Organophosphate Pesticides	2
1.1.1.2. Carbamate	2
1.1.1.3. Organic Chloride Pesticides	2
1.1.1.4. Pyrethroid Pesticides	3
1.1.2. Biopesticides	3
1.1.2.1. Microbial Pesticides	3
1.1.2.2. Biochemical Pesticides	3
1.1.2.3. Plant Incorporated Protectants	3
1.2. Citrus Fruits and Vegetables	4
1.3. Benzimidazole Family	4
1.4. Thiabendazole	5
1.4.1. Chemical Structure	5
1.4.2. Physical and Chemical Properties	6
1.4.3. Synthesis of Thiabendazole	6
1.4.4. Mechanism of Action	7
1.4.5. Decomposition of Thiabendazole	7
1.4.6. Antimutagenic Properties	8
1.4.7. Thiabendazole as a Fungicide	8

1.4.8. Antiproliferative Activity of Thiabendazole	9
1.4.9. Pharmacokinetics Properties	9
1.4.10. Side Effects	10
1.4.11. Therapeutic Use	10
1.5. Ultra-Violet Spectroscopy	11
1.5.1. Principle	11
1.5.2. Instrumentation	12
1.5.3. Use of UV-Spectrophotometer for Pesticides Analysis	13
1.6. High Performance Liquid Chromatography	13
1.6.1. . Use of HPLC for Pesticides Analysis	14
1.7. Aims and Objectives	16

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW** **17-29**

## **CHAPTER 3: Materials and Methods** **30-37**

3.1. Apparatus/Glassware	30
3.2. Chemicals and Solvents	31
3.3. Analytical Equipment	32
3.4. Estimation of Thiabendazole by UV-Spectrometer	33
3.4.1. Reagents	33
3.4.2. Sample Preparation of Peels	33
3.4.3. Sample Preparation of Pulps	34
3.4.4. Extraction of Thiabendazole	34
3.4.5. Separation of Thiabendazole from Extractive Substances	34
3.4.6. Clean Up of Interfering Substances	35
3.4.7. Preparation of Standard Thiabendazole	35
3.5. Estimation of Thiabendazole by HPLC	36
3.5.1. Collection of Sample	36
3.5.2. Sample Preparation	36
3.5.3. HPLC Conditions	36
3.5.4. Sample Extraction	36

3.5.5. Selection of Solvent	37
3.5.6. Selection of Detection Wavelength	37
3.5.7. Selection of Mobile Phase	37
<b>CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>38-46</b>
4.1. UV-Spectrophotometer Assay	38
4.1.1. Calibration Curve for Standard Thiabendazole	38
4.1.2. Analysis of Samples with Interfering substance	39
4.1.3. Analysis of Samples without Interfering substance	41
4.1.4. Comparison of Thiabendazole Concentration in Pulp and Peel	42
4.2. HPLC Assay	43
4.2.1. Analysis of Apple Sample	44
4.2.2. Analysis of Cucumber Sample	44
4.2.3. Analysis of Banana Sample	45
4.2.4. Analysis of Lemon Sample	45
Conclusion	46
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>47-52</b>

## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1.1: Types of Pesticides	3
Table 3.1: Specification of Glassware	30
Table 3.2: Chemicals and Solvents	31
Table 3.3: Analytical Instruments	32
Table 4.1: Absorbance of Standard Thiabendazole	38
Table 4.2: Thiabendazole Concentration with Interfering substance	39
Table 4.3: Thiabendazole Concentration without Interfering substance	41

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Fig. 1.1: Structure of Thiabendazole	5
Fig. 1.2: Synthesis of Thiabendazole	6
Fig. 1.3: Synthesis of Thiabendazole in Acidic Medium	7
Fig. 1.4: Decomposition of Thiabendazole	8
Fig. 1.5: Instrumentation of UV- Spectrophotometer	12
Fig. 1.6: Instrumentation of HPLC	14
Fig. 4.1: Calibration Curve of Standard Thiabendazole	39
Fig. 4.2: Comparison of Concentration of Thiabendazole in Sample with Interfering Substances	40
Fig. 4.3: Comparison of Concentration of Thiabendazole in Sample without Interfering Substance	41
Fig. 4.4: Comparison of Concentration of Thiabendazole in Peel and Pulp	42
Fig. 4.5: Chromatogram of Standard Insecticides, Peak 3 Indicate Thiabendazole	43
Fig. 4.6: Chromatogram of Apple Sample	44
Fig. 4.7: Chromatogram of Cucumber Sample	44
Fig. 4.8: Chromatogram of Banana Sample	45
Fig. 4.9: Chromatogram of Lemon Sample	45

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## **ABSTRACT**

Thiabendazole is a member of benzimidazole fungicide group which is mostly used in citrus fruits and vegetables. Some fungicides pesticides contain benzimidazole compounds like thiabendazole, imazalil used for fruit's post-harvest treatment. Pesticides are important source of diffuse pollutants that are the major cause of environmental and food contamination, as well as health risk for living organisms. Therefore there is a need to control the risk related to the application of these pesticides. Therefore there is a necessity of simple, fast and cost effective techniques for the quantitative determination of pesticides in both environment and food samples. Analysis of the exit level of thiabendazole residue in citrus fruits and vegetables are important for government and private food laboratories. The presented research explained techniques used for the estimation of residue of thiabendazole in food samples by high performance liquid chromatography and UV spectrophotometer. In this analysis, extraction of sample peels and pulps was done separately with the help of chloroform. Thiabendazole separated from the obtained extract through hydrochloric acid. By comparison of absorbance of standard thiabendazole with food samples absorbance, it was observed that lemon peel and pulp absorbed more thiabendazole.

Further work was carried out by HPLC technique for determination of thiabendazole. The procedure was based on the solvent extraction by adding acetonitrile in the sample. To remove the moisture of the sample, sodium chloride was used. Results obtained from HPLC chromatograms showed that lemon had high concentration of thiabendazole as compared to others sample. Cucumber had lowest concentration of thiabendazole. It was

observed that thiabendazole concentration was low in market available fruits and vegetables. Both these techniques showed accurate and more precise results that were needed for the analysis of pesticide residue in fruits and vegetables.

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1: PESTICIDES AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION**

The use of pesticides is increasing tremendously since 1960. It basically reduce crop loses and also improve the yields of crops such as vegetables and fruits. Pesticides are designed to kill weeds, insects, rodents, fungus and mould. Some pesticides are formed naturally while most in use are produced from man-made chemicals. The use of chemical pesticides makes sure of high and good quantity of products, low cost, less time consumption, and can be applied on large area. But the negative effect of pesticides in environment cannot be neglected. The unconscious use of pesticides damage natural balance, cause soil erosion, water and air pollution and also leave residue in food. When pesticides stay active for long time, bioaccumulation trends and their effect on non-target species create a great danger for ecosystem and health. Therefore, pesticides require monitoring and analysis in food and environment for health protection, environmental assessment and pollution.