Analysis of Technetium Species and Fractions in Natural Seaweed Using Biochemical Separation and ICP-MS Measurement - DTU Orbit (10/12/2018)

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An extremely high accumulation and retention of technetium in marine plants, especially brown seaweed, makes it a unique bioindicator of technetium. In the present work, a novel approach was developed for the speciation analysis of technetium in seaweed, wherein a series of biochemical separations was exploited to isolate different species of technetium. Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) was applied for the measurement of $^{99}$Tc after thorough radiochemical preconcentration and purification. The results show that the distribution of technetium species in seaweed is relatively dispersive. Besides the inorganic species of $\text{TcO}_4^-$, most of technetium (>75%) combined with organic components of seaweed such as algin, cellulose, and pigment. This investigation could provide important fundamental knowledge for studying the processes and mechanisms of $^{99}$Tc accumulation in the natural seaweed.

**General information**

State: Published
Organisations: Center for Nuclear Technologies, Radioecology and Tracer Studies, Lanzhou University
Number of pages: 7
Pages: 11931-11937
Publication date: 2016
Peer-reviewed: Yes

**Publication information**

Journal: Analytical Chemistry
Volume: 88
Issue number: 23
ISSN (Print): 0003-2700
Ratings:

BFI (2018): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 6.24
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 6.042
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 6.08
Web of Science (2016): Impact factor 6.32
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 6
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 5.886
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 5.79
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 5.636
BFI (2013): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 6.01
Web of Science (2013): Impact factor 5.825
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2012): CiteScore 5.8
Web of Science (2012): Impact factor 5.695
ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes
BFI (2011): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2011): CiteScore 5.86
Web of Science (2011): Impact factor 5.856