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Amino acid inoic liquid functionalized magnetic graphene oxide nanocomposite coupled with high performance liquid chromatography for the separation /analysis rutin

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INTRODUCTION

Rutin,3', 4', 5, 7-tetrahydroxyflavone-3- β -Drutinoside, is such a kind of natural flavonoids, also known as vitamin P(Fig-1).It is widely found in buckwheat, citrus and other plants. Studies have shown that rutin has a wide range of physiological activities, such as anti-tumor, anti-bacterial, anti-tumor, antioxidation, and lower blood pressure, dilute the blood, reduce capillary permeability, is commonly used in clinical treatment[1].Therefore, it is important to study the determination of rutin in plants or pharmaceutical preparations.

At present, Rutin in plants is analyzed by capillary electrophoresis [2], high-performance liquid chromatography [3], ultraviolet spectrophotometry [4], electrochemical [5] and voltammetry [6]. HPLC has the advantages of high separation efficiency and fast analysis speed. However, the actual sample matrix is complex and low concentration. To improve the method of selectivity and sensitivity, HPLC is usually integrated with separation/enrichment technology.

Separation/enrichment techniques commonly used include liquid-liquid extraction [7] and solid-phase extraction [8].MSPE is a kind of extraction technique using magnetic or magnetizable material as a solidphase substrate, which has the good points of short adsorption time, simple separation and less organic solvent consumption [9]. MSPE extractant is mainly Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles (Nps) modified by specific functional groups to achieve selectivity, affinity and extraction ability to target analytes [10]. Many functional materials have been used to modify Fe₃O₄ Nps , such as SiO₂ [11], β-cyclodextrin [12], ionic liquid [13], graphene oxide [14] etc. The graphene oxide(GO) has a high specific surface area, rich surface functional groups, chemical stability and lasting corrosion resistance [15].Magnetic nanoparticles modified by graphene oxide have been successfully used for analysis of drug [16, 17]. Ionic liquids have loaded into magnetic graphene oxide been nanomaterials(Fe₃O₄@GO@IL) to improve extraction selectivity and efficiency [18-20]. Amino acid ionic liquids(AAILs) containing amino acid cations or anions is synthesized from natural amino acids, which has the

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characteristics of low toxicity, good biocompatibility and good biodegradability [21]. However, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@AAIL composites has seemly not been reported for the separation/analysis of rutin.

In this paper, $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ nanoparticles were synthesized and used as magnetic solid phase adsorbents in combination with HPLC.The synthesized extracting agent possesses not only some advantages of magnetic but also good adsorption of amino acid ionic liquid. This method shows the characteristics of rapid adsorption and easy separation. The factors affecting the extraction and elution conditions were explored in this paper. The method has been satisfactorily applied to determine rutin in actual sample.

EXPERIMENTAL

Apparatus and reagents

All chemicals and reagents were at least of analytical grade unless otherwise stated. FeCl₃, PEG, FeSO₄·7H₂O, tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS), Ammonia, anhydrous ethanol, tetraethyl orthosilicate, isopropanol, N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS),1-ethyl-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) phthalimide acetate(EDC), N, N-dimethylformamide (DMF), Hydrazine hydrate 85%, 3-aminopropyltrieth- oxysilane (APTES), Alanine, methyl imidazole, bromo-n-hexane , glacial acetic acid, methanol (high performance liquid chromatography grade) (the above reagents are produced by Sinopharm Group Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.), Graphene oxide (Suzhou permanent graphene technology co., ltd), Rat (Yangzhou University.

Instruments

LC1220 HPLC (Agilent, America), Tensor 27 fourier transform infraredspectroscopy (FTIR, Bruker Company, Germany), DZF-6020 vacuum oven (Shanghai, China),KQ-50E Ultrasonic Cleaner (Kunshan Ultrasonic Instrument Co., Ltd.),Centrifuge TDL80-2B (Shanghai Anting Science Instrument Factory)

Sample preparation

For lily, 5.00g of lily powder sample was accurately weighed and taken into the 50mL beaker. The sample was ultrasonic extracted for 5 h after adding 10.0 mL of methanol. Then the extraction sample was

filtered with 0.45 μm filter and diluted with methanol to 25.0 mL.

For rutin tablet, 20 tablets of rutin were crushed, and then 1.0000 g of sample powder was weighed and placed in a 50 mL of beaker. After adding 10.0 mL of ethanol the sample solution was ultrasonic extracted for 4 h. Then the extraction solution was filtered with 0.45um filter and diluted with methanol to 25 mL.

For rat serum, Nine healthy adult rats were fed with dose of 10 mg Kg⁻¹, and divided into 3 groups. The plasma was taken at 0.5 hour. Plasma was centrifuged at 4000 r/ min for 5 min, and supernatant was used as sample. To remove serum protein, 0.5mL of supernatant was added 2.5mL methanol, then centrifuged at 3000r/min for 10min. The final supernatant was analysised.

Preparation of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@AAIL

AAILs synthesis was seen from reference [22]. Fe₃O₄NPs were prepared by the conventional coprecipitation method [23, 24]. Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO was prepared according to the literature method [25].

According to the literature [26], the ultrasonic coating method was used to synthesize the $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ composite. 0.1g of readyprepared AAIL were dissolved in 10mL methanol, then $0.1gFe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO$ material was added was added into aqueous mixtures for further reaction. Putting the whole reaction device into ultrasonic bath, and ultrasonication for 2h intermittently. $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ composite was washed with methanol 3 times, then dried in vacuum.

MSPE of rutin

In the MPSE procedure, $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@$ AAIL was applied to the extraction of rutin, as shown i n Fig-2, 14mg of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ nanopartic les0.5mL of rutin standard solution (20µg mL⁻¹) were a dded into the 10ml centrifuge tube. The mixture was sh aking at room temperature for 15 min. Afterwards, the magnetic adsorbent was separated from the suspension by an external magnet. 8.0mL HAc were used to eluted the isolated MNPs. 20.0µL of elution was injected into t he HPLC system for detection of the target analytes.



Fig-1: Chemical structure of Rutin



Chromatography analysis

Fig-2: The procedure for MSPE of the target rutin with $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$

HPLC-UV analysis of actual samples

Three samples were assayed using LC1200 (HPLC, Agilent, USA). VP-ODS C_{18} Column (250mm×4.6mm) was used the analytical column. The mobile phase consisted of Methanol as solvent A and Phosphate buffer (0.1%) as solvent B, the ratio as follows 60:40(v/v). 0.8 mL min⁻¹ is used as flow rate. The UV detection wavelength was controlled at 254nm.

Adsorption capacity

To study the adsorption capacity of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAILs$ on rutin (q_e , mg g⁻¹), the maximum amount of rutin extracted by 1.0 g $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ can be calculated by the following formula [27]:

$$q_e = \frac{\left(C_o - C_e\right) \times V}{m}$$

Where C_o represents the concentration of rutin before extraction, C_e represents the concentration of rutin in the extraction equilibrium (µg mL⁻¹), and V is the volume of the solution (mL).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION Characterization of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@AAIL

The morphology of the as-prepared $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ NPs was characterized by FT-IR, SEM and VSM.

The characterization of FTIR The FT-IR spectra (curve of a) Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO and (curve b)Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@AAIL were shown in Fig-3. Fe-O bonds produce a peak at about 599 cm⁻¹. The peak at 1074 cm⁻¹ is generated by the Si-O bond stretching vibration. The characteristic peaks of GO are generated at 1073, 1599 and 1725 cm⁻¹ by C=O stretching vibration in C-O-C, C-C and -COOH, respectively.In the curve b, the C-N stretching vibration peaks at 1270cm⁻¹, 1725cm⁻¹ is significantly increased due to the C=O role of -COOH of amino acid ionic liquid. N-H stretching vibration peak was at 3109cm⁻¹. It is proved that Fe₃O₄ has been successfully modified by SiO₂, GO and AAIL.



Fig-3: Infrared spectrum: (a) Fe₃O₄@ SiO₂@GO (b) Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@ AAIL

The characterization of SEM and Magnetic properties analysis

The characterization of SEM and Magnetic properties analysis are from reference [28] Optimization of adsorption conditions Selection of magnetic adsorbent

In this paper, four magnetic adsorbents were used to extract rutin, which were (a) Fe_3O_4 , (b) $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2$,

(c) $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO$, (d) $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$, as shown in Fig-6. It can be seen from the Fig-4 that the extraction rate of the $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ is significantly higher than that of the other materials under the same pH conditions. So $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ is selected as the extraction material.



Fig-4: Selection of extraction materials: (a)Fe₃O₄(b)Fe₃O₄@SiO₂(c)Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO (d) Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@AAIL

The effect of pH

Different pH (pH = $3.5 \sim 12.0$) had showed an vital effect in the extraction of target analytes. As shown in Fig-5, the extraction rate of rutin was gradually increased when the pH value of the solution is $3.5 \sim 6.0$, remained at around 94.0% in the range of pH $6.0 \sim 7.0$ and reduced when the pH value exceeds 7.0.

The reason may be that rutin is a polyphenolic compound, the neutral molecular structure is always maintained at pH 6.0~7.0, and the form of ions in solution at pH>7.0 [29]. So rutin in neutral form is more easily extracted. Therefore, the best solution for the sample pH is 6.0.



Fig-5: Effect of pH on extraction rate

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Effect of amount of adsorbent

The amount of adsorbents in MSPE would directly affect the extraction efficiency of analyte, different amounts of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ nanoparticles were examined in the rang of

2.0~18.0mg. Results as shown in Fig-6, the extraction rate of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ nanoparticles on rutin was the highest at 14.0mg, reaching 94.0%, then remained unchanged. In this paper, the mass of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ nanoparticles is 14.0mg.



Fig-6: Effect of the amount of adsorbent on the extraction rate

The effect of temperature

The extraction rate of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ on rutin was studied at 0.0-50.0°C.The temperature has little effect on the extraction rate, and the extraction rate is kept above 90.0%. Therefore, this experiment is selected at room temperature. The extraction time of $Fe_3O_4@$ SiO₂@GO@AAIL on rutin at pH=6.0 at room temperature was studied. As shown in Fig-7, the extraction rate is more than 92.0% in 15 min with time (1-50 min) and remains stable. The extraction process takes some time to achieve the extraction equilibrium in order to obtain higher extraction rate. Therefore, the extraction time chosen in this experiment is 15min.

The effect of extraction time



Fig-7: Effect of adsorption time on the extraction rate

The adsorption mechanism can be discussed by using the adsorption kinetic model to explore the extraction mechanism. The general adsorption kinetic model has a first-order kinetic model, a second-order kinetic model and a Weber-Morris model [30]. Among them, the second-order kinetic model is a chemical adsorption model, which is mainly through the extraction agent and analyte between the chemical force, including: electrostatic force, intermolecular force, hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic effects [31]. The second-order adsorption kinetic model is fitted and the formula is as follows [32]:

$$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{k_2 q_e^2} + \frac{t}{q_e}$$

Where q_e is the adsorption amount of the analyte at the time of adsorption equilibrium, and q_t is the adsorption amount of the analyte at time t adsorption. Usually by t/qt on t mapping, linear regression and fitting to get the corresponding kinetic parameters, if the fitting equation shows that the adsorption process in line with the secondary adsorption dynamic model. In this study, Fe3O4@SiO2@GO@AAI L adsorption of rutin, with this method to fit (Fig-8). The results show that the linear relationship is good, $R^2=0.9998$, demonstrating that the extraction process is in accordance with the secondary adsorption dynamic model. The adsorption process is a chemical adsorption process. Some principles are observed that the interaction between the ionic liquid and the rutin on the surface of the extractant is mainly hydrophobic. The method has good extraction effect on rutin, and can obtain higher extraction rate and shorter extraction time.



Fig-8: Adsorption kinetic model

Effect of ionic strength

Taking into account the role of ionic strength, this experiment used 0-25% (w/v) sodium chloride as the electrolyte model, as shown in Fig-9. In the absence of NaCl solution, the extraction rate of rutin was the highest. Na⁺ competes with $[C_6ALA]^+$ for the Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO matrix [21], leading to a decrease in the extraction rate. So this experiment didn't chose to add NaCl solution.



Fig-9: Effect of ionic strength on extraction rate

Effect of sample volume

When the rutin content in the immobilized solution is $10.00 \ \mu g$, the sample volume sample ($10.0 \ to 100.0 \ mL$) was discussed. The results are shown in Fig-10. As the volume of the solution increased, the

extraction rate of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ does not change much, but when the solution volume is above 60.0mL, the extraction rate is less than 85%, so the solution allows the maximum adsorption volume for 60.0mL.



Fig-10: Effect of solution volume on adsorption rate

In this study, the adsorption capacity of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@$ AAIL for rutin was achieved by changing the concentration of rutin during the extraction process. The results are shown in Fig-11. The

results showed that the adsorption capacity of AAILbased magnetic graphene oxide was 4.09mg g^{-1} when the concentration of rutonium reached 4.2 g mL⁻¹.



Fig-11: Adsorption capacity of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@AAIL for rutin

Optimization of elution conditions Eluent selection

The adsorbent was eluted with different eluents in order to achieve the reuse of the $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@$ AAIL, as shown in Fig-12. As can be seen from the Fig-13: (1) the three strong acids eluents(2.0mol L⁻¹H₂SO₄, 2.0mol L⁻¹HCl and 2.0mol L⁻

¹HNO₃) is almost useless for the elution of the rutin; (2) it is proved that the acetic acid molecule[HAc] plays a major role in elution(comparing extraction rates of 0.5mol L⁻¹ sodium acetate[Ac⁻] and 0.5mol L⁻¹ acetic acid HAc); (3) the elution of acetic acid for rutin was related to [HAc] concentration. So HAc is chosen as the eluent.



Fig-12: The elution rates of different eluent

The effect of eluent volume

When the eluent volume is between 1.0-9.0 mL, as shown in Fig-13, the eluent volume is in the range of 8.0-9.0 mL and the elution rate remains

approximately 95.0%. Therefore, the optimal elution volume is 8.0mL and the pre-enrichment factor is 7.5 (the quotient of volume before extraction and after elution).



Fig-13: Effect of eluent volume on elution rate

The effect of elution time

The elution of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ extracted with rutin was carried out as shown in Fig-14. Elution was carried out at the optimum eluent volume.

As the elution time increased (1-50 min), the elution process completed within 30 min, the elution rate of 95.0% or more, and remained stable within 50 min, so the best elution time is 30min.



Fig-14: Effect of elution time on elution rate

The effect of elution temperature

The effects of elution temperature on the elution rate of rutin (5.0-50.0°C) were studied. As

shown in Fig-15, the elution rate was decreased with the rise of elution temperature, and the elution rate is the highest at 5.0° C, reaching 100.0%. The reason may be

that the acetic acid molecule (HAc) plays a major role in the elution process (Fig-14) and (HAc) was getting smaller due to the ionization constant of acetic acid bigger with the increase of temperature [33], the elution rate was decreased with the rise of elution temperature. So the experiment selected 5.0 °C best elution temperature.



Fig-15: Effect of elution temperature on elution rate

The repeated times of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ In order to repeat the use of $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$, each MSPE use 8.0mL glacial acetic acid elution, and then re-used in the MSPE process, the experimental results shown in Fig16. The results clearly show that after 4 times elution, the extraction rate was below 85.0%. As a result of repeated elution, Rutin's fine residue affects the next extraction process, and $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$ material may be lost.



Fig-16: Number of reuse of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@GO@AAIL

Interference experiment

Real samples contain particularly different kinds of ionic species and compounds, which may have negative effect on the extraction process, since their compositions are usually complex. The effect of interfering substance on the extraction of rutin (c=1.00 $\mu g \text{ mL}^{-1}$) was studied. The allowable error range was $\leq \pm 5\%$. The results are shown in Table-1.

Table-1: Effects of Interference Substances			
Tested substances	Tested substances to analyte ratio (w/w)		
Na^+ , Ca^{2+} , SO_4^{2-} , Cl^-	500		
Citrate, Glucose	400		
Mg^{2+} , Al^{3+} , Tartaric acid, vitamin C	200		
Emodin	5		
Quercetin	2		

Analysis performance

The linear range of the rutin was $2.5-5 \times 10^3$ ng mL⁻¹, the linear equation was I (peak area) = 2688c+698358 (µg mL⁻¹), the linear correlation coefficient (R²) was 0.9996, the relative standard deviation was 1.90% (N=11, c=1.0 µg mL⁻¹). The detection limit was 0.02 ng mL⁻¹ and the enrichment

factor was 7.5(the quotient of volume before extraction and after elution).

Compared with other methods

Comparing this method with other methods, it can be seen from Table-2 that the method has the advantages of low detection limit, high sensitivity and simple operation.

Method	RSD (%)	LOD	LR	Ref
CZE	3.00	0.333 µg mL ⁻¹	6.25 - 200 μg mL ⁻¹	[2]
SPE-HPLC	3.04	$8.3~\mu\mathrm{g~L}^{-1}$	$0.001 – 0.1$ mg mL $^{-1}$	[3]
SPE- UV-visibLe	2.9	17.0 ng mL ⁻¹	$0.050-8.0 \ \mu g \ mL^{-1}$	[4]
IL-DMC-PE	2.5	1.17nmol L ⁻¹	$0.008-4.0 \ \mu mol \ L^{-1}$	[5]
SMWCNT-PEDOT-IL-Adv	1.5	$7.7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1}$	1.0×10^{-6} - 1.4×10^{-5} mol L ⁻¹	[6]
MSPE- HPLC	1.90	0.02ng mL ⁻¹	$2.5-5 \times 10^3$ ng mL ⁻¹	This method

Sample determination

In the optimization experimental conditions, the extraction chromatogram of the sample is shown in Fig-17. There is almost no interference in the actual sample. It can be observed that: (1) the retention time of rutin was 5.3min (curve a); (2) the signal of rutin in actual sample was significantly enhanced after enrichment (curve $c_x e_x$ g). The recovery results was shown in Table-3. The recoveries of lily, rutin tablets and mouse serum samples are in rang of 96.0%-102.2%, 94.7%-105%, 97.3%-101.7%, respectively. The determination of three samples was shown in Table-4. The results are satisfactory.



Fig-17: HPLC–UV chromatograms of samples with MSPE procedure (a) Rutin standard solution (b) lily sample (c) the lily sample after enrichment (d) serum sample after taking 0.5h (e) serum sample after taking 0.5h of enrichment (f) Rutin tablet sample (g) Rutin tablet sample after enrichment

Table-3: The recorvies of rutin in real samples					
Sample	Added($\mu g m L^{-1}$)	Found ($\mu g m L^{-1}$)	Recovery (%)	RSD intra-day(%)	RSD
					inter-day(%)
Lily	0.00	0.76±0.12	_	2.7	2.9
	0.50	1.24±0.54	96.0	3.7	7.9
	2.00	2.78±1.02	102.2	2.5	8.5
	3.00	3.71±0.62	98.5	2.9	4.8
Rutin tablet	0.00	0.97±0.77		3.2	4.1
	0.50	1.44±0.19	94.7	3.5	9.3
	2.00	2.96±0.80	99.4	5.6	5.8
	3.00	4.12±0.23	105.0	8.2	5.9
Mouse serum ^a	0.00	1.3±0.76		2.0	9.1
	0.50	1.81±1.89	101.7	5.0	9.0
	2.00	3.26±0.91	98.2	4.4	7.3
	3.00	4.22±1.82	97.3	4.1	6.4

a: At the dose of 10mg kg⁻¹, the serum samples were taken at 0.5h.

Table-4:	Sample	measurement	results

Sample	Label value	Intragastric dose	Collected time(h)	Found
Lily	/	/	/	3.02µg g ⁻¹
Rutin tablet	20.00mg tablet ⁻¹	/	/	19.45mg tablet ⁻¹
Mice serum	/	10mg Kg ⁻¹	0.5	2.6µg mL ⁻¹
			1.0	1.4μg mL ⁻¹
			1.5	$0.7 \mu g m L^{-1}$

CONCLUSION

In this paper, $Fe_3O_4@SiO_2@GO@AAIL$, a magnetic solid phase extraction material was synthesized successfully and analyzed in combination with HPLC. This study shows that the newly nanomaterials have many advantages of simple operation, separation and analysis time and high extraction efficiency in enrichment of rutin. The method is simple, safe, rapid and stable, and the result of sample determination is satisfactory.

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