LANTHANUM (III) SELECTIVE ELECTRODE BASE 1,10-DIAZA-4,7,13,16-
TETRAOXYCYCLOOCTADECANE-N,N’-DIACETIC ACID AS IONOPHORE

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Abstract

Lanthanum (III) ion selective electrode base on an ionophore 1,10-Diaza-4,7,13,16-
tetraoxycyclooctadecane-N,N’-diaceticacid was studied. Electrode was prepared with
inner solution system by the membrane composition containing active ionophore,
anionicside KTCPB, plasticizer NPOE and support matrix PVC. A good response is
obtained with slope 19.93 ± 1.62 and electrode can response with detection limit
5.10^{-6} M. Measurement range is wide (10^{-5} – 10^{-1} M) and has response time about
27 seconds. The electrode can measure lanthanum ion with a few interfering alkali,
earth alkali and transition element.

Keywords: Lanthanum ion-selective-electrode, PVC membrane,
1,10-Diaza-4,7,13,16-tetraoxycyclooctadecane-N,N’-diaceticacid

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1. INTRODUCTION

Rare earth elements is known as important inorganic compound, because its properties, especially its strong magnetic materials. One of the important element is lanthanum. The available methods for low level determination of rare earth ion in solution includes, ICPMS, ICPAES, X-ray fluorescence spectrometry, etc.\textsuperscript{1-2} These methods are either time consuming, involving multiple sample manipulation and too expensive for most analytical laboratories.

Ion selective electrode (ISE) in potentiometry is one of method analysis that more simple and unexpensive but can used as a good methods. Ion selective electrode with neutral carrier was developed for some element especially for alkali, earth alkali and transition element.\textsuperscript{3} There are as successful method for analysis. For rare earth element, the system is very little do it some researcher. Only a few report are found in the literature on preparation ore rare earth ion selective electrode.\textsuperscript{4} For the reason, we try to do the ion selective electrode for rare earth element, especially for the lanthanum element.

Macrocycle compound has properties to construct complex compound with some metals. In this case macrocycle function as a ligand.\textsuperscript{5} For example, crown ether with alkali and earth alkali metals ion that very specific complex compound. Macrocycle with N (nitrogen) element usually make complex compound with transition elements. Chang C.A. was synthesis macrocycle compound lariat diaza 18 C 6 (1,10-Diaza-4,7,13,16-tetraoxacyclooctadecane-N,N’-diaceticacid and 1,7-Diaza-4,10,13-trioxacyclooctadecane-N,N’-diaceticacid) and study complexation with rare earth element. They conclusion are that compound as selective reagents for lanthanides ion.\textsuperscript{6} For this reason we try to make ion selective electrode for lanthanum element with compound lariat diaza 18 C 6. We vocused with two kind of macrocycle compound that structure can see in the figure 1.\textsuperscript{7}

![Figure 1: Structure of macrocycle lariat diaza 18 C 6 compound](image-url)

I. Dimetoksi Diaza 18 C 6  
II. Dacetic acid diaza 18 C 6

Figure 1: Structure of macrocycle lariat diaza 18 C 6 compound
2. THEORY

Ion selective electrode membranes are typically investigated under zero current conditions as a galvanic cell. With the outer reference calomel electrode and inner reference Ag/AgCl electrode, the cell construction is:

\[
\text{Hg/Hg}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{KCl(sat): 3 M KCl} \parallel \text{Sample solution} \parallel \text{membrane} \parallel \text{internal filling solution / AgCl/Ag}
\]

The electromotive force (emf) across this cell is the sum of all individual potential contributions. From the example cell, the emf is measured as equation:\(^8\)

\[\text{Emf} = \text{E}_{\text{const}} + \text{E}_j + \text{E}_m \]

Where \(\text{E}_m\) is the membrane potential and \(\text{E}_j\) is the liquid junction potential at the sample/bridge electrolyte interface, which can either be kept reasonably small and constant under well-defined condition or be estimated according to the Henderson formalism.\(^9\) So value emf only estimated with membrane potential.

Membrane is usually interposed between the sample and an inner reference electrolyte. It is common to divide the membrane potential \((\text{E}_m)\) into three separate potential contributions, namely the phase boundary potential \((\text{E}_{\text{PB}})\) at both interfaces and the diffusion potential \((\text{E}_{\text{Diff}})\) within the ion selective membrane.

\[\text{E}_m = \text{E}_{\text{Diff}} + 2 \text{E}_{\text{PB}} \]

For ion selective electrode, the membrane internal diffusion potential is zero if no ion concentration gradients occur. The concentration ion in the inner solution are constant, so potential boundary in inner interface is constant. From the assumption value \(\text{E}_m\) is:

\[\text{E}_m = \text{E}_{\text{Const}} + \text{E}_{\text{PB}} \]

Value of boundary potential can be derived from basic thermodynamic consideration. First, the electrochemical potential, \(\left(\mu_e\right)\), is formulated for the aqueous phase.\(^8\) From the membrane system we can separate two kind phase. There are water phase and organic phase. If the electrochemical potential in the water phase as:

\[
\mu_e (\text{aq}) = \mu (\text{aq}) + zF\Phi (\text{aq}) = \mu^0 (\text{aq}) + RT \ln a_i (\text{aq}) + zF\Phi (\text{aq})
\]

So at the same condition, electrochemical potential at the organic phase is:

\[
\mu_e (\text{o}) = \mu (\text{o}) + zF\Phi (\text{o})
\]
\[ \mu = \mu^0 + RT \ln a_i + zF \Phi \]

Where \( \mu \) is chemical potential (\( \mu^0 \) = standard chemical potential), \( z \), ion valence; \( a_i \) activity of free ion \( i \); \( \Phi \), electric potential, and \( R, T, F \) are general gas constant, absolute temperature and Faraday constant.

If was assumed that ion transfer and complexes reaction at interphase very fast and happened equilibrium equation, so the chemical potential at two phase will be equal. We can construct boundary phase potential as dispute of electrical potential at two phase.

\[ E_{PB} = \Delta \Phi = - \frac{\mu^0 - \mu^0_{aq}}{ZF} + \frac{RT}{zF} \ln \frac{a_i}{a_i^{aq}} \]

From the equation 3 and 6, we can formulate the membrane potential as follow:

\[ E_m = E_{Konstan} - \frac{\mu^0 - \mu^0_{aq}}{ZF} - \frac{RT}{zF} \ln \frac{a_i}{a_i^{aq}} + \frac{RT}{zF} \ln \frac{a_i^{aq}}{a_i} \]

If the value of ion activity in organic phase \( a_i^{org} \) is constant and other variable is constant, so equation will be follow:

\[ E_m = E^o + \frac{RT}{zF} \ln a_i^{aq} \]

This equation is call as Nernst equation. From the equation we can look that membrane potential only identical with a number analyt ion activity.

3. EXPERIMENTAL

Reagent

Stock solutions (10^{-1} M) of lanthanum (III) were prepared by dissolving LaCl_3.7H_2O (99.9 % purity, Merck, Germany) in distilled water. Ionophore 1,10-Diaza-4,7,13,16-tetraoxacyclooctadecane-N,N’-diacetic acid was purchased from ACROS ORGANIC, New Jersey, USA. The plastisicer o-nitro phenyl octyl ether (NPOE) and anionicside potassium tetrakis (4-chlorophenyl) borate (KTCPB) were purchased from Fluka Chemie AG, Switzerland. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) used dissolving the membrane components was purchased from Merck. All other chemicals used in analytical determinations were guaranteed reagent grade purity.
Membrane and Electrode Preparation
The membranes solution was prepared by dissolving 10.0 mg 1,10-Diaza-4,7,13,16-tetraoxacyclooctadecane-N,N’-diacetic acid, 45 mg PVC, 90 mg NPOE and 5 mg KTCPB in 3 mL of THF. The solution was evaporated on the glass with square 1.5 x 4 cm². Electrode was prepared by glued tube electrode to the membrane. Inner electrode reference Ag/AgCl and inner solution (mixture KCl 10⁻³ M and La³⁺ 10⁻³ M) is set in the tube and connected to cable. The electrode was conditioned before potentiometry measurement by immersing it in 10⁻³ M LaCl₃ solution for 24 hour.

Electrode System and EMF Measurement
Cell configuration used for potentiometry measurement were of the type:

\[
\text{Hg/Hg}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{KCl(sat): 3 M KCl : : Sample solution || membrane || internal filling solution / AgCl/Ag}
\]

EMF measurement were carried out with calomel electrode (ORION) coupled with ORION pH/Ion-meter 420A. The concentration of lanthanum (III) ion in the sample solution was varied from 10⁻¹ to 10⁻⁸ M in stirred solution. The EMF value were recorded when the reading ion-meter became stable. The pH value of the sample solution were adjusted with NaOH and HCl/HNO₃ and measured with pH-meter. The activity of metals ion were based on their activity coefficient, \(\gamma\), as calculated from the modified Debye Huckel equation:

\[
\log \gamma = -0.511 Z^2 \left[ \sqrt{\mu} / (1+1.5 \sqrt{\mu}) \right] - 0.2 \mu
\]

Where \(\mu\) is ionic strength and \(Z\) is valence of the concerned ion. All the EMF measurement we performed at 25 ± 3 °C.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Response characteristic of La(III)-selective electrode
The potential response electrode was affected by composition of membrane electrode. For the reason we varied the composition of membrane to result a good potential response. The variation of membrane electrode can see in table 1.
Table 1. Composition of membrane electrode and Nernstian response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>PVC (mg)</th>
<th>NPOE (mg)</th>
<th>DACDA (mg)</th>
<th>KTCPB (mg)</th>
<th>Slope ±</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>44.6 (32.32%)</td>
<td>83.0 (56.42%)</td>
<td>14.4 (9.79%)</td>
<td>5.1 (3.47%)</td>
<td>12.27 ± 1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>45.3 (30.54%)</td>
<td>82.5 (55.63%)</td>
<td>10.2 (6.87%)</td>
<td>10.3 (6.95%)</td>
<td>18.51 ± 1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>45.5 (30.11%)</td>
<td>90.2 (59.69%)</td>
<td>10.0 (6.62%)</td>
<td>5.4 (3.57%)</td>
<td>19.93 ± 1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>49.4 (32.93%)</td>
<td>90.1 (60.06%)</td>
<td>5.2 (3.47%)</td>
<td>5.3 (3.53%)</td>
<td>21.50 ± 1.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>50.0 (33.67%)</td>
<td>90.2 (60.74%)</td>
<td>5.1 (3.43%)</td>
<td>3.2 (2.15%)</td>
<td>34.19 ± 3.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>50.2 (34.15%)</td>
<td>90.2 (61.36%)</td>
<td>5.0 (3.40%)</td>
<td>1.6 (1.09%)</td>
<td>33.03 ± 0.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the data, it can be seen that the composition with 6.87% ionophore DACDA and 3.57% KTCPB gives a Nernstian response with a slope of 19.93 mV/decade.

**Effect of pH to the potential response**

We make the series of solution of La$^{3+}$ with the pH from 1 to 10, by added HCl and NaOH solution. Potential solution is measured by the cell system and the result can be seen in the figure 2.

![Figure 2: Effect pH to the potential response](image)

From the figure, it can be seen that pH is relatively constant at pH 3 to 7. The pH dropped at 8 to 10, this is because the lanthanum ion was precipitated to form hydroxide metal. So, we will work at pH 4.5.

**Effect of macrocycle lariat compound**

To look at the effect of the macrocycle compound, we compare two kinds of macrocycle lariat compound. There are (1,10-Diaza-4,7,13,16-tetraoxacyclooctadecane-N,N’-diacetic acid (ionophore 1) and N,N’-bis-methoxy methyl-1,10-Diaza 18 crown 6
(ionophore 2). The capability of the electrode can see with response potential in figure 3.

**Figure 3: Characteristic response potential electrode of two kind compound ionophore.**

From the figure we can see that electrode with ionophore 1 has a good response than electrode with ionophore 2. Detection limit electrode with ionophore 1 is better than ionophore 2. Range measurement electrode 1 is more widely than electrode 2 (electrode 1: $10^{-5} – 10^{-1}$ and electrode 2: $10^{-5} – 10^{-2}$ M). The electrode can response analogue about 30 second and has life time about 2 month.

**Selectivity of electrode**

The potentiometric selectivity coefficient which reflected the relative response of the membrane sensor for the primary ion over other ion present in solution were investigated by the match potential method (MPM)\textsuperscript{13-14}. The result of comparison potential response primary ion and interfering ion can see in figure 4.
From the data in figure 4, the value $K_{A,B}^{Pot}$ is calculated with MPM system. The result for all ion interference can see in table 2.

**Tale 2: Selectivity coefficient of various interfering ion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$M^{n+}$</th>
<th>$K_{A,B}^{Pot}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Na$^+$</td>
<td>7.10.10$^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K$^+$</td>
<td>5.36.10$^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca$^{2+}$</td>
<td>2.94.10$^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mg$^{2+}$</td>
<td>8.85.10$^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn$^{2+}$</td>
<td>3.24.10$^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pb$^{2+}$</td>
<td>4.46.10$^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu$^{2+}$</td>
<td>1.99.10$^{-2}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*) Condition reference solution 1.10$^{-7}$ M LaCl$_3$, primary ion (A) 10$^{-6}$ – 10$^{-1}$ M La$^{3+}$ and interfering ion (B) 10$^{-2}$ M $M^{n+}$

As seen, for ions alkali, earth alkali and some transition ions have selectivity coefficient value in the order 10$^{-3}$ – 10$^{-2}$. These is indicating that they do not disturb the function of La-ISE. But for the rare earth ion, they are relatively disturb for measurement of ion La$^{3+}$. Otherwise this electrode can measure total rare earth ion in the sample.

**Application**

The electrode was used to measure number of lanthanum ion in waste water sample from Bandung Institute of Technology laboratory. The result can see in table 2 that
two method are produce the same result. Application in potentiometry titration with ESI-La as working electrode is do it. The result of titration can see in figure 5.

![Figure 5: Potentiometry titration 25 mL 10^{-5} M La^{3+} with 5.10^{-3} M EDTA by ESI-lanthanum](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number Sample</th>
<th>La^{3+} added</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.10^{-4} M</td>
<td>1.9 10^{-4} M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.10^{-5} M</td>
<td>4.1 10^{-5} M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.10^{-6} M</td>
<td>3.1 10^{-6} M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. CONCLUSION

This work describe the study of potentiometry ion La-ISE with ionophore lariat diaza 18 crown 6 in membrane electrode. This ISE is useful for measurement lanthanum ion with e few interfering alkali, earth alkali and transition element.
REFERENCE


