



Edition: BP 2025 (Ph. Eur. 11.6 update)

Tannic Acid



[General Notices](#)

(Ph. Eur. monograph 1477)

Action and use

Astringent.

Ph Eur

DEFINITION

Mixture of esters of glucose with gallic acid and 3-galloylgallic acid.

CHARACTERS

Appearance

Yellowish-white or slightly brown amorphous light powder or shiny plates.

Solubility

Very soluble in water, freely soluble in acetone, in ethanol (96 per cent) and in glycerol (85 per cent), practically insoluble in methylene chloride.

IDENTIFICATION

- A. Dilute 0.1 mL of solution S (see Tests) to 5 mL with [water R](#). Add 0.1 mL of [ferric chloride solution R1](#). A blackish-blue colour is produced which becomes green on the addition of 1 mL of [dilute sulfuric acid R](#).
- B. To 1 mL of solution S, add 3 mL of a 1 g/L solution of [gelatin R](#). The mixture becomes turbid and a flocculent precipitate is formed.
- C. Dilute 0.1 mL of solution S to 5 mL with [water R](#). Add 0.3 mL of [barium hydroxide solution R](#). A greenish-blue precipitate is formed.

TESTS

Solution S

Dissolve 4.0 g in [carbon dioxide-free water R](#) and dilute to 20 mL with the same solvent.

Appearance of solution

Solution S is not more opalescent than reference suspension II ([2.2.1](#)).

Dextrins, gum, salts, sugars

To 2 mL of solution S, add 2 mL of [ethanol \(96 per cent\) R](#). The solution is clear. Add 1 mL of [ether R](#). The solution remains clear for at least 10 min.

Resins

To 5 mL of solution S, add 5 mL of [water R](#). The mixture remains clear ([2.2.1](#)) for at least 15 min.

Loss on drying ([2.2.32](#))

Maximum 12.0 per cent, determined on 0.200 g by drying at 105 °C.

Sulfated ash ([2.4.14](#))

Maximum 0.1 per cent, determined on 1.0 g.

STORAGE

Protected from light.

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