

**Analytical Profiles
of
Drug Substances
Volume 3**

Analytical Profiles of Drug Substances

Volume 3

Edited by

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*Compiled under the auspices of the
Pharmaceutical Analysis and Control Section
Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences*



Academic Press New York and London 1974

A Subsidiary of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers

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ACADEMIC PRESS, INC.
111 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003

United Kingdom Edition published by
ACADEMIC PRESS, INC. (LONDON) LTD.
24/28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DD

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Analytical profiles of drug substances.

Compiled under the auspices of the Pharmaceutical
Analysis and Control Section, Academy of Pharmaceutical
Sciences.

Includes bibliographical references.

I. Drug—Collected works. 2. Chemistry, Medical
and pharmaceutical—Collected works, I. Florey, Klaus,
ed. II. Brewer, Glenn A. III. Academy of Pharma-
ceutical Sciences. Pharmaceutical Analysis and Control
Section. [DNLM: 1. Drugs—Analysis—Yearbooks.

QV740 AA1 A55]

RM300.A56 615'.1 70-187259

ISBN 0-12-260803-5 (v. 3)

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PREFACE

Although the official compendia list tests and limits for drug substances related to identity, purity, and strength, they normally do not provide other physical or chemical data, nor do they list methods of synthesis or pathways of physical or biological degradation and metabolism. For drug substances important enough to be accorded monographs in the official compendia such supplemental information should also be made readily available. To this end the Pharmaceutical Analysis and Control Section, Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has undertaken a cooperative venture to compile and publish Analytical Profiles of Drug Substances in a series of volumes of which this is the third:

Reviews and comments received so far have reinforced our belief that the series fills a need and they have strengthened our determination to continue. The enthusiasm and cooperative spirit of our contributors have made these profiles possible. All those who have found the profiles useful are earnestly requested to contribute a monograph of their own. The editors stand ready to receive such contributions.

Beginning with Volume 2 a cumulative index has been added, to facilitate the correction of errors and to encourage the addition of relevant new information.

The concept of analytical profiles is taking hold not only for compendial drugs but, increasingly, in the industrial research laboratories. Analytical profiles are being prepared and periodically updated to provide physico-chemical and analytical information on new drug substances during the consecutive stages of research and development. Hopefully then, in the not too distant future, the publication of an analytical profile will require a minimum of effort whenever a new drug substance is selected for compendial status.

Klaus Florey

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ACETAMINOPHEN

John E. Fairbrother

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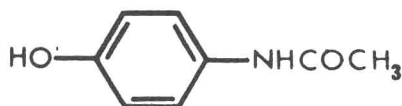
ACETAMINOPHEN

1. Description

1.1 Name, Formula, Molecular Weight

Generic names - Acetaminophen¹,
Paracetamol and Acetophenum².

Chemical names - 4' - Hydroxyacetanilide; p-hydroxyacetanilide; p-acetamidophenol; p-acetaminophenol; p-acetylaminophenol; N-acetyl-p-aminophenol.



$C_8H_9NO_2$

Mol. wt. 151.16

1.2 Appearance, Color, Odor, Taste

White, odorless, crystalline powder, possessing a bitter taste.

2. Physical Properties

2.1 Spectra

2.11 Infrared Spectrum

Infrared spectra of solid dispersions of acetaminophen in potassium bromide^{3,7} and in Nujol⁶, have been recorded. In the solid state⁶ the carbonyl stretching band appears at 1659 cm^{-1} (1650 cm^{-1} ; ref. 3), the N-H stretching band at 3326 cm^{-1} and a broad O-H stretching band at 3162 cm^{-1} . In solution the C=O, N-H and O-H stretching bands occur at higher frequencies.

<u>Solvent</u>	<u>C=O Stretching Band</u>	<u>N-H Stretching Band</u>	<u>O-H Stretching Band</u>
Chloroform	1686cm ⁻¹ (9)		
Dichloro- methane	1690cm ⁻¹ (6)	3435cm ⁻¹ (6)	3588cm ⁻¹ (6)
	1700cm ⁻¹ (8)		
1,4-Dioxan	1692cm ⁻¹ (8)		

Several other authors^{10,11,12,15,16} report infrared spectra of acetaminophen. The infrared spectra of acetaminophen¹⁴ in KBr and in a mineral oil mull are presented in figures 1 and 2¹³.

2.12 Ultraviolet Spectrum

The u.v. spectrum of acetaminophen has been recorded in a number of solvents, showing two bands in each. The long wavelength band corresponds to the Alg \rightarrow B2u transition while the short wavelength band corresponds to the $\pi_N \rightarrow \pi_{CO}^*$ transition¹⁷.

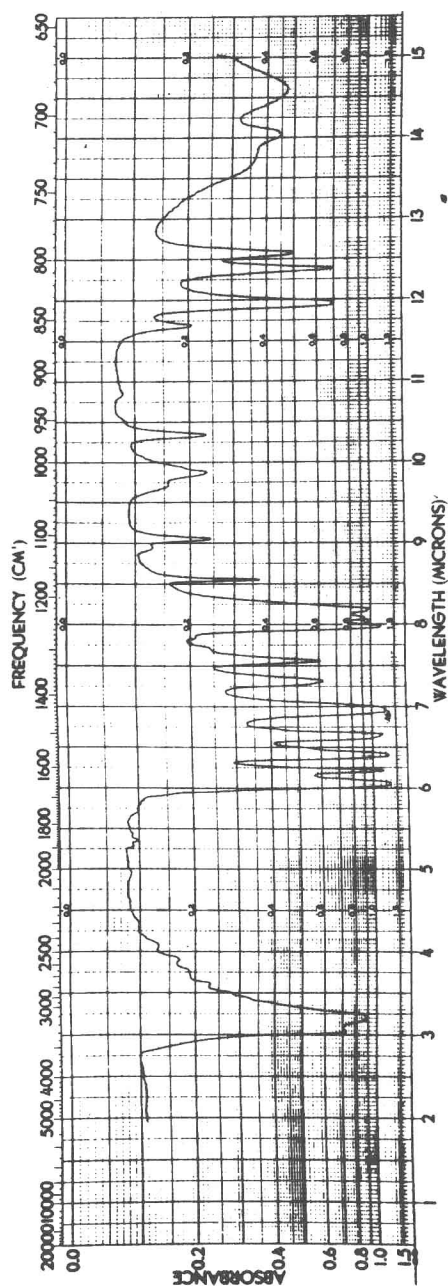


Fig. 1. Infrared spectrum of acetaminophen (KBr pellet)

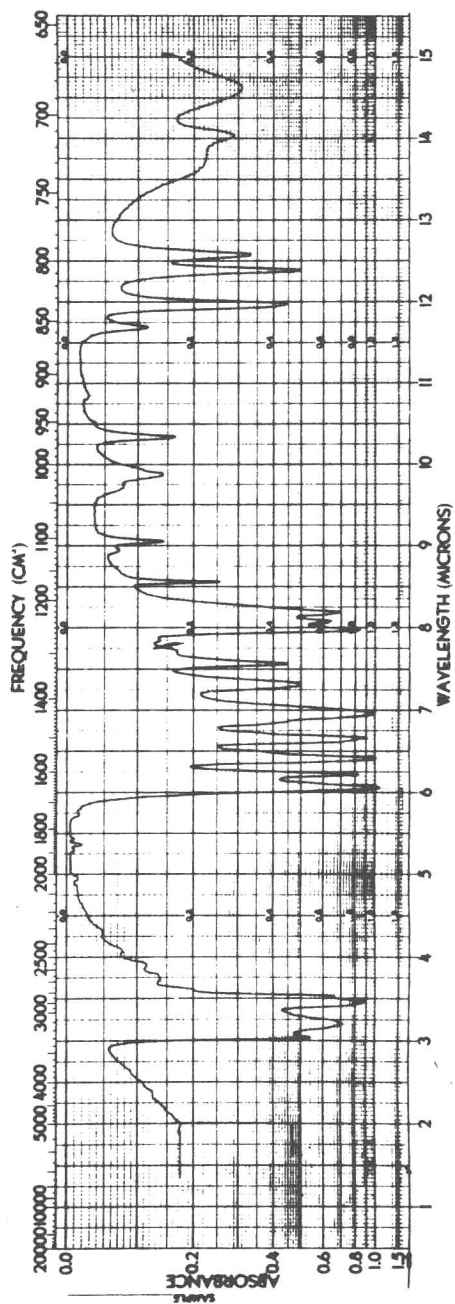


Fig. 2. Infrared spectrum of acetaminophen (Mineral Oil Mull)

ACETAMINOPHEN

TABLE 1
Absorption maxima of
acetaminophen in neutral solvents

<u>Solvent</u>	<u>K band</u>	<u>B band</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Methanol	248-249m μ .		3, 18
Ethanol (abs.)	249-250m μ .	about 290m μ .	4, 8, 19
n-Butanol	250m μ .		20
iso-Propanol	250m μ .		19
Cyclo- hexane	244-245m μ .		19
Cyclo- hexane	278m μ .		8 .
Ether	264m μ .		19
Ether (dry)	247m μ .	about 283m μ .	8
Water	242.5- 243.5m μ .	about 283m μ .	8, 19, 23

The addition of acid to aqueous and alcoholic solutions does not give any observable change in the position of the maximum of the main band^{7,16,18,19,21,22}. In 10-1 M caustic alkali acetaminophen ionises to give the p-acetamidophenolate ion and the maximum of the main band is shifted bathochromically, in aqueous solution from 243 m μ . to about 258 m μ .^{19,20,22,23} and in methanolic solution from 248 m μ . to 262 m μ .¹⁸.