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Fundamental questions Elemental answers





Showcasing research from Dr. Guosheng Yang's laboratory, Institute for Radiological Science, National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology, Chiba Prefecture, Japan.

 $^{\rm 90}{\rm Sr}$  bioassay in small-volume urine by ICP-MS/MS with  ${\rm CO_2}$  as the reaction gas

For rapid public screening after a large-scale radiological/nuclear accident, we developed a novel  $^{90}$ Sr bioassay for small-volume urine samples (10–400 mL) using ICP-MS/MS. After organic matter decomposition by HNO $_3$ , stacked DGA and Sr resin cartridges were used for chromatographic separation and purification of Sr. CO $_2$  proved to be a better reaction gas than O $_2$ , to mitigate isobaric/polyatomic interferences, especially those caused by Zr and Ge. The method detection limit was 0.978 pg/L (5 Bq/L) in 10 mL urine, with a reasonable throughput (- 6 h for 12 samples).



