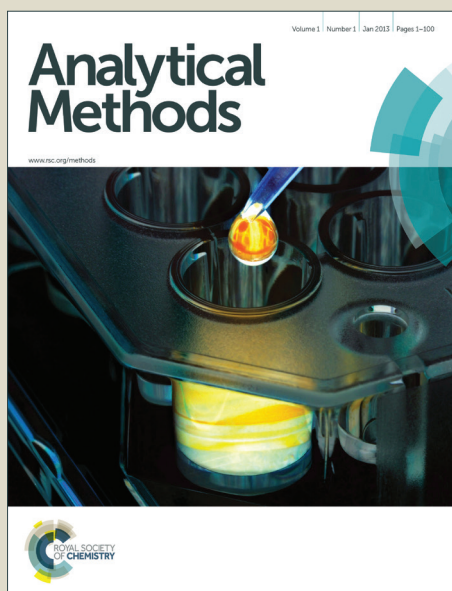


# Analytical Methods

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4 1 Anionic surfactant coacervation extraction-magnetic solid phase  
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6 2 microextraction for determination of malachite green  
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**Abstract**

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A novel, fast, and efficient two-step microextraction technique for preconcentration and extraction of trace amounts of malachite green in fishpond water, river water and flesh of fish was developed using spectrophotometry. MG with pH of 6.5 was extracted and mediated by the coacervation phase of anionic surfactant sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate. The coacervation phase was then trapped by diatomite bonded Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> magnetic nanoparticles (DBMNPs) that can rapidly achieve two-phase separation in a magnetic field. The extracted surfactant-rich phase was diluted with ethanol and its absorbance was measured at 624 nm. A number of important parameters affecting extraction efficiency, such as volume of extraction solvent, amount of salt, pH, amount of DBMNPs, equilibration temperature and time, were investigated. The calibration graph was linear for MG ranging from 2 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> to 180 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> in the initial solution, with  $r^2 = 0.9994$  ( $n = 10$ ). The detection limit based on three times the standard deviation of the blank ( $3S_b$ ) was 0.67 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> and the relative standard deviation for 20 ng mL<sup>-1</sup> of MG was 1.12% ( $n = 5$ ). The method was applied to determine the trace amounts of MG from fishpond water, river water and flesh of fish.

## 1. Introduction

Malachite green (MG, Scheme 1) has functioned as an effective fungicide and antiseptic in aquaculture, and as antifungal, antimicrobial and anti-parasitic agents in the food industry since the 1930s. However, this chemical causes serious side effects.<sup>1,2</sup> High concentrations of MG severely damage the internal organs of fish and the growth of fish eggs.<sup>3</sup> MG also has toxic effects on human cells; it has mutagenic and carcinogenic properties. The use of MG in aquaculture has been banned in many countries because of its toxicity.<sup>4,5</sup> However, because of its high effectiveness and low cost, this harmful dye is still used and will probably continue to be used in aquaculture in some parts of the world. Developing a sensitive detection method for the presence of MG in various samples is therefore of importance.

### Scheme 1

Given the low concentrations of MG in environmental samples and the difficulties in its extraction, preparing samples before determination is a necessity. Sample preparation is often the bottleneck that directly affects the accuracy, precision, and limits of detection, and is often the rate-determining step of the analytical process. The main direction in recent studies is towards the development of efficient, economical, simple, rapid, and clean sample preparation methods. To date, various methods have been reported for the preparation of aqueous MG samples. Liquid-liquid extraction is one of the oldest preconcentration methods in analytical chemistry. This technique is time consuming and requires large amounts of expensive and toxic organic solvents, which are subsequently evaporated.<sup>6-9</sup> Other methods, such as solid-phase extraction (SPE), use a limited amount of organic solvents but are relatively expensive. SPE techniques are also often non-specific and time-consuming.<sup>10-14</sup>

Various methods have also been reported for determining MG in aqueous samples, such as high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC-UV),<sup>11,12</sup> spectrophotometry,<sup>9,13-17</sup> and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS).<sup>9,10</sup> Although these methods presents certain advantages, they also have specific limitations and a number of methods, such as LC-MS, are

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3 74 laborious and require sophisticated instruments.<sup>9,10</sup> While spectrophotometry is a simple and  
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5 75 widely used analytical method for quantitative analysis, this method is not selective and requires  
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7 76 the analytes present in a given sample to have different absorption spectra with low  
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9 77 overlapping.<sup>9,13-17</sup>

11 78 Over the last decade, an increasing interest in the use of ionic surfactants has been observed  
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13 79 in the field of separation science. Ionic surfactant solutions can facilitate coacervation and be used  
14  
15 80 as extraction solvents.<sup>18-20</sup> However, these solutions are subject to certain limitations despite their  
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17 81 versatility. For the majority of methods employing ionic surfactants, centrifugation is required for  
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19 82 separating the donor phase (i.e., sample) from the acceptor phase (i.e., surfactant); this can be  
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21 83 time-consuming when dealing with large sample volumes.<sup>21-23</sup>

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24 84 The use of magnetic extractants has received considerable attention and has been reported in  
25  
26 85 numerous articles. Cloud point extraction (CPE) uses non-ionic surfactant has reportedly been  
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28 86 coupled with dispersive microsolid phase extraction for the purpose of sample preparation.<sup>24</sup> This  
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30 87 method can be applied for the adsorption and separation of analytes from large volumes of  
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32 88 environmental samples in a short period, and has been developed as a fast, simple, cost effective,  
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34 89 and versatile extraction method based on the use of magnetic or magnetizable adsorbents.<sup>24-26</sup> The  
35  
36 90 main advantage of this method is that phase separation can be conveniently performed by  
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38 91 applying an external magnetic field. Overcoming specific steps associated with CPE, such as  
39  
40 92 centrifugation to separate the surfactant-rich phase, refrigeration of the condensed micellar phase  
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42 93 to reduce viscosity, and the use of appropriate apparatus to directly sample the surfactant-rich  
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44 94 phase, significantly reduces the preparation time.

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47 95 In the present study, a new, two-step method was developed to determine trace levels of MG  
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49 96 residues in water and flesh of fish samples by using the anionic surfactant sodium dodecyl  
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51 97 benzene sulfonate (SDBS) as the extraction solvent and DBMNPs as the trapping extractant. The  
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53 98 possible factors affecting extraction efficiency, such as extraction solvent volume, amount of salt,  
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55 99 pH, amount of DBMNPs, equilibration temperature and time were investigated and optimized.  
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## 100 2. Experimental

### 101 2.1. Reagents and materials

102 All chemicals used in this study were of analytical grade unless stated otherwise. Methanol  
103 and trichloroacetic acid (HPLC grade) were purchased from Tianjin Kermel Chemical Reagent  
104 Co., Ltd. (Tianjin, China). Double-distilled water (DDW) was used throughout the study. MG was  
105 obtained from Shanghai Chemical Reagent Company (Shanghai, China). A stock solution of 100  
106  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  of MG was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of the reagent in water and diluting to 100 mL  
107 in a volumetric flask. The desired concentrations were obtained by successive dilutions. SDBS  
108 was obtained from Acros Organics (New Jersey, America). 2% SDBS was prepared by dissolving  
109 1 g SDBS in water and diluting to 50 mL in a volumetric flask. Britton Robinson (BR) buffer  
110 solution was prepared by adding NaOH to the BR buffer (phosphoric, acetic, boric; concentration  
111 was  $0.04 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ ) to adjust the pH using a pH meter. Water samples were obtained from the Fen  
112 River, and fishpond water was obtained from a local fishpond in Shanxi, China, which was  
113 filtered through a  $0.45 \mu\text{m}$  nylon filter membrane (Jinteng Instrument Co., Ltd., Tianjin, China)  
114 before they were used. Sturgeon was purchased from local free market. Once in the laboratory, all  
115 of the fish were accuracy weighed, and their head, gills, skin, and thorns were removed. The  
116 muscle was separated, homogenised and stored at  $-18 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  until analysis. A whatman No. 2 filter  
117 paper (Whatman International Ltd., Brentford, Kent, United Kingdom) was used to filtered  
118 homogenates.

### 119 2.2. Apparatus

120 A CARY 300 Scan UV–visible spectrophotometer (Varian Ltd., Palo Alto, America) was  
121 used for recording absorption spectra and absorbance measurements using 0.7 ml quartz cell. A  
122 pH meter (Model PHS-3C, Shanghai Yidian Analytical Instruments, Ltd., shanghai, China) was  
123 used for pH adjustment. An Ultrasonic Cleaner (Model KH 2200DV, Kunshan Hechuang  
124 Ultrasonic Instrument Co., Ltd., kunshan, China) was used in the extraction. A centrifuge  
125 (MIKRO 22R, Hettich Zentrifugen, GmbH&Co., Tuttelingen, Germany) was used to prepare the

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3 126 fish sample. An electric glass homogenizer was used to homogenize the flesh of fish (DY89-  
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5  
6 127 II, Ningbo Xinzhi Biotechnology Co., Ltd., Zhejiang, China).

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8 128 2.3. Synthesis of magnetic materials

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10 129 2.3.1. Synthesis of pure maghemite nanoparticles

11  
12 130 Pure maghemite nanoparticles (MNPs) were prepared according to the literature.<sup>27,28</sup> In a  
13  
14 131 typical synthesis of monodisperse Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> MNPs with mesoporous structure, FeCl<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.8 g)  
15  
16 132 was dissolved in ethylene glycol (EG) (16 mL) to form a homogeneous solution, followed by the  
17  
18 133 addition of NaAc (2.4 g) and ethylenediamine (ETH) (8 mL). The mixture was stirred vigorously  
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20 134 for half an hour and then sealed in a teflonlined stainless-steel autoclave (50 mL capacity). The  
21  
22 135 autoclave was heated to and maintained at 200 °C for 8 h, and then allowed to cool to room  
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24 136 temperature. The black products were washed several times with distilled water and ethanol and  
25  
26 137 then dried at 60 °C in a vacuum for 8 h.

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30 138 2.3.2. Synthesis of diatomite bonded Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> magnetic nanoparticles

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32 139 The above process can be extended to the synthesis of diatomite bonded Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> magnetic  
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34 140 nanoparticles using hydrothermal synthesis. In a typical synthesis, purified diatomite (0.3 g) was  
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36 141 added to 24 mL of EG. Subsequently, 0.6 g of FeCl<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O and 1.2 g of NaAc were dissolved in  
37  
38 142 the EG solution at ambient temperature. After stirring for about 30 min, the solution was  
39  
40 143 transferred to a 50 mL Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclave kept at 200 °C for 8 h, and allowed to  
41  
42 144 cool to room temperature. The black products were washed several times with distilled water and  
43  
44 145 ethanol, and then dried at 60 °C in vacuum for 8 h.<sup>29,30</sup> The photography of the MNPs and the  
45  
46 146 DBMNPs samples were examined by scanning electron microscope (SEM), as shown in Scheme  
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49 147 2.

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52 148 Scheme 2

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54 149 2.4. Extraction procedure

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56 150 The first step, 0.1 ml of 10 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> MG solution, 1.0 mL of BR buffer solution with pH 6.5,  
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3 151 0.9 mL of 2% of SDBS, and 1.2 g of MgCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O were added to a 10 mL centrifuge tube and  
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5 152 diluted to the target mark with water. The resultant solution was equilibrated at room temperature  
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7 153 for 10 min. After this process, 35 mg of DBMNPs were added into the tube. The mixture was  
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9 154 again vigorously shaken for 2 min. The SDBS phase was successfully trapped to the DBMNPs  
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11 155 phase after the high-speed shaking process. A magnet was subsequently held around the test tube  
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13 156 to collect the DBMNPs at the bottom of the test tube. The upper aqueous phase was removed and  
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15 157 the surfactant-rich phase was diluted with 300 μL ethanol. The solution was then placed in an  
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17 158 ultrasound for 2 min to desorb the SDBS from the DBMNPs. The DBMNPs were then separated  
18  
19 159 from the solution by using a magnet, and the solution was measured at 624 nm. All experiments  
20  
21 160 were performed in triplicate. The extraction procedure was show in Scheme 3. The DBMNPs  
22  
23 161 were washed five times with ethanol under ultrasonic for 2 min. The ethanol was removed by  
24  
25 162 magnetic decantation and DBMNPs were dried in a vacuum oven at 50 °C.

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27 163 The flesh of fish was prepared according to Paleologos *et al.*<sup>31</sup> Fish samples used in shelf  
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29 164 life experiments were cut in small pieces. 5 g of each sample were ground in  
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31 165 a electric glass homogenizer for 3 min and thoroughly homogenized with 10 ml trichloroacetic  
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33 166 acid (TCA) 6% (w/v). The homogenates were centrifuged (12 000 rpm, 20 min, 4 °C) to allow  
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35 167 precipitation and filtered twice through Whatman No. 2 filter paper. The filtrates were transferred  
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37 168 to 10 ml volumetric flasks and diluted with 6% (w/v) TCA to the mark. Extraction procedure was  
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39 169 the same with water samples.

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44 170 scheme 3

#### 45 46 171 2.5. Calibration of the preconcentration factor and extraction recovery percentage

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48 172 To evaluate the performance of the proposed method, enrichment factor (EF) and extraction  
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50 173 recovery percentage (ER%) were determined using HPLC method<sup>12</sup> and calculation according to  
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52 174 Eqs. (1) and (2):

$$53  
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56 175 EF = \frac{C_{des}}{C_0} \quad (1)$$

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3 176 where  $C_{\text{des}}$  and  $C_0$  are the concentrations of analytes in the desorbed phase and the initial  
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5 177 concentration of analytes in the sample solution, respectively.  
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$$ER\% = \frac{C_{\text{des}} \times V_{\text{des}}}{C_0 \times V_0} \times 100\% = EF \times \frac{V_{\text{des}}}{V_0} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$
  
10

11 179 where  $V_{\text{des}}$  and  $V_0$  are the volumes of the desorbed phase and sample solution, respectively.  
12

### 13 180 3. Results and discussions

#### 14 181 3.1. Effects of the volume of SDBS

15  
16 182 A successful extraction procedure maximizes extraction efficiency by minimizing the phase  
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18 183 volume ratio, thereby maximizing its enrichment factor. Thus, investigating the effects of  
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20 184 surfactant volume on the performance of the extraction system is necessary. As shown in Fig. 1,  
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22 185 the measured absorbance of the extracted solution increases as the surfactant amount increases,  
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24 186 and then decreases when the amount of extracted surfactant has reached its maximum. This trend  
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26 187 occurs because as the amount of SDBS increases, the final volume of analytical solution increases,  
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28 188 which leads to the decrease in absorbance. The optimum surfactant volume of 0.9 mL SDBS was  
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30 189 selected to achieve the optimal analytical signal in conjunction with the highest possible  
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32 190 extraction efficiency.  
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37 191 Fig. 1  
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#### 39 192 3.2. Effects of the amount of salt

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41 193 Addition of salt can cause ionic surfactant solutions to separate into immiscible  
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43 194 surfactant-rich and surfactant-poor phases. Several inorganic salts, including NaCl, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, KCl,  
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45 195 KBr, CaCl<sub>2</sub>, MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and MgCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, were tested. MgCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O is found to be the best among  
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47 196 the selected salt. When the same amounts of the different types of salt were added, only CaCl<sub>2</sub>,  
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49 197 MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and MgCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O form the coacervation phase, whereas NaCl, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, KCl, and KBr  
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51 198 could not form the coacervation phase at room temperature even when the amount of salt was  
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53 199 increased. Nevertheless, the coacervation phase formed by CaCl<sub>2</sub> could not undergo desorption  
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55 200 using methanol. The solubility of MgCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O is much better than that of MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Therefore,  
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3 201  $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was added to induce production of coacervation phase and extraction of MG. To  
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5 202 determine the effects of the amount of salt, experiments were conducted, wherein different  
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7 203 amounts of  $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were used. The other experimental conditions were kept constant. Fig. 2  
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9 204 shows with increase amounts of  $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  s from 0.6 g to 1.6 g, the absorbance first increases  
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11 205 and then decreases because increasing the amount of  $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  can increase the volume of  
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13 206 coacervation phase, which in turn decreases the absorbance. After a comprehensive consideration  
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15 207 of the results, 1.2 g of salt was added in the subsequent experiments.  
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18  
19 208 Fig. 2

### 20 209 3.3. Effect of pH

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23 210 The pH of the working media is an important parameter considered in  
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25 211 separation–preconcentration studies. Effect of pH values on sample solution was investigated  
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27 212 given a pH range of 3.0 to 10.0 by adjusting pH of sample solution with hydrochloric acid and  
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29 213 sodium hydroxide. Fig. 3 shows the effect of pH on the absorbance of the MG at 624 nm. The  
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31 214 maximum absorbance is obtained at pH 6.5. Along with the pH values increase, MG becomes  
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33 215 colorless and its absorbance is decreased. Based on the above result, pH 6.5 was selected for the  
34  
35 216 subsequent experiments. Different buffer systems with pH of 6.5, such as acetic acid, sodium  
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37 217 acetate, and BR buffer solution, were examined. The BR buffer solution was selected because its  
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39 218 absorbance was higher than those of the others after extraction.  
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42 219 Fig. 3

43 220 Fig. 4

### 44 221 3.4. Effects of equilibration temperature and time

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47 222 Using the shortest equilibration time and the lowest possible equilibration temperature is  
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49 223 desirable as a compromise between completion of extraction and efficient separation of phases.  
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51 224 Therefore, the effect of equilibration temperature ranging from 5 °C to 35 °C was examined as all  
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53 225 other experimental conditions were kept constant. Room temperature was found to be adequate  
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55 226 for the analysis. The dependence of extraction efficiency on equilibration time was also  
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3 227 investigated for a time interval of 5 min to 30 min. The results show that maximum extraction  
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5 228 efficiency is achieved within 10 min extraction. No significant variation was observed when the  
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8 229 extraction time exceeded 10 min. Therefore, 10 min was used as the optimum extraction time in  
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10 230 all experiments.

### 11 231 3.5. Effect of the amount of DBMNPs

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14 232 Compared with conventional MNPs adsorbents, we found that only DBMNPs could trap the  
15  
16 233 coacervation phase. DBMNPs offer high extraction capacity, rapid extraction dynamics, and high  
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18 234 extraction efficiency. The amount of DBMNPs has a direct effect on the extraction of  
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20 235 coacervation phase. To determine the effect of DBMNPs on extraction recovery, various  
21  
22 236 experiments were performed by adding 10 mg to 45 mg of DBMNPs. As shown in Fig. 4, the  
23  
24 237 optimum amount of DBMNPs for trapping coacervates is 35 mg. Thus, 35 mg of DBMNPs was  
25  
26 238 used in the subsequent experiments.

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29 239 Fig. 5

### 30 240 3.6. Analytical performance

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33 241 A linear calibration graph was obtained from  $2 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  to  $180 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  of MG in the initial  
34  
35 242 solution under the optimized conditions. The equation for the line is  $A = 3.4 \times 10^{-3} C + 5.9 \times 10^{-3}$   
36  
37 243 with a regression coefficient ( $r^2$ ) of 0.9994 ( $n = 10$ ), where A denotes the absorbance and C  
38  
39 244 denotes the concentration of MG in  $\text{ng mL}^{-1}$ . The detection limit based on three times the  
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41 245 standard deviation of the blank ( $3S_b$ ) is  $0.67 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  and the relative standard deviation (RSD) of  
42  
43 246 the developed method determined by analyzing the standard solution at  $20 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  of MG is  
44  
45 247 1.12% ( $n = 5$ ). All samples were also measured by HPLC-UV to verify the results obtained by the  
46  
47 248 developed method, in fact the values are consistent with UV measurement results. The ER% were  
48  
49 249 96.32%, and EF were 24.08 for MG.

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51  
52  
53 250 The determination of MG using the two-step method was compared with other reported  
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55 251 methods. The results are shown in Table 1. Unlike in the previously reported techniques, SDBS  
56  
57 252 was used instead of a volatile and toxic organic solvent in the extraction phase. The results reveal

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2  
3 253 that the two-step method is a sensitive, environment friendly and reproducible technique that can  
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5 254 be used for the preconcentration of MG from real samples.  
6

7  
8 255 Table 1  
9

10 256 The adsorption-desorption cycles were performed and a change of -3% in the extraction  
11  
12 257 efficiency was defined as tolerance limit. Results indicated that after eleven sorption-desorption  
13  
14 258 cycles, as shown in Fig. 6, the extraction efficiency of DBMNPs for the drugs was remained  
15  
16 259 within the tolerance limit but after twelve runs a 6% decrease in its performance was observed;  
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18 260 therefore the reuse limit of the proposed sorbent was eleven cycles.  
19

20  
21 261 Fig. 6  
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23 262 3.7. Interference studies  
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25 263 Performing the procedure in the presence of interfering ions in the samples validated the  
26  
27 264 selectivity of the coacervation phase for MG. Solutions containing  $100 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$  of MG and  
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29 265 various amounts of interfering ions were prepared following general procedure. The tolerance  
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31 266 limit was defined as the amount of interfering ions causing less than  $\pm 5\%$  change in the  
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33 267 absorbance. Table 2 shows the results, which confirm good selectivity of the proposed method to  
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35 268 the accurate determination of MG in real samples. Other organic coloring substances which may  
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37 269 co-exist in the samples such as crystal violet and brilliant green did not interfere with the  
38  
39 270 determination.  
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41  
42 271 Table 2  
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44 272 3.8. Applications  
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46 273 The practical applicability of the proposed method was evaluated by extracting MG from  
47  
48 274 samples of different sources, including fishpond water, river water and flesh of fish. The results  
49  
50 275 show that MG residues in all samples are below the detectable level, indicating that these samples  
51  
52 276 are practically free of MG. These samples were then spiked using standard amounts of MG at  
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54 277 different levels to assess the matrix effect. The results are given in Table 3 that shows river water,  
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56 278 fishpond water and flesh of fish spiked of MG. The relative recoveries (RRs) for the MG in river  
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3 279 water and fishpond water are in the ranges of 98.6%–101.1%, 96.1%–102.6% 97.6%–103%,  
4  
5 280 95.9%–102.3% and 88.7%–91.2%. The results of the proposed method were also compared  
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7 281 with that of HPLC,<sup>12</sup> the results were shown (Table 4) the two methods had no significant  
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9 282 differences after being evaluated by *t*-test and *F*-test method when the confidence level was  
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11 283 95%. The proposed method was satisfactorily applied to the determination of MG in real  
12  
13 284 samples.

14  
15  
16 285 Table 3

17  
18 286 Table 4

#### 19 20 21 287 **4. Conclusions**

22  
23 288 In the present study, a new, two-step microextraction technique based on SDBS coacervation  
24  
25 289 phase extraction and DBMNPs trap was developed. The proposal has been optimized considering  
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27 290 those variables, related to the extraction and adsorbent steps, which have a clear influence in its  
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29 291 performance. Under the optimal extraction condition, the proposed method provides the best  
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31 292 results in terms of sensitivity. Good linearity and repeatability were also achieved. Based on the  
32  
33 293 results, the proposed method achieves greater simplification than conventional coacervation phase  
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35 294 extraction procedures, thereby alleviating the need for specific sample handling treatments, such  
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37 295 as centrifugation or freezing of the samples. It also shortens the overall analysis time. With the  
38  
39 296 use of DBMNPs and SDBS in the extraction, the procedure can be described as environmentally  
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41 297 friendly. The proposed method can successfully detect MG in river water, fishpond water and  
42  
43 298 flesh of fish without matrix interferences.

#### 44 45 46 299 **Acknowledgements**

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Table 1. Analytical parameter of different method

Method	Extraction solvent	The amount of extraction solvent	Limit of detection (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Extraction time	Samples	Reference
DLLME-FO-LADS	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	2ml	3.65	3 min	Water	[8]
MISPE-HPLC	MIP	-	0.1	24 h	Water	[12]
CPE-UV-Vis	TX-100	2 ml	1.2	20 min	Water	[15]
CPE-UV-Vis	TX-114	0.5 ml	2.9	15 min	Water	[16]
Two step method-UV-Vis	SDBS	300 μL	0.67	10 min	Water	Present work

FO-LADS fiber opticlinear array detection spectrophotometry HPLC high-performance liquid chromatographic

UV-Vis UltraViolet –visible MIP molecularly imprinted polymer (methacrylic acid-ethylene glycol dimethacrylate)



Table 2 The effect of interfering ions on the determination of 100 ng • mL<sup>-1</sup> of MG

Tolerance ratio	Interfering ions
1000	Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ba <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup> , Ni <sup>2+</sup> , Cu <sup>2+</sup> , Cd <sup>2+</sup> , Hg <sup>2+</sup> , Co <sup>2+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup> , NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , Cl <sup>-</sup> , NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> , CrO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , F <sup>-</sup> , Br <sup>-</sup> , I <sup>-</sup> , NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , BO <sub>3</sub> <sup>3-</sup> , B <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , CH <sub>3</sub> COO <sup>-</sup> , CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> , C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , HPO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> , H <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>
500	Zn <sup>2+</sup> , Sr <sup>2+</sup> ,
100	Sn <sup>2+</sup> ,
50	Pb <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> ,
8	MnO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>

Table 3 Determination of MG in aqueous samples ( $n=5$ )

Water Samples	Amount added (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Amount found (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
	0	0	-	-
River water1	5	4.93	98.6	1.93
	10	9.5	97.5	1.57
	15	15.07	100.5	1.04
	20	20.21	101.1	2.21
	0	1.12	112	3.25
River water2	5	5.13	102.6	1.22
	10	9.61	96.1	1.19
	15	14.94	99.6	2.33
	20	19.93	99.7	3.89
	0	0	-	-
Fish pond water	5	4.88	97.6	1.98
	10	10.30	103.0	2.53
	15	14.82	98.8	1.99
	20	19.89	99.5	1.65
	0	1.16	116	3.69
Free market water	5	4.96	99.2	1.68
	10	10.23	102.3	1.97
	15	14.92	99.5	1.99
	20	19.18	95.9	2.01
	0	0	-	-
Sturgeon sample	5	4.53	90.6	3.41
	10	8.87	88.7	4.13
	15	13.69	91.2	3.97
	20	17.25	86.2	3.85

**Table 4** The determination results of the MG in real samples compared to literature ( $n=5$ )

samples	The proposed method		The No. 12 references method	
	Found (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Equivalent nominal content (%) $\pm$ S.D. <sup>a</sup>	Found (ng mL <sup>-1</sup> )	Equivalent nominal content (%) $\pm$ S.D. <sup>a</sup>
River water1	98.39	98.39 $\pm$ 1.41 ( $t$ , 0.76; $F$ , 1.83)	98.15	98.15 $\pm$ 1.96

The tabulate values of  $t$  and  $F$  at the 95% confidence limit are  $t=2.31$  and  $F=6.39$ .

<sup>a</sup> Average of five determination

**Figure Captions**

Scheme 1 The structure of malachite green.

Scheme 2 The photography of MNPs and DBMNPs was observed on a scanning electronic microscope (JSM-7500F, JEOL Ltd., Japan). A, MNPs, B, DBMNPs.

Scheme 3 The Scheme of extraction procedure.

Fig. 1 The effect of volume of SDBS. Extraction conditions: concentration of malachite green, 100 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>; NaCl, 1.2 g; Extraction time, 10 min; DBMNPs, 35 mg; ultrasound, 2 min; desorption solvent, 300 μL ethanol; pH 6.5.

Fig. 2 The influence of amount of salt. Extraction conditions: concentration of malachite green, 100 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>; SDBS, 0.9 mL; Extraction time, 10 min; DBMNPs, 35 mg; ultrasound, 2 min; desorption solvent, 300 μL ethanol; pH 6.5.

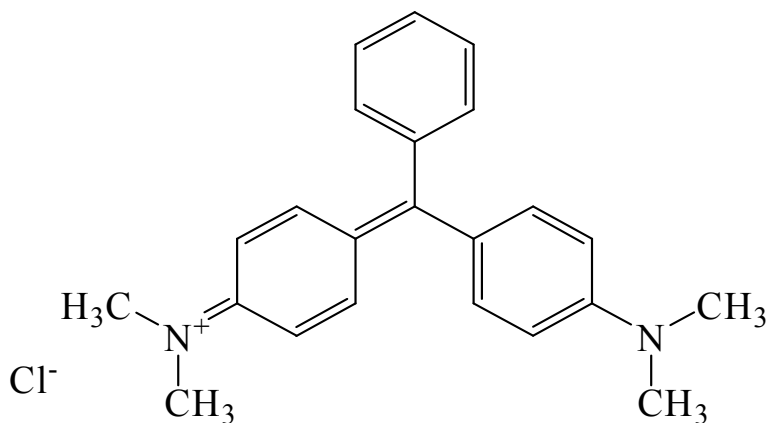
Fig. 3 The influence of pH. Extraction conditions: concentration of malachite green, 100 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>; SDBS, 0.9 mL; Extraction time, 10 min; NaCl, 1.2 g; DBMNPs, 35 mg; ultrasound, 2 min; desorption solvent, 300 μL ethanol.

Fig. 4 The UV-vis spectrum in different pH media.

Fig. 5 The influence of amount of DBMNPs. Extraction conditions: concentration of malachite green, 100 ng mL<sup>-1</sup>; SDBS, 0.9 mL; Extraction time, 10 min; NaCl, 1.2 g; ultrasound, 2 min;

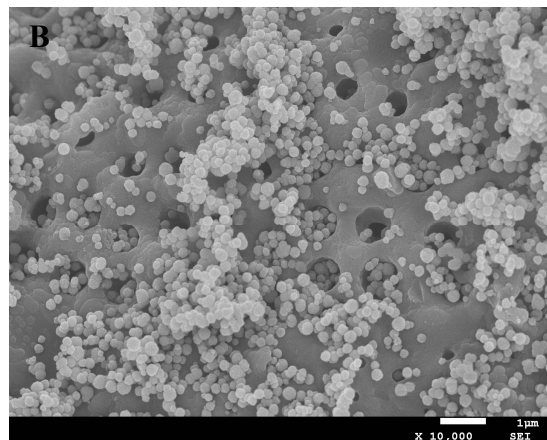
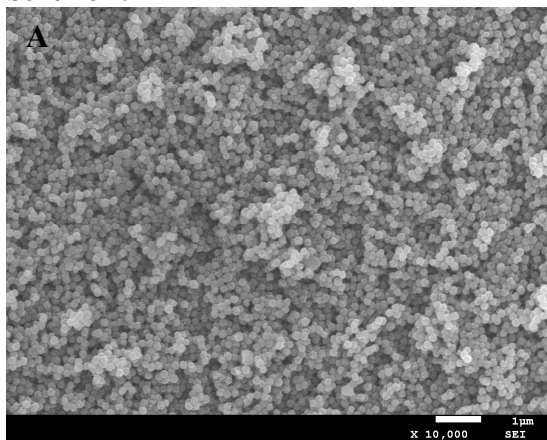
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3 desorption solvent, 300  $\mu\text{L}$  ethanol; pH 6.5.  
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8 Fig. 6 The effect of the reuse of the DBMNPs sorption–desorption cycle times. Extraction  
9 conditions: concentration of malachite green, 100  $\text{ng mL}^{-1}$ ; SDBS, 0.9 mL; Extraction time, 10  
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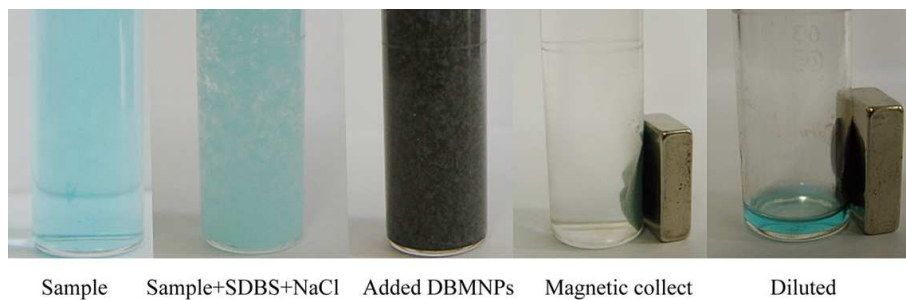


Scheme 1

Scheme 2.



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Scheme 3



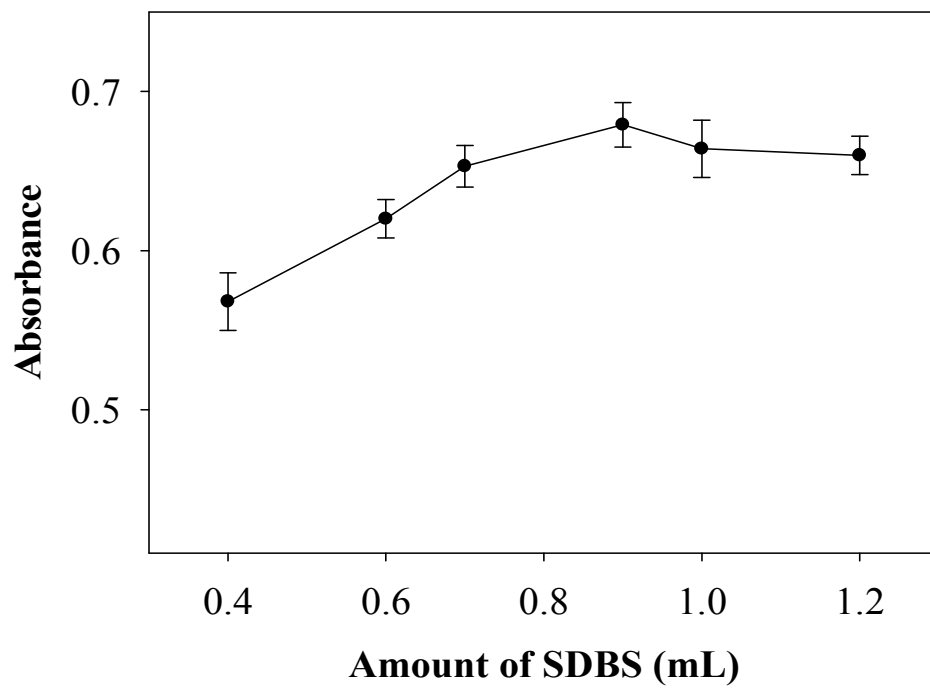


Fig. 1

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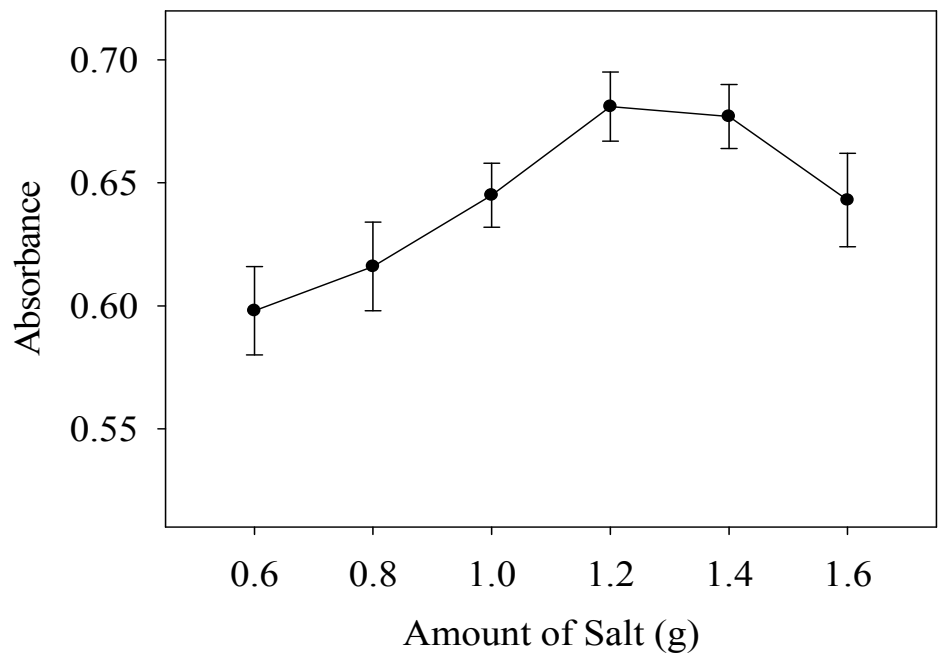


Fig. 2

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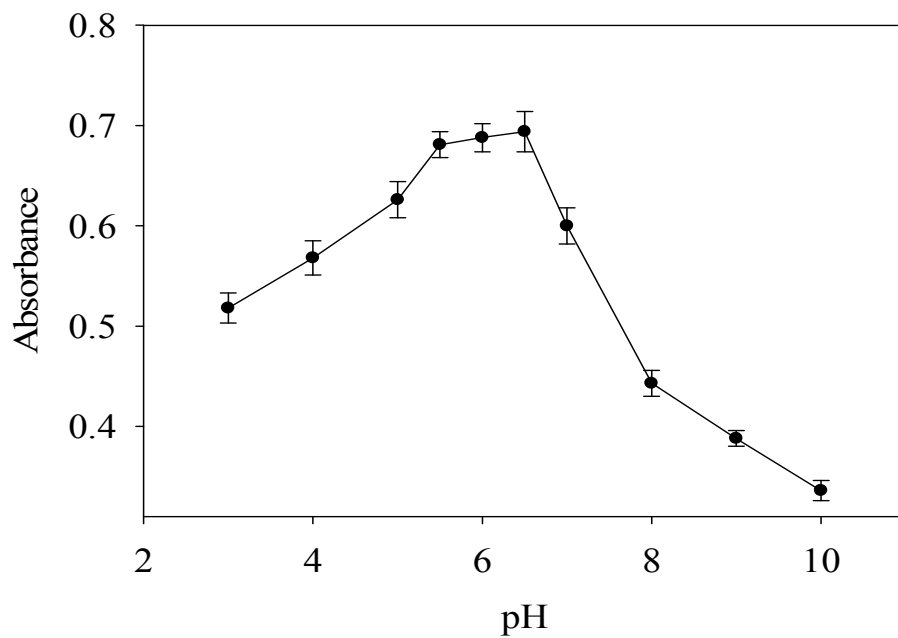


Fig. 3

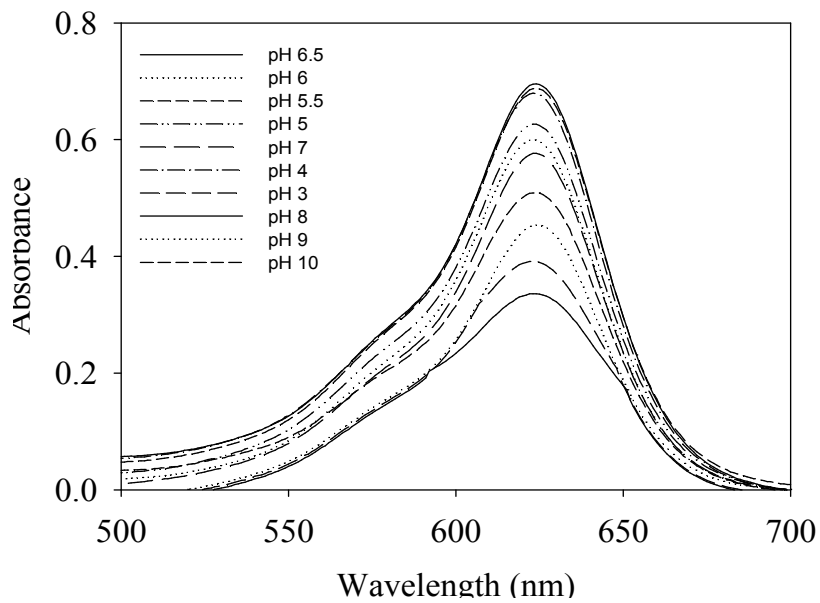


Fig. 4

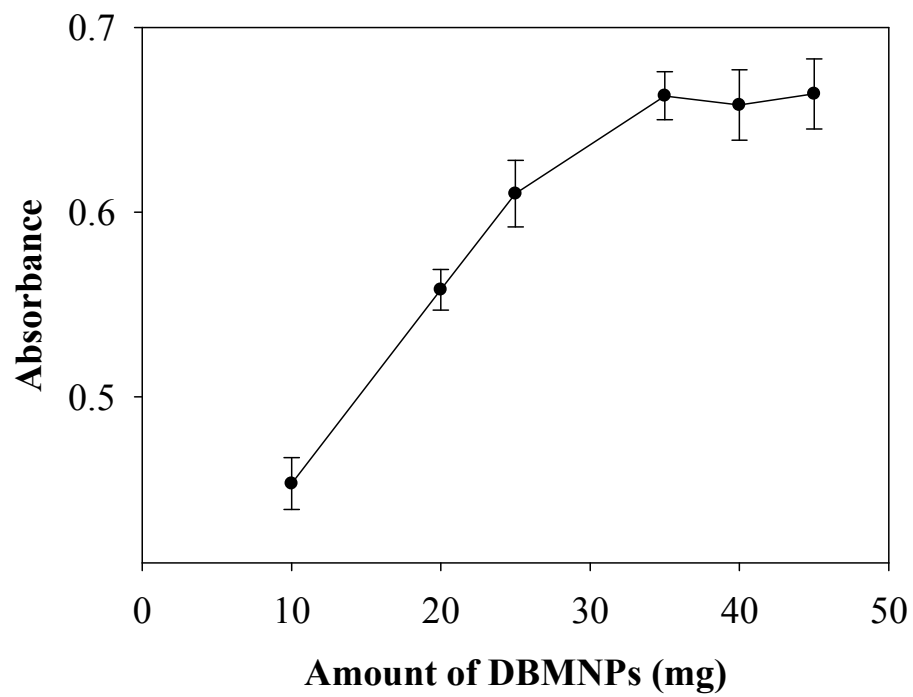


Fig. 5

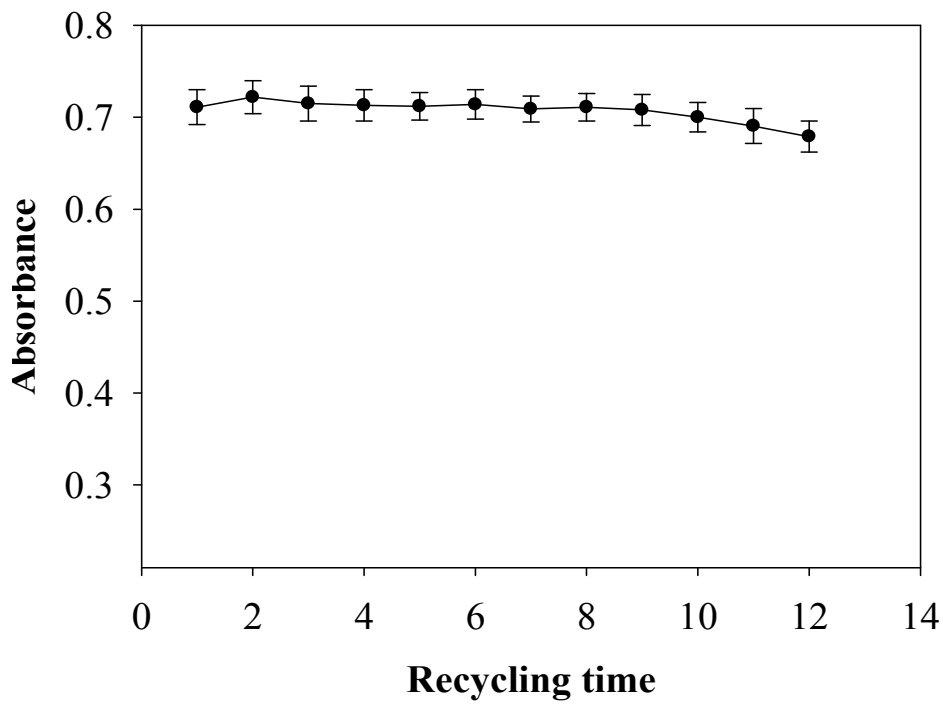


Fig. 6