

## SIMPLE AND SELECTIVE SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC METHODS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF DOMPERIDONE IN PHARMACEUTICALS THROUGH CHARGE TRANSFER COMPLEX FORMATION REACTION

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### Abstract

Two simple, rapid and selective spectrophotometric methods are described for the determination of domperidone (DOM) in pure drug and in pharmaceuticals. The methods are based on the formation of charge-transfer complex between DOM as *n*-donor and  $\pi$ -acceptors like 2, 3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ) in method A or *p*-chloranilic acid (*p*-CA) in method B. The products exhibit absorption maxima at 590 and 520 nm in acetone for method A and method B, respectively. Under the optimum reaction conditions, linear relationships with good correlation coefficients (0.998 in method A and 0.999 in method B) were found between the absorbance and the concentration of DOM in the ranges of 5-80 and 20-320  $\mu$ g/mL in method A and method B, respectively. The apparent molar absorptivity values are calculated to be  $4.88 \times 10^3$  and  $1.14 \times 10^3$ , L/mol/cm, for method A and method B, respectively, with corresponding Sandell sensitivity values of 0.021 and 0.017  $\mu$ g/cm<sup>2</sup>. The limit of detection (LOD) values are found to be 0.28 and 1.19  $\mu$ g/mL for method A and method B, respectively, with corresponding limit of quantification (LOQ) values of 0.86 and 3.59  $\mu$ g/mL. The stoichiometry of the reaction was found to be 1:1 in both the cases. The proposed methods were applied successfully for the determination of DOM in tablets with good accuracy and precision. The results obtained by the proposed methods were compared favorably with those of the reference method.

**Key words:** Domperidone, Spectrophotometry, 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone, *p*-chloranilic acid, Tablets.

### Domperidon'un Farmasötik Preparatlarda Miktar Tayini İçin Yük-Transfer Kompleksi Oluşumuna Dayalı Basit ve Seçici Spektrofotometrik Yöntemler

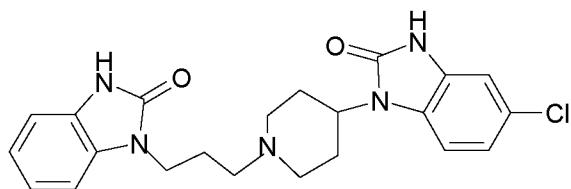
Domperidon'un (DOM) ham halinde ve farmasötik preparatlar içerisinde miktar tayini için basit, hızlı ve seçici iki adet spektrofotometrik yöntem tanımlanmaktadır. Yöntemler, DOM ile aralarında *n*-donor ve  $\pi$ -akseptör olarak A yönteminde 2,3-dikloro-5,6-disiyano-1,4-benzokinon (DDQ) ile B yönteminde *p*-kloroanik asit (*p*-CA) arasındaki yük transfer komplekslerinin oluşumuna dayanmaktadır. A ve B yöntemlerinde meydana gelen ürünler sırasıyla 590 nm ve 520 nm de maksimum absorbsiyon göstermektedir. Optimum şartlarda, absorbans ile DOM konsantrasyonu arasında A yönteminde 5-80  $\mu$ g/mL aralığında, B yönteminde 80-320  $\mu$ g/mL aralığında iyi bir doğrusal ilişki vardır (korelasyon A yönteminde 0.998, B yönteminde 0.999 dur). Molar absorbsiyon katsayıları A ve B yöntemlerinde sırasıyla  $4.88 \times 10^3$  ve  $1.14 \times 10^3$  olarak ve Sandell duyarlılığı ise A ve B yöntemlerinde sırasıyla 0.021 ve 0.017  $\mu$ g/cm<sup>2</sup> olarak hesaplanmıştır. A ve B yöntemleri için LOD değerleri sırasıyla 0.28  $\mu$ g/mL ve 1.19  $\mu$ g/mL ve LOQ değerleri 0.86  $\mu$ g/mL ve 3.59  $\mu$ g/mL olarak bulunmuştur. Reaksiyon stokiyometresi her 2 yönteme de 1:1 olarak bulunmuştur. Önerilen yöntemler tabletlerde DOM miktarı tayini için başarı ile uygulanmıştır. Elde edilen sonuçlar bir referans yöntemi ile elde edilen sonuçlar ile karşılaştırılmıştır.

**Anahtar kelimeler:** Domperidone, Spektrofotometri, 2,3-dikloro-5,6-disiyano-1,4-benzokinon, *p*-kloranilik asit, Tabletler.

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## INTRODUCTION

Domperidone (DOM); 5-chloro-1-[1-[3-(2-oxo-2, 3-dihydro-1*H*-benzimidazole-1-yl)propyl]piperidin-4-yl]-1, 3-dihydro-2*H*-benzimidazol-2-one (Figure 1), is used as an anti-emetic and to suppress nausea and vomiting. DOM is indicated for treating symptoms associated with upper gastrointestinal motility disorders caused by chronic and sub-acute gastritis. It is a gastrointestinal emptying (delayed) adjuvant, a peristaltic stimulant and exhibits antiemetic properties. It can be used in patients with Parkinson's disease (1) and is also found to be effective in the treatment of gastroparesis (2). It is official in BP (3) which recommends non-aqueous titration with perchloric acid as titrant and naphtholbenzein as indicator.



**Figure 1.** Structure of Domperidone

The therapeutic importance of DOM initiated several reports on its determination, both in pharmaceuticals and in biological fluids. Differential pulse voltammetry (4) and anodic difference pulse voltammetry (5) at a glassy carbon electrode in Britton-Robinson buffer have been used to assay DOM in pharmaceuticals. Application of potentiometric sensors (6) for the analysis of DOM-containing tablets using PVC membrane and carbon paste sensors has also been reported. Planar chromatography (7), high-performance liquid chromatography (8-18) and high-performance thin-layer chromatography (19-23) have been used to assay DOM in pharmaceuticals. For the determination of DOM in biological samples like human, dog and rat plasma, several chromatographic techniques such as liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (24-26), ultra performance liquid chromatography (27) and high-performance liquid chromatography (28, 29) have been reported. For such applications, however, the operations are time consuming and many of these techniques are deficient in simplicity, cost-effectiveness and easy accessibility.

Spectrophotometry is characterized by its speed and simplicity, accuracy and inexpensive instrument needed, and hence it is an important alternative to other analytical techniques with clear advantages in terms of cost of analysis. The most widely used technique for the assay of DOM has been UV spectrophotometry. Several UV-spectrophotometric (30-43) procedures employing different media have been reported for assay in single as well as in combined dosage forms. Literature survey revealed that there is only one report on the visible spectrophotometric assay of DOM in pharmaceuticals (44) in which four procedures are described. The first two methods are based on redox-complexation reactions involving  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ , *o*-phenanthroline and bipyridyl (44) and the other two methods utilize cerium(IV) as the oxidimetric reagent, which subsequently is determined by decrease of red color of chromotrope 2R or orange pink color of Rhodamine 6G (44). The reported four visible spectrophotometric methods (44) involve a heating step and the procedures based on redox-complexation reactions require strict pH control. The present study reports charge-transfer complex formation reaction of DOM with  $\pi$ -acceptors like 2, 3-dichloro-5, 6-dicyano-1, 4-benzoquinone (DDQ) and *p*-chloranilic acid (*p*-CA) in an attempt to develop simple, selective and reliable

spectrophotometric methods for its determination in tablets. The results obtained were satisfactorily accurate and precise.

## EXPERIMENTAL

### *Apparatus*

All absorbance measurements were made on a Systronics model 106 digital spectrophotometer (Ahmedabad, India) provided with 1-cm matched quartz cells. All chemicals and reagents used were of analytical or pharmaceutical grade.

### *Materials and Reagents*

#### *Standard DOM solution*

Pharmaceutical grade DOM certified to be 99.85 % was kindly provided by Cipla India Ltd., Mumbai, India and was used as received. A stock standard solution of 400 µg/mL DOM was prepared by dissolving 40 mg of pure drug in 10 mL methanol and diluting to 100 mL in a calibrated flask with acetone and used in method B; and the same was diluted with acetone to get 100 µg/mL DOM for use in method A.

Two brands of tablets containing DOM, Domstal-10 (Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., M. P., India) and Vemistop-10 (Cipla Ltd., H. P., India) used in the investigation were purchased from local commercial sources.

#### *DDQ (0.05 %, w/v)*

The solution was prepared by dissolving 0.050 g of DDQ (Merck, Mumbai, India) in 100 mL of dioxane.

#### *p-Chloranilic acid (0.1 %, w/v)*

The solution was prepared by dissolving 0.100 g of *p*-chloranilic acid (Rolex lab reagents, India) in 100 mL of dioxane.

### *Procedure for Calibration Curve*

#### *Method A*

Aliquots of 0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 mL DOM standard solution (100 µg/mL) were transferred into a series of 5 mL calibrated flask. To each flask 1 mL of 0.05 % DDQ solution was added, diluted to the mark with acetone and mixed well. Then, the absorbance was measured at 590 nm against reagent blank treated similarly.

#### *Method B*

Varying aliquots (0.25, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 mL) of DOM solution (400 µg/mL) were accurately measured into a series of 5 mL calibrated flasks by means of micro burette. To each flask was added 1 mL of 0.1 % *p*-CA, diluted to the mark with acetone and mixed well. Then, the absorbance was measured at 520 nm against reagent blank treated similarly.

A calibration graph was prepared by plotting the increasing absorbance values *versus* concentration of DOM. The concentration of DOM was read from the calibration graph or computed from the respective regression equation derived using the Beer's law data.

### *Analysis of commercial tablets*

Ten tablets were accurately weighed and powdered. A portion equivalent to 20 mg DOM was accurately weighed and transferred into a 50 mL calibrated flask, 5 mL of methanol and 25 mL of acetone were added to the flask and the content shaken thoroughly for 15-20 min to extract the drug into the liquid phase; the volume was finally diluted to the mark with acetone (50 mL flask), mixed well and filtered using a Whatman No. 42 filter paper. An aliquot of the

filtrate (400 µg/mL DOM) was analysed for DOM following the procedure of method B; and the same solution was diluted with acetone to get a 100 µg/mL DOM and assayed by method A.

#### *Analysis of placebo blank*

A placebo blank of the composition: talc (43 mg), starch (35 mg), acacia (25 mg), methyl cellulose (40 mg), sodium citrate (25 mg), magnesium stearate (35 mg) and sodium alginate (30 mg) was made and its solution was prepared in 25 mL calibration flask as described under “analysis of commercial tablets”, and then subjected to analysis using the procedures described above.

#### *Analysis of synthetic mixture*

To the placebo blank of the composition described above, 20 mg of DOM was added and homogenized, transferred to a 50 mL calibrated flask and the solution was prepared as described under “analysis of commercial tablets”, and then subjected to analysis by the procedures described above. The analysis was used to study the interferences of excipients such as talc, starch, acacia, methyl cellulose, sodium citrate, magnesium stearate and sodium alginate.

#### *Procedure for stoichiometric relationship*

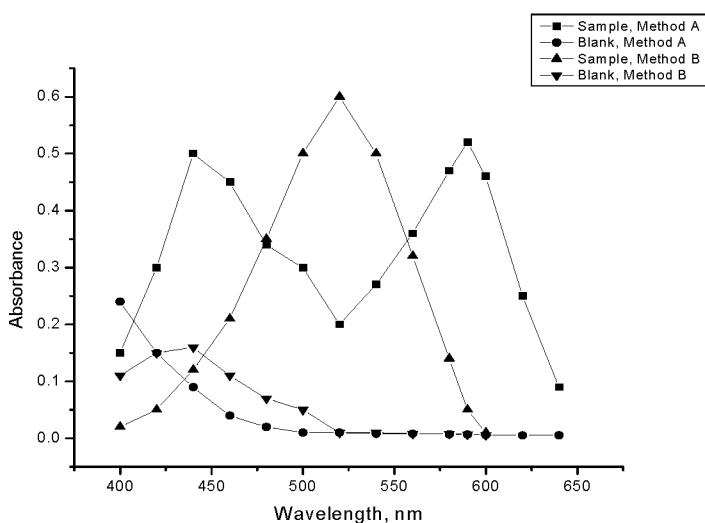
Job’s method of continuous variations of equimolar solutions was employed:  $1.8783 \times 10^{-3}$  M each of DOM in acetone and DDQ in dioxane (method A) solutions; and  $9.3916 \times 10^{-4}$  M each of the DOM in acetone and *p*-CA in dioxane (method B) solutions were prepared separately. A series of solutions was prepared in which the total volume of DOM and reagent was kept at 5 mL. The drug and reagent were mixed in various complementary proportions (0:5, 1:4, 2:3, 3:2, 4:1 and 5:0, inclusive) and completed as directed under the recommended procedures. The absorbance of the resultant C-T complex was measured at 590 nm in method A and 520 nm in method B.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

$\pi$ -acceptors like DDQ and *p*-CA are known to yield radical ions *via* charge transfer complexation reaction with a variety of n-donors including amines, iodide ion and metallic salts (45-50). The structural formula of DOM features amino groups; therefore, attempts were made to determine DOM based on the formation of charge-transfer complex with DDQ and *p*-CA as reagents.

#### *Spectral characteristics*

Interaction of DOM with DDQ results in the formation of reddish brown color chromogen which exhibits absorption maxima at both 440 and 590 nm (Fig. 2), but 590 nm was selected, because of low blank absorbance and further because the interference from co-formulated substances will generally be far less at longer wavelength. In method B, DOM with *p*-CA yields purple color peaking at 520 nm (Figure 2). In both the wavelengths, reagent blanks showed negligible absorbance values. The predominant chromogen with DDQ or *p*-CA is the colored radical anion that probably resulted through the dissociation of an original donor-acceptor complex (45, 46, 49) with the drug as shown in scheme 1. Abdel-Hamid et al. (45) have also established the formation of DDQ radical anion by electron spin resonance measurements.



**Figure 2.** Absorption spectra (40 µg/mL DOM in method A and 240 µg/mL DOM in method B)

#### *Optimization of reaction conditions*

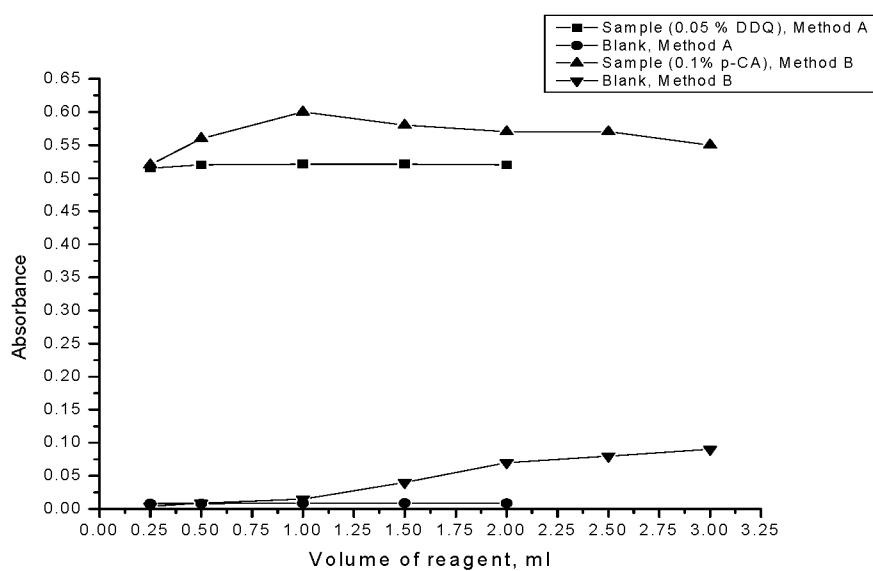
Optimum reaction conditions for quantitative determination of charge transfer complexes were established *via* various preliminary experiments such as choice of organic solvent, concentration of the reagents and reaction time.

#### *Effect of solvent*

The low solubility of the DOM in most of the organic solvents restricted their use, although charge-transfer complexes are formed in those solvents. DOM is easily soluble in methanol; however, charge-transfer reaction between DOM and DDQ or *p*-CA was not feasible in methanolic medium. Acetone was found to be an ideal solvent to carry out the reactions because it offered excellent solvating power and also possesses high dielectric constant, a property which is known to promote the dissociation of the original charge-transfer complex to the radical ions and dioxane was found to be the best solvent to prepare the DDQ and *p*-CA solutions compared to many other solvents investigated.

#### *Effect of reagent concentration*

The influence of the concentration of DDQ and *p*-CA on the intensity of the color developed at the selected wavelengths was studied. In method A, the absorbance value was unaffected when 0.25-2.0 mL of 0.05% DDQ was used (Figure 3) and reagent blank gave negligible absorbance. Hence, 1 mL of 0.05% DDQ was used for the reaction in method A. In method B, the blank absorbance was found to increase with increasing concentration of *p*-CA. 1 mL of 0.1 % *p*-CA gave maximum absorbance with minimum blank reading (Figure 3). Hence, based on the sensitivity with minimum blank absorbance, 1 mL of 0.1% *p*-CA was fixed in method B.



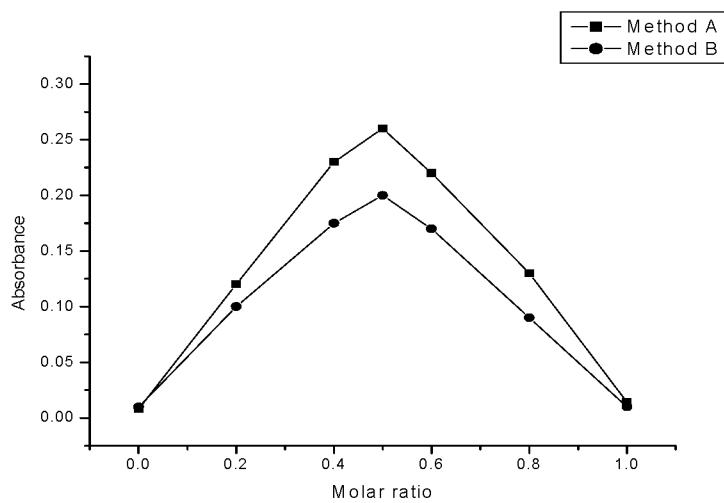
**Figure 3.** Effect of reagents (40 µg/mL DOM in method A and 240 µg/mL DOM in method B).

#### *Effect of reaction time*

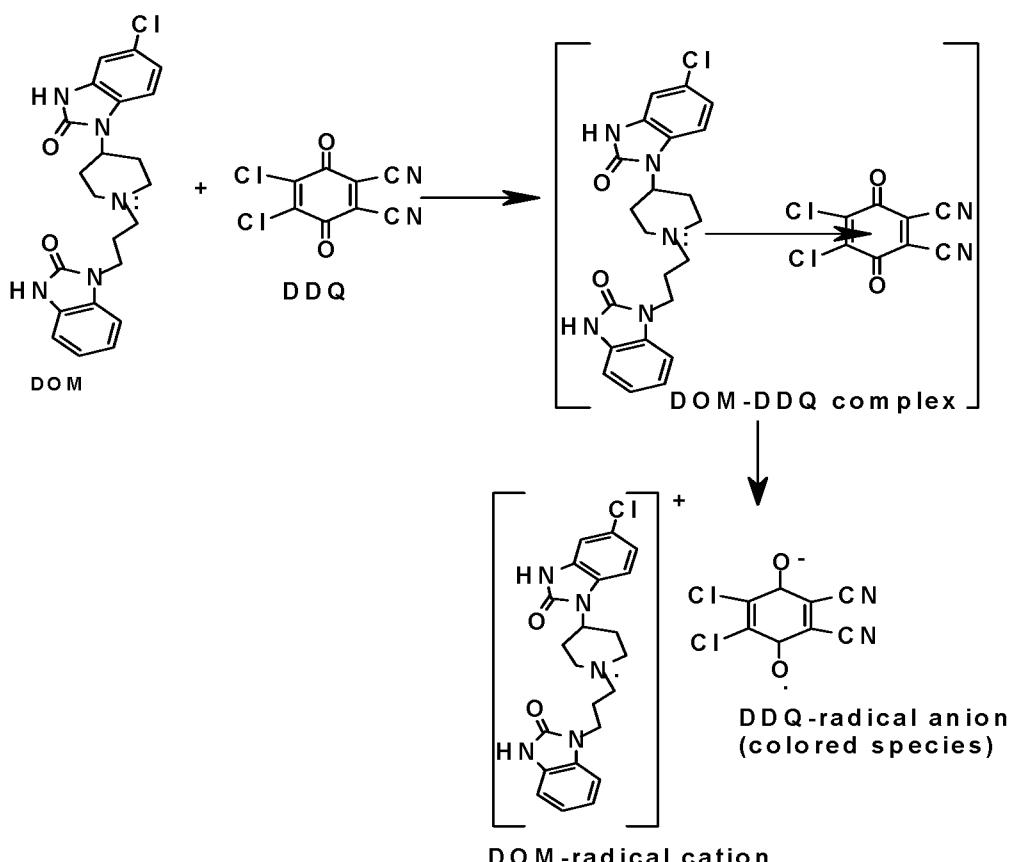
The optimum reaction time for the development of color at ambient temperature ( $30\pm2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) was studied and it was found that complete color development was instantaneous in both the methods. The formed color was stable for at least 20 min in both the cases.

#### *Stoichiometric ratio*

The molar ratio of DOM to  $\pi$ -acceptor, DDQ or *p*-CA in the complex was determined by applying the Job's method of continuous variations. In both the cases, the plot reached a maximum value at a mole fraction of 0.5 which indicated the formation of 1:1 (DOM: DDQ or *p*-CA) complex (Figure 4). Based on this molar ratio, the colored reaction product can be represented as shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 4.** Continuous variation graph for the reaction of DOM with DDQ in method A and with *p*-CA in method B.



**Figure 5.** Tentative reaction mechanism

#### *Method validation procedures*

The proposed methods have been validated for linearity, sensitivity, precision, accuracy, robustness, ruggedness, selectivity and recovery according to the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) (51) guidelines.

#### *Linearity and sensitivity*

Under optimum conditions, linear relations were obtained between absorbance and concentration of DOM in the range of 5.0-80.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (method A) and 20.0-320.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (method B) (Fig. 7). The calibration graph in each instance is described by the equation:

$$Y = a + b X$$

(Where Y = absorbance, a = intercept, b = slope and X = concentration in  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) obtained by the method of least squares. Correlation coefficient, intercept and slope for the calibration data are summarized in Table 1. Sensitivity parameters such as apparent molar absorptivity and sandell sensitivity values, the limit of detection (LOD) and the limit of quantification (LOQ) are calculated as per the current ICH guidelines (51) are compiled in Table 1 speak of the excellent sensitivity of the proposed method. LOD and LOQ were calculated according to the same guidelines using the formulae:

$$\text{LOD} = 3.3\sigma/s \text{ and } \text{LOQ} = 10\sigma/s$$

where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of five reagent blank determinations and s is the slope of the calibration curve.

**Table 1.** Sensitivity and Regression Parameters.

Parameter	Method A	Method B
$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ , nm	590	520
Linear range, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	5.0-80	20-320
Molar absorptivity( $\epsilon$ ), L/mol.cm	$4.88 \times 10^3$	$1.14 \times 10^3$
Sandell sensitivity <sup>a</sup> , $\mu\text{g/cm}^2$	0.087	0.374
Limit of detection (LOD), $\mu\text{g/mL}$	0.28	1.19
Limit of quantification (LOQ), $\mu\text{g/mL}$	0.86	3.59
Regression equation, $Y^b$		
Intercept (a)	0.006	0.008
Slope (b)	0.012	0.002
Standard deviation of a ( $S_a$ )	0.021	0.126
Standard deviation of b ( $S_b$ )	0.0003	0.0004
Regression coefficient (r)	0.998	0.999

<sup>a</sup>Limit of determination as the weight in  $\mu\text{g}$  per mL of solution, which corresponds to an absorbance of A = 0.001 measured in a cuvette of cross-sectional area  $1 \text{ cm}^2$  and  $l = 1 \text{ cm}$ . <sup>b</sup> $Y = a + bX$ , Where Y is the absorbance, X is concentration in  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , a is intercept, b is slope.

#### Precision and accuracy

Intra-day precision and accuracy of the proposed methods were evaluated by replicate analysis ( $n=7$ ) of calibration standards at three different concentration levels in the same day. Inter-day precision and accuracy were determined by assaying the calibration standards at the same concentration levels on five consecutive days. Precision and accuracy were based on the calculated relative standard deviation (RSD, %) and relative error (RE, %) of the found concentration compared to the theoretical one, respectively (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Evaluation of intra-day and inter-day accuracy and precision.

Method	DOM taken, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	Intra-day accuracy and precision (n=7)			Inter-day accuracy and precision (n=7)		
		DOM found, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	%RE	%RSD	DOM found, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	%RE	%RSD
Method A (using DDQ)	20	19.70	1.49	2.37	19.64	1.80	2.46
	40	41.10	2.75	2.25	41.16	2.90	2.31
	60	61.72	2.87	2.21	61.80	3.00	2.34
Method B (using p-CA)	160	164.0	2.50	1.57	164.7	2.94	2.03
	240	245.6	2.33	1.76	246.3	2.63	1.87
	320	322.1	0.65	1.39	324.3	1.34	2.19

RE: Relative error and RSD: Relative standard deviation.

### Robustness and ruggedness

Method robustness was tested by making small incremental change in concentration of DDQ in method A and *p*-CA in method B. To check the ruggedness, analysis was performed by four different analysts; and on three different spectrophotometers by the same analyst. The robustness and the ruggedness were checked at three different drug levels. The intermediate precision, expressed as percent RSD, which is a measure of robustness and ruggedness was within the acceptable limits as shown in the Table 3.

### Selectivity

The proposed methods were tested for selectivity by placebo blank and synthetic mixture analyses. A convenient aliquot of the placebo blank solution was subjected to analysis according to the recommended procedures. In both the cases, there was no interference by the inactive ingredients as indicated by the near blank absorbance.

**Table 3.** Robustness and ruggedness expressed as intermediate precision (%RSD).

Method	DOM taken, μg/mL	Method robustness		Method ruggedness	
		Parameter altered			
		DDQ mL <sup>a</sup> in method A or <i>p</i> -CA mL <sup>a</sup> in method B, RSD, % (n = 3)	Inter-analysts' RSD, % (n = 4)		
Method A	20	1.67	1.18	2.16	
	40	1.43	1.09	2.29	
	60	1.37	1.02	2.32	
	160	1.23	1.06	2.41	
	240	1.19	0.97	2.26	
	320	1.31	1.02	2.35	

DDQ and *p*-CA volumes used were 0.8, 1.0 and 1.2 mL in both the methods.

**Table 4.** Recovery of the drug from synthetic mixture.

Method	DOM in synthetic Mixture taken, μg/mL	DOM recovered* (Percent ± SD)
Method A (using DDQ)	20	112.5 ± 1.37
	40	111.3 ± 1.97
	60	109.2 ± 1.41
Method B (using <i>p</i> -CA)	160	104.7 ± 1.52
	240	103.5 ± 1.74
	320	104.2 ± 2.07

\*Mean value of five determinations

A separate experiment was performed with the synthetic mixture. The analysis of synthetic mixture solution yielded percent recoveries which ranged of 103.5 -112.5 with standard deviation of 1.37 –2.07 in both the cases. The results of this study are presented in

Table 4 indicating that the inactive ingredients did not interfere in the assay. These results further demonstrate the accuracy as well as the precision of the proposed methods.

#### *Application to analysis of tablets*

The proposed methods were successfully applied to the determination of DOM in commercial tablets. The results obtained by the proposed methods were compared to those of the reference method (3) by applying Student's t-test for accuracy and F-test for precision. The reference method describes non-aqueous titration with perchloric acid as titrant and naphtholbenzein as indicator. The results (Table 5) show that the Student's t- and F-values at 95 % confidence level are less than the theoretical values, which confirmed that there is a good agreement between the results obtained by the proposed methods and the reference method with respect to accuracy and precision.

**Table 5.** Results of analysis of tablets by the proposed methods.

Tablet Brand name	Label claim, mg/tablet	Found <sup>a</sup> (Percent of label claim $\pm$ SD) (n=5)		
		Reference method	Method A (using DDQ)	Method B (using p-CA)
Domstal-10 <sup>b</sup>	10	99.47 $\pm$ 1.74	96.46 $\pm$ 1.87 $t = 2.63$ $F = 1.16$	102.1 $\pm$ 1.61 $t = 2.48$ $F = 1.17$
vomistop-10 <sup>c</sup>	10	98.13 $\pm$ 1.62	96.51 $\pm$ 1.64 $t = 1.57$ $F = 1.02$	99.69 $\pm$ 1.74 $t = 1.47$ $F = 1.15$

<sup>a</sup>Mean value of five determinations.

<sup>b</sup>Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., M. P, India; <sup>c</sup>Cipla Ltd., H. P., India.

The value of t (tabulated) at 95 % confidence level and for four degrees of freedom is 2.77.

The value of F (tabulated) at 95 % confidence level and for four degrees of freedom is 6.39.

#### *Recovery studies*

The accuracy and validity of the proposed methods were further ascertained by performing recovery studies. Pre-analysed tablet powder was spiked with pure DOM at three concentration levels (50, 100 and 150 % of that in tablet powder) and the total was found by the proposed methods. In both the cases, the added DOM recovery percentage values ranged of 104.7-111.46 % with standard deviation of 1.64-2.11 (Table 6) indicating that the recovery was good, and that the co formulated substance did not interfere in the determination.

## CONCLUSION

Two new and simple spectrophotometric methods for the determination of DOM in tablets were developed and validated as per the ICH guidelines. The methods are based on well-characterized charge-transfer complexation reactions involving the use of DDQ and p-CA as reagents. Compared with most of the existing methods for DOM, the present methods are very simple and cost effective. Of the non-chromatographic methods, the methods based on voltammetric (4, 5) and potentiometric sensor (6) techniques involve rigid pH control. The chromatographic techniques (7-23) although sensitive, require expensive instrumental-set up. A large volume of solvents is required for these techniques, which are expensive, hazardous to health, and harmful to the environment.

**Table 6.** Accuracy assessment by recovery experiments.

Method	Tablet studied	DOM in tablet, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	Pure DOM added, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	Total found, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	Pure DOM recovered* Percent $\pm$ SD
Method A (using DDQ)	Vemistop-10	19.3	10	30.45	111.5 $\pm$ 1.81
		19.3	20	40.97	108.4 $\pm$ 2.11
		19.3	30	50.71	104.7 $\pm$ 2.06
Method B (using <i>p</i> -CA)	Vemistop-10	79.75	40	123.75	110.0 $\pm$ 1.64
		79.75	80	165.59	107.3 $\pm$ 1.76
		79.75	120	206.35	105.5 $\pm$ 1.88

\*Mean value of three measurements.

Most of the UV-spectrophotometric methods (30-43) are less sensitive and applicable to multi component mixture. The reported four visible spectrophotometric methods (44) require boiling for 5-10 min and in addition to this, the procedures based on redox-complexation reaction also require strict pH control.

In contrast to the above published methods, the present methods can be applied at ambient temperature, color development is instantaneous and neither involves complicated extraction procedure nor requires strict pH control. Although the proposed methods seem less sensitive than some of the published methods, measurement is made at longer wavelengths in both the methods. This is a decisive advantage since the interference from co-formulated substances will generally be far less at longer wavelength.

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