

# *Determination of Caffeine in Tea Samples*

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Know How much caffeine you are taking in with each cup of tea!

Chemistry Project

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I would like to thank my cousin brother **Mr. Neeraj Naithani** Research Scholar Department of Chemistry, IIT Roorkee for his contribution in this study. I would also like to thank my Chemistry Teacher **Ms. Rampal** in providing a helping hand in making my project titled “**Determination Of Caffeine In Tea Samples**”.

Disclaimers: The errors idiocies and inconsistencies remain my own.

**Ankit Bahuguna**

(Name and signature of the student)

# Certificate

**It is hereby certify that, the original and genuine research work is carried out to investigate about the subject matter and the related data collection and has been completed solely and satisfactorily by this student regarding the Project titled "Determination Of Caffeine In Tea Samples".**

**Signature**  
(Subject Teacher)

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## INTRODUCTION

Tea is the most commonly and widely used soft beverage in the household. It acts as a stimulant for central nervous system and skeletal muscles. That is why tea removes fatigue, tiredness and headache. It also increases the capacity of thinking. It is also used for lowering body temperature. The principal constituent of tea, which is responsible for all these properties, is the alkaloid-caffeine. The amount of caffeine in tea leaves varies from sample to sample.

Originally it was thought that caffeine is responsible for the taste and flavour of tea. But pure caffeine has been found to be a tasteless white substance. Therefore, the taste and flavour of tea is due to some other substance present in it. There is a little doubt that the popularity of the xanthenes beverages depends on their stimulant action, although most people are unaware

of any stimulation. The degree to which an individual is stimulated by given amount of caffeine varies from individual to individual.

For example, some people boast their ability to drink several cups of coffee in evening and yet sleep like a long, on the other hand there are people who are so sensitive to caffeine that even a single cup of coffee will cause a response bordering on the toxic.

The xanthine beverages also create a medical problem. They are dietary of a stimulant of the CNS. Often the physicians face the question whether to deny caffeine-containing beverages to patients or not. In fact children are more susceptible than adults to excitation by xanthenes.

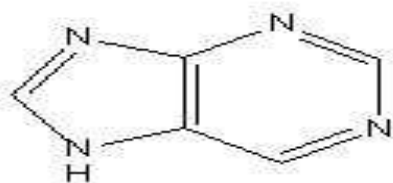
For this reason, tea and coffee should be excluded from their diet. Even cocoa is of

doubtful value. It has a high tannin content may be as high as 50 mg per cup.

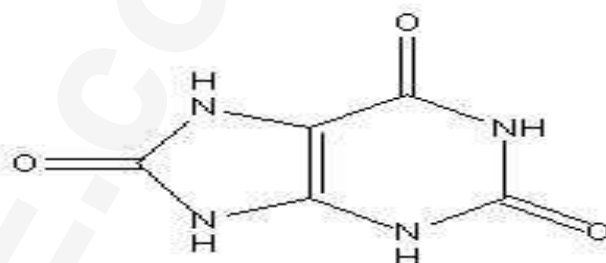
After all our main stress is on the presence of caffeine in xanthene beverages and so in this project we will study and observe the quantity of caffeine varying in different samples of tea leaves.

## Theory

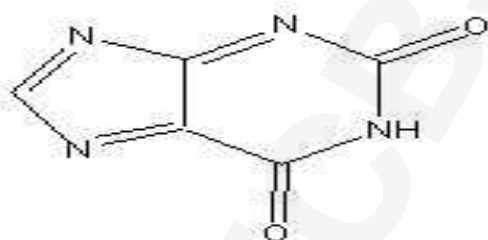
The most important methylated alkaloid that occurs naturally is caffeine. Its molecular formula is  $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$ . Its IUPAC name is 1, 3, 7-trimethylxanthine and common name is 1-methylated thiobromine.



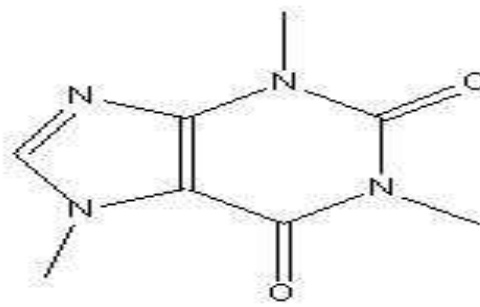
purine



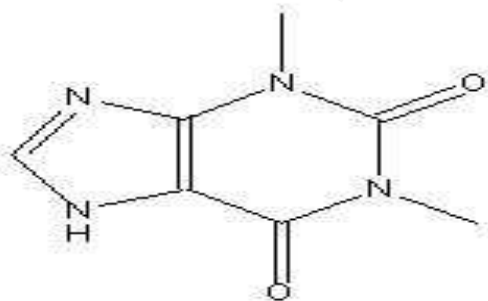
uric acid



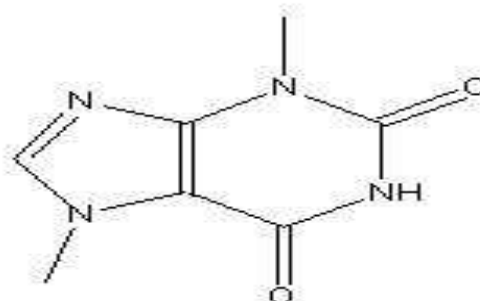
xanthine



caffeine



Theophylline



Theobromine



Purely it is white, crystalline solid in the form of needles. Its melting point is  $123^{\circ}\text{C}$ . It is the main active principle component of tea leaves. It is present in tea leaves up to 3% and can be extracted by first boiling the tea leaves with water which dissolves many glycoside compounds in addition to caffeine. The clear solution is then treated with lead acetate to precipitate the glycoside compounds in the form of lead complex. The clear filtrate is then extracted with chloroform because it is more soluble in it than water.

## Uses of Caffeine :

1. In medicine, it is used to stimulate, central nervous system and to increase flow of urine.
2. Because of its stimulating effects, caffeine has been used to relieve fatigue. But it is dangerous and one may collapse if not consumes it under certain limit.
3. Caffeine is also used in analgesic tablets, as it is believed to be a pain reliever. It is also beneficial in migraines.

# Effects of Caffeine

- 1.It is psycho - stimulant.**
- 2.It improves physical and mental ability.**
- 3.Its effect in learning is doubtful but intellectual performance may improve where it has been used to reduce fatigue or boredom.**
- 4.When administered internally, it stimulates heart and nervous system and also acts as diuretic. On the contrary their excessive use is harmful to digestion and their long use leads to mental retardation.**

## Procedure

- ⇒ First of all, 50 grams of tea leaves were taken as sample and 150 ml of water was added to it in a beaker.
- ⇒ Then the beaker was heated up to extreme boiling.
- ⇒ The solution was filtered and lead acetate was added to the filtrate, leading to the formation of a curdy brown coloured precipitate.
- ⇒ We kept on adding lead acetate till no more precipitate has been formed.
- ⇒ Again solution was filtered.
- ⇒ Now the filtrate so obtained was heated until it had become 50 ml.
- ⇒ Then the solution left was allowed to cool.
- ⇒ After that, 20 ml. of chloroform was added to it.
- ⇒ Soon after, two layers appeared in the separating funnel.

- ⇒ We separated the lower layer.
- ⇒ The solution then exposed to atmosphere in order to allow chloroform to get evaporated.
- ⇒ **The residue left behind was caffeine.**
- ⇒ Then we weighed it and recorded the observations.

Similar procedure was performed with different samples of tealeaves and quantity of caffeine was observed in them

# Observations

## 1. Red Label Tea (Brooke Bond)

Weight of china dish	46.60gms
Weight of china dish with precipitate	47.20gms.
Amount of caffeine	0.60gms

## 2. Yellow Label Tea (Lipton)

Weight of china dish	46.60gms
Weight of china dish with precipitate	47.15gms.
Amount of caffeine	0.55gms

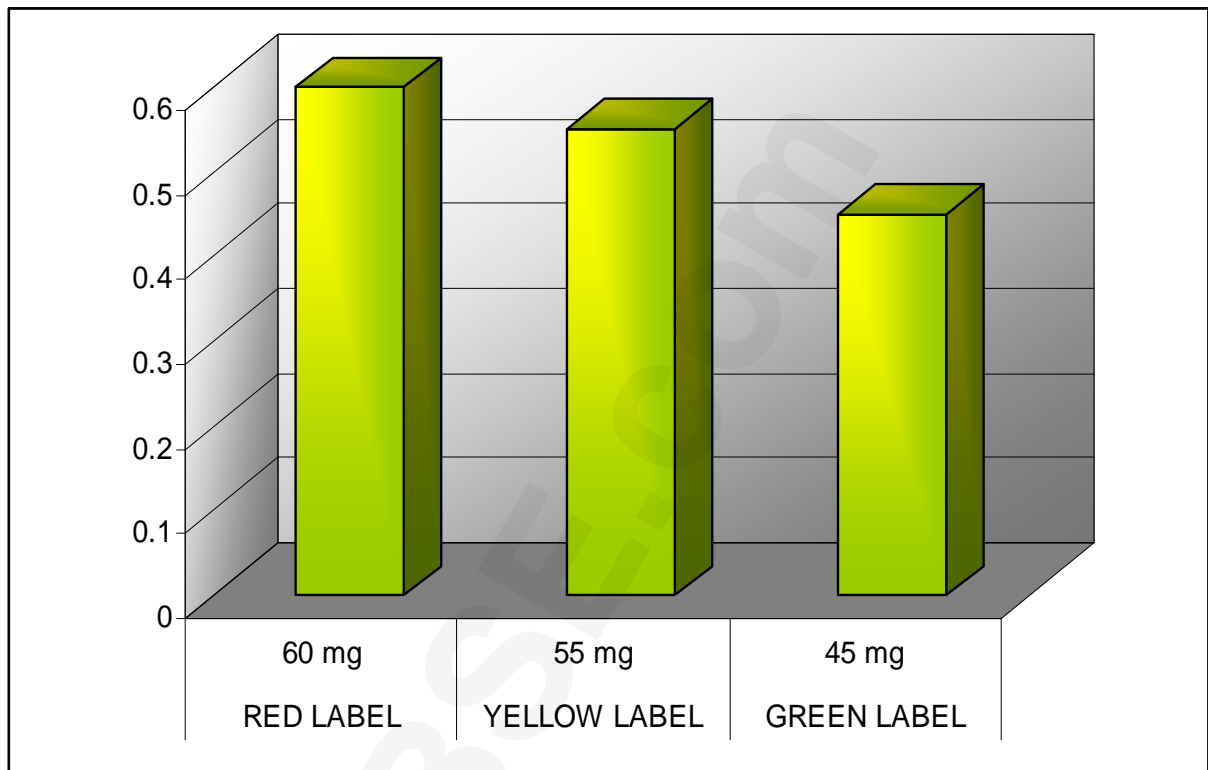
### 3.Green Label Tea (Lipton)

Weight of china dish	46.60gms.
Weight of china dish with precipitate	47.05gms.
Amount of caffeine	0.45gms.

## Result

1. Quantity of caffeine in Red label tea is **60mg. /sample of 50 gm.**
2. Quantity of caffeine in yellow label tea is **55mg./sample of 50 gm.**
3. Quantity of caffeine in green label tea is **45mg./sample of 50 gm.**

Graphically plotting various tea samples in accordance with the amount of caffeine present in them we present a stunning find:



Order of quantities of caffeine in different samples of tealeaves

Red Label > Yellow Label > Green Label