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Liquid-liquid extraction of technetium(VII) with TODGA

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N,N,N',N'-tetraoctyl-diglycolamide (TODGA) is broadly studied as a non-specific extractant for actinides and lanthanides from HNO3 solutions of nuclear waste, in particular for group actinide extraction (GANEX process). Unfortunately, some fission products including technetium (in the form of pertechnetate anion, 99TcO4–) are also efficiently extracted from HNO3 solutions to the TODGA-containing organic phase, accompanying the actinides and lanthanides.

The present work was focused on modelling the process of technetium extraction to organic solutions of TODGA. The TcO4-anion is evidently extracted to the organic phase as the ion pair, together with a lipophilic cation –the protonated TODGA molecule. We investigated the effects of acidity, of anions that compete with TcO4-for the lipophilic cation, and of diluent on the efficiency of extraction of technetium(VII). The effect of other metals present in the extraction system was also studied.

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