TESTS

**Related substances.** Gas chromatography (2.2.28): use the normalisation procedure.

*Internal standard solution.* Dissolve 1.0 g of squalane in cyclohexane R and dilute to 100.0 mL with the same solvent.

*Test solution (a).* Dissolve 0.100 g of the substance to be examined in 10.0 mL of the internal standard solution.

*Test solution (b).* Dissolve 0.100 g of the substance to be examined in 10 mL of cyclohexane R.

*Reference solution (a).* Dissolve 0.100 g of α-tocopherol CRS in 10.0 mL of the internal standard solution.

*Reference solution (b).* Dissolve 10 mg of the substance to be examined and 10 mg of α-tocopherol acetate R in cyclohexane R and dilute to 100.0 mL with the same solvent.

*Reference solution (c).* Dissolve 10 mg of all-rac-α-tocopherol for peak identification CRS (containing impurities A and B) in cyclohexane R and dilute to 1 mL with the same solvent.

*Reference solution (d).* Dilute 1.0 mL of test solution (b) to 100.0 mL with cyclohexane R. Dilute 1.0 mL of this solution to 10.0 mL with cyclohexane R.

**Column:**
- material: fused silica;
- size: l = 30 m, Ø = 0.25 mm;
- stationary phase: poly(dimethyl)siloxane R (film thickness 0.25 μm).

**Carrier gas:** helium for chromatography R.

**Flow rate:** 1 mL/min.

**Split ratio:** 1:100.

**Temperature:**
- column: 280 °C;
- injection port and detector: 290 °C.

**Detection:** flame ionisation.

**Injection:** 1 μL of test solution (b) and reference solutions (b), (c) and (d).

**Run time:** twice the retention time of all-rac-α-tocopherol.

**Identification of impurities:** use the chromatogram supplied with all-rac-α-tocopherol for peak identification CRS and the chromatogram obtained with reference solution (c) to identify the peaks due to impurities A and B.

**Relative retention** with reference to all-rac-α-tocopherol ( retention time = about 13 min): squalane = about 0.5; impurity A = about 0.7; impurity B = about 0.8; impurities C and D = about 1.05 (eluting immediately after the all-rac-α-tocopherol peak).

**System suitability:** reference solution (b):
- resolution: minimum 3.5 between the peaks due to all-rac-α-tocopherol and α-tocopherol acetate.

**Limits:**
- impurity A: maximum 0.5 per cent;
- impurity B: maximum 1.5 per cent;
- sum of impurities C and D: maximum 1.0 per cent;
- any other impurity: for each impurity, maximum 0.25 per cent;
- total: maximum 2.5 per cent;
- disregard limit: the area of the principal peak in the chromatogram obtained with reference solution (d) (0.1 per cent).

The thresholds indicated under Related substances (Table 2034.1) in the general monograph Substances for pharmaceutical use (2034) do not apply.

**ASSAY**

Gas chromatography (2.2.28) as described in the test for related substances with the following modification.

**Injection:** test solution (a) and reference solution (a).

Calculate the percentage content of C_{29}H_{50}O_{2} from the declared content of α-tocopherol CRS.

**STORAGE**

Under an inert gas, protected from light.

**IMPURITIES**

**Specified impurities:** A, B, C, D.

A. all-rac-trans-2,3,4,6,7-pentamethyl-2-(4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-ol,

B. all-rac-cis-2,3,4,6,7-pentamethyl-2-(4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-ol.

C. 4-methoxy-2,3,6-trimethyl-5-{(all-RS,E)-3,7,11,15-tetramethylhexadec-2-enyl}phenol,

D. (all-RS,all-E)-2,6,10,14,19,23,27,31-octamethyldotriaconta-12,14,18-triene.

**01/2008:1256**

**RRR-α-TOCOPHEROL**

**RRR-α-Tocopherolum**

C_{29}H_{50}O_{2} 

M, 430.7

**DEFINITION**

(2R)-2,5,7,8-Tetramethyl-2-[(4R,8R)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-6-ol.

Content: 94.5 per cent to 102.0 per cent.
CHARACTERS

Appearance: clear, colourless or yellowish-brown, viscous, oily liquid.

Solubility: practically insoluble in water, freely soluble in acetone, in anhydrous ethanol, in methylene chloride and in fatty oils.

IDENTIFICATION

First identification: A, B.
Second identification: A, C.

A. Optical rotation (2.2.7): + 0.05° to + 0.10°.

Dissolve 2.50 g in anhydrous ethanol R and dilute to 25.0 mL with the same solvent.

B. Infrared absorption spectrophotometry (2.2.24).

Comparison: α-tocopherol CRS.

C. Thin-layer chromatography (2.2.27).

Test solution. Dissolve 10 mg of the substance to be examined in 2 mL of cyclohexane R.

Reference solution. Dissolve 10 mg of α-tocopherol CRS in 2 mL of cyclohexane R.

Plate: TLC silica gel F254 plate R.


Results: the principal spot in the chromatogram obtained with the test solution is similar in position and size to the principal spot in the chromatogram obtained with the reference solution.

TESTS

Related substances. Gas chromatography (2.2.28): use the normalisation procedure.

Internal standard solution. Dissolve 1.0 g of squalane R in cyclohexane R and dilute to 100.0 mL with the same solvent.

Test solution (a). Dissolve 0.100 g of the substance to be examined in 10.0 mL of the internal standard solution.

Test solution (b). Dissolve 0.100 g of the substance to be examined in 10 mL of cyclohexane R.

Reference solution (a). Dissolve 0.100 g of α-tocopherol CRS in 10.0 mL of the internal standard solution.

Reference solution (b). Dissolve 10 mg of α-tocopherol R and 10 mg of α-tocopherol acetate R in cyclohexane R and dilute to 100.0 mL with the same solvent.

Column:
– material: fused silica;
– size: l = 30 m, Ø = 0.25 mm;
– stationary phase: poly(dimethyl)siloxane R (film thickness 0.25 μm).

Carrier gas: helium for chromatography R.

Flow rate: 1 mL/min.

Split ratio: 1:100.

Detection: flame ionisation.

Injection: 1 μL of test solution (b) and reference solution (b).

System suitability: reference solution (b):
– resolution: minimum 3.5 between the peaks due to α-tocopherol and α-tocopherol acetate.

Limits:
– total: maximum 4.0 per cent;
– disregard limit: 0.1 per cent.

The thresholds indicated under Related substances (Table 2034.1) in the general monograph Substances for pharmaceutical use (2034) do not apply.

ASSAY

Gas chromatography (2.2.28) as described in the test for related substances with the following modification.

Injection: test solution (a) and reference solution (a).

Calculate the percentage content of C31H52O3 taking into account the declared content of α-tocopherol CRS.

STORAGE

Under an inert gas, protected from light.

IMPURITIES

A. R = R' = H: (2R)-2,8-dimethyl-2-[4(AR,8R)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-6-ol (RRR-α-tocopherol).

B. R = H, R' = CH3: (2R)-2,5,8-trimethyl-2-[4(AR,8R)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-6-ol (RRR-γ-tocopherol).

C. R = CH3, R' = H: (2R)-2,7,8-trimethyl-2-[4(AR,8R)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-6-ol (RRR-δ-tocopherol).

01/2008:0439

all-rac-α-Tocopheryl acetate

M, 472.7

C31H52O3
[7695-91-2]

DEFINITION

all-rac-2,5,7,8-Tetramethyl-2[4(AR,8R)-4,8,12-trimethyltridecyl]-3,4-dihydro-2H-1-benzopyran-6-yl acetate.

Content: 96.5 per cent to 102.0 per cent.

CHARACTERS

Appearance: clear, colourless or slightly greenish-yellow, viscous, oily liquid.

Solubility: practically insoluble in water, freely soluble in acetone, in anhydrous ethanol and in fatty oils.

IDENTIFICATION

First identification: A, B.
Second identification: A, C.

A. Optical rotation (2.2.7): −0.01° to +0.01°.

Dissolve 2.50 g in anhydrous ethanol R and dilute to 25.0 mL with the same solvent.

B. Infrared absorption spectrophotometry (2.2.24).

Comparison: α-tocopherol acetate CRS.