

**Liquorice extracts  
(*Glycyrrhiza  
glabra* L.) —  
Determination of  
glycyrrhizic acid  
content —  
Method using  
high-performance  
liquid chromatography**

ICS 71.100.60; 71.040.40

## National foreword

This British Standard reproduces verbatim ISO 11023:1999 and implements it as the UK national standard.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee AW/54, Essential Oils, which has the responsibility to:

- aid enquirers to understand the text;
- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### Cross-references

The British Standards which implement international or European publications referred to in this document may be found in the BSI Standards Catalogue under the section entitled "International Standards Correspondence Index", or by using the "Find" facility of the BSI Standards Electronic Catalogue.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.**

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Consumer Products and Services Sector Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 15 September 2001

### Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the ISO title page, the ISO foreword page, pages 1 to 8, an inside back cover and a back cover.

The BSI copyright date displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

### Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

© BSI 08-2001

ISBN 0 580 38314 8

---

---

**Liquorice extracts (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L.) —  
Determination of glycyrrhizic acid  
content — Method using high-performance  
liquid chromatography**

*Extraits de réglisse (Glycyrrhiza glabra L.) — Détermination de la teneur en  
acide glycyrrhizique — Méthode par chromatographie liquide à haute  
performance*



## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 11023 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 54, *Essential oils*.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

# Liquorice extracts (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L.) — Determination of glycyrrhizic acid content — Method using high-performance liquid chromatography

## 1 Scope

This International Standard describes a method for determining the glycyrrhizic acid content of liquorice extract (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L.) by high-performance liquid chromatography.

The method is not applicable to raw or ground liquorice root.

## 2 Principle

The sample and standard solutions are prepared, then the glycyrrhizic acid content is determined by high-performance liquid chromatography using the method described in this International Standard.

## 3 Reagents

Use only reagents of recognized analytical grade, unless otherwise specified.

**3.1 Water**, HPLC grade.

**3.2 Reference substance**, monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate (GMA).

If a reference material of guaranteed purity is not available, it is recommended that the users of this International Standard come to an agreement between the interested parties on the purity of the reference substance.

**3.3 Acetonitrile**, HPLC grade.

**3.4 Acetic acid**, analytical grade.

**3.5 Elution solvent (mobile phase)**, composed of the following:

$\frac{3}{4}$  38 volumes acetonitrile (3.3),

$\frac{3}{4}$  61 volumes water (3.1),

$\frac{3}{4}$  1 volume acetic acid (3.4).

Using the measuring cylinder (4.3), prepare the elution solvent as follows.

Mix 1 volume of acetic acid with 61 volumes of water, then filter the mixture through a filter for aqueous solvents (4.5).

Filter 38 volumes of acetonitrile through a filter for organic solvents (4.4).

Add the filtered acetonitrile to the filtered water/acetic acid mixture. Mix, then degas the elution solvent in the ultrasound cell (4.8.3) or any suitable system.

Do not keep this solvent more than 48 h at ambient temperature.

## 4 Apparatus

Usual laboratory apparatus and, in particular, the following.

- 4.1 **Pipettes**, of capacities 5 ml and 10 ml.
- 4.2 **Volumetric flasks**, of capacities 50 ml and 100 ml.
- 4.3 **Measuring cylinder**.
- 4.4 **Filter for organic solvents**, 0,5  $\mu$ m pore size.
- 4.5 **Filter for aqueous solvents**, 0,45  $\mu$ m pore size.
- 4.6 **Oven**, capable of being maintained at 105 °C  $\pm$  2 °C.
- 4.7 **Analytical balance**, capable of weighing to the nearest 0,000 1 g.
- 4.8 **Separation system**, as follows.
  - 4.8.1 **Chromatograph**, high-performance liquid phase.
  - 4.8.2 **Pumping system**, for obtaining and maintaining a constant or programmed high pressure flow.
  - 4.8.3 **Solvent degassing system**, such as an ultra-sound cell or any suitable system.
  - 4.8.4 **Ultraviolet detection system**, adjustable to a wavelength of 254 nm.
- 4.9 **Recorder or integrator**, of compatible performance with all the apparatus.
- 4.10 **Column**, as follows:
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  material: stainless steel or glass;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  length: 10 cm to 25 cm;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  internal diameter: 0,4 cm to 0,5 cm;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  stationary phase: bonded phase silica with octadecyl C18 derived functional group, maximum particle size 5  $\mu$ m;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  column efficiency: the number recommended of theoretical plates is 7 000 to 10 000.
- 4.11 **Pre-column**, as follows:
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  material: stainless steel;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  length: 10 mm or 25 mm;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  internal diameter: 2 mm or 4 mm;
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  stationary phase: bonded phase silica with octadecyl C18 derived functional group

## 5 Procedure

### 5.1 Preparation of standard solutions

#### 5.1.1 Preparation of the 0,5 mg/ml solution

In a 100 ml volumetric flask (4.2) weigh, to the nearest  $10^{-4}$  g, 50 mg of monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate (3.2).

Add the elution solvent (3.5) and dissolve the monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate (3.2). Make up to the mark with a further quantity of elution solvent.

Filter if necessary through the organic solvent filter (4.4).

It is essential to prepare a new solution every day.

#### 5.1.2 Preparation of dilute solutions containing 0,05 mg/ml, 0,075 mg/ml and 0,1 mg/ml

##### 5.1.2.1 0,05 mg/ml standard solution

Using a pipette (4.1), transfer 5 ml of the 0,5 mg/ml standard solution (5.1.1) to a 50 ml volumetric flask (4.2). Make up to the mark with the elution solvent (3.5).

##### 5.1.2.2 0,075 mg/ml standard solution

Using a pipette (4.1), transfer 15 ml of the 0,5 mg/ml standard solution (5.1.1) to a 100 ml volumetric flask (4.2). Make up to the mark with the elution solvent (3.5).

##### 5.1.2.3 0,1 mg/ml standard solution

Using a pipette (4.1), transfer 10 ml of the 0,5 mg/ml standard solution (5.1.1) to a 50 ml volumetric flask (4.2). Make up to the mark with the elution solvent (3.5).

It is essential to prepare a new solution every day.

### 5.2 Preparation of the solution for analysis

5.2.1 Prepare the solution for analysis such that the area of the glycyrrhizic acid peak obtained is between the peaks for the other two standard solutions, on the basis of the recommended masses and volumes specified in Table 1, according to the assumed glycyrrhizic acid content of the sample.

**Table 1 — Examples of quantities and volumes to be used according to the assumed glycyrrhizic acid content of the liquorice extracts**

Assumed glycyrrhizic acid content	Mass of test portion	Volume of flask	Volume of pipetted solution	Volume of flask
%	mg	$V_1$ ml	$V_2$ ml	$V_3$ ml
3 to 5	1	50	5	50
5 to 10	1	100	5	50
10 to 15	0,50	100	5	50
20 to 25	0,25	100	5	50

## ISO 11023:1999(E)

**5.2.2** Weigh, to the nearest  $10^{-4}$  g, a test portion of mass  $m_0$  into a volumetric flask of volume  $V_1$  ml.

Add an appropriate quantity of elution solvent (3.5) to dissolve the sample. Then make up to the mark with elution solvent.

Using a pipette, transfer a volume ( $V_2$ ) of this solution to a volumetric flask of volume  $V_3$  ml.

Add an appropriate quantity of elution solvent (3.5), mix and make up to the mark with elution solvent.

Filter this last solution through the filter for organic solvents (4.3) prior to injecting.

### 5.3 Determination of the water and volatile matter content of the sample

Weigh, to the nearest  $10^{-4}$  g, a test portion ( $m_0$ ) of exactly 2 g and place in a calibrated watchglass.

Place it in the oven (4.6) set at 105 °C for 24 h, until a constant mass is reached. Cool then weigh the residue ( $m_1$ ).

The water and volatile matter content of the sample,  $w$ , expressed as a percentage by mass, is equal to:

$$w = \frac{(m_0 - m_1)}{m_0} \times 100 \%$$

where

$m_0$  is the mass of the test portion, in grams;

$m_1$  is the mass of the residue obtained, in grams.

## 6 Determination

**6.1** Inject 10  $\mu$ l of solution 5.1.2.1.

**6.2** Inject 10  $\mu$ l of solution 5.1.2.2.

**6.3** Inject 10  $\mu$ l of solution 5.1.2.3.

**6.4** Inject 10  $\mu$ l of the solution for analysis (5.2.2).

**6.5** Carry out the operations described in 6.1 to 6.4 twice.

NOTE If the injection and detection systems allow this, it is possible to inject quantities from 5  $\mu$ l to 10  $\mu$ l.

**6.6** Measure the area of the glycyrrhizic acid peak on the chromatograms obtained for the standard solutions (see annex A).

**6.7** Plot a curve of glycyrrhizic acid peak area against the concentration of monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate in the standard solutions.

A calibration line passing through the origin is obtained.

**6.8** Using the chromatogram for the sample solution, measure the area of the glycyrrhizic acid peak.

From the calibration line, read the monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate concentration,  $c$ , in milligrams per millilitre.



## 7 Expression of results

The glycyrrhizic acid content,  $w_G$ , expressed as a percentage by mass on dry matter, is calculated using the formula:

$$w_G = \frac{c \cdot V_1 \cdot V_3 \cdot 100 \cdot p \cdot 822}{m_0 \cdot V_2 \cdot (100 - w) \cdot 839}$$

where

$m_0$  is the mass of the test portion, in grams;

$c$  is the mean value of the concentrations obtained, in milligrams per millilitre, of monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate read from the calibration line;

$p$  is the purity of the reference substance, in percent;

$w$  is the water and volatile matter content of the sample for analysis, as a percentage by mass, determined in 5.3;

822 is the molar mass of glycyrrhizic acid;

839 is the molar mass of monoammoniacal glycyrrhizate;

$V_1, V_2, V_3$  have the same meanings as indicated in Table 1.

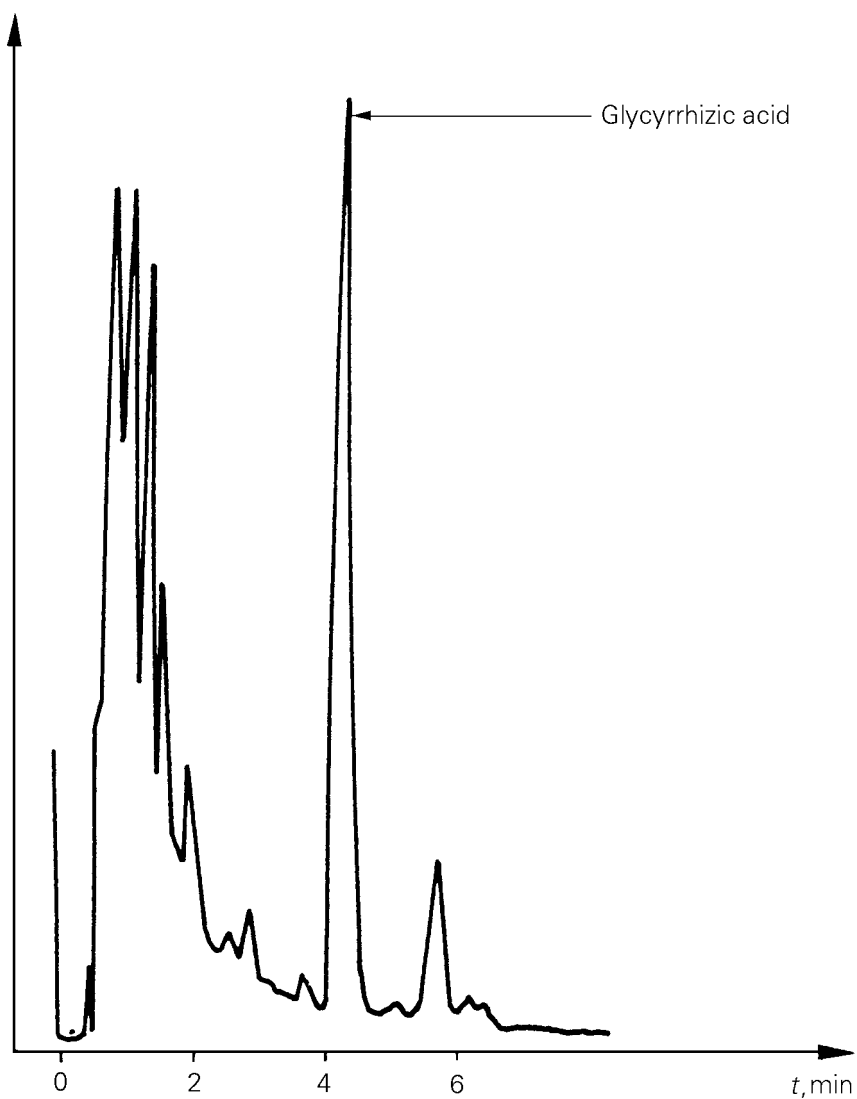
## 8 Test report

The test report shall specify:

- ¾ all information necessary for the complete identification of the sample;
- ¾ the sampling method used, if known;
- ¾ the test method used, with reference to this International Standard;
- ¾ all operating details not specified in this International Standard, or regarded as optional, together with details of any incidents which may have influenced the test result(s);
- ¾ the test result(s) obtained; or
- ¾ if the repeatability has been checked, the final quoted result obtained.

**Annex A**  
(informative)

**Examples of chromatograms**



**Figure A.1 — Chromatogram of a liquorice extract**

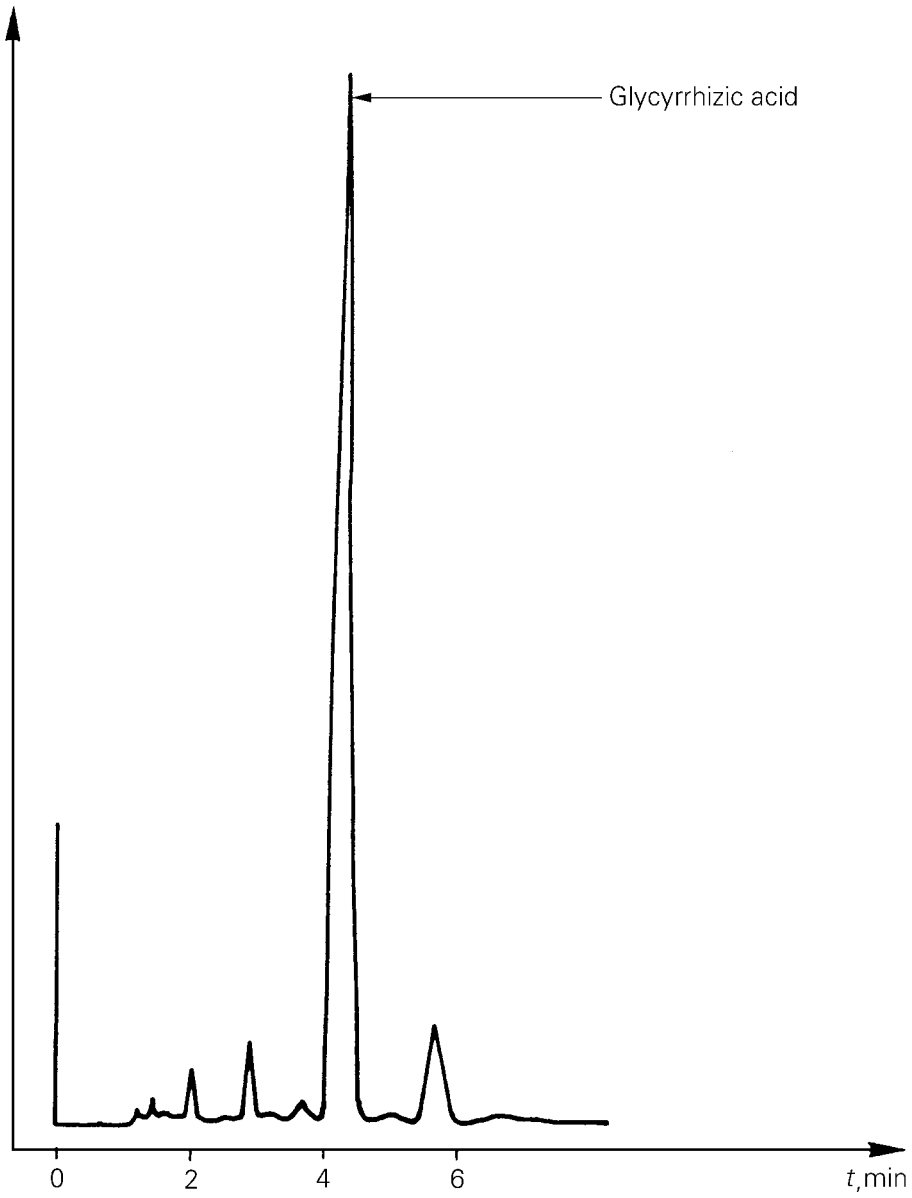


Figure A.2 — Chromatogram of the reference substance

## Bibliography

- [1] ISO 8432, *Essential oils — Analysis by high performance liquid chromatography — General method*.



---

---

## BSI — British Standards Institution

BSI is the independent national body responsible for preparing British Standards. It presents the UK view on standards in Europe and at the international level. It is incorporated by Royal Charter.

### Revisions

British Standards are updated by amendment or revision. Users of British Standards should make sure that they possess the latest amendments or editions.

It is the constant aim of BSI to improve the quality of our products and services. We would be grateful if anyone finding an inaccuracy or ambiguity while using this British Standard would inform the Secretary of the technical committee responsible, the identity of which can be found on the inside front cover. Tel: 020 8996 9000. Fax: 020 8996 7400.

BSI offers members an individual updating service called PLUS which ensures that subscribers automatically receive the latest editions of standards.

### Buying standards

Orders for all BSI, international and foreign standards publications should be addressed to Customer Services. Tel: 020 8996 9001. Fax: 020 8996 7001. Standards are also available from the BSI website at <http://www.bsi-global.com>.

In response to orders for international standards, it is BSI policy to supply the BSI implementation of those that have been published as British Standards, unless otherwise requested.

### Information on standards

BSI provides a wide range of information on national, European and international standards through its Library and its Technical Help to Exporters Service. Various BSI electronic information services are also available which give details on all its products and services. Contact the Information Centre. Tel: 020 8996 7111. Fax: 020 8996 7048.

Subscribing members of BSI are kept up to date with standards developments and receive substantial discounts on the purchase price of standards. For details of these and other benefits contact Membership Administration. Tel: 020 8996 7002. Fax: 020 8996 7001. Further information about BSI is available on the BSI website at <http://www.bsi-global.com>.

### Copyright

Copyright subsists in all BSI publications. BSI also holds the copyright, in the UK, of the publications of the international standardization bodies. Except as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 no extract may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise – without prior written permission from BSI.

This does not preclude the free use, in the course of implementing the standard, of necessary details such as symbols, and size, type or grade designations. If these details are to be used for any other purpose than implementation then the prior written permission of BSI must be obtained.

If permission is granted, the terms may include royalty payments or a licensing agreement. Details and advice can be obtained from the Copyright Manager. Tel: 020 8996 7070.