

Marks
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- A specific variety of haemoglobin associated with heart disease was isolated from a blood sample. A sample of this haemoglobin (21.5 mg) is dissolved in water at 25 °C to make 1.50 mL of solution. The osmotic pressure of the solution was measured and found to be 3.61 mmHg. What is the molar mass of this particular type of haemoglobin?

The osmotic pressure, Π , is related to the molarity M by $\Pi = MRT$

$$\text{As } 1 \text{ atm} = 760 \text{ mmHg, } \Pi = 3.61 \text{ mmHg} = \frac{3.61}{760} \text{ atm} = 4.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ atm}$$

$$\text{Hence, } M = \frac{(4.75 \times 10^{-3} \text{ atm})}{(0.00150 \text{ L atm K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}) \times ((25 + 273) \text{ K})} = 1.15 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$$

The number of moles of haemoglobin in 1.50 mL is thus:

$$n(\text{haemoglobin}) = V \times c = \left(\frac{1.50}{1000} \text{ L} \right) \times (1.15 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}) = 1.73 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol}$$

This amount corresponds to 21.5 mg so the molar mass is:

$$\text{molar mass} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{number of moles}} = \frac{(21.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g})}{(1.73 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mol})} = 1.24 \times 10^5 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$$

Answer: $1.24 \times 10^5 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$

- Calcium oxalate (CaC_2O_4) is only slightly soluble in water (5.73 mg L^{-1} at 25 °C) and can be deposited in renal calculi (kidney stones). What is the molar solubility of calcium oxalate?

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The formula mass is $40.08 \text{ (Ca)} + (2 \times 12.01 \text{ (C)}) + (4 \times 16.00 \text{ (O)}) \text{ g mol}^{-1}$
 $= 128.1 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$

$$\text{The molar solubility is} = \frac{\text{solubility}}{\text{formula mass}} = \frac{(5.73 \times 10^{-3} \text{ g L}^{-1})}{(128.1 \text{ g mol}^{-1})} = 4.47 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$$

Answer: $4.47 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$

Calculate the solubility product constant (K_{sp}) of calcium oxalate at 25 °C.

The solubility equilibrium is $\text{CaC}_2\text{O}_4(\text{s}) \rightleftharpoons \text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{aq}) + \text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}(\text{aq})$

As 1 mol of $\text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{aq})$ and 1 mol of $\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}(\text{aq})$ is produced by every mole of $\text{CaC}_2\text{O}_4(\text{s})$ that dissolves, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{aq})] = [\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}(\text{aq})] = 4.47 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$.

$$\text{Hence, } K_{\text{sp}} = [\text{Ca}^{2+}(\text{aq})][\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}(\text{aq})] = (4.47 \times 10^{-5}) \times (4.47 \times 10^{-5}) = 2.00 \times 10^{-9}$$

$K_{\text{sp}} = 2.00 \times 10^{-9}$