Hydrogen Sulphide

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Hydrogen sulphide is the hydride of sulphur, just as water is the hydride of oxygen.

Lab Preparation

Principle:

Hydrogen sulphide is prepared by the action of dilute sulphuric acid on iron sulphide.

$$FeS + H_2SO_4 \rightarrow FeSO_4 + H_2O$$

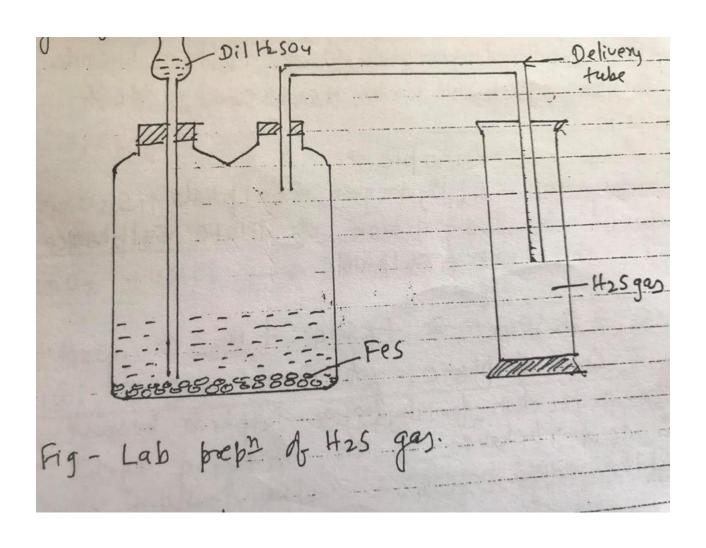
Conc. sulphuric acid cannot be used for the preparation of hydrogen sulphide because this acid behaves as an oxidising agent and oxidizes H₂S to sulphur.

$$H_{2}SO_{4} \rightarrow H_{2}O + SO_{2} + [O]$$
 $H_{2}S + [O] \rightarrow H_{2}O + S$
 $H_{2}S + H_{2}SO_{4} \rightarrow 2H_{2}O + SO_{2} + S$

Lab preparation...contd.

A woulf bottle is fitted with a thistle funnel and a delivery tube as shown in figure. Pieces of ferrous sulphide are place in the bottle and dil. H₂SO₄ is run down through the funnel. The H₂S gas is run down through the funnel. The H₂S gas is formed and collected in a gas jar by upward displacement of air.

Lab preparation contd..



Kipp's Apparatus

For analytical purposes H₂S gas is required intermittently in the lab in small quantities. Kipp's apparatus consists of two parts.

- i) Bulb A with a long stem and
- ii) the base with two communicating bulb B and C.

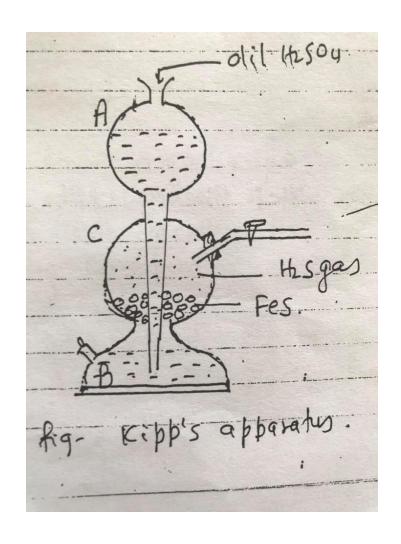
The stem of the bulb A reaches the bottom of C and is placed air tight into neck of B. pieces of iron sulphide (FeS) are introduced poured into the central bulb 'B' and dilute H_2SO_4 poured into the upper bulb A till the pieces of FeS are just covered by the acid with the tap open. The acid reacts with FeS producing H_2S gas.

Kipp's Apparatus ...contd

When the tap is closed the gas evolves for a while and very soon the pressure developed in the central bulb forces the acid up into the upper bulb A, resulting breaking of the contact between the acid and FeS. The gas ceases to evolve until the tap is opened again.

Kipp's Apparatus...





Properties

Physical Properties

- i) It is colourless gas having an unpleasant smell resembling that of rotten eggs.
- ii) It is fairly soluble in water. It is heavier than air.
- iii) Boiling point→ 60.7°C Freezing point→ 85.6°C
- iv) The gas is poisonous in nature, it produces headache when inhale in small quantities but may cause death when breathed for a long time.

Chemical properties

i) Combustibility

It is combustible but not a supporter of combustion. It burns with a blue flame depositing sulphur in a limited supply of air.

$$2H_2S + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O + 2S$$

 $2H_2S + 2O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O + SO_2 + S$
 $2H_2S + 3O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O + 2SO_2$

ii) Thermal dissociation

It is stable at room temperature. When heated strongly $(310^{\circ}\text{C to }1700^{\circ}\text{C})$, it decomposes to hydrogen and sulphur. $H_2S \rightarrow H_2 + S$

iii) Acidic Character

- a) It turns moist blue litmus to red
- b) H₂S behaves as a diprotic acid and ionizes in two stages.

$$H_2O + H_2S \leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + HS^-$$

 $H_2O + H_2S \leftrightarrow H_3O^+ + HS^-$

c) It forms salts with alkalies.

$$H_2S + NaOH \rightarrow NaHS + H_2O$$

 $H_2S + 2NaOH \rightarrow Na_2S + H_2O$

iv) Reducing Character

- H_2S is a good reducing agent. This is because the S^{-2} ion loses 2 electrons to another species thus reducing it and is itself oxidised to free sulphur.
- a) Ferric salts reduced to ferrous salts.

$$Fe_2(SO_4)_3 + H_2S \rightarrow 2FeSO_4 + H_2SO_4 + S$$

 $2FeCl_3 + H_2S \rightarrow 2FeCl_2 + HCl + S$

b) Halogens are reduced to their corresponding halogen acids.

$$H_2S + CI_2 \rightarrow 2HCI + S$$

 $H_2S + Br_2 \rightarrow 2HBr + S$
 $H_2S + I_2 \rightarrow 2HI + S$

Reducing properties of H₂S contd..(Very Important)

c) It reduces acidified solutions of Pot. permanganate and pot. dichromate.

$$2KMnO_4 + 3H_2SO_4 \rightarrow K_2SO_4 + 2MnSO_{4+} 3H_2O+5[O]$$

 $H_2S + [O] \rightarrow H_2O + S] x 5$

$$2KMnO_4+3H_2SO_4+5H_2S\rightarrow K_2SO_4+2MnSO_4+8H_2O+5S$$
 (Pink) (colourless)

d)
$$K_2Cr_2O_7 + 4H_2SO_4 \rightarrow K_2SO_4 + Cr_2(SO_4)_3 + 4H_2O + 3[O]$$

 $H_2S + [O] \rightarrow H_2O + S] \times 3$

$$K_2Cr_2O_7 + 4H_2SO_4 + H_2S \rightarrow K_2SO_4 + Cr_2(SO_4)_3 + 7H_2O + 3S$$

(Orange) (green)

Reducing properties of H₂S contd..

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f) It reduces H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> to SO<sub>2</sub> and HNO<sub>3</sub> to NO<sub>2</sub>
     i) H_2SO_A \rightarrow H_2O + SO_2 + [O]
        H_2S + [O] \rightarrow H_2O + S
       H_2SO_4 + H_2S \rightarrow 2H_2O + SO_2 + S
    ii) 2HNO_3 \rightarrow 2NO_2 + H_2O + [O]
          H_2O + [O] \rightarrow H_2O + S
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$$2HNO_3 + H_2S \rightarrow H_2O + 2NO_2 + S$$

Test of H₂S

v)

a) Ag and Hg loss their luster with H₂S giving with H₂S giving black coating.

$$4Ag + 2H_2S + O_2 \rightarrow 2AgS \downarrow + 2H_2O$$
Black layer
 $2Hg + 2H_2S + O_2 \rightarrow 2HgS \downarrow + 2H_2O$
black layer

b)Action on lead Acetate

H₂S gas when pass to solution of lead acetate, black ppt formed.

$$H_2S + Pb(CH_3COO)_2 \rightarrow PbS \downarrow + 2CH_3COOH$$

Black ppt

vi) Action on Metals

 H_2S reacts with alkali metal, alkaline earth metals, Sn, Pb and Zn forming their sulphides and H_2 . $2M + H_2S \rightarrow M_2S + H_2 \downarrow$

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Black layer
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vii) Precipitaton of metal sulphides or Uses in qualitative analysis

The gas precipitates many metals from their sulphides from their salt solutions as their sulphides under different conditions. From the colours of their precipitates, very useful is obtained towards the identification of metal ions. The metal ions of group (ii) and group (iii)B in the group separation table of the qualitative analysis are separated as their sulphides.

a) Group 'II' Cations (In Acidic Medium)

When H₂S gas is passed through salt solutions acidified with dil. hydrochloric acid, certain metals are precipitated as their sulphides.

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CuSO<sub>4</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>S \rightarrow CuS \downarrow + H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

CuS, HgS, PbS \rightarrow Black

Bi<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> \rightarrow Brown

AS<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>, CdS \rightarrow Yellow

Sn<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> \rightarrow Dirty yellow

Sb<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> \rightarrow Orange

Sn<sub>3</sub>S \rightarrow Chocolate brown
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b) Group 'III'B Cations (In alkaline medium or ammoniacal solution)

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ZnCl_2 + H_2S \rightarrow ZnS \downarrow + 2HCl white 
MnS\rightarrow Flesh coloured (pink) 
CoS\rightarrow Black 
NiS\rightarrow Black
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Uses

- i) It is extensively used as a lab reagent in qualitative analysis.
- ii) It is used in the preparation of metallic sulphides which in turn are used as pigments
- iv) It is used for reduction purposes.