Use of bifunctional compounds N, P for extracting uranium from aqueous solutions of nitric acid
A. Artese, Sandrine Dourdain, Guilhem Arrachart, S Pellet-Rostaing, N. Boubals, P. Guilbaud

To cite this version:

HAL Id: cea-02394057
https://hal-cea.archives-ouvertes.fr/cea-02394057
Submitted on 24 Feb 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.
USE OF BIFUNCTIONAL COMPOUNDS N, P FOR EXTRACTING URANIUM FROM AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS OF NITRIC ACID

ARTESE Alexandre¹,²*, DOURDAIN Sandrine¹, ARRACHART Guilhem¹, PELLET-ROSTAING Stéphane¹, BOUBALS Nathalie², GUILBAUD Philippe²
¹ICSM-UMR 5257, CEA, CNRS, Univ. Montpellier, ENSCM, Bagnols-sur-Cèze, France
²CEA, Nuclear Energy, Research Department on Mining and Fuel Recycling Processes, SPDS, LILA, Bagnols-sur-Cèze, France
*E-mail: alexandre.artese@cea.fr

Keywords: uranium, zirconium, solvent extraction, nitric media,

A new series of N, P bifunctional ligands was found to give excellent extraction properties for uranium from a nitric media [1]. Two of them, which only differ by the presence of an alkyl chain between their reactive sites, gave interesting performance in terms of extraction and selectivity towards zirconium. We could observe that the separation factor U/Zr increased from 21.7 for the unbranched molecule to 220 for the branched one.

Based on the know-how of the LTSM group in the field of bifunctional ligands synthesis and study and of the CEA / DMRC teams in the data acquisition on major actinides [2], [3], the objective of this study was to explore the capacity of these new molecular architectures for uranium and zirconium extraction, and to understand their extraction mechanisms.

The extraction of cations, acid and water by the new bifunctional ligands were characterized by ICP-AES, coulometry and potentiometry. The molecular structures of the complexes were probed with different techniques such as infrared spectrometry and EXAFS. The organization of the ligands in supramolecular aggregates was assessed by X-ray and neutron scattering measurements, and related to their extraction properties.

It is indeed now well established that the mechanisms underlying the liquid-liquid extraction processes are based not only on the chelating properties of the extracting molecules [4], but also on their capacity to form supramolecular aggregates because of their amphiphilic nature. This study concentrates therefore on both molecular and supramolecular mechanisms to understand and master both chelation and self-assembly properties of these molecules in order to optimize extraction processes.

Thanks to the applied techniques, the influence of this alkyl chain on the selectivity has been put in regards with the complexation of the ligands with the uranium and zirconium and also, with the supramolecular organization in the organic phase.

Figure
References

[2] A. Leydier et al., Composés à fonctions oxyde de phosphine et amine, utiles comme ligands de l'uranium(VI), et leurs utilisations, notamment pour extraire l'uranium(VI) de solutions aqueuses d'acide sulfurique. FR 15 52886, 2015
[3] A. Leydier et al., Composés à fonctions oxyde de phosphine et amine, utiles comme ligands de l'uranium(VI), et leurs utilisations, notamment pour extraire l'uranium(VI) de solutions aqueuses d'acide sulfurique. FR 15 52888, 2015