

Hydrolyzable Tannin Methods

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Functional group methods can be used to detect specific phenolic acids characteristic of the various hydrolyzable tannins. Gallotannins can be hydrolyzed to release gallic acid, which can be quantitatively determined with either the rhodanine assay or the potassium iodate method. Ellagic acid, released from ellagitannins, can be determined with a nitrous acid method. The more complex phenolic acids characteristic of the oligomeric hydrolyzable tannins do not react in these simple color tests but can be determined with HPLC. HPLC also provides useful qualitative and quantitative information for the various hydrolyzable tannins. Appropriate standards for hydrolyzable tannin methods include gallic acid, methyl gallate, and ellagic acid; pentagalloyl glucose or well characterized tannic acid.