

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in α -cellulose from oak latewood 1631-1765 AD

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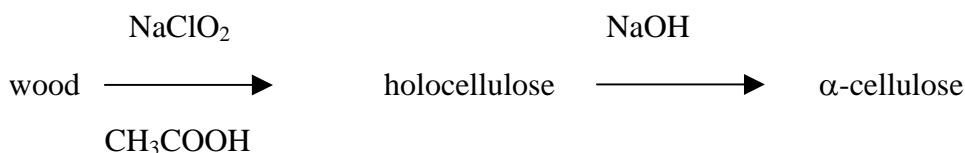
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This work presents $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ measurement using α -cellulose from oak latewood of annual growth rings (*Quercus robur L.*) 1631-1765 AD.

In Gliwice (Pawelczyk *et al.*, 2004) we used a modified technique based upon the sodium chlorite oxidation method of Green (1963) utilities an ultrasonic bath. This technique yields a material with sufficient homogeneity as required for isotopic composition measurements. The diagram of α -cellulose extraction from wood samples can be briefly presented as follows (Robertson and Waterhouse, 1998):



To receive holocellulose a sample was put into a beaker filled with distilled water, sodium chlorite and acetic acid, in amounts as below.

| Reagent | Amount |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Wood shavings | 1 g |
| Distilled water | 175 ml |
| Sodium chlorite | 2.5 g (per addition) |
| Acetic acid [80%] | 1.7 ml (per addition) |
| 10% sodium hydroxide | 75 ml |
| 17% sodium hydroxide | 67 ml |

The beaker was covered with glass and placed in an ultrasonic bath (70°C). Five times, one an hour, acetic acid and sodium chloride were added. The beakers were taken out and the solution was removed. Holocellulose was rinsed, first with hot distilled water and then with cold distilled water. Its colour was checked – holocellulose should be quite white. In case of tinge the cleaning was repeated. Holocellulose was dried in 70°C.

To holocellulose 10% solution of NaOH was added and beaker was placed in an ultrasonic bath for 45 min (about 70°C). After that sample was rinsed with cold distilled water. The samples were put into beaker with 17% solution of NaOH and they were subjected to ultrasonic for 45 min in the room temperature. α -cellulose was rinsed, first with 17% solution of NaOH, next with big amount of distilled water, then with 1% solution of hydrochloric acid and finally with big amount of cold distilled water (until the solution was neutral). α -cellulose was dried in 70°C.

For $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ measurements with mass spectrometer CO_2 was prepared from the dried α -cellulose. The cellulose sample was placed into individual pyrex tubes with copper oxide. The tube, in which 10 mg of cellulose, 1300 mg of preheated CuO and 150 mg silver wool are placed, was sealed under vacuum. Next, it was put into a metal thimble and heated in muffle furnace for 18 hours in the temperature of 450°C. The resulting gases were separated cryogenically and the CO_2 was collected.

In $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ α -cellulose time record the cooling between *ca* 1650-1700 AD is clearly visible. Comparison of this record with $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$, width tree rings, sunspot numbers and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in nitrate cellulose indicate on correlation or anti-correlation of these records according to predictions. Results of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ measurements in nitrate cellulose from the paper (Krapiec et al., 1998) were taken.

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