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Mechanism of action of additives in chemical vapor generation of hydrogen selenide: iodide and thiocyanate.

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Abstract

The chemical vapor generation of H₂Se has been investigated in the presence and in the absence of either NaI or NaSCN as additives (0.5 mol L⁻¹), in HClO₄ media (0.1 – 5.0 mol L⁻¹) and using a low concentration of NaBH₄ (0.02 mol L⁻¹). The enhancement of generation efficiency of H₂Se produced by iodide and thiocyanate was measured by a continuous flow reaction system coupled with a miniature argon-hydrogen diffusion flame and atomic absorption detection. The chemifold of the continuous flow reactor was designed in order to change the mixing sequence and the interaction time of the reagents. By this way it has been possible to evaluate the contribution of additive-selenium and additive-borane species to the mechanism producing the increase of generation efficiency of H₂Se. Both the iodide complexes of selenium and borane contribute to enhance generation efficiency of H₂Se, whereas the thiocyanate complexes of selenium rather than thiocyanate-borane complexes play a major role in the enhancement of the efficiency. At elevated acidities $(2 < [H^+] < 5 \text{ mol } L^{-1})$, only thiocyanate continues to maintain its properties to increase H₂Se generation efficiency while iodide causes a marked signal depression unless its addition is performed after the starting of Se^{IV}- [BH₄] reaction with an appropriate time delay. Both iodide and thiocyanate caused marked depression of H₂Se generation when NaBH₄ was replaced by the amine boranes, NH₃-BH₃ and tert-ButylNH₂-BH₃.

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