

Certificate of Analysis

NRC-CNRC

Reference Material

BRAN-1

Corn Bran Reference Material for Trace Metals and other Constituents

BRAN-1 is a Reference Material prepared from refined corn bran. Reference and information quantity values are provided in the following tables for trace metals and other constituents. Reference values are equally weighted means of results from at least two analytical methods and/or laboratories. Uncertainties are expressed as a 95 % confidence interval. All values are expressed on a dry-mass basis.

Table 1: Reference values for BRAN-1

Element	Mass fraction, mg/kg
barium	2.40 ± 0.52
cadmium	0.012 ± 0.005
calcium	420 ± 38
copper	2.47 ± 0.40
iron	14.8 ± 1.8
lead	0.140 ± 0.034
magnesium	818 ± 59
manganese	2.55 ± 0.29
molybdenum	0.252 ± 0.039
phosphorus	171 ± 11
potassium	566 ± 75
rubidium	0.5 ± 0.3
selenium	0.045 ± 0.008
sodium	430 ± 31
sulfur	860 ± 150
zinc	18.6 ± 2.2



Table 2: Information values for BRAN-1

Element	Mass fraction, mg/kg
aluminium	1.0
antimony	0.004
arsenic	0.002
boron	2.8
bromine	2.3
chlorine	31
chromium	0.11
cobalt	0.006
iodine	0.026
nickel	0.16
nitrogen	8 800
strontium	4.6
vanadium	0.005

Table 2 (continued): Information values for BRAN-1

Quantity	Value	Unit
ash	0.47	g/(100 g), %
protein	5.5	g/(100 g), %
carbohydrate	93	g/(100 g), %
total dietary fibre	90	g/(100 g), %
energy content	403	kcal/(100 g)

The protein concentration was calculated from the nitrogen values using a conversion factor of 6.25; subsequent calculations of carbohydrates and calories were also based on these protein concentrations. The value for energy content is the mean of the individual caloric calculations. If the mean proximate values are used for calculation, with caloric equivalents of 9, 4, and 4 for fat, protein, and carbohydrate, respectively.

Reference values

Reference values are non-certified values for which insufficient data are available to provide a comprehensive estimate of uncertainty to permit their full certification (Table 1).

Information values

Information values are those for which insufficient data are available to provide any estimate of uncertainty (Table 2).



History

BRAN-1 (formerly known as RM 8433) was prepared and characterized by the Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research, Agriculture Canada [1-5]. Following the original analyses for elemental value assignment by the laboratories listed in ref [1], the material was distributed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from 1993 until 2009, after which the stock was transferred to the National Research Council Canada (NRC). The NIST Report of Investigation for RM 8433 is available and contains the list of methods used for analysis [1]. In 2014 NRC examined assigned values in RM 8433. The data were retained if the original reference value was confirmed; otherwise the reference value was relegated to an information value. Nitrogen, chlorine, boron, bromine, strontium, aluminium, nickel, vanadium, iodine, proximates, total dietary fiber and energy content were changed from reference values to information values, mercury and fatty acid values were withdrawn. The material was renamed BRAN-1 by NRC.

Intended use

This Reference Material (RM) is intended for use in evaluating analytical methods and instruments used for the determination of major, minor, and trace constituent elements in corn bran and other similar food, agricultural, and biological materials. A minimum sample mass of 500 mg is recommended.

This material is intended for laboratory use, not for human consumption.

Storage and sampling

BRAN-1 should be stored at room temperature in its original bottle, tightly capped, and not exposed to intense direct light or ultraviolet radiation. Prior to each use, contents of the bottle should be well mixed by gentle shaking and rolling of the container. Values reported in this certificate represent total concentrations of elements in this RM.

Instructions for drying

Moisture content should be determined on a separate subsample for conversion of analytical results to a dry-mass basis. The recommended method is drying for 4 hours in an air oven at 85 °C.

Preparation of material

The source of material for BRAN-1 was refined corn bran, G-fine mesh, obtained from A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., Decatur, IL, USA. All preparatory work following acquisition of the commercial product was performed at the facilities of Agriculture Canada, Ottawa [1-5]. The dry bulk powder was sterilized with ⁶⁰Co gamma radiation to 20 kGy by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. All subsequent processing was performed using plastic equipment. The material was sieved through nylon monofilament sieve cloths supported in high density white polyethylene holders. Pairs of sieves with openings of approximately 200 µm and 90 µm were used to yield suitable narrow middle cuts constituting the RM. This fraction was blended in a poly(methyl methacrylate) V-configuration blender and packaged into clean 70 mL brim capacity, colorless glass bottles with triseal polyethylene-lined black polypropylene screw caps. A total of 144 randomly selected units were used for physical and chemical characterization in the original analyses.



Stability

The original values assigned in 1993 were reassessed in 2014 confirming the long term stability of this material.

Homogeneity

Homogeneity testing was performed on randomly selected units for 12 elements by three laboratories [6,7]. In addition, the analytical results obtained from a large number of analysts participating in the interlaboratory characterization campaign were assessed to provide homogeneity estimates for other elements [6,7]. No statistically significant heterogeneity was found for aluminum, barium, boron, bromine, cadmium, calcium, chlorine, copper, iodine, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, rubidium, selenium, sodium, strontium, sulfur, vanadium, and zinc in sample sizes required by the analytical technique ranging from 0.1 g to 2 g. Data for all analytes (including the proximates) have been treated as though they are homogeneous, although the homogeneity of other analytes has not been investigated.

Uncertainty

Original uncertainty estimates for RM 8433 were verified at NRC and were retained in this report. As stated in the RM 8433 report [1], uncertainties are imprecision estimates expressed as a 95% confidence interval, based on a sample mass of at least 500 mg. These uncertainties, based on between-method and between-laboratory, between-unit and within-unit estimates of variances, include measures of analytical method and laboratory imprecisions and biases and material inhomogeneity.

Metrological traceability

In 2014 the material was reassessed for elemental content using SI traceable calibrants and CRMs. As such, BRAN-1 serves as suitable reference material for laboratory quality assurance programs, as outlined in ISO/IEC 17025.

Quality System (ISO/IEC 17025, ISO Guide 34)

This material was produced in compliance with the documented National Research Council of Canada (NRC) Measurement Science and Standards (MSS) Quality System, which conforms with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO Guide 34.

The MSS Quality System supporting NRC calibration and measurement capabilities, as listed in the Bureau international des poids et mesures (BIPM) key comparison database (<http://kcdb.bipm.org/>), has been reviewed and approved under the authority of the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) and found to be in compliance with the expectations of the Comité international des poids et mesures (CIPM) Mutual Recognition Arrangement. The SIM certificate of approval is available upon request.

Updates

Users should ensure that the certificate they have is current. Our website at nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/crm will contain any new information.



References

1. NIST (2008) Reference Material 8433, Corn Bran. , Report of Investigation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD (revision of 1993 report)
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4. M. Ihnat, M.S. Wolynetz (1994) An Interlaboratory Characterization (Certification) Campaign to Establish the Elemental Composition of a New Series of Agricultural/food Reference Materials. *Fresenius J. Anal. Chem.* 348: 452-458
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7. M. Ihnat, M. Stoeppler (1990) Preliminary Assessment of Homogeneity of New Candidate Agricultural/Food Reference Materials. *Fresenius J. Anal. Chem.* 338: 455-460

Authorship

The following staff members of Measurement Science and Standards at NRC contributed to the production of BRAN-1: S. Willie, P. Grinberg, J. Meija, and Z. Mester.

Acknowledgements

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Approved by:



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This Certificate is only valid if the corresponding product was obtained directly from NRC or one of our qualified vendors.

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