Atrazine

• Intended Use

For detection of atrazine and related triazines in water (groundwater, surface water, well water). For soil, crop, and food use refer to specific application bulletins.

• Principle

The Atrazine RaPID Assay® applies the principles of enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to the determination of atrazine and related triazines. The sample to be tested is added, along with an enzyme conjugate, to a disposable test tube, followed by paramagnetic particles with antibodies specific to triazines attached. Both the atrazine (which may be in the sample) and the enzyme labeled atrazine (the enzyme conjugate) compete for antibody binding sites on the magnetic particles. At the end of an incubation period, a magnetic field is applied to hold the paramagnetic particles (with atrazine and labeled atrazine analog bound to the antibodies on the particles, in proportion to their original concentration) in the tube and allow the unbound reagents to be decanted. After decanting, the particles are washed with Washing Solution.

The presence of atrazine is detected by adding the enzyme substrate (hydrogen peroxide) and the chromogen (3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine). The enzyme-labeled atrazine analog bound to the atrazine antibody catalyzes the conversion of the substrate/ chromogen mixture to a colored product. After an incubation period, the reaction is stopped and stabilized by the addition of acid. Since the labeled atrazine (conjugate) was in competition with the unlabeled atrazine (sample) for the antibody sites, **the color developed is inversely proportional to the concentration of atrazine in the sample** .

• Reagents

1. Atrazine Antibody Coupled Paramagnetic Particles
The atrazine antibody (rabbit anti-atrazine) is covalently bound to paramagnetic particles, which are suspended in buffered saline with preservative and stabilizers.
30 test kit: one 20 mL vial
100 test kit: one 65 mL vial

2. Atrazine Enzyme Conjugate
The horseradish peroxidase (HRP) labeled atrazine analog is diluted in buffered saline with preservative and stabilizers.
30 test kit: one 10 mL vial
100 test kit: one 35 mL vial

3. Atrazine Standards
Three concentrations (0.1, 1.0, 5.0 ppb) of atrazine standards in buffered saline with preservative and stabilizers are supplied. Each vial contains 2.0 mL.

4. Control
A concentration (approximately 3 ppb) of atrazine in buffered saline with preservative and stabilizers. A 2.0 mL volume is supplied in one vial.

5. Diluent/Zero Standard
Buffered saline with preservative and stabilizers without any detectable atrazine.
30 test kit: one 10 mL vial
100 test kit: one 35 mL vial

6. Color Solution
A solution of hydrogen peroxide and 3,3',5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine in an organic base.
30 test kit: one 20 mL vial
100 test kit: one 65 mL vial

7. Stopping Solution
A solution of sulfuric acid (0.5%).
30 test kit: one 20 mL vial
100 test kit: one 60 mL vial

8. Washing Solution
Preserved deionized water.
30 test kit: one 70 mL vial
100 test kit: one 250 mL vial

9. Test Tubes
Polystyrene tubes (36) are packaged in a box.
30 test kit: one 36 tube box
100 test kit: three 36 tube boxes

• Reagent Storage and Stability

Store all reagents at 2-8°C. Do not freeze. Reagents may be used until the expiration date on the box. *The test tubes require no special storage condition and may be stored separately from the reagents to conserve refrigerator space.*

Consult state, local and federal regulations for proper disposal of all reagents.

• Materials Required but Not Provided

In addition to the reagents provided, the following items are essential for the performance of the test:

Pipets* Precision pipets capable of delivering 200, 250 and 500 uL and a 1.0 mL repeating pipet.

Vortex Mixer* Thermolyne Maxi Mix, Scientific Industries Vortex Genie, or equivalent

Magnetic Separation Rack*

RPA-I™ RaPID Analyzer* or equivalent photometer capable of readings at 450 nm

* These items are available from Strategic Diagnostics Inc..

• Sample Information

This procedure is recommended for use with water samples. Other samples may require modifications to the procedure and should be thoroughly validated.

Samples containing gross particulate matter should be filtered (e.g. 0.2 um Anotop™ 25 Plus, Whatman, Inc.) to remove particles.

Samples which have been preserved with monochloroacetic acid or other acids, should be neutralized with strong base e.g. 6N NaOH, prior to assay.

If the atrazine concentration of a sample exceeds 5 ppb, the sample is subject to repeat testing using a diluted sample. A ten-fold or greater dilution of the sample is recommended with an appropriate amount of Diluent/Zero Standard or Sample Diluent. For example, in a separate test tube make a ten-fold dilution by adding 100 uL of the sample to 900 uL of Diluent/Zero Standard. Mix thoroughly before assaying. Perform the assay according to the Assay Procedure and obtain final results by multiplying the value obtain by the dilution factor e.g. 10.

The presence of the following substances up to 250 ppm were found to have no significant effect on Atrazine RaPID Assay results: copper, nickel, sulfate, magnesium, calcium, nitrate, and thiosulfate. Humic acid, iron, sulfide and sulfite were found to have no significant effect up to 100 ppm. In addition, sodium chloride concentrations up to 0.65 M showed no effect on results.

• Reagent Preparation

All reagents must be allowed to come to room temperature and the antibody coupled paramagnetic particles should be mixed thoroughly before use.

• Procedural Notes and Precautions

As with all immunoassays, a consistent technique is the key to optimal performance. To obtain the greatest precision, be sure to treat each tube in an identical manner.

Add reagents directly to the bottom of the tube while **avoiding contact between the reagents and the pipet tip**. This will help assure consistent quantities of reagent in the test mixture.

Avoid cross-contaminations and carryover of reagents by using clean pipets for each sample addition and by avoiding contact between reagent droplets on the tubes and pipet tips.

Avoid foam formation during vortexing.

The magnetic separation rack consists of two parts: an upper rack which will securely hold the test tubes and a lower separator which contains the magnets used to attract the antibody coupled paramagnetic particles. During incubations the upper rack is removed from the lower separator so that the paramagnetic particles remain suspended during the incubation. **For separation steps, the rack and the separator are combined to pull the paramagnetic particles to the sides of the tubes**.

To obtain optimum assay precision, it is important to perform the separation steps carefully and consistently. Decant the rack by slowly inverting away from the operator using a smooth turning action so the liquid flows consistently along only one side of the test tube. While still inverted, place the rack on an absorbent pad and allow to drain. Lifting the rack and replacing gently onto the pad several times will ensure complete removal of the liquid from the rim of the tube (technique is demonstrated on training video, available from Strategic Diagnostics Inc.).

Mix the antibody coupled paramagnetic particles just prior to pipetting.

Do not use any reagents beyond their stated shelf life.

Avoid contact of Stopping Solution (sulfuric acid) with skin and mucous membranes. If this reagent comes in contact with skin, wash with water.

• Limitations

The Atrazine RaPID Assay will detect atrazine and related triazines to different degrees. Refer to specificity table for data on several of the triazines. The Atrazine RaPID Assay kit provides screening results. As with any analytical technique (GC, HPLC, etc...) positive results requiring some action should be confirmed by an alternative method.

The total time required for pipetting the magnetic particles should be kept to two (2) minutes or less, therefore the total number of tubes that can be assayed in a run should be adjusted accordingly.

• Quality Control

A control solution at approximately 3 ppb of atrazine is provided with the Atrazine RaPID Assay kit. It is recommended that it be included in every run and treated in the same manner as unknown samples. Acceptable limits should be established by each laboratory.

• Assay Procedure

Read Reagent Preparation, Procedural Notes and Precautions before proceeding.

1. Label test tubes for standards, control, and samples.

Tube Number	Contents of Tube
1,2	Diluent/Zero Standard, 0 ppb
3,4	Standard 1, 0.1 ppb
5,6	Standard 2, 1.0 ppb
7,8	Standard 3, 5.0 ppb
9	Control
10	Sample 1
11	Sample 2
12	Sample 3

2. Add 200 uL of the appropriate standard, control, or sample.
3. Add 250 uL of Atrazine Enzyme Conjugate to each tube.
4. Mix the Atrazine Antibody Coupled Paramagnetic Particles thoroughly and add 500 uL to each tube.
5. Vortex for 1 to 2 seconds minimizing foaming.
6. Incubate for 15 minutes at room temperature.
7. Separate in the Magnetic Separation Rack for **two (2) minutes**.
8. Decant and **gently** blot all tubes briefly in a consistent manner.
9. Add 1 mL of Washing Solution to each tube and allow them to remain in the magnetic separation unit for **two (2) minutes**.
10. Decant and **gently** blot all tubes briefly in a consistent manner.
11. Repeat Steps 9 and 10 an additional time.
12. Remove the rack from the separator and add 500 uL of Color Solution to each tube.
13. Vortex for 1 to 2 seconds minimizing foaming.
14. Incubate for 20 minutes at room temperature.
15. Add 500 uL of Stopping Solution to each tube.
16. Add 1 mL Washing Solution to a clean test tube. Use as blank in Step 17.
17. Read results at 450 nm within 15 minutes after adding the Stopping Solution.

• Results

Manual Calculations

1. Calculate the mean absorbance value for each of the standards.
2. Calculate the %B/Bo for each standard by dividing the mean absorbance value for the standard by the mean absorbance value for the Diluent/Zero Standard.
3. Construct a standard curve by plotting the %B/Bo for each standard on vertical logit (Y) axis versus the corresponding atrazine concentration on horizontal logarithmic (X) axis on the graph paper provided.
4. %B/Bo for controls and samples will then yield levels in ppb of atrazine by interpolation using the standard curve.

(Contact SDI for detailed application information on specific photometers.)

RPA-I RaPID Analyzer

Using the RPA-I RaPID Analyzer, calibration curves can be automatically calculated and stored. Refer to the RPA-I operating manual for detailed instructions. To obtain results from the Atrazine RaPID Assay on the RPA-I the following parameter settings are recommended:

Data Reduct	:	Lin. Regression
Xformation	:	Ln/LogitB
Read Mode	:	Absorbance
Wavelength	:	450 nm
Units	:	PPB
# Rgt Blk	:	0

Calibrators:

# of Cals	:	4
# of Reps	:	2

Concentrations:

#1:	0.00	PPB
#2:	0.10	PPB
#3:	1.00	PPB
#4:	5.00	PPB

Range	:	0.05 - 5.00
Correlation	:	0.990
Rep. %CV	:	10%

• Expected Results

In a study with 85 water samples from locations across the U.S., the Atrazine RaPID Assay was shown to correlate well with gas chromatography (GC/MS) (r = 0.943).

• Performance Data

Precision

The following results were obtained:

Control	1	2	3
Replicates	5	5	5
Days	5	5	5
n	25	25	25
Mean (ppb)	1.13	2.11	3.73
% CV (within assay)	7.6	4.4	6.1
% CV (between assay)	5.0	2.4	0.8

Sensitivity

The Atrazine RaPID Assay has an estimated minimum detectable concentration, based on a 90% B/Bo of 46 ppt.

Recovery

Five (5) samples, including a municipal water source, drinking water from a local well, and samples from a local pond, a small creek, and the Delaware River, were spiked with various levels of atrazine and then assayed using the Atrazine RaPID Assay. The following results were obtained:

Amount of Atrazine Added (ppb)	Recovery Mean (ppb)	Recovery S.D. (ppb)	Recovery %
0.5	0.47	0.07	93
1.0	1.05	0.07	105
2.0	2.02	0.09	101
4.0	3.60	0.25	90
Average			97

Specificity

The cross-reactivity of the Atrazine RaPID Assay for various triazine analogues can be expressed as the least detectable dose (LDD) which is estimated at 90% B/Bo, or as the dose required for 50% absorbance inhibition (50% B/Bo).

Compound	LDD (ppb)	50% B/Bo (ppb)
Atrazine	0.046	0.72
Propazine	0.033	0.74
Ametryn	0.053	0.39
Prometryn	0.054	0.64
Prometon	0.056	2.22
Desethyl Atrazine	0.062	3.21
Terbutryn	0.090	5.50
Terbutylazine	0.310	15.5
Simazine	0.340	4.90
Desisopropyl Atrazine	0.800	217
Cyanazine	1.0	>10,000
2-Hydroxy Atrazine	1.1	148

The following compounds demonstrated no reactivity in the Atrazine RaPID Assay at concentrations up to 1000 ppb: aldicarb, aldicarb sulfoxide, aldicarb sulfone, alachlor, benomyl, butachlor, butylate, captan, carbaryl, carbendazim, carbofuran, 2,4-D, 1,3-dichloropropene, dinoseb, MCPA, metolachlor, metribuzin, pentachlorophenol, picloram, propachlor, terbufos, thiabendazole, and thiophanate-methyl.

• Assistance

For ordering or technical assistance contact:

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Newark, Delaware 19702-3322 USA
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• Availability

Strategic Diagnostics Inc.
- Atrazine RaPID Assay
  - 30 Test Kit
  - 100 Test Kit
- Atrazine Proficiency Samples
- Atrazine Extended Linearity Standards
- Atrazine Sample Diluent
- HS Atrazine RaPID Assay
  - 100 Test Kit
- HS Atrazine Proficiency Samples
- HS Atrazine Sample Diluent

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