To Prepare Aluminium Hydroxide, [Al(OH)₃] sol

Theory

Aluminium hydroxide sol is hydrophobic in nature. It is obtained by hydrolysis of aluminium chloride

$\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{AlCl}_3 + 3\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Al(OH)}_3 + 3\mathrm{HCl} \\ \mathrm{(Sol)} \end{array}$

Dialysis is done to remove hydrochloric acid (produced as a result of hydrolysis of aluminium chloride) because aluminium hydroxide sol is affected by the presence of ionic

impurities.

Apparatus

Conical flask (250 ml), beaker (250 ml), a boiling-tube, glass-rod, funnel, round-bottom flask, iron stand with a clamp, wire-gauze, tripod-stand, burner and a burette or a dropper.

Materials Required

Aluminium chloride (2% solution) and distilled water.

Procedure

1. Take a 250 ml conical flask and clean it by steaming-out process as shown in Fig.



Fig. Steaming-out process for cleaning conical flask.

- 2. To this cleaned flask, add 100 ml of distilled water and heat it to boil by placing the flask on a wire-gauze.
- 3. Add ferric chloride solution dropwise (by the use of a burette or a dropper) to the boiling water.
- 4. Continue heating until deep red or brown solution of ferric hydroxide is obtained. Replace the water lost by evaporation during boiling at regular intervals.
- 5. Keep the contents of conical flask undisturbed for sometime at room temperature. Label the solution as "ferric hydroxide sol".