

# Gold nanoparticles functionalized with mercaptosuccinic acid as means for detecting Fe(III) ions

Komova N.S., Serebrennikova K.V., Berlina A.N.,  
Pridvorova S.N., Zherdev A.V., Dzantiev B.B.

# Iron ions in water



**Fe (II)**  
soluble / ferrous iron

Soluble iron, or “clear water” iron, is the type of iron found in our groundwater and oxidizes to insoluble or red iron in the presence of oxygen either in the well or in your home.



**Fe (III)**

insoluble / ferric iron



When insoluble iron, or “red water” iron is poured into a glass, it appears rusty or has a red or yellow color. Insoluble iron can create serious taste and appearance problems for the water user.



# Iron ions in water

## IRON IN WATER



Iron is one of the earth's most plentiful resources, making up at least five percent of the earth's crust. When rainfall seeps through the soil, the iron in the earth's surface dissolves, causing it to go into almost every natural water supply, including well water.

The LOC for iron in drinking water should not exceed 0.3 mg/L for drinking water. The permissible concentration of iron in drinking water is not harmful to human health.

## WHAT DOES IRON DO?



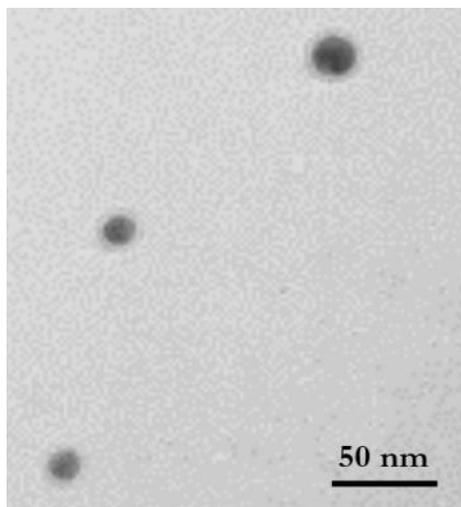
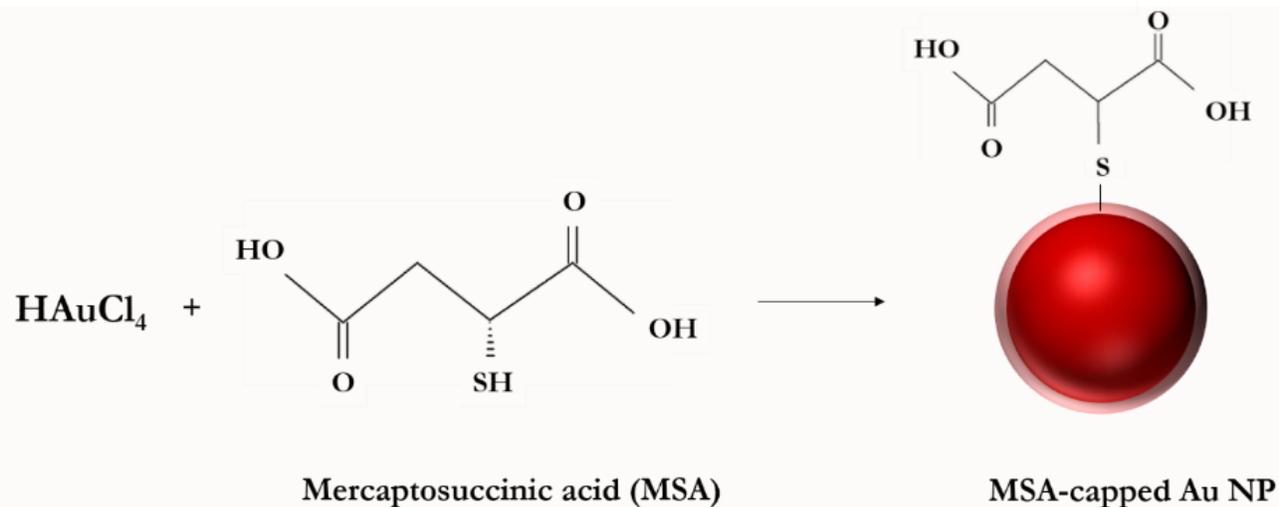
Iron, even in small quantities, can be one of the most troublesome elements found in water. As little as 0.3 ppm of iron ions can affect the tastes of foods and beverages, destroy hydro-technical equipment and even more so, an excess of iron can cause various diseases in humans.

## IRON IONS DETECTION

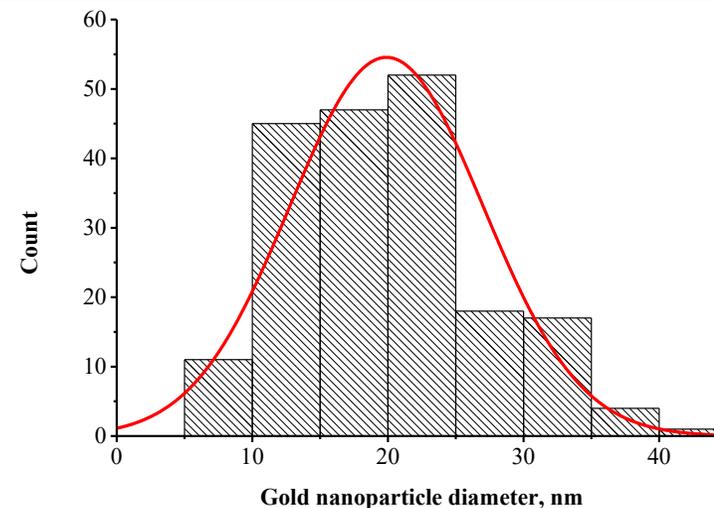


The determination of iron ions in water requires rigorous analytical methods in order to provide high quality data. The ultra-low concentrations of iron species claim analytical techniques with appropriate detection limits. The main analytical techniques that used for the determination of iron ions in water include spectrophotometry, atomic spectrometry, voltammetry, X-ray fluorescence and chemiluminescence.

# Synthesis and Characterization of MSA-capped Gold Nanoparticles



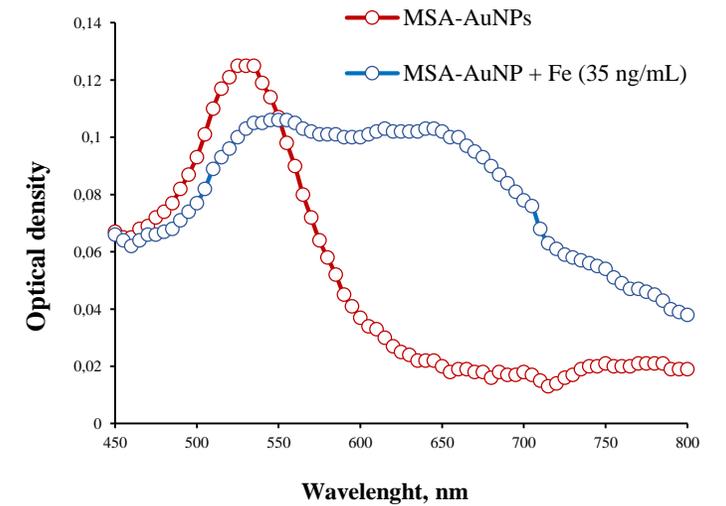
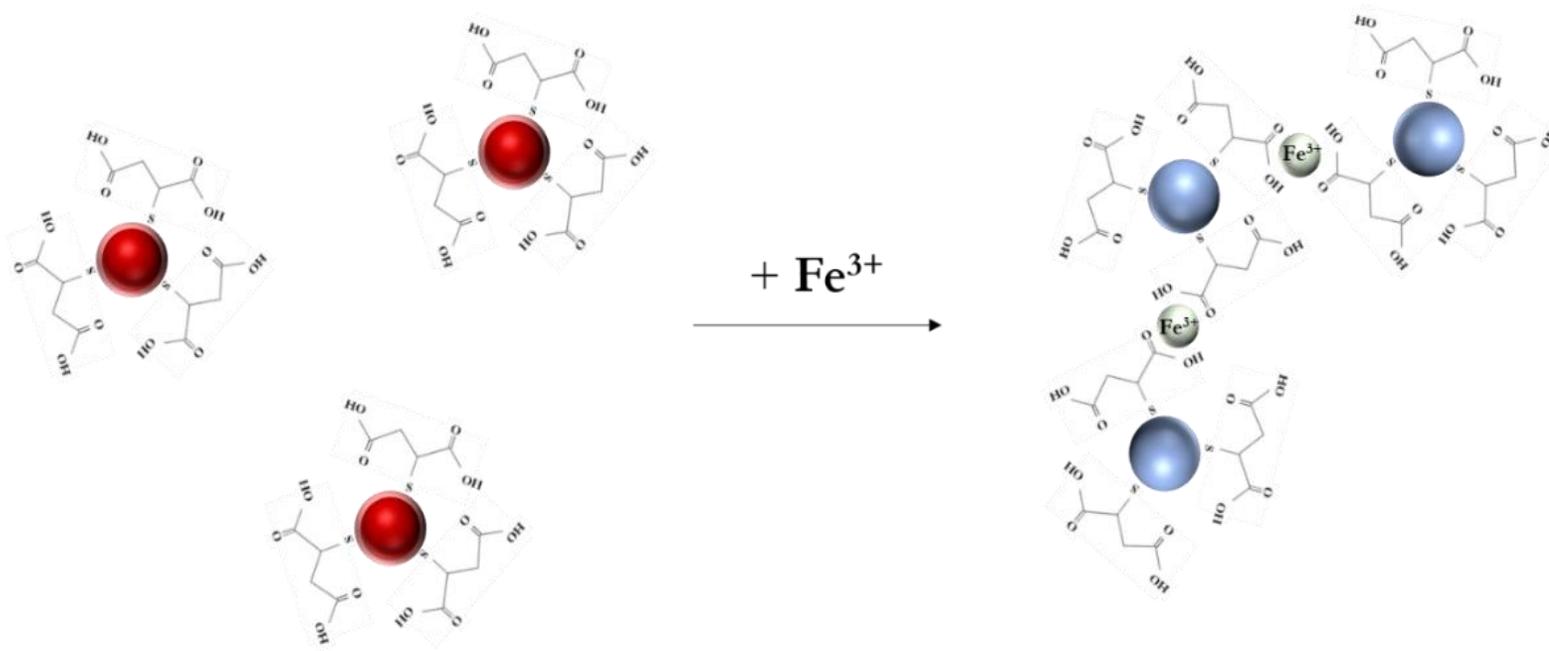
TEM image of MSA—capped AuNPs;



Histogram of MSA-AuNPs particles diameter distribution

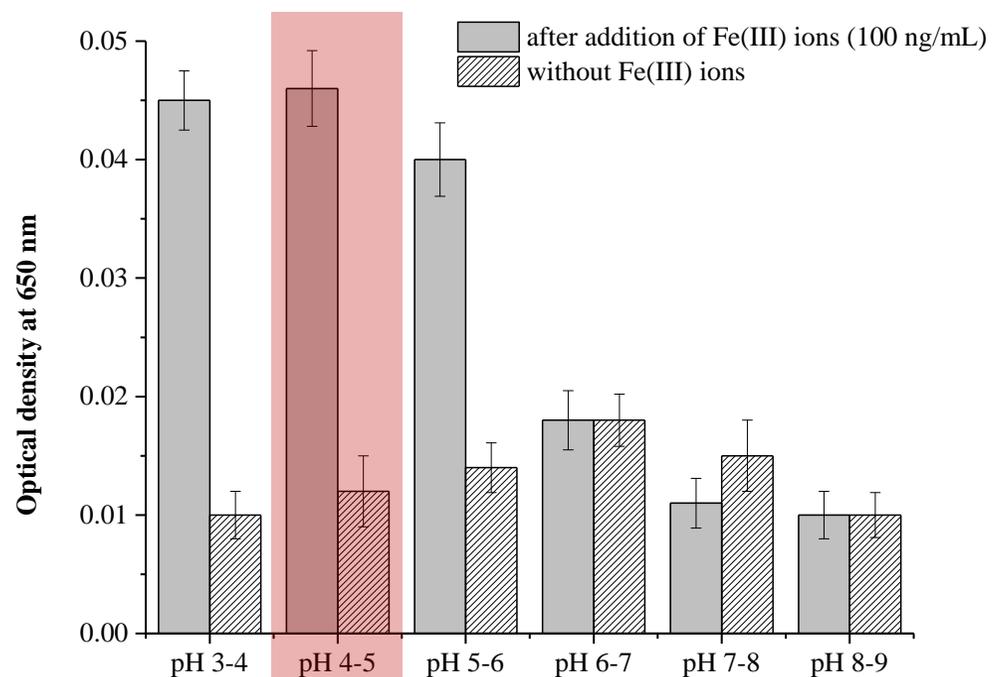


# Principle of Colorimetric Determination of Fe(III) ions

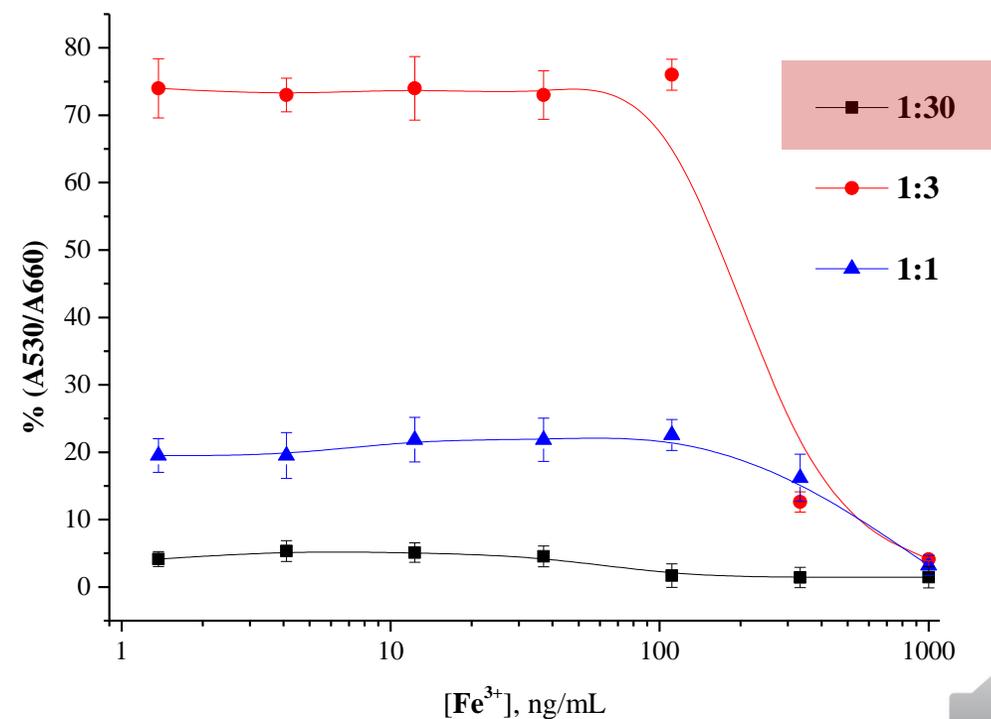


# Condition Optimization for Colorimetric Detection of Fe(III) ions

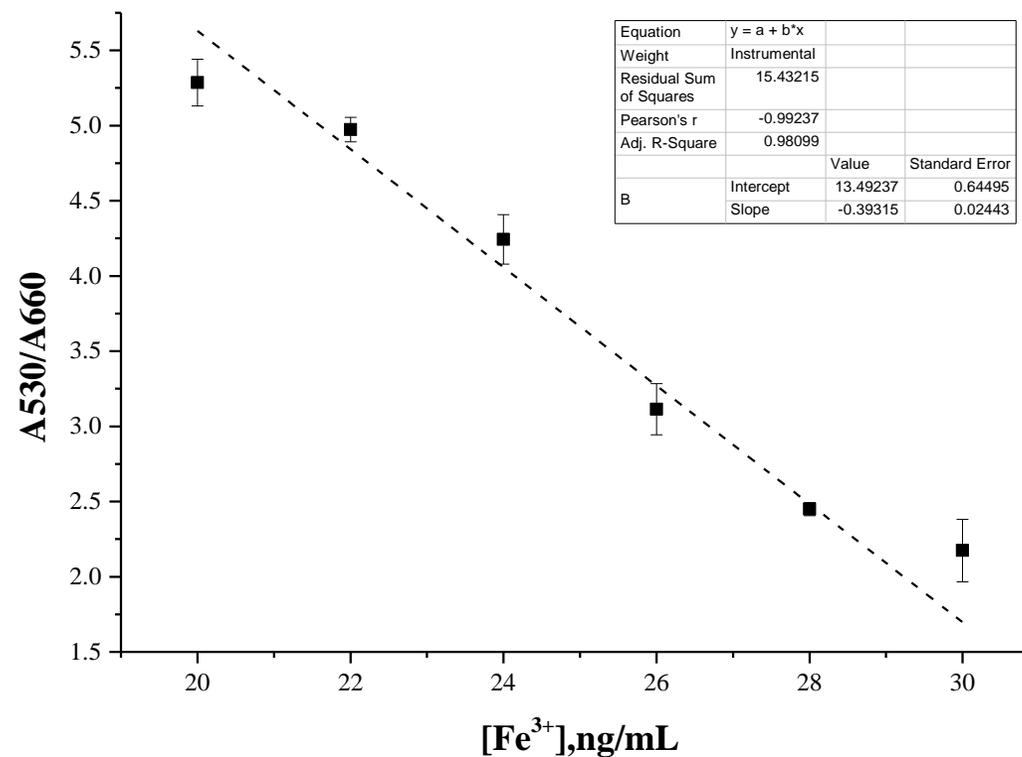
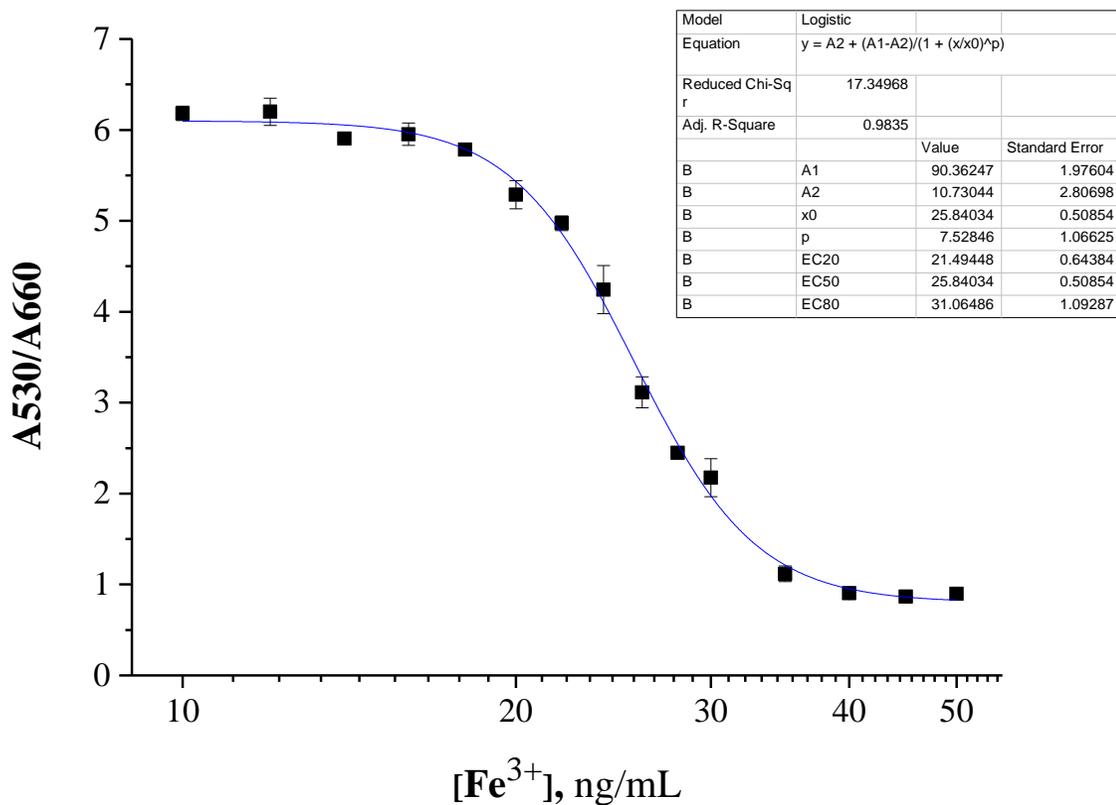
The pH dependence of colorimetric reaction  
with and without Fe(III) ions



The dependence of volume ratio  
of the reacting components on analytical signal



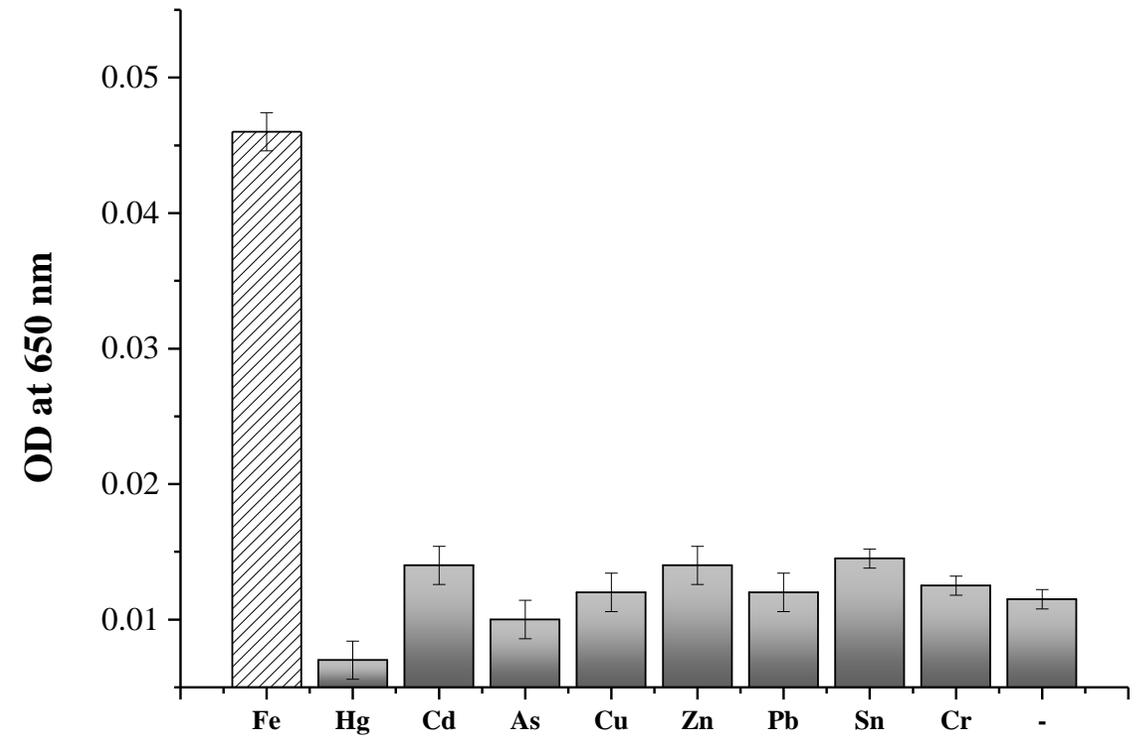
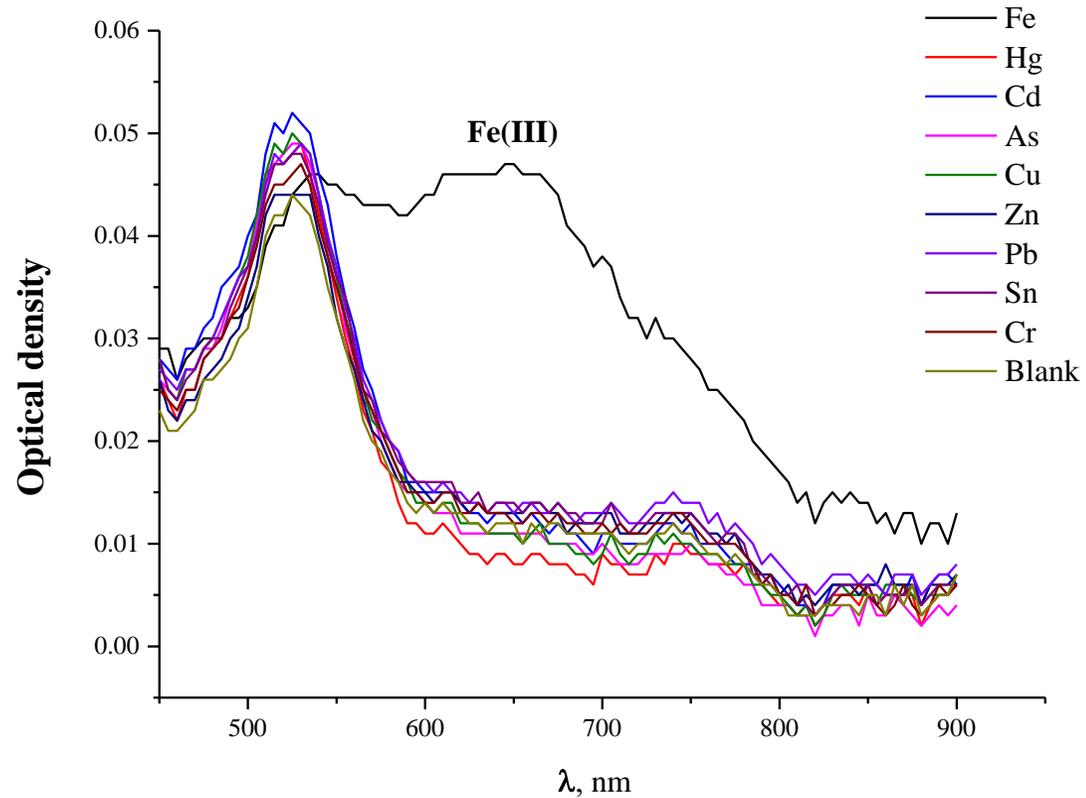
# Colorimetric Determination of Fe(III) ions



(a) Calibration curve for Fe(III) ion detection using AuNP-MSA; (b) Linear range of the calibration curve



# Selectivity of Fe(III) ions detection



Absorbance spectra of MSA-capped Au NPs after the addition of 100 ng/mL metal ions



# Application of developed approach for the analysis $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ions in water samples

Sample	Initial found, ng/mL	Added, ng/mL	Total found, ng/mL	Recovery, %	Dilution factor	Content of sample*	Maximum Permissible Concentration, ng/mL																			
Drinking water	10.6 ± 0.2	15	26.4 ± 0.09	105	2	21.2 ± 0.2	300																			
		20	29.7 ± 0.43	95.5				Tap water	18.5 ± 0.4	30	49.8 ± 0.6	104	15	227.5 ± 0.4	25	40.9 ± 0.8	89.6	30	61.05 ± 0.01	110	Spring water	27.8 ± 0.2	25	54.1 ± 0.7	105	5
Tap water	18.5 ± 0.4	30	49.8 ± 0.6	104	15	227.5 ± 0.4																				
		25	40.9 ± 0.8	89.6																						
		30	61.05 ± 0.01	110																						
Spring water	27.8 ± 0.2	25	54.1 ± 0.7	105	5	139.0 ± 0.2																				
		20	52.95 ± 0.02	126																						

\* - consider a dilution factor



# Conclusions

- A highly sensitive and selective colorimetric system for Fe(III) ion detection based on mercaptosuccinic acid functionalized gold nanoparticles was developed. The assay combined simple fabrication and operation with the possibility of sensitive on-site monitoring
- Optimal conditions for Fe(III) ions detection using prepared MSA-capped AuNPs was estimated
- Under optimal conditions, this system showed a good linear correlation between Fe (III) concentrations and the colorimetric signal, with visual and instrumental detection limits of 30 and 23 ng/mL, respectively.
- The developed system demonstrated high selectivity against other metal ions
- The effectiveness of the developed system was confirmed by the determination of Fe(III) ions in the water samples without a matrix influence



This work was financially supported by the RSF grant No. 19-44-02020

[nad4883@yandex.ru](mailto:nad4883@yandex.ru)

A.N. Bach Institute of Biochemistry, Research Center of Biotechnology of the Russian Academy of Sciences,  
Leninsky prospect 33, Moscow 119071, Russia

**Thank You  
for Your attention**

