Research Article

A Validated HPTLC Densitometric Method for The Quantitative Determination of Ubidecarenone in Bulk and in Capsule Formulation

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ABSTRACT: *A new, simple, precise, accurate and rapid high performance thin layer chromatographic method has been developed and validated for the estimation of ubidecarenone in bulk and in capsule formulation. The chromatographic separation was performed on aluminium TLC plates precoated with silica gel 60F_{254} as a stationary phase and methanol:water (7:3) as a mobile phase. Detection was performed densitometrically in the absorbance mode at 280nm for the evaluation of chromatograms. The system has given well sharp peak of ubidecarenone (R_f=0.51±0.02). The linearity of the method was established in the range of 1-6 ng/µL with correlation coefficient (r^2) of 0.9995. The method was validated for precision, accuracy, robustness, ruggedness, LOD, and LOQ as per ICH guidelines. The limit of detection was found to be 0.0392 ng/µL, whereas the limit of quantitation was found to be 0.1189 ng/µL. The percentage label claim for ubidecarenone in the capsule formulation was found to be 99.96±0.4703. The accuracy of the method was confirmed by recovery studies. The percentage recovery was found to be in the range of 100.10-101.45% for ubidecarenone. The % RSD value was found to be less than 2. The low %RSD value indicates that there is no interference due to excipients used in the formulation. Hence, the developed method was found to be simple, precise, accurate, and rapid for the analysis of ubidecarenone in bulk and pharmaceutical formulation and it can be effectively applied for the quality control analysis of ubidecarenone in bulk and pharmaceutical formulation.*

Keywords: *formulation; HPTLC; ICH guidelines; methanol; ubidecarenone*

1. Introduction

Ubidecarenone (UBD) (coenzyme Q10, CoQ10, coenzyme Q), is chemically 2,5-cyclohexadiene-1,4-dione,2-[(2E,6E,10E,14E,18E,22E,26E,30E,34E)-3,7,11,15,19,23,27,31,35,39-decamethyl2,6,10,14,18,22,26,30,34,38-tetracontade–caenyl]-5,6-dimethoxy-3-methyl. It is official in USP [1], BP [2] and EP [3]. It is shown in Figure 1. Ubidecarenone is an oil-soluble, vitamin-like substance present in all eukaryotic cells, primarily in the mitochondria are family of compounds that differ in the number of isoprenoid subunits of the sidechains. Ubidecarenone is an important component in the electron transport chain essential for aerobic cellular respiration, generating chemical energy in the form of ATP [4 - 5]. To perform its role as an antioxidant and component in the electron transport chain, ubidecarenone can exist as both reduced and oxidized form. The reduced form of ubidecarenone molecule can easily donate one or both electrons and act as an antioxidant [6]. One of the most important function of ubidecarenone is the inhibition of lipid peroxidation through lipid peroxyl radicals (LOO) inhibition. Ubidecarenone is essential to keep the cardiovascular system in a healthy condition. Heart failure is usually accompanied by the deficiency of CoQ10. The plasma concentration of CoQ10 is considered as a marker of mortality in chronic heart failure and the long-term prognosis of chronic heart failure [7]. It is used for the treatment of migraine [8] and cancer [9- 11]. Studies have also revealed that the level of coenzyme Q10is less in diseased gum tissue compared with healthy gum tissue [12,13] improving the gingival health, immune response in gum tissues, and reversing the diseased gum conditions [14-16] improves the periodontitis and gingivitis conditions [17] help in the reduction of radiation damage to the animals' blood [18].

Several HPLC methods were developed for the estimation of CoQ10 in human plasma, raw materials, and dietary supplements [19-24]. Analysis of an inclusion complex of CoQ10 with β-cyclodextrin was performed by TLC [25]. A sensitive and selective analysis of CoQ10 in human serum was also achieved by negative APCI LC-MS [26]. CoQ10 was analyzed in pharmaceutical formulations using FT-IR spectrophotometric method [27]. CoQ10 stability in pediatric liquid oral dosage formulations and its bioequivalence studies of two marketed formulations of coenzyme Q10 in beagle dogs has been reported [28-29]. HPLC method [30-35] and UV spectroscopic method [36-37] also reported for the estimation of ubidecarenone.

To the best of our knowledge, no reports on densitometric HPTLC analytical methods for the analysis of ubidecarenone in bulk and in capsule formulation have been mentioned in the literature. The objective of this study was, therefore,

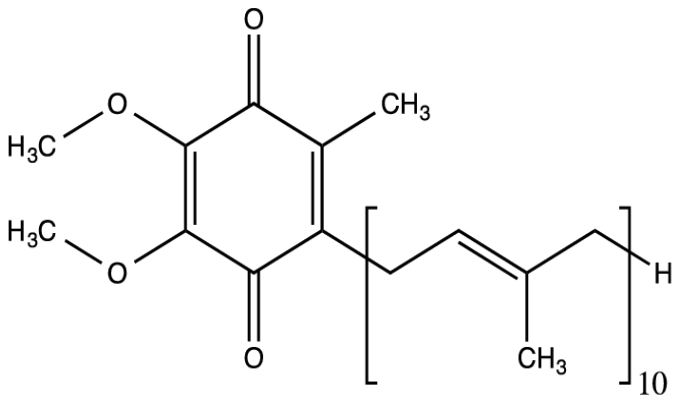

Figure 1. Molecular structure of ubidecarenone

to develope a simple, accurate, selective, precise, sensitive, robust, and stability-indicating densitometric HPTLC method for the quantitative determination of ubidecarenone in bulk and in capsule formulation.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Chemicals

Analytical grade ethanol, acetone, methanol, acetonitrile (Loba Chemie India Limited, Mumbai, India) were used. UBD working standard was supplied by Sai Mirra Innopharm Private Limited, Chennai. The working standard was certified to contain 99.55% of UBD. Ubi Q300 capsule containing 300 mg of UBD was procured from the local market.

2.2. Instrumentation and chromatographic conditions

Camag HPTLC apparatus consisting of Linomat V sample applicator (Camag, Muttenz, Switzerland), 100 µL syringe (Hamilton–Bonaduz Schweiz, Camag, Switzerland), TLC scanner III (Camag, Muttenz, Switzerland) WinCATS version 1.4.0 software (Camag, Muttenz, Switzerland) were used in the study. Chromatography was performed on Merck silicagel 60 F_{254} precoated TLC plates (20 cm x 20 cm with 200 µm thickness). Saturation pad (Camag, Muttenz, Switzerland) was used for saturating development chambers. Samples were applied as bands under a stream of nitrogen using the µL syringe. Ascending development to a distance of 7 cm was performed in a 30 minutes presaturated 20x20 cm twin trough TLC developing chamber (Camag). Developed plates were dried using hair drier. Densitometric scanning and quantitative evaluation were performed using the TLC scanner and Win CATS version 1.4.0 software respectively.

2.3. Selection of mobile phase

The following solvent mixtures were selected for the method development are acetonitrile:water (5:5), methanol:ethylacetate (5:5), methanol:acetonitrile (5:5), methanol: water (5:5), methanol:water (7:3). From that, methanol:water (7:3) was selected as a mobile phase. Because, the drug eluted with good peak.

2.4. Preparation of standard stock solution

The standard stock solution of UBD was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of UBD in 10 mL of mobile phase to get a concentration of 1 mg/mL.

2.5. Selection of wavelength

One mL of the standard stock solution was diluted to get the concentration of 10 µg/mL. The solution was scanned over the wavelength range of 200-400 nm and the spectrum was obtained. From that spectrum, the λ_{max} was found to be 280 nm and this was selected as a detection wavelength.

2.6. Preparation of calibration curve

0.1 mL to 0.6 mL of standard stock solution was pipetted out in to a series of 100 mL volumetric flasks. The solutions were diluted with mobile phase to get the concentration range of 1-6 ng/µL of UBD. The solutions were applied on the TLC plate. The chromatogram was developed and scanned at 280 nm. The peak areas of the respective chromatograms were recorded and the calibration graph was constructed by plotting peak area vs concentration. The regression equation was calculated. The procedure was repeated for six times.

2.7. Quantification of capsule formulation

Twenty capsules were weighed accurately and the average weight of each capsule was determined. The mixed content of the capsule powder equivalent to 10 mg of UDB was weighed and transferred into a 100 mL volumetric flask. The powder was dissolved with mobile phase, made up to 100 mL with the same and filtered. From this solution, 0.3 mL was diluted to 100 mL with mobile phase to get a concentration of 3 ng/µL. Six spots were placed on the plate and the chromatograms were recorded. From the peak area,

the amount of the drug was calculated. The procedure was repeated for six times.

2.8. Recovery studies

2.8.1. Preparation of ubidecarenone raw material stock solution

100 mg of UBD was accurately weighed, dissolved with mobile phase and the volume was made up to 100 mL. The solution contains 1 mg/mL.

2.8.2. Procedure

The recovery study was done by adding a known concentration of raw material stock solution of UBD to the pre-analyzed formulation. The capsule powder equivalent to 100 mg of UDB was weighed into three separate 100 mL volumetric flasks and dissolved with mobile phase. To this 0.2 mL, 0.3 mL, and 0.4 mL of UBD raw material stock solution were added. The solution was made up to 100 mL and filtered. The clear solution was spotted from each flask and the chromatogram was recorded. The procedure was repeated for three times and the amount of drug recovered was calculated.

2.8.3. Method validation

The method was validated in compliance with ICH guidelines [38]. The following parameters were validated.

2.8.4. Specificity

Specificity of the method was evaluated to ensure that there was no interference from the excipients present in the formulation. The placebo, sample, and standard solutions were applied on the TLC plates separately and the chromatograms were recorded. The R_f value of the sample chromatogram was compared with its respective standard.

2.8.5. Linearity and range

Linearity of the method was assessed by analyzing the standard stock solution of UBD at six different concentrations. UBD was linear in the concentration range of 1-6 ng/µL at 280 nm. The calibration plot was constructed by plotting peak area against corresponding concentration of drug. The linear regression equation was determined by the method of least squares. The range was determined as 80-120% of the assay concentration.

2.8.6. Sensitivity

Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) were computed to establish the method sensitivity. For determination of LOD and LOQ, serial standard solutions of UBD (n = 6) were applied in six replicates. By observing peak area, calibration curve was constructed. LOD and LOQ were calculated by using LOD = 3.3 σ/S and 10 σ/S, where σ is standard deviation of y intercept in regression equation and S is slope of the calibration curve.

2.8.7. Precision

The precision of the method was considered at two levels, repeatability and intermediate precision. The repeatability study was confirmed by analysis of formulation was repeated for six times with the same concentration. The intermediates studies were demonstrated by intraday and interday studies. In this, the analysis of formulation was repeated for three times on the same day and on three successive days. The amount of the drug was determined. The precision of the method was expressed as percentage relative standard deviation (% RSD).

2.8.8. Accuracy

To confirm the accuracy of the method, recovery experiments were carried out by the standard addition technique. It was carried out by adding known amount of standard UBD to the preanalysed formulation corresponding in three concentration levels (80, 100, and 120%) of the working concentration with excipients and to the working standard solution.

2.8.9. Robustness

Robustness of the method was assessed by making small, deliberate changes in the opti-

mized chromatographic conditions like mobile phase composition, detection wavelength, saturation time of development chamber, time from spotting to development and time from development to scanning were applied. The R_f value, peak area and %RSD were calculated.

2.8.10. Ruggedness

The ruggedness of the proposed method was performed by the analysis of sample under a variety of test conditions such as different analysts, different instruments and different laboratories. The %RSD was calculated.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Method development and optimization

In this study, different mixtures of various solvents were tried and the composition of mobile phase with a chromatographic result having acceptable and reproducible R_f value was selected. The detection wavelength was selected based on maximum absorption with optimal sensitivity. The ubidecarenone solution was scanned over the wavelength range 200-400 nm and the spectrum was recorded. Ubidecarenone shows maximum absorption at 280 nm. Hence, it was selected as a detection wavelength. It is shown in Figure 2.

Initially, two different mixtures of solvents tried were acetonitrile:water (5:5) and methanol:ethyl acetate (5:5). Both compositions resulted in broadened peaks with the R_f values of 0.39 and 0.25, respectively. In methanol:acetonitrile (5:5), the peak was observed for UBD. But the intensity of the peak was decreased due to degradation. Then methanol:water (5:5) was tried. It was good with some unwanted peaks. So, the mobile phase was tried in different proportions i.e. 6:4, 7:3, and 8:2. Finally, methanol:water in the ratio of (7:3) had given the well defined sharp peak without the unwanted peaks. Hence this mobile phase was selected for further analysis. The R_f value of UBD was found to be R_f=0.51.

After the many trials, the optimized condition that offered best peak (as shown in Figure 3) was on a precoated silica gel plates using methanol:water (7:3) as mobile phase, 10 mL per single run. Length of chromatogram was 7 cm with chamber saturation time of 30 minutes. Detection was made at 280 nm.

3.2. Method validation

3.2.1. Specificity

The specificity is the ability to assess unequivocally the analyte in the presence of components such as impurities, degradation products, obtained experimentally or by inducing their formation [39]. In this study, specificity of the method was checked by comparing the chromatograms obtained for pure UBD, the placebo and the sam-

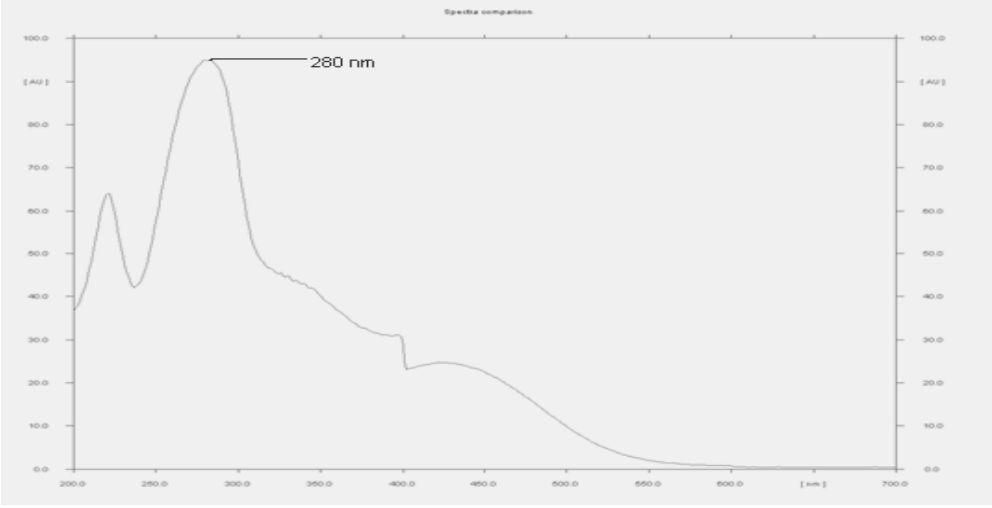

Figure 2. UV spectrum of ubidecarenone in mobile phase by HPTLC

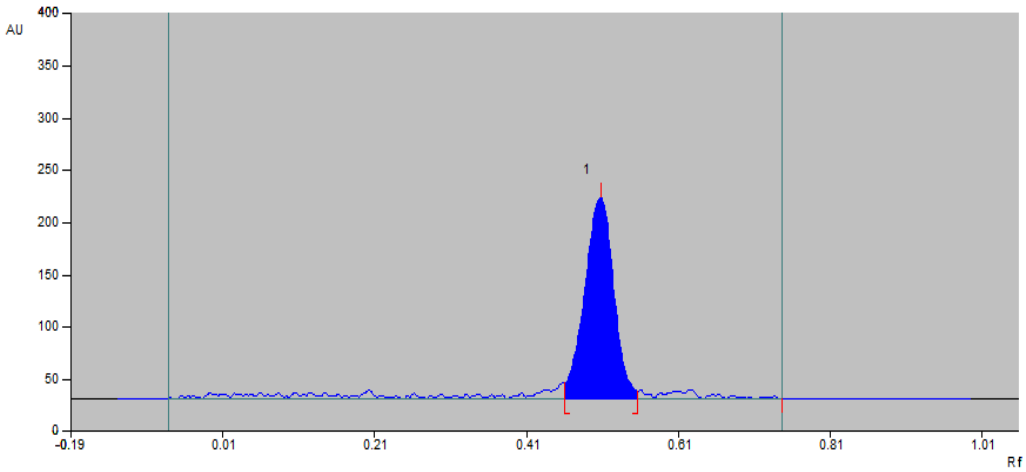

Figure 3. Optimized chromatogram of ubidecarenone

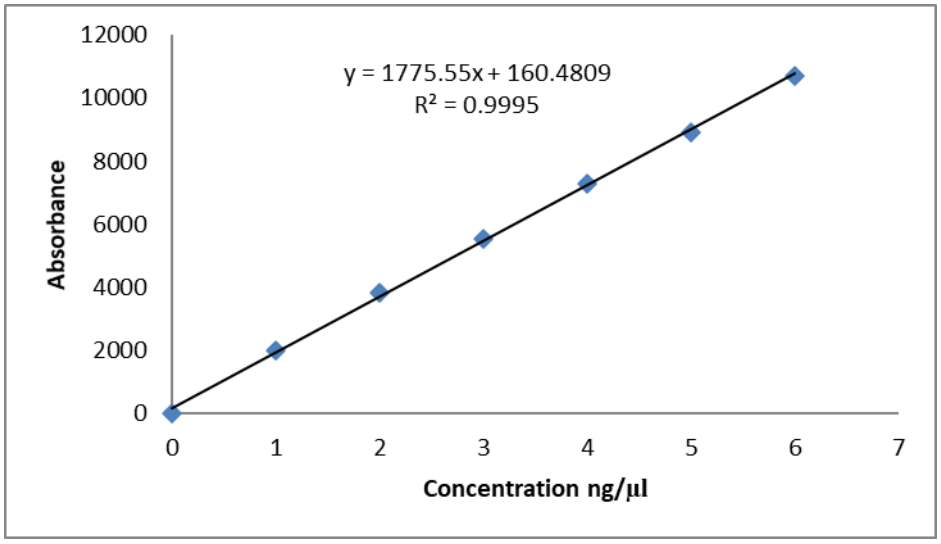

Figure 4. Calibration curve of ubidecarenone

ple. It was proved by comparing the R_f value of the sample chromatogram with its standard. There is no interference has been observed between the peaks of placebo, sample and standard. Therefore, the developed method was found to be specific.

3.2.2. Sensitivity

Sensitivity of the method was confirmed by calculating the limit of detection and limit of quantitation. The LOD and LOQ values for UBD were found to be 0.0392 ng/mL and 0.1189 ng/mL, respectively. This indicates that the sensitivity of the method was confirmed.

3.2.3. Linearity

The developed method was found to be linear in the concentration range of 1-6 ng/µL. The correlation coefficient (r^2) was found to be 0.9995, which indicates that the linear regression data for the calibration curve shows good linearity with concentration. The calibration curve was shown in Figure 4. The optical characteristics data are shown in Table 1.

3.2.4. Precision

Repeatability and intermediate precision of the developed method were expressed in terms of percentage relative standard deviation (%RSD)

Table 1. Optical characteristics data

Parameters	Values*
λ_{max} (nm)	280
Beer's law limit (ng/μL)	1-6
Correlation coefficient (r)	0.9995
Regression equation (y = mx + c)	Y = 1775.55x +160.4809
Slope (m)	1775.55
Intercept (c)	160.4809
LOD (μg/mL)	0.0392
LOQ (μg/mL)	0.1189
Standard error	0.1189

*Mean of six observations

Table 2. Analysis of formulation by HPTLC method

Sample No.	Labelled amount (mg/tablet)	Amount found (mg/tablet)*	Percentage obtained*	Mean	SD	% RSD	SE	CI
1	300	300.63	100.21	99.96	0.4703	0.4705	0.1920	99.18
2		299.41	99.80					to
3		302.41	100.80					100.73
4		298.86	99.62					
5		299.38	99.79					
6		298.65	99.55					

*Mean of six observations of six replicates of 100% concentration

Table 3. Intraday and interday precision study

No.	Concentration (μg/mL)	Percentage obtained*		SD		% RSD	
		Intra day	Inter day	Intra day	Inter day	Intra day	Inter day
1	300	99.20	99.31	0.1896	0.1240	0.1906	0.1248
2	300	99.23	99.37				
3	300	99.19	99.34				
Mean		99.18	99.94				

*Mean of six observations of three replicates of 100% concentration

of the peak area. Repeatability of the method was confirmed by the repeated analysis of formulation for six times. The percentage purity of UBD in formulation was found to be 99.96%. The % RSD value was calculated and it was found to be 0.4705. The results of the analysis are shown in Table 2. The intermediate precision was done by intraday and interday analysis. The analysis of formulation was repeated three times on the same day and three consecutive days. The % RSD

Table 4. Recovery analysis of formulation

No.	Amount present (µg/mL)	Amount added (µg/mL)	Amount found (µg/mL)	Amount recovered (µg/mL)	% Recovered	SD	% RSD
1	2.9989	1.9574	4.9762	1.9773	101.01	0.4971	0.4928
2	2.9989	1.9574	4.9749	1.9760	100.95		
3	2.9989	1.9574	4.9748	1.9759	100.94		
1	2.9989	2.9452	5.9848	2.9859	101.38		
2	2.9989	2.9452	5.9472	2.9483	100.10		
3	2.9989	2.9452	5.9847	2.9858	101.37		
1	2.9989	3.9552	7.0117	4.0128	101.45		
2	2.9989	3.9552	6.9647	3.9658	100.26		
3	2.9989	3.9552	6.9741	3.9752	100.50		
				Mean	100.88		

Table 5. Robustness study by HPTLC method

Parameters	Change in chromatographic condition	R_f Value*	Peak area*	%RSD
Mobile phase composition	6:4	0.50	5726	1.2622
	7:3	0.51	5667	0.8792
	8:4	0.50	5692	1.2728
Detection wavelength (nm)	275	0.50	5376	0.9233
	280	0.51	5667	0.8792
	285	0.51	5422	1.222

*Mean of six observations of six replicates

Table 6. Robustness study by HPTLC method

No	Category	Labelled amount (mg/tablet)	Mean*	SD	%RSD
1	ANALYST I	300	99.60	0.2305	0.2314
2	ANALYST II	300	99.40	0.1176	0.1183

*Mean of six observations

value for the intraday and interday analysis of UBD was found to be 0.1906 and 0.1248 respectively. This is shown in Table 3. The % RSD values for repeatability and intermediate precision were found to be less than 2%. This indicated that the method was found to be precise.

3.2.5. Accuracy

Accuracy of the method was confirmed by recovery studies. The percentage recovery was found to be in the range of 100.10% to 101.45%. The % RSD was found to be 0.4928. The low % RSD indicates that there is no significant interfe–rence due to excipients used in formulation. This ensures that the method is more accurate. The results of the recovery studies are shown in Table 4.

3.2.6. Robustness

Robustness of the method was performed by making small deliberate changes in described chromatographic conditions. No significant differences were observed in the R_f value and peak

area. The % RSD was found to be 0.8792. The low % RSD indicates that the method is robust. The results are shown in Table 5.

3.2.7. Ruggedness

Ruggedness of the method was performed by the analysis of formulation with the help of two different analysts. The % RSD was found to be 0.2314 and 0.1183, respectively. The results are shown in Table 6.

3.2.8. Analysis of capsule formulation

The amount of the drug was found to be 99.96 ± 0.4703. The % RSD was found to be 0.4705. The low % RSD indicates the suitability of the me–thod for the analysis of UBD in the pharmaceutical dosage form.

3.2.9. Comparision of the developed method with reported methods

When comparing the proposed method with the reported methods, there are HPLC and UV spectroscopic methods were reported. The concentration range used for the linearity was very high for both HPLC (60-180 µg/mL) and UV spectroscopic method (10-80 µg/mL), but in the proposed method was 1-6 ng/µL. The LOD and LOQ were very low for the proposed method and hence the developed method was considered as sensitive. Even though UV spectroscopic method is simple, the method lack in sensitivity. Hence the developed method was found to be sensitive and accurate when compared to the reported methods.

4. Conclusion

A new high performance thin layer chromatographic method (HPTLC) has been developed and validated for determination of UBD in bulk and in capsule formulation. Reliable HPLC analysis of this drug can be performed on TLC plate coated with silica gel 60 F_{254}. The mobile phase was methanol:water (7:3). Densitometry analysis was performed at 280 nm. The method is simple, sensitive (LOD and LOQ were 0.0392 and 0.1189 ng/mL, respectively), precise (RSD ± 2%) and linear over the range 1-6 ng/µL with r^2 value of 0.9995. The developed HPTLC method was found suitable for determination of UBD in capsule formulation without any interference from the excipients. Therefore, the developed HPTLC method offers many advantages in terms of cost, reduced analysis run time, simplicity, precision, accuracy, robustness etc. Thus, the proposed HPTLC method was effectively utilized for the routine quality control analysis of ubidecarenone in bulk and in capsule formulation.

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