

# **DETERMINATION OF TOTAL PHOSPHORUS BY AUTOCLAVE DIGESTION PROCEDURE AND ITS APPLICATION**

**M. Ponnambalam and Chitra Padmaperuma**

*(Division of Occupational Hygiene, 97, Jawatta Road, Colombo 5)*

In water pollution studies, it is necessary to convert quantitatively organically bound Phosphate to the Orthophosphate for the determination of total Phosphate. The Autoclave digestion method of conversion to orthophosphate (in culture tubes) handling minimum sample, less reagent, permitting

analysis of greater numbers of samples per unit time is found to be suitable for most of the sample types. Though, accurate results are reported after autoclaving for one hour, comparable results are obtained in lesser time period. Results of analysis of samples from the canal system in Colombo are presented.

**References:**

1. Harweed J. E., van Steerderer R. A. & Kuhu A. L. (1960) Water Research 3 425
2. Jeffries, Dean S. Dicken F. P. and Jones D. E. (1978) Water Research 13 275
3. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Waste Water 13th Edition. (1971) APHA Washington D. C.

**Acknowledgement:**

This work was supported by a grant from the National Science Council, Sri Lanka.