

## A Short Note on Bromine

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### ABSTRACT

Bromine (Br) is a naturally occurring only non-metallic element that is a liquid at room temperature. It has a brownish-red color with a bleach-like odor, and it dissolves in water. It was introduced by Antoine-Jerome Balard while investigating some salty water from Montpellier, France. Pure Bromine is diatomic (Br<sub>2</sub>) and poisonous and may cause skin burns.

**Keywords:** Uses; Bromine

### INTRODUCTION

In earth's crust, bromine is 44<sup>th</sup> most common element with an ample amount of 2.4 parts per million by weight. Bromine is found in sea water, natural brines and salt lake evaporates. In swimming pools bromine is used as an alternative to chlorine. Products made of bromine are used in agriculture and sanitation and as fire retardants. Some sedatives also include bromine containing compounds [1].

Naturally occurring bromine is a mixture of its two stable isotopes and they are found in the percentages shown: <sup>79</sup>Br (50.7%) and <sup>81</sup>Br (49.3%).

### Uses

Bromine has a large variety of uses including in agricultural chemicals, insecticides, dyes, pharmaceuticals, flame-retardants, furniture foam, gasoline, plastic casings for electronics, and film photography. Purification of water is done by bromine and also its use is mentioned in many medicines and as sanitizers. Mercury emissions are reduced up to 90 percent, caused from coal-fired plants, with the help of bromine

### Toxicity of Bromine

Bromine is toxic to human tissues in its state and found to be irritable to both eyes and throat and is life threatening when inhaled in large amount.

### Treatment

Prevention to exposure to bromine is better than cure. Move out of the area where bromine is released or leaked. Possibly place yourself at the highest ground possible as bromine is heavier than air and will sink to low-lying areas.

Wash yourself thoroughly with using soap and water when exposed to bromine.

### CONCLUSION

Bromine poisoning is treated with supportive medical care (for example, oxygen, fluids given through a needle into your vein) in a hospital setting. No specific antidote exists for bromine poisoning. (An antidote is a medicine that reverses the effects of a poison.) The most important thing is for people to remove themselves from the exposure site and seek medical treatment as soon as possible.

### REFERENCES

1. Matt Rattley. Ambiguous bromine. Nature Chem. 2012;4:512.

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