

3.2.2 Sample Storage

Upon receipt, the blood samples were refrigerated at 0°C until the plasma and red cells were separated (within two days); and the urine samples were refrigerated at -20°C.

Blood samples were received as heparinized whole blood in 10 ml tubes. The total volume of each sample was estimated by comparison with a calibrated tube, after which the tubes were centrifuged (5 minutes at 5,000 rpm) and the plasma removed by pipette. The plasma was centrifuged a second time and decanted into a new tube, care being taken to exclude all cellular material. The volume of plasma was estimated as before, and the presence noted of any undue hemolysis, icterus or elevated amounts of lipids. These observations were recorded and are presented in Appendix 2.

Both the plasma and the red blood cells were then stored at -20°C until analysed.

3.3 Analytical Procedure

3.3.1 Supplies and Equipment

All glassware used was new and rinsed with methanol prior to use. All solvents (Caledon Laboratories, Georgetown, Ontario) were distilled in glass. All glass