

[54] METHOD FOR DETECTING
TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL IN HUMAN
URINE INVOLVING MELANIN
PRECIPITATION

[76] Inventor: W. James Woodford, 585 Lakeshore
Dr., NE., Atlanta, Ga. 30307

[21] Appl. No.: 143,973

[22] Filed: Jan. 14, 1988

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ G01N 33/534; G01N 33/94

[52] U.S. Cl. 436/518; 436/161;
436/173; 436/175; 436/177; 436/536; 436/804;
436/816; 436/825; 436/901

[58] Field of Search 436/175, 816, 825, 901,
436/161, 173, 177, 536, 804

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,022,878 5/1977 Gross 436/816 X
4,353,886 10/1982 Lukens 436/805 X

Primary Examiner—Sidney Marantz

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jones, Askew & Lunsford

[57] ABSTRACT

An improved method for the detection of tetrahydrocannabinol in human urine wherein the pigment melanin is precipitated out of the urine prior to analysis with a solution of nitroferricyanide so that the melanin does not interfere with the analysis. The value attributable to melanin can also be subtracted from the value obtained during the analysis of the urine. The precipitation of melanin prior to analysis or subtraction of the melanin value during analysis greatly reduces the occurrence of false positive test results for persons with dark skin.

16 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet