

Common unknowns for the K_a lab

NOTE: Your instructor will notify you if list contains all possible unknowns for your lab section.

Acid	Formula	Molar Mass (g/mol)	pK _{a1}	pK _{a2}	pK _{a3}
Adipic	C ₆ H ₁₀ O ₄	146.14	4.41	5.28	--
Alanine	C ₃ H ₈ O ₂ N	89.09	4.34	--	--
Ascorbic	C ₆ H ₈ O ₆	176.12	4.17	11.57	
Benzoic	C ₇ H ₆ O ₂	122.12	4.19	--	--
Butanoic	C ₄ H ₈ O ₂	88.11	4.82	--	--
Citric	C ₆ H ₈ O ₇	192.12	3.13	4.76	6.40
Glutaric	C ₅ H ₈ O ₄	132.11	4.34	5.22	
KHP	C ₈ H ₅ O ₄ K	204.23	5.41	--	--
Leucine	C ₆ H ₁₄ O ₂ N	131.17	2.33	9.74	--
Maleic	C ₄ H ₄ O ₂	116.07	1.83	6.07	--
Malic	C ₄ H ₆ O ₅	134.09	3.40	5.11	--
Malonic	C ₃ H ₄ O ₄	104.06	2.84	5.70	--
Mandelic	C ₈ H ₈ O ₃	152.15	3.86	--	--
4-Nitrophenol	C ₆ H ₅ O ₃ N	139.11	7.15	--	--
Oxalic	C ₂ H ₂ O ₄	90.04	1.27	4.28	--
Phthalic	C ₈ H ₆ O ₄	166.13	2.95	5.41	--
Succinic	C ₄ H ₆ O ₄	118.09	4.21	5.64	--
Tartaric	C ₄ H ₆ O ₆	150.09	2.96	4.24	--
Valeric	C ₅ H ₁₀ O ₂	102.13	4.84	--	--

Remember, for polyprotic acids whose neighboring K_a's differ by less than 10⁴, it may be difficult to see the two protons titrated at different endpoints. In this case, the two protons will appear as a single endpoint or transition in the titration curve. If you believe this to be true, assume the pK_a value you determine from your titration curve to be the average of the pK_a's. Also remember that the equivalent weight for a Brönsted acid is the mass that can produce 1 mole of H⁺ in a chemical reaction (or consume 1 mole of OH⁻).