Colour Plate 2

Plate 2 Centrifugation  The Swedish physical chemist, Theodor Svedberg, 1884-1971. Svedberg studied at Uppsala and stayed at this university for life. Chiefly interested in the chemistry of colloids (a suspension of large particles) and how best to separate out floating giant molecules, he developed the ultracentrifuge. Spinning at high speed a powerful enough centrifugal force will affect large molecules and purify out proteins. Svedberg, in this way, calculated the relative molecular mass of haemoglobin. For this technique and for his other work on colloids, Svedberg was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1926. The unit of sedimentation velocity, the svedberg (S) is named after him. (With permission from Science Photo Library.)