

class of acids, should have a *sour* taste, should be soluble in water, and should have the property of reddening vegetable blue colours; and these properties do indeed belong to some of the most common, and powerful acids. But there are various acids which have no taste; which are not soluble in water; and some, which are incapable of altering the colour of the most delicate vegetable blues; hence the term *acid*, as at present employed by chemists, is understood to denote a substance which has the property of combining with, and neutralizing, alkalies or bases. The celebrated Lavoisier endeavoured to prove, that oxygen constitutes an essential ingredient of all the acids; but later observations have shown, as already stated, that not only oxygen, but the analogous principles, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and fluorine, are also capable of forming acids, by uniting with several of the acidifiable bases. Still more recently, certain compounds of cyanogen, (a primary compound of carbon and azote), of sulfur, of selenium, and of tellurium, with the acidifiable bases, have been ranked among the acids; so that the acids at present known, may be divided into nine classes, viz. *oxygen acids*, *chlorine acids*, *bromine acids*, *iodine acids*, *fluorine acids*, *cyanogen acids*, *sulfur acids*, *selenium acids*, and *tellurium acids*.

The *oxygen acids* are more numerous, and better understood, in general, than the other