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Chemistry

Solid State Reactions

Designed to Bind Herbicides

Highlights

Novel Calix[4] Arene

Aqueous DMSO Medium

Discovering Thoughts, Inventing Future

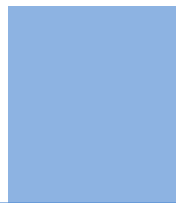
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Phytochemical Evaluation of Phytochemicals of *Cassia Podocarpa*

By Adewole E

AFE Babalola University, ADO-EKITI (ABUAD), Nigeria

Abstract- The usefulness of *cassia podocarpa* as locally antifungal agent necessitated the qualitative and quantitative determination of the phytochemicals present. The screening of the leaf and flower showed the presence of flavonoid, tannin, saponin, alkaloid and glycoside. The quantitative analysis showed that the flavonoid in the leaf (6.73 mg/g) was more than that of the flower (5.83mg/g). Also, the tannin in the leaf (10.11mg/g) doubled that of the flower (5.24mg/g). The saponin content in the leaf (27.36mg/g) was higher than that of the flower (13.91mg/g). The alkaloid content in the leaf (19.70mg/g) was more than that of the flower (6.59mg/g). However the glycoside of leaf (7.10mg/g) was just little bit higher than that of flower (6.32mg/g). From the quantitative evaluation of the leaf and flower of this plant, this has really confirmed the local use in the treatment of eczema in human body when the liquid is being extracted and the plant is a reservoir of many novel compounds which can be of immense use to the pharmaceutical world.

Keywords: *cassia podocarpa*, qualitative, quantitative, reservoir.

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Keywords: *cassia podocarpa*, qualitative, quantitative, reservoir.

I. INTRODUCTION

The pharmacological usefulness of plants are known to us all because the variety of plants is a treasure house of potential drugs and in the recent years, researchers have beam their search light on plants that have medicinal activities. Medicinal plants contain some organic compounds that have pharmaceutical benefits to human being and these compounds include flavonoids, tannin, saponin, alkaloids (Edoga, 2005 and Mann, 1978) and host of others. A large number of phytochemicals that belong to different chemical classes have been shown to have inhibitory effects on all types of microorganisms in vitro (Cowan, 1999).

Products from plants have been part of phytomedicines since and this can be obtained from barks, leaves, flowers, roots, fruits, seed (Criag, 2001). Knowledge of the chemical contents of plants is desirable because such useful information will be valuable for the synthesis of novel compounds.

In this research work, both qualitative and quantitative phytochemical analysis were carried out on *cassia podocarpa* collected at the back of a house in Ajilosun area of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

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II. METHODOLOGY

a) Phytochemical screening

i. Test for saponins

Crude extract was mixed with 5ml of distilled water in a test tube and it was shaken vigorously. The formation of stable foam was taken as an indication for the presence of saponins.

ii. Test for glycosides

Keller-kilani test

Crude extract was mixed with 2ml of glacial acetic acid containing 1-2 drops of 2% solution of FeCl_3 . The mixture was then poured into another test tube containing 2ml of concentrated H_2SO_4 . A brown ring at the interphase indicated the presence of cardiac glycosides.

iii. Test for alkaloids

Crude extract was mixed with 2ml of 1% HCl and heated gently. Mayer's And Wagner's reagents were then added to the mixture. Turbidity of the resulting precipitate was taken as evidence for the presence of alkaloids.

iv. Test for flavonoids

Alkaline reagent test

Crude extract was mixed with 2ml of 2% solution of NaOH. An intense yellow colour was formed which turned colourless on addition of few drops of diluted acid which indicated the presence of flavonoids.

v. Test for tannins

Crude extract was mixed with 2ml of 2% solution of FeCl_3 . A blue-green or black coloration indicated the presence of tannins.

III. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

a) Tannin determination

0.2g of finely ground sample was weighed into a 50ml sample bottle. 10ml of 70% aqueous acetone was added and properly covered. The bottle were put in an ice bath shaker and shaken for 2hours at 30°C . Each solution was then centrifuge and the supernatant store in ice. 0.2ml of each solution was pipetted into the test tube and 0.8ml of distilled water was added. Standard tannin acid solutions were prepared from a 0.5mg/ml of the stock and the solution made up to 1ml with distilled water. 0.5ml of Folinciocateau reagent was added to both sample and standard followed by 2.5ml of 20%

Na_2CO_3 the solution were then vortexed and allow to incubate for 40minutes at room temperature, its absorbance was read at 725nm against a reagent blank concentration of the same solution from a standard tannic acid curve was prepared (Makkar and Goodchild, 1996).

b) Saponin determination

The spectrophotometric method of Brunner (1994) will used for Saponindetermination. 2g of the finely grinded sample was weighed into a 250ml beaker and 100ml of Isobutyl alcohol was added. Shaker was used to shake the mixture for 5hours to ensure uniform mixing. The mixture was filtered with No 1 Whatman filter paper into 100ml beaker containing 20ml of 40% saturated solution of magnesium carbonate (MgCO_3). The mixture obtain again was filter though No 1 Whatman filter paper to obtain a clean colourless solution. 1ml of the colourless solution was taken into 50ml volumetric flask using pipette, 2ml of 5% iron (iii) chloride (FeCl_3) solution was added and made up to the mark with distill water. It was allowed to stand for 30minutes for the colour to develop. The absorbance was read against the blank at 380nm.

c) Alkaloid determination

5g of the sample was weighed into a 250ml beaker and 200ml of 10% acetic acid in ethanol was added and allowed to stand for 4min. This was filtered and extract was concentrated on a water bath to one quarter of the original volume. Concentrated ammonium hydroxide added drop wise to the extract until the precipitation was completed. The whole solution was allowed to settle and the precipitated was collected and

washed with dilute ammonium hydroxide and then filtered. The residue is then alkaloid which was dried and weighed. Harbone(1973).

$$\% \text{alkaloid} = \frac{W_3 - W_2}{W_1} \times 100$$

d) Cardiac glycoside determination

The procedure described by Sofowora (1995) was used 10ml the extract pipetted into a 250ml conical flask. 50ml chloroform was added and shaken on vortex mixer for 1hour. The mixture was filtered into 100ml conical flask. 10ml of pyridine and 2ml of 29% of sodium nitroprusside were added and shaken thoroughly for 10min. 3ml of 20% NaOH was added to develop a brownish yellow colour. Glycosides standard (Digitoxin). A concentration which range from 0 – 50mg/ml were prepared from stock solution the absorbance was read at 510nm.

e) Total flavonoid content

Aluminium chloride colorimetric method was used with some modifications to determine flavonoid content. 1ml of sample plant extract was mixed with 3ml of methanol, 0.2ml of 10% aluminium chloride, 0.2ml of 1M potassium acetate and 5.6ml of distilled water and remains at room temperature for 30 minutes. The absorbance was measured at 420nm. Quercetin was used as standard (1mg/ml). All the tests were performed in triplicates. Flavonoid contents were determined from the standard curve and were expressed as quercetin equivalent (mg/g of extracted compound) (Aiyegroro, 2010).

IV. RESULTS

Table 1: showing phytochemical screening of *cassia podocarpa*

Part of the plant	Flavonoid	Alkaloid	Saponin	Tannin	Cardiac Glycoside
Leaf	+	+	+	+	+
Flower	+	+	+	+	+

V. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

This was done using T-test (Package =R studio)

Data 1: FLAVONOID (Leaf)and FLAVONOID (Flower)

t –test = 11.9333, degree of freedom = 1, probability -value = 0.05322

Alternative hypothesis: True Difference in Means is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval: -0.05796536(leaf) : 1.847965369 (flower)

Sample Estimates:

Mean (leaf) : mean (flower) : 6.730mg/g : 5.835mg/g

Data 2: TANIN (Leaf) and TANIN (Flower)

t-test = 235.4743, degree of freedom = 1.145, probability -value = 0.001266

Alternative Hypothesis: True Difference in means is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval: 4.682361(leaf): 5.074509 (flower)

Sample Estimates:

Mean (leaf): Mean (flower): 10.11843mg/g: 5.24000mg/g

Data 3: SAPONIN (Leaf) and SAPONIN (Flower)

t-test = 35.0566, degree of freedom = 2, probability -value = 0.0008132

Alternative Hypothesis: True Difference in Means is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval: 11.80225(leaf): 15.10502 (flower)

Sample Estimates:

Mean (leaf): 13.91000mg/g
 Mean (flower) 27.36364mg/g

Data 4: ALKALOID (Leaf) and ALKALOID (Flower)
 t-test= 36.0159, degree of freedom = 1.162, probability -value = 0.01028

Alternative Hypothesis: True Difference in means is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval: 9.762957 (leaf): 16.457043 (flower)

sample estimates:

Mean (leaf): Mean (flower) 19.70mg/g : 6.59mg/g

Data 5: GLYCOSIDE (Leaf) and GLYCOSIDE (Flower)
 t -test = 26.1119, degree of freedom = 1, probability -value = 0.02437

Alternative Hypothesis: True Difference in means is not equal to 0

95 percent confidence interval: 0.4021699(leaf): 1.1645421(flower)

Sample Estimates:

Mean (leaf): Mean (flower) 7.103356 mg/g: 6.320000mg/g

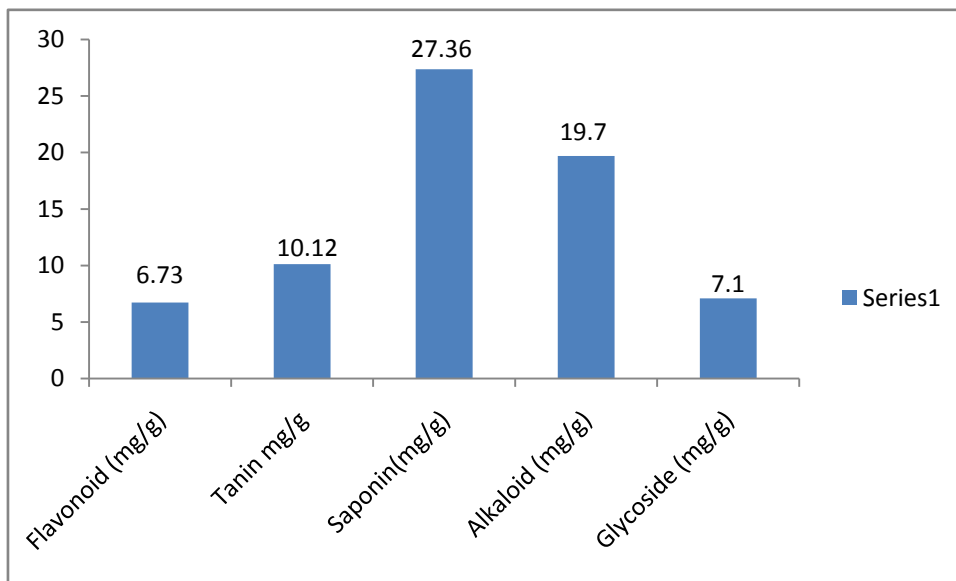


Figure 1 : showing graph of the mean values of phytochemicals of leaf

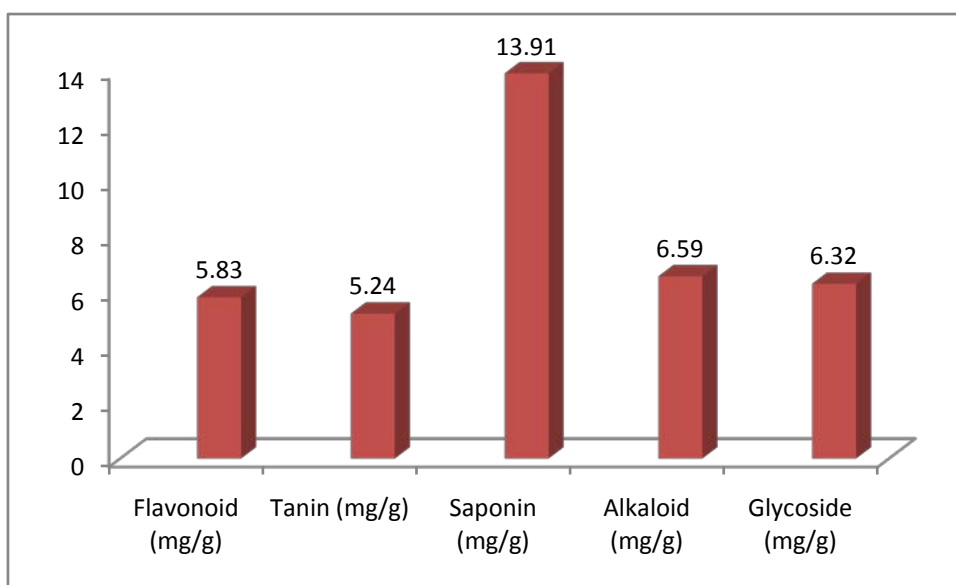


Figure 2 : showing graph of the mean values of phytochemicals of flower

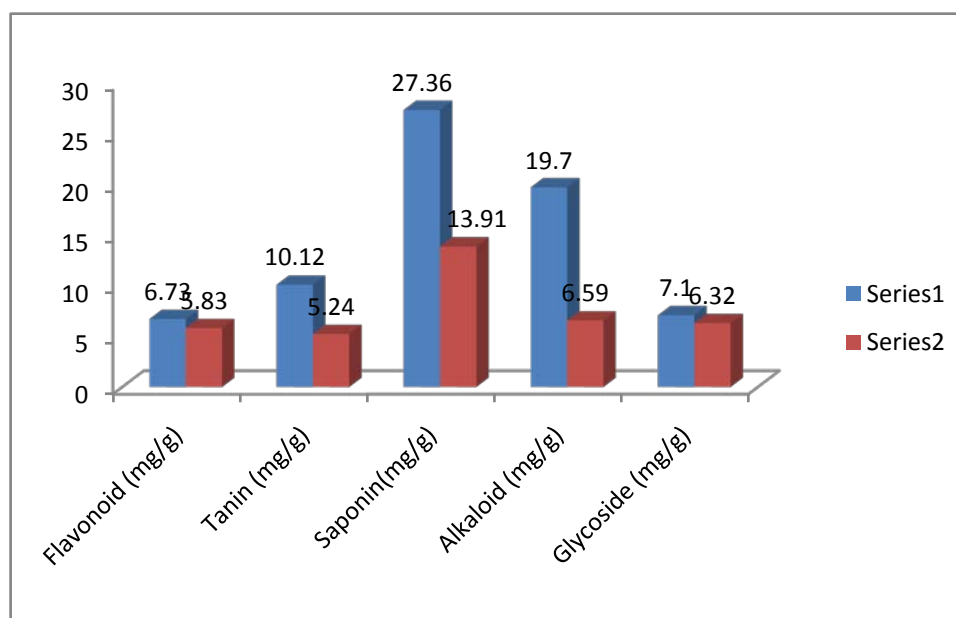


Figure 3 : showing comparisons of the mean of phytochemicals of leaf and flower

VI. DISCUSSION

Phytochemical analysis carried out on the *cassia podocarpa* ethanolic extract showed presence of constituents; flavonoid, tannin, saponin, alkaloid and glycoside which are known to exhibit medicinal and pharmacological activities. From the analysis, it showed that flavonoid content in the leaf (6.73mg/g) was more than that of flower (5.83mg/g). Also, the leaf had more tannin (10.12mg/g) than the flower (5.24mg/g). The saponin content of the leaf (27.36mg/g) was more than the flower (13.91mg/g). Alkaloid content of the leaf (19.70mg/g) was higher than that of flower (6.59mg/g). The Cardiac glycoside in the leaf (7.10mg/g) was higher than the flower content (6.32mg/g). However, the presence of these metabolites is an indication that the plant both the leaf and the flower is a reservoir of novel and lead compounds. Tannin bind to proline rich protein and interfere with protein synthesis. Saponin was higher in the leaf, it has been reported that saponins are known to produce inhibitory effect on inflammation (Just *et al*, 1998). Saponin has the ability to precipitate and coagulate the red blood cells. Alkaloids have also been associated with medicinal uses and one of their common biological properties is cytotoxicity (Nobori *et al*, 1994). Many workers have reported the anagelsic (Antherden, 1969; Harborne, 1973), antispasmodic and antibacterial properties of alkaloid (Stray, 1998; Okwu, 2004). The analysis results have shown that the plant *cassia podocarpa* has identified phytochemical compounds which may be the bioactive constituents. If the plant is subjected to very intense research, novel and lead bioactive compounds may be isolated, characterized using various techniques such as NMR, Mass -spectrophotometer, IR and novel compounds may be revealed.

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Synthesis and Characterization of Polyimide Thin Films by Thermal Evaporation and Solid State Reactions

By Ikram Atta AL-Ajaj & Aseel A. Kareem

University of Baghdad, Iraq

Abstract- In this research we describe the preparation of polyimide with pyromellitic dianhydride (PMDA) and *p*-phenylene diamine (PDA) thin films by physical vapor deposition. For this study, FTIR Spectrometer has been used to measure the effect of imidization temperature on the chemical structure of vapor-deposited thin films of the aromatic PI. When temperature increases, a general increase in all the absorption peaks is observed. This suggests that residual PAA monomers continue to be converted into PI. The surface topology of the PI films was further examined by using AFM atomic force microscopy as a function of the imidization temperature at 150,200,250°C for 1 hour each, it can be clearly seen that the surface became rougher with increasing imidization temperature.

The thermal stability of polyimide was also improved by using Thermo gravimetric analysis (TGA).

Keywords: *polyimide thin films, thermal imidization temperature, thermal evaporation, polycondensation reactions.*

GJSFR-B Classification : FOR Code: 250301



SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF POLYIMIDE THIN FILMS BY THERMAL EVAPORATION AND SOLID STATE REACTIONS

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Synthesis and Characterization of Polyimide Thin Films by Thermal Evaporation and Solid State Reactions

Ikram Atta AL-Ajaj ^α & Aseel A. Kareem ^σ

Abstract- In this research we describe the preparation of polyimide with pyromellitic dianhydride (PMDA) and *p*-phenylene diamine (PDA) thin films by physical vapor deposition. For this study, FTIR Spectrometer has been used to measure the effect of imidization temperature on the chemical structure of vapor-deposited thin films of the aromatic PI. When temperature increases, a general increase in all the absorption peaks is observed. This suggests that residual PAA monomers continue to be converted into PI. The surface topology of the PI films was further examined by using AFM atomic force microscopy as a function of the imidization temperature at 150, 200, 250°C for 1 hour each, it can be clearly seen that the surface became rougher with increasing imidization temperature.

The thermal stability of polyimide was also improved by using Thermo gravimetric analysis (TGA).

Keywords: polyimide thin films, thermal imidization temperature, thermal evaporation, polycondensation reactions.

I. INTRODUCTION

Polyimides are one of the most important classes of high temperature polymers available today. They find wide spread application due to the wide range of chemistry and properties accessible [1]. Innovative polyimide design has led to their use in aerospace, microelectronics, automotive and packaging industries [2]. Polyimides have become important materials in the manufacture of a large number of technical products, e.g. varnishes, coatings etc, due to their excellent thermal stability and mechanical strength, high stability to ionizing, good film forming ability, and superior chemical resistance [3]. Since the excellent properties of polyimides are a result of combination of both chemical structure and final morphology of the products, it is important to understand the structural evolution within the material during imidization process, which directly affects the final thermal, mechanical and optical properties [4]. Polyimides are step or condensation polymers derived from both aliphatic or aromatic dianhydrides and diamines[5].

In this research polyimide films prepared by the vapor deposition, which are prepared by the reaction of

a dianhydride and diamine mixture, which by solid state reactions is converted to polyimide by thermal treatment usually below 300°C.

Vapor deposition of the precursors and solid state reactions of imidization are of a greater priority than the spin coating and dipping methods.

The physical vapor deposition as a “dry” method provides high purity for producing thin polymer films of controlled thickness, ratio of precursors and composition control of the so prepared layers [6]. The aim of the present work is to study, FTIR Spectrometer has been used to measure the effect of imidization temperature on the chemical structure of vapor-deposited thin films of the aromatic PI PMDA–PDA. AFM has been used to elucidate the effect of heating subsequent to imidization of PI.

Thermal degradation processes were also investigated through dynamic thermogravimetric analysis at different heating rates.

II. POLYIMIDE SYNTHESIZATION

Polyimide is synthesized by a two-step reaction, as shown in Fig. 2. In this work, pyromellitic dianhydride (PMDA) and *p*-phenylene diamine (PDA), which are commercially available from Sigma-Aldrich. These two monomers, 2 gm each, were evaporated from two separated boats to form a poly(amic acid) (PAA) thin film on substrate. The substrates used were silicon wafer and glass. The deposition process began at vacuum of 2×10^{-5} mbar. Figure 1 shows the scheme of the PVD apparatus. The resultant polyamic acid PAA film was then soft baked to remove nH_2O from the substrate followed by a thermal treatment at (150, 200 and 250°C) for 1 hour each in an air circulating oven.

In the case of PI the purpose of the thermal treatment is the run of polycondensation reactions in solid state till completion of the PI formation. As a consequence of these reactions leading to a release of water and imidization also a certain pack of the layer is achieved. The final thickness of films is $5 \pm 0.1 \mu\text{m}$.

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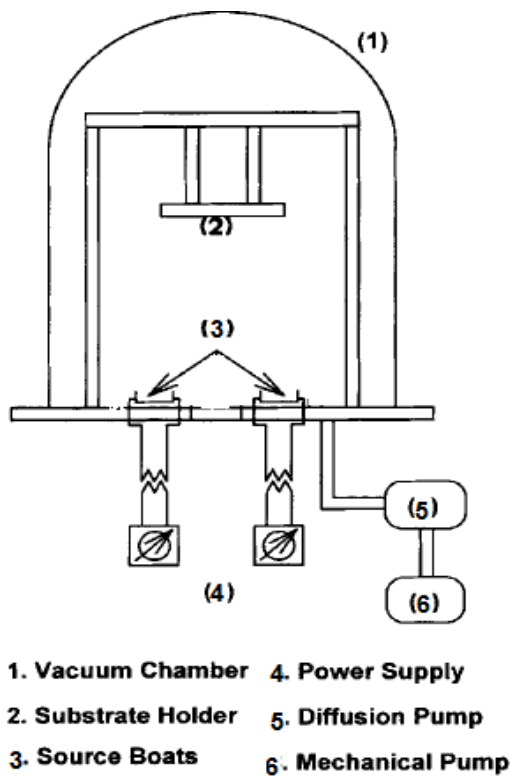


Figure 1 : schematic illustration of the PVD chamber

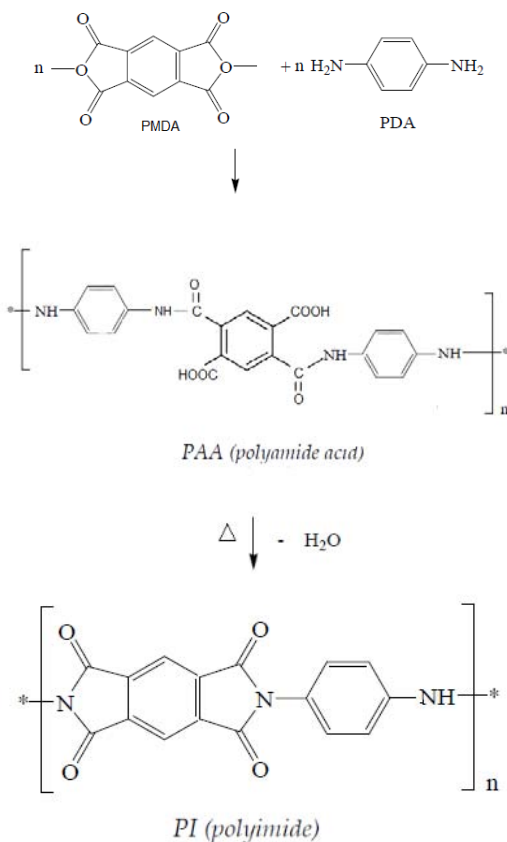


Figure 2 : Synthesis of Polyimide in two steps

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

a) FTIR Analysis

FTIR measurements have been performed for different imidization temperatures to determine the completion of the imidization reaction of the polyimide films. This analysis rests on the transmission peak magnitude changes in the functional groups or in the characteristic linkages during the reaction. Figure 3 shows the changes in FTIR spectra of PMDA-PDA for different imidization temperatures (150, 200 and 250°C) for 1 hour each.

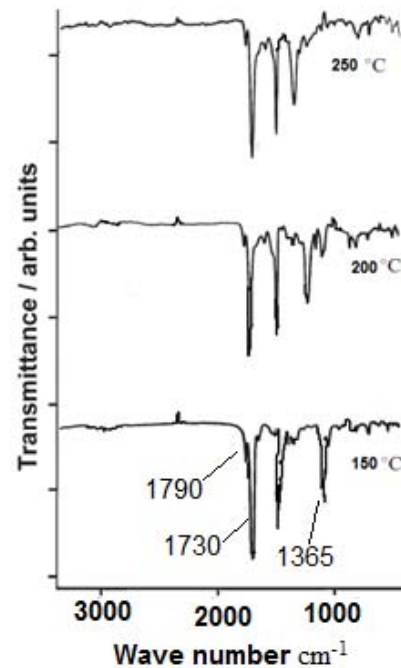


Figure 3 : FTIR spectra of PMDA-PDA for different imidization temperature

When temperature increases, a general increase in all the absorption peaks is observed. This suggests that residual PAA monomers continue to be converted into PI. This evolution is stabilized after exposure to temperature above 250°C [3,7].

Spectra have been normalized to the classical aromatic ring C=C absorption band appearing around 1500 cm⁻¹, and the absorption peak at 1365 cm⁻¹ (C-N) stretching vibration of imide ring was monitored during the curing from PAA to PI. The absorption peaks at 1790 cm⁻¹ and 1730 cm⁻¹ indicated that there was asymmetry and symmetric stretching vibration of C=O bondings. The absorption peak at 710 cm⁻¹ was the flexural vibration of C=O bonds. [8,9].

b) Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM)

The AFM analysis also provides information on the changes in the surface morphology and roughness introduced by the heat treatment. Fig. 4 shows the AFM

topographic images of the polyimide films and those subjected to imidization temperature 150, 200 and 250°C for 1 hour each.

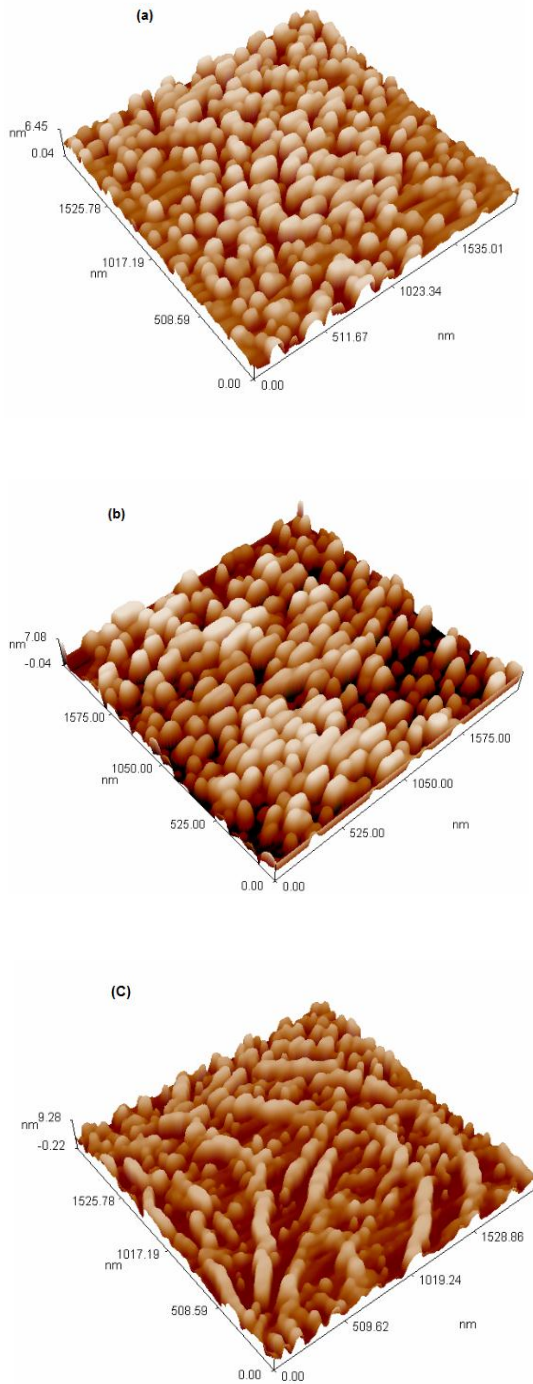


Figure 4 : 3-D AFM images PI thin films The respective imidization temperatures from (a) to (c) are 150, 200 and 250°C

It can be clearly seen that the surface became rougher with increasing imidization temperature, creating a distinctive surface structure[10]. This

indicates that films of PAA and fully cured PI have comparable roughness and thickness uniformity; i.e. curing does significantly roughen the surface for the conditions used in this work.

The surface topology of the PI films was further examined by using AFM. nodular aggregates are aligned in several row[11]. Moreover, the area of the dark spots, indicating the troughs on the surface increased when the imidization temperature increase, for instance, some kind of decomposition occurs at the elevated temperatures before the imide chain decomposition [6,12].

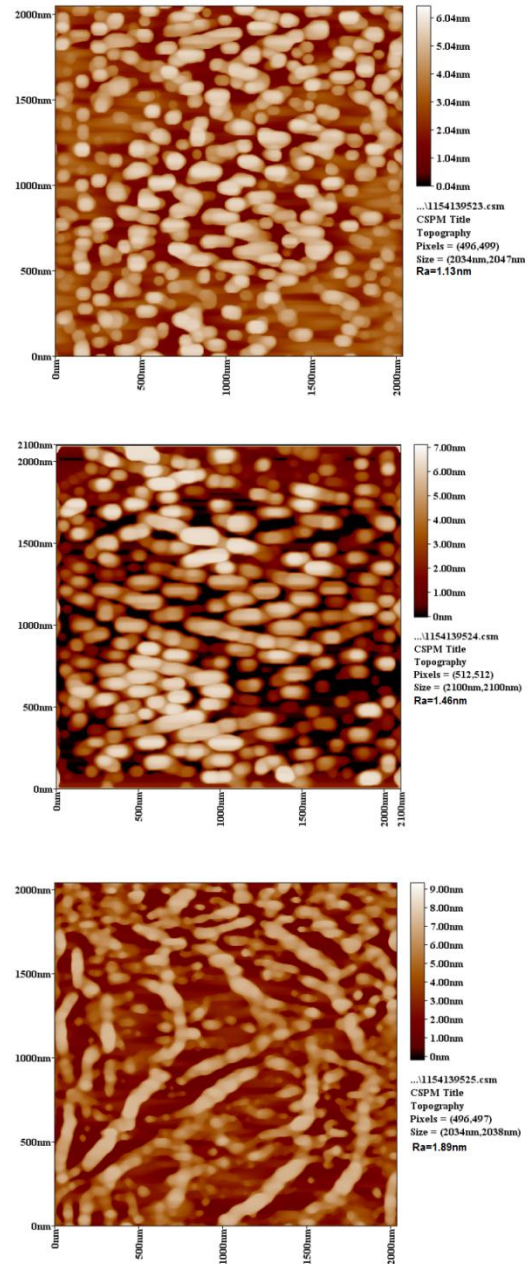


Figure 5 : 2-D AFM images PI thin films The respective imidization temperatures from (a) to (c) are 150,200 and 250°C

c) Thermal Stability

Figure 6 showed the weight loss of the PI with temperature at a heating rate of 10°C /min as measured by TGA in air

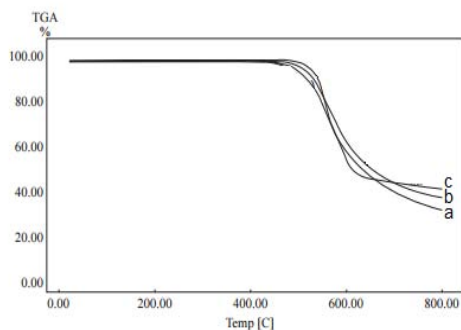


Figure 6 : TGA curves of PI thin films The respective imidization temperatures from (a) to (c) are 150,200 and 250°C

The three curves in the figure indicate the thermal stability of PI which had a thermal imidization temperature at 150°C, 200°C and 250 °C for a,b and c respectively

It can be observed from Figure 6 that the temperature, at which weight loss of occurred, 490°C, 520°C and 542°C for PI-a, PI-b and PI-c respectively, a continuous weight loss in the initial stage may be attributed to the evaporation of the preabsorbed water and solvent in the film[9]. It was also found that the temperature of thermal weight loss of was raised with the increasing of thermal imidization temperature of PAA. weight loss becomes more marked, indicating the occurrence of imidization.

The result implied that imidization temperature had a significant influence on thermal weight loss [13,14]. At above 580oC, the sample starts to decompose drastically. For the conventional film, as shown in Figure 6, the rapid weight loss at above 490°C may result from ongoing solvent evaporation and imidization. until decomposition takes place at 585°C[4,15].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this research polyimide films prepared by the vapor deposition, which are prepared by the reaction of a PMDA-p-PDA mixture, which by solid state reactions is converted to polyimide by different imidization temperature . When temperature increases, a general increase in all the absorption peaks is observed by FTIR. The AFM analysis also provides information on the changes in the surface morphology and roughness introduced by the heat treatment. The thermal stability of polyimide was also improved .The thermal properties of all polyimides were varied, depending on the structure of the monomer and following the stiffness of the

polymer backbones makes the polymer thermally stable with increased solubility.

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Studies on the Kinetics and Mechanism of Oxidation of Nitrones by Pyrazolinium Dichromate in Aqueous DMSO Medium

By M. Sekar, A. Santhi, J. Venkatesan & V. Thanikachalam

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Abstract- The kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of N, α - diphenylnitrones by some substituted nitrones by Pyrazolinium dichromate yielding benzaldehyde and nitrosobenzene in aqueous dimethyl sulphoxide medium have been investigated. First order dependence with respect to both [PyDC] and [NO]. The compound was prepared and purity of the oxidant was estimated by iodometric method. The reaction is fractional order with respect to $[H^+]$. Electron-releasing substituents increase the rate of the reaction and electron withdrawing substituents decrease the rate of the reaction. No polymerisation observed with acrylamide ruling out a free radical mechanism. There was no discernible effect with increasing in ionic strength but the rate of oxidation decreased with decreasing dielectric constant of the medium. Addition of $MnSO_4$ had a significant and acrylonitrile no effect on the reaction rate.

Keywords: N, α - diphenylnitrones, pyrazolinium dichromate, kinetics, isokinetic plot, entropy, enthalpy and rate constants.

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Studies on the Kinetics and Mechanism of Oxidation of Nitrones by Pyrazolinium Dichromate in Aqueous DMSO Medium

M. Sekar ^α, A. Santhi ^σ, J. Venkatesan ^ρ & V. Thanikachalam ^ω

Abstract- The kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of N, α - diphenylnitrones by some substituted nitrones by Pyrazolinium dichromate yielding benzaldehyde and nitrosobenzene in aqueous dimethyl sulphoxide medium have been investigated. First order dependence with respect to both [PyDC] and [NO]. The compound was prepared and purity of the oxidant was estimated by iodometric method. The reaction is fractional order with respect to [H⁺]. Electron-releasing substituents increase the rate of the reaction and electron withdrawing substituents decrease the rate of the reaction. No polymerisation observed with acrylamide ruling out a free radical mechanism. There was no discernible effect with increasing in ionic strength but the rate of oxidation decreased with decreasing dielectric constant of the medium. Addition of MnSO₄ had a significant and acrylonitrile no effect on the reaction rate. A mechanism involving protonated nitrone and PyDC as the reactive oxidant is proposed. The mechanism proposed and the derived rate laws are conformity with the observed results. The activation parameters were calculated and are presented.

Keywords: N, α - diphenylnitrones, pyrazolinium dichromate, kinetics, isokinetic plot, entropy, enthalpy and rate constants.

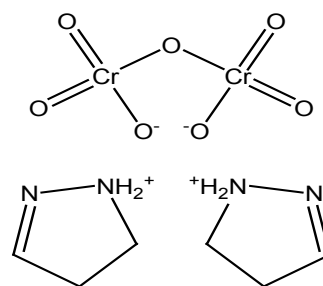
I. INTRODUCTION

The kinetics and oxidation of mono substituted N, α -diphenylnitrones by Pyrazolinium dichromate to yield the corresponding aldehyde and nitrosobenzene have been studied. The reaction is first order with respect to the nitrone and PyDC. The reaction is negative reaction constants. The reaction is catalysed by the acid and the order with respect to acid is fractional. The effect of temperature, solvent composition and oxalic acid were studied and activation parameters are evaluated. Probable mechanism was discussed.

The kinetics and mechanistic studies of oxidation of great variety of organic compounds by PyDC [1-2]. There is no indication of any unusual effectiveness, utility, or advantage to be gained by the use of pyridinium dichromate as a discrete oxidizing species [3]. The kinetics of oxidation of nitrones as a substrate is reported earlier [4-8]. The present

paper describes the kinetics of oxidation of nitrones by Pyrazolinium dichromate in aqueous dimethyl sulphoxide medium evaluate the reaction constants and the mechanistic aspects are discussed.

The structural formula of PyDC is shown in the following figure.



PYRAZOLINIUM DICHROMATE



II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Pyrazolinium dichromate (PyDC) was prepared by reported method [1], nitrones and substituted nitrones were prepared by the literature method [9], purified acrylamide [10] analar sample of sodium perchlorate, perchloric acid, oxalic acid, manganous sulphate and ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid were used. Triply distilled water was used throughout the course of the investigation. Correlation analysis were carried out using Microcal Origin (Version 6.1) computer software.

a) Preparation of Pyrazolinium dichromate

Chromium trioxide (5g) was dissolved in water (50 ml) and cooled in ice. Then pyrazole (4g) was added, slowly. The solution was diluted with acetone (200 ml) and cooled to 0°C. The orange solid obtained was separated, filtered, washed with acetone, dried and recrystallized from water (dec. 160°-161°C).

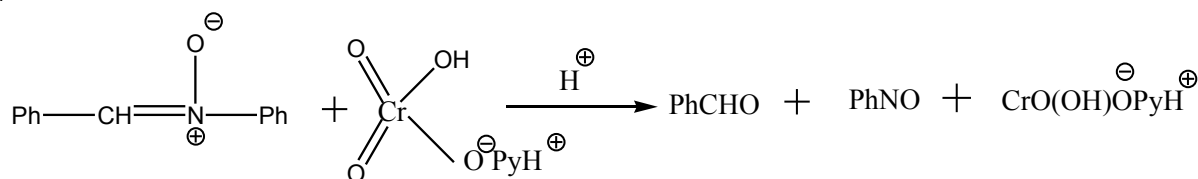
b) Kinetic measurements

For kinetic runs, a measured amount of PyDC pre-equilibrated at 30°C was rapidly added to the thermally equilibrated mixture containing appropriate amounts of nitrones, acrylamide, perchloric acid, sodium perchlorate and water. The progress of the reaction was followed by iodometric determination of the

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unreacted oxidant[11]. The rate constants were determined by the least squares method. Aliquots (2 ml) of reaction mixture were withdrawn at an appropriate time interval and quenched into ice-cold water containing 10 ml of 4N sulphuric acid. The liberated iodine was titrated against standard sodium thiosulphate to a starch end point. The reaction was carried out at three different temperatures viz., 35°, 40° and 45°C.



For identifying the product an excess of oxidant was mixed with substrate under kinetic conditions. After the reaction was completed, the reaction mixture was extracted with chloroform. The solvent was removed and obtained solid was analysed by Co-TLC method. The spots of the products were developed in benzene along with the spots of authentic samples of benzaldehyde and nitrosobenzene. After developing the location of the spots was identified using iodine vapour and their positions were compared. Two spots obtained for products were identical with benzaldehyde and nitrosobenzene. IR spectrum was recorded, nitrosobenzene [12] exhibits three bands at 1626, 1500 and 1019 cm^{-1} attributed to stretching frequency of C-N, one sharp band at 1452 cm^{-1} due to stretching vibration of N-O and band 530 cm^{-1} due to ring deformation and CNO bending vibration are similar to that of one of product obtained from the substrate.

c) Stoichiometry and Product analysis

The reaction mixture containing excess of PyDC in the presence of perchloric acid was kept for 24hr under kinetic conditions. The estimation of unreacted PyDC indicates that 1mol of PyDC was used by 1mol of nitrone.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An inspection of the observed Pseudo-first-order rate constants (k_{obs}) shows that the k_{obs} values constant over a wide range in PyDC (Table-1). The reaction is first order with respect to PyDC as evidenced by a good linearity in the plot of $\log[\text{PyDC}]$ versus time. The plot of $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ versus $\log[\text{NO}]$ was found to be linear (Table-1) with slope unity, indicating a first order dependence on $[\text{NO}]$. The plot of k_{obs}^{-1} versus $[\text{NO}]^{-1}$ was linear and passing through the origin, showing that the nitrone-PyDC complex has only transient existence. The effect of acid $[\text{HClO}_4]$ has been studied by varying the concentration of H^+ at a given concentration (Table-1). The plot of k_{obs} versus $\log[\text{H}^+]$ was linear with a slope less than unity, indicating fractional order dependence on $[\text{H}^+]$. The rate decreased with increase in ionic strength of the medium by the addition of NaClO_4 (Table-1).

Table 1 : Effect of varying $[\text{PyDC}]$, $[\text{Nitrone}]$, $[\text{H}^+]$ and $[\text{NaClO}_4]$ on oxidation of nitrone in 50 % (v/v) DMSO – H_2O medium at 308 K

$[\text{PyDC}]$ $\times 10^3 \text{mol dm}^{-3}$	$[\text{Nitrone}]$ $\times 10^2 \text{mol dm}^{-3}$	$[\text{HClO}_4]$ $\times 10^3 \text{mol dm}^{-3}$	$[\text{NaClO}_4]$ $\times 10^1 \text{mol dm}^{-3}$	k_{obs} $\times 10^4 \text{s}^{-1}$
0.50	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.44
0.75	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.28
1.00	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.01
1.25	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.17
1.50	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.71
1.75	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.61
1.00	0.50	1.53	1.00	4.01
1.00	0.75	1.53	1.00	6.05
1.00	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.01
1.00	1.25	1.53	1.00	10.19
1.00	1.50	1.53	1.00	11.6
1.00	1.75	1.53	1.00	13.1
1.00	1.00	0.76	1.00	5.77
1.00	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.01 ^a
1.00	1.00	2.29	1.00	8.91
1.00	1.00	3.06	1.00	11.4
1.00	1.00	3.82	1.00	12.9
1.00	1.00	4.59	1.00	15.2
1.00	1.00	1.53	0.50	9.08

1.00	1.00	1.53	1.00	8.00
1.00	1.00	1.53	1.50	6.23
1.00	1.00	1.53	2.00	3.67
1.00	1.00	1.53	2.50	2.47
1.00	1.00	1.53	3.00	1.41

$$[\text{Acrylamide}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$$

The reaction is studied on addition of manganous ions reduces [13-15] the rate of oxidation of nitrones. This indicates that Mn(II) has a catalytic effect on the disproportionation of the intermediate valence state of chromium [16] and suggest that Cr(IV) is probably involved in the rate determining step (Table-2).

The rate increase with increase in oxalic acid, indicating that oxalic acid enhances the rate of oxidation of aldonitrones by PyDC (Table-2). The increase in [EDTA] [17] inhibits the rate of oxidation of nitrones (Table-2), indicate that complex formation between chromate and PyDC.

Table 2 : Effect of varying $[\text{Mn}^{2+}]$, [EDTA], $[(\text{COOH})_2]$ on oxidation of nitrone by PyDC in 50 % (v/v) DMSO – H₂O medium at 308 K

$[\text{MnSO}_4] \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$	$k_{\text{obs}} \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$	$[\text{EDTA}] \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$	$k_{\text{obs}} \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$	$[(\text{COOH})_2] \times 10^3 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$	$k_{\text{obs}} \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$
0.00	8.01	0.00	8.01	0.00	8.01
2.50	4.82	2.00	6.18	0.75	8.10
5.00	4.58	4.50	6.12	2.00	8.25
7.50	4.24	7.00	5.90	3.25	10.24
10.00	3.65	9.50	5.74	4.50	10.80
12.50	3.51	12.00	5.60	5.75	11.60
15.00	3.24	14.50	5.52	7.00	15.20

$$[\text{Nitrone}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}; [\text{HClO}_4] = 15.30 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$$

$$[\text{PyDC}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}; [\text{NaClO}_4] = 1.00 \times 10^{-1} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$$

An increase in dimethyl sulphoxide content retarded the reaction rate (Table-3). A plot of $\log k_{\text{obs}}$ versus D^{-1} (where D is the dielectric constant of the medium) was linear with a negative slope indicative of a dipole interaction in the transition. It shows that positive

and neutral molecules interact in the rate determining step [18]. No turbidity has been noticed when a clear reaction mixture was allowed to stand with a drop of acrylonitrile ruling out a free radical mechanism.

Table 3 : Effect of varying composition of DMSO on oxidation of nitrone by PyDC at 308 K

D	$k_{\text{obs}} \times 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$	$\log k_{\text{obs}}$	D^{-1}
65.98	6.42	-3.193	0.0151
64.44	6.78	-3.169	0.0155
62.90	8.01	-3.096	0.0158
61.36	8.68	-3.062	0.0162
59.82	10.44	-2.981	0.0167
58.28	11.55	-2.937	0.0171

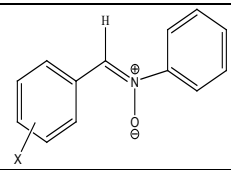
$$[\text{Nitrone}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}; [\text{HClO}_4] = 15.30 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$$

$$[\text{PyDC}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}; [\text{NaClO}_4] = 1.00 \times 10^{-1} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$$

The rate of oxidation of some para and meta-substituted nitrones was studied at three different temperatures, Viz, 35, 40 and 45°C. The activation

parameters are calculated using the Eyring's plot and the values are given in (Table-4).

Table 4 : Second order rate constants and the activation parameters for the oxidation of substituted nitrones by PyDC

S.No		$k_2 \times 10^2 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$			ΔH^\ddagger kJ mol ⁻¹	$-\Delta S^\ddagger$ J K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹	${}^a\Delta G^\ddagger$ kJ mol ⁻¹	r	sd
		308 K	313 K	318K					
1	p-OMe	10.71	15.77	22.96	62.126	62.192	81.592	1.000	0.003

2	<i>p</i> -Me	9.67	14.38	20.69	61.976	63.522	81.859	0.999	0.008
3	H	8.01	12.11	18.16	64.080	58.226	82.305	0.999	0.001
4	<i>p</i> -F	7.64	10.94	15.77	59.033	75.078	82.533	0.999	0.007
5	<i>p</i> -Cl	7.21	10.62	15.02	59.803	73.000	82.653	0.999	0.011
6	<i>p</i> -Br	6.70	10.58	13.64	57.999	79.235	82.800	0.988	0.078
7	<i>p</i> -NO ₂	4.92	06.82	10.62	62.629	67.180	83.657	0.995	0.052

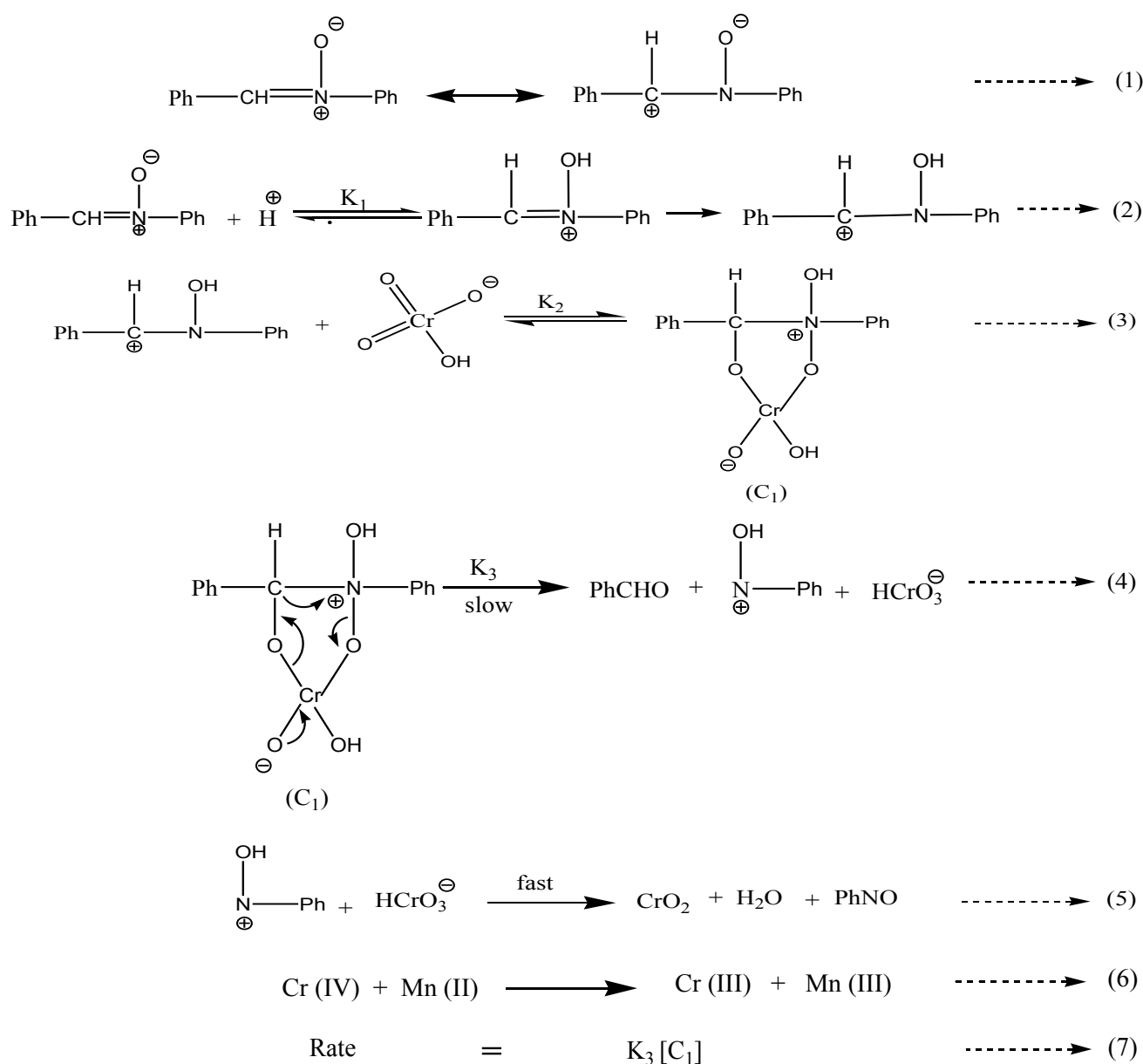
$[\text{Nitron}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-2} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$; $[\text{NaClO}_4] = 1.00 \times 10^{-1} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$; $[\text{HClO}_4] = 15.30 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$;
 $[\text{PyDC}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$; $\text{DMSO} - \text{H}_2\text{O} = 50\% \text{ (v/v)}$; $^{\circ}\Delta G^{\ddagger}$ at 313 K

a) Mechanism and rate law

In aqueous solution PyDC undergo protonation in acidic conditions. This protonated species is more powerful than unprotonated species. The order with respect to PyDC, $[\text{NO}]$ is unity and fractional order with respect to $[\text{H}^+]$. The PyDC does not undergo protonation at very low $[\text{H}^+]$. The observed salt and solvent effects show that the ionic and neutral species

are involved in the slow step. Owing to the above reasons, the nitron gets protonated before the rate determining step, and it can react with PyDC in the slow step.

Based on the above observation, a probable mechanism and rate law for the oxidation of nitrones by PyDC given in the following Scheme.



Scheme

$$\frac{-d[\text{PyDC}]}{dt} = \frac{K_1 K_2 K_3 [\text{nitron}] [\text{PyDC}] [\text{H}^+]}{1 + K_1 [\text{H}^+]} \quad \text{-----} \rightarrow (8)$$

$$K_{\text{obs}} = \frac{K_1 K_2 K_3 [\text{nitron}] [\text{H}^+]}{1 + K_1 [\text{H}^+]} \quad \text{-----} \rightarrow (9)$$

(or)

$$\frac{1}{k_{\text{obs}}} = \frac{1}{K_1 K_2 k_3 [\text{nitron}] [\text{H}^+]} + \frac{1}{K_2 k_3 [\text{nitron}]}$$

The plot of $1/k_{\text{obs}}$ versus $1/[\text{H}^+]$ is linear ($r = 0.970$; $sd = 105.5$) and from the plot K_1 and $K_2 K_3$ are calculated ($K_1 = 624.54$ and $K_2 K_3 = 0.174$). The observed rate constant is consistent with rate law.

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = \Delta H^\circ + \beta \Delta S^\ddagger \quad \text{-----} (10)$$

A plot of ΔH^\ddagger versus ΔS^\ddagger (Fig-1) gives a straight line with a correlation coefficient $r = 0.998$. The isokinetic temperature (β) is obtained from the slope is 274K. This temperature is higher than that of experimental temperature, indicating that the reaction is enthalpy controlled. This is further supported by the fact that E_a values are the least for the fast reaction and higher for the slowest reaction. The good correlation implies that the reaction with all the substituted nitrones follow a common mechanism.

b) Effect of substituents

The reaction rate an extension of the present investigation, the kinetics of oxidation of some para-substituted nitrones with PyDC is followed at three different temperatures. The rate data are analysed from the linear free energy relationships [19]. The respective rate constants and the thermodynamic parameters are listed in (Table-4). Isokinetic relationship, the variation in ΔS^\ddagger should be linearly related [20-21] to changes in ΔH^\ddagger by equation (10)

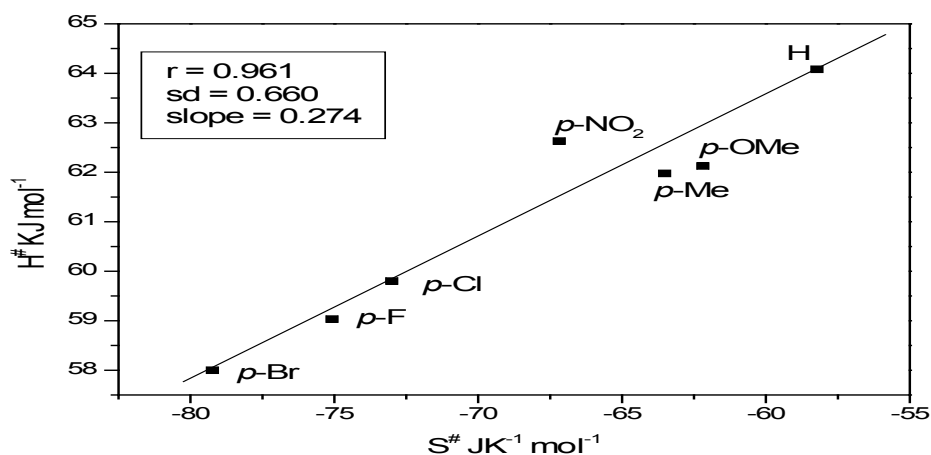


Fig.1. Plot of H^\ddagger versus S^\ddagger for oxidation of nitrones by PyDC in aqueous dimethyl sulphoxide medium

c) The Exner's Plot

However, Exner [22-23] criticised the validity of such a linear correlation between ΔH^\ddagger and ΔS^\ddagger as these quantities depend on each other when measurements at two temperatures are made, the experiment data can be treated by the following equation [24-25].

$$\log k_{2(T_1)} = a + b \log k_{2(T_2)} \quad (11)$$

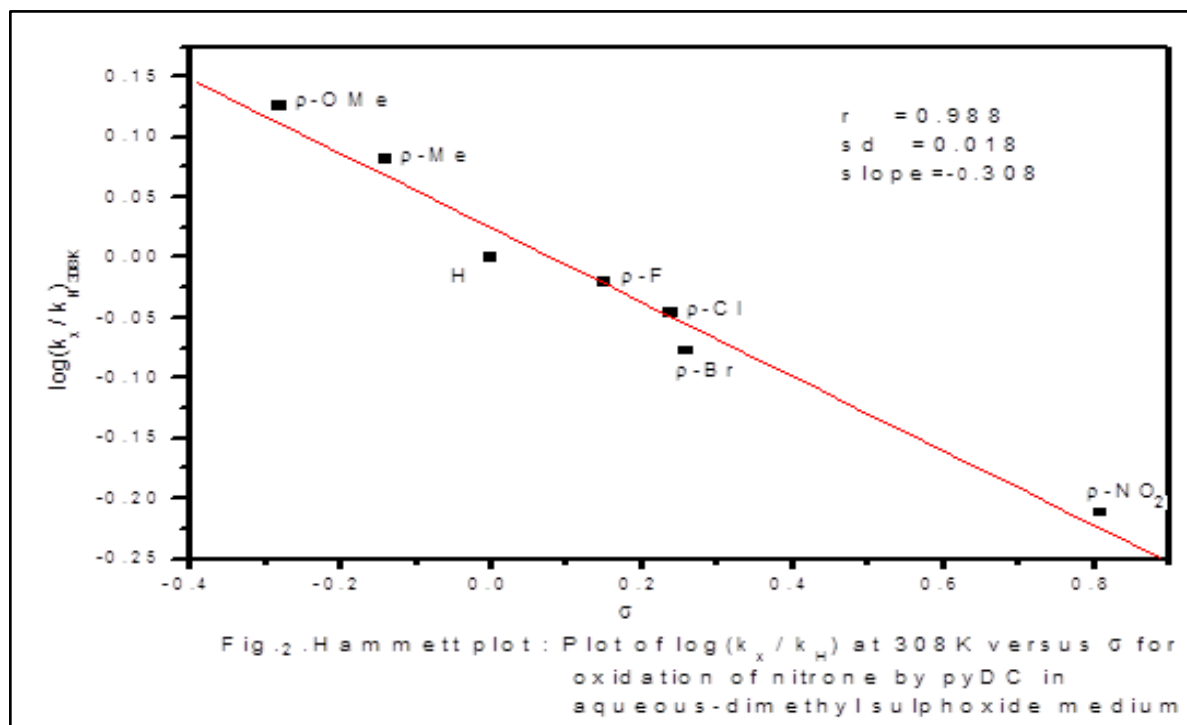
where $T_2 > T_1$

A good correlation ($r=0.990$) is obtained when $\log k_2$ (25) is plotted against $\log k_2$ (35) shows that the

reaction under investigation follows common mechanism.

d) Hammett Plot

The hammett equation applied with the usual substituent constant σ and k_{obs} data of Para substituted nitrones exhibits an straight line (Fig-2). The Hammett plot is also linear ($r = 0.981$, $sd = 0.023$) with $\rho = -0.315$ at 318K.



According to Hammett reaction with positive ρ values are accelerated by electron releasing from phenyl ring, whereas those with negative ρ values are retarded by electron withdrawal from phenyl ring[26]. In this oxidation reactions, the electron withdrawing group

increases the rate and the electron donating group decreases the rate. These observations supporting the negative ρ value obtained from the Hammett plot. The order of reactivity of different substituents is as follows.



The values of reaction constants (ρ) are calculated at different temperatures and summarised in (Table-5). The reaction constant (ρ) has a small negative

value as the oxidation involves loss of electrons. The negative value of the reaction constant is acceptable as transition state is involved in positive-charged species.

Table 5 : Reaction constants for the oxidation of nitrones by PyDC

Temp K	ρ	r	sd
308	-0.315	0.981	0.023
313	-0.331	0.995	0.011
318	-0.308	0.988	0.018

IV. CONCLUSION

- Seven N, α - diphenylnitrones were prepared according to the literature methods. The purity of the nitrones were checked by the TLC method and their physical constants.
- Pyrazolinium dichromate (PyDC) was prepared and purity of the oxidant was estimated by iodometric method.
- All the kinetic studies were found by iodometric procedure to starch end point.
- Kinetics and mechanism of oxidation of N, α -diphenylnitrones by Pyrazolinium dichromate (PyDC) in aqueous DMSO medium was followed under different experimental conditions and

- temperatures. The reaction followed first order dependence with respect to [PyDC], [Nitrones] and fractional order with respect to [H⁺]. The effect of change in ionic strength and dielectric constant were also studied. The rate of oxidation decreased with increasing [Mn²⁺], which implies the disproportionate of the Cr(IV) by Mn(II). All the above results indicate that a protonated nitrone reacted with chromate ion to form intermediate complex in the slow step. Linear Hammett plot obtained clearly showed that the common mechanism operated under the experimental condition.
- Isokinetic plots (Exner's and ΔH^\ddagger versus ΔS^\ddagger) gave satisfactory straight lines with good correlation

coefficient. This proves that all these substituents follow a common mechanism.

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Thermodynamics Studies of a Novel Calix[4]arene Derivative Designed to Bind Herbicides

By Ahmed Yahya Issa Rubaye

University of Basrah, Iraq

Abstract- Calix[4]arenes can be modified to produce materials which can capture and remove contaminants effectively such as herbicides. Chlorophenoxy acids have been selected out of groups of herbicides to carry out this investigation. A new calix[4]arene derivative containing mixed pendant arms in its lower rim, 5, 11, 17, 23- *tetra-butyl*- 25,27- bis (diethylamino) ethoxy- 26, 28- (bis-methoxyethoxy) calix [4] arene (L2), has been synthesized. ^1H NMR investigations seems to indicate that the receptor L2 interacts with acid herbicides. Conductometric measurements were performed in acetonitrile at 298 K. In all cases, 1:2 (ligand: acid herbicide) complexes are formed. Standard thermodynamics parameters of complexation ($\log K_s$, ΔH°_c , ΔS°_c , ΔG°_c) of L2 with herbicides in acetonitrile were determined using the Nano ITC (isothermal titration calorimetry). For all the systems investigated, the complexation process between these acid herbicides and the receptor L2 was enthalpically controlled.

Keywords: Calix[4]arene receptor, Detection of herbicides, ^1H NMR investigations, Conductance measurements, Thermodynamics parameters of complexation.

GJSFR-B Classification : FOR Code: 030602



Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of :



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I. INTRODUCTION

The use of pesticides can cause problems to the environment because 98% of insecticides and 95% of herbicides can spread through the air to contaminate other areas. Herbicides can cause water pollution and soil contamination [1]; some are persistent organic pollutants and as such they contribute to soil contamination. Of all the classes of herbicides, chlorophenoxy acids have been selected for this investigation (Table 1) [2, 3]. Chlorophenoxy acids are known to be hazardous substances and their use as herbicides has been banned in many countries. These substances can pose a serious threat to human health and the environment, mainly contaminating groundwater and drinking water [4, 5]. The development of novel technological approaches for their removal from water and soil by the use of efficient extracting agents is a challenging task.

Investigations on the capacity of macrocycles to respond to the presence of herbicides in different media are very limited. The prevalent research studies concentrate on the binding between calixarenes and

toxic metals and pay little attention to the interaction between the calixarene derivatives and organic compounds such as herbicides. It is important to explore the potential offered by calixarene based receptors for the removal of these pollutants from contaminated sources. Thus efforts have been made to produce calixarene derivatives which are able to interact selectively with these pollutants.

Although the procedures used to synthesize these macrocycles are established, the design of calixarene-based receptors able to interact selectively with a given guest is a challenging area of research.

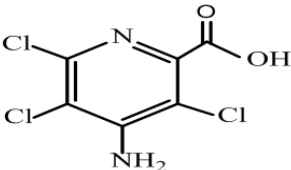
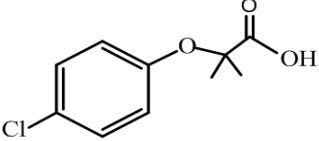
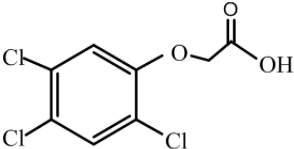
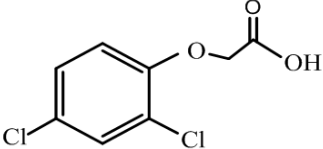
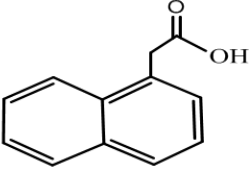
A great deal of effort has been focused on the design of selective macrocyclic extracting agents for the removal of these species from water and soil. Particular attention is paid to herbicides due to the toxicological impact of these species on human health.

Calix[4]arenes are strong size-selective receptors for a variety of substrates, in particular, for inorganic and organic cations [6]. Calixarenes can be used as ion selective electrodes or sensors [7], optical sensors [8], chiral recognition devices for solid phase extraction, as a stationary phase and modifiers [9]. In the 'cone' conformation of *p-tert*-butylcalix[4]arene is characterised by a hydrophobic cavity which can complex neutral guest molecules, such as toluene [10]. Upon functionalization, calixarenes have become versatile hosts for cations, anions, and neutral molecules. They are used widely in chemical separations, ion-selective electrodes, chromatography, phase transfer catalysis, and as catalytic platforms [11].

Calix[4] arene derivatives bind weakly with herbicides. In order to modulate the anion binding behavior, the core size of calix [4]arene was extended through the induction of suitable spacer units as a rigid wall. Thus, this study concerns the design of receptor which is able to interact with these pollutants. Fully substituted calixarene with different lower rim functionalities have been prepared for the detection of herbicides (Fig. 1). A good response to herbicides was obtained by full functionalisation of the lower rim with ether-amine groups.

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Table 1 : Group of pesticides selected to perform this investigation

Pesticides	pKa values at 20 °C in water
 <p>Picloram (P1)</p>	2.3
 <p>Clofibric acid (P2)</p>	2.84
 <p>2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (P3)</p>	2.88
 <p>2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (P4)</p>	2.73
 <p>1-Naphthaleneacetic acid (P5)</p>	4.23

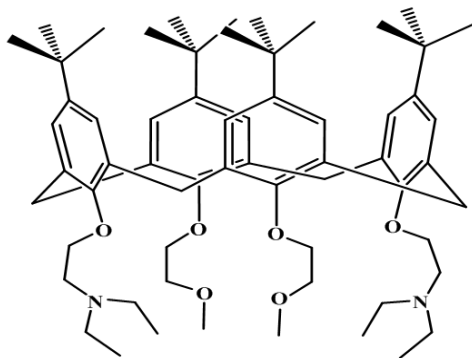


Figure 1 : Structure 5,11,17,23-tetra-butyl 25,27bis(diethylamino)ethoxy-26,28-(bis methoxyethoxy)calix[4]arene(L2)

Calix(4)arenes containing ether and amine functional groups at the lower rim have shown pronounced selectivity for herbicides in different media, particularly acetonitrile. It can be observed that the presence of the amino groups (basic) in the lower rim

for calix[4]arene makes these ligands attractive to explore their complexation with herbicides. This receptor is capable of binding phenoxy acid molecules through hydrogen-bonding interaction. The interaction of the calix[4]arene amine derivative and a pesticide is shown in Fig. 2.

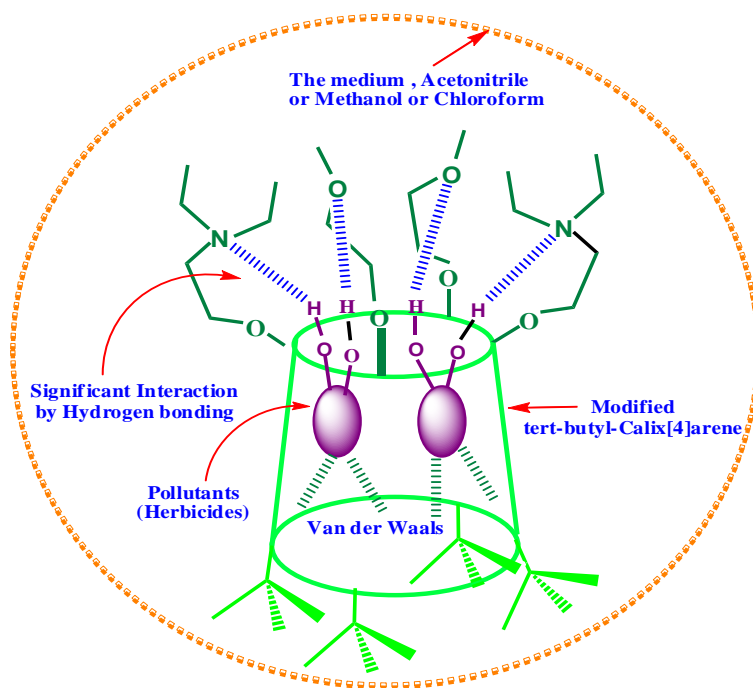


Figure 2 : The interaction model of the calix[4]arene based receptor for herbicides

The conformational changes that the calix[4]arene ligand undergoes upon complexation with ionic or neutral species can be assessed from ^1H NMR investigations [12]. Gutsche and co-workers [13] established that the conformations of calixarenes and their derivatives can be established by observing the resonance of the methylene protons (axial and equatorial) in the ^1H NMR spectrum. In the 'cone' conformation $\Delta\delta_{\text{ax-eq}}$ is about 0.90 ppm while values of 0.50 ppm and higher than 0.90 ppm are found for calixarenes in their flattened and distorted conformation respectively.

A detailed investigation on the complexation of L2 with herbicides in a wide variety of solvents (methanol, acetonitrile and chloroform) using a variety of techniques such as ^1H NMR (to establish the binding sites and the conformational changes that these ligands undergo upon complexation with herbicides), conductance measurements (to establish the composition and the type and strength of the host-guest complexes), nano ITC to derive the thermodynamics of complexation (stability constant, $\log K_s$, hence standard Gibbs energy, $\Delta_c G^\circ$; enthalpy, $\Delta_c H^\circ$; and entropy, $\Delta_c S^\circ$ of complexation). Stability constants are used to assess

quantitatively the selective behavior of this ligand for one herbicide relative to another.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

a) Chemicals

All chemicals were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich, Fluka and Fisher UK Scientific and were either analytical or reagent grade. Solid chemicals were used as received without further purification. All solvents were dried and purified as described in the literature [14].

b) ^1H NMR measurements

^1H NMR measurements were recorded at 298 K on a Bruker DRX-500 pulse Fourier Transform NMR Spectrometer. The operating conditions involved pulse or flip angle of 30° , spectra width (SW) of 15 ppm, spectral frequency (SF) of 500.150 MHz, delay time of 0.3 s, acquisition time (AQ) of 3.17s, and line broadening of 0.3 Hz. Solutions of the samples of interest (1×10^{-3} mol.dm $^{-3}$) were prepared in the appropriate deuterated solvent. These were placed in 5 mm NMR tubes using TMS (tetramethylsilane) as the internal reference.

c) *Conductometric measurements*

A Wayne-Kerr Autobalance Universal Bridge type B642 was used for conductometric measurements. The Wayne-Kerr is connected to a platinum glass bodied electrode housed in a cylindrical glass vessel where the reaction takes place. A thermostated bath circulating water in the vessel jacket was used to maintain the temperature of the vessel at 298.15 K. A magnetic stirrer was used to keep homogeneous the solutions throughout the time of the experiment.

d) *Determination of the constant of the conductivity cell*

The cell constant was determined by titrating a solution of KCl (0.1 mol dm⁻³) in deionised water (25 cm³) [15]. The cell was immersed in a thermostated bath at 298.15 K. The conductance of the solution was recorded after addition of KCl once the stability of the system was ensured.

e) *Nano ITC (Isothermal Titration Calorimetry)*

ITC measurements were performed in a Nano Isothermal Titration Calorimeter, models 5300 (TA Instruments). All measurements were carried out in acetonitrile solvent at a fixed temperature of 298.15 K. The basic principle of ITC is simply to measure the heat released or absorbed in a liquid sample after the addition of another liquid sample. This heat is proportional to the total amount of binding that occurs within the calorimeter cell. The instrument has a pair of identical cells (1.4 ml), denoted as the reference and sample cells. These cells, along with access stems, are enclosed in a temperature-controlled thermal jacket. The reference cell was filled with acetonitrile. The ligand solution (1 m M) placed in the sample or reaction cell. The herbicides (20 m M) loaded in the syringe. The interval time between two readings was set at 240 s. The experiments were designed for a total of 25 consecutive injections. The power (or heat) difference between the sample and reference cells is used to determine reaction stoichiometry or number of binding sites (n), stability constant (K_a), and the enthalpy ΔH^o) [16, 17]. The first data point was removed from the data set prior to curve fitting. The data was analyzed to determine the heat of interaction by using Origin 7.0 and Nano Analyzer data analysis softwares supplied by Microcal and TA Instruments, respectively with the 'independent sites' model.

i) *Calibration of the Equipment*

To determine the accuracy of measurements carried out in the Nano ITC, a chemical calibration should be performed. The following equilibrium is established upon the addition of barium chloride to 18-crown-6 ether in water at 298.15 K [18]. The sample cell was filled with an aqueous solution of 18-Crown-6 (1 × 10⁻³ mol dm⁻³) and titrated incrementally from the burette stirring system with BaCl₂ (0.015 mol dm⁻³).

f) *Synthesis*i) *Synthesis 5, 11, 17, 23 -p- ter t- butyl -25 ,27 dihydroxy 26, 28- bis (2-ethoxymethoxy) Calix(4) arene, L1*

The preparation of this derivative was achieved by procedure reported in the literature [19].

ii) *Synthesis of 5, 11, 17, 23- tetra- butyl 25, 27- bis (diethyl amino) ethoxy- 26, 28- (bis- methoxy ethoxy) calix[4] arene, L2*

5, 11, 17, 23- p- tetra- butyl- 25,27- dihydroxy- 26, 28- bis- (2-ethoxy) calix[4] arene, **L1** (1.6 g, 1.75 mmol), sodium hydride (1.7 g, 60 mmol) were suspended in 150 ml mixture of freshly refluxed THF and 30 ml of DMF dried on molecular sieves. Then 2-chlorotriethylamine hydrochlorid (1.5 g, 11.05 mmol) in 10 ml of DMF was syringed to the reaction mixture. Then the reaction was stirred and refluxed for 6 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC using DCM/Methanol (9:1) as the developing solvent mixture. After cooling down the reaction, the solvent was filtered through filter paper and removed under vacuum, to give an oily product which was broken by acetonitrile. **L2** was obtained in 80 % yield. The compound was characterized by ¹H-NMR in CDCl₃ at 298 K and microanalysis. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) ; δ(ppm) = 6.61 (s, 1H, Ar-H); 6.95 (s, 1H, Ar-H); 4.41 (d, 2H, Ar-CH₂(ax)-Ar); 4.19 (t, 2H, Ar-O-CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂); 3.95 (t, 2H, Ar-O-CH₂CH₂-O-CH₃); 3.44 (s, 3H, Ar-O-CH₂CH₂-O-CH₃); 3.15 (d, 2H, Ar-CH₂(eq)-Ar); 3.0798 (t, 2H, Ar-CH₂-CH₂-O-CH₃); 2.65 (Ar-O CH₂CH₂N(CH₂CH₃)₂); 1.08 (s, 9H, -C-(CH₃)₃); 0.9482 (s, 9H, -C-(CH₃)₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) ; δ(ppm) = 30.95 (C1), 32.15 (C2), 33.17 (C3), 33.90 (C4), 134.01 (C5), 122.15 (C6), 127.80 (C7), 155.48 (C8), 30.87 (C9), 128.55 (C10), 122.25 (C11), 135.90 (C12), 157.17 (C13), 72.88 (C14), 72.62 (C15), 15.12 (C16), 58.72 (C17), 52.56 (C18), 47.61 (C19), 11.96 (C20). Elemental analysis ; (C₆₂H₉₄O₆N₂), Mw. (963.56). % calculated, C, 77.28, H, 9.85 and N, 2.91. % found for C, 77.36, H, 9.09 and N, 2.83.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a) *¹H NMR characterization of L1 and L2*

The NMR spectra of these receptors in non-aqueous deuterated solvents were recorded (Appendix A).

b) *¹³C NMR of L2 in CDCl₃ at 298.15 K*

¹³C NMR spectrum of L2 in CDCl₃ at 298.15 K is shown in (Appendix A).

c) *¹H NMR complexation studies of calix[4]arene derivative at 298 K*

¹H NMR spectra of the herbicides - receptor complexes at 298 K in CD₃CN, CD₃OD and CDCl₃ were recorded (Appendix A). The relevant ¹H NMR chemical shift changes of the protons observed by the addition of

acid pesticides (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5) to the receptor L2, in deuterated solvent at 298 K are listed in **Tables 2 - 4**.

Tables 2- 4 shows the chemical shift changes of the ligand protons after addition of the appropriate excess of herbicides in different solvents at 298 K. These chemical shift changes ($\Delta\delta$) were calculated by subtracting the chemical shift of the free ligand (δ_{FL}) from that of the ligand- pesticides (δ_{LP}).

The receptor L2 with herbicides was investigated in acetonitrile, methanol and chloroform at

298 K with the aim of assessing the medium effect in the interaction of this receptor with herbicides. It is well established that calix [4]arene derivative are able to form inclusion complexes with some solvents due to the hydrophobic nature of the upper cavity of the receptor, which hosts small organic molecules [20]. Therefore, the effect of the solvent on the free ligand, L2 was investigated through ^1H NMR measurements in acetonitrile, methanol and chloroform at 298 K.

Table 2 : Chemical shift changes ($\Delta\delta$) for L2 after addition of an excess amount of appropriate herbicides in CD_3CN at 298 K (0.09 mol of L2 + 0.9 mol of herbicides)

Receptor L2	$\Delta\delta$ in CD_3CN	L2	L2 + P1	L2 + P2	L2 + P3	L2 + P4	L2 + P5
	H-1	1.17	-0.10	-0.34	-0.1	-0.09	-0.09
	H-2	1.10	0.11	0.07	0.12	0.1	0.07
	H-3	6.99	0.14	0.08	0.15	0.13	0.11
	H-4	7.09	-0.17	-0.16	-0.16	-0.16	-0.14
	H-5(eq)	3.22	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06	-0.07	-0.01
	H-6(ax)	4.46	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.12	0.16
	$\Delta\delta_{(ax-eq)}$	1.24	1.39	1.41	1.42	1.43	1.41
	H-7	3.94	0.15	-0.07	-0.05	-0.05	0.02
	H-8	3.03	-0.44	-0.41	-0.44	-0.44	-0.37
	H-9	3.41	0.11	-0.30	0.08	0.07	0.13
	H-10	4.14	0.11	-0.19	-0.24	-0.23	-0.09
	H-11	3.90	0.11	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.33
	H-12	2.62	-0.63	-0.51	-0.60	-0.60	-0.27
H-13	1.04	-0.29	-0.24	-0.26	-0.25	-0.05	

Table 3 : Chemical shift changes ($\Delta\delta$) for L2 after addition of an excess amount of appropriate herbicides in CD_3OD at 298 K (0.09 mol of L2 + 0.9 mol of herbicides)

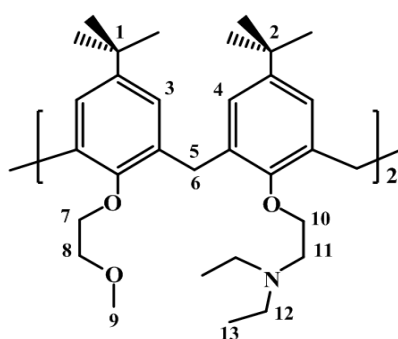
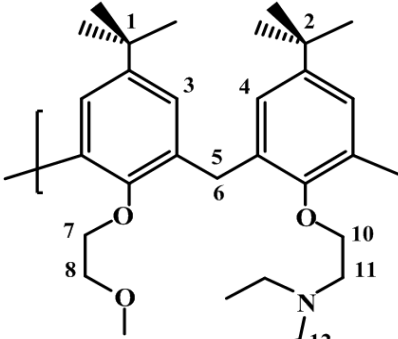
Receptor L2	$\Delta\delta$ in CD_3OD	L2	L2 + P1	L2 + P2	L2 + P3	L2 + P4	L2 + P5
	H-1	1.14	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.16
	H-2	1.09	-0.25	-0.17	-0.20	-0.20	-0.21
	H-3	6.83	-0.29	-0.18	-0.23	-0.23	-0.25
	H-4	6.90	0.28	0.25	0.27	0.28	0.28
	H-5(eq)	3.19	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.04	0.02
	H-6(ax)	4.48	-0.09	0.08	-0.09	-0.09	-0.14
	$\Delta\delta_{(ax-eq)}$	1.28	1.15	1.30	1.08	1.14	1.11
	H-7	4.08	0.42	0.31	0.37	-0.08	0.23
	H-8	3.15	-0.17	-0.31	-0.20	-0.21	-0.36
	H-9	3.47	0.10	-0.06	-0.05	-0.07	-0.09
	H-10	4.14	-0.15	-0.11	-0.13	0.31	-0.20
	H-11	3.92	0.43	0.55	0.48	0.46	0.36
	H-12	2.72	0.6	0.49	0.56	0.55	0.18
H-13	1.15	0.18	0.16	0.18	-0.02	-0.04	

Table 4 : Chemical shift changes ($\Delta\delta$) for L2 after addition of an excess amount of appropriate herbicides in $CDCl_3$ at 298 K (0.09 mol of L2 + 0.9 mol of herbicides)

Receptor L2	$\Delta\delta$ in $CDCl_3$	L2	L2 + P1	L2 + P2	L2 + P3	L2 + P4	L2 + P5
	H-1	1.21	-0.07	0.08	-0.07	-0.07	-0.06
	H-2	0.94	0.07	-0.08	0.08	0.08	0.00
	H-3	6.61	0.08	-0.12	0.09	0.10	0.04
	H-4	6.95	-0.12	0.08	-0.12	-0.10	0.00
	H-5(eq)	3.15	-0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.02	0.12
	H-6(ax)	4.41	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.02	0.25
	$\Delta\delta_{(ax-eq)}$	1.25	1.41	1.36	1.41	1.31	1.38
	H-7	3.95	0.00	-0.06	0.01	-0.09	0.22
	H-8	3.08	-0.45	-0.47	-0.46	-0.55	-0.23
	H-9	3.44	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.07	0.31
	H-10	4.19	-0.18	-0.03	-0.19	-0.33	0.05
	H-11	3.92	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.58
	H-12	2.65	-0.49	-0.48	-0.53	-0.61	-0.12
H-13	1.08	-0.15	-0.10	-0.17	-0.28	0.17	

The results in **Tables 2- 4**, show that L2 interact with the acid herbicides in protic and dipolar aprotic media. Gutsche [13] suggested that the difference between the chemical shift of axial and equatorial protons ($\Delta\delta_{ax-eq}$) of the methylene bridge of calix[4]arene derivatives provides information regarding the conformation adopted by these ligands in solution. Based on this suggestion, $\Delta\delta_{ax-eq}$ values were calculated and these data are also included in **Tables 2- 4**. It can be observed that $\Delta\delta_{ax-eq}$ values for L2 are 1.24, 1.28 and 1.25 ppm in CD_3CN , CD_3OD and $CDCl_3$ respectively. These results indicate that in these solvents, L2 adopt a distorted 'cone' conformation. This might be due to the steric and electrostatic effects between the pendent arms at the lower rim. Thus, these groups try to move away as possible from each other to reduce the steric and electrostatic effects.

The results show that the conformation of L2 is not altered in moving from one solvent to another, indicating that no specific ligand-solvent interaction are taking place in these solvents at 298 K.

As can be seen from **Tables 2- 4**, the chemical shift changes of the ligand (L2) after addition of an excess amount of the herbicides are very significant in CD_3CN , CD_3OH and CD_3Cl , suggesting that interaction between this receptor and the herbicides are taking place. It can be seen that L2 has a slight change in the conformation in these solvents.

Approximately, all protons for ligand L2 have been affected upon the addition of the herbicides in CD_3CN , CD_3OD and $CDCl_3$ at 298 K. Some protons have shielding effects and others have deshielding effects. Deshielding effects were observed for protons (H-4, H-5(equatorial), H-7, H-11 and H-12). Shielding effects were observed for protons (H-3, H-6(axial), H-8 and H-10). It can be noted that the protons closest to the nitrogen and the oxygen atoms such as H-7, H-8, H-11 and H-12 have considerable chemical shift changes relative to others. This is an indication that the lower rim groups of the receptors interact with the pesticides. Protons such as H-1, H-2, H-3 and H-4 have been also affected as a result of this interaction.

1H NMR titrations provide useful information regarding of active sites of the receptor interacting with the pesticides. 1H NMR spectra for L2 with herbicides are shown in **Fig. 3**.

Fig. 4 shows 1H NMR titration curves (plots of $\Delta\delta$ (in ppm) for the titration of L2 with acid herbicides in CD_3CN at 298 K vs. $[P]/[L2]$ concentration ratio). These Figs shows the plot of the chemical shift changes observed upon an increase in the concentration of herbicides in CD_3CN at 298 K. The plot may illustrate that one ligand unit interacts with two units of herbicides but this will be confirmed more accurately by conductance measurements.



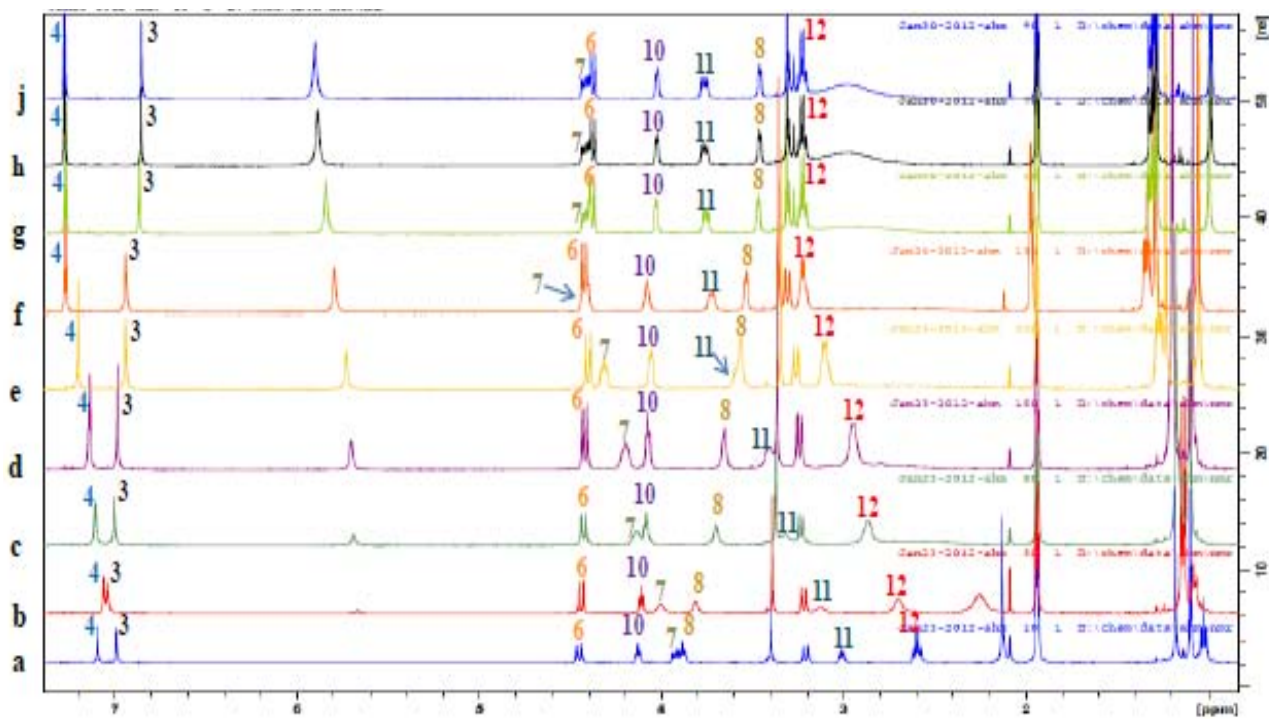
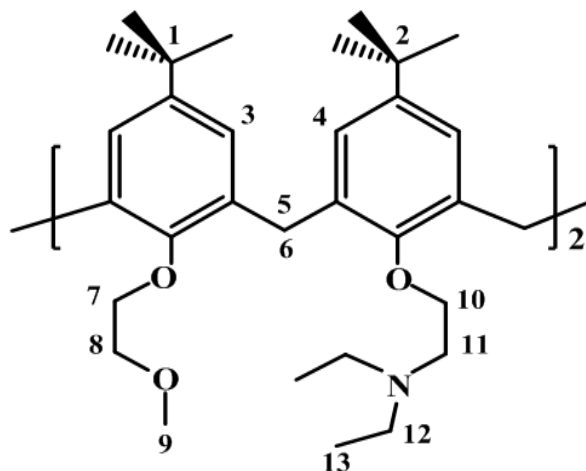


Figure 3 : Partial ¹H NMR (CD₃CN, 500 MHz) spectra showing the shift of the protons in L2 upon the addition of P1 (4.14E-02 M), (a) L2 receptor (1.56E-02 M), (b) [P1]/[L2]=0.16, (c) [P1]/[L2]= 0.96, (d) [P1]/[L2] = 1.92, (e) [P1]/[L2] = 2.72, (f) [P1]/[L2] = 3.52, (g) [P1]/[L2] = 4.31, (h) [P1]/[L2]=5.11, (j) [P1]/[L2] = 5.43

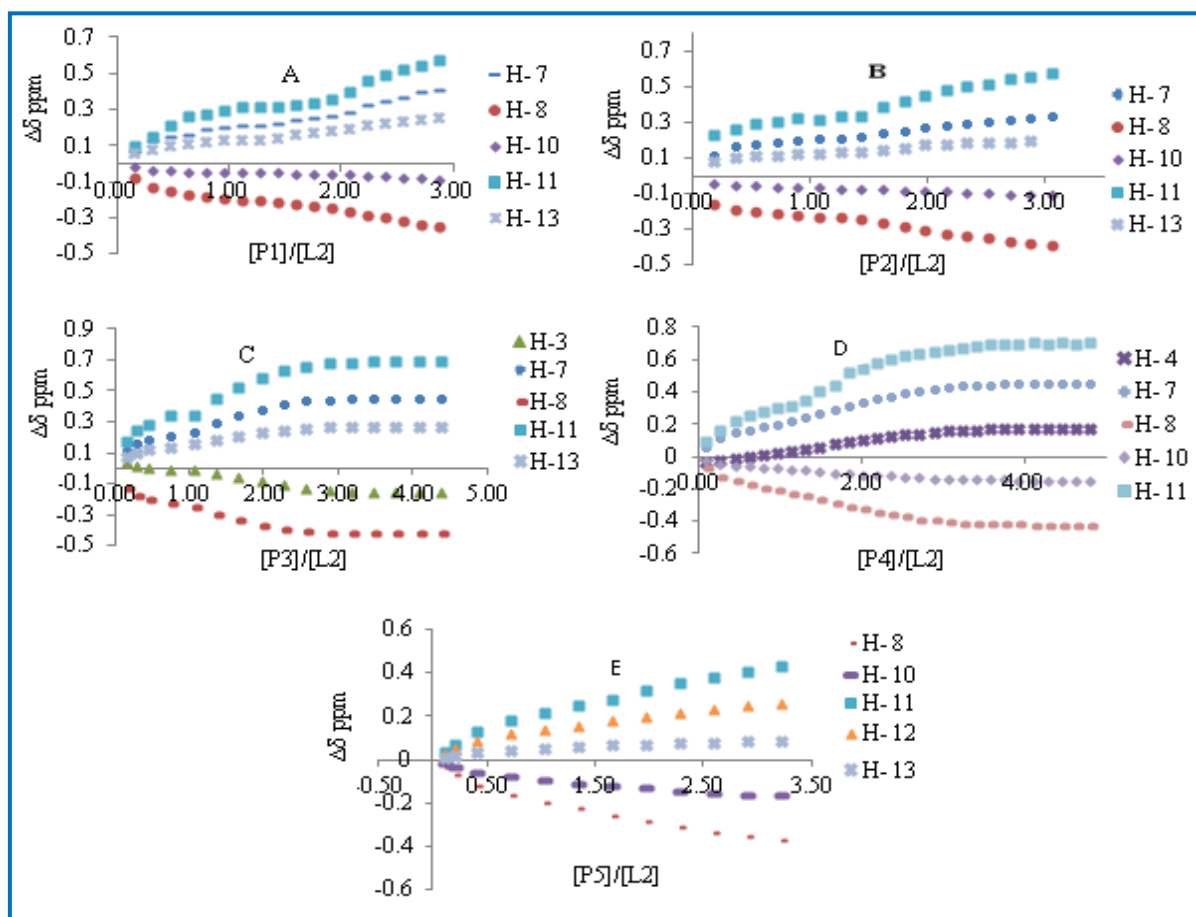


Figure 4: ^1H NMR titration curves for the titration of Pesticides with the receptor L2 in acetonitrile at 298.15 K, (a) P1 + L2, (B) P2 + L2, (C) P3 + L2, (D) P4 + L2, (E) P5 + 5

d) Conductometric measurements

Fig. 5 shows the conductometric curves (plots of Λ_m vs $[\text{L}]/[\text{P}]$) for the titration of herbicides in acetonitrile at 298 K. From these Figs, It can be seen that all herbicides are likely to be strongly associated in acetonitrile as observed from the very low molar conductance value before starting the titration. Then the molar conductance increases. This is because there is a proton transfer reaction from acid pesticide to the amine group of the receptor. The conductometric titration curves of P1 with L2 given in Fig. 5, A shows an increase in molar conductance of the complexes throughout the titration, until the ligand/ P1 concentration ratio reaches 1: 2. Then the molar conductance remains almost constant until the end of the experiment. This increase in conductance reflects that the addition of the macrocycle (non electrode) to these herbicides substantially increases ion formation in solution. This may be attributed to a proton transfer reaction from the acid to the calixarene amine derivative. The conductometric curve of L2 with P2 (Fig. 5, B) does not show significant changes in the curvature suggesting that the interaction of these ligand with P2 are weak in this solvent. This

may be attributed to the steric hindrance effects because these acid herbicides contain two methyl groups which prevents or reduce formation hydrogen bonding. While significant shift changes were found for this herbicides in the ^1H NMR (Table 2). Conductometric curves for the titration of P3 and P4 with L2 in acetonitrile at 298.15 K are shown in Fig. 5, C and D. Inspection of these titration curves shows that there is a marked increase in Λ_m values as the titration proceeds with a clear break at the molar conductance ratio of (0. 5) indicating that each ligand unit takes up four protons.

No changes in the molar conductance were observed by the addition receptor 5 to P5 (Fig. 5, E). This suggests the absence of interaction of this ligand and this pesticide in this solvent while significant chemical shift changes were found in ^1H NMR. This may be P5 are unable to transfer the proton that it strongly associated but may able to interact through hydrogen bond formation and this may be observed in the ^1H NMR spectra. These findings are in agreement with ^1H NMR measurements where significant chemical shift changes were observed by the addition of P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5 to the ligand in CD_3CN .

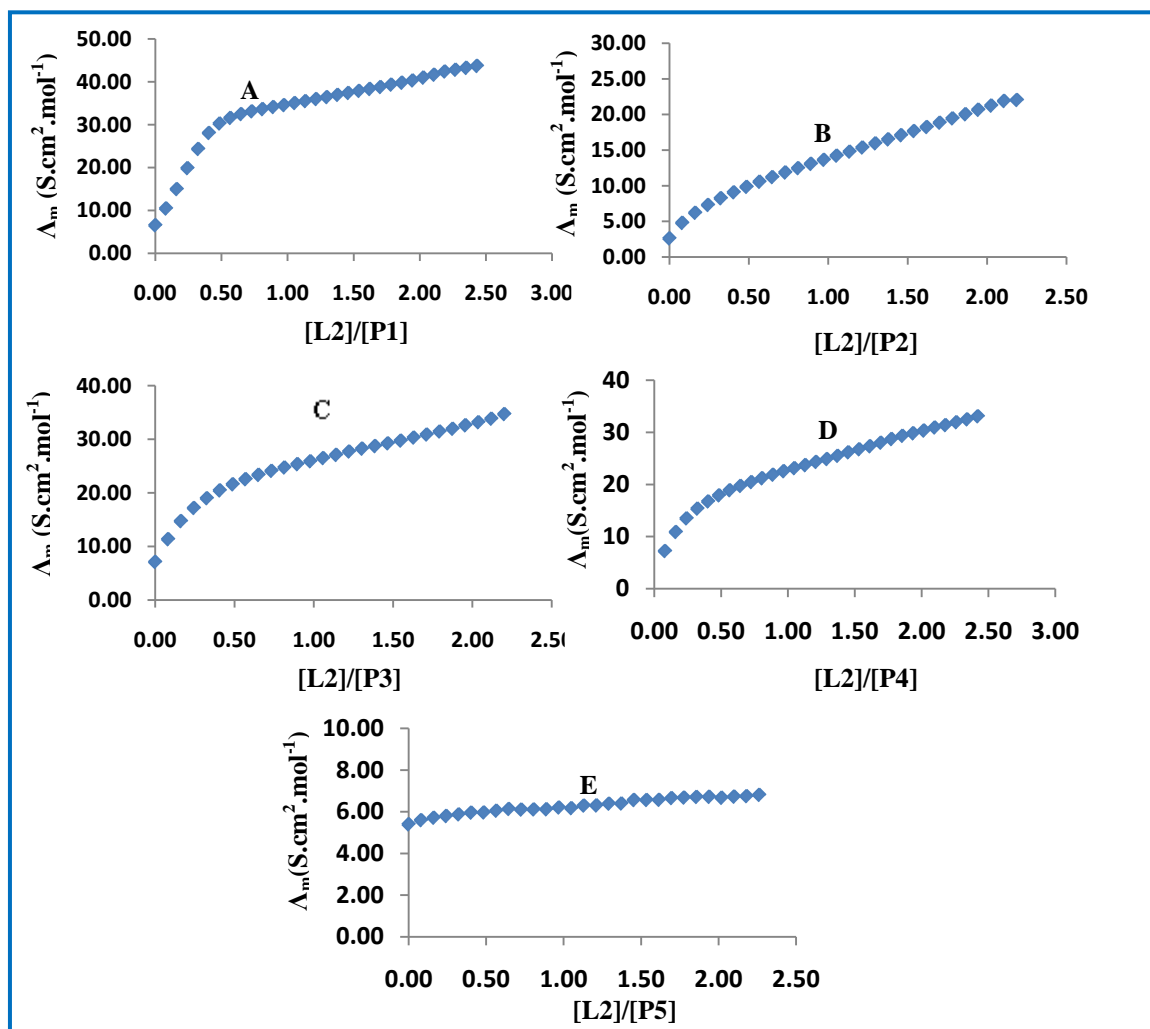


Figure 5 : Conductometric curves for the titration of herbicides with the receptor 5 in acetonitrile at 298.15 K. (a) P1 + L2. (B) P2 + L2. (C) P3 + L2. (D) P4 + L2. (E) P5 + L2

e) *Thermodynamics of complexation*

Standard thermodynamics parameters of complexation ($\log K_s$, $\Delta_c H^\circ$, $\Delta_c S^\circ$, $\Delta_c G^\circ$) of L2 with different herbicides in acetonitrile were determined using the Nano ITC. For this purpose the instruments were electrically and chemically calibrated prior to measurements. Calorimetric titration curves for the titration of herbicides with the receptor L2 in acetonitrile at 298 K were recorded (Appendix B).

i) *Calibration of the Nano ITC instrument*

The reaction of complexation of 18-C-6 and Ba^{2+} in aqueous medium was used as a standard reaction to check the accuracy and reliability of the Nano ITC instrument following the procedure described

in the Experimental Part [18]. Calorimetric titration curves for the titration of Ba^{2+} with 18-C-6 in water at 298 K were recorded (Appendix B).

The stability constant (expressed as $\log K_s$), standard Gibbs energy, $\Delta_c G^\circ$, enthalpy, $\Delta_c H^\circ$ and entropy $\Delta_c S^\circ$ of complexation of 18-C-6 with Ba^{2+} in aqueous medium obtained at 298.15 K from nanocalorimetric titrations are summarized in Table 5. For comparison purposes, values reported in the literature are also included. The thermodynamic parameters for the complexation of Ba^{2+} with 18-C-6 in aqueous medium show a good agreement with the values reported in the literature by Briggner and Wadso [18].

Table 5: Thermodynamic parameters of $BaCl_2$ binding to 18-crown-6 by Nano-ITC in aqueous medium (deionized water) at 298.15 K

Log K_s	$\Delta_c H^\circ$ (kJ. mol $^{-2}$)	$\Delta_c G^\circ$ (KJ. mol $^{-2}$)	$\Delta_c S^\circ$ (J. mol $^{-1}$.K $^{-1}$)	Ref.
3.63	-30.82	-20.73	-33.8	This work
3.77	-31.39	-21.49	-33	[18]

ii *Thermodynamic parameters of complexation of L2 with herbicides in acetonitrile at 298.15 K*

Titration calorimetry was used to obtain the log K_s and the enthalpy of complexation of L2 with herbicides in acetonitrile. Combination of Gibbs energies and enthalpies led to the calculation of the

entropies associated to the complexation process. Calorimetric titration curves for the titration of the herbicides with the receptor L2 in acetonitrile at 298 K were recorded (**Appendix B**). Thermodynamic data for the complexation of L2 with the herbicides in acetonitrile are summarized in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Thermodynamics of complexation of L2 and herbicides in acetonitrile at 298.15 K

Complexes	Log K_s	$\Delta_c H^\circ$ (kJ. mol ⁻²)	$\Delta_c G^\circ$ (kJ. mol ⁻²)	$\Delta_c S^\circ$ (J. mol ⁻¹ .K ⁻¹)	n
L2 + P1	4.49	-41.04	-25.65	-51.6	2.18
L2 + P2	3.81	-21.37	-20.47	-16.4	2.12
L2 + P3	4.18	-38.90	-23.86	-50.45	2.17
L2 + P4	4.14	-32.42	-23.64	-29.43	2.21
L2 + P5	3.42	-17.51	-19.53	6.77	2.07

Inspection of stability constant data (expressed as log K_s) shows that this ligand interacts selectively with herbicides in acetonitrile following the sequence

$$P1 > P3 > P4 > P2$$

This decrease may be attributed to the presence of the phenol groups which may either (i) lead to steric effects by which the phenol units may form rigid walls restricting the easy access of the herbicides to interact with the amino groups and ethoxy protons in the lower rim for calix[4]arene or (ii) to electronic effects, since the aromatic phenol rings may form an induced magnetic field which may act as a repulsive force for these anionic guests. It can be observed that the selective behaviour of L2 for P1 relative to other acid pesticides in this solvent. This is corroborated by the ¹H NMR data where significant chemical shift changes were found in H-2, H-3, H-4, H-5, H-7, H-8, H-10 and H-11 upon complexation of L2 with these acid pesticides.

A general analysis of the thermodynamic parameters shows that the complexation process is favored in terms of enthalpy ($\Delta H^\circ < 0$) but not in terms of entropy ($\Delta S^\circ < 0$) in all the above systems. Therefore, the complexation process is enthalpically controlled. The only exception is P5 which shows the opposite behaviour (entropy controlled). This may be attributed to the higher desolvation that the pesticide undergoes upon complexation. The data in **Table 6** show the ΔG° values are obtained for the L2 and the different herbicides studied in acetonitrile are close to each other.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

From the above discussion on the calix[4]arene derivative, the following conclusion can be drawn. The ligand under investigation (L2) were successfully synthesised in good yields and characterized by ¹H NMR. From ¹H NMR studies, it is concluded that L2 interact with herbicides. Therefore, in this study, it is

essential to investigate the factors why other receptors did not interact with these herbicides. The presence of the amino groups (basic) in the lower rim for calix[4]arenes makes these ligands attractive for exploring their complexation with herbicides. The ¹H NMR technique was successfully used for establishing the binding sites and the conformational changes that these ligands undergo upon complexation with the herbicides.

The interaction of 5, 11, 17, 23- tetra- butyl- 25, 27-bis(diethylamino)ethoxy-26, 28- (bis- methoxyethoxy) calix[4] arene (L2) with several acid herbicides were carried out in different solvents at 298 K.

From **Tables 2 - 4**, the results obtained seem to indicate that the sites of interaction of this ligand with the acid herbicides are amine group and ethoxy group. Indeed significant chemical shift changes in the proton close to the amine group and ethoxy group were observed. Stoichiometries of 2:1 (acid herbicides:ligand) were found in CD₃CN, CD₃OD and CD₃Cl.

Conductometric measurements were carried out with the aim of determining the composition of the receptor-acid herbicides interaction and gaining information regarding the type and strength of interaction of these receptors with acid herbicides in acetonitrile at 298 K. From the conductance measurements of the acid herbicide at different concentration, it was concluded that these acids are highly associated in non-aqueous solvents.

Nano isothermal titration calorimetry is the most powerful tool to determine the enthalpies of binding of various reactions, including herbicides-ligand binding. Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) provides the most accurate and direct measurement of the enthalpy of any reaction under isothermal and isobaric conditions. It is also the only method capable of determining the enthalpy, entropy, and the Gibbs free energy of a reaction in a single titration experiment. Future work will

involve the attachment of the receptor to a solid support to generate recyclable materials for herbicides removal.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Author Contributions

Author contributions designed and performed experiments, prepared figures, analysed data and wrote the paper.

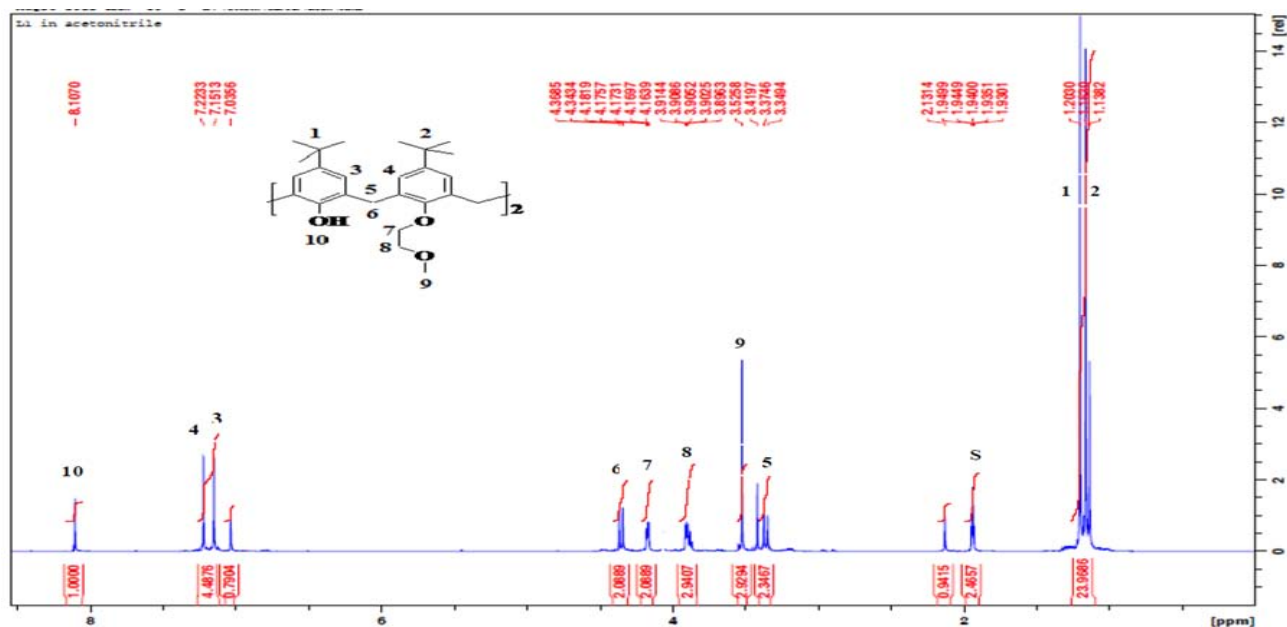
Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

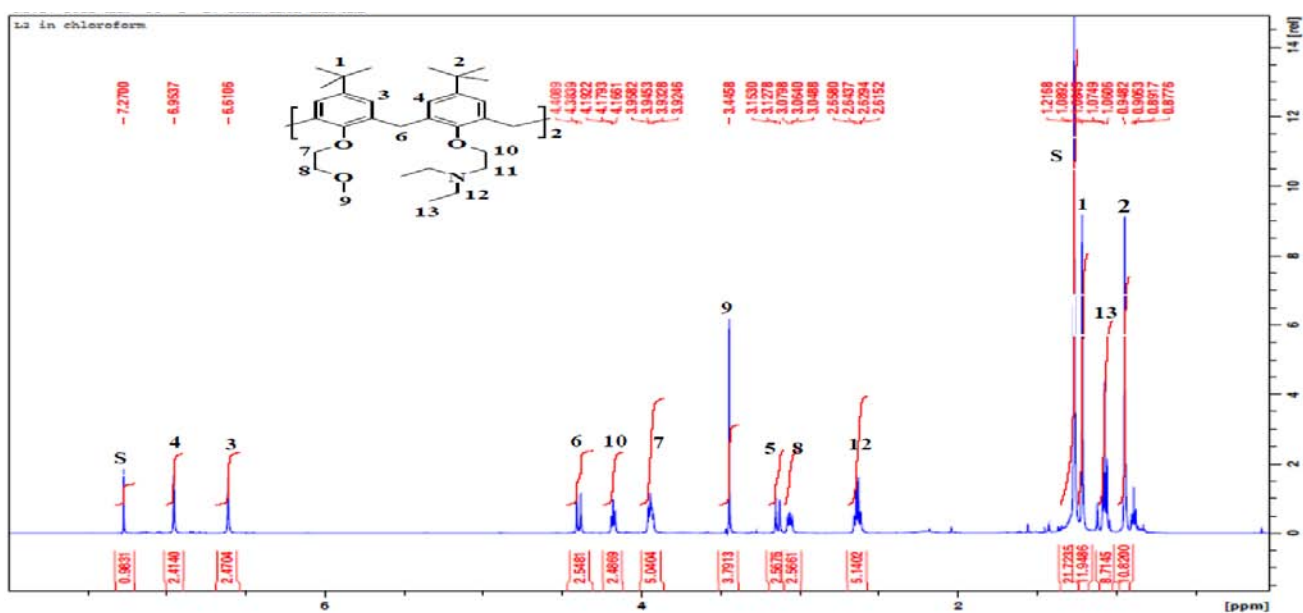
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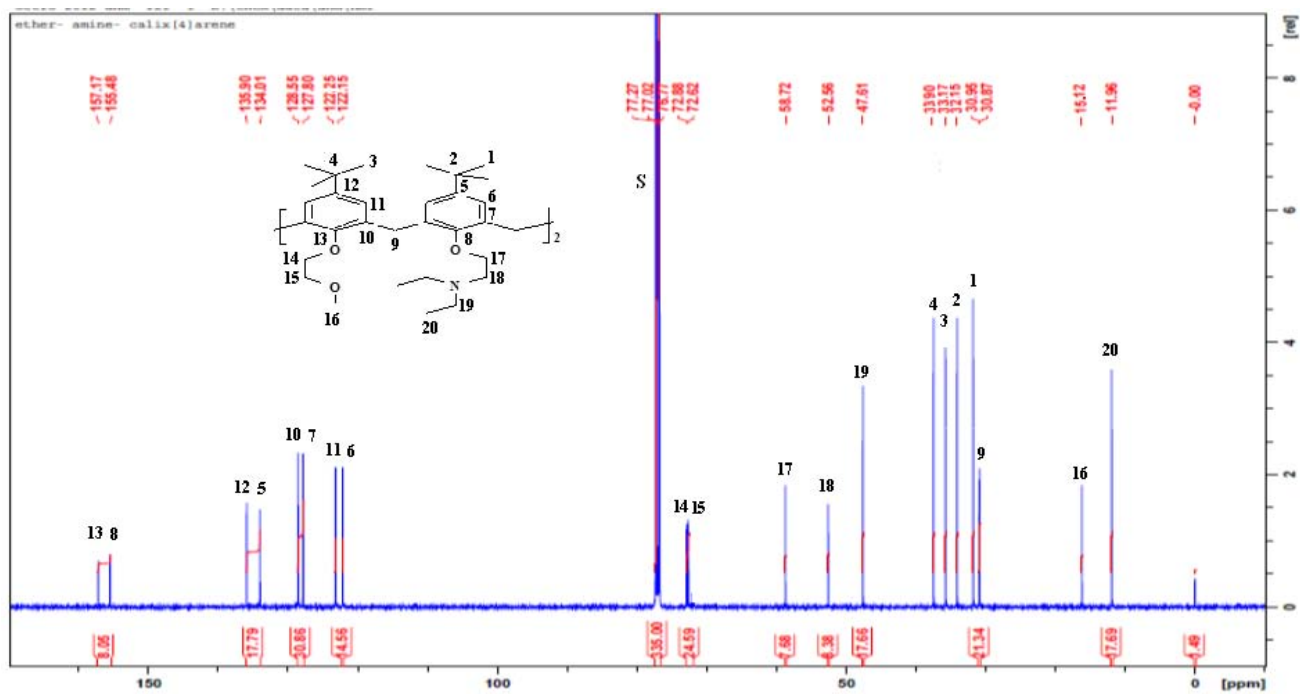
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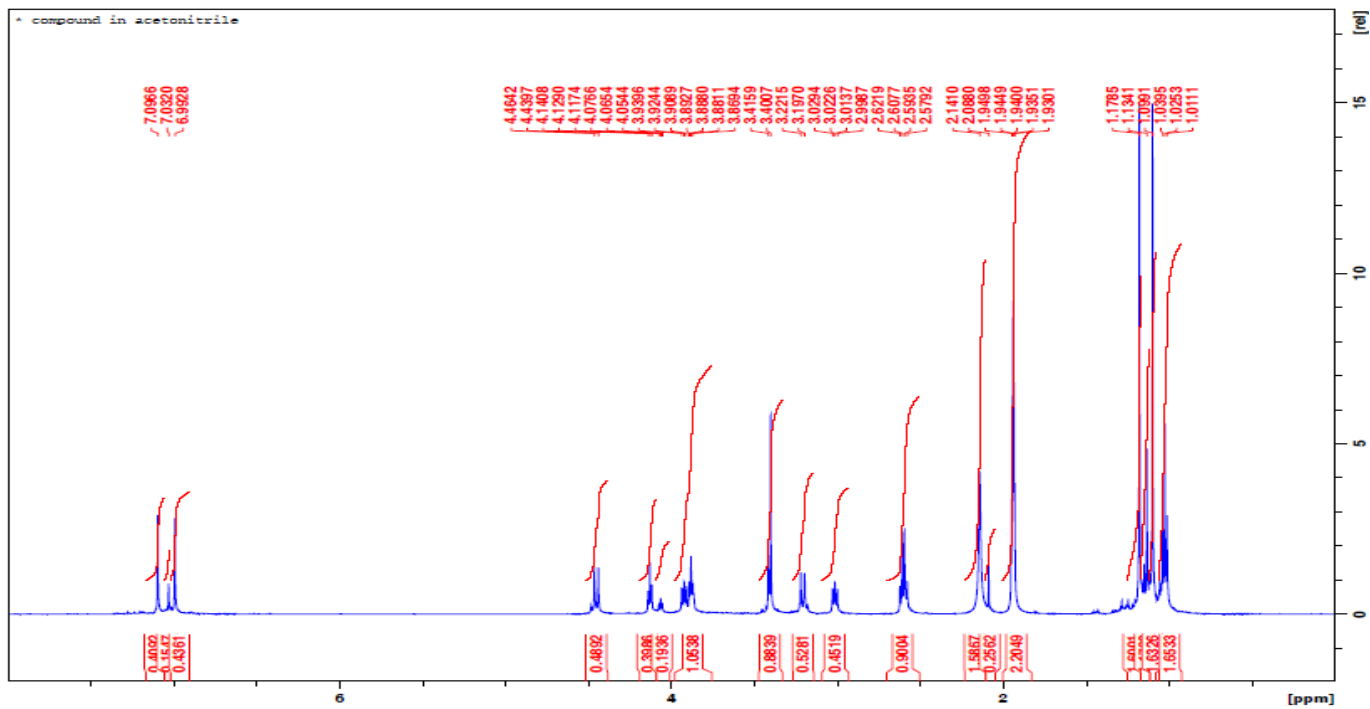
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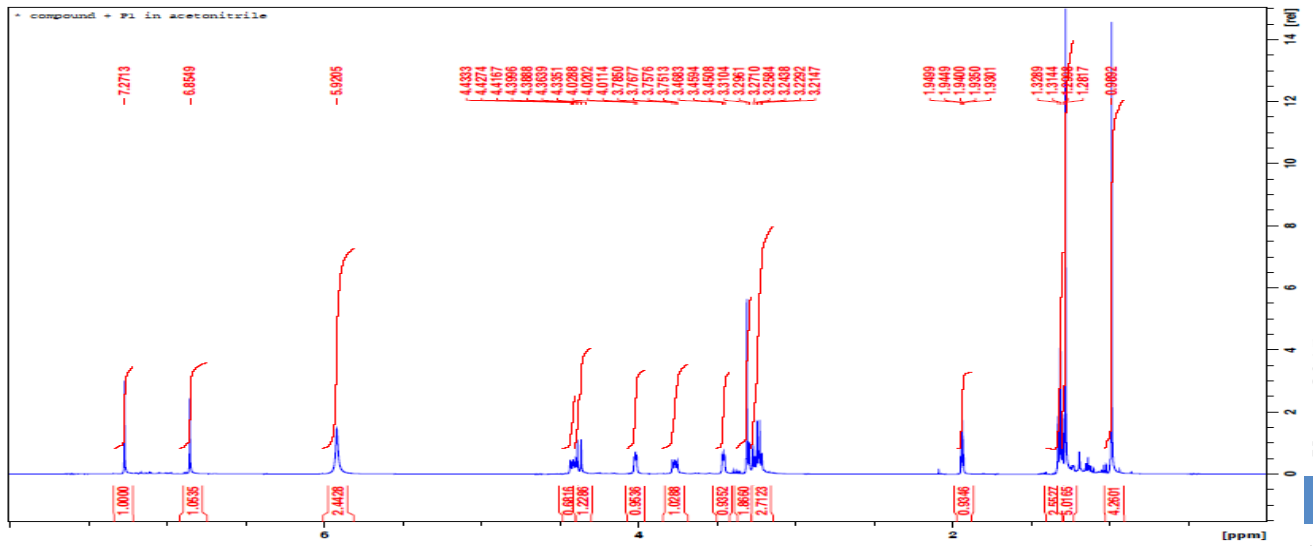
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 in CDCl₃ at 298 K



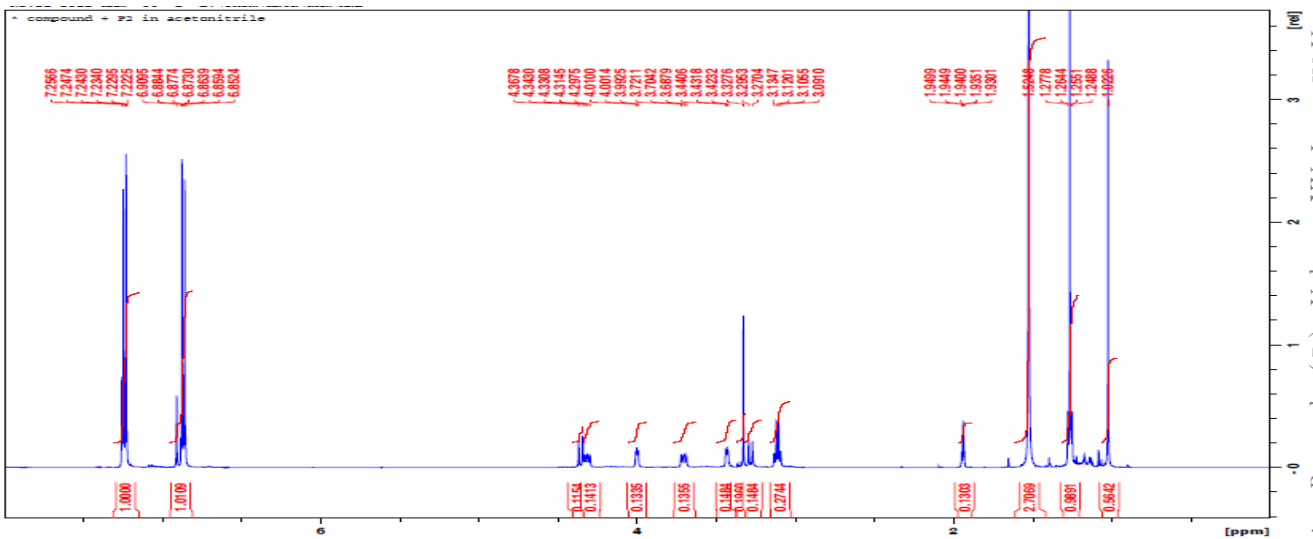
¹³C NMR spectrum 5,11,17,23-tetra-butyl 25,27-bis(diethylamino)ethoxy-26,28-(bis-methoxyethoxy)calix[4]arene, L₂ in CDCl₃ at 298 K



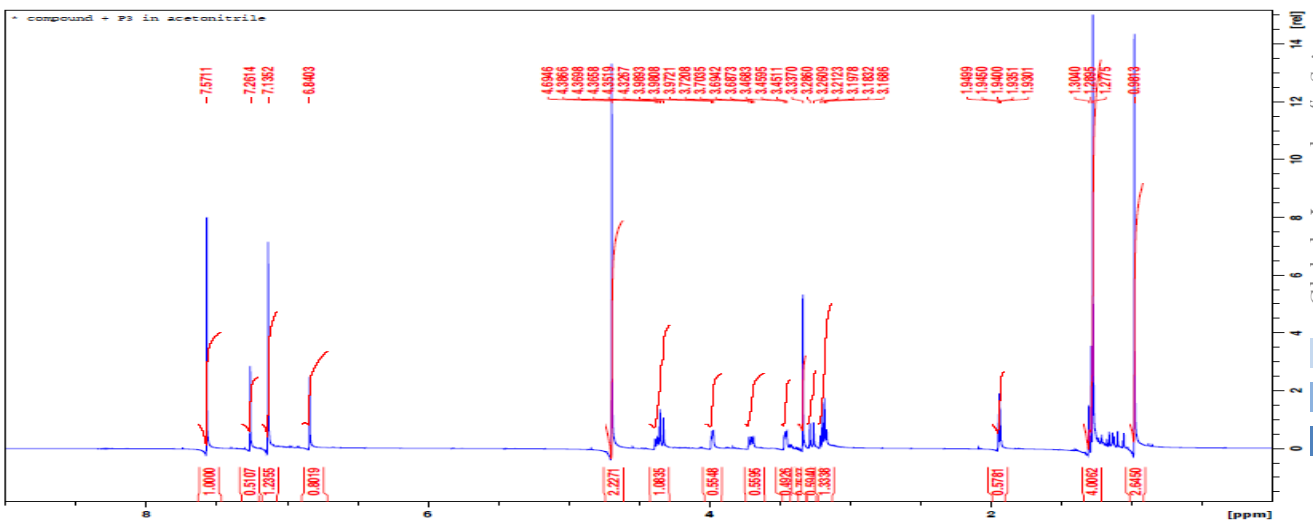
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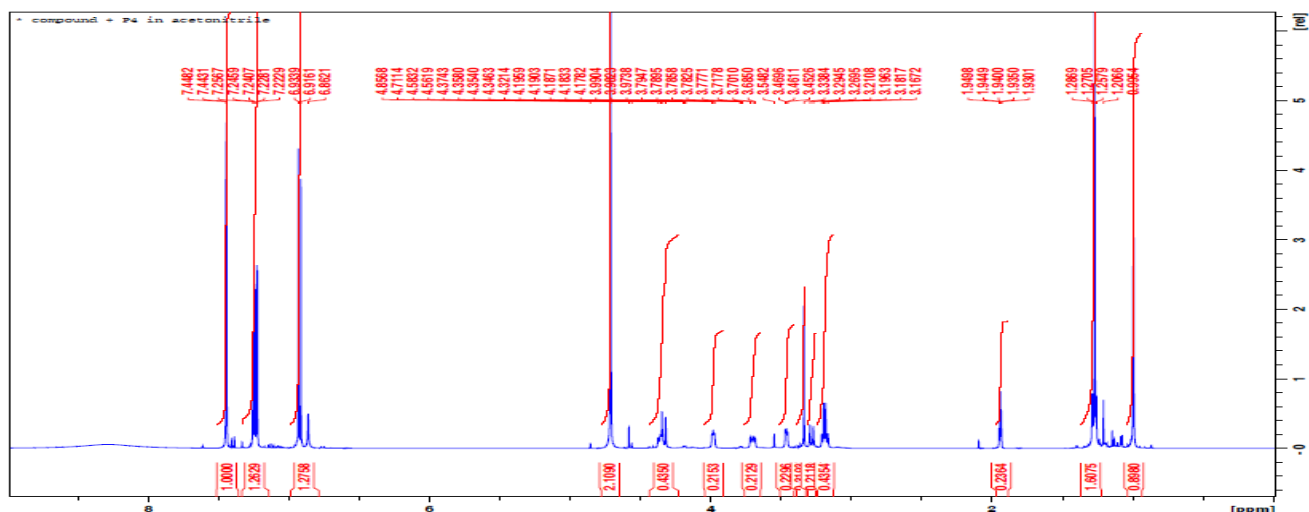
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P1 in CD₃CN at 298 K



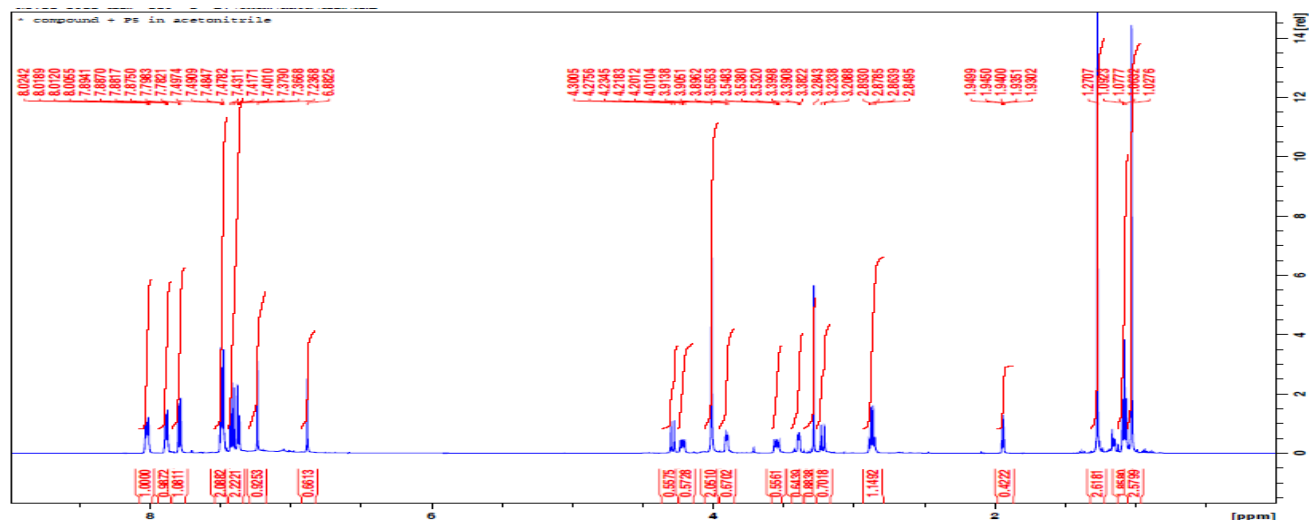
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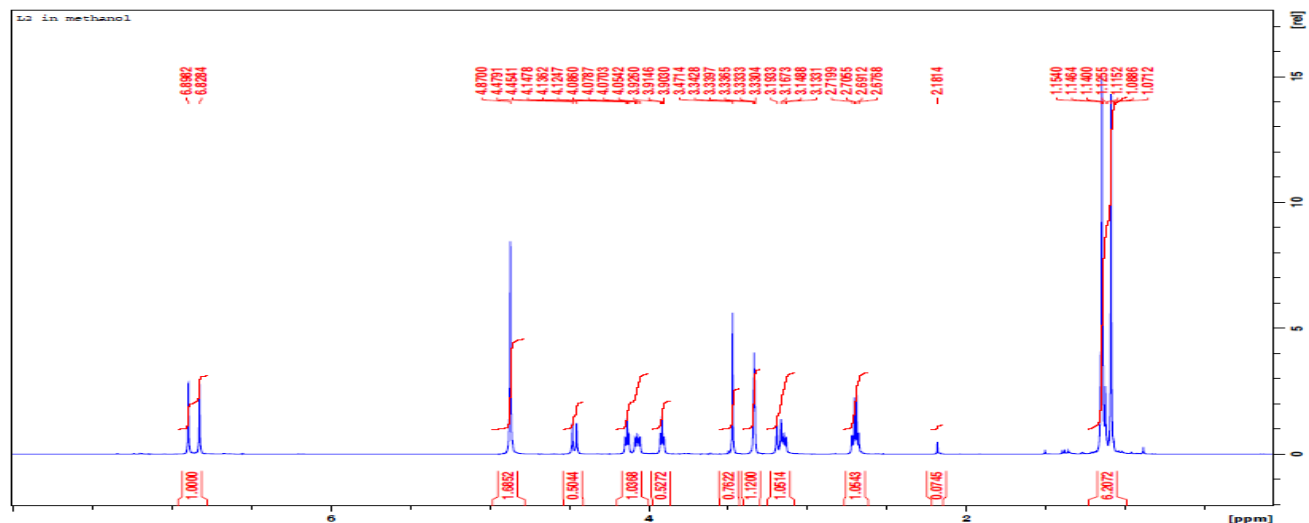
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P3 in CD₃CN at 298 K



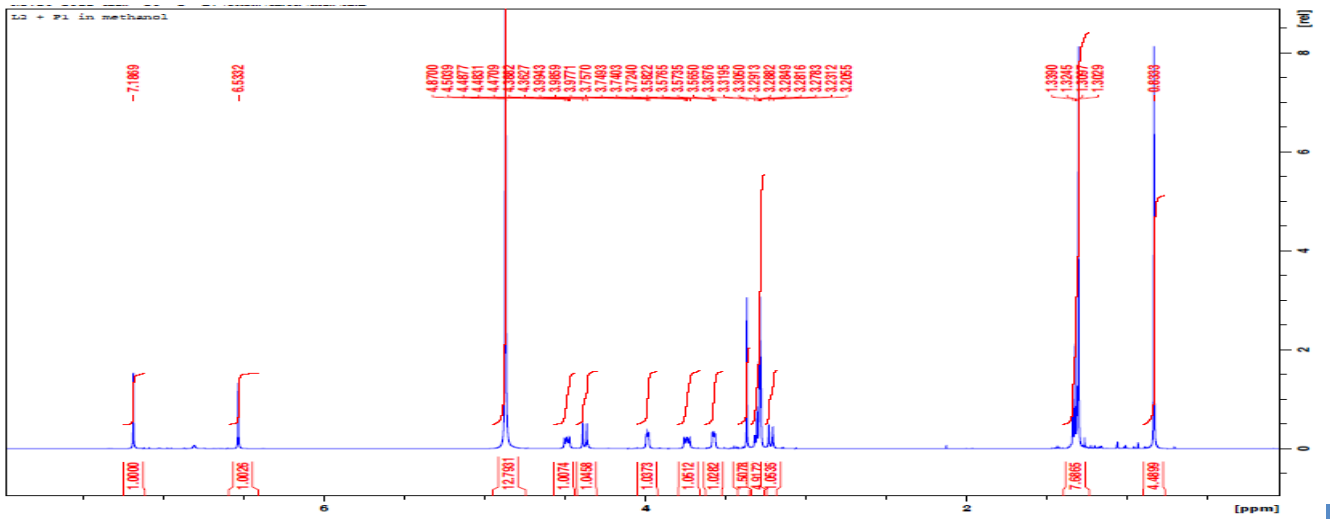
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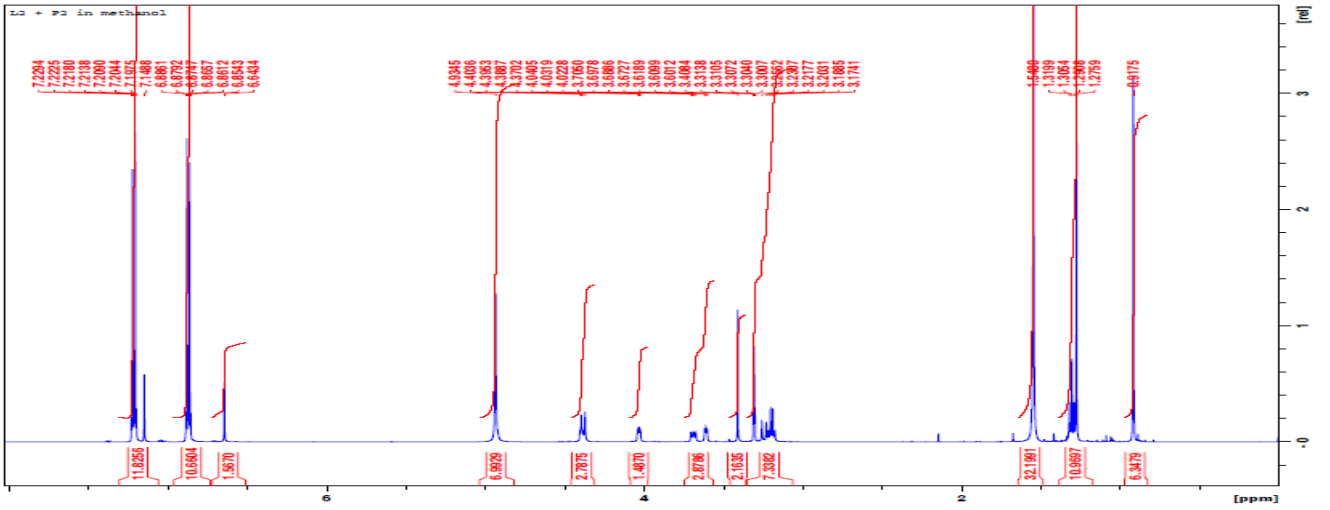
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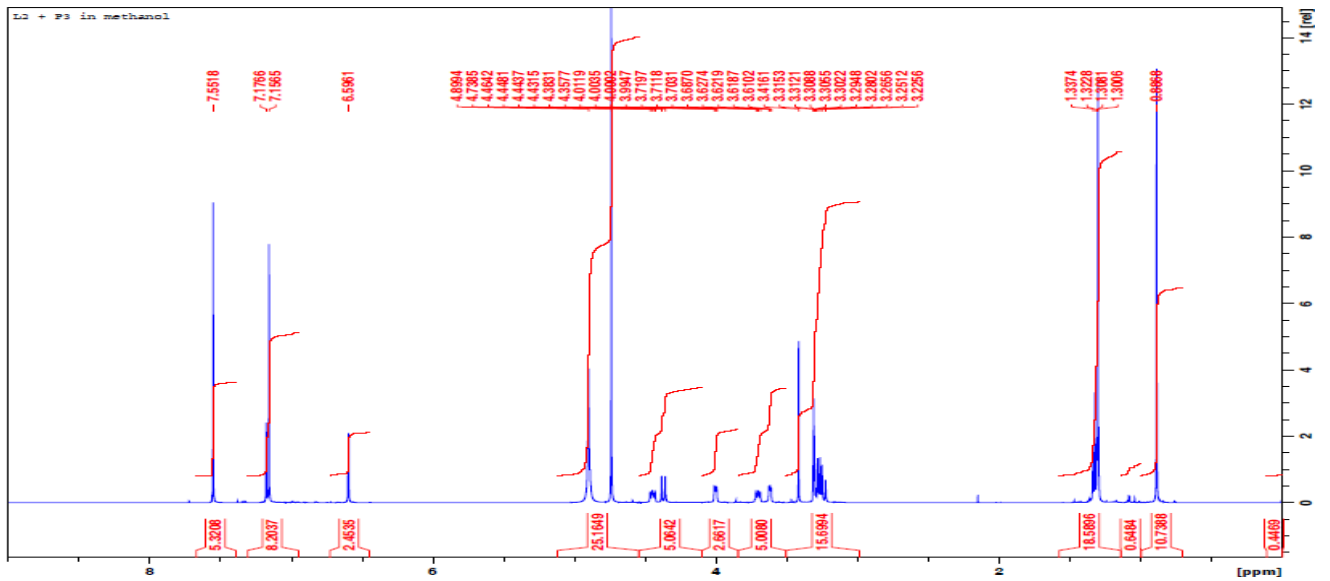
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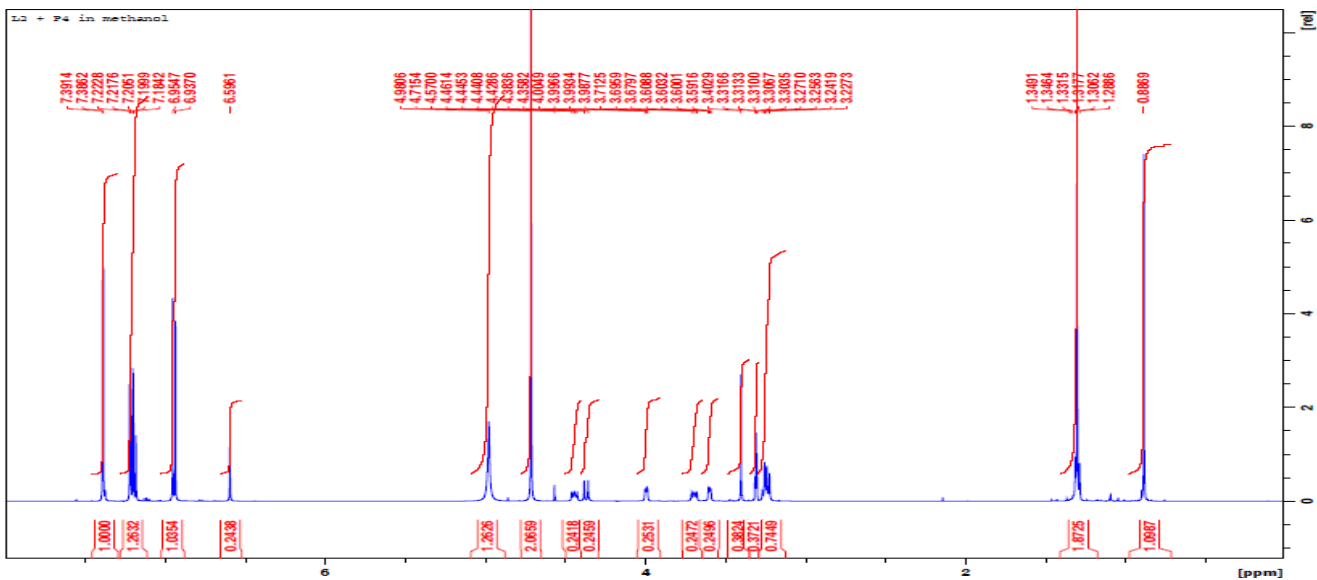
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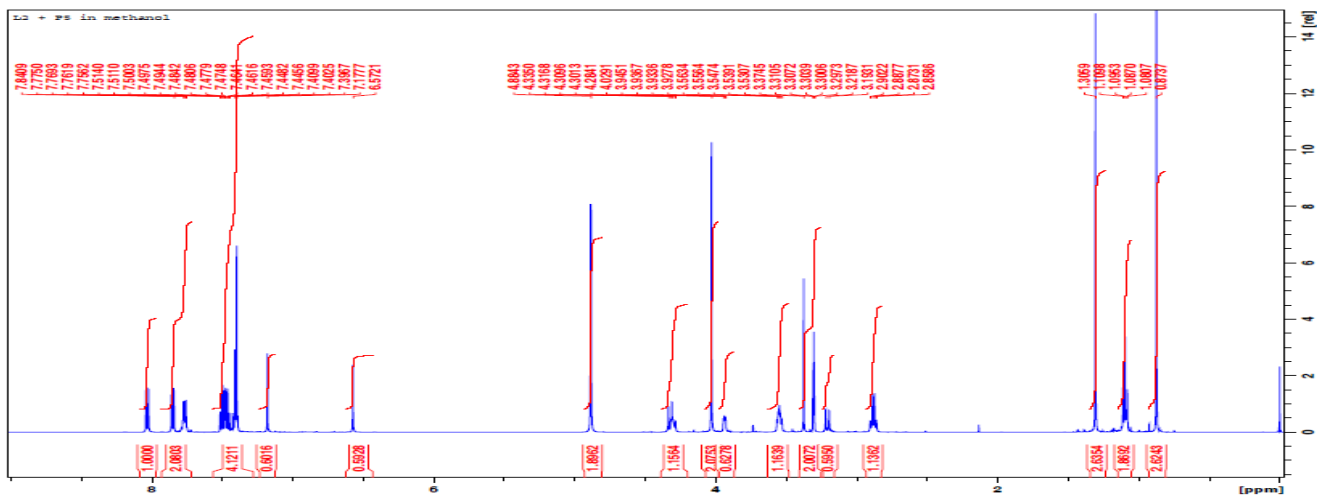
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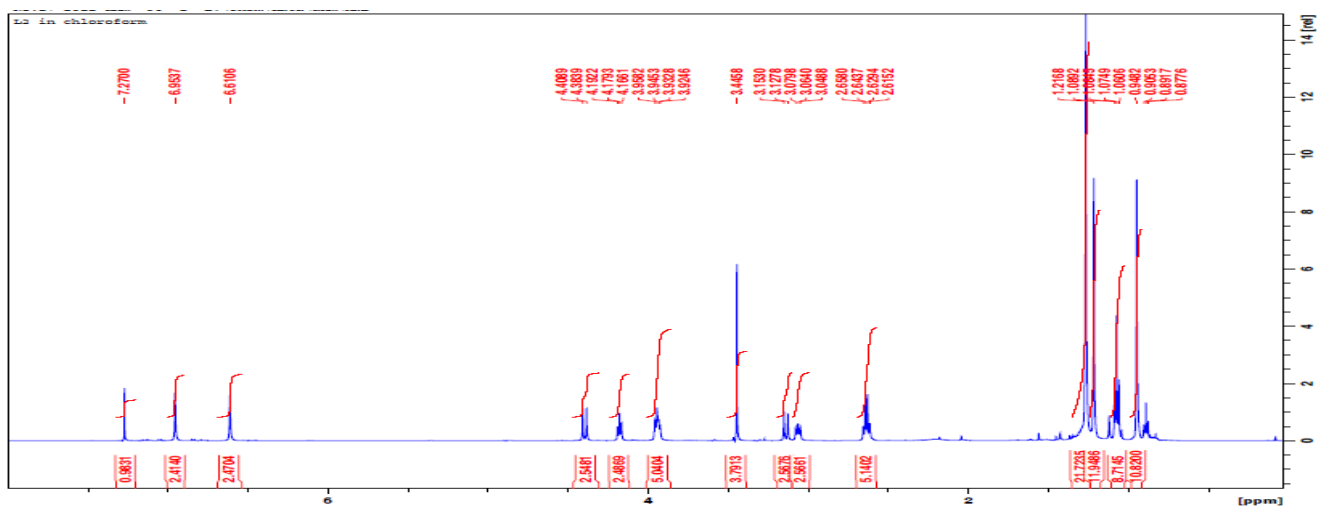
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P3 in CD₃OD at 298 K



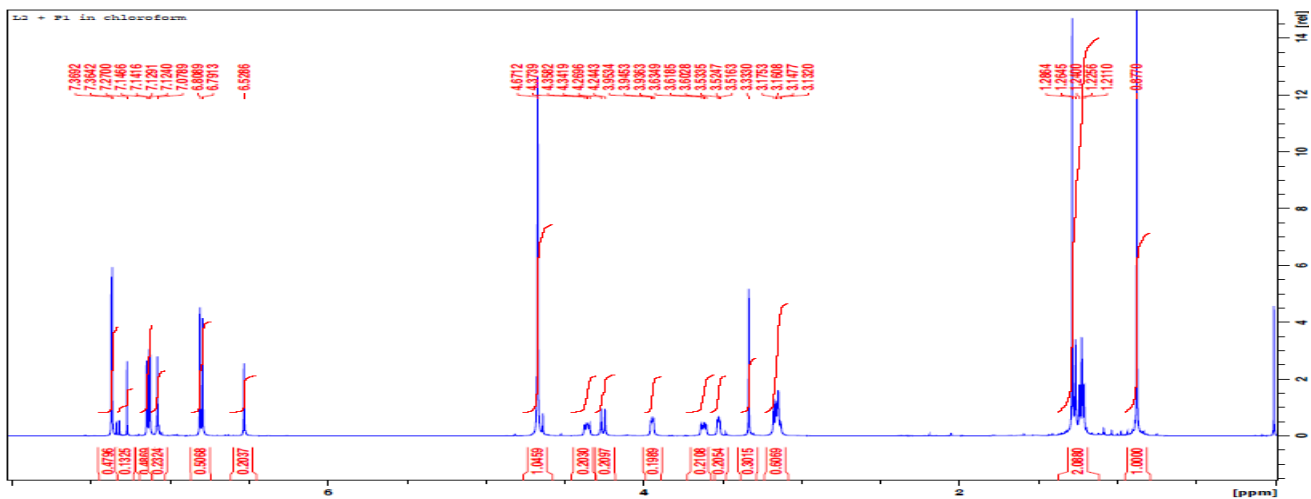
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P4 in CD₃OD at 298 K



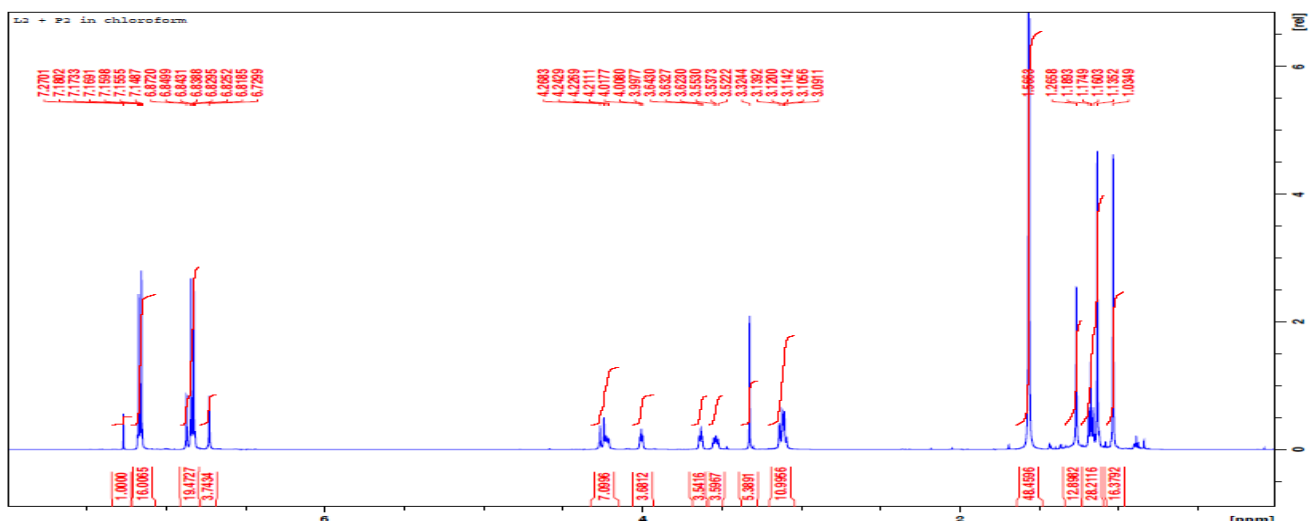
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P5 in CD₃OD at 298 K



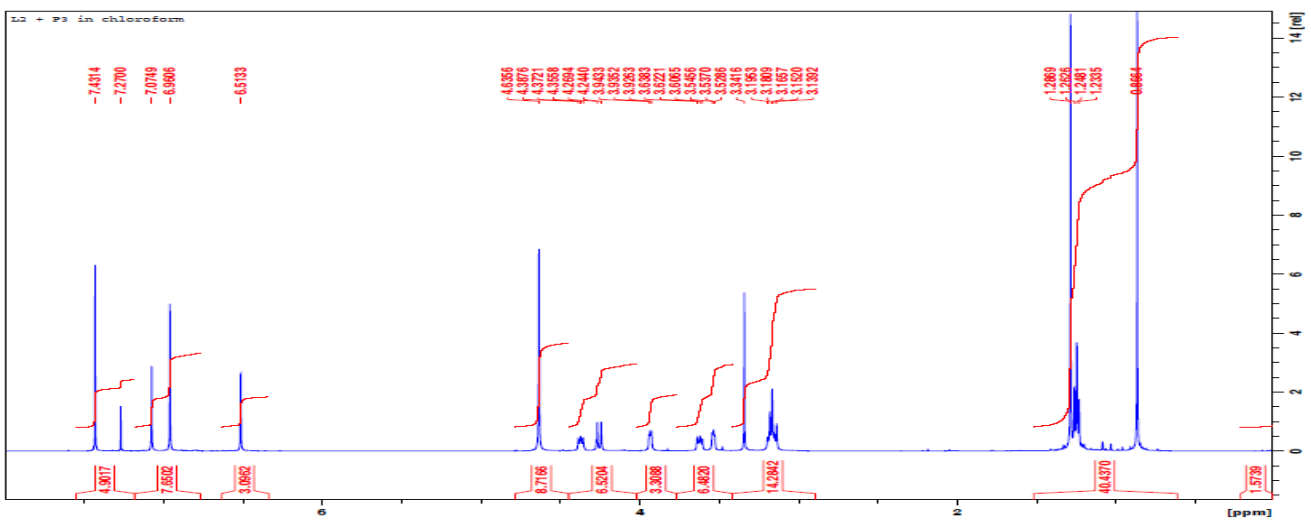
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 in CDCl₃ at 298 K



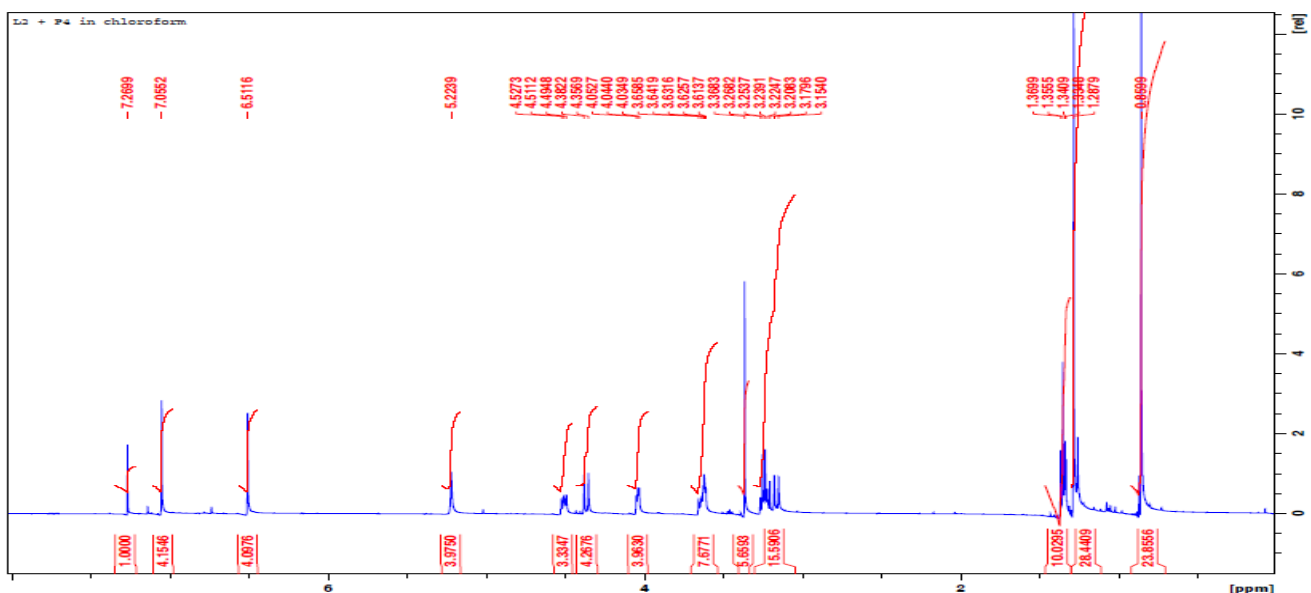
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P1 in CDCl₃ at 298 K



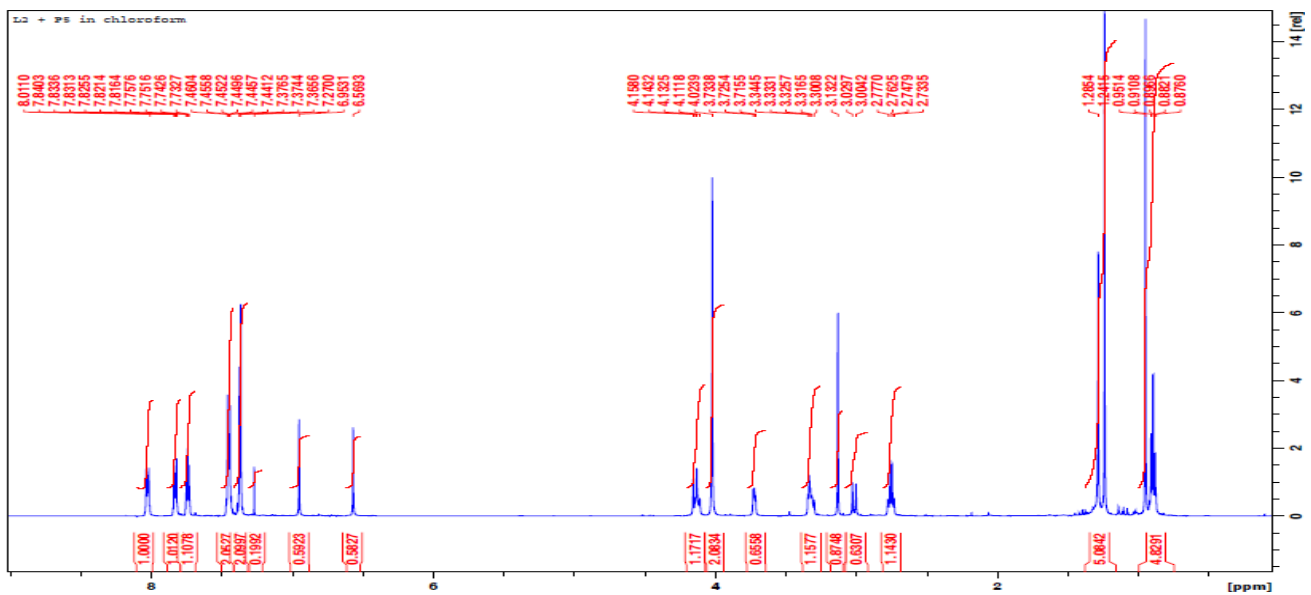
¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P2 in CDCl₃ at 298 K



¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P3 in CDCl₃ at 298 K

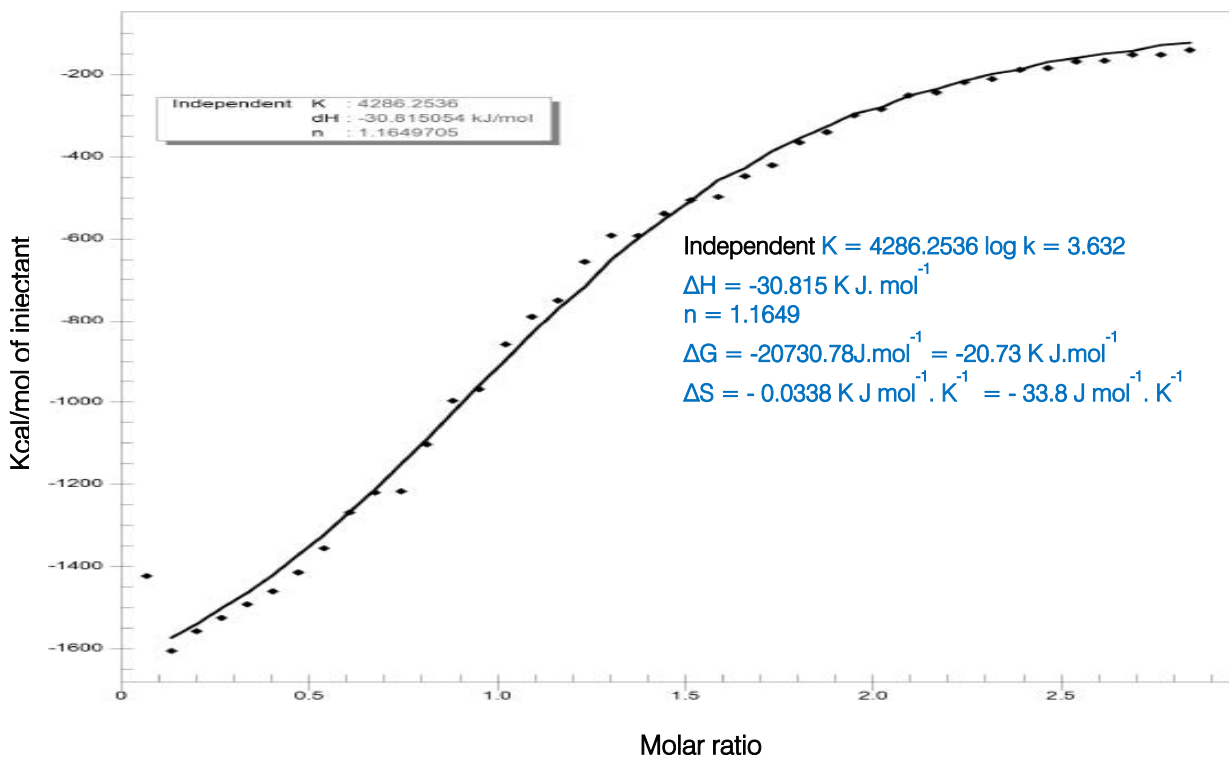
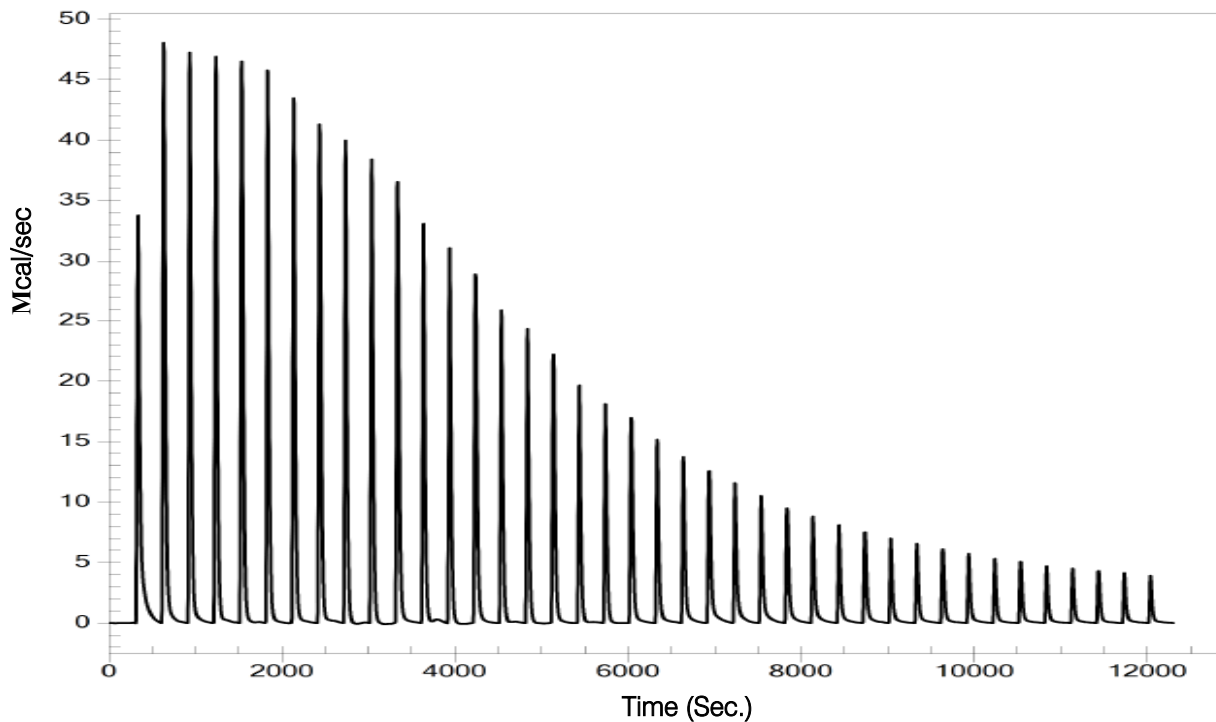


¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P4 in CDCl₃ at 298 K

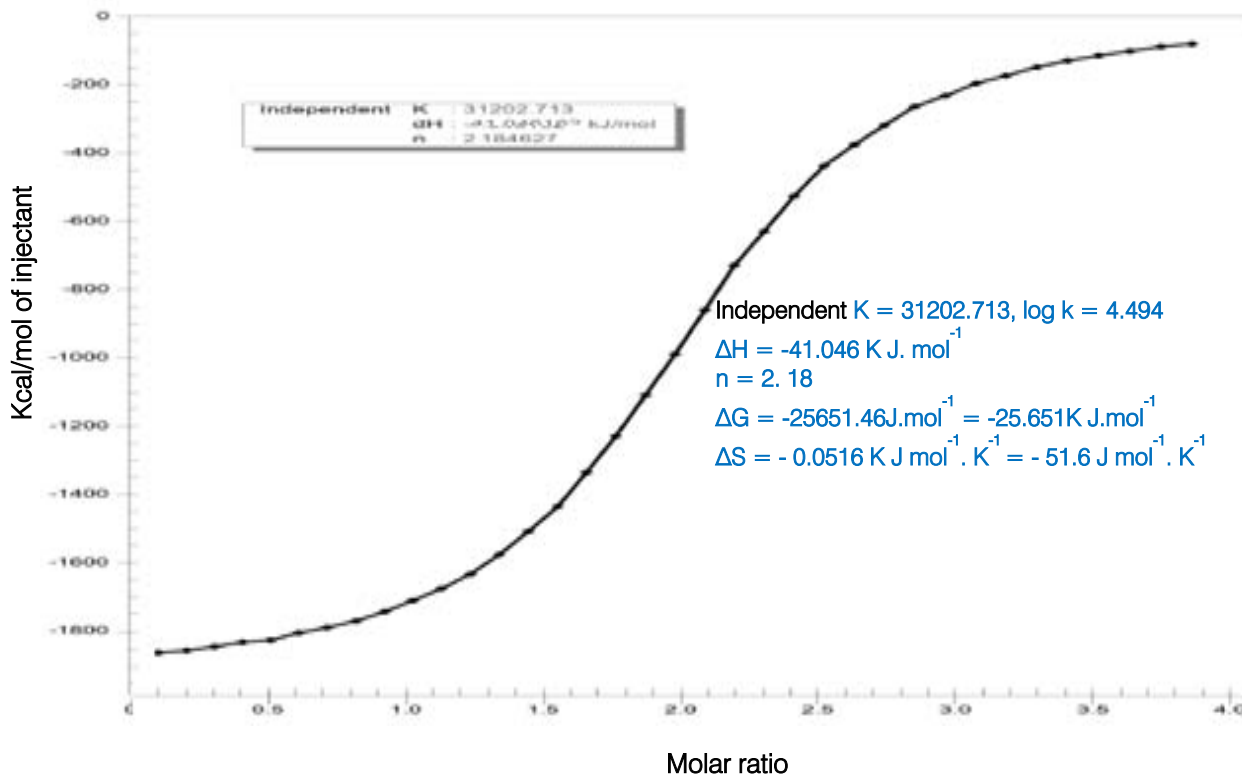
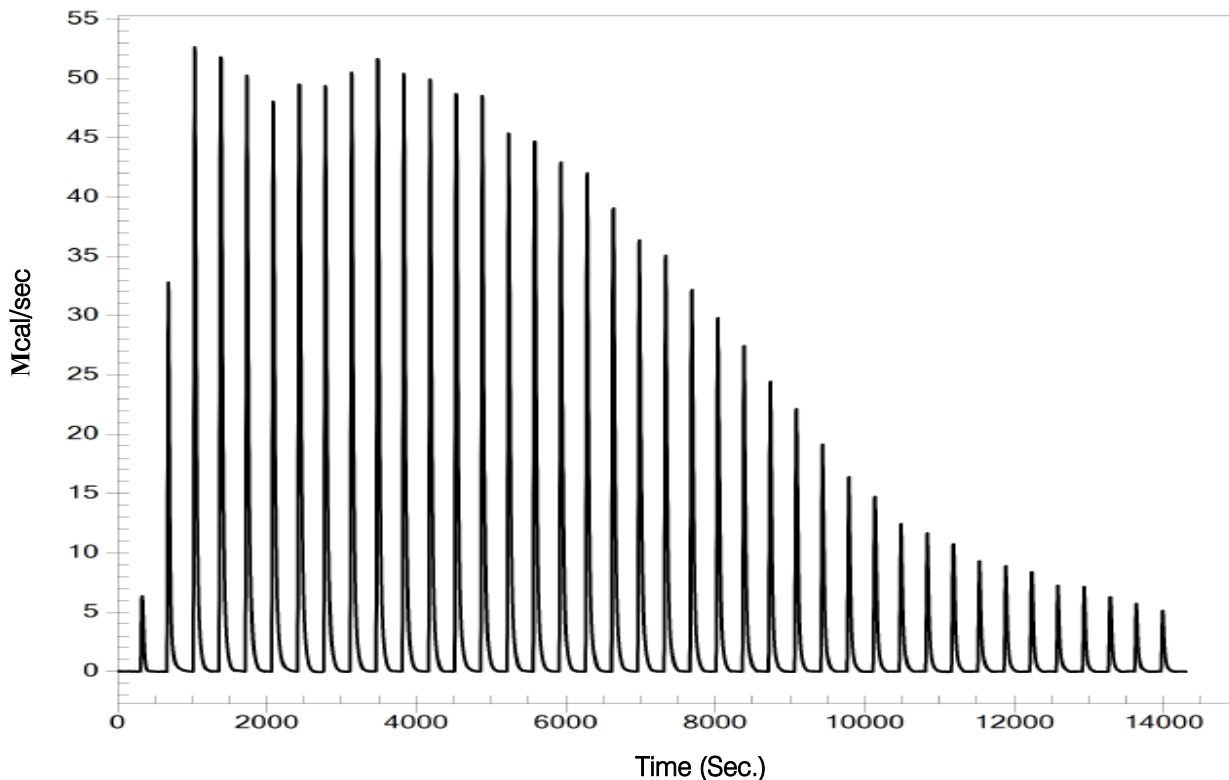


¹H NMR spectrum of L2 + P5 in CDCl₃ at 298 K

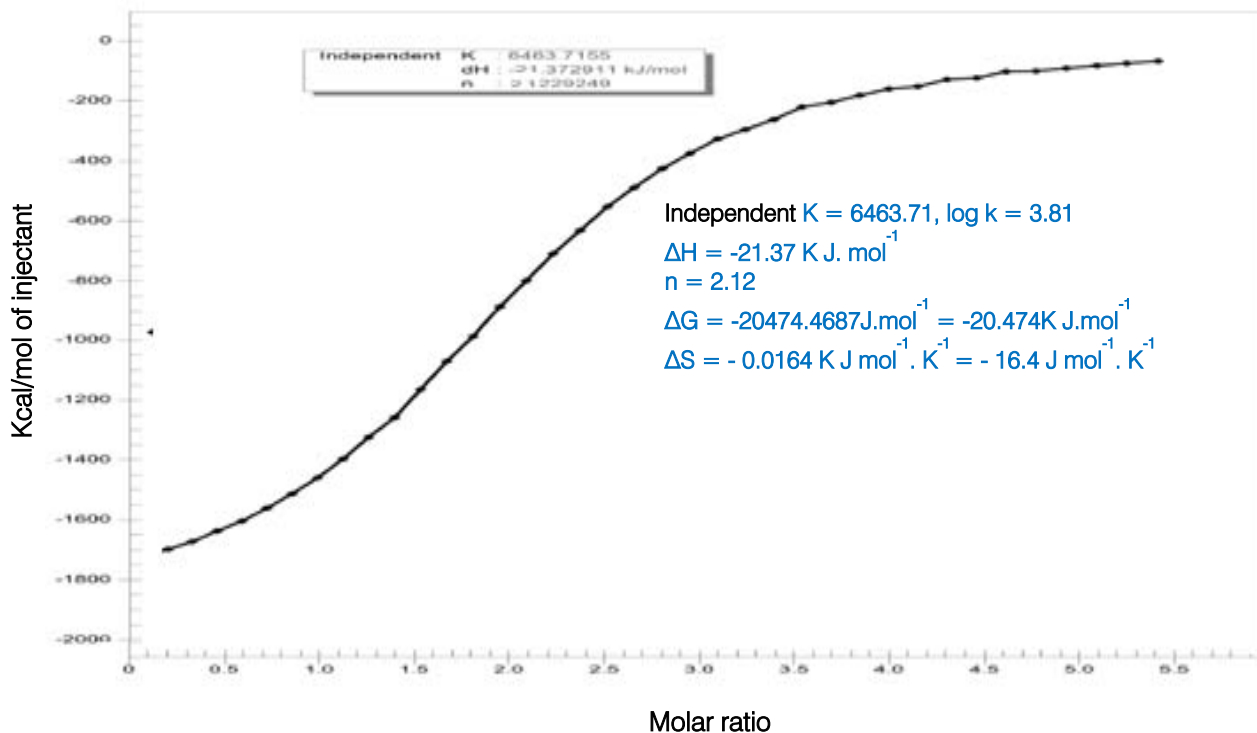
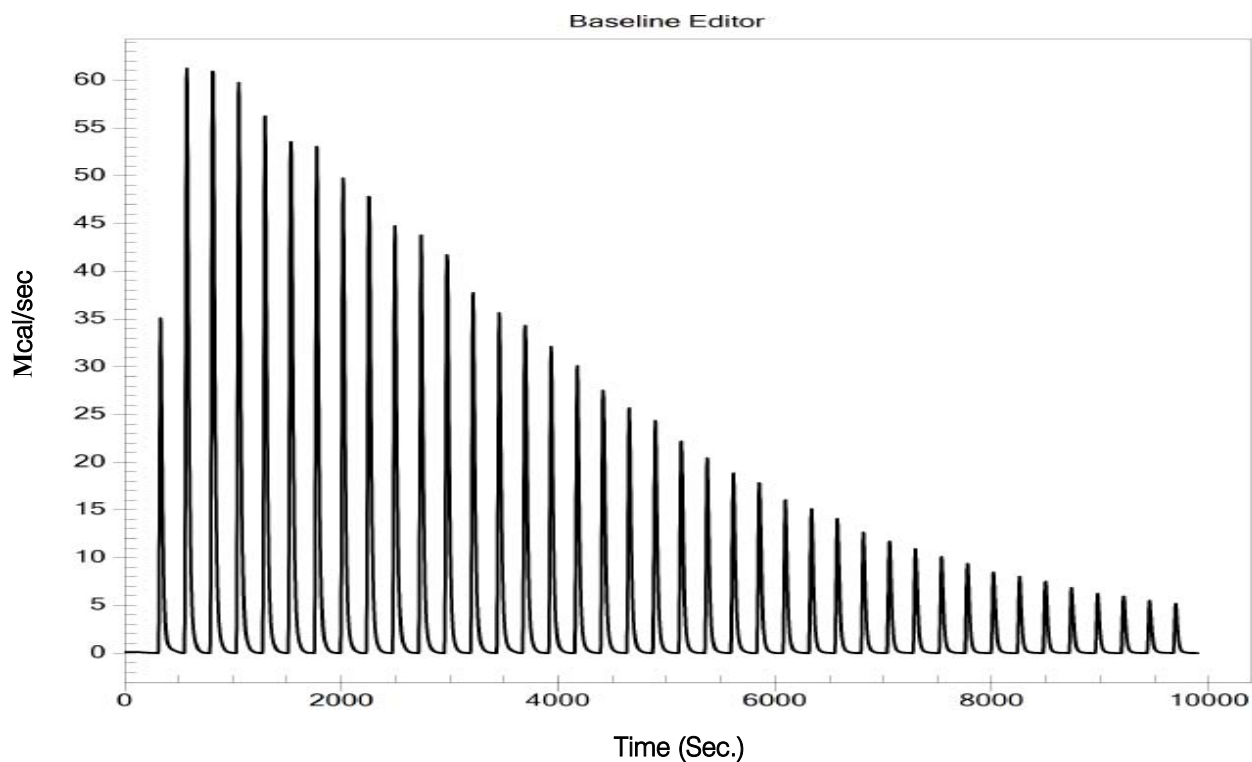
(Appendix B)



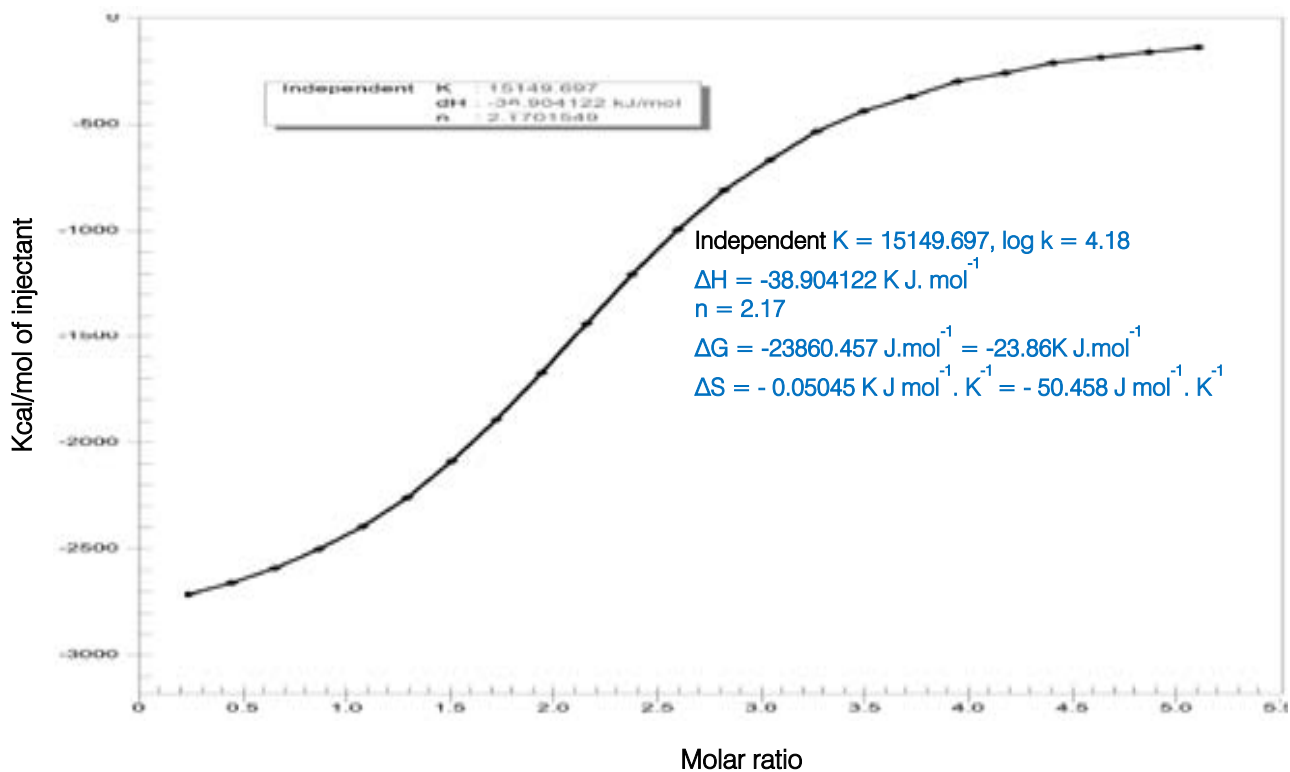
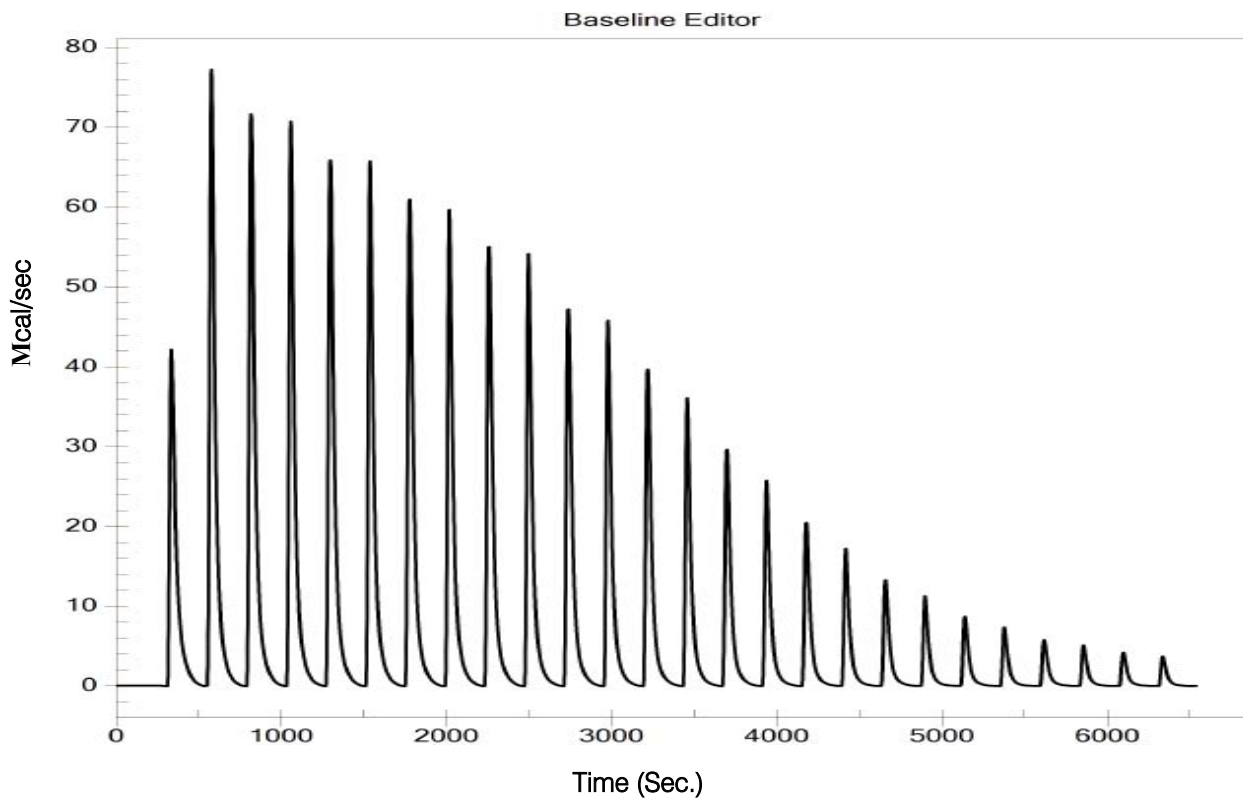
Representative calorimetric titration curves. The upper curve was obtained by titrating 18-crown-6 with Ba in deionized water. ⁺²



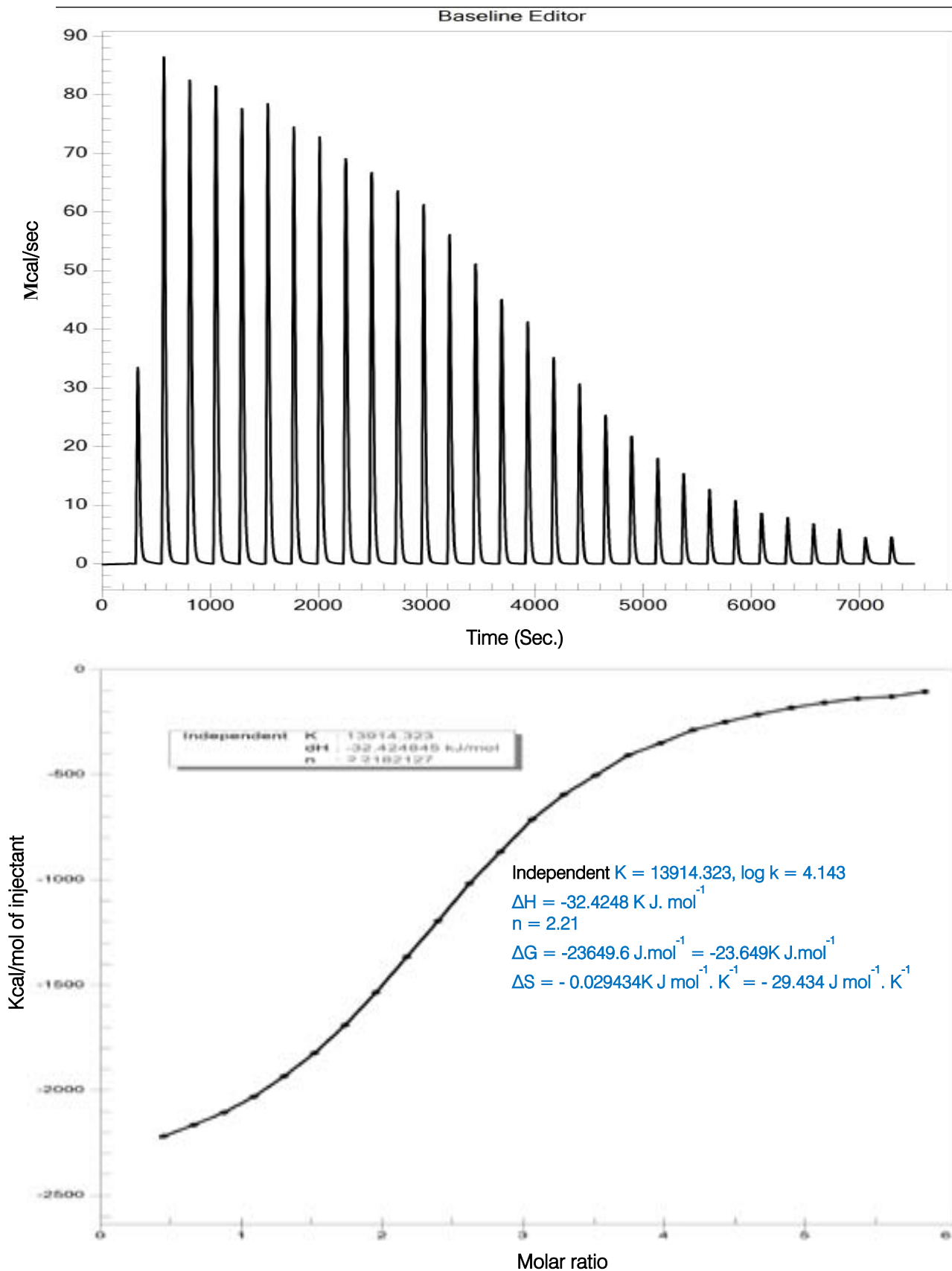
Representative calorimetric titration curves. The upper curve was obtained by titrating receptor 5 with P1 [Picloram].



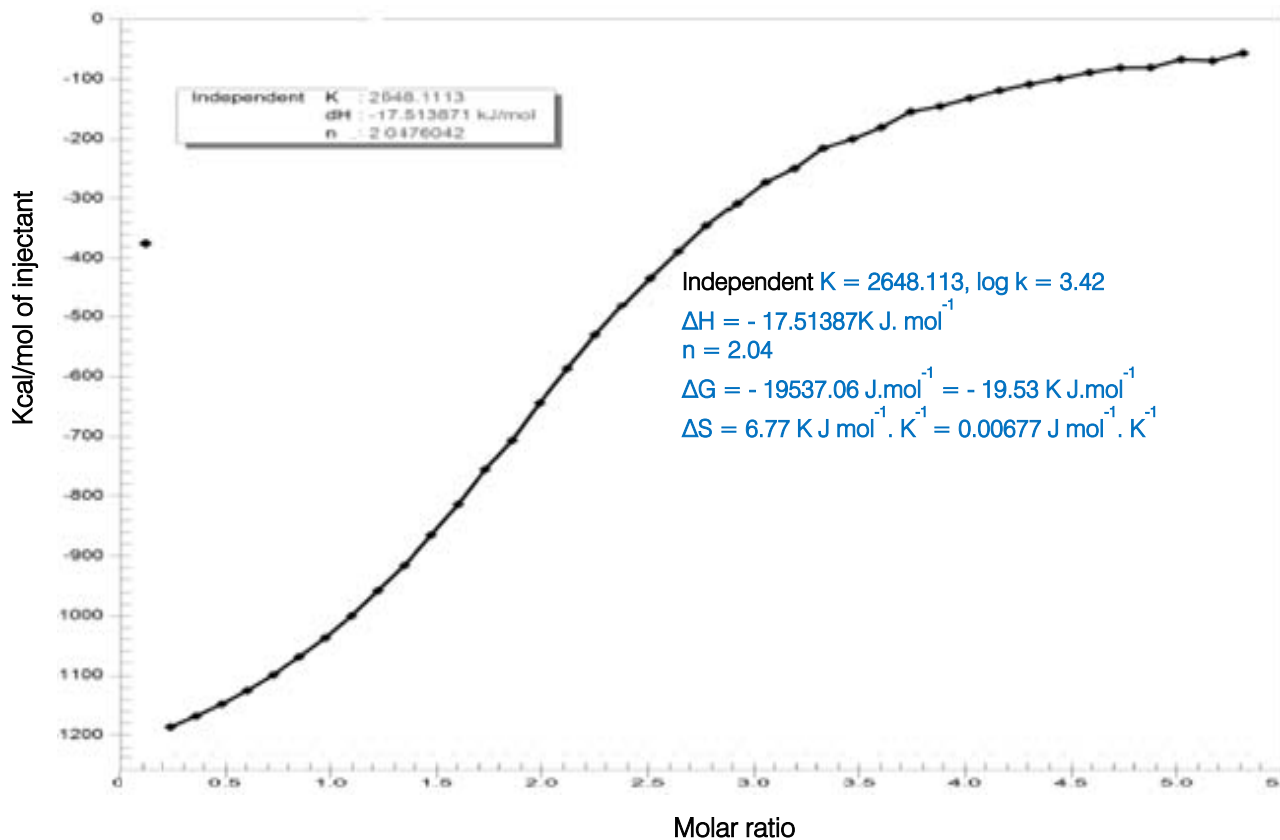
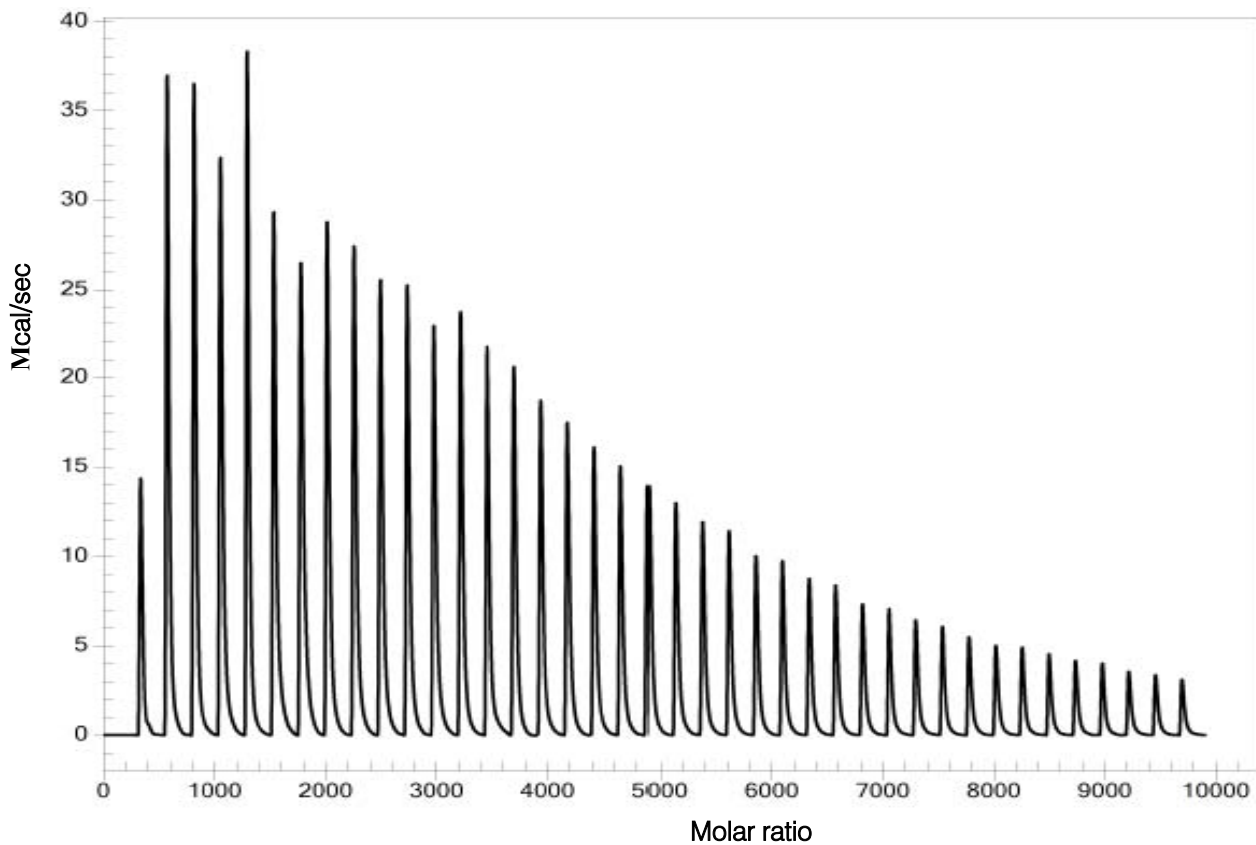
Representative calorimetric titration curves. The upper curve was obtained by titrating receptor 5 with P2 [Clofibric acid].



Representative calorimetric titration curves. The upper curve was obtained by titrating receptor 5 with P3 [2, 4, 5 - T].



Representative calorimetric titration curves. The upper curve was obtained by titrating receptor 5 with P4 [2,4, - T].



Representative calorimetric titration curves. The upper curve was obtained by titrating receptor 5 with P5.



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Electro-Oxidation of Methanol at Copper and Nickel Modified Clay Electrodes

By N. Kouider, J. Bengourram, M. Mabrouki & A. Chtaini

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Abstract- Cu/Clay/316L and Ni/Clay/316L anodes were prepared by the electroplating of a Cu and Ni catalyst layer onto Clay/Stainless Steel plates for a direct methanol fuel cell (DMFC). The morphology and structure of the catalyst layers were analyzed by AFM and Optical microscopy. The catalyst coating layer shows an alloy character. The results show that oxides formation at the electrode surface is necessary for the methanol oxidation.

Keywords: *modified electrodes; catalyst; DMFC, square wave voltammetry.*

GJSFR-B Classification : *FOR Code: 039999*



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Electro-Oxidation of Methanol at Copper and Nickel Modified Clay Electrodes

N. Kouider ^α, J. Bengourram ^σ, M. Mabrouki ^ρ & A. Chtaini ^ω

Abstract- Cu/Clay/316L and Ni/Clay/316L anodes were prepared by the electroplating of a Cu and Ni catalyst layer onto Clay/Stainless Steel plates for a direct methanol fuel cell (DMFC). The morphology and structure of the catalyst layers were analyzed by AFM and Optical microscopy. The catalyst coating layer shows an alloy character. The results show that oxides formation at the electrode surface is necessary for the methanol oxidation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Fuel cells are efficient and environmentally acceptable conversion devices. Electric current is generated in the fuel cell by the direct electrochemical oxidation of either hydrogen (proton exchange membrane fuel cell, PEM) or methanol (Direct Methanol Fuel Cell, DMFC). The electrochemical processes that yield energy are essentially pollution free. Water formed during operation of the device is beneficial in space travel and submarines. Various applications of fuel cells range from stationary (individual homes or district schemes) or mobile (transportation as cars, buses, etc.) to mobile phones and lap top computers [1, 2]. Hydrogen is currently the only practical fuel for use in the present generation of fuel cells. The main reason for this lies in its high electrochemical reactivity compared with that of the more common fuels from which it is derived, such as hydrocarbons, alcohols, or coal. Also, its reaction mechanisms are now rather well understood [3, 4] and are characterized by the relative simplicity of its reaction steps, which lead to no side products. Pure hydrogen is attractive as a fuel, because of its high theoretical energy density, its innocuous combustion product (water), and its unlimited availability as a suitable source of energy available to decompose water. One of the disadvantages of pure hydrogen is its low density gas under normal conditions, so that storage is difficult and requires considerable excess weight with regard to that of liquid fuels. Methanol has been considered for fuel cell power generation for a number of years because it can be processed into a hydrogen-rich fuel gas fairly, easily and efficiently, by steam or auto thermal reforming. Methanol, as a liquid fuel is

easily transported and stored in comparison to hydrogen gas. The methanol fuel has a superior specific energy density (6000 Wh/kg) with regard to the best rechargeable battery, lithium polymer and lithium ion polymer (600 Wh/kg) systems. This means longer conservation times using mobile phones, longer times for laptop computers' usage and more power available on these devices to support consumer demand. Another significant advantage of the direct methanol fuel cells over the rechargeable battery is their potential for instantaneous refuelling [5-7]. The performance of direct ethanol fuel cells (DEFCs) is still limited by the electrocatalysts available for ethanol oxidation, which are mostly based on expensive noble metals such as platinum or its alloys[8-11]. Past research on the development of DEFCs has focused mainly on the so-called PEMDEFCs that use PEM as the electrolyte, a Pt-based catalyst on the anode, and a pure Pt catalyst on the cathode [12-13].

The purpose of the present work is to establish the electro oxidation of methanol on stainless steel electrodes modified with respectively, by clay and copper and/or nickel in acidic solution.

II. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

a) Apparatus

Electrochemical experiments were performed using a Voltalab Potentiostat (model PGSTAT100, Eco Chemie B.V., Utrecht, The Netherlands) driven by the general purpose electrochemical systems data processing software (Voltalab master 4 software).

All the electrochemical experiments were performed in a standard one-compartment three-electrode cell. The reference electrode was SCE and the counter electrode was platinum. All electrode potentials were referred to this reference electrode. The working electrodes were copper modified kaolin/stainless steel and nickel modified /kaolin/ stainless steel.

b) Reagents and Solutions

All chemicals were of the highest quality. CuSO₄ and NiO were obtained from Merck chemicals. Deionized water was used to prepare all solution. Electrolytic solution is 0.1M H₂SO₄.

c) Preparation of the modified electrodes

Stainless steel (type 316L) plates were cut into rectangular strips with typical dimensions of 1 cm². The chemical composition of stainless steel investigated in

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this work is: (wt.%) C \leq 0.02, Mo : 3.5-4.5, Cr: 24-26, Ni: 6-8, N \geq 0.25, Fe remainder. Strips were abraded with SiC paper in successive grades from 400, 600 up to 1200 grit and then cleaned in distilled water and dried. The current was maintained by a galvanostat with a function generator. The anode electrode was a platinum wire, and a stainless steel electrode was used as cathode. Then, the electrodes were immersed in a glass chamber containing electrolyte of clay gel, and subjected to anodic oxidation by applying 100 mA for 6 hours. In the same way the Cu and Ni catalysts are deposited onto clay / stainless steel plate. Before each experiment, the electrode surface was activated via the cyclic voltammetry at scan rate of 500 mV/s for 20 cycles. The working electrodes (Ni-clay/stainless steel (Ni-arg-316L) and Cu-clay/stainless steel (Cu-arg-36L))

were sealed in Teflon jacket. The apparent surface area was calculated from geometrical area and the current density was referred to it.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a) Modified electrodes characterization

The prepared electrodes were imaged by AFM (Fig. 1) and optical microscopy (Fig. 2). The clay particles (Fig. 1-b) appear coagulated on stainless steel and their density is very important. It was observed that the powder layers exhibited a porous microstructure with micro pores, which were relatively well separated and homogeneously distributed over the surface. The films formed are continuous and not disintegrated from substrate surface.

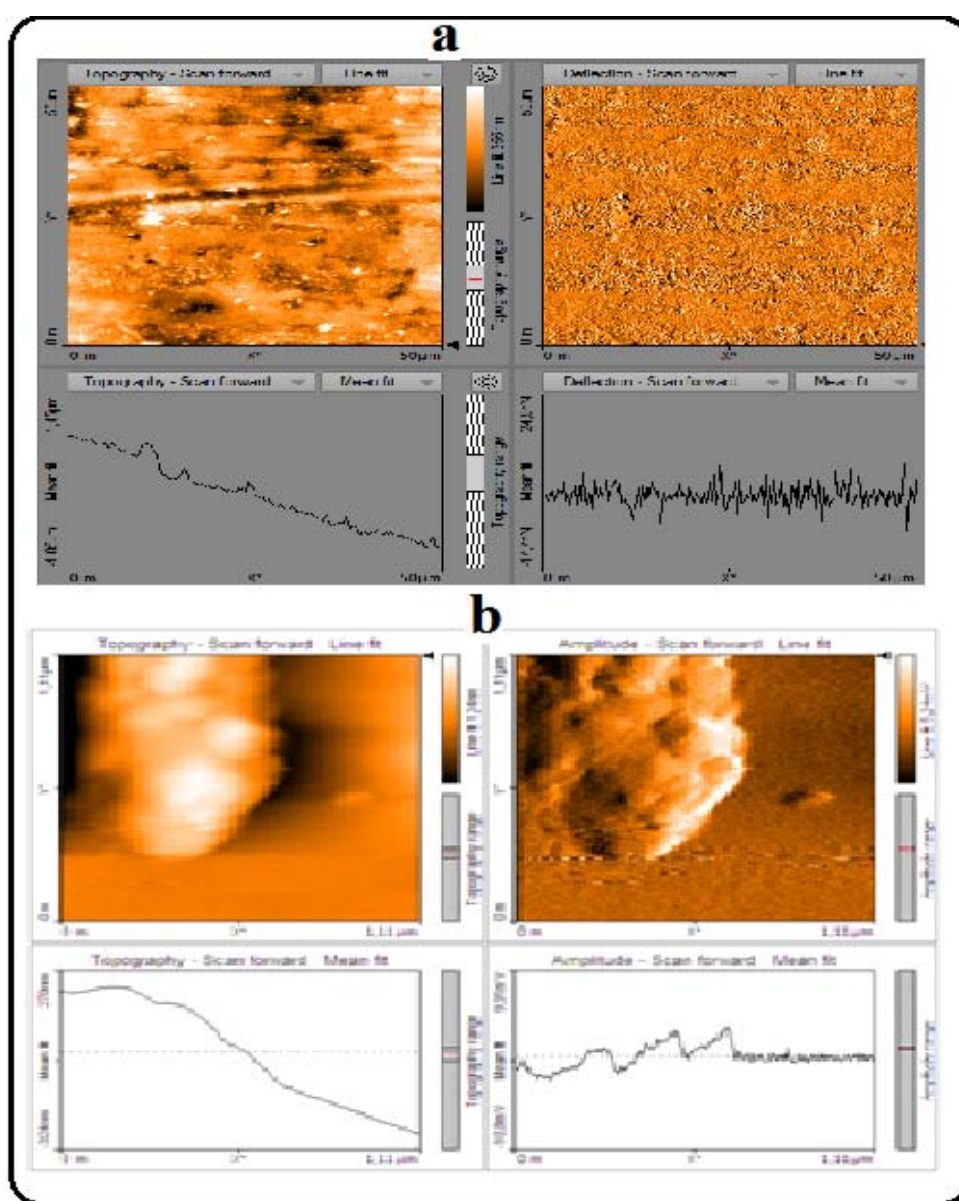


Figure 1 : Topography images of, a- stainless steel and b- clay/stainless steel

Copper is deposited electrochemically onto clay/316L surface; it forms a film continuous and porous. Copper deposit has very rough topography and it is deposited on the entire clay surface. Nickel clusters

are deposited on the surface of clay/316L, they occupy sites clay conductors. We can observe discovered clusters of clay.

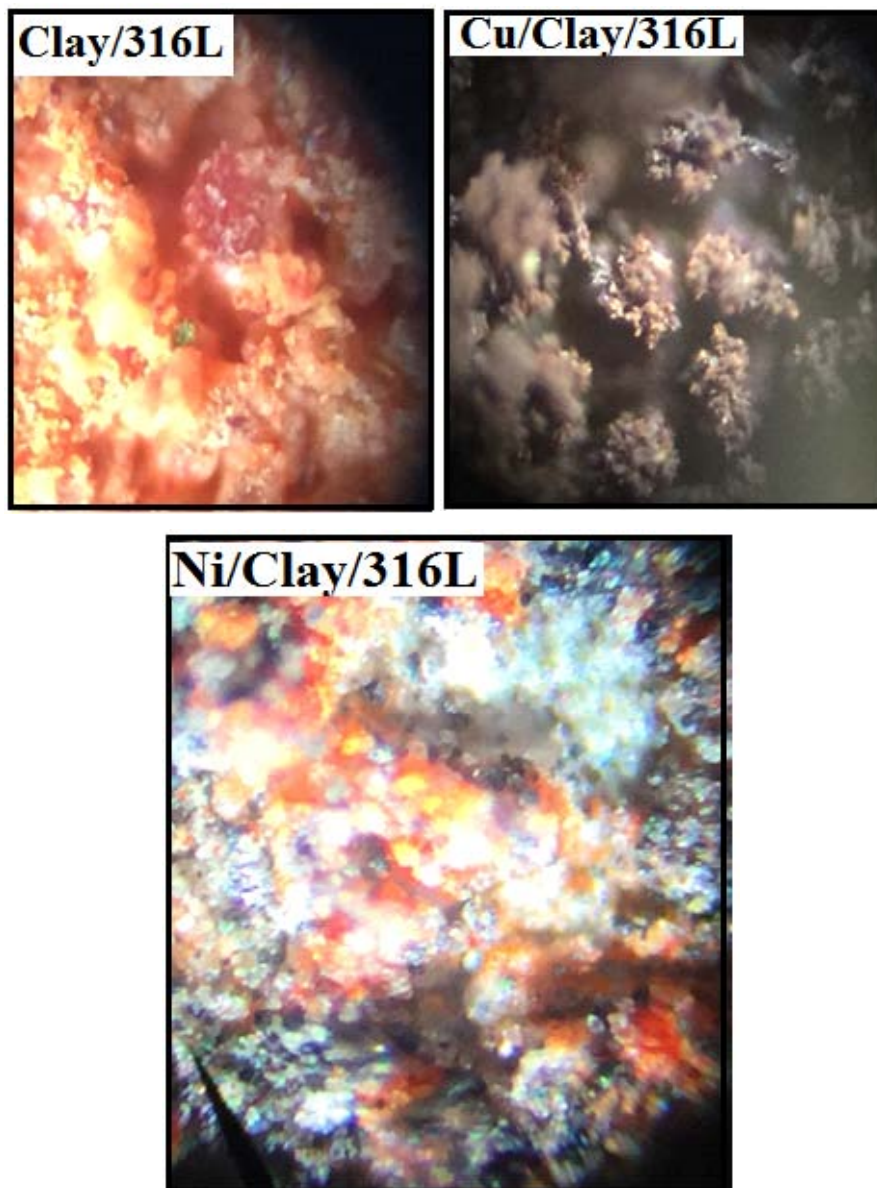


Figure 2 : Optical microscopy images

b) Methanol oxidation

The cyclic voltammograms recorded respectively, for the Cu/clay/316L and Ni/clay/316L, in electrolytical solution, containing or not methanol, are shown in Figures 3 and 4. The CV was carried out to analyze the activity of the synthesized catalyst towards methanol electro oxidation in acidic media. As we can see, the presence of copper to the clay/316L surface generates elevated current densities in the presence of a small amount of methanol in the solution (Fig. 3-b). This phenomenon is confirmed by the square wave voltammetry SWV (Fig. 4). The SQW voltammetry has the advantage of increasing the sensitivity of an

electrode by the cancellation of the capacitive term of the overall value of the current density. The SQW shows three peaks respectively, at -0.4 V, 0.3 V and about 1.4 V. The presence of methanol in the electrolytical solution (Fig. 4-b) increases the current density of the two peaks, 0.3V and 1.3V. These findings allow us to draw the following conclusions:

- In the absence of methanol, in the electrolytical solution, the first peak which appears on the SQW to -0.3V, corresponding to the reduction of the copper surface, while the peaks which appear successively at 0.1 and 1.4 V may correspond to the copper oxidation.

- The oxidation of methanol is encouraged by the formation of oxides on the copper surface.

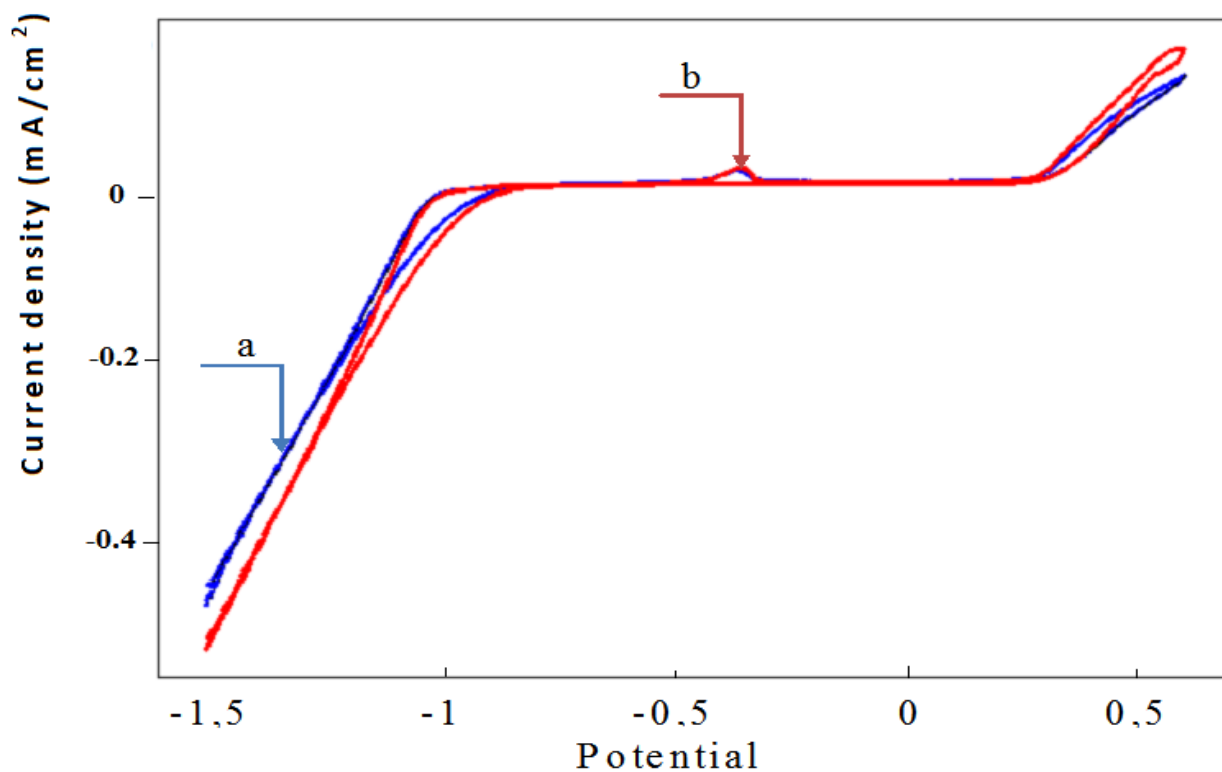


Figure 3 : Steady state cyclic voltammograms recorded for Cu/clay/316L, in 0.1M H₂SO₄ + 0.1 mmol methanol, scan rate 100mV.s⁻¹, at room temperature

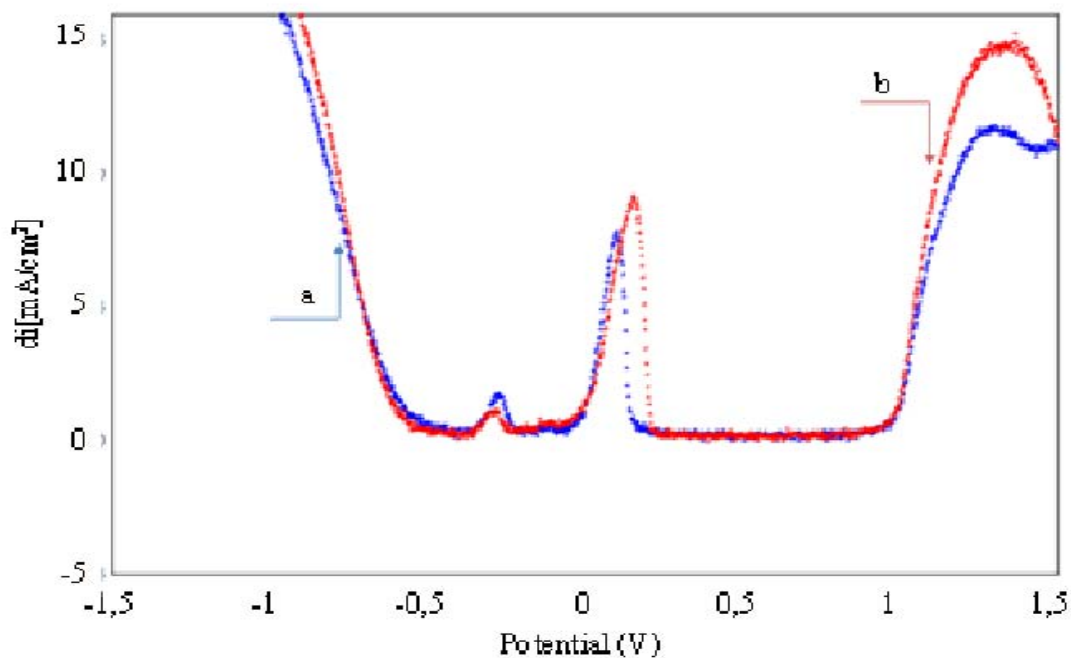


Figure 4 : SQW voltammograms recorded for Cu/clay/316L, in 0.1M H₂SO₄ + 0.1 mmol methanol

The Tafel lines recorded for the electrode Cu/Clay/316L, are represented in Figure 5. We find that the value of the equilibrium potential is shifted towards

lower values in the presence of methanol in the solution, meaning that the reaction requires less energy, so (that) the reaction rate is increased.

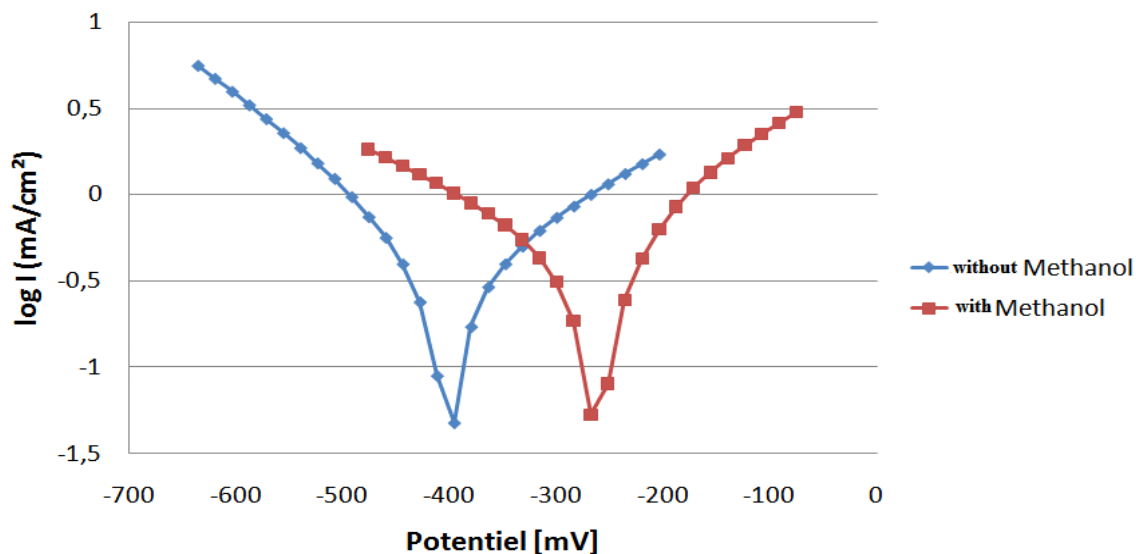


Figure 5 : Tafel lines recorded for the electrode Ni/Clay/316L, in H_2SO_4 medium containing or not methanol

Figure 6 shows the cyclic voltammograms recorded for the electrode Ni/Clay/316L, in electrolytic medium containing or not methanol. No peak is observed in the VC indicating that nickel exhibits no activity for the oxidation of methanol. On the contrary the SQW voltammetry (Fig 7) identifies a well defined peak of oxidation at 1.5V, in the presence and absence of

methanol in the solution. The current density of the peak decreases in the presence of methanol, which allows concluding that nickel, has difficulty to oxidize in acidic medium, and as methanol oxidation is accelerated by the formation of oxides on the surface, hence the low activity observed in the VC.

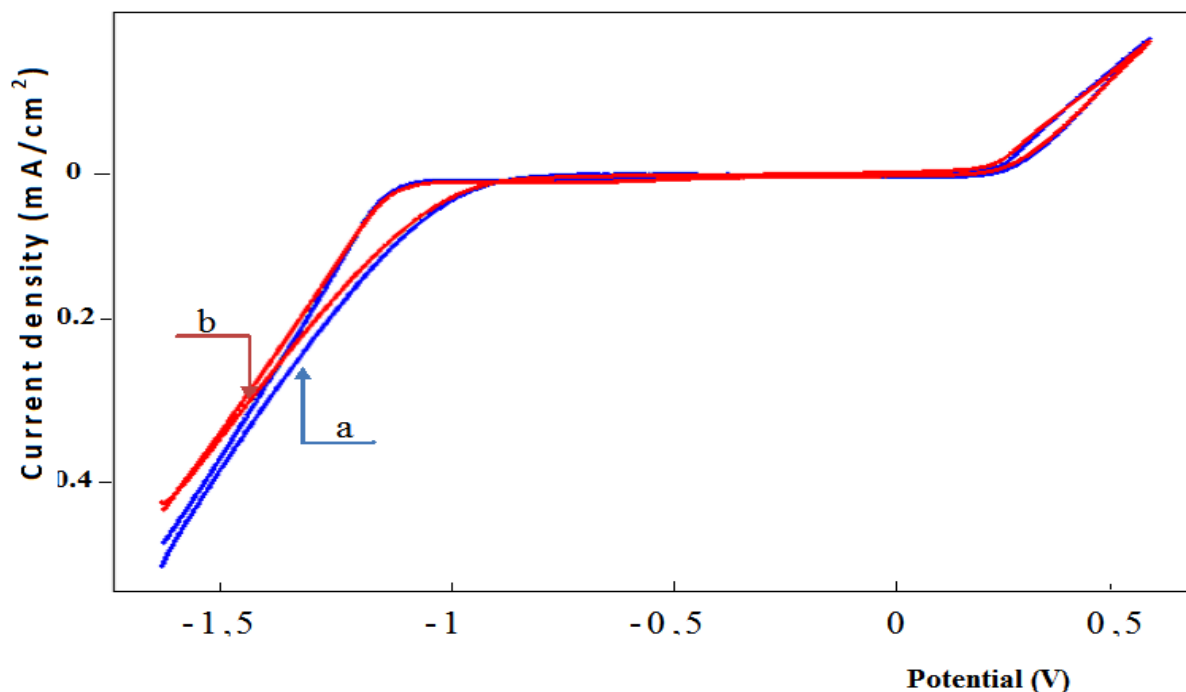


Figure 6 : cyclic voltammograms recorded for Ni/clay/316L, in 0.1M H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mmol methanol, scan rate $100mV \cdot s^{-1}$, at room temperature

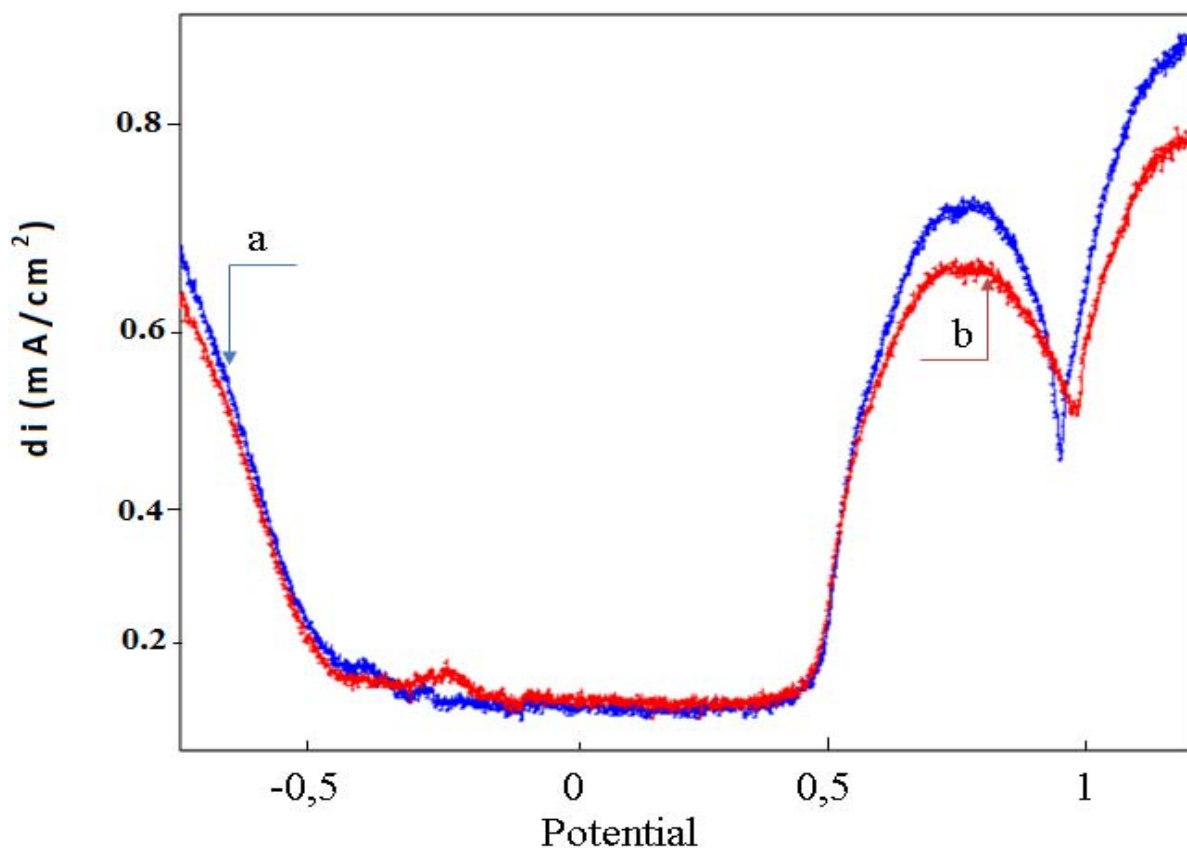


Figure 7 : SQW voltammograms recorded for Ni/clay/316L, in, a- 0.1M H_2SO_4 and b-0.1M H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mmol methanol

The EIS registered for the electrode Ni/Clay/316L, in electrolytic medium containing or not methanol (Fig. 8), we find that the diameter of the half loop decreases in the presence of methanol. In an acid medium, methanol inhibits the oxidation of the nickel

surface. These results are confirmed by the drawing of straight Taffel (Fig. 9). The presence of methanol in the electrolytic medium moves the value of the potential corrosion, of the electrode Ni/Clay/316L to the highest values, and causes the decrease in the corrosion rate.

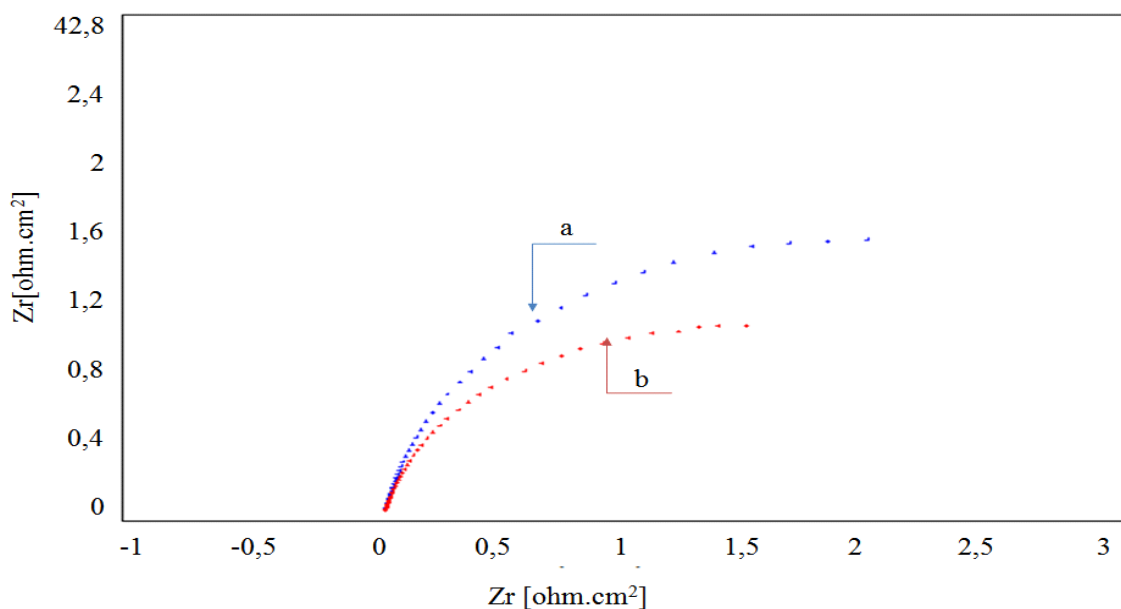


Figure 8 : EIS recorded for Ni/clay/316L, in, a- 0.1M H_2SO_4 and b-0.1M H_2SO_4 + 0.1 mmol methanol

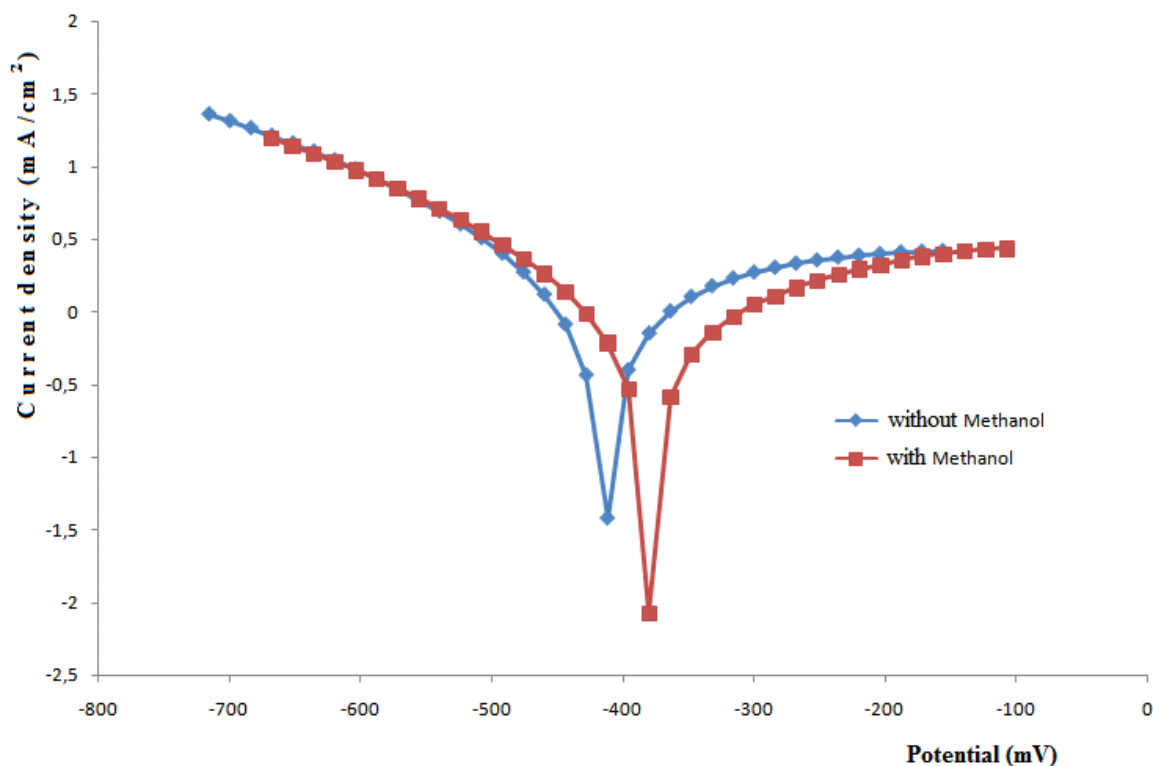


Figure 9 : Tafel lines recorded for the electrode Ni/Clay/316L, in H_2SO_4 medium containing or not methanol

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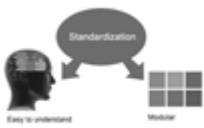
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- Keep on paying attention on the research topic of the paper
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- Align the primary line of each section
- Present your points in sound order
- Use present tense to report well accepted
- Use past tense to describe specific results
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Abstract:

The summary should be two hundred words or less. It should briefly and clearly explain the key findings reported in the manuscript-- must have precise statistics. It should not have abnormal acronyms or abbreviations. It should be logical in itself. Shun citing references at this point.

An abstract is a brief distinct paragraph summary of finished work or work in development. In a minute or less a reviewer can be taught the foundation behind the study, common approach to the problem, relevant results, and significant conclusions or new questions.

Write your summary when your paper is completed because how can you write the summary of anything which is not yet written? Wealth of terminology is very essential in abstract. Yet, use comprehensive sentences and do not let go readability for brevity. You can maintain it succinct by phrasing sentences so that they provide more than lone rationale. The author can at this moment go straight to shortening the outcome. Sum up the study, with the subsequent elements in any summary. Try to maintain the initial two items to no more than one ruling each.

- Reason of the study - theory, overall issue, purpose
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Approach:

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Approach:

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- If use of a definite type of tools.
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- If well known procedures were used, account the procedure by name, possibly with reference, and that's all.

Approach:

- It is embarrassed or not possible to use vigorous voice when documenting methods with no using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result when script up the methods most authors use third person passive voice.
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What to keep away from

- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
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The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Carry on to be to the point, by means of statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently. You must obviously differentiate material that would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matter should not be submitted at all except requested by the instructor.



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- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation an exacting study.
- Explain results of control experiments and comprise remarks that are not accessible in a prescribed figure or table, if appropriate.
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Approach

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- Make a decision if the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory, and whether or not it was correctly restricted.
- Try to present substitute explanations if sensible alternatives be present.
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- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

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<i>References</i>	Complete and correct format, well organized	Beside the point, Incomplete	Wrong format and structuring



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