

## SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SCHIFF BASE TRANSITION METAL COMPLEXES

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### Abstract

New metal complexes of Cu(II); Ni(II); Co(II); Mn(II); Zn(II); VO(IV) and Cd (II) have been synthesized from the Schiff base (L) derived from 4-amino antipyrine, salicylaldehyde and O-phenylene diamine. The prepared complexes were characterized by magnetic susceptibility, Molar conductance, FTIR, UV-vis. The data show that these complexes have a composition of ML type. The UV-vis, magnetic susceptibility data of the complexes suggest a square-planar geometry around the central metal ion except VO(IV) complex which has square-pyramidal geometry.

**Keywords:** 4-amino antipyrine, Schiff base, antimicrobial activity.

### Introduction

Schiff bases play an important role in inorganic chemistry, as they easily form stable complexes with most transition metal ions. The development of the field of bioinorganic chemistry has increased the interest in Schiff base complexes since it has been recognized that many of these complexes may serve as models for biologically important species (1-4).

Schiff base of 4-amino antipyrine and its complexes have a variety of applications in biological, clinical, analytical and pharmacological areas (5, 6).

On the industrial scale they have a wide range of applications such as dyes and pigments (7). Studies of a new kind of chemotherapeutic Schiff bases are now attracting the attention of biochemists (8). Earlier work reported that some drugs showed increased activity when administered as metal complexes rather than as organic compounds (5).

### Experimental

#### General

All chemicals used were of reagent grade (supplied by either Merck or Fluka) and used as supplied. The FTIR spectra in the range (4000-200)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  were recorded as cesium iodide disc on FTIR 8300 Shimadzu spectrophotometer. The UV-visible spectra were measured in DMF using Shimadzu UV-Vis 160 A-ultra-violet spectrophotometer in the range (200-1000) nm. Magnetic susceptibility measurement for complexes were obtained at room temperature using

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#### Synthesis of Schiff base (L)

4-amino antipyrine (1.010 g, 0.005 M) in 20 ml of ethanol was stirred with salicylaldehyde (0.53 ml, 0.005 M) for 2 h. The yellow solid (I) formed was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol. Compound (1) (3 g, 0.01 M) in 20 ml of ethanol was refluxed with (O-phenylenediamine) (0.54 g, 0.005 M) for 36 h after adding anhydrous potassium carbonate. The potassium carbonate was filtered off from the reaction mixture and the solvent was evaporated. The red solid separated was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol Fig.(1).

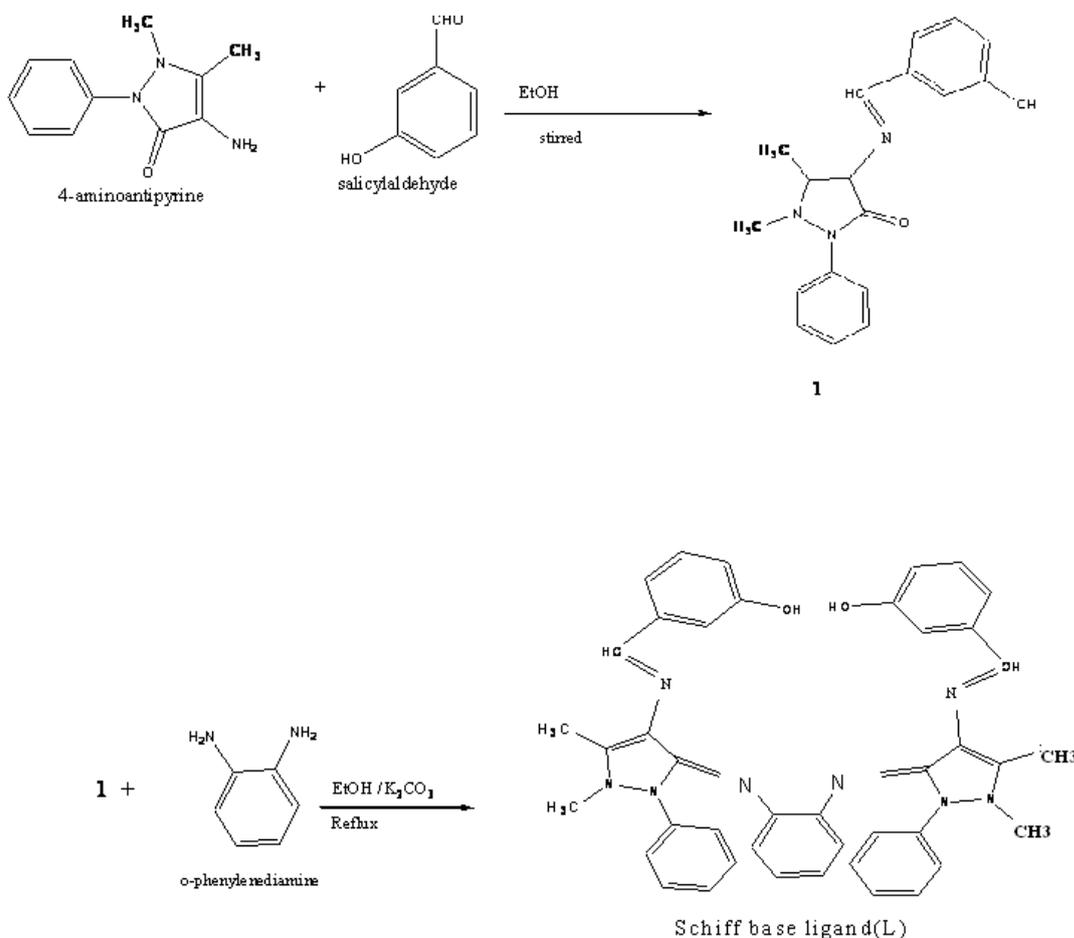


Fig.(1) : Formation of Schiff base ligand (L).

### Syntheses of complexes

A solution of metal (II) chloride in ethanol (2mM) was refluxed with an ethanolic solution of the Schiff base (2mM) for 6 h. The solution was then reduced to one-third on a water bath. The solid complex precipitated was filtered, washed thoroughly with ethanol and dried in vacuo. The oxovanadium (IV) complex was synthesized from the sulphate salt by the same procedure but in the presence of 5 ml of 5% aqueous sodium acetate solution.

### Antibacterial and Antifungal studies

All newly synthesized compounds were tested for their *in vitro* growth inhibitory activity against a standard strain of pathogenic microorganism including Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*), Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) and a yeast like pathogenic fungus. The primary screening was carried out using the agar disc-diffusion method using Muller-Hinton agar medium. Bacteria including *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* were grown in nutrient broth at 37°C for 24 h.

### Result and Discussion

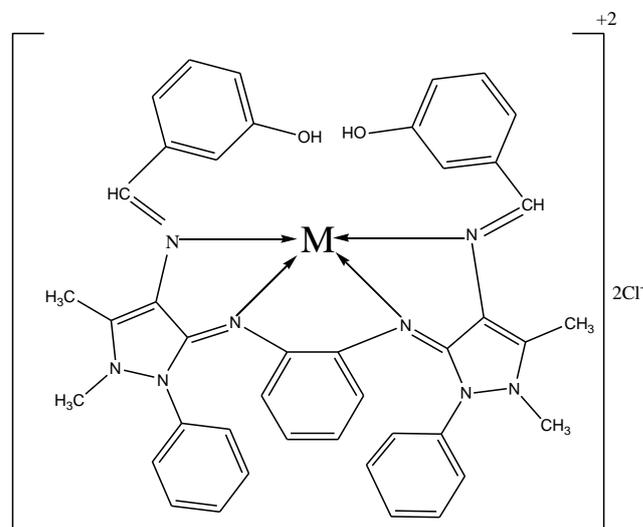
The physical properties for the ligand and complexes are summarized in Table (1). Physical characterization, molar conductance and magnetic susceptibility data of the ligand and the complexes. The data from complexes correspond well with the general formula  $ML$ , where  $M = Cu(II), Ni(II), Co(II), Mn(II), Zn(II), Cd(II)$  and  $VO(IV)$ ,  $L = C_{42}H_{36}N_{10}O_6$ . The magnetic susceptibilities of the complexes at room temperature were consistent with square-planar geometry around the central metal ion, except for the  $VO(IV)$  complex which shows a square-pyramidal geometry. The higher conductance values of chelates support their electrolytic nature of metal complexes.

**Table (1)**  
**Physical characterization, Molal conductance and magnetic susceptibility data of the ligand and the complexes.**

Compound	Molar formula	Colour	Yield%	Molar conductance $\Lambda_m(\Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{mol}^{-1})$	$M_{\text{eff}}$ (BM)
L	$\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Red	70	-	-
[CuL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{CuC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Brown	51	40	1.76
[NiL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{NiC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Brown	50	44	-
[CoL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{CoC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Red	53	50	3.60
[MnL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{MnC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Pale brown	58	40	5.30
[ZnL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{ZnC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Pale brown	60	52	-
[CdL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{CdC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_6\text{Cl}_2$	Yellow	57	43	-
[VOL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	$\text{VC}_{42}\text{H}_{36}\text{N}_{10}\text{O}_{11}\text{S}$	Green	55	32	1.63

### Infrared spectra

The IR spectra provide valuable information regarding the nature of functional group attached to the metal atom. The IR spectra of the ligand showed a broad band in the region  $3200\text{--}3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , assignable to intermolecular hydrogen bonded  $\text{--OH}$  groups. The appearance of this peak in all the spectra of the complexes indicates that the  $\text{--OH}$  group is free from complexation. The spectrum of the ligand shows two different  $\text{--C=N}$  bands in the region  $1590\text{--}1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which is shifted to lower frequencies in the spectra of all complexes ( $1570\text{--}1520\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) indicating the involvement of  $\text{--C=N}$  nitrogen in coordination to the metal ion (9,10). Accordingly the ligand acts as a tetradentate chelating agent, bonded to the metal ion via the four nitrogen ( $\text{--C=N}$ ) atoms of the Schiff base Fig.(2). Assignment of the proposed coordination sites is further supported by the appearance of medium bands at  $450\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which could be attributed to  $\nu_{\text{M--N}}$  respectively (11). In addition the vanadyl complex shows a band at  $940\text{ cm}^{-1}$  attributed to  $\text{V=O}$  frequency (12).



**Fig.(2) : The proposed structures of the Schiff base complexes,  $M = \text{Cu(II)}$ ;  $\text{Ni(II)}$ ;  $\text{Co(II)}$ ;  $\text{Mn(II)}$ ;  $\text{Zn(II)}$ ;  $\text{Cd(II)}$  and  $\text{VO(IV)}$ .**

### Electronic absorption spectra

The electronic absorption spectra of the Schiff base,  $\text{Cu(II)}$ ,  $\text{Ni(II)}$ ,  $\text{Co(II)}$ , and  $\text{VO(IV)}$  complexes were recorded at 300K. The absorption region, band assignment and the proposed geometry of the complexes are

given in Table (2). Based on these data, asquare planar geometry has been assigned to the complexes except VO(IV)complex which has square-pyramidal geometry Fig. (2). These values are comparable with other reported complexes (13-14).

**Table (2)**  
*Electronic absorption spectral data of the compounds.*

Compound	Solvent	Absorption (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Geometry
L	EtOH	40816	-
		25445	
[CuL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMF	41493	Square planar
		26455	
		20533	
[NiL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMF	42016	Square planar
		26954	
		19531	
		15797	
[CoL ]Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMF	41493	Square planar
		26455	
		19607	
[VOL]Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMF	41841	Square Pyramidal
		26109	
		19920	
		12315	

#### **Antimicrobial activity**

All new synthesized compounds were evaluated for Antimicrobial activity against one strain of Gram +ve bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus*), Gram-ve bacteria(*Escherichia coli*) and a fungus (*candida albicans*) Table (3).

**Table (3)**  
*Antimicrobial activity of the Schiff base ligand and its metal complexes.*

Compound	Micro-organism		
	Staphylococcus aureus	Escherichia coli	Candida albicans
L	+	+	+
[CuL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	++	++	++
[NiL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	++	++	++
[CoL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	++	++	++
[MnL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	+++	+++	+++
[ZnL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	++	+	++
[VOL] SO <sub>4</sub>	+++	+++	+++
[CdL] Cl <sub>2</sub>	+++	+++	+++

+ = (5-10) mm = Slightly active, ++ = (11-20) = Moderately active,  
+++ = more than 20 mm = highly active.

The values indicate the most complexes have higher antimicrobial activity than the free ligand. Such increased activity of the metal chelates can be explained on the basis of chelating theory (15).

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