



A novel Copper (II) Schiff base complex: Synthesis, characterization and antibacterial activity

Seyed jalal Hoseyni, Mahboobeh Manoochehri*, Maryam Daghighi Asli
 Department of Chemistry, Central Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran-Iran

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 10 September 2022

Received in revised form 25 October 2022

Accepted 29 October 2022

Available online 1 December 2022

Keywords:

Copper(II),
 Schiff base,
 Antibacterial,
 3NITRO

ABSTRACT

The current study focuses on synthesis, characterization and antimicrobial activity of Cu(II) with N-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-4-chlorobenzenamine Schiff base ligand. Coordination compound for Cu(II) with N-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-4-chlorobenzenamine Schiff base ligand was derived from 3-nitrobenzaldehyde and para-chloroaniline. Ligand and its copper complex were characterized using FT-IR, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra. Finally, the antimicrobial effect of the complex on *E. coli* was investigated by minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) tests. FT-IR, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra showed the success of production of a new complex. Minimum inhibitory concentration and minimum bactericidal concentration studies showed the enhanced antibacterial effect of the new complex on *E. coli*. The results showed that the new complex has numerous antimicrobial effects on *E. coli*.

Introduction

Transition metal complexes with Schiff base ligands have been studied as antimicrobial and anticancer agents. Because of the capability to possess unusual configurations and biological importance, Schiff base complexes derived from amino acids are considered to be significant [1-4].

Schiff bases have been considered to be dominant intermediates in a number of enzymatic reactions such as interaction of an enzyme with an amino or carbonyl group of the substrate. Transaminases are spotted in mitochondria and cytosol of eukaryotic cells [5].

Polydentate ligands like Schiff bases, assisted by metal ions, compose highly organized supramolecular metal complexes. Such complexes are capable of binding sites and cavities for several cations, anions and organic molecules [6-8]. Lian et al. by using single-crystal diffraction analysis revealed that all the complexes were mononuclear molecules, in which the Schiff base ligand showed different coordination modes and conformations. Also, they investigated the anticancer activity of the complexes and they concluded that the complex, with salicylic acid as the auxiliary ligand, exhibited a stronger anticancer activity, referring to the fact that a synergistic effect of the Schiff base complex and the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug may be

involved in the cell killing process. The biological features of mixed-ligand copper(II) Schiff base complexes and how acetic auxiliary ligands manipulate these features were also investigated [8-18]. Abu-Khadra et al. investigated the Antimicrobial Activity of Schiff Base (E)-N-(4-(2-Hydroxybenzylideneamino)Phenylsulfonyl) Acetamide Metal Complexes. Complexes were screened for their antibacterial {Gram negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*)}, {Gram positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*)} and antifungal (*Aspergillus fumigatus* and *Candida albicans*) and the observed promising antimicrobial biological features [19]. They also noticed that Co(II) and Ni(II) complexes have magnetic moment values 4.58 B.M. and 3.22 B.M. respectively which agrees well with the expected value for a high-spin Co(II) ion in an octahedral environment [19].

Schiff bases are defined as the compounds containing azomethine group (-HC=N-) which were first reported by Hugo Schiff in 1864 and formed by condensation of a primary amine with an active carbonyl compound, and generally take place under acid, base catalysis or with heat. They are important compounds possessing the pharmacological activities such as anti-malarial,

* Corresponding author. e-mail: dr.manoochehri@yahoo.com

anticancer, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-tubercular, and anti-inflammatory [19]. Metal-chelate Schiff-base complexes have continued to play the role of one of the most important stereochemical models in main group and transition metal coordination chemistry due to their preparative accessibility, diversity and structural variability [20].

In another study, Azam et al performed a research and they investigated the synthesis and photoluminescent properties of a Schiff-base ligand and its mononuclear Zn(II), Cd(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and Pd(II) metal complexes. The Schiff base displayed photoluminescence originating from intra-ligand ($\pi-\pi^*$) transitions. According to the obtained results, Metal-mediated fluorescence quenching occurs in Cu(II), Ni(II) and Pd(II). The IR spectrum of the Schiff base proved characteristic bands for C,N, C,O and C-O vibrations [20]. Azam et al demonstrated the coordination ability of the ligand in complexation reaction with metal (II) ions [metal = Zn(II), Cd(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and Pd(II)] (20). Lei et al have done a study on Zinc(II) and copper(II) 1D coordination polymeric complexes of a reduced Schiff base ligand. According the results of their study, The different coordination geometries of Cu (II) and Zn(II) show significant influence on the polymeric structures (21). According to another research, the IR, UV and EPR spectral investigations lead to the notion that the nickel and copper complexes show the octahedral and tetragonal geometries [22].

Gull et al. review the synthesis of Schiff base ligand derived from N-(1-Naphthyl) ethylenediamine with 1,2-diphenylethane-1,2-dione in the ratio of 1:2 and its metal complexes. By observing Schiff base ligand and its metal complexes against bacterial and fungal strains and their preliminary results showed they showed that these complexes inhibited bacterial/fungal growth to a greater extent than the ligand [23]. The antimicrobial screening results of the synthesized ligand and its metal complexes indicated antimicrobial properties [23]. Soboia et al. (2014) performed a survey on antibacterial activity of copper (II) complexes of some ortho-substituted aniline Schiff bases. In their study, the Schiff base ligands were synthesized on the basis of the

general procedure by condensing o- vanillin and salicylaldehyde with 2-chloroaniline, 2-bromoaniline, 2-methylaniline and 2-methoxyaniline, respectively [23]. They observed that the existence of the Cu(II) ions did not improve the antimicrobial activity of the free ligands. The copper complexes exhibited low level activity, compared to Schiff base ligands [23].

Imidazole-2-carboxaldehyde with amino acids derivatives are said to have analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anticancer and herbicidal activities. Some Schiff base complexes containing N and O donor atoms are effective as stereospecific catalysts for oxidation, reduction, hydrolysis, biocidal activity other organic and organic transformations [10, 11]. Beside what mentioned so far, it is important to mention that, some of these complexes have been shown to have interesting physical, chemical and potentially useful chemotherapeutic properties [12-16].

Accordingly, we are reporting the synthesis and characterization of complex derivatives including 3-nitro benzaldehyde an para chloroaniline copper (II) chloride. Beside these, antibacterial activities of the complex obtained are fulfilled and the results are reported here.

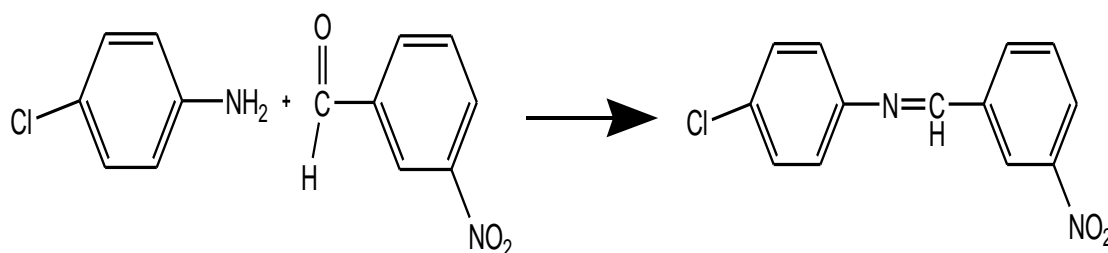
Materials & Methods

Ligand syntheses by 3-nitro benzaldehyde and para chloroaniline: For the synthesis's ligand (1mmol) 3-nitro benzaldehyde solution in 5cc ethanol (5 min) and para chloroaniline (1mmol) solution in 5cc ethanol(5min). Then the two are mixed together for 10 min. The ligand to be synthesized.

With regard to figure 2, we want the synthesis of this ligand-ligand complex is needed to build this type of Schiff base ligands that have many applications including Katalyt, antibacterial materials, and so on.

Complex Syntheses by CuCl_2 :

For the preparation of the title compound, a solution of N-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-4-chlorobenzeneamine (0.269 g, 1.00 mmol) in ether (10 ml) was added slowly to a solution of CuCl_2 (0.134 g, 1.00 mmol) in ethanol (10 ml) and the resulting yellow solution was stirred for 45 min at room temperature.



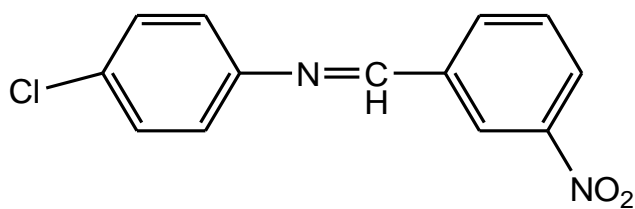


Figure 1: Synthesized ligand N-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-4-chlorobenzenamine

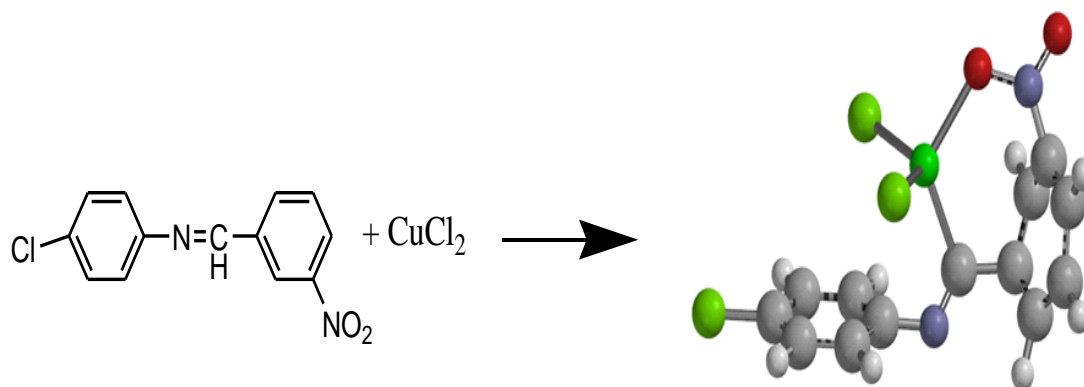


Figure 2: Reaction formation complex between salt Cu(II) and ligand

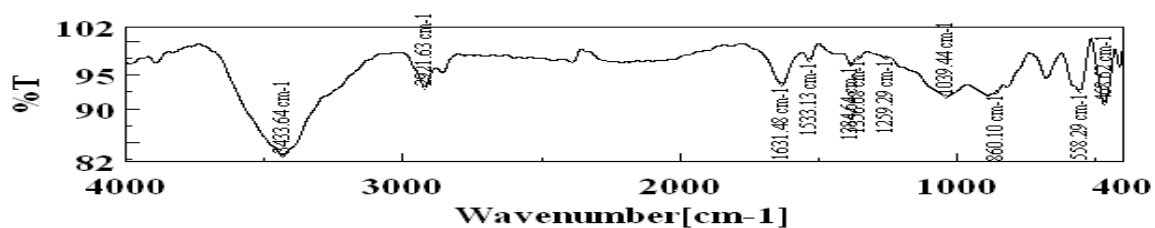


Figure 3: Spectrum IR Complex

We need the spectrum of figure 3 for verifying the complex.

Table (1) presents the peak figures and related descriptions.

Table1: Results of IR spectrum

Stretching Vibration of C=N	Stretching Vibration of C-H	Stretching Vibration of C=C	Flexural Vibration of C-H
1631 Cm^{-1}	3433 Cm^{-1}	1295-1384 Cm^{-1}	860 Cm^{-1}

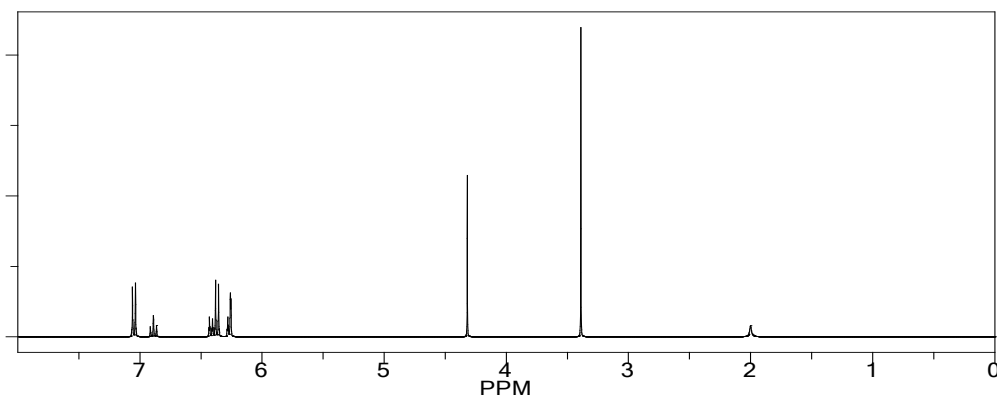


Figure 4: Spectrum HNMR complex

The values of HNMR are as follows:

Protocol of the H-1 NMR Prediction:

Node	Shift	Base + Inc.	Comment (ppm rel. to TMS)
CH	7.05	7.26	1-benzene
		0.01	1 -Cl
		-0.22	1 -N-C
CH	6.37	7.26	1-benzene
		-0.06	1 -Cl
		-0.83	1 -N-C
CH	6.37	7.26	1-benzene
		-0.06	1 -Cl
		-0.83	1 -N-C
CH	7.05	7.26	1-benzene
		0.01	1 -Cl
		-0.22	1 -N-C
CH2	4.32	1.37	methylene
		1.22	1 alpha -1:C*C*C*C*C*C*1
		1.73	1 alpha -N-1:C*C*C*C*C*C*1
CH	6.26	7.26	1-benzene
		-0.20	1 -C
		-0.80	1 -N
CH	6.27	7.26	1-benzene
		-0.19	1 -C
		-0.80	1 -N
CH	6.89	7.26	1-benzene
		-0.12	1 -C
		-0.25	1 -N
CH	6.42	7.26	1-benzene
		-0.20	1 -C
		-0.64	1 -N
OH	2.0	2.00	alcohol
CH3	3.39	0.86	methyl
		2.53	1 alpha -O

In accordance with Figs. 4 and 3, the region of 8.19ppm indicates the hydrogen imin. the regions of 7.52-8.16ppm indicates the hydrogens Aromatic. the region of 3.33ppm indicates the hydrogens methyl.

Based on Fig. 4, the region of 15ppm indicates the carbon methyl. the region of 28ppm indicates the carbon methylene. the region of 156ppm indicates the carbon imine. the regions of 115-128ppm indicates the

carbons Aromatic. the regions of 137-151ppm indicates the carbons pyridine.

2.2. Antibacterial activity of cu complex

The antibacterial effect of this complex against *E.coli* was investigated by microdilution method. *E.coli* : 25922 from Azad university of center Tehran was used. The serial dilutions (1:2 to 1:1024) of cu complex and free cu with different concentration were prepared in nutrient broth. Then 1.5×10^8 CFU/ml of *E.coli*

suspension was added to each tube and incubated at 37 °C for 16 h.

Then, the tubes were examined for turbidity, indicating the growth of microorganism. The lowest concentration of this complex that inhibited growth of *E.coli*, as

detected by the lack of visual turbidity, was designated as MIC. The lowest concentration of complex that allowed survival of less than 0.1% of the original inoculum was assigned as MBC.

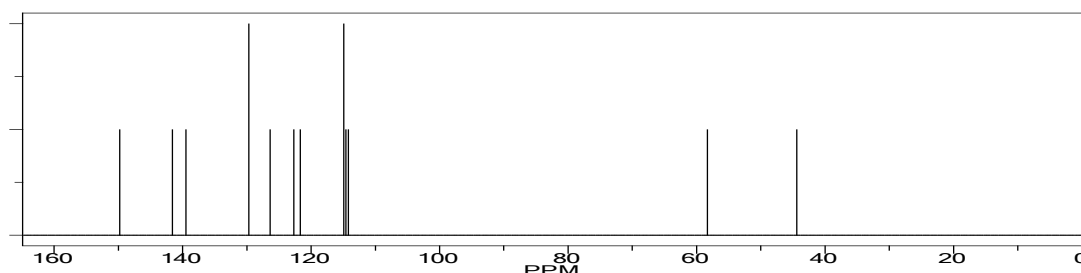


Figure 5: Spectrum CNMR Complex

The values of CNRM are as follows:

Protocol of the C-13 NMR Prediction:

Node	Shift	Base + Inc.	Comment (ppm rel. to TMS)
C	122.7	128.5	1-benzene
		5.3	1 -Cl
		-11.6	1 -N-C
		0.5	general corrections
CH	129.7	128.5	1-benzene
		0.4	1 -Cl
		0.8	1 -N-C
CH	114.9	128.5	1-benzene
		1.4	1 -Cl
		-16.2	1 -N-C
		1.2	general corrections
C	141.6	128.5	1-benzene
		-1.9	1 -Cl
		15.0	1 -N-C
CH	114.9	128.5	1-benzene
		1.4	1 -Cl
		-16.2	1 -N-C
		1.2	general corrections
CH	129.7	128.5	1-benzene
		0.4	1 -Cl
		0.8	1 -N-C
		-2.3	aliphatic
CH2	44	24.3	1 alpha -1:C*C*C*C*C*C*1
		28.3	1 alpha -N
		9.3	1 beta -1:C*C*C*C*C*C*1
		?	1 unknown beta substituent(s)
		-10.2	2 gamma -Cl
		0.0	1 delta -N
		-5.0	general corrections
	-> 1 increment(s) not found		
C	139.5	128.5	1-benzene
		13.9	1 -C-N
		-2.2	1 -N-O
		-0.7	general corrections
CH	114.2	128.5	1-benzene
		-1.4	1 -C-N
		-13.1	1 -N-O
C	149.8	128.5	1-benzene
		-0.2	1 -C-N
		21.5	1 -N-O
		0.2	general corrections
CH	114.6	128.5	1-benzene
		-2.0	1 -C-N
		-13.1	1 -N-O
		1.2	general corrections
CH	126.4	128.5	1-benzene
		-0.2	1 -C-N
		-2.2	1 -N-O
		0.3	general corrections
CH	121.7	128.5	1-benzene
		-1.4	1 -C-N
		-5.3	1 -N-O
		-0.1	general corrections
CH3	58.3	-2.3	aliphatic
		49.0	1 alpha -O
		11.3	1 beta -N
		-2.6	1 gamma -1:C*C*C*C*C*C*1
		-6.2	1 gamma -O
		9.1	general corrections

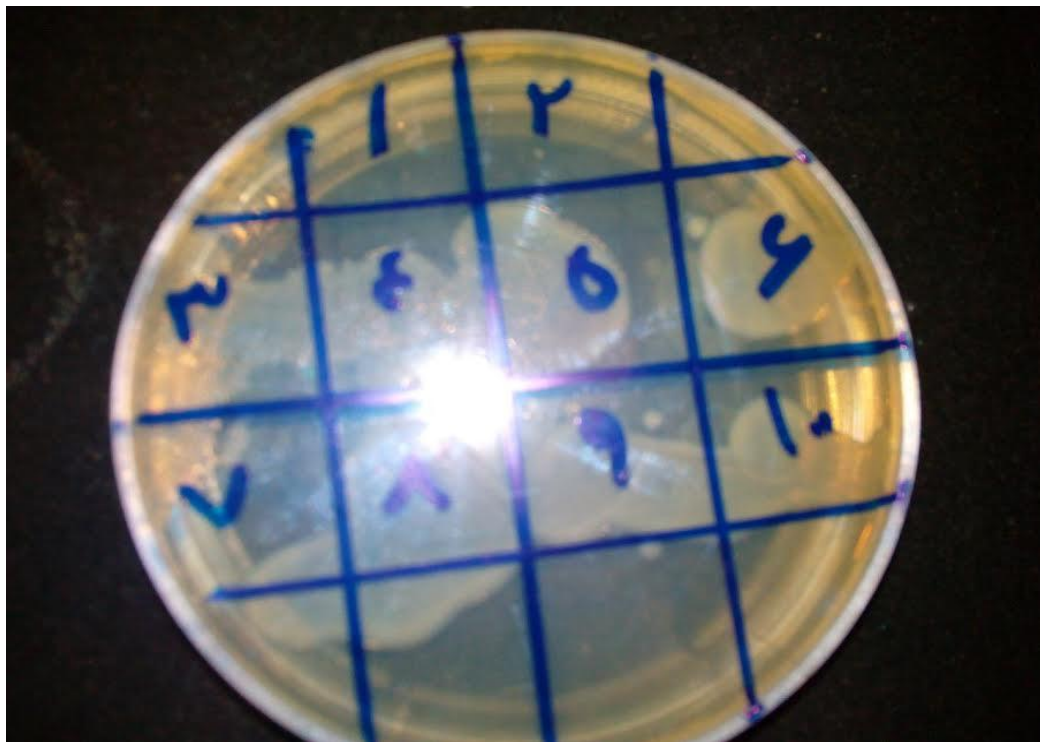
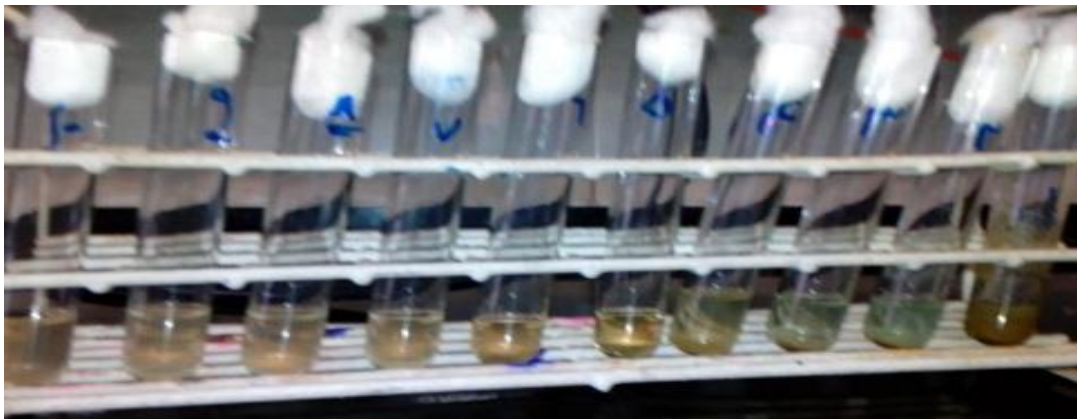
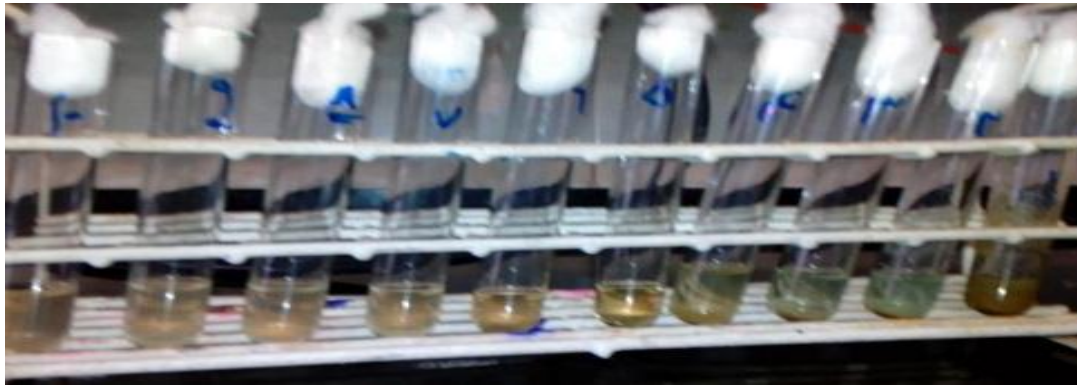


Fig 6. Macrodilution method for MIC and MBC determination

In the above figures, the cultivation environment of bacteria for MIC and MBC tests are showed.

Result and discussion

According to Fig. 1, the band of 3346 cm^{-1} is related to frequency of C-H Aromatic. The band of 1631 cm^{-1} is respected to C=N which is verified the imine. The bands of $1300\text{-}1533\text{ cm}^{-1}$ is related to the C=C benzene. The strong bands of $400\text{-}558\text{ cm}^{-1}$ is related to the bending frequency of Aromatic.

In accordance with Figs. 2, the region of 8.49ppm indicates the hydrogen imine. the regions of 7.58-8.17ppm indicates the hydrogens Aromatic. the region of 2.24ppm indicates the hydrogens methyl.

Based on Fig. 3 and 4, the region of 13.8ppm indicates the carbon methyl. the region of 19.8ppm indicates the carbon methylene. the region of 149.62ppm indicates the carbon imin. the regions of 116-129ppm indicates the carbons Aromatic. the regions of 149.06-149.62ppm indicates the carbons pyridin.

According this study MIC of the new complex was $0.005\text{ }\mu\text{g/ml}$ and its MBC $0.0025\text{ }\mu\text{g/ml}$. These findings showed enhanced antibacterial effect of new complex in comparison with free cu(II).

Due to increased antibacterial properties of copper(II). And we conclude that the copper coordination by ligand increases properties antibacterial. also when substituted in the ortho position is more impressive is the impact

Chemical compounds can destroy of microorganism by denaturation of organic compounds. This events are achieved by connection to functional groups.

Antibiotics:

Mechanism of action of antibiotics is following by below ways:

1. Inhibition of cell wall biosynthesis.
2. Inhibition of DNA function.
3. Inhibition of protein synthesis.
4. Inhibition of cytoplasmic membrane.
5. Metabolic analogues (17).

At this experiment antibacterial susceptibility test of this complex was achieved by microdilution method. The results showed that the complex is formed. When the complex is formed and increases its anti-bacterial effect.

REFERENCES

- [1] A. I. Mosa, A. A. A. Emara, J. M. Yousef, A. A. Saddiq, Acta A, 2011, Novel transition metal complexes of 4-hydroxy-coumarin-3-thiocarbohydrazone: Pharmacodynamic of Co(III) on rats and antimicrobial activity. *Spectrochim. Acta A.*, 81(1) (2011) 35-43.
- [2] H. A. El-boraey, Spectroscopic Characterization, Antioxidant and Antitumour Studies of Novel Bromo Substituted Thiosemicabazone and Its Copper(II)· Nickel (II) and Palladium (II) Complexes, *Spectrochim. Acta A.*, 97 (2012) 255-262.
- [3] R. P. Dhankar, A. M. Rahatgaonkar, M. S. Chorghade, Spectral and in Vitro Antimicrobial Properties of 2-Oxo-4-Phenyl-6-Styryl-1,2,3,4- Tetrahydro-Pyrimidine-5-Carboxylic Metal Complexes, *Spectrochim. Acta A.*, 93 (2012) 348-3.
- [4] D. Arish, M. S. Nair Synthesis, characterization, antimicrobial, and nuclease activity studies of some metal Schiff-base complexes, *J. Coord. Chem.*, 63 (2010) 1619-1628.
- [5] C. Spinu, Pleniceanu, M. Isvoranu, M. Spinu, *Asian J. Chem.* 14 (2005) 2122.
- [6] N. Dixit, L. Mishra, S. M. Mustafi, K. V. R. Chary, H. Houjou, Synthesis of a ruthenium(II) bipyridyl complex coordinated by a functionalized Schiff base ligand: characterization, spectroscopic and isothermal titration calorimetry measurements of M^{2+} binding and sensing ($M^{2+}=\text{Ca}^{2+}, \text{Mg}^{2+}$) *Spectrochim. Acta A.*, 73 (2009) 29-34.
- [7] R. I. Kureshy, Balchand Dangi, Anjan Das, N. H. Khan, S. H. R. Abdi, H.C.Bajaj, Recyclable Cu(II) macrocyclic salen complexes catalyzed nitroaldol reaction of aldehydes: A practical strategy in the preparation of phenylephrine, *Catalysis. Applied Catalysis A: General.*, 439 (2012) 74-79.
- [8] Y. Aoyama, J. T. Kujisawa, T. Walanawe, A. Toi, H. Ogashi, Synthesis and characterization of tetra-armedthiosemicarbazone and its salen/salophen capped transition metal complexes: Investigation of their thermal and magnetic properties, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 108(5) (1986) 943-947.
- [9] a: R. H. Holm, P. Kennepohl, E. I. Solomon, Iron-Sulfur Proteins with Nonredox Function, *Chem. Rev.*, 96(7) (1996) 2239-2314. B: R. H. Holm, P. Kennepohl, E. I. Solomon, *Chem. Rev.* 996; 96(7) (1996) 2239-2314.
- [10] H. Keypour, M. Shayesteh, D. Nematollahi, L. Valencia, H. A. Rudbari, *J. Coord. Chem.*, 63(23) (2010) 4165-4176.
- [11] H. A. El-boraey, S. M. Emam, D. A. Tolan, A. M. Elnahas, Structural studies and anticancer activity of a novel (N6O4) macrocyclic ligand and its Cu(II) complexe, *Spectrochim. Acta A.*, 78(1) (2011) 360-70.
- [12] G. B. Roy, Synthesis, Characterization and Biological Evaluation of Mononuclear Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II) and Pd(II) Complexes with New N2O2 Schiff Base Ligand, *Inorg. Chim. Acta.*, 362 (2009) 1709-1714.
- [13] J. C. Pessoa, I. Cava Complexes with New N2O2 Schiff Base Ligand co, I. Correia, M. T. Duarte, R. D. Gillard, R. T. Henriques, F. J. Higes C, Madeira, I. Tomaz, *Inorg. Chim. Acta.*, 293 (1999) 1-11.
- [14] V. B. Badwaik, R. D. Deshmukh, A. S. Aswar, *J. Coord. Chem.*, 62 (2009) 2037.
- [15] D. Arish, M. S. Nair, *J. Mol. Stru.*, 983 (2010) 112-121. N. Patel, K. K. Shukla, A. Singh, M. Choudhary, D. K. Patel, J. Nioclós-Gutiérrez, D. Choquesillo-Lazarte, *J. Coord. Chem.*, 63(20) (2010) 3648-3661.
- [16] E. Yosif, A. Majeed, N. Salih, J. Salimon, *Arabian j. Chem.*, 52 (2013) 2037.
- [17] W. J. Lian, X. T. Wang, C. Z. Xie, H. Tian, X. Q. Song, H. T. Pan, ... & J. Y. Xu, Mixed-ligand copper (II) Schiff base complexes: the role of the co-ligand in DNA binding, DNA cleavage, protein binding and cytotoxicity. *Dalton Transactions.*, 45(22) (2016) 9073-9087.
- [18] A. S. Abu-Khadra, R. S. Farag, & A. E. D. M. Abdel-Hady, Synthesis, characterization and antimicrobial activity of Schiff base (E)-N-(4-(2-hydroxybenzylideneamino) phenylsulfonyl) acetamide metal complexes. *American Journal of Analytical Chemistry.*, 7(03) (2016) 233.
- [19] E.S. Aazam, A.F. EL Hussein, H.M. Al-Amri, Synthesis and photoluminescent properties of a Schiff-base ligand and its

- mononuclear Zn(II), Cd(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and Pd(II) metal complexes. *Arabian Journal of Chemistry* 5 (2012) 45–53.
- [20] L. Jia, N. Tang, & J. J. Vittal, Zinc (II) and copper (II) 1D coordination polymeric complexes of a reduced Schiff base ligand. *Inorganica Chimica Acta.*, 362(8) (2009) 2525-2528.
- [21] S. Chandra, & A. K. Sharma, Nickel (II) and copper (II) complexes with Schiff base ligand 2, 6-diacetylpyridine bis (carbohydrazone): synthesis and IR, mass, ¹H NMR, electronic and EPR spectral studies. *Spectrochimica Acta Part A: Molecular and Biomolecular Spectroscopy.*, 72(4) (2009) 851-857.
- [22] P. Gull, S. A. AL-Thabaiti, & A. A. Hashmi, Design, Characterization and antimicrobial activity of Cu (II), Co (II) and Zn (II) complexes with Schiff base from 1, 2-diphenylethane-1, 2-dione and N-(1-Naphthyl) ethylenediamine. *Int. J. Multidiscip. Curr. Res.*, 2(6) (2014) 1142-1147.
- [23] A. O. Sobola, G. M. Watkins, & B. Van Brecht, Synthesis, characterization and antimicrobial activity of copper (II) complexes of some ortho-substituted aniline Schiff bases; crystal structure of bis (2-methoxy-6-imino) methylphenol copper (II) complex. *South African Journal of Chemistry.*, 67 (2014) 45-51.