

## Synthesis, Characterization, Antifungal and Antibacterial Activity of Mixed Ligand Complexes of Cu(II), Ni(II) and Co(II)

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Metal complexes of the type  $ML_1L_2$  [ $M = \text{Cu(II)}, \text{Ni(II)}$  and  $\text{Co(II)}$ ,  $L_1 = 3,3'$ -dipyridyl(dipy.),  $L_2 = 2$ -hydroxybenzalidine anthranilic acid (HBAA)] have been synthesized by using 3,3'-dipyridyl(dipy.), 2-hydroxybenzalidine anthranilic acid (HBAA) and metal(II) acetate. The resulting mixed ligand metal complexes have been characterized on the basis of elemental analysis, IR-spectra, electronic spectra, magnetic susceptibilities and molar conductance measurements. The antifungal and antibacterial activities of ligands and their metal complexes have been screened against *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

**Key Words:** Mixed ligand metal complexes, Cu(II), Ni(II), Co(II).

### INTRODUCTION

When a metal coordinates with only one type of ligand, the complex formed is named simple or binary complex. But when two types of ligands are attached, the formed complex is termed as mixed or ternary complex. In ternary complex when all the co-ordination sites are not satisfied by one type of ligand molecule<sup>1</sup>, the second type of ligand replaces the co-coordinated solvent molecule to form more stable mixed ligand complex species<sup>2</sup>.

The formation of ternary complexes is chiefly dependent upon factors such as ionic potential of the metal ion, basicity and denticity of ligand and number of fused rings in the complex. The stability constant of the mixed ligand metal complexes are much greater than that of binary complexes and that they are increasingly finding larger application in analytical and biological fields.

Heterocyclic dipyridyl(dipy.) containing two heteroatoms and 2-hydroxybenzalidine anthranilic acid (HBAA) containing azomethine group finds various applications. They are great of importance due to their synthetic flexibility, selectivity and sensitivity towards the metal ions. The hetero donor atoms containing mixed ligand metal complexes increasing importance as antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, anticancer and also as spray agents in chromatography<sup>3-7</sup>. In the present work the synthesis, structural studies of mixed ligand metal complexes of Cu(II), Ni(II) and Co(II) with the ligand  $L_1 = 3,3'$ -dipyridyl(dipy.) and  $L_2 = 2$ -hydroxybenzalidine anthranilic acid (HBAA) are described together with their antifungal and antibacterial applications.

## EXPERIMENTAL

All the reagents used for synthesis of ligand and their mixed ligand complexes were of AR grade<sup>8,9</sup>.

**Ligand (L<sub>1</sub>)-3,3'-dipyridyl(dipy.):** It was commercially available and used without further purification.

**Synthesis of ligand (L<sub>2</sub>) 2-hydroxybenzalidine anthranilic acid (HBAA):** The solution obtained by dissolving 0.05 mol of anthranilic acid in minimum volume of ethanol was mixed with 25 mL of ethanolic solution of 0.05 mol of salicylaldehyde, resulting solution was refluxed on a water bath for 1 h and then allowed to stand over night. Orange-red crystals, so obtained, were filtered and washed with cold water and finally with ethanol. The precipitate was dried and finally recrystallized from ethanol to yield orange-red crystals.

**Synthesis of complexes M(dipy.) HBAA:** Equimolar solution of 3,3'-dipyridyl (0.3122 g,  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  M) in alcohol, HBAA (0.4820 g,  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  M) also in alcohol and equimolar amounts of metal(II) acetate in alcohol were mixed with constant stirring. The pH of the solution was adjusted between 5 and 6. The precipitate obtained was digested over a water bath, filtered and washed with water-acetone mixture (1:1), alcohol, benzene and then with ether. The washed precipitate was dried in vacuum desiccator over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub>.

**Microbial activities:** All the mixed ligand metal complexes were screened against *staphylococcus aureus* (gram positive) and *Escherichia coli* (gram negative) bacteria and fungi like *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus fumigatus* by using agar diffusion method or serial dilution method. A nutrient agar at 40 °C was poured in different and well cleaned petri-dishes and allowed to solidify.

The desired fungi/bacteria were inoculated by the loop of platinum wire in the Petri-dishes. Filter paper disc were dipped into complex solution ( $10^{-3}$  M). Petri-dishes were then kept in BOD incubator observed inhibition of growth of bacteria and fungi after two and seven days, respectively.

The petri-dishes with lowest concentration of ligand/metal chelate were selected in which fungi/bacteria was not detectable. Elemental analysis were obtained from the microanalytical laboratory of CDRI, Lucknow.

A Perkin-Elmer spectrophotometer (model 521) at instrumentation centre of IIT, New Delhi was used to make infrared spectral studies in the range of 4000-200 cm<sup>-1</sup> at room temperature. Magnetic susceptibilities of mixed ligand metal complexes were measured by Gouy's technique in magnetic field of 5 and 10 kg at room temperature using AR CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O ( $g = 5.8472 \times 10^{-5}$  CGS units at 20 °C) as calibrant. Molar conductance was measured in DMF ( $10^{-3}$  M) solution by using a Toshniwal digital conductivity meter with a dip cell.

Bausch and Lomb electronic 20 and Beckman DU-6 spectrophotometer were used to record the electronic data at room temperature. Reference used is pure solvent DMF.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analytical data of mixed ligand metal complexes and their physical properties are given in Table-1. The resulting ligand and their mixed ligand metal complexes are coloured solid and soluble in DMF. The elemental analysis agree with stoichiometry and chemical formula of compound ( $ML_1L_2$ ).

TABLE-1  
ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS, PHYSICAL PROPERTIES AND MAGNETIC  
SUSCEPTIBILITIES OF SYNTHESIZED MIXED LIGAND METAL COMPLEXES

Compound	m.f.	Elemntal analysis			Decomp. temp. (°C)	Colour	$\mu_{\text{eff}}$ BM	Molar conductance (ohm <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )
		C	H	N				
HBAA	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	69.48 (69.70)	4.34 (4.56)	5.65 (5.80)	–	Orange red	–	
Cu(dipy.) HBAA.H <sub>2</sub> O	Cu(C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )	60.50 (60.40)	3.99 (4.02)	8.92 (8.83)	321	Light green	1.67 10.31	
Ni(dipy.) HBAA.H <sub>2</sub> O	Ni(C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )	61.00 (61.09)	3.99 (4.07)	8.83 (8.93)	298	Dark brown	3.23 6.62	
Co(dipy.) HBAA.H <sub>2</sub> O	Co(C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )	70.06 (60.99)	3.99 (4.06)	8.82 (8.92)	279	Light yellow	1.92 23.58	

In the IR spectra of free ligand HBAA, the stretching bending vibration of -OH (phenolic) group are indicated by 3450 cm<sup>-1</sup> and moderate bands at 1365 cm<sup>-1</sup> due to intramolecular hydrogen bonded -OH. In the IR spectra of mixed ligand metal complexes the broad band disappear indicating metal to ligand coordination has take place *via* a deprotonation of phenolic -OH group. -OH deformation (acid) show a band at 920 cm<sup>-1</sup>. A broad band at 3500-3280 cm<sup>-1</sup> region in dipy-metal complexes of HBAA is observed. It may be attributed to the stretching frequency of O-H of coordinated water. In these complexes a moderate band at 860-820 and 690-680 cm<sup>-1</sup> is also seen rocking and bending vibrations of O-H as observed earlier<sup>10</sup>.

The  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$  vibration of azomethine group in HBAA is indicated by sharp spectral band at 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>, when the dipyrityl-metal complexes are formed, this frequency is lowered by 22-25 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The lowering of frequency may be attributed to coordination of ligand to metal through nitrogen of azomethine group<sup>11-14</sup>. The  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$  vibration of dipy. show a moderate spectral band at 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The frequency undergoes a negative shift of the order of 10-75 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicating the involvement of pyridine nitrogen in coordination<sup>15,16</sup>.

The presence of bands for out of plane C-H bending and deformation (850-620 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and the ring system (1150-1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>) has been observed<sup>17</sup> and the aromatic C=C stretching vibration at 1600 cm<sup>-1</sup>. In the spectra of complexes M-O and M-N, frequencies can be assigned in the region of 510-480 and 470-305 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively<sup>18</sup>. The electronic spectra of mixed ligand metal complex of Cu(II) ion in DMF show three bands in the region of 11550, 17460 and 28064 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which are assigned three

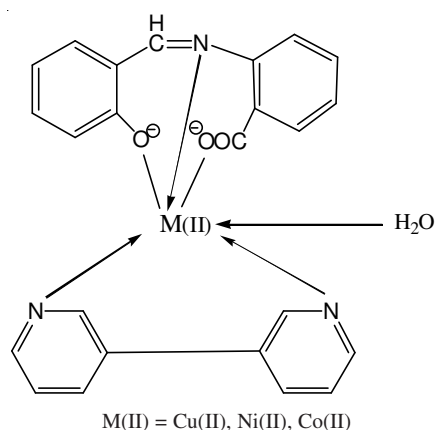
spectral bands due to transitions  ${}^2B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^2A_{1g}(v_1)$ ,  ${}^2B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^2B_{2g}(v_2)$  and  ${}^2B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^2E_g(v_3)$  are expected<sup>19,20</sup>.

This complex can there be assigned distorted octahedral configuration. The magnitude of  $10 Dq$ ,  $B$  and  $\beta$  have been evaluated<sup>21</sup>. The ratio  $v_2/v_1$  is of order of 1.51 as per requirement of distorted octahedral complexes. Mixed ligand metal complex of Ni(II) ion exhibits three bands in the range of 9045, 17305 and 20465  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to transitions  ${}^3A_{2g} \rightarrow {}^3T_{2g}(v_1)$ ,  ${}^3A_{2g} \rightarrow {}^3T_{1g}(v_2)$  and  ${}^3A_{2g} \rightarrow {}^3T_{1g}(P)(v_3)$ . The  $\beta$  % value reduced 51.79 % due to partial covalent character in metal-ligand bond. In Ni(dipy.) HBAA·H<sub>2</sub>O complex, lower value of  $v_2/v_1$  (1.90)<sup>22,23</sup> suggest some distortion in octahedral symmetry.

In the mixed ligand metal complex of Co(II), three types of spectral bands in the region of 8310, 15425 and 18600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to transitions  ${}^4T_{1g}(F) \rightarrow {}^4T_{2g}(F)(v_1)$ ,  ${}^4T_{1g}(F) \rightarrow {}^4A_{2g}(F)(v_2)$  and  ${}^4T_{1g}(F) \rightarrow {}^4T_{1g}(P)(v_3)$ . Lower values of  $v_2/v_1$  around 1.85 for this complex assume its distortion octahedral configuration<sup>24</sup>.

A partial covalent character in the metal-ligand bond is deduced  $\beta$  % value which is fall in the range 83-81 %<sup>22,23</sup>. In all the mixed ligand metal complexes values of effective magnetic moment ( $\mu_{\text{eff}}$ ) higher than the normal value, indicating the monomeric nature of complexes. Complexes of type M(dipy.) HBAA·H<sub>2</sub>O (M = Cu, Ni or Co) are paramagnetic in nature due to containing unpaired electrons.

The molar conductance values for all the mixed ligand metal complexes in DMF solutions recorded in the range of 6.62-23.58  $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^2 \text{mol}^{-1}$ , indicating non-electrolytic nature of mixed ligand metal complexes. The antimicrobial activities of ligands and mixed ligand metal complexes are given in Table-2. The biocidal activities of mixed ligand metal complexes are sufficiently higher than metal or ligand alone. With increase in the ligand concentration in a complex, the inhibition of growth of rate of fungi and bacteria also increases. So, in case of dipy-complexes the activities depend upon either nature of the ligand or the combined effect of both the metal and ligands present in chelate<sup>25-27</sup>.



Structure of mixed ligand M-3,3'-dipyridyl(dipy.) HBAA·H<sub>2</sub>O complex

TABLE-2  
ANTIFUNGAL AND ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITIES OF LIGANDS  
AND THEIR MIXED LIGAND METAL COMPLEXES

Ligand/complexes	Fungal growth after 7 days			Bacterial growth after 2 day	
	<i>A. flavus</i>	<i>A. fumigatus</i>	<i>A. niger</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>
Dipy.	–	–	–	–	–
HBAA	++	++++	+++	+++	++
Cu(dipy) HBAA·H <sub>2</sub> O	–	–	–	–	–
Ni(dipy) HBAA·H <sub>2</sub> O	+	–	+	–	–
Co(dipy) HBAA·H <sub>2</sub> O	–	–	–	–	–

++++ = Very high growth. +++ = High growth. ++ = Moderate growth. + = Poor growth. – = No growth.

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