



## Synthesis, Spectral and Biological Studies of New Mn(II) and Fe(II) Complexes of 2,3-Butanedione 3-monoxime

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### ABSTRACT

Reaction between 2,3-Butanedione 3-monoxime, 3-aminophenol and some hydrated metal salts of Mn<sup>II</sup> and Fe<sup>II</sup> give complexes of the type [ML<sub>2</sub>2(H<sub>2</sub>O)]. The ligand and the complexes were characterized by elemental analysis, magnetic susceptibility measurements, spectral (U.V.Vis., I.R., <sup>1</sup>H N.M.R.) analysis and X-ray powder diffraction studies. Spectral studies indicate bidentate nature of the ligand and coordination occurs through oxime oxygen after deprotonation and nitrogen of azomethine. The spectral and magnetic studies suggest octahedral geometries for both the complexes. A triclinic system was proposed by X-ray powder diffraction study of Schiff base and metal complex. Anti-bacterial and anti-fungal activity have been studied using the agar well diffusion method and ditch diffusion method. The activity data shows that the metal complexes are more potent antibacterial and antifungal than the parent Schiff base ligand.

**Key words :** Schiff base, transition metal complexes, Triclinic system, Biological activity.

### INTRODUCTION

Ligand, a metal surrounded by a cluster of ions or molecule, is used for preparation of complex compounds named as Schiff base, which are condensation products of primary amines and aldehydes or ketones (RCH=NR', where R and R' represents alkyl or aryl substituent). Such schiff base metal complexes play an important role in agriculture, pharmaceutical and industrial chemistry. Schiff base metal complexes gain much

importance in some potentially useful biological activities like antibacterial activity, antifungal activity<sup>1-3</sup>, antitumour activity<sup>4</sup>, antiinflammatory activity<sup>5-6</sup>, antioxidant activity<sup>7-8</sup>, hepatotoxicity[9], and pesticidal activity<sup>10</sup> etc. Thiophene derivatives are well known to exhibit an array of biological activity such as antibacterial and antifungal activity<sup>11</sup>. Condensed thienopyrimidines exhibit interesting antibacterial activity<sup>12-13</sup>. Thus metal complexes with various donar groups had attracted by many workers.

In this paper we reported the study of 3-aminophenol 2,3-Butanedione 3-monoxime (HL) and their complexes with transition metal ions like  $Mn^{II}$  and  $Fe^{II}$ . The main interest in this ligand originates in its oxime group containing -N-O- donor atoms.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ligand was prepared according to the literature method<sup>14-15</sup>. All the chemicals used for synthesis were analytical grade. 2,3-Butanedione 3-monoxime was obtained from Thomas Baker, 3-aminophenol obtained from Aldrich.

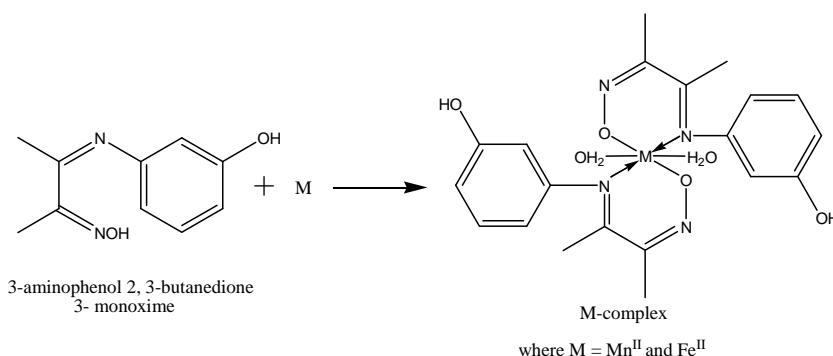
### Method 1. Synthesis of Schiff base Ligand (HL)

2,3-Butanedione 3-monoxime (1.0gm) and

3-aminophenol (1.5gm) were dissolved separately in ethanol and mixed together and refluxed for 1-2 hrs. in water bath. After heating insoluble materials were removed by filtration and cooled. Dark brown colored HL was formed washed it with ethanol and then dried over anhydrous  $CaCl_2$ . Yield of ligand was 99%. The physical and analytical data listed in table 1.

### Method 2. Synthesis of Metal Complexes

The prepared ligand and metal salts in 1:1 proportion were dissolved separately in ethanol and mixed together and refluxed for 2-3 hrs. in water bath. After cooling insoluble materials were removed by filtration, colored crystalline metal complexes were formed, recrystallized and dried over anhydrous  $CaCl_2$ .



### Antibacterial activity and Antifungal activity

The synthesized ligand and complexes were screened for in vitro growth inhibitory activity against gram positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* and gram negative bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Nutrient agar plates were made uniformly surface inoculated from the culture of the tested microorganisms. Well was made on the agar medium at the centre. Normal saline was used to prepare the inoculums of the bacteria to be used for the antibacterial study<sup>16-17</sup>.

The synthesized ligand and complexes also screened for in vitro growth inhibitory activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*. Sabouraud dextrose agar plates made uniformly and ditch made on the agar medium at the centre. Two separate striking lines of fungi were made on both the sides of ditch<sup>17</sup>.

Mueller Hint Agar Media (HI Media) was used to subculture various strains of microorganisms. The lowest concentration of the compound which shows positive antibacterial and antifungal activity was subjected to dilution method for quantitative measurement of inhibitory (micro static) activity. The lowest concentration which completely inhibited visible microbial growth was recorded as the Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC,  $\mu g/ml$ ). The stock solution of test compounds (0.04mg/ml) was prepared in DMF and subsequent dilutions (80%, 60%, 40%, and 20%) of stock solutions were made in the same solvent. Under aseptic conditions, the diluted test solutions with different concentrations were added to the disc and ditch were placed on the numbered plates. Then the plates were incubated at room temperature for 24 hr. During this period, the test solution diffused and the growth of the inoculated microorganisms

was affected. Antibacterial activity was indicated by the presence of clear inhibition zone around the well and antifungal activity was indicated by the presence of inhibition zone nearer to the ditch. The activity of standard ciprofloxacin and fluconazole were also recorded using the same procedure as above at the same concentrations and solvent.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The complexes are stable in air but decomposed at high temperature. Easily soluble in Dimethylformamide (DMF) and dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO). The physical and elemental analyses of the ligand and metal complexes are recorded in table 1.

## Electronic Spectra and Magnetic moment

The solid state electronic spectra of the complexes are recorded in table 2 lists the important electronic spectral bands of the complexes.

The electronic spectrum of ligand and complexes helps to indicate the geometry. The electronic spectra of the ligand show strong absorption band at 264nm but in complexes this band is slightly shifted to lower frequency<sup>18</sup> which are  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  charge transfer transitions. The band at 425nm can be assigned to the  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions of the azomethine group. In the spectra of all metal complexes, the bands of the azomethine chromophore  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions are shifted to higher

**Table 1: Physical and elemental analysis of the ligand and metal complexes**

**Table 2: Electronic spectral data and magnetic values of the metal complexes**

**Table 3: IR bands of ligands and metal complexes****Table 4: Antibacterial activity**

frequencies indicating that the imine nitrogen atom is involved in coordination to the metal ion<sup>16</sup>. Those very low intensity absorption bands associated with d-d transitions for Mn<sup>II</sup> complex are  ${}^6A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4T_{2g}$  (D) (506nm),  ${}^6A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4T_{2g}$  (D) (624nm) and  ${}^6A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4T_{1g}$  (710nm) indicates octahedral geometry<sup>20-21</sup> and for Fe<sup>II</sup> complex are  ${}^6A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^4T_{1g}$  (585) and  ${}^6A_{1g} \leftarrow {}^4T_{4g}$  (490) indicates octahedral geometry<sup>20</sup>.

The room temperature magnetic moment values also help to indicate the geometry. The magnetic moment value of Mn<sup>II</sup> in the rang 5.7 to 6.0 BM is close to theoretical spin only value ( $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 6.4$  BM) for Mn<sup>2+</sup> (d<sup>5</sup> system) and for Fe<sup>II</sup> in the rang 5.0 to 5.6 BM, is close to theoretical spin only value ( $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 4.638$  BM) for Fe<sup>2+</sup> (d<sup>6</sup>) indicates octahedral geometry of the complexes<sup>22</sup>.

#### Infrared Spectra

The I.R. bands of ligand and metal complexes are listed in table 3. The I.R. spectra of the complexes shows, complexes behave as a

bidentate coordinating ligand via azomethine nitrogen (C=N\*) and oxygen of oxime (-NOH) group by replacement of hydrogen ion forming six membered ring around metal ion. In the ligand azomethine (C=N\*) group is at 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup> wavenumber but in metal complexes it shifts to lower wavenumber, this indicates that imine nitrogen atom involved in coordination to the metal ion<sup>19, 22</sup> while oxime (C=N) remain more or less at the same position in both ligand and metal complexes. The N-O band in ligand at 998 cm<sup>-1</sup> but in metal complexes it shifts to higher wavenumber, this indicates that oxygen atom by replacing oxime proton involved in coordination to the metal ion<sup>21</sup>. A band observed in the ligand at 3296 cm<sup>-1</sup> due to N-H group present in the imidazole ring which is rarely observed in metal complexes. Phenolic (O-H) in ligands and their metal complexes is observed in rang 3365-2609cm<sup>-1</sup> means (O-H) of hydroxyl group does not involved in coordination or ligand formation. A broad band observed in both the complexes in rang ~3396 cm<sup>-1</sup> due to (O-H) of the

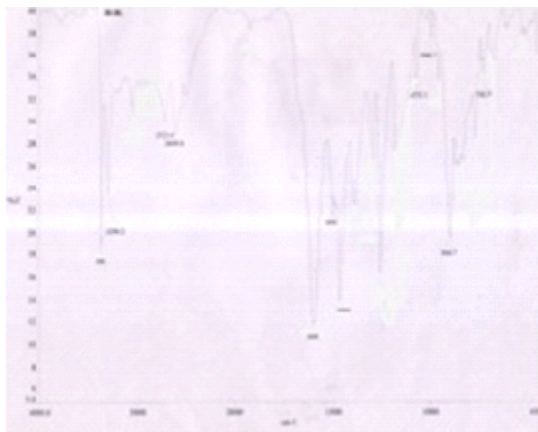


Fig. 1: IR Spectra of HL

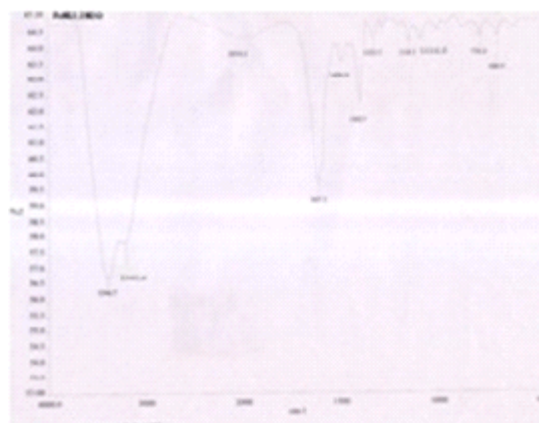


Fig. 2: IR Spectra FeHL<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O

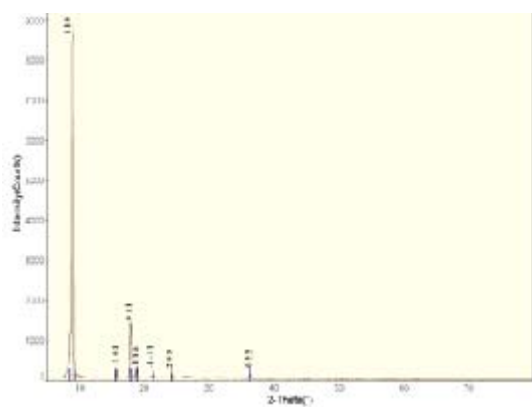


Fig. 3: X-diffractogram of HL

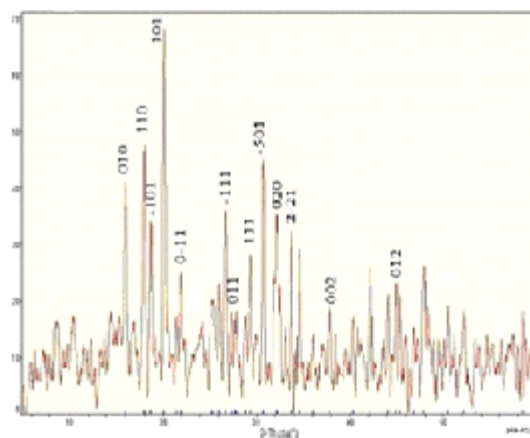


Fig. 4: X-diffractogram of Mn.HL<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O

Ligand HL

Mn.HL<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O



2=20%, 4=40%, 6=60%, 8=80%

Fig. 5: Antifungal activity

coordinated  $H_2O$ . This is supported by the appearance of an additional band in the range 950-900  $cm^{-1}$  for (O-H) rocking deformation and 800-750  $cm^{-1}$  for (O-H) wagging mode of coordination which is not observed in the ligand spectrum[20]. Thus  $H_2O$  is coordinated in metal complexes. New bands appear in the 450-420 and 400-360  $cm^{-1}$  assignable to the  $\nu(Mn-O)$  and  $\nu(Mn-N)$  respectively in metal complexes only<sup>23-24</sup>. Thus proposed geometry is the octahedral geometry of the complexes.

#### **<sup>1</sup>H N.M.R. Spectral analysis**

The proton nuclear magnetic resonance for the Schiff base was recorded in deuterated  $CDCl_3$  as a solvent. Spectrum was critically examined and chemical shift for various protons were calculated with respect to Tetramethyl silane (TMS) as a standard. In all Schiff bases a broad peak of -OH of oxime is not observed due to rapid exchange with the solvent  $CDCl_3$ . There are two signals in between 1.85 to 2.20 ppm are due to presence of methyl protons in the Schiff base. A signal of phenyl-OH for HL is observed at 9.73 ppm. Similarly Multiple signals in the region  $\delta = 7.10-8.00$  ppm are assignable to aromatic protons.

#### **X-ray Analysis**

Single crystal X-ray crystallographic investigation is the most precise source of information regarding the structure of the complex, the difficulty of obtaining crystalline complexes in proper symmetric form has rendered the powder X-ray diffraction method for such study. The X-ray diffraction pattern of the complexes indicates high crystalline nature of the complexes. For HL there are only 6 reflections between 8 to 25 ( $2\theta$  in deg.) with maximum at  $2\theta = 8.92$  deg. corresponding to value of  $d = 9.9055A$  and miller indices (hkl) -101. For  $Mn.HL_2.2H_2O$  there are only 13 reflections between 16 to 46 ( $2\theta$  in deg.) with maximum at  $2\theta = 20.12$  deg. corresponding to value of  $d = 4.4099A$  and miller indices (hkl) 101. Fe complex doesn't show intense peaks in the diffractogram indicating the amorphous nature of the complex. Ligand and Mn complex shows intense peaks in the diffractogram showing crystalline in nature. The main peaks of the complex have been indexed by using computer software by trial and error method<sup>25-27</sup> keeping in mind characteristics of various symmetry

systems could be obtained between observed and calculated  $2\theta$  and  $\sin^2\theta$  values. The method also yielded  $hkl$  (miller indices) values. A comparison of values of  $2\theta$  and  $\sin^2\theta$  for the complex reveals that, there is good agreement between the calculated and observed values of  $2\theta$  and  $\sin^2\theta$  on the basis of assumption of triclinic structure<sup>26</sup> for the complexes. The small difference in the observed d-spacing can be attributed to difference in unit cell dimensions. The ligand HL yield values for lattice constant  $a = 13.5126A$ ,  $b = 15.3335A$  and  $c = 6.5519A$ ;  $\alpha = 111.276D$ ,  $\beta = 120.708D$  and  $\gamma = 136.572D$ ; the unit cell volume  $V^3 = 684.33$ . And  $Mn.HL_2.2H_2O$  complex yield values for lattice constant  $a = 16.9654A$ ,  $b = 5.8013A$  and  $c = 4.9245A$ ;  $\alpha = 102.659D$ ,  $\beta = 95.226D$  and  $\gamma = 101.200D$ ; the unit cell volume  $V^3 = 459.34$ . In conjugation with these lattice parameters in ligand and metal complex the condition such as  $a \neq b \neq c$  and of  $\alpha \neq \beta \neq \gamma$  required for all the samples to be triclinic were tested and found to be nearly equal to it.

#### **Biological activity**

##### **Antibacterial activity**

The synthesized ligand and complexes were screened for in vitro growth inhibitory activity against gram positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* and gram negative bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. A comparative study of Schiff bases and metal complexes indicate that the Mn complex exhibit higher antibacterial activity than the free ligand but as compared to standard ciprofloxacin the activity is less. Fe-complex does not show antibacterial activity. The activity of the ligand and metal complexes are shown in table 4.

##### **Antifungal activity**

The synthesized ligands and complexes also screened for in vitro growth inhibitory activity against *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida albicans*. Mn complex shows more activity than ligand. Fe-complex shows moderate activity against *Aspergillus niger* only and doesn't show any activity against *Candida albicans*. But as compared to standard fluconazole this antifungal activity is very less. The activities of compounds are recorded in table 4.

It has been observed from the results that the metal complexes have moderate activity than



the free ligand. HL shows poor inhibitory zone up to 16mm for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at higher concentration only and its Mn-complex shows less inhibitory zone at higher concentration for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* as well as *Staphylococcus aureus*. There is moderate activity for ligand against *Aspergillus niger* and very less activity against *Candida albicans*. In case of metal complexes there is moderate activity against *Aspergillus niger* and less to moderate activity against *Candida albicans*. Fe-complex shows moderate to higher activity against *Aspergillus niger* and there is no any activity against *Candida albicans*. It has been suggested that the complexes having antifungal activity may act either by killing the microbes or by inhibiting multiplication of the microbes by blocking their active sites of enzymes [28]. This is also probably due to the greater lipophilic nature of the complexes. Such increased activity of the metal chelates can be explained on the basis of Overtone's concept and chelation theory. According to Overtone's concept of cell permeability the lipid membrane that surrounds the cell favours the passage of only lipid soluble materials due to which liposolubility is an important factor which controls the antimicrobial activity. On chelation, the metal ion will be reduced to a greater extent due to the overlap of the ligand orbital and partial sharing of positive charge of the metal ion with donor groups. Further, it increases the delocalization of  $\pi$ -electron

over the whole chelate ring and enhances the lipophilicity of the complex. This lipophilicity enhances the penetration of the complex into lipid membrane and blocks the metal binding sites on enzymes of microorganisms.

## CONCLUSION

A series of metal complexes of 3-aminophenol and 2,3-Butanedione 3-monoxime with Mn<sup>II</sup> and Fe<sup>II</sup> have been synthesized and characterized. All complexes exhibit octahedral geometry by involvement of azomethine nitrogen and oxime oxygen of the ligand in complex formation. Ligand and the Mn-complex crystallizes in the triclinic system. All the compounds and ligand have been screened for antibacterial and antifungal activity. Complexes have exhibited promising antibacterial activity as compared to Schiff base, hence probable applications of these metal complexes are in medicinal use.

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