

Research Article

Synthesis and Spectroscopic and Antimicrobial Studies of Schiff Base Metal Complexes Derived from 2-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde

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Two new series of copper(II) and nickel(II) complexes with two new Schiff base ligands 2-((2,4-dimethylphenylimino)methyl)-6methoxy-4-nitrophenol and 2-((3,4-difluorophenylimino)methyl)-6-methoxy-4-nitrophenol have been prepared. The Schiff base ligands were synthesized by the condensation of 2-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde with 2,4-dimethylaniline or 3,4difluoroaniline. The ligands and their metal complexes have been characterized by IR, ¹H NMR, mass and electronic spectra and TG analysis. The Schiff base ligands and their metal complexes were tested for antimicrobial activity against Gram positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Streptococcus pyogenes* and Gram negative bacteria *Escherichia coli*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and fungus *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus niger*, and *Aspergillus clavatus* using Broth Dilution Method.

1. Introduction

Vanillin and o-vanillin are such natural compounds which have both phenolic OH and aldehyde group. They are positional isomers, in which O-vanillin shows contradictory effects. There are several reports indicating that o-vanillin induces mutations and it has also been found to enhance chromosomal aberrations in in vitro systems [1-4]. Schiff bases derived from 2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzaldehyde (o-vanillin) have not been investigated so thoroughly. The mono- and bis-Schiff bases of o-vanillin and 2,3diaminopyridine have been used as ionophores in a Cu(II) selective electrochemical sensor [5]. These compounds as well as their metal complexes have been found to possess biological activity [6]. Antibacterial activity has also been reported for the ruthenium(II) complex of the Schiff base of o-vanillin and 2-aminopyridine [7]. Furthermore, the Schiff bases are very important tools for the inorganic chemists as they are widely used to design molecular ferromagnets as well as in biological modeling applications. They are also used as liquid crystals and heterogeneous catalysts [8-10]. Schiff base ligands containing various donor atoms (like N, O, S, etc.) show broad biological activity and are of special interest because of the variety of ways in which they are bonded to the transition metal ions [11, 12].

2. Materials and Methods

2-Hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde was synthesized according to the method reported in the literature [13]. Copper(II) and nickel(II) were used as nitrate salts and were obtained from Rankem. All amines were used from Merck; organic solvents EtOH, MeOH, DMF, and DMSO were of reagent grade.

2.1. Physical Measurements. IR spectra (4000–400 cm⁻¹) of the ligands and metal complexes were obtained using KBr discs, on 8400 FT-IR SHIMADZU spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on QP 2010 SHIMADZU GCMS spectrometer.¹H NMR spectra of ligands were recorded on Bruker Avance-II 400 MHz FT-NMR spectrometer using TMS as an internal standard and CDCl₃ as a solvent. ESI mass spectra of complexes were recorded by VG-70S Spectrometer.

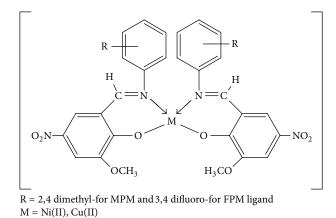
Electronic spectra of the metal complexes in DMF were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Lambda 19 spectrophotometer and molar conductance of the metal complexes was determined on Systronics direct reading conductivity meter type CM-82T. A simultaneous TG/DTA was recorded on Perkin Elmer Pyris-1 model. DSC was carried out on Perkin Elmer Pyris-7 instrument. Elemental analysis (C, H, and N) was carried out on elemental analyzer PERKIN ELMER 2400, while analysis of metal was also carried out by EDTA titration method, in which the metal complex first evaporates in conc. nitric acid and prepares a stock solution. This solution with ammonia then titrates against EDTA by using appropriate indicator. The M.P. of ligands was carried out by standard laboratory thermometer. Magnetic susceptibility measurements of the complexes were carried out by Gouy balance using $Hg[Co(CN)_4]$ as calibrant. IR and mass spectra and elemental analysis of compounds were done in Department of Chemistry, Saurashtra University, Rajkot. TG-DTA-DSC was carried out in Department of Physics, Saurashtra University, Rajkot. ¹H NMR and ESI mass spectra of compounds were carried out in SAIF, Chandigarh. Electronic spectra and conductance measurement of compounds were done in the Department of Chemistry, DKV College, Jamnagar.

2.2. Preparation of Schiff Base Ligands

2.2.1. Synthesis of 2-((2,4-Dimethylphenylimino)methyl)-6methoxy-4-nitrophenol (MPM). The Schiff base ligand MPM was synthesized by adding 2-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5nitrobenzaldehyde (4.9 g 25 mmol) dissolved in hot absolute EtOH (20 cm^3) to 2,4-dimethylaniline (3.0 g, 25.0 mmol) in absolute EtOH (20 cm^3). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 4 h. The products obtained were filtered off and washed several times with EtOH and then ether and air dried. The products were kept in desiccators until used. Recrystallization was carried out in EtOH. The progress of reaction was monitored by TLC.

2.2.2. Synthesis of 2-((3,4-Difluorophenylimino)methyl)-6methoxy-4-nitrophenol (FPM). The Schiff base ligand FPM was synthesized by adding 2-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5nitrobenzaldehyde (4.9 g 25 mmol) dissolved in hot absolute EtOH (20 cm^3) to 3,4-difluoroaniline (3.2 g, 25.0 mmol) in absolute EtOH (20 cm^3). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 4h. The products obtained were filtered off and washed several times with EtOH and then ether and air dried. The products were kept in desiccators until used. Recrystallization was carried out in EtOH. The progress of reaction was monitored by TLC.

2.3. Preparation of Metal Complexes. All the metal complexes of Schiff base ligands were prepared by the following method. The metal salt was dissolved in water and the solution was added to a hot ethanolic solution of the corresponding Schiff bases. After the complete addition little amount of sodium acetate was added and the mixture was refluxed for 4 h. A crystalline solid was obtained, which was isolated by



SCHEME 1: General structure of metal complex.

filtration, washed with hot water, and dried in air. The general structure of the metal complexes is given in Scheme 1.

2.4. Antimicrobial Screening. All newly synthesized compounds were tested for their antibacterial activities against Gram positive bacteria Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus pyogenes and Gram negative bacteria Escherichia coli and Pseudomonas aeruginosa and antifungal activity against Candida albicans, Aspergillus niger, and Aspergillus clavatus. The method used to evaluate the antimicrobial activity was "Broth Dilution Method." It is one of the nonautomated in vitro susceptibility tests. The MIC (minimal inhibitory concentration) of the control organism is read to check the accuracy of the drug concentrations. The lowest concentration inhibiting growth of the organism is recorded as the MIC. The MIC values of the newly synthesized compounds have been compared with the standard drugs ampicillin, chloramphenicol, nystatin, and griseofulvin [14].

3. Results and Discussion

The Schiff base ligands MPM and FPM were prepared by the condensation of 2-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitrobenzaldehyde with 2,4-dimethylaniline and 3,4-difluoroaniline in molar ratio 1:1. The formation of Schiff bases and their metal complexes were confirmed by various analytical techniques such as IR, ¹H NMR, mass, and electronic spectra, conductance, and TG-DT analysis. Table 1 lists the physical and analytical data of the Schiff bases and their metal complexes. The antimicrobial activities of Schiff base ligands and metal complexes are listed in Tables 2(a) and 2(b).

3.1. Characterization of the Ligands. The IR spectra of Schiff base ligands are depicted in Figures 1(a) and 1(b). The IR spectra of the ligands show a broad band at $3420-3460 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ due to the stretching vibrations of phenolic hydroxyl group. The broadness is due to intermolecular hydrogen bonding between the phenolic group and the azomethine group. The strong band observed at 1614 cm^{-1} is assigned to the stretching vibrations of the azomethine group. Two moderately

	(Μ			9.67 (9.60)	9.00(8.93)	9.43 (9.37)	8.80 (8.72)
TABLE 1: The physical and analytical data of Schiff base ligands and their metal complexes.	Elemental analysis, % found/(calcd.	Z	9.40 (9.33)	9.04(9.09)	8.52 (8.46)	8.57 (8.52)	8.30 (8.26)	8.39 (8.32)
	ental analysis,	Η	5.32 (5.37)	3.25 (3.27)	4.60(4.57)	4.56(4.60)	2.71 (2.68)	2.68 (2.70)
	Elem	C	64.04(63.99)	54.61(54.55)	58.00(58.04)	58.45 (58.47)	49.53(49.60)	49.90(49.96)
		$\mu_{ m eff}$ found/(calcd.) BM		Ι	1.94(1.73)	2.80 (2.82)	1.80(1.73)	2.90 (2.82)
		M.P. (°C)		188	>300	>300	>300	>300
	Vield (%)	Yield (%)		91	88	85	90	87
	Color	Color		Reddish yellow	Deep blue	Reddish green	Deep blue	Reddish green
	MM	M.W.		308	662	657	676	673
	Formula	Formula		$C_{14}H_{10}F_2N_2O_4$	$C_{32}H_{30}CuN_4O_8$	$\mathrm{C}_{32}\mathrm{H}_{30}\mathrm{N}_4\mathrm{NiO}_8$	$\mathrm{C}_{28}\mathrm{H}_{18}\mathrm{CuF}_4\mathrm{N}_4\mathrm{O}_8$	$C_{28}H_{18}F_4N_4NiO_8$
	Ligand or complex	wardings to minger	(1) MPM	(2) FPM	(3) $[Cu(MPM)_2]$	(4) $[Ni(MPM)_2]$	(5) $[Cu(FPM)_2]$	(6) $[Ni(FPM)_2]$

Min	imal inhibition concer	ntration (MIC) (g/mL))	
Ligand/complex	E. coli	P. aeruginosa	S. aureus	S. pyogenes
Ligand/complex	MTCC-443	MTCC-441	MTCC-96	MTCC-442
MPM	250	250	250	250
FPM	250	100	250	250
$[Cu(MPM)_2]$	50	100	150	100
[Ni(MPM) ₂]	500	500	100	250
$[Cu(FPM)_2]$	125	250	250	100
$[Ni(FPM)_2]$	250	100	50	125
	Standard	drugs		
Ampicillin	100	100	250	100
Chloramphenicol	50	50	50	50
	(b)			
Min	imal inhibition conce	ntration (MIC) (g/mL)		
Ligand/complex	C. albicans		A. niger	A. clavatus
Ligand/complex	MTCC-227		MTCC-282	MTCC-1323
MPM	1000		100	500
FPM	250		250	250
$[Cu(MPM)_2]$	500		100	500
[Ni(MPM) ₂]	100		100	250
$[Cu(FPM)_2]$	250		250	100
$[Ni(FPM)_2]$	100		100	250
	Standard	drugs		
Nystatin	10	-	100	100
		0	100	100
	Ligand/complex MPM FPM [Cu(MPM) ₂] [Ni(MPM) ₂] [Cu(FPM) ₂] [Ni(FPM) ₂] Ampicillin Chloramphenicol Min Ligand/complex MPM FPM [Cu(MPM) ₂] [Ni(MPM) ₂] [Cu(FPM) ₂]	Ligand/complex E. coli MTCC-443 MPM 250 FPM 250 FPM 250 [Cu(MPM) ₂] 50 [Ni(MPM) ₂] 500 [Cu(FPM) ₂] 125 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 250 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 250 MPM 100 Chloramphenicol 50 Chloramphenicol 50 Ligand/complex C. albi MTCC MPM 100 CMINIMALINHIBITION CONCERT MTCC MPM 50 [Cu(MPM) ₂] 50 [Ni(MPM) ₂] 50 [Ni(MPM) ₂] 50 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 50	Ligand/complex E. coli P. aeruginosa MTCC-443 MTCC-441 MPM 250 250 FPM 250 100 [Cu(MPM)_2] 50 100 [Cu(MPM)_2] 500 500 [Cu(FPM)_2] 250 100 [Cu(FPM)_2] 250 100 [Ni(FPM)_2] 250 100 [Ni(FPM)_2] 250 100 [Cu(FPM)_2] 250 100 Chloramphenicol 50 50 Chloramphenicol 50 50 Ligand/complex C. albicans MTCC-227 MPM 1000 FPM Ligand/complex MTCC-227 MPM MPM 250 Standard secondard	Ligand/complex MTCC-443 MTCC-441 MTCC-96 MPM 250 250 250 FPM 250 100 250 [Cu(MPM) ₂] 50 100 150 [Ni(MPM) ₂] 500 500 100 [Cu(FPM) ₂] 250 250 250 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 250 100 50 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 250 100 50 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 250 100 50 Standard drugs 50 50 50 Ampicillin 100 100 250 Chloramphenicol 50 50 50 Korrecertration concentration (MIC) (g/mL) Ligand/complex C. albicans A. niger MPM 1000 100 FPM 250 250 [Cu(MPM) ₂] 500 100 [Ni(MPM) ₂] 100 100 [Ni(MPM) ₂] 100 250 [Ni(FPM) ₂] 250 25

TABLE 2: (a) Antibacterial activity of Schiff bases and their metal complexes. (b) Antifungal activity of Schiff base ligands and their metal complexes.

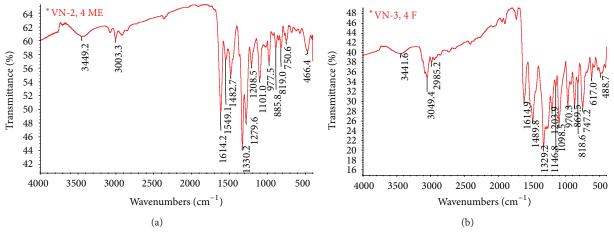


FIGURE 1: (a) The IR spectrum of Schiff base ligand MPM. (b) The IR spectrum of Schiff base ligand FPM.

intense bands observed at 3049–3060 and 2985–3005 cm⁻¹ are due to aromatic and aliphatic v(C–H), respectively [15, 16].

The ¹H NMR spectra of ligands were recorded in CDCl₃. The proton NMR spectrum of one of the ligands is shown in Figure 2. The signal due to methyl protons (ligand MPM) appeared as singlet at δ 2.37 and 2.44 ppm, whereas signal due to methoxy protons appeared as singlet in the range δ 4.01–4.03 ppm. In the aromatic region, a few doublets and in few cases some overlapping doublets/multiplets are observed in the range δ 7.12–8.08 ppm. These signals are due to aryl protons of benzene rings. The signals due to

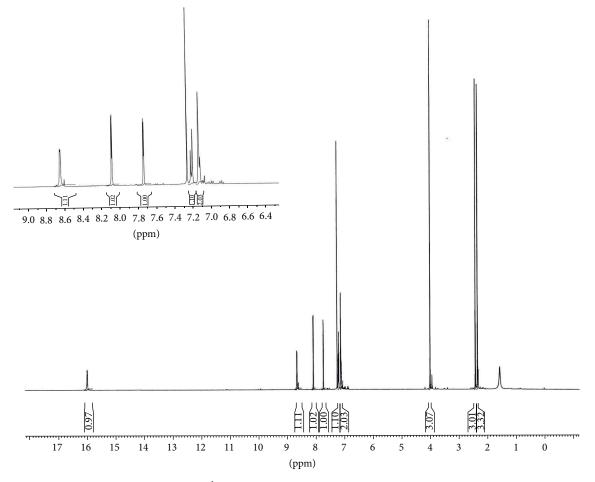


FIGURE 2: ¹H NMR spectrum of Schiff base ligand MPM.

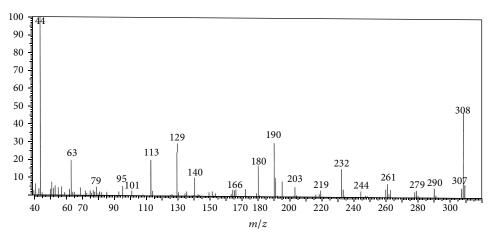


FIGURE 3: Mass spectrum of Schiff base ligand FPM.

azomethine proton (–CH=N–) appeared as singlet at δ 8.65 ppm. Another singlet corresponding to one proton is observed in the range δ 14.43–15.98 ppm, is due to phenolic –OH group, and may disappear during complexation [16, 17].

The mass spectra of ligands MPM and FPM revealed the molecular ion peak at m/e 300 for the former ligand and m/e 308 for the latter ligand, which are coincident with the formula weights and support the identity of the structures [18] (Figure 3).

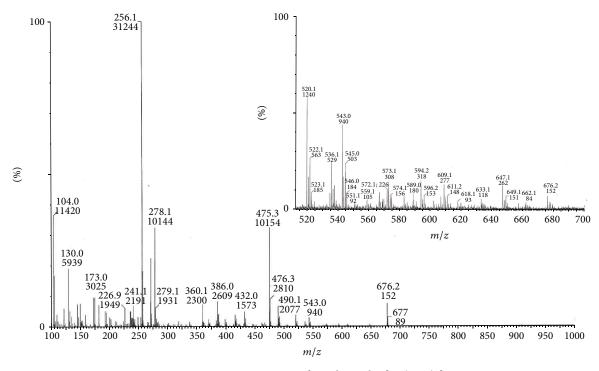


FIGURE 4: ESI mass spectrum of metal complex [Cu(FPM)₂].

3.2. Characterization of the Metal Complexes. The IR spectra of metal complexes show sharp band in the range 1607–1603 cm⁻¹, which is shifted to lower frequency as compared to ligand, suggesting coordination of the azomethine nitrogen to the metal ion. The disappearance of v(O-H) shows the deprotonation of the –OH group and its subsequent coordination to the central metal atom. Two new bands observed at 578–564 and 481–470 cm⁻¹ are characteristic of M–O and M–N absorptions, respectively [19, 20].

ESI mass spectra in the positive mode were measured after adding CsCl to the binuclear Cu(II) and Ni(II) neutral complexes in solution (water:methanol = 1:1) [21, 22]. For the ESI-MS of the binuclear complexes the peaks of all complexes are consistent with the calculated isotopic distributions for all the binuclear complexes as in Figure 4.

The observed molar conductance values of the metal (II) complexes in 10^{-3} molar DMF solution are in the range $14-29 \Omega^{-1} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ mol}^{-1}$. The molar conductance values are consistent with the nonelectrolytic nature for all metal complexes [23].

Electronic spectra of all the complexes (Figure 5) were recorded in dimethylformamide (DMF). For square planer Cu(II), the expected transitions are ${}^{2}B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^{2}A_{1g}$ and ${}^{2}B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^{2}Eg$ with respective absorptions at 505–520 and 665–650 nm. Due to Jahn-Teller (J-T) distortions, square planar Cu(II) complexes give a broad absorption between 600 and 700 nm and the peak at 505–520 nm merges with the broad band, and thus only one broad band is observed [24]. The Ni(II) complexes showed one strong band at 550 nm, which is assigned to the square planar ${}^{1}A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^{1}A_{2g}$ transition. This

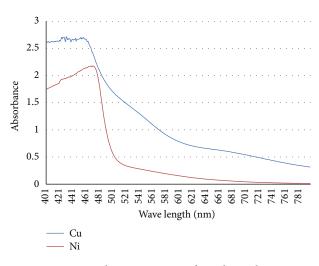


FIGURE 5: Electronic spectra of metal complex.

value lies within the range 600–450 nm region which is responsible for the reddish color [25].

Thermal analyses of all the complexes were carried out by the TG, DTA, and DSC techniques. The experimental results revealed that the degradation occurred in multiple stages, following a complex mechanism (Figure 6). For each stage the kinetic parameters and the thermogravimetric characteristics have been estimated. Thermal behavior of all complexes explains as follows. The TG curve follows the decrease in sample mass with increase in temperature. In the present investigation heating rates were suitably controlled

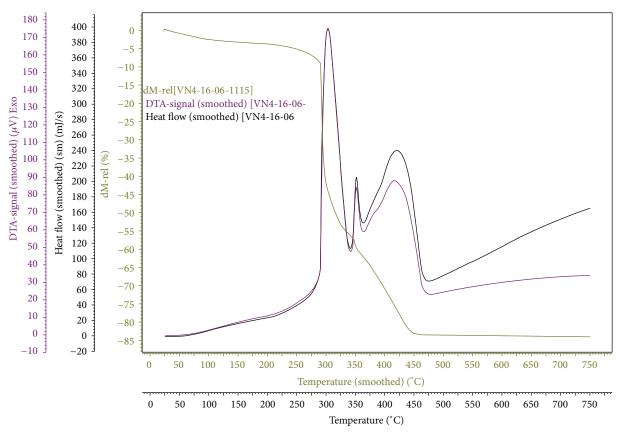


FIGURE 6: TG-DT-DSC analysis of metal complex [Cu(FPM)₂].

at 5°C min⁻¹ and mass loss followed up to 25–800°C. The complexes slowly started decomposition between 200 and 300°C. The first mass loss up to 300°C is attributed to the removal of two NO₂ molecules. This process is accompanied by exothermic process at around 200–320°C in DTA curves of all complexes. The mass loss occurring at temperature of 330–500°C corresponds to the decomposition of the ligand molecules. The final product of the thermal decomposition at 500–800°C, metal oxide, was determined by elemental analysis [18, 26].

3.3. Antimicrobial Activities. The minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) against bacteria and fungi of Schiff base ligands and their metal complexes was compared with the MIC values of standard drugs [14, 27, 28]. The results of the biological screening of the ligands and their metal complexes reveal that the antimicrobial activities of the chelated ligands are enhanced as compared to the free ligands (Tables 2(a) and 2(b)).

4. Conclusion

On the basis of the above studies, the general structure of the metal complexes is proposed as shown in Scheme 1. The Schiff base ligands are behaving as O, N donor bidentate for Cu(II) and Ni(II) metal ions. The antimicrobial activity of ligands and metal complexes show good results as compared to standard drugs.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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