



Complexation behavior of the antibacterial drugs Oxytetracycline, Cefotaxime and Ceftriaxone along with amino acids towards cobalt(II) in aqueous solution

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Abstract: The stability constant of the mixed ligand complexes of cobalt (II) metal ion with antibacterial drugs Oxytetracycline hydrochloride, Cefotaxime sodium and Ceftriaxone sodium as primary ligand and the eight amino acids glycine, DL-alanine, L-glutamic acid, DL-isoleucine, DL-methionine, DL- β -phenyl alanine, DL-serine and DL-valine as secondary ligands were determined pH metrically in 20% (v/v) ethanol-water medium at 25°C and at an ionic strength of 0.1 M NaClO₄. The formation of complex species has been evaluated by SCOGS computer program and discussed in terms of various relative stability parameters.

Keywords: Stability constant, antibacterial drugs, amino acids, pH metry, mixed ligand complexes, ionic strength, SCOGS computer program.

Introduction: Chemistry of drugs attracts many researchers because of its application in medicinal study. The stability of metal complexes with medicinal drugs plays a major role in the biological and chemical activity. The metal complexes of drugs play an important role in drug action and metabolism. Metal Complexes are widely used in various fields, such as biological processes, pharmaceuticals, separation techniques, analytical processes etc. Amino acids are the structural unit of proteins. These are essential constituents of all living cells and contain one or more amino and carboxylic groups and have good coordination sites for the metal complexation.

In continuation of our earlier work with complexation of medicinal drugs and amino acids¹⁻³, it was thought of interest to study ternary complexes of cobalt metal ion with antibacterial drugs Oxytetracycline hydrochloride (OTC), Cefotaxime sodium (CFO) and Ceftriaxone sodium (CFT) as primary ligand and a series of eight amino acids viz. glycine, DL-alanine, L-glutamic acid, DL-isoleucine, DL-methionine, DL-β-phenyl alanine, DL-serine and DL-valine as secondary ligands in 20% (v/v) ethanol-water medium at 25 °C and at an ionic strength of 0.1 M NaClO₄.

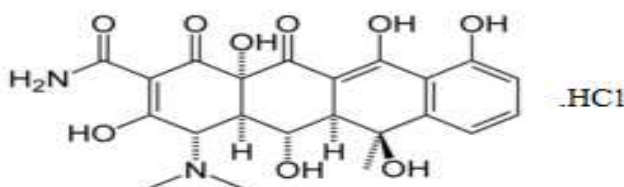


Figure1: Oxytetracycline hydrochloride (molecular formula $C_{22}H_{25}N_2O_9Cl$)

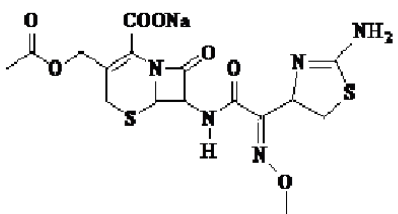


Figure2: Cefotaxime sodium (molecular formula $C_{16}H_{16}N_5O_7NaS_2$)

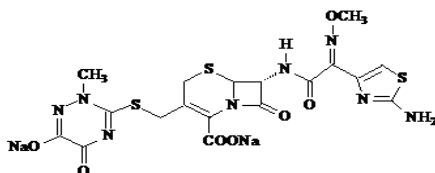


Figure3: Ceftriaxone sodium (molecular formula $C_{18}H_{16}N_8O_7Na_2S_3$)



Experimental:

Materials and Solution: The ligand OTC, CFO and CFT are soluble in 20% (v/v) ethanol-water mixture. NaOH, NaClO₄, HClO₄ & metal salts were of AR grade. The solutions used in the potentiometric titration were prepared in double distilled water. The NaOH solution was standardized against oxalic acid solution (0.1M) and standard alkali solution was again used for standardization of HClO₄. The metal salt solutions were also standardized using EDTA titration⁴. All the measurements were made at 25°C in 20% ethanol-water mixture at 0.1M NaClO₄ strength. The thermostat model SL-131 was used to maintain the temperature constant. The pH measurement were made using a digital pH meter model Elico L1-120 in conjunction with a glass and reference Calomel electrode (reading accuracy ±0.01). The pH-meter was adjusted with buffer of pH 4.00, 7.00 and 9.18.

Potentiometric procedure: For evaluating the protonation constant of the ligand & the formation constant of the complexes in 20% ethanol-water mixture with different metal ions, we prepared the following six sets of solutions.

- (i) HClO₄ (A)
- (ii) HClO₄+Drug (A+ L)
- (iii) HClO₄+Drug+ Metal (A+ L+ M)
- (iv) HClO₄+Amino acid (A+ R)
- (v) HClO₄+Amino acid + Metal (A+ R+ M)
- (vi) HClO₄+Drug +Amino acid + Metal (A+L+R+ M)

The above mentioned sets prepared by keeping M:L: R ratio, the concentration of perchloric acid & sodium perchlorate (0.1M) were kept constant for all sets. The volume of every mixture was



made upto 50ml with double distilled water. The test solutions were magnetically stirred, NaOH was added stepwise and pH reading was recorded until stable values, within ± 0.002 pH units were obtained. Graphs were obtained by plotting pH vs volume of NaOH added. These data were used to determine the pKa of ligands and logK values of metal complexes of primary and secondary ligands. The equilibrium constants of ternary complexes were calculated by using SCOGS program. The total concentrations of metal ions, free metals, free ligands and various possible species that are formed during complexation were obtained as computer output of program.

Table 1: Proton-ligand stability constant and metal-ligand stability constant of antibacterial drugs and amino acids with Co (II) at 0.1M ionic strength in 20% (v/v) ethanol-water medium

| Ligands | Proton-ligand stability constant | | Metal-ligand stability constant | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | PK ₁ | PK ₂ | logK ₁ | logK ₂ |
| Oxytetracycline | --- | 4.316 | 3.7723 | 0.019 |
| Cefotaxime | 3.156 | 10.764 | 5.523 | 4.889 |
| Ceftriaxone | 4.093 | 10.741 | 4.708 | 4.129 |
| Glycine | 2.472 | 9.582 | 5.034 | 3.786 |
| DL -Alanine | 2.364 | 9.658 | 3.753 | 2.999 |
| Glutamic acid | 2.501 | 4.416 | 2.859 | 2.697 |
| DL -Isoleucine | 2.654 | 9.624 | 4.406 | 3.158 |
| DL -Methionine | 2.303 | 9.079 | 4.798 | 3.395 |
| DL-β-Phenyl alanine | 2.255 | 9.174 | 4.441 | 3.408 |
| DL -Serine | 2.344 | 8.983 | 4.173 | 2.942 |
| DL -Valine | 2.488 | 9.501 | 4.578 | 3.368 |

Table 2: Parameters based on some relationship between formations of mixed ligand complexes of Co (II) with OTC (L_1) drug and amino acids

| Amino Acids | β_{111} | β_{20} | β_{02} | K_L | K_R | K_f | $\Delta \log k$ |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Glycine | 8.8014 | 6.7906 | 8.8197 | 5.0298 | 3.7679 | 1.1276 | -0.004 |
| DL -Alanine | 6.0239 | 6.7906 | 6.7515 | 2.2523 | 2.2711 | 0.8897 | -1.501 |
| Glutamic acid | 6.3050 | 6.7906 | 5.5557 | 2.5334 | 3.4458 | 1.0214 | -0.326 |
| DL -Isoleucine | 6.9289 | 6.7906 | 7.5639 | 3.1573 | 2.5227 | 0.9654 | -1.249 |
| DL -Methionine | 8.5690 | 6.7906 | 8.1934 | 4.7974 | 3.771 | 1.1438 | -0.0006 |
| DL- β -Phenyl alanine | 7.2138 | 6.7906 | 7.8488 | 3.4422 | 2.7729 | 0.9855 | -0.999 |
| DL -Serine | 6.6930 | 6.7906 | 7.1152 | 2.9214 | 2.5196 | 0.9626 | -1.252 |
| DL -Valine | 8.0994 | 6.7906 | 7.9456 | 4.3278 | 3.5214 | 1.0993 | -0.250 |

Table 3: Parameters based on some relationship between formations of mixed ligand complexes of Co (II) with CFO (L_2) drug and amino acids.

| Amino Acids | β_{111} | β_{20} | β_{02} | K_L | K_R | K_f | $\Delta \log k$ |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Glycine | 9.0519 | 10.4115 | 8.8197 | 3.5289 | 4.0184 | 0.9414 | -1.5046 |
| DL -Alanine | 8.0306 | 10.4115 | 6.7515 | 2.5076 | 4.2778 | 0.9358 | -1.2452 |
| Glutamic acid | 8.1299 | 10.4115 | 5.5557 | 2.6069 | 5.2707 | 1.0183 | -0.2523 |
| DL -Isoleucine | 9.6731 | 10.4115 | 7.5639 | 4.1501 | 5.2669 | 1.0763 | -0.2561 |
| DL -Methionine | 10.3206 | 10.4115 | 8.1934 | 4.7976 | 5.5226 | 1.1094 | -0.0004 |
| DL- β -Phenyl alanine | 8.9632 | 10.4115 | 7.8488 | 3.4402 | 4.5223 | 0.9817 | -1.0007 |
| DL -Serine | 8.6949 | 10.4115 | 7.1152 | 3.1719 | 4.5215 | 0.9922 | -1.0015 |
| DL -Valine | 9.6030 | 10.4115 | 7.9456 | 4.0800 | 5.025 | 1.0462 | -0.4980 |

Table 4: Parameters based on some relationship between formations of mixed ligand complexes of Co (II) with CFT (L_3) drug and amino acids.

| Amino Acids | β_{111} | β_{20} | β_{02} | K_L | K_R | K_f | $\Delta \log k$ |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Glycine | 9.4887 | 8.835 | 8.8197 | 4.7812 | 4.4552 | 1.0749 | -0.2523 |
| DL -Alanine | 8.4598 | 8.835 | 6.7515 | 3.7523 | 4.707 | 1.0855 | -0.0005 |
| Glutamic acid | 6.8152 | 8.835 | 5.5557 | 2.1077 | 3.956 | 0.9472 | -0.7515 |
| DL -Isoleucine | 8.9220 | 8.835 | 7.5639 | 4.2145 | 4.5158 | 1.0881 | -0.1917 |
| DL -Methionine | 7.7554 | 8.835 | 8.1934 | 3.0479 | 2.9574 | 0.9109 | -1.7501 |
| DL- β -Phenyl alanine | 9.1479 | 8.835 | 7.8488 | 4.4404 | 4.7070 | 1.0966 | -0.0005 |
| DL -Serine | 8.3805 | 8.835 | 7.1152 | 3.673 | 4.2071 | 1.0508 | -0.5004 |
| DL -Valine | 8.0354 | 8.835 | 7.9456 | 3.3279 | 3.4574 | 0.9577 | -1.2501 |



Result and Discussion:

Binary complex: The proton ligand stability constants (pKa) of drugs and amino acids were calculated by point wise and half integral method. The metal ligand stability constant (logK) of Co(II) transition metal complexes with antibacterial drugs were calculated by using Calvin Bjerrum titration techniques as adopted by Irving and Rossotti⁵. Titration curves were obtained for different sets. During titration no precipitate was formed indicating that there is no tendency to form hydroxo complexes. The stability constants of the formed complexes were investigated in the pH range of 3-6. The mean value the average number of protons associated with the ligand \bar{n}_A , at different pH values were calculated. The pKa values were determined from \bar{n}_A . Similarly \bar{n} i.e metal ligand formation number, which can be defined as average number of ligand molecules co-ordinated to the metal ions, were also obtained using Irving & Rossotti method. The \bar{n} values obtained between 0.2 to 0.8 indicates 1:1 complexation and when \bar{n} lies in between 1.2 to 1.8 indicate 1:2 complexation. The values of proton ligand stability constants (pKa) and metal ligand stability constant (logK) are represented in **Table 1**. Since we got \bar{n}_A between 0.2 to 0.8 and 1.2 to 1.8 indicating 1:1 and 1:2 complex formation. The order of $\log K_1 > \log K_2$ is commonly observed. The reason is statistical effect, statistically coordination of a second molecule is difficult when compare to the first due to availability of less number of coordinating sites on the metal ion for the second ligand. Irving and Rossotti have proposed a relation between the stability of the complexes and basicity of the ligand by equation

$$\log K = apK + b$$



The relation graph shows a straight line and the value of slope should be unity for a series of closely related ligand. In the present study such relationship does not exist since the antibacterial drugs (ligand) OTC, CFO and CFT used are of diverse in nature.

Mixed ligand complexes: The formation of 1:1:1 mixed ligand complex were identified by the pH of precipitation of ML, MR and MLR titration curves. These curves indicate the higher value of pH of precipitation of ternary system than corresponding binary systems. The relative stabilities of mixed ligand complexes were quantitatively expressed in terms of $\Delta \log K$, K_r , K_L , and K_R values which are defined by equations:

$$\Delta \log K = \log \beta_{111} - (\log K_{10} + \log K_{01}) \quad (1)$$

$$K_r = \frac{\beta_{111}^2}{(\beta_{20}\beta_{02})} \quad (2)$$

$$K_L = \frac{\beta_{111}}{\log K_{10}} \quad (3)$$

$$K_R = \frac{\beta_{111}}{\log K_{01}} \quad (4)$$

Where

β_{111} - Equilibrium constant of ternary system.

β_{20} - Overall stability constant of primary complexes.

β_{02} - Overall stability constant of secondary complexes.

The equilibrium constants β_{111} of ternary systems of Co(II) transition metal ion and relative stability parameters are shown in **Table 2-4**. The ternary complexes of cobalt metal ions



with CFO-DL-methionine shows higher values of stability whereas OTC-DL-alanine ternary complex shows low values of stability. This may be attributed to the aliphatic nature of secondary ligand, steric effect and chelation formation. The order of stability of equilibrium constants β_{111} of ternary systems of Co(II) transition metal ion with respect of secondary ligand is as

OTC: gly > methio > val > β -phenyl ala > isoleu > serine > glut acid > alanine.

CFO: methio > isoleu > valine > gly > β -phenyl ala > serine > glut acid > alanine.

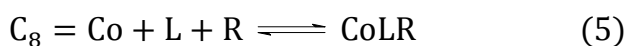
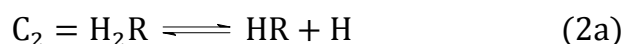
CFT: gly > β -phenyl ala > isoleu > alanine > serine > valine > methio > glut acid.

The comparison of β_{111} with β_{20} and β_{02} of these systems reveals the preferential formation of ternary complexes over binary complexes. The low positive values of K_L and K_R indicate less stability of ternary complexes with respect to binary complexes of primary as well as secondary ligands. The K values are positive but less, which indicates lower stability of ternary complexes⁶. This may be attributed to the interactions outside the coordinated sphere such as formation of hydrogen bonding between coordinated ligands, charge neutralization, chelate effect and electrostatic interactions between noncoordinated charge group of ligands⁶. The negative values of $\Delta \log K$ have been found in all systems, which show the formation of ternary complex but less stable and destabilized nature of complexes which has been reported in N and O coordination of amino acids⁷. The higher negative values than statistical values (-0.4) found in some system indicates relatively less stable complexes with square planar geometry of

ternary complexes. The negative value of $\Delta\log K$ does not mean that the complex is not formed. The negative value may be due to the higher stability of its binary complexes, reduced number of coordination sites, steric hindrance, electronic consideration, difference in bond type, geometrical structure etc.

Sigel concluded that the experimentally determined value $\Delta\log K < -0.6$ indicate less stabilization in ternary complexes. The $\Delta\log K$ value of some system is higher than the statistically expected value, showing the stabilized nature of the ternary complex. Thompson and Lorass pointed out that more negative $\Delta\log K$ value of ternary complexes is due to the electrostatic repulsion between the negative charge on the ligand and amino acids. steric hindrance consideration is the most important factor because in the present studies of ternary complex, primary ligand coordinates with the metal ion in the lower pH range and form 1:1 and 1:2 complex. In solution, ternary complex forms as the titration curve run below the Co (II)-drug titration curve. So, it is evident that the entry of the secondary ligand amino acids faces steric hindrance due to bigger size of the Co(II)-drug complex as compared to aquo ion, which tries to restrict the entry of the secondary ligand in the coordination sphere of the Co(II) metal ion and thus reduces the stability of ternary complexes.

Species distribution curves: According to the result given by SCOGS computer programme, the concentration of different species distributed are as follows:



The species distribution curves of Co(II)LR systems were obtained by plotting percentage concentration of various possible species formed during complexation versus pH of solution as shown in figure(4). In all Co(II)LR ternary systems, primary as well as secondary ligands forms 1:1 and 1:2 binary complexes. The species distribution curves of free metal(M), free ligands L and R indicates that there is a slowly decrease in concentration of free metal ions with increase in pH whereas increase in concentration of ligands with pH and indicates higher percentage concentration of FL than FR. The species distribution diagram of various possible species of Co(II)LR system shows the formation of mixed ligand complexes. The concentration for the formation of drug (L) and HR continuous decrease with increasing pH. The concentration of MLR species continuously increases, confirm the formation of ternary complexes Co(II)LR.

**Figure 4: Species distribution curve of Co (II) LR₁ system
 (pH versus % conc. of various possible species)**

Fig 4a: Co (II)-OCT- glycine

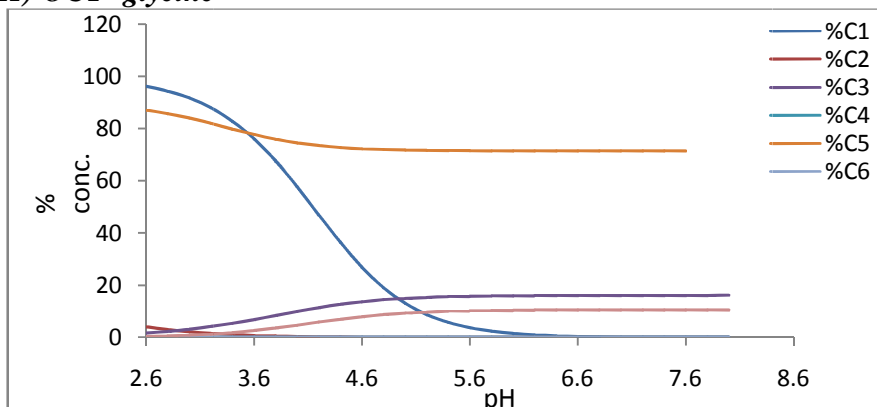


Fig 4b: Co (II)-CFO-glycine

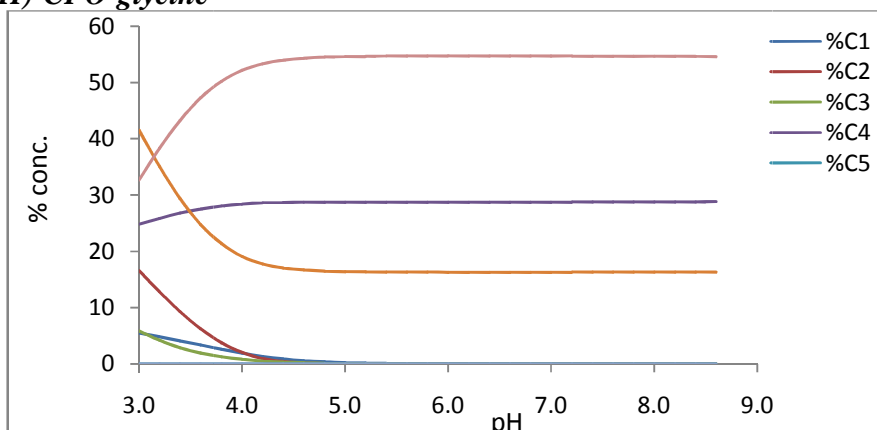
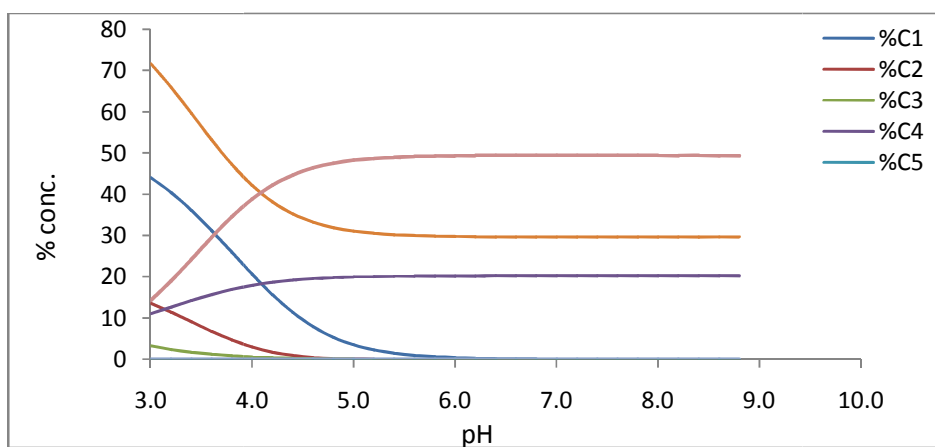


Fig 4c: Co (II)-CFT-glycine





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