Synthesis and characterization of polydentate macrocyclic Schiff bases (18-membered atoms) and their complexes with cobalt (II), nickel (II), copper (II) and zinc (II) ions

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Abstract: The condensation reactions of [2+2] carbohydrazide or thiocarbohydrazide with 2, 5-hexanedione in a (1:1) molar ratio in aqueous solution at room temperature resulted in the formation of the novel Schiff bases tetrainine, macrocyclic ligands (L_1) : 2,5,11,14-Tetramethyl-8, 17-dione-1,6,7,9,10,15,16,18-octaaza-cyclo octadeca-1,5,10,14 - Tetraene and (L_2) : 2,5,11,14-tetramethyl– 8,17 -dithione-1,6,7,9,10,15,16,18 -octaaza-cyclo octadeca-1,5,10,14 tetraene.Mononuclear, complexes with the compositions [Co(L_1)Cl] Cl.H₂O; [M(L_1)]Cl₂.nH₂O (M = Ni (II), Cu (II) or Zn (II); n = 0 when M = Zn (II) and n = 1 when M = Cu (II) and n=2 when M=Ni (II)); [M (L_2)Cl₂]; (M=Co (II), Ni (II) or Cu (II); and [Zn(L_2)]Cl₂ were obtained by reacting metal (II) chlorides with the ligand (L_1) or (L_2) in (1:1) molar ratio in ethanol. Mass, ¹HNMR and infrared spectral techniques suggest the structural features of 18-membered [2+2] Schiff base macrocyclic ligands while the nature of bonding and the stereochemistry of the complexes have been deduced by elemental contents analyses, molar conductance and magnetic susceptibility measurements, IR, MS , ¹HNMR and electronic spectral studies. The magnetic moments and electronic spectral data suggested tetrahedral geometries for the [Co(L_1)Cl₂], [Cu(L_2)Cl₂] and [Co(L_2)Cl₂] complexes ; octahedral geometries with coordination number six for the complexes [Ni(L)]Cl₂.2H₂O, [Zn(L_1)]Cl₂. H₂O complex.

Keywords: Macrocyclic Schiff base, azamacrocycle, mononuclear complexes.



Introduction

The synthesis and characterization of coordination compounds with azamacrocyclic ligands have evolved as a main research area during recent years $^{(14,15)}$. Aza-type ligands appear to be very promising for catalysis and have been discussed as chelating systems in the literatures (16,17). The complexation capabilities of polyaza macrocycles are mainly governed by the macrocyclic ring size $^{(18)}$. Aza-macrocyclic ligands, as well as their coordination and organometallic compounds, play important roles in catalytically activating small molecules in electrochemically assisted reactions with several substrates $^{(19)}$.

Because of the wide range of medicinal applications of carbohydrazide $^{(20)}$ (CH) and thiocarbohydrazide $^{(21)}$ (TCH) and their ability to coordinate with metal ions, therefore it is highly desirable to synthesize and characterize macrocyclic complexes $^{(22)}$ with (CH) and (TCH).

In this paper, we report the synthesis and characterization of macrocyclic Schiff bases complexes $[Co(L_1)Cl]ClH_2O; [M(L_1)]Cl_2.nH_2O; (M = Ni (II), Cu (II) or Zn (II); n = 0 when M = Zn (II) and n = 1 when M = Cu (II) and n=2 when M=Ni (II)); [M(L_2)Cl_2]; (M=Co (II), Ni (II) or Cu (II); and [(Zn(L_2)]Cl_2 were obtained from the reaction of the macrocyclic Schiff bases ligands (L_1) or (L_2) with the metals chlorides (Figures 2-7).$

Experimental

All chemicals in the present work were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Alfa Aesar used without further purification except thiocarbohydrazide was prepared according to the reported procedure (ref. 23).

2. Analytical and physical measurements:

Metal contents have been determined by using: Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectroscopy (ICP-MS) after the decomposition of the complexes by acid digestion with nitric acid. Melting points were determined by using MEL-TEMP LAB. Devices apparatus. Molar conductivities of the complexes have been measured on a digital conductivity meter (VWR International model 2052-B-EC meter) using 0.001M of the complexes in dimethylformamide (DMF) solutions at $25C^{\circ}$. The IR spectra were recorded on a FTIR spectrophotometer (Avatar 370) in the range (400-4000) cm⁻¹ using KBr disc. Electronic spectra were recorded on a hp 8453UV-Vis. spectrophotometer in DMF at $25C^{\circ}$. For 0.001 M solution of the compounds using a 1 cm quartz cell in the range (200-1100) nm. Gouy balance calibrated with **Hg[Co(NCS)₄**] was used for the determination of magnetic susceptibilities of complexes in solid state at room temperature (Magnetic Susceptibility balance, Johnson Mattey Fabricated Equipment). Agilent 6210 TOF LC/Mass spectra spectroscopy used to obtain mass spectra for the ligands and the complexes.

A varian NMR INOVA 300 MHZ spectra spectroscopy used to obtain ¹*HNMR* spectra for the ligands.

3. Synthesis of the macrocyclic ligands

Aqueous solution of carbohydrazide (1.80 gm, 0.02 mol.) or thiocarbohydrazide (2.12 gm, 0.02 mol.) in distilled water (400 ml) and 2,5-hexanedione (2.28 gm, 0.02 mol.) were mixed slowly with constant stirring for (6) hrs. at room temperature and in presence of (6) drops of concentrated **HCl**. On cooling in the ice bath for (24) hrs., a solid precipitate was formed, which was filtered, washed with cold distilled water, and dried under vacuum (Figure 1).



4. Synthesis of the macrocyclic complexes

A. Synthesis of complexes with macrocyclic ligand (L_1) :

A warm methanolic suspension (100 ml) of ligand (L_1) (0.336 g, 0.001 mol.), a hot methanolic solution (25 ml) of $CoCl_2.6H_2O$ or $NiCl_2.6H_2O$ (0.238 g, 0.001 mol.), $CuCl_2.2H_2O$ (0.171 g, 0.001 mol.) or $ZnCl_2$ (0.136 g, 0.001 mol) were mixed together with constant stirring. The mixture was refluxed for (5) hrs. A precipitate was formed. It was filtered, washed with cold **MeOH** and then diethyl ether and dried under vacuum.

B. Synthesis of complexes with macrocyclic ligand (L_2) :

A hot ethanolic solution (100 ml) of ligand (L_2) (0.368 g, 0.001 mol.) and hot ethanolic solution (25 ml) of $CoCl_2.6H_2O$ or $NiCl_2.6H_2O$ (0.238 g, 0.001 mol.), $CuCl_2.2H_2O$ (0.171 g, 0.001 mol.) or $ZnCl_2$ (0.136 g, 0.001 mol) were mixed together with constant stirring. The mixture was refluxed for (5) hrs. a precipitate was formed. It was filtered, washed several times with EtOH and then diethyl ether and dried under vacuum.

Results and Discussion

The formation of the ligands and the complexes, also the coordination of the two ligands to cobalt (II), nickel (II), copper (II) and zinc (II) ions, in neutral medium, indicated from various chemical and spectral properties (Table 1-3).

The prepared ligands and complexes are powders. Crystals of these compounds could not be grown therefore X-ray crystal determination is not possible. The two ligands and the complexes are moisture stable solids (stable in air at room temperature). The higher melting and the decomposition points of these complexes than the metal free ligands suggests the thermal stability of the complexes ⁽²⁴⁾.

The reaction of metal chlorides with (L_1) or (L_2) in alcohol (molar ratio 1:1) yields complexes of the compositions $[Co(L_1)Cl_2]$. H_2O ; $[M(L_1)]Cl_2.nH_2O$ (M = Ni (II), Cu (II) or Zn (II)) n = 0 when M = Zn (II) ; n = 1 when M = Cu (II) and n=2 when M = Ni(II) ; $[M(L_2)Cl_2]$; (M=Co (II), Ni (II) or Cu (II)) ; and $[(Zn(L_2))Cl_2]$.

Based on the metal contents measurements and the mass spectra, have been supported the above composition (Table 1), which shows that in each complex the ratio of metal: ligand is (1:1), and that means all the complexes act as mononuclear complexes (monomer). The monomeric nature of the complexes was also evidenced from their magnetic susceptibility values (Table 3).

The molar conductance values of the $[Ni(L_1)]Cl_2.2H_2O$; $[Cu(L_1)]Cl_2$. H_2O ; $[Zn(L_1)]Cl_2$ and $[Zn(L_2)]Cl_2$ complexes in DMF solvent are in the range (128-153) $ohm^{-1}cm^2mol^{-1}$ (Table 1) indicating that they are (1:2) electrolytic nature of these complexes ⁽²⁵⁾. The molar conductance values of the $[(M(L_2)Cl_2]$ (M=Co (II), Ni (II) or Cu (II)) complexes in DMF have lower values (Table 1) indicating that they are non-electrolytic in nature and that no inorganic anions such as Cl^- ions are present in outer sphere coordination ⁽²⁵⁾. The non-conducting character reveals the presence of (Cl^-) and metals ions in the coordination sphere,

while the molar conductance value of the complex [Co(L_1)Cl] Cl.H₂O is (63) $ohm^{-1}cm^2mol^{-1}$ indicating a (1:1) electrolytic nature of these complex ⁽²⁵⁾.

NO	Compound	color	Yield %	т. р <i>С</i> °	% Metal		Λ _M	Atomic	Mass
					#cal.	found	ohm ⁻¹ cm ² mol ⁻¹	mass g/mole	spectra M/Z
	<i>L</i> ₁	creamy	72	214- 216				336	337
	L ₂	creamy	65	196*				368	369
1	$[Co(L_1)Cl]Cl.H_2O$	dark green	72	314*	12.17	12.74	63	483.933	483.98
2	[Ni(L ₁)]Cl ₂ .2H ₂ O	green	62	304*	11.70	12.12	128	501.71	502
3	$[Cu(L_1)]Cl_2. H_2O$	brown	79	324*	13.00	13.66	153	488.54	489
4	[Zn(L ₁)]Cl ₂	dark yellow	77	291- 294	13.77	14.65	140	472	472
5	[Co(L ₂)Cl ₂]	greenish blue	66	261- 263	11.83	12.71	30	497.933	497.95
6	$[Ni(L_2)Cl_2]$	bright brown	78	233- 235	11.79	12.44	20	497	497
7	$[Cu(L_2)Cl_2]$	pale pink	64	298- 302	12.64	12.77	23	502.54	503
8	$[Zn(L_2)]Cl_2$	yellow	63	245- 247	12.89	13.42	132	504	505

Table (1): The physical, mass spectral and analytical properties of the macrocyclic ligands and their complexes

#calculated, * decomposition temperature

IR Spectra

The IR absorption bands, which provide information about the formation of macrocyclic ligands and the mode of coordination in their complexes are given in Table (2).A pair of bands corresponding to $V(NH_2)$ appeared at (3326) and (3283) cm^{-1} in the spectrum of carbohydrazide **(CH)** and at (3307) and (3275) cm^{-1} in the spectrum of thiocarbohydrazide **(TCH)** but are absent in IR spectra of the free ligands. Further, no strong absorption band was observed near (1722) cm^{-1} in the spectra of the free ligands, indicating the absence of Ketonic group of 2,5-hexanedione, confirming condensation of carbonyl group of 2,5-hexanedione and amino groups of carbohydrazide or thiocarbohydrazide ⁽¹⁰⁾ and also elimination of water molecules and as a result, cyclization takes part through the formation of macrocyclic ligands (tetraiminemacrocycle).

In the IR spectra of the free ligands, the bands appear at (1663) and (1631) cm^{-1} corresponding to the imine group (C=N) for (L_1) and (L_2), respectively. The IR spectra of all the complexes show an absorption in the range (1522-1654) cm^{-1} attributed to the imine. This absorption band shows a shift to the lower frequencies in these complexes, suggesting coordination through the nitrogen of the (C=N) group ⁽¹⁰⁾. This mode of coordination of ligands is also supported by appearance of band corresponding to the stretching vibration of V(M-N) in the range (413-490) cm^{-1} ⁽¹⁰⁾(Table 2).

The presence of carbonyl amide (C - N) is confirmed by the appearance of a sharp band at (1703) cm^{-1} in the spectrum of $(L_1)^{(26)}$. This band is shifted to lower frequencies in the spectra of the complexes (1), (2) and (4), indicating its involvement of oxygen atoms of the carbonyl amide group in the coordination sphere ⁽²⁷⁾. Further evidence of the bonding is giving by the appearance of new bands of medium or weak intensity between (433-531) cm^{-1} in the spectra of the complexes (1), (2) and (4), these bands can be assigned to V(M-O) ⁽²⁷⁾ (Table 2). However, the spectrum of the complex (3) shows the band due to the carbonyl amide group (C=O) is not affected in position too much compared to the corresponding band in the ligand (L_1), indicating

that the oxygen atom is not involved in bonding in this complex $^{(26)}$. The ligand (L_1) and its complexes have not been found to exhibit keto-enol tautomerism, which is evidenced by the absence of absorption bands in (2600-2700) cm^{-1} $^{(28)}$ region.

The broad band corresponding to the V (H_2O) at the range (3451-3480) cm^{-1} (Table 2) shows that the complexes (1-3) contain water molecule ⁽²⁹⁾.

The presence of thiocarbonyl amide (C=S) is confirmed by the appearance of a very strong band at (758) cm^{-1} in the spectrum of (L_2) ⁽³⁰⁾. Since the V(C=S) of the complexes (5), (6) and (7) remains unaltered, it is ascertained that it does not bind to the metal ion ⁽³⁰⁾, while it is shifted to lower frequency in the spectrum of the complex (8) , indicating its involvement of sulphur atom of the thiocarbonyl amide in the coordination sphere towards zinc (II) ion (Table 2). The free ligand (L_2) and its complexes have not been found to exhibit thioketo-enol tautomerism ⁽³¹⁾, which is evidenced by the absence of absorption bands in (2500-2600) cm^{-1} region.

The (M-CI) and (M-S) bands do not appear in the IR spectra of the complexes due to instrument limitation.

NO.	$\nu(\mathcal{C}=N)$	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{O} \\ \parallel \\ \mathbf{\gamma} \left(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{H} \right) \end{array} \mathbf{H}$	$\nu(C=S)$	v(M-O)	$\nu(M-N)$	$v(H_20)$
L ₁	1663(s)	1703(s)				
<i>L</i> ₂	1631(s)		758(vs)			
1	1615(s)	1653(s)		531(w)	418(w)	3472(b)
2	1616(s)	1654(s)		433(w)	413(w)	3451(b)
3	1654(m)	1710(s)			433(w)	3480(b)
4	1614(s)	1653(s)		506(m)	421(w)	
5	1621(s)		754(m)		490(w)	
6	1612(s)		754(m)		425(w)	
7	1522(s)		756(s)		433(w)	
8	1619(s)		735(m)		439(w)	

Table (2): Important IR spectral bands (cm^{-1})

v: very, b: broad, w: weak, m: medium, s: strong

Electronic spectra and the magnetic moments:

The electronic spectra of the macrocyclic ligands and their complexes were recorded in DMF at solvent $25C^{\circ}$ for 0.001 M (Table 3). The bands were observed at (29585) and (29239) cm^{-1} in the spectra of the ligands (L_1) and (L_2), respectively, which are attributed to $\mathbf{n} \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition in the (C=N) chromophore ⁽³²⁾.

The electronic spectra of Co (II) complexes (1) and (5) show the d-d transition in the range $(14792-16420) cm^{-1}$. This band usually corresponds to the ${}^{4}A_{2}(F) \rightarrow {}^{4}T_{1}(p)$ transition and the splitting of this band into two components is expected as a result of spin-orbit coupling ${}^{(33)}$ suggesting a tetrahedral environment around the (CO^{2+}) ion. Also, the Co (II) complex (5) exhibits intense band in the high energy region at $(32051) cm^{-1}$, which can be assigned to the charge transfer band. At room temperature, the observed magnetic moments for the cobalt (II) complexes (1) and (5) lie at $(4.13-4.39)^{(34)}$ B.M., corresponding a high spin tetrahedral environment around the Co (II) ion (Table 3) (Figure 2 and 5).

The electronic spectra of the Ni (II) complexes (2) and (6) show bands at (16051) and $(24691) cm^{-1}$ corresponding to the: ${}^{3}A_{2}g(F) \rightarrow {}^{3}T_{1}g(F)(v_{2})$, and ${}^{3}A_{2}g(F) \rightarrow {}^{3}T_{1}g(P)(v_{3})$ Transitions, respectively for the complex (2) and at (10101) and (16666) cm^{-1} corresponding to the ${}^{3}A_{2}g(F) \rightarrow {}^{3}T_{2}g(F)(v_{1})$ and ${}^{3}A_{2}g(F) \rightarrow {}^{3}T_{1}g(F)(v_{2})$ transitions, respectively for the complex (6) (Table 3). These transitions support the formation of an octahedral geometry around the (Ni^{2+}) ion (35). However, the band (v_{1}) for the complex (2) was obscured in the electronic spectrum of this complex due to the lack of instrument for measurements in the near IR region (35). Also the expected third band (v_{3}) for the complex (6) being hidden by the absorbance of the ligand (L_{2}) (36). The complex (6) exhibits the high energy band at (28011) cm^{-1} , which is attributed to the charge transfer band. The complexs (2) and (6) show magnetic moments lie at (2.98-3.03) B.M. . These values in tune with a high spin configuration and show the presence of an octahedral environment around Ni (II) ion (35). Also, these observed value of complexes (2) and (6) are higher than that of the spin-only value (2.83 B.M.) for octahedral complexes. This indicates spin-orbit coupling contribution in magnetic moment value (37) (Figures 3 and 6).

The Cu (II) complex (3) shows a d-d band at (21834) cm^{-1} due to ${}^{2}B_{1}g \rightarrow {}^{2}A_{1}g$ transition which supports square- planar

geometry ⁽³⁸⁾. In addition, the μ_{eff} value for this complex at (1.81) B.M, indicative of one unpaired electron of Cu (II) ion and suggesting that the square-planar geometry ⁽³⁹⁾ (Table 3) (Figure 4).

The electronic spectrum of the copper (II) complex (7) shows a band at (16863) cm^{-1} due to the ${}^{2}Eg \rightarrow {}^{2}T_{2}g$ transition, suggesting a distorted octahedral structure (40) (Table 3) (Figure 6). Also, the complex (7) exhibits the high energy band at (24154) cm^{-1} , which is attributed to the charge transfer band. It has been further confirmed by the observed magnetic moment at (2.00) B.M., suggesting a distorted octahedral geometry around the Cu (II) complex (7) (²⁷⁾ (Figure 6).

The absorption spectra of Zn (II) complexes (4) and (8) show no bands due to (d-d) transitions. This phenomenon is natural as there is no possibility of transition due to non-availability of empty d-orbital. The electronic spectra of the complexes (4) and (8) $(33003-33333) \ cm^{-1}$ (Table 3), which is attributed the show а band at the range to $\mathbf{n} \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition. Also, these spectra show the high energy band at the range (25773-27397) cm^{-1} , which is attributed to the charge transfer. On the basis of all the data belonging to the complexes (4) and (8), (Tables 1,2 and 3), it appears that the most probable structure for these complexes are octahedral geometries (Figures 3 and 7).

No.	Absorption Region (cm ⁻¹)	Possible assignments	μ _{eff} (B.M.)	Geometry	
1	14792, 16420	${}^{4}A_{2}(F) \rightarrow {}^{4}T_{1}(P)$	4.39	tetrahedral	
2	16051 24691	${}^{3}A_{2}g(F) \rightarrow {}^{3}T_{1}g(F)$ ${}^{3}A_{2}g(F) \rightarrow {}^{3}T_{1}g(P)$	3.03	octahedral	
3	21834	$^{2}B_{1}g \rightarrow ^{2}A_{1}g$	1.81	Square planar	
4	27397 33333	Charge transfer $\mathfrak{n} o \pi^*$	diamagnetic	octahedral	
5	14814 16420 32051	${}^4\!A_2(F) o {}^4\!T_1(P)$ Charge transfer	4.13	tetrahedral	
6	10101 16666 28011	${}^3A_2g(F) o {}^3T_2g(F)$ ${}^3A_2g(F) o {}^3T_1g(F)$ Charge transfer	2.98	octahedral	
7	16863 24154	${}^2Eg ightarrow {}^2T_2g$ Charge transfer	2.00	octahedral	
8	25773 33003	Charge transfer $\mathfrak{n} o \pi^*$	diamagnetic	octahedral	

Table (3): The electronic spectral data (cm^{-1}) and magnetic moments (B.M.) of the complexes

¹H NMR Spectra of the ligands

¹H NMR Spectra of the free ligands (L_1) and (L_2) have been recorded in DMSO-d₆ with tetramethylsilane (SiMe₄) as internal reference and are summarized in (Table 4) with proposed assignments. ¹H NMR Spectral data for these ligands show the signals corresponding to primary amines of (CH) and (TCH).

The spectra of the (L_1) and (L_2) exhibit a singlet at (2.745) and (1.104) ppm respectively, equivalent to (12 H) of four methyl groups (CH₃). Also, the (L_1) and (L_2) spectra show a triplet at (3.290) and (1.958) ppm respectively, equivalent to (8H) of four methylene groups (CH₂).

The spectrum of the (L_1) exhibits a singlet at (7.967) ppm equivalent to (4 H) of four amide protons (**NH**) while the spectrum of the(L_2) shows the singlets at (5.814) and (9.822) ppm which are assigned to the protons of amide (**NH**) groups in two different environments, where one of them is deshielded to lower chemical shift than the other, this is due to the anisotropic effect ⁽⁴¹⁾ of the neighboring thicketo (C=S) group (Table 4).

Ligand	Formula	Band location (ppm)	Band multiplicity	Protons No.	Group
	$C_{14}H_{24}N_8O_2$	2.745	Singlet	12H	CH ₃
L_1		3.290	triplet	8H	CH ₂
		7.967	singlet	4H	NH
	$C_{14}H_{24}N_8S_2$	1.104	singlet	12H	CH ₃
T		1.958	triplet	8H	CH ₂
L ₂		5.814	singlet	2H	NH
		9.822	singlet	2H	NH

Table (4): ¹H NMR data for the ligands

Conclusion

Based on the reported results, it is concluded that the macrocyclic Schiff base ligands (L_1) and (L_2) act as a hexadentate coordinated donor through the nitrogen atoms of the (C=N) groups and the oxygen atoms of the carbonyl amide (N_4O_2) for (L_1) , resulting complexes (2) and (4) with an octahedral configuration or the nitrogen atoms of the (C=N) groups and the sulphur atoms of thiocarbonyl amide (N_4O_2) for (L_2) , resulting the complex (8) with an octahedral configuration.

Also, (L_1) and (L_2) acts as tetradentate donors via the nitrogen atoms of (C=N) groups (N_4), resulting a square planar complex (3) by (L_1) and octahedral complexes (6) and (7) by (L_2) .

Finally, (L_1) acts as tridentate donor via the two nitrogen atoms of (C=N) groups and one of oxygen atom of (C=O) group resulting the complex (1) with a tetrahedral geometry while (L_2) acts as a bidentate donor through the two nitrogen atoms of (C=N) groups resulting the complex (5) with a tetrahedral geometry.

All the complexes are found to be mononuclear.

The tentative structures suggested for the complexes are shown in Figures (2-7).



Figure (2): The proposed structure of the tetrahedral complex (1) $\label{eq:construct} [Co(L_1)Cl\,]\,Cl.H_2O$



Figure (4): The proposed structure of the square planar complex (3) $\label{eq:cucl_1} [Cu(L_1)]Cl_2.H_2O$



Figure (5): The proposed structure of the tetrahedral complex (5)





Figure (6): The proposed structure of the octahedral complexes (6) and (7)
[M (L₂)Cl₂]
M=Ni (II) and Cu (II)



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