



# Physiochemical and Antibacterial Activity Investigation on Noble Schiff Base Cu(II) Complex

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**Abstract:** Schiff base ligand and its Cu(II) complex had been synthesized by the condensation reaction of isatin with amino acids (cysteine / glycine / leucine / alanine ). The Structure and spectral properties of ligand and complex were confirmed by UV, FT-IR and some physiochemical measurements. The spectral properties showed that it was a distorted tetrahedral geometry with a tridentate ligand and chloride ion. IR spectral studies show the binding sites of the Schiff base ligand with the metal ion. Molar conductance data and magnetic susceptibility measurements give evidence for monomeric and non-electrolytic nature of the complexes. The Schiff base Cu(II) complex was subjected to antimicrobial studies screened by employing the Disc Diffusion method. All the synthesized complexes showed strong antibacterial activity.

**Keywords:** Transition Metal Cu(II) Complexes, Schiff Base, Amino Acid, Antimicrobial Studies

## 1. Introduction

Multidentate ligands are extensively used for the preparation of metal complexes with interesting properties [1-3]. Among these ligands, Schiff bases containing nitrogen and phenolic oxygen donor atoms are of considerable interest due to their potential application in catalysis, medicine and material science [4-7]. Transition metal complexes of these ligands exhibit varying configurations, structural lability and sensitivity to molecular environments. The central metal ions in these complexes act as active sites for pharmacological agent. This feature is employed for modeling active sites in biological systems.

Amino acids and Isatin are important to the pharmaceutical industry, since they have antibacterial and antitubercular action. Schiff bases obtained by the condensation of Isatin and amino acids in presence of potassium hydroxide find application as antituberculosis compounds. They also find application in the biophysical and clinical studies as metal ligand luminescence probes [8]. Recently, few mixed ligand complexes containing heterocyclic amine as secondary

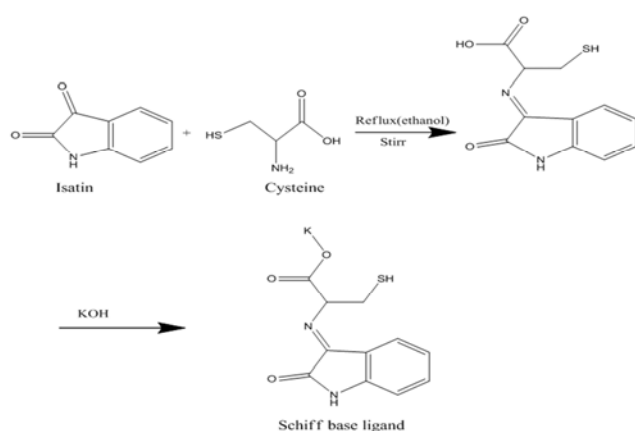
ligands and few Schiff base containing complexes have studied in our laboratory [9-11]. Therefore, in view of our interest in synthesis of new Schiff base complexes, which might find application as pharmacological and as luminescence probes, we have synthesized and characterized Cu(II) metal ion complexes of noble Schiff base formed by the condensation of isatin and amino acids in presence of potassium hydroxide.

## 2. Experimental

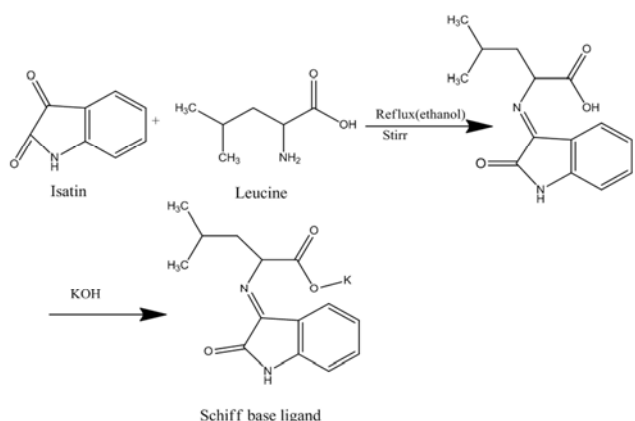
Infrared spectra disc were recorded as KBr with a NICOLET 310, FTIR spectrophotometer, Belgium, from 4000-225 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Magnetic measurements have been carried out in a Sherwood Scientific magnetic susceptibility balance at room temperature. The measurements of magnetic susceptibilities were made at about constant temperature. The electronic spectra of the ligand and complex in UV-Vis region were obtained in DMSO Solutions using a Shimadzu UV-1200 Spectrophotometer in the range of 200-800 nm.

## 2.1. Synthesis of Schiff Bases

To a stirring solution of isatin (0.735 g, 0.005 mole) dissolved in 25mL of ethanol, a solution of amino acids (cysteine 0.6058 g, glycine 0.3754 g, leucine 0.6559 g, alanine 0.4455 g, 0.005 mole) dissolved in 10mL water was added drop wise and in this mixture, a solution of potassium hydroxide (0.2805 g, 0.005 mole) dissolved in 10 mL water was added slowly. This has resulted a dark red solution, which was refluxed for 6h. The reaction mixture was cooled and kept for evaporation at room temperature leading to isolation of solid product. The product thus formed was filtered washed several times with ethanol and finally with diethyl ether and dried in vacuum over anhydrous  $\text{CaCl}_2$ . The product was found to be soluble in DMF and DMSO. The target Schiff bases were synthesized according to Figures 1-4.



**Figure 1.** Synthesis of potassium-3-mercapto-2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene)amino)propanoate, ( $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{SN}_2\text{O}_3$ ).

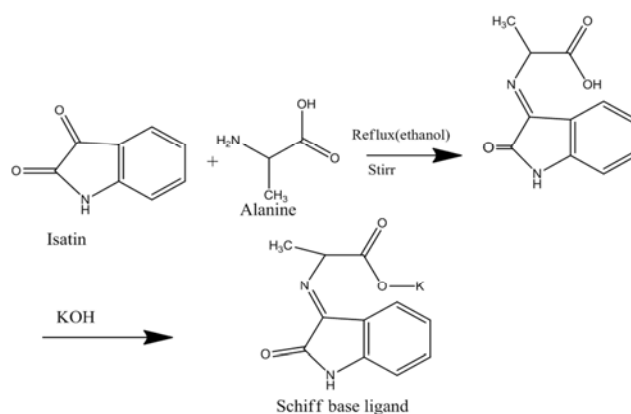


**Figure 2.** Synthesis of potassium-4-methyl-2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene)amino)pentanoate, ( $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ).

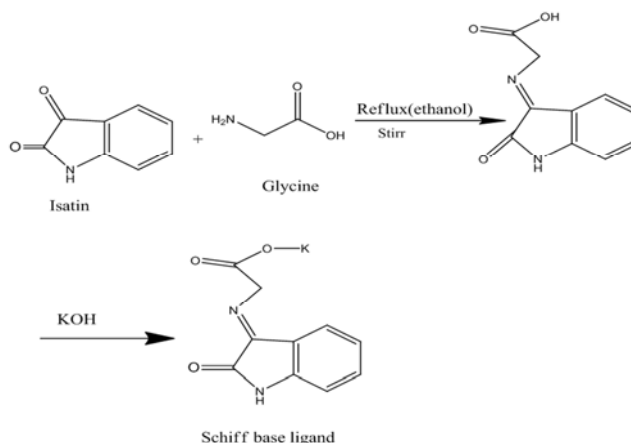
## 2.2. Synthesis of Metal Complexes

To a stirring solution of isatin (0.735 g, 0.005 mol) dissolved in 25mL of ethanol, a solution of amino acids (cysteine 0.6058 g / glycine 0.3754 g / leucine 0.6559 g / alanine 0.4455 g, 0.005 mol) dissolved in 10mL water was added drop wise and in this mixture, a solution of potassium hydroxide (0.2805 g, 0.005 mol) dissolved in 10 mL water

was added slowly. This has resulted a dark red solution and a solution of cupric chloride (0.8525 g, 0.005 mol) dissolved in 10 mL water was added slowly to this solution. Then dark red color turns to gray color and the mixture was refluxed for 6 hours leading to the isolation of solid product. The complexes thus formed were filtered and washed several times with ethanol to remove any traces of unreacted starting materials and were further washed with diethyl ether and dried in vacuum over anhydrous  $\text{CaCl}_2$ . The complexes were soluble in DMF and DMSO.



**Figure 3.** Synthesis of potassium-2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene)amino)propanoate, ( $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ).



**Figure 4.** Synthesis of potassium-2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene)amino)acetate, ( $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ ).

## 3. Characterization

### 3.1. Physical Measurement

The melting point of the complexes prepared for this study is given in Table 1. All the complexes are non-electrolyte. The observed values of effective magnetic moment ( $\mu_{\text{eff}}$ ) of the complexes at room temperature are given in Table 1. From the above data it is showed that all the complexes are paramagnetic in nature [11, 12].

### 3.2. IR Spectral Analysis

The IR spectrum of the isatin exhibited characteristic

bands at  $1732\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $3414\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3191\text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to  $\nu(\text{C=O})$ ,  $\nu(\text{N-H})$  and  $\nu(\text{C-H})$ . The complexes exhibited characteristic bands at  $1724\text{--}1715\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1618\text{--}1608\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $3415\text{--}3353\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $750\text{--}740\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $480\text{--}470\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $440\text{ cm}^{-1}$

assigned to  $\nu(\text{C=O})$ ,  $\nu(\text{C=N})$ ,  $\nu(\text{N-H})$ ,  $\nu(\text{Cu-Cl})$ ,  $\nu(\text{Cu-O})$  and  $\nu(\text{Cu-N})$  [13-15]. The characteristics band indicated that ligand coordinated to the metal through N, O.

Table 1. The physicochemical properties of the metal complexes.

Complexes	Color	Melting point (+/-5)°C	$\mu_{\text{eff}}$ in B. M.	Molar conductance $\text{Scm}^2\text{mol}^{-1}$
$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$	Pink	162	1.02	8.00
$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$	Brown	243	1.00	9.00
$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{N}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$	Gray	241	1.00	6.00
$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{SN}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$	Yellowish brown	160	1.00	10.00
$\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_9\text{KN}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}$	Reddish brown	90	--	15.00
$\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{KN}_2\text{O}_3$	Gray	115	--	6.00

### 3.3. Characterizations by UV-Visible Spectra

Because of the relatively low symmetry of the environments in which the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ion is characteristically found, detailed interpretations of the spectra and magnetic properties are somewhat complicated, even though one is dealing with the equivalent of a one – electron case [16]. Virtually all complexes and compounds are blue or green. Exceptions are generally caused by strong UV bands – charge transfer bands – tailing off into the blue end of the visible spectrum, thus causing the substances to appear red or brown [17]. The observed  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  values are used to predict the

geometry around the central metal ion in the complex. The electronic spectra of Ligand show similar absorption bands and obtain at 290 nm. These bands shows the presence of  $n \rightarrow n^*$  and  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions of their azomethines chromophore group and aromatic ring. But in the Spectra of complexes, slightly shifts are observed in the position and intensity of these bands as compare to that of ligand which might be due to the coordination of metal with the ligand. All the synthesized complexes showed d-d transitions at 410 nm which is due to  ${}^2\text{B}_{1g} \rightarrow {}^2\text{A}_{1g}$  transition indicated the distorted tetrahedral structure [18].

Table 2. Antibacterial activities of the complexes and Streptomycin.

Bacterials strains	Zone of inhibition, diameter in mm		
	$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$ (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{disc}$ )	$[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$ (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{disc}$ )	Streptomycin (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{disc}$ )
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	20	17	27
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	27	28	34
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	12	14	21
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	22	23	28

## 4. Antibacterial Activity

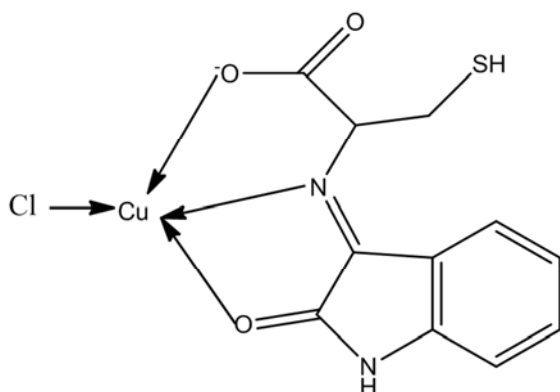


Figure 5. Monocopper(II) mono ((3-mercapto-2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene) amino) propanoate) monochloride.

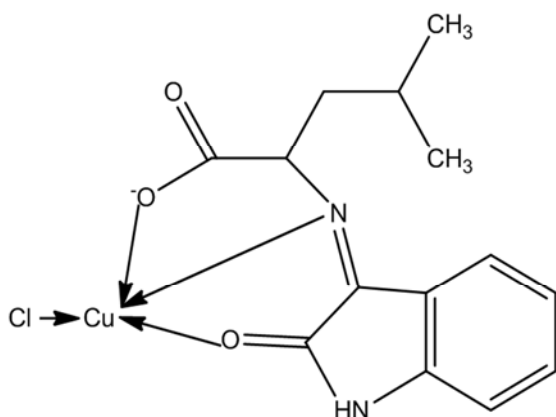
Any chemical or biological agent that either destroys or inhibits the growth of microorganisms is called antimicrobial agent. The susceptibility of microorganism to antimicrobial agent can be determined in vitro by a number of methods. The disc diffusion technique [19] is widely acceptable for preliminary investigations of materials which are suspected to possess

antimicrobial properties. Diffusion procedure, as normally used in essentially a qualitative test, which allocates organism of the susceptible, intermediate (moderately susceptible) or resistant categories. The antibacterial activity of the test complexes were determined by using the dose of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{disc}$ . The results of antibacterial activity measured in terms of zone of inhibition is shown in Table-2. The complexes showed strong sensitivity against the following number of both gram positive and gram negative bacteria and the results were compared with antibiotic disc of Streptomycin. The maximum zone of inhibition 28 mm was obtained against *Staphylococcus aureus* by  $[\text{Cu}(\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3)\text{Cl}]$ .

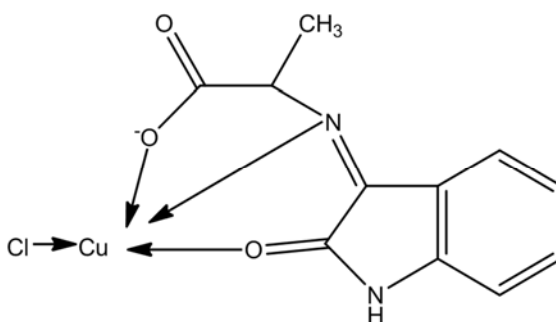
## 5. Conclusion

Magnetic susceptibility data indicated that all the complexes are paramagnetic in nature. Conductivity measurement indicated that all the complexes are non-electrolyte in nature. IR spectral data showed the ligand coordinate with metal complexes through O and N atoms. UV-Vis data showed the presence of d-d transition and paramagnetic nature of the complexes. There are two possibilities Cu(I) / Cu(II) state. Where, the Cu(II) oxidation

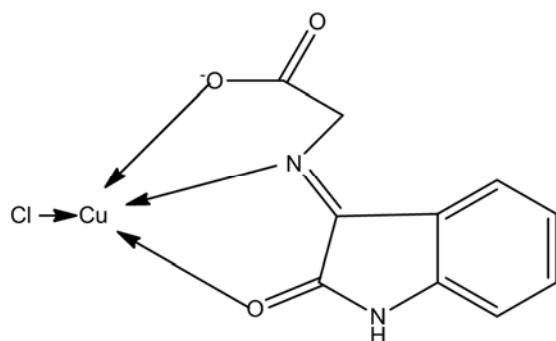
state is more stable than Cu(I) for complexes with nitrogen or oxygen electron donating ligands because of the CFSE. The  $d^9$  of Cu(II) configuration has more CFSE than  $d^{10}$  of Cu(I) which is zero. Keeping this in mind and judging from all the experimental data it was concluded that the geometry around Cu(II) ions in the respective complexes might be distorted tetrahedral and structures of complexes have been proposed as shown in figures 5-8. All the complexes showed strong antibacterial activity.



**Figure 6.** Monocopper(II) mono ((4-methyl-2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene) amino) pentanoate) monochloride.



**Figure 7.** Monocopper(II) mono ((2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene) amino) propanoate) monochloride.



**Figure 8.** Monocopper(II) mono ((2-((2-oxoindolin-3-ylidene) amino) acetate) monochloride.

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## Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to publish the article.

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