

**STUDIES ON N-[2-THIENYLMETHYLIDENE]-2-AMINOPYRIDINE  
COMPLEXES OF Fe(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn(II) AND Cd(II)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Metal complexes  $ML_2Cl_2$ , where M is  $Fe^{II}$ ,  $Co^{II}$ ,  $Ni^{II}$ ,  $Cu^{II}$ ,  $Zn^{II}$  and  $Cd^{II}$  and L is Schiff base formed by condensation of 2-thiophenecarboxaldehyde and 2-aminopyridine, N-[2-thienylmethylidene]-2-aminopyridine (TNAPY), have been prepared and characterized by elemental analysis, magnetic and spectroscopic measurements. IR and NMR spectra show that the nitrogen of the azomethyne group and the sulphur of the thiophene ring take part in coordination. Magnetic, ESR and electronic spectral studies show a distorted octahedral structure for the  $Fe(II)$ ,  $Co(II)$ ,  $Ni(II)$  and  $Cu(II)$  complexes and a tetrahedral geometry for the  $Zn(II)$  and  $Cd(II)$  complexes. Conductance measurements suggest the nonelectrolytic nature of the complexes, with the exception of the  $Zn(TNAPY)_2Cl_2$  and  $Cd(TNAPY)_2Cl_2$  compounds which are 1:2 electrolytes.

**KEYWORDS:** Schiff base, N-[2-thienylmethylidene]-2-aminopyridine, NMR, ESR,  
Transition Metal Complexes

**RESUMO**

Complexos metálicos do tipo  $ML_2Cl_2$  [ $M = Fe(II)$ ,  $Co(II)$ ,  $Ni(II)$ ,  $Cu(II)$ ,  $Cd(II)$  e L é o ligante N-[2-tienilmetilideno]-2-aminopiridina (TNAPY)] foram preparados e caracterizados usando análise elementar e métodos espectroscópicos e magnéticos. Espectros de ressonância magnética nuclear (RMN) e infravermelho (IV) demonstraram que o nitrogênio do grupo azometina e o enxofre do tiofeno participam da coordenação. Estudos de espectros eletrônicos, magnéticos e ressonância de spin do elétron (RSE) indicam uma estrutura octaédrica distorcida para os complexos de  $Fe(II)$ ,  $Co(II)$ ,  $Ni(II)$  e  $Cu(II)$  e geometria tetraédrica para os complexos de  $Zn(II)$  e  $Cd(II)$ . Medidas de condutância sugerem que a maioria dos complexos não são eletrólitos, com exceção de  $Zn(TNAPY)_2Cl_2$  e  $Cd(TNAPY)_2Cl_2$  que são eletrólitos 2:1.

## INTRODUCTION

The pyridine ring occurs in molecules of many natural and synthetic biologically active compounds. Pyridine derivatives have also found application in hydrometallurgy and metal complexes with pyridine bases have been used as catalysts in a number of technological processes<sup>1-4</sup>.

In continuation of our work on a metal complexes of Schiff bases<sup>5,6</sup> we report here the results of our studies on the complexes of a Schiff base derived from 2-thiophenecarboxaldehyde (2-TFCA) and 2-aminopyridine (2-APy), N-[thienylmethylidene]-2-aminopyridine (TNAPY), with Fe(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn(II) and Cd(II).

Tentative structures have been proposed on the basis of analytical, spectral, magnetic and conductance data.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**Reagents:** FeCl<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (Merck, 99%), CoCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (Merck, 99.99%), NiCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (Merck, 99.99%), CuCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (Merck, 99.99%), 2-thiophenecarboxaldehyde (Merck, 98%), 2-aminopyridine (Merck, 98%).

**Synthesis of bidentate Schiff base.** An ethanolic solution of 2-TFCA (0.002 mol, 25 ml) was added to an ethanolic solution of 2-APy (0.002 mol, 25 ml) and refluxed for 6h on a water-bath. After the concentration of the solution, the precipitate was filtered, washed with ethanol and dried over CaCl<sub>2</sub> in vacuum. *Anal.* Calcd. for TNAPY : C, 63.83; H, 4.25; N, 14.89; S, 17.02. Found: C, 63.79; N, 14.96; S, 17.43. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ<sub>1</sub> 8.7; δ<sub>2</sub> 7.4; <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ<sub>1</sub> 162.7; δ<sub>2</sub> 132.5; δ<sub>3</sub> 111.2.

**Synthesis of the ML<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> complexes.** A mixture of 2-TFCA (0.004 mol, 50 ml) and 2-APy (0.004 mol, 50 ml) in ethanol was added to an ethanolic solution of metal chlorides (0.002 mol, 50ml), at pH=8-8.5. The mixture of reactants was refluxed on a water-bath for 6-8 h. The excess of solvent was then distilled. The compounds separated were filtered, washed with ethanol and dried over CaCl<sub>2</sub> in vacuum. *Anal.* Calcd. for Co(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: Co, 11.63; C, 47.35; N, 11.05; S, 12.63; Cl, 14.18. Found: Co, 11.71; C, 47.29; N, 11.28; S, 12.60; Cl, 14.67. Calcd. for Ni(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: Ni, 11.59; C, 47.37; N, 11.05; S, 12.63; Cl, 14.19. Found: Ni, 11.31; C, 47.05; N, 10.86; S, 12.76; Cl, 14.38. Calcd. for Cu(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: Cu, 12.42; C, 41.92; N, 10.95; S, 12.51; Cl, 14.06. Found: Cu, 12.11; C, 41.72; N, 11.15; S, 12.52; Cl, 14.11. Calcd. for Zn(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: Zn, 12.47; C, 46.76; N, 10.91; S, 12.47; Cl, 14.00. Found: Zn, 12.44; C, 46.58; N, 10.66; S, 12.45; Cl, 13.56. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ<sub>1</sub> 9.1; δ<sub>2</sub> 7.5; <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ<sub>1</sub> 165.7; δ<sub>2</sub> 137.2; δ<sub>3</sub> 116.7. Calcd. for Cd(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: Cd, 20.06; C, 42.83; N, 9.99; S, 11.42; Cl, 12.83. Found: Cd, 20.41; C, 42.56; N, 9.40; S, 11.73; Cl, 13.03. <sup>1</sup>H NMR: δ<sub>1</sub> 9.1; δ<sub>2</sub> 7.6; <sup>13</sup>C NMR: δ<sub>1</sub> 166.6; δ<sub>2</sub> 138.7; δ<sub>3</sub> 114.8. Calcd. for Fe(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: Fe, 11.08; C, 47.64; N, 11.11; S, 12.70; Cl, 14.27. Found: Fe, 11.64; C, 47.98; N, 11.03; S, 12.92; Cl, 14.11.

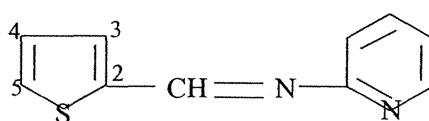
**Instruments.** The ligand and the complexes were analysed for M, S and Cl by conventional methods<sup>7,8</sup>, while C and N by microanalytical methods. The IR spectra were obtained with KBr pellets using a BIO-RAD FTS 135 spectrophotometer. The UV-VIS spectra were recorded on an UNICAM UV-VIS UV-4 spectrophotometer in DMF solution. The reflectance spectra were recorded on a VSU-2P spectrometer at room temperature.

The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) were recorded on a Varian T60, and the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra were obtained using a Bruker WH 270 spectrometer. The ESR spectrum was recorded on an ART 5 spectrometer at room temperature.

The magnetic moments have been determined by the Faraday method. A digital conductivity meter K 612 was used to measure the molar conductivities in DMF solution.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The complexes of Fe(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn(II) and Cd(II) with N-[2-thienylmethylidene]-2-aminopyridine (TNAPY) (Fig. 1) appear as powders. They are not soluble in methanol, ethanol and ethyl ether but soluble in DMF.



**Figure 1.** The structure of N-[2-thienylmethylidene]-2-aminopyridine

Based on the elemental analysis, the formula  $\text{ML}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (Table I) has been suggested for all compounds.

**Table I.** Analytical and Physical Data of the Complexes\*

Compounds	Melting point ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Colour	$\mu_{\text{eff}}$ (BM)	$\Lambda_{\text{M}}^{**}$ ( $\Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{mol}^{-1}$ )
$\text{Fe}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$	160	red	5.20	9.5
$\text{Co}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$	180	pink	4.88	5.2
$\text{Ni}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$	175	greenish	3.10	19.8
$\text{Cu}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$	220	blue	1.88	13.5
$\text{Zn}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$	240	white	-	126.9
$\text{Cd}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$	210	yellowish	-	133.2

\*All the complexes give satisfactory metal, C, S, N and Cl analyses

\*\* in DMF solution

*IR and NMR spectra.* Some important IR bands of TNAPY and its complexes along with their assignments are presented in Table II.

**Table II.** Characteristic Infrared Absorption Frequencies (in  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of Ligand and Complexes

Compound	$\nu_{\text{C=N}}$ azomethyne	$\nu_{\text{C=N}}$ pyridine	$\nu_{\text{C-S-C}}$	$\nu_{\text{C-S}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-N}}$
TNAPY	1675	1456	920	673	-
$\text{Fe(TNAPY)}_2\text{Cl}_2$	1635	1449	843	640	423
$\text{Co(TNAPY)}_2\text{Cl}_2$	1621	1455	841	654	419
$\text{Ni(TNAPY)}_2\text{Cl}_2$	1626	1456	859	650	430
$\text{Cu(TNAPY)}_2\text{Cl}_2$	1625	1450	851	645	420
$\text{Zn(TNAPY)}_2\text{Cl}_2$	1640	1451	860	635	418
$\text{Cd(TNAPY)}_2\text{Cl}_2$	1630	1453	835	630	415

The IR spectrum of the ligand shows a band at  $1675\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which is assigned to the  $\nu_{\text{C=N}}$  of the azomethyne group and an intense band at  $1456\text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to the C=N stretching of the pyridine ring. The comparison of the positions of these bands with those observed in the IR spectra of the complexes indicates that the band at  $1675\text{ cm}^{-1}$  shifts towards lower frequencies ( $\Delta\nu=35\text{-}55\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), while that at  $1456\text{ cm}^{-1}$  does not show a marked shift. This behaviour suggests that TNAPY is coordinated to the central metal ion through the azomethyne nitrogen. The proof of the coordination to the N atom is provided by the occurrence of the bands in the  $415\text{-}430\text{ cm}^{-1}$  region in the IR spectra of the compounds.

The band observed in the free ligand spectrum at  $920\text{ cm}^{-1}$  can be ascribed to  $\nu_{\text{C-S-C}}$  stretching vibration<sup>9</sup>. This band shifted to lower values with  $60\text{-}85\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , for all compounds, suggesting the involvement of the sulphur atom in bonding with the metal ions. The band observed at  $673\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the ligand spectrum, assigned to the  $\nu_{\text{C-S}}$  stretching vibration, is similarly shifted. This also confirms that the thiophene ring sulphur is a donor atom<sup>10</sup>.

In the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of the ligand, the thiophene ring proton 5-H appears at  $\delta\text{ }7.4\text{ ppm}$  and the azomethyne proton ( $-\text{CH=N}-$ ) at  $8.7\text{ ppm}$ . These signals register downfield shifts ( $1\text{-}2\text{ ppm}$ ) in the  $\text{Zn(II)}$  and  $\text{Cd(II)}$  complexes. These observations support the bonding of TNAPY through nitrogen and sulphur atoms.

The  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra provide further support for the mode of coordination of TNAPY. In the complexes spectra, the signals due to azomethyne carbon, 2-C and 5-C (thiophene ring) show a distinct downfield shift by nearly  $3\text{-}6\text{ ppm}$  clearly demonstrating the coordination of the ligand via the nitrogen and sulphur atoms.

*Electronic and ESR spectra.* Within the UV spectrum of the ligand, the existence of two absorption bands assigned to the transition  $n\rightarrow\pi^*$  and  $\pi\rightarrow\pi^*$  at  $41\text{ }518$  and  $37\text{ }340\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively, has been observed.

These transitions are to be found also in the spectra of the complexes, but they are shifted to lower frequencies ( $\Delta\nu=2000\text{-}2500\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), confirming the coordination of the ligand to the metal ions. The relevant electronic spectral data are reported in the Table III.

Table III. Electronic Spectra of the Complexes

Compound	Absorption maxima (cm <sup>-1</sup> )				
[Fe(TNAPY) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	12 800 11 200				
[Co(TNAPY) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	21 270	19 040	15 600	9 210	8 330
[Ni(TNAPY) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	22 320 17 000 9 200				
[Cu(TNAPY) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ]	16 500				

The electronic spectrum of the iron(II) complex consists of a pair of low intensity bands at 12800 and 11200 cm<sup>-1</sup> arising from  $^5T_{2g} \rightarrow ^5E_g$  transitions, similar to those found for distorted octahedral complexes. The doublet is attributed to Jahn-Teller distortion in the excited state<sup>11</sup>. The room temperature magnetic moment (5.2 BM) corresponds with the octahedral symmetry.

The reflectance spectrum of the Co(TNAPY)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> complex exhibits five bands. The bands at 21270 and 19040 cm<sup>-1</sup> arise from the  $^4T_{1g} \rightarrow ^4T_{1g}(P)$  transition which is split in complexes of D<sub>4h</sub> symmetry. That at 15600 cm<sup>-1</sup> arise from the  $^4T_{1g} \rightarrow ^4A_{2g}$  transition and those at 9210 and 8549 cm<sup>-1</sup> from the  $^4T_{1g} \rightarrow ^4T_{2g}(F)$  transition.

The ligand field spectrum of the Ni(II) compound could be assigned assuming that the stereochemistry is pseudo-octahedral. The bands may be assigned to  $^3A_{2g} \rightarrow ^3T_{2g}(F)$  ( $\nu_1$ ),  $^3A_{2g} \rightarrow ^3T_{1g}(F)$  ( $\nu_2$ ) and  $^3A_{2g} \rightarrow ^3T_{1g}(P)$  ( $\nu_3$ ), respectively. The low energy band is broad indicating (tetragonal) distortion and the room temperature. A magnetic moment (3.1 BM) in the region is expected for the octahedral complexes of the Ni(II) ion.

The proposed structural formulas of Fe(II), Co(II), Ni(II) and Cu(II) complexes is given in figure 2a and those of the Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes is show in figure 2b.

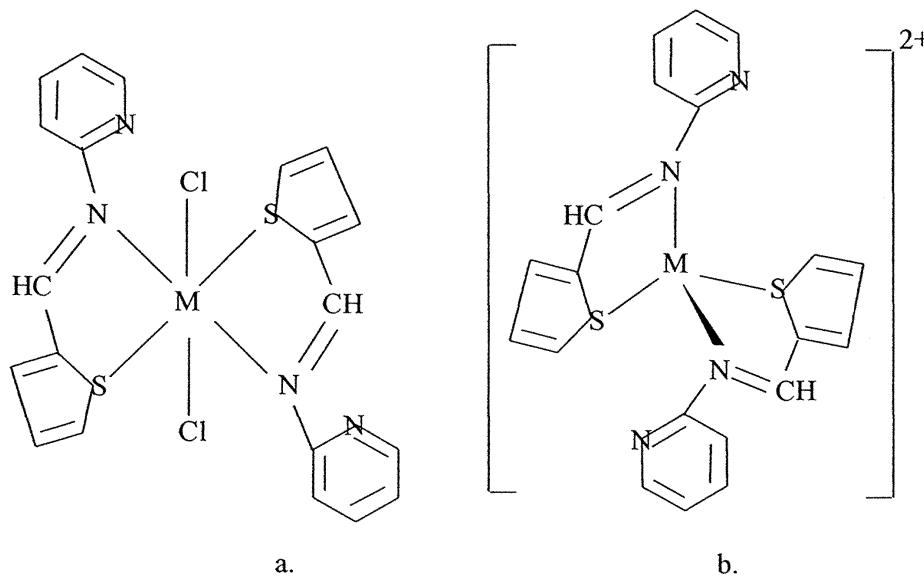


Figure 2. The proposed formulas of the complexes:

- a.  $[M(TNAPY)_2Cl_2]$  ( $M = Fe^{II}, Co^{II}, Ni^{II}$  and  $Cu^{II}$ );  
 b.  $[M(TNAPY)_2]Cl_2$  ( $M = Zn^{II}$  and  $Cd^{II}$ ).

The electronic spectrum of  $\text{Cu}(\text{TNAPY})_2\text{Cl}_2$  complex shows only one broad absorption band at  $16500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicating probably a distorted octahedral configuration. The magnetic moment value is 1.88 BM. The ESR spectrum for this compound, measured in a polycrystalline sample at room temperature, gives the following values:  $g_{\parallel}=2.067$  and  $g_{\perp}=2.146$ . The value  $g_{\parallel} < g_{\perp}$  is well consistent with a primarily  $d_{z^2}$  ground state and the spectrum is characteristic of axial (compressed octahedral) symmetry. The parameter  $G$ , determined as  $G = (g_{\parallel}-2)/(g_{\perp}-2)$ , is found to be much less than 4 suggesting a considerable interaction in the solid state<sup>12</sup>.

Zinc(II) and cadmium(II) complexes do not show d-d transitions hence their stereochemistry can not be determined from UV and visible reflectance spectra. From stoichiometry and other physicochemical evidence, a four-coordinated tetrahedral geometry is suggested for Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes (see figure 2b).

The molar conductance of the complexes, in DMF ( $10^{-3}\text{ M}$ ) solution, is in the range  $5.2\text{--}19.8\ \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{mol}^{-1}$  indicating their nonelectrolytic nature, with the exception of the Zn(II) and Cd(II) compounds which are 1:2 electrolytes.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we report the preparation, isolation and characterisation of a new bidentate Schiff base ligand derived from 2-thiophenecarboxaldehyde and 2-aminopyridine, and its complexes with Fe(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), Zn(II) and Cd(II).

The products were characterised by elemental analysis, magnetic and spectroscopic measurements.

From the infrared and NMR spectral studies of the ligand and complexes it is obvious that the ligand act as bidentate coordinating through the azomethine nitrogen and the thiophene sulphur.

Correlating the experimental data, one can predict the stereochemistry of the prepared complexes: distorted octahedral for the  $[\text{M}(\text{TNATZ})_2\text{Cl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Fe}^{\text{II}}, \text{Co}^{\text{II}}, \text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$ ) and tetrahedral for the  $[\text{M}(\text{TNATZ})_2]\text{Cl}_2$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Zn}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Cd}^{\text{II}}$ ) compounds.

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