

SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION AND ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITIES OF Ni(II)- AND Cu(II)-COMPLEXES OF N-PYRAZOLYLPROPANAMIDE

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The ligand N-pyrazolylpropanamide and two biologically active complexes of Ni⁺² and Cu⁺² with N-pyrazolylpropanamide have been synthesized and characterized. The synthesized ligand, metal salts and its complexes have been screened for their antimicrobial activities against two species of bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* and *Shigella*) by agar diffusion method. The results showed that the metal complexes are more active than the ligand and metal salts alone against these bacterial species. In addition, the biological activity of the Cu⁺² complex is more active than the Ni⁺² complex against these same bacterial species.

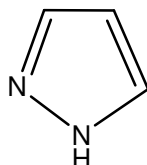
Key words: N-pyrazolylpropanamide, transition metal complexes, antimicrobial activity, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Shigella*, agar

INTRODUCTION

Transition Metal Complexes Of Aromatic Heterocyclic Derivatives

The heterocycles can be conveniently defined as cyclic organic compounds in which one or more of the ring carbon atoms have been replaced by another element such as N, O, or S. They may be either simple aromatic rings or non-aromatic rings. Some examples are Pyrazole (C₃H₄N₂), Pyridine (C₅H₅N), Pyrimidine (C₄H₄N₂) and dioxane (C₄H₈O₂). Heterocycles containing sulfur and/or nitrogen atoms are useful as components of functional materials since heteroatoms in their rings are helpful to stabilize ions or ion radical species, and extended π-conjugation decreases coulombic repulsion. In addition intermolecular interactions caused by heteroatom contacts can be expected to form novel molecular assemblies (Yohannes, 2007; Joulef and Mills, 2010).

Imidazole, Pyrazole and triazole for instance, are an abundant ligand in chemical and biological systems as it appears as such in proteins, and together with its derivatives, has been extensively employed for modeling in a wide range of inorganic subject areas, from biological applications to electronic devices and materials (Yohannes, 2007; Badea *et al.*, 2008). Finding new species, with a wide spectrum of biological activity (antifungal, antimicrobial and antiviral) and also low cytotoxicity represents a very important aspect in the area of biomedical research. Important groups of organic compounds to be considered with this reference are those which form complexes with metal ions (Mahmud, 1994). The coordination chemistry of Pyrazoles and their derivatives is one area interest as these compounds show significant biological activities. Pyrazoles shown in scheme 1 refers to the class of simple aromatic ring organic compounds of the heterocyclic series. The un-substituted parent compound is known to be important intermediates for the preparation of agrochemicals and pharmaceutical compounds (<http://www.britannica.com>).



Scheme 1: Structure of Pyrazole

Ni^{+2} and Cu^{+2} .

- ii. To characterize the synthesized ligand the metal complexes based on some physico-chemical methods.
- iii. To investigate the potential of antimicrobial activities of the ligand, the Ni and Cu metal salts and their complexes towards *Bacillus subtilis* and *Shigella*.

In this study, Ni(II)-and Cu(II)- complexes of a pyrazole derivative N-pyrazolylpropanamide as a ligand are prepared and characterized. The ligand, the metal salts and their complexes are then screened against microorganisms *Bacillus subtilis* and *Shigella* for their antimicrobial activity.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

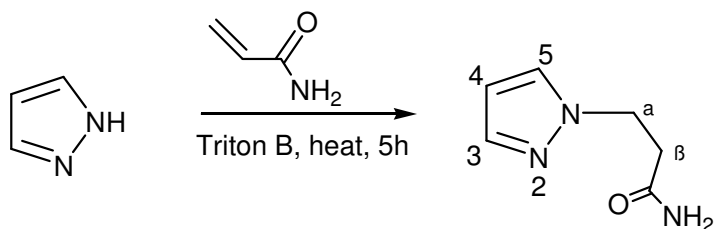
Reagents, Standards And Samples

All reagents and standard chemicals and solvents used were Analar Grade obtained commercially. Acrylamide, pyrazole, trimethylbenzylammonium hydroxide (Triton B, 40% in methanol), anhydrous copper (II) chloride, anhydrous nickel (II) chloride and absolute ethanol were used as received. Diethyl ether. The ligand N-pyrazolylpropanamide prepared from the starting materials were obtained from the institute of chemistry Otto-von Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany (Girma *et. al.*, 2007). The Cu and Ni complexes of the ligand were synthesized by literature methods (Mahmud, 1994; Girma *et. al.*, 2007).

PROCEDURES: SYNTHESIS OF THE LIGAND AND COMPLEXES

Synthesis of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

The ligand was prepared on the literature (Girma *et. al.*, 2007) by Michael addition of pyrazole to acrylamide in the presence of trimethylbenzylammonium hydroxide (Triton B, 40% in methanol) as a basic catalyst (Scheme 3). After about five hours of reflux in a boiling water bath the ligand was obtained in good yield (94%). Recently, de la Cruz et al have reported the synthesis and spectroscopic properties of several N-azolylpropanamides including N-pyrazolylpropanamide (Yield: 82%) obtained from acrylamide and the corresponding azoles using pyridine-sodium methoxide as a basic catalyst. Here trimethylbenzylammonium hydroxide has been used as a basic catalyst in a high-yield synthesis (Girma *et. al.*, 2007).



Scheme 3. The synthesis of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

Synthesis of the complex of Ni(II) chloride with N-pyrazolylpropanamide

The coordination compound $[\text{NiL}_2\text{Cl}_2]$ (L = N-pyrazolylpropanamide) was prepared by dissolving hexahydrated nickel (II) chloride in hot absolute ethanol. To this solution, a solution of the ligand N-pyrazolylpropanamide in absolute ethanol was added and stirred for about half an hour. The complex crystallized after the reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature over fused calcium chloride for 48 hours.

Synthesis of the complex of Cu(II) chloride with N-pyrazolylpropanamide

The coordination compound $[\text{CuL}_2\text{Cl}_2]$ (L = N-pyrazolylpropanamide) was prepared by dissolving dihydrated copper (II) chloride in hot absolute ethanol. To this solution, a solution of the ligand N-pyrazolylpropanamide in absolute ethanol was added without stirring. The complex crystallized after the reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature over fused calcium chloride for 48 hours.

PHYSICAL METHODS: ANALYTICAL METHODS AND PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS

Microanalyses of the compounds described in here were performed using a Leco CHNS 923 apparatus. Melting points were determined with a Büchi B-450 digital melting point apparatus. The IR spectra of the complexes were recorded using KBr pellets on a JASCO FTIR 460 PLUS spectrometer system between 3500 cm^{-1} and 400 cm^{-1} . Antimicrobial Studies was performed by using incubator and autoclave for sterilizing the material.

ANTIBACTERIAL STUDIES

Agar Diffusion Assay

The plate agar diffusion method with paper disks were used to study the microbial activities of the ligand, the metal salts and the complexes against the microorganisms investigated. This method can give qualitative results about antimicrobial activities of antibiotic compounds.

The plate diffusion method with paper disks gave qualitative results about antimicrobial activity of the complexes. Inhibition zones larger than 6mm indicated antimicrobial activity (Pereira *et. al.*, 2007). Quantitative measurements were made by Chain and his colleagues in 1940 to monitor purification process in the isolation of penicillin (Mahmud, 1994).

The relationship between applied dose of antibiotic and the size of the resulting inhibition zone has remained for over thirty years as a basis for the comparison of samples of unknown potency with standard reference substance. The agar diffusion method is now used extensively in quality control laboratories throughout the world (Mahmud, 1994) it is a method potentially capable of yielding reliable potency estimates.

COLLECTION OF TEST ORGANISMS

The following bacteria were used for this research work: *Bacillus subtilis* and *Shigella*. They were all obtained from the Laboratory Unit, in Microbiology laboratory from Department of Biology, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.

CULTURE MEDIUM

Culture medium used for growth and testing of antibacterial activity was nutrient broth and nutrient agar. The composition of nutrient broth and nutrient agar is;

NUTRIENT BROTH

Sodium chloride	6g
Peptone	6g
Beef Extract	3g

These were dissolved in 1.0L distilled water and used after autoclaving the culture media at a temperature of 121°C for 15 to 20 minutes. Nutrient agar was prepared in the same way by addition of only 1.5% fine agar powder along with other ingredients of nutrient broth (Karamat Mahmud, 1994; Karamat Mahmud *et.al.*, 2001).

Preparation Of Petri Plates And Test Tube For Slants

Petri plates were washed with water carefully and rinsed with acetone. The rinsed Petri plates were heat sterilized in oven at 110°C for 30 minutes. Test tubes for slants were plugged with cotton and sterilized in autoclave.

Pouring of Culture Medium

Culture medium was allowed to cool around 50°C and then poured about 16-20ml, in each sterilized Petri plate. The slants were also prepared for making water suspension of bacterial species. The nutrient agar containing Petri plates and slants were kept for solidification of nutrient agar and stored at 4°C .

Inoculation

One isolated bacterial colony was taken from such culture with the help of sterilized loop and streaked out on the slants containing nutrient agar medium. Loop was sterilized in the flame before each inoculation. Slants were labeled and placed in an incubator at $32\text{-}37^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 24 hours for growth. Bacteria grown slants were suspended in 10 ml sterilized

distilled water.

Sample Ratio

The solid complexes, Metal salts and ligand (0.2gm) was dissolved in 1.0ml of acetone. Acetone was used as negative control and streptomycin sulphate was used as standard or positive control. The plates of filter paper were ranged on cool medium. After cooling, the samples were placed by micropipette on the filter paper. Then Petri plates were incubated at 32-37°C for 24 hours in an incubator.

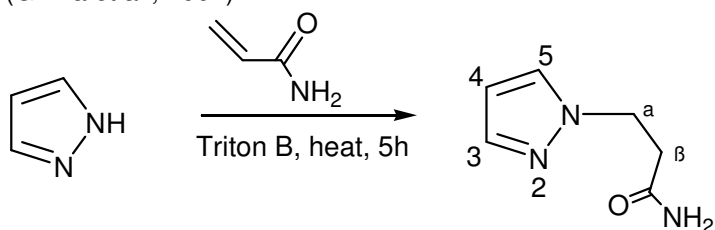
Calculations

The diameter of clear zones surrounding the disc was measured with a ruler on the under surface of the Petri plates (NCCLS, 2000). The end point was taken as complete inhibition of growth as determined by the naked eye.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

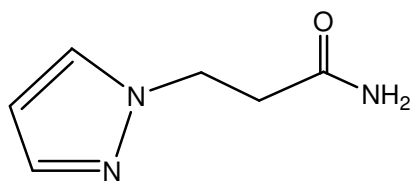
Synthesis and structure of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

A mixture of 6.8(0.1 mole) of pyrazole, 7.1g (0.1 mole) of acrylamide, and 2ml of trimethylbenzylammoniumhydroxide (Triton B, 40% in methanol) was heated for 5h in a boiling water bath. As it is indicated in scheme 4, the cooled reaction mixture was washed with diethyl ether and dried in vacuo to give of analytically pure yellowish N-pyrazolylpropanamide (Girma *et.al.*, 2007).



Scheme 4. The synthesis of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

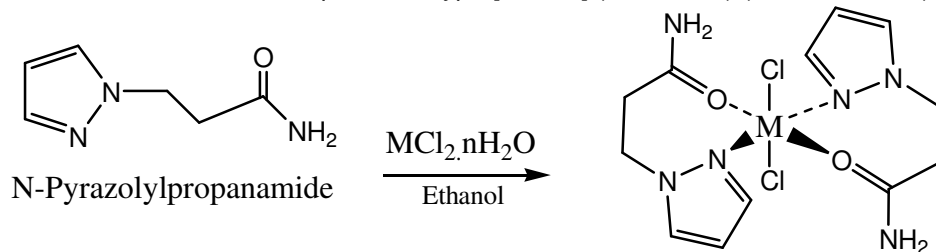
IR spectrum (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3408 vs, 3349 vs, 3155 vs, 2798 vs, 2436 vs, 1670 vs, 1411 vs, 1055 vs, 971 vs, 768 vs, 668 vs, 596 vs, 577 vs, 566 vs, 525 vs, 490 vs, 475 vs, 437 (appendix A) this data were in good agreement with those reported in the literature (K. B. Girma *et.al.*, 2007) that shows the structure of NNP (scheme 5).



Scheme 5. Structure of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

Synthesis and structure of Metal complex of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

The stoichiometric reaction between the metal (II) ion and synthesized ligands in molar ratio of M: L (1: 2) resulted in the formation of the metal complexes of type $[\text{ML}_2\text{Cl}_2]$ (Scheme 6) (where M = Cu(II), Ni(II)).

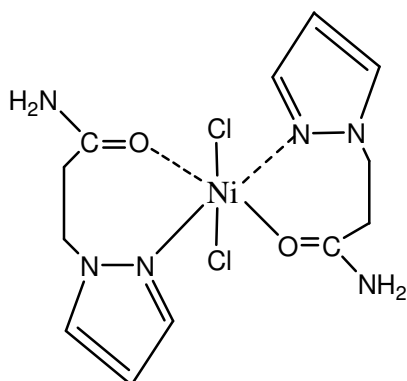


Scheme 6. Synthesis and proposed structure of metal complexes of NPP

Synthesis and structure of nickel complex of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

To an ethanol solution (10 ml) of Nickel (II) chloride hexahydrated (0.340 g, 0.002 mole) and an ethanol solution (10 ml) of N-pyrazolylpropanamide (1, 0.557 g 0.004 mole) was added and stirred for about half an hour. Bright green solid substance was obtained after the solution was kept over fused calcium chloride for 48 hours which were filtered off and washed several times with ethanol. The product was dried in air to get the complex that represent on scheme 7.

IR spectrum (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3430 vs, 3372 vs, 3229 vs, 1646 vs, 1414 vs, 1296 vs, 759 vs, 660 vs, 579 vs, 511 vs, 482 vs, 452 vs (appendix C).

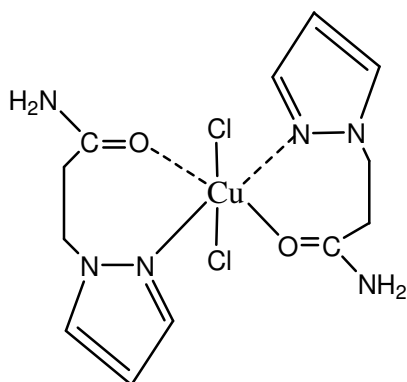


Scheme 7. The proposed structure of the Ni (II) complex with NPP

Synthesis and structure of copper complex of N-pyrazolylpropanamide

To an ethanol solution (10 ml) of copper (II) chloride dihydrate (0.340 g, 0.002 mole) and an ethanol solution (10 ml) of N-pyrazolylpropanamide (1, 0.557 g, 0.004 mole) was added carefully without stirring. Green crystals were obtained after the clear greenish yellow solution was kept over fused calcium chloride for 48 hours which were filtered off and washed several times with ethanol. The product was dried in air to get the complex (Scheme 8).

IR spectrum (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3447 vs, 3280 vs, 3164 vs, 3116 vs, 3011 vs, 2911 vs, 2762 vs, 2699 vs, 1662 vs, 1603 vs, 1408 vs, 1286 vs, 784 vs, 617 vs, 550 vs, 503 vs, 448vs (appendix B).



Scheme 8. The Structure of the Cu (II) complex with NPP

FTIR spectra analysis of KBr pellets showed some characteristic results for the metal complexes that were compared with the ligand spectrum to determine the changes that might have taken place during complexation. The important bands and assignments of ligands and their complexes are summarized in Table 1. The results indicate that the ligands are bidentate in nature (<http://www.britannica.com>).

Table 1. Important characteristic IR bands (cm^{-1}) of the Ligand and its Metal Complexes

Compound	$\nu(\text{NH}_2)$	$\nu(\text{C=O})$
Ligand (NPP)	3408	1670

Continuation of **Table 1**

[CuL ₂ Cl ₂]	3447	1662,1608
[NiL ₂ Cl ₂]	3430	1646

The free ligand NPP exhibits strong bands at 1670.05 and 3408.57 cm⁻¹ due to C=O and -NH₂ groups, respectively. In the IR spectra of the free ligand and the complex in (table 1) revealed a significant decrease to lower wave numbers at 1662cm⁻¹ and 1646cm⁻¹ in the CO absorptions and an increase in the positions of the NH₂ vibrations to higher wave numbers at 3447cm⁻¹ and 3430cm⁻¹ upon complexation. The shift of these bands in complexes suggests the coordination of nitrogen of pyrazole ring and oxygen atom of acrylamide of ligand to metal ions.

The bonding of metal ion to the ligands through N, N in NPP and N, O atoms in NPP was further supported by the presence of new bands in the region. These results are in agreement with the results of others (Girma *et.al.*, 2007) who indicate that this band shift is caused by the binding of the metal ion with the condensed ring of the NPP through N and O atoms of the ligand.

The coordination geometry of the metal centre in the complex involves an octahedral structure with two chelate ligands in the equatorial positions and two chlorides in the apical positions (Scheme 6). Each ligand is coordinated to the metal via the coordinating nitrogen of the pyrazole group and the carbonyl oxygen of the amide group in a seven-membered chelate ring.

Screening For Antimicrobial Activity

The antimicrobial activity of each of these complexes was compared with streptomycin used as positive control. 0.5 ml of each compound (0.2gm/1ml) was applied to 0.5 ml of streptomycin (0.2gm/1ml) individually. Acetone was used as a solvent for dissolving each of the compounds and it also acted as the negative control. The test organisms showed an inhibition zone of 22mm with streptomycin (positive control) (Mahmud, 1994) while, acetone has no antibacterial activity against each of the micro-organism as shown in (Table 2).

Table 2. Inhibition zone of the ligand, Metal salt and Complexes against two bacterial species from the biology laboratory a) *Bacillus subtilis* and b) *Shigella*;

Compound	Positive Control = Streptomycin		Negative Control = Acetone	
	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	<i>Shigella</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	<i>Shigella</i>
CuCl ₂ .2H ₂ O	12	13		
NiCl ₂ .6H ₂ O	9	8		
NPP	9	10		
Cu(II) Complex	18	20		
Ni(II) Complex	12	11		
Streptomycin	22 mm	22 mm		
Acetone	No Growth	No Growth		

Evaluation of the antimicrobial activity of the the ligands, metal salts and metal complexes obtained from them were carried out by comparing the results of the metal complexes in percentages with the positive and negative controls. Ligands, metal salts and metal complexes were screened against the bacteria species: *Bacillus subtilis* and *Shigella*.

The results in the table 2 show that the free ligand, the metallic salts and their complexes were compared and found to have potent against the bacteria, the complexes have slightly more antibiotic activities than their parent ligands or metal salts against the tested microorganisms under identical experimental conditions. It is known that chelation tends to make ligands act as more powerful and potent bactericidal agents (Olagboye *et.al.*, 2013).

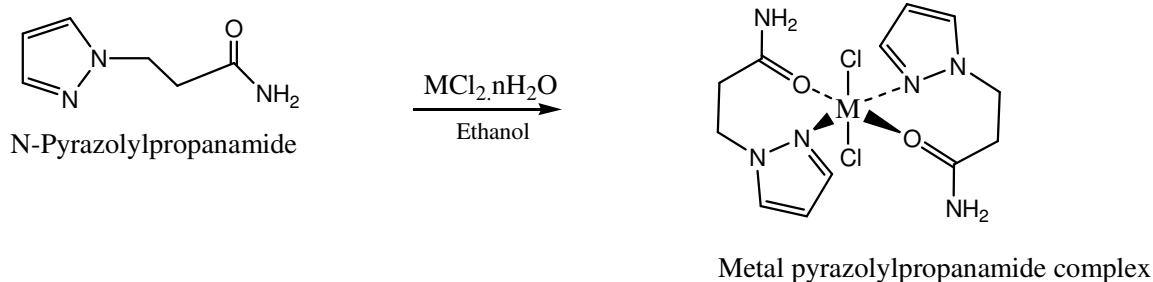
The values indicate that the metal complexes had higher bactericidal activity than the free ligand and metal salts. Such increased activity of the metal complexes can be explained on the basis of the overtone concept of the cell permeability, the lipid membrane that surrounds the cell favours the passage of only lipid soluble materials, due to which liposolubility is an important factor controlling the antimicrobial activity (Mishra and Singh, 1993). The bacteria screening results

reveal that the free ligand N-pyrazolylpropanamide and nickel salt showed minimum activity against bacteria species. The copper and nickel complexes showed potent against the microorganisms. The antimicrobial activity of Cu(II) complexes show better activity than that of Ni(II) complexes. These effects may also be associated with the electronic distribution and stereochemistry of the ligand due to complexation.

Conclusion

N-pyrazolylpropanamide derived by condensation of acrylamide with pyrazole, act as a bidentate ligand towards metal ions (copper, and nickel) via the pyrazole-N and deprotonated-O of the acrylamide. The stoichiometric reaction between the metal (II) ion and synthesized ligands in molar ratio of M: L (1: 2) resulted in the formation of the metal complexes of type $[ML_2Cl_2]$ (where M = Cu(II), Ni(II)) (Scheme 9). The IR data suggested for the complexes to have an octahedral geometry around the central metal atom.

Based on infrared spectral data the following Synthesis and structures were proposed for the reaction between N-pyrazolylpropanamide and Metal salts.



Scheme 9. Synthesis and proposed structure of metal complexes of NPP

This study shows that the antimicrobial activity of N-pyrazolylpropanamide is modified in the presence of metal ions. The metal (II) complexes exhibit more antimicrobial properties against *Bacillus subtilis* and *Shigella* as compared to the uncomplexed ligand or metal salts.

Acknowledgement

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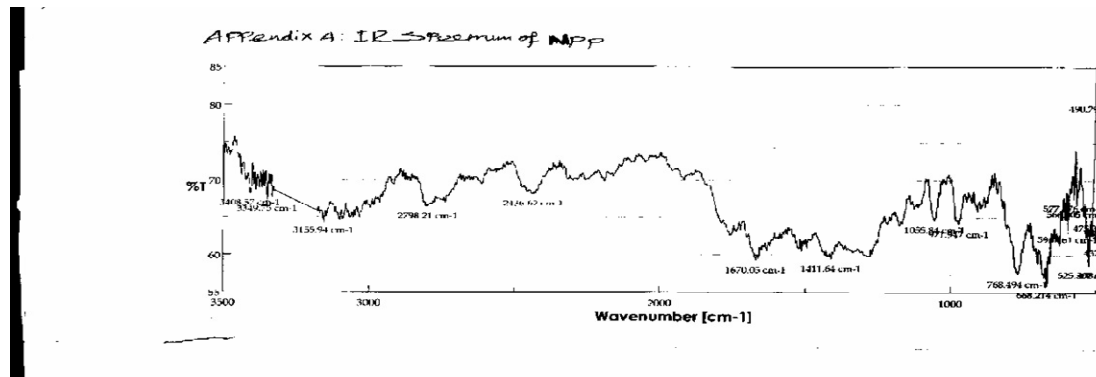
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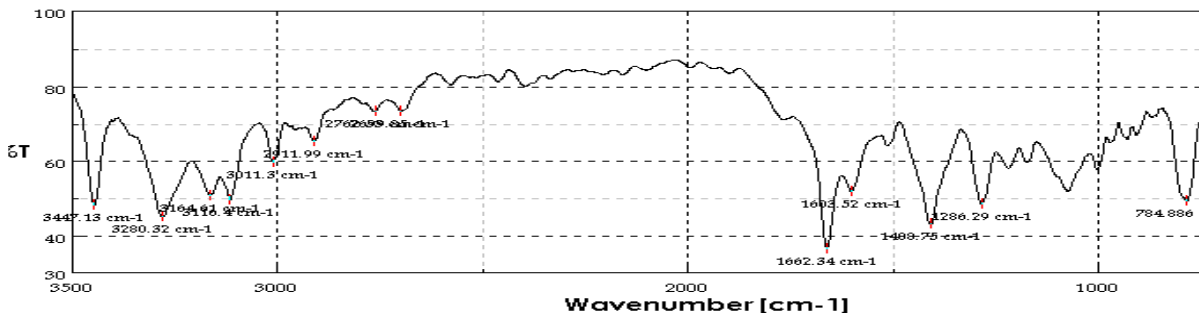
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Appendices



APPENDIX B: IR spectrum of Cu (II) complex with NNP



APPENDIX C: IR spectrum of Ni (II) complex with NNP

