

COMPLEXES OF SELECTED TRANSITION METAL IONS WITH *N*-MODIFIED GLYCINE AS LIGAND

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ABSTRACT. A novel series of transitional metal complexes of Cu(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Zn(II) and Fe(II) with *N*-modified glycine as ligand provide from phenylserinol were synthesized and characterized *via* elemental analysis, MS, IR, UV-VIS thermogravimetric analysis and ESR. The thermal stability of the ligand and synthesized complexes was discussed in the 20-1000°C temperature range. The results indicate that the organic compound acts as a bidentate ligand, its coordination involving the carboxylate oxygen and the nitrogen atom belonging to the amino group of the glycine fragment. The shape of ESR spectrum for cooper complex at room temperature suggest an axial symmetry around the metallic ions ($g_{\parallel}=2.427$, $g_{\perp}=2.063$).

Keywords: *glycine, transition metal complexes, thermal behavior, spectroscopic studies.*

INTRODUCTION

Complexes of transition metals with amino acids like glycine, have received much attention because they proved biological activity such as antibacterial, antimicrobial or antifungal activities [1-4]. Glycine derivatives including complexes with different transition metals with antibacterial activity are also known [5, 6].

Other research indicated that transition metal complexes with *N*-substituted glycine act as hydrogen buffer in biological reactions [7].

N-modified glycines have a lot of applications in biomedicine as analogue of anticonvulsant and antiepileptic agent Milacemide or as *building-units* for *N*-backbone cyclic peptides [8, 9].

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Recently studies of transition metal complexes of mixed ligand with glycine report biological activity too [10, 11].

Taking into account the important biochemical applications of *N*-modified glycine, we have recently reported a new series of transition metal complexes with an other *N*-modified glycine as a ligand, derived from *p*-nitrophenylserinol [12].

In continuation of our recent findings in the field of transition metal complexes with *N*-modified glycine as ligand, we report herein the preparation of a new series of metal complexes with other ligand (**L**) prepared and reported by us, namely 2-[(1*S*,2*S*)-1,3-dihydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl-amino] acetic acid (Figure1) [13]. This work, that presents the synthesis, the spectroscopic and thermogravimetric investigation the metal complexes of ligand **L** whit Cu(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Zn(II) and Fe(II) ions, has the same objectives as the above quoted study.

The ligand **L**, an optically active *N*-modified glycine, was obtained by a literature procedure like the non-nitrated analogue, with satisfactory yield [13].

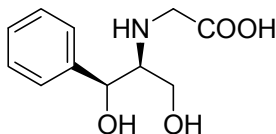


Figure 1. Structure formula of ligand **L**: 2-[(1*S*,2*S*)-1,3-dihydroxy-1-phenylpropan-2-yl-amino]acetic acid

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The structure of the metal complexes

The complexation reaction of Cu(II), Co(II), Ni(II) Fe(II) and Zn(II) salt with the aqueous solution of the ligand **L** in each case yields a solid product. Except Zn(II) complex which is colorless, all are colored, microcrystalline and stable at room temperature. They are also insoluble in water (the ligand is very soluble) or non-polar organic solvents but soluble in methanol or DMSO. The different and much higher melting points of these products, as well their different colors when compared to that of the ligand **L**, indicate the formation of metal complexes.

Their elemental analysis data is in agreement with the molar ratio Metal : Ligand = 1 : 2. In exchange the elemental analysis data indicate also that the ligand is hydrated with one mole of water, the copper complex with

one mole of water too, but the other metal complexes are hydrated with two mole of water. The presence of water outside or within the sphere of coordination is demonstrated by thermal analysis data (Table 2).

The UV-VIS spectra in DMSO for the complexes (**1-5**) indicate a slight hypsochromical shift by 3.5-7.5 nm, but a considerable hyperchromic increase effect of absorbance comparative to the spectrum of the initial ligand (**L**), except Zn complex, like the other similar complexes [3, 12, 14, 15].

On the other hand, the HRMS spectrum for the metal complexes proves the complexation process (Figure 2a-c). The M+1 peak supports the complexation idea with the transition metal ions, for each of them.

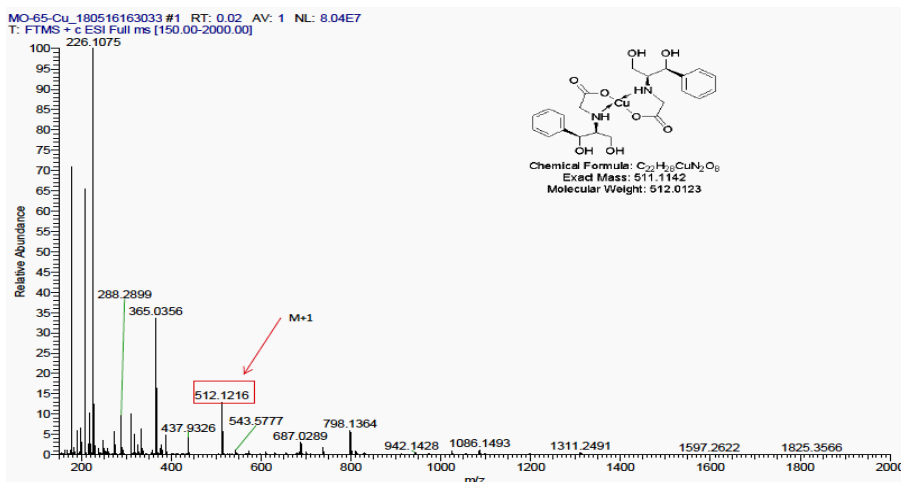


Figure 2a. HRMS spectrum (ESI) of cooper complex (**1**)

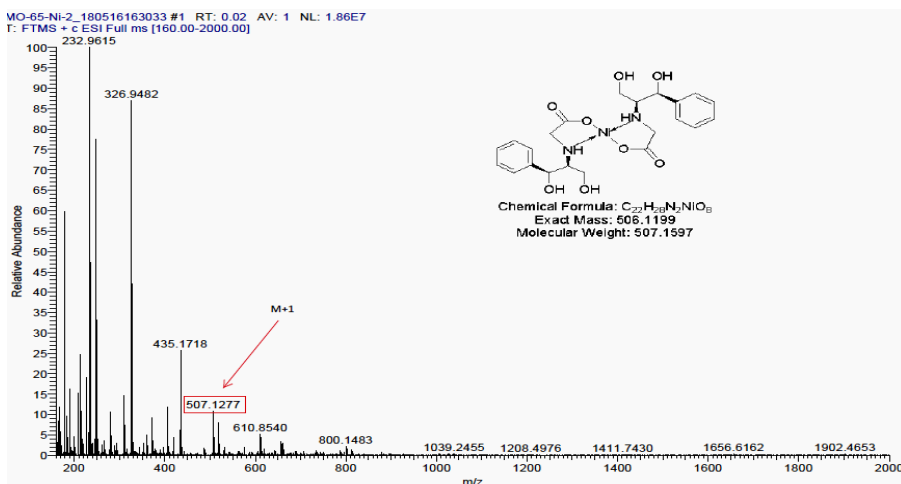


Figure 2b. HRMS spectrum (ESI) of nickel complex (**3**)

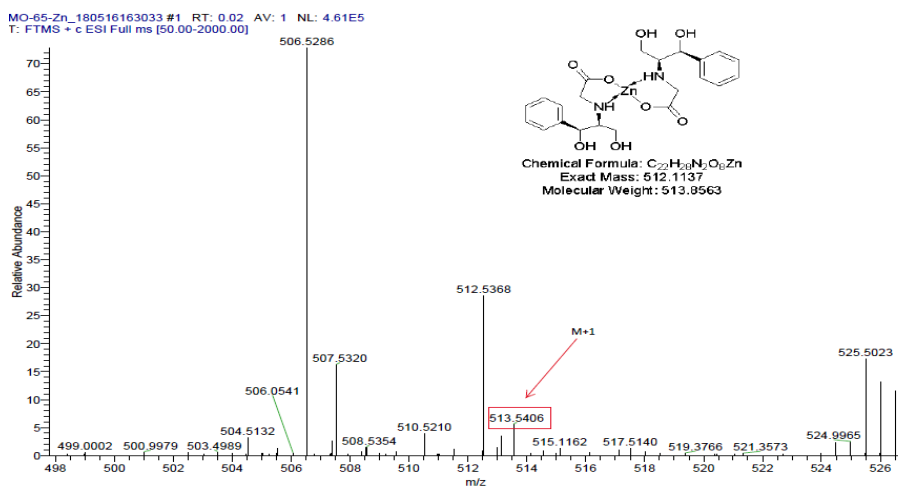


Figure 2c. HRMS spectrum (ESI) of zinc complex (5)

The bonding of the ligand to different metal ions was investigated also by comparing the IR spectrum of the free ligand with those of the metal complexes. IR spectrum of free ligand undergoes a certain modification when coordinated to a metal ion [15-20]. Partial assignments of the IR absorption bands observed for the free ligand and the metal complexes are given in Table 1

Table 1. Some IR absorption bands (cm^{-1}) of the ligand **L** and its metal complexes (**1-5**)

Assignment (cm^{-1})	ν_{OH} , ν_{O-H-O}	ν_{NH}	$\nu(COO^-)_{as}$	$\nu(COO^-)_s$	δ_{NH}	ν_{M-O}	ν_{M-N}	ν_{M-H_2O}
$C_{11}H_{17}NO_5$ (L)	3367	3147	1651	1411	1568 1494	-	-	-
$C_{22}H_{30}CuN_2O_9$ (1)	3293	3034	1613	1386	1494 1456	421	541	763
$C_{22}H_{32}CoN_2O_{10}$ (2)	3324	3086	1600	1383	1493 1456	429	561	763
$C_{22}H_{32}NiO_{10}$ (3)	3316	3086	1603	1385	1494 1456	432	564	763
$C_{22}H_{32}FeN_2O_{10}$ (4)	3393	2937	1628	1363	1495 1455	459	599	768
$C_{22}H_{32}N_2O_{10}Zn$ (5)	3505 3402 3341 3302	2933	1608	1384	1495 1456	427	563	764

In the spectral region 3300-3500 cm^{-1} a wide band formed by 2-3 overlapped bands is observed that may be assigned to ν_{OH} and $\nu_{\text{O-H-O}}$ vibration due intra- and intermolecular hydrogen bonding in the crystalline state. The vibrational frequencies related to $\nu(\text{COO}^-)_{\text{as}}$ at 1651 cm^{-1} and $\nu(\text{COO}^-)_{\text{s}}$ at 1411 cm^{-1} in ligand is shifted toward lower value in the spectra of the complexes with 25-48 cm^{-1} for the $\nu(\text{COO}^-)_{\text{as}}$ and 23-51 cm^{-1} for the $\nu(\text{COO}^-)_{\text{s}}$, respectively [3, 18]. Modified are also observed in the case of ν_{NH} or δ_{NH} frequencies in the metal complexes comparative to the free ligand [3, 18]. These bands of the metal complexes were shifted to lower value due to chelating with metal ions. The new bands appearing in the range 421-427 cm^{-1} are assigned to $\nu_{\text{M-O}}$, while those at 541-563 cm^{-1} could be attributed to $\nu_{\text{M-N}}$ [15-21]. In the case of all metal complexes a $\nu_{(\text{M-H}_2\text{O})}$ vibration band appears at 763-768 cm^{-1} , which is characteristic for coordinated water molecules in the inner coordination sphere [15].

Thermal investigation

The thermal decomposition of the ligand **L** and its metal complexes (**1-5**) was studied by means of a derivatograph in air atmosphere. Thermal stability domains, decomposition phenomena and their assignments are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 3a-c.

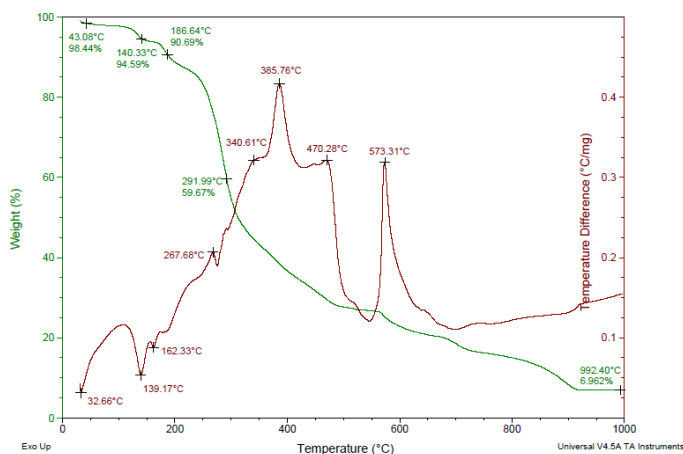


Figure 3a. TG-DTA diagram for the ligand **L**

The thermal analysis results reveal that the ligand (**L**) is hydrated with a water molecule and the decomposition involved three steps. The first step of decomposition occurs within temperature range 20-187 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ has three

endothermic peaks at 33°C, 139°C and 162°C. The first small endothermic peak with a mass loss of 1.56% represented the loss of residual water present in the pores, phenomenon which could be explained by the synthesis of the ligand from aqueous solution [13]. The next two peaks with a mass loss of 3.85% (calcd. 3.71%), respectively 3.90% (calc. 3.70%) could be assigned to loss very slowly the water molecule. Probably the water is held inside to ligand until the melting point (m.p. = 145-147°C, lit. [13].) The second stage of decomposition was observed in the temperature range 187-292°C with an exothermic at 267°C and correspond to a glycine rest splitting (exp. 31.02%, calcd. 32.86%).

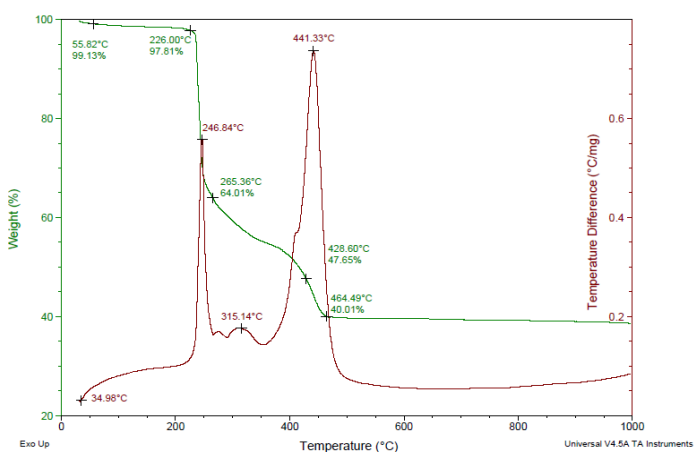


Figure 3b. TG-DTA diagram for the copper complex (1)

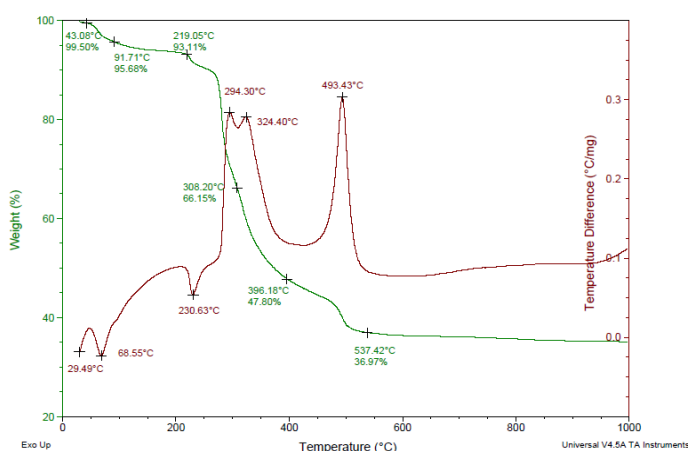


Figure 3c. TG-DTA diagram for the zinc complex (5)

Table 2. Thermal analysis data of the ligand **L** and its metal complexes (**1-5**) in air atmosphere (10°C/min)

Compound	Heat effect on DTA	Temperature (°C)			Mass loss (%)		Assignment
		T _i	T _{max}	T _f	Calcd.	Exp.	
L•H ₂ O	Endo	20	33	43	-	1.56	-residual water present inside pores
	Endo	43	139	140	3.71	3.85	-0.5 mole of hydrating water which is retained inside the molecule
	Endo	140	162	187	3.70	3.90	-melting accompanied by 0.5 mole of hydrating water loss
	Exo	187	267	292	32.86	31.02	-glycine rest (C ₂ H ₄ O ₂ N) and oxidation process
	Exo	292	341 386 470 573	1000	59.73	59.71	-pyrolysis of organic rest
[Cu(L) ₂ •H ₂ O] (1)	Endo	20	35	226	-	0.87	-residual water present inside pores
					-	1.32	-residual water present inside pores
	Exo	226	246	265	32.36	33.60	-melting, 1mole of water and 2 moles of glycine rest loss
	Exo	265	315 441	1000	67.64	24.01 40.01	-quickly cleavage and pyrolysis of organic rest CuO and ash
[Co(L) ₂ •2H ₂ O] (2)	Endo	20	36	245	-	0.61 2.71	-residual water present inside pores
	Exo	245	283	298	-	34.04	-melting, 2 moles of hydrating water, 2 mole of glycine rest
	Exo	298	313 347	1000	35.83 64.17	48.84 12.97	-quickly cleavage and pyrolysis of organic rest CoO and ash
[Ni(L) ₂ •2H ₂ O] (3)	Endo	20	59	270	-	1.13 3.84	- residual water present inside pores
	Exo	270	320	337	35.89	33.81	-2 mole water, probably melting and glycine rest loss
	Exo	337	382	1000	64.11	46.87 13.84	- pyrolysis of organic rest NiO and ash
[Fe(L) ₂ •2H ₂ O] (4)	Endo	20	43	48	-	1.73	- residual water present inside pores
	Endo	48	110	168	6.67	7.44	-2 mole of hydrating water
	Exo	168	209	206	29.36	26.85	-2 mole of glycine rest
	Exo	206	327 348	1000	63.97	26.97 36.98	- pyrolysis of organic rest FeO and ash
[Zn(L) ₂ •H ₂ O]•H ₂ O (5)	Endo	20	30	43	-	0.50	- residual water present inside pores
	Endo	43	69	92	3.28	3.82	-1mole of hydrating water
	Endo	92	231	308	3.39	2.57	-1mole of coordinating water
	Exo		294		28.90	26.94	-2 mole of glycine rest
	Exo	308	324 493	1000	64.43	29.21 36.97	- pyrolysis of organic ZnO and ash

 T_i=initial temperature, T_{max}=maximum temperature, T_f=final temperature

The aim of the thermal analysis of the metal complexes is to obtain information concerning their thermal stability of these and to decide whether the water molecules are inside or outside the coordination sphere.

The decomposition of each metal complex occurs in three steps.

The interval 20-270°C is characterized by endothermic peaks, which corresponds to the loss of residual waters present in the pores or the coordination water, except zinc complex. Between 207-337°C, the exothermic peaks indicated the breaking of the glycine rest, then all the organic fragments decompose rapidly to the metal oxide. The metal complexes are completely pyrolyzed before 500°C, except zinc complex, as follows: at 464°C for the Cu-complex, at 357°C for the Co-complex, at 392°C for the Ni-complex, at 347°C for the Fe-complex and at 537°C for the Zn-complex. Finally, the metal oxide and some ash remain in the crucible in all the cases.

For the zinc complex (**5**), the loss of one mole water at 69°C and the other at 231°C indicated that one is outside and the other inside the coordination sphere (Figure 3c).

On the other hand, the Cu(II), Co(II) and Ni(II) complex loss the water and the glycine rest simultaneous. The Fe(II) complex loss the coordination water separated from the glycine breaking.

ESR spectra

At room temperature the ESR spectrum of copper (II) compound are typical for monomeric species with axial symmetry (Figure 4). The principal values of the **g** tensor ($g_{\parallel}=2.427$, $g_{\perp}=2.063$) correspond to a CuN_2O_3 local symmetry [23].

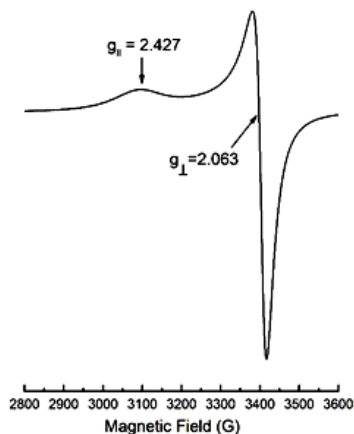


Figure 4. Powder ESR spectrum of copper complex at room temperature

CONCLUSIONS

New transition metal complexes (**1-5**) of an *N*-modified glycine (**L**) as ligand were synthesized and analyzed by elemental analysis, thermal stability in air atmosphere and spectral studies.

Mass spectra identify the M+1 peak corresponding for each of investigated compounds.

The study of UV-VIS spectra indicated a slight hypsochromic shift by 3.5-7.5 nm, but a considerable hyperchromic increase effect of absorbance comparative to the spectrum of the initial ligand (**L**), except Zn complex.

Elemental and thermal analysis lead to the idea that all the compounds, including the ligand are water hydrates. Except the ligand and the copper complex all are hydrating with two water molecules. Based on the spectroscopic studies, the ligand has been found to coordinate the metal by the carboxylate oxygen and the nitrogen atom belonging to the amino group of the glycine fragment. On the other hand, an additional band appearing at 763-768 cm^{-1} confirms the coordinative H_2O -metal bonding, like the other similar complexes [15, 20].

The thermal stability of selected 3d transition metal complexes was studied in air atmosphere in 20-1000°C temperature domain. Both the ligand and its metal complexes decompose in multistage.

On the basis of thermal and spectroscopic studies it was found that metal complexes stability: $[\text{Fe}(\text{L})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}] < [\text{Co}(\text{L})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}] < [\text{Ni}(\text{L})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}] < [\text{Cu}(\text{L})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}]$, except Zn complex, obeys the Irving-Williams series [17, 20, 22].

The obtained structural data allow us to propose the following molecular formulas for the studied metal complexes (Figure 5):

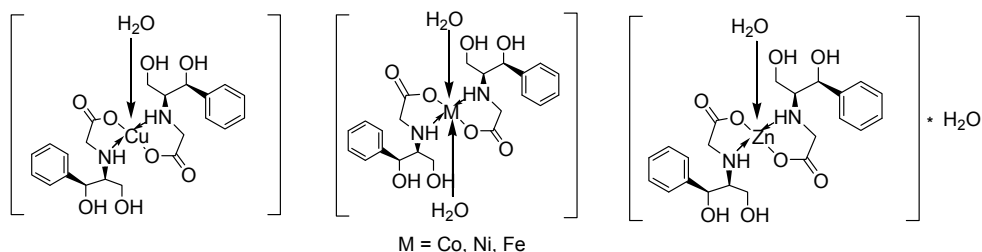


Figure 5. Suggested structure for the studied complexes

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials and instrumentation

All reagents and chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. Elemental analyses were determined on Thermo Scientific Flash EA 1112 Elemental Analyzer. Melting points were measured on an ELECTROTHERMAL[®] instrument and were not corrected. The electronic absorption spectra were performed on SHIMADZU UV-1800 spectrophotometer. Specific rotations were estimated on a Polamat A Karl Zeiss Jena photopolarimeter. GC-MS spectra were recorded on a Gas Chromatograph with Mass Spectrometer Shimadzu[®] QP 2010 PLUS. Mass spectra were carried out on a LTQ ORBITRAP[®] XL (Thermo Scientific) instrument which was externally calibrated using the manufacturer's APCI for the ligand or ESI(+) calibration mix for metal complexes. The samples were introduced into the spectrometer by direct infusion. The ESR measurements were carried out on a Bruker Biospin EMX^{micro} spectrometer operating at X-band (9-10 GHz) with continuous wave at X-band (≈ 9 GHz). The spectra were recorded at room temperature with a microwave frequency of 9.4353 GHz, microwave power of 2 mW, modulation frequency of 100 kHz, modulation amplitude of 2 G. IR spectra were recorded in KBr pellets on a JASCO[®] FT-IR 6200 Spectrometer which operates with 4cm⁻¹ resolution Thermogravimetry and differential thermal analysis (TG/DTA) curves were recorded with a Thermal Analyzer TA Instruments SDT Q600 V20.9 Build 20 on an interval 20-10000C, at a heating rate of 10°C/min, in alumina crucibles and a dynamic air atmosphere.

General synthesis of the metal complexes

The ligand **L** was prepared by a literature procedure we have been working on, by treatment of [(1S,2S)-2-amino-1-phenylpropane-1,3-diol] namely phenylserinol with monochloroacetic acid/Na₂CO₃ system, TLC monitored [$R_f = 0.65$. (methanole: water = 1: 1 v/v)], then investigated by spectroscopic methods [13].

Cu(II), Co(II), Ni(II) Fe(II) and Zn(II) complexes of the ligand **L** were prepared by following a general method. The metal salt [Cu(NO₃)₂•3H₂O, Co(NO₃)₂•6H₂O Ni(NO₃)₂•6H₂O, FeSO₄•7H₂O, or ZnSO₄•7H₂O (1.24mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL distilled water. To a solution of ligand (**L**) (2mmol) dissolved in 3mL of distilled water, was added slowly, dropwise during 30 min, a solution of the metal salt, at room temperature. The mixture was let to stir at the room temperature for 24h. By adding a solution of metal ions to a solution of ligand, immediate color change was observed depending on the

metal ion. The isolated solid complexes were obtained by vacuum filtration and washed with distilled water and finally dried in air at room temperature for 48h. The dried complexes were subjected to elemental, spectroscopic and thermal analysis.

$C_{22}H_{30}CuN_2O_9$ (**1**) Pale-blue solid, MW = 530.0276, Mp = 247-248°C (desc.) Yield: 64.16%, Elemental Analysis (%) Calc.(Found) C: 49.85(48.32), H: 5.71(5.31), N: 5.29(6.11), UV-Vis (DMSO): λ_{max} = 268.5nm, A = 0.333 ϵ = 11743.96, IR(KBr): ν_{max} : 3293, 3034, 1613, 1386, 1494, 1456, 763, 541, 421, MS (ESI, CH₃OH, without hydrating water) [M+1]: 512.1216 Exact Mass: 511.1142, $[\alpha]_{546}^{25}$ = +36 (c=0.1, DMSO), Thermal Analysis: 35°C (Endo) (TG_{exp.} = 2.19%), 246°C (Exo) (TG_{calc.} = 32.36%, TG_{exp.} = 33.60%), (Exo) 315°C, 441°C (TG_{calc.} = 67.64%, TG_{exp.} = 64.01%), Molar Ratio M: L: H₂O = 1: 2: 1.

$C_{22}H_{32}CoN_2O_{10}$ (**2**) White-pink solid, MW = 543.4301, Mp = 289-290°C (desc.), Yield: 57.26%, Elemental Analysis (%) Calc.(Found) C: 48.62(46.93), H: 5.94(5.82), N: 5.15(6.03), UV-Vis (DMSO): λ_{max} = 269.5nm, A = 0.299 ϵ = 10826.66, IR(KBr): ν_{max} : 3324, 3086, 1600, 1383, 1493, 1456, 763, 561, 429, MS (ESI, CH₃OH, without hydrating water) [M+1]: 508.1255 Exact Mass: 507.1178, $[\alpha]_{546}^{25}$ = +11 (c=0.1, DMSO), Thermal Analysis: 36°C (Endo) (TG_{exp.} = 3.32%), 283°C (Exo) (TG_{calc.} = 35.83%, TG_{exp.} = 34.04%), (Exo) 313°C, 347°C (TG_{calc.} = 64.17%, TG_{exp.} = 61.81%), Molar Ratio M: L: H₂O = 1: 2: 2.

$C_{22}H_{32}N_2NiO_{10}$ (**3**) White-greenish solid, MW = 543.1903, Mp = 320-321°C (desc.), Yield: 62.87%, Elemental Analysis (%) Calc.(Found) C: 48.65(49.17), H: 5.94(5.31), N: 5.16(6.23), UV-Vis (DMSO): λ_{max} = 269.5nm, A = 0.171 ϵ = 9270.805, IR(KBr): ν_{max} : 3316, 3086, 1603, 1385, 1494, 1456, 763, 564, 432, MS (ESI, CH₃OH, without hydrating water) [M+1]: 507.1277 Exact Mass: 506.1197, $[\alpha]_{546}^{25}$ = +29 (c=0.1, DMSO), Thermal Analysis: 59°C (Endo) (TG_{exp.} = 4.97%), 320°C (Exo) (TG_{calc.} = 35.89%, TG_{exp.} = 33.81%), (Exo) 382°C, (TG_{calc.} = 64.11%, TG_{exp.} = 60.71%), Molar Ratio M: L: H₂O = 1: 2: 2.

$C_{22}H_{32}FeN_2O_{10}$ (**4**) Brown solid, MW = 540.1406, Mp = 224-225°C (desc.), Yield: 63.12%, Elemental Analysis (%) Calc.(Found) C: 48.90(48.25), H: 5.97(5.34), N: 5.18(6.02), UV-Vis (DMSO): λ_{max} = 265.5nm, A = 0.394 ϵ = 14187.97, IR(KBr): ν_{max} : 3393, 2937, 1628, 1363, 1495, 1455, 768, 599, 459, MS (ESI, CH₃OH, without hydrating water) [M+1]: 505.1233 Exact Mass: 504.1195, $[\alpha]_{546}^{25}$ = +21 (c=0.1, DMSO), Thermal Analysis: 43°C (Endo) (TG_{exp.} = 1.73%), 110°C (Endo) (TG_{calc.} = 6.67%, TG_{exp.} = 7.44%), (Exo) 209°C, (TG_{calc.} = 29.36%, TG_{exp.} = 26.85%), (Exo) 327°C, 348°C (TG_{calc.} = 63.97%, TG_{exp.} = 63.95%) Molar Ratio M: L: H₂O = 1: 2: 2.

$C_{22}H_{32}N_2O_{10}Zn$ (**5**) White solid, MW = 549.8869, Mp = 290-291°C (desc.), Yield: 55.26%, Elemental Analysis (%) Calc.(Found) C: 48.02(47.45), H: 5.87(4.98), N: 5.09(5.82), UV-VIS (DMSO): λ_{max} = 268nm, A = 0.084 ϵ = 4604.5, IR(KBr): ν_{max} : 3505, 3402, 3341, 3302, 2933, 1608, 1384, 1495, 1456, 764, 563, 427, MS (ESI, CH₃OH, without hydrating water) [M+1]: 513.5406 Exact Mass: 512.1137, $[\alpha]_{546}^{25}$ = +18 (c=0.1, DMSO), Thermal Analysis: 30°C (Endo) (TG_{exp.} = 0.50%), 69°C (Endo) (TG_{calc.} = 3.28%, TG_{exp.} = 3.82%), (Endo) 231°C, (TG_{calc.} = 3.39%, TG_{exp.} = 2.57%), (Exo) 294°C, (TG_{calc.} = 28.90%, TG_{exp.} = 26.94%) (Exo) 324°C, 493°C (TG_{calc.} = 64.43%, TG_{exp.} = 66.18%) Molar Ratio M: L: H₂O = 1: 2: 2.

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