

## Synthesis, spectral, thermal and biological studies of Cu(II) complexes of triazole-Derived Schiff Bases

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### ABSTRACT

A series of copper(II) complexes of Schiff bases derived from 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole and glyoxal/biacetyl/benzyl have been synthesized and characterized on the basis of analytical and spectroscopic studies. The elemental analysis agrees well with the 1:1 stoichiometry of the type M.L.(H<sub>2</sub>O), with L coordination via the two imine nitrogen and two thiolato sulphurs in an overall octahedral geometry. Some of the complexes were screened for their antibacterial and antifungal activity and one representative Cu(II) complex was evaluated for oxytotoxic activity.

**Key words**-Synthesis, spectral study, antibacterial and antifungal study and elemental analysis

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Several complexes of various transition metals with 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole ligands have been reported from our laboratory<sup>1-7</sup>. 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles are sulphur and nitrogen donor ligands and are potentially multidentate. The potential coordinating sites are (i) sulphur of thiol group (ii) nitrogen of the primary amino group and (iii) two nitrogen almost at positions 1 and 2 in triazole ring systems. Thus these ligands can be polydentate. There has been considerable interest in the study of organic ligands containing two or more different donor atoms because such ligands throw light on the nature of metal ligand bonding. Many quantitative studies have confirmed that metal chelates are more stable than those of related unidentate ligands.

Metal complexes with biacetyl bis(sulphanylphenylazine) have been described<sup>8</sup>. Because of their flexible ligating capacity, hydrazones derived from biacetyl have attracted the attention of many investigators<sup>9</sup>. Substituted triazoles are biologically active as bactericides, pesticides and fungicides. The triazole derivatives have been reported to act as systemic protectant fungicides against leaf rust for both spring and winter wheat. In our pursuit of our new ligands for metal complexes,

we have synthesized a new series of organic compounds<sup>10</sup>, via the condensation of 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole with glyoxal/biacetyl/benzyl (fig 1). The ligands have four donor sites, with the SNNS sequence and varied bonding and stereo chemical behavior in complexes with different metal ions. This potential aroused our interest elucidating the structures of copper(II) complexes with these Schiff bases and in studying their biological properties. In this paper we report the synthesis, spectral characterization of copper(II) complexes with these ligands.

### II. EXPERIMENTAL

All the chemicals used were of reagent grade. The 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazoles were prepared the reported methods<sup>11</sup>.

Fig.1 Structure of Schiff bases

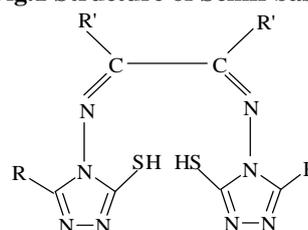


Table 1

Schiff base	R'	R
I	H	H
II	H	CH <sub>3</sub>
III	H	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>
IV	H	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>
V	CH <sub>3</sub>	H

VI	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
VII	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>
VIII	CH <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>
IX	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H
X	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>
XI	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>
XII	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>

### Synthesis of copper(II) complexes

Copper sulphate (0.01mol) in the minimum amount of water was added to Schiff base(0.01 mol) in an ethanolic medium. The reaction mixture was refluxed for an hour. Then to reaction mixture 2mmol of sodium acetate was added and reflection was continued for about 2hrs and the precipitation of the complex was initiated by adding water to the reaction mixture. The precipitated complex was filtered, washed with water containing alcohol and dried under vacuum over fused calcium chloride.

### Elemental analysis

Copper and sulphur were analyzed by a gravimetric method<sup>12</sup>. Nitrogen was estimated by Dumas method.

### Physical measurement

Magnetic susceptibility at room temperature were measured with a Gouy balance using Hg[Co(SCN)<sub>4</sub>] as calibrant. Electronic spectra (Nuzol mull) were recorded on a DMR spectrophotometer in the 350-1500nm region. Solution spectra were recorded in DMF on a HITACHI model 200-20 spectrophotometer in the

200-900nm region. I.r. spectra were recorded on a Hitachi model 270-IR spectrophotometer in the 4000-200cm<sup>-1</sup> region in Nuzol mulls.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Copper(II) complexes are dark green in colour. All the complexes are insoluble in most of common organic solvents, but reasonably soluble in DMF, DMSO and pyridine.

All the complexes analyse for 1:1 stoichiometry of the type M.L.2H<sub>2</sub>O where l stands for a doubly deprotonated ligand (Table.1)

Conductivity measurements (10<sup>-3</sup>mol solution in DMF) indicated that the complexes are non-electrolytes in DMF.

To know whether the water molecules are held loosely or coordinated to the metal ion, a weighed sample of the complex was dried over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> in vacuum for about an hour and weighed again. There was no loss in the weight of the complex. Then the same complex was heated for about 2 hrs at 105<sup>o</sup>C, could indicate no loss in weight. These observations suggest that, the water molecules present in the complexes are coordinated to metal(II) ion.

**Table 2:** Analytical and Molar Conductance Data of Copper(III) complexes of 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole and glyoxal/biacetyl/benzyl

Com plex. No	Empirical formula	M%		N%		S%		Molar conductance Ohm <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> mole <sup>-1</sup>
		Cald	Obtd	Cald	Obtd	Cald	Obtd	
1	(C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> )Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	18.07	18.02	31.85	31.87	18.20	18.23	32.31
2	(C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	16.74	16.74	29.50	29.52	16.86	16.88	17.17
3	(C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	15.59	15.60	27.48	27.50	15.70	15.64	19.26
4	(C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	14.59	14.55	25.71	25.72	14.69	14.65	23.42
5	(C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	16.74	16.72	29.50	29.47	16.86	16.84	18.90
6	(C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	15.59	15.55	27.48	27.45	15.70	15.67	12.67
7	(C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	14.59	14.57	25.71	25.73	14.69	14.72	14.60
8	(C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	13.70	13.72	24.16	24.12	13.80	13.77	12.34
9	(C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	12.62	12.59	22.24	24.29	12.70	12.73	27.43
10	(C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	11.95	11.89	21.07	21.10	12.04	12.09	34.99
11	(C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	11.35	11.29	20.01	20.06	11.43	11.46	35.97
12	(C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	10.81	10.84	19.06	19.01	10.89	10.77	28.93

### I.r spectra

The free Schiff bases appear to exist in both thiol and thione tautomeric forms, suggested by a broad band in the 3200-3100cm<sup>-1</sup> region assigned to ν(NH)

and also a broad band medium intensity at ca.2400cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to ν(SH).

Thus these ligands exhibit thiol-thione tautomerism. The high intensity band around 1615+5cm<sup>-1</sup> are assigned to ν(C=N) in view of

previous assignments<sup>13</sup>. The ligands also exhibit a medium intensity band around 740cm<sup>-1</sup> has been attributed to  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{S})$ <sup>14</sup>.

In comparison with spectra of the Schiff bases, all the Cu(II) complexes exhibited the band of

$\nu(\text{HC}=\text{N})$  in the region of around 1608-1607cm<sup>-1</sup> showing the shift of band to lower wave numbers indicating that the azomethine nitrogen atom is coordinated to the metal ion<sup>15</sup>.

**Table 3: Important Infrared Frequencies(in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of Copper(III) complexes of 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercaptop-1,2,4-triazole Schiff bases along with their assignments.**

Complex No	$\nu(\text{OH})$	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$	Thiamide I	Thiamide II	Thiamide III	Thiamide IV	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{N})$	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{S})$
1	3420br	1620s	1595s	1320m	1040m	675m	560m 410m	335m
2	3400w	1615s	1590m	1355m	1040s	675m	540m 465m	345m
3	3405w	1615s	1590m	1355m	1040m	670m	540m 465m	240m
4	3415w	1620s	1590s	1360s	1060sm	680m	535m 465m	245m
5	3400br	1610s	1595s	1360s	1065s	680m	545m 410m	345m
6	3405w	1615s	1595s	1320m	1070m	670m	560m 410w	380m
7	3415w	1615s	1595s	1325m	1045m	675m	565m 415w	375m
8	3420w	1610s	1590s	1325s	1045m	670m	555m 465w	380m
9	3420brs	1610s	1595m 1570s	1380s	1050m	680m	550m 440w	350m
10	3415m	1610s	1595s 1570m	1360s	1040m	675m	560m 465m	385m
11	3415m	1615s	1590s 1565s	1355s	1070m	680m	560m 435m	340m
12	3410m	1620s	1595s 1570s	1345s	1065s	670m	555m 405w	355m

**Magnetic data**

The magnetic moments of copper(II) complexes fall in the range of 1.68-1.85 B.M, which correspond to one unpaired electron. The magnetic moments of the regular octahedral copper(II) complexes are expected to follow the relationship

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \mu_{\text{spin only}} (1-2 \lambda / 10Dq)$$

where  $\lambda$ =spin orbit coupling constant.

The  $\mu_{\text{spin only}}$  and  $\lambda$  values for free copper(II) ion 1.73 B.M and -830cm<sup>-1</sup> respectively. The calculated  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  values are in the range of 1.69-1.92 B.M. for the copper(II) complexes. The tetragonally distorted octahedral copper(II) complexes are normally expected to have lower magnetic moments as compared to the octahedral ones due to larger separation in interaction terms.

The observed  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  values are in the range of 1.68 to 1.85 B.M. Thus the copper(II) complexes under investigation may be considered to have

tetragonally distorted octahedral structure, with planar arrangement of ligand molecule around copper(II) and two water at an axial positions. This is further proved by electronic spectral data.

**Electronic spectra**

The electronic spectra of copper(II) complexes exhibit bands in the region ca 11345-17243 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the visible region assigned to <sup>2</sup>E<sub>g</sub>→<sup>2</sup>T<sub>2g</sub> (Table-3). It corresponds to the combination of three possible transitions as expected for Copper(II) tetragonal symmetry. The broadness of the band due to John-Teller effect. In addition to this band the other band is in the region 23584-26890 cm<sup>-1</sup> has been assigned to charge transfer band. The band separation in the spectra is of the order of 2500 cm<sup>-1</sup> consistent with the proposed geometry<sup>17</sup>. The electronic spectra of these copper(II) complexes have also been taken in DMF,

which exhibit only one broad band in the 15854-13842  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Which is characteristic of distorted octahedral environment. This data suggests that, there is no gross deviation in stereochemistry of these complexes occurs in the solid and solution

phases. The electronic spectral parameters  $Dq$  and LFSE have been calculated. The  $\beta^1$  and  $\beta$  values could not be determined as there is no interelectronic repulsion in a  $d^9$  system.

**Table 4:** Electronic spectral bands and ligand field parameters of the copper(II) complexes with 3-substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole Schiff bases

Complex.No	State	Transitions( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$Dq \text{ cm}^{-1}$	LFSE K.cal/mole	$\mu_{\text{eff}}$ B.M
1	Nujol DMF C.T	16983-12934 14924 25458	1495.85	25.64	1.92
2	Nujol DMF C.T	16998-11345 13884 25316	1417.15	24.29	1.93
3	Nujol DMF C.T	17243-12510 14324 24989	1487.65	25.50	1.92
4	Nujol DMF C.T	16680-11895 14833 23584	1428.75	24.49	1.93
5	Nujol DMF C.T	17200-12830 13888 23809	1501.50	25.74	1.92
6	Nujol DMF C.T	16666-12501 15854 25458	1458.30	24.99	1.92
7	Nujol DMF C.T	17084-13851 14825 25080	1546.75	26.51	1.91
8	Nujol DMF C.T	16734-10850 14342 24964	1379.20	23.64	1.93
9	Nujol DMF C.T	16342-12934 15834 24390	1463.80	25.09	1.92
10	Nujol DMF C.T	16342-12934 15834 24390	1463.80	25.09	1.92
11	Nujol DMF C.T	17010-12152 13842 25160	1458.10	24.99	1.92
12	Nujol DMF C.T	17000-13010 13940 24935	1501.50	25.74	1.92

**Thermal studies**

Thermal decomposition of Cu(II) complexes has been studied as a function of temperature (table 5) by TGA/DTG.

For the copper(II) complexes 2,5 and 10 decomposition from 50-350, 60-190 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 7-210 $^{\circ}\text{C}$

correspond to loss of coordinated water molecules. There is a gradual decrease in weight up to 470 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 375 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 335 $^{\circ}\text{C}$  may be ascribed to decomposition of the complex. After 470, 375 and 350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , this is due to oxidation of organic matter.

**Table 5:** Thermogravimetric data of copper(II) complexes

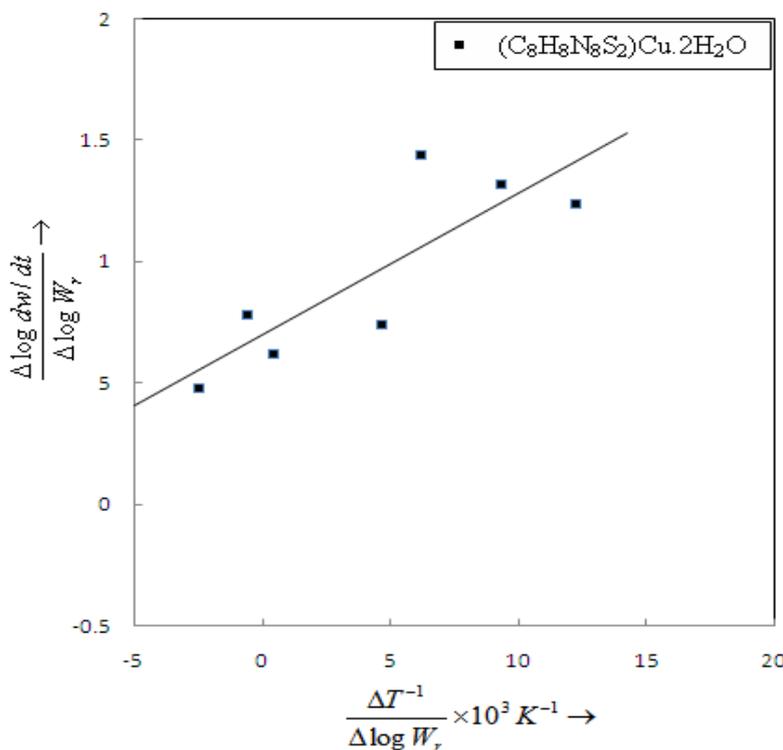
S.NO	Complex. No	Empirical formula	Decomposition temperature	% weight loss Ods cald	Inferences	Order of reaction	Energy of activation
1	2	(C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	185	9.45 9.44	Loss of water molecule	0.65	25.45
			165	7.00 6.80	Loss of glyoxal residue		
			690	66.00 67.09	Loss of triazole residue		
2	5	(C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	230	9.50 9.48	Loss of water molecule	0.65	29.99
			265	14.30 14.22	Loss of biacetyl residue		
			690	60.00 60.07	Loss of triazole residue		
3	10	(C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	165	6.80 6.77	Loss of water molecule	1.5	25.59
			268	33.50 33.48	Loss of benzyl residue		
			338	48.00 48.16	Loss of triazole residue		

**Kinetic study**

The Freeman and Corroll procedure<sup>18</sup>, was used to evaluate the kinetic parameters such as order of reaction and energy of activation from a single

experimental curve(fig 2) from the plot of

$$\frac{\Delta \log dw/dt}{\Delta \log W_r} \text{ Vs } \frac{\Delta T^{-1}}{\Delta \log W_r} \times 10^3 K^{-1}$$



**Fig.2**

The determined order of reaction and energy of activation are plotted in Table.6.

**Table.6.**

S.NO	Complex.NO	Empirical formula	$\frac{\Delta \log dw/dt}{\Delta \log W_r}$	$\frac{\Delta T^{-1}}{\Delta \log W_r} \times 10^3 K^{-1}$
1	2	(C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O	0.74	4.66
			1.44	6.21
			1.24	12.25
			0.78	-0.60
			1.32	9.35
			0.62	0.43
			0.48	-2.48

**Biological activity**

Triazoles and their derivatives have been proved to be effective bactericides<sup>19</sup>, pesticides<sup>20</sup>, fungicides<sup>21</sup>, and insecticides<sup>22</sup>. The antimicrobial activities of some triazole derivatives and their metal complexes of thiocarbohydrazones have been reported from our laboratory<sup>23,24,25,26</sup>. We have

screened most of the Schiff bases and complexes reported in this study for antibacterial and antifungal activity. Also, one of the copper(II) complexes has been evaluated with respect to its oxytocic activity. From the table 7, it can be concluded that, copper(II) complexes are more active than the free Schiff bases.

**Table 7: Biological Results of 3-Substituted-4-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4 triazole Schiff bases and lanthanum(III) complexes**

Ligand.No	R	R'	Activity Against*			
			Bacteria B.cirrafigellosus	Bacteria E.coli	Fungi C.albicans	Fungi A.niger
I	H	H	13	12	18	13
II	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	15	13	20	13
III	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	H	15	13	16	13
IV	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	H	14	14	19	12
V	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	15	17	13	17
VI	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	14	13	14	21
VII	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	16	14	16	19
VIII	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	17	15	18	19

**Metal complexes of copper(III) complexes**

Ligand.NO	Complex.No	Activity Against*			
		Bacteria B.cirrafigellosus	Bacteria E.coli	Fungi C.albicans	Fungi A.niger
I	1	12	16	19	15
II	2	11	15	20	16
III	3	12	14	18	20
IV	5	22	17	14	23
V	6	24	22	16	16
VIII	7	25	25	17	25
VIII	8	23	24	15	22

**\*Zone of inhibition in mm**

DMF 0.1ml solvent control	11	11	11	11
Sulphomethoxazole(20mcg)	20	20	-	-
Gentamycin (10 mcg)	24	24	-	-
Nystatin(50 IU	-	-	23	25

**Key for interpretation**

Less than 13                      Inactive  
 13-16                              weakly active  
 17-20                              moderately active  
 More than 25                    highly active

These observations suggest that, the copper(II) complexes exhibit highest (24,25) antibacterial and antifungal activity. The enhanced

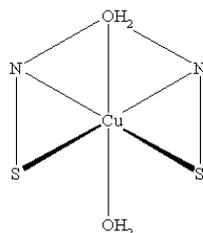
antibacterial and antifungal activity in copper(II) complexes of the ligands may be due to the presence of methyl groups (biacetyl residue) instead of glyoxal residue in the ligands. Furthermore, complex No.5 was found to exhibit the oxytocic activity of oxytocin on isolated rat uterus (Table 8). Data showing the oxytocic activity of copper(II) complex.5.

**Table 8**

Volume of test solution added(cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Peak height(cm)	Oxytocic activity
0.1(Std.oxytocic)	3.1	88.57
0.2(Std.oxytocic)	3.5	100.00
0.3(Std.oxytocic)	3.4	100.00

(C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> S <sub>2</sub> ) Cu.2H <sub>2</sub> O + 0.3cm <sup>3</sup> Std oxytotic		97.15 (2.85 Inhibition)
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The analytical, magnetic and spectral data lead us to propose the general structure shown in fig 2 for these complexes.



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