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## Structural Chemistry of Some Imidazole Complexes

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### Summary

Synthesis of benzimidazole and  $\bar{4}$  (Imidazole 1-yl) acetophenone complexes derived from cobalt(II), nickel(II), copper(II), palladium(II) and platinum(IV) salts were carried out. The elemental analyses suggest the formation of 1:2 and 1:4 stoichiometries (M:L). Electronic spectra and magnetic susceptibility measurements are used

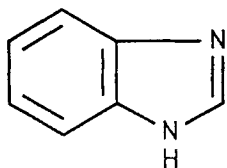
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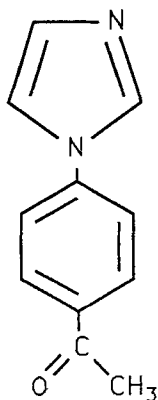
to infer the structures. The i.r. spectra of the ligands and their complexes are used to identify the type of bonding. Thermal analysis and electrical conductivity measurements were investigated in the temperature range 30-250°C. The results indicate slight semiconducting properties.

### Introduction

Imidazole compounds are of potential biological importance from different scopes, for example, their antimicrobial and radio - therapeutic properties (1-6). The present work is undertaken to study the coordinating behaviour of some biologically active imidazole ligands (I) towards transition metal salts. This is achieved by determination of the geometry and the mode of bonding in the synthesized complexes using spectral and magnetic susceptibility methods of analysis. The data are correlated with electrical conductivity and thermal properties.



Benzimidazole



4-(Imidazole 1-yl) acetophenone

(I)

## Results and discussion

The  $^1\text{H}$  n.m.r. spectrum of benzimidazole in  $d_6$ -DMSO shows signals in the range 6.7-7.5 ppm which are equivalent to four protons of the benzene ring. The  $\text{C}_2$  proton is absorbed at  $\delta$  8.1 ppm. The imino proton is not detected in the spectrum and shows no splitting of the  $\text{C}_2\text{H}$  peak to suggest that the NH proton is too labile to be detectable<sup>(7)</sup>. However, the spectra of its Pd and Pt complexes show the down field shift by 0.15-0.4 ppm of the  $\text{C}_2$  proton adjacent to the imino nitrogen atom to suggest M-N coordination<sup>(8)</sup>. The  $^1\text{H}$  n.m.r. spectrum of  $\bar{4}$  (Imidazole 1-yl) acetophenone exhibits one sharp signal at  $\delta$  2.7 ppm assigned for the methyl group. The phenyl protons are expected at  $\delta$  7-7.3 ppm. Signals at  $\delta$  8.2, 7.9 and 7.6 ppm are due to  $\text{C}_2$ ,  $\text{C}_5$  and  $\text{C}_4$  protons of the imidazole unit<sup>(9)</sup>. Upon complexation with Pd and Pt ions, the signals due to  $\text{C}_2$  and  $\text{C}_4$  protons experience a clear down field shift by Cal. 0.3-0.5 ppm suggesting that the N(3) atom of the imidazole unit is coordinated to the metal ions<sup>(10)</sup>.

## Electronic spectra and magnetic properties

All the synthesized complexes are coloured. They are generally insoluble in the common organic solvents except that the palladium(II) and platinum(IV) complexes are soluble in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and DMSO. The insolubility may be taken as favouring a polymeric structure.  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  complexes of benzimidazole show identical spectra having only one band in the visible region with  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  at 580

and 520 nm assignable to  $^4A_2(F) \rightarrow ^4T_1(P)$  and  $^3T_1(F) \rightarrow ^3T_1(P)$  transitions, respectively. The  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  value of the cobalt(II) complex (4.2 B.M.) suggests tetrahedral geometry around cobalt(II) ion. However, the room temperature magnetic moment of  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  complex is 2.6 B.M. which is below the spin only value for two unpaired electrons to suggest the existence of some quenching property possibly by Ni-Ni interaction. However, we are in favour to suggest an equilibrium between high spin ( $S=1$ ) and low spin ( $S=0$ ) configurations<sup>(11)</sup>. The red copper(II)- benzimidazole complex with  $\mu_{\text{eff}}=0.88$  B.M. is consistent with strong antiferromagnetic spin-spin interaction through molecular association<sup>(12)</sup>. This is in concordance with tetragonal distorted  $O_h$  geometry about  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  of approximate  $D_{4h}$  symmetry. However, the pale blue copper(II)  $\bar{4}$ -(Imidazole 1-yl)-acetophenone complex has  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  2.03 B.M. to be of pseudotetrahedral<sup>(12)</sup>. The  $\text{Pd}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Pt}^{\text{IV}}$  complexes are diamagnetic and show a strong band at 370-400 nm and a weak one at 640-670nm which are usually observed for square planar configuration<sup>(13)</sup>.

### Infrared spectra and mode of bonding

The i.r. spectrum of benzimidazole ligand shows weak bands above  $3200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which are apparently due to the imidazole CH vibrations. Those at  $2900$  and  $3080\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are assigned to the CH vibrations of the benzene ring<sup>(14)</sup>. The strong band appearing at  $3130\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be due to the  $\nu$  NH of the ligand. Several ring stretching bands are expected in the region  $1600\text{--}1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Sharp bands at  $1360\text{--}1340\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be due to the NH bending vibration. The i.r.

spectrum of the free ligand shows dramatic changes on complexation, the  $\nu$  NH and  $\delta$  NH bands were completely absent in the spectra of  $\text{Pd}^{\text{II}}$ ,  $\text{Pt}^{\text{IV}}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  complexes i.e., the NH group is participated in bond formation with the metal ion through deprotonation. However, formation of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  complexes does not affect the  $\nu$  CH and  $\nu$  NH ligand bands since both complexes contain neutral and monodeprotonated anion of benzimidazole. The characteristic M-N frequencies are situated at  $520\text{--}535\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $460\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . However, the  $\nu$  NH absorption occurring at  $3130\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in benzimidazole is absent in  $\bar{4}$  (Imidazole 1-yl) acetophenone indicating the absence of the NH group in the latter. The sharp bands at  $1670$ ,  $1420$  and  $1310\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to the  $\nu$  C=O and asymmetric and symmetric deformation vibrations of the methyl group, respectively. The ligand has  $\nu$  C=N at  $1580\text{--}1550\text{ cm}^{-1}$  which is shifted to  $1520\text{--}1510\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the complexes. Burger et al.<sup>(15)</sup> reported, on the basis of  $\nu$  C=N frequency shifts that the lower the  $\nu\text{C}=\text{N}$  value, the stronger the metal---N=C donor  $\pi$  bond. The very weak band appearing at  $900\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in all the complexes may be attributed to the ring mode of coordinated imidazole which appears at  $930\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the free ligand. The bands at  $340$  and  $360\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are due to stretching vibrations of Pd-Cl and Pt-Cl bonds which suggest that the chlorine atoms are at the trans position<sup>(16)</sup>.

#### **Thermal and electrical conductivity data :**

The TGA curves of the complexes show a very minute loss in weight in the range  $25\text{--}250^\circ\text{C}$ . This weight loss may be due to the

evaporation of the adsorbed water. Again the above complexes were subjected to differential thermal analysis (DTA). The measurements were performed from 25°C up to 250°C. No change is detected in the behaviour of these samples, indicating that they do not suffer any phase transformation in the above temperature range.

The variation of the electrical conductivity of the complexes with temperature in the range from 30-250°C are represented in Fig (1). All the complexes under investigation exhibit similar behaviour where two lines intersect each other. The temperature of intersection for the systems lies in the range 72-160°C. The conductivity data vary exponentially with the absolute temperature according to the Arrhenius relation  $\sigma = \sigma_0 e^{-\Delta E/2kT}$  where  $\sigma$  is the electrical conductivity,  $\sigma_0$  is the pre-exponential term, and  $\Delta E$ ,  $K$  and  $T$  have their usual meanings. The values of  $\Delta E$  obtained are tabulated in table (2). The fact that both  $\Delta E_1$  and  $\Delta E_2$  values depend on the type of the compound examined is taken to indicate extrinsic conductance. The disparity in the  $\Delta E$  values may be ascribed either to possible movement of impurities in disorder regions of grain boundaries, existence of phase transformations or the varying lattice imperfections. Grain boundary effects seem to be negligible since all samples were pressed under the same high pressure. From DTA measurements on the same samples, no phase transformation within the temperature range was recorded. The  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  benzimidazole complex possesses low electrical conductivity. So, such complex exists in molecular association achieved through a direct copper - copper

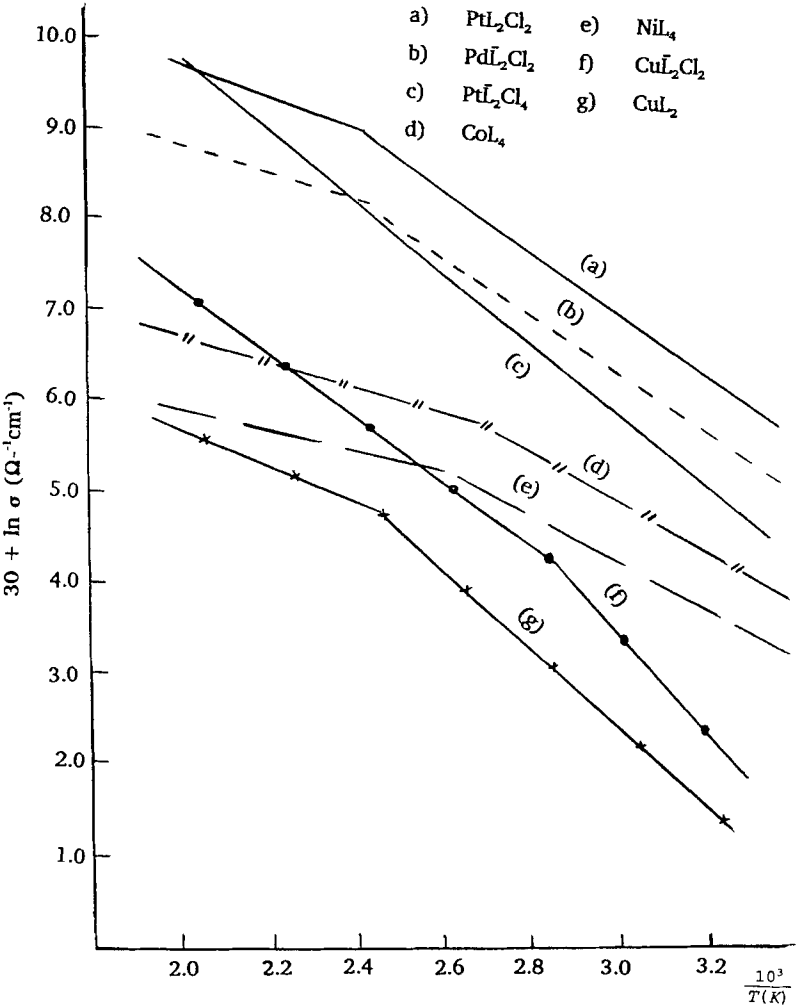


Fig. 1.  $\ln \sigma$  versus  $1/T$  of some Imidazole complexes.



interaction and/or a bridged ligand system. This is in harmony with the measured low magnetic moment value of 0.88 B.M. However,  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  complexes of benzimidazole ligand have  $\Delta E$  values nearly the same, i.e., that both the concentrations of the charge carriers as well as the current transfer mechanism are the same for these complexes. The palladium and platinum complexes have higher electrical conductivities compared to those of other complexes as a result of forming strong coordinate bonds between  $\text{Pd}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Pt}^{\text{IV}}$  ions and the ligand molecules.

### Experimental

The ligands were obtained as reagent grade materials and were used without further purification.

The solid complexes were prepared by mixing the required weights of the metal salt solutions (Co, Ni, Cu, Pd and Pt) with the ligand dissolved in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  or EtOH. The compounds formed were revised by filtration and dried in vacuo over  $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}$ . Attempts to prepare  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$  complexes derived from  $\bar{4}$  (Imidazole 1-yl) acetophenone were not successful. The analytical data of the complexes are collected in table (1). The i.r. spectra were recorded on a perkin Elemer 1430 recording infrared spectrophotometer.  $^1\text{H}$  n.m.r. spectra were obtained in  $d_6$  DMSO using a EM-390 90 MHZ NMR spectrometer. The room temperature Faraday measurements on powdered complexes were used for obtaining the magnetic moments.

Table 1. Physical properties of benzimidazole and  $\bar{4}$ -(Imidazole1-yl) acetophenone complexes

Complex	Colour	Found (Calcd.) %			
		C	H	M	Cl
$\text{CoL}_4$	purple	63.1	4.0	11.0	-
		(63.3)	(4.2)	(11.4)	-
$\text{NiL}_4$	violet	63.1	4.2	10.7	-
		(63.6)	(4.2)	(11.1)	-
$\text{CuL}_2$	brick red	56.0	3.8	21.0	-
		(56.0)	(3.4)	(21.3)	-
$\text{PdL}_2$	pale yellow	49.3	2.9	30.8	-
		(49.1)	(2.9)	(31.0)	-
$\text{PtL}_2\text{Cl}_2$	yellow	33.5	2.3	-	14.1
		(33.8)	(2.0)	-	(14.1)
$\text{Cu}\bar{\text{L}}_2\text{Cl}_2$	blue	51.8	4.0	12.3	13.6
		(52.1)	(4.0)	(12.6)	(13.8)
$\text{Pd}\bar{\text{L}}_2\text{Cl}_2$	pale yellow	48.5	3.9	19.0	12.6
		(48.2)	(3.6)	(19.3)	(12.8)
$\text{Pt}\bar{\text{L}}_2\text{Cl}_4$	yellow	37.0	3.0	-	20.0
		(37.3)	(2.8)	-	(20.1)

L and  $\bar{\text{L}}$  are abbreviated for benzimidazole and  $\bar{4}$  ( Imidazole 1-yl ) acetophenone respectively.

Table 2. Values of the activation energies of the benzimidazole and 4(Imidazole 1-yl) acetophenone complexes

Complex	Activation energy (ev)	Temperature range (°C)
CoL <sub>4</sub>	0.81	40-97
	0.70	111-203
NiL <sub>4</sub>	0.83	40-97
	0.70	112-250
CuL <sub>2</sub>	1.20	30-112
	0.48	144-240
PtL <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.09	30-127
	0.20	160-250
CuL <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.52	30-72
	0.02	84-250
PdL <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	0.88	30-127
	0.39	152-250
PtL <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub>	1.04	30-250

$\text{Hg}[\text{Co}(\text{SCN})_4]$  were used for calibration and diamagnetic corrections were made using Pascal's constants.

The differential thermal analysis (DTA) and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) measurements were made with general V22 A Dupont 9900 analyser. The heating rate used was  $10 \text{ deg. min}^{-1}$ , with a 60 mg sample in a cylindrical heat resistant ceramic crucible. For electrical conductivity measurements, samples were prepared in the form of tablets of 0.1-0.2 cm thickness at a pressure of 5 tons/cm<sup>2</sup> and held between two copper electrodes with a silver paste, then inserted with the holder vertically into a cylindrical electrical furnace. The potential across the heater was varied gradually through a variac transformer to produce a slow rate of temperature. The electrical conductivity measuring circuit consisted of Healthkit d.c. regulated power supply (0-400 V) and electrometer (Keithley 610) for measuring current. The temperature was measured within  $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{K}$  using a digital thermometer (Keithley 871 Type KTC Nicr-NiAL). The conductivity was obtained using the general equation  $\sigma = I/V_c \cdot d/a$

where  $I$  is the current in ampere and  $V_c$  is the potential drop across the sample of cross-sectional area " $a$ " in cm<sup>2</sup> and thickness " $d$ " in cm.

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