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STUDIES ON COMPLEXES OF Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), AND Cd(II) WITH ACETOPHENONE AND 4-HYDROXYACETOPHENONE BENZOYLHYDRAZONES

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**STUDIES ON COMPLEXES OF Co(II),
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ABSTRACT

Metal(II) complexes of the types $[M(L)_2Cl_2] \cdot H_2O$ and $[Cu(4-HOABH)SO_4(H_2O)_2]$ [$M = Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II)$ and $Cd(II)$, $L =$ acetophenone benzoylhydrazone (ABH), $C_6H_5CONH-N=C(CH_3)C_6H_5$ and 4-hydroxyacetophenone benzoylhydrazone (4-HOABH), $C_6H_5CONHN=C(CH_3)C_6H_4OH$], were prepared and characterized by elemental and thermal analyses, molar conductance, infrared, ESR and electronic spectral studies. Some of the complexes were screened against *E. coli* and *Aspergillus niger* for biological activity.

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INTRODUCTION

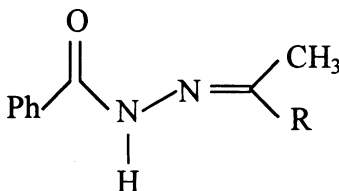
The copper(II) complexes of 2-pyridinecarboxaldehyde 2-pyridylhydrazone¹ and salicylaldehyde benzoylhydrazone² show antitumor activity. The transition metal complexes of isonicotinoylhydrazine have been found to be useful in polymer coating inks and pigments³. Monoacyl hydrazones and acyl dihydrazones have been found to be flexidentate ligands and form complexes of structural and biochemical interest⁴.

Acetophenone benzoylhydrazone (ABH) and 4-hydroxyacetophenone benzoylhydrazone (4-HOABH) (Fig. 1) have a number of potential bonding sites such as the carbonyl oxygen, phenolic oxygen, the azomethine and imine nitrogens. Further, ABH differs from 4-HOABH in having a C₆H₅ moiety in place of C₆H₄OH. We have, therefore, synthesized Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II) and Cd(II) complexes of ABH and 4-HOABH to study the effect of this moiety on the composition, general properties, bonding and stereochemistry of the complexes. The structures of the complexes have been investigated by using infrared, electronic, magnetic susceptibility and ESR spectral studies. Anti-fungal and antibacterial activities of some of the complexes have also been studied. The results are described in the present paper.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials and Methods

The chemicals used in the present investigations were of analytical reagent grade. Acetophenone, 4-hydroxyacetophenone (Central Drug House, New Delhi) and metal salts (British Drug House, Bombay) were used as obtained.



[R = C₆H₅ for ABH and 4-HOC₆H₄ for 4-HOABH]

Figure 1. Structures of the ligands.

Table I. Analytical and Physico-chemical Data of the Metal Complexes

Complexes	Colour (Formula Wt.)	Dec. p./Mp.	Found (Calcd.)%					Molar Conductance ($\Omega^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^2$)	μ_{eff} (B.M.)	Yield (%)
			Metal	Anion ($\text{Cl}^-/\text{SO}_4^{2-}$)	C	H	N			
[Co(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	Violet (624.0)	220–22	9.33 (9.45)	11.00 (11.37)	57.68 (57.69)	4.68 (4.48)	8.87 (8.97)	10.11 (10.25)	4.89	60
C ₃₀ H ₃₀ N ₂ O ₃ Cl ₂ Co	Light blue (640.0)	210–11 ^d	9.20 (9.36)	10.51 (10.46)	57.88 (57.77)	4.68 (4.48)	8.86 (8.86)	10.66 (10.26)	4.99	62
[Co(4-HOABH) ₂ Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	Green	180–82	9.11 (9.41)	11.22 (11.39)	57.55 (57.44)	4.33 (4.22)	3.88 (3.66)	10.11 (10.26)	2.83	71
[Ni(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	Green (627.7)	190–92 ^d	9.33 (9.51)	11.51 (11.29)	57.66 (57.36)	4.46 (4.66)	6.77 (6.86)	10.66 (10.26)	3.22	66
[Ni(4-HOABH)Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	Green (643.7)	160–62 ^d	13.36 (13.58)	13.71 (13.98)	58.48 (58.68)	4.56 (4.86)	7.33 (7.57)	8.50 (8.65)	2.09	72
[Cu(4-HOABH)SO ₄ (H ₂ O) ₂]	Green (467.5)	185–86	10.00 (10.10)	11.11 (11.29)	57.00 (57.29)	4.02 (4.33)	8.05 (8.66)	10.01 (10.18)	1.96	61
[Cu(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	Blue (628.5)	190–92 ^d	15.22 (15.62)	17.44 (17.47)	44.11 (44.20)	3.11 (3.00)	6.33 (6.44)	7.66 (7.87)	1.95	70
C ₃₀ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₃ Cl ₂ Cu	White (629.5)	249–50	16.50 (16.90)	10.55 (10.46)	27.11 (27.29)	3.00 (3.03)	3.99 (4.24)	10.88 (11.33)	—	66
[Cd(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	White (677.4)	235–37 ^d	16.60 (16.66)	10.20 (10.99)	27.00 (27.02)	3.02 (3.00)	6.88 (6.91)	9.90 (9.60)	—	70
[Cd(4-HOABH) ₂ Cl ₂] · H ₂ O	White (693.4)									
C ₃₀ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₃ Cl ₂ Cd										

d = decomposition temperature.

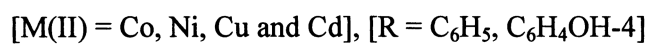
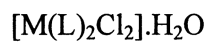
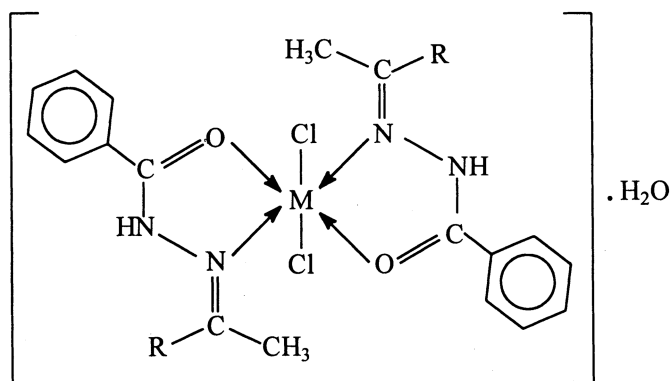
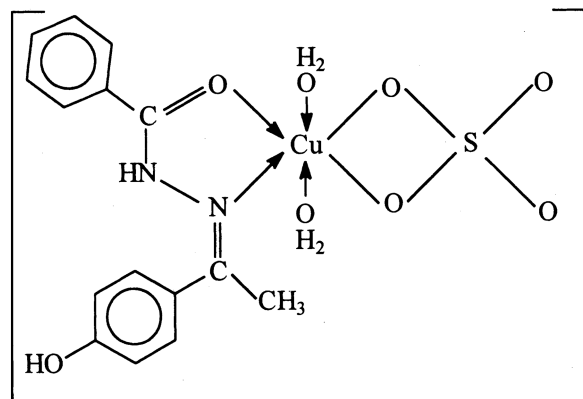


Figure 2. Representative structures of the complexes.

Benzoylhydrazine was prepared by refluxing methyl benzoate (10 mmol, 13.6 mL) with hydrazine hydrate (10 mmol, 5.0 mL) in ethanol (30 mL) for ~ 7 h. A white compound separated on standing over night. This was filtered and washed with distilled water. The pure hydrazide was obtained by recrystallization from hot benzene.

Acetophenone benzoylhydrazone and 4-hydroxyacetophenone benzoylhydrazone were prepared by refluxing the benzoylhydrazine (10 mmol, 1.36 g) with acetophenone (10 mmol, 1.20 mL) or 4-hydroxyacetophenone (10 mmol, 1.36 g) in ethanol (50 mL) for ~ 8 h. The hydrazones precipitated during the reaction and were filtered and recrystallized from hot ethanol.

The hydrazones were characterized by elemental analyses, hydrazine determination and infrared spectra.

Synthesis of Complexes

The ABH complexes were synthesized by adding an aqueous ethanol (50:50, v/v) solution (25 mL) of the metal chloride or sulfate (5 mmol) to a hot ethanol solution (50 mL) of ABH (10 mmol, 4.76 g). The reaction solutions were heated on a water bath for ~ 1 h. The compounds which precipitated during the reaction were filtered and washed with distilled water and ethanol to remove unreacted metal salts and ligand, if any. They were finally washed with diethyl ether and dried over anhydrous calcium chloride in a desiccator under reduced pressure.

The complexes of 4-HOABH were prepared by heating a suspension of the finely powdered ligand (5 mmol, 2.54 g) in an aqueous ethanol (50:50, v/v) solution (50 mL) of the metal chloride/sulfate (10 mmol). During the reaction of the ligand dissolved and the colour of the solution changed indicating reaction between the metal salt and the hydrazone. The solution was poured in a beaker and the complexes precipitated during evaporation of the solvent. The compounds were filtered and washed several times with hot distilled water to remove unreacted metal salts followed by ethanol and finally with diethyl ether. They were dried in a desiccator at room temperature under reduced pressure.

Analyses and Instrumentation

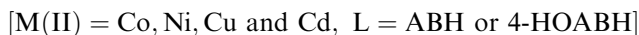
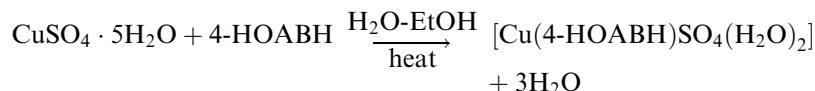
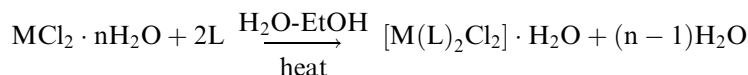
The complexes were analysed for their metal content using literature procedures⁵ after decomposition with aqua regia followed by sulfuric acid, sulfate and chloride were determined gravimetrically as BaSO₄ and AgCl, respectively. Hydrazine was determined volumetrically by titrating with

KBrO₃⁶ after hydrolysing the complexes in 6N HCl for ~4 h. Carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen were determined microanalytically on a Perkin Elmer 240 DC elemental analyser.

Molar conductances in DMSO solution (10⁻³ M) were measured at room temperature on a Systronics conductivity meter. Room temperature magnetic susceptibilities were determined on a Cahn Faraday balance using [CoHg(SCN)₄] as standard and were corrected for diamagnetism⁷. The electronic spectra of the ligands and complexes were recorded on a Cary 2390 spectrophotometer in Nujol. IR spectra were recorded in Nujol mulls on a JASCO FT-IR 5300 spectrophotometer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reaction of ABH and 4-HOABH with metal(II) salts yielded complexes having 1:1 and 1:2 metal-ligand stoichiometries. Formation of the complexes may be shown below.



The complexes are insoluble in water and common organic solvents such as ethanol, methanol, benzene, chloroform but are slightly soluble in DMF and DMSO. They melt with decomposition in the 180–250 °C temperature range. The [M(4-HOABH)₂Cl₂].H₂O complexes decompose in the 180–237 °C temperature range. The hydrated complexes lose water molecules at 110–180 °C. The low molar conductances (16.6–27.5 Ω⁻¹ cm² mol⁻¹) of the complexes suggest that they are non-electrolytes⁸ in solution.

Magnetic Measurements

The magnetic moment of the cobalt(II) and nickel(II) complexes lie in the range reported for octahedral geometry⁹. The μ_{eff} values of the

copper(II) complexes indicate the presence of one unpaired electron and give no definite information about the geometry.

Electronic Spectra

In the spectrum of ABH absorption bands are observed at 35,714, 43,859 and 47,619 cm^{-1} while in that of 4-HOABH they were observed at 35,971, 45,454 and 48,544 cm^{-1} which are assigned to $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ and $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions of $>C=O$ and $>C=N$ groups, respectively. The corresponding bands of the metal complexes are observed at lower energies at 32,258–35,714, 40,985–45,045 and 45,454–47,719 cm^{-1} , respectively, indicating bonding of $>C=O$ and $>C=N$ groups to the metal ions.

The spectrum of $[\text{Co}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ shows two absorption bands at 15,060 (ν_2) and 19,607 (ν_3) cm^{-1} while that of $[\text{Co}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ exhibits two bands at 14,471 (ν_2) and 18,050 (ν_3) cm^{-1} . They are assigned to the ${}^4T_{1g}(\text{F}) \rightarrow {}^4A_{2g}(\text{F})$ (ν_2) and ${}^4T_{1g}(\text{P})$ (ν_3) transitions, respectively. These features are characteristic of octahedral geometry of the complexes as indicated by the magnetic susceptibility measurement.

The absorption bands at 12,820 (ν_2) and 22,935 (ν_3) cm^{-1} in the spectrum of $[\text{Ni}(\text{ABH})\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ and at 14,637 (ν_2) and 24,154 (ν_3) cm^{-1} in that of $[\text{Ni}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ are attributed to the ${}^3A_{2g}(\text{F}) \rightarrow {}^3T_{1g}(\text{F})$ (ν_2) and ${}^3T_{1g}(\text{P})$ (ν_3) transitions¹⁰, respectively, and show an octahedral geometry for the complexes¹¹.

The ligand field parameters, such as crystal field splitting energy ($10D_q$), interelectronic repulsion parameter (B'), nephelauxetic ratio (β), percentage covalency (β^0) and ligand field stabilization energy (LFSE) have been evaluated for cobalt(II) and nickel(II) complexes¹². The values of these parameters in Table II are indicative of considerable metal-ligand orbital overlap.

The copper(II) complexes of ABH and 4-HOABH shows only one absorption band at 12,670 and 14,865 cm^{-1} , respectively, which is assigned to the ${}^2E_g \rightarrow {}^2T_{2g}(\text{D})$ transition on the basis of a distorted octahedral geometry¹³.

ESR Spectra

The ESR spectrum of $[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})\text{SO}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ shows a broad signal yielding a g-value of 2.005. This may be due to dipolar exchange and unresolved hyperfine interactions¹⁴. The spectrum also supports the octahedral structure of the copper(II) complex.

Table II. Electronic Spectral Data of Complexes

Complexes	Band maxima			Ligand field parameters				
	ν_1	ν_2	ν_3	$10D_q$ (cm^{-1})	B' (cm^{-1})	β	β^0 (%)	LFSE $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$
$[\text{Co}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	—	15,060	19,607	8,015	916	0.94	5.6	76.2
$[\text{Ni}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	—	12,820	22,935	7,645	849	0.82	23.0	110.7
$[\text{Cu}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	14,815	—	—	14,815	—	—	—	106.1
$[\text{Co}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	—	14,471	18,050	7,794	820	0.84	15.5	74.6
$[\text{Ni}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	—	14,367	24,154	8,822	803	0.76	24.1	125.9
$[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{SO}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	14,044	—	—	14,044	—	—	—	90.4
$[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	14,760	—	—	14,760	—	—	—	105.3

Infrared Spectra

The spectrum of ABH exhibits bands at 3270, 1640, 1624 and 996 cm^{-1} while that of 4-HOABH at 3265, 1660, 1625 and 998 cm^{-1} which are attributed to $\nu(\text{NH})$, $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$, $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ and $\nu(\text{N}-\text{N})$, respectively. A band at 3320 cm^{-1} is assigned to $\nu(\text{OH})$ in the spectrum of 4-HOABH.

In the metal complexes, $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ shifted to lower frequency by $5\text{--}15\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and suggests bonding through the carbonyl oxygen¹⁵.

The $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ band is observed in the $1605\text{--}1620\text{ cm}^{-1}$ region in the spectra of ABH and 4-HOABH complexes indicating that the azomethine nitrogen is involved in bonding¹⁶. The $\nu(\text{N}-\text{N})$ band shifted from $996\text{--}998\text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the ligand to higher frequency ($1000\text{--}1010\text{ cm}^{-1}$) in the complexes which further supports bonding through the azomethine nitrogen¹⁷. The band due to $\nu(\text{OH})$ remains unaltered compared to the ligand indicating non-involvement of the phenolic oxygen in bonding. Thus, both hydrazones behave as bidentate ligands bonding through the carbonyl oxygen and azomethine nitrogen. All complexes show a broad band in the $3400\text{--}3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ region indicating the presence of water molecules. $[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})\text{SO}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ shows bands in the $950\text{--}900$, $760\text{--}750$ and $660\text{--}650\text{ cm}^{-1}$ region due to wagging, twisting and rocking modes characteristic of coordinated water. In $[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})\text{SO}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ three new bands appeared at 950, 1050 and 1220 cm^{-1} which suggest the presence of the chelating sulfate group¹⁸.

Table III. Important IR Spectral Bands (cm^{-1}) and Their Assignments

Complexes	$\nu(\text{OH})/\text{NH}$	Amide I $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$	$\nu(\text{N}-\text{N})$
ABH	3280 b	1640 s	1614 s	998 w
$[\text{Co}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3415 b/3270 m	1635 s	1610 m	1010 w
$[\text{Ni}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3410 b/3258 m	1630 s	1610 m	1005 w
$[\text{Cu}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3410 b/3260 m	1635 s	1610 m	1010 w
$[\text{Cd}(\text{ABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3415 b/3270 w	1635 s	1610 m	995 w
4-HOABH	3320 b/3255 m	1660 s	1625 m	1005 w
$[\text{Co}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3311 b/3260 m	1640 s	1608 m	1005 w
$[\text{Ni}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3315 m/3265 m	1645 m	1620 m	1010 w
$[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3320 w/3260 m	1635 m	1620 m	1005 w
$[\text{Cu}(4\text{-HOABH})\text{SO}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	3320 w/3260 m	1650 m	1610 m	1010 w
$[\text{Cd}(4\text{-HOABH})_2\text{Cl}_2]\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3320 m/3265 w	1650 w	1605 m	1010 w

Table IV. Antibacterial Activity

Compounds	Zone of Inhibition (cm)		
	500 µg/mL	1000 µg/mL	1500 µg/mL
ABH	0.022	0.024	0.028
[Cu(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	0.866	0.886	0.896
[Zn(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	0.431	0.441	0.466
4-HOABH	0.040	0.048	0.499
[Cu(4-HOABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	1.201	1.360	1.440
[Zn(4-HOABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	0.781	0.881	0.888

Biological Activity

Acetophenone and 4-hydroxyacetophenone benzoylhydrazones and their Cu(II) and Zn(II) complexes have been screened against *E. coli* (a gram +ve bacteria) and *Aspergillus niger* at three different concentrations, 500, 1000 and 1500 µg/mL. The results are shown in Tables IV and V.

The experimental data show that 4-HOABH has a greater inhibitory effect than ABH which may be due to the presence of the phenolic group in 4-HOABH which is more effective than other groups¹⁹.

The complexes have a greater inhibitory effect than their parent ligands²⁰. The region behind the good activity may be the combined effect of metal toxicity and availability of uncoordinated binding sites of ligands which interact with metal trace metals of bacteria and fungi. In the

Table V. Antifungal Activity^a

Compounds	Percentage of Inhibition		
	500 µg/mL	1000 µg/mL	1500 µg/mL
ABH	++++	+++	++++
[Cu(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	++++	+++	+++
[Zn(ABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	+++	++	+
4-HOABH	+++	++	+++
[Cu(4-HOABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	+++	+	++
[Zn(4-HOABH) ₂ Cl ₂].H ₂ O	++	++	++

^a++++ = 100% germination, +++ = 75% germination, ++ = 50% germination, + = 25% germination.

4-HOABH metal complexes the phenolic group is uncoordinated so these complexes have greater inhibitory effect than the ABH complexes.

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