



## Tetra- and hexadentate Schiff base ligands and their Ni(II), Cu(II) and Zn(II) complexes. Synthesis, spectral, magnetic and thermal studies

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### ABSTRACT

Tetradentate  $N_2O_2$ ,  $N_4$  Schiff bases, 1,2-bis(4-oxopent-2-ylideneamino) benzene (BOAB), 1-(4-oxopent-2-ylideneamino)-2-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)ethylideneamino] benzene (OAHAB), 7,16-bis(4-chlorobenzylidene)-6,8,15,17-tetra-methyl-7,16-dihydro -5,9,14,18-tetraza-dibenzo[a,h] cyclo tetradecene (BCBDCT), 7,16-bis(2-hydroxy-benzylidene)-6,8,15,17-tetramethyl-7,16-dihydro-5,9,14,18-tetraza-dibenzo[a,h] cyclo tetradecene (BHBDC) and hexadentate  $N_4O_2$  Schiff bases, 2,4-bis {2-[1-(2-hydroxyphenyl)ethylideneamino] phenylimino}-3-(2-hydroxybenzylidene) pentane (BHAPHP), 2,4-bis {2-[1-(2-hydroxyphenyl) ethylideneamino] phenylimino}-3-(4-chlorobenzylidene) pentane (BHAPCP) were prepared and characterized by elemental analysis, IR, UV–Vis,  $^1H$  NMR and mass spectra. The solid complexes of the prepared Schiff base ligands with Ni(II), Cu(II) and Zn(II) ions were isolated and characterized by elemental and thermal analyses, IR, electronic and ESR spectra as well as conductance and magnetic susceptibility measurements. The results showed that most complexes have octahedral geometry but few can attain the tetrahedral arrangement. The TG analyses suggest high stability for most complexes followed by thermal decomposition in different steps. The kinetic and thermodynamic parameters for decomposition steps in Cu(II) complexes thermograms have been calculated.

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### 1. Introduction

Metal complexes of Schiff bases occupy a central role in the development of coordination chemistry [1–6], the interest in the chemistry of Schiff base complexes lies in their importance in some biological processes such as the biological functions of bacteriorhodopsin [7], they can be used as biological models in understanding the structure of biomolecules [8–11] or metalloprotein models [12–14]. This is due to their resemblance to natural systems [15,16], also these compounds have received much attention as active parts of metalloenzymes [17,18]. Transition metal complexes of Schiff base compounds are used as growth inhibiting agents for most of bacteria and fungi [19–23] also they are widely used as potential therapeutics [24], they are useful in health and skin care [25]. The complexes of this type are also used as catalysis [26–33] for various chemical reactions. The Schiff base complexes of transition metal ions can be applied, particularly in the development of agrochemical and pharmaceutical industries [34].

In the present work, we have prepared new Schiff base compounds, (BOAB), (OAHAB), (BHAPHP), (BHAPCP), (BCBDCT) and (BHBDC). The structures of these compounds were studied by

elemental analysis, IR, UV–Vis,  $^1H$  NMR and mass spectra. Then, their Ni(II), Cu(II) and Zn(II) complexes were prepared and the spectral, magnetic and thermal properties of these complexes were studied in detail. Also, the kinetic and thermodynamic parameters for decomposition steps in thermograms of Cu(II) complexes were calculated.

### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1. Materials

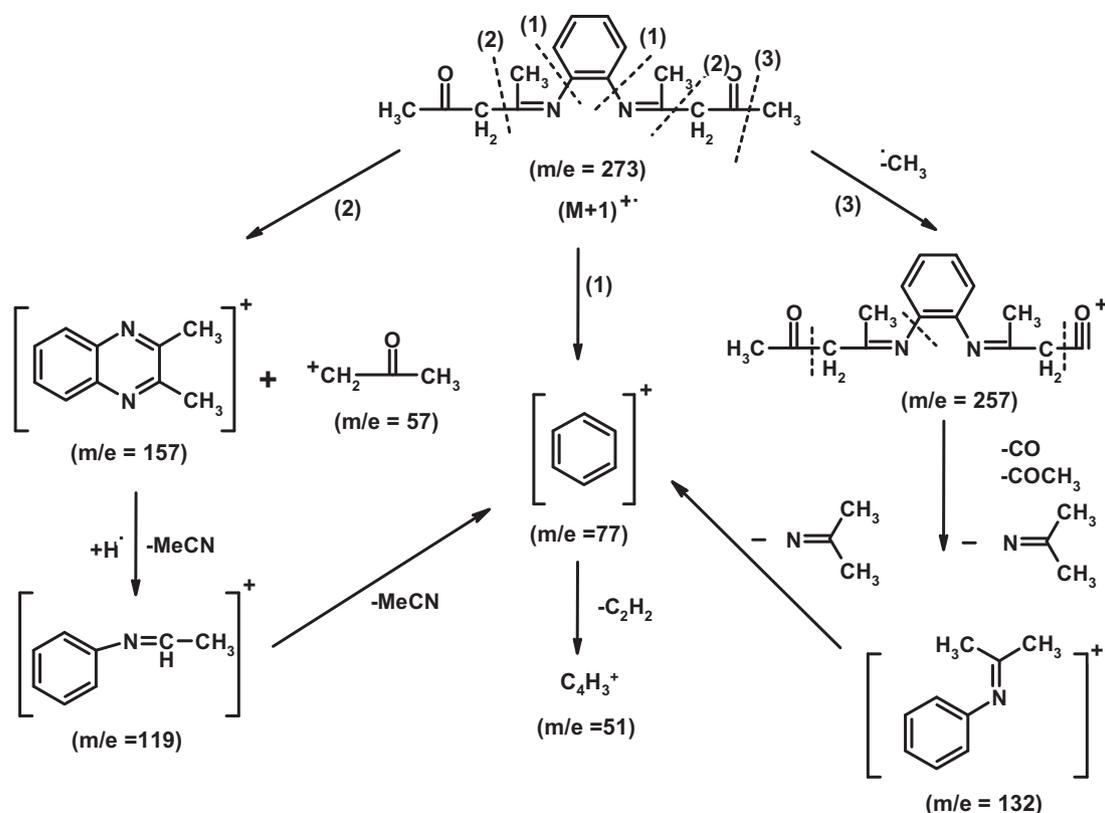
Most of the chemicals used in the present investigation were BDH. Materials which are not generally provided into the analar grade were of highest available purity. They included *o*-phenylenediamine, acetylacetone, *p*-chlorobenzaldehyde, salicylaldehyde, *o*-hydroxyacetophenone,  $NiCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ ,  $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$  and  $ZnSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ . The solvents used were methanol, ethanol, dioxan and dimethylformamide (DMF), these solvents were either spectroscopically pure or purified by the recommended methods [35].

#### 2.2. The apparatus and physical measurements

The elemental microanalyses of the prepared compounds for carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulphur and chlorine were performed in the microanalytical center, Cairo University. The infrared spectra

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Scheme 1. Mass fragmentation pattern of (BOAB) compound.

were recorded using Bruker IR spectrometer in the microanalytical center of Azhar university within the range  $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and Perkin elmer 1430 IR spectrophotometer in the microanalytical center of Tanta university within the range  $4000\text{--}200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . IR spectra of the ligands and their solid complexes were obtained in the solid state using KBr disc technique. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded by EM-3909, MHz NMR spectrometer, in the microanalytical center of Cairo University using  $d_6$ -DMSO, which was obtained from Alderich chemical company. The ultraviolet and visible spectra were recorded at room temperature over the wave length  $200\text{--}850\text{ nm}$  by Jasco, V-550, UV-Vis. spectrophotometer using  $1.0\text{ cm}$  matched silica cells. The molar conductance measurements were recorded using conductometer corning model 441. All measurements were performed at room temperature using DMF as solvent. The magnetic moment of the prepared metal complexes were determined at room temperature applying the Gouy's method using the magnetic susceptibility balance (CTM/Johnson Matthey Alfa products). Molecular susceptibilities were correct for diamagnetism of the component atoms applying the Pascal's constants [36]. Thermal analyses (TGA and DTA) of the solid complexes were performed at national drug research center using TGA-50 thermogravimetric analyzer (Shimadzu) from ambient temperature up to  $800\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with heating rate  $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  using nitrogen atmosphere. Mass spectra were recorded by the aid of the Ms-5988 spectrometer, in the microanalytical center of Cairo university. The X-band ESR spectra of the powder complexes were recorded using Joel spectrometer model JES-FE2XG equipped with an E101 microwave bridge in the microanalytical center of Tanta University. The magnetic field was calibrated with 2,2-dipicryl hydrazyl. Metal contents of complexes were determined complexometrically using standard EDTA titration.

### 2.3. Preparation of the Schiff base compounds

#### 2.3.1. Preparation of the compound (BOAB)

Acetylacetone (2.00 g, 0.02 mol) was added dropwise to *o*-phenylenediamine (1.08 g, 0.01 mol) in absolute ethanol (50 ml). The reaction mixture was refluxed on a hot plate for 6 h. The product was allowed to cool till room temperature, filtered off and recrystallized from ethanol then dried under vacuum to give dark brown crystals, yield 90%, m.p.  $150\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

#### 2.3.2. Preparation of 2-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)ethylideneamino]-phenylamine

A mixture of *o*-phenylenediamine (1.08 g, 0.01 mol) and *o*-hydroxyacetophenone (1.36 g, 0.01 mol) in absolute ethanol (50 ml) was refluxed for 8 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to 20 ml then cooled to room temperature, filtered off, recrystallized from ethanol and dried under vacuum to give yellow crystals, yield 78%, m.p.  $95\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

#### 2.3.3. Preparation of the compound (OAHAB)

A mixture of 2-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)ethylideneamino]-phenylamine (2.26 g, 0.01 mol) and acetylacetone (1.00 g, 0.01 mol) in absolute ethanol (50 ml) was refluxed for 8 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to 20 ml and then cooled to room temperature, filtered off, recrystallized from ethanol and dried under vacuum to give orange crystals, yield 85%, m.p.  $192\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

#### 2.3.4. Preparation of 2-hydroxy (or 4-chloro)-3-arylidene-2,4-pentanedione

A mixture of 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.22 g, 0.01 mol) or 4-chlorobenzaldehyde (1.40 g, 0.01 mol) and acetylacetone (1.00 g,

0.01 mol) in absolute ethanol (50 ml) in the presence of two drops of piperidine was refluxed for 4 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to 20 ml and then cooled to room temperature, filtered off, recrystallized from ethanol and dried under vacuum to give white or yellow crystals, m.p. 90 °C, 75 °C, yields 73% and 76%, respectively.

### 2.3.5. Preparation of the compounds (BHAPHP) and (BHAPCP)

A mixture of 2-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)ethylideneamino]-phenylamine (4.52 g, 0.02 mol) and 2-hydroxy-3-arylidene-2,4-pentanedione (2.04 g, 0.01 mol) or 4-chloro-3-arylidene-2,4-pentanedione (2.22 g, 0.01 mol) in absolute ethanol (50 ml) was refluxed for 8 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to 20 ml and then cooled to room temperature, filtered off, recrystallized from ethanol and dried under vacuum to give brown crystals, m.p. 179 °C (BHAPHP) and 164 °C (BHAPCP), yields 75% and 78%, respectively.

### 2.3.6. Preparation of the compounds (BHBDC) and (BCBDCT)

A mixture of *o*-phenylenediamine (2.16 g, 0.02 mol) and 2-hydroxy-3-arylidene-2,4-pentanedione (4.08 g, 0.02 mol) or 4-chloro-3-arylidene-2,4-pentanedione (4.45 g, 0.02 mol) in absolute ethanol (50 ml) was refluxed for 6 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated to 20 ml then cooled to room temperature, filtered off, recrystallized from ethanol and dried under vacuum to give brown crystals, m.p. 129 °C (BHBDC) and 138 °C (BCBDCT), yields 79% and 82%, respectively.

The purity of the prepared Schiff base compounds was examined by elemental analysis, IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, UV-Vis and mass spectra. Anal. Calcd (BOAB): C, 70.59; H, 7.35; N, 10.29. Found: C, 70.19; H, 7.13; N, 9.92. Calcd (OAHAB): C, 74.03; H, 6.49; N, 9.09. Found: C, 73.51; H, 6.42; N, 8.61. Calcd (BHAPCP): C, 75.18; H, 5.48; N, 8.77; Cl, 5.56. Found: C, 74.91; H, 5.64; N, 8.61 Cl, 5.78. Calcd (BHAPHP)·2H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 73.20; H, 6.10; N, 8.54. Found: C, 72.93; H, 5.91; N, 8.31. Calcd (BCBDCT): C, 73.34; H, 5.09; N, 9.51; Cl, 12.05. Found: C, 73.82; H, 5.05; N, 9.20; Cl, 11.95. Calcd (BHBDC)·3/2 H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 74.61; H, 6.05; N, 9.67. Found: C, 74.32; H, 6.11; N, 9.92. The color of the compound (OAHAB) was yellow while the another compounds were brown. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>), ν<sub>OH</sub> of lattice H<sub>2</sub>O molecules 3490–3528 for (BHAPHP) and (BHBDC) compounds, ν<sub>OH</sub> phenolic 3350–3462 for (OAHAB), (BHAPCP), (BHAPHP) and (BHBDC) compounds, ν<sub>OH</sub> enolic 3048–3070, ν<sub>C=O</sub> 1704–1708, ν<sub>C=N</sub> 1620–1640 for (BOAB) and (OAHAB) compounds, ν<sub>C=N</sub> 1636–1645, 1590–1614 for (BHAPCP), (BHAPHP), (BCBDCT) and (BHBDC) compounds. <sup>1</sup>H NMR, δ(ppm), δ<sub>OH</sub> phenolic 9.60–12.30 for (OAHAB), (BHAPCP), (BHAPHP) and (BHBDC) compounds, δ<sub>CH</sub> aromatic 6.70–8.20, δ=CH 5.70–6.60, δ<sub>OH</sub> enolic 5.20–5.60 for (BOAB) and (OAHAB) compounds, δ<sub>CH</sub> aliphatic 2.00–2.60. The broad diffuse signals at 9.5–14.7 may be attributed to the presence of intramolecular hydrogen bonds between the phenolic OH or the enolic OH groups with the azomethine groups. UV-Vis spectra, λ<sub>max</sub>(nm), the band located at (239–289) range is due to the low energy π–π\* transition of the aromatic system, C=C (L<sub>b</sub>–L<sub>A</sub>) [37], the band within the (312–408) range can be assigned to π–π\* transition within the C=N groups and the band within the (430–485) range is due to an intramolecular charge transfer within the whole molecule (CT). In case of (BOAB) and (OAHAB) compounds, there is another band within (273–342) range, due to π–π\* transition of C=O groups. The mass spectrum of the Schiff base (BOAB) as an example for the fragmentation of the Schiff bases under investigation is shown in Fig. 1, The fragmentation mode of (BOAB) [the molecular ion peak (M+1)<sup>+</sup> (m/e)=273, I=2.33] occurs through three main pathways, Scheme 1. The Schiff base compounds have the following structural formulae:

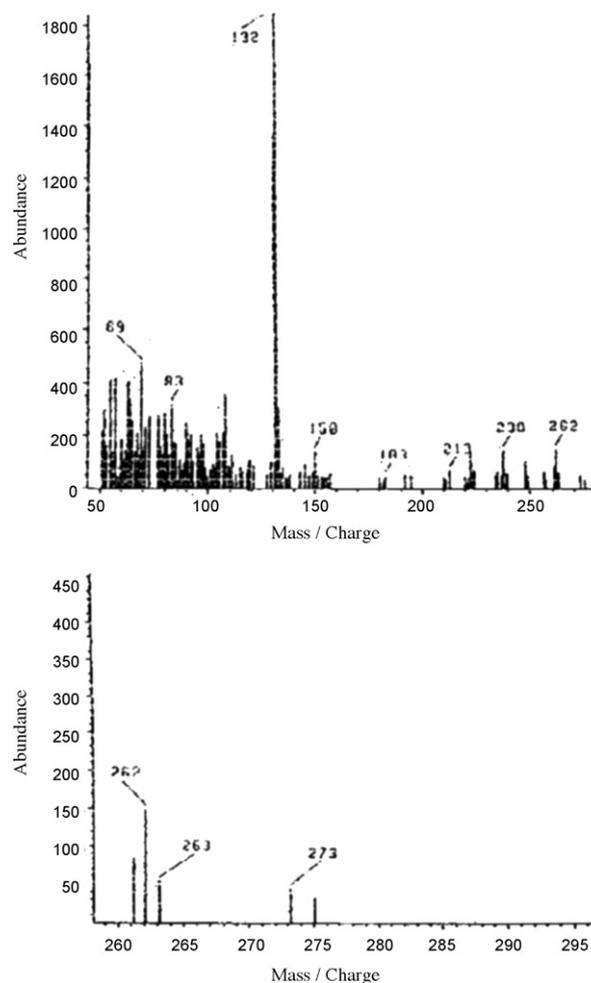
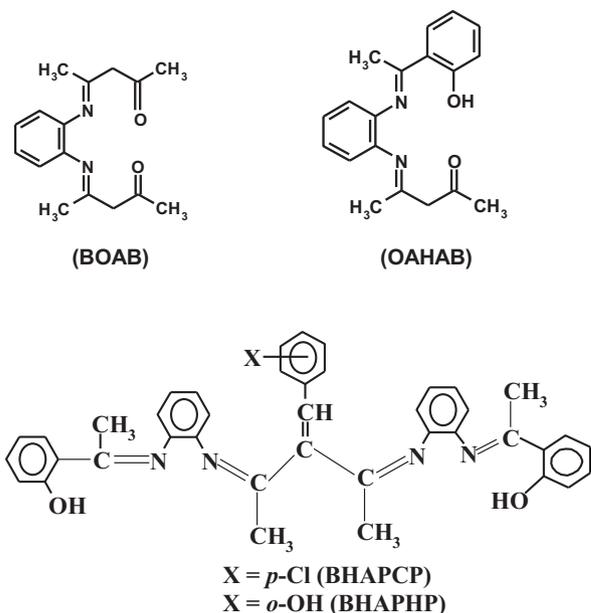
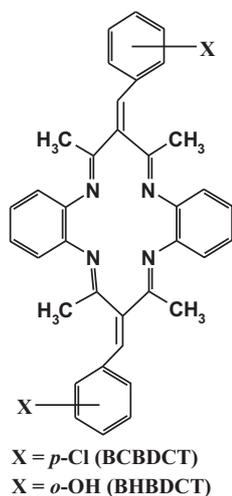


Fig. 1. Mass spectrum of (BOAB) compound.





#### 2.4. Preparation of the solid complexes

The complexes ML were prepared by the reaction of Schiff base ligands with the metal sulphate or chloride in a (1:1) (L:M) molar ratio. 5 mmol of the metal salt, NiCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O or ZnSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O dissolved in ethanol (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added to 5 mmol of the ligand dissolved in ethanol (20 cm<sup>3</sup>), the resulting solutions were stirred for about 1 hour, then refluxed on a hot plate from 6 to 8 hours. The solid complexes which separated out on hot were filtered off after cooling to room temperature, washed with small amounts of bidistilled water, ethanol and ether. The complexes were dried in vacuo, then subjected to elemental analysis, the results of microanalysis of the prepared complexes are collected in Tables 1 and 2.

### 3. Results and discussion

On the basis of elemental analysis, the transition metal ion complexes of Schiff base ligands were assigned to possess the compositions and molecular formulae listed in Tables 1 and 2. The results reveal that the ligands (BOAB), (OAHAB), (BCBDCT) and (BHBDCCT) behave as neutral or dianionic tetradentate, while the ligands (BHAPCP) and (BHAPHP) behave as neutral or dianionic hexadentate towards the metal ions (Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup> and Zn<sup>2+</sup>).

The molar conductance of the metal complexes under investigation are measured for 10<sup>-3</sup> M solution in DMF, Tables 1 and 2. Complexes (1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 13) have  $\Omega_m$  values in the range 8.0–13.0 ohm<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> which fall within the range of nonelectrolytes [38]. This indicates that SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> ions are involved in the coordination sphere. Complexes (11), (12), (14), (15), (16) and (17) have  $\Omega_m$  values in the range 72.6–87.1 ohm<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> which fall within the range of 1:1 electrolytes [38]. This indicates that SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> ions are existing partially or completely in the outer sphere. The complexes (2, 6, 7, 8 and 18) have  $\Omega_m$  values in the range 136.2–147.0 ohm<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> which fall within the range of 1:2 electrolytes [38]. This indicates that SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> ions are in the outer sphere.

#### 3.1. Thermal analyses (TGA and DTA), kinetic and thermo-dynamic parameters studies of Cu(II) complexes

The results of thermal analyses (TGA and DTA) of Cu(II) complexes were recorded in Tables 3 and 4. The TGA curves of Cu(II) complexes show loss in weight within the temperature range 50–99 °C, which is due to removal of the lattice water molecules. Also, the Cu(II) complexes show mass loss within the temperature range 102–180 °C, which is due to removal of the coordinated

**Table 1**  
Elemental analysis and some physical properties of the ligands (BOAB), (OAHAB), (BHAPCP) and their metal complexes.

Complex	M:L	Color	M.P. (°C)	M. Wt. (gm)	Analysis (Calc. %) Found %				% S	% Cl	% M	$\Omega_m$ (ohm <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )
					% C	% H	% N	% O				
(1)	2:1	Brown	>300	494.4	(38.83) 38.52	(4.45) 5.05	(5.66) 6.04	–	(14.36) 13.71	(23.75) 23.35	11.44	
(2)	2:1	Dark brown	>300	735.0	(26.12) 26.11	(4.90) 4.11	(3.81) 2.81	(8.70) 8.36	–	(17.28) 16.88	141.20	
(3)	2:1	Light brown	>300	505.6	(37.97) 38.22	(3.76) 3.73	(5.54) 5.91	(6.33) 7.30	–	(25.83) 25.76	13.0	
(4)	1:1	Pale green	>300	400.7	(56.90) 56.53	(5.49) 5.13	(6.99) 7.13	–	–	(14.65) 14.90	9.0	
(5)	1:1	Dark brown	>300	405.5	(56.22) 56.00	(5.42) 5.50	(6.90) 7.47	–	–	(15.67) 15.20	8.0	
(6)	2:1	Reddish brown	>300	692.6	(36.38) 36.52	(3.75) 3.50	(4.04) 4.97	(9.24) 10.09	–	(18.86) 19.41	139.0	
(7)	1:1	Yellowish brown	>300	768.2	(62.48) 62.23	(4.56) 4.51	(7.29) 7.11	–	(13.86) 13.57	(7.64) 7.20	147.0	
(8)	2:1	Dark brown	>300	993.5	(48.31) 49.27	(3.93) 4.23	(5.64) 5.81	(6.44) 7.34	–	(12.78) 12.90	137.3	
(9)	2:1	Reddish brown	>300	935.1	(51.33) 51.40	(4.38) 4.35	(5.99) 6.25	–	–	(13.97) 13.62	11.0	

**Table 2**

Elemental analysis and some physical properties of the ligands (BHAPHP), (BCBDCT), (BHBBDCT) and their metal complexes.

Complex	M:L	Color	M.P. (°C)	M. Wt. (gm)	Analysis (Calc. %) Found %						$\Omega_m$ (ohm <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup> )	
					% C	% H	% N	% S	% Cl	% M		
(10)	[Ni <sub>3</sub> (BHAPHP)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> (OH)]·2H <sub>2</sub> O	3:1	Brown	>300	1025.6	(46.80) 46.04	(4.58) 4.21	(5.46) 6.14	–	(10.38) 10.22	(17.17) 16.90	11.1
(11)	[Cu <sub>2</sub> (BHAPHP)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ]SO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	2:1	Dark brown	>300	985.0	(48.73) 48.29	(5.08) 4.15	(5.69) 6.25	–	–	(12.89) 12.69	78.0
(12)	[Zn <sub>2</sub> ((BHAPHP)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]SO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	2:1	Pale brown	>300	916.6	(52.37) 51.83	(4.58) 4.49	(6.11) 6.11	–	–	(14.25) 13.92	72.6
(13)	[Ni <sub>2</sub> (BCBDCT)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> ]·H <sub>2</sub> O	2:1	Brown	>300	902.4	(47.87) 47.19	(3.99) 4.27	(6.21) 6.24	–	(23.60) 23.80	(13.01) 12.80	11.0
(14)	[Cu(BCBDCT)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]SO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	1:1	Black	>300	820.54	(52.65) 51.97	(4.63) 4.13	(6.82) 7.27	–	–	(7.74) 8.20	78.4
(15)	[Zn(BCBDCT)]SO <sub>4</sub> ·5H <sub>2</sub> O	1:1	Brown	>300	840.3	(51.41) 50.96	(4.76) 4.77	(6.66) 7.88	–	–	(7.77) 7.34	86.8
(16)	[Ni(BHBBDCT)Cl(H <sub>2</sub> O)]Cl	1:1	Yellowish green	210	699.6	(61.75) 61.30	(4.86) 5.83	(8.00) 8.99	–	(10.15) 10.19	(8.39) 8.10	87.1
(17)	[Cu(BHBBDCT)]SO <sub>4</sub>	1:1	Dark brown	>300	711.54	(60.71) 60.83	(4.50) 5.33	(7.87) 7.51	–	–	(8.93) 8.50	74.9
(18)	[Zn <sub>2</sub> (BHBBDCT)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ](SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·H <sub>2</sub> O	2:1	Yellowish brown	180	928.6	(46.52) 46.44	(4.09) 4.80	(6.03) 6.27	(6.89) 7.27	–	(14.06) 13.81	136.2

**Table 3**

Results of thermal analyses (TGA) and (DTA) of Cu(II) complexes of the ligands (BOAB), (OAHAB) and (BHAPCP).

Complex	Formula and structure of compound (M.wt)	Temperature range (°C)	DTA peaks (°C)	% loss in weight Found (Calc.)	Decomposed product lost
(2)	[Cu <sub>2</sub> (BOAB)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ](SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O (735)	50–99	72 (exo)	5.46 (4.90)	Loss of two lattice H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		104–150	140.17 (exo)	3.86 (4.90)	Loss of two coordinated H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		155–180	170 (exo)	9.84 (9.80)	Loss of four coordinated H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		185–360		Thermal stability	The anhydrous complex is thermostable up to 360 °C
		365–420	392(exo)	25.61 (26.12)	Loss of two H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> molecules
		425–705	590 (exo)	20.15 (19.32)	Loss of C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
		710–800	738 (exo)	14.03 (14.15)	Loss of C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub>
(5)	[Cu(OAHAB)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] (405.5)	110–160	65.56 (exo)	8.75 (8.88)	Residue, [Cu <sub>2</sub> (O) <sub>2</sub> (CO) <sub>2</sub> ]
		165–210		Thermal stability	The anhydrous complex is thermostable up to 210 °C
		215–570	456.97 (exo)	41.61 (42.66)	Loss of C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO
		575–720		Thermal stability	
		725–800	776 (endo)	9.35 (10.11)	Loss of CH <sub>3</sub> CONH <sub>2</sub> molecule
(8)	[Cu <sub>2</sub> (BHAPCP)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ](SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (993.5)	105–140	62.61 (exo)	40.29 (38.35)	Residue, [Cu(C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> H) <sub>2</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )]
		145–205		4.67 (3.62)	Loss of two coordinated H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		210–395	311.39 (exo)	19.51 (19.33)	The anhydrous complex is thermostable up to 205 °C
		400–800	553.46 (exo)	18.42 (19.17)	Loss of two H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> molecules
				57.40 (57.88)	Loss of C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>11</sub> Cl Residue, [Cu <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> (C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]

**Table 4**  
Results of thermal analyses (TGA) and (DTA) of Cu(II) complexes of the ligands (BHAPHP), (BCBDCT) and (BHBDDCT).

Complex	Formula and structure of compound (M. Wt.)	Temperature range (°C)	DTA peaks (°C)	% loss in weight found (Calc.)	Decomposed product lost
(11)	[Cu <sub>2</sub> (BHAPHP)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> ]SO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O (985)	50–80	79.8 (endo)	4.20 (3.65)	Loss of two lattice H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		115–175	169.72 (exo)	11.46 (10.96)	Loss of six coordinated H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		180–250		Thermal stability	The anhydrous complex is thermostable up to 250 °C
		255–360	345 (exo)	9.77 (9.75)	Loss of one H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> molecule
		365–530	520 (endo)	40.00 (40.10)	Loss of C <sub>2</sub> 6H <sub>23</sub> O <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub>
(14)	[Cu(BCBDCT)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]SO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O (820.5)	50–80	75 (endo)	15.28 (16.14)	Loss of C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>2</sub>
		102–140	120 (exo)	19.29 (19.39)	Residue, 2[Cu(C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )]
		145–195		4.00 (4.39)	Loss of two lattice H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		200–280	215 (exo)	11.56 (11.70)	Loss of two coordinated H <sub>2</sub> O molecules
		285–320		Thermal stability	The anhydrous complex is thermostable up to 195 °C
(17)	[Cu(BHBDDCT)]SO <sub>4</sub> (711.5)	190–240	400 (exo)	32.85(34.19)	Loss of C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NCl
		245–300	716 (exo)	29.48 (28.34)	Loss of C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>3</sub> Cl
		305–470		18.01 (16.51)	Residue, [Cu(C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> H) <sub>2</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> H <sub>2</sub> )]
		475–800	212 (exo)	14.00 (13.49)	Loss of H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> molecule
				Thermal stability	[Cu(BHBDDCT)(OH) <sub>2</sub> ] is thermostable up to 300 °C
			50.56 (50.32)	Loss of C <sub>2</sub> 4H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>2</sub> N	
			23.07 (23.89)	Loss of C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub>	
			12.37 (12.30)	Residue, [Cu(C <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )]	

water molecules. The dehydrated complexes (2), (5), (8), (11) and (14) are thermally stable up to 360 °C, 210 °C, 205 °C, 250 °C and 195 °C, respectively, then the Cu(II) complexes show mass loss within the temperature range 190–425 °C, which is due to removal of the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> ions. Finally the complexes undergo decomposition of the organic ligands within the temperature range up to 800 °C, leading to the formation of the final products [Cu<sub>2</sub>(O)<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>2</sub>], [Cu(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>H)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>)], [Cu<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Cu(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)], [Cu(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>H)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>)] and [Cu(C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)] for complexes (2), (5), (8), (11), (14) and (17), respectively.

The DTA curves of the Cu(II) complexes show endothermic or exothermic peaks in the temperature range 50–99 °C which are due to removal of the lattice water molecules from the outer sphere, also Cu(II) complexes show exothermic peaks in the temperature range 102–180 °C which are due to removal of the coordinated water molecules from the inner sphere. The DTA curves of Cu(II) complexes also exhibit exothermic peaks within the temperature range 190–425 °C which are due to removal of the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> ions existing outside the coordination sphere, after that the exothermic or endothermic peaks within the temperature range up to 800 °C may be due to lattice rearrangement, phase transformation or decomposition of the organic ligands leading to the formation of the final products [39].

The order, *n* and activation energy, *E*<sup>\*</sup> of the decomposition steps for Cu(II) complexes were determined from TGA results using the Coats–Redfern equation [40]:

$$\ln \left[ \frac{1 - (1 - \alpha)^{1-n}}{(1 - n)T^2} \right] = \left( \frac{M}{T} \right) + B \quad \text{for } n \neq 1 \quad (1)$$

$$\ln \left[ \frac{-\ln(1 - \alpha)}{T^2} \right] = \left( \frac{M}{T} \right) + B \quad \text{for } n = 1 \quad (2)$$

where  $M = -E^*/R$  and  $B = \ln(AR/\Phi E^*)$ ; *E*<sup>\*</sup>, *R*, *A* and  $\Phi$  are the activation energy, gas constant, pre-exponential factor and heating rate, respectively, *n* = 0, 0.33, 0.5, 0.66, 1.

The other thermo kinetic parameters ( $\Delta H^*$ ,  $\Delta S^*$ ,  $\Delta G^*$ ) were calculated using the relationships:

$$\Delta H^* = E^* - RT$$

$$\Delta S^* = R \left[ \ln \left( \frac{Ah}{KT} \right) - 1 \right]$$

$$\Delta G^* = \Delta H^* - T\Delta S^*$$

where *K* is the Boltzmann constant and *h* is Planck's constant. The order (*n*) and thermo kinetic parameters of the decomposition steps for the chosen complexes are listed in Table 5. From the obtained data, the following remarks can be pointed out:

- (1) The  $\Delta S^*$  values for complexes were found to be negative. This indicates that the activated complex is more ordered than the reactants and/or the reactions are slow [41].
- (2) The values of  $\Delta G^*$  increase significantly for the subsequently decomposition stages due to increasing the values of  $T\Delta S^*$  from one step to another which override the values of  $\Delta H^*$ . This increase reflects that the rate of removal of the subsequent ligand will be lower than that of the precedent ligand [42]. This may be attributed to the structural rigidity of the remaining complex after the expulsion of one and more ligands, as compared with the precedent complex, which requires more energy for its rearrangement before undergoing any compositional change.
- (3) The positive values of  $\Delta H^*$  means that the decomposition processes are endothermic.

**Table 5**The order (*n*), temperature of decomposition and activation parameters ( $E^*$ ,  $\Delta H^*$ ,  $\Delta S^*$  and  $\Delta G^*$ ) for decomposition of the Cu(II) complexes.

Complex	Step	Order ( <i>n</i> )	<i>T</i> (K)	$E^*$ (KJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta H^*$ (KJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta S^*$ (KJ mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	$\Delta G^*$ (KJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )
(2)	1st	0.66	72.0	3.138	2.540	-0.1703	14.802
	2nd	0.00	160.2	3.921	2.590	-0.1799	31.410
	3rd	0.33	228.0	4.494	2.599	-0.1779	43.160
	4th	0.66	532.5	7.667	3.242	-0.1744	96.110
	5th	0.33	590.0	7.669	2.766	-0.1802	109.084
	6th	0.00	738.0	8.722	2.589	-0.1817	136.684
(5)	1st	0.00	65.6	3.003	2.729	-0.1810	14.603
	2nd	0.66	457.0	7.947	4.149	-0.1794	86.135
	3rd	0.00	776.0	9.153	2.704	-0.1810	143.160
(8)	1st	0.66	62.6	2.972	2.452	-0.1697	13.075
	2nd	0.00	311.4	5.328	2.740	-0.1842	60.100
	3rd	0.00	553.5	8.296	3.696	-0.1875	107.477
(11)	1st	0.00	79.8	3.121	2.458	-0.1813	16.926
	2nd	0.00	169.7	4.012	2.602	-0.1799	33.131
	3rd	0.50	345.0	5.519	2.652	-0.1756	63.234
	4th	0.33	520.0	7.335	3.014	-0.1818	97.55
	5th	0.66	700.0	8.573	2.756	-0.1721	123.226
(14)	1st	0.50	75.0	3.100	2.477	-0.1737	15.505
	2nd	0.66	120.0	3.549	2.552	-0.1704	23.000
	3rd	0.00	191.0	4.416	2.829	-0.1821	37.610
	4th	0.33	400.0	6.076	2.752	-0.1805	74.952
	5th	0.33	716.0	9.132	3.182	-0.1820	133.494
(17)	1st	0.00	102.0	3.721	2.873	-0.1826	21.498
	2nd	0.66	416.0	6.454	2.997	-0.1750	75.797
	3rd	0.66	625.0	7.889	2.695	-0.1726	110.570

### 3.2. Spectral measurements

The main bands of IR spectra of the metal complexes and their tentative assignments are listed in Tables 6 and 7. All solid complexes (except complexes **7** and **17**) exhibit broad bands around 3330–3480 cm<sup>-1</sup> which are attributed to ( $\nu_{OH}$  of water and/or EtOH molecules associated with the complexes. The disappearance of ( $\nu_{OH}$  enolic and/or ( $\nu_{OH}$  phenolic bands from the IR spectra of all complexes (except **2**, **6**, **7** and **8**), support the proton displacement from the OH groups through the metal ions. In case of complexes **2**, **6**, **7** and **8**, ( $\nu_{OH}$  enolic and/or ( $\nu_{OH}$  phenolic bands are shifted to lower wavenumbers by 33–90 and 30–130 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, which indicates the participation of OH groups in coordination to the metal ions through the lone pair of electrons on the oxygen [43]. This is confirmed by the existence of new bands at 510–592 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which could be assigned to ( $\nu_{M-O}$  bands. The ( $\nu_{C=N}$  bands are shifted to lower wavenumbers by 12–48 and 10–35 cm<sup>-1</sup>, indicating the coordination of the imino nitrogen atoms to the metal ions. This can be supported by the existence of new bands at 452–496 cm<sup>-1</sup> which could be assigned to ( $\nu_{M-N}$  bands [44]. Complexes **1**, **10** and **13** show new bands at 325–348 cm<sup>-1</sup> which can be assigned to ( $\nu_{M-Cl}$ . The appearance of tow bands at 312,310 and 290,295 for complexes 10 and 13 suggest that tow of Cl ions are involved in bridging coordination [43]. The binuclear complexes **1**, **3** and **6** show new bands at 600–680 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which can be assigned to  $\mu$ -oxo, M–O–M [45–49]. The Cu(II) complex (**2**) shows a new

weak band at 890 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which can be assigned to  out of plane deformation of a water molecule acting as bridge between two metal ions [50]. For the complexes **2**, **6**, **8**, **11**, **12**, **14**, **15**, **17** and **18**, the ( $\nu_{S-O}$  are situated at 1106–1160, 970–1110 and 606–640 cm<sup>-1</sup> which supports the non coordinated nature of the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> ions [44]. For complexes **3** and **9**, IR spectra show splitted ( $\nu_{S-O}$  bands at 1164–1166, 1110–1112 and 1016–1018 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicating the coordinated nature of SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> around the central metal ions [51,52].

The electronic absorption spectra of the metal complexes under investigation were recorded within the range 12,500–25,000 cm<sup>-1</sup> applying the nujol mull technique and in DMF solution. The data obtained from these spectra are recorded in Table 8. The electronic spectra of Ni(II) complexes (**4**), (**7**), (**10**), (**13**) and (**16**) exhibit two bands with no obvious difference on going from nujol mull to DMF solution at (13,793–14,084, 15,015–15,384), cm<sup>-1</sup>. These bands are assigned to <sup>3</sup>A<sub>2g</sub> → <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1g</sub> (F) and <sup>3</sup>A<sub>2g</sub> → <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1g</sub> (P) transitions which may indicate octahedral geometry around Ni(II) ions [53–55]. The electronic spectrum of Ni(II) complex (**1**) displays band at 13,698 cm<sup>-1</sup> in DMF solution and at 14,706 cm<sup>-1</sup> in nujol mull which can be assigned to <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1</sub> → <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(P) transition indicating tetrahedral geometry around Ni(II) ion. The electronic spectra of Cu(II) complexes (**8**) and (**17**) in nujol mull show bands at 15,384 and 15,151 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, which can be assigned to <sup>2</sup>T<sub>2g</sub> → <sup>2</sup>E<sub>g</sub> transition within a tetrahedral structure. The positions of the bands of Cu(II) complexes in nujol mull spectra exhibit some shifts to lower wavelength in DMF solution to 16,129 and 15,873 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, indicating the facile formation of six coordinate species in DMF which is a coordinating solvent and tetrahedral geometry in the solid state. In case of Cu(II) complexes (**2**), (**5**), (**11**) and (**14**) the electronic spectra in DMF solution exhibit bands at (13,986–14,124, 15,974–16,207) cm<sup>-1</sup> and in nujol mull at (13,888–14,084, 16,207–16,528) cm<sup>-1</sup>, which can be assigned to <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub> → <sup>2</sup>E<sub>g</sub> and <sup>2</sup>B<sub>1g</sub> → <sup>2</sup>B<sub>2g</sub> transitions within octahedral structures [56].

### 3.3. Magnetic properties of the metal complexes

The effective magnetic moments of the prepared metal complexes were determined, the data obtained are listed in Table 8. The observed magnetic moment values of Ni(II) complexes were found to be in the range 2.50–2.74 B.M. These values indicate the presence of two unpaired electrons in the d-orbital, therefore, the complexes formed have either tetrahedral geometry as in complex (**1**) or an octahedral geometry as in complexes (**4**), (**7**), (**10**), (**13**) and (**16**). The values show the presence of some spin–spin interaction

**Table 6**  
Important IR spectral data ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and their assignment for ligands (BOAB), (OAHAB), (BHAPCP) and their metal complexes.

	Compound or complex	$\nu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ and/or EtOH	$\nu_{\text{OH}}$ phenolic	$\nu_{\text{OH}}$ enolic	$\nu_{\text{C=O}}$	$\nu_{\text{C=N}}$	$\nu_{\text{(M-O-M)}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-O}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-N}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-Cl}}$ $\nu_{\text{Cl-M-Cl}}$	Other bands
	(BOAB)	–	–	3048	1708	1640	–	–	–	–	–
(1)	$[\text{Ni}_2(\text{BOAB})\text{Cl}_2] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3348	–	–	–	1594	680	548	485	348	–
(2)	$[\text{Cu}_2(\text{BOAB})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3480	–	3015	–	1612	–	552	488	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1108, 970, 616
(3)	$[\text{Zn}_2(\text{BOAB})(\text{SO}_4)] \cdot 1/2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3444	–	–	–	1592	652	592	452	–	$\nu_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ 1166, 1112, 1018
	(OAHAB)	–	3350	3070	1704	1620	–	–	–	–	–
(4)	$[\text{Ni}(\text{OAHAB})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	3430	–	–	–	1596	–	544	496	–	–
(5)	$[\text{Cu}(\text{OAHAB})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	3404	–	–	–	1595	–	550	470	–	–
(6)	$[\text{Zn}_2(\text{OAHAB})(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{EtOH})](\text{SO}_4)_2$	3420	3320	2980	–	1580	600	545	490	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1148, 1110, 616
	(BHAPCP)	–	3456	–	–	1645, 1610	–	–	–	–	–
(7)	$[\text{Ni}(\text{BHAPCP})\text{Cl}_2]$	–	3408	–	–	1624, 1590	–	530	472	–	–
(8)	$[\text{Cu}_2(\text{BHAPCP})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{SO}_4)_2$	3435	3326	–	–	1618, 1575	–	540	490	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1140, 1104, 628
(9)	$[\text{Zn}_2((\text{BHAPCP})(\text{SO}_4))] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3440	–	–	–	1630, 1590	–	525	452	–	$\nu_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ 1164, 1110, 1016

**Table 7**  
Important IR spectral data ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and their assignment for ligands (BHAPHP), (BCBDCT), (BHBDCT) and their metal complexes.

	Compound or complex	$\nu_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ and/or EtOH	$\nu_{\text{OH}}$ phenolic	$\nu_{\text{C=N}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-O}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-N}}$	$\nu_{\text{M-Cl}}$ $\nu_{\text{Cl-M-Cl}}$	Other bands
	(BHAPHP)·2H <sub>2</sub> O	3528	3462	1638, 1590	–	–	–	–
(10)	$[\text{Ni}_3(\text{BHAPHP})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4\text{Cl}_3(\text{OH})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3398	–	622, 1580	520	472	325 310, 290	–
(11)	$[\text{Cu}_2(\text{BHAPHP})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]\text{SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3450	–	1626, 1580	510	475	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1160, 1108, 640
(12)	$[\text{Zn}_2((\text{BHAPHP})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2)\text{SO}_4] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3330	–	1616, 1570	560	490	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1140, 1102, 628
	(BCBDCT)	–	–	1636	530	472	–	–
(13)	$[\text{Ni}_2(\text{BCBDCT})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2\text{Cl}_4] \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	3438	–	1610	–	485	331 312, 295	–
(14)	$[\text{Cu}(\text{BCBDCT})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\text{SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3470	–	1592	–	460	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1112, 1016, 616
(15)	$[\text{Zn}(\text{BCBDCT})]\text{SO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3444	–	1595	–	476	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1106, 1030, 606
	(BHBDCT)·3/2H <sub>2</sub> O	3490	3363	1614	–	–	–	–
(16)	$[\text{Ni}(\text{BHBDCT})\text{Cl}(\text{H}_2\text{O})\text{Cl}]$	3350	–	1598	530	474	–	–
(17)	$[\text{Cu}(\text{BHBDCT})]\text{SO}_4$	–	–	1590	540	452	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1110, 1014, 620
(18)	$[\text{Zn}_2(\text{BHBDCT})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	3430	–	1592	520	485	–	$\nu_{\text{S-O}}$ 1112, 1016, 614



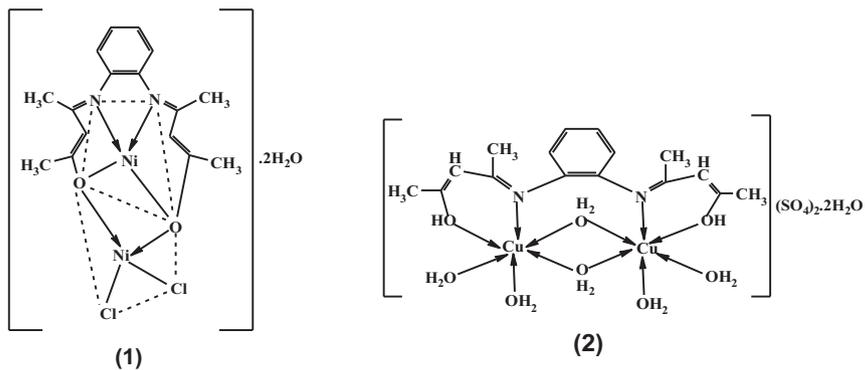
**Table 9**  
ESR data of Cu(II) complexes.

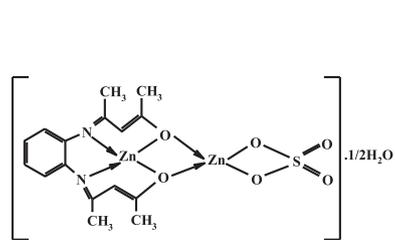
Complex no.	Complex formula	$g_{\parallel}$	$g_{\perp}$	$g_{\text{eff}}$	Geometry
(2)	$[\text{Cu}_2(\text{BOAB})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6](\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.13	2.68	2.45	Octahedral
(5)	$[\text{Cu}(\text{OAHAB})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	2.72	2.58	2.65	Octahedral
(8)	$[\text{Cu}_2(\text{BHAPCP})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{SO}_4)_2$	1.90	1.83	1.87	Tetrahedral
(11)	$[\text{Cu}_2(\text{BHAPHP})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]\text{SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.85	2.44	2.65	Octahedral
(14)	$[\text{Cu}(\text{BCBDCT})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\text{SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	2.81	2.46	2.64	Octahedral
(17)	$[\text{Cu}(\text{BHBDCCT})]\text{SO}_4$	1.90	1.87	1.89	Tetrahedral

#### 4. Conclusion

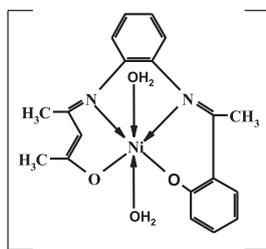
Based on the above results gained from elemental analyses, conductance measurements, thermal analyses, IR, UV–Vis, ESR

spectra as well as magnetic moments studies, the geometric structures of the complexes under investigation can be formulated as follows:

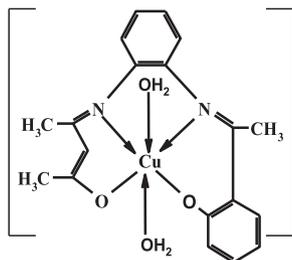




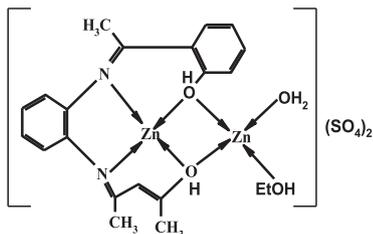
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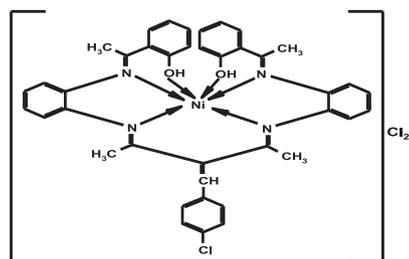
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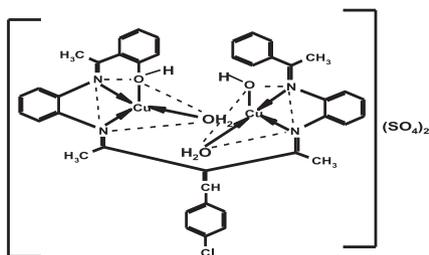
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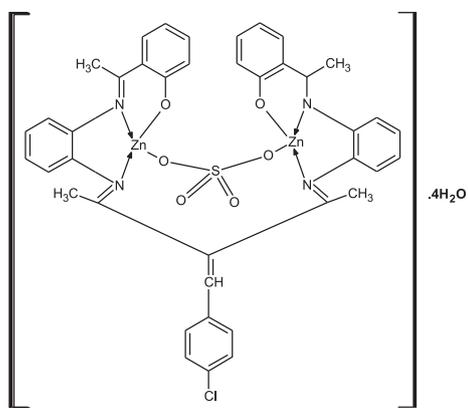
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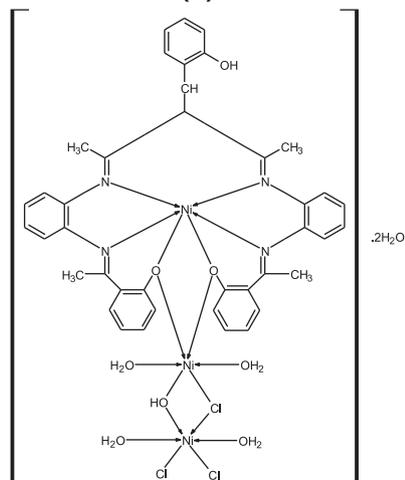
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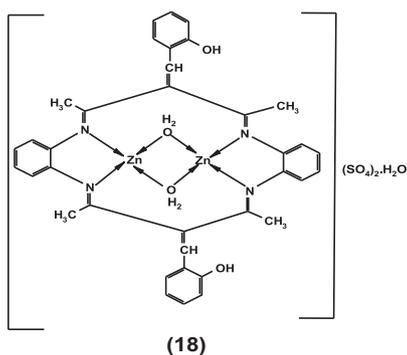
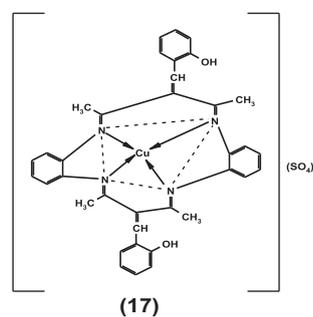
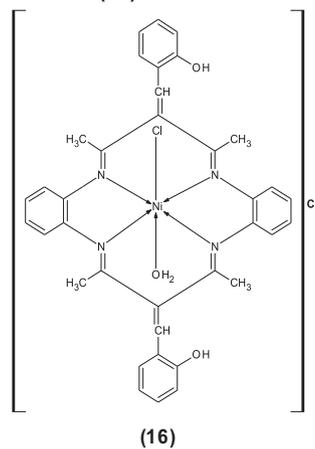
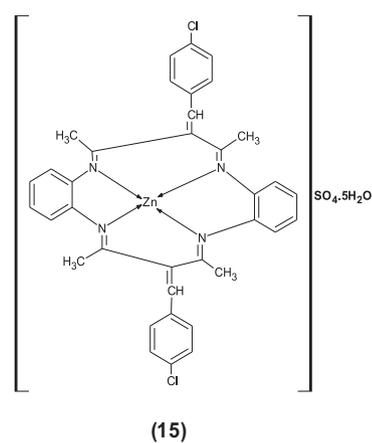
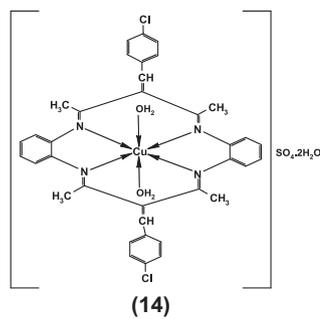
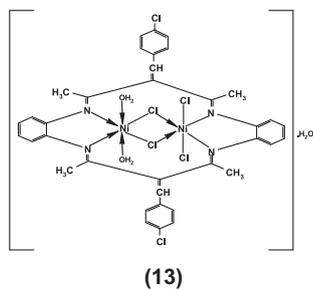
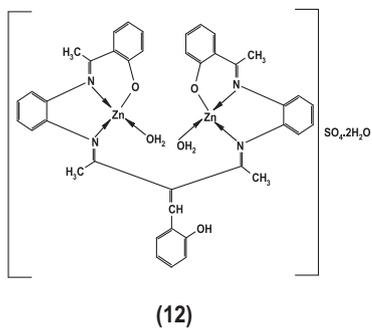
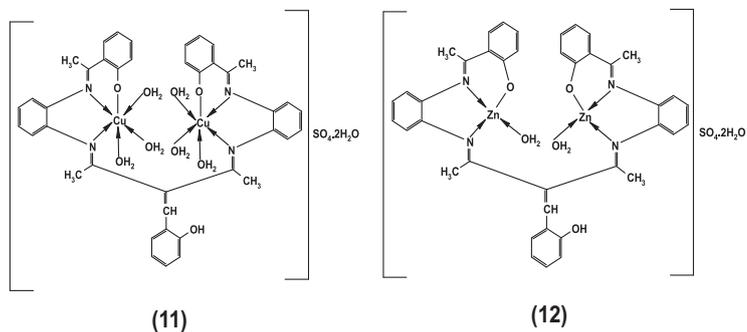
(8)



(9)



(10)



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