



SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF 6,6'-BIS(2-HYDROXYPHENYL)-2,2'-BIPYRIDYL LIGAND AND ITS PLATINUM COMPLEX FOR THE INTERACTION WITH CT-DNA

(Sintesis dan Pencirian Ligan 6,6'-Bis(2-Hidroksifenil)-2,2'-Bipiridil dan Kompleks Platinum untuk Kajian Interaksi dengan CT-DNA)

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Abstract

A tetradentate ligand with four donor atoms OONN and its platinum metal complex were synthesized. Bis(phenoxy)bipyridine ligand was prepared by Suzuki coupling reaction between 6,6'-dibromo-2,2'-bipyridyl and 2-hydroxyphenylboronic acid with the presence of palladium (II) acetate. The formation of platinum complex was done by introducing the ligand with platinum (II) chloride in benzonitrile. Both ligand and complex structures were confirmed by ^1H , 2D cosy and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy, ESI-MS spectrometry and FTIR spectroscopy. Binding studies of small molecules with DNA are useful to understand the reaction mechanism and to provide guidance for the application and design of new and more efficient drugs or sensors targeted on DNA. In this study, the binding interaction between the synthesized ligand and complex with calf thymus DNA (CT-DNA) has been investigated using UV-Visible and emission DNA titration. From the UV-Visible DNA study, it showed that platinum (II) bipyridine complex had higher affinity towards CT-DNA with binding constant $K_b = (3.1 \pm 0.02 \times 10^5) \pm 0.02 \text{ M}^{-1}$ compared to that of bis(phenoxy) bipyridine ligand with binding constant $(K_b) = (1.19 \pm 0.08) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$. These findings will be valuable for the potential use of platinum (II) bipyridine complex as a phosphorescent probe in optical sensor DNA.

Keyword: bis(phenoxy)bipyridine, intercalating ligand, calf thymus-DNA, DNA interaction

Abstrak

Ligan tetradentat dengan empat atom penderma OONN dan kompleks platinumnya telah disintesis. Ligan bis(fenoksi)bipiridin disediakan melalui tindak balas pengkupelan Suzuki antara 6,6'-dibromo-2,2'-bipiridil dan asid 2-hidroksifenilboronik dengan kehadiran palladium(II) asetat. Pembentukan kompleks platinum dilakukan dengan menambahkan platinum(II) klorida terhadap ligan di dalam benzonitril. Kedua-dua struktur ligan dan kompleks dibuktikan dengan spektroskopi ^1H , 2D dan ^{13}C RMN, spektrometri ESI-MS dan spektroskopi FTIR. Kajian pengikatan terhadap molekul kecil dengan DNA sangat berguna untuk memahami mekanisme tindak balas dan untuk panduan bagi aplikasi dan reka bentuk dadah yang baharu dan berkesan atau sensor target kepada DNA. Dalam kajian ini, interaksi ikatan antara ligan dan kompleks terhadap DNA timus anak lembu (CT-DNA) dilakukan dengan kajian titratan ultra lembayung boleh Nampak dan titratan pendafLOUR. Kaedah tersebut membuktikan bahawa kompleks platinum (II) bipiridin mempunyai ikatan yang lebih kuat terhadap CT-DNA berbanding dengan ligan iaitu sebanyak $K_b = (3.1 \pm 0.02 \times 10^5) \pm 0.02 \text{ M}^{-1}$ berbanding $K_b = (1.19 \pm 0.08) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$. Penemuan ini sangat bernilai dan berpotensi dalam menjadikan kompleks platinum (II) bipiridin sebagai prob fosforesen dalam sensor DNA optik.

Kata kunci: bis(fenoksi)bipiridin, ligan berinterkalasi, DNA timus, interaksi DNA

Introduction

The mix of pyridine-phenol ligand 6,6'-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine has attracted the author's attention due to its bridging behaviour by phenolate residues attached to the end of a string of pyridyl donors which result in the formation of phenolate-bridged polynuclear complexes with interesting magnetic and spectroscopic properties [1 – 3]. Interestingly, the NNOO tetradentate conjugated aromatic ligands can coordinate with metal centre results in molecular planar and increase the structural flexibility. Since deoxyribonucleic acids (DNA) offers many potential binding sites due to its size and complexity, the coordination compound are able to bind to the DNA by non-covalent bonding through three binding modes which are groove binding, intercalation and external static electronic effects [4].

Metal complex DNA intercalators have been given more attention in the research field because they are widely used in pharmaceuticals as antibiotics, antibacterial and antitumor agents [5]. Some examples of DNA interactions using transition metal complexes include Ru [6] Co, Ni, Cu, Zn [7] and rare-earths compounds [8]. Platinum metal is chosen for the bipyridine complex in this study because it has been widely used in optical devices and has shown to have diverse applications in electroluminescence, photovoltaics, optical limiting, photocatalysis, and molecular probes [4]. Moreover, d⁸ square-planar platinum (II) complexes with NNOO tetradentate conjugated aromatic ligands have shown to be highly phosphorescent at room temperature and thus have the potential to be developed as DNA optical sensor for the detection of DNA hybridization [9].

To date, no attempts have been made to explore the potential of platinum (II) bipyridine complex as a new phosphorescent DNA probe. In this present work, the ligand and its platinum metal complex are synthesized and it is the interest of this study to investigate the interaction between both compound and calf thymus DNA (CT-DNA). The overall aim is to investigate their optical properties towards DNA binding. It is predicted that platinum (II) bipyridine will bind stronger to CT-DNA due to the presence of platinum metal that enables the complex to become planar, thus allows them to π - π stack on the DNA bases and bind to DNA via intercalation [10]. It is expected that the bind to DNA will change the optical properties [11]. An enhancement of phosphorescence emission intensity upon the interaction with CT-DNA suggests that the platinum complex has the potential to be developed as a phosphorescence DNA sensor since there is still no report on this ligand and its complex for DNA probes sensor application [12]. Furthermore, there is a great market potential for simple, cheap, rapid, and quantitative detection of specific genes in the area of clinical, veterinary, medico-legal, environmental, and food industry.

Materials and Methods

Chemicals

The chemicals used in this work such as 6,6'-dibromo-2,2'-bipyridyl, 2-methoxyphenylboronic acid, palladium (II) acetate, triphenylphospine, dimethoxyethane, pyridine hydrochloride, platinum (II) chloride and benzonitrile were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and were used without further purification in the synthesis of ligand and complex. Calf thymus-DNA (CT-DNA) was obtained from Sigma (USA), agarose (molecular biology grade).

Physical measurement

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of ligand were recorded using Bruker /AVANCE III 600 MHz Fourier transform nuclear magnetic resonance 600 MHz cryoprobe. The mass spectrometry was carried out using Bruker MicroTof Q Mass Spectrometer. IR spectra were recorded on KBr discs using FTIR Perkin-Elmer GX Model in the spectral range of 4000-400 cm⁻¹. The UV-Visible spectra were measured using Shimadzu UV-2450. Melting point was measured by using Barnsted electrothermal melting point IA9100 series.

Synthesis of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand

Bis(phenoxy)bipyridine ligand was synthesized using the method patented by Nii et al. [12] with a slight modification. 6,6'-dibromo-2,2'-bipyridine (0.568 g, 1.81 mmol) and 2-hydroxyphenylboronic acid (0.499 g, 3.62 mmol) were refluxed for 4 hours in a mixture of dimethoxyethane (10 mL) and water (10 mL) with the presence of palladium (II) acetate (0.04 g, 0.18 mmol) under inert condition. After cooling the reaction solution to room temperature, chloroform (20 mL) and water (20 mL) were added to the reaction solution. The organic layer was concentrated and collected. Purification of the organic layer was carried out by column chromatography using dichloromethane:hexane (1:2) to obtain yellow crystal of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridyl ligand. All

spectroscopic data for the ligand are in accordance to literature [13]. Yield : 0.3191 g (51%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 6.99 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, arom), 7.09 (td, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, arom), 7.38 (td, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, arom), 7.89 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz, arom), 8.04 (m, 2H, bipyridine), 8.14 (dd, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.4$ Hz H^2), 14.29 (s, 1H, -OH). ^{13}C NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 118.54, 118.80, 119.17, 119.22, 119.92, 126.64, 131.93, 139.27, 152.05, 157.90, 159.68. IR (cm^{-1}): 3434 (OH alcohol / phenol), 3083 (C-H aromatic), 1355 (C-N), 1563 (C=C aromatic), 1131 (C-O). ESI (+)- MS calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [M+H] $^+$: 341.12 a.m.u. Melting point : 238.5 ± 1 $^\circ\text{C}$.

Synthesis of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridyl platinum complex

Platinum (II) chloride (0.133 g, 0.5 mmol) was added to the 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand (0.17 g, 0.5 mmol) and heated under reflux in 10 mL benzonitrile for 5 hours under inert atmosphere. After cooling the reaction solution to room temperature, methanol was added to the reaction solution to yield precipitation. The reddish colour precipitate was filtered and wash using methanol and diethyl ether to obtain 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridyl platinum complex. All spectroscopic data for the complex are in accordance to literature [13]. Yield : 0.0641 g (24%). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 6.78 (m, 1H, $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.8$ Hz, arom), 7.15 (m, 1H, $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.8$ Hz, arom), 7.38 (m, 1H, $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.4$ Hz, arom), 8.24 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6.3$ Hz, arom), 8.41 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 12$ Hz, arom), 8.54 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 12$ Hz, arom) and 8.64 (t, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 12.6$ Hz, arom). ^{13}C NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ : 116.65, 120.64, 121.15, 122.64, 124.55, 129.54, 131.84, 137, 149.28, 155.54, 162.16. IR (cm^{-1}): 3089 (C-H aromatic), 1603 (C-N), 1346 (C=C aromatic), 1130 (C-O). ESI(+)- MS calculated for $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$ [M+H] $^+$: 533.34 a.m.u.

DNA binding experiments: UV-Vis titration study

A calf-thymus (CT) DNA was dissolved in a 10 mM Tris-HCl /100 mM KCl (pH7.4) buffered overnight. The test compound was dissolved in a mixture of DMSO to give 5 mM stock solution. For working solution, the stock solution was diluted to 1 mM using DMSO and further diluted using the buffer to give appropriate concentrations [11]. A 1 cm pathlength quartz cuvette was used to conduct the measurements. The concentration of DNA used for the binding experiments was determined by measuring the absorption intensity at 260 nm with a molar extinction coefficient value of $6600 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ [14]. The absorption titration experiments were performed by keeping the concentration of the ligand constant (20 μM) while varying the DNA concentrations ($4.68 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ to $1.26 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$). Absorbance values were recorded after each successive addition of DNA solution and equilibration (Figure 5). The percentage of hypochromicity was calculated according to Equation (1):

$$\% \text{ hypochromicity} = [(\epsilon_{\text{free}} - \epsilon_{\text{bound}}) / \epsilon_{\text{free}}] \times 100 = 16.04 \% \quad (1)$$

The intrinsic binding constant (K_b) of ligand - DNA was determined according to Equation (2):

$$\frac{\text{DNA}}{\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}}} = \frac{\text{DNA}}{\Delta\epsilon} + \frac{1}{\Delta\epsilon \times K} \quad (2)$$

where the apparent molar extinction coefficient, $\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}} = |\epsilon_{\text{A}} - \epsilon_{\text{F}}|$, $\epsilon_{\text{A}} = A_{\text{observed}} / [\text{ligand}]$, $\Delta\epsilon = |\epsilon_{\text{B}} - \epsilon_{\text{F}}|$. The ϵ_{F} and ϵ_{B} represent the molar extinction coefficients for free ligand and DNA bound platinum ligand respectively. From the plotted graph of $[\text{DNA}] / (\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}})$ versus $[\text{DNA}]$, the y-intercept is equal to $1 / (\Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}} \times K)$, whereas the slope is equal to $1 / \Delta\epsilon_{\text{ap}}$. K is obtained by dividing the slope value by the y-intercept [15]. Excitation wavelengths of 328 nm and 485 nm were used for DNA emission studies.

Emission study

Platinum (II) complex was dissolved in DMSO to yield 5 mM stock solutions. Prior to use, the compounds were diluted to 1 mM using DMSO. This was then further diluted using 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) to appropriate concentrations. Aliquots of millimolar stock solution of DNA in Tris-HCl buffer (49 μM) were added to the solutions of the test complex (49 μM). The emission spectra were recorded at $\lambda = 400\text{--}700$ nm after 1 min equilibration and the luminescence enhancement at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 328$ nm and 485 nm were determined.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand and its platinum complex

The 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand was successfully prepared via Suzuki coupling reaction using the starting material 2-hydroxyphenylboronic acid. The formation of the ligand was confirmed by spectroscopic and analytical methods. Platinum (II) chloride was introduced to the 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand and heated under reflux in 10 mL benzonitrile for 5 hours under inert atmosphere. The reaction scheme is shown in Figure 1. The formation of the platinum (II) complex was also confirmed by spectroscopic and analytical methods.

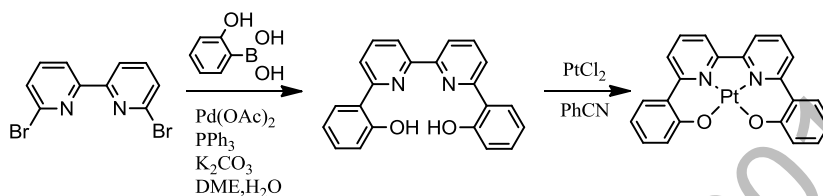


Figure 1. Synthesis of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand via Suzuki coupling reaction and its coordination with metal

Figure 2 shows the NMR spectrum of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand while Figure 3 shows the NMR spectrum of its platinum complex. The resonance at area 14.28 ppm from the spectrum of the ligand is assigned to the OH proton which is highly deshielded due to the large anisotropic field that is generated by the circulation of π electron in the aromatic ring. The disappearance of the resonance in the complex spectrum confirms that the deprotonation of OH groups occurred due to the coordination of oxygen atoms to the platinum (II) metal ion centre. The peaks at area 6.97 to 8.15 ppm in the ligand spectrum are assigned to the aromatic ring proton which is slightly shifted upfield compared to the corresponding peaks in the complex spectrum due to the presence of more electrons withdrawing OH group, and thus increases the shielding of the hydrogen, causing them to move upfield.

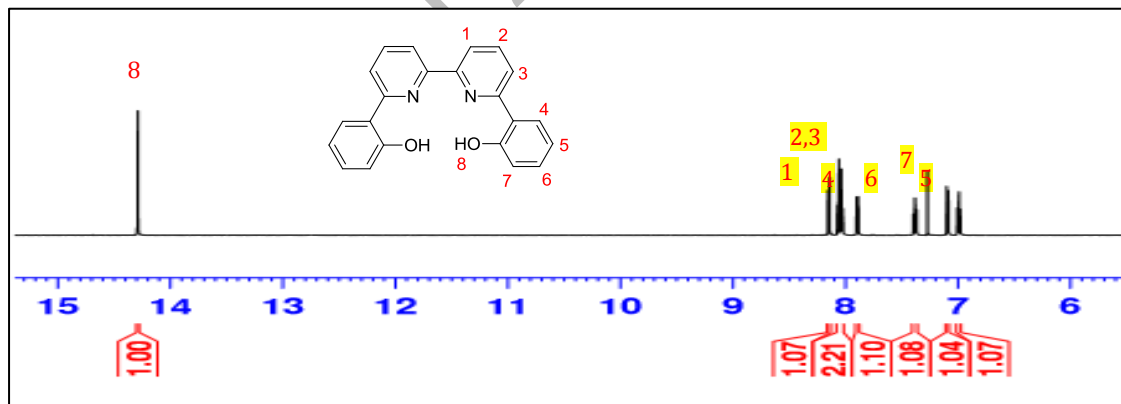


Figure 2. NMR spectrum of 6,6'-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)-2,2'-bipyridine ligand

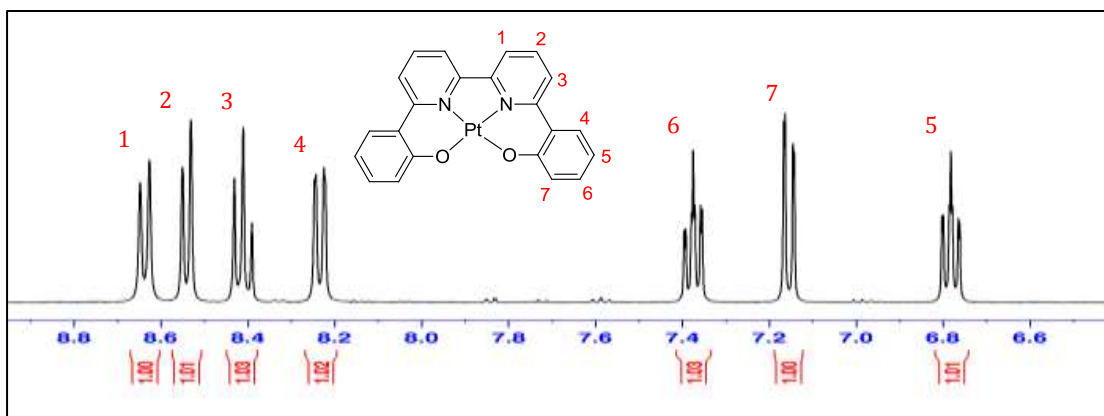


Figure 3. NMR spectrum of platinum (II) bipyridine complex

The assignment of both ^1H NMR spectra in CHCl_3 was also performed with the help of 2D- ^1H - ^1H NMR spectroscopy. The peaks around 7.04 – 8.5 ppm are assigned accordingly to the 2D-COSY NMR as shown in Figure 4(a) and Figure 4(b). The structure obtained was also confirmed by the ^{13}C NMR that shown on Figure 5(a) and Figure 5(b). From the spectrum, it is clearly shown that there was 11 signal peak that represented the presence of 11 carbon in the both structure, ligand and complex.

The infrared spectrum of the complex in Figure 6 represented the absorption band of azomethine $-\text{CH}=\text{N}-$, C-O, C=C aromatic and C-H aromatic at 1603 cm^{-1} , 1346 cm^{-1} and 3089 cm^{-1} respectively. The disappearance of hydrogen bonded OH absorption band at 3400 cm^{-1} in the complex spectrum supports the coordination of four donor atom N_2O_2 from ligand to platinum (II) metal ion centre, indicating a square planar geometry and aromatic rings structure. The formation of the ligand and complex was also supported by the mass spectrometry results in which the mass to charge ratio was $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$ 341.12 a.m.u for the ligand and $[\text{M}+\text{H}]$ 534.4 a.m.u for the complex. The melting point recorded for this ligand was $238.5 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

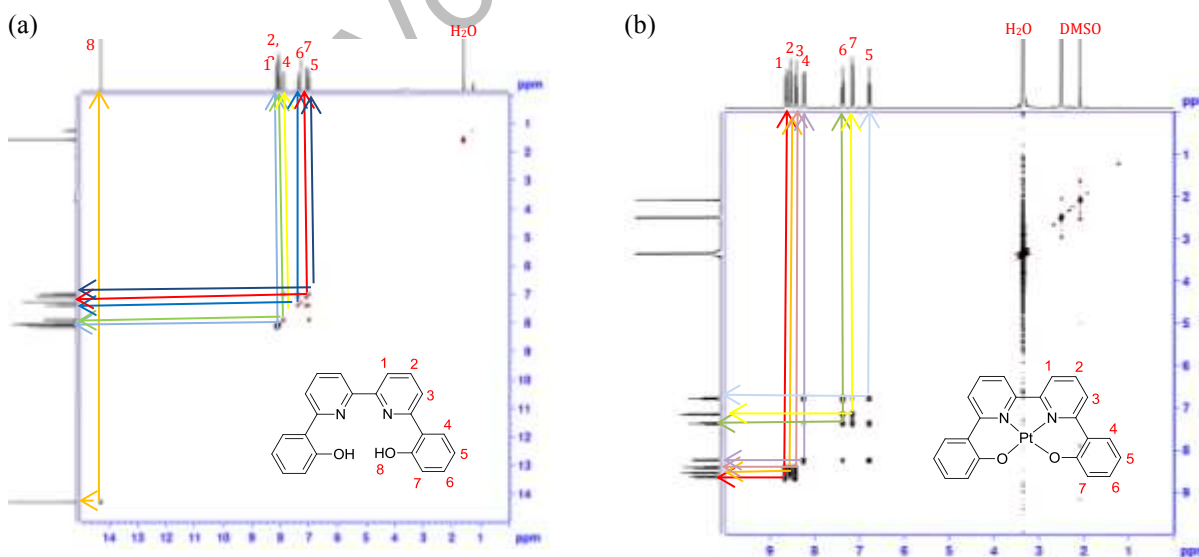


Figure 4. (a) 2D-COSY NMR of the ligand (b) 2D-COSY NMR of the complex

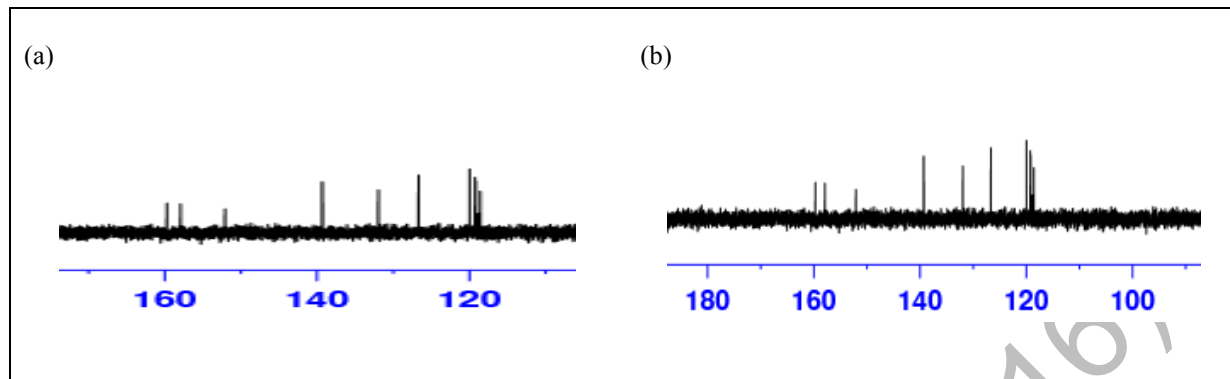


Figure 5. (a) ^{13}C NMR of the ligand (b) ^{13}C NMR of the complex

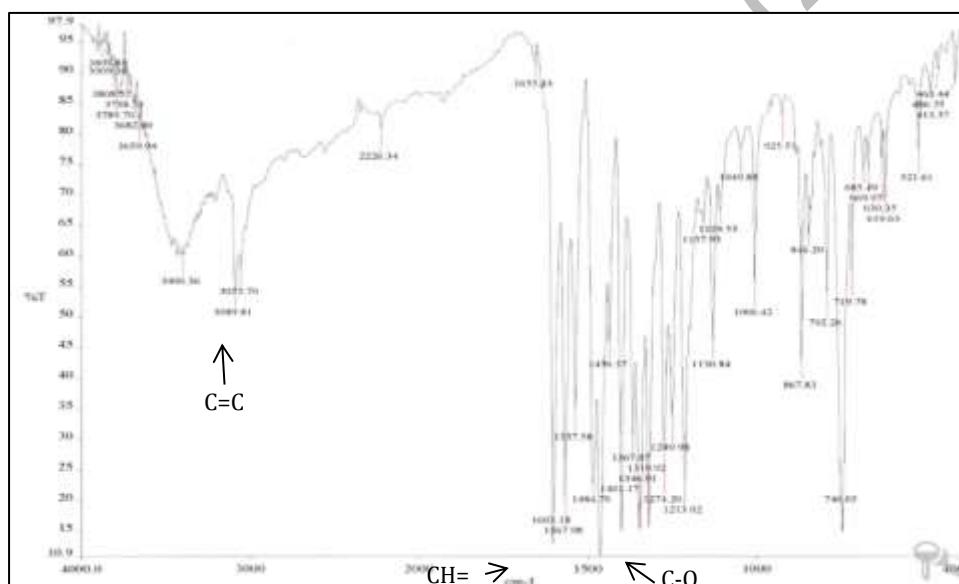


Figure 6. Infrared spectrum of the complex

UV-Vis DNA titration

The application of electronic absorption spectroscopy is one of the most useful techniques in DNA-binding studies. Since no DNA-binding studies have been reported yet on this ligand and its complex, the UV-Vis study was conducted to examine any susceptible interaction between both compound and CT-DNA, and also to study the comparison of the binding affinity between free ligand and with the presence of platinum metal centre ion. Generally, ligands that are coordinated to a metal centre result in a molecule planar and could increase its ability to intercalate between the DNA bases of double helix [15]. Therefore, the presence of metal ion will proposed the square planar geometry and thus will strongly bind to CT-DNA, presumably via intercalation mechanism compared to free ligand. The binding of intercalative compounds to DNA can be characterized by absorption spectral titrations, where lowering in absorbance (hypochromism) and shift to longer wavelengths (red shift) were observed [11]. Hypochromic effect is the spectral features of DNA concerning its interaction between the

electronic states of the compound and DNA base while red shift occurs due to the decrease in energy gap between HOMO and LUMO molecular orbitals after binding the complex to DNA [16].

The UV-Vis absorption spectra of the platinum complex showed three intense bands at 328 nm, 485 nm and 528 nm (Figure 7(a)). UV-Vis absorption spectra of the complex in Figure 7(a) demonstrated that the addition of increasing amounts of CT-DNA resulted in 16 % hypochromism at 528 nm and a slight red shift (3 nm). The hypochromism value was less compared to the absorption spectra of the ligand (Figure 8) which gave 46% hypochromicity upon the addition of increasing amounts of CT-DNA at 341 nm with the same red shift (3 nm). These results showed that there was an interaction between the electronic states of the chromophores in the both ligand and complex conjugates with DNA [5]. However, the intrinsic binding constant value (K_b) of the ligand was found to be $(1.19 \pm 0.08) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$ which was 260-folds less the metal complex whose binding constant is $(3.1 \pm 0.02) \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$. This means that the complex binds better than the ligand due to its planar aromatic rings structure. Square planar geometry can make the molecule planar, hence increases its intercalation properties [14].

The observed spectroscopic characteristics suggest that the complex interacts with CT-DNA through a mode that involves π - π stacking interaction between the aromatic rings of ligand and the base pairs of CT-DNA while the ligand bind to CT-DNA via outside binding mode interaction such as electrostatic [17]. Our results support the theory by Liu and Sadler [10], which stated that the square-planar platinum(II) complexes containing heterocyclic aromatic ligands bind to DNA duplexes non-covalently by intercalating between the base pairs. Besides, it is in good agreement with the data for other well-known intercalator metal complexes: hypochromicity values (15-30 %), red shift (3-5 nm) and binding constants $5.20 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ and $8.60 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ for 3-ethylpiperidineoxy-2-[(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethoxy)phenyl]-pyridine-2(N,O)-(5-nitro-8-quinolinolato) platinum (II) and *N,N'*-bis[4-[[1-(2-ethyl)piperidine]oxy]salicylidene]-4-(2-(piperidin-1-yl)ethoxy)-1,2-phenylenediamine-platinum(II), respectively [11].

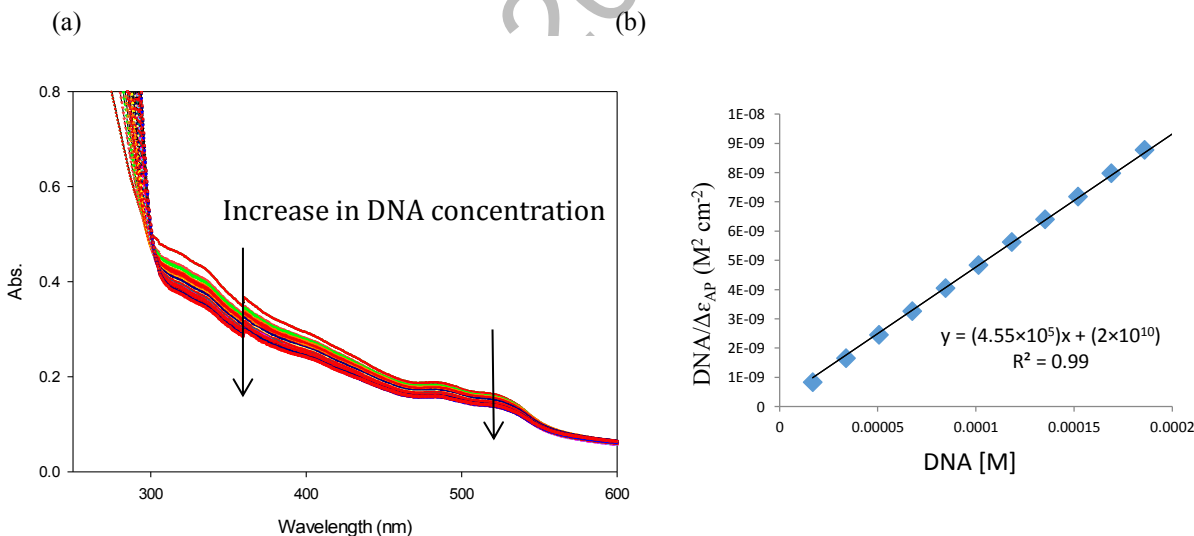


Figure 7. (a) Absorption spectral changes of complex (30 μM) in TRIS.HCl buffer (pH = 7.4) in absence and presence of increasing concentration of CT-DNA ($4.68 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ to $1.26 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$) (b) the reciprocal plot that fits the absorbance data to obtain the binding constant.

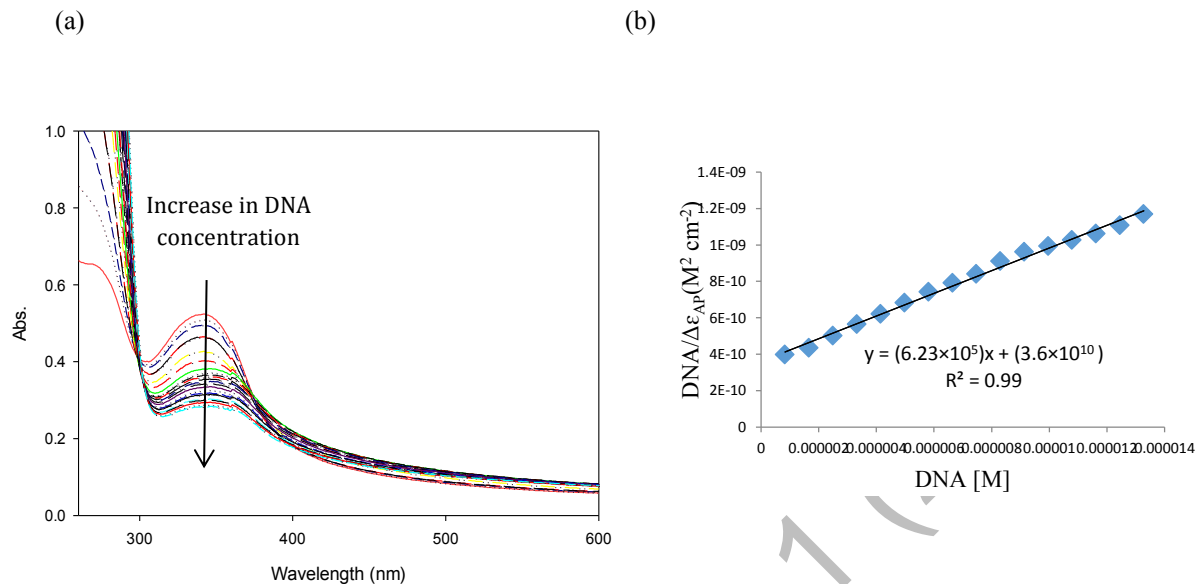


Figure 8. (a) Absorption spectral changes of ligand (30 μM) in TRIS.HCl buffer (pH = 7.4) in absence and presence of increasing concentration of CT-DNA (4.68×10^{-5} M to 1.26×10^{-3} M). (b) The reciprocal plot that fits the absorbance data to obtain the binding constant.

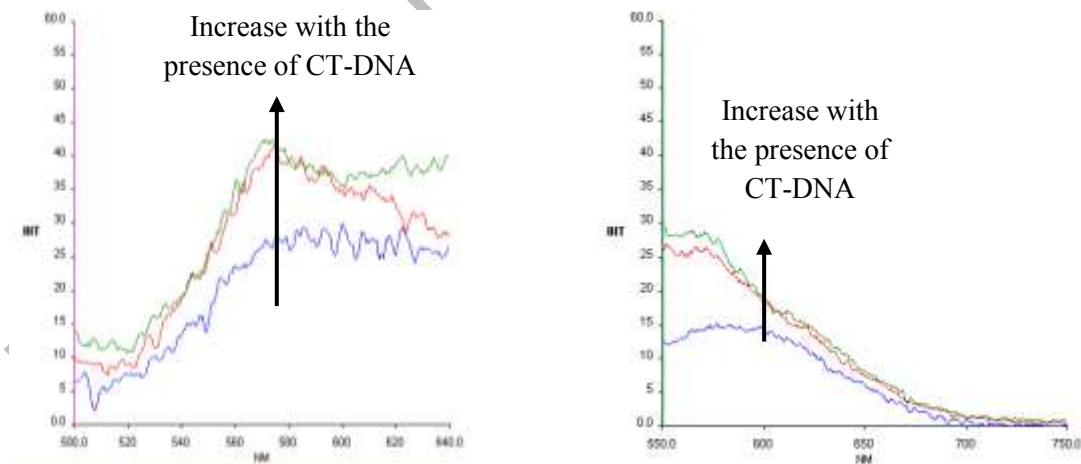


Figure 9. (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of platinum bipyridine complex (49 μM) in TRIS.HCl buffer (pH = 7.4) in absence and presence of CT-DNA (λ excitation = 328 nm, λ emission = 570 nm). (b) Fluorescence emission spectra of platinum bipyridine complex (49 μM) in TRIS.HCl buffer (pH = 7.4) in absence and presence of CT-DNA (λ excitation = 485 nm, λ emission = 570 nm).

Emission study

Platinum (II) complexes with a wide range of aromatic ligand are known to possess luminescent properties. Thus, it was the interest of this study to investigate whether the platinum bipyridine complex in this study is emissive and thus investigate their optical properties changes upon interaction with DNA. Emission titration experiments with 1:1 ratio were performed using constant concentration of complex and CT-DNA (49 μ M) at different excitation wavelengths. Figure 9 shows the phosphorescence emission spectra in both the absence and presence of DNA in the Tris-HCl buffer. The platinum complex was found to be slightly emissive at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 328$ and 485 nm respectively. Interestingly, the addition of CT-DNA resulted in an enhancement of phosphorescence emission intensity in both spectra. The emission spectra of the complex showed an increase in the intensity of emission by a factor of 1 indicating the interaction of the complex with DNA. These results confirmed that there was an interaction between phosphorescence platinum(II) bipyridine complex and DNA. These findings will be valuable for the potential use of platinum(II) bipyridine complex as a phosphorescence probe in optical sensor DNA.

Conclusion

The bis(phenoxy)bipyridine ligand and its platinum complex has been successfully synthesized and characterised. The ^1H , ^{13}C NMR, IR and mass spectrometry observations were used to elucidate the structure. UV-Vis DNA study showed that platinum complex might be a promising candidate compared to ligand for further applications as a DNA binder and anticancer drugs due to the interaction with CT-DNA via intercalation rather than outside binding. The coordination of ligand with metal centre increases the structural flexibility and thus increases the ability of the complexes to stack and intercalate between the DNA bases. An enhancement of phosphorescence emission intensity upon the interaction with porcine DNA suggests that the platinum complex has the potential as a phosphorescence DNA sensor. These findings will be valuable for the potential use of platinum (II) bipyridine complex as a phosphorescence probe for the detection of porcine DNA in food products.

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