

Potentiometric Studies of Stability Constants and Speciation of Binary and Ternary Complexes of Metal (II) Ions with Amino Acids and Thiobarbituric Acid

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Abstract: Several chelating agents have been widely used as scavengers to transport metals to or away from vulnerable sites due to their ability to form stable complexes with different metal ions. Many of the chelating agents have been reported to be toxic, non-biodegradable and inflexible for the recovery of bound metal ions. The inherent drawbacks with these chelating agents necessitate a search for their replacement. Therefore, the extent of coordination of L-tyrosine, L-histidine (secondary ligands) and Thiobarbituric acid (primary ligand) with Co(II), Cu(II) and Pb(II) in an aqueous medium at 27°C and 35°C has been examined potentiometrically with ionic strength maintained by 0.02M NaNO₃. The potentiometric equilibrium measurements showed that the ligands formed binary and ternary complexes with the metal ions. Ternary complexes were formed by simultaneous mechanisms and they were found to be more stable than the corresponding binary complexes. The order of stability was found to increase with an increase in the covalent index of the metal ions and decrease with increase in temperature. Speciation diagram showed the variation in stability constants of the binary and ternary complexes as the function of pH. The ligands exhibited high coordinating properties and could be used as metal scavengers for transportation of metals to or away from vulnerable sites. The binary metal complexes could be applied as a medium of transporting chemotherapeutic drugs to target sites or detoxifying poisonous substances which possesses donor atoms with chelating capability.

Keywords: Binary Complexes, Potentiometric, Speciation, Stability Constants, Ternary Complexes

1. Introduction

The advances in inorganic chemistry provide better opportunities to use coordination compounds and chelators in nutritional supplements, fertilizers, chemical analysis, as water softeners, commercial products such as shampoos and food preservatives, medicine, heavy metal detox, and industrial applications [1, 2]. Co-ordination compounds can be studied in two states: a solid state which entails synthesis, isolation and characterization of a pure compound, which can be subjected to a variety of tests, and a solution state which is based on equilibria in solution. The study of co-ordinate

compounds in solution on the basis of equilibrium provides information on stability constants of the complexes which give detail of the complexation reactions of the metal ions, complex formation ability of the ligands and the activities of the complexes formed in a solution containing two or more component species in equilibrium.

The application of the transition metals in many industries have led to the contamination of air, soil and water which are now global problems that have become a growing threat to humanity. Many applied chelating agent in metal ions regulation have exhibited significant drawbacks. As a result of this, researchers have now focused on the study of

interactions of biologically active ligands with various metal ions in solution in order to determine the possibility of using these bimolecular ligands in chelating therapy [4, 5]. Advancement in the field of bioinorganic chemistry has also led to increase in research on the complexes of N, O, S-donor ligands since it has been recognized that many of these complexes may serve as models for biological and industrial applications [6]. Amino acids, pyrimidine and their derivatives have been extensively studied as typical N, O, S-donor ligands due to their coordinative capability [7] their pharmacological activity [8] and their uses in analytical chemistry as metal extracting agents [9]. However, there is a paucity of report on the coordinating abilities of some amino acids and Thiobarbituric acid with different metal ions. This study investigated binding abilities of L-histidine, L-tyrosine and Thiobarbituric acid with Co(II), Cu(II) and Pb(II) ions in forming binary and ternary complexes with a view of assessing their potential in transporting the metal ions to or away from vulnerable sites.

2. Methodology

2.1. Materials

The reagents and solvents used were of analytical grade. They include: Cobalt(II)nitrate hexahydrate, copper(II)nitrate hexahydrate lead(II)nitrate, sodium nitrate, nitric acid, sodium hydroxide, double distilled water, ethanol, oxalic acid, methyl orange indicator, EDTA, erichrome, L-histidine, L-tyrosine and thiobarbituric acid.

2.2. Preparation of Solutions and Titration Procedure

Solution of carbonate-free 0.13M NaOH was prepared and standardized by oxalic acid. Solutions of metal ions (0.002M) were prepared from $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and their concentrations were standardized with ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid. Nitric acid was standardized with a standard NaOH solution and the constant ionic strength was maintained with 0.02M sodium nitrate as an inert electrolyte.

pH measurements in the potentiometric titrations were carried out with a digital pH-meter (Mettler Teledo) equipped with a combined electrode. The pH meter was calibrated with standard buffer solutions of pH 4.00, 7.00 and 9.20 and all titrations were carried out within the slope of > 99%. The errors arose mainly from the liquid junction, the alkaline and acidic errors of the glass electrode were corrected by using Van Uitert and Hass equation. The solution was maintained at temperatures of $27^\circ\text{C} \pm 0.1$ and $35^\circ\text{C} \pm 0.1$ respectively and the pH was recorded after the addition of 0.05cm^3 aliquots of carbonate-free 0.13NaOH.

The following sets of solutions were prepared and total volume in each set was kept at 40.00 ml.

- HNO_3 (0.01M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + L-tyrosine (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + L-histidine (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + Thiobarbituric acid (0.002M)

- HNO_3 (0.01) + L-tyrosine (0.002M) + M (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + L-histidine (0.002M) + Metal (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + Thiobarbituric acid (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + Thiobarbituric acid (0.002M) + Metal (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + Thiobarbituric acid (0.002M) + L-tyrosine (0.002M) + M (0.002M)
- HNO_3 (0.01) + Thiobarbituric acid + L-histidine (0.002M) + Metal (0.002M)

All the titrations were carried out in multiple in double distilled water. The obtained values of pH were plotted against volume of alkali added for the above sets of titration and titration curves were obtained using Origin 8 software. The equilibria existing in the solutions were examined from the curves. The protonation and the formation constants of the ligands and binary complexes respectively were determined using Point wise method by calculating the average number of metal ions associated with the ligand \bar{nA} at different pH values, average number of ligand molecules attached per metal ion (\bar{n}) and free ligand exponent (pL). The formation constants of ternary complexes were determined using Ramamoorthy and Santapa method [10]. Distributions of species were obtained by Hyperquad Simulation and Speciation program.

3. Results and Discussion

Thiobarbituric acid has two dissociable NH groups while L-tyrosine and L-histidine has two dissociable and one protonable groups. The pKa values for the ligands were calculated from the curves by using Irving and Rossotti method, and compared with the literature values. During the titrations, no precipitate was formed indicating there is no tendency for formation of hydroxo complexes [10]. For the sake of brevity, the curves for the ligands, binary complexes and ternary complexes at 27°C and 35°C are presented in Figures 1 and 2 respectively.

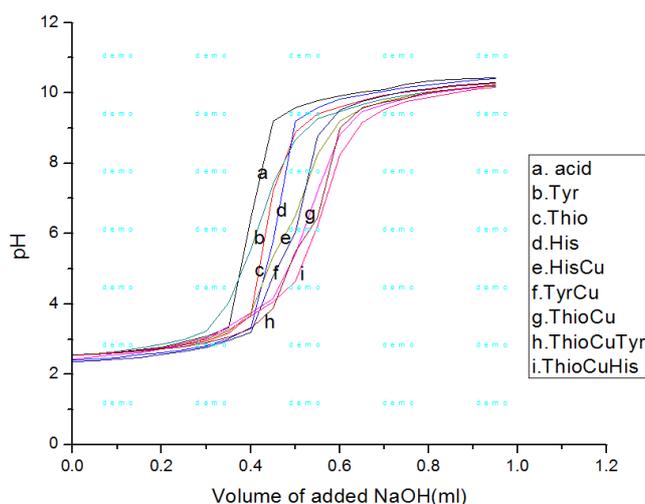


Figure 1. Representative titration curves for binary and ternary complexes of Cu(II)-A and M(II)-Thio-L complexes at $27 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$, $\mu = 0.020\text{ M}$ (NaNO_3). A=L-histidine, L-tyrosine and Thiobarbituric acid, L= L-histidine and L-tyrosine.

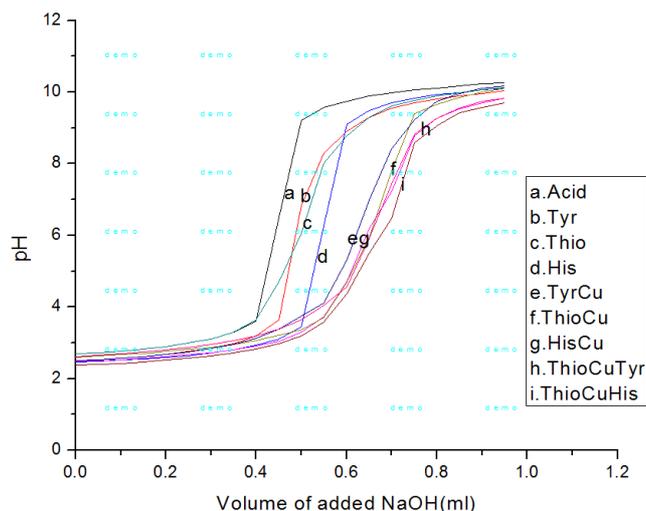


Figure 2. Representative titration curves for binary and ternary complexes of Cu(II)-A and M(II)-Thio-L complexes at 35 ± 0.1 °C, $\mu = 0.020$ M (NaNO₃). A=L-histidine, L-tyrosine and Thiobarbituric acid, L= L-histidine and L-tyrosine

It is observed from the Figures 1 and 2 above that there are divergences of curves b, c and d (ligands curves) from acid curve(a) which indicate deprotonation processes occurring from the ligands [11, 12]. At 27°C and 35°C, Thio curves show inflection points at pH of 9.20 and 9.50 respectively; Tyr curves give inflection points at pH of 8.80 and 8.80 respectively while His shows inflection points at pH of 3.2 and 8.80 at 27°C and one inflection point at pH of 7.90 at 35°C. The inflection points are attributed to dissociations of the protons from the ligands [13, 14]. The shift of the ligands

curves a, b a and c in the figures to a lower pH region upon the addition of Metal(II) ions suggests the complex formation through displacement of proton(s) from the ligands [11, 15]. In Figure 1, titration curves of binary complexes of Thio-Cu(II), Tyr-Cu(II) and His-Cu(II) at 27°C show inflection points at pH of 4.15, 5.30 and 5.60 respectively. In Figure 2, inflection points at pH of 4.80, 6.20 and 5.30 are shown in binary complexes of Thio-Cu(II), Tyr-Cu(II) and His-Cu(II) respectively. The inflection points are attributed to the formation of 1:1Cu(II), 1:1Co(II) and 1:1Pb(II) binary complexes of the ligands [16].

In Figure 1, curves h and i representing the titration curves of 1:1:1Cu(II)-Thio-Tyro and 1:1:1Cu(II)-Thio-His species give inflection points at pH of 8.30 and 8.20 respectively; curves h and i representing the titration of 1:1:1Cu(II)-Thio-Tyro and 1:1:1Cu(II)-Thio-His show inflection points at pH of 8.70 & 8.90 respectively in Figure 2. The formation of the ternary curves below the ligands curves and binary complexes curves, and the inflection points indicate the complexation of the metal ions with both ligands. Non superimposable nature of the ternary complexes curves with either of the simple binary curves suggests simultaneous complexation of the two ligands to the metal ions in the ternary complexes [17].

From the calculated average number of proton associated with the ligands \bar{n}_A at different pH values, association constants of the ligands, stability constants of the binary and ternary complexes obtained are presented in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Table 1. Proton-ligand stability constant of the ligands at 27°C and 35°C in water.

Ligand	27°C			35°C		
	$\text{Log}K_1^H$	$\text{Log}K_2^H$	$\text{Log}\beta$	$\text{Log}K_1^H$	$\text{Log}K_2^H$	$\text{Log}\beta$
L-tyrosine	-	10.9503	10.9503	-	10.5449	10.5449
L-histidine	3.3867	10.7160	14.1027	-	10.2068	10.2068
Thiobarbituric acid	-	11.3567	11.3567	-	10.8750	10.8750

Table 2. Stability constants of binary complexes in water medium at 27°C and 35°C.

Ligand	27°C			35°C		
	$\text{Log}K_{CuL}^{Cu}$	$\text{Log}K_{CoL}^{Co}$	$\text{Log}K_{PbL}^{Pb}$	$\text{Log}K_{CuL}^{Cu}$	$\text{Log}K_{CoL}^{Co}$	$\text{Log}K_{PbL}^{Pb}$
L-tyrosine	6.3611	4.2222	6.9850	5.9363	4.1946	6.418
L-histidine	7.3519	6.1681	5.6325	6.0837	6.0697	5.5922
Thiobarbituric acid	7.4769	5.5542	6.6112	6.4067	5.1921	6.3355

Table 3. Stability constants of Ternary complexes of Tyrosine and Thiobarbituric acid in water at 27°C (M=Cu(II), Co(II) and Pb(II)).

Complex	$\text{Log}K_{MAB}^M$	$\text{Log}K_{MA}^M$	$\text{Log}K_{MAB}^{MA}$	$\text{Log}K_{MB}^M$	$\Delta\text{Log}K$
[CuThioTyr]	15.2093	7.4769	7.7324	6.3611	+1.3713
[CoThioTyr]	14.4166	5.5542	8.8624	4.2232	+4.6392
[PbThioTyr]	15.4188	6.6112	8.8076	6.9830	+1.8246

Table 4. Stability constants of Ternary complexes of Tyrosine and Thiobarbituric acid in water at 35°C (M=Cu(II), Co(II) and Pb(II)).

Complex	$\text{Log}K_{MAB}^M$	$\text{Log}K_{MA}^M$	$\text{Log}K_{MAB}^{MA}$	$\text{Log}K_{MB}^M$	$\Delta\text{Log}K$
[CuThioTyr]	14.1932	6.3122	7.8810	5.9363	+1.9447
[CoThioTyr]	13.5140	5.1921	8.3219	4.1946	+4.1273
[PbThioTyr]	15.3739	6.3353	9.0386	6.4180	+2.6206

Table 5. Stability constants of Ternary complexes in water at 27°C ($M=Cu(II)$, $Co(II)$ and $Pb(II)$).

Complex	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MAB}}^{\text{M}}$	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MA}}^{\text{M}}$	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MAB}}^{\text{MA}}$	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MB}}^{\text{M}}$	$\Delta\text{Log}K$
[CuThioHis]	15.5923	7.4769	8.1154	7.3519	+0.5964
[CoThioHis]	13.3877	5.5542	7.8335	6.1681	+1.6654
[PbThioHis]	14.2150	6.6112	7.6038	5.6325	+1.9713

Table 6. Stability constants of Ternary complexes in water at 35°C ($M=Cu(II)$, $Co(II)$ and $Pb(II)$).

Complex	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MAB}}^{\text{M}}$	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MA}}^{\text{M}}$	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MAB}}^{\text{MA}}$	$\text{Log}K_{\text{MB}}^{\text{M}}$	$\Delta\text{Log}K$
[CuThioHis]	14.9340	6.3122	8.6218	5.9968	+2.6250
[CoThioHis]	13.2481	5.1921	8.0560	6.0697	+1.9863
[PbThioHis]	14.0145	6.3353	7.6792	5.5922	+2.0870

The mean $\text{Log}K_2^H$ values of 11.3567 and 10.8750 at 27°C and 35°C respectively observed in Thio as shown in Table 1, are attributed to deprotonation at N_3H groups present in the ligands [15]. The mean values $\text{Log}K_2^H$ of 10.9503 and 10.5877 at 27°C and 37°C respectively of Tyr are ascribed to deprotonation at amino (NH_2) group of the ligand [18, 19]. In His, two dissociation constants of $\text{Log}K_1^H$ of 3.3867 and $\text{Log}K_2^H$ values of 10.7160 are obtained at 27°C which are attributed to deprotonation at COOH and Amino groups of the ligand respectively. While at 35°C, only one deprotonation occurred with $\text{Log}K_2^H$ value of 10.2068 which is ascribed to deprotonation at amino group [20].

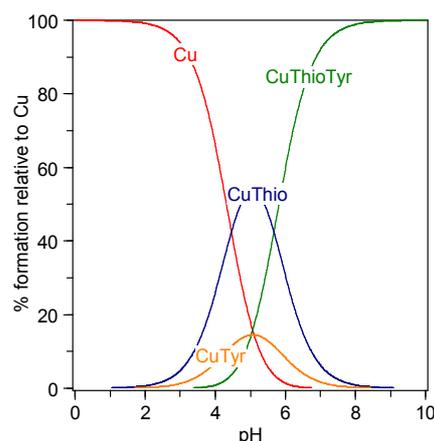
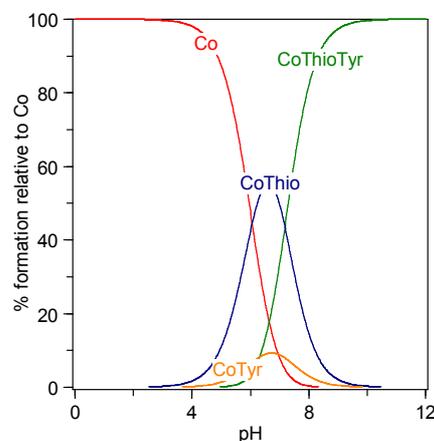
It is observed from Table 2 that His interacted with Cu(II), Co(II) and Pb(II) ions to form binary complexes with the stability constants in order of $\text{Log}K_{\text{CuHis}}^{\text{Cu}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CoHis}}^{\text{Co}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{PbHis}}^{\text{Pb}}$. The increase in the order could be ascribed to ionization potential and ionic radius of the metal ions [21]. The stability of binary complexes of Tyr is in the order of $\text{Log}K_{\text{PbTyr}}^{\text{Pb}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CuTyr}}^{\text{Cu}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CoTyr}}^{\text{Co}}$ and the order could be attributed to covalent index of the metal ions. The higher the covalent index of a metal ion the more stable the complex formed by the metal [22, 23]. While in binary complexes of Thiobarbituric acid, the stability constants were found in the order of $\text{Log}K_{\text{CuThio}}^{\text{Cu}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{PbThio}}^{\text{Pb}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CoThio}}^{\text{Co}}$. The extra stability exhibited by Cu(II)Thio complex could be assigned to the unique electronic configuration of Cu^{2+} and the Jahn-Teller effect [24]. At the two temperatures, all the ligands interact with the metal ions to give order of $\text{Log}K_{\text{CuThio}}^{\text{Cu}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CuHis}}^{\text{Cu}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CuTyr}}^{\text{Cu}}$ and the order is attributed to dissociation constants of the ligands and coordination of Thio ligand through S donor atom. The stability constants of the binary complexes of the order of $\text{Log}K_{\text{CoHis}}^{\text{Co}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CoThio}}^{\text{Co}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CoTyr}}^{\text{Co}}$ is observed and attributed to coordination of the His through through nitrogen donor atoms of amino and imidazole group to form six membered ring [14], while with Pb(II), the order is $\text{Log}K_{\text{PbTyr}}^{\text{Pb}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{CoThio}}^{\text{Co}} > \text{Log}K_{\text{PbHis}}^{\text{Pb}}$, this is attributed to high polarizing power of the ligands and covalent index of the metal ions [22, 25, 26].

$\Delta\text{log} K$ was found to be positive in all the complexes in Tables 3&4 which indicates more stability of the ternary complexes than the corresponding binary complexes and the extra stability could be attributed to intramolecular aromatic-ring stacking and hydrogen bond [27]. The order of stability at the two temperatures is observed to be $\text{Pb(II)} > \text{Cu(II)} > \text{Co(II)}$ and the extra stability exhibited by Pb(II) complexes could be

attributed to higher covalent index and polarizability of Pb(II).

In Tables 5&6, $\Delta\text{log} K$ was also found to be positive in all the complexes indicating more stability of the complexes than their corresponding binary complexes. This stability is attributed to intramolecular aromatic-ring stacking and hydrogen bond. In the complexes, $\text{Cu(II)} > \text{Pb(II)} > \text{Co(II)}$ order is found. The extra stability of Cu(II) complexes is attributed to the unique electronic configuration of Cu(II) ion and distorted geometry [28]. In all the complexes, stability constants decrease with increase in temperature.

Speciation of the binary and ternary complexes at different temperatures

**Figure 3.** Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Cu(II): Thio (A): Tyr (B) ternary system at 27°C.**Figure 4.** Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Co(II): Thio (A): Tyr (B) ternary system at 27°C.

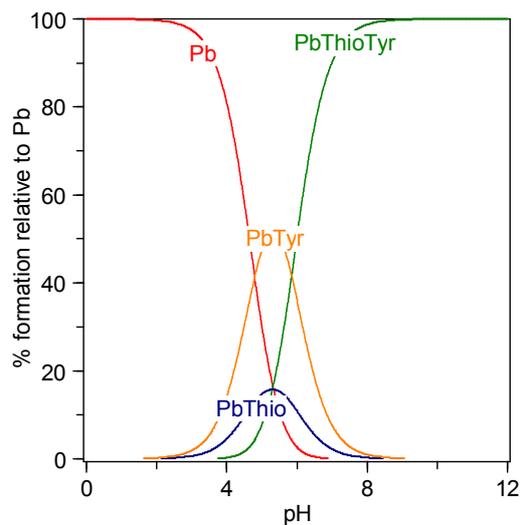


Figure 5. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Pb(II): Thio (A): Tyr (B) ternary system at 27°C.

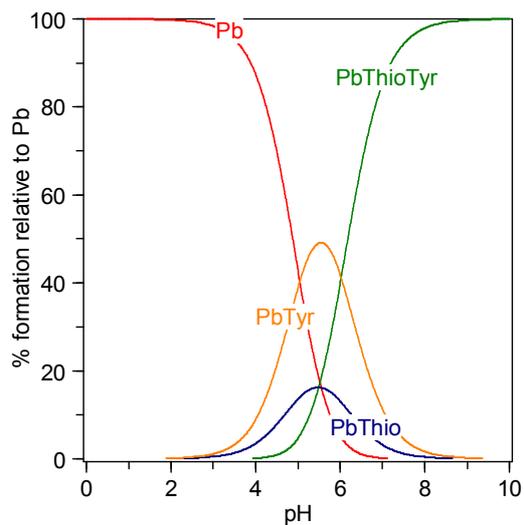


Figure 8. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Pb(II): Thio (A): Tyr (B) ternary system at 35°C.

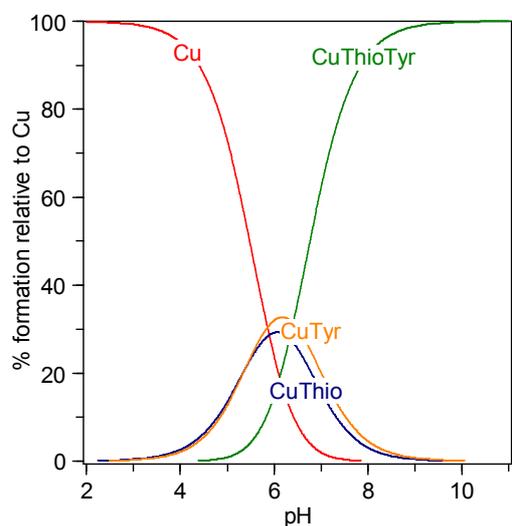


Figure 6. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Cu(II): Thio (A): Tyr (B) ternary system at 35°C.

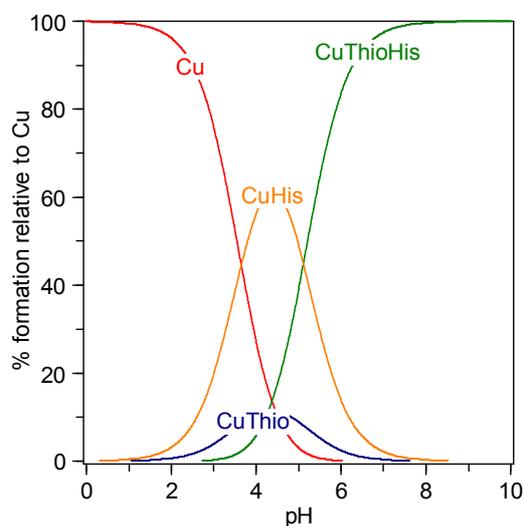


Figure 9. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Cu(II): Thio (A): His (B) ternary system at 27°C.

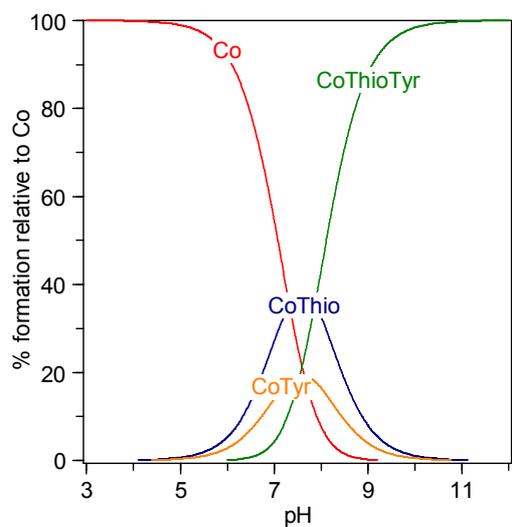


Figure 7. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Co(II): Thio (A): Tyr (B) ternary system at 35°C.

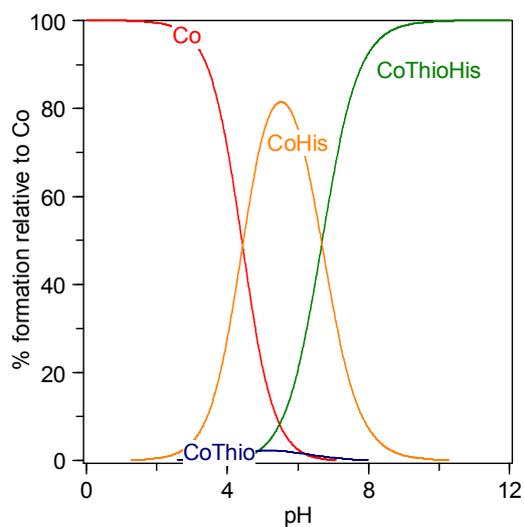


Figure 10. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Co(II): Thio (A): His (B) ternary system at 27°C.

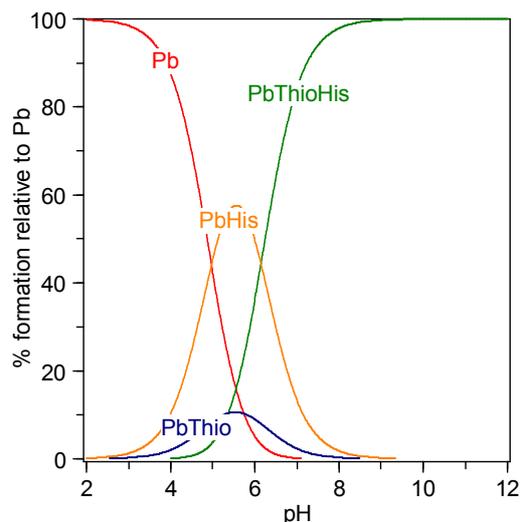


Figure 11. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Pb(II): Thio (A): His (B) ternary system at 27°C.

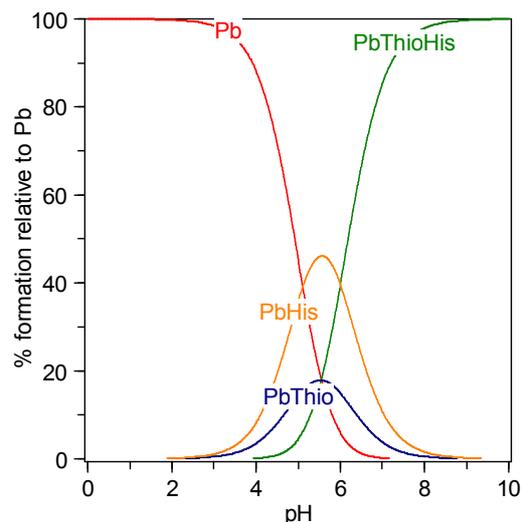


Figure 14. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Pb(II): Thio (A): His (B) ternary system at 35°C.

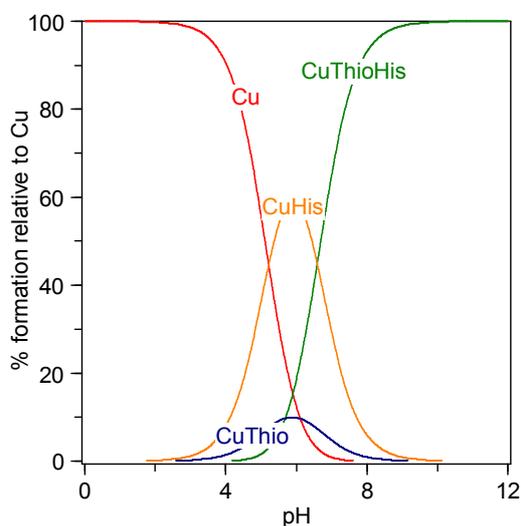


Figure 12. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Cu(II): Thio (A): His (B) ternary system at 35°C.

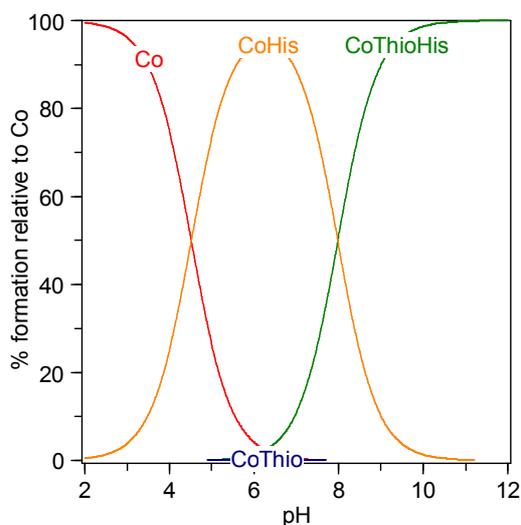


Figure 13. Distribution diagram of the species in the (1: 1: 1) Co(II): Thio (A): His (B) ternary system at 35°C.

Distribution diagrams of all the binary and ternary systems of Co(II), Cu(II) and Pb(II) were drawn by the Hyss computer program. The distributions of all the types of binary and ternary systems as a function of pH are given in Figures 3–14.

In the aqueous solution at 27°C, Cu(II)Tyr and Cu(II)Thio binary complexes reached maximum levels (14%) and (54%) at pH of 5.0 and 5.2 respectively. The complexes began to dissociate at the pH and disappeared completely at pH of 8.0 and 9.0 respectively. Ternary complex of Cu(II)ThioTyr began to form at pH of 3.6 and reached its maximum level (97%) at pH of 7.6 as shown in Figure 3. In figure 4, Co(II)Tyr and Co(II)Thio binary complexes reached their peaks (10%) and (55%) at pH of 6.7 and 6.6 respectively. The complexes began to dissociate at the pH and disappeared completely at pH of 9.5 and 10.0 respectively. Ternary complex of Co(II)ThioTyr came to an existence at pH of 5.0 and reached maximum level (97) at pH of 9.0. It is revealed in figure 5 that Pb(II)Tyr and Pb(II)Thio binary complexes got to maximum levels (52%) and (16%) at pH of 5.4 and 5.3 respectively. The dissociation of the complexes occurred as pH increased and Pb(II)Tyr and Pb(II)Thio disappeared completely at pH of 9.0 and 8.0 respectively. Pb(II)ThioTyr ternary complex began to form at pH of 3.8 and reached maximum level (97) at pH of 9.7.

At 35°C as depicted in Figure 6, Cu(II)Tyr and Cu(II)Thio binary complexes reached maximum levels (33%) and (30%) at pH of 6.0 and 6.3 respectively. The complexes began to dissociate at the pH and disappeared completely at pH of 10.0 and 9.6 respectively. Ternary complex of Cu(II)ThioTyr began to form at pH of 4.4 and reached its maximum level (97%) at pH of 8.42. The binary complexes of Co(II)Tyr and Co(II)Thio got to the maximum levels (20%) and (38%) respectively at pH of 7.6 as shown in Figure 7. They began to dissociate and disappeared at pH of 10.56 and 10.98 respectively. Co(II)ThioTyr Ternary complex began to form at pH of 4.4 and reached maximum level (98) at pH of 9.8. Figure 8 shows that binary complex of Pb(II)Tyr and

Pb(II)Thio reached maximum levels (47%) and (10%) at pH of 5.6 and 5.7 respectively. The complexes began to dissociate as the pH increased and disappeared at pH of 9.4 and 8.7 respectively. Ternary complex came to an existence at pH of 5.0 and reached maximum level (97%) at pH of 7.9.

The binary complexes of Cu(II)His and Cu(II)Thio formed from interactions of L-histidine and Thiobarbituric acid with Cu(II) in aqueous solution at 27°C reached maximum levels (60%) and (12%) at pH of 5.1 and 5.2 respectively. The complexes began to dissociate with increase in pH and disappeared completely at pH of 8.6 and 7.8 respectively. Ternary complex of Cu(II)ThioHis began to form at pH of 3.5 and reached maximum level (96%) at pH of 7.6 as shown in Figure 9. In Figure 10, Co(II)His and Co(II)Thio reached maximum levels (85%) and (2%) at pH of 5.7 and 5.5 respectively. The complexes began to dissociate at pH above their optimum pH and completely disappeared at pH of 10 and 8 respectively. Co(II)ThioHis ternary complex came to an existence at pH of 4.0 and reached maximum level (96%) at pH of 8.7. Pb(II)His and Pb(II)Thio binary complexes reached maximum levels (58%) and (10%) at pH of 5.6 respectively as depicted in Figure 11. They began to dissociate as pH increased and disappeared at pH of 9.0 and 8.0 respectively. Ternary complex of Pb(II)ThioHis began to form at pH of 4.0 and reached maximum level (97%) at pH of 8.0.

At 35°C in Figure 12, binary complexes Cu(II)His and Cu(II)Thio reached maximum levels (59%) and (10%) respectively at pH of 6.0. They began to dissociate and completely disappeared at pH of 10.0 and 9.0 respectively. The ternary complex of Cu(II)ThioHis came to an existence at pH of 4.0 and reached maximum level (96%) at pH of 8.4. It is shown in Figure 13 that Co(II)His dominated the reaction in this aqueous solution and reached maximum level (95%) at pH of 6.0 and began to dissociate and disappeared at pH of 10.0. Co(II)ThioHis ternary complex came to an existence at pH of 4.6 and reached maximum level (96%) at pH of 9.0. In Figure 14, Pb(II)His and Pb(II)Thio binary complexes reached maximum levels (43%) and (20%) at pH of 5.6 and 5.4 respectively. They began to dissociate as pH increases and disappeared at pH of 9.0 and 8.4 respectively. Ternary complex of Pb(II)ThioHis began to form at pH of 3.5 and reached maximum level (9%) at pH of 7.8.

4. Conclusion

The study of stability constants of coordination compounds in solution provides comprehensive knowledge on the complexation reactions of metals, complex formation ability of the ligands and the activities of the complexes formed which serves as a tool for determination of metal-ligand reactions in water and biological system for potential applications. It is revealed that the stability constants increase when metal ion with high covalent index interacts with a ligand that possesses high polarizability. All the ternary complexes were observed to be more stable than the corresponding binary complexes and the stability of the

ternary complexes follows the order of Pb(II)>Cu(II)>Co(II). The complexes' stability constants decrease with increase in temperature. All the ligands formed more stable binary complexes with the metal ions with within pH of 4.0-6.5 and above this pH region, the binary complexes dissociated thereby, at the pH above 4.0-6.5 the complexes can be separated to the metal ions and the chelators could be reused. The mixed-ligand formed stable ternary complexes within pH of 7-10 and above this pH; the complexes could be dissociated to the metal ions and the chelators. The ligands could be used as metal scavengers for transportation of the metal ions to or away from target sites and as an antidote in combating metal poisoning within the stipulated pH region. The binary complexes could also be applied as a medium of transporting chemotherapeutic drugs to target sites or detoxifying poisonous substances which possesses donor atoms with chelating capability.

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