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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening of The Epoxide Ring. X-Ray Crystal Structure of The Opened Species and	53-60
Identification of The Transition State by DFT	
Nirmal K. Shee, Shanti G. Patra, Michael G. B. Drew, and Dipankar Datta	
Modeling Copper Nanoparticles as Catalysts for the Oxygen Reduction Reaction in	61-67
Fuel Cells	
Frank J. Owens	
Topo-chemical reactivity study on molecular machines	69-97
Nicoleta A. Dudaş, Ottorino Ori, and Mihai V. Putz	
Chemometrics Study of Germs Plant for Determining Anticancer Activity	99-108
Alina-Maria Petrescu, Lauriana-Eunice Zbîrcea, Maria-Roxana Buzan, Gianina	
Loredana Jucos, Feng Chen Ifrim, Gheorghe Ilia, Virgil Paunescu	



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Article

OPENING OF THE EPOXIDE RING. X-RAY CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF THE OPENED SPECIES AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE TRANSITION STATE BY DFT

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ABSTRACT

Ring-opening of oxiranes by nucleophiles is very important in chemical synthesis. But these reactions are limited by slow reaction rate, poor yield, use of high temperature and Lewis acid catalyst. Reaction of 5,6-dihydro-5,6-epoxy-1,10-phenanthroline (L) with 4methylaniline produces L', a 2-amino alcohol. Good yield has been obtained in water medium at room temperature without using any Lewis acid catalyst. The product crystallizes in the space group P2₁/a as L'.H₂O with Z = 4. X-ray crystal structure shows that the water molecule acts as a donor of two H-bonds to the phenanthroline N atoms as well as an acceptor of two H-bonds from the N-H moiety of two L'. The transition state (TS) has been located at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p) level. The free energy of activation is estimated as 48.76 kcal mol⁻¹ in gas phase. It decreases significantly to 34.79 kcal mol⁻¹ when solvation is considered revealing the role of water in the reaction.

Keywords: epoxide, epoxide opening, X-ray crystal structure, DFT, transition state

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1. INTRODUCTION

2-Amino alcohols are important versatile intermediates in the synthesis of numerous biologically active natural compounds, chiral auxiliaries, and amino acids [1-3]. These have considerable use in medicinal chemistry [4,5]. Generally, opening of the 3-membered heterocyclic strained epoxide ring by amines leads to the formation of 2-amino alcohols. However, there are some limitations of this approach such as slow reaction rate, poor yield, poor sensitivity of epoxides, need of excess of nucleophiles and often high temperature, weak nucleophilic character of amines, and regio-selective nature of the compounds [6]. In nature, phenolic proton of a tyrosine moiety catalyses the ring opening of oxiranes in water [7].

Researchers have been using a variety of Lewis acid catalysts such as alumina, metal amides, and metal triflates that can enhance the electrophilic character of epoxides [8-10]. There are some reports where use of a catalyst has not been necessary [11,12]. Hydrogen bonding interaction, hydrophobic interaction, and solvent polarity are the main factors that influence the selectivity and reactivity of the process. Recently, we

have undertaken a program to develop the transition metal chemistry of 5,6-dihydro-5,6epoxy-1,10-phenanthroline (L). We have synthesized its tris complexes of Fe, Ni, Cu and Zn [13-16]. The epoxide ring in the metal chelates is found to be very much susceptible to nucleophilic attack. Other workers have also tried to open up the epoxide ring in L [17-19]. Previously, we have found that simple stirring of ML_3 (M: a metal) with 4-substituted anilines in equimolar proportion in water at room temperature without any Lewis acid catalyst gives high yield of chelated 2-amino alcohols [14,15]. We have determined the X-ray crystal structures of ML_3 . But could not determine the structure of the ring opened species. Here we present the X-ray crystal structure of L' where the epoxide ring in L has been opened by 4methylaniline (Scheme I). So far X-ray crystal structure of no compounds having opened epoxide ring has been reported.



Scheme I. Opening of the epoxide ring in L by 4-methylaniline

2. RESULTS & DISCUSSIONS

Simple stirring of L with 4-methylaniline at room temperature in water in equimolar proportion affords L'.H₂O in 90% yield. We have obtained the single crystals of L'.H₂O from *n*-hexane-dichloromethane mixture. Its X-ray crystal structure is shown in Figure 1. Selected crystal data are given in Table 1.



Figure 1. The X-ray crystal structure of L'.H₂O with ellipsoids at 30% probability. H-bond is shown as dotted line.

Empirical formula	$C_{19}H_{19}N_3O_2$
Formula weight	321.37
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P21/a
Cell dimensions	
<i>a</i> (Å)	17.146(9)
b (Å)	4.8782(10)
c (Å)	20.999(8)
β (deg)	110.94(5)
$V(Å^3)$	1640.4(11)
Ζ	4
$\mathcal{D}_{\text{calcd}}$ (g cm ⁻³)	1.301
$\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	0.086
F (000)	680
$\theta_{\rm max}(\rm deg)$	30
Unique reflections	4538
Observed reflections $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	3007
Parameters	230
GOF on F ²	0.970
$R_1 w R_2 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0600, 0.1331
$R_1 w R_2$ (all data)	0.0947, 0.1532
Largest peak/hole (e Å-3)	0.316/-0.216

Table 1. Some crystal and structure refinement data for L'.H₂O

The water molecule O(1) participates in four strong hydrogen bonds, acting twice as a donor to N(17) and N(14) and twice as an acceptor from N(24) and O(22). Thus, all four hetero-

atoms in the molecule participate in hydrogen bonding. Hydrogen bond dimensions are given in Table 2.

	HA	DA	D-HA	symmetry
N(24)-H24 O(1) O(1)-H(1) N(14)	2.21(2) 2.02(2)	3.066(3) 2.856(3)	163(2) 161(2)	x-1/2, 1.5-y, z
O(1)-H(1) $N(14)O(1)$ -H(2) $O(22)O(22)$ -H(22) $O(1)$	1.93(2) 1.88(2)	2.674(2) 2.674(2)	176(2) 156(2)	1/2+x, 2.5-y,z x-1/2, 1.5-y,z

Table 2. Hydrogen bonds in L'.H₂O (distances, Å; angles, deg; A = acceptor, D = donor). For atom labelling, see Figure 1.

Opening of the epoxide ring by an amine is a typical nucleophilic reaction. We have studied the reaction by density functional theory (DFT) at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p) level. Here a new C-N bond is formed, and an existing C-O bond is broken as the reaction proceeds from the reactants to product. A shortening of C-N bond and lengthening of C-O bond are observed along the reaction path. The transition state (TS) is pictorially shown in Figure 2. It has a single imaginary frequency (335.52*i*). Some bond length and angles for the TS and the product are compared in Table 3. The free energy of activation is found to be 48.76 kcal mol⁻¹ in gas phase. However, when solvation energy in water is considered, the free energy of activation is reduced to 34.79 kcal mol⁻¹ which is comparable to the other reported values [20]. The barrier is low enough to permit a smooth reaction between L and 4-methylaniline at room temperature in aqueous medium.



Figure 2. DFT structure of the transition state showing the C-O and C-N bond lengths. Color code: white, H; grey, C; blue, N and red, O.

metric parameter	transition state	product
N1-C1	1.801	1.456
C1-C2	1.516	1.546
C1-O1	2.197	2.463
C2-O1	1.344	1.420
N1-C1-C2	108.29	112.13
O1-C2-C1	106.32	112.18
N1-C1-C2-O1	169.26	60.83

Table 3. Data of some bond lengths (Å), bond angles (°) and a torsion angle (°) in the transition state and the final product at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p) level. For atom labelling, see Figure 2.

3. COMPUTATIONAL

All electronic structure calculations have been carried out using the Gaussian 09 program package [21]. The hybrid nonlocal density functional B3LYP and 6-31+G(d,p) basis set are employed for the calculation. The transition state is optimized using Berny algorithm as implemented in Gaussian 09. Conductor like polarization continuum model (CPCM) [22] has been used to calculate the solvation energy in water ($\epsilon = 78.54$). Single point energies of the optimized geometries (gas phase) in aqueous medium are calculated to consider the solvation effect.

4. EXPERIMENTAL

4.1. Materials and physical measurements

L, 4-methylaniline were purchased from Aldrich. Micro-analyses were performed by a Perkin-Elmer 2400II elemental analyser. FTIR spectra (KBr) were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR-8400S spectrometer, 300 MHz NMR spectra on a Bruker DPX300 spectrometer, and ESI mass spectra on a Waters Qtof Micro YA263 spectrometer.

4.2. Synthesis of $L'.H_2O$

Method A. L (0.039 g, 0.2 mmol) and 4-methylaniline (0.021 g, 0.2 mmol) were taken in water (50 ml) and stirred for 72 h. The white compound precipitated was collected by filtration, washed with water (2 ml) and dried in vacuo over fused CaCl₂. Yield: 0.055 g (90%). *Method B*. The reactants were refluxed for 14 h. Then the clear orangish solution was evaporated to 10 ml and cooled to room temperature. A yellowish compound so obtained was filtered off and dried in vacuo over fused CaCl₂. Yield: 0.037 g (60%). m. p. 239 °C. *Anal*. Calc. for C₁₉H₁₉N₃O₂: C, 70.99; H, 5.96; N, 13.07. Found: C, 70.81; H, 5.82; N, 13.10%. FTIR: ν/cm^{-1} : 3371vs (NH). ESI-MS (CH₃CN): m/z: 342.2 [(L' + K)⁺, 100%]. ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆): δ /ppm: 2.15 (s, 3H, methyl), 4.62 (t, 6 Hz, 1H, CHN), 4.84 (t, 6 Hz, 1H, CHO), 5.69 (d, 6 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.78 (d, 6 Hz, 1H, OH), 6.61 (d, 9 Hz, 2H, phenyl), 6.90 (d, 9 Hz, 2H phenyl), 7.40 (m, 2H, phen), 7.74 (d, 6 Hz, 1H, phen), 7.89 (d, 6 Hz, 1H, phen), 8.65 (t, 6 Hz, 2H, phen).

4.3. X-ray crystallography

4538 independent reflection data were collected with MoK α at 150K using the Oxford Diffraction X-Calibur CCD System. The crystals were positioned at 50 mm from the CCD and 321 frames were measured. Data analyses were carried out with the CrysAlis program [23]. The structure was solved using direct methods with the Shelxs97 program [24]. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters. The hydrogen atoms bonded to carbon were included in geometric positions and given thermal parameters equivalent to 1.2 times those of the atom to which they were attached. Hydrogen atoms bonded to nitrogen or oxygen were located in a difference Fourier map and refined with distance constraints. The structure was refined on F^2 using Shelx197 [24].

5. CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that L can undergo opening of the epoxide ring by 4-methyl aniline in water at room temperature in the absence of any Lewis acid catalyst to form L'.H₂O. The crystal structure of L'.H₂O shows presence of N-H...O and O-H...N type of hydrogen bonding. DFT calculations show breaking of a C-O bond formation of a C-N bond in the TS. The free energy of activation decreases significantly when solvation in water is considered proving the role of water in easing the reaction.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS AVAILABLE

CCDC-1936996 contains the supplementary crystal data for L'. H_2O . These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallo-graphic Data Centre via w.w.w.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

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Article

MODELING COPPER NANOPARTICLES AS CATALYSTS FOR THE OXYGEN REDUCTION REACTION IN FUEL CELLS

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ABSTRACT

The dissociation of O_2 and HO_2 are important reactions that occur at the cathode of fuel cells producing H_2O and use platinum as a catalyst. There is a need to replace platinum with less expensive catalysts. Here the possibility of copper nanostructures as catalysts for the reactions is considered using density functional theory. The calculations employing density functional theory at the B3LYP/6-31G* level show that the bond dissociation energies to remove OH from O_2H bonded to copper nanostructures $Cu_6, Cu_8, and Cu_{10}$ are significantly less than those necessary to dissociate free O_2H indicating that copper nanostructures are shown not to catalyze O_2 dissociation.

Keywords: copper nanostructures, Density Functional Theory, catalysis, oxygen reduction reaction.

1. INTRODUCTION

Presently platinum is employed to catalyze the reactions that produce H_2O at the cathode of fuel cells. Platinum is expensive and susceptible to time dependent drift and CO poisoning [1, 2]. These issues are significant obstacles to the development of large scale commercial application of fuel cells. Likely reactions that produce H_2O at the cathodes are the dissociation of O_2 bonded to the catalyst followed by atomic oxygen undergoing the following reaction,

 $20 + 4H^+ + 4e \rightarrow 2H_20 \tag{1}$

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Another possibility is the formation of O_2H which bonds to the catalyst followed by the removal of OH which could then undergo the following reaction,

$$OH + H^+ + e \to H_2O \tag{2}$$

For the catalyst to be effective the energy needed to dissociate O and OH from O_2 and O_2H bonded to the catalyst should be significantly lower than that required to dissociate free O_2 and O_2H . The traditional approach to developing new catalysts is to identify a candidate based on the know properties of a material. The material is then synthesized and tested by such methods as cyclic voltammetry. Such an approach is time consuming and does not always lead to the best catalyst. Theoretical modeling of catalysts has the potential to provide a rapid, reliable and a less costly method to identify new catalysts. Further it can often identify the details of the reaction which is not always possible from the cyclic voltammetry measurement. Modeling has been used to understand the role of platinum as a catalyst in fuel cells [3]. It also has been employed to predict possible potential new catalysts. For example molecular orbital theory has been used to predict that boron nitride nanoribbons as well as nitrogen doped graphene could be effective catalysts for reactions at the cathode of fuel cells [4, 5, 6].

2. METHODS

The minimum energy structures of Cu_NO_2 , Cu_NO , and Cu_NO_2H , where Cu_N is a copper nanostructure ,are calculated using DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G* level employing Gaussian software.⁷ The frequencies of the structures are calculated to insure the absence of imaginary frequencies which indicates the obtained structures are at a minimum on the potential energy surface. To determine if the copper nanoparticles can catalyze the production of O and OH from O₂ and O₂H bonded to Cu_N, nanoparticles the bond dissociation energy (BDE), to remove O and OH from these structures is calculated.

$$BDE = \left[E(Cu_NO) + E(OH) \right] - \left[E(Cu_NO_2H) \right]$$
(3)

where E is the total electronic energy plus the zero point energy (ZPE) of the minimum energy structure. The ZPE is the total ZPE of all of the normal modes of vibration given by,

$$E_{zpe} = (1/2)h \sum_{i}^{3N-6} f_{i}$$
(4)

where f_I are the vibrational frequencies of the normal modes and N the number of atoms in the molecule. An analogous expression is used for the dissociation of O_2 . The calculated BDE given by equation 3 is compared with that to dissociate free O_2 or O_2H . If it is significantly less, it can be concluded that Cu_N is a good potential catalyst for the dissociation of O_2 and O_2H . Bond dissociation energies calculated by DFT have been show to be in reasonably good agreement with experimentally measured activation energy values [8, 9].

Another issue that needs to be considered in assessing whether copper nano-structures catalyze the reactions at the cathode is whether O_2 or O_2H can bond to the structures. This can be evaluated by calculating the adsorption energy, E_{ade} , given by [10],

$$E_{ade} = E(Cu_N O_2 H) - E(Cu_N) + E(O_2 H)$$
⁽⁵⁾

where E is the total electronic energy of the system at the minimum energy structure. If the result is a negative value, it indicates O_2 or O_2H can form a stable bond with the copper nanostructures.

3. RESULTS

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the calculated minimum energy structure of O_2H , O_2 and O bonded to a Cu_6 nanoparticle. The structures have no imaginary frequencies indicating they are at a minimum on the potential energy surface. The calculated BDE to remove O from O_2 bonded to Cu_6 is 5.5eV which is slightly greater than that needed to dissociate free O_2 . This indicates that Cu_6 would not be a catalyst to dissociate O_2 . It turns out this is also true of the larger Cu nanostructures Cu_8 and Cu_{10} considered.

Figure 1: Minimum energy structure of O₂H bonded to a Cu₆ copper particle.



Figure 2: Minimum energy structure of O₂H bonded to a Cu₆ copper particle.





Figure 3: Minimum energy structure of an O atom bonded to Cu₆.

Thus the remainder of the paper will focus on O_2H dissociation. The calculated BDE to remove OH from O_2H bonded to Cu_6 is 0.21 eV, much smaller than that needed to dissociate free O_2H which is calculated to be 5.0 eV. This indicates that Cu_6 could be an effective catalyst for removing OH from O_2H . The calculated BDEs for removal of OH from O_2H bonded to all the structures considered are given in Table I. The calculated ades for O_2H to bond to all the Cu nanoparticles considered are given in Table II and are negative indicating that O_2H can bond to all the structures.

Particle type	Bond dissociation energy (eV)
Cu ₁₀	0.42
Cu ₈	0.61
Cu ₆	0.21

 $\label{eq:calculated} \begin{array}{c} \mbox{Table 1: Calculated bond dissociation energy to remove OH from O_2H bonded to Cu_N nanoparticles.} \end{array}$

Table 2: Calculated adsorption energy for O₂H to bond to Cu_N nanoparticles.

Particle Type	Adsorption Energy (eV)
Cu ₁₀	-3.5
Cu ₈	-3.7
Cu ₆	-1.9

Figure 4 shows the minimum energy structure of O_2H bonded to Cu_8 . Figure 5 is O bonded to Cu_8 . The structures have no imaginary frequencies. The calculated ade given in Table II is negative indicating that O_2H can bond to Cu_8 . The calculated BDE to remove OH from the structure is 0.61 eV suggesting that Cu_8 could also be a catalyst for O_2H dissociation. Figure 6 shows the calculated minimum energy structure of O_2H bonded to Cu_{10} . Figure 7 is the calculated structure of O bonded to Cu_{10} . The calculated ade given in table II is negative showing that O_2H can bond to Cu_{10} . The calculated BDE to remove OH from Cu_{10} is 0.42eV suggesting that this structure can also be a good catalyst for O_2H dissociation.



Figure 4: Minimum energy structure of O₂H bonded to a Cu₈ nanoparticle

Figure 5: Minimum energy structure of an oxygen atom bonded to Cu₈



Figure 6: Minimum energy structure of O₂H bonded to Cu₁₀



Figure 7: Minimum energy structure of an O atom bonded to Cu₁₀



Stability of Cu_NO₂H structures

It is also necessary that the O_2H bonded to the copper nanostructures be thermally stable over the usable temperature range of a fuel cell which for a polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cell is 50 °C to 100 °C. The calculated BDEs to remove O_2H from the copper nanostructures, given in Table III, are all large enough to suggest the structures are thermally stable over the usable temperature range of PEM fuel cell.

Particle type	Bond dissociation energy (eV)
Cu ₁₀	3.1
Cu ₈	3.2
Cu ₆	2.0

Table 3: Calculated bond dissociation energy to remove O₂H from copper particles

*The bond lengths of the structures shown below will be provided on request.

4. CONCLUSION

The model used here based on bond dissociation energies calculated by DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G* level has been shown to predict catalytic activity in small copper nanoparticles. The minimum energy structure of O, O₂ and O₂H bonded to Cu₆, Cu₈, and Cu₁₀ have been calculated by density functional theory. The bond dissociation energy to remove OH from O₂H bonded to the structures was quite low, less than 0. 61 eV suggesting that these structures could be catalysts for this ORR reaction. However, the structures were not indicated to be catalysts for O₂ dissociation. The calculations indicate that O₂H bonded to the structures should be stable over the operating temperature range of a PEM fuel cell. Interestingly there have been some experimental observations that copper nanostructures can be catalysts for the ORR reaction lending support to the theoretical approach employed [11].

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Article

TOPO-CHEMICAL REACTIVITY STUDY ON MOLECULAR MACHINES

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ABSTRACT

A topological-chemical reactivity studies (using electronegativity, chemical hardness, chemical power, electrophilicity indices and topological indices like Wiener indice) has been applied on calixare-based rotaxane complexes containing tris(N-phenylureido)-calix[6]arene as wheel and a 4,4'-bipyridinium dication's units as axle. The results indicate that the formation of this type of rotaxanic complex needs a preorganisational modifications undertaken by the calixarene to match with its molecular surface the shape of the guest molecule (axle of rotaxane). The obtained chemical binding scenario suggests that we are dealing with a system that remains open until the delayed maximization of the HOMO-LUMO interval, fact that allows the continuous transfer of charge between the components of the rotaxane.

Keywords: Molecular mashines, Rotaxane; Calixarene; Chemical reactivity indices, Wiener indices.

1. INTRODUCTION

Supramolecular chemistry, "the chemistry beyond the molecule" [1-3] is one of the trends of the last decades; a domain that continues to grow in many directions/fields and won two Nobel prize in the last 30 years [1-3]. Nowadays supramolecular chemistry is a highly interdisciplinary field and is composed of many expanding areas with many different

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applications. From this point of view we can mention: mechanically interlocked molecules (MIMs), molecular machines and motors, molecular sensors (chemosensors), etc. [1-10]. In the case of these assemblies like mechanically interlocked molecules, the molecules are not chemically bonded; the molecules interact through intermolecular bonds and/or forces and come together resulting complexes with new and better properties [1-10]. A new concept introduce in the last years in supramolecular interactions is the *mechanical bond* which is the driving force for mechanically interlocked molecules (MIMs) [3,4].

Molecules that are connected as a consequence of their topology are named *Mechanically interlocked molecular architectures*; these interlocked molecules cannot be separated without the breaking of the covalent bonds that comprise the conjoined molecules. [4,10-12]. As mechanically interlocked molecular architecture are known rotaxanes and catenanes. Rotaxanes are composed of one or more axles/threads (the dumbbell components) which is surrounded by one or more rings/wheel (an macrocyclic compound) while catenanes are made of (at least) two interlocked macrocycles (rings) [4,10,13-16]. (see Figure 1). These compounds have many application in different field like chemistry, biology, medicine and in materials research, they can be used as drug delivery agents, catalysts, in molecular electronics as logic molecular switching elements, as molecular shuttles etc [4,10,15-21].





The rotaxanes axle is terminated by bulky end-groups (stoppers) that prevent that these complexes to disassembly [4,10,13-16]. If the bulky groups are too small or they do not exist, the complexes are named as pseudorotaxanes [4,10,14]. The rotaxane ring can made two molecular motions: *rotation motions* – it is rotating around the axis of the dumbbell; or *translation motions* – it is sliding along its axle from one site to another [4,10,13-16].

One of the chemical species that are used to made the dumbbell component of the rotaxanes are bipyridine unit (a dicationic viologen axle) to which are attached alkyl chains of different lengths (symmetrical or not) which may have various bulky end-groups (stoppers) [10,16,22-27]. These 4,4'-bipyridinium dications are an electron accepting units, an electron-poor π -systems that exhibit quite different physico-chemical properties (as evidenced by photophysical, photochemical and electrochemical investigations, quantum chemical calculations [10,16,25-27]) and are widely used in the construction of molecular devices [10,16,22-27] (see Figures 2 and 3).

Calixarenes are now very popular building blocks in many diverse areas as molecular and supramolecular systems like rotaxanes, but also they are used in the synthesis of nanoparticlesbased architectures and catalysis, for their biological applications, etc. [10,16,21,28-34]. All these applications of calixarenes are due to their properties like: high chemical and thermal stability, high melting points, low solubility and toxicity, their synthetic availability and the presence of reactive sides, structures that can relatively be easily modified [10,16,21,28-34].



Figure 2: *Left* - the 4,4'-bipyridinium dication unit - axle in rotaxane complex; *Right* - tris(N-phenylureido)-calix[6]arene - the calixarene wheel in rotaxane complex

Figure 3 Calixarene-based rotaxane 1_4 which contain as wheel tris(N-phenylureido)calix[6]arene and as axle a 4,4'-bipyridinium dication unit



Molecular machine complexes like 1_4 , 2_4 or 3_4 (see Figure 3 and 4) are rotaxane -type systems wich contain calyx[6]arene wheel like tris(N-phenylureido)-calix[6]arene (compound 4) and bipyridinium units as axle (compounds 1, 2, 3), have been extensively researched in the last decades[10,16,22-27,35-44]. For the dicationic rotaxanes like 1_4 , 2_4 or 3_4 , the counteranions can be tosylate, iodine, etc [10,16,22-27]. These complexes are stabilized together through solvophobic effects and several non-covalent interactions like: hydrogen bonds, CH- π and charge-transfer interactions between the π -electron poor bipyridinium unit

and the π -electron rich cavity of the wheel [10,16,22,23,38]. NH-moiety from ureidic groups located on the upper rim of the wheel can make hydrogen bonds with the counteranions (e.g.: tosylate) fact that will lead to the stabilization of the complex [10,16,22,23,38]. It seems that the solvent do not affect the behavior of the central 4,4'-bipyridinium unit in the case of the complex **1_4** (see Figure **3**) [10,16,22,23,39].. This complex have the shortest 4,4'bipyridinium axle wich is deeply encapsulated within the wheel–stoppers ensemble [10,16,22,23,39]. In rotaxanes (or catenanes) molecular mashines based on calix[6]arene, the wheel of rotaxane complex can present many geometries, different conformations: cone, a partial cone, [(1,2), (1,3), (1,4)]-alternate, [(1,2,3), (1,2,4), (1,3,5)]-alternate,. This geometries/conformation of the calix[6]arene depend on the type and number of the substituents situated on upper or lower rim [22-27,31,35-46] and have been very intense investigated in the last years (the synthesis, co-conformational switching, atropoisomerism, their properties (e.g. redox properties), etc.) [22-27,31,40-46].

Figure 4: Structures of the three 4,4'-bipyridinium dication unit - axle in rotaxane complex (**1**, **2**, **3**) and the tris(N-phenylureido)-calix[6]arene (**4**) - the calixarene wheel in rotaxane complex



So far, in the literature can be found studies that reveal the mechanism of chemicalbiological interaction between the biological receptor and the chemical ligand using the chemical reactivity indicators [10,47,48] and topological relation between chemical structure and biological activity [49]. Referring to calixarenes, rotaxane and molecular machines it seems that are missing topological-chemical reactivity studies (such as those who are using electronegativity, chemical hardness, chemical power, electrophilicity indices and topological indices like Wiener indice).

2. Method

2.1. Theoretical Model

The molecular orbitals HOMO and LUMO, provides basic chemical reactivity indices. The molecular structure include the key pathway to chemical reactivity through their HOMO and LUMO. This chemical reactivity indices combine with their associated chemical principles can be interpreted in QSAR models and not only [10,47,48,50]. This basic chemical reactivity indices are electronegativity (χ), chemical hardness (η), chemical power index (π), electrophilicity (ω) which are defined:

• electronegativity (χ) is negative of the chemical potential [10,47,51-54], through the derivation of the total energy with respect of the total number of electrons, reducing in the finite/central difference approximation to the celebrated Mulliken formula [10,47,55]:

$$\chi \equiv -\mu \equiv -\left(\frac{\partial E_N}{\partial N}\right)_{V(r)} \cong -\frac{E_{LUMO} + E_{HOMO}}{2} \tag{1}$$

• chemical hardness (η) is the negative variation of electronegativity with respect of the total electrons in the system [10,47,56-59], also approximates in the finite difference with HOMO-LUMO information simply as [10,47,60]:

$$\eta = -\chi \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial \chi}{\partial N} \right)_{V(\mathbf{r})} \equiv \left(\frac{\partial^2 E_N}{\partial N^2} \right)_{V(\mathbf{r})} \cong \frac{E_{LUMO} - E_{HOMO}}{2}$$
(2)

• chemical power index (π) is the half ratio of electronegativity-to-chemical hardness that models the electronic charges exchanged through the adducts in minimizing the resulting bonded complex electronegativity [10,47,50]:

$$\pi = \frac{\lambda}{2\eta} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\chi_A}{\eta_B} = \frac{1}{2} \tan(\theta_A) \cong -\Delta N_A \tag{3}$$

 electrophilicity (ω) is the coupling of chemical power index with electronegativity to provide the energetic information of activation towards charge tunneling of the potential barrier between adducts [10,47]:

$$\omega = \chi \times \pi = \frac{\chi^2}{2\eta} \tag{4}$$

Chemical principles of this chemical reactivity indices are [10,47,48]:

- Minimum electronegativity principle eqs. (5)
- Maximum hardness principle eqs. (6)
- Minimum chemical power index principle eqs. (7)
- Minimum electrophilicity principle (double minimum character) eqs. (8)

$$\delta \chi \le 0 \tag{5}$$

$$\delta\eta \ge 0 \tag{6}$$

$$\delta \pi \le 0 \tag{7}$$

 $\delta\omega \le 0$ (8) The hierarchy for chemical binding scenario [10,61] is leaving with the conducted hierarchy

eqs. (9) [10,47,48,61,62]:

$$\chi \rightarrow \eta \rightarrow \pi \rightarrow \omega \tag{9}$$

Namely a chemical reaction/interaction is triggered by electronegativity (its difference) and its minimizing principle, followed by chemical hardness maximization of the interacting frontier orbitals implying maximum energy in charge exchange (parallel spins) followed by minimum activation by adducts' potential barrier tunneling (spin pairing) [10,47,48,61,62]. However, when is about a chemical interaction through non-covalent bonding and/or mechanical bonding, such chemical hierarchy is may lead with various hierarchical configurations [10,47,48].

Topological indices like *Wiener index W* have been successfully applied to emphasize *the stability of the chemical structure* [49,63-66]. The *Wiener index W* of the whole chemical graph G is the sum of the *Wiener-weights* w_v [49,63-66]:

$$W = \sum_{\nu=1}^{N} w_{\nu} \tag{10}$$

In the chemical graph G with N nodes and B bonds, the *chemical distance* d_{vu} is merely the number of bonds connecting, along the shortest path, any pairs of atoms in the system, namely the two nodes v and u, with $d_{vv}=0$ by definition [49,63-66]. With the name Wienerweight w_v of the node v we call the the half-summation of the minimum distances d_{uv} between all pairs of G(N) vertices, meaning the invariant [49,63-66]:

$$w_{v} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{u=1}^{N} d_{uv}, d_{vv} = 0, u, v = 1, 2, ..., N$$
(11)

The Wiener-weight w_v it is inversely proportional to the *reactivity* of the node and to the *compactness* of the graph. *The Wiener index W* of the whole graph is just the sum of the Wiener-weights eqs. (10) [49,63-66]. Also the *Wiener-weight* w_v allows the direct topological measure of the topological roundness of the graph: *the topological efficiency index* ρ and the *extreme topological efficiency index* ρ^E [49,63-66]:

$$\rho = \frac{WN}{\underline{W}} \tag{12}$$

$$\rho^{E} = \frac{\overline{w}}{\underline{w}}$$
(13)

in which $\underline{w} = \min\{w_v\}$ and $\overline{w} = \max\{w_v\}$.

It is noticeable that the most compactly-embedde vertices of G (the so-called *minimal* vertices or minimal nodes) have Wiener-weight w_v equal to \underline{W} and also that the smallest is the topological efficiency index, the highest is the stability of the chemical structure under examination eqs. (14), eqs. (15) [49,63-66].

$$\rho \ge 1$$
 (14)

$$\rho^{\rm E} \ge 1 \tag{15}$$

PRECOMPLEX	HOMOprecomplex	LUMOprecomplex	χ _{precomplex} (eV)	η _{precomplex} (eV)	$\pi_{ ext{precomplex}}$	ω _{precomplex} (eV)	Etotal _{precomplex} (kcal/mol)
1:4	110.8641	117.7821	-114.3231	3.459	-16.52545533	1889.241283	3702346.613
2:4	82.58545	84.71627	-83.65086	1.06541	-39.25759097	3283.931247	3621720.058
3:4	-144.966	-143.0296	143.9978	0.9682	74.36366453	10708.20409	3477598.596
COMPLEX	HOMO _{complex}	LUMO _{complex}	χ _{complex} (eV)	η _{complex} (eV)	$\pi_{ ext{complex}}$	ω _{complex} (eV)	Etotal _{complex} (kcal/mol)
1_4	-5.43268	-5.06872	5.2507	0.181979	14.42666	75.75009	3837167.691
2_4	32.81105	33.90942	-33.360235	0.549185	-30.37249288	1013.2335	3870660.029
3_4	-88.8077	-87.3996	88.10365	0.704085	62.56606	5512.298	4045342.867
∆=Complex -Precomplex	AHOMO _{complex-precomplex}	ALUMO _{complex-precomplex}	Δχ _{complex-precomplex} (eV)	$\Delta\eta_{\text{complex-precomplex}}$ (eV)	$\Delta \pi_{\text{complex-precomplex}}$	Δω _{complex-precomplex} (eV)	ΔEtotal _{complex-precomplex} (kcal/mol
Case 1_4	-116.296779	-122.850821	119.5738	-3.277021	30.95211995	-1813.491195	134821.0774
Case 2_4	-49.7744	-50.80685	50.290625	-0.516225	8.885098099	-2270.697747	248939.9723
Case 3_4	56.15827	55.63004	-55.894155	-0.264115	-11.79760717	-5195.906385	567744.2707

Table 1. Total energy and the parameters of chemical reactivity calculated for rotaxanes 1_4 , 2_4 , 3_4 under study, which are in the precomplex stage as well as complexes; Δ – is the differences between complex and precomplex state.

2.2. Computational Model

For our study we choose the molecular mashine complexes **1_4**, **2_4**, **3_4** formed from the 4,4'-bipyridinium dication unit **1**, **2** and **3** and the wheel of rotaxane made of calyx[6]arene with three N-phenylureido groups on the upper rim of the wheel (**4**) (see Figure 3 and 4) [22,23,39].

We have calculated the chemical reactivity parameters (electronegativity (χ), chemical hardness (η), chemical power index (π), electrophilicity (ω)) for the two stages of the rotaxane molecular machine: precomplexes (**1:4, 2:4, 3:4**) and rotaxane molecular complexes (**1_4, 2_4, 3_4**). The values of HOMO, LUMO orbitals energies are calculated using the semiempirical method (AM1) (Polak-Ribiere conjugate gradient algorithm and single point geometry optimization) as provided by Hyperchem 7.01 [67], while the values of chemical reactivity parameters were calculated using those for HOMO and LUMO and Eqs. (1), (2), (3), and (4) (see Table 1). For all stages (precomplex and complex) also was calculated the total energy using the same semiempirical method (AM1) and also was calculated the difference between the complex and precomplex stage. All the results are summarized in Table 1.

The molecular structures of calix[6]arenes complexes with three kinds of guest, molecular complexes 1_4 , 2_4 , 3_4 in the partial cone conformation have been herewith studied by ab-initio and topological methods (see Table 2). Energy calculations have been performed to gain more insight on the stabilizing effects coming by the host-guest interactions.

Rotaxane complex	W	ρ	ρ ^e	Wexp
1_4	13719	1.322313	1.703614	35.92726
2_4	20786	1.32092	1.701068	39.41446
3_4	40968	1.324111	1.716484	46.39794

Table 2. Wiener index W, the topological efficiency index ρ and the extreme topological efficiency index ρ^E for the complexes in work

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

We performed the correlation between the total energy, the chemical reactivity indices and the Wiener indices for the rotaxane molecular complexes (1_4, 2_4, 3_4), and for the Δ -stage (the difference between the complex and precomplex stage), the results being included in Table 3.



Table 3: Correlation between the energy, the chemical reactivity indices and the Wiener indices for the rotaxane molecular complexes (1_4, 2_4, 3_4), and also for the Δ -stage (the difference between the complex and precomplex stage)



















Analyzing the results **from the chemical reactivity indices point of view** (see Table 3) it can be observed the following:

- HOMO_{complex}, LUMO_{complex} have approximately the **same** degree of correlation R^2 , with W respectively W_{exp} . Also the same degree of correlation have Δ HOMO, Δ LUMO with W respectively W_{exp} .
- For Δ HOMO the degree of correlation R^2 with W respectively, W_{exp} increases comparavetely with HOMO_{complex}. The same situation is also for Δ LUMO comparavetely with LUMO_{complex}:
 - R^2 : HOMO_{complex} ~ LUMO_{complex} for W respectively W_{exp}
 - R^2 : $\Delta HOMO \approx \Delta LUMO$ W for respectively W_{exp}
 - R^2 : Δ HOMO>HOMO_{complex} for W respectively W_{exp}
 - R^2 : Δ LUMO> LUMO_{complex} for W respectively W_{exp}.
- Etotal_{complex} and Δ Etotal have approximately the **same** degree of correlation R² with W respectively W_{exp},
- In case of corelation between $\text{Etotal}_{\text{complex}}$ respectively ΔEtotal with ρ and ρ^{E} , degree of correlation R^{2} it is **better** in bouth cases for ρ^{E} ; when we compare $\text{Etotal}_{\text{complex}}$ with ΔEtotal degree of correlation R^{2} it is **better** for $\text{Etotal}_{\text{complex}}$.
 - $R^2: \rho^E > \rho$ for. Etotal_{complex} respectively Δ Etotal
 - \mathbf{R}^2 : Etotal_{complex} > Δ Etotal for $\boldsymbol{\rho}^{\mathbf{E}}$ si $\boldsymbol{\rho}$
- In case of corelation between $Etotal_{complex}$ respectively $\Delta Etotal$ with χ , $\Delta \chi$, η , respectively $\Delta \eta$ comparing the degree of correlation R^2 , it is observed that in the case of $\Delta Etotal$ correlation with $\Delta \chi$ the degree of correlation is extremely **good**, the entire comparation can be summarized as following:

R ² for Etotal _{complex}	$\chi_{complex} > \eta$	$\Delta \chi > \Delta \eta$	$\Delta \chi > \chi_{complex}$	$\Delta \eta > \eta_{complex}$
R^2 for ΔE total	$\eta > \chi_{complex}$	$\Delta \chi > \Delta \eta$	$\Delta \chi > \chi_{complex}$	$\Delta \eta > \eta_{complex}$
R^2 for λ	$Etotal_{complex} > \Delta Etotal$			
R^2 for η	$\Delta Etotal > Etotal_{complex}$			
R^2 for $\Delta\lambda$	$\Delta E total > E total_{complex}$			
R^2 for $\Delta\eta$	$\Delta E total > E total_{complex}$			

Observing the degree of correlation \mathbb{R}^2 between ρ and ρ^E with the chemical reactivity indices, it reveals that in the case of the **stable** complex of molecular mashines type / rotaxane type as against of hierarchy *for chemical binding scenario* [10,47,48,61,62]

$$\chi \rightarrow \eta \rightarrow \pi \rightarrow \omega$$

(9)

the hierarchy is as follows:

The case of the stable complex of	$\pi \rightarrow$	$\chi \rightarrow$	$\omega \rightarrow$	η
molecular mashines type /				
rotaxane type				
R^2 for ρ	0.99725948	0.98211073	0.66949673	0.12816441
	$\chi \rightarrow$	$\omega \rightarrow$	$\pi \rightarrow$	η
R^2 for ρ^E	0.97410766	0.90300490	0.88361651	0.377745992

and for difference (Δ) of chemical reactivity indices, in the case of the **kinetic** complex of molecular mashines type / rotaxane type the hierarchy is as follows:

The case of the kinetic complex of	$\Delta \omega \rightarrow$	$\Delta \chi \rightarrow$	$\Delta\pi \rightarrow$	Δη
molecular mashines type /				
rotaxane type				
R^2 for ρ	0.70390454	0.43235731	0.29852232	0.02192217
R^2 for ρ^E	0.92383715	0.72010442	0.58793478	0.18480786

From the topological point of view:

These molecular structures of calix[6]arenes complexes 1_4 , 2_4 , 3_4 with three kinds of guest molecules, 4,4'-bipyridinium dications, compounds 1, 2, 3, and the host tris(N-phenylureido)-calix[6]arene - the calixarene wheel in rotaxane complex compound 4 have been herewith studied by ab-initio and topological methods. Energy calculations have been performed to gain more insight on the stabilizing effects coming by the host-guest interactions.

The simulation of the total potential energy indicates that the contribution which comes from the electrostatic polarization induced by the electric field of the guest gives a net stabilizing contribution whose values are listed in Table 4 below. Remarkably, the structural features of the present calix[6]arene derivatives confirm the validity of the "preorganization" principle early reported in literature that relies on appropriate variations of the molecular geometry of the ligands. The principle attributes an important role to the carbon/oxygen-chains of the host molecule which undertake specific the rearrangements to optimize the steric interface near the guest molecules. The preorganization mechanisms may vary, and may take place on different timescale, transforming the partial cone of the calix[6] arene to prepare it to form the new complexes 1_4, 2_4, 3_4. Previous studies have determined that in these complexes the polar cage around the guest specie (molecules or even single cations) has normally the role of defining the position of the guest itself in respect to the barycentre of the interacting regions in the host, regions that quite often coincide with the volumes occupied by the nearest neighbor oxygens. In the present case in fact one may observe that the most significant structural deformations which preorganize the molecular structure of the polar cage to allow the formation of the complexes still consist in a geometrical distortion of the chains containing the oxygen atoms, see Figure 5. In these chains, topology attributes the highest the $w_i=1006$ (highest topo-reactivity) to the three terminal carbon atoms C37,C75,C114. Each chain starts form with an oxygen atom that functions like a sort of atomic hinge between the calixarene cone and the chain (Figure 5). Vice versa, the carbon pairs C14/C16, C52/C54, represent the most stable atoms in the core region of the topological structure of the ligand. The graphical representation of the complex **1_4** evidences large deformations in the structure of its ligand 4 that shows an almost flattened shape having lost the characteristics conic-shape. This flat structure, evidenced in **Figure 5**, is the proof of the massive preorganisational modifications undertaken by the calixarene to match with its molecular surface the shape of the guest molecule.

Figure 5: View of complex **1_4**. The hydrogen-deprived structure of the ligand is made by 117 non-hydrogen atoms with three dandling chains of sp³ carbons ending with the highest topo-reactive atoms C37,C75,C114. The six atoms with minimum w_i are also represented. The structure of the ligand **4** shows a large distortion of the carbon chains, almost losing the characteristics calixarene cone-shape. The oxygen atoms at the basis of each chain work like atomic hinges and allowing the fluctuation of the chains.



Regarding the relative stability of the three complexes, the simulations of the electronic properties performed in the present paper by quantum computational method are able to rank their relative electronic stability and the one of the preorganised ligand **1**, **2**, **3** or **4**. It is known from long time [68] that, by assuming the harmonic approximation for the entire crown ether chain, it is possible to estimate for each ligands the energy cost involved in the global deformations in the host-guest complexation process.

In agreement with this finding, the binding studies have shown that 1_4 is indeed the most efficient host-guest complex of the series. The energy values reported in Table 4 have been derived by the mean of original ab-initio computations and they show that ligand of the molecule 3_4 has the most preorganized structure, followed by 2_4 and 3_4 . The last derivative was found to be the least efficient of the remaining stereoisomers, thus indicating that the energy effects resulting by the oriented three carbon chains decrease the stability of the complex.

Another question that present studies pose it is why the ligands in the "partial cone and not those in the alternative conformations" prefer to bind the guest molecule in this series of calix[6]arenes complexes. To this extent, relevant non-bonding interactions are normally to be considered in order to simulate correctly the structural evolutions of the complex. Topological modelling provides a fast and useful discrimination among these calixarene complexes 1_4 , 2_4 , 3_4 , the best candidate being the 2_4 system in which the total topological efficiency gets benefited by the complexation with the guest molecule 2, the rotaxane 2_4 , Table 4 gives a clear overview of the current findings by listing the results of booth simulations, energetical and topological. The starred invariant indicates the 2_4 , as the one with the maximised topological efficiency.

Rotaxane complex	Etotal _{precomplex} (kcal/mol)	Etotal _{complex} (kcal/mol)	Complex topological efficiency (ρ/ρ*)		
1_4	3702346.613	3837167.691	1,0005		
2_4	3621720.058	3870660.029	<u>1</u>		
3_4	3477598.596	4045342.867	1,0012		

Table 4: Energetic and topological parameters are reported for the host-guest complexes;

 in both cases the most stable systems are labelled by underscored values.

The partial cone structure of the calix[6]arene derivatives seems to represent the best compromise between the stabilizing host-guest interaction and steric (repulsive) contributions. The stability of the 2_4 complex results moreover enhanced by considerations that come from the pure topology of that molecular system. In the present work we have found (see Table 4) the basal correlations between the stability/achievability of the calix[6]arene derivatives and the topological efficiency that represents a measure of a long-range extra symmetry aiming to homogenise the contribution to the Wiener index of every atoms to the one coming from the minimal vertices. The correlation between energetical parameters and topological efficiency has been also listed in the columns tabled and explained. Both these quantities have to be considered for predicting achievable calix[6]arene based structures.

The Wiener index is often used in drug screening because it correlates very well with the physico-chemical characteristics of the compounds (e.g. density, surface tension, van der Waals surface, etc.) but also to predict binding energy in a complex protein-ligand type [69,70]. Rotaxanes are also complexes but of molecular machines type, machines which execute a certain type of movement, movement which implies an exchange of energy between the parts of the complex.

As can be seen both the Etotal_{complex} and the difference, Δ Etotal (Etotal_{complex} -Etotal_{precomplex}) correlates very well with the Wiener index, *W*, which suggests a close connection between the total energy of the rotaxanic complex and the compaction of the complex (stabilization degree). The correlation with Δ Etotal being better suggests that at the transition from the precomplex stage to the complex stage, there is a stabilization between the two molecules of the complex due to the interactions and/or the intermolecular forces that are exerted between the two components of the rotaxanic complex, this being more compacted, more stable compared to the precomplex stage. This connection between the stability of the complex and its energy is also reinforced by the fact that Etotal_{complex} and Δ Etotal correlate very well with the extreme topological efficiency index ρ^{E} , which is also related to the stability of the complex [71]. The started invariant indicates **2_4**, as the one with the maximized topological efficiency.

From the correlation between the energy (Etotal_{complex}, Δ Etotal) and the chemical reactivity indices (γ , η , π , ω) respectively chemical reactivity indices and the topological indices (ρ , ρ^{E}) it can be observed that $Etotal_{complex}$ and $\Delta Etotal$ of the rotaxanic molecular complexes with the difference of electronegativity ($\Delta \chi$) between the complex state and the precomplex state, i.e. with the tendency of the system to transfer electrons. On the second place is the correlation with $\chi_{complex}$, also related with the charge transfer in the rotaxanic complex and the alignment of the middy level of the HOMO-LUMO energy reactivity interval between the two components of rotaxane. It follows correlation with chemical hardness ($\eta_{complex}$), an index that with its maximization principle, expresses the charge transfer during a binding, a transfer that continues until the complex achieves its maximum stability by maximizing the HOMO-LUMO gap so that the next electronic transitions are prevente. For the transition from precomplex to complex stage, it is important the exchange of electrons between the components of rotaxane, respectively the delay of the moment of overcoming the HOMO-LUMO reactivity gap which prevents the final stabilization of rotaxane. This is also confirmed by the fact that $\eta_{complex}$ and $\Delta\eta$ correlate very weakly with ρ , $\rho^{\rm E}$ - topological efficiency indices (which indicate topological stability), the delayed maximization of the HOMO-LUMO gap allows continuous load transfer of electrons between the axle and the wheel of the rotaxane, fact that will would allow the execution of the rotation movement.

In the case of the correlations of chemical reactivity indices with ρ , ρ^{E} the best results were obtained for: $\chi_{complex}$, $\pi_{complex}$, $\Delta \omega$. Chemical power and electronegativity involves the transfer of electrons and the alignment of HOMO-LUMO median levels in the complex, these being involve in the topological stabilization of the rotaxanic complex; the difference in electrophilicity highlights the importance of breaking the energy barrier by the ondulatory charge transfer at the transition from the precomplex to the complex stage. This it also can be observe from the hierarchy for *chemical binding scenario* in the case of the **kinetic** complex ($\Delta \omega \rightarrow \Delta \chi \rightarrow \Delta \pi \rightarrow \Delta \eta$), hierarchy realized according to topological efficiency indices (topological stability of the rotaxanic complex). The stabilization of the **kinetic** complex is initiate by the electron ondulatory transfer that crosses the energy barrier between the wheel and the axle of rotaxane. This step is followed by the minimization of the difference of the median levels of the HOMO-LUMO energy reactivity interval between the axle and the wheel, followed by chemical power difference ($\Delta \pi$) – the transfer of the remaining electron. Final step in this hierarchy is the $\Delta \eta$, variation of chemical hardness, the extension of the HOMO-LUMO interval, the **kinetic** complex remains open for the charge transfer.

In the case of the **stable** complex of molecular machines type / rotaxane type the hierarchy for *chemical binding scenario* is different for the two considerated cases ρ and ρ^{E} ; for ρ is $\pi \rightarrow \chi \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow \eta$, respectively for ρ^{E} is $\chi \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow \pi \rightarrow \eta$. In both cases results a *chemical binding scenario* in which chemical reactivity indices are mixed (first generation: χ , η ; second generation: π , ω). In the first case scenario begin with chemical power (π), namely the charge transfer without changing spin, followed by alignment of the middy level of the HOMO-LUMO energy reactivity interval between the two components of rotaxane. In the second case the stabilization of the complex is triggered by electronegativity (χ) and its principle of equalization of the median levels of the energy reactivity interval HOMO-LUMO, continues with one of the indices of the mixed reactivity: the electrophilicity (ω), namely the charge tunneling between the two components of the molecular machine. In both cases the hierarchy is ending with chemical hardness (η) maximizing the HOMO-LUMO energy gap. This particular behavior suggests that we are dealing with a system that remains open until the delayed maximization of the HOMO-LUMO interval, fact that allows the continuous transfer of charge between the components of the rotaxane. This continuous transfer is also necessary in order to be able to perform a translational movement along the axle (or rotating around) of these complexes of molecular machines type, this motion implying a continuous charge transfer between the wheel and axle of the rotaxanic complex.

4. CONCLUSION

On calixare-based rotaxane complexes containing tris(N-phenylureido)-calix[6]arene as wheel and a 4,4'-bipyridinium dication's units as axle we applied topological-chemical reactivity studies (using electronegativity, chemical hardness, chemical power, electrophilicity indices and topological indices like Wiener indice). The results indicate that the most significant structural deformations, which preorganize the molecular structure of the polar cage to allow the formation of the complexes, consist in a geometrical distortion of the chains containing the oxygen atoms. Also it shows a massive preorganisational modifications undertaken by the calixarene to match with its molecular surface the shape of the guest molecule. The binding studies have revealed the most efficient host-guest complex of the serie. The starred invariant indicates the 2_4 , as the one with the maximized topological efficiency. The partial cone structure of the calix[6]arene derivatives seems to represent the best compromise between the stabilizing host-guest interaction and steric (repulsive) contributions. The stability of the 2_4 -complex results moreover enhanced by considerations that come from the pure topology of that molecular system.

From the very good correlation between energies and Wiener index, W, it can be concluded that at the transition from the precomplex stage to the complex stage, there is a stabilization between the two molecules of the complex due to the interactions and/or the intermolecular forces that are exerted between the two components of the rotaxanic complex, this being more compacted, more stable compared to the precomplex stage. From the correlation between the energy (Etotal_{complex}, Δ Etotal) and the chemical reactivity we conclude that for the transition from precomplex to complex stage, it is important the exchange of electrons between the components of rotaxane, respectively the delay of the moment of overcoming the HOMO-LUMO reactivity gap which prevents the final stabilization of rotaxane.

From the correlations of chemical reactivity indices with ρ , ρ^E we obtained the hierarchies for *chemical binding scenario* for the **kinetic** complex and the **stable** complex. It can be observed that all these hierarchies starts with the charge transfer without changing spin or charge tunneling followed by alignment of the middy levels of the HOMO-LUMO energy reactivity interval between the two components of rotaxane. All this hierarchies are ending with chemical hardness (η), namely the maximization the HOMO-LUMO energy gap. This behavior indicate that we are dealing with a system that remains open until the delayed maximization of the HOMO-LUMO interval, fact that allows the continuous transfer of charge between the components of the rotaxane. This delayed maximization may be necessary in order to be able to perform a translational movement along the axle (or rotating around) of these complexes of molecular machines type.

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Article

CHEMOMETRICS STUDY OF GERMS PLANT FOR DETERMINING ANTICANCER ACTIVITY

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ABSTRACT

This project started from the premise that in nature, there are substances capable of preventing the occurrence of cancer, or, at least keeping it in its early stages, by using plant germs. Germs were obtained from Biovita germs machine, like: watercress, unshelled and genetically modified soybeans, hyssop, sage, fennel, amaranth, broccoli, radish, alfalfa, cumin, caraway, rye, wheat, buckwheat, and the next step was to extract the substances from these germs, and analyzed by LS/MS, for the identification of polyphenolic compounds, which are antioxidants, which play a very important role in the prevention of cancer, mainly alpha-linolenic acid, the main source of omega 3 fatty acids, essential for the human body. The process was carried out in several stages, namely: the germination period was 4-5 days, followed by maceration in hydroalcoholic solution with 99% ethyl alcohol, then the decoction and percolation in the system provided with separating funnel, filter and Erlenmayer glass. The antioxidant activity was determined using spectrophotometry (Tecan SunriseTM – A Reliable Absorbance Reader), using as a calibration sample, ascorbic acid, the absorbance of which was

already known from the literature data, namely 600 nm. The presence of riboflavin, at an absorbance of 440 nm, allantoin, 517 nm, quercetin, at an absorbance of 385 nm, choline, at 570 nm, and thiamine at an absorbance of 520 nm, was identified. The calibration curve was obtained based on the values of the concentrations used and the absorbance obtained. The scavering was determined, on the basis of which the antioxidant activity was identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cancer is characterized by the rapid growth of abnormal cells and is often linked to oxidative stress. [1] Broccoli is loaded with compounds that are believed to protect against cancer. [2]

Observational studies suggest that the consumption of cruciferous vegetables, including broccoli, is linked to a reduced risk of many cancers, including lung, colorectal, breast, prostate, pancreatic, and gastric cancers [3]. A unique family of plant compounds called isothiocyanates sets cruciferous vegetables apart from other veggies. Studies suggest that isothiocyanates affect liver enzymes, reduce oxidative stress, decrease inflammation, stimulate your immune system, and combat the development and growth of cancer. [4] The main isothiocyanate in broccoli, sulforaphane, acts against the formation of cancer at the molecular level by reducing oxidative stress .[5] Sulforaphane occurs at 20–100 times higher amounts in young broccoli sprouts than in full-grown heads of this vegetable [6]. Though broccoli supplements are also available, they may not contribute an equivalent amount of isothiocyanates and thus may not give the same health benefits as eating whole, fresh broccoli [7].

Bile acids are formed in your liver, stored in your gallbladder, and released into your digestive system whenever you eat fat. [8] Afterward, the bile acids are reabsorbed into your bloodstream and used again. Substances in broccoli bind with bile acids in your gut, increasing their excretion and preventing them from being reused. [9]

This results in the synthesis of new bile acids from cholesterol, reducing total levels of this marker in your body. [10]

Two of the main carotenoids in broccoli, lutein and zeaxanthin, are associated with a decreased risk of age-related eye disorders.[11]Vitamin A deficiency may cause night blindness, which can be reversed with improved vitamin A status. [12]

Broccoli contains beta carotene, which your body converts into vitamin A.

This vegetable may thus boost eyesight in individuals with a low vitamin A intake. [13]

Broccoli is considered a goitrogen, which means that high amounts may harm the thyroid gland in sensitive individuals. Cooking this vegetable on high heat can reduce these effects [14]

Individuals taking the blood thinner warfarin should consult with their healthcare practitioner before increasing their broccoli intake because its high vitamin K1 content may interact with this medication. [15]

All plants and animals produce squalene as a biochemical intermediate, including humans. It occurs in high concentrations in the stomach oil of birds in the order Procellariiformes.[16] Squalene is a natural organic compound originally obtained for commercial purposes primarily from shark liver oil (hence its name, as *Squalus* is a genus of sharks), although plant sources (primarily vegetable oils) are now used as well, including amaranth seed, rice bran, wheat germ, and olives. Yeast cells have been genetically engineered to produce commercially useful quantities of "synthetic" squalane. [17]

Squalene is a hydrocarbon and a triterpene, and is a precursor for synthesis of all plant and animal sterols, including cholesterol and steroid hormones in the human body.[18]

Phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor (PMT) [19] is a rare distinctive mesenchymal neoplasm with heterogeneous but recognizable histologic appearances. It frequently elicits a clinical paraneoplastic syndrome consisting of hypophosphatemic hyperphosphaturic osteomalacia due to increased secretion of FGF23 [20]. The patients typically present with gradual muscular weakness, bone pain, and pathologic fractures. The diagnosis is commonly delayed for years due to the non-specific nature of these symptoms, lack of clinical suspicion, failure to include serum phosphorus levels in routine blood chemistry testing, and difficulty in identifying the responsible tumor. Additionally, these tumors are often missed histologically because of their rarity and morphologic overlap with other mesenchymal neoplasms. [21] Complete excision of the tumor is crucial as it typically resulted in the resolution of the osteomalacia, clinical symptoms, and laboratory abnormalities. Observational studies suggest that the consumption of cruciferous vegetables, including broccoli, is linked to a reduced risk of many cancers, including lung, colorectal, breast, prostate, pancreatic, and gastric cancers [3]. A unique family of plant compounds called isothiocyanates sets cruciferous vegetables apart from other veggies. Studies suggest that isothiocyanates affect liver enzymes, reduce oxidative stress, decrease inflammation, stimulate your immune system, and combat the development and growth of cancer.

2. METHOD

2.1. THEORETICAL MODEL

This method was developed in Oncogen laboratory, for determining antioxidant activity by the bases of the absorbance values, obtained by the UV-VIS analysis. It was used the ethanol extract for *in vitro* antioxidant activities and quantitative determination of bio-active compounds, and was made after next steps:

- 1. The germination of the seeds / Germination
- 2. Physical Purity
- 3. The composition of botanical
- 4. Humidity
- 5. Molecular weight
- 6. Viability
- 7. The germination energy
- 8. The control surfaces taken

2.2. Experimental Method/Model

This method is based by the Standard Protocol, from that have used:

2.2.1. Chemicals and basic tools:

2.2.1.1.Ethanol 99,0%

2.2.1.2.Na2SO4, anhidrous

2.2.1.3. Aluminium oxide with granulation for cromatography

2.2.1.4.DSS

2.2.1.5.NaOH sol.

2.2.1.6.HCl sol.

2.2.1.7.ddH2O

2.2.1.8.DMSO

2.2.1.9.Weighing material

2.2.1.10.Filter material

2.2.1.11.Pasteur pipettes

2.3. Equipment

2.3.1. Digital balance

2.3.2. pHmeter

2.3.3. Sonicator

2.3.4. Vortex

2.3.5. Heating source

2.3.6. Graduated 10ml cylinder

2.3.7. Bath water

2.3.8. Liquid column of cromatography

2.3.9. A solvent in which the sample is very soluble (i.e.: carbon tetrachloride, deuterated methanol, DMSO, or ethanol etc.). It is prudent to try this out first with ordinary methanol, DMSO etc. to have an idea about the relative volumes required before using the deuterated solvents).

The pH can also be adjusted up or down with NaOH or HCL to aid dissolution.

Add about 3ml of the sonicate, vortex or shake lightly to dissolve sample (avoid frothing). **Glassware**

- Molding conical plug

- Pipetts graduated of glass by different capacities

- glass filter

- 50ml cylindrical

-Coloumns of glass chromatography with a length of about 100 mm, an inner diameter of about 10 mm, cock provided at the inner side and having the lower end tapered to a diameter of mm.

-Capsuls porcelain, 50 ml.

-Germinater BIOVITA G1

-Analytical balance

-Stirrer

-Sonicator or Shaker

2.4. Measurement Materials

-site mesh size 2 mm

-Map medium porosity filter

- Porcelain pestle

-Thermometer

-Glass wool

3. APPLICATION

In the first step it was checks the Material Safety Data Sheet for the compounds. From the literature (THE MERCK INDEX), it was check the standard protocol of this method in vitro. Next it was check the qualitative and quantitative characterization of the seeds, that were puts on the BIOVITA germinator.

The obtain germs and the steps of the process, was showed in the next figures:



FIGUREs 1-9. Types of germs plant from different type of beans,like: Schinduf;Fennel; Sage; Hyssop; Kresse ; Soy; Chia.

It was check the temperature, that can also be adjusted to aid the rapid dissolution of sparingly soluble solutes.

After 4-5 days of the germination, it was continuos with the decoction and percolation process of the obtained germs.

The next step it was to pursued the measurement of the concentration of the desired hydrocarbons compounds absorbed by the plant. Adjust the pH back to 7.0 (6.8 - 7.2) and make total volume to 4.0 ml in the graduated tube, by identification the negative effects. There will be pursued an comparison of the efficiency of desired eight types of plants used, tested, namely (kresse, hyssop, sage,soybean,fennel,chia, amaranthus,schinduf).

3.1. Results

The antioxidant activity was determinated by the absorbance values. The values of the measurement values of the molar concentration (mg/mL), were showed in the next table.

Table1. The measurement values of the molar concentration of the kresse germs; hyssop germs; sage germs; soy germs; amaranthus germs; chia germs; fennel germs and schinduf germs. The absorbance obtained values are showed in this table.

Type of	Molar Concentration (mg/mL)									Absorbance (nm)			
plant of										Name of			
beans											Reference	Antioxida substance present in germs	ant : i
Kresse	0.1179	0.05	0.1332	0.0567	0.0396	0.0464	0.1431	0.0518	0.1406	0.0449	Ascorbic	Quercetine	385
Hyssop	0.049	0.051	0.0565	0.0464	0.0506	0.0458	0.0464	0.0461	0.0461	0.0486	acid 518	Hysopine	280
Sage	0.047	0.0463	0.0451	0.047	0.0473	0.0505	0.0431	0.0472	0.0485	0.048		Hystamine	506
Soy	0.0452	0.9608	0.0499	0.7696	0.0495	0.3669	0.0456	0.4933	0.046	0.5299		Flavin	440
Amaranthus	0.2442	0.2102	0.1971	0.1925	0.285	0.1416	0.2051	0.2194	0.2396	0.2536		Choline	570
Chia	0.2485	0.3316	0.3289	0.3685	0.3139	0.3192	0.3484	0.2498	0.2918	0.2519		Cyannine	694
Fennel	0.2971	0.3109	0.2432	0.3466	0.2284	0.2669	0.2597	0.2835	0.2379	0.2556		Tanin	760
Schinduf	0.1068	0.1159	0.1115	0.1114	0.1046	0.1202	0.0925	0.0964	0.0734	0.0932		Quercetine	385

3.2. Discussion

The scavering was calculated by the plot of the concentration values, by the obtained absorbance values (nm). The next figures are:

1. The plot of the creson(kresse) concentration, besides of the absorbance values (Figure 10);

2. The plot of the hyssop concentration, besides of the absorbance values (Figure 11);

3. The plot of the sage concentration, besides of the absorbance values (Figure 12).

4. The plot of the soy concentration/ by absorbance values by the absorbance values (Figure 13).



Figure 10. The plot of the $c_{creson}(kresse)$ concentration



Figure11. The plot of the c hyssop(mg/mL)/Abso



Figure 12. The plot of the c_{sage} (sage)concentration/absorbance values



Figure 13. The plot of the c_{soy concentration/ by absorbance} values

4. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we are used a series of hydroalchools extracts, with different concentrations, by 15ml, 25ml, 50ml si 75ml, with 99.0% ethanol. The germs were obtained by different plants like: broccoli, kresse, Hyssop, Sage, Soy, Amaranthus, Chia, Fennel and Schinduf. In this UV-VIS analyse, for identify the absorbances, we are obtain : Quercetine , (A=385 nm); Hyssopina, (A=280 nm), Hystamine (A=506 nm), Phlavine (A=440 nm), Choline (A=570 nm), Cyannine (A=694 nm), Tannin (A=760 nm).

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