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**SYNTHESIS, SPECTRAL CHARACTERIZATION, THERMAL  
STUDIES AND STRUCTURE OF  
BIDENTATE AZO DYE Cr(III) COMPLEXES**

BY

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**Abstract.** In this paper a two new complexes of Cr(III) and Acid red 44 azo dye were synthesized and characterized.

The structures of these metal complexes of Cr(III) were confirmed by elemental analysis, spectroscopic UV-Vis, IR, conductivity and pH-metric measurements. Also was investigated the thermostability by thermogravimetric analyses (TG-DTG). The X-ray powder diffraction reflects that azo dye complexes with Cr(III) are amorphous.

The octahedral geometry of the metal complexes of Cr(III) structures was confirmed by experimental data. The ligand coordinates through the azo dye nitrogen atom and hydroxyl oxygen atom after deprotonation, so the proposed structures indicates that Acid red 44 dye is a bidentate ligand.

**Key words:** Dye Acid red 44; ligand; complex compounds, Cr(III).

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## 1. Introduction

In this work a continuation of the authors research in this field is presented (Sibiescu & Vizitiu, 2015). The paper consists in the synthesis and the study of the obtained coordination compounds by the interaction of Cr(III) chloride with Acid red 44 dye. There are several areas where this compound can be found: in biology as protein stain, only slightly staining cellulose used in microscopy, in histology for staining fibrin in conjunction with MSB (Martius, Scarlet and Blue), also as food additive known as E 126 and not at least in textile and leather industry, known as Ponceau 6R, for dyeing wool, silk and other materials as complex azo dyes (Kocaokutgen & Ozkinali, 2004).

The environmental impact of the natural processes purification of the wastewater resulting from azo dyes in textile industry, it should be taken into account. So, this aspect is of high importance due to the fact that from the total quantity of textile dyes for leather and printing inks, loss amount of the dye is about 11% (Sibiescu *et al.*, 2010).

The new synthesized coordination compounds is included in the category of hexa-coordinated complexes where the central atom is octahedrally surrounded by nitrogen atom from azo group -N=N- and oxygen atom derived from hydroxyl group, after deprotonation, and molecules of water. This category of complexes have also applications in gravimetric determination of some transitional metals ions (Salkat *et al.*, 2013; Sibiescu *et al.*, 2010).

## 2. Experimental

The Acid red 44 dye (symbol HL) as ligand was complexed in aqueous solution with Cr(III) of chloride. Experiments were conducted using solutions of  $10^{-2}$ M concentrations of  $\text{CrCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  – Merck and the Acid red 44 dye ligand – Fluka.

The molar ratio was found by pH measurements, UV-VIS spectroscopy, using the molar ratio methods and electric conductivity measurements using the continuous variation methods (Yoe & Jones, 1944). The spectroscopy measurements was made at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 518$  nm at Spectrofotometer UV VIS- CARY 300 - Varian. The stability constants of these complexes were determined by Turner Anderson and Harvey Mannig methods (Harvey & Manning, 1950).

The coordination compounds were obtained in melting mixture and by reaction in water solvent. For this purpose, stoichiometric quantities of the reagents were used: (a) 1 mole of Cr(III) of chloride and 1 mole HL dye; (b) 1 mole of Cr(III) of chloride and 2 mole HL dye, were maintained each of them (a) and (b) at room temperature. After forty minutes, when the reaction was completed, the obtained compounds were separated and washed by distilled water for three times. Finally the complex compounds were dried at  $70^\circ\text{C}$  temperature till constant weight. The obtained products were purple friable solids.

The infrared absorption spectra were recorded on solid samples in the 200-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range employing the KBr pelleting method using an FTIR 660 Plus photometer. The changes in frequencies of chemical bonds of the new coordination compounds in the infrared absorption spectra confirmed their formation.

In order to study the thermal stability and dynamic thermogravimetry of the new synthesized compounds it was used a Diamond TG/DTA derivatograph produced by Perkin Elmer – USA. The temperature of decomposition was up to 610°C and it was determined the reaction rates and the reaction mechanism. Also the values of kinetic parameters were determined too (Chirilă *et al.*, 2011; Freeman & Carrol, 1958; Yildiz *et al.*, 2010).

The characterization of the compounds with Cr(III) and Acid red 44 dye was completed by the investigation with X-ray diffraction for the crystallinity degree too. The diffractograms were recorded at Bruker D8 Advan CE diffractometer with a nickel filter, copper anode in the  $2\theta = 2-60^\circ$  range, at room temperature (Seale, 1997; Flondor *et al.*, 2007; Freeman & Carrol, 1958).

### 3. Results and Discussions

For an easier writing the Acid red 44 dye (“HL”) was noted as it follows (Fig. 1):

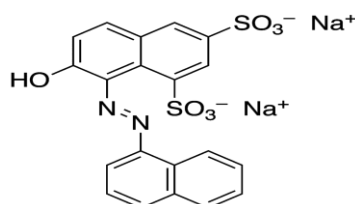


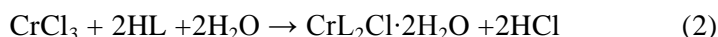
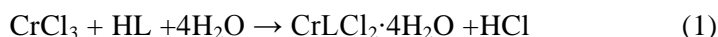
Fig. 1 – The structure of the Acid red 44 dye.

The methods, specified above, have revealed that in aqueous solution there are present two complexes, one of them at 1:1 ratio (pH = 5.1) and the other one at 1:2 (pH = 6.8). The higher stability of the second complex is shown by experimental data:  $K_{st} = 1.2 \cdot 10^5$  for Cr-L (1:1) complex and  $K_{st} = 8.6 \cdot 10^7$  for Cr-L (1:2) complex. The results of the chemical analysis are in concordance with theoretical values with an error of  $\pm 0.5\%$  (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
*The Chemical Analysis of the Studied Complex Compounds*

Compounds	C%		H%		N%		Cr%	
	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.
CrLCl <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O	34.38	34.46	1.68	1.72	4.04	4.02	7.47	7.46
CrL <sub>2</sub> Cl·2H <sub>2</sub> O	44.12	44.02	2.01	2.20	5.01	5.13	4.57	4.76

From the results of the chemical analysis and the reactant rate, the following chemical reactions (1) and (2) were established for the syntheses of the both complex compounds:



The absorption peaks of the nitrogen atom from azo group  $-\text{N}=\text{N}-$ , of the aromatic group, of the  $-\text{SO}_2$ , and of the  $-\text{OH}$  group, from ortho- position, were carefully analyzed.

The spectra obtained were almost similar to those of the free dye. The only difference is revealed from the participation of the above mentioned groups in the coordinate bonding. The corresponding vibration frequencies are lower than for the free dye (Mahmoud *et al*, 2016; Flondor *et al.*, 2007).

The frequencies of the azo group ( $\gamma_{-\text{N}=\text{N}-} = 1417\text{-}1562 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) are modified after complexation that explains the involvement of the group in the coordination process, naming "internal complex" the compounds (Table 2).

**Table 2**  
*The Vibration Frequencies of Some Specifics Groups of the Studies Compounds*

Nr. crt.	Compound	$\gamma_{\text{OH}}$	$\gamma_{-\text{N}=\text{N}-}$	$\gamma_{\text{asSO}_2}$	$\gamma_{\text{simSO}_2}$	$\gamma_{\text{arom}}$	$\gamma_{\text{Cr-N}}$	$\gamma_{\text{Cr-O}}$
1.	HL	3390	1598-1442	1189	1490	1198-1138	–	–
2.	$\text{CrLCl} \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3387	1562-1417	1189	1490	1148-1098	499	455
3.	$\text{CrHL}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3384	1562-1417	1189	1490	1143-1098	493	445

From the thermal decomposition process of the studied complex compounds it follows that this process takes place in several stages, according to the recorded derivatograms during this process (Table 3).

The coordination water is evaporated from the beginning in the first step of decomposition process for the both compounds. In the second step the weaker chemical bonds of the studied complex compounds are broken. Finally,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ , the solid product, are obtained. There were not analyzed the resulted gaseous products. The gaseous compounds resulted from the thermal decomposition have to pass through a smaller layer of deposited solids, as the decomposition reaction advances.

The Freeman-Carroll was the method used for calculate the reaction order from the thermal decomposition (Freeman & Carrol, 1958). From both decomposition steps, the values for the reaction order were ranged between 0.50-0.99.

This is in according to the reference literature (Ben-Saber *et al.*, 2005; Flondor *et al.*, 2007). The values of the reaction order for this decomposition reaction, should be no more than 1 and no less than 0.

It was obtain an increasing value for the reaction order, very close to 1, on account of dispersion degree of the system.

The reaction order is not influenced by the resistance of the solid reaction products in the thermal decomposition reactions, where the gaseous products pass through monomolecular layers (Chirilă *et al.*, 2011).

**Table 3**

*The Characteristic Temperatures of Thermal Decomposition Stages, the Values of the Reaction Order and Activation Energies of the Corresponding (KJ/mol) for the Studied Complex Compounds Complex compound*

Compounds	Stage I				Stage II				Stage III			
	Ti [°C]	Tf [°C]	n	E	Ti [°C]	Tf [°C]	n	E	Ti [°C]	Tf [°C]	n	E
CrLCl <sub>2</sub> ·4H <sub>2</sub> O	82	293	0.93	69	300	398	0.50	200	399	600	–	–
CrHL <sub>2</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	98	306	0.96	75	310	521	0.99	121	530	610	–	–

X-ray diffractograms have shown that the new synthesized compounds have an amorphous structure.

Based on the experimental and theoretical data the following structures was proposed (Figs. 2a and 2b):

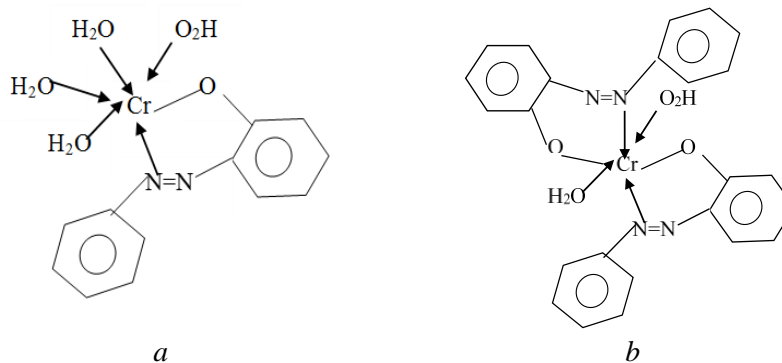


Fig. 2 – The proposed structures of the complex ions corresponding to the coordination compounds: CrLCl<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (a) and CrL<sub>2</sub>Cl·2H<sub>2</sub>O (b).

#### 4. Conclusions

In this paper, the study of formation and stability in aqueous medium of two new complex compounds of Cr(III), derived from the interaction between

CrCl<sub>3</sub> and Acid red 44 dye, in molar ratio central atom Cr(III): ligand = 1:1 and 1:2 is presented.

The methods applied for study are specific for research in solution of complex compounds: elemental chemical analysis, UV-VIS and IR spectrophotometry, conductometry, pH-metry, XRD spectroscopy, and the thermal stability.

The new coordination compounds synthesized by the interaction of Cr(III) with Acid red 44 dye is included in the category of hexa-coordinated complexes and it was established that the most stable complex is CrL<sub>2</sub>Cl·2H<sub>2</sub>O.

The both new compounds have a thermal stability to about 390°C. Based on the experimental and theoretical data the proposed structures indicates that Acid red 44 dye is a bidentate ligand.

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SINTEZA, CARACTERIZAREA SPECTRALĂ, STUDIUL TERMIC  
ȘI STRUCTURA UNOR COMPLECȘI AI Cr(III) CU  
UN COLORANT AZOIC BIDENTAT

(Rezumat)

În această lucrare se continuă cercetările cu privire la sinteza, caracterizarea și stabilirea structurii unor complecși cu liganzi din clasa coloranților azoici.

Mai concret au fost obținuți doi noi complecși în urma interacțiunii colorantului Roșu Acid 44 cu cationul de Cr(III).

Structurile noilor complecși sintetizați în raport molar de 1:1 și 1:2 au fost stabilite cu ajutorul următoarelor analize: analiza elementală, conductometrie, pH-metrie, spectroscopie UV-VIS, FTIR și XRD.

De asemenea s-a efectuat și descompunerea termică a celor doi noi complecși până la o temperatură de aproximativ 600°C, din care s-au obținut informații cu privire la stabilitatea termică.

Analizând și coroborând toate datele experimentale s-au propus două structuri ale complecșilor sintetizați din care reiese că ligandul este bidentat iar atomul central este hexacoordinat. O altă concluzie finală este aceea că ambii compuși sunt stabili termic până în jurul temperaturii de 100°C și au o structură amorfă.