

# Physico-Chemical Study Of Mixed Ligand Complexes Of Sulfamethoxazole And Imidazole

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## Abstract

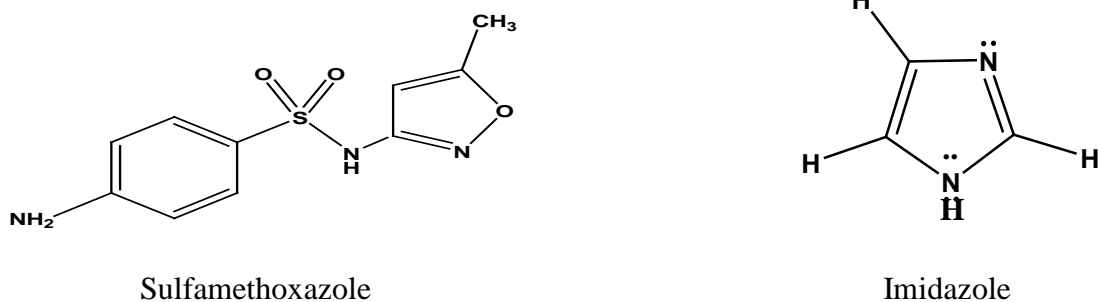
Mixed ligand metal (II) complexes of sulfamethoxazole and imidazole have been synthesized and physico-chemically characterized by solubility test, metal analysis, infrared and electronic spectra measurements. All the complexes were soluble in DMSO and THF and insoluble in H<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The expected and observed metal contents of metal complexes were in close agreement. From the infrared studies, sulfamethoxazole behaves as multidentate ligand coordinated to the metal ion via the aniline NH<sub>2</sub> group, sulphonyl group, and isoxazole nitrogen while imidazole acts as monodentate ligand coordinated through imine group. The electronic spectra revealed tentative octahedral geometry for all the complexes.

**Keywords:** Imidazole, Metal complexes, Mixed-ligand, Sulfamethoxazole

## Introduction

The advances in inorganic chemistry provide better opportunities to use metal complexes as therapeutic agents. The mode of action of metal complexes on living organism is differing from non metals. These complexes show a great diversity in action<sup>1</sup>. Medicinal inorganic chemistry can exploit the unique properties of metal ions for the design of new drugs. Research has shown significant progress in utilization of transition metal complexes as drugs to treat several human diseases. The investigation of metal sulfonamide compounds has received much attention due to the fact that sulfonamides were the first effective chemotherapeutic agents to be employed for the prevention and cure of bacterial infections in humans<sup>2</sup>. The antibacterial activity of sulfonamides, on the one hand, and the antimicrobial activity of heavy metals, on the other, have

led to research on the combination of these chemical species. As a result, new metal complexes with higher antimicrobial activity than the free ligands or cationic metals were obtained<sup>3,4</sup>. Coordination compounds with sulfonamides and copper have also been used as reagents for the cleavage of nucleic acids<sup>5-7</sup>. Sulfamethoxazole, a well-known antibacterial sulfadrug, contains several groups with donor atoms that are able to interact with metal ions: Ar–NH<sub>2</sub>, NH sulfonamide, SO<sub>2</sub>–R and N and O heterocyclic atoms. Sulfamethoxazole can act as a monodentate or a bidentate ligand. As part of a study dedicated to the investigation of the structural and physicochemical properties of metal complexes of chemotherapeutic agents, this paper reports interaction of sulfamethoxazole and imidazole with divalent metals in 1:1:1.



**Fig 1.** Structures of the ligands

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The metals used are copper (II) acetate monohydrate, zinc(II) acetate dihydrate, cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate, manganese acetate tetrahydrate and zinc sulphate heptahydrate. All reagents and chemicals used are of analytical grade and used without further purification. The ligand (sulphamethoxazole) was obtained from Drugfield Pharmaceutical Ltd, Sango ota, Ogun State, and used without further purification.

### Solubility Test:

The solubility test of the complexes was determined in nine common organic solvents namely: methanol, ethanol, nitromethane, DMSO, THF, distilled water, dioxan, dichloromethane, chloroform.

**Infrared Spectra:**

The infrared spectra of the all complexes synthesized and those of ligands were recorded using Perkin Elmer FT-IR Spectrophotometer equipped with KBr disc. The infrared region is between 4000-400 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

**Electronic spectra:**

The electronic absorption spectra in the UV – Visible range was recorded on UVD- 2960 Double Beam PC Scanning spectrophotometer between 190- 400nm for the ligand and 400- 900nm for the complexes using DMSO and THF as the solvent.

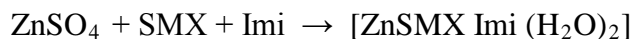
**Metal analysis:**

Percentage copper composition in the complex was determined by complexometric titration using EDTA solution, murexide indicator and ammonia/ammonia chloride buffer.

**Preparation of complexes****Preparation of CuSMXImi(OAc)<sub>2</sub>**

The complexes were prepared by the mixing of 1.226g (0.005mol) of sulfamethoxazole in 20 ml of hot ethanol, 0.999g (0.005mol) of copper acetate in 20ml of water and 0.340g (0.005mol) of imidazole in 10ml of water at ratio 1:1:1. A few drops of 0.002M NaOH was added to adjust the pH of the mixture to 5.5 and the reaction mixture was heated and continuously stirred for about 3-4 hours. The product was isolated after reduction of volume by evaporation. It was then filtered, washed with ethanol and dried in vacuum over silica gel.

The same procedure was used for the preparation of Mn(II), Zn(II) and Co(II) complexes.



**Table 1:** Physical and analytical data for mixed ligand complexes of imidazole and Sulfamethoxazole.

Complexes	Colour	Formular Weight (g)	Yield %	%M Observed	%M Expected
Cu(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Light green	502.90	45.73	12.54	13.26
Co(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	Pale pink	498.29	55.39	11.83	12.26
Mn(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	White	412.27	47.43	13.32	13.58
Zn(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	White	422.77	52.84	15.47	15.31
Zn(SMX)(Imi)(SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	White	478.77	52.03	11.30	10.82

**Table 2** Solubility data for mixed ligand complexes of imidazole and Sulfamethoxazole.

Compounds	EtOH	MeOH	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	DMSO	THF	H <sub>2</sub> O	Dioxan	CH <sub>3</sub> NO
Cu(SMX)(imidazole)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	SH	S	I	I	S	S	I	S	SS
Co(SMX)(imidazole)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	SS	SH	I	I	S	S	I	SS	I
Mn(SMX)(imidazole)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	SS	SS	I	I	S	S	I	S	SS
Zn(SMX)(imidazole)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	S	SH	I	I	S	S	I	SS	S
Zn(SMX)(imidazole)SO <sub>4</sub>	SH	S	I	I	S	S	I	SS	SH

Key: SH = Soluble when heated; SS = Slightly soluble; I = Insoluble; S = Soluble

**Table 3:** Infrared spectra for mixed ligand complexes of imidazole and Sulfamethoxazole.

Complexes/ Ligands	$\nu\text{NH}_{2n}$ , asym, sym	$\nu\text{C} = \text{N}$	$\nu\text{SO}_2$ asym, sym	$\nu\text{C}-\text{N}$	$\nu\text{S} - \text{N}$	$\nu\text{C}=\text{C}$	$\nu\text{N}-\text{H}$	$\nu\text{M}-\text{N}$	$\nu\text{M}-\text{O}$
Sulphamethoxazole	3462 <sub>w</sub> 3383 <sub>w</sub>	1615 <sub>s</sub>	1370 <sub>m</sub> 1310 <sub>m</sub>	—	928 <sub>w</sub>	1475 <sub>m</sub>	3297 <sub>w</sub>	—	—
Imidazole	-	1646 <sub>m</sub>	-	1150 <sub>w</sub>	-	1535 <sub>w</sub>	3222 <sub>m</sub>	—	—
Cu(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	3453 <sub>s</sub> 3365 <sub>s</sub>	1608 <sub>s</sub>	1406 <sub>s</sub> 1316 <sub>s</sub>	1152 <sub>s</sub>	942 <sub>m</sub>	1509 <sub>w</sub>	3251 <sub>w</sub>	686 <sub>m</sub>	567 <sub>m</sub>
Co(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	— 3371 <sub>m</sub>	1606 <sub>s</sub>	1352 <sub>s</sub> 1315 <sub>s</sub>	1145 <sub>s</sub>	939 <sub>s</sub>	1461 <sub>m</sub>	3240 <sub>w</sub>	682 <sub>w</sub>	560 <sub>s</sub>
Mn(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	3451 <sub>w</sub> 3360 <sub>w</sub>	1598 <sub>m</sub>	1395 <sub>w</sub> 1307 <sub>m</sub>	1145 <sub>w</sub>	931 <sub>w</sub>	—	3234	677 <sub>w</sub>	555 <sub>m</sub>
Zn(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	3457 <sub>w</sub> 3369 <sub>m</sub>	1609 <sub>s</sub>	1401 <sub>w</sub> 1315 <sub>s</sub>	1147 <sub>s</sub>	934 <sub>m</sub>	1497 <sub>w</sub>	3302 <sub>w</sub>	685 <sub>s</sub>	561 <sub>s</sub>
Zn(SMX)(Imi)SO <sub>4</sub>	3457 <sub>w</sub> 3369 <sub>m</sub>	1609 <sub>s</sub>	1401 <sub>w</sub> 1315 <sub>s</sub>	147 <sub>s</sub>	934 <sub>m</sub>	1497 <sub>w</sub>	3302 <sub>w</sub>	685 <sub>s</sub>	561 <sub>s</sub>

**Table 4:** Electronic spectra data for the mixed ligand complexes of imidazole and Sulfamethoxazole

Complex/ Ligand	$\lambda(\text{cm}^{-1})$	Tentative Assignment	Probable Geometry
Sulphamethoxazole	42194 32680	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ $n \rightarrow \pi^*$	
Imidazole	32895	$n \rightarrow \pi^*$	
Cu(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	24752	CT ${}^2\text{E}_g \rightarrow {}^2\text{T}_{2g}$	Octahedral

	18050		
Co(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	23923 18248 14471	<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1g</sub> → <sup>4</sup> T <sub>1g</sub> (P) <sup>4</sup> T <sub>1g</sub> → <sup>4</sup> A <sub>2g</sub> <sup>4</sup> T <sub>1g</sub> → <sup>4</sup> T <sub>2g</sub>	Octahedral
Mn(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	24449	<sup>6</sup> A <sub>1g</sub> → <sup>4</sup> T <sub>2g</sub>	Octahedral
Zn(SMX)(Imi)(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	24213	CT	Octahedral
Zn(SMX)(Imi)SO <sub>4</sub>	23148	CT	Octahedral

### Discussion:

All the prepared complexes were characterized on the basis of solubility test, metal content, infrared and electronic spectra.

From Table 2, the mixed-ligand complexes of imidazole and Sulfamethoxazole are all soluble in DMSO, THF and insoluble in H<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>.

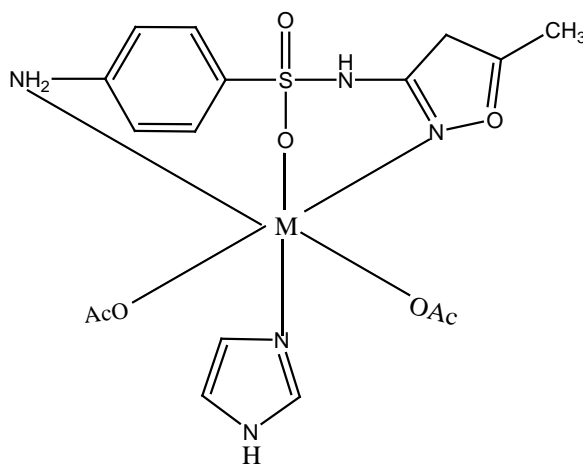
The relevant infrared spectra data in the mixed-ligand complexes are given in Table 3. In the infrared spectrum of free Sulfamethoxazole, the absorption bands at (3462<sub>w</sub>, 3383<sub>w</sub>) and (1370<sub>m</sub>, 1310<sub>m</sub>) are attributed to νNH<sub>2</sub> (asymmetric and symmetric) and νSO<sub>2</sub> (asymmetric and symmetric) vibrations respectively<sup>8,9</sup>. While bands at 1615<sub>s</sub>, 928<sub>w</sub> and 3297<sub>w</sub> are assigned to νC = N, νS – N and νN–H stretching vibrations respectively. And in the free imidazole, bands at 1646<sub>m</sub>, 1150<sub>w</sub> and 3222<sub>m</sub> are assigned to νC = N, νC–N and νN–H stretching vibrations respectively. All the bands experienced lower shifts in the spectra of the metal complexes suggesting coordination through the groups to the metal ions. The appearances of bands between 550-700 cm<sup>-1</sup> which are attributed to νM–N and νM–O vibrations confirmed the coordination of the ligands to the metals<sup>10</sup>.

The electronic spectra of the ligands and their complexes are shown in Table 4. The electronic spectra of free Sulfamethoxazole showed bands at 32680 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 42194 cm<sup>-1</sup> which are

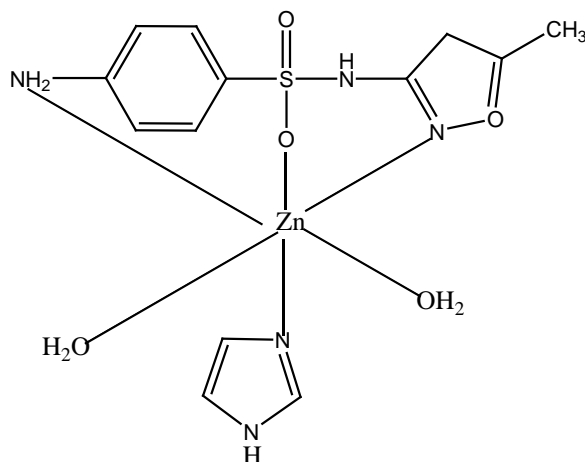
assigned to  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  and  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions, respectively. In the free imidazole ligand, the band which appeared at  $32895\text{cm}^{-1}$  is assigned  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition. In the spectrum of  $\text{Cu}(\text{SMX})(\text{Imi})(\text{OAc})_2$  complex, band at  $24752\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $18050\text{cm}^{-1}$  that observed at visible region are assigned to Charge transfer and  ${}^2E_g \rightarrow {}^2T_{2g}$  transitions, respectively. In the  $\text{Co}(\text{SMX})(\text{Imi})(\text{OAc})_2$  complex, the bands which appeared at  $23923\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $18248\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $14471\text{cm}^{-1}$  are attributed to  ${}^4T_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4T_{1g}(\text{P})$ ,  ${}^4T_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4A_{2g}$  and  ${}^4T_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4T_{2g}$  transitions, respectively<sup>11</sup>. The band that appeared at  $24449\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the  $\text{Mn}(\text{SMX})(\text{Imi})(\text{OAc})_2$  complex is attributed to  ${}^6A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^4T_{2g}$ . The two bands which appeared at  $24213\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $23148\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the spectra of  $\text{Zn}(\text{SMX})(\text{Imi})(\text{OAc})_2$  and  $\text{ZnSMX Imi}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2$  complexes respectively, are assigned to Charge transfer transitions.

## Conclusion

A mixed ligand metal complexes of sulphamethoxazole and imidazole were synthesized and characterized using physico-chemical method. The complexes exhibited different degree of solubility in different solvents. Based on the data obtained from Infrared spectra of the ligands and the mixed-ligand complexes, Sulfamethoxazole acted as a tridentate ligand coordinating through the aniline N, sulphonyl O, isoxazole N, and imidazole acted as a monodentate ligand coordinated via the imine N group. Electronic spectra showed a six coordinate octahedral geometry for all the complexes.



**Fig2.** Proposed structure for metal complexes of  $\text{M}(\text{SMX})(\text{Imi})(\text{OAc})_2$ .  $\text{M} = \text{Co}(\text{II}), \text{Cu}(\text{II}) \& \text{Zn}$



**Fig3.** Proposed structure of ZnSMX Imi (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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