



## Synthesis, spectral and biological studies of some metal chelates complexes of schiff-bases derived from phthalaldehyde and benzylamine

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**Abstract:** Three transition metal complexes derived from the condensation product of (9E)-N-(E)-(benzylimino)methylidene phenylmethan amine with phthalaldehyde and benzyl amine have been synthesized and characterized. The geometries of the isolated chelate compounds were investigated by physical, elemental analyses (CHN), conductance, molar susceptibility, mass spectra, <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, FTIR and electronic spectra data. The elemental analyses showed that the isolated chelates have 1:1 [M:L] ratio. The values of conductance showed that the all the chelates are electrolytic in nature except the compound with the formula, [CuL(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>].2H<sub>2</sub>O, which is non-electrolytic. Also, the results of spectral and the values of magnetic moments of the Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup> chelates exhibit that the compounds are paramagnetic in nature and characterized by octahedral geometries. The IR spectral data displayed the main coordination sites on coordination toward lower wavenumbers .

**keywords:** Schiff Base, Metal complexes, Spectro- scopic Study, Biological Activity.

### 1.Introduction

The compounds contain the azomethine group (-HC=N-) are known as Schiff-bases and obtained by the reactions of different kinds of ketones or aldehydes with primary amines and the first example was first reported by Hugo Schiff in 1864 [1]. The common feature of these compounds is the presence of the azomethine group and have the general formula, RHC=N-R, where R and R' are alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl or heterocyclic groups which may be variously substituted. Schiff-bases derived from aliphatic aldehydes are unstable and are easily polymerized. On the other hand the use of aromatic aldehydes leads to form stable compounds due to the existence of conjugation system within the compounds.

Triazole Schiff-bases were reported to possess antimicrobial, antianxiety, antidepressant and plant growth regulatory activity [2]. Two novel chelates obtained from Ni(II) and Pd(II) salts with Schiff-base derived from 5-chloro isatin with 4-phenyl-3-thiosemicarbazid have been synthesized in absolute EtOH. The structures of the isolated solid chelates have been studied using

elemental analyses and infrared and electronic spectra. The ligand was further characterized by mass spectrum [3]. Schiff-base complexes of 4-(2-hydroxybenzyldeamino)-3-hydroxy naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid have been isolated and investigated by elemental analyses, (C,H,N,S), IR, electronic spectra, molar conductivity and magnetic moment measurements [4]. These compounds are also known as anils, imines or azomethines [5] are also known Schiff-base compounds. Two new Schiff-base ligands, [HL<sup>1</sup>, (C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)] and [HL<sup>2</sup>, (C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S)], were synthesized from the condensation products of semicarbazide and/or thiosemicarbazide with salicylaldehyde in EtOH. The isolated Cu<sup>2+</sup> chelates with the general formulae, [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Cu] and [C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>SCu], were prepared. The Schiff-bases and their chelates showed moderate to strong antimicrobial activity [6]. The chemistry of thiosemicarbazones chelates were resumed due to their broad profile of pharmacological activity that provides a diverse variety of compounds with different activities [7-10]. Moreover, the Schiff-bases synthesized from

amino and carbonyl groups are an important class of compounds having the ability to coordinate to the metal ions *via* azomethine nitrogen and. In azomethine derivatives, the C and N linkage is essential for biological activity and several azomethine have been reported to possess remarkable antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer and antimalarial (Prakash *et al*, 2011)[11].

In the present investigation we reported a literature survey on the synthesis, characterization and applications of Schiff-bases and their chelates derived from 2-hydroxyacetophenone and primary amines including applications of Schiff-bases and their chelates in qualitative analysis, biological activity and synthesis for chemical analysis. The chemicals used to get Schiff-bases and chelates with appreciable stability lead to get important compounds in the field of chemistry. The uses of Schiff-bases and their chelates as biological reagents suggest enlisting an important type of research to be considered among the chemists and in solving recent problems in the living aspects [12]

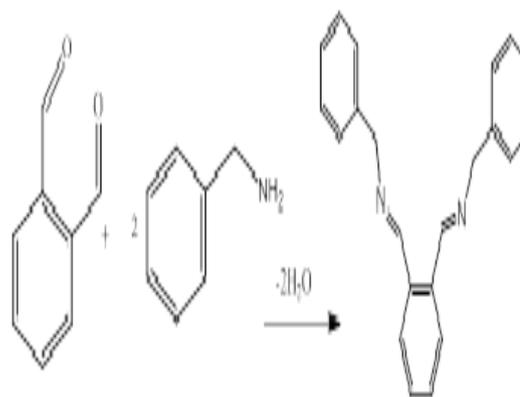
## Experimental

### Materials

All chemicals used in this The chemicals as well as solvents used in this investigation were of BDH and Aldrich quality. Phthalaldehyde, benzyl amine and metal salts, (CrCl<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O, NiCl<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O, and CuCl<sub>2</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O), absolute ethanol, glacial acetic acid, ammonia solution, ether and dimethyl foramide (DMF) were pure and used as supplied. The solvents were of pure grades or purified by the recommended methods.

### Synthesis of Schiff base

(9*E*)-*N*-(*E*)-(benzylimino)methylidene)-phenylmethan amine (**L**) was synthesized by adding (6.702 g, 0.05 mole) of phthalaldehyde drop wise to benzyl amine (5.358g, 0.05 mole) in 50 cm<sup>3</sup> of absolute ethanol. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 h. The product was left to cool at room temperature, filtered and recrystallized from EtOH, dried under vacuum and kept at room temperature. The product has a brown precipitate (yield 76%; **Scheme 1**).



**Scheme 1**

### Synthesis of Complexes

The chelates were obtained by adding the Schiff base (3.124g; 0.01 mole) in 50 cm<sup>3</sup> absolute ethanol to 0.01 mole of the metal salts of CrCl<sub>3</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O, NiCl<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O and CuCl<sub>2</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O, (2.665 g, 2.377 g and 1.705 g, respectively, in absolute ethanol. The reaction mixtures were held under reflux for 3 hs and the isolated the solid products were filtered off, recrystallized from ethanol and finally kept in a desiccator over silica gel. *Bacteria assay*

The Schiff-base and its complexes with Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Cu<sup>2+</sup> complexes were tested against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria species in a mixture of DMF and H<sub>2</sub>O. The diffusion methods were used in the antibacterial activity determination

### Results and discussion

9*E*)-*N*-(*E*)-(benzylimino)methylidene)-phenylmethan amine (H<sub>2</sub>L) was synthesized by adding phthalaldehyde drop wise to benzyl amine with stirring. The synthesized Schiff-base was subjected to: CHN elemental analyses, mass spectra, IR, UV and proton nuclear magnetic resonance. The molar conductance values of the complexes in DMF solvent lie in the range of 27-146 ohm<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup> indicating the Cu<sup>2+</sup> chelate is non-electrolytic while the of Cr<sup>3+</sup> and Ni<sup>2+</sup> chelates are electrolytic and some physical properties are listed in **Table 1**. The results show a good agreement between the calculated and experimental values.

### Microanalysis and molar conductance measurements of the Schiff-bases chelates

**Table (1):** Elemental analyses and some physical data of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$  and its chelates

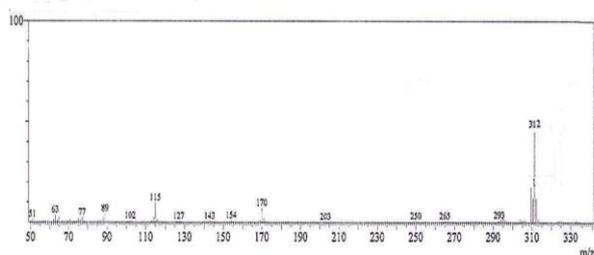
Ligands / complexes	Color	M. wt.	M.P.; °C	% Calcd. (Found)			$\Lambda_m^{-1} \text{ cm}^2 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$	BM
				C%	H%	N%		
$\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2; \text{H}_2\text{L}^1$	Dark brown	312.41	115	84.58 (83.89)	6.45 (6.68)	8.97 (8.17)	-	-
$[\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)\text{Cl}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\text{Cl}$	Dark green	506.79	158	52.14 (52.15)	4.77 (4.19)	5.53 (6.06)	87	3.68
$[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Brown	604.14	170	43.74 (44.13)	43.74 (44.11)	4.12 (4.56)	146	2.71
$[\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2\text{Cl}_2] \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Light green	536.94	180	49.21 (48.78)	5.64 (6.25)	5.22 (5.79)	27	1.79

**Table (2):** IR and electronic spectral data of the ligand ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$ ) and its complexes

Ligand/ Complexes	$\nu(\text{CH}_2)$	$\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{N})$	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{O})$	UV - Vis $\lambda_{\text{max}} \text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$
$\text{H}_2\text{L}^1; (\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2)$	3360	1636	-	-	37735, 28901
$[\text{Cr}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)\text{Cl}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]\text{Cl}$	3378	1648	620	513	16343, 16000, 28653
$[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3404	1643	589	458	14084, 17035, 28409
$[\text{Cu}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2\text{Cl}_2] \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3413	1640	634	570	15432, 17391, 27932

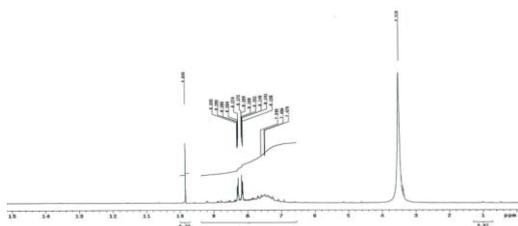
### Mass spectrum of $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$

The molecular weight from the mass spectrum of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$  (Figure 1) shows  $\text{M}^+$  peak at 312.41 corresponds to the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}_2$ .

**Fig. 1.** Mass spectrum of the free ligand

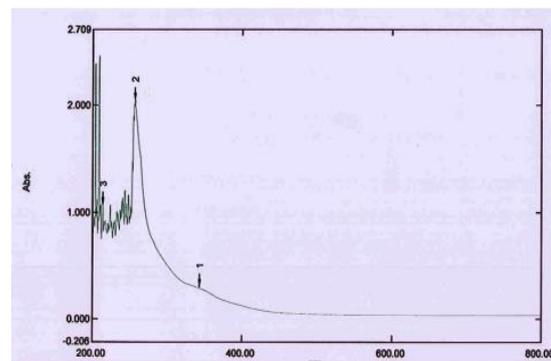
### $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of ligand

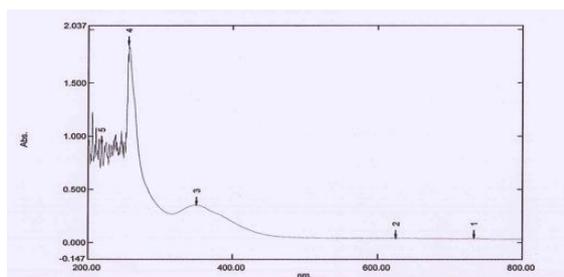
The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum in  $d_6$ -DMSO solvent was carried out on a Jeol- 90 Fourier Transform (200 MHz). The Schiff-base ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$ ) shows peaks (Figure 2) at 3.56, 6.916-8.857 and 9.985 ppm, downfield of TMS, attributable to the protons of  $\text{CH}_2$ , phenyl and  $-\text{HC}=\text{N}-$ , respectively [13].

**Fig. 2.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum of the free ligand

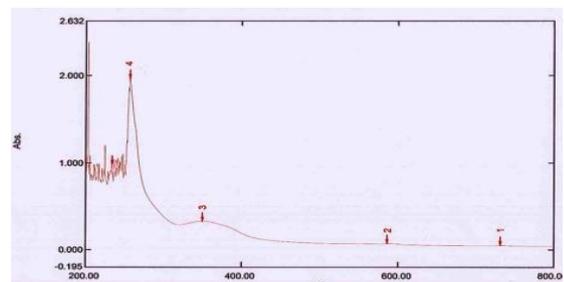
### Spectra studies

The spectral data of the  $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$  and its chelates are summarized in Table (2) and illustrated in Figs. 3-6. The UV- spectrum of the Schiff-base ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$ ) shows two bands at 265 nm ( $37735 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and 346 nm ( $28901 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) corresponding to  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  and  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions, respectively [14,15]. The spectrum of the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ chelate exhibits three bands at 13643, 16000 and  $28653 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to  $^4\text{A}_{2g}(\text{F}) \rightarrow ^4\text{T}_{2g}(\text{F})$ ,  $^4\text{A}_{2g}(\text{F}) \rightarrow ^4\text{T}_{1g}(\text{F})$  and charge-transfer, respectively, while three absorption bands were observed for  $\text{Ni}^{2+}\text{L}$  at 14084, 17035 and  $28409 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponding to  $^3\text{A}_{2g}(\text{f}) \rightarrow ^3\text{T}_{1g}(\text{f})$ ,  $^3\text{A}_{2g}(\text{f}) \rightarrow ^3\text{T}_{1g}(\text{p})$  and  $^3\text{A}_{2g}(\text{f}) \rightarrow ^3\text{T}_{1g}(\text{f})$  transitions, respectively [16,17]. The electronic spectrum of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{H}_2\text{L}^1)$  shows three bands at  $17391 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $15432 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $27932 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to  $^2\text{B}_{1g} \rightarrow ^2\text{A}_{1g}$ ,  $^2\text{E}_g \rightarrow ^2\text{T}_{2g}$  and charge-transfer (CT) bands [18,19].

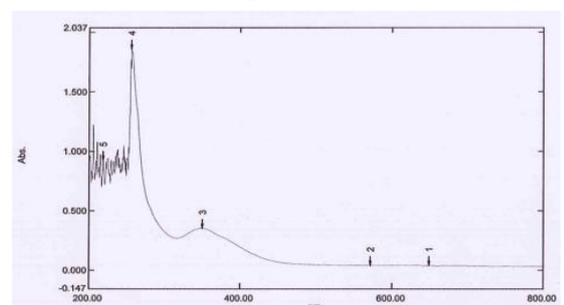
**Fig. 3.** UV spectrum of the free ligand ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$ )



**Fig. 4.** Electronic spectrum of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  complex



**Fig. 5.** Electronic spectrum of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  complex



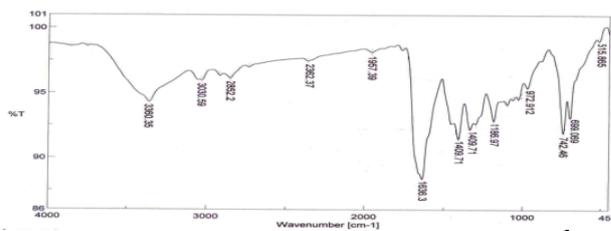
**Fig. 6.** Electronic spectrum of the  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  complex

### . IR spectra

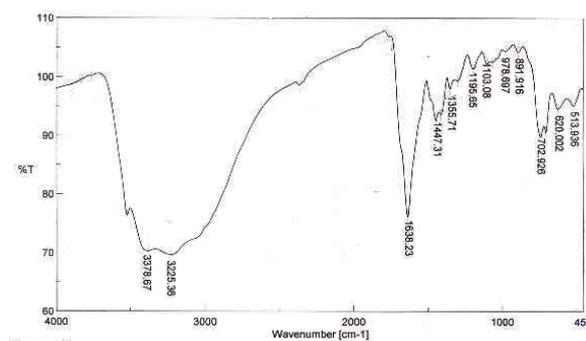
### Infrared spectra of Schiff-base and its complexes

The FTIR spectral data of the Schiff-base and its chelates are recorded in **Table 2** and their spectra are shown in **Figures 7-10**. The IR spectrum of the Schiff-base shows a band at  $3360\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to the presence of  $\nu(\text{CH})$  group [20]. The same spectrum displays a band at  $1636\text{ cm}^{-1}$  attributed to the existence of  $\nu(\text{HC}=\text{N})$  vibration [21]. In the chelates (**Table 2**), the shifting of this band to 1638, 1643 and  $1640\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to higher frequency compared with the free Schiff-base suggests the bonding of the metal ions through the nitrogen of azomethine group  $\nu(\text{HC}=\text{N})$ . The IR spectra of the chelates exhibit bands in the range of  $3378\text{--}3414\text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to the presence of water molecules as hydrated and/or coordinated [22]. New bands which are obscured in the spectrum of free ligand observed at  $458\text{--}571\text{ cm}^{-1}$  attributed to  $\nu(\text{M}\text{--}\text{N})$  vibration. The appearance of  $\nu(\text{M}\text{--}\text{N})$  vibration supports the involvement of nitrogen

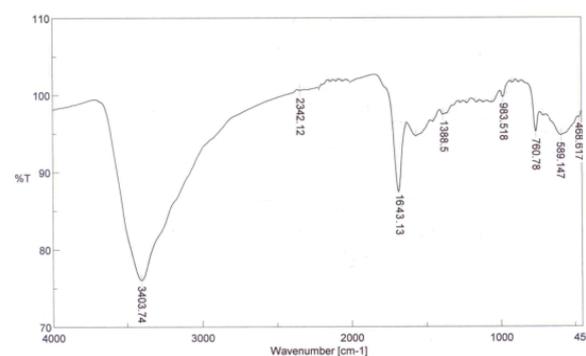
atoms in chelation with the metal ions under investigation [23].



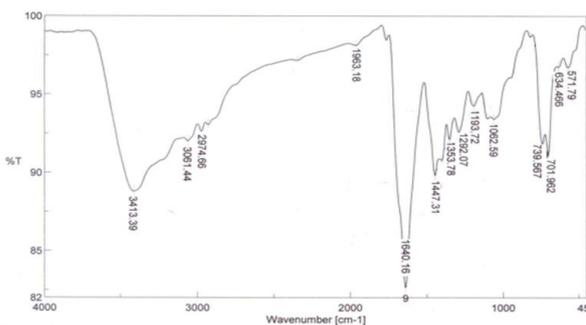
**Fig. 7.** IR spectrum of the free ligand ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}^1$ ) in KBr



**Fig. 8.** IR spectrum of  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  complex



**Fig. 9.** IR spectrum of  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  complex



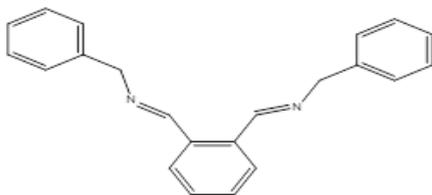
**Fig. 10.** IR spectrum of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  complex

**Antibacterial activity** Newman – keuls test (at  $\alpha = 0.05$ )

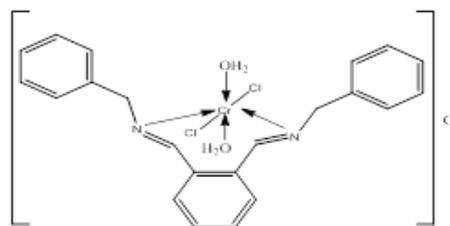
The Schiff-base and its complexes showed inhibitory activity against all used bacteria species (*Proteus sp.*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis*) for the free Schiff-base 17-16 mm and 16-10 mm for complexes, the antibacterial results (mm) are presented in **Table 3**

## Conclusion:

On the basis of the elemental composition, electronic and IR spectral studies the following structures (1-4) are proposed for the synthesized ligand and its complexes.

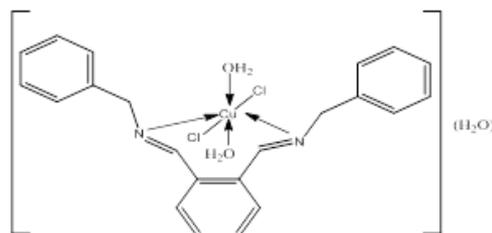


**Structure 1 H<sub>2</sub>L** (C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)



**Structure 2** [Cr(H<sub>2</sub>L)Cl<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]Cl

**Structure 3** [Ni(H<sub>2</sub>L)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>]Cl<sub>2</sub>.5H<sub>2</sub>O



**Structure 4** [Cu(H<sub>2</sub>L)Cl<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>].3H<sub>2</sub>O

**Table (3).** Antibacterial activity results (mm) of Schiff-base and its chelates

Ligand/ Chelates	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Pseudomonasaeruginosa</i>	<i>Proteus sp.</i>
(H <sub>2</sub> L); (C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>2</sub> )		<sup>b</sup> 14.60±1	<sup>a</sup> 17.7 ±1	<sup>ab</sup> 15.6±8
[Cr(L)Cl <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]Cl	<sup>b</sup> 7.6±8.1 <sup>dc</sup> 10.6±1.7	<sup>c</sup> 9.5±1.3	<sup>c</sup> 10.1 ±3	<sup>c</sup> 10.6±1
[Ni(L)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> ]Cl <sub>2</sub> .5H <sub>2</sub> O.	<sup>dc</sup> 6 ±7.10	<sup>d</sup> 4.3±1.4	<sup>a</sup> 16.9 ±1	<sup>dc</sup> 6 ±7.1
Cu(L)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .3H <sub>2</sub> O	<sup>b</sup> 7.6±8.1	<sup>d</sup> 3.9±1.5	<sup>d</sup> 3.4 ±2	<sup>d</sup> 3.8±6

Means (3 replications) followed by the same letters are not significantly different following

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