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# A Thermodynamic Study of the Charge Transfer Complexes of [60] Fullerene with Thiapodands

### **Research Article**

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#### Abstract

Formation of charge-transfer complexes between thiapodands1-6 and [60]fullerene,  $C_{60}$ , were studied in toluene solution using UV-Vis spectrophotometry. The stability constants and the thermodynamic data of the resulting 1:1 complexes were determined. For thiapodands with ester groups ending, the order of stability constants of [60]fullerene-podands, 1-3 is in the order 1>2>3 while for thiapodands with amide groups ending, the order of stability constants of [60] fullerene-podands, 4-6 is 6>5>4.

Keywords: [60] fullerene; Thiapodands; UV-Vis spectrophotometry; Complexes

#### Introduction

Fullerene,  $C_{60}$  represents the third crystallographic form of carbon after diamond and graphite. The high electron accepting properties of  $C_{60}$  and the high electron donating properties of some electron donors led to study the interaction between  $C_{60}$  and different types of electron donors. As an example, the complexation between  $C_{60}$  and calyx [n] arenes and calixarene derivatives was studied extensively [1-15]. In these studies, UV and NMR spectroscopy were used to establish the stoichiometry of the complexes formed between  $C_{60}$  and calixarene derivatives, the stability constants and the thermodynamic parameters were also determined. Also  $C_{60}$  is known to form complexes with different types of crown ethers [16-18]. Some of crown ethers formed 1:1  $C_{60}$ : crown complexes and others formed 1:2  $C_{60}$ : crown complexes [16-18]. The stability of the  $C_{60}$ : crown complexes whether it is 1:1 or 1:2 complexes appears to be related to many factors including among others, the macrocyclic cavity size

and the type of donor atoms at the periphery of crown moiety. The stability would be a maximum when the cavity size matches the guest size [19,20]. In addition, substitution of one or more oxygen atoms by sulfur or nitrogen atoms enhances the complexation ability of the hosts [19,20].

Recently, Ashram reported the synthesis of thiapodands 1-6 (Scheme 1) [20]. These podands have different cavity sizes and different donor atoms including O, N and S atoms. The ability of these podands to form complexes with some transition metals in addition to their stability constants and thermodynamic properties were reported [20].

As mentioned previously, most studies on the complexation of  $[C_{60}]$  fullerene were done with cyclic hosts. To the best of our knowledge, there are no reports on the complexation of  $[C_{60}]$  fullerene with podands.

#### JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY & APPLIED BIOCHEMISTRY

In the present study, the determination of the stiochiometriy, stability constants and the thermodynamic parameters ( $\Delta H^{\circ}$ ,  $\Delta S^{\circ}$ , and  $\Delta G^{\circ}$ ) of thiapodands 1-6 complexes [60]fullerene, using UV-Vis spectrophotometry is reported.

#### **Results and Discussion**

When a violet solution of  $\rm C_{60}$  in toluene is mixed with any colorless solution of podands 1-6, a pale yellow solution is developed. This change in color indicates the formation of a charge transfer complexes between these podands and  $\rm C_{60}$ . The absorption spectra of a series of solutions of podand1 and  $\rm C_{60}$ , as an example, are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 reveals that the resulting complex has a new absorption band at  $\lambda$  =435 nm. None of the host or the guest shows any measurable absorption at 413-455 nm region. Thus the existence of this new band must be associated with the formation of donoracceptor molecular complex between podand1and C<sub>60</sub> in solution. Mukherjee et al. reported the formation of similar charge transfer absorption bands of the complexes of calyx [6] and calyx [8] arene derivatives with [60] fullerene [21]. Stoichiometries of all podands- $C_{60}$ complexes were determined to be 1:1 by mole ratio method and confirmed by using Job's method. Figure 2 shows the mole ratio plot for the complex of podand 1 with  $C_{60}$ . The change in the slope near the 1:1 ratio is clearly shown, this indicates the formation of 1:1 complex. This stoichiometry is confirmed by Jobs plot which is shown in Figure 3 for the same system. The figure shows a maxima at 0.5 which confirms the formation of 1:1 complex. Complexes of  $C_{_{60}}$  with other podands show similar behavior.

Supramolecular 1:1 complex formation between podand 1, as an example, with  $C_{_{60}}$  in solution can be represented by equation 1.

$$C_{60+1\leftrightarrow}C_{60.1} \tag{1}$$

The corresponding formation constant  $\rm K_{_c}$  (stability constant) for 1 is given by equation 2

$$K_{c} = [C_{60}.1] / [C_{60}][1]$$
(2)

Since both podand1 and [60 ]fullerene concentrations are very low, the stability constant Kc, can be calculated by using the following modified form of the Benesi-Hildebrand equation 3 [22]:











$$[C_{60}] \text{ o}/\Delta A = 1/\Delta \varepsilon [1] \text{ oKc} + 1/\Delta \varepsilon$$
(3)

where  $[C_{60}]$ o is the initial concentration of  $C_{60}$ , Kc the formation constant,  $\Delta A$  the absorbance change at  $\lambda = 435$  nm of  $C_{60}$  solution in toluene upon the successive addition of thiapodand1,  $\Delta \epsilon$  represents the difference in the molar extinction coefficient between the  $C_{60}$ .1 complex and that of uncomplexed  $C_{60}$ . When  $[C_{60}]$ o / $\Delta A$  is plotted against 1/ [1]o gives a straight line with a slope of 1/ $\epsilon$ Kc and intercept of 1/ $\epsilon$  is obtained as shown in Figure 4. Kc value in each case is

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Table 1: The thermodynamic parameters and formation constants for Thiapodands- $\rm C_{\rm 60}$  fullerene complexes in toluene solution.

Po	dand	∆Hº (kJ/ mol)	∆S° (J/K. mol)	T∆S° (kJ/ mol)	$\Delta \mathbf{G}^{o}$ (kJ/mol)	log k at 25 °C
	1	-24.3±0.5	-12±2	-3.44	-20.83	3.64
	2	-24.6±0.3	-17±1	-4.98	-19.63	3.44
	3	37.2±4.5	186±14	55.50	-18.33	3.24
	4	53.6±2.5	247±8	73.58	-20.01	3.51
	5	60.4±6.3	270±20	80.52	-20.08	3.67
	6	64.5±1.3	292±3	86.96	-22.45	3.88

Table 2: log K values for selected macrocyclic-C<sub>60</sub> complexes.

Compound Number	Solvent	Log K	Reference
7	Toluene	2.82	15
8	Toluene	2.85	15
9	Toluene	2.18	14
10	Toluene	2.47	14
11	Toluene	4.00	25
12	Toluene	3.50	25
13	Toluene	4.10	25
14	CCI <sub>4</sub>	3.79	16

calculated by dividing the intercept by the slope (determined by linear regression analysis according to equation 3).

In order to achieve a better understanding of the thermodynamics of thiapodands-[60]fullerene complexation reactions, it would be useful to consider the enthalpic and entropic contributions to these complexation processes. These thermodynamic parameters ( $\Delta G^{\circ}, \Delta H^{\circ}$ and  $\Delta S^{\circ}$ , Table 1) were evaluated from the temperature-dependence of the stability constants (Kc) and applying the van't Hoff equation

$$\ln Kc = -\Delta G^{\circ}/RT = (-\Delta H^{\circ}/RT) + (\Delta S^{\circ}/R)$$
(4)

A plot of lnKc against 1/T gives a straight line with  $-\Delta$ H°/ R as a slope, and  $\Delta$ S°/R as an intercept as shown in Figure 5 for C<sub>60</sub> podand 1 complex. All other complexes of thiapodands with C<sub>60</sub> give similar linear plots.

Table 1 lists the stability constant values determined at 25°C and thermodynamic parameters  $\Delta H^{\circ}$ ,  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  and  $\Delta G^{\circ}$  values for the charge-transfer complexes formed between C<sub>60</sub> and thiapodands 1-6.

Generally, the stability constant value is an indication about the stability of the complex between donor and acceptor, i.e the strength of acceptor-donor interaction. The larger the value, the higher is the stability of the complex. Many factors influence the stability constants, among them; the size of the guest, number and type of the donor atoms and a macrocyclic effect which involves the dimensional compatibility between the size of the macrocycle and the size of the guest. Results in Table 1, show the order of stability constants of C<sub>60</sub> and ester group pearing thiapodands 1-3 complexes is in the order of 1>2>3. This behavior of the podands can be explained by considering the cavity sizes of the podands and the ligating heteroatoms, oxygen and sulfur atoms at the periphery of the podands. The higher stability of the complex of 1 over the complexes of 2 and 3 could be due to the cavity size ratio of podand to [60]fullerene that gives more proper spatial orientation for the interaction, despite the larger number of heteroatoms in each of 2 and 3 as compared to 1. The replacement of one of the sulfur atoms in podand 2 with oxygen atom gives podand 3 causes a decrease in the stability constant. This is because sulfur atom is better donating base toward neutral acceptors than oxygen atom [23-25]. For C<sub>60</sub> and amide group pearing thiapodands 4-6 complexes; the order of stability constants is in the order of 6 >5 >4. The situation here is completely reversing the order of stability constants in C<sub>60</sub>thiapodands 1-3 complexes. This dramatical change could be due to changing the nature of the ending groups; from ester ending groups to amide ending groups. Previous studies on the complexation of podands 1-6 with some transition metals showed clear evidence that the nature of the ending groups takes part in determining the value of stability constants [19,20].

Table 1 also shows that podands 1 and 2 complexes are enthalpy stabilized and entropy destabilized while podands 3, 4, 5 and 6 are enthalpy destabilized, but are highly entropy stabilized.

The less negative  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  value of 3:[60]fullerene complex as compared to 1 and 2:[60]fullerene complexes indicates weaker interaction between [60]fullerene and podand 3 compared to that between [60]fullerene and podands 1 or 2. This probably due to the donation power of the softer sulfur atoms over the harder oxygen atoms.

The extent of flexibility is expected to vary with the size of the podand due to the number and the type of atoms at the periphery of

#### JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY & APPLIED BIOCHEMISTRY



the podands. The interaction of a  $C_{60}$  molecule with a flexible podand results in the formation of a less flexible charge-transfer complex. This will lead to a negative  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  values for the complexation process. It is known that the most flexible starting host will form a complex with the most negative  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  value. This explains the most negative  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  value for the 2:[60]fullerene complex as compared to podands 1 and 3.

For comparison purposes, the stability constants of some macrocyclic compounds 8-14 (Scheme 2) with  $C_{60}$  were incorporated (Table 2). It is clear that the stability constants of podands 1-6 are larger than the stability constants of compounds 8-14 macrocylic- $C_{60}$  complexes.

#### **Experimental**

Thiapodands 1-6 were prepared according to the published procedures [20]. Toluene (HPLC grade, GCC, assay 99.8%) and [60] fullerene (99.5%, Aldrich) were used without any further purification. Spectrophotometric measurements were carried out using a UV-spectrophotometer (SHIMADZU), Model UV-2450, equipped with a thermostat cell holder. The temperature controller (SHIMADZU) was provided with a cooling facility and used to control the cell temperature in the range (0.00-80.0°C) with an accuracy of  $\pm$  0.1°C.

The concentration of [60]fullerene in each solution was kept constant at  $1.30 \times 10$ -4 M, and podands 1-6 concentrations were increased from 0.00 up to 8.00 ×10-3 M. Three runs were made for the calculation of certain K value. Mole ratio method was used to determine the stoichiometry for the complexes. Job's method was applied to confirm the 1:1 stoichiometry of the complexes [15]. The stability constants were evaluated at various temperatures (15-35<sup>°</sup>C) using Bensesi-Hildebrand equation and van't-Hoff equation was applied to determine the thermodynamic parameters [22].

#### Conclusion

The present study shows that the donors 1-6 formed 1:1 complexes with  $C_{60}$  in Toluene solution. In each case, the complex formation was confirmed by the change in the UV-Vis spectra. Several factors affected the complex formation such as, the cavity size, the type and the number of donor atoms and the type of the ending group. It was noticed that, the Kc values increased as the cavity size decrease when the ending group is ester group while the opposite is also true when the amide group is the ending group. The order of stability constants when the ester is the ending group is in the order of 1>2>3, while the order of stability is 6>5>4when the amide is the ending group.

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