



Corrosion Monitoring of Sabcic Iron in Hydrochloric Acid Solutions using some Azo Compounds – Molecular Dynamics, Chemical and Electrochemical Studies

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ABSTRACT

The corrosion inhibition behaviour of Sabcic iron in the absence and in presence of some azo compounds derived from 2, 3-and 2, 7-dihydroxynaphthalene was investigated using weight loss, thermometry and galvanostatic polarizations techniques. It was found that, the inhibition efficiency of these compounds depends on their concentration and chemical structure. The inhibitive action of these azo compounds was discussed in terms of blocking the electrode surface by adsorption of the azo dye molecules through the active centres in their structure. The adsorption process follows Temkin isotherm. The effect of temperature on the rate of corrosion was considered and some activated thermodynamic functions were computed and discussed. Quantum chemical calculations and molecular simulations were further applied to reveal the adsorption structure and explain the experimental results.

Indexing terms/Keywords

Iron; Corrosion; Inhibitors; Naphthalene azo dyes; Adsorption; Quantum chemical calculations.

Academic Discipline And Sub-Disciplines

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INTRODUCTION

Corrosion inhibitors widely used to reduce the corrosion rate of metals and alloys which are present in contact with aggressive environments. Industrial applications like acid pickling, acid cleaning of boilers, descaling and oil well acidizing utilize several of acidic solutions [1] and to prevent base metal attack during these processes, corrosion inhibitors are widely employed. The selection of appropriate inhibitors mainly depends on the type of acid, its concentration, temperature, velocity, presence of dissolved solids and the type of metallic materials involved.

The most of efficient inhibitors are organic compounds having π bonds in their structures [2, 3]. The efficiency of an organic compound as a successful inhibitor is mainly dependent on its ability to get adsorbed on the metal surface. The process of adsorption is influenced by the metal surface, the chemical structure of the organic inhibitor, the distribution of charge in the molecule, the type of aggressive electrolyte and the type of interaction between organic molecules and the metallic surface [4].

Iron is considered to be one of the most important metals which are frequently used in different industrial applications; therefore, the inhibition of iron corrosion was the subject of several studies [5-13]. Results showed that organic compounds, especially those containing nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen atoms gave very good inhibition effect for iron in acidic solutions. However, it remains an important objective to find more efficient low-cost organic inhibitors.

Inhibition of carbon steel corrosion by some thiophene azo dyes in 2 M HCl was investigated [14]. The purines and its derivatives, such as, guanine, adenine, 2, 6-diaminopurine, 6-thioguanine and 2, 6-dithiopurine, were investigated as corrosion inhibitors for mild steel in 1 M HCl solution [15]. The corrosion inhibition and adsorption process of 1, 2-diaminoanthraquinone (DAQ) on mild steel in HCl was studied at different temperatures (303 – 333 K) [16].

Corrosion protection of mild steel in 0.5 M H_2SO_4 solution was studied using combination of benzene-1, 2-diamine and benzaldehyde with $FeCl_3$ to in situ synthesis of new inhibitor at different temperatures employing electrochemical, weight loss, quantum chemical studies and optical microscopy [17].

The density functional theory (DFT) at the B3LYP/631G (d) basis set level was performed on three phenanthroline derivatives used as corrosion inhibitors, namely 2-mesityl-1H-imidazo [1, 4, 5, 10] phenanthroline (G), 2-(6-methylpyridin-2-yl)-1 H-imidazo [1, 4, 5, 10] phenanthroline (J) and 2-(pyridine-2-yl)-1H-imidazo [1, 4, 5, 10, 18] phenanthroline (K) to investigate the correlation between molecular structure and the corresponding inhibition efficiency (%) [19].

The aim of the present study is to investigate the ability of some azo dye compounds derived from dihydroxynaphthalene to inhibit the corrosion of Sabc iron in hydrochloric acid solutions using weight loss, thermometry and polarization techniques, it was also the purpose of the present work to test the experimental data with several adsorption isotherms at different temperatures, in order to determine the standard free energies of the adsorption process and gain more information on the mode of adsorption of the inhibitor on the electrode surface. In order to investigate the relationship between inhibition efficiency and the structure of studied azo dye compounds, some quantum chemical parameters such as HOMO and LUMO energies, charge density of adsorption centres and dipole moment have also been calculated. The local reactivity is analyzed through the Fukui function and condensed softness indices in order to compare the possible sites for nucleophilic and electrophilic attacks.

EXPERIMENTAL

Synthesis of the azo dye compounds

The studied monoazo dye compounds were prepared by coupling the diazonium salt of aromatic amine; o-ansidine and anthranilic acid with 0.01 mole of 2, 3- and 2, 7-dihydroxynaphthalenes as described elsewhere [20]. The prepared azo dyes were characterised by elemental analysis, IR and 1H nmr spectra. The test compounds have the following structural formula:

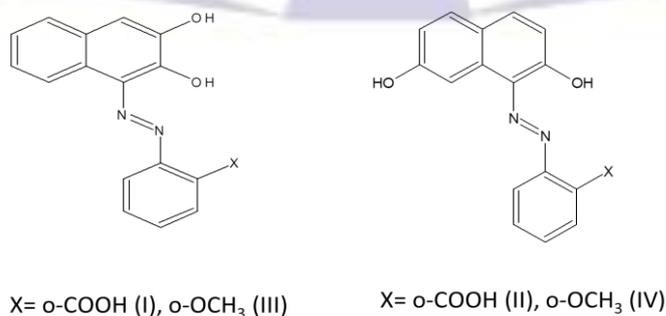


Fig. 1 Molecular structure of investigated azo dye compounds (I-IV).

Materials and measurements

The materials used in this study were made of pure iron obtained from Saudi Iron and Steel Company (Sabic) having the following chemical composition: (%) C, 0.052; Mn, 0.189; S, 0.011; Al, 0.039; N, 0.001; Cr, 0.0128; Cu, 0.04; Mo, 0.024;



Ni, 0.0239 and the remainder is Fe. In all measurements and to prior to each experiment, the surface of iron specimens were mechanically polished with 1-, 0-, 00 - emery paper, degreased with acetone, rinsed by distilled water and finally dried between two filter papers.

For weight loss measurements, the cleaned iron sheets of area 2 cm² was weighed before and after immersion in 50 ml of the test solution for a period of time (30 minutes) at room temperature. The average weight loss (*W*) for each two identical experiments was taken and expressed in mg. The corrosion rate (*R*_{corr}) was calculated using the following equation [21]:

$$R_{\text{corr}} = W \text{ (mg)} / A \text{ (dm}^2\text{)} \times t \text{ (day)} \quad (1)$$

where *A* is the area of the specimen in dm² and *t* is the period of immersion in day.

The percentage inhibition efficiency (*IE*%) of the test azo dyes was calculated using the equation:

$$IE\% = (1 - W_{\text{add}} / W_{\text{free}}) \times 100 \quad (2)$$

where *W*_{free} and *W*_{add} are the weight of the metal sheet in absence and in presence of the inhibitor, respectively.

The degree of surface coverage (*θ*) which represents the part of metal surface covered by inhibitor molecules was calculated using the equation [22]:

$$\theta = 1 - W_{\text{add}} / W_{\text{free}} \quad (3)$$

In thermometric measurements, the procedure has been described by Mylius [23] in which the iron specimen was immersed in the test solution. The initial temperature (*T*_i) in all experiment was measured and the progress of the corrosion reaction was monitored by determining the change in temperature with time using a calibrated thermometer. The corrosion rate was calculated using the equation:

$$RN = (T_m - T_i) / t \quad (4)$$

where *RN* is the reaction number, *T*_m is the maximum temperature, *T*_i is the initial temperature and *t* is the time in minutes at maximum temp.

The percentage inhibition efficiency (*IE*%) of the test azo dyes was calculated using the equation:

$$IE\% = [(RN_{\text{free}} - RN_{\text{add}}) / RN_{\text{free}}] \times 100 \quad (5)$$

where *RN*_{free} and *RN*_{add} are the reaction number in absence and in presence of the inhibitor, respectively.

For galvanostatic polarization, measurements were carried out using an EG&G model 173 Potentiostat/Galvanostat. The electrode potential was measured against a saturated calomel electrode (SCE). A platinum foil was used as an auxiliary electrode. The percentage inhibition efficiency (*IE*%) of the used inhibitors was calculated using the following equation:

$$IE\% = (1 - I_{\text{add}} / I_{\text{free}}) \times 100 \quad (6)$$

where *I*_{free} and *I*_{add} are the corrosion current densities in absence and in presence of the inhibitor, respectively.

Theoretical calculation

For quantum chemical calculations, the study was carried out using ab initio with basis set STO-3G method with commercially available quantum chemical software HyperChem, Release 8.0 [24]. A full optimization of all geometrical variables without any symmetry constraint was performed at the Restricted Hartree-Fock (RHF) level [25, 26]. This develops the molecular orbitals on a valence basis set and also, calculates electronic properties, optimized geometries and total energy of the molecules. As an optimization procedure, the built-in Polak-Ribiere algorithm was used [27].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Weight loss measurements

Table (1) shows the values of corrosion rate (*R*_{corr}), inhibition efficiency (*IE*) and the surface coverage (*θ*) obtained from weight loss measurements of iron electrode in 2 M hydrochloric acid solutions in absence and in presence of the tested azo dye compounds (I-IV). Inspection of Table (1) reveals that the corrosion rate decreases and the inhibition efficiency increases with increasing the inhibitor concentration within the range 1×10⁻⁴, 1×10⁻⁶ M. This behaviour could be attributed to the increase of the surface coverage (*θ*) as the inhibitor concentration is increased. However, the values of inhibition efficiency given in Table (1) indicated that naphthalene azo compounds (I-IV) exhibited a very good performance on the corrosion of iron in 2 M HCl solutions. The inhibition achieved by these compounds increases from azo dye compound IV to azo dye compound I.



Thermometric measurements

Effect of concentration of azo dye compound (I) on the thermometric curves of iron in 2 M HCl solutions was investigated and represented in Fig. 2 as an example. However, similar curves (not shown) were obtained for the other compounds. The thermometric curves revealed that the dissolution of iron in HCl solutions is characterised by an initial slow rise of temperature followed by a sharp rise and finally a decrease after attaining a maximum value. As the concentration of the additives increases, the time required to reach the maximum temperature (T_m) increases and consequently, the rate of temperature rise decreases. The reaction number (RN) of the test azo dye was measured and the extent of corrosion inhibition by a certain concentration of the additives is evaluated from the percentage reduction number ($RRN\%$) which represents the inhibition efficiency (IE). The results obtained Table (2) denoted that the RN decreases and consequently, the $RRN\%$ increase on increasing the concentration of the additives, i. e, the IE increases in the same order of the weight loss results.

It is of interest to mention that the results of thermometric method are in agreement with those obtained from weight loss measurements.

Galvanostatic Polarization measurements

Galvanostatic polarization of iron was studied in 0.1 M hydrochloric acid solutions in absence and in presence of inhibitors (I-IV). Fig. 3 shows the galvanostatic polarization curves of compounds of (I) as atypical example. Similar curves (not shown) were obtained for the other azo dye compounds. Inspection of Fig. 3 reveals that the presence of inhibitor shifts the anodic curves towards the noble direction and the cathodic curves towards the active one. This behaviour suggested the inhibitive effect of the additives. The various electrochemical parameters such as anodic (β_a) and cathodic (β_c) slopes, corrosion potential (E_{corr}), corrosion current density (I_{corr}), inhibition efficiency (IE) and surface coverage were calculated from Tafel plots and given in Table (3). The value of corrosion current density was evaluated by the interaction of the extrapolated of the cathodic and anodic Tafel lines to the steady state corrosion.

An inspection of the data given in Table (3) reveals that increasing of concentrations of azo compounds (I-IV) causes:

i- The corrosion potential is shifted to more slightly positive values and the corrosion current density decreases indicating the inhibiting effect of the tested compounds.

ii- The values of the anodic and cathodic Tafel constants decreases slightly which suggests the simple blocking of the available surface area of the metal by the inhibitor molecules, i. e, the adsorbed inhibitor molecules decrease the surface area available for both metal dissolution and hydrogen evolution reactions without appreciably affecting the reaction mechanism [28]. Therefore, it could be concluded the values β_a & β_c are nearly constant. This indicate that the tested azo dye compounds effect on both the anodic and cathodic reactions i. e, it considered to be mixed type inhibitor.

iii- The values of inhibition efficiency and consequently the values of surface coverage increase with increasing the inhibitor concentration. The inhibition efficiency increases in the same order of the weight loss and thermometric results.

Adsorption isotherm

Naphthalene azo compounds (I-IV) inhibit the corrosion process of iron in HCl solutions by the adsorption of the azo dye molecules on the metal surface. The adsorption is regarded as substitutional adsorption process between the organic molecules in the aqueous phase (Org_{aq}) and the water molecules adsorbed on the metal surface (H_2O_{ad}) [29].



where \times is the size ratio, that is, the number of water molecules replaced by one organic molecule. Attempts were made to fit the surface coverage (θ) values to various adsorption isotherms including Frumkin, Langmuir, Temkin and Freundlich. By far, the results were best fitted by applying Temkin adsorption isotherm according to the following equation [30]:

$$\theta = \text{Constant} + (2.303 / f) \log C \quad (8)$$

where $f = 1/RT [d(\Delta G_a^0)]$, $\log C(C/M)$, ΔG_a^0 is the standard free energy of adsorption and C is inhibitor concentration. Thus, on plotting (θ) obtained from weight loss method or polarization measurements versus $\log C$, straight line was obtained as shown in Fig. 5, denoting that adsorption of the tested azo dye compounds on the iron surface follows Temkin adsorption isotherm.

Effect of temperature

The effect of temperature on the corrosion rate of iron in 2 M HCl solutions in absence and in presence of the azo compounds (I-IV) was studied using weigh loss measurement at temperatures 313, 323 and 333 K. It was found that as the temperature increases, the corrosion rate increases and hence the inhibition efficiency decreases. This is may be to de-sorption of the inhibitor molecules at the metal surface which is aided by increasing temperature.

The activation energy (E_a) of the dissolution of the metal in the acid solution was calculated using the Arrhenius equation [31]:



$$R_{\text{corr}} = Ae^{-E_a/RT} \quad (9)$$

and the logarithmic form:

$$\log R_{\text{corr}} = \log A - E_a / 2.303 RT \quad (10)$$

where A is the Arrhenius constant, R is the gas constant and T is the absolute temperature.

On plotting $\log R_{\text{corr}}$ ($R_{\text{corr}} / \text{mg dm}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$) versus $1/T$ for the free and inhibited solutions, straight lines were obtained Fig. (4). from the slopes of these plots, values of E_a were calculated and represented in Table (4). Inspection of Table, it is clear that the value of E_a increases in the presence of the inhibitors (I-IV) and the increase follows the order: IV < III < II < I

The enthalpy change of activation (ΔH^\ddagger) was calculated applying the following relation [32]:

$$\Delta H^\ddagger = E_a - RT \quad (11)$$

Also, the activation entropy change was calculated using the equation [31]:

$$\Delta S^\ddagger = - \frac{\Delta G^\ddagger - \Delta H^\ddagger}{T} \quad (12)$$

The values of ΔH^\ddagger , ΔG^\ddagger and ΔS^\ddagger for corrosion of iron in hydrochloric acid solutions were calculated and given in Table (4). The data revealed that ΔH^\ddagger increases on increasing temperature, i. e, the dissolution of metal in the acidic medium is increased. On the other hand, at a given temperature, ΔH^\ddagger decreases in presence of the inhibitors (I-IV), the decrease follow the order: IV < III < II < I

This means that the dissolution process decreases on going from azo compound I to azo compound IV. At the same time, the negative sign and decreasing of ΔS^\ddagger on increasing temperature denoting the increase of disorder accompanied the dissolution process. On the other hand, at the same temperature the negative sign and the negative sign and the increase of ΔS^\ddagger in presence of the inhibitor revealed that the disorder and consequently the dissolution process decreases in the sequence: IV > III > II > I

Quantum chemical calculations

Experimental results show that inhibition efficiencies of the studied azo dye compounds can be due to the chemical adsorption of inhibitor molecules onto metal surface. Chemisorption involves the share or transfer of charge from the molecules to the surface to form a coordinate type bond. Electron transfer is typical for transition metals having vacant low-energy orbitals. As for inhibitors, the electron transfer can be expected with compounds having relatively loosely bound electrons [33-35].

To investigate the effect of molecular structure on the inhibition mechanism and the inhibition efficiency, some quantum chemical calculations were performed. Quantum chemical parameters such as the energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital, E_H , the energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital, E_L , the differences between them ($E_L - E_H$), HOMO-LUMO gap, dipole moment, μ , and the charge densities of molecules have been obtained from ab initio with basis set STO-3G method with commercially available quantum chemical software HyperChem, Release 8.0 and are given in Table (5), which show that an increase in the values of E_H and a decrease in $E_L - E_H$ values cause increase in the inhibitive action of the studied azo dye compounds. It is known that in the chemical adsorption an increase in E_H values cause a significant increase in the inhibition efficiency of organic compounds [36, 37].

On the other hand, the energy gap between E_L and E_H can be used as a characteristic quantity for metallic complexes [34, 35, 38]. The lower energy gap indicates the higher stability of the formed complex, thus the higher inhibition efficiency. Increase in μ values with the decrease of $E_L - E_H$ values indicates the formation of coordinate covalent bond between organic molecules and steel.

Figs. 6 (a, b) show the optimized geometry, the HOMO density distribution, the LUMO density distribution and the Mulliken charge population in aqueous phase. The reactive ability of the inhibitor is considered to be closely related to their frontier molecular orbitals, the HOMO and LUMO. Higher HOMO energy (E_H) of the molecule means a higher electron donating ability to appropriate acceptor molecules with low energy empty molecular orbital and thus explains the adsorption on metallic surfaces by way of delocalized pairs of p-electrons. E_L , the energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital signifies the electron receiving tendency of a molecule.

The number of electrons transferred (ΔN) was also calculated depending on the quantum chemical method, as in Eq. (13):

$$\Delta N = \frac{X_{\text{Fe}} - X_{\text{inh}}}{2 \sum \eta_{\text{Fe}} + \eta_{\text{inh}}} \quad 13$$

where X_{Fe} and X_{inh} denote the absolute electronegativity of nickel and the inhibitor molecule, respectively; η_{Fe} and η_{inh} denote the absolute hardness of iron and the inhibitor molecule, the absolute electronegativity, X , and absolute hardness, η is a chemical property that describes the ability of a molecule to attract electron towards itself in a covalent bond, while the absolute hardness is measured by the energy gap between the lowest unoccupied and highest occupied molecular orbitals [39]. Values of X and η were calculated by using the values of I and A obtained from quantum chemical



calculation. Using a theoretical value of $X = 7.0$ eV/mol, according to Pearson's electronegativity scale, and value of $\eta = 0.0$ eV/mol for iron [40].

These parameters also provide information about the reactive behavior of molecules and are presented in Table (5). Absolute softness, σ is defined as the reciprocal of the hardness. X , η and σ are calculated using the energies of the HOMO and the LUMO orbitals of the inhibitor molecule are related to the ionization potential I , and the electron affinity A , respectively, by the following relations:

$$X = \frac{I + A}{2}; \eta = \frac{I - A}{2} \text{ and } \sigma = \frac{2}{I - A}$$

where $I = -E_{\text{HOMO}}$ and $A = -E_{\text{LUMO}}$

The results deduced indicate that the electron flow will happen from the molecule with the low electronegativity towards that of a higher value, until the chemical potentials are the same. In our case, the best inhibitory effect is shown by azo dye compound IV with low electronegativity, but azo dye compound I possesses the higher value.

When the hardness (η) values decrease, the inhibition values increases [41]. The opposite trend was obtained for softness (σ) comparing with hardness, namely inhibition efficiency increases with softness [41-43] where high values of softness were found to favor the adsorption process [42]. Based on Table 5, the values of η are always smaller, while those of σ are always higher in presence of azo IV compared with azo I, II and III, reflecting the high inhibition performance of azo IV as compared with the other tested compounds.

ΔN , the number of electrons transferred from inhibitor to the iron surface, was calculated. Values of ΔN showed that the inhibition effect resulted from electron donation. Based on Lukovits's study [44], $\Delta N < 3.6$ denotes that the inhibition efficiency increases with increasing electron-donating ability at the metal surface. Based on these calculations, it is expected that the four tested inhibitors were donors of electrons, and the electrode surface was the acceptor, and this favours chemical adsorption of the inhibitor on the electrode surface. The compounds bind to the electrode surface and form an adsorption layer against corrosion. Azo dye compound IV had the highest inhibition efficiency because it had the highest ΔN values, and it had the greatest ability of offering electrons, and azo dye compound I had the lowest inhibition efficiency, for vice versa.

The dipole moment (μ) is another indicator of the electronic distribution in a molecule and is one of the properties used to discuss and to rationalize the structure [44]. Although, there is a lack of agreement in the literature on the correlation between the dipole moment and inhibition efficiency [45-48], the comparison between the calculated dipole moments of azo compounds (I-IV) reveals that the lowest (i.e. azo IV molecule) has better inhibition efficiency.

Table 6 shows that most of all N and some of O and C atoms carry negative charges. This indicates that these atoms are the negative charge centres which could offer electrons to the iron atoms on the surface to form a coordinate bond.

It is possible to evaluate condensed Fukui functions for nucleophilic, electrophilic, and radical attack from single-points calculations directly, without resorting to additional calculations involving the systems with N , $N-1$ and $N+1$ electron. The resulting change in electron density is the nucleophilic and electrophilic Fukui functions, which can be expressed using the finite difference approximation as follows,

$$f_K^+ = q(N+1) - q(N) \quad (14)$$

$$f_K^- = q(N) - q(N-1) \quad (15)$$

where $q(N)$, $q(N+1)$ and $q(N-1)$ are the Mulliken charge of the atom with N , $(N+1)$, and $(N-1)$ electrons. Frontier orbital electron densities on atoms provide a useful means for the detailed characterization of donor-acceptor interactions. In the case of a donor molecule, the HOMO density is critical to the charge-transfer (electrophilic electron density f_K^-) and in the case of an acceptor molecule, the LUMO density is important (nucleophilic electron density f_K^+). However, frontier electron densities can strictly be used only to describe the reactivity of different atoms in the same molecule.

Table 6 present values of f_K^+ and f_K^- for four inhibitors. As a rule, the respective site for electrophilic and nucleophilic attacks will be the place where the value of f_K^+ or f_K^- is maximum. An analysis of Fukui indices shown in Table 6, demonstrates that, in all inhibitors, the nitrogen atoms are the most susceptible sites for electrophilic attacks. These sites present the highest values of f_K^- .

The electrostatic potential is a physical property of a molecule related to how a molecule is first "seen" or "felt" by another approaching species [49]. A portion of a molecule that has a negative electrostatic potential will be susceptible to



electrophilic attack. The more the negative the electrostatic potential, the higher is the susceptible to electrophilic attack. It is not as straightforward to use electrostatic potentials to predict nucleophilic attack. The three dimensional mapped isosurface of the electrostatic potential (ESP) of inhibitors are shown in Fig. 7 (a, b) using ab initio method as implemented in the HyperChem version 8.0 program. This map provides information on the reactivity of the molecules in actual reaction with electrophiles or nucleophiles. Red colors indicate negative ESP regions and green colors indicate positive ESP regions. These Figs. show that nitrogen and oxygen atoms have more negative ESP regions in compare with other atoms. This means that oxygen and nitrogen atoms undergo protonation reaction with acidic reagents [50].

CONCLUSIONS

All studied azo dye compounds behave as efficient corrosion inhibitors and their inhibition efficiencies tend to increase with increasing inhibitor concentration. The protection ability of these compounds is given in the order of IV < III < II < I. All studied azo dye compounds acts as a mixed type inhibitors for acidic corrosion of iron in 2 M HCl. The inhibition action of the studied compounds is mainly due to their blocking adsorption on the steel surface. Adsorption process obeys Temkin isotherm.

The inhibition efficiencies of the studied azo dye compounds increases with increasing E_H and with decreasing ΔE value.

The values of free energy of adsorption and the relationship between the inhibition efficiency values and the calculated quantum chemical parameters suggest that these azo dye compounds can be adsorbed on steel surface by chemical mechanism.

Data obtained from quantum chemical calculations ab initio with basis set STO-3G method level of theory were correlated to the inhibitive effect of azo dye compounds. Both experimental and theoretical calculations are in excellent agreement.

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FIGURES/CAPTIONS

Fig. 1 Molecular structure of investigated azo dye compounds (I-IV).

Fig. 2 Variation of temperature with time at different concentrations of compound (I) for iron in 2 M HCl.

Fig. 3 Galvanostatic polarization curves for the corrosion of iron in 0.1 M HCl in absence and in presence of different concentrations of compound (I).

Fig. 4 Arrhenius plots of the corrosion rate of iron in 2 M HCl in absence and in presence of inhibitors (I, II, II, IV).

Fig. 5 Temkin adsorption isotherm of monoazo compound (I) for iron in 2 M HCl.

Fig. 6 (a) The highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and (b) The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) density azo compounds (I-IV) using the HyperChem version 8.0 program.

Fig. 7 (a & b) 3D maps Isosurface of the electrostatic potential (ESP) in the spatial vicinity of inhibitors (I-IV) (the electron rich region is red and the electron poor region is green in the neutral molecules), using ab initio method as implemented in the HyperChem version 8.0 program.

Figure 2

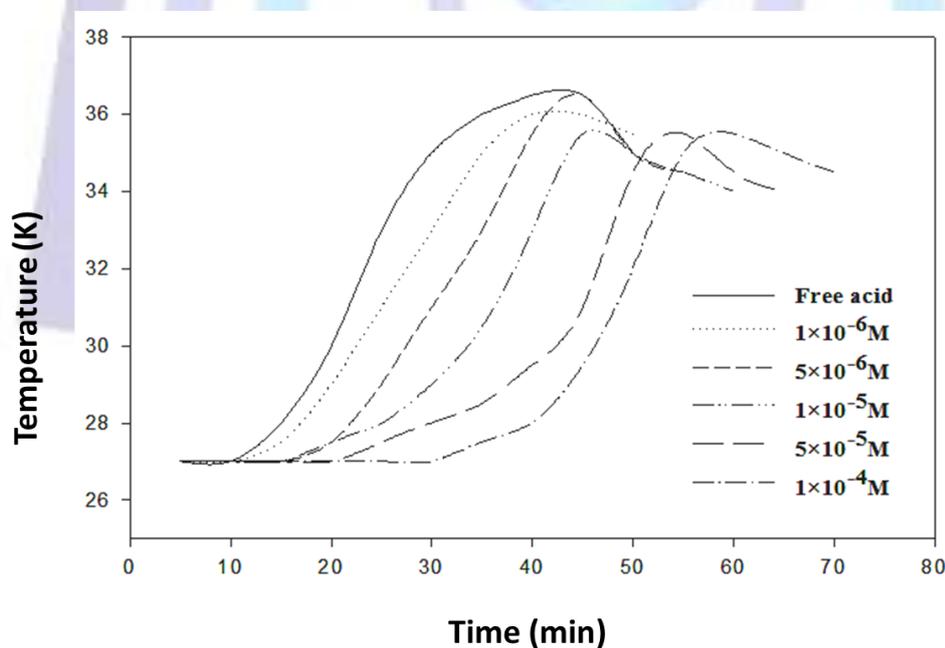




Figure 3

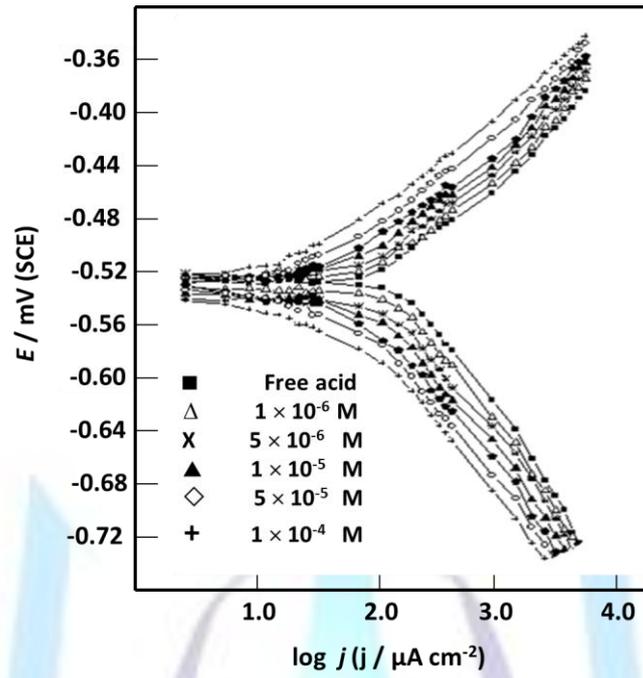


Figure 4

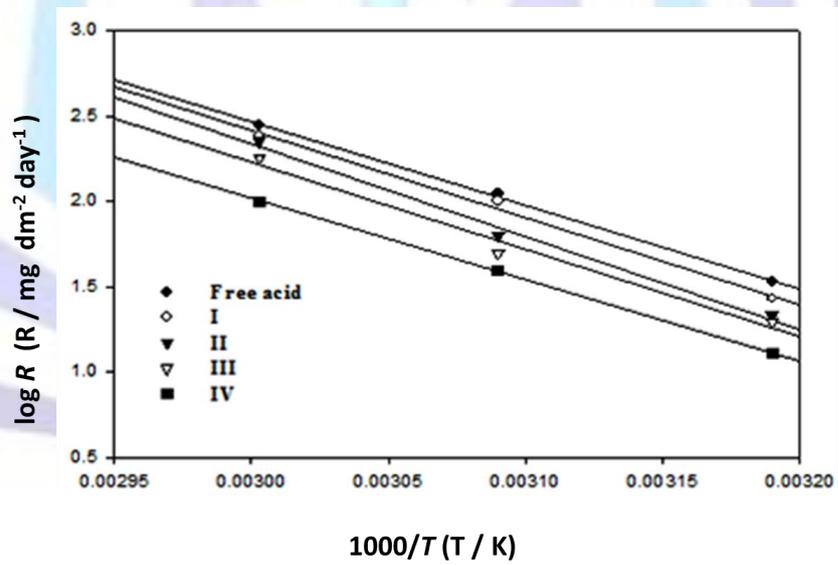


Figure 5

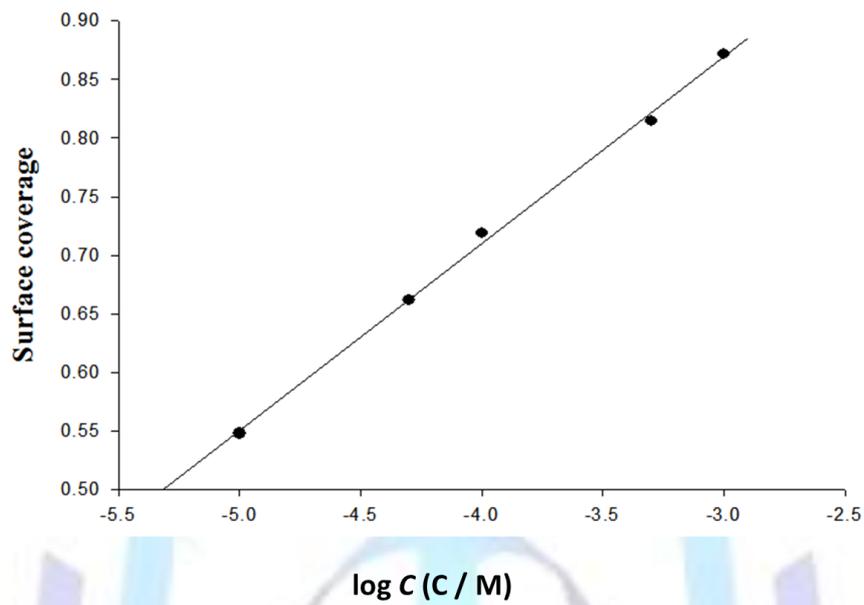


Figure 6

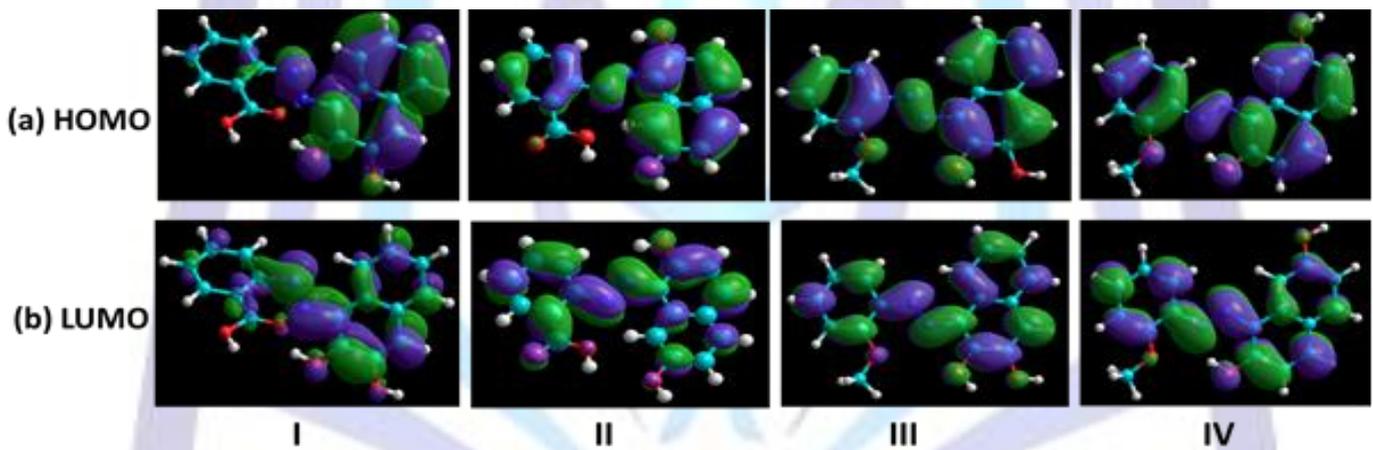


Figure 7

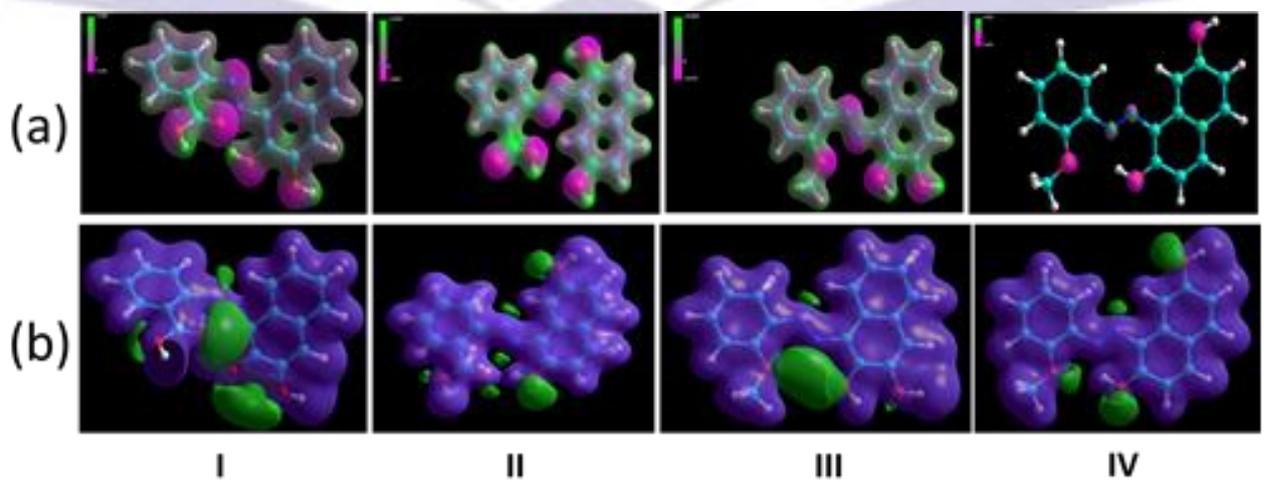




Table 1 Corrosion parameters of iron in 2 M hydrochloric acid solution in presence of different concentrations of azo dye compounds (I-IV) using weight loss method.

Compd.	[C] M	<i>R</i> mg dm ⁻² day ⁻¹	<i>IE</i> %	<i>θ</i>
I	1×10 ⁻⁶	11.40	50.00	0.500
	5×10 ⁻⁶	9.48	61.27	0.613
	1×10 ⁻⁵	8.76	64.90	0.649
	5×10 ⁻⁵	6.96	72.38	0.723
	1×10 ⁻⁴	5.76	77.14	0.771
II	1×10 ⁻⁶	10.92	54.76	0.548
	5×10 ⁻⁶	4.48	62.32	0.624
	1×10 ⁻⁵	7.08	71.90	0.719
	5×10 ⁻⁵	4.68	81.42	0.814
	1×10 ⁻⁴	3.24	87.14	0.871
III	1×10 ⁻⁶	10.44	56.66	0.567
	5×10 ⁻⁶	8.64	65.71	0.657
	1×10 ⁻⁵	6.36	74.76	0.748
	5×10 ⁻⁵	5.04	80.00	0.800
	1×10 ⁻⁴	3.72	85.23	0.852
IV	1×10 ⁻⁶	10.20	59.52	0.595
	5×10 ⁻⁶	8.52	66.19	0.662
	1×10 ⁻⁵	7.32	70.95	0.710
	5×10 ⁻⁵	6.96	72.38	0.748
	1×10 ⁻⁴	5.76	77.14	0.771

Table 2 Corrosion parameters of iron in 2 M hydrochloric acid solutions containing different concentrations of azo compounds (I-IV) using thermometric method.

Compd.	I		II		III		IV	
	<i>RN</i>	<i>IE</i>	<i>RN</i>	<i>IE</i>	<i>RN</i>	<i>IE</i>	<i>RN</i>	<i>IE</i> %
[C] M								
0.0	0.231	-						
1×10 ⁻⁶	0.133	42.42	0.118	48.92	0.103	55.41	0.096	58.44
5×10 ⁻⁶	0.120	48.05	0.105	54.55	0.090	61.04	0.088	62.34
1×10 ⁻⁵	0.108	53.25	0.090	61.04	0.080	65.37	0.077	66.67
5×10 ⁻⁵	0.082	64.50	0.078	66.23	0.073	68.40	0.069	70.13
1×10 ⁻⁴	0.070	69.70	0.067	70.99	0.065	71.86	0.063	72.73



Table 3 Corrosion parameters of iron in 0.1 M hydrochloric acid solutions in presence of different concentrations of azo compounds (I-IV), using galvanostatic measurements.

Compd.	[C] M	$-E_{corr}$ mV(SCE)	I_{corr} $\mu A cm^{-2}$	β_a mV dec ⁻¹	β_c mV dec ⁻¹	θ	$IE\%$
I	0.00	533	568.35	76	115	-	-
	1×10^{-6}	530	296.28	66	105	0.480	47.96
	5×10^{-6}	531	261.86	60	102	0.540	54.00
	1×10^{-5}	528	231.26	58	99	0.594	59.38
	5×10^{-5}	528	188.22	53	93	0.670	66.94
	1×10^{-4}	526	180.12	50	91	0.684	68.30
II	0.00	533	568.35	76	115	-	-
	1×10^{-6}	531	271.15	72	112	0.524	52.37
	5×10^{-6}	528	250.05	70	106	0.561	56.10
	1×10^{-5}	526	221.56	65	105	0.611	61.08
	5×10^{-5}	525	180.56	61	98	0.683	68.30
	1×10^{-4}	524	170.22	58	100	0.702	70.20
III	0.00	533	568.35	76	115	-	-
	1×10^{-6}	531	260.22	72	113	0.543	54.30
	5×10^{-6}	530	244.23	72	109	0.571	57.10
	1×10^{-5}	528	215.25	71	106	0.622	62.20
	5×10^{-5}	523	170.33	66	103	0.701	70.01
	1×10^{-4}	522	152.28	65	103	0.732	73.2
IV	0.00	533	568.35	76	115	-	-
	1×10^{-6}	531	254.35	77	101	0.521	55.21
	5×10^{-6}	529	238.28	77	101	0.581	58.07
	1×10^{-5}	527	208.03	74	99	0.634	63.39
	5×10^{-5}	522	160.22	65	100	0.718	71.81
	1×10^{-4}	522	148.29	63	104	0.739	73.92

**Table 4 Thermodynamic activation parameters of corrosion of iron in free and inhibited 2 M HCl acid solutions in presence of 1×10^{-3} M azo dye compounds (I-IV) using weight loss method.**

Compd.	Temp. K	E_a^* kJ	ΔH^* kJmol ⁻¹	ΔG^* kJmol ⁻¹	ΔS^* Jmol ⁻¹
Free acid	313	370.99	-2230.04	76444.27	-251.35
	323		-2313.14	74538.29	-237.93
	333		-2396.24	75877.44	-235.05
I	313	433.71	-2167.32	77328.62	-253.98
	323		-2250.42	74753.02	-238.40
	333		-2333.52	75988.13	-235.20
II	313	475.50	-2125.53	77510.69	-254.42
	323		-2208.63	75316.68	-240.01
	333		-2291.73	76071.15	-235.32
III	313	527.77	-2073.26	77874.83	-255.42
	323		-2156.36	76126.49	-242.36
	333		-2239.46	76126.49	-235.33
IV	313	580.02	-2021.01	78499.08	-257.25
	323		-2104.11	75719.30	-240.93
	333		-2187.21	76818.30	-237.25

Table 5 Quantum chemical parameters for the studied inhibitors calculated with ab initio method in gas phase as implemented in the HyperChem version 8.0 program.

Parameters	I	II	III	IV
E_{HOMO} (eV)	-7.92	-7.74	-7.45	-7.15
E_{LUMO} (eV)	1.69	1.6	1.79	1.53
ΔE (eV)	9.61	9.34	9.24	8.68
χ	3.115	3.07	2.83	2.81
η	4.805	4.67	4.62	4.34
σ	0.208	0.214	0.216	0.230
ΔN	0.0400	0.0460	0.0725	0.079
μ (Debye)	1.505	2.10	2.335	0.863



Table 6 Calculated Mulliken atomic charges and Fukui functions for inhibitors.

Inhibitor	Atom	$q(N)$	$q(N-1)$	$q(N+1)$	f_K^+	f_K^-	f_K^o
I	C(1)	0.2439	0.3522	0.3650	0.1211	0.1083	0.0063
	C(2)	0.4530	0.4338	0.4798	0.0268	-0.0192	0.0230
	C(3)	0.3779	0.3295	0.4944	0.1164	-0.0484	0.0824
	C(4)	-0.2015	0.1319	0.2600	0.4616	0.3334	0.0640
	C(5)	-0.0552	-0.1045	-0.0859	-0.0306	-0.0493	0.0093
	C(6)	-0.1122	-0.2028	-0.2055	-0.0933	-0.0906	-0.0013
	C(7)	-0.1921	0.0758	0.1654	0.3576	0.2679	0.0448
	C(8)	-0.2396	-0.0036	0.0931	0.3328	0.2359	0.0484
	C(9)	-0.2325	-0.0161	0.0970	0.3295	0.2163	0.0566
	C(10)	-0.2045	0.1551	0.1552	0.3597	0.3597	0.0031
	O(11)	-0.2407	-0.4287	-0.6578	-0.4171	-0.1879	-0.1145
	O(12)	-0.2276	-0.7336	-0.7923	-0.5647	-0.5060	-0.0293
	N(13)	-0.4731	-0.5490	-0.5675	-0.0944	-0.0759	-0.0092
	N(14)	-0.3577	-0.2952	-0.3873	-0.0295	0.0624	-0.0460
	C(15)	0.3147	0.2541	0.2868	-0.0279	-0.0606	0.0163
	C(16)	-0.2122	-0.0470	0.0327	0.2450	0.1652	0.0399
	C(17)	-0.2454	-0.0443	0.0410	0.2864	0.2010	0.0426
	C(18)	-0.1792	0.0781	0.1344	0.3137	0.2574	0.0281
	C(19)	-0.2588	-0.2308	-0.2027	0.0560	0.0280	0.0140
	C(20)	-0.2174	0.0424	0.1154	0.3329	0.2599	0.0365
	C(21)	0.9717	0.9483	0.8345	-0.1372	-0.0233	-0.0569
	N(22)	-0.7303	-0.7537	-0.7588	-0.0284	-0.0233	-0.0025
	N(23)	-0.6127	-0.7917	-0.7973	-0.1845	-0.1790	-0.0027
II	C(1)	-0.1367	-0.1657	-0.1514	0.0143	-0.0290	0.0071
	C(2)	-0.0445	-0.2058	-0.1593	0.0464	-0.1613	0.0232
	C(3)	-0.1757	-0.0181	0.1168	0.1350	0.1575	0.0675
	C(4)	-0.3000	0.0411	0.1947	0.1536	0.3411	0.0768
	C(5)	-0.2750	-0.0633	0.1129	0.1763	0.2116	0.0881
	C(6)	0.3764	0.3877	0.3195	-0.068	0.0113	-0.0340
	C(7)	-0.2497	0.0147	0.1322	0.1175	0.2644	0.0587
	C(8)	0.4521	0.3666	0.4060	0.0394	-0.0855	0.01971
	C(9)	-0.1545	0.0217	0.1409	0.1192	0.1762	0.05960
	C(10)	0.2348	0.4330	0.5144	0.0813	0.1982	0.04068
	O(11)	-0.1581	-0.1621	-0.3797	-0.2176	-0.0039	-0.10880
	N(12)	-0.1403	-0.2425	-0.2691	-0.0266	-0.1022	-0.01332
	N(13)	-0.2064	-0.2064	-0.2657	-0.0592	-0.0065	-0.02962
	C(14)	-0.2348	0.0913	0.1712	0.0799	0.3261	0.03998
	C(15)	-0.1782	-0.0057	0.1041	0.10987	0.1725	0.05493
	C(16)	0.3017	0.3469	0.2782	-0.0687	0.0452	-0.03439
	C(17)	-0.2365	-0.0171	0.1134	0.1306	0.2194	0.06532



	C(18)	-0.2057	-0.3585	-0.2731	0.0854	-0.1527	0.04271
	C(19)	-0.2251	0.1036	0.1540	0.0503	0.3288	0.02517
	C(20)	-0.7587	-0.6904	-0.3835	0.3068	0.0682	0.15342
	C(21)	1.0041	1.0159	0.9570	-0.0589	0.0118	-0.0294
	O(22)	-0.1243	-0.2061	-0.4171	-0.2110	-0.0818	-0.10551
	O(23)	-0.1247	-0.2807	-0.4169	-0.1361	-0.1559	-0.06809
III	C(1)	-0.1068	-0.2696	-0.1914	-0.0845	-0.1627	0.03911
	C(2)	-0.0624	-0.1127	-0.0973	-0.0348	-0.0503	0.00772
	C(3)	-0.1943	0.0639	0.1354	0.3298	0.2582	0.03577
	C(4)	-0.2055	0.0712	0.1249	0.3304	0.2768	0.02682
	C(5)	-0.2392	-0.0478	0.0375	0.2768	0.1913	0.04271
	C(6)	-0.2359	-0.0650	0.0280	0.2640	0.1709	0.04654
	C(7)	0.3324	0.1988	0.3615	0.0291	-0.1335	0.08133
	C(8)	0.4556	0.4128	0.4101	-0.0454	-0.0428	-0.0013
	C(9)	-0.2038	-0.0707	0.1978	0.4017	0.1330	0.13433
	C(10)	0.2280	0.28550	0.2721	0.0440	0.0574	-0.0067
	O(11)	-0.2368	-0.3003	-0.3297	-0.0928	-0.0634	-0.0147
	N(12)	-0.1277	-0.2212	-0.3884	-0.2606	-0.0934	-0.0836
	N(13)	-0.2319	-0.1635	-0.3110	-0.0791	0.0683	-0.0737
	C(14)	0.2423	0.1753	0.2487	0.0064	-0.0669	0.03671
	C(15)	-0.1870	0.0846	0.1707	0.3577	0.2716	0.04305
	O(16)	-0.4096	-0.4077	-0.6905	-0.2809	0.0018	-0.1413
	O(17)	-0.4178	-0.4594	-0.7053	-0.2874	-0.0416	-0.1229
	C(18)	0.4766	0.1048	0.3624	-0.1141	-0.3717	0.12880
	C(19)	-0.2703	0.4500	0.8669	1.1372	0.7203	0.20844
	C(20)	-0.2926	-0.0204	0.1499	0.4426	0.2722	0.08521
	C(21)	-0.2140	-0.0078	0.0793	0.2934	0.2062	0.04359
	C(22)	-0.2690	-0.0305	0.0678	0.3368	0.2384	0.0491
IV	C(1)	-0.1381	-0.2445	-0.1524	-0.0143	-0.1064	0.04605
	C(2)	-0.0541	-0.1674	-0.1692	-0.1151	-0.1133	-0.0009
	C(3)	-0.1732	-0.0125	0.0999	0.2731	0.1606	0.05626
	C(4)	-0.2225	0.0597	0.1760	0.3985	0.2822	0.05818
	C(5)	-0.2854	-0.1075	0.0966	0.3820	0.1779	0.10207
	C(6)	0.3988	0.4199	0.3187	-0.0800	0.0210	-0.0505
	C(7)	-0.2576	-0.0453	0.1037	0.3614	0.2123	0.07454
	C(8)	0.4812	0.4070	0.4038	-0.0774	-0.0742	-0.0016
	C(9)	-0.1607	0.0344	0.1221	0.2828	0.1952	0.04381
	C(10)	0.2305	0.3200	0.4008	0.1703	0.0894	0.04042
	O(11)	-0.7909	-0.5119	-0.6013	0.1895	0.2789	-0.0446
	N(12)	-0.3701	-0.4090	-0.4506	-0.0804	-0.0389	-0.0207
	N(13)	-0.4791	-0.6525	-0.6730	-0.1939	-0.1733	-0.0102
	C(14)	0.4543	0.06920	0.4082	-0.0461	-0.3851	0.16950



C(15)	0.2383	0.14382	0.2856	0.0473	-0.0945	0.07092
O(16)	-0.6488	-0.6866	-0.6975	-0.0487	-0.0377	-0.0054
C(17)	-0.1913	0.0811	0.2894	0.4808	0.2724	0.10418
C(18)	-0.2619	-0.0148	0.0260	0.2879	0.2470	0.02042
C(19)	-0.2774	-0.0187	0.1992	0.4766	0.2587	0.10899
C(20)	-0.2164	-0.0191	0.2341	0.4506	0.1973	0.12663
O(21)	-0.5367	-0.6704	-0.9123	-0.3755	-0.1337	-0.12092
C(22)	-0.2750	0.4556	0.3919	0.6669	0.7306	-0.03186

