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PAGES: 1-1

ORIGINAL PDF URL: https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/download/article-file/105151



*Received*: 31.01.2014 *Accepted*: 19.03.2014 *Editors-in-Chief*: Naim Çağman *Area Editor*: Yakup Budak

# Effect of Some Electron Donor and Electron Acceptor Groups on Stability of Complexes According to the Principle of HSAB

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Abstract – Chemical hardness is an important feature of substances. Lewis acids and bases have been classified to considering the chemical hardness concept and HSAB (Hard and Soft Acid- base) Principle has been demonstrated by Pearson. HSAB principle is an extremely useful qualitative theory that enables predictions of what adducts will form in a complex mixture of potential Lewis acids and bases. Furthermore, chemical hardness is associated with chemical reactivity of molecules. In this study, effect of the chemical hardness in complexes formation was investigated. For this purpose, complexes with Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions of pyrithione (PT) ligand and its derivatives were studied. All calculations were made using the Gaussian 09, Revision B.01 program. The obtained geometries were further optimized at the b3lyp/ 6-31g (d,p) level using Gaussian package. In complex formation reactions, reaction energy ( $\Delta E$ ) has been calculated.

*Keywords* – HSAB, Pyrithione, DFT, Chemical hardness, Coordination complexes

## **1. Introduction**

Chemical hardness fundamentally signifies the resistance toward the deformation or polarization of electron cloud of the atoms, ions, or molecules [1]. Chemical hardness is one of extremely useful conceptual constructs of chemistry and physics. Based on this concept, Lewis acids and bases are classified as hard and soft and HSAB Principle [2], [3] was put forward by Pearson. According to HSAB Principle, "hard acids prefer to coordinate to hard bases and soft acids prefer to coordinate soft bases." Low polarizability chemical species are expressed with hard concept while high polarizability chemical species are expressed with

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soft concept. The interaction between hard acids and hard bases is electrostatic interaction and the interaction between soft acids and soft bases is covalent interaction. Both electrostatic interaction and covalent interaction are strong interactions.

Hard and soft acids and bases were originally defined only in general terms [4]:

<u>Soft base</u>-donor atom is of high polarizability, low electronegativity, easily oxidized and associated with empty, low-lying orbitals.

<u>Hard base</u> donor atom is of low polarizability, high electronegativity, hard to reduce, and associated with empty orbitals of high energy and hence inaccessible.

<u>Soft acid</u> the acceptor atom is of low positive charge, large size, and has several easily excited outer electrons, polarizable.

<u>Hard acid</u> acceptor atom is of high positive charge, small size, and does not have easily excited outer electrons, not polarizable.

Some hard/ soft acids and bases are given in Table 1 and Table 2.

| Hard Acids  | Soft Acids                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| $H^+$ , $Li^+$ , $Na^+$ , $K^+$   | $Cu^+, Ag^+, Au^+, Tl^+, Hg^+, Cs^+$ |
| Be <sup>2+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Sr <sup>2+</sup> , Sn <sup>2+</sup>                                | $Pd^{2+}, Cd^{2+}, Pt^{2+}, Hg^{2+}$ |
| $Al^{3+}, Se^{3+}, Ga^{3+}, In^{3+}, La^{3+}$   | CH <sub>3</sub> Hg <sup>+</sup>      |
| $Cr^{3+}, Co^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, As^{3+}, Ir^{3+}$   | $Tl^{3+}$ , $Tl(CH_3)_3$ , $RH_3$    |
| Si <sup>4+</sup> , Ti <sup>4+</sup> , Zr <sup>4+</sup> , Th <sup>4+</sup> , Pu <sup>4+</sup> , VO <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> | $RS^+$ , $RSe^+$ , $RTe^+$           |
| $UO_2^+$ , $(CH_3)_2Sn^{2+}$  | $I^+$ , $Br^+$ , $HO^+$ , $RO^+$     |
| $BF_3$ , $BCl_3$ , $B(OR)_3$  | $I_2, Br_2$                          |
| $Al(CH_3)_3$ , $Ga(CH_3)_3$ , $In(CH_3)_3$  | Heavy metals                         |
| $RPO^+$ , $ROPO^+$  |                                      |
| $RSO^+$ , $ROSO^+$ , $SO_3$   |                                      |
| $I^{7+}, I^{5+}, Cl^{7+}$   |                                      |
| $R_3C^+$ , $RCO^+$ , $CO_2$ , $NC^+$  |                                      |
|   |                                      |

#### Table 1. Some Hard and Soft Acids [2]

#### Table 2. Some Hard and Soft Bases

| Hard Bases   | Soft Bases                     |
|--|--------------------------------|
| $H_2O, OH^-, F^-$  | $R_2S$ , RSH, $RS^-$           |
| CH <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> , PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> , SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> | $I^{-}, SCN^{-}, S_2O_3^{2^-}$ |
| $CI^{-}, CO_{3}^{2^{-}}, CIO_{4}^{-}, NO_{3}^{-}$  | $R_3P$ , $R_3As$ , $(RO)_3P$   |
| $ROH, RO^{-}, R_2O$  | CN <sup>-</sup> , RCN, CO      |
| NH <sub>3</sub> , RNH <sub>2</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>   | $C_2H_4, C_6H_6, H^-, R^-$     |

In density functional theory, some chemical properties are identified as response functions of the electronic energy (E) with respect to number of electrons [5],[6]. Chemical hardness is

defined as second derivative of the energy E with respect to the number N of the electron at a constant external potential (v).

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial E^2}{\partial N^2} \right)_{\nu} \tag{1}$$

Softness ( $\sigma$ ) is the inverse of hardness and is given as follows,

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\eta} \tag{2}$$

Chemical hardness and electronegativity can be calculated directly from the calculated ionization potential and electron affinity as[7],

$$\eta = \left(\frac{I-A}{2}\right) \tag{3}$$

where I and A are the ionization potential and electron affinity of any chemical system (atom, ion, molecule, or radical). As a result of Koopmans theorem [8], the energies of the HOMO and the LUMO orbitals of the molecule have been associated the ionization potential and the electron affinity. According to Koopmans theorem, the frontier orbital energies are given as,

$$E_{HOMO} = -I$$
$$E_{LUMO} = -A$$

Hard molecules have a large HOMO-LUMO gap, and soft molecules have a small HOMO-LUMO gap. A small energy gap leads to high polarizability, and a large gap means low polarizability. If polarizability of acid and bases increases, covalent interaction among them increases. As a result of this, acid-base complex will be more stable.



Figure 1 Schematic presentation of the binding with metal of PT ligand

1-Hydroxypyridine-2(1H)-thione (pyrithione) has been widely studied due mostly to its useful antimicrobial activity. Pyrithiones are commonly used to prevent bio deterioration in aqueous functional fluids including adhesives, latex paints and cosmetics [9],[10],[11], [12]. Formation reaction of the PT ligand is as Figure 1.

### 2. Method

All calculations were made using the Gaussian 09, Revision B.01 [13]. The initial molecular modeling of pyrithione and its derivatives were optimized by B3LYP methods. The obtained geometries were further optimized at b3lyp/ 6-31g(d,p) level and calculated with ab initio methods. Atomic charge values were determined to describe the reactivity of the molecules and calculated according to scheme of Mulliken.  $\Delta E$  values calculated by the following equation,

$$\Delta E = E_{Complex} - (E_{Metal} + 2E_{Ligand})$$

Here  $\Delta E$  is complex stability energy,  $E_{Complex}$  is electronic energy of complex,  $E_{Metal}$  is electronic energy of metal,  $E_{Ligand}$  is electronic energy of ligand.

## **3. Result and Discussion**

In this study, pyrithione (PT) and its derivatives which 3-metil-pyrithione (S-MPT), 6-metil-pyrithione (O-MPT), 3-amino-pyrithione(S-NPT), 6-amino-pyrithione (O-NPT), 3-nitro-pyrithione (S-NiPT), 6-nitro-pyrithione (O-NiPT) have been analyzed.

According to Lewis acid-base theory[14], a base is defined as an electron pair donor and an acid as an electron pair acceptor . HSAB theory is an theory that related with Lewis acid-bases. In this study, electron donor  $NH_2$ ,  $CH_3$  and electron acceptor  $NO_2$  groups were connected where neighboring atoms of electron donating atom of PT ligand. Thus, hardnesses of electron donor atoms of ligand were chanced. This change in chemical hardness of electron donor atoms of PT and its derivatives affected the stability of complexes.

Electronic energy values of formed complexes with  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$  cation of said ligands complexes. According to obtained results, softnesses of O and S atoms of PT ligand increased when NH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> connected to neighboring atoms of electron donating atom of PT ligand because NH<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>3</sub> are electron donor groups. Moreover, electron density and Mulliken charges of S and O atoms in ligand increased due to electron donor groups. At the same time, observed that HOMO value increased of ligand when connected electron donor groups. As a result of increase in HOMO energy value, electron to metal. Therefore more stable complexes occurred. Hardnesses of O and S atoms of PT ligand increased when NO<sub>2</sub> connected to neighboring atoms of electron donating atom of PT ligand because NO<sub>2</sub> is electron acceptor group. Besides, electron density and Mulliken charges of S and O atoms in ligand decreased due to electron acceptor NO<sub>2</sub> group. As a result of this, reactivity of ligand decreases and ligand gives difficultly electron to metal. Therefore more unstable complexes occurred.

Glembotskii [15] suggested that power of a ligand is directly proportional to the electron density of the reactive center of the molecule. Electronic charges of S and O atoms and HOMO and LUMO energy values of ligands are given in Table 3.

|        | НОМО     | LUMO     | S         | 0         |
|--------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| РТ     | -0.27429 | -0.16684 | -0.509459 | -0.546449 |
| O-MPT  | -0.27430 | -0.16565 | -0.510111 | -0.546075 |
| S-MPT  | -0.27434 | -0.16415 | -0.495657 | -0.546532 |
| O-NPT  | -0.27322 | 0.16307  | -0.506467 | -0.569554 |
| S-NPT  | -0.26968 | -0.15971 | -0.497079 | -0.552674 |
| O-NiPT | -0.27380 | -0.18297 | -0.449709 | -0.463441 |
| S-NiPT | -0.27493 | -0.18529 | -0.344079 | -0.512715 |

**Table 3.** The calculated frontier orbital energy values and selected Mulliken atomic charges for pyrithione and its derivatives (au).

The higher HOMO energy level means that the molecule easily releases the electrons to the unoccupied orbitals of the metal atom. So, reactivity of ligand increases. According to HOMO values was followed in this order: S-NiPT< S-MPT< O-MPT< PT< O-NiPT< O-NPT <S-NPT. Structures of pyrithione and its derivatives are given below,



Figure 2. PT ligand and its derivatives

Complexes with  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $Zn^{2+}$  metal ions of ligands in Figure 2 were examined and the following results were obtained.

| РТ               | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -721.093946 | -1642.384281 | -608.085225 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -721.093946 | -3082.513256 | -697.963198 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -721.093946 | -2119.853845 | -501.438179 |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | -1778.107414 | -721.093946 | -3221.372386 | -676.129513 |

**Table 4.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of PT ligand complexes

| O-MPT            | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -760.418760 | -1721.040638 | -612.307523 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -760.418760 | -3161.164642 | -699.066642 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -760.418760 | -2198.503256 | -501.302229 |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | -1778.107414 | -760.418760 | -3300.023420 | -677.011107 |

**Table 5.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of O-MPT ligand complexes

**Table 6.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of S-MPT ligand complexes

| S-MPT            | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -760.414808 | -1721.033926 | -613.054937 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -760.414808 | -3161.158360 | -700.083954 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -760.414808 | -2198.494903 | -501.020088 |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | -1778.107414 | -760.414808 | -3300.016877 | -677.864665 |

**Table 7.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of O-NPT ligand complexes

| O-NPT            | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -776.459891 | -1753.125453 | -613.908633 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -776.459891 | -3193.249635 | -700.779623 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -776.459891 | -2230.587833 | -502.754330 |
| $Zn^{2+}$        | -1778.107014 | -776.459891 | -3332.108653 | -678.875160 |

**Table 8.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of S-NPT ligand complexes

| S-NPT            | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -776.456783 | -1753.109791 | -607.981467 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -776.456783 | -3193.237730 | -694.159325 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -776.456783 | -2230.578273 | -501.961722 |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | -1778.107014 | -776.456783 | -3332.097720 | -675.915181 |

**Table 9.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of O-NiPT ligand complexes

| O-NiPT           | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -925.593620 | -2051.339109 | -580.982797 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -925.593620 | -3491.462633 | -666.605048 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -925.593620 | -2528.808758 | -473.554085 |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | -1778.107014 | -925.593620 | -3630.321873 | -644.840026 |

**Table 10.** Calculated  $\Delta E$  values of S-NiPT ligand complexes

| S-NİPT           | E Metal      | E Ligand    | E Complex    | ΔΕ          |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| $Mg^{2+}$        | -199.227344  | -925.597958 | -2051.352893 | -583.352710 |
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | -1639.213089 | -925.597958 | -3491.479504 | -671.747947 |
| Ca <sup>2+</sup> | -676.866860  | -925.597958 | -2528.816354 | -472.876513 |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | -1778.107014 | -925.597958 | -3630.336284 | -648.438818 |

Unit of E Metal, E Complex, E Ligand is Hatree and unit of  $\Delta E$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>

As shown values in Tables 4-10 that chemical hardness in important concept in terms of chemical stability of the complexes. For to obtain more stable ligand-metal complexes, hard electron donor atom of the ligand must been softened. So chemical hardness mustn't been ignored in complex synthesis

## Acknowledge

This research was made possible by TUBITAK ULAKBİM, high performance and Grid Computing Center (*TR-Grid* Research *e-Infrastructure*)

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