

DFT and Electrochemical Study of Novel Green Corrosion Inhibitor (Pyrantrin) for 1100-H14 Aluminum Corrosion Remediation in 1 M H₂SO₄ Acidic Environment

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Abstract: The study on Corrosion Inhibition of 1100-H14 Aluminum in H₂SO₄ Acidic Deploying pyrantrin as a Green Inhibitor was investigated by adopting different experimental methods, including weight loss, electrochemical impedance spectroscopic, potentiodynamic polarization, and computational methods. It was observed that pyrantrin was a good inhibitor for the 1100-H14-type aluminum. Inhibition efficiency was recorded between 42.5 % and 95.2 % for aluminum at 500 ppm and 1500 ppm concentrations. This high inhibition efficiency was attributed to the strong adsorption of the molecules on both metal surfaces. Electrochemical impedance showed higher and increasing charge transfer resistance values and decreasing values for the double-layer capacitance, indicating better inhibition. From quantum calculations, the EHOMO value was higher than that of the ELUMO, while the energy gap was calculated to be 1.9 with a binding energy of 132.9, indicating stronger adsorption and inhibition.

Keywords: Pyrantrin, EIS, adsorption, Langmuir, S275JR mild steel, simulation.

Submitted: January 14, 2023. Accepted: August 31, 2023.

Cite this: Ugi BU. DFT and Electrochemical Study of Novel Green Corrosion Inhibitor (Pyrantrin) for 1100-H14 Aluminum Corrosion Remediation in 1 M H₂SO₄ Acidic Environment. JOTCSA. 2024;11(1):253-60.

DOI: <u>https://doi.org/10.18596/jotcsa.1234194</u>

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1. INTRODUCTION

Like death and taxes, corrosion is something we hope to avoid, but ultimately, it is something we must learn to deal with. Metals, especially aluminum, are widely used in today's world, especially in the fields of engineering - shipping, building, construction, machining, automobile, petroleum, mining, etc. (1-2). The beauty and strength experienced by these metals while in use allow for their wider application. However, the wide application of metal is truncated by the damage caused by the effects of corrosion. This aggressiveness from corrosion could tamper with the metal's durability, tensile strength, malleability, ductility, conductivity, lustrousness, etc. Corrosion, the deterioration of metal under unfavorable environmental conditions, has come a long way and seems only to be managed as hopes of complete eradication of the effects are dripping off, considering the different growing environmental conditions experienced today, especially from greenhouse effects (1,3). The cause of corrosion is widely attributed to the chemistry involved electrochemical or chemical corrosion process and the processes involved in the preparation and

treatment of these metals before their application, for instance, during acid pickling, acidization, descaling, fracking processes, etc. (2-4). In the corrosion process, two reactions take place. In one, the anodic reaction, metal atoms are ionized and pass into solution, leaving their electrons within the original metal surface (1-3). In the second, the cathodic reaction, the free electrons within the metal are taken up by chemical species such as O_2 and H_2O in reduction reactions. Corrosion inhibitors have been found to be effective and flexible means of corrosion mitigation. Most organic/inorganic compounds containing elements of groups V B and VI B or functional groups of the amine, carbonyl, and alcoholic groups are more effective corrosion inhibitors (2,3-5). The inhibitor is adsorbed on the entire metal surface, preventing the metal's attack. pyrantrin (Figure 1) is used particularly as the [4,4'-methylenebis(3-hydroxy-2embonate naphthoate)] salt and as an anthelmintic that is effective against intestinal nematodes, including threadworms, roundworms, and hookworms. This study investigates pyrantrin application as an alternative green corrosion inhibitor of 1100-H14 aluminum alloy in a 1 M H₂SO₄ acid environment.



Figure 1: Structure of pyrantrin (4-[(3-carboxy-2hydroxynaphthalen-1 yl) methyl]-3 hydroxynaphthalene-2-carboxylic acid).

2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

2.1. Preparation of Inhibitor Stock Solution and Metal Dressing

5 g of the drug, obtained in a powdered form, was digested in a 1000 ml volumetric flask containing 1.0 M H₂SO₄ and allowed to completely dissolve for 48 hours. It was later filtered, and different inhibitor concentrations (500, 750, 1000, 125, and 1500 ppm) were prepared. The pieces of 1100-H14 aluminum alloy used for this work were obtained from Ibom Metal and Aluminum Company, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, with a composition of Cu (0.05 - 0.20 %), Fe (0.95 %), Mn (0.05 %), Si (0.95 %), Zn (0.1 %), Residuals (0.15 %) and Al (98.8 %) for aluminum. The metals were resized into 2.5 cm x 0.08 cm x 2.5 cm dimension for gravimetric analysis and 1 cm x 1 cm for electrochemical impedance analysis. All the resized metals were adequately polished with an electronic UNIPOL- 820 metallographic polishing machine to a mirror surface with different grades of emery papers (300, 1000, and 1200 grades), washed in distilled water, degreased in ethanol, rinsed in Acrastrip 600 Auto reagent, air dried and stored in a moisture free desiccator.

2.2. Mass Loss Experimentation

Polished coupons of dimension 2.5 cm x 0.08 cm x 2.5 cm were initially weighed, and readings were recorded. They were then immersed in the free solution of 1.0 M H2SO4 and other various inhibitor concentrations for 6 hours until the entire experimentation was completed. The coupons were removed from the solutions, washed with distilled water, rinsed in ethanol, degreased with Acrastrip 600 Auto reagent, air dried, and re-weighed every hour. The surface coverage and % inhibition efficiency of the inhibitor was determined from equation 1 and 2

$$Surfacecoverage(I) = \frac{(C_x - C_y)}{C_x}$$
(1)

Inhibition efficiency
$$(\%F) = \frac{(C_x - C_y)}{C_x} x100$$
 (2)

where I is the surface coverage of the inhibitor, $C_{\rm x}$ and $C_{\rm y}$ are the corrosion rates of the free and inhibited solutions, and %F is the percentage inhibition efficiency of the inhibitor.

2.3. Electrochemical Method (EIS/PDP)

The EIS was conducted in a Gamry Reference 600 potentiostat. The reference electrode for the system was a saturated calomel (SCE) electrode, a 1 cm^2

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platinum foil was adopted as a counter electrode, and the working electrode was an aluminum coupon with dimensions 1 cm x 1 cm. Electrochemical tests were conducted within a frequency of 10 Hz - 100,000 Hz with an amplitude of 5 mV. The Potentiodynamic polarization measurement was carried out by altering the electrode potential from – 1.5 to + 1.5 V with respect to the open circuit potential (OCP) at a scan rate of 0.01 mV/s. All experiments were conducted every 60 min with the free and inhibited solutions. From b_{ct} and I_{corr} obtained, the surface coverage and inhibition efficiencies were calculated using Equation 3– 5, respectively.

$$I = \frac{b_{ct}^{0} - b_{ct}^{i}}{b_{ct}^{0}}$$
(3)

$$\% \mathscr{D} = \frac{b_{ct}^0 - b_{ct}^i}{b_{ct}^0} x 100$$
(4)

$$\% = 100[1 - \frac{l_{corr}^{i}}{l_{corr}^{0}}]$$
(5)

where I is the surface coverage of the inhibitor, b_{ct}^0 and b_{ct}^i represent the charge transfer resistance and I_{corr}^0 and I_{corr}^i is the corrosion density in the free and inhibited solutions of the inhibitor, respectively.

2.4. Computational Method

The studies were conducted with the Material Studio software (version 8.0). The quantum chemistry computations were performed using two computational programs, namely Vamp and Dmol3. Theoretical calculations were conducted at the Restricted Hartree-Fock level (RHF) utilizing the Hamiltonian parametric method 3 (PM3). obtained include higher occupied Information molecular orbital energy (E_{HOMO}), lower unoccupied molecular orbital energy (ELUMO), Fukui positive and negative indices plots, HOMO and LUMO energy plots, energy gap (ΔE), chemical potential (μ), global hardness (η) and global softness (S), electrophilicity index (ω), according to equation 6 – 10 respectively.

$$Energygap(\Delta E) = E_{HOMO} - E_{LUMO}$$
(6)

$$Chemical potential(\mu) = \frac{-(E_{HOMO} + E_{LUMO})}{2}$$
(7)

$$Globalhardness(\eta) = \frac{(E_{HOMO} - E_{LUMO})}{2}$$
(8)

$$Globalsoftness(S) = \frac{1}{2[\frac{[E_{HOMO} - E_{LUMO}]}{2}]}$$
(9)

$$Electrophilicity index(\omega) = \frac{\mu^2}{2[\frac{(E_{HOMO} - E_{LUMO})}{2}]}$$
(10)

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Weight Loss

From Table 1, it was observed that the loosely bounded particles of the metal were affected by the acid attack, especially where no inhibitor was introduced. This could be due to dissolved nonvolatile metal particles accumulating in solution over time (8, 10-13). However, it was not the case when the inhibitor was added, as the weight loss eventually began to decrease with time, implying that the inhibitor prompted the reduction in the electron flow from the anode. This is again attributed to stronger phyto-atom adsorption on the surface, withholding the dissociation process of loosely held particles (7, 11, 14).

Table 1: Weight loss data showing corrosion rate of 1100 – H14 aluminum, surface coverage, and inhibition efficiency of pyrantrin in 1m H₂SO₄ solutions.

Conc. (ppm)	Cor. Rate (mg/cm ² /hr)	Sur. Cov.	Inh. Eff. (%)		
Blank	0.0042	-	-		
500	0.0025	0.405	40.5		
750	0.0019	0.548	54.8		
1000	0.0016	0.619	61.9		
1250	0.0008	0.810	81.0		
1500	0.0002	0.952	95.2		

3.2. Electrochemical Impedance Result

Data for the electrical interference of the system with the inhibitor are presented in Table 2, and the corresponding Nyquist plots are shown in Figures 2ab. It was observed that the inhibitor showed a single capacity loop for 1100 - H14 Aluminum, which is directed toward a single charge transfer (6, 15-17). The sizes of these loops were observed to increase with the rise up to 2500 ppm, which is in line with the increased charge transfer values, indicating adsorption of the inhibitor on both surfaces and a reduction of the exposed area (active sites) of the metal (10,15,16). The data for the double-layer capacitance of the semicircle and inhibition efficiency were determined following Equation 11 - 12 and are presented in Tables 5 and 6.

$$C_{dl} = \frac{1}{\omega Z^{\flat}} \tag{11}$$

where Z" is the imaginary component of impedance at any frequency inside the semicircle and ω is the angular frequency (9,11).

$$\% \mathscr{D} = \frac{b_{ct}^0 - b_{ct}^1}{b_{ct}^0} x 100$$
 (12)

where b_{ct}^0 and b_{ct}^i correspond to the charge transfer values in the free and inhibited solutions of expired pyrantrin inhibitors, respectively.

Values from Table 2 showed increased charge transfer resistance as both metals were measured through increased concentration. Considering the increased values of the charge transfer resistance with inhibitor concentration, it is conclusive that a greater difficulty in charge transfer from metal to corrosive media was encountered in the presence of the pyrantrin inhibitor as the electrochemical process was affected; hence strong surface adsorption came to play as well as inhibition of corrosion active sites in metal (18-20).



Figure 2: Nyquist plots for the corrosion inhibition of 1100-type aluminum (a) without and (b) with pyrantrin inhibitor in 1 M H₂SO₄ solutions.

Table 2: Nyquist plots values showing charge transfer resistance, double layer capacitance, and inhibitionefficiency for the corrosion inhibition of 1100-type aluminum using pyrantrin inhibitor in 1 M H₂SO₄solutions.

Conc. (ppm)	R _{ct} (Α ⁻² Ω)	Cdl	IE (%)
Blank	26.4	6.658 x 10 ⁻⁶	-
500	97.6	4.586 x 10 ⁻⁶	72.9
1000	658	2.506 x 10 ⁻⁶	95.9
1500	889	2.267 x 10 ⁻⁶	97.0

In order to analyze the electrochemical system stability during the corrosion inhibition process with

and without the inhibitor, the Phase margins of the Bode plots were derived from the electrochemical experiment, as shown in Fig. 3. From the plots (Figure 3), it was observed that all the phase lag data fitted well and gave rise to a positive phase margin and higher values (i.e., Blank – 120° , 500 ppm – 139° , 1000 ppm – 113° and 1500 ppm – 125°). This implies

that the inhibitor perfectly stabilized the system throughout the electrochemical process, which makes the pyrantel inhibitor a good one for the corrosion inhibition of the metals (21-23).



Figure 3: Bode plots for the corrosion inhibition of 1100 - H14 aluminum using pyrantrin inhibitor in 1 M H_2SO_4 solutions.

3.3. Potentiodynamic Polarization Result

Table 3 presents the potentiodynamic polarization values derived from the data depicted in Figure 4. The experimental results indicate that adding inhibitors caused a progressive shift in the corrosion potential values toward a more positive direction. This shift led to alterations in both the cathodic and anodic polarization branches. This observation suggests that the introduced inhibitor molecules mostly functioned as an anodic-type inhibitor (15, 19-21). This can also be confirmed by the anodic and cathodic Tafel slope values presented in Table 3. The

corrosion current density measurements exhibited a downward trend, whereas the comparable inhibition efficiency values derived from corrosion polarization demonstrated an upward trend for both metals when the inhibitor was present. This suggests that the extent of electron loss at the anode was negligible, hence indicating the absence of any oxidation reaction that could have led to the degradation (corrosion) of the anode. Therefore, it can be observed that the cathode remains unaltered (23-25).



Figure 4: Tafel plots for the corrosion inhibition of 1100-type aluminum using pyrantrin inhibitor in 1 M H_2SO_4 solutions.

Table 3: Tafel	plots values for	the corrosion inhibition of 1100-type aluminum
	using pyrantrin	inhibitor in 1 M H_2SO_4 solutions.

		517					
Conc. (ppm)	I _{corr} (µAcm ⁻²)	Slp _c (mV/dec)	Slp _a (mV/dec)	LΡ (Ω)	IE _{LP} (%)	IE _{Icorr} (%)	E _{corr} (mV)
Blank	9.905	9.706	8.211	1067	-	-	-9.368
500	4.231	7.969	4.179	116	89.1	57.3	-7.256
		[1.737]	[4.042]				
1000	3.366	7.765	2.661	106	90.1	66.0	-6.758
		[1.941]	[5.563]				
1500	3.138	4.763	1.412	53	95.0	68.3	-6.405
		[4.943]	[6.809]				

3.4. Quantum Chemical Calculations

After assessment of both the active component pyrantel ($C_{11}H_{14}N_2S$) and the inactive components – Butylated hydroxytoluene (C₁₅H₂₄O), Citric acid monohydrate ($C_6H_8O_7$, H_2O), Potassium sorbate (C₆H₇O₂.K), Sodium benzoate (C₇H₅O₂.Na), Sucrose $(C_{12}H_{22}O_{11})$, Water (H_2O) and Xanthan gum of pyrantrin, the researcher concluded on applying the density functional theory (DFT) on the active component which is likely the effective contributor to the corrosion inhibition of 1100-H14 aluminum. This conclusion on the active component contribution to corrosion inhibition was drawn from the fact that the inactive component does not possess characteristics of a typical inhibitor, e.g., the presence of heteroatoms like N, S, P, etc., no double bond to access pi bonds, not aromatic, etc. Figures 5a -c show the optimized structure and the Frontier molecular orbitals (FMO) distribution density of the energy of

the highest occupied molecular orbital (EHOMO) and the energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (ELUMO) for pyrantel. It is evident from the figures that the electron density distribution at the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) is localized strongly on the heteroatom (Nitrogen), carbon-carbon double bonds on the aromatic benzene ring and in methyl group (CH₃) present in pyrantel (Figures 5 d - e) (17-19). However, the electron density distribution for the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) was distributed on the individual carbon atoms on the aromatic ring and the Sulphur stereogenic centers (Figures 5 d e). Therefore, the inhibitory power of pyrantrin can be explained mostly by the presence of π electrons and nitrogen heteroatoms favoring the sharing of electrons between the inhibitor and the metal surface (10-12, 23-26).



Figure 5: (a) Optimized structure, (b) Highest occupied molecular orbital and (c) Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (d) Electrophilic (f-) and (e) Nucleophilic (f+) reactive sites of pyrantel molecule.

	Table 4: C)uantum chemi	cal calculations	values for p	vrantel molecule
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Parameters	Data (eV)
E _{HOMO}	-4.075
ELUMO	-2.154
∆E (energy gap)	1.921
Х	3.114
η	0.961
σ	1.848
ω	5.045
δ	0.198
ΔΝ	2.969
ΔE _{b-d}	0.240
Bindina enerav	-132.9

Table 4 shows the quantum chemical parameters for pyrantel as an inhibitor of corrosion of 1100 – H14 aluminum. Absolute electronegativity (χ), global hardness (η), global softness (σ), electrophilicity index (ω), and nucleophilicity index (δ) were calculated from equation 13 – 17.

$$\chi = \frac{l.P.+E.A.}{2} \tag{13}$$

$$\eta = \frac{I.P.-E.A.}{2} \tag{14}$$

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\eta} \tag{15}$$

$$\omega = \frac{\chi^2}{2\eta} \tag{16}$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{\omega}$$
(17)

where ϕ_m is the work function for the metal surface (work function for AI (111) is 4.02eV), χ_i represents absolute electronegativity of the inhibitor, η_m , and η_i represents global hardness for the metal and inhibitor, respectively. The inhibitor was observed to have a lower energy gap (2.46 eV), suggesting a lower energy requirement for removing an electron from the highest occupied orbital, which entails a better inhibitor (16, 21, 26). From Table 4, the hardness's value was higher than that of softness. This implies a shorter energy gap between the inhibitor/metal interface and a possible lower dissociation energy, giving rise to stronger adsorption and better inhibition (22, 26-28). Also, the global electrophilicity index (ω) has a value of 5.045, implying a higher inhibition efficiency (28).

4. CONCLUSION

Arising from all the experimental techniques under study,

- 1. It is confirmed that pyrantrin was a reliable alternative inhibitor for inhibiting 1100 H14 aluminum corrosion in a sulphuric acid environment.
- 2. Inhibition of corrosion on 1100 H14 aluminum was observed through strong adsorption of pyrantrin molecules on the surface of the metals.
- 3. Electrochemical data was in good agreement with those of the chemical and theoretical as charge transfer resistance and inhibition efficiency were increasing while the double layer capacitance was decreasing with concentration, respectively. Features that are attributed to a good inhibitor.
- 4. Theoretical data shows that the inhibitor was good as the energy gap for pyrantrin was as low as 1.921 ev, and inhibition depends largely on the hetero-atoms of the major constituent of pyrantrin.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest in the research work.

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