

## MICROWAVE-ASSISTED SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF A NEW METAL-FREE PHTHALOCYANINE AND FOUR METALLOPHTHALOCYANINES BEARING 9-FLUORENE METHANOL MOITIES

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### ABSTRACT

The new metal-free phthalocyanine **2** and metallophthalocyanines **3**, **4**, **5**, **6** containing 9-fluorene methanol units on peripheral positions have been synthesized by cyclotramerization reaction of a corresponding nitrile compound. The metal-free phthalocyanine **2** was synthesized in dry n-pentanol by a classical method. However, metal phthalocyanines complexes **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, were synthesized by the reaction of dinitrile derivative **2** in DMAE, by microwave irradiation. The structure of the new compounds were characterized by using spectroscopic data and elemental analysis.

**Keywords:** Nitrile, Metallophthalocyanine, Cyclotramerization, Macrocyclic

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Phthalocyanines (Pcs) are not flexible group of compounds for industrial manufacture of most important characteristics and properties. Especially, their intense blue and green colors and stability towards heat, acids and bases allow them to be extensively used as pigments and dyes. In recent years, Pcs attracted much attention because of their active properties and potential application to fuel cells, gas sensors, electro photography, solar energy conversion, non-linear optics, optical data storage, etc [1-3, 4-10].

In recent years, microwave (MW) irradiation are preferred because of the accelerated procedure compared to the classic reaction speed, reduced reaction times from hours to minutes at high temperatures and high yields of compounds [11]. In other words, the most successful examples of microwave applications are necessarily found to be related to the use of non-solvent systems, in which reagents and microwaves interact directly, therefore, chemical reactions can be driven more efficiently [12-15].

In this study, we have obtained a new metal-free phthalocyanine and four metallophthalocyanines containing 9-fluorene methanol groups. The metal-free phthalocyanine **2** was synthesized in dry n-pentanol by a classical method. However, metal phthalocyanines complexes **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, were synthesized by the reaction of dinitrile derivative **2** in DMAE, by microwave irradiation. The structure of the new compounds were characterized by using spectroscopic data and elemental analysis.[16, 17].

### 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

All reactions were realized under nitrogen atmosphere. 9-fluorene methanol was acquired from Aldrich. 4-nitroptalonitrile according to literature procedures was ready-made [18, 19].

## 2.1. Synthesis of 4-(9H-flouren-9-ylmethoxy) phthalonitrile (1)

9-fluorene-methanol (2.00 g, 10.20 mmol) was dissolved in dry DMF (37.6 mL) and then 4-nitrophthalonitrile (1.765 g, 10.20 mmol) was added to the solution under nitrogen atmosphere. After stirring about for 15 min, at 25 °C, dry K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4.22 g, 30.60 mmol) was extended portion wise within 2 hrs. The reaction mixture was refluxed under nitrogen atmosphere at 50 °C about for 4 days. Then, it was poured into ice-water (416 mL) and organic phase was extracted with chloroform (3x60 mL). The mixed extracts were drained dry over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The raw product was refined by column chromatography with silica gel, using chloroform: methanol (97:3) solvent system and 2.24 g (68 %) yield was obtained. Melting point was measured 136-137 °C. Analytical calculation for, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O: C, 81.98; H, 4.34; N, 8.69 %. Found: C, 82.08; H, 4.41; N, 8.65. IR,  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3062 (Ar-H), 2921-2857 (Aliph.C-H), 2228 (C≡N), 1713, 1660, 1599, 1449, 1251, 1099, 734. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 7.86 (d, J=8.29 Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.80 (d, J=7.69 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.60 (s, 1H, Ar-H), 7.44 (d, J=8.32Hz, 1H, Ar-H), 7.34 (d, J=7.33 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.15 (t, J=7.28 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.13 (t, J=7.37 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 4.90 (d, J=6.35 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 4.26 (s, 1H, C-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 160.24, 142.46, 139.70, 132.79, 126.75, 126.32, 123.51, 119.81, 119.06, 118.66, 115.87, 113.74, 110.76, 104.89, 71.01, 48.12. MS (FAB) (m/z): 322 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

## 2.2. Metal-free Phthalocyanine (2), H<sub>2</sub>Pc

**2** was prepared with the compound **1** (0.3 g, 0.932 mmol) in n-pentanol (4.30 mL) and 3-5 drops of 1, 8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene in a Schlenk tube under nitrogen atmosphere. The temperature was slowly increased up to 90 °C and saturated with nitrogen gas. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at 160 °C for about 24 hrs. After this period, it was cooled at room temperature, refluxed with ethanol (30 mL) to precipitate. The green powder was washed with hot ethanol and diethyl ether. Then it was purified with preparative thin layer chromatography by using chloroform: methanol (9:1) solvent system and 0.104 g (34.7 %) yield was obtained. Melting point was measured >300 °C. Analytical calculation for C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>58</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: C, 81.86; H, 4.49; N, 8.68 %. Found: C, 81.93; H, 4.43; N, 8.73. IR,  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3258 (N-H), 3060 (Ar-H), 2926-2846 (Aliph.C-H), 1712, 1600, 1448, 1347, 1212, 1100, 734. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 8.08 (d, J=8.89 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.72 (d, J=7.63 Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.54 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.37 (d, J=7.38 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.15 (t, J=7.37 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.11 (t, J=7.35 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 6.74 (d, J=8.62 Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 4.98 (d, J=6.45 Hz, 8H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 4.18 (t, J=6.42 Hz, 4H, C-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 164.26, 160.87, 159.24, 146.54, 140.35, 131.87, 128.75, 126.76, 126.32, 124.04, 121.36, 119.72, 119.12, 105.12, 70.97, 50.09. UV-vis: [ $\lambda_{\max}$  (nm): (10<sup>5</sup> ε dm<sup>3</sup>/mol cm) (chloroform)]: 245 (4.10), 260 (4.15), 272 (4.17), 650 (4.02), 707 (4.12) MS (FAB) (m/z): 1292 [M+2]<sup>+</sup>.

## 2.3. General Procedure for Metallophthalocyanine Derivatives (3, 4, 5, 6)

The compounds **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** were prepared with **1** (0.2 g, 0.621 mmol) and dry metal salts CoCl<sub>2</sub> (0.04037 g, 0.310 mmol), CuCl<sub>2</sub> (0.04169 g, 0.310 mmol), NiCl<sub>2</sub> (0.03999 g, 0.310 mmol), Zn(CH<sub>3</sub>COOH)<sub>2</sub> (0.04216 g, 0.310 mmol), respectively, and DMAE (3 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was irradiated by microwave at 175 °C, 350 W, for 7-8 min. After this period, it was cooled to room temperature and refluxed with ethanol (30 mL). The green raw powder was separated by filtration and then washed with hot diethyl ether and ethanol. The product was refined by preparative thin layer chromatography using chloroform: methanol (8.5:1.5) solvent system.

### 2.3.1. Co (II) phthalocyanine (3), CoPc

According to general procedure, compound **3** metallophthalocyanine derivatives was prepared as a dark green solid and 0.078 g (37.3 %) yield was obtained. Melting point was measured >300 °C. Analytical calculation for C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Co: C, 78.39; H, 4.15; N, 8.31. Found: C, 78.44, H, 4.20; N,

8.38 %. IR ( KBr tablet )  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3059 (Ar-H), 2925-2853 (Aliph.C-H), 1616, 1476, 1226, 1095, 735. UV-vis: [ $\lambda_{\max}$  (nm): ( $10^{-5} \text{ } \epsilon \text{ dm}^3/\text{mol cm}$ ) (chloroform)]: 305 (4.18), 338 (4.00), 614 (3.72), 677 (4.10). MS (FAB) (m/z): 1349 [M+2]<sup>+</sup>.

### 2.3.2. Cu (II) phthalocyanine (4), CuPc

According to general procedure, compound 4 metallophthalocyanine derivatives was prepared as a green solid and 0.089 g (42 %) yield was obtained. Melting point was measured >300 °C. Analytical calculation for C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cu: C, 78.16; H, 4.14; N, 8.29. Found: C, 78.20, H, 4.17; N, 8.32%. IR ( KBr tablet )  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3054 (Ar-H), 2917 (Aliph.C-H), 1651, 1598, 1447, 1251, 1185, 735. UV-vis: [ $\lambda_{\max}$  (nm): ( $10^{-5} \text{ } \epsilon \text{ dm}^3/\text{mol cm}$ ) (chloroform)]: 305 (4.05), 308 (4.02), 632 (3.09), 701 (4.11). MS (FAB) (m/z): 1351 [M]<sup>+</sup>.

### 2.3.3. Ni (II) phthalocyanine (5), NiPc.

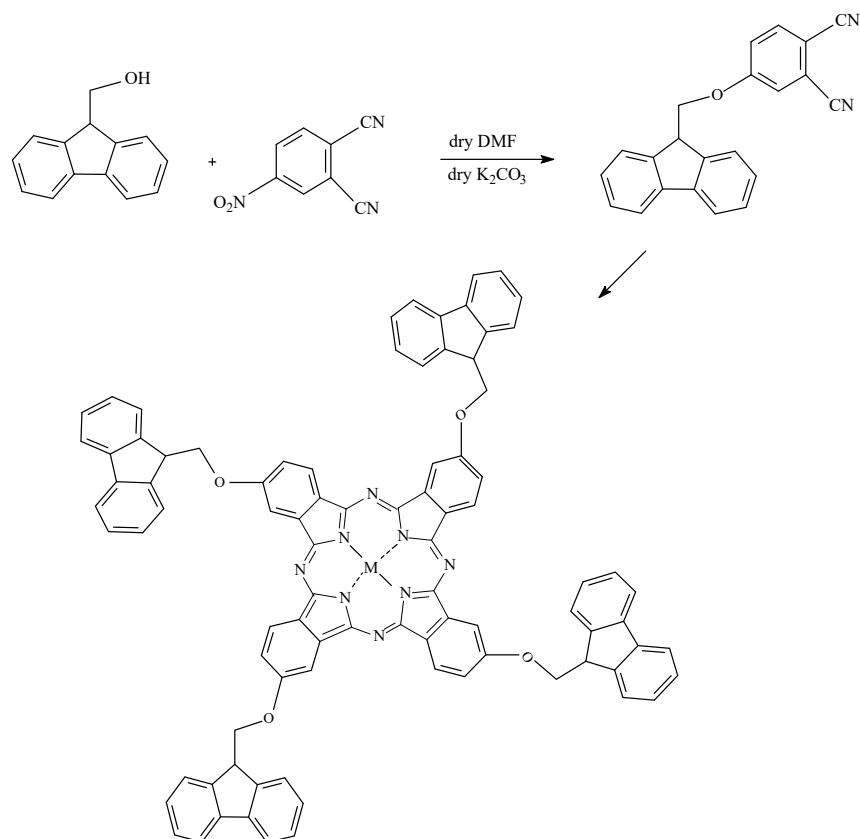
According to general procedure, compound 5 metallophthalocyanine derivatives was prepared as a light green solid and 0.096 g (46 %) yield was obtained. Melting point was measured >300 °C. Analytical calculation for C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Ni: C, 78.45; H, 4.16; N, 8.32. Found: C, 78.49, H, 4.21; N, 8.38 %. IR ( KBr tablet )  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3050 (Ar-H), 2924-2856 (Aliph.C-H), 1651, 1469, 1221, 1093, 730. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 7.83 (d, J=7.73 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.72 (d, J=9.06 Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.61 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.35 (d, J=7.36 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.17 (t, J=7.38 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.15 (t, J=7.35 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 6.86 (d, J=2.50 Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 4.87 (d, J=6.34 Hz, 8H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 4.24 (t, J=6.40 Hz, 4H, C-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 164.46, 161.36, 160.65, 145.64, 143.87, 132.52, 130.65, 126.76, 126.23, 124.18, 122.56, 119.94, 119.18, 107.11, 70.34, 49.03. UV-vis: [ $\lambda_{\max}$  (nm): ( $10^{-5} \text{ } \epsilon \text{ dm}^3/\text{mol cm}$ ) (chloroform)]: 353 (3.75), 374 (3.86), 608 (3.69), 671 (4.18). MS (FAB) (m/z): 1348 [M+1]<sup>+</sup>.

### 2.3.4. Zn (II) phthalocyanine (6), ZnPc.

According to general procedure, compound 6 metallophthalocyanine derivatives was prepared as a dark green solid and 0.089 g (42.4 %) yield was obtained. Melting point was measured >300 °C. Analytical calculation for, C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>56</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Zn: C, 78.04; H, 4.13; N, 8.27. Found: C, 78.10, H, 4.19; N, 8.21 %. IR ( KBr tablet )  $\nu_{\max}/\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3063 (Ar-H), 2917 (Aliph.C-H), 1600, 1449, 1226, 1093, 735. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 7.81 (d, J=7.73 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.73 (d, J=9.00 Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.62 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.35 (d, J=7.36 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.18 (t, J=7.39 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 7.13 (t, J=8.50 Hz, 8H, Ar-H), 6.82 (d, J=2.52 Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 4.87 (d, J=6.36 Hz, 8H, -CH<sub>2</sub>-O), 4.22 (t, J=6.38 Hz, 4H, C-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200MHz, chloroform),  $\delta$ , 162.78, 161.98, 160.11, 143.54, 142.32, 134.67, 130.31, 124.54, 124.09, 123.49, 122.45, 119.77, 119.06, 107.21, 70.22, 49.24. UV-vis: [ $\lambda_{\max}$  (nm): ( $10^{-5} \text{ } \epsilon \text{ dm}^3/\text{mol cm}$ ) (chloroform)]: 305 (4.15), 356 (3.86), 632 (3.66), 701 (4.30). MS (FAB) (m/z): 1354 [M+1]<sup>+</sup>.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The preparation of H<sub>2</sub>Pc 2 and CoPc 3, CuPc 4, NiPc 5 and ZnPc 6 are shown in Figure 1. The structures of new compounds were characterized by using spectroscopic data and elemental analysis.



**Figure 1.** The synthesis of the metal-free phthalocyanine and metallophthalocyanines derivatives. Reagents and conditions (i) n-pentanol, DBU, 165°C, (ii) dry CoCl<sub>2</sub>, dry CuCl<sub>2</sub>, dry NiCl<sub>2</sub>, dry Zn(CH<sub>3</sub>COOH)<sub>2</sub>, in DMAE by microwave at 175 °C, 350 W, for 7-8 min.

Initially, 4-(9H-fluoren-9-ylmethoxy) phthalonitrile **1** was prepared by aromatic nucleophilic substitution reaction between 4-nitrophthalonitrile and 9-fluorenylmethanol [20]. The reaction was achieved at reflux temperature in dry DMF with dry K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as the base under nitrogen atmosphere. IR spectrum of compound **1**, shows characteristic frequencies at 3062 (Ar-H), 2921-2857 (C-H) and the intense stretching absorption band at 2228 cm<sup>-1</sup> points out to the C≡N groups. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **1**, indicated the presence of nitrile carbon atoms at δ = 115.87 ppm. The FAB mass spectrum of **1**, which shows a peak at m/z = 322 [M]<sup>+</sup>, and elemental analysis also confirm the formation of the suggested formula for this compound.

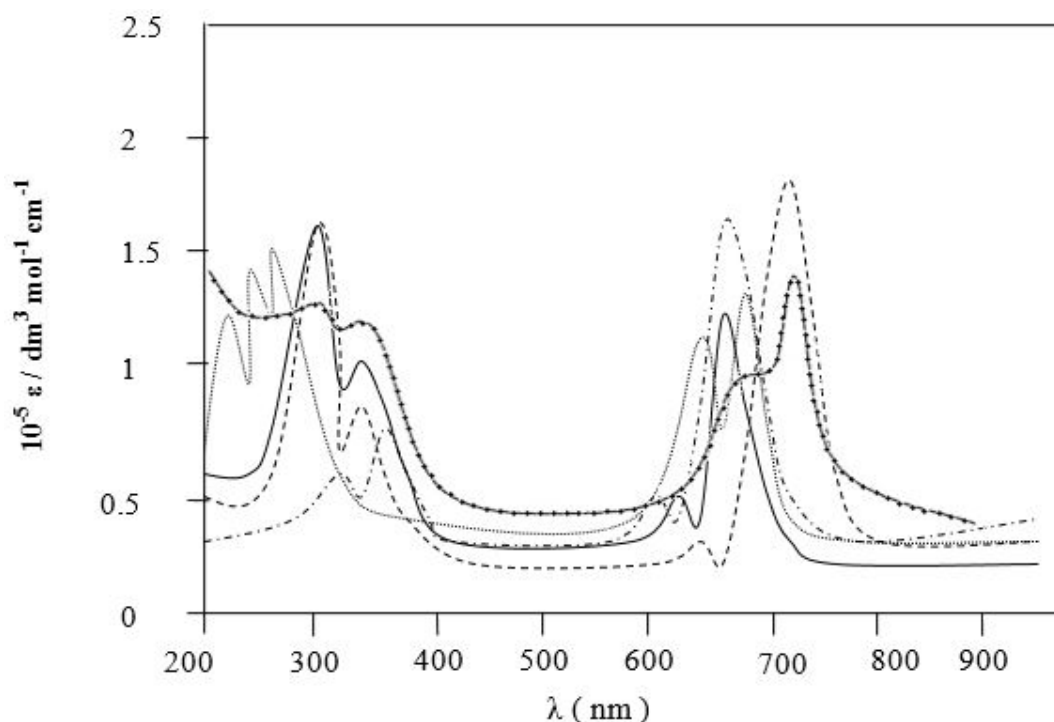
H<sub>2</sub>Pc **2** was synthesized using n-pentanol and a few drops of 1,8-diaza bicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene at reflux temperature under nitrogen atmosphere. IR spectrum of **2** shows 3258 cm<sup>-1</sup> (N-H) vibrations. The disappearance of the C≡N stretching vibration on the IR spectra of **2** suggested formation of **2**. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of this compound, the inner core of Pc-2H protons could not be observed due to strong aggregation of molecules [21]. The mass spectrum of **2** (is shown in **Figure 3**), which exhibits a peak at m/z = 1292 [M+2]<sup>+</sup>, supports the sectional formula for this compound. The elemental analysis confirms the expected **2**.

CoPc **3**, CuPc **4**, NiPc **5** and ZnPc **6** were synthesized with yields of 37.3, 42, 46, 42.4 %, respectively. The metallophthalocyanines **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** were gained from the reaction of dicyano derivative **3** with

dry metal salts  $\text{CoCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CuCl}_2$ ,  $\text{NiCl}_2$ ,  $\text{Zn}(\text{CH}_3\text{COOH})_2$  by microwave irradiation in DMAE, approximately for 8, 8, 7, 7 minutes, respectively. IR spectra of **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** show the disappearance of strong  $\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$  stretching vibration of **1** for the formation of **3**, **4**, **5** and **6**. The IR spectra of metallophthalocyanines are very similar to those of the metal-free phthalocyanine **2**. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of these compounds are almost the same as that of  $\text{H}_2\text{Pc}$  **2**. In the mass spectrum of compounds **3**, **4**, **5** and **6**, molecular ion peaks at  $m/z = 1349$   $[\text{M}+2]^+$ ,  $1351$   $[\text{M}]^+$ ,  $1348$   $[\text{M}+1]^+$  and  $1354$   $[\text{M}+1]^+$  (are shown in **Figures 4, 5, 6, 7**), are accepted by the suggested structures. The elemental analysis of the expected affirms compounds **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**.

Usually, phthalocyanines show typical electronic spectra with two strong absorption regions, one in the UV region concerned with the B band at about 300-500 nm in the visible region and the other concerned with the Q band at 600-700 nm [22]. The UV-vis absorption spectra of **2**, **3**, **5** and **6** are shown in **Figure 2**. The split Q bands in **2**, which are characteristic for metal-free phthalocyanines were watched over at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 707$  and 650 nm. These Q band absorptions show the monomeric species with  $D_{2h}$  symmetry and due to the phthalocyanine ring concerned with the fully conjugated 18  $\pi$  electron system [23-25]. The existence of strong absorption bands in **2** in the near UV region at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 272$ , 260 and 245 nm also shows Soret B bands which have also been attributed to the deeper  $\pi$ - $\pi^*$  levels of LUMO transitions.

The UV-vis absorption spectra of **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** show intense Q absorption in chloroform at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 677$ , 701, 671 and 701 nm, with weaker absorptions at 614, 632, 608, and 632 nm, respectively. The single Q bands in metallo derivatives **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** are characteristic. This result is typical for metal complexes of substituted and unsubstituted metallophthalocyanines with  $D_{4h}$  symmetry [26]. Soret region B band absorptions of compounds **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** were watched over  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = (338 \text{ and } 305)$ ,  $(308 \text{ and } 305)$ ,  $(374 \text{ and } 353)$ ,  $(356 \text{ and } 305)$  nm as expected, respectively [27].



**Figure 2.** UV-vis spectra of compounds  $\text{H}_2\text{Pc}$  **2** (····),  $\text{CoPc}$  **3** (—),  $\text{CuPc}$  **4** (-+),  $\text{NiPc}$  **5** (----) and  $\text{ZnPc}$  **6** (----) in chloroform

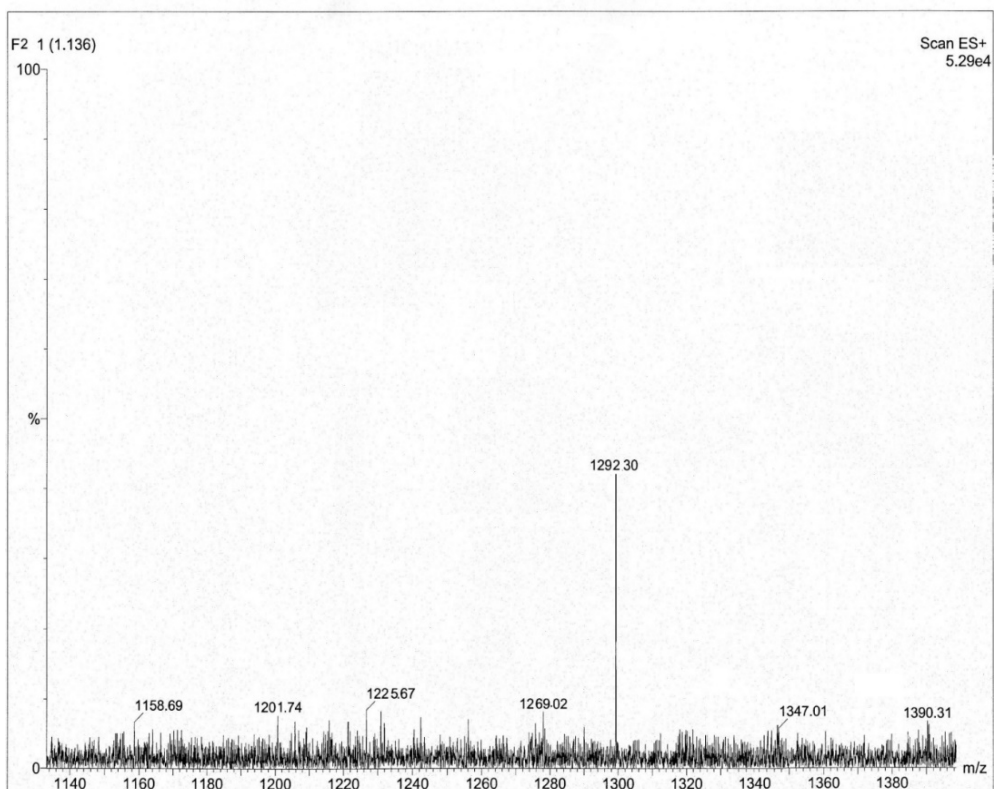


Figure 3. Mass spectrum of metal free phthalocyanine (2)

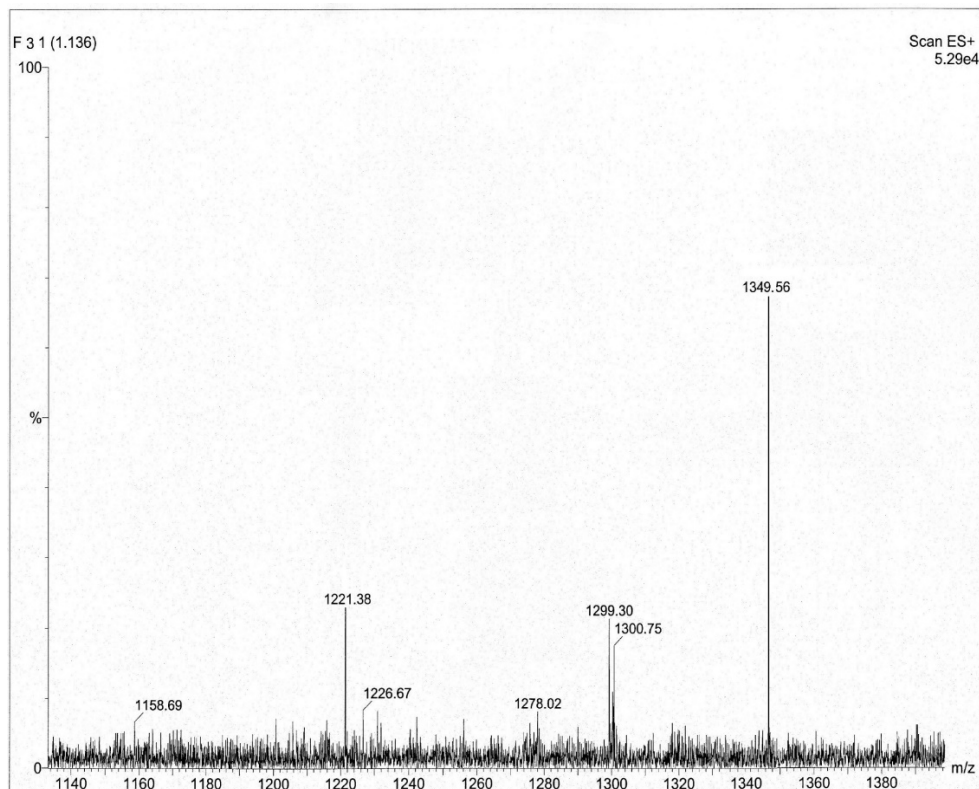


Figure 4. Mass spectrum of Co(II) phthalocyanine (3)

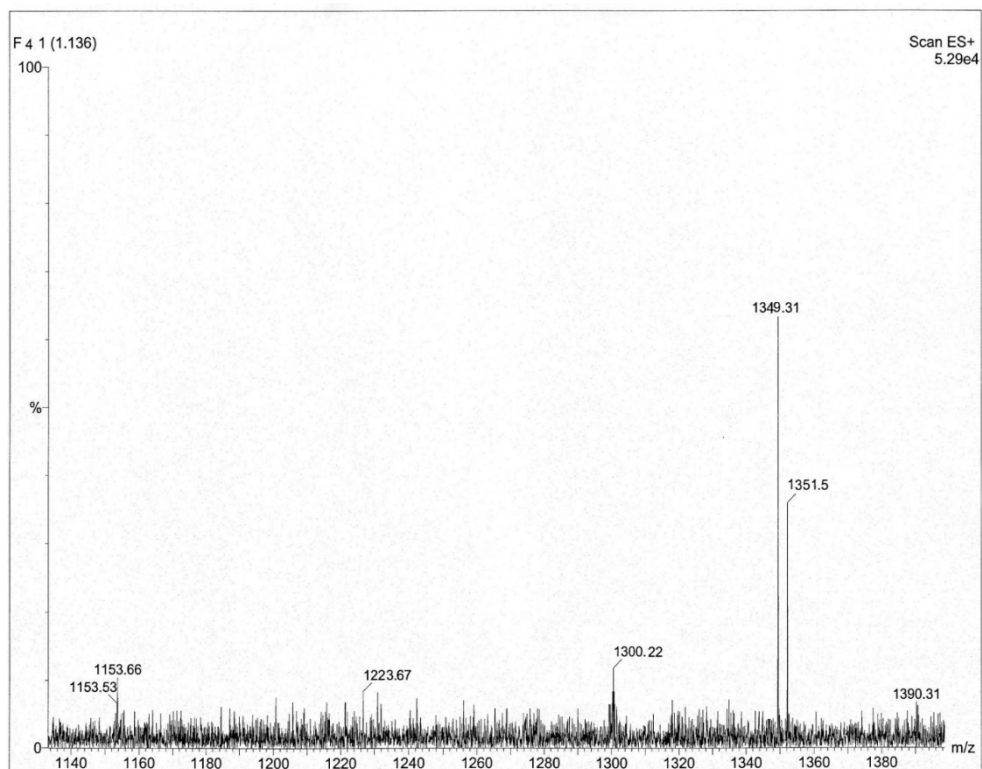


Figure 5. Mass spectrum of Cu(II) phthalocyanine (4)

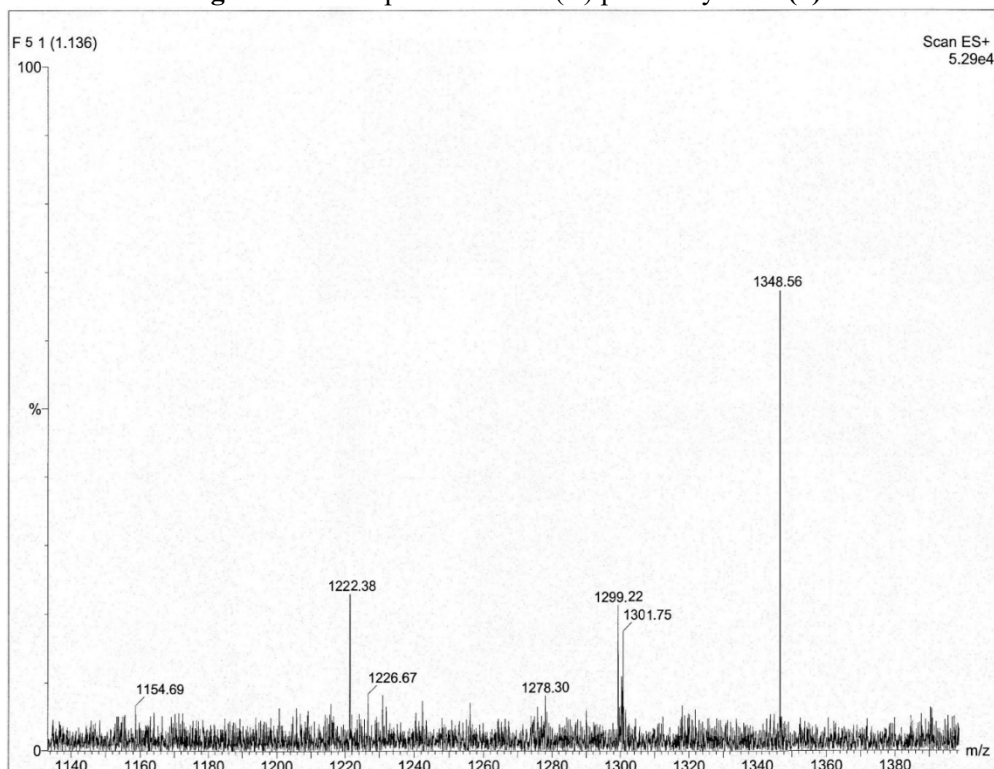
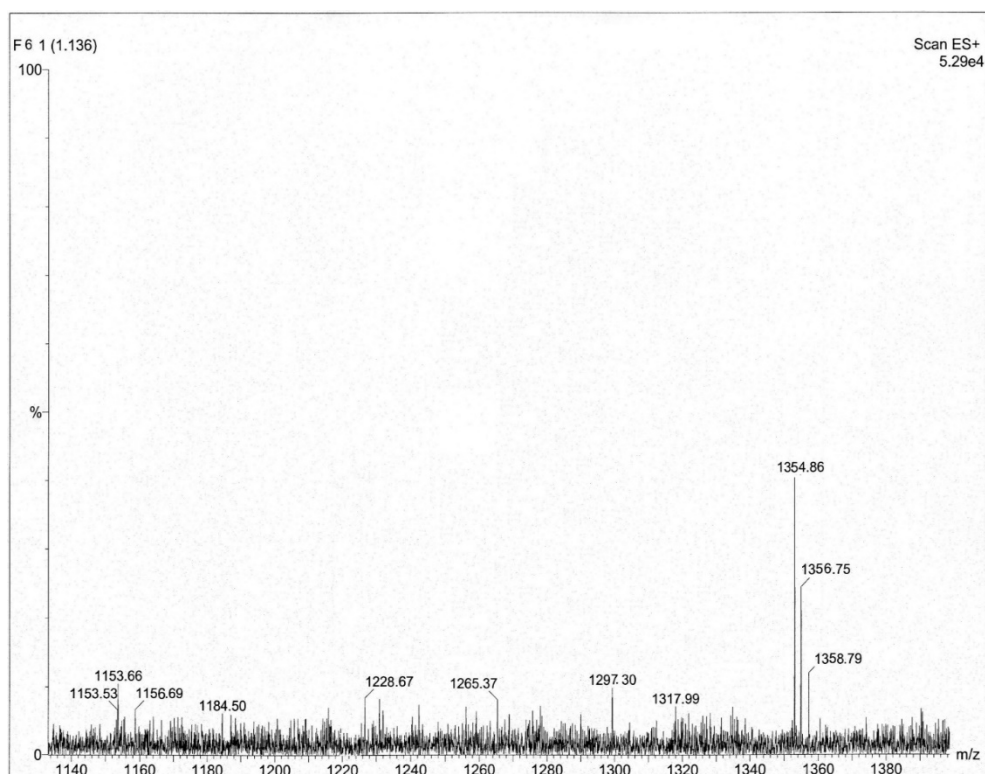


Figure 6. Mass spectrum of Ni(II) phthalocyanine (5)



**Figure 7.** Mass spectrum of Zn(II) phthalocyanine (**6**)

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

We have investigated a new metal-free phthalocyanine **2** and four metallophthalocyanines **3**, **4**, **5** and **6**. The new dinitrile compound **1** was gained from the reaction of 9-fluorenamethanol with 4-nitrophenyl nitrile in dry DMF under nitrogen atmosphere. The metal-free phthalocyanine **2** was gained from the reaction of **1** with n-pentanol and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene. The new metallophthalocyanines were CoPc, CuPc, NiPc, ZnPc which were gained by the reaction of the dinitrile compound **1** with CoCl<sub>2</sub>, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, NiCl<sub>2</sub>, Zn(CH<sub>3</sub>COOH)<sub>2</sub> in DMAE, respectively. The structures of new compounds were demonstrated by using spectroscopic data and elemental analysis.

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