

Synthesis, Characterization and Antimicrobial Activity of Mixed-Ligand Metal Complexes of 4,4'-Bipyridine and Aniline-2,5-Disulfonic Acid

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Keywords:

4,4'-Bipyridine,
Aniline-2,5-
disulfonic acid,
Metal complex,
Antimicrobial
activity

Abstract

In this study, we prepared mixed-ligand Co(II) complex {[Co(ADSA)(BP)]_n.2H₂O, **1**}, Ni(II) complex {[Ni(ADSA)(BP)]_n, **2**}, and Zn(II) complex {[Zn(ADSA)(BP)(H₂O)₂]_n.3H₂O, **3**} of 4,4'-bipyridine (BP) with aniline-2,5-disulfonic acid (H₂ADSA). The **1-3** were characterized by elemental analysis, AAS, TGA, IR, UV-Vis, molar conductivity and magnetic susceptibility techniques. Furthermore, the microdilution method was used to explore the antibacterial and antifungal activities of the initial and the synthesized metal complexes against the following bacteria and yeast: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Candida albicans*. Antibacterial and antifungal activity results were compared with antibiotics (Vancomycin, Levofloxacin, Cefepime, Chloramphenicol, Fluconazole and Ketoconazole). Through the examination of the conducted studies, it was noted that the recently created compounds demonstrated efficacy in combating both bacterial and yeast infections.

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Bu makaleye atıf yapmak için:

Nurgün BÜYÜKKIDAN; Seher KAYA; Halil İLKİMEN; Aysel GÜLBANDILAR, "Synthesis, Characterization and Antimicrobial Activity of Mixed-Ligand Metal Complexes of 4,4'-Bipyridine and Aniline-2,5-Disulfonic Acid", Bayburt Üniversitesi Fen Bilimleri Dergisi, C. 7, s 2, ss. 67-78

How to cite this article:

Nurgün BÜYÜKKIDAN; Seher KAYA; Halil İLKİMEN; Aysel GÜLBANDILAR, "Synthesis, Characterization and Antimicrobial Activity of Mixed-Ligand Metal Complexes of 4,4'-Bipyridine and Aniline-2,5-Disulfonic Acid", Bayburt University Journal of Science, vol. 7, no 2, pp. 67-78

1 INTRODUCTION

Interest in the synthesis of metal-organic compounds or coordination polymers is piqued by their wide range of structural variations and possible functional characteristics [1-3]. Research shows that bridging ligands containing two or more donor atoms coordinated to different metals are used in the synthesis of metal-organic compounds [4-8]. Bipyridine contains two pyridine rings connected to each other by a C-C covalent bond. Figure 1 shows the isomers of bipyridine.

The most recognized one of these isomers is 2,2'-bipyridine, which forms chelates by bonding to the metal with two nitrogen atoms. Metal complexes of 2,3-bipyridines [9], 2,4-bipyridines [10,11], 3,3-bipyridines [12,13], and 3,4-bipyridines [14,15] are not very common (Fig. 1). The unsymmetrical 2,4'-bipyridine generally acts as a monodentate ligand, coordinating with the metal with only one nitrogen atom, but it can also bind to two individual metal atoms to form bidentate bridge systems [16]. 4,4'-bipyridine is of particular interest due to the coordination of two nitrogen atoms in its structure. 4,4'-bipyridine is an *exo*-bidentate ligand that is rigid and linear, has no steric hindrance, no branched chains, and has good bridging effect to form one-, two- and three-dimensional coordination polymer networks [17] and generate complexes with different dimensional spatial configurations with metal ions [18,19]. It can also serve as a terminal ligand or an uncoordinated guest molecule [20,21].

On the other hand, aromatic acids are widely used in the synthesis of coordination polymers. It is important to note that because the carboxylate group possesses a range of bridging modes for the development of extended frameworks, the coordination capacity of aromatic carboxylic acids towards transition metal complexes has drawn a lot of attention [22-25]. It has been reported that many coordination polymers have been synthesized using the hydrothermal method [26-30]. Our recent work has focused on creating coordination polymers under room temperature and hydrothermal conditions using *N*-donor ligands and aromatic acid ligands [31,32].

Sulfonic group compounds have recently attracted much attention due to their less predictable coordination mechanisms and for being softer and more flexible ligands [33,34]. Sulfo groups can speed up the synthesis and crystallization of coordination polymers in water by increasing the solubility of organic ligands. The presence of donor atoms in the NH₂ and SO₃²⁻ groups of the aniline-2,5-disulfonate compound shows that it is a suitable ligand for complexation. However, so far, there have been no reports of coordination polymers containing aniline-2,5-disulfonic acid and 4,4'-bipyridine.

These days, it becomes ineffective because disease-causing microorganisms develop resistance to the medications used to treat them. Thus, novel compounds that may be acquired cheaply and effectively are required to eradicate hazardous microbes for human health. Future research will be aided by the discovery that the chemicals produced in this work exhibit antibacterial action against yeasts and bacteria. It has been demonstrated that co-crystals, salts and metal complexes containing aniline-2,5-disulfonic acid and 4,4'-bipyridine can be used in *in vitro* and *in vivo* antibacterial and antifungal experiments.

In the present paper, we prepared and characterized three coordination polymers, Co(II) {[Co(ADSA)(BP)]_n.2H₂O, **1**}, Ni(II) {[Ni(ADSA)(BP)]_n, **2**}, and Zn(II) {[Zn(ADSA)(BP)(H₂O)₂]_n.3H₂O, **3**}, of 4,4'-bipyridine (BP) with aniline-2,5-disulfonic acid (H₂ADSA). In addition, antibacterial and antifungal activities were studied and compared with antibiotics (Vancomycin, Levofloxacin, Cefepime, Chloramphenicol, Fluconazole and Ketoconazole).

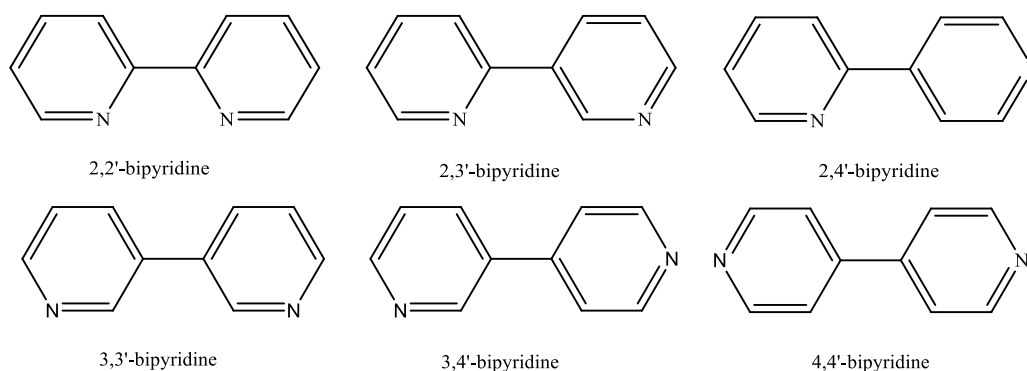


Figure 1. The isomers of bipyridines

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Methods and materials

All chemicals used were commercially purchased from Aldrich. Perkin Elmer AAS PinAAcle 900T for AAS analyses, Elementar Vario III EL spectrometer for elemental analysis studies, Bruker Optics Vertex 70 FT-IR spectrometer for FT-IR spectra, SHIMADZU UV-2550 spectrometer for UV-Vis spectra, Sherwood Scientific Magway MSB MK1 for magnetic susceptibility measurements and WTW Cond 315i/SET Model conductivity meter for molar conductances were used.

2.2 Synthesis of 1-3

1 mmol (0.253 g) of H₂ADSA, 1 mmol (0.156 g) of BP, 1 mmol metal(II) salt {Co(CH₃COO)₂ · 4H₂O for **1**, Ni(CH₃COO)₂ · 4H₂O for **2** and Zn(CH₃COO)₂ · 2H₂O for **3**} were taken and heated separately in 20 mL of water in a teflon-coated stainless container at 160 °C for three days. The temperature of the reaction vessel was lowered to 120 °C and then to 80 °C. The resulting amorphous solids were filtered and dried (pink, 90% yield for **1**, green, 83% yield for **2**, and white, 83% yield for **3**) (Fig. 2).

The results of elemental analysis and AAS; Anal. Calcd. for **1** {C₁₆H₁₇CoN₃O₈S₂, M = 502.39 g/mol}, C, 38.25%; H, 3.41%; N, 8.36%; Co, 11.73%; S, 12.77%. Found: C, 38.27%; H, 3.45%; N, 8.35%; Co, 11.70%; S, 12.80%. for **2** {C₁₆H₁₃N₃NiO₆S₂, M = 466.11 g/mol}, C, 41.23%; H, 2.81%; N, 9.01%; Ni, 12.59%; S, 13.76%. Found: C, 41.20%; H, 2.85%; N, 9.00%; Ni, 12.50%; S, 13.70%. for **3** {C₁₆H₂₃N₃O₁₁S₂Zn, M = 562.88 g/mol}, C, 34.14%; H, 4.12%; N, 7.47%; S, 11.39%; Zn, 11.39%. Found: C, 34.10%; H, 4.15%; N, 7.45%; S, 11.35%; Zn, 11.70 %.

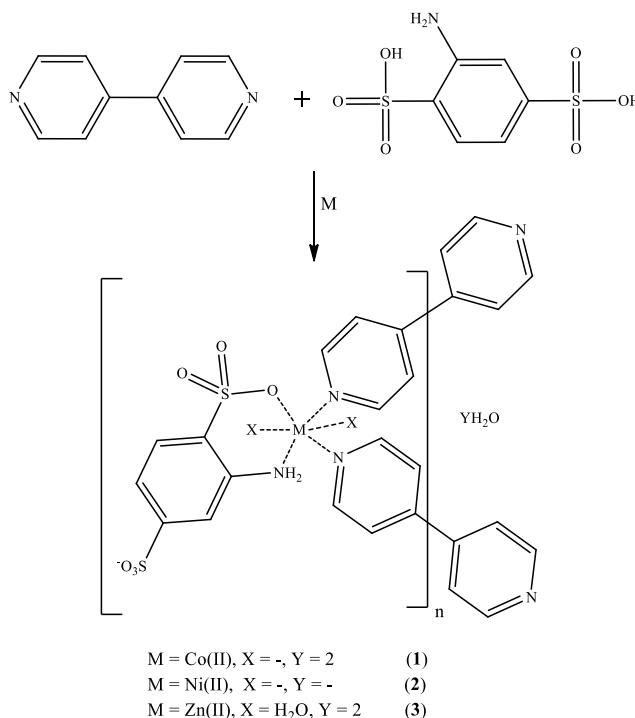


Figure 2. The structures of compounds **1-3**

2.3 Antimicrobial study

The microbroth dilution method was used to assess the antibacterial and antifungal activities of the initial (BP and H₂ADSA) and newly synthesized compounds **1-3**. In order to prepare stock solutions for the samples, DMSO was used. Each of the free, synthesized, and antibiotic compounds was weighed at 4 mg, and 2 mL of DMSO was added to dissolve them. A Mueller-Hinton broth medium was used to grow overnight culture suspensions, and cell densities were adjusted to 0.5 McFarland tube turbidity (1 × 10⁸ CFU/mL). Then the microorganism suspension was transferred to the wells. The final well chain devoid of microbes served as the negative control, and sterilized distilled water served as the positive growth control. All plates seeded at 37 °C were incubated for 24 hours, and the first non-turbidity well was determined to be the MIC.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Thermal analyses of 1-3

TG-DTG and DTA curves and values of **1-3** are given in Figs S1-S3, respectively, and Table 1. Compounds **1** and **3** are thermally decomposed in three steps. The endothermic first stage corresponds to the loss of two and five moles of water molecules for compounds **1** and **3**, respectively ($DTG_{max} = 66$ and 87 °C for **1** and 65 , 89 and 155 °C for **3**). The endothermic second stage is consistent with the loss of C_7H_5 and C_8H_6 units for **1** and **3**, respectively ($DTG_{max} = 190$, 256 and 316 °C for **1** and 253 °C for **3**). The exothermic third stage shows the loss of $C_9H_8N_3O_4S_2$ and $C_8H_4N_3O_6S_2$ units for **1** and **3**, respectively ($DTG_{max} = 489$ and 675 °C for **1** and 392 and 559 °C for **3**). The final product which is left undecomposed is CoO for **1** and ZnO for **3**.

Compound **2** is thermally decomposed in two steps. The endothermic first stage corresponds to the loss of the C_5H_3 unit, and the exothermic second stage corresponds to the loss of the $C_{11}H_9N_3O_6S_2$ unit. The final product which is left undecomposed is NiO.

Table 1. Thermal analyses results of **1-3**

Compound	Temperature (°C)	DTG _{max} (°C)	Leaving Group	Found (%)	Calculated (%)
1	35-91	66, 87	2H ₂ O	7.00	7.17
	91-336	190, 256, 316	C ₇ H ₅	17.60	17.71
	336-900	489, 675	C ₉ H ₈ N ₃ O ₄ S ₂	63.70	63.39
	-	-	Co	11.70	11.73
2	35-255	212	C ₅ H ₃	13.50	13.50
	255-900	476	C ₁₁ H ₉ N ₃ O ₆ S ₂	74.00	73.99
	-	-	Ni	12.50	12.56
3	35-169	65, 89, 155	5H ₂ O	15.70	15.99
	169-280	253	C ₈ H ₆	18.30	18.12
	280-900	392, 559	C ₈ H ₄ N ₃ O ₆ S ₂	54.30	54.27
	-	-	Zn	11.70	11.62

3.2 FT-IR results of all compounds

The IR data for H₂ADSA, BP and **1-3** are given in Table 2 and Figs. S4-S8. There are broad vibration peaks between 3500 and 3200 cm⁻¹ attributed to the $\nu(OH)$ vibrations of **1** and **3**. Bands appearing at 3479 and 3366 cm⁻¹ for **1**, 3480 and 3300 cm⁻¹ for **2**, and 3426 and 33371 cm⁻¹ for **3** are assigned to NH₂ vibrations [31,35]. The peaks at the range of **1-3**, 3075-3045 cm⁻¹, 1614-1414 cm⁻¹, 1242-1210 cm⁻¹, 1019-1007 cm⁻¹, 815-808 cm⁻¹, 670-665cm⁻¹, 559-557cm⁻¹ and 486-462 cm⁻¹ are assigned as $\nu(C-H)_{ar}$, $\nu(C=N)/\nu(C=C)$, $\nu(S=O)_{asym}$, $\nu(S=O)_{sym}$, $\nu(S-O)$, $\nu(C-S)$, $\nu(M-O)$ and $\nu(M-N)$, respectively. The wave numbers of the compounds are in agreement with studies involving similar ligands found in the literature [31,35].

Table 2. IR data of all compounds (cm⁻¹)

	H ₂ ADSA	BP	1	2	3
$\nu(O-H)$	3501(br)	-	3500-3200(br)	-	3500-3200(br)
$\nu(N-H)$	3480(w)	-	3479(w)	3480(w)	3426(w)
	3435(w)		3366(w)	3300(w)	3371(w)
$\nu(C-H)_{ar}$	3093(w)	3020(w)	3065(w)	3075(w)	3045(w)
$\nu(C=N)$	1526(s)	1649(s)	1613(s)	1614(s)	1611(s)
$\nu(C=C)$	1579(s)	1597(s)	1561(s)	1562(s)	1563(s)
	1539(s)	1532(s)	1536(s)	1538(s)	1532(s)
	1478v	1486(s)	1491(s)	1491(s)	1481(s)
	1407(s)	1407(s)	1477(s)	1480(s)	1414(s)
			1419(s)	1422(s)	
$\nu(S=O)_{asym}$	1221(s)	-	1214(s)	1210(s)	1242(s)
$\nu(S=O)_{sym}$	1053(s)	-	1007(s)	1007(s)	1019(s)
$\nu(S-O)$	841(s)	-	810(s)	815(s)	808(s)
$\nu(C-S)$	666(s)	-	670(s)	669(s)	665(s)
$\nu(M-O)$	-	-	557(w)	557(w)	559(w)
$\nu(M-N)$	-	-	462(w)	468(w)	486(w)

3.3 UV-vis results of all compounds

UV-Vis spectra of all compounds were taken in DMSO (1×10^{-3} M) between 200-900 nm. The $\pi-\pi^*$ and $n-\pi^*$ transitions are seen in the spectra {304 ($34020 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for H₂ADSA, 299 ($36130 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for BP, 312 ($38180 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$), 317 ($39140 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) and 323 ($39720 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for **1**, 289 ($20370 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) and 311 ($25890 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for **2**, and 290($23540 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$), 314($38180 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) and 319 ($3864 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for **3** (Fig. S9). The d-d transition bands of **1** and **2** are observed at 529($270 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$), 866($60 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) and 895($70 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for **1** and 783 ($170 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) and 889($240 \text{ Lmol}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) nm for **2** suggesting an octahedral geometry for **1** and tetrahedral geometry for **2** around metal ions [31,36]. The d-d transition for **3** has not been observed due to containing Zn(II) ions (d^{10}).

3.4 Magnetic susceptibilities results of 1-3

Generally, cobalt(II) forms six coordinated octahedral complexes and four coordinated tetrahedral complexes; however, there have also been reported of five coordinated trigonal bipyramidal complexes and a few four coordinated planar complexes. Single unpaired electron Cobalt(II) complexes can be low-spin octahedral or planar, while complexes with three unpaired electrons can be octahedral or tetrahedral. Cobalt(II) complex magnetic moment values are useful in differentiating between octahedral, planar, and tetrahedral forms. The magnetic moments of high-spin octahedral cobalt(II) complexes range from 4.7 to 5.2 B.M. [37]. The magnetic moments of high-spin tetrahedral compounds are independent of temperature and have been reported to range from 4.3 to 4.7 B.M. [38]. The magnetic moment value of the high-spin cobalt(II) complex in the current research measured at room temperature is 3.83 B.M. This value shows that the complex has a four-coordinated tetrahedral geometry and is consistent with the predicted spin-only value of 3.87 B.M. for three unpaired electrons. The magnetic moment of compound **2** at room temperature is 3.22 B.M. Due to two unpaired electrons, there are deviations from the spin-only magnetic moment of 2.83 B.M. that are ascribed to the orbital contribution. This value is consistent with the magnetic moments of tetrahedral Ni(II) complexes containing in the range 3.2–4.1 B.M. [39]. As expected, the magnetic moment is zero for the Zn(II) complex with the d^{10} electron configuration.

3.5 Molar Conductivity results of 1-3

Conductivity measurements of **1-3** (in DMSO) were observed as 5.70 for **1**, 5.50 for **2** and 5.20 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ for **3** and these results are non-ionic for **1-3** [40].

3.6 Antimicrobial results of all compounds

In this work, the antibacterial and antifungal activities of BP, H₂ADSA, and **1-3** were tested by the microdilution method. The MIC values of all compounds are given in Table 3. According to MIC values it was observed that all compounds have antibacterial and antifungal activity properties. The observed activity results are similar to BP and ADSA, salt and metal complexes found in the literature [31,32,35].

Against *C. albicans* yeast species, BP and H₂ADSA (15.60 $\mu\text{g/mL}$), **1** and **2** (31.25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) showed a higher effect than the control compound Fluconazole and Ketoconazole (62.50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) while **1** had similar effects (62.50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) with Fluconazole and Ketoconazole.

Table 3. Antimicrobial activity values of compounds ($\mu\text{g/mL}$)

Compound	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>E. faecalis</i>	<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>C. albicans</i>
Vancomycin	31.25	62.50	62.50	125.00	31.25	250	-
Levofloxacin	31.25	62.50	31.25	31.25	31.25	62.50	-
Cefepime	62.50	31.25	31.25	31.25	62.50	62.50	-
Chloramphenicol	62.50	62.50	125.00	62.50	62.50	62.50	
Fluconazole	-	-	-	-	-	-	62.50
Ketoconazole	-	-	-	-	-	-	62.50
BP	31.25	62.50	62.50	15.60	62.50	62.50	15.60
H ₂ ADSA	7.80	62.50	31.25	62.50	62.50	62.50	15.60
1	62.50	31.25	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50	62.50
2	62.50	31.25	31.25	62.50	31.25	31.25	31.25
3	31.25	31.25	31.25	31.25	62.50	31.25	31.25

Against *S. aureus* bacteria, BP, H₂ADSA **1** and **3** were determined to have similar effects (62.50 µg/mL) with Cefepime and Chloramphenicol while **2** showed higher activity (31.25 µg/mL) than Cefepime and Chloramphenicol. Compound **2** was determined to have similar effects (31.25 µg/mL) with Vancomycin and Levofloxacin while the other compounds showed less activity (62.50 µg/mL) than Vancomycin and Levofloxacin. Against *E. faecalis* bacteria, **1-3** have similar activity (31.25 µg/mL) with Cefepime and Chloramphenicol while BP and H₂ADSA have similar effects (62.50 µg/mL) with Vancomycin and Levofloxacin.

Compared to the control compounds, BP exhibited a greater impact (15.60 µg/mL) against *L. monocytogenes*. H₂ADSA, **1** and **2** were determined to have similar effects with Chloramphenicol (62.50 µg/mL) while BP (15.60 µg/mL) and **3** (31.25 µg/mL) showed higher activity than Chloramphenicol. **3** showed similar effects with as Levofloxacin and Cefepime while the other compounds showed less activity (62.50 µg/mL) than Levofloxacin and Cefepime. All compounds were found to have higher efficacy against this bacterium than the Vancomycin.

Comparing **2** and **3** to the control compounds, the former had greater potency (31.25 µg/mL) against *B. subtilis* bacteria. The other drugs were shown to be more effective than Vancomycin and to have similar effects to Levofloxacin, Cefepime, and Chloramphenicol (62.50 µg/mL).

Against *P. aeruginosa* bacteria, BP and **1** were determined to have similar effects (62.50 µg/mL) with Vancomycin while H₂ADSA, **2** and **3** showed similar activity (31.25 µg/mL) than Levofloxacin and Cefepime. All compounds were found to have higher efficacy against this bacterium than the Chloramphenicol.

Against *E. coli* bacteria, H₂ADSA (7.80 µg/mL) had higher activity than Vancomycin, Levofloxacin, Cefepime, and Chloramphenicol. BP and **3** for Vancomycin and Levofloxacin and **1** and **2** for Cefepime and Chloramphenicol have similar effects with control compounds.

The charge and quantity of the metals, the presence of complementary ions, the chelating impact of the ligands, the characteristics of the ligands, and the quantity of donor atoms they contain are some of the variables that may affect the antimicrobial activity of metal complexes. Analyzing the correlations between the structures and activities of the examined compounds reveals that the quantity of chelating ligands and metal ions present in the compounds most likely influences their activities. Their capacity to pass through cell walls or membrane architecture accounts for the variations in the actions of the complexes against bacteria.

4 CONCLUSION

In this work, a hydrothermal reaction was used to create newly three mixed-ligand complexes of Co(II) (**1**), Ni(II) (**2**), and Zn(II) (**3**). Elemental analysis, AAS, TGA, IR, UV-Vis, molar conductivity, and magnetic susceptibility techniques were used to characterize **1-3**. Furthermore, the antimicrobial characteristics of **1-3** and the free ligands (BP, H₂ADSA) were also examined. New substances are now required to eradicate harmful bacteria from human health in an economical and efficient manner. Recently, compounds with antibacterial and antiyeast characteristics have been developed. Comparing **2** and **3** to control compounds, they exhibit good antimicrobial action, particularly against *B. subtilis* and *C. albicans*. The recently created substances shown antibacterial and antiyeast properties. The preliminary biological evaluation suggests that the derivatives of these complexes are valuable for further antibacterial and antifungal in vivo and in vitro tests. Their capacity to pass through cell walls or membrane architecture accounts for the variations in the actions of the complexes against bacteria.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Kütahya Dumlupınar University Research Foundation (Grant No: 2020-07 and 2021-42) and carried out at the Chemistry Department of the same university.

Author Contributions

Nurgün BÜYÜKKIDAN: Conceptualization, Software, Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft, Funding acquisition

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Halil İLKİMEN: Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft

Aysel GÜLBANDILAR: Formal analysis, Investigation, Data curation, Writing - Original Draft

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

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APPENDICES

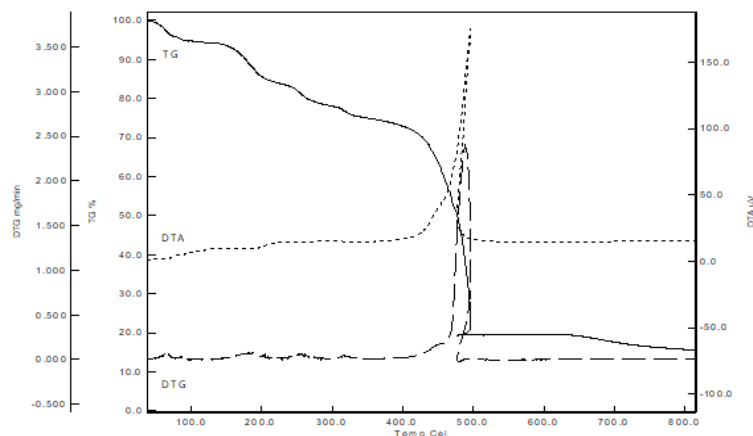


Fig. S1. Thermal analysis results of 1

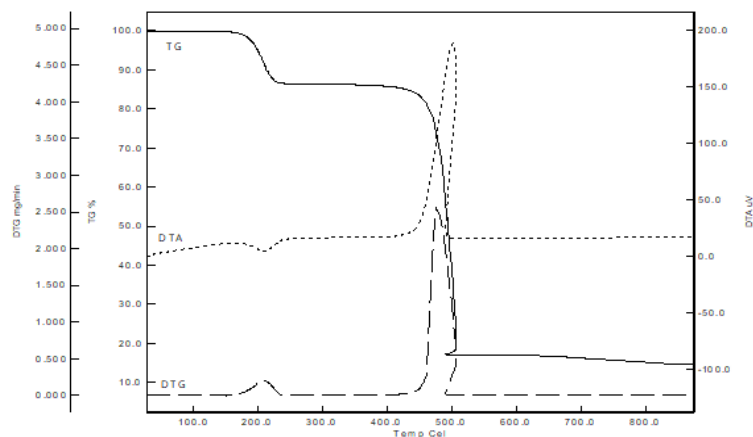


Fig. S2. Thermal analysis results of 2

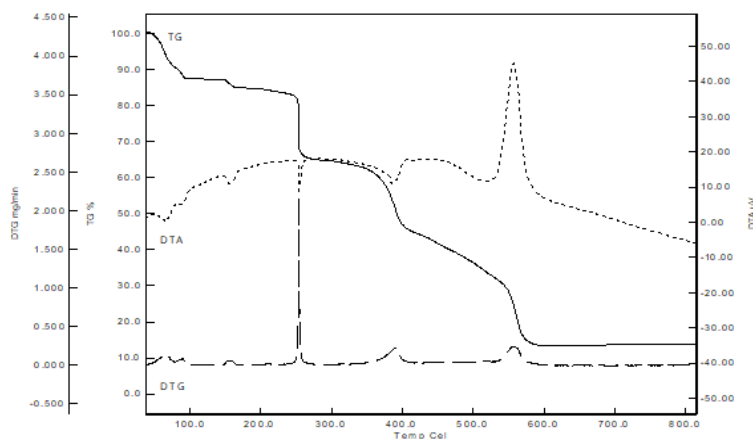


Fig. S3. Thermal analysis results of 3

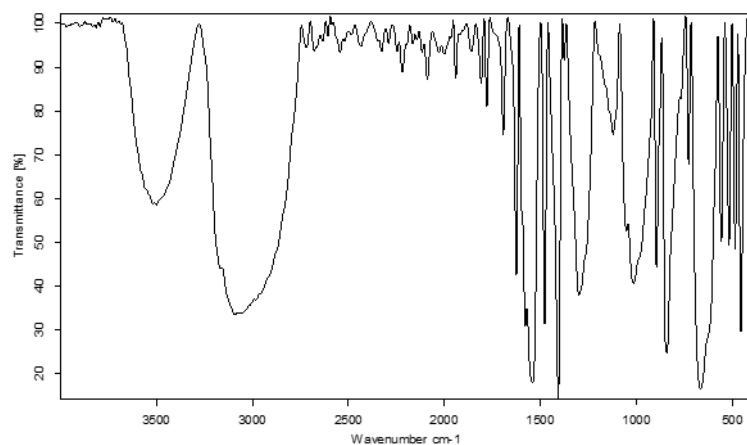


Fig. S4. FT-IR spectrum of H₂ADSA

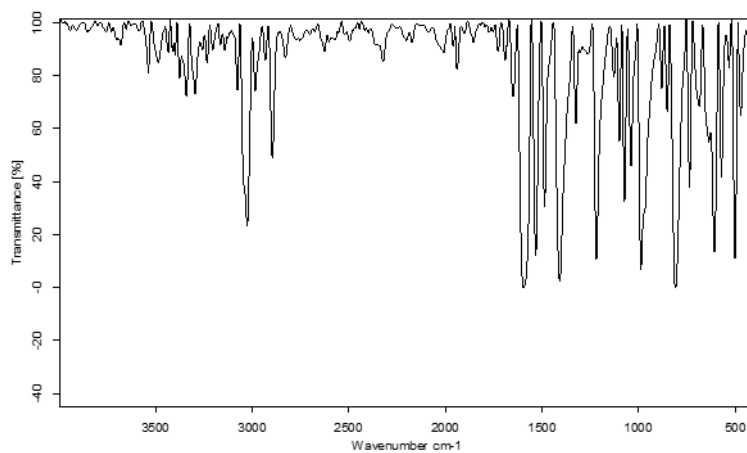


Fig. S5. FT-IR spectrum of BP

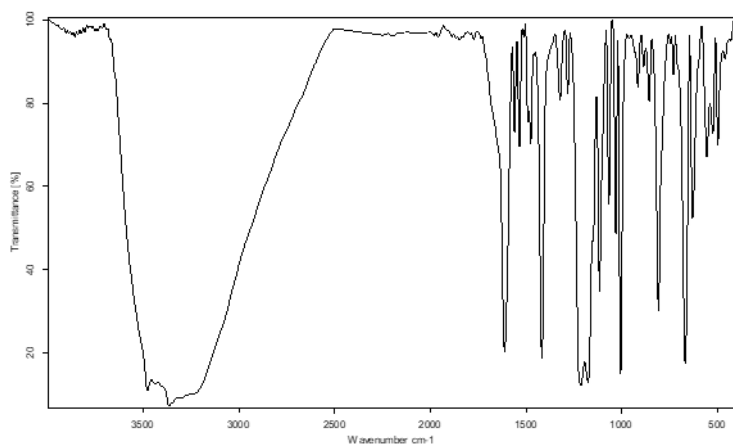


Fig. S6. FT-IR spectrum of **1**

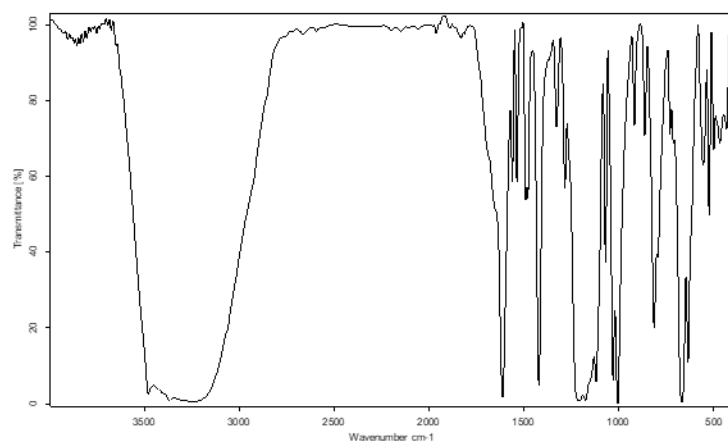


Fig. S7. FT-IR spectrum of 2

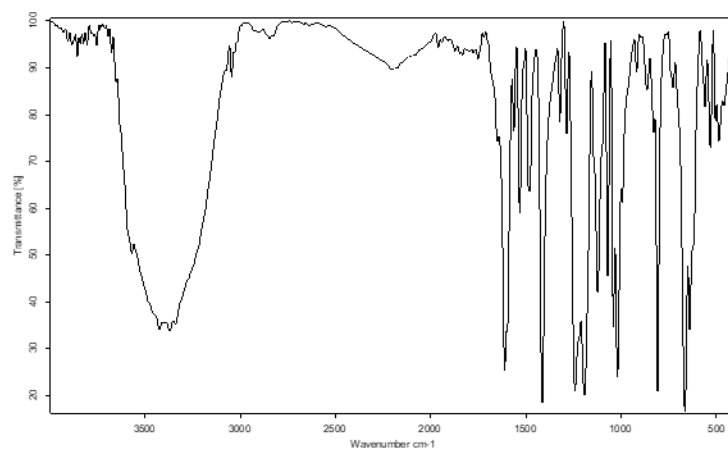


Fig. S8. FT-IR spectrum of 3

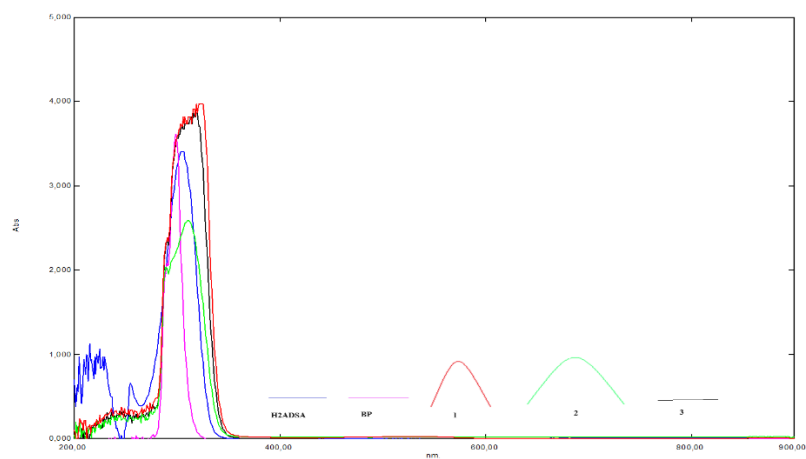


Fig. S9. UV-Vis spectra of all compounds