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Practical and Theoretical Study on the Inhibitory Influences of New Azomethine Derivatives Containing 8-hydroxyquinoline Moiety for the Corrosion of Carbon Steel in 1 M HCI

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ABSTRACT

The inhibition ability of a new Azomethine derivatives containing the 8-hydroxyquinoline (BDHQ and MDHQ) towards carbon steel corrosion in HCl solution was studied at various concentrations and temperatures using weight loss, polarization curves and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) methods. The experimental results reveal that BDHQ and MDHQ are efficient mixed type corrosion inhibitors, and their inhibition efficiencies increase with increasing concentration. The adsorption of these inhibitors on mild steel surface obeys Langmuir isotherm. Quantum chemical parameters are calculated using the Density Functional Theory method (DFT) and Monte Carlo simulations. Correlation between theoretical and experimental results is discussed.

Keywords: Synthesis, Carbon steel, Corrosion inhibition, Electrochemical techniques, DFT.

INTRODUCTION

Carbon steel is practically used in all the industrial sectors (bridges, railways, buildings, etc.) because of their admirable physical properties and

low cost¹, their problem is that is easily corrodible in common environments of usage. In this context, in order to minimize the effect of corrosion, in this context, in order to minimize the effect of corrosion, several methods have been implemented such as:

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anodic or cathodic protection, surface coatings and corrosion inhibitors²⁻⁴, this latter method has become more practical because of its low cost, high efficiency and easily to use.

A lot of synthetic organic and inorganic molecules containing conjugated heterocycle, heteroatoms and electronegative functional groups are shown excellent inhibitory properties⁵⁻⁷, the electronrich groups can donate the lone pair of electrons to the electron deficient metal cations and consequently an adsorption on the metal surface by forming a coordinate covalent bond (chemical adsorption) or by forming a van-der-Waals interactions (physical adsorption) between the metal and inhibitor^{8,9}.

Quinoleic heterocyclic compounds are among the classic divisions of organic chemistry which develops most quickly¹⁰. This discovery resulted in the synthesis of a large number of new compounds. So the introduction of novel heterocyclic functional groups into quinoline structures, for example, allowed the preparation of a wide variety of compounds¹¹. We also find 8-Hydroxquinoline, which constituted by the juxtaposition of pyridine and phenol rings. It establishes the main structural moiety of a large number of molecules with pharmacological properties^{12,13}, which have found their use in all therapeutic fields. With its unique proprieties, 8-Hydroxyquinoline (8-HQ) is very effective to synthesize a number of ionophores with good performance in environments aqueous or organic¹⁴, it is very famous as a monoprotic bidentate chelator used in fluorescent sensing of biological and environmentally important metal ions and in separation techniques. Recently, the utilization of 8-HQ as corrosion inhibitors for aluminum, magnesium alloy, copper and iron has been examined in neutral aqueous sodium chloride solution¹⁵⁻²⁰, the analysis of the literature shows that only very limited studies have been realize out on the impact of 8-hydroxyguinoline derivatives on the corrosion behaviour of carbon steel in HCl electrolyte²¹.

Azomethines or Schiff's base are the ligands very used in the complexation chemistry, and employed as intermediates in organic synthesis²², they are also synthesized from the condensation of primary amines and aldehydes, ketones and carboxylic acids. the existing data showed that the protection efficiency of Azomethine is significantly

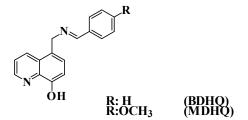
higher in comparison with corresponding amines and carbonyl compounds due to the presence of an -HC=N- group in the molecules^{23,24}.

The objective of the present investigation is to study the corrosion inhibition of carbon steel in acidic medium using new compounds containing a 5-methyl-8 hydroxyquinoline motive (BDHQ and MDHQ) and to propose a suitable mechanism for the inhibition using the weight loss, potentiodynamic polarization and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy measurements and the thermometric method at a temperature range of 298–328k. In addition to this, quantum chemical calculations were performed to add theoretical support to the experimental results.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

The ingredients of working electrode (carbon steel) and their pre-treatment methods have been formerly described, the same thing with regard to the corrosive mediums²⁵. The BDHQ and MDHQ were studied in a gap of concentration ranging from 10⁻³ to10⁻⁶ M. The border of this interval are determined for each synthesized products by its solubility (for maximum concentration of azomethine derivatives) and by their low inhibiting properties (for the minimum concentration of azomethine derivatives), the Azomethine derivative were prepared in moderate yield (56% for BDHQ and 60% for MDHQ) by the condensation of 5-aminomethyl-8-hydroxyquinoline (1eq), aldehydes (1eq) and of triethylamine (1eq) in 20 mL of dried ethyl acetate was heated under stirring for 20 hours. After completion and cooling to room temperature, water (50 mL+10 ml of sodium bisulfite) was subsequently added and the product extracted. The combined organic phases were combined, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and evaporated. The obtained residue was purified by column chromatography with hexane/ acetone (8:3 to 1:9 v/v).



Scheme 1. Chemical structure of BDHQ and MDHA

Identification of the structure of the synthesized Schiff base was performed by, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectroscopy and elemental analysis. Analysis calculated for $C_{17}H_{14}N_2O$: Calcd. C, 77.84; H, 5.38; N, 10.68%; Found: C, 77.76; H, 5.29; N, 10.75%. The ¹H NMR spectrum show signals of the aromatic protons in the range 6.9-8.94 ppm, the signals of the methylene protons appear at 4.83 ppm, and those of the imine protons appear at 8.4 ppm and the ¹³C NMR for the BDHQ exhibited the aromatic carbons in the range 111.32-152.74 ppm, while that of imine at 168.92 ppm and those of methylene appear at 60.84 ppm.

Analysis calculated for $C_{18}H_{16}N_2O_2$: Calcd. C 73.95; H 5.52; N 9.58 %; Found: C, 73.86; H, 5.46; N, 9.64%, the ¹H NMR spectrum of MDHQ show signals of the aromatic protons in the range 6.92-8.51 ppm, the signals of the methylene protons appear at 4.23 ppm, those of the imine proton appear at 8.71 ppm and those of methyl appear at 3.56 ppm and the ¹³C NMR for the BDHQ exhibited the aromatic carbons in the range 111.06 - 153.21 ppm, carbon of (O-CH₃) appears at 53.07 ppm, that of the imine appears at 162.83 ppm and that of methylene appear at 62.12 ppm.

All ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectra are attached in supplementary data.

Apparatus and Methods

NMR (¹H and ¹³C) spectra were registered using Bruker Avance (300 MHz). The advancing of the reaction was followed by Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) using silica gel 60 F254 (E. Merck) plates). Elemental analyses were carried out by Elementar CHN VarioMicro Cube analyser. The Gravimetric experiments have been realized have been realized pursuant to the standard method A.S.T.M. G1-03 described beforehand²⁶. The substrates of dimension $4 \times 1.5 \times 0.05$ cm³ were chosen for to perform the weight loss tests. In order to obtain the reproducible results, all Experiments were repeated four times for each concentration. However, the electrochemical studies were realized by means of an Autolab 400 ml corrosion cell (CORR.CELL). To reach steady state potential, CS (carbon steel) electrode with a surface area of 1 cm² as working electrode, a platinum (Pt) electrode as an auxiliary electrode, saturated calomel electrode (SCE) used as a reference electrode and a fine Luggin capillary was put near CS to decrease ohmic resistance were maintained throughout the period considered (30 min.) in a thermostat at 298K \pm 2. The Tafel polarization was carry out at a scan rate of 0.5 mV/sec. Before each Tafel experiment, the carbon steel electrode was pre-polarised at -800 mVSCE for 10 min. and thereafter the WE was allowed to corrode freely and its open circuit potential (OCP) was recorded as a function of time up to 1/2 h, the time necessary to reach a quasi-stationary value for the open-circuit potential. The potentiodynamic Tafel measurements were scanned from cathodic to the anodic direction.

Impedance measurement were effectuate at the steady state potential (Eocp), with a frequency interval from 100 kHz down to 10 mHz, utilizing a small amplitude signals (10 mV).

Electrochemical measurements were made with a PGZ 100 monitored by a PC supported by the VoltaMaster4 Software, and the obtained Nyquist plots were fitted employing ZView 3.3 software (Scribner Associates).

DFT calculations

Geometric optimizations of studied inhibitors and calculations on quantum chemical study were done following the Gaussian 09 commercial software²⁷. The B3LYP density-functional theory (DFT) was used to optimize the structures of pyrazolo-pyrimidine derivatives using the 6-311++G (d, p) basis set²⁸. The calculated quantum chemical descriptors (QCP) related to the inhibition efficiencies are the orbital energies E_{HOMO} and ELUMO, energy gap (ΔE) = (E_{LUMO} - E_{HOMO}), dipole moment (μ), electronegativity (χ), global hardness (\Box) and the report of electron transferred (ΔN_{110}). The global reactivity of the compounds tested is determined by the indices (QCP) using the following equations²⁹⁻³².

$$\mathbf{h}_{inh} = \frac{E_{LUMO} - E_{HOMO}}{2} = \frac{\Delta E_{gap}}{2} \tag{1}$$

$$\mathbf{c}_{inh} = -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{E}_{HOMO} + E_{LUMO}) \tag{2}$$

$$\Delta N_{110} = \frac{\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{c}_{inh}}{2\left(\mathbf{h}_{F_{e_{110}}} + \mathbf{h}_{inh}\right)} = \frac{\mathbf{f} - \mathbf{c}_{inh}}{2\mathbf{h}_{inh}}$$
(3)

The value of ΔN_{110} was determined by the introduction of the job function (ϕ), the latter is equal the 4.82eV in the lattice plane (110) of iron.

In addition, the η_{Fe} is zero for IP(Ionization potential) = EA(Electronic affinity) which corresponds the metallic bulk³³.

The study of the local reactivity of an inhibitory molecule is very important to determine the active sites of this molecule. For this, we used the Fukui function $f(\vec{r})$. The latter is the first derivative of the electronic density $\rho(\vec{r})$ by the number of electrons (N) located in a constant external potential field $\upsilon(\vec{r})^{34}$:

$$f(\vec{r}) = \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}(\vec{r})}{\partial N}\right)_{u(\vec{r})}$$
(4)

Using the method of finite differences, both types of function such as $f_i(\vec{r})^+$ (for a nucleophilic attack) and $f_i(\vec{r})^-$ (or an electrophilic attack) can be defined:

$$f_{i}\left(\vec{r}\right)^{+} = \mathbf{r}_{N+1}\left(\vec{r}\right) - \mathbf{r}_{N}\left(\vec{r}\right)$$
(5)

$$f_i(\vec{r}) = \mathbf{r}_N(\vec{r}) - \mathbf{r}_{N-1}(\vec{r})$$
(6)

The values of the Fukui function $f_i(\vec{r})^{\dagger}$ and $f_i(\vec{r})^{-}$ of BDHQ and MDHQ compounds are calculated by the of Materials Studio 8 software from Biovia-Accelrys Inc., using a GGA exchange-correlation functional in the Dmol³ module with the polarization function DNP.

Monte Carlo simuations

The interactions study of compounds BDHQ and MDHQ and the metal surface of the iron of lattice plane (110) is realized by the Monte Carlo method³⁵. To take into account all the reactions that are made in ¹M hydrochloric acid medium in the presence of the inhibitors studied. For it, we have established a system similar to that found in the experimental part. Indeed, in Monte Carlo (MC) simulations we were interested in studying the behavior of the system (Surface Fe (110) / compounds (BDHQ and MDHQ)) in an aggressive acid environment with 5 (H_3O^+, CI^-) and 500 H_9O . To carry out this simulation of the MC, we followed a calculation methodology. Molecular mechanics calculation was done using Forcite tools and adsorption Locator tools implanted in the Materials Studio 2016 software³⁶. Before inserting our inhibitors into the simulation cell, these inhibitors are optimized to minimize their energies using a GGA exchange-correlation functional for Generalized Gradient Approximation in the Dmol³ module with the polarization function DNP. On the other hand, the simulation box of iron consisted of a 6 floors of iron atoms split along the (110) plane in the simulation cell (29.78 Å/ 29.78 Å / 30.13 Å) with periodic boundary conditions. A super cell of (13×13) for increase the covering area of the Fe (110) was created and a vacuum of 19.30 Å was mounted above the surface considered. The COMPASS force field37 was used to optimize the structure of all components of the studied system such as the tested inhibitors, the chlorine anion (Cl⁻), the hydronium cation (H_0O^+), the water molecule (H_0O) and the iron surface. The simulations were performed under fine convergence conditions for energy of 10⁻⁴ Kcal.mol⁻¹, the force of 0.005 Kcal. mol⁻¹. Å and the shifting of 5.10-5 Å -1. While each simulation went through 5 cycles at 50,000 steps per cycle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gravimetric tests

The two synthesized compounds of azomethine are first evaluated by weight loss measurements at 298 K after 6 h of immersion. The corrosion rate (CR) and protection efficiency $\eta g(\%)$ were established by virtue of the formulas 7 and 8^{38} , respectively:

$$C_{R} = \frac{G_{b} - G_{a}}{At} \tag{7}$$

$$\eta_{g} = \left(\frac{C_{R0} - C_{R1}}{C_{R0}}\right) \times 100 \tag{8}$$

Where G_{b} and G_{a} represent the weight before and after immersion in the electrolyte, C_{R0} and C_{R1} describe the values of corrosion weight losses of CS in blank medium and inhibited solutions, respectively, A the surface of CS and t is the immersion time (h).

The results of this study are summarized in Table 1. For both inhibitors, the corrosion rate and the inhibitory efficiency are presented for each concentration used.

Analysis of the results in Table 1 clearly shows that these compounds have good inhibitory properties of CS corrosion in ¹M HCI media. We also find that the corrosion rate decreases while the protection efficiency increases with the inhibitor concentration, and reaches a maximum value of 98%, 88% at optimum concentration, respectively for MDHQ, BDHQ. The increase in inhibitory efficiency with concentration suggests that this inhibitor adsorbs more and more at the surface and covers the active sites of the metal surface and thus induces the formation of a barrier that reduces the reactivity of the metal³⁹.

Table 1: Corrosion data acquired by gravimetric method at different concentrations of azomethine derivatives in hydrochloric acid medium

| Medium | Conc (M) | CR (mg/cm ² h) | η(%) | θ |
|--------|----------|---------------------------|------|------|
| Blank | 1 | 0.750 | _ | _ |
| MDHQ | 10-3 | 0.015 | 98 | 0.98 |
| | 10-4 | 0.075 | 90 | 0.90 |
| | 10-5 | 0.127 | 83 | 0.83 |
| | 10-6 | 0.210 | 72 | 0.72 |
| BDHQ | 10-3 | 0.090 | 88 | 0.88 |
| | 10-4 | 0.187 | 75 | 0.75 |
| | 10-5 | 0.255 | 66 | 0.66 |
| | 10-6 | 0.375 | 50 | 0.50 |

In acidic environment, a fraction of synthesized molecules is protonated because of heteroatoms (nitrogen and oxygen) and become cations (MDHQ-H⁺, BDHQ-H⁺) and therefore adsorb through electrostatic interactions with chloride (CI⁻) ions. The other fraction (neutral form) could form bonds with the orbital d of iron atoms, causing the displacement of water molecules from the metal surface and sp² electron pairs isolated N and O atoms and π -orbitals, blocking the active sites in the surface of the steel and thus reducing the rate of corrosion. The obtained difference in terms of inhibition between BDHQ and MDHQ originates from the presence of the radical R focused on benzene at Para position, the presence on MDHQ an methoxy substituent (-O-CH₂) in MDHQ which is classified as an electron donating group (*M, Mesomeric effect) breeds an increasing the delocalization of electron density on the benzene ring, rendering the molecule more stable and therefore gives higher protection efficiency for the metal than BDHQ⁴⁰.

Adsorption isotherm

The techniques available for discover the nature of the interactions between organic and metallic species are adsorption isotherms⁴¹. In this context, the number of numbers of models can be used to evaluate the adsorption process of BDHQ and MDHQ at working electrode surface as: Temkin, Frumkin and Langmuir; which are estimated according to the next equations⁴²:

Temkin :
$$e^{(-2a\theta)} = bC_{oc}$$

Frumkin :
$$\theta(1-\theta)^{-1}e^{(-2a\theta)} = b\theta$$

Langmuir

:
$$C_{\alpha c} \times \theta^{-1} = K_d^{-1} + C_{\alpha c}$$
 (11)

Where θ defined as the fraction of surface covered, Kd the constant of adsorption reaction and C_{∞} is the organic compounds concentration.

The existing data show that the best fit is attained with Langmuir's isotherm for monolayer adsorption, the θ values obtained from gravimetric measurements, are given by

$$\theta = \frac{\eta_g}{100} \tag{12}$$

For both inhibitors, the graph of C_{oc} / θ with respect to C_{oc} exhibit a straight line (Fig.1) with linear coefficient (R²) close to one; involving that the adsorption of azomethine molecules on the CS is well adapted to the Langmuir adsorption isotherm.

The constant K_d obtained by the extrapolation of the Langmuir isotherm straight and is connected with Gibbs energy by the next relation

$$\Delta G_{d}^{*} = -2.303 RT \left(Log_{10} 55.55 + Log_{10} K_{d} \right)$$
(13)

In this formula, R is the gas constant and 55.55 is the molar concentration of water.

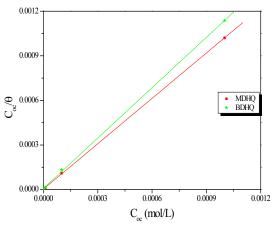


Fig. 1. Langmuir adsorption isotherm plots for both inhibitors on CS in aggressive media

(9)

(10)

The following Table 2 summarizes the different thermodynamic parameters.

Table 2: Thermodynamic parameters for the adsorption of both inhibitors on CS in HCl electrolyte

| Inhibitors | R ² | K _d (L mol⁻¹) | ΔG_{d} (kJ mol ⁻¹) |
|------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| MDHQ | 0.99997 | 270641.85 | -42.31 |
| BDHQ | 0.99988 | 125478.54 | -40.35 |
| | | | |

The estimated ΔG_d° values as depicted in Table 2 are lower than -40 kJmol⁻¹ which means that the absorption process is of the chemisorption nature⁴³.

Potentiodynamic polarization curves

Figures 2 illustrate the cathodic and anodic polarization curves of the CS in ¹M HCl at room temperature, in the absence and in the presence of BDHQ and MDHQ at different concentrations. The curves were recorded after a holding time of the CS at the free corrosion potential for 30 minutes. According to these curves, I draw your attention to the facts that the addition of azomethine molecules involve a decrease both the cathodic and anodic current densities, this is more remarkable given at optimum concentration.

Diverse parameters derived from Tafel curves are arranged in Table 3. Concerning the inhibition efficiencies for each concentration of BDHQ and MDHQ were estimated by application of Eq. (14):

$$\eta_{Tafel} = \left(1 - \frac{i_{inhb}}{i_{blank}}\right) \times 100 \tag{14}$$

Where i_{blank} and i_{inhb} are the corrosion current densities of blank and inhibited environment respectively.

As illustrated in Table 3, the increased of protective properties (η_{Tcfel}) with inhibitors concentration indicates that the organic molecules works by blocking the active sites on CS⁴⁴. However, displacement of the corrosion potential (E_c) did not show any significant change in the field studied (max \leq 18 mVvs. SCE) indicating that the MDHQ and BDHQ molecules are mixed type inhibitor⁴⁵. In addition, the cathodic Tafel slopes (β_c) varies with the synthesized azomethine derivatives addition suggesting a change of the mechanism of cathodic hydrogen evolution, exclusion of cathodic behavior

as a result a formation a protective layer by BDHQ and MDHQ adsorbed. The existing values of the extracted anodic slopes (β_{a}) show a change with the addition of both inhibitors suggesting that the studied inhibitors was first adsorbed onto the metal surface and impeded by merely blocking the reaction sites of the working electrode surface without affecting the anodic reaction mechanism, in other words the existing of heteroatoms such as nitrogen and oxygen in synthesized molecules makes an important contribution for the formation of Fe-MDHQ and Fe-BDHQ complexes and participle in modification the dissolution reaction of Fe⁴⁶. On the other hand, the dissolution rate of working electrode decrease after the addition of inhibitors throughout of potentials until -250 mV/SCE and increases when the potential has become more anodic, this potential corresponding to desorption potential⁴⁷. The effect of protection of MDHQ is higher than BDHQ which confirm the obtained data by gravimetric technique.

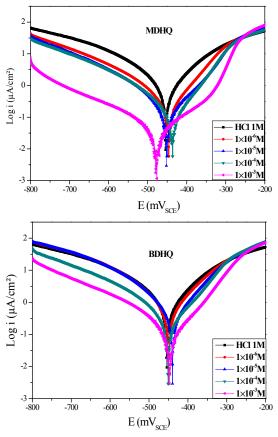


Fig. 2. Tafel curves for CS at 298 K in electrolyte in the absence and presence of synthesized azomethine derivatives

| | | of synthesiz | eu azometinne | uenvalives | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Medium | [C](mol/L) | -Ec(mV _{SCE}) | i _{corr} (mA/cm²) | -βc(mV dec ⁻¹) | β_a (mV dec ⁻¹) | η _{τcfel} (%) |
| 1M | 0.00 | 454 | 1.9477 | 182.9 | 151.8 | _ |
| MDHQ | 10 ⁻³ | 478 | 0.0643 | 208.6 | 134.7 | 97 |
| | 10-4 | 437 | 0.3108 | 164.1 | 85.4 | 84 |
| | 10 ⁻⁵ | 452 | 0.4251 | 170.3 | 99.5 | 78 |
| | 10-6 | 446 | 0.7007 | 187.2 | 105.1 | 64 |
| BDHQ | 10 ⁻³ | 448 | 0.2646 | 184.9 | 91.2 | 86 |
| | 10-4 | 450 | 0.5307 | 95.2 | 89.4 | 73 |
| | 10 ⁻⁵ | 451 | 0.7374 | 187.2 | 107.8 | 62 |
| | 10-6 | 440 | 1.0879 | 151.9 | 114.6 | 44 |

Table 3: Diverse electrochemical parameters of CS in 1M HCl in the absence and presence of synthesized azomethine derivatives

Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)

The Nyquist curves in the presence and the absence of synthesized azomethine derivatives in HCI electrolyte are exhibited in Fig. 3. All the impedance spectra exhibit a single depressed semicircle. The diameter of semicircle increases with the increase of inhibitors concentrations. The semicircular appearance shows that the corrosion of carbon steel is controlled by the charge transfer, and the presence of BDHQ and MDHQ does not change the mechanism of carbon steel dissolution, in addition, these Nyquist diagrams are not perfect

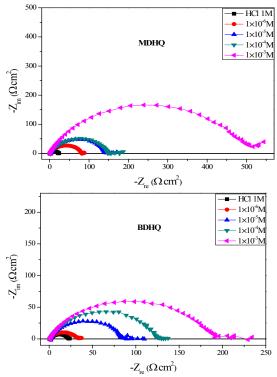


Fig. 3. Nyquist plot for CS in 1.0 M HCl electrolyte in absence and presence of azomethine molecules

semicircles. The deviation of semicircles from perfect circular shape is often referred to as the frequency dispersion of interfacial impedance⁴⁸.

Divers EIS parameters were achieved by the simulation of all impedance spectra through the appropriate equivalent circuit (Figure 4).

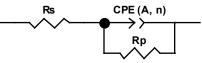


Fig. 4. The appropriate equivalent circuit used for fitting of all obtained impedance spectra

Our circuit comprising the following elements: the solution resistance (Rs), which is in series with a constant phase element (CPE) that is in parallel with the polarization resistance (Rp). So, the CPE defined the quasi-capacitive behaviour of the adsorbed chemical species in the electrical double layer and its use shows an improvement in fit in relation to the capacitance⁴⁹. It is expressed by the next formula:

$$Z_{\rm CPE} = A^{-1} (i\omega)^{-n}$$
(15)

Where A is a constant of CPE in (Ω^{-1} sⁿ cm⁻²), n is a limited number from 0 to 1 identifying the phase shift and ω is a angular frequency in (rad s⁻¹) which is calculated as the product of 2π and the frequency.

All this has served to calculate the double layer capacitance (C_{d}) by next Eq.

$$C_{\rm dl} = (AR_{\rm p}^{1-n})^{1/n}$$
(16)

The term of protection efficiency, $\eta \Omega(\%)$, is explicit via the last formula

$$\eta_{\Omega} = \frac{R_{pm} - R_{pb}}{R_{pm}} \times 100 \tag{17}$$

In which R_{pb} and R_{pm} are the polarization resistance of working electrode in HCI electrolyte without and with azomethine molecules, respectively.

The use of equivalent circuit allows providing an excellent fit for all Nyquist spectra, the use of equivalent circuit allows to given an excellent fit for all Nyquist spectra and provide the values of simulated parameters in absence and presence of azomethine derivatives, these latter are presented in Table 4. It is worth mentioning that the values of R_p of MDHQ are superior that BDHQ, which is reflected

that the performance of MDHQ is above that BDHQ, the max performance are 97.2 % and 90.8 % for MDHQ and BDHQ, respectively. however, the double layer capacitance typically exhibit variation opposite to that R_n, the rise of concentration in the case of two investigate molecules provoking fall in C_{dl} values, It reached a minimum of 99.8 and 105.2 (µF cm⁻²) in for MDHQ and BDHQ respectively in comparison with that obtained in electrolyte media (195.2 µF cm⁻²), which indicate that Schiff base acts as the primary interface inhibitor and the charge transfer controls the corrosion of steel under the open circuit conditions⁵⁰. The increase of n values (0.86-0.76) Compared to the obtained values of blank solution (0.75) is due to a reduction of surface heterogeneities as a result of the synthesized molecules adsorption on CS surface⁵¹.

 Table 4: Impedance parameters for CS in HCI electrolyte with and without various concentrations of azomethine molecules

| Medium | C(M) | R_{s} (Ω cm ²) | R_{p} (Ω cm ²) | 10 ⁴ A (Ω ⁻¹ S ⁿ cm ²) | n | $C_{_{dl}}$ (µF cm ⁻²) | ηΩ (%) |
|--------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Blank | 1 | 2.04 ± 0.05 | 20.1 ± 0.07 | 4.36±0.33 | 0.75 ± 0.002 | 193.7 | |
| MDHQ | 10-6 | 1.68 ± 0.04 | 78.3 ± 0.04 | 4.30 ± 0.01 | 0.78 ± 0.003 | 177.7 | 74.3 |
| | 10-5 | 1.63 ± 0.05 | 134.1 ± 0.05 | 4.21± 0.02 | 0.80 ± 0.001 | 159.1 | 85.0 |
| | 10-4 | 2.09 ± 0.03 | 136.7 ± 0.08 | 3.02 ± 0.01 | 0.82 ± 0.002 | 136.2 | 85.3 |
| | 10 ⁻³ | 0.32 ± 0.04 | 480.0 ± 0.09 | 0.18 ± 0.03 | 0.86 ± 0.003 | 99.6 | 95.8 |
| BDHQ | 10-6 | 1.45 ± 0.05 | 28.6 ± 0.07 | 7.41 ± 0.08 | 0.77 ± 0.003 | 190.1 | 29.2 |
| | 10-5 | 1.39 ± 0.05 | 77.9 ± 0.01 | 3.50 ± 0.03 | 0.8 0± 0.002 | 152.4 | 74.2 |
| | 10-4 | 1.16 ± 0.04 | 112.7 ± 0.08 | 4.19 ± 0.02 | 0.81 ± 0.003 | 129.3 | 82.2 |
| | 10 -3 | 1.3 0± 0.07 | 177.5 ± 0.03 | 3.5 0± 0.02 | 0.84 ± 0.001 | 105.1 | 88.7 |

Effect of temperature

The temperature present serious problems on the increases of corrosion rate, it would promote many changes at the level of working electrode surface such as ageing of metal, desorption of adsorbed molecule, dissolution of complexes formed and thermal decomposition of inhibitors.

In order to enlighten a little this effect, we examined the influence of temperature on the behaviour of the both MDHQ and BDHQ inhibitors at a controlled temperature of 298 K to 338 K by gravimetric experiments for 6 h of immersion. The results of this study are summarized in Table 5.

Intermediate results of C_{R} values show that a regular growth with the temperature and very pronounced in electrolyte alone, results in a diminution of inhibitory efficacy of both azomethine molecules, which indicate that the equilibrium between adsorption and desorption processes is moved towards desorption process⁵². Generally, this behaviour is attributed to the physical adsorption nature, to confirm this type of adsorption to confirm this type of adsorption, it's required for using the kinetic models.

To estimated activation parameters of the corrosion reaction, Arrhenius Eq.⁵³

$$LnC_{R} = LnK - \frac{E_{a}}{RT}$$
(18)

$$Slope = \left(-\frac{E_a}{RT}\right) \tag{19}$$

Where E_a , R and K, are apparent activation corrosion energy, gas constant and Arrhenius pre-exponential factor, respectively.

The variation of Ln CR as function of 1000/T is establish in Fig. 5. Concerning the values

of activation energy (E_a) for the two Schiff's bases containing a 5-methyl-8-hydroxyquinoline motive are collected in Table 6.

The alternative formulation of transition sate equation is shown in equation⁵⁴:

$$LnC_{R} = Ln\frac{RT}{Nh} + \frac{\Delta S_{a}}{R} - \frac{\Delta H_{a}}{RT}$$

$$Slope = \left(-\frac{\Delta H_{a}}{R}\right) and \text{ intercept} = Ln\left(\frac{R}{Nh}\right) + \frac{\Delta S_{a}}{R}$$
(20)

Where h, N, Δ Sa and Δ Ha are plank's constant, Avogadro number, the entropy and enthalpy of activation, respectively. The change of Ln CR/T in relation to 1000/T graph are in Fig. 6. The extracted Δ Ha and Δ Sa values are collected in Table 6.

Table 5: Corrosion parameters concluding from gravimetric experiments for CS in HCI electrolyte with and without both inhibitors in various temperatures

| Medium | Temp (K) | CR (mg/cm ² h) | η (%) | θ |
|--------|----------|---------------------------|-------|------|
| Blank | 298 | 0.75 | _ | _ |
| | 308 | 1.17 | _ | _ |
| | 318 | 2.55 | | |
| | 328 | 4.89 | _ | — |
| | 338 | 9.7 | — | — |
| DMHQ | 298 | 0.015 | 98 | 0.98 |
| | 308 | 0.047 | 96 | 0.96 |
| | 318 | 0.357 | 86 | 0.86 |
| | 328 | 1.222 | 75 | 0.75 |
| | 338 | 3.783 | 61 | 0.61 |
| BDHQ | 298 | 0.09 | 88 | 0.88 |
| | 308 | 0.175 | 85 | 0.85 |
| | 318 | 0.637 | 75 | 0.75 |
| | 328 | 1.711 | 65 | 0.65 |
| | 338 | 5.044 | 48 | 0.48 |

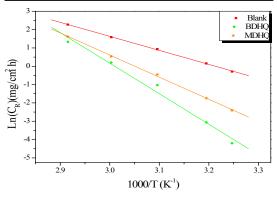


Fig. 5. Arrhenius graph for CS in HCI electrolyte with and without optimum concentration of both inhibitors at studied temperatures

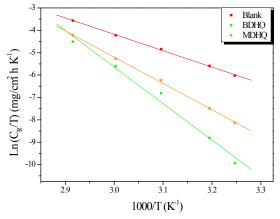


Fig. 6. Transition state graph for CS in HCI electrolyte with and without optimum concentration of both inhibitors at studied temperatures

Table 6: Kinetic parameters of corrosion for CS in HCI electrolyte with and without optimum concentration of both inhibitors at studied

| temperat | ures |
|----------|------|
|----------|------|

| Medium | К | R ² | Ea | ΔH_a | ΔS_a |
|--------|-----------|----------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | (kJ/mol) | (kJ/mol) | (J/mol K) |
| Blank | 4.74×1010 | 0.999 | 63.61 | 60.91 | -49.56 |
| DMHQ | 5.98×1021 | 0.993 | 138.49 | 135.80 | 162.94 |
| BDHQ | 5.95×1015 | 0.999 | 100.39 | 97.69 | 52.32 |

The analysis of findings obtained involve that the enthalpies values for dissolution reaction of CS in ¹ M HCl in the presence two Schiff's bases containing a 5-methyl-8-hydroxyquinoline motive are superior than that of in HCl electrolyte. However, the CS dissolution process was defined as endothermic in nature due to the positive signs of ΔH_a . The differentiation between physisorption and chemisorption stand on the obtained ΔH_a values and defined as⁵⁵.

if $\Delta H_a \leq 40 \text{ KJ/mol} \longrightarrow \text{physisorption process}$ *while* $\Delta H_a \geq 100 \text{ KJ/mol} \longrightarrow \text{chemisorption process}$

The estimated enthalpy value in case of BDHQ is near to 100 KJ/mol and that of MDHQ is superior to 100 KJ/mol. So, the mode of adsorption of azomethine molecules is purely chemisorption.

The estimated E_a in presence of synthesized compounds is exceeding than the analogous E_a in their absence, the increase in temperature provoke la dissolution of chemical bonding and complexes formed between the molecules inhibitor and ions metallic and therefore release a greater surface exposed to the HCI electrolyte and therefore to an increase in the corrosion rate. The existing E_a values are slightly up than the enthalpy values and the difference between them has not changed in all cases, suggesting that the corrosion process is a unimolecular reaction⁵⁶; this is consonant with earlier results defined by following relation.

$$RT = E_a - \Delta H_a = 2.62 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$
 (21)

In view of the entropy results, the addition of BDHQ and MDHQ lead to positive value of entropy, where as a negative value is observed in blank solution, this augmentation is resulting from the rise in disorder when the reactants are transformed to the complexes. These results could also be explained by the substitution process of water molecules on the electrode surface and consequently the increasing in ΔS_a was assigned to the rise in solvent entropy⁵⁷.

Quantum chemical calculations

As has been proved experimentally that our compounds are good inhibitors against corrosion, and the inhibitory performance of MDHQ is better than BDHQ. To confirm this result, we will do the theoretical calculation using the DFT theory, for this purpose, the global reactivity will be determined by the quantum chemical descriptors and the local reactivity will be the determined via local indices (Fukui indices). All this shows that the structural properties of the molecules studied are proportional with their inhibitory efficiencies.

Global reactivity of BDHQ and MDHQ compounds

For more interpretation and understanding the phenomena that are established in the studies of corrosion inhibitions, we performed a chemical quantum theoretical calculation using density functional theory (DFT) at B3LYP functional⁵⁸. The global reactivity of a molecule is characterized by the frontier molecular orbitals (FMO) such as the HOMO is exterior most occupied orbital which owns the highest energy level, so it behaves as an available orbital to give electrons²⁸. While, the LUMO is inside most unoccupied orbital which is available to accept electrons⁵⁹. The optimized structures in the most stable state and the density distribution of FMO orbital's for molecules BDHQ and MDHQ for the 6-31++G (d,p) are shown in Fig. 7. The graphical images of the HOMO and LUMO of the two species BDHQ and MDHQ (Fig. 7) show that the location of the electron density HOMO and LUMO is distributed on the π electrons (sp²) to the aromatic rings and the free doublets of the nitrogen atoms N in the planar structure of hydroxyquinoline for two studied compounds.

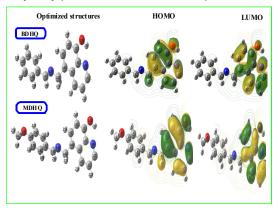


Fig. 7. Optimized structures and frontier molecule orbital density distributions of the inhibitors BDHQ and MDHQ

Selected main quantum chemical descriptors (QCP) for the neutral forms of the inhibitors BDHQ and MDHQ are grouped in Table 7. It is indisputable that the best inhibitors are electron donors of electrons to another element that contains unoccupied orbitals available to accept electrons. According to Table 7 it is apparent that the inhibitor molecule MDHQ has high values of EHOMO (-5.447eV) and ΔN_{110} (0.345) which indicates that the performance of transmission of electrons is high in MDHQ than BDHQ. Likewise, the inhibitor MDHQ showed the lowest ∆E (4.044 eV), lowest ELUMO (-1.403 eV), lowest η (2.022 eV) and χ (3.425 eV), All of these descriptors suggest better stability and more interaction. This supports the experimental results that say that BDHQ inhibitor has a great inhibitory performance compared to the MDHQ inhibitor. With regard to the influence of the dipole moment on the molecular reactivity for two inhibitors tested. Turning to the study of literature, the trend of the dipole moments μ (D) of the compounds indicates that the inhibitory efficacy increases with the μ (D) of the molecule. Then the high value of the dipole moment strengthens the dipole-dipole form of the interactions between the inhibitory molecule and the metal surface⁶⁰. This reflects that the adsorption performance of an inhibitor is high. In this context, the values of the dipole moment are also gathered in the Table 7, it is remarkable that the high value of the μ (5.015D) of the inhibitor MDHQ suggests that this inhibitor adsorbs better than the inhibitor BDHQ (3.620D) on the metal surface.

| | | | | = | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Compounds | E _{HOMO} (eV) | E _{LUMO} (eV) | $\Delta E_{gap}(eV)$ | $\eta_{\text{inh}}(\text{eV})$ | $\chi_{inh}(eV)$ | $\Delta N_{_{110}}$ | μ(D) |
| BDHQ | -5.514 | -1.345 | 4.169 | 2.0845 | 3.4295 | 0.334 | 3.620 |
| MDHQ | -5.447 | -1.403 | 4.044 | 2.022 | 3.425 | 0.345 | 5.015 |

Table 7: QCPs for two inhibitors BDHQ and MDHQ calculated with the DFT/B3LYP/6-311++G method in the gaseous phase

In objective to characterize the mechanism of adsorption of organic molecules in hydrochloric acid, we are interested in the protonation of these molecules to see their reactivity. The same trend has been noticed by using the protonation of the studied molecules. From the results obtained by our theoretical calculations of the protonated molecules. Table 8 summarizes the calculated chemical descriptors of our protonated compounds in nitrogen atom N13 which is the most available site for protonation. First of all, we observe a remarkable shift in the values of the quantum parameters of protonated molecules BDHQ and MDHQ and especially in the values of E_{HOMO} , E_{LUMO} , and ΔN_{110} that move to more negative values61. This indicates that the responsiveness of our products changes appropriately and these molecules become more reactive according their protonation. This observation can be confirmed by the high values of the dipole moment of protonated inhibitors BDHQ (9.547D) and MDHQ (9.725D). Indeed, this shows that electrostatic interactions have been established between our protonated products and the surface of the substrate.

All calculated and measured values of quantum chemical descriptors indicate that the order of inhibition efficiency is MDHQ > BDHQ, this is in good agreement with the experimental results. This method will be very effective towards prediction of inhibition phenomenon of a series of unknown inhibitors, also, we can use this technical to synthesize new molecules more adequate and effective against corrosion.

Table 8: QCPs for two inhibitors BDHQ and MDHQ protonated calculated with the DFT/B3LYP/6-311++G method in the gaseous phase

| Compounds | E _{HOMO} (eV) | E _{LUMO} (eV) | $\Delta E_{gap}(eV)$ | $\eta_{\text{inh}}(\text{eV})$ | $\chi_{inh}(eV)$ | ΔN_{110} | µ(D) |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|
| BDHQ | -8.746 | -6.460 | 2.286 | 1.143 | 7.603 | -1.217 | 9.547 |
| MDHQ | -8.544 | -6.995 | 1.549 | 0.774 | 7.769 | -1.904 | 9.725 |

Local reactivity of BDHQ and MDHQ compounds One of the most frequent local descriptors for studding local reactivity on a molecule is the Fukui indices. We based on the location of the nucleophilic and electrophilic centers of each atom in a compound⁶².

It is indisputable that a molecule that has many of the atoms with high values of the $f_i(\vec{r})^+$ and $f_i(\vec{r})^-$ functions, it has a great chance to adsorb on the surface of the substrate and considered a good inhibitor of corrosion. The values of the Fukui functions $f_i(\vec{r})^+$ and $f_i(\vec{r})^-$ of our neutral compounds are listed in Table 9. The analysis of the results obtained in this table thus confirms the previous results and show that the nitrogen atom N13 is considered as the favorable site for protonation. Indeed, the atom N13 has the largest value of $f_i(\vec{r})^-$ such as 0.061 and 0.097 for BDHQ and MDHQ compounds, respectively, and it remains the appropriate center of the proton attack (H⁺). In addition, it is clear that the MDHQ compound has several disoponible active sites to give electrons with a high density of $f_i(\vec{r})^-$, we quote the atoms C(2), N(3), C(6), C(7), C(10), O(12) and N(13). These atoms have enriched the molecular structure of MDHQ for well adsorbed on the surface of metal containing electropositive centers.

Study of the inhibitor / metal interaction by the Monte Carlo method

The complexity of the corrosion protection system requires knowing several factors involved in this operation, as the adsorption (E_{ads}) or interaction (E_{int}) energy such as ($E_{ads} = -E_{int}$) between the elements of the studied system⁶³.

Figure 8 shows the most stable configuration of interaction of our compounds and substrate of the iron surface. As can be seen in Fig. 8, It is quite clear that both compounds of BDHQ and MDHQ quinoline derivatives take a location just above on the surface of iron (110). In addition, structures were adsorbed on Fe (110) surface in a parallel way and especially by the aromatic heterocycles of 8-hydroxyquinoline. Which means that these compounds have active site that interacts with the surface of Fe (110).

Table 9: Functions $f_i(\vec{r})^+$ and $f_i(\vec{r})^-$ calculated for BDHQ and MDHQ compounds via GGA/DNP

| Inhibitors | BDHQ | | MDHQ | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| $f(\vec{r})$ | $f_i(\vec{r})^+$ | $f_i(\vec{r})^-$ | $f_i(\vec{r})^+$ | $f_i(\vec{r})$ |
| Atoms + | | | | |
| C(1) | 0.022 | 0.030 | 0.024 | 0.028 |
| C(2) | 0.017 | 0.030 | 0.048 | 0.031 |
| N(3) | 0.030 | 0.049 | 0.024 | 0.022 |
| C(4) | 0.013 | 0.029 | 0.014 | 0.031 |
| C(5) | 0.000 | 0.001 | -0.009 | 0.002 |
| C(6) | 0.033 | 0.025 | 0.109 | 0.025 |
| C(7) | 0.024 | 0.046 | 0.040 | 0.044 |
| C(8) | 0.021 | 0.059 | 0.036 | 0.062 |
| C(9) | 0.005 | 0.025 | 0.030 | 0.022 |
| C(10) | 0.004 | 0.086 | 0.042 | 0.081 |
| C(11) | -0.032 | -0.018 | -0.008 | -0.014 |
| O(12) | 0.033 | 0.119 | 0.052 | 0.120 |
| N(13) | -0.030 | 0.061 | -0.022 | 0.097 |
| C(14) | 0.061 | 0.013 | 0.011 | 0.010 |
| C(15) | -0.006 | -0.011 | -0.009 | -0.008 |
| C(16) | 0.022 | 0.008 | 0.006 | 0.007 |
| C(17) | 0.012 | 0.004 | 0.005 | 0.006 |
| C(18) | 0.048 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.013 |
| C(19) | 0.005 | 0.005 | 0.006 | 0.008 |
| C(20) | 0.037 | 0.004 | 0.001 | 0.001 |
| O(34) | - | - | 0.011 | 0.014 |
| C(35) | - | - | -0.010 | -0.012 |

A quantitative vision through the energy aspect has been calculated namely the total energy (E_{tot}) , the adsorption (E_{ads}) or interaction (E_{int}) energy $(E_{ads} = -E_{int})$, the reports of energies for the components of the system being studied (dE_{ard}/ dNi). When the system studied in equilibrium can be represented all the values energies (E_{tot}, E_{ads}, E_{int} and dE_{ads}/dNi) in Table 10. According to the analysis the data of the results obtained in this Table, it may be noted that Eads energy values are negative. That shows that the adsorption process is exothermic nature⁶⁴. We found same remark concerning E_{tot} values. Which indicate the adsorption could occur spontaneously⁶⁴. As has been noticed that, The E_{ads} value of the compound (MDHQ) (E_{int} = 5740.345Kcal/mol) is bigger that of the inhibitor Side Top

Fig. 8. The spatial topology of the best adsorption configuration of the BDHQ and MDHQ on the Fe (110) surface in acidic solution (BDHQ) ($E_{int} = 5523.257$ Kcal/mol), which means that adsorption of MDHQ molecule on Fe (110) surface in the aggressive medium studied is stronger than BDHQ. These results allow us to conclude that there is a good agreement between the practical studies and the data obtained by the Monte Carlo simulations.

CONCLUSION

Two selected Azomethine derivatives have been synthesized and characterized NMR and elementary analyzes. BDHQ and MDHQ were evaluated using both practical and theoretical approaches for their anticorrosion properties of carbon steel in HCl electrolyte. The main results achieved afford to draw the next conclusions:

- The azomethine molecules BDHQ and MDHQ act as excellent inhibitors for CS in HCI electrolyte and their inhibition efficiency obtained by Tafel polarization reached 97 and 86% for MDHQ and BDHQ respectively at optimum concentration, the inhibition efficiencies estimated by gravimetric and electrochemical methods are in reasonable agreement.
- The nature of radical on para of phenyl linked to aldimines function improve the inhibitory activity of studied azomethine.
- The adsorption of BDHQ and MDHQ on working electrode obeys Langmuir adsorption isotherm with a chemisorption mechanism.
- The overall reactivity of the inhibitors tested

has been discussed by quantum chemical descriptors.

- The protonation of our compounds shows that the reactivity of these inhibitors becomes more important.
- The local reactivity of the BDHQ and MDHQ molecules shows that these inhibitors contain several reactive sites responsible for the adsorbate / substrate interactions.
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Monte Carlo simulations show that compound MDHQ adsorbs better than compound BDHQ.

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