

REACTIONS OF A *TRANS*-DIAMMINEDIAQUAPLATINUM(II) COMPLEX WITH L-CYSTEINE

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The reaction of a *trans*-diamminediaquaplatinum(II) complex, *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺ (**1**), and L-cysteine (R–SH) has been performed to confirm the formation of the products in the solution. The reaction was monitored by 1-D ¹⁵N and 2-D [¹H, ¹⁵N] heteronuclear single-quantum coherence (HSQC) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectrometry. The reaction was initially performed in an alkaline solution; the platinum mononuclear species products were observed. The pH of the solution was then decreased to an acidic solution; the products obtained were oligomeric platinum products. Based on the spectrum from mass spectrometry, which was obtained in a basic solution, the most dominant complex in the solution is a dinuclear platinum(II) species with a sulfur-bridging, *trans*-[Pt(S-cys)₂(¹⁵NH₃)₂]⁺ having *m/z* of 822. The loss of two successive amines was observed.

Keywords: 2-D NMR; L-cysteine; oligomers; thiolate

РЕАКЦИИ НА КОМПЛЕКСОТ *TRANS*-ДИАМИНДИАКВАПЛАТИНА(II) СО L-ЦИСТЕИН

Извршена е реакција на комплексот *trans*-диаминдиакваплатина(II), *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺ (**1**), со L-цистеин (R–SH) за да се потврди образувањето на продукти во раствор. Реакцијата беше следена со 1-D ¹⁵N и 2-D [¹H, ¹⁵N] хетеронуклеарна едноквантна кохерентна (HSQC) NMR и со масен спектрометар со електронспрејна јонизација (ESI). Првично реакцијата беше изведена во алкална средина, при што беа забележани мононуклеарни видови платина. Потоа pH на растворот беше намален до кисела средина, при што беа добиени олигомерни производи на платина. Врз основа на спектарот од масена спектрометрија што беше добиен во базна средина, најзастапениот комплекс во растворот е динуклеарен вид на платина(II) со мост од сулфур, *trans*-[Pt(S-cys)₂(¹⁵NH₃)₂]⁺ со *m/z* од 822, а беше забележано губење на два последователни амина.

Клучни зборови: 2-D NMR; L-цистеин; олигомери; тиолат

1. INTRODUCTION

Platinum-based chemotherapeutic drugs, such as cisplatin and carboplatin, are still of interest due to their wide applications for the treatment of various types of tumors [1]. A large number of Pt(II) and Pt(IV) complexes have been prepared in order to improve their applicability in the treatment of cancers [2–4]. Some new compounds, such as phenanthriplatin [2] and *trans*-bis(2-phenylselenyl-

methyl)oxolane)dichloroplatinum(II) [3] complexes, have recently been synthesized and reported to enrich the new potent platinum drugs used in the treatment of cancers.

The monoaquated and diaquated species of cisplatin are key intermediates in the mechanism responsible for the antitumor activity of cisplatin. Its inactive isomer, transplatin, was also reacted through the formation of these aquated species [5]. Furthermore, the interactions of cisplatin, *cis*-

[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂Cl₂], and its hydrolytes, with thiol ligands, i.e. ligands having sulfur donor, have been extensively studied [6–9]. Conversely, the reactions of the trans analog have been less reported since transplatin, *trans*-diamminedichloroplatinum(II), *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂Cl₂] complexes are known to not show antitumor activity [10–12]. There is interest in the reactions of platinum(II) complexes with ligands having a sulfur donor because it is believed that before reaching the DNA, the platinum(II) complexes will bind to the cell constituents that contain ligands having sulfur as the donor [8, 13, 14].

The reactions of platinum(II) complexes with glutathione and acetylcysteine, two examples of ligands containing sulfur, have previously been studied, and the results indicated that the pH of the reactions influenced the products obtained in the reactions [12, 15, 16]. In these kinds of reactions, if the pH condition was less than 7, the thiol group bridging the two platinum centers was the main coordination mode observed, whereas when the reaction was performed at a pH greater than 7, the main product observed was a mononuclear platinum complex. This condition is caused by the fact that at pH < 7, the proton is still attached to the thiol group so that the ligand will be able to coordinate easily. When a thiol is already coordinated to the metal, it can still act as a nucleophile; thus, the reaction performed at a lower pH will make the second metal likely to bind with this coordinated thiol, and therefore, a bridge species can be formed. Upon increasing the pH of the reaction to ~10, most of the thiols are deprotonated; thus, the preferred product will be a non-bridging platinum complex [9, 17].

A similar observation was also found in the reaction of *cis*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺, the second hydrolyte of cisplatin, with thiols at low pH at a concentration of ~0.1 M; the products observed were involved in the formation of a complex having sulfur bridges, as a thiolate is known to form more bridge species at a lower pH than at a higher pH [1]. This phenomenon will also be useful for the characterization of the interesting products observed in this work. In this work, the reaction of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺ and an amino acid containing a sulfur donor, L-cysteine (R–SH), is reported.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Materials

The preparation of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(NO₃)₂] was based on the procedure available in the literature [13]. L-cysteine (R–SH) was obtained from Sigma–Aldrich Chemical Company, and (¹⁵NH₄)₂SO₄ (99%

¹⁵N, Cambridge Isotopes) was obtained from Novachem, Melbourne, Australia. They were used as received without further purification.

2.2. Preparation of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺ (**1**)

The conversion of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(NO₃)₂] to *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺ (**1**) in an aqueous solution was performed using the following procedure: 17.75 mg of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(NO₃)₂] was placed in a small bottle. Then, it was dissolved with 10 ml of water, and the solution was warmed at 37 °C for ~30 min. The pH of this solution was adjusted to an acidic condition by the addition of 0.1 M nitric acid. Gravity filtration was performed to remove any remaining solids. The filtrate containing a solution of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂](NO₃)₂ (**1**) with a concentration of 5 mM was then checked with 1-D ¹⁵N NMR. A solution of **1** with a concentration of 1 mM was prepared by diluting the 5 mM stock solution of **1**.

2.3. Reaction of *trans*-[Pt(¹⁵NH₃)₂(H₂O)₂]²⁺ (**1**) with L-cysteine

The reaction of **1** with the amino acid, L-cysteine (R–SH), was followed and monitored routinely with 2-D [¹H, ¹⁵N] HSQC NMR. The following procedure was performed: 0.122 mg (1 mmol) of R–SH was placed in a small bottle, and then 0.5 ml of a 1 mM solution of **1** (0.5 mmol) was added. The adjustment of pH was done by the addition of nitric acid and sodium hydroxide to reach a pH of ~2.0. To minimize the oxidation of R–SH, the process was performed under argon gas. The measurement was then taken using a similar procedure that was previously published [12, 19].

2.4. NMR measurements

One-dimensional 40.54 MHz ¹⁵N NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer with a 5 mm broadband multinuclear probe. The sensitivity of the ¹⁵N NMR measurement was increased by the use of the Distortionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer (DEPT) pulse sequence [10]. To obtain a good spectrum, the number of scans used was between 250 and 500. The recycle time used was 3.54 s, and the pulse width was 12.55 μs; hence, a tilt angle of 45° was applied. The number of data points used was 32 K. Chemical shifts are reported relative to 2.5 M (¹⁵NH₄)₂SO₄ in 1 M H₂SO₄ (δ_N = 0.00) in a coaxial capillary. The 2-D [¹H, ¹⁵N] HSQC NMR spectra were obtained on a

Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer (^1H , 400.1 MHz; ^{15}N , 40.54 MHz) using the sequence available in the literature [20, 21].

2.5. Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS)

The method used to prepare the sample for ESI-MS was as follows: 0.61 mg (5 nmol) of R-SH was taken and added to a small bottle containing 0.5 ml 5 mM (2.5 nmol) of solution **1**. The pH was adjusted with 0.1 M nitric acid to ~ 2.0 under argon gas. To minimize the oxidation of R-SH, the bottle was then sealed with parafilm. The mole ratio of R-SH and complex **1** was 2:1. After the

reaction mixture was left for 45 min to 1 h, the ESI-MS spectrum of this reaction was taken.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two-dimensional [^1H , ^{15}N] NMR has been used to follow and monitor the product observed in the reaction of **1** with R-SH. The initial reaction was started with a 1 mM concentration of **1**, and the mole ratio used between **1** and R-SH was 1:2. Based on the spectra recorded, the products observed in the reaction of **1** with R-SH were similar to those of *trans*-[Pt($^{15}\text{NH}_3$) $_2$ (H $_2$ O) $_2$] $^{2+}$ with glutathione [12] and H $_3$ accys [19]. Figure 1 summarizes the reactions that occurred in both acidic and basic conditions, and they were based on the spectra recorded, as shown in Figures 2–4.

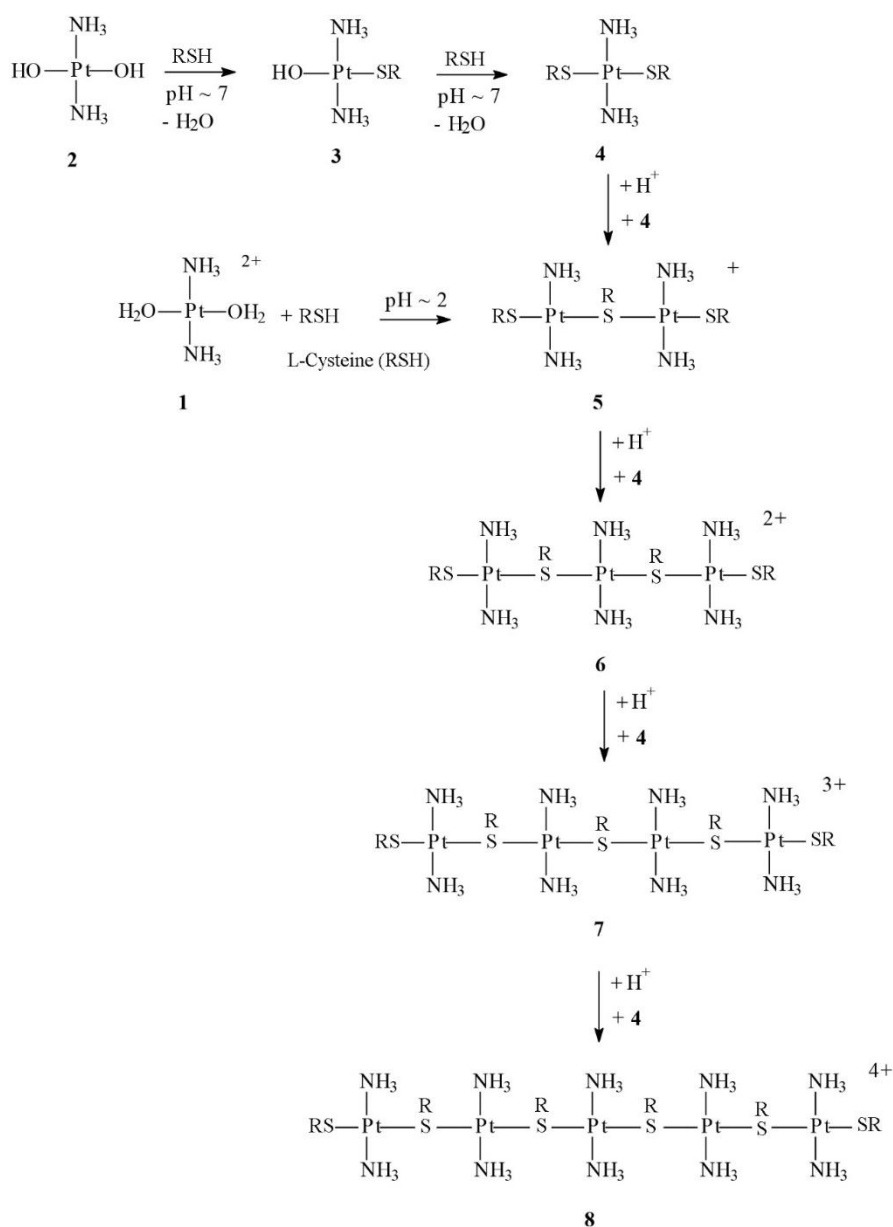


Fig. 1. The schematic reaction of complex **1** with L-cysteine (R-SH) in basic and acidic solutions

Figure 2 shows the spectrum obtained for the initial reaction that was performed at a basic condition ($\text{pH} > 7$). There are some peaks observed in this spectrum. The first peak was at $\delta_{\text{N}}/\delta_{\text{H}} -62.61/3.69$ ppm, and it was due to the presence of *trans*-[Pt(OH)₂(¹⁵NH₃)₂] (**2**). There were two new peaks present, namely at $\delta_{\text{N}}/\delta_{\text{H}} -59.28/3.79$ ppm labeled as **A** and at $\delta_{\text{N}}/\delta_{\text{H}} -63.46/3.49$ ppm labeled as **B**, where peak **B** was slightly more intense. These peaks did not change after the solution containing compounds, labeled **A** and **B** were left for some time in the reaction mixture. As mentioned above, the formation of bridge species is not preferable at higher pH [6, 9, 15, 22]; thus, the complex labeled **A** was assigned as *trans*-[Pt(OH)(SR)(¹⁵NH₃)₂] (**3**) and that labeled **B** as *trans*-[Pt(SR)₂(¹⁵NH₃)₂] (**4**). This analysis is based on the NMR spectra obtained in Figures 2 and 3. The NMR spectrum in Figure 2 represents the reaction that was performed at a higher pH; hence,

complex **3** was the main complex present in the reaction mixture. The NMR spectrum in Figure 3 was run at a lower pH than the first reaction (Fig. 2); therefore, complex **3** would be less expected in the reaction.

The ¹⁵N chemical shifts for **3** and **4** are at the same region, whereas in the proton NMR, their chemical shifts are very different. The product formation observed in these two reactions is almost the same in terms of molecular structure with those reported by other works [12, 19, 23]. Upon decreasing the pH of the reaction to ~ 2 , the two peaks **A** and **B** were diminished, and four new peaks appeared and were observed by 2-D NMR in the mixture reactions. The strongest peaks were labeled as **C**, **D**, **E**, and **F**. These peaks were also observed when the reactions of **1** and R-SH were performed in an acidic condition, as in the following discussion.

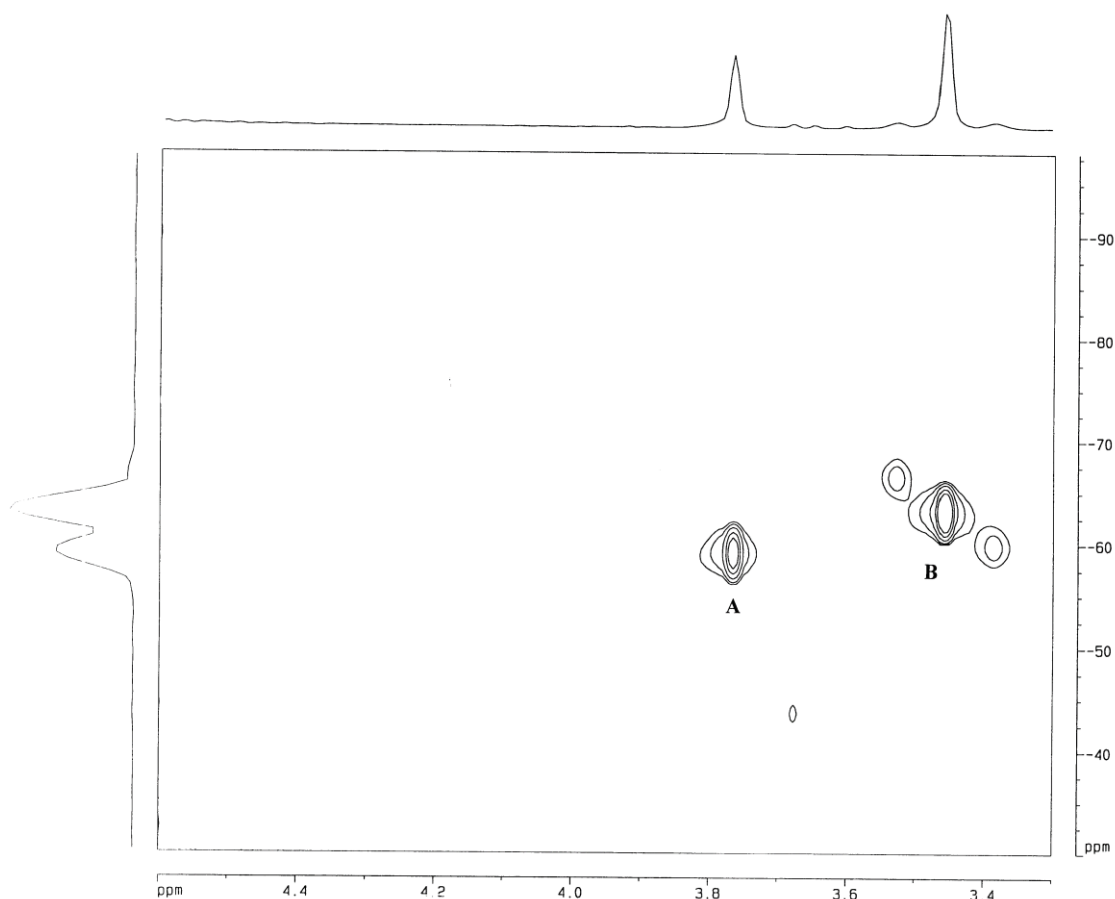


Fig. 2. 2D NMR spectrum from the reaction of 1 mM (**1**) and R-SH in a 1:2 mol ratio measured at a basic condition and recorded 1 h after the reaction.

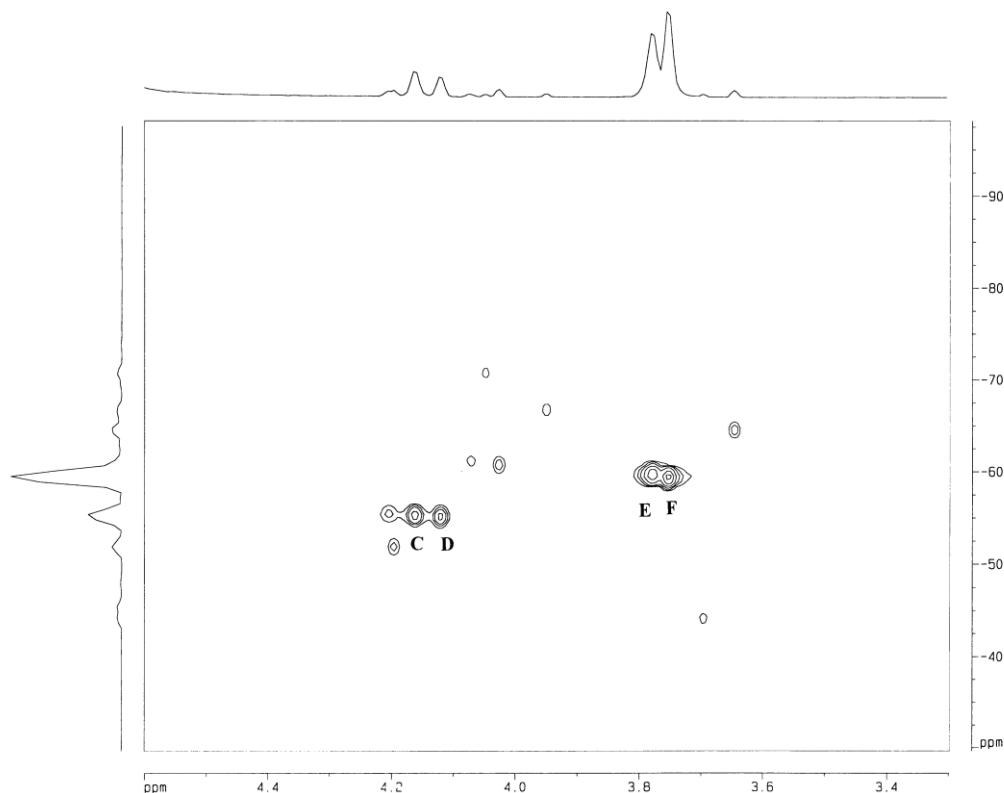


Fig. 3. 2D NMR spectrum from the reaction of 1 mM (**1**) and R-SH in a 1:2 mol ratio at an acidic condition obtained 30 h after the reaction has started.

The reaction of complex **1** and L-cysteine was then performed at an acidic solution with a pH of ~ 2 . One hour after the reaction commenced, there were four new major peaks observed in the 2-D NMR spectrum (Fig. 4) beside the peak of **1** with a chemical shift of δ_N/δ_H $-62.41/4.10$ ppm. These four new peaks were labeled as **C**, **D**, **E**, and **F** with chemical shifts of δ_N/δ_H $-55.57/4.19$ ppm, δ_N/δ_H $-55.95/4.15$ ppm, δ_N/δ_H $-60.25/3.80$ ppm, and δ_N/δ_H $-59.56/3.76$ ppm, respectively. Surprisingly, these peaks still remained in the solution even after 30 h of reaction. These observations were similar to the reaction that was performed initially at a basic condition and then was acidified. When the pH of this reaction was increased to ~ 7 , these four peaks diminished from the spectrum, and two new peaks appeared in the spectrum. These two peaks were exactly the same as the peaks labeled **A** and **B**, which have been observed from the mixture at higher pH, as shown in Figure 2b. Thus, the peaks observed from reaction **1** in an acidic condition are assigned as platinum complexes bridge to sulfur. Furthermore, in this reaction, it would be possible for the platinum complexes to have dinuclear species and up to pentanuclear species.

The formation of platinum complex **5**, which is dinuclear, in the spectrum will only have a single

peak with a chemical shift of δ_N/δ_H $-60.3/3.74$ ppm, representing the signal for the diammineplatinum, ($\text{Pt}(\text{NH}_3)_2$), terminal. For complex **6**, which is trinuclear, the platinum complex will show two peaks in the spectrum, namely, one from the diammineplatinum terminal and the other from the internal diammineplatinum with a chemical shift of δ_N/δ_H $-55.3/4.2$ ppm, in which the intensity ratio for these two peaks is 2:1. When platinum tetranuclear **7** is formed in the reaction mixture, two signals were also observed, but in this complex, the peak intensity ratio between the terminal and internal diammineplatinum would be 1:1. The last possibility is the formation of platinum pentanuclear complex **8**, which will give rise to three peaks, namely, one from the terminal and two different peaks from the internal diammineplatinum with an intensity ratio of 2:2:1. The spectrum in Figure 3 indicated that in the region for the terminal diammineplatinum, the labeled peaks **E** and **F** were poor, so they were not resolved clearly, whereas the signal for the internal peaks (labeled **C** and **D**) were observed to be more intense, so they were clearly resolved. The present four labeled peaks **C**, **D**, **E**, and **F** in this spectrum were indications that the oligomer complexes up to a pentanuclear platinum complex had been formed in the mixture reaction.

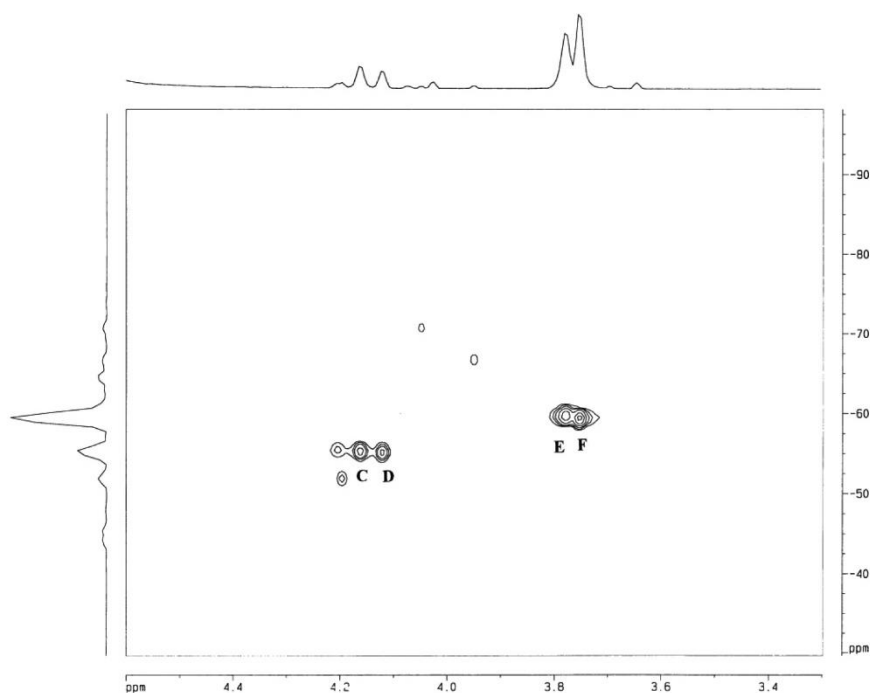


Fig. 4. 2D NMR spectrum from the reaction of 1 mM (**1**) and R-SH in a 1:2 mol ratio at an acidic condition obtained 30 h after the reaction has started

Based on the ESI-MS spectrum recorded at pH ~2 (Fig. 5), complex **5** showed the strongest peak with m/z of 822. Based on the separation of the isotope lines, this complex has a charge of +1. The spectrum also gave information about the isotope pattern of the compounds in the mixture reaction, and as expected, the spectrum obtained is an

indication to the presence for two platinum atoms pattern. The observed product of the reactions has structures similar to the products obtained in the reaction of **1** with N-acetyl-L-cysteine [19] and glutathione [12]. There were two other peaks observed with m/z of 786 and 750, which indicates a difference of 36 amu between the major peak and

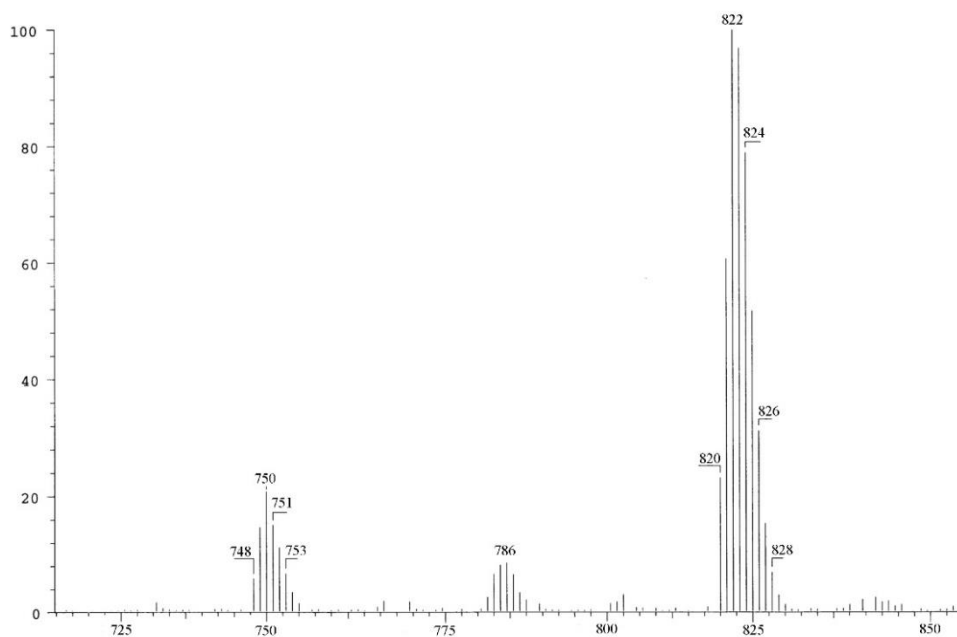


Fig. 5. ESI-MS spectrum from the reaction of **1** (5×10^{-3} M) and R-SH in a 1:2 mol ratio obtained 60 min after the reaction

the others. The presence of the last two peaks was due to successive losses of two ammine ligands (the atomic mass unit of $^{15}\text{NH}_3$ was 18). Upon increasing the pH of the reaction to ~ 7 , no peak was observed. This is likely because at higher pH, the platinum complexes formed were neutral or have a negative charge.

4. CONCLUSION

The products observed from the reaction in this work generally have a molecular structure similar to the result of other studies in the reaction of *cis*- and *trans*-diamminediaquaplatinum(II) complexes with thiols, where in acidic conditions, the complexes observed involved platinum-sulfur-bridged complexes, whereas in basic conditions, a mononuclear platinum complex was formed.

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