



## Research article

## A simple Cu(II) complex of phenolic oxime: synthesis, crystal structure, supramolecular interactions, DFT calculation and catecholase activity study

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## ABSTRACT

A copper (II) complex [Cu(4-MeO-salox)<sub>2</sub>](1) based on saloxime ligand was synthesized and characterized using single crystal X-ray diffraction studies. The geometry was further emphasized by DFT optimization. The complex was found to be pseudo-macrocyclic mononuclear having square planer geometry. The complex 1 shows two types of supramolecular hydrogen bonding interactions and forms the multi-dimensional framework with the help of CH...O, OH...O and  $\pi$ ... $\pi$ (chelate) interactions. The complex 1 performs as efficient catalyst in catecholase activity having good turnover number (TON),  $k_{cat} = 22.97 \text{ h}^{-1}$  where TON is the number of catechol molecules converted into quinone by catalyst molecule i.e 1 in a unit time.

## 1. Introduction

Phenolic oximes are widely used in industrial copper extraction process from waste streams, and as corrosion protectors in protective coatings. They exhibit selective preference for copper (II) over the other metals, particularly over iron present in pregnant leach solutions. The large selectivity for copper (II) is due to the fact that it perfectly fits in the cavity created by two hydrogen bonded ligands, producing a stable pseudo-macrocyclic monomer (Scheme 1). Mononuclear complexes of Co(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), and Zn(II) with these phenolic oximes are also known to be formed. One more important aspect of phenolic oximes is the capability to form polynuclear complexes since both the oximate and phenolate groups be able to bridge the metals [1]. Scheme 2 represents the different coordination modes [2] by which oxime and oximate groups can bind a metal ion. Polynuclear complexes of Cr, Mn, Fe, and Co with phenolic oximes are also reported. Iron complexes of these oximes have extensive applications as corrosion protector. The importance of such type of ligands binding to identical or different metals is due to different modes of magnetic exchange interactions among the metal ions small molecular magnetic behaviour, and the stabilization of mixed-valent species [1, 2].

The nucleophilic addition of aldoximes or ketoximes towards electrophilically activated ligands having double and triple bonds are very

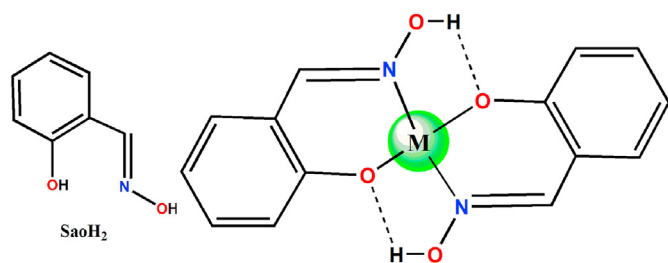
limitedly reported [3, 4]. It was further explored that this interesting addition of oxime ligands to the organonitriles in Pt<sup>IV</sup> and Re<sup>IV</sup> coordination complexes form stable monodentate iminoacylated moiety that simultaneously coordinates to the metal center [5, 6, 7, 8]. Formation of pseudo-macrocyclic monomer complex with Cu(II) is also one of the most attention grabbing features of phenolate oximes [9].

Moreover, enzymes containing Cu(II) [10] like tyrosinase, hemocyanin, and catechol oxidase control numerous biochemical reactions rate in alive systems. The active sites of these type-III copper proteins contain magnetically coupled binuclear Cu(II) centers. These metallo-enzymes take vital part in the selective oxidation of organic compounds promoting the activation of dioxygen [11]. Tyrosinase regulates the oxidation of phenols into catechols (catecholase activity), followed by catechols into o-quinones (catecholase activity). On the other hand, the enzyme catechol oxidase oxidizes catechols to o-quinones, highly reactive compounds that undergo auto-polymerization to generate a brown pigment melanin, that protects the tissues of higher plants from damage against insects and pathogens [12].

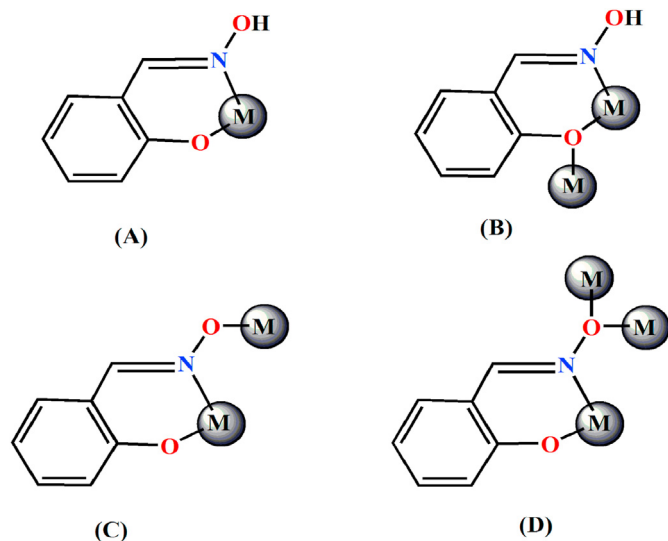
The oxidase (oxygenase) activity of model coordination complexes for metalloenzymes are of picky interest for the progression of bioactive catalysts for oxidation reactions [13]. In this perspective, the type-3 dicopper enzyme catechol oxidase employs aerobic dioxygen to attain the specific oxidation of catechols to orthoquinones [14]. A range of

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**Scheme 1.** The pseudo-macrocyclic cavity created via Hydrogen-bonding between phenolic oximes in 2:1 metal complex. M (Cu and Co) is in the +2 oxidation state.



**Scheme 2.** The crystallographically established coordination modes of oximes and oximate groups.

dinuclear copper-contain functional models of this metalloenzyme have been progressed during the last decades [15, 16, 17].

In the present endeavor, we are projected to reveal synthesis and crystal structure of the stable complexation of oxime with Cu(II) in MeOH in presence of triethylamine (TEA) as a base and supramolecular interactions like  $\text{CH}\cdots\text{O}$ ,  $\text{OH}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\pi\cdots\pi$  (chelate) interactions are capable of forming the multi-dimensional framework. For **1**, the supramolecular assemblies i.e.  $\pi\cdots\pi$  stacking interaction forms a 1D array which is further expanded through two different types of  $\text{C}\cdots\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{OH}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bondings to ensure a 2D framework. This Cu(II) complex also shows efficient catalytic efficacy towards catecholase activity.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Materials and methods

The starting materials 4-methoxy-salicylaldehyde was procured from Lancaster. Hydroxylamine hydrochloride, sodium azide, anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and  $\text{CuCl}_2\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  were purchased from Merck, India. Tetrabutylammonium hydroxide was of SRL, India. Solvents like methanol, diethyl ether, and acetonitrile were of reagent grade and dried before use.

### 2.2. Physical measurements

A Nicolet Magna IR 750 FTIR spectrometer (series-II) was used to record the Infrared spectra ( $400\text{--}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in liquid state. Bruker NMR spectrometer (300 MHz) was utilised for recording  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR

spectra. The absorption spectra were carried out on a Jasco V660 spectrophotometer (Jasco, Hachioji, Japan) using quartz cuvettes of 10 mm path length.

### 2.3. Synthesis and characterization

#### 2.3.1. Synthesis of the 4-MeO- $\text{H}_2\text{salox}$ ( $\text{H}_2\text{L}$ )

The solution of 4-methoxy-salicylaldehyde (3.04 g, 20 mmol) (Scheme 3) in ethanol (60 mL) was stirring with  $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$  (2.76 g, 40 mmol) in 20 mL of water. After that 20 mL of aqueous solution of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (4.00 g, 40 mmol) was then added in the resulting mixture and was refluxed at  $80^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction progression was tailored by TLC (solvent: 1/1 hexanes/EtOAc). The solid product was precipitated out from reaction mixture which was then filtered with celite bed and was collected by washing with cold water. The needle like crystalline material (4-MeO- $\text{H}_2\text{salox}$ ) was obtained after recrystallization from methanol. Yield: 2.17g (65%). M.P.:  $133\text{--}134.5^\circ\text{C}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (d, ppm; 300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ): 3.73 (3H, m, aromatic protons), 6.86–7.38 (3H, m, aromatic protons), 8.12 (1H, s, methyne), 9.68 (H, bs for Phenolic OH proton), 10.21 (1H, s, N–OH proton).

#### 2.3.2. Synthesis of complex $[\text{Cu}(4\text{-MeO-salox})_2](1)$

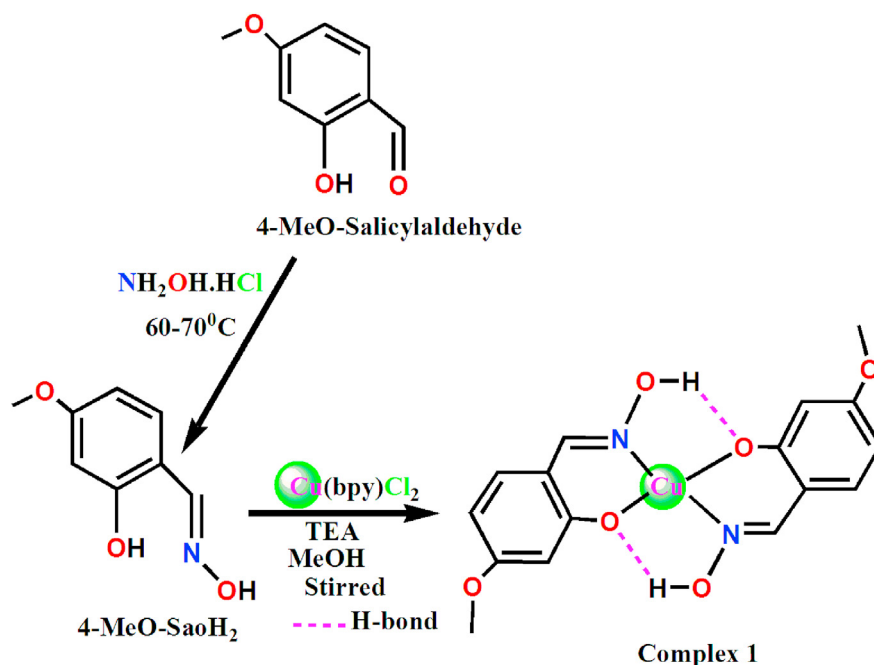
The reaction between 4-MeO- $\text{H}_2\text{salox}$  and  $\text{CuCl}_2$  in presence of TEA in MeOH gives complex  $[\text{Cu}(4\text{-MeO-salox})_2](1)$  [18]. The pale yellow solution of 4-MeO- $\text{H}_2\text{salox}$  (0.167g, 1.0 mmol) in 30 mL of  $\text{DMSO}:\text{DCM}$  (2:1, v/v) was stirred and the solid  $[\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})\text{Cl}_2]$  (0.290 g, 1.0 mmol) (Scheme 3) was stirred after adding to it. The resulting solution was then stirred continued for 2h with the addition of TEA (triethylamine) (0.202 g, 2.0 mmol) and the colour of the resulting solution became green. After completion of the reaction, the filtrate without any precipitation was kept aside uninterrupted for slow evaporation. The green block-shaped crystals were formed after 5 days, and collected them by filtration. Yield 0.25g (65%) based on copper content. IR analysis:  $3125\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $\nu(\text{OH})$ ,  $1625\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $\nu(\text{N}=\text{C})$ . Elemental analysis for molecular formula  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{16}\text{CuN}_2\text{O}_6$  (M.W. 395.86) Calc. C 48.55%, H 4.07%, N 7.08% Found C 48.59 %, H 4.05%, N 7.10%.

#### 2.3.3. Crystallographic analysis

A Bruker SMART APEX-II CCD diffractometer equipped with graphite monochromated Mo- $\text{K}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073\text{ \AA}$ ) was used to collected the single crystal X-ray data of the complex was on using. Data collection, reduction, structure solution, and refinement were carried out by employing Bruker APEX-II suite (v2.0-2) program [19]. All resultant reflections correspond to  $2\theta_{\text{max}}$  were collected and corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors with Bruker SAINT plus. After that corrections for absorption, inter frame scaling, and other systematic errors were corrected with SADABS [20]. The structures were resolved using direct methods and refinement was computed by means of full matrix least-square technique with SHELX-97 software package [21] based on  $F^2$ . by HFIX command were performed to fix all the hydrogen atoms geometrically and positioned at the ideal positions. Calculations were computed with the WinGX system Ver-1.80 [22]. The other non-hydrogen atoms were refined with the thermal anisotropic parameters. Mercury 3.1 programme was employed to generate the drawing of resultant molecules. The crystallographic data are listed and summarised Table 1.

#### 2.3.4. Computational details

Density functional theory (DFT) was employed to optimize the ground state electronic structure of **1** in gas phase [23]. The method was coupled with the conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM) [24]. Becke's hybrid function [25] along the Lee-Yang-Parr (LYP) correlation function [26] was utilised all over the theoretical study. The absorbance spectral properties in DMSO medium was calculated by Time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) [27] linked with the CPCM model was used for calculation. Calculation for the transitions



**Scheme 3.** The schematic routes for the preparation of complex 1 with oxime ligand.

**Table 1.** Crystal data and structure refinement of 1.

Empirical formula	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>16</sub> Cu N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> (ccdc no. 900538)
Formula weight	395.86
Temperature	296 K
Wave length	0.71073Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P21/n (No. 14)
Unit cell dimensions	a = 6.4125 (5)Å, b = 18.2936 (16) Å, c = 7.1201 (6) Å β = 103.669 (5)°
Volume	811.59 (12) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	2
Density (calculated) g.cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.620
Absorption coefficient(μ)	1.382
F (000)	406
Crystal size (mm)	0.02 × 0.08 × 0.12
Index ranges	-7: 7; -22: 22; -8: 8
θ range for data collection	2.2 to 25.7°
Total, Unique Data, R (int)	11748, 1538, 0.031
Observed data [I > 2.0 σ(I)]	1328
Completeness to θ = 27.6°	100 %
Absorption correction	Empirical
Nref, Npar.	1538, 117
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.99
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0275, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1036

with lowest 40 doublet – doublet (as Cu(II) is d<sup>9</sup> system, S = 1/2) was carried out for obtaining the theoretic UV-Vis spectral transitions and results of the TD calculations were qualitatively very similar with experimental.

For the DFT calculations 6-31 + g basis set was used for C, H, N, O, and Cu atoms and performed with the Gaussian 09W software package [28]. The molecular orbital contributions from groups or atoms were computed by the Gauss Sum 2.1 program [29].

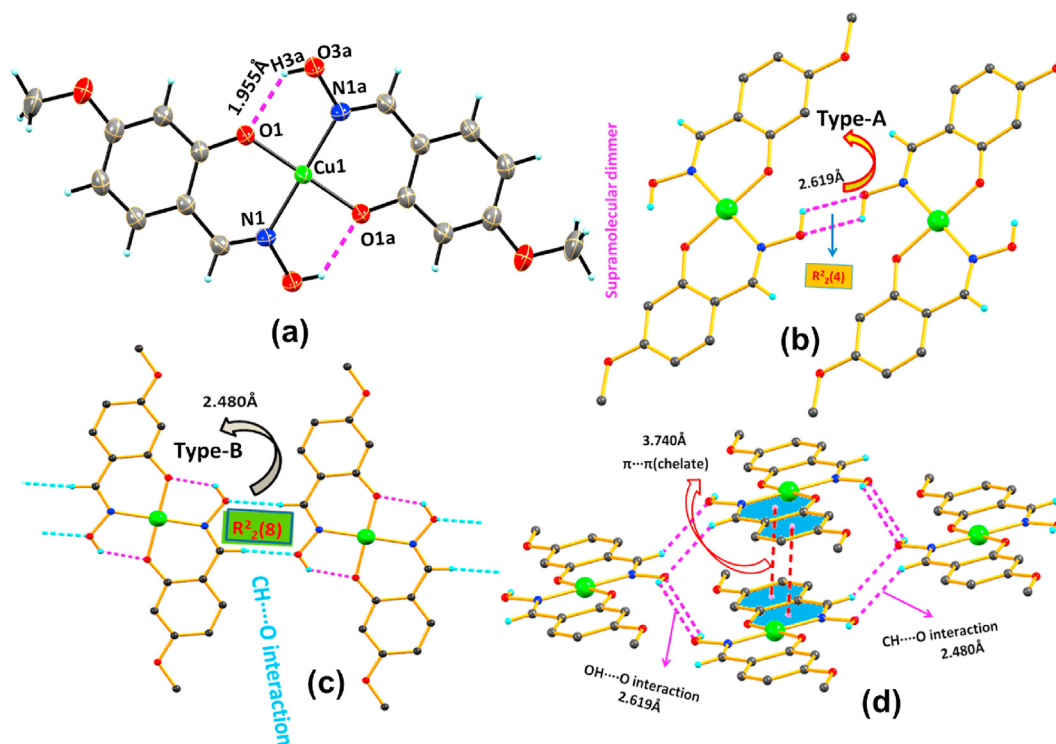
### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Structural descriptions

The reaction between 4-MeO-saloH<sub>2</sub> and CuCl<sub>2</sub> in presence of TEA in MeOH gives complex [Cu(4-MeO-saloH)<sub>2</sub>(1)], in quantitative yield but if this reaction takes place in MeCN then one tridentate iminoacylated ligand may form by the nucleophilic attack of oxime-O atom (-C=NOH) on -C≡N centre of acetonitrile to form monodentate iminoacylated complex [5, 6, 7, 8, 9].

The structural analyses from single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies shows that complex 1 is a Cu<sup>II</sup> mononuclear species that comprises of one Cu<sup>II</sup> ions and two tridentate NO<sub>2</sub> donor 4-MeO-saloH<sub>2</sub> ligands. It is crystallized in a *monoclinic* system with space group *P21/n*. The structure consists of a discrete [Cu<sup>II</sup>(4-MeO-saloH)<sub>2</sub>] as a neutral species in which the ligand is mono-deprotonated, presented in Figure 1a. The Cu<sup>II</sup> atom is coordinated with two tridentate 4-MeO-saloH<sub>2</sub> ligands specifically through N1 and O2 and their symmetry related counter atoms to form tetracoordinated complex which adopted square planer geometry. The bond lengths around the Cu atom are Cu1-Ni (N1 and N1a)~1.932Å and Cu1-Oi (O2 and O2a)~1.898Å (i = inversion center). The selective bond angles and bond lengths are enlisted in Table 2. Here, free protonated oxime -OH groups are also in bonding distances though it is not capable of forming octahedral geometry as in planer way. In the asymmetric unit, the monomer is intramolecularly H-bonded (1.955Å) by the phenolate oxygen and oxime proton (-C=NOH) (Figure 1) to structure a stable pseudo-macrocyclic framework. The nearest Cu•••Cu internuclear distance is 6.414Å. The mean deviation between Cu1 and well defined planes around Cu1 (Cu1 N1 N1i O1 O1i) is 0.000Å and it shows that the complex is perfect square planar.

From the single crystal X-ray diffraction studies, it was shown that there were various types of supramolecular interactions present in the crystal exhibit a crystallographic arrangement. By inspection of molecular assemblies through supra-molecular interactions on 1 showed that 1 forms two types (A and B) of hydrogen bonding interaction. The Type A: the inter molecular H-bonding (Table 3) is between oxime-OH (O3) and oxime-OH(O3a) of neighbor's and vice-versa; O3-H3...O3a = 2.619Å (Figure 1b) with molecular synthon R<sup>2</sup><sub>2</sub>(4) in graph set motif and likewise, Type B: the inter molecular H-bonding is CH...O interactions



**Figure 1.** (a) ORTEP view (50% ellipsoid probability) of the pseudo-macrocyclic mononuclear complex **1**; (b) H-bonding interactions: the supramolecular dimer, molecular synthon  $R^2_2(4)$ ; (c) One dimensional (1D) supramolecular tape, molecular synthon  $R^2_2(8)$  of **1**; (d)  $\pi \cdots \pi$ (chelate) interactions,  $\text{CH} \cdots \text{O}$  interaction and  $\text{OH} \cdots \text{O}$  interaction composed in **1**. H-atoms (except some) are omitted for clarity.

(Figure 1c) between azomethine proton (C7–H7) and oxime–OH (O3);  $\text{C7–H7} \cdots \text{O3} = 2.480 \text{ \AA}$  with supramolecular synthon  $R^2_2(8)$  in graph set motif and form 1D network crystallographic  $b$  axis. The conception of the supramolecular synthons is a very crucial step to understand the association of molecular crystals. It is nothing but a retrosynthetic route where fragmentation of the crystal structures can be done into supramolecular synthons [30].

Simultaneously, the  $\text{CH} \cdots \text{O}$ ,  $\text{OH} \cdots \text{O}$  and  $\pi \cdots \pi$ (chelate) interactions are capable of forming the supramolecular tetramer in crystallographic  $ac$  plane in **1** (Figure 1d). In this tetramer, the non-covalent  $\pi \cdots \pi$ (chelate) ( $3.740 \text{ \AA}$ ) (Figure 1d) between the centroid of benzene ring and the centroid of chelation with copper atom and NO donor of oxime. In the transition metal complexes, the non covalent  $\pi \cdots \pi$  interactions take part in an important role in the construction of a supramolecular architecture. This  $\pi \cdots \pi$  interaction requires an appropriate geometrical conformation by which the  $\pi$  orbitals lobes of ligands to position either face to face or to

somewhat parallel maintaining distance up to  $3.8 \text{ \AA}$  [31]. In this particular case, the said distance is  $3.740 \text{ \AA}$ .

The combinatorial effect of hydrogen bonding: Type-A and Type-B are extended in an one dimensional (1D) network (Figure 2) along crystallographic  $c$  axis. This 1D supramolecular assembly is further expanded with the help of  $\text{CH} \cdots \text{O}$ ,  $\text{OH} \cdots \text{O}$  and  $\pi \cdots \pi$ (chelate) interactions to 2D framework in crystallographic  $ac$  plane and with inversion of plane (Figure 3 a, b). Hydrogen bonding parameters are tabulated in Table 3.

Symmetry operator  $a = 2-x, y, 1-z$ .

### 3.2. Electronic spectra

UV-vis spectra can be a good detector of geometry for complexes of copper Schiff base [25, 26]. Electronic spectra of complex **1** shown in Figure 4 were recorded in MeOH ( $4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ (M)}$ ) solution. The one band at  $323 \text{ nm}$  ( $\epsilon = 2.4 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) in the electronic spectrum is due to intra-ligand transition. The another lower intensity band at  $397 \text{ nm}$  ( $\epsilon = 1.4 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) is the indication of a tetra coordinated square planar Cu(II) center [32] and generally recognized as ligand to metal charge transfer transition (LMCT).

### 3.3. Geometry optimization and electronic structure

The optimized geometry of complex **1** is similar with molecular structure obtained from SCXRD in Figure 5. The difference of energy between HOMO and LUMO is  $4.18 \text{ eV}$  (Figure 5a). The diagram of

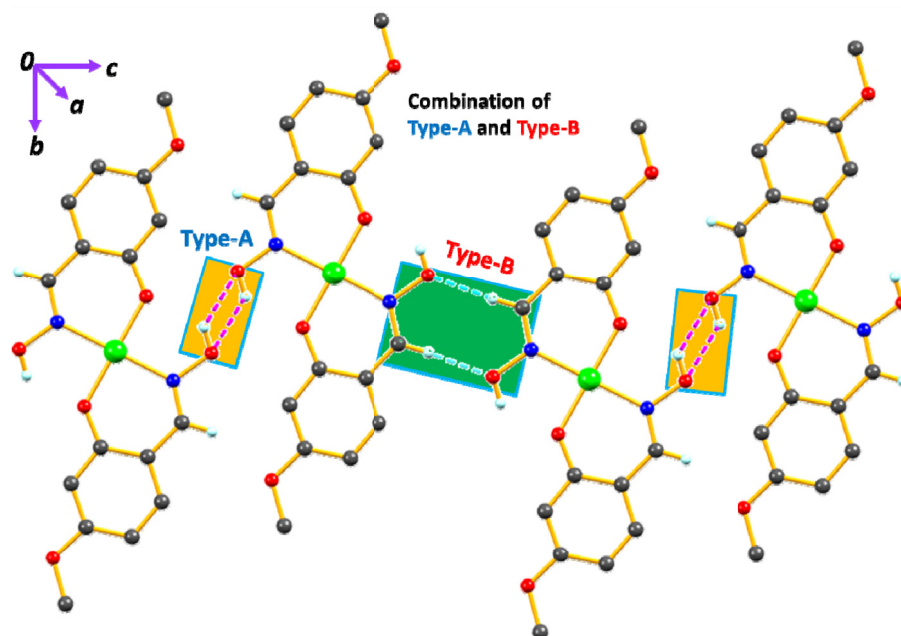
**Table 2.** Selected bond lengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) of **2**.

Bond Distances ( $\text{\AA}$ )			
Cu1–O2	1.898 (15)	Cu1–O2a	1.898 (15)
Cu1–O3	2.859 (2)	Cu1–O3a	2.859 (2)
Cu1–N1	1.932 (2)	Cu1–N1a	1.932 (2)
Bond Angles ( $^\circ$ )			
O2–Cu1–O3	117.59 (6)	O3–Cu1–N1a	154.28 (8)
O2–Cu1–N1	91.92 (7)	O2a–Cu1–N1	88.08 (7)
O2–Cu–O2a	180.00	O3a–Cu1–N1	154.28 (8)
O2–Cu1–O3a	62.41 (6)	N1–Cu1–N1a	180.00
O2–Cu1–N1a	88.08 (7)	O2a–Cu1–O3a	117.59 (6)
O3–Cu1–N1	25.72 (8)	O2a–Cu1–N1a	91.92 (7)
O2a–Cu1–O3	62.41 (6)	O3a–Cu1–N1a	25.72 (8)
O3–Cu1–O3a	180.00		

Symmetry operator  $a = 2-x, y, 1-z$ .

**Table 3.** Hydrogen bonds for **1** [ $\text{\AA}$  and  $^\circ$ ].

D–H...A	d (D–H)	d (H...A)	d (D...A)	<(DHA)
C7–H7...O3	0.930	2.480	3.308 (3)	148.00
O3–H3...O3a	0.821	2.619	3.049 (2)	65.73



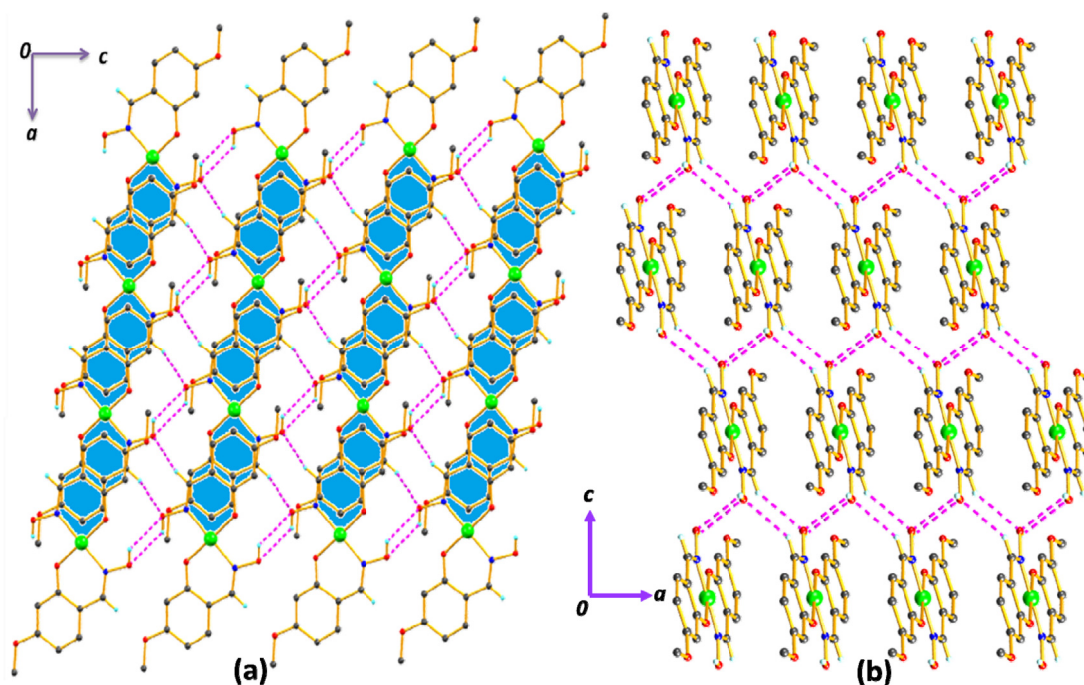
**Figure 2.** The H-bonding interactions with the combination of Type-A and Type-B form 1D supramolecular network along crystallographic *c* axis for **1**. Some H-atoms are omitted for clarity.

frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) with their corresponding positive and negative regions for the optimization of **1** has been depicted in Figure 5. The positive and negative lobes are shown by green and orange colour, respectively.

The experimental absorption bands have been explained by of TD-DFT calculations [33]. In the ground state optimized structure of **1**, the electron cloud remains mostly on HOMO-1, LUMO and LUMO+2 orbitals presents at the benzene ring with  $-OMe$  groups while the electron density on HOMO, HOMO-2, LUMO+1 and LUMO+3 orbital resides at  $\pi$  and  $\pi^*$

orbitals involvement of benzene ring of ligand alongside with metal's *d* orbital contribution.

The UV-Vis spectra of the **1** were performed at room temperature in MeOH. The complex (**1**) showed two well determined absorption bands are situated at 320 and 399 nm, having ILCT and LMCT transitions feature respectively, which are in well corroborate with experimental results of 323 and 397 nm. These two absorption peaks can be predicted as the  $S_0 \rightarrow S_5$  and  $S_0 \rightarrow S_3$  electronic transitions (Figure 5b) with oscillator strengths  $f = 0.1426$  and  $f = 0.0719$  (Table 4) respectively.



**Figure 3.** (a) and (b) 2D framework composed of  $\pi \cdots \pi$  (chelate) interactions,  $CH \cdots O$  and  $OH \cdots O$  interactions in crystallographic *ac* plane for **1**. Some H-atoms are omitted for clarity.

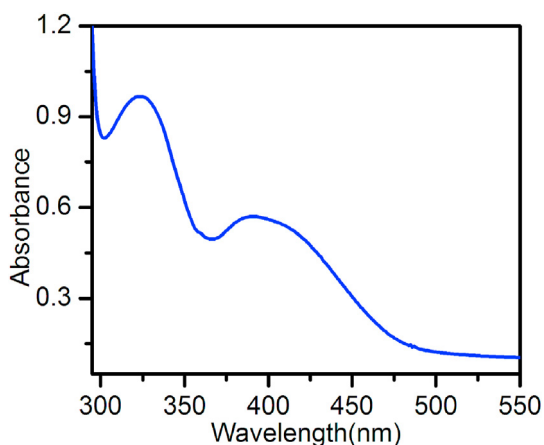


Figure 4. Electronic spectra of 1 in methanol.

### 3.4. Catechol oxidase mimicking activity and kinetic studies

In order to investigate the biomimicking catecholase activity of 1, 3,5-di-*tert*-butylcatechol (3,5-DTBC) was taken as substrate. The low redox potential of 3,5-DTBC helps for easy oxidation and the bulky *tert*-butyl substituents protects from over-oxidation as well as ring-opening [34]. The oxidized product 3,5-di-*tert*-butylquinone (3,5-DTBQ) (Scheme 4) is very stable and exhibits an absorption maximum at 401 nm in methanol [35]. The capability of the Cu(II) complex to mediate the oxidation of 3,5-DTBC was investigated UV–Vis spectroscopy. A  $10^{-4}$  M solutions of 1 ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$  mol · dm $^{-3}$ ) was treated with 100 equivalents of  $10^{-3}$  M solutions of 3,5-DTBC ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  mol · dm $^{-3}$ ), under aerobic conditions in methanol. On incremental addition of the substrate 3,5-DTBC, the

absorption band around 400 nm showed 70% hyperchromicity, which indicates of the production of the corresponding quinone 3,5-DTBQ. During the experiment, the quinone absorbance band was found to be increased with time (Figure 6).

The kinetics studies of 3,5-DTBC oxidation to form 3,5-DTBQ catalyzed by 1 was measured by the initial rate method, monitoring the increase in the absorbance band at 400 nm at 25 °C. The rate constant was calculated from the plot of  $\log [A_0/(A_0 - A_t)]$  versus time. The dependence of substrate concentration on the rate of oxidation was investigated keeping the Cu(II) complex concentration constant as  $10^{-4}$  M and increasing the substrate from  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $1 \times 10^{-2}$  mol · dm $^{-3}$ . At low concentrations of substrate, the first order dependence was observed. Whereas, saturation kinetics was observed at higher concentrations of substrate (Figure 7).

Michaelis–Menten theory for enzymatic kinetics was utilized and the Lineweaver–Burk (double reciprocal) plot [11] was constructed to analyze the results obtained from the plot of rate constants vs. substrate concentration. From the Lineweaver–Burk graph:  $1/V$  vs.  $1/[S]$  (Figure 7), using equation  $1/V = \{K_M/V_{max}\} \times \{1/[S]\} + 1/V_{max}$ , the Michaelis–Menten constant ( $K_M$ ), maximum initial rate ( $V_{max}$ ), and rate constant ( $k_{cat}$ ) are extracted for 1. The turnover number ( $k_{cat}$ ) was calculated by dividing the  $V_{max}$  values by the concentration of the complex. The turnover number ( $k_{cat}$  TON) is the number of catechol molecules converted into quinone by catalyst molecule (here 1) in a unit time. The kinetic parameters are presented in Table 5. The obtain data from the Lineweaver–Burk plot are reasonable for catalytic activity measurements though the actual mechanism of this reaction may be quite complicated. The calculated  $k_{cat}$  (22.97 h $^{-1}$ ) value for complex 1 is almost similar to the reported value by Krebs *et al.* [36] (4 h $^{-1}$  to 214 h $^{-1}$ ).

Therefore in literatures, a lot of copper (II) complexes showed excellent catecholase activities [37, 38, 39] but Cu(II) complexes [40]

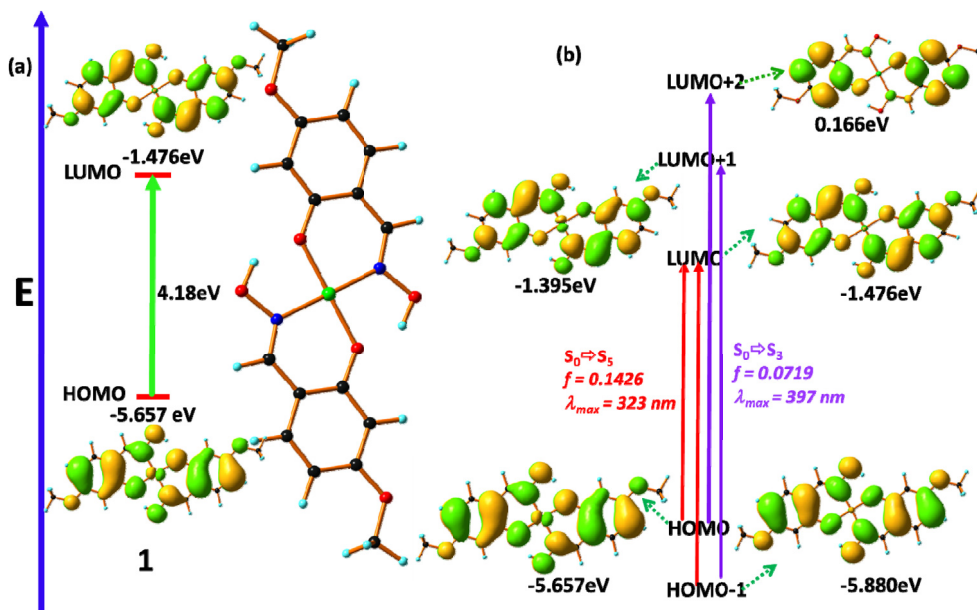
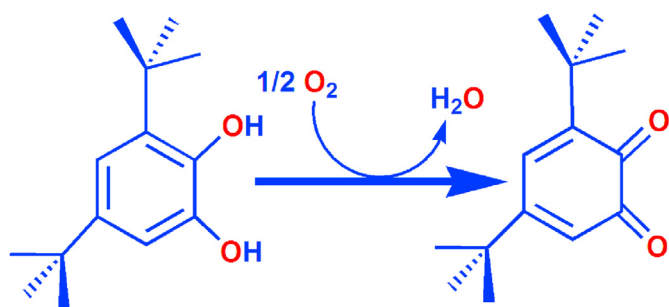


Figure 5. (a) Frontier molecular orbital (left) and optimized geometry (right) of 1, (b) frontier molecular orbitals (with iso-surface value 0.02) involved in the UV-absorption of the 1 in MeOH solution.

Table 4. The comparable calculated absorbance  $\lambda_{max}$  with experimental values for the complex 1.

Theoretical (nm)	Experimental (nm)	Composition	CI	Electronic Transition	Energy (eV)	f
320	323	HOMO→LUMO	0.0259	$S_0 \rightarrow S_5$	4.1652	0.1426
		HOMO-1→LUMO	0.3149			
399	397	HOMO-1→LUMO+1	0.2017	$S_0 \rightarrow S_3$	3.8063	0.0719
		HOMO→LUMO+2	0.8161			



Scheme 4. Reaction pathway of the oxidation catalyzed by 1.

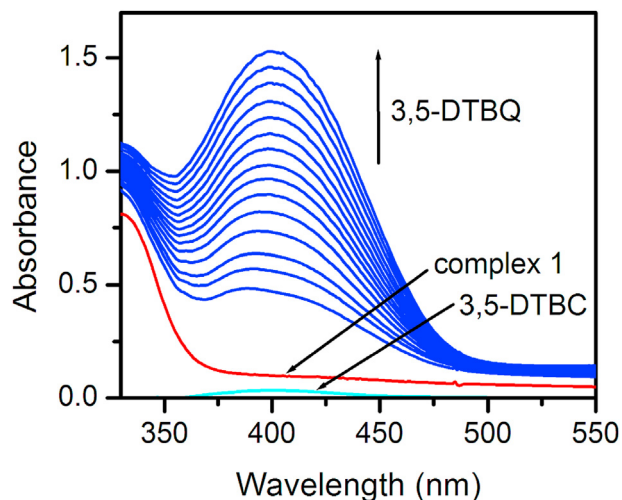


Figure 6. Time-resolved spectra of quinone at 400 nm after incremental addition of 3,5-DTBC ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M) to the solution of 1 ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M) in methanol.

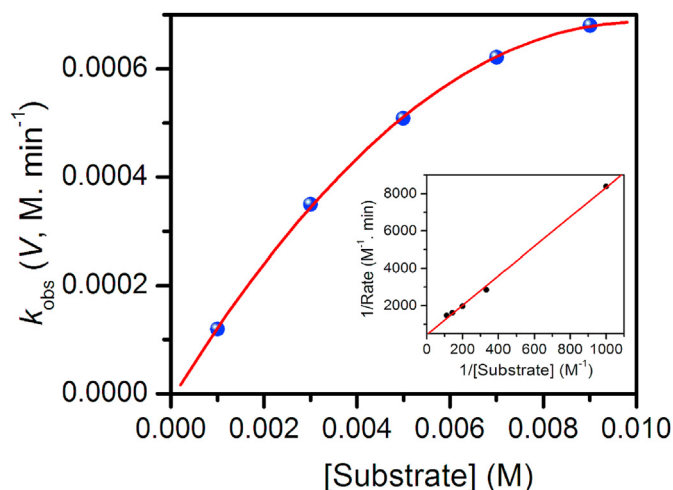


Figure 7. Plot of the initial rates versus substrate concentration for the oxidation of 3,5-DTBC catalyzed by 1. Inset: Lineweaver–Burk plot.

Table 5. Kinetic parameters for the oxidation of 3,5-DTBC to 3,5-DTBQ catalysed by 1 in methanol.

$V_{max}$ ( $M \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ )	$K_M$ (M)	$k_{cat}$ ( $\text{h}^{-1}$ )	$k_{cat}/K_M$ ( $\text{h}^{-1} \cdot \text{M}^{-1}$ )
$2.297 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.81 \times 10^{-2}$	22.97	$12.69 \times 10^2$

obtained through the use of the dioxime ligand and as co-ligand 1, 10-phenantroline exhibited the catecholase activity in very mild rate. Here in this report, the Cu(II) complex of oxime ligand shows excellent efficacy of catecholase activity so far.

#### 4. Conclusions

The synthesis, structural as well as catecholase activity of a mono-nuclear square planer Cu(II) complex was demonstrated. The copper (II) complex exhibits numerous interesting characters in the single crystal X-ray structure analysis process. The stable complexation of oxime with Cu(II), in MeOH form pseudo-macrocyclic mononuclear complex and also capable of forming the multi-dimensional framework by the help of  $\text{CH} \cdots \text{O}$ ,  $\text{OH} \cdots \text{O}$  and  $\pi \cdots \pi$  (chelate) interactions. The Cu(II) complex performed as efficient catalyst and display good efficacy towards catecholase activity having TON,  $k_{cat} = 22.97 \text{ h}^{-1}$ .

#### Declarations

##### Author contribution

Statement Malay Dolai: Conceived and designed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data; Wrote the paper.

Urmila Saha: Performed the experiments; Analyzed and interpreted the data.

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The authors declare no conflict of interest.

##### Additional information

No additional information is available for this paper.

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##### Appendix A. Supplementary data

CCDC 900538 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for 1. These data can be obtained free of charge via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html>, or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; or e-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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