

Synthesis, Spectral, Thermal and Magnetic Studies of Chromium and Molybdenum Carbonyl Complexes Containing N₂O₂ Donor Sites

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Abstract: Cr(CO)₆ reacts with bis-(salicylaldehyde) ethylendiimine (salenH₂) in THF under reduced pressure in the presence of thiourea (Tu) to give the monocarbonyl complex [Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu)] (1). In the presence of triphenylphosphine (PPh₃) or 2-aminobenzothiazole (Abtz), the corresponding reaction gives [Cr(salen)(L)] (L = PPh₃ (2) or Abtz (3)). Three complexes with molecular formulas [Mo(CO)(salenH₂)(PPh₃)] (4) and [Mo(salenH₂)(L)] (L = Tu (5) or Abtz (6)) were isolated from the reactions with Mo(CO)₆. All synthesized compounds were identified and confirmed by elemental analyses, spectral (UV-Vis, IR, ¹H NMR, mass) and magnetic moment measurements. The thermal behavior of these complexes was investigated and the thermal decomposition pathways have been postulated showing that the final product is metal oxide. The activation thermodynamic parameters; E*, H*, S* and G* for the different thermal decomposition steps of the complexes were calculated using Coats-Redfern equation.

Keywords: Complexes; Carbonyl; Molybdenum; Thermal analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Transition metal compounds containing Schiff base ligands have been of great interest for many years [1]. In particular, complexes with N₂O₂ Schiff bases have been widely reported [2-4] and used as biological models to understand the structures of biomolecules and biological processes [5,6]. Their instant and enduring popularity undoubtedly stems from the ease with which they can be synthesized, their puzzling versatility and their wide ranging complexing ability once formed. These compounds play an important role in the coordination chemistry related to catalysis and enzymatic reactions, magnetism and molecular architectures [7]. Not only have they played a seminal role in the development of modern co-ordination chemistry [8], but they can also be found at key points in the development of inorganic biochemistry [9], catalysis [10, 11], medical imaging [12], optical materials [13] and thin films [14, 15]. As a continuation of our previous work dealing with the study of the interaction of metal carbonyl with Schiff bases [16-21], we report here the synthesis and characterization of M (CO)₆ (M=Cr or Mo) with bis-(salicylaldehyde) ethylendiimine (salenH₂) in presence of 2-aminobenzothiazole, thiourea or triphenylphosphine.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Reagents

The hex carbonyls of chromium and molybdenum were supplied by Aldrich. 2-aminobenzothiazole, thiourea and triphenylphosphine were supplied from British Drug House (BDH). Bis-(2-salicylaldehyde) ethylendiimine (salenH₂) was prepared as described in the literature [22]. All solvents were purified by distillation before use.

2.2. Instruments

Infrared measurements were carried out on a Unicam-Mattson 1000 FT-IR spectrometer using KBr pellets. Nuclear magnetic resonance measurements were performed on a Varian Mercury 300 MHz NMR

spectrometer. The samples were dissolved in DMSO, d₆ and tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as an internal reference. Magnetic susceptibility measurements of the paramagnetic complexes in the solid state (Gouy method) were performed on a Sherwood Scientific Magnetic Susceptibility Balance. Electron spin resonance spectra of the powdered paramagnetic complexes were carried out on a Bruker, Electron Spin Resonance Spectrometer model EMX. UV-vis spectra were measured on a Unicam UV2-300 spectrophotometer. Measurements of the thermo gravimetric analysis (TG) were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere with a heating rate of 10 °C/min. using a Shimadzu DT-50 thermal analyzer. The complexes were also characterized by elemental analysis (Perkin–Elmer 2400 CHN elemental analyzer) and mass spectrometry (Finnigan MAT SSQ 7000). Table 1 gives the elemental analysis and mass spectrometry data for the complexes.

Table1. Elemental analysis, Color, % of yield and mass spectrometry data for the complexes

Complex	Color	Reaction period (h)	Yield (%)	Elemental analysis data Found (Calcd.)			Mass spectrometry	
				%C	%H	%N	M. wt.	m/z
[Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu)] (1)	light brown	3	52	51.30(51.17)	4.55(4.29)	13.25(13.26)	422.42	395[P-CO] ⁺
[Cr(salen)(PPh ₃)] (2)	gray	2	41	70.44(70.34)	4.95(5.03)	4.75(4.82)	580.55	581[P] ⁺
[Cr(salen)(Abtz)] (3)	pale brown	5	55	58.80(58.96)	4.50(4.30)	11.86(11.96)	468.48	469[P] ⁺
[Mo(CO)(salenH ₂)(PPh ₃)] (4)	dark brown	2	50	64.50(64.22)	4.50(4.77)	4.40(4.28)	654.53	627[P-CO] ⁺
[Mo(salenH ₂)(Tu)] (5)	dark brown	2	34	46.50(46.37)	4.50(4.57)	12.50(12.72)	440.37	441[P] ⁺
[Mo(salenH ₂)(Abtz)] (6)	brown	2	46	53.55(53.70)	4.25(4.31)	10.70(10.89)	514.44	514[P] ⁺

2.3. Synthesis Of Complexes

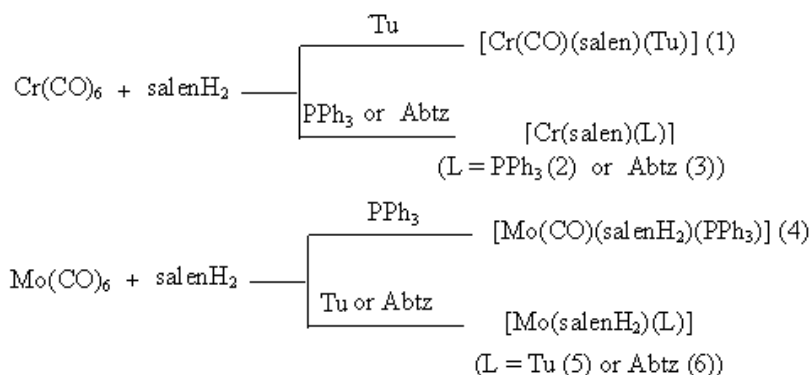
A general procedure was employed for the synthesis of the reported complexes. A mixture of equimolar amounts of M (CO) 6, M = Cr or Mo, salenH₂ in the presence of a second ligand Tu or PPh₃ or Abtz were mixed together in about 30 ml THF. The reaction mixture was then degassed and then heated to reflux under the reduced pressure. The solvent was removed on a vacuum line. The residue was washed several times with petroleum ether and then recrystallized from DMF. The complex was left to dry in vacuo for several hours. Table 1 gives the reaction period, color of complex and % yield.

2.4. Antimicrobial Activity

The in-vitro growth inhibitory of salenH₂ and their complexes were performed against the bacterial species Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli in Mueller Hinton-Agar medium. The antifungal activity was tested against the fungi Aspergillus flavus and Candida albicans cultured on YPD-agar medium. The test compounds were dissolved in DMSO at concentration 20 mg/ml. Antibacterial activities of each compound were evaluated by the disc-diffusion method. The well (8 mm diameter) was then filled with the test solution and the plates were inoculated at 37°C for 48 h (for bacteria) and 30°C for 72 h (for fungi). During this period, the growth of the inoculated microorganisms was affected and then the inhibition zones developed on the plates were measured. The effectiveness of an antimicrobial agent was assessed by measuring the zones of inhibition around the well. The diameter of the zone is measured to the nearest millimeter (mm). The antibacterial activity of each compound was compared with that of standard antibiotics such as Tetracycline. The antifungal activity of the test compound was compared that of Amphotericin B as standard antifungal. DMSO was used as a control under the same conditions for each organism and no activity was found. The activity results were calculated as a mean of triplicates.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Formation of the complexes can be symbolized as follows:



The analytical and mass data of the complexes (Table 1) agree very well with the proposed molecular formula.

3.1. IR Spectra And Mode Of Bonding

IR spectra give enough information to elucidate the way of bonding of the ligands to the metal. The important IR spectral data of the free ligands and their complexes are presented in Table 2. The free Schiff base ligand salenH₂ showed a strong band at 1634 cm⁻¹ and a medium band at 1577 cm⁻¹ due to the azomethine group. Coordination of the salenH₂ to the metal through the nitrogen atom is expected to reduce the electron density in the azomethine link and lower the νC=N absorption frequency. The bands due to νC=N are shifted to lower frequencies in the complexes indicating coordination Schiff base through the azomethine nitrogen [23]. A strong band observed at 1285 cm⁻¹ in salenH₂ has been assigned to phenolic C-O stretching. On complexation, this band is shifted to a higher frequency indicating coordination through the phenolic oxygen (Table 2). The coordination of the azomethine nitrogen and phenolic oxygen are further supported by the appearance of two new bands at 473-526 and 408-462 cm⁻¹ due to νM-O and νM-N respectively. The spectra of the two complexes [Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu)] (1) and [Mo(CO)(salenH₂)(PPh₃)] (4) are dominated by a sharp band at 2100 and 1941 cm⁻¹, respectively due to a terminal νCO group [23]. Also, IR spectrum of salenH₂ ligand shows a broad band at 3445 cm⁻¹ may be attributed to phenolic OH group. This band was disappeared in chromium complexes 1-3 indicating that the ligand coordinated to the metal oxidatively with displacement of the OH protons [24]. Reaction of Cr (CO)₆ with the tetra dentate Schiff base bis (salicylaldehyde) phenylenediimine (salphenH₂) yielded the dicarbonyl derivative Cr (CO)₂(salphen). The ligand binds to the metal similarly with proton displacement giving the metal a +2 oxidation state [25]. In molybdenum complexes 4-6, this band was shifted to lower frequency region at 3423-3427 cm⁻¹ suggesting their involvement in coordination to molybdenum and the ligand acts as neutral tetradentate ONNO sphere [26]. All characteristic bands due to Tu, PPh₃ and Abtz are also present in the expected regions (Table 2). Scheme 1 gives the proposed structure of the chromium and molybdenum complexes.

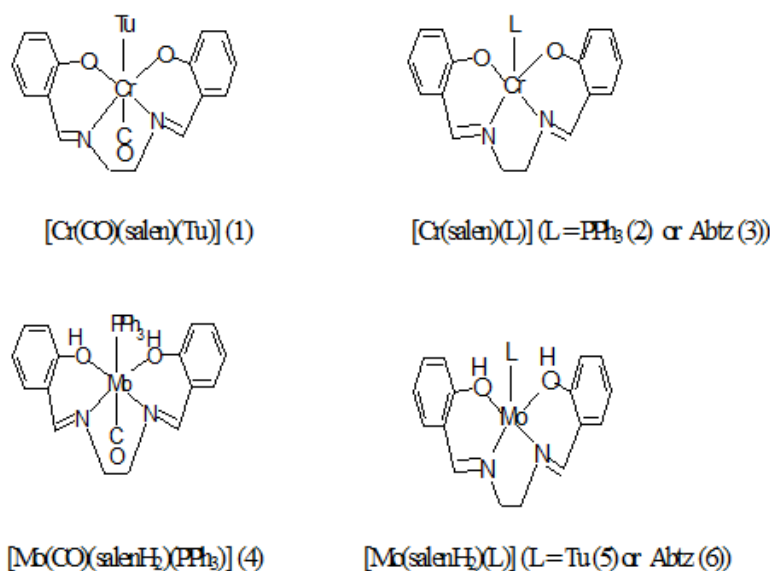
Table2. The important IR data of ligands and their complexes

Compound	IR data(cm ⁻¹)a								
	□ (OH)	□ (CO)	□ (C=N)	□ (C=O)	□ (NH)	□ (C=S)	□ (C-H)phos	□ (M-O)	□ (M-N)
salenH ₂	3445(b)	-	1634(s) 1577(m)	1285(s)	-	-	-	-	-
Tu	-	-	-	-	3379(s) 3274(s) 3174(s) 3065(sh)	1417(m)	-	-	-
PPh ₃	-	-	-	-	-	-	1475(m) 1432(m) 746(s) 695(s)	-	-

Synthesis, Spectral, Thermal and Magnetic Studies of Chromium and Molybdenum Carbonyl Complexes Containing N₂O₂ Donor Sites

Abtz	-	-	1650(s)	-	3397(s) 3274(w)	-	-	-	-
[Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu)] (1)	-	2100(s)	1630(s) 1599(s)	1295(m)	3286(sh) 3220(sh) 3079(sh)	1405(w)	-	474(m)	409(w)
[Cr(salen)(PPh ₃)] (2)	-	-	1633(s) 1597(m)	1294(s)	-	-	1478(s) 1450(s) 758(m)	523(m)	460(sh)
[Cr(salen)(Abtz)] (3)	-	-	1633(s) 1598(m)	1296(m)	3286(sh)	-	-	524(m)	409(w)
[Mo(CO)(salenH ₂)(PPh ₃)] (4)	3423(b)	1941(m)	1627(m) 1610(m)	1286(m)	-	-	1480(m) 1451(m) 755(s) 707(sh)	526(w)	462(w)
[Mo(salenH ₂)(Tu)] (5)	3426(b)	-	1621(s) 1547(s)	1289(m)	3359(sh) 3218(sh) 2940(sh)	1411(w)	-	473(m)	408(m)
[Mo(salenH ₂)(Abtz)] (6)	3427 (b)	-	1615(s) 1542(w)	1292(m)	3280(sh)	-	-	488 (w)	409(w)

*a*_s, strong; *m*, medium; *w*, weak; *b*, broad.



Scheme1.

3.2. Magnetic Susceptibility

Magnetic measurements of the complexes 1, 2 and 3 at 298 K gave a value of an effective magnetic moment of 2.80, 2.77 and 2.86 BM, respectively. These values are close to the spin only moment of two unpaired electrons (2.84 BM). Therefore, the paramagnetic chromium complexes would contain Cr(II) with a low-spin d⁴ configuration. Magnetic studies of the molybdenum complexes, 4-6, showed diamagnetic characteristics.

3.3. Electron Spin Resonance

The ESR spectrum for the [Cr (CO) (salen) (Tu)] and [Cr (salen) (Abtz)] complexes (Fig. 1, 2) gave a single broad signal with isotropic $\langle g \rangle$ value of 1.978 and 2.135 with no hyperfine structure, respectively.

ESR spectrum of a powdered sample of the [Cr (salen)(PPh₃)] complex (Fig. 3) gave two broad signals with isotropic $\langle g \rangle$ value of 2.109 and 2.340 with no hyperfine structure. The absence of hyperfine structure was indicative of no magnetic interaction between the chromium nucleus and the surrounding nuclei of ligand. The broadening of the signal obtained could be due to intramolecular spin exchange of the unpaired electrons.

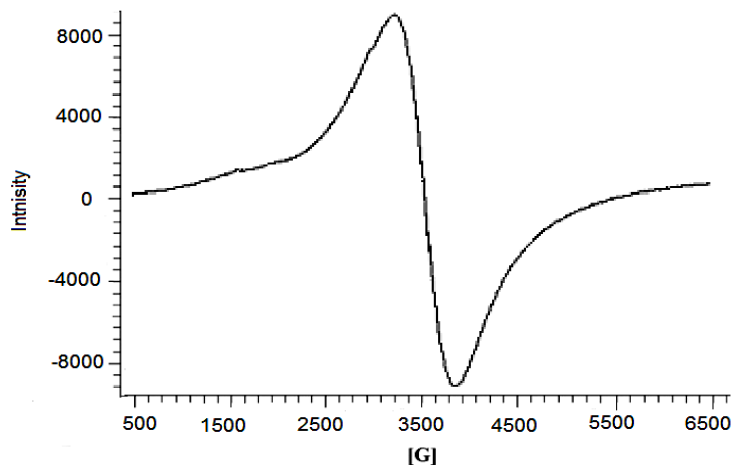


Fig1. The ESR spectrum of [Cr (CO)(salen)(Tu)] complex

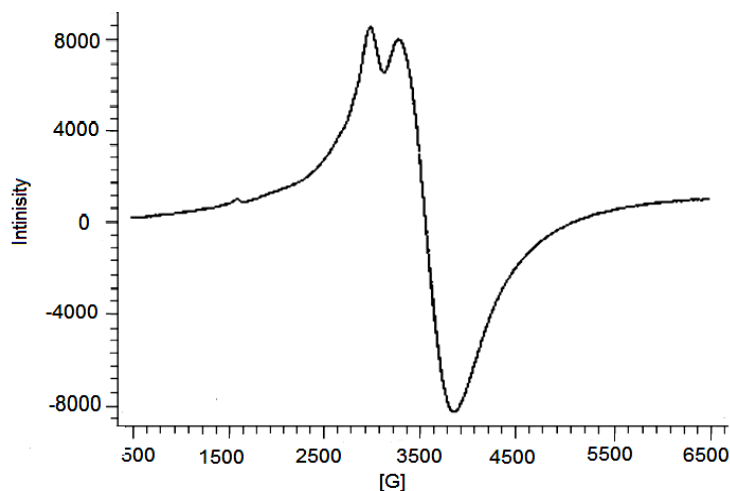


Fig2. The ESR spectrum of [Cr (salen)(PPh₃)] complex

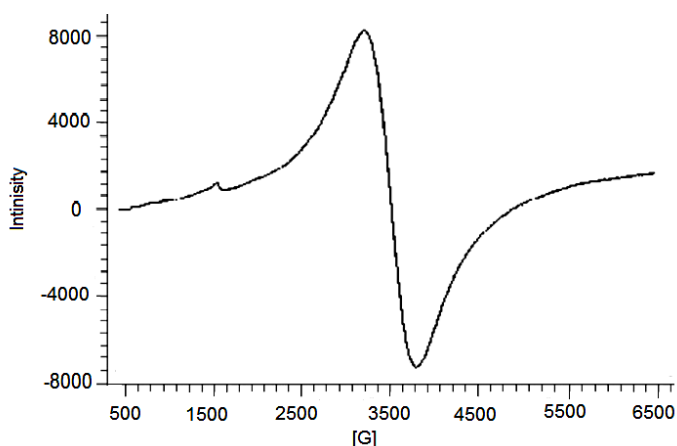


Fig3. The ESR spectrum of [Cr (salen)(Abtz)] complex

3.4. ¹H NMR Spectral Studies

The ¹H NMR spectra of the molybdenum complexes, 4-6, were recorded to confirm the binding of Schiff base to the molybdenum atom (Table 3). Spectra of the complexes showed a single in the region δ 8.59-8.99 ppm, which has been assigned to azomethine proton (>CH=N). The position of azomethine signal in the complexes is downfield in comparison with that of the salenH₂ ligand, suggesting deshielding of the azomethine proton due to its coordination to molybdenum through the azomethine nitrogens. Multiplets are observed around δ 6.45-7.72 ppm in 4-6 complexes have been assigned to aromatic protons of triphenylphosphine, 2-aminobenzothiazole and Schiff base ligand. The spectra of 4-6 showed a broad signal at 13.30-13.40 ppm indicating the presence of OH groups. According to the proposed structure, molybdenum may have zero formal oxidation state with d⁶ electronic configuration. A similar structure was obtained from the reaction of Mo (CO)₆ with salenH₂ in the presence of a secondary ligand L (L=H₂O, pyridine) resulted in the formation of the square pyramidal complex M(L)(salenH₂) [27].

Table3. The important ¹H NMR data for ligands and their complexes

Compound	¹ H NMR (ppm) ^a
salenH ₂	2.50 (t, CH ₂), 6.84-7.42 (m, Ph), 8.59 (s, CH), 13.35 (s, OH)
PPh ₃	7.4 (m, Ph), 7.37(m, Ph)
Tu	7.02 (bs, NH ₂)
Abtz	6.98 (t, Ph), 7.20 (t, Ph), 7.34 (d, Ph), 7.42 (s, NH ₂), 7.64 (d, Ph)
[Mo(CO)(salenH ₂)(PPh ₃)] (4)	2.50 (t, CH ₂), 7.05(m, Ph), 7.62 (m, Ph), 8.61(s, CH), 13.30 (b, OH)
[Mo(salenH ₂)(Tu)] (5)	2.49 (t, CH ₂), 6.86-7.56 (m, Ph), 8.59 (s, CH), 13.4 (b, OH)
[Mo(salenH ₂)(Abtz)] (6)	2.50 (t, CH ₂), 6.45-7.72 (m, Ph), 8.55 (s, NH ₂), 8.99 (s, CH), 13.34 (s, OH)

^as, singlet; d, doublet; m, multiplet; b, broad

3.5. Electronic absorption spectra

The electronic absorption spectra of ligands and their complexes were investigated in DMF. On going from ligands to their complexes an appropriate shift were exerted in the π-π* and n-π* transitions (Table 4). The complexes 1, 3, 5 and 6 showed additional absorptions in the range 430-527 nm which could be due to charge transfer transitions [28].

Table4. The UV-vis. data (DMF) for ligands and their complexes

Compound	λ _{max} (nm) ^a		
	π-π*	n-π*	charge transfer
salenH ₂	265	314	-
Tu	285	-	-
PPh ₃	297, 307	-	-
Abtz	298	355(b)	-
[Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu)] (1)	284	385	527(b)
[Cr(salen)(PPh ₃)] (2)	275, 280	384(b)	-
[Cr(salen)(Abtz)] (3)	283	383	526(b)
[Mo(CO)(salenH ₂)(PPh ₃)] (4)	283	384(b)	-

^ash, shoulder; b, broad.

3.6. Thermal analysis

TG/DTG curves have been studied for all complexes. The decomposition stages, temperature range, decomposition product as well as the found and calculated weight loss temperatures of the metal complexes are given in Tables (5-6). Thermal results show good agreement with the theoretical formula as suggested from the analytical data (Table 1).

The thermo gravimetric studies of [Cr (CO) (salen) (Tu)] (1) complex displayed that it was decomposed into fifth steps. The successive weight losses were observed in the temperature range 423.1-1234.8 K that ended with the formation of the metallic oxide CrO₂ (Table 5)

The TG plot of [Cr (salen)(PPh₃)] (2) complex showed that it decomposed in four steps. The first step consisted of four weak overlapped peaks in the temperature range 322.14-600.3 K with a percentage loss of 13.50 % (Table 5). The second step appeared as a strong and resolved peak and occurred in the temperature range 600.3-880.7 K with a weight loss of 37.20 %. The third and fourth decomposition steps consisted of two unresolved peaks in the temperature ranges 880.7-1041.3 and 1041.3-1236.2 K.

The complex [Cr(salen)(Abtz)] (3) was decomposed in one step in the range 577.5-751.7 K with a loss of 81.88 % was assumed to be due to the loss of C₂₃H₂₀N₄S species leaving CrO₂ (Table 5).

Table5. Thermal analysis data for chromium complexes.

Molecular formula	M.wt.	Decomposition temperature (K)	% Weight loss		Eliminated species	% Solid residue (found)
			Calculated	Found		
Cr(CO)(C ₁₆ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂)(CH ₄ N ₂ S) (1)	422.42	423.1-574.6	13.44	13.26	CO+N ₂	CrO ₂ (19.28)
		594.7-774.6	22.60	22.05	C ₇ H ₉	
		762.6-874.7	13.08	13.28	C ₂ S	
		914.5-1034.6	15.52	15.17	C ₅ H ₄	
		1094.7-1234.8	16.08	16.36	C ₃ H ₅ N ₂	
Cr(C ₁₆ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂)(C ₆ H ₅) ₃ P (2)	580.55	322.14-600.3	13.50	13.63	C ₆ H ₇	CrO ₂ (14.55)
		600.3-880.7	37.20	37.08	C ₁₇ H ₁₁	
		880.7-1041.3	18.33	18.45	C ₆ H ₇ N ₂	
		1041.3-1236.2	16.42	16.37	PC ₃ H ₄	
Cr(C ₁₆ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₂)(C ₇ H ₆ N ₂ S)(3)	468.48	577.5-751.7	81.88	82.07	C ₂₃ H ₂₀ N ₄ S	CrO ₂ (18.12)

The TG plot of [Mo (CO) (salenH₂) (PPh₃)] (4) complex showed that it was decomposed in four steps. The successive weight losses were observed in the temperature range 327.23-1157.1 K (Table 6). The first and third steps appeared as weak overlapped peaks in the temperature ranges 327.23-437.2 and 577.8-1037.3 K with net weight losses of 4.21 and 34.80 %, respectively. The second and fourth decomposition steps consisted of two resolved peaks. These four steps were corresponded to significant material decomposition to yield the metallic oxide MoO₃.

The TG plot of [Mo (salenH₂) (Tu)] (5) complex showed that it was decomposed in two unresolved and one strong resolved steps. The first decomposition peak occurred at 393.5-513.8 K with a net weight loss 13.46 %. The percentage weight loss was consistent with the elimination of NH₂CS. The second decomposition peak occurred at 513.8-978.8 K could be attributed to loss of C₉H₁₃N₂ species. The third decomposition step occurred in the temperature range 998.9-1248 K with a weight loss of 23.85 % that ended with the formation of MoO₂ (Table 6).

The [Mo (salenH₂)(Abtz)] (6) complex was found to thermally decompose in three steps. The first step occurred at 526.6-706.4 K with a net weight loss 14.50 %. The second step appeared as a resolved peak with a weight loss of 47.34 %. The third decomposition step consisted of strong resolved peaks in the temperature ranges 1186.7-1246.6 K with net weight losses of 13.33 % (Table 6).

Table6. Thermal analysis data for molybdenum complexes.

Molecular formula	M.wt.	Decomposition temperature (K)	% Weight loss		Eliminated species	% Solid residue (found)
			Found	Calculated		
Mo(CO)(C ₁₆ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₂)(C ₆ H ₅) ₃ P (4)	654.53	327.23-437.2	4.21	4.28	N ₂	MoO ₃ (22.16)
		437.2-577.8	27.11	27.23	C ₁₄ H ₁₀	
		577.8-1037.3	34.80	34.60	C ₁₅ H ₁₅ P	
		1037.3-1157.1	11.72	11.93	C ₆ H ₆	
Mo(C ₁₆ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₂)(CH ₄ N ₂ S) (5)	440.37	393.5-513.8	13.46	13.65	NH ₂ CS	MoO ₂ (29.66)
		513.8-978.8	33.03	33.88	C ₉ H ₁₃ N ₂	
		998.9-1248	23.85	23.41	C ₇ H ₅ N	
Mo(C ₁₆ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₂)(C ₇ H ₆ N ₂ S) (6)	514.44	526.6-706.4	14.50	14.80	CH ₄ N ₂ S	MoO ₂ (24.83)
		706.4-1186.7	47.34	47.29	C ₁₇ H ₁₁ N ₂	
		1186.7-1246.6	13.33	13.04	C ₅ H ₇	

The activation energy E* of the various decomposition stages for the complexes were determined from the TG and DTG thermograms using the Coats–Redfern equation in the following form:

$$\log \left[\frac{\log(W_{\infty} / (W_{\infty} - W))}{T^2} \right] = \log \left[\frac{AR}{\phi E^*} \left(1 - \frac{2RT}{E^*} \right) \right] - \frac{E^*}{2.303RT} \quad (1)$$

Where W_∞ is the mass loss at the completion of the decomposition reaction, W is the mass loss up to temperature T, R is the gas constant and φ is the heating rate. Since 1-2RT/E* ≅ 1, the plot of the left-hand side of equation (1) against 1/T would give a straight line. E* was then calculated from the slope and the Arrhenius constant, A, was obtained from the intercept. The other kinetic parameters; the entropy of activation (S*), enthalpy of activation (H*) and the free energy change of activation (G*) were calculated using the relationships:

$$S^* = 2.303 \left(\log \frac{Ah}{KT} \right) R \quad (2)$$

$$H^* = E^* - RT \quad (3)$$

$$G^* = H^* - T_s S^* \quad (4)$$

Where, (k) and (h) are the Boltzman and Planck constants, respectively. The kinetic parameters are listed in Table (7). The correlation coefficients of the Arrhenius plots of the thermal decomposition stages were found to lie in the range 0.9974-0.9757 showing a good fit with the linear function. Additionally, the negative values of entropy indicate that activated complexes have more ordered systems than reactants [29].

Table 7. The kinetic and thermodynamic data of the thermal decompositions of complexes

Complex	Decomposition Temperature/K	E*/kJmol ⁻¹	S*/K ⁻¹ Jmol ⁻¹	H*/kJmol ⁻¹	G*/kJmol ⁻¹
Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu) (1)	423.1-594.7	23.81	-229.25	19.69	133.08
	594.7-774.6	25.19	-241.65	19.58	182.67
	774.6-874.7	27.64	-244.12	20.86	219.75
	914.5-1034.6	28.34	-253.25	19.90	276.92
	1094.7-1234.8	47.40	-241.87	37.08	317.04
Cr(salen)(PPh ₃) (2)	600.3-880.7	31.52	-238.98	25.52	197.78
	880.7-1041.3	29.25	-253.27	20.92	274.51
	1041.3-1236.2	53.21	-231.81	44.05	299.38
Cr(salen)(Abtz) (3)	577.5-751.7	81.70	-147.35	76.15	174.49
Mo(CO)(salenH ₂)(PPh ₃) (4)	437.2-577.8	33.58	-205.80	29.27	135.72
	1037.3-1157.1	92.00	-188.87	83.04	286.60
Mo(salenH ₂)(Tu) (5)	393.5-513.8	39.56	-185.21	35.62	123.37
	513.8-663.8	22.77	-236.33	17.83	158.16
	998.9-1248	42.31	-245.11	33.17	302.37
Mo(salenH ₂)(Abtz) (6)	496.7-706.4	28.72	-230.41	23.84	158.95
	706.4-1186.7	16.19	-275.85	8.32	269.52
	1186.7-1246.6	134.16	-164.21	123.79	328.49

3.7. Antimicrobial activity

The Schiff base ligand and its metal complexes were evaluated for antimicrobial activity against Gram positive bacteria (*S. aureus*), Gram negative bacteria (*E. coli*) and fungi (*C. albicans* and *A. flavus*) and the results are summarized in Table 8. The salenH₂ and complexes was found to be biologically active. The remarkable result is that the complexes 1-3 showed lower inhibition against *E. coli* and *S. aureus* as compared with complexes 4-6. Also, complexes 1, 4 and 6 showed higher activity against the fungi *C. albicans* and *A. flavus*. The enhanced activity of the metal complexes may be ascribed to the increased lipophilic nature of the complexes arising due to chelation. It is probably due to faster diffusion of the chelates as a whole through the cell membrane or due to the chelation theory.

Table8. Biological activities of salenH₂ and its chromium and molybdenum complexes

Compound	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm)			
	Escherichia coli (G-)	Staphylococcus aureus (G+)	Aspergillus flavus (Fungus)	Candida albicans (Fungus)
salenH ₂	13	13	11	12
Cr(CO)(salen)(Tu) (1)	34	30	31	34
Cr(salen)(PPh ₃) (2)	9	9	0.0	0.0
Cr(salen)(Abtz) (3)	21	19	20	22
Mo(CO)(salenH ₂)(PPh ₃) (4)				
Mo(salenH ₂)(Tu) (5)				
Mo(salenH ₂)(Abtz) (6)	21	16	18	16
Tetracycline Antibacterial agent	34	31	-	-
Amphotericin B Antifungal agent	-	-	18	20

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