A CALORIMETRICAL STUDY OF THE POLYNUCLEAR Zn(II) AND Pb(II) AND THE POLYMERIC Ni(II) AND Cd(II) COMPLEXES OF 2-MERCAPTOETHANOL AND 3-MERCAPTO-1,2-PROPANEDIOL

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ABSTRACT

The $\Delta G$, $\Delta H$ and $\Delta S$ values for the dissociation of 2-mercaptoethanol (MEL) and 3-mercapto-1,2-propanediol and for the formation of complexes between these ligands and the metal ions Ni$^{2+}$, Zn$^{2+}$, Cd$^{2+}$ and Pb$^{2+}$ have been determined calorimetrically in 0.5 M KNO$_3$ and at 25°C.

INTRODUCTION

The complex formation between Ni$^{2+}$, Zn$^{2+}$, Cd$^{2+}$ and Pb$^{2+}$ and 2-mercaptoethanol and 3-mercapto-1,2-propanediol was reported in a series of earlier papers$^{1-4}$. In all cases polynuclear complexes $B_x A_y$ are formed, $B$ meaning the metal ion and $A$ the ligand. With Ni$^{2+}$ polymeric complexes are formed represented by the formula $B(A_x B)_n$ with $n$ great. There is also strong evidence that the Cd$^{2+}$ complexes are polymeric. They can be represented by the formula $B(A_5 B_3)_n$ with a large value for $n$. In the case of Zn$^{2+}$ a series $B(A_3 B)_n$ was found with a maximum number of five for $n$. With Pb$^{2+}$ the predominant species in solution are $B_3 A_5$, $B_2 A$ and $B_3 A_4$.

In order to obtain more information about the complex formation, in this paper the enthalpy and entropy changes accompanying formation of the complexes are reported from thermometric titration. The $\Delta H_{q,p}$ values of the polynuclear complexes were calculated with a number of adapted computer programs. A new method is worked out in order to represent and calculate enthalpy changes accompanying the formation of polymeric complexes.

EXPERIMENTAL

Reagents

Stock solutions of nickel-, zinc-, cadmium- and leadnitrate (Baker) were standardized gravimetrically as, respectively, bis-(dimethylglyoximato)nickel, ZnNH$_4$.
PO₄, CdNH₄PO₄·H₂O and PbCrO₄. Both thiols (Fluka p.a.) were redistilled before use. Solutions of both ligands were prepared directly before use. All solutions were made up to an ionic strength of 0.5 M KNO₃.

**Calorimetric titration procedure**

Calorimetric measurements were carried out with an LKB 8700-2 titration calorimeter. The reagent was added with a piston buret “Tacussel electroburap”, equipped with a preselection unity. Four thermometric titrations were performed for each system. In each titration the volume in the reaction vessel was 80 ml and was composed as indicated in Table 1. The solutions were titrated with 1 M KOH in 0.25 ml fractions.

**TABLE 1**

**COMPOSITION OF THE MIXTURE IN THE REACTION VESSEL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of titration</th>
<th>0.032 M Metal nitrate (ml)</th>
<th>0.128 M Ligand (ml)</th>
<th>0.5 M KNO₃ (ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calculations**

The calculations were performed with a number of computer programs written in Fortran IV. The programs were executed on a Siemens 4004/150 computer.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**List of symbols**

The symbols used are those recommended by the IUPAC commission and are listed below.

- **B** = (1) symbol for a metal ion; (2) total metal ion concentration
- **A** = (1) symbol for the ligand; (2) total ligand concentration
- **b** = free metal ion concentration
- **a** = concentration of free ligand
- **hₐ** = concentration of protonated ligand HₐA
- **h** = activity of the hydrogen ion
- **K_{HI}** = mixed protonation constant of HₐA defined as:
  \[ K_{HI} = \frac{hₐ}{h \cdot h_{(i-1)} a} \]
- **N** = maximum number of hydrogen ions that the ligand can take up
- **β_{q,p}** = overall stability constant of a complex BₐAₚ defined as:
  \[ β_{q,p} = \frac{(BₐAₚ)}{b^q \cdot a^p} \]
- **B(AₙB)ₙ** = “core+links” representation of a series complexes
- **k₋** = constants defining a polymeric “core+links” series
\[ v = ka'b \]

\[ Q = \text{heat liberated during a titration} \]

\[ Q_{\text{dil}} = \text{heat of dilution of the titrant} \]

\[ V = \text{total volume in the titration cell} \]

\[ \Delta G_{Hi}, \Delta H_{Hi}, \Delta S_{Hi} = \text{free enthalpy, enthalpy and entropy change of protonation of the ligand } H_i A \]

\[ \Delta G_{q,p}, \Delta H_{q,p}, \Delta S_{q,p} = \text{free enthalpy, enthalpy and entropy change of formation of a complex } B_q A_p \]

\[ \Delta g_0 \text{ and } \Delta g, \Delta h_0 \text{ and } \Delta h, \Delta s_0 \text{ and } \Delta s = \text{free enthalpy, enthalpy and entropy representations for a polymeric series } B(A,B)_n \]

**Determination of the enthalpy of protonation of the ligands**

The enthalpy and entropy of protonation of the mercaptogroup in the ligands MEL and MPD were calculated from titration 1 (Table 1) with the aid of eqns (1) and (2)

\[ -\frac{Q - Q_{\text{dil}}}{V} = (\Delta H_{H_2O} - \Delta H_{Hi}) [\text{OH}^-] \]

where [\text{OH}^-] means the concentration of base added.

\[ \Delta G_{Hi} = -RT \ln K_{Hi} = \Delta H_{Hi} - T \Delta S_{Hi} \]

\[ \Delta H_{H_2O} \text{ was taken to be } -13.34 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1} \text{ according to Vanderzee and Swanson, } \]

Izatt and our experiments. The results are given in Table 2.

**TABLE 2**

**ENTHALPY AND ENTROPY OF PROTONATION OF THE LIGANDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ligand</th>
<th>log ( K_{Hi} )</th>
<th>( \Delta G_{Hi} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta H_{Hi} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta S_{Hi} ) (cal mol(^{-1}) (K)^{-1})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEL</td>
<td>9.49</td>
<td>-12.93</td>
<td>-6.15</td>
<td>+22.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPD</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>-13.85</td>
<td>-6.73</td>
<td>+20.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Determination of the enthalpy of formation of the polynuclear complexes formed between Pb\(^{2+}\), Zn\(^{2+}\) and MEL, MPD**

The enthalpy and entropy of formation of these complexes were determined from titrations 1–3 (Table 1). A computer-program THER was written for solving the \( \Delta H_{q,p} \) values from eqn (3).

\[ -\frac{Q - Q_{\text{dil}}}{V} = \sum_{p} \sum_{q} y_{q,p} b^q a^p \left[ \Delta H_{q,p} + p \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\Delta H_{H_2O} - \Delta H_{Hi}) \right] + \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} K_{Hi} h^i a \sum_{i=1}^{N-i} (\Delta H_{H_2O} - \Delta H_{Hi}) \]

(3)
### Table 3
**Calorimetric Results for MEL/Zn^{2+}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>( \log \beta_{aq} )</th>
<th>( \Delta G_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta H_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta S_{aq,p} ) (cal mol(^{-1}) K(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B(_2)A(_3)</td>
<td>18.320</td>
<td>-24.970</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_3)A(_6)</td>
<td>38.615</td>
<td>-52.631</td>
<td>(-13)</td>
<td>(+133)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_4)A(_9)</td>
<td>57.813</td>
<td>-78.798</td>
<td>(-53)</td>
<td>(+86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(<em>5)A(</em>{12})</td>
<td>77.179</td>
<td>-105.193</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>+220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(<em>6)A(</em>{15})</td>
<td>95.924</td>
<td>-130.742</td>
<td>-67</td>
<td>+214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4
**Calorimetric Results for MPD/Zn^{3+}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>( \log \beta_{aq} )</th>
<th>( \Delta G_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta H_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta S_{aq,p} ) (cal mol(^{-1}) K(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B(_2)A(_3)</td>
<td>18.089</td>
<td>-24.655</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_3)A(_6)</td>
<td>37.805</td>
<td>-51.527</td>
<td>(-37)</td>
<td>(+47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_4)A(_9)</td>
<td>56.537</td>
<td>-77.059</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>+151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(<em>5)A(</em>{12})</td>
<td>74.741</td>
<td>-101.870</td>
<td>(-30)</td>
<td>(+238)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(<em>6)A(</em>{15})</td>
<td>93.873</td>
<td>-127.947</td>
<td>-73</td>
<td>+184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5
**Calorimetric Results for MEL/Pb^{2+}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>( \log \beta_{aq} )</th>
<th>( \Delta G_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta H_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta S_{aq,p} ) (cal mol(^{-1}) K(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B(_3)A(_5)</td>
<td>38.484</td>
<td>-52.453</td>
<td>-39.0</td>
<td>+44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_2)A</td>
<td>9.066</td>
<td>-12.347</td>
<td>(-4.0)</td>
<td>(+27.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_2)A(_4)</td>
<td>32.780</td>
<td>-44.678</td>
<td>-30.0</td>
<td>+49.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 6
**Calorimetric Results for MPD/Pb^{2+}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>( \log \beta_{aq} )</th>
<th>( \Delta G_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta H_{aq,p} ) (kcal mol(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \Delta S_{aq,p} ) (cal mol(^{-1}) K(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B(_3)A(_5)</td>
<td>38.088</td>
<td>-51.913</td>
<td>-39</td>
<td>+43.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_2)A(_2)</td>
<td>7.870</td>
<td>-10.727</td>
<td>(-12.0)</td>
<td>(-6.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B(_3)A(_4)</td>
<td>32.415</td>
<td>-44.181</td>
<td>-32.0</td>
<td>+41.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td>6.634</td>
<td>-9.042</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>+21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA(_2)</td>
<td>12.495</td>
<td>-17.030</td>
<td>-14.0</td>
<td>+10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA(_3)</td>
<td>15.901</td>
<td>-21.673</td>
<td>-14.0</td>
<td>+25.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The values of $b$, $a$ and $h$ were calculated from the $\beta_{q,p}$ and $K_{Hi}$ values, the total metal-ion concentration $B$ and total ligand concentration $A$ with a program BDTV\(^9\).

The resulting $\Delta H_{q,p}$ values are given in Tables 3–6. Not all $\Delta H_{q,p}$ values could be calculated. It can be understood that if the coefficients of a certain parameter $\Delta H_{q,p}$ are small, the term containing this parameter can be negligible in all eqns (3). In that case no reasonable solution can be found for that $\Delta H_{q,p}$ value.

It would be ideal if all parameters should dominate some of the right hand-side terms of the eqns (3). When only mononuclear complexes are formed this condition is mostly fulfilled: the complex $BA$ dominates at the beginning, the complex $BA_N$ at the end of the titration. As can be seen in Fig. 1 this condition is not always fulfilled when polynuclear complexes are formed. In this figure the distribution curves of

![Graph showing distribution curves](image)

**Fig. 1. Distribution curves of the system Zn\(^{2+}\)/MEL. B = 0.016.**

the system Zn\(^{2+}\)/MEL for $B = 0.016$ are shown. In these distribution curves the fraction of the total metal-ion concentration $\alpha_{q,p}$ present as free metal ions or bound to a certain complex $B_qA_p$ is plotted against the free ligand concentration. $\alpha_{q,p}$ was calculated by means of eqn (4). The curves are calculated and plotted with a program VERD

$$\alpha_{q,p} = \frac{q\beta_{q,p} b^q a^p}{B}$$

(4)

As can be seen in Fig. 1, $\alpha_{2,3}$ does not exceed a maximum value of 5%. Taking into account that $\Delta H_{2,3}$ will be smaller than $\Delta H_{5,12}$ and that the complex is formed in a narrow $pa$ range, the value of $\Delta H_{2,3}$ cannot be obtained with a reasonable accuracy. The same reasoning holds in a lesser degree for the complexes $\Delta H_{3,6}$ en $\Delta H_{4,9}$. These values are placed between brackets.

**Determination of the enthalpy of formation of the polymeric complexes formed between Ni\(^{2+}\), Cd\(^{2+}\) and MEL, MDP**

When a series of complexes $B(A,B)_n$ with $n$ great is formed in solution, eqn (3) cannot be used. It is indeed senseless to calculate an infinite number of $\Delta H_n$ values. Sillén\(^{10}\) defined a polymeric "core + links" series with two constants only: $k$ and $k_0$. 
All stability constants \( \beta_n \) can be calculated from eqn (5)

\[
\log \beta_n = \log k_o + n \log k
\]

(5)

Using eqns (5) and (6) also the free enthalpy of formation can be calculated in that way (eqn 7).

\[
\Delta G = -RT \ln \beta
\]

(6)

\[
\Delta G = \Delta g_o + n \log \Delta g
\]

(7)

Analogously we propose to calculate all changes of enthalpy and entropy with eqns (8)–(10)

\[
\Delta H_n = \Delta h_o + n \Delta h
\]

(8)

\[
\Delta S_n = \Delta s_o + n \Delta s
\]

(9)

\[
v = k_d a \cdot b
\]

(10)

Substitution of eqns (5), (8) and (10) in eqn (3) gives eqn (11)

\[
\frac{Q - Q_{dil}}{V} = \left( k_o b \frac{1}{1-v} \right) \Delta h_o + \frac{k_o b v}{(1-v)^2} \Delta h + \Delta H_{N1} \left( a + \frac{tk_o b v}{(1-v)^2} \right)
\]

(11)

\( \Delta H_{N1} \) is the neutralisation enthalpy of the mercapto group. \( \Delta h \) and \( \Delta h_o \) were calculated from the results of titrations 2, 3 and 4 using eqn (11) with a program POKA. The values of \( v \) and \( b \) are calculated from \( k_r \) and \( k_o \) and the initial concentrations in the titration cell with a program POLY. The results are given in Table 7. For the system Ni\(^{2+} / \)MPD no results are given because the reaction velocity is too slow for direct titration.

### TABLE 7

**CALORIMETRIC RESULTS FOR POLYMERIC COMPLEXES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>MEL/Ni(^{2+})</strong></th>
<th><strong>MEL/Cd(^{2+})</strong></th>
<th><strong>MPD/Cd(^{2+})</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \log k_o )</td>
<td>-2.126</td>
<td>-1.625</td>
<td>-1.665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \log k )</td>
<td>13.023</td>
<td>15.205</td>
<td>14.769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta g_0 )</td>
<td>2.898</td>
<td>2.216</td>
<td>2.270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta g )</td>
<td>-17.25</td>
<td>-20.724</td>
<td>-20.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta h_o )</td>
<td>(+8)</td>
<td>(+10)</td>
<td>(+10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta h )</td>
<td>-8</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta s_o )</td>
<td>(+17)</td>
<td>(+30)</td>
<td>(+30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Delta s )</td>
<td>+32</td>
<td>+20</td>
<td>+19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISCUSSION**

From the results, given in Tables 3–7, it can be derived that the enthalpy change is the most important factor in the change of free enthalpy \( \Delta G \) during complex formation of thiols with the metal ions Ni\(^{2+} \), Zn\(^{2+} \), Cd\(^{2+} \) and Pb\(^{2+} \). In comparison with the complexes of organic amines the formation reaction is more exothermic.
The enthalpy change of the formation of a Ni–S–Ni bound is about −4 kcal mol\(^{-1}\). The same value is found for the Zn–S–Zn bound. In an earlier paper\(^{11}\) a value of about −5 kcal mol\(^{-1}\) was found for the formation of a Ni–S–Ni bound between Ni\(^{2+}\) and thioglycolic acid. These two values are in good agreement with each other. An enthalpy change of ±1.5 kcal mol\(^{-1}\) was found for the formation of a single Ni–S and Zn–S bound\(^{11,12}\). When the mercapride ion forms a bound with a second metal ion, more heat is liberated than for the formation of the first one.

The enthalpy change of formation of a Cd–S–Cd bound is about −8 kcal mol\(^{-1}\) or twice the value found for Ni\(^{2+}\) and Zn\(^{2+}\). This corresponds, at least for polynuclear complexes, with less favorable entropy changes, indicating that the structure of the Cd\(^{2+}\) complexes is more rigid than that of Ni\(^{2+}\) and Zn\(^{2+}\) complexes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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