Binding of Nitrogenous Bases to Iron(II) Phthalocyanine in Dimethylsulfoxide

J. G. JONES* and M. V. TWIGG**

New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland, and the University of Kent, Canterbury, U.K. Received November 28, 1973

An iterative technique employing computer processing of spectrophotometric data has been used to obtain the two formation constants for complexing of nitrogenous bases with Iron(II) phthalocyanine in dimethylsulfoxide. Good correlations of K_i with pK_{BH^+} are obtained for the first formation step with a closely related set of ligands. π -bonding does not appear as important as in similar reactions with ferrous porphyrins.

Introduction

An attempt has been made¹ to obtain complex formation constants for the binding of bases at the axial positions of Iron(II) phthalocyanine, but the graphical method used to process the data applied precisely for the binding of cyanide alone, as only in this case was there a well defined maximum in the graph of optical density against base concentration per unit of Iron(II) phthalocyanine. Using numerical methods it has proved possible to extend this work, and the formation constants obtained are useful for comparison with those obtained in porphyrin systems.²

Experimental

Solid bases obtained commercially were re-crystallised from ethanol and dried; liquid ones were distilled from potassium hydroxide pellets. Physical properties agreed with literature values. The preparation of Iron(II) phthalocyanine and purification of dimethyl-sulfoxide have already been described in detail.⁴ The purity of the Iron(II) phthalocyanine was established by elemental analysis, infra-red spectroscopy, and by the fact that its extinction coefficient, when dissolved quantitatively in pyridine, agreed with that of previous workers^{1,3} and gave the wavelength maxima quoted (Table I).

A solution approximately $10^{-5}M$ in Iron(II) phthalocyanine was prepared under nitrogen in dmso, and its strength was determined by diluting it accurately with a measured excess of pyridine, such that the solution was at least 0.5 M in pyridine. For practical purposes this converts all the Iron(II) phthalocyanine to its bis-base adduct¹ and one can use the extinction coefficients of Table I to calculate the strength of the original Iron(II) phthalocyanine solution. Our results (Table V), giving an overall formation constant of 250 for FePc(py)₂, show that in a solution $10^{-5}M$ in FePc, and 0.6M in pyridine, 99% of FePc is converted to $FePc(py)_2$, and the spectrum in 0.6M pyridine is indistinguishable from that in pyridine (Table I). Even in 0.1M pyridine, where there will be only 73% conversion to FePc(py)₂, change in absorbance is only significant at 413 nm. A series of solutions (between 12 and 20) each containing the same amount of freshly prepared Iron(II) phthalocyanine/dmso solution of known concentration, together with known amounts of purified base were made up in volumetric flasks (10 ml). The highest concentration of base used depended on the particular ligand, its value being such that the observed optical density approached the optical density

TABLE 1. Visible Spectrum of Ferrous Phthalocyanine in Pyridine and in Pyridine/Dmso Solutions.

This work		Whalley ³		Dale ¹		0.63 M py/dmso		0.1 M py/dmso (Dale ¹)	
λ_{\max} , nm	log ₁₀ ε _{max}	λ _{max}	log ₁₀ ε _{max}	λ _{max}	log ₁₀ e _{max}	λ	log ₁₀ ε _{max}	λ	$\log_{10} \varepsilon_{\max}$
655	5.07	654	5.03	654	5.11	655	5.07	656	5.08
593	4.47	593	4.47	592	4.48	593	4.49	595	4.49
413	4.32	414	4.29	415	4.31	413	4.32	415	4.29
332	4.82	329.5	4.88	330	4.88	_	_	_	_

^{*} New University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland. ** Now at the Chemical Laboratories, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, England.

in the presence of sufficient base to cause complete conversion to $\text{FePc}(\text{base})_2$. After allowing the solutions to equilibriate for at least an hour* at 25.0°C the optical density of each solution was measured using a Unicam SP600 single beam instrument at a wavelength having a maximum characteristic of $\text{FePc}(\text{base})_2$ (Table IV).

Method of Data Treatment

The equilibria involving species based on lron(ll) phthalocyanine were assumed to be:

(i) $\operatorname{FePc}(\operatorname{dmso})_2 + \operatorname{base} \xrightarrow{K_1'} \operatorname{FePc}(\operatorname{dmso})(\operatorname{base}) + \operatorname{dmso}$ (ii) $\operatorname{FePc}(\operatorname{dmso})(\operatorname{base}) + \operatorname{base} \xrightarrow{K_2'} \operatorname{FePc}(\operatorname{base})_2 + \operatorname{dmso}$

Let two equilibrium constants, K_1 and K_2 now be defined which do not include the solvent concentration $(K_1', K_2' do)$

(iii)
$$K_1 = \frac{[FePc(dmso)(base)]}{[FePc(dmso)_2][base]} = \frac{K_1'}{[dmso]}$$

(iv) $K_2 = -\frac{[FePc(base)_2]}{[FePc(dmso)(base)][base]} = \frac{K_2'}{[dmso]}$

Let these further terms be defined.

- as: Concentration of FePc(dmso)₂ before reaction
- ae: Equilibrium concentration of FePc(dmso)2
- bs: Concentration of base before reaction
- be: Equilibrium concentration of base
- c_e: Equilibrium concentration of FePc(dmso)(base)
- d_e: Equilibrium concentration of FePc(base)₂
- ε_A : Molar extinction coefficient of FePc(dmso)₂ at the particular wavelength used for measurements
- $\varepsilon_{\rm B}$: Molar extinction coefficient of base at the particular wavelength used for measurements (equal to zero)
- $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$: Molar extinction coefficient of FePc(dmso)(base) at the particular wavelength used for measurements
- $\varepsilon_{\rm D}$: Molar extinction coefficient of FePc(base)₂ at the particular wavelength used for measurements
- A_e: The optical density of the solution at the particular wavelength used for measurements

Then: (v) $A_e = \varepsilon_A a_e + \varepsilon_C c_e + \varepsilon_D d_e$ (path length is 1 cm).

In equilibrium measurements the ferrous phthalocyanine concentration, a_s , was kept constant and the base concentration, b_s , varied, A_e being measured for each value of b_s . For any particular values of b_s , and a_s the quantities a_c , c_e and d_e could be related to b_s , a_s , K_1 and K_2 by these equations:

 $\begin{array}{rll} (vi) & a_e &=& a_s/\{1+K_1 \, b_e + K_1 \, K_2 \, b_e^{\,2}\} \\ (vii) & c_e &=& K_1 \, a_s \, b_e/\{1+K_1 \, b_e + K_1 \, K_2 \, b_e^{\,2}\} \\ (viii) & d_e &=& K_1 \, K_2 \, a_s \, b_e^{\,2}/\{1+K_1 \, b_e + K_1 \, K_2 \, b_e^{\,2}\} \end{array}$

If K_1 and K_2 are each less than 100 and b_s is much greater than a_s , then $b_e \sim b_s$, and provided ε_A , ε_C and ε_D are known, measurements of A_e with constant a_s and various b_s values should be perfectly capable of giving K_1 and K_2 . To a greater degree of sophistication b_e was calculated from the cubic equation below:

(ix)
$$0 = K_1 K_2 b_e^3 + (2K_1 K_2 a_s + K_1 - K_1 K_2 b_s) b_e^2 + (K_1 a_s + 1 - K_1 b_s) b_e - b_s$$

TABLE II. Isophthalic Acid, Observed and Calculated Optical Densities Using $K_1 = 2.39 \times 10^{-4}$, $K_2 = 3.31 \times 10^{-5}$, $\varepsilon_C = 2.88 \times 10^3$, data from ref. 5b.

pH	OD _{obs}	OD _{calc}
0.3	0.354	0.3529
1.19	0.354	0.3533
2.09	0.355	0.3560
2.73	0.365	0.3653
2.77	0.367	0.3663
2.93	0.372	0.3712
2.98	0.372	0.3730
3.05	0.375	0.3757
3.095	0.378	0.3776
3.17	0.381	0.3809
3.21	0.382	0.3828
3.31	0.386	0.3876
3.405	0.393	0.3924
3.47	0.397	0.3957
3.49	0.397	0.3967
3.58	0.403	0.4011
3.68	0.404	0.4054
3.69	0.407	0.4058
3.79	0.408	0.4092
3.89	0.410	0.4114
3.99	0.414	0.4122
4.09	0.413	0.4116
4.11	0.410	0.4112
4.18	0.409	0.4112
4.28	0.405	0.4063
4.38	0.401	0.4017
4.49	0.397	0.3956
4.60	0.390	0.3889
4.675	0.383	0.3842
4.77	0.379	0.3783
4.87	0.373	0.3723
4.97	0.367	0.3668
5.22	0.355	0.3556
5.29	0.350	0.3531
5.54	0.348	0.3463
5.86	0.343	0.3412
6.75	0.337	0.3379
7.37	0.337	0.3364

^{*} Calculations using formation rate constants already determined,⁴ and some unpublished, showed that this is many times the period required for complete reaction.

TABLE III. Results of Calculations on Isophthalic Acid.ª

Values	K ₁	K ₂	ε _{HA} .	$\Sigma (\frac{\text{relative}}{\text{deviation}})^2 / n$
Starting	1×10^{-4}	1×10^{-5}	3×10^{3}	2.9×10^{-3}
Final	2.39×10^{-4}	3.31×10^{-5}	2.88×10^{3}	9.2×10^{-6}
Literature	2.24×10^{-4}	3.63×10^{-5}	2.92×10^{3}	1.1×10^{-5}
(b) $\lambda = 246$ nm, da	ata from 5(a).			
Values	K ₁	K ₂	ε _{HA} -	$\Sigma \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{relative} \\ \text{deviation} \end{array} \right)^2/n$
Starting	1×10^{-5}	1 × 10 ⁻⁵	3×10^{3}	5.3×10^{-3}
Final	2.73×10^{-4}	4.40×10^{-5}	3.28×10^{3}	9.3×10^{-6}
Literature	2.80×10^{-4}	4.00×10^{-5}	3.23×10^{3}	1.4×10^{-5}
(c) $\lambda = 247.6$ nm,	data from 5(a).			
Values	K ₁	K ₂	ε _{HA} -	$\Sigma ({ m relative} { m deviation})^2/n$
Starting	1×10^{-5}	1×10^{-5}	3×10^{3}	3.5×10^{-3}
Final	2.36×10^{-4}	4.16×10^{-5}	4.08×10^{3}	7.9×10^{-6}
Literature	2.8×10^{-4}	4.0×10^{-4}	4.02×10^{3}	1.6×10^{-5}

(a) $\lambda = 248$ nm, data from 5(b).

^a Relative deviation = $[OD_{obs}-OD_{calc}]/OD_{obs}$, n = number of observations.

Input parameters in our computer aided calculations consisted of a_s , ε_A , ε_D , approximate values of K_1 , K_2 and ε_C (ε_C was assumed to be the mean of ε_A and ε_D) together with a (b_s , A_e) data set. The programme, involving a Simplex* minimisation method, then refined the values of K_1 , K_2 , and ε_C so as to obtain a minimum of the sum of the squares of the relative deviations between observed and calculated optical densities.

Before employing it on Iron(II) phthalocyanine equilibria the method was checked using data on the variation of the absorbance of dibasic acids⁵ with pH, a case where graphical methods work because b_e is defined by pH measurements, and there is a well defined maximum or minimum in the absorbance–pH plot. Thus, for a dibasic acid H₂A, the optical density at the wavelength concerned, λ , at pH_i is:

$$O.D_{\lambda}i = \varepsilon_{H_2A}[H_2A]_i + \varepsilon_{H_{A^-}}[H_{A^-}]_i + \varepsilon_{A^{-2}}[A^{-2}]_i$$

In these systems ε_{H_2A} and $\varepsilon_{A^{-2}}$ can be obtained from experiments in strongly acid and alkaline solutions. Initially K_1 and K_2 were set at 1×10^{-4} or 1×10^{-5} and an estimate of ε_{HA^-} was obtained from the maximum in the optical density/pH curve and the total concentration of organic acid used.

Table II shows the observed optical densities for isophthalic acid and those calculated from the final values of K_1 , K_2 and ε_{HA^-} which produced the minimum sum of the squares of the relative deviations between observed and calculated optical densities. Table III shows that our method gives values of K_1 , K_2 and ε_{HA^-} which are similar to the published values but with smaller values for the deviation between observed and calculated optical densities.

TABLE IV. Observed and Calculated Optical Densities (425 nm, 25° C) for 4-aminopyridine Complex Formation Using $K_1 = 6.18 \times 10^3$, $K_2 = 6.17 \times 10^3$, $\varepsilon_A = 4.6 \times 10^3$, $\varepsilon_C = 8.5 \times 10^3$, $\varepsilon_D = 2.0 \times 10^4$. Σ {relative deviation}²/n = 6.2 × 10⁻⁴.

Starting Concentration of Base, b_s $a_s = [FePc] = 3.63 \times 10^{-5} M$	A _e (obs.)	A _e (calc.)
2.75×10^{-5}	0.194	0.199
5.49×10^{-5}	0.232	0.230
8.24×10^{-5}	0.266	0.264
1.09×10^{-4}	0.301	0.298
1.37×10^{-4}	0.335	0.332
1.65×10^{-4}	0.360	0.364
1.92×10^{-4}	0.393	0.392
2.20×10^{-4}	0.421	0.418
2.75×10^{-4}	0.456	0.462
3.29×10^{-4}	0.488	0.497
5.40×10^{-4}	0.583	0.577
1.03×10^{-3}	0.651	0.648
1.62×10^{-3}	0.681	0.671

^{*} The procedure is outlined by several authors, *e.g.* J.A. Nelder and R. Mead, *Comput. J.*, 7, 308 (1965), and the programme was written by M.V.T. in I.C.L. 4100 Algol.



Figure 1. Comparison of calculated and observed absorbance as increasing amounts of 4-aminopyridine are added to a solution of ferrous phthalocyanine in dmso. (— calculated absorbance; \bigcirc experimental absorbance).

The success of the method with the base 4-aminopyridine is indicated in Table IV and Figure 1. The error parameter we used,

$$\{\Sigma(\frac{OD_{calc}-OD_{obs}}{OD_{obs}})^2/no. \text{ of observations}\}$$

is larger than that for the very closely defined dibasic acid system used as a test. In those systems a rather better spectrophotometer was used, more data points were taken, and there was no possibility of extraneous equilibria such as the dimerisation of Iron(11) phthalocyanine.⁶

With weak bases there is doubt as to whether FePc (base)₂ has formed completely enabling ε_D to be determined correctly. We have indicated the precautions taken earlier in this section, but calculations varying ε_D by 10% do not move K₁, K₂ values outside the observed error limits in Table V.

Results and Discussion

Table V summarises the results and compares them with results for the binding of the bases to the proton and to the zinc nucleus of zinc $\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta$,tetraphenylporphin in benzene.⁷ It also shows K₂ values increased fourfold, to correct for the statistical factor (the second ligand has half the number of binding sites that the first had available, and twice as many as the first had from which it can dissociate) and make K₁ and K₂ directly comparable.

Table VI gives the observed extinction coefficient of Iron(II) phthalocyanine at the wavelength used, the calculated extinction coefficient of the mono-base species and the observed extinction coefficient of the bisbase species.

From Figure 2 it will be seen that there is a good correlation between K_1 and pyridine basicity, Iron(II)



Figure 2. Comparison of first formation constants $(\log K_1)$ with ligand basicities (pK_{B11}) .

TABLE V. Equilibrium Constants at 25° C for the Binding of Heterocyclic Bases to Ferrous Phthalocyanine in Dmso Solution.

Base	рК _{ВН} .	K ₁	logK ₁	K ₂	logK2	Corrected logK ₂	log ₁₀ K _{Zn} ^d
Imidazole	6.95ª	$(10 \pm 4) \times 10^4$	5.0	$(6.3 \pm 2.0) \times 10^3$	3.8	4,4	_
4-Aminopyridine	9.12 ^b	$(6.2 \pm 2.0) \times 10^3$	3.8	$(6.2 \pm 2.0) \times 10^3$	3.8	4.4	4.65
4-Methylpyridine	6.03 ^b	200 ± 40^{-1}	2.3	6.3 ± 0.6	0.8	1.4	4.0
Pyridine	5.21 ^b	100 ± 18	2.0	2.5 ± 0.16	0.4	1.0	3.8
4-Acetylpyridine	3.51 ^b	50 ± 8	1.7	0.40 ± 0.02	-0.4	0.2	3.0
4-Cyanopyridine	1.86 ^b	10 ± 0.8	1.0	4.0 ± 0.4	0.6	1.2	2.9
2-Methylpyridine	5.96°	1.6 ± 0.5	0.2	0.63 ± 0.05	-0.2	+0.4	2.3

Errors are standard errors.

^a from: A. H. M. Kirby and A. Neuberger, *Biochem. J.*, 32, 1146 (1938).

^b from: A. Fischer, W.J. Galloway and J. Vaughan, J. Chem. Soc., 3591 (1964).

^c from: R. J. L. Andon, J. D. Cox and E. F. G. Herrington, Trans. Far. Soc., 50, 915 (1954).

^d Estimated from data in ref. (6).

Base	Wavelength of bis-base Maximum (nm)	ε _M FePc ε _A	ε _M FePc(base) ε _C	ε _M FePc(base) ₂ ε _D
Imidazole	426	3.2×10^{3}	4.1×10^{3}	2.0×10^{4}
4-aminopyridine	425	4.6×10^{3}	8.5×10^{3}	2.0×10^{4}
4-methylpyridine	413	1.0×10^{4}	3.0×10^{4}	2.1×10^{4}
Pvridine	413	8.9×10^{3}	2.8×10^{4}	2.1×10^{4}
4-acetylpyridine	405	9.5×10^{3}	1.7×10^{4}	$1.5 imes 10^{4}$
4-cyanopyridine	404	1.7×10^{4}	2.8×10^{4}	1.2×10^{4}
2-methylpyridine	406	7.6×10^{3}	5.4×10^{4}	1.8×10^{4}

TABLE VI. Molar Extinction Coefficients for FePc(dmso)₂, FePc(dmso)(base), FePc(base)₂ (ϵ_{M} to \pm 5%).

phthalocyanine in dmso being half as selective an acid as the proton in water. In low spin d⁶ systems such as FePc(axial ligand)₂ there is always some argument as to whether there is back-bonding involving donation of electrons from full t_{2g} orbitals of the iron to vacant antibonding orbitals of suitable symmetry and energy on the pyridine.8 Electron withdrawing substituents on the pyridine (e.g. nitro, cyano and acetyl groups) are supposed to change the energy of the pyridine π^* orbitals so that they are at a more suitable energy level to accept electrons from the t_{2g} orbitals of the iron, thus making complexes involving these pyridines more stable than their proton (*i.e.* σ) basicity would indicate. First formation constant values provide some evidence of this, the complexes with 4-cyano and 4-acetylpyridine being slightly more stable than their basicity would



Figure 3. Comparison of first formation constants of pyridines with ferrous phthalocyanine and with zinc $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ tetraphenyl-porphin.

predict. But the effect is slight, and involves free energies, where entropies as well as heats of base and complex solvation may play some part: heats of bond formation, corrected for solvation effects, should be used if a serious attempt is to be made to estimate π bonding effects. A good relationship (Figure 3) is obtained between logK₁ and logK_{2n} for the binding of pyridines to zinc tetraphenylporphin. 2-Methylpyridine appears far less basic towards Iron(II) phthalocyanine than its proton basicity would suggest (Figure 2) and obviously steric hindrance is involved; this hindrance should be of equal importance for its binding to zinc tetraphenylporphin, and its basicity towards ferrous phthalocyanine indeed parallels its low basicity towards the porphin (Figure 3).

Turning now to a correlation of the second formation constant with proton basicity (Figure 4), it can be seen that the binding of the second ligand to FePc (base)(dmso) is twice as sensitive to variation in basicity as is binding of the first ligand. Cyano and acetylpyridine clearly bind much more firmly in the second stage than one would expect from their σ -donor



Figure 4. Comparison of second formation constants $(log K_2)$ with ligand basicities.

properties, and it is tempting to say that the binding of the first π -accepting axial ligand has altered the iron t_{2g} orbitals such that π acceptance by a second axial ligand of the same species is greatly facilitated.* Applying such arguments to free energy terms is always risky, as entropy effects may be responsible for the increase in stability ascribed to π -bonding. However in this case we will anticipate our results obtained for the first step by the kinetic method⁹ and state that enthalpy and entropy self-compensate and no special entropy effects appear to be involved in the cases of those pyridines with electron withdrawing substituents.

Finally, it is of interest to compare the present results with those recently reported by Cole, Curthoys and Magnusson^{2c} for pyridines and various Iron(II) haems in benzene. Their results concern an addition reaction at the metal centre whereas ours obtain to a replacement, and they were not able to separate this into two steps as we have our replacements. Correlation between our $\log K_1 K_2$ values in dmso and theirs in benzene is poor (Figure 5). In general our formation constants follow ligand basicity, with slight modification when very electronegative substituents are para to the pyridine nitrogen, whereas their constants and to a greater extent enthalpy changes are dominated by π back-acceptance from the iron t2g orbitals of the haems by the ligands chosen by Cole, Curthoys and Magnusson.

Acknowledgements

M.V. Twigg thanks the Science Research Council for a post-graduate studentship. J.G. Jones thanks the S.R.C. for the award of technical help and the University of Coimbra, Portugal, for hospitality and the use of their excellent library.



Figure 5. Comparison of overall formation constants ($\log_{10} K_1 K_2$) for the binding of pyridines to ferrous phthalocyanine in dmso and to Protoporphyrin Iron(II) dimethyl ester in benzene.

References

- 1 B.W. Dale, D. Phil. Thesis, Oxford, (1966).
- 2 (a) J.E. Falk in "Phorphyrins and Metallo porphyrins", Elsevier, New York (1964);
 (b) W.S. Caughey, W.Y. Fujimoto and B.P. Johnson, *Biochem.*, 5, 3830 (1966);
 (c) S.J. Cole, G.C. Curthoys and E.A. Magnusson, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 92, 2991 (1970); 93, 2152 (1971);
 (d) P. Hambright, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, 6, 247 (1971).
- 3 M. Whalley, J. Chem. Soc., 866 (1961).
- 4 J.G. Jones and M.V. Twigg, *Inorg. Chem.*, 8, 2018 (1969).
 5 (a) B.J. Thamer and A.E. Voigt, *J. Phys. Chem.* 56, 225 (1952);
- (b) Kok-Peng Ang, J. Phys. Chem. 62, 1109 (1958).
- 6 J.G. Jones and M.V. Twigg, J.I.N.C. Letters (1972), 8, 305.
- 7 C.H. Kirksey, P. Hambright and C.B. Storm, *Inorg. Chem.* 8, 2141 (1969).
- 8 (a) J.J.R.F. da Silva and J.G. Calaldo, J. Inorg. Nuc. Chem. 28, 125 (1966);
 (b) B.W. Dale, R.J.P. Williams, P.R. Edwards and C.E. Johnson, Trans. Far. Soc. 64, 620 (1968);
 (c) F.A. Cotton and G. Wilkinson, "Modern Inorganic Chemistry" 2nd Ed., Wiley, New York (1966), pp. 706– 709.
- 9 D.J. Farrington, J.G. Jones and M.V. Twigg, in preparation.

^{*} It could be remarked that K_2 values, apart from that of 4-aminopyridine, span only one order of magnitude, so that it could be argued that K_2 was invariant with pK. But K_2 for 4-aminopyridine is large and subject to less error than smaller K_2 values, so that our feeling is that it cannot be neglected.