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Zn(II) and Cd(II)-azido/thiocyanato complexes with thiazolyazo dye and triphenylphosphine: synthesis, characterization and fluorescence

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[M(L)(PPh₃)₂X₂] [where M = Zn(II) or Cd(II); L = 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolyazo)chlorobenzene (L₁), 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolyazo)bromobenzene (L₂), 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolyazo)iodobenzene (L₃); PPh₃ = triphenylphosphine; X = N₃⁻ or NCS⁻] have been prepared. The complexes were characterized by microanalyses, molar conductance, IR, UV-vis, ¹H NMR, ³¹P NMR, and mass spectral studies. IR spectra reveal that L₁₋₃ coordinate bidentate via azo and thiazole nitrogens. An octahedral geometry is proposed for all the complexes. Thermal behavior indicates that the thiocyanato complexes are more stable than the azide complexes. All the complexes exhibit blue-green emission as a result of fluorescence from the intraligand ($\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$) emission excited state.

Keywords: Thiazolyazo dyes; Zn(II)/Cd(II) complexes; Thermal properties; Fluorescence

1. Introduction

Transition metal complexes with hybrid ligands have been widely explored because they can provide new materials with useful magnetic exchange [1–4], electrical conductivity [5, 6], photoluminescence [7, 8], nonlinear optical property [9, 10], and antimicrobial activity [11, 12]. Arylazo derivatives containing azoimine ($-\text{N}=\text{N}-\text{C}=\text{N}-$) of π -acidic character and *N,N'*-chelating system are an active area of research. The azoimine function stabilizes lower oxidation states of metal ions and tunes the redox and spectroscopic properties of the complex. Such compounds possess properties including molecular aggregation, optical data storage and tautomerization, which define a distinct class of dye-stuffs [13, 14]. Thiazolyazo compounds are important because they can form coordination compounds due to several electron rich donor centers with unusual structural and chemical properties. Because of the wide utility of thiazolyazo derivatives acting as polyfunctional ligands, coordination chemistry of thiazolyazo has been intensively investigated [15–18]. Triphenylphosphine is a versatile strong π -accepting ligand, capable to stabilize complexes in low oxidation states. Azide (N₃⁻) and thiocyanate (NCS⁻) form monomeric, dimeric or polymeric complexes because of versatile coordination modes and ability to mediate strong magnetic coupling.

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In continuation of our earlier work on structural characterization of transition metal complexes containing thiazolylazo ligands and their luminescence properties [19], we report herein synthesis and characterization of Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes derived from 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo)chlorobenzene (**L**₁), 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo)bromobenzene (**L**₂), and 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo)iodobenzene (**L**₃) with triphenylphosphine and N₃⁻ or NCS⁻ as coligands. The complexes were characterized by elemental analyses, molar conductance, spectral (IR, UV-vis, ¹H NMR, ³¹P NMR, ESI-MS) and thermal studies. The fluorescence properties of these complexes are also investigated in dichloromethane solution at room temperature.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and methods

All the chemicals were of analytical reagent grade and of highest purity available. 4-Phenyl, 2-aminothiazole was synthesized by reported procedure [20]. Microanalyses (C, H, N and S) were performed on a Thermo Finnigan FLASH EA-112 CHNS analyzer; molar conductance (*A*_M) was measured on an ELICO (CM-185) conductivity bridge using *ca.* 10⁻³ M solution in dichloromethane. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR spectrometer as KBr pellets from 4000–400 cm⁻¹. Electronic spectra were recorded in dichloromethane (10⁻⁴ M) on a Shimadzu UV-vis-NIR-100 spectrophotometer. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-300 MHz instrument in CDCl₃, using TMS [(CH₃)₄Si] as an internal standard. ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded using a Varian Mercury-300 FT-NMR spectrometer and are referenced to residual chloroform (7.26 ppm) or external H₃PO₄ (0.0 ppm), respectively. ESI mass spectra were recorded in methanol using a Bruker Apex3. Thermal analyses of the complexes were carried out on a Perkin-Elmer thermal analyzer in nitrogen at a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹. The fluorescence properties were measured using a JASCO F P-750 fluorescence spectrophotometer at room temperature (298 K) in dichloromethane solution with 1 cm³ path length quartz cell. Fluorescent life time was measured on a Jobin Yvon IBH time-resolved fluorescence spectrometer.

2.2. Synthesis of **L**₁₋₃

The ligands 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo)chlorobenzene (**L**₁), 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo)bromobenzene (**L**₂), and 4-(4'-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo)iodobenzene (**L**₃) were prepared by diazotization of 4-phenyl, 2-aminothiazole by reported procedure [19] and were characterized by elemental analyses, IR, and UV-Vis spectra.

2.3. Preparation of azido complexes (**1a–3a** and **1b–3b**)

To a methanolic solution of metal salt (1 mM, 0.297 g Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O or 0.308 g Cd(NO₃)₂·4H₂O), a methanolic solution of **L** (1 mM, 0.299 g **L**₁, 0.344 g **L**₂ or 0.391 g **L**₃) was added while stirring. To this, a CH₂Cl₂ solution (5 mL) of triphenylphosphine (2 mM, 0.524 g) was added, followed by addition of NaN₃ (2 mM, 0.130 g) in warm methanol. The resultant mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature whereupon the complexes were precipitated, collected by filtration, and washed with ethanol–water (1 : 1) mixture and dried under vacuum over CaCl₂.

Complex 1a: Yield 63%; m.p. 247 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $C_{51}H_{40}N_9SP_2ClZn$: C, 62.90; H, 4.14; N, 12.95; found: C, 62.77; H, 4.28; N, 12.82; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=N)$, 1592; $\nu(N=N)$, 1437; $\nu(PPh_3)$, 1480, 744, 690; $\nu(N_3)$, 2172, 1348; Δ_m (CH_2Cl_2 , $\Omega^{-1}cm^2M^{-1}$): 16.73; UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3$, $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$): 292 (21), 338 (13), 463 (5); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.62–7.74 (m, Ar-H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.3; ESI MS, m/z (%): 997 ($[M+Na]^+$, 24); 999 ($[M+Na+2]^+$, 8); 913 ($[Zn(L_1)(PPh_3)_2]^+$, 100); 391 ($[Zn(L_1)]^+$, 41).

Complex 2a: Yield 62%; m.p. 253 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $C_{51}H_{40}N_9SP_2BrZn$: C, 60.16; H, 3.96; N, 12.38; found: C, 60.34; H, 3.81; N, 12.34; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=N)$, 1595; $\nu(N=N)$, 1440; $\nu(PPh_3)$, 1478, 748, 695; $\nu(N_3)$, 2173, 1342; Δ_m (CH_2Cl_2 , $\Omega^{-1}cm^2M^{-1}$): 22.31; UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3$, $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$): 290 (25), 335 (17), 454 (4); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.74–7.96 (m, Ar-H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1041 ($[M+Na]^+$, 21); 1043 ($[M+Na+2]^+$, 20); 957 ($[Zn(L_2)(PPh_3)_2]^+$, 100); 435 ($[Zn(L_2)]^+$, 38).

Complex 3a: Yield 65%; m.p. 254 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $C_{51}H_{40}N_9SP_2IZn$: C, 57.50; H, 3.79; N, 11.84; found: C, 57.63; H, 3.91; N, 11.74; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=N)$, 1586; $\nu(N=N)$, 1434; $\nu(PPh_3)$, 1484, 740, 692; $\nu(N_3)$, 2173, 1346; Δ_m (CH_2Cl_2 , $\Omega^{-1}cm^2M^{-1}$): 18.32; UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3$, $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$): 290 (23), 340 (19), 446 (4); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.64–7.88 (m, Ar-H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1089 ($[M+Na]^+$, 28); 1005 ($[Zn(L_3)(PPh_3)_2]^+$, 100); 483 ($[Zn(L_3)]^+$, 42).

Complex 1b: Yield 64%; m.p. 237 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $C_{51}H_{40}N_9SP_2ClCd$: C, 60.00; H, 3.95; N, 12.35; found: C, 59.58; H, 3.94; N, 12.39; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=N)$, 1592; $\nu(N=N)$, 1437; $\nu(PPh_3)$, 1480, 744, 690; $\nu(N_3)$, 2172, 1346; Δ_m (CH_2Cl_2 , $\Omega^{-1}cm^2M^{-1}$): 18.70; UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3$, $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$): 282 (27), 340 (15), 450 (6); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.72–7.80 (m, Ar-H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.3; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1044 ($[M+Na]^+$, 24); 1046 ($[M+Na+2]^+$, 7); 960 ($[Cd(L_1)(PPh_3)_2]^+$, 100); 438 ($[Cd(L_1)]^+$, 45).

Complex 2b: Yield 64%; m.p. 243 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $C_{51}H_{40}N_9SP_2BrCd$: C, 57.50; H, 3.79; N, 11.84; found: C, 57.47; H, 3.78; N, 11.87; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=N)$, 1595; $\nu(N=N)$, 1440; $\nu(PPh_3)$, 1484, 748, 695; $\nu(N_3)$, 2173, 1348; Δ_m (CH_2Cl_2 , $\Omega^{-1}cm^2M^{-1}$): 26.34; UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3$, $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$): 292 (31), 342 (14), 448 (5); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.76–7.94 (m, Ar-H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1089 ($[M+Na]^+$, 21); 1091 ($[M+Na+2]^+$, 22); 1004 ($[Cd(L_2)(PPh_3)_2]^+$, 100); 483 ($[Cd(L_2)]^+$, 41).

Complex 3b: Yield 65%; m.p. 254 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $C_{51}H_{40}N_9SP_2ICd$: C, 55.07; H, 3.63; N, 11.34; found: C, 54.98; H, 3.62; N, 11.37; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=N)$, 1586; $\nu(N=N)$, 1434; $\nu(PPh_3)$, 1482, 740, 692; $\nu(N_3)$, 2173, 1342; Δ_m (CH_2Cl_2 , $\Omega^{-1}cm^2M^{-1}$): 18.32; UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3$, $M^{-1}cm^{-1}$): 290 (29), 342 (20), 447 (5); 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.70–7.88 (m, Ar-H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1136 ($[M+Na]^+$, 19); 1052 ($[Cd(L_3)(PPh_3)_2]^+$, 100); 530 ($[Cd(L_3)]^+$, 37).

2.4. Preparation of thiocyanato complexes (4a–6a and 4b–6b)

To a methanolic solution of metal salt (1 mM, 0.297 g $Zn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ or 0.308 g $Cd(NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$), a methanolic solution of **L** (1 mM, 0.299 g **L**₁, 0.344 g **L**₂ or 0.391 g **L**₃)

was added while stirring. To this, a CH_2Cl_2 solution (5 mL) of triphenylphosphine (2 mM, 0.524 g) was added, followed by addition of NH_4NCS (2 mM, 0.152 g) in warm methanol. The resultant mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature whereupon the complexes were precipitated, collected by filtration, and washed with ethanol–water (1 : 1) mixture and dried under vacuum over CaCl_2 .

Complex 4a: Yield 62%; m.p. 272 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{53}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_5\text{S}_3\text{P}_2\text{ClZn}$: C, 63.28; H, 4.01; N, 6.96; found: C, 63.17; H, 3.89; N, 6.81; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1592; $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$, 1437; $\nu(\text{PPh}_3)$, 1480, 744, 690; $\nu(\text{NCS})$, 2096, 756, 486; $\Delta_{\text{m}}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{M}^{-1})$: 19.92; UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3, \text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 286 (26), 342 (17), 462 (4); ^1H NMR (CH_2Cl_2) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.65–7.93 (m, Ar–H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1029 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 15); 1031 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}+2]^+$, 5); 913 ($[\text{Zn}(\text{L}_1)(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$, 100); 391 ($[\text{Zn}(\text{L}_1)]^+$, 35).

Complex 5a: Yield 64%; m.p. 258 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{53}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_5\text{S}_3\text{P}_2\text{BrZn}$: C, 60.60; H, 3.84; N, 6.67; found: C, 60.75; H, 3.69; N, 6.54; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1595; $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$, 1440; $\nu(\text{PPh}_3)$, 1484, 748, 695; $\nu(\text{NCS})$, 2096, 754, 488; $\Delta_{\text{m}}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{M}^{-1})$: 21.51; UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3, \text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 284 (24), 335 (14), 452 (4); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.77–7.82 (m, Ar–H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.3; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1073 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 17); 1075 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}+2]^+$, 17); 957 ($[\text{Zn}(\text{L}_2)(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$, 100); 435 ($[\text{Zn}(\text{L}_2)]^+$, 45).

Complex 6a: Yield 62%; m.p. 264 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{53}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_5\text{S}_3\text{P}_2\text{IZn}$: C, 58.01; H, 3.67; N, 6.38; found: C, 58.13; H, 3.54; N, 6.53; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1586; $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$, 1434; $\nu(\text{PPh}_3)$, 1482, 740, 692; $\nu(\text{NCS})$, 2095, 750 484; $\Delta_{\text{m}}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{M}^{-1})$: 15.93; UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3, \text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 288 (27), 346 (12), 450 (3); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.65–7.96 (m, Ar–H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.4; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1121 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 12); 1005 ($[\text{Zn}(\text{L}_3)(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$, 100); 483 ($[\text{Zn}(\text{L}_3)]^+$, 32).

Complex 4b: Yield 61%; m.p. 272 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{53}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_5\text{S}_3\text{P}_2\text{ClCd}$: C, 60.46; H, 3.83; N, 6.65; found: C, 60.44; H, 3.82; N, 6.67; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1592; $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$, 1437; $\nu(\text{PPh}_3)$, 1480, 744, 690; $\nu(\text{NCS})$, 2096, 755, 490; $\Delta_{\text{m}}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{M}^{-1})$: 18.90; UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3, \text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 286 (29), 348 (16), 450 (6); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.82–7.86 (m, Ar–H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1076 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 24); 1078 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}+2]^+$, 8); 960 ($[\text{Cd}(\text{L}_1)(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$, 100); 438 ($[\text{Cd}(\text{L}_1)]^+$, 45).

Complex 5b: Yield 64%; m.p. 248 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{53}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_5\text{S}_3\text{P}_2\text{BrCd}$: C, 58.01; H, 3.67; N, 6.38; found: C, 57.99; H, 3.67; N, 6.48; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1595; $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$, 1440; $\nu(\text{PPh}_3)$, 1484, 748, 695; $\nu(\text{NCS})$, 2096, 752, 488; $\Delta_{\text{m}}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{M}^{-1})$: 22.12; UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3, \text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 296 (25), 335 (18), 448 (6); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.72–7.94 (m, Ar–H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.2; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1121 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 21); 1123 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}+2]^+$, 21); 1005 ($[\text{Cd}(\text{L}_2)(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$, 100); 483 ($[\text{Cd}(\text{L}_2)]^+$, 39).

Complex 6b: Yield 63%; m.p. 252 °C; Elemental analyses (C, H and N, wt.%) Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{53}\text{H}_{40}\text{N}_5\text{S}_3\text{P}_2\text{ICd}$: C, 55.63; H, 3.52; N, 6.12; found: C, 55.61; H, 3.52; N, 6.14; IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1586; $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$, 1434; $\nu(\text{PPh}_3)$, 1482, 740, 692; $\nu(\text{NCS})$, 2095, 750, 486; $\Delta_{\text{m}}(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2, \Omega^{-1}\text{cm}^2\text{M}^{-1})$: 17.20; UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) ($\epsilon \times 10^3, \text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 288 (30), 342 (21), 446 (5); ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) (300 MHz): δ (ppm) 6.68–7.88 (m, Ar–H); ^{31}P NMR: δ (ppm) 35.3; ESI MS, m/z (%): 1167 ($[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$, 14); 1051 ($[\text{Cd}(\text{L}_3)(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+$, 100); 529 ($[\text{Cd}(\text{L}_3)]^+$, 31).

3. Results and discussion

Reaction of thiazolylazo ligands \mathbf{L}_{1-3} with Zn(II) or Cd(II) in presence of triphenylphosphine and NaN_3 or NH_4NCS in 1 : 1 : 2 : 2 M ratio yields $[\text{M}(\mathbf{L})(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{N}_3)_2]$ (**1a-3a** and **1b-3b**) and $[\text{M}(\mathbf{L})(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\text{NCS})_2]$ (**4a-6a** and **4b-6b**); where $\text{M} = \text{Zn(II), Cd(II)}$; $\mathbf{L} = 4\text{-}(4'\text{-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo})\text{chlorobenzene}$ (\mathbf{L}_1), $4\text{-}(4'\text{-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo})\text{bromobenzene}$ (\mathbf{L}_2), $4\text{-}(4'\text{-phenyl, 2'-thiazolylazo})\text{iodobenzene}$ (\mathbf{L}_3); and $\text{PPh}_3 = \text{triphenylphosphine}$ (figure 1). The air stable, moisture insensitive complexes are soluble in chloroform, dichloromethane, acetonitrile, etc. The elemental analyses support the assigned composition of the complexes.

3.1. Molar conductivity

The solubility of the complexes in CH_2Cl_2 permitted calculation of molar conductivity of 10^{-3} M solutions at 25°C and, by comparison, the electrolytic nature of each complex. The molar conductance of the complexes are $16.73\text{--}26.34\ \Omega^{-1}\text{ cm}^2\text{ M}^{-1}$ indicating that, although some dissociation of these complexes seems to occur in the solvent, the conductance value supports the non-electrolytic nature of the complexes [21]. This is further supported by the general formula of the complexes from elemental analyses and IR spectra.

3.2. Spectral studies

The structure of the complexes is also supported by IR spectra and comparison of IR spectrum of \mathbf{L}_{1-3} with those of metal complexes. A medium strong band at $1624\text{--}1630\ \text{cm}^{-1}$ in the free \mathbf{L}_{1-3} is assigned to $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ of thiazole nitrogen, shifted to lower frequencies by $32\text{--}34\ \text{cm}^{-1}$ in spectra of all complexes, suggesting involvement of thiazole nitrogen in coordination [22]. Another band at $1466\text{--}1472\ \text{cm}^{-1}$ in spectra of \mathbf{L}_{1-3} , assigned to $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$ shifts to lower frequency ($1434\text{--}1440\ \text{cm}^{-1}$) in the complexes providing evidence for coordination of azo nitrogen [23]. This was also confirmed by a new band at

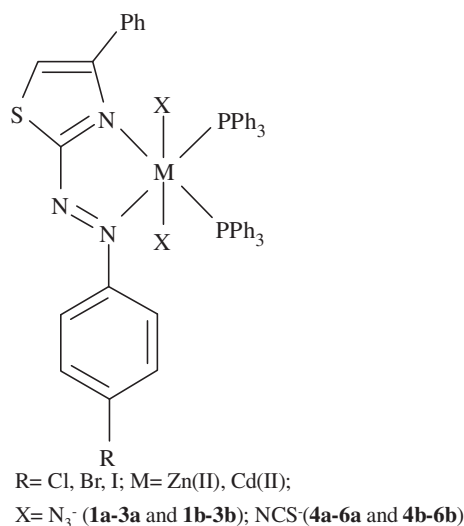


Figure 1. Proposed structures of the complexes.

436–442 cm^{-1} due to $\nu(\text{M}-\text{N})$ [24]. A band observed at $\sim 746 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in spectra of free **L**_{1–3} remains unaltered in the spectra of all complexes, indicating non-involvement of thiazole sulfur in coordination. IR spectra of **1a–6a** and **1b–6b** exhibit the expected bands due to PPh_3 at 1481, 744 and 692 cm^{-1} . The azido complexes (**1a–3a** and **1b–3b**) exhibit $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{N}_3)$ of the azide at $\sim 2172 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and a band at $\sim 1345 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ attributed to $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{N}_3)$ corresponding to terminally coordinated azide in the complexes [25]. In thiocyanato complexes (**4a–6a** and **4b–6b**), a very strong and sharp band at $\sim 2095 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, a medium band at $\sim 752 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and a weak band at $\sim 487 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ are assigned to $\nu(\text{CN})$, $\nu(\text{CS})$ and $\delta(\text{NCS})$ of NCS, respectively. The intensity and position of these bands indicate monodentate coordination through nitrogen [26].

Electronic spectra for all the complexes were recorded in dichloromethane (10^{-4} M) from 200 to 900 nm. The complexes exhibit two bands at 284–292 and 335–346 nm for **1a–6a**, and 282–296 nm and 335–348 nm for **1b–6b**, due to intra-ligand $\pi-\pi^*$ and $n-\pi^*$ transitions, respectively. Another intense absorption at 446–463 (**1a–6a**) and 446–450 (**1b–6b**) nm may be assigned to metal to ligand charge transfer transition.

The ^1H NMR spectra of all the complexes were recorded in CDCl_3 . ^1H NMR spectra of **1a–6a** and **1b–6b** show resonances of phenyl protons of PPh_3 overlap to some extent with those of phenyl hydrogens of **L**_{1–3} (Supplementary material). The broad multiplet at $\delta 6.62\text{--}7.96$ ppm in **1a–6a** and $\delta 6.68\text{--}7.94$ ppm in **1b–6b** is assigned to phenyl protons of PPh_3 together with ring protons of **L**_{1–3}. Comparison with resonances observed in complexes with free **L**_{1–3} indicates downfield shift of ring protons by 0.1–0.2 ppm in the complexes.

The ^{31}P NMR spectra of all complexes in CDCl_3 show a resonance at ~ 35.2 ppm consistent with octahedral geometry around metal ion, and presence of two equivalent *cis* phosphine moieties in the complexes [27].

3.3. Thermal analysis

To examine thermal stability, thermogravimetric (TG) and differential thermal analyses (DTA) were carried out for **1a–6a** to 1000°C under nitrogen. The thermal analysis data are presented in table 1.

Thermal decomposition of the azide complexes (**1a**, **2a**, and **3a**) involves three decomposition stages. The complexes show no mass loss to 155, 152, and 158°C , respectively, revealing the absence of water or solvent in the complexes. The first decomposition stage takes place at 155–270, 152–274 and $158\text{--}268^\circ\text{C}$ with DTA peaks at 230°C (**1a**), 217°C (**2a**), and 214°C (**3a**), respectively, corresponding to mass loss of 9.23, 7.65, and 8.74% of azide (Calcd% = 8.62, 8.24, and 7.88). The second step occurs at 270–384, 274–386, and $268\text{--}384^\circ\text{C}$ accompanied by a mass loss of 29.47, 32.10, and 35.06% for **1a**, **2a**, and **3a**, respectively, corresponding to decomposition of **L** (Calcd% = 30.76, 33.78 and 36.70). The DTA curve gives peaks at 336 for **1a**, 342 for **2a**, and 340°C for **3a**. The third step takes place at 384–840, 386–835 and $384\text{--}836^\circ\text{C}$ for **1a**, **2a**, and **3a**, respectively, corresponding to mass loss of 52.92, 52.54 and 50.85% attributed to decomposition of triphenylphosphine (Calcd% = 53.78, 51.53 and 49.16) leaving ZnO as a residue.

The thiocyanato complexes **4a**, **5a**, and **6a** show similar behavior; once again absence of water or solvent is indicated by no mass loss to 168, 167, or 171°C for **4a**, **5a**, and **6a**, respectively. The first stage corresponding to mass loss of 10.40, 10.54, and 11.63% may be attributed to decomposition of thiocyanate (Calcd% = 11.53, 11.04 and 10.57) at $168\text{--}276$, $167\text{--}278$, and $171\text{--}282^\circ\text{C}$ with exothermic peak at 250°C for **4a**, 248°C for **5a**,

Table 1. Thermal behavior of the Zn(II) complexes.

Compound	Thermogravimetry (TG)			Mass loss (%)		Decomposition product loss
	Stage	Temp. range (°C)	DTA peak (°C)	Found	Calcd	
1a	I	155–270	230	9.23	8.62	2N ₃
	II	270–384	336	29.47	30.76	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ N ₃ SCl
	III	384–840	814	52.92	53.78	2C ₁₈ H ₁₅ P
2a	I	152–274	217	7.65	8.24	2N ₃
	II	274–386	342	32.10	33.78	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ N ₃ SBr
	III	386–835	812	52.54	51.53	2C ₁₈ H ₁₅ P
3a	I	158–268	214	8.74	7.88	2N ₃
	II	268–384	340	35.06	36.70	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ N ₃ SI
	III	384–836	812	50.85	49.16	2C ₁₈ H ₁₅ P
4a	I	168–276	250	10.40	11.53	2NCS
	II	276–388	348	28.34	29.78	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ N ₃ SCl
	III	388–882	810	50.76	52.07	2C ₁₈ H ₁₅ P
5a	I	167–278	248	10.54	11.04	2NCS
	II	278–384	344	33.64	32.75	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ N ₃ SBr
	III	384–875	824	48.27	49.87	2C ₁₈ H ₁₅ P
6a	I	171–282	242	11.63	10.57	2NCS
	II	282–388	340	32.94	31.37	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ N ₃ SI
	III	388–885	820	48.07	53.98	2C ₁₈ H ₁₅ P

and 242 °C for **6a**. The second stage occurs at 276–388, 278–384, and 282–388 °C, accompanied by mass loss of 28.34, 33.64, and 32.94%, respectively, attributed to decomposition of **L** (Calcd%=29.78, 32.75, and 31.37%) with DTA peak at 348 °C for **4a**, 344 °C for **5a**, and 340 °C for **6a**. In the third stage (388–882, 384–875, and 388–885 °C) mass losses of 50.76, 48.27, and 48.07% in **1a**, **2a**, and **3a** correspond to decomposition of triphenylphosphine leaving anhydrous ZnO (Calcd%=52.07, 49.87, and 53.98).

3.4. Fluorescence spectral studies

The fluorescence properties of Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes were investigated in dichloromethane solution at room temperature (figures 2 and 3), and fluorescence emission data are presented in table 2. The Zn(II) complexes (**1a–6a**) show emission with maximum wavelength at 426–438 nm ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 342\text{--}348$ nm), with lifetime of the fluorescence of 2.53–2.57 ns. However, Cd(II) complexes (**1b–6b**) show intense broad emission at 428–436 nm ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 344\text{--}350$ nm), with lifetime of 2.56–2.63 ns. Compared to **L**_{1–3}, all the complexes show strong fluorescence in dichloromethane, enhanced by >128 nm. No emissions originating from the metal-centered excited states are observed for Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes, since they are difficult to oxidize or reduce. The emission observed in these complexes is attributed to the fluorescence from the intraligand ($\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$) emission excited state. The slight red-shifts of Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes in comparison to their respective ligands **L**_{1–3}, probably result from formation of mononuclear complexes effectively increasing the ligand conformational rigidity and thus, reducing non-radiative energy loss [28, 29].

The fluorescence quantum yields (ϕ) of the complexes were determined using quinine sulfate as a reference with known ϕ_{R} of 0.52. The area of emission spectrum was integrated using the software available in the instrument and quantum yield was calculated according to the following equation

$$\phi_{\text{S}} = A_{\text{S}}/A_{\text{R}} \times (\text{Abs})_{\text{R}}/(\text{Abs})_{\text{S}} \times \phi_{\text{R}}$$

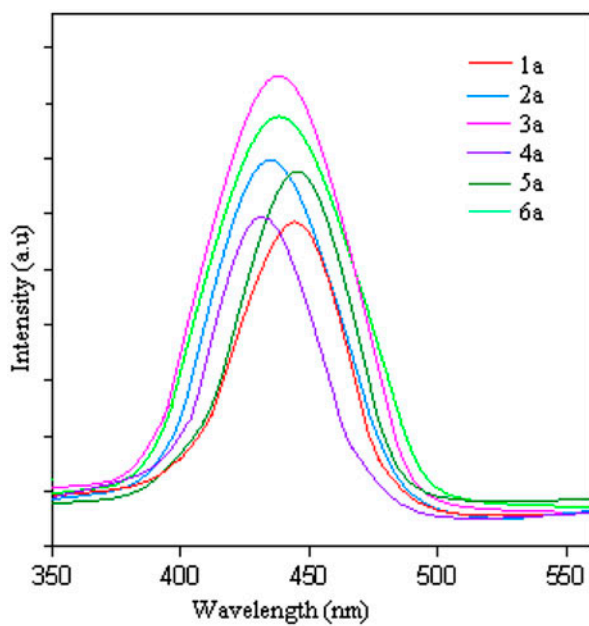


Figure 2. Emission spectra of Zn(II) complexes (1a–6a).

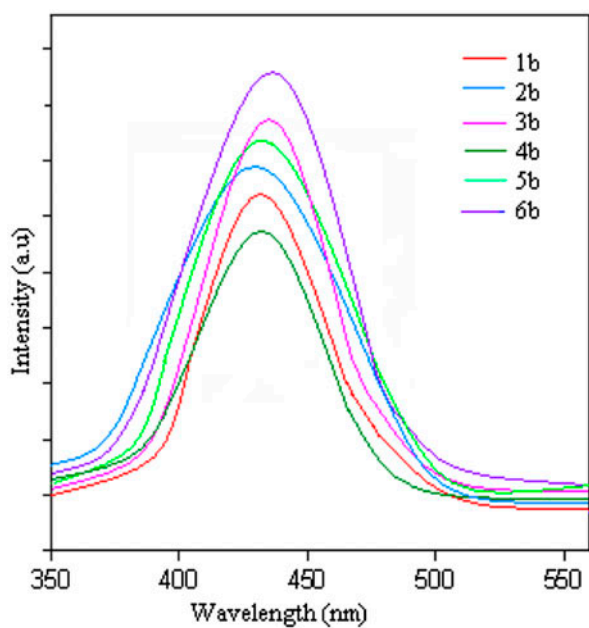


Figure 3. Emission spectra of Cd(II) complexes (1b–6b).

Table 2. Photophysical data of Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes.

Compound	Excitation (nm)	Emission (nm)	Quantum yield (ϕ)
1a	342	438	0.015
2a	348	426	0.017
3a	345	431	0.014
4a	342	426	0.030
5a	345	438	0.014
6a	346	431	0.020
1b	345	430	0.019
2b	348	428	0.034
3b	346	436	0.049
4b	348	431	0.047
5b	344	432	0.030
6b	350	434	0.034

Here ϕ_S and ϕ_R are the fluorescence quantum yields of the sample and reference, respectively. A_S and A_R are the area under the fluorescence spectra of the sample and reference respectively. $(Abs)_S$ and $(Abs)_R$ are the respective optical densities of the sample and the reference solution at the wavelength of excitation. The fluorescence quantum yields of all the complexes are 0.014–0.030 for **1a–6a** and 0.019–0.049 for **1b–6b**. Higher quantum yields observed for **1b–6b** compared to **1a–6a** might be due to ligands coordinated to Cd(II) better than Zn(II). These results are in agreement with those reported in the literature [30].

4. Conclusion

Some Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes (**1a–6a** and **1b–6b**) of thiazolylazo dye with triphenylphosphine and N_3^- or NCS^- as coligands have been synthesized and characterized. IR spectra reveal that the thiazolylazo is coordinated bidentate via azo nitrogen and thiazole nitrogen. TGA/DTA reveals that the thiocyanate complexes are thermally more stable than the azide complexes. All the complexes exhibit blue-green emission as a result of fluorescence from the intraligand ($\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$) emission excited state.

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