

Coordination Studies of the Metal Center of Hemocyanin by $^{199\text{m}}\text{Hg}$ Nuclear Quadrupole Interaction

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The nuclear quadrupole interaction of $^{199\text{m}}\text{Hg}$ monitored by time differential perturbed angular correlations of γ -rays was employed to investigate the binding of Hg(II) to the binuclear metal site in the copper protein hemocyanin *Eurypelma californicum*. The data indicate that Hg(II) occupies the two metal sites and alters the metal site geometry from a trigonal to a digonal coordination.

Key words: Hemocyanin; Hg(II) Coordination; Perturbed Angular Correlation of γ -rays.