Eco-Friendly Approach to Corrosion Inhibition of Copper in HNO$_3$ Solution by the Expired Tylosin Drug

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Received: 4.07.2021; Revised: 15.09.2021; Accepted: 20.09.2021; Published: 17.10.2021

Abstract: Expired Tylosin Drug (ETD) is examined as corrosion inhibitor for copper (Cu) dipped in 2.0 M HNO$_3$. The study was conducted utilizing ac impedance spectroscopy (EIS), weight loss (WL), polarization, and surface checks to illustrate the importance of this ETD to prevent the corrosion process for Cu. The influence of temperature and concentration of ETD on the efficiency of inhibition were tested. The corrosion mechanism occurs when the ETD molecules block the active center in the electrode surface. Langmuir isotherm is the isotherm that is applied in the process of adsorption. The effect of temperature at various temperatures on the corrosion efficiency was investigated in case of the presence and absence of ETD. Finally, thermodynamic parameters for the inhibition process were determined. Results were of all methods used are in good agreement.

Keywords: corrosion; inhibition; Langmuir isotherm; copper; ETD; EIS.

1. Introduction

Copper is a relatively noble metal that does not corrode readily in acids unless some oxidizing agents or oxygen is present. For that reason, it is broadly used in the manufacturing of electrical conductors, thermal exchangers, and electronics [1–2]. To fabricate electronic components, copper must be dissolved in aggressive solutions and be electroplated. Some electronic components like printed circuit boards must be treated with corrosive solutions during fabrication to remove scales. Nitric acid is one of the aggressive solutions frequently used in various industries [3]. There are many methods of controlling and preventing corrosion. The use of corrosion inhibitors is the most common [4]. Corrosion inhibitors have been used since the 19th century; they work by adsorption of ions or molecules on a metal surface [5]. Scientists are ever in search of novel, efficient, and economical corrosion inhibitors species to minimize corrosion [6]. Recently, some authors examined the inhibiting action of drugs such as (Table 1):

| Sample | Inhibitor (drug)      | Medium | % IE | References |
|--------|-----------------------|--------|------|------------|
| Copper | Losartan Potassium (LP) | H$_2$SO$_4$ | 91.2 | [7]        |
| Copper | Meropenem               | HCl    | 87.6 | [8]        |
| Copper | Cefpirome               | H$_2$SO$_4$ | 91.9 | [9]        |
| Copper | Streptoquin             | HCl    | 83.1 | [10]       |

It was proved by the earlier researchers that organic molecules bearing hetero atoms like N, O, S, etc., and containing aromatic rings act as good corrosion protecting molecules.
The aim of the current work is to study the impact of expired Tylosin as a new compound on the inhibition of copper corrosion in 2 N HNO₃ solutions. In our investigation, we used the chemical method (gravimetric method), electrochemical practices (potentiodynamic polarization and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy) in addition to studying the metal surface by AFM, FT-IR- and XPS.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Components of sampling materials.

| Element | Sn | Fe | Ag | Bi | Pb | As | Cu |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Wt %    | 0.001 | 0.01 | 0.001 | 0.005 | 0.002 | 0.0002 | The rest |

2.2. Solutions.

2M nitric acid (HNO₃) was prepared in the laboratory by diluting the appropriate volume of analytical grade, 69% HNO₃, with bi-distilled water. Using the prepared HNO₃, different solutions containing 2.0 M HNO₃ were prepared without or by adding different concentrations of ETD ranging from 50 to 300 ppm. By liquefying an appropriate mass of the ETD (1.0 g) in a specified volume of bi-distilled water, 1000 ml stock solutions (1000 ppm) of the examined ETD were created (1.0 L). By liquefying the stock ETD and employing an aggressive solution, the tested dosages ranging from (50–300 ppm) were prepared.

2.3. Inhibitor.

ETD is a pharmaceutical chemical that is easily soluble in water, has a higher molecular weight, contains numerous donating atoms (N and O), is readily available as a medicinal medicine, is non-toxic, and has the following structure:

![Chemical structure of ETD](image)

Chemical Formula: C₄₆H₇₇NO₁₇
Molecular weight: 916.112 g·mol⁻¹

Figure 1. Molecular structure of ETD.

2.4. Weight loss (WL) measurements.

The WL is used to investigate the dissolution of Cu in a fresh solution of 2.0 M HNO₃ and the absence of ETD dose changes. Seven samples are cut and sanded the same way as before, then washed in double distilled water, dried, and weighed (w₀). WL measurements were taken by dipping the sheet in 100 ml of aggressive medium with and without various dosages (50 to 300 ppm) of the ETD for 180 minutes at a temperature range of 25-40°C. At 30-minute
intervals, the samples were taken from the test solution, submerged in water, dried, and reweighed (w). (IE%) and the degree of Cu coverage (θ) have been computed by the balance:

\[
\%\text{IE} = \theta \times 100 = \left( \frac{W^0 - W}{W^0} \right) \times 100
\]

(1)

where, \(w\) and \(w^0\) refer to the WL of Cu per unit area in the attendance and absence of the examined ETD, consistently. The corrosion rate (C.R) was dignified from:

\[
C.R = \frac{\Delta W}{A \cdot t}
\]

(2)

where, WL (mg) is \(\Delta W\), the sample surface area exposed to the solution in cm\(^2\) expressed by A, and the submersion time as \(t\) in min.

2.5 Potentiodynamic polarization (PP) tests.

The potentiodynamic tests were utilized through a cell consisting of three classic electrodes, the working electrode studied. This electrode is made of Cu metal, and the surface area exposed in it is 1 cm\(^2\). Before utilizing the electrode, it is processed according to the tested following WL. The working electrode is employed in the solution utilized at the OCP for 30 minutes, where the stability condition is obtained. Polarization bends were confirmed at a steady scan rate of 0.5 mVs\(^{-1}\) initially from 0.35 V to -1.3 V (SCE) [11, 12]. In this test, the current density is a function of the calculation. Experiments are repeated three times to confirm them”. The IE% enabled for ETD is as bellow balance:

\[
%\text{IE}_{p} = \theta \times 100 = \left( \frac{i^*_{\text{corr}} - i_{\text{corr}}}{i^*_{\text{corr}}} \right) \times 100
\]

(3)

where \(i^*_{\text{corr}}\) and \(i_{\text{corr}}\) are the uninhibited and inhibited corrosion current density data, individually.

2.6 AC impedance spectroscopy (EIS) test.

EIS conducted the experiment by utilizing AC signals with amplitudes ranging from 100 kHz to 100 mHz and peaks of 5 mV at OCP. Using the Gamry Echem software and the charge transfer resistance (\(R_{\text{ct}}\)) as a function of significant the value of protection, all of the impedance results were compatible with the suitable equivalent circuit [13].

\[
%\text{IE}_{\text{EIS}} = \theta \times 100 = \left( \frac{R_{\text{ct}} - R_{\text{ct}}^0}{R_{\text{ct}}} \right) \times 100
\]

(4)

where \(R_{\text{ct}}\) and \(R_{\text{ct}}^0\) are the resistances for the inhibited and the inhibitor-free system from ETD. In the electrochemical examination, the device utilized in the EIS tests was Gamry includes DC105 DC Corrosion Program and EIS300 EIS program, as well as a computer for data collection. Echem Analyst type 5.5 was utilized to plot, estimate, and synthesize data. All electrochemical educations were useful at 25 °C.
2.7. Morphology of the surface.

2.7.1 Atomic force microscopy (AFM).

AFM is a specialized test that provides information on the surface of a Cu sample with metric linear purity. Persecution is used to execute and appraise measured knowledge. From the computer code for SPM management [14].

2.7.2. Attenuated total reflection Infra-Red (ATR-IR).

The FTIR-Spectrometer iS 10 was used to register FT-IR spectra in the spectral range 4000 to 500 cm\(^{-1}\) using the Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) approach (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). After inhibitor adsorption, an FT-IR spectrum is a useful tool for comparing inhibitor and corrosion products. After a 24-hour immersion in the FT-IR, the peak values for ETD and Cu were recorded in the acid corrosive environment with 300 ppm of ETD [15].

2.7.3. X-ray spectroscopy (XPS) examination.

The morphology of Cu metal samples was evaluated using an electronic X-ray spectroscopy (XPS) equipment ESCALAB 250Xi, Thermo-Scientific, USA, before and after being immersed in a solution of 2 M nitric acid in the presence and absence of ETD (300 ppm) for 24 hours. This method entails, Cu coupons were handled the same way as previous treatment coupons were cured for Wl practice.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. WL tests.

WL measurements of Cu samples were reported after Altered interval time of dipping (30, 60, 90, 120,150 and180 min) at various temperatures (25, 30, 35, 40°C), WL graph at 25°C is shown in Figure 1. The percent IE data at various temperatures is shown in Table 3. The results showed that when ETD was added to the Cu samples, the C.R of the Cu samples decreased in a 2M nitric acid solution. When the ETD dose was increased, the IE percent increased as well. The graphs are virtually linear, indicating that all molecules introduced in the measured concentration range find a free surface site to adsorb on. As a result, each additional molecule plays a direct role in the inhibitory activity. As a result of the Cu-covered surface area, the percent IE grows as the ETD dose improves.

![Figure 2. WL-time diagrams for the liquefaction of Cu in the attendance and absence of altered dose of ETD at 25°C.](https://biointerfaceresearch.com/)
Table 3. The temperatures influence C.R. and %IE of Cu in an acidic environment in the existence and absence of altered dose of ETD.

| Temperature°C | [inh] ppm | C.R. (mg cm\textsuperscript{-2} min\textsuperscript{-1}) | % IE |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|------|
| 25            | 50        | 0.24459                                          | 82.4 |
|                | 100       | 0.17567                                          | 87.4 |
|                | 150       | 0.14459                                          | 89.6 |
|                | 200       | 0.11756                                          | 91.6 |
|                | 250       | 0.10405                                          | 92.5 |
|                | 300       | 0.08243                                          | 94.1 |
| 30            | 50        | 0.47564                                          | 75.7 |
|                | 100       | 0.38228                                          | 80.4 |
|                | 150       | 0.31615                                          | 83.8 |
|                | 200       | 0.2967                                           | 84.8 |
|                | 250       | 0.26169                                          | 86.6 |
|                | 300       | 0.20334                                          | 89.6 |
| 35            | 50        | 0.56781                                          | 71.3 |
|                | 100       | 0.44527                                          | 77.5 |
|                | 150       | 0.39389                                          | 80.1 |
|                | 200       | 0.38203                                          | 80.7 |
|                | 250       | 0.32867                                          | 83.4 |
|                | 300       | 0.26555                                          | 86.6 |
| 40            | 50        | 0.68352                                          | 67.1 |
|                | 100       | 0.56293                                          | 72.9 |
|                | 150       | 0.45898                                          | 77.9 |
|                | 200       | 0.45482                                          | 78.1 |
|                | 250       | 0.41116                                          | 80.2 |
|                | 300       | 0.34671                                          | 83.3 |

3.2. The isotherm in adsorption process.

The adsorption isotherm was used to explain the reaction that happened between the Cu surface and the ETD. The adsorption of the ETD molecule on the Cu surface is thought to have risen as the inhibitor dose was raised. It is also assumed that the adsorption of the investigated ETD occurs in a monolayer so that the adsorption process obeys the Langmuir isotherm. The following equation is used to investigate the adsorption mechanism:

\[
\frac{C_{inh}}{\theta} = \frac{1}{K_{ads}} + C_{inh}
\]  \hspace{1cm} (6)

where C refers to the dose of ETD in the electrolyte, and kads signifies the equilibrium constant for the procedure of adsorption. Commonly, the C.R of Cu in an acidic environment improved with the raising in temperature. The ΔG°ads tests at all measured temperatures can be obtained from the next balance [16]:

\[
K_{ads} = \left(\frac{1}{55.5}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_{ads}^0}{RT}\right)
\]  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where 55.5 refers to the dose of water in (M) at the interface among Cu/solution. ΔH°ads dignified by the balance (8) which is distinct as Van't Hoff [17]:

\[
\lg K_{ads} = \frac{-\Delta H_{ads}^0}{2.303RT} + \text{constant}
\]  \hspace{1cm} (8)

The heat of adsorption (ΔH°ads) was computed by drawing log kads against 1/T as drawn in Figure 4. The slope of the line equals (-ΔH° ads/R). Then by applying the following balance [18]:

\[
\Delta S_{ads}^0 = \frac{\Delta H_{ads}^0 - \Delta G_{ads}^0}{T}
\]  \hspace{1cm} (9)
From the values of $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ and $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ in equation (9), $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ data were obtained at all examined temperatures. In Table 4, resolute thermodynamic tests for the studied ETD on Cu surface in a 2.0 M nitric acid environment were testified. $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ data of the table confirm the spontaneous adsorption of ETD on the Cu surface, through the negative values obtained free energy, whose negative value losses with improving temperature, which confirms that the adsorbed layer is more stable at low temperatures [19, 20]. We know that the data acquired from free energy corroborate that the type of adsorption incidence is physical adsorption, not chemical adsorption, because negative values less than 20 kJ mol$^{-1}$ are known to be physical adsorption, and this matches the results obtained. These findings show that physical adsorption is the dominant mode of adsorption [21-23]. $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ data obtained from measurements of less than 100 kJ mol$^{-1}$ indicates that the adsorption type is physisorption. The exothermic character is explained by the negative indications of $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ values when the ETD is added. In the event of appending the ETD, the entropy of adsorption, $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^\circ$, is negative and tiny, which is associated with an exothermic operation [24].

Figure 3. Bends of Langmuir adsorption of Cu in the nonexistence and existence of altered doses of ETD.

Figure 4. Drawn of log $K_{\text{ads}}$ vs 1000/T for the adsorption of ETD on Cu in 2M HNO$_3$.

Table 4. Parameters of Langmuir adsorption for adsorption of ETD on the Cu surface at altered temperatures.

| Temperature °C | $K_{\text{ads}} \times 10^3$ M$^{-1}$ | $-\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ kJ mol$^{-1}$ | $-\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ kJ mol$^{-1}$ | $-\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^\circ$ J mol$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$ |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 25             | 80                              | 20.8                    | 38                      | 69.7                    |
| 30             | 60                              | 20.4                    | 38                      | 67.3                    |
| 35             | 46                              | 20.1                    | 38                      | 65.1                    |
| 40             | 38                              | 19.9                    | 38                      | 63.5                    |
3.3. The temperature effect on the adsorption process.

The impact of temperature on the Cu dissolution in 2.0 M HNO₃ environment in case of no addition and addition of an altered dose of the ETD was investigated at altered temperatures (25, 30, 35, and 40 ºC) by WL test in Table 3. The greater the temperature, the higher the C.R, and the lower the IE percent of the ETD. These values are presented in Table 3. The WL test was carried out at four different temperatures to determine if the ETD adsorption on the surface of Cu is chemical or physical. The effect of temperature on the corrosion of Cu pieces employed in the study and dipped in 2M nitric acid was investigated in the presence and absence of varied ETD dosages. In contrast to the C.R., it has been discovered that raising the dose from 50 ppm to 300 ppm increases the rate of protection. The percent IE will decrease as the aggressive environment’s temperature rises, but there is a direct correlation between C.R and temperature.

The activation energy can be determined using the Arrhenius equation:

$$\log k_{corr} = \left(\frac{-E_a^*}{2.303RT}\right) + \log A$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

where $E_a^*$ is the activation of energy of Cu in aggressive environment presence and absence ETD, "and A was utilized for the term exponential factor of Arrhenius. Plots of $k_{corr}$ versus (1/T) for Cu in 2M nitric acid existence and absence altered doses of ETD exists graphically in Figure 5, which gives straight lines and the calculated data of $E_a^*$ from the slopes of straight lines data that equal ($-E_a^*/2.303R$) are recognized in Table 5. $E_a^*$ improves with raising doses of ETD representative that the energy barrier for the corrosion reaction raised, also demonstrating that the adsorption of ETD molecules on Cu surface is physical". The ($\Delta S^*$, $\Delta H^*$) measured from the theory of transition state by applied the next balance [25]:

$$k_{corr} = \left(R\frac{T}{NH}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\Delta S^*}{R}\right) \exp\left(\frac{-\Delta H^*}{RT}\right)$$ \hspace{1cm} (11)

A drawn of $\log (k_{corr}/T)$ versus (1/T) also gave straight lines as appeared in Figure 6, for Cu dissolution in 2M of HNO₃ in the existence and absence of altered doses of ETD. "Slopes from the shape are utilized to measure enthalpy ($-\Delta H^*/2.303R$), and the activation entropy of the shape is measured utilizing intersections of the lines [$log(R/Nh) +\Delta S^*/2.303R$]. The data of these parameters ($\Delta H^*$and $\Delta S^*$) are verified in Table 5. The $\Delta H^*$ reflected endothermic procedure. The calculated values of $\Delta S^*$ attendance and absence of ETD are large and negative; this indicates that the activated complex in the rate-determining step prefers association better than dissociation step".

![Figure 4. Arrhenius diagram (log $k_{corr}$ vs. 1/T) for dissolution of Cu in 2M nitric acid without and with the change of ETD.](https://biointerfaceresearch.com/)
Figure 5. log $k_{corr}/T$ vs. $(1/T)$ for dissolution of Cu in 2M nitric acid without and with the change of ETD.

Table 5. $E_a^\ast$, $\Delta H^\ast$ and $\Delta S^\ast$ data for dissolution of Cu in 2M nitric acid without and with the change of ETD.

| [C$_{inh}$] (ppm) | $E_a^\ast$ kJ mol$^{-1}$ | $\Delta H^\ast$ kJ mol$^{-1}$ | $-\Delta S^\ast$ J mol$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$ |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0                | 21.6                     | 19.2                        | 177                                 |
| 50               | 39.5                     | 37.1                        | 129                                 |
| 100              | 40.8                     | 38.3                        | 126                                 |
| 150              | 42.1                     | 39.7                        | 123                                 |
| 200              | 44.0                     | 41.6                        | 118                                 |
| 250              | 48.4                     | 45.9                        | 105                                 |
| 300              | 47.7                     | 45.2                        | 108                                 |

3.4. PP tests.

Potentiodynamic bends of Cu in 2.0 M nitric acid in the existence and absence of altered dose of the ETD at 25°C are displayed in Figure 6. From Figure 6, we see that both cathodic and (Cu dissolution) anodic reactions were inhibited by appending an altered dose of ETD. Both $\beta_a$ and $\beta_c$ were shifted to positive and negative directions, correspondingly. The electrochemical parameters, $E_{corr}$, $\beta_a$, and $\beta_c$, $\theta$, IE% and $i_{corr}$ were determined and given in Table 6. Data demonstrates that by appending ETD, the data of $i_{corr}$ were lowered while the values of $E_{corr}$ and $\beta_a$ and $\beta_c$ had no significant change" [26, 27]. So, the ETD performance is as a mixed kind inhibitor.

Figure 6. PP bends for the Cu dissolution in 2.0 M nitric acid in existence and nonexistence of altered dose of ETD at 25°C.
Table 6. Electrochemical parameter, \(i_{\text{corr}}\), \(E_{\text{corr}}\), \(\beta_a\), \(\beta_c\), \(k_{\text{corr}}\), \(\theta\) and IE% of Cu in 2M HNO\(_3\) with an altered dose of ETD.

| [C\text{inh}] (ppm) | \(i_{\text{corr}}\) \(\mu\text{A cm}^{-2}\) | \(-E_{\text{corr}}\) mV vs SCE | \(\beta_a\) mV dec\(^{-1}\) | \(\beta_c\) mV dec\(^{-1}\) | C.R mmy\(^{-1}\) | \(\theta\) | %IE |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|------|
| 2 M HNO\(_3\)       | 227                             | 35                | 101             | 225             | 107             | --     | --   |
| 50                  | 73                              | 23                | 95              | 184             | 74              | 0.678  | 67.8 |
| 100                 | 57                              | 13                | 94              | 201             | 59              | 0.749  | 74.9 |
| 150                 | 37                              | 11                | 84              | 195             | 51              | 0.837  | 83.7 |
| 200                 | 29                              | 12                | 89              | 198             | 42              | 0.872  | 87.2 |
| 250                 | 22                              | 15                | 95              | 187             | 34              | 0.903  | 90.3 |
| 300                 | 18                              | 16                | 92              | 192             | 20              | 0.921  | 92.1 |

3.5. AC impedance spectra (EIS) tests.

Nyquist bends gotten from the Cu at potentials after 30 min dipping in 2.0 M nitric acid in the addition and non-addition of dissimilar dose of ETD. The figure shows the attained Nyquist and Bode, which are drowning in Figures 8 & 9. A semicircle loop is used to identify Nyquist diagrams. These prove that a charge transfer process refers to Cu metal disintegration [24]. In Figure (10), the matching circuit for Cu and electrolyte is established. Table 6 lists the EIS parameters as well as the percent IE. The impedance coefficients for Cu in 2M nitric acid in the presence and absence of an adjusted dosage of ETD were obtained. Figures 8 & 9 indicate the low-frequency area, where the impedance values grow in the presence of ETD compared to the absence of ETD. The radius of the circle rises as the concentration of ETD rises, and therefore the charge transfer resistance in corrosion reactions rises. As a result of the adsorption of the ETD at the Cu/solution contact [28], a high resistance has been produced. CPE parameter (\(Y_0\) and \(n\)) is defined in the next balance to estimate the interfacial capacitance \(C_{\text{dl}}\) data:

\[
C_{\text{dl}} = Y_0(\omega_{\text{max}})^{-n} \tag{12}
\]

where \(Y_0\) is the CPE magnitude, and \(n\) is the variance CPE data of the: \(-1 < n < 1\).

Using equation 12, Table 7 shows a decrease in \(C_{\text{dl}}\) values as ETD dose increases, which can be explained by a decrease in the local dielectric constant and/or an increase in the thickness of the electrical double layer [29]. This is due to ETD molecules adsorbing on the Cu/interface of the solution and generating a protective coating on the Cu solution's interface. Table 7 lists the values of parameters like \(R_s\), \(R_{ct}\), by EIS fitting as well as the derived parameters \(C_{\text{dl}}\) and IE %.

![Figure 8](https://biointerfaceresearch.com/)
Figure 9. The Bode diagram for Cu dissolution in the existence and absence of ETD.

Figure 10. Simple circuit utilized to fit the EIS outcomes.

Table 7. Results from EIS for the liquefaction of Cu in 2.0 M nitric acid at an altered dose of ETD.

| [C inh] (ppm) | Y0, 10^-6 | n | Rct, ohm cm^-2 | Cdl, µF cm^-2 | Θ | % IE |
|---------------|------------|---|----------------|----------------|----|------|
| 2 M HNO₃     | 995        | 0.664 | 100            | 310            | -- | --   |
| 50            | 462        | 0.642 | 447            | 191            | 0.776 | 77.6 |
| 100           | 354        | 0.659 | 780            | 182            | 0.872 | 87.2 |
| 150           | 219        | 0.728 | 1172           | 132            | 0.915 | 91.5 |
| 200           | 187        | 0.780 | 1320           | 126            | 0.924 | 92.4 |
| 250           | 101        | 0.777 | 1462           | 112            | 0.932 | 93.2 |
| 300           | 99         | 0.882 | 1585           | 77             | 0.937 | 93.7 |

3.6. Morphology of the surface.

3.6.1. AFM examination.

AFM is a remarkable technology for obtaining high-resolution surface roughness measurements. AFM measurements can provide a wealth of information about Cu surface shape, which aids in understanding the corrosion process. Figure 11 depicts three-dimensional AFM images.

Table 8 summarizes the roughness calculated from the AFM picture. The roughness increased with the addition of HNO₃ due to corrosion on the Cu surface but decreased with the addition of the produced solution [30].

3.6.2. FTIR spectra.

The adsorption of ETD on the Cu surface was confirmed by FTIR. The FT-IR can be used to determine the type of chemical components adsorbed on the surface by analyzing surface variations. The stretching vibration of the O-H stretch corresponds to the peak at 3343 cm⁻¹. This peak was modified to 3355 cm⁻¹ in the spectrum of the sample collected from the metal surface. Several ETD peaks in Figure 13 have been modified or vanished, indicating the...
presence of bonds between the ETD nitrogen and oxygen atoms and approving the presence of an adsorbed ETD layer on the metal surface.

Figure 11. (a) 3D AFM of polished Cu; (b) 3D AFM of Cu immersed 2M HNO₃ for 1 day; (c) 3D AFM image of Cu immersed in 2M HNO₃+300 ppm of ETD for 1 day.

Table 8. AFM parameters of ETD at 25°C.

| Sample  | Roughness average (Sa), nm |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Free    | 49                         |
| Blank   | 272                        |
| ETD     | 146                        |

Figure 12. (a) FTIR spectra for free ETD, and (b) FTIR spectra of metal with ETD.
3.6.3. XPS.

The inhibitory layer of ETD on the Cu surface in 2M HNO\textsubscript{3} proves that ETD is adsorbed on the Cu surface. Figure 13 depicts the XPS decomposition spectra for each element identified in the surface layer created in a solution that regulates the presence of ETD composition.

Table 9. The binding energies (eV) determination for the large core lines noticed for the surface of Cu which handled by ETD.

| Core element | 2M HNO\textsubscript{3} + 300 ppm of ETD | Assignments      |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| C 1s         | 283.51                                 | C-H, C-C,        |
|              | 286.32                                 | C-O, C+O         |
| Cu 2p        | 935.16                                 | Cu\textsubscript{2}O |
| O 1s         | 530.78                                 | Cu\textsubscript{2}O, Cu (OH\textsubscript{2}) |
| N 1s         | 398.55                                 | Cu-Nx           |

Figure 13. Photoelectric X-rays outcomes from (a) Cu 2p; (b) C 1s; (c) Cl 2p; (d) O 1s; and (e) Scanning elements for Cu at 2M nitric acid solutions with 300 ppm from ETD.
We can explain all the spectra in figure by referring to published papers on the interpretation of spectral XPS superficial films, as well as the primary bond energies indicated in Figure 13. The Cu metal spectra recorded when immersed in a 2 M HNO₃ containing the highest doses of ETD (300 ppm) were for Cl 2p, Cu 2p, O 1s, and C1s. Table 9 shows the binding energies data (BE, eV) and the same assignment for every peak component [31].

3.7. Mechanism of corrosion inhibition

The inhibitor adsorption on the Cu surface dipped in aqueous HNO₃ is part of the inhibition mechanism. Organic molecules may be found at the metal–solution contact in four different types of adsorptions [32]. From the observations drawn from the altered tests, corrosion hindrance of Cu in 2 M HNO₃ solutions by ETD as chosen from ML, PP, and EIS tests were found to rely on the dose and the nature of the inhibition. The ETD component may protonate in the acid medium. So, there is difficult for these protonated molecules to adsorb on the positive Cu surface [33]. Nitrate ions get first adsorbed on Cu surface, the Cu surface becomes negatively charged, and then the protonated ETD molecules get adsorbed on the nitrated layer as shown below, forming a physisorption mechanism (scheme 1):

4. Conclusions

The examined ETD in 2.0 M HNO₃ solution can be utilized as effective corrosion protection for Cu. This ETD has an inhibition capacity of 93.5 percent. The percentage of %IE rises by improving ETD dose and lesser temperature. This suggests that ETD being studied are physically adsorbed. The adsorption of ETD had been found to be obeying Langmuir. The adsorption negative free energy (-ΔG°_ads) suggests fast and spontaneous adsorption of the ETDs on the surface of Cu, and physisorption was found to be the adsorbed of the ETD. Tafel constant values (βa and βc) confirm the ETD is a mixed type. The AFM, FT-R, and XPS morphology of the adsorbed protective coating on the Cu surface has confirmed the ETD high output of inhibitive action. This research reveals that this ETD is an effective, environmentally friendly, and low-cost inhibitor.

Funding

This research received no external funding.

Acknowledgments

All our gratitude to the anonymous referees for their careful reading of the manuscript and valuable comments that helped shape this paper to the present form. We thank all laboratory
staff of corrosion chemistry from the University of Mansoura (Egypt) for their kind cooperation.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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