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Journal article, Published version
Rad u časopisu, Objavljena verzija rada (izdavačev PDF)

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:163:545599

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Download date / Datum preuzimanja: 2022-01-14

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Siderophore Chemistry of Vanadium. Interaction Between Vanadium(V) and Desferrioxamine B in Aqueous Acidic Perchlorate Solution

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Received January 14, 1987

Complexation of vanadium(V) at 25°C in 2 M NaClO₄/HClO₄ by desferrioxamine B chelator results in the formation of 1:1 complex when concentration of HClO₄ in the reaction mixture is higher than 0.1 M. The apparent equilibrium constant and the second order rate formation constant in 0.5 M HClO₄ are: $K_{app} = (6 \pm 2) \times 10^6$ M⁻¹, $k = (2.3 \pm 0.2) \times 10^5$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹, respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Essentiality of vanadium was long suspected¹ and in the early 1970's it was confirmed with experiments employing laboratory animals that vanadium is an essential element.² Over the past decade many physiological effects of vanadium have been recognized suggesting a prominent place of vanadium in biology. An overview of vanadium in biology and biochemistry including the results of exogenous additions of vanadium and their relation to the basic inorganic chemistry of vanadium are presented in two recent reviews.³,⁴ Recently, vanadium phenolates have been proposed as models for vanadium in biological systems.⁵

In spite of the large volume of the published material dealing with biochemical effects of vanadium, which has grown enormously in recent years, our knowledge of vanadium in biology is presently very much in a state of flux.⁶ For example, a possible link between vanadium and iron metabolism has been suggested.⁷,⁸ It has been hypothesised that the transferrin is the carrier protein for VO²⁺ in blood, since the experiments in vitro show that VO²⁺ binds stoichiometrically to two specific Fe³⁺ binding sites of various transferrins.⁹,¹¹

However, correlation of vanadium and iron biochemistry is not generally understood. One obvious difference is that there is relatively little vanadium in the body and it is not needed in large amounts and therefore, a storage protein per se would not seem to be a necessary component of its biochemistry,¹⁰ which is an important feature of iron biochemistry. In addition, the

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concentration of vanadium in biological fluids is of the order of ppm-ppb which is considerably lower value than iron concentration. This fact may indicate that the formation constants of vanadium biocomplexes are significantly larger than those of iron complexes.

The iron carriers in microbes are well known siderophores which currently constitute a fast developing area of research in bioinorganic chemistry. To the best of our knowledge the possibility that vanadium binds to siderophore such as naturally occurring hydroxamate molecules have not been investigated.

Here we present the first results on the vanadium siderophore chemistry describing the complex of vanadium(V) with desferrioxamine B, which is a linear trihydroxamic acid with molecular formula $\text{NH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_5[\text{N(OH)}\text{C(O)(CH}_2)_5-\text{C(O)}\text{NH(\text{CH}_2)\_6-\text{N(OH)}\text{C(O)CH}_2}(\text{H}_3\text{DFB})$.

**EXPERIMENTAL**

Water used throughout the experiments was doubly distilled from an all in glass apparatus over alkaline permanganate. Desferrioxamine B (Desferal® CIBA) was recrystallized from methanol (m.p. 151°C, uncorrected). All other chemicals were of highest purity. The spectrophotometric measurements were performed on a Pye Unicam SP-800 and a Perkin Elmer Lambda 3 instruments equipped with thermostated cell compartment. The absorbance measurements of equilibrated solutions were taken at 25 ± 0.1°C. In all the experiments 2.0 M ionic strength was held by NaClO$_4$. Equilibrium constants and molar absorptivities were calculated on a UNIVAC 1100 computer at the University Computer Centre, Zagreb, using a published program that essentially fits the experimental data to a function of form $A = \sum c_i n_i$. Parameters $A$, $c_i$, $n_i$ and $n$ have a meaning of measured absorbance, molarity, molar absorptivity and number of proposed species present in equilibrated solution, respectively. Here $c_i$ is a function of the total concentration of vanadium, H$_4$DFB$^+$, and H$^+$ ions as well as of the values of the respective equilibrium constants.

All kinetic experiments were measured on a stopped-flow Durrum D-110 Spectrophotometer at 25°C and I = 2 M (HClO$_4$/NaClO$_4$). In a typical run solutions of vanadium(V) ions, initially added as an V$_2$O$_5$, were flown together with the solutions of desferrioxamine B. The increase in absorbance was followed at 485 nm. Solutions of vanadium and desferrioxamine B to be mixed were of the same acidity.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Mixing of acidic solution of V$_2$O$_5$ and H$_4$DFB$^+$ is followed by an immediate formation of color which fades slowly due to ligand decomposition in highly acidic solutions. On the other hand at lower acidities reduction of vanadium(V) is solely responsible for the color disappearance. The latter was confirmed by measured spectra which entirely resembled the spectra formed in the reaction of desferrioxamine B with vanadyl sulphate. The formation of color is rapid relative to the times of its disappearance in both strong and weak acid solutions.

A visible spectrum of vanadium(V)-desferrioxamine B complex in 0.497 M HClO$_4$ is shown in Figure 1. (curve 1) and is characterised by an absorbance maximum at 485 nm, obviously of the charge-transfer origin since V(V) is of d$^5$ configuration. Spectra of equilibrated solutions (before the decomposition of the complex takes significant extent) at different acidities are also presented in Figure 1. A steady hypsochromic shift of the absorbance maximum upon a decrease of acidity is observed. This suggests presence of at least two colored complexes equilibrated by a proton.
Figure 1. A proton dependence of the electronic spectra of equilibrated VO²⁺—H₄DFB⁺ system at 25°C, in 2.0 mol dm⁻³ (H/Na)ClO₄. Conditions: VO²⁺ = 2.42 × 10⁻⁵ mol dm⁻³; H₄DFB⁺ = 2.49 × 10⁻⁴ mol dm⁻³; H⁺ = 0.407, 0.208, 0.048, 0.024, 0.016, and 0.006 mol dm⁻³ for the curves 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, respectively.

Job method of continuous variations shows that in high acid solution a V(V)-H₄DFB⁺ complex of 1:1 molar ratio is formed. (Figure 2.A). However, Figure 2.B indicates that at lower acidities the complexes of the composition other than 1:1 molar ratio appear. These new species have not been studied in detail and the investigations described in this paper have been done in the acid region 1.0—0.1 M HClO₄. At least what can be said at this stage of investigation that in 0.01 M HClO₄ molar ratio V(V):H₄DFB⁺ of ~ 2:3 is obtained. One possible explanation is that a mixture of equal fractions of 1:1 and 1:2 complexes is formed.

Figure 2. Job diagrams. Conditions: [V(V)] + [H₄DFB⁺] = 4.0 × 10⁻⁴; A, H⁺ = 0.4 mol dm⁻³; B, H⁺ = 0.01 mol dm⁻³, at 25°C, in 2.0 mol dm⁻³ (H/Na)ClO₄, at 485 nm.

Variation of H₄DFB⁺ concentration (in molar excess over V(V) in three series of experiments at constant H⁺ concentration [H⁺] = 1.0, 0.5, and 0.1 M) gives almost the same value of calculated apparent equilibrium constant $K_{app}$ ($8 \pm 2$, $6 \pm 2$, and $3 \pm 1 \times 10^6$ M⁻¹, respectively) defined by eq. 1.

$$\text{VO}_2^+ + \text{H}_4\text{DFB}^+=\text{VO}_2\text{H}_3\text{DFB}^2^+ K_{app}$$

(1)
Under these acidities all the vanadium(V) is present in the form of VO$_2^+$, and the ligand H$_4$DFB$^+$ is fully protonated, since all three hydroxamate groups as well as terminal amino group exhibit pK$_a$'s values higher than 9. The small decrease in calculated $K_{app}$ is dubious due to the large values of $K_{app}$ that makes difficult to determine it. Therefore no proton release was proposed for this step of interaction. At lower acidity, for example in 0.01 M H$,^+$ higher value of apparent constant was calculated $K_{app}$: $7 \times 10^7$ M$^{-1}$ confirming the above assumption of the formation of new species at low acidity.

The obtained results reveal the affinity of vanadium(V) for desferrioxamine B ligand as a representative of siderophore molecules and may be used for comparison with the analogous data of ferrioxamine B complex. For example, the apparent stability constants in 1.0, 0.5, 0.1, and 0.01 M HClO$_4$ of iron(III) (and those of vanadium(V)) are: $3 \times 10^4$ (8 × 10$^6$); $9 \times 10^4$ (6 × 10$^6$); $3 \times 10^6$ (3 × 10$^6$); $2 \times 10^9$ (7 × 10$^9$) M$^{-1}$, respectively. These approximate values of the apparent stability constants of ferrioxamine B complex are calculated from the data from reference 17.

An obvious feature of this simple comparison is that naturally occurring desferrioxamine B chelate exhibits more stable complex with vanadium in strong acid media and with iron(III) in weak acid solutions.

Preliminary kinetic results were performed by using solutions of $2.37 \times 10^{-5}$ M V(V), $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ M H$_4$DFB$^+$, and 0.212, 0.412, and 0.946 M HClO$_4$ giving the observed rate constants 48.4, 46.0, and 46.5 s$^{-1}$, respectively, where each value of $k_{obs}$ is the average of at least three determinations. It is easy to show by using $K_{app}$ that the reaction (1) goes to completion under our experimental conditions. Therefore, the observed rate constant is described by the expression $k_{obs} = k$, where $k = K_{app}$ $[H_4DFB]^+$. The data suggest the rate independence on the acid concentration which is also substantiated by only one straight line in Figure 3., which is obtained at two different acidities. The second order rate constant of the reaction (1) $k = (2.3 \pm 0.2) \times 10^5$ M$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ was calculated from the slope.

It is generally accepted that complex formation in aqueous solutions involves preequilibrium formation of an outer-sphere complex between metal ion and incoming ligand. The straight line in Figure 3. allows only the esti-

![Figure 3. A dependence of the formation rate constant of VO$_2^+$—H$_4$DFB$^+$ complex on the total concentration of H$_4$DFB$^+$ at 25 °C, in 2.0 mol dm$^{-3}$ (H$_2$Na)ClO$_4$ at 485 nm. Conditions: VO$_2^+$ = $2.37 \times 10^{-5}$ mol dm$^{-3}$; H$_4$DFB$^+$ = 0.518 mol dm$^{-3}$; H$^+$ = 0.212 mol dm$^{-3}$.](image-url)
formation of the upper limit of the outer-sphere complex formation constant to be smaller than 100 M⁻¹. The rate constants of the analogous reaction of the same ligand H₄DFB⁺ with iron(III) center are lower (k(FeOH₂⁺) = 4 × 10⁶ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ and (Fe⁺³) = 2 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ (from reference 17 and also from references therein). On the other hand, the analogous reactions of the same metal center VO₂⁺ with different multidentate ligands exhibit the rate formation constants which fall in the range ~ 1 × 10⁵ - 1 × 10⁶ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ (ref. 19 and 20). These results can be interpreted in terms of I₂ mechanism if one assumes the water exchange rate constant on the VO₂⁺ center to be 10⁵ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ as it has been already reported. However, the same results were interpreted by the I₃ mechanism based on the estimated value of water exchange rate constant on the VO₂⁺ center to be as high as 10⁶ M⁻¹ s⁻¹.

Acknowledgement. — This work received financial support from the Croatian Council for Research (SZ-II) and the U.S. — Yugoslav Joint Board on Scientific and Technological Cooperation and these are gratefully acknowledged.

REFERENCES
SAŽETAK
Reakcija vanadija(V) s desferioksaminom B u kiselim vodenim otopinama perklorata
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Kompleksacijom vanadija(V) s desferioksaminom B na 25°C u kiselim vodenim otopinama perklorata (2 M H/NaClO₄) nastaje 1:1 kompleks. Ravnovežni omjer koncentracija kompleksa i nekompleksiranih iona, pri kisielosti većoj od 0,1 M HClO₄, iznosi \( K_{eq} = (6 \pm 2) \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1} \), a izračunana konstanta brzine nastajanja kompleksa \( k = (2,3 \pm 0,2) \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \).