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Review Paper

Eco friendly corrosion Inhibitors: A review

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Abstract

In the past few decades significant concern has arisen over the use of synthetic compounds as corrosion inhibitors due to their environmental consequences. Hence a great deal of work has been initiated towards the exploration of applicability of extracts of natural substances to prevent the corrosion of various metals. Extracts of natural products being biodegradable are eco-friendly and pose no threat to the environment. Various researchers have successfully demonstrated the applicability of extracts of natural products as green corrosion inhibitors. This manuscript states a detailed account of the work performed in view of the above. Natural substances like extracts of plant leaves, stem, seed, fruit, and essential oils can be used as efficient corrosion inhibitors on metal surfaces.

Keywords: Corrosion inhibitors, Metal, plant extracts, adsorption isotherm, SEM, Toxicity.

Introduction

Corrosion is the deterioration of metal by chemical attack or reaction with its environment. It is a constant and continuous problem, often difficult to eliminate completely. Prevention would be more practical and achievable than complete elimination. It is well known for a long time that corrosion exists, and actually was demonstrated with sound scientific and technological foundations. Corrosion results in the deterioration and further destruction of corrodible structures such as piping, tanks, steel soaked in concrete, etc., leading to serious economic problems. Corrosion processes develop fast after disruption of the protective barrier and are accompanied by a number of reactions that change the composition and properties of both the metal surface and the local environment, for example, formation of oxides, and diffusion of metal cations into the coating matrix, local pH changes, and electrochemical potential¹.

Present trend in research on environmental friendly corrosion inhibitors is taking us back to exploring the use of natural products as possible sources of cheap, nontoxic, and eco-friendly corrosion inhibitors. These natural products are either synthesized or extracted from aromatic herbs, spices, and medicinal plants. Of increasing interest is the use of medicinal plant extracts as corrosion inhibitors for metals in acid solutions. This is because these plants serve as incredibly rich sources of naturally synthesized chemical compounds that are environmentally acceptable, inexpensive, readily available, and renewable sources of materials^{2,3}. This manuscript is a compilation of the work done by various researchers for examination of use of natural products as corrosion inhibitors on metals.

Corrosion Inhibitors: Corrosion inhibitors are compounds that are commonly added in small quantities to an environment to prevent corrosion. Inhibitors are often added in industrial processes to secure metal dissolution from acid solutions. Because some corrosion inhibitors present environmental and health risks, there is a demand for less toxic corrosion inhibitors⁴. Standard anticorrosion coatings developed till date passively prevent the interaction of corrosion species and the metal. The known hazardous effects of most synthetic organic inhibitors need to develop cheap, nontoxic and ecofriendly processes have now urged researchers to focus on the use of natural products. Increasingly, there is a need to develop sophisticated new generation coatings for improved

performance, especially in view of Cr VI being banned and labelled as a carcinogen⁵. The use of inhibitors is one of the best options of protecting metals against corrosion. Several inhibitors in use are either synthesized from cheap raw material or chosen from compounds having heteroatoms in their aromatic or long-chain carbon system. However, most of these inhibitors are toxic to the environment. This has prompted the search for green corrosion inhibitors. Green corrosion inhibitors are biodegradable and do not contain heavy metals or other toxic compounds. Some research groups have reported the successful use of naturally occurring substances to inhibit the corrosion of metals in acidic and alkaline environment. Extracts of plant materials contain a wide variety of organic compounds. Most of them contain heteroatoms such as P, N, S, O. These atoms coordinate with the corroding metal atom (their ions), through their electrons. Hence protective films are formed on the metal surface and hence corrosion is prevented.

Plant extracts as corrosion inhibitors

Various researchers have recently reported the corrosion inhibitor effectiveness of metals by natural plant extracts like *Swertia aungustifolia*⁶, coriander⁷, thyme⁸, hibiscus⁹, anise¹⁰ and *Ricinus communis*¹¹, *Telfaria occidentalis*¹², *Prunus cerasus*¹³, *Capparis deciduas*¹⁴, *Piper guinensis*¹⁵, *Azadirachta indica*¹⁶, *Solanum tuberosu*¹⁷, natural henna¹⁸, *Zenthoxylum alatum*¹⁹, *Nicotiana Tabacum*²⁰.

Plant extracts of *Poinciana pulcherrima*, *Papaia*, *Cassia occidentalis*, *Datura stramonium* seeds and *Papaya*, *Calotropis procera B*, *Azadirachta indica*, and *Auforpio turkiale* sap for their corrosion inhibition potential was examined and found that all extracts except those of *Auforpio turkiale* and *Azadirachta indica* retarded the corrosion rate of steel with an efficiency of 88–96% in 1N HCl and with a lower efficiency in 2N HCl. Both the cathodic evolution of hydrogen and the anodic dissolution of steel are inhibited. They ascribed the effect to the hydrolysis of the protein content of these plants²¹. The environmental friendly compounds, namely: coriander, thyme, hibiscus, black cumin, anise and garden cress are used as corrosion inhibitor²². In this study corrosion inhibition of steel in sulfuric acid was studied by six different herb plants using AC and DC electrochemical techniques. The performance of these compounds was evaluated by electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS).

Corrosion inhibition of mild steel in hydrochloric acid by eight different plant extracts namely: *Lycium shawii*, *Teucrium oliverianum*, *Ochradenus baccatus*, *Anvillea garcinii*, *Cassia italica*, *Artemisia sieberi*, *Carthamus tinctorius*, and *Tripleurospermum auriculatum* were investigated and the open circuit potential (OCP), Tafel plots and A. C. impedance were performed which suggest that the plant extracts act as mixed type inhibitors and protect the metal in aggressive medium²³. The effect of the extract of rice husk ash on the corrosion of mild steel in HCl and H₂SO₄ solutions was carried by using weight loss, atomic adsorption spectroscopy (AAS) and FTIR spectroscopy²⁴. The role of seeds and leaf extract of *Azadirachta indica* on corrosion of mild steel in H₂SO₄ solution has also been investigated²⁵. It was found that the dissolution rate of metal decrease when inhibitor concentration increases in acidic solution due to the phytochemicals present in the extracts.

Essential oils as corrosion inhibitor

It has been found that oils show inhibition efficiency up to 98 percent, so it is certain that oils are effective corrosion inhibitors. The inhibition efficiency of jojoba oil, on the corrosion of iron in acidic solution was studied by using weight loss measurement and electrochemical polarisation methods. Studies revealed that jojoba oil was an excellent corrosion inhibitor and showed 100 per cent inhibition at 0.515 g/l concentrations of jojoba oil, indicating that jojoba oil was inhibited. The adsorption on the metal of jojoba oil, obeyed the Frumkin isotherm²⁶.

Mentha pulegium (Pennyroyal Mint) oil was tested as a corrosion inhibitor of steel in 1M HCl solution using weight loss measurements, electrochemical polarisation and EIS methods. Results showed that the inhibition efficiency was found to increase with oil content to attain 80% at 2.76 g/L and oil acts as a cathodic inhibitor²⁶. Natural oil extracted from *Athamanta sicula* was evaluated as a corrosion inhibitor of mild steel in molar hydrochloric acid²⁷. The corrosion rate and inhibition efficiency were determined by using Gravimetric, Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) and Tafel polarization curve methods. The oil was a mixed type inhibitor and retards the corrosion rate of mild steel in aggressive medium. The corrosion inhibiting nature of Artemisia oil as steel in 2M H₃PO₄ was reported using gravimetric, electrochemical polarisation and electron impedance spectroscopy

methods²⁸. The oil reduces the corrosion rate with increasing the concentration and maximum inhibition efficiency attains 79% at 6 g/l. at the different temperature. They found that the inhibition efficiency of the oil decreases with the rise of temperature. The adsorption isotherm of natural product on the steel has also been determined.

The inhibiting effect of Artemisia herb Alba oil²⁹, essential oil of fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)³⁰, *Warionia saharea*³¹, *Pulicaria mauritanica*³², *Eucalyptus globulus* (Myrtaceae)³³, *Asteriscus graveolens*³⁴, *Glycine max*³⁵, Argan oil³⁶, garlic essential oil³⁷, Pistachio essential oils³⁸ as a corrosion inhibitor was tested on metal in acidic solutions. The results obtained showed that the oils act as an eco-friendly corrosion inhibitor.

Compounds isolated from plants as corrosion inhibitor

The inhibition efficiencies of two Amazonian trees (*Gutteria ouregou* and *Simira tinctoria*) alkaloid extracts on the corrosion of low carbon steel in 0.1M HCl solution was investigated by using electrochemical techniques. The results obtained show that both extracts provide adequate inhibition of corrosion of low carbon steel in acidic media. Authors found that harmene was an active component of *S. tinctoria* extract and the anti corrosion activity in low carbon steel is in aggressive environment³⁹. Lawsone, an active principle was isolated from Henna (*Lawsonia inermis*) plant and was used as corrosion inhibitor⁴⁰. The inhibition efficiency of active molecule was studied in 1M HCl solution on mild steel surface by weight loss method. Results revealed that the corrosion rate decreased with increase in the concentration of Lawsone.

Piperanine was isolated from black pepper (BP) extract and studied as corrosion inhibitor. The inhibition efficiency of C38 steel in 1 M HCl solution was studied by weight loss method at temperature range of 298K to 353K. NMR technique was used for identification of Piperanine. Results inferred that 97.5% corrosion inhibition was observed at 10⁻³M inhibitor concentration. Piperanine adsorbs on the metal surface according to Langmuir isotherm⁴¹.

Ervatnine, isolated from the leaves of *Ervatamia coronaria* plant was tested as corrosion inhibitor on the mild steel in acidic medium. The corrosion inhibition efficiency was examined by gravimetric, electrochemical impedance, Tafel polarization, SEM, XRD techniques. Results showed that the Ervatnine alkaloid present in the plant extract acts as a good corrosion inhibitor. The adsorption of inhibitor on metal surface followed Langmuir adsorption isotherm and ervatnine physically adsorb on it. The surface morphological examination via SEM techniques indicated that the Ervatnine retard the corrosion on the specimen surfaces by forming a protective layer. The results suggest that ervatnine act as a good corrosion inhibitor⁴².

The corrosion inhibition potential of vasicine molecule isolated from *Adhatoda vasica* plant extract was studied on mild steel in acidic medium⁴³. Corrosion measurement results showed that the inhibition efficiency of vasicine in acidic medium increases with increase in inhibitor concentration and decreases with rise in temperature.

Expired drugs as corrosion inhibitors

Some drugs which are non-toxic in nature have been used as good corrosion inhibitors for different metals. Some expired drugs used as corrosion inhibitors such as Lumerax⁴⁴, Ciprofloxacin⁴⁵, Penicilli⁴⁶, Ketosulfone Drug⁴⁷, biotin⁴⁸, Chloroquine phosphate⁴⁹, atorvastatin⁵⁰ for metal in acidic media. The environmental friendly four penicillin derivatives, including penicillin G, oxacillin, penicillin V and amoxicillin are used as corrosion inhibitor⁴⁶. In this study corrosion inhibition of steel in hydrochloric acid was studied by weight loss measurement and Tafel polarization technique. The experimental results revealed that the derivatives are mixed type of inhibitors and adsorb on metal surface.

Conclusion

In the recent years there has been great deal of work concerning the applicability of various natural products as anti corrosion compounds. The major reason for exploring them has been the fact that these compounds are bio-degradable and eco-friendly. They do not pose threat to the environment as compared to synthetic compounds. The literature gathered above states that extracts of various natural substances have demonstrated efficient corrosion inhibition on metal surfaces.

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