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Spectroscopic, Electrochemical, Magnetic and Structural Characterization of an Hexamethylenetetramine Co(II) Porphyrin Complex – Application in the Catalytic Degradation of Vat Yellow 1 dye

Soumaya Nasri^{a,b,*}, Melek Hajji^c, Mouhieddine Guergueb^a, Selma Dhifaoui^a, Valérie Marvaud^d, Frédérique Loiseau^e, Florian Molton^e, Thierry Roisnel^f, Taha Guerfel^c, Habib Nasri^a

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ABSTRACT

In this study, a new cobaltous-(hexamethylenetetramine) [*meso*-tetra(*para*-methoxyphenyl)porphyrin] complex with the formula [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] (**I**) was synthesized. The molecular structure was confirmed in solution by ¹H NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry methods, and the single crystal X-ray diffraction structure of (**I**) was determined at both room temperature and low temperature. This species was further characterized by infrared, UV-visible and fluorescence spectroscopies, magnetic susceptibility measurements and cyclic voltammetry. The chemical reactivity behavior was also assessed theoretically through Density Functional Theory (DFT) approach. Magnetic investigation indicates that the Co(II)-HMTA porphyrin (**I**) species at low temperature is a cobaltous low-spin ($S = 1/2$) species while at high temperature complex (**I**) exhibits a spin-crossover low-spin ($S = 1/2$) ↔ high-spin ($S = 3/2$). The adsorption kinetic of the "vat yellow 1 dye" was carried out in aqueous solution at pH = 6. The experimental results are better fitted using the pseudo second order model. Furthermore, complex (**I**) was tested as catalyst in the degradation of the vat yellow 1 dye using an aqueous H₂O₂ solution and by photodegradation under solar light.

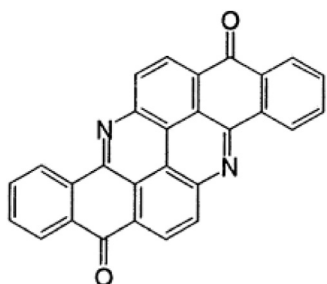
1. Introduction

Cobaltous metalloporphyrins have been investigated since the sixties because of the biological importance of cobalamins which have a porphyrin-like structure and were used as models for hemoproteins and cobalamins especially the vitamin B12 [1-3]. Cobalt(II) metalloporphyrins with the 3d [7] electron configuration of the ground state, are known to be air stable and on the base of numerous [4] EPR studies it is known that the unpaired electron is located in the axial d_{z^2} orbital (2A_1 state) [2,5]. These cobaltous species exist in the low-spin, square-planar configuration in nonco-

ordinating solvents [6]. These tetracoordinated species have a high affinity for single nitrogenous cyclic axial ligands such as pyridine and imidazole leading to pentacoordinated cobaltous derivative type [Co^{II}(Porph)(L)] (Porph = porphyrinato, L = N-donor neutral cyclic axial ligand) and a lower affinity for binding a second ligand. In the literature, the major published cobaltous porphyrin complexes studies concern either tetracoordinate or pentacoordinate species [7-10]. Nevertheless, the molecular structures of few hexacoordinated Co(II) porphyrins are known, e.g. [Co^{II}(TPP)(amp)₂] (TPP: *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato and amp = 2-aminophenol) [11]. It is noteworthy that Co(II) porphyrins are increasingly used in several fields such as catalysis; e.g., the [Co^{II}(P1)] complex (P1 = the D₂-symmetric chiral porphyrin 3,5-Di^tBu-ChenPhyrinas) which have been reported to be effective catalysts for the stereos-

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Scheme 1. Structure of the vat yellow 1 dye.

elective cyclopropanation of alkenes with unique reactivity profiles [12]. These compounds are also used in fuel cells, [13] as building blocks, [14] as antifungal and antibacterial drugs [15] and as biosensors [16,17].

Interestingly, since the late nineties porphyrins and metalloporphyrins have shown a new intriguing application as catalysts for organic dyes [18–20]. The later species are omnipresent in many industries like paper, food, textile, and leather. Organic dyes constitute therefore a large part of water pollutants which cause severe problems for the ecosystem and mankind. Note that vat yellow 1 dye, with the IUPAC name benzo[h]benz[5,6]acridino[2,1,9,8-klmna]acridine-8,16-dione (Scheme 1), belongs to the anthraquinone-type compounds presenting an intense absorption band at ~425 nm. These dyes which are extensively used for dyeing cellulosic cottons and other fibers, cause environmental concerns when released in industrial wastewaters due to their carcinogenic health effects [21]. This is why the removal of this organic species from the aqueous media is essential.

Several methods have been used for wastewater treatment including adsorption, biodegradation and photodegradation [22–24]. Notably, over the last few years, our research group has published several articles concerning the use of metalloporphyrins as catalysts for the degradation of some dyes [25–27]. Herein, we describe the synthesis of a new cobaltous meso-(arylporphyrin namely the (hexamethylenetetramine)[meso-tetra(*para*-methoxyphenyl) porphyrinato]cobalt(II) chloroform disolvate coordination compound with the formula [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)]•2CHCl₃ (I) (TMPP = meso-tetra(*para*-methoxyphenyl)porphyrinato and HMTA = hexamethylenetetramine). The title compound was fully characterized by UV-visible titration, ¹H NMR, IR, mass spectrometry, cyclic voltammetry and magnetic susceptibility. The X-ray molecular structure at room temperature and at low temperature was determined. A DFT-based reactivity study of this species is also reported. The second part of this article, which is the main objective of this work, concerns the use of our hexamethylenetetramine-cobaltous porphyrin derivative (I) as a catalyst of the degradation of the vat yellow 1 dye by using a hydrogen peroxide aqueous solution and by photodegradation under solar light.

2. Experimental section

2.1. Materials and methods

All reagents employed were commercially available and were used as received without further purification. The meso-tetra(*para*-methoxyphenyl)porphyrin (H₂TMPP) was synthesized and purified by using the Adler-Longo method [28]. The [Co^{II}(TMPP)] starting material was synthesized according to the standard literature method [29]. All reactions and manipulations for the preparation of the Co(II) porphyrin derivatives were carried out under aerobic conditions.

UV-visible, FT-IR and NMR data: The UV-visible spectra and titrations were recorded with a WinASPECT PLUS (validation for SPECORD PLUS version 4.2) scanning spectrophotometer. Fourier transform IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum Two FT-IR spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectroscopic characterization were performed with a Bruker DPX 400 spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm downfield from internal tetramethylsilane (TMS).

Fluorescence data: Emission spectra were recorded in dichloromethane at room temperature on a Horiba Scientific Fluoromax-4 spectrofluorometer. Samples were placed in 1 cm path length quartz cuvettes. Luminescence lifetime measurements were performed after irradiation at $\lambda = 430$ nm obtained by the second harmonic of a titanium: Sapphire laser (picosecond Tsunami laser spectra physics 3950-M1BB + 39868-03 pulse picker doubler) at an 800 kHz rate of repetition. For the decay acquisition, Fluotime 200 (AMS technologies) was utilized consisting of a GaAsmicro channel plate photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu model R3809U-50) followed by a time-correlated single photon counting system from Picoquant (PicoHarp300). The ultimate time resolution of the system is close to 30 ps. Luminescence decays were analyzed with FLUOFIT software available from Picoquant. Emission quantum yields were determined at room temperature in dichloromethane solutions using the optically dilute method. [Zn(TPP)] in air-equilibrated dichloromethane solution was used as quantum yield standard ($\phi_f = 0.031$)

Electrochemistry: Cyclic voltammetry (CV) experiments were performed with a CH-660B potentiostat (CH Instruments). All analytical experiments were conducted at room temperature under an argon atmosphere (argon stream) in a standard one-compartment, three-electrode electrochemical cell. Tetra-*n*-butylammonium perchlorate (TBAP) was used as the supporting electrolyte (0.2 M) in dichloromethane previously distilled over calcium hydride under argon. An automatic Ohmic drop compensation procedure was systematically implemented before the CV data were recorded with electrolytic solutions containing the studied compounds at concentrations of ca. 10⁻³ M. CH Instruments vitreous carbon ($\phi = 3$ mm) working electrodes were polished with 1 μ m diamond paste before each recording. The Ag/AgNO₃ 0.01 M (TBAP 0.2 M in CH₂Cl₂) redox couple was used as the ence electrode. The potential of the ferrocene/ferrocenium redox couple was used as an internal reference (86 mV vs. Ag/AgNO₃ under our experimental conditions). For comparison with previously published data, all potentials given in the text and in Table 7 have been converted to values relative to the saturated calomel electrode (SCE) by using the following relationship: E(SCE) = E(Ag/AgNO₃) + 298 mV.

Electrospray (ESI) MS: Spectra were obtained using an amazon speed instrument. The sample made by a 5.10⁻³ M in dichloromethane was diluted to a 5.10⁻⁵ M solution in acetonitrile.

MALDI-TOF MS: A PerSeptive Voyager DE-STR MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer (PerSeptive Biosystems, Framingham, MA, USA), equipped with a 337 nm pulsed nitrogen laser (20 Hz) and an Acqiris 2 GHz digitizer board, was used for all experiments. Mass spectra were obtained in the positive ion mode with the following settings: accelerating voltage 20 kV, grid voltage 62% of accelerating voltage, extraction delay time of 100 ns. The laser intensity was set just above the ion generation threshold to obtain peaks with the highest possible signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio without significant peak broadening. All data were processed using the Data Explorer software package (Applied Biosystems). *Trans*-2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butylphenyl)-2-methyl-2propenylidene] malonitrile (DCTB), used as the matrix for MALDI-TOF MS, was of the highest grade available and used without further purification). It was purchased from Sigma Aldrich Co. The samples were made as 3.10⁻³ M in tetrahydrofuran (THF).

Table 1
Crystal data and structural refinement for [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)]•2CHCl₃ (I).

Low temperature structure	Room temperature structure	
Formula	C ₅₆ H ₅₀ CoN ₈ O ₄	C ₅₆ H ₅₀ CoN ₈ O ₄
Crystal System	monoclinic	monoclinic
Crystal	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n
a (Å)	14.0955(15)	14.1478(13)
b (Å)	17.131(2)	17.1087(19)
c (Å)	22.298(3)	22.6816(25)
β (°)	95.159(4)	94.648(4)
V(Å ³)	5362.4(11)	5472.0(10)
Z	4	4
ρ _{calc.} / g cm ⁻³	1.450	1.421
μ/ mm ⁻¹	0.674	0.661
F(000)	2412	2412
Crystal size (mm ³)	0.34 × 0.27 × 0.22	0.34 × 0.27 × 0.22
Crystal Color	blue	blue
Crystal Shape	prism	prism
T(K)	150 (2)	295 (2)
θ _{min} - θ _{max} (°)	2.144 - 25.000	2.127-24.999
Limiting indices	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -20 ≤ k ≤ 17, -26 ≤ l ≤ 26	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -20 ≤ k ≤ 18, -26 ≤ l ≤ 26
R(int)	0.0401	0.0505
Reflections collected/unique	30996 / 9342	35411/9455
Observed data [I _o > 2σ(F _o)]	7739	6844
Parameters/Rest	676 / 0	677 / 6
S [Goodness of fit]	1.045	1.027
R ₁ ^a , wR ₂ ^c [F _o > 4σ(F _o)]	R ₁ = 0.0519, wR ₂ = 0.1329	R ₁ = 0.0862, wR ₂ = 0.2358
wR ₂ ^b [all data]	R ₁ = 0.0649, wR ₂ = 0.1426	R ₁ = 0.1162, wR ₂ = 0.2634
Min./max. res. (eÅ ⁻³)	0.993 / -1.065	1.186/-0.918
CCDC	1908123	1908124

^a R1 = Σ||F_o| - |F_c||/Σ|F_o|^b wR2 = {Σ[w(|F_o|² - |F_c|²)]/Σ[w(|F_o|²)]^{1/2}.**Table 2**
Chemical shift values for selected free base *meso*-arylporphyrins and cobalt *meso*-arylporphyrin complexes from ¹H NMR spectra recorded in CDCl₃.

Compound	Hβ-pyrrolic protons	H-phenyl protons	H-OCH ₃ ^a	Ref.
<i>Meso-porphyrins</i>				
H ₂ TPP ^b	8.84	8.23; 7.91; 7.67; 7.26	-	48
H ₂ TpivPP ^c	8.82	8.70; 7.88; 7.50	-	48
H ₂ TMPP	8.86	8.08; 7.27;	4.10	this work
<i>Co(III)-meso-porphyrins</i>				
[Co ^{III} (TPP)Cl(py)] ^b	9.00	8.80; 7.70	-	49
[Co ^{III} (TPP)(N ₃)(py)] ^b	9.22	8.38; 7.80	-	49
[Co ^{III} (TPP)Cl(DMI)] ^{b,d}	8.83	7.87; 7.65	-	50
[Co ^{III} (TPP)(DMI)] ^{b,d}	8.95	7.86; 7.71	-	50
<i>Co(II)-meso-porphyrins</i>				
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)]	15.90	13.10; 9.43	5.25	this work
[Co ^{II} (TPP)] ^b	15.75	13.10; 9.80; 7.95	-	48
[Co ^{II} (TpivPP)] ^c	15.30	11.50; 10.90; 7.80	-	48
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(py)] ^b	12.50	8.5; 8.33; 7.82	-	6
[Co(TPP)(HIm)] ^{b,e}	12.8	8.8; 8.40; 7.69	-	6
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(HMTA)]	12.68	9.00; 8.02	4.42	this work

^a: H-OCH₃= protons of the OCH₃ group in the *para*-phenyl positions of the H₂TMPP porphyrin^b: TPP = *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato^c: TpivPP = *meso*-[α,α,α,α-tetrakis(*o*-pivalamidophenyl)]porphyrinato^d: DMI = N,N'-dimethylimidazolylidene^e: HIm = imidazole.

{[Zn(TPP)]₂(HMTA)} (TPP = *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato) complexes with values of 3.03 and 2.74 ppm, respectively [46,47].

The IR spectrum of [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] (I) is characteristic of a metalloporphyrin complex with the two typical absorption bands of the metallated porphyrin ν(CH) and δ(CHC) vibrations which appear in the [3000-2850] cm⁻¹ region and at ca 1000 cm⁻¹, respectively. The majority of the absorption bands of the HMTA axial ligand are superposed with those of the TMPP porphyrinate but the HMTA presents also a weak absorption band, attributed to the N-C stretching, at 847 cm⁻¹ and two deformation vibration bands [δ(NCN)] (with medium intensities) at 691 and 664 cm⁻¹ [46].

3.2. UV-visible titration

As mentioned above, cobaltous metalloporphyrins can exist, in non-aqueous solutions, as four-coordinated complexes type [Co^{II}(Porph)], pentacoordinated species type [Co^{II}(Porph)(L)] (L is a neutral axial ligand) and rarely as hexacoordinated derivative type [Co^{II}(Porph)(L)₂]. It is worth noting that the UV-visible titrations of the starting material [Co^{II}(Porph)] with numerous N-donor ligands such as pyridine and imidazole and their derivatives have been reported in the literature since the early seventies especially by Walker *et al.* [5] and Yamamoto *et al.* [51]. The titrations show that in major cases the 1:1 Co(II) porphyrin-L (L = N-bonded neutral ligand) species are formed [Eq. (a)] rather than the 1:2 Co(II)

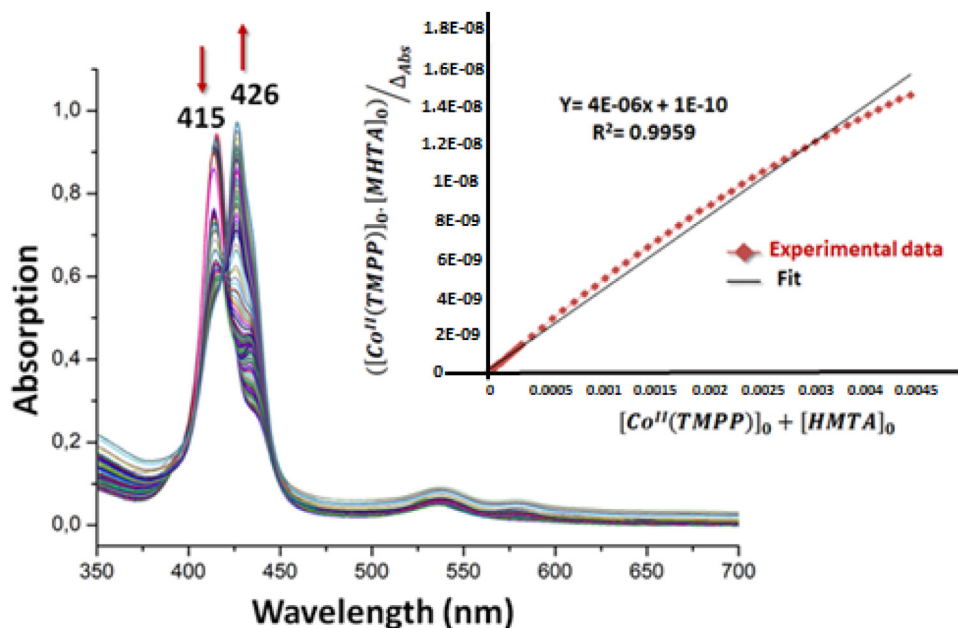
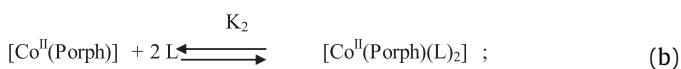
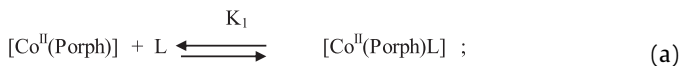


Fig. 1. Changes in the absorption spectra in the Soret band region of $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})]$ ($\sim 10^{-6}$ M) recorded in dichloromethane, upon addition of HMTA. Inset: the Benesi-Hildebrand plot at 415 nm with a 1:1 fit (0 - 8000 equiv.).

porphyrin-2L coordination compounds [Eq. (b)]. K_1 (known also as K_{as}) and K_2 are the association constants corresponding to equilibrium (a) and (b) respectively.



Dolphin *et al.* [52], reported that Co(II) readily forms five-coordinate complexes but the formation of the six-coordinate system is disfavored due to the destabilization of the d_{z^2} orbital. For the *meso*-[tetraphenylporphyrinato]cobalt(II) $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})]$ and the *meso*-tetrakis(*p*-methoxyphenyl)porphyrinato] cobalt(II) $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})]$, only the first association constants (K_1) for ligand binding could be determined. In the case of the later species, this is due to the presence of the methoxy groups in the *para* position of the phenyls of the TMPP porphyrinate which are good σ -donors lead to the increase of the electron density on the Co(II) metal ion. This makes it more difficult to a second axial ligand to be coordinated to the central metal. However, values for the second axial association constants (K_2) are known for Co(II) complexes of electron deficient porphyrins such as 2,3,12,13-tetracyano-[*meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato]cobalt(II) $[\text{Co}(\text{TPP}(\text{CN})_4)]$, [53] 2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octafluoro-[*meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato]cobalt(II) $[\text{Co}(\text{TPPF}_8)]$ and 2,3,8,12,13,17,18-octafluoro-[*meso*-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrinato]cobalt(II) $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPFPF}_8)]$ [54]. On the other hand, we reported the synthesis, the spectroscopic and the X-ray molecular structures of the two hexacoordinated cobalt(II) metalloporphyrins: $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})(\text{Hon})_2]$ (Hon = 2-aminophenol) [11] and the $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TpivPP})(4,4'\text{-bpy})_2]$ (TpivPP = $\alpha,\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -tetrakis(*o*-pivalamidophenyl)porphyrinato) [48]. In fact, this later species is a polymer in solid state. This means that some Co(II) hexacoordinated can be formed even with electron deficient porphyrins such as TPP and TpivPP. Inspection of Fig. 1 shows that tetracoordinated Co(II) metalloporphyrins exhibit a Soret band value at ~ 412 nm and a Q band

value at ~ 528 nm including our starting material $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})]$. A dichloromethane solution of our complex $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]$ (I) presents a Soret and Q bands band values of 426 nm 533 nm respectively. For the related Co(II) five-coordinate species $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{pip})]$ [55] and $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{py})]$ [5] (Table 3), the Soret band values of these two coordination compounds are not reported but the values of λ_{max} of the Q bands are 532 and 535 nm, respectively, which are very close to that of complex (I). These results clearly indicate that in solution, complex (I) is a penta-coordinated species. For hexacoordinated Co(II) *meso*-porphyrin complexes we noticed that the spectra are redshifted compared to those of the pentacoordinated cobaltous metalloporphyrins (Table 3). In the case of Co(II)-*meso*-porphyrins with the pyridine axial ligand, for the TPP porphyrinato, the $\log K_{\text{as}}$ (or $\log K_1$) value is 2.90 while for the TMPP porphyrinate (with a OMe groups in the *para*-phenyl positions), the $\log K_{\text{as}}$ value is smaller (2.83) (Table 4). The value of $\log K_{\text{as}}$ for the $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{T}(\text{o}-\text{OCH}_3)\text{PP})(\text{py})]$ complex is smaller (2.68) with the T(*o*-OMe)PP porphyrinato bearing ortho OMe groups of the phenyls [56]. For the same pyridine axial ligand, the $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPFPF}_8)(\text{py})]$ complex with the electron deficient TPFPF₈ porphyrinate, the $\log K_{\text{as}}$ value is quit high (5.6).⁵⁴ From the same Table 4 we also noticed that for the same TPP porphyrinate, the $\log K_{\text{as}}$ values depend on the axial ligands. Thus, for the $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})(\text{pip})]$ (pip = pipyridine), [51] $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})(1\text{-Melm})]$ (1-Melm = 1-methylimidazole) [51], $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})(\text{py})]$ [56] and $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})(4\text{-CNpy})]$ complexes, [56] the $\log K_{\text{as}}$ values are 3.51, 3.38, 2.90 and 2.76, respectively. Accordingly, if we neglect the solvent effect, the pip and the 1-Melm ligands are much more easy to coordinate to $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})]$ than the 4-CNpy ligand.

In order to calculate the association constant K_{as} of complex (I), a UV-visible titration of the $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})]$ starting material was carried out in dichloromethane with concentrations of about 10^{-6} M. Upon the addition of incremental amounts of HMTA to $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})]$, a redshift of the Soret band is observed from 414 to 426 nm with one distinct isosbestic point at 419 nm indicating clearly the formation of a 1:1 $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})]$ -HMTA species (Fig. 1). For our HMTA-Co(II) complex with the electron rich TMPP porphyrinate, the $\log K_{\text{as}}$ value is 4.33 (Table S2) which is quite higher than those of the $[\text{Co}(\text{TMPP})(\text{pip})]$ [55] and $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(1-$

Table 3
UV-visible. data of complex (I) and a selection of Co(II) *meso*-arylporphyrin coordination compounds.

Complex	Soret band λ (nm)	Q bands λ (nm)	Solvent	Ref.
<i>Cobalt(II) tetracoordinated complexes type [Co^{II}(Porph)]</i>				
[Co ^{II} (TPP)]	412	528	CH ₂ Cl ₂	48
[Co ^{II} (TpivPP)]	412	426	chlorobenzene	48
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)]	414	429	CH ₂ Cl ₂	this work
<i>Cobalt(II) pentacoordinated complexes type [Co^{II}(Porph)L]^{±m}</i>				
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(HMTA)]	426	533	CH ₂ Cl ₂	this work
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(pip)]	-	532	CH ₂ Cl ₂	55
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(py)]	-	535	toluene	5
<i>Cobalt(II) hexacoordinated complexes type [Co^{II}(Porph)(L)₂]</i>				
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(amp) ₂]	434	555	CH ₂ Cl ₂	11
[Co ^{II} (TpivPP)(4,4'-bpy) ₂] _n	436	545	chlorobenzene	48

Table 4Association constant ^a values of several five-coordinated cobalt(II) metalloporphyrins.

Complex	logK _{as}	Solvent	Ref.
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(1-Melm)] ^{b,c}	3.38	Toluene	51
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(1-Melm)] ^c	3.26	Toluene	55
[Co ^{II} (TpivPP)(2-Melm)] ^{d,c}	K _{as} = 3.5 10 ⁴ M ⁻¹ logK _{as} = 4.54	Benzene	56
[Co ^{II} (T(o-OCH ₃)PP)(1-Melm)] ^{e,c}	3.37	CH ₂ Cl ₂	5
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(1,2-Meim)] ^{b,f}	2.91	Toluene	56
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(py)] ^b	2.90	Toluene	56
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(py)]	2.83	Toluene	56
[Co ^{II} (T(o-OCH ₃)PP)(py)] ^e	2.68	CH ₂ Cl ₂	56
[Co ^{II} (TPFPF ₈)(py)] ^g	5.6	CH ₂ Cl ₂	54
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(4-CNpy)] ^{b,i}	2.76	Toluene	51
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(pip)] ^{b,j}	3.51	Toluene	51
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(pip)] ^j	3.44	Toluene	55
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(HMTA)]	4.60 (weak) 3.52 (strong) 4.33 (mean)	CH ₂ Cl ₂	this work

^a : The values of logK_{as} were taken at room temperature^b : TPP = *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato^c : 1-Melm = 1-methylimidazole^d : TpivPP = *meso*-($\alpha,\alpha,\alpha,\alpha$ -tetrakis(*o*-pivalamidophenyl)porphyrinato^e : T(o-OCH₃)PP = *meso*-tetrakis(*p*-methoxyphenyl) porphyrinato^f : 1,2-Meim = 1,2-dimethylimidazole^g : TFPFPF₈ = 2,3,8,12,13,17,18-octafluoro-*meso*-

tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrinato

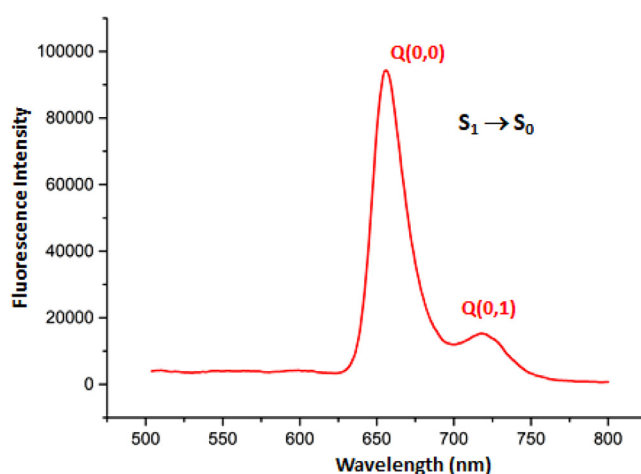
ⁱ : 4-CNpy = 4-cyanopyridine^j : pip = piperidine.

Melm)] [55] related species, with logK_{as} values of 3.44 and 3.26, respectively. Therefore, we can conclude that the HMTA species is a quite strong ligand in the non-coordinated dichloromethane solvent. This is confirmed by the presence in solution of the [Co^{II}(TPP)(HMTA)+H]⁺ fragment in the ESI mass spectrometry spectrum and by ¹H NMR data.

These results indicate that the association constant value for *meso*-arylporphyrins didn't depend too much on the nature of the donor-withdrawing groups in the phenyl groups of the *meso*-arylporphyrin but depend essentially on the type of the axial ligand. This is not the case when the β -pyrrolic positions of the porphyrin are occupied by strong withdrawing halogen groups which exhibit very important distortion of the porphyrin core of these metalloporphyrins leading to an important redshift of the absorption bands [57].

3.3. Fluorescence spectroscopy

The fluorescence emission spectrum of our Co(II)-HTMA-TMPP derivative (I) recorded at room temperature in dichloromethane upon photoexcitation at the wavelength 430 nm exhibits two emission bands S₁ → S₀ allocated as the Q(0,0) and Q(0,1) transitions (Fig. 2). The λ_{max} values of the Q(0,0) and Q(0,1) emission bands of (I) are 652 nm and 718 nm, respectively which are

**Fig. 2.** Emission spectra of (I) recorded at room temperature in dichloromethane (concentrations ~ 10⁻⁶ M).

very close to the related Co(II) *meso*-arylporphyrin species such as [Co^{II}(TMPP)(4-CNpy)] (4-CNpy = 4-cyanopyridine) [27]. For this later species the λ_{max} values of the Q(0,0) and Q(0,1) bands are 652 nm and 717 nm, respectively.

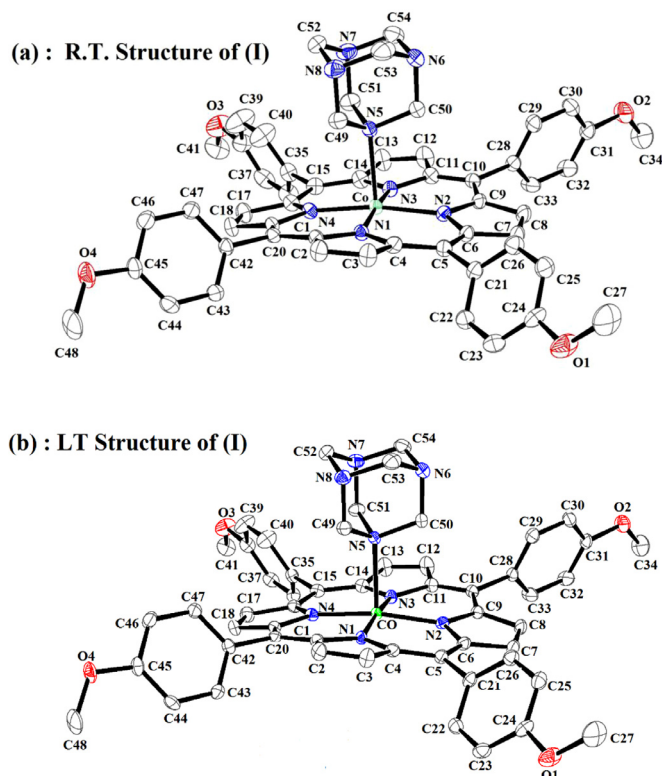


Fig. 3. Ortep diagrams of [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)]. Ellipsoids are contoured at the 30% probability for the structure at RT (a) and 50% probability of the structure at LT (b).

The fluorescence quantum yields Φ_f and the lifetime of singlet excited state τ_f values of (I) and the

[Co^{II}(TMPP)(4-CNpy)] [27] related species are very close. Thus, the (Φ_f) and the (τ_f) values are 0.028 and 1.53 ns, respectively for our Co(II)-HMTA derivative (I) and 0.054 and 1.97 ns for the related Co(II)-4-CNpy species. Notably, the fact that the [Co^{II}(Porph)(L)] (Porph = *meso*-arylporphyrin and L is a N-donor neutral axial ligand) complexes exhibit Φ_f and τ_f values smaller than the corresponding free base porphyrins is related to the paramagnetic nature of the cobalt(II) metal center which allows intersystem crossing to the triplet state and hence lowering fluorescence [27-58].

3.3. X-ray structures of (I)

The single crystal molecular structure of (I) was determined using the same crystal at room temperature (295 K) then at low temperature (150 K) in order to check if there is any change of the structure of our Co(II)-HMTA derivative from low to room temperature. The room temperature (RT) and the low-temperature (LT) structures of (I) are practically the same. Indeed, this species crystallizes in the monoclinic system ($P2_1/n$ space group). The cell parameters of (I) at RT and LT are very close (Table 1) where the RT parameters are slightly higher (about 2%), as expected, than those of the LT with a volumes values of 5472.0(10) at 295 K and 5362.4(11) at 150 K. The asymmetric unit of (I) is made from [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] complex and two chloroform molecules and both RT and LT structures of [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)].2CHCl₃ (I) are illustrated in Fig. 3. The Co²⁺ cation is chelated by the four pyrrole N atoms of the porphyrinate anion and additionally coordinated by the HMTA ligand in an apical site, completing the distorted square-pyramidal coordination environment (Figure S6).

It is noteworthy that hexamethylenetetramine metalloporphyrins are very rare and in the Cambridge data base (CSD ver-

sion 5.40) only five X-ray molecular structures are reported; four with zinc(II) and one with magnesium(II) cations (Table 5). Our synthetic complex (I) is the first example of a Co(II) metalloporphyrin with the HMTA axial ligand. The Co–N(HMTA) bond lengths are 2.287(2)/2.296(4) Å (RT/LT) which are normal for a cobalt(II) bonded to an sp³ [3] hybridized nitrogen of a N-bonded axial ligand. Indeed, these values are in the [2.278 – 2.354] Å range of several HMTA-cobalt(II) non-porphyrinic species (Table 5). On the other hand, we noticed that the Co–N(HMTA) distance of our derivative is: (i) quite shorter than that of the related [Co^{II}(TPP)(pip)₂] [59] complex where pip is the non-aromatic piperidine ligand with a Co–N(pip) distance of 2.436 Å and (ii) this values of (I) are, as expected, higher than those of Co(II) metalloporphyrins with aromatic N-bonded axial ligands such as 2,6-lutidine [60] and 1-methylimidazole [61] with Co–N(axial ligand) distance values of 2.017(2) Å and 2.157(3) Å respectively (Figure S6).

Notably, the value of the mean equatorial distance between the cobalt cation and the four nitrogen atoms of the porphyrin core (Co–N_p) is directly related to the *ruffling* deformation of the porphyrin macrocycle as mentioned by Iimura *et al.* [62]. Thus, the Co–N_p bond length decreases as the *ruffling* of the porphyrin core increases, known that the *ruffling* distortion is indicated by the high values of the displacement of the *meso*-carbon atoms above and below the porphyrin mean plane (Figure S7). In the case of the two tetracoordinated cobalt(II) [Co^{II}(TPP)] complexes reported in Table 5, the Co–N_p distances are 1.923 Å for the structure reported by Konarev *et al.* [63] and 1.949 Å for the structure reported by Nascimento *et al.* [64]. These values which are the smallest among all cobalt(II) metalloporphyrins reported in Table 5, exhibit the most *ruffled* porphyrin cores. For penta-coordinated and hexacoordinated cobalt(II) porphyrins were observed the same trend: decreasing of the Co–N_p distance with increasing of the *ruffling* deformation of the porphyrin core. This is the case of the very *ruffled* structures of [Co^{II}(TPP)(NO₂)(lut)] [60] (lut = 3,5-lutidine) and [Co^{II}(TCPP)(py)₂] (with TCPP = *meso*-tetrakis(4-carboxyphenyl)-porphyrinato) [65] with a Co–N_p distances of 1.959 and 1.961 Å respectively while for the planar or moderately *ruffled* Co(II) porphyrins such as [Co^{II}(TPP)(1-Melm)] [61] and [Co^{II}(TPP)(pip)₂] (pip = piperidine) [59] the Co–N_p distance values are longer with values of 1.978(3) and 1.987 Å respectively. For our HMTA derivative [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] (I), the Co–N_p bond length values are 1.975 (4) Å (RT) and 1.982(3) (LT) where the RT Co–N_p distance is very close to that of the Co(II)-TPP-1-Melm species [59] with a Co–N_p value at RT of 1.978(3) Å [59]. Both complexes exhibiting, moderate *ruffling*, confirm what we just explained about the relationship between the *ruffling* deformation and the Co–N_p distance. It should also be noted that the porphyrin core of our Co(II)-HMTA complex manifests also at RT and LT a moderate *saddle* deformation which is due to the displacement of the pyrrole rings alternately above and below the mean porphyrin macrocycle so that the pyrrole nitrogen atoms are out of the mean plane (Figure S7) [66]. Nevertheless, it appears that the *saddle* deformation did not affect the length of the Co–N_p distance. From Fig. 4, we first notice that the values of the displacements of the porphyrin core atoms of (I) from the mean plane of the 24-atom porphyrin macrocycle are slightly higher for the RT structure than those of the LT structure. We also noticed that the Co²⁺ cation of (I) is displaced by 0.150 (1) Å (RT) and 0.141 (1) Å from the 24-atom porphyrin mean plane (P_C) which are very close to that of the [Co^{II}(TPP)(1-Melm)] (Co– P_C = 0.139 Å) confirming the high similarity between these two coordination compounds. Furthermore, the Co– P_C distances values of (I) is much smaller than those of the two reported five-coordinated zinc(II)-HMTA metalloporphyrins [Zn^{II}(TPP)₂(HMTA)] and [Zn^{II}(TPyP)(HMTA)] with values of 0.337 and 0.404 Å, respectively, known that the radii of the Co²⁺ and Zn²⁺ radius are very close (0.74 and 0.72 Å, respectively).

Table 5
Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)]·2CHCl₃ (I) and several hexamethylenetetramine (HMTA) porphyrinic and non-porphyrinic complexes.

Complex	Porphyrin ^a	M–N _p ^b	M–X _L ^c	M–P _C ^d	Ref.
core deformation type					
<i>HMTA-meso-porphyrin complexes</i>					
[{Zn ^{II} (TPP)} ₂ (μ ₂ -HMTA)] ^e	-Ruf, Dom	2.064 (3)	2,291 (3)	0.337	[48]
[Zn ^{II} (TPyP)(HMTA)] ^f	-Ruf, Dom	2.105 (4)	2.191 (3)	0.405	[69]
[Zn ^{II} (TCPP)(HMTA) ₂] ^g	Planar	2.066	2.510	0.000	[67]
[Zn ^{II} (THPP)(HMTA) ₂] ^h	Planar	2.060	2.520	0.000	[67]
[Mg ^{II} (TPP)(HMTA) ₂] ^e	Planar	2.067(5)	2.473 (2)	0.005	[68]
[Mg ^{II} (TPBP)(HMTA) ₂] ^{h, i}	Planar	2.074	2.439	0.000	[47]
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(HMTA)] (I)	-Ruf, Sad	1.975 (4) (RT) 1.983 (3) (LT)	2,296(4) (RT) 2,287(2) (LT)	0.150(1) (RT) 0.141(1) (LT)	this work
<i>Co(II) meso-porphyrin complexes</i>					
[Co ^{II} (TPP)] ^e	++Ruf	1.923	-	0.050	[63]
[Co ^{II} (TPP)] ^e	+Ruf	1.949	-	0.009	[64]
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(NO ₂)(lut)] ^{e, j}	+Ruf	1.959(2)	2.017(2)	(Lut) 0.044	[63]
		1.925(2) (NO ₂)			
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(1-Melm)] ^{e, k}	-Ruf,	1.978 (3)	2.157 (3)	0.139	[61]
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(pip) ₂] ^{e, l}	Planar	1.987	2.436 (2)	0.000	[60]
[Co ^{II} (TCPP)(py) ₂] ^g	+Ruf	1.961	1.958	0.000	[66]
<i>HMTA-Co(II) non-porphyrinic complexes</i>					
[Co ^{II} (OL) ₂ (HMTA) ₂ (H ₂ O) ₂] ^m	-	-	2.280	-	[69]
[Co ^{II} (NCS) ₂ (MeOH) ₂ (HMTA)]	-	-	2.278(1)	-	[70]
[Co ^{II} (NL) ₂ (H ₂ O) ₂ (HMTA) ₂] ⁿ	-	-	2.360	-	[71]
[Co ^{II} (H ₂ O) ₂ (HMTA) ₂ (NCS) ₂]	-	-	2.324	-	[72]
[{Co ^{II} (H ₂ O) ₂ (N ₃) ₂ }(μ ₂ -HMTA)] _n	-	2.354	73	-	[73]

^a : See the description of different types of the porphyrin core in the text and in Scheme S6

^b : M–N_p = average equatorial cobalt-nitrogen pyrrole distance

^c : M–X_L = metal-axial ligand distance

^d : M–P_C = Distance between the metal atom and the mean plane made by the 24-atom core of the porphyrin (P_C)

^e : TPP = *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrinato

^f TPyP = *meso*-tetrakis(4-pyridyl)porphyrinato

^g : TCPP = 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(4-carboxyphenyl)porphyrinato

^h : THPP = *meso*-tetrakis(4-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrinato

ⁱ : TPBP = *meso*-{tetrakis-[4-(benzoyloxy)phenyl]porphyrinato

^j : Lut = 3,5-lutidine

^k : 1-Melm = 1-methylimidazole

^l : pip = piperidine

^m : OL = cinnamato-O ligand

ⁿ : NL = 5,5-diphenylhydantoinato.

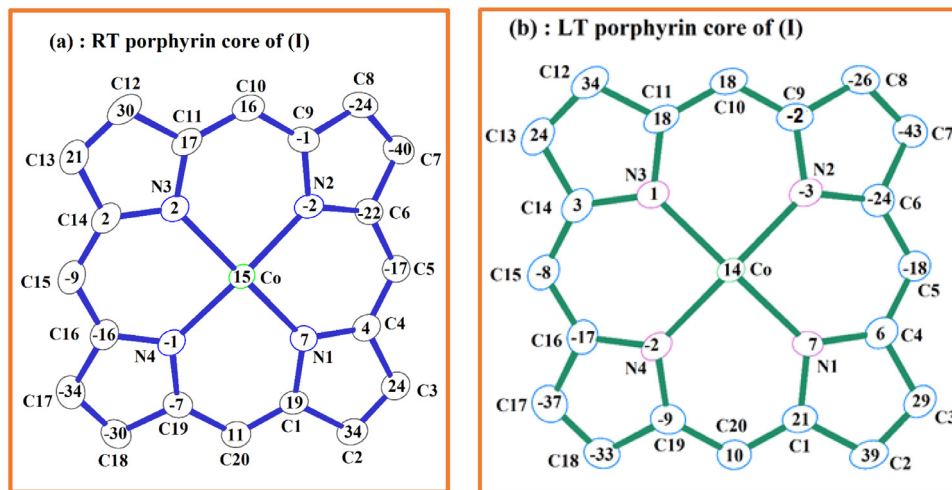


Fig. 4. Formal diagrams of the porphyrinato cores of [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] where the displacement of each atom from the mean plane of the 24-atom porphyrin macrocycle is given in units of 0.01 Å. (a): RT porphyrin core of (I), (b): LT porphyrin core of (I).

This indicates a better affinity of the HMTA ligand to the Co(II) metal ion chelated by the TMPP porphyrinato than the Zn(II) center ion complexed by the more basic PPyP porphyrinato (TPyP = *meso*-tetrakis(4-pyridyl)porphyrinato).

For the description of the crystal packing of (I), we are going to use the low-temperature structure data because they are better than those of the room temperature structure even though the val-

ues of the intermolecular interactions for both RT and LT structures are very close. The intramolecular and intermolecular interactions for (I) involves [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] molecules and chloroform solvent molecules where the cobalt(II)-HMTA porphyrin are located upside down in the lattice (Fig. 5). Indeed, one [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] molecule is linked to the neighboring Co(II) complexes as follows: (i) the hydrogen H36 of the C36 carbon of a phenyl ring is hydro-

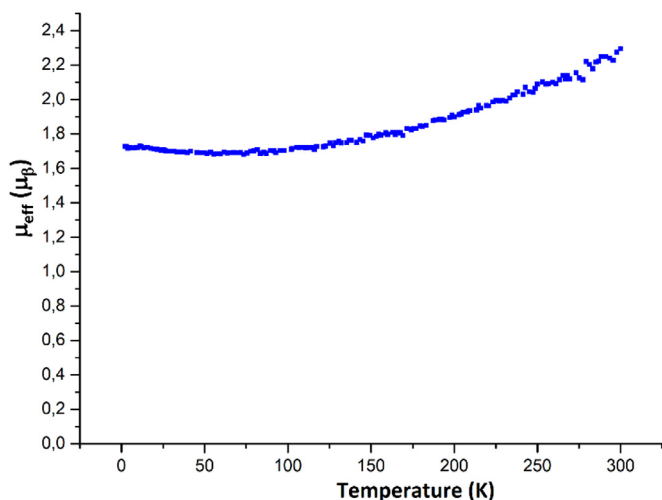


Fig. 8. Temperature dependence of the effective magnetic moment (μ_{eff}) of complex (I).

3.5. Magnetic properties of complex (I)

The temperature dependence of the *effective magnetic moment* (μ_{eff}) of complex (I) is depicted in Fig. 8 while Figure S9 illustrates the temperature dependence of $\chi_M T$ (χ_M is magnetic susceptibility) of the same species. The μ_{eff} values are $1.72 \mu_B$ at 2.0 K and $2.28 \mu_B$ at 300 K. While the first value is appropriate for a low-spin (LS) ($S = 1/2$) cobaltous derivative, the effec-

tive magnetic moment value of $2.28 \mu_B$ at 300 K is quite bigger than that of a low-spin ($S = 1/2$) Co(II) species but also smaller than the theoretical spin-only μ_S value of $3.87 \mu_B$ for a high-spin (HS) $S = 3/2$ cobalt(II) compound. This might result from a thermal spin-crossover between the LS state, $S=1/2$, $(t_{2g})^6(e_g)$ [1] and the HS state, $S=3/2$, $(t_{2g})^5(e_g)$ [2]. As commonly observed for SCO-active cobalt(II) complexes (SCO = spin crossover), the transition appears gradual and incomplete. Inspection of Figure S9 shows the presence of a plateau region between 2 K and 100 K, with a constant $\chi_M T$ values of ~ 0.37 emu/molOe expected for an uncoupled $1/2$ ion, corresponding to the LS state (theoretical value 0.374 emu/molOe) [74].

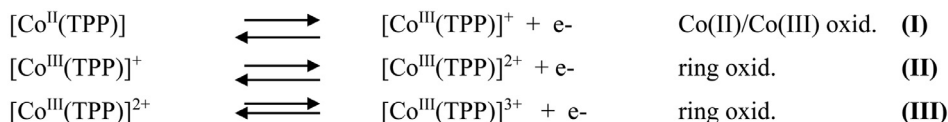
From 100 to 300 K, the $\chi_M T$ value slowly increases as a very gradual and incomplete SCO towards the HS state occurs, to a value of 0.66 emuK/moleOe at 300 K. The field dependence of the magnetization, $M = f(H)$, at 2 K given in Figure S10 shows that our cobaltous derivative (I) displays a value close to the saturation at 1 mb ($0.96 \mu_B$ with $g = 2$).

3.6. Cyclic voltammetry

Numerous cyclic voltammetry (CV) investigations of synthetic cobalt(II) porphyrin coordination compounds have been reported in the literature especially by Kadish *et al.* [75–76]. In the case of the *meso*-(tetraphenylporphyrinato)cobalt(II) complex [Co^{II}(TPP)], [76] it has been reported that this species in dichloromethane and nonchlorinated solvents (such as THF and DMSO) presents three one-electron reversible oxidations (Scheme 2-a) where the first one corresponds to the center metal Co(II)/Co(III) oxidation [Eq. (I)] followed by two ring oxidations (Eq. (II) and Eq. (III) respec-

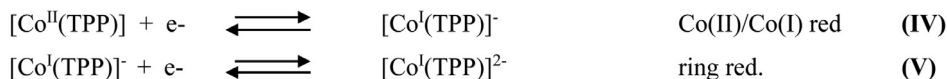
(a) : In dichloromethane and nonchlorinated solvents:

Oxidations



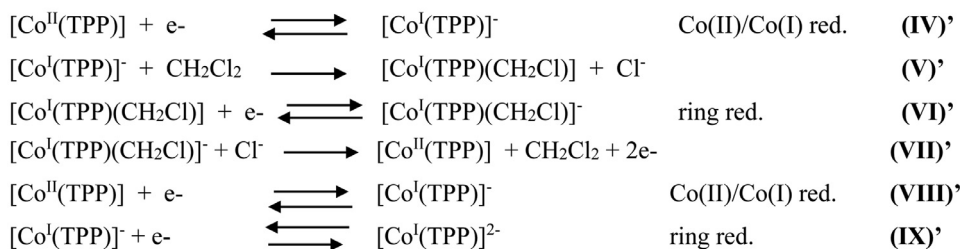
(b): In nonchlorinated solvents:

Reductions



(c) : In dichloromethane solvent:

Reductions



Scheme 2. Electrochemical reactions of [Co^{II}(TPP)] [75,76]. (a): in dichloromethane and nonchlorinated solvents, (b): in nonchlorinated solvents and (c): in dichloromethane solvent.

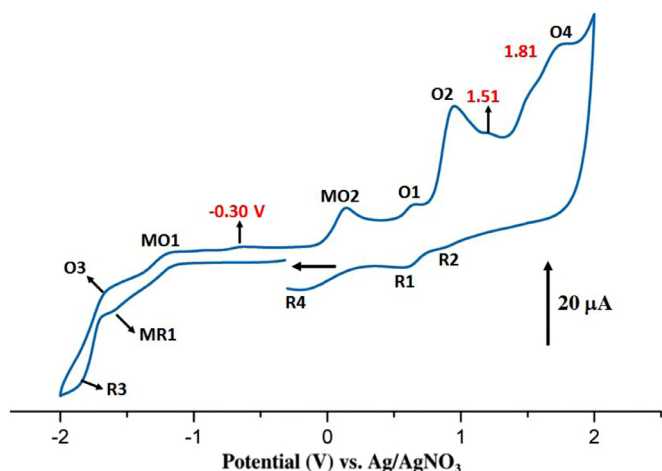


Fig. 9. Cyclic voltammogram of (I). The solvent is CH_2Cl_2 and the concentration is ca. 10^{-3} M in 0.2 M TBAP, 100 mV/s, vitreous carbon working electrode ($\varnothing = 2$ mm).

tively). The reduction of the same $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})]$ species in nonchlorinated solvents (Scheme 2-b) [49,75,76] leads to the center metal reduction $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{I})$ [Eq. (IV)] followed by a second ring centered one-electron reduction at quite negative potentials [Eq. (V)]. The electrogenerated $\text{Co}(\text{I})$ porphyrin $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TPP})]^-$ species is modestly stable in electrochemical nonchlorinated solvent, but rapidly reacts with CH_2Cl_2 solvent (Scheme 2-c) leading to a transient carbon-bonded species identified as the $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TPP})(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl})]$ complex which will be reduced to the $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TPP})(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl})]^-$ species. Reactions (VII)' and (VIII)' regenerate the $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TPP})]^-$ derivative and then a second irreversible ring reduction will take place [Eq. (IX)']. This late electrochemical reaction is only observed in dichloromethane (Scheme 2-c) [76].

The cyclic voltammetry of our $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]$ complex, shown in Fig. 9 was recorded in the non-coordinating solvent dichloromethane under an argon atmosphere using tetra-n-butylammonium perchlorate (TBAP) as the supporting electrolyte (0.2 M) and all potential values are given in volt versus SCE. The first one-electron quasi-reversible reduction corresponds to the $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{I})$ reduction [Eq. IV'], occurs at $E_{\text{c}} = -1.30$ V (where E_{cp} is the cathodic pic) and the half potential value is $E_{1/2} = -1.09$ V [MR1,MO1] (Fig. 9). As mentioned by Kadish *et al.* in the case of the $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})]$, [75] the electrogenerated $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]^-$ is not stable and rapidly reacts with CH_2Cl_2 . Consequently, reactions similar with those of equations: [Eq. (V)'] to [Eq. (VIII)'] occur leading most probably to the formation of the $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl})]$ and $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{CH}_2\text{Cl})]^-$ intermediates and may explain the presence of the irreversible wave with $E_{\text{ap}} = -0.30$ V (where E_{ap} is the anodic pic) [68]. A one electron quasi-reversible first ring reduction corresponding to the ring reduction (similar to Eq. (IX)') is also observed with $E_{1/2} = -1.44$ V [R3,O3]. The anodic part of the cyclic voltammogram of $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]$ (I) shows that we get first a one electron irreversible oxidation of the center metal $[\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{III})]$ with $E_{\text{ap}} = 0.25$ V [MO2] corresponding to Eq. (I), followed by a first and second oxidation of the porphyrin ring [O1,R1] and [O2,R2] respectively) with $E_{1/2}$ values of 0.91 and 1.21 V respectively. These waves correspond to the Eq. (II) and Eq. (III). Two irreversible waves with E_{ap} values of 1.51 and 1.81 V are also shown and could be explained by the departure of the HMTA ligand leading to a unidentified reactions. Our cobaltous tetracoordinated TMPP derivative exhibits also an irreversible oxidation wave [O4] with E_{ap} value of 2.03 V, which can be attributed to the oxidation of the *meso*-porphyrin as reported by Simonneaux *et al.* [77]

The irreversibility of this oxidation is due to chemical reactions involving unstable electrogenerated radical leading to an unidentified species reduced at about 0.09 V [R4].

As can be seen from the data of the electrochemical data reported in Table 6, we notice that (i) the half potential values of the $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{I})$ metal reduction for the tetravalent $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})]$ complex and the pent-coordinated or hexa-coordinated $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{Porph})(\text{L})_x]$ (Porph = *meso*-porphyrin, L = N-donor axial ligand and $x = 1$ or 2) didn't vary too much with the solvents used, (ii) the $E_{1/2}$ of the pentacoordinated and hexacoordinated cobaltous metalloporphyrins are slightly shifted toward negative potential values compared to those of the tetracoordinated $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ porphyrins. On the other hand, the $E_{1/2}$ values of the $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{III})$ metal oxidation are solvent depend and that they exhibit more negative shifted $E_{1/2}$ values for pentacoordinated and hexacoordinated $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ metalloporphyrins than the corresponding tetracoordinated cobaltous complexes. Concerning our $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ -HMTA derivative (I), the $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{I})$ $E_{1/2}$ value in CH_2Cl_2 is equal to -1.09 V which is in the range $[-0.83 -1.10]$ V shown in several solvents for five and six-coordinated cobaltous metalloporphyrins. The half potential $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{III})$ potential value of (I) which is 0.25 V, is shifted to more positive potential values compared to that of the related pyridine species $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TPP})(\text{py})_x]$ ($x = 1$ or 2), with $E_{1/2} = -0.12$ V, where the data are recorded also in dichloromethane. The question is whether this difference is due to the nature of axial ligands (HMTA vs pyridine) or to the nature of the *meso*-porphyrin: the TPP porphyrinato vs the methoxy *para*-substituted phenylporphyrinato TMPP. As mentioned above, the OMe groups in the *para*-phenyl positions of the TMPP porphyrinato increases the electron density of the $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ center metal and therefore complex (I) should be normally easy to oxidize, which is not the case, because (I) presents a $E_{1/2}[\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{III})]$ value of 0.25 V. Since no electrochemical data of a HMTA- $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ with any other *meso*-porphyrins are available to be used for comparison, the presence of the HMTA ligand is fore probably the main reason why the Co^{2+} in (I) is relatively easy to oxidize. Moreover, the fact that the larger shift to more negative potential values observed for the $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{III})$ oxidation compared to those of the $\text{Co}(\text{II})/\text{Co}(\text{I})$ reduction suggests that $\text{Co}(\text{III})$ complexes are stabilized to a greater degree than the cobalt(II) metalloporphyrin complexes. ⁴

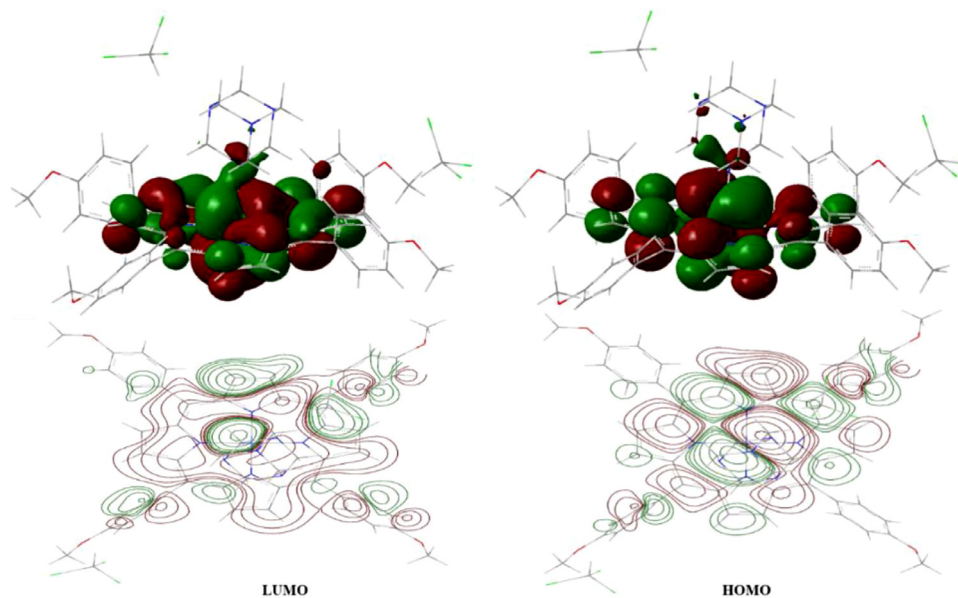
3.7. Chemical reactivity analysis

Theoretically, the chemical reactivity of a molecule can be described by using frontier orbital analysis and electronic reactivity descriptors. Herein, the electron density distribution surfaces and energies of two important molecular orbitals of the title molecule: the highest occupied molecular orbitals (HOMO) and the lowest lying unoccupied molecular orbitals (LUMO), were calculated and presented in Fig. 11. The LUMO as an electron acceptor represents the ability to obtain an electron, HOMO represents the ability to donate the electron. Hence, these orbitals determine the way the molecule interacts with other species. Moreover, the energy gap between HOMO and LUMO is a critical parameter in determining the electrical transport properties of molecules [77]. In addition, energy gap has been used to prove the bioactivity from intermolecular charge transfer [78–80]. A molecule with a small frontier orbital gap, also termed as soft molecule, is more polarizable and is generally associated with a high chemical reactivity and a low kinetic stability [81]. The difference in energy between these two frontier orbitals can be used to predict the strength and stability of transition metal complexes [82]. The size of the LUMO lobe can help predict where addition to π -ligands will occur. From Fig. 10, it is clearly seen that the HOMO and LUMO are localized on the pyrrole rings of the porphyrin parts and the N5 ligand nitrogen atom. The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) energy is 1.362

Table 6
Electrochemical data ^a for complex (**I**) and a selection of cobalt(II) metalloporphyrins.

	Reductions Solvent	Metal Reduction		Ref.	Oxidations		
		Co(II)/Co(I) (MR1,MO1)	First red. (R3,O3)	Metal Oxidation Co(II)/Co(III) (MO2)	Ring Oxidations		
					First oxid. (O1,R1)	Second oxid. (O2,R2)	
$E_{1/2}^b$	$E_{1/2}$	$E_{1/2}$	$E_{1/2}$	$E_{1/2}$	$E_{1/2}$		
[Co ^{II} (TPP)]	CH ₂ Cl ₂	-0.83	-1.40*	0.98	1.16	-	76
[Co ^{II} (TPP)]	CH ₂ Cl ₂	-	-	0.75	0.91	-	4
	PrCN ^c	-0.89	-	0.26	-	-	4
	DMF ^d	-0.84	-	-0.03	-	-	4
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(py) _x]	CH ₂ Cl ₂	-1.16	-	-0.12	-	-	76
	DMSO ^e	-0.99	-	-0.26	-	-	4
	DMF ^d	-0.93	-	-0.20	-	-	4
[Co ^{II} (TPP)(pip) _x]	DMSO ^e	-0.94	-	-0.35	-	-	4
[Co ^{II} (TMPP)(HMTA)]	CH ₂ Cl ₂	-1.09	-1.44	0.25*	0.91	1.21*	this work

*: Irreversible wave

^a The potentials are reported versus SCE^b $E_{1/2}$ = half wave potential^c : PrCN = Butanenitrile with the formula C₄H₇N^d : DMF = N,N-Dimethylformamide with the formula C₃H₇NO^e : DMSO: Dimethyl sulfoxide with the formula C₂H₆OS.**Fig. 10.** 3D surfaces and 2D contour maps showing the electron density distribution of HOMO and LUMO orbitals.

eV and the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) energy is -0.744 eV. Hence, computed HOMO-LUMO energy gap is found to be 2.106 eV (Fig. 11) and it seems in good agreement with corresponding experimental value 2.09 eV, obtained from UV-visible spectrum. On the basis of frontier orbitals energies, the different global reactivity descriptors such as chemical potential (μ), global hardness (η), and global softness (S) and global electrophilicity index (ω) are determined using Eqs. (1) - (4) as follows:

$$\mu = \frac{1}{2}(E_{LUMO} + E_{HOMO}) = 0.309 \text{ eV} \quad (1)$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2}(E_{LUMO} - E_{HOMO}) = 1.053 \text{ eV} \quad (2)$$

$$S = \frac{1}{2\eta} = 0.474 \text{ eV} \quad (3)$$

$$\omega = \frac{\mu^2}{2\eta} = 0.022 \text{ eV} \quad (4)$$

It is noted that for any two reactants, electrons flow from high to low chemical potential. The chemical hardness (η) and softness (S) of a molecule is a good indication of the chemical stability of the molecule. η is a direct measure of the electrophilic stability of a molecule, while S provides a measure of its electrophilic reactivity. A molecule with a high value of ω shows great propensity for attracting electrons from a generic donor molecule. Consequently, these results indicate low excitation energies for many of the excited states, low kinetic stability, and a high chemical softness for our studied complex. This also reveals that (**I**) can behaves as semiconductor material.

3.8. Adsorption kinetic

Fig. 12 represents the adsorption capacities (q_t) and the decolorization yields (R%) of the vat yellow 1 dye in the presence of the H₂TMPP free base porphyrin and complex (**I**) as a function of time under the following experimental conditions: room temperature, Co = 25 mg.L⁻¹ (of the vat dye) at pH = 6. The adsorbent capac-

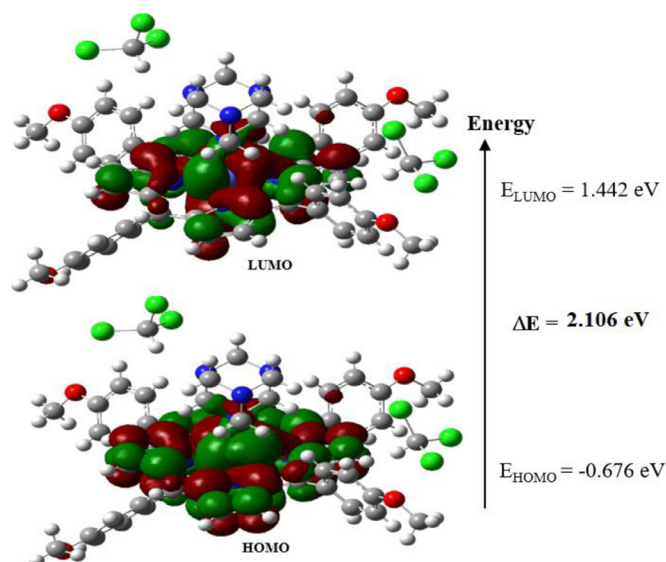


Fig. 11. HOMO–LUMO gap energy computed at UB3LYP/6-311+G(d,p)/SDD level of theory.

ity (q_t) is given by the relationship: q_t ($\text{mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$) = $(C_0 - C_t)\cdot(V/m)$ where C_0 and C_t are the dye concentration before and after the adsorption, respectively. V is the volume of the dye used and m is the mass of the adsorbent. The q_t values are 3.5 and $3.1 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$, respectively. By using the relationship $(A_0 - A_t)/A_0 \times 100$ (A_0 and A_t are the absorption at $t = 0$ and at the t instant), the color removal yield values of H_2TMPP and (I) are 14% and 12.4%, respectively. We noticed that the adsorbent capacity and adsorption efficiency values of the free base porphyrin are slightly higher than those of $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]$ (I) which could be related to the pyrrole hydrogen atoms in H_2TMPP leading to hydrogen bond type with the heteroatoms of the vat yellow dye molecules [83].

The fitting of the kinetic data of “ H_2TMPP - vat yellow dye” and “complex (I) - vat yellow dye” systems was made using four kinetic models; namely the pseudo first order kinetic model, the pseudo second order kinetic model, the intraparticle diffusion model and the Elovich model [84]. In Fig. 13 are depicted the experimental data of the adsorption of vat yellow 1 dye on H_2TMPP and complex (I) while the data were fitted using the four kinetic models and the results are collected in Table S3.

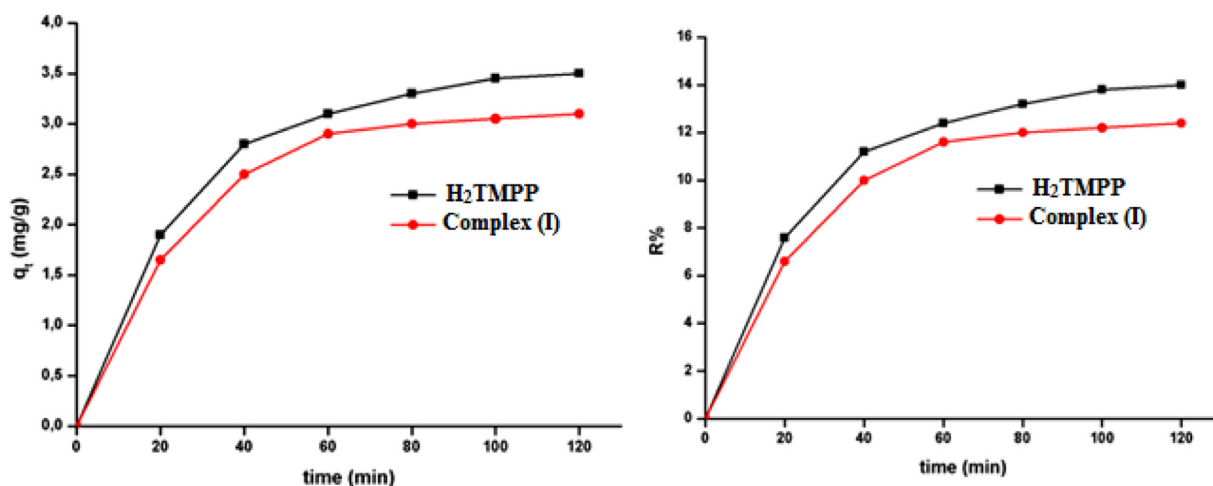


Fig. 12. Variation of the adsorption capacity (q_t) (left) and the removal yield ($R\%$) (right) vs. time for the vat yellow 1 dye using H_2TMPP and complex (I).

Based on the regression coefficient R^2 (Table S3), the experimental results are better fitted using the pseudo second order model for both H_2TMPP and $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]$ species with R^2 values of 0.99 and 0.97, respectively. The second order model equation that we used is as follows:

$$\frac{t}{q_t} = \frac{1}{(q_e^2 * k_2)} + \frac{t}{q_e}$$

where, q_t and q_e represent the amounts of the adsorbent adsorbed at time t and at equilibrium respectively, while k_2 is the rate constant for the pseudo second order model ($\text{g}\cdot\text{mg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$). The values of k_2 and q_{cal} were calculated, for each one of the two porphyrinic compounds, from the slope and the intersection of the corresponding plot, respectively.

3.9. Degradation of the vat yellow 1 dye

The ability of the cobaltous-HMTA complex (I) to catalyze the degradation of the vat yellow dye was tested using an aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution and a photodegradation process using the solar light. In Fig. 14-a, are shown the curves C_t/C_0 versus time (C_t and C_0 are the concentration of the vat dye at the instants t and $t = 0$, respectively). The degradation yield ($R\%$) is given by the relation:

$$R(\%) = \left(1 - \frac{C_t}{C_0}\right) \cdot 100.$$

By mixing only the vat yellow 1 dye and our $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ derivative (I), the $R\%$ value is 12.4%, after 120 mins of reaction. When we add an aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution ($6 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$) to this mixture, we noticed a large increase of the removal yield with a value of 72%, after 120 mins of reaction. This result could be ascribed to the important role of H_2O_2 which is activated by $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{TMPP})(\text{HMTA})]$ (I) complex [27]. Furthermore, when the same degradation reaction is made by using the solar light instead of the H_2O_2 oxidant reagent, the removal yield value is 63%, after 120 mins of reaction. Therefore, the photodegradation is considered an important method and also an environmental way to remove the vat yellow 1 dye, in presence of complex (I), mostly because only the solar light is used. where C_t and C_0 being the vat yellow 1 dye concentration at times t and 0; t is the time of degradation and K_0 is the first order rate constant. As shown in Fig. 14-b, when only the vat yellow dye and (I) are used, K_0 value is 0.001 min^{-1} (with a correlation value R^2 of 0.74) which changes to 0.013 min^{-1} ($R^2 =$

0.99) in the presence of H_2O_2 solution and 0.008 min^{-1} ($R^2 = 0.99$) in the presence of a solar light.

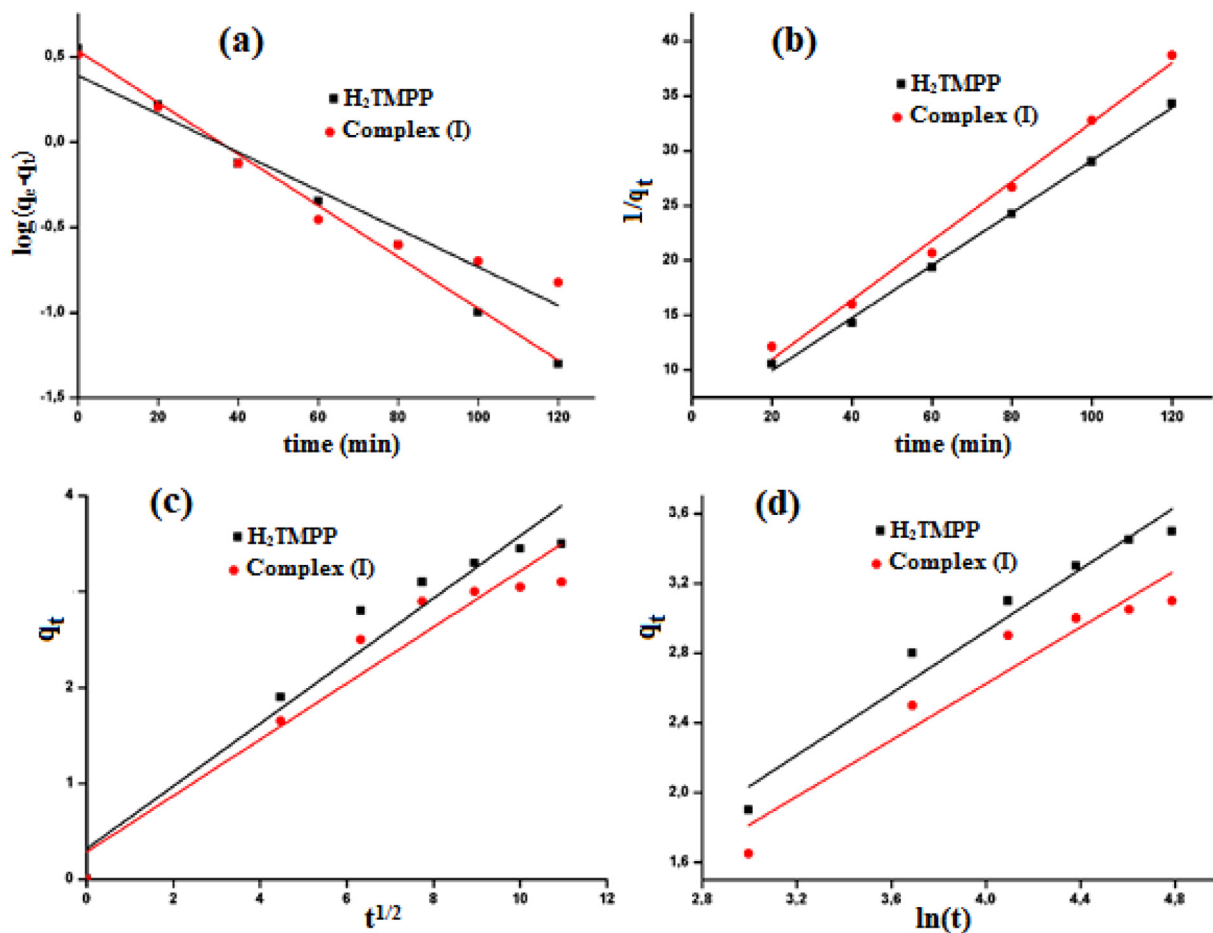


Fig. 13. Kinetic modeling for the adsorption of the vat yellow 1 dye in the presence of H₂TMPP and (I). (a): Pseudo first order model, (b): Pseudo second order model, (c): Elovich model and (d): intra-particle diffusion model.

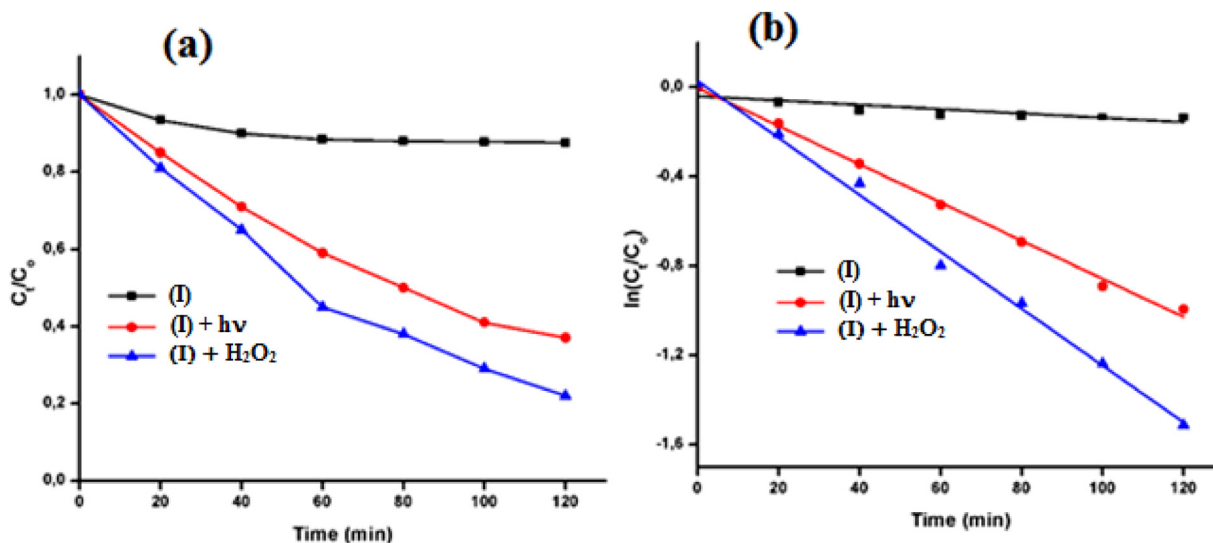


Fig. 14. (a): Variation of C_t/C_0 as a function of time. (b): Variation of $\ln(C_t/C_0)$ as function of time. The lines represent the fitting data using the pseudo first order kinetic model.

3.10. Comparison of our procedure with other reported methods

The complete degradation of anthraquinone vat dyes such as the vat yellow 1 dye is difficult due to the characteristic chemical stability of these species. Several degradation techniques of vat yellow dyes are reported in the literature. This is the case of the biodegra-

dation [85] and the filtration [86] methods. Recently, Atta-Eyison [87] reported the heterogeneous photocatalysis decomposition of the vat yellow 1 dye using zinc oxide photocatalyst in aqueous solution under UV and solar irradiation. The decomposition reaches 90% at 150 min of UV irradiation. Using our catalytic degradation method of the vat yellow 1 dye, the yield (72%) is smaller than

that of the photocatalytic method used by Atta-Eyison. Nevertheless, the encouraging obtained result using our cobaltous derivative (I) complex prompted us to use this compound in other methods of decomposition of this dye.

4. Conclusion

The reaction of an excess of hexamethylenetetramine (HMTA) with the *meso*-[tetra(*para*-methoxyphenyl)porphyrinato]cobalt(II) [Co^{II}(TMPP)] starting material leads to the pentacoordinated [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)]•2CHCl₃ species (I) as confirmed by room temperature (RT) and low temperature (LT) X-ray molecular structures which indicate also that there is no structural change when the temperature is lowered. The UV-visible titration, ¹H NMR as well as the ESI and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry show that in dichloromethane solvent, complex (I) is present as Co(II)-HMTA five-coordinated metalloporphyrin. The SQUID data indicated that at low temperature (below 220 K) complex (I) is a cobalt(II) low-spin porphyrin complex. Above this temperature, the magnetic properties show a gradual and incomplete spin crossover towards the high-spin state (*S* = 3/2). The cyclic voltammogram of (I), recorded in dichloromethane, shows a one-electron reversible oxidation wave of the E_{1/2}[Co(II)/Co(III)] half-potential value shifted to positive potential indicating an easy oxidation of the Co(II) for our derivative. The crystal packing of (I) is stabilized by weak C–H•••O and C–H•••N hydrogen bonds and C–H•••Cg and C–Cl•••Cg intermolecular interactions involving the phenyl and pyrrole ring centroids. Furthermore, Base on Hirshfeld topology analyses all possible intermolecular interactions occurring in the crystal structure have been quantified. Frontier molecular orbitals energies and global reactivity descriptors reveal the high chemical reactivity and a low kinetic stability of the title complex. The adsorption efficiency of vat yellow 1 dye on H₂TMPP and complex (I) revealed that the free base porphyrin presents higher adsorption efficiency than the cobaltous HMTA derivative and that the pseudo second order kinetic model is the most appropriate to describe the adsorption process. The [Co^{II}(TMPP)(HMTA)] coordination compound was also tested as catalyst for the vat yellow dye 1 degradation using at first a hydrogen peroxide solution and then by photodegradation under solar light. Even though the first method affords a better removal yield (*R*% = 72%), the photodegradation degradation way, using the solar light, presents definitely a good removal yield of 63% since this technic is less expensive and environmentally friendly.

Statement of contributions of authors

Author 1

Name: Soumaya Nasri

Contribution: Synthesis of the species reported in the manuscript (corresponding author)

Author 2

Name: Melek Hajji

Contribution: Theoretical calculations

Author 3

Name: Mouhieddine Guergueb

Contribution: UV-visible titration

Author 4

Name: Selma Dhifaoui

Contribution: Catalytic degradation of the dye

Author 5

Name: Valérie Marvaud

Contribution: SQUID investigation

Author 6

Name: Frédérique Loiseau

Contribution: Fluorescence study

Author 7

Name: Florian Molton

Contribution: Cyclic voltammetry investigation

Author 8

Name: Thierry Roisnel

Contribution: X-ray molecular structure data collection

Author 9

Name: Taha Guerfel

Contribution: DFT calculations

Author 10

Name: Habib Nasri

Contribution: Writing the manuscript

Declaration of Competing Interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:[10.1016/j.molstruc.2020.129676](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molstruc.2020.129676).

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