

Mechanical synthesis of β -amino- α -carbethoxy ethyl acrylates as corrosion inhibitors for mild steel in acid media

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Carbon steel is extensively used in the industrial sector due to its cost-effectiveness and desirable properties such as strength, ductility, and weldability. However, its susceptibility to corrosion, due to the absence of expensive alloying elements like nickel and chromium, leads to significant economic and environmental issues.[1] To mitigate this, corrosion inhibitors (CIs) have emerged as an effective and economical solution, with organic corrosion inhibitors (OCIs) gaining popularity due to their high efficiency, low cost, and low toxicity.[2] This study investigates the anticorrosion efficiency of two β -amino- α -carbethoxy ethyl acrylate derivatives (EOAB and DBMM) for 1020 carbon steel in 1 mol L⁻¹ HCl.

These compounds were synthesized using a solvent-free method. Benzylamine or 3-aminobenzoic acid were condensed with diethyl ethoxymethylenemalonate (EMME) by manually grinding the reactants in a mortar, completing the reactions in, respectively, one and 25 minutes. Both derivatives were synthesized in quantitative yields, demonstrating an efficient and greener adaptation of the classical EMME/amine condensation method.[3] The structures of EOAB and DBMM were confirmed through IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C-APT NMR, and HRMS analyses.

Both inhibitors demonstrated significant corrosion mitigation, with EOAB showing over 85% efficiency and DBMM exceeding 90% at a 1.00 mmol L⁻¹ concentration. Even at elevated temperatures, both inhibitors maintained notable efficiency, significantly reducing the corrosion rates compared to the blank solution. Gravimetric measurements, electrochemical experiments, and surface analyses were conducted to understand the inhibitors' behavior and corrosion mechanisms. Additionally, SCC-DFTB simulations and quantum chemical calculations suggested that both inhibitors are capable of strongly interact with the iron surface through their carbon and oxygen atoms, shielding it against the acid media.

The results underscore the potential of EOAB and DBMM as effective OCIs, contributing to greener and more efficient corrosion prevention strategies in industrial applications.

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