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Supramolecular complexes of kinetin and adenine with glycyrrhizic acid and its monoammonium salt

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Abstract

3 β -hydroxy-11-oxo-12 α -en-18 β H, 20 β -olean-30 acid 3-O-(2'-O- β -D glucuronopyranosyl) - β -D-glucuronopyranoside (glycyrrhizin acid, GA) - the main active principle of licorice root (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L.), which grows on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and is a renewable natural source. Being capable of self-organization and recognition of other particles and molecules, the natural biologically active compounds are the subject of ongoing chemical research aimed to simulate a variety of biochemical processes. In particular, it has been shown that the dilute aqueous solutions of complexes of GA and its monoammonium salt (MASGA) with some low molecular weight compounds significantly affect the germination, development and productivity of crops.

The article presents the results of studying the dependence of the complexation of MASGA with adenine and kinetin depending on the structural changes of the guest molecule. The new supramolecular complexes of GA, MASGA with adenine and kinetin have been prepared by the liquid-phase method, their physico-chemical and spectral characteristics have been determined. Using ultraviolet (UV) spectrophotometry, the complex formation of MASGA with adenine and kinetin in aqueous solutions at pH 7.2 has been studied. It was shown that the stability of complexes increases in the series (MASGA: adenine) (2.07 ± 0.1) $\cdot 10^5$ M⁻¹ < MASGA: kinetin (5.07 ± 0.1) $\cdot 10^5$. And does not depend on the stoichiometric ratio of complexing components. It is assumed that the supramolecular complexes are stabilized by a hydrogen bond, formed between the functional groups of the guest-host molecules, weak intermolecular interactions such as hydrophobic interactions and others.

1. Introduction

The rapidly developing supramolecular chemistry has made possible to develop methods for molecular encapsulation of a number of drugs and to study the structure of the obtained complexes in order to determine their stability. One emerging way to create low-dose drugs is to prepare clathrates in the presence of glycosides from these locally available plant materials. Molecular complexes obtained in the presence of plant glycosides lead to an increase in water solubility, bioavailability of drugs and the formation of a wide spectrum of biological activity (Tolstikova *et al.*, 2007; Tolstikov *et al.*, 2007).

The biological activity of modifications with glycyrrhizic acid (GA) is determined by the peculiarities of their chemical structure. In order to create new pharmaceutical products, research is being conducted to obtain complexes of glycyrrhizic acid with amino acids, alkaloids, antibiotics, *etc.* Among them, there are known drugs that have anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antiallergic, hypolipidemic,

antioxidant, antitoxic, hepatoprotective, immunotropic, antimicrobial and antitumor activities (Tolstikov *et al.*, 1991; Medetbekov *et al.*, 2007; Kondratenko *et al.*, 2003; Yakovishin *et al.*, 2017; Yakovishin *et al.*, 2014).

In his research, the Russian Scientist, L.A. Yakovishin obtained supramolecular complexes of glycyrrhizic acid (GA) and its monoammonium salt (MASGA) with L-histidine, streptocide, caffeine, quercetin, and a number of other biologically active substances. The structures were studied using spectroscopic methods. In addition, the stability constants of the obtained complexes and the Gibbs free energy values were determined by the isomolar series method (Yakovishin *et al.*, 2016; Yakovishin *et al.*, 2014; Yakovishin *et al.*, 2017; Yakovishin *et al.*, 2019).

Adenine is a component of adenine DNA and RNA; it is involved in the formation of adenosine triphosphate, the energy source of the cell (Naseem *et al.*, 2014).

Kinetin (N⁶-furfuryladenine) is a growth factor and is one of the most widely used ingredients in many skin care cosmetics. There is also some information about the antiplatelet aggregation factor, which reduces the formation of blood clots in the human body, and its ability to correct RNA-related genetic diseases (Hwang *et al.*, 2012).

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Based on the above data, one of the current topics is the modification of adenine and kinetin with GA and its salts and the study of their biological activity.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Chemicals and reagents

Organic solvents: acetone (chemical clean), ethyl alcohol (chemical clean), glacial acetic acid (chemical clean), benzene (chemical clean), acetonitrile (chemical clean), chloroform (chemical clean), ammonium hydroxide (25%), hexane (chemical clean) and sodium hydroxide (chemical clean). To compose the isomolar series, we used 10^{-4} M aqueous solutions of fitogormons and MASGA (buffer Na_2HPO_4 - NaH_2PO_4 pH 7.2).

2.2 Instruments

IR spectra of the complexes formed in KBr tablets, were obtained on a Perkin Elmer spectrophotometer (USA). UV spectrophotometer Shimadzu 12.80 (quartz cuvette 10×10 mm); HPLC was performed on chromatography Agilent Thechnologies 1200 (USA). Chromatographic analysis conditions: Column - Poroshell 120 EC-C18, $2.7 \mu\text{m}$, 3.0×100 mm, and detector - diode array detector (UV detector can also be used), eluent - acetonitrile: 0.5% acetic acid (35:65, isocratic method)., flow rate - 0.75 ml / min , detection - 254 nm , amount injected into the column - $10 \mu\text{l}$, oven temperature - 250°C , analysis time-15 min. Magnetic stirrer MM-5; rotary evaporator IR-1M2. Lyophilic device Automatic FREEZE-Dryer10-010; the melting point was determined on a PTP TU 25-11-1144

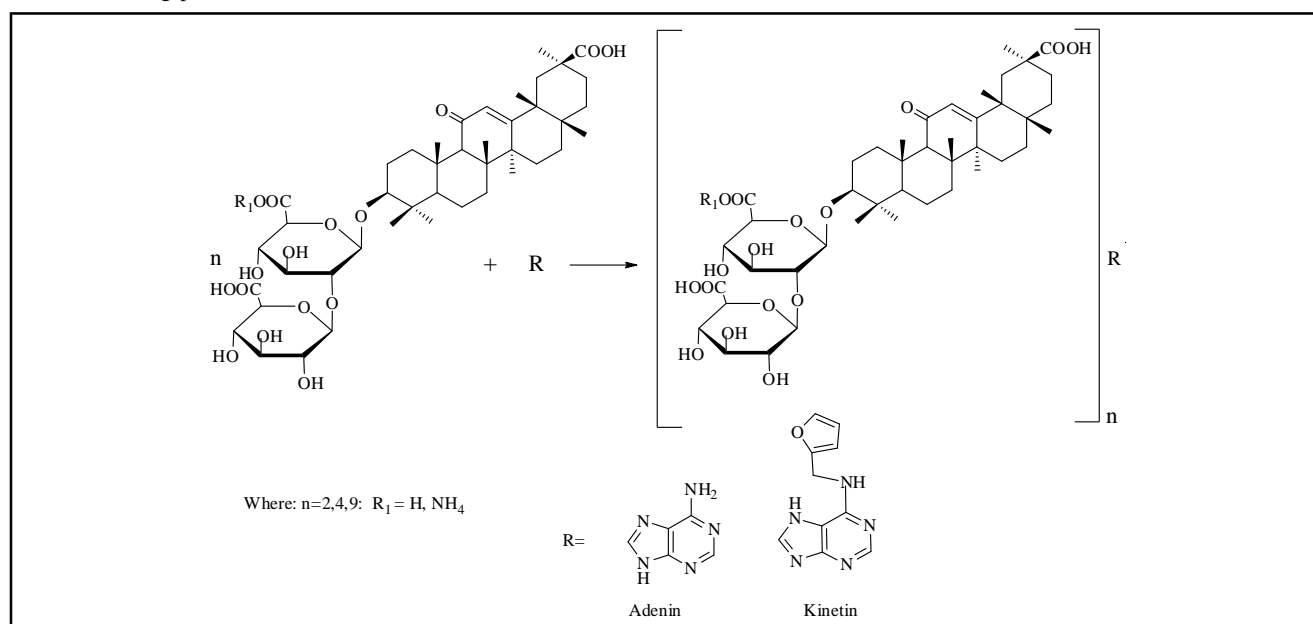
device. For thin layer chromatography (TLC), we used silufol plates (Czech Republic).

2.3 General method of obtaining molecular complex

Preparation of supramolecular complexes of kinetin with MASGA in a 1:2 ratio. A weighed portion of 1.68 g of MASGA (2×10^{-3} mol) was dissolved in 25 ml of a 50% aqueous solution of ethanol at $50-60^\circ\text{C}$. Then added 0.22 g (1×10^{-3} mol) of kinetin, followed by vigorous stirring on a magnetic stirrer for 6-7 h at room temperature. After that, the organic part was removed from the reaction mixture on a rotary evaporator, and the aqueous part was freeze-dried.

The same method was used to synthesize molecular complexes of adenine, kinetin and GA, MASGA, in a 1:2, 1:4, 1:9 ratio. For this, GA, MASGA were first obtained and purified from technical GA on the basis of certain methods described in the literature (Kondratenko *et al.*, 2005; Stolyarova *et al.*, 2008). On the basis of the obtained GA, MASGA, a number of molecular complexes with kinetin were obtained (Scheme 1).

To obtain the complexes, GA was dissolved in 96% ethyl alcohol and then a kinetin solution was added to it with vigorous stirring. The alcoholic part is distilled under vacuum and the aqueous part was dried by a lyophilic method. Certain physicochemical characteristics of the obtained molecular complexes have been determined and their optical spectral (UV, IR) properties have been studied in order to study the complex formation process. The data obtained are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.



Scheme 1: General scheme for the preparation of supramolecular complexes of adenine and kinetin with GA, MASGA.

3. Results

3.1 Study of the formation of supramolecular complexes based on optical spectroscopy methods

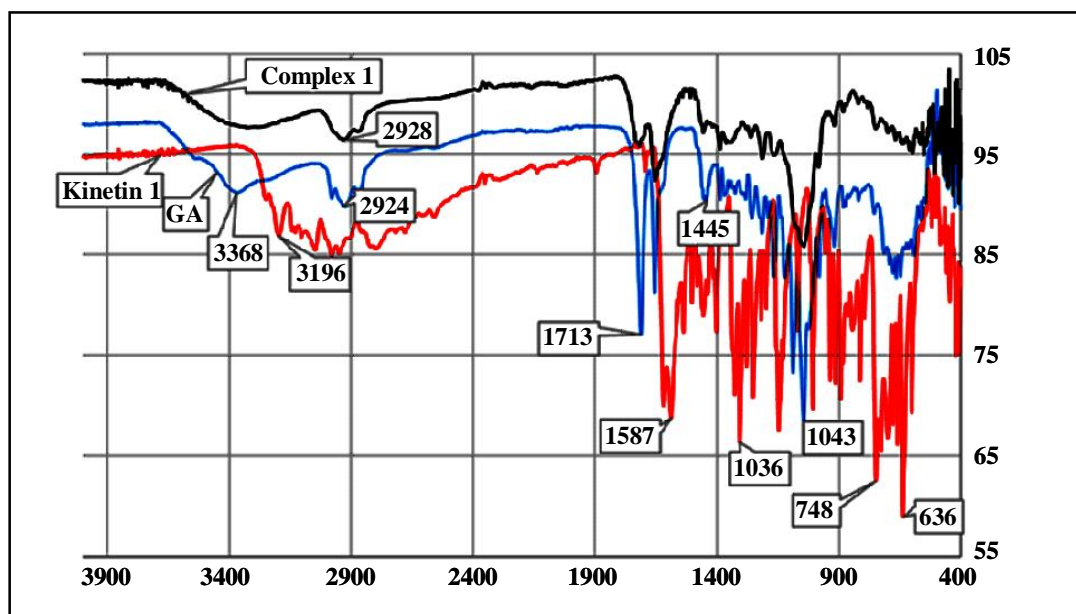
It can be seen from the data given in Table 1 and depicted in Figure 1 that in the IR spectra of the obtained compounds, the frequencies of valence vibrations of OH groups in the GA molecule were observed in the form of a wide shoulder in the region of 3368

cm^{-1} . The frequencies of valence vibrations of the CH_3 and CH_2 groups were observed in the region of $2924-2868 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, as well as the frequencies of valence vibrations of the carbonyl part of the carboxyl groups in the GA molecule were observed within 1713 cm^{-1} .

The frequency of valence vibrations of the carbonyl group located on C-11 in the aglycone part of the GA molecule was intense in the region of $1656-1653 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Table 1: Some physicochemical and spectral parameters of supramolecular complexes

No.	R ₁	n	mp. °C (decomposition)	UV λ _{max} , nm lgε	Frequencies of vibrations in the IR spectrum, 6m ⁻¹
1.	H	2	206	264 (4.46)	ν(OH, NH) =3339, ν(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =2928, ν(C=O) =1718, ν(C=O) =1653 (¹³ C=O), ν(C=C, C=N) =1593, δ (CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =1456, 1386, 1346 1259, 1213, 1163, δ(O-H)=1043, δ(CH=)= 982
2.	H	4	204	261 (4.54)	ν(OH, NH) =3339, ν(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =2930, ν(C=O) =1728, 1699, ν(C=O) =1651 (¹³ C=O), ν(C=C, C=N) =1591, δ(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =1456, 1387, 1261, 1213, 1168, δ(O-H)=1044, δ(CH=)= 982
3.	H	9	202	260 (4.07)	ν(OH, NH) =3368, ν(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =2938, ν(C=O) =1717, 1699, ν(C=O) =1651 (¹³ C=O), ν(C=C, C=N) =1591, δ(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =1456, 1387, 1362, 1260, 1213, 1169, δ(O-H) = 1043, δ(CH=)= 982
4.	NH ₄	2	190	280 (4.47)	ν(OH, NH) =3200, ν(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =2947, 2878 ν(C=O) =1703, ν(C=O) =1622 (¹³ C=O), ν(C=C, C=N) =1589, δ(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =1446, 1416, 1304, 1254, 1213, δ(O-H)=1040, δ(CH=)= 980
5.	NH ₄	4	192	262 (4.60)	ν(OH, NH) =3198, ν(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =2941, 2864 ν(C=O) =1705, ν(C=O) =1620 (¹³ C=O), ν(C=C, C=N) =1589, δ(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =1454, 1417, 1390, 1362, 1304, 1279, 1213, 1157, δ(O-H)=1039, δ(CH=)=980
6.	NH ₄	9	194	260 (4.43)	ν(OH, NH) =3196, ν(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =2978, 2880 ν(C=O) =1705, ν(C=O) =1645 (¹³ C=O), ν(C=C, C=N) =1589, δ(CH ₃ , CH ₂ , CH) =1456, 1418, 1387, 1261, 1213, 1167, δ(O-H)=1034, δ(CH=)= 980

**Figure 1: IR spectrum of GA complex: kinetin and GA, kinetin.**

The frequency of the deformation vibrations of the CH_3 , CH_2 groups are formed in the range of $1446\text{-}1143\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The frequency of valence vibrations of C-O-C and C-OH bonds in the molecule was observed in the ranges of $1087\text{-}1043\text{ cm}^{-1}$, and the frequencies of deformation vibrations of the group ($=\text{CH}$) – in the field of $985\text{-}975\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

The frequencies of valence vibrations belonging to the -NH group in the kinetin molecule were observed at $3198\text{-}3193\text{ cm}^{-1}$, and the

frequencies of vibrations belonging to the $-\text{C}=\text{N}$ bonds were observed in the region of $1592\text{-}1588\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Based on the change in the basic frequencies of the functional groups in the IR spectra of the starting substances, we can assume what types of interactions exist between the molecules in the formation of supramolecular complexes. Since, the frequencies of valence vibrations of OH groups in the GA molecule were observed in the region of $3370\text{-}3364\text{ cm}^{-1}$, and in the complex of $3342\text{-}3335\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

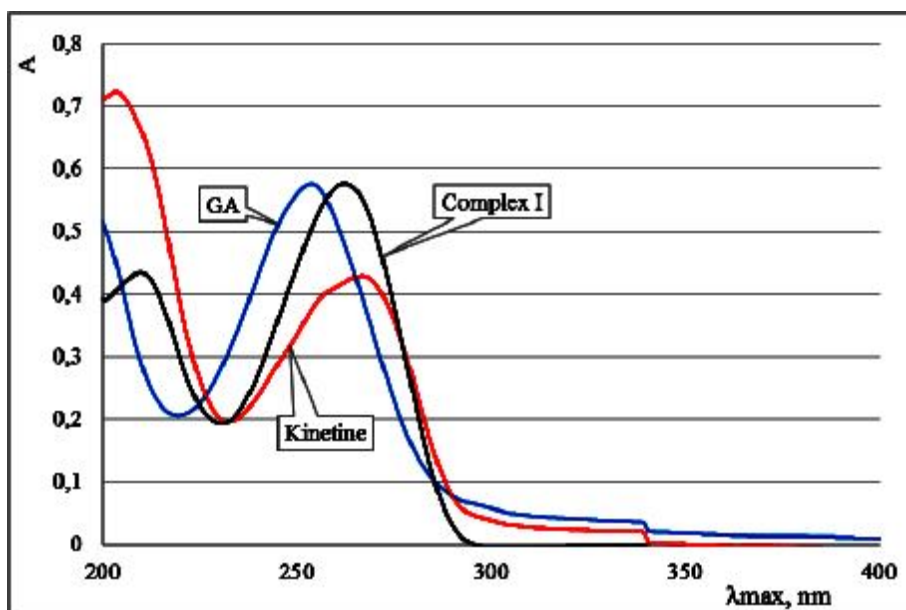


Figure 2: UV spectra of the supramolecular complex of GA:kinetin and GA, kinetin.

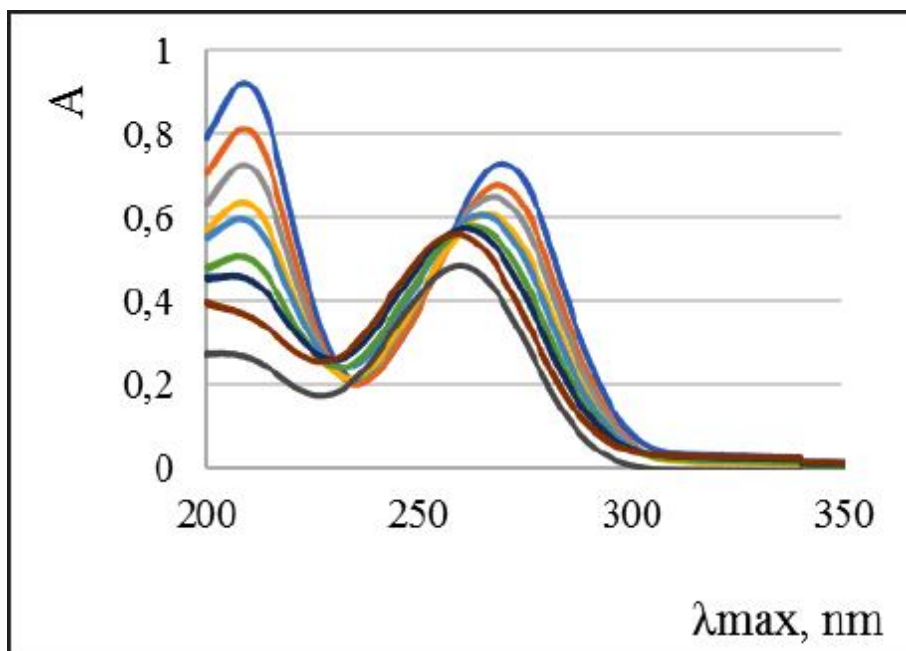


Figure 3: UV spectra of the isomolar series method of the supramolecular complex MASGA and kinetin.

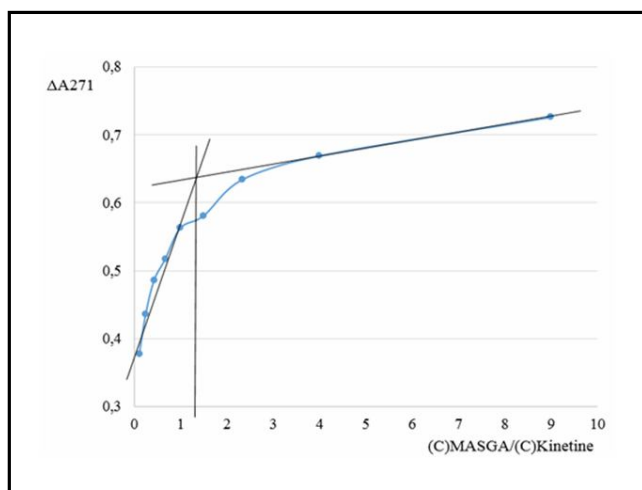


Figure 4: Graph of dependence between the optical density of the isomolar series of the complex of MASGA and kinetin on the concentration of reagents.

In the UV spectrum of GA, the maximum absorption was observed in the wavelength range of 252 nm (Figure 2), associated with the transition of $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ electrons between the carbonyl group in the C-ring of the GA molecule and the conjugate in the conjugate state (Tolstikov *et al.*, 2007).

3.2 Determination of the stability of complexes by the method of isomolar series

By the method of isomolar series (Ostromyslensky-Job method) was determined the stoichiometric ratios of the components of supramolecular complexes: GA, MASGA, kinetin, and adenine (Bulatov *et al.*, 1986).

In the isomolar series method, solutions of two components (“guest” and “host”) with the same molar concentration (10^{-4} M) are first conducted determination of the stability constant and the Gibbs free energy of the complexes and the reagents are mixed in ratios ranging from 1:9 to 9:1. This in turn maintains a constant solution volume and total reagent concentration ($V_M + V_R = \text{const}$; $C_M + C_R = \text{const}$).

To maintain the ionic strength and the pH constant of solutions, a buffer system (phosphate buffer $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 - \text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$, pH 7.2) is used. The prepared solutions for the isomolar series were mixed in an incubator mixer for 40 min at a constant temperature (20°C). The obtained data are shown in Figure 3.

As can be seen from the data in Figure 4, there are isobestic points at 227 and 262 nm. The presence of these isobestic points indicates the formation of similar complexes in the solution. In general, the equilibrium constant can be expressed as follows:

$$K = \frac{[\text{MASGA} - \text{Kinetin}]}{[\text{MASGA}][\text{Kinetin}]}$$

From the graph of the relationship between the optical density of the obtained isomolar series and the concentration ratio of the initial reagents, it is possible to determine the molar ratio of the initial substances in the complex composition.

From this graph (Figure 4), it can be seen that MASGA and kinetin reached the maximum yield of complex formation in the ratio of ~ 1:1 mol. For complexes in molar ratios of 1:1, the stability constant of the complex was calculated using the following formula (1) (Babko *et al.*, 1955).

$$K = \frac{\Delta A_0 \cdot \Delta A_1}{c(\Delta A_0 - \Delta A_1)^2} \quad (1)$$

where c is the concentration of the substance, ΔA_0 is the change of optical density of a fully dissociated complex, ΔA_1 is the change of optical density corresponding to the value on the curve.

As a result, it was determined that the stability constant of the MASGA: kinetin complex is $(7.90 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^5 \text{ K, M}^{-1}$. Using the value of these stability constants (K), it was found that the Gibbs free energy of the resulting complex equals to (2) $(3.30 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^{-4} \Delta\text{G, J/mol}$ (Yakovishin *et al.*, 2017).

$$\Delta\text{G} = -2,3 \text{ RTlg}K \quad (2)$$

Based on this method, the stability constant of the MASGA: Adenine complex $((2.07 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^5 \text{ K, M}^{-1})$ and the Gibbs free energy values $((2.98 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^{-4} \Delta\text{G, J/mol})$ were calculated.

4. Discussion

The difference in the frequency of valence vibrations of OH groups was 29 cm^{-1} , which indicates that hydrogen bonds are involved in the complex formations. In addition, a sharp decrease in the intensity of the NH group vibrations in the region of $3395\text{-}3055 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ shows the formation of a complex ion-dipole ($-\text{NH}_3 + \dots \text{O-H, H}^+ \text{OH, -COOH-}$, except hydrogen bonds) interactions.

The above results showed that the stability of the complex formed by MASGA with kinetin is higher than the stability of the complex formed with adenine ($K(\text{MASGA: Kinetin}) > K(\text{MASGA: Adinin})$).

There are some reports in literature, showing the preparation of GA complexes with kinetin and determination of its stability constant $((5.07 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^5)$ as well as the Gibbs free energy $(3.25 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^{-4}$ (Dzhuraev *et al.*, 2020). We have found that the kinetin complexes obtained with GA and MASGA were very close in stability reported in literature. In addition, the proximity of the numerical values of the Gibbs free energy indicates that the processes of complex formation also go in the same direction.

5. Conclusion

For the first time, supramolecular complexes of GA, MASGA with adenine and kinetin, the complex formation process is discussed based on the methods of optical spectroscopy (UV-, IR-). The stability constants of the obtained complexes in aqueous solutions and the Gibbs free energy have been determined. The stability constants of the complexes have been found as (MASGA: adenine) $(2.07 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$, MASGA: kinetin $(5.07 \pm 0.1) \cdot 10^5$, respectively. It has been shown that the molar ratio of components in complexes of MASGA with adenine and kinetin is 1:1. supramolecular complexes are formed by hydrogen bonds and are stabilized by weak intermolecular interactions.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest relevant to this article.

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