



## **SYNTHESIS, CHARACTERIZATION, AND ANTIMICROBIAL STUDIES OF MIXED LIGAND COMPLEXES OF ACETANILIDE AND AMPICILLIN WITH COBALT (II) AND NICKEL(II) IONS**

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**KEYWORDS:** *synthesis, acetanilide, ampicillin, Salmonella entrica, Staphylococcus faecalis.*

### **Abstract**

The rise of new infectious diseases, the recovery of several infections that appeared to have been controlled and the increase in bacterial resistance have generated the necessity for studies directed towards the improvement of new antimicrobials. Nickel (II) and Cobalt (II) complexes as well as the mixed ligands of acetanilide and ampicillin in methanol and water medium were synthesized and characterized based on their physical analysis such as color, percentage yield, solubility as well as IR spectroscopic study. The solubility of the complexes was tested using dimethylformamide, carbon tetrachloride, dimethyl sulphate, chloroform, ethylacetate, and methanol. The solubility test showed that the complexes were both polar and non-polar. The coordination of the metal complexes to the ligand was found to be through the nitrogen and oxygen atoms of ampicillin and nitrogen atom of acetanilide. The antimicrobial activities of the cobalt (II) ion complexes were evaluated by screening against selected micro-organism, bacteria such as; *Streptococcus faecalis*, *Xanthomonas axinopodis*, *Salmonella entrica*, *Xanthomonas phaseoli* and *Fungi*; *Sclerotium rolfsii*, *Mansourian phomoides*, *Collectotrichum lindemuthanium*. From the findings, the result revealed that the active ingredients were not against bacteria but were proactive to fungi.

### **Introduction**

Most transitions that are related to colored metal complexes are either d-d transitions or charge transfer bands. In a d-d transition, an electron in a d-orbital on the metal is excited by a photon to another d orbital of higher energy, therefore d-d transitions occur only for partially-filled d-orbital complexes ( $d^{1-9}$ ). For complexes having  $d^0$  or  $d^{10}$  configurations, charge transfer is still possible even though d-d transitions are not (Harris and Bertolucci, 1989).

According to Claudel (2020), many antimicrobial drugs are upright ligands and there is a possibility that their activity depends on their complexing of metal ions, as well as their effectiveness, is increased when coordinated. The improvement of resistance of a microorganism to antibiotics may be due to inherent or natural whereby there is no site for the drugs to impasse there or the permeability against the drug is low, so the drug cannot affect the microorganism, and also, the microorganism acquires resistance to be affected by the drug according to Saga and Yamaguchi (2009).

Kafi-Ahmadia et al., (2018); Abdel-Rahman et al., (2016; 2017; 2019) reported that metal chelators are among materials with antimicrobial activity that is based on chelation theory. The biochemical activity

of bioactive species can be enhanced by chelation also, chelation reduces the polarity of the metal ion due to overlapping of the ligand orbital and partial sharing of the positive charge of the metal ion. Subsequently, the complex may infiltrate the lipid membranes which may disable the enzymes of microorganisms by obstructing their metal-binding sites. Furthermore, such complexes aggravate the respiration of the cell and as a result, the growth of the organism is restricted by upsetting the protein synthesis.

Ampicillin is one of the most widely prescribed antibiotics. Ampicillin is an antibiotic drug used to prevent and treat some bacterial infections, such as respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, meningitis, *salmonellosis*, and endocarditis, gastrointestinal infections caused by adulterated water or food (for example, by *Salmonella*), whooping cough, to prevent and treat secondary infection (middle ear infection) *Sinusitis*. It may also be used to prevent group B *streptococcal* infection in newborns. Like all antibiotics drugs, its functions are limited to the treatment of viral infections (*US National Library of Medicine*).

Ampicillin can penetrate gram-positive and some gram-negative bacteria to inhibit the third and final stage of bacterial cell wall synthesis, which could eventually lead to cell lysis according to Bastug *et al.* (2012). It is considered penicillin and is a close relative of another penicillin, amoxicillin. Unlike penicillin, ampicillin and amoxicillin can insinuate and avert the growth of certain types of bacteria, called gram-negative bacteria. According to My *et al.*, (2011), ampicillin is effective against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria and is used to treat gonorrhea and infections of the intestinal, urinary, and respiratory tracts.

Acetanilide is an organic compound with formula  $C_8H_9NO$  (N-phenylacetamide) and it is produced by reacting acetic anhydride with aniline. Acetanilide is used for the production of 4-acetamido-benzene-sulfonyl chloride, a key intermediate for the manufacture of sulfa drugs. It is also a precursor in the synthesis of penicillin according to Sivakumar and Prema (2015).

It has been reported by Ogunniran *et al.* (2008) that mixed ligand metal complexes of ampicillin and chloramphenicol with Cu(II), Ni(II), and Fe(III) metal chloride hexahydrates have been prepared, characterized both physically and spectroscopically and the results showed that complexes were effective chemotherapy agents. It has also been reported by Abdulhamid *et al.* (2016) that the ampicillin metal complexes with Co(II) and Cu(II) were synthesized and characterized as well as antimicrobial studies and the results revealed that metal complexes were better antidotes for metal overload or poisoning. Metals not only provide prototypes for synthesis, but they also introduce functionalities that enrich drug delivery vectors (Obaleye *et al.*, 2012; Abubakar *et al.*, 2019). Many organic drugs necessitate interaction with metals for action. They interrelate with metals at their target site or during their metabolism or interrupt the balance of metal ion uptake and distribution in cell and tissue. The unique properties of metal complexes tend to offer advantages in the innovation and improvement of new drugs (Obaleye *et al.*, 2021).

## Materials and Methods

### (a) Reagents and Instruments:

All chemicals and solvents used were of analytical grade. Pure sample of Acetanilide, molecular formula  $C_8H_9NO$  (N-phenylacetamide) and molecular weight 135, was obtained from Sigma – Aldrich. Ampicillin trihydrate obtained as a gift from Drugfield Pharmaceutical Company, Sango, Lagos, Nigeria. Metal salts  $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  and  $NiCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  were obtained British Drug Chemical House Limited Co, Poole, England. Analytical Reagent grade hydrated metal chlorides from British Scientific Chemicals were used for the preparation of the complexes. Elemental analysis (C, H, N and O) were carried out using micro analytical

technique on C,H,N,S,O Elemental analyzer at Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) Malaysia. The melting points were carried out on a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus. Infrared spectral analyses were recorded using Shimadzu FTIR-8400S (Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer) in the range  $4500 - 300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The solid reflectance studies were also determined using a double beam machine scan in the range  $200 - 800 \text{ nm}$ .

### (b) Synthesis

0.012191 mol of Acetanilide, 0.003699 mol were added to the ethanolic solution of Nickel salt metal to the ligand in ratio 1:1 (ML), the reacting mixture was stirred on a magnetic stirrer for 3 hours, a whitish-green mixture was formed then filtered with a sintered glass porosity No:4, washed in methanolic solution and dried in a desiccator containing silica gel for 5days. The residue was weighed until a specific weight was obtained. The ratio 1:2 (ML2) Acetanilide – Nickel complex was synthesized by increasing the concentration of the ligand (acetanilide) to two. Mixed ligand metal complexes of acetanilide were prepared by introducing the Ampicillin in ratio 1:1:1 (MLL1) alongside metal and acetanilide whereas, the 1:2:1 complex was prepared by increasing the concentration of acetanilide ML2L1. The processes of filtrations, washing, drying remain the same as stated in the ratio 1:1 synthesis. Metal complexes residue gave green color with reasonable percentage yields as stated. For cobalt salt, 0.008481 mol of a red wine solution of cobalt (II) chloride to a colorless methanolic solution of (0.003699 mol) acetanilide of the same concentration in a beaker as (ML) in ratio 1:1. The mixture became peach in color and no precipitate formed and stirred for 2hrs:30mins. The mixture was filtered, washed in methanolic solution, using sintered glass with porosity No: 4 then the residue was dried in a desiccator containing silica gel for 4days. The ratio 1:2 (ML2) cobalt-acetanilide complex was synthesized by double the concentration of the ligand. The residue gave red color. Mixed ligand metal complexes were prepared in ratios 1:1:1 and 1:2:1 by adding ampicillin as the secondary ligand. Equimolar concentrations of the cobalt metal, acetanilide, and ampicillin were added independently as (MLL1) but for the ratio 1:2:1 complex. The concentration of acetanilide increased to 2 as (ML2L1). The two mixed ligand metal complexes followed the processes of filtration, washing, drying as in ratio 1:1 and 1:2 metal complexes. Red residues with appreciable yields were obtained.

### Antibacterial Activities

The test microorganisms used for screening antimicrobial activities were standard pathogenic stains obtained from the culture collection unit of the Department of Microbiology, Ondo state University Teaching Hospital, Akure, Nigeria. The laboratory tests were carried out at the Pest and Control Section of the Department of Crops and protection, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria. The antimicrobial activities of newly generated complexes were screened against the following fungi: *Sclerotium roofil*, *Mansourian phomoides*, *Collectotrichum lindimuchianum*. Using poisoned food techniques at 0.025g/ml concentration, under sterile culture molten potato dextrose (PDA) and solvent used was dimethylsulphuroxide at 0.025g/ml concentration. A negative control plate (NTR) without any treatment was also set up. The mycelia growth inhibition was calculated in percentage (Singh and Srivastava, 2013). All newly synthesized complexes were tested for their antibacterial activities against *Streptococcus fecalis*, *Xantomonas axinopolis*, *Salmonella entrica*, *Clavibacter michiganense*, *Xanthomonas phaseoli* alongside with the control (amoxillin), and using Broth Dilution method. At 0.035g/ml concentrations. The MIC (minimal inhibitory concentration) of the control organism is used and read to check the accuracy of the complexes (Konaté et al., 2012). The lowest

concentration inhibiting growth of the organism is recorded as the MIC. This result is compared with the control amoxicillin. Mycelia growth were measured with the aid of Vernier calipers, mycelia growth inhibition were calculated in percentage using the formula:

$$\% \text{ ZONE OF INHIBITION} = \frac{NTR - TR}{TR} \times 100$$

Where NTR= Average diameter of fungal colony in negative control sets (plates without any treatment) and TR= Average diameter of fungal colony in treated sets.

## Results and Discussion

### Results

The physical properties of nickel and cobalt (II) were shown in Tables 1 and 2. Tables 3 and 4 shows the ratio of different solvent used for the solubility tests of nickel and cobalt complexes. Tables 5 and 6 redeemed the prominent regions of FTIR spectra of mixed ligand complexes with nickel and cobalt (II) while the evaluation of antifungal activities of Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> complexes are shown in Tables 7 and 8 respectively. And finally, evaluation of antibacterial screening of Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Co<sup>2+</sup> complexes are shown in Table 9 and 10.

**Table 1: Physical Properties of Nickel (II) ion complexes**

COMPOUND/COMPLEX	RATIO	MEDIUM	% YIELD	COLOR
Ni(acetanilide)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:1	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	77	Green
Ni(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:2	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	63	Green
Ni(acetanilide)(ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:1:1	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	67	Green
Ni(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> (ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:2:1	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	76	Green
Acetanilide	-	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O		White
Ampicillin	-	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O		White

**Table 2: Physical Properties of Cobalt (II) ion complexes**

COMPOUND/COMPLEX	RATIO	MEDIUM	% YIELD	COLOR
Co(acetanilide)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:1	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	77	Red
Co(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:2	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	59	Red
Co(acetanilide)(ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6.H <sub>2</sub> O	1:1:1	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	70	Red
Co(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> (ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:2:1	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O	79	Red
Acetanilide	-	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O		White
Ampicillin	-	Meth-H <sub>2</sub> O		White

**Table 3: The ratio of different solvent used for the solubility tests of nickel complexes**

	1:01	1:02	1:01:01	1:02:01
CHLOROFORM	Soluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
ETHYLACETATE	Soluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
DMF	Soluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Soluble
CCl <sub>4</sub>	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
METHANOL	Insoluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
DMSO	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble	Insoluble

ACETONE Insoluble Soluble Insoluble Insoluble

**Table 4: The ratio of different solvent used for the solubility tests of cobalt complexes**

	1:01	1:02	1:01:01	1:02:01
CHLOROFORM	Soluble	Soluble	Soluble	Soluble
ETHYLACETATE	Soluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
DMF	Soluble	Soluble	Soluble	Soluble
CCl <sub>4</sub>	Insoluble	Insoluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
METHANOL	Soluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Soluble
DMSO	Insoluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble
ACETONE	Soluble	Soluble	Insoluble	Insoluble

**Table 5: Prominent Regions of FTIR Spectra of Mixed Ligand Complexes with Nickel (II)**

Ligand Complexes	Uv-Visble (nm)	vN-H	vC=O	vC=N	COO-	-OH	M-N	M-O
Acetanilide	-	3122	1325	1518	-	-	-	-
Ampicillin	325,229	3027	1309	1507	1707	-	-	-
Ni(Acet)Cl <sub>2</sub>	720,680	3195	-	1691	-	3446	575	443
Ni(Acet) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	720,680	3194	-	1668	-	3575	542	440
Ni(Act)(Amp)Cl <sub>2</sub>	760,680	3195	-	1668	1775	3527	516	425
Ni(Acet) <sub>2</sub> (Amp)Cl <sub>2</sub>	785,680	3196	1499	1687	1774	3446	522	426

**Table 6: Prominent Regions of FTIR Spectra of Mixed Ligand Complexes with Cobalt (II)**

Ligand Complexes	Uv-Visble (nm)	vN-H	vC=O	vC=N	COO-	-OH	M-N	M-O
Acetanilide	-	3122	1325	1518	-	-	-	-
Ampicillin	325,229	3107	1309	1507	1707	-	-	--
Co(Acet)Cl <sub>2</sub>	755,725	3136	-	1664	-	3748	580	455
Co(Acet) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	760,725	3195	-	1684	-	3758	566	444
Co(Acet)(Amp)Cl <sub>2</sub>	755,680	3194	1496	1687	1774	3486	587	456
Co(Acet) <sub>2</sub> (Amp)Cl <sub>2</sub>	680,760	3295	1499	1663	-	3776	589	448

**Table 7: Evaluation of Antifungal of Ni<sup>2+</sup> Complexes**

COMPLEXES	RATIO	S.R	M.P	C.L
Ni(acetanilide)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01	58.5	40	48
Ni(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02	60	43.9	56.1
Ni(acetanilide)(ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01:01	66	53.33	75
Ni(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> (ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02:01	88.04	63.33	78.09
Kocides	-	100	100	100
Ampicillin		18	21	19

S.R - *Sclerotium roofsii*; M.P - *Mansourian phaeoli*; C.L - *Collectotrichum lindimuthianum*

**Table 8: Evaluation of Antifungal of Co (II) Complexes**

COMPLEXES	RATIO	S.R	M.P	C.L
Co(acetanilide)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01	53.85	22.22	43.98
Co(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02	5400	25.5	48
Co(acetanilide)(ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01:01	64.1	44.44	50.54
Co(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> (ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02:01	69.85	47.78	63.44
Kocides	-	100	100	100
Ampicillin	-	5	2	0

S.R - *Sclerotium roofsii*; M.P - *Mansourian phaeoli*; C.L - *Collectotrichum lindimuthianum*

**Table 9: Evaluation of Antibacterial Screening of Ni<sup>2+</sup> Complexes.**

COMPLEX	RATIO	A	B	C	D	E
Ni(acetanilide)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01	0	12	0	0	0
Ni(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02	0	14	0	0	0
Ni(acetanilide)(ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01:01	17	15	22	22	20
Ni(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> (ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02:01	16	24	20	20	19
Amoxillinl	-	20	24	20	24	20
Acetanilide	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampicillin	-	18	21	19	19	14

A - *Streptococcus fecalis*; B - *Xantomonas axinopolis*; C - *Salmonella entrica*;  
D - *Clavibacter michiganense*; E - *Xanthomonas phaseoli*

**Table 10: Evaluation of Antibacterial Screening of Co<sup>2+</sup> Complexes.**

COMPLEX	RATIO	A	B	C	D	E
Co(acetanilide)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01	0	0	10	0	0
Co(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02	0	0	12	0	0
Co(acetanilide)(ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:01:01	18	18	20	21	28
Co(acetanilide) <sub>2</sub> (ampicillin)Cl <sub>2</sub> .6H <sub>2</sub> O	1:02:01	13	22	18	22	24
Amoxillin	-	20	24	20	24	20
Acetanilide	-	0	0	0	0	0
AMPILLIN	-	18	21	19	19	14

A - *Streptococcus fecalis*; B - *Xantomonas axinopolis*; C - *Salmonella entrica*;  
D - *Clavibacter michiganense*; E - *Xanthomonas phaseoli*

## Discussion

Complexes of Nickel (II) and Cobalt (II) with acetanilide and its mixed ligand ampicillin were synthesized at different ratio concentrations in water-methanol medium as shown in Table 1 and 2 respectively. The colors, melting points and percentage yields were also recorded. The percentage yields of the metal complexes are reasonable while, there is no variation in colors

obtained, because the ligands have no dominant effects on the metal salt. The variation in colour of the ligands with its corresponding complexes indicates coordination of the ligand acetanilide and with Ampicillin, mixed ligand with the metal ions. The colour of the compounds is ascribed to 'd-d' orbital transition of electron between one energy level to another, by their magnitude of splitting, which in turn relies on the geometry of the complex, the nature of the ligand and charge transfer (Olagboye, 2015).

The decomposition temperatures of the complexes are relatively high and thermally stable. The solubility tests of metal complexes in the available organic solvents clearly showed that they were soluble in most organic solvents as indicated in Tables 3 and 4 respectively. Results from Table 3 shows that others complexes are non-polar in nature as they are insoluble in water. The results of the solubility tests revealed that some metal complexes are soluble in non-polar solvents like chloroform and dimethyl formaldehyde (DMF) while, some are not soluble in water. This indicates that metal complexes are non-electrolytes and non-hygroscopic in characters. The solubility of metal (II) complexes in the common solvents indicated their low polarity which can be used to predict the suitable solvents that could be utilized or employed for subsequent spectroscopic measurements (Jones and Fleming, 2010).

The UV-Visible spectrophotometer was used to measure and examine the level of conjugations and unsaturation of metal complexes. Ni (II) ion complexes show bands around (680-760 nm) as shown in the Table 5 while Co (II) ion complexes show bands between (305-760nm) as shown in the Table 6. The UV-visible spectroscopic studies of the ligands demonstrated absorption bands at (229 - 325) nm which belongs to  $\pi-\pi^*$  and  $n-\pi^*$  bands found within the Uv-region due to carbonyl and benzene ring in the ligands. The UV-visible spectroscopic studies of the ligands demonstrated absorption bands at (250-285) nm which belongs to  $\pi-\pi^*$  and  $n-\pi^*$  bands found within the Uv-region and it is also demonstrated absorption bands at (680-760) nm which implies that d-d transition takes place and shows only weak absorptions. The intense absorption in the UV region at around (229-325) nm is a characteristics of metal charge 3d - 4s transition at respectively high energies and assigned to charge transfer from  $\pi$  orbital of the donor ligand to the orbital of the metal,  $d-\pi^*$  and inter ligand to the d orbital of the metal,  $n-\pi^*$  transitions (Naeimi and Moradian, 2009). A shift was observed generally for all the complexes, indicating coordination. (725-755) nm shows that the complexes contain inner water. The intense absorption in the UV region at around (250-285) nm is a characteristics of ligand charge transfer as a result of delocalization of  $\pi$ -electrons in the benzene ring in the ligand. However, absorption bands at (680-765) nm in both the single ligand and the mixed ligand is an indication of d-d transition takes place in the visible region also weak absorptions (720-755) nm show that the complexes contain inner water (Waziri *et al.*, 2014). The electronic spectra of the nickel complexes at different ratios displayed two prominent bands at 680 – 765nm may be attributed to  $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^1A_{2g}$  and  $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^2B_{2g}$  transition (Cotton *et al.*, 1999; Aiyelabola *et al.*, 2012), demonstrating a distorted square-planar geometry as supported by the magnetic moment of  $d^8$  configuration with two unpaired electrons according to the Crystal field theory (CFT)  $t_{2g}^6 e_g^2$  which can be either of these geometries  $d(x^2 - y^2)^1$  and  $(dz^2)^1$  or  $d(x^2 - y^2)^2$  and  $(dz^2)^0$  (Ahmed *et al.*, 2011; Beyrambadi *et al.*, 2011). The prominent bands at  $3122\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $3027\text{cm}^{-1}$  ascribed to a protonated  $\nu(\text{NH}_2)$   $\nu(\text{NH})$  in both acetanilide and ampicillin with a bathochromic shift or higher shift to  $3194 - 3196 \text{cm}^{-1}$  regions in acetanilide and ampicillin mixed ligand (Chang *et al.*, 2010).

This is evident of coordination of metal to the ligand (M – L) through the nitrogen atoms of nitro group. However, broad bands found at  $1325$  and  $1309\text{cm}^{-1}$  in acetanilide and ampicillin respectively were assigned to their carbonyl groups (C = O), not found in the metal complexes but with a shift to  $1499\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the mixed ligand (1:2:1), is an indication of carbonyl group involvement in the complex formations (Khan and Asnani, 2011; Gulcan *et al.*, 2012). The broad

band found around  $3446 - 3575 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the metal complexes were attributed to  $\nu(\text{OH})$  of the non-coordinated water in the outer sphere (Osowole *et al.*, 2015). On the other hand, the new bands in the range  $516 - 522 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $425 - 443 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $316 - 342 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectra of the metal complexes are traceable to (M – N), (M – O) and (M – Cl) respectively. However, these bands could not be found in the spectra of acetanilide and ampicillin, this confirms the coordination. Co(II) complexes exhibited two major shoulder bands at 725nm and 750nm which are assigned to  ${}^2A_{2g} \rightarrow {}^2B_{1g}$  and  ${}^2A_{1g} \rightarrow {}^2E_{1g}$  transitions typically a paramagnetic  $d^7$  configuration (Nakamoto, 2009; Konstantinovic *et al.*, 2003). The infra-red spectroscopic studies of cobalt (II) ion complexes demonstrated different bands between the ligands and metal complexes as shown in table 8 the bands found around  $3027 - 3122 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectra of the ligand but shifted to  $3132 - 3295 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the metal complexes were assigned to V(NH) group. This confirms the coordination of metal to the ligand through the nitrogen atom. Furthermore, the bands occurred at  $1322$  and  $1309 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in acetanilide and ampicillin (ligands) that were attributed to carbonyl group, with no absorbance in acetanilide – cobalt complexes but with shift to longer wavelengths or bands in the mixed ligand ampicillin to  $1496 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1499 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Another band found at  $1707 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in ampicillin mixed ascribed to  $\beta$ -lactone carbonyl group but shifted to  $1774 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , a bathochromic shift which disappeared in 1:2:1 complexes. This may be due to degradation or partial conversion of ampicillin to ampicillonic acid (carboxylic acid), showing that C=O probably from carboxylic acid involvement in the coordination (Pranay, 2009). Likewise, the presence of  $\nu(\text{OH})$  group is evident in the sharp bands at  $3486 - 3776 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  also strong bands found in the metal complexes between  $566 - 589 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $444 - 456 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $323 - 328 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  regions were assigned to M–N, M–O and M–Cl respectively, this further buttresses their involvement in the coordination (Ogunniran *et al.*, 2008) and shows the presence of chloride ions from the cobalt (II) salt found in the inner coordination sphere (Olagboye, 2015) and (M–O), implying that coordination of the central metal atom is through the oxygen atom of the ligand (Nakamoto, 2009).

The measured zone of inhibition of the complexes as well as the ligands against *Sclerotium roofil*, *Mansourian phomoides*, *Collectotrichum lindimuchianum* were presented in Table 7 and 8. The comparison of the biological activity of the *Sclerotium roofil*, shows moderate sign of inhibition at (1:2 and 1:1:1) and *Mansourian phomoides* at (1:1:1 and 1:2:1) while for *Collectotrichum lindimuchianum* the percentage of inhibition is commendable and appreciable with  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  metal complexes. But for  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , all the metal complexes of the *Sclerotium roofil* and *Mansourian phomoides* shows sign of inhibition that are not good enough with little resistance. Whereas, the inhibition signs are moderate for *Collectotrichum lindimuchianum*. However, antifungal properties so far displayed by the metal complexes against the selected pathogens are not from the metals and the ligands alone but are collective and intricate blend of other factors like solubility, melting point and solvents or media and the environment at which the complexes were prepared. All the organisms under test are susceptible to the threat of the metal complexes, including the control but ampicillin is not known for antifungal properties but a well-known antibacterial agent. However, many metallic elements have been observed to inhibit the growth of microorganisms by deactivating the enzyme, denaturing proteins of the target cells through binding to the active or reactive groups, this results in their precipitation and inactivation. The high affinity of cellular proteins for the metallic ions results in the death of the cell (Benson, 2002). The antifungal properties so far displayed by the metal complexes against the selected pathogens are not from the metals and the ligands alone but are collective and intricate blend of other factors like solubility, melting point and solvents or media and the environment at which the complexes were prepared. It was recommended that the ligands with nitrogen and oxygen donor systems inhibit enzyme activity (Fayad *et al.*, 2012). Coordination



diminishes the polarity of the metal ion mainly because of the partial sharing of its positive charge with donor groups within the chelate ring system as propounded by Raja *et al.* (2011). The increase in the antibacterial activities of the complexes as compared to the free ligands may be owing to the electropositive nature of metals, which will finally enhancing their antibacterial (Nazir *et al.*, 2013). It is substantial from the above data presented in the Tables above that the antibacterial activity significantly increased on coordination.

Tables 9 and 10 presented the zones of inhibition of the samples against one selected pathogenic organism after 24 hours of incubation at 37°C. The complexes were tested against selected bacterial species and the results revealed that with acetanilide there is no inhibiting effect against A B C D and E while compared to ampicillin which have inhibiting effect on bacterial. For A, 1:1 and 1:2 did not show inhibition while for B, only 1:2:1 show high inhibition with the same strength as the control drug but moderate with rest pathogens. Mixed ligand complexes showed moderate inhibitions against the pathogenic organisms C, D and E while parent drug complexes displayed no sign of inhibition compared to the results of antibacterial testing of the metal complexes which shows that most of the metal complexes of cobalt (II) ion were not active against micro-bacteria organisms (Table 10). C display high inhibition with metal complexes, perhaps, it is a gram negative bacteria; for D and E, only 1:1:1 and 1:2:1 show inhibition others did not show inhibition. Some organisms are resistant towards the metal complexes this may due to degradation of antibacterial drugs, alteration of bacterial protein sites and modification of membrane permeability of antibiotic metal complexes (Dever and Dermogy, 1991).

## Conclusion

Having studied the synthesis, characterization, and antimicrobial activities of nickel (II) ion complexes and cobalt (II) ion complexes with acetanilide and ampicillin mixed ligand at different ratio concentrations. The solubility tests of the metal complexes in some organic solvents confirmed that they are non-polar and non-electrolyte in nature. The IR spectroscopic characterization revealed the position of attachment of the cobalt(II) ion and nickel(II) ion to the ligands (acetanilide and ampicillin) was through the oxygen atom of the carbonyl group (C=O) and the nitrogen atom of N-H. The antimicrobial activities of cobalt (II) ion and nickel (II) ion revealed the bioactivity of the complexes, and they were better inhibitors of fungi and bacteria.

Coordination of metal-ligand reduces the polarity of the metal ion mainly because of the partial sharing of its positive charge with donor groups within the chelate ring system. The increase in the antibacterial activities of the complexes compared to the free ligands may be due to the electropositive nature of metals, ultimately enhancing their antibacterial.

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