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Green Technology: Tannin-Based Corrosion Inhibitor for Protection of Mild Steel

M. Dargahi,*** A.L.J. Olsson,* N. Tufenkji,* and R. Gaudreault‡,**

ABSTRACT
For more than four decades, tannins extracted from renewable resources have been used to protect steam boilers at levels significantly above ASME guidelines. Using tannin-based (green) corrosion inhibitors reduces water and energy consumption, greenhouse gases emissions, and contaminants in effluent wastewaters, while reducing the environmental footprint of industrial processes. The surface adsorptive and corrosion protective properties of a commercial tannin-based corrosion inhibitor (TG 3300) for mild steel were investigated in an alkaline environment using quartz crystal microbalance with dissipation monitoring, open circuit potential, and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS). The results showed the formation of an effective and stable tannin-based protective layer on mild steel within the first 5 min to 15 min of adsorption. It was found that adsorption of TG 3300 on mild steel can be well described by the Langmuir isotherm. Highly negative values of apparent Gibbs free energy of adsorption ($\Delta G_{ads} = –47.36 \text{ kJ/mol}$), indicate a spontaneous and strong adsorption of TG 3300 onto the mild steel surface. The results suggest the formation of a TG 3300 protective layer on mild steel, where the highest value of inhibition efficiency was 85% under the applied experimental conditions.

KEY WORDS: corrosion inhibition, green technology, mild steel, surface adsorption kinetics and thermodynamics, tannin molecules

INTRODUCTION
Corrosion and corrosion-induced safety problems are among the main issues in the water industry1 and because of a global scarcity of water, it is often necessary to recycle process water as much as possible. This, in turn increases the number of cycles in steam boilers, thereby increasing the concentration of corrosive salts inducing higher corrosion rates and other process problems.2 To minimize corrosion and corrosion-induced risks and maximize equipment life expectancy, it is crucial to understand the nature and mechanisms by which corrosion occurs and then inhibit it as much as possible.

One of the most common techniques to minimize corrosion in the water industry is the application of corrosion inhibitors, which form a protective (blocking) layer on the metal surface and minimize the access of corrosive electrolytes to the surface.3 Unfortunately, conventional corrosion inhibitors (e.g., phosphates and sulfites) are neither renewable nor have a reliable performance in highly conductive environments. Therefore, developing new, highly protective, and environmentally friendly corrosion inhibitors for steam boilers, hot-water closed-loop systems, pipelines, and tanks is critical.

Tannin-based corrosion inhibitors are becoming popular in the water industry because of their renewable/green nature and their ability to perform under much higher conductive/corrosive environments (8,000 $\mu$S/cm to 10,000 $\mu$S/cm) than the ASME guidelines (< 3,000 $\mu$S/cm).4
Although the physicochemical properties of tannin molecules have been studied previously, the corrosion inhibition properties of these molecules are still poorly understood. In addition, studies on corrosion protective properties of tannin-based corrosion inhibitors have been mostly performed in highly acidic conditions (pH 0.5 to 4.0), but rarely in alkaline conditions, which prevail in chilling and heating closed-loop systems.

This work investigated the adsorptive and protective behavior of the tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor for the protection of mild steel (MS) in alkaline conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals and Solutions

The tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor is a commercial blend of 100% natural molecules such as hydrolysable and condensable tannins (Figure 1, top and bottom respectively), having a charge density of −1.6 equivalent/kg (dry basis) at pH 9.0. The common characteristic of these natural molecules is that they have aromatic rings with hydroxyl and carboxylic groups, and are negatively charged in alkaline pH. Hydrolysable tannins refer to the hydrolysis propensity in highly acidic or alkaline conditions. For example, the hydrolysis of tannic acid (TA), could yield by-products such as 1-3-6-tri-O-galloyl-β-D-glucose (TGG), as well as the ultimate sub-unit, i.e., gallic acid (GA) (Figures 1[a] through [c]). On the other hand, condensed tannins are the most abundant polyphenols, found in virtually all families of plants and comprising up to 50% of the dry weight of leaves. Tannins of tropical woods tend to be of a cathetic nature, e.g., catechin (Figures 1[d] and [e]), rather than of the gallic-type present in temperate woods. Theoretical molecular modeling methods have been described in previous work.

The tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor stock solution was prepared by diluting 1 part of concentrated inhibitor with 1 part of deionized water (DI, 18.2 MΩ·cm resistivity), and then further diluting to the desired concentration in DI water to be used as the corrosive solution. For pH adjustment, aqueous 0.1 M sodium hydroxide and 0.1 M sulfuric acid were used. The pH of 10.5 was used for quartz crystal microbalance with dissipation (QCM-D) monitoring, open circuit potential (OCP), and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements, while pH 8 to 11 was used for the pH-dependent study.

Quartz Crystal Microbalance with Dissipation Monitoring

An E4 QCM-D unit from Q-Sense was used for the adsorption experiments. MS (C1020, UNS G10200) coated AT-cut quartz custom-made crystals (QSX999) were used as the model substrate. The crystals were cleaned by soaking and sonicating for a minimum of 10 min in a 2% Hellmanex solution (cleaning solution) before being thoroughly rinsed with DI water and dried with nitrogen gas. Then, to remove the organic compounds/contaminations, crystals were exposed to a UV/ozone treatment for 20 min before each experiment. The temperature was controlled by the QCM-D at 22°C and the flow rate of 50 μL/min was maintained using a peristaltic pump (RegloDigital, Ismatec). Before beginning the experiments, a frequency and dissipation baseline in DI water was al-
allowed to stabilize. Then, the solution with the desired inhibitor bulk concentration was flowed across the crystal surface. As molecular deposition occurs on the crystal surface, a negative shift in the resonance frequency ($\Delta f$) can be measured in real time. After each experiment, the QCM-D setup was cleaned by flowing the cleaning solution and then DI water through the QCM-D for at least 10 min each. The water was purged from the setup using air and nitrogen gas.

To determine whether the Sauerbrey equation provides an adequate estimation of the adsorbed mass, the ratio of the dissipation factor and the normalized frequency shift (normalized with respect to overtone number) was obtained. The threshold value for the Sauerbrey to be valid is $10^{-7}$ according to the supplier and $4 \times 10^{-7}$ according to Reviakine, et al.\textsuperscript{15} In the present study, the ratio $\Delta D/\Delta f$ was always lower than $10^{-7}$ ($-7.6 \times 10^{-8}$ to $-5.1 \times 10^{-9}$ Hz$^{-1}$) for all of the studied inhibitor bulk concentrations, indicating that the protective layer was rigid (Figure 2[a]), and justifying the use of the Sauerbrey equation to calculate the adsorbed mass. Moreover, the frequency shifts were practically identical at all overtones and therefore only the data from the third overtone is presented.

Consequently, the mass of adsorbed molecules on the QCM-D sensor surface was calculated from the $\Delta f$ using the Sauerbrey equation, referred to as the Sauerbrey mass.\textsuperscript{15}

**Electrochemical/Corrosion Cell and Equipment**

A standard three-electrode electrochemical/corrosion cell was used in the electrochemical experiments. The counter electrode (CE) was a graphite rod. The reference electrode (RE) was a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) separated from the cell by a glass frit. All potentials in this article are expressed with respect to the SCE. The working electrode (WE) was prepared from a C1010 (mild steel, UNS G10100) rod (Metal Samples Company\textsuperscript{b}), and sealed with epoxy resin to yield a two-dimensional surface exposed to the electrolyte. Table 1 shows the chemical composition of the alloy used in this study.

Electrochemical measurements were performed using a Solartron 1287\textsuperscript{b} electrochemical interface.
potentiostat/galvanostat and 1260 impedance/gain-phase analyzer. To ensure complete characterization of the interface and the surface processes, EIS measurements were made over a frequency range of 100 kHz to 10 mHz, with an alternating current voltage amplitude of ±10 mV.

Prior to each experiment, the WE surface was polished with 600-gradation abrasive sandpaper, and then thoroughly rinsed with ethanol. After this, the electrode was kept in an ultrasonic bath for 5 min in ethanol, and then rinsed with DI water. The electrode was then immersed in the test electrolyte and equilibrated for 3 h at 70°C at OCP, followed by the electrochemical measurements. All of the solutions were mixed using a magnetic stirrer. All data reported in this work represent mean values of four to six replicates.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Kinetics of Tannin-Based TG 3300 Inhibitor Adsorption on Mild Steel Surface

The kinetics of corrosion inhibitor adsorption was studied to find the time scale within which the MS surface could be covered by varying levels of the inhibitor. Figure 2(b) shows that at a constant inhibitor bulk concentration, the surface concentration of adsorbed inhibitor increased rapidly, and then gradually leveled off to a quasi-steady state. The adsorption equilibrium was reached after ~5 min to 15 min, depending on the inhibitor bulk concentration.

The kinetic data in Figure 2(b) were modeled using a two-step mode.16-17 For this purpose, the inhibitor surface concentrations were converted into the corresponding relative surface coverage (θ = Cs,t/Cs,max), where Cs,t is the inhibitor surface concentration at time t, and Cs,max (~4.25 mg/m²) is the maximum inhibitor surface concentration obtained from the adsorption isotherm (see next section). In the two-step model, the first adsorption step is reversible, and the inhibitor’s surface conformation is assumed to resemble that in the bulk solution, i.e., the native conformation. However, the inhibitor with this surface conformation can either desorb (Step 1) or adopt a more thermodynamically favorable surface conformation (Step 2),16-18 which was assumed to be irreversible.

Expressing the inhibitor surface concentration in terms of its relative surface coverage, θ, the two-step adsorption kinetic model can be formulated as:

\[ \frac{d\theta_1}{dt} = k_a[C_i](1 - \theta_1 - \theta_2) - (k_d + k_f)\theta_1 \]  
\[ \frac{d\theta_2}{dt} = k_d\theta_1 \]  
\[ \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{d\theta_1}{dt} + \frac{d\theta_2}{dt} = k_a[C_i](1 - \theta) - k_d\theta_1 \]

where \( \theta = \theta_1 + \theta_2 \) and \( 0 \leq \theta \leq 1 \) are the fraction of relative surface covered by inhibitor in both the thermodynamically unstable (\( \theta_1 \)) and stable (\( \theta_2 \)) conformations, \( C_i \) (mol/L) is the inhibitor bulk concentration, \( k_a \) (M⁻¹ min⁻¹) is the adsorption constant, \( k_d \) (min⁻¹) is the desorption constant, and \( k_f \) (min⁻¹) is the reconformation (surface rearrangement) constant.

The experimental data (Figure 2[b]) were fitted using the kinetic model in Equations (1) through (3), and a good agreement between the model (Figure 2[c], circles) and the experimental data (Figure 2[c], solid lines) was obtained in all cases. This shows the applicability of the proposed model to describe the kinetics of inhibitor adsorption onto MS under these experimental conditions (Table 2).

Table 2 shows that for all inhibitor bulk concentrations, the adsorption rate constants were considerably larger than the desorption and reconformation rate constants, showing a strong affinity of inhibitor for MS. In addition, the adsorption kinetic rate constant decreased with an increase in the inhibitor bulk concentration. At higher inhibitor bulk concentrations, the substrate surface became covered by inhibitor faster, which increased the probability for the occurrence of intermolecular interactions. The

### TABLE 1
The Chemical Composition (% w/w) of Mild Steel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>Fe</th>
<th>Mn</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS C1010 Lab</td>
<td>(for electrochemistry experiments)</td>
<td>0.02-0.08</td>
<td>0.30-0.60</td>
<td>0-0.04</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS C1020 Lab</td>
<td>(for QCM-D experiments)</td>
<td>0.18-0.23</td>
<td>0.30-0.60</td>
<td>0-0.04</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 2
Kinetic Rate Constants for the Adsorption of Tannin-Based TG 3300 Inhibitor onto Mild Steel as a Function of Inhibitor Bulk Concentration(16-17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[TG 3300]/ppm</th>
<th>( k_a \times 10^{-5} ) M⁻¹ min⁻¹</th>
<th>( k_d \times 10^{0} ) min⁻¹</th>
<th>( k_f \times 10^{2} ) min⁻¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>1.71±0.08</td>
<td>2.31±0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>3.36±0.22</td>
<td>1.71±0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>4.07±0.24</td>
<td>2.41±0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>5.52±0.37</td>
<td>0.82±0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>412</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>3.75±0.18</td>
<td>1.64±0.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>825</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>3.83±0.15</td>
<td>1.79±0.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>2.32±0.19</td>
<td>0.91±0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,375</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>2.41±0.12</td>
<td>1.28±0.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(16-17) The parameters were determined by fitting the experimental data from QCM-D experiments.
decrease in the adsorption rate constants suggests that the intermolecular interactions with the already adsorbed inhibitor molecules inhibit (molecular steric hindrance) further adsorption from the solution.

Molecular reconformation kinetics of the inhibitor were also examined. For that purpose, the modeled kinetic data were deconvoluted into the two contributions (θ₁ and θ₂), as shown in Figure 2(d) and then separately in Figures 3(a) and (b). Figures 2(d) and 3(a) demonstrate that the initial increase (within the first 5 min to 10 min of adsorption) in total inhibitor surface coverage, θ (solid line in Figure 2[d]), is mostly a result of the formation of an inhibitor layer with assumed native conformation, θ₁ (dashed line in Figure 2[d]). The surface coverage with the native inhibitor initially increased sharply and then reached a quasi-steady state, which occurred at earlier times at higher bulk solution concentrations. On the other hand, the surface coverage with a reconformed inhibitor (Figures 2[d] and 3[b]), θ₂ (dotted line in Figure 2[d]), gradually increased in the entire time interval. Figures 2(d) and 3 also show that the transfer from the native conformation (θ₁) into the reconformed inhibitor (θ₂) was not completed within the time interval studied.

In addition, Figure 3(c) shows the values of the ratio of surface coverage of native to reconformed adsorbed inhibitor (θ₂/θ₁). The results demonstrated that with an increase in adsorption time, the relative surface ratio also increases. The trend can be approximated by a second-order polynomial function. Also, the values at a particular adsorption time were different at different inhibitor bulk solution concentrations. This indicates that the inhibitor bulk solution concentration influenced the kinetics of the inhibitor surface reconformation (from θ₁ to θ₂).

**Equilibrium of Tannin-Based TG 3300 Inhibitor Adsorption on Mild Steel Surface**

The inhibitor affinity with MS can be determined by the Gibbs free energy of adsorption (∆G_ads). through adsorption isotherms. The mean value of the QCM-D crystal frequency shift, after reaching a quasi-steady state (average of the last 15 min within 1 h of adsorption) at each inhibitor bulk concentration, was used for further equilibrium calculations.

Figure 4 shows that the inhibitor surface concentration increased with an increase in inhibitor bulk concentration, and then leveled off to a quasi-steady state (maximum surface concentration, C_s,max = 4.25 mg/m²) at an inhibitor bulk concentration of approximately 275 ppm. Moreover, the steep initial slope of the adsorption isotherm (rising part of the isotherm) showed the high affinity of TG 3300 molecules for the MS surface.

The plot in Figure 4 resembles the shape of a unimodal adsorption isotherm. The corresponding Langmuir isotherm equation, for further investigation of inhibitor adsorption onto MS surface, is:

\[
C_{s,i} = \frac{C_{s,max} B_{ads}[C_s]}{1 + B_{ads}[C_s]} \quad (4)
\]

where \( C_{s,i} \) (mg/m²) is the inhibitor surface concentration at a particular inhibitor bulk concentration, \( C_{s,max} \) (~4.25 mg/m²) is the maximum inhibitor surface concentration, \( B_{ads} \) (L/mol) is the adsorption affinity constant at constant temperature, and \([C_s]\) (mol/L) is the TG 3300 bulk concentration.

To verify whether the experimental data in Figure 4 can be described by the Langmuir adsorption isotherm, it is more convenient to use a linearized form of Equation (4). Thus, dividing the equation by the
For the Langmuir isotherm to be considered valid, a plot of $[C_i]^{-1}$ versus $[C_i]$ should yield a straight line with a slope of 1 and an intercept $B_{ads}^{-1}$. Indeed, the inset of Figure 4 shows a linear behavior with the corresponding value from the Langmuir isotherm. Inset: experimental data (circles) show an excellent correlation with the linearized Langmuir isotherm.

\[
\frac{[C_i]}{\theta_i} = [C_i] + \frac{1}{B_{ads}}
\]  

(5)

For the Langmuir isotherm to be considered valid, a plot of $[C_i]^{-1}$ versus $[C_i]$ should yield a straight line with a slope of 1 and an intercept $B_{ads}^{-1}$. Indeed, the inset of Figure 4 shows a linear behavior with the corresponding slope close to unity (0.96), in agreement with Equation (5). Consequently, the Langmuir isotherm was deemed applicable in describing the adsorption of inhibitor on MS. From this, the apparent Gibbs free energy of adsorption, $\Delta G_{ads}$ (J/mol), was calculated:

\[
B_{ads} = \frac{1}{c_{solvent}} \exp \left( -\frac{\Delta G_{ads}}{RT} \right)
\]  

(6)

where $c_{solvent}$ (mol/L) is the molar concentration of the solvent ($c_{water} = 55.5$ mol/L), R is the gas constant ($8.314$ J/mol·K), and T (K) is the temperature.

The calculated adsorption affinity constant and corresponding apparent Gibbs free energy of adsorption, are $(4.44 \pm 0.21) \times 10^6$ L/mol and $-47.36 \pm 0.88$ kJ/mol, respectively. The relatively large negative apparent Gibbs free energy of adsorption indicated a spontaneous and strong adsorption of inhibitor onto the MS surface.

Other studies\textsuperscript{10-11} that investigated the adsorption of tannin-based chemistries on MS and aluminum, using gravimetric weight loss at pH 1.0 and 30°C, reported apparent Gibbs free energy of adsorption of $-31.10$ kJ/mol and $-18.64$ kJ/mol, respectively. Although a difference is to be expected as a result of the different surfaces, sensitivity of the techniques, and the overall difficulty of reproducing similar experimental conditions among different research groups, the $\Delta G_{ads}$ obtained in the present study were more negative than the literature values, hence indicating a stronger bond between the TG 3300 inhibitor molecules and the MS substrate.

**Open Circuit Potential**

Figure 5(a) shows the variation of the OCP of MS with time in absence and presence of 137 ppm of tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor at pH 10.5 and 70°C. In the absence of the inhibitor, the OCP sharply dropped and then reached the quasi-steady state, which indicated MS corrosion in the control solution. However, in the presence of the inhibitor, the OCP value first increased and then reached a plateau. In the first approximation, this trend indicated that the corrosion reaction slowed down with time, and then reached a quasi-steady state rate within the time interval presented here. This indicated blocking of the MS surface by the inhibitor molecules which resulted in less electron transfer between the MS substrate and the bulk solution. Similar results were obtained at other inhibitor bulk concentrations (results not shown here). The mean value of the OCP after reaching a plateau at each inhibitor bulk solution concentration was plotted versus inhibitor bulk concentration (Figure 5(b)). As expected, by increasing the inhibitor bulk concentration, the OCP values approached zero, indicating the adsorption of tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor on the MS surface and its influence on the corrosion reaction.\textsuperscript{21-22}

**Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy**

EIS was applied to investigate the electrode/electrolyte interface and processes that occur on the MS surface at OCP in the presence and absence of the tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor in solution, most notably the general corrosion resistance of MS. Figure 5(c) shows the EIS spectra of the MS electrode recorded in the absence and presence of the inhibitor at different bulk concentrations. The spectra were recorded at 70°C after the stabilization of the electrode at OCP for 3 h. Figure 5(c) shows that the diameter of the semicircle increased with an increase in inhibitor bulk concentration, indicating an increase in corrosion resistance of the material.\textsuperscript{23-24}

In order to extract quantitative information, a nonlinear least squares fit analysis was used to model the spectra, using electrical equivalent circuits (EECs), presented in Figure 5(d).\textsuperscript{25-26} In these EECs, $R_\theta$ represents the ohmic resistance between the WE and RE, $R_t$ is the charge transfer resistance related to the corrosion reaction at OCP, and $CPE$ is the capacitance of the electrical double-layer at the electrode/
electrolyte interface. The EEC in Figure 5(d) was used to fit the spectra recorded in the absence and presence of the inhibitor in the solution and the corresponding EEC values, obtained by fitting the experimental spectra, are presented in Table 3.

The average CPE exponent (0.71±0.02) presented in Table 3 supports the authors’ opinion that CPE can be prescribed to the capacitive behavior of the electrochemical double-layer and the adsorbed inhibitor layer. Moreover, the generally decreasing trend of CPE with increasing inhibitor bulk concentration is as expected, and indicates the formation of an adsorbed layer on the MS surface. The increase in the charge transfer resistance $R_i$ also leads to an increase of corrosion inhibition efficiency ($\eta$).

Taking into account the physical meaning of the EEC parameters of the circuits in Figure 5(d), the corrosion resistance of the bare (control) and covered MS
TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[TG 3300]/ppm</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>17.1</th>
<th>34.3</th>
<th>68.6</th>
<th>137</th>
<th>275</th>
<th>412</th>
<th>550</th>
<th>825</th>
<th>1,100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPE×10^6/Ω·cm²/s</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>±SD</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n₁</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>±SD</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rᵢ/Ω·cm²</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>1,072</td>
<td>1,315</td>
<td>2,751</td>
<td>2,920</td>
<td>3,048</td>
<td>2,845</td>
<td>2,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>±SD</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dᵢ/%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>85.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>±SD</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(A) The data were obtained by modeling EIS spectra recorded in absence and presence of inhibitor at pH 10.5 and 70°C. The table also lists the corresponding corrosion inhibition efficiency values, dᵢ.

(B) SD: standard deviation. An average electrolyte resistance value was 586 Ω.

The corrosion inhibition efficiency (ηᵢ) was calculated by comparing the resistance value, Rᵢ, recorded at various concentrations of inhibitor, and the R₀ value recorded in the absence of inhibitor (control sample; Table 3 and Figure 5[e]):

\[
\etaᵢ = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{R₀}{Rᵢ}\right)
\]

As shown in Figure 5(e), with an increase in the inhibitor bulk concentration, the corrosion inhibition efficiency also increased and reached a maximum value of approximately 85%, indicating high surface corrosion protection. The authors’ field data on the protection of MS closed-loop systems, using tannin-based TG 3300 (data not shown), converge with the laboratory results. In addition, the calculated trend, in combination with the trend in CPE values (Table 3), indicates that the corrosion inhibition efficiency depends on the inhibitor surface concentration (coverage) that forms the protective layer.

Moreover, the onset of both corrosion inhibition efficiency and the adsorption isotherm occurred at ~275 ppm of inhibitor (Figure 5[e] and the inset). Interestingly, this bulk concentration converges toward the optimum value observed after four decades of empirical optimization in industrial MS boilers and closed-loop systems, treated with tannin-based chemistries.

**Effect of pH on Tannin-Based TG 3300 Corrosion Protection of Mild Steel Surface**

The influence of pH on MS corrosion inhibition efficiency was studied over a pH range from 8 to 11, in the absence and presence of 275 ppm of tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor. Figure 5(f) shows that corrosion inhibition increased with pH and gave the highest efficiency at pH 11 (i.e., 86.4±1.60%). This could be a result of the higher corrosion resistance of MS at alkaline pH. The EIS data (not shown here) also confirm higher electron transfer resistance in absence (R₀) and presence (Rᵢ) of inhibitor at alkaline pH. Similar behavior was observed by the authors in previous work.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- The QCM-D method was used to investigate the adsorption kinetics and thermodynamics of a tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor on MS. The kinetic experiments showed that inhibitor adsorption reaches a quasi-steady state within 5 min to 15 min, depending on the inhibitor bulk concentration. The adsorption kinetics follow a two-step model: the first step represents the reversible inhibitor adsorption/desorption, while the second step represents the molecular reorganization of tannins into a thermodynamically more stable conformation. The adsorption process showed an excellent correlation (R² = 0.99) with the Langmuir isotherm. The large negative apparent Gibbs free energy of adsorption (ΔG_ads = -47.36 kJ/mol) confirmed spontaneous and strong adsorption of tannin-based TG 3300 inhibitor on the MS surface. EIS showed that high inhibition efficiency (i.e., ~85%) is achieved within 3 h of immersion of a freshly polished MS in the inhibitor solution. Laboratory results showed that by increasing the pH, the MS surface protection increases. Finally, this work is a significant advancement in the field of tannin-based corrosion inhibition of MS because it links the laboratory results with four decades of industrial empirical optimization.

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