

**FULL PAPER**

# Iron (II), cobalt (II), and nickel (II) complexes of bis- (3-chloroacetylacetonate) ethylenediimine and bis-(acetylacetonate) ethylenediimine and their viologen molecular switches

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Preparation of AAN and ACl is performed by reaction 1 equivalent of en and 2 equivalents of acetyl acetone and 3-chloro acetyl acetone, respectively. Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, and Ni<sup>2+</sup> complexes with both bis(acetylacetonate) ethylenediimine AAN and bis(3-chloroacetylacetonate) ethylenediimine ACl were synthesized. The adduct complex [Fe(AAN)(bpy)<sub>2</sub>] was also synthesized from reaction of [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] with 4,4'-bipyridine. These Ni<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> metal complexes have been characterized by FT-IR, UV-Vis, and TG analysis as well as XRD spectrometries. Interaction of 4,4'-bipyridine (bpy) with metal (II) complexes in solution affords adduct complexes, i.e. through coordination of bpy with metal ion (II). Interaction of V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>.2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> with metal (II) complexes in solution affords adduct complexes, i.e. through coordination of V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>.2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> with metal ion (II). The solutions of adduct complexes happened among bis-viologen V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>.2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> and metal complexes have been reduced by activated zinc powder to afford viologen-based molecular switches.

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**KEYWORDS**

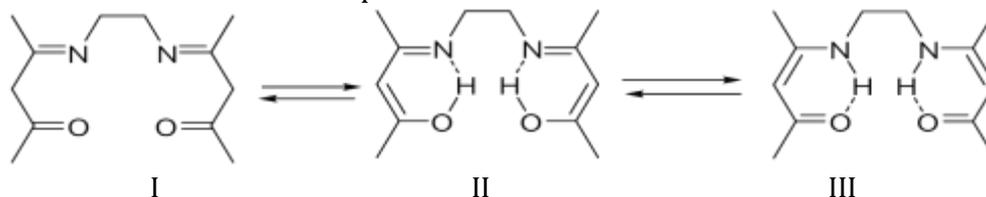
Bis(acetylacetonate) ethylenediimine; bis(3-chloroacetylacetonate) ethylenediimine; adduct; 4,4'- bipyridine; viologen switches; metal (II) complexes.

**Introduction**

A Schiff base, named after Hugo Schiff, is a molecule containing a functional group with a carbon-nitrogen double bond, but with the nitrogen atom connected to an aryl or alkyl group instead of hydrogen [1]. After combining two moles of acetylacetone and one mole of ethylenediamine, the resulting Schiff base bis(acetylacetonate)ethylenediimine [4,4-(1,2-ethanediyldinitrilo)-bis(2-pentanone)] was found to have an enaminoketone structure with intramolecular hydrogen bonding in both solid state and solution [2]. The large

work on investigation of transition elements complexes made from Schiff bases has been developed in recent years due to the selectivity and high sensitivity of Schiff bases towards a range of transition metal ions. Schiff bases metal complexes have been known for more than a century [3-6]. Ligands complexes can act as bidentate or tridentate depending on the presence of azomethine, an active donor group that can share the electron pair of a nitrogen atom in the formation of coordination bond, or other donating groups in compounds of transparent bases like oxygen or sulfur [7]. Tridentate, tetradentate, and polydentate homogeneous

or heterogeneous bases, as well as their metal complexes, have a wide range of potential uses [2]. As Schiff bases can coordinate to divalent metal ions, research into these compounds is of great significance. When thinking about these Schiff bases, it is important to take into account the positions



**SCHEME 1** Tautomeric equilibrium of bis (acetylacetonyl) ethylenediimine

The purpose of this work was to examine the formation of adduct complexes between bis (acetylacetonato) ethylenediimine Co(II), Fe(II), Ni(II), bis (3-chloro acetylacetonato) ethylenediimine Fe(II) with 4,4'-bipyridine (solids and solutions), and dicationic propylene-spacered bis-viologen  $V_2^{2+} \cdot 2PF_6^-$ . Then, promoting the formation of molecular switches based on the adduct complexes with  $V_2^{2+} \cdot 2PF_6^-$  was performed.

## Experimental

### Solvents and reagents

All solvents and chemical reagents are commercially sourced and used without further purification.

### Instrumentation

FT-IR spectra were recorded using BRUKER /FT-IR Affinity-1 spectrophotometer and KBr disks. UV-Visible absorption spectra were recorded on a T90+ UV-visible spectrometer (PG Instruments Ltd) using conventional quartz cell having an optical path length of 1 cm. Melting points of the prepared compound were measured using melting points/SMP3 apparatus Department of Chemistry, College of Science, University of Thi-Qar, Iraq. Thermal analysis was recorded on TGA-50 in Department of Chemistry, College of

of the keto-enol or amine-imine equilibrium and the nature of hydrogen bond in the six-membered chelate ring [8]. In the case of bis-(acetylacetonate)-ethylenediimine, the I-III forms could exist in tautomeric equilibrium, as shown by the Scheme 1.

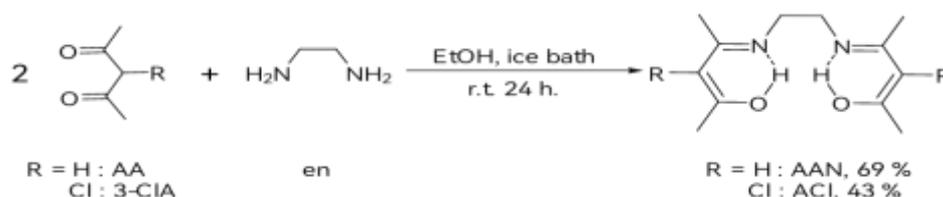
Education for pure Science University of Basra. The XRD measurements were carried out using Panalytical diffractometer with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation, in Department of Chemistry, College of Education for pure Science, University of Basra.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra were recorded by BRUKER spectrophotometer (500 MHz) in Department of Chemistry, Tehran University, Iran, using DMSO- $d_6$  and  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  as solvents. Mass spectra were recorded using 5973 Network Mass Selective Detector manufactured by Agilent Technology (HP) with ion source of Electron Impact (EI) 70 eV in Department of Chemistry, Tehran University, Iran.

### Syntheses of bis (acetylacetonate) ethylenediimine (AAN) and bis (3-chloroacetylacetonate) ethylenediimine (ACI)[9,10]

Ethylenediamine (1.75 mL, 1.575 g, 26.25 mmol) or (0.59 mL, 0.531 g, 8.85 mmol) in 1 mL ethanol was added with stirring in a dropwise manner into solution of acetylacetone (5.38 mL, 5.25 g, 52.5 mmol) or 3-chloroacetylacetone (2 mL, 2.38 g, 17.7 mmol), respectively, in ethanol (1 mL) placed in ice bath. The resulting mixtures were stirred in the ice bath for 1 hour, and then at lab temperature for 24 hours. The reaction mixture of AAN was left to dry under air atmosphere. The produced precipitate of

crude ACI was collected by filtration. The crude AAN precipitate was recrystallized from water and washed with diethylether. The crude ACI precipitate was washed with diethylether and then with water. Both precipitates were dried under vacuum to afford AAN as light yellow-white solid and ACI as light yellow solid in yields of 4.6 g, 69 %, (M.P = 117 °C) and 1.11 g, 43% (M.P = 130 °C), respectively. FT-IR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (AAN): 3163  $\nu$ O-H, 3088  $\nu$ C-H of C=C-H, 2988, 2957, 2915

$\nu$ C-H, 1616  $\nu$ C=N, 1567  $\nu$ C=C, 1326 aliphatic C-H bending, 1184  $\nu$ C-O, and 768  $\nu$ C-H bending of C=C-H. FT-IR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (ACI): 3133  $\nu$ O-H, 3059  $\nu$ C-H of C=C-H, 2991, 2958, 2920  $\nu$ C-H, 1596  $\nu$ C=N, 1562  $\nu$ C=C, 1361 aliphatic C-H bending, 1218  $\nu$ C-O, 787  $\nu$ C-Cl, and 667  $\nu$ C-H bending of C=C-H.  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (500 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ),  $\delta$  (ppm): 11.19 (d, 2H,  $\text{H}_a$ ), 3.50 (d, 4H,  $\text{H}_b$ ), 2.15 (d, 12H,  $\text{H}_c$ ). EI-MS ( $m/z$ ) = 292 [ $M$ ] $^{2+}$ , 257 [ $M - \text{Cl}$ ] $^+$ , 192 [ $M - 2\text{Cl}$ ] $^+$ , 146 [ $M/2$ ] $^+$  (Scheme 2).



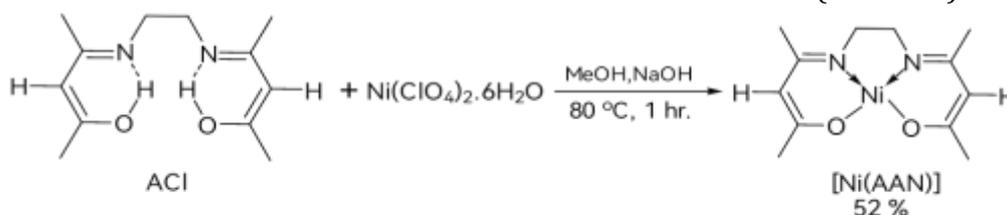
**SCHEME 2** Syntheses of AAN and ACI

### Syntheses of complexes

#### Synthesis of [Ni(AAN)]

3.265 g, 8.9 mmol of nickel (II) perchlorate hexahydrate dissolved in 1 mL of methanol was added gradually to 2 g, 8.9 mmol of AAN dissolved in 4 mL of methanol. The reaction mixture was heated at 80 °C for 1 hour. The

produced precipitate was collected by hot filtration, washed with distilled water and methanol, respectively, and dried under vacuum to afford the complex as red in yield of 1.3 g, 52%. M.P = 233 °C. FT-IR: 2984, 2951, 2915, 2851  $\nu$ C-H, 2063  $\nu$ C-H of C=C-H, 1584  $\nu$ C=C, 1518  $\nu$ C=N, 1364 aliphatic C-H bending, 1109  $\nu$ C-O, 778  $\nu$ C-H bending of C=C-H and 428  $\nu$ Ni-N (Scheme 3).



**SCHEME 3** Synthesis of [Ni(AAN)]

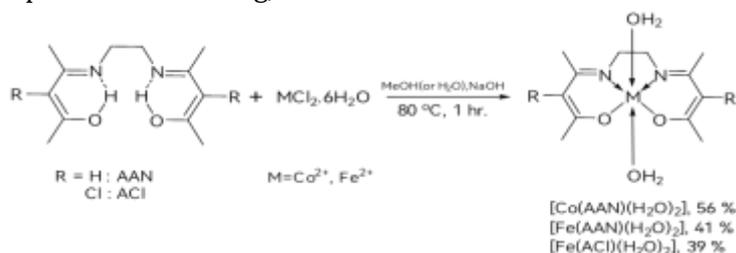
#### Syntheses of [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], and [Fe(ACI)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]

AAN (2 g, 8.9 mmol) dissolved in 50 mL or 28 mL distilled water or ACI (2 g, 6.8 mmol) dissolved in 28 mL methanol was added separately to a solution 0.32 g, 8 mmol of NaOH in 5 mL of distilled water. The last solutions were added respectively to 2.1 g, 8.9 mmol of  $\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 9 mL of distilled water, 1.9 g, 8.6 mmol of  $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 34 mL of distilled water and 1.6 g, 6.8 mmol of

$\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in 32 mL of distilled water. The reaction mixture were heated at 80 °C with stirring for 1 hour. The resulted precipitates were collected by filtration, washed with distilled water and then with methanol, and dried under vacuum. The obtained complexes: [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] as green solid, [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] and [Fe(ACI)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] as red solid were in yields of 1.5 g, 56%. (M.P = 222 °C), 1.1 g, 41% (M.P = 217 °C), and 1 g, 39% (M.P = 235 °C), respectively. FT-IR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

[Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]: 3500 H<sub>2</sub>O stretching, 2968, 2925  $\nu$ C-H, 1645  $\nu$ C=N, 1564  $\nu$ C=C, 1408 aliphatic C-H bending, 1117  $\nu$ C-O, 828  $\nu$ C-H bending of C=C-H and 425  $\nu$ Co-N. FT-IR, cm<sup>-1</sup> [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]: 3391 H<sub>2</sub>O stretching, 3011  $\nu$ C-H of C=C-H, 2989, 2947  $\nu$ C-H, 1609  $\nu$ C=N, 1571  $\nu$ C=C, 1373 aliphatic C-H bending, 1136

$\nu$ C-O, 845  $\nu$ C-H bending of C=C-H and 424  $\nu$ Fe-N. FT-IR, cm<sup>-1</sup> [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]: 3363 H<sub>2</sub>O stretching, 3006  $\nu$ C-H of C=C-H, 2967, 2927  $\nu$ C-H, 1645  $\nu$ C=N, 1561  $\nu$ C=C, 1334 aliphatic C-H bending, 1041  $\nu$ C-O, 915  $\nu$ C-H bending of C=C-H, 688  $\nu$ C-Cl, and 437  $\nu$ Fe-N (Scheme 4).



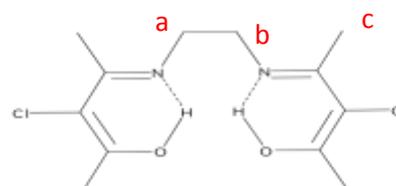
**SCHEME 4** Synthesis of [M(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], M = Co<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, and [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]

### [Fe(AAN)(bpy)<sub>2</sub>]

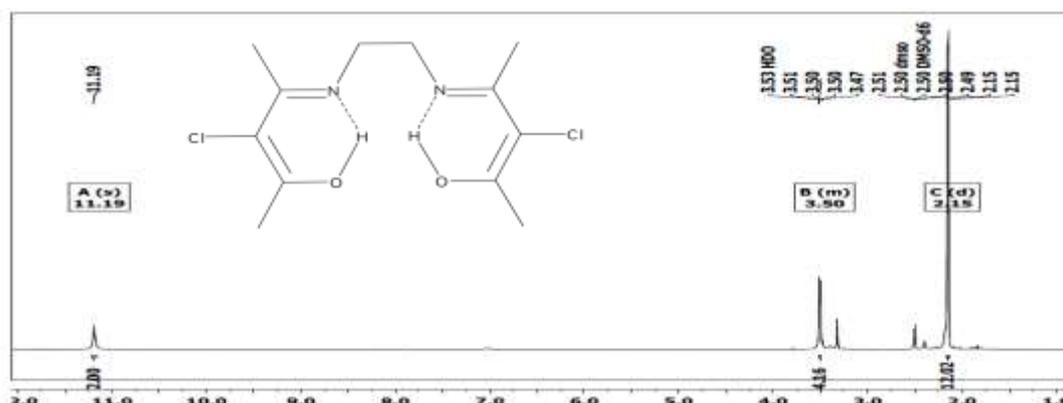
4,4'- Bipyridine (0.59 g, 3.83 mmol, 5 equivalents) was added to 0.2 g, 0.77 mmol, 1 equivalent of [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] dissolved in the minimum amount of acetonitrile. The mixture solution was stirred at lab temperature for 24 hours. The resulted precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with acetonitrile to afford [Fe(AAN)(bpy)<sub>2</sub>] as red solid in yield of 0.09 g, 21% (M.P.=203 °C).

## Results and discussion

### <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrometry of ACl



The compound ACl is characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectroscopy (500 MHz, DMSO- d<sub>6</sub>). The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR signals of ACl as strong hydrogen bonded enol imino form (–O–H...N=C–) can be divided into three main regions which are: the signal of OH group (H<sub>a</sub>), the signal of CH<sub>2</sub> groups (H<sub>b</sub>), and the signal of CH<sub>3</sub> groups (H<sub>c</sub>). The HOD signal should be noted at 3.33 ppm, but here it was noted at 3.53 ppm because H atom of HOD is hydrogen bonded to the ACl ligand. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum is depicted in Figure 1. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR assignments are shown in experimental.

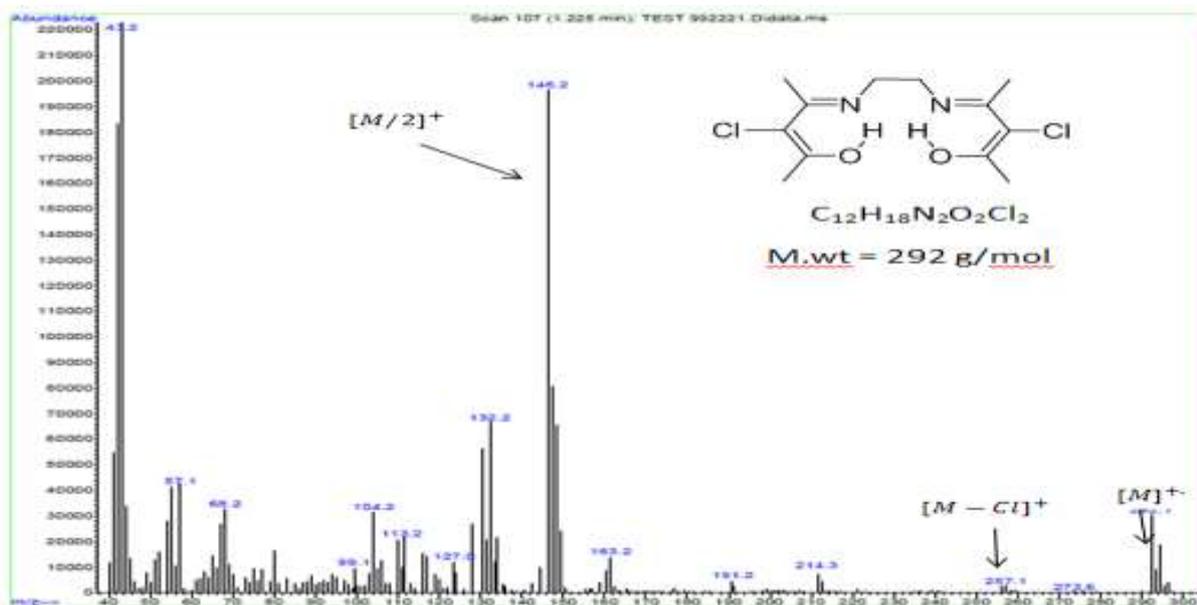


**FIGURE 1** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum (500 MHz, DMSO- d<sub>6</sub>, 298K) of ACl

### Mass spectrometry of ACl

The electron impact mass spectrum (EI-MS) of ACl showed a peak at  $m/z = 292$  due to the molecular ion. The appearance of a peak at  $m/z = 257$  indicates the loss of  $Cl\cdot$  radical. The spectrum showed an intensive peak at  $m/z =$

146 due to loss half of compound. The peak at  $m/z = 192$  is attributed to loss of two  $Cl\cdot$  radicals and two methyl groups. Other important peaks occurred at  $m/z = 214, 192, 163, 127, 113, 104, 99, 57,$  and  $43,$  as depicted in Figure 2.

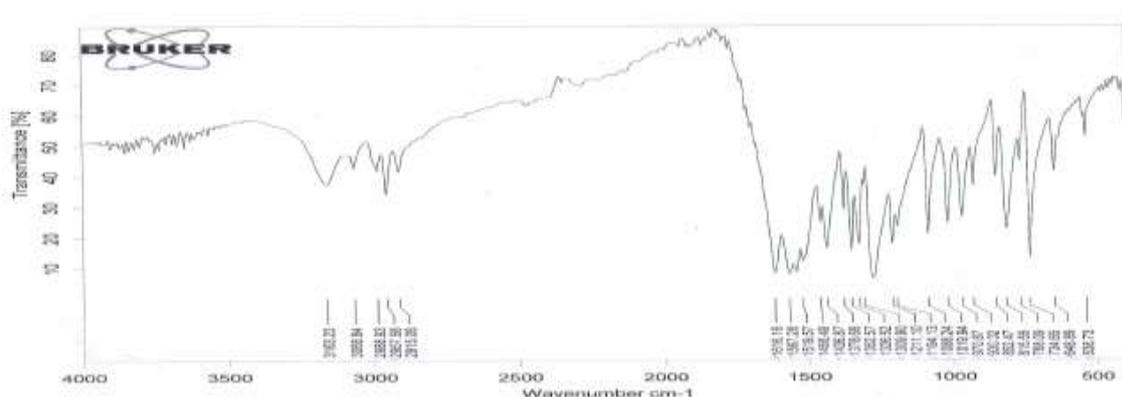


**FIGURE 2** Electron impact mass spectrum (EI-MS) of ACl

### FT-IR spectrometry

The FT-IR spectra of AAN and ACl and the complexes are shown in Figures 3-8. Their assignments are illustrated in experimental. The ligands AAN and ACl spectra showed hydrogen bonded O-H stretching vibrations and O-H bending disappeared in the complexes spectra. This refers to the complex deprotonation upon the complexation with

metal (II) ions. Except the complex  $[Ni(AAN)]$ , the Co (II) and Fe(II) complexes showed the broad coordinated  $H_2O$  stretching vibrations. Both ligands and complexes showed aromatic and aliphatic C-H stretching vibrations with their bending vibrations. The stretching vibrations of C=N, C=C, and C-O groups noted in FT-IR spectra are shifted compared with those in their ligands [11-14].



**FIGURE 3** FT-IR spectrum of AAN

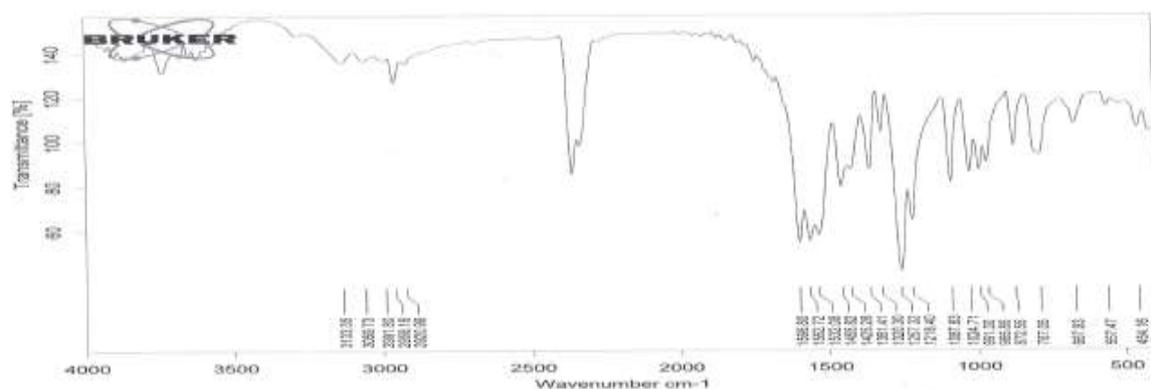
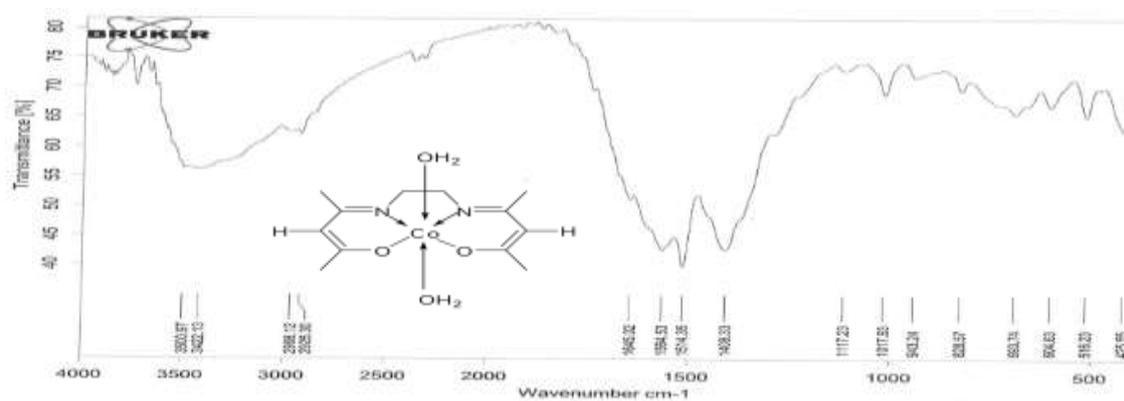
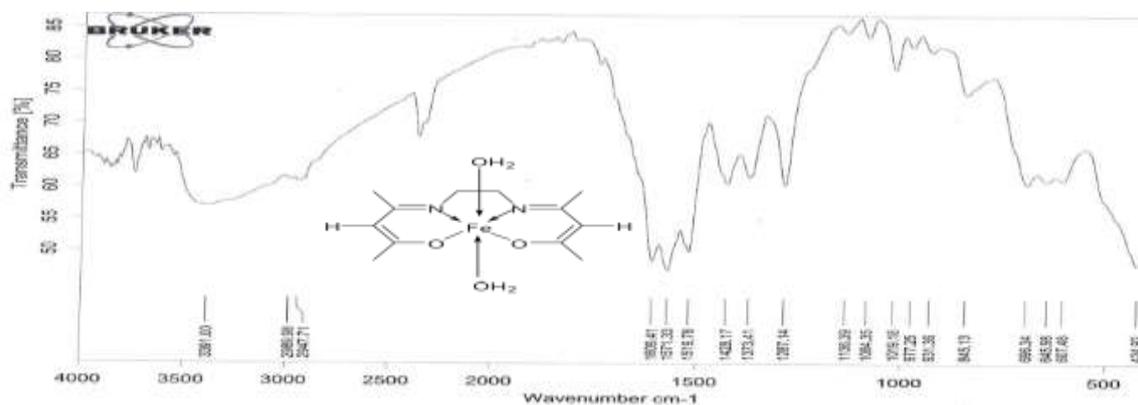


FIGURE 4 FT-IR spectrum of ACl

FIGURE 5 FT-IR spectrum of [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]FIGURE 6 FT-IR spectrum of [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]

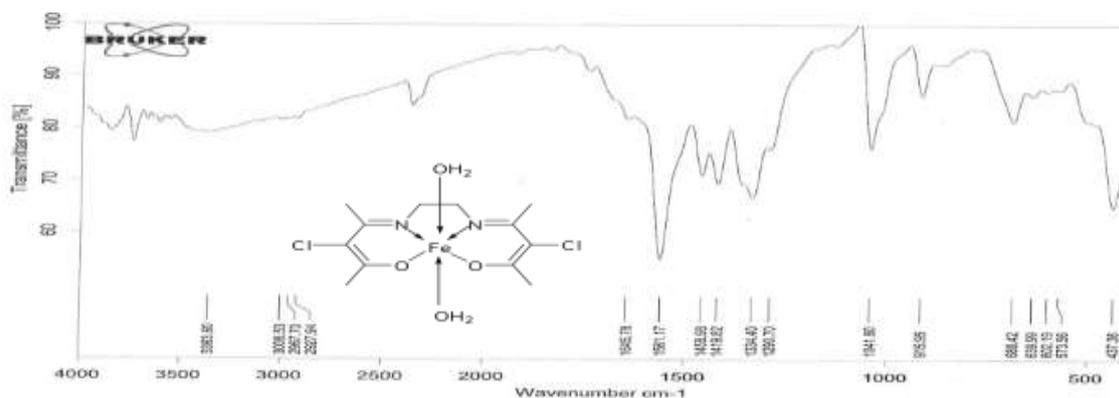


FIGURE 7 FT-IR spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AN-Cl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$

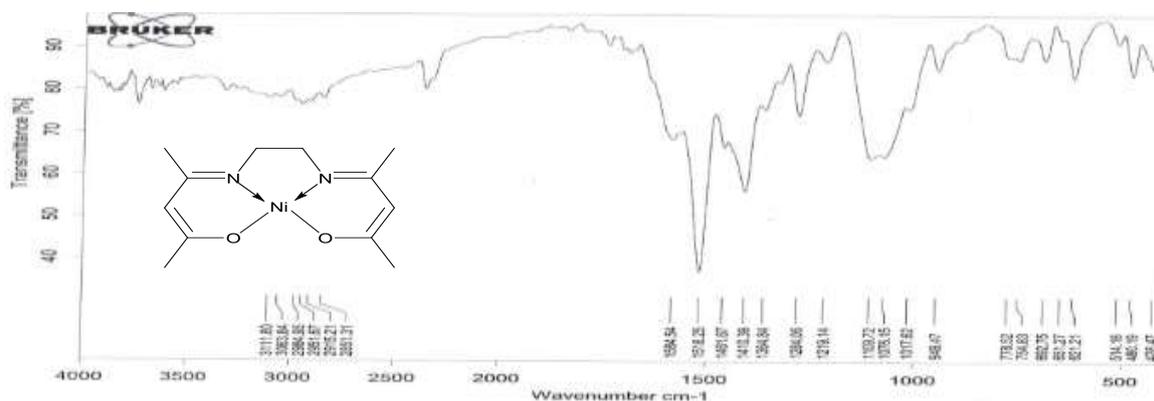
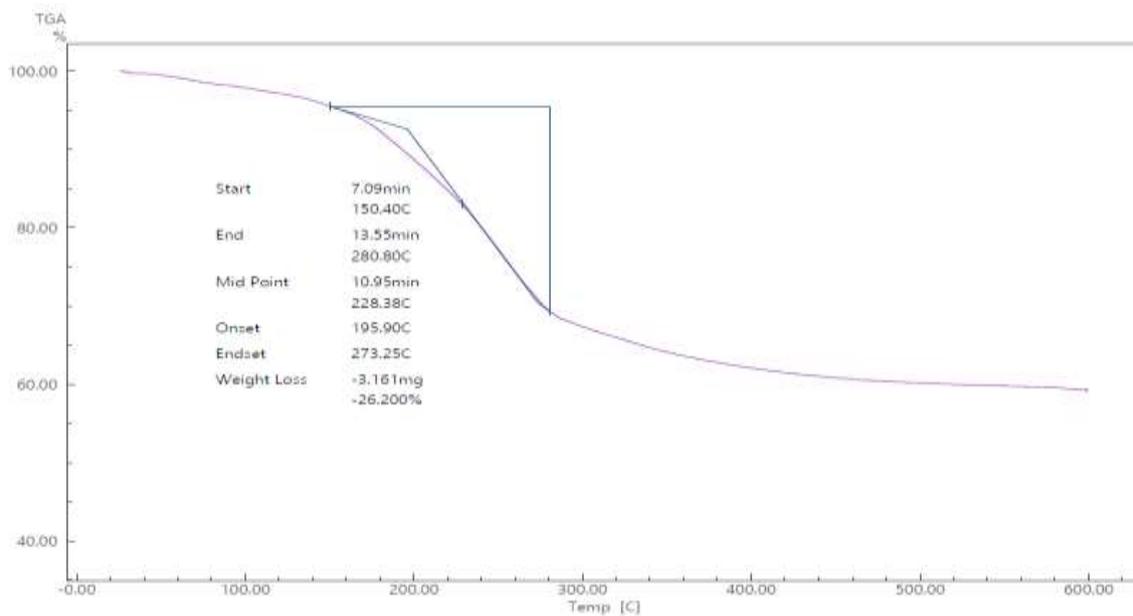


FIGURE 8 FT-IR spectrum of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$

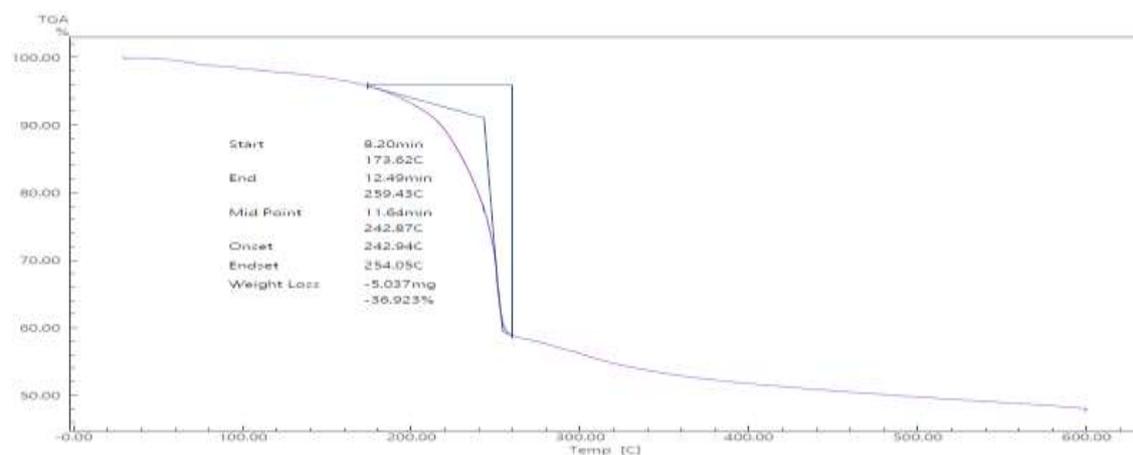
#### Thermal analyses [7,16]

The thermal behavior of the complexes was studied using thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) that was recorded in nitrogen gas at heating rate of 20 °C/min. These TG curves are shown in Figures 9-12. The TG data and their assignments are listed in Table 8. The thermal decompositions started at 139.95 °C, 154.4 °C, 160.22 °C, and 173.62 °C for the complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$ , and  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , respectively.

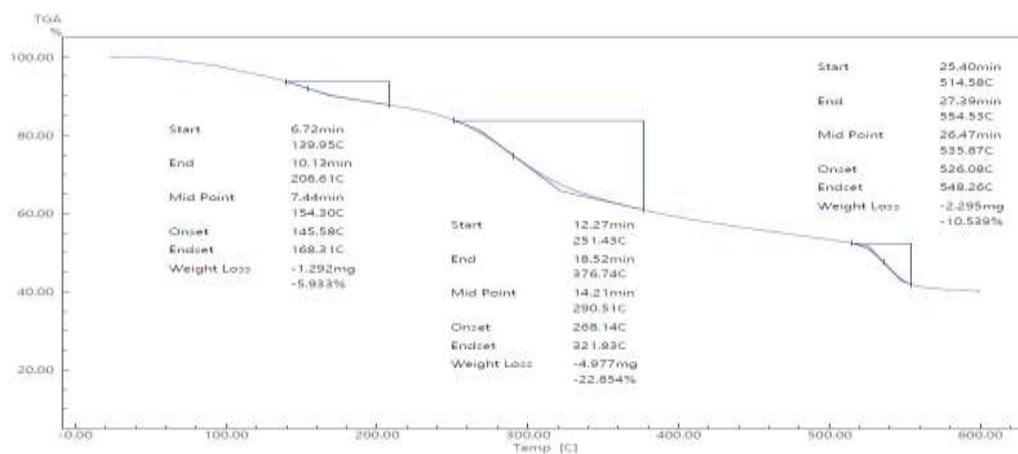
The complex  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  loses only two water molecules within temperature range 139.95-208.61 °C and starts decomposition at 251.43 °C. Then, the complex  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  has the highest thermal stability within the other complexes. Therefore, the thermal stability increases in the sequence:  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] < [\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})] < [\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] < [\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ .



**FIGURE 9** TGA of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$



**FIGURE 10** TGA of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$



**FIGURE 11** TGA of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$

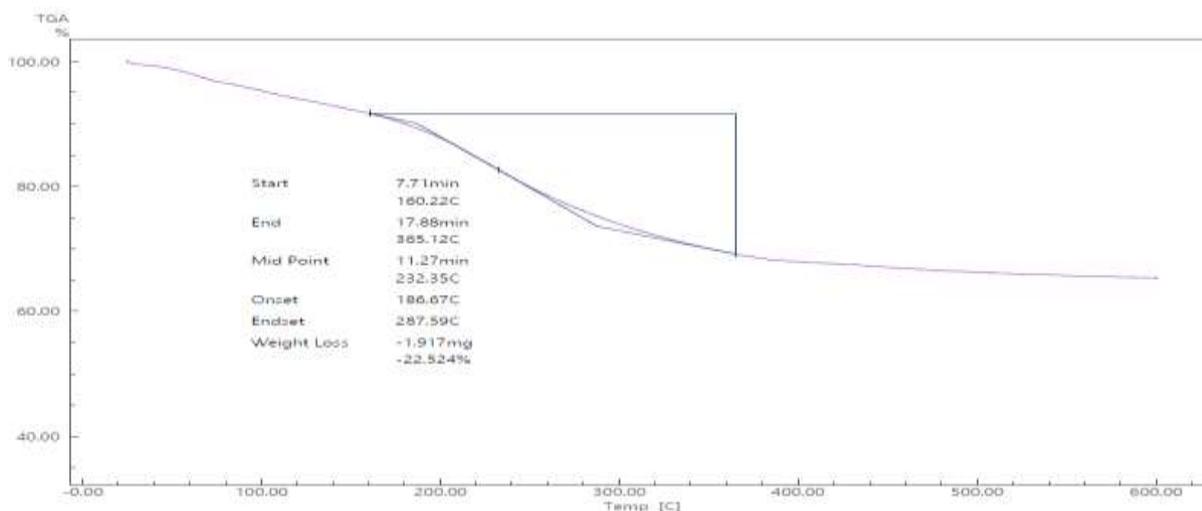


FIGURE 12 TGA of [Ni(AAN)]

TABLE 1 Thermogravimetric analysis data and their assignments of the complexes

Complex	Temperature range, °C	Molecular weight loss		Missing part	Residual part
		Found	% Calculated		
[Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	150.4-280.8	26.2	25.16	2H <sub>2</sub> O+CH <sub>3</sub> CO	FeC <sub>10</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O
[Fe(ACI)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	173.62-259.43	36.923	35.16	2H <sub>2</sub> O+2Cl+C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	FeC <sub>10</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
[Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	139.95-208.61	5.933	5.68	H <sub>2</sub> O	CoC <sub>12</sub> H <sub>20</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
	251.43-376.74	22.854	24.7	H <sub>2</sub> O+2 C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	CoC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
	514.58-554.53	10.539	12.4	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	CoC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
[Ni(AAN)]	160.22-365.12	22.524	20	2C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	NiC <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>

Calculation of rate constant, half -time and thermodynamic parameters from TGA analysis

Considering all phase transformations as the 1<sup>st</sup> order reactions, activation energy and other thermodynamic parameters are determined using the 1<sup>st</sup> order reaction rate equation, as given in Equation (1).

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = k(1 - x) \quad (1)$$

$$x = \frac{w_i - w_t}{w_i - w_f} \quad (2)$$

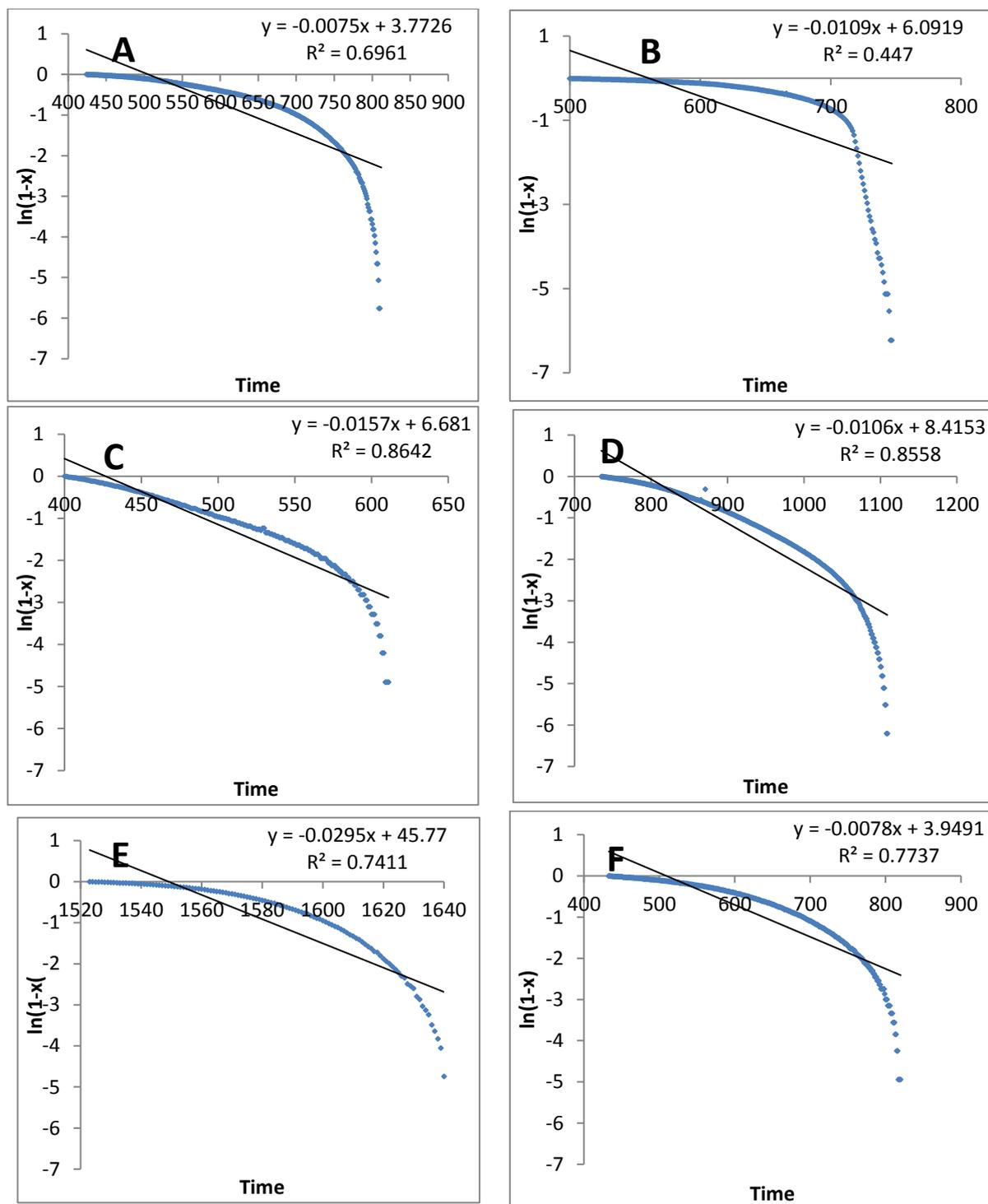
Where,  $w_i$  is the initial weight,  $w_t$  is weight of sample at particular time  $t$ , and  $w_f$  is final weight. Equation (1) can be rewritten as:

$$\ln \ln (1 - x) = -kt \quad (3)$$

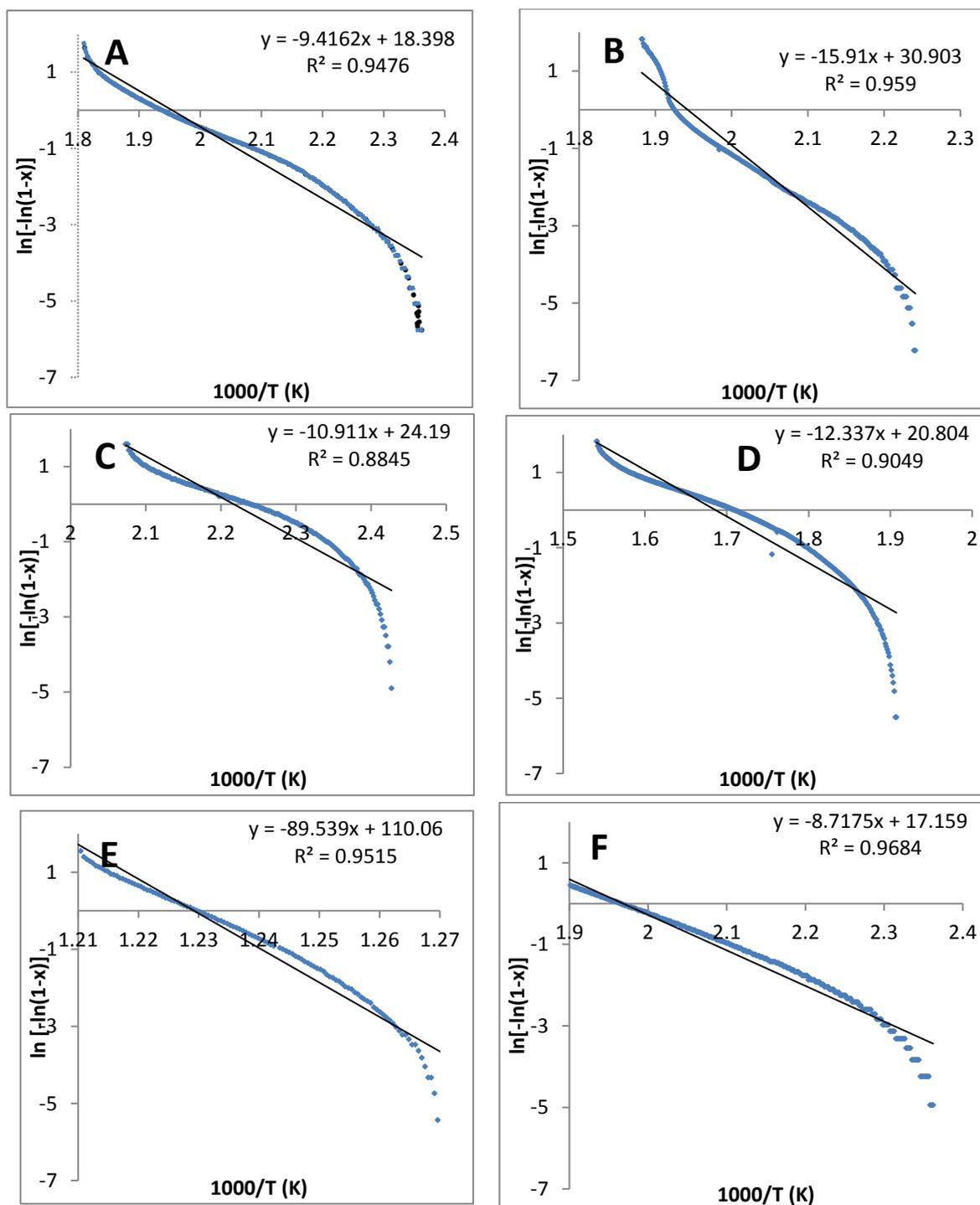
By plotting Equation 3, straight line is obtained for each individual phase, which confirmed that transformations are the first order reactions. Slope of each line give the value of rate constant ( $k$ ) for particular phase (Figure 13). Half-life ( $t_{\frac{1}{2}}$ ) was determined using Equation 4.

$$t_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{0.693}{k} \quad (4)$$

Values of  $k$ ,  $t_{\frac{1}{2}}$ , activation energy,  $\Delta H$ ,  $\Delta S$ , and  $\Delta G$  are given in Table 2. Values obtained for each phase proved that all phases are non-spontaneous endothermic reactions.



**FIGURE 13** Plot of  $\ln(1-x)$  vs. Time (sec) for loss weight of (A)  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (B)  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (C) the first phase of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (D) the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase and of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (E) the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and (F)  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$



**FIGURE 14** Plot of  $\ln[-\ln(1-x)]$  vs.  $1000/T(K)$  for loss weight of (A)  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (B)  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (C) the first phase of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (D) the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , (E) the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and (F)  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$

**TABLE 2** Kinetic and thermodynamic parameters of each phase during thermogravimetric analysis of [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], and [Ni(AAN)]

Complex	Phase	Temp (K)	K (min <sup>-1</sup> )	t <sub>1/2</sub> (sec)	E <sub>a</sub> (J mol <sup>-1</sup> ) (*10 <sup>3</sup> )	ΔH (J mol <sup>-1</sup> ) (*10 <sup>3</sup> )	ΔS (J mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	ΔG (J mol <sup>-1</sup> ) (*10 <sup>3</sup> )
[Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	first phase	554	0.0075	92.4	78.2563	736.504	-135.196	148.548
[Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	first phase	533	0.0109	63.6	132.275	127.844	-25.9013	141.649
	first phase	482	0.0157	44.1	90.7140	86.7067	-82.3405	126.394
[Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	2nd phase	650	0.0106	65.4	102.569	97.1657	-116.929	173.169
	3ed phase	828	0.0295	23.5	744.427	737.543	635.5875	211.276
[Ni(AAN)]	first phase	628	0.0078	88.8	72.477	67.2561	-149.262	160.992

Kinetics parameters are determined using modified form of Coats and Redfern model, as described in Equation (5).

$$\ln \ln [-\ln \ln (1-x)] = \ln \frac{ART^2}{\beta E_a} - \frac{E_a}{RT} \quad (5)$$

Where, A is pre-exponential factor, β is heating rate (20 °C/min), R is general gas constant (8.3143 Jmol<sup>-1</sup>K<sup>-1</sup>), E<sub>a</sub> is activation energy, and T is temperature (Kelvin). Plotting graph between ln[ln(1-x)] vs. 1000/T for each phase (Figure 14) gives the value of activation energy from slope. Further parameters are determined using basic thermodynamic equations shown in Equations (6-8). Values obtained for each phase proved that all phases are non-spontaneous endothermic reactions.

$$E_a = \text{slope} * R \quad (6)$$

$$\Delta S = R \ln \ln \frac{Ah}{KT} \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta H = E_a - RT \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S \quad (9)$$

#### X-ray diffraction

X-ray diffraction was carried out for the complexes powders of [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Ni(AAN)], and [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]. Their XRD patterns are within the range 10 < 2θ < 80° and are shown in Figures 21, 22, and 23, respectively. The

XRD measurements proved that all the complexes were crystallite as they gave sharp peaks. Sherrer's equation (Equation 1) was used to calculate the average crystal size [17,18]. Scherer's equation is related to the diffraction peak presented in Equation (1), where L is the size of the nanocrystal, K is the shape factor, which is typically taken as 0.89 for ceramic materials, λ is the wavelength of radiation in nanometers (λ = 0.15406 nm), θ is the diffracted angle of the peak, and β is the full width at half maximum of the peak in radians. In addition, physical broadening and instrumental broadening are connected to peak broadening.

$$L = \frac{K \lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \quad (1)$$

Scherer's equation only considers the impact of crystallite size on X-ray diffraction peak broadening. It does not take into account the inherent strain that develops in nanocrystals due to point defects, grain boundaries, triple junctions, and stacking faults. Williamson Hall (W-H) approach (Equation 2), which also calculates the crystal size and the intrinsic strain, is one of the methods taking the effect of strain-induced XRD peak broadening into account. The physical line broadening of the X-ray diffraction peak indicates that it is a result of both size and strain [15,16]. The W-H approach changes with tan in strain considerations rather than confirming a

$1/\cos$  dependency as in the Scherrer's equation. This fundamental difference combines small crystallite size and microstrain to pursue a dissociation of broadening reflection. This equation provides the distinct correlations of the impacts of size and strain broadening in W-H analysis [16].

$$\beta \cos \theta = \frac{K\lambda}{L} + 4\varepsilon \sin \theta \quad (2)$$

When Plotting  $\theta$  (x-axis) versus  $\beta \cos \theta$  (y-axis), a straight line is gotten with a slope of  $\varepsilon$  and intercept of  $\frac{K\lambda}{L}$  (Figures 21-26). The largest peaks are observed at around  $35.3417^\circ$ ,  $23.4078^\circ$ , and  $10.0866^\circ$  for  $[Fe(AAN)(H_2O)_2]$ ,  $[Fe(ACL)(H_2O)_2]$ , and  $[Ni(AAN)]$ , respectively. The crystal size is calculated from Scherrer and Williamson-Hall (Figures 15-20) methods. The strain  $\varepsilon$  is

calculated from Williamson-Hall method. The crystallite sizes obtained from Scherrer's equation are 219.19 nm, 125.568 nm, and 4112.53 nm for  $[Fe(AAN)(H_2O)_2]$ ,  $[Fe(ACL)(H_2O)_2]$ , and  $[Ni(AAN)]$ , respectively. While those obtained from Williamson-Hall method are 277.3 nm, 143.03 nm, and 3466.35 nm, respectively (Table 3). The differences among crystallite sizes obtained by both methods indicate that the instrumental broadening is less large than that caused by the physical broadening. The presence of chlorine atom in the complex  $[Fe(ACL)(H_2O)_2]$  compared with the analogous complex  $[Fe(AAN)(H_2O)_2]$  decreased the crystallite size. The strain  $\varepsilon$  values are  $9 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $2 \times 10^{-4}$ , and  $4 \times 10^{-6}$ , respectively [18,19].

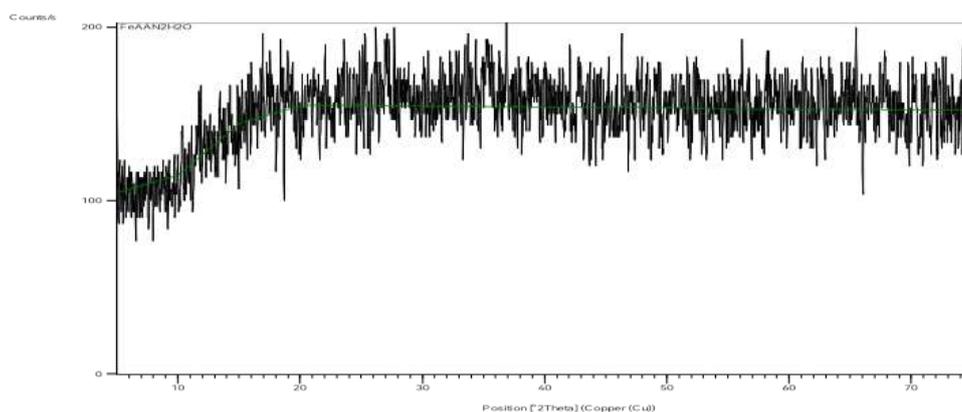


FIGURE 15 XRD pattern of  $[Fe(AAN)(H_2O)_2]$

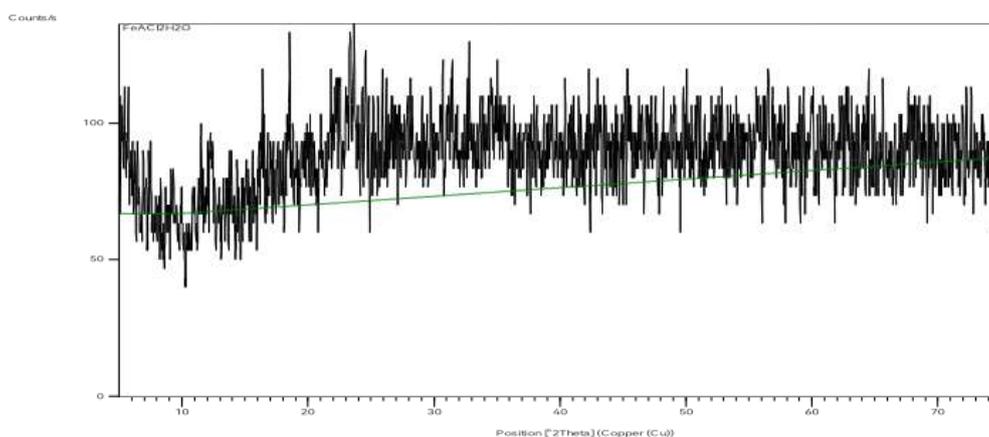


FIGURE 16 XRD pattern of  $[Fe(ACL)(H_2O)_2]$

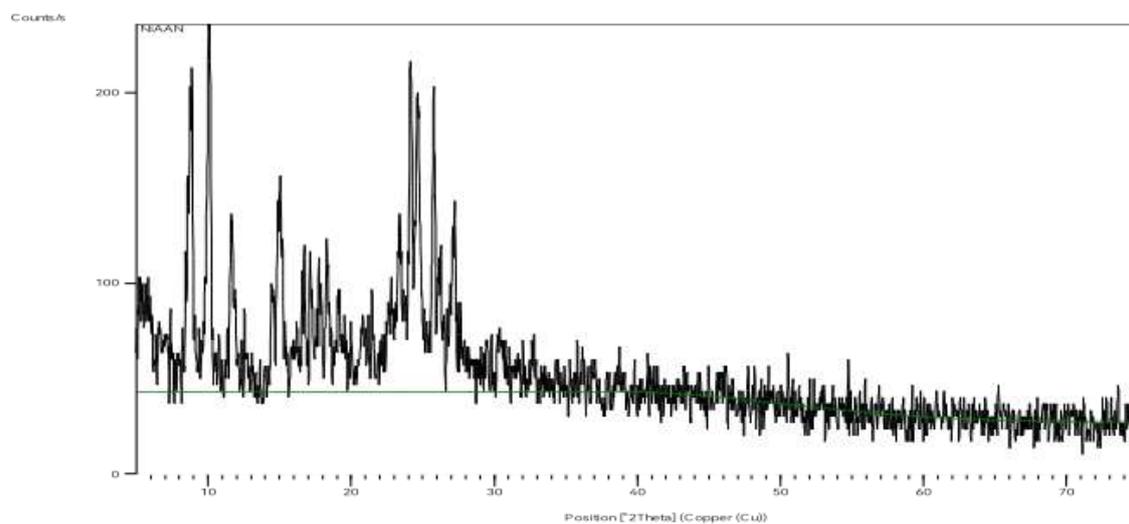


FIGURE 17 XRD pattern of  $[Ni(AAN)]$

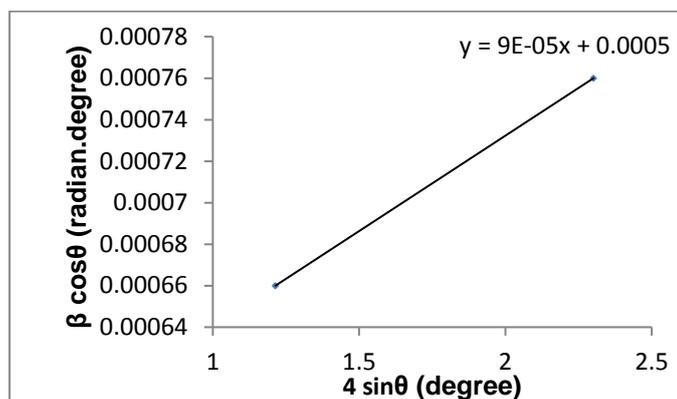


FIGURE 18 Williamson-Hall plot of the complex  $[Fe(AAN)(H_2O)_2]$

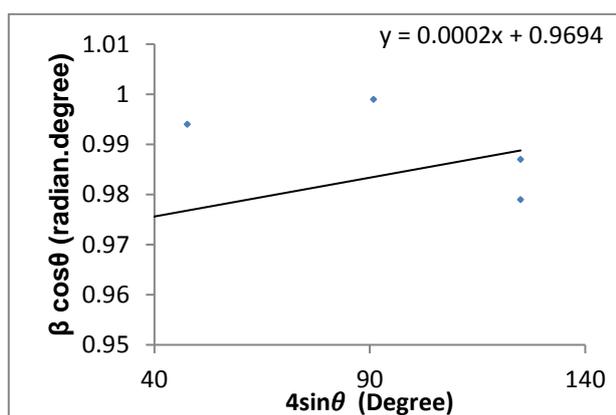


FIGURE 19 Williamson-Hall plot of the complex  $[Fe(ACL)(H_2O)_2]$

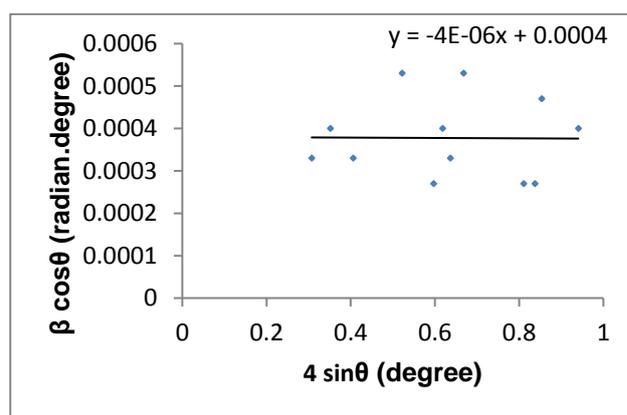


FIGURE 20 Williamson-Hall plot of the complex  $[Ni(AAN)]$

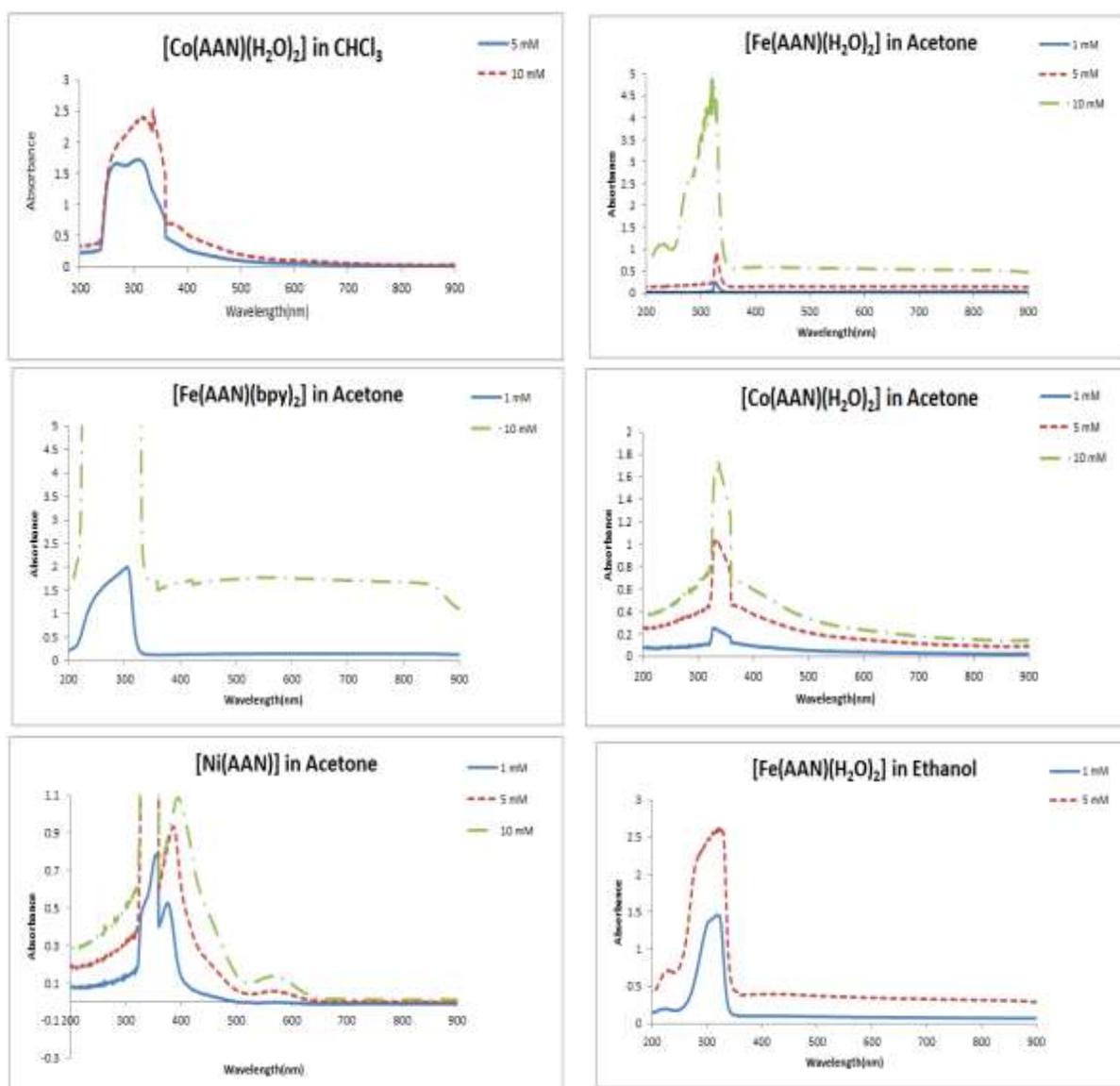
**TABLE 3** Crystal size and strain of complexes from Scherrer's and Williamson-Hall's equations

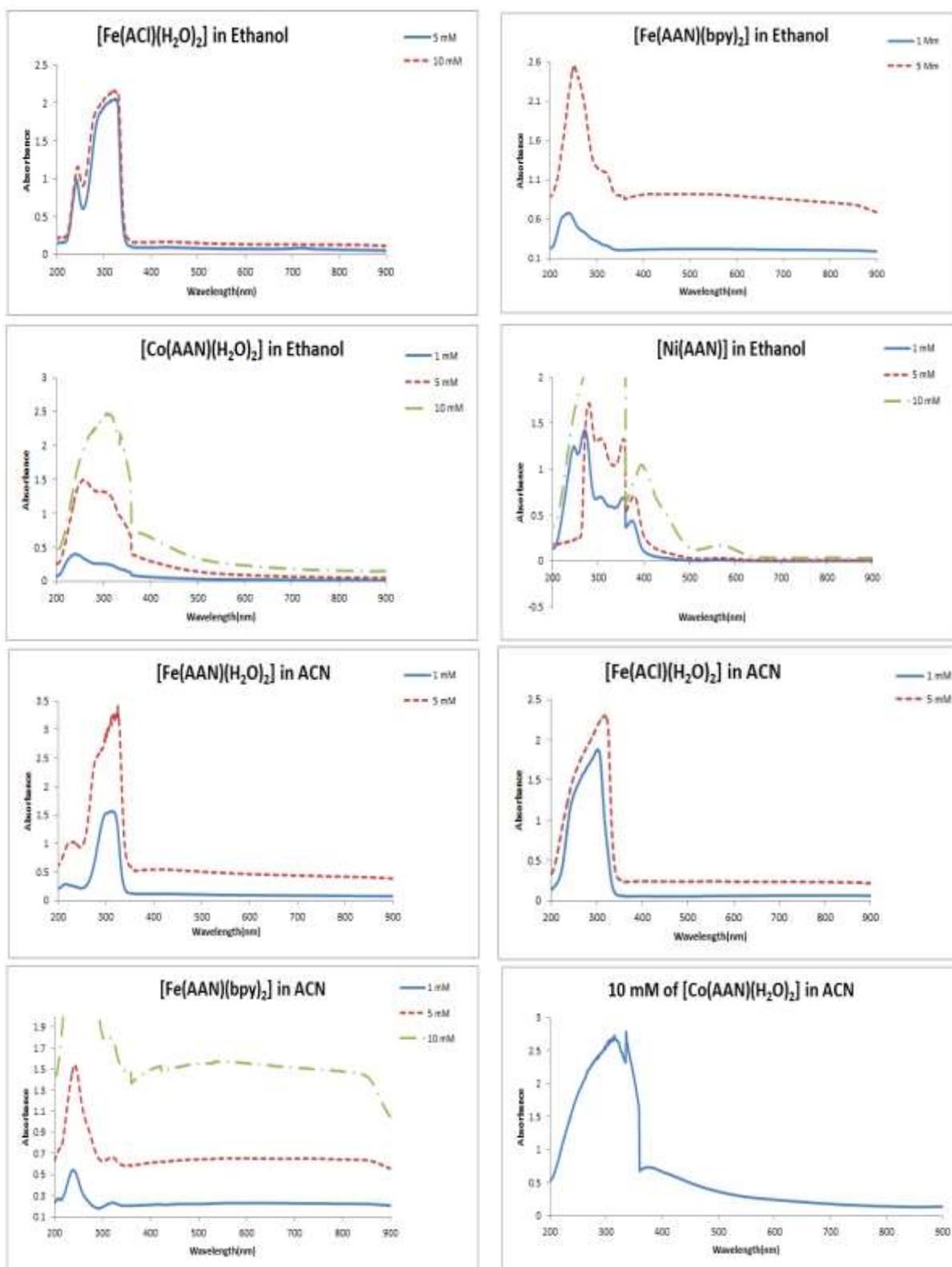
Complexes	Crystal size L		$\epsilon$ (Strain)
	Scherrer equation	Williamson-Hall equation	
[Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ].	219.19	277.3	0.00009
[Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ].	125.568	143.03	0.0002
[Ni(AAN)]	4112.53	3466.35	0.000004

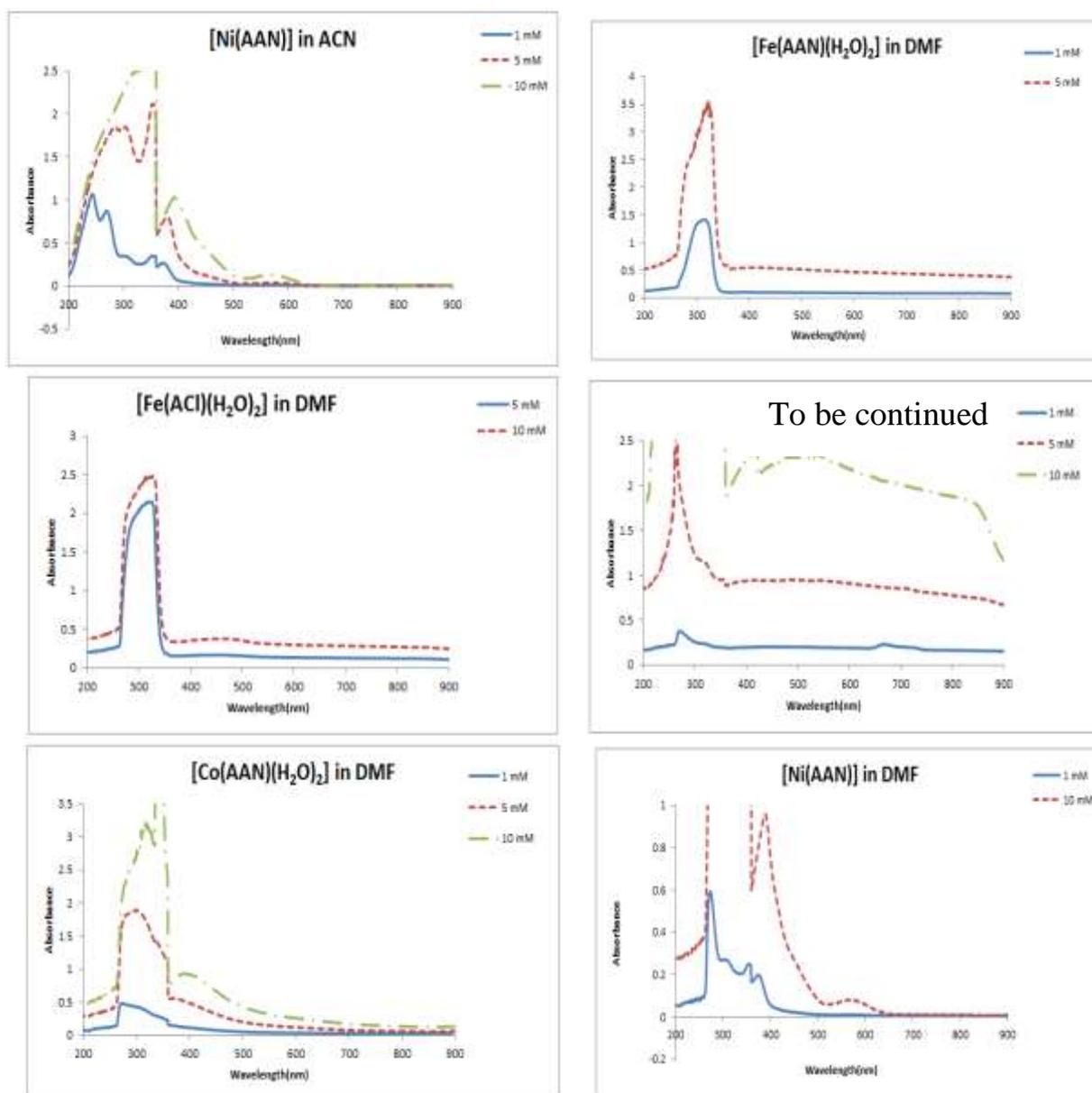
### UV-Visible absorption spectroscopy of complexes in different solvents

UV-Visible absorption spectra of the complexes: [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(AAN)(bpy)<sub>2</sub>], [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], and

[Ni(AAN)] are recorded in different solvents and at different concentrations. These absorption spectra are depicted in Figure 21. The absorption data of these spectra are listed in Table 4.







**FIGURE 21** UV-Visible absorption spectra of the complexes:  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  in different solvents.

**TABLE 4** UV-Visible absorption data of different concentrations of the complexes:  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  in different solvents.

Complex	Concentration (M)	$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \text{nm}$ ( $\epsilon / \text{L.mol}^{-1}.\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Solvent
$[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	5 mM	257(310), 309(345), 388(70)	$\text{CHCl}_3$
	10 mM	317(240), 336(250), 375(70)	
$[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	1 mM	327(250)	Acetone
	5 mM	329(185)	
$[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$	10 mM	226(110), 275(245), 320(490)	Acetone
	1 mM	260(1540), 308(1935)	
$[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	10 mM	857(155)	Acetone
	1 mM	328(250), 368(120)	
	5 mM	325(125), 388(80)	
$[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	10 mM	336(175), 375(65), 390(45)	Acetone

[Ni(AAN)]	1 mM	335(525), 359(770), 377(525)	Acetone
	5 mM	389(185), 581(10)	
	10 mM	394(110), 583(15)	
[Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	219(200), 304(1375), 323(1440)	Ethanol
	5 mM	228(140), 319(520), 427(80)	
[Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	5 mM	244(190), 296(380), 329(400)	Ethanol
	10 mM	248(105), 287(195), 331(210), 450(20)	
[Fe(AAN)(bpy) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	232(650), 242(675), 279(410), 308(290), 322(265)	Ethanol
	5 mM	252(510), 321(240), 359(180)	
[Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	254(360), 321(230), 370(80)	Ethanol
	5 mM	270(285), 319(245), 372(75)	
	10 mM	321(240), 340(205), 393(65), 453(45)	
[Ni(AAN)]	1 mM	248(1245), 272(1420), 304(700), 354(685), 375(435)	Ethanol
	5 mM	280(345), 306(265), 356(265), 379(140), 578(5)	
	10 mM	394(105), 581(15)	
[Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	217(285), 297(1495), 310(1560)	ACN
	5 mM	226(205), 283(505), 325(680), 358(115), 422(110)	
[Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	5 mM	252(270), 307(365)	ACN
	10 mM	254(160), 323(225)	
[Fe(AAN)(bpy) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	208(275), 237(540), 322(235)	ACN
	5 mM	246(300), 329(125)	
	10 mM	324(175), 421(155), 849(145)	
[Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	10 mM	315(275), 336(275), 380(75)	ACN
[Ni(AAN)]	1 mM	246(1040), 274(820), 314(305), 359(340), 379(235)	ACN
	5 mM	284(370), 304(370), 352(420), 379(160), 567(10)	
	10 mM	394(105), 581(10)	
[Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	305(1380), 321(1360)	DMF
	5 mM	228(120), 322(710), 359(115), 437(110)	
[Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	5 mM	292(390), 328(420), 487(35)	DMF
	10 mM	285(215), 331(245), 482(35)	
[Fe(AAN)(bpy) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 Mm	269(380), 327(225), 667(230), 735(185)	DMF
	5 mM	266(65), 325(220), 398(185), 719(170)	
	10 mM	422(240), 545(235), 853(175)	
[Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]	1 mM	265(235), 341(285), 371(145)	DMF
	5 mM	284(365), 313(360), 390(105)	
	10 mM	240(460), 325(310), 352(355), 411(90)	
[Ni(AAN)]	1 mM	276(575), 315(250), 359(245), 380(185)	DMF
	10 mM	393(90), 578(10)	

The solution of 5 mM [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] in CHCl<sub>3</sub> absorbed at 257 nm, 309 nm, and 388 nm. These bands are attributed to  $\pi - \pi^*$  transition or/and  $\pi - \pi^*$  transition merged with  $n - \pi^*$  transition. The absorption at 257 nm in CHCl<sub>3</sub> is red shifted to 270 nm and 284 nm in ethanol and DMF, respectively. The

orbital  $\pi^*$  is more polar than  $\pi$  orbital. Then, the orbital  $\pi^*$  is more affected by polar solvent than  $\pi$  orbital. A more lowering in energy of  $\pi^*$  orbital is more polar solvent than the energy of  $\pi$  orbital. Hence, lower energy is required for  $\pi - \pi^*$  transition at the more polar solvent. Therefore, red shift in

$\pi - \pi^*$  transition happened at more polar solvents. For  $n - \pi^*$  transition, the  $n$  orbital is much more polar than  $\pi^*$  orbital. Then,  $n$  orbital will more interact with polar solvent than  $\pi^*$  orbital. This will much decrease  $n$  orbital energy than  $\pi^*$  orbital energy. Therefore, at moving to more polar solvent, more energy is required to get  $n - \pi^*$  transition. In other words, blue shift happens for  $n - \pi^*$  transition in a more polar solvent. If the  $\pi - \pi^*$  transition is merged with  $n - \pi^*$  transition, then a net effect of both the red and blue shifts should be noted. The transition at 309 nm in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  is shifted to 325 nm, 319 nm, and 313 nm in acetone, ethanol, and DMF, respectively. The band at 388 nm in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  is noted at 388 nm, 372 nm, and 390 nm in acetone, ethanol, and DMF, respectively. For all complexes, it is noted that fine structures of their spectra are disappeared gradually with increasing concentrations. The absorption intensities of complexes increase with increasing their concentration according to Lambert Beer's law. Also, remarkable shifts in the absorptions are noted with increasing the complexes concentrations. These shifts could be correlated with decrease of solvent - solute interactions at increase of solute concentrations. Same trends are noted for the other complexes. The transition band occurred at 427 nm for the spectrum of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  in ethanol could be attributed to  $d - d$  transition. This band is red shifted to 450 nm for the complex

$[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ . This shift refers that the ligand AAN is stronger than ACl. Likewise, the same red shift was noted for both complexes in DMF. Thus,  $d - d$  transitions occurred at 437 nm and 487 nm in DMF for  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  and  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , respectively [20,21]. The reaction of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 5 equivalents of 4,4'-bipyridine at lab temperature afforded the complex  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$ . Dramatic absorption changes are noted between  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$  and its precursor  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  in both UV and visible regions. For example,  $d - d$  transitions of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$  occurred at lower energies 857 nm, 849 nm, and 667 nm in acetone, acetonitrile, and DMF, respectively. The square planer complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  showed perfectly the expected broad  $d - d$  transition band at 583 nm, 581 nm, and 578 nm in acetone, ethanol, acetonitrile, and DMF, respectively [22,23].

#### *Interaction of the complexes with bpy (formation of adducts)*

The interaction of the complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  with 4,4'-bipyridine affording the adduct complexes is followed by UV-Visible absorption spectroscopy. These absorption spectra and their data are shown in Figures 22-25 and Table 5, respectively. The proposed adduct complexes resulted from those mentioned interactions are shown in Scheme 5.

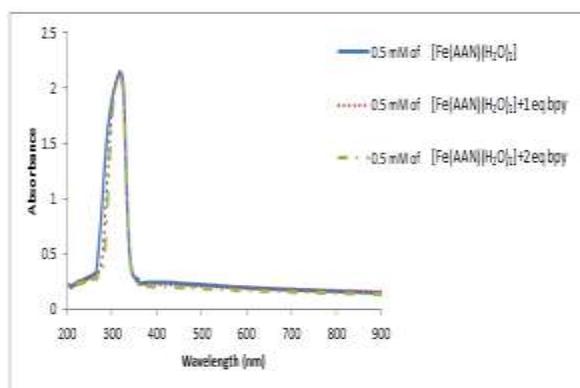


FIGURE 22 UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5

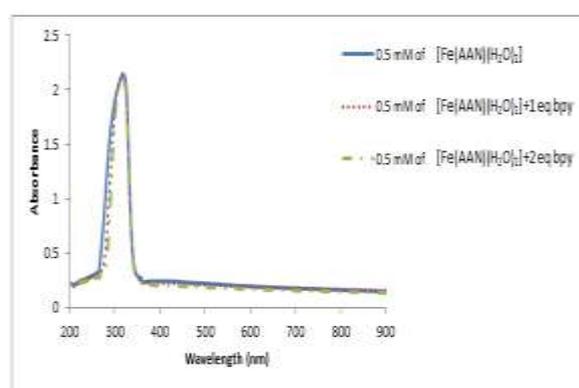
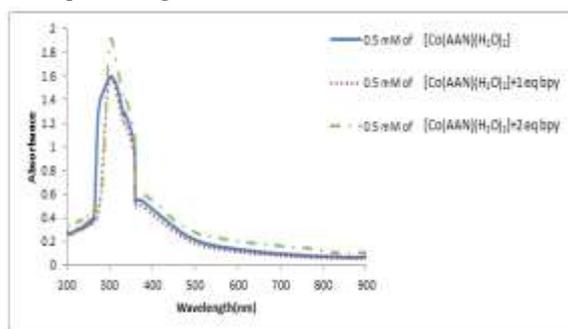


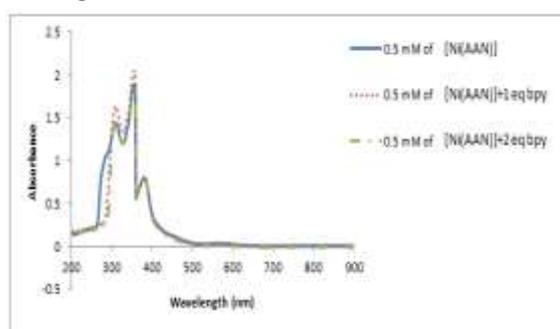
FIGURE 23 UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5

mM of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line) and 2 eq (green dash line) of bpy in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



**FIGURE 24** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line) and 2 eq (green dash line) of bpy in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.

mM of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line) and 2 eq (green dash line) of bpy in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm



**FIGURE 25** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line) and 2 eq (green dash line) of bpy in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm

**TABLE 5** UV-Visible absorption data of 0.5 mM of each of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  and their mixtures with 1eq and 2eq bpy in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with path length of 1 cm

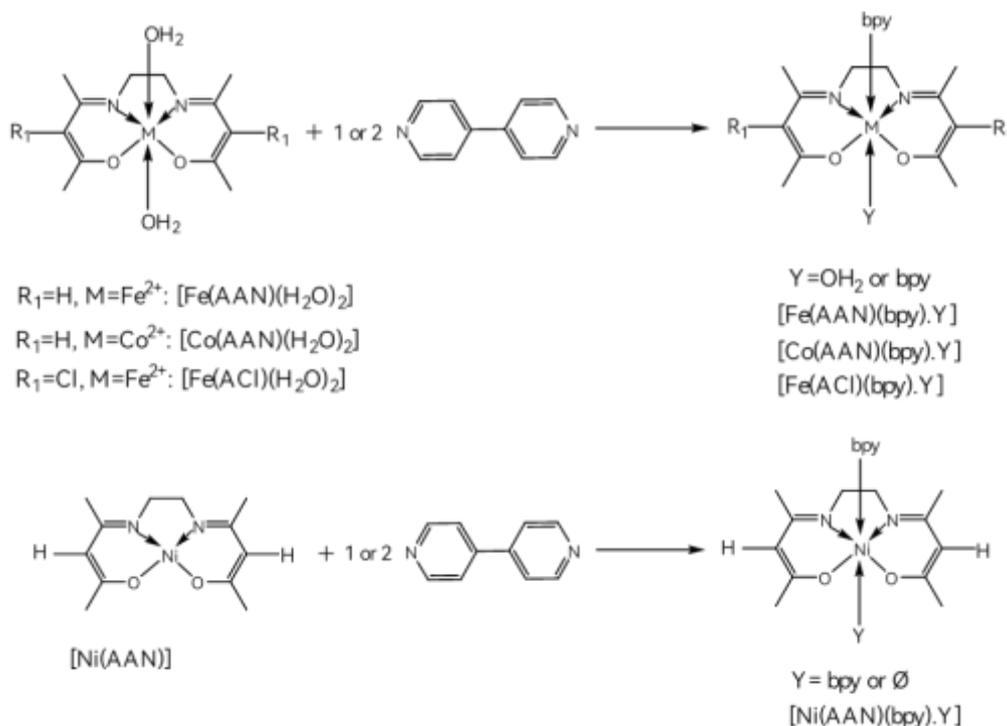
Complex	$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \text{nm}$ ( $\epsilon / \text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ )
0.5 mM of $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	320(4260)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ with 1eq bpy	320(4265)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ with 2eq bpy	320(4165)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	300(2085), 390(780), 457(760)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ with 1eq bpy	296(1950), 390(625), 464(520)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ with 2eq bpy	307(1635), 390(575), 468(610)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	287(2915), 315(3070), 359(1990), 387(1080)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ with 1eq bpy	310(3065), 391(915)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ with 2eq bpy	308(3745), 391(1145), 552(460)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$	293(2225), 315(2785), 359(3680), 386(1505), 580(60)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$ with 1eq bpy	315(3145), 359(4010), 386(1555), 580(60)
0.5 mM of $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$ with 2eq bpy	315(2850), 359(3555), 386(1460), 577(20)

The UV-Visible spectrum of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  showed intense peak at 320 nm. After addition of 1 or 2 equivalent of 4,4' - bipyridine, intensity of this absorption changed that could be correlated with displacement of one (more possible) or two water molecules by one or two bipyridine molecules, respectively, and formation of the adduct (Figure 28 and Scheme 5). The complex  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  showed absorptions at 300 nm, 390 nm, and 457 nm. After addition of 1 equivalent to the

complex solution, those mentioned absorptions are noted at 296 (blue shifted and lower intensity), 390 nm (Same with lower intensity), and 464 nm (red shifted with lower intensity). At comparison with the free complex, red shift with lower intensity (307 nm), the same with lower intensity (390 nm) and red shift with lower intensity (610 nm) are seen after addition of 2 equivalents of bipyridine. These changes in both the maximum wavelength and intensities are due to coordination of bipyridine with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  ion

instead of water molecule and formation of the adduct complex. The noted changes after addition of 2 equivalents of bipyridine compared with the case of 1 equivalent of bipyridine could be attributed to coordination of two bpy moieties with the free complex and formation of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{bpy})_2]$ . The absorptions of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (Figure 24) occurred at 287 nm, 315 nm, 359 nm and 387 nm are disappeared blue shifted (310 nm), blue shifted (with lower intensity), and red shifted (391 nm with lower intensity) after mixing with 1 equivalent of bipyridine. Important changes are also happened after addition of 2 equivalents of bipyridine to the free complex solution. These big changes are undoubtedly assigned to the formation of the adduct

complexes:  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$  or also probably the  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$  after adding 1 or 2 equivalents of bpy, respectively. The complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  absorbed at 293 nm, 315 nm, 359 nm, 386 nm, and 580 nm. After addition of 1 equivalent of bpy, these absorptions are disappeared, decreased in intensity, increased in intensity, increased in intensity, and at same intensity respectively. Changes in intensity and blue shift (with lower intensity) for the last peak are noted after mixing with 2 equivalent of bpy moiety. These changes are due to formation of the adduct complex:  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})]$  and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})_2]$  or larger amounts bpy of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})\text{bpy}]$  after mixing with 1 and 2 equivalents of bpy moieties respectively [23,24].

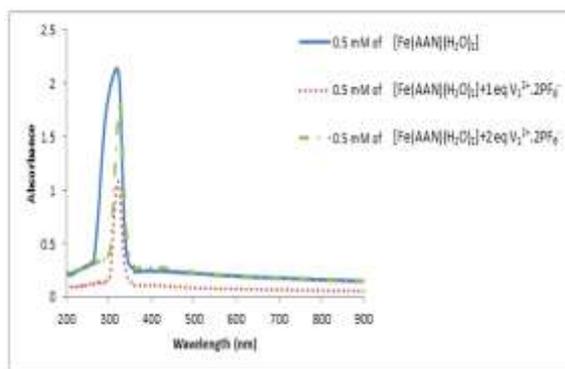


**SCHEME 5** Formation of adduct complexes:  $[\text{M}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy}).\text{Y}]$  ( $\text{M}^{2+} = \text{Fe}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ),  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{bpy}).\text{Y}]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy}).\text{Y}]$ ,  $\text{Y} = \text{OH}_2$ , bpy or  $\emptyset$

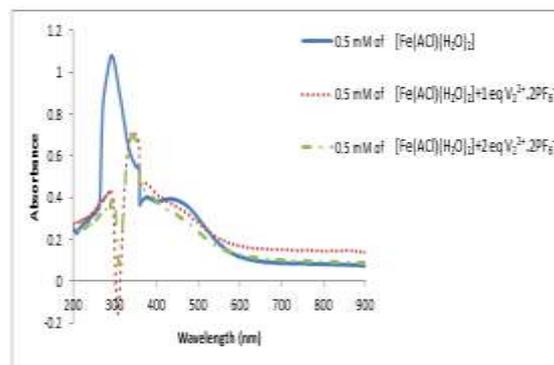
*Interaction of the complexes with  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  (formation of adducts)*

The reaction of complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  with 1 or 2 equivalents of

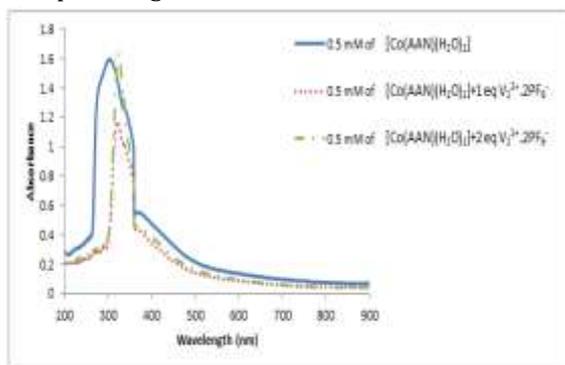
$\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  are performed in DMF at lab temperature and followed by UV-Visible absorption spectroscopy. The absorption spectra of those reaction mixtures are depicted in Figures 26-29. Their data are listed in Table 6.



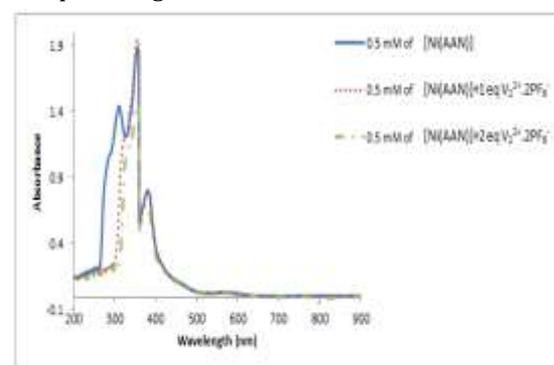
**FIGURE 26** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line), and 2 eq (green dash line) of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



**FIGURE 27** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line), and 2 eq (green dash line) of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



**FIGURE 28** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line), and 2 eq (green dash line) of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



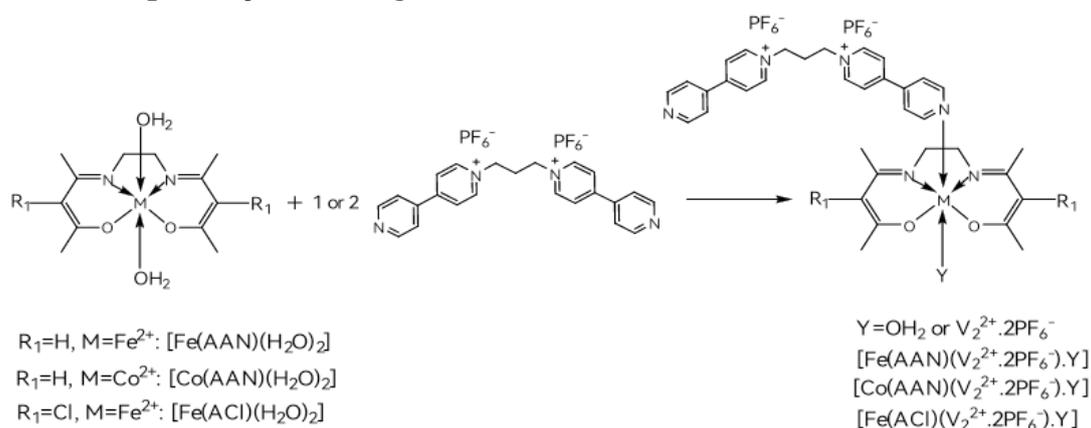
**FIGURE 29** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  (solid blue line), its mixture with 1 eq (red dotted line), and 2 eq (green dash line) of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.

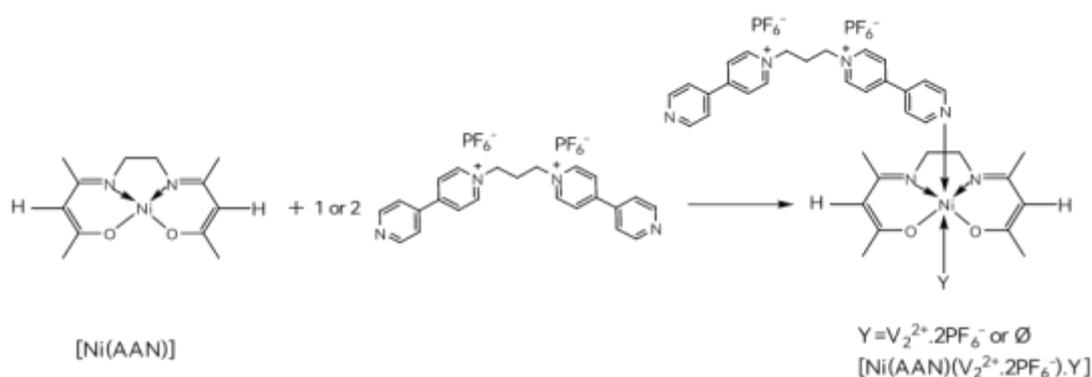
**TABLE 6** UV-Visible absorption data of 0.5 mM of each of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ , and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  and their mixtures with  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.

Complex	$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \text{nm}$ ( $\epsilon / \text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ )
0.5 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	320(4260), 426(485)
0.5 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] + 1\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	324(2090), 439(200)
0.5 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] + 2\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	324(3635), 421(555)
0.5 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	300(2085), 390(780), 461(755)
0.5 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] + 1\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	300(340), 353(1380), 390(880)
0.5 mM $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] + 2\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	300(795), 353(1330), 390(810)
0.5 mM $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$	284(2905), 313(3100), 386(1035), 349(1965)
0.5 mM $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] + 1\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	326(2260), 357(1555), 386(780)
0.5 mM $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] + 2\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	327(3190), 359(1615), 386(845)
0.5 mM $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$	285(2090), 316(2750), 359(3680), 386(1505), 583(60)
0.5 mM $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})] + 1\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	323(2395), 359(3780), 386(1500), 583(60)
0.5 mM $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})] + 2\text{eq } \text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$	344(2455), 359(2840), 386(1260), 583(55)

The 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  absorbed at 324 nm and 426 nm. These absorptions are noted at 324 nm (with lower intensity) and 439 nm (with lower intensity), respectively, in the mixture of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 1 equivalent of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . At mixing with 2 equivalents of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ , the absorptions happened at 324 nm (with lower intensity) and 421 nm (with higher intensity), respectively. The complex  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  showed the absorptions 300 nm, 390 nm, and 461 nm. The mixture of  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 1 equivalent of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  showed absorptions at 300 nm (with lower intensity), 353 nm (new), 390 nm (with lower intensity), and disappearance of 481 nm, respectively, compared with absorptions of free complex. The same changes are noted for the mixture of free complex with 2 equivalent  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . The absorptions of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  occurred at 284 nm, 313 nm, 349 nm, and 386 nm are respectively disappeared, red shifted to 326 nm, blue shifted to 357 nm, and noted at the same position with lower intensity in the mixture of  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 1 equivalent  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . The same notes are seen in the spectrum of the mixture with 2 equivalents of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . The changes in  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$

value and intensities of the complexes mixtures with  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  refer to the formation of their adduct complexes, i.e. complexation of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  with  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions. The absorption changes noted here are less than those noted in the case of bipyridine that could be corrected with the lower donor property of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  moiety compared with that of bpy moiety. The absorptions of complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  happened at 285 nm, 316 nm, 359 nm, 386 nm, and 583 nm. These absorptions change to be disappeared, at 323 nm (red shift), 359 (with higher intensity), 386 nm (almost same intensity), and 583 nm (same intensity) at mixing the complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  with 1 equivalent of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . More changes are noted at mixing with 2 equivalent of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . These absorption spectra changes are due to the formation of the adduct complex among  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  and  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$ . The less absorptions changes noted at mixing the complexes with  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  are undoubtedly due to less coordination strength with  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  and/or lower adducts quantities have been formed. The proposed adducts complexes are shown in Scheme 6 [25,7].



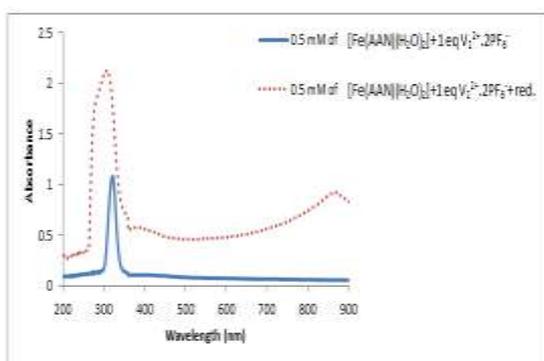


**SCHEME 6** Formation of adduct complexes:  $[\text{M}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$  ( $\text{M}^{2+} = \text{Fe}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ ),  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ ,  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ , and  $\text{Y} = \text{OH}_2$ ,  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  or  $\emptyset$ .

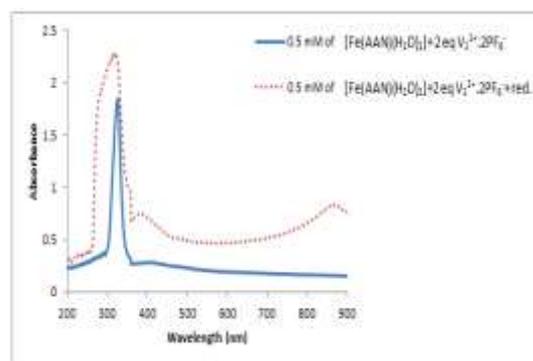
*Reduction of adducts complexes with  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  (formation of molecular switches)*

The solutions of adducts complexes formed from the mixtures of complexes and  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot \text{PF}_6^-$

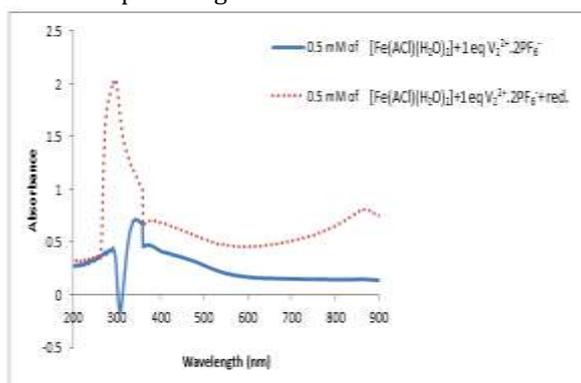
are reduced with activated Zinc powder. The UV-Visible absorption spectra are recorded for both adducts complexes solutions and those reduced ones are shown in Figures 30-37. Table 7 contains their absorption data.



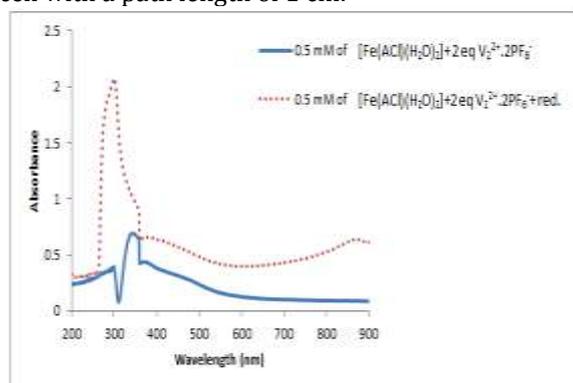
**FIGURE 30.** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 1 eq of  $\text{V}_2^{2+}$  (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



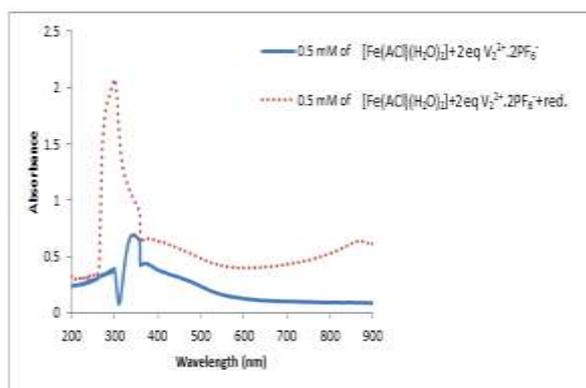
**FIGURE 31** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 2 eq of  $\text{V}_2^{2+}$  (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



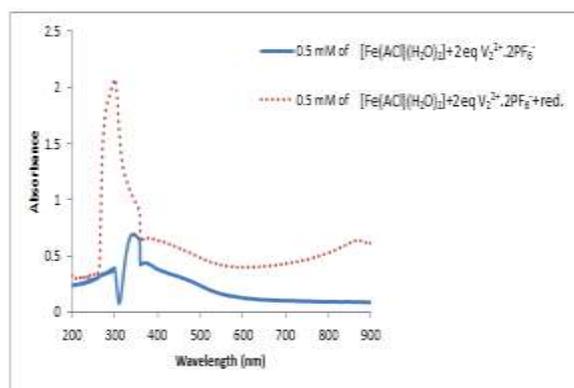
**FIGURE 32** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 1 eq of  $\text{V}_2^{2+}$  (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



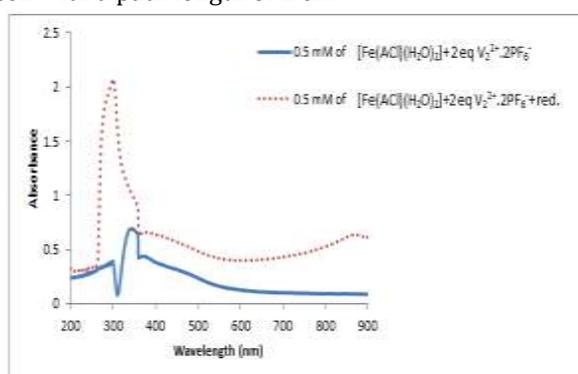
**FIGURE 33** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  with 2 eq of  $\text{V}_2^{2+}$  (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



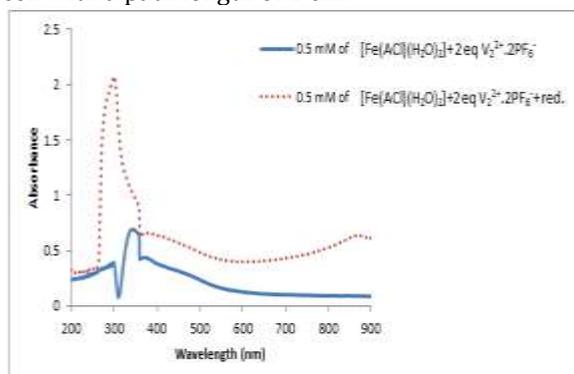
**FIGURE 34** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] with 1 eq of V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



**FIGURE 35** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] with 2 eq of V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



**FIGURE 36** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM [Ni(AAN)] with 1 eq of V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.



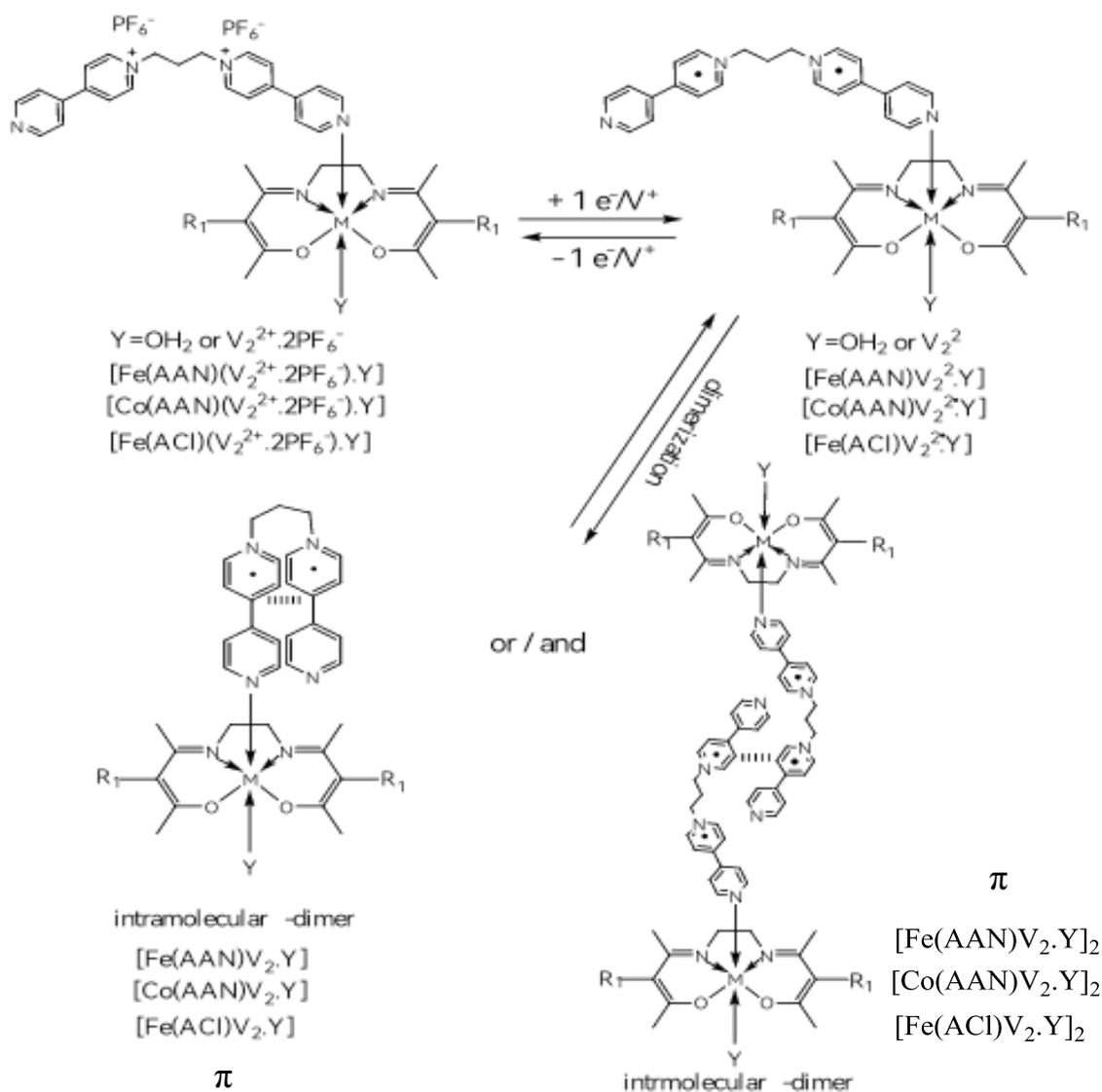
**FIGURE 37** UV-Visible absorption spectra of 0.5 mM [Ni(AAN)] with 2 eq of V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> (solid blue line) and its reduced solution by activated zinc powder (dash red line) in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.

**TABLE 7** UV-Visible absorption data of 0.5 mM of [Co(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(AAN)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], [Fe(ACl)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>], and [Ni(AAN)], their mixtures with V<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> and their reduced solutions by activated zinc powder in DMF at r.t using quartz cell with a path length of 1 cm.

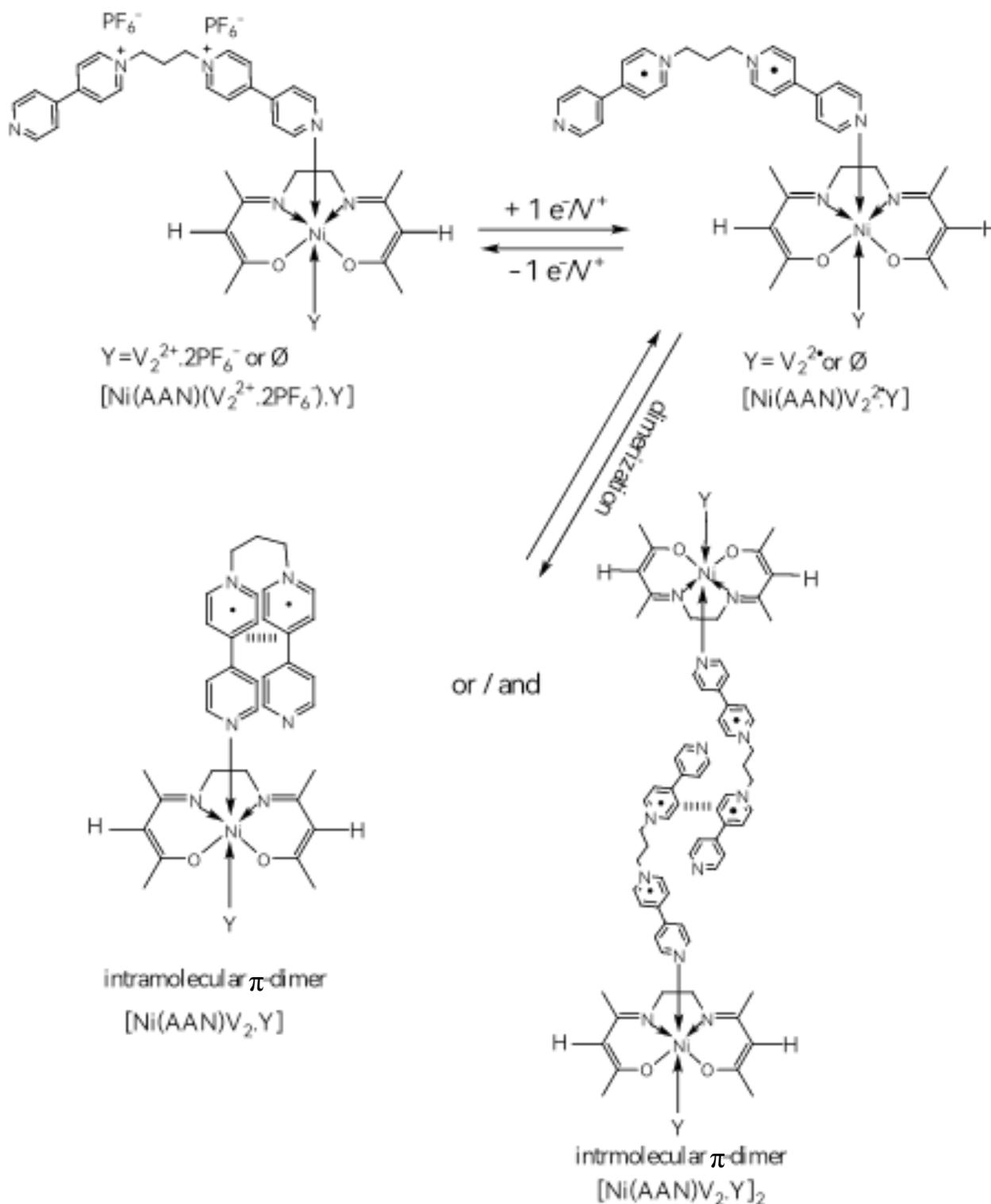
Complex	$\lambda_{\max}$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /L.mol <sup>-1</sup> .cm <sup>-1</sup> )
0.5 mM [Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	324(2090), 439(200)
reduced 0.5 mM [Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	315(4080), 403(1115), 878(1800)
0.5 mM [Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	324(3635), 421(555)
reduced 0.5 mM [Fe(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	326(4460), 405(1400), 879(1635)
0.5 mM [Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	300(340), 353(1380), 390(880)
reduced 0.5 mM [Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	301(3925), 429(1290), 885(1575)
0.5 mM [Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	300(795), 353(1330), 390(810),
reduced 0.5 mM [Fe(ACl)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	304(3985), 417(1245), 880(1265)
0.5 mM [Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	326(2260), 386(780)
reduced 0.5 mM [Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	316(4785), 403(1185), 882(1270)
0.5 mM [Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	327(3190), 386(845)
reduced 0.5 mM [Co(AAN)(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	325(4460), 406(1555), 885(1190)
0.5 mM [Ni(AAN)] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	359(3780), 386(1500), 583(60)
reduced 0.5 mM [Ni(AAN)] with 1eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	532(4810), 830(2640), 747(2290)
0.5 mM [Ni(AAN)] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	359(2840), 386(1260), 583(55)
reduced 0.5 mM [Ni(AAN)] with 2eq V <sub>2</sub> <sup>2+</sup> . 2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	528(3240), 853(1805), 755(1480)

The non-dimerized viologen radicals absorbed generally at 400 nm (or above) and 600 (or above), while the  $\pi$ -dimerized viologen radicals are characterized by absorptions less than 400 nm, less than 600 nm, and up to 800 nm. The reduced solutions of adducts complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{V}^+ \cdot \text{A} \cdot \text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ , and  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$  showed absorptions at 403 nm and 405 nm;  $\sim 400$  nm and  $\sim 400$  nm; 403 nm and 406 nm, respectively. These absorptions are assigned to non-dimerized viologen radicals within adducts

complexes, while the absorptions at 878 nm and 879 nm; 885 nm and 880 nm; 882 nm, and 885 nm, respectively, are due to the intra- or intermolecular  $\pi$ -dimerized viologen radicals  $\text{V}_2$  within the same adducts complexes (Scheme 7). The reduced mixtures of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})]$  with 1 and 2 equivalents of  $\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-$  showed absorptions at 532 nm and 830; 528 nm and 853 nm, respectively. These absorptions correspond to intra- or intermolecular dimerized viologen radicals  $\text{V}_2$  within adduct complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ , as displayed in Scheme 8 [8,26].



**SCHEME 7** Formation of molecular switches from reduction of the adducts complexes  $[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{ACI})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ , and  $[\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{V}_2^{2+} \cdot 2\text{PF}_6^-) \cdot \text{Y}]$ .



**SCHEME 8** Formation of molecular switches from reduction of the adduct complex  $[Ni(AAN)(V_2^{2+} \cdot 2PF_6^-) \cdot Y]$ .

### Conclusion

The coordination of  $H_2O$  molecules in  $Fe(AAN)$ ,  $Fe(ACI)$ , and  $Co(AAN)$  was confirmed by IR spectroscopy, as was bpy in

$Fe(AAN)(bpy)$ . IR spectra show the stretching of the M-O group. Thermal analyses showed that the order of thermal stability of complexes decreased in the following sequence:

$[\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] < [\text{Ni}(\text{AAN})] < [\text{Fe}(\text{ACl})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] < [\text{Co}(\text{AAN})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ .

All TG phases are first order reactions. During thermal analyses the kinetic and thermodynamic parameters are calculated for each phase. Values obtained for each phase indicate that all phases are non-spontaneous endothermic reactions. Based on XRD data, crystal sizes  $D$  are calculated using both the Scherer's and Williamson-Hall methods. Also, the strain values are calculated using the last method. The UV-Visible absorption spectra of complexes in different solvents showed transitions attributed to  $\pi - \pi^*$  merged  $n - \pi^*$  absorptions. The  $d - d$  transitions have been perfectly shown. A comparison of the spectra of the adduct  $\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})(\text{bpy})$  with those of the precursor  $\text{Fe}(\text{AAN})$  confirms its formation. UV-visible absorption spectroscopy is used to monitor the formation of adduct complexes from complex interactions with bpy. The adduct complexes  $V_2^{2+} \cdot 2PF_6^-$  are formed. The  $V_2^{2+} \cdot 2PF_6^-$  units in these adducts are reduced by two electrons to afford dimerized  $V_2$  within adduct complex structures.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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