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Metal Ion Uptake Properties of Chelating Ion-Exchange Copolymer Synthesized from 2, 4-Dihydroxypropiophenone and 4-Pyridylamine

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Abstract: The chelating ion exchange copolymer 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II has been synthesized by condensing 2,4-dihydroxypropiophenone, 4-pyridylamine and formaldehyde in the presence of 2M hydrochloric acid as catalyst using 2:1:3 molar proportion of reacting monomers. The resulting resin has been characterized by elemental analysis, UV-Visible, FT-IR, and ¹H-NMR. The morphological feature of copolymer has been studied by scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The chelation cation-exchange properties of the copolymer resin has been studied for Co²⁺, Ni²⁺, Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺ and Pb²⁺ ions. In the study of the selectivity of metal-ion uptake involving the measurements of the distribution of a given metal ion between the copolymer sample and a solution containing the metal ion, a batch equilibrium method was used. Copolymer showed a higher uptake capacity for Ni²⁺ and Cu²⁺ ion than Zn²⁺, Co²⁺, and Pb²⁺ ions.

Keywords: Copolymer, distribution ratio, Ion-exchange properties, Batch equilibrium, Chelating, metal ion uptake.

I. INTRODUCTION

The effluents from mines and metal industries containing heavy metal ions are increasingly discharged into the environment. Unlike some organic pollutants, heavy metal ions are not biodegradable and cannot be metabolized or decomposed. They are responsible for causing damages to the environment and can also easily enter the food chain through a number of pathways and adversely affecting the health of people. The traditional methods commonly used for their removal from aqueous solution include ion-exchange, solvent extraction, chemical precipitation, nano-filtration and reverse osmosis. Now a day, among the various solid adsorbent, polymeric chelating resins are widely used in the removal of heavy metal ions due to their high adsorption capacities and selectivity [1].

Separation of toxic metal ions from waste water using pyrogallol-biuret-formaldehyde copolymer resin has reported by Rahangdale et al. [2]. Gurnule and coworker prepared chelating ion-exchange resin from phallic acid - melamine - formaldehyde and characterized by elemental analysis, FT-IR and ¹H-NMR spectra. Metal ion uptake capacity of synthesized copolymer has been carried out by Batch equilibration method for different metal ions at different concentrations [3]. Comparative study of strong anion exchange poly (Styrene-co-EGDMA-co-VBC) and strong anion exchange hypercrosslinked poly (HEMA-co-EGDMA-co-VBC) was carried out by N. Abdullah et al [4].

Dhote et al. synthesized a ion exchange resin from 4-hydroxybenzophenone and melamine with formaldehyde which was characterized and chelating nature of prepared resin was studied with Cd (II), Ni (II), Zn (II), Cu (II), and Pb (II) metal ions [5]. Gurnule et al. have studied the chelation ion exchange properties of copolymer resin synthesized from 1,5-diaminonaphthalene, 2,4-dihydroxypropiophenone and formaldehyde [6].

Masram et al. have synthesized the copolymer resin from salicylic acid and diaminobenzoic acid with formaldehyde and studied the chelating ion-exchange properties [7]. Nandekar et al. synthesized a copolymer resin by condensation of salicylic acid, semicarbazide and formaldehyde and studied its ion-exchange properties for Zn (II), Cu (II), Co (II), Ni (II), and Pb (II) ions [8]. Synthesis, antimicrobial and ion-exchange studies of copolymer resin derived from substituted resorcinol, biuret and formaldehyde have been studied by Ravichander et al. [9].

The present research deals with synthesis, characterization of copolymer 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II prepared by condensing 4-pyridylamine, 2,4-dihydroxypropiophenone, and formaldehyde and reported for its metal ion uptake capacity for Cu²⁺, Ni²⁺, Co²⁺, Zn²⁺, and Pb²⁺ ions.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The important chemicals like 4-pyridylamine, 2, 4-dihydroxypropiophenone, formaldehyde, DMF, DMSO, THF, acetone and diethylether were procured from the market and were of chemically pure grade.

A. Synthesis of 2, 4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer

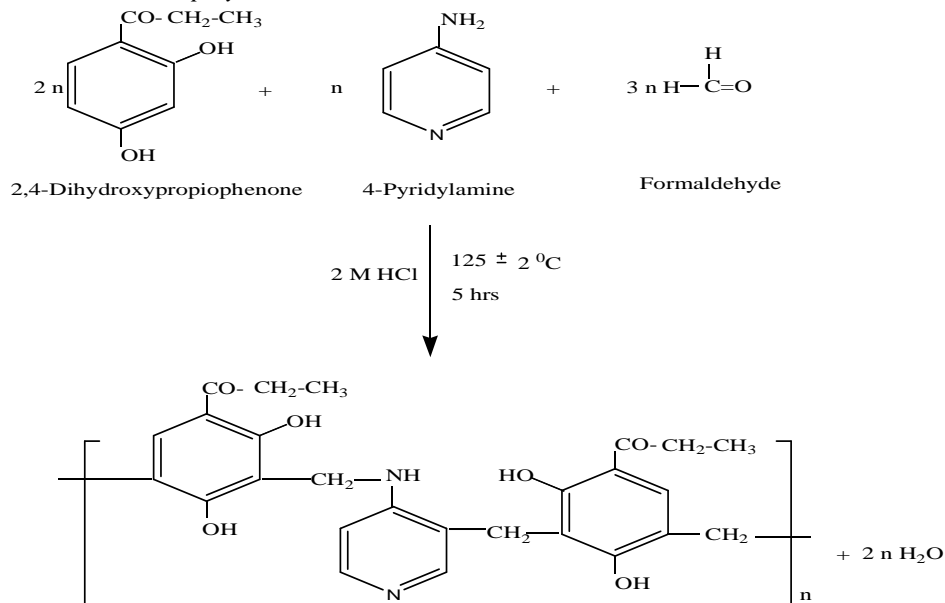


Fig. 1: Synthesis of 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer resin

B. Physico-chemical and Analytical Studies

The copolymer resin was subjected to elemental analysis for carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen on Elemental Vario EL III Carlo Erba 1108. Infrared spectra was carried out in the range of $4000\text{-}500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in KBr pellets in najol mull on Perkin-Elmer-Spectrum RX-I, FT-IR Spectrophotometer. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of copolymer was scanned on Bruker Advance -II 400 MHz NMR spectrophotometer using DMSO-d_6 as a solvent. All the spectral studies were carried out at STIC, Cochin University, Cochin, India.

C. Ion-exchange Properties

The metal ion uptake capacity of copolymer 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II as an ion exchanger was determined by Batch equilibrium method. We studied the influence of a variety of electrolytes at different concentration and pH, the rate of metal ion uptake and distribution of metal ion between the solution and copolymer phase.

D. Estimation of metal ion uptake in the presence of electrolytes of different concentrations

Copolymer sample 25 mg was suspended in 25 ml NaNO_3 electrolyte solution of known concentration. The pH of the solution was adjusted by using either 0.1N NaOH or 0.1N HCl. The suspension was stirred at temperature $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for of 24 hrs. To this suspension 2 ml of 0.1M solution of the metal ion was added and the required pH was adjusted. The mixture was again stirred for 24 hr at $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and filtered. The copolymer was then filtered off and washed with distilled water. The filtrate and washings were collected and then the metal ion content was estimated by titration against standard EDTA. Same titration was carried out without copolymer sample (blank reading). The amount of metal ion uptake of the polymer was calculated from the difference between the reading in actual experiments and a blank experiment without polymer. The experiment was repeated in the presence of several electrolytes such as NaCl and NaClO_4 , Na_2SO_4 at different concentrations. The metal ion uptake can be determined as

Metal ion adsorbed (uptake) by resin = $(X-Y) Z$ mmol/g

Where Z (ml) is the difference between actual experimental reading and blank reading; X (mg) is a metal ion in 2 ml 0.1 M metal nitrate solution before uptake; Y (mg) is a metal ion in 2 ml 0.1 M metal nitrate solution after uptake.

By using this equation, the uptake of various metal ions by the resin can be calculated and expressed in term of millimols per gram of copolymer [10].

E. Estimation Of The Rate Of Metal Ion Uptake As A Function Of Time

In order to estimate the time required to reach the state of equilibrium under given experimental conditions, a series of experiments of the type described above were carried out, in which the metal ion uptake by chelating resins was estimated from time to time in the presence of 25 ml of 1M NaNO₃ solution at 25 °C. It was assumed that under given conditions, the state of equilibrium was established within 24 hrs. Rate of metal ions uptake is expressed as percentage of the amount of metal ions taken up after a certain time.

Metal ion uptake at different time (%) = Metal ion adsorbed/ Metal ion adsorbed at equilibrium × 100

The percentage amount of metal ion taken up at different time is defined as: Percentage of metal ion adsorbed after 1 h = (100X)/Y

Where, X is mg of metal ion adsorbed after 1h and Y is mg of metal ion adsorbed after 24h. Then, by using this expression, the amount of metal adsorbed by copolymer after specific time intervals was calculated and expressed in term of percentage metal ion adsorbed [11].

F. Evaluation of the distribution of metal ions at different pH

The distribution of each of the five metal ions Cu(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Zn(II) and Pb(II) between the copolymer phase and aqueous phase was evaluated at 25 °C in the presence of 1M NaNO₃ solution. As described earlier, the experiments were carried out at different pH values. The Distribution ratio (D) was estimated with the following relationship

$$D = \frac{\text{Weight of metal ion taken up by 1 g of resin sample}}{\text{Weight of metal ion present in 1 ml solution}}$$

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The copolymer is soluble DMF, DMSO and THF, however it is insoluble in common other organic and inorganic solvents . The composition of the copolymer was assigned on the basis of elemental analysis, UV-Vissible, FT-IR, and ¹H-NMR spectral studies.

A. Elemental Analysis

The resin 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II was analyzed for carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen content. The composition of copolymer obtained on the basis of the elemental analysis data was found to be in good correlation, which is presented in Table 1.

Table1: Elemental analysis data and empirical formula of copolymer resin

Copolymer resins	% of 'C' observed calculated	% of 'H' observed calculated	% of 'N' observed calculated	Empirical formula of repeat unit	Empirical formula of repeat unit
2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II	65.81 67.53	5.58 5.62	6.50 6.06	C ₂₆ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₆	462

B. FT-IR Spectra

Infrared spectra of 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer resin is depicted in Figure-2. Appearance of a broad band in the region 3286 cm⁻¹ may be due to the stretching vibrations of phenolic hydroxyl (Ar-OH) group, exhibiting intramolecular hydrogen bonding. The sharp band displayed at 1627 cm⁻¹ may be due to the stretching vibrations of Ar-CO- carbonyl group .The presence of -NH group in pyridyl moiety may be assigned due to band at 2979 cm⁻¹. The bands obtained at 1373 cm⁻¹ suggest the presence of methylene bridges in the copolymer chain. A sharp band appearing at 1432 cm⁻¹ describes the presence of >C=C< (aromatic) group [12, 13].

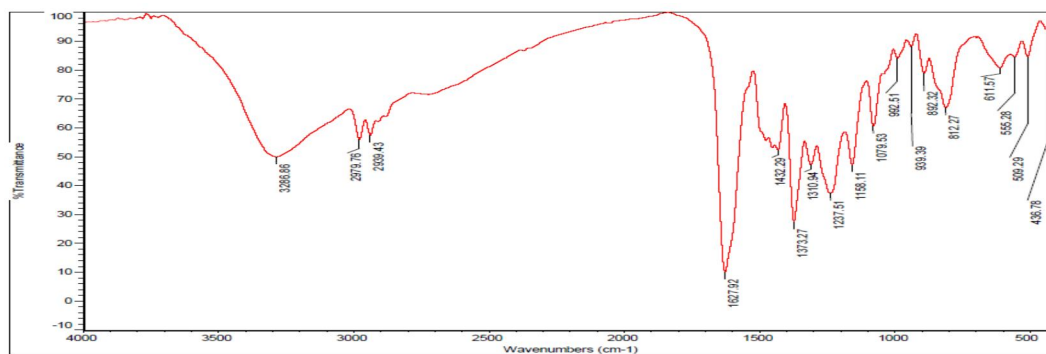


Figure 2: FT-IR spectra of 2, 4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer resin

C. ¹H-NMR Spectra

The ¹H NMR spectra of the resin is presented in Figure-3. The weak multiplet signal (unsymmetrical pattern) in the region at 7.6 (δ) ppm indicates the presence of the aromatic proton (Ar-H). The doublet signal at 2.6(δ) ppm may be due to the methylene proton of Ar-CH₂- bridge. The triplet signal in the region 6.3 (δ) ppm recognizes the amido proton Ar-CH₂-NH. The singlet signals in the range at 7.1 (δ) ppm suggests the phenolic hydroxyl proton. A peak appeared in the region 1.1 (δ) ppm may be on account of methyl proton of Ar-CO-CH₂-CH₃ group [14, 15].

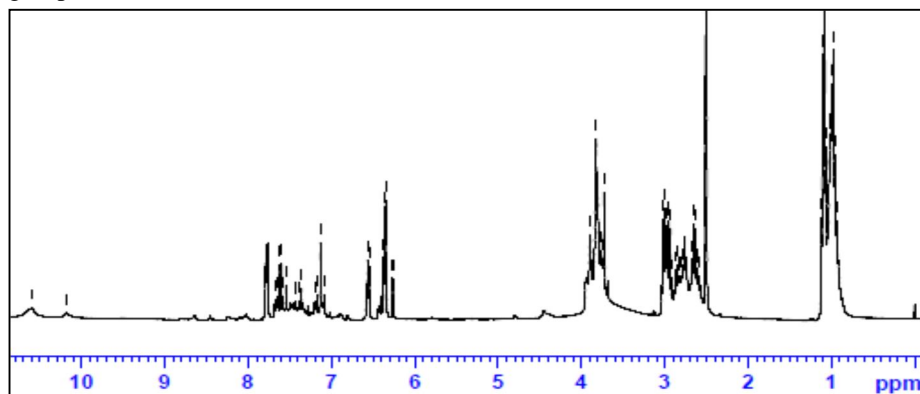


Fig. 3: ¹H-NMR spectra of 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer resin

D. Scanning Electron Microscopy

Surface analysis has found enormous use in understanding the surface features of the materials. The morphology of the resin 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II sample was studied by scanning electron microscopy at different magnification, which is depicted in Figure-4.

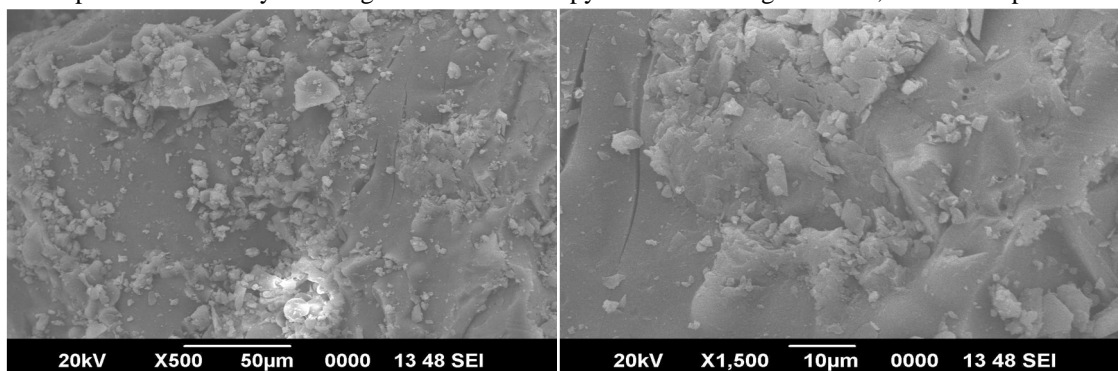


Fig. 4: SEM micrograph of 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer resin

It gives the information of surface topography and defect in the structure. The morphology of copolymer resin shows spherulites and fringed model. The spherules are complex polycrystalline formation having as good as smooth surface. This indicates the crystalline nature of copolymer resin sample. The morphology of resin polymer shows also a fringes model of the crystalline amorphous structure. The extent of crystalline character depends on the acidic nature of the monomer. But the photograph shows the fringed and scatted nature having shallow pits represent the transition between crystalline and amorphous. The resin exhibits more amorphous characters with closed packed surface having deep pits. Thus by SEM micrographs of the resin shows the transition between crystalline and amorphous nature [16, 17].

E. Determination of Metal uptake in the Presence of Various Electrolytes and Different Concentrations

The influence of chloride, nitrate, perchlorate and sulphate at different concentrations on the equilibrium of metal-resin interaction has been examined. Examination of the data given in Table 2 reveals that in the presence of chloride ions and perchlorate ions, the uptake of Ni(II) and Cu(II) ions increases with increasing electrolyte concentrations, whereas the uptake of Co(II), Zn(II) and Pb(II) ions decreases with increasing concentration of the both the electrolytes.

Table 2: Evaluation of the effect of different electrolytes on the uptake^a of several metal ions by 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer

Metal ion	pH	Conc.	Weight of metal ion (in mg.) taken up in the presence of different electrolyte			
			NaClO ₄	NaCl	NaNO ₃	Na ₂ SO ₄
Cu ²⁺	4.5	0.01	2.25	2.47	1.70	3.66
		0.05	2.56	2.71	1.96	2.51
		0.10	2.94	2.94	2.67	2.30
		0.50	3.26	3.53	3.14	1.47
		1.00	3.44	3.84	3.48	0.87
Ni ²⁺	4.5	0.01	1.91	1.26	1.30	2.97
		0.05	2.66	1.34	1.81	2.26
		0.10	3.07	1.46	2.14	1.69
		0.50	3.58	1.85	2.34	0.91
		1.00	4.14	2.29	2.61	0.70
Co ²⁺	5.0	0.01	1.60	1.66	1.81	1.76
		0.05	1.39	1.35	1.55	1.58
		0.10	1.23	1.19	1.30	1.37
		0.50	0.87	0.91	0.99	1.15
		1.00	0.53	0.70	0.70	0.99
Zn ²⁺	5.0	0.01	1.76	1.59	2.38	1.96
		0.05	1.45	1.25	2.14	1.64
		0.10	1.23	1.06	1.71	1.35
		0.50	0.94	0.91	1.20	1.14
		1.00	0.67	0.44	0.65	0.89
Pb ²⁺	6.0	0.01	1.50	1.80	1.84	2.14
		0.05	1.31	1.47	1.63	1.86
		0.10	1.16	1.29	1.44	1.39
		0.50	0.99	0.96	1.14	0.99
		1.00	0.76	0.55	0.73	0.71

^a[M(NO₃)₂] = 0.1 mol/l; Volume = 2 ml; Volume of electrolyte solution : 25 ml
 Weight of resin = 25 mg; Time: 24 h; Room temperature

But in the presence of nitrate ions, the uptake of Ni(II) and Cu(II) ions increases with increasing concentration of the electrolyte where as the uptake of Zn(II), Co(II), and Pb(II) ions decreases with increasing concentration of NaNO₃ electrolyte. However, in the presence of SO₄²⁻ ions, the uptake of Ni(II), Cu(II), Co(II), Zn(II), and Pb(II) ions decreases with increasing concentration of Na₂SO₄ electrolyte. This is due to perchlorate ions, chloride ions and nitrate ions forms weak complexes with Cu (II) and Ni(II) ion while sulphate forms strong complexes with Cu(II) and Ni(II). But perchlorate, chloride and nitrate ions forms strong complexes with Co(II), Zn(II) and Pb(II) [18, 19].

F. Rate of Metal ion uptake as a Function of Time

To find out the time required to reach the equilibrium, the rates of metal ion absorption by 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II resin samples were estimated for Ni(II), Co(II), Cu(II), Zn(II) and Pb(II), ions. The dependence of the rate of metal-ion uptake on the nature of the metal ions which is shown in Table-3. These results indicate that under the given conditions, the time taken for the uptake of the different metal ion depends on the nature of the metal ions.

A careful analysis of the estimated data, reveals that to attain the equilibrium, Cu(II), Ni(II), Zn(II) and Co(II) ions required about 5 hrs where as Pb(II) ions required almost 6 hrs. The experimental results shows that the rate of metal-ion uptake of Cu(II), Ni(II), Co(II), Zn(II) is more than Pb(II). This trends is due to Cu(II), Ni(II), Co(II), Zn(II) have nearly equal ionic size but Pb(II) has comparatively large ionic size [20-22].

Table 3: Comparison of the rates of metal (M) ion uptake^a by 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer

Metal ion	pH	% of metal ion uptake ^b at different time (hrs.)					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Cu ²⁺	4.5	56.6	68.7	81.3	88.4	93.2	-
Ni ²⁺	4.5	61.7	70.1	80.5	85.1	94.2	-
Co ²⁺	5	46.3	65.2	76.3	85.4	94.6	-
Zn ²⁺	5	49.1	60.1	71.1	88.2	92.1	-
Pb ²⁺	6	27.2	48.3	63.4	74.1	83.3	94.1

^a [M(NO₃)₂] = 0.1 mol/l; volume : 2ml; NaNO₃ = 1.0 mol/l; volume: 25ml, Room temperature.

^b Metal ion uptake = (Amount of metal ion absorbed x 100) / amount of metal ion absorbed at equilibrium.

G. Distribution Ratios of Metal ions at Different pH

The effect of pH on the amount of metal ions distributed between two phases can be explained by the result shown in the Table 4. The data on the distribution ratio as a function of pH, indicates that the relative amount of metal ions uptake by the 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer increases with increasing pH of the medium. To prevent hydrolysis of the metal ions at higher pH, the study was carried out up to a definite pH value for the particular metal ion. However, the increase magnitude is different for different metal ions. The distribution of Cu(II) and Ni(II) metal ions is more as compare any other metal ions under investigation.

Table 4: Distribution Ratio 'D'^a of Different Metal Ions^b as a function of different pH of 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II Copolymer resin

Metal ions	Distribution ratios of different metal ions at different pH							
	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4	5	6
Cu ²⁺	-	-	64.7	88.4	193.2	344.3	771.1	1048.2
Ni ²⁺	-	-	57.1	66.2	92.2	237.1	452.1	741.2
Co ²⁺	-	-	40.1	55.3	88.2	128.1	264.4	455.2
Zn ²⁺	-	-	44.1	51.5	80.2	95.3	180.3	252.1
Pb ²⁺	-	-	41.2	61.3	83.3	112.3	156.3	255.7

^aD = weight (in mg) of metal ions taken up by 1g of copolymer/weight (in mg) of metal ions present in 1ml of solution.

^b [M(NO₃)₂] = 0.1 mol/l; volume : 2ml; NaNO₃ = 1.0 mol/l; volume: 25ml, time 24h (equilibrium state) at Room temperature.

The order of distribution ratio of metal ions is found to be Cu(II) > Ni(II) > Co(II) > Zn(II) > Pb(II). The results of such type of study are helpful in selecting the optimum pH for a selective uptake of a particular metal cations from a mixture of different metal ions [23, 24].

IV. CONCLUSION

The 2,4-DHP-4-PAF-II copolymer was prepared from 2, 4-dihydroxypropiophenone and 4-pyridylamine with formaldehyde in the presence of acid by condensation techniques. The structure of the copolymer was confirmed by physico-chemical, UV-Visible, FT-IR, and ¹H-NMR spectral studies.

The semi crystalline nature of the copolymer was confirmed by the SEM analysis and reveals that resin can act as an ion exchanger for various metal ions such Ni²⁺, Cu²⁺, Co²⁺, Zn²⁺ and Pb²⁺ ions. Since the copolymer contains phenolic (-OH) group and amino (NH₂), it play a key role in the ion exchange phenomenon, due to its higher tendency of capturing metal ions. Metal uptake capacity of the resin shows a higher selectivity for Ni²⁺ and Cu²⁺ ion than for Co²⁺, Zn²⁺ and Pb²⁺ ions.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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