



# Data analysis of the corrosion protection behavior of ginger, tea tree and grapefruit essential oil extracts on low carbon steel in H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution

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## Abstract

Application of corrosion inhibitors are the most versatile corrosion prevention methods of carbon steels in corrosive environments. Research on non-toxic chemical compounds are ongoing and results from previous study have proven the effectiveness of the compounds. Data on corrosion inhibition of ginger (GG), tea tree (TR) and grapefruit (GF) oil extracts on low carbon steel in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> are presented. The extracts performed effectively with optimal values of 99.56 %, 98.17 % and 98.32 % at 2.5 % GG, 3.5 % TR and 3 % GF concentrations. Corresponding corrosion rate values are 0.28 mm/y, 1.16 mm/y and 1.49 mm/y. Corrosion rate at 0 % extract concentration is 63.33 mm/y. Performance of TR extract significantly varies with time and concentration with statistical value of 48.21 % and 23.02 %. GG and GF concentration where the only

statistically relevant factors for GG and GF performance with statistical values of 68.42 % and 73.20 %. Standard deviation data for GG extracts varied minimally from mean values compared to TR and GF extracts. Results shows 92 %, 18 % and 63 % of GG, TR and GF extracts inhibition data are above 95 % inhibition value at margin of error of 6.99 %, 10 % and 12.19 %.

## Introduction

Application of ferrous alloys cuts across most industries due to their versatility, ease of fabrication, recyclability and adaptable mechanical and physical properties. Ferrous alloys are used in structural columns and beams, components parts of industrial machines and critical components requiring toughness and hardness properties etc. The industrial properties of ferrous alloys serve as the conventional standards wherewith the properties of other metallic alloys of industrial importance are compared [1], [2]. Coupled with this, the relatively low cost of ferrous alloys especially carbon steels substantially contribute to the high volume utilization of ferrous alloys. Carbon steels, despite their universal industrial application compared to other metallic alloys are prone to rapid deterioration in aqueous condition containing appreciable concentrations of  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$  etc. due to the absence of passivating elements within their metallurgical structure [3]. As a result, redox electrochemical processes occurs on the heterogeneous alloy surface [4]. Invariably, the operating lifespan of the steel is severely shortened leading to plant shutdown, industrial downtime, failure of mechanical parts/components, excessive maintenance and repair cost, and industrial accidents. Chemical compounds known as corrosion inhibitors stifles the electrochemical reactions responsible for carbon steel corrosion when added to the steel's operating environment. Other actions of corrosion inhibitors include formation non-reactive chemical precipitates, adsorption unto the steel surface and alteration of the corrosive properties of the electrolyte [5]. Proven corrosion inhibitor e.g. chromates, nitrites, aniline etc. such as are toxic and unsustainable [6], [7], [8], [9], [10]. Plant extracts are promising corrosion due to their phytochemical components though experimental data show extensive investigation is necessary to further establish their corrosion inhibition properties, isolation of active components, extension of their shelf life and improved adsorption properties [11], [12], [13], [14], [15]. Essential oils extracts from plants, leaves, fruits and seeds have been investigated to assess their protection performance potentials and to delineate their highest corrosion inhibition output with respect of exposure time and extract concentration [16], [17], [18], [19], [20], [21], [22], [23]. This article computes and analyses the data outputs and statistical importance of the inhibition efficiency data for ginger, tea tree and grapefruit essential oil extracts on low carbon steel in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution.

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## Materials and methods

Ginger (GG), tea tree (TR) and grapefruit oil extracts purchased from NOW foods USA at 100 % purity were added individually to 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution in volumetric concentrations of 1 %, 1.5 %, 2 %, 2.5 %, 3 % and 3.5 %. Low carbon steel (LCS) rods were cut into six separate samples for weight loss measurement. The 6 samples were washed with deionized H<sub>2</sub>O and propanone before weight loss test. The LCS samples were inserted into each acid/extract solution (with respect to inhibitor concentration)

## Coupon analysis

Experimental data for LCS corrosion rate in the presence of GG, TR and GF essential oil extracts, and extract inhibition efficiency in H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution are presented in Table 1. Corrosion rate data for LCS at 0 % extract concentration is substantially greater than the values obtained at 1 % to 3.5 % GG, TR and GF extract concentration. This is due to the accelerated degradation of LCS occurring from the redox electrochemical mechanisms. At 0 % extract concentration, corrosion rate initiated at

## Conclusion

Ginger, tea tree and grapefruit oil extracts effectively inhibited low carbon steel corrosion with optimal values generally greater than 98 %. Variation in corrosion rate between the inhibited and non-inhibited steel varies significantly due to effective protection mechanisms of the extract on the carbon steel in acid solution. Results also showed measurement time and concentration significantly influenced the performance of tea tree extract i.e. performance increases with time and

## CRedit authorship contribution statement

**Roland Tolulope Loto:** Supervision, Conceptualization, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Investigation, Validation, Methodology, Data curation. **Edith Alagbe:** . **Ayobami Busari:** .

## Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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