

## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1572-6657(18)30618-0  
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.09.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.09.021)  
Reference: JEAC 12604  
To appear in: *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry*  
Received date: 30 April 2018  
Revised date: 31 August 2018  
Accepted date: 9 September 2018

Please cite this article as: Mahsa Akbari, Hassan Shayani-Jam, Mohammad Reza Yaftian, Massoumeh Parinejad, Electrochemical oxidation of acetaminophen in the presence of diclofenac and piroxicam - Synthesis of new derivatives and kinetic investigation of toxic quinone imine/drugs interactions. *Jeac* (2018), doi:[10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.09.021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jelechem.2018.09.021)

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# Electrochemical Oxidation of Acetaminophen in the Presence of Diclofenac and Piroxicam - Synthesis of New Derivatives and Kinetic Investigation of Toxic Quinone Imine/Drugs Interactions

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## Abstract

In this research, electrochemical oxidation of acetaminophen was investigated in the presence of steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs diclofenac and piroxicam by cyclic voltammetry and controlled-potential coulometry techniques. The results indicated that N-acetyl-p-benzoquinone-imine (NAPQI), produced by electrooxidation of acetaminophen, reacts with diclofenac and piroxicam, via the Michael addition reaction. Corresponding products were electrochemically synthesized in aqueous solutions using a carbon electrode in an undivided cell. These products were identified by spectroscopic methods (FT-IR,  $^1\text{H}$ NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR and MS). The homogeneous rate constants ( $k_{\text{obs}}$ ), based on the suggested electrode mechanism (*i.e.* EC), were estimated by comparing the experimental cyclic voltammetric responses with those digital simulated results. A comparison of the estimated  $k_{\text{obs}}$  for the reaction of electrochemically generated N-acetyl-para benzoquinone-imine (NAPQI) with steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs revealed that  $k_{\text{obs}}(\text{piroxicam}) > k_{\text{obs}}(\text{diclofenac})$  at biological pH.

**Keywords:** Acetaminophen; Drug-drug interactions; Diclofenac; Piroxicam; Cyclic voltammetry

## 1. Introduction

Drug-drug interactions (DDIs) are a common problem encountered during the patients' treatments with different drugs which sometimes results in serious or even fatal adverse events [1-3]. Such interactions can also cause partial or complete abolishment of treatment efficacy [4, 5] and are important in clinical medicine because of their significance in therapeutics [6]. A

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