Author's Accepted Manuscript

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www.elsevier.com/locate/physe

PII: S1386-9477(16)31215-2

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physe.2016.11.027

Reference: PHYSE12666

To appear in: *Physica E: Low-dimensional Systems and Nanostructures*

Received date: 26 October 2016 Accepted date: 24 November 2016

Cite this article as: Majid Eslami, Morteza Moradi and Reza Moradi, Theoretica study on the phenylpropanolamine drug interaction with the pristine, Si and A doped [60] fullerenes, *Physica E: Low-dimensional Systems and Nanostructures* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physe.2016.11.027

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Theoretical study on the phenylpropanolamine drug interaction with the pristine, Si and Al doped

[60] fullerenes

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Abstract

Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) is a popular drug of abuse and its detection is of great importance

for police and drug communities. Herein, we investigated the electronic sensitivity and reactivity

of pristine, Al and Si doped C₆₀ fullerenes to the PPA drug, using density functional theory

calculations. Two adsorption mechanisms were predicted for PPA on the pristine C₆₀ including

cycloaddition and adsorption via -NH2 group. It was found that the pristine C60 has a good

sensitivity to this drug but suffers from a weak interaction (adsorption energy ~ -0.1 kcal/mol)

because of structural deformation and aromaticity break. The PPA is adsorbed on the Al or Si

doped C₆₀ from its –OH or –NH₂ groups. The Al-doping significantly improves the reactivity of

C₆₀ but decreases its electronic sensitivity. Unlike the Al-doping, the Si-doping increases both

the reactivity and electronic sensitivity to the PPA drug. At the presence of PPA drug, the

conductivity of the Si-doped C₆₀ considerably increases due to the HOMO-LUMO gap reduction

by about 30.3%. Different analyses were used to obtain the results including nucleus independent

chemical shift (NICS), density of states (DOS), molecular electrostatic potential (MEP), frontier

molecular orbitals (FMO), etc.

Keywords

Sensor, Phenylpropanolamine, Abuse, Fullerene, DFT

1. Introduction

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