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**Molecular complexes of L-phenylalanine with substituted
1,4-benzoquinones in aqueous medium: Spectral and theoretical
investigations**

K. Ganesh¹, E. H. El-Mossalamy², A. Satheshkumar¹, C. Balraj¹ and K. P. Elango^{1*}

¹Department of Chemistry, Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University),
Gandhigram-624 302, India.

²Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University,
P.O.Box. 80203, 21589- Saudi Arabia.

Abstract

Various spectral techniques such as UV-Vis, FT-IR, and fluorescence have been employed to investigate the charge transfer interaction of L-phenylalanine (LPA) with substituted 1,4-benzoquinones (MQ₁₋₄). Kinetic and thermodynamic properties of the complexes were determined in aqueous medium at physiological condition (pH =7). The interaction of MQ₁₋₄ with L-phenylalanine (LPA) was found to proceed through the formation of donor-acceptor complex, yielding a radical anion. The stoichiometry of the complexes was determined by Jobs continuous variation method and was found to be 1:1 in all the cases. Fluorescence quenching studies showed that the interaction between the donor and the acceptors is spontaneous. The results indicated that the progressive replacement of chlorine atom (-I effect) by methoxy group (+M effect) in the quinone decreased the electron acceptor property of the quinone. The order of the experimentally measured association constant of these complexes was well supported by DFT/B3LYP calculations.

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