



Revista Colombiana de Química  
ISSN: 0120-2804  
ISSN: 2357-3791  
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Universidad Nacional de Colombia  
Colombia

## Synthesis and characterization of mixed-ligand silver(I) saccharinate complex containing (2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole

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Revista Colombiana de Química, vol. 47, no. 2, 2018

Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia

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## Synthesis and characterization of mixed-ligand silver(I) saccharinate complex containing (2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole

Síntesis y caracterización del complejo de plata(I) con ligandos mixtos sacarinato y 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol

Síntese e caracterização do complexo de prata(I) com ligandos mistos sacarinato e 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol

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### ABSTRACT:

A new silver coordination compound  $[Ag(sac)(pbi)]$  was synthesized by reaction of silver(I) saccharinate with 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole (pbi) in 64% yield. The characterization was performed by elemental analysis, IR, UV-Visible, XPS,  $^1H$ -NMR, and  $^{13}C$ -NMR spectroscopy. According to the results, silver is coordinating through three nitrogen atoms: one from saccharinate and the others from 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole forming with this ligand a five-membered chelate ring.

**KEYWORDS:** saccharinate, silver, 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole, XPS.

### RESUMEN:

Se sintetizó un nuevo compuesto de coordinación de plata,  $[Ag(sac)(pbi)]$ , por reacción de sacarinato de plata(I) con 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol (pbi) con un rendimiento de 64%. La caracterización se realizó por análisis elemental, espectroscopia IR, UV-Visible, XPS,  $^1H$ -RMN y  $^{13}C$ -RMN. De acuerdo con los resultados obtenidos la plata está coordinada a través de tres átomos de nitrógeno, uno del sacarinato y los dos restantes del 2-(2-piridil)-benzimidazol formando con este ligando un anillo quelato de cinco miembros.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** sacarinato, plata, 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol, XPS.

### RESUMO:

O presente trabalho compreende a síntese de um novo composto de coordenação de prata,  $[Ag(sac)(pbi)]$ , por reação de sacarinato de prata(I) com 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol (pbi) com 64% de rendimento. A caracterização foi realizada por análise elemental, espectroscopia IV, UV-Visível, XPS,  $^1H$ -RMN e  $^{13}C$ -RMN. De acordo com os resultados obtidos, a prata é coordenada através de três átomos de nitrogênio, um do sacarinato e os outros dois do 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol que formam com este ligando um anel de quelato de cinco membros.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** sacarinato, prata, 2-(2-piridil)benzimidazol, XPS.

### AUTHOR NOTES

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## INTRODUCTION

Saccharin (Hsac) is a non-caloric sweetener, relatively insoluble in water but soluble in solvents such as ethanol, acetone, and methanol ( 1 ). The pK<sub>a</sub> value (1.60) for saccharine in aqueous solution indicates that this compound give up its proton (NH group) giving rise to saccharinate (sac) ( 2 ).

The first studies of saccharin complexes were carried out with the formation of aquo-complexes, due to the ability to coordinate with metals through the nitrogen atom. However, its polyfunctionality allowed to increase the number of possible complexes and the study of new chemical properties. The different functional groups, in combination with a series of metal centers, allow a series of coordination modes and chemical structures that will be discussed later. Baran and Yilmaz ( 2 , 3 ) developed some structural characteristics of complexes models based on the different types saccharinate bonds.

The first homoleptic silver(I) saccharinate reported by R. Weber ( 4 ) was prepared by adding AgNO<sub>3</sub> to aqueous Na(sac) solution, forming a white precipitate which was recrystallized from ammonia solution. The second homoleptic silver(I) saccharinate was obtained by Veysel T. Yilmaz ( 5 ) by the reaction of Na(sac) and AgNO<sub>3</sub> in the presence of 2-pyridinepropanol and water.

There are several silver(I) saccharinate heteroleptic compounds in which silver is coordinated with other ligands and important interactions have been reported, such as those of the type Ag...Ag that contribute to the structural formation and have different properties ( 3 ). Other nearby interactions have also been reported, such as C<sub>arom</sub>...Ag, Ag... $\pi$  and C-H...Ag ( 6 ). The geometries founded for Ag<sup>I</sup> complexes type Ag<sub>y</sub>[(sac) (L)]<sub>x</sub> are generally trigonal plane, T-shaped, tetrahedral, and trigonal pyramidal ( 7 ), as well as monomeric and dimeric units. There are many types of coordination for silver(I) saccharinate heteroleptic complexes ( 6 ).

Various silver(I) saccharinate compounds have been reported and they can be classified according to the chemical structure of the additional ligand as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Silver(I) saccharinate compounds.

Ligand	Silver(I) saccharinate compounds
Pyridine	<p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{pyet})_2]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}_4(\text{sac})_4(\text{pypr})_2]</math> (pyet=2-pyridineethanol pypr=2-pyridinepropanol) ( 8 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\mu\text{-mpy})]_n</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}(\mu\text{-sac})(\text{dmpy})]_n</math> (mpy=2-pyridylmethanol and dmpy=2,6-pyridinedimethanol) ( 9 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{bpeh})]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{bpma})]_n</math> (bpeh=1,2-Bis[1-(pyridine-2-yl)ethylene]hydrazine and bpma=N,N-bis(pyridine-2-ylmethyl)amine) ( 10 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{dpa})]_n</math> (dpa=2,2'-dipyridylamine) ( 11 ).</p>
Pyrazole and imidazole	<p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{pydz})_2]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pyz})]_n</math> (pydz=pyridazine and pyz=pyrazine) ( 3 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{mpr})]_2</math> (mpr=2-methyl-1-pyrroline) ( 6 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{o-bix})_2]</math> (o-bix=1,2-bis(imidazole-1-ylmethyl)benzene) ( 11 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pz})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]_n</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{im})] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}</math> (pz=pyrazole e im=imidazole) ( 12 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\mu\text{-pbix})_2]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\mu\text{-mbix})]</math> (pbix=1,4-bis(imidazole-1-ylmethyl)benzene and mbix=1,3-bis(imidazole-1-ylmethyl)benzene) ( 13 ).</p>
Piperazine	<p>· <math>[[\text{Ag}(\mu\text{-sac})_2(\mu\text{-hep})]_n]</math>, (hep=N-2-Hidroxyethylpiperazine) ( 14 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_4(\text{sac})(\text{mpyz})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{pyzca})_2]</math> (mpyz=2-methylpyrazine and pyzca=pyrazine-2-carboxamide) ( 15 ).</p>
Aliphatic amines	<p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{pen})_2]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{nmen})]_n</math> (pen=1,3-diaminepropane and nmen=N-methylethylenediamine) ( 16 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\mu_3\text{-sac})_2(\mu\text{-nmpen})]_n</math>, (nmpen=N-methyl-1,3-propanediamine) ( 6 ).</p> <p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{edmen})]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{Sac})(\text{teten})]</math> (edmen=N-ethyl-N',N'-dimethylethylenediamine and teten=N,N,N',N'-tetrakis(2-hidroxyethyl) ethylenediamine) ( 11 ).</p>
Sulphur	<p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{Ph}_2\text{SNH})]</math> (<math>\text{Ph}_2\text{SNH}=\text{S},\text{S}</math>-diphenylsulfimide) ( 17 ).</p>
Phosphine	<p>· <math>[\text{Ag}(\mu\text{-sac})(\text{PPh}_3)_2]_2</math>, <math>[\text{Ag}(\mu\text{-sac})(\text{PPh}_2\text{Cy})]_2</math>, <math>[\text{Ag}(\mu\text{-sac})(\text{PPhCy}_2)]_2</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}(\mu\text{-sac})(\text{PCy}_3)]_n</math>, (PPh<sub>3</sub>=triphenylphosphane, PPh<sub>2</sub>Cy=cyclohexyldiphenylphosphane, PPhCy<sub>2</sub>=dicyclohexylphenylphosphane and PCy<sub>3</sub>=tricyclohexylphosphane) ( 18 ).</p>
Others	<p>· <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{MeCN})_2]_n</math> ( 19 ) and <math>[\text{Ag}_4(\text{sac})_4(\text{mpyz})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]</math> and <math>[\text{Ag}_2(\text{sac})_2(\text{pyzca})_2]</math> donde (mpyz=2-methylpyrazine, pyzca=pyrazine-2-carboxamide) ( 20 ).</p>

Saccharin, as well as some metal-saccharin complexes, possesses biological activity (2). For example, saccharinates of Cu (II), Zn (II), Ce (IV), and Hg (II) exhibit inhibitory activity of carbonic anhydrase and aqueous metal saccharinates are effective in the dismutation of the superoxide anion. In other cases, saccharin derivatives act as an inhibitor of enzymes that cause inflammatory diseases. Some metal saccharinates, especially those of Ag (I), Cu (II), and lanthanides, possess microbiological activity. Furthermore, benzimidazole derivatives have great biological importance since its heterocyclic system is present in antiparasitic compounds, anticonvulsants, analgesics, antihistaminics, antiulcer, antihypertensives, antiviral, anticancer, antifungals, anti-inflammatory agents, proton pump inhibitors and anticoagulants ( 21 ).

Likewise, some metal derivatives of 2-(2'-pyridyl)benzimidazole have visible-light photosensitizer properties for the isomerization of aromatic alkenes ( 22 ) and can be use as electroluminescent materials in light-emitting electrochemical cells ( 23 ). Because of the 2-(2'-pyridyl)benzimidazole reactivity, it is an area of chemical interest, particularly in medicine. Therefore, the present work aims to synthesize a new heteroleptic silver compound bonded to saccharin and 2- (2'-pyridyl)benzimidazole (pbi).

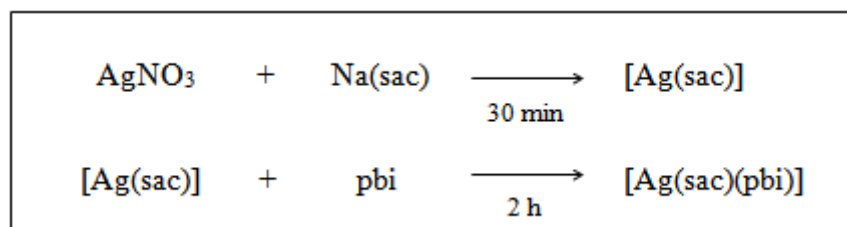
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

All chemicals were of reagent grade and quality HPLC solvents of the brand Merck from Germany. Infrared Spectrophotometer with Fourier Transform Thermo Nicolet iS10 (Germany), UV-Visible Thermo Scientific Helios (Peru), Micro Leco Elemental Analyzer Truspec Micro (Spain), X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (Spain), K-Alpha, and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  200MHz) Varian Gemini 200 (Germany) were used.

### Synthesis of $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$

$\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.05 g, 0.29 mmol) dissolved in a mixture of  $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , and  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (6 mL, 1:1:1) was mixed with  $\text{Na}(\text{sac})\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.07 g, 0.29 mmol) dissolved in the same solvent mixture (6 mL). The mixture was stirred for 30 min and silver(I) saccharinate was formed. Then, 2-(2'-pyridyl)benzimidazole (pbi) (0.06 g, 0.29 mmol) dissolved in the above solvent mixture (5 mL) was added and stirred for 2 h. The entire process (Figure 1) was performed at room temperature and isolated from light. Then, white precipitate was vacuum filtered, washed with cold  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (3 x 5 mL) and dried for 1 h at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ . Finally, the remaining solid was recrystallized from acetonitrile.

The resulting white acicular in appearance product weighed 0.09 g (64% yield) and was soluble in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , DMF, DMSO and warm  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ . Decomposition point  $272\text{-}274^\circ\text{C}$ .



**Figure 1.** Sequence of chemical reactions to synthesize  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$ .

Elemental analysis for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{13}\text{SO}_3\text{N}_4\text{Ag}$  calculated: C 47.03%, H 2.70%, N 11.55%, S 6.61%. Found: C 47.00%, H 2.89%, N 11.88%, S 6.13%.

FT-IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3260 m ( $\text{NH}_{\text{imidazol}}$ ), 3063 m ( $\text{CH}_{\text{arom}}$ ), 1628 s ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 1551 s ( $\text{C}=\text{C}_{\text{arom}}$ ), 1447 m ( $\text{C}=\text{C}_{\text{arom}}$ ), 1404 m ( $\text{C}_{\text{imidazol-N}}$ ), 1269 s ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), 1254 sh ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), 1153 s ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), 1053 w ( $\text{CH}_{\text{arom}}$ ), 1146 vs ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), 968 m ( $\text{CNS}$ ), 745 m ( $\text{CCC}$ ), 676 w ( $\text{CNC}$ ), 605 w ( $\text{CNC}$ ).

UV-Vis  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (DMF)/nm: 263 and 305.

XPS (eV): N 1s 398.70, 399.26, 400.36, 406.45; O 1s 531.95, 532.4, 531.41; S 2p 168.20, 169.38; C 1s 284.92, 286.90, 288.09; Ag 3d $_{5/2}$  368.42, 3d $_{3/2}$  374.44.

$^1\text{H}$  RMN (200 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ,  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$ )  $\delta$ : 7.40 (2 H, m), 7.70 (1H, m), 7.75-7.79 (4H, m), 7.91 (1 H, m), 7.83 (1 H, d), 8.42 (1 H, d), 8.19 (1 H, m), 8.82 (1H d).

$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  RMN (200 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , Me $_4$ Si)  $\delta$ : 167.00 ( $\text{C}_3=\text{O}$ ), 150.91 ( $\text{C}_6''\text{H}$ ), 150.50 ( $\text{C}_2'$ ), 145.75 ( $\text{C}_2''$ ), 143.78 ( $\text{C}_9$  and  $\text{C}_4'$ ), 139.28 ( $\text{C}_4''\text{H}$ ), 133.35 ( $\text{C}_6'\text{H}$  and  $\text{C}_7'\text{H}$ ), 133.22 ( $\text{C}_6'\text{H}$  and  $\text{C}_7'\text{H}$ ), 132.75 ( $\text{C}_4$  and  $\text{C}_9'$ ), 126.61 ( $\text{C}_5''\text{H}$ ), 124.48 ( $\text{C}_8'\text{H}$  and  $\text{C}_5'\text{H}$ ), 123.93 ( $\text{C}_3'\text{H}$ ), 122.44 ( $\text{C}_3''\text{H}$ ), 120.57 ( $\text{C}_8'\text{H}$ ).

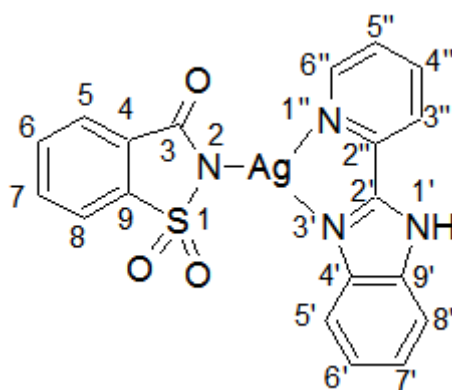
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The elemental analysis of the compound obtained is consistent with the formula  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$ . Also, the presence of a silver center with +1 oxidation state was verified by XPS.

Two main and overlapping bands were determined by UV-visible spectroscopy, the highest intensity at 263 nm  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  corresponding to the saccharinate and one less intense with  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  at 305 nm of the pbi. The bands shown originate from the  $n\rightarrow\pi^*$  and  $\pi\rightarrow\pi^*$  of molecular orbitals from  $\text{C}=\text{N}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  and  $\text{S}=\text{O}$  bonds. There are no metal-ligand transitions between 400 nm and 700 nm because saccharinate and 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole are low field ligands, whereby the absence of color in the complex is warranted.

The most useful infrared bands of 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole and saccharinate could be found as follows:  $\nu(\text{stretching N-H})$  a  $3260\text{ cm}^{-1}$  from pbi,  $\nu(\text{stretching CPh-H})$  aromatic at  $3063\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\nu(\text{stretching CPh-C})$  and  $\nu(\text{stretching C}=\text{N})$  between  $1447\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1651\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for both ligands,  $\nu(\text{stretching C-N-S})$  at  $1339\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\nu(\text{stretching SO}_2)$  between  $1269$  and  $1254\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\nu(\text{bending C-N-S})$  at  $968\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\nu(\text{bending C-N-C})$  between  $605\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $676\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra of  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  are very complex. The presence of protons in similar chemical environments generated displacements and undefined signals, usually overlapping multiplets. However, with the help of  $^{13}\text{C}$ -DEPT-NMR, two-dimensional  $^1\text{H}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR/COSY 45°,  $^1\text{H}\{^{13}\text{C}\}$ -NMR/HMBC, and  $^1\text{H}\{^{13}\text{C}\}$ -NMR/HSQC spectra were possible to complete assignments of all the carbon and hydrogen atoms for the compound synthesized as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Numbering H and C atoms for  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  related to NMR spectra assignment.

$^1\text{H}$ -NMR data for  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  (Table 2) shows four protons of saccharinate: 7.83 ppm ( $\text{H}_5$ ), between 7.32 and 7.42 ( $\text{H}_8$ ) and the range 7.75-7.79 ppm ( $\text{H}_6$  and  $\text{H}_7$ ). Protons at higher fields are protected by the benzene ring and are further from the electronically dense  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  and  $\text{SO}_2$  groups.

The protons for pbi in  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  are displaced in different regions of the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum as shown in Table 2, those are at higher fields related to the benzene ring: 7.40 ppm for the  $\text{H}_5'$  and  $\text{H}_8'$  positions and the interval 7.75-7.79 ppm for the protons at positions  $\text{H}_6'$  and  $\text{H}_7'$ , closely aligned with the  $\text{H}_6$  and  $\text{H}_7$  protons of the saccharinate. The pyridine protons that resonate to high fields 8.82 ppm ( $\text{H}_6''$ ), 8.42 ppm ( $\text{H}_3''$ ), and 8.19 ppm ( $\text{H}_4''$ ) are out of phase due to the inductive effect of imidazole nitrogen atoms.

The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR signal of H6" was reported by He ( 24 ) for  $[\text{Cl}_2(\text{pbi})\text{Pt}]$  at 9.47 ppm, far from 8.73 ppm for the pbi compound. That significant downfield shift is not observed for H6" in  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  as a result of a variation in molecular electron distribution between those compounds. The value of the spin-spin (J) coupling constant between the multiple peaks of the spectrum lies in the range of 2-4 Hz, related to the aromatic sequence of atoms for benzimidazole ( 25 ). The amino (N-H) proton signal for pbi is not observed as for  $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{pbi})]$  who does not report it either ( 24 ).

**Table 2.**  $^1\text{H}$ -RMN chemical shifts for  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  ( $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , 25 °C, 200 MHz).

Assignment	ppm	N° of H, multiplicities
5	7.83	1, m
6, 7, 6', 7'	between 7.75 and 7.79	4, m
8, 5'	between 7.38 and 7.42	2, m
8''	7.91	1, m
3''	8.42	1, d
4''	8.19	1, m
5''	7.70	1, m
6''	8.82	1, d

The  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR analysis (Table 3) shows chemical shifts to lower fields corresponding to the carbon atoms near the deprotecting electronegative atoms: C=O at 167 ppm, C = N<sub>imidazole</sub> at 150.50 ppm (C2'), C = N<sub>py</sub> at 150.91 ppm (C6''), and C-N<sub>py</sub> at 145.75 ppm (C2''). The aromatic bridging carbon atoms of the benzothiazol and benzimidazole rings have similar chemical environments, so their signals overlap and are not differentiable in the spectrum: C4-C9' at 132.75 ppm and C9-C4' at 143.78 ppm.

Resonance plays an important role in the determination of the chemical environment, so its effect also influences the chemical shift found. The benzene CH carbon atoms are positioned in different regions of the spectrum 133.35 ppm (C7, C6'), 133.22 ppm (C6, C7'), and 124.48 ppm (C5', C8') depending on their location with respect to the electronegative groups and overlapping in the presence of similar chemical environments. Significant differences are observed if we compare the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of free pbi ligand ( 26 ) to  $[\text{Ag}(\text{PBI})(\text{sac})]$  complex. Therefore, the coordination to the metal bond can be confirmed.

The 2D-NMR correlation spectroscopy ( $^1\text{H}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR/COSY 45) performed indicates which hydrogens are coupled to other hydrogens within the molecule, whereas  $^1\text{H}(^{13}\text{C})$  -NMR/HMBC and  $^1\text{H}\{^{13}\text{C}\}$ NMR/HSQC provides the correlation between the protons and carbons which are directly linked to each other and separated by two or more bonds, respectively. Both analyses allowed to define the chemical environment and the atomic relations for sac and pbi coordinated to  $\text{Ag}^{\text{I}}$  ion.

**Table 3.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR chemical shifts for  $[\text{Ag}(\text{sac})(\text{pbi})]$  ( $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $200\text{MHz}$ ).

Assignment	Bond C-H (Analysis DEPT)	Shift $^{13}\text{C}$ -RMN (ppm)	Relation H-H (HETCOR /COSY)
3	C=O	167.00	5
4, 9'	C	132.75	6, 7, 6', 7'
5	CH	123.93	6, 7
6, 7	CH	133.22	5, 8
8, 5'	CH	124.48	6', 7'
9, 4'	C	143.78	5, 6, 7, 6', 7'
2'	C	150.50	3''
6', 7'	CH	133.35	5', 8'
8'	CH	120.57	6', 7'
2''	C	145.75	3'', 4'', 6''
3''	CH	122.44	4'', 5''
4''	CH	139.28	3'', 5'', 6''
5''	CH	126.61	3'', 4'', 6''
6''	CH	150.91	4'', 5''

The oxidation state of the metallic center was confirmed by the XPS  $\text{Ag}3d_{5/2}$  spectrum that presents a signal at 368.42 eV. This signal is consistent with the values reported in the literature for silver(I) that fluctuates between 368.2-368.5 eV according to Haiyan *et al.* ( 27 ) and 369.0 eV according to Angulo *et al.* ( 28 ). The XPS spectrum results of nitrogen N1s show three different signals for nitrogen. There are two signals of equal intensity (400.36 eV and 398.70 eV) and the third highest intensity signal at 399.26 eV. The NH group observed at 400.6 eV is consistent with that reported by other authors (400.0 and 400.6 eV) for similar compounds ( 28 , 29 , 30 ).

The presence of a metal-N bond is observed in the XPS N1s spectrum in two different signals. The signal of lower intensity corresponds to the bond (N-Ag, 398.7 eV) of saccharinate with silver(I), while the signal (399.26 eV) of greater intensity corresponds to two nitrogen atoms (=N-Ag) of the ligand 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole forming a chelate ring (Figure 3).

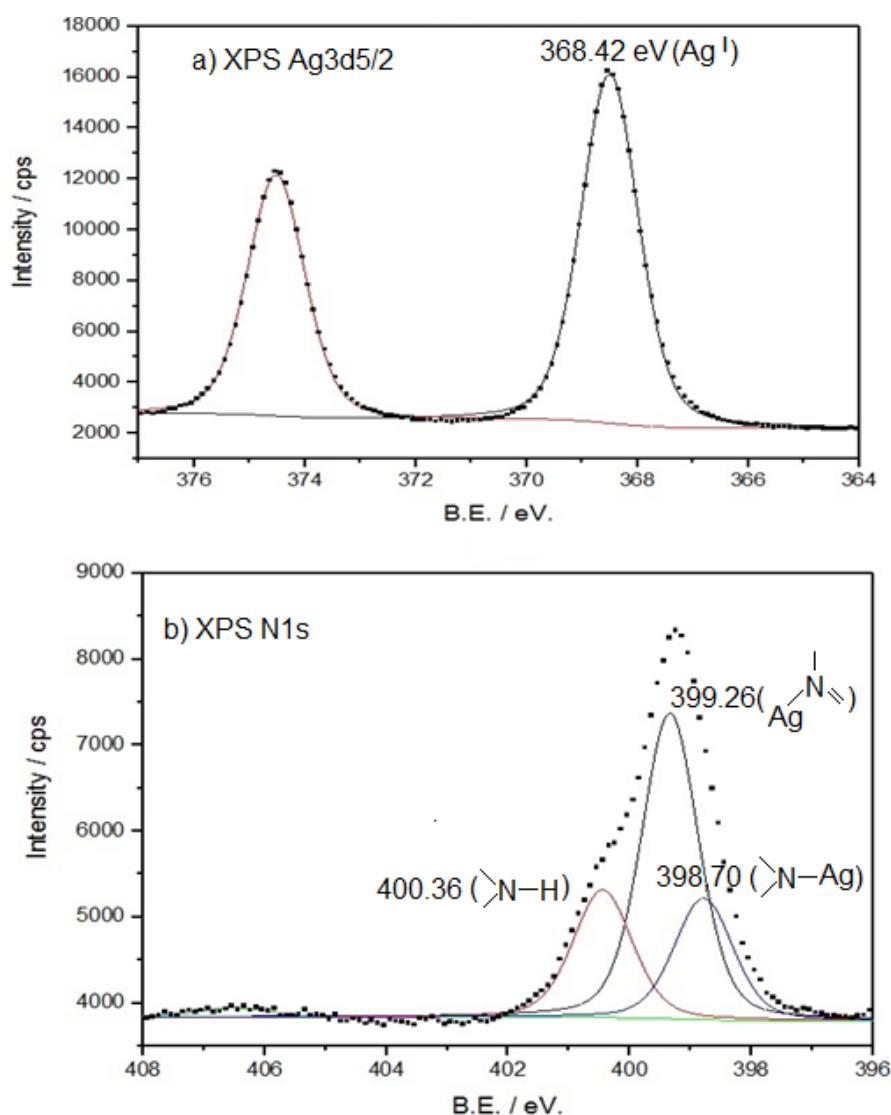


Figure 3. XPS signals a) XPS Ag<sup>I</sup> 3d5/2 and b) XPS N1s

## CONCLUSIONS

A new heteroleptic silver(I) saccharinate compound was synthesized by reacting 2-(2-pyridyl)benzimidazole with silver(I) saccharinate in a mixture of CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>CN, and CH<sub>3</sub>OH. This compound was characterized by the appropriate spectroscopic techniques due to the complexity of its ligand. The silver(I) has a coordination number of three. Ag-N<sub>sac</sub>, Ag-N<sub>pbi(im)</sub>, and Ag-N<sub>pbi(py)</sub> bonds present in [Ag(sac)(pbi)] were established.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank Innóvate Perú for contract N° 364-PNICP-PIBA-2014 and Dr. Lothar Hennig from Leipzig University, Germany, for the NMR spectra.

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