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**BORONIC-ACID FUNCTIONALIZED MAGNETITE
NANOCOMPOSITES FOR FRUCTOSE SENSING**

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Abstract. *Method for boronic acid immobilization on the magnetite surface reported. Immobilization of boronic acid on the nanocomposite surface was confirmed using Fourier-Transform infrared spectroscopy. Proof of principle experiments using obtained nanocomposites showed possibility of their potential application for fructose sensing.*

Keywords: *multifunctional nanocomposites, absorption of fructose, magnetite, Alizarin Red S, boronic acid.*

Introduction. Recognition of different simple sugars in human blood is an important task for current medicine. The most promising way to construct fructose-sensitive materials is to use the ability of boronic acid to form reversible covalent complexes with 1,2- and 1,3-diols [1-2]. Boronic acids have relatively small toxicity and can be considered as “green” compounds [3].

Magnetite, Fe₃O₄ is a natural mineral with high biocompatibility [4]. Sensor applications in combination with magnetic properties of boronic acid-containing Fe₃O₄ nanocomposites allow us to create highly biocompatible multifunctional “green” materials for fructose detection.

Experimental. Magnetite was modified by 3-APTES using a standard method [5]. 5-Formyl-2-furyl boronic acid (furyl borate) was immobilized on the surface of Magnetite/3-APTES composite in ethanolic solution. Immobilization of Alizarin Red S was performed in phosphate buffer (pH=7.4).

Results and discussion. The general scheme of Fe₃O₄/3-APTES/boronic acid nanocomposite synthesis is shown in Fig. 1. In the IR spectra of the obtained composite and initial furyl borate (Fig. 2) characteristic absorption bands are observed. They can be attributed to formyl group in furyl borate (1735 and 1803 cm⁻¹, probably splitting is due to intramolecular interactions of formyl residue with hydroxyl groups of boronic acid). After interaction with magnetite,

absorption bands of formil disappear, what may indicate the formation of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/boronic acid}$ composite. Absorption bands of -B-C bond are observed at 900 cm^{-1} , absorption bands of -B-O bond is observed at 1350 cm^{-1} .

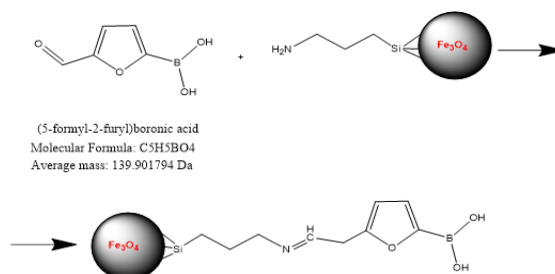


Fig. 1. Scheme of synthesis of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/Boronic Acid Nanocomposite}$

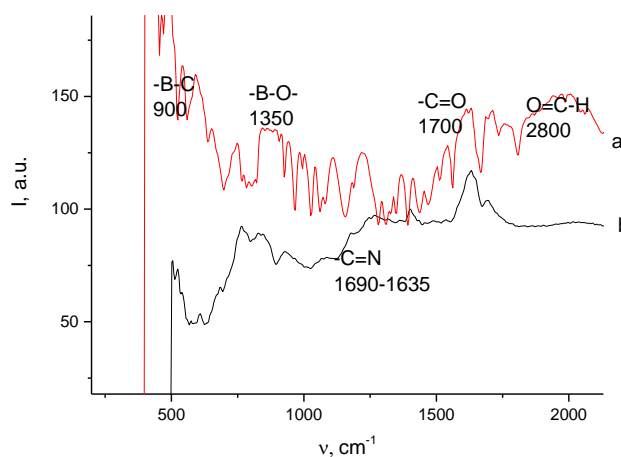


Fig. 2. IR spectra of furfurylborate (a) and nanocomposite $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/boronic acid}$ (b).

Based on the data obtained by IR spectroscopy furfurylborate was successfully immobilized on the surface of magnetite.

The study of competitive interaction and nanocomposite $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4 / 3\text{-ARS} / \text{furfurylborate}$ with Alizarin Red S and Fructose. The method is based on the ability of immobilized boronic acid to bind cis-diol form of hydrocarbons specifically (Fig. 3) [6].

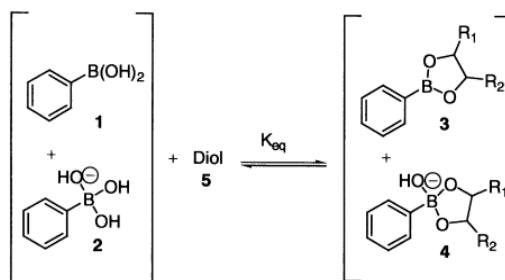
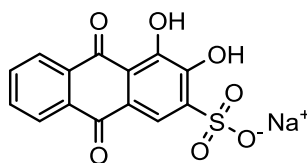


Fig. 3. The binding of cis-diol with boronic acid [7].

AlizarinRed S (ARS) in phosphate buffer (pH = 7.4) is used as an indicator in these types of reactions, $\lambda_{\max} = 423 \text{ nm}$.



Molecular Weight 342.26

According to the literature, a competitive reaction between sugar and ARS occurs in the process of absorption of sugars on the surface of the material which contain acidic surface groups with Boron (Fig. 4):

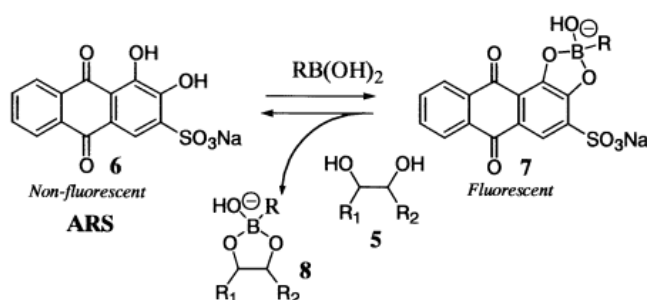


Fig. 4. The competitive reaction between sugars and ARS.

Thus, there is a "switch" of ARS molecules from non-fluorescence condition to fluorescence one. Thus, the content of cis-diols in solution can be quantitatively evaluated with the fluorescence of obtained conjugate. In addition, there is a shift of the maximum of absorption band of cis-diol derivate in the visible range. In our work it is demonstrated with the formyl-furylboric acid and ARS in phosphate buffer (Fig. 5).

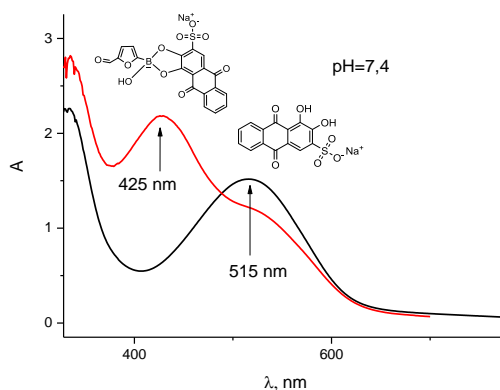


Fig. 5. The absorption spectrum of ARS in phosphate buffer (1) and its conjugate acid with formyl-furfurylboric acid.

Scheme of ARS binding with the surface of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/boronic acid}$ nanocomposite is shown in Fig. 6.

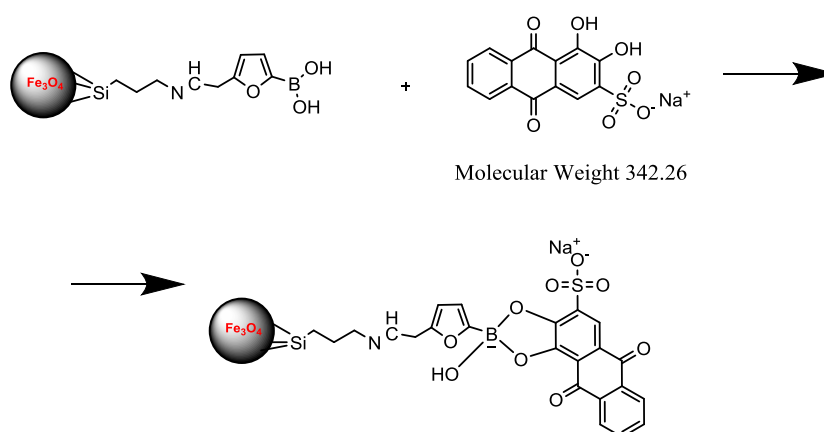


Fig. 6. Scheme of ARS binding with the surface of $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/boronic acid nanocomposite}$

Based on literature data, in case of the addition of carbohydrate in the form of cis-diol form the competitive replacement ARS on the surface of the composite to sugar molecules should occur.

Release of ARS when fructose is added was confirmed by photolorimetric method. A model experiment was being conducted that based on competitive sorption phenomena between ARS at the surface of nanocomposites and fructose. It passes according to this scheme (Fig. 7).

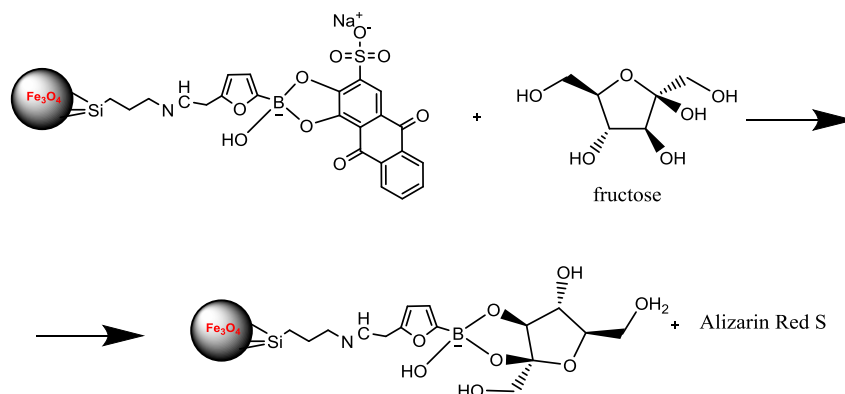


Fig. 7. Competition between ARS and fructose.

Conclusions. Modification of Fe_3O_4 by boronic acid could be realized throughout imine bond formation using formil-furyl boronic acid and NH_2 -containing magnetite. Obtained $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/boronic acid}$ composite show characteristic adsorption band in FTIR spectra and able to interact with 1,2-diols (e.g. ARS). Preliminary experiments confirmed possibility to detect glucose using $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4/3\text{-APTES/boronic acid/Alizarin Red S}$ nanocomposites according to competitive interaction in phosphate buffer.

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НАНОКОМПОЗИТИ НА ОСНОВІ МАГНЕТИТУ ФУНКЦІОНАЛІЗОВАНОГО БОРНОЮ КИСЛОТОЮ ДЛЯ ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ ФРУКТОЗИ.

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Резюме. *Висвітлено метод іммобілізації фурфурилборної кислоти на поверхню магнетиту. Іммобілізацію на поверхні нанокompозиту підтверджено за допомогою ІЧ спектроскопії з Фур'є-перетворенням. Контрольно-перевірочний експеримент отриманого нанокompозиту показав потенційну можливість застосування його для визначення фруктози.*

Ключові слова: *поліфункціональні нанокompозити, абсорбція фруктози, магнетит, алізарин червоний S, борна кислота.*