

## Photometric Study of Oxidation of Ascorbic Acid by Methylene Green in Aqueous Alcoholic System

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(Received on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, accepted in revised form 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018)

**Summary:** The photochemical study for oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green was studied in aqueous and aqueous methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol at temperature ranges from 303-318 K in acidic medium. The quantum yield of the photochemical oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green was determined by irradiation of reaction mixture by monochromatic light of 657 nm and transmitted light was recorded by photocell response as electrical signals on galvanometer. The rate of reaction mixture in terms of quantum yield was determined and found independent of variation in methylene green concentration and had increased with the concentration of ascorbic acid. The effect of dielectric constant was studied by varying the compositions of alcohol and the results obtained revealed that the quantum yield decreased with the decrease of the polarity of system in acidic medium. On the basis of kinetics the reaction follow pseudo first order and mechanism has been proposed. Thermodynamic parameter such as energy of activation ( $E_a^*$ ), change in enthalpy of activation ( $\Delta H^\ddagger$ ), change in free energy of activation ( $\Delta G^\ddagger$ ), and change in entropy of activation ( $\Delta S^\ddagger$ ) were also calculated.

**Keywords:** Photochemical; Quantum Yield; Methylene Green; Ascorbic Acid; Alcohols; Thermodynamic Parameters.

### Introduction

Thiazine dyes are widely used in various processes such as adsorption processes, dying in textile, heterogeneous catalysis and chromatographic analysis. Most of the thiazine dyes reacts with lipids, protein, and nucleic acid and have the highest level of antimalarial activity [1-2]. Environmental researchers have focused on different physical method such as activated carbon absorption [3], biological treatment, biodegradation, adsorption [4], reverse osmosis and chemical methods such as ozonations, chlorination and redox reactions [5-6] to remove these traces of dyes from industrial effluents. The stable nature of dye makes it difficult to remove, so its removal from waste water is difficult [7]. Methylene green is one member of thiazine dyes, which has excellent light fastness on acrylics. Several researches [8-11] have been carried out to degrade the dyes photochemically using heterogeneous catalyst as cyclic ketones, and Fenton's reagent [12] and different techniques such as fluorescence [13], cyclic voltammetry [8] and stopped flow spectroscopy [14] were used to investigate the reduction of dyes.

The presence of electron withdrawing groups on the thiazine dyes slows down the bleaching rates and supports the photosensitizing oxidation process. This property makes thiazine dye act as a photosensitizers for conversion of solar energy and storage purpose [15, 16].

The photocatalytic degradation of textile dyes under ultraviolet light by Ag, Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> contributed for the removal of dye from industrial waste water [17-19]. The photocatalytic degradation of different dyes was also done in presence of nanoparticles of SnO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO [20-21]. The photochemical oxidation process was also used to remove the dyes from industrial waste water [22-24]. The present work focused on the photochemical oxidation of ascorbic acid by methylene green in aqueous and aqueous alcohol such as aqueous methanol, aqueous ethanol, and aqueous isopropanol at in acidic medium. The effect of concentration of ascorbic acid, concentration of methylene green and temperature ranges from 303K to 318 K on quantum yield of reaction were studied and mechanism of reaction was proposed on the basis of kinetics data. Thermodynamic study was also carried to support results.

### Experimental

Ascorbic acid (BDH), methylene green (Fluka with purity of 99.99%), methanol, ethanol and isopropanol (Merck) were purchased to prepare the solutions in aqueous, aqueous methanol, aqueous ethanol and aqueous isopropanol. These solutions were prepared by using double distilled water having conductivity  $1.0 \times 10^{-6} \mu\text{S.cm}^{-1}$ .

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The kinetics of oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green was studied as a function of dielectric constant and temperature by photochemical method. The photochemical reaction was performed using an optical processor having 250 watts high pressure mercury ME/D compact Mazda box type lamp as light source (S). A double walled cell (C) having capacity of 0.045 dm<sup>3</sup> with constant circulation of water to maintain constant temperature was used. A special optical bench arrangement with lenses (L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>3</sub>) and filters (F<sub>1</sub> and F<sub>2</sub>) was made to fulfill the requirements of the experiment as shown in Fig. 1.

The photochemical oxidation was performed by taking the known volume of reaction mixture in a double walled cell (C) connected to a thermostat water bath to maintain constant temperature. Photo cell responses (P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>) were recorded on the galvanometer (G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub>) by passing monochromatic light of 657 nm through the reaction mixture up to 30 minutes. The initial intensity of light was measured by using an ammeter. The quantum yield for oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green was calculated as a function of concentration of ascorbic acid, concentration of methylene green, temperature, and percentage composition of alcohols such as aqueous methanol, aqueous ethanol and aqueous isopropanol at different temperatures ranging from 303 K to 318 K. The acidity of the reaction mixture was maintained at pH 3.

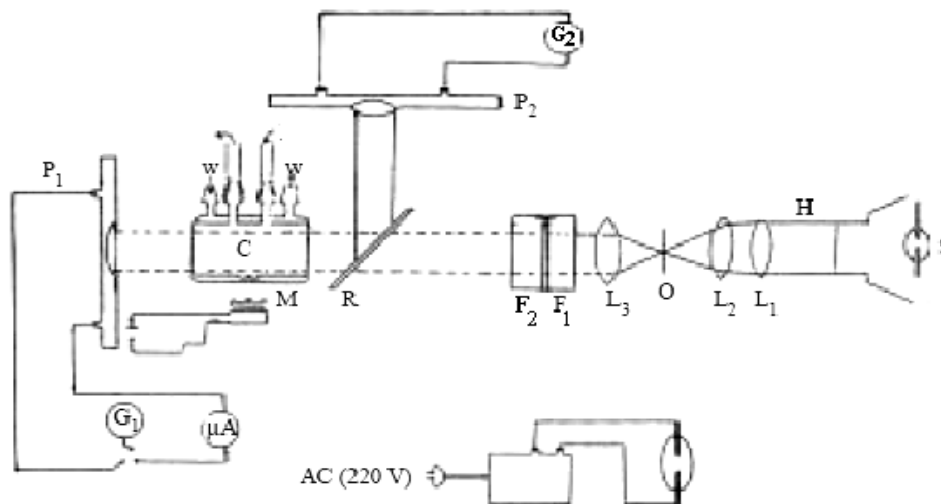
## Results and Discussion

The photochemical oxidation of ascorbic acid by methylene green in aqueous and aqueous alcohol system was carried out as a function of dielectric constant and temperature. The rate of reaction in terms of quantum yield was determined by passing monochromatic light of 657 nm through the reaction mixture and the photo cell responses were recorded. The quantum yield ( $\phi$ ) is expressed as: [25]

$$\log\left(\frac{D_m - D_{nt}}{D_{nt}}\right) = \frac{\epsilon \phi L I_0 (1 - \alpha)}{V} t + \log\left(\frac{D_m - D_{ni}}{D_{ni}}\right) \quad (1)$$

Where  $D_m$ ,  $D_{nt}$  and  $D_{ni}$  are the photo cell responses with cell having solvent, reaction mixture at particular time and reaction mixture at time zero,  $V$  is the volume of the solution,  $I_0$  is the incident intensity of the beam,  $(1 - \alpha)$  is the fraction of light transmitted through the window measured during the experiment,  $\epsilon$  is the molar absorptivity coefficient and  $L$  is the length of tube. The representative plot of  $\log\left(\frac{D_m - D_{nt}}{D_{nt}}\right)$  with time is shown in Fig. 2 with the slope  $\frac{I_0(1 - \alpha)\epsilon\phi L}{V}$  and intercept  $\log\frac{D_m - D_{ni}}{D_{ni}}$ .

The values of quantum yield ( $\phi$ ) were calculated from the slope and are reported in Tables 1-3.



**Fig. 1:** Schematic of the Optical Bench Arrangement.

(S is light source; L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>3</sub> are lenses; F<sub>1</sub> and F<sub>2</sub> are filters; R is reflector; M is magnetic stirrer; C is reaction cell; P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> are Photo cell responses; W connection to water bath; G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub> are galvanometers)

Table-1: Effect of concentration of ascorbic acid on quantum yield for photochemical oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green in various solvent system.

$$[\text{MG}] = 7.78 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3}$$

$$\text{Temperature} = 308 \text{ K}$$

[AA] 10 <sup>4</sup> (mol.dm <sup>-3</sup> )	Quantum Yield ( $\phi$ ) $\times 10^2$		
	Solvent (v/v)		
	0%	10%	20%
Aqueous Methanol			
1.11	5.563	5.009	3.357
3.33	20.448	10.905	8.335
5.56	23.000	13.559	8.698
7.78	23.696	16.963	11.145
10.0	24.012	20.912	19.682
Aqueous Ethanol			
1.11	5.563	3.102	2.573
3.33	20.448	5.910	3.804
5.56	23.000	9.832	6.303
7.78	23.696	12.464	7.824
10.0	24.012	14.610	8.374
Aqueous Isopropanol			
1.11	5.563	2.098	1.784
3.33	20.448	5.066	3.753
5.56	23.000	6.142	5.347
7.78	23.696	9.084	6.624
10.0	24.012	11.972	8.220

$$R^2 = 0.985$$

$$[\text{AA}] = 5.56 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3}$$

$$\text{Temp} = 308 \text{ K}$$

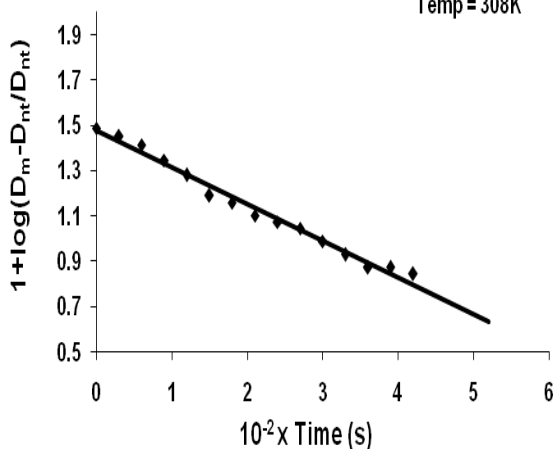


Fig. 2: Plot of  $\log (D_m - D_{nt} / D_{nt})$  versus time in aqueous medium.

Table-2: Effect of concentration of methylene green on quantum yield for oxidation of ascorbic acid.

$$[\text{AA}] = 5.56 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol. dm}^{-3}$$

Solvent=Water

Temperature=308 K

[MG] 10 <sup>6</sup> (mol.dm <sup>-3</sup> )	Quantum Yield ( $\phi$ ) $\times 10^2$
1.11	22.982
3.33	22.998
5.56	23.000
7.78	23.112
10.0	23.124
12.22	23.012

Table-3: Effect of temperature on quantum yield for photochemical oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green in different solvent system.

$$[\text{MG}] = 7.78 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol.dm}^{-3}$$

[AA] 10 <sup>4</sup> (mol.dm <sup>-3</sup> )	Quantum Yield ( $\phi$ ) $\times 10^2$ at Temperatures, K			
	303	308	313	318
Aqueous				
1.11	5.289	5.563	7.986	13.270
3.33	11.254	20.448	23.245	24.284
5.56	13.592	23.000	24.017	27.541
7.78	15.487	23.696	24.604	29.874
10.0	20.773	24.012	27.314	35.912
10% Aqueous Methanol				
1.11	2.887	5.009	7.465	7.591
3.33	6.361	10.905	13.270	14.828
5.56	12.123	13.559	23.245	24.604
7.78	13.103	16.963	24.824	27.314
10.0	15.239	20.912	29.329	31.548
10% Aqueous Ethanol				
1.11	2.432	3.102	5.285	6.643
3.33	5.439	5.910	12.617	12.818
5.56	7.792	9.832	17.021	18.959
7.78	7.968	12.464	17.255	20.600
10.0	13.385	14.610	24.012	29.652
10% Aqueous Isopropanol				
1.11	1.161	2.098	3.881	4.141
3.33	2.149	5.066	6.534	8.094
5.56	3.597	6.142	10.397	11.713
7.78	4.726	9.084	10.774	13.282
10.0	5.886	11.972	14.128	15.514

The influence of ascorbic acid on the quantum yield was studied in the concentration ranges from  $1.11 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $10.0 \times 10^{-4}$  mol. dm<sup>-3</sup>. The results summarized in Table 1 showed that quantum yields increased with the increase in concentration of ascorbic acid. The induced excitation and released protons reduced the dye molecules to leuco dye with dehydroxy ascorbic acid. Thus, the increase in concentration of ascorbic acid, increase the liberated protons formed by photo oxidation process as shown by the Fig. 3 and reaction followed pseudo first order kinetics with respect to ascorbic acid as shown in Fig. 2.

The effect of the concentration of methylene green on the quantum yield was studied using various concentrations of methylene green ranging from  $0.1 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $1.2 \times 10^{-5}$  mol.dm<sup>-3</sup> at fixed concentration of ascorbic acid and temperature. The results tabulated in Table 2 showed that the quantum yield was independent of the concentration of methylene green as there was no significant change in the values of quantum yield observed. It may be explained on the basis of the fact that at higher concentration of methylene green, interaction of the protons of ascorbic acid with methylene green molecules was minimized [25]. Thus the oxidation of ascorbic acid by methylene green followed pseudo first order kinetics.

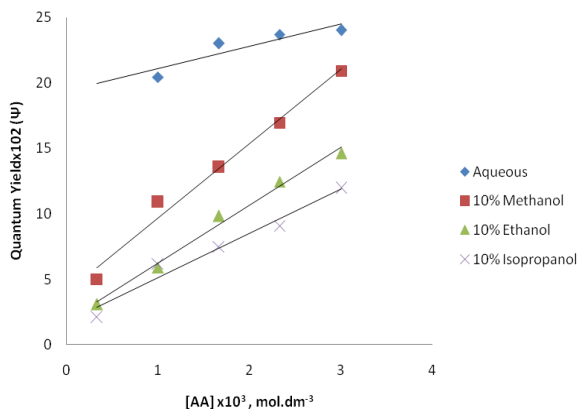


Fig. 3: Plot of quantum yield versus concentration of ascorbic acid in aqueous and aqueous alcoholic medium.

The effect of solvents regarding the polarity of medium on the quantum yield of reaction in aqueous and aqueous methanol, aqueous ethanol and aqueous isopropanol mixtures were studied using fixed concentration of ascorbic acid and methylene green. It was observed that the quantum yield decreased with the increase in the alcohol's content possessing low dielectric constant. The results tabulated in Table 1 showed that the reactants were more solvated than the activated complex in the low dielectric constant medium [26] and the following trend of quantum yield was observed.

Water > Aqueous methanol > Aqueous ethanol > Aqueous isopropanol

The effect of temperature on the quantum yield for photochemical reaction was studied at various temperatures ranging from 303 to 318 K at intervals of 5 K. The results summarized in Table 3 showed that quantum yield increased with the temperature show the rate of oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green increased. The increase in temperature accelerates the kinetic energy of reactant molecules which results in increasing the number of effective collisions and giving more products.

The effect of temperature on quantum yield was studied by Arrhenius relation [27].

$$\phi = A.e^{-\frac{E_a^*}{RT}} \quad (2)$$

where R is gas constant, T is absolute temperature, A is frequency factor and  $E_a^*$  is the energy of activation. Energy of activation of the reaction was evaluated

from the slope of the linear plot of  $\ln \phi$  versus  $1/T$  shown in Fig 4. Results tabulated in Table 4 show that energy of activation increased with decrease of dielectric constant of the medium as the rate of reaction is high in aqueous medium and slow down as the alkyl chain of alcohol increased.

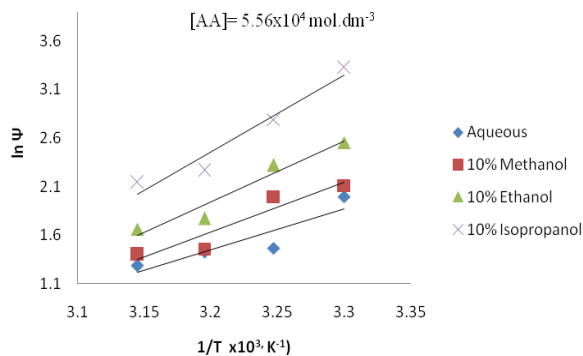


Fig. 4: Plot of  $\ln \Psi$  versus  $1/T$ .

The values of change in enthalpy of activation ( $\Delta H^*$ ), change in free energy of activation ( $\Delta G^*$ ) and change in entropy of activation ( $\Delta S^*$ ) were calculated using following relations and tabulated in Table 4.

$$\Delta H^* = E_a^* - RT \quad (3)$$

$$\Delta G^* = \Delta H^* - T \Delta S^* \quad (4)$$

$$\Delta S^* = R \ln \left[ \frac{A h}{K_b T} \right] \quad (5)$$

Where  $K_b$  is Boltzman constant, and h is Plank's constant.

Results showed that the change in enthalpy of activation ( $\Delta H^*$ ), change in free energy of activation ( $\Delta G^*$ ) and change in entropy of activation ( $\Delta S^*$ ) decreased with the increase in concentration of ascorbic acid and increased with decrease in dielectric constant. The decreasing values of change in free energy of activation with increase in concentration of ascorbic acid showed that the formation of activated state is spontaneous process. The negative values of entropy showed the decrease in randomness as a result of increase in charge on activated state as compare to individual ions. The activated state is less solvated than the reactants which restricts the motion of activated complex. The Gibbs free energy change of activation ( $\Delta G^*$ ) was

found to be highest in aqueous isopropanol and lowest in water showed the formation of activated state is more favorable in water than in methanol, ethanol and isopropanol.

Table-4: Thermodynamic parameters for oxidation of ascorbic acid by methylene green at different concentrations of ascorbic acid

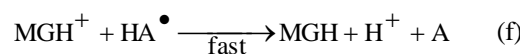
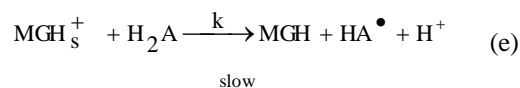
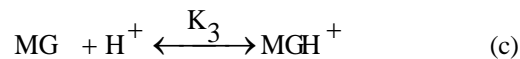
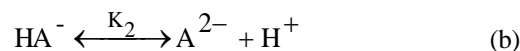
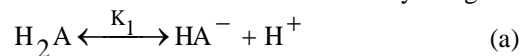
[MG] =  $7.78 \times 10^{-6}$  mol.dm<sup>-3</sup>

Temperature = 308 K

[AA] ·10 <sup>4</sup> , mol.dm <sup>-3</sup>	Energy of Activation (E <sub>a</sub> <sup>o</sup> ) (kJ.mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Enthalpy change of Activation (ΔH <sup>o</sup> ) (kJ.mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Entropy change of Activation (ΔS <sup>o</sup> ) (J.mol <sup>-1</sup> .K <sup>-1</sup> )	Free Energy change of Activation (ΔG <sup>o</sup> ) (kJ.mol <sup>-1</sup> )
Aqueous				
1.11	49.753	47.192	-106.448	79.6592
3.33	39.301	36.740	-132.362	77.1109
5.56	34.834	32.273	-145.789	76.7391
7.78	32.297	29.736	-153.413	76.4853
10.0	28.306	25.745	-165.038	76.0817
10% Aqueous Methanol				
1.11	53.129	50.568	-98.345	80.5649
3.33	44.042	41.481	-121.779	78.6235
5.56	42.677	40.116	-122.161	77.3749
7.78	41.484	38.923	-125.021	77.0135
10.0	40.512	37.952	-126.759	76.6131
10% Aqueous Ethanol				
1.11	56.835	54.273	-88.755	81.3444
3.33	53.378	50.817	-93.702	79.3945
5.56	51.587	49.026	-96.229	78.3781
7.78	50.998	48.437	-97.394	78.1414
10.0	46.118	43.558	-110.255	77.1745
10% Aqueous Isopropanol				
1.11	71.237	68.676	-46.329	82.8018
3.33	68.136	65.575	-50.735	81.0556
5.56	65.376	62.816	-56.422	80.0256
7.78	52.625	50.064	-95.781	79.2775
10.0	49.551	46.991	-103.771	78.6407

### Proposed Mechanism

On the basis of kinetic data the following reaction mechanism has been proposed for the oxidation of ascorbic acid with methylene green.



$$\text{Rate} = -\frac{d[MG]}{dt} = k[MGH^+][H_2A] \quad (g)$$

$$K_3 = \frac{[MGH^+]}{[MG][H^+]} \quad (h)$$

$$[MG] = \frac{[MGH^+]}{K_3[H^+]} \quad (i)$$

$$[MGH^+] = K_3[MG][H^+] \quad (j)$$

$$\text{Rate} = -\frac{d[MG]}{dt} = k[MGH^+][H_2A] \quad (k)$$

$$\text{Rate} = -\frac{d[MG]}{dt} = kK_3[MG][H^+][H_2A] \quad (l)$$

$$k' = kK_3[H^+] \quad (m)$$

$$-\frac{d[MG]}{dt} = k'[MG][H_2A] \quad (n)$$

$$-\frac{d[MG]}{dt} = k''[H_2A] \quad (o)$$

$$k'' = k'[MG] \quad (p)$$

where H<sub>2</sub>A represents undissociated ascorbic acid, HA<sup>-</sup> is the ascorbate monoanion, A<sup>2-</sup> is the ascorbate dianion, [MG] is the total Methylene green, MGH<sup>+</sup> is the monoprotonated form of methylene green, MGH<sub>s</sub><sup>+</sup> is the singlet excited state of monoprotonated form of methylene green, MGH is the reduced form of methylene green, A is the dehydroascorbic acid, K<sub>1</sub> and K<sub>2</sub> is the dissociation constants of ascorbic acid, K<sub>3</sub> is the formation constant for monoprotonated methylene green, and k is the rate constant for reduction of methylene green.

### Conclusion

The rate of photochemical oxidation of ascorbic acid by methylene green was studied in terms of quantum yield of reaction. The quantum yield was found to be increased with the concentration of ascorbic acid, polarity of medium and temperature. It was concluded that the reaction followed pseudo first order kinetics. On the basis of Photokinetics data the reaction mechanism was proposed. Thermodynamic parameters were also evaluated and the decreasing value of change in free energy of activation with the concentration of ascorbic acid and polarity of medium showed the formation of activated complex is a spontaneous process.

### Acknowledgement

The author (Sameera Razi Khan) gratefully acknowledges the financial support by Dean Science Research Grant by University of Karachi.

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