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Inhibitors of chloride corrosion of reinforcement steel in concrete based on derivatives of salts of carboxylic acids and dimethylaminopropylamine

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Abstract

In our study, we synthesised derivatives of salts of carboxylic acids and dimethylaminopropylamine: 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate, 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate, 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate, and 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate. The structures of the molecules of the obtained substances were confirmed using physical methods: Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy, NMR spectroscopy, and HPLC. Electrochemical methods (voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy) and quantum chemical modeling were used to assess the inhibitory effect of the synthesised substances with regard to 35GS reinforcement steel. Experiments were conducted in a water extract from a mortar simulating concrete pore solution in the presence of chlorides inducing pitting corrosion. 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate is expected to have the highest degree of protection (up to 71%) at a concentration of 2.0 g·dm⁻³. The highest degree of protection for the derivatives with alkyl radicals is 41–46% in a range of concentrations from 0.5 to 2.0 g·dm⁻³. The results of potentiodynamic measurements and quantum chemical modeling were close. Average level of degree of protection can be explained by a high concentration of chlorides in the model solution (1.00 mol·dm⁻³). The effectiveness of the obtained substances is to be further studied using fine-grained concrete. This will help to assess the impact of the additives on the capillary pore structure (permeability) of concrete and the concentration of chlorides.

Keywords: Reinforcement steel, Reinforced concrete, Corrosion inhibitors, Chlorides, Dimethylaminopropylamine derivatives

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1. Introduction

The design life of reinforced concrete structures should be at least 50–100 years depending on the area of application and design features [1]. This parameter can decrease significantly during operation, especially in highly corrosive environments. As a result, the first signs of distress appear during the early stages of operation [2]. Preventive maintenance and capital repairs using specialized fine-grained concrete are common practice [3]. However, this approach is often hard to implement. For instance, due to the continuity of the production process it is impossible to stop the operation of a certain structure without shutting down the whole production line. Considering the fact that large enterprises endure enormous financial losses because of long downtime, which exceed the cost of repair several times [4], it is important to make reinforced concrete structures as durable as possible.

The main cause of degradation of reinforced concrete structures is corrosion of reinforcement bars, with the contribution of processes induced by chlorides being over 65% [5]. Therefore, the structures most susceptible to chloride corrosion are those located on the coast, as well as transport infrastructure facilities and motorways coated with antifreeze reagents, chemical industry facilities producing mineral fertilizers, etc. Primary and secondary protection of reinforced concrete is used to prevent corrosion [6]. At the same time coatings, surface treatment, and other secondary protection methods require additional time and expenses [7]. Although secondary protection is the only way to ensure the required durability in certain environments (e.g. aggressive acids) [8], primary protection measures, i.e. finding the optimal composition of concrete, are generally the easiest to implement.

To increase the corrosion resistance of steel reinforcement bars in concrete, various additives reducing the permeability of concrete [9, 10] or corrosion inhibitors [11, 12] are used, which can reduce the rate of corrosion of steel and affect the physical and mechanical properties of concrete at the same time. To reduce the time of analysis of their effect, model liquid solutions are used: a saturated solution of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ [13–16], its modifications whose compositions are close to the actual composition of the concrete pore solution,

and extracts obtained from cement and ground concrete [17, 18]. The concentration of chlorides (C_{Cl}) introduced to induce corrosion varies from 0.1 to $0.9 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$ (5% wt.). This parameter affects the degree of protection: the higher the concentration of chlorides, the lower the protection degree.

We should note that experiments with model aqueous electrolyte solutions demonstrate only the true inhibitory effect of the studied substance on steel reinforcement. When used in actual concretes, the protective effect can be significantly greater due to the compaction of concrete (the plastification effect) or lower (due to increased permeability, air entrainment, etc.).

Therefore, it is important to determine the most effective inhibitors of corrosion of steel reinforcement in concrete affected by chlorides. At the moment, a large number of inorganic (nitrites, chromates, phosphates, etc. [16–18]), organic (amines and carboxylic acids [13, 19, 20], triazoles [21], salts of benzoic acid [22], hydroquinoline and pyrocatechol [23], siloxanes [24], etc.), natural compounds [25, 26], and compositions based on them [27–29] are being studied. Due to the great protective effect of carboxylic acids, including long-chain carboxylic acids, against corrosion of steel reinforcement bars in concrete, it is of great scientific and practical importance to study the inhibitory properties of their derivatives.

The purpose of our study was to synthesize and assess the inhibitory properties of new derivatives of salts of carboxylic acids and dimethylaminopropylamine with regard to low-carbon reinforcement steel in an aqueous solution simulating a concrete environment in the presence of chlorides.

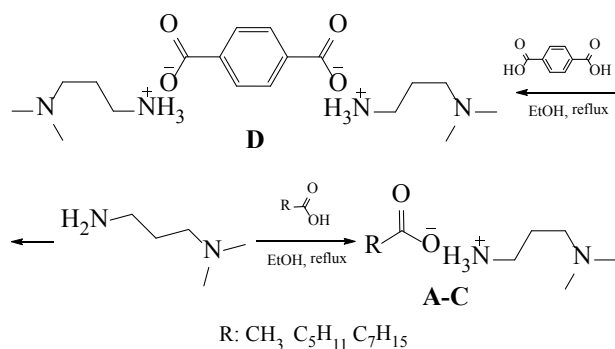
2. Experimental

2.1. Synthesis and analysis of dimethylaminopropylamine derivatives

In our study, we obtained a series of ammonium salts of dimethylaminopropylamine with certain carboxylic acids (Table 1) with different lengths of the hydrocarbon radicals as potential inhibitors of chloride corrosion of steel reinforcement bars in reinforced concrete. All reagents used were purchased from Acros Organics.

The inhibitors were synthesised as follows: a mixture of 1 mol of acid, 1 mol of amine (2 mol for **d**), and 50 ml of ethanol was boiled until

all the components dispersed completely. The completeness of the reaction was controlled using a universal indicator and thin-layer chromatography. After the neutralization, the obtained homogeneous solution was evaporated on a rotary evaporator until the solvent evaporated. The scheme of the process is presented below.



The obtained ammonium salts were analysed using high-performance liquid chromatography with high-resolution mass spectrometry (electrospray ionization, HPLC-HRMS-ESI) in combination with UV detection. The analyser unit included an Agilent 1269 Infinity chromatograph and an Agilent 6230 TOF LC/MS detector. Quantitative analysis was performed using an external standard method. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker AV600 (600, 13 MHz) spectrometer in a DMSO-d₆. TMS was used as the internal standard. The IR spectrum was recorded on Vertex 70 FT-IR spectrometer using a Platinum ATR (Bruker) ATR attachment equipped with a

diamond prism in the frequency range from 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹ with a resolution of 2 cm⁻¹. The result was obtained by averaging 16 scans.

The study demonstrated that in the absence of a catalyst, when equimolar amounts of dimethylaminopropylamine and carboxylic acids are boiled in ethanol, a neutralization reaction takes place with almost quantitative yields of the corresponding ammonium salts. This is confirmed by LC/MS spectrometry, ¹H NMR spectrometry, and IR spectrometry.

3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate (a). 95% yield, amber viscous liquid. ¹H NMR (δ): 1.84–1.91 (m, 2H 1CH₂), 2.22 (s, 3H CH₃), 2.37–2.41 (s, 6H 2CH₃), 2.60–2.67 (m, 2H 1CH₃), 2.90–2.97 (m, 2H 1CH₂). IR spectrum (cm⁻¹): 3300–3400 (OH + N⁺-H), 2150–2200 (N⁺-H), 1700–1750 (C=O), 1550–1600 (COO⁻ + C-O-H), 1550 (N⁺H), 1400 (N⁺H), 900–1150 (CH₂), 750–800 (CH₂). Determined, *m/z*: 163.1162 [M+H]⁺. Calculated, *m/z* 163.1368 [M+H]⁺.

3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate (b). 96% yield, amber viscous liquid. ¹H NMR (δ): 0.89–0.90 (t, 3H CH₃), 1.20–1.23 (m, 6H 3CH₂), 1.85–1.90 (m, 2H 1CH₂), 2.35–2.43 (s, 8H 2CH₃+βCH₂), 2.61–2.65 (m, 2H 1CH₂), 2.91–2.92 (m, 2H 1CH₂). IR spectrum (cm⁻¹): 3300–3400 (OH + N⁺-H), 2150–2200 (N⁺-H), 1700–1750 (C=O), 1550–1600 (COO⁻ + C-O-H), 1550 (N⁺H), 1400 (N⁺H), 900–1150 (CH₂), 750–800 (CH₂). Determined, *m/z*: 218.1862 [M+H]⁺. Calculated, *m/z*: 218.1994 [M+H]⁺.

Table 1. Studied inhibitors

Symbol	Name	Formula
a	3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate	
b	3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate	
c	3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate	
d	3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate	

3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate (c). 94% yield, amber viscous liquid. ¹H NMR (δ): 0.87–0.91 (t, 3H CH₃), 1.19–1.86 (m, 14H 5CH₂+βCH₂+CH₂), 2.25–2.33 (s, 6H 2CH₃), 2.60–2.63 (m, 2H CH₂), 2.92–2.94 (m, 2H CH₂). IR spectrum (cm⁻¹): 3300–3400 (OH + N⁺-H), 2150–2200 (N⁺-H), 1700–1750 (C=O), 1550–1600 (COO⁻ + C-O-H), 1550 (N⁺H), 1400 (N⁺H), 900–1150 (CH₂), 750–800 (CH₂). Determined, *m/z*: 246.3154 [M+H]⁺. Calculated, *m/z*: 246.2307 [M+H]⁺.

3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate (d). 85% yield, white crystalline substance, mp = 273–275 °C. ¹H NMR (δ): 1.84–1.91 (m, 4H 2CH₂), 2.41–2.45 (m, 12H 6CH₃), 2.64–2.71 (m, 4H 2CH₂), 2.90–2.97 (m, 4H 2CH₂), 7.92 (d, 4H, aromatic). IR spectrum (cm⁻¹): 3300–3400 (OH + N⁺-H), 2150–2200 (N⁺-H), 1550–1600 (COO⁻ + C-O-H), 1550 (N⁺H), 1400 (N⁺H), 900–1150 (CH₂), 750–800 (CH₂), 500–600 (C-H aromatic). Determined, *m/z*: 370.1290 [M+H]⁺. Calculated, *m/z*: 370.2580 [M+H]⁺.

2.2. Assessment of the corrosion inhibition properties

To evaluate the corrosion inhibition properties of the synthesised compounds, a set of electrochemical methods was used. Quantum-chemical calculations were also performed.

Samples of low-carbon 35GS steel with rectangular section were used as the working electrode. All the surfaces, except for the working surface, were mounted in epoxy resin. Saturated silver chloride reference electrode (SCE, +201 mV relative to the standard hydrogen electrode) was placed in a separate container linked to the electrolytic cell by an agar-agar based salt bridge filled with a KNO₃ saturated solution. The potentials in the study are presented relative to the standard hydrogen electrode. A platinum grid was used as an auxiliary electrode.

The working solution was a water extract from cement powder (mass ratio of distilled water and cement powder 1:10, extraction for 24 hours followed by filtration, pH 12.5–13.0). Electrochemical measurements were conducted in a glass three-electrode cell with undivided electrode spaces at a temperature of 23±3 °C under natural aeration conditions, in the presence of the inhibitor NaCl with the concentration of

1.00 mol·dm⁻³ (reference experiment) and the studied substances.

The working electrode was preliminarily cleaned with K2000 sandpaper, washed with distilled water, and degreased with chemically pure isopropyl alcohol. The current density *i* was calculated by dividing the actual current *I* by the geometric area of the working electrode (2.25 cm²).

The corrosion current density (*i*_{cor}) was determined by the polarization resistance (PR) technique as summarized by Mansfeld [30]. After the free corrosion potential (*E*_{cor}) became stable, the polarization curve was registered for 30 minutes using an IPC-Pro potentiostat in the potentiodynamic polarization mode (potential scan rate of 0.2 mV·s⁻¹) in the range from *E*_{cor} -30 mV to *E*_{cor} +30 mV.

The ability of the studied substances to inhibit corrosion was assessed based on the degree of protection calculated using the formula:

$$Z_i = \frac{i_{\text{cor},0} - i_{\text{cor,inh}}}{i_{\text{cor},0}} \cdot 100 \%,$$

where *i*_{cor,0} and *i*_{cor,inh} are the corrosion current density during the reference experiment and in the presence of the inhibitor respectively.

The electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was performed using the IPC-Pro potentiostat with a frequency response analyser FRA-2. After *E*_{cor} was stable for 30 minutes, the frequency dependent impedance was registered within the range from 0.01 to 50 Hz with no current. The analysis of frequency dependences, the selection of the equivalent circuit, and determining its component values was carried out using DCS software. The results are presented as a Nyquist diagram. The inhibition efficiency (*η*_{inh}) was calculated using the formula:

$$\eta_{\text{inh}} = \left(1 - \frac{R_{p,0}}{R_{p,\text{inh}}} \right) \cdot 100,$$

where *R*_{p,0} and *R*_{p,inh} are polarization resistance in the reference experiment and in the presence of the inhibitor respectively.

The optimisation of the geometry of the studied inhibitor molecules was carried out within the framework of the density functional theory (DFT) using the B3LYP functional

with basis 6-311+ G(d,p) in the Gaussian 09 package. The optimized geometry of molecules is characterized by a lack of negative oscillation frequencies and therefore corresponds to the minimum value on the potential energy surface. In addition, TDDFT (time-dependent density functional theory) calculations for optimized geometry were performed to find the five lowest electronic excitations. Energies of HOMO and LUMO molecular orbitals were used to forecast the inhibition effectiveness. Within the limitation of the Koopmans' theorem, the energies of frontier orbitals are determined by the formulas:

$$-E_{\text{HOMO}} = IP \text{ and } -E_{\text{LUMO}} = EA.$$

Here IP is ionisation potential, and EA is electron affinity. The inhibition effectiveness was assessed based on the chemical hardness:

$$\eta = \frac{IP - EA}{2}$$

and softness:

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\eta}.$$

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Potentiodynamic measurements

Substance **a** does not have any significant effect on the free corrosion potential of low-carbon steel in the presence of chlorides in the whole range of concentrations studied (taking into account the accuracy of measurements) (Table 2).

When substances **b-d** were introduced, E_{cor} shifted towards positive values by 35–80 mV, which indicates the effect primarily on the partial anodic oxidation of metal [31]. This is also confirmed by the comparison of the initial sections of the polarization curves. Thus, for **a, b** cathodic sections of the polarization curves for all concentrations of the inhibitor C_{inh} practically coincide with the reference. Anodic sections, when $C_{\text{inh}} \geq 1.0 \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$, demonstrated monotonous reduction of the current density at a given value of the electrode potential (Fig. 1a). For **b**, monotonous reduction in i on the anodic sections of the polarization curve was registered at $C_{\text{inh}} \geq 0.5 \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$ (Fig. 1b).

The introduction of **c** reduced the current density on both cathodic and anodic section of the polarization curve as compared to the reference experiment (Fig. 1c). When the concentration of chlorides was $C_{\text{inh}} = 0.5$ and $1.0 \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$ cathodic sections were not registered, while the current density on the anodic sections was lower at $C_{\text{inh}} = 0.5 \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$. The lowest values of i were obtained when $C_{\text{inh}} = 2.0 \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$.

For **d** at higher C_{inh} the anodic current density decreased monotonously, while the cathodic section of the polarization curve decreased only when $C_{\text{inh}} = 1.0 \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$.

The calculations of the electrochemical parameters by means of polarization resistance technique are given in Table 2. They are compatible with the results of the analysis of the polarization curves. The protection degree generally increases at higher concentrations of the substance (except for **c**). For **a-c** Z_i reaches 41–

Table 2. Kinetic parameters of mild steel electrode in water extract from cement + $1.00 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$ NaCl in the presence of derivatives of dimethylaminopropylamine

Inhibitor	$C_{\text{inh}}, \text{ g}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$	$E_{\text{cor}}, \text{ mV}$	$R_p, \text{ k}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}^2$	$b_a, \text{ mV}$	$b_c, \text{ mV}$	$B, \text{ mV}$	$i_{\text{cor}}, \mu\text{A}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$	$Z_i, \%$
blank	–	–451	9.21	64.3	63.0	31.8	3.44 ± 0.36	–
a	0.5	–439	8.49	59.9	59.9	30.0	3.52 ± 0.28	–2
	1.0	–453	10.56	53.4	40.4	23.0	2.20 ± 0.30	36
	2.0	–458	10.97	50.4	35.2	20.7	1.92 ± 0.25	44
b	0.5	–414	9.60	65.6	38.2	24.2	2.54 ± 0.28	26
	1.0	–410	11.80	64.7	33.9	22.3	1.87 ± 0.13	46
c	0.5	–374	13.27	65.6	46.5	27.2	2.05 ± 0.19	41
	1.0	–370	12.03	78.2	55.1	32.4	2.71 ± 0.22	21
	2.0	–401	14.08	86.4	49.5	31.5	2.22 ± 0.10	36
d	0.5	–398	12.13	51.2	35.2	20.9	1.73 ± 0.21	50
	1.0	–405	17.44	46.0	27.4	17.2	0.99 ± 0.09	71

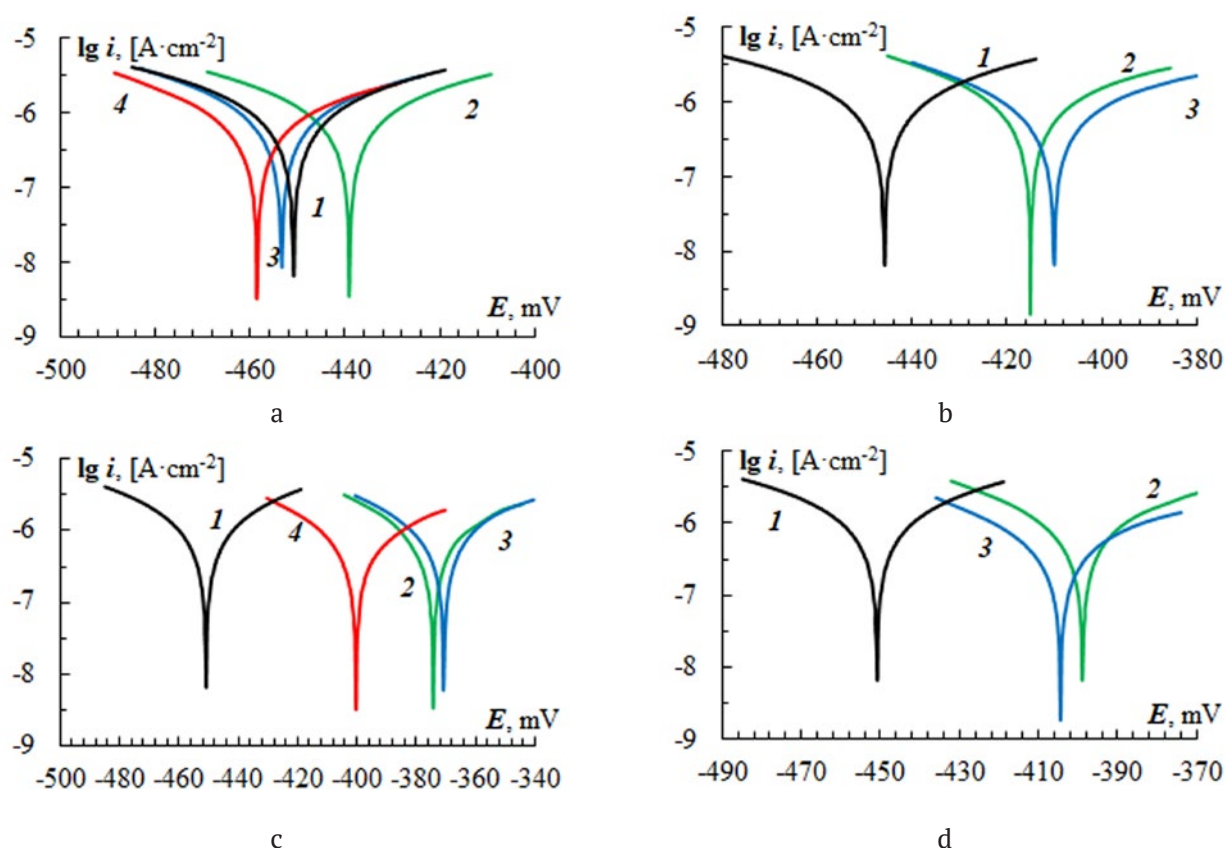


Fig. 1. Anodic and cathodic polarization curves of mild steel in water extract from cement + 1.00 mol·dm⁻³ NaCl without an inhibitor (*1*) and in presence of 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate (*a*), 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate (*b*), 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate (*c*) and 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate (*d*) at concentrations of 0.5 (*2*), 1.0 (*3*) and 2.0 g·dm⁻³ (*4*)

46%. Substance *d* is the most effective inhibitor based on the corrosion current density estimated by the method of linear polarization resistance (71% at $C_{inh} = 2.0$ g·dm⁻³).

3.2. Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy

Nyquist diagrams obtained in reference experiments and in the presence of the studied substances have the same shape of a distorted semicircle with changing diameter and a linear section in the low-frequency region (Fig. 2).

An equivalent circuit presented in Fig. 3 provides a satisfactory description of the diagrams. The results of the calculations are shown in Table 3.

For substances *a-b* when the length of the alkyl radical increased from C1 to C5 the degree of protection grew from 9.4 to 19.9% at $C_{inh} = 1.0$ g·dm⁻³. When the length of the alkyl radical was further increased to C7 with C_{inh} ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 g·dm⁻³, the inhibitory effect was not registered. However, when

$C_{inh} = 2.0$ g·dm⁻³ the degree of protection was over 35%. For substance *d* the concentration did not affect the degree of protection. Z_i approaches 20%.

3.3. Quantum-chemical calculations

Minimum difference between HOMO and LUMO energies and absolute hardness was observed for compound *d* (Table 4). Compounds *a-c* are characterised by higher values of these parameters. Obviously, for *d*, softness is maximum. Therefore, it can be expected to have high adsorption ability and inhibitory properties. *a-c* are most likely to have a mild inhibitory effect.

Fig. 4 demonstrates a comparison of the dependencies of inhibitory activity criteria for the studied substances at maximum concentrations. The degree of protection assessed using the polarization resistance method and softness assessed using quantum chemical calculations change symbatically. The inhibition effectiveness assessed using EIS is generally lower than that

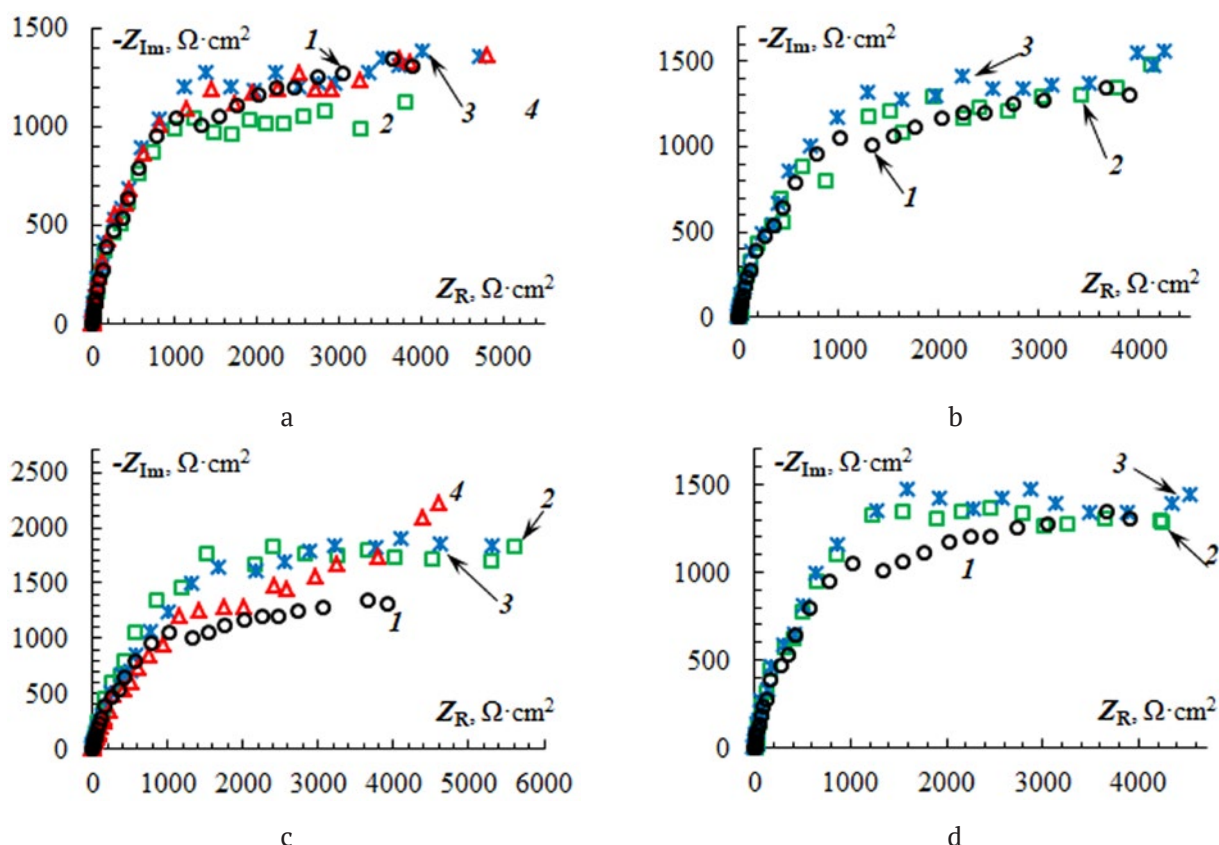


Fig. 2. Nyquist diagrams of mild steel in water extract from cement + 1.00 mol·dm⁻³ NaCl without an inhibitor (1) and in presence of 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate (a), 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate (b), 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate (c) and 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate (d) at concentrations of 0.5 (2), 1.0 (3) and 2.0 g·dm⁻³ (4)

Table 3. Calculated equivalent circuit elements of mild steel electrode in water extract from cement + 1.00 mol·dm⁻³ NaCl in presence of derivatives of dimethylaminopropylamine

Inhibitor	C _{inh} , g·dm ⁻³	Equivalent circuit element					η _{inh} , %
		R _Ω , Ω·cm ²	R _p , Ω·cm ²	CPE _T , μF·cm ⁻²	CPE _Φ	BW, Ω·cm ² ·s ^{-0.5}	
blank	–	5.0±0.7	2.9±0.3	9.3±1.2	0.79±0.04	523±55	–
a	0.5	7.8±2.5	3.1±0.3	9.0±0.9	0.77±0.01	510±58	5.3
	1.0	5.4±0.5	3.22±0.11	8.2±0.3	0.80±0.02	601±77	9.4
	2.0	5.6±0.5	3.3±1.2	8.6±0.6	0.77±0.02	442±45	13.7
b	0.5	5.6±0.9	3.2±0.3	9.1±1.3	0.77±0.03	496±57	7.5
	1.0	5.8±0.8	3.6±0.3	9.0±0.7	0.79±0.02	514±47	19.9
	2.0	6.7±0.6	2.5±0.2	13.6±1.9	0.74±0.01	498±52	-14.6
c	1.0	14.7±2.2	2.63±0.6	9.8±0.5	0.76±0.02	789±66	-10.7
	2.0	8.7±1.2	4.5±0.7	10.9±1.1	0.65±0.05	752±74	35.6
	0.5	6.6±1.5	3.6±0.3	8.3±0.5	0.79±0.03	493±34	19.8
d	1.0	5.0±0.1	3.6±0.4	7.9±0.9	0.79±0.03	507±42	19.6

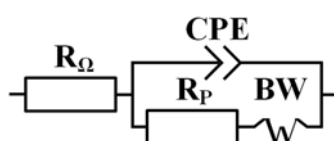
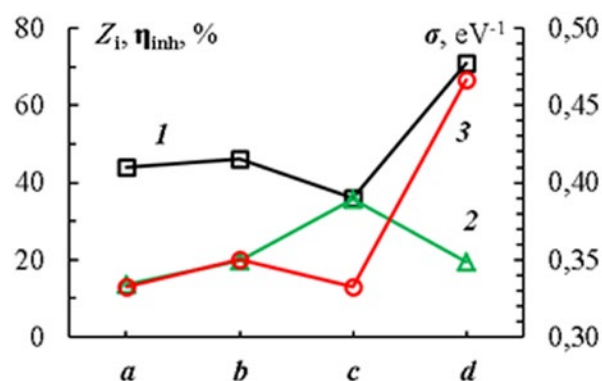


Fig. 3. Equivalent circuit for analysis of electrochemical impedance spectra

Table 4. Calculated energies of HOMO, LUMO, HOMO LUMO gap (HLG), Ionization Potential (IP), Electron Affinity (EA), Absolute Hardness (η) and Softness (σ) in eV at B3LYP/6-311+ G (d, p) level

Inhibitor	E_{HOMO} , eV	E_{LUMO} , eV	HLG, eV	IP, eV	EA, eV	η , eV	σ , eV ⁻¹
a	-6.1264	-0.1137	6.0126	6.1264	0.1137	3.0063	0.3326
b	-6.1233	-0.4133	5.7100	6.1233	0.4133	2.8550	0.3502
c	-6.1209	-0.1037	6.0173	6.1209	0.1037	3.0086	0.3324
d	-6.1290	-1.8460	4.2830	6.1290	1.8460	2.1415	0.4669

**Fig. 4.** Degree of protection Z_i (1), effectiveness of inhibition η_{inh} (2) at the maximum of the studied concentrations and softness σ (3) for 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate (a), 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate (b), 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate (c) and 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate (d)

assessed using PR, but the overall tendency for **a-c** remains the same.

The studied substances, when used at maximum concentrations (1.0–2.0 g·dm⁻³), can be generally characterised as inhibitors with a mild degree of protection. However, we should note that all the experiments were conducted in model liquid environments with a high concentration of chlorides $C_{\text{Cl}} = 1.00 \text{ mol}\cdot\text{dm}^{-3}$. We assume that the studied substances, when used during the production of concrete, can have additional effect on the rheological properties of solutions and physical and mechanical characteristics of set concrete. Lower permeability slows down the penetration of aggressive substances through the concrete shell of reinforcement bars, which can enhance the protective properties. The next stage of this study will include experiments with actual samples of fine-grained concrete.

4. Conclusions

In our study, we synthesised and confirmed the structure of derivatives of salts of carboxylic

acids and dimethylaminopropylamine: 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium acetate, 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium hexanoate, 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium octanoate, and 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate.

Electrochemical and quantum chemical methods were used to assess the ability of the synthesised compounds to inhibit corrosion of reinforcement steel in a solution simulating concrete pore solution in the presence of chlorides. The results of the polarization measurements, impedance spectroscopy, and quantum chemical calculations are in good agreement. 3-(dimethylamino)propyl-1-ammonium terephthalate is expected to have the highest degree of protection (up to 71%) at the concentration of 2.0 g·dm⁻³. The highest degree of protection for the derivatives with alkyl radicals is 41–46% in the range of concentrations from 0.5 to 2.0 g·dm⁻³.

Contribution of the authors

The authors contributed equally to this article.

Conflict of interests

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