

# Corrosion inhibitors for carbon steel N80 in an acidic medium by using the compound (*E*)-*N*-(benzo[*d*]thiazol-2-yl)-1-(2,3-dihydrobenzo[*b*][1,4]dioxin-6-yl)methanimine

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## Abstract

A new heterocyclic organic corrosion inhibitor, the Schiff base [*N*-(benzo[*d*]thiazol-2-yl)-1-(2,3-dihydrobenzo[*b*][1,4]dioxin-6-yl)methanimine], has been prepared by reflux distillation. Its properties have been analyzed by means of FT-IR, UV-Vis, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, EI-Mass, SEM and EDS spectroscopic techniques. This synthesized chemical was used as a corrosion inhibitor in our study at various concentrations (0.0001, 0.0005, 0.001, and 0.005 M) and temperatures (298, 308, and 318 K) on carbon steel N80 in 1 M HCl and was studied by potentiodynamic polarization methods (Tafel plots). The findings proved that with an increase in concentration and temperature of the inhibitor, the percentage of inhibition efficiency (%*IE*) elevates. The most excellent corrosion inhibition efficiency of 95.71% was reached at 0.005 M at 318 K in 1 M HCl. The results of *Sh*<sub>1</sub> as a corrosion inhibitor indicated that the adsorption of the inhibitor on the surface of carbon steel was of physisorption type and obeyed the Langmuir adsorption isotherm. Accordingly, we also studied the activation energy, and thermodynamic parameters were calculated from the Langmuir adsorption isotherm, including the free energy  $\Delta G^0$ , enthalpy  $\Delta H^0$ , and entropy change  $\Delta S^0$ . This electrochemical method (Tafel extrapolation) along with SEM and EDS techniques confirmed that this prepared inhibitor protects carbon steel from corrosion by forming a film (protection layer) on its surface.

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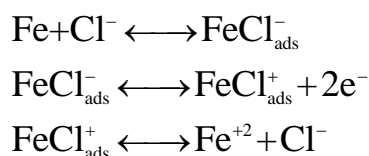
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**Keywords:** Schiff base, Tafel plot, adsorption isotherm, physisorption, Langmuir equation.

## 1. Introduction

Mild steel (MS) is frequently used in many industrial sectors, such as pipeline construction and acid pickling, due to its availability and excellent mechanical and physical characteristics [1]. In corrosive media, carbon steel corrosion occurs through chemical/electrochemical reactions between the metals and the aggressive environment. To minimize corrosive attacks on metallic materials, the application of corrosion inhibitors to protect metals from corrosion appears to be the most effective method of metal protection [2]. Thus, the inhibitors can be defined as substances used to prevent or reduce metal surface corrosion in corrosive environments [3] and they are among the types of protective measures

proposed against the corrosion process. An inhibitor is a chemical that significantly reduces the corrosion rate when added to the corrosion medium in a low concentration [4, 5] and inhibits corrosion by adsorption; thus, inhibitors that can adsorb on metal surfaces will impede such metal's dissolution or corrosion reaction in the corrosive medium and protect it by creating a film on the metal surface [6]. Effective organic inhibitors with triple bonds, conjugated double bonds, and resonance rings of aromatic and hetero atoms (oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen) in their structures act as corrosion inhibitors [7, 8]. The adsorption of a molecule on a metal surface depends on the polar function of the molecule [9]. These inhibitors work against metallic corrosion in acid and basic environments. Cyclic and non-cyclic nitrogen compounds are effective inhibitors against corrosion of mild steel in acid solutions [10]. The mechanism of dissolution of iron in an acid chloride medium can be represented [11] as follows:



Schiff bases are organic compounds that demonstrated their power against steel corrosion in acid media resulting from the presence of their adsorptive  $-\text{HC}=\text{N}$ -group exhibiting a lone pair of electrons on nitrogen atoms and a planar structure; they are easily synthesizable by condensation of primary amines and carbonyl compounds [12]. Current studies show that numerous organic inhibitors are adsorbed on the outer part of a metal surface by expelling water molecules from the outer surface and creating a dense film wall. The presence of a lone electron pair and  $\pi$ -electrons in the inhibitor molecules leads to acceleration of the process of electron transfer from the inhibitor to the metal, and thus, a coordinate covalent bond is formed responsible for transferring electrons from the inhibitor to the outer surface of the metal [13].

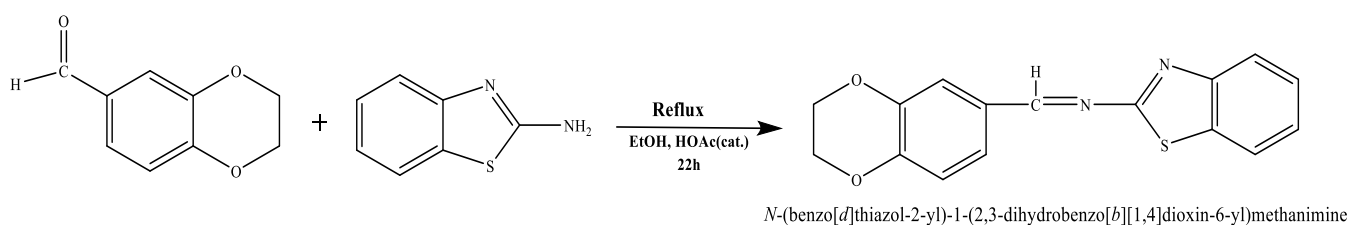
## 2. Materials and Instruments

The chemical products utilized in the experiment were: 2-aminobenzothiazol (analytical quality) from Merk Company; 1,4-benzodioxane-6-carboxaldehyde was from Alfa Aesar Company; and the other chemical compounds were from Sigma. In all of them, the purity was 99%, and these were used in the preparation. The alloy utilized to investigate the corrosion process was carbon steel N80; the weight percentage of its constituents were: C 4.97%, Si 0.29%, Au 12.15%, O 2.02, and Fe 80.57%. The FT-IR analysis of the synthesized compounds was performed at room temperature utilizing a Japanese-made Shimadzu 8400S with potassium bromide disks at  $400\text{--}4000\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The analysis of the UV-visible spectrum was carried out using the Japan PD-303 spectrometer.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum analysis was performed using Bruker 400 MHz and 100 MHz spectrometers, respectively. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as the internal reference, and DMSO was the solvent. The chemicals' mass spectra were captured using an Agilent Technologies 5975C mass

spectrometer (EI, 70 eV). Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) was used to study the surface morphology of the alloy utilizing the MIRA3 TESCAN device. Energy Dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) was used to evaluate alloy components utilizing the Oxford instrument device.

### 3. Synthesis of the Schiff Base

The Schiff base was prepared by the reaction of 1,4-benzodioxane-6-carboxaldehyde with 2-aminobenzothiazole under reflux conditions [14]. The reaction was performed by mixing 0.006 mole (0.9849 g) of 1,4-benzodioxane-6-carboxaldehyde dissolved in ethanol (12 ml) in a round flask of 100 ml capacity with 0.006 mole (0.9012 g) of 2-aminobenzothiazole dissolved in ethanol (12 ml), followed by addition of 3 drops glacial acetic acid. The mixture was refluxed for 22 hours while observing via TLC (*n*-hexane: ethyl acetate/60:40). The product forming a dark yellow crystalline precipitate was filtered off, washed, and parched to get the compound (Sh<sub>1</sub>). It was recrystallized from hot tetrahydrofuran (THF) to obtain the product in its pure form (melting point 179–182°C, 72% yield) as illustrated at Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Sh<sub>1</sub> preparation steps.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Chemistry

#### 1. FT-IR, UV-Vis, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and EI-Mass spectroscopy analysis

Several techniques were used to confirm the prepared compound, including FT-IR, UV-Vis, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, and EI-Mass spectroscopy. The FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>) spectrum of this compound (Sh<sub>1</sub>) shows strong bands at 1649.14 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=N of azomethine group), 1587.42 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=N ring), 1436.97–1533.41 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C=C ring), 3059.10–3130.47 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C–H aromatic) and 3059.10–3130.47 cm<sup>-1</sup> (C–H aliphatic) [15, 16], Figure 2. The UV-Vis spectrum of compound (Sh<sub>1</sub>) shows an absorption band at [219.5–286.0] and 339.5 nm as a result of electronic transitions  $\pi$ - $\pi^*$  (aromatic ring) and  $n$ - $\pi^*$  of (C=N) group, respectively [17], Figure 3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum data: 9.67 ppm [s, 1H, N=CH], 6.76–8.94 ppm [m, 7H, aromatic ring] and 3.07 ppm [d, 4H, –O–CH<sub>2</sub>], Figure 4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum: 30.88 ppm (methyl carbon), 111.53–166.33 ppm [aromatic carbon], 166.87 ppm [–C=N Schiff] and 172.99 ppm [–C=N ring], Figure 5. MS [EI, *m/z* (%): 295.4 (M<sup>+</sup>, 150) [18], Figure 6.

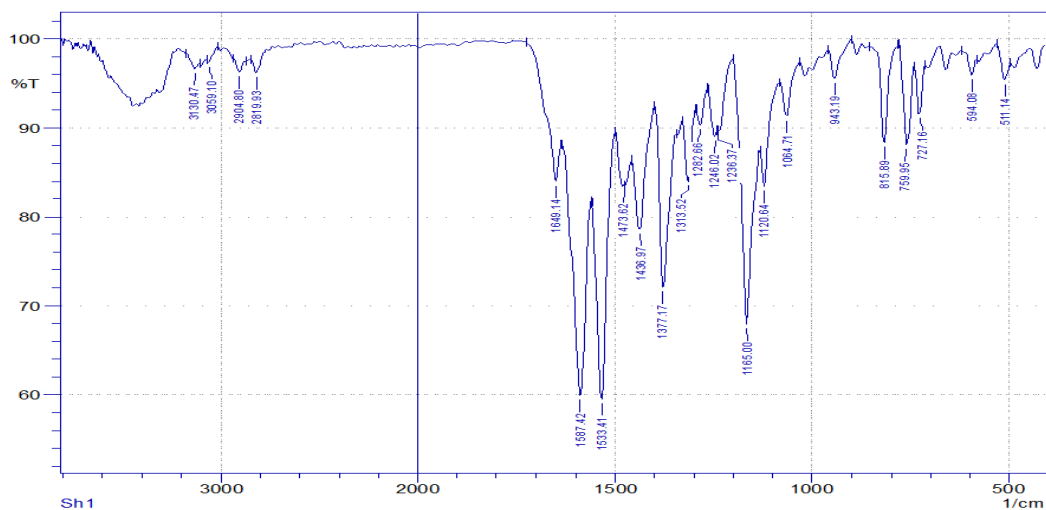


Figure 2. FT-IR spectrum of the Sh<sub>1</sub> molecule.

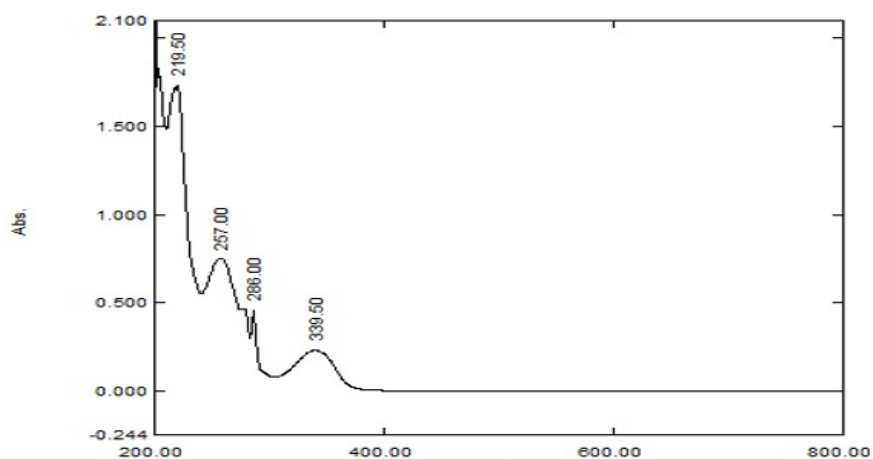


Figure 3. UV-Vis spectrum of the Sh<sub>1</sub> molecule.

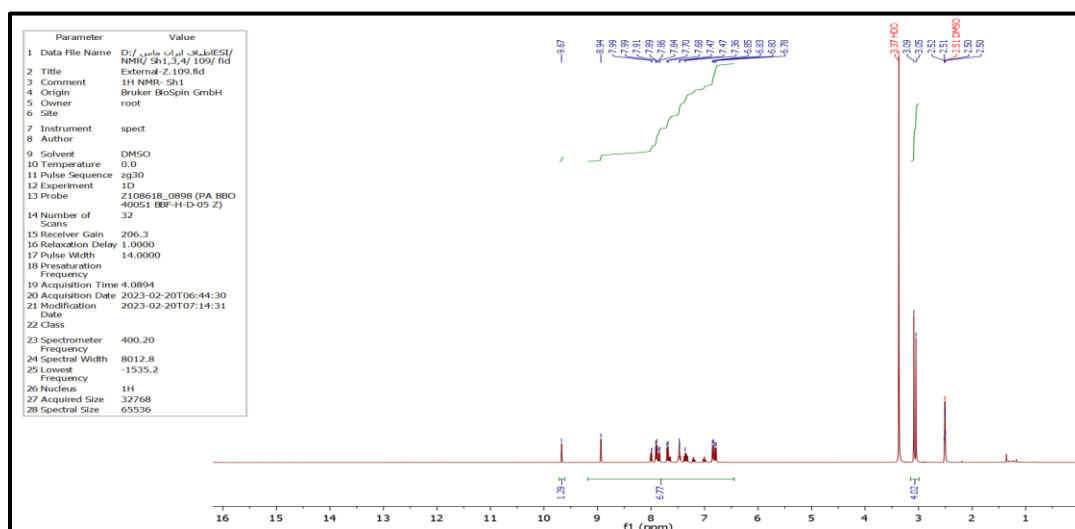


Figure 4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the Sh<sub>1</sub> molecule.

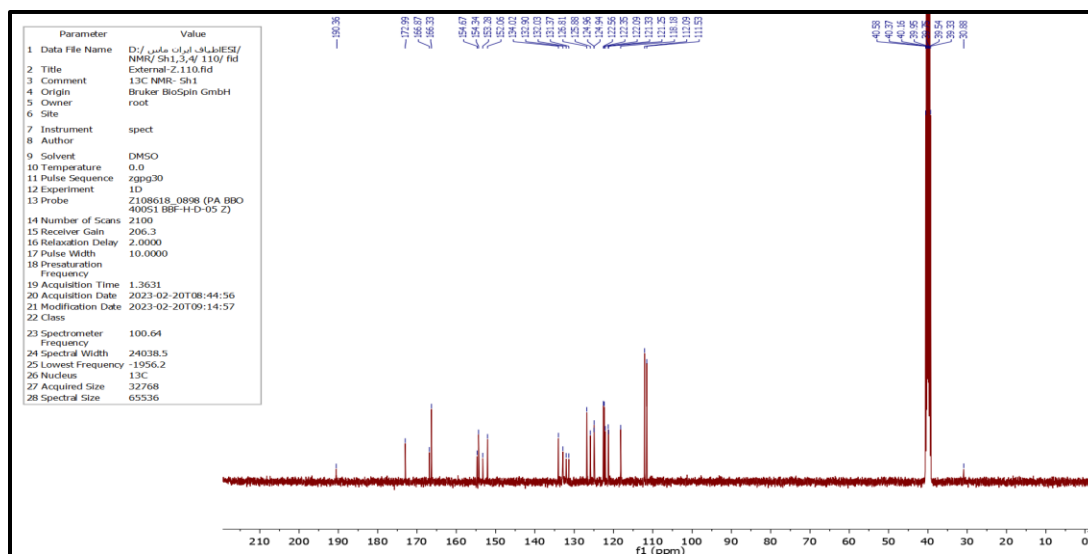


Figure 5.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of the Sh<sub>1</sub> molecule.

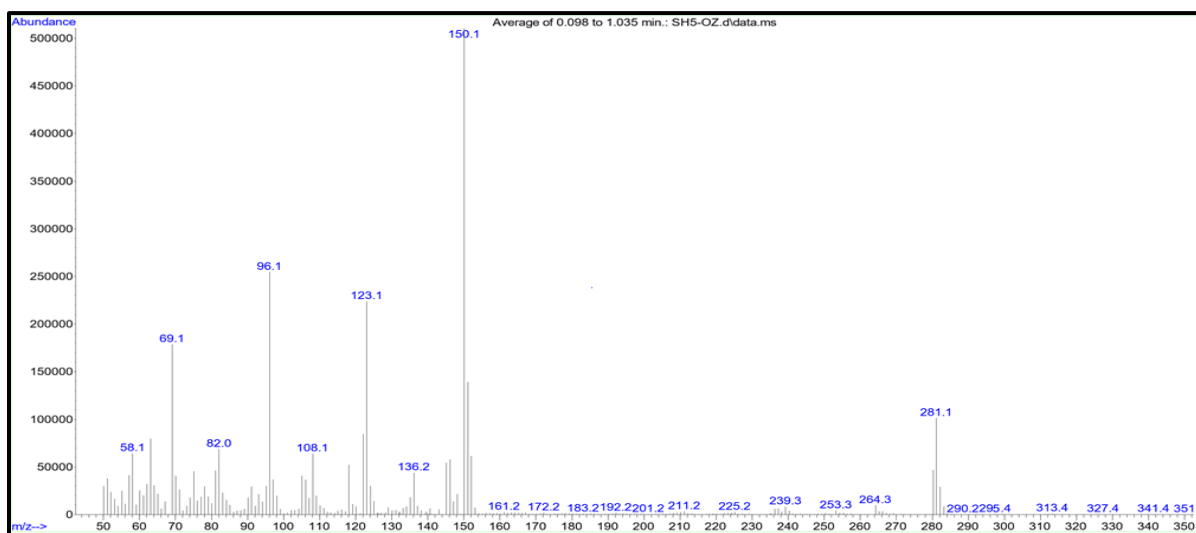
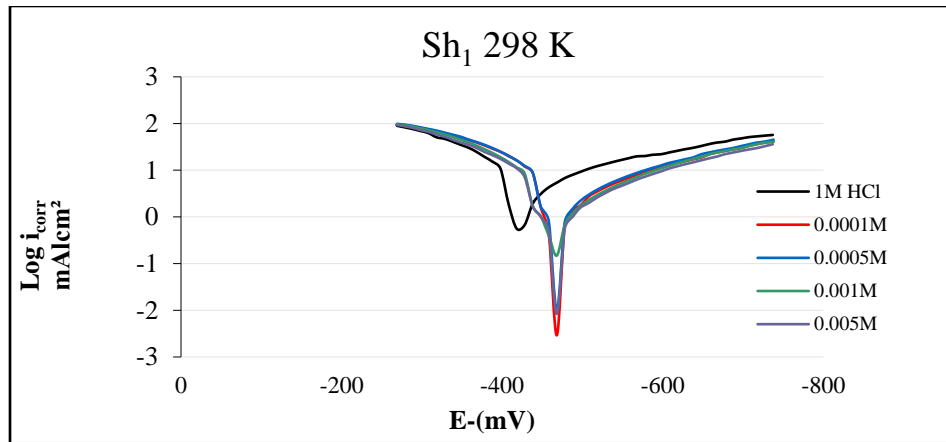


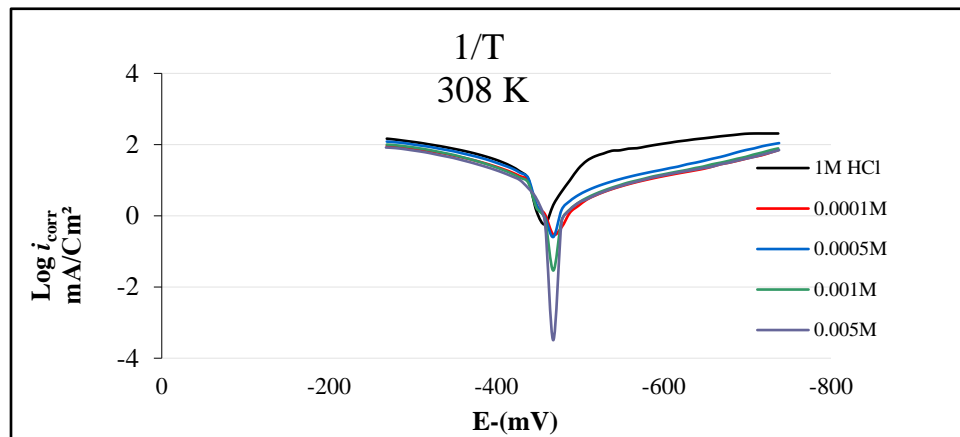
Figure 6. Sh<sub>1</sub> EI-Mass spectrum.

#### 4.2. Tafel extrapolation polarization analysis

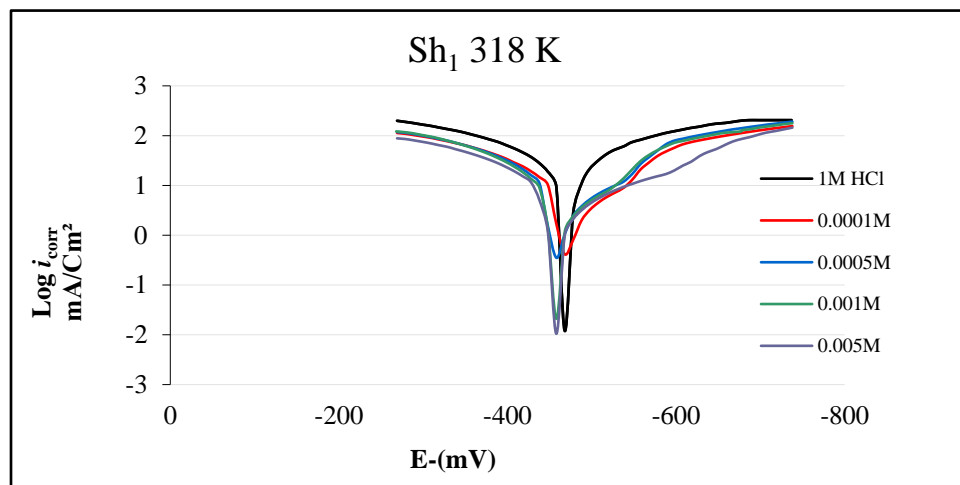
Tafel extrapolation curves were studied in 1 M of HCl. Carbon steel N80 was immersed in this solution in the absence and in the presence of various concentrations of inhibitor Sh<sub>1</sub>, at various temperatures (298, 308, and 318 K) as shown in Figure 7(a, b and c). With an increase in the concentration of Sh<sub>1</sub>, the corrosion potential shifts in the positive direction, while the anodic and cathodic Tafel slopes do not show a systematic change; moreover, the corrosion currents decrease. The (%IE) and ( $\Theta$ ) also increase depending on the concentration. Increasing the temperature at the same inhibitor concentration increases the corrosion current densities and decreases the inhibition efficiency [19].



(a)



(b)



(c)

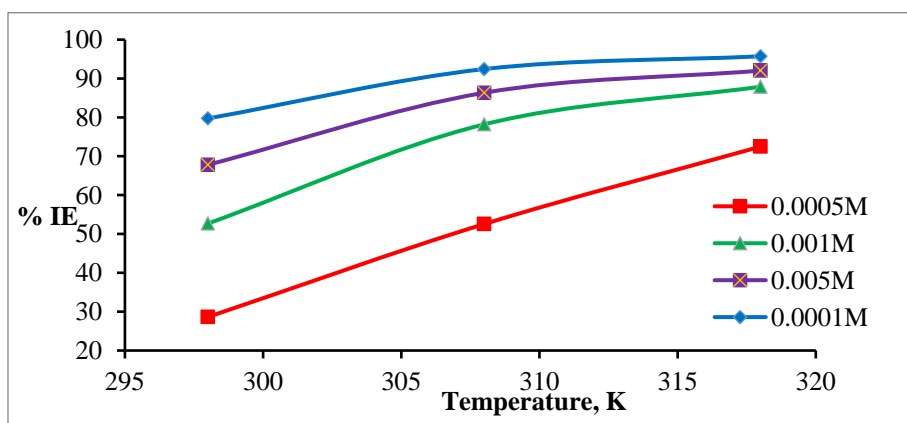
**Figure 7.** Tafel extrapolation polarization of steel in 1 M HCl at several temperatures (298, 308, and 318 K) at various concentrations of Sh<sub>1</sub> inhibitor.

Table 1 gives information about the measured variable values, including  $i_{\text{corr}}$  (corrosion current density),  $E_{\text{corr}}$  (corrosion potential),  $\beta_a$  (anodic slope),  $\beta_c$  (cathodic slope) of the Tafel curves, %IE = inhibition effectiveness percentage, and  $\theta$  (surface coverage). This technique indicates that the iron dissolution reaction is stopped by the inhibitor, which is evident when the current density of both the anode and cathode Tafel slopes decreases. The formation is due to an adsorbent layer formed from  $\text{Sh}_1$  on the surface of the metal that prevents the attack of the acid medium on it [20]. The electrochemical polarization measurements showed that both cathodic and anodic current densities decreased as the inhibitor concentrations increased. The findings indicate that the [%IE] increases with increasing concentration and temperature. Moreover, the best %IE = (95.71%) was provided by  $\text{Sh}_1$  at 0.005 M and 318 K, Table 1. The surface coverage ( $\Theta$ ) with the layer, as well as the percentage of inhibiting effectiveness (%IE), are calculated using Eqs. 1 [21] and 2 [22], respectively.

$$\Theta = \frac{i_{\text{corr}}^0 - i_{\text{corr}}}{i_{\text{corr}}^*} \quad (1)$$

$$\%IE = \theta \times 100 \quad (2)$$

This study investigates the corrosion current densities for the inhibited ( $i_{\text{corr}}$ ) and uninhibited ( $i_{\text{corr}}^0$ ) medium. Additionally, as the temperature exceeds 298 K, the (%IE) increases at various concentrations. The anodic current density shows little variation in the presence of the inhibitor, while the cathodic current density is significantly affected [23].



**Figure 8.** The effect of temperature on the inhibition efficiency percentage (%IE) at various inhibitor concentrations.

#### 4.3. Effect of temperature on the inhibition efficiency percentage and corrosion rate

The temperature's impact on the corrosion rate of carbon steel N80 in 1 M HCl and the  $\text{Sh}_1$  inhibition efficiency was examined using the Tafel polarization curves shown in Figure 8. The linear plots compare four concentrations in terms of effectiveness percentage between 298–318 K. Overall, the %IE increases with increasing temperature and concentration. Also, the corrosion rate increases with increasing temperatures but decreases with increasing

because of the increased adsorption of inhibitors on the metal surface. The greatest %IE in the 72–95.7% range is acquired at an optimum concentration (0.005 M) at 318 K [24], as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Tafel extrapolation polarization measurement parameters for blank (HCl) and Sh<sub>1</sub> inhibited solutions at 298–318K.

| Temp. [K] | Conc. of inhibitor [M] | $E_{\text{corr}}$ [mV] | $i_{\text{corr}}$ [mA/cm <sup>2</sup> ] | $\beta_c$ [mV/Dec] | $\beta_a$ [mV/Dec] | CR [mpy] | %IE   | $\Theta$ |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-------|----------|
| 298       | Blank (HCl)            | 426.8                  | 5.03                                    | −235               | 84.2               | 2.29     | –     | –        |
| 308       |                        | 469.3                  | 14.27                                   | −148               | 159.3              | 6.50     | –     | –        |
| 318       |                        | 468.2                  | 31.03                                   | −210               | 207.7              | 14.13    | –     | –        |
| 298       | 0.0001                 | 468.6                  | 3.59                                    | −249               | 100.7              | 1.63     | 28.62 | 0.28     |
| 308       |                        | 469.0                  | 6.57                                    | −270               | 92.3               | 2.99     | 52.55 | 0.52     |
| 318       |                        | 469.1                  | 8.54                                    | −162.4             | 106.9              | 3.88     | 72.47 | 0.72     |
| 298       | 0.0005                 | 467.8                  | 2.38                                    | −178.3             | 72.6               | 1.08     | 52.68 | 0.52     |
| 308       |                        | 468                    | 3.11                                    | −156.4             | 73.3               | 1.41     | 78.2  | 0.78     |
| 318       |                        | 458.7                  | 3.76                                    | −161.6             | 69.8               | 1.71     | 87.88 | 0.87     |
| 298       | 0.001                  | 468.8                  | 1.62                                    | −154.3             | 73                 | 0.73     | 67.79 | 0.67     |
| 308       |                        | 468.5                  | 1.95                                    | −142.5             | 65.8               | 0.88     | 86.33 | 0.86     |
| 318       |                        | 458.6                  | 2.47                                    | −109.1             | 50.1               | 1.12     | 92.03 | 0.92     |
| 298       | 0.005                  | 466.8                  | 1.02                                    | −130.3             | 63                 | 0.46     | 79.72 | 0.79     |
| 308       |                        | 468.3                  | 1.08                                    | −111.1             | 64.9               | 0.49     | 92.43 | 0.92     |
| 318       |                        | 457.8                  | 1.33                                    | −81.1              | 49.5               | 0.6      | 95.71 | 0.95     |

#### 4.4. Determination of activation energy ( $E_A$ )

From Arrhenius equation (Eq.3) we plot the  $\lg i_{\text{corr}}$  vs.  $1/T$  relationship (Figure 9). This equation extracts the activation energy ( $E_A$ ) from the slope (straight line).

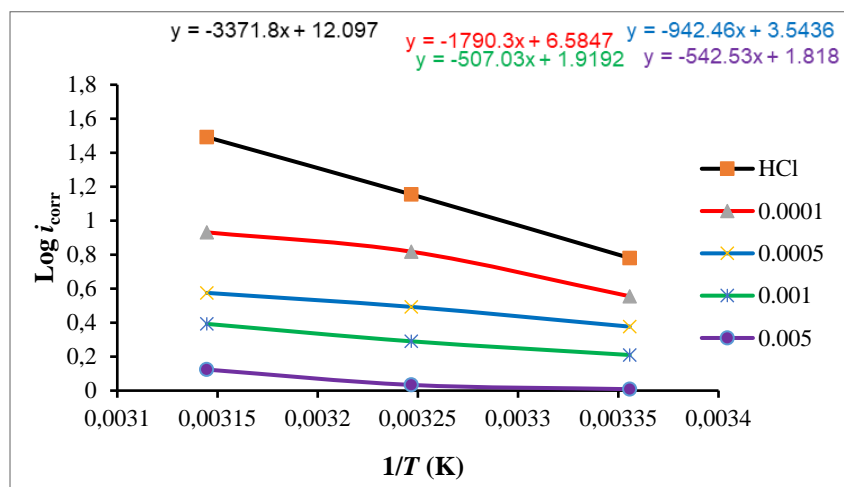
$$\text{Log } i_{\text{corr}} = \text{Log } A - \frac{E_A}{2.303RT} \quad (3)$$

$i_{\text{corr}}$ ,  $A$ ,  $E_A$ ,  $R$ , and  $T$  represent each the corrosion current density, the pre-exponential factor (the number of collisions in the inhibitor molecules), activation energy, universal gas constant =  $8.314 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ , and temperature in Kelvin, respectively. From it, we deduce the slope value, which is  $\frac{E_A}{2.303RT}$ , and its intercept is  $\text{Log } A$  [25].

From Table 2, we observe that the activation energy ( $E_A$ ) is reduced with an increase in inhibitor concentration because of the inhibitor molecules' gradual adsorption on carbon



steel N80. As a result, the experiment at higher temperatures approached equilibrium more closely [26]. We also note that the number of collisions of the inhibitor molecules decreases with increasing concentration, indicating that chemical adsorption of the inhibitor molecules occurs on the surface of carbon steel N80.



**Figure 9.** Arrhenius relationship in the absence and with inhibitor ( $\text{Sh}_1$ ) on carbon steel N80 for a range of temperatures (298, 308, and 318 K).

**Table 2.** Activation energy ( $E_A$ ) and pre-exponential factor ( $A$ ) values in the absence and with the inhibitor.

| Compound                | Conc. (M) | $E_A$ (kJ/mol) | Pre-exponential factor (A) |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Blank (HCl)             | 1         | 64.56          | $12.50 \cdot 10^{11}$      |
| $\text{Sh}_1$ inhibitor | 0.0001    | 34.28          | $38.43 \cdot 10^5$         |
|                         | 0.0005    | 18.05          | $34.96 \cdot 10^2$         |
|                         | 0.001     | 16.59          | $12.96 \cdot 10^2$         |
|                         | 0.005     | 10.39          | 65.76                      |

#### 4.5. Adsorption isotherm

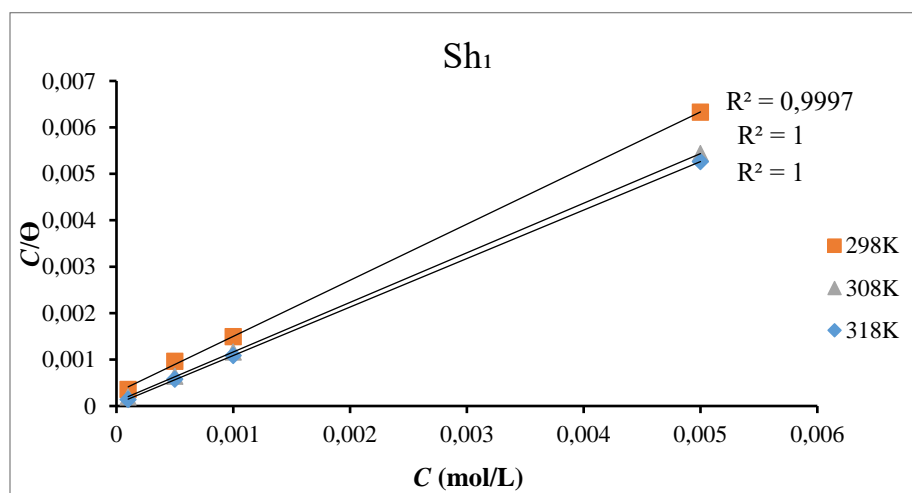
To comprehend the corrosion inhibition mechanism and the inhibitor molecules' adsorption behaviour on mild steel N80 surface, the Tafel extrapolation plot [27] was used to calculate data on the surface coverage ( $\Theta$ ) at various inhibitor concentrations. The data was utilized to select the optimal isotherm for estimating the adsorption technique. The validity of the results was graphically demonstrated by comparing them to different isotherms at various temperatures (298, 308, and 318 K). The relationship between the experimental findings and the isotherm is derived using Langmuir's adsorption isotherm equation [28, 29]. Accordingly, the Langmuir adsorption model assumes reversible physisorption on an energetically homogeneous adsorbent due to Van der Waals forces, according to Eq. 4.

$$\frac{C}{\theta} = \frac{1}{K_{\text{ads}}} + C \quad (4)$$

where  $C$  denotes the concentration of inhibitor,  $\theta$  is the surface coverage, and  $K_{\text{ads}}$  denotes the metal-inhibitor interaction equilibrium constant. As seen in Figure 10, a linear plot was obtained in the  $C/\theta$  vs.  $C$  coordinates, and  $K_{\text{ads}}$  from the intercept data represents the metal-inhibitor interaction. Subsequently, Eq. 5 was used to ascertain typical changes in free energy  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0$  due to adsorption.

$$\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0 = RT \ln(K_{\text{ads}} \times 55.5) \quad (5)$$

where  $R$ ,  $T$ , and  $K$  refer to the universal gas constant, absolute temperature, and equilibrium constant, respectively; 55.5 denotes the molar concentration of water in solution in mol/L. The results were used to determine the spontaneity and stability of the adsorption process on the surface of carbon steel N80. The negative values of  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0$  supports the adsorption spontaneity and adsorbed layer's stability. Typically,  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0$  values up to or equal to  $-20$  kJ/mol indicate physisorption, while values up to or equal to  $-40$  kJ/mol indicate chemisorption [30, 31]. The value of  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0$  from this experiment indicates reversible physical adsorption on an energetically homogeneous adsorbent surface and electrostatic interaction. The data for the studied inhibitor is seen in Table 3.



**Figure 10.** The Langmuir adsorption isotherm for Sh<sub>1</sub> inhibitor on carbon steel N80 in 1 M HCl at various temperatures.

We notice that as temperature increases, the  $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0$  value increases. In that case, its adsorption is more favourable with a temperature increase, and this is also evidence that the inhibitor used undergoes physical adsorption on an energetically homogeneous adsorbent surface. The adsorption enthalpy  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^0$  was calculated [32] according to Vant' Hoff formula (Eq. 6).

$$\text{Log } K_{\text{ads}} = \frac{-\Delta H_{\text{ads}}}{2.303RT} + \text{Cons} \quad (6)$$

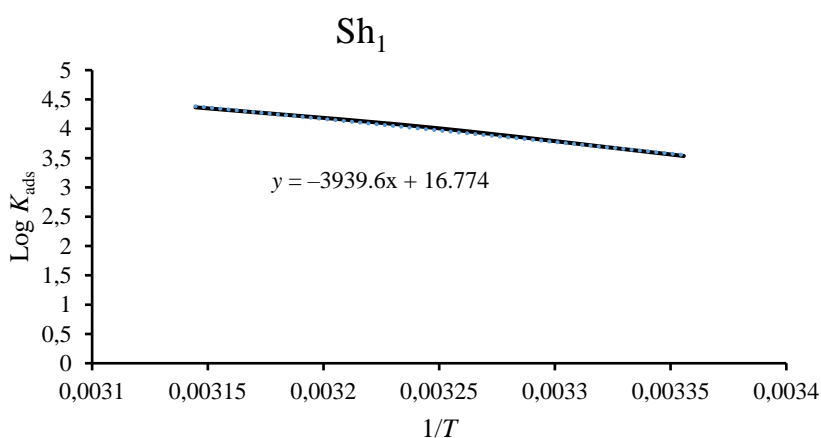
When  $\text{Log } K_{\text{ads}}$  is plotted against  $1/T$ , a linear line with a negative slope equal to  $(-\Delta H_{\text{ads}}/2.303R)$  is obtained, as illustrated in Figure 11. The thermodynamic method can estimate the entropy  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^0$  of the  $\text{Sh}_1$  inhibitor (Eq. 7).

$$\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0 = \Delta H_{\text{ads}}^0 - T\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^0 \quad (7)$$

Based on the literature [33, 34], if  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^0$  is negative, thermal transmission to the environment occurs during adsorption, indicating an exothermic reaction, and can either occur physically, chemically, or both. Conversely, if  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^0$  is positive, the heat transfer occurs from the medium to the system, indicating the endothermic nature of the reaction and the chemical adsorption process. Also, the value of  $\Delta H$  bigger than 100 kJ/mole corresponds to chemical adsorption. In contrast, the  $\Delta H$  values smaller than 100 kJ/mol means physical adsorption. The study's findings suggest that the adsorption of the inhibitor is characterized by  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^0$  value of 75.4313 kJ/mol, indicating physisorption. So, the  $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^0$  value is significant and positive, indicating this is increased in disorder upon transformation from a reactant towards the species adsorbed, which enhances adsorption on the metal surface [21, 35]

**Table 3.** Thermodynamic functions of  $\text{Sh}_1$  adsorption on carbon steel N80 in 1 M HCl at various temperatures.

| Temp.<br>K | $R^2$  | $K_{\text{ads}}$ | $\text{Log } K_{\text{ads}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{ads}}^0$<br>[kJ/mol] | $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}^0$<br>[kJ/mol] | $\Delta S_{\text{ads}}^0$<br>(J/mol·K <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|------------|--------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 298        | 0.9997 | 3433.709         | 3.5357                       | -30.1217                              |                                       | 354.2   |
| 308        | 1      | 10471.71         | 4.0200                       | -33.9878                              | 75.4313                               | 355.2   |
| 318        | 1      | 23227.71         | 4.3660                       | -37.1976                              |                                       | 354.1   |



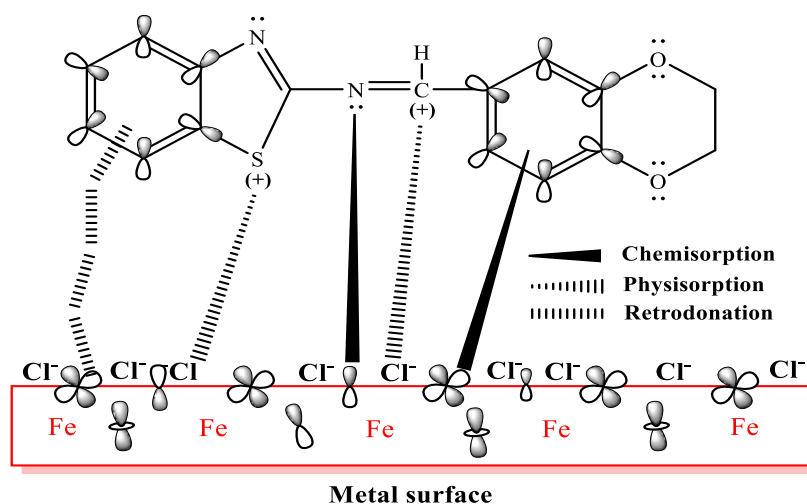
**Figure 11.** Correlation of  $\text{Log } K_{\text{ads}}$  vs.  $1/T$  for carbon steel N80 in 1 M HCl solution with varying  $\text{Sh}_1$  concentrations.

#### 4.6. Mechanism of $Sh_1$ inhibition

Adsorption is enhanced by heteroatoms containing single pairs of electrons, such as N, O, S, or P, as well as  $\pi$ -electrons from multiple bonds or aromatic rings [36]. So, chemisorption is the process by which unbonded electrons are transferred or shared between the molecule that acts as an inhibitor and the metal's outermost layer [37]. As a result, a thin barrier coating or chemical bonds are formed due to the reaction between the inhibitor and the metal. Organic inhibitors can adsorb on metal surfaces through one of these mechanisms:

1. Attraction due to electrostatic force between charged atoms and metals.
2. Interaction of a metal surface and unpaired electrons.
3. Attraction of the metallic layer with  $\pi$ -electrons.

The number of locations for adsorption, the charge density, molecule size, manner of contact with the metal surface, and ability to create an insoluble metal complex all contribute to a corrosion inhibitor's performance in preventing carbon steel corrosion in a corrosive environment. The bond across the molecules that inhibit the external layer of mild steel is caused by the electrons at the double-bonded molecules and the electrons that are free on the oxygen and nitrogen particles, creating chemical bonds with the metal's outermost layer [38], as illustrated in Figure 12.

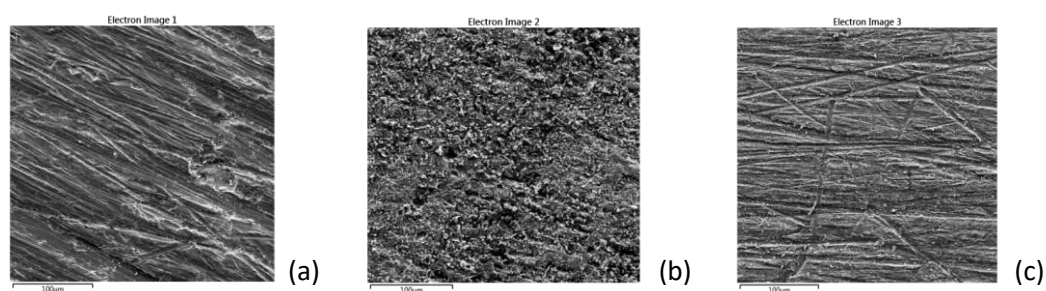


**Figure 12.** Adsorption mechanism for  $Sh_1$  inhibitor on the metal surface.

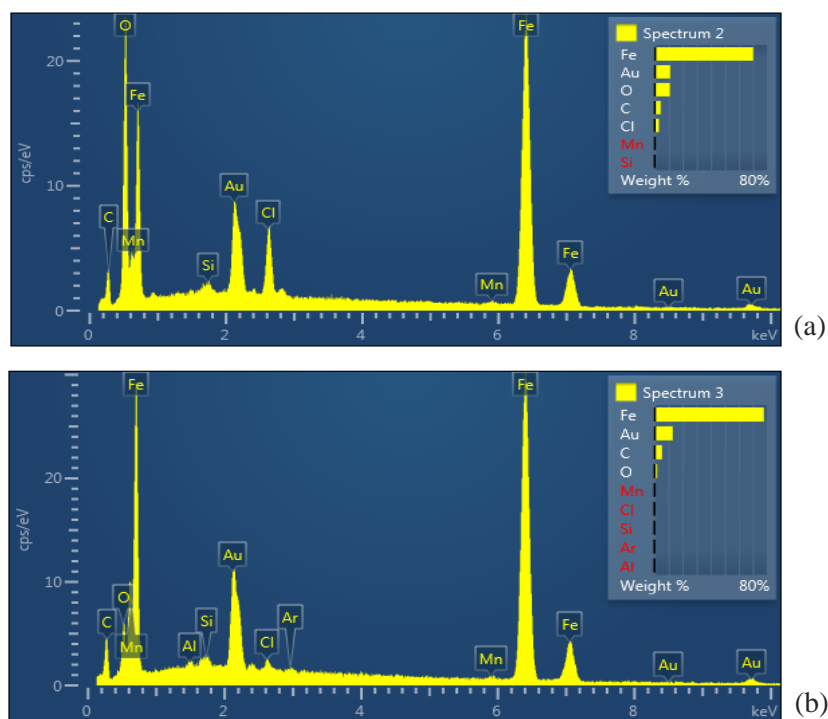
#### 4.7. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) analysis

The surface morphology of the metal was analyzed using SEM following contact in 1 M HCl and  $Sh_1$  for approximately three hours. Figure 13 (a) shows that the newly polished mild steel surface appears smooth. However, as depicted in Figure 13 (b), the surface of the mild steel exhibits clefts and a bumpy texture due to the corrosive effects of 1 M HCl. On the other hand, Figure 13 (c) illustrates the smooth surface of the specimen without any

observable corrosion or holes in the presence of  $\text{Sh}_1$ . It suggests that  $\text{Sh}_1$  builds a shielding barrier on the surface of mild steel, preventing corrosion. This research aims to determine the components for compounds produced in the outermost layer of metal in 1 M HCl with and without  $\text{Sh}_1$ . After that, the EDS chart analysis of the sites identified in SEM photos for Figures 13 (b) and (c) is displayed in Figures 14 (a) and (b). Consequently, Percentages of atomic elements found throughout the outer layer alloy from EDS images on rusted surfaces are 10.70% O, 3.02% Cl, 4.24% C, and 70.22% Fe. It denotes the corrosion of mild steel N80 due to the formation of iron oxide on the face of the alloy's layer. Likewise, the elemental composition acquired in the presence of  $\text{Sh}_1$  (1.97% O, 0.44% Cl, 5.42% C, and 77.79% Fe) confirms the creation of an inhibitor barrier in this zone [39, 40]



**Figure 13.** SEM photos of mild steel N80: (a) specimen surface polished before immersion; (b) after exposure to 1 M HCl solution; (c) after exposure to 1 M HCl solution containing 0.005 M of  $\text{Sh}_1$  inhibitor.



**Figure 14.** EDX spectrum of mild steel N80 following contact with various solutions: (a) spectrum of the specimen surface subjected to 1 M HCl solution; (b) spectrum of the specimen surface subjected to 1 M HCl solution containing 0.005 M of  $\text{Sh}_1$  inhibitor.

## Conclusion

The results of the study on the Sh<sub>1</sub> compound demonstrated its effectiveness in controlling carbon steel corrosion in an acidic medium, with an ultimate inhibition efficiency of 95.71% at a concentration of 0.005 M and a temperature of 318 K as determined by the potentiodynamic polarization method. The adsorption ability of Sh<sub>1</sub> inhibitor on surfaces of metals obeys the Langmuir equation. It is a physisorption type inhibitor, as determined by evaluation of various thermodynamic data and analysis of the adsorption isotherm. The surface morphology and EDS X-ray spectroscopy study further confirm that the inhibition activity of Sh<sub>1</sub> occurs via its adsorption on the metal surface.

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## Authors' Declaration

Conflicts of Interest: None.

We hereby confirm that all the Figures and Tables in the manuscript are ours.

Ethical Clearance: The project was approved by the local ethical committee at the University of Basrah.

## Authors' Contribution Statement

Abeer Mohammed Jabbar participated in the following roles: conducting and following up all reactions, measuring spectra of the prepared compound, and following the corrosion measurements of the prepared compound.

Adnan Sultan Abdalnabi participated in the following roles: help in interpretation of the spectral data of the prepared compound, corrosion measurements of the prepared compound, the interpretation of their results, manuscript review, and proofreading.

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