

## Metal welding green corrosion inhibitor: A review

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### Abstract

Welding has been a fundamental tool in the evolution of metallurgy, to combine metal components to construct structures, cars, machinery, and other products in industries. Welded metal can corrode for a variety of reasons, therefore preventing corrosion and determining the fundamental reasons are critical to resolving the issue. Corrosion of welded metal must be prevented by various methods, including the application of natural corrosion inhibitors. Corrosion inhibitors are compounds that are used during the welding process to reduce the effects of corrosion on metal surfaces. Plants extract-based corrosion inhibitors can help prolong the service life of welded metal structures and components in metal welding procedures. The plant extracts indicated below have demonstrated potential as metal welding corrosion inhibitors. Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) extract, aloe vera extract, and rambutan fruit peel extract have all shown promise as corrosion inhibitors in metal welding. Oleochemicals can be used as corrosion inhibitors in metal welding as bio-based coatings. *iso*-Undecenoic and *iso*-undecanoic acid based polyol esters can be utilized as corrosion inhibitors during metal welding. Oleochemical-based corrosion inhibitors are frequently preferred over traditional petroleum-based inhibitors due to their lower environmental impact. Oleochemical corrosion inhibitors are generally compatible with a wide range of metals. The review highlights the importance of corrosion prevention in metal welding and discusses the potential of plant extracts and oleochemicals as effective corrosion inhibitors.

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### 1. Introduction

Welding has been a fundamental tool in the evolution of metallurgy, allowing for the fabrication of complicated shapes and strong structures [1]. The capacity to combine metals in diverse combinations has transformed industries ranging from construction to automotive, aircraft, and beyond.

Forge welding was an ancient procedure in which metal pieces were heated and then hammered together to make a weld [2]. This procedure was employed in blacksmithing for the manufacture of tools and weapons. Aside from that, prior to the contemporary welding procedures, metal was generally joined with rivets or bolts [3], which limited design flexibility [4] and increased weight [5]. Welding technology advanced significantly throughout the twentieth century, enabling for more complicated shapes and stronger joints. Metal welding creates a variety of corrosion throughout usage, necessitating the development of diverse corrosion treatment procedures, in particular, those based on natural inhibitors.

## 2. The Metal Needs to be Welded

Metal welding is necessary to combine metal components to produce structures, vehicles [6], machines [7], and other items in industries including shipbuilding, automotive, aerospace, and construction. Metal welding may be necessary to fix damage to metal components [8] and structures [9] resulting from wear and tear, corrosion, or mishaps. This can entail repairing fractures, strengthening weak areas, or swapping out damaged pieces.



**Figure 1.** Welded motorbike exhaust joints that are corroded.

Metal components or structures can be made to order using welding to satisfy certain specifications [10]. This might entail changing the size, providing features, or incorporating extra components. Buildings, bridges, pipelines, and other infrastructure projects that require secure joining of metal components to endure a variety of loads [11] and climatic conditions [12] are constructed with the help of welding.

Metal welding is widely used in industry [13] and commerce [14] for jobs including building storage tanks, producing equipment, assembling machinery, and installing structural components. Metal welding is widely utilized in the automotive [15] and transportation [16] sectors to manufacture automobiles, trailers, railcars, and airplanes as well as to repair and modify already existing components. The underwater laser

welding/cladding technology is a promising and advanced approach that might be widely used in the repair of damaged equipment [17]. FSW (friction stir welding) is increasingly used in aerospace applications to weld structures comprised of high-strength aluminium alloys, such as large-volume fuel tanks and various components of business jet aircraft [18].

The construction and upkeep of oil refineries, power plants, and other energy facilities depend heavily on welding [19]. Boilers, pressure vessels, pipelines, and other essential parts are built using it. Moreover, welding is a common technique used to create metal artwork and sculptures. Metal components are shaped and joined by artists using welding to fulfil their artistic vision [20].

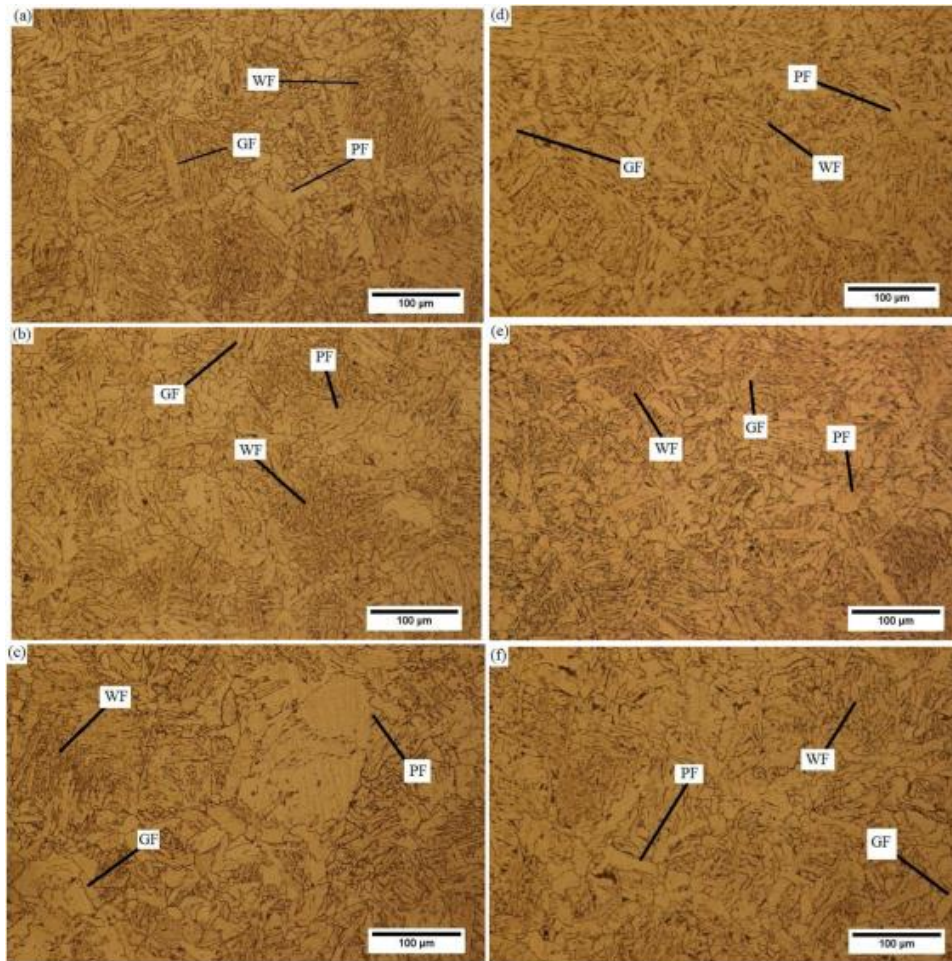
### 3. Corrosion of Welded Metal

Welded metal can corrode for several reasons, thus preventing corrosion and identifying its underlying causes are essential to solve the problem. The following are some explanations for why welded metal may be prone to corrosion: welding procedure, the base metal welding, welding filler material, heat affected zone (HAZ), and others.

Some welding procedures, such as arc welding, can create heat-affected zones [21] and change the base metal's metallurgical characteristics [22], which may increase its susceptibility to corrosion. When chromium carbide precipitates at grain boundaries in some metals and alloys, especially stainless steels, certain welding procedures can cause intergranular corrosion to arise [23]. Metal arc welding produces a heat-affected zone with micro-sized corrosion pits [24]. 409M ferritic stainless steel welded by GMAW (gas metal arc welding) has a corrosion rate of 0.4316-0.5285 mpy in 3.5% NaCl solution [25]. Austenitic 304L stainless steel welded with a laser beam produces a reduced heat-affected zone and has a corrosion rate of 0.09732 in/year (inches per year) in ferric chloride solution [26].

**Table 1.** The percentage of different phases in the weld line of specimens with different weld heat input [24].

Secondary phase, %	Acicular ferrite, %	Widmanestatten ferrite, %	Polygonal ferrite, %	Grain boundary ferrite, %	Specimen
8	60	17	17	11	X42–X42 WH = 0.61 kJ/mm
6	34	11	26	15	X42–X42 WH = 0.68 kJ/mm
5	31	4	30	17	X42–X42 WH = 0.74 kJ/mm



**Figure 2.** Microstructure of the HAZ for specimens welded with different weld heat inputs: (a) X-42 and 0.61 kJ/mm; (b). X-42 and 0.68 kJ/mm; (c) X-42 and 0.74 kJ/mm; (d) grade B and 0.61 kJ/mm; (e) grade B and 0.68 kJ/mm; (f) grade B and 0.74 kJ/mm. GF stands for grain boundary ferrite, WF stands for Widmanstatten ferrite and PF stands for polygonal ferrite [24].

The corrosion resistance of various metals and alloys varies. The key to preventing corrosion is to select the right base metal for the particular use [27] and environment [28]. The corrosion resistance of the base metal may not always be matched by the filler material used in welding. This problem can be lessened by choosing filler materials that are compatible with each other and have sufficient resistance to corrosion [29]. S201 is a pure copper filler material that may be used for incompatible welding metals such as titanium and copper utilising the gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW) method, which produces improved plasticity and tensile strength [30].

The welding process can alter the microstructure and characteristics of the region immediately surrounding the weld, which could make it more susceptible to corrosion. The process of welding has the potential to leave residual stresses in the welded metal [31], which could facilitate the initiation and spread of corrosion, particularly in regions where stress concentration is present [32]. Inadequate surface preparation prior to welding, such as

insufficient removal of impurities, rust, or scale, can weaken the weld's integrity [33] and make it more susceptible to corrosion [34].

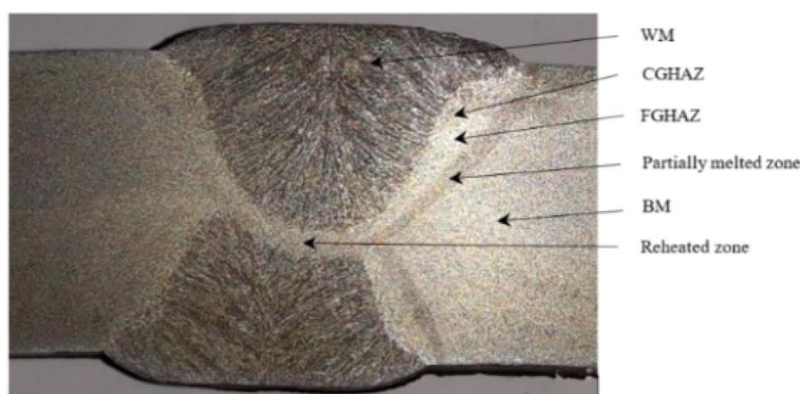
#### 4. Prevention of Welded Metal Corrosion

Several preventive actions can be performed to reduce or eliminate welded metal corrosion, such as: appropriate material selection, correct welding technique, post-weld treatment, and frequent inspection and maintenance.

Based on the desired use and environment, select base metals [35] and filler materials [36] with the appropriate corrosion resistance. Adding 1% nickel filler to welded carbon steel pipes reduces corrosion by up to 0.1 mpy and extends their lifespan to 30 years [37]. The AA6082 and AA5052 aluminium alloy specimens made with 95% Mg and 5% Cr filler show a lower corrosion rate (0.012275 mm/y) than the same metal combination that is friction stir welded without filler materials (0.072319 mm/y) [38].

A correct welding technique using the proper welding procedures and parameters can reduce heat input [39] and preserve the integrity of the welded joint [40]. 12Cr2Mo1R low carbon steel and S30408 stainless steel were joined using arc-assisted tungsten insert gas (AA-TIG) backing welding and submerged arc welding (SAW) to fill the cutout [41]. Tensile strength was enhanced up to 1200 rpm of tool rotation and 45 mm/min of welding speed in FSW (friction stir welding) of aluminium alloys AA7075 and AA2014, to reduce heat and corrosion rates in the welding zone [42].

Post-weld treatment can improve the welded metal's resistance to corrosion, such as high-entropy alloy (HEA) coating [43], pickling in acid media [44], or recrystallized metal surface passivation [45]. API 5LX-52 arc steel welded joints passivated with molybdate and submerged in a 3.5% NaCl solution have a corrosion rate of 0.096 MPY [46]. PWHT (post-weld heat treatment) effectively reduced intergranular corrosion in ENiCrFe-7 weld overlay cladding materials after 615°C/48 h [47].



**Figure 3.** The macromorphology of welded X-52 steel pipeline [46].

**Table 2.** Electrochemical kinetic parameters of X-52 steel in a 3.5% NaCl solution with different inhibitor concentrations [46].

Regions	Inhibitor concentration, %	$E_{\text{corr}}$ , mV <sub>SCE</sub>	$i_{\text{corr}}$ , $\mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$	CR, mmpy	IE%
Base metal	0	−590.40	25.26	0.142	0
	0.1	−527.58	9.225	0.058	63.48
	0.2	−426.71	0.918	0.005	96.37
	0.3	−427.76	0.345	0.002	98.63
	0.4	−387.41	0.273	0.002	98.92
HAZ	0	−634.88	96.91	0.535	0
	0.1	−459.19	24.81	0.140	74.40
	0.2	−486.48	21.36	0.120	77.97
	0.3	−454.39	1.16	0.007	98.81
	0.4	−396.75	0.851	0.005	99.12
Weld metal	0	−627.52	16.77	0.096	0
	0.1	−527.58	9.23	0.058	44.97
	0.2	−420.97	0.980	0.006	94.15
	0.3	−445.94	0.662	0.004	96.05
	0.4	−373.07	0.170	0.001	98.99

Surface preparation guarantees correct fusion and eliminates impurities, by thoroughly cleaning and preparing the surfaces to be welded [48]. A superhydrophobic Cu-Co coating was successfully applied to the surface of copper-nickel (Cu-Ni) B10 alloy welded joints via electrodeposition, resulting in exceptional thermal stability, self-cleaning, and a reduction in corrosion rate from 0.95651 to 0.00610 mpy [49].

The welded metal can be protected from the corrosive environment by applying coatings [50] or corrosion inhibitors [51]. An inhibition efficacy of up to 91.7% was observed in a study of imidazole as a corrosion inhibitor in carbon steel welding in an alkaline district heating system [52].

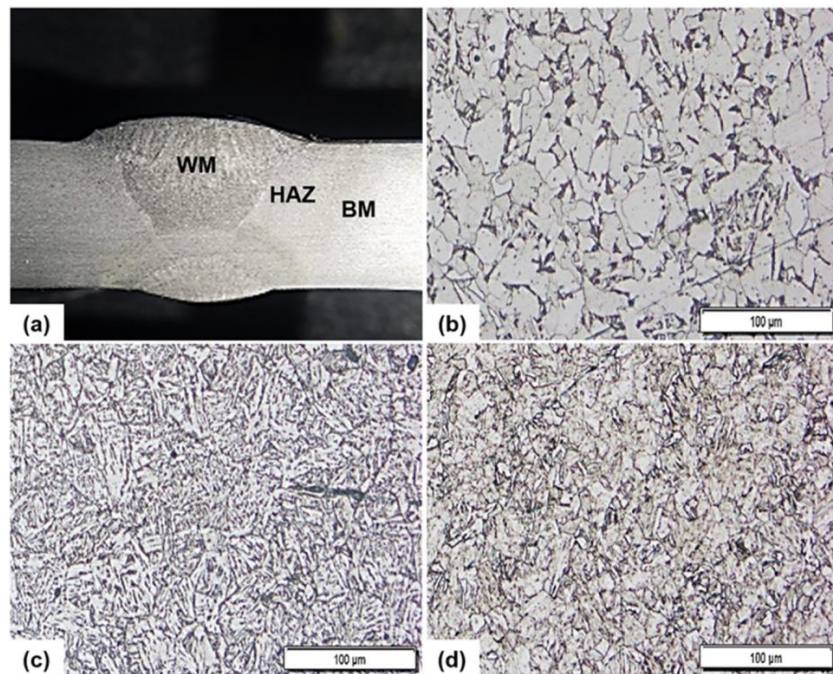
To stop further degradation, welded components have to be periodically checked for corrosion [53] and maintenance procedures should be carried out as necessary [54]. It is feasible to reduce the risk of corrosion and guarantee the durability and dependability of welded structures and components by being aware of the elements that lead to corrosion in welded metal and putting the proper preventive measures in place.

## 5. Plant Extracts as Metal Welding Corrosion Inhibitors

The potential of plant extracts as corrosion inhibitors in metal welding processes has been investigated. Many organic chemicals found in plant extracts, including flavonoids, phenols,

alkaloids, tannins, and organic acids, have the ability to suppress corrosion [55]. The following plant extracts have demonstrated potential as metal welding corrosion inhibitors: Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) Extract, Aloe Vera Extract, and rambutan fruit peel extract.

Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) extract contains azadirachtin, nimbin, and nimbidin, which significantly reduce corrosion [56]. Azadirachtin produces a thin layer on metal surfaces, shielding them from corrosion reactions [57]. Nimbin can prevent corrosion-induced fractures in metal surfaces [58]. Aloe vera extract has organic components that have been studied for their ability to suppress corrosion, such as polysaccharides, phenolics, and organic acids [59]. Rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum* L.) fruit peel extract, which is rich in phenolic compound [60], has been used as a natural inhibitor in welded carbon steel. Its inhibitory efficiency can reach 83% in 3.5% NaCl [61] and 97% in 1 M HCl [62].



**Figure 4.** (a) Macrograph of welded samples, (b) weld metal (WM), (c) heat-affected zone (HAZ), (d) base metal (BM) [62].

**Table 3.** Corrosion parameters calculated by using Tafel extrapolation [62].

NP Extract, g/L	$\beta_a$ , V/dec	$-\beta_c$ , V/dec	$E_{corr}$ , V	$i_{corr}$ , A/cm <sup>2</sup>	Corrosion rate, mm/year	IE%
<b>WM</b>						
0	0.096	0.111	-0.414	$1.64 \cdot 10^{-3}$	19.3	0
1	0.101	0.105	-0.438	$1.81 \cdot 10^{-4}$	2.13	89
2	0.081	0.081	-0.442	$9.10 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.07	94
3	0.075	0.066	-0.437	$8.06 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.95	95

NP Extract, g/L	$\beta_a$ , V/dec	$-\beta_c$ , V/dec	$E_{corr}$ , V	$i_{corr}$ , A/cm <sup>2</sup>	Corrosion rate, mm/year	IE%
4	0.068	0.052	-0.439	$6.52 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.77	96
5	0.094	0.079	-0.438	$5.72 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.67	97
6	0.137	0.101	-0.434	$1.41 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1.66	91
<b>HAZ</b>						
0	0.204	0.143	-0.450	$3.41 \cdot 10^{-4}$	4.01	0
1	0.105	0.102	-0.441	$2.49 \cdot 10^{-4}$	2.93	27
2	0.117	0.085	-0.440	$2.04 \cdot 10^{-4}$	2.40	40
3	0.096	0.071	-0.436	$8.23 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.97	76
4	0.084	0.076	-0.447	$7.54 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.89	78
5	0.086	0.058	-0.436	$6.69 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.78	80
6	0.097	0.076	-0.440	$7.49 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.88	78
<b>BM</b>						
0	0.126	0.145	-0.432	$3.46 \cdot 10^{-4}$	4.08	0
1	0.120	0.118	-0.427	$2.38 \cdot 10^{-4}$	2.80	31
2	0.132	0.098	-0.432	$2.07 \cdot 10^{-4}$	2.43	40
3	0.140	0.067	-0.421	$1.57 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1.85	56
4	0.091	0.065	-0.430	$1.04 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1.23	70
5	0.112	0.077	-0.427	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1.40	65
6	0.103	0.078	-0.422	$1.2 \cdot 10^{-4}$	1.41	65

Plant extracts have the potential to be applied in multiple forms, including coatings on metal surfaces, aqueous solutions, and organic solvent solutions. They work by covering the metal surface with a protective layer that prevents corrosive environmental attacks [63].

Plant extract-based corrosion inhibitors can help prolong the service life of welded metal structures and components in metal welding procedures [64], where corrosion can be a major concern due to the exposure of metal surfaces to severe environments. Nevertheless, to ascertain whether these inhibitors are effective and compatible with certain metal alloys and welding procedures, extensive testing and assessment must be done. For the intended corrosion protection, these inhibitors' concentrations and application techniques must also be optimised.



## 6. Oleochemicals as Metal Welding Corrosion Inhibitors

Oleochemicals can be used to reduce corrosion during metal welding procedures [65]. Corrosion inhibitors are compounds that are used during the welding process to reduce the effects of corrosion on metal surfaces. They provide a protective layer on the metal surface, preventing it from contacting corrosive elements.

Oleochemicals can be used as corrosion inhibitors in metal welding as bio-based coatings [66], lubricants and anti-spatter agents, and rust inhibitors. Oleochemicals can be combined to create bio-based coatings that are applied to metal surfaces prior to or following welding [67]. Valeric acid and stearic acid are ionic liquids that penetrate the microcracks generated at a freshly sliced surface and hinder re-welding [68]. These coatings can provide a protective barrier against corrosive substances, reducing rust and metal corrosion.

Certain oleochemicals, such as vegetable oils and derivatives, can be employed as lubricants and anti-spatter agents during the welding process [69]. Vegetable oil can be used as a lubricant for welded metal ends [70], lowering the welding temperatures [71] and lowering the possibility of rust on the metal. They contribute to the metal's integrity and lower the danger of corrosion by minimizing friction and preventing spatter from adhering to the surface.

Some oleochemicals contain components that suppress rust [72]. *iso*-Undecenoic and *iso*-undecanoic acid-based polyol esters can be utilised as corrosion inhibitors during metal welding [73]. These compounds can be used in welding fluxes or directly on metal surfaces to prevent rust and corrosion.

Oleochemical-based corrosion inhibitors are frequently preferred over traditional petroleum-based inhibitors due to their lower environmental impact [74]. They are generated from renewable plant sources and are biodegradable, making them a more environmentally friendly solution for corrosion protection in welding. Palm oil fatty acids contain ester and hydroxyl groups that can be converted into environmentally beneficial welded metal coatings [75].

Oleochemical corrosion inhibitors are generally compatible with a wide range of metals [76] and welding processes [77], making them useful solutions for corrosion protection in a variety of welding applications. Natural garlic oil, at 1% by weight, can improve metal welding's corrosion-prevention efficacy [78].

## Conclusion

Welded metal can corrode due to various reasons, including welding procedures, base metal welding, welding filler material, Heat Affected Zone (HAZ), and others. Some welding procedures can change the base metal's metallurgical characteristics, making it more susceptible to corrosion. Preventive measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate welded metal corrosion, such as appropriate material selection, correct welding technique, post-weld treatment, and frequent inspection and maintenance. These measures can improve the

welded metal's resistance to corrosion and ensure the durability and reliability of welded structures and components.

The potential of plant extracts as corrosion inhibitors in metal welding processes has been investigated. Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) extract, Aloe Vera Extract, and rambutan fruit peel extract have demonstrated potential as metal welding corrosion inhibitors. Plant extract-based corrosion inhibitors can help prolong the service life of welded metal structures and components in metal welding procedures. Oleochemicals can be used as corrosion inhibitors in metal welding as bio-based coatings, lubricants and anti-spatter agents, and rust inhibitors. They provide a protective barrier against corrosive substances, reducing rust and metal corrosion. Oleochemical-based corrosion inhibitors are frequently preferred over traditional petroleum-based inhibitors due to their lower environmental impact. They are compatible with a wide range of metals and welding processes, making them useful solutions for corrosion protection in various welding applications.

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