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Synthesis, molecular structure analyses and DFT studies on new asymmetrical azines based Schiff bases

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Abstract: In this paper, we report the synthesis of new unsymmetrical azines Schiff bases. These compounds were prepared by condensation of hydrazine with different aldehydes and ketones to give (E) -2-hydroxynaphthalene-1-carbaldehyde [(1E) -2-thienylmethylene] hydrazone compound (I) and (Z) - 2 - [(E) -1- (2-hydroxyphenyl) ethylidenehydrazin-1-ylidene] -1,2-diphenylethanone compound (II). The method adopted consists in reacting the two different carbonyl compounds simultaneously in one step in a stepwise manner reported which is practical and cost-effective. The reaction with a minor modification in operating conditions proceeded efficiently and with excellent performance. The structure of each of the two compounds (I) and (II) was determined by the X-ray diffraction technique performed on single crystals. The asymmetric unity of the two molecules consists of one asymmetry-independent molecule. In addition, hydrogen bonds C-H ... π are observed in the compound (II). We then present a detailed DFT study based on B3LYP / 6-31G (d, p) geometric structures of compounds (I); (II) and another compound (III) also another asymmetric azine (Z) -2 - [(E) -2-benzylidenehydrazine-1-ylidene] -1,2-diphenylethanone whose crystal structure is reported. The fundamental vibration wave numbers are calculated and a good agreement between the observed and calculated wave numbers is obtained. The study was extended to the HOMO-LUMO analysis to calculate the energy gap. The calculated HOMO and LUMO energy reveals that the charge is transferred into the molecule.

Keywords: Azines; crystal structures; DFT calculations, TD-DFT calculations

Introduction

Azines and their derivatives constitute a polyvalent class of compounds in organic chemistry. They are the product of the condensation of an aldehyde or a ketone with hydrazine [1-3] and can be symmetrical and unsymmetrical. These compounds are considered to be analogues of 2,3-diazabutadiene and commonly referred Schiff Bases because of the presence in their structures of the diiminic group $C = N - N = C$ [4-6]. A good number of symmetrical and unsymmetrical azines have largely contributed to the development of coordination chemistry acting as chelating agents having the design of new molecular materials with interesting physical properties [7-10]. They are known to find applications as nonlinear optical materials (NLO) [11-12]. Among the types of Schiff bases, polyazines are significantly used as nonlinear optical materials (NLO) because of their optical transparency [13]. They are of particular importance in the development of light-based technology for communication and computing [14]. These compounds have pharmacological and biological properties and close relationships with their structures, which act as anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antibacterial, antifungal, antitumor, anti-HIV and antimicrobial agents [15-19]. Azines are also important for drug design, organocatalysis and synthesis of heterocyclic compounds [20-21] by undergoing different types of cyclo-addition reactions [21-22]. In recent years, computational studies on azines have been conducted to study their molecular properties, which involves the theoretical and experimental characterization of their electronic structure [23-26], including their conformational equilibrium structure, their tautomerism, their NMR spectra and potential energy distribution (PED) vibration frequencies [27-28]. The importance given to azine derivatives due to their wide application in various scientific fields was considered a research project in our laboratory [29-30]. Different methods of synthesis of symmetrical and unsymmetrical azines are reported [3,13,31] where the first cited are easily obtained, while their asymmetrical counterparts, they are it under harsher conditions [31,32-33]. These are prepared in two steps as described in the set of works reported in the literature, from two different aromatic derivatives aldehyde or ketone, and hydrazine hydrate [34-35] or selectively using hydrazine derivatives [36-37]. In our case, we have drawn from the work reported in the literature [38] which indicates the possibility of preparing unsymmetrical azines in a single step by reacting two different carbonyl derivatives simultaneously with hydrazine sulfate in the presence of a base in molecular proportions: 1/1/1, without worrying about the difference in reactivity between the $C=O$ groups. We then borrowed this new method which proves efficient and practical, on which we made a minor modification of the reaction conditions as indicated in the experimental part. We report in this paper the synthesis of two new unsymmetrical azines (compounds (I) and (II)) isolated with relatively

good yields whose structures were characterized using FT-IR, UV-Vis and single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques performed on single crystals on the one hand and a Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations and Time-Dependent DFT (TDDFT) calculations are performed to get better insight into the geometrical and electronic properties, and to give a detailed description of structures spectroscopic assignments of the IR and UV-visible for the three unsymmetrical azines compound : I, II, III on the other hand, whose crystalline structure of the latter is reported [30]. The general structures of these compounds are given in scheme 1.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Materials and physical measurements

Chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and unless specified, were used without further purification. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed by using Merck silica gel (60 F254) plates (0.25 mm) and visualized under Ultraviolet light (UV). Melting points were determined with a digital melting point apparatus using capillary technique. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded with a Shimadzu FTIR-8010M spectrometer between 400 and 4000 cm^{-1} (KBr disks). UV-Vis measurements were obtained at room temperature using an UV-Vis 1800 UNICAM (version vision 32) spectrophotometer with standard quartz (1 cm) cells with DMSO solutions.

2.2. X-ray crystallographic study

X-ray single-crystal diffraction data were collected at 150°K for I-II and 293 °K for III on a Bruker APEX II CCD diffractometer equipped with a graphite monochromator using Mo $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). The structures were solved by direct methods using the SIR2002 program [39] and refined on F² by full matrix least-squares [40]. Unit cell refinement using all observed reflections and data reduction were performed using SAINT. All non hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and the hydrogen atoms were included in geometric positions. The final difference Fourier maps showed no peaks of chemical significance.

2.3 Computational details

Quantum mechanical calculations were used to carry out the optimized geometries and characterize the electronic and optical properties. All calculations were performed with the Gaussian09 program package [41]. Density functional theory (DFT) and Time-Dependent DFT (TDDFT) were performed using the hybrid Becke's three parameters and Lee-Yang-Parr functional B3LYP [42-43] together with 6-31G(+)(d,p) basis sets [44] to investigate the ground and excited electronic states.

2.4 Synthesis

2.4.1. Synthesis of *(E)*-2-hydroxynaphthalene-1-carbaldehyde[(1*E*)-2-thienylmethylene]hydrazone (I)

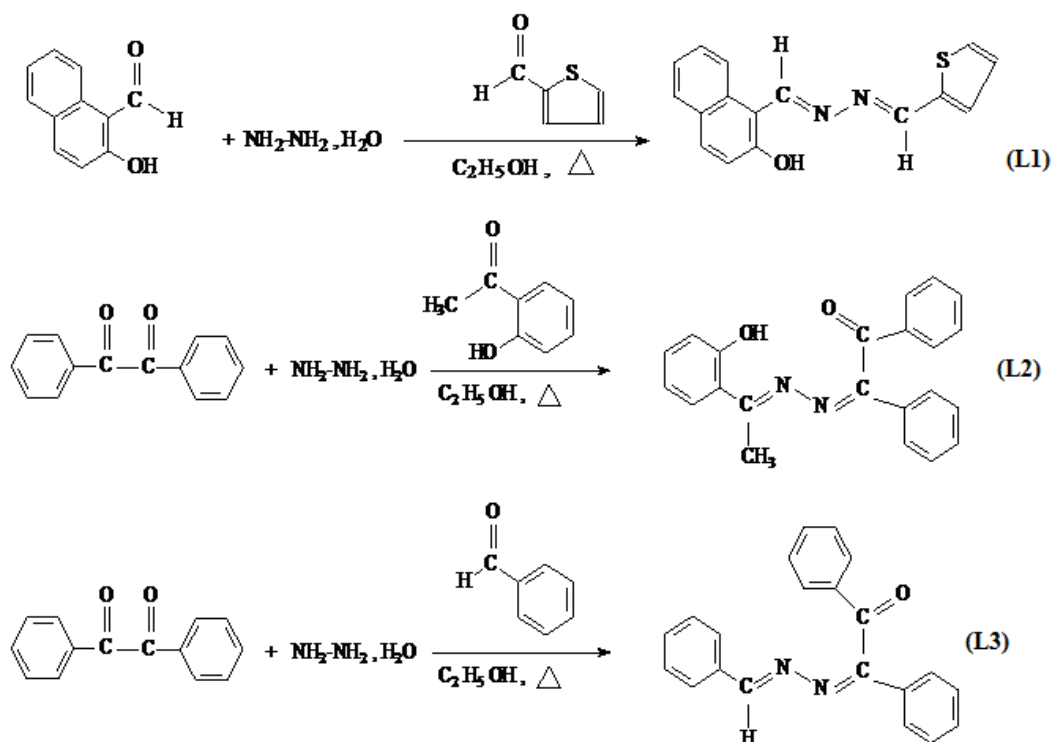
To a stirred solution of 1eq of 2-hydroxy naphthalencarboxaldéhyde dissolved in 20 ml DMSO (e.g. (1.12g, 0.01mol), hydrazine monohydrate (1eq 0.5 ml) was added. Then 2-thiophencarboxaldehyde (0.92 ml, 0.01 mol) was also added. The solution was heated by refluxing the mixture for 2h while controlling the reaction by TLC. At the end of the reaction and after cooling the reaction mixture, a brown precipitate is obtained which is filtered through Buchner and washed several times with cold DMSO (yield 69%; m.p. 315°C). The precipitate was recrystallized by slow evaporation in dimethylsulfoxide solution.

2.4.2. Synthesis of *(Z)*-2-[(*E*)-2-(1-hydroxyphenyl)ethylidene-hydrazin-1-ylidene]-1,2-diphenylethanone (II)

A mixture of benzyl (2.10g, 0.01mol) and hydrazine hydrate (0.48ml, 0.01mol) in 50 ml ethanol, we add 2-hydroxyacetophenone 1ml (0.01mol) and 2 drops of acetic acid (used as a catalyst) was refluxed for about 2h. The reaction was monitored by TLC until completion. The resulting yellow solid product was recrystallized from absolute ethanol to afford yellow prism of the title compound (yield 74%; m.p. 153°C).

2.4.3. Synthesis of *(Z)*-2-[(*E*)-2-benzylidenehydrazin-1-ylidene]-1,2-diphenylethanone (III) [30]

A mixture of benzaldehyde (1.06 g, 0.01 mol), benzil (2.10 g; 0.01 mol) and hydrazine hydrate (0.32 g, 0.01 mol) in 50 ml of ethanol containing 2 drops of acetic acid was refluxed for about 2 h. The reaction was monitored by TLC until completion. Excess solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the resulting yellow solid product was recrystallized from absolute ethanol to afford yellow needles of the title compound (yield 75%; m.p. 144°C).



Scheme. 1 The synthesis schematic for I, II and III.

3. Result and discussion

3. 1. Crystallographic studies

The crystals of molecules were grown in DMSO or ethanol solution through slow evaporation process and suitable crystals were collected and analyzed through single crystal X-rays diffraction analysis. The main crystal parameters are reported in Table 1. Some bond distances and angles are listed in Table 2. The numbering schema and a displacement ellipsoid plot of I, II and III are shown in Figure 1. **(I)** crystallized in a monoclinic system in $P2_1/c$ space group and with a four unit per cell ($Z = 4$), **(II)** crystallized in a triclinic system in $P-1$ space group and with a two unit per cell ($Z = 2$) and **(III)** crystallized in an orthorhombic system in $Pnab$ space group and with eight unit per cell ($Z = 8$). The asymmetric unit of both molecules (**I** and **II**) contains one independent molecule. The average bond lengths and bond angles parameters of ring systems (phenyl, thiophene and naphthalene) are in the normal ranges [45-47]. N-N (hydrazone) distances are in the range of typical single bond [1.398(6)-1.4077(16)] Å [48-50]. C=N double bonds in hydrazone units are between [1.2893(19)-1.3014(18)] Å. The torsion angles involving the $-\text{N}=\text{C}-$ units have values in the range of $[-171.02^\circ-179.90^\circ]$. All these data have similar values to previous structures [51-52]. The N13

and N10 atoms in both molecules acts as potent acceptor for O_{hydroxy}-H $\cdots$ N (1.805-1.715) Å hydrogen bond in which atom O_{hydroxyl} donates a proton. This indicates the relatively strong character of the intramolecular hydrogen bonding in these molecules [53].

The (**I**) molecular have an E conformation of the C=N bonds and has near a planar structure, thiophene and naphthalene makes dihedral angles of 6.18°. Which, in addition to the observed bond distances, suggests partial delocalization of the π electrons over the whole molecule. In the crystal structure, molecules of (**I**) are aligned head to foot along c axis, in columns parallel to [10 0] axis figure 2. There are no other significant intermolecular contacts.

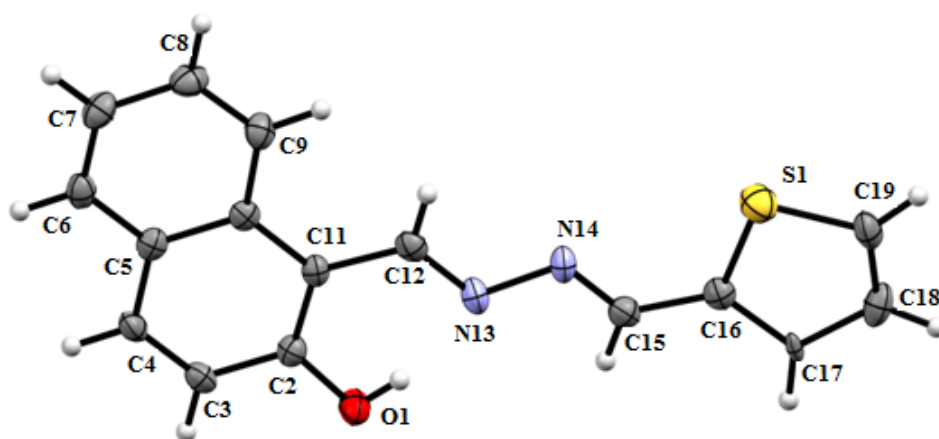
The (**II**) molecular comprises a 1-acetophenone-2-benzylidenehydrazine backbone with an approximately orthogonal almost planar a phenyl ethanone substituent on atom C12. The phenyl ring of the acetophenone unit makes dihedral angles of 88.53(6) and 8.67(5), respectively, with the C21–C22 and C13–C14 phenyl rings. The dihedral angle between the two phenyl rings of the benzil unit is 88.68(6). The molecule adopt an E conformation with respect to the C8=N10 bond and an Z conformation with respect to the C12=N11 bond, with the carbonyl atom O20 and the C13–C14 phenyl ring. The molecular configuration is determined by the presence of two intramolecular bifurcated O1—H1 $\cdots$ N10 and C9—HA9 $\cdots$ N11 hydrogen bonds Table 3. The first intramolecular hydrogen bond generate S(6) ring motifs [54]. This six-membered pseudocycle is almost planar, the maximum deviation from the mean plane being 0.026 Å for atom H1. In the crystal packing of II, molecules are stacked along the a-axis direction, forming a three-dimensional structure by C—H $\cdots$ O intermolecular hydrogen bonds (Figure 3). In addition, the C—H $\cdots\pi$ interaction involving the C21–C26 (centroid Cg) ring helps to stabilize the crystal structure (Figure 4).

Table 1. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details for (**I** and **II**)

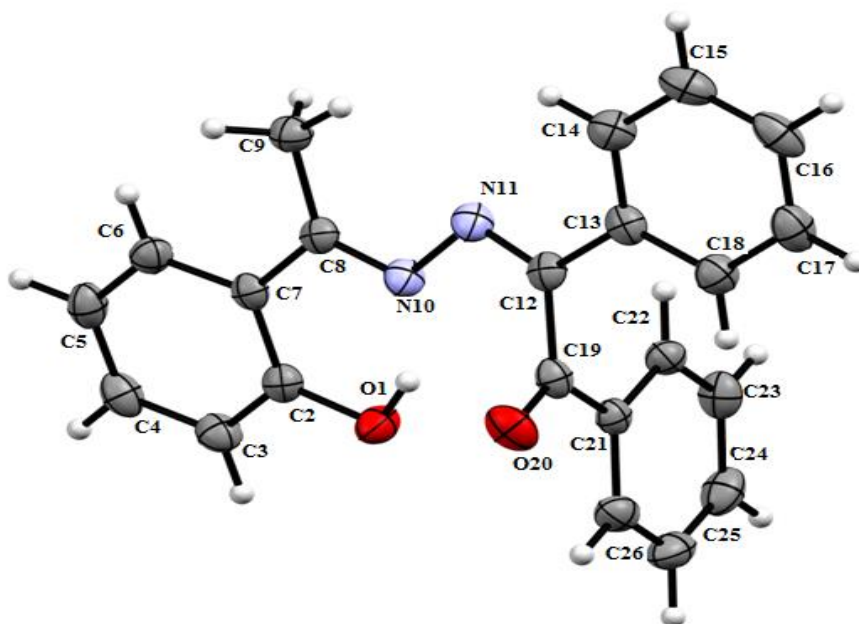
Compound	I	II
Empirical formula	C ₁₆ H ₁₂ N ₂ OS	C ₂₂ H ₁₈ N ₂ O ₂
Formula weight, g/mol	280.34	342.38
Crystal description	Prism	Prism
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>c</i>
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic
F(000)	584	720
Unit cell dimensions		

a/Å	6.3030 (7)	17.8639 (11)
b/Å	12.3028 (11)	8.7124 (6)
c/Å	17.2381 (15)	11.5578 (7)
α /°	90	90
β /°	90	104.782(3)
γ /°	90	90
V/Å ³	1336.7 (2)	1739.29 (19)
Z	4	4
Temperature/K	150	150
θ Range for data collection (°)	2.9–24.1	2.4–26.8
Radiation	Mo K α (λ = 0.71073)	Mo K α (λ = 0.71073)
Dcalcd (g/cm ⁻³)	1.393	1.308
μ (mm ⁻¹)	0.24	0.09
Range/indices (h, k, l)	-7 ≤ h ≤ 8 -9 ≤ k ≤ 15 -14 ≤ l ≤ 22	-23 ≤ h ≤ 16 -11 ≤ k ≤ 10 -11 ≤ l ≤ 15
Ref Nmb of reflections measured	7948	11628
Number of independent reflections	3002	3954
Reflections with I > 2 σ (I)	2073	2795
Number of parameters	184	239
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Goodness-of-fit (GOF)	1.013	1.019
R [F ² > 2 σ (F ²)]	0.059	0.04482
wR(F ²)	0.158	0.113
Rint	0.050	0.034

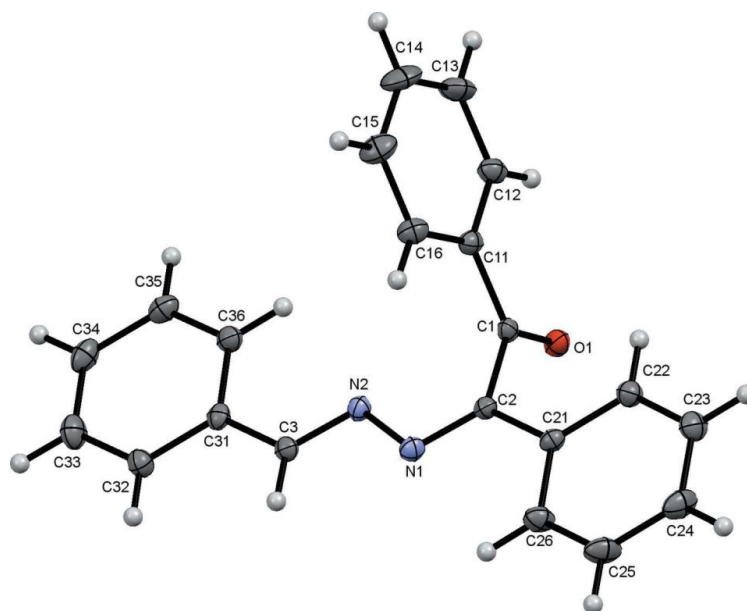
Max / min $\delta\rho$ ($e/\text{\AA}^3$)	0.43 / -0.48	0.26 / -0.19
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(I)



(II)



(III)

Figure 1. View of the molecular structure of I, II and III with the atom labeling.

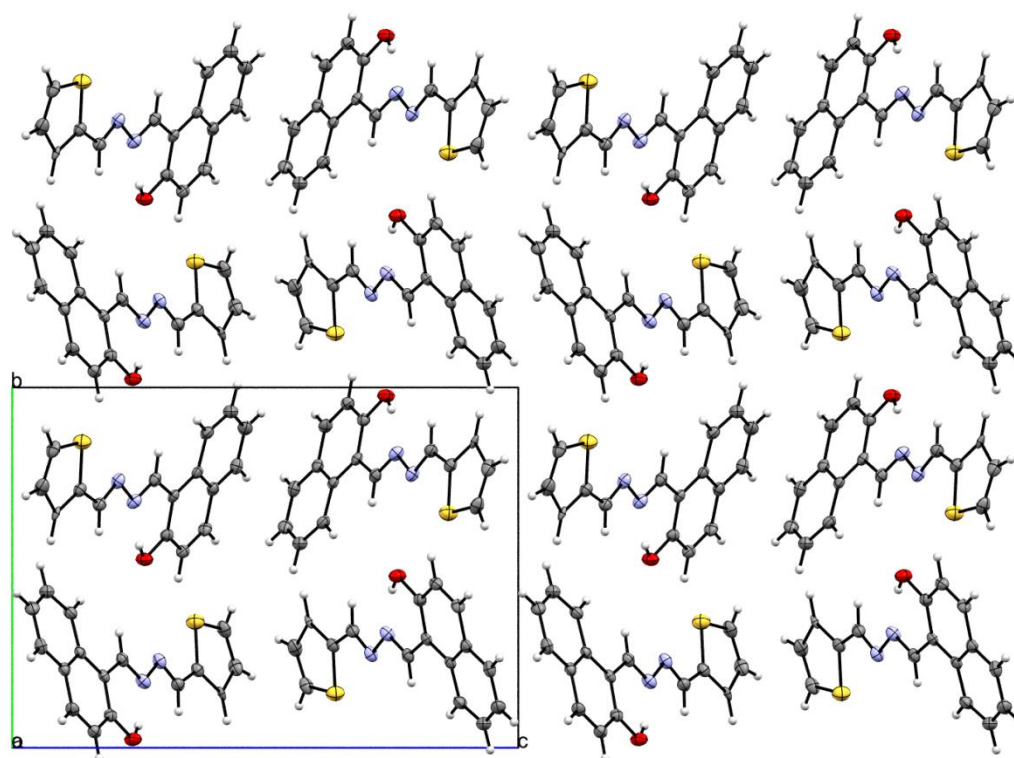
Table 2. Some selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for ligands.

Bond		Bond lengths (Å)	Bond Angle		Angle(°)
I					
O1–C2		1.348(6)	C2–O1–H1		101(5)
C11–C12		1.456(7)	O1–C2–C11		122.4(5)
C12–N13		1.292(6)	C2–C11–C12		120.3(4)
N13–N14		1.398(6)	N13–C12–C11		120.6(4)
N14–C15		1.294(7)	C12–N13–N14		113.6(4)
C15–C16		1.428(7)	C15–N14–N13		111.6(4)
C16–S1		1.708(5)	N14–C15–C16		121.6(4)
C19–S1		1.679(6)	C15–C16–S1		122.0(4)
II					

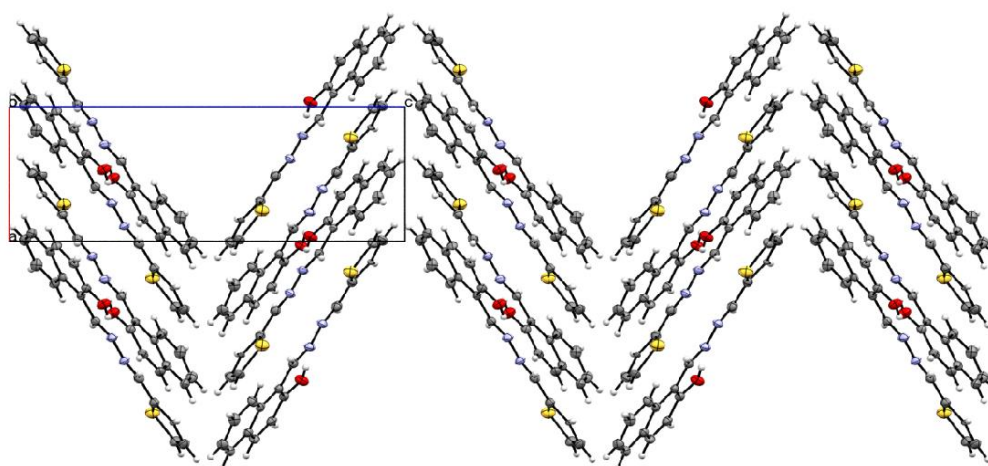
O1–C2	1.3536(18)	C2–O1–H1	104.1(11)
C7–C8	1.473(2)	O1–C2–C7	122.41(13)
C8–N10	1.3014(18)	C2–C7–C8	121.54(13)
N10–N11	1.4077(16)	N10–C8–C7	116.78(13)
N11–C12	1.2893(19)	C8–N10–N11	116.15(12)
C12–C13	1.475(2)	C12–N11–N10	112.20(12)
C12–C19	1.525(2)	N11–C12–C19	122.11(13)
C19–O20	1.2185(17)	O20–C19–C12	118.83(13)

Table 3. Distances (Å) and angles (°) of hydrogen bond for I and II.

D–H...A	d(D–H)	d(H...A)	d(D–A)	D–H–A
I				
O1–H1... O13	0.78(7)	1.81(6)	2.552(6)	159(6)
II				
O1–H1...N10	0.91(2)	1.72(2)	2.5529(17)	152.6(16)
C9–H9A...N11	0.9800	2.3200	2.765(2)	107.00
C4–H4...O1	0.98500	2.4600	3.387(2)	164.00
C5–H5...O1	0.9500	2.5700	3.253(19)	129.00



(a)



(b)

Figure 2. Cell packing for **I**. (a) along the axis a, (b) along the axis b.

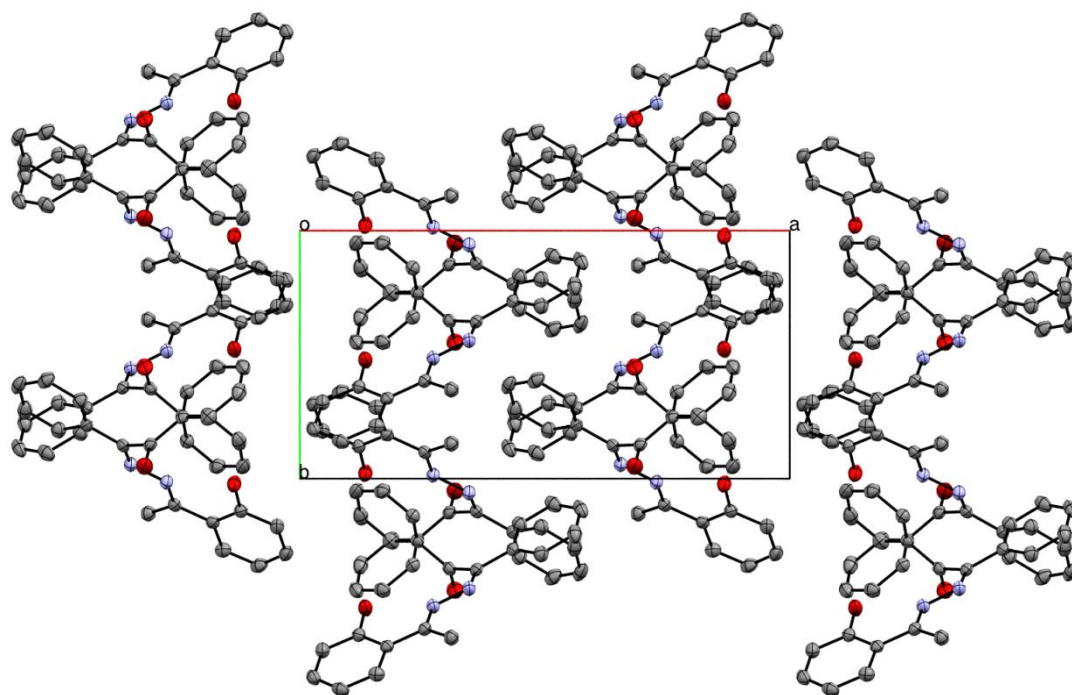


Figure 3. Cell packing for II.

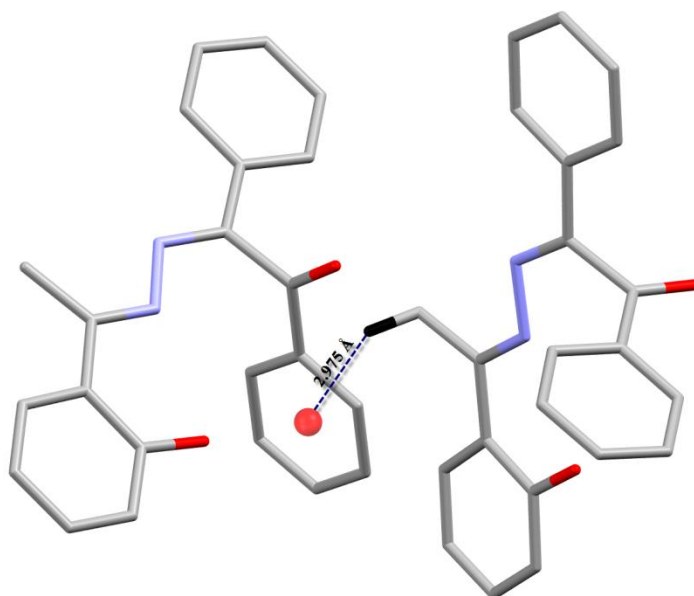


Figure 4. Cell packing for II.

3.2. IR Spectra Analyses

The infrared spectra of ligands were analyzed in the region 4000-500 cm^{-1} . Spectra shows a band at 3447 and 2888 cm^{-1} [55] assigned to intermolecular hydrogen bonded $\nu(\text{OH})$ for I and II respectively. The bands appearing around 1600 cm^{-1} are assigned to the $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ [56,57]. However, the absorption bands appearing at 1183 and 1175 cm^{-1} are assigned to the $\nu(\text{N}-\text{N})$ [58,59] stretching for three compounds. The bands due to carbonyl $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ were found at 1674 cm^{-1} for II and III [60].

3.3. UV/Vis Studies

The electronic spectra of the ligands were recorded in DMSO solutions, at room temperature and recorded in the region of 800–200 nm. In the spectrum of the ligand I, four absorption bands were observed. The two first bands arising at 262 and 340 nm are attributable to $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ electronic transitions associated with the naphthalene unit [61-63]. The third absorption band located at 395 nm is attributed to $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions of conjugation between the lone pair of electrons and the conjugated bond of the aromatic cycle [61]. The presence of bands above 400 nm such as those at 410 pointed out the existence of a keto-amine tautomer of the ligand [54, 64, 65]. In the spectrum of the II ligand, the bands at 365 and 305 nm were assigned to the imine group and the phenyl ring $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ and $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions. The transitions observed were consistent with those reported in the literature [66,67].

The electronic absorption spectrum of the **III** hydrazone ligand exhibits intense bands centered at 267 and 309 nm. The intense band in high-energy region of the spectrum (267 nm) is related to $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions of phenyl rings [68]. The other band can be assigned to $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions associated with azomethine ($\text{N}=\text{C}$) chromophore.

3.4. Optimized geometry

The structure of I, II and III have been optimized at DFT/B3LYP level and the calculated bond lengths and angles are presented in Table 4 together with X-ray diffraction data. The calculated N-N bond lengths are smaller by 0.018, 0.024 and 0.023 Å for I, II and II respectively, while the C-N bond distances are longer within 0.003-0.01 Å than the experimental values. The calculated bond angles for the three compounds are generally in good agreement with the experimental ones as deviations do not exceed 0.02°-4.56°.

Table 4.Calculated bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for **(I-II-III)**.Experimental data are given in parentheses (in bold).

Bond lengths (Å)	I	II	III
C=N	1.292 (1.292)	1.292 (1.289)	1.293 (1.288)
N-N	1.380 (1.398)	1.383 (1.407)	1.391 (1.414)
C-N	1.303 (1.293)	1.308 (1.301)	1.288 (1.276)
Angles (°)			
N=C-C	122.61 (121.55)	119.39 (116.77)	119.66 (120.25)
C=N-N	113.53 (113.62)	116.75 (112.19)	112.41 (111.27)

Infrared spectra

Experimental IR spectra of I, II and III are shown in figure **S1** (in Supplementary Material) while a rigorous analysis of vibrational modes is given in Table 5. The vibrational frequencies computed for the molecule in the gas phase were multiplied by the scaling factor of 0.960 as recommended in literature when calculations are performed at B3LYP/6-31G(+)(d,p) level. The calculated values are globally in good agreement with experimental data. The frequency for carbonyl $\nu(\text{C=O})$ stretching has been calculated at 1321 cm^{-1} , 1667 cm^{-1} and 1648 cm^{-1} for I, II and III respectively in good agreement with experimental values. The experimental data of the $\nu(\text{C=N})$ stretching vibration appear at 1603 cm^{-1} for I, 1606 cm^{-1} for II and III, these bonds were calculated at 1638 cm^{-1} for I, 1618 cm^{-1} II and 1623 cm^{-1} for III. The experimental $\nu(\text{N-N})$ stretching vibration appears at 1183 cm^{-1} for I and 1175 cm^{-1} for II and III and is well reproduced by the calculated values of 1105, 1161, and 1119 cm^{-1} for I, II and III. The experimental band at 1420 cm^{-1} for I assigned to $\nu(\text{OH})$ ring from the phenolic group is calculated at 1407 cm^{-1} . The high frequency region above 3051 cm^{-1} for I and 3053 cm^{-1} for II and III is the characteristic region for identification of $\nu(\text{CH})$ from aromatic phenyl group while these bonds were computed at 3161 cm^{-1} for I, 3183 cm^{-1} for II and 3172 cm^{-1} for III.

Table 5. Calculated and experimental (given in parentheses) vibrational frequencies (cm^{-1}) for **I**, **II** and **III**.

Assignment (Cm^{-1})	I	II	III
ν (O-H) (stretching)	1407 (1420)	-	-
ν (C=O) (stretching)	1321 (1314)	1667 (1674)	1648 (1674)
ν (C=N) (stretching)	1638 (1603)	1618 (1606)	1623 (1606)
ν (C-H) _{ar} (stretching)	3161 (3051)	3183 (3053)	3178 (3053)
ν (N-N) (stretching)	1105 (1183)	1161 (1175)	1119 (1175)

Electronic absorption spectra

The calculated UV-visible absorption spectra of **I**, **II** and **III** are in good agreement with experimental results (see figure S2 in Supplementary Material). For **I**, four absorption features in the UV-visible region have been assigned to the experimental data (Table 6). The absorption wavelength in band (I) calculated at 255 nm and attributed to HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO with π - π^* character (Figure 5) can be assigned to the experimental band at 262 nm. The calculated band (II) at 340 nm corresponds to a HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO transition character and is attributed to an intra transfer π - π^* , they are likely corresponds to the experimental band measured at 340 nm. The band (III) and (IV) calculated at 351 nm and 409 nm and originated from HOMO-3/HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO transitions respectively with a π - π^* character on C=C ring (band III) and n- π^* character from the azomethine (C=N) ring (band IV). For **II**, the experimental band measured at 234 nm and 305 nm are calculated at 233 nm and 316 nm and are attributed to HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+4/LUMO transitions originating from n- π^* band (I) and π - π^* from band (II). For **III**, peaks calculated at 267 and 328 nm and involved mainly HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 and HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO transition with an inter ligand charge transfer π - π^* are likely correspond to the experimental bands measured at 267 and 309 nm.

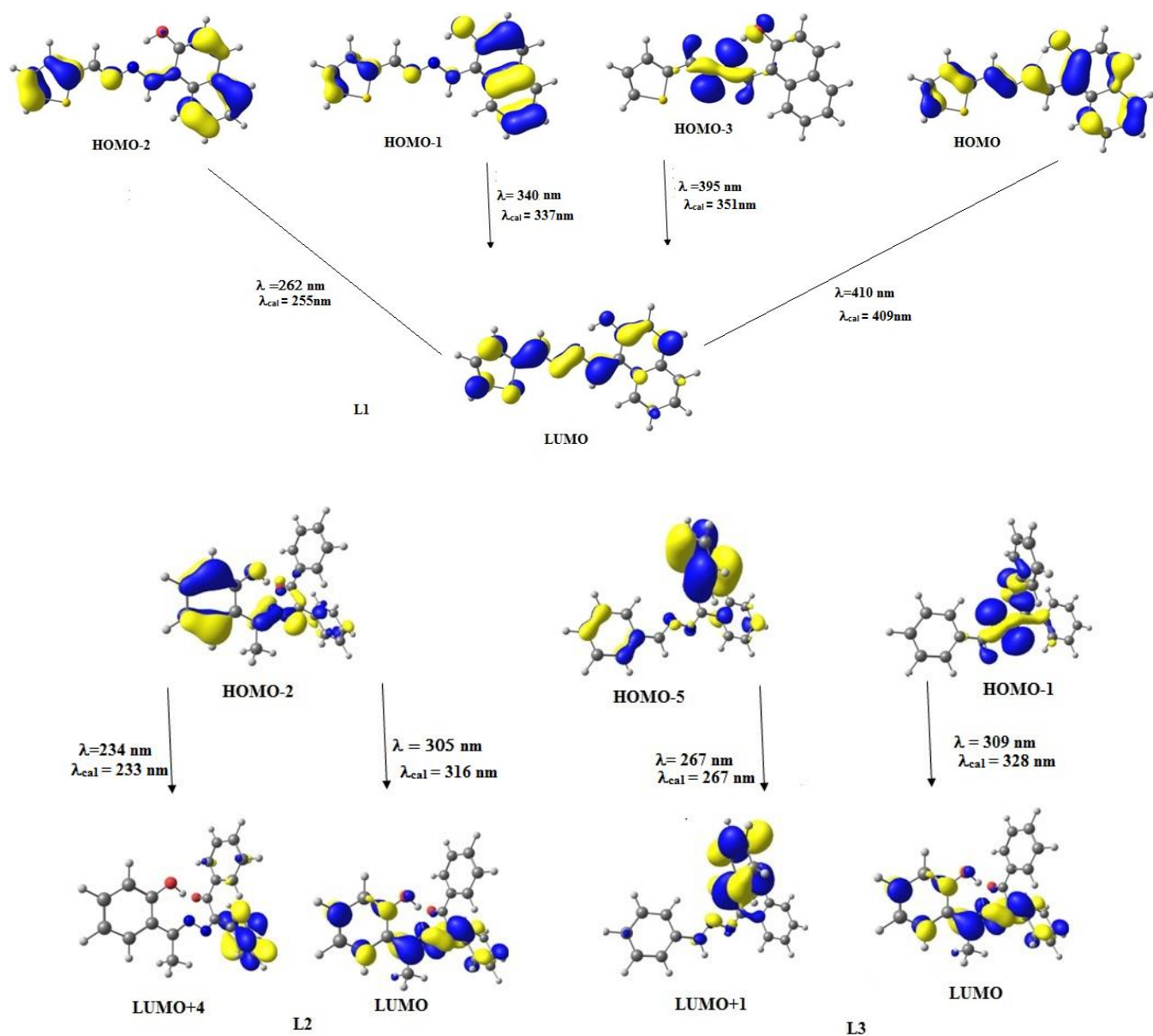


Figure 5. Isodensity plots of selected molecular orbitals of I, II and III.

Table 6. TD-DFT calculated excitations and assignments for I, II and III.

	Wavelength(nm)	Oscillator Strength (<i>f</i>)	Major contribution	Expwavelength (nm)
I				
Band I	255	0.040	H-2 → L (56.49%)	262
Band II	337	0.148	H-1 → L (86.76%)	340
Band III	351	0.002	H-3 → L (98%)	395
Band IV	409	0.764	H → L (98.14%)	410
II				
Band I	233	0.0339	H-2 → L+4 (79.12%)	234
Band II	316	0.4968	H-2 → L (58.64%)	305
III				
Band I	267	0.015	H-5 → L+1 (54.18%)	267
Band II	328	0.885	H → L (56.1%)	309

4. Conclusion

In the present work, we have reported the synthesis of three new hydrazone : (*E*)-2-hydroxynaphthalene-1-carbaldehyde[(1*E*)-2-thienylmethylene]hydrazone (**I**), (*Z*)-2-[(*E*)-2-(1-hydroxyphenyl)ethylidene-hydrazin-1-ylidene]-1,2-diphenylEthanone (**II**) and (*Z*)-2-[(*E*)-2-benzylidenehydrazin-1-ylidene]-1,2-diphenylethanone (**III**) with good yields. Their structures were established through UV-Vis, FT-IR spectral data and X-ray analysis. A theoretical study at DFT/B3LYP level for the three new compounds have furnished structural parameters, IR spectra, and UV-vis absorption in excellent agreement with the experimental data.

Supplementary Materials:

Figure S1: Simulated versus experimental infrared spectra of the I, II and III.

Figure S2: Experimental and simulated electronic absorption spectra of I, II and III.

Crystallographic Information File (CIF) for I and II.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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