

Journal of Coordination Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and
subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gcoo20>

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Accepted author version posted online: 03 Sep 2012. Version of
record first published: 21 Sep 2012.

To cite this article: K. Carbonell, M.L. Araujo, J.D. Martínez, V. Lubes & F. Brito (2012): Solution studies of vanadium(IV), vanadium(V), and vanadium(IV,V) complexes with methionine in 3.0 mol L⁻¹ KCl ionic medium at 25 °C, Journal of Coordination Chemistry, 65:22, 3869-3883

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958972.2012.725472>

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Solution studies of vanadium(IV), vanadium(V), and vanadium(IV,V) complexes with methionine in 3.0 mol L⁻¹ KCl ionic medium at 25°C

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(Received 25 May 2012; in final form 10 August 2012)

A study of the H⁺-VO²⁺-methionine, H⁺-VO₂⁺-methionine, and H⁺-V₂O₃³⁺-methionine (ligand, HL) systems by *emf*(H) measurements in 3.0 mol L⁻¹ KCl ionic medium at 25°C is presented here. Data analysis using the LETAGROP program indicate formation of vanadium(IV) species [HVOL]²⁺, [VOL]⁺, and [H₂VOL₂]²⁺; vanadium(V) species [HVO₂L]⁺ and VO₂L; and the mix-valence vanadium(IV,V) species [H₂V₂O₃L]⁴⁺, [V₂O₃L]²⁺, [OHV₂O₃L]⁺, (OH)₂V₂O₃L, (OH)₃V₂O₃L, [HV₂O₃L₂]²⁺, [V₂O₃L₂]⁺, and OHV₂O₃L₂, whose stability constants β_{pqrs} were determined according to the general reaction $p\text{H}^+ + q\text{VO}^{2+} + r\text{VO}_2^+ + s\text{L}^- \rightleftharpoons \text{H}_p(\text{VO})_q(\text{VO}_2)_r\text{L}_s^{(p+2q+r-s)}$. Selected structural parameters of some complexes formed in solution were determined using *ab initio* methods.

Keywords: Solution equilibria; Vanadium complexes; Stability constants; LETAGROP program; Theoretical calculations

1. Introduction

Coordination chemistry of vanadium plays a significant role in its interaction with biomolecules [1]. An important issue on vanadium complexes is the observation in nature that certain marine animals known as *ascidians* have cellular vanadium content more than one million times larger than that of the seawater in which they live. Vanadium also is extracted from the soil and accumulated by the *Amanita muscaria*, or fly agaric mushroom as a low molecular weight complex known as *amavadin*. It can be concentrated by up to 400 ppm against background levels of less than 0.1 ppm [2].

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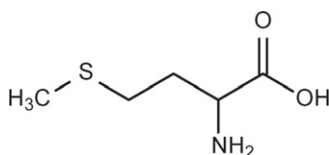


Figure 1. Structure of methionine.

Vanadium is believed to inhibit cholesterol synthesis in mammals and it is also a possible pollutant that could cause pulmonary illnesses due to its presence in industrial smoke [3].

Methionine is a principle supplier of sulfur which prevents hair, skin, and nail disorders, helps lower cholesterol levels by increasing the liver's production of lecithin, reduces liver fat, and protects the kidneys. It is a natural chelating agent for heavy metals, regulates the formation of ammonia, and creates ammonia-free urine, which reduces bladder irritation, influences hair follicles, and promotes hair growth [4].

Methionine (figure 1) besides the two standard positions whose acidity is reflected in the average values $pK_{\text{COOH}} = 2.23$ and $pK_{\text{NH}_3} = 9.12$ [5] has the thioether ($-\text{SMe}$) group which would be protonated in very acidic solutions [6]. Nevertheless, for the large negative inductive effect that this group has making the groups lightly more acidic, metallic complexes of methionine are less stable than those formed by amino acids like glycine, unless the formation of chelates through the $-\text{SMe}$ compensates for this effect [7].

Methionine possesses three potential donors, which can alternately participate in coordination, relying on the individual character of the metal cation studied.

We did not find any references on the vanadium(IV)–methionine, vanadium(V)–methionine, and vanadium(IV,V)–methionine systems. The vanadium(III)–methionine system leads to formation of $[\text{HVL}]^{3+}$, $[\text{VL}]^{2+}$, $[\text{VL}_2]^+$, VL_3 , and $[(\text{OH})_4\text{V}_2\text{L}]^+$ [8].

In this article, we report results on a study of the vanadium(IV)–methionine, vanadium(IV)–methionine, and vanadium(IV,V)–methionine conducted by *emf(H)* measurements in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C . Selected structural parameters on some of the complexes found in solution were determined using *ab initio* methods.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and solutions

Reagents included HCl and KOH Fixanal Riedel–de Haën ampoules, $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Merck (99.99%), V_2O_5 LKB (99.93%), methionine Merck (99.0%), KCl Merck (99.0%), O_2 and CO_2 free nitrogen, and triply distilled water.

V(IV) and methionine were employed for weighing of the respective reagents. V(V) solution was prepared in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium as described [9]. The analytical

methods are the same as detailed [9, 10] and the $emf(H)$ titration method described [11] was used.

2.2. Mass balance and symbols

The symbols used in this work are the same as those adopted in previous publications, chemical symbols are in Roman, and concentrations in italic font [12].

In acid medium, VO^{2+} and VO_2^+ hydrolyze, forming $[VOOH]^+$, $[(VO)_2(OH)_2]^{2+}$, and $VO(OH)_2$ [13], and the decavanadate series $H_{3-n}V_{10}O_{28}^{(n+3)-}$ ($n=0-3$) [14], respectively.

It has been reported that at $-\log h < 2$, VO^{2+} and VO_2^+ interact to form $V_2O_3^{3+}$, which successively hydrolyzes to form the homonuclear V(V)–V(V) mixed species $[V_2O_3(OH)]^{2+}$, $[V_2O_3(OH)_2]^+$, $V_2O_3(OH)_3$, and $[V_2O_3(OH)_4]^-$ [15].

In the present investigation, VO^{2+} , VO_2^+ , $V_2O_3^{3+}$, and methionine (HL) should form vanadium(IV)–methionine, vanadium(V)–methionine, and vanadium(IV,V)–methionine complexes, giving systems of three and four components, respectively.

In a generalized four component-system H, B, C, and L to form complexes $H_pB_qC_rL_s$ (p, q, r, s), in brief, according to reaction (1), have the mass balances



In equations (2)–(5), **H**, **B**, **C** and **L** represent the total (analytical) concentrations of H^+ , V(IV), V(V), and ligand; h , b , c , and l are the equilibrium concentrations of H^+ , VO^{2+} , VO_2^+ , and L^- ions; Z_B , Z_C , and Z_L stand for the average number of H^+ bound per mol of B, C, and L, respectively, c_{pqrs} is the equilibrium concentration of the complex (p, q, r, s), and K_w is the water dissociation constant.

$$\mathbf{H} - h + K_w h^{-1} = \mathbf{B}Z_B = \mathbf{C}Z_C = \mathbf{L}Z_L = \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s p c_{pqrs}, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{B} = b + \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s q c_{pqrs}, \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{C} = c + \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s r c_{pqrs}, \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{L} = l + \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s s c_{pqrs} \quad (5)$$

Knowledge of the total concentrations **H**, **B**, **C**, and **L** by analysis and determining h by electromotive force measurements, $emf(H)$, the primary experimental data (emfs, analysis, volumes, etc.) can be given in terms of the formation functions (6)–(8), as $Z_B(\log h, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{L})$, $Z_C(\log h, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{L})$, or $Z_L(\log h, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{L})$, more suitable for mathematical treatment.

$$Z_B = (\mathbf{H} - h + K_w h^{-1})/\mathbf{B} = \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s p c_{pqrs} / (b + \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s q c_{pqrs}), \quad (6)$$

$$Z_C = (\mathbf{H} - h)/\mathbf{C} = \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s p c_{pqrs} / (c + \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s r c_{pqrs}), \quad (7)$$

$$Z_L = (\mathbf{H} - h)/\mathbf{L} = \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s p c_{pqrs} / (l + \sum_p \sum_q \sum_r \sum_s s c_{pqrs}). \quad (8)$$

Sometimes it is possible to achieve a more efficient approach to the problem using instead of these relationships, the reduced formation functions (9)–(11), where c_{pq00} ,

Table 1. Levels of reference, stoichiometric coefficients, concentrations of reagents, and formation functions used.

Reagents	H ⁺	VO ²⁺	VO ₂ ⁺	L ⁻
Stoichiometric coefficients	<i>p</i>	<i>q</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>s</i>
Total (analytical) concentrations	H	B	C	L
Equilibrium concentrations	<i>h</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>l</i>
Formation functions		Z _B /Z _{Bf}	Z _C /Z _{Cf}	Z _L /Z _{Lf}

Table 2. Stability constants for two, three, and four component systems.

Species	Stability constants
H _p L ^(p-1)	β _{p001}
H _p (VO) _q L _s ^(p+2q-s)	β _{pq0s}
H _p (VO ₂) _r L _s ^(p+r-s)	β _{p0rs}
H _p (V ₂ O ₃)L _s ^(p+3-s)	β _{p11s}

c_{p0r0} , and c_{p110} denote the equilibrium concentrations of the products of hydrolysis of V(IV), V(V), and V(IV,V), respectively, and c_{p001} the equilibrium concentration of ligand acid species, the stability constants of which are known under identical experimental conditions [15].

$$Z_{Bf} = (\mathbf{B}Z_B - \sum_p \sum_q p c_{pq00} - \sum_p \sum_r p c_{p0r0} - \sum_p p c_{p110} - \sum_p p c_{p001}) / (\mathbf{B} - \sum_p \sum_q q c_{pq00}), \quad (9)$$

$$Z_{Cf} = (\mathbf{C}Z_C - \sum_p \sum_q p c_{pq00} - \sum_p \sum_r p c_{p0r0} - \sum_p p c_{p110} - \sum_p p c_{p001}) / (\mathbf{C} - \sum_r c_{p0r0}), \quad (10)$$

$$Z_{Lf} = (\mathbf{L}Z_L - \sum_p \sum_q p c_{pq00} - \sum_p \sum_r p c_{p0r0} - \sum_p p c_{p110} - \sum_p p c_{p001}) / (\mathbf{L} - \sum c_{s001}). \quad (11)$$

The situation is reduced then to fitting of the experimental data to the model of nx H_pB_qC_rL_s species that through equations (6)–(11) better satisfy the system.

In this work, in order to appropriately present the stability constant β_{pqrs} of a particular complex H_pB_qC_rL_s, we use the nomenclature given in table 1 for levels of reference, stoichiometric coefficients, concentrations of the reagents, and formation functions used.

For methionine, the species are L⁻, HL, and H₂L⁺. In the three component systems species of general formula H_p(VO)_qL_s^(p+2q-s) and H_p(VO₂)_rL_s^(p+r-s), and for four component systems complexes of general formula H_p(VO)(VO₂)L_s^(p+3-s) or H_pV₂O₃L_s^(p+3-s) would be present. The respective stability constants are defined in table 2.

2.3. Electronic structure calculations

Ground-state electronic structure calculations were performed using *ab initio* method by means of HyperChem 7.5 software package [16] in a Pentium[®] PC computer [17].

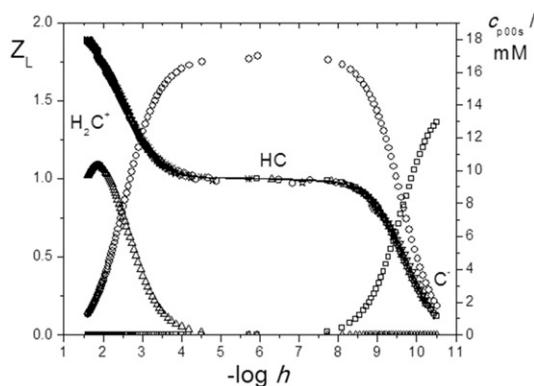


Figure 2. Z_L , average number of H^+ associated per mol of ligand and species distribution diagram vs. $-\log h$ for the H^+ -methionine (HL) system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $L = 10 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$. The lines represent theoretical curves calculated with the acidity constants of table 3.

Table 3. Acidity constants ($\log \beta_{p001}$) and pK_i values for the H^+ -methionine (HL) system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C .

Reaction	$\log \beta_{p001}$	Equilibria	pK_i (HL)
$2 H^+ + L^- \rightleftharpoons H_2L^+$	12.02(3)	(2) H_2L^+ / HL	2.48(2)
$H^+ + L^- \rightleftharpoons HL$	9.54(1)	(1) HL / L^-	9.54(1)
$\sigma(Z_L)$	0.011		
Number of experiments = 7, number of points = 283.			

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Ionization constants of the ligand

Figure 2 shows the experimental data for the H^+ -methionine (HL) system in terms of the formation function $Z_L(\log h)$ as well as the species distribution diagram $c_{p001}(-\log h)$. The lines represent theoretical curves calculated with the β_{p001} constants of table 3.

As observed from the dispersion $\sigma(Z_L)$, there is a good fit between the experimental data and the model of species $H_pL^{(1-p)}$ ($p = 0-2$). Formation of the different species go from $Z_L = 0$ ($-\log h > 10$) where the anion L^- dominates, to $Z_L = 2$ ($-\log h \approx 1$) where the acid ion is H_2L^+ . In the interval $4 \leq -\log h \leq 8$ where $Z_L = 1$, the neutral species HL prevails in the form of the dipolar-ion (zwitterion) HL^\pm .

3.2. $H^+ - VO^{2+}$ -methionine system

Figure 3 shows the experimental data for the $H^+ - VO^{2+}$ -methionine system in terms of the formation function $Z_B(\log h)$, for $B = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and ligand:V(IV) $R = 5-10$ ratios. The lines represent theoretical curves calculated with equilibrium constants β_{pq0s} from table 4 (column 2).

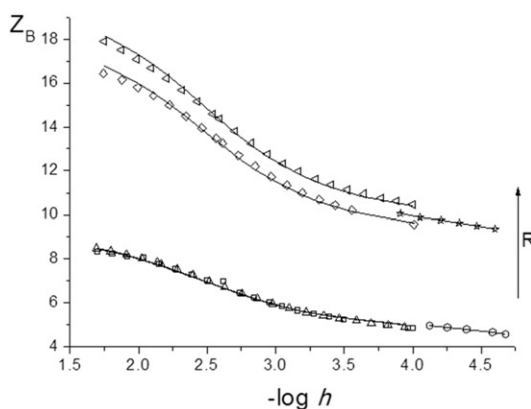


Figure 3. Z_B , average number of H^+ associated per mol of V(IV) vs. $-\log h$ for the $H^+-VO_2^+$ -methionine (HL) system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $B = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 5-10$ ratios. The lines represent theoretical curves calculated with the equilibrium constants β_{pq0s} of table 4 (column 6).

Table 4. Equilibrium constants ($\log \beta_{pq0s}$) for the $H^+-VO_2^+$ -methionine system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C .

Species	$\log \beta_{pq0s}$				
$[HVOL]^{2+}$	14.6(2)	14.5(1)	14.6(1)	14.5(3)	14.39(4)
$[VOL]^+$	9.9(2)	9.9(1)	9.9(2)	9.9(2)	9.95(3)
$[H_2VOL_2]^{2+}$	(<25.1)	(<24.9)	(<25.0)	25.3(3)	24.9(2)
VOL_2	15.7(<16.1)		15.3(<15.9)	15.4(<16.0)	15.2(4)
$\sigma(Z_B)$	0.107				
$\sigma(Z_C)$		0.014			
$\sigma(Z_{Bf})$			0.107		
$\sigma(Z_{cf})$				0.098	
$\sigma(E)$ (mV)					1.5
Number of experiments = 10, number of points = 152.					

The group of species that better fit the data includes $[HVOL]^{2+}$, $[VOL]^+$, $[H_2VOL_2]^{2+}$, and VOL_2 for almost all the minimized functions. Figure 4 shows the species distribution diagram for $B = 5 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 5$ ratio. In these conditions the most abundant species is $[HVOL]^{2+}$.

As deduced from values of dispersions $\sigma(Z_B)$, $\sigma(Z_L)$, $\sigma(Z_{Bf})$, $\sigma(Z_{Lf})$, and $\sigma(E)$, there is a good fit between the experimental data and this model, as one could conclude from the small amount of VO_2^+ ion still present at $-\log h < 2$, according to the species distribution diagram.

3.3. $H^+-VO_2^+$ -methionine system

Figure 5 shows the experimental data for the $H^+-VO_2^+$ -methionine system in terms of the formation function $Z_C(\log h)$ for $C = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 1-4$ ratios. Table 5 summarizes the analysis through the model formed by $[HVO_2L]^+$ and VO_2L , and figures 6 and 7 show the species distribution diagram for $R = 1$ and 4 ratios, respectively.

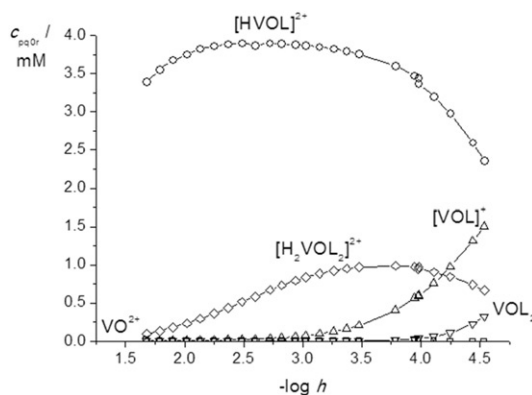


Figure 4. Species distribution diagram vs. $-\log h$ for the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ (HL) system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $\text{B} = 5 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 5$ ratio.

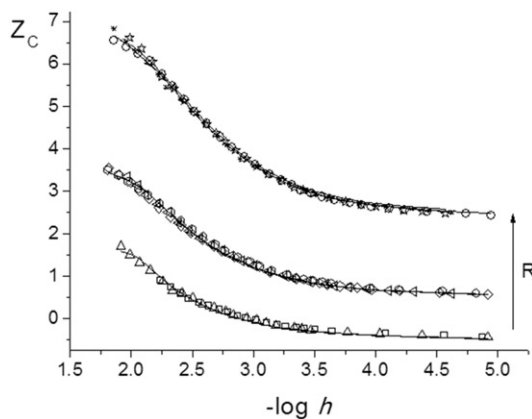


Figure 5. Z_C , average number of H^+ associated per mol of V(V) vs. $-\log h$ for the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ (HL) system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl at 25°C , for $\text{C} = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 1, 2,$ and 4 ratios.

Table 5. Equilibrium constants ($\log \beta_{pors}$) for the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ (HL) system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl at 25°C .

Species	$\log \beta_{pors}$				
$[\text{HVO}_2\text{L}]^+$	11.77(7)	11.81(8)	11.75(7)	11.9(1)	11.9(2)
VO_2L	9.34(7)	9.51(7)	9.43(8)	9.61(6)	9.20(7)
$\sigma(Z_B)$	0.052				
$\sigma(Z_C)$		0.023			
$\sigma(Z_{\text{Bf}})$			0.041		
$\sigma(Z_{\text{Cf}})$				0.168	
$\sigma(E)$ (mV)					3.5
Number of experiments = 9, number of points = 228.					

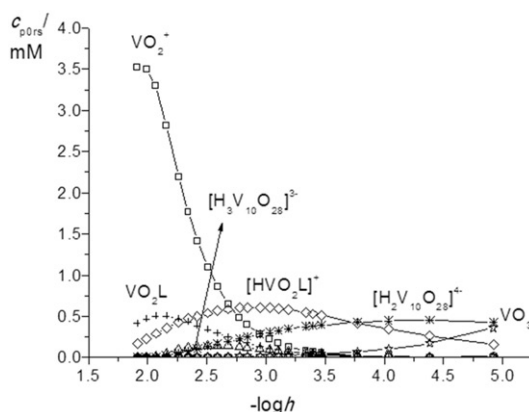


Figure 6. Species distribution diagram vs. $-\log h$ for the $H^+ - VO_2^+ - \text{methionine (HL)}$ system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $C = 5 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 1$ ratio.

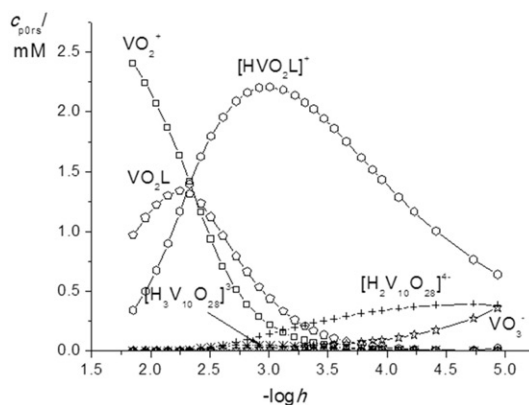


Figure 7. Species distribution diagram vs. $-\log h$ for the $H^+ - VO_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $C = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 4$ ratio.

In this case, it can be concluded from the dispersions $\sigma(Z_C)$, $\sigma(Z_L)$, $\sigma(Z_{Cl})$, $\sigma(Z_{Lf})$, and $\sigma(E)$ values that there is a good fit between the experimental data and this model. The complexes are quite weak whose concentration grows as the R ratio increases, competing favorably with the *decavanadate* species, product of the hydrolysis of VO_2^+ , whose concentration lightly diminishes as R increases.

3.4. $H^+ - VO^{2+} - VO_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ system

Figure 8 shows the experimental data for the $H^+ - VO^{2+} - VO_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ system in terms of the formation function $Z_L(\log h)$ for $B = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$, $C = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$, and ligand:V(V):V(V) $R = 2, 4,$ and 8 ratios, and table 6 contains the results of the analysis

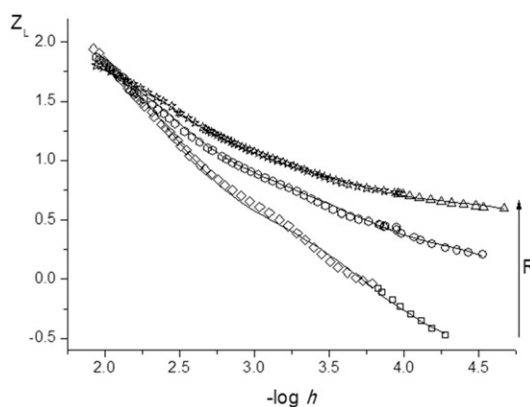


Figure 8. Z_L , average number of H^+ associated per mol of ligand as a function of $-\log h$ for the $H^+-VO_2^+$ - VO_2^+ -methionine system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $B = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$, $C = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and $R = 2, 4, \text{ and } 8$ ratios.

Table 6. Equilibrium constants ($\log \beta_{pqrs}$) for the $H^+-VO_2^+-VO_2^+$ -methionine system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C .

Species	$\log \beta_{pqrs}$				
$[H_2V_2O_3L]^{4+}$	37.25(3)	37.29(3)	37.29(3)	37.30(3)	37.30(5)
$[V_2O_3L]^{2+}$	32.34(3)	32.38(3)	32.37(4)	32.39(3)	32.33(3)
$[OHV_2O_3L]^+$	28.3(2)	28.5(2)	28.4(2)	28.5(2)	28.4(1)
$(OH)_2V_2O_3L$	24.82(6)	24.86(8)	24.85(9)	24.87(7)	24.83(4)
$[(OH)_3V_2O_3L]^-$	19.5(<19.8)	19.6(<19.9)	19.6(<19.9)	19.6(<19.9)	18.9(<19.3)
$[HV_2O_3L_2]^{2+}$	43.2(<43.4)	43.2(2)	43.3(2)	43.2(2)	43.4(1)
$[V_2O_3L_2]^+$	39.7(<40.0)	39.4(<39.7)	39.5(<39.8)	39.4(<39.7)	39.7(2)
$OHV_2O_3L_2$	36.0(2)	36.0(1)	36.1(2)	36.0(1)	35.99(7)
$\sigma(Z_L)$	0.029				
$\sigma(Z_B)$		0.085			
$\sigma(Z_{Lr})$			0.083		
$\sigma(Z_{Bf})$				0.085	
$\sigma(E)$ (mV)					1.5

Number of experiments = 6, number of points = 185.

through the model formed by $[H_2V_2O_3L]^{4+}$, $[V_2O_3L]^{2+}$, $[OHV_2O_3L]^+$, $(OH)_2V_2O_3L$, $[(OH)_3V_2O_3L]^-$, $[HV_2O_3L_2]^{2+}$, $[V_2O_3L_2]^+$, and $[OHV_2O_3L_2]^+$. The lines in the figure represent theoretical curves calculated with the respective equilibrium constants.

As deduced from the values of dispersions $\sigma(Z_B)$, $\sigma(Z_L)$, $\sigma(Z_{Bf})$, $\sigma(Z_{Cr})$, and $\sigma(E)$, there is a good fit between the experimental data and this model.

Figures 9 and 10 show the species distribution diagram for ratios $R=2$ and 8 , respectively. According to this diagram, for all R values species of the formula $[H_nV_2O_3L]^{(2+n)}$ ($n = 2, 0, -1, -2, -3$) exist. At $-\log h < 2.5$ the $[H_2V_2O_3L]^{4+}$ prevails; in the interval $2.5 \leq -\log h \leq 3.5$ $[V_2O_3L]^{2+}$ dominates and as soon as $-\log h$ grows the formation of $[OHV_2O_3L]^+$, $(OH)_2V_2O_3L$, and $[(OH)_3V_2O_3L]^-$ is favored. All these species are strong complexes capable of displacing the two and three component complexes that share the system with the exception of the VO_2L species.

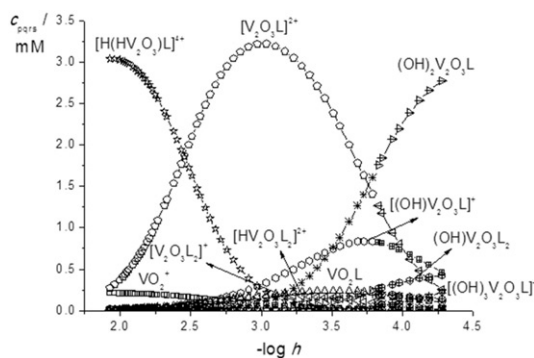


Figure 9. Species distribution diagram vs. $-\log h$ for the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+} - \text{VO}_2^+$ -methionine system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $\text{B} = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$, $\text{C} = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and ratio $R = 2$.

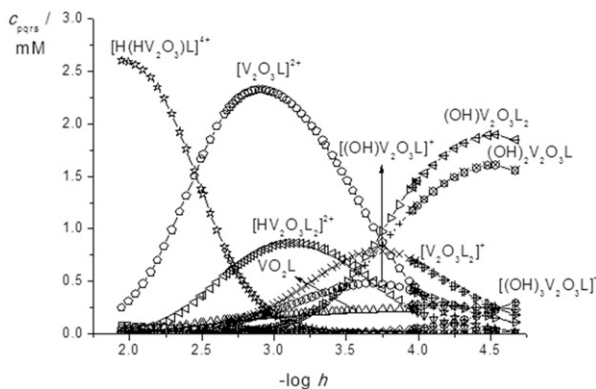


Figure 10. Species distribution diagram vs. $-\log h$ for the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+} - \text{VO}_2^+$ -methionine system in 3.0 mol L^{-1} KCl ionic medium at 25°C , for $\text{B} = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$, $\text{C} = 5.0 \text{ mmol L}^{-1}$ and ratio $R = 8$.

Complexes $\text{H}_n\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}_2^{(1+n)}$ ($n = 1, 0, -1$) only are formed for $-\log h > 3.0$ and their concentration grows with R ratio.

In this system four complexes of *two* components, two complexes of *three* components, and eight complexes of *four* components intervene, and despite the accumulation of experimental errors with an increasing number of components, the model gives a good explanation of the behavior of the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+} - \text{VO}_2^+$ -methionine system.

3.5. Theoretical calculations

In tables 7–9 selected calculated structural parameters for the $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+}$ -methionine, $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}_2^+$ -methionine, and $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+} - \text{VO}_2^+$ -methionine systems, involving (a) $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$ and $[\text{HVOL}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$, (b) $[\text{VO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^+$ and $[\text{HVO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^+$,

Table 7. Selected experimental and calculated bond distances and angles of $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ [18], $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$, and $[\text{HVOL}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{2+}$ (HL = methionine), together with the corresponding energy values (kcal mol^{-1}).

Species	V-O (apical oxygen)	V-O (oxygen of water trans to V-O bond)	V-O (oxygen of equatorial water)	V-O (oxygen of carboxylate)	O-V-OH ₂ (equatorial water) and O-V-O (carb) angles	E (kcal mol^{-1})
$\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}^{\text{a}}$	1.591	2.218	2.714, 2.714, 2.772, 2.772 (2.74)	96.3, 96.3, 99.7, 99.7 (98)		
$[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+, \text{b}}$	1.474	2.109	1.990, 1.992, 1.990, 1.991 (1.991)	98.60, 96.3, 100.15, 100.21 (99)		-867183.71(1)
$[\text{HVOL}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^{2+, \text{c}}$	1.477	2.136	1.950, 2.001, 2.000 (1.98)	1.966	102.98, 99.63, 97.22 (100) 100.61 (carb)	-1314699.04(1)
$[\text{HVOL}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^{2+, \text{d}}$	1.476		1.994, 1.936, 2.000, 2.008 (1.99)	2.129	99.598.67, 103.39, 98.45, 97.55 (100)	-1314694.44(1)

Bond distances and angles in Å and degrees, respectively (mean values in parentheses).

^aSingle-crystal X-ray diffraction [18].^bHyperChem calculation.^cHyperChem calculation (oxygen atom of carboxylate (carb) group in the same equatorial water molecules level).^dHyperChem calculation (oxygen atom of carboxylate (carb) group bound in position *trans* V-O bond).

Table 8. Selected experimental and calculated bond distances and angles of $\text{Na}_3\text{VO}_2\text{EDTA}$ [19], $[\text{VO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^+$, and $[\text{HVO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^+$ (HL = methionine), together with the corresponding energy values (kcal mol^{-1}).

Species	V-O (apical oxygen)	O-V-O angle	V-N (nitrogen of amine)	V-O (oxygen of equatorial water)	V-O (oxygen of carboxylate)	<i>E</i> (kcal mol^{-1})
$\text{Na}_3\text{VO}_2(\text{EDTA})^{\text{a}}$	1.657, 1.639 (1.65)	106.96	2.359, 2.366	1.999, 2.001 (2.000)	1.999, 2.001 (2.000)	-1355322.10(1)
$[\text{VO}_2(\text{EDTA})]^{3-\text{b}}$	1.516, 1.524 (1.520)	105.32	2.224, 2.476	1.997, 1.997 (1.977)	1.858, 1.982 (1.92)	-866586.72(1)
$[\text{VO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^{2+\text{b}}$	1.501, 1.501 (1.501)	107.58		2.019	1.958	-1314079.64(1)
$[\text{HVO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{1+\text{c}}$	1.501, 1.502 (1.52)	107.53		2.001, 2.093, 1.992 (2.03)	2.207	-1314077.44(1)
$[\text{HVO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^{1+\text{d}}$	1.502, 1.500 (1.51)	106.56		1.495, 3.366 (2.4)	1.758	-1266677.33(1)
$\text{VO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2^{\text{e}}$	1.687, 1.757 (1.72)	92.65	2.182			

Bond distances and angles in Å and degrees, respectively (mean values in parentheses).

^aSingle-crystal X-ray diffraction [19].^bHyperChem calculation.^cHyperChem calculation (oxygen atom of carboxylate (carb) group initially bound to 90 degrees vs. O=V=O angle, before running the *ab initio* STO-3 G* geometric optimization).^dHyperChem calculation (oxygen atom of carboxylate (carb) group initially bound in position *trans* V=O bond, before running the *ab initio* STO-3 G* geometric optimization).^eHyperChem calculation (O-VO₂-N chelate).

Table 9. Selected experimental and calculated bond distances and angles for $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ [20], $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+}$, $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$, and $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^{1+}$ (L = methionine), together with the corresponding energy values (kcal mol^{-1}).

Species	V-O (apical oxygen)	V-O (oxygen of carboxylate)	V-N (nitrogen of amine)	V-O-V (oxygen of bridge)	V-O-V (angle)	O-V-N (angle)	E (kcal mol^{-1})
$(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}^a$	1.607	2.041, 1.970, 1.982 (2.000)	2.297	1.810	Linear		
$[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+b}$	V ₁ 1.503 V ₂ 1.510 (1.507)	V ₁ 1.972, 2.043, 1.971 (1.995) V ₂ 1.902, 2.007, 1.899 (1.936)	2.178	V ₁ 1.899 V ₂ 1.884 (1.892)	159.87		-2,219,822.71(1)
$[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+b}$	V ₁ 1.657 V ₂ 1.667 (1.662)	V ₁ 1.755	V ₁ 2.103	V ₁ 1.589 V ₂ 1.982 (1.786)	84.02		-1,686,862.40(1)
$[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+c}$	V ₁ 1.823 V ₂ 1.533 (1.687)			V ₁ 1.668 V ₂ 1.819 (1.743)	129.00	81.89	-2,086,949.99(1)
$[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^{1+d}$	V ₁ 1.577 V ₂ 1.683 (1.64)	V ₁ 1.811 V ₂ 1.965 (1.90)	V ₁ 2.087 V ₂ 2.102 (2.09)	V ₁ 1.887 V ₂ 1.606 (1.74)	131.06	V ₁ 84.33 V ₂ 81.81 (83.1)	-2,487,147.37(1)

Bond distances and angles in Å and degrees, respectively (mean values in parentheses).

^aSingle-crystal X-ray diffraction [20].^bHyperChem calculation.^cHyperChem calculation (oxygen atom of carboxylate group in *cis* position to V-O bond).^dHyperChem calculation (oxygen atom of carboxylate group, respectively, in *cis* and *trans* positions to V₁-O and V₂-O bonds).

and (c) $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+}$, $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_7]^{2+}$, and $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^+$, are computed *in vacuo* at the STO-3G* basis set level of theory.

For each system, we compare each species with the corresponding structure of the central ion, i.e. VO^{2+} , VO_2^+ , and $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3^{3+}$, taking experimental information on interatomic distances and bond angles from X-ray diffraction values for $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ [18], $\text{Na}_3\text{VO}_2(\text{EDTA})$ [19], and $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ [20], respectively. For each structure, first the *molecular builder* and then the *molecular mechanics force field MM+* were run to get close to the optimized geometry, as a starting point before running the *ab initio* STO-3G* geometric optimization of the HyperChem software package.

3.5.1. $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+} - \text{methionine}$ system. For $[\text{HVOL}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]^{2+}$ the obtained average values for V–O (*apical O*) and V–O (*oxygen of equatorial water*) bond distances, and O–V–OH₂ (*equatorial water*) angles are in agreement with the corresponding values for $[\text{VO}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5]^{2+}$, but slightly smaller than the experimental X-ray diffraction values for $\text{VOSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Its conformation with oxygen of carboxylate bound in the same equatorial water level has a lower energy than the corresponding configuration with oxygen of carboxylate bound *trans* to the V–O bond (table 7).

3.5.2. $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ system. For $[\text{HVO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3]^+$ the calculated mean values for V–O (*apical O*) and V–O (*oxygen of equatorial water molecules*) bond distances, and O–V–O angle are in agreement with the corresponding values for $[\text{VO}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^+$, but the bond distances are smaller than the experimental X-ray diffraction values in $\text{Na}_3\text{VO}_2(\text{EDTA})$ [19] (table 8). Its conformation with oxygen from carboxylate initially (*molecular mechanics force field MM+*) bound to 90° *versus* the O–V–O angle has a lower energy than the corresponding configuration with oxygen of carboxylate initially (*molecular mechanics force field MM+*) bound *trans* to the V–O bond.

For the chelated framework of $[\text{VO}_2\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ the obtained values for the V–O (*apical O*) bond distances are slightly larger than those in $\text{Na}_3\text{VO}_2(\text{EDTA})$, whereas V–N (*nitrogen of amine*) and V–O (*oxygen of carboxylate*) bond distances and the O–V–O angle are smaller.

3.5.3. $\text{H}^+ - \text{VO}^{2+} - \text{VO}_2^+ - \text{methionine}$ system. For $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$ the calculated average value for the V–O (*apical O*) bond distance (table 9) is larger than the corresponding value for $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$, but almost the same as for $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+}$; the V–O–V (*oxygen of bridge*) bond distance is smaller than the corresponding value for $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ [20] and $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$, and almost the same as for $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+}$; the V–O (*oxygen of carboxylate*) bond distance is smaller than corresponding values for $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$ and $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8^{3+}$; the V–N (*nitrogen of amine*) bond distance is slightly smaller than that for $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$; lastly, the V–O–V angles are smaller than corresponding values for $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$, and larger than for $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8^{3+}$.

For $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3\text{L}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]^+$ the calculated average values for V–O (*apical O*) and V–O–V (*oxygen of bridge*) bond distances are almost the same as corresponding values for $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$, $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8]^{3+}$, and $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Although the V–O

(oxygen of carboxylate) bond distance is somewhat smaller, the V–N (nitrogen of amine) bond distance and V–O–V angles are nearly the same as corresponding values for $[\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2]^{3+}$ and $(\text{NH}_4)_3\text{V}_2\text{O}_3(\text{NTA})_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to National Funds of Science, Technology and Innovation (FONACIT, Grant UCV-Proyecto no. 2008000839) and to Consejo de Desarrollo Científico y Humanístico (CDCH, UCV) (project nos PG-03-12-4645-2004/2, PI-0300-6386-2006/1, PI-03-00-6970-2007/1, A 03-00-7111-2008 and grant no ICC03-0240-2008) for financial support. We thank Dr Mariela Araujo for correcting the English text.

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