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A Novel Ag-N-Heterocyclic Carbene Complex Bearing the Hydroxyethyl Ligand: Synthesis, Characterization, Crystal and Spectral Structures and Bioactivity Properties

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Abstract: In this study, a novel silver N-heterocyclic carbene (Ag-NHC) complex bearing hydroxyethyl substituent has been synthesized from the hydroxyethyl-substituted benzimidazolium salt and silver oxide by using in-situ deprotonation method. A structure of the Ag-NHC complex was characterized by using UV-Vis, FTIR, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopies and elemental analysis techniques. Also, the crystal structure of the novel complex was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction method. In this paper, compound **1** showed excellent inhibitory effects against some metabolic enzymes. This complex had Ki of 1.14 0.26 μ M against human carbonic anhydrase I (hCA I), 1.88±0.20 μ M against human carbonic anhydrase II (hCA I), and 10.75±2.47 μ M against α -glycosidase, respectively. On the other hand, the Ki value was found as 25.32±3.76 μ M against acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and 41.31±7.42 μ M against butyrylcholinesterase (BChE), respectively. These results showed that the complex had drug potency against some diseases related to using metabolic enzymes.

Keywords: N-heterocyclic carbene; crystal structure; enzyme inhibition; carbonic anhydrase; α -glycosidase

1. Introduction

Medical applications of the silver metal were discovered a long time ago [1]. The most commonly used of silver compounds are silver nitrate and silver sulfonamides [2]. Today, most organisms have been known to develop antimicrobial resistance to drugs. Therefore, researchers have tried to develop novel, stronger and multimodal alternatives that have the least antibiotic effects on the human body [3]. At the clinical stage, silver has been shown to exhibit broad activity against antibiotics including those resistant to deadly microbes [4]. In recent studies, silver complexes exhibit less toxicity to the human body than other metal complexes, which have made them desirable antimicrobial substances [5].

The organic ligands, which coordinated to the silver metal center, make important contributions to biological activity. Among them, N-heterocyclic carbenes (NHCs) are one of the most important organic



ligands. Transition metal complexes bearing NHC ligand have wide application areas. Biological activity applications of Ag-NHC complexes from these compounds have drawn attention. Furthermore, the biological activity applications of Ag-NHC complexes have started recently [2] and the number of studies on this subject is increasing day by day. In many studies, Ag-NHC complexes bearing functionalized NHC ligands exhibited promising biological activities [6,7]. In addition, the electronic and structural properties of NHCs and their modification properties have affected the biological activities of Ag-NHC complexes [8–11].

Carbonic anhydrases (CAs) are a structurally different enzyme family that catalyzes the interconversion of CO_2 to HCO_3^- . This reaction influences physiological pH values and the supply of HCO_3^- ions and for plenty of metabolic, physiological, and biosynthetic pathways. The CA enzymes have a very active research area among medicinal chemists because designing CA inhibitors (CAIs) plays an important role in the therapy of some metabolic diseases including glaucoma, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, epilepsy, and altitude sickness [12–15].

The primary effect of AChE is the cancellation of nerve impulse conduction by the rapid hydrolysis of acetylcholine (ACh) in cholinergic synapses. Inhibition of this metabolic enzyme acts as a strategy for the duration of senile dementia, Parkinson's disease, ataxia, Alzheimer's disease (AD), myasthenia gravis and some disorders of autonomic nervous system functions. BChE is distinguished from AChE by its catalytic selectivity for butyrylcholine over acetylcholine hydrolysis. Looking at the points where they were synthesized, AChE is synthesized in muscle, nerve, and some hematopoietic cells. In excitable tissues, AChE is localized on the extracellular surface of both muscle and nerve and regulated by tissue-specific development. On the other hand, BChE is synthesized and released largely in the liver and is transported to the plasma. It is thought to play a primary role in the metabolism of dietary esters, perhaps only in selected species. Recently, a large spectrum of AChE inhibitors have been developed and approved to the treat AD, such as donepezil, physostigmine, rivastigmine, huperzine-A, galantamine and tacrine. These clinical drugs are capable to prevent the degradation of ACh and increase its level in the cholinergic synapses that can improve cognitive deficits. However, the adverse and undesired effects like nausea, vomiting and weight loss have limited their clinical usage and efficacy. So, it is necessary to develop novel cholinergic enzymes inhibitors with less toxic side effect and better therapeutic effect [16–18].

 α -Glycosidase is a digestion enzyme that hydrolyzes polysaccharides like disaccharides and starches to generate more metabolically available sugar units in the course of catabolic metabolism. Indeed, it can functionally hydrolyze carbohydrate molecules; the α -glycosidase enzyme is distinct from β -glycosidase, which cleaves glycosides bonds. It is recorded that α -glycosidase is associated with type-2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) due to the fact that the high activity of this enzyme raised plasma glucose level and affects glucose absorption in these patients [19–22].

Recently, our work group investigated the enzyme inhibition activities of NHC precursors [23–26] and Pd(II)NHC complexes [27–30]. In this context, we synthesized a novel Ag-NHC complex and characterized its structure by using UV-Vis, FTIR, ¹H-NMR, and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopies and elemental analysis techniques. Further, we confirmed the structure of the novel Ag-NHC complex by using the single-crystal X-ray diffraction method. Finally, we investigated the inhibition effect of the novel Ag-NHC complex **1** against some metabolic enzymes.

2. Materials and Methods

The synthesis for the novel hydroxyethyl-liganded Ag-NHC complex **1** was prepared by using standard Schlenk techniques under an inert atmosphere. Any drying and purification weren't applied for all solvents purchased. All reagents were economically accessible by Merck and Sigma-Aldrich (Darmstadt, Germany), and abcr chemical Co (Karlsruhe, Germany). The starting benzimidazolium salt [28], which used in the synthesis of the novel Ag-NHC complex **1** was synthesized in Inonu University Organometallic Research Laboratory in Malatya, Turkey. The melting point was recognized in glass capillaries under air with an Electrothermal-9200 melting point apparatus (Giessen, Germany).

Also, FTIR spectra assay were kept in the range 400–4000 cm⁻¹ on Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 FTIR spectrometer (Waltham, MA, USA). The UV spectrum was measured with Shimadzu UV-1601 instrument (Duisburg, Germany). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using either a Bruker 400 Merkur spectrometer (Billerica, MA, USA) operating at ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz) in DMSO-d₆ with tetramethylsilane as an internal reference by Inonu University Catalysis Research and Application Center in Malatya, Turkey. Elemental analyses were performed by Inonu University Scientific and Technology Centre (Malatya, Turkey) on LECO, CNHS932 Elemental Analyzers (Haan, Germany).

2.1. Synthesis of Ag-NHC Complex 1

For the preparation of Ag-NHC complex 1; the 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-ethylbenzimidazolium bromide (0.379 g, 1.4 mmol) and silver(I)oxide (Ag₂O) (0.162 g, 0.7 mmol) were reacted in dichloromethane (30 mL). To the reaction mixture were added activated molecular sieves (4 units). The mixture was stirred in dark for 48 h. at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through celite (1 cm thick) and the solvent in the mixture was evaporated under vacuum. Then, the product was obtained as a white solid, which recrystallized from dichloromethane/ diethyl ether (1:3) at room temperature [31]. Yield: 80% (371 mg); m.p.: 158–159 °C; v(CN for 2-C): 1397 cm⁻¹; v(OH): 3157–3537 cm⁻¹. Anal. Calc. for C₄₄H₅₆Ag₃Br₃N₈O₄: C: 39.91; H: 4.26; N: 8.46. Found: C: 38.98, H: 4.02, N: 8.23. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆); δ 1.48 (t, 3H, J = 7.2 Hz, -NCH₂CH₃); 3.87 (t, 2H, J = 5.2 Hz, -NCH₂CH₂OH); 4.53–4.59 (m, 4H, -NCH₂CH₂OH and -NCH₂CH₃); 5.12 (s, 1H, -NCH₂CH₂OH); 7.42–7.83 (m, 4H, Ar–H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆); δ 16.5 (-NCH₂CH₃); 44.2 (-NCH₂CH₃); 51.7 (-NCH₂CH₂OH); 60.9 (-NCH₂CH₂OH); 112.2, 112.4, 112.8, 124.1, 124.2, 124.3, 133.3, 133.4 and 134.4. (Ar–C); 190.0 (Ag–C_{carbene}).

2.2. Biochemical Studies

The inhibiting effects of the Ag-NHC complex **1** on both carbonic anhydrase isoenzymes (hCA I and II) are described by Verpoorte et al. [32] and detailed in previous studies [33,34] and recorded spectrophotometrically using p-nitrophenylacetate substrate (PNA) at 348 nm [35,36]. Indeed, the BChE and AChE inhibitory effects of Ag-NHC complex **1** were performed according to the Ellman's assay [37] and spectrophotometrically recorded at 412 nm [38]. Butyrylthiocholine iodide and acetylthiocholine iodide was substrates for both enzymatic reaction. On the other hand, 5,5'-dithio-bis (2-nitro-benzoic) acid molecule was used to measure AChE and BChE activities, respectively [39]. Additionally, the α -glycosidase inhibitory effect of Ag-NHC complex **1** was carried out using the p-nitrophenyl-D-glycopyranoside molecule (p-NPG) as the substrate according to the method of Tao et al. [40] Samples of this work were prepared by dissolving as mg/mL. This assay was performed according to previous studies [41,42].

2.3. X-ray Crystallography

X-ray single crystal diffraction data for Ag-NHC complex 1 was collected at room temperature on a Rigaku-Oxford Xcalibur diffractometer (Oxford, UK) with an EOS-CCD detector using graphite-monochromatic MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) with CrysAlisPro software (Oxford, UK) [43]. Data reduction and analytical absorption correction were performed by CrysAlisPro program [44]. Utilizing Olex2 [45], structure was solved using Intrinsic Phasing method with SHELXT [46] and refined by full-matrix least squares on F2 in SHELXL [47]. Anisotropic thermal parameters were applied to all non-hydrogen atoms. All hydrogen atoms were placed using standard geometric models and with their thermal parameters riding on those of their parent atoms. Some positional disorders were observed for hydroxyethyl groups in the structure, and to ensure satisfactory refinement of these disordered hydroxyethyl groups, constraint and restraint instructions such as EADP, DFIX, and DELU were applied. A summary of crystal data, experimental details, and refinement results for the Ag-NHC complex 1 is given in Table 1. Crystallographic data as cif file for the structure reported in this paper has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center with CCDC 1979850 for complex 1. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge at http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK. Fax: (+44) 1223-336-033, email: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk.

Crystal Data	Experimental Details						
Empirical Formula	C ₄₄ H ₅₆ Ag ₃ Br ₃ N ₈ O ₄						
Formula Weight	1324.30						
Temperature (K)	293(2)						
Crystal System, space group	Monoclinic, P2 ₁ /n						
a, b, c (Å)	10.7530(6), 13.2516(10), 17.8818(11)						
α, β, γ (⁰)	90, 106.473(6), 90						
$V(\dot{A}^3)$	2443.5(3)						
Z	2						
Density (calculated) (g/cm ³)	1.800						
Absorption coefficient (μ , mm ⁻¹)	3.692						
F(000)	1308						
Crystal size (mm ³)	$0.386 \times 0.342 \times 0.178$						
Radiation	$MoK\alpha (\lambda = 0.71073)$						
2θ range for data collection (°)	6.002 to 51.358						
Index ranges	$-6 \le h \le 13, -16 \le k \le 7, -21 \le l \le 21$						
Reflections collected	8043						
Independent reflections	4589 [R _{int} = 0.027, R _{sigma} = 0.055]						
Restraints/Parameters	8/269						
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.034						
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.074, wR_2 = 0.208$						
R indices	$R_1 = 0.113, wR_2 = 0.237$						

Table 1. Crystal data and experimental details for the Ag-NHC complex 1.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Synthesis

The Ag-NHC complex **1** bearing hydroxyethyl-liganded have illustrated in Scheme 1. The complex was synthesized from the hydroxyethyl-substituted benzimidazolium salt [28] and silver oxide via in-situ deprotonation method. The reaction mixture was stirred in dark during 48 h. at room temperature. The Ag-NHC complex **1** was obtained as a white solid at 80% yield. The novel stable complex was well soluble in halogenated solvents such as dichloromethane and chloroform. Also, the Ag-NHC complex **1** was well soluble in polar solvents such as dimethylsulfoxide and dimethylformamide. But, this complex was less soluble in polar solvents such as water and ethanol.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of the hydroxyethyl-substituted Ag-NHC complex 1.

3.2. NMR Study

The structure of the Ag-NHC complex **1** was characterized by ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic methods. When the ¹H NMR data was examined, the characteristic proton peak that observed at

10.42 ppm for the starting benzimidazolium salt [28] was not observed in the novel Ag-NHC complex. The -CH₃ and -CH₂ proton peaks belonging to the ethyl group (-NCH₂CH₃) have been observed as triplets at 1.48 ppm (J = 7.2 Hz) and as multiplets at 4.55 ppm, respectively. The two -CH₂ proton peaks belonging to the hydroxyethyl group (-NCH₂CH₂OH) have been observed as triplet at 3.87 ppm (J = 5.2 Hz) and as multiplets at 4.58 ppm respectively. The broad (wide) singlet peak was observed at 5.12 ppm for hydroxy proton in the 1 H NMR spectrum. The aromatic proton peaks of benzimidazole have observed as multiplited between 7.42 and 7.83 ppm. When the 13 C NMR data was examined, the characteristic carbon peak that observed at 141.7 ppm for the 2-CH of the starting benzimidazolium salt [28] was not observed in the novel Ag-NHC complex. Furthermore, the characteristic Ag- $C_{carbene}$ resonance for the novel Ag-NHC complex 1 was observed in the ¹³C NMR spectra appeared highly downfield at 190.0 ppm. The -CH₂ aliphatic carbon atom bonding to -OH on the hydroxyethyl group has been observed at 60.9 ppm. The $-CH_2$ aliphatic carbon atom bonding to the nitrogen on the hydroxyethyl group (-NCH₂CH₂OH) has been observed at 51.7 ppm. The -CH₃ and -CH₂ aliphatic carbon peaks belonging to the ethyl group (-NCH₂CH₃) have been observed at 16.5 and 44.2 ppm respectively. The aromatic carbon peaks of benzimidazole observed between 112.2 and 134.4 ppm. All ¹H NMR data (Figure 1) and ¹³C NMR data (Figure 2) for the novel Ag-NHC complex 1 have compatible with the literature [6,7].



Figure 1. The ¹H NMR data for the hydroxyethyl-substituted Ag-NHC complex **1**.

3.3. FTIR Study

Herein, the FTIR spectroscopy has been used to describe the functional groups available in the complex. The FTIR spectrum of the novel Ag-NHC complex **1** has illustrated in Figure 3. It has been recorded for the wavenumbers region between 4000 and 450 cm⁻¹. When the investigation of the FTIR spectrum, the symmetrical C–H stretching frequency of the benzene rings observed intense at 3119 and 3155 cm⁻¹. The symmetrical C–H stretching frequency of the $-CH_2-$ and $-CH_3$ groups in the ethyl and the $-CH_2-$ groups in the hydroxyethyl becomes intense at 2869, 2934 and 2975 cm⁻¹. The symmetrical C=C stretching frequency of the benzene rings become intense at 1555 cm⁻¹. The symmetrical conjugated C=C bond stretching frequency of the benzene rings becomes intense at 1344 cm⁻¹. The band at 1039 cm⁻¹ and 1054 cm⁻¹ corresponds to the primary alcohol (hydroxyethyl group) C–O stretching mode. The band at 1288 cm⁻¹ corresponds to the primary alcohol (hydroxyethyl group) O–H in-plane bending vibration. The symmetrical for C_{carbene}–N stretching frequency in the

benzimidazole group observed intense at 1397 cm⁻¹ [48,49]. According to the literature, Ag–C stress vibrations are expected in the frequency region of 400–155 cm⁻¹ [50].





Figure 3. The FTIR spectrum of the hydroxyethyl-substituted Ag-NHC complex 1.

3.4. UV-Vis Study

The UV-Vis spectra of the novel Ag-NHC complex of dissolved in chloroform at 25 °C showed up four absorption bands at 220, 250, 270 and 320 nm, respectively. The UV-Vis spectra of the novel Ag-NHC complex 1 were recorded in (CHCl₃) solutions at a concentration of 15 or 10 μ M and were

depicted in Figure 4 with a range 200~400 nm. The novel Ag-NHC complex 1 showed a new absorption peak at 320 related to MLCT (metal-ligand charge transfer) (Ag⁺ to NHC ligand) (Figure 4) [51]. This peak is known as the wide range bands, both $\pi \to \pi^*$, $n \to \pi^*$ and d-d transitions of (C = N) and

charge-transfer transition arising from π electron interactions between metal and ligand that involves either a metal-to-ligand or ligand-to-metal electron transfer [52]. The absorption bands below 220~270 nm in CHCl₃ are practically identical and can be attributed to $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions in the benzene and benzimidazole ring [51,53].



Figure 4. The UV-Vis spectrum of the hydroxyethyl-substituted Ag-NHC complex 1.

3.5. Description of the Crystal Structure of Ag-NHC Complex 1

A molecular representation of the Ag-NHC complex **1** is depicted in Figure **5**. The asymmetric unit of the Ag-NHC complex **1** contains a half of molecule and completed with Ci symmetry operation. The coordination environment comprises of a nearly linear $[Ag(NHC)_2]^+$ cation and a [AgBr]-anion with an almost perpendicular orientation to the cation $[C1-Ag1-Ag2-Br1 = 90.2(2)^\circ, C12-Ag1-Ag2-Br1 = -87.8(2)^\circ]$. There is also a bromide ion in the asymmetric unit, connected to the cation molecule with a hydrogen bond. The angle C1-Ag1-C12 is 171.1(3)° and deviates from the linear geometry. The Ag1 ... Ag2 association is 3.097(6) Å, is almost low comparing the Ag ... Ag bond distances in the literature [54]. The cationic Ag-C bond distances are consistent with the similar Ag(NHC) complexes [Ag1-C1 2.098(7) Å, Ag1-C12 2.096(8) Å] [55]. The interplanar angle between the benzimidazole (C1) ring and the C1-Ag1-Ag2 plane is 79.50(16)° and that between benzimidazole (C12) ring and the C12-Ag1-Ag2 plane is 76.95(17)°.

In the crystal packing of the complex **1**, cation molecules linked to each other via bromide anions with O1–H1…Br2i [H1…Br2 = 2.58 Å, O1–Br2 = 3.15(3) Å, O1–H1…Br2 = 127°, symmetry code: i 3/2 - x, -1/2 + y, 3/2 - z]; O2A–H2AA…Br2 [H2AA…Br2 = 2.25 Å, O2A–Br2 = 3.04(2) Å, O2A–H2AA…Br2 = 163°] and O2B–H2BA…Br2 [H2BA…Br2 = 2.17 Å, O2B–Br2 = 2.89(3) Å, O2B–H2BA…Br2 = 147°] hydrogen bonding interactions forming an infinite chain along the b- and c-axis. The crystal structure is also stabilized by C–H…Br and C–H…O type intra- and intermolecular weak interactions. As can be seen in Figure 6, the Ag2 atoms settle in each corner of the unit cell and one is in the middle of the unit cell, while the bromide anions are between these corners Ag2 atoms.



Figure 5. Molecular structure of Ag-NHC complex **1** with ellipsoids drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Ag1–Ag2 3.0966(7), Ag1–C1 2.098(7), Ag1–C1 2.096(8), Ag2–Br1 2.4277(14); Ag1–Ag2–Br1 86.39(3), C1–Ag1–C12 171.1(3), C1–Ag1–Ag2 93.0(2), C12–Ag1–Ag2 95.6(2), C1–N1–C10 125.4(7), N1–C10–C11 115.5(9), C1–N2–C2 125.3(7), N2–C2–C3 111.9(10), C10–C11–O2A 112.6(14), C10–C11–O2B 116.2(17), C12–N3–C13 124.6(7), N3–C13–C14 112.9(8), C12–N4–C21 125.2(8), N4–C21–C22 111.0(9), C21–C22–O1 107.3(14). [Symmetry code: (*) 1 – x, 1 – y, 1 – z].



Figure 6. Representation of the packing diagram for the Ag-NHC complex **1**. The Ag2 atoms settle in each corner of the unit cell and one is in the middle, while the bromide anions are between these corner silver atoms. The Ag, Br and O atoms are shown as balls, while the other atoms are shown in a wireframe style. For the sake of clarity, hydrogen atoms that do not to play role in the bonding are omitted.

3.6. Enzyme Inhibition Studies

Inhibitors of metabolic enzymes can constitute new therapeutics against cancer or may have potential as antibacterial and antifungal drugs [56,57]. Recently, the inhibition of human CAs by sulfonamide compounds has been recorded to inhibit the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. Selective inhibition of CA II constitutes a viable approach to fight against the disturbances caused by the harmful effects of CA II enzyme [58–60]. When testing the results, the following inhibition activity relevance could be considered and summarized:

- 1. For the hCA I isoenzyme, Ag-NHC complex 1 had K_i and IC₅₀ values of 1.14±0.26 and 0.93 µM, respectively (Table 2). Additionally, for the hCA II isoform, Ag-NHC complex 1 had Ki and IC₅₀ values 1.88±0.20 and 1.26 nM, respectively (Table 2). In this work, acetazolamide (AZA) as a positive CA inhibitor, which used for therapy of epileptic seizure, altitude sickness, glaucoma, dural ectasia, and idiopathic intracranial hypertension, had IC₅₀ values of 54.88 and 48.22 µM for hCA I, and hCA II. Also, AZA showed K_i values of 50.17±4.17 and 42.15±8.11 µM against both isoenzymes, respectively (Table 2). IC₅₀ values of Ag-NHC complex 1 and AZA exhibited the following order: Ag-NHC complex 1 (0.9300, r²: 0.9786 µM) < AZA (54.88, r²: 0.9880 µM) for hCA I while these compound exhibited for hCA II the following order: Ag-NHC complex 1 (1.26 µM, r²: 0.9435 µM) < AZA (48.22 nM, r²: 0.9878 µM).
- 2. There are multiple synthetical drugs like tacrine, donepezil, and rivastigmine based on for the duration of cognitive dysfunction and memory loss related to AD. These components have been reported to have side effects such as gastrointestinal disorders related to biocompatibility issues [61–63]. Ag-NHC complex 1 effectively inhibited both cholinergic BChE and AChE enzymes. It was obtained that K_i values were $25.32\pm3.76 \ \mu$ M for AChE and $41.31\pm7.42 \ \mu$ M for BChE, respectively (Table 2). In addition, Tacrine (TAC) was used as positive control BChE and AChE inhibitor it had K_i values 47.18±8.37 and 69.08±13.40 μ M, respectively. IC₅₀ values of Ag-NHC complex 1 and Tacrine exhibited the following order: Ag-NHC complex 1 (36.41 μ M, r²: 0.9745) < Tacrine (76.20 μ M, r²: 0.9874) for AChE while these compound exhibited for BChE the following order: Ag-NHC complex 1 (50.25 μ M, r²: 0.9790) < Tacrine (96.40 μ M, r²: 0.9424).
- 3. The α -glycosidase inhibitors as oral antidiabetic compounds, which inhibit upper gastrointestinal enzymes that break down the carbohydrate polysaccharides into glucose units. Indeed, the absorption of glucose is delayed postprandial glucose levels [64–67]. For glycosidase, Ag-NHC complex **1** and acarbose have IC₅₀ values of 8.11 (r²: 0.9252) and 22.80 μ M, respectively. Their K_i values were found as 10.75±2.47 and 12.60±0.70 μ M, respectively. (Table 2). The results have clearly documented that Ag-NHC complex **1** had shown effective inhibitory effects against α -glycosidase inhibition than that of acarbose (IC₅₀: 22.80 μ M) as a standard α -glycosidase inhibitor [40]. IC₅₀ values of Ag-NHC complex **1** and acarbose exhibited the following order: Ag-NHC complex **1** (8.11 μ M, r²: 0.9252) < Acarbose for α -glycosidase [68,69].

Compounds –	IC ₅₀ (μM)									K _i (μM)					
	hCA I	r ²	hCA II	r ²	AChE	r ²	BChE	r ²	α-Gly	r ²	hCA I	hCA II	AChE	BChE	α-Gly
Complex 1	0.93	0.9786	1.26	0.9435	36.41	0.9745	50.25	0.9790	8.11	0.9252	1.14 ± 0.26	1.88 ± 0.20	25.32 ± 3.76	41.31 ± 7.42	10.75 ± 2.47
AZA *	54.88	0.9880	48.22	0.9878	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.17 ± 4.17	42.15 ± 8.11	-	-	-
Tacrine **	-	-	-	-	76.2	0.9874	96.4	0.9424	-	-	-	-	47.18 ± 8.37	69.08 ± 13.40	-
Acarbose ***	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22.80	-	-	-	-	-	12.60 ± 0.7

Table 2. The enzyme inhibition results (IC₅₀ and K_i values) of Ag-NHC complex **1** against hCA I, hCA II, α-Glycosidase, AChE, and BChE enzymes.

* AZA (acetazolamide) was used as a positive control for human carbonic anhydrase I and II isoforms (hCA I and II). ** TAC (tacrine) was used as a positive control for acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) enzymes. *** Acarbose was used as a positive control for α-glycosidase enzyme [40].

4. Conclusions

Consequently, in this study, a novel hydroxyethyl-substituted Ag-NHC complex **1** was synthesized and has been fully characterized by using FT-IR, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and UV-Vis spectroscopy and elemental analysis techniques. As a result of all characterization data, the novel Ag-NHC complex **1** exhibited great compatibility with the proposed formulas. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis displayed the T-shaped geometry for a three-coordinate silver atom. Bromide anions play a bridge role to connect the molecules and occur one-dimensional infinite chain along the b-axis. Ag-NHC complex **1** was found to be a good inhibitor for hCA I and hCA II isoenzymes, α -glycosidase, AChE and BChE enzymes. This type of compound can be used for the development of novel antiglaucoma, antiepileptic, anticholinesterase, and anticancer drugs.

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