

## *N'*-(2-羟基-5-甲氧基苯甲基)-4-二甲氨基苯甲酰肼及其氧钒(V) 配合物:合成、晶体结构和脲酶抑制活性

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**摘要:** 制备了一个苯甲酰肼化合物 *N'*-(2-羟基-5-甲氧基苯甲基)-4-二甲氨基苯甲酰肼( $H_2L$ )。利用  $H_2L$ 、乙酰氧肟酸(HAHA)和 VO(acac)<sub>2</sub> 在甲醇中反应得到了配合物[VOL(AHA)]。通过元素分析、红外和紫外光谱,以及单晶 X-射线衍射对  $H_2L$  和其配合物进行了表征。苯甲酰肼配体作为二价阴离子,利用其酚羟基氧原子、亚胺基氮原子、以及烯醇氧原子与 V 原子进行配位。乙酰氧肟酸配体利用其羰基氧原子和去质子化的羟基氧原子进行配位。配合物中的 V 原子为八面体配位构型。测试了  $H_2L$ 、HAHA 和钒配合物的脲酶抑制活性。在浓度为 100  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  时,钒配合物对幽门螺旋杆菌脲酶的抑制率为 63%,其 IC<sub>50</sub> 值为 45  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ 。还利用分子对接技术研究了配合物分子与脲酶的作用方式。

**关键词:** 苯甲酰肼; 乙酰氧肟酸; 氧钒配合物; 晶体结构; 脲酶抑制剂

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## *N'*-(2-Hydroxy-5-methoxybenzylidene)-4-dimethylaminobenzohydrazide and Its Oxovanadium(V) Complex: Syntheses, Crystal Structures, and Urease Inhibitory Activity

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**Abstract:** A benzohydrazone compound *N'*-(2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzylidene)-4-dimethylaminobenzohydrazide ( $H_2L$ ) was prepared. Reaction of  $H_2L$  and acetylhydroxamic acid (HAHA) with VO(acac)<sub>2</sub> in methanol gave complex [VOL(AHA)]. Both  $H_2L$  and the oxovanadium complex were characterized by elemental analysis, IR and UV-Vis spectra, and single crystal X-ray diffraction. The benzohydrazone ligand, in its dianionic form, coordinates to V atom through the phenolate oxygen, imino nitrogen and enolate oxygen. The acetohydroxamic acid coordinates to V atom through the carbonyl oxygen and deprotonated hydroxyl oxygen. The V atom is in octahedral coordination.  $H_2L$ , HAHA and the oxovanadium(V) complex were tested for their urease inhibitory activities. The inhibition rate at concentration of 100  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  on *Helicobacter pylori* urease is 63% for the oxovanadium complex. The IC<sub>50</sub> value for the complex is 45  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ . Molecular docking study was performed to study the inhibition. CCDC: 1042493,  $H_2L$ ; 905427, the complex.

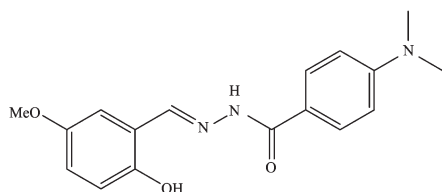
**Key words:** benzohydrazone; oxovanadium complex; crystal structure; urease inhibition

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Urease has negative effects on human, stockbreeding, and agriculture<sup>[1-4]</sup>. Control of the activity of urease through use of inhibitors could counteract these negative effects. Metal complexes have been proved to be a kind of versatile enzyme inhibitors<sup>[5]</sup>. In recent years, metal complexes with hydrazone ligands have received particular attention in biological and medicinal chemistry, as well as catalysis<sup>[6-9]</sup>. Vanadium complexes have also been reported to normalize the high blood glucose levels and act as models of haloperoxidases<sup>[10-13]</sup>. It is notable that Ara and co-workers reported that some binuclear vanadium(IV) complexes possess effective urease inhibitory activities<sup>[14]</sup>. Aslam and co-workers reported that the Schiff bases of hydrazone type also possess urease inhibitory activities<sup>[15]</sup>. Recently, our research group has reported a few vanadium complexes with urease inhibitory activities<sup>[16-17]</sup>. As an extension on this work, in the present paper, a benzohydrazone ligand *N'*-(2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzylidene)-4-dimethylaminobenzohydrazide ( $H_2L$ , Scheme 1) and its oxovanadium(V) complex with acetylhydroxamate (AHA) as co-ligand were prepared and investigated from their coordination and biological aspects.



Scheme 1 Hydrazone ligand  $H_2L$

## 1 Experimental

### 1.1 General methods and materials

Starting materials, reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers with AR grade, and used without purification. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer 240C elemental analyzer. IR spectra were recorded on a Jasco FT/IR-4000 spectrometer as KBr pellets in the 4 000~200  $cm^{-1}$  region. UV-Vis spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 900 spectrometer.  $^1H$  NMR spectra for  $H_2L$  and the complex were recorded on a Bruker spectrometer at 300 and 400 MHz,

respectively. X-ray diffraction was carried out on a Bruker SMART 1000 CCD diffractometer.

### 1.2 Synthesis of $H_2L$

2-Hydroxy-5-methoxybenzaldehyde (1.52 g, 0.01 mol) and 4-dimethylaminobenzohydrazide (1.79 g, 0.01 mol) were reacted in 30 mL of methanol. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h to give a clear colorless solution. The solution was allowed to stand in air for a few days until three quarter of the solvent was evaporated. Colorless block-shaped crystals of  $H_2L$ , suitable for X-ray single crystal diffraction, were formed at the bottom of the vessel. The crystals were isolated by filtration, washed three times with cold methanol and dried in air. Yield: 67%. Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{17}H_{19}N_3O_3$  (%): C, 65.2; H, 6.1; N, 13.4. Found (%): C, 65.4; H, 6.0; N, 13.4. IR data ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 3 434 (br, w), 3 207 (sh, w), 3 033 (w), 2 905 (w), 2 828 (w), 1 614 (s), 1 525 (s), 1 492 (s), 1 363 (m), 1 280 (s), 1 201 (m), 1 150 (m), 1 040 (m), 950 (m), 886 (w), 821 (m), 763 (m), 679 (w), 593 (w), 473 (w). UV ( $\lambda / nm, \epsilon / (L \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot cm^{-1})$ ): 250,  $1.83 \times 10^4$ ; 282,  $1.68 \times 10^4$ ; 327,  $1.78 \times 10^4$ ; 376,  $2.18 \times 10^4$ ; 456,  $1.07 \times 10^4$ .  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  11.81 (s, 1H, OH), 10.91 (s, 1H, NH), 8.56 (s, 1H, CH=N), 7.82 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.07 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.90~6.75 (m, 4H, ArH), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.00 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>).

### 1.3 Synthesis of the complex

A methanolic solution (30 mL) of VO(acac)<sub>2</sub> (0.27 g, 1.0 mmol) was added to a methanolic solution (20 mL) of  $H_2L$  (0.31 g, 1.0 mmol) and HAHA (0.075 g, 1.0 mmol) with stirring. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min to give a brown solution. The resulting solution was allowed to stand in air for a few days until three quarter of the solvent was evaporated. Brown block-shaped crystals of the complex, suitable for X-ray single crystal diffraction were formed at the bottom of the vessel. The crystals were isolated by filtration, washed three times with cold methanol and dried in air. Yield: 55%. Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{19}H_{21}N_4O_6V$  (%): C, 50.5; H, 4.7; N, 12.4. Found (%): C, 50.3; H, 4.8; N, 12.3. IR data ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 3 213 (sh, w), 1 602 (s), 1 550 (m), 1 473 (s), 1 427 (w), 1 376 (s), 1 266 (m), 1 189 (s), 1 034 (w), 963 (m),

821 (m), 750 (w), 679 (w), 595 (m), 569 (m), 473 (w). UV( $\lambda$  / nm,  $\varepsilon$  / (L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>)): 227, 3.15×10<sup>4</sup>; 250, 2.65×10<sup>4</sup>; 280, 2.44×10<sup>4</sup>; 327, 2.56×10<sup>4</sup>; 377, 3.16×10<sup>4</sup>; 455, 1.55×10<sup>4</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  13.80 (s, 1H, NH), 8.94 (s, 1H, CH=N), 7.72 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.32 (d, 1H, ArH), 7.14 (t, 1H, ArH), 6.77 (m, 3H, ArH), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.00 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 2.07 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>CONHO).

#### 1.4 X-ray crystallography

Diffraction intensities for H<sub>2</sub>L and the complex were collected at 298(2) K using a Bruker SMART 1000 CCD area-detector diffractometer with Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$ =0.071 073 nm). The collected data were reduced with SAINT<sup>[18]</sup>, and multi-scan absorption correction was performed using SADABS<sup>[19]</sup>. Structures

of the compounds were solved by direct methods and refined against  $F^2$  by full-matrix least-squares method using SHELXTL<sup>[20]</sup>. All of the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atom attached to N atom of the complex was located from a difference Fourier map and refined isotropically, with N-H distance restrained to 0.090(1) nm. The remaining hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions and constrained to ride on their parent atoms. The C18 ~C24-O4-O6-C34 moiety of H<sub>2</sub>L is disordered over two sites, with occupancies of 0.53 and 0.47, respectively. Crystallographic data for H<sub>2</sub>L and the complex are summarized in Table 1. Selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 2.

CCDC: 1042493, H<sub>2</sub>L; 905427, the complex.

Table 1 Crystallographic and experimental data for H<sub>2</sub>L and the complex

	H <sub>2</sub> L	Complex
Formula	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>6</sub> V
Formula weight	313.3	452.3
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	<i>C2/c</i>	<i>Pbca</i>
<i>a</i> / nm	3.548 8(2)	1.505 05(5)
<i>b</i> / nm	1.043 8(1)	1.406 98(5)
<i>c</i> / nm	1.852 0(2)	1.981 75(7)
$\beta$ / (°)	109.470(2)	
<i>V</i> / nm <sup>3</sup>	6.467 9(12)	4.196 5(3)
<i>Z</i>	16	8
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> / (g·cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.287	1.432
$\mu$ / mm <sup>-1</sup> (Mo $K\alpha$ )	0.090	0.516
<i>F</i> (000)	2 656	1 872
Independent reflections	8 024	4 349
Observed reflections ( $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ )	3 705	3 519
Parameters	522	278
Restraints	191	1
Final <i>R</i> indices ( $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ )	$R_1=0.060$ 1, $wR_2=0.143$ 0	$R_1=0.036$ 9, $wR_2=0.110$ 2
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R_1=0.148$ 4, $wR_2=0.187$ 1	$R_1=0.048$ 5, $wR_2=0.121$ 1
GOF on $F^2$	0.977	1.091

Table 2 Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles (°) for H<sub>2</sub>L and the complex

H <sub>2</sub> L					
C7-N1	0.128 2(3)	N1-N2	0.136 0(2)	N2-C8	0.136 2(3)
C8-O2	0.123 4(2)	C24-N4	0.127 4(8)	N4-N5	0.137 3(2)
N5-C25	0.136 1(2)	C25-O5	0.122 9(2)		

Continued Table 2

Complex					
V1-N1	0.208 71(17)	V1-O2	0.184 35(15)	V1-O3	0.194 77(15)
V1-O4	0.220 53(15)	V1-O5	0.185 32(14)	V1-O6	0.158 78(16)
C8-N1	0.128 8(3)	N1-N2	0.138 6(2)	N2-C9	0.131 5(2)
C9-O3	0.129 9(2)	O6-V1-O2	100.49(9)	O6-V1-O5	96.86(8)
O2-V1-O5	100.87(7)	O6-V1-O3	98.94(8)	O2-V1-O3	152.77(7)
O5-V1-O3	95.53(6)	O6-V1-N1	97.77(8)	O2-V1-N1	83.81(7)
O5-V1-N1	163.55(7)	O3-V1-N1	74.79(6)	O6-V1-O4	173.24(7)
O2-V1-O4	81.90(7)	O5-V1-O4	76.44(6)	O3-V1-O4	81.01(6)
N1-V1-O4	88.75(6)				

### 1.5 Urease inhibitory activity assay

*Helicobacter pylori* (ATCC 43504; American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA) was grown in brucella broth supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated horse serum for 24 h at 37 °C under microaerobic condition (5% O<sub>2</sub>, 10% CO<sub>2</sub>, and 85% N<sub>2</sub>). The method of preparation of *Helicobacter pylori* urease by Mao was followed<sup>[21]</sup>. Briefly, broth cultures (50 mL, 2.0×10<sup>8</sup> CFU·mL<sup>-1</sup>) were centrifuged (5000 g, 4 °C) to collect the bacteria, and after washing twice with phosphate-buffered saline (pH 7.4), the *Helicobacter pylori* precipitation was stored at -80 °C. After the *Helicobacter pylori* was cooled to room temperature, and mixed with 3 mL of distilled water and protease inhibitors, sonication was performed for 60 s. Following centrifugation (15 000 g, 4 °C), the supernatant was desalted through Sephadex G-25 column (PD-10 columns, Amersham-Pharmacia Biotech, Uppsala, Sweden). The resultant crude urease solution was added to an equal volume of glycerol and stored at 4 °C until use in the experiment. The mixture, containing 25 μL (4U) of *Helicobacter pylori* urease and 25 μL of the test compound, was pre-incubated for 3 h at room temperature in a 96-well assay plate. Urease activity was determined for three parallel times by measuring ammonia production using the indophenol method as described by Weatherburn<sup>[22]</sup>.

### 1.6 Molecular docking study

Molecular docking of the complex into 3D X-ray structure of *Helicobacter pylori* urease (entry 1E9Y in the Protein Data Bank) was carried out by using AutoDock 4.2 software as implemented through the

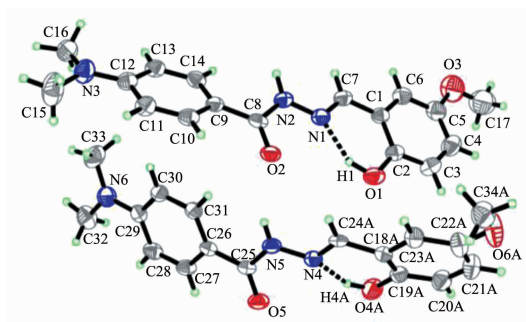
graphical user interface AutoDockTools (ADT 1.5.4). The graphical user interface AutoDockTools was employed to setup the enzymes: all hydrogens were added, Gasteiger charges were calculated and non-polar hydrogens were merged to carbon atoms. The Ni initial parameters are set as  $r=0.117$  0 nm,  $q=+2.0$ , and van der Waals well depth of 0.420 kJ·mol<sup>-1</sup><sup>[23]</sup>. The molecule of the complex was transferred to a pdb file with the program ChemBio3D. The pdb file was further transferred to a pdbqt file with the AutoDockTools.

The AutoDockTools was used to generate the docking input files. In the docking a grid box size of 7.0 nm×7.0 nm×9.0 nm points in  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  directions was built. The maps were centered on the original ligand molecule in the catalytic site of the protein. A grid spacing of 0.037 5 nm and a distances-dependent function of the dielectric constant were used for the calculation of the energetic map. 100 runs were generated by using Lamarckian genetic algorithm searches. Default settings were used with an initial population of 50 randomly placed individuals, a maximum number of 2.5×10<sup>6</sup> energy evaluations, and a maximum number of 2.7×10<sup>4</sup> generations. A mutation rate of 0.02 and a crossover rate of 0.8 were chosen. The results of the most favorable free energy of binding were selected as the resultant complex structure.

## 2 Results and discussion

### 2.1 Structure description of H<sub>2</sub>L and the complex

Molecular structure of H<sub>2</sub>L is shown in Fig.1. X-ray crystallography reveals that the asymmetric unit of



Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level; Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines

Fig.1 A perspective view of the molecular structure of  $H_2L$  with the atom labeling scheme

the compound contains two independent molecules. There are intramolecular  $O-H \cdots N$  hydrogen bonds (Table 3) in the molecules. The dihedral angle between benzene rings  $C1 \sim C6$  and  $C9 \sim C14$  is  $25.4(3)^\circ$ , and that between benzene rings  $C18A \sim C23A$  and  $C26 \sim C31$  is  $36.7(3)^\circ$ . All the bond values agree well with those observed in similar structures<sup>[24-26]</sup>. In the crystal structure of  $H_2L$ , molecules are linked through

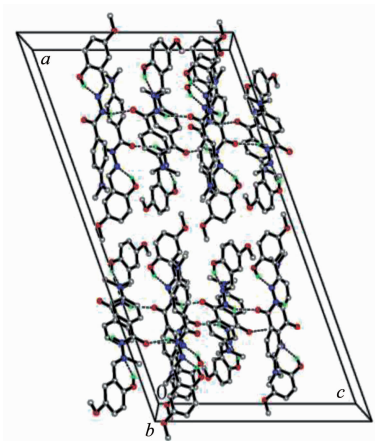
intermolecular  $N-H \cdots O$  hydrogen bonds (Table 3), to form chains along  $c$ -axis direction (Fig.2).

Molecular structure of the oxovanadium complex is shown in Fig.3. The benzohydrazone ligand coordinates to the V atom through the phenolate O, imino N, and enolate O atoms. The V atom in the complex is in an octahedral coordination, with three donor atoms of the benzohydrazone ligand and the

Table 3 Hydrogen bond distances (nm) and bond angles ( $^\circ$ ) for  $H_2L$  and the complex

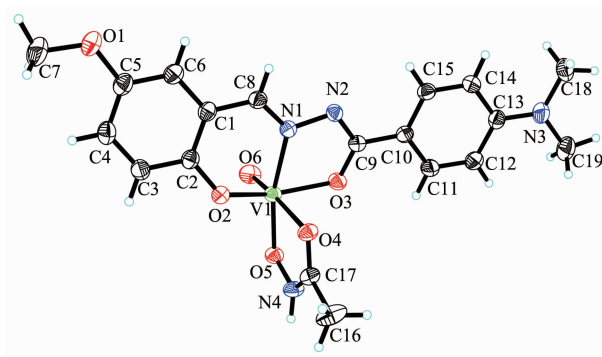
D-H $\cdots$ A	$d(D-H)$	$d(H \cdots A)$	$d(D \cdots A)$	$\angle D-H \cdots A$
$H_2L$				
O1-H1 $\cdots$ N1	0.095(3)	0.174(3)	0.258 9(2)	147(2)
O4A-H4A $\cdots$ N4	0.095(1)	0.161(4)	0.252 4(7)	159(10)
N2-H2 $\cdots$ O5 <sup>i</sup>	0.092(2)	0.197(2)	0.280 9(2)	152(2)
N5-H5 $\cdots$ O2	0.082(2)	0.218(2)	0.294 2(2)	155(2)
O4B-H4B $\cdots$ N4	0.095(1)	0.181(7)	0.263 8(8)	144(10)
Complex				
N4-H4 $\cdots$ N2 <sup>iii</sup>	0.090(1)	0.193(1)	0.280 8(2)	166(3)

Symmetry codes: <sup>i</sup>  $x, -y, 1/2+z$ ; <sup>ii</sup>  $x, y, -1+z$ ; <sup>iii</sup>  $1/2-x, 1/2+y, z$



Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines

Fig.2 Molecular packing diagram of  $H_2L$



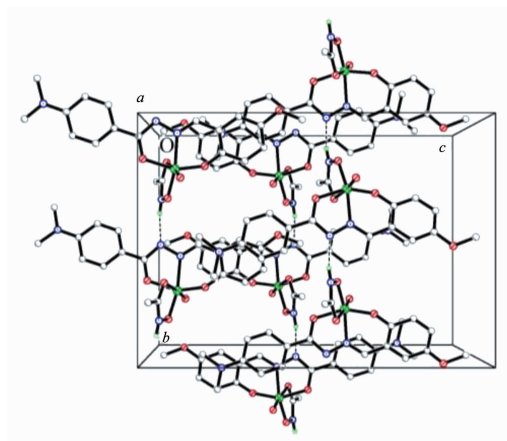
Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level

Fig.3 A perspective view of the molecular structure of the complex with the atom labeling scheme

deprotonated hydroxyl O atom of the acetohydroxamate ligand defining the equatorial plane, and with oxo O atom and carbonyl O atom of the acetohydroxamate ligand occupying the axial positions. The distance between atoms V1 and O6 is 0.158 8(2) nm, indicating it a typical V=O bond. The coordinate bond lengths in the complex are comparable to those observed in mononuclear oxovanadium complexes with octahedral coordination<sup>[24-26]</sup>. Distortion of the octahedral coordination can be observed from the coordinate bond angles, ranging from 74.79(6)° to 100.87(7)° for the perpendicular angles, and from 152.77(7)° to 173.24 (7)° for the diagonal angles. The displacement of the V atom from the equatorial plane to the axial oxo O atom is 0.028 3(2) nm. The formation of the coordinate bonds with the V atom, together with the delocalization of the ligand, leads to the planarity of the benzohydrazide molecule. The dihedral angle

between the two benzene rings is 7.7 (3)°. In the crystal structure of the complex, molecules are linked through intermolecular N-H...N hydrogen bonds, to form 1D chains along *b*-axis direction (Fig.4).

Coordination of H<sub>2</sub>L to the V atom results in the change of related bonds. The bond lengths of C7-N1 and C24-N4 in H<sub>2</sub>L are 0.128 2(3) and 0.127 4(8) nm, respectively, which are shorter than C8-N1 bond (0.128 8(3) nm) in the oxovanadium complex. The same phenomenon has been observed for N1-N2 and N4-N5 bonds in H<sub>2</sub>L and the oxovanadium complex. The N2-C8 and N5-C25 bonds in H<sub>2</sub>L are much longer than N2-C9 bond in the oxovanadium complex, and the C8-O2 and C25-O5 bonds in H<sub>2</sub>L are much shorter than C9-O3 bond in the complex, indicating the change for the N-C-O groups from carbonyl in H<sub>2</sub>L to enolate during coordination.



Hydrogen bonds are shown as dashed lines

Fig.4 Molecular packing diagram of the complex



## 2.2 IR spectra

The weak and broad absorption centered at 3 434  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the spectrum of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}$  substantiates the presence of phenol group, which is absent in the complex. The sharp bands indicative of the N-H vibrations are located at 3 207 and 3 213  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively, in the spectra of  $\text{H}_2\text{L}$  and the complex. The typical  $\nu(\text{N-H})$  absorption band of the free hydrazone ligand is absent in the spectrum of the complex, indicating the enolisation of the amide functionality and subsequent proton replacement by the V atom. The strong absorption bands at 1 614  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{H}_2\text{L}$  and 1 602  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the complex are assigned

to the azomethine  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$ <sup>[27]</sup>. The typical absorption at 963  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  can be assigned to the  $\text{V}=\text{O}$  vibration<sup>[24]</sup>.

## 2.3 Pharmacology

Results of the urease inhibition are summarized in Table 4. Acetohydroxamic acid and vanadyl sulfate were used as references. The free benzohydrazone ligand showed very low inhibition. The oxovanadium complex showed effective inhibition, with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of about 45  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ . The results indicate that the urease inhibition of the complex is much better than vanadyl sulfate ( $\text{IC}_{50}=203 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ), and similar to acetylhydroxamic acid ( $\text{IC}_{50}=39.8 \mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ).

Table 4 Inhibition of urease by the tested materials

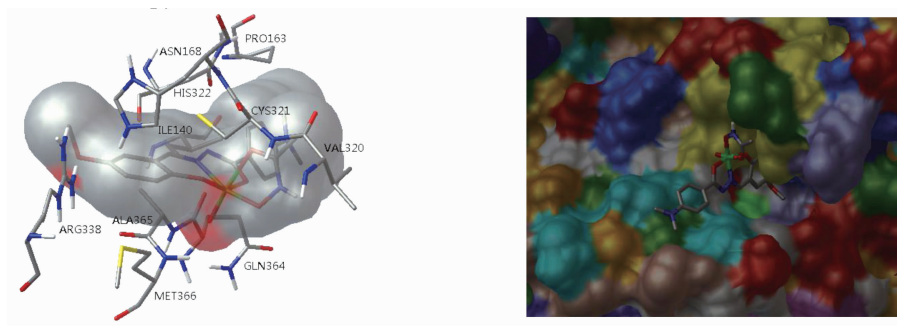
Tested materials <sup>a</sup>	Inhibition rate / %	$\text{IC}_{50} / (\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1})$
$\text{H}_2\text{L}$	9.1 $\pm$ 2.2	—
the complex	63.0 $\pm$ 2.5	45.0 $\pm$ 3.0
vanadyl sulfate	23.7 $\pm$ 2.9	203 $\pm$ 6
acetohydroxamic acid	87.5 $\pm$ 4.0	39.8 $\pm$ 3.4

<sup>a</sup>Concentration of the tested material is 100  $\mu\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ .

## 2.4 Molecular docking study

Molecular docking study was performed to investigate the binding effects between the compound and the active sites of *Helicobacter pylori* urease. In the X-ray structure available for the native *Helicobacter pylori* urease, two nickel atoms were coordinated by HIS136, HIS138, KCX219, HIS248, HIS274, ASP362 and water molecules, while in the AHA-inhibited urease, these water molecules are replaced by AHA. In order to give an explanation and understanding of the inhibitory activity of the

complex, molecular docking of the complex molecule into the AHA binding site of the urease was performed on the binding model based on *Helicobacter pylori* urease complex structure (1E9Y.pdb). The binding model of the complex and the urease was depicted in Fig.5, which revealed that the complex molecule is well filled in the active pocket of the urease. The binding energy of the complex with urease is  $-27.55 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ , which is lower than that of AHA ( $-21.04 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ ). There are interactions among the complex molecule with residues ASN168, HIS322,



Left: Only the interacting residues are displayed; the interactions are shown as dashed spheres;  
Right: The enzyme is shown as surface; the complex is shown as sticks

Fig.5 Binding mode of the complex with the *Helicobacter pylori* urease

ILE140, CYS321, VAL320, ALA365, ARG338, GLN364, and MET366 of the urease. The results of molecular docking study may explain the activity of the complex against *Helicobacter pylori* urease.

### 3 Conclusions

The present study reports synthesis, characterization and crystal structures of a benzohydrazone ligand and its acetohydroxamate coordinated oxovanadium (V) complex. The benzohydrazone ligand coordinates to V atom through the phenolate oxygen, imino nitrogen and enolate oxygen. The complex has effective inhibitory activity against *Helicobacter pylori* urease. Considering that oxovanadium(V) complexes have interesting biological activities and have been widely used in medicine, the complex described here may be used in treatment of infections caused by urease producing bacteria.

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