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## Electrochemical evidence for inclusion complexes of thiotriazinone with cyclodextrins

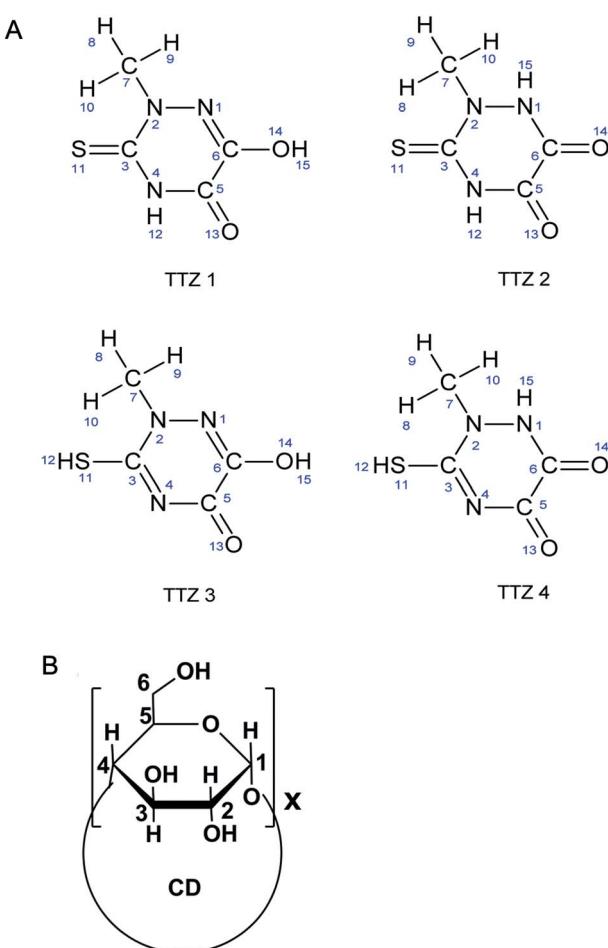
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The formation of the inclusion complexes of thiotriazinone (TTZ) with  $\alpha$ -cyclodextrin and  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin was studied by cyclic voltammetry and  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ . The oxidation and reduction reactions specific to thiotriazinone compounds are irreversible, diffusion controlled processes, and occur in a complex mechanism. The stable inclusion of thiotriazinone in  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin is proved by the significant changes of redox activity characteristic for TTZ and good electrochemical stability of the complex. Moreover, the present study demonstrates that  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin can serve as a carrier system, since the TTZ molecule can be gradually released from the inclusion complex with time.

### 1. Introduction

The chemistry of 1,2,4-triazinone ring derivatives has attracted an increasing amount of attention due to the intrinsic interest in their structures and their diverse applications in antibacterials,<sup>1,2</sup> antidepressants, antiviral drugs,<sup>3</sup> pesticides and herbicide dyes.<sup>4,5</sup> Moreover, the chemistry of sulphur-containing 1,2,4-triazole ring systems with different biological activities has been well studied and comprehensively reviewed by Shaker.<sup>6</sup> 1,2,4-Triazin-2-methyl-6-hydroxy-3-thio-5-one (TTZ) is widely used in the production of cephalosporin pharmaceutical intermediates, such as ceftriaxone sodium. Only a few papers available in the literature have reported its effects as an anti-bacterial agent and human leukocyte elastase inhibitor.<sup>7</sup>

Since sulphur groups are rapidly oxidized by biological oxidants within physiological fluids, the oxidation of sulphur-containing compounds such as TTZ is a potential problem and thus, new strategies for the stabilization of pharmacological species must be developed. Cyclodextrin complex has been successfully used to improve the chemical stability, solubility and bioavailability of a numerous compounds. Moreover, through appropriate chemical architecture design, toxic compounds can be transformed into pharmacologically active species.  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin are macrocycles (Scheme 1B) composed of six or seven glucopyranose units, respectively attached by  $\alpha$ -1,4-linkages.<sup>8</sup> Their ability to include various guest molecules into their hydrophobic cavities, generating stable inclusion complexes has been exploited by our group.<sup>9,10</sup> The formation of inclusion complexes could affect or influence the properties of the guest molecules and, therefore, the variation of the delivery system can be a method to improve/change the chemical behavior of the guest.



Scheme 1 (A) Structures of the four isomers of thiotriazinone: TTZ1, TTZ2, TTZ3 and TTZ4. (B) Structure of  $\alpha$ -cyclodextrin (when  $x = 6$ ) and  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin (when  $x = 7$ ).

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