**Original Article**

**Saxitoxin time–resolved absorption and resonance FT–IR and Raman biospectroscopy and density functional theory investigation of vibronic–mode coupling structure in vibrational spectra analysis**

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**Abstract.** Saxitoxin (STX) is a potent neurotoxin and the best–known paralytic shellfish toxin (PST). Ingestion of Saxitoxin by humans, usually by consumption of shellfish contaminated by toxic algal blooms, is responsible for the illness known as paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). Parameters such as FT–IR and Raman vibrational wavelengths and intensities for single crystal Saxitoxin (STX) are calculated using density functional theory and were compared with empirical results. The investigation about vibrational spectrum of cycle dimers in crystal with carboxyl groups from each molecule of acid was shown that it leads to create Hydrogen bonds for adjacent molecules. The obtained values confirm high accuracy and validity of results obtained from calculations.

**Keywords:** Vibronic structure, vibrational spectra analysis, density functional theory (DFT), Saxitoxin (STX), non–focal functions, becke, correlation functions, Lee–Yang–Parr, time–resolved absorption, resonance, FT–IR, Raman biospectroscopy

**Introduction**

Saxitoxin (STX) is a potent neurotoxin and the best–known paralytic shellfish toxin (PST). Ingestion of Saxitoxin by humans, usually by consumption of shellfish contaminated by toxic algal blooms, is responsible for the illness known as paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). Density Functional Theory (DFT) is one of the most powerful calculation methods for electronic structures [5–7]. Numerous results have been previously studied and indicate successful use of these methods [8–10]. The theory is one of the most appropriate methods for simulating the vibrational wavenumbers, molecular structure as well as total energy. It may be useful to initially consider the calculated results by density functional theory using HF/6–31G*, HF/6–31++G**, MP2/6–31G, MP2/6–31++G**, BLYP/6–31G, BLYP/6–31++G**, BLYP/6–31+G**, B3LYP/6–31G and B3LYP6–31–HEG** approach [11–16]. It should be noted that calculations are performed by considering one degree of quantum interference as well as polarization effects of 2d orbitals in interaction [17–244].

**Details of calculations**

All calculations of molecular orbital in the base of ab are performed by Gaussian 09. In calculation process, the structure of Saxitoxin (STX) molecule (Fig. 1) is optimized and FT–IR and Raman wavenumbers are calculated using HF/6–31G*, HF/6–31+G**, MP2/6–31G, MP2/6–31++G**, BLYP/6–31G, BLYP/6–31++G**, B3LYP/6–31G and B3LYP6–31–HEG** base. All optimized structures are adjusted with minimum energy. Harmonic vibrational wavenumbers are calculated using second degree of derivation to adjust convergence on potential surface as good as possible and to evaluate vibrational energies at zero point. In optimized structures considered in the current study, virtual frequency modes are not observed which indicates that the minimum potential energy surface is correctly chosen. The optimized geometry is calculated by minimizing the energy relative to all geometrical quantities without enforcing any constraint on molecular symmetry. Calculations were performed by Gaussian 09. The current calculation is aimed to maximize structural optimization using density functional theory.

Vibration analysis


C–H stretching vibrations in single replacement of benzene cycles are usually seen in band range of 3500–4000 cm\(^{-1}\). Weak Raman bands are at 3200 cm\(^{-1}\) and 3210 cm\(^{-1}\). C–C stretching mode is a strong Raman mode at 1200 cm\(^{-1}\). Raman weak band is seen at 1673 cm\(^{-1}\), too. Bending mode of C–H is emerged as a weak mode at 1400 cm\(^{-1}\) and 1410 cm\(^{-1}\) and a strong band at 1300 cm\(^{-1}\) in Raman spectrum. Raman is considerably active in the range of 1500–2000 cm\(^{-1}\) which 1220 cm\(^{-1}\) indicates this issue.

C–H skew–symmetric stretching mode of methylene group is expected at 3190 cm\(^{-1}\) and its symmetric mode is expected at 3000 cm\(^{-1}\). Skew–symmetric stretching mode of CH\(_2\) in Saxitoxin (STX) has a mode in mid–range of Raman spectrum at 3000–3550 cm\(^{-1}\). When this mode is symmetric, it is at 3100 cm\(^{-1}\) and is sharp. The calculated wavenumbers of higher modes are at 3050 cm\(^{-1}\) and 3150 cm\(^{-1}\) for symmetric and skew–symmetric stretching mode of methylene, respectively.

Scissoring vibrations of CH\(_2\) are usually seen at the range of 1550-1600 cm\(^{-1}\) which often includes mid–range bands. Weak bands at 1550 cm\(^{-1}\) are scissoring modes of CH\(_2\) in Raman spectrum. Moving vibrations of methylene are usually seen at 1470 cm\(^{-1}\). For the investigated chemical in the current study, these vibrations are at 1340 cm\(^{-1}\) were calculated using density functional theory. Twisting and rocking vibrations of CH\(_2\) are seen in Raman spectrum at 950 cm\(^{-1}\) and 1190 cm\(^{-1}\), respectively, which are in good accordance with the results at 900 cm\(^{-1}\) and 1200 cm\(^{-1}\), respectively.

In a non–ionized carboxyl group (COOH), stretching vibrations of carbonyl [C=O] are mainly observed at the range of 1850–1950 cm\(^{-1}\). If dimer is considered as an intact constituent, two stretching vibrations of carbonyl for symmetric stretching are at 1750–1800 cm\(^{-1}\) in Raman spectrum. In the current paper, stretching vibration of carbonyl mode is at 1810 cm\(^{-1}\) which is a mid–range value.

Stretching and bending bands of hydroxyl can be identified by width and band intensity which in turn is dependent on bond length of Hydrogen. In dimer form of Hydrogen bond, stretching band of O–H is of a strong Raman peak at 1370 cm\(^{-1}\) which is due to in–plain metamorphosis mode. Out–of–plain mode of O–H group is a very strong mode of peak at 1050 cm\(^{-1}\) of Raman spectrum. The stretching mode of C–O (H) emerges as a mid–band of Raman spectrum at 1250 cm\(^{-1}\).

Lattice vibrations are usually seen at the range of 0–850 cm\(^{-1}\). These modes are induced by rotary and transferring vibrations of molecules and vibrations and including hydrogen bond. Bands with low wave numbers of hydrogen bond vibrations in FT–IR and Raman spectrum (Fig. 2) are frequently weak, width and unsymmetrical.
Rotary lattice vibrations are frequently stronger than transferring ones. Intra–molecular vibrations with low wavenumbers involving two–bands O–H …O dimer at 90 cm$^{-1}$, 200 cm$^{-1}$ and 250 cm$^{-1}$ are attributed to a rotary moving of two molecules involving in–plain rotation of molecules against each other.

Summary and conclusion

Calculations of density functional theory using HF/6–31G*, HF/6–31++G**, MP2/6–31G, MP2/6–31++G**, BLYP/6–31G, BLYP/6–31++G**, B3LYP/6–31G and B3LYP6–31–HEG** levels were used to obtain vibrational wavenumbers and intensities in single crystal of Saxitoxin (STX). Investigation and consideration of vibrational spectrum confirm the formation of dimer cycles in the investigated crystal with carboxyl groups from each Hydrogen molecule of acid protected from adjacent molecules. The calculated vibrational spectrum which obtains from calculations of density functional theory is in good accordance with recorded empirical values which indicates successful simulation of the problem. The obtained results indicate that the results obtained from theoretical calculations are valid through comparing with empirical recorded results.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest (such as honoraria; educational grants; participation in speakers’ bureaus; membership, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or other equity interest; and expert testimony or patent–licensing arrangements), or non–financial interest (such as personal or professional relationships, affiliations, knowledge or beliefs) in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

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Figure 2 3D Simulation of (A) FT–IR spectrum and (B) Raman spectrum of Saxitoxin (STX).


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