



Single proton intramigration in novel 4-phenyl-3-((4-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-5(4*H*)-thione: XRD-crystal interactions, physicochemical, thermal, Hirshfeld surface, DFT realization of thiol/thione tautomerism

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ABSTRACT

This study reports the synthesis of the novel crystalline 4-phenyl-3-((4-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-5(4*H*)-thione compound in an excellent yield *via* multi-steps reactions. Probability of the thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism reaction occurrence *via* single-proton intramigration for N–H to nearby C=S was DFT-theoretically monitored. The thione tautomer isomer structure formation was supported by X-ray single crystal measurement, the lowest energy DFT-optimized structures of the molecule in gas-phase reconcile with the thionic tautomer structure solved by X-ray technique. Several physico-chemically tools like CHN-elemental analyses, FT-IR, MS, TG/DTC, XRD, UV-Vis., ¹H and ¹³C NMR were served for the compound characterization. Experimental methods X-ray diffraction, NMR, UV-Vis. and FT-IR spectroscopy and their corresponding quantum-parameters were computed for their electronic and structural output. The computed Hirshfeld surface analysis (HSA) and molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) reflected the presence of several H-bonds and C–H... π (C=C) as short contacts which was detected experimentally by XRD-packing analysis.

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1. Introduction

1,2,4-Triazole scaffold (belongs to an exceptionally or is typically very) stable aromatic N-heterocyclic compounds with broad applications in chemistry [1]. Triazole-based compounds exhibit fascinating biological and medicinal activities as anti-microbial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anticancer, antiviral, anticonvulsant, antitumoral and antidepressant properties [2–8]. Furthermore, 1,2,4-triazole and its derivatives can be used as ligands to coordinate several metal ions, their complexes possess rather specific magnetic-properties or peculiar molecular structures [9,10].

Intramolecular single-proton transfer process or thiol-thione tautomerization reactions have gained considerable experimental and theoretical attention due to their essential role in biological and chemical processes and its importance in understanding their mechanisms

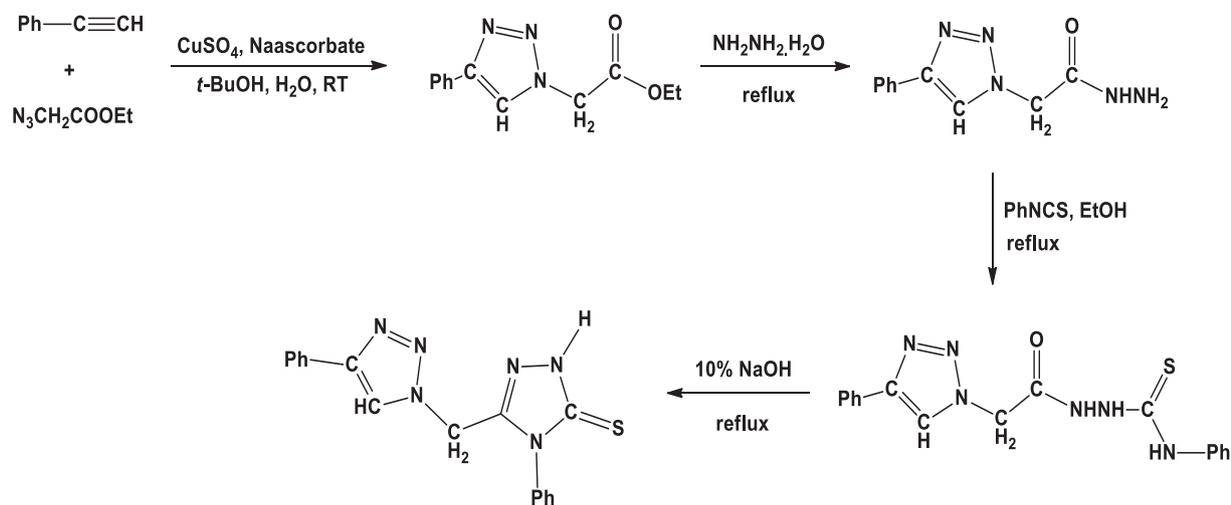
[11–13]. Several theoretical and experimental studies were performed to warble the information concerning H-transfer mechanism and properties relevant to such tautomeric-equilibrium processes [14–18]. The tautomeric single H-transfer in 1,2,4-triazole-3-thione parent to determine the thiol \rightleftharpoons thione favored structure controversy was concerned in several areas of biochemistry, pharmacy and chemistry [19,20].

In solid state, the intermolecular forces types critically stabilized tautomer over other, it is useful to judge by XRD the stable favored tautomeric structure form, then find conditions to convert tautomer to another one [21,22]. Quantum chemical approaches especially DFT-calculation is helpful to corroborate the XRD-solid state experimental result, stating has been extremely used to analyze experimental seen [12–18].

The present study deals with (i) synthesis, spectral, thermal and XRD-structure analysis of new 4-phenyl-3-((4-phenyl-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-5(4*H*)-thione compound, (ii) Compression of the DFT-optimized structure and spectral parameters with their corresponding experimental ones, (iii) The computed HSA and MPE were compared to the experimental short interactions collected by XRD measurement, (iv) The probability of single proton intra-migration in the thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism reaction has been

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Scheme 1. Multi-step synthesis reaction to reach the desired compound.

computed and (v) the transition state structure and energy level belongs to thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism reaction was figured out by QST2 method of calculation.

1.1. Experimental section

1.1.1. Materials

All the chemicals were purchased from Sigma Company. The FT-IR spectrum was recorded on FTIR Affinity-1S spectrophotometer. The UV spectrum was measured with a spectrophotometer UV-visible, Finnigan 711A (8 kV) MS. TGA was conducted with a SDT-Q600, Pharmacia LKB-Biochrom 4060. ^1H NMR (400 MHz) and ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz) spectra was measured in DMSO at room temperature. Chemical shifts (δ) were reported in ppm, with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. The elemental analysis was given by using the ElementarVarrio EL analyzer.

1.1.2. Preparation of 4-phenyl-3-((4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-5(4H)-thione

A solution of *N*-phenyl-2-(2-(4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)acetyl)hydrazine-carbothioamide (10 mmol, 3.52 g) in aqueous sodium hydroxide 10% (100 mL) was refluxed for 6 h. After cooling, the reaction mixture was acidified with diluted hydrochloric acid. The precipitate formed was filtered and recrystallized from ethanol to give the desired 4-phenyl-3-((4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-5(4H)-thione as colorless needles in 91% yield, m.p = 269–270 °C.

IR (ν , cm^{-1}): 1265 (C=S), 1630 (C=C), 1650 (C=N), 2985 (C—H Aliph.), 3060 (C—H Ar), 3290 cm^{-1} (N—H), ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO d_6): δ_{H} = 5.66 (s, 2H, CH_2), 7.32–7.76 (m, 10H, Ar—H), 8.27 (s, 1H, CH-1,2,3-triazole), 14.11 (s, 1H, N—H), ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO d_6): δ_{C} = 44.3 (CH_2), 122.5 ($\text{N}_2\text{—C=C—N}$), 125.6, 128.3, 128.4, 129.3, 129.8, 130.1, 130.7, 133.3 (Ar—C), 146.8 (C=N), 147.4 ($\text{N}_2\text{—C=C—N}$), 169.1 (C=S).ESI-MS335.10 [M + 1].

1.1.3. XRD Data

A colorless needles shaped single-crystal of the compound with the dimension of 0.22 × 0.22 × 0.22 mm was selected for data collection, using Mo- $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation of wavelength 0.71073 Å. X-ray intensity data were collected on a Rigaku-Xta-LAB mini CCD-diffractometer with X-ray generator operating at 45 kV and 10 mA. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares method on F^2 using SHELXS and SHELXL programs, respectively [23].

1.1.4. Computations

The DFT-calculations of the compound were carried out in the gas phase at the /B3LYP level of theory using Gaussian program [24]. HSA was performed on CRYSTAL EXPLORER 3.1 program [25].

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis

The synthesis of the targeted molecule 4-phenyl-3-((4-phenyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)methyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-5(4H)-thione required multi-step reactions as outlined in Scheme 1. To reach the final product in acceptable yield as thione isomer, four main steps are required; the isolated final product is soluble in ROH, DMSO and DMF.

Table 1

Crystallographic data for the compound.

Empirical formula	$\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{N}_6\text{S}$
Formula weight	334.4
Temperature	296(2) K
Wavelength	1.54178 Å
Reflns. for cell determination	2848
θ range for above	5.79° to 66.57°
Crystal system, Space group	Orthorhombic, P212121
Cell dimensions	a = 7.3832(3) Å, b = 14.4702(7) Å, c = 15.2806(7) Å, $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90.00$ (°)
Volume	1632.52(13) Å ³
Density, Z	1.361 Mg/m, 4
Absorption coefficient	1.849 mm
F000	696
Crystal size	0.22 × 0.22 × 0.22 mm
θ range for data collection	5.79 to 66.57 (°)
Index ranges	−8 ≤ h ≤ 8, −17 ≤ k ≤ 16, −18 ≤ l ≤ 17
Reflections collected	28,809
Independent reflections	2869 [Rint = 0.0577]
Absorption correction	Multi-scan
Refinement method	Full matrix least-squares on F ²
Data/restraints/parameters	2869/0/217
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.075
Final $ I > 2\sigma(I) $	R1 = 0.0358, wR2 = 0.0944
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0359, wR2 = 0.0946
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.356 and −0.150 e Å ^{−3}

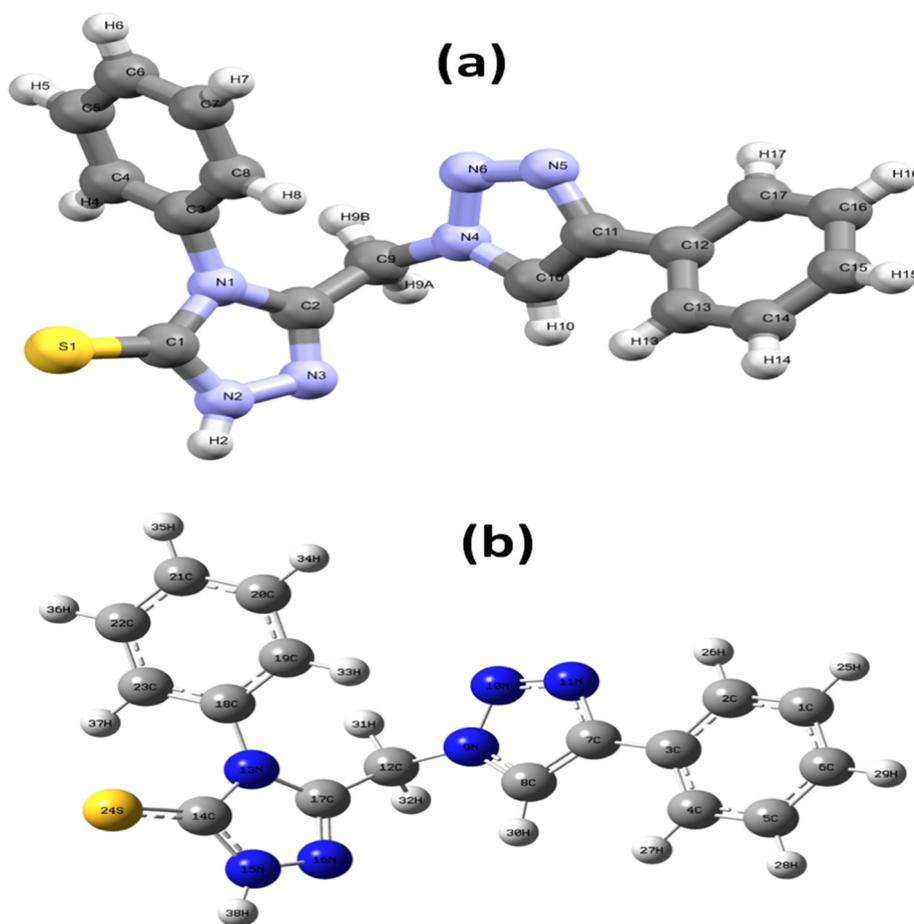


Fig. 1. (a) The XRD-POV and (b) DFT-optimized structures.

The compound was identified by CHN-analysis and several spectral like: MS, IR, UV-Vis., and ^1H and ^{13}C NMR. The thione-structure of the product was confirmed by X-ray single structure analysis. The thermal behavior was detected by TG/DTG. Crystal interaction was supported by HSA and MEP computed analysis (Table 1).

2.2. Crystal and DFT-optimized structure

The XRD-POV and DFT-optimized structure are illustrated in Fig. 1. Selected experimental XRD and DFT-theoretical bonds lengths and angles values are listed in Table 2. The desired compound is crystalline in the Orthorhombic space group P212121 and four molecules in the unit cell. The XRD structure confirmed the thione isomer formation, the compound is composed of 1,2,4-triazole-3-thione ring incorporating a phenyl ring on the N1 atom and a methylene group on the C2. The methylene group is also bonded to the N-4 position of the 1,2,3-triazole ring carrying a second phenyl ring on C11. The two heterocyclic rings 1,2,4-triazole-3-thione and 1,2,3-triazole rings are planar and connected together through methyl group in semi-perpendicular plane. The structure and structure parameters in this work is highly consistent with similar structure reported recently [26].

The comparison of the theoretical structural geometry with its corresponding experimental parameters determined by X-ray diffraction reflected a very high degree of harmonizes. The XRD-experimental angles and bond lengths of the compound were rewarded with DFT-theoretical ones, as seen in Fig. 2. Excellent harmony between XRD and DFT angles with $R^2 = 0.993$ graphical correlation, as plotted in Fig. 2c, the experimental and calculated angles values are very closed

in their values (Fig. 2d). Very good consisting between DFT and XRD bonds lengths with $R^2 = 0.984$ graphical correlation was recorded in Fig. 2a, well XRD-DFT bonds lengths data matching was observed as in Fig. 2b.

Table 2

Selected XRD and DFT angles and bond lengths.

Bond no.	Bond type	Bond length [Å]		Angle no.	Angle type	Angle value (°)	
		XRD	DFT			XRD	DFT
1	S1 C1	1.671	1.6637	1	C1 N1 C3	124.9	125.33
2	N1 C1	1.378	1.3995	2	C1 N1 C2	107.5	107.86
3	N1 C3	1.442	1.4358	3	C3 N1 C2	127.6	126.77
4	N1 C2	1.381	1.387	4	N2 N3 C2	104.2	103.88
5	N2 N3	1.367	1.365	5	C10 N4 N6	111.3	110.82
6	N2 C1	1.336	1.3648	6	C10 N4 C9	128.4	129.17
7	N3 C2	1.302	1.3038	7	N6 N4 C9	120.3	119.97
8	N4 C10	1.345	1.3569	8	N4 C10 C11	105	104.56
9	N4 N6	1.335	1.3562	9	N4 N6 N5	106.7	107.23
10	N4 C9	1.469	1.4607	10	S1 C1 N1	128.8	130.45
11	C10 C11	1.369	1.3843	11	S1 C1 N2	127.7	127.86
12	N6 N5	1.31	1.3	12	N1 C1 N2	103.5	101.69
13	N5 C11	1.363	1.373	13	N6 N5 C11	109.6	109.87
				14	N1 C2 N3	111	111.67
				15	N4 C9 C2	111.1	112.99
				16	C10 C11 N5	107.4	107.51
				17	C10 C11 C12	130.9	130.41
				18	N5 C11 C12	121.7	122.08

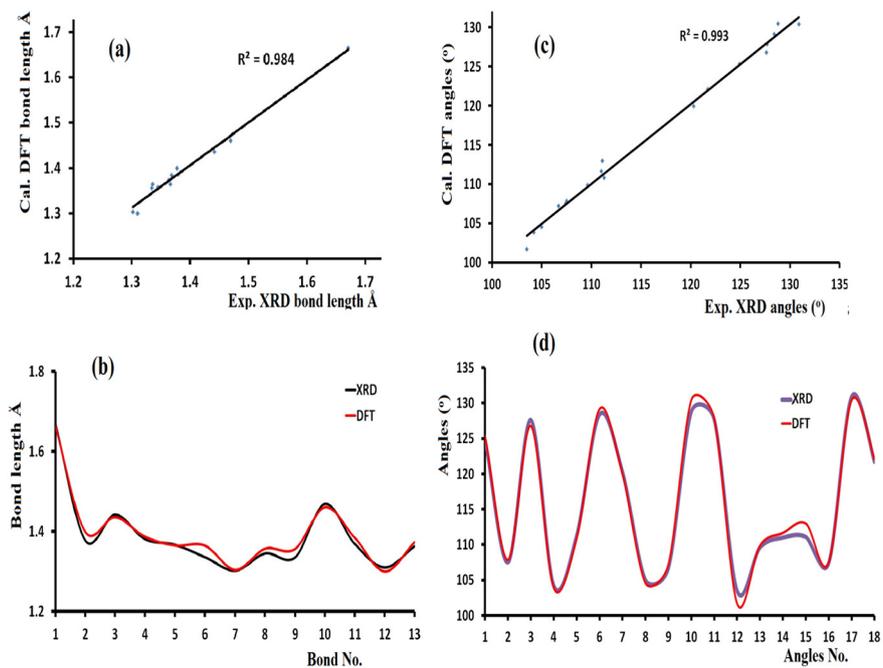


Fig. 2. (a) Graphical correlation XRD experimental bonds lengths against theoretical, (b) bond lengths vs. bonds No. histogram, (c) experimental angles values against theoretical graphical correlation and (d) XRD and DFT angle values vs. angle No. relations.

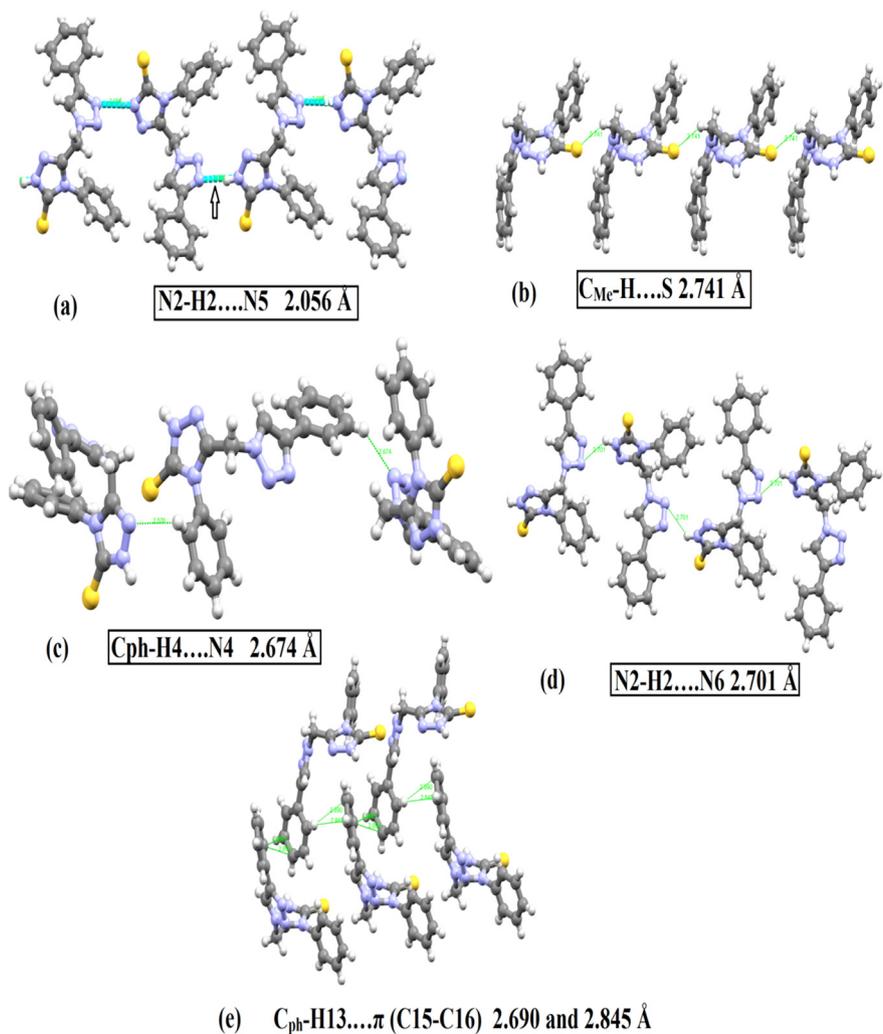


Fig. 3. View of intermolecular forces types and lengths in the crystal lattice.

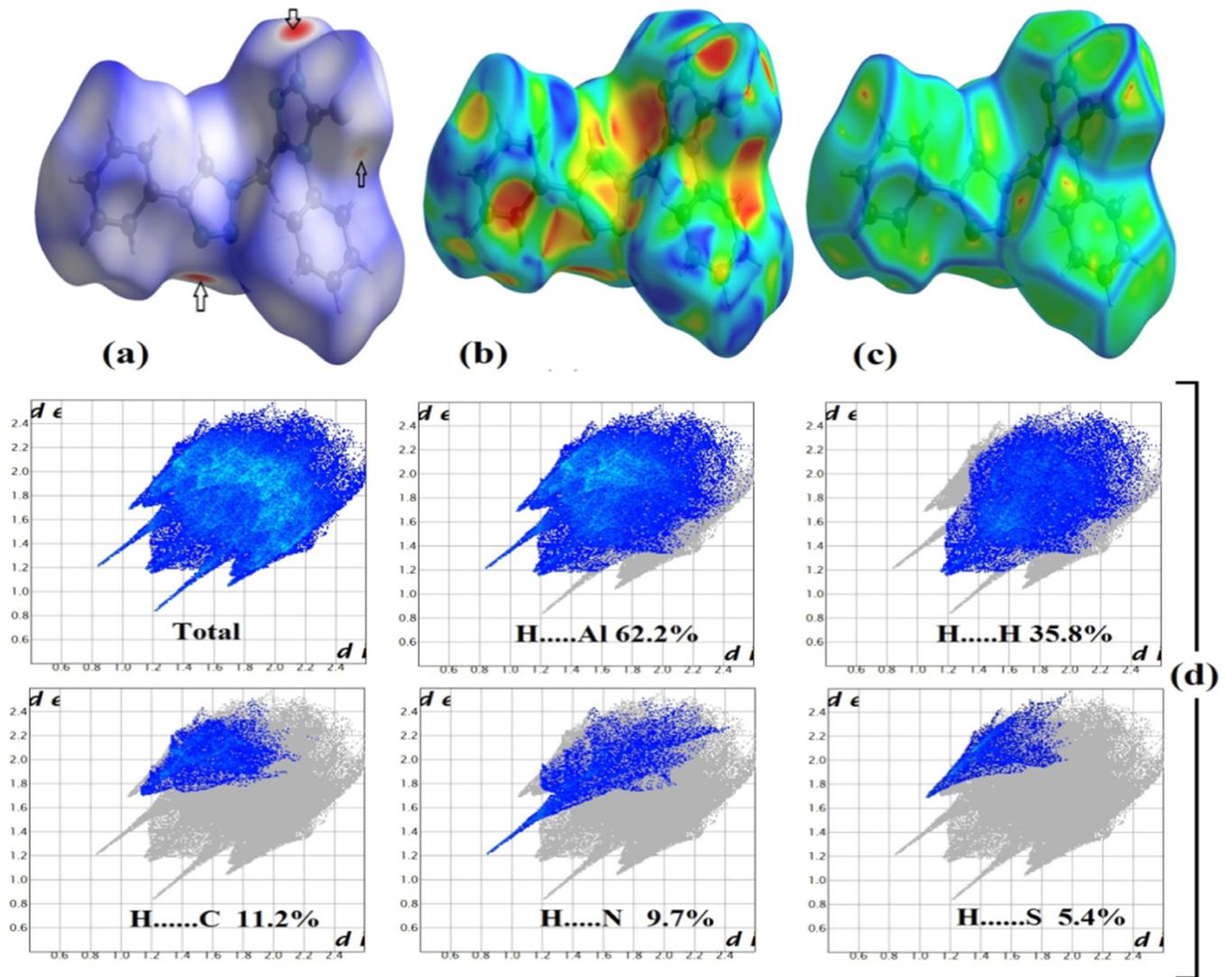


Fig. 4. (a) d_{norm} (b) shape index (c) crudeness and (d) Atom-to-atom 2D-FB plots.

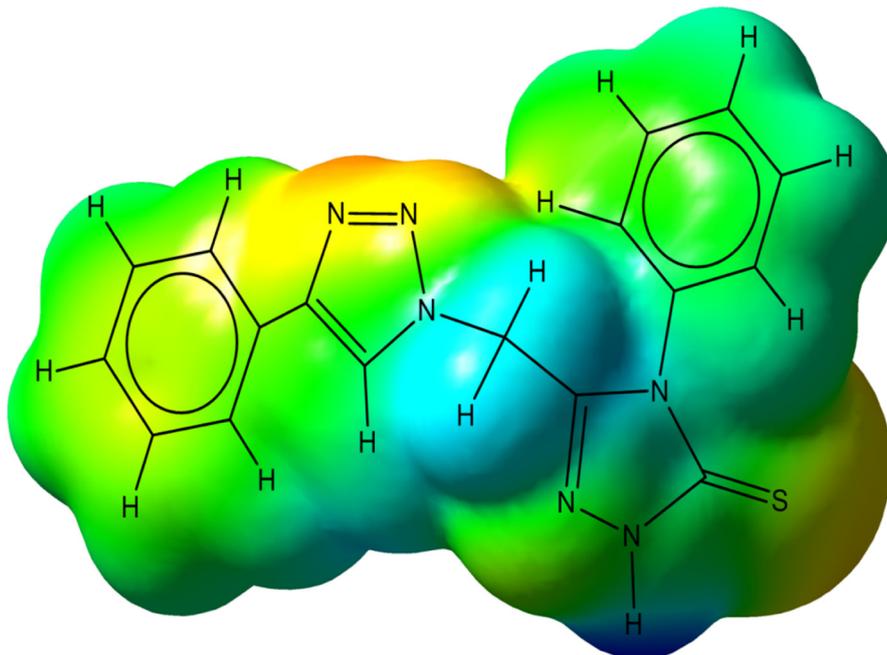
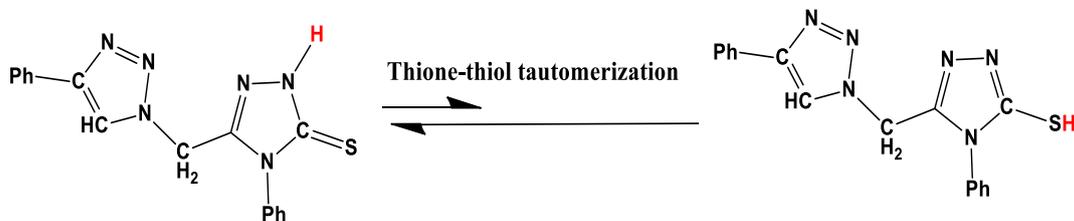


Fig. 5. (a) MEP map of the molecule.



Scheme 2. Thione \rightleftharpoons thiol tautomerization reaction.

2.3. Crystal interactions, HSA and MEP comparison

The presence of S, N and polar H atoms (H—N) in the backbone of the compound enhanced formation of several intermolecular short contacts. Therefore, the lattice of crystalline molecule stabilized experimentally with five types of intermolecular forces, as seen Fig. 3.

Intermolecular forces were HSA computed to figure out the surface molecule red-spot positions [27–30]. Due the presence of e-rich heteroatoms like N and S together with polar H atoms three main red-spots on HAS-surface were detected (Fig. 4a–c). The biggest spot (strong contact) was detected around H—N group consisted with XRD shortest H-bond formation (N2–H2...N5 2.056 Å and N2–H2...N6 2.701 Å), another big spot reflected the formation of C_{ph}–H4...N4 with 2.674 Å H-bond. Relatively, the smallest spot was detected around the S atom supported the formation of the longer C_{Me}–H...S H-bond with 2.741 Å. 2D-Fingerprint percentage was also computed, the largest percentage contact was attributed to H...H (35.8%) and the lowest was placed to H...S (5.4%) intermolecular bonds, as in Fig. 4d.

MEP is very helpful computed technique to illustrate the charge distributions (nucleophilic and electrophilic poisons) on the functional groups as color-indicators like: blue (e-poor) < green < yellow < orange < red (e-rich). Therefore, the MEP analysis served to support the XRD and HAS interactions result. The nucleophilic positions in the molecule which indicated by red-color were placed at N=N and C=S functional groups, the deep blue (high electrophilic) was detected on proton of amine (H—N) while light blue sited to methylene protons (–CH₂–), as seen in Fig. 5. The presence of the blue (H-donor) and red colors (H-acceptor) in the desired molecule open the possibility to form different types of H-bonds, which were already observed theoretically by HAS and experimentally by XRD crystal-packing results.

2.4. Thione-thiol tautomerization

The tautomerism in organic chemistry reactions have been displayed to extended theoretical calculations using several quantum-chemical accessions [11–16]. Oxadiazole-thione heterocyclic compound live mostly in two tautomeric forms; thione and thiol tautomers. Due to the possible intra-migration of the hydrogen atom of N atom to nearby S atom, thione can be converted to thiol *vice versa* under suitable conditions [12–14], as seen in Scheme 2.

Therefore, the simultaneously tautomerization of thiol \rightleftharpoons thione *via* an intramolecular single proton transfer reaction has been computed in this study. The thione and thiol expected structures were optimized under DFT-B3LYP/6-311G(d) level of theory. The thione isomer is computed to be the most stable form since it was confirmed by XRD.

In gas phase, the DFT-calculation consistent with the thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism *via* single hydrogen intra-migration reaction. The study of the reaction path for the intra-conversion between the two optimized tautomers was computed by QST2 method calculation. This method succeed in generating the structure of the transition state, where the transferred proton is in between the N and S atoms constructing pseudo four-membered heterocyclic ring with N1...H1 and S1...H1 distances

1.401 and 1.867 Å, respectively (Fig. 6). The results indicated that the TS-structure resembles the structure of the thione tautomer rather than that of the thiol tautomer, since the transferred proton is closer to that observed for the thione than for the thiol form.

Gaseous-phase energy profiles of thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism through the single proton transfer process is shown in Fig. 6. The DFT-calculation reflected the thione over thiol tautomer as predominant stable isomer (zero point reference energy); the solid state XRD-solved structure is consistent with such seen. The tautomerization energy ΔE was calculated as the energy differences between the tautomers and the T.S. The $E_{T,S}$ calculated to 768.6 kJ/mol, the energy differences between the two tautomers were found to be 57.5 kJ/mol, consisted with thione tautomer as the stable isomer and thiol \rightleftharpoons thione possible tautomerism reaction [12–20].

2.5. CHN-elemental analyses and Mass spectroscopy

The C₁₇H₁₄N₆S formula of the desired molecule was confirmed by CHN-analysis; Cald. C, 61.06; H, 4.22; N, 25.13found, C, 61.02; H, 4.18 and S, 25.07%. It also reflected MS (*m/z*) 335.50 [M + 1]⁺ consisted with its theoretical molecular weight 334.60 (theoretical).

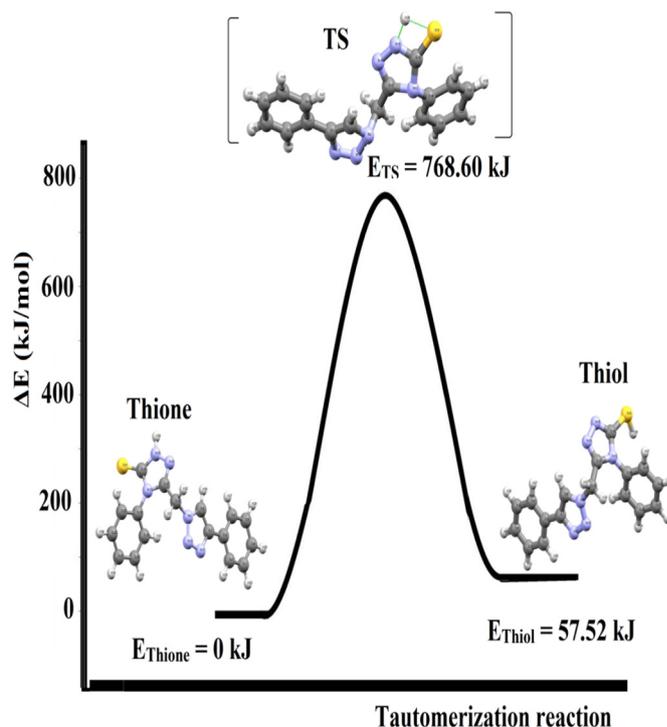


Fig. 6. Energy profiles of thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism.

2.6. ^1H NMR spectra

In addition to the X-ray crystallography, NMR result helped in the assignment of the desired structure isomer. The experimental ^1H NMR of the synthesized compound in DMSO d_6 and the computed-gas phase spectra are given in Fig. 7. The ^1H NMR of the compound reflected the structure simplicity, the single broadpeak at 5.66 ppm is attributed to the $-\text{CH}_2-$ protons, phenyl rings protons are as expected in 7–8 ppm range, peak at 8.27 ppm is assigned to the $=\text{CH}-1,2,3$ -triazole proton. The diagnostic triazole-NH proton exhibited a very broad and high chemical shift signal at 14.11 ppm, thus confirming the formation of the triazole in the thione form. The broadening of the peak mainly reflected the amine proton intra-migration to the nearby sulfur atom possibility as well as its strength as acidity.

Calculated ^1H NMR generated by the NMR-DB [31] and ACD-LAB in gas phase were compared to experimental ^1H NMR as seen in Fig. 7b

and c. The calculated protons chemical shifts reflected an excellent correlation with the experimental observed results. The protons chemical shifts correlation coefficients found to be 0.984 and 0.981 for NMR-DB and ACD-LAB, respectively.

2.7. The ^{13}C NMR

The presence of the triazole in the thione form was further confirmed by ^{13}C NMR analysis through the appearance of the $\text{C}=\text{S}$ signal at δ_{C} 169.15 ppm. Signals at δ_{C} 147.38 and 146.80 ppm belong to $\text{C}=\text{N}$ and $\text{N}_2-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{N}$ carbons, respectively. Carbon of $\text{N}_2-\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{N}$ resonated at δ_{C} 122.55 ppm, while the carbon signals characteristic of the phenyl rings are detected in 122.0–134.0 ppm. The signal recorded at δ_{C} 44.99 ppm was assigned to the $-\text{CH}_2-$ carbon (Fig. 8).

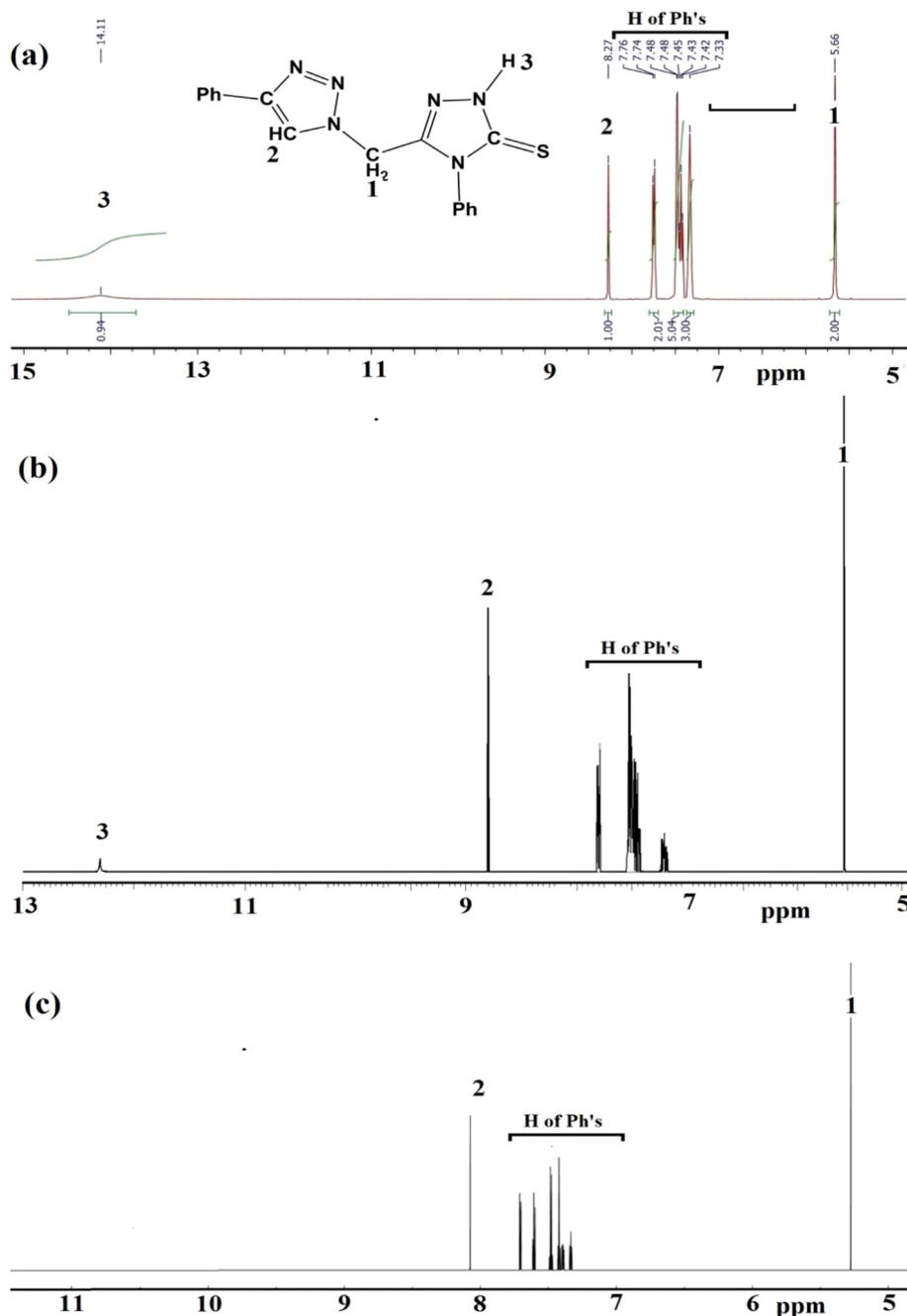


Fig. 7. ^1H NMR spectra, (a) experimental in DMSO d_6 , (b) calculated by ACD-LAB and (c) calculated by NMR-DB in gas phase [31].

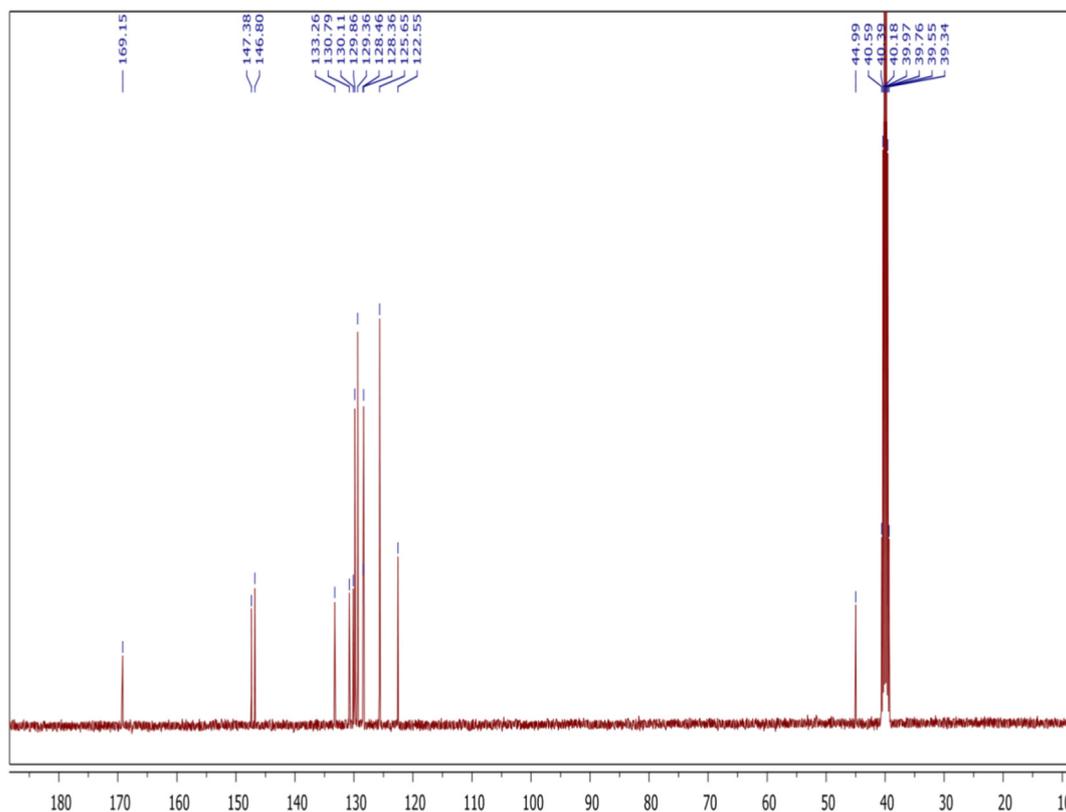


Fig. 8. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of the compound dissolved in $\text{DMSO } d_6$.

2.8. Exp. FT-IR and DFT-vibrational analysis

The experimental wavenumbers and DFT-theoretical vibrational spectra of the compound are shown in Fig. 9. Solid state exp. FT-IR-spectrum of the compound reflected several functional groups consistent with its molecule structure.

The main experimentally and theoretically functional groups stretching vibrations are as:

N—H: The stretching mode associated with —NH—observed exp. At 3290 cm^{-1} and DFT calculation predicted at 3650 cm^{-1} .

$\text{C}_{\text{ph}}\text{—H}$: Phenyl rings C—H stretching modes are generated at $\sim 3060 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and DFT calculation predicted at 3205 cm^{-1} .

$\text{C}_{\text{aliph}}\text{—H}$: Exp. methylene group (— CH_2 —) peak observed at $\sim 2885 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and DFT calculation predicted at 3105 cm^{-1} .

C=N: The exp. C=N peak observed at 1650 cm^{-1} and DFT calculation predicted at 1705 cm^{-1} .

C=C: The exp. C=C peak observed at 1630 cm^{-1} and DFT calculation predicted at 1680 cm^{-1} .

C=S: The exp. Peak observed at 1265 cm^{-1} and DFT calculation predicted at 1285 cm^{-1} .

In general, the solid state experimental FT-IR and the gas phase DFT-calculation reflected an acceptable chemical shifts correlation, as seen in Fig. 9.

2.9. UV/Vis., theoretical TD-SCF/B3LYP and HOMO, LUMO energy levels

Experimentally, the UV-visible electrons transfer of the compound dissolved in DMSO was recorded in Fig. 10a. The UV reflected broad and sharp band at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 310 \text{ nm}$, which are attributed to $\pi\text{—}\pi^*$ electron transfer. No band was recorded in the visible area,

The theoretical TD-SCF/DFT/B3LYP/6-311G(d) in DMSO reflected the compound with a sharp main-peak with $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 319 \text{ nm}$ (Fig. 10b), this collection is consistent with the experimental results,

the small bathochromic shift $\sim 9 \text{ nm}$ may be due to solvent-solute interactions [21,22]. The frontier molecular orbital HOMO/LUMO was plotted as in (Fig. 10c). The E_{LUMO} , E_{HOMO} and ΔE are calculated to be -0.03563 , -0.21275 and 0.17712 a.u. , respectively. The highest TD-SCF/DFT theoretical λ_{max} band at 319 nm corresponded to electron transition from HOMO \rightarrow LUMO and HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1 molecular orbitals.

2.10. TG-DTG

The open atmosphere TG/DTG-behavior of the compound was performed in 0 to $600 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ temperature range and under $4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C/min.}$ rate of heating. TG/DTG revealed the compound with high stability degree and one step thermal-decomposition mechanism (Fig. 11). The results recorded no solvent molecule detection in the solid lattice of the compound. The compound decomposed via abroad one step $280\text{—}380 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ range. Below $305 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, the compound showed high degree of thermal

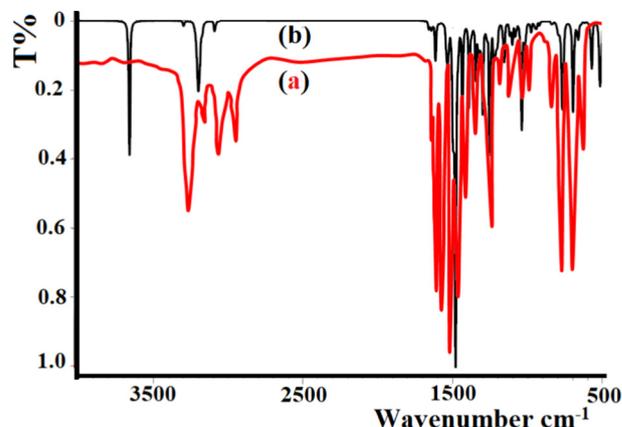


Fig. 9. (a) Exp. FT-IR and (b) DFT-vibrational spectra in the compound.

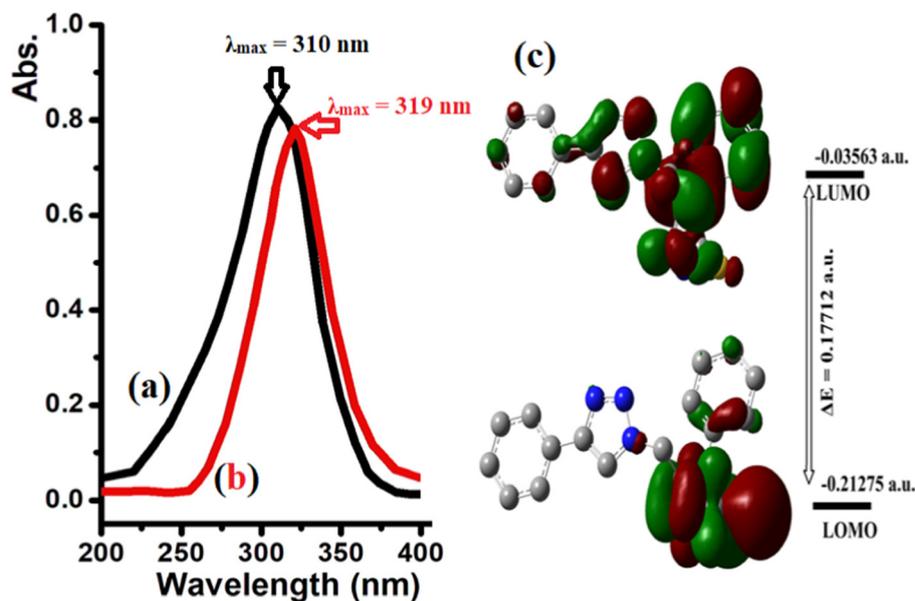


Fig. 10. (a) Exp. UV-Vis spectrum of the molecule dissolved in DMSO, (b) TD-SCF/B3LYP computed UV-visible spectrum and (c) HOMO-LUMO shapes and energy diagram in gas phase.

stability; complete decomposition was observed since no residue was collected above 380 °C.

3. Conclusions

New 1,2,3-triazole-1,2,4-triazole conjugate was synthesized and fully characterized. The compared experimental/computed analysis reflected a high degree of compatibility. TG/DTG showed a good thermal stability and the compound decomposed *via* one step thermal decomposition.

The DFT-optimized structure supported the thione tautomer as energetic favored isomer which compatible with the XRD-result. The XRD-crystal experimental packing, computed HSA and MPE agreed with N2-H2...N5, C_{Me}-H...S, C_{ph}-H4...N4, N2-H2...N6 and C_{ph}-H13... π (C15-C16) interactions formation.

The thiol \rightleftharpoons thione tautomerism reaction occurrence *via* single proton intra-migration for N to the nearby S was computed, the pseudo

four-membered heterocyclic ring with N1...H1...S1 transition state was detected by QST2 method of computation.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

Crystallographic data for desired compound has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication number CCDC 1824847, respectively. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html (or from the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: +44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

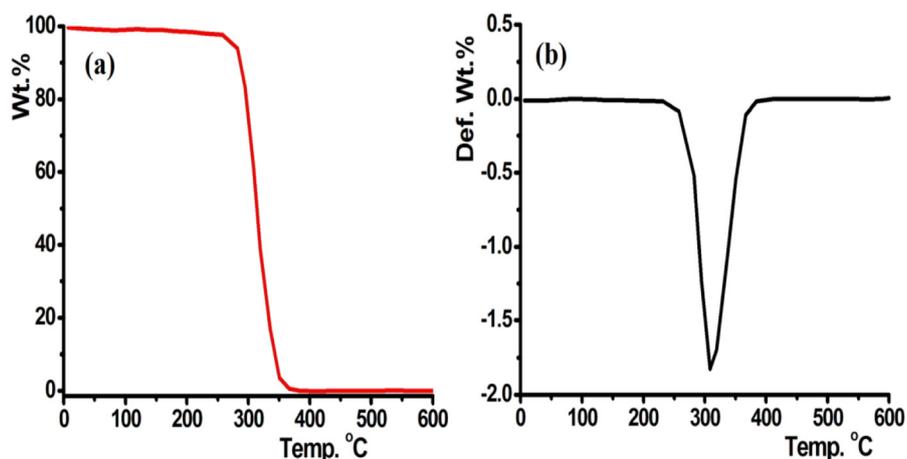


Fig. 11. (a) TG and (b) DTG curves of the compound.

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