



**PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY 2021**

15<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
on Fundamental and Applied Aspects of  
Physical Chemistry

Proceedings  
Volume II

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*The Conference is dedicated to the*

*30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Society of Physical  
Chemists of Serbia*

*and*

*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bray-Liebhafsky reaction*

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# PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY 2021

*15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Fundamental and Applied Aspects of  
Physical Chemistry*

*Organized by*

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*in co-operation with*

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## CYTOGENOTOXICITY ASSESSMENT OF POLYOXOPALLADATES(II) AS PROMISING ANTILEUKEMIC DRUG CANDIDATES

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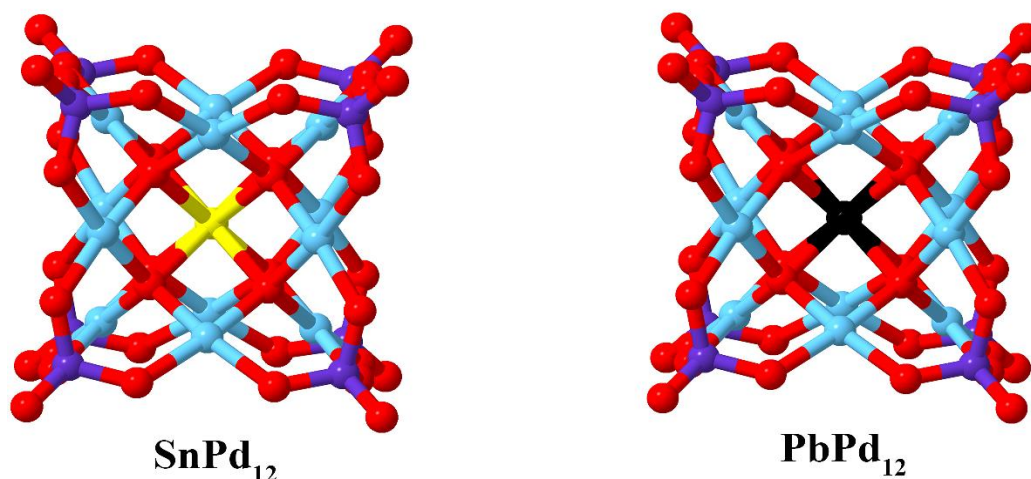
### ABSTRACT

Polyoxopalladates(II) (POPs) are discrete, anionic palladium(II)-oxo nanoclusters that possess features of both conventional polyoxometalates (POMs) and palladium(II), which were shown to exhibit promising antitumor properties. In this study, *in vitro* cyto- and genotoxicity evaluation was performed on normal non-target human blood cells using two isostructural POPs with tetravalent metal ions (Sn<sup>IV</sup>, Pb<sup>IV</sup>) encapsulated in the cuboid Pd<sub>12</sub>-oxo host, Na<sub>12</sub>[SnO<sub>8</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>8</sub>]·43H<sub>2</sub>O (**SnPd<sub>12</sub>**) and Na<sub>12</sub>[PbO<sub>8</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>8</sub>]·38H<sub>2</sub>O (**PbPd<sub>12</sub>**), with confirmed *in vitro* antileukemic actions against HL-60 cell line. For this purpose, whole blood samples were exposed to the POPs, at concentrations of  $\approx$  IC<sub>50</sub> (24 h) values, resulting in cytotoxicity in HL-60 cells for 24 h at 37 °C. The cytotoxicity studies were performed on human peripheral blood mononuclear cells which were stained with acridine orange and ethidium bromide, and then viewed under a fluorescence microscope. The genotoxicity was tested in whole blood by the alkaline comet assay (microgel electrophoresis). The results of the cytotoxicity evaluation and the comet assay demonstrated that none of the tested POPs, within the investigated concentration range 12.5 – 50  $\mu$ M, resulted in a statistically significant modulation of blood cell viability as well as DNA damage, expressed as % of tail DNA (relative increase of tail DNA), compared to the untreated controls. Therefore, the promising antileukemic drug candidates, **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>**, can be considered as selective and safe from a cytogenotoxicity point of view.

### INTRODUCTION

Numerous palladium(II) complexes have been synthesized and tested against various tumor cells *in vitro* and *in vivo* in order to find an appropriate alternative to platinum(II)-based antitumor drugs as most frequently prescribed chemotherapeutics [1]. Polyoxopalladates (POPs) are another group of palladium(II)-based compounds, which are discrete, anionic palladium-oxo clusters and hence belong to the class of polyoxometalates (POMs)[2]. POMs were also reported to exhibit different biological activities including significant cytotoxic action against various types of malignant cells *in vitro* and *in vivo* [3]. However, toxicity studies revealed adverse effects after *in vivo* POM application, which could limit their potential application in biomedicine [4].

Taking into account that the development of novel drugs requires an assessment of their safety, the aim of this study was to evaluate the cytogenotoxicity of two POPs containing tetravalent metal ion guests (Sn<sup>IV</sup> and Pb<sup>IV</sup>), Na<sub>12</sub>[SnO<sub>8</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>8</sub>]·43H<sub>2</sub>O (**SnPd<sub>12</sub>**) and Na<sub>12</sub>[PbO<sub>8</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>8</sub>]·38H<sub>2</sub>O (**PbPd<sub>12</sub>**) (Figure 1), towards normal non-target cells by employing cell viability and the comet assays on human peripheral blood cells (HPBCs). **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>** were reported in our previous study [5] to exhibit cytotoxicity against human acute promyelocytic cell line HL-60 (IC<sub>50</sub> (24h) = 37.1  $\pm$  4.4 and 34.7  $\pm$  9.2  $\mu$ M for **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>**, respectively), and can therefore be regarded as potential antileukemic metallodrugs.



**Figure 1.** Structure of the investigated POPs **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>**. Color codes: light blue, Pd; yellow, Sn; black, Pb; violet, P and red, O.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>** were prepared according to the published procedures [5]. The cytotoxicity of the POPs in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) was determined by differential staining with acridine orange and ethidium bromide and by fluorescence microscopy [6]. Briefly, whole blood samples obtained from a healthy female donor were treated with the POPs, and then incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. The PBMCs were isolated by the histopaque density gradient centrifugation method, and the slides were prepared using 200 µL of PBMCs and 2 µL of stain (acridine orange and ethidium bromide). A total of 100 cells per repetition were examined with an epifluorescence microscope (Olympus BX51, Tokyo, Japan). The cells were divided in two categories: live cells with a functional membrane and with uniform green staining of the nucleus and dead cells with uniform red staining of the nucleus. Alkaline comet assay for genotoxicity evaluation was essentially carried out as described by Singh *et al.* [7]. After the exposure to different POP concentrations for 24 h, 5 µL of whole blood was embedded into an agarose matrix and subsequently lysed (2.5 M NaCl, 100 mM EDTANa<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM Tris, 1% sodium sarcosinate, 1% Triton X-100, 10% DMSO, pH 10) overnight at 4 °C. After the lysis, the slides were placed into an alkaline solution (300 mM NaOH, 1 mM EDTANa<sub>2</sub>, pH 13) for 20 min at 4 °C to allow DNA unwinding and subsequently electrophoresed for 20 min at 1 V/cm. Finally, the slides were neutralized in 0.4 M Tris buffer (pH 7.5) for 5 min 3 times, stained with ethidium bromide (10 µg/mL) and analyzed at 250× magnification using an epifluorescence microscope (Zeiss, Göttingen, Germany) connected through a camera to an image analysis system (Comet Assay II; Perceptive Instruments Ltd., Haverhill, Suffolk, UK). One hundred randomly captured comets from each slide were examined.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

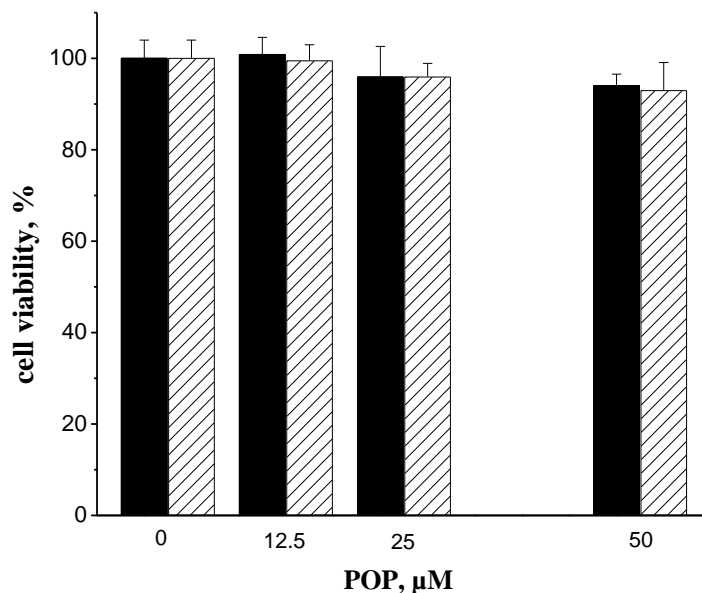
For the cytogenotoxicity evaluation of **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>** whole blood samples were treated with three different POP concentrations (12.5, 25, and 50 µM) inducing cytotoxic effects against HL-60 cells during 24 h treatment [5].

The effect of **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>** on the viability in human PBMCs after 24 h exposure is presented in Figure 2. It can be seen that the cell viability, expressed as a percentage of untreated control, was not significantly affected with respect to the corresponding control at all investigated concentrations for both POPs. Even the highest concentration applied (50 µM  $\approx$  1.5 × IC<sub>50</sub>(24 h) for HL-60) did not result in cytotoxic action.

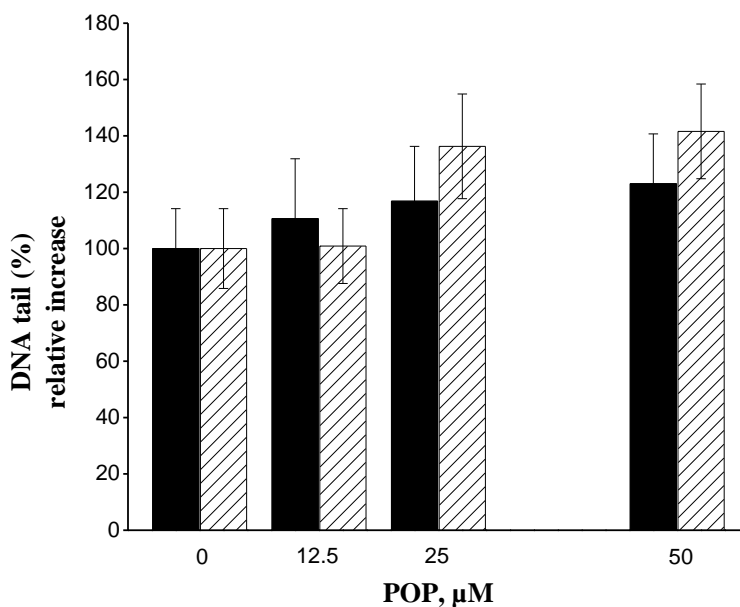


The degree of DNA damage, a genotoxicity indicator expressed as % of tail DNA, dependent on **SnPd**<sub>12</sub> and **PbPd**<sub>12</sub> concentrations is presented in Figure 3. Similar to cytotoxicity, no statistically significant difference in the amount of DNA strand breaks compared to the corresponding control samples was observed for both **SnPd**<sub>12</sub> and **PbPd**<sub>12</sub>, regardless of the concentrations tested.

Since both **SnPd**<sub>12</sub> and **PbPd**<sub>12</sub> did not induce cytogenotoxic effect on normal non-target HPBCs at the concentrations ( $\approx$  IC<sub>50</sub> values) inducing considerable antileukemic effects, they should be considered in further research as promising, low toxic, and selective antileukemic drug candidates.



**Figure 2.** The effects of **SnPd**<sub>12</sub> (solid symbol) and **PbPd**<sub>12</sub> (sparse pattern) on the viability in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) after 24 h treatment. \*Statistically significant compared to the corresponding control ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Figure 3.** The effects of **SnPd**<sub>12</sub> (solid symbol) and **PbPd**<sub>12</sub> (sparse pattern) on DNA damage in human peripheral blood cells (HPBCs) after 24 h treatment. \*Statistically significant compared to the corresponding control ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## CONCLUSION

The obtained cytotoxicity results indicated that neither **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** nor **PbPd<sub>12</sub>**, within the concentration range 12.5 – 50  $\mu\text{M}$ , induced statistically significant alterations of cell viability compared to the control. Moreover, the results of the comet assay showed that none of the tested POPs at concentrations  $\leq 50 \mu\text{M}$  resulted in a statistically significant relative increase of tail DNA. Accordingly, both **SnPd<sub>12</sub>** and **PbPd<sub>12</sub>** could be considered as promising, selective, and safe antileukemic drug candidates from a cytogenotoxicity point of view.

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