

## Study of the inhibiting effect of a quaternary ammonium surfactants mixture synthesized from petroleum fraction (reformate) against the carbon steel corrosion in HCl 1 M

Houria Hamitouche · Abdellah Khelifa ·  
Amel Kouache · Saâd Moulay

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**Abstract** Quaternary ammonium cationic surfactants were synthesized from reformate, a liquid mixture of hydrocarbons (aromatics, naphthenes and paraffins), via chloromethylation/quaternization sequences. The petroleum surfactants thus obtained were evaluated as corrosion inhibitors for carbon steel in 1 M HCl, by gravimetry, potentiodynamic polarization and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy. The corrosion inhibiting efficiency was assessed as functions of surfactant concentration. The results showed that the inhibiting efficiency increased with surfactant concentration; its optimal value of 70 % was for a surfactant concentration of 320 mg/L at 25 °C. Potentiodynamic polarization measurements showed that the mixture acts as a mixed type inhibitor. The corrosion inhibiting mechanism is thought to proceed via an adsorption of the surfactant molecules on the steel surface, generating a film and hindering the active sites. Our experimental adsorption data were found to obey the Langmuir adsorption isotherm. SEM images of the treated specimens, revealing the likely formation of a protective film, demonstrated the inhibiting capacity of the petroleum quaternary ammonium surfactants against the carbon steel corrosion.

**Keywords** Corrosion inhibition · Carbon steel · Petroleum quaternary ammonium · Cationic surfactants mixture

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H. Hamitouche (✉) · A. Khelifa · A. Kouache  
Laboratoire de Génie chimique, Département de chimie industrielle, Faculté de Technologie,  
Université Saâd Dahlab de Blida, BP 270, Route de Soumaâ, 09000 Blida, Algeria  
e-mail: hamitouchehouria@yahoo.fr

S. Moulay  
Laboratoire de Chimie-Physique Moléculaire et Macromoléculaire, Département de chimie  
industrielle, Faculté de Technologie, Université Saâd Dahlab de Blida, BP 270, Route de Soumaâ,  
09000 Blida, Algeria