

冷喷雾电离质谱法分析表征四逆汤中的 酸碱非共价复合物

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摘要:本研究采用冷喷雾电离质谱(CSI-MS)法表征四逆汤中 7 组酸碱化合物形成的非共价复合物。通过自行搭建的冷喷雾电离装置,以经液氮冷却的氮气作为离子源鞘气,为酸碱非共价复合物质谱分析提供低温电离条件。采用四极杆/静电场轨道阱高分辨质谱采集一级全扫描和二级碰撞诱导解离模式下的质谱数据。结果表明,在正、负离子模式下,均可检测到 7 组酸碱化合物之间形成的非共价复合物。进一步使用等温滴定量热实验和计算化学方法分析代表性酸碱化合物间的非共价相互作用模式,验证了 CSI-MS 的实验结果。该方法可为探索四逆汤自沉淀的形成机制提供理论依据和技术参考。

关键词:冷喷雾电离质谱(CSI-MS);酸碱非共价复合物;自沉淀;四逆汤;计算化学

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Characterization of Acid-Base Non-Covalent Complexes in Sini Decoction Using Cold Spray Ionization-Mass Spectrometry

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Abstract: Naturally-occurring precipitate of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is generally considered to be a common phenomenon. The formation of naturally-occurring precipitate originates from the interactions among different chemical components during the decoction process. Previous literature has reported the existence of naturally-occurring precipitate in Sini decoction. In this study, seven pairs of acid-base non-covalent complexes in Sini decoction were characterized using cold spray ionization-mass spectrometry (CSI-MS). The CSI device was built in house, where a stream of nitrogen gas was cooled by liquid nitrogen and used as the sheath gas, providing low-temperature ionization conditions for the MS analysis of the acid-base non-covalent complexes. The

gas pipeline was equipped with a valve to regulate the nitrogen flow rate. Data acquisition was carried out using a quadrupole/Orbitrap high-resolution mass spectrometer operated in both full-scan MS and collision-induced dissociation MS/MS modes. Experimental results showed that the seven pairs of acid-base non-covalent complexes were unequivocally observed in positive and negative ionization modes. Mass spectrometric responses for each acid-base non-covalent complex varied with different chemical structures, binding abilities and ionization efficiencies. A representative pair of acid-base non-covalent complex (enoxolone/benzoylmesaconine) was selected to investigate the influence of the acid-base concentration ratio (3 : 1, 2 : 1, 3 : 2, 1 : 1, 2 : 3, 1 : 2, 1 : 3) on the binding stoichiometry. The enoxolone/benzoylmesaconine complexes with the binding ratios of 1 : 1, 1 : 2, 2 : 1 were observed, among which the mass spectrometric peak of the 1 : 1 binding ratio was the most intensive. The non-covalent interactions of the representative enoxolone/benzoylmesaconine complex were analyzed using isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) and computational chemistry. The thermodynamic parameters were obtained in the ITC experiment. In comparison with entropy change, the contribution of enthalpy change to Gibbs free energy was more significant, indicating that Van der Waals force and hydrogen bonding might be the main driving force in the formation of acid-base non-covalent complexes. This result was further confirmed by the docking model and simulation results of computational chemistry. Multiple hydrogen bonds derived from the interactions between specific atoms locating in the acid and base compounds promoted the self-assembly process. Moreover, Van der Waals attraction or repulsion force was generated between the C and H atoms at different positions, which in conjunction with hydrogen bonding interaction drove the formation of the acid-base non-covalent complexes. This study provides theoretical foundation and technical instruction for exploring the formation mechanism of naturally-occurring precipitate in Sini decoction.

Key words: cold spray ionization-mass spectrometry (CSI-MS); acid-base non-covalent complex; naturally-occurring precipitate; Sini decoction; computational chemistry

传统中医药是我国历经千年积累下来的文化瑰宝,是中华民族医治疾病的实践产物,已成为现代医疗体系中不可或缺的组成部分。中药是中医药理论和实践的结晶,在一些疑难杂症的治疗方面有着独特的优势。作为中医用药的主要形式,中药复方是由两味或两味以上不同用量的药材按配伍规律组合而成,在疾病治疗、康复保健等方面应用广泛。四逆汤作为经典名方之一,最早收录于东汉名医张仲景所著的《伤寒论》。四逆汤由附子、干姜和炙甘草以 3 : 2 : 3 的配伍比例水煎而成,具有温中祛寒、回阳救逆等功效。现代药理学研究表明,四逆汤在治疗心血管疾病^[1-2]、肺损伤^[3]、抗炎^[4]、抗动脉粥样硬化^[5-6]等方面有一定的疗效。

复杂多样的化学成分是四逆汤等中药复方药理活性的物质基础。近年来,中药复方水煎液的自然沉淀现象受到关注,在多个经典方剂中均已证实了自然沉淀的存在^[7-9]。在中药复方煎煮过程中,不同种类的化学成分之间(如生物碱和有机酸^[10-11]、生物碱和糖苷^[12]、鞣质和蛋白质^[13-14]等)可通过静电力、氢键、疏水作用、 π - π 堆积等非共价相互作用自组装形成复合物,进而生成自然沉淀^[15]。在实际用药中,病人一般仅服用上清液,沉淀物通常同药渣一起被舍弃。但相关研究表明^[16-19],自然沉淀部分也具有与上清液相似的化学成分,呈现相同甚至更为优异的药理活性。

分析表征自然沉淀部分的化学物质组成对于探索四逆汤中自然沉淀的形成机制具有重要意义。

义。然而,由于中药成分复合物通常以非共价键形式结合,具有较弱的结合键能,使用常规技术手段很难表征完整复合物的形成,紫外可见光谱、红外光谱、核磁共振波谱、X 射线能谱^[20-23]等方法只能得到相对有限的结构信息而无法直接观测复合物的存在。质谱(mass spectrometry, MS)技术具有灵敏度高、特异性强、分析速度快等优势,可用于表征分子间非共价相互作用^[24-27]。冷喷雾电离质谱(cold spray ionization-mass spectrometry, CSI-MS)是一种在低温下操作的软电离质谱技术,最初用来表征自组装的纳米级金属配合物^[29],后被应用于分析不稳定的有机物分子以及通过非共价相互作用形成的复合物^[29-34]。

本课题组前期采用超高效液相色谱-四极杆/静电场轨道阱高分辨质谱法分析四逆汤上清液和自沉淀的化学成分组成,揭示了自沉淀与上清液成分的总体一致性,并利用冷喷雾电离质谱法考察甘草酸和 3 种乌头类生物碱(乌头碱、次乌头碱和新乌头碱)形成的复合物,初步证实了四逆汤中酸碱非共价复合物的存在^[35]。在此基础上,本研究拟采用冷喷雾电离质谱法进一步表征甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱、甘草次酸/附子灵、甘草次酸/乌头碱、甘草次酸/新乌头碱、甘草次酸/次乌头碱、甘草酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱、甘草酸/附子灵等 7 组酸碱复合物,并以甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物为例,通过等温滴定量热以及计算化学方法探究复合物的非共价相互作用模式,为揭示四逆汤中自沉淀的形成机制提供科学依据和实验参考。

1 实验部分

1.1 仪器与试剂

Q Exactive Focus 四极杆/静电场轨道阱高分辨质谱仪:美国 Thermo Fisher Scientific 公司产品;Auto-iTC 等温滴定量热仪:美国 TA 仪器公司产品;XS104 电子分析天平:瑞士 Mettler Toledo 公司产品;Milli-Q 超纯水系统:美国 Millipore 公司产品;Vortex-5 涡旋混合仪:海门市其林贝尔仪器制造有限公司产品。

甲醇:色谱纯,美国 Thermo Fisher Scientific 公司产品;甘草次酸标准品:上海源叶生物科技有限公司产品;甘草酸、乌头碱、次乌头碱

和新乌头碱标准品:成都格利普生物科技有限公司产品;苯甲酰新乌头原碱和附子灵标准品:上海安谱实验科技股份有限公司产品;所有标准品纯度均 $\geq 98\%$ 。

1.2 标准溶液配制

分别精密称取各 10 mg 标准品于 10 mL 容量瓶中,除甘草酸用 2 mL 超纯水溶解甲醇定容外,其余标准品均以甲醇溶解并定容至刻度,制得浓度均为 1 000 mg/L 的各标准储备溶液, $-4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 下保存,备用。分别量取各 0.5 mL 标准储备溶液,依次配制浓度比为 1:1 的甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱、甘草次酸/附子灵、甘草次酸/乌头碱、甘草次酸/新乌头碱、甘草次酸/次乌头碱、甘草酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱、甘草酸/附子灵混合溶液,涡旋充分混合后静置,待分析。

1.3 冷喷雾电离装置

本实验自行搭建冷喷雾电离装置,以提供用于酸碱非共价复合物离子化的低温环境,具体包括液氮冷却部分和气体管路部分,其装置图示于图 1。在加入液氮的不锈钢容器底部放置冷凝管,管口一端连接氮气钢瓶,另一端连接四极杆/静电场轨道阱高分辨质谱仪的鞘气入口,气体管路配有阀门用于调节氮气流速。

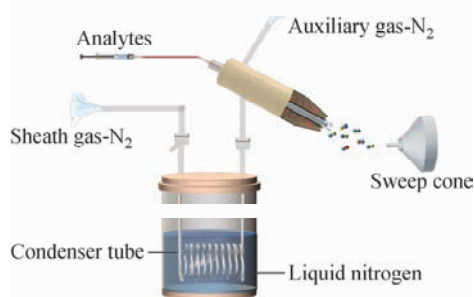


图 1 冷喷雾电离装置示意图

Fig.1 Schematic diagram of the cold spray ionization assembly

1.4 质谱检测条件

将冷喷雾电离装置连接至四极杆/静电场轨道阱高分辨质谱仪,以经过冷凝装置冷却的氮气作为鞘气接入质谱仪。相关质谱参数为:辅助气温度 $50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$,辅助气流速 0.33 L/min ,离子传输管电压 350 V ,透镜电压 55 V ,喷雾电压

3.5 kV;一级扫描分辨率 70 000,二级扫描分辨率 35 000,质量扫描范围 m/z 300~3 000,扫描自动增益控制 2×10^5 ,最大离子注入时间 100 ms,样品溶液以蠕动泵注入,进样流速 10 $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$,单次信号采集时间 2 min。

1.5 等温滴定量热分析

精密称取适量的甘草次酸和苯甲酰新乌头原碱,首先在甘草次酸中预先加入少量的 40% 氢氧化钠溶液,然后分别加入少量的二甲基亚砷溶液,超声溶解,继续加入适量的超纯水,涡旋混匀,使甘草次酸溶液浓度为 5 mmol/L,苯甲酰新乌头原碱溶液浓度为 1 mmol/L。实验中以苯甲酰新乌头原碱溶液滴定甘草次酸溶液,滴定温度 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$,每次 20 滴,转速 350 r/min。用 ITC RUN 软件实时采集和保存样品池中的热量变化。使用仪器配置软件对热量变化曲线进行分析,并得到 Independent 拟合模型及热力学参数,根据 $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$ 计算得到吉布斯自由能 ΔG 。

1.6 计算化学方法

使用 Molclus 软件^[36]随机生成甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物结构作为初始结构集,使用 MOPAC2016 软件^[37]支持的 PM6-DH+半经验方法对生成的结构进行几何优化与初筛,通过 ORCA 软件(5.0.2 版本)^[38]中内置的 B97-3c 泛函对能量最低的复合物构象进行几何优化与频率分析,并在 wB97M-V/def2-TZVP理论水平下对优化后的复合物构象做 counterpoise校正及分子间结合能计算。采用

Multiwfn 软件^[39]对优化后的复合物构象进行波函数分析,使用 VMD 软件(1.9.3 版本)对复合物的非共价相互作用进行可视化分析。

2 结果与讨论

2.1 一级质谱分析

在正、负离子模式下,7 组酸碱化合物混合溶液均可检测到 1:1 结合的非共价复合物谱峰,其一级质谱分析结果列于表 1,质量偏差均小于 4×10^{-6} 。由于各酸碱复合物的化学结构、结合能力及离子化效率不同,对应的质谱响应强度有所差异。其中,甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱、甘草次酸/附子灵、甘草酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱、甘草酸/附子灵等 4 组酸碱非共价复合物的信号强度较高。以甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物为例,正离子模式下,可观察到复合物的质子化准分子离子峰 m/z 1 060.632 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}$;负离子模式下,可观察到复合物的去质子化准分子离子峰 m/z 1 058.621 7 $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^{-}$ 。

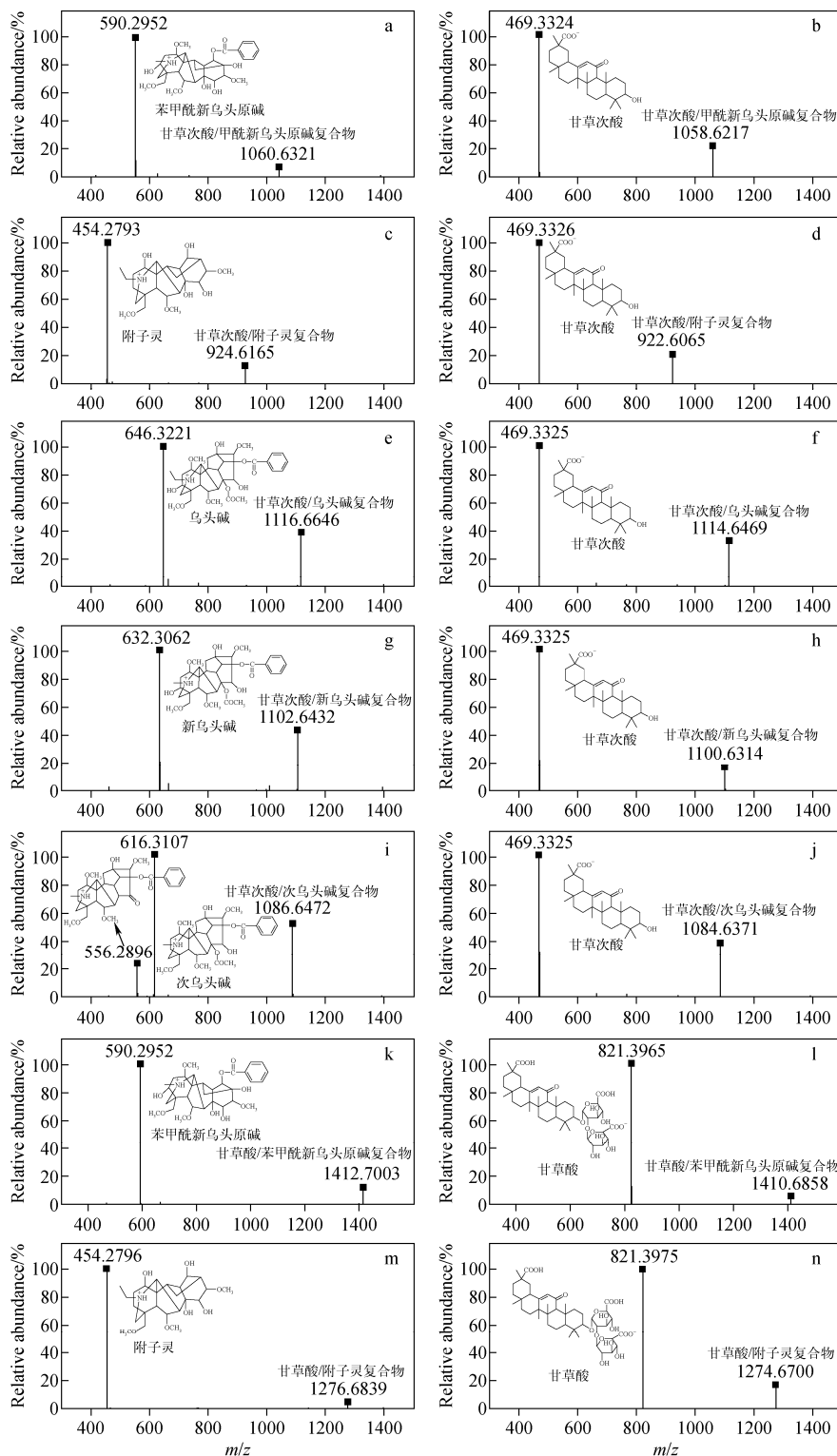
2.2 二级质谱分析

为进一步解析所观察到的酸碱复合物结构组成,分别在正、负离子模式下进行二级质谱分析以证实酸碱复合物的形成。鉴于非共价复合物的结合作用力较弱,经考察优化,将碰撞能量设置为 10 eV,在该碰撞能量下,能够在二级质谱图中同时观察到复合物的前体离子及其特征碎片离子。7 组酸碱非共价复合物的二级质谱图示于图 2。

表 1 7 组酸碱非共价复合物的一级质谱分析结果

Table 1 MS analysis results of seven pairs of acid-base non-covalent complexes

非共价复合物 Non-covalent complex	正离子模式 Positive ion mode			负离子模式 Negative ion mode		
	实测值	理论值	质量偏差	实测值	理论值	质量偏差
	Experimental value (m/z)	Theoretical value (m/z)	Mass error/ $\times 10^{-6}$	Experimental value (m/z)	Theoretical value (m/z)	Mass error/ $\times 10^{-6}$
甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱	1060.6321	1060.6356	-3.29	1058.6217	1058.6210	0.66
甘草次酸/附子灵	924.6165	924.6195	-3.24	922.6065	922.6050	1.63
甘草次酸/乌头碱	1116.6646	1116.6618	2.51	1114.6469	1114.6472	-0.27
甘草次酸/新乌头碱	1102.6432	1102.6461	-2.63	1100.6314	1100.6316	-0.18
甘草次酸/次乌头碱	1086.6472	1086.6512	-3.68	1084.6371	1084.6367	0.37
甘草酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱	1412.7003	1412.6998	0.35	1410.6858	1410.6852	0.43
甘草酸/附子灵	1276.6839	1276.6837	0.16	1274.6700	1274.6692	0.63



acid/benzoylmesaconine (k, l) and glycyrrhizic acid/fuziline (m, n) complexes in positive and negative ion modes

由图 2a,2b 可见,在正离子模式下,甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物前体离子经碰撞诱导解离失去甘草次酸,生成质子化的苯甲酰新乌头原碱离子峰(m/z 590.295 2);在负离子模式下,其前体离子失去苯甲酰新乌头原碱,得到去质子化的甘草次酸特征峰(m/z 469.332 4)。同理,在甘草次酸/附子灵、甘草次酸/乌头碱、甘草次酸/新乌头碱和甘草次酸/次乌头碱的正离子模式二级质谱图中,可分别观察到附子灵(m/z 454.279 3)、乌头碱(m/z 646.322 1)、新乌头碱(m/z 632.306 2)和次乌头碱(m/z 616.310 7)的特征离子峰;在负离子模式下,各复合物前体离子经碰撞诱导解离分别失去附子灵、乌头碱、新乌头碱和次乌头碱,均生成了甘草次酸特征离子峰。

甘草酸与苯甲酰新乌头原碱和附子灵的酸碱非共价复合物也呈现类似的质谱裂解规律。由图 2k,2l 可见,在正离子模式下,甘草酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物的质子化准分子离子

(m/z 1 412.700 3)经碰撞诱导解离产生苯甲酰新乌头原碱碎片离子峰(m/z 590.295 2);在负离子模式下,其复合物去质子化准分子离子(m/z 1 410.685 8)产生甘草酸碎片离子峰(m/z 821.396 5)。甘草酸/附子灵复合物在正、负离子模式下可分别生成附子灵(m/z 454.279 6)和甘草酸(m/z 821.397 5)特征碎片离子峰。

2.3 酸碱非共价复合物在不同浓度比例下的结合情况

为考察酸碱非共价复合物在不同浓度比例下的结合情况,本研究配制了一系列不同浓度比例(3 : 1、2 : 1、3 : 2、1 : 1、2 : 3、1 : 2 和 1 : 3)的甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱混合标准溶液,分别分析正、负离子模式下的一级全扫描质谱数据,并比对确认不同结合比的酸碱非共价复合物的质荷比理论值。结果表明,除结合比为 1 : 1 的信号峰外,在各浓度比例溶液的质谱图中均发现存在 2 : 1 和 1 : 2 的结合峰,具体情况列于表 2。

表 2 不同浓度比例下甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物的结合比

Table 2 Binding ratios of the enoxolone/benzoylmesaconine complex with different concentration ratios					
非共价复合物 Non-covalent complex	结合比 Binding ratio	正离子模式 Positive ion mode		负离子模式 Negative ion mode	
		理论值 Theoretical	是否结合 Binding	理论值 Theoretical	是否结合 Binding
		value (m/z)		value (m/z)	
甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱	3 : 1	2001.3148	×	1999.3002	×
	2 : 1	1530.9752	✓	1528.9609	✓
	3 : 2	2590.6035	×	2588.5889	×
	1 : 1	1060.6356	✓	1058.6210	✓
	2 : 3	2709.5526	×	2707.5380	×
	1 : 2	1649.9243	✓	1647.9097	✓
	1 : 3	2239.2130	×	2237.1984	×

考虑到不同浓度比例可能会影响复合物的结合比,在正、负离子模式下取各结合峰在稳定 0.5 min 内的平均强度作为参考,考察不同浓度比例对 3 种结合比质谱峰相对强度的影响,结果示于图 3a,3b。在正离子模式下,结合比 1 : 1 复合物的质谱峰信号最强,而随着溶液中苯甲酰新乌头原碱浓度的升高,1 : 2 结合峰强度呈现上升趋势,这一规律在负离子模式下更为明显。在考察的浓度比例下,1 : 1 结合峰强度远高于 2 : 1 和 1 : 2,苯甲酰新乌头原碱浓

度占比的增大会导致 1 : 2 结合峰强度升高,而并未发现 2 : 1 结合峰强度与浓度比例相关的规律。结果表明,甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物存在 1 : 1、2 : 1 和 1 : 2 的结合比例,且以 1 : 1 为主要结合方式。

2.4 基于等温滴定量热法的热力学分析

等温滴定量热实验结果示于图 4,向上的曲线表明在苯甲酰新乌头原碱溶液滴定甘草次酸溶液过程中产生了大量的热量,随着滴定时间的推移,热量逐渐减少直至趋于稳定,说明酸

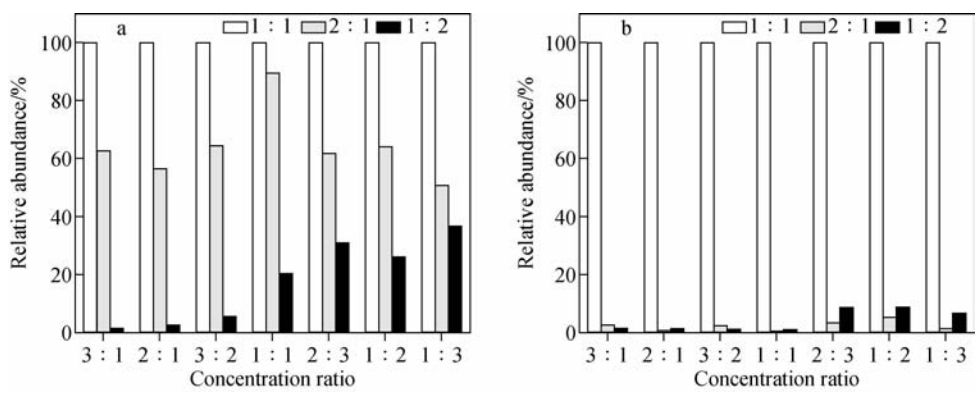


图3 正(a)、负(b)离子模式下,不同浓度比例对甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物各结合比质谱峰相对丰度的影响

Fig.3 Effect of concentration ratios on relative abundance of mass spectrometric peaks of the enoxolone/benzoylmesaconine complexes with different binding ratios in positive (a) and negative (b) ion modes

碱化合物之间发生了相互作用并最终达到反应终点。根据反应温度及模拟得到的热力学参数计算吉布斯自由能 $\Delta G=-26.02\text{ kJ/mol}$,表明甘草次酸和苯甲酰新乌头原碱之间反应的自发性。从结合机制来看,焓变的贡献主要来自范德华力和氢键等非共价相互作用,而熵变的贡献主要取决于疏水相互作用以及构象变化,实验中得到 $\Delta H=-23.87\text{ kJ/mol}$, $-T\Delta S=-2.149\text{ kJ/mol}$,说明与熵变相比,焓变对吉布斯自由能起主导作用,这反映了甘草次酸和苯甲酰新乌头原碱的结合作用力可能主要源自范德华力与氢键的作用。

研究酸碱复合物的可能构象及形成机制。选取具有代表性的甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物进行几何优化与单点能计算。酸碱化合物间的结合能(binding energy, E_{bind})可反映所形成复合物的稳定性,计算结果表明,该复合物在能量最低构象下的 $E_{\text{bind}}=-132.34\text{ kJ/mol}$,证明甘草次酸与苯甲酰新乌头原碱之间存在非共价相互作用,可结合形成复合物。

为进一步探明甘草次酸与苯甲酰新乌头原碱之间的相互作用类型,使用独立梯度模型(independent gradient model, IGM)^[40]对复合物进行可视化分析,结果示于图5、6。在图5中, -0.02 与 0.02 位置的峰分别对应范德华

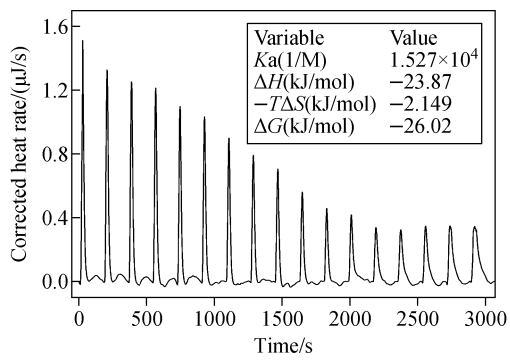
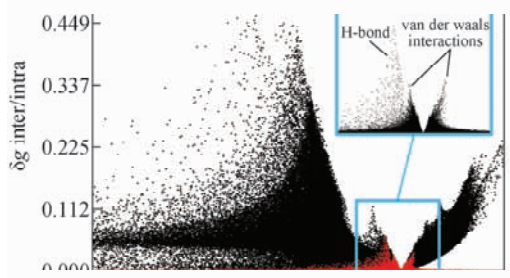


图4 甘草次酸和苯甲酰新乌头原碱相互作用的等温滴定量热分析

Fig.4 Isothermal titration calorimetry analysis of the interaction between enoxolone and benzoylmesaconine

2.5 计算化学结果分析

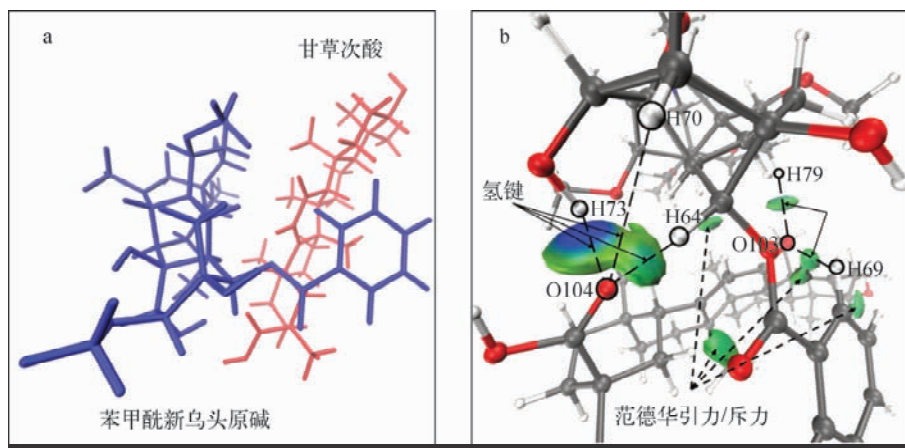
为验证质谱实验结果,采用计算化学方法



注:红色为分子间;黑色为分子内
图5 甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物的 $\delta g\text{-sign}(\lambda_2)\rho$ 图
Fig.5 $\delta g\text{-sign}(\lambda_2)\rho$ plot of the enoxolone/benzoylmesaconine complex

引力与斥力,而-0.04位置的峰代表氢键作用,二者同时出现说明2种分子间存在范德华作用与氢键。从图6可以看出,苯甲酰新乌头原碱中苯甲酰基相连桥头碳上H(H64)、相邻桥头碳上H(H70)、7号位羟基H(H73)与甘草次酸中羧基羰基O(O104),苯甲酰新乌头原碱中苯甲酰基苯环上H(H69)、15号位C-H

(H79)与甘草次酸中环上羰基O(O103)形成氢键;同时,苯甲酰新乌头原碱与甘草次酸骨架中C、H原子之间产生范德华引力或斥力(如C21-H155、C23-H155、H46-H129、H59-H135、H68-H130、H68-H131、H69-C117等),这两方面因素共同导致了复合物的形成。



注:等值面设定值 0.012

图6 甘草次酸/苯甲酰新乌头原碱复合物的几何优化结构图(a)和分子间 δg 等值面图(b)

Fig. 6 Optimized geometry (a) and intermolecular δg isosurface (b) plots of the enoxalone/benzoylmesaconine complex

3 结论

本研究采用冷喷雾电离结合四极杆/静电场轨道阱高分辨质谱对四逆汤中7组酸碱复合物进行分析表征。通过一级和二级质谱分析,证实了酸碱非共价复合物的形成,表明酸碱化合物间的非共价相互作用力在冷喷雾条件下可得到有效保持。等温滴定量热实验证实了酸碱化合物间反应的自发性,并且焓变的贡献大于熵变,表明范德华力和氢键等非共价相互作用是复合物形成的主要推动力。计算化学结果进一步显示,酸碱化合物中的多个原子共同通过范德华力与氢键作用促使复合物的形成。本研究可为探究四逆汤等中药复方水煎液中自沉淀的形成机制提供技术参考,为其进一步临床应用提供科学依据。

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