

Matrix Performance for MALDI-MS has been shown to be related to Absorbance at Laser Wavelength and Proton Transfer but these are not the only Factors!

DFT and TD-DFT Studies of Some Aminoacridines as Matrices in MALDI-MS

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INTRODUCTION

- ✓ **MALDI**, Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization, is one of the most successful “soft” ionization methods in Mass Spectrometry, MS.
- ✓ **Matrix** should have enough absorbance at laser wavelength and the tendency to participate in proton transfer reactions.
- ✓ **Computational Chemistry** can give insights about the role of these factors in matrix performance.

MATRICES and METHODS

- ✓ Matrices: 2-, 3-, and 9-Aminoacridines (2-AA, 3-AA and 9AA), Fig. 1.
- ✓ Absorbance: Vertical electronic transitions at TD-CAM-B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory
- ✓ Ground- and excited-state gas-phase basicities (GB and GB*): the G4MP2 method and Förster cycle.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

- ✓ Based on preliminary experimental MALDI-MS results, 3-AA has the best performance.
- ✓ Based on calculated absorbance at laser wavelength, Fig. 2, 9-AA has the highest absorption coefficient.
- ✓ Based on calculated basicity results, Fig. 3, 9-AA and 2-AA have the highest GB and GB*, respectively.

COUNCLUSIONS

- ✓ Having good absorbance is essential for a matrix but is not the most important factor.
- ✓ Having highest GB or GB* is also not sufficient for having the best performance.
- ✓ Other factors are contributing to the observed experimental performance which are under investigation by our group.

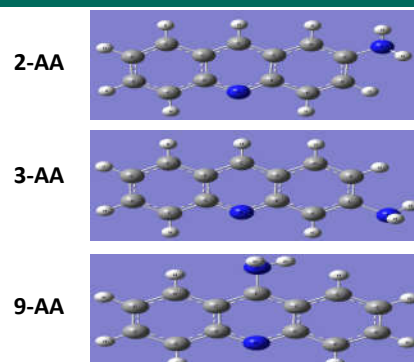


Fig 1.

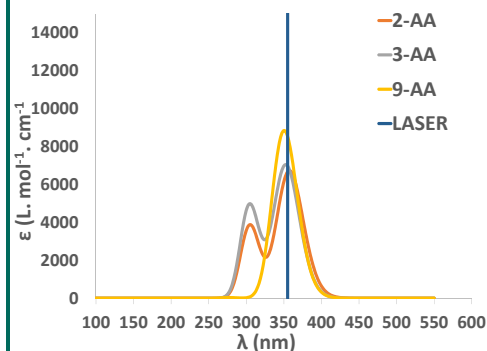


Fig2.

$$\epsilon_{\lambda=355}(9\text{-AA}) > \epsilon_{\lambda=355}(3\text{-AA}) > \epsilon_{\lambda=355}(2\text{-AA})$$

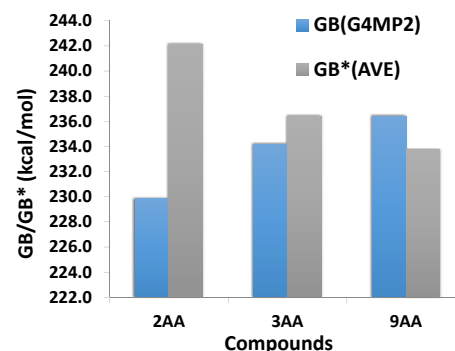


Fig 3.

$$\text{GB}(9\text{-AA}) > \text{GB}(3\text{-AA}) > \text{GB}(2\text{-AA})$$

$$\text{GB}^*(2\text{-AA}) > \text{GB}^*(3\text{-AA}) > \text{GB}^*(9\text{-AA})$$



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