

# Orthopalladated oximes compounds containing 2,6-lutidine: Synthesis, structure, DNA binding studies and cytotoxic assays

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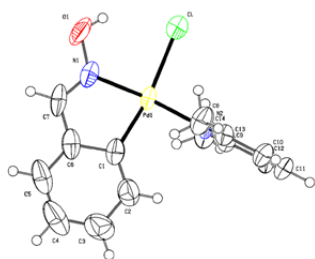
Keywords: Cyclopalladated complexes, Antitumor activity, DNA binding studies.

## Highlights

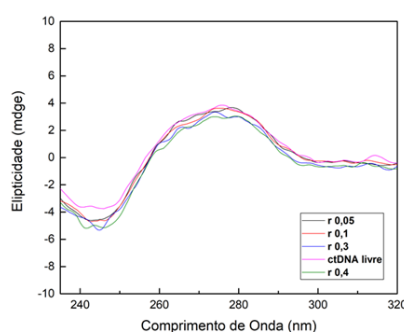
New orthopalladated oximes active against tumor cells and low affinity toward DNA.

## Resumo/Abstract

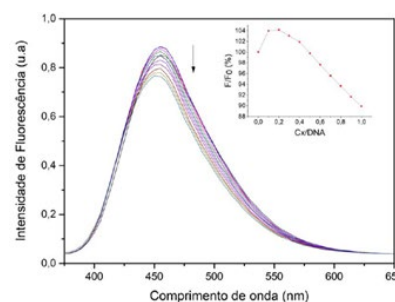
This work deals with the synthesis, structural characterization and antiproliferative effects of three novel Pd<sup>II</sup> complexes (**1-3**) of the type [PdCl(C<sup>2</sup>,N-L1)(luti)], [PdCl(C<sup>2</sup>,N-L2)(luti)] and [PdCl(C<sup>2</sup>,N-L3)(luti)], where L1 = acetophenone oxime, L2 = benzaldehyde oxime, L = tetralone oxime and luti = 2,6-lutidine, as potential antitumor agents. Compounds **1-3** have been fully characterized by elemental analysis and spectroscopic techniques (FTIR and NMR). The crystal and molecular structures of **1-2** have been determined by X-ray diffraction analysis. In all the cases, it has been observed a nearly square planar environment around Pd atom composed by the C,N-donor atoms from cyclopalladated oxime, one N atom from lutidine and one chloro ligand. The N atoms are oriented in a *trans* configuration (Fig 1). All compounds have been screened against tumor cell lines (MCF-7, A549 and MDA-MB-231) and fibroblasts (MRC5) via MTT assays. In particular, complex **3** has exhibited cytotoxic effects against MDA-MB-231 (7.54 ± 0.33 µM) and MCF7 (IC<sub>50</sub> = 14.78 ± 0.06 µM). Preliminary DNA binding studies on **3** have been carried out through spectrophotometric titrations and circular dichroism experiments. The increase of the concentration of **3** has not resulted in meaningful changes in the spectral CD profile of ct-DNA (Fig 2), indicating that the cyclopalladated establishes a weak interaction with DNA. Upon successive addition of aliquots of **3** to the DNA-Hoechst 33258 solution, a decrease of fluorescence intensity (ca. 10 %) has been detected (Fig 3), suggesting that **3** binds weakly to DNA.



**Fig 1.** The molecular structure of **2**, showing the atom-labelling and displacement ellipsoids.



**Fig 2.** CD spectra of ct-DNA (85 µM) in Tris-HCl in the absence and presence of the palladium complex **3**.



**Fig 3.** Fluorescence emission spectra for the Hoechst 33258 solution (λexcitation = 350 nm) with increasing amounts of the complex **3**.

## Agradecimentos/Acknowledgments

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