

## Growth, characterization, and antibacterial studies of L-Lysine single crystals added with potassium bromide

\*P. Yasotha<sup>1</sup>, R. Thiagarajan<sup>2</sup>, P. Sagunthala<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,3</sup>Department of Physics, Sri Vasavi College, Erode – 638 316. Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, Chikkaiah Naiker College, Erode, Tamil Nadu, India

**Abstract:** Single crystals of L-lysine added Potassium Bromide were grown by slow evaporation technique at room temperature. The crystalline nature of the grown crystal was confirmed using powder X-ray diffraction technique. Single crystal X-ray diffraction patterns were recorded for the structural conformation and it was found to be cubic. The UV –VIS- NIR Spectrum of the grown crystals shows less optical absorption and good transmittance in the entire visible region enabling its use in optical applications. Vickers micro hardness test was carried out to analyze the mechanical property of the grown L- lysine potassium Bromide single crystal. Thermo gravimetric analysis proved that the crystal is stable up to 600°C. The frequency and temperature dependence of dielectric constant ( $\epsilon_r$ ), dielectric loss ( $\tan \delta$ ) were also measured. The grown crystal was evaluated for its biological efficacy and found to exhibit anti bacterial activities against some select bacterial strains.

**Keywords:** Anti bacterial, Dielectric studies, Micro Hardness, Powder X-Ray Diffraction, Slow Evaporation,

### I. Introduction

Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins that are very important for most of the processes in living organisms [1] and their complexes belong to a class of organic materials find immense nonlinear optical (NLO) applications [2]. Recently, complexes of amino acids have been explored. The tetrahedral array of four different groups about a- carbon atom confers optical activity of amino acid. In solid state, amino acid contains a deprotonated carboxyl acid group ( $\text{COO}^-$ ) and protonated amino group ( $\text{NH}_3^+$ ). This zwitter ionic nature helps to increase the crystal hardness, thus making them ideal candidates for NLO devices [3]. Complexes of amino acids with inorganic acids and salts are promising materials for optical second harmonic generation (SHG), as they tend to combine the advantages of the organic amino acid with that of the inorganic acid [4]. In recent years, efforts have been made to synthesize amino acid mixed inorganic complex crystals, in order to improve the chemical stability, laser damage threshold, linear and nonlinear optical properties. The present investigation deals with the growth of L-lysine added Potassium Bromide single crystal by slow solvent evaporation technique. The grown crystal has been subjected to powder XRD, single crystal XRD, UV-VIS, micro hardness and dielectric studies. The grown crystals were also screened for anti bacterial studies to identify the application area of the material.

### II. Experimental Method

High purity (AR grade 99% purity) Merck grade salts were used for the preparation. Saturated solutions of Potassium Bromide and L-lysine were prepared separately by adding the salts gradually and stirred using magnetic stirrer (Remi-1 MLH) and then filtered twice using Whatman no:1 filter paper. The above prepared saturated solutions of KBr and L- lysine were mixed in the ratio (3:1) and taken in a well cleaned beaker. The solution was stirred well for two hours to get the homogeneity. The beaker was closed with perforated aluminum foil and kept in a dust free and vibration free environment and observed periodically. After a time span of 95 days the L- lysine added Potassium Bromide single crystal (LYPB) was harvested successfully. The photographs of the grown crystals were shown in the figure 1.



Figure 1. Photograph of the grown crystal

### III. Results And Discussions

#### 3.1 Powder X-ray diffraction

The grown crystals of LYPB were subjected to powder X-ray diffraction analysis. The powder X-ray spectra were recorded using SEIFERT X-ray diffractometer with  $\text{CuK}\alpha$  Radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406$ ). The powdered samples were scanned over the range of 10 to 80 degrees. The peaks in the diffractogram were indexed using powder X-ray software. The XRD pattern of the grown crystals of LYPB is shown in the fig.2. The presence of number of good intensity and sharp peaks prove the crystalline nature of the grown crystals [5,6].

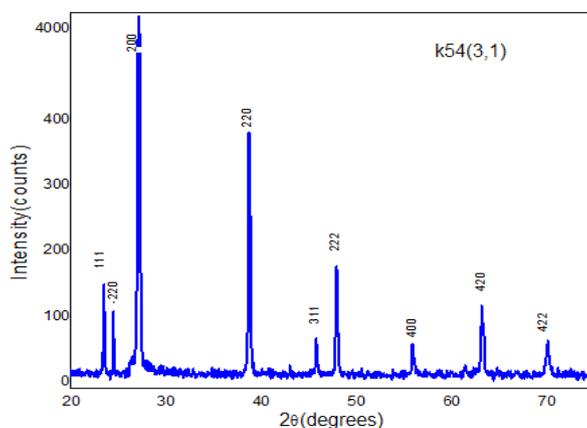


Figure: 2 PXR pattern of grown crystals

#### 3.2 Single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis

The single X-ray diffraction studies have been carried out to confirm the crystalline nature and to determine the lattice parameters of the grown sample. It has been carried out using Bruker AXS diffractometer using  $\text{MoK}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ). From the SXR data it is observed that the grown LYPB crystals belong to cubic crystal system. The calculated lattice parameter values are presented in table 1. The results of the present work are compared with that of pure KBr [7,8]. The Lysine added with potassium bromide did not alter the structure but there is a mild change in the lattice parameter values there by increasing the volume of the unit cell which proves the incorporation of Lysine into the lattice sites of potassium bromide.

TABLE 1. Cell parameters of the grown crystals

Crystal	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	$\alpha = \beta = \gamma$	Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	Crystal system
KBr	6.59	6.59	6.59	90°	287.05	cubic
LYPB	6.79	6.79	6.79	90°	314	cubic

#### 3.3 UV-vis-NIR spectral analysis

The optical absorption spectrum of LYPB crystal was recorded in the wavelength range of 200–1000 nm using Perkin Elmer Lambda 935 UV-vis-NIR spectrometer. The obtained absorption spectrum is shown in Fig 3. in which the lower cut off region is obtained at 246 nm.

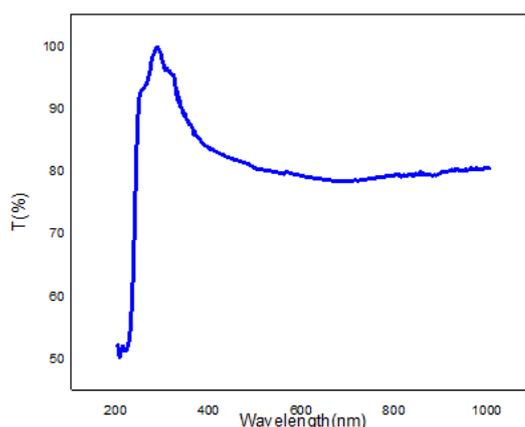


Figure 3. UV Transmission graph of grown crystal

The UV spectra shows the presence of a wide transparency window lying between 246 and 800 nm with  $\lambda_{\min} = 246$  nm. Using the relation  $E_g = 1240/\lambda_{\min}$ , the band gap energy was found to be 5.04 eV. The optical absorption spectrum shows that absorption was very less in the entire visible region and part of IR region [9]. Hence, from the analysis of absorption spectrum, it is evident that the grown crystal is transparent in the entire visible region without any absorption peak, which is the key requirement for any nonlinear optical crystal having applications in second harmonic generation, parametric oscillations, etc [10,5]. The ideal crystalline materials for band-pass filters should be narrow band transmissive in specific wavelength and it can be used as sensors for aircraft, spaceship and to estimate missile applications.

### 3.4 Mechanical properties: micro hardness studies

One of the methods to determine the mechanical behavior of the grown crystals is micro hardness test. The polished surface of the grown LYPB crystals were indented at different sites for the load for 10 seconds [11]. Indentations were made using pyramidal diamond indenter by varying the loads from 25 to 100 g. The successive indentations were made at different sites of the plane. The mean diagonal length was used for calculating the Vickers's hardness number. The hardness test could not be carried out above 100 g because crack initiation and materials chipping become significant beyond this load.

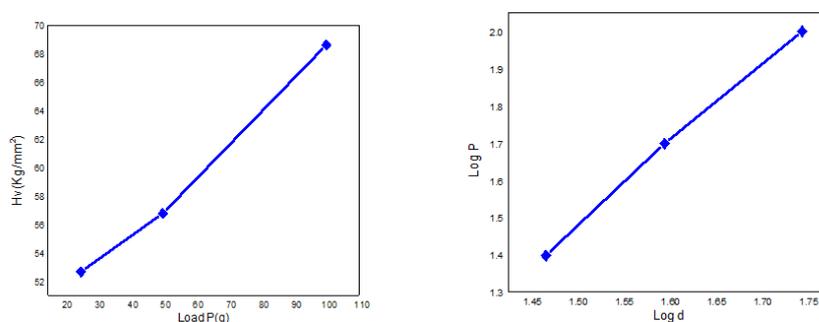


Figure 4a. Variation of  $H_v$  Vs load Figure 4b. Variation of  $\log P$  Vs  $\log d$

The Vickers hardness number ( $H_v$ ) was calculated using the relation

$$H_v = 1.8344 P/d^2 \text{ kg/mm}^2$$

where,

P - the applied load in grams

d - the diagonal length of the indentation impression in mm [12]

The micro hardness and the diagonal length were calculated from the micro computer attached to the instrument. Plot of  $H_v$  against load  $P$  for the grown LYPB crystal is shown in figure 4a. The non linear variation of  $H_v$  with load implies the presence of imperfection and voids. The imperfections are mainly due to impurity, dislocation or grain boundary diffusion. The Meyer's index number  $n$  [13] gives the value of work hardening index. Materials are normally characterized by Meyer's index or work hardening index. The lower the value of the work hardening index better will be the hardness of the material [14]. From careful observations on various materials, Onitsch pointed out that the value of  $n$  lies between 1 and 1.6 for hard materials and it is more than 1.6 for soft materials [15]. The log-log plot between  $d$  and  $P$  is shown in the fig 4b which is almost a straight line graph. The slope of the line gives the work hardening index  $n$ . The  $n$  value obtained for the sample is 2.08. Hence the value of work hardening index suggest that material is soft.

### 3.5 Thermal analysis.

The grown LYPB crystal was subjected to heating at the rate of  $10^\circ\text{C}$  per min in the nitrogen atmosphere from  $20^\circ\text{C}$  to  $700^\circ\text{C}$ . The thermogram is shown in Fig 5.

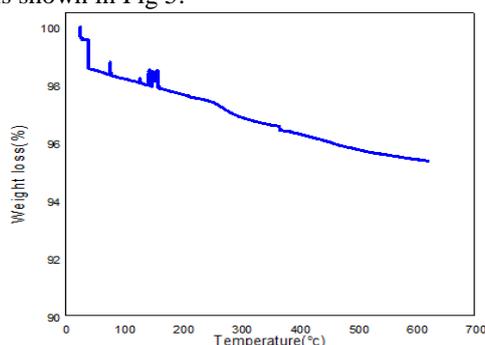


Figure 5. TGA spectra of grown crystal

The thermogram shows that the weight loss starts after 100°C and below this temperature weight loss is very minimum. Hence the crystal is completely devoid of any inclusion of water, which was used as the solvent for crystallization [16]. It is observed that only 4% of the sample got disintegrated up to 400°C. There is a gradual weight loss of 1% of the sample up to 600°C and about 95 percentage of the LYPB crystal remains stable. From these results, it is concluded that the crystal is thermally stable up to 600°C. The stability of this crystal is a desirable property for its possible NLO applications.

### 3.6 Dielectric studies

The dielectric characteristics of the material are important to study the lattice dynamics in the crystal [17]. The grown crystal LYPB was subjected to dielectric studies at different temperatures like 30°C, 40°C, 60°C, 80°C and 100°C. The variation of dielectric constant and dielectric loss as a function of frequency with varying temperature is shown in the figure 6 and figure 7.

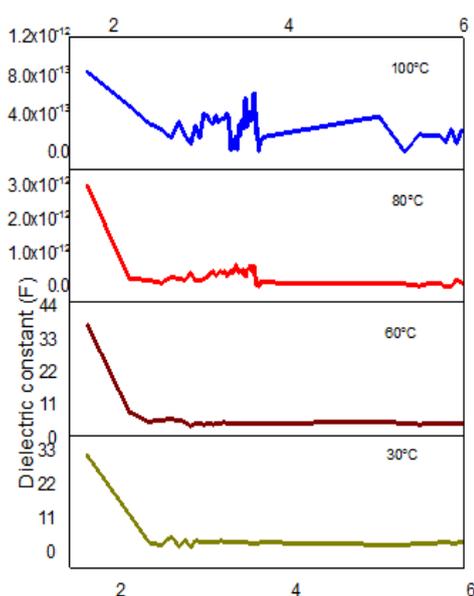


Fig 6. Dielectric constant Vs frequency

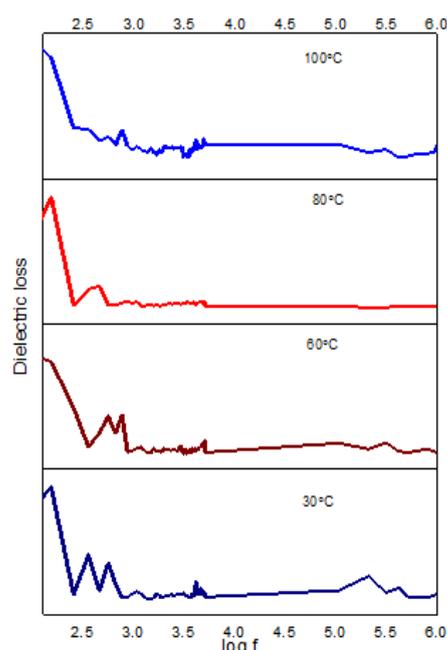


Fig 7. Dielectric loss Vs frequency

The dielectric constant is higher at low frequencies and then decreases with the increasing frequencies and saturates and dielectric loss decreases with increasing frequency. The large value of dielectric constant at low frequency is due to the presence of space charge polarization.

At lower frequencies all the polarizations are active whereas in the case of high frequency only electronic and ionic polarizations are active. When the electric charge carriers cannot follow the alteration of the a.c. electric field applied beyond a certain critical frequency the dielectric constant decreases with increase in frequency and remains constant [18 -20]. The maximum value of dielectric constant increases with the increasing temperature. At high temperature like 100°C there is no smooth decrease in the value of dielectric constant and dielectric loss with increase in frequency. The exchange of the charge carriers in the lattice sites which is responsible for electrical conduction is thermally activated by increasing temperature. As a result, dielectric polarization increases causing an increase in dielectric constant and dielectric loss. It is evident from figure that the crystal has a very low dielectric loss in the high frequency region, which indicates the lesser number of defects in the crystals.

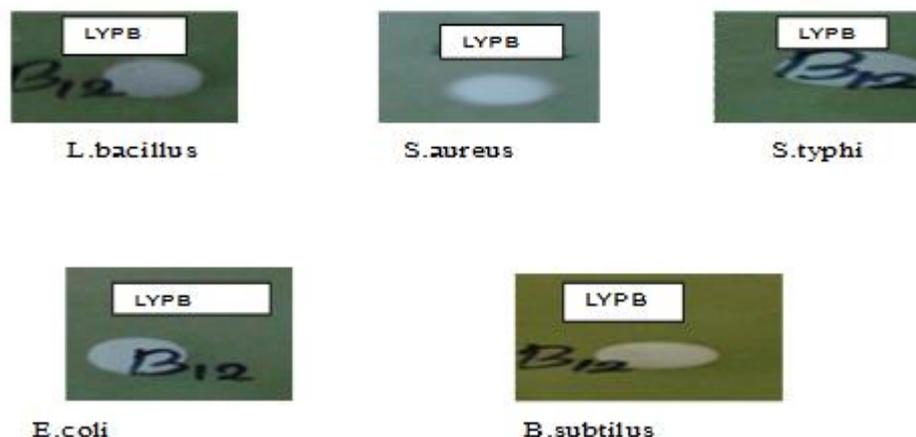
The dielectric loss is strongly dependent on the frequency of the applied field [21]. These results are correlated with piezoelectric results. The very low value of dielectric constant at higher frequencies is important for the fabrication of materials towards ferroelectric, photonic and electro-optic devices and it possesses enhanced optical quality with lesser defects, this parameter is of vital importance for nonlinear optical applications.

### 3.7 Antibacterial study (Agar diffusion method)

Antibiotic resistance has become a global concern. The clinical efficacy of many existing antibiotics is being threatened by emergence of multi drug resistant pathogens. So it is necessary to discover new antimicrobial materials with novel mechanism of action towards new and re-emerging infectious diseases. Antibacterial activities of the grown crystals were analyzed against bacterial strains Lactobacillus, Bacillus subtilis, Staphylococcus aureus, Salmonella typhi and Escherichia coli.

#### Agar diffusion method

Antibacterial assay was used to determine the growth inhibition of bacteria. Bacteria were maintained at 4°C on broth media before use. Agar diffusion is a widely accepted *in vitro* investigation method for preliminary screening of test microorganisms[22]. The required amount of petri plates are prepared and autoclaved at 121°C for 15 minutes. And they were allowed to cool under laminar air flow. About 20 ml of media was aseptically transferred into each sterile petridishes and allowed to solidify. 0.2 ml inoculum suspension was spread uniformly over the agar medium using sterile L shaped glass rod to get uniform distribution of bacteria.



**Figure 8.** Zone of inhibition (mm) against select bacteria

The readily prepared cavity were loaded with sample and the plates were incubated at 5°C for 1 hour to permit good diffusion and then transferred to an incubator at 37°C for 24 hours. The zone of inhibition was compared with standard disc. The antimicrobial activity was recorded by measuring the width of the clear inhibition zone around the disc using zone reader (mm)[23,24]. The biological screening is effective and the results show a significant antibacterial activity for the grown LYPB crystals over both Gram positive (Lactobacillus, Bacillus subtilis and Staphylococcus aureus) and Gram negative (Salmonella typhi and Escherichia coli) bacteria by agar diffusion method by measuring the inhibition zone width as shown in Fig 8. The inhibition zone diameters in the agar well diffusion assays for LYPB were given in Table 2 enabling a comparison[25,26].

**Table 2.** Zone of inhibition against select bacteria (mm)

Sample	Zone of Inhibition (mm)				
	S.aureus	E.coli	B.subtilis	S.typhi	L.bacillus
LYPB	13 ± 0.5	12 ± 0.2	9 ± 0.3	10 ± 0.1	12 ± 0.3
LYSINE	11 ± 0.4	16 ± 0.3	9 ± 0.2	12 ± 0.3	14 ± 0.4

As compared to L-Lysine, the grown LYPB crystals show a moderate activity against the selected strains of microorganisms[27]. The sensitivity for five bacterial species follows the order as Staphylococcus aureus > Lactobacillus > Escherichia coli > Salmonella typhi > Bacillus subtilis. Hence the grown LYPB crystals may be considered for pharmacological applications.

### IV. Conclusion

Single crystals of LYPB were developed using slow evaporation technique. Crystalline nature of developed compounds was verified with PXRD analysis and reflections were duly indexed. The lattice parameters were found by single crystal XRD. The grown single crystal LYPB had cubic crystal system. The alteration in lattice parameters values proves the incorporation of L-lysine with KBr. For LYPB crystals the lower cut off wave length is around 246 nm, transparency range is 80% and band gap energy is around 5.04

eV. Mechanical part of the analysis says that the grown crystals are soft materials. Antibacterial studies showed that the prepared crystals have moderate antibacterial activity against the select bacterial strains. From the above results, it is concluded that the grown crystals are suitable for biomedical applications. The grown crystals can also be used in the field of ferroelectric, optoelectronic and photonics.

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