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Research Article

MIGRATION INHIBITORS FOR PREVENTIONS OF CORROSION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE CONSTRUCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. Corrosion undermines the physical integrity of structures and can lead to destruction of property and loss of life. Chloride-induced steel corrosion is one of the major worldwide deterioration problems for steel reinforced concrete structures. The use of green inhibitors in producing high performance concrete has increased significantly. The aim of our study was to investigate the efficiency of green inhibitor and migration inhibitor admixed in concrete. The concrete samples were exposed in aggressive media H_2SO_4 1M and 10^{-3} Cl^-. As corrosion inhibitor we have used locust bean gum as a green inhibitor and methionine+butanolamine as migration inhibitor. Half-cell potential, polarization resistance and Tafel extrapolation methods are used for inhibitor efficiency testing. The results show high resistance polarization and low corrosion rate for concrete sample with inhibitor. The corrosion rate decreases approximately 90% in presence of locust bean gum and 80% in presence of migration inhibitor.

Keywords: *green inhibitor, migration inhibitor, locust bean gum*

INTRODUCTION

The corrosion of steel reinforcement is one of the main causes of premature deterioration of reinforced concrete. Rapid deterioration can be caused by chloride ions in a marine zone or due to the use of thaw salts [1] or by carbonation in urban zones [2, 3, 4]. The use of inhibitors of low environmental impact is becoming more popular due to the major concerns about the use of these chemicals. Locust bean gum is an organic compound extracted by endosperms of carob tree. It is cheap and friendly with environment. Migrating corrosion inhibitors are able to penetrate into existing concrete to protect steel from chloride attack. The inhibitor migrates through the concrete capillary structure, first by liquid diffusion via the moisture that is normally present in concrete, then by its high vapor pressure and finally by following hairlines and micro cracks. The diffusion process requires time to reach the rebar surface and to form a protective layer [5].

The objective of this investigation has been the study of corrosion protection efficiency of locust bean gum as a green inhibitor and methionine+amino-2-butanol-1 as migration inhibitor added in concrete.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three concrete samples one blank sample without inhibitor, one with 1g/L locust bean gum and one with methionine 1g/l + amino-2-butanol-1 8g/L with dimensions 10 x 10 x 20 cm were prepared using a 20 cm steel rebar and one 20 cm Inconel for the counter electrode. A concrete mixture containing commercial sand, Titan cement, concrete mixture ratio: water/cement=0.53 and inert/cement=2.25. The inhibitor was added in the concrete. Concrete was cured for 28 days. After curing, the concrete samples were immersed in acid sulfuric (1M) in presence of 10^{-3} M Cl^- at ambient temperatures and are testing for 122 days. Clear silicon was applied to the concrete/metal interface to prevent easy access for ions.

The corrosion behavior of steel rebar was monitored by electrochemical experiments included the following techniques: linear polarization resistance, potentiodynamic test and open-circuit potential measurements. All tests were conducted in three-compartment electrochemical cells, where i) the working electrode was the steel sample; ii) the counter electrode was inconel; and iii) the reference electrode was a Hg/Hg_2SO_4.

Effectiveness inhibitors were based on changes in the polarization resistance, corrosion rate and the corrosion potential of the rebar, measurements that can be performed without destruction to the reinforcing steel. This data can provide early warning of structural distress and evaluate the effectiveness of corrosion control strategies that have been implemented. The key to fighting corrosion is to introduce preventative measures.

Changes in the resistance polarization (Rp) were monitored weekly, the corrosion potential of the rebar was monitored daily and the potentialdynamic polarization was done at the last day using Potentiostat/Galvanostat PJT-24. Potential values were recorded and plotted with respect to time.

RESULTS AND DISCUTIONS

Corrosion potential

The corrosion inhibition for locust bean gum and migration inhibitor has been investigated over e period of 122 days. According to the ASTM standard [6,7], if the open circuit potential (corrosion potential) is -0.564 mV or higher, this indicates a 90% probability that no reinforcing steel has corroded. Corrosion potentials more negative than -0.564 mV are assumed to have a greater than 90% likelihood of corrosion.

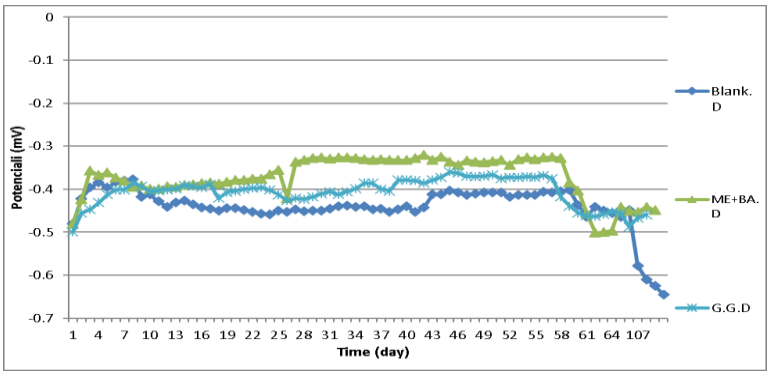

Fig. 1. *Comparison of corrosion potential vs time for sample with locust bean gum, sample with migration inhibitor (methionine+butanolamina) and untreated sample (blank).*

Polarization resistance

The method is based on the observation of the linearity of the polarization curves near the potential E_{corr}. Rp value is related to the corrosion current I_{corr} by means of the expression [3]:

$$I_{korr} = B/Rp$$
(Eqn. 1)

$$Rp = \Delta E/\Delta I$$
(Eqn. 2)

$$icorr = Icorr/A$$
(Eqn. 3)

The potential of the reinforcement was scanned 20 mV from the open-circuit potential (OCP) of the sample, at a scan rate of $6x10^{-3}$ mV/s. Inhibitor treated concrete samples have higher Rp values compared with the blank sample. Figure shows a declining trend stable polarization resistance value after 122 days of testing for the treated concrete. Polarization resistance measurements show a reduced corrosion rate for the samples with inhibitor, while the blank sample has an increasing corrosion rate. Both of samples, with locust bean gum and methionine+butanolamine showed an average corrosion rate of 0.34 $\mu A/cm^2$ (with a decreasing trend) compared to the blank samples showing a rate of 2.04 $\mu A/cm^2$. The rebar treated with methionine+butanolamine has the highest polarization resistance. The results showed the possibility of migration of the migration inhibitor and the ability to create e thin protect layer. The samples treated with inhibitor have the ability to passivity the steel bar even in the presence of chloride ions [5,8]. The values of corrosion rate in $\mu A/cm^2$ for treated and untreated are shown in table.

Table 1. *Values of Rp and Icorr for concrete samples immersed in H_2SO_4 1M and 10^{-3} Cl solution, day 122.*

Blanc			Locust bean gum			Methionine+amino-2-butanol-1		
Days	Rp	i_{corr}	Days	Rp	i_{corr}	Days	Rp	i_{corr}
10	0.008434	0.787971	8	0.008226	0.807908	9	0.013035	0.509812
17	0.009117	0.728958	15	0.007844	0.847183	16	0.017291	0.384336
24	0.007824	0.849376	22	0.007431	0.894301	23	0.011164	0.595255
31	0.007288	0.911845	29	0.007625	0.871506	30	0.012716	0.522631
38	0.007125	0.932779	36	0.008197	0.810765	37	0.014113	0.470889
45	0.009635	0.689749	43	0.008855	0.75049	44	0.014538	0.457125
52	0.009061	0.73341	50	0.010479	0.634185	51	0.015891	0.418202
59	0.009859	0.674065	57	0.011182	0.594311	58	0.017588	0.37785
66	0.009756	0.681176	64	0.011457	0.580069	65	0.018088	0.36741
80	0.006099	1.089549	78	0.011466	0.579591	79	0.017835	0.372626
94	0.003955	1.680411	92	0.011475	0.579119	93	0.017391	0.382123
108	0.003271	2.031678	106	0.012928	0.514039	107	0.017437	0.381126
122	0.003265	2.035553	120	0.019481	0.341133	121	0.089206	0.346018

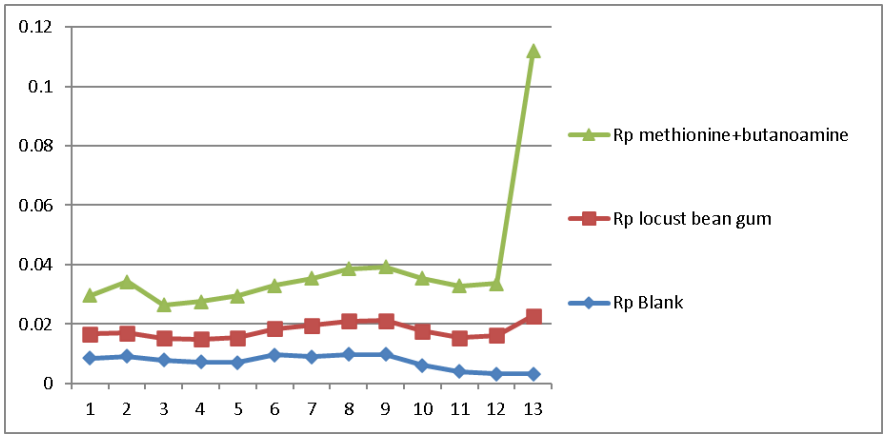

Fig.2. *Comparison of polarization resistance (RP) for locust bean gum, methinine+amino-2-butanol-1 & blank concrete samples*

Electrochemical polarization

The figure shows the comparison of the polarization behavior from a potentiodynamic tests of steel rebar in acid sulfuric 1M, in presence of chloride ions 10^{-3}M solutions. Corrosion potential gets more positive values and the corrosion rate mitigates in presence of inhibitors. The rebar steel treated with guar gum has a corrosion rate 0.0000241 mm/year; the rebar steel treated with migration inhibitor has a corrosion rate 0.000398 mm/year and the untreated steel bar (blank sample) has a corrosion rate 0.0021 mm/year.

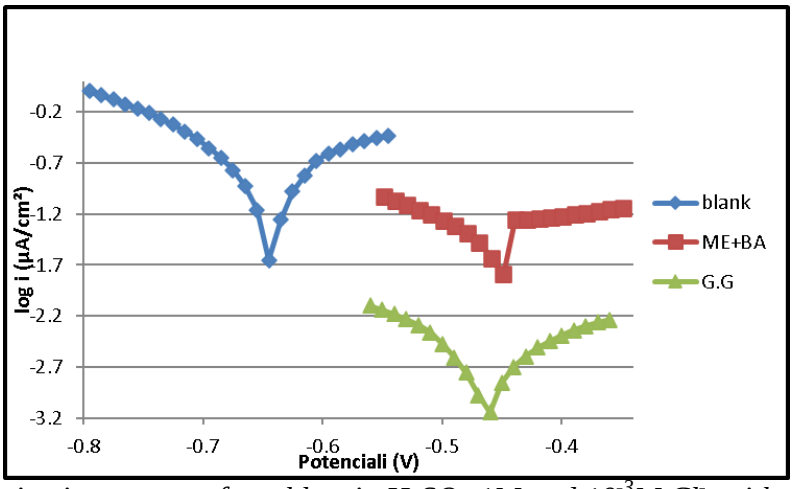

Fig.3. *Polarization curves of steel bar in H_2SO_4 1M and 10^{-3}M Cl^-, with and without inhibitor*

Table 2. *Rate corrosion for steel in concrete and steel in acid [9, 10, 11]*

	Steel in concrete		Steel in H_2SO_4	
	i_{corr}	V_{corr} (mm/year)	i_{corr}	V_{corr} (mm/year)
Blanc	0.176	0.0021	537.96	6.267
Locust bean gum	0.0021	2.41E-05	51.31	0.59
Methionine+butanolamine	0.034162	0.000398	33.09	0.39

CONCLUSIONS

Guar gum and migration inhibitors added in concrete demonstrated corrosion inhibition of rebar and can improve the life of reinforced concrete structures. Rp increase from 0.008226 to 0.019481 for the sample treated with locust bean gum and Rp increase from 0.013035 to 0.089206 for the sample treated with migration inhibitor methionine+butanolamine. The samples treated with locust bean gum and methionine+butanolamine showed an average corrosion rate of 0.34 $\mu A/cm^2$ compared to the blank samples showing a rate of 2.04 $\mu A/cm^2$. Potentiodynamic polarization method showed that the sample treated with guar gum has a corrosion rate 0.0000241 mm/year; the sample treated with migration inhibitor has a corrosion rate 0.000398 mm/year and the blank sample has a corrosion rate 0.0021 mm/year. This reduction in the corrosion rate will increase life expectancy by more than 50-60 years [5]. Neutralizing effects of the inhibitor assured satisfactory corrosion resistance even in the presence of 10^{-3}M chloride ions.

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