

Electrochemical behaviours of Aclonifen on GC electrode in non-aqueous media: Investigation of Aclonifen determination

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Herbicides are used globally to eliminate weeds. Even after one application, they can be absorbed by the plant or deposited on the soil surface. These processes are strongly dependent on the type of herbicide, crop, soil, application method, and climatic conditions. Thus, nowadays, there is a growing emphasis on the development of analytical methods for determination of herbicides due to their toxicity (Liu et al. 2012; Wang et al. 2010)

Aclonifen, also a carotenoid synthesis inhibitor, is used frequently for the protection of soybeans, corn, sunflowers, tomatoes and various other crops against weeds (Kilinc et al., 2009; Vischetti et al. 2002; Trevisan et al. 1999). Aclonifen (2-chloro-6-nitro-3-phenoxyaniline), pertains to the diphenyl ether herbicide (DPhEH) group, this group includes many potent herbicides with a photodependent capability to inhibit protoporphyrinogen oxidase (Choi et al. 1999; Grasset et al. 2011).

Electrode modification is an important part of the electrochemical studies and has been frequently used. After the optimum conditions are set the modification can be performed by the electrochemical oxidation (amine and alcohol oxidation, *etc.*) or electrochemical reduction (diazonium reduction, *etc.*). Electrochemical modified electrodes have a broad range of applications in modern electrochemistry (Mülazımoğlu et al. 2011).

In this study, aclonifen was modified on the glassy carbon (GC) electrode surface by electrochemical oxidation in non-aqueous media. Electrochemical behaviours of aclonifen were investigated by cyclic voltammetry (CV) and square wave voltammetry (SWV). The modification of aclonifen on the GC electrode surface was performed between +0.5 V and +2.5 V potential range at 0.1 V s⁻¹ scan rate with 10 cycles (Fig. 1A). The nitro group on the surface after modification and characterization operations was reduced to amine group in the 100 mM HCl media. After this process, which was made +0.2 V to -1.4 V potential range at 0.1 V s⁻¹ scan rate and 10 cycles (Fig. 1B), the electro-inactive surface was made electro-active. The presence of aclonifen at the GC electrode surface was characterized by CV and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS). The potential range was used from +0.8 V to +1.7 V in SWV experiments for determination of aclonifen (Fig. 1C).

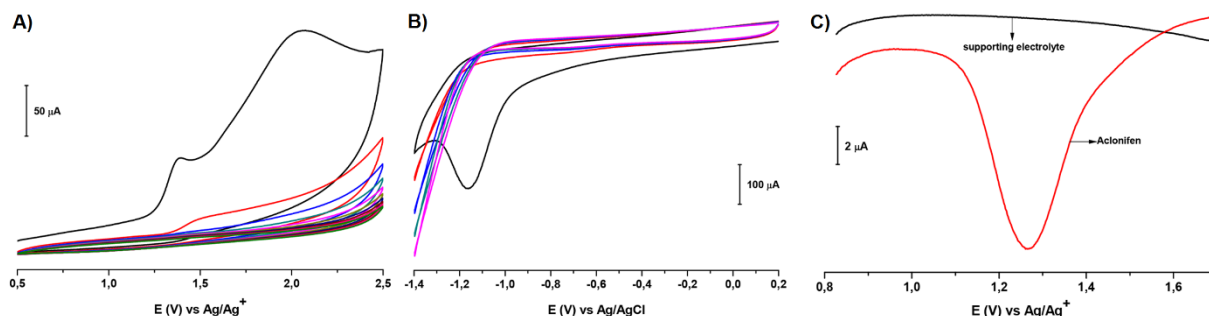


Figure 1. A) Cyclic voltammogram of 1 mM aclonifen in CH₃CN containing 100 mM NBu₄BF₄ vs. Ag/Ag⁺/(10 mM AgNO₃). Potential scan rate is 100 mV s⁻¹. B) Cyclic voltammogram of reduction of nitro group to amine group on aclonifen modified GC electrode surface in 100 mM HCl solution media. C) Square wave voltammograms of Aclonifen (1 mM) and supporting electrolyte onto the modified GC electrode surface. Square wave voltammetric parameters were as follows: initial potential, +0.8 V end potential, +1.7 V; pulse amplitude, 50 mV; step potential, 1.5 mV; and frequency, 100 Hz.

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