



Angamaly, Kerala. The DPPH was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co, St. Louis, USA. The metal salts, Cupric chloride [CuCl<sub>2</sub>. 2H<sub>2</sub>O], Magnesium chloride [MgCl<sub>2</sub>. 6H<sub>2</sub>O], Cobalt chloride [CoCl<sub>2</sub>. 6H<sub>2</sub>O], Manganous chloride [MnCl<sub>2</sub>. 4H<sub>2</sub>O] were purchased from S.D. Fine Chem. Ltd, Nickel chloride [NiCl<sub>2</sub>. 6H<sub>2</sub>O] from Universal Laboratories Private Ltd. The analytical grade piperidine from Merck and the solvents were purchased from, S.D. Fine Chem. Ltd.

## 2.2. Methods

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded in a Bruker Advance DRX 300 FT-NMR spectrometer with TMS as the internal standard. CHN analysis was done on an Elementar model Vario EL III CHN analyser. FT-IR spectra were recorded by KBr pellet method with JASCO-8000 Fourier Transformer Infrared Spectrophotometer in the range 400-4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Thermo electron Nicolet Evolution 300 UV-vis spectrophotometer was used to record the electronic spectra of complex in DMSO and for the study of radical scavenging activity by DPPH method. EDXRF set up, consisting of Radioisotope Cd<sup>109</sup> induced X-ray fluorescence spectrometer and Si (Li) detector of resolution 170 eV at 5.9 KeV Mn X-rays was used to estimate the metal content in the complex. TG-DTG analysis studies of the complexes were performed on Perkin Elmer Pyris Diamond 6 Thermo gravimetric Analyzer in nitrogen atmosphere in the temperature range of 40-600° C and heating rate of 10° C per minute. Powdered samples of about 3 mg were sealed in standard platinum pans. The instrument was calibrated using indium and tin as standards. Sample residual weight (TG curves) and its derivative (DTG curves) versus temperature were automatically generated by Pyris software. The molar conductivities of the curcumin complexes in dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) solutions (10<sup>-3</sup> M) were measured at room temperature using direct reading

conductivity meter (Systronic conductivity bridge type 305).

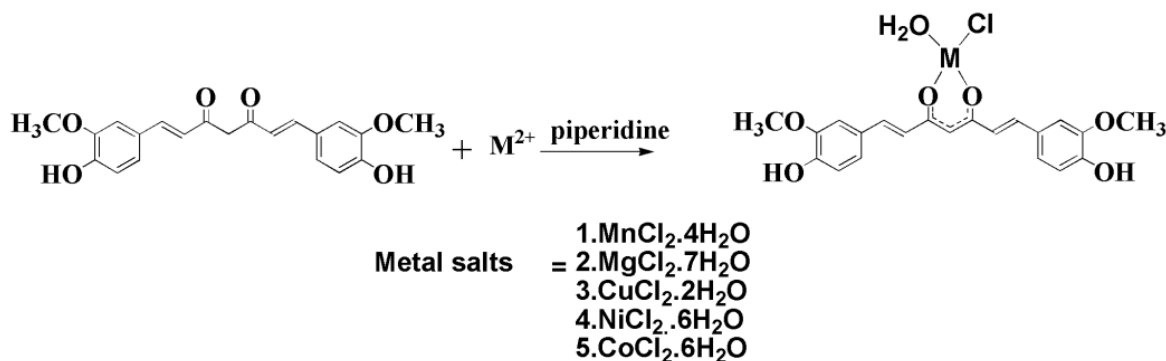
## 2.3. Separation of curcumin- I.

Commercial curcumin which is a mixture of three closely related components curcumin-I (77%), curcumin-II (18%) and curcumin-III (3%) was subjected to silica gel (60-120 mesh) column chromatography, initially run by CHCl<sub>3</sub> till the oily layer start to elute. As the three color bands, yellow, dark yellowish orange and brown begin to separate; the polarity of the eluent was increased by using chloroform-methanol mixture in the ratio 9:1 [26]. Each 20 mL fraction was collected separately and analysed by TLC in Merck silica gel F<sub>254</sub> plates using chloroform-methanol (9:1) as mobile phase. The spots were visualized in UV chamber at 254 nm. The fractions with single spot were combined and solvents were removed to give pure components. The first fraction eluted was curcumin-I and identified by NMR provided as Supplementary material (S1) and MS. Yield 78% (m.p. 186°C), UV λ<sub>max</sub> = 434 nm (DMSO), IR (KBr) ν (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3494 (O-H), 1623 (C=O), 1500 (C=C), 1271 (C-O phenol), 1029 (C-O methoxy). <sup>1</sup>H N.M.R. (300MHz, DMSO-D<sub>6</sub>) δ 3.9 (s,6H,-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.065 (s,1H,enol), 6.73 (d,2H,J=16Hz), 6.81-7.32 (6H,aromatic), 7.5 (d,2H,J=16Hz), 9.66 (s,2H,-OH phenol), MS m/z: 367(M-1).

## 2.4. Preparation of metal complexes of curcumin-I (I-5).

The methanol solution of curcumin-I (0.27 mmol) and the metal salt (0.27 mmol) were prepared separately and to the curcumin solution catalytic amount of piperidine was added followed by metal salt solution with constant stirring [27]. The stirring was continued for 4 h. The metal complex precipitated (**Scheme-1**), was filtered and washed several time with cold methanol to remove the residual reactant and dried in vacuum.

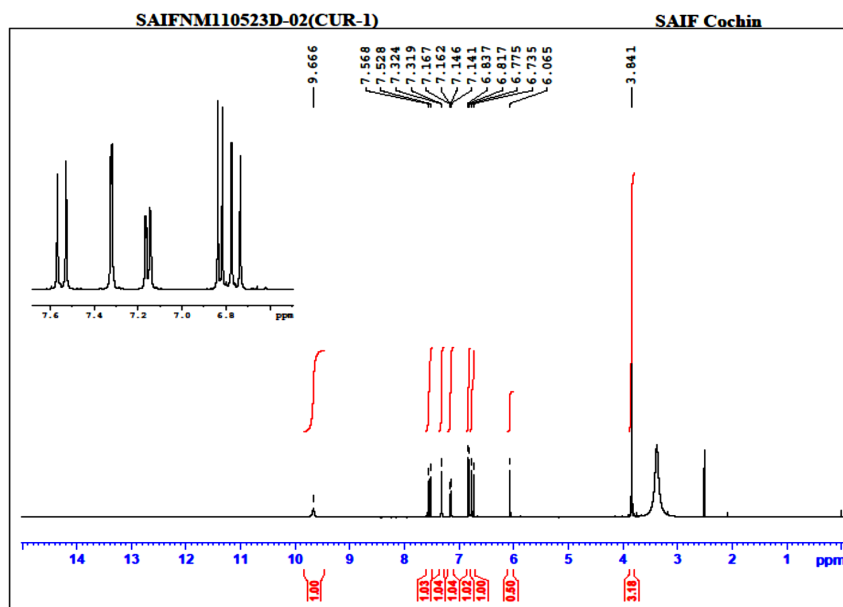
Scheme-1



Synthesis of metal complex of Curcumin-I

Curcumin-I, Piperidine, Methanol, stirring at room temperature for 4hrs.

## S1 NMR of curcumin-I



## 2.4.1. Mn-Curcumin complex (1)

Yield: 63%, UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  = 442 nm, (DMSO). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3433 (O-H), 1579 (C=O), 1500 (C=C), 1287 (C-O phenol), 1015 (C-O methoxy). *Anal. Calc* for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClMnO}_7$ : C, 53.01; H, 4.45; Mn, 11.55. Found: C, 53.88; H, 4.70; Mn, 11.30.

## 2.4.2. Mg-Curcumin complex (2)

Yield: 58%, UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  = 437 nm, (DMSO). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3428 (O-H), 1598 (C=O), 1500 (C=C), 1277 (C-O phenol), 1023 (C-O methoxy). *Anal. Calc* for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClMgO}_7$ : C, 56.66; H, 4.76; Mg, 5.46. Found: C, 56.76; H, 4.56; Mg, 5.98.

## 2.4.3. Cu-Curcumin complex (3)

Yield: 52%, UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  = 439 nm (DMSO). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3429 (O-H), 1606 (C=O), 1500 (C=C), 1276 (C-O phenol), 1019 (C-O methoxy). *Anal. Calc* for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClCuO}_7$ : C, 52.07; H, 4.37; Cu, 13.12. Found: C, 52.17; H, 4.25; Cu, 13.18.

## 2.4.4. Ni-Curcumin complex (4)

Yield: 56%, UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  = 443 nm, (DMSO). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3422 (O-H), 1619 (C=O), 1500 (C=C), 1270 (C-O phenol), 1031 (C-O methoxy). *Anal. Calc* for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{Cl}_2\text{NiO}_7$ : C, 52.60; H, 4.41; Ni, 12.24. Found: C, 52.34; H, 4.50; Ni, 12.50.

## 2.4.5. Co-Curcumin complex (5)

Yield: 59%, UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  = 438 nm (DMSO). IR (KBr)  $\nu$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3434 (O-H), 1579 (C=O), 1500 (C=C), 1279 (C-O phenol), 1027 (C-O methoxy). *Anal. Calc* for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{21}\text{ClCoO}_7$ : C, 52.57; H, 4.41 Co, 12.28. Found: C, 52.14; H, 4.73; Co, 12.50.

## 2.5. Antioxidant Property of Curcumin and its Metal Complexes Using DPPH Free Radical

The free radical scavenging ability of curcumin and the

metal complexes were studied using DPPH assay. Curcumin-I ( $1 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$ ) or its metal complex ( $0.5 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$ ) in DMSO in the range of 10-150  $\mu\text{L}$  were added to definite volume of DPPH (0.01 mmol) in methanol and made up to a final volume of 3 mL using methanol as solvent. The scavenging ability of curcumin and its metal complexes were monitored spectrophotometrically in terms of decrease in absorbance at 517 nm after 20 min. Percentage inhibition was calculated using equation (1).

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \left\{ \frac{\text{ABS control} - \text{ABS sample}}{\text{ABS control}} \right\} * 100 \quad (1)$$

From concentration ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) against absorbance graph, 50% fall in absorbance of DPPH solution was determined. The above concentration values were used for the determination of  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values in  $\mu\text{M}$ .

## 3. Results and Discussion

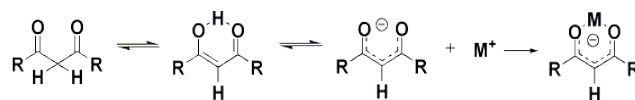
The synthesized metal complexes of curcumin have 1:1 metal to ligand ratio as evident by the CHN and the radioisotope induced EDXRF analysis used to estimate the metal content. The metal to ligand ratio of 1:1 was in agreement with previously reported copper and manganese complex of curcumin [8,10]. In order to establish the relative importance of phenolic and enolic center to the antioxidant activity of curcumin, the synthesis of only 1:1 complexes were attempted even though 1:2 complexes of curcumin were also reported [8]. This was to retain the number of phenolic group as two, similar to the parent curcumin-1. The UV spectra of curcumin-I exhibited a peak at 434 nm and in metal complexes (1-5) the absorption maxima was shifted to a region of 437-442 nm provided as **Supplementary**

**material (S2)** . The complexes (1-5) exhibited a shoulder peak in the range of (450-463 nm) indicating Curcumin→Metal ( $M^{2+}$ ) charge transfer transition. The absorption data obtained was in agreement with the data for 1:1 complexes as suggested by Barik et al., 2007 [8]. For 1:2 complex Barik et al showed an absorption in the range of 370 nm. Curcumin exhibits keto-enol tautomerism, the enol form that predominate in basic condition easily gets deprotonated to give enolate ion, which is capable of forming very stable complex with a vast range of metal ion (**Fig. 1**). In acidic condition the diketone form predominate which can also undergo metal chelation. The strong C=O stretching peak observed for curcumin-I at  $1623\text{ cm}^{-1}$  showed a blue shift in metal complex and the value assigned are  $1579\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1598\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1606\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1619\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1579\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for Mn(II), Mg(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and Co(II) complex respectively. The IR data of the synthesized complex provided as **Supplementary material (S3)** suggest typical chelation mode, (**Fig. 1**) where the ionic enol form is chelated with metal. This type of chelation is reported for Cd(II) and Pb(II) complex of curcumin [6]. In the IR spectra of curcumin and its metal complexes the -OH band do not show a shift from

$3433\text{ cm}^{-1}$  hence concluded that the phenolic -OH is not involved in the complex formation.

**S2 UV-visible spectral data of curcumin-I and its metal complexes in DMSO  $10^{-5}\text{ molL}^{-1}$**

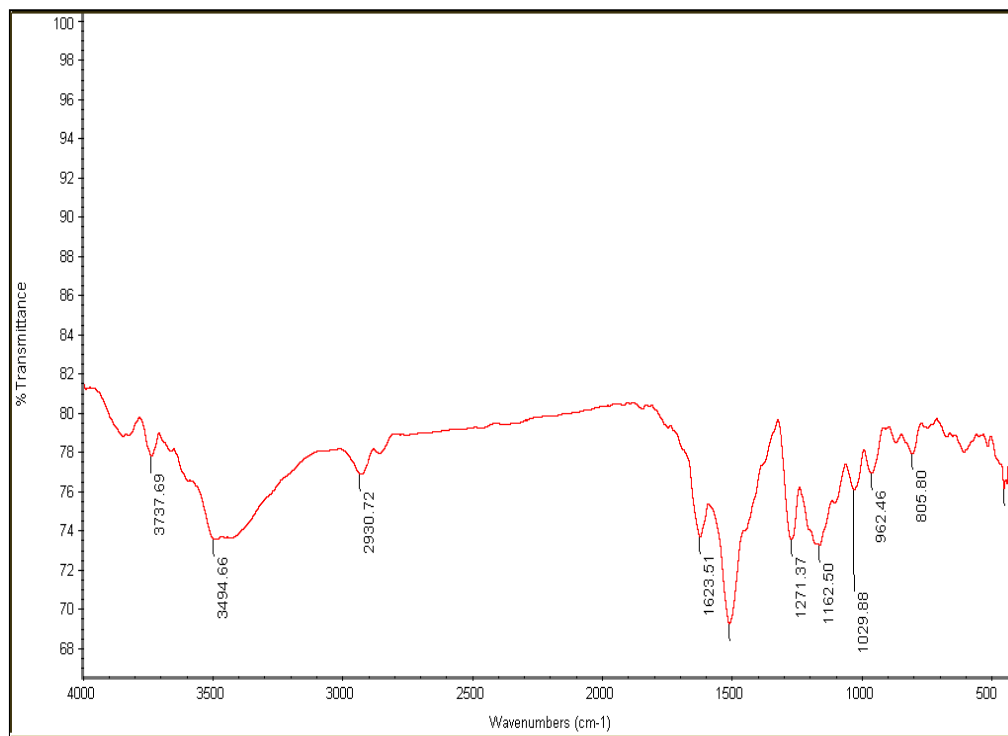
Sl.No	Compound	$\lambda\text{ max, nm (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$
	Cur	434
1	Mn-Cur	442
2	Mg-Cur	437
3	Cu-Cur	439
4	Ni-Cur	443
5	Co-Cur	438



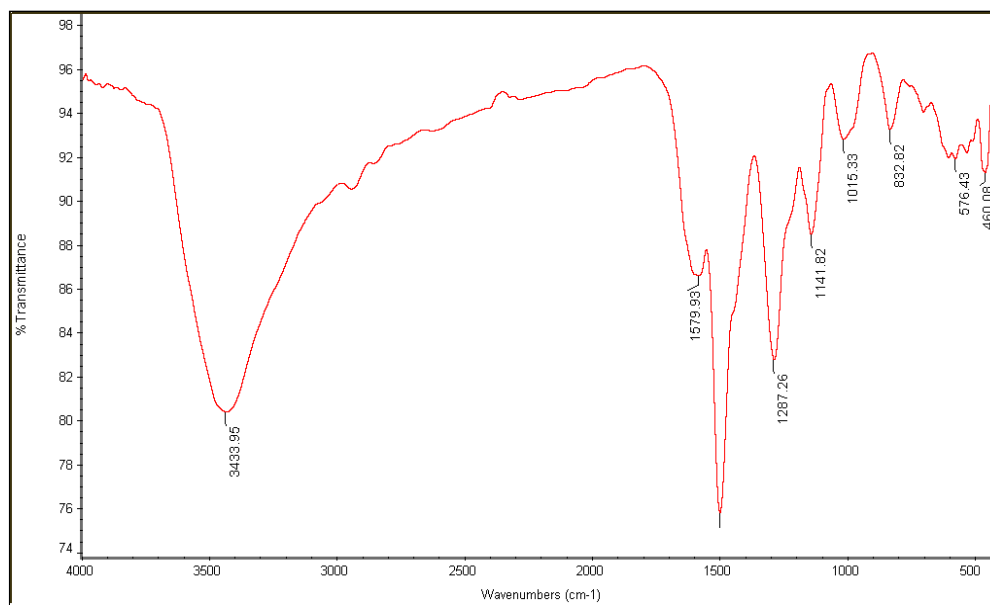
**Figure 1.** Enolate ion formation of 1, 3 diketones in the basic medium

**S3 FTIR band's of curcumin-I and its metal complexes and their assignments**

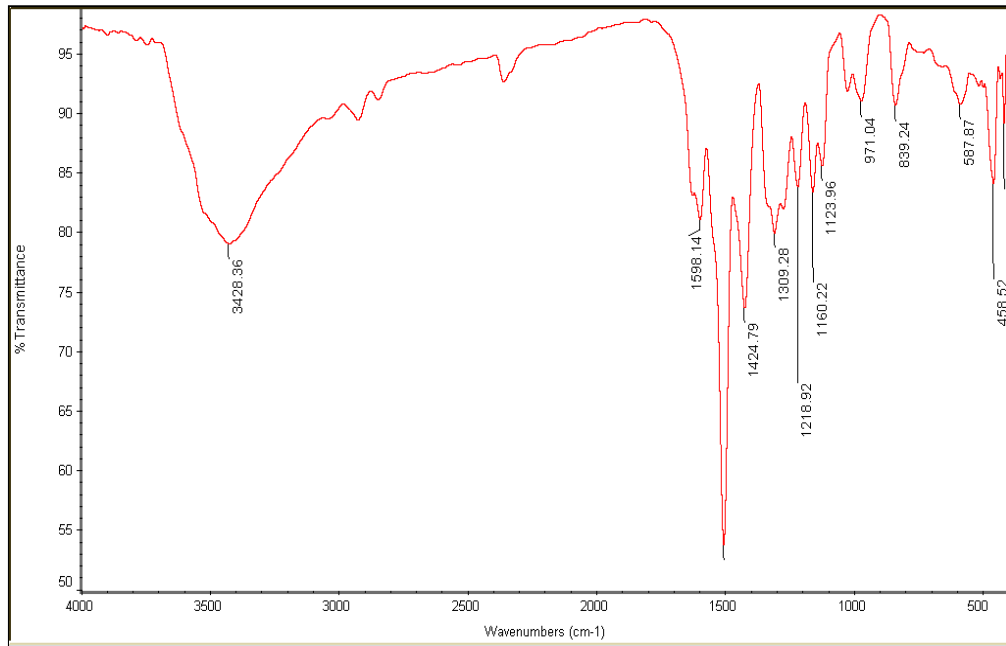
Sl.No	Compound	$\nu(\text{O-H})\text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$\nu(\text{C=O})(\text{cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$\nu\text{ (C=C) (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$\nu(\text{C-O phenol})\text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$	$\nu(-\text{OCH}_3)\text{ (cm}^{-1}\text{)}$
	Curcumin-I	3440	1628	1500	1271	1029
1	Mn-Cur(1)	3433	1579	1500	1287	1015
2	Mg-Cur(2)	3428	1598	1500	1277	1023
3	Cu-Cur(3)	3429	1606	1500	1276	1019
4	Ni-Cur(4)	3422	1619	1500	1270	1031
5	Co-Cur(5)	3434	1579	1500	1279	1027



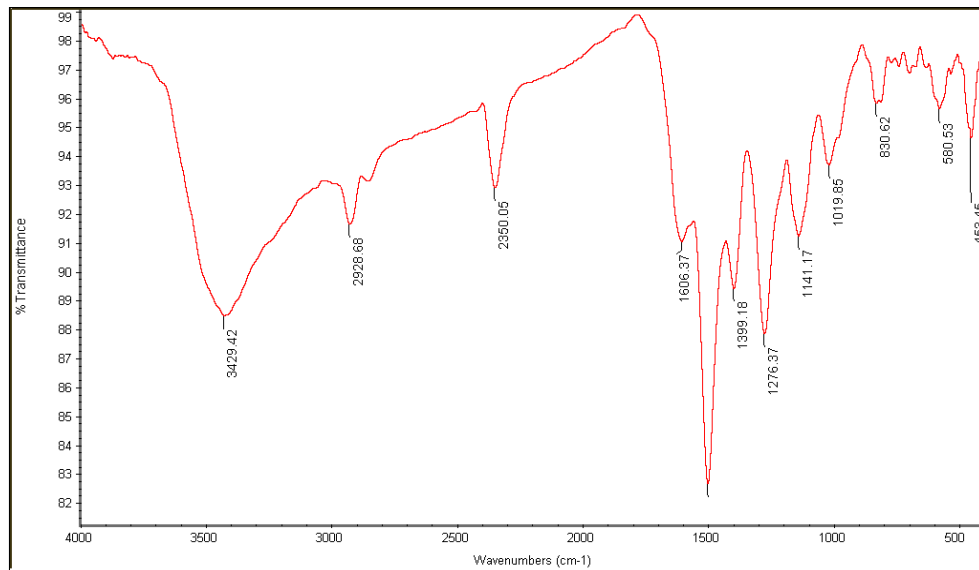
FTIR spectrum of curcumin-I



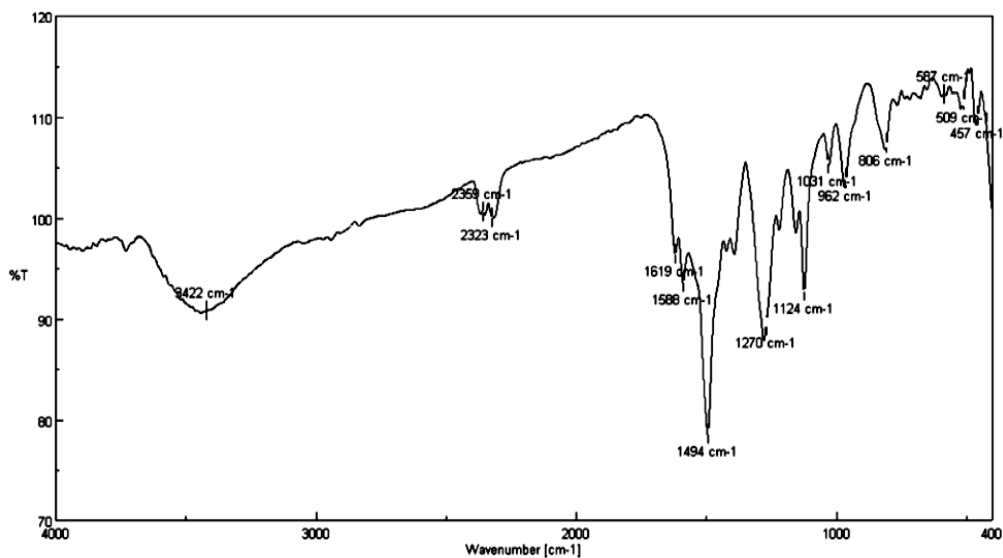
FTIR spectrum of Mn-curcumin complex



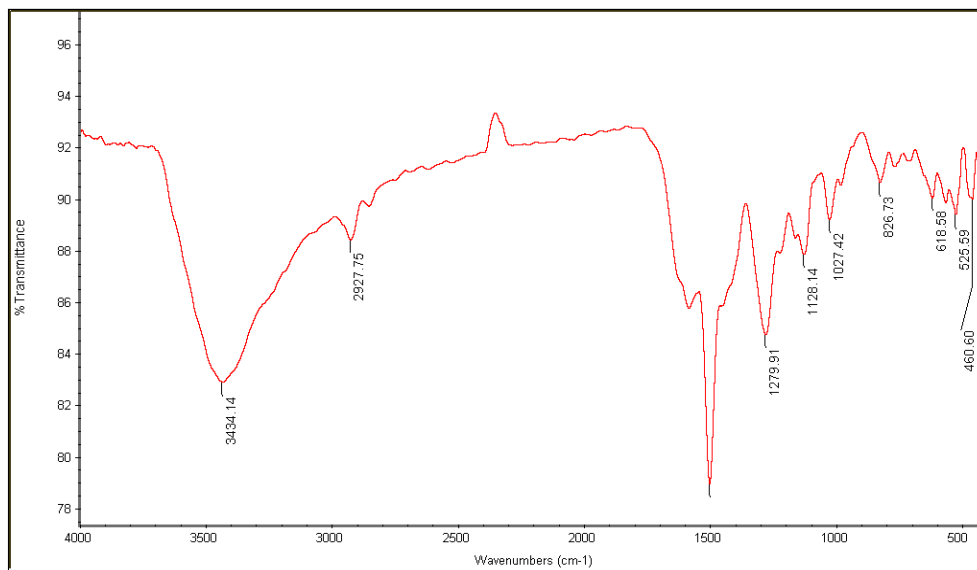
FTIR spectrum of Mg-curcumin complex



FTIR spectrum of Cu-curcumin complex



FTIR spectra of Ni-curcumin complex

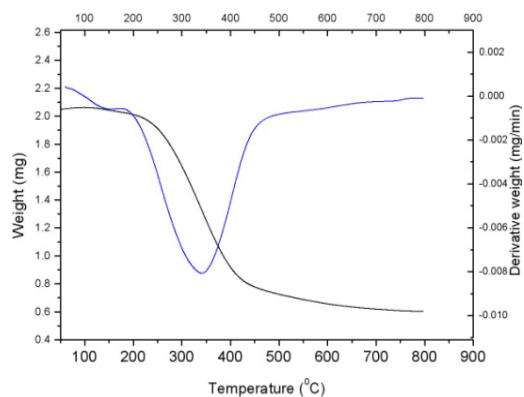


FTIR spectra of Co-curcumin complex

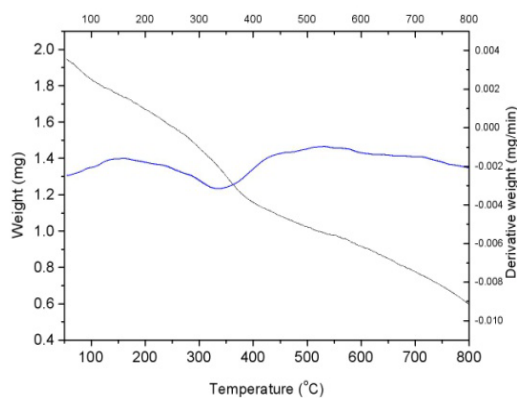
In 1:1 metal:enolate curcumin complex (**Fig. 1**), one of positive charge of metal is satisfied by the negative charge of the enolate ion. The conductance values of the complexes of curcumin-I in DMSO ( $10^{-3}$  M) are found to be 6, 17, 20, 32, and 20  $\text{ohm}^{-1} \text{cm}^2 \text{mol}^{-1}$  for Mn(II), Mg(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and Co(II) respectively which indicates non-electrolytic nature of the complexes. Hence it can be concluded that the chloride ions are being coordinated to the metal ion in the complexes. The thermal analysis data's of the complexes and ligand are provided as Supplementary material (S4) which shows the presence of coordinated water in the complexes. Curcumin was stable up to  $150^\circ \text{C}$  and the peak (DTG) observed at  $160^\circ \text{C}$  can be attributed to the dehydroxylation of two -OH groups that is present in curcumin-I. After  $400^\circ \text{C}$  there is complete decomposition [28]. The Mn(II) complex showed a weight loss around  $175^\circ \text{C}$  due to loss of coordinated water

(weight loss found: 3.7%, calcd 3.8%). The Mg(II) complex showed a weight loss up to  $165^\circ \text{C}$  due to loss of coordinated water (weight loss found: 3.8%, calcd 4.0%). Similarly Copper, Nickel and Cobalt complexes show a weight loss in the region  $166^\circ \text{C}$ ,  $162^\circ \text{C}$  and  $196^\circ \text{C}$  due to loss of coordinated water with a weight loss of 4.0%, 3.5% and 3.6% against the calculated values of 3.7%, 3.6% and 3.8% respectively. The complexes showed a loss in weight in the region of  $300^\circ \text{C}$  corresponding to that of halogen. The TG/DTG and conductance measurement suggest a neutral coordination sphere.

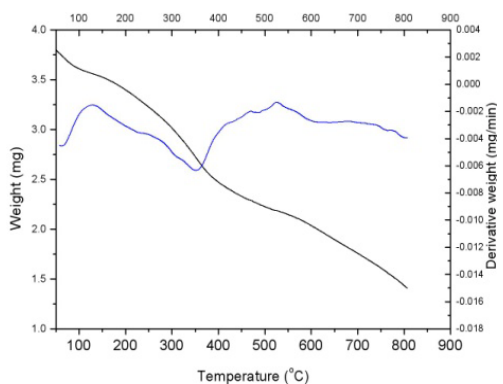
**S4** TG-DTG curves of (i) Curcumin-I, (ii) Mn-curcumin, (iii) Mg-curcumin, (iv) Cu-curcumin, (v) Ni-curcumin, (vi) Co-curcumin



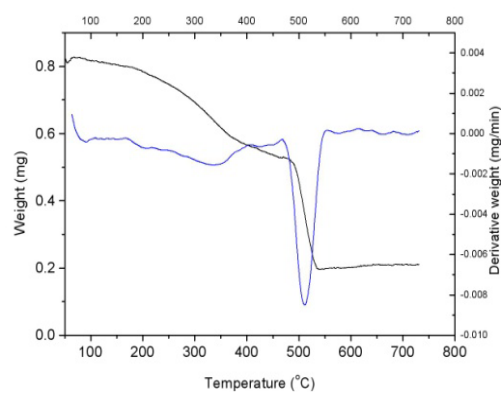
(i)



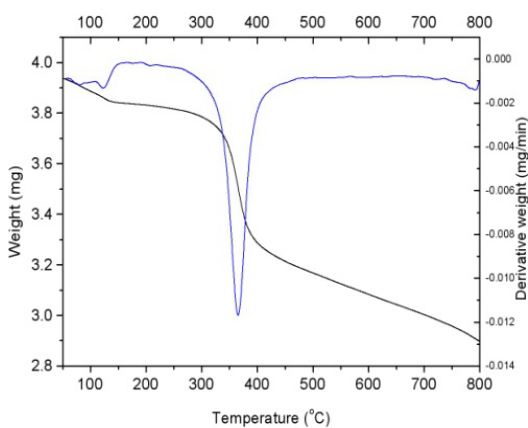
(v)



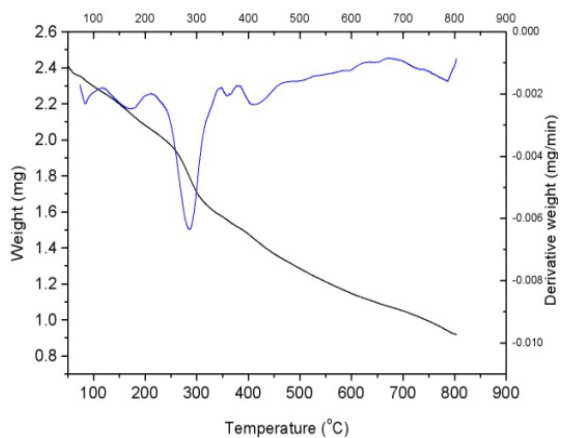
(ii)



(vi)



(iii)



(iv)

The DPPH scavenging activity of metal complexes were less than that of curcumin-I (Fig 2)

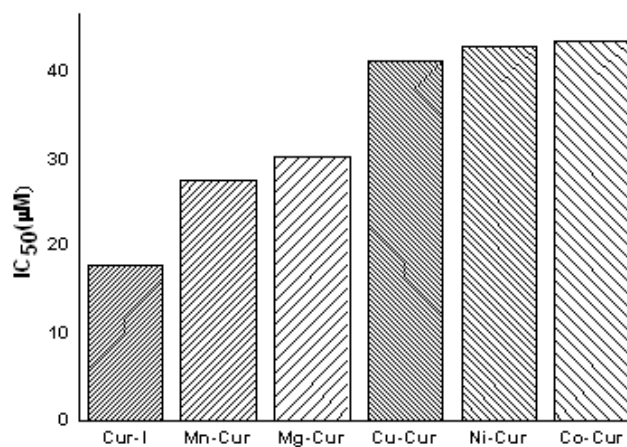


Figure 2. The comparison of IC<sub>50</sub> (µM) of curcumin-I and its metal complexes

Table 1. IC<sub>50</sub> (µM) of curcumin-I and its Metal complexes

Materials	IC <sub>50</sub> (µM)
Curcumin	17.88
Mn-Curcumin	27.68
Mg-Curcumin	30.28
Cu-Curcumin	41.32
Ni-Curcumin	42.92
Co-Curcumin	43.56



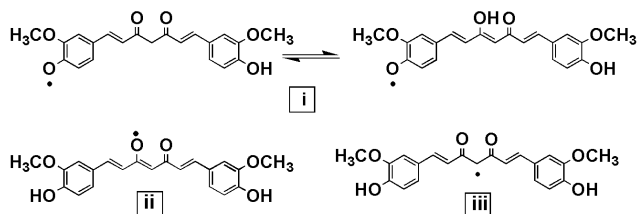
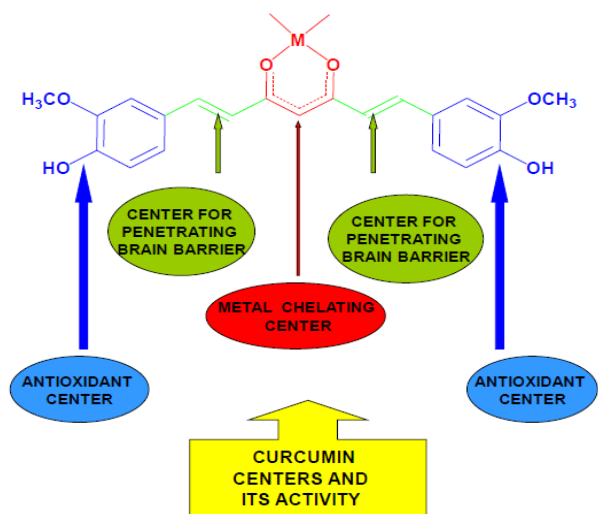


Figure 3. The free radical intermediates of curcumin

## Scheme 2



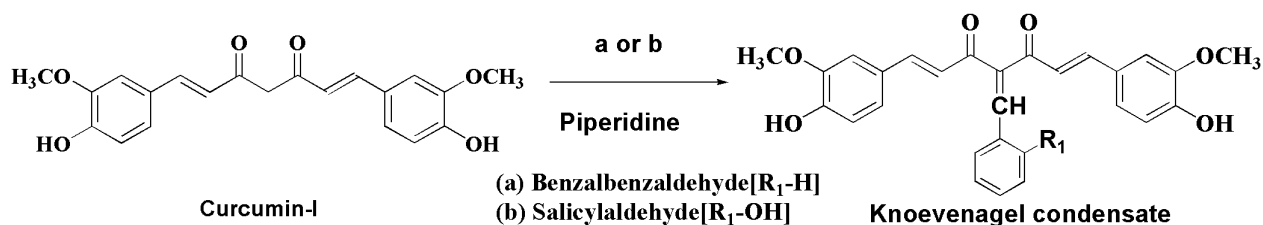
## Curcumin its reactive centers and activity

The antioxidant activity of the complexes decreases in the order of Mn(II) > Mg(II) > Cu(II) > Ni(II) > Co(II) **Table 1**. The difference in activity of curcumin-I and its complexes can be attributed to the involvement of different reaction centre of curcumin in free radical quenching. Different radical intermediate (**Fig 3**) were suggested by various group [8,23,24,25] for explaining the antioxidant mechanism of curcumin. Accordingly hydrogen atom transfer (HAT) can take place from (i) phenolic-OH, (ii) enolic-OH, (iii) active methylene group [-CH<sub>2</sub>] of diketo form of curcumin and the others by the resonance of phenoxide ion. In the metal complexes enol proton is unavailable, still appreciable free radical quenching is shown. This rejects the possible

involvement of keto-enol moiety in antioxidant activity. Consequently contribution of reactive intermediates (ii and iii) in antioxidant mechanism can be neglected. Of all the reactive intermediate suggested, the only possible intermediate that could be generated in complexes is from phenolic-OH, which is expected to release hydrogen in polar protic solvent like methanol, by SPLET mechanism[29]. In the SPLET, a single electron transfer to DPPH takes place from ArO<sup>•</sup>. The changes in electronic effect at the diketo part of curcumin can influence the electron availability at ArO<sup>•</sup> group thereby the antioxidant activity. An electron donating group enhances the electron density at the ArO<sup>•</sup> group increasing the antioxidant activity. In curcumin, the enolate centre act as good electron donor, where as in the metal complexes the negative charge is transferred to metal (**Fig.1**) thereby, decreases the antioxidant activity. The present observation was in agreement with the Priyadarsini et al., 2003 [18], suggestion that the phenolic hydrogen is responsible for antioxidant activity and free radical kinetics of curcumin. Recently, our group reported antioxidant activity for Knoevenagel condensate of curcumin-I with benzaldehyde and salicylaldehyde [30] by the DPPH assay, harmonize the study with metal complexes. In the Knoevenagel condensate **Supplementary material (S5)**, active methylene group of diketo form of curcumin condenses with aldehyde. The antioxidant activity of salicylaldehyde condensate was higher than the benzaldehyde condensate and the parent curcumin which was credited to the additional -OH group present. This proves that the keto-enol tautomerism is not a requisite for the radical quenching activity.

The biological activities of curcumin like anti-inflammatory, cholesterol-lowering, anti-Alzheimer are ascribed to its antioxidant property. In the present study it was shown that the metal complexes of curcumin have comparable antioxidant activity to curcumin and even after metal chelation it can act as antioxidant and hence expected to retain its other biological activity. Curcumin can act simultaneously as a metal chelator and antioxidant and in consequence an efficient brain protector. This property of binding of curcumin to metals and its utility as a multipotent agent for combating to oxidative stress and AD treatment have potential applications in its medication.

## S5 Knoevenagel condensate – Preparation and Structure



## 4. Conclusions

In the complex of curcumin with Mn(II), Mg(II), Cu(II), Ni(II) and Co(II) the enolate form of curcumin ligands to the metal. The complexes have comparable antioxidant activity to parent curcumin-I. Equivalent antioxidant activity was established for Knoevenagel condensate of curcumin-I, with a diketo centre. All these fact ascertain the minimal involvement of keto-enol moiety of curcumin as the antioxidant centre and hold up the phenolic -OH as the prime centre for the antioxidant activity.

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