

Electrochemical Synthesis, and Electrochromic Properties of Poly(2-(9H-Carbazol-9-yl)acetic acid) Film

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

A poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) thin-film was formed on the surface of a platinum (Pt) electrode by oxidative electropolymerization of a new carbazole derivative. Electrochemical polymerization was performed in reaction medium containing monomer and 0.1 M TBABF₄ mixture in acetonitrile (ACN) using repeated cycling at a scanning rate of 250 mV. The electrochemical polymerization of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid (25mM) was studied using cyclic voltammetry on both Pt and ITO electrodes. The structure of the soluble polymer was elucidated by nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H and ¹³CNMR) and Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. The weight average molecular weight of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) was determined using gel permeation chromatography (GPC) and found to be 130900 g/mol. Characterizations of the resulting polymer were performed by cyclic voltammetry, dry conductivity measurement and scanning electron microscopy (SEM), while the UV-Visible spectroscopy and electrochemical spectroscopic studies indicated that the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) film showed a green color in the oxidized state, and high transmittance in the neutral state. Moreover, the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) film is soluble in common organic solvents, such as DMSO, THF, NMP, and DMAc. The conductivities of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) is about 4.3x 10⁻² S/cm.

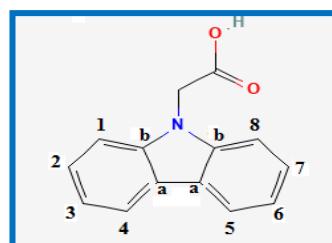
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Keywords: Carbazole; electrochemical; poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid; electropolymerization; voltammetry.

1. INTRODUCTION

Conducting polymers such as polypyrrole, polyaniline, polythiophene, and polycarbazoles have been extensively studied for their synthesis, characterization and applications. The electrochemical and spectroscopic techniques have been employed for elucidation of anodic oxidation pathway of carbazole and several- N-substituted derivatives. Carbazole was intensively studied by chemists. However, lately other classes of polymers like polycarbazole are gaining considerable attention due potential applications in light emitting diodes (OLED); as green and blue light emission was achieved by using carbazole (Cz) derivatives sensors and rechargeable batteries. In the 1990s, Nishio and co-workers were able to synthesize several conductive polymers such as (polyimine dibenzyl, polyphenothiazine, polyacetylene, polythiophene , polycarboxylate, polyfuran, polypyrrole) by the Shirakawa method [1], where they were found to be suitable as positive electrode materials for lithium secondary batteries [2]. Anodic oxidation of carbazole and its N-substituted derivatives were extensively studied by Ambrose et al. They investigated the reactivity of cation radicals formed from 76 ring substituted carbazole using electrochemical and spectroscopic techniques [3]. The author reported that an electrically conductive thin-film of poly(9H-carbazol-9-yl) methanol, could be synthesized in its conductive doped from their monomer in the electrolytic medium by an anodic electropolymerization reaction in platinum electrode, and ITO substrate by repetitive cyclic voltammetry without any catalyst, so this method could be considered as a clean method, and it does not requires passage through a halogenated substrate [4]. In practice, the cathodic electropolymerization is used less than the anodic oxidation method, because its requires more material as a catalyst such as nickel, this substance deposited on the electrode is obtained in the neutral state, therefore it is non-conductive, which can inhibit the reaction and requires to regenerate the active surface by doping the polymer [5]. Poly (N-substituted carbazole) shows interesting optical and electronic properties have been used in field effect transistors, electroluminescent diodes and batteries. Previous work has shown that poly(N-substituted carbazole) compounds are colorless when neutral, green at an applied potential of

0.7V versus saturated calomel electrode (SCE), and blue at 1.0V. Attempts to anodically been realized in aprotic solvents and lead to short electropolymerized N-ethylcarbazoles (ETCZ) have oligomers [6]. Many poly heterocyclic nitrogen compounds attracted attention as conducting polymers because their electrical and photoelectrical properties, for this reasons carbazole and its derivative such as poly(N-alkyl-3,6-carbazolene) compound was the first reported π -conjugated polymer containing carbazole [7]. Electrostatic imaging techniques have been applied to study the chemical aspects of the photoconductivity of poly-N-vinylcarbazole and a variety of other polymers with aromatic or heterocyclic chain units exhibit photo-induced discharge by Helmut Hoegl [8], while Lange et al. 1998 studied the effects of side chain position on the luminescence properties of poly(p-phenylene vinyiene) and their derivatives[9]. Electrochemical current response and optical transmittance of an electrochromic cell fabricated using polycarbazole films electrochemically deposited on indium-tin oxide (ITO) glass as a positive electrode and a platinum cathode were measured by Verghese and co-workers [10]. Recently, the author 2021 revealed the possibility of preparing of 3-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) propanenitrile monomers, and then this polymer was electrochemical polymerized to give a new soluble polymer in some organic solvent , with green color in oxidation state and and a transparent color in reducing state with the backbone of carbazole [11]. This study aims to synthesize conductive polymer from 2-(9H-Carbazol-9-yl) ethanoic acid monomer by electrochemical polymerization of the monomer. The study also aims to study the solubility, average molecular weight, conductivity, and functional properties of Poly(2-(9H-Carbazol-9-yl) ethanoic acid). The chemical synthesis of carbazol-9-yl-carboxylic acid has been previously described [12].



Scheme 1. The structure of the 2-(9H-Carbazol-9-yl)acetic acid monomer

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

All chemicals and reagents were used without further purification such as carbazole obtained from BDH laboratory. Sodium hydroxide 98% pellets (anhydrous) obtained from Winlab-Laboratory chemicals reagents Fine chemicals-UK. The analytical grad of 99% DMSO reagent, bromacetic acid, and tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate (TBABF₄) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich, while acetonitrile (Merck, HPLC grade) was used as received.

2.1 Synthesis of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) Acetic Acid

Exactly 8.35 g carbazole and 6.0 g sodium hydroxide were dissolved in 20 mL DMSO and heated to 85 °C for 30 min. Then, 8.35 g of bromacetic acid was added slowly and in batches. The solution was stirred overnight and then poured into 200 ml cold water (10 °C). Then the solution was filterated and the product was precipitated by adjusting the filtrate at pH 4. The precipitate was washed and air dried. Electropolymerized 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer on Pt electrode were dissolved by immersion in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and this process was repeated several times to saturate the solution. Electrochemical and electrochemical spectroscopic studies were carried out in ITO as work electrode, Pt wire as indicator electrode, and Ag wire adjusted versus the Fc/Fc+ redox couple (+0.3 V) as Pseudo-reference Electrode.

2.2 Spectroscopic Measurements

The infrared spectra of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer, poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid), and poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) + HBF₄ (25mM) films were attained at ±25 oC from 400 to 4000 cm⁻¹ using diffuse reflectance, thermo model-Nicolet- IS 10 FTIR. Raman spectroscopy profiles were obtained using surface enhancement Raman spectroscopy Delta Nu (SERS). The NMR data were determined using a NMR spectrometer (Bruker 400 MHz AV NMR). UV-Vis/ NIR spectra with a scan rate of 2000 nm/min, of both 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer, and poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) polymer in neutral and acid media were measured at room temperature using Lambda 75 UV-Vis/ NIR spectrophotometer of Perkin Elmer.

2.3 SEM Analysis

The shape of synthesized oxidized poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) was obtained by the scanning electron microscope (JEOL, Japan JSM 6390A) using diffrent magnification (2000, 20,000 50,000x) with diffrent picture width (μm).

2.4 Measurement of Conductivity

The conductivity of the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) film was measured by an a.c. 4-probe (Pt tips; d=0.50mm placed on linearly 5mm PTFE head) method. poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) film coated on Pt macro electrode was stripped and cut to 2×5mm dimensions and placed under 4-probe tips. Electrical conductivity measurement is carried out drive current from the two external tips of the 4-probe and measuring the voltage drop over the two internal tips. The ENTEK conductivity meter automatically calculated the conductivity of the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) film using the drive current, voltage drop and film thickness.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Electropolymerization of carbazole on Pt disc electrode by cyclic voltammetry Cyclic voltammograms of PCz thin films electrochemically deposited on Pt disc electrode recorded in 0.1 M TBABF₄ as supporting electrolytes in acetonitrile as shown in Fig. 1. The onset potentials of carbazole oxidation with TBABF₄/ACN were obtained at 0.96 and 1.05 V respectively as shown in Fig. 1. After the first cycle, the first peak intensity increased and potentials shifted toward higher values. Gradual increase in the intensity of the cathodic wave with repeated scans indicate that the product is gradually deposited on the surface of the Pt disc electrode (Fig. 1).

Fig. 2 shows that the direct electropolymerization of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer was occurred when we scanned first cycle. the oxidation potential (E_{pa} 1.38V) and reduction potential(E_{pc} 1.00V) were also shown by the E_{peak} for all carbazole derivatives in Table 1.

As we mentioned above the poly carboxylic carbazole was formed in acetonitrile on disc electrode, when we applied few cycle thin film is immediately deposited on disc (green colour) but film is partially dissolved in blank solution. After successive cycles, we obtained dark green polymeric film in monomer containing electrolysis solution.

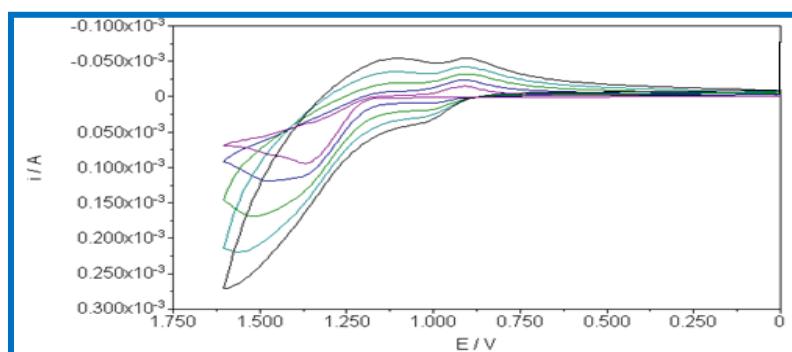


Fig. 1. Cyclic voltammograms of carbazole (25 mM), multicycle (20 cycle) in supporting electrolyte (0.1M) TBABF₄ + ACN, scan rate 100 mv/s. Ag/AgCl as reference electrode, Pt wire as auxiliary electrode, Pt disc as working electrode. CVs were recorded each every 5 cycle, first cycle and last cycles are showed purple and black line respectively

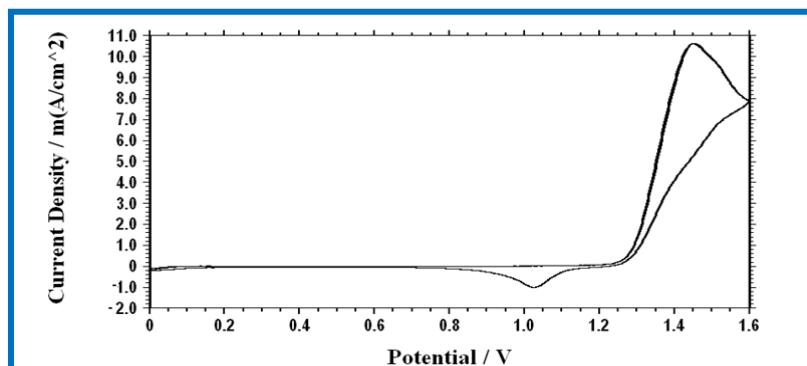


Fig. 2. Cyclic voltammograms of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid (25 mM) (one cycle) in supporting electrolyte TBABF₄ (0.1M)+ACN, scan rate 100 mv/s, Ag/AgCl as reference electrode, Pt wire as auxiliary electrode, Pt disc as working electrode

Fig. 3 shows that in acidic media (HBF₄ 25mM in acetonitrile) obtained polymer is better formed and doped partially soluble conducting polymer. When we increased the concentration of acid (50mM) the result is the nearly same, but especially solubility more less conforming polymer. For this reason we carried out

polymerization using constant potential electrolysis as well as scanning CV. Homogenous and doped films were obtained using constant potential at 1.6 V. In blank solution is partially dissolved so this polymer may be soluble.

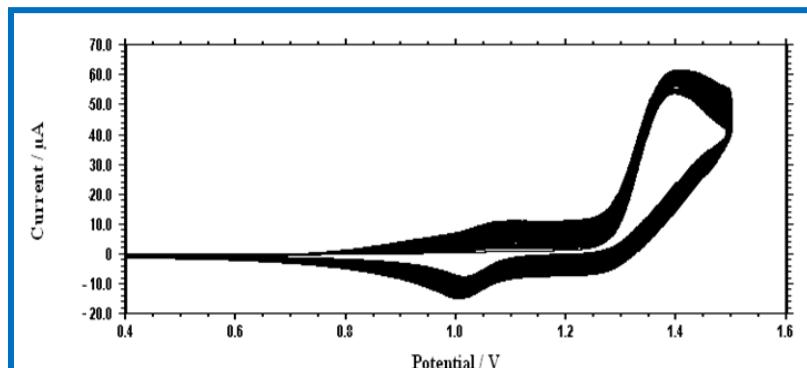


Fig. 3. Cyclic voltammogram of 10Mm poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) (20 cycle) in 0.1M TBABF₄+Acetonitrile, in HBF₄ (25 Mm), scan rate 100 mv. Ag/Ag+ as reference electrode, coil Pt as auxiliary electrode and Pt disk as work electrode

Fig. 4 shows that when we increase the scanning cycles we found thick film appeared (dark green), and moreover in blank solution we can not seen it clear as we shwed below (Fig. 4) but indicates that the polymer was formed in blank solution.

The dry conductivity of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) was measured as 4.3×10^{-2} S/cm using four probe point dry conductivity measurement technique.

In Table 1 we summarized and comparized the oxidation of momomer(E_{pa})and reduction of poly carbazole and its derivatives(E_{pc}),we obtained slightly different oxidation potential for every monomer as well as different reduction potential for polymers,so this due to N- substitution moities of every monomer.

Fig. 5 Shows in monomer band at 2927 cm^{-1} attributed to C-H (sp^3) symmetry stretching vibration but this band was disappeared of polymer in neutral media, at the same time, in monomer bands at 1227 and 1119 cm^{-1} attributed to C-C deformation bond are changed in to one band at 1207 cm^{-1} of polymer in neutral media, and 1203 cm^{-1} of polymer in acidic media. Also in monomer band at 3042 cm^{-1} attributed to (=C-H ring) was disappeared after the polymerization reaction occurred which indicates that a new C-C bond between the two monomers has formed. The carbazole ring appeared in

range 1400 to 1606 cm^{-1} , the C=O bond appeared at 1703 , 1590 , and 1606 cm^{-1} of monomer, polymer in neutral medium , and polymer in acidic medium, respectively. The bands appeared between 1050 to 1115 cm^{-1} are assigned to C-N and C-O groups [13]. The bands appeared between 742 to 758 cm^{-1} are evidence for the out of plane bending of aromatic C–H deformation. The widening of the adsorption peaks after electrochemical polymerization gives evidence of polymer formation, new peaks also appeared, and the red shift in the adsorption edge is also evidence of polymer formation as the band gap decreases when the polymer chain increases [13].

Fig. 6 shows the spectroelectrochemical behavior of monomer, and poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in an acidic and neutral medium, we observed that the monomer (Fig 6a) was showed two small peaks at 350 nm , 370 nm, but after polymerization of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid in acidic medium, we found that the peak appeared at 600 nm was belonged to electronic transition $\pi - \pi^*$ (Fig. 6b). For the polymer prepared in the neutral medium, a broad band appeared at 590 nm due to the absorption of charge transfer or polaron ions (Fig 6c), the two peaks have a high intensity and a longer wavelength when compared to monomer (Fig 6a). After polymerization of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid we observed that the two peaks

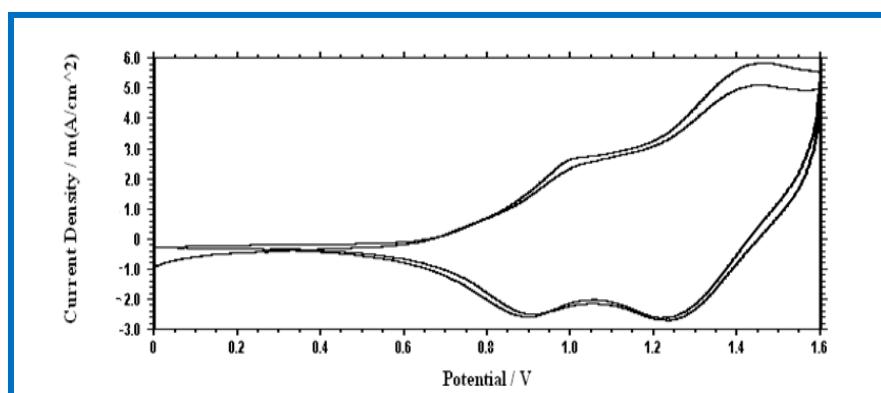


Fig. 4. Cyclic voltammograms of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) (10mM) obtained from electrolysis in 25mM HBF₄ acidic media, in blank solution (0.05M TBABF₄ +ACN), at scan rate 100 mv/s

Table 1. comparison of E_{pa} (oxidation of monomer(V)) and E_{pc} (reduction of poly carbazole) for carbazole and its derivatives

	E_{pa} (oxidation of monomer (V))	E_{pc} (reduction of poly carbazole)
Carbazole	1.5	0.90
Polymer	1.38	0.85

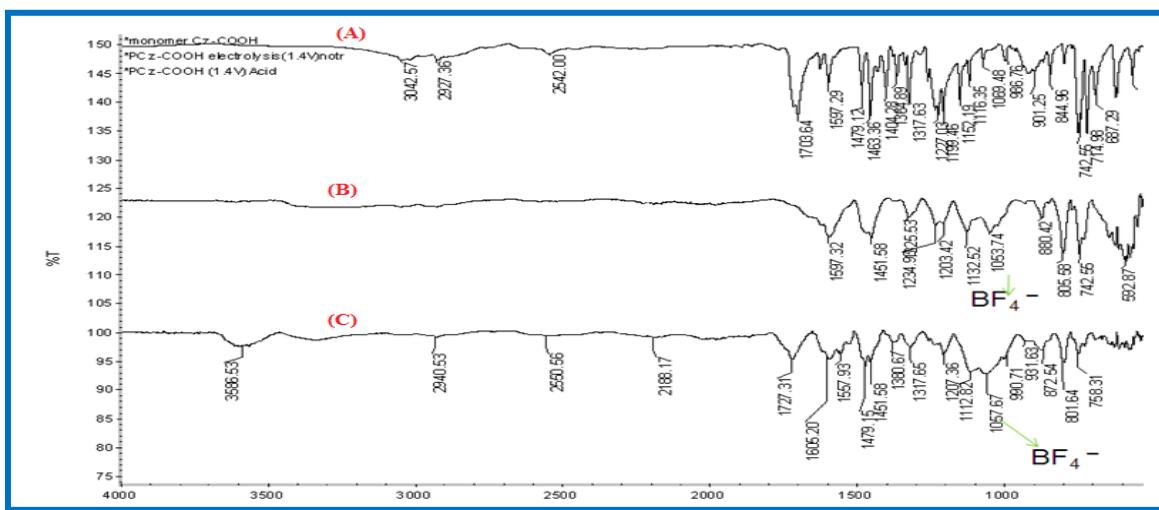


Fig. 5. FTIR spectra of (A) 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer, (B) poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid)(25mM) and (C) poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in acid media film, which was electrodeposited from acetonitrile solution containing 50mM TBABF₄ as supporting electrode

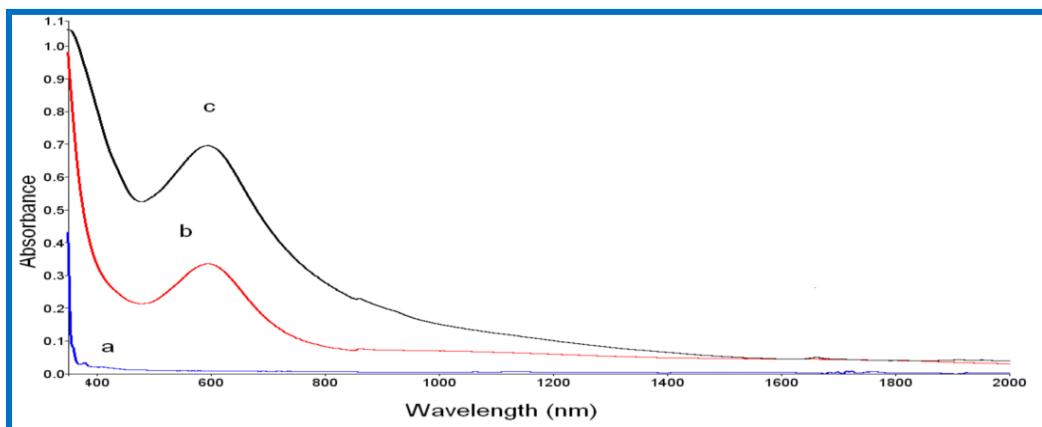


Fig. 6. Ex-situ UV-Vis/ NIR spectra of (a) 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid (Cz-CH₂-COOH) monomer, (b) poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in acid media (PCz-CH₂-COOH+HBF₄), and (c) poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) (PCz-CH₂-COOH) (neutral)

shifted to longer wave length (red shift) in both neutral (c) and acidic medium (b) [14]. This indicates that the absorption at the longer wavelength in the polymer originates from the delocalization of the electron along the backbone of the conjugated polymer and that there are intramolecular transitions was occurred.

Spectroelectrochemical analysis of the PCz-CH₂-COOH film was studied in order to elucidate electronic transitions upon doping of the polymer (Fig. 7). The film was deposited on ITO electrode by electrochemical polymerization of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid in the 0.100 M TBABF₄/acetonitrile. PCz-CH₂-COOH coated ITO glass electrodes was investigated by UV-Vis

spectroscopy in the monomer free electrolytic system via switching between +0.5 V and +1.6 V. In the reduced form, at 0.5 V, the film exhibited strong absorption assigned to π- π* transitions at wavelengths below 370 nm, but it was almost transparent in the visible region. As the applied potential became more anodic, new absorbance bands evolve at 390 nm and 750 nm due to the formation of charge carriers. The characteristic absorption peaks at 390nm and 750 nm agree with the previously reported data of polycarbazole derivatives. The broad band at 750 due transition involving polaronic state (charge - transfer absorption) and also improved the presence of dopants (BF₄⁻ ions) that bounded to backbone of polymer [15].

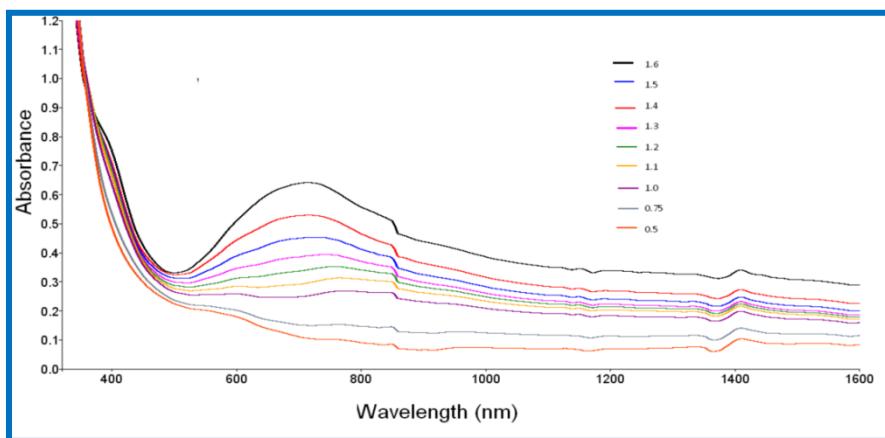


Fig. 7. Spectroelectrochemical analysis of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) under different potentials in (25mM) HBF₄, and (0.1 M) TBABF₄ / acetonitrile solutions (Voltage calculated versus SCE)

The ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were taken on a Bruker 400MHz AV NMR spectrometer and DMSO-d₆ was used as the solvent. An NMR spectrum, like infrared spectrum, seldom suffices by itself for identification of an organic compound. However, in conjunction with FTIR and UV spectra, also NMR is powerful and indispensable tool for the characterization of pure compound. NMR spectroscopy for quantitative work has been inhibited by cost of the instruments. In addition, the probability of overlapping resonance becomes greater as the complexity of the sample increases. Also, NMR is often neither as sensitive nor as convenient as competing techniques [16].

Fig. 8 shows that the ¹H NMR of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid(H8), at 8.2(CH,d), 7.6(CH,d), 7.45 (CH,t), 7.25 (CH,t). the ¹H NMR spectra of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in neutral medium(H7), at 8.65 (CH,S), 8.35(CH,d), 8.2(CH,d), 7.95(CH,d), 7.85(CH,d), 7.75(CH,d), 7.6(CH,d), 7.5(CH,t), 7.3(CH,t), 7.15(CH,s), 7.1(CH,s), 5.8(CH₂-N-ring,t), while ¹H NMR of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in acidic medium (H9), at 8.65 (CH,S), 8.35 (CH,d), 8.2 (CH,d), 7.95(CH,d), 7.85(CH,d), 7.75(CH,d), 7.6(CH,d), 7.5(CH,t), 7.3(CH,t), 7.15(CH,s), 7.1(CH,s) 5.8 (CH₂-N-ring,t). Fig.8 shows that the ¹H NMR spectra of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid(H8) monomer showed four peaks (2 d, 2t), while the ¹H NMR spectra of the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in neutral (H7) and acidic(H9) medium consists of twelve peaks. After polymerization reaction occurred in neutral(H7) and acidic (H9) medium, the singlet peak appeared at 8.65(CH,s) and 8.5(CH,s), respectively due to hydrogen atom at positions 1

and 8, and this indicates that the polymerization reaction occurred at positions 2 and 7, also in addition two weak singlet peaks were also appeared at 7.05 and 7.15 ppm for the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in neutral medium(H8) and at 6.9 and 7.0 for the poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in acidic medium(H9) due to oxidized quinoidal structure (polaronic doped) of the polymer backbone.

Fig. 9 shows that the ¹³C NMR (δ ppm; DMDO-d₆) spectra of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer (H8), at 139.5 (2C_a), 124.5(C_{2,7}), 121.5 (2C_b), 119(C_{4,5}), 118(C_{3,6}), and 108(C_{1,8}). The ¹³C NMR (δ ppm; DMDO-d₆) spectra of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in neutral medium(H7), at 139.5, 139, and 137.5 due to (2C_a), while 131.5 and 125(C_{2,7}) the chemical shift in the absorption value of the carbon atoms of position 2 and 7 due to the occurrence of the polymerization reaction in them, 122, 121.5 and 121 due to (2C_b), 119 and 118.5 due to (C_{4,5}), 118 and 117 due to(C_{3,6}), 109, 108.5 and 108 due to(C_{1,8}). while ¹³C NMR (δ ppm; DMDO-d₆) of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in acidic medium (H9), at 139, 137.5, 131.5, 125, 124, 122, 121.5, 121, 119.2, 119, 118, 117.5, 117, 109, 108.5, 108. The peaks in acid media is more intensity and the polymerization had been improved.

Raman measurements were carried out using surface enhancement raman spectroscopy (SERS) for poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid). Fig. 10 shows that the Raman spectroscopy of monomer was exhibited the major respected peaks as we showed in Table 2. The peaks observed at both 1630 and 1544 cm⁻¹ are

associated with the C=O stretching and C=C aromatic bonds, respectively. The peaks at 1351 and 1021 cm⁻¹ due to aromatic C-H bend and C-O stretching respectively. Fig. 11 shows that after polymerization the peaks observed at both 1605 and 1520 cm⁻¹ are associated with the C=O

stretching and C=C aromatic bonds respectively. The peaks at 1378 and 1016 cm⁻¹ due to aromatic C-H bend and C-O stretching, respectively with no significant difference from monomer.

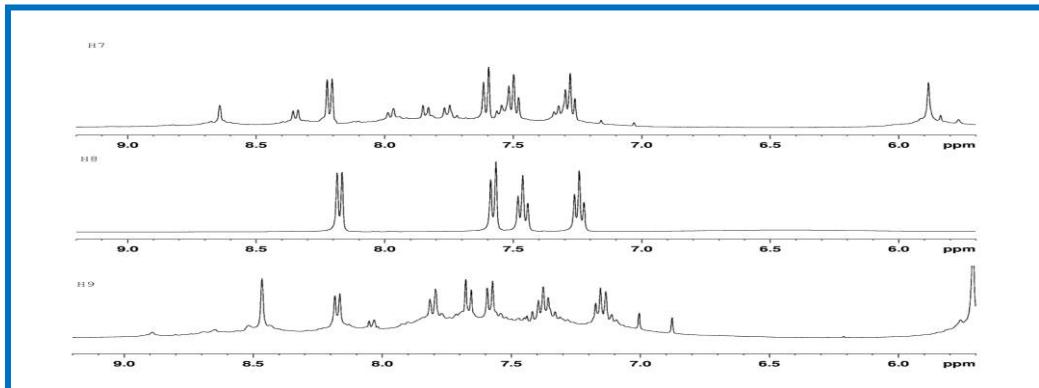


Fig. 8. ¹H NMR (aromatic range) spectra of, 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer (80mg/ml)(H8), poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) (80 mg/ml) in neutral (H7) and acidic HBF4 (25 mM) (H9) solutions

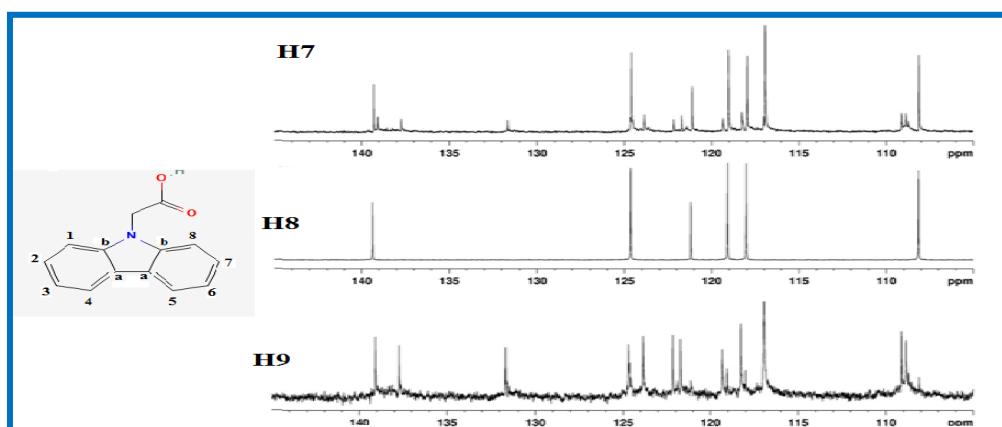


Fig. 9. ¹³C NMR of (aromatic range) spectra, of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer (80mg/ml) (H8), and poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) (80 mg/ml) in neutral (H7) and in acidic HBF4 (25m M) (H9) solutions

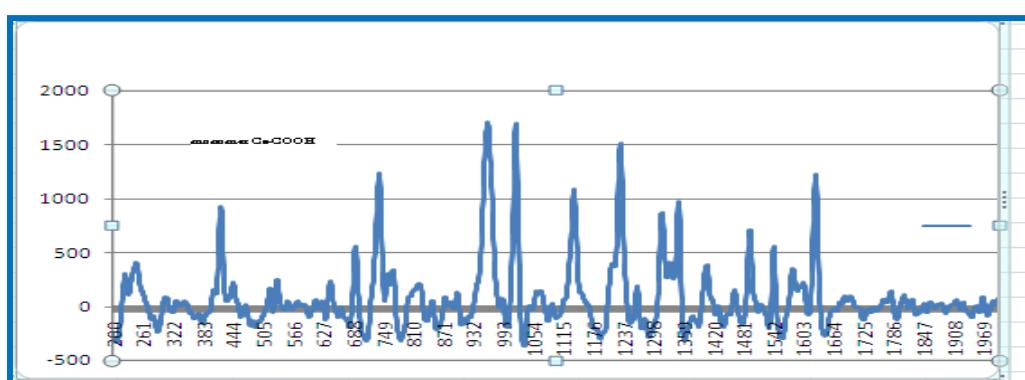


Fig. 10. Raman spectrum of 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer (cm⁻¹)

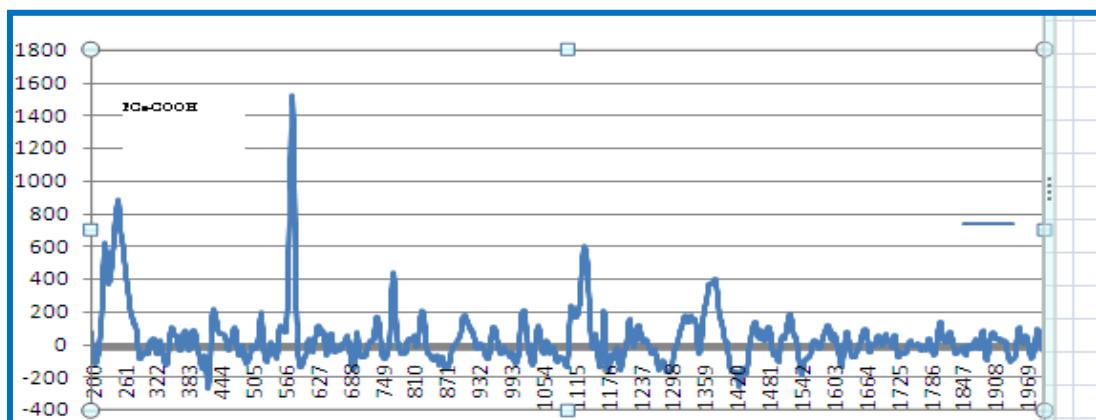


Fig. 11. Raman spectroscopy of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) (cm^{-1})

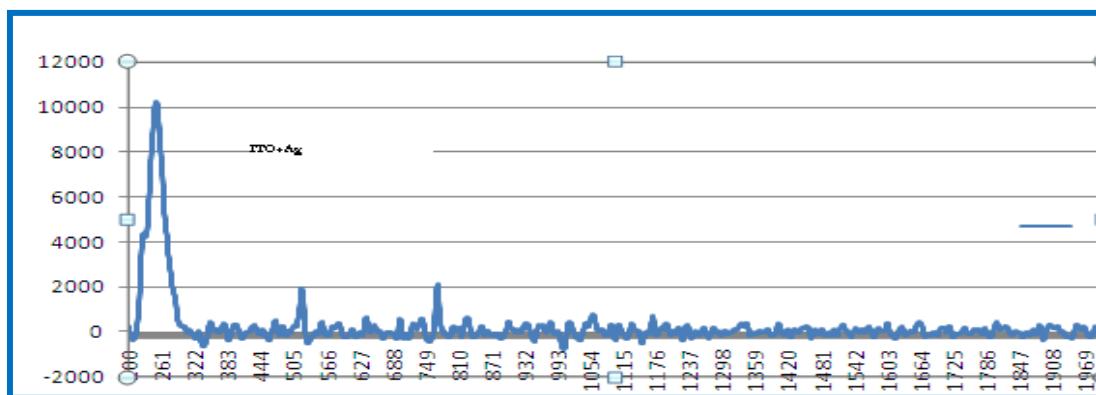


Fig. 12. Raman spectroscopy of ITO + Ag (as base line)

Table 2. Raman frequency of some functional groups of monomer, and poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) on ITO glass

ITO +A g, Frequency,(intensity)	PCz-CH ₂ -COOH Frequency,(intensity)	Monomer Cz-CH ₂ -COOH Frequency,(intensity)
250(1132)	250 (866)	248 (391)
520(1773)	431 (198)	421 (901)
771(1886)	521 (179)	428 (266)
	581 (1526)	535 (299)
	771 (403)	520 (142)
	824 (163)	643 (223)
	904 (155)	695 (559)
	1016 (183) C-O str.	742 (1187)
	1132 (583)	819 (181)
	1171 (210)	962 (1663)
	1218 (136)	1021 (1688) C-O str.
	1320 (132)	1138 (938)
	1378 (387) Arom. C-H bend.	1233 (1509)
	1453 (109)	1317 (855)
	1605(110) C=O str.	1351 (943) Arom. C-H bend
	1520(151) C=C	1407 (365)
		1496 (707)
		1544 (513) C=C Arom ring
		1582 (326)
		1630 (1223) C=O str

As we showed there are some different between Raman and FTIR in the value of peaks and spectrum is very complicated due to that some substances are inactive in IR but Raman active or vice versa (CO_2). Raman line intensities are greatly enhanced by excitation with wavelength which are closer to the electronic peak of substance and due to photochemical reaction that may be occurred. However we used filters in Raman instrument the photo decomposition or fluorescence is very high [16]. The intensity of Raman peaks depend on intensity of the source, active groups and polarizability [16,17].

The surface morphology of the films deposited from electrochemical deposition were taken by SEM. Fig. 13 shows the surface morphology of the films deposited from electrochemical deposition were taken by SEM, the images showed homogenous films of aligned gold nanotubes to improve the optical sensing properties [18], using different magnification (2000, 20,000, and 50,000x) with different picture width (μm). We can see important surface

roughness even if, electrodeposited films are homogeneous in naked eyes.

The weight average molecular weight (Mw) of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) synthesized in neutral and acidic medium was determined using gel permeation chromatography (GPC), when using tetrahydrofuran (THF) solvent and polystyrene (PS) It was used as a standard in GPC analysis. Table 3 shows that the PCz-CH₂COOH(n) has Mw equal 130900 Da, and number average molecular weight (Mn) 98421.1 Da with dispersity value equal 1.33.

In general, it was found that polycarbazole and its derivatives are difficult to prepare due to their low solubility in most inorganic solvents and some organic solvents. Table 4 shows that the high average molecular weight of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) has good solubility (mg/ml) in common organic solvents such as N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP), dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO), Acetonitrile (ACN), Tetrahydrofuran (THF), and N, N-dimethylacetamide (DMAC).

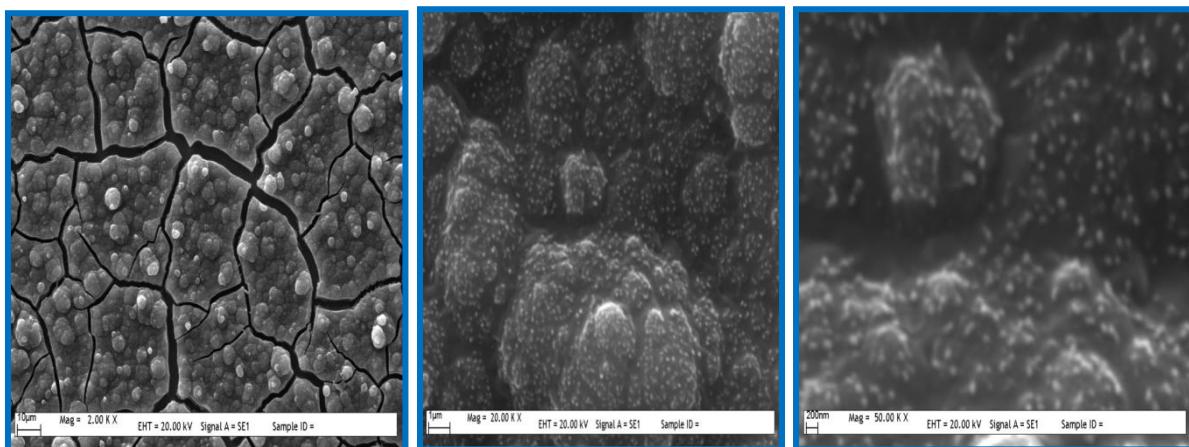


Fig. 13. Scanning electron micrograph of oxidized poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid)

Table 3. The molecular weight of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) in neutral, and acidic medium

Polymer	Average molecular weight (Mw)	dispersity
PCz-CH ₂ COOH(n)	130900	1.33
PCz-CH ₂ COOH +HBF ₄	58200	1.84

Table 4. The solubility tests (mg/ml) of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid)

Polymers	NMP	DMSO	ACN	THF	DMAC
PCz-CH ₂ COOH(n)	4 mg/ml	75 mg/ml	1.6 mg/ml	3.0 mg/ml	3.6 mg/ml
PCz-CH ₂ COOH+HBF ₄	2.6 mg/ml	65 mg/ml	1.2 mg/ml	2.6 mg/ml	3.2 mg/ml

4. CONCLUSION

These newly prepared 2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid monomer was electrochemically polymerized to give a novel poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) which backbone consisted of carbazole. This new polymer classified as conducting polymer with a good solubility in some organic solvents. We have reported here a novel electrochromic system which gives strong green color in oxidation state and transparent in reduction state indicates the possibility of a new materials. The electrochemical and spectroscopic data obtained above give strong evidence that polymerization of poly(2-(9H-carbazol-9-yl) acetic acid) was occurred upon electro-oxidation of the monomer. The formed polymer film was further characterized by FT-infrared, UV-Vis, Spectroelectrochemical analysis, NMR, Raman spectroscopy, and SEM.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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