



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Electrosynthesis and characterization of adherent poly(2-aminobenzothiazole) on Pt-electrode from acidic solution



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**Abstract** The electrochemical oxidation of 2-aminobenzothiazole, 2-ABT, on Pt-electrode has been investigated using CV in HCl solutions under nitrogen atmosphere at different temperatures, different monomer concentrations and different Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations. The experimentally obtained kinetic equation was  $R_{p,E} = k_E [\text{monomer}]^{1.19} [\text{acid}]^{1.32} [\text{electrolyte}]^{1.08}$ , which was deduced from values of the first anodic current density ( $i_{p1}$ ). A simplified mechanism for the electrochemical oxidation of 2-ABT is proposed. Activation energy, which was obtained from the experimental data, was almost same in studied parameters. This means the electrochemical oxidation mechanism for 2-ABT must be the same. The obtained polymer films are found to be thermally stable and have tubular or fibrillar elongated crystals. Different tools have been used to characterized P(2-ABT) as: <sup>1</sup>H NMR, UV–vis, IR spectroscopy and elemental analysis.

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## 1. Introduction

Benzothiazoles (BTs), a group of xenobiotic compounds containing a thiazole (Th) ring fused with benzene ring, have a wide range of biological properties (Brownlee et al., 1992; Bujdakova et al., 1993; Hartley and Kidd, 1987; Choi et al., 2006; Dubey et al., 2006; Gaja and Knapp, 1997). BTs have been detected in industrial wastewaters and in various environmental

media (Kloepfer et al., 2003, 2005). BTs are soluble in water, resistant to biodegradation, only partially removed in wastewater treatment (Kloepfer et al., 2005; Weiss and Reemtsma, 2005; Kloepfer et al., 2004; Cancillia et al., 2003), and they may pass the water treatment processes employed in the production of drinking water. These compounds are often found in the aquatic environment (Reemtsma et al., 2006; Wever et al., 2007). Some of these molecules show toxic effects toward microorganisms, animals or humans. Therefore, it is important to investigate methods to overcome or decrease its toxicity (Reemtsma et al., 2006; Wever et al., 2007).

The electrochemical oxidation of hazardous organic species is a promising method for wastewater remediation. In our previous work (Sayyah et al., 2004) we study the electrooxidation of 2-amino-4-phenylthiazole on Pt-electrode in acid medium under different reaction conditions; an amorphous, homoge-

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neous and compact adhering film on Pt-electrode was obtained. Also, the electrooxidation of a binary mixture of 3-chloroaniline and 2-amino-4-phenyl-thiazole on Pt-electrode in acid medium under different reaction conditions was studied (Sayyah et al., 2005); a block copolymer film on Pt-electrode is obtained.

The kinetic equation of the electropolymerization reactions of different monomers was calculated from ex situ microgravimetric data (Sayyah et al., 2004a, 2005, 2003, 2004b, 2006a,b,c,d, 2007a), from both the ex situ microgravimetric and electrochemical data (Sayyah et al., 2007b; Mu et al., 1997) and from electrochemical data (Sayyah et al., 2011). The effect of HCl concentration, monomer concentration, support electrolyte concentration and temperature is an important parameter on electrosynthesis of conducting polymer (Sayyah et al., 2004a,b, 2005, 2003, 2006a,b,c,d, 2007a,b).

In this study, we have focused on a CV study of 2-ABT in acid (HCl) medium on a Pt-electrode in order to investigate kinetic equation of the electropolymerization reaction. Potentiodynamic cyclic voltammetry measurements provide important information on the electrochemical characterization of the species under study and are a simple method for screening the processes occurring in a wide potential range used more often for the practical purposes. Also, the characterization of the obtained polymer film should be done with different tools.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Materials

2-Aminobenzothiazole (2-ABT) and anhydrous sodium sulfate were provided by Merck (Darmstadt, Germany), hydrochloric acid solution and Dimethylformamide (Riedel-de Haën, Germany). All solutions were prepared under nitrogen atmosphere in freshly double-distilled water.

### 2.2. Electropolymerization cell

Electropolymerization of the 2-aminobenzothiazole monomers and formation of the polymer films was carried out using cyclic voltammetry technique as described elsewhere (Sayyah et al., 2004a, 2005, 2003, 2004b, 2006a,b,c,d, 2007a,b).

#### 2.2.1. Electrodes

**2.2.1.1. Working electrode.** The working electrode (WE) was a Platinum sheet with dimensions of 1 cm height and 0.5 cm width.

**2.2.1.2. Auxiliary electrode.** The auxiliary (counter) electrode (CE) was a platinum foil with the same dimensions as the WE. Before each run, both the WE and the CE were cleaned and washed thoroughly with water, double distilled water, rinsed with ethanol and dried.

**2.2.1.3. Reference electrode.** A saturated calomel electrode (SCE) was used as a reference electrode. The values of the electrode potential in the present study are given relative to this electrode. The potential value for the calomel electrode is 0.242 V vs. NHE at 25 °C. The reference electrode was periodically calibrated and checked. Electrochemical experiments were performed using the Potentiostat/Galvanostat Wenking PGS 95.

The I-E curves were recorded by computer software from the same company (Model ECT). Except otherwise stated, the potential was swept linearly from  $-0.5$  V (SCE) into the positive direction up to a certain anodic potential with a given scan rate and then reversed with the same scan rate up to the starting cathodic potential. For each run, freshly prepared solutions as well as a cleaned set of electrodes were used. All experiments were conducted at a given temperature ( $\pm 0.5$  °C) with the help of circular water thermostat. After polymer film formation, the working electrode was withdrawn from the cell, rinsed thoroughly with doubly distilled water to remove any traces of the formation medium constituents; the deposited polymer film was subjected to different experimental tests to characterize it.

### 2.3. IR, Elemental analysis, $^1\text{H}$ NMR, UV-vis and TGA

IR measurements were carried out using shimadzu FTIR-340 Jasco spectrophotometer (Japan).

Elemental analysis was carried out in the microanalytical center at Cairo University by oxygen flask combustion and dosimat E415 titrator (Metrohm).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR measurements were carried out using a Varian EM 360 L, 60-MHz NMR spectrometer. NMR signals of the electropolymerized sample were recorded in dimethylsulfoxide using tetramethylsilane as internal standard.

UV-vis spectra of the prepared polymer sample were measured using Shimadzu UV spectrophotometer (M160 PC) at room temperature in the range 200–900 nm using dimethylformamide as a solvent and reference.

TGA of the obtained polymer was performed using a Shimadzu DT-30 thermal analyzer (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan). The weight loss was measured from ambient temperature up to 600 °C, at the rate of  $20$  °C  $\text{min}^{-1}$  to determine the degradation rate of the polymer.

### 2.4. Scanning electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction

Scanning electron microscopic analysis was carried out using a JXA-840A Electron Probe Microanalyzer (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan). The X-ray diffractometer (Philips 1976 Model 1390, Netherlands) was operated under the following conditions that were kept constant for all the analysis processes:

X-ray tube: Cu
Current: 30 mA
Preset time: 10 s
Scan speed: $8$ ° $\text{min}^{-1}$
Voltage: 40 kV

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Electropolymerization of 2-ABT

Electropolymerization of 2-ABT on Platinum electrode from the deoxygenated aqueous solution containing  $0.3$  M HCl,  $0.001$  M monomer and  $0.05$  M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  at  $309$  K in the absence and presence of monomer, was studied by cyclic voltammetry at potential between  $-0.53$  and  $+1.49$  V (vs. SCE) with scan

rate of  $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . The obtained voltammogram is represented in Fig. 1A and B, respectively. In the absence of monomer the voltammogram exhibits no peaks in anodic and cathodic directions, as a result of the inert behavior of Pt-electrode. In the presence of monomer, a well-adhering P(2-ABT) film is electrodeposited on the Pt-surface. The voltammogram exhibits two oxidation peaks (I and II) that progressively developed at +90 and +1320 mV (vs. SCE) repetitively as found in our previous work (Sayyah et al., 2011). On one hand, the first oxidation peak (I) corresponds to removing of one electron from nitrogen atom of the amino group to give radical cation (Sayyah et al., 2006b,d, 2011). The formed radical cation interacts with the other monomer molecule to form dimer radical cation, which followed by further reaction with monomer molecule gives trimer radical cation and so on. Finally, the semi-quinone radical cation (polaron state) is formed, which is adsorbed on the electrode surface (Sayyah et al., 2006b,d, 2011) as shown in Scheme 1. On the other hand, the second oxidation peak (II) is assigned to the oxidation of the formed semi-quinone radical cation (polaron state) to the quinoneimine (bipolaron state) (Sayyah et al., 2006d, 2011; Buzarovska et al., 2001) and represented in Scheme 1. Therefore, the second redox process is attributed to the conversion of the formed radical cations to the fully oxidized form (quinoidal structure). However, as soon as polymerization is nucleated, a brown polymer film is rapidly deposited on the electrode surface. The charge of the second peak (II) is smaller than that of the first one (I), which means that not all the formed radical cations interact to give polaron and then bipolaron. The potential difference between the first and the second oxidation peak (I and II) is  $\approx 1230 \text{ mV}$ , and no middle peaks were observed between them which confirm the non-existence of degradation products during the anodic direction, higher regularity, homogeneity and adherence of the deposited film to the electrode surface (Sayyah et al., 2006d, 2011; Buzarovska et al., 2001).

Sometimes, redox chemical species produce square wave voltammetry peaks that overlap i.e. at  $0.65 \text{ V}$ . In the case of such a problem, it is necessary to deconvolve the voltammetric peaks. The smoothed voltammogram is inspected automatically.

After  $1.49 \text{ V}$   $\text{Cl}_2$  gas began to evolve near the working electrode (Strmcnik et al., 2005; Pérez et al., 2001; López-Cudero

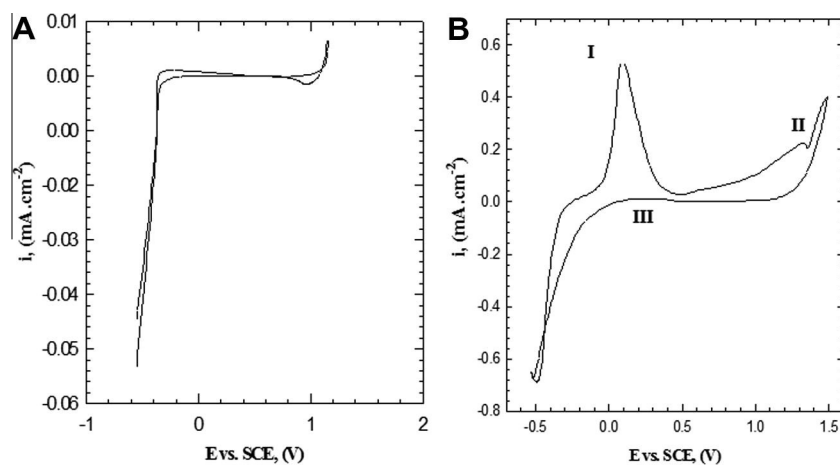
et al., 2003), we make the final limit of the voltammogram  $1.49 \text{ V}$  to prevent the effect of  $\text{Cl}_2$  on the polymer formation.

On reversing the potential scan from  $+1.49$  up to  $-0.53 \text{ mV}$  vs. SCE, the reversing anodic current is very small indicating, the presence of adhere layer of the polymer on the electrode surface. Beyond  $500 \text{ mV}$ , the reversing current starts to increase, forming a reactive anodic peak (III), indicating the partial removal of the deposited polymer film from the surface as a result of degradation process and consequently radical cation formation at this potential (Sayyah et al., 2006b; Mu et al., 1997).

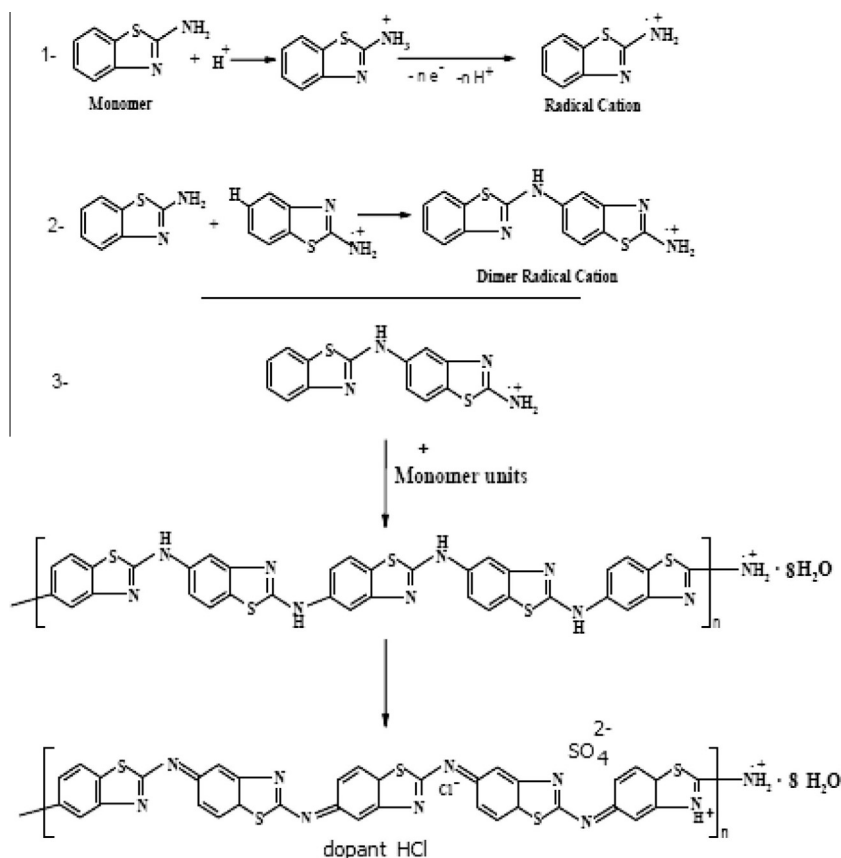
When we use a lower potential range ( $-2$  to  $-0.53 \text{ V}$  vs. SCE) no deposition of polymer occurs. So, the suitable range of work is from  $-0.53$  to  $1.49 \text{ V}$ .

Fig. 2 shows the repetitive cycling on the formation of P(2-ABT) from solution containing ( $0.001 \text{ M}$  monomer,  $0.3 \text{ M}$  HCl and  $0.05 \text{ M}$   $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  at  $309 \text{ K}$ ). The data reveal that, the peak currents ( $i_{pI}$ ,  $i_{pII}$ ) of the two anodic peaks (I and II) decrease. The decrease of the anodic currents could be attributed to the presence of a part of the polymer film on the electrode surface, therefore, the currents of the following anodic half cycle decrease. It is possible that the stability of the deposited film enhances with successive cycling and therefore, the peak currents (I and II) decrease with repetitive cycling (Sayyah et al., 2006b; Mu et al., 1997).

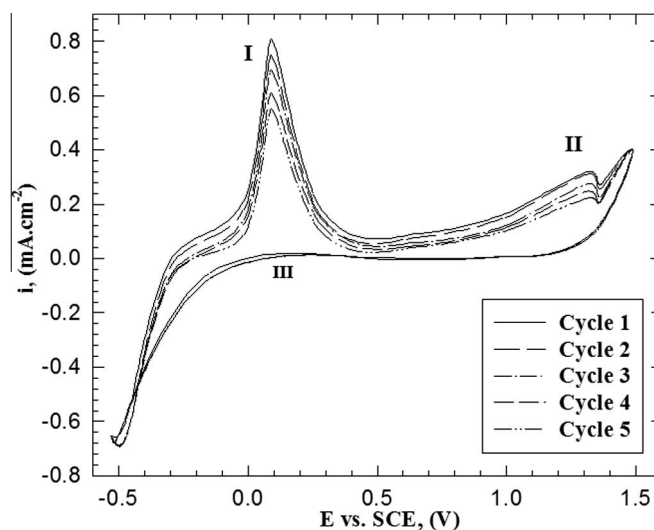
Fig. 3A shows the influence of scan rate ( $5$ – $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ) on the anodic polarization curve for the electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing ( $0.001 \text{ M}$  monomer,  $0.3 \text{ M}$  HCl,  $0.05 \text{ M}$   $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) at  $309 \text{ K}$  on platinum electrode. The data reveal that, the peak current densities ( $i_{pI}$  and  $i_{pII}$ ) of the first and second anodic peak respectively increase with increase of the scan rate. This behavior may be explained as follows (Mu et al., 1997), When enough potential is applied at an electrode surface causing oxidation of species in the solution, a current arises due to the depletion of the species in the vicinity of the electrode surface. As a consequence, a concentration gradient appears in the solution. The current ( $i_p$ ) is proportional to the gradient slope,  $dc/dx$ , imposed ( $\propto dx/dc$ ). As the scan rate increases the gradient increase and consequently the current ( $i_p$ ), values of  $i_p$  are proportional directly to  $v^{1/2}$  according to the Sevcik (1948) and Randles (1948) equation:



**Figure 1** Cyclic voltammogram of Pt-electrode from solution containing  $0.3 \text{ M}$  HCl and  $0.05 \text{ M}$   $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  at  $309 \text{ K}$  with scan rate of  $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  in (A) absence of monomer, (B)  $0.001 \text{ M}$  monomer.



Scheme 1 Suggested mechanism of P(2-ABT) formation.



**Figure 2** Repetitive cycling of electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing 0.001 M monomer, 0.3 M HCl and 0.05 M  $Na_2SO_4$  at 309 K with scan rate of  $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

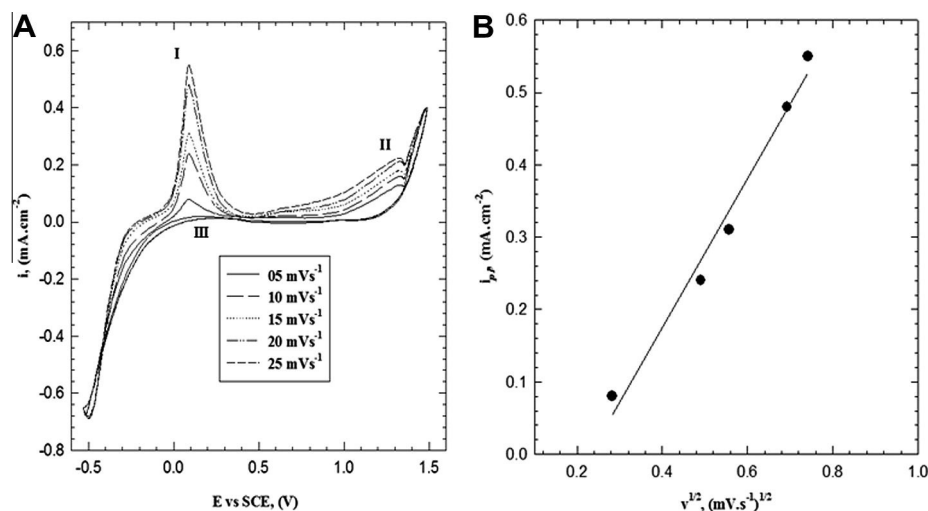
$$I_p = 0.4463nFAC(nFvD/RT)^{1/2}$$

where  $n$  is the number of exchanged electron in the mechanism,  $F$  is Faraday's constant ( $96,485 \text{ C/mol}$ ),  $A$  is the electrode area ( $\text{cm}^2$ ),  $C$  is the bulk concentration,  $D$  is the analyst diffusing coefficient ( $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$ ), and  $v$  is the scan rate ( $\text{V/s}$ ).  $R$  is the universal gas constant ( $8.134 \text{ J/mol K}$ ) and  $T$  is the absolute temper-

ature (K). The calculated  $D$  at (0.3 M HCl, 0.001 M monomer, 0.05 M  $Na_2SO_4$ , 309 K and scan rate  $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ) was found to be  $2.68 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Fig. 3B shows the linear dependence of the first current peak, ( $i_{p1}$ ) versus  $v^{1/2}$ . This linear regression equation was

$$i_p(\text{mA}) = 1.026v^{1/2}(\text{mVs}^{-1})^{1/2} - 0.235$$



**Figure 3** (A) Effect of scan rate on the electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing 0.001 M monomer, 0.3 M HCl and 0.05 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 309 K. (B) Relation between  $I_{pI}$  vs.  $v^{1/2}$ .

with a correlation coefficient of  $r^2 = 0.981$ . So we suggest that the electroformation of radical cation may be described partially by a diffusion-controlled process (diffusion of reacting species to the polymer film/solution interface) (Mazloun-Ardakani et al., 2009; Rieger, 1985; Nicholson, 1965). The intercept in Fig. 3B is small and negative,  $-0.235$ , which could be attributed to a decrease of the active area during the positive scan (Ureta-Zanartu et al., 2002). It seems that, initially the electroformation of radical cation is controlled by the charge transfer process. When the thickness of the polymer becomes thick, the diffusion of reactant inside the film becomes the slowest step, the process changes to diffusion transfer, which confirms the data in Fig. 2.

### 3.2. Kinetic studies

The electropolymerization kinetics were carried out using deoxygenated aqueous solution containing monomer in the concentration range between 0.0002 and 0.0012 M, hydrochloric acid concentration in the range between 0.1 and 0.5 M, and Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in the concentration range between 0.02 and 0.07 M at 309 K. The kinetic equation was calculated by means of electrochemical study from the values of the anodic current densities (Mu et al., 1997; Sayyah et al., 2011).

The value of the anodic current density ( $i_{pI}$ ) is proportional to the electropolymerization rate ( $R_{P,E}$ ) at a given concentration of the monomer, acid and electrolyte, then we can replace the electropolymerization rate by the anodic current density (Mu et al., 1997; Sayyah et al., 2011, 2009, 2010).

#### 3.2.1. Effect of HCl concentration

Fig. 4A represents the influence of HCl concentration in the range between (0.1 and 0.4 M) on the cyclic voltammogram using scan rate of 25 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The voltammogram shows that, the anodic peak current densities ( $i_{pI}$  and  $i_{pII}$ ) increase with the increasing of the HCl concentration up to 0.3 M and then starts to decrease with further increase of HCl concentration. A double logarithmic plot of the current density ( $i_{pI}$ ) –related to radical cation formation– against HCl concentrations in

the range between 0.1 and 0.3 M is graphically represented in Fig. 4B. A straight line (with correlation coefficient  $r^2 = 0.977$ ) with slope of 1.32 was obtained. Therefore, the reaction order with respect to HCl concentration is a first order reaction.

#### 3.2.2. Effect of monomer concentration

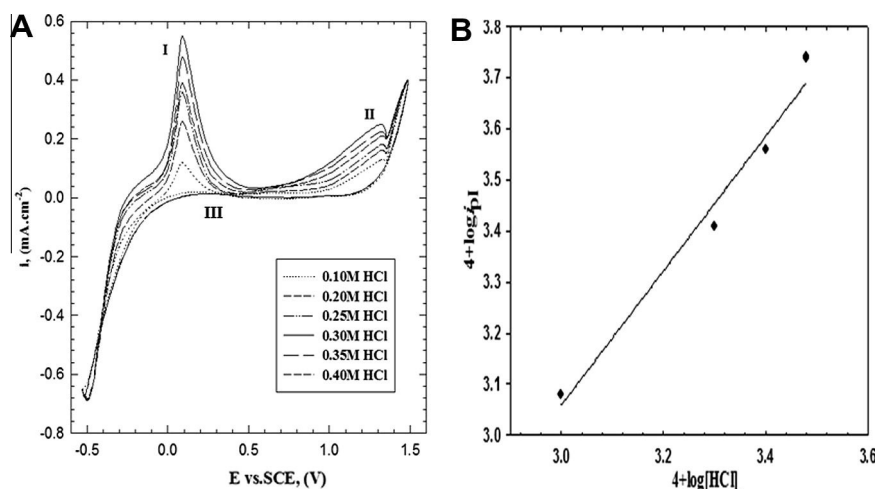
Fig. 5A represents the influence of monomer concentration in the range between (0.0002 and 0.0012 M) on the cyclic voltammogram using scan rate of 25 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The voltammogram shows that, the anodic peak current densities ( $i_{pI}$  and  $i_{pII}$ ) increase with the increasing of the monomer concentration up to 0.0010 M and then starts to decrease with further increase of monomer concentration. A double logarithmic plot of the current density ( $i_{pI}$ ) –related to radical cation formation– against monomer concentrations in the range between 0.0002 and 0.0010 M is graphically represented in Fig. 5B. A straight line (with correlation coefficient  $r^2 = 0.968$ ) with slope of 1.19 was obtained. Therefore, the reaction order with respect to monomer concentration is a first order reaction.

#### 3.2.3. Effect of electrolyte concentration

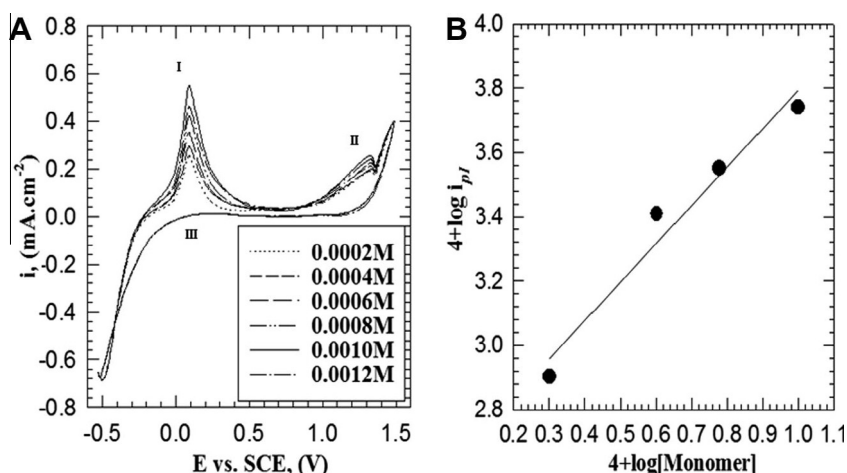
Fig. 6A shows the effect of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentration in the range between (0.020 and 0.070 M) on the cyclic voltammogram using scan rate of 25 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The anodic peak current densities ( $i_{pI}$  and  $i_{pII}$ ) increase with the increasing of the Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentration up to 0.050 M and then starts to decrease with further increase of Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentration. A double logarithmic plot of the current density ( $i_{pI}$ ) –related to radical cation formation– against Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations in the range between 0.02 and 0.05 M is graphically represented in Fig. 6B. A straight line (with correlation coefficient  $r^2 = 0.959$ ) with slope of 1.08 was obtained. Therefore, the reaction order with respect to Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> concentration is a first order reaction. This means that, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> has a role in the polymer formation by doping of the polymeric chain unit with SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-2</sup> anion.

Depending upon the above results, the kinetic rate law obtained from this method can be written as:





**Figure 4** (A) Cyclic voltammogram curves for the effect of HCl concentration on the electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing 0.001 M monomer and 0.05 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 309 K with scan rate of 25 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. (B) Double logarithmic plot of  $i_{pI}$  versus HCl concentrations.



**Figure 5** (A) Cyclic voltammogram curves for the effect of monomer concentration on the electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing 0.3 M HCl and 0.05 M Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> at 309 K with scan rate of 25 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. (B) Double logarithmic plot of  $i_{pI}$  versus monomer concentrations.

$$R_{p,E} = k[\text{monomer}]^{1.19}[\text{acid}]^{1.32}[\text{electrolyte}]^{1.08}$$

where,  $R_{p,E}$  is the electropolymerization rate and  $k$  is the kinetic rate constant. This equation is valid only before reaching the optimum conditions for P(2-ABT) formation that is described previously.

#### 3.2.4. Effect of temperature

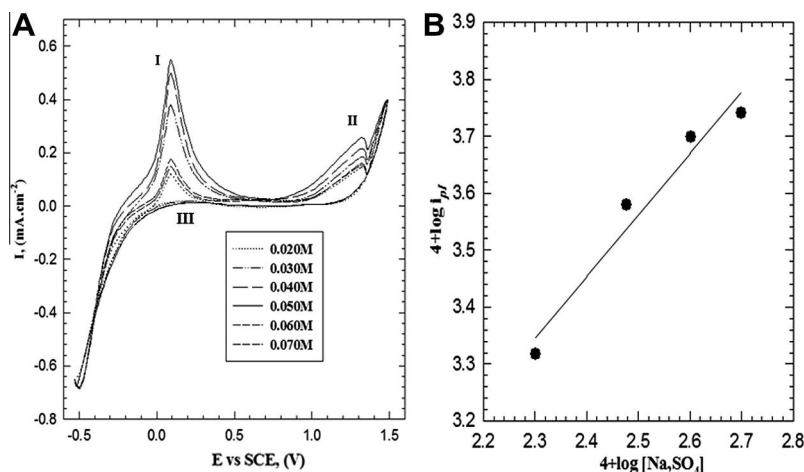
The potentiodynamic polarization curves as a function of the solution temperature in the range between 294 and 314 K under the same experimental conditions as mentioned above were illustrated in Fig. 7A. From the figure, it is clear that, an increase of temperature up to 309 K results in a progressive increase of the charge included in anodic peaks (I and II). The plot of the log ( $i_{pI}$ ) versus  $1/T$  is represented in Fig. 7B, a straight line is obtained with a slope equal to  $-4.33$  and then the apparent activation energy ( $E_a$ ) was calculated using Arrhenius equation and it is found to be 82.91 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. The

calculation of  $E_a$  at different scan rates show almost values approach 82 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> which means that the mechanism of formation of the polymer film on Pt-electrode is the same.

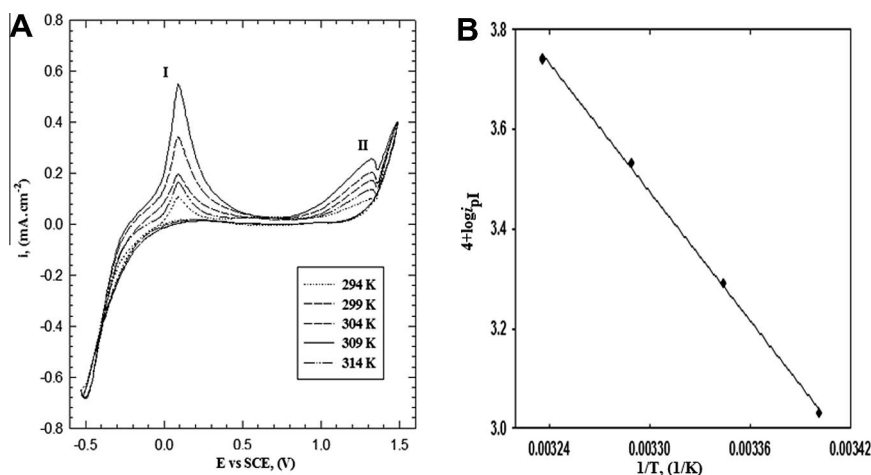
#### 3.3. Elemental, thermogravimetric and spectroscopic analysis

Elemental analytical data are given in Table 1, which is in a good agreement with those calculated from the suggested structure (Sayyah et al., 2011).

The presence of water molecules in the repeated unit is confirmed by thermogravimetric analysis. The TGA steps of the prepared P(2-ABT) are shown in Fig. 8. From the Figure, the loss of (water and doped anions) in the temperature range between 25 and 426.67 °C is clear. After that the polymer begins to decompose, it is suggested that P(2-ABT) is thermally stable where it starts to decompose after 426.67 and at 600 °C about 41% is still found.



**Figure 6** (A) Cyclic voltammogram curves for the effect of electrolyte concentration on the electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing 0.3 M HCl and 0.001 M monomer at 309 K with scan rate of  $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . (B) Double logarithmic plot of  $i_{pI}$  versus  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  concentrations.



**Figure 7** (A) Cyclic voltammogram curves for the effect of temperature on the electropolymerization of 2-ABT from solution containing 0.3 M HCl, 0.007 M monomer and 0.05 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  with scan rate of  $25 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . (B) Arrhenius plot of the electropolymerization of 2-ABT to radical cation.

**Table 1** Elemental analysis of the prepared P(2-ABT).

Element (%)									
C		H		N		Cl		S	
Calc.	Found	Calc.	Found	Calc.	Found	Calc.	Found	Calc.	Found
35.09	35.30	04.81	04.20	10.03	09.71	20.34	20.31	16.01	15.72

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the prepared P(2-ABT) was shown in Fig. 9. From the Figure, the solvent signal appeared at  $\delta = 2.17 \text{ ppm}$  and  $\delta = 3.41 \text{ ppm}$ . The  $\text{C-NH}_2$  protons signal appear at  $\delta = 4.11 \text{ ppm}$ . The protons of benzene ring in the polymeric structure appear in the region from  $\delta = 7.32$  to  $\delta = 7.87 \text{ ppm}$ . The signal which appears at  $\delta = 8.675 \text{ ppm}$  may be attributed to OH protons of water molecules or/and  $\text{C-NH}$  protons which disappeared when deuterated water was added to the investigated sample (Sayyah et al., 2009, 2010).

The FTIR spectra of 2-ABT and P(2-ABT) are shown in Fig. 10. From which, the number of absorption peaks appear in case of P(2-ABT) is much less than that of 2-ABT. This is a general feature for polymerization of monomers (Kong and Mu, 2002). The IR spectra are very complicated. We will briefly assign some main peaks.

A large broad absorption peak is observed from  $3700$  to  $1800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectrum of P(2-ABT) due to electronic transitions from valence band to conduction band in the polymer film (Sayyah et al., 2011). A medium absorption band appear-

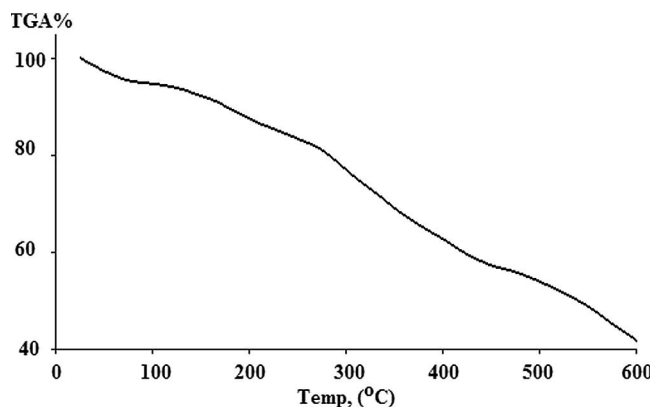


Figure 8 TGA of poly (2-ABT).

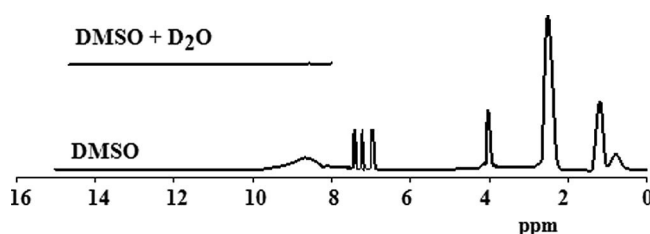


Figure 9  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the prepared P(2-ABT).

ing at  $3227.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a strong absorption band appearing at  $3394.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of monomer, appears as a broad absorption band at  $3402.1\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of polymer which could be attributed to  $\text{NH}_2$  stretching vibration of aromatic amine and/or OH strong hydrogen bonded group in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  molecules of hydration in polymer. This indicates the polymerization is

formed via  $\text{NH}_2$  (c.f. Scheme 1). The dopant absorption bands in P(2-ABT) appearing at  $1143\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (weak) and at  $1171\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (weak) could be attributed to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  incorporation in the polymeric chain repetitively. Accordingly both  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{Cl}^-$  anions are doped in the polymeric chain (Buzarovska et al., 2001; Sayyah et al., 2009, 2010; Nakanishi and Solomon, 1977; Athawale et al., 1999). But no evidence for the formation of new bonds between the polymer chain and the doped anions was observed which means that the anions doped in the polymeric chains exist in the ionic form (Athawale et al., 1999) as shown in Scheme 1. The weak absorption band at  $760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  confirms the excess  $\text{C}=\text{N}$  groups in quinonoid form of P(2-ABT), where the normal  $\text{C}=\text{N}$  bands in both 2-ABT and P(2-ABT) appear in the normal range from  $1530$  to  $1630\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in both cases. The medium absorption band appearing at  $626.8\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of 2-ABT appears at  $618\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of P(2-ABT) which could be attributed to  $\text{C}-\text{S}$  symmetric stretching vibration. Two strong absorption bands appearing at  $718.3$  and  $741.4\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of monomer appears as two weak absorption bands at  $721.2$  and  $760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of polymer which could be attributed to the asymmetric stretching vibration of  $\text{C}-\text{S}$  bond. A medium absorption band appearing at  $3055\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of monomer, appears as a broad absorption band at  $3066.3\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in case of polymer which could be attributed to  $\text{C}-\text{H}$  stretching vibration of benzene ring.

The UV-vis spectra of 2-ABT monomer and its homopolymer are represented in Fig. 11. The spectra show the following absorption bands:

1. In case of 2-ABT, four absorption bands appear at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 209\text{--}329\text{ nm}$ , which may be attributed to  $\pi\text{--}\pi^*$  transition ( $\text{E}_2$  band) of the benzene ring and the  $\beta$ -band ( $\text{A}_{1g}$  to  $\text{B}_{2u}$ ).
2. In case of P(2-ABT) Sayyah et al., 2011, four absorption bands appear at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 207\text{--}315\text{ nm}$  which may be attributed to  $\pi\text{--}\pi^*$  transition. Also an absorption band appears

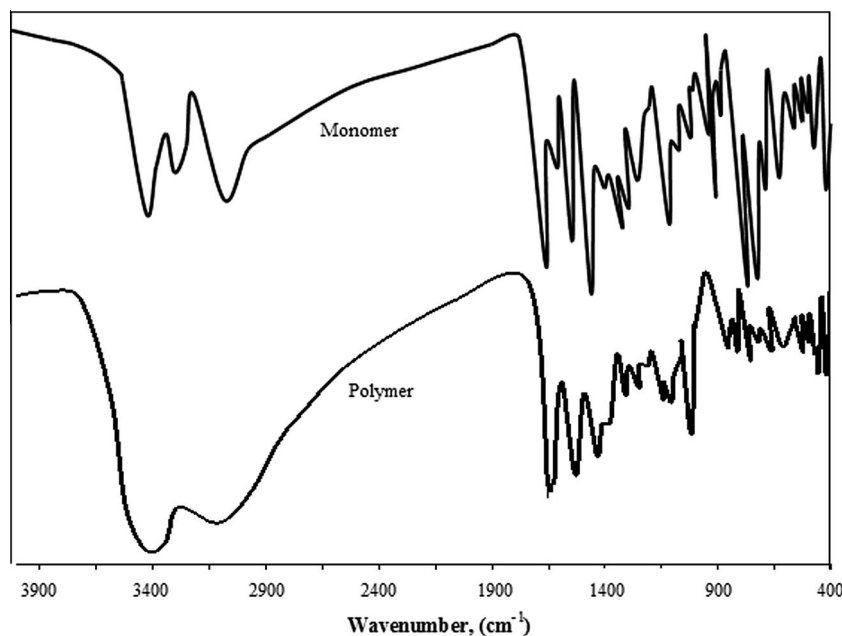
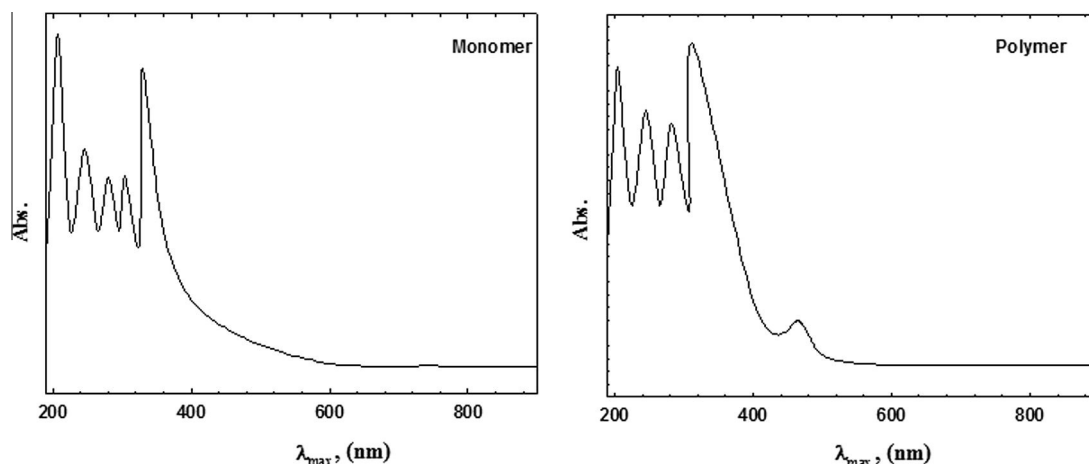
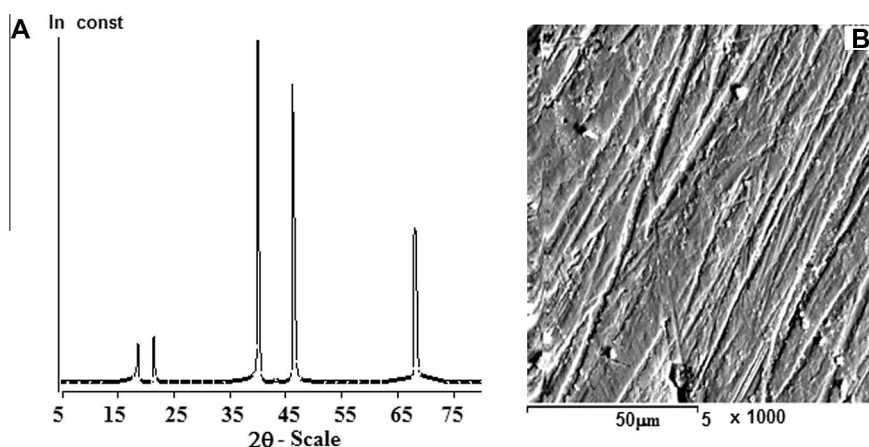


Figure 10 IR- spectra of 2-ABT and P(2ABT).





**Figure 11** UV-vis spectra of 2-ABT monomer and the prepared polymer.



**Figure 12** (A) X-ray diffraction pattern of poly (2-ABT). (B) The picture of scanning electron microscope of poly (2-ABT).

in the visible region at  $\lambda_{\max} = 463$  nm, which may be due to the high conjugation of the benzene and thiazole rings in the polymeric chains and confirm the formation of the quinonoid structure.

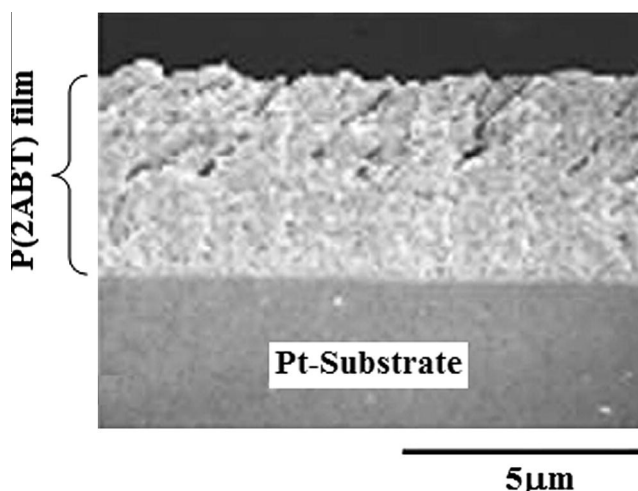
The specific conductivity of the P(2-ABT) was measured on a compressed pellet made by compressing the powder polymer. The conductivity was measured with direct current from 5 to 25 V –in this range the sample showed Ohmic behavior– and was found to be  $2.8 \times 10^{-7} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ .

### 3.4. Surface morphology

X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was carried out to determine the occurrence of complexation and whether the polymer is amorphous or crystalline (Athawale et al., 1999). To substantiate these results, Scanning electron microscopy SEM was performed. SEM is the most versatile and widely used tools for the study of surface morphology (Sivakumar et al., 2006). The surface morphology will be correlated with results from X-ray diffraction.

In most conditions (Sayyah et al., 2011), homogeneous, smooth, brown and well adhering P(2-ABT) films were electro-

deposited on platinum electrode surface. The surface is composed of tubular or fibrillar elongated crystals with



**Figure 13** Cross sectional SEM image of P(2ABT) film formed at Pt-substrate at optimum condition of preparation (no. of cycles 5).

crystalline structure. The crystalline structure contributes to the peaks in the XRD pattern of polymer at  $2\theta$  angle equal to 18.88 and 21.26 (Yahya et al., 2006; Ritthidej et al., 2002). The pattern of polymer is shown in Fig. 12A and B.

The film thickness is measured using the cross sectional SEM images process as shown in Fig. 13. The film deposited on Pt using one to four cycles is not good for measuring thickness (irregular and not uniform shape). Using five cycles the amount of polymer increase and thickness is measured easily. From Fig. 12, the shape looks like the bundle of the chemical fibers or tubular structure as found also in Fig 10. The thickness is small  $\sim 4\ \mu\text{m}$ .

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion the above data reveals the following:

1. The initial rate of electropolymerization reaction of 2-ABT on platinum electrode is relatively low. The fraction of the dissolved product may be strongly dependent on temperature and monomer or HCl concentrations.
2. The orders of the electropolymerization reaction of 2-ABT on platinum electrode are 1.32, 1.19, and 1.08 with respect to HCl, monomer, and electrolyte concentration respectively.
3. The apparent activation energy is found to be  $82.91\ \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ .
4. The prepared P(2-ABT) shows a smooth surface, well adhered on Pt surface with uniform thickness and crystalline in nature with small thickness  $\sim 4\ \mu\text{m}$ .
5. From cyclic voltammetry studies, it is clear that the cyclic voltammogram consists of two irreversible anodic peaks at +90 and +1320 mV vs. SCE, and one reactive peak on reversing the potential beyond +500 mV vs. SCE.
6. The electrodeposition of the polymer film on platinum electrode may be described partially by a diffusion-controlled process with diffusion coefficient  $2.68 \times 10^{-10}\ \text{m}^2\ \text{s}^{-1}$ .
7. The suggested mechanism confirms with the experiments results and analysis and could be used for the electrosynthesis of P(2-ABT) at Pt electrode using the same mentioned parameters.

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