

## Concentration Dependent Effects of Green Inhibitors on Gravimetric Indices of Corrosion Linked Metal Integrity

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### Abstract

The use of plant phytochemicals as anti-corrosion agents is gaining widespread acceptance. This study was designed to evaluate the concentration dependent effects of green inhibitors from *Pennisetum purpureum* (elephant grass) *Mangifera indica* (mango leaves) and *Heveabrasiliensis* (rubber leaves) on some gravimetric indicators of corrosion linked metal stability. The material strength, weight loss, corrosion rate of the metal coupons and the inhibition efficiency of the green inhibitors were determined after 3 days. Our findings revealed a slight increase ( $p=0.05$ ) in material strength (MS) of *Pennisetum purpureum* inhibitor treated - iron and steel at 100% inhibitor relative to their controls (minus *Pennisetum purpureum* -iron and steel coupons) and also relative to the (+*Mangifera indica* inhibitor and + *Heveabrasiliensis* -treated iron and steel coupons at 50% concentration. The material strength for *P. purpureum*-treated aluminium was slightly increased ( $p>0.05$ ). There was also a slight decrease ( $p>0.05$ ) in the weight loss of *P. purpureum* exposed iron coupon at a 100% inhibitor when compared to the controls, 50% *P. purpureum* exposed iron coupon and at 50 and 100% *H. brasiliensis* and *M. indica*-treated iron coupon in 15% acid medium. Pre-treatment of test metals with the combined green inhibitors at 50 and 100% concentration caused a significant ( $p\leq 0.05$ ) decreases in weight loss and increases in material strength of all three test metals when compared to their respective inhibitor-free controls, and when treatment was done with a single green inhibitor. There was a slight decrease in the corrosion rate of iron, aluminium and steel coupons in acid medium treated with 50% *P. purpureum* inhibitor when compared to the same parameter of other green inhibitors evaluated in this study, albeit, the reduction was not significant ( $p>0.05$ ). There was a further decreases ( $p\leq 0.05$ ) in the corrosion rate of iron and steel when the combined green inhibitors at 100%



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concentration (+All green inhibitors (PAGI) at 100%) were used relative to when treatment was done using individual green inhibitors separately. The inhibition efficiency of the combined green inhibitors at 50% concentration on aluminium, iron and steel was 86% 57% and 60% respectively. While the treatment of the same coupons with combined inhibitors (+PAGI at 100% concentration) increased the inhibition efficiency to 88% 75% and 74% for aluminium, iron and steel respectively. Overall, the study revealed the possible anti-corrosion effects of the extracts of *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* on aluminium, iron and steel coupons and the synergism in anti-corrosion characteristics of these green inhibitors when combined. This study establishes the anticorrosion effects of *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* extracts.

## Introduction

*Heveabrasiliensis*, *Pennisetum purpureum* and *Mangifera indica* are common tropical plants known for their fast growing, high productivity and high concentration of phytochemicals respectively. *M. indica* is known for its fruits rather than its leaves making the leaves constitute wastes as they fall off the tree. *P. purpureum*, grows as weed, and springs out easily from uncultivated land while *H. brasiliensis* plants are grown for its latex making the leaves also readily available for use. Corrosion of steel and pipes in the oil and gas industry is a major problem facing the industry. This is because metals have the characteristic of being able to dissolve in aqueous solutions over a long period of time. This dissolution tendency of metal or steel is usually mitigated against by the use of corrosion inhibitors.<sup>1</sup> The steel and metallic coupons utilized in our present study are familiar materials used in construction of pipes and vessels use for crude storage and storage of other chemicals used in the industry. The common problem with using these materials is their dissolution in acidic solutions which is a common solution of the oil and gas industrial processes.<sup>2-4</sup> The use of inhibitors to prevent corrosion and dissolution of steel and metals in these processes is common.<sup>2-4</sup> In the past, anti-corrosion substances were attributed as chemical agents either with the ability to resist corrosion completely or substances acting through a mechanism involving changes in material of construction for the specific application or substances that could control corrosion via the creation of a barrier layer between the material cum media to avoid direct contact between the two and finally as substances that act by modification of the corrosion media. Anti-corrosion substances use as corrosion media modifiers are usually phosphates, chromates and silicates. The problem remains with

the environmental unfriendly and costly nature of the aforementioned substances. In recent times, there are mounting studies on the use of green inhibitors as anti-corrosion agents.<sup>5,6</sup> Plants are known to contain certain bioactive principle called phytochemicals which are natural and non-nutritive substances that give protection against external stresses.<sup>7</sup> Researches on green inhibitors are on the increase because of their non-toxic and eco-friendly effects which is deficient in chemical based anti-corrosion agents.

This study, was therefore designed to analyze the concentration dependent effects of green inhibitors efficiency on weight loss and material strength of laboratory-induced corroded metallic coupons using three different green inhibitors separately on one hand and on the other hand, combined.

## Materials and Method

### Collection and Identification of Plant Materials

*H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* leaves were collected fresh during the dry season from communities in Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria. The leaves were subsequently identified and authenticated by a botanist in the Biological Science Section of the Department of Industrial Safety and Environmental Technology, Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State, Nigeria. The harvested leaves were thoroughly rinsed with distilled water and left to drain at room temperature, air -dried, pulverized using 9245 Panasonic Blender and stored until ready for use.<sup>7</sup>

### Collection and Identification of Metal Coupons

Carbon steel, iron and aluminum coupons were collected and identified by the Welding and Fabrication Unit of Mechanical Engineering

Technology Department of Petroleum Training Institute Effurun, Nigeria.

### Determination of Strength of Plant Extracts (Green Inhibitors) used as Green Inhibitors

The leaves of *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* (100g) were used for this study. The pulverized leaves were dissolved in deionized water, allowed to stand for 30mins; it was then filtered using size 20 Whatman filter paper. The solid residue of the filtrate was determined by drying 1ml of the filtrate at 200°C in a pre-weighed watch glass. The solid content was found to be 0.80mg/ml.<sup>8</sup>

A 50% and 100%(v/v) solutions of the extract was prepared by subjecting 50g and 100g of the pulverized leaves in 100ml of deionized water. The mixture was then subjected to control heating using the water bath until a paste like residue was formed. The residue formed was mixed with the 15% HCl in the ratio 4:1 before the insertion of metal coupons.<sup>9</sup>

### Determination of Weight Loss (Kg) of Metals (Astm C694-90A, 2016)<sup>10</sup> as Outlined by<sup>11</sup>

Metal coupons collected from Petroleum Training Institute Welding Workshop were immersed in 15% HCl medium for 2hrs. The coupons were sand papered, rinsed with deionized water and dried in the oven until a constant weight was obtained. They were then allowed to cool in a desiccator and weighed to determined pre-treatment weight (W1). The metal coupons were then immersed in 15% HCl for a maximum of 72hrs without any inhibitor.<sup>12</sup> Another set of iron aluminum and steel coupons were also immersed in 15% HCl treated with extracts of *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* respectively (in the ratio 4:1). At the end of 72hrs, the metal coupons were retrieved from the respective medium, rinsed under running water, placed in an oven at 70°C for 15 minutes to dry. The coupons were then placed in a desiccator to cool before determination of final weight (W2) using the Mettler Toledo Weighing Balance (model ELF11/148). This was done according to modified Standard Practice for Preparing, Cleaning and Evaluating Corrosion Test Specimens (SPPCECTS). The weight loss was determined as the difference between the weight of the coupons before treatment with medium and inhibitor and weight after treatment by 100 as shown below:

$$\text{weight loss of metal coupons} = \frac{W2 - W1}{W1} \times 100$$

Where

W2= weight loss in gram after treatment  
W1= weight loss in gram before treatment

### Determination of Material Strength

The material strength of the metal was determined as undeformed stress using the compression loading. Hence stress was expressed as

$$\sigma = F/A$$

Where F= force (N) acting on undeformed area A (m<sup>2</sup>)

### Determination of Corrosion Rate of Metals

Corrosion rate was calculated according to the method outlined by<sup>13</sup> assuming uniform corrosion over the entire metal strip surface. The corrosion rate in mil per year (mpy) was calculated by substituting the weight loss of the respective metal in the formula:

Where

W= weight loss in grams  
K= constant (22, 300)  
D=metal density in g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
A= coupon area (cm<sup>2</sup>)  
T= time = (3 days)

Determination of inhibition efficiency of inhibitors

The inhibition efficiency of the inhibitors were calculated using the formula

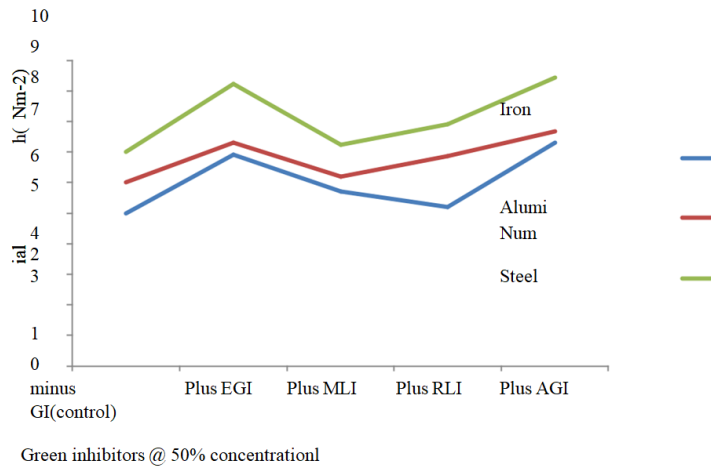
$$IE_m (\%) = \frac{CR_{cont} - CR_{inh}}{CR_{cont}} \times 100$$

CR<sub>cont</sub> = corrosion rate of sample in acid media only (minus inhibitor)

CR<sub>inh</sub> = corrosion rate of metal + inhibitor

### Results

Figures 1 and 2 show the results of the effects of green inhibitors of *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* inhibitors at 50% and 100% concentration on material strength of aluminum, iron and steel in 15% HCl as corrosion medium.

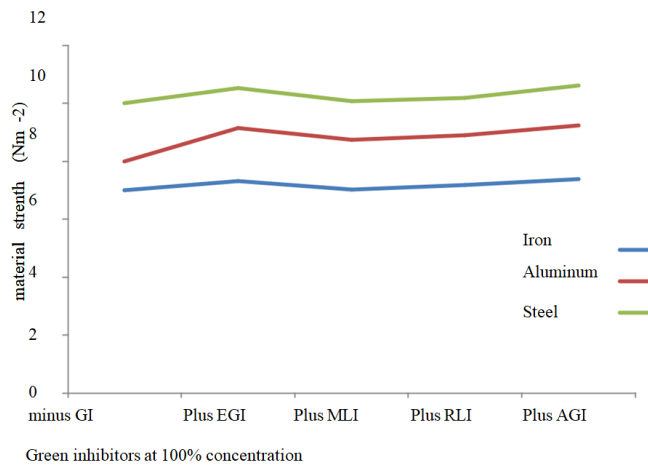


**Fig. 1: Effects of Green Inhibitors on material strength of metals**

(-) GI= minus green inhibitor (control); (+) EGI= plus *P. purpureum* inhibitor; (+) MLI= plus *M. indica* inhibitors (+) RLI= plus *H. brasiliensis* inhibitors; (+) AGI= combined green inhibitors

The result of the effects of green inhibitors on material strength of metal coupons is represented on Figure 1. The material strength of (+) EGI was significantly elevated ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) when compared to (-) GI metal coupons. Combination of the three

green inhibitors, (+) AGI, caused a further increase in material strength of metal coupons relative to (+) EGI exposed coupons. Although, the difference was not significant ( $p \geq 0.05$ ).



**Fig. 2: Effects of Green inhibitors on material strength of metals**

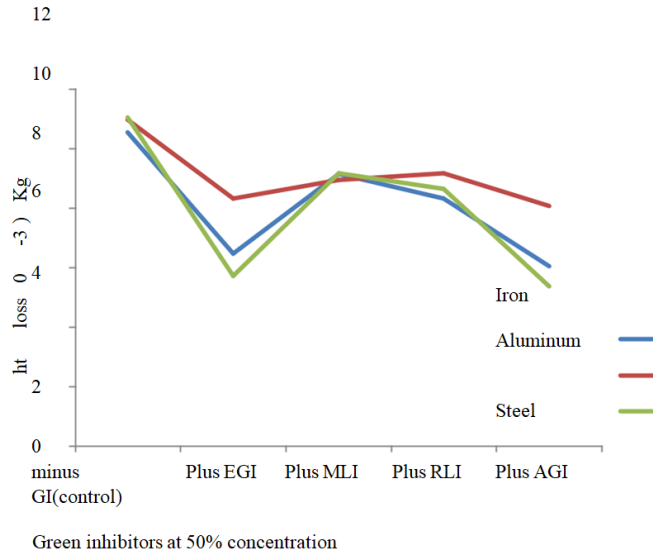
(-) GI= minus green inhibitor (control); (+) EGI= plus *P. purpureum* inhibitor; (+) MLI= plus *M. indica* inhibitors (+) RLI= plus *H. brasiliensis* inhibitors; (+) AGI= combined green inhibitors

The relationship between material strength of iron, aluminum and steel strips at 100% green inhibitors are represented in Figure 2.0. There was a slight decrease ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) in the material strength of iron, aluminium and steel in the absence of green inhibitor (-) GI, relative to the material strength of metals when

(+) EGI was present at 100% concentration. There was also a slight elevation ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) in the material strengths of iron, aluminium and steel when all green inhibitors were combined, (+) AGI, when compared to when they were used individually (+EGI, + MLI and + RLI).

Figures 3 and 4 show the effects of green inhibitors from *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* inhibitors at 50 and 100% concentration on weight

loss of aluminum, iron and steel in 15% HCl as corrosion medium

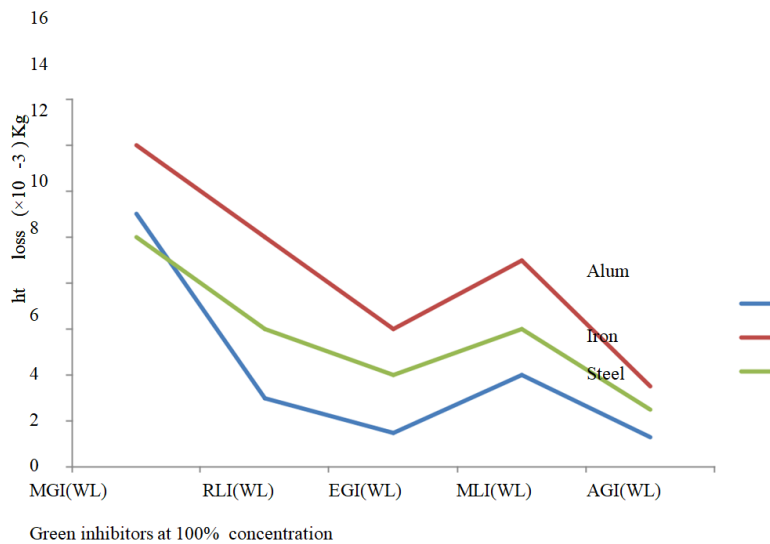


**Fig. 3: Effects of green inhibitors on weight loss of metals**

(-) GI= minus green inhibitor (control); (+) EGI= plus *P. purpureum* inhibitor; (+) MLI= plus *M. indica* inhibitors; (+) RLI= plus *H. brasiliensis* inhibitors; (+) AGI= combined green inhibitors

The result of the effects of green inhibitors at 50% concentration on weight loss of metal coupons is represented on Figure 3.0. There was a decrease in weight loss of (+) EGI when compared to (-) GI

treated metal coupons. Combined treatment of coupons with (+) AGI caused a further reduction ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in weight loss relative to the control, (-) GI.



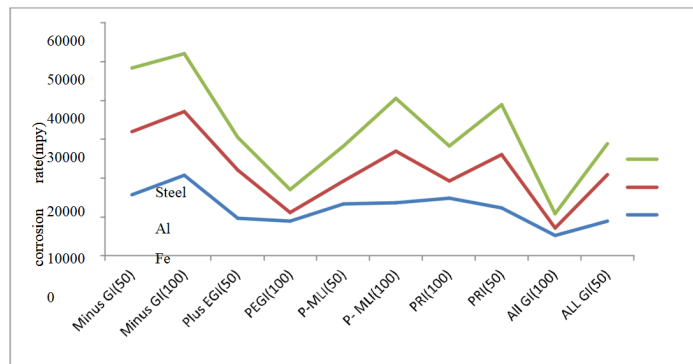
**Fig. 4: Effects of green inhibitors on Weight loss of metals at 100%**

(-) GI= minus green inhibitor (control); (+) EGI= plus *P. purpureum* inhibitor; (+) MLI= plus *M. indica* inhibitors; (+) RLI= plus *H. brasiliensis* inhibitors; (+) AGI= combined green inhibitors and WL=weight loss

The result of the effects of green inhibitors at 100% concentration on weight loss of aluminium, iron and steel coupons is represented in Figure 4.0. There was a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrease in weight loss of (+) EGI - treated aluminium coupon when compared to (-) GI treated coupons. Treatment of iron and steel with (+) EGI showed a decrease in weight loss relative to their corresponding controls, (+) *M.indica* (WL), and (+) *H.brasiliensis* (WL). Combined

treatment of metal coupons with (+) AGI caused a further reduction ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in weight loss relative to the (+) EGI inhibitor only.

Figure 5.0 shows the effects of green inhibitors from *H.brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* green inhibitors at (50 and 100)% concentration as corrosion inhibitors on corrosion rate of aluminium, iron and steel in 15% HCl as corrosion medium



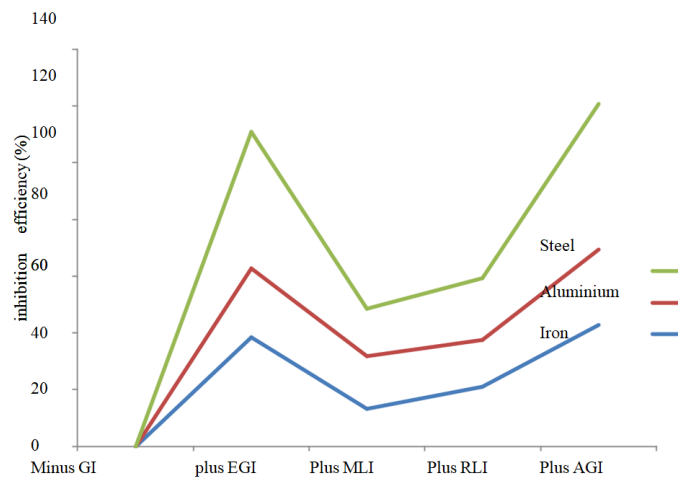
Green inhibitors at 50 and 100% material

**Fig. 5: effect of Green Inhibitors from *Heveabrasiliensis* *Pennisetum purpureum* and *Mangifera indica* at (50 and 100) % concentration on corrosion rate**

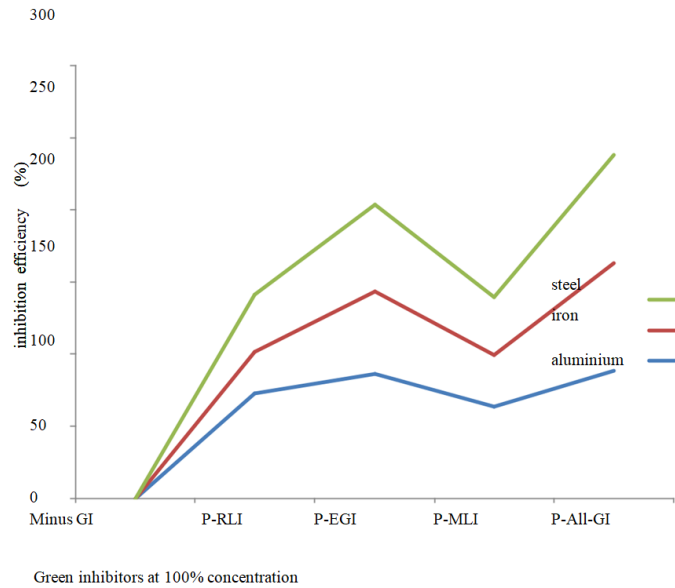
(-) GI= minus green inhibitor (control); (+) EGI= plus *P. purpureum* inhibitor; (+) MLI= plus *M. indica* inhibitors; (+) RLI= plus *H. brasiliensis* inhibitors; (+) AGI= combined green inhibitors

The effects of green inhibitors of *H.brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* at (50 and 100) % on corrosion rate of metals are represented in Figure 5.0. Plus *P. purpureum* inhibitors (plus EGI and PEGI-100) caused a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) decrease in corrosion rate of aluminium, iron and steel relative

to the other green inhibitors, (+)MLI at 100%, (+) PRI at 100%, and +RLI). Combined (+AGI at 100) caused a further decrease in corrosion rate of iron, aluminium and steel when compared to plus *P. purpureum* green inhibitor at 100% concentration



**Fig. 6: Inhibition efficiency of green inhibitors at 50% concentration**



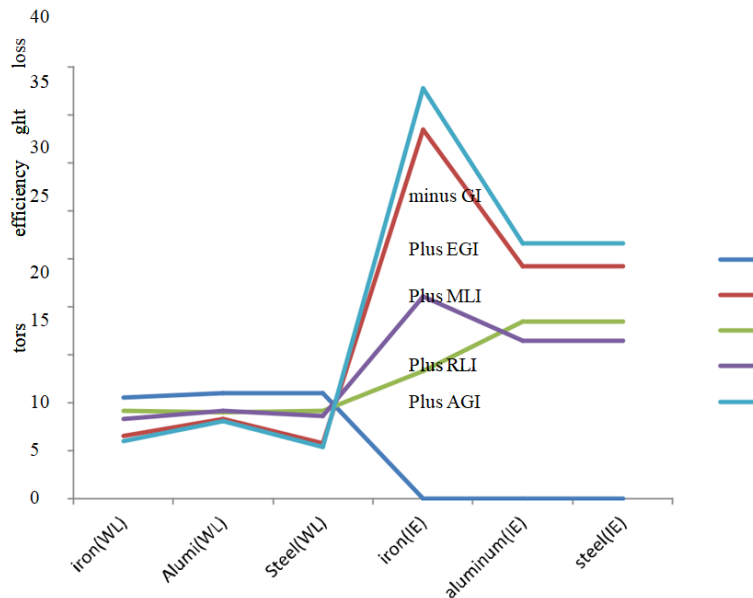
**Fig. 7: Inhibition efficiency of green inhibitors at 100% concentration**

Figures 6.0 and 7.0 show the inhibition efficiency of *H.brasilienses*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* inhibitors on aluminum, iron and steel in 15% HCl as corrosion medium at (50 and 100) % concentration respectively

60% at 50% concentration for aluminium, iron and steel coupons respectively while treatment of the same medium with combined green inhibitors at 100% concentration caused an increase in the inhibition efficiency to 88%, 75% and 74% for aluminium, iron and steel respectively.

The results of inhibition efficiency of green inhibitors are represented in Figures 6.0 and 7.0. The inhibition efficiency for plus all inhibitor was 86%, 57% and

Figure 8.0 shows the relationship between inhibitors efficiency and the weight loss of metal coupons



**Fig. 8: Green inhibitors efficiency and weight loss at 50% concentration of green inhibitors**

The relationship between inhibitor's efficiency and weight loss of coupons in 15% acid medium is presented in Figure 8. There was a positive correlation between the inhibition efficiency of all green inhibitors (+ AGI) and the low weight losses of iron aluminium and steel treated with (+) AGI. There high inhibition efficiency ( $p=0.05$ ) of *P. purpureum* inhibitor treated iron, aluminium and steel correlated directly with the low weight losses of the respective metal coupons.

### Discussion

The ability of a given metal or material to withstand stress or strain is usually used as an indicator of metal integrity.<sup>6</sup> Observation of Figures 1 and 2 showed a general increase in the material strength of metal coupons exposed to the different green inhibitors utilized in this study and an increase in the material strength of elephant grass-coupon treated iron and steel at both 50 and 100 (%) when compared to their controls (minus inhibitor acid exposed metals). This could be due to the ability of the *P. purpureum* green inhibitor to avert rusting of the metal coupons and consequently sustain coupon integrity. Our finding is in alignment with the report of.<sup>14</sup>

A review on the anticorrosion tendencies of some phytochemicals in various corrosion medium showed a positive correlation between plant phytochemicals and metallic coupons in all the media studied.<sup>15,16</sup> Observation of Figures 1-8 showed slight to significant improvement on the material strength, weight loss, corrosion rate and inhibition efficiency of the metal coupons and green inhibitors examined in this study. Our result is in tandem with the reports of<sup>17-20</sup>

Study showed the tendency of some green inhibitors to reverse corrosion of steel.<sup>20</sup> In our present study, corrosion of the three metallic coupons was inhibited by the extracts of *P. purpureum*, *H. brasiliensis* and *M. indica* as evident by the enhanced weight and material strength of coupons. Our findings from this study are in tandem with the work of.<sup>19</sup>

Study also showed that the inhibition efficiency increased with increased inhibitors concentration<sup>18</sup>. This claim was verified in our present study at higher concentration, 100% green inhibitors concentration, there was increased inhibition efficiency of all metallic coupons relative to the 50% concentration. The major interest of this study was to determine if there is any possible relationship between the extracts of *H. brasiliensis*, *P. purpureum* and *M. indica* (green inhibitors) on some gravimetry indicators of metal corrosion. The possibility of the green inhibitors examined in this study to inhibit corrosion was established.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors do not have any conflict of interest.

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