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Use of  $^{14}\text{C}$ -Marked Organic Compounds to Investigate the Surface in Corrosion Inhibition of Iron in  $\text{CO}_2$  Saturated Solutions

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In this study,  $^{14}\text{C}$ -marked organic compounds such as phenylalanine and n-decylamine have been used as probes to investigate the surface of iron during its corrosion in pH 4  $\text{CO}_2$  saturated NaCl solution. The surface coverages are strongly dependent on the applied potential. The adsorption curves (surface coverage-potential curve) of phenylalanine and n-decylamine show bell-shape curve with maximum. The adsorption characteristic of organic compound is substantially same both in  $\text{CO}_2$  free solution and in  $\text{CO}_2$  saturated solution. The maximum adsorption was obtained at ca. -650mV (vs. NHE) both for phenylalanine and for n-decylamine. The maximum surface concentration appears at about 100mV more negative than the corrosion potential (-550mV vs. NHE). This potential of the maximum adsorption of organic compound is consistent with the potential of zero charge of iron electrode that measured by means of double layer capacitance measurement. Maximum surface coverage of phenylalanine and n-decylamine in  $\text{CO}_2$  saturated solution were  $0.576 \times 10^{-10}$  moles/cm<sup>2</sup> and  $2.21 \times 10^{-10}$  moles/cm<sup>2</sup>, respectively. The maximum coverage is strongly related to the corrosion inhibition efficiency.

The adsorption of inhibitor-like organic compounds on iron shows similar behavior just as they would have on a metal surface in  $\text{CO}_2$  free solution. It is postulated that at least some part of the surface is therefore bare and organic inhibitors adsorb on this and not on iron carbonate films (which may, however, cover part of the surface).