

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLEDGE

In presence of EDTA and HEDP Blended, the Crystal Growth, Polymorphism, and Morphology of CaCO₃ under Co₂ Atmosphere

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Abstract:

Polymorphic compositions of CaCO₃ synthesized under the influence of a blended system of EDTA and HEDP between 60, 80, 100 °C using a controlled precipitation technique from CaCl₂ solution using co₂ gas from Inox cylinder, has been investigated. The phases and structures of the samples were characterized by FTIR, and powder XRD techniques. The morphological studies were carried out using SEM, scanning electron microscope, . Usually, at higher temperatures vaterite and aragonite are transformed into stable calcite. Here, we report the stabilization of metastable aragonite and least stable vaterite in the presence of a blended system of EDTA and HEDP. At 10ml and 20ml at 100c, We also report a novel morphology, rose like structure for vaterite ,(button rose) which is not reported earlier.

1. Introduction

In recent years, design and synthesis of calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) one of the most abundant natural inorganic mineral has gained much importance due to its wide range of applications in cosmetics, medicines, controlling biomineralization, and so forth.ⁱ⁻ⁱⁱⁱ It is also one of the most predominant components of scale found in boiler tubes and in heat exchangers.^{iv-vii} Generally, CaCO₃ exists in three crystalline polymorphic forms, in the order of increasing stability: vaterite, aragonite, and calcite. The crystalline structures of these phases are rhombohedral orthorhombic, and hexagonal for calcite, aragonite, and vaterite, respectively.^{viii,ix} Traditional strategies for the control of polymorphs often involve changing solvents, temperature, pH and other growth conditions, usage of polymer additives, and so forth.^{x,xi} Because different polymorphic forms of same substance have different properties, polymorphism plays an important role in controlling the scale formation using chelating agents or other chemicals used in internal treatment. For example, it is obvious from literature that the predominant polymorphic form of calcium carbonate in scale is calcite and vaterite is seldom present.^{xii-xiv} Polymorphism of CaCO₃ precipitated in a constant composition environment has been reported by Tai et al. They have reported that the solution pH and temperature are the most important factors that determines which polymorphs are obtained^{xv} However, one of the longstanding challenges of crystallization is the ability to predict and control polymorphism. Reports suggests that, in the presence of scale inhibitors, a substantial amount of vaterite and aragonite occur in scale, whereas in the absence of scale inhibitors, calcite is almost the only crystal form. Moreover, for the scale inhibitor with higher inhibition efficiency, more vaterite and aragonite are present in scale.^{xiii,xiv} Appearance of a phase is based on the super saturation of that phase under that particular environment and how the dissolution and recrystallization/transformation takes place. The super saturation “σ” proposed by Nielsen and Toft¹⁶ is given by $\sigma = (IP/K_{sp})^{1/2} - 1$ (where IP is the ionic product, defined as $IP = a_{Ca^{2+}} \times a_{CO_3^{2-}}$ for this system, and K_{sp} is the solubility product of CaCO₃). Similarly, the mechanisms of crystallization and transformation of calcium carbonates has been reported by Swada. The study revealed that the transformation from vaterite to calcite proceed by a recrystallization process.^{xvii} Many studies have investigated the influence of additives on the crystallization of CaCO₃.^{xviii-xx} Most of the methods reported in the literature employed precipitation of CaCO₃ under the influence of a single chelating agent/additive.^{xxi-xxii} To the best of our knowledge, study on the synergistic effect using a blended system of two or more additives to control the CaCO₃ scale at higher temperatures has not been reported yet. As a prelude to this exercise, we have chosen a combination (blended system) of two additives ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid disodium salt (EDTA) and commercial grade 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid (HEDP). Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and 1-hydroxyethylidene- 1,1-diphosphonic acid (HEDP) are well-known complexing agents and are widely used as a chelating agent in internal water treatment formulations.^{xiii,xxv-xxvii} EDTA is reported to retard the crystal growth of calcite and aragonite.^{xxvii} Aquasoft 330, a commercial grade HEDP is widely used in industries in India and reports are available on its ability to control the morphology

of CaCO₃ and calcium oxalate.^{xxvii–xxix} The purpose of this study is to understand the effect of a blended system of EDTA and HEDP (Aquasoft 330) on the crystal growth, polymorphism and morphology of CaCO₃ between 60⁰ and 100 °C.

2. Experimental Section

Analytical grade CaCl₂ obtained from Himedia chemicals, disodium salt of EDTA (C₁₀H₁₄N₂Na₂O₈.2H₂O) from Qualigens Chemicals and commercial grade 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid ((HEDP (C₂H₈O₇P₂), Aquasoft 330) was obtained from Satyajith Chemicals Pvt Ltd., Mumbai.

Sample No	Temperature	Additives ml EDTA+HEDP	Time	Initial PH	Final PH
1	60	10	10hr	8.10	8.31
2	80	10	10hr	8.7	8.25
3	100	10	10hr	8.9	8.45
4	60	20	10hr	8.8	8.30
5	80	20	10hr	8.7	8.31
6	100	20	10hr	8.6	8.29
7	60	30	10hr	8.9	8.45
8	80	30	10hr	8.7	8.25
9	100	30	10hr	8.9	8.45

Table 1: Reaction Conditions, Initial and Final pH of Solutions at Various Temperatures

The above chemicals were used as supplied without further purification. Double distilled water was used to make all aqueous solutions. A rotamantle with temperature controller, manufactured by Remi was used for experiments below 100 °C.

2.1. Synthesis of Samples

CaCO₃ samples were synthesized by using CO₂ gas from inox air cylinder. (80-85) bubbles per minute. In a typical synthesis, 200 mL of 0.1 M CaCl₂ and 10 mL of 0.1 M EDTA, 10 mL of 0.1 M HEDP were taken in a round-bottom flask and heated to 60 °C using rotamantle with constant stirring. For a system at 60 °C, the sample was aged for 10 h. In practice, it was necessary to provide more time at elevated temperatures. Hence, for experiments at all other temperatures the samples were follow given the above table. After digestion, the samples were filtered through (Whatman 40) filter paper and washed 6–7 times with hot distilled water to remove any residual chelants and dried at 45 °C in a hot air oven. The details of reaction conditions are provided in Table 1. The initial and the final pH of the solution were measured.

2.2. Characterization

The composition of the samples was confirmed by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), and Powder XRD methods and the morphological studies were done using scanning electron microscope (SEM). FTIR spectra were taken in the range 500 to 4000 cm⁻¹ using Avatar-330 and JASCO-5300, after KBr pelletization. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were recorded on a Bruker D8 Advanced XRD diffractometer with Cu K α radiation at $\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$ with step size of 0.091063. Microscopic morphological images were taken using Philips XL30-ESEM using a beam voltage of 20 kV.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Characterization and Quantitative Estimation Using Powder Diffraction Technique

The powder XRD pattern and Table 2 represents the polymorphic compositions of the samples determined by Kontoyannis equation.³⁰ It could be observed that a binary mixture of calcite, vaterite and aragonite formed. At 100 °C ternary mixture of calcite, vaterite, and aragonite formed. The samples corresponding to 10 ml, 20 ml at 100 °C showed peaks corresponding to vaterite with very little aragonite. A significant amount of aragonite was found only at 60 °C. The data indicated that, the trend from aragonite to vaterite is obvious at 60, 80 °C (JCPDS-741867). Appearance of aragonite at 80 °C and gradual decrease in its mole fraction with increase in temperature and the steady increase in mole fraction of vaterite between 80 and 100 °C demonstrated that the blended system favours the formation of vaterite at 100, 80, and 60 °C. Calcite was formed only at 60 °C and the mole fraction indicated that its presence is insignificant. The diffraction peaks well matched with JCPDS cards 862339, 760606, and 741867 for calcite, aragonite, and vaterite, respectively. For the phase identification of respective polymorphs, individual XRD spectra are provided with peak values as Supporting Information.

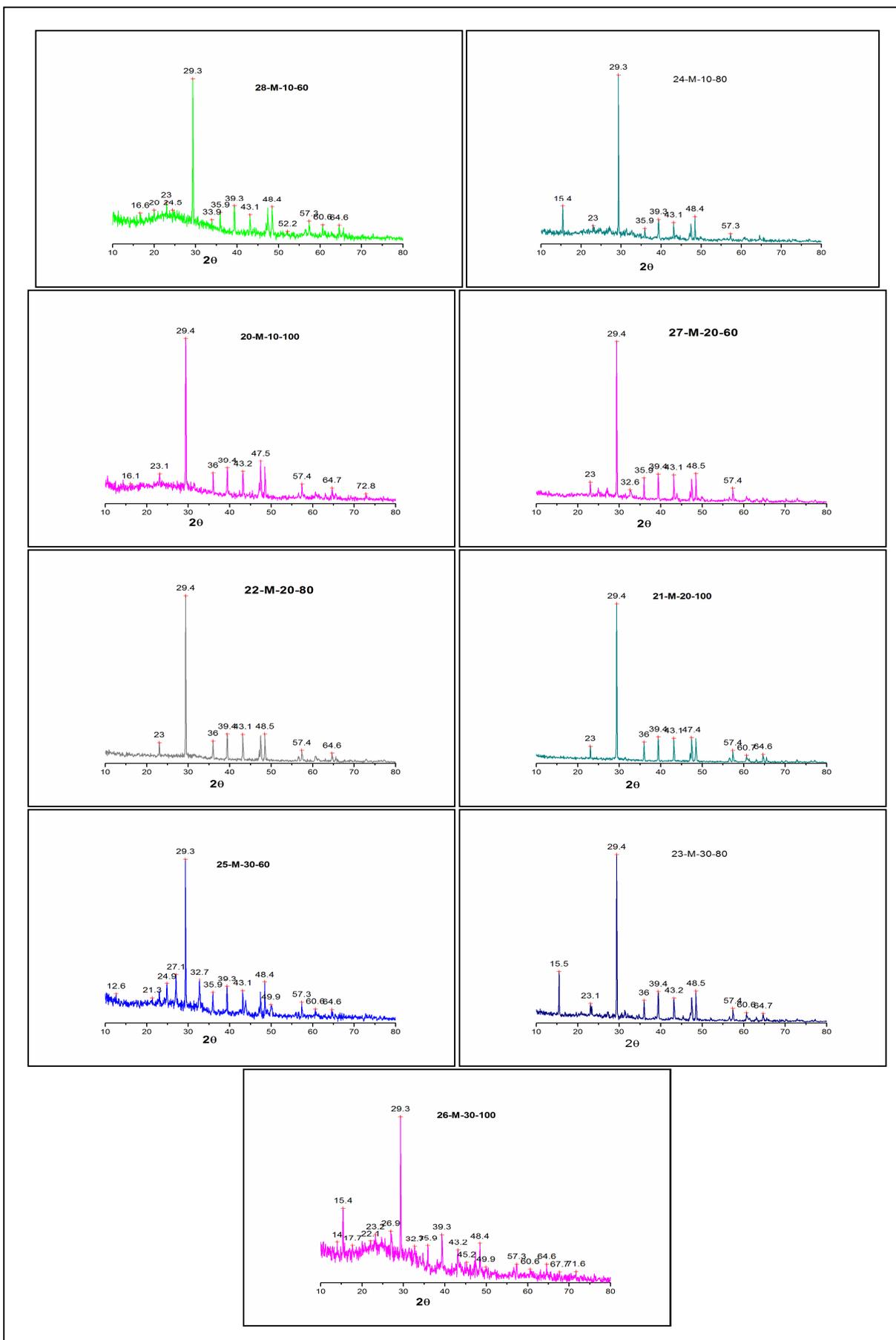


Figure 1: Samples

Temperature	With out any additive			In the presence of EDTA +HEDP		
	Calcite	Aragonite	Vaterite	Calcite	Aragonite	Vaterite
60	81	19	00	04	46	50
80	12	88	00	13	22	65
100	35	65	00	02	04	94

Table 2: Molar Fraction of CaCO_3 Polymorphs in the presence of EDTA +HEDP and absence of additive at various Temperatures.

3.2. FTIR Spectroscopy.

It is well known that different crystal forms of CaCO_3 show different bands in FTIR spectrum.^{xxxii-xxxiii} Hence, the polymorphic compositions of CaCO_3 crystals were primarily identified by FTIR and represented in . The reference bands observed around 700–745, 856–874, 1435–1480 cm^{-1} were assigned to the ν_4 in-plane bending, ν_2 out-of-plane bending, and ν_3 asymmetric stretching modes of CO_3^{2-} , respectively. The principal bands corresponding to aragonite (A), vaterite (V), and calcite (C) are highlighted, and wherever necessary, the FTIR were deconvoluted (660–800 cm^{-1}) to distinguish calcite from aragonite (713 and 700 cm^{-1}) as shown in Figure. The individual FTIR spectra with band values are provided in Figure as Supporting Information. The results demonstrated that, in the presence of EDTA and HEDP formation of vaterite and aragonite is facilitated with a decrease in calcite on increasing the temperature from 80 to 100 °C. This phenomenon is abnormal and against the Ostwald rule of stages. Although most reports about CaCO_3 agree with this rule, our earlier studies also reported similar observations.

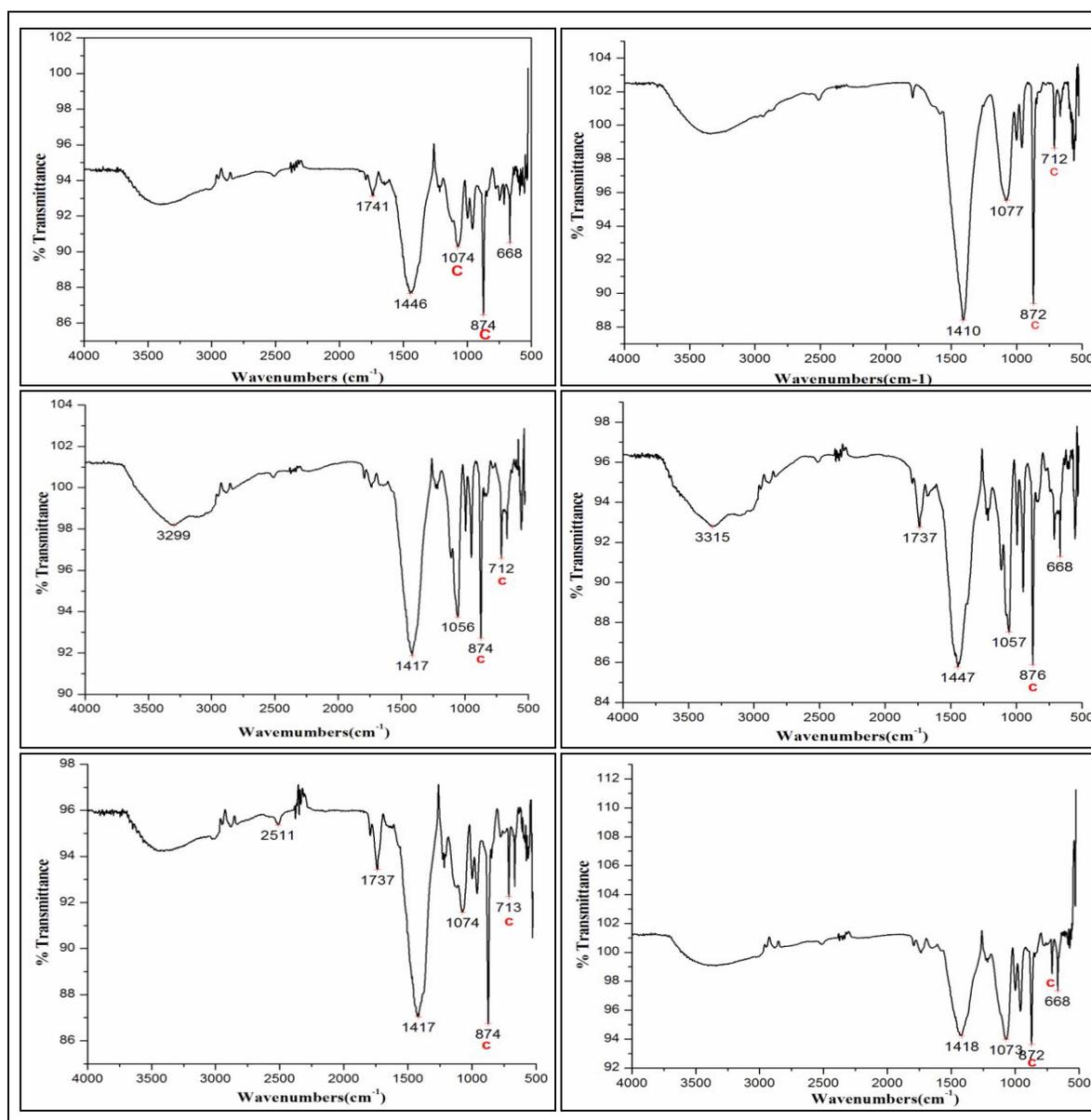


Figure 2: Samples

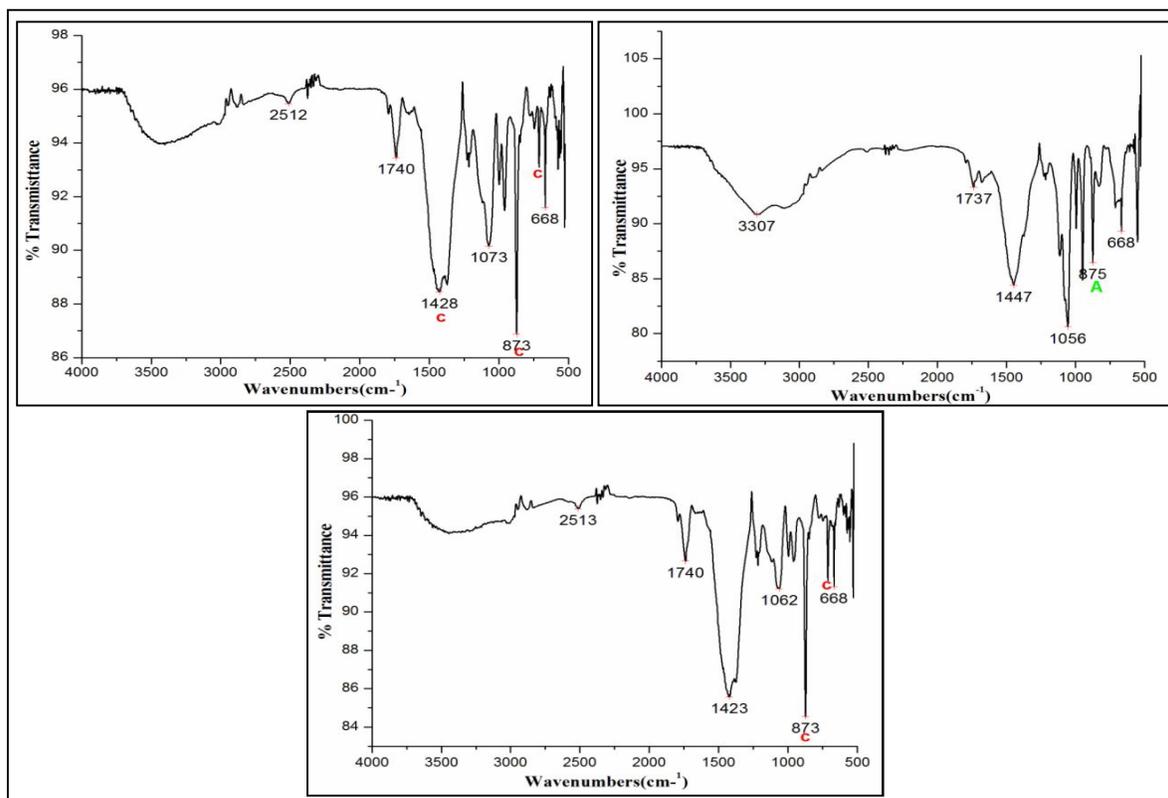
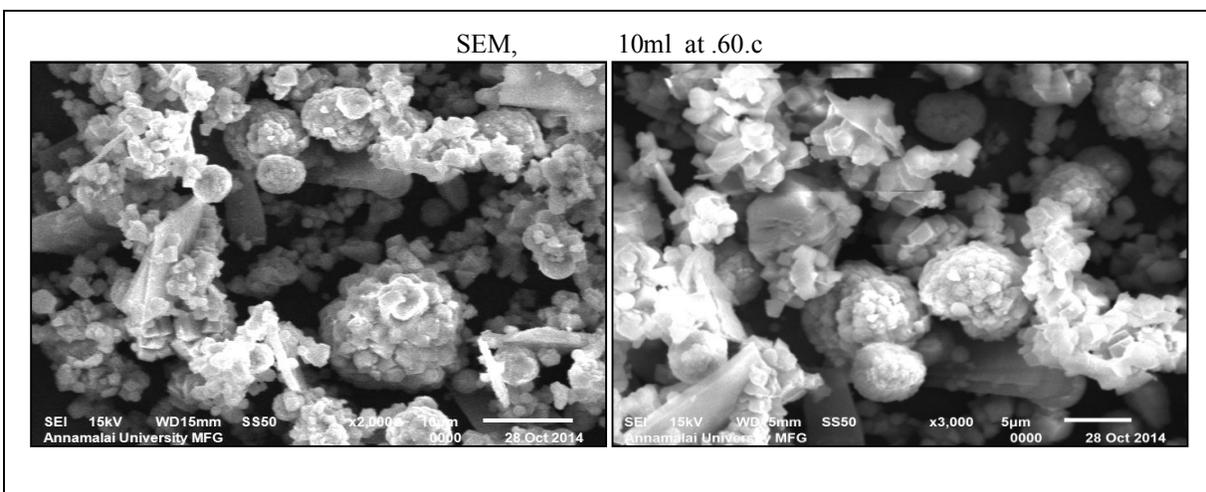


Figure 3: Samples

3.3. Morphological Studies Using SEM.

To analyze the detailed morphology, SEM performed and are presented in 4 It is evident from , that the sample prepared at 60 °C consisted of three different morphologies: spherical, flower with elongated prolate spheroid- like petals, and elongated prolate spheroids. Our earlier studies have resulted similar morphological combinations 10ml,20ml , in the presence of EDTA at 100 °C, where we had confirmed the flower and spherical morphologies to vaterite and the elongated prolate spheroids as aragonite.²⁷ Here, in the presence of EDTA and HEDP generally at 60,80,100 °C, the SEM images have spherical vaterite and they formed roselike structure (button rose) were resulted when Both spherical and rhomboidal morphologies are present in the SEM image confirming a binary mixture of vaterite and calcite in the sample. The XRD, FTIR, revealed presence of aragonite in this sample. There can be two reasons for the absence of morphologies corresponding to aragonite. First, the molar fraction of calcite and aragonite in this sample were too low and might not have been covered in the scan area. The second reason could be a possibility of an almost similar morphology as that of vaterite. The chance for the second possibility is more because the spherical morphology of vaterite in this sample is not uniform and contains some elongated prolate spheroids .



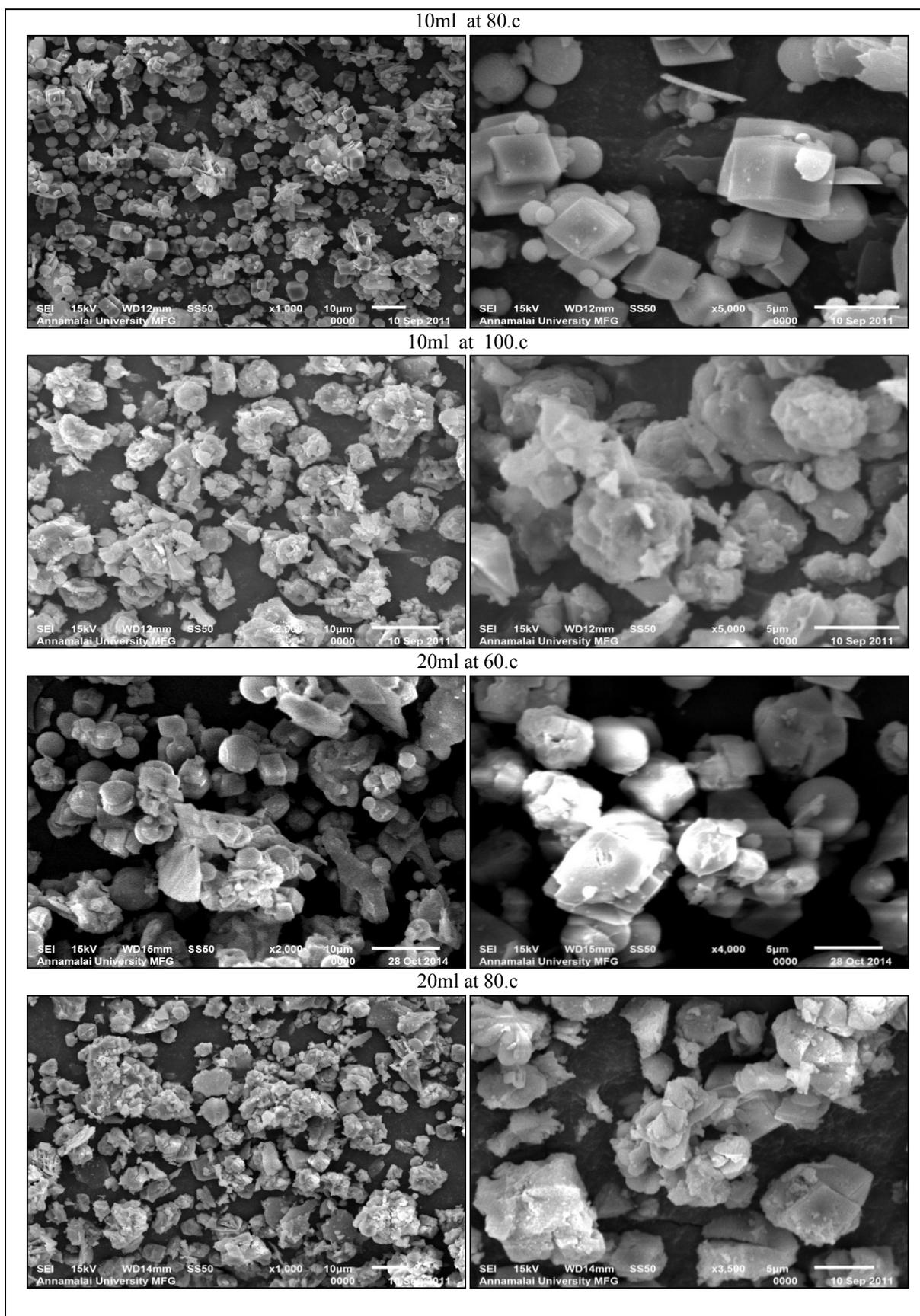
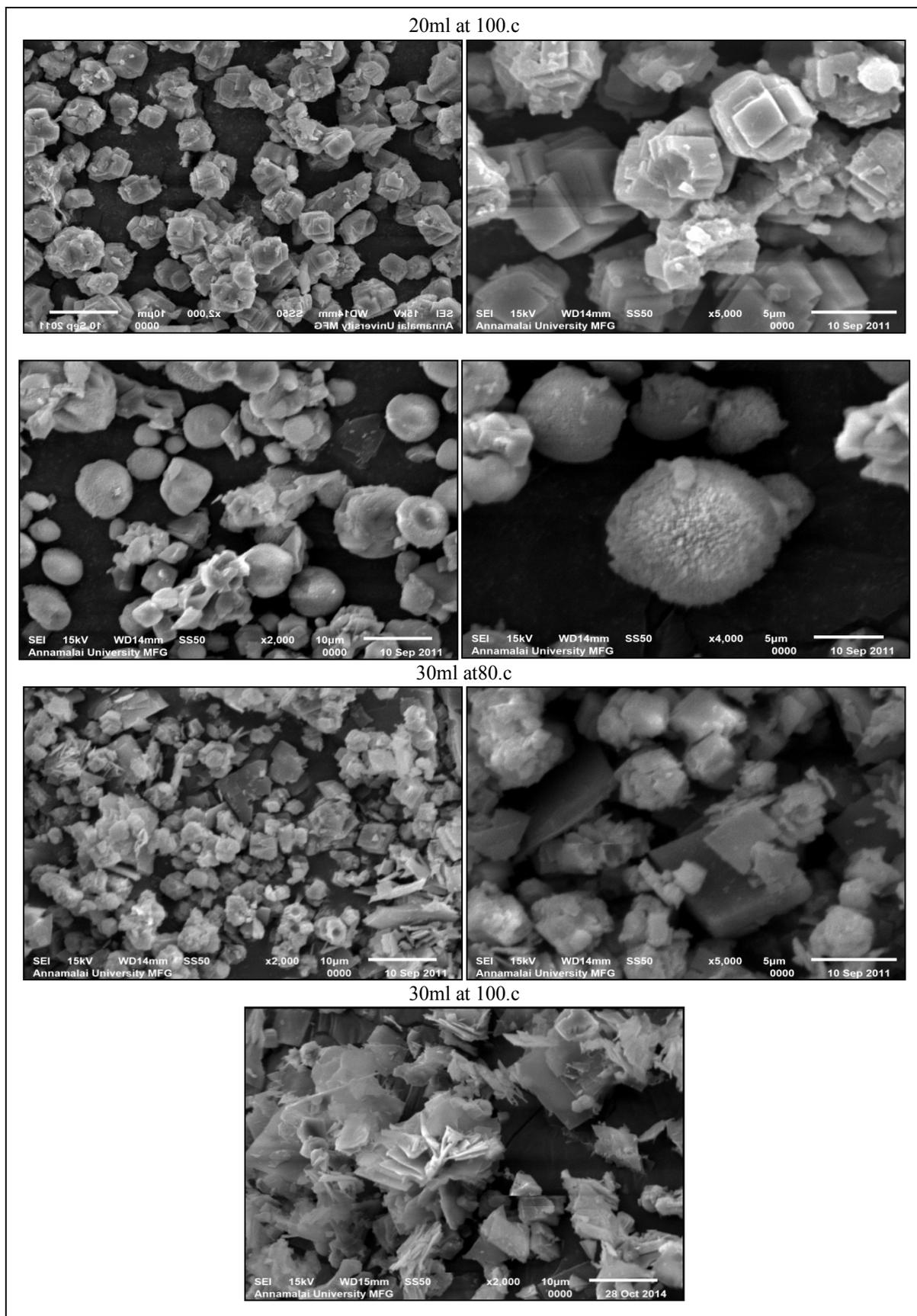


Figure 4: Samples



The morphology resembled like a closely packed bed of roses. However, it is obvious that the individual roses are not clearly distinguishable. Interesting morphological changes were observed on raising the reaction temperature from 80 to at 100 °C. The highly thickly packed bed of roses secede to give individual roselike structures having size 400 to 500 nm and petals ranging from 200 to 250 nm. It is evident from this image that the sample at 100 °C is like a closely packed bed of roses. The FTIR, and XRD results confirmed the presence of vaterite with very little aragonite in this sample. However, the molar fraction of aragonite in this sample is found to be negligible. and hence this morphology is assigned to vaterite.

3.4. Mechanism

Our previous experiments without any additive resulted into a binary mixture of calcite and aragonite below 100 °C. At 60 °C, calcite was the only polymorph which was stable. Vaterite was observed in any of the sample rarely. When EDTA was used, we found a considerable amount of vaterite at various temperatures particularly at 60 and 100 °C.^{xxvii} Similarly, our experiments with HEDP at various concentrations have shown presence of vaterite at different temperatures.^{xxviii} Both EDTA and HEDP have shown different morphologies for vaterite. Although EDTA favored three dimensional sprouts-like morphology, HEDP favored two dimensional growth leading to a sunflower like morphology.

Keeping the experimental data of individual chelating agents and the blended system side by side, the probable mechanism of synergistic effect could be drawn as follows. When both of the additives are added together, the Ca²⁺ ion present in the system will form complex with both EDTA and HEDP. At room temperature (30 °C) the TDS of the solutions showed 3260 ppm after addition of EDTA and HEDP. The amount of Ca²⁺ present in the solution addition of EDTA and HEDP could be about 4000 ppm. This requires 100 mL of 0.1 M EDTA or HEDP or both put together to form 100% complex with all Ca²⁺ ions. On addition of 20 mL each of EDTA and HEDP, which is only 40% of the stoichiometric the concentration of Ca²⁺ ions are supposed to be 2400 ppm.

Filtration of sample after cooling can redissolve a small portion of CaCO₃, but could be significant only, if additives/chelating agents are absent. Because a sufficient quantity of EDTA and HEDP is present in the system, they can easily complex the redissolved Ca²⁺ ion. HEDP, being a pentadentate ligand and having less affinity toward Ca²⁺ than EDTA, could release the Ca ions first in to the solutions with increase in temperature. As EDTA is sufficiently coordinated with Ca ions, it cannot accommodate the released Ca²⁺ ions under increasing temperature and pressure. This could increase the number of species in the system and thereby increase the entropy of the system. As the supersaturation is reached, Ca²⁺ ions are forced to form CaCO₃. As the temperature is very high, before this reaction attains equilibrium, the Ca ions coordinated to EDTA are also released in to the system. Now, the presence of HEDP and EDTA in the environment provides two different activation sites that could act individually and favor both the two and three-dimensional morphological growth of CaCO₃. Although the HEDP which favors sunflower morphology stretches the structure horizontally,

The EDTA which favors the spiked flowers acts vertically. As a result, the sunflower morphology is cramped resulting into cone shapes. This effect further enhances with the release of chelating agents (EDTA and HEDP) with time, forcing them to get wrapped in concentric circles, one over the other, finally resulting into a rose structure. From the above discussions, it is obvious that the self-assembly of these petals are induced by the synergistic effect of EDTA and HEDP.

4. Conclusion

In summary, exclusive formation of vaterite was attained through controlled precipitation of CaCO₃ in the presence of a blended system of EDTA and HEDP at 60 and 100 °C. A binary mixture of aragonite and vaterite was obtained at 60 and 100 °C and a ternary mixture of calcite, aragonite and vaterite at 60 °C. 10ml at 60 °C, 10ml, 20ml at 100 °C, roselike morphology was observed for vaterite, which was a result of the synergetic effect of EDTA and HEDP.

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