Decorated single-enantiomer phosphoramid-based silica/magnetic nanocomposites for direct enantioseparation†

Fatemeh Karimi Ahmadabad, Mehrdad Pourayoubi and Hadi Bakhshi

The nano-composites Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@(-O₂Si([CH₂]₃NH))P(═O)(NH-R(+)|CH(CH₃)(C₆H₅))₂ (Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@PTA(+)) and Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@(-O₂Si([CH₂]₃NH))P(═O)(NH-S(−)|CH(CH₃)(C₆H₅))₂ (Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@PTA(−)) were prepared and used for the chiral separation of five racemic mixtures (PTA = phosphoric triamide). The separation results show chiral recognition ability of these materials with respect to racemates belonging to different families of compounds (amine, acid, and amino-acid), which show their feasibility to be potential adsorbents in chiral separation. The nano-composites were characterized by FTIR, TEM, SEM, EDX, XRD, and VSM. The VSM curves of nano-composites indicate their superparamagnetic property, which is stable after their use in the separation process. Fe₂O₃, Fe₂O₃@SiO₂, Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@PTA(−) are regularly spherical with uniform shape and the average sizes of 17–20, 18–23, 36–47 and 43–52 nm, respectively.

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Introduction

Chirality is a major concern in modern pharmaceuticals, pesticides, flavorings, food additives, non-linear optical materials, asymmetric catalysis. Chiral recognition/resolution is of great interest and ever-increasing importance, thus large efforts have been made towards techniques suitable for this aim such as chromatography, enzyme resolution, membrane separation, and chemical recognition. In this regard, the applications of chiral materials/chiral selectors in the enantioseparations based on the formation of different diastereomeric adducts, were studied, and the interactions such as hydrogen bonding, hydrophobic/hydrophilic, π–π, dipole–dipole, and ionic were reported in the adduct formation.

Since their discovery, silica-based materials have emerged as a source of immense potential for applications like in selective adsorption, separation, catalysis, and preparation of novel functional materials. Chemically modifiable surfaces and superparamagnetic property of magnetic modified silica nanoparticles have attracted much attention. The usefulness of magnetic adsorbents is due to their easily and rapidly separation under an external magnetic field, and in such purposes Fe₂O₃ nanorods, Fe₂O₄ and Fe–Pt alloy nanoparticles, and Fe₂O₃–polymer composites were studied. Recently, with regard to chiral discrimination, some magnetic nano-structured materials decorated with appropriate chiral molecules have been inspected. Typical examples are Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@PNCD and Fe₂O₃@SiO₂@CBDMPC, where the chiral selectors PNCD and CBDMPC are substituted β-cyclodextrin and cellulose, respectively, and their most important functional groups are OH and ether oxygen. Direct separation of enantiomers via such decorated magnetic nanomaterials would show great advances compared with traditional methods of chiral separation. One example is the application of R(+)-α-methylbenzylamine-modified magnetic chiral sorbent in enantioseparation of mandelic acid.

From our previous studies on phosphorus–oxygen, phosphorus–nitrogen and phosphorus–sulfur compounds, the P=O group was found as the best hydrogen-bond acceptor with respect to the other possible acceptor groups which usually exist in the molecules, typically C==O, S==O, N–O, P==S, ester and ether oxygen atoms, nitrogen, and π-system, examined with X-ray diffraction study, statistical analysis based on the data deposited in the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD) and quantum chemical calculations in some cases. The structures investigated include both achiral and chiral phosphorus compounds.

With this background in mind, in the current article, we synthesized chiral phosphoramid enantiomers including Si–OCH₃ segment in the achiral moiety, which is sensitive to hydrolysis condensation. This characteristic helps to immobilize silicon-based chiral phosphoric triamide (PTA) on Fe₃O₄@SiO₂, to produce composite materials which dually possess the chiral and superparamagnetic properties. The target materials include the P=O functional group which allows acting as a good selector, due to relatively strong interactions with OH...
and NH units. The full characterizations of prepared composites and their behavior as adsorbents in direct enantioseparation have been investigated.

**Experimental**

**Materials**

Phosphoryl chloride (POCl₃, 99%), (R)-(+)-methylbenzylamine (R-MBA, 98%), (S)-(-)-methylbenzylamine (S-MBA, 98%) and (±)-methylbenzylamine (MBA, 98%) were bought from Sigma-Aldrich. Methanol, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran (THF), sodium chloride (NaCl), ferric chloride hexahydrate (FeCl₃·6H₂O), ferrous chloride tetrahydrate (FeCl₂·4H₂O), ammonium hydroxide (25% w/w), glycerol, tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS), 3-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (APTMS), α-tartaric acid (99%), α-phenylalanine (99%), α-valine (99%) and triethylamine (TEA, 99%) were purchased from Merck.

** Instruments**

Fourier transformed infrared (FTIR) spectra were obtained by a Buck scientific spectrometer (model EQUINOX 55) using KBr disks. The size and morphology of nanoparticles were monitored using a transmission electron microscope (TEM) from Leo (model 920 AB) with accelerating voltage of 35 kV and resolution of 1 nm. A Tescan instrument (model Mira) was also used for scanning electron microscopy (SEM) with an accelerating voltage of 35 kV and resolution of 4 nm. Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) was performed by an Oxford Instrument (model INCA). XRD patterns were recorded by a Bruker instrument (model D8 Advance) using Ni-filtered Cu Kα radiation. 31P, 1H- and 13C-nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker instrument (model D8 Advance) using solutions in THF (5 g L⁻¹). 31P-NMR (THF/DMSO-d₆) ppm: 13.5. 1H-NMR (THF/DMSO-d₆) ppm: 6.42 (s, C₂), 21.63 (s, C₁₁+6), 23.76 (s, C₁₁+6). 13C-NMR (THF/DMSO-d₆) ppm: 20.02 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.40 (t, 1H, NH), 3.48 (m, 9H, CH₃), 3.88 (t, P-OCH₃ in phosphoric triamide and Si-OH in Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ leads to adjustment requirement. Finally, the THF solvent was removed under vacuum and the prepared phosphoric triamide was used for the synthesis of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA. [α]D⁺²⁰ (in dry THF, 5 g L⁻¹) = +34.1°. Selected peaks in FTIR (cm⁻¹): 396, 3248 (N-H), 3028 (C=H aromatic), 2949 (C-H), 2844, 1190 (P=O), 1082 (Si-O), 341P(²H)-NMR (THF/DMSO-d₆, ppm): 13.35. 13C(²H)-NMR (THF/DMSO-d₆, ppm): 6.42 (s, C₂), 21.63 (s, C₁₁+6), 23.76 (s, C₁₁+6), 25.09 (d, C₁₁, 3P-C = 6.5 Hz), 46.22 (s, C₄), 50.10–50.90 (C₁₁+6), 126.26, 126.35, 126.80, 128.10, 128.53 (C₈₋₁₀₋₁₄₋₁₆), 146.44 (d, C₇₋₁₃), 147.70 (d, C₇₋₁₃, 3P-C = 7.2 Hz). ¹H-NMR (THF/DMSO-d₆, ppm): 0.56 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.38 (m, 6H, CH₃), 1.57 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.02 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.40 (t, 1H, NH), 3.48 (m, 9H, CH₃), 3.88 (t, 1H, NH), 3.98–4.22 (m, 2H, CH₂), 4.28 (b, 1H, NH), 7.15–7.50 (10H, C=H aromatic).

**Preparation of chiral phosphoramide-modified hybrid magnetic/silica nanoparticles, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−)**

Fe₃O₄, as nanoparticles, was prepared according to a previously reported method as follows: to a solution of FeCl₃·6H₂O (8.6 mmol) and FeCl₂·4H₂O (4.3 mmol) in H₂O (40 mL) at 85 °C, NH₃ (3 mL, 25%) was added (under bubbling of N₂ gas). After 20 min, the magnetic nanoparticles were separated and washed with an aqueous solution of NaCl (0.02 M, 50 mL) and then twice with deionized water (2 × 50 mL), followed by drying under vacuum at 60 °C for 5 h.

Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ was prepared according to a published sol–gel method. The synthesis procedure is as follows: to a solution of FeCl₃·6H₂O (8.6 mmol) and FeCl₂·4H₂O (4.3 mmol) in H₂O (40 mL) at 85 °C, NH₃ (3 mL, 25%) was added (under bubbling of N₂ gas). After 20 min, the aqueous solution of NaCl (0.02 M, 50 mL) and then glycerol (50 mL) were added to this mixture. The pH was adjusted to 4.5 by using glacial acetic acid and the reaction mixture stirred continuously for 2 h at 90 °C. The product was separated with a magnet and then washed four times with ethanol. Finally, the obtained Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ was dried under vacuum at 60 °C for 6 h.

At the end step, chiral phosphoric triamide was deposited on the Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ nano-composite. The procedures are similar for deposition of PTA(+) or PTA(−) and typically is given for PTA(+). For this aim, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ (2 g) was ultrasonicated in ethanol (50 mL) for 10 min, then PTA(+) (0.5 g) in 2 mL ethanol was added under nitrogen atmosphere and the mixture refluxed for 12 h. After the residue (Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+)) was magnetically separated and washed with methanol/H₂O. The condensation of Si–OCH₃ in phosphoric triamide and Si-OH in Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ leads to deposition through the formation of Si-O-Si linkage.

**Methods**

Specific rotations of PTA(+) and PTA(−), [α], were measured with an automatic digital polarimeter (WZZ-2B, sodium lamp), using solutions in THF (5 g L⁻¹), according to the following equation:

\[ [\alpha] = \alpha / (L \times c) \]  

(1)

where \( \alpha \) is the measured optical rotation in degree, \( L \) is the path length in decimetre, and \( c \) is the concentration in g/100 mL.
Dextrorotation and levorotation are identifying by (+) and (−), respectively.

The averages of particle sizes for nano-adsorbents were calculated by using the Scherrer equation, as follows:71

\[
D = K\lambda/\beta \cos \theta
\]

where \( K \) is a constant in the range of 0.89–1.39 depending on the particle morphology and set as 0.90, \( \lambda \) is the wavelength of the radiation, \( \beta \) is the full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) and \( \theta \) is the diffraction angle.

Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−) were examined for chiral separation of five racemic mixtures, i.e., (±)-α-methylbenzylamine, di-tartaric acid, α-alanine, α-phenylalanine, and α-valine. For this aim, 1 g adsorbent was mixed with 25 mL solution of each racemic mixture (5 g L⁻¹) in H₂O/CH₃OH (80/20, v/v). The mixture was continuously stirred for 1 h. After that, the adsorbent was collected with a magnet and the optical purity of supernatant was determined through measuring its optical rotatory according to the following equation:75

\[
\text{Optical purity} = \frac{[\alpha]_{\text{supernatant}}}{[\alpha]_{\text{pure enantiomer}}}
\]

### Results and discussion

#### Syntheses, spectroscopic features and optical properties of PTA(+) and PTA(−)

The route of synthesis and chemical structure of P(=O)(NH-R(+)-CH(CH₃)C₆H₅)₂(NH(CH₂)₃Si(OCH₃)₃), PTA(+), and P(=O)(NH-S(−)-CH(CH₃)C₆H₅)₂(NH(CH₂)₃Si(OCH₃)₃), PTA(−), are shown in Fig. 1a and b. For the synthesis of these chiral compounds, the prepared reagents P(=O)(NH-R(+)-CH(CH₃)C₆H₅)Cl and P(=O)(NH-S(−)-CH(CH₃)C₆H₅)Cl were treated with APTMS in order to the replacement of Cl atom by (CH₃O)₃Si(CH₂)₃NH moiety in the presence of triethylamine as an HCl scavenger. Typical, two singlets at 21.63 and 23.76 ppm are related to methyl carbon atoms and two doublets at 146.44 and 147.70 ppm correspond to the ipso-carbon atoms. The corresponding peaks for the CH₃O-Si(CH₂)₃CH₃ moiety are the singlets at 6.42, 46.22 and 50.10 ppm and a doublet at 25.09 ppm. The ortho, meta and para carbon atoms of two phenyl rings appear in the range of 126.26–128.53 ppm. For the assignment of the signals of chiral amine, the NMR spectra of [2,6-F₂-C₆H₅C(=O)N][NH][R(+)-CH(CH₃)C₆H₅]NH₂P(=O)⁺ were inspected and for the assignment of the signals of silicon-based amine, the NMR spectra of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@O₂C(OCH₃)Si[(CH₃)₂NH]⁺ and the newly synthesized ((CH₃O)₃SiCH₂CH₂CH₂NH)P(=O)(OC₆H₅)₂ compound were investigated. The structure, details of the synthesis procedure of ([CH₃O)₂SiCH₂CH₂CH₂NH]P(=O)(OC₆H₅)₂ and NMR data are given in the ESI (S2–S5†). The ¹H-NMR spectrum shows the characteristic peaks for chiral and silicon-based amine fragments, which includes the signals at 0.56, 1.57, 2.02 and 3.48 ppm (multiplets) and at 4.28 ppm (broad) related to three CH₂CH₃ groups and one NH for silicon-based amine, and the signals at 1.38, 3.40, 3.88 and 3.98–4.22 ppm, respectively for CH₃, two NH units and CH groups of the chiral amine segments. The aromatic protons appeared at 7.15–7.50 ppm (Fig. 2b).

#### Syntheses and characterization of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−)

The Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles were prepared by precipitation from iron(II) and (III) ions in a basic solution under nitrogen atmosphere and then coated with a thin silica layer, formed by hydrolysis and condensation of TEOS in an acidic alcohol/water solution via a sol-gel process. Then, the immobilization of the chiral selector was carried out through the formation of Si-O-Si linkage, between the silica layer and silicon-based chiral selector. The procedure for the preparation of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−) is illustrated in Scheme 1.

**FTIR**

Grafting of chiral phosphoric triamide on Fe₃O₄@SiO₂ was verified by FTIR. The FTIR spectra of Fe₃O₄, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂, and
Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) are shown in Fig. 3, respectively. In all spectra, the broad peak in the range of 540–578 cm⁻¹ is attributed to the Fe–O vibration. For silicon-containing nanoparticles, the strong and broad bands at about 1000–1100 cm⁻¹ demonstrate the presence of Si–O–Si and Si–OH stretching vibrations. In the IR spectrum of Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+), the band at 1214 cm⁻¹ is related to the P=O stretching vibration of PTA(+) and the peaks in the range 2840–3248 cm⁻¹ are related to C–H and N–H stretches. These peaks confirmed the occurrence of immobilization.

**VSM**

The magnetic properties of Fe₃O₄, Fe₃O₄@SiO₂, and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA were studied by the hysteresis loops at room temperature by using vibrating sample magnetometry (VSM), with the magnetization curves as shown in Fig. 4. The
magnetization curves exhibited superparamagnetic properties of Fe3O4 and Fe3O4@SiO2 with the saturation magnetizations of about 80 emu g⁻¹ and 76 emu g⁻¹, respectively. For Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+), the saturation magnetizations were measured before and after using in the chiral separation process, giving to be about 47 emu g⁻¹ and 45 emu g⁻¹, respectively, showing the stability of superparamagnetic property during the separation process.

XRD

The crystalline structures of Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−) were analyzed via XRD (Fig. 5). Characteristic diffraction peaks for Fe3O4 were observed at 30.1° (202), 35.5° (311), 43.1° (400), 53.6° (422), 57° (511), 62.6° (440), 71° (602) and 74° (533), in agreement with the crystalline cubic spinel Fe3O4 structure (JCPDS no. 19-0629). The similar characteristic peaks observed for Fe3O4@SiO2, Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−) indicated the stability of the crystalline phase of Fe3O4 in the composite materials. The averages of particle sizes for nano-composites were calculated by using the Scherrer equation, which yielded the values of 17, 18, 36 and 43 nm for Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA (+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−), respectively, in good agreement with microscopy results. The expanded XRD spectra and related details have been shown in Fig. S6–S9.

TEM, SEM, and EDX

The morphologies of Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−) were identified with SEM and TEM, as shown in Fig. 6. The images exhibit a nearly mono-dispersed structure for Fe3O4, with a rough surface because of the numerous reunited nanoparticles. After coating with SiO2, the surface of nanoparticles became smooth, and a SiO2 layer was observed around the Fe3O4 core. Deposition of chiral phosphoric triamide causes an increase in the particles’ diameters. The averages of particle sizes are about 20, 23, 47 and 52 nm for Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−), respectively.

EDX spectra of Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−) were recorded. In Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−) nanocomposites energetic lines for silicon, iron, carbon, oxygen, and phosphorus have been observed that confirm the immobilization of chiral selectors on the surface of Fe3O4@SiO2 (Fig. 7).

Fig. 3 The FTIR spectra of Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+).

Fig. 4 Magnetization curves for Fe3O4, Fe3O4@SiO2, and Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) nanoparticles before and after using as an adsorbent.

Fig. 5 X-Ray powder diffraction patterns for (a) Fe3O4, (b) Fe3O4@SiO2, (c) Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(+) and (d) Fe3O4@SiO2@PTA(−). The expanded spectra and related details have been shown in Fig. S6–S9.
Direct separation of racemic compounds

Enantioseparation was carried out according to details specified in the experimental section for five racemic compounds (±)-α-methylbenzylamine, DL-tartaric acid, DL-alanine, DL-phenylalanine, and DL-valine. Before treatment with adsorbent, all five racemic compounds showed no optical activity because of the equal amounts of optical (+)
and (−) enantiomers in the solutions. The results of enantioseparation processes are given in Table 1 and the chemical structures of racemic compounds are shown in Scheme 2. The optical rotations for supernatants showed that Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) adsorbed (−) enantiomers of valine, alanine, tartaric acid and phenylalanine, and (+) enantiomer of α-methylbenzylamine, while Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−) separated the other enantiomers (optical purities 18–82%). To study the possibility of cleavage of chiral selector in the presence of racemic mixture, NMR spectroscopy was typically done for the supernatant of the enantioseparation experiment including Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) in the presence of (±)-MBA solution. The ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra merely showed the signals of α-methylbenzyl amine and the ³¹P-NMR spectrum did not show any signal, which confirmed the stability of adsorbent in the racemic mixture. The ¹H-NMR spectrum is shown in Fig. S10.† The recycling of nano-composite adsorbents was also checked after ending the separation process. So, adsorbents were gathered by an external magnet, washed in a mixture of H₂O/CH₃OH under ultrasonic radiation for 10 min and dried in a vacuum oven for 12 h in 25 °C. Due to the release of the adsorbed enantiomer, the washing solution showed the optical rotatory.

Typically, the dried (±)-adsorbent was added to 25 mL of (±)-MBA solution (5 g L⁻¹, water/methanol 80/20, v/v) and continuously stirred for 1 h. After that, the specific rotation of solution changed to −10.1° showing that the chiral adsorbent can be recycled with little loss of activity. This slight loss of activity may be due to a few changes in the morphology of nanoparticles in the presence of H₂O/CH₃OH/(±)-MBA, which is usual for nano-compounds in the presence of chemicals, however, it was not further investigated.⁵⁵,⁶⁰

A comparison of chiral adsorbents presented here with other chiral Fe₃O₄@SiO₂-based adsorbents is given in Table 2. The Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−) possess competitive advantages, such as high selectivity and recycling in the direct enantioseparation. Furthermore, we examined the racemic samples belonging to both acid and base families, which were successfully separated by these adsorbents. Preparation of both chiral (−) and (−) adsorbents is another advantage of this work, which helps to facilitate the separation process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+)</th>
<th>Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>(±)-MBA</td>
<td>+16.8/82</td>
<td>−14.7/72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.L.-alanine</td>
<td>+8.9/79</td>
<td>−8.0/71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.L.-tartaric</td>
<td>+2.4/19</td>
<td>−2.3/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.L.-phenylalanine</td>
<td>+18.4/58</td>
<td>−20.1/63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Table 2  Comparison of chiral Fe₃O₄@SiO₂-based nano-adsorbents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chiral adsorbents</th>
<th>Examined racemates</th>
<th>Optical purity (%)</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellulose derivative-modified magnetic silica</td>
<td>(±)-2-Phenoxypyruvic acid, benzoin methyl ether, promethazine hydrochloride</td>
<td>Above 80</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teicoplanin-modified magnetic silica microspheres</td>
<td>DL-Tryptophan, DL-phenylalanine, DL-mandelic acid, N-benzoyl-DL-alanine</td>
<td>8–35</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>β-CD modified magnetic silica microspheres</td>
<td>Dansyl DL-valine, dansyl DL-phenylalanine, dansyl DL-leucine</td>
<td>10–12</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSA modified magnetic silica microspheres</td>
<td>DL-Tryptophan</td>
<td>10–38</td>
<td>82 and 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+)</td>
<td>DL-Tryptophan</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−)</td>
<td>(±)-MBA, DL-alanine, DL-valine, DL-tartaric acid, DL-phenylalanine</td>
<td>18–82</td>
<td>This work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

Two single enantiomer nano-composites Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(+) and Fe₃O₄@SiO₂@PTA(−) were prepared and used for direct enantioseparation of some racemic mixtures. The racemates examined belong to both acid and base families. Excellent separation was achieved for examined basic racemic mixtures and is also stable a long term. A paramagnetic property is observed in nano-composites and is with an average diameter of around 40–50 nm. The nanoparticles have a uniform shape with a regular diameter. The nanocomposites were characterized by FTIR, TEM, SEM, EDX, XRD, and VSM. The nanoparticles have a uniform shape with an average diameter of around 40–50 nm. The super-paramagnetic property is observed in nano-composites and is also stable after enantioseparation.

Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest regarding this work.

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