**INTRODUCTION**

Corrosion is a type of deterioration found mainly in metal structures. Metals that compose these structures oxidize when they come into contact with substances with high reduction potential, therefore care requires to prevent these reactions. The corrosion products cause negative changes in metal alloys properties as mechanical strength, aesthetics, ductility, elasticity, among others. Reversing the corrosion process is extremely expensive, making prevention the best way to solve this problem.1

Researchers conducted to minimize the corrosion phenomena in copper, iron and other metal alloys, several classes of organic compounds such as indole, azoles, thiazoles, oxazolidines, ammonium salts, and others were tested and have demonstrated a good anticorrosion activity profile.2 These compounds exhibit this anticorrosive activity due to the presence of π electrons and/or atoms which have non binding electron pair (O, N, S, and others), causing a phenomenon of adsorption and thus creating a protective film on the metal surface. Depending on the structure of the molecule and the functional groups present, there may be two types of sorption: physisorption or chemisorption, the latter involving coordination with the metal, and therefore better adsorption efficiency.3

Because of the economic importance in obtaining substances with potential anticorrosion activity, we propose the synthesis of cinnamic acid thiourea derivatives, in order to obtain a high efficiency corrosion inhibitor that could be at the same time easy to obtain and have low production cost.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The cinnamic acid and m-nitrocinamic were synthesized from benzaldehyde and m-nitrobenzaldehyde by aldol condensation with malonic acid in pyridine/ethanol at 72% and 52% yield respectively.

The synthesis of o-nitrocinnamic and p-nitrocinnamic acid was obtained by nitration of cinnamic acid (73% yield) with a para:ortho regioisomers ratio of 9:1.

After the obtaining of cinnamic acid and its nitrated derivatives in the ortho, meta and para positions, we started the synthesis of its thiourea derivatives, converting carboxylic acids into acyl chlorides followed by reaction with ammonium thiocyanate and an aromatic amine. The results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Thioureas synthesized from cinnamic acid and its derivatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRY</th>
<th>CARBOXILIC ACID</th>
<th>AMINE</th>
<th>SOLVENT</th>
<th>OVER YIELD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>cinnamic acid</td>
<td>4-nitro aniline</td>
<td>acetonitrile</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>p-nitro cinnamic acid</td>
<td>4-nitro aniline</td>
<td>acetonitrile</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>p-nitro cinnamic acid</td>
<td>2-aminopirimidine</td>
<td>acetonitrile</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>m-nitrocinnamic acid</td>
<td>4-nitro aniline</td>
<td>acetone</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSION**

A series of cinnamic acid thiourea derivatives was synthesized with reasonable yields. New thiourea derivatives and optimization of chemical process is underway. Tests to determine the corrosion activity are under evaluation.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Acknowledgments to IFRJ - Campus Rio de Janeiro and the program PFRH/PETROBRAS

**REFERENCES**