TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ......................................................................................... I

DEDICATION ....................................................................................................... II

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..................................................................................... III

LIST OF FIGURES ................................................................................................. VI

LIST OF TABLES .................................................................................................... VIII

LIST OF SCHEMES ................................................................................................. X

ABBREVIATIONS ................................................................................................... XI

ABSTRACT ........................................................................................................... XIII

ملخص ................................................................................................................ XIV

1. INTRODUCTION ............................................................................................... 1

1.1 Biologically relevant metals ........................................................................... 1

1.2 Zinc in biological systems ............................................................................. 4

1.2.1 Why zinc? (What is special about zinc) ...................................................... 5

1.2.2 Zinc in medicine ................................................................. 8

1.2.3 Antibacterial activity of zinc ................................................................... 9

1.3 Biological ligands ....................................................................................... 11

1.4 Metal carboxylate chemistry ....................................................................... 12

1.4.1 Coordination modes of carboxylate ...................................................... 13

1.4.2 Infrared spectra of carboxylate complexes ......................................... 15
1.4.3 Zinc carboxylates complexes .......................................................... 16
1.4.4 Valproic acid ..................................................................................... 19
1.4.5 Metal valproate complexes ................................................................. 20
1.5 Nitrogen-donor ligands ........................................................................ 22
1.6 Mixed ligands zinc carboxylate complexes .......................................... 25
1.7 Aim of the research ............................................................................. 26

2. EXPERIMENTAL .................................................................................. 28
2.1 Chemicals, materials and biological species ........................................ 28
2.2 Physical measurements ........................................................................ 28
2.3 Synthesis of Zn(II) complexes ................................................................ 29
2.3.1 Synthesis of [Zn₂(valp)₄] (1) ................................................................. 29
2.3.2 Synthesis of [Zn(valp)₂₂,9-dmphen] (2) ........................................... 29
2.3.3 Synthesis of [Zn(valp)₂₁,10-phen] (3) ............................................... 30
2.3.4 Synthesis of [Zn(valp)₂₂,2-bipy] (4) .................................................... 31
2.3.5 Synthesis of [Zn(valp)₂₄,4-bipy]ₙ (5) .................................................. 31
2.3.6 Synthesis of [Zn₂(valp)₄(quin)₂] (6) .................................................... 32
2.3.7 Synthesis of [Zn (valp)₂(2-ampy)₂] (7) ............................................. 33
2.3.8 Synthesis of [Zn (valp)₂(2-ampic)₂] (8) ............................................ 34
2.3.9 Synthesis of [Zn(valp)₂(2-picam)] (9) .............................................. 34
2.4 X-ray crystallography ............................................................................. 35
2.5 Antibacterial activity .......................................................................................................... 38

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .............................................................................................. 39

3.1 Synthesis of zinc complexes ............................................................................................... 39

3.2 Crystallographic studies ...................................................................................................... 42

3.2.1 Crystal structure of [Zn(valp)₂2,9-dmphen] (2) ................................................................ 42

3.2.2 Crystal structure of [Zn₂(valp)₄(quin)₂] (6) .................................................................... 45

3.2.3 Crystal structure of [Zn(Valp)₂(2-ampy)₂] (7) ................................................................. 48

3.3 Infrared spectral results ....................................................................................................... 51

3.4 Electronic absorption spectral results .................................................................................. 57

3.5 ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR results ............................................................................................ 58

3.6 Antibacterial activity results .............................................................................................. 68

4. CONCLUSION ...................................................................................................................... 75

REFERENCES ......................................................................................................................... 77

APPENDICES ............................................................................................................................. 88

Appendix A: Crystal structure data of [Zn(valp)₂2,9-dmphen] (2) .............................................. 88

Appendix B: Crystal structure data of [Zn₂(valp)₄(quin)₂] (6) .................................................. 94

Appendix C: Crystal structure data of [Zn(valp)₂(2-ampy)₂] (7) ............................................ 100