**ABSTRACT**

The complexes of Ru(III) having general formula [Ru(L)Cl(PPh3)] where L= azo Schiff base derived from 2-aminopyridine, 2-hydroxy naphthaldehyde /vanillin and ethylene diamine have been synthesized. The ligands as well as complexes have been characterized by elemental analysis, molar conductance, magnetic susceptibility, infra-red and electronic spectral data. The azo Schiff base ligand acts as a tetradentate ligand co-ordinating to Ru through azomethine nitrogen and phenolic oxygen atoms. An octahedral geometry has been proposed for the complexes based on electronic spectra and magnetic susceptibility studies. Low molar conductance values revealed the non-electrolytic nature of the complexes. The complexes have been screened for antimicrobial and anticancer activities.