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Stepwise Synthesis, Hydrogen-Bonded Supramolecular Structure, and Magnetic Property of a Co–Mn Heterodinuclear Complex

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Abstract: A cobalt(III)-manganese(II) heterometallic dinuclear complex, $[Mn^{II}{Co^{III}(\mu-Himn)_3}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]$, was prepared by a metalloligand approach. X-ray crystallographic analysis indicated that the metalloligand $[Co^{III}(Himn)_3]$ underwent *mer/fac* geometrical isomerization upon coordination to a Mn ion. Owing to the non-coordinating N–H bonds in the $[Co^{III}(Himn)_3]$ moiety, the heterodinuclear complex exhibited hydrogen bond interactions with the Cl^- ligand of the neighboring complex to construct two-dimensional hydrogen-bond networks. The bond distances around the Mn center and the $\chi_M T$ value at 300 K indicate that the Mn center is in a divalent state. The temperature dependence of the $\chi_M T$ product and field dependence of the magnetization showed the isotropic nature of the Mn^{II} center.

Keywords: cobalt(III)–manganese(II) heterometallic complex; Crystal structure; magnetism; hydrogen-bonded supramolecular structure

1. Introduction

Discrete cobalt and manganese complexes have been attracting much attention owing to their fascinating magnetic properties such as single-molecule magnet behavior [1–5]. Heteronuclear complexes are strong candidates for such a property because of the magnetic coupling between different paramagnetic metal ions [6]. On the other hand, the combination of paramagnetic and diamagnetic ions is also a nice approach to prepare a single-molecule magnet with a single magnetic center (single-ion magnet) [7-9]. One of the advantages of single-ion magnets is facile control of the coordination geometry and crystal field to achieve a large negative axial zero-field splitting, which results in a high spin-reversal barrier. Sørensen et al. reported an excellent approach in which a C_4 symmetric diamagnetic metalloligand was employed to prepare D_{4d} symmetric Ln^{III} single-ion magnets [8,9]. In our previous study, we reported a tris-bidentate-chelate cobalt(III) complex as a tridentate metalloligand to obtain a Co^{III}–Co^{III}–Co^{III} mixed-valent complex [4]. The Co^{II} ion in this complex takes ideal D_{3d} symmetry owing to the rigid C_3 symmetric metalloligand and intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions. This stepwise reaction strategy can be applied to other first-row d-block metal ions to obtain heterometallic complexes. To extend our study to a heterometallic complex, we report the synthesis and crystal structure of a Co–Mn dinuclear complex using a tris-bidentate cobalt(III) complex as a metalloligand.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Synthesis and Characterization

The tris-bidentate-chelate metalloligand, $[Co^{III}(Himn)_3]$, was synthesized by the reaction of $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ and $Himn^-$ in a 1:3 ratio in methanol in air (Scheme 1). The methanol solution of the metalloligand was added to a methanolic solution of $MnCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ under a N_2 atmosphere to afford brown crystals of the Co–Mn heterometallic complex. The obtained crystalline product was stable in air.



Scheme 1. Synthetic procedure of the Co–Mn heterodinuclear complex. The metalloligand [Co^{III}(Himn)₃] undergoes *mer* to *fac* isomerization upon coordination to a Mn^{II} ion.

The heterometallic dinuclear complex, $[Mn{Co(\mu-Himn)_3}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]\cdot 0.78CH_3OH\cdot 1.26H_2O$, was characterized by single-crystal X-ray analysis. The molecular structure and crystallographic information are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1, respectively. In the crystal, the metalloligand, $[Co(Himn)_3]$, coordinated to a Mn center via phenolate-O atoms as a tridenate ligand with the *fac* geometry. As the as-synthesized metalloligand takes the *mer* configuration in 100% yield, the metalloligand underwent *mer/fac* isomerization upon addition of Mn^{II} ions [10]. This facile isomerization is presumably because of the partial formation of labile $[Co^{II}(Himn)_3]^-$ owing to the $[Co(Himn)_3]^{0/-}$ redox equilibrium induced by Mn^{II} ions [4]. Thus, we succeeded in designing a Co–Mn heterometallic complex by the metalloligand approach.

In the heterometallic complex, the Co center took N_3O_3 octahedral coordination geometry with an average bond distance of ca. 1.90 Å, which is consistent with those of analogous Co^{III} complexes (Table 2) [4,10]. On the other hand, the geometry of the hexacoordinated Mn center was rather ambiguous. Such ambiguous geometry is a characteristic of Mn^{II} complexes, which lack crystal field stabilization. The oxidation states of the metal centers were confirmed to be Co^{III} and Mn^{II} by bond valence sum analysis [11]. A positional disorder was observed at the methyl group of the coordinating methanol molecule with occupancy of ca. 0.5 (C28 and C28B). Furthermore, considerable disorder was observed for solvent molecules of crystallization. It is to be noted that the SQUEEZE program [12] was employed for structural refinement to treat the heavy disorder, and 10 electrons, which corresponds to a water molecule, in a 35 Å³ void were removed. Such heavy disorder of the solvent molecules is illustrative of the fluid nature of the solvent-accessible void.



Figure 1. The molecular structure of $[Mn{Co(\mu-Himn)_3}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]$ (50% probability levels). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. The disordered C atom of the coordinating methanol molecule is shown at the two possible positions (C28 and C28B).

 Table 1. Crystallographic information.

	[Co(Himn) ₃ MnCl ₂ (CH ₃ OH)]·0.78CH ₃ OH·1.26H ₂ O		
Chemical formula	C _{28.78} H _{36.64} Cl ₂ CoMnN ₆ O _{6.04}		
Formula weight	748.05		
Color and shape	brown, prism		
Size of specimen/mm ³	0.18 imes 0.12 imes 0.08		
Crystal system	monoclinic		
Space group	$P2_1/n$		
a/Å	10.4888(13)		
b/Å	14.4208(18)		
c/Å	22.026(3)		
$\beta/^{\circ}$	102.460(2)		
$\dot{V}/Å^3$	3253.1(7)		
Ζ	4		
T/K	90(2)		
$D_{calc}/\mathrm{g}\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$	1.527		
F (000)	1543		
$\mu(Mo-K_{\alpha})/\mathrm{mm}^{-1}$	1.113		
R _{int}	0.0361		
$2\theta_{max}/^{\circ}$	55		
No. of independent reflection	7454		
$R_1 (F^2 : F_o^2 > 2s(F_o^2))$	0.0533		
wR_2 (F_2 : all data)	0.1282		

 $R_1 = \Sigma \mid |F_o| - |F_c| \mid /\Sigma \mid F_o \mid, wR_2 = [\Sigma(Fo^2 - Fc^2) / \Sigma w(Fo^2)^2]^{1/2}.$

Bond	Distance	Bond	Distance
Co101	1.909(3)	Mn1–O1	3.229(3)
Co1–O2	1.898(2)	Mn1–O2	3.317(3)
Co1–O3	1.902(3)	Mn1–O3	2.263(2)
Co1–N2	1.906(3)	Mn1–O4	2.160(2)
Co1–N4	1.899(3)	Mn1–Cl1	2.464(1)
Co1–N6	1.903(3)	Mn1–Cl2	2.459(1)

Table 2. Bond distances around the metal centers (Å).

2.2. Supramolecular Structure

A hydrogen-bonded supramolecular structure was constructed in $[Mn^{II}{Co^{III}(\mu-Himn)_3}Cl_2(CH_3OH)] \cdot 0.78CH_3OH \cdot 1.26H_2O$ (Figure 2, Table 3). The ligand Himn⁻ potentially forms an intermolecular hydrogen-bond in the bidentate coordination mode [4,10]. It has been reported that $[Co^{II}{Co^{III}(Himn)_3}_2]Cl_2$, which contains two *fac*- $[Co^{III}(Himn)_3]$ as metalloligands, forms a crystallographically trigonal hydrogen-bonded sheet structure in the crystal because of the C_3 symmetry of *fac*- $[Co^{III}(Himn)_3]$. In $[Mn^{II}{Co^{III}(\mu-Himn)_3}Cl_2(CH_3OH)] \cdot 0.78CH_3OH \cdot 1.26H_2O$, on the other hand, the hydrogen-bond network was not trigonal, although all of the N–H bonds form hydrogen bonds with the Cl^- ligand of the neighboring complexes. This is presumably because of the nonsymmetric Mn center, which is coordinated by two Cl^- ligands and a methanol molecule.

The nonsymmetric coordination geometry of the Mn center resulted in the formation of a supramolecular sheet structure in the *ab* plane. As mentioned above, many solvent molecules of crystallization were observed in this crystal. These molecules are located between the hydrogen-bonded sheets—where a one-dimensional solvent-accessible void is formed—in which these disordered molecules are located. The shape of the void (534 Å³/cell) in the packing diagram is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 2. Hydrogen-bonded sheet structure of $[Mn{Co(\mu-Himn)_3}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]$ in the *ab* plane. Views along the (**a**) *c* axis and (**b**) *b* axis.



Figure 3. Packing diagram of $[Mn\{Co(\mu-Himn)_3\}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]$ along (**a**) the *a* axis and (**b**) the *b* axis. The solvent-accessible void (534 Å³/cell) was observed between the hydrogen-bonded sheets (yellow sphere). Solvent molecules of crystallization were removed and regarded as solvent-accessible voids.

Table 3. Hydrogen-bond geometry for [Mn{Co(μ-Himn)₃}Cl₂(CH₃OH)]·0.78CH₃OH·1.26H₂O (Å, °).

<i>D–H</i> ··· <i>A</i>	D–H	Н…А	D····A	D-A····A
N1-H1…Cl1 ⁱ	0.75(4)	2.59(5)	3.229(3)	145(5)
N3–H3A…Cl2 ⁱⁱ	0.75(4)	2.63(4)	3.317(3)	153(4)
N5-H5A…Cl1 (iii)	0.88	2.50	3.268(3)	146
O5–H5M…Cl2 ^(iv)	0.84	2.44	3.272(7)	169

Symmetry codes: ⁽ⁱ⁾ x + 1, y, z; ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ -x + 1, -y, -z + 1; ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ -x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1; ^(iv) -x + 3/2, y + 1/2, -z + 3/2.

2.3. Magnetic Properties

To investigate the magnetic properties, the temperature dependence of the $\chi_M T$ product and field dependence of the magnetization for [Mn^{II}{Co^{III}(μ -Himn)₃}Cl₂(CH₃OH)]·0.78CH₃OH·1.26H₂O were measured (Figure 4). The $\chi_M T$ value at 300 K was 4.39 cm³ K mol⁻¹, which is consistent with the spin-only value of 4.375 cm³ K mol⁻¹ for the S = 5/2 system. Upon cooling down to 5 K, almost no change in the $\chi_M T$ value was observed, which is typical Curie–Weiss behavior. In the magnetization vs. field plot, the magnetization is nearly saturated in the presence of a dc field of 5 T. These magnetic properties are characteristic of the isotropic Mn^{II} center without magnetic coupling. To determine the *g*-factor, the temperature dependence of the magnetization and field dependence of the magnetization were simultaneously fitted with the following spin Hamiltonian using the *PHI* program [13].

$$H = g\beta SH.$$

Both of the data were well-fitted by the *PHI* program without considering zero-field splitting and intermolecular interactions. The *g*-factor was determined to be 2.00.



Figure 4. (a) Temperature dependence of the $\chi_M T$ product of $[Mn^{II} \{Co^{III}(\mu-Himn)_3\}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]$ in the presence of a 0.3 T static field and an χ_M vs. *T* plot below 20 K (inset). (b) Field dependence of the magnetization of $[Mn^{II} \{Co^{III}(\mu-Himn)_3\}Cl_2(CH_3OH)]$ at 1.9 K. The solid lines correspond to the fit using the *PHI* program. The magnetization fit is the same as fitting with a Brillouin function.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. General Consideration

All chemicals were used as received without further purification.

3.2. Synthetic Method

The ligand, 2-(2-imidazolinyl)phenol (H₂imn), was prepared according to a previously reported method [14]. To a methanol solution (10 mL) of $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (24.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) and H₂imn (47.1 mg, 0.3 mmol) was slowly added a methanol solution of KO^tBu (32.8 mg, 0.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature in air and then evaporated to dryness. The resultant green residue was dissolved in methanol (5 mL), and the insoluble white residue was removed by filtration. The filtrate was degassed by bubbling N₂ gas, and then a 5 mL methanol solution of MnCl₂·6H₂O (18.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature under a N₂ atmosphere for two weeks, and brown crystals were obtained. Yield: 14.1 mg, 37%. Anal. Calcd for [Co(Himn)₃MnCl₂(CH₃OH)]·CH₃OH·2.5H₂O = C₂₉H₄₀Cl₂CoN₆O_{7.5}: C, 44.80; H, 5.19; N, 10.81%. Found: C, 44.46; H, 4.85; N, 11.05%.

3.3. Single-Crystal X-ray Crystallography

X-ray diffraction data were obtained at 90(2) K using a Bruker SMART APEX diffractometer system with graphite-monochromated Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). A single crystal was mounted with a glass capillary and flash-cooled with a cold nitrogen gas stream. Data were processed using Bruker APEX III software packages. Absorption correction was applied using empirical methods [15]. Structures were solved using SHELXT software packages and refined on F^2 (with all independent reflections) using a SHELXL software package [16,17].13 In the structural refinement, all C–H atoms were located using a riding model and refined isotropically. The positions of the N-H and O-H atoms were determined from difference-Fourier maps and freely refined except for the N5-H5A atom. The N5–H5 atom was located using a riding model because it could not be located from the difference-Fourier maps. Some low-angle reflections were omitted from the refinement because these reflections were likely to be affected by the beam stopper. Reflections due to solvent disorder located in the void spaces between the two-dimensional sheet structure were treated using the SQUEEZE program [17]. Here, 10 electrons in the 35 Å³/void were removed. The crystallographic data were deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre: Deposition number CCDC-1887480. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax, +44-1223-336033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

3.4. Magnetic Measurements

Magnetic susceptibility measurements were performed using an MPMS-7 SQUID magnetometer. Susceptibility data were obtained in the temperature range from 1.9 to 300 K with a static field of 0.3 T. The field dependence of the magnetization was measured at 1.9 K in the field range from 0 to 5 T. The polycrystalline sample was ground into fine powders by an agate mortar. The samples were loaded into a gelatin capsule. The sampling was handled in air. All data were corrected for diamagnetism of the sample by means of Pascal's constants.

4. Conclusions

We succeeded in preparing a heterodinuclear Co^{III}-Mn^{II} complex by a metalloligand synthesis approach. Non-coordinating N–H bonds in the metalloligand induced the formation of intermolecular hydrogen bonds to construct a two-dimensional sheet structure. The magnetic susceptibility measurements indicated that intermolecular interactions and zero-field splitting are negligible in this complex. The negligible intermolecular interactions imply that analogous complexes with an anisotropic paramagnetic ion instead of Mn^{II} may be a candidate for magnetically well-isolated single-molecule magnets.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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