

## Electronic Supplementary Information

# Molecular tectonics: hierarchical organization of heterobimetallic coordination networks into heterotrimetallic core-shell crystals

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## Experimental part

### Materials and general techniques

IR spectra were recorded on a FT-ATR Spectrometer PE apparatus.

Microanalyses were performed by the Service de Microanalyses de la Fédération de Recherche Chimie, Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were recorded at 298 K on a Bruker AV300 spectrometer, with the solvent peak as the internal reference.

### Synthesis

Analytical grade solvents were purchased and used without further purification. All commercially available products were used without further purification.

*cis*-Pt(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was synthesized following an adapted literature procedure,<sup>1</sup> and 3-ethynylpyridine was obtained from a commercial source.

#### Compound *trans*-[Pt(C≡CPy)<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (**1**):

*cis*-Pt(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mg, 0.19 mmol, 1 eq.) and 3-ethynylpyridine (39 mg, 0.38 mmol, 2 eq.) were dissolved in a degassed THF/Et<sub>3</sub>N mixture (1/1, 8 mL). After refluxing for 2 days at 65°C, the solution was evaporated to dryness and the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/acetone 1/0 to 8/2) and recrystallized from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/cyclohexane 2/1 mixture. The compound **1** was obtained in 63% yield (110 mg) as a yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 300 MHz, δ ppm): 7.42 (d; *J* = 5.3 Hz; 2H); 7.11(m; 12H; Ph); 6.75(m; 20H); 6.19(dd; *J* = 7.8 Hz, *J* = 5.3 Hz; 2H); 5.84(d; *J* = 7.8 Hz; 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 75 MHz, δ ppm): 131.3; 124.6; 117.7; 114.9; 110.4; 107.9; 105.0; 102.2; 100.2.

<sup>31</sup>P-NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 125 MHz, δ ppm): 20.1 (*J*<sub>P-Pt</sub> = 2626 Hz). MS (ESI): *m/z* calcd for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>PtH<sup>+</sup> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 924.22 g/mol; Found 924.24 g/mol. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Pt: C, 65.00; H, 4.15; N, 3.03. Found: C, 64.34; H, 4.27; N, 2.85.

#### Crystallisations conditions for **1**

In a 5 mL vial, compound **1** (8 mg, 8.66 μmol) was dissolved in C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (4 mL). The vial was placed into a closed jar containing pentane (6-8 mL). Yellow crystals, suitable for X-ray analysis, were obtained after 3 days by vapour diffusion.

#### Crystallisations conditions of **1**-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>

In a 5 mL tube, compound **1** (1.5 mg, 1.62 μmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (5 mg, 37 μmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of MeOH and was gently layered on the top of the solution containing the tecton **1**. Colourless crystals, suitable for X-ray analysis, were obtained after 1 week.

Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>38</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ZnPt (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1.56</sub>: C, 52.53 %; H, 3.67 %; N, 2.30 %; Found: C, 52.55 %; H, 3.62 %; N, 2.26 %.

IR data (cm<sup>-1</sup>): ν = 1589, 1476, 1435, 1234, 1184, 1099, 997, 817, 710, 690, 654, 510.

#### Crystallisations conditions for **1**-CoCl<sub>2</sub>

In a 5 mL tube, compound **1** (1.5 mg, 1.62 μmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. CoCl<sub>2</sub> (5 mg, 38 μmol) was dissolved in 1 mL of MeOH and was gently layered on top of a crystallization tube containing the tecton **1**. Blue crystals, suitable for X-ray analysis, were obtained after 1 week

[1] R. Pryadun, D. Sukumaran, R. Bogadi, J. D. Atwood, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2004**, *126*, 12414-12420

Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{50}H_{38}Cl_2N_2CoP_2Pt \cdot (C_2H_4Cl_2)_{0.99}$ : C, 54.21%; H, 3.67 %; N, 2.43 %; Found: C, 54.18%; H, 3.64 %; N, 2.23 %.

IR data ( $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu = 1563, 1475, 1435, 1403, 1233, 1183, 1099, 1052, 1027, 816, 709, 689, 509$ .

#### Crystallisations conditions for **1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>**

In a 5 mL tube, compound **1** (1.5 mg, 1.62  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in 1 mL of  $C_2H_4Cl_2$ .  $CoBr_2$  (5 mg, 23  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in 1 mL of MeOH and was gently layered on the top of the solution containing the tecton **1**. Blue crystals, suitable for X-ray analysis, were obtained after 1 week.

Anal. Calcd. for  $C_{50}H_{38}Br_2N_2CoP_2Pt$ : C, 52.56 %; H, 3.35 %; N, 2.45 %; Found: C, 52.82 %; H, 3.45%; N, 2.32 %.

IR data ( $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu = 1566, 1588, 1475, 1435, 1402, 1235, 1184, 1099, 1051, 1027, 816, 743, 710, 689, 509$ .

#### Generation of **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>@1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**) core-shell crystals

Preformed crystals **1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**) (approximately 0.1 x 0.06 x 0.02 mm) were placed in a 1:1 mixture of  $C_2H_4Cl_2$ : MeOH (3 mL) containing the tecton **1** (1 mg / mL) and  $ZnCl_2$  (5 mg / mL). After a few days, the blue seed crystals **1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**) were converted into bicolour crystals, with a colourless shroud around the blue seed crystal.

#### Characterization of the **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>@1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>@1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**) core-shell crystals

X-ray diffraction on core-shell crystals of the **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>@1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>@1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**) has been performed in order to check the crystalline nature of the core-shell crystals and to determine cell parameters. The data led to an average unit cell metrics (table 3) lying between the pure crystals **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>** and **1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**).

Taking advantage of the difference in colour between the core (blue) and shroud (colourless) crystals, the core-shell crystals were cut affording two crystalline phases corresponding to **1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub>** and **1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>** (or **1-CoCl<sub>2</sub>**). X-ray diffraction on each phase revealed cell parameters close to those obtained independently for the pure crystals (see table S2).

### X-Ray Crystallography

#### X-ray Diffraction on microcrystalline powder

Powder X-ray diffraction (XRPD) diagrams were collected on a Bruker D8 diffractometer using monochromatic Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation with a scanning range between 3.8 and 40° using a scan step size of 2°/mn.

As already demonstrated and currently admitted, for all compounds, discrepancies in intensity between the observed and simulated patterns are due to preferential orientations of the microcrystalline powders.

#### X-ray diffraction on Single-Crystal (Table S1)

Data were collected at 173(2) K on a Bruker APEX8 CCD Diffractometer equipped with an Oxford Cryosystem liquid N<sub>2</sub> device, using graphite-monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) radiation. For both structures, diffraction data were corrected for absorption. Structures were solved using SHELXS-97 and refined by full matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  using SHELXL-97. The hydrogen atoms were introduced at calculated positions and not refined (riding model).<sup>2</sup> They can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/datarequest/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/datarequest/cif). CCDC: 1508100-1508103.

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[2] Sheldrick, G. M.: *Program for Crystal Structure Solution*; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1997.

Formula	<b>1</b> C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>38</sub> N <sub>2</sub> P <sub>2</sub> Pt	<b>1-ZnCl<sub>2</sub></b> C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>38</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> ZnPt <sub>2</sub> Pt	<b>1-CoCl<sub>2</sub></b> C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>38</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> CoPt <sub>2</sub> Pt	<b>1-CoBr<sub>2</sub></b> C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>38</sub> Br <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> CoPt <sub>2</sub> Pt
Molecular weight	923.85	1060.12	1053.68	1142.60
Crystal system	orthorhombic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space group	<i>Pbca</i>	P-1	P-1	P-1
a(Å)	18.2714(4)	9.5502(4)	9.5376(4)	9.5894(3)
b(Å)	9.6175(2)	9.6247(4)	9.6186(4)	9.6957(4)
c(Å)	22.3182(5)	24.0632(8)	24.0705(11)	24.1720(9)
α(deg)	90	95.2473(10)	95.2427(18)	95.1270(10)
β(deg)	90	91.6860(10)	91.7776(18)	91.4850(10)
γ(deg)	90	98.5240(11)	98.5725(18)	98.3100(11)
V(Å <sup>3</sup> )	3921.87(15)	2176.16(15)	2172.15(16)	2213.20(14)
Z	4	2	2	2
Colour	yellow	colourless	Blue	Blue
Crystal dim (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.050 x 0.060 x 0.060	0.050 x 0.060 x 0.070	0.050 x 0.050 x 0.060	0.050 x 0.050 x 0.060
D <sub>calc</sub> (gcm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.565	1.618	1.611	1.715
F(000)	1840	1048	1042	1114
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	3.698	3.995	3.833	5.446
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Number of data meas.	42714	20373	62688	33971
Number of data with I > 2σ(I)	5576 [R(int) = 0.0381]	11327 [R(int) = 0.0270]	11597 [R(int) = 0.0360]	11919 [R(int) = 0.0373]
R	R1 = 0.0218, wR2 = 0.0651	R1 = 0.0363, wR2 = 0.0797	R1 = 0.0290, wR2 = 0.0550	R1 = 0.0326, wR2 = 0.0769
R <sub>w</sub>	R1 = 0.0444, wR2 = 0.0827	R1 = 0.0509, wR2 = 0.0850	R1 = 0.0455, wR2 = 0.0597	R1 = 0.0422, wR2 = 0.0811
GOF	1.025	1.025	1.036	1.020
Largest diff. peak and hole (e.Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.478 and -0.545	2.072 and -1.188	1.036 and -0.868	2.188 and -2.024

**Table S1:** Crystallographic parameters recorded at 173 K for **1** and **1-MX<sub>2</sub>** (M = Co and Zn and X = Cl or Br), **1-CoBr<sub>2</sub>**.