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Electronic supplement materials for: New molecular heptanuclear cobalt phosphonates: synthesis, structures and magnetic properties

I. Doroshenko,<sup>ab</sup> M. Babiak,<sup>ab</sup> A. Buchholz,<sup>c</sup> H. Görls,<sup>c</sup> W. Plass,<sup>c</sup>\* J. Pinkas<sup>ab</sup>\*

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Kotlarska 2, CZ-61137 Brno, Czech Republic.

<sup>b</sup> Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), Masaryk University, Kamenice 5, CZ-62500 Brno, Czech

Republic.

<sup>c</sup> Institut für Anorganische und Analytische Chemie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Humboldtstraße 8, 07743 Jena,

Germany. jpinkas@chemi.muni.cz secr.plass@uni-jena.de

# **1** Experimental part

## **1.1** Characterization techniques

IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 FTIR spectrometer with a Bruker Alpha-Platinum ATR system. ICP-OES analyses were done on an ICP-OES spectrometer iCAP 6500 Duo (Thermo, generator 27.12 MHz, amplitude 1.15 kW, plasma gas flow 12 dm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>) emission lines 228.616 and 238.892 nm for Co, 213.618, 214.914 nm for P and 588.995, 589.952 nm for Na were used. Elemental analysis (C, H, and N) was performed on a Flash 2000 CHNS Elemental Analyzer (Thermo Scientific). ESI-MS spectra were measured on an Agilent 6224 Accurate-Mass TOF mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, Wilmington, DE, USA) with a dual electrospray ionisation source from a methanol solution. Following parameters were used: nitrogen flow 7 l min<sup>-1</sup>, gas temperature 325 °C, nebulizer 45 psi, skimmer 65 V, fragmentor 80 V. Solution NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz NMR spectrometer (400.1 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 161.9 MHz for <sup>31</sup>P). CD<sub>3</sub>OD was used as an external lock. The spectra were referenced to the residual proton signal of CHD<sub>2</sub>OD (3.33 ppm) while  ${}^{31}$ P spectra were referenced to 85 % H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0 ppm). Thermogravimetric analysis (TG/DSC) was done on a Netzsch 449C Jupiter apparatus at the temperature range 25-1000 °C with a heating rate of 5 K min<sup>-1</sup> under the atmosphere of 90 % of nitrogen and 10 % of synthetic air (70 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>). Powder X-ray analysis (PXRD) was performed on a GNR EUROPE XRD 600 diffractometer. Co-K<sub> $\alpha$ </sub> radiation ( $\lambda = 1.7903$  Å) was used (40 kV, 15 mA). Single crystal X-ray mesurements for the compound  $1 \cdot nH_2O$  was carried out on a Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer. The intensity data for compounds  $1 \cdot nMeOH$  and 2 were collected on a Rigaku diffraction system (MicroMax007HF DW rotating anode source with multilayer optic, partial  $\chi$  axis goniometer, Saturn 724+ HG detector and Cryostream cooling device). The Mo-K $_{\alpha}$  radiation was used in both cases. Data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects; absorption was taken into account on a semi-empirical basis using multiple-scans.[1, 2, 3] CrystalClear (Rigaku 2014) and CrysAlisPro (Agilent Technologies 2013) software packages were used for data collection and data reduction of 1 nMeOH and 2. The structures were solved using SHELXT [5] program and refined (full matrix least-squares refinement on  $F_a^2$ ) using SHELXL[4] program. The hydrogen atoms bonded to the water molecules O4W to O6W  $(1 \cdot nH_2O)$  and to the hydroxygroups of O1\_1 and O1\_3 (1\*nSolv) were located by difference Fourier synthesis and refined isotropically. All other hydrogen atoms were included at calculated positions with fixed thermal parameters. All non-disordered, non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Magnetic measurements were performed for ground polycrystalline sample using a Quantum Design MPMS-5 SQUID magnetometer. The magnetic susceptibilities were measured at an applied field of 1000 and 2000 Oe in the temperature range of 2 to 300 K. The magnetization measurements up to 5 T were performed at different temperatures (2-5 K). The collected data were corrected for the diamagnetism of the sample holder as well as the capsula and the diamagnetic contribution of the ligand.

# 2 Synthetic procedures

## 2.1 Ligand

## 2.1.1 NaH<sub>2</sub>SAA.

Salicylaldehyde (6.78 cm<sup>3</sup>, 64.0 mmol) was added to a boiling and stirred solution of H<sub>2</sub>AIPA (2.50 g, 16.0 mmol) and NaOH (0.637 g, 16.0 mmol) in methanol (50 cm<sup>3</sup>). The color of the solution immediately changed to bright yellow. In several minutes the solution became clear yellow and then it was boiled under reflux for 3 h. An oily mass was obtained after complete evaporation of methanol. Excess salicylaldehyde and residual solvent were removed at 85 °C under vacuum (7.5  $10^{-4}$  Torr) during 2 d. 4.040 g of a dry product was obtained.  $M_r(C_{10}H_{13}NNaO_4P \cdot 0.58 MeOH) = 283.94 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ . Yield is 88.9 %.

Elemental analysis (ICP-OES, calc. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NNaO<sub>4</sub>P·0.58MeOH / found): Na 8.09/7.78; P 10.90/11.37 %.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): v 2990 vw, 2973 vw, 2870 vw, 1635 s, 1611 vs, 1528 s, 1504 m, 1470 m, 1394 w, 1298 w, 1202 vs, 1188 vs, 1147 s. 1116 s, 1081 s, 1054 m, 1012 m, 923 s, 909 vs, 847 m, 834 m, 765 s, 737 s, 682 m, 610 m, 552 vs, 527 vs, 493 w, 472 m, 441 vs.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, ppm):  $\delta$  1.62 (d, J = 13.0 Hz, 6H), 6.68 (m, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.35 (m, 2H), 8.51 (d, J = 3.05 Hz, 1H).

<sup>31</sup>P NMR (161.9 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, ppm):  $\delta$  18.44 (sept, J = 12.1 Hz, 1P).

ESI-MS (+) (APCI): m/z 266.05 [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>PNa + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100 %; 509.12 [C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Na + H]<sup>+</sup>, 40 %.

ESI-MS (-): m/z 242.06  $[C_{10}H_{14}NO_4P - H]^-$ , 40 %; 485.12  $[C_{20}H_{28}N_2O_8P_2 - H]^-$ , 100 %.

#### 2.1.2 Na<sub>2</sub>HSAA.

Into the boiling and stirred suspension of H<sub>2</sub>AIPA (2.50 g, 16.0 mmol) and NaOH (1.273 g, 32.0 mmol) in ethanol (50 cm<sup>3</sup>) salicylaldehyde (3.88 cm<sup>3</sup>, 32.0 mmol) was added. The suspension immediately became bright yellow. After several minutes a bright yellow precipitate began to form. The formed mixture was boiled and stirred under reflux for 3 h. The yellow precipitate was filtered off, washed by ethanol and dried under vacuum (7.5  $10^{-4}$  Torr) at 80 °C for 1 d. 4.136 g of dry Na<sub>2</sub>HSAA · 0.5 EtOH · 2 H<sub>2</sub>O was isolated  $M_r(C_{10}H_{12}NNa_2O_4P \cdot 2H_2O \cdot 0.5 EtOH) = 346.23 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ . Yield 74.0 %. A small part of the obtained ligand was recrystallized from methanol. Transparent yellow needle-like crystals were obtained. Molecular structure was solved from the single crystal X-ray diffraction data.

Elemental analysis (ICP-OES, calc. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NNa<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>P·2H<sub>2</sub>O·0.5 EtOH / found): Na 13.28/13.01; P 8.94/9.23 %. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): v 2969 w, 2908 w, 2867 w, 1640 s, 1616 m, 1558 vw, 1524 m, 1494 m, 1470 w, 1385 w, 1304 w, 1246 w, 1209 m, 1192 m, 1141 m, 1124 s, 1094 vs, 1050 s, 1019 m, 968 vs, 901 w, 863 vw, 836 w, 768 m, 738 s, 690 m, 612 m, 558 s, 528 s, 497 w, 456 m.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, ppm):  $\delta$  1.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz,  $-CH_3$  of EtOH), 1.64 (d, J = 11.3 Hz, 6H), 3.63 (q, J = 7.0 Hz,  $-CH_2$  of EtOH), 6.48-6.52 (m, 1H), 6.68 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.24–7.29 (m, 2H), 8.49 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>31</sup>P NMR (161.9 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD, ppm):  $\delta$  16.03–16.29 (sept, J = 12.1 Hz, 1P).

ESI-MS (+): m/z 288.10 [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>PNa<sub>2</sub> + H]<sup>+</sup>, 100 %; 310.10 [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>PNa<sub>3</sub> + H]<sup>+</sup>, 30 %. ESI-MS (-): m/z 242.2 [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>P - H]<sup>-</sup>, 100 %.

## 2.2 Complexes

#### 2.2.1 $[Co_7(SAA)_2(HSAA)_4] \cdot nH_2O(1 \cdot nH_2O).$

A solution of NaH<sub>2</sub>SAA  $\cdot 0.58$  MeOH (0.283 g, 1.00 mmol) in methanol (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added to a solution of CoCl<sub>2</sub>  $\cdot 6$ H<sub>2</sub>O (0.118 g, 0.500 mmol) in methanol (15 cm<sup>3</sup>). A dark violet clear solution was formed. After several days, due to the hydrolysis of NaH<sub>2</sub>SAA, white spherulites of H<sub>2</sub>AIPA  $\cdot$ nSolv (0.057 g) (confirmed by IR spectroscopy and ICP-OES analysis) were formed. Subsequently, dark violet crystals of 1 grew on the spherulites within several weeks. We were not able to quantitatively separate the crystals of complex 1 from spherulites but several of them were suitable for the single crystal X-ray diffraction experiment.

IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): v 3159 m, 2983 m, 1628 s, 1604 vs, 1539 m, 1470 m, 1446 s, 1394 m, 1380 m, 1349 w, 1325 w, 1270 w, 1250 w, 1215 w, 1171 m, 1143 vs, 1098 vs, 1054 vs, 1040 vs, 971 vs, 902 s, 851 m, 803 w, 761 vs, 706 vs, 631 vs, 582 s, 545 s, 455 s.

# Figures SI:



Figure S1: <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>31</sup>P NMR (insets) spectra of NaH<sub>2</sub>SAA $\cdot$ 0.58MeOH (top) and Na<sub>2</sub>HSAA $\cdot$ 0.5EtOH $\cdot$ 2H<sub>2</sub>O (bottom).



Figure S2: Crystal structure of  $Na_2HSAA \cdot MeOH \cdot H_2O$  recrystallized from methanol. Projection of layer (a), and a single molecular unit with the neighboring atoms (b). Oxygen (red), phosphorus (pink), nitrogen (dark blue), hydrogen (dark grey), carbon (grey), sodium (green). All the hydrogen atoms except water and methanol molecules, imino-, methylen-hydrogens were omitted for the sake of clarity (b). Phosphorus polyhedron is depicted for the sake of clarity (b). Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50 % probability level.



Figure S3: The comparison of IR spectra of  $Na_2HSAA$  (a) and complexes  $[Co_7(SAA)_2(HSAA)_4]$  (1) (b),  $[Co_7(SAA)_2(NaSAA)_4]$  (2) (c).



Figure S4: X-ray powder diffractogram of a sample of **2** calcined at 1000 °C compared with the calculated patterns for  $Co_3(PO_4)_2$  (COD: 96-153-6088) and  $Co_2P_2O_7$  (COD: 96-220-1014).



Figure S5: Magnetization M vs. B/T plots at different temperatures for complexes 2 (top) and 3 (bottom).

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