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wangcg23@yahoo.com.cn**Key indicators**Single-crystal X-ray study
 $T = 292$ K
Mean $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.006$ Å
 R factor = 0.067
 wR factor = 0.149
Data-to-parameter ratio = 17.0For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.***cis*-Dichlorobis(1,10-phenanthroline)iron(II)**

In the title compound, $\text{cis-}[\text{FeCl}_2(\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2)_2]$, the Fe atom has a distorted octahedral coordination composed of four N atoms from two phenanthroline groups and two Cl atoms. The crystal packing is stabilized by weak π - π stacking of neighboring phenanthroline groups.

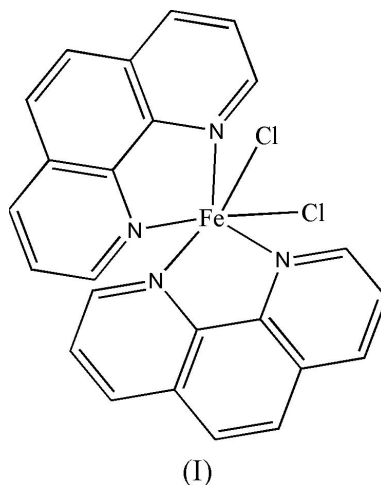
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Comment

The title compound, $\text{cis-}[\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_2\text{Cl}_2]$, (I) (phen is 1,10-phenanthroline), was previously reported by Baker & Bobovich (1963), and its magnetic behavior has been studied (König *et al.*, 1967). However, its crystal structure has not yet been reported. $\text{cis-}[\text{Fe}(\text{phen})_2\text{Cl}_2]$, was unexpectedly obtained while attempting to prepare $[\text{Fe}(\text{terephth})(\text{phen})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$ (terephth is terephthalate). The Fe^{II} atom has a distorted octahedral coordination composed of a pair of phen groups and two Cl atoms. The $\text{Cl1}-\text{Fe1}-\text{Cl2}$ angle is $100.09(4)^\circ$. The crystal packing of (I) is stabilized by extended π - π stacking of the conjugated phen ring systems, characterized by interplanar distances in the range 3.404 (6)–3.608 (6) Å. (see Fig.2).

**Experimental**

The title compound was prepared from a mixture of FeCl_3 , terephthalic acid, 1,10-phenanthroline (monohydrated), NaOH and EtOH with a molar ratio of 1:2:1:2:206. The mixture was stirred for 2 h, sealed in a 15 ml Teflon-lined stainless steel bomb, kept at 413 K for 96 h, and then cooled slowly to ambient temperature. The resulting black-red crystals of (I) were filtered and washed with acetone.

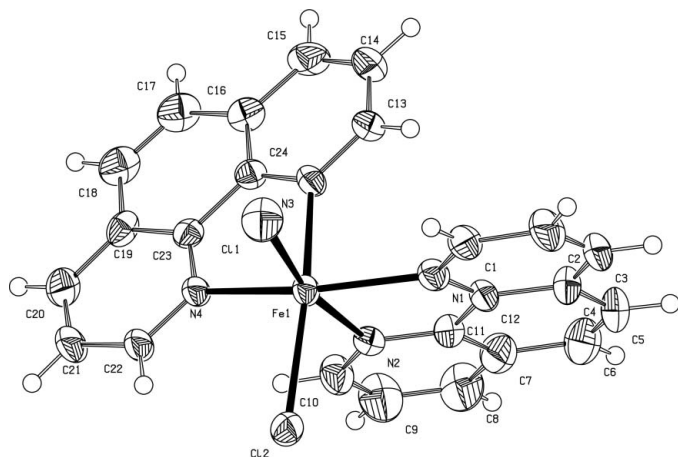


Figure 1
View of the title complex, showing the labeling of the non-H atoms and 50% probability displacement ellipsoids. H atoms are shown as spheres of arbitrary radii.

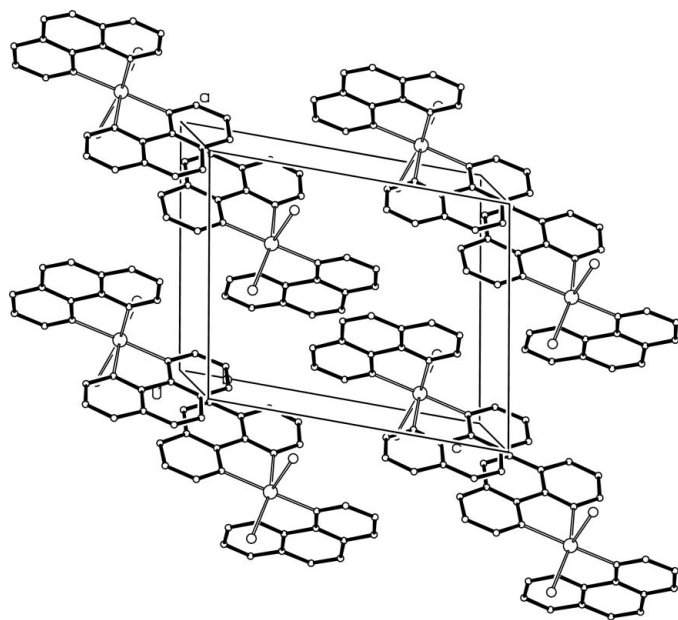


Figure 2
A view of the π - π stacking. H atoms have been omitted.

Crystal data

[FeCl₂(C₁₂H₈N₂)₂]
M_r = 487.16
 Monoclinic, *P*2₁/*n*
a = 10.1699 (18) Å
b = 16.883 (3) Å
c = 12.490 (2) Å
 β = 100.126 (3)°
V = 2111.1 (6) Å³
Z = 4

D_x = 1.533 Mg m⁻³
 Mo *K*α radiation
 Cell parameters from 3005 reflections
 θ = 2.7–25.1°
 μ = 0.99 mm⁻¹
T = 292 (2) K
 Block, black-red
 0.40 × 0.20 × 0.10 mm

Data collection

Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer
 φ and ω scans
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 2000)
T_{min} = 0.693, *T_{max}* = 0.908
 13352 measured reflections

4760 independent reflections
 3251 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)
R_{int} = 0.060
 θ_{max} = 27.5°
h = -10 → 13
k = -21 → 21
l = -15 → 14

Refinement

Refinement on *F*²
R[*F*² > 2σ(*F*²)] = 0.067
wR(*F*²) = 0.149
S = 1.08
 4760 reflections
 280 parameters
 H-atom parameters constrained

$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.059P)^2 + 0.7354P]$
 where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{max} = 0.001$
 $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.66 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$
 $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.69 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Fe1–N4	2.179 (3)	Fe1–N2	2.276 (3)
Fe1–N1	2.179 (3)	Fe1–Cl1	2.3604 (12)
Fe1–N3	2.246 (3)	Fe1–Cl2	2.4696 (11)
N4–Fe1–N1	156.32 (12)	N3–Fe1–Cl1	93.85 (8)
N4–Fe1–N3	74.47 (11)	N2–Fe1–Cl1	168.52 (8)
N1–Fe1–N3	87.65 (11)	N4–Fe1–Cl2	93.00 (8)
N4–Fe1–N2	87.49 (11)	N1–Fe1–Cl2	100.72 (9)
N1–Fe1–N2	73.94 (11)	N3–Fe1–Cl2	162.77 (8)
N3–Fe1–N2	79.90 (11)	N2–Fe1–Cl2	87.91 (8)
N4–Fe1–Cl1	100.19 (9)	Cl1–Fe1–Cl2	100.09 (4)
N1–Fe1–Cl1	96.32 (9)		

H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model, with *U_{iso}*(H) = 1.2*U_{eq}*(C) and C–H distances of 0.93 Å.

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2000); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2000); data reduction: SAINT; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: SHELXTL (Bruker, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

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