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## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 295$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.005$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.053  
 $wR$  factor = 0.163  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 16.5For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.(Tris{2-[(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)methyl-  
imino]ethyl}amine)iron(II) diperchlorate  
acetonitrile solvateIn the cation of the title complex,  $[\text{Fe}(\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_{10})]^{2+}$  ( $\text{ClO}_4$ ) $_2 \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  atom is coordinated by three imine N atoms and three imidazole N atoms in a distorted octahedral geometry, with  $\text{Fe}-\text{N}$  bond distances ranging from 2.189 (3) to 2.236 (3) Å.Received 18 May 2005  
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## Comment

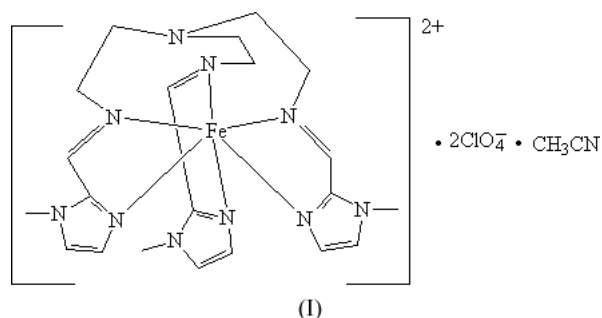
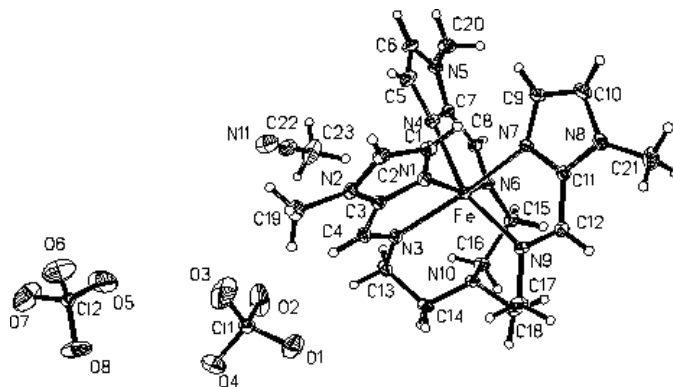
As a part of our ongoing studies of transition metal complexes incorporating imidazole and related ligands (Chen *et al.*, 2003, 2005; Yang *et al.*, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004), the title compound, (I), has been prepared and its X-ray crystal structure is presented here.The crystal structure of (I) consists of  $[\text{FeL}]^{2+}$  complex cations (where  $L$  is tri{2-[(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)methyl-imino]ethyl}amine), perchlorate anions and acetonitrile solvent molecules. The  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  atom is coordinated by three imine N atoms and three imidazole N atoms in a distorted octahedral geometry (Fig. 1 and Table 1). Although  $L$  is a potentially heptadentate ligand, the  $\text{Fe} \cdots \text{N10}$  distance of 2.834 (3) Å suggests no bonding interaction between the N10 and  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  atoms.

Figure 1

The structure of (I), with displacement ellipsoids drawn at the 35% probability level and H atoms shown as small spheres of arbitrary radii.

The two equilateral triangles, one formed by the three imine N atoms (N1, N4 and N7) and the other formed by imidazole N atoms (N3, N6 and N9), are nearly parallel to each other. This is similar to the situation found in structures reported previously (Yang *et al.*, 2001; Kichner *et al.*, 1987; Sim & Sinn, 1978).

The packing of (I) is shown in Fig. 2. Weak C—H...O hydrogen bonding occurs between the cations and anions (Table 2).

### Experimental

1-Methylimidazole-2-carbaldehyde (3 mmol, 0.330 g) was added to a solution of tri(2-aminoethyl)amine (1 mmol, 0.146 g) in dried methanol. The mixture was refluxed for 5 h, and then an acetonitrile solution of FeCl<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mmol, 0.263 g) and an aqueous methanol solution (10 ml, 1:1, v/v) of NaClO<sub>4</sub> (2 mmol, 0.250 g) were added. After filtration, the solution was allowed to stand at room temperature in air. Red single crystals of (I) were obtained from the filtrate after 6 d.

#### Crystal data

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| [Fe(C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>10</sub> )](ClO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ·C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> N | Mo K $\alpha$ radiation               |
| <i>M<sub>r</sub></i> = 718.35   | Cell parameters from 6256 reflections |
| Orthorhombic, <i>Pbca</i>   | $\theta$ = 2.4–22.5°                  |
| <i>a</i> = 16.5457 (9) Å  | $\mu$ = 0.72 mm <sup>-1</sup>         |
| <i>b</i> = 16.7931 (9) Å  | <i>T</i> = 295 (2) K                  |
| <i>c</i> = 22.4135 (12) Å   | Block, red                            |
| <i>V</i> = 6227.7 (6) Å <sup>3</sup>  | 0.52 × 0.42 × 0.39 mm                 |
| <i>Z</i> = 8  |                                       |
| <i>D<sub>x</sub></i> = 1.532 Mg m <sup>-3</sup>   |                                       |

#### Data collection

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Bruker SMART CCD area-detector diffractometer                    | 6787 independent reflections                             |
| $\varphi$ and $\omega$ scans                                     | 4589 reflections with <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ) |
| Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Bruker, 1998)         | <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> = 0.100                          |
| <i>T</i> <sub>min</sub> = 0.706, <i>T</i> <sub>max</sub> = 0.758 | $\theta$ <sub>max</sub> = 27.0°                          |
| 35111 measured reflections                                       | <i>h</i> = -20 → 21                                      |
|  | <i>k</i> = -19 → 21                                      |
|  | <i>l</i> = -18 → 28                                      |

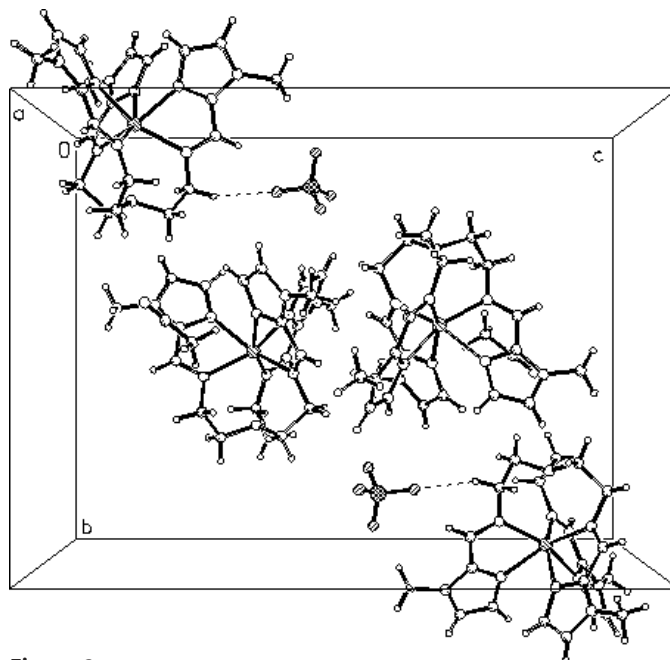
#### Refinement

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Refinement on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> | $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0916P)^2]$           |
| $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.053$     | where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$                    |
| $wR(F^2) = 0.163$                   | ( $\Delta/\sigma$ ) <sub>max</sub> = 0.042        |
| <i>S</i> = 0.99                     | $\Delta\rho_{max} = 0.75 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$      |
| 6787 reflections                    | $\Delta\rho_{min} = -0.50 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$     |
| 411 parameters                      | Extinction correction: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997) |
| H-atom parameters constrained       | Extinction coefficient: 0.00023 (2)               |

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

|          |           |          |           |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Fe—N1    | 2.206 (2) | Fe—N6    | 2.198 (3) |
| Fe—N3    | 2.189 (3) | Fe—N7    | 2.205 (3) |
| Fe—N4    | 2.236 (3) | Fe—N9    | 2.212 (3) |
| N3—Fe—N6 | 105.7 (1) | N7—Fe—N9 | 74.07 (9) |
| N3—Fe—N7 | 157.9 (1) | N1—Fe—N9 | 95.3 (1)  |
| N6—Fe—N7 | 96.1 (1)  | N3—Fe—N4 | 97.3 (1)  |
| N3—Fe—N1 | 74.4 (1)  | N6—Fe—N4 | 74.5 (1)  |
| N6—Fe—N1 | 160.4 (1) | N7—Fe—N4 | 84.9 (1)  |
| N7—Fe—N1 | 83.9 (1)  | N1—Fe—N4 | 86.0 (1)  |
| N3—Fe—N9 | 103.6 (1) | N9—Fe—N4 | 158.7 (1) |
| N6—Fe—N9 | 103.6 (1) |          |           |



**Figure 2**

A perspective view of the packing of (I), viewed down the *a* axis. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

**Table 2**

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

| D—H...A                      | D—H  | H...A | D...A     | D—H...A |
|------------------------------|------|-------|-----------|---------|
| C10—H10...O8 <sup>i</sup>    | 0.93 | 2.58  | 3.367 (5) | 142     |
| C15—H15A...O7 <sup>ii</sup>  | 0.97 | 2.49  | 3.461 (7) | 176     |
| C15—H15B...O2 <sup>iii</sup> | 0.97 | 2.56  | 3.462 (5) | 156     |
| C21—H21B...O8 <sup>i</sup>   | 0.96 | 2.59  | 3.483 (5) | 154     |
| C21—H21C...O6 <sup>ii</sup>  | 0.96 | 2.50  | 3.337 (5) | 146     |

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + \frac{1}{2}, y - \frac{1}{2}, z$ ; (ii)  $x - 1, y, z$ ; (iii)  $x - \frac{1}{2}, y, -z + \frac{1}{2}$

H atoms were positioned geometrically (C—H = 0.93, 0.96 or 0.97 Å) and refined using the riding-model approximation, with *U*<sub>iso</sub>(H) = 1.2*U*<sub>eq</sub>(C).

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 1998); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 1998); 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, 1998); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

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