

Santiago Reinoso, Pablo Vitoria,  
Leire San Felices, Luis Lezama  
and Juan M. Gutiérrez-Zorrilla\*Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Facultad  
de Ciencia y Tecnología, Universidad del País  
Vasco, Apdo. 644, E-48080 Bilbao, Spain

Correspondence e-mail: juanma.zorrilla@ehu.es

## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study

T = 295 K

Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.004 \text{ \AA}$ 

R factor = 0.042

wR factor = 0.081

Data-to-parameter ratio = 18.4

For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>. $\mu$ -Oxalato- $\kappa^4\text{O}^1, \text{O}^2: \text{O}^{1'}, \text{O}^{2'}$ -bis[aqua(2,2'-bipyridyl- $\kappa^2\text{N}, \text{N}'$ )copper(II)] bis(hydrogen squarate)

The title compound,  $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{C}_4\text{HO}_4)_2$ , contains a dinuclear  $\mu$ -oxalato-dicopper(II) complex cation in which the oxalate ligand (ox) bridges the Cu atoms in a bis-bidentate fashion. The square-pyramidal environment of each Cu atom is completed by the two N atoms of the 2,2'-bipyridine ligand (bpy) and by one apical water molecule. The hydrogen squarate counter-anions (Hsq) form cyclic dimeric units through strong  $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds. The crystal structure shows alternating hydrogen-bonded complex cations and cyclic anionic units.

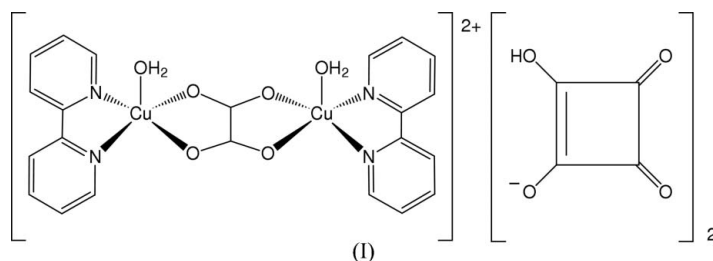
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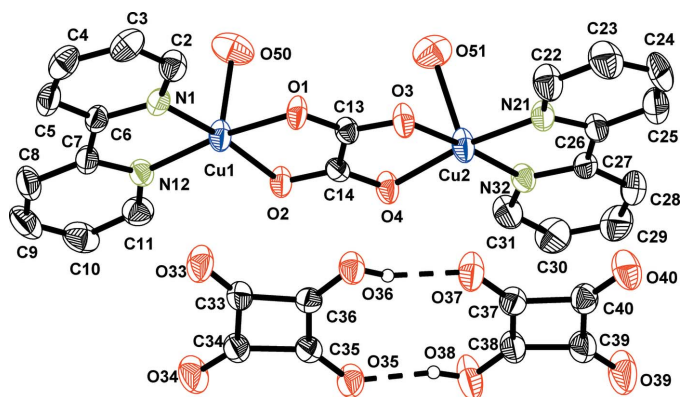
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## Comment

The remarkable ability of the oxalate bridge to mediate exchange coupling between first-row transition metal ions has attracted significant interest in the molecular magnetism area (Khan, 1993). Oxalato-copper(II) dinuclear complexes constitute one of the most deeply studied systems because of the strong magneto-structural correlations found (Cano *et al.*, 1998). Besides the series of compounds with general formula  $[\{\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{X})_2(\mu\text{-ox})\} \cdot [\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})(\text{ox})]$ ,  $\text{X} = \text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  and  $\text{BF}_4^-$  (Julve *et al.*, 1984; Gleizes *et al.*, 1992), the crystal structures of some complexes derived from  $[\{\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})_2(\mu\text{-ox})\}^{2+}$  dinuclear cations have already been reported, such as the nitrate (Castillo *et al.*, 1999), chloride (Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 2002) and hexafluorophosphate (Thomas *et al.*, 2000). We report here the synthesis and crystal structure of the title new salt of the same dinuclear cation,  $[\{\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\mu\text{-ox})\}^{2+}(\text{Hsq})_2$ , (I).



The asymmetric unit of (I) contains one  $[\{\text{Cu}(\text{bpy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\mu\text{-ox})\}^{2+}$  complex cation and two hydrogen squarate anions (Fig. 1). The complex cation consists of two  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  atoms bridged by an oxalate ligand in the usual bis-bidentate fashion, the Cu-ox-Cu framework displaying a boat conformation. The coordination geometry around each  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  atom is square-pyramidal,  $\text{CuN}_2\text{O}_3$ , with two O atoms of the ox bridge and two N atoms of the bpy ligand in the basal plane, and a water molecule in the apical position.



**Figure 1**  
ORTEP-3 plot of (I) (50% probability displacement ellipsoids). Aromatic H atoms have been omitted for clarity. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds.

The hydrogen squarate counter-anions form cyclic dimeric units through strong O—H···O hydrogen bonds. The crystal structure shows alternating complex cations and cyclic anionic units, arranged in two different levels and linked through an extended network of O(water)—H···O(Hsq) hydrogen bonds (Table 2). They are further connected by means of  $\pi$  stacking interactions, involving the N1/C6 and C27/N32 bipyridine rings, and C(bpy)—H···O(Hsq) hydrogen bonds, giving rise to layers parallel to the (111) plane (Fig. 2).

## Experimental

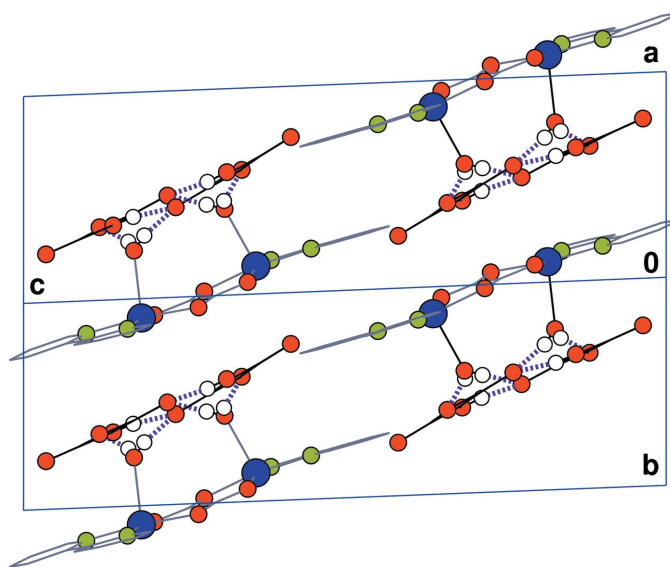
A solution of squaric acid (23 mg) in water (20 ml) was added to a solution containing  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (68 mg), 2,2'-bipyridine (62 mg) and oxalic acid (25 mg) in water (30 ml) and methanol (10 ml). Single crystals of the title compound suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by slow evaporation of the reaction mixture. Elemental analysis found: C 45.42, H 2.86, N 7.04%; calculated for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{Cu}_2\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{14}$ : C 45.63, H 2.81, N 7.10%.

### Crystal data

|  |   |
|--|---|
| $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{C}_2\text{O}_4)(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2)_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{C}_4\text{HO}_4)_2$ | $Z = 2$                                   |
| $M_r = 789.62$   | $D_x = 1.739 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$           |
| Triclinic, $P\bar{1}$  | Mo $K\alpha$ radiation                    |
| $a = 8.0147 (12) \text{ \AA}$  | Cell parameters from 6000 reflections     |
| $b = 9.2276 (12) \text{ \AA}$  | $\theta = 3.5\text{--}25^\circ$           |
| $c = 21.728 (2) \text{ \AA}$   | $\mu = 1.49 \text{ mm}^{-1}$              |
| $\alpha = 92.049 (10)^\circ$   | $T = 295 (2) \text{ K}$                   |
| $\beta = 94.860 (11)^\circ$  | Prism, blue                               |
| $\gamma = 109.283 (12)^\circ$  | $0.14 \times 0.09 \times 0.07 \text{ mm}$ |
| $V = 1507.9 (4) \text{ \AA}^3$   |   |

### Data collection

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur diffractometer                                 | 8613 independent reflections           |
| $\omega$ scans   | 3850 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ |
| Absorption correction: analytical (CrysAlis RED; Oxford Diffraction, 2003) | $R_{\text{int}} = 0.035$               |
| $T_{\text{min}} = 0.719$ , $T_{\text{max}} = 0.843$                        | $\theta_{\text{max}} = 30^\circ$       |
| 14798 measured reflections   | $h = -8 \rightarrow 11$                |
|  | $k = -12 \rightarrow 12$               |
|  | $l = -30 \rightarrow 30$               |



**Figure 2**  
View of the crystal packing along the [110] direction. Dashed lines indicate O—H···O hydrogen bonds.

### Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.042$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.081$   
 $S = 0.76$   
 8613 reflections  
 469 parameters

H atoms treated by a mixture of independent and constrained refinement  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.028P)^2]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} = 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.54 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.28 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters ( $\text{\AA}$ ,  $^\circ$ ).

|             |             |             |            |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Cu1—N1      | 1.958 (2)   | C34—C35     | 1.494 (4)  |
| Cu1—N12     | 1.969 (2)   | C35—O35     | 1.253 (3)  |
| Cu1—O1      | 1.9775 (17) | C35—C36     | 1.411 (4)  |
| Cu1—O2      | 1.9644 (17) | C36—O36     | 1.297 (3)  |
| Cu1—O50     | 2.219 (3)   | C36—C33     | 1.435 (4)  |
| Cu2—N21     | 1.957 (2)   | C37—O37     | 1.256 (3)  |
| Cu2—N32     | 1.954 (2)   | C37—C38     | 1.417 (4)  |
| Cu2—O3      | 1.9746 (17) | C38—O38     | 1.295 (3)  |
| Cu2—O4      | 1.9778 (17) | C38—C39     | 1.453 (4)  |
| Cu2—O51     | 2.277 (3)   | C39—O39     | 1.213 (3)  |
| C33—O33     | 1.223 (3)   | C39—C40     | 1.510 (4)  |
| C33—C34     | 1.497 (4)   | C40—O40     | 1.212 (3)  |
| C34—O34     | 1.219 (3)   | C40—C37     | 1.483 (4)  |
| N1—Cu1—N12  | 82.36 (9)   | N21—Cu2—N32 | 82.50 (9)  |
| N1—Cu1—O2   | 171.31 (8)  | N21—Cu2—O4  | 171.87 (9) |
| N1—Cu1—O50  | 99.90 (9)   | N21—Cu2—O51 | 99.52 (9)  |
| N12—Cu1—O1  | 168.28 (8)  | N32—Cu2—O3  | 174.38 (9) |
| N12—Cu1—O50 | 100.62 (9)  | N32—Cu2—O51 | 99.76 (9)  |
| O1—Cu1—O2   | 85.40 (7)   | O3—Cu2—O4   | 85.50 (7)  |
| O1—Cu1—O50  | 91.04 (9)   | O3—Cu2—O51  | 85.84 (9)  |
| O2—Cu1—O50  | 88.79 (9)   | O4—Cu2—O51  | 88.33 (8)  |

**Table 2**  
Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

| <i>D</i> —H··· <i>A</i>      | <i>D</i> —H | H··· <i>A</i> | <i>D</i> ··· <i>A</i> | <i>D</i> —H··· <i>A</i> |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| O36—H36···O37                | 0.79 (4)    | 1.75 (4)      | 2.517 (3)             | 164 (4)                 |
| O38—H38···O35                | 0.79 (4)    | 1.77 (4)      | 2.546 (3)             | 166 (4)                 |
| O50—H50A···O34 <sup>i</sup>  | 0.72 (2)    | 2.03 (2)      | 2.711 (3)             | 158 (4)                 |
| O50—H50B···O37 <sup>ii</sup> | 0.72 (3)    | 2.05 (3)      | 2.737 (3)             | 161 (4)                 |
| O51—H51A···O35 <sup>i</sup>  | 0.72 (3)    | 2.07 (3)      | 2.758 (3)             | 161 (4)                 |
| O51—H51B···O40 <sup>ii</sup> | 0.72 (3)    | 2.03 (3)      | 2.722 (3)             | 164 (4)                 |
| C2—H2···O1                   | 0.93        | 2.52          | 3.037 (3)             | 115                     |
| C3—H3···O33 <sup>iii</sup>   | 0.93        | 2.39          | 3.296 (4)             | 166                     |
| C5—H5···O34 <sup>iv</sup>    | 0.93        | 2.52          | 3.360 (4)             | 151                     |
| C8—H8···O33 <sup>iv</sup>    | 0.93        | 2.47          | 3.198 (4)             | 136                     |
| C25—H25···O39 <sup>v</sup>   | 0.93        | 2.42          | 3.153 (4)             | 136                     |
| C30—H30···O39 <sup>vi</sup>  | 0.93        | 2.37          | 3.284 (4)             | 169                     |
| C31—H31···O4                 | 0.93        | 2.50          | 3.021 (3)             | 116                     |

Symmetry codes: (i)  $x, y + 1, z$ ; (ii)  $x - 1, y, z$ ; (iii)  $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1$ ; (iv)  $-x, -y, -z + 1$ ; (v)  $-x + 2, -y + 1, -z$ ; (vi)  $-x + 1, -y, -z$ .

The H atoms of the water molecules and hydrogen squarate anions were located in a Fourier difference map. All remaining H atoms were positioned geometrically. Hydrogen squarate and water H atoms were refined freely, except that all water O—H distances were restrained to be equal to within 0.01 Å. All remaining H atoms were refined as riding, with isotropic displacement parameters fixed at 1.2 times  $U_{eq}$  of their parent atoms.

Data collection: *CrysAlisCCD* (Oxford Diffraction, 2003); cell refinement: *CrysAlisRED* (Oxford Diffraction, 2003); data reduction: *CrysAlisRED*; program(s) used to solve structure: *DIRDIF99.2* (Beurskens *et al.*, 1999); program(s) used to refine structure:

*SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3 for Windows* (Farrugia, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: *WinGX* (Farrugia, 1999).

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