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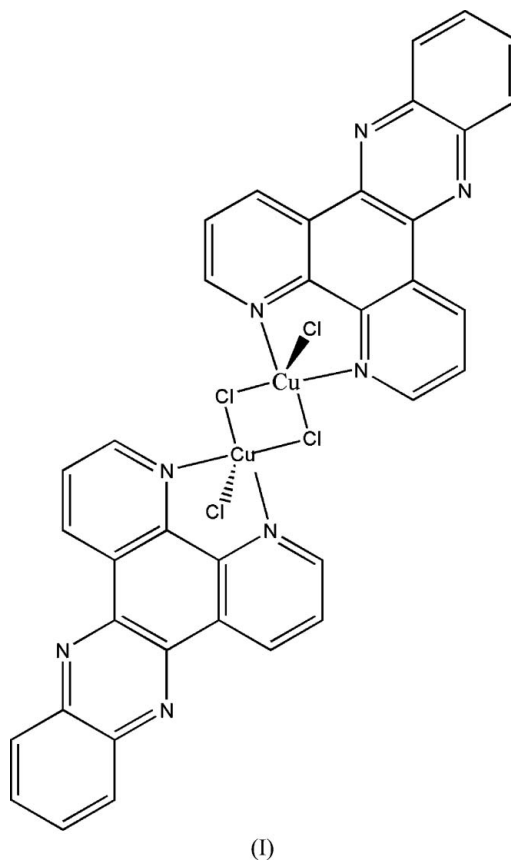
## Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 293$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.011$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.051  
 $wR$  factor = 0.137  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 13.5For details of how these key indicators were  
automatically derived from the article, see  
<http://journals.iucr.org/e>.Di- $\mu$ -chloro-bis[chloro(dipyridophenazine- $\kappa^2N,N'$ )copper(II)]The title compound,  $[\text{Cu}_2\text{Cl}_4(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_4)_2]$ , has a discrete binuclear structure, in which the Cu atoms show square-pyramidal geometry. The complex molecule is centrosymmetric. There are strong intermolecular  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions between the dipyridophenazine ligands.

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## Comment

Dipyridophenazine derivatives are usually used as molecular light switches (Hartshorn & Barton, 1992) for the study of fast electron transfer through DNA (Murphy *et al.*, 1993). A ruthenium(II) complex with dipyridophenazine has been found to be a good cleavage agent with high affinity for DNA (Gupta *et al.*, 1992). We report here the synthesis and structure of the title binuclear copper(II) complex of dipyridophenazine, (I).

Complex (I) has a discrete binuclear structure lying on a centre of symmetry (Fig. 1 and Table 1). The asymmetric unit contains one dipyridophenazine ligand, two Cl atoms and one Cu atom. Planar dipyridophenazine ligands from adjacent

binuclear molecules at  $(x, y, z)$  and  $(-x + 1, -y, -z + 2)$  are paired to furnish strong  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions, with an average plane-to-plane separation of 3.20 Å (Zheng *et al.*, 2001).

**Experimental**

A mixture of  $\text{CuCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.085 g, 0.5 mmol), dipyrindophenazine (0.141 g, 0.5 mmol) and water (10 ml) was sealed in a 23 ml Teflon-lined reactor and heated at 453 K for 6 d, and then cooled to room temperature at a rate of 5 K  $\text{h}^{-1}$  (yield 30%). Analysis, calculated for  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{20}\text{Cl}_4\text{Cu}_2\text{N}_8$ : C 51.88, H 2.42, N 13.44%; found: C 51.56, H 2.25, N 13.73%.

*Crystal data*

$[\text{Cu}_2\text{Cl}_4(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_4)_2]$   
 $M_r = 833.48$   
 Triclinic,  $P\bar{1}$   
 $a = 7.2207$  (9) Å  
 $b = 7.9232$  (10) Å  
 $c = 14.6183$  (18) Å  
 $\alpha = 98.360$  (2)°  
 $\beta = 101.476$  (2)°  
 $\gamma = 99.546$  (2)°  
 $V = 794.37$  (17) Å<sup>3</sup>  
 $Z = 1$   
 $D_x = 1.742$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation  
 $\mu = 1.72$  mm<sup>-1</sup>  
 $T = 293$  (2) K  
 Block, green  
 0.37 × 0.21 × 0.12 mm

*Data collection*

Bruker SMART APEX area-detector diffractometer  
 $\varphi$  and  $\omega$  scans  
 Absorption correction: multi-scan (SADABS; Sheldrick, 1996)  
 $T_{\min} = 0.570, T_{\max} = 0.816$   
 4386 measured reflections  
 3062 independent reflections  
 2617 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$   
 $R_{\text{int}} = 0.020$   
 $\theta_{\text{max}} = 26.0^\circ$

*Refinement*

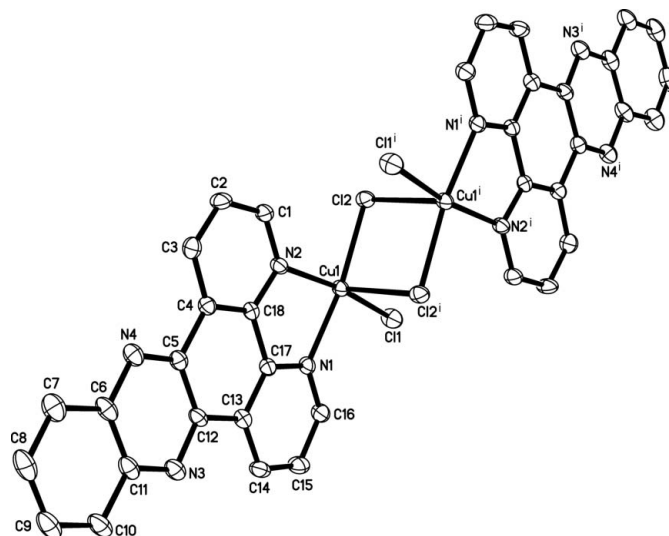
Refinement on  $F^2$   
 $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.051$   
 $wR(F^2) = 0.137$   
 $S = 1.06$   
 3062 reflections  
 226 parameters  
 H-atom parameters constrained  
 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0719P)^2 + 0.7132P]$   
 where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$   
 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\text{max}} < 0.001$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{max}} = 0.79 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$   
 $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}} = -0.47 \text{ e \AA}^{-3}$

**Table 1**

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Cu1—N2	2.026 (5)	Cu1—Cl2	2.2787 (17)
Cu1—N1	2.042 (6)	Cu1—Cl2 <sup>i</sup>	2.7582 (19)
Cu1—Cl1	2.2394 (19)		
N2—Cu1—N1	80.3 (2)	Cl1—Cu1—Cl2	92.07 (7)
N2—Cu1—Cl1	169.97 (16)	N2—Cu1—Cl2 <sup>i</sup>	88.48 (16)
N1—Cu1—Cl1	93.69 (16)	N1—Cu1—Cl2 <sup>i</sup>	93.58 (16)
N2—Cu1—Cl2	93.25 (16)	Cl1—Cu1—Cl2 <sup>i</sup>	99.98 (7)
N1—Cu1—Cl2	172.35 (16)	Cl2—Cu1—Cl2 <sup>i</sup>	90.36 (6)

Symmetry code: (i)  $-x, -y, -z + 1$ .



**Figure 1**

The molecular structure of (I). Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. H atoms have been omitted for clarity. [Symmetry code: (i)  $-x, -y, 1 - z$ .]

H atoms were positioned geometrically and refined as riding, with  $\text{C}-\text{H} = 0.93$  Å and  $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{C})$ .

Data collection: SMART (Bruker, 2001); cell refinement: SAINT (Bruker, 2001); 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, 2001); software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXTL.

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