

Jahn-Teller Activity of  $d^x$  Systems in Tetrahedral Symmetry

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The angular overlap model is used to calculate the Jahn-Teller coupling constants for  $\text{MX}_4 T_d d^x$  systems in the weak field,  $|LSM_L M_S\rangle$ , basis. For T states,  $T \otimes \epsilon$  coupling most often predominates, but some cases of preferential  $T \otimes \tau_2$  coupling are predicted, involving the  $\tau_2$  bending rather than the  $\tau_2$  stretching mode.

## Introduction

The technique of Bacci,<sup>1</sup> for calculating the linear Jahn-Teller coupling constants via the angular overlap model, has been extensively applied to both  $d^x$  and  $f^x$  systems in  $O_h$  symmetry,<sup>2-5</sup> but for  $T_d$  species only the results for  $d^1$  and equivalent systems, in the strong-field basis, are available. Moreover, although a strong-field treatment is usually both more natural and quite satisfactory for  $\text{MX}_6 O_h d^x$  systems,<sup>3</sup> the same cannot be said for the  $\text{MX}_4 T_d 3d$  complexes, where the ligand field splitting of the d-orbital set is much smaller. Here, when state mixing has to be considered (for  $d^2(d^8)$  and  $d^3(d^7)$  systems), the values of  $\Delta_{\text{tet}}$  and  $B$  (the d-orbital splitting and Racah repulsion parameters) usually encountered lead to states of 95% or greater purity in the weak-field,  $|LSM_L M_S\rangle$ , basis as against only some 65% in the corresponding strong-field scheme. Consequently, although Bacci's  $\text{MX}_4 T_d$  values<sup>1,2</sup> apply when the strong- and weak-field results are the same ( $d^1(d^9)$  and  $d^4(d^6)$  systems), they are not adequate for all  $d^x$  configurations. This work now therefore calculates the Jahn-Teller coupling constants for all  $d^x$  ground states in  $T_d$  symmetry, together with results for the corresponding excited states of the same spin multiplicity, using the weak field,  $|LSM_L M_S\rangle$ , basis.

## Theory

The basis of the angular overlap calculation of the Jahn-Teller coupling constants has been previously presented in several places<sup>1-6</sup> and will not therefore be recapitulated: all the non-vanishing matrix elements of the Jahn-Teller operators were first found in the real d-orbital scheme and converted to the  $|m_l\rangle$  basis, and the latter were used to evaluate the general  $\langle M_L | \partial V / \partial Q_\gamma | M_L' \rangle$  matrix elements, via the usual operator-equivalent technique. Whereas in  $O_h$  symmetry there were but two active modes,  $e_g$  (stretching) and  $\tau_{2g}$  (bending), for  $T_d$  species there are now three Jahn-Teller-active vibrations, namely  $\epsilon$  ( $\delta$ , bending),  $\tau_2$  ( $\delta$ , bending), and  $\tau_2$  ( $\nu$ , stretching), although, with Bacci,<sup>1</sup> mixing between the two  $\tau_2$  modes is for simplicity neglected. The permitted couplings of E and T states to these vibrations are nevertheless the same as in the  $O_h$  situation, and the coupling constants,  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ , as defined by Bersuker,<sup>7</sup> and their relationship to  $E_{JT}$  are also unaffected.

For  $E \otimes \epsilon$  and  $T \otimes \epsilon$  the coupling constants  $A$  and  $C$ , respectively, will be functions simply of  $e_\lambda/R$ , as will the constant  $B$  for  $T \otimes \tau_2(\delta)$  coupling; for  $T \otimes \tau_2(\nu)$  however,  $B$  will involve the derivative quantities  $\partial e_\lambda/\partial R$ . For  $\text{MX}_4 T_d$  systems the d-orbital set transforms as  $e + t_2$ , and if only s and p orbitals of the ligands are considered, the e level will be  $\pi$  antibonding and the  $t_2$  level both  $\sigma$  and  $\pi$  antibonding. Thus, when the weak- and strong-field results are identical, only  $e_\pi$  terms will occur in the constant  $A$ , for E degeneracies, while for T degeneracies both  $e_\sigma$  and  $e_\pi$  quantities arise in  $B$  and  $C$ . Where state mixing occurs, both  $e_\sigma$

Table I. Jahn-Teller Coupling Constants for  $d^x T_d \text{MX}_4$  Systems in the Weak-Field Scheme<sup>a</sup>

	$d^1, d^6 (d^9, d^4); {}^2D, {}^5D$
${}^{2,5}E \otimes \epsilon$	$A = -(4/3)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{2,5}T_2 \otimes \epsilon$	$C = +(4/3)(2^{1/2}\sigma) - (4/9)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{2,5}T_2 \otimes \tau_2(\delta)$	$B = -(2/3)(2^{1/2}\sigma) + (14/9)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{2,5}T_2 \otimes \tau_2(\nu)$	$B = +(2/3)\delta - (2/9)\pi$
	$d^2, d^7 (d^8, d^3); {}^3F, {}^4F$
${}^{3,4}T_1 \otimes \epsilon$	$C = -(4/5)(2^{1/2}\sigma) + (8/15)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{3,4}T_1 \otimes \tau_2(\delta)$	$B = +(7/5)(2^{1/2}\sigma) - (29/15)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{3,4}T_1 \otimes \tau_2(\nu)$	$B = -(3/5)\delta + (11/15)\pi$
${}^{3,4}T_2 \otimes \epsilon$	$C = +(4/3)(2^{1/2}\sigma) - (16/9)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{3,4}T_2 \otimes \tau_2(\delta)$	$B = +(1/3)(2^{1/2}\sigma) - (7/9)(2^{1/2}\pi)$
${}^{3,4}T_2 \otimes \tau_2(\nu)$	$B = -(1/3)\delta + (1/9)\pi$
	$d^2, d^7 (d^8, d^3); {}^3P, {}^4P$
${}^{3,4}T_1 \otimes \epsilon$	$C = +(4/5)(2^{1/2}(\sigma + \pi))$
${}^{3,4}T_1 \otimes \tau_2(\delta)$	$B = -(2/5)(2^{1/2}(\sigma + \pi))$
${}^{3,4}T_1 \otimes \tau_2(\nu)$	$B = -(2/5)(\delta + \pi)$

Off-Diagonal Matrix Elements:  $d^2, d^7 (d^8, d^3); {}^3F-{}^3P, {}^4F-{}^4P$   
 $\langle {}^{3,4}F, 0 | \partial V / \partial Q_{xy} | {}^{3,4}P, 0 \rangle = +(16/15)(2^{1/2}\sigma) + (8/45)(2^{1/2}\pi)$   
 $\langle {}^{3,4}F, \pm 1 | \partial V / \partial Q_{xy} | {}^{3,4}P, \pm 1 \rangle (\delta) = \pm(7/15)(2^{1/2}i\sigma) \mp (4/45)(2^{1/2}i\pi)$   
 $\langle {}^{3,4}F, \pm 1 | \partial V / \partial Q_{xy} | {}^{3,4}P, \mp 1 \rangle (\nu) = \pm(2/15)i\delta \pm (16/45)i\pi$

<sup>a</sup> Here and throughout,  $\sigma = e_\sigma/R$ ,  $\pi = e_\pi/R$ ,  $\delta = \partial e_\sigma/\partial R$ , and  $\pi = \partial e_\pi/\partial R$ . Reverse signs are for hole-equivalent configurations. Allowance for state mixing may be made via the listed off-diagonal matrix elements; note that all elements containing  $i$  are Hermitian and make appropriate sign changes for hole-equivalent configurations.

and  $e_\pi$  terms are involved in all the weak-field-scheme coupling constants.

The required calculation for any  $d^x$  state may then most readily be made via the operator-equivalent technique by following the procedure used<sup>3</sup> for the  $\text{MX}_6 O_h$  case. Thus one writes

$$\partial V / \partial Q_{z^2} = \alpha_{0\lambda} O_2^0 + \beta_{0\lambda} (O_4^0 - 7O_4^4)$$

$$\partial V / \partial Q_{x^2-y^2} = \alpha_{2\lambda} O_2^2 + \beta_{2\lambda} O_4^2$$

$$\partial V / \partial Q_{xy} = \alpha_{2\lambda} O_2^2 + \beta_{2\lambda} O_4^2$$

where the  $O_m^n$  are the Stevens<sup>8</sup> operator equivalents. The coefficients may then easily be expressed<sup>3,6</sup> in terms of Stevens'  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  quantities, and for the  $\epsilon$  mode one finds

$$\alpha_{0\sigma} = -2^{1/2}\alpha \quad \beta_{0\sigma} = +2^{1/2}\beta/2^2 \quad \alpha_{2\sigma} = +6^{1/2}\alpha$$

$$\beta_{2\sigma} = +6^{1/2}\beta$$

while for the  $\tau_2(\delta)$  and  $\tau_2(\nu)$  modes, respectively, the results

$$\alpha_{2\sigma} = -2^{1/2}i\alpha \quad \beta_{2\sigma} = +5(2^{1/2}i\beta/2) \quad (\delta)$$

and

$$\alpha_{2\sigma} = -i\alpha \quad \beta_{2\sigma} = -i\beta \quad (\nu)$$

are derived. The  $\alpha_{n\pi}$  and  $\beta_{n\pi}$  quantities are simply related to the  $\alpha_{n\sigma}$  and  $\beta_{n\sigma}$  terms such that in each case  $\alpha_{n\pi}/\alpha_{n\sigma} = +1$  and  $\beta_{n\pi}/\beta_{n\sigma}$

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= -4/3. Thus, all the general  $\langle M_L | \partial V / \partial Q_\gamma | M_L' \rangle$  matrix elements may be found for any E or T<sub>1,2</sub> state by using the cubic wave functions of Griffith<sup>9</sup> and the appropriate A, B, and C coupling constants deduced.

### Results and Discussion

In Table I are listed the Jahn–Teller coupling constants for MX<sub>4</sub> T<sub>d</sub> d<sup>x</sup> systems (x = 1–4, 6–9), in the weak-field basis; the <sup>6</sup>A<sub>1</sub> d<sup>5</sup> state is of course Jahn–Teller impotent. Results are given for the ground states and for excited states of the same spin multiplicity, and where state mixing occurs, allowance may, if desired, be made for this usually small effect by using the listed cross-product matrix elements.

According to the angular overlap approach, the d-orbital splittings, Δ<sub>oct</sub> (= E(e<sub>g</sub>) - E(t<sub>2g</sub>)) for MX<sub>6</sub> systems and Δ<sub>tet</sub> (= E(e) - E(t<sub>2</sub>)) for MX<sub>4</sub> systems, are given by Δ<sub>oct</sub> = 3e<sub>σ</sub> - 4e<sub>π</sub> and Δ<sub>tet</sub> = -(4/3)e<sub>σ</sub> + (16/9)e<sub>π</sub>, respectively, although in practice, the ratio -Δ<sub>tet</sub>/Δ<sub>oct</sub> is often slightly greater than the predicted factor of 4/9. Nevertheless, the much reduced splitting leads always to high-spin ground states of high weak-field purity. Since however only the single parameter Δ is experimentally available, evaluation of the e<sub>λ</sub> requires the determination of the e<sub>π</sub>/e<sub>σ</sub> ratio, which angular overlap theory indicates should be equal to (S<sub>π</sub><sup>2</sup>/S<sub>σ</sub><sup>2</sup>), where the S<sub>λ</sub> terms are the respective group overlap integrals. Such calculations suggest a ratio of about 0.25, but since empirical data for lower symmetry species yield rather smaller ratios, E<sub>JT</sub> is here determined assuming e<sub>π</sub>/e<sub>σ</sub> to range between about 1/6 and 1/4.

For O<sub>h</sub> MX<sub>6</sub> systems the e<sub>g</sub> orbitals are markedly σ antibonding whereas the t<sub>2g</sub> set interacts only in a π sense: much larger E<sub>JT</sub> values are therefore anticipated for E than for T states, and thus little attention has been given to the relative strengths of T ⊗ e<sub>g</sub> and T ⊗ τ<sub>2g</sub> coupling. For T<sub>d</sub> MX<sub>4</sub> species however, the converse situation obtains so that E<sub>JT</sub> for E states will be rather small and significantly greater values should arise for T levels. Consequently, the competition between T ⊗ e and T ⊗ τ<sub>2</sub> coupling assumes much greater significance, as well as the possible conflict between the τ<sub>2</sub>(δ) and τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) modes, and for the latter the simple electrostatic model relationship, ∂e<sub>λ</sub>/∂R = -5e<sub>λ</sub>/R, was assumed in calculating E<sub>JT</sub>.

For the 3d series approximately tetrahedral [MCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> complexes are known for M = Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu (d<sup>5</sup>–d<sup>9</sup>), of which only the Cu compound is substantially distorted from T<sub>d</sub> symmetry. In Table II are given the corresponding E<sub>JT</sub> values, calculated from the cited experimental data, showing coupling of the various T states to the e mode to be dominant in most cases and very strong for <sup>2</sup>T<sub>2</sub> of [CuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>. In two instances however—the <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) and <sup>4</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) states of [NiCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> and [CoCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>—the calculated E<sub>JT</sub>/ħω ratio suggests that T ⊗ τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) coupling should be favored, although in no case is T ⊗ τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) predicted to be the strongest. Of the above anions, those of Mn, Fe, Co, and Ni show a very nearly T<sub>d</sub> geometry,<sup>10–12</sup> with only slight tetragonal distortions toward D<sub>2d</sub> symmetry, but since the d<sup>5</sup> Mn<sup>II</sup> and d<sup>7</sup> Co<sup>II</sup> complexes have essentially Jahn–Teller-inactive <sup>6</sup>A<sub>1</sub> and <sup>4</sup>A<sub>2</sub> ground states, respectively, it is very unlikely that these small distortions are of Jahn–Teller origin.

The d<sup>9</sup> [CuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> anion is however substantially distorted from T<sub>d</sub> toward D<sub>2d</sub> symmetry,<sup>13,14</sup> as would be expected for the strong <sup>2</sup>T<sub>2</sub> ⊗ e coupling. Here E<sub>JT</sub>/ħω is large enough to stabilize a static distortion despite the appreciable spin–orbit coupling (ξ for Cu<sup>II</sup> is 930 cm<sup>-1</sup>), which splits <sup>2</sup>T<sub>2</sub> into Γ<sub>7</sub> + Γ<sub>8</sub> with the former lying lower. Thus, despite the Jahn–Teller impotence of an isolated Γ<sub>7</sub> Kramers' doublet, the very strong coupling acts via the matrix elements connecting Γ<sub>7</sub> and Γ<sub>8</sub>, thereby stabilizing the distorted configurations. In fact, Bacci's data<sup>15</sup> predict a comparable E<sub>JT</sub>

**Table II.** Jahn–Teller Stabilization Energies for d<sup>x</sup> (x = 6–9) [MCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> Anions<sup>a</sup>

	E <sub>JT</sub> , cm <sup>-1</sup>	E <sub>JT</sub> /ħω
[FeCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> , <sup>b</sup> Ground State <sup>5</sup> E		
<sup>5</sup> E ⊗ e	27–82	0.33–1.00
<sup>5</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ e	861–1104	10.5–13.5
<sup>5</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	63–59	0.53–0.50
<sup>5</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	202–383	0.71–1.34
[CoCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> , <sup>c</sup> Ground State <sup>4</sup> A <sub>2</sub>		
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F) ⊗ e	307–367	3.41–4.08
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	512–504	4.65–4.58
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	163–169	0.57–0.58
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ e	652	7.24
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	18–12	0.16–0.11
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	71–91	0.24–0.31
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (P) ⊗ e	528–825	5.87–9.17
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (P) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	96–150	0.87–1.36
<sup>4</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (P) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	155–243	0.53–0.84
[NiCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> , <sup>d</sup> Ground State <sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F)		
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F) ⊗ e	436–522	4.95–5.93
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	729–717	7.29–7.17
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (F) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	232–240	0.82–0.84
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ e	928	10.6
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	26–16	0.26–0.16
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	101–129	0.36–0.45
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (P) ⊗ e	751–1174	8.53–13.3
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (P) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	137–213	1.37–2.13
<sup>3</sup> T <sub>1</sub> (P) ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	221–345	0.78–1.22
[CuCl <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>2-</sup> , <sup>e</sup> Ground State <sup>2</sup> T <sub>2</sub>		
<sup>2</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ e	2662–3476	25.6–33.4
<sup>2</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (δ)	200–129	1.48–0.95
<sup>2</sup> T <sub>2</sub> ⊗ τ <sub>2</sub> (ν)	1273–1662	5.05–6.60
<sup>2</sup> E ⊗ e	83–254	0.79–2.44

<sup>a</sup> Values are listed for the range e<sub>π</sub>/e<sub>σ</sub> = 1/6–1/4; the parameters used are from ref 16–20 and from: Smith, D. W. *Struct. Bonding (Berlin)* **1978**, 35, 87. Basile, L. J.; Ferraro, J. R.; Labonville, P.; Wall, M. C. *Coord. Chem. Rev.* **1973**, 11, 21. <sup>b</sup> Δ<sub>tet</sub> = -3300 cm<sup>-1</sup>, R = 2.30 Å, K<sub>e</sub> = 0.07, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(δ)}</sub> = 0.09, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(ν)}</sub> = 0.84 mdyne/Å; ħω, e = 82, τ<sub>2</sub>(δ) = 119, τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) = 286 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>c</sup> Δ<sub>tet</sub> = -3200 cm<sup>-1</sup>, R = 2.28 Å, K<sub>e</sub> = 0.06, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(δ)}</sub> = 0.11, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(ν)}</sub> = 0.85 mdyne/Å; ħω, e = 90, τ<sub>2</sub>(δ) = 110, τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) = 290 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>d</sup> Δ<sub>tet</sub> = -3800 cm<sup>-1</sup>, R = 2.27 Å, K<sub>e</sub> = 0.06, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(δ)}</sub> = 0.11, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(ν)}</sub> = 0.85 mdyne/Å; ħω, e = 88, τ<sub>2</sub>(δ) = 100, τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) = 284 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>e</sup> Δ<sub>tet</sub> = -5600 cm<sup>-1</sup>, R = 2.22 Å, K<sub>e</sub> = 0.07, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(δ)}</sub> = 0.13, K<sub>τ<sub>2</sub>(ν)}</sub> = 0.61 mdyne/Å; ħω, e = 104, τ<sub>2</sub>(δ) = 135, τ<sub>2</sub>(ν) = 252 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

of 2975 cm<sup>-1</sup> for <sup>2</sup>T<sub>2</sub> ⊗ e (cf. Table II), reduced to 1200 cm<sup>-1</sup> by spin–orbit coupling but still yielding a large enough E<sub>JT</sub>/ħω to lead to a static distortion.

For the d<sup>8</sup> [NiCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> anion however the situation is less clear. In T<sub>d</sub> symmetry spin–orbit coupling splits the <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) ground state, leaving an inactive Γ<sub>1</sub> level lying lowest, but E<sub>JT</sub>/ħω is here significantly less than for [CuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>, and the still substantial spin–orbit coupling should stabilize the system against any appreciable distortion. Similarly, E<sub>JT</sub> for the <sup>5</sup>E ground state of d<sup>6</sup> [FeCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> should be much too small to stabilize any distortion since the E ⊗ e coupling involves only e<sub>π</sub> contributions, while for d<sup>7</sup> [CoCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> the ground state is the essentially inactive <sup>4</sup>A<sub>2</sub> orbital singlet.

Nevertheless, Jahn–Teller-related phenomena due to the Ham effect should in principle be observable for many of the states listed in Tables I and II, but despite extensive spectroscopic studies of the [CoCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> and [NiCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> anions<sup>16–20</sup> only cursory attention has as yet been given to this possibility. However, Gerloch and his co-workers have shown<sup>21–23</sup> that for a range of tetrahedral and

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pseudotetrahedral halo complexes of Co<sup>II</sup> and Ni<sup>II</sup> much greater reductions of the spin-orbit coupling constant, below the free-ion value, were observed for the latter than for the former, in studies of the anisotropic magnetic susceptibilities. Since the magnetic behavior is dominated by the nature of the ground state, which for d<sup>7</sup> Co<sup>II</sup> is the inactive <sup>4</sup>A<sub>2</sub> state but for d<sup>8</sup> Ni<sup>II</sup> is the potentially active (T ⊗ τ<sub>2</sub> + ε) <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) state, the results were interpreted to support the operation of a significant Ham effect in the Ni<sup>II</sup> species, partially quenching the spin-orbit coupling. However, apart from [CuCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup>, the largest calculated E<sub>JT</sub> values of Table II are generally comparable with the spin-orbit coupling constant (ξ being 410, 533, and 649 cm<sup>-1</sup> for Fe<sup>II</sup>, Co<sup>II</sup>, and Ni<sup>II</sup>, respectively<sup>9</sup>) so that any calculations of the Ham reduction factors could not use simple perturbation techniques and full diagonalization

in the spin-orbit basis of the appropriate weak-field-state vibronic manifolds would be necessary.

There do however exist extensive data for M<sup>2+</sup> 3d ions doped into tetrahedral sites in hosts such as CdS, and for these systems Sturge<sup>24</sup> concluded that in most cases T ⊗ ε coupling would predominate. However, for the <sup>4</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) state of Co<sup>2+</sup>/CdS a substantial Ham effect is observed, reflected in an anomalously small spin-orbit splitting, which was analyzed by Sturge<sup>24</sup> in terms of a mainly T<sub>1</sub> ⊗ τ<sub>2</sub> coupling, with some T<sub>1</sub> ⊗ ε contribution. This accords strikingly with the present predictions, and it would thus appear eminently worthwhile for further studies to be made of 3d [MCl<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> species and of other T<sub>d</sub> systems, especially for the <sup>3</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) and <sup>4</sup>T<sub>1</sub>(F) states of Ni<sup>II</sup> and Co<sup>II</sup>, with a view toward identifying any further situations in which T ⊗ τ<sub>2</sub> coupling might be dominant.

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## Chemistry of [Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3+</sup> Prismatic Cages. Synthesis, Structural Characterization, and Electronic Structures of the [Et<sub>4</sub>N]<sub>3</sub>[Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub>L<sub>6</sub>] Clusters (L = *p*-CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>)

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The syntheses of the [Cat]<sub>3</sub>[Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub>L<sub>6</sub>] clusters (L = Br<sup>-</sup>, cat = [Et<sub>3</sub>MeN]<sup>+</sup>; L = ArS<sup>-</sup>, Cat = [Et<sub>4</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>) are reported. The crystal and molecular structures of [Et<sub>4</sub>N]<sub>3</sub>[Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub>(*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O)<sub>6</sub>] (I) and of [Et<sub>4</sub>N]<sub>3</sub>[Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>]·CH<sub>3</sub>CN (II) are described in detail. I and II crystallize in the monoclinic space groups *P*<sub>2</sub><sub>1</sub>/*a* and *P*<sub>2</sub><sub>1</sub>/*n*, respectively, with two molecules in the unit cell. The cell dimensions in I are *a* = 13.173 (5) Å, *b* = 19.848 (10) Å, *c* = 14.304 (4) Å, and β = 98.05 (3)°. In II, *a* = 14.531 (3) Å, *b* = 11.028 (2) Å, *c* = 17.566 (3) Å, and β = 100.69 (1)°. Intensity data for both I and II were collected with a four-circle computer-controlled diffractometer with use of the θ-2θ scan technique. Both structures were solved by conventional methods from 3461 and 2516 reflections for I and II, respectively. The structures were refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques (283 parameters for I and 213 parameters for II) to final *R* values of 0.075 and 0.049, respectively, for I and II. The anions in I and II contain the [Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub>]<sup>3+</sup> hexagonal-prismatic core, which consists of alternating tetrahedral Fe and triply bridging S atoms. Three of the Fe coordination sites are occupied by core sulfide atoms while the fourth coordination site is filled by the terminal RO<sup>-</sup> and Br<sup>-</sup> ligands. There are two sets of Fe-Fe distances in the Fe<sub>6</sub>S<sub>6</sub> cores with mean values of 2.761 (5), 2.749 (4) Å and 3.80 (4), 3.81 (2) Å, respectively, for I and II. Similarly, two sets of Fe-S-Fe angles are found for I and II at 74.6 (2) and 74.3 (1)° and 113.8 (2) and 114.2 (9)°. The Fe-S bonds in I and II are 2.276 (5) and 2.274 (4) Å. The Fe-O bond in I is 1.880 (11) Å, and the Fe-Br bond in II is 2.366 (9) Å. The reactivity, cyclic voltammetry, and isotropically shifted NMR spectra of I and II are discussed in detail.

### Introduction

The importance of Fe/S centers in the function of the non-heme iron-sulfur proteins (ferredoxins)<sup>1</sup> has generated great interest in Fe/S coordination chemistry. As a result of extensive synthetic, structural, and spectroscopic studies, nearly exact analogues for the 1Fe, 2Fe, and 4Fe centers in the Fe/S proteins are presently available.<sup>2</sup> These synthetic analogues have contributed substantially to our understanding of the biologically occurring Fe/S centers and include the following compounds: [Fe(SR)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>n-</sup> (*n* = 1, 2, (SR)<sub>2</sub> = S<sub>2</sub>-*o*-xyl;<sup>3</sup> *n* = 2, R = Ph;<sup>4</sup> *n* = 1, 2, R = Et, Ph<sup>5</sup>);

[Fe<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>L<sub>4</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> (L = EtS<sup>-</sup>, *p*-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>S<sup>-</sup>;<sup>6a</sup> L = Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>;<sup>6b,c</sup> L<sub>2</sub> = S<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>;<sup>7</sup> L = *p*-MeC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sup>-</sup>, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sup>-</sup>; L<sub>2</sub> = *o,o'*-C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>2-8</sup>); [Fe<sub>4</sub>S<sub>4</sub>L<sub>4</sub>]<sup>n-</sup> (L = aryl, alkanethiolates, *n* = 2, 3;<sup>2c</sup> L = Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, *n* = 2;<sup>6b,c</sup> L = 2,4,6-*i*-Pr-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub>S<sup>-</sup>, *n* = 1;<sup>9</sup> L = PhO<sup>-</sup>, *p*-

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