Inorg. Chem. 2004, 43, 1558–1567



Tetranuclear $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ Complexes as Building Blocks for New Inorganic Architectures: Synthesis of Coordination Polymers and Heteropolynuclear Complexes with Electrophilic d⁸ and d¹⁰ Metal Fragments

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The reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ (PyS₂ = 2,6-pyridinedithiolate, cod = 1,5-cyclooctadiene) with CF₃SO₃Me gave the cationic complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2Me)_2(cod)_4][CF_3SO_3]_2$ (1) with two 6-(thiomethyl)pyridine-2-thiolate bridging ligands from the attack of Me⁺ at the terminal sulfur atoms of the starting material. Under identical conditions $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ (tfbb = tetrafluorobenzobarrelene) reacted with CF₃SO₃Me to give the mixed-ligand complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)(\mu-PyS_2Me)(tfbb)_4][CF_3SO_3]$ (2). The nucleophilicity of the bridging ligands in the complexes [Rh₄(*u*-PyS₂)₂(diolefin)₄] was exploited to prepare heteropolynuclear species. Reactions with [Au(PPh₃)(Me₂CO)]- $[CIO_4]$ gave the hexanuclear complexes $[(PPh_3)_2Au_2Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4][CIO_4]_2$ (diolefin = cod (3), tfbb (4)). The structure of 4, solved by X-ray diffraction methods, showed the coordination of the [Au(PPh₃)]⁺ fragments to the peripheral sulfur atoms in $[Rh_4(\mu - PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ along with their interaction with the neighbor rhodium atoms. Neutral coordination polymers of formula $[CIMRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]_n$ (M = Cu (5, 6), Au (7)) result from the self-assembly of alternating $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ ($[Rh_4]$) blocks and MCI linkers. The formation of the infinite polymetallic chains was found to be chiroselective for M = Cu; one particular chain contains exclusively homochiral [Rh₄] complexes. Cationic heterometallic coordination polymers of formula [MRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(diolefin)₄]₀[BF₄]₀ (M = Ag (8, 9), Cu (10, 11)) and $[Rh_5(\mu - PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_5]_n [BF_4]_n (12, 13)$ result from the reactions of $[Rh_4]$ with [Cu(CH₃CN)₄]BF₄, AgBF₄, and [Rh(diolefin)(Me₂CO)₂]BF₄, respectively. The heterometallic coordination polymers exhibit a weak electric conductivity in the solid state in the range $(1.2-2.8) \times 10^{-7}$ S cm⁻¹.

Introduction

The molecular self-assembly of coordination polymers and supramolecular assemblies through metal—ligand coordination is a powerful method in the design of new materials with promising physicochemical properties of potential application in technology.¹ The development of coordination polymer chemistry has given rise to many remarkable inorganic architectures through the self-assembly of suitable

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polydentate ligands with metal ions or unsaturated metal complexes.² The design of the ligand is crucial for this purpose, since the dimensionality and topology of the final assemblies are predominantly controlled by the coordination preferences of the metal center and the location of the donor sites in the organic ligand.³

An alternative approach to the synthesis of coordination polymers and supramolecules is the use of transition metal complexes as building blocks. Metal-containing ligands with uncoordinated donor atoms can be induced to self-assemble

10.1021/ic034893i CCC: \$27.50 © 2004 American Chemical Society Published on Web 01/21/2004

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with other metal ions or unsaturated metal complexes through the free coordination donors.⁴ In this context, mixed-metal coordination polymers have been assembled using the rodshaped dicyanoargentate(I) complex and tetracyanoaurate-(III) as building blocks.⁵ Mononuclear cyano isocyanoarene and pyridyl phenyl isocyanide metal complexes, bearing respectively cyano and pyridyl groups in peripheral sites, are also effective building blocks for coordination polymers.⁶ Similarly, one-dimensional Cu(II)-Ag(I) mixed-metal chains with 2-methylpyrazine-5-carboxylate spacers have been obtained from a mononuclear Cu(II) complex having free donor sites and silver(I) salts.7 Dinuclear species as connection devices for self-assembly have scarcely been exploited. Very recently, reports from several groups describe the use of the Rh2⁴⁺ core as a building block to form both cyclic supramolecules and coordination polymers by condensation with appropriate bidentate ligands.⁸

As a result of our interest in the design of effective polydentate ligands for the construction of polynuclear complexes,⁹ we have prepared the tetranuclear $[M_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2-$ (diolefin)₄] (M = Rh, Ir) complexes ($[M_4]$) supported by two tridentate 2,6-pyridinedithiolate (PyS_2^{2-}) bridging ligands acting as six electron donors.¹⁰ The rhodium and iridium tetranuclear complexes $[M_4]$ are redox-active precursors of mixed-valence paramagnetic $[M_4]^+$ complexes.¹¹ They also behave as encapsulating agents for the thallium(I) ion to give the cationic pentametallic species $[TIM_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]^+$ through a great change of the coordination mode of the bridging 2,6-dimercaptopyridine ligands and the formation of two TI-M bonds.¹² A preliminary test on the capability of the tetranuclear $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ complex to act as a

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metalloligand, due to the presence of two available coordination donor sites at the peripheral sulfur atoms, has led to the synthesis of the polymer [ClCuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_n (cod = 1,5-cyclooctadiene) fully characterized by a crystal structure determination.¹³ Thus, the tetranuclear complexes can be envisaged as building blocks for new inorganic assemblies by adding suitable metal centers and assuming that the structure of the tetranuclear framework is maintained. Herein we describe the construction of discrete heteropolynuclear complexes and one-dimensional coordination polymers obtained by reaction of the rhodium complexes [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂-(diolefin)₄] with electrophilic d⁸ and d¹⁰ metal complexes.

Results and Discussion

Reactions of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ ([M₄]) with CF₃SO₃Me. Synthesis of 6-(Thiomethyl)pyridine-2-thiolate Cationic Complexes. Looking for the nucleophilic centers in the complexes [M₄], we reacted them with the electrophilic Me⁺ to assess about the donor atoms and their possible stereochemistry for further reactions with metal centers. From the reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ with CF_3SO_3Me the cationic tetranuclear species $[Rh_4(\mu PyS_2Me_2(cod)_4$ [CF₃SO₃]₂ (1) was isolated in good yield as a red microcrystalline solid. The attack of Me⁺ occurred at the terminal sulfur atoms of the complex $[Rh_4(\mu PyS_2_2(cod)_4$] to produce two 6-(thiomethyl)pyridine-2-thiolate bridging ligands. Thus, complex 1 behaves as a 2:1 electrolyte in acetone, and the thiomethyl groups were observed as singlets at δ 2.80 ppm in the ¹H and at 17.9 ppm in the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectra. Moreover, both bridging 6-(thiomethyl)pyridine-2-thiolate ligands were found to be equivalent, while the olefin carbons of the four 1,5-cyclooctadiene ligands displayed eight doublets in the ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum, evidencing that the cation possesses C_2 symmetry. Compound 1 is apparently static while the parent complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ is fluxional; the motion, affecting the external cod ligands, is associated with the lone electron pairs on the outer sulfur atoms.¹⁰ Thus, the formation of the thiomethyl groups fixes 1 electron pair/sulfur and, as a consequence, complex 1 becomes rigid.

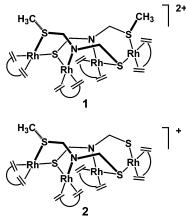
The methylation of the 2,6-pyridinedithiolate bridges in $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ resulted to be a stereoselective process. The tetranuclear compound $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ exits as a couple of enantiomers, which can be designed as (R_S,R_S) - $[Rh_4]$ and (S_S,S_S) - $[Rh_4]$, since the two bridging sulfur atoms are stereogenic. Upon methylation, the two terminal sulfur atoms also become chiral centers; up to six different stereoisomers could be produced depending on the relative disposition of the thiomethyl groups in both enantiomers. However, since the symmetry found for **1** is C_2 , both sulfur atoms of the thiomethyl groups should have identical configuration, and therefore, complex **1** resulted to be a couple of enantiomers. Assuming that the thiomethyl groups

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Chart 1. Proposed Structures of Complexes 1 and 2



were directed away from the bulky 1,5-cyclooctadiene ligands on the neighboring rhodium atoms, complex 1 would exist as the enantiomers (R_S, R_S, S_S, S_S)-(1) and (S_S, S_S, R_S, R_S)-(1),¹⁴ the former being depicted in Chart 1.

The mixed-ligand complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)(\mu-PyS_2Me)-(tfbb)_4][CF_3SO_3]$ (2) was obtained as a dark red microcrystalline solid by reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ with CF₃SO₃Me as for the cod complex. It is noticeable that in this case only one of the bridging ligands was methylated and, consequently, complex 2 possesses 6-(thiomethyl)-pyridine-2-thiolate and 2,6-pyridinedithiolate bridges (Chart 1). As expected, the ¹H NMR spectra of 2 showed six resonances for the aromatic protons of the two different bridging ligands. The combination of the H,H-COSY spectrum, which allowed the identification of the two sets of three resonances for the pyridine rings, with the detection of a NOE effect (5%) between the protons of the thiomethyl group at δ 2.79 ppm and the signal at δ 6.86 ppm allowed the full assignment of the aromatic resonances.

Attempts to prepare the complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2Me)_2-(tfbb)_4]^{2+}$ by reacting $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ with CF₃SO₃Me in excess were also unsuccessful. Compound **2** was isolated again under these conditions but in lower yield. This result suggests a weaker nucleophilicity of the terminal sulfur atoms in $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ than in the analogous cod complex, which could be attributed to the stronger π -acceptor character of the tfbb ligands. The partial methylation in **2** versus the full methylation in **1** is a clear evidence for the interplay between metals and ligands leading to an electronic communication between the sulfurs. On the other hand, both experiments corroborate the ability of the tetranuclear complexes to engage electron pairs on the outer sulfur atoms with electrophiles in a stereoselective way.

Reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ with $M(PPh_3)^+$ (M = Ag, Au). Syntheses of Discrete Heteropolynuclear Complexes. Two further examples confirm the potential of the tetranuclear complexes to act as bidentate ligands for appropriate metal centers. Thus, the reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2-$

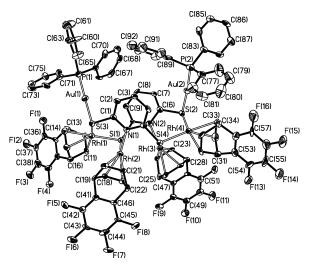


Figure 1. Molecular structure of $[(PPh_3)_2Au_2Rh_4(\mu\text{-}PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]\text{-}[ClO_4]_2$ (4).

(cod)₄] with 2 molar equiv of the solvated species [Au(PPh₃)-(Me₂CO)][ClO₄] gave the heteropolynuclear complex [(PPh₃)₂-Au₂Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄][ClO₄]₂ (**3**), which was isolated as a red microcrystalline solid in good yield. Similarly, the hexanuclear complex [(PPh₃)₂Au₂Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄][ClO₄]₂ (**4**) was isolated from the reaction of [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] with [Au(PPh₃)(Me₂CO)][ClO₄] as violet microcrystals. Both complexes behave as 2:1 electrolytes in acetone, although the peaks of largest *m*/*z* observed in the FAB⁺ mass spectra corresponded to the ions [Rh₄]–Au(PPh₃)⁺ (100%). The two bridging pyridine-2,6-dithiolate ligands and the PPh₃ groups were found to be equivalent in the ¹H NMR and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra of the complexes **3** and **4**, respectively, in agreement with structures with a *C*₂ symmetry.

The molecular structure of compound [(PPh₃)₂Au₂Rh₄- $(\mu$ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄][ClO₄]₂ (4) determined by X-ray methods is shown in Figure 1. Selected bond distances and angles are listed in Table 1. Compound 4 is hexanuclear resulting from the coordination of two Au(PPh₃)⁺ fragments to the peripheral sulfur atoms of the tetranuclear complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$. Both 2,6-pyridinedithiolate ligands are bonded to the four rhodium centers and to one gold(I) atom, acting as eight-electron donors. The C-S bond distances (range 1.752–1.790(11) Å), corresponding to a bond order near 1, suggest the major presence of the thiolate resonant hybrid of the PyS_2^{2-} ligands rather than the thione upon coordination to the Au atoms. The rhodium atoms exhibit a slightly distorted square-planar geometry while the coordination environment of the gold(I) centers is roughly linear. It is noticeable that the Au(PPh₃) fragments are directed away from the Rh(cod) fragments, as proposed for complex 1. In consequence, compound 4 exists in the solid state as the two enantiomers (R_S, R_S, S_S, S_S) -(4) and (S_S, S_S, R_S, R_S) -(4).¹⁴

An interesting structural feature of **4** concerns the intermetallic separations. Although the rhodium–rhodium distances (range 3.0720-3.3509(18) Å) are shorter than those found in the complex [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] (3.9210(6) and 3.1435(5) Å), the shortening of the internal intermetallic distance is notable. However, the shortest intermetallic

⁽¹⁴⁾ Priority numbers have been assigned according to the standard sequence rule developed for carbon compounds (CIP rules): von Zelewsky, A. *Stereochemistry of Coordination Compounds*; Wiley: New York, 1996. The two last descriptors design the configuration of the former bridging sulfur atoms in the rhodium precursors.

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Table 1. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) for $[(PPh_3)_2Au_2Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4][CIO_4]_2$ (4)^{*a*}

$[(1113)_{2}, 10_{2}, 10_{3},$			
Rh(1) - S(1)	2.366(3)	Rh(4) - S(4)	2.380(3)
Rh(1) - S(3)	2.370(3)	Rh(4)-S(2)	2.374(3)
Rh(1) - C(11)	2.120(11)	Rh(4) - C(29)	2.133(12)
Rh(1) - C(12)	2.126(11)	Rh(4) - C(30)	2.110(10)
Rh(1) - C(14)	2.176(10)	Rh(4) - C(32)	2.129(10)
Rh(1) - C(15)	2.145(10)	Rh(4) - C(33)	2.199(10)
Rh(2)-S(1)	2.358(3)	Rh(3)-S(4)	2.363(3)
Rh(2) - N(1)	2.113(8)	Rh(3) - N(2)	2.115(8)
Rh(2) - C(17)	2.156(10)	Rh(3)-C(26)	2.157(10)
Rh(2) - C(18)	2.158(10)	Rh(3) - C(27)	2.107(9)
Rh(2) - C(20)	2.133(10)	Rh(3)-C(23)	2.123(10)
Rh(2) - C(21)	2.137(10)	Rh(3) - C(24)	2.145(10)
Au(1) - S(3)	2.328(3)	Au(2)-S(2)	2.330(3)
Au(1) - P(1)	2.254(3)	Au(2)-P(2)	2.247(3)
S(1) - C(10)	1.757(10)	S(4)-C(5)	1.790(10)
S(3) - C(1)	1.752(11)	S(2) - C(6)	1.774(11)
N(1) - C(1)	1.365(11)	N(2) - C(6)	1.362(12)
N(1) - C(5)	1.344(12)	N(2) - C(10)	1.364(12)
C(1) - C(2)	1.334(13)	C(6) - C(7)	1.359(13)
C(2) - C(3)	1.377(13)	C(7) - C(8)	1.422(13)
C(3) - C(4)	1.375(12)	C(8) - C(9)	1.404(13)
C(4) - C(5)	1.374(13)	C(9) - C(10)	1.382(13)
C(11) - C(12)	1.345(13)	C(29) - C(30)	1.413(14)
C(14) - C(15)	1.345(13)	C(32)-C(33)	1.366(15)
C(17) - C(18)	1.402(13)	C(26) - C(27)	1.376(13)
C(20)-C(21)	1.397(13)	C(23)-C(24)	1.360(13)
S(1) - Rh(1) - S(3)	102.36(11)	S(4) - Rh(4) - S(2)	101.17(10)
S(1) - Rh(1) - M(1)	91.4(2)	S(4) - Rh(4) - M(7)	94.3(3)
S(1) - Rh(1) - M(2)	158.1(3)	S(4) - Rh(4) - M(8)	159.9(3)
S(3) - Rh(1) - M(1)	165.7(3)	S(2) - Rh(4) - M(7)	164.2(3)
S(3) - Rh(1) - M(2)	97.1(3)	S(2) - Rh(4) - M(8)	96.0(3)
M(1) - Rh(1) - M(2)	70.1(4)	M(7) - Rh(4) - M(8)	69.5(4)
S(1) - Rh(2) - N(1)	90.2(2)	S(4) - Rh(3) - N(2)	89.8(3)
S(1) - Rh(2) - M(3)	101.5(2)	S(4) - Rh(3) - M(6)	102.0(2)
S(1) - Rh(2) - M(4)	167.3(2)	S(4) - Rh(3) - M(5)	169.5(2)
N(1) - Rh(2) - M(3)	168.3(3)	N(2) - Rh(3) - M(6)	165.4(3)
N(1) - Rh(2) - M(4)	97.8(3)	N(2) - Rh(3) - M(5)	97.6(3)
M(3) - Rh(2) - M(4)	70.5(3)	M(5) - Rh(3) - M(6)	69.6(3)
S(3) - Au(1) - P(1)	177.04(12)	S(2) - Au(2) - P(2)	175.86(11)
Rh(1) - S(1) - Rh(2)	81.12(9)	Rh(4) - S(4) - Rh(3)	83.42(9)
Rh(1) - S(1) - C(10)	111.2(3)	Rh(4) - S(4) - C(5)	111.9(4)
Rh(2) - S(1) - C(10)	107.8(4)	Rh(3) - S(4) - C(5)	106.3(4)
Rh(1)-S(3)-Au(1)	82.59(10)	Rh(4)-S(2)-Au(2)	81.25(10)
Rh(1) - S(3) - C(1)	114.5(4)	Rh(4) - S(2) - C(6)	115.3(4)
Au(1) - S(3) - C(1)	98.4(4)	Au(2) - S(2) - C(6)	98.7(4)
Rh(2) - N(1) - C(1)	118.8(7)	Rh(3) - N(2) - C(6)	120.1(7)
Rh(2) - N(1) - C(5)	122.5(7)	Rh(3) - N(2) - C(10)	120.7(7)
C(1) - N(1) - C(5)	118.7(9)	C(6) - N(2) - C(10)	119.2(9)

 ${}^{a}M(1)-M(8)$ represent the midpoints of the olefinic bonds coordinated to Rh atoms.

separation in **4**, 3.0627(10) Å, corresponds to the Au····Rh separation. This distance, although clearly longer than those found in complexes with rhodium(I)–gold(I) bonds, is short enough to be indicative of an intermetallic interaction and is probably a consequence of the metalophilic attraction between both closed-shell d^8 – d^{10} metals.¹⁵

The attachment of Au(PPh₃) groups to both terminal sulfur atoms in [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] to give **4** contrasts with the single methylation of one pyridine-2,6-dithiolate ligand with CF₃SO₃Me to give [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)(μ -PyS₂Me)(tfbb)₄]⁺ (**2**). The difference reflects a lesser need of electronic density on the sulfur atoms for coordination to a metal than for alkylation, in addition to the affinity of gold for the soft sulfur donor atoms.

The reactions of the tetranuclear complexes with [Ag-(PPh₃)]ClO₄ gave distinct results. Thus, while the reaction with [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] rendered an insoluble solid analyz-

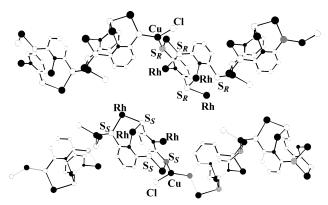


Figure 2. Crystal packing of the compound $[ClCuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_n$ (5) showing a short segment of two homochiral infinite chains. (The labeling indicates the chirality of the sulfur atoms.)

ing as the coordination polymer (see below) [AgRh₄- $(\mu$ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_n[ClO₄]_n in good yield and triphenylphosphine, the reaction with [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] gave the mononuclear complex [Rh(tfbb)(PPh₃)₂]⁺ as the single isolated species. Monitoring the latter reaction by ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectroscopy at low temperature confirmed the complete transfer of the PPh₃ ligands from the silver complex to Rh-(tfbb)⁺ fragments arising from the tetranuclear complexes, since the only phosphorus-containing species observed was [Rh(tfbb)(PPh₃)₂]⁺ (δ 28.0 ppm; d, *J*_{Rh-P} = 150 Hz).

Reactions of $[Rh_4(\mu - PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ with MCl (M = Cu, Au), M^+ (M = Ag, Cu), and [Rh(diolefin)]⁺. Synthesis of Coordination Polymers. We have shown¹³ that [ClCuRh₄- $(\mu - PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_n$ (5), obtained by reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu - PyS_2)_2 - PyS_2)_2$ (cod)₄] with CuCl, is a mixed-metal coordination polymer in the solid state resulting from the self-assembly of alternating $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ blocks and CuCl linking units, as shown in Figure 2. The related compound [ClCuRh4- $(\mu - PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]_n$ (6) was isolated as a purple solid by mixing equimolar amounts of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ and CuCl in dichloromethane. Looking for metal fragments other than CuCl to act as linkers in polymeric structures based on the tetranuclear [Rh₄] ligands, we thought that nude cations of the group 11 metals or complexes with two available coordination positions could also produce polymeric structures by a self-assembly process.

The compound [AuCl(tht)] behaves as a source of "AuCl" fragments due to the presence of the labile tetrahydrothiophene (tht) ligand. Thus, the reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ with [AuCl(tht)] in dichloromethane (1:1 molar ratio) gave the mixed-metal coordination polymer [ClAuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂-(tfbb)₄]_n (**7**), which was isolated as a purple microcrystalline solid in good yield. However, the related cyclooctadiene compound [ClAuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_n could not be obtained by this route, but a brown insoluble material with poorly reproducible analytical results was isolated from the reaction of [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] with 4 molar equiv of [AuCl(tht)].

The cationic mixed-metal coordination polymers containing silver(I), $[AgRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_n[BF_4]_n$ (8) and $[AgRh_4-$

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 $(\mu$ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄]_{*n*}[BF₄]_{*n*} (**9**), were obtained by reaction of the complexes [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(diolefin)₄] with AgBF₄. In a similar fashion, the reaction of the complexes [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂-(diolefin)₄] with [Cu(CH₃CN)₄]BF₄ resulted in the formation of the coordination assemblies [CuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_{*n*}[BF₄]_{*n*} (**10**) and [CuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄]_{*n*</sup>[BF₄]_{*n*} (**11**) in good isolated yields. The formation of the silver(I) complexes **8** and **9** competes with the oxidation of the corresponding rhodium tetranuclear complexes. In fact, complex **8** decomposes slowly in dichloromethane to give the paramagnetic compound [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]BF₄ and metallic silver.¹⁰}

Neither $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ nor $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ was found able to add [RhCl(diolefin)] fragments from the complexes $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(diolefin)]_2$ (diolefin = cod and tfbb), although homometallic coordination polymers were accessible by the reactions with cationic rhodium species with two easily replaceable ligands. Thus, addition of [Rh(diole $fin)(Me_2CO)_2$ ⁺ to the corresponding tetranuclear complex in dichloromethane resulted in the formation of the cationic coordination polymers $[Rh_5(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_5]_n[BF_4]_n$ (12) and $[Rh_5(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_5]_n[BF_4]_n$ (13), which were isolated as purple and violet microcrystalline solids in excellent yields. Attempts to apply this synthetic approach to coordination polymers made with [Rh₄] as ligands and d⁸ centers as linkers were unsuccessful, since the syntheses resulted to be not selective. For example, the reaction of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2 (cod)_4$ with $[Ir(cod)(Me_2CO)_x]^+$ gave mixtures of compounds containing heterotetranuclear complexes [Rh₃Ir] and $[Rh_2Ir_2]$ (FAB⁺ MS evidence) as the result of the exchange between the added $Ir(cod)^+$ fragment with $Rh(cod)^+$ in the [Rh₄] complex.

Chiroselective Formation of [ClCuRh₄(\mu-PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_{*n***}. As already mentioned, the crystal structure of [ClCuRh₄-(\mu-PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_{***n***} (5**) consists of one-dimensional chains that propagate along a screw 2-fold axis; one particular chain contains exclusively homochiral [Rh₄] building blocks.¹³ Figure 2 shows short segments of two complementary homochiral infinite chains; the upper chain contains (R_{S} , R_{S} , R_{S} , R_{S})-[Rh₄] complexes and the lower (S_{S} , S_{S} , S_{S} , S_{S})-[Rh₄] complexes.

Since the parent compound $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ exits as the pair of enantiomers (R_S,R_S) - $[Rh_4]$ and (S_S,S_S) - $[Rh_4]$ and the two peripheral sulfur atoms become chiral centers on coordination to the CuCl linkers, a chiral recognition occurs in the formation of each chain to be made exclusively from either (R_S,R_S,R_S,R_S) - $[Rh_4]$ or (S_S,S_S,S_S,S_S) - $[Rh_4]$ complexes, respectively. In this case not only the two new chiral sulfur centers possess identical chirality but all the sulfur atoms have identical chirality in a particular chain.¹⁴

In contrast with most of the coordination polymers described herein the compound [ClCuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_n (**5**) is soluble in chlorinated solvents and in benzene. The fragmentation of the polymeric structure in solution becomes evident after the determination of a remarkably low molecular weight (1730) in chloroform while compound **5** is a nonelectrolyte in this solvent. The crystallization of **5** leads to the formation of the infinite homochiral chains in a reversible way. Spectroscopic data in solution suggest the

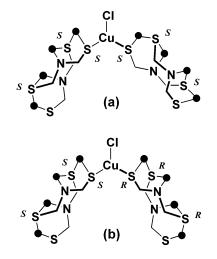
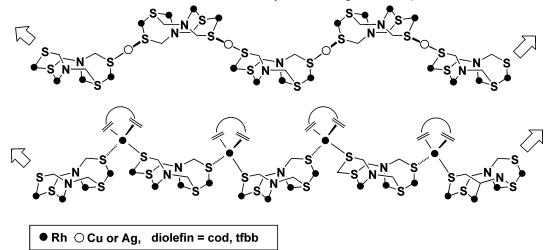


Figure 3. Diastereoisomers of the molecular species $ClCu-[Rh_4]_2$: (a) $ClCu-(R_S,R_S,R_S)-[Rh_4]_2/ClCu-(S_S,S_S,S_S)-[Rh_4]_2;(b)ClCu-(R_S,R_S,R_S)-[Rh_4]-(S_S,S_S,S_S)-[Rh_4].$

presence of two well-defined molecular species in solution, since the aromatic region of the ¹H NMR spectrum in benzene- d_6 was outstandingly simple while the parent complex $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ was not detected. Assuming that the molecular species in solution were $Cl_2Cu_2-[Rh_4]$ and ClCu-[Rh₄]₂, their combination would produce the polymeric chain. Supporting this idea, the ions ClCu₂-[Rh₄]⁺ and ClCu-[Rh₄]⁺ were detected in the FAB⁺ spectrum. In addition, the calculated molecular weight for an equimolar mixture of Cl₂Cu₂-[Rh₄] and ClCu-[Rh₄]₂ (1837) agrees well with the experimental observed value (1730). Moreover, the aromatic region of the ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** is compatible with the presence of both species in a 1:1 molar ratio. Thus, the resonances at δ 8.40, 6.90, and 6.40 ppm would correspond to the homotopic PyS_2^{2-} ligands of Cl_2Cu_2 -[Rh₄], whereas the two sets of resonances at δ 7.90, 6.80, 6.30 and 6.90, 6.55, 6.05 ppm can be assigned to two pairs of equivalent bridging ligands in ClCu-[Rh₄]₂, which is in accordance with the couplings observed by analysis of the H,H-COSY spectrum. From the above data, the species Cl_2Cu_2 -[Rh₄], with a C_2 axis, exists as a couple of enantiomers giving identical NMR spectra. The apparently single species detected for $ClCu - [Rh_4]_2$ could be either the couple of enantiomers ClCu-(R_S,R_S,R_S)-[Rh₄]₂/ClCu-(S_S,S_S,S_S)- $[Rh_4]_2$ or the species ClCu $-(R_S, R_S, R_S)$ - $[Rh_4](S_S, S_S, S_S)$ - $[Rh_4]$, with C_2 and C_s symmetries, respectively (Figure 3), or both assuming that the resonances were averaged by a dissociative equilibrium. Inspection of molecular models of ClCu-[Rh₄]₂ suggests that the steric interaction between the bulky 1,5cyclooctadiene ligands and the bridging ligands is notably reduced if the ClCu-[Rh₄]₂ moiety is made of two homochiral tetranuclear complexes, i.e., the second species detected is the couple of enantiomers. As a consequence, the formation of the polymer would encompass the molecular recognition between the following chiral molecular components ClCu $-(R_S, R_S, R_S)$ -[Rh₄]₂/Cl₂Cu₂ $-(R_S, R_S, R_S, R_S)$ -[Rh₄] and $ClCu = (S_S, S_S, S_S) - [Rh_4]_2 / Cl_2Cu_2 = (S_S, S_S, S_S, S_S) - [Rh_4].$

The chiroselectivity observed in the formation of the polymeric chains in 3 is an unusual example of chiral

Chart 2. Possible Solid-State Structures for the Cationic Coordination Polymers Containing M⁺ (M = Ag and Cu) and Rh(diolefin)⁺ Linkers



selection during the self-assembly process. Chiroselective self-assembly of $[2 \times 2]$ grid-type inorganic arrays with different octahedral metal centers have been reported.¹⁶ Diastereoselectivity has been also observed in the selfassembly of molecular squares based on palladium and platinum square-planar complexes¹⁷ and in homochiral macrocyclic dinuclear anions containing octahedral molybdenum complexes.¹⁸ A related 2-D phenomenon in a supramolecular three-dimensional hydrogen-bonded network derived from diacetylene dicarboxylic acid dihydrate has been noticed.¹⁹ Multiple hydrogen bonding also produces homochiral columnar structures made with alternate stacked cations $[Co(en)_3]^{3+}$ and $P_3O_9^{3-}$ anions with the Λ or Δ enantiomer.²⁰ In our case, the origin of the stereoselectivity in the methylation leading to 1 and in the formation of the homochiral chains in 3 is probably associated with steric reasons; i.e., the entering group (methyl or metal) occupies the less hindered site on the peripheral sulfur atoms.

Characterization and Properties of the Coordination Polymers. The coordination polymers have been characterized by elemental microanalyses and FAB⁺ MS. Diagnostics for the coordination polymers are the respective FAB⁺ MS, since characteristic fragments arising from the polymeric structures are regularly observed in the mass spectra. In particular, a peak corresponding to the fragment [Rh₄]-M-[Rh₄]⁺ is observed in the FAB⁺ mass spectra of the compounds 7 (M = Au), 8 and 9 (M = Ag), and 12 (M = Rh). It is noticeable that all the coordination polymers also exhibit the peaks corresponding to the ions [Rh₄]-M⁺ and [Rh₄]⁺ which confirm both the integrity of the tetranuclear building blocks and the coordination of the added electrophilic metal fragments.

The solid-state structures of the coordination polymers $[ClCuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]_n$ (6) and $[ClAuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2-$

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(tfbb)₄]_{*n*} (7) are probably related to that of compound **5** since both have MCl linkers. Possible solid-state structures for the cationic coordination polymers containing M^+ (M = Ag and Cu) and Rh(diolefin)⁺ linkers are shown in Chart 2 in which the BF₄⁻ anions and the auxiliary diolefin ligands have been omitted for clarity. They are based on molecular models assuming linear (d¹⁰) and square planar (d⁸) coordination environments imposed for the metal linkers. It is noticeable that the suggested zigzag arrangement of the polymeric chains results from the relative disposition of the tetranuclear building blocks in the chains to reduce the repulsion between the bulky diolefin ligands.

Most of the compounds described herein are insoluble in common organic solvents once they have been isolated as solids, which precludes characterization in solution. The insolubility seems to be a dominant feature of the coordination polymers, and insoluble materials have been proposed to be coordination polymers on the basis of this property.²¹ Compounds 10 and 12 are soluble in CDCl₃. While the ¹H NMR spectrum of 12 was not resolved even at low temperature, that of $[CuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_n[BF_4]_n$ (10) was very simple, showing three sharp resonances at δ 8.18 (d), 7.82(d), and 7.02 (dd) in CDCl₃ at 218 K. A possible interpretation for the simplicity of this spectrum would be the existence of symmetric cyclic oligomers in solution. As shown in Figure 4, a cyclic structure of D_2 symmetry, $[CuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_4^{4+}$, can be made of four homochiral rhodium tetranuclear complexes, which would account for the observed spectrum, since all the pyridine-2,6-dithiolate bridging ligands become equivalent. Interestingly, the existence of cyclic oligomers and polymeric species made of a given monomeric unit seems to be controlled by subtle steric and electronic factors.²² For example, the hydration of the cyclic hexamer $[{Ag(pymo)}_6]$ gives the polymer

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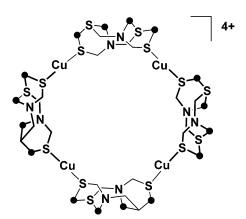


Figure 4. Possible cyclic structure for $[CuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_n^{n+}$ (**10**) containing four rhodium tetranuclear complexes (n = 4). The cod ligands have been omitted for clarity.

 $[{Ag(pymo)}_n] \cdot 2H_2O$,²³ while the assembly of dinuclear $[{(CH_2)_n(PPh_2)_2}Au_2]^{2+}$ complexes with the rigid-rod ligand *trans*-1,2-bis(4-pyridyl)ethylene produces gold(I) coordination polymers for n = 3 and 4 and rings containing four gold(I) atoms for n = 2.²⁴

Compounds **5–12** exhibit a weak electric conductivity in the solid state. Room-temperature conductivities of pellets made of polycrystalline samples were in the range $(1.2-2.8) \times 10^{-7}$ S cm⁻¹, while the conductivities found for related rhodium complexes behaving as insulators are less than 10^{-8} S cm^{-1.25} Interestingly, neither 2,6-dimercaptopyridine nor the tetranuclear complexes [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(diolefin)₄] are conductors under identical experimental conditions.

Concluding Remarks

The two peripheral sulfur atoms in the tetranuclear $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ (diolefin = cod, tfbb) complexes have nucleophilic character, as evidenced the reactions with methyl triflate. Interestingly, the integrity of the tetranuclear framework is sustained upon methylation of the bridging ligands. Both complexes possess two juxtaposed donor sites oriented in a divergent fashion available for coordination of suitable metal ions and behave as chiral building blocks for the construction of unusual coordination polymers and heteropolynuclear complexes. Finally, it is worthwhile mentioning that the related iridium tetranuclear complexes $[Ir_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(diolefin)_4]$ (diolefin = cod, tfbb) also have a potential application as ligands. However, although both rhodium and iridium complexes are redox-active species, the iridium complexes are easily oxidized and their behavior as ligands is frequently conditioned by redox processes.

Experimental Section

General Methods and Starting Materials. All manipulations were performed under a dry nitrogen atmosphere using Schlenktube techniques. Solvents were dried by standard methods and distilled under nitrogen immediately prior to use. The tetranuclear complexes $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ and $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ were prepared as described previously.¹⁰ Standard literature procedures were used to prepare CuCl and AgClO₄. $[Rh(\mu-Cl)-(cod)]_2$,²⁶ $[Rh(\mu-Cl)(tfbb)]_2$,²⁷ [AuCl(tht)],²⁸ $[AuCl(PPh_3)]$,²⁹ and $[Cu(CH_3CN)]_4[BF_4]^{30}$ were prepared according to previously reported methods. AgBF₄ and CF₃SO₃Me were purchased from Fluka Chem. and used as received.

Warning! Perchlorate salts are potentially explosive and should only be handle with geat care and in small quantities.

Physical Measurements. ¹H and ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded on Varian UNITY and Bruker ARX 300 spectrometers operating at 299.95 and 300.13 and 121.42 and 121.49 MHz, respectively. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Gemini 300 operating at 75.46 MHz. Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million and referenced to Me₄Si using the signal of the deuterated solvent (1H and 13C) and 85% H3PO4 (31P) as external reference, respectively. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 783 spectrometer using Nujol mulls between polyethylene sheets or in solution in a cell with NaCl windows. Elemental analyses were performed with a Perkin-Elmer 240-C microanalyzer. Conductivities were measured in ca. 5 \times 10^{-4} M dichloromethane solutions using a Philips PW 9501/01 conductimeter. Molecular weights were determined with a Knauer osmometer using chloroform solutions of the complexes. Mass spectra were recorded in a VG Autospec double-focusing mass spectrometer operating in the FAB⁺ mode. Ions were produced with the standard Cs⁺ gun at ca. 30 kV; 3-nitrobenzyl alcohol (NBA) was used as matrix. Electrical conductivities were measured at room temperature on pellets made of polycrystalline samples by the conventional two-probe method.³¹

Preparation of the Complexes. $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2Me)_2(cod)_4]$ - $[CF_3SO_3]_2$ (1). CF₃SO₃Me (21 μ L, 0.170 mmol) was added to a solution of [Rh₄(µ-PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] (0.100 g, 0.088 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) to give a dark red solution. Concentration of this solution to ca. 5 mL and further addition of methanol (5 mL) gave a dark solid, which was removed by filtration through Celite. Concentration of the resulting red solution to ca. 1 mL and addition of methanol rendered the complex as a red microcrystalline solid, which was filtered out, washed with methanol, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.107 g (84%). Anal. Calcd for C₄₆H₆₀F₆N₂O₆-Rh₄S₆: C, 37.97; H, 4.16; N, 1.93. Found: C, 37.60; H, 3.74; N, 1.92. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, m/z): 1141 ([Rh₄(PyS₂Me)(PyS₂)-(cod)₄]⁺, 4%), 945 ([Rh₃(PyS₂Me)₂(cod)₃]⁺, 58%), 578 ([Rh₂(PyS₂-Me)(cod)₂]⁺, 100%). $\Lambda_{\rm M}$ (S cm² mol⁻¹): 157 (acetone, 4.94 × 10⁻⁴) M). ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ 8.39 (d, 2H, $J_{H-H} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.53 (dd, 2H), 7.11 (d, 2H, $J_{H-H} = 8.2$ Hz) (PyS₂Me ligands), 5.26 (m, 2H, =CH), 5.03 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.90 (m, 4H, =CH), 4.52 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.40 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.00 (m, 2H, =CH), 3.41 (m, 2H, =CH) (cod ligands), 2.80 (s, 6H, PyS_2Me), 3.0–1.5 (several m, 32H, >CH₂) (cod ligands). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ 167.0, 156.0, 140.2, 130.4, 121.0 (PyS₂Me ligands), 92.2 (d, $J_{Rh-C} = 11$ Hz), 90.4 (d, $J_{Rh-C} = 13$ Hz), 88.1 (d, $J_{Rh-C} = 11$ Hz), 87.9 (d, $J_{\text{Rh-C}} = 11 \text{ Hz}$), 87.0 (d, $J_{\text{Rh-C}} = 11 \text{ Hz}$), 86.9 (d, $J_{\text{Rh-C}} = 12 \text{ Hz}$), 86.5 (d, $J_{Rh-C} = 12$ Hz), 79.7 (d, $J_{Rh-C} = 11.5$ Hz) (=CH, cod ligands), 34.9, 34.0, 33.0, 32.5, 29.2, 29.1, 28.4, 27.5 (>CH, cod ligands), 17.9 (s, PyS_2Me).

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 $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)(\mu-PyS_2Me)(tfbb)_4][CF_3SO_3]$ (2). CF₃SO₃Me $(5.70 \ \mu\text{L}, 0.047 \text{ mmol})$ was added to a solution of $[\text{Rh}_4(\text{PyS}_2)_2]$ (tfbb)₄] (0.075 g, 0.047 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) to give a violet solution, which was stirred for 2 h. Concentration of the solution to ca. 1 mL and addition of hexane gave the complex as a dark red microcrystalline solid, which was filtered off, washed with hexane, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.075 g (90%). Anal. Calcd for C₆₀H₃₃F₁₉N₂O₃Rh₄S₅: C, 40.88; H, 1.88; N, 1.59. Found: C, 40.82; H, 1.80; N, 1.62. MS (FAB+, CH₂Cl₂, m/z): 1613 $([Rh_4(PyS_2Me)(PyS_2)(tfbb)_4]^+, 100\%), 1284 ([Rh_3(PyS_2Me)(PyS_2) (tfbb)_3]^+$, 25%), 814 ([Rh₂(PyS₂Me)(tfbb)₂]⁺, 100%). Λ_M (S cm² mol^-1): 144 (acetone, 5.55 \times 10^{-4} M). 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2, 298 K): δ 8.27 (d, 1H, J_{H-H} = 7.3 Hz), 7.06 (dd, 1H), 7.00 (br, 1H) (PyS₂ ligand), 8.01 (d, 1H, $J_{H-H} = 7.3$ Hz), 7.26 (dd, 1H), 6.86 (d, 1H, $J_{H-H} = 8.0$ Hz) (PyS₂Me ligand), 6.17 (m, 1H, CH), 6.10 (m, 1H, CH), 5.96 (m, 1H, CH), 5.83 (m, 3H, CH), 5.69 (m, 2H, CH), 5.42 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.86 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.72 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.58 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.51 (m, 3H, =CH), 4.37 (m, 5H, =CH), 4.23 (m, 1H, =CH), 4.17 (m, 1H, =CH), 3.99 (m, 1H, =CH) (tfbb ligands), 2.79 (s, 3H, PyS₂Me ligand). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 298 K): δ 170.2, 167.4, 162.8, 152.3, 138.6, 137.6, 128.2, 125.7, 122.9, 118.3 (PyS₂Me and PyS₂ ligands), 140.0 (dm, J_{F-C} = 260 Hz), 138.0 (dm, J_{F-C} = 265 Hz), 127.5-125.8 (m) (C-F, tfbb ligands), 68.5 (m), 64.8 (m), 62.6 (m), 61.8 (m), 59.9 (m), 58.3 (m), 55.0 (m), 54.5 (m), 49.9 (m), 41.2 (m), 39.9 (m), (=CH, tfbb ligands), 39.8-39.3 (m) (CH, tfbb ligands), 17.6 (s, PyS₂Me).

[(PPh₃)₂Au₂Rh₄(µ-PyS₂)₂(cod)₄][ClO₄]₂ (3). Solid AgClO₄ (0.027 g, 0.133 mmol) was added to a solution of [AuCl(PPh₃)] (0.066 g, 0.133 mmol) in acetone (5 mL) to give a white suspension which was stirred for 30 min in the dark. Silver chloride was removed by filtration through Celite, and the resulting solution was reacted with a solution of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ (0.075 g, 0.066 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) for 1 h. Concentration of the dark red solution to ca. 1 mL, and addition of methanol (10 mL) and diethyl ether (5 mL) gave the complex as a red microcrystalline solid, which was filtered off, washed with cold methanol, and vacuum-dried. Yield: 0.111 g (75%). Anal. Calcd for C₇₈H₈₄Au₂Cl₂N₂O₈P₂-Rh₄S₄: C, 41.75; H, 3.77; N, 1.25. Found: C, 41.60; H, 3.90; N, 1.21. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, m/z): 1585 ([Rh₄]-Au(PPh₃)⁺, 100%), 1126 ([Rh₄]⁺, 28%). Λ_M (S cm² mol⁻¹): 200 (acetone, 3.72×10^{-4} M). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 293 K): δ 8.20 (d, 2H, $J_{H-H} = 7.8$ Hz, PyS₂), 7.60 (m, 18H, PPh₃), 7.46 (m, 14H, PPh₃ and PyS₂), 7.32 (t, 2H, $J_{H-H} = 7.8$ Hz, PyS₂), 5.15 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.90 (m, 4H, =CH), 4.70 (m, 4H, =CH), 4.15 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.05 (m, 4H, =CH), 3.30 (m, 2H, >CH₂), 3.00–2.60 (m, 6H, >CH₂), 2.65– 2.00 (m, 16H, >CH₂), 1.90-1.50 (m, 8H, >CH₂) (cod ligands). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 293 K): δ 36.0 (s).

 $[(PPh_3)_2Au_2Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4][ClO_4]_2$ (4). An acetone solution of [Au(PPh₃)(Me₂CO)][ClO₄] (0.094 mmol), prepared "in situ" as described above, was reacted with $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]$ (0.075 g, 0.047 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) to give a dark solution. The complex was isolated as dark violet microcrystals by concentration of the solution and addition of methanol (10 mL). Yield: 0.092 g (72%). Anal. Calcd for C₉₄H₆₀Au₂Cl₂F₁₆N₂O₈P₂Rh₄S₄: C, 43.15; H, 2.31; N, 1.07. Found: C, 43.00; H, 2.40; N, 1.07. MS $(FAB^+, CH_2Cl_2, m/z)$: 2058 $([Rh_4] - Au(PPh_3)^+, 100\%)$, 1598 ([Rh₄]⁺, 23%). $\Lambda_{\rm M}$ (S cm² mol⁻¹): 178 (acetone, 3.98 × 10⁻⁴ M). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 218 K): δ 8.29 (d, 2H, $J_{H-H} = 7.5$ Hz, PyS₂), 7.8–7.4 (m, 30H, PPh₃), 7.14 (d, 2H, $J_{H-H} = 7.7$ Hz, PyS₂), 6.89 (dd, 2H, PyS₂), 5.86 (m, 2H, CH), 5.70 (m, 4H, CH), 5.35 (m, 4H, =CH), 5.30 (m, 2H, CH), 4.66 (m, 4H, =CH), 4.56 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.36 (m, 2H, =CH), 4.13 (m, 2H, =CH), 3.96 (m, 2H, =CH), (tfbb ligands). ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 218 K): δ 36.6 (s).

[ClCuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_n (5). Solid CuCl (0.066 g, 0.132 mmol) was added to a solution of [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] (0.075 g, 0.066 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL), and the solution was stirred for 3 h. The resulting dark red solution was filtered through Celite and then concentrated under vacuum to ca. 1 mL. Slow addition of diethyl ether (10 mL) gave an orange solid, which was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.059 g (80%). Anal. Calcd for C₄₂H₅₄ClCuN₂Rh₄S₄: C, 41.15; H, 4.44; N, 2.28. Found: C, 41.02; H, 4.73; N, 2.26. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, m/z): 1289 (ClCu₂–[Rh₄]⁺, 5%), 1227 (ClCu–[Rh₄]⁺, 12%), 1189 (Cu-[Rh₄]⁺, 25%), 1126 ([Rh₄]⁺, 81%). ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 293 K, aromatic region): δ 8.40 (d, 2H), 7.90 (d, 2H), 6.90 (m, 4H), 6.80 (d, 2H), 6.55 (d, 2H), 6.40 (m, 2H), 6.30 (t, 2H), 6.05 (t) (PyS₂). $M_{\rm r}$ found: 1730.

[ClCuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄]_n (6). Solid CuCl (0.062 g, 0.062 mmol) was reacted with [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] (0.100 g, 0.062 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL) to give a purple suspension in 3 h. Concentration under vacuum and addition of methanol gave the complex as a purple solid, which was filtered off, washed with methanol, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.082 g (77%). Anal. Calcd for C₅₈H₃₀ClCuF₁₆N₂Rh₄S₄: C, 41.03; H, 1.78; N, 1.65. Found: C, 40.92; H, 1.75; N, 1.62. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m*/*z*): 1662 (Cu–[Rh₄]⁺, 5%), 1597 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%).

[ClAuRh₄(\mu-PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄]_n (7). Solid [AuCl(tht)] (0.020 g, 0.062 mmol) was added to a solution of [Rh₄(\mu-PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] (0.100 g, 0.062 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL) to give a dark purple solution in 2 h. Concentration of the solution to ca. 1 mL and slow addition of diethyl ether (10 mL) gave the complex as a purple microcrystalline solid which was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether and acetone, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.090 g (79%). Anal. Calcd for C₅₈H₃₀ClAuF₁₆N₂Rh₄S₄: C, 38.04; H, 1.65; N, 1.53. Found: C, 38.03; H, 1.59; N, 1.52. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m/z***): 3392 (Au-[Rh₄]₂⁺, 60%), 1795 (Au-[Rh₄]⁺, 10%), 1598 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%).**

[AgRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄]_n[BF₄]_n (8). A solution of AgBF₄ (0.018 g, 0.095 mmol) in acetone (5 mL) was added to a solution of [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] (0.107 g, 0.095 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL). The dark red mixture was stirred for 1 h and then concentrated under vacuum to ca. 1 mL. Addition of diethyl ether (10 mL) gave the complex as a dark red solid, which was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether and acetone, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.106 g (84%). Anal. Calcd for C₄₂H₅₄AgBF₄N₂Rh₄S₄: C, 38.17; H, 4.12; N, 2.12. Found: C, 38.05; H, 3.92; N, 2.10. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m*/*z*): 2361 (Ag⁻[Rh₄]₂⁺, 10%), 1235 (Ag-[Rh₄]⁺, 80%), 1126 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 218 K, aromatic region): δ 8.70 (m), 8.08 (m), 7.96 (m), 7.88 (m), 7.70 (m), 7.64 (m), 7.54 (m), 7.10 (m), 6.80 (m), 6.62 (m), 6.46 (m) (PyS₂ ligands).

 $[AgRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(tfbb)_4]_n[BF_4]_n$ (9). The compound was prepared from [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] (0.102 g, 0.064 mmol) and AgBF₄ (0.012 g, 0.064 mmol) following the procedure described above. The complex crystallized out in dichloromethane and was isolated as a purple solid after concentration and addition of methanol (10 mL). Yield: 0.105 g (91%). Anal. Calcd for C₅₈H₃₀AgBF₂₀N₂-Rh₄S₄: C, 38.84; H, 1.69; N, 1.56. Found: C, 38.68; H, 1.68; N, 1.57. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m/z*): 3304 (Ag–[Rh₄]₂⁺, 10%), 1706 (Ag–[Rh₄]⁺, 35%), 1598 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%).

 $[CuRh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]_n[BF_4]_n$ (10). $[Cu(CH_3CN)]_4[BF_4]$ (0.022 g, 0.070 mmol) was added to a solution of $[Rh_4(\mu-PyS_2)_2(cod)_4]$ (0.075 g, 0.066 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL). The dark red mixture was stirred for 2 h and then filtered through Celite. Concentration under vacuum to ca. 1 mL and addition of diethyl ether (5 mL) and methanol (5 mL) gave the complex as a dark red solid, which was filtered off, washed with methanol and acetone,

and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.071 g (84%). Anal. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{54}BCuF_4N_2Rh_4S_4$: C, 39.50; H, 4.26; N, 2.19. Found: C, 39.30; H, 4.10; N, 2.14. MS (FAB*, CH₂Cl₂, *m/z*): 1189 (Cu-[Rh₄]⁺, 10%), 1126 ([Rh₄]⁺, 65%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 218 K, aromatic region): δ 8.18 (d, $J_{H-H} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.82 (d, $J_{H-H} = 7.8$ Hz), 7.02 (dd) (PyS₂).

[CuRh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄]_n[BF₄]_n (11). The compound was prepared from [Rh₄(μ -PyS₂)₂(tfbb)₄] (0.075 g, 0.047 mmol) and [Cu(CH₃CN)]₄[BF₄] (0.010 g, 0.047 mmol) by following the procedure described above. The complex crystallized out in dichloromethane and was isolated as a purple garnet solid after concentration of the solution followed by addition of methanol (10 mL). Yield: 0.065 g (79%). Anal. Calcd for C₅₈H₃₀BCuF₂₀N₂Rh₄S₄: C, 39.83; H, 1.73; N, 1.60. Found: C, 39.63; H, 1.59; N, 1.59. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m*/*z*): 1660 (Cu–[Rh₄]⁺, 20%), 1598 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%).

[**Rh**₅(*μ*-**PyS**₂)₂(**cod**)₅]_{*n*}[**BF**₄]_{*n*} (**12**). Solid AgBF₄ (0.035 g, 0.1775 mmol) was added to a solution of [Rh(*μ*-Cl)(cod)]₂ (0.044 g, 0.088 mmol) in acetone (5 mL). The silver chloride was removed by filtration through Celite, and the solution containing the solvated species [Rh(cod)(Me₂CO)₂][BF₄] was transferred to a solution of [Rh₄(*μ*-PyS₂)₂(cod)₄] (0.100 g, 0.088 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL). The resulting violet solution was stirred for 1 h and then concentrated under vacuum to ca. 1 mL. Slow addition of diethyl ether gave the complex as a violet microcrystalline solid, which was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.114 g (90%). Anal. Calcd for C₅₀H₆₆BF₄N₂Rh₅S₄: C, 42.17; H, 4.67; N, 1.97. Found: C, 42.04; H, 4.44; N, 1.91. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m*/*z*): 2464 ([Rh₄]₂-Rh(cod)⁺, 7%), 1337 ([Rh₄]– Rh(cod)⁺, 47%), 1229 ([Rh₄]–Rh⁺, 16%), 1126 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%). Λ_M (S cm² mol⁻¹): 84 (acetone, 5.57 × 10⁻⁴ M).

 $[\mathbf{Rh}_5(\mu-\mathbf{PyS}_2)_2(\mathbf{tfbb})_5]_n[\mathbf{BF4}]_n$ (13). An acetone solution (5 mL) of $[\mathbf{Rh}(\mathbf{tfbb})(\mathbf{Me}_2\mathbf{CO})_2][\mathbf{BF4}]$ (0.054 mmol), prepared as describe above from $[\mathbf{Rh}(\mu-\mathbf{Cl})(\mathbf{tfbb})]_2$ and $AgBF_4$, was added to a solution of $[\mathbf{Rh}_4(\mu-\mathbf{PyS}_2)_2(\mathbf{tfbb})_4]$ (0.087 g, 0.054 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 mL) to give a deep violet solution in 1 h. Concentration of the solution under vacuum to ca. 2 mL and addition of methanol gave the complex as a violet solid which was filtered off, washed with methanol, and dried under vacuum. Yield: 0.115 g (94%). Anal. Calcd for $C_{70}H_{36}BF_4N_2Rh_5S_4$: C, 41.73; H, 1.80; N, 1.39. Found: C, 41.53; H, 1.78; N, 1.39. MS (FAB⁺, CH₂Cl₂, *m/z*): 1927 ([Rh₄]–Rh(tfbb)⁺, 65%), 1701 ([Rh₄]–Rh⁺, 7%), 1598 ([Rh₄]⁺, 100%).

Structural Determination of Complex 4. A summary of crystal data and refinement parameters for the structural analysis is given in Table 2. Suitable crystals for the X-ray diffraction study were obtained by slow diffusion of hexane into a concentrated solution of 4 in a dichloromethane/acetone mixture. A dark violet irregular shaped crystal (0.28 \times 0.14 \times 0.12 mm) of 4 was glued to a glass fiber and mounted on Bruker SMART APEX diffractometer. The instrument was equipped with a CCD area detector, and data were collected using graphite-monochromated Mo Ka radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at low temperature (100 K). Cell constants were obtained from the least-squares refinement of threedimensional centroids of 5264 reflections ($4.9 \le 2\theta \le 42.3^\circ$). Data were measured (59 718 reflections ($1.9 \le \theta \le 25.1^\circ$); 19 583 unique, $R_{int} = 0.0932$) through the use of CCD recording of narrow ω rotation frames (0.3° each) and were integrated with the Bruker SAINT program which includes Lorentz and polarization corrections.³² Absorption correction was applied by using the SADABS routine (minimum and maximum transmission factors 0.533 and 0.645).³³

Table 2. Crystal Data and Refinement Parameters for Complex 4

empirical formula	$\begin{array}{c} C_{94}H_{60}Au_{2}Cl_{2}F_{16}N_{2}O_{8}P_{2}Rh_{4}S_{4}\textbf{\cdot}\\ 2CH_{2}Cl_{2}\textbf{\cdot}C_{3}H_{6}O\textbf{\cdot}4C_{6}H_{14}\end{array}$
fw	3288.71
space group	$P2_1/n$ (No. 14)
a, Å	22.7939(12)
b, Å	21.9335(11)
<i>c</i> , Å	24.5094(12)
β , deg	115.2690(10)
V, Å ³	11 081.0(10)
Z	4
D_{calcd} , g cm $-^3$	1.971
μ , mm ⁻¹	3.560
no. of data/restraints/param	19 583/159/1271
GOF (all data) ^{a}	0.832
$R_1(F) \ (F^2 \ge 2\sigma(F^2))^b$	0.0548
$wR_2(F^2)$ (all data) ^c	0.1111

^{*a*} GOF = $(\Sigma[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/(n - p))^{1/2}$, where *n* and *p* are the number of data and parameters. ^{*b*} $R_1(F) = \Sigma||F_o| - |F_c||/\Sigma|F_o|$ for 10 069 observed reflections. ^{*c*} $wR_2(F^2) = (\Sigma[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\Sigma[w(F_o^2)^2])^{1/2}$, where $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2]$ and $P = [\max(0, F_o^2) + 2F_c^2]/3$.

The structure was easily solved by Patterson methods, completed by subsequent difference Fourier techniques, and refined by full-matrix least squares on F^2 (SHELXL-97)³⁴ with initial isotropic thermal parameters. After anisotropic refinement of all the atoms of the polynuclear cationic metal complex, several electron residuals were detected spread in the cell localized in quite a few spatial regions. At this stage, the perchlorate anions were straightforwardly found, but one of them exhibits static disorder for three oxygen atoms (O(6), O(7), and O(8)). Two solvation disordered CH₂Cl₂ molecules were also identified in the subsequent difference Fourier maps; both of them need a disorder modelation from two overlapping dichloromethane molecules. A third acetone solvation molecule was also recognized among the numerous electron residuals. All the atoms involved in disorder (one perchlorate, two CH₂Cl₂, and the acetone molecule) were refined as isotropic atoms and maintained under geometric restrictions during refinement. Hydrogen atoms were included in calculated positions for the hexanuclear cation; their positional and displacement parameters were incorporated in the least-squares refinement riding on carbon atoms.

At this step, several residuals of significant electron density (3-4) $e/Å^3$) were still present in the difference Fourier map; they did not display significant short contacts to any of the already identified and refined atoms. Several attempts to model this electron density were carried out by considering the different solvent molecules used in the crystallization process. Unfortunately no clear disorder model could be established. As an alternative, an evaluation of potential solvent regions showed the presence of four voids in the cell, completing an approximate volume of 1878 Å³; an electron count over this volume provided an estimate of 216 e/region (a total of 866 e in the cell).³⁵ Bearing in mind the solvents used in the crystallization, we interpreted these figures by assuming the presence of four highly disordered hexane molecules (4 \times 50 e/hexane molecule) in each of these four "solvent regions". Nevertheless, the contribution of the observed contents (electron density) of these solvent regions to the total structure factors was calculated via discrete Fourier transformation and incorporated in

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the final least-squares refinement of the ordered part of the structure.³⁶ Data presented in Table 2 assume the presence of the four hexane molecules in the independent part of the cell in addition to the previously identified moieties (the polynuclear cation, two anions, dichloromethane, and acetone). Atomic scattering factors were used as implemented in the program.³⁴

Acknowledgment. Financial support from Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología (MCyT(DGI)/FEDER, Projects BQU-2002-00074 and BQU2000-1170) is gratefully acknowl-

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edged. We thank Dr. Elena Cerrada (Inorganic Chemistry Department, University of Zaragoza) for the measurement of the electrical conductivities.

Supporting Information Available: An X-ray crystallographic file, in CIF format, containing full details of the structural analysis of **4** and the observed and calculated fine structure of the molecular fragments $Ag-[Rh_4]_2^+$ and $Ag-[Rh_4]^+$ detected in the mass spectrum of **8**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

IC034893I