

Spectral Studies of Bipyridyl and *o*-Phenanthroline Adducts of Divalent Metal Diketonates

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Powder *e.s.r.* spectra are reported for manganese(II) ions doped into $Mg(hfac)_2L$, $Zn(acac)_2L$ ($hfac$ = hexafluoro-acetylacetonate, L = bipyridyl or *o*-phenanthroline), $Cd(acac)_2bipyridyl$ and $Cd(acac)_2 \cdot o\text{-phenanthroline} \cdot H_2O$, and the zero-field splitting parameters D and λ ($= E/D$) are derived. Distortions from octahedral symmetry are greater for the bipyridyl than for the *o*-phenanthroline complexes, and greater for cadmium than for the other two metal ions. Infrared studies show all the complexes to be tris-bidentate except for $Cd(acac)_2 \cdot o\text{-phen} \cdot H_2O$, which probably has a free carbonyl group and coordinated water.

Introduction

As part of our investigations into the use of manganese(II) as a stereochemical probe for complexes of group(II) metal ions, we report here the infrared and *e.s.r.* powder spectra of some adducts of metal β -ketoenolates $M^{II}(Mn)(diketone)_2L$, where L represents 1,10-phenanthroline or 2,2'-bipyridyl. These complexes are expected generally to have *cis*-octahedral stereochemistry, the diimines being unable to span *trans*-positions in the complexes. The host complexes studied are listed in Table I.

Experimental

$Mg(Mn)(hfac)_2phen \cdot 0.5H_2O$

This was obtained as pale yellow crystals on mixing chloroform solutions of $phen \cdot H_2O$ and $Mg(hfac)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (+1 mol% $Mn(Hfac)_2(H_2O)_2$) in the stoichiometric ratio; the fibrous *bipy* adduct was prepared similarly but from benzene solution.

$Zn(Mn)(acac)_2(L)$ ($L = phen, bipy$)

$Zn(acac)_2(H_2O)_2$ [+1 mol% $Mn(acac)_2(H_2O)_2$] and an equimolar amount of the α -diimine were dissolved in chloroform and petroleum ether (60–80 °C) was added to incipient precipitation. Off-white crystals were obtained on overnight refrigeration of the solutions.

$Cd(acac)_2(L)$ ($L = phen, bipy$)

An ethanolic solution of the α -diimine was added to an equimolar amount of $Na[Cd(Mn)(acac)_3]$ in water. The finely divided white products were stirred for several minutes prior to filtration.

All spectra were obtained on polycrystalline samples at room temperature. The spectrometers have been described previously [1].

TABLE I. Analytical Results.

Compound	Found			Calculated		
	%C	%H	%N	%C	%H	%N
$Mg(hfac)_2phen$	42.5	2.0	4.4	42.7	1.6	4.5
$Mg(hfac)_2bipy$	40.5	2.3	4.4	40.4	1.7	4.7
$Zn(acac)_2phen$	59.6	5.5	5.8	59.5	5.0	6.3
$Zn(acac)_2bipy$	57.3	5.0	6.9	57.2	5.3	6.7
$Cd(acac)_2phen \cdot H_2O$	52.0	4.7	5.6	51.9	4.8	5.5
$Cd(acac)_2bipy$	51.8	4.6	5.8	51.5	4.8	6.0

TABLE II. Selected Bands (cm^{-1}) in the IR Spectra of the phen Adducts.

phen·H ₂ O	Zn(acac) ₂ phen	Cd(acac) ₂ phen·H ₂ O	Assignments
—	540 m	540 v, br	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{O})$
620	635 m	636 m	phen: ring bend (?) ^a
727 s	720 m	721 sh	phen: ring-H o.o.p.
738 s	731 s	727 s	bend
751 m	761 s	764 m	phen: ring-H o.o.p. bend and
775 w	782 m	778 s	acac: $\delta(\text{C}-\text{H})$ o.o.p.
830 s	849 s	847 s	phen: ring-H oo.o.p.
850 s	860 w	861 w	bend
1133 m	1138 v.w.	1146 m	phen: ring-H i.p. bend
1500 s	1505 s	1510 s	phen: ring stretch C=C + C=N
1558 m			and acac: $\nu(\text{C}=\text{C}) + \nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$
1585 m		1585 s	
1615 w	1590 s, br	1605 s	
1640 w			
—	—	1675 m, sp	acac: uncoordinated $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$
3400 m, br		3400 m, br	H ₂ O: $\nu(\text{O}-\text{H})$

^aphen bands assigned by analogy with bipy complexes.

TABLE III. Selected Bands (cm^{-1}) in the IR Spectra of the bipy Adducts.

bipy	Zn(acac) ₂ bipy	Cd(acac) ₂ bipy	Assignments
—	539 m	533 s	$\nu(\text{M}-\text{O})$
	542 m, sh		
618 m	625 m	625 m	bipy: ring bend
		732 m	
736 s	739 m		
750 s, br	749 m		bipy: ring-H o.o.p. bend and
	757 m		
	765 m	765 sh	acac: $\delta(\text{C}-\text{H})$ o.o.p.
	771 s	771 s	
1135 m	1150 m, br	1152 m, br	bipy: ring-H i.p. bend
	1170 w	1170 w	
—	1310 m	1315 m	coordinated bipy (see text)
—	1510 s	1510 s	acac: $\nu(\text{C}=\text{C})$
~1552 s, split			acac: $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ and
1575 s		1575 s, br	bipy: ring stretch
	~1595 s, br	1600 s, br	C=C + C=N

TABLE IV. Selected Bands (cm^{-1}) in the IR Spectra of the Mg(II) Complexes.

Mg(hfac) ₂ ·3H ₂ O	Mg(hfac) ₂ phen	Mg(hfac) ₂ bipy	Assignment
—	645 w	630 w	phen, bipy: ring bend
	725 sh		
	731 s	738 m	
	741 w		
742 m	762 m	762 s	phen, bipy: ring-H o.o.p. bend
771 w	798 m	795 s	hfac: $\nu(\text{C}-\text{CF}_3) + \delta(\text{CF}_3)$

(continued on facing page)

TABLE IV. (continued)

Mg(hfac) ₂ ·3H ₂ O	Mg(hfac) ₂ phen	Mg(hfac) ₂ bipy	Assignment
805 s	810 w 852 m 870 w	801 sh	coordinated bipy (see text)
—	—	1315 m	
1500 s, br	1516 s 1532 s	1508 s 1527 s	phen, bipy: ring stretch C=C + C=N
1545 s, br	1559 m	1552 m	
1570 s	1585 w 1595 w	1575 m 1595 m	and
1617 m	—	1605 m 1645 s	
1660 s	1659 s 1668 sh	1657 s	hfac: $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$
3400–3500 v. br.	—	—	H ₂ O: $\nu(\text{O}-\text{H})$

Infrared Spectra (4000–250 cm⁻¹) of the Complexes

The spectra are listed in Tables II–IV. Bands due to acetylacetonate (acac) appear in virtually the same positions as in M^I[M^{II}(acac)₃]·nH₂O [2], indicating that with the exception of Cd(acac)₂phen·H₂O (see below) the diketones chelate in every case. Comparison of the spectra of the magnesium complexes with that of hexafluoroacetylacetonate (hfac), leads to a similar conclusion for these complexes.

Extensive spectral studies of the free and coordinated diimines [3–7] have led to identification of the features diagnostic of the chelated ligands. The relevant observations in the present complexes are as follows. (i) Out-of-plane hydrogen deformations occurring between 700 and 850 cm⁻¹ in the free ligands are split and/or shifted in the complexes. The spectrum of Zn(acac)₂bipy is distinguished by the multiplicity of bands in this region; this is consistent with the e.s.r. results which indicate the presence of more than one environment for the metal ion. (ii) The band at ~1315 cm⁻¹ in the bipy adducts (which is absent in the free ligand) has been observed previously in several tris bipy complexes [5, 6]. (iii) The band at ~1135 cm⁻¹, ascribed to the ring-hydrogen in-plane bending vibration in both bipy and phen [6], is shifted to higher energy in the zinc and cadmium complexes (in the magnesium complexes, this region is obscured by the broad, strong C–F stretching vibration). (iv) The ring bending mode at ~620 cm⁻¹ in the free diimines also moves to higher energy on complexation.

An interesting feature in the spectrum of Mg(hfac)₂bipy is the splitting of $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$, both components of the doublet being of equal intensity. Splitting of comparable magnitude has been observed for $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ in Zn(hfac)₂bipy and Zn(hfac)₂(py)₂ [8]

(a structural study [8] of the latter complex confirms that the hfac ligand is asymmetrically coordinated, and that the axial Zn–O distance is shorter than the in-plane bond length by 0.09 Å, the Zn–N distance being intermediate between the two values). In Mg(hfac)₂phen the higher energy component of $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ appears as a shoulder on the 1659 cm⁻¹ band.

In the acac complexes $\nu(\text{C}=\text{O})$ coincides with the diimine C=C and C=N vibrational frequencies, so that the mode of chelation of the diketone cannot be inferred from the IR data.

The presence of a band at 1675 cm⁻¹, assigned to 'free' C=O, in the spectrum of Cd(acac)₂phen·H₂O suggests monodentate coordination by at least one of the diketone molecules. Another distinctive feature of this spectrum is the breadth of the 540 cm⁻¹ absorption, the half-width being about twice as large as in the other zinc and cadmium complexes. Coordinated water is reported to give a band at about this frequency [9], and it seems that this compound may contain one bidentate acac, one monodentate acac and one water molecule as the four oxygen donors. This arrangement, however, would still give rise to a *cis*-CdO₄N₂ arrangement, and since pyridine-type ligands appear to weaken donation from acac *trans* to them [8] replacement by a water molecule may make little difference to the electron spin resonance parameters.

E.s.r. Spectra of the Mn(II)-doped Complexes

Reference has been made previously [10] to the 'simplified' spin Hamiltonian for manganese(II) and the computer programs ESRS and SHAPE 9 employed in the spectral analysis. The labelling a–e of the fine structure transitions, and 1–6 of the spin levels, follows previous use [10].

TABLE V. X-band ESR Spectrum (mT) of Zn(Mn)(acac)₂phen; a, b, d and e Transitions.

Observed ($\nu = 9.535$ GHz)	Calc. for $D = 0.025 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.03$		Calc. for $D = -0.028 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.26$		Calc. for $D = 0.039 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.10$	
	B	Axis, levels	B	Axis, levels	B	Axis, levels
123 w			221.9	a _z		
233 m	233.6	e _z	236.1	e _y	238.3	a _y
278 m			280.2	b _z		
284 s	284.8	a _y	286.3	d _y	283.5	b _y
	287.1	d _z				
	294.6	a _x			289.6	a _x
392 s	391.1	e _x	391.6	b _y	388.0	d _y
398 m	394.1	b _z	399.4	d _z		
	400.5	e _y			403.8	e _x
447 m	447.7	a _z	448.3	a _y	451.9	e _y
			461.0	e _z		

TABLE VI. Q-band ESR Spectrum (mT) of Zn(Mn)(acac)₂phen; a, b, d and e Transitions.

Observed ($\nu = 35.739$ GHz)	Calc. for $D = 0.025 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.03$		Calc. for $D = -0.028 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.26$		Calc. for $D = 0.039 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.10$	
	B	Axis, levels	B	Axis, levels	B	Axis, levels
					1109.7	e _z
1166 w	1169.6	e _z	1157.0	a _z	1169.3	a _y
			1170.3	e _y	1193.1	d _z
1214 w	1218.9	a _y	1216.4	b _z		
1221 s	1223.1	d _z	1222.9	d _y	1220.0	a _x
	1228.6	a _x			1221.1	b _y
	1326.0	e _x				
1329 s	1330.2	b _z	1329.5	b _y	1329.5	d _y
1334 w	1335.5	e _y	1336.4	d _z	1336.7	e _x
					1360.1	b _z
1383 w	1383.7	a _z	1383.7	a _y	1386.3	e _y
			1396.8	e _z		
					1443.8	a _z

In Zn(Mn)(acac)₂phen spectral linewidths are high enough to result in severe overlapping between adjacent bands even at the extremities of the spectrum. Under these conditions, consideration of the a, b, d and e transitions, alone may not lead to unambiguous assignment of zfs parameters. In the present spectrum, the positions of the three pairs of bands flanking the central transition are consistent with (i) $D = 0.025 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.03$, or (ii) $D = 0.028 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.26$, or, less plausibly, with (iii) $D = 0.039 \text{ cm}^{-1}, \lambda = 0.10$ (Table V and VI). Analysis of the X-band (4–3) transition was attempted to distinguish between (i) and (ii). The powder pattern for this transition (which is isotropic as far as terms linear

in the fine structure parameters) has been calculated to second order, assuming an isotropic g-tensor and the absence of nuclear hyperfine interaction (Table VII).

In measuring the resonance fields in the experimental spectrum it has been assumed that second-order hf effects do not shift the centre of gravity of a sextet; it may be shown that such shifts for the c transition are ≤ 1 mT. Table VII also gives the values of B computed by exact diagonalization of the SPH matrix at the critical points, which agree well with the results of the perturbation calculations. The $g_{\text{eff}} = 2$ absorption pattern in the experimental spectrum corresponds closely to that predicted for $D = 0.028$

TABLE VII. Analysis of c(4–3) Transition in Zn(Mn)(acac)₂phen at X-band (field in mT).

Observed ($\nu = 9.535$ GHz)	Perturbation calculations of powder pattern				Calculation of B by exact diagonalization of SPH matrix for $D = 0.028$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.26$
	$D = 0.025$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.03$		$D = 0.028$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.26$		
	B	Axis	B	Axis	
332.4 sh			331.8 sh	x	332.2
	335.7 sh	x			
	336.2 div	y			
337.6 div			337.3 sh	y	337.9
			338.3 div	xy pl. ($\theta = 90^\circ$, $\phi = 58^\circ$)	339.0
	340.2 sh	z	338.8 sh	z	339.3
343.8 sh or div			342.3 div	zx pl. ($\theta = 37^\circ$, $\phi = 0$)	342.8
	347.0 div	zs pl. ($\theta = 41^\circ$, $\phi = 0$)			
	348.4 sh	yz pl. ($\theta = 42^\circ$, $\phi = 90^\circ$)			
a			356.7 sh	yz pl. ($\theta = 44^\circ$, $\phi = 90^\circ$)	356.7

^aStrong but poorly resolved absorption between 350 and 370 mT.

TABLE VIII. 5–2 Transition (mT) in the X-band Spectrum of Zn(Mn)(acac)₂phen.

Observed ($\nu = 9.535$ GHz)	Calculated	
	$D = -0.028$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.26$	$D = 0.025$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.03$
104	104.3	99.3
112	111.6	106.4
119	119.8	114.3
127	128.7	122.8
137	138.4	132.1
147	148.9	142.2

cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.26$. This assignment is confirmed by the position of the only observed spin-forbidden band, centred on 122.9 mT and ascribed to the 5–2 transition in the yz plane. The predicted fields (corrected for higher order hf effects) for (i), (ii) and (iii) are 118.3, 124.2 and 127.3 mT. Table VIII compares the experimental and calculated (for (i) and (ii)) positions of the hf lines.

The spacing of the hyperfine components of the highest band is greater than that on the lowest allowed band. With the assignments of (ii) above, the highest field band must then be a_y and D is negative. For the other compounds the sign of D could not be determined, owing to the severe overlapping of transitions, or the incomplete resolution of the hyperfine structure. The band assignments are therefore given for positive D.

For Mg(Mn)(hfac)₂phen, accurate spin Hamiltonian parameters are not obtainable, as the linewidths of the outer transitions are even larger than those of Zn(Mn)(acac)₂phen. Analysis of the spectra is further complicated by the presence of a strong background signal, due possibly to absorption by aggregated Mn(II) ions. e_z and a_z occur at ~ 1154 and ~ 1410 mT at 35.84 GHz, giving a D value of *ca.* 0.03 cm^{-1} ; this is consistent with the presence of a very weak signal centred on 470 mT at X-band. Location of a_y and e_y is more difficult, but estimates for λ of 0.17 or 0.22, obtained from the high field absorption (1379 or 1387 mT) at Q-band, were used to calculate the powder pattern of the c transition at 9.522 GHz.

TABLE IX. c(4–3) Transition (mT) of Mg(Mn)(hfac)₂phen at X-band.

Observed ($\nu = 9.522$ GHz)	Calculated		Field direction
	$D = 0.03$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.17$	$D = 0.03$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.22$	
332.1 sh	331.5 sh	330.7 sh	x
334.5 ^b	335.6 sh	336.1 sh	y
	335.8 div	336.8 div	xy pl.
338.4 ^b	339.1 sh	338.6 sh	z
	345.1 div	343.5 div	zx pl.
a	356.1 sh	357.7 sh	yz pl.

^aStrong but poorly resolved absorption to ~ 380 mT. ^bNot clear whether sh or div.

TABLE X. Q-band ESR Spectrum (mT) of Mg(Mn)(hfac)₂-bipy.

Observed ($\nu = 35.750$ GHz)	Calculated for $D = 0.079$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.24$	
	B	Axis, levels
454 w		
624 w		
941 ms	940.5	e_z
990 ms	990.5	a_y
1107 s	1106.9	d_z
1127 s	1128.8	b_y
1419 s	1417.6	d_y
1444 s	1444.2	b_z
1573 ms	1570.5	e_y
1620 ms	1616.4	a_z

TABLE XI. Q-band ESR Spectrum (mT) of Cd(Mn)(acac)₂-phen·H₂O.

Observed ($\nu = 35.865$ GHz)	Calculated for $D = 0.078$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.17$	
	B	Axis, levels
946 w	948.0	e_z
1031 w	1033.8	a_y
1112 ms	1113.6	d_z
1152 s	1151.6	b_y
	1207.3	a_x
1231 s	1231.6	b_x
1400 s	1401.7	d_y
1448 s	1447.3	b_z
1538 w	1536.3	e_y
1616 w	1615.8	a_z

As Table IX shows, the lower of the two values of λ gives results in moderately good agreement with the experimental data.

X-band resonance fields for Mg(Mn)(hfac)₂bipy and Cd(Mn)(acac)₂phen·H₂O are not tabulated, as fine structure is poorly resolved, except in the case of a moderately intense transition at 160.9 mT ($g_{\text{eff}} = 4.23$). However, the zero field splitting parameters are readily evaluated from Q-band spectra (Tables X and XI) $D/h\nu$ at 36 GHz being sufficiently low that perturbation theory may be usefully applied. These parameters in turn were used to calculate the X-band lineshapes, the experimental spectrum being generally well fitted.

Likewise for Cd(Mn)(acac)₂bipy, the zero field splitting parameters were calculated from the Q-band spectrum (Table XII) and used to reproduce the X-band lineshape.

The spectral profile at X-band of Zn(Mn)(acac)₂-bipy resembles those of Na[Zn(Mn)(acac)₃]·H₂O

TABLE XII. Q-band ESR Spectrum (mT) of Cd(Mn)(acac)₂-bipy.

Observed ($\nu = 35.88$ GHz)	Calculated for $D = 0.163$ cm^{-1} , $\lambda = 0.15$	
	B	Axis, levels
593 m	588.5	e_z
803 m	804.5	a_y
933 m	932.8	d_z
1018 m	1020.4	b_y
	1125.6	a_x
1149 m	1152.9	b_x
1219 s	1219.5	c_x
1249 s	1250.9	c_y
1331 s	1330.8	d_x
+absorption to 1400	1498.2	e_x
1504 m	1505.0	d_y
1625 m	1626.9	b_z
1802 w	1798.0	e_y
1987 vw	1981.0	a_z

and M(Mn)(4Me-pyo)₆(ClO₄)₂ (M = Zn, Cd, or Hg) [10, 11], with $D \sim 0.06 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. However, many more lines are observed than can be accounted for by a single set of SPH parameters; in addition, the lack of structure on the strong central band contrasts with the well resolved hyperfine lines of the corresponding transition in Na[Zn(Mn)(acac)₃]·H₂O. Both features are consistent with the presence of manganese ions in more than one environment. Severe overlapping of some adjacent lines at X-band precludes accurate measurement of all resonance fields. At Q-band, however, at least four pairs of transitions at the extremities of the spectrum are well resolved. Their positions and intensities appear to indicate roughly equal distribution of manganese ions between two lattice sites characterised by the parameters (i) $D = 0.061 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.08$ and $D = 0.071 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.09$ or (ii) $D = 0.061 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.16$ and $D = 0.071 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.03$ (Table XIII). X-band spectra were simulated, assuming equal numbers of manganese ions in the two environments, for both (i) and (ii); each closely resembles the experimental lineshape. A well-defined 'half-field' spectrum was observed in the usual region (100–150 mT) but owing to the very large number of spin-forbidden lines predicted for two sets of SPH parameters, it was not possible to make a clear distinction between (i) and (ii) on this basis.

Discussion

In both the bipyridyl and the *o*-phenanthroline series, the D values for the magnesium and the zinc host lattices are similar (Table XIV). In each case, however, the cadmium compound gives a much larger

TABLE XIII. Q-band Spectrum (mT) of Zn(Mn)(acac)₂bipy.

Observed ($\nu = 35.52$ GHz)	Calculated			
	$D = 0.061 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.16$	$D = 0.071 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.03$	$D = 0.061 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.08$	$D = 0.071 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.09$
965 w		964.7 e _z		964.9 e _z
1006 w	1008.0 e _z		1007.6 e _z	
1075 w	1077.2 a _y			1079.4 a _y
1108 m		1108.2 a _y 1116.8 d _z	1110.2 a _y	1116.6 d _z
1127 m	1137.9 d _z	1136.0 a _x	1138.1 d _z	
^a 1183 vbr	1169.2 b _y	1181.4 b _y	1173.8 b _y	1164.8 a _x
	1206.9 a _x	1194.4 b _x	1184.8 a _x 1214.7 b _x	1168.0 b _y 1207.7 b _x
^a 1337 vbr	1339.8 e _x	1331.3 d _x	1313.1 d _x	1316.4 d _x
	1362.7 d _y	1345.6 d _y	1345.8 e _x 1371.6 d _y	1360.4 d _y 1383.7 e _x
1422 m	1399.0 b _z	1411.4 e _x 1420.9 b _z	1399.3 b _z	1420.6 b _z
1434 m		1438.2 e _y	1433.2 e _y	
1462 w	1465.3 e _y			1465.9 e _y
1527 vw	1530.4 a _z		1530.2 a _z	
1571 w		1573.0 a _z		1573.1 a _z

^aFlanked by other, less well-resolved lines.

TABLE XIV. Zfs Parameters' of Mn(II) in some Chelate Complexes.

Complex	D (cm ⁻¹)	λ
Mg(hfac) ₂ phen	0.03	0.17
Mg(hfac) ₂ bipy	0.079	0.24
Zn(acac) ₂ phen	-0.028	0.26
Zn(acac) ₂ bipy	0.061	0.08
	(i) {	
	0.071	0.09
	or	
	(ii) 0.061	0.16
	{	
	0.071	0.03
Cd(acac) ₂ phen·H ₂ O	0.078	0.17
Cd(acac) ₂ bipy	0.163	0.15

^aErrors in D and λ are estimated at $\pm 0.01 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and ± 0.03 for Mg(hfac)₂phen and $\pm 0.001 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ and ± 0.01 for the other compounds.

D value. This is opposite to the trend expected from ionic size, since normally D decreases with increasing size of the host metal ion [10, 12, 13]. This raises the possibility that in this case there is a geometric distortion of the octahedra, such as the trigonal distortion

found for KCd(acac)₃·H₂O, which also gives a very high D value for manganese [11].

For all three host metal ions, the bipyridyl complexes give much larger D values than the *o*-phenanthroline. The latter give surprisingly low values, comparable with those in *cis*-M(acac)₂(O-donor)₂.

The negative sign of D found for Zn(acac)₂phen heightens this analogy. It is thought [14] to imply that the octahedron is compressed along the major axis. This again is surprising for a *cis*-MO₄N₂ system, though Zn(hfac)₂pyridine₂ shows this geometry, the oxygen donors *trans*- to the nitrogens having unusually long M–O bonds. It seems likely that Zn(acac)₂phen has a similar structure.

It also appears that manganese(II) is a better probe for host-lattice geometry than is copper(II). The e.p.r. spectrum of Cu(II) in Zn(hfac)₂py₂ indicates a tetragonally elongated environment, as found for the pure copper complex, rather than the compressed octahedron of the host lattice [15].

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