

Polynuclear Copper(II) Complexes with Oxygen Bridges: The Relationship between Magnetic Properties and Structure

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Received August 26, 1969

The structures of two copper(II) complexes of the general formula CuL (where L represents the dianion of $\text{H}_3\text{C}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)=\text{N}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{OH}$) have been determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies. The compound with $n=2$, abbreviated Cu(EIA), crystallizes as tetragonal crystals ($a=b=14.46 \text{ \AA}$, $c=7.63 \text{ \AA}$) of space group $P4_2/c$ with two tetramers per unit cell ($\rho_{\text{obsd}}=1.70$; $\rho_{\text{calcd}}=1.71 \text{ g/cm}^3$); the compound with $n=3$, abbreviated Cu(PIA), crystallizes as monoclinic crystals ($a=5.98 \text{ \AA}$, $b=10.97 \text{ \AA}$, $c=14.42 \text{ \AA}$, and $\beta=106.75^\circ$) of space group $P2_1/c$, with two dimers per unit cell ($\rho_{\text{obsd}}=1.61$; $\rho_{\text{calcd}}=1.61 \text{ g/cm}^3$). Both structures were solved from Patterson and electron density maps and refined by least-squares methods to conventional R values of 8.9% and 10.0% for Cu(EIA) and Cu(PIA), respectively. The two structures differ in the coordination about the bridging oxygens — in Cu(EIA) the oxygen is tetrahedrally coordinated and in Cu(PIA) the three — coordinate oxygen is planar. The fourth outer orbital of the planar oxygen and the d_{xz} , d_{yz} orbitals of copper can overlap to form a delocalized π -system; the pairing of electrons in delocalized π -orbitals is suggested as an explanation of the singlet ground state observed for most oxygen-bridged copper(II) complexes.

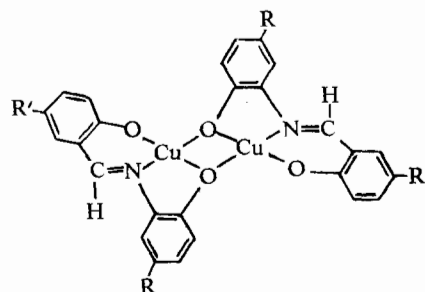
Introduction

A large number of copper(II) complexes are known to exhibit room temperature magnetic moments considerably below the spin-only value for one unpaired electron;² the temperature dependence of the magnetic susceptibilities of these compounds can be explained on the basis of a singlet ground state and a thermally accessible triplet state. Although they have similar magnetic properties, structure studies have indicated³⁻⁵ that there are at least two different types of compounds — those with direct metal-metal bonding and those with oxygen bridges.

The copper(II) acetate dimer³ is an example of the first type; there has been considerable discussion

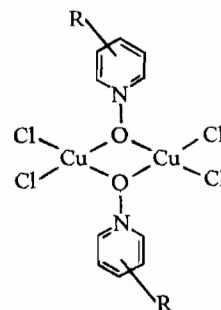
of the type of interaction involved. Both a σ -interaction, involving, d_{z^2} orbitals, and a Δ -interaction, involving $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals, have been suggested.

In the second type of compound, of which CuCl_2 -(Pyridine oxide)⁵ is an example, the distance between copper ions (3.23 \AA) is large enough to rule out direct interaction between copper orbitals and an interaction through the bridging oxygens has been assumed. A σ -type interaction, involving the copper(II) $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals, has been used to explain the properties of a number of complexes⁶ of the type:



All of these compounds were assumed to have the structure found⁴ for the compound with $R=H$ and $R'=H$.

The possibility of a π -type interaction between d_{xz} and d_{yz} orbitals of the copper ions and the oxygen p_z orbitals has also been suggested^{7,8} and correlated with substituent effects in compounds of the type:



There are also examples of compounds with similar formulas which show different magnetic proper-

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ties.⁹⁻¹¹ A series of compounds of the general formula $\text{Cu}(\text{R}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})\text{X}$ has been studied;⁹ some of the compounds have normal moments at room temperature, other have sub-normal moments, and at least one crystallizes in two different forms—one with a normal and one with a sub-normal moment.

The copper(II) compound¹⁰ of the Schiff base of 2-aminoethanol and acetylacetonone (hereafter referred to as $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$) has a normal magnetic moment at room temperature while the Schiff base complex of *o*-aminophenol and acetylacetonone has a sub-normal moment. Although structural data are available for the latter compound,⁴ the presence of two different types of copper(II) ions (4- and 5-coordinate) and two different types of bridging oxygens (μ_2 and μ_3) makes it difficult to relate the magnetic properties to structural features.

To obtain additional information about magnetic interactions in these compounds, an investigation of structures of oxygen-bridged complexes with normal moments and similar complexes with sub-normal moments was initiated. On the assumption that the normal moment of the Schiff base complex of 2-aminoethanol, $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$, is in some way related to steric factors in the bonding of the ligand to the metal, the corresponding complex of 3-amino-1-propanol (hereafter abbreviated $\text{Cu}(\text{PIA})$) was prepared. In this paper we report the preparation, magnetic moment and structure of $\text{Cu}(\text{PIA})$ and the structure of $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$. A preliminary report of the structure of $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$ has been published.¹²

Experimental Section

Preparations. Equimolar amounts of 2,4-pentanedione, the appropriate aminoalcohol, and potassium hydroxide were mixed, the mixture was dissolved in methanol, and a methanol solution containing an equivalent amount of copper(II) acetate was added; the crystalline product was filtered and then dried in vacuum.

Anal. Calcd. for $\text{Cu}(\text{PIA})$, $\text{CuC}_8\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2$: Cu, 29.05; C, 43.92; H, 6.00; N, 6.40. Found: Cu, 28.62; C, 44.07; H, 5.96; N, 6.30. Calcd. for $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$, $\text{CuC}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2$: Cu, 31.04; C, 41.06; H, 5.43; N, 6.84. Found: Cu, 30.85; C, 41.12; H, 5.37; N, 6.78.

Magnetic Susceptibilities. The magnetic susceptibilities of the compounds were determined by the Gouy method at 25°C., using $\text{HgCo}(\text{CNS})_4$ as a calibrant. Diamagnetic corrections were made using published atomic values.¹³ For $\text{Cu}(\text{PIA})$: $\chi_G = -0.15$, $\chi_M^{\text{corr}} = 69$, and $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 0.41$ B.M.; for $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$: $\chi_G = 6.71$, $\chi_M^{\text{corr}} = 1463$, and $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 1.87$ B.M. The value reported for $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$ agrees with that previously reported.¹⁰

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Collection and Reduction of X-ray Data

$\text{Cu}(\text{PIA})$. A needle-like crystal with approximate dimensions $0.10 \times 0.17 \times 0.60$ mm was mounted along the long dimension and precession photographs were taken, using zirconium-filtered $\text{Mo K}\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda = 0.7106$ Å. The crystal was found to be monoclinic with $a = 5.98(1)$ Å,¹⁴ $b = 10.97(2)$ Å, $c = 14.42(2)$ Å, and $\beta = 106.75(10)^\circ$. The density calculated on the basis of 4 formula units per unit cell, 1.61 g/cm³, agrees well with the experimental value, $1.61(2)$ g/cm³, obtained by the flotation method in a mixture of carbon tetrachloride and diiodomethane.

The systematic absence of the reflections with $l = 2n + 1$ on the $h0l$ zone and the systematic absence of the reflections with $k = 2n + 1$ on the $0k0$ line were consistent only with space group $\text{P}2_1/c$ (No. 14).

Intensity data were collected on the precession camera, using the same crystal as used for the space group determination; a total of 631 unique, non-zero reflections were estimated visually from the hkl ($l = 0-3$) and hkl ($k = 0-2$) layers. Lorentz-polarization corrections were computed but no corrections for absorption were made ($\mu = 24$ cm⁻¹).

$\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$. A needle-like crystal with approximate dimensions $0.10 \times 0.15 \times 0.60$ mm was mounted along the long dimension and precession photographs were taken using zirconium-filtered molybdenum $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.7106$ Å). The crystal was found to be tetragonal with $a = b = 14.46(2)$ Å and $c = 7.63(2)$ Å. The density calculated on the basis of 8 formula units per unit cell, 1.71 g/cm³, agrees well with the experimental value of $1.70(2)$ g/cm³ obtained by the flotation method in a mixture of carbon tetrachloride and diiodomethane.

The systematic absence of the hhl reflections with $l = 2n + 1$ and the systematic absence of $h00$ reflections with $h = 2n + 1$ were consistent with space group $\text{P}4_2/c$ (No. 114).

Intensity data were collected with the precession camera, using the same crystal used for the space group determination; a total of 394 unique, non-zero reflections were estimated visually for the hkl ($k = 0-4$) and the hhl layers. Lorentz-polarization corrections were computed but no corrections for absorption were made ($\mu = 31$ cm⁻¹).

Table I. Final Positional and Thermal Parameters for $\text{Cu}(\text{PIA})$.

| Atom | x | y | z | B, Å ² |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Cu1 | 0.1068(4) | 0.0322(2) | 0.1055(2) | 4.02(6) |
| O2 | -0.1465(21) | 0.0659(13) | -0.0015(9) | 4.89(30) |
| C3 | -0.3369(33) | 0.1486(21) | -0.0102(15) | 5.04(44) |
| C4 | -0.1792(38) | 0.2189(26) | 0.1710(18) | 6.20(52) |
| N5 | 0.0297(25) | 0.1377(17) | 0.2013(12) | 4.57(34) |
| C6 | 0.1506(34) | 0.1398(22) | 0.2908(16) | 4.96(44) |
| C7 | 0.0719(37) | 0.2174(25) | 0.3636(17) | 6.31(54) |
| C8 | 0.3489(31) | 0.0695(20) | 0.3327(14) | 4.66(41) |
| C9 | 0.4662(34) | -0.0068(24) | 0.2819(15) | 5.67(47) |
| C10 | 0.6916(35) | -0.0719(22) | 0.3353(16) | 5.79(49) |
| O11 | 0.3762(22) | -0.0275(15) | 0.1892(10) | 5.59(31) |
| C12 | -0.2506(40) | 0.2544(25) | 0.0637(20) | 8.07(65) |

(14) Numbers in parentheses here and elsewhere in this paper indicate the estimated standard deviation in the least significant digits.

Table VI. Equations of Atomic Planes and Distances (Å) of Atoms from these Planes.(a) Equation of the Plane of the Four-Membered Ring (Cu1, O2, Cu1', O2') of Cu(PIA):^a

$$0.620 X + 0.739 Y - 0.264 Z = 0.000$$

| | | | | | |
|------|-------|----|--------|-----|--------|
| Cu1 | 0.000 | C4 | 0.044 | C9 | -0.082 |
| O2 | 0.000 | N5 | -0.028 | C10 | -0.106 |
| Cu1' | 0.000 | C6 | -0.120 | O11 | -0.006 |
| O2' | 0.000 | C7 | -0.230 | C12 | 0.235 |
| C3 | 0.018 | C8 | -0.215 | | |

(b) Equation of the Best Least-Squares Plane^b of the Acetylacetonate Chelate Ring (N5, C6, C8, C9, C10, O11) of Cu(PIA):^a

$$0.620 X + 0.762 Y - 0.186 Z = 0.212$$

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|
| N5 | 0.014 | C9 | 0.009 | O2 | -0.197 |
| C6 | 0.019 | C10 | 0.026 | C3 | -0.167 |
| C7 | 0.001 | O11 | -0.020 | C4 | 0.074 |
| C8 | -0.049 | Cu1 | -0.090 | C12 | 0.658 |

(c) Equation of the Best Least-Squares Plane^b of the Acetylacetonate Chelate Ring (N5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C10, O11) of Cu(EIA):
$$0.499 X + 0.196 Y - 0.844 Z = -0.329$$

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|-----|--------|----|--------|
| N5 | 0.040 | C9 | -0.012 | O2 | -0.119 |
| C6 | -0.036 | C10 | 0.041 | C3 | 0.082 |
| C7 | 0.026 | O11 | -0.021 | C4 | 0.133 |
| C8 | -0.037 | Cu1 | -0.098 | | |

^a Direction cosines of the plane refer to the orthogonal axis system a, b, c*. ^b All atoms weighted at unity.

in addition, the coordination sphere of each copper ion is planar as indicated by the fact that none of the coordinated atoms are out of the plane defined by the four-membered ring by more than 0.03 Å. The coordination around the bridging oxygen is also essentially planar, with the carbon bonded to the oxygen only 0.02 Å out of the plane of the four-membered ring.

In addition to the four-membered ring, there are two six-membered chelate rings consisting of copper, oxygen, nitrogen, and three carbon atoms. One of these chelate rings contains the carbons from the acetylacetonate and will be referred to hereafter as the unsaturated chelate ring; the other six-membered chelate ring contains the carbons from the aminopropanol and will be referred to hereafter as the saturated chelate ring.

The five carbon atoms of each unsaturated chelate ring are essentially coplanar (the greatest deviation of any of the five atoms from their least-squares plane is 0.05 Å) and that plane forms a dihedral angle of ca. 10° with the plane of the four-membered ring; since the two unsaturated chelate rings of the dimer are related by inversion, they are bent in opposite directions from the plane of the copper-oxygen ring. The carbon-carbon bond distances within the chelate ring do not differ by as much as their standard deviations.

The saturated chelate ring, as expected, is considerably bent. As indicated above, the carbon bonded to the oxygen is in the plane of the four-membered ring; the carbon bonded to the nitrogen is only slightly out of that plane (0.12 Å); the other carbon of the

ring is the only atom of the entire structure that causes the dimer to deviate significantly from planarity—it is 0.74 Å from the plane on the side opposite the unsaturated chelate ring of the same ligand.

Cu(EIA). The tetrameric complex, like the previously reported acetylacetonate-mono(*o*-hydroxyanil)-copper(II),⁴ can be thought of as two dimers held together by Cu—O bonds. In the previous structure, one dimer was displaced with respect to the other so that there were only two such interactions per tetramer; in the ethanolimine complex, one dimer is rotated 90° with respect to the other so that there are four Cu—O interactions. The Cu—Cu distance between « dimers » (3.26 Å) is longer than the Cu—Cu distance within the « dimer » (3.01 Å).

The dimer does not contain an inversion center as did the propanolimine complex but has a two-fold axis instead. The four-membered ring of copper and oxygen is, thus, not required to be planar; the extent of bending of the ring is indicated by the dihedral angles between the two Cu—O—Cu planes, ca. 14°, and between the two O—Cu—O planes, ca. 12°. The carbon bonded to the bridging oxygen also shows the effect of bending the ring; the Cu—O—Cu plane makes a dihedral angle of 59.6° with the Cu—O—Cu plane.

The coordination around copper is somewhat distorted but is essentially bipyramidal with the two oxygens of one chelate ligand in axial positions; the nitrogen of the same ligand and the oxygens of two other ligands of the tetramer occupy equatorial positions. As in the μ₄-oxo complexes,^{16,17} the copper is displaced out of the equatorial plane (0.23 Å). The angles between the groups in the equatorial plane (81, 120 and 153°) are not indicative of square pyramidal coordination (90, 90, 180°) nor of trigonal bipyramidal coordination (all 120°).

The tridentate ligand forms a six-membered ring (unsaturated chelate ring) and a five-membered ring (saturated chelate ring). The unsaturated chelate ring is virtually identical to that found in the Cu(PIA) structure; in the saturated chelate ring, the carbon bonded to the oxygen is considerably out of the plane of the rest of the chelate ring.

Discussion

Although their formulas differ by only one carbon atom, the room temperature magnetic moments of Cu(PIA) and Cu(EIA) are markedly different, 0.41 and 1.87 B.M., respectively. The sub-normal moment of Cu(PIA) is characteristic of a large number of oxygen-bridged copper(II) complexes; the moment of Cu(EIA), although normal for an isolated copper(II) ion, is unusual for an oxygen-bridged copper(II) complex—previously reported normal magnetic moments in oxygen-bridged copper(II) complexes have been in μ₄-oxo complexes.^{16,17} in dimers of bis-chelates,¹⁸ and

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in the dimeric complex of N,N'-ethylene-bis(salicylide-neiminato).¹⁹ Because of the difference in magnetic properties, a comparison of the structures of Cu(PIA) and Cu(EIA) should provide additional evidence as to the mechanism of the spin-exchange interaction in oxygen-bridged complexes.

In both complexes, the unsaturated chelate ring is essentially planar and contains C-C bonds of equal length (1.40, 1.42, and 1.39, 1.43); this is different from the results obtained⁴ for the complex of copper(II) and the Schiff base formed from acetylacetone and *o*-aminophenol in which the chelate ring C-C distances were considerably different (1.32, 1.49 Å). The conclusion that there is no delocalization of the π -electrons in this portion of the ligand is not supported by the present results.

The principal difference in the two structures is the coordination of the bridging oxygens - in Cu(PIA) coordination about oxygen is planar while in Cu(EIA) coordination around oxygen is tetrahedral; the difference can be understood in terms of the chelate rings formed. In order for the coordination around a bridging oxygen to be planar (sp^2 hybridization), the Cu1-O2-C3 angle must be at least 120° (since the Cu1-O2-Cu1' angle is considerably less than 120° , the two Cu-O-C angles for each oxygen must average more than 120° to maintain planarity). In the case of Cu(PIA), it is possible to have Cu-O-C angles of 129° and square-planar coordination around copper without any steric strain; however, the same arrangement in Cu(EIA), because of the smaller chelate ring, would be extremely strained. The strain can be relieved to some extent by a change to sp^3 hybridization of the oxygen orbitals, thus decreasing the Cu-O-C angle within the chelate ring; this angle is 108° in Cu(EIA).

With the change in hybridization of the oxygen, the ethanolinime ligand makes it impossible to have a planar four-membered metal-oxygen ring and square-planar coordination of the metal; in Cu(EIA), the four-membered ring is slightly bent (the two Cu-O-Cu planes show a dihedral angle of 14°) and the coppers are five-coordinate. In the corresponding nickel complex,²⁰ square-planar coordination of the metal is maintained but the four-membered ring shows much greater bending (the two Ni-O-Ni planes show a dihedral angle of 40°).

In the case of the planar arrangement, three of the four outer orbitals of each bridging oxygen ($2s$, $2p_x$, and $2p_y$) are used for α -bonding and the fourth orbital ($2p_z$) is available for π -bonding with the copper d_{xz} , d_{yz} orbitals; in the case of the non-planar dimer, the fourth orbital does not have π -symmetry and it enters into σ -bonding, forming the cubane-type structure.

It seems significant that for all of the oxygen-bridged copper(II) complexes with normal magnetic moments at room temperature, structure studies¹⁶⁻¹⁹ have indicated tetrahedral hybridization of the outer orbitals of oxygen and π -bonding is not possible.

Although the oxygen $2p_z$ orbital and the copper d_{xz} , d_{yz} orbitals of Cu(PIA) have the correct symmetry for forming π -type molecular orbitals,⁸ the assumption that

$d\pi$ - π overlap would raise the π^* orbital above the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbital—a condition necessary if the π -interaction is to account for the difference in magnetic properties of these two compounds—may be questioned. However, a comparison of the two structures raises questions about other possible explanations of their magnetic properties. Super-exchange involving the copper $d_{x^2-y^2}$ orbitals (σ -overlap) has been suggested; although the Cu-O bonds within the four-membered rings of the two structures differ by approximately 0.10 Å, it seems unlikely that such a small difference could lead to the dramatic difference in magnetic properties; furthermore, the Cu-O distances in $CuCl_2 \cdot (PyO)$,⁵ which has a low magnetic moment, are longer than those in Cu(EIA). Metal-metal σ -bonding has been suggested for some vanadyl complexes²¹ of Schiff's bases and is also a possibility in the copper compounds; the fact that the Cu-Cu distances in Cu(EIA) and Cu(PIA) are almost identical rules against that possibility. Metal-metal π -bonding (through d_z^2 orbitals) can be questioned on the same basis.

The remaining possibility is a π -interaction involving the oxygen $p\pi$ orbitals and the copper $d\pi$ orbitals. The six orbitals in C_i symmetry can be combined to form three molecular orbitals of A_g symmetry and three molecular orbitals of A_u symmetry. One molecular orbital of A_g symmetry and one of A_u symmetry will be strongly bonding, one orbital of each symmetry will be anti-bonding, and the remaining two orbitals (on the metal ions) will be essentially non-bonding. Of the ten electrons available, eight will fill the bonding and non-bonding orbitals and there will be two electrons for the pair of anti-bonding orbitals. Although the two anti-bonding orbitals are not degenerate, the energy difference would be expected to be small and, thus, would give rise to a singlet ground state and a low-lying triplet state. Furthermore, since the copper $d\pi$ orbitals also overlap with the π -system of the chelate ring and since the different symmetries of the two anti-bonding orbitals cause them to interact differently with the chelate π system, the energy difference would be affected by changes in the chelate π -system; in the case of the pyridine N-oxide complexes, the interaction of the oxygen π -orbital with the pyridine π -system would also affect the energy difference. In studies of copper complexes of substituted pyridine N-oxides⁷ and in studies of both copper⁶ and vanadyl²¹ complexes of Schiff's bases formed from substituted salicylaldehydes and substituted *o*-aminophenols, some correlation between J (the energy difference between the pair of anti-bonding orbitals) and the resonance substituent constants has been observed.

The same explanation has been given previously⁸ (D_{2h} symmetry was assumed) but omission of the pair of d_{xy} orbitals from the final molecular orbital diagram resulted in an incorrect filling of orbitals; in D_{2h} symmetry, the highest filled level should be the b_{1u} anti-bonding orbital derived from the d_{xz} , d_{yz} orbitals of the coppers.

The low magnetic moments of the vanadyl com-

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plexes were previously explained by assuming a direct overlap of d_{xy} orbitals; however, if the above π -bonding explanation is correct, the lowest lying d-orbital would be one of the non-bonding π -orbitals. Although labelled non-bonding, the pair of orbitals is not degenerate and the interaction of the orbitals with chelate π -orbitals of different symmetries would lead to a slight energy difference consistent with the observed values of J .

It should be pointed out that the oxygen-bridged copper(II) complexes which have normal moments at room temperature may exhibit spin-exchange at lower

temperatures; such effects have been observed in the μ_4 -oxo complexes²² and in $\text{Cu}(\text{EIA})$.²³ Although spin-exchange through a pi-mechanism is not possible for such complexes, other mechanisms (which give rise to smaller splittings) are still possible.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by NSF Grants GP-7406 and CP-8475.

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