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Synthesis, spectra, thermal analysis and crystal structure of a mononuclear oxalato-copper(II) complex with monoethanolamine, [Cu(mea),(ox)]

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SYNTHESIS, SPECTRA, THERMAL ANALYSIS AND CRYSTAL STRUCTURE OF A MONONUCLEAR OXALATO-COPPER(II) COMPLEX WITH MONOETHANOLAMINE, [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]

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cis-bis(Monoethanolamine)oxalatocopper(II), *cis*-[Cu(mea)₂(ox)], has been prepared and characterized by elemental analyses, IR, UV–Vis, thermal analysis and single crystal X-ray diffraction. The title complex crystallizes in the triclinic form with $P\bar{I}$ space group. The copper(II) ion lies on a center of symmetry and is octahedrally coordinated by two bidentate neutral mea (N,O) and one bidentate ox (O,O') ligands. The individual molecules are held together by an extensive three-dimensional network of O–H···O, N–H···O and C–H···O type intermolecular hydrogen bonds. The IR spectrum and thermal decomposition of the title complex are described.

Keywords: Copper(II); Oxalato; Monoethanolamine; X-ray structure

INTRODUCTION

The coordination chemistry of the oxalate dianion ($ox = C_2O_4^{2-}$) has been widely studied as oxalato-containing compounds have varied structural features [1–7] and applications in biological chemistry [8], and magnetochemistry [9–12]. The ox anion acts as a mono-, bi-, tri- and tetradentate ligand [13]. Considerable attention has been devoted to the ox ligand as a building block and several mixed-ligand copper(II) complexes of ox have been reported. However, most of them have dimeric or polymeric structures due to the versality of the ox ligand to form bridged polynuclear complexes; very little has been reported to date about structures of mononuclear oxalato-copper(II) complexes [14–19].

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As part of our research on the preparation and characterization of mixedligand metal complexes with ethanolamines, we report here the synthesis, chemical characterization, spectral, thermal and structural analysis of a mononuclear mixedligand copper(II) complex of ox with monoethanolamine (mea), *cis*-[Cu(mea)₂(ox)].

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as supplied. The starting compound $Cu(ox)_2 \cdot 0.5H_2O$ was prepared by reacting basic copper carbonate $[CuCO_3 \cdot Cu(OH)_2]$ with a stoichiometric amount of oxalic acid in water.

Preparation of [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]

The ligand mea $(0.12 \text{ cm}^3, 2 \text{ mmol})$ was added drop-wise to a suspension of $\text{Cu}(\text{ox})_2 \cdot 0.5 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$ (0.16 g, 1.0 mmol) in water (30 cm³) at 50°C. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 min at 50°C and then filtered. The resultant filtrate was mixed with methanol (30 cm³) and left at room temperature. Dark blue crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained after a few days. [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]: Yield *ca.* 40.0%; dp 140°C. Anal. Calcd. (%): C, 26.3; H, 5.2; N, 10.2. Found: C, 26.2; H, 5.0; N, 10.3; C₆H₁₄N₂O₆Cu].

Physical Measurements

IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR-8900 spectrophotometer as KBr pellets in the frequency range $4000-300 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Electronic spectra were measured on a Unicam UV2 in the 200–900 nm range. Elemental analyses (C, H and N) were performed on a Vario EL Elemental Analyser. Room-temperature magnetic susceptibility measurements were carried out using a Sherwood Scientific MXI model Evans magnetic balance. Thermal analysis curves (TG, DTA and DTG) were obtained with a Rigaku TG8110 thermal analyzer in a flowing nitrogen atmosphere, using *ca*. 10 mg samples.

X-ray Structure Determination

Intensity data for the copper(II) complex were collected using a Bruker SMART 1000 CCD area detector diffractometer (Mo-K_{α} radiation, $\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at 133 K. The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 [20] and refined by a full-matrix least-squares procedure (SHELXL-97) [21]. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic parameters. Ethylenic hydrogen atoms were included using a riding model, while the hydrogens of the amine and hydroxyl groups were refined freely. Details of data collection, refinement and crystallographic data are summarized in Table I. The remaining electron density of 1.69 Å seems to be significantly high and is attributed to unidentified twinning and/or disorder phenomena.

Compounds	$[Cu(mea)_2(ox)]$	
Empirical formula	C ₆ H ₁₄ N ₂ O ₆ Cu	
$M_{\rm r}$	273.73	
<i>T</i> (K)	133(2)	
Radiation, λ (Å)	0.71073	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	PĪ	
Unit cell dimensions		
<i>a</i> (Å)	7.7491(8)	
$b(\dot{A})$	8.1690(8)	
$c(\dot{A})$	8.6073(10)	
α (°)	107.922(3)	
β (°)	94.725(3)	
γ (°)	101.058(3)	
$V(Å^3)$	748.89(6)	
Z	2	
$D_{\rm c} ({\rm g \ cm}^{-3})$	502.93(9)	
$\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	0.928	
F(000)	282	
Crystal size (mm ³)	$0.20 \times 0.12 \times 0.10$	
θ range (°)	2.52-30.03	
Index range (h, k, l)	-10/10, -11/11, -12/12	
Reflections collected	10254	
Independent reflections (R_{int})	2892 (0.0274)	
Completeness to $\theta = 30.00^{\circ}$	98.4%	
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents	
Max. and min. transmission	0.8112 and 0.6692	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2	
Data/restraints/parameters	2892/0/160	
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.072	
Final R indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0372	
R indices (all data)	0.1096	
Largest diff. peak and hole (e $Å^{-3}$)	1.690 and -0.477	

TABLE I Crystallographic data for [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis

An oxalato-copper(II) complex of mea prepared under similar experimental conditions to this paper was reported to have a dimeric composition $Cu_2(ox)_2 \cdot 5$ mea [22], without performing a single-crystal X-ray structural analysis. The title complex *cis*-[$Cu(mea)_2(ox)$] was synthesized by reacting mea with $Cu(ox)_2 \cdot 0.5 H_2O$ in solution. A color change from pale blue to dark blue occurred during complexation. Crystallization of the complex results in the formation of deep blue crystals. The elemental analyses are consistent with the formula of the complex, which was also shown by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. The solid complex is non-hygroscopic and stable and retains structural integrity indefinitely at ambient temperatures. The complex is soluble in water at room temperature and does not dissolve in methanol, ethanol or diethyl ether.

Spectral and Magnetic Properties

Selected IR bands of the complex are listed in Table II. The band at 3331 cm^{-1} may be assigned to the hydroxyl group of the mea ligand, while the NH₂ group absorption

Assignment	Frequencies (cm^{-1})	
vOH)	3311 m	
$\nu(NH)$	3279 w, 3225 m	
v(CH)	2939 w, 2897 vw, 2855 vw	
$v_{asym}(COO)$	1711 s, 1690 vs, 1655 vs	
$v_{\rm sym}(\rm COO)$	1396 s, 1254 s	
δ(OCO)	791 m	
$\nu(MN)$	642 w	
ν(MO)	525 w	

TABLE II Selected IR spectral data^a for [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]

^aw = weak; vw = very weak; vs = very strong; s = strong; m = medium.

appears as two split bands at 3279 and 3225 cm⁻¹. The relatively weak absorption bands in the range 2939–2855 cm⁻¹ are due to ν (CH) vibrations. The presence of the ox ligand is clearly observed as very strong bands in the spectrum of the title compound: the ν_{asym} (COO) (1711, 1690 and 1655 cm⁻¹), ν_{sym} (COO) (1396 and 1254 cm⁻¹) and δ (OCO) (791 cm⁻¹) bands are characteristic of the bidentate coordination mode of ox with $C_{2\nu}$ symmetry [23]. The ν (MO) and ν (MN) vibrations are observed at 525 and 642 cm⁻¹, respectively, as weak bands.

The electronic spectrum of the title compound in water exhibits a distinct absorption band at 665 nm ($\varepsilon = 46 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) due to a d–d transition. Although crystallographic analysis of the bond lengths around the copper(II) ion indicates a Jahn–Teller effect, it was not observed in the electronic spectra as a separate absorption band. The absorption bands below 300 nm are due to intraligand transitions.

Thermal Analysis

The thermal behaviour of $[Cu(mea)_2(ox)]$ was followed up to 600°C in a flowing atmosphere of nitrogen. The complex is stable up to 140°C but begins to decompose at higher temperatures. The DTA and TG curves indicate that the complex shows a three-step decomposition process with small temperature intervals, as observed for $Cu_2(ox)_2 \cdot 5$ mea [22]. The mass losses of 12.1% and 32.4% in the range 140–180°C and 182–238°C, respectively, are attributed to the endothermic evolution of 0.5 (calcd. 11.2%) and 1.5 moles (calcd. 33.5%) of mea. A similar decomposition behavior has been reported for $[Cu(mea)_2(sac)_2]$, where sac is the saccharinate anion [24]. The decomposition of the ox ligand takes place in the range 245–560°C to give the black end product CuO. The total mass loss of 71.5% agrees well with the calculated mass loss of 70.9%.

Crystal Structure of [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]

The molecular structure of $[Cu(mea)_2(ox)]$ with atom labelling (Fig. 1) and selected bond lengths and angles together with the hydrogen bonding geometry (Table III) are given here. The title complex crystallizes in the triclinic form with $P\bar{1}$ space group. The structure consists of individual molecules of $[Cu(mea)_2(ox)]$, in which the copper(II) ion sits on a center of symmetry and coordinates two mea and one ox ligands, forming an octahedral CuN_2O_4 chromophore. Each mea ligand acts as a bidentate donor through the amine N and hydroxyl O atoms, creating a five-membered chelate ring, while ox behaves as a O,O' donor bidentate ligand. All the ligands occupy *cis* positions.



FIGURE 1 Molecular structure of $[Cu(mea)_2(ox)]$ with the atom labelling scheme and 50% thermal ellipsoids.

TABLE III Selected bond lengths and hydrogen bonding geometry for [Cu(mea)₂(ox)]^a

(°)			
2.023(2)	O(4)– Cu – $O(1)$	82.46(8)	
2.008(2)	O(4)-Cu-N(2)	89.81(9)	
1.982(2)	O(1)-Cu-O(21)	90.30(8)	
1.970(2)	N(2)-Cu-O(21)	79.42(9)	
2.433(2)	O(1)-Cu-N(1)	91.24(10)	
2.412(2)	N(2)–Cu– $N(1)$	97.73(11)	
	O(4)–Cu–O(21)	95.56(8)	
	N(1)-Cu-O(21)	91.76(9)	
	O(4)-Cu-O(11)	95.59(8)	
	O(1)–Cu–O(11)	99.53(8)	
	N(2)-Cu-O(11)	92.19(9)	
	N(1)-Cu-O(11)	78.17(9)	
	O(21)–Cu–O(11)	166.00(7)	
	O(1)– Cu – $N(2)$	166.50(9)	
	O(4)– Cu – $N(1)$	170.34(9)	
d(D-H)	$d(\mathbf{H} \cdot \cdot \cdot \mathbf{A})$	$d(\mathbf{D} \cdot \cdot \cdot \mathbf{A})$	<(DHA)
0.71(5)	1.99(5)	2.680(3)	164(5)
0.71(6)	2.02(6)	2.727(3)	172(6)
0.88(5)	2.50(5)	3.202(3)	138(4)
0.81(5)	2.26(5)	3.034(3)	158(4)
0.73(5)	2.27(5)	2.985(3)	166(5)
0.73(5)	2.53(5)	2.993(3)	123(5)
0.99	2.67	3.289(4)	121
0.99	2.64	3.526(4)	149
0.99	2.58	3.543(4)	165
	C) 2.023(2) 2.008(2) 1.982(2) 1.970(2) 2.433(2) 2.412(2) d(D-H) 0.71(5) 0.71(6) 0.88(5) 0.81(5) 0.73(5) 0.79 0.99 0.99	$ \begin{array}{c} \overset{(\circ)}{} \\ 2.023(2) & O(4)-Cu-O(1) \\ 2.008(2) & O(4)-Cu-N(2) \\ 1.982(2) & O(1)-Cu-O(21) \\ 1.970(2) & N(2)-Cu-O(21) \\ 2.433(2) & O(1)-Cu-N(1) \\ 2.412(2) & N(2)-Cu-N(1) \\ & O(4)-Cu-O(21) \\ & N(1)-Cu-O(21) \\ & O(4)-Cu-O(11) \\ & O(4)-Cu-O(11) \\ & O(1)-Cu-O(11) \\ & O(21)-Cu-O(11) \\ & O(21)-Cu-O(11) \\ & O(21)-Cu-O(11) \\ & O(4)-Cu-N(1) \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} \overset{(^{\circ})}{} \\ 2.023(2) & O(4)-Cu-O(1) & 82.46(8) \\ 2.008(2) & O(4)-Cu-N(2) & 89.81(9) \\ 1.982(2) & O(1)-Cu-O(21) & 90.30(8) \\ 1.970(2) & N(2)-Cu-O(21) & 79.42(9) \\ 2.433(2) & O(1)-Cu-N(1) & 91.24(10) \\ 2.412(2) & N(2)-Cu-N(1) & 97.73(11) \\ & O(4)-Cu-O(21) & 95.56(8) \\ & N(1)-Cu-O(21) & 95.56(8) \\ & N(1)-Cu-O(21) & 91.76(9) \\ & O(4)-Cu-O(11) & 99.53(8) \\ & N(2)-Cu-O(11) & 92.19(9) \\ & N(1)-Cu-O(11) & 92.19(9) \\ & N(1)-Cu-O(11) & 92.19(9) \\ & N(1)-Cu-O(11) & 166.00(7) \\ & O(21)-Cu-O(11) & 166.50(9) \\ & O(4)-Cu-N(1) & 170.34(9) \\ \end{array} $

^aSymmetry operations: ⁽ⁱ⁾-x, -y, -z; ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾1 + x, y, z; ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾-x, 1 - y, -z; ^(iv)-x, 1 - y, 1 - z.



FIGURE 2 Packing diagram of [Cu(mea)₂(ox)].

The average Cu–O_{ox} bond distance of 1.976(6) Å in the copper(II) complex is comparable with those reported for $[Cu(ox)(C_4H_{12}N_2O)(H_2O)] \cdot 2H_2O$ [16] and is slightly longer than those found in $[Cu(ox)_2(Hhyd)_2)]$ H₂O [17] and $[K_2Cu(ox)_2 \cdot 4H_2O]$ [18], but somewhat shorter than that in $[Cu(ox)(phen)_2)] \cdot 5H_2O$ [19]. The average Cu–N and Cu–O_{mea} bond distances of 2.015(7) and 2.422(10) Å, respectively, are typical for reported mixed-ligand copper(II) complexes [25–27].

The Cu– O_{ox} and Cu–N bond lengths are similar, but significantly longer than the Cu– O_{mea} bonds, resulting in an elongated distorted octahedral geometry along the Cu– O_{mea} bonds as a consequence of the Jahn–Teller effect. Thus, the N and O_{ox} atoms form the equatorial plane of the coordination octahedron, while the hydroxyl O atoms occupy the axial positions. This significant distortion is also evident from the angles in the coordination polyhedron (Table III).

Torsion angles clearly indicate that the ox ligand is essentially planar $[O(1)-C(1)-C(2)-O(3) = 178.0(3)^{\circ}$ and $O(2)-C(1)-C(2)-O(4) = 179.7(3)^{\circ}]$. The coordinated C–O bonds are much longer than those observed for the uncoordinated bonds, as expected. The C–C bond length [1.560(4) Å] is indicative of a single bond and is in accord with the previously reported values [16,17].

Figure 2 shows the crystal packing of the compound. The neutral molecules stack to form parallel chains held together by an extensive three-dimensional network of $O-H\cdots O$, $N-H\cdots O$ and $C-H\cdots O$ type intermolecular hydrogen bonds.

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Supplementary Material

Crystallographic data for the structure reported here have been deposited at the CCDC as supplementary data, CCDC No. 208949. Copies of the data can be obtained on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK. E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk.

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