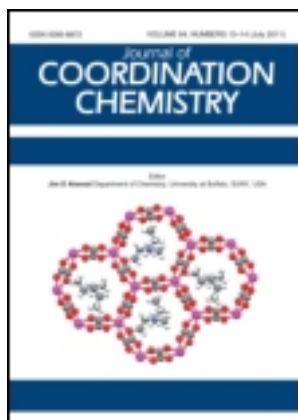


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A 1-D cyano-bridged coordination polymer, $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_2[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$: reactivity studies of dodecanuclear rhenium cluster anion $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ in Ni(II)-ammonia system

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A 1-D cyano-bridged coordination polymer, [Ni(NH₃)₆]₂{[Ni(NH₃)₄]{Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆}} · 8H₂O: reactivity studies of dodecanuclear rhenium cluster anion [Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆]⁶⁻ in Ni(II)-ammonia system

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A cyano-bridged coordination polymer, [Ni(NH₃)₆]₂{[Ni(NH₃)₄]{Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆}} · 8H₂O, has been synthesized by reaction between concentrated aqueous ammonia solution of NiCl₂ and aqueous solution of K₆[Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆]. The compound has been characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction, IR-spectroscopy and EDS analysis. The compound adopts 1-D structure, which consists of anionic chains {[Ni(NH₃)₄]{Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆}]_n⁴ⁿ⁻, discrete cations [Ni(NH₃)₆]²⁺ and crystal waters bonded together by hydrogen bonds. The influence of reagent concentrations on composition and structure of the resultant product has also been studied and discussed.

Keywords: Rhenium; Dodecanuclear cluster complex; Coordination polymer; Crystal structure

1. Introduction

The chemistry of rhenium chalcocyanide cluster complexes with transition or post-transition metals has attracted attention. The most important feature of these complexes is a well-known capability of terminal CN⁻ to serve as ambidentate ligands with potential to form a variety of cyano-bridged structures with different dimensionalities and architectures – from discrete molecular to 1-D, 2-D, and 3-D polymers. Particularly, for tetranuclear and hexanuclear chalcocyanide clusters, [Re₄Q₄(CN)₁₂]⁴⁻ and [Re₆Q₈(CN)₆]ⁿ⁻ (Q = S, Se, Te, n = 3, 4), a number of complexes has been synthesized to date and their crystal structures and properties studied in detail [1–14].

Several years ago, rhenium sulfido-cyanide clusters [Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆]ⁿ⁻ (n = 6, 8) featuring unique crystal structures and a reversible redox two-electron transformation {[Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆]⁶⁻ ↔ [Re₁₂CS₁₇(CN)₆]⁸⁻}, containing a carbon-centered dodecanuclear (bioctahedral) cluster, were synthesized [15]. Changes in the carbon-centered fragment {Re₆C}, taking place during this transformation, gave the possibility of these

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complexes as a perspective molecular switch [16]. From another point of view, an air stable highly negative (6-) anion may be used as a block for the preparation of cyano-bridged coordination polymers. The first studies of $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ coordinating transition metal ions (using ammonia solutions of NiCl_2 as an example system) resulted in isolation and characterization of two cyano-bridged compounds, $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_5\}_2\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]\cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ adopting a chain structure and $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_3[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}_2]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with a structure containing dimeric fragments $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}_2]^{6-}$ [17]. These new compounds demonstrated the CN-Ni-NC intercluster bridge bonding similar to that found in cyano-complexes based on $\{\text{Re}_6\text{Q}_8\}$ and $\{\text{Re}_4\text{Q}_4\}$ cluster cores [5-8]. For similar copper-containing systems the anion, $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$, gave two compounds with an ionic structure, $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_5]_3[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)(\text{en})_2][\text{Cu}(\text{NH}_3)_3(\text{en})]_2[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]\cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (en = ethylenediamine) [18].

In continuation of our studies of the Ni^{2+} -ammonia-dodecanuclear rhenium cluster anion, we herein report the synthesis and structural characterization of a new cluster complex with a polymer chain structure, $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_2[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (**1**).

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and instruments

All reagents were used as purchased without purification. ReS_2 was synthesized from elements in a sealed quartz tube at 650°C . The starting compound $\text{K}_6[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]\cdot 20\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was prepared from ReS_2 and KCN as described [15]. Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS) of the title compound was performed on a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) JEOL 6400. Infrared spectrum in KBr pellet was recorded using a Bruker Scimitar FTS 2000 spectrometer from $4000\text{--}375\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

2.2. Synthesis and characterization

Synthesis of **1** was carried out in a thin glass tube constricted in the middle. Nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate (4 mg, 0.0168 mmol) was dissolved in 4 mL of concentrated aqueous ammonia. This solution was then layered over 4 mL of an aqueous solution containing 4 mg (0.0012 mmol) of $\text{K}_6[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]\cdot 20\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Five days later, black needle-shaped crystals suitable for X-ray investigation formed on the walls of the tube at its upper part. The crystals undergo slow decomposition in air. Yield: 4 mg (93%). EDS showed the following Ni : Re : S ratios: 3.0 : 12.0 : 16.5. FT-IR (KBr pellet, cm^{-1}): 414.7(w), 462.6(w), 717.2(w), 1206.7(s), 1592.1(s), 2130.3(s), 2157.9(m), 3129.7(w), 3263.5(w), 3352.5(w).

2.3. Crystal structure determination

A crystal of **1** was selected under a microscope and then mounted to the tip of a thin glass fiber with epoxy resin. X-ray intensity data were collected on a Bruker X8 Apex

Table 1. Crystal data, data collection and refinement parameters for **1**.

Chemical formula	$[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_2[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}] \cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$
Brutto formula	$\text{C}_7\text{H}_{64}\text{N}_{22}\text{Ni}_3\text{O}_8\text{Re}_{12}\text{S}_{17}$
Formula weight	3540.35
Temperature (K)	150(2)
Crystal size (mm^3)	$0.12 \times 0.06 \times 0.02$
Crystal system	Orthorhombic
Space group	<i>Pmma</i>
Unit cell dimensions (\AA)	
<i>a</i>	30.8904(8)
<i>b</i>	10.8804(3)
<i>c</i>	9.5420(3)
Volume (\AA^3), <i>Z</i>	3207.07(16), 2
D_{Calcd} (g cm^{-3})	3.605
Absorption coefficient (mm^{-1})	23.995
θ range ($^\circ$)	1.87–30.04
Reflections collected	28,169
Unique reflections	5018 ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.063$)
Observed reflections	3834 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$)
Parameters refined	259
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)]$	$R_1 = 0.034$
	$wR_2 = 0.073$
$R(F^2)$ (all data)	$R_1 = 0.054$
	$wR_2 = 0.078$
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.048
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ and $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$ (e \AA^{-3})	2.10 and -3.35

CCD diffractometer at 150(2) K using graphite monochromated Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). The standard technique was used (ω - and ϕ -scans of narrow frames). Data reduction and multi-scan absorption were carried out using SADABS [19]. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 using the SHELX-97 software package [20]. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogens of NH_3 were calculated by geometrical methods and refined as riding; hydrogens of water were not located. Residual electron density was found between -3.35 and 2.10 e \AA^{-3} . Crystallographic data together with selected refinement details are given in table 1. Selected bond lengths are listed in table 2.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Synthesis

Previous studies on the chemical behavior of tetra- and hexanuclear rhenium chalcocyanide cluster anions in aqueous and ammonia solutions containing transition metal ions allowed us to expect similar behavior for a newly synthesized dodecanuclear anion. Concentrated ammonia solutions are in certain cases more suitable for preparation of cyano-bridged coordination polymers [21–26]. In this case the polymerization is slowed by formation of $[\text{M}(\text{NH}_3)_n]^{2+}$, in which all coordination sites of the metal are occupied by NH_3 , thereby making difficult coordination of ambidentate CN^- . For dodecanuclear cluster complexes, mixing aqueous solutions of $\text{K}_6[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]$ and MCl_2 ($\text{M} = \text{Ni}, \text{Cu}$) led to quick precipitation of insoluble amorphous products,

Table 2. Selected interatomic distances (Å) for **1**.

Re(1)–Re(2)	2.6012(5)	Re(4)–S(4)	2.398(3)
Re(1)–Re(3)	2.6229(5)	Re(4)–S(7)	2.369(3)
Re(2)–Re(2) ⁱ	2.5907(6)	Re(1)–C(1)	2.093(11)
Re(2)–Re(3)	2.6297(4)	Re(2)–C(2)	2.112(9)
Re(2)–Re(4)	2.6272(5)	Re(3)–C(3)	2.134(5)
Re(3)–Re(3) ⁱ	2.6929(6)	Re(4)–C(3)	2.117(10)
Re(3)–Re(3) ⁱⁱ	2.9054(6)	C(1)–N(1)	1.163(15)
Re(3)–Re(4)	2.6933(4)	C(2)–N(2)	1.142(12)
Re(4)–Re(4) ⁱⁱⁱ	2.9058(8)	Ni(1)–N(1)	2.089(10)
Re(1)–S(1)	2.407(2)	Ni(1)–N(11)	2.080(11)
Re(1)–S(3)	2.411(3)	Ni(1)–N(12)	2.122(14)
Re(1)–S(5)	2.392(3)	Ni(2)–N(21)	2.12(3)
Re(2)–S(1)	2.404(2)	Ni(2)–N(22)	2.11(4)
Re(2)–S(2)	2.397(2)	Ni(2)–N(23)	2.19(3)
Re(2)–S(3)	2.413(2)	Ni(2)–N(24)	2.18(2)
Re(2)–S(4)	2.408(2)	Ni(2)–N(25)	2.15(2)
Re(3)–S(1)	2.402(2)	Ni(3)–N(31)	2.12(2)
Re(3)–S(2)	2.428(2)	Ni(3)–N(32)	2.21(4)
Re(3)–S(5)	2.430(2)	Ni(3)–N(32)	2.21(3)
Re(3)–S(6)	2.380(2)	Ni(3)–N(34)	2.15(2)
Re(4)–S(2)	2.424(2)	Ni(3)–N(35)	2.179(15)

Equivalent positions: ⁽ⁱ⁾ $x, 1 - y, z$; ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ $1/2 - x, y, z$; ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ $1/2 - x, 1 - y, z$.

unsuitable for X-ray diffraction analysis, whereas in ammonia, the 1-D coordination polymer $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_5\}_2\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, as well as the dimeric compound, $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_3[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}_2] \cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$, and the ionic compound, $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]$, were synthesized [17] (figure 1). In the present article, we describe a new 1-D polymer, **1**, obtained in this system by varying the initial concentrations of reagents. The controlling parameters here are: first, the overall concentrations of the polymer-forming counterions in solution that influences the speed of the reaction; and second, the ratio of these counterions.

It is interesting to compare the synthetic conditions corresponding to **1** with those known from our previous studies (ammonia concentrations are assumed to be constant in all experiments). **1** was formed at the lowest initial concentrations of reagents, 1 mg mL^{-1} ($4.2 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$) of $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and 1 mg mL^{-1} ($2.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ M}$) of $\text{K}_6[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6] \cdot 20\text{H}_2\text{O}$. $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_5\}_2\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was obtained at concentrations of 10 mg mL^{-1} ($4.2 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ M}$) and 4 mg mL^{-1} ($1.1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$). $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_3[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}_2] \cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$ was formed under the same conditions except much longer time was needed for crystal growth (about a month *versus* several days). Further increasing of cluster salt concentration to 10 mg mL^{-1} ($2.8 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$) led not to the formation of cyano-bridged polymers, but instead afforded the unstable compound with an ionic structure, $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]$.

These fragmentary data cannot provide full understanding of how the initial concentrations of reagents influence the composition and structure of the described products. One can only see that assembly of a polymeric species is observed at relatively low concentrations. A high concentration of cluster anions causes quick precipitation of insoluble crystalline product (discrete ionic structure), whereas relatively slow cyanide bridging does not occur. The excess of Ni^{2+} (3–8 times for the described experiments) may be another factor assisting polymer formation.

In order to clarify this situation, a wide range of reagent concentrations has been investigated in the present work. The concentrations of the Ni^{2+} cations were varied

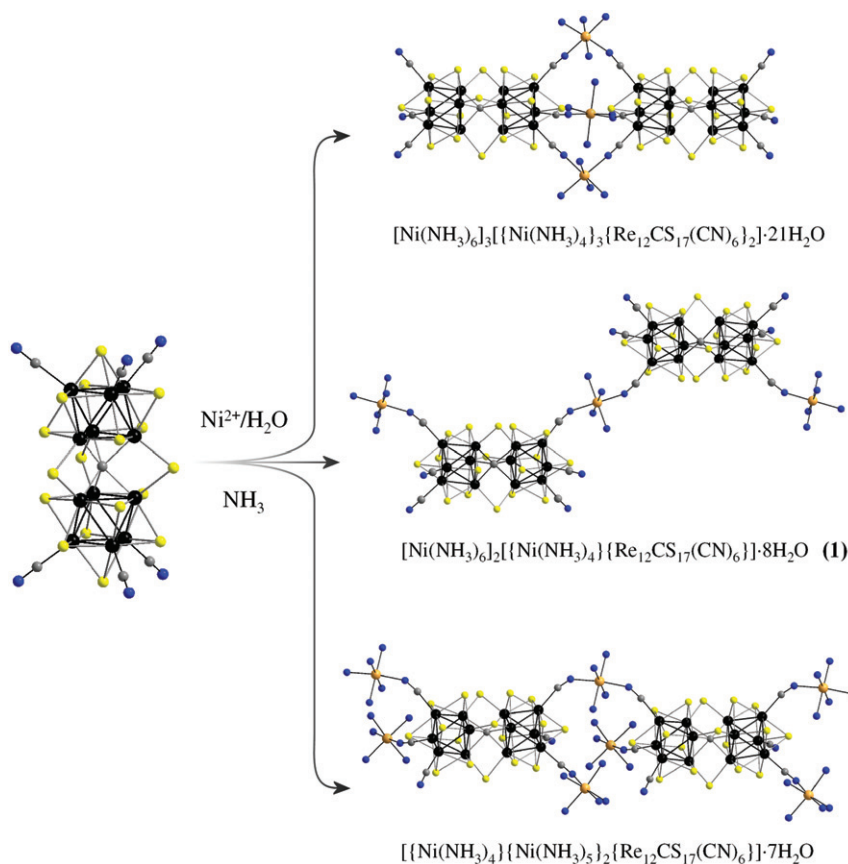


Figure 1. Reaction between aqueous ammonia solution of NiCl_2 and aqueous solution of $\text{K}_6[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]$ showing the products obtained to date. The ionic compound $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]$ is omitted due to the poor quality of the structural data.

from 0.5 mgmL^{-1} ($2.1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$) to 30 mgmL^{-1} ($1.3 \cdot 10^{-1} \text{ M}$). The concentrations of the $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ anion were varied from 0.5 mgmL^{-1} ($1.4 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ M}$) to 20 mgmL^{-1} ($5.6 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$). In each case, if formation of single crystals was observed, the unit cell measurements were performed to identify the product of the reaction. Finally, the following approximate ranges of concentrations have been determined: at $0.5\text{--}5 \text{ mgmL}^{-1}$ ($2.1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{--} 2.1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ M}$) of Ni^{2+} cations and $0.5\text{--}5 \text{ mgmL}^{-1}$ ($1.4 \cdot 10^{-4}\text{--} 1.4 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$) of cluster anions, **1** is formed. At $5\text{--}20 \text{ mgmL}^{-1}$ ($2.1 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{--} 8.4 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ M}$) of Ni^{2+} cations and $1\text{--}5 \text{ mgmL}^{-1}$ ($2.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{--} 1.4 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$) of cluster anions, $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_5\}_2\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ is formed (which on standing turns into $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_3[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}_2] \cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$); at cation and anion concentrations higher than 20 mgmL^{-1} ($8.4 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ M}$) and 10 mgmL^{-1} ($2.8 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ M}$), respectively, $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]$ is formed.

3.2. IR-spectroscopy

Peak assignments in the vibrational spectrum of **1** have been made according to literature values [27]. IR bands for antisymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations

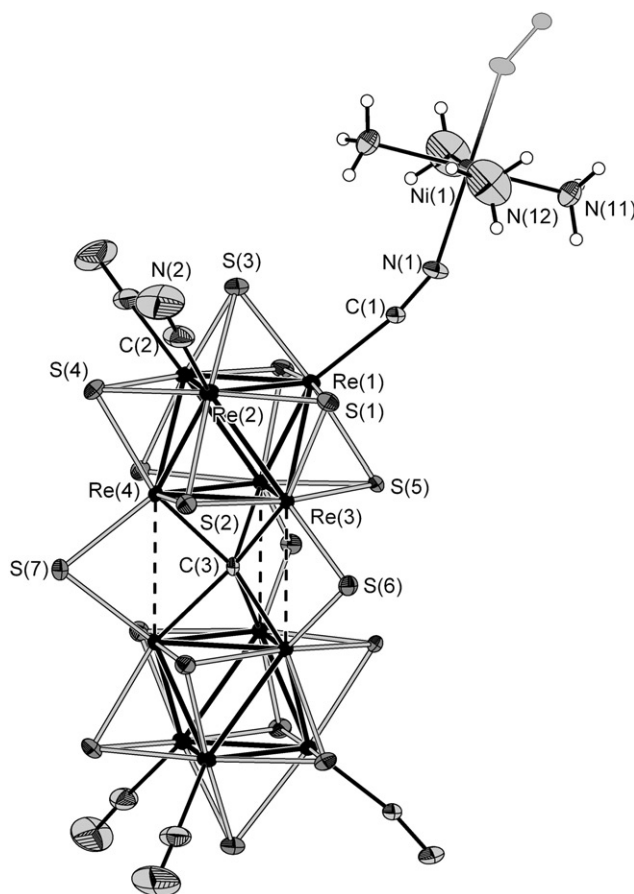


Figure 2. A fragment of **1** showing a basic building block of the polymeric chain $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]_n^{4n-}$, with atom numbering scheme and thermal ellipsoids drawn at the 50% probability level.

of NH_3 , NH_3 asymmetric deformation, NH_3 symmetric deformation, and NH_3 vibrations appeared at $3400\text{--}3100$ and at 1592 , 1206 and 717cm^{-1} , respectively. Presence of a broad band at $3500\text{--}3600\text{cm}^{-1}$ corresponds to the presence of lattice waters. Strong band at 2130cm^{-1} was attributed to the vibrations of CN bonds.

3.3. Crystal structure

Single crystal X-ray structure determination revealed that the unit cell of **1** consists of four discrete $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$ cations, two $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]^{4-}$ anionic fragments and sixteen lattice waters. The $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ bioctahedral cluster anion consists of four asymmetric Re's, seven sulfurs, one carbon and one CN^- (figure 2). These atoms are located in the following special positions: m point symmetry $(x, 1/2, z)$ for C(1), N(1), Re(1), Re(4), S(3), S(4), S(5); m symmetry $(1/4, y, z)$ for S(6), and $mm2$ symmetry $(1/4, 1/2, z)$ for C(3) and S(7). Remaining cluster anion atoms, Re(2), Re(3), S(1) and S(2), occupy a general position (x, y, z) . The Re–Re interatomic

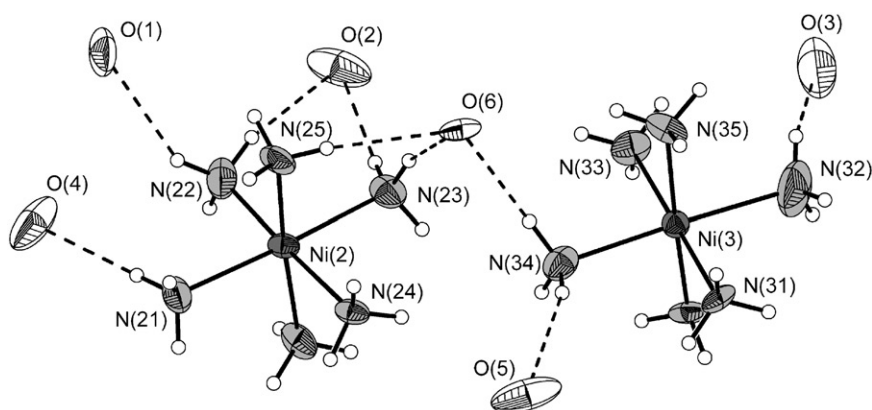


Figure 3. Discrete $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$ cations surrounded by multiple waters of crystallization. The dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds; thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

distances have the following mean values (\AA): 2.598(5) for $\text{Re}^{\text{out}}\text{--Re}^{\text{out}}$, 2.693(3) for $\text{Re}^{\text{in}}\text{--Re}^{\text{in}}$ and 2.627(3) for $\text{Re}^{\text{out}}\text{--Re}^{\text{in}}$ (where Re^{out} and Re^{in} belong to opposite “outward” and “inward” faces of the $\{\text{Re}_6\}$ octahedron with regard to $\mu_6\text{-C}$). The three longer distances $\text{Re}\dots\text{Re}$ in a trigonal $\{\text{Re}_6\text{C}\}$ prism are all equal to 2.9058(8) \AA . The mean values of $\text{Re}\text{--}\mu_6\text{-C}$, $\text{Re}\text{--C}_{\text{CN}}$, $\text{Re}\text{--}\mu_2\text{-S}$ and $\text{Re}\text{--}\mu_3\text{-S}$ distances are 2.128(9), 2.108(10), 2.376(6), and 2.41(1) \AA , respectively, in agreement with analogous values found for previously studied compounds containing $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ [15–18].

In the crystal structure of **1**, $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ participates in formation of an anionic zigzag chain running along the a axis of the unit cell; the “monomer” unit can be described as $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]^{4-}$. Each repeating fragment includes Ni bonded to two nitrogens of cyano *trans* to one another and four ammonias. Thus, the Ni which participates in $\text{CN}\text{--Ni}\text{--NC}$ bridge formation is centrosymmetrically surrounded by six nitrogens in a slightly distorted octahedral coordination geometry.

The structure contains two types of crystallographically unique cations $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$ having Ni (located at the $(x, 0, z)$ special positions, m symmetry) in a slightly distorted octahedral coordination environment (figure 3). The cations are each disordered over two sites with equal (50%) occupancies. Second coordination sphere interactions include multiple weak $\text{N}\text{--H}\dots\text{N}_{\text{CN}}$, $\text{N}\text{--H}\dots\text{O}$, $\text{O}\text{--H}\dots\text{N}_{\text{CN}}$ and $\text{O}\text{--H}\dots\text{O}$ hydrogen bonds between NH_3 and CN , and lattice water molecules, with mean distances $\text{N}\dots\text{N}_{\text{CN}}$, $\text{N}\dots\text{O}$, $\text{O}\dots\text{N}_{\text{CN}}$ and $\text{O}\dots\text{O}$ of 3.2(2), 3.2(1), 2.9(1), and 3.1(2) \AA , respectively. The spatial disposition of the waters is also interesting appearing mostly (12 of 16 unit cell molecules) between $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$ cations, lying in planes parallel to the ab and ac crystallographic planes (figure 4). Such a complex system of non-covalent interactions, along with electrostatic interactions, plays a significant role in the crystal lattice stabilization.

4. Conclusions

In the present study, dodecanuclear rhenium cluster anion $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$ effectively serves as a building block for construction of cyano-bridged

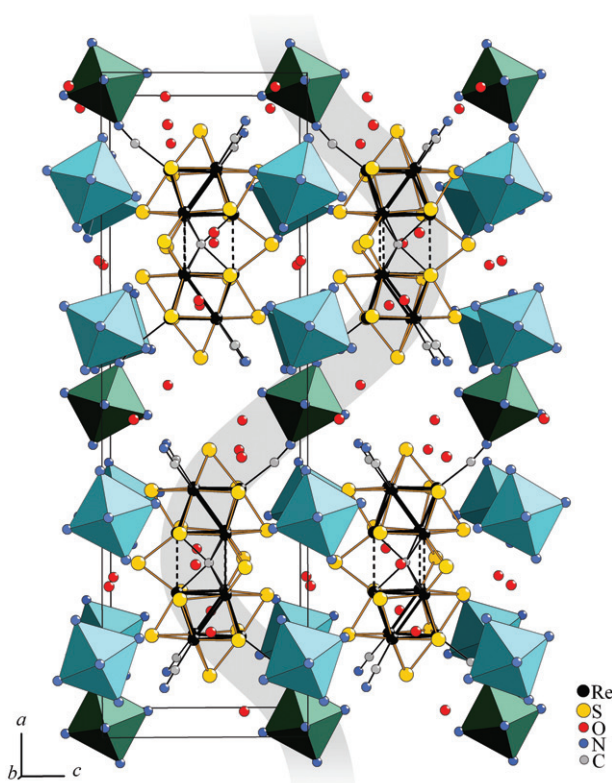


Figure 4. A perspective view of **1**. Light gray and dark gray octahedra represent, respectively, discrete $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$ cations and a $\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4(\text{CN})_2\}$ fragment of the polymeric chain (highlighted by a strip). Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

coordination polymers. In addition to $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_5\}_2\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]_3[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}_2] \cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6\}_3\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]$, a fourth new compound, **1**, has been isolated and structurally investigated. Single crystal X-ray structure determination reveals the presence of zigzag anionic chains $[\{\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_4\}\{\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6\}]_n^{4-}$ electrostatically compensated by discrete $[\text{Ni}(\text{NH}_3)_6]^{2+}$, and lattice waters. In the studied system, at all reagent concentrations examined, no other compounds are formed. However, bearing in mind that such a relatively simple reaction unexpectedly demonstrated a number of structurally different products, one can anticipate a variety of interesting architectures based on $[\text{Re}_{12}\text{CS}_{17}(\text{CN})_6]^{6-}$, remaining to be discovered for other transition and post-transition metals.

Supplementary material

Crystallographic data for the structure of the title compound reported in this article has been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, CCDC 825759. These data can be obtained free of charge from the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge

CB2 1EZ, UK; Fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html>.

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