

# Soft Secondary Building Unit: Dynamic Bond Rearrangement on Multinuclear Core of Porous Coordination Polymers in Gas Media

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A new synthetic approach to prepare flexible porous coordination polymers (PCPs) by the use of soft secondary building units (SBUs) which can undergo multiple reversible metal-ligand bonds breaking is reported. We have prepared a zinc paddle-wheelbased two-fold interpenetrated PCP, { $[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^2)] \cdot 2.5DMF \cdot 0.5water$ }, (2a, H<sub>2</sub>tp = terephthanlic acid;  $L^2 = 2,3$ -difluoro-1,4-bis(4pyridyl)benzene), showing dynamic structural transformations upon the removal and rebinding of guest molecules. The X-ray structures at different degrees of desolvation indicate the highly flexible nature of the framework. The framework deformations involve slippage of the layers and movement of the two interpenetrated frameworks with respect to each other. Interestingly, the coordination geometry of a zinc paddle-wheel unit (one of the popular SBUs) is considerably changed by bond breaking between zinc and oxygen atoms during the drying process. Two zinc atoms in the dried form 2d reside in a distorted tetrahedral geometry. Compound 2d has no void volume and favors the uptake of  $O_2$  over Ar and  $N_2$  at 77 K. The  $O_2$  and Ar adsorption isotherms of 2d show gate-opening-type adsorption behaviors corroborating the structure determination. The CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherm at 195 K exhibits multiple steps originating from the flexibility of the framework. The structural transformations of the zinc clusters in the framework upon sorption of guest molecules are also characterized by Raman spectroscopy in which the characteristic bands corresponding to  $v_{\rm sym}(\rm COO^-)$  vibration were used.

### INTRODUCTION

Gas storage has become an industrial, economic, and environmental priority.<sup>1,2</sup> The last two decades have therefore witnessed dramatic efforts in the search for more efficient and adaptable solid gas adsorbents. Porous coordination polymers (PCPs) or Metal organic frameworks (MOFs), where properties of metal ions and functional organic ligands can be combined almost at will, are imposing themselves as a serious alternative to conventional zeolites and activated carbons.<sup>3-18</sup> Because adsorption properties are primarily bound to structure, the control over structure, which is achieved by synthesis, is crucial.<sup>19–25</sup> From the synthetic point of view, secondary building units  $(SBUs)^{26}$ designed to produce directional polyatomic metal clusters have much advantage for the rational design of PCPs compared to mononuclear metal centers. On the other hand, from a flexible viewpoint, SBUs are usually limited to providing soft porosity  $^{19,27-36}$  because each metal atom is mutually interconnected via small number of atoms in the SBU, which interferes in dynamic change of coordination geometry.<sup>3-5</sup> By soft porosity, we refer to sorption profiles generating features that reside outside the classical sorption classification,<sup>37</sup> such as large hysteretic sorption,<sup>19,27</sup> stepwise uptake,<sup>19,28,29,36</sup> and gate-opening phenomena<sup>30,31</sup> among others. These properties come from structural flexibility, which is strongly related to guest-dependent phenomena.

In this work, we focus on making porous materials presenting the properties of soft porosity by using a synthesis scheme inspired from the SBU approach. To achieve this goal, flexibility must originate from the SBUs, i.e. the steric/chemical environment of the metal clusters must be tuned, so that SBUs can undergo multiple reversible metal-ligand bond-breaking events to achieve soft porosity. We aim at creating soft SBUs that can regenerate. While the overall connectivity of the framework is maintained upon the reversible transformation of the SBU, the pore size, shape and volume are changed, showing soft porosity without degrading the stability of the material.

It has been reported that the zinc paddle-wheel, known as a popular SBU, can twist in jungle-gym-type compounds, where square grid carboxylate sheets are pillared by pyridyl ligands, however without any drastic bond rearrangement in the SBU.<sup>38,39</sup> Seen as a drawback, most studies aim at stiffening the SBU.<sup>40–42</sup> In this work, unlike any other, we aimed at morphing the zinc paddle-wheel into a soft SBU with regenerative properties. We found that pillaring by slim and long axial ligands  $(L^1 =$ 1,4-bis(4-pyridyl)benzene;  $L^2 = 2,3$ -difluoro-1,4-bis(4-pyridyl)benzene, Scheme 1) can allow reversible metal-ligand

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bond-breaking/-formation with the zinc atoms being four- or sixcoordinated for the soft SBU, and five-coordinated for the normal paddle-wheel. This has profound consequences on sorption properties. A thorough structural characterization conducted by single X-ray diffraction and in situ gas pressurecontrolled powder X-ray diffraction and Raman spectroscopy is provided.

# Scheme 1. $L^1$ and $L^2$



### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Synthesis and Characterization of 1a and 1b.** We first chose to synthesize a compound with the pillar  $L^1$ . Despite being successful in the synthesis of the compound and its crystal structure determination (1a, Figure 1a), its activated form (1b) while highly crystalline could not be characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. In the view of the powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) profiles, 1a and 1b could be entirely different phases (Figure 2) indicating that we might be successful in the obtention of a large distortion of the paddle-wheel. We proceeded to the thermogravimetric (TG) characterization and the measurement of sorption properties (Figures 3 and 4). The sorption for CO<sub>2</sub> shows an interesting multistep profile; however being deprived of the structure for 1b, this study could not proceed any further. Compound 1a and 1b will be re-examined later in this paper.

Synthesis, Characterization, and Structural Transformations of 2a. We therefore moved on to an isostructural compound with another pillar  $L^2$ , for which we could obtain the structure of the activated form. It has been reported that fluorous MOFs can show enhanced stability.<sup>43</sup> The TG curve of the as-



Figure 1. Crystal structures of (a) 1a and (b) 2a. From left to right: projection of the single framework and view of the two interpenetrated frameworks (orange and blue). Ball color: gray, zinc; blue, nitrogen; red, oxygen. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



**Figure 2.** PXRD patterns of (a) simulation from single-crystal structure of 1a, (b) the as-synthesized 1a, and (c) drying of 1a in vacuo at 388 K (1b). Data obtained using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54$  Å).



Figure 3. TGA profiles of the as-synthesized 1a (black line) and the dried form 1b (red line) with a heating rate of  $5 \text{ K} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$ .

synthesized **2a** indicates the release of guest molecules up to 110 °C with a weight loss of 21.7% (calcd 22.0%) under an inert atmosphere (Figure 5). At 385 °C, the compound starts to break down being indicative of high thermal stability for this class of compounds. The TG curve of **2d** after handling in air shows a 2.2% weight loss (Figure 5 inset), which is equivalent to one water molecule per formula unit (calcd 2.4%).

The single-crystal X-ray structure determination of 2a and 2d shows two-fold interpenetrated 3D frameworks with the formula  $\{[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^2)] \cdot 2.5DMF \cdot 0.5water\}_n$  and  $[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^2)]_m$  respectively (Figures 1 and 6). While the triclinic PI space group and overall connectivity of the framework is preserved subsequently to the complete evacuation of the guests, two major structural changes of a different nature occur to lead to 2d. First, the coordination environment of the zinc atoms is changed. In 2a, the zinc ions are square pyramidal and arranged in the conventional paddle-wheel through bridged carboxylates. In stark contrast, in 2d the zinc ions have become tetrahedral with one carboxylate out of two being monodentate; the paddle-wheel is transformed (Figure 6). The distance between zinc and oxygen atoms varies from 2.043(5) to 5.164 (14) Å for the cleaved bond; this is much larger than the sum



**Figure 4.** Adsorption ( $\bullet$ ) and desorption ( $\bigcirc$ ) isotherm of CO<sub>2</sub> at 195 K on **1b**. *A* is the amount adsorbed at standard temperature and pressure (STP).



**Figure 5.** TGA profiles of the as-synthesized form **2a** (black line) and the dried form **2d** (red line) with a heating rate of 5 K  $\cdot$  min<sup>-1</sup>. (Inset) The TG curve of **2d** showing a 2.2% weight loss.

of van der Waals radii (2.91 Å) (Figure 6 and Table 1). Hereafter, we call this configuration "open". Moreover, the open paddle-wheel provides an active metal site (Figure 6). The change in coordination mode of the carboxylate moieties presents characteristic Raman bands. The spectrum of 2a shows double bands at around 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1430 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to  $v_{sym}(COO^{-})$  vibrations of the normal zinc paddle-wheel, while a distinct single band at 1432 cm<sup>-1</sup> is observed for 2d (Figure 7). Second, as previously described for flexible two-fold interpenetrated pillared compounds, drastic reductions in cell volume (2070 to 1492 Å<sup>3</sup>, 28%) and length of the *c*-axis (18.52 to 14.99 Å, 19%) can be observed from 2a to 2d (Table S1). These changes cause the single frameworks to move closer to each other (Figure S1). The structure of 2d is nonporous (void volume determined using PLATON<sup>48</sup> is 6.5%). Because the amplitude of the global variations in the crystal structures is so large, it was anticipated that compound 2a would go through several intermediate desolvated states.

To identify temperature transition thresholds, a variable temperature PXRD experiment of a bulk sample of **2a** from room temperature to 400 K was carried out (Figure 8). The variation of



**Figure 6.** Crystal structure of **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d**, and **2e** showing structural transformations upon desolvation and moisture coordination. Ball color: gray, zinc; green, fluorine; blue, nitrogen; red, oxygen; violet in **2e**, coordinated water. Noncoordinated guest molecules and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Coordination environments of the zinc cluster (left) and views of the single framework along the *b*-axis (right).

Table 1. Distance (Å) between Zinc and Oxygen Atoms of the Clusters

	2a	2b	2d
Zn1-O1	2.0208(8)	2.0387(4)	1.8884(5)
Zn2-O2	2.0343(5)	2.1283(6)	5.1639(14)

PXRD patterns showed that the structural transformations were gradual with no clear transition reaffirming the very soft behavior of the compound and none of the complex patterns could be indexed



Figure 7. Raman spectra of (a) 2a and (b) 2d. The blue box indicates the band of  $v_{sym}(COO^{-})$ .



**Figure 8.** In situ PXRD patterns of the as-synthesized **2a** with increasing temperature, showing gradual structural transformations of **2a** upon drying process. Data obtained using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54$  Å).

to a single phase. Nevertheless, the single-crystal structure determination of two intermediates (2b and 2c) was obtained during the drying process (Figure 6). Although there are some unidentified peaks that may indicate coexistence of some unknown structures, the structures obtained enabled to discriminate most peaks and confirm the coexistence of at least two intermediates with different degrees of desolvation in the bulk sample (Figures S2 and S3). The framework connectivity and zinc coordination geometry of the intermediates are nearly identical, indicating that the transition of zinc cores to the open form requires complete desolvation. As anticipated from the TG experiment, the dried form 2d with one open metal site is sensitive to air moisture; one water molecule coordinates readily to one of the zinc ions to give the hydrated form **2e**,  $[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^2)(H_2O)]_n$  (Figure 6). The Raman signature of **2e** is similar to that of **2d** with a single band at 1433 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Figure S4). To ascertain the soft properties of the SBU, the reversibility of the transformations upon gas sorption must be confirmed.

Gas Sorption Properties of 2d. As compound 2d has a nonporous structure, we expected that the sorption isotherms of 2d would show gate-opening corresponding to the opening of the structure and/or a stepwise profile reflecting the formation of several structural intermediates. Gas adsorption isotherms were



**Figure 9.** Adsorption ( $\bullet$ ) and desorption ( $\bigcirc$ ) isotherms of O<sub>2</sub> (77 K, red line), N<sub>2</sub> (77 K, blue line), Ar (77 K, yellow line) and CO<sub>2</sub> (195 K, green line) on **2d**. *A* is the amount adsorbed at STP.

measured for N<sub>2</sub> (77 K), O<sub>2</sub> (77 K), Ar (77 K), and CO<sub>2</sub> (195 K). The adsorption isotherms show preferential uptake of O2 over Ar and  $N_2$  at 77 K (Figure 9). The  $O_2$  and Ar adsorption isotherms are characterized by gate-opening-type adsorption, as expected from the nonporous structure of 2d. The large differences in the onset pressures of similar gas molecules (5.0 kPa,  $P/P_0 = 0.25$  for  $O_2$  and 23.0 kPa,  $P/P_0 = 0.98$  for Ar) at 77 K is important for the application in gas separation. We suppose that the preferential adsorption of O<sub>2</sub> could be attributed to a stronger interaction between guest and host molecule during the gate-opening process.  $^{30-32,44-46}$  In contrast to the gate-opening-type adsorption isotherms for O<sub>2</sub> and Ar on 2d at 77 K, the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption isotherm at 195 K shows a stepwise sorption reflecting the framework flexibility. The fact that steps are not observed for O<sub>2</sub> and Ar does not indicate that the structure is rigid, but rather that the characterization of the framework flexibility by gas sorption is probe dependent. In details the CO<sub>2</sub> profile shows four steps: a first small step below 5 kPa, two intermediate steps up to 40 kPa, and a last one reaching the saturation of the compound.

Characterization of Structural Transformations of 2d upon Adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> at 195 K. To understand the relationship between stepwise sorption and the structural transformations, we measured the PXRD patterns of 2d at various vapor pressures of  $CO_2$  corresponding to the different steps (Figure 10). The peak indexing of the pattern at P = 0 kPa confirmed the structure obtained from the single structure of 2d (Table 2). The patterns obtained at P = 10 and 35 kPa cannot be indexed as single phases, indicative of the coexistence of several intermediate structures (Figures S5 and S6), which is in accord with the results obtained from the desolvation experiments (Figure 8) and with the low gradient uptake of the sorption profile in that region. Taking into account the results from the single-crystal study, we propose a set of unit cell parameters of the 35 kPa pattern (Table 2). This set of parameters fits all reflections, missing only three peaks belonging to the 0 kPa pattern (Figure S6). The fully  $CO_2$  accommodated pattern could be successfully indexed accounting for all reflections (Table 2). The evolution of the unit cell parameters indicates that the structure of 2d straightens gradually to become similar to those of the as-synthesized phase (2a) at  $CO_2$  saturation. However, the difference in unit cell angles suggests that the fully CO2-accommodated structure is somewhat different from



**Figure 10.** Comparisons of the simulated PXRD patterns of **2d** (dried form), **2b** (drying intermediate) and **2a** (as-synthesized form) and the observed PXRD patterns under 0 kPa (I), 10 kPa (II), 35 kPa (III) and 98 kPa (IV) of CO<sub>2</sub> at 195 K. Points I, II, III and IV are shown in Figure 9. Data obtained using synchrotron radiation ( $\lambda = 0.80$  Å).

that of 2a, which is consistent with the observed deviation in the PXRD patterns (IV and 2a in Figure 11). Given these results, we argue that the accommodation of CO<sub>2</sub> molecules in 2d causes the reformation of the zinc paddle-wheel with a slightly different structure at saturation. To further support this hypothesis, and because PXRD data cannot provide information below 5 kPa due to the presence of mixtures under low CO<sub>2</sub> loading conditions, Raman spectroscopy measurements of 2d were carried out in situ under CO<sub>2</sub> pressure from dried to fully saturated and back (Figure 11). As early as 16 kPa of  $\rm CO_2$  the characteristic double band of  $\nu_{\rm sym}$ - $(COO^{-})$  vibration around 1425 cm<sup>-1</sup> appears, along with the band from the adsorbed CO<sub>2</sub> at 1374 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Figure 11a).<sup>47</sup> The peak change indicates that the zinc paddle-wheel is reformed after the first step adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> at 195 K. Increasing the pressure does not involve any further changes in the Raman vibrations apart from an increase in the intensity of the adsorbed CO<sub>2</sub> band. The spectra upon desorption are nearly a reverse mirror image of the spectra upon absorption (Figure 11b) in accord with the PXRD patterns measured under  $CO_2$  sorption conditions (Figure S7). The sudden change of the  $v_{sym}(COO^{-})$  vibration band from 4.2 to 0 kPa of CO2 upon desorption shows that the zinc paddle-wheel persists until the complete evacuation of CO<sub>2</sub> from the framework. The PXRD pattern measured at 0 kPa during the desorption conditions shows the restoration of 2d after the evacuation of  $CO_2$  from the framework (Figure S7). This is in accordance with single-crystal structural transformations of the as-synthesized framework (2a) upon desolvation (Figures 6 and S1). Considering that at 5 kPa, the geometries around zinc atoms are still tetrahedral, the uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> molecules might be eased by the open metal site in the very first step of the sorption, before experiencing a straightening of the structure accompanied by the reformation of the paddle-wheel, acting similarly to a gate-opening process. More importantly, the Raman spectroscopic study stands as a strong evidence to confirm the reversible metal-ligand bond formation of the paddle-wheel unit in 2d induced by the accommodation of as few as two molecules per formula unit (16 kPa). From all the results acquired, we have demonstrated the fully reversible soft property of the zinc paddlewheel.

Comparison of 1a and 2a. We decided to re-evaluate compound 1a and its dried form 1b. Because of the strong similarities

P (kPa)	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	$\alpha \; (deg)$	$\beta$ (deg)	$\gamma$ (deg)	$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	R <sub>p</sub>	$R_{\rm wp}$
0	9.7300(4)	10.4189(3)	14.8181(5)	98.055(3)	93.289(3)	101.591(4)	1451.37(9)	1.423	3.230
35	10.7927	10.8869	15.8976	83.377	98.813	98.839	1815.90	1.151	2.767
98	10.9568	10.9682	18.4159	91.153	94.255	90.434	2206.52	1.234	3.286
2a	10.885(2)	10.930(2)	18.518(4)	87.42(3)	84.99(3)	70.57(3)	2069.6(7)		

Table 2. Change of Lattice Parameters of 2d under Vapor Pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> at 195 K and Lattice Parameters of the As-Synthesized Form 2a



Figure 11. Raman spectra of 2d upon (a) adsorption and (b) desorption of  $CO_2$  at 195 K.



**Figure 12.** Raman Spectra of (a) **1a** and (b) **1b**. The blue box indicates the band of  $v_{sym}(COO^{-})$ .

in the structure of 1a and 2a (Figure 1) and in the sorption profiles of their respective activated forms, 1b and 2d, this has lead us to speculate that 1b is in fact isostructural to 2d (Figure S8) and that its CO<sub>2</sub> sorption profile can be interpreted in similar terms as 2d. As expected, 1a shows the characteristic double band of the  $\nu_{sym}(COO^-)$  vibration for the bridged carboxylates, while 1b indicates the single band for the open paddle-wheel (Figure 12). In addition, the Raman spectral changes of 1b under pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> at 195 K shows the reversible soft behavior of the zinc paddlewheel, as characterized by the changes of the  $\nu_{sym}(COO^-)$  vibration



Figure 13. Raman spectral changes of 1b upon adsorption and desorption of  $CO_2$  at 195 K. The values on the spectra represent the vapor pressures of  $CO_2$ .

band (Figure 13). The use of the ligand  $L^1$  also allows the paddlewheel to undergo severe distortions.

## CONCLUSIONS

With the synthesis and characterization of the compounds reported above, besides providing extensive experimental evidence of the interplay between structure and multistep gas sorption, we have demonstrated that with a proper functionalization of the environment of a usually rigid SBU, we can modify its behavior so that it can reversibly flex to confer soft porous properties to a material. Furthermore, we gave the first account of the regeneration of the zinc paddle-wheel from its open form driven by the adsorption of a few gas molecules, showing that it is a low energy process and at the same time excluding any arguments about a possible recrystallization phenomenon in a solvated media. The development of porous compounds bearing soft SBUs expands further the possibilities of PCPs to be used as sophisticated gas adsorbents.

# EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Methods.** All chemicals and solvents used in the syntheses were of reagent grade and were used without further purification. Microwave reactions were performed using an Initiator 2.5 microwave from Biotage. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded with a JEOL JNM-ECS400 (400 MHz) NMR spectrometer. HRMS was obtained on a JEOL JMS-700 spectrometer. The elemental analysis was carried out on a Flash EA 1112 series, Thermo Finnigan instrument. The powder X-ray diffractions (PXRDs) were recorded with a RIGAKU UltimaIV or a Bruker D8 Discover diffractometer with GADDS equipped with

# Scheme 2. Synthesis of $L^2$



graphite monochromated Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54073$  Å). Thermogravimetric analyses were recorded on a Rigaku Thermo plus TG-8120 apparatus in the temperature range between 298 and 773 K at a heating rate of 5 K·min<sup>-1</sup>. The Raman spectroscopy was carried out using a Horiba LabRAM HR-800 apparatus. A 785-nm laser was used for the excitation source. The slit width of the collection aperture was kept at 100  $\mu$ m. All spectra were obtained in extended scan mode in the range of 50–3500 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Calibration of the laser was performed in static scan mode using a silicon standard. The void volumes of crystal structures were estimated by PLATON.<sup>48</sup>

**Preparation of** { $[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^1)] \cdot 2DMF \cdot 0.5water$ }<sub>n</sub> (1a) and  $[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^1)]_n$  (1b). 1,4-Bis(4-pyridyl)benzene (L<sup>1</sup>) was synthesized according to the literature method.<sup>49</sup> Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> · 6H<sub>2</sub>O (29.7 mg, 0.10 mmol), terephthalic acid (16.6 mg, 0.10 mmol) and L<sup>1</sup> (11.6 mg, 0.05 mmol) were added in 3 mL of DMF. The tube containing the reaction mixture was sealed with an aluminum crimp cap fitted with a silicon septum and then exposed to microwave irradiation for 30 min at 115 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the resulting white solid (1a) was isolated by centrifugation and washed with DMF. The resulting white solid (1a) was heated to 115 °C under vacuum for 6 h to produce 1b. Elemental analysis (%) calcd for 1b·H<sub>2</sub>O, C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>: C, 54.18; H, 3.13; N, 3.95. Found: C, 54.41; H, 3.14; N, 3.95.

Synthesis and Characterization of 2,3-Difluoro-1,4-bis-(trimethylsilyl)benzene (B) (Scheme 2). *n*-butyllithium (1.6 M in *n*-hexane, 5.7 mL, 40.3 mmol) was added to a solution of di-*iso*propylamine (5.7 mL, 40.3 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 mL) at -78 °C. After stirring 30 min at -78 °C, 1,2-difluorobenzene (A) (1.7 mL, 17.5 mmol) and chlorotrimethylsilane (4.9 mL, 38.5 mmol) was added to the solution at a rate which allowed the internal reaction temperature to remain below -50 °C. The solution was stirred at -78 °C for an additional 1 h. 1 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution (10 mL) was added and then extracted with diethyl ether (20 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford colorless needle-shaped crystals of B (4.47 g, 17.3 mmol, 98.8%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.09 (*s*, 2H), 0.32 (*s*, 18H). LRMS (EI): m/z = 258 (M<sup>+</sup>).

Synthesis and Characterization of 2,3-Difluoro-1,4-dibromobenzene (C) (Scheme 2). To a neat bromine (2.3 mL, 43.8 mmol) cooled to 0 °C was added portion wise solid B (3.78 g, 14.6 mmol) while maintaining the internal temperature between 20 and 40 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 58 °C for 2 h. After 1 h of this period had elapsed, additional bromine (0.4 mL, 7.30 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C and slowly poured into ice-cold saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution and extracted with diethyl ether (50 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford colorless liquid C. The product was directly used for the following Suzuki coupling reaction without purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.23 (*m*, 2H). LRMS (EI): *m*/*z* = 272 (M<sup>+</sup>).

Synthesis and Characterization of 2,3-Difluoro-1,4-bis(4pyridyl)benzene (L<sup>2</sup>) (Scheme 2). 2,3-Difluoro-1,4-dibromobenzene (C) (0.80 g, 2.94 mmol), 4-pyridineboronic acid (0.80 g, 6.47 mmol), potassium phosphate (5.50 g, 25.9 mmol), tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium (29.6 mg, 0.03 mmol), and tricyclohexylphosphine (25.2 mg, 0.09 mmol) were added in a mixture of dimethylformamide (10 mL) and water (5 mL). The tube containing the reaction mixture was sealed with an aluminum crimp cap fitted with a silicon septum and then exposed to microwave irradiation for 1 h at 150 °C. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured into water (50 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL  $\times$  3), and the combined organic phases were washed three times with water. The solution was then dried over Na2SO4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by recrystallization from dichloromethane as a white solid (0.27 g, 1.00 mmol, 35.0% based on C).  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.74 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 7.55 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 7.37 (d, J = 4.1 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  150.39, 148.87 (dd,  $J_{CF} = 254$ , 16.0 Hz), 141.87, 128.66 (dd,  $J_{CF}$  = 7.0, 3.8 Hz), 124.86, 123.36. HRMS (EI) m/z calcd for  $C_{16}H_{10}N_2F_2$  (M<sup>+</sup>), 268.0812; found, 268.0802.

Preparation of  $\{[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^2)] \cdot 2.5DMF \cdot 0.5water\}_n$  (2a) and  $[Zn_2(tp)_2(L^2)]_n$  (2d). A solution of  $Zn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  (29.7 mg, 0.10 mmol), terephthalic acid (16.6 mg, 0.10 mmol), and  $L^2$  (13.4 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 3 mL of DMF was heated to 115 °C for 48 h to yield block-shaped colorless crystals of 2a. Crystals were separated and washed with DMF and dried. The crystals of 2a were heated to 115 °C under vacuum for 6 h to produce 2d. Elemental analysis (%) calcd for  $2d \cdot H_2O$  (2e),  $C_{32}H_{20}F_2N_2O_9Zn_2$ : C, 51.57; H, 2.70; N, 3.76. Found: C, 50.99; H, 2.75; N, 3.72.

**Gas Adsorption Measurements.** The sorption isotherm measurements were performed with the use of an automatic volumetric adsorption apparatus (BELSORP-18Plus or BELSORP-max; Bel Japan, Inc.). The dried sample was placed into the sample tube and then, prior to measurement, was evacuated again using the degas function of the analyzer for 3 h at 388 K. The change of the pressure was monitored and the degree of adsorption was detected by the decrease of the pressure at the equilibrium state. Highly pure gases (>99.999%) were used for the measurements.

X-ray Studies. Data were collected on Rigaku/MSC Saturn CCD diffractometer with confocal monochromated MoK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.7107 Å) and processed using the CrystalClear program (Rigaku). All the single-crystal structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full matrix least-squares refinement cycles on  $F^2$  for all data using the SHELX-97.50 The crystallizing solvents in 1a and 2b were disordered and could not be satisfactorily localized. Therefore, after all of the framework atoms (that were readily obtained from difference Fourier maps) were refined, the SQUEEZE<sup>48</sup> function was used to determine the contribution of the disordered solvent molecules that could not be refined to the structure factors. The contribution of these species was removed from the final structure factor calculations. The indistinguishable C and N atoms of the disordered DMF molecule in 2a were refined by EXYZ and EADP constraints. The single crystals of 2b were obtained by ex situ heating the single crystals of 2a at 100 °C under N2 atmosphere for 1 day. The single-crystal structure of 2c was obtained by in situ heating of the crystals of 2a from 25 to 80 °C with a heating rate of 1  $K \cdot min^{-1}$  for 55 min on a goniometer head. The crystals were heated for an addition 30 min at 80 °C, and then the crystals were cooled to -180 °C prior to the data collection. The diffraction data of the single crystal of 2d were collected under continuous heating at 105 °C using an  $N_2$  stream to avoid the coordination of atmospheric water. Hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions.

Synchrotron Powder X-ray Diffraction Measurement and Analysis. PXRD patterns of 2d under various vapor pressures of  $CO_2$  were collected at SPring-8 (BL44B2)<sup>S1</sup> with the synchrotron radiation ( $\lambda = 0.799640(2)$  Å). Before the data collections, sample of the dried form 2d was put in a silica glass capillary and evacuated again under vacuum at 388 K for 1 h. After the evacuation, the sample 2d was cooled down at 195 K under vacuum and high purity  $CO_2$  gas was introduced at 10 kPa, 35 and 98 kPa. Le Bail analyses were done with the Rietica program.<sup>S2</sup>

# ASSOCIATED CONTENT

**Supporting Information.** Crystal data and structural refinement for **1a**, **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, **2d**, and **2e**, comparisons of PXRDs, and Raman spectrum of **2e**. These materials are available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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