

# Synthesis and molecular structures of a pair of tris(imidazolyl)-phosphine cobalt–perchlorate complexes, $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$ and $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$

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The cobalt–perchlorate complexes,  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$  and  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$ , have been synthesized *via* the reaction of tris[2-(1,4-diisopropylimidazolyl)]phosphine  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3$  with  $\text{Co}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; the isolation of these species, as opposed to a hydroxide derivative  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{CoOH}\}^+$ , demonstrates the important role that steric interactions play in generating synthetic analogues for metal-substituted carbonic anhydrases.

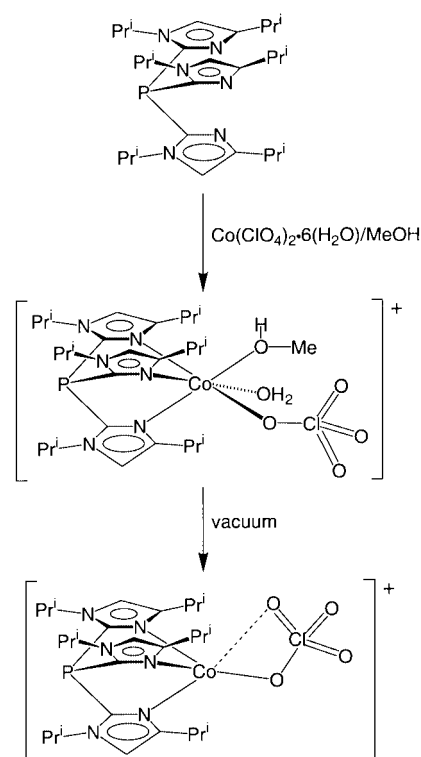
## Introduction

Our previous studies have described the use of the sterically demanding tris[2-(1-isopropyl-4-*tert*-butylimidazolyl)]phosphine ligand  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3$ <sup>1</sup> to prepare  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3\text{ZnOH}\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$ . As the first structurally characterized monomeric zinc hydroxide complex supported by imidazole functionalities,  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3\text{ZnOH}\}^+$  is an excellent structural model for the active site of carbonic anhydrase.<sup>2</sup> An important attribute of the  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3$  ligand that permits isolation of a four-coordinate zinc hydroxide complex is the sterically protective environment that is provided by the three *tert*-butyl substituents. In this paper, we describe related cobalt chemistry using the less sterically demanding ligand,  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3$ ,<sup>3</sup> which provides an indication of the complexities that may arise in modeling metalloenzymes when steric constraints do not impose an appropriate coordination environment.

## Results and discussion

In addition to  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3\text{ZnOH}\}^+$ ,<sup>2</sup> structurally characterized mononuclear tetrahedral zinc hydroxide complexes have also been obtained using bulky tris(pyrazolyl)borate ligands, *e.g.*  $[\text{Tp}^{\text{Bu}^t, \text{Me}^e}]_3\text{ZnOH}$ <sup>4</sup> and  $[\text{Tp}^{\text{Ar}, \text{Me}^e}]_3\text{ZnOH}$  ( $\text{Ar} = p\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Pr}^i$ ).<sup>5</sup> Sterically demanding tris(pyrazolyl)borate ligands have also allowed isolation of terminal hydroxide complexes of other metals, such as the iron and cobalt complexes  $[\text{Tp}^{\text{Bu}^t, \text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{FeOH}$ <sup>6</sup> and  $[\text{Tp}^{\text{Bu}^t, \text{Me}^e}]_3\text{CoOH}$ .<sup>7</sup> However, reducing the steric demands of the  $[\text{Tp}^{\text{RR}}]$  ligand results in the formation of dinuclear complexes with bridging hydroxide ligands. Thus, dinuclear complexes, such as  $\{[\text{Tp}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Fe}(\mu\text{-OH})\}_2$  and  $\{[\text{Tp}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\mu\text{-OH})\}_2$ , are obtained if the 3-pyrazolyl substituent is  $\text{Pr}^i$  rather than  $\text{Bu}^t$ .<sup>8,9</sup> The coordination chemistry of cobalt supported by [NNN] tripodal imidazolyl ligands is of particular interest since cobalt is the only other metal which has been substituted for Zn in carbonic anhydrase such that significant activity is retained.<sup>10</sup> For this reason, it is pertinent to explore the coordination chemistry of cobalt using the di-isopropyl substituted tris(imidazolyl)phosphine,  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3$ ,<sup>3</sup> a ligand which is structurally related to the aforementioned tris(pyrazolyl)hydroborato ligand  $[\text{Tp}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3$ .

The tris(imidazolyl)phosphine  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3$  reacts with  $\text{Co}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in methanol to yield the six-coordinate aqua–methanol–perchlorate complex  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$  (Scheme 1), the molecular structure of which has been determined by X-ray diffraction (Fig. 1). The nature of  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$  differs considerably from



Scheme 1

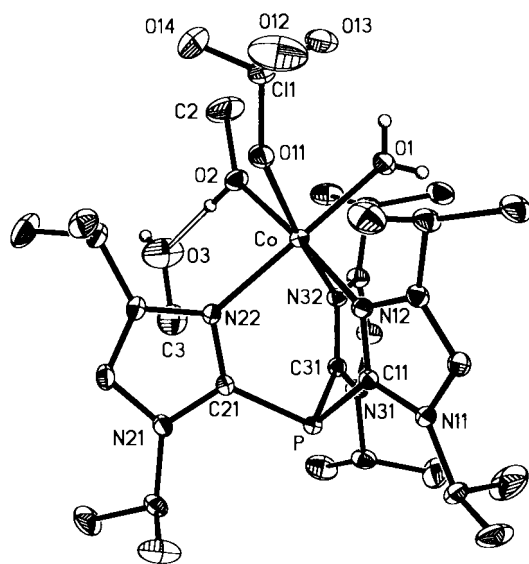
$\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3\text{ZnOH}\}^+$ ,<sup>2</sup> the product of the reaction between  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3$  and  $\text{Zn}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in methanol. For example, two notable differences are that the cobalt complex is octahedral and contains an aqua rather than hydroxide ligand. In this regard,  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$  bears a closer resemblance to the cadmium aqua complex  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3\text{Cd}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$ <sup>11</sup> which is obtained from the reaction of  $[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i, \text{Bu}^t}]_3$  with  $\text{Cd}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,<sup>11</sup> the only significant difference being that the cadmium center does not bind an additional methanol ligand. It is also worth noting that the coordinated methanol in  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$  participates in a hydrogen bond interaction with an additional molecule of methanol [ $d(\text{O} \cdots \text{O}) = 2.62 \text{ \AA}$ ].<sup>12</sup>

Interestingly, the methanol and water ligands in  $\{[\text{Pim}^{\text{Pr}^i}]_3\text{Co}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{HOME})(\text{OClO}_3)\}_2\text{-(ClO}_4)_4$  are not bound strongly to cobalt, such that removal of the volatile components and crystallization from  $\text{CHCl}_3$  yields the blue “tetrahedral” perchlorate

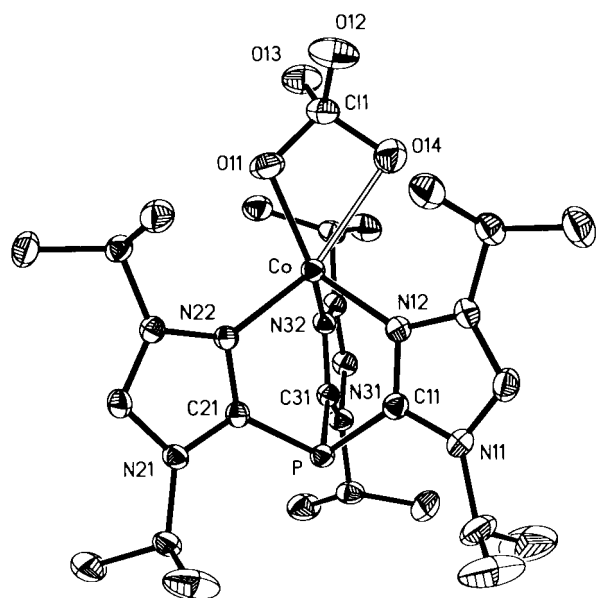
**Table 1** Comparison of Co–OH<sub>2</sub>, Co–O(H)Me, and Co–OCIO<sub>3</sub> bond lengths

	<i>d</i> [Co–OH <sub>2</sub> ]/Å	<i>d</i> [Co–O(H)Me]/Å	<i>d</i> [Co–OCIO <sub>3</sub> ]/Å	Reference
{[Pim <sup>Pr3</sup> ]Co(OCIO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>+</sup> }	—	—	1.999(3)	This work
{[Pim <sup>Pr3</sup> ]Co(OH <sub>2</sub> )(HOME)(OCIO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>+</sup> }	2.083(2)	2.095(2)	2.266(2)	This work
<i>trans</i> -{[N <sub>4</sub> ]Co(OH <sub>2</sub> )(HOME)} <sup>2+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.22(2)	2.19(2)	—	21a
<i>trans</i> -{[N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ]Co(OH <sub>2</sub> )(HOME)} <sup>2+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.119(4)	2.103(4)	—	21b
<i>trans</i> -{[N <sub>4</sub> O]Co(OH <sub>2</sub> )(HOME)} <sup>2+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.183(8)	2.209(9)	—	21c
<i>trans</i> -{[N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ]Co(OH <sub>2</sub> )(OCIO <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>2+</sup> <sup>a</sup> }	2.115(4)	—	2.220(4)	<sup>b</sup>
<i>trans</i> -[N <sub>4</sub> ]Co(OCIO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	—	—	2.21(1), 2.32(1)	15a
CSD mean [range]	2.08 [0.43]	2.13 [0.20]	2.32 [0.25]	

<sup>a</sup> For brevity, only the coordinating atoms of the supporting ligands are indicated. <sup>b</sup> D. Luneau, F. M. Romero and R. Ziesel, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1998, **37**, 5078.



**Fig. 1** Molecular structure of the cation {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}. Selected bond lengths (Å): Co–O(1) 2.083(2), Co–O(2) 2.095(2), Co–O(11) 2.266(2), Co–N(12) 2.133(2), Co–N(22) 2.139(2), Co–N(32) 2.155(2), O(2)⋯O(3) 2.62.



**Fig. 2** Molecular structure of the cation {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}. Selected bond lengths (Å): Co–O(11) 1.999(3), Co⋯O(14) 2.50, Co–N(12) 2.024(3), Co–N(22) 2.033(3), Co–N(32) 2.023(3).

complex {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)}[ClO<sub>4</sub>] which is devoid of any additional ligands.<sup>13</sup> An X-ray diffraction study (Fig. 2) reveals that the “tetrahedral” cobalt center in {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>} does interact with a second oxygen atom of the perchlorate ligand, but indicates that the interaction is very long [2.50 Å]

compared to the primary interaction [1.999(3) Å]. The ligand is, therefore, better described as adopting a unidentate rather than bidentate coordination mode.<sup>14,15</sup> The latter observation is in accord with the notion that perchlorate is a weakly coordinating ligand.<sup>16,17</sup> For example, the more strongly bonding nitrate ligand in {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>,Bu]Co(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>} binds in a bidentate rather than unidentate manner, in spite of the fact that it is a derivative of the more sterically demanding [Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>,Bu] ligand.<sup>18,19</sup> Interestingly, the Co–OCIO<sub>3</sub> bond length in {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>} is not only significantly shorter than that in six-coordinate {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>} [2.266(2) Å], but is also substantially shorter than for any other complex listed in the Cambridge Structural Database (CSD),<sup>20</sup> as summarized in Table 1.

There are no examples of structurally characterized octahedral cobalt complexes with an aqua–methanol–perchlorate combination of ligands listed in the CSD to provide a comparison with {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}. Aqua–methanol complexes are, nevertheless, known (Table 1),<sup>21</sup> and such species also exist with perchlorate as a counterion,<sup>21a,b</sup> but the latter does not interact significantly with the cobalt center. The molecular structure of {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}, therefore, presents a unique opportunity to compare the three Co–O bond lengths, *i.e.* Co–OH<sub>2</sub>, Co–O(H)Me, and Co–OCIO<sub>3</sub>, in a single compound (Table 1). Examination of Table 1 indicates that the Co–OCIO<sub>3</sub> bond is the longest of the three, and that it is also 0.27 Å longer than the Co–OCIO<sub>3</sub> bond in {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}. Evidently, the Co–OCIO<sub>3</sub> interaction must be regarded as rather pliable. In this regard, the Cd–OCIO<sub>3</sub> [2.203(8) Å] and Cd–OH<sub>2</sub> [2.297(9) Å] bond lengths in the related cadmium complex {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>,Bu]Cd(OH<sub>2</sub>)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>} exhibit the opposite trend to that in {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}, with the Cd–OCIO<sub>3</sub> bond being shorter than the Cd–OH<sub>2</sub> bond. It is also noteworthy that, despite the three different Co–O bond lengths in {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>}, the three Co–N bond lengths are very similar, indicating that there are no significant differences in the *trans* influences of H<sub>2</sub>O, MeOH and [OCIO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>−</sup> in this system.

## Experimental section

### General considerations

All manipulations were performed using a combination of glovebox, high-vacuum or Schlenk techniques.<sup>22</sup> Solvents were purified and degassed by standard procedures. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 DRX spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained on a Micromass Quadrupole-Time-of-Flight mass spectrometer using an electrospray ion source. [Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>] was prepared by the literature method.<sup>3</sup>

### Synthesis of {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOME)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)}[ClO<sub>4</sub>] and {[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)}[ClO<sub>4</sub>]

[Pim<sup>Pr3</sup>] (160 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added to a stirred suspension

**Table 2** Crystal, intensity collection and refinement data

	{[Pim <sup>Pr2</sup> ]Co(OH <sub>2</sub> (HOMe) <sub>2</sub> (OCIO <sub>3</sub> ))[ClO <sub>4</sub> ]}	{[Pim <sup>Pr2</sup> ]Co(OCIO <sub>3</sub> ))[ClO <sub>4</sub> ]}
Symmetry	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Formula	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>55</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>11</sub> PCo	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>47</sub> Cl <sub>8</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>8</sub> PCo
Formula weight	824.59	981.23
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i> (no. 14)	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (no. 14)
<i>a</i> /Å	12.6185(8)	15.3832(11)
<i>b</i> /Å	18.2452(11)	16.8991(12)
<i>c</i> /Å	17.6528(10)	17.8228(11)
<i>a</i> °	90	90
<i>β</i> °	90.537(1)	100.154(1)
<i>γ</i> °	90	90
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	4064.0(4)	4560.7(5)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
Temperature/K	233	238
Radiation (λ/Å)	0.71073	0.71073
ρ(calcd.)/g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.348	1.429
μ(Mo-Kα)/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.651	0.928
θ <sub>max</sub> /°	28.3	28.3
No. of data	9302	10147
No. of parameters	522	490
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> <sup>a</sup>	0.0460	0.0624
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> <sup>a</sup>	0.1222	0.1819
GOF	1.094	1.057

of Co(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (121 mg, 0.33 mmol) in methanol (*ca.* 5 mL) giving a purple mixture. The reaction was stirred for 90 minutes, after which the mixture was filtered and the volatile components were removed *in vacuo* from the filtrate giving a purple residue. The product was washed with pentane (*ca.* 5 mL) and dried *in vacuo*, giving {[Pim<sup>Pr2</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>))[ClO<sub>4</sub>] as a bright blue–purple powder (206 mg, 84%). *m/z* = 642 (M<sup>+</sup>). IR Data (cm<sup>-1</sup>), KBr pellet: 2970 (w), 2958 (w), 2933 (vw), 2871 (vw), 1554 (w), 1194 (m), 1145 (s), 1117 (s), 1090 (vs), 627 (m). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -12.9, -1.7, 6.0, 12.9, 80.0 (assignments not given due to the paramagnetic nature of the compound). {[Pim<sup>Pr2</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOMe)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>))[ClO<sub>4</sub>] is obtained as pink–purple crystals upon direct crystallization from the reaction solvent. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): δ -87.5, -26.8, 14.5, 39.6, 51.9 (assignments not given due to the paramagnetic nature of the compound).

### X-Ray structure determinations

Crystal data, data collection and refinement parameters are summarized in Table 2. X-Ray diffraction data were collected on a Bruker P4 diffractometer equipped with a SMART CCD detector. The structures were solved using direct methods and standard difference map techniques, and were refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures on *F*<sup>2</sup> with SHELXTL (Version 5.03).<sup>23</sup> Hydrogen atoms on carbon were included in calculated positions.

CCDC reference number 186/1948.

See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/dt/b0/b002894k/> for crystallographic files in .cif format.

### Conclusion

In summary, a pair of cobalt–perchlorate complexes, {[Pim<sup>Pr2</sup>]Co(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)}<sup>+</sup> and {[Pim<sup>Pr2</sup>]Co(OH<sub>2</sub>)(HOMe)(OCIO<sub>3</sub>)}<sup>+</sup>, have been isolated as perchlorate salts and structurally characterized by X-ray diffraction. The isolation of these complexes, rather than the cobalt hydroxide counterpart of {[Pim<sup>Pr,Bu</sup>]ZnOH}<sup>+</sup>, underscores the complexities that arise in generating accurate synthetic analogues for metal-substituted carbonic anhydrases.

### Acknowledgements

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- Abbreviations: tris(2-imidazolyl)phosphines are represented by the abbreviation [Pim<sup>R,R'</sup>], with the 1- and 4-alkyl substituents listed respectively as superscripts.
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- both nitrate anions coordinate and the zinc center is six coordinate, [Pim<sup>Pr</sup>]<sub>2</sub>Zn(η<sup>1</sup>-ONO<sub>2</sub>)(η<sup>2</sup>-O<sub>2</sub>NO). See: C. Kimblin, W. E. Allen and G. Parkin, *Main Group Chem.*, 1996, **1**, 297.
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