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Journal of Coordination Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713455674

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To cite this Article Yang, Ai-Hong , Quan, Ying-Ping , Zhao, Li-hua , Cui, Jian-Zhong , Gao, Hong-Ling , Lu, Fan-Li , Shi, Wei and Cheng, Peng(2009) '1-D zigzag copper(II) complex with pyrazine-2,3,5,6-tetracarboxylate and oxalate', Journal of Coordination Chemistry, 62: 20, 3306 - 3313

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/00958970903046593

URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958970903046593

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1-D zigzag copper(II) complex with pyrazine-2,3,5,6-tetracarboxylate and oxalate

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(Received 7 January 2009; in final form 11 February 2009)

A 1-D zigzag coordination polymer, {[Cu₂(H₂pztc)(ox)(bpy)₂] · 8H₂O}_{*n*} (1) (H₄pztc = pyrazine-2,3,5,6-tetracarboxylic acid, ox = oxalate, bpy = 2,2'-bipyridine), has been synthesized under hydrothermal conditions. X-ray single crystal diffraction analysis indicates that the structure of the complex belongs to triclinic system, $P\bar{1}$ space group with a = 9.6085(19) Å, b = 10.111(2) Å, c = 11.009(2) Å, α = 99.41(3)°, β = 102.87(3)°, γ = 114.55(3)°, V = 907.9(3) Å³, Z = 1. Cu(II) is six coordinate by H₂pztc²⁻, bpy, and ox²⁻, the oxalate produced from decarboxylation of H₄pztc. [Cu₂(ox)(bpy)₂(H₂O)₂(NO₃)₂] (**2**) was also obtained from filtrate after **1** separated.

Keywords: Cu(II) complex; Hydrothermal synthesis; Pyrazine-2,3,5,6-tetracarboxylic acid; Decarboxylation; Oxalate

1. Introduction

Pyrazine-2,3,5,6-tetracarboxylic acid (H₄pztc) has rich coordination groups with N and O donors, high symmetry, and use in metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) [1–6]. However, complexes with H₄pztc were all synthesized at room temperature; in 2006, Yigit *et al.* [7] wanted to obtain Cu(II) complex with H₄pztc under hydrothermal conditions, but decarboxylation of H₄pztc occurred, giving a pyrazine-2,6-dicarboxylate complex. Decarboxylation is common under hydro(solvo)thermal conditions with metal ion, temperature and pH affecting decarboxylation of H₄pztc. Higher reaction temperature favors decarboxylation of the aromatic carboxyl groups under hydrothermal conditions [8, 9]. Cu(II) [8, 10–12] and other transition metal ions such as Zn(II), Co(II), and Mn(II) play a catalytic role in decarboxylation [9, 13, 14].

Decarboxylation occurs easily for H_4pztc and must be avoided for constructing coordination polymers. Co(II) [15], Ni(II) [16], and Mn(II) [17] complexes with

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 H_4 pztc were synthesized by our team without decarboxylation under hydrothermal conditions.

In this article, a new 1-D coordination polymer, $\{[Cu_2(H_2pztc)(ox)(bpy)_2] \cdot 8H_2O\}_n\}$ (1) (ox = oxalate, bpy = 2,2'-bipyridine), has been synthesized under hydrothermal conditions. Oxalate was produced from decarboxylation of H₄pztc; both oxalate and H₄pztc bridged Cu(II) alternately to form a 1-D chain. When the filtrate was allowed to continue standing at room for 2 weeks, blue plate crystals of **2** ([Cu₂(ox)(bpy)₂(H₂O)₂(NO₃)₂]) were obtained, which had been reported by Tang *et al.* [18], from stirring mixture of oxalate, bpy, and Cu(II) at room temperature. Crystal data of **2** were measured as follows: C₂₂H₂₀Cu₂N₆O₁₂, *Mr* = 687.52, Monoclinic, *P2(1)/n*, *a* = 7.6566(15) Å, *b* = 10.223(2) Å, *c* = 16.168(3) Å, *β* = 99.67(3)°, *V* = 1247.6(4) Å³, *Z* = 2, $\rho_{Calcd} = 1.830 \text{ Mg/m}^3$, *F*(000) = 696, GOF = 1.050, *R*1 = 0.0343, *wR*2 = 0.0822 [*I* > 2 σ (I)].

2. Experimental

2.1. General

 H_4 pztc was synthesized by Wolff's synthesis [19]. Other chemicals purchased were reagent grade and used without purification. Elemental analysis (C, H, and N) was performed on a Perkin-Elmer 240 CHN elemental analyzer. IR spectrum was recorded from 400 to 4000 cm⁻¹ with a Bruker TENOR 27 spectrophotometer using a KBr pellet. Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed on a NETZSCH TG 209 instrument with a heating rate of 10°C min⁻¹. Ultraviolet spectrum was measured by a Hewlett Packard 8453 ultraviolet spectrometer.

2.2. Preparation of the complexes

Complex 1 was synthesized in a mixture of $Cu(NO_3)_2 \cdot 3H_2O$ (0.0363 g, 0.15 mmol), H_4pztc (0.0390 g, 0.15 mmol), bpy (0.0234 g, 0.15 mmol), and H_2O (12 mL) under hydrothermal conditions at 120°C for 27 h, and then cooling to room temperature at a rate of 1°C h⁻¹. Blue needle crystals of 1 were obtained, yield 31%. Anal. Calcd for $C_{30}H_{34}Cu_2N_6O_{20}$ ($f_w = 925.71$) C, 38.92; H, 3.70; N, 9.08%. Found: C, 38.90; H, 3.85; N, 9.12%. The filtrate was allowed to continue standing at room temperature for 2 weeks; blue plate crystals of **2** were obtained.

2.3. X-ray crystallography

A single crystal of 1 with dimensions $0.08 \times 0.02 \times 0.02 \text{ mm}^3$ was selected for crystal structure analysis. X-ray diffraction data were collected on a computer-controlled Rigaku Saturn diffractometer. The detector was equipped with graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation (0.71073 Å) by using the ω -scan technique. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined with full-matrix least-squares on F^2 using SHELXS-97 and SHELXL-97 [20]. All nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were located and refined isotropically. Crystallographic data

Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement details for 1.

Empirical formula Formula weight	$C_{30}H_{34}Cu_2N_6O_{20}$ 925 71
Temperature (K)	113(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	$P\bar{1}$
Unit cell dimensions (Å, °)	
a	9.6085(19)
b	10.111(2)
с	11.009(2)
α	99.41(3)
β	102.87(3)
Ŷ	114.55(3)
Volume (Å ³), Z	907.9(3), 1
Calculated density $(mg m^{-3})$	1.693
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	1.266
F(000)	474
θ range for data collection (°)	1.98-27.89
Reflections collected	7069
Independent reflection	$4274 \ [R_{\rm int} = 0.0264]$
Max. and min. transmission	0.9751 and 0.9055
Data/restraints/parameters	4274/0/284
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.050
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0353, wR_2 = 0.0873$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0443, wR_2 = 0.0916$
Largest difference peak and hole $(e A^{-3})$	0.835 and -0.457

for **1** are listed in table 1. The crystal structure of **2** was also solved and consistent with the structure of $[Cu_2(ox)(bpy)_2(H_2O)_2(NO_3)_2]$ reported by Tang *et al.* [18].

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Crystal structure

X-ray single crystal diffraction for 1 reveals that it contains infinite 1-D zigzag chains running along the *c*-axis. In the chain structure, every symmetric unit consists of two Cu(II) ions, one H₂pztc²⁻, one ox²⁻, two bpy, and eight uncoordinated water molecules (figure 1). Cu(II) ions were alternately bridged by H₂pztc²⁻ and ox²⁻ in a bisbidentate chelate mode. Oxalate formed from decarboxylation of H₄pztc. The bpy acts as blocking ligand to avoid further growth in 2-D space.

Cu(II) ion is six coordinate in a distorted octahedron coordination environment. The equatorial plane is formed by one oxygen (O1) of H_2pztc^{2-} , one oxygen (O6A) of ox^{2-} , and two nitrogens (N2, N3) of bpy. The axial sites are occupied by one nitrogen (N1) of H_2pztc^{2-} and one carboxylate oxygen (O5) from ox^{2-} . The bond lengths in axial sites, Cu1–O5 = 2.2957(16) Å and Cu1–N1 = 2.4427(19) Å, are longer than those in the equatorial plane. Selected bond lengths and angles are shown in table 2.

In the crystal structure of **1**, planes of H_2pztc^{2-} or bpy are parallel to each other. The bpy plane is almost perpendicular to the mean plane of the pyrazine ring, with dihedral angle of 91.4°. The complex has rich hydrogen bonding and face-to-face $\pi \cdots \pi$ interactions between adjacent pyridyl rings (centroid–centroid distance of 3.762 Å) giving a 2-D corrugated layer (figure 2) and 3-D network (figure 3).



Figure 1. ORTEP representation of 1 showing the molecular structure with 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. The uncoordinated water molecules and hydrogens are not shown for clarity.

Table 2. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 1.

Cu(1)–O(1)	1.9783(18)	Cu(1)–O(6) ⁱ	1.9925(15)
Cu(1) - N(2)	1.983(2)	Cu(1)–O(5)	2.2957(16)
Cu(1) - N(3)	1.9891(19)	Cu(1) - N(1)	2.4427(19)
O(1)–Cu(1)–N(2)	175.81(7)	N(3)–Cu(1)–O(5)	104.75(7)
O(1)-Cu(1)-N(3)	94.38(7)	$O(6)^{i}$ -Cu(1)-O(5)	78.37(6)
N(2)-Cu(1)-N(3)	81.71(8)	O(1)-Cu(1)-N(1)	74.46(7)
$O(1) - Cu(1) - O(6)^{i}$	89.14(7)	N(2)-Cu(1)-N(1)	104.11(8)
$N(2)-Cu(1)-O(6)^{i}$	94.70(8)	N(3)-Cu(1)-N(1)	92.51(7)
$N(3)-Cu(1)-O(6)^{i}$	175.55(6)	$O(6)^{i}-Cu(1)-N(1)$	85.81(6)
O(1) - Cu(1) - O(5)	82.67(7)	O(5) - Cu(1) - N(1)	152.33(5)
N(2)-Cu(1)-O(5)	99.72(7)	O(1) - Cu(1) - N(1)	74.46(7)

Symmetry code: (i) -x + 1, -y + 2, -z + 1.

Hydrogen-bonding interactions involve carboxylate from H_2pztc^{2-} and ox^{2-} , carboxyl oxygen, and waters. Four lattice waters (O7, O8, O9, O10) link by O–H…O hydrogen bonds to form U-shaped $(H_2O)_4$ clusters, every two $(H_2O)_4$ clusters stand together by back-to-back arrangement (figure 4).

Nonbonded $O \cdots O$ distances and $O-H \cdots O$ angles for the $(H_2O)_4$ cluster are presented in table 3. The $O \cdots O$ distances range from 2.674 to 2.803 Å, resulting in an average $O \cdots O$ distance of 2.741 Å, and the average $O-H \cdots O$ angle is 174.9°. The average distance is shorter than that observed in four-membered water rings (2.810 Å) [21] and the average $O-H \cdots O$ angle is also large, probably because of the reduced tensile force in this chain-water tetramer than ring-water tetramer. Hydrogen bond data in $(H_2O)_4$ cluster are shown in bold in table 3.

The decarboxylation mechanism of **1** and **2** may be similar to the report of Min *et al.* [22], who gained insight into the mechanism for formation of the oxalate experimentally, consisting of anionic ${}^{\bullet}CO_{2}^{-}$ radical formation and the subsequent radical coupling. In addition, Ghosh *et al.* also obtained oxalate complex from the decarboxylation of pyridine-2,4,6-tricarboxylic acid [23].



Figure 2. 2-D corrugated layers of 1 connected by $\pi \cdots \pi$ interactions.



Figure 3. The crystal packing of 1 connected by $\pi \cdots \pi$ interactions and hydrogen bonds.

3.2. IR result

The IR spectrum of 1 shows an absorption at 1702 cm^{-1} indicating incomplete deprotonation of H₄pztc. The asymmetric and symmetric stretching vibrations of carboxylate are observed at 1652, 1448, and 1417 cm⁻¹; the separations (Δ) between $\nu_{asym}(CO_2)$ and $\nu_{sym}(CO_2)$ of 204 and 235 cm⁻¹ indicate monodentate mode in 1 [24]. These results are in agreement with the X-ray results. Lattice water absorption bands



Figure 4. The $(H_2O)_4$ clusters in 1.

Table 3. Hydrogen-bonding data (Å, $^{\circ}$) in 1.

$D - H \cdots A^a$	d(D–H)	$d(\mathbf{H}\cdots\mathbf{A})$	$d(\mathbf{D}\cdots\mathbf{A})$	∠(DHA)
$O7-H7A\cdots O6^{i}$	0.853	2.139	2.987	172.51
O7–H7B…O8 ⁱ	0.880	1.873	2.744	170.10
$O8-H8A\cdots O4^{ii}$	0.849	1.924	2.773	179.84
$O8-H8B\cdots O4^{i}$	0.900	2.149	2.944	146.96
O9-H9AO10	0.850	1.823	2.674	179.59
$O9-H9B\cdots O2^{iii}$	0.866	1.944	2.801	170.08
$O9-H9B\cdots O1^{iii}$	0.866	2.473	3.103	130.11
O10–H10A…O7 ^{iv}	0.999	1.806	2.803	174.99
$O10-H10B\cdots O5^{iii}$	0.885	2.043	2.904	164.03
$O3H3\cdots O9^v$	0.840	1.644	2.467	165.88

 $^{a}D = donor; A = acceptor.$

Symmetry code: (i) -x + 1, -y + 1, -z + 1; (ii) x, y, z-1; (iii) x, y-1, z; (iv) x + 1, y, z; (v) x-1, y, z.

appear near 3430 cm^{-1} and may be attributed to asymmetric and symmetric OH stretching modes. The characteristic band of bpy appeared at 774 cm^{-1} .

3.3. Thermal gravimetric analysis

TGA was carried out for 1 from 23 to 700° C (Supplementary material). All water molecules in 1 are uncoordinated, and easily lost; partial water loss of the complex takes place when placed in the air. TGA shows weight loss of 5.2% within 109°C corresponding to complete loss of residual water. From 109 to 260°C, there is almost no mass change. Above 260°C, the complex continued to decompose.

3.4. UV/Vis spectrum

The ultraviolet spectrum of 1 in aqueous solution shows four strong absorption bands (namely at 196, 245, 300, and 310 nm) and a very weak band at 500–550 nm. The four strong absorptions are due to the E1-, K-, B-, and R-bands, E1-, K-, B- most likely

correspond to π - π^* transitions, while the R-band is due to the n- π^* transition. These absorption bands of 1 are all red-shifted, caused by partial overlap of π electrons of bpy and H₂pdtc²⁻ in 1, so the π - π^* and n- π^* transitions are intensified by each other, resulting in red-shift and enhancement of absorbance. The very weak absorption band at 500–550 nm is assigned to d–d transitions of Cu(II).

4. Conclusion

A 1-D zigzag coordination polymer, { $[Cu_2(H_2pztc)(ox)(bpy)_2] \cdot 8H_2O$ }_n, was synthesized and structurally characterized. It contains three ligands, H₂pztc²⁻, ox²⁻, and bpy, in which the ox²⁻ was from decarboxylation of H₄pztc. Cu(II) is alternately bridged by H₂pztc²⁻ and ox²⁻ in a bisbidentate chelate mode. Furthermore, a U-shaped (H₂O)₄ cluster is also observed in 1; shorter O···O distances and larger O–H···O angles are helpful to understand water clusters of different sizes and shapes in diverse environments.

Supplementary material

CCDC: 702665 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this article. These data can be obtained free of charge *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK; Fax: (+44)1223-336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

Acknowledgement

This work was supported financially by the Natural Science Foundation of Tianjin (No. 08JCZDJC22400).

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