

# Preparation, Structure, and Thermal Decomposition of Co(II) Complexes with 2,3- and 2,5-Dichlorobenzoic Acid and Imidazole

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**Summary.** The reaction products of Co(II)-2,3- and -2,5-dichlorobenzoate with imidazole (**1**, **2**;  $\text{CoL}_2 \cdot 2\text{imd} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $L = \text{C}_7\text{H}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2^-$ , *imd* = imidazole) were characterized by their spectroscopic and thermochemical properties. The compounds crystallize in the monoclinic system with space group =  $\text{P}2_1/c$ ,  $a = 13.848(3)$ ,  $b = 12.841(3)$  Å,  $c = 7.064(2)$  Å,  $\beta = 98.12^\circ$ ,  $V = 1243.5(4)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$  for **1** and space group =  $\text{P}2_1/n$ ,  $a = 13.293(3)$ ,  $b = 6.964(2)$ ,  $c = 13.800(3)$  Å,  $\beta = 108.92(3)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1208.6(4)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$  for **2**. The complexes lose their crystal water in one step at 333 K and subsequently decompose to CoO with intermediate formation of  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ .

**Keywords.** Cobalt; Dichlorobenzoic acid; Complex; X-Ray analysis; Thermal analysis.

## Introduction

A general survey of the literature on complexes of Co(II) with nitrogen donors reveals that a considerable amount of work has been devoted to the preparation and characterization of complexes of Co(II) carboxylates with nitrogen donors. Some adducts of Co(II) benzoate [1, 2] and nitrobenzoate [2] with pyridine and 2-methylpyridine have been described. Carboxylates of divalent metals have been noted to give complexes of three different stoichiometries (1:1, 1:2, and 1:4) with various donor ligands [3–7]. In some cases, however, metal carboxylates afford adducts of two different stoichiometries with the same ligand under different experimental conditions [8, 9].

The complexes of bridged *bis*(imidazole) and *bis*(benzimidazole) ligands of various bridge types with transition metals have been examined as potential models of structure and mobility of biological metal binding sites in metalloproteins like haemerythrin, hemocyanin, tyrosinase, or azurin [10–16]. One of these N-donors ligands is imidazole. The present investigation is a continuation of our study on the structure and physico-chemical properties of metal complexes with dichlorobenzoic acids and N-donor ligands.

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## Results and Discussion

The addition complexes of Co(II)-2,3-dichlorobenzoate and Co(II)-2,5-dichlorobenzoate with imidazole (**1**, **2**) with the general formula  $\text{CoL}_2 \cdot 2\text{imd} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $L = \text{C}_7\text{H}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2^-$ , *imd* = imidazole) were prepared as pink crystalline solids.

### Infrared spectra

The IR spectroscopic data of the compounds under investigation are summarized in Table 1. The IR spectra of **1** and **2** shows three strong bands at 1328, 1068, and  $944\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to valence C-N vibrations of imidazole. They are shifted towards higher energy compared with the corresponding C-N vibrations of the uncoordinated ligand. The  $\nu(\text{Co-N})$  band is observed at  $696\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **1** and  $670\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **2**. These bands are observed neither in the IR spectra of free imidazole nor in Co(II)-2,3-dichlorobenzoate [25] and Co(II)-2,5-dichlorobenzoate [26]. In the IR spectrum of the free acid there is a single strong absorption band at  $1688\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **1** and at  $1704\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **2** (COOH group). In the IR spectrum of the title compounds, this absorption band disappears, and a split band of asymmetrical ( $\text{COO}^-$ ) vibrations ( $\nu_{\text{as}}$ ) at  $1544\text{ cm}^{-1}$  as well as band of symmetrical vibrations ( $\nu_{\text{s}}$ ) at  $1392\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **1** and  $1548\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1408\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **2**, respectively appear. The broad absorption band of  $\nu(\text{OH})$  at  $3420\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a narrow band of  $\delta(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  at  $1580\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **1** and  $3440\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1568\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **2** confirm the presence of crystal water. The split band of  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{COO}^-)$  and  $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{COO}^-)$  as well as the separation ( $\Delta\nu$ ) of  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{COO}^-)$  and  $\nu_{\text{s}}(\text{COO}^-)$  of  $152\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **1** and  $140\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for **2** suggest that the carboxylate groups act as monodentate ligands [17–19]. This was confirmed by X-ray analysis. The C-C

**Table 1.** Frequencies for characteristic absorption bands in the IR spectra of **1** and **2** and their precursors ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

2,3-CoL <sub>2</sub> ·3H <sub>2</sub> O	2,5-CoL <sub>2</sub> ·5H <sub>2</sub> O	Imidazole	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	Assignment
3424	3400		3420	3440	$\nu$ (OH)
		3200–2624	3240	3256	$\nu$ (N–H)
		1668			$\nu$ (C=N)
1568	1584		1588	1568	$\delta$ (H <sub>2</sub> O)
1536	1552		1544	1548	$\nu_{\text{as}}$ (OCO <sup>-</sup> )
					$\nu$ (C–C)
1404	1412		1392	1408	$\nu_{\text{s}}$ (OCO <sup>-</sup> )
		1326	1328	1328	$\nu$ (C–N)
1264	1280	1272			$\nu$ (C–C)
1152	1096		1158	1156	$\beta$ (C–H)
		1056	1068	1068	$\nu$ (C–N)
1048	1048	1048	1048	1048	$\nu$ (C–C)
		936, 840	944, 840	944, 840	$\nu$ (C–N)
		756	772	760	$\nu$ (C–H)
768	816		736	816	$\nu$ (C–Cl)
			696	670	$\nu$ (Co–N)
584	608, 540	660	656	656	$\nu$ (C–H)

and C-H vibrational bands of the Co(II) complexes change their frequencies only insignificantly compared to the corresponding bands of imidazole and the free acids, thus indicating that the Co(II) ion in the complexes does not deform the rings of phenyl and imidazole to a noticeable extent, an assumption which was confirmed by the crystal structure determination.

### Crystal structure

The structures of title compounds and the numbering of atoms are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Table 2 contains selected bonds lengths and bonds angles. The final atomic parameters are listed in Table 3. The carboxyl groups are bonded as a monodentate ligands with metal-oxygen bond lengths of 2.113(1) Å for **1** and 2.104(1) Å for **2** which is longer than the corresponding distances in Co(II) complexes with 3,4-dichlorobenzoic acid (2.050(2) and 2.066(2) Å, [20]) and 3,5-dichlorobenzoic acid (2.044(3) and 2.044(3) Å, [21]). The central ion is connected to two imidazole molecules and to two water molecules; its coordination number is therefore 6 which is typical for compounds of Co(II).

In the complexes described, the Co(II) ions occupy the inversion centre. Four oxygen atoms (two from the carboxylate groups and two from the water molecules) and two nitrogen atoms form a distorted octahedron. The bond length from the metal to the oxygen of water are 2.151(2) Å for **1** and 2.167(1) Å for **2**; the Co-N bond lengths amount to 2.096(2) Å for **1** and 2.092(2) Å for **2**. Deformation of the coordination sphere is significant both with regard to the Co-ligand distance and the angles. The angles in the coordination octahedrons of the complexes are in the range of 92.12(7)–87.88(7)° for **1** and of 92.59(6)–87.41(6)° for **2**.

**1** and **2** are stabilized by hydrogen bonds of the O-H...O and the N-H...O types (Table 4). There are three hydrogen bonds. For **1** two of them (O(3)-H(2)...O(2): 2.805(2) Å, 149(2)°; N(2)-H(7)...O(2): 2.876(3) Å, 174(3)°) are intermolecular, the third (O(3)-H(1)...O(2): 2.717(2) Å, 167.(3)°) is intramolecular. The same holds for complex **2** (O(3)-H(2)...O(2): 2.867(2) Å 152(3)° and

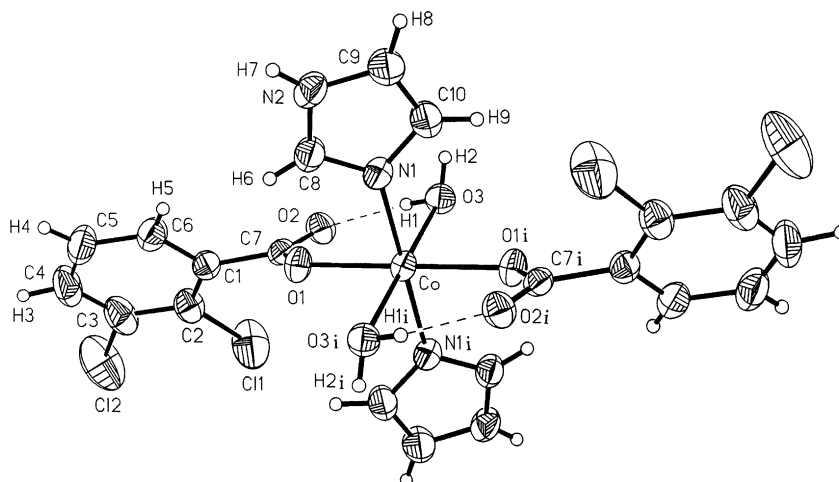
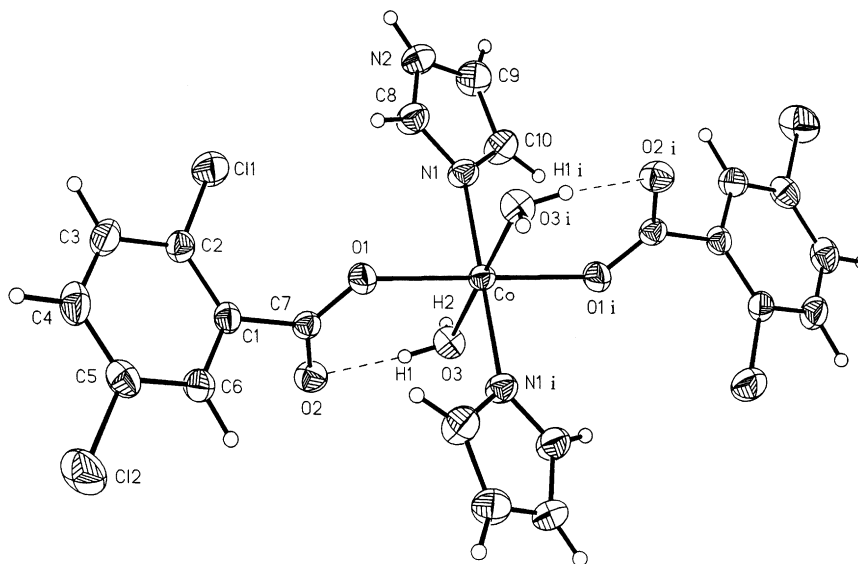


Fig. 1. Molecular structure of  $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_7\text{H}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{imd} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  (**1**)



**Fig. 2.** Molecular structure of  $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_7\text{H}_3\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{imd} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  (**2**)

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

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Co–O (1)	2.113(1)	2.103(1)
Co–O (3)	2.151(2)	2.167(2)
Co–N (1)	2.096(2)	2.092(2)
O(1)–C(7)	1.249(2)	1.249(2)
O(2)–C(7)	1.260(3)	1.258(2)
C(1)–C(7)	1.512(3)	1.514(2)
Cl(1)–C(2)	1.728(3)	1.735(2)
Cl(2)–C(3)	1.732(3)	1.737(2)
N(1)–Co–O(1)	91.05(7)	91.18(6)
N(1)–Co–O(1) <sup>i</sup>	88.95(7)	88.82(6)
N(1)–Co–O(3)	92.12(7)	92.59(6)
O(3)–Co–N(1) <sup>i</sup>	87.88(7)	87.41(6)
O(1)–Co–O (3)	90.71(7)	90.76(6)
O(3)–Co–O(1) <sup>i</sup>	89.29(7)	89.24(6)
O(1)–C(7)–O(2)	125.8(2)	125.9(2)
C(6)–C(1)–C(7)	118.4(2)	122.8(2)
C(2)–C(1)–C(7)	122.5(2)	118.7(2)
O(1)–C(7)–C(1)	115.8(2)	116.0(2)

Symmetry code: *i* ( $-x, -y, -z$ )

N(2)–H(7)···O(2): 2.894(2) Å, 166(3)° intermolecular, O(3)–H(1)···O(2): 2.752(2) Å, 160(3)° intramolecular). Different length of hydrogen bonds and different bonding strengths can cause deformations of the octahedral surrounding of central ions [22].

**Table 3.** Atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic displacement parameters for **1** and **2**;  $U(\text{eq})$  is defined as one third of the trace of the orthogonalized  $U_{ij}$  tensor

	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	$U(\text{eq})$
<b>1</b>				
Co	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.03021(14)
Cl (1)	-0.35685(5)	0.03113(7)	0.27058(17)	0.0831(3)
Cl(2)	-0.52694(6)	-0.12361(10)	0.30539(18)	0.1066(4)
O(1)	-0.11244(11)	-0.08676(12)	0.0992(2)	0.0383(4)
O(2)	-0.13448(11)	-0.00272(12)	0.3666(2)	0.0400(4)
O(3)	0.03809(14)	0.06919(13)	0.2778(2)	0.0393(4)
N(1)	0.09893(13)	-0.12259(14)	0.0667(3)	0.0373(4)
N(2)	0.15636(16)	-0.28055(17)	0.1098(3)	0.0483(5)
C(1)	-0.24344(15)	-0.1399(2)	0.2528(3)	0.0349(5)
C(2)	-0.33533(16)	-0.1012(2)	0.2706(3)	0.0453(6)
C(3)	-0.41191(18)	-0.1706(3)	0.2824(4)	0.0572(7)
C(4)	-0.3970(2)	-0.2759(3)	0.2786(4)	0.0630(8)
C(5)	-0.3062(2)	-0.3137(2)	0.2614(4)	0.0592(7)
C(6)	-0.22984(19)	-0.2463(2)	0.2474(4)	0.0450(6)
C(7)	-0.15718(14)	-0.0698(2)	0.2377(3)	0.0316(4)
C(8)	0.07733(18)	-0.2219(2)	0.0709(4)	0.0428(5)
C(9)	0.2341920	-0.2161(2)	0.1320(5)	0.0605(8)
C(10)	0.19876(18)	-0.1197(2)	0.1054(4)	0.0534(7)
<b>2</b>				
Co	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.02122(12)
Cl(1)	-0.04467(4)	0.32430(9)	0.29933(94)	0.04254(16)
Cl(2)	-0.53252(4)	0.30957(10)	0.07896(5)	0.05061(18)
O(1)	-0.09192(11)	0.1239(2)	0.08224(10)	0.0299(3)
O(2)	-0.14948(11)	0.3984(2)	-0.00074(10)	0.0308(3)
O(3)	0.01335(12)	0.2755(2)	-0.06782(11)	0.0313(3)
N(1)	0.13967(12)	0.0440(2)	0.12293(12)	0.0280(3)
N(2)	0.24660(14)	0.0704(3)	0.28037(13)	0.0366(4)
C(1)	-0.21897(14)	0.2996(2)	0.13006(13)	0.0243(3)
C(2)	-0.18061(15)	0.3133(2)	0.23621(14)	0.0275(4)
C(3)	-0.24879(19)	0.3252(3)	0.29373(15)	0.0350(4)
C(4)	-0.35730(19)	0.3223(3)	0.24521(17)	0.0372(4)
C(5)	-0.39587(15)	0.3106(3)	0.13994(16)	0.0326(4)
C(6)	-0.32851(15)	0.3013(3)	0.08151(15)	0.0297(4)
C(7)	-0.14698(13)	0.2731(2)	0.06564(13)	0.0235(3)
C(8)	0.14596(16)	0.0503(3)	0.21990(15)	0.0335(4)
C(9)	0.30930(16)	0.0792(4)	0.21940(18)	0.0401(5)
C(10)	0.24271(16)	0.0624(3)	0.12198(16)	0.0363(4)

In the structure of these complexes, the cobalt(II) cations are not located in the carboxylate group planes or in the planes of the phenyl or imidazole rings. The distance of the metal ion from the carboxylate group plane is 0.236(3) and 0.299(3) Å, respectively. The angles between the planes of the carboxylate groups and phenyl rings are 53.7 (1) and 62.2(1)° for **1** and **2**. The chlorine atoms in positions

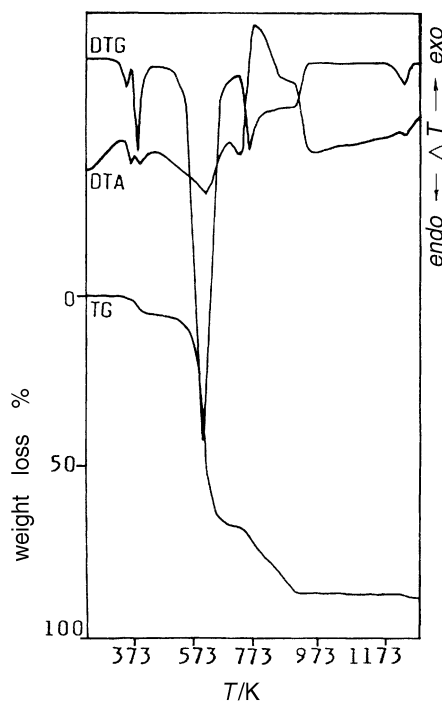
**Table 4.** Hydrogen bonds for compounds **1** and **2** (Å and °)

$D-H \cdots A$ ,		$d(D-H)$ ,	$d(H \cdots A)$ ,	$d(D \cdots A)$ ,	$D-H \cdots A$
<b>1</b>					
O(3)–H(1) $\cdots$ O(2)		0.82(3)	1.91(3)	2.717(2)	167(3)
O(3)–H(2) $\cdots$ O(2)	( $-x, -y, -z+1$ )	0.80(3)	2.09(3)	2.805(2)	149(2)
N(2)–H(7) $\cdots$ O(2)	( $-x, y-1/2, -z+1/2$ )	0.78(3)	2.10(3)	2.876(3)	174(3)
<b>2</b>					
O(3)–H(1) $\cdots$ O(2)		0.85(3)	1.94(3)	2.752(2)	160(3)
O(3)–H(2) $\cdots$ O(2)	( $-x, -y+1, -z$ )	0.82(4)	2.12(4)	2.867(2)	152(3)
N(2)–H(7) $\cdots$ O(2)	( $x+1/2, -y+1/2, z+1/2$ )	0.86(4)	2.05(4)	2.894(2)	166(3)

2 and 3 for **1** and in positions 2 and 5 for **2** cause a significant twist of the carboxylate group from the phenyl ring plane and contribute to the distortion of the Co(II) octahedron [21].

#### Thermochemical properties

**1** and **2** are stable in air at room temperature. With a heating rate of 10 K/min, the dihydrated complexes are stable up to 333 K and then lose two crystal water molecules, forming the anhydrous complexes which are stable up to 513 K (**1**) and 493 K (**2**), respectively. Next they decompose to CoO at 1223 K with intermediate formation of  $Co_3O_4$  (Fig. 3, Table 5).



**Fig. 3.** TG, DTG, and DTA curves of  $[Co(C_7H_3Cl_2O_2)_2 \cdot 2imd \cdot 2H_2O]$  (**1**)

**Table 5.** Thermal decomposition of **1** and **2**

	Range of dehydration (K)	$T_1^a$ (K)	Loss of weight (%)		Temp. of decomp. (K)	Temp. of oxide formation (K)	Residue (%)	
			Calcd.	Found			Calcd.	Found
<b>1</b>	333–433	393	5.88	6.0	513	1186 <sup>b</sup> 1223 <sup>c</sup>	13.11 12.24	13.2 12.2
<b>2</b>	333–393	373	5.88	5.8	493	993 <sup>b</sup> 1223 <sup>c</sup>	13.11 12.24	13.0 12.5

<sup>a</sup>Temperature of endothermic peak on DTA; <sup>b</sup>Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; <sup>c</sup>CoO

## Experimental

2,3- and 2,5-dichlorobenzoates of Co(II) were obtained by the modified method given in Refs. [25, 26]. 0.01 mol of basic Co(II) carbonate (CoCO<sub>3</sub> · Co(OH)<sub>2</sub> · xH<sub>2</sub>O) was added to a hot solution of 2,3-dichlorobenzoic acid (0.02 mol in 0.2 dm<sup>3</sup> of water), and the suspension was heated while stirring for about 4 h. The same procedure was applied for 2,5-dichlorobenzoate of Co(II). After filtering the saturated solutions, the Co(II) complexes were subjected to slow crystallization. The precipitates formed were filtered, washed with water, and dried at 303 K to constant mass.

The title complexes were obtained by dissolving the above Co(II) complexes (0.01 mol in 0.2 dm<sup>3</sup> of a 0.1 M solution of imidazole in water (cobalt:imidazole ratio = 1:2). The solutions were subjected to slow crystallization, and pink crystals suitable for X-ray data collection were deposited after three weeks. The products were filtered off, washed with water, and dried at 303 K to constant mass.

The carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen content in the complexes was determined by elemental analysis using a Perkin Elmer CAN 2000 analyzer. The chlorine content was measured by the Schöniger method. The Co(II) content was determined by AAS using an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer AAS-3 (Carl Zeiss-Jena). The crystal water content was determined from TG curves and by heating the complex isothermally to 433 K. The experimental results are concordant with the calculated data.

IR spectra were recorded over the range of 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup> using a FT-IR 1725X Perkin Elmer spectrophotometer. The thermal stability of the Co(II) complex was determined using a Paulik-Paulik-Erdey Q 1500D derivatograph with a *Derill* converter; TG, DTG and DTA curves were recorded. Measurements were made at a sensitivity of 100 mg (TG). Samples (100 mg) were heated in platinum crucibles to 1273 K in static air at a heating rate of 10 K/min<sup>-1</sup>. The solubility of the complexes in water was determined at 295 K. Saturated solution was prepared under isothermal conditions.

X-Ray measurements were made on a Kuma KM4  $\lambda$ -axis for four-circle diffractometer with a graphite monochromator and MoK $\alpha$  radiation(1) and a Kuma KM4CCD  $\lambda$ -axis diffractometer with graphite-monochromator and MoK $\alpha$  radiation(2). The crystal was positioned at 65 mm from the KM4CCD camera. 612 frames were measured at 0.75° intervals with a counting time of 30 sec. The data were corrected for *Lorentz* and polarization effects. No absorption correction was applied. Data reduction and analysis were carried out with the Kuma Diffraction (Wrocław) programs.

The crystallographic data and the refinement procedure details are given in Table 6. The structure were solved by direct methods with SHELXS97 [25] and refined by the full-matrix least-square method on all  $F^2$  data using the SHELXL97 [26] program. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters; hydrogen atoms were included from the difference *Fourier* maps and refined with isotropic thermal parameters resulting in  $R_1 = 0.0320$  for **1** and  $R_1 = 0.0336$  for **2**. Fractional atomic coordinates and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters are presented in Table 3

**Table 6.** Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds **1** and **2**

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>6</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Co	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>6</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Co
Temperature (K)	293(2)	293(2)
Molecular weight	611.11	611.11
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n
<i>a</i> (Å)	13.848(3)	13.293(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.841(3)	6.964(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	7.064(2)	13.800(3)
$\beta$ (°)	98.12(3)	108.92(3)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1243.5(4)	1208.6(4)
<i>Z</i>	2	2
<i>F</i> (000)	618	618
<i>D<sub>m</sub></i> flotation (Mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.63	1.68
<i>D<sub>c</sub></i> (Mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	1.632	1.679
Crystal size (mm)	0.20×0.20 ×0.25	0.20×0.20 ×0.20
Diffractometer	Kuma KM4	Kuma KM4CCD
2 $\theta$ limit (°)	50.2	57.4
Ranges <i>h</i>	−16 to 16	−17 to 17
<i>k</i>	−15 to 0	−9 to 9
<i>l</i>	−8 to 8	−18 to 18
Reflections collected	7392	7553
Reflections unique	2215	2805
<i>R</i> (int)	0.0286	0.0220
Data ( <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ))/parameters	1872/196	2689/196
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.059	1.174
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> ( <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> ))	0.0320, 0.0809	0.0336, 0.1041
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> , <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> indices (all data)	0.0407, 0.0849	0.0350, 0.1063
$\Delta \rho$ / e <sup>−</sup> Å <sup>−3</sup>	0.431 and −0.381	0.298 and −0.514

bond lengths and bond angles in Table 2. The crystallographic data have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre under the deposition number CCDC 138839.

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