

# Synthesis and X-Ray Crystal Structure of Two Novel Complexes: $[M^{\text{II}}(\text{phen})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}\cdot\text{phen}\cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ( $M^{\text{II}} = \text{Co},$ $\text{Ni}; \text{phen} = \text{phenanthroline}$ )

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**Summary.** Two novel compounds,  $[\text{Co}(\text{phen})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}\cdot\text{phen}\cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{phen})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}\cdot\text{phen}\cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**), were prepared from  $\text{KVO}_3$ –1,10-phenanthroline (*phen*)– $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , resp.  $\text{NiCl}_2$ – $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  reaction systems. The compounds **1** and **2** are isomorphous and crystallize in triclinic system, space group P-1. Their crystal structures are formed by two types of layers parallel to 001: a cationic one consisting of  $[\text{M}^{\text{II}}(\text{phen})_3]^{2+}$  ions and an anionic one containing the cyclic  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions. The solvate phenanthroline and crystal water molecules are located in the cationic and anionic layers, respectively. The IR spectra of **1** and **2** are consistent with the presence of the cyclic  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions in the complexes.

**Keywords.** Inorganic–organic hybrid materials; X-ray structure determination.

## Introduction

In recent times, the organic-inorganic hybrid vanadium oxides or complexes with polyoxovanadate anions have been extensively studied due to their structural variety and possible utilization in catalysis or material chemistry [1–5].

The structure of polyoxovanadates, with charge of the anion balanced by cationic complexes of other transition metals, is influenced by several factors, *e.g.* coordination preferences of the transition metal present (Cu, Co, Ni, or Mn), geometric constrains of the polydentate organic ligand usually providing a donor set of nitrogen atoms, and the substructure of the polyoxovanadate anion.

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The secondary metal-ligand moiety, or its fragment, may form a variety of sub-structural motifs: isolated structural units as found in  $[\text{Zn}(\text{bipy})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12} \cdot 11\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [2] (*bipy* = bipyridine), polynuclear bimetallic clusters involving covalent bonds with the V–O skeleton of the anion, *e.g.* in  $[[\text{Cu}(\text{phen})_2]_4\text{V}_{10}\text{O}_{29}] \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [6], bridges in chain structures as observed in  $[[\text{Co}(\text{phen})_2]_2\text{V}_6\text{O}_{17}]_n$  [6], layers as in  $[\text{Co}(\text{Hdpa})_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}]$  [5] (*hdpa* = dipyritydylamine), or three-dimensional networks as in  $[\text{Ni}(\text{C}_8\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4)(\text{VO}_3)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}]$  [7]. In the structures of such compounds, the polyoxovanadate anion may form isolated structural units [2], bridges between two coordination centers [2, 8], chains [4], or layers [9].

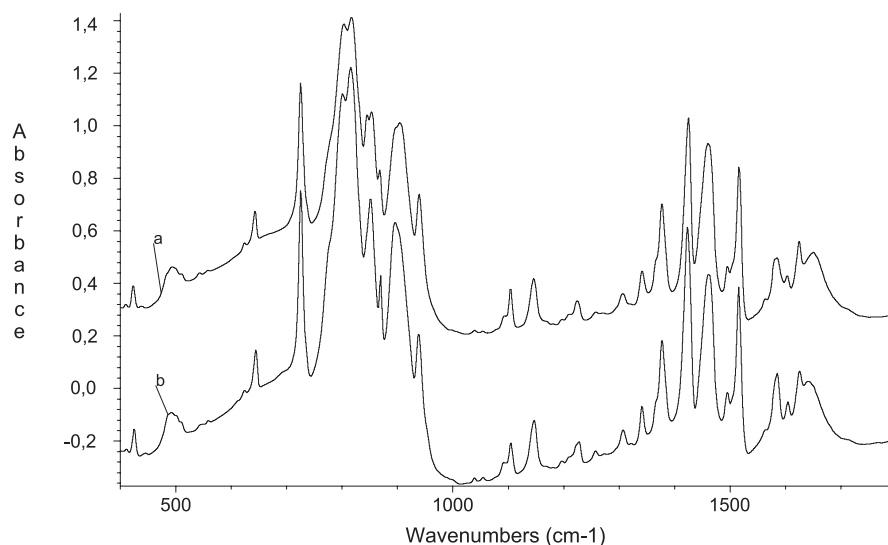
The majority of substances mentioned above were prepared under hydrothermal [2–6], but some of them also under laboratory conditions [7].

As one of the goals in our research on organic–inorganic hybrid compounds, we have synthesized in our laboratory vanadium(V) compounds with structures containing, besides the polyoxovanadate anion and another central atom of a transition metal, also an organic molecule bound both as coordinated ligand and uncoordinated solvate molecule. We report here the synthesis, spectral properties, and crystal structure of two new compounds with 1,10-phenanthroline:  $[\text{Co}(\text{phen})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12} \cdot \text{phen} \cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{phen})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12} \cdot \text{phen} \cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**).

## Results and Discussion

The compounds **1** and **2** were prepared from aqueous  $\text{KVO}_3$ –1,10-phenanthroline– $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , resp.  $\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  reaction solutions, the molar ratio of reactants was 4:4:1. The molar ratio and the sequence of adding the reactants into the reaction solution were the main factors influencing the syntheses of **1** and **2**. At a lower phenanthroline content in the reaction solution, neither **1** and **2**, nor their corresponding compounds without a phenanthroline as solvate molecule were formed. From a reaction solution with the same molar ratio of reactants but performed under hydrothermal conditions, a mixture of at least two components was formed in each experiment. The number of components in the mixture increased with prolonged reaction time. It is noteworthy to mention that under hydrothermal conditions only **1** could be prepared.

In the region of symmetric and asymmetric V–O stretching vibrations, the IR spectra of the individual types of polyoxovanadates are characteristic due to the relatively rigid structure of the polyoxovanadate ions. IR Spectroscopy can thus be used as a method of identification of the type of polyvanadate ion which is present in the structure of the studied compound. The IR spectra (Fig. 1) confirm that **1** and **2** have similar structures containing the cyclic  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions. We assign the bands at 940 and 905  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (for **1**) and at 940 and 899  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (for **2**) to the symmetric and asymmetric valence vibrations in  $\text{V}(\text{O}_t)_2$  groups with terminal  $\text{O}_t$  oxygens, and the bands at 819, 804, and 642  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (for **1**) and at 816, 801, and 645  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (for **2**) to the asymmetric and symmetric valence vibrations of the bridging  $\text{V}-\text{O}_b-\text{V}$  groups. The positions of the absorption bands in the region of stretching vibrations of the V–O bonds (500–1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) allow, with great certainty, to decide whether the structure of a compound studied is built up of cyclic  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions or not. However, the assignment of these absorption bands made by individual authors differ. For example in the IR spectrum of  $[(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CNH}_3]_4[\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}]$ ,



**Fig. 1.** IR spectra of **1** (a) and **2** (b)

Roman *et al.* [10] have assigned the bands at 935 (m, sh) and 890 (vs, br)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to  $\bar{\nu}_s[V(O_t)_2]$ , and the bands at 810 (vs, vbr) and 735 (w, sh)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to  $\bar{\nu}_{as}[V(O_t)_2]$ . To  $\bar{\nu}_{as} + \bar{\nu}_s(V-O_b-V)$ , they have assigned the bands at 660 (m), 500 (m), and 455 (s)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . It means that despite the known crystal structure, the exact assignment of IR bands for such a complicated system as the  $V_4O_{12}^{4-}$  ion is not possible so far.

### Crystal Structures

The crystal structure determination showed that **1** and **2** are isomorphous. Their structures are formed by two types of alternating layers: cationic, built up of  $[M^{II}(phen)_3]^{2+}$  cations and phenanthroline solvate molecules occupying the interstices in this layer, and an anionic one, built up of  $V_4O_{12}^{4-}$  anions and water molecules located between the anions (Fig. 2). The cationic layer is stabilized by  $\pi-\pi$  interactions between phenanthroline molecules, both coordinated to the central atom and uncoordinated solvate molecules. Such structure stabilization has been found in several compounds containing phenanthroline or other suitable organic molecules [11–13]. The anionic layer is stabilized by a network of hydrogen bonds between water molecules and the vanadate ions. The direct  $H-O \cdots H$  hydrogen bonds have not been found as the hydrogen atoms of water molecules have not been determined, however, thirty oxygen–oxygen distances below 3.03 Å found in each structure confirm the existence of hydrogen bonds. These  $d(O-O)$  values are in the intervals: 2.9934–2.6069 Å for **1** and 3.0235–2.6226 Å for **2**. The  $M^{II}$  cations do not form  $M^{II}-O-V$  covalent bonds with oxygens of the tetravanadate ions, *i.e.* the layers are held together by electrostatic forces.

Cobalt and nickel atoms are six-coordinated in the  $[M^{II}(phen)_3]^{2+}$  chelates, with a distorted octahedral arrangement of nitrogen atoms in the  $CoN_6$  and  $NiN_6$  polyhedra. In the independent positions there are two types of differently distorted octahedra (Fig. 3, Tables 1 and 2). As results from the average bond distances:

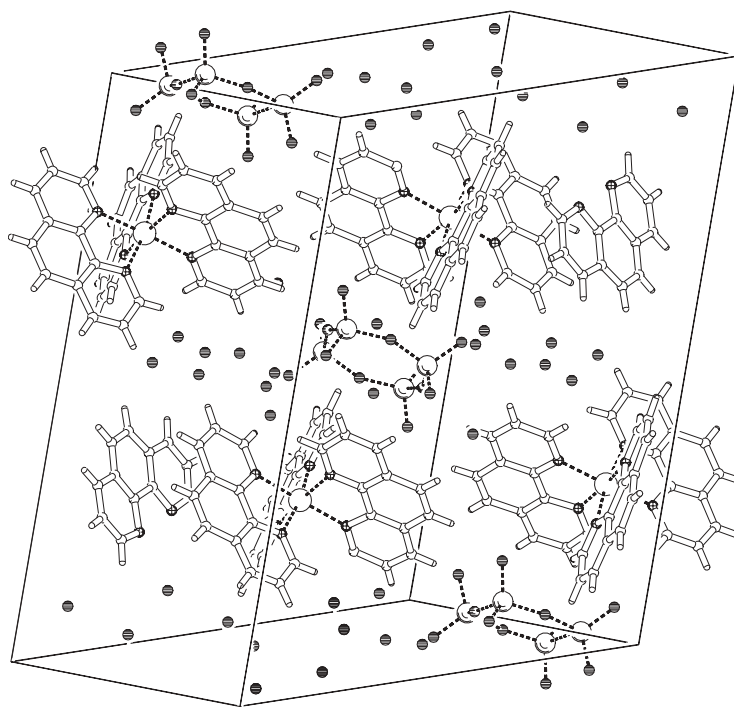


Fig. 2. Cell packing of 2

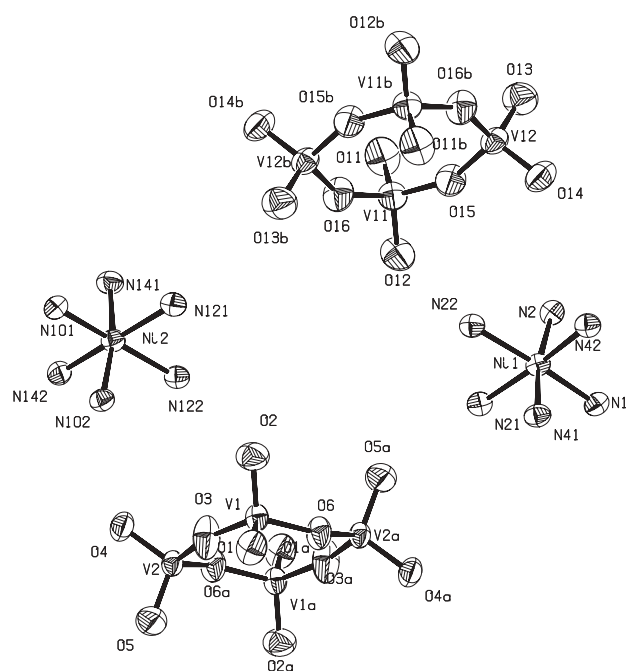


Fig. 3. Fragment of the structure of 2 with atomic labeling scheme (thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability)

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

in $[\text{Co}(\text{phen})_3]^{2+}$ :			
Co(1)–N(2)	2.110(4)	Co(2)–N(112)	2.120(4)
Co(1)–N(41)	2.121(4)	Co(2)–N(101)	2.126(4)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.132(4)	Co(2)–N(102)	2.135(4)
Co(1)–N(21)	2.133(4)	Co(2)–N(142)	2.135(4)
Co(1)–N(22)	2.137(4)	Co(2)–N(142)	2.142(4)
Co(1)–N(42)	2.144(4)	Co(2)–N(141)	2.142(4)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(41)	169.02(15)	N(122)–Co(2)–N(101)	166.65(15)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	78.89(15)	N(122)–Co(2)–N(102)	92.35(14)
N(41)–Co(1)–N(1)	95.19(16)	N(101)–Co(2)–N(102)	78.42(15)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(21)	94.51(14)	N(122)–Co(2)–N(121)	78.02(14)
N(41)–Co(1)–N(21)	94.96(15)	N(101)–Co(2)–N(121)	93.37(14)
N(1)–Co(1)–N(21)	92.35(15)	N(102)–Co(2)–N(121)	96.84(14)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(22)	95.31(15)	N(122)–Co(2)–N(142)	95.75(15)
N(41)–Co(1)–N(22)	92.08(15)	N(101)–Co(2)–N(142)	94.23(15)
N(1)–Co(1)–N(22)	168.37(15)	N(102)–Co(2)–N(142)	92.12(15)
N(21)–Co(1)–N(22)	77.96(14)	N(121)–Co(2)–N(142)	169.25(15)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(42)	93.45(15)	N(122)–Co(2)–N(141)	94.96(15)
N(41)–Co(1)–N(42)	77.97(15)	N(101)–Co(2)–N(141)	95.79(15)
N(1)–Co(1)–N(42)	96.87(15)	N(102)–Co(2)–N(141)	168.14(15)
N(21)–Co(1)–N(42)	168.82(15)	N(121)–Co(2)–N(141)	93.81(15)
N(22)–Co(1)–N(42)	93.51(15)	N(142)–Co(2)–N(141)	77.88(15)
in $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$ :			
V(1)–O(2)	1.613(4)	V(11)–O(12)	1.605(4)
V(1)–O(1)	1.642(4)	V(11)–O(11)	1.647(5)
V(1)–O(3)#1	1.773(4)	V(11)–O(15)	1.780(4)
V(1)–O(6)	1.789(3)	V(11)–O(16)	1.793(4)
O(3)–V(2)	1.760(4)	V(12)–O(14)	1.635(4)
O(3)–V(1)#1	1.773(4)	V(12)–O(13)	1.638(4)
V(2)–O(5)	1.623(4)	V(12)–O(16)	1.768(4)
V(2)–O(4)	1.646(3)	V(12)–O(15)#2	1.773(4)
V(2)–O(6)	1.783(3)	O(15)–V(12)#2	1.773(4)
O(2)–V(1)–O(1)	107.8(2)	O(12)–V(11)–O(11)	109.3(2)
O(2)–V(1)–O(3)#1	109.5(2)	O(12)–V(11)–O(15)	108.4(2)
O(1)–V(1)–O(3)#1	110.1(2)	O(11)–V(11)–O(15)	111.4(2)
O(2)–V(1)–O(6)	110.46(19)	O(12)–V(11)–O(16)	108.0(2)
O(1)–V(1)–O(6)	107.69(19)	O(11)–V(11)–O(16)	109.2(2)
O(3)#1–V(1)–O(6)	111.22(17)	O(15)–V(11)–O(16)	110.45(18)
V(2)–O(3)–V(1)#1	162.5(2)	O(14)–V(12)–O(13)	109.6(2)
O(5)–V(2)–O(4)	107.86(19)	O(14)–V(12)–O(16)	109.7(2)
O(5)–V(2)–O(3)	111.3(2)	O(13)–V(12)–O(16)	109.6(2)
O(4)–V(2)–O(3)	108.9(2)	O(14)–V(12)–O(15)#2	109.8(2)
O(5)–V(2)–O(6)	109.9(2)	O(13)–V(12)–O(15)#2	108.1(2)
O(4)–V(2)–O(6)	109.26(19)	O(16)–V(12)–O(15)#2	110.03(18)
O(3)–V(2)–O(6)	109.66(18)	V(12)#2–O(15)–V(11)	156.2(3)
V(2)–O(6)–V(1)	148.3(2)	V(12)–O(16)–V(11)	148.2(2)

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

in $[\text{Ni}(\text{phen})_3]^{2+}$ :			
Ni(1)–N(2)	2.080(4)	Ni(2)–N(122)	2.080(4)
Ni(1)–N(41)	2.084(4)	Ni(2)–N(101)	2.084(4)
Ni(1)–N(1)	2.092(4)	Ni(2)–N(102)	2.092(4)
Ni(1)–N(21)	2.095(4)	Ni(2)–N(121)	2.096(4)
Ni(1)–N(42)	2.105(4)	Ni(2)–N(141)	2.100(4)
Ni(1)–N(22)	2.105(4)	Ni(2)–N(142)	2.101(4)
N(2)–Ni(1)–N(41)	170.15(16)	N(122)–Ni(2)–N(101)	168.79(15)
N(2)–Ni(1)–N(1)	79.80(16)	N(122)–Ni(2)–N(102)	92.40(15)
N(41)–Ni(1)–N(1)	94.74(16)	N(101)–Ni(2)–N(102)	79.81(16)
N(2)–Ni(1)–N(21)	93.85(15)	N(122)–Ni(2)–N(121)	79.39(15)
N(41)–Ni(1)–N(21)	94.57(15)	N(101)–Ni(2)–N(121)	93.26(16)
N(1)–Ni(1)–N(21)	92.38(16)	N(102)–Ni(2)–N(121)	95.62(15)
N(2)–Ni(1)–N(42)	92.67(15)	N(122)–Ni(2)–N(141)	94.12(15)
N(41)–Ni(1)–N(42)	79.66(15)	N(101)–Ni(2)–N(141)	94.79(16)
N(1)–Ni(1)–N(42)	95.87(16)	N(102)–Ni(2)–N(141)	169.55(16)
N(21)–Ni(1)–N(42)	170.28(15)	N(121)–Ni(2)–N(141)	93.59(15)
N(2)–Ni(1)–N(22)	94.70(15)	N(122)–Ni(2)–N(142)	94.94(16)
N(41)–Ni(1)–N(22)	91.86(15)	N(101)–Ni(2)–N(142)	93.37(16)
N(1)–Ni(1)–N(22)	169.89(15)	N(102)–Ni(2)–N(142)	91.88(15)
N(21)–Ni(1)–N(22)	79.44(15)	N(121)–Ni(2)–N(142)	170.76(15)
N(42)–Ni(1)–N(22)	92.85(16)	N(141)–Ni(2)–N(142)	79.44(15)
in $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$ :			
V(1)–O(2)	1.612(4)	V(11)–O(12)	1.606(4)
V(1)–O(1)	1.646(4)	V(11)–O(11)	1.648(4)
V(1)–O(3)#1	1.776(4)	V(11)–O(15)	1.783(4)
V(1)–O(6)	1.788(3)	V(11)–O(16)	1.789(4)
O(3)–V(2)	1.759(4)	V(12)–O(14)	1.636(4)
O(3)–V(1)#1	1.776(4)	V(12)–O(13)	1.643(4)
V(2)–O(5)	1.619(4)	V(12)–O(16)	1.772(4)
V(2)–O(4)	1.649(4)	V(12)–O(15)#2	1.774(4)
V(2)–O(6)	1.786(3)	O(15)–V(12)#2	1.774(4)
O(2)–V(1)–O(1)	107.8(2)	O(12)–V(11)–O(11)	109.1(2)
O(2)–V(1)–O(3)#1	109.8(2)	O(12)–V(11)–O(15)	108.4(2)
O(1)–V(1)–O(3)#1	110.0(2)	O(11)–V(11)–O(15)	111.2(2)
O(2)–V(1)–O(6)	110.31(19)	O(12)–V(11)–O(16)	107.8(2)
O(1)–V(1)–O(6)	107.8(2)	O(11)–V(11)–O(16)	109.8(2)
O(3)#1–V(1)–O(6)	111.11(18)	O(15)–V(11)–O(16)	110.41(18)
V(2)–O(3)–V(1)#1	162.7(3)	O(14)–V(12)–O(13)	108.9(2)
O(5)–V(2)–O(4)	107.9(2)	O(14)–V(12)–O(16)	110.0(2)
O(5)–V(2)–O(3)	110.7(2)	O(13)–V(12)–O(16)	109.7(2)
O(4)–V(2)–O(3)	109.3(2)	O(14)–V(12)–O(15)#2	109.8(2)
O(5)–V(2)–O(6)	109.9(2)	O(13)–V(12)–O(15)#2	108.5(2)
O(4)–V(2)–O(6)	108.97(18)	O(16)–V(12)–O(15)#2	109.88(19)
V(12)–O(16)–V(11)	147.6(3)	V(12)#2–O(15)–V(11)	156.8(3)
V(2)–O(6)–V(1)	147.7(2)	O(3)–V(2)–O(6)	110.01(18)

$d(\text{Co}_1\text{-N}) = 2.129 \text{ \AA}$  (2.110–2.144  $\text{\AA}$ , interval),  $d(\text{Co}_2\text{-N}) = 2.133 \text{ \AA}$  (2.120–2.144  $\text{\AA}$ , interval),  $d(\text{Ni}_1\text{-N}) = 2.094 \text{ \AA}$  (2.079–2.106  $\text{\AA}$ , interval), and  $d(\text{Ni}_2\text{-N}) = 2.092 \text{ \AA}$  (2.080–2.100  $\text{\AA}$ , interval), the differences in  $M^{II}\text{-N}$  distances for the individual cobalt and nickel octahedra are small. The shorter Ni–N bond lengths, when compared to Co–N distances, are caused by the difference in ionic radii for  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ions.

The structure of the tetravanadate ions in the crystal structures of **1** and **2** is approximately the same as found in  $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]_3\text{HV}_4\text{O}_{12}$  [14] and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{N}_2)_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12} \cdot 11\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [15]: four  $\text{VO}_4$  tetrahedra are linked to eight-membered rings by sharing oxygen atoms (Figs. 2 and 3). There are two types of differently distorted cyclic  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions in the independent parts of the unit cells of **1** and **2**. The terminal  $\text{V-O}_t$  bond lengths range from 1.605 to 1.647  $\text{\AA}$  (1.631  $\text{\AA}$ , average) in **1** and from 1.606 to 1.649  $\text{\AA}$  (1.632  $\text{\AA}$ , average) in **2**. The  $\text{V-O}$  distances in the  $\text{V-O}_b\text{-V}$  bridges are within the intervals: 1.761–1.789  $\text{\AA}$  (1.775  $\text{\AA}$ , average) for **1** and 1.759–1.789  $\text{\AA}$  (1.777  $\text{\AA}$ , average) for **2** (Tables 1 and 2). It means that the different complex cations have no essential influence on the structure of the  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions in **1** and **2**. Among the polyoxovanadates with  $[\text{M}^{II}\text{L}_x]^{n+}$  complex cations which have been structurally characterized so far ( $M^{II}$  is Ni or Co, and  $L$  is a polydentate organic ligand with nitrogen donors), we can find two compounds with a structure built up of complex cations and cyclic  $\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12}^{4-}$  anions, both as isolated structure units [15, 16]. In other structures, the polyoxovanadate anions form either chains [5, 6, 17] or layers [9, 18], whereas the complex cations, resp. their fragments, are covalently bound to the polyoxoanions *via*  $M^{II}\text{-O-V}$  bonds.

## Experimental

### Materials and Methods

$\text{KVO}_3$  was prepared according to Ref. [19], all other chemicals were supplied by Lachema or Aldrich. The vanadium content was estimated as follows: the weighted sample was annealed in Pt crucible to constant weight at 700°C, dissolved in hot water and titrated by 0.1 M  $\text{FeSO}_4$  solution in the presence of  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  and diphenylamine as indicator. The cobalt and nickel contents were calculated based on vanadium content, though the products obtained after annealing, as evidenced by their powder diffraction patterns, were  $\text{Co}(\text{VO}_3)_2$  and  $\text{Ni}(\text{VO}_3)_2$ , respectively. Carbon, nitrogen, and hydrogen were estimated on a CHN analyzer (Carlo Erba). The IR spectra in Nujol mulls were measured on a FT IR Nicolet Magna 750 spectrophotometer. The powder diffraction patterns were registered on a Philips diffractograph equipped with a PW 1050 goniometer,  $\text{CuK}_\alpha$  radiation was used.

### $[\text{Co}(\text{phen})_3]_2\text{V}_4\text{O}_{12} \cdot \text{phen} \cdot 22\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (**1**)

$\text{KVO}_3$  (0.5 g, 3.6 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.65 g, 3.6 mmol), and  $\text{Co}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.25 g, 0.9 mmol) were subsequently added to 900 ml of water heated to 100°C. Yellow needle-like crystals of **1** were formed on free cooling of the solution. The crystals were washed with distilled water and air dried. Compound **1** crystallized also from more concentrated solutions (250 ml of water), however, the crystals formed were less suitable for X-ray analysis. **1** was prepared also by hydrothermal synthesis using the same mixture of reactants but in 25 ml of water. The reaction proceeded in a teflon crucible at 140°C, the reaction time was 2, resp. 24 h. In both hydrothermal syntheses, a mixture consisting of a major portion of **1** and a minor portion of red crystals of  $[\text{Co}(\text{phen})_4(\mu^4\text{-V}_4\text{O}_{12})]$  [8] was formed. In the mixture formed within 24 h, at least one additional unidentified phase was present. Anal. calcd (%) for

$\text{Co}_2\text{C}_{84}\text{H}_{100}\text{N}_{14}\text{O}_{34}\text{V}_4$ : Co 5.43, V 9.38, C 46.46, H 4.64, N 9.03, found: Co 5.45, V 9.42, C 46.64, H 3.85, N 8.71; IR:  $\bar{\nu} = 940$  (m), 905 (s, br), 873\* (w), 856\* (m), 845\* (sh), 819 (vs), 804 (vs), 723\* (s), 642 (w), 495 (w, br), 426 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (\*phenanthroline bands).

*[Ni(phen)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>V<sub>4</sub>O<sub>12</sub> · phen · 22H<sub>2</sub>O (2)*

KVO<sub>3</sub> (0.5 g, 3.6 mmol), 1,10-phenanthroline (0.65 g, 3.6 mmol), and NiCl<sub>2</sub> · 6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.21 g, 0.9 mmol) were subsequently added to 250 ml of water heated to 100°C. In course of cooling, pink crystals of **2** were formed in the reaction solution. The crystals were washed with distilled water and air dried. Compound **2** was obtained also from more diluted reaction solutions (900 ml of water). Anal. calcd. (%) for Ni<sub>2</sub>C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>100</sub>N<sub>14</sub>O<sub>34</sub>V<sub>4</sub>: Ni 5.41, V 9.38, C 46.47, H 4.64, N 9.03, found: Ni 5.59, V 9.41, C 46.38, H 3.35, N 8.93; IR:  $\bar{\nu} = 940$  (m), 899 (s, br), 873\* (w), 856\* (w), 816 (vs), 801 (vs), 726\* (s), 645 (w), 495 (w, br), 429 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (\*phenanthroline bands).

*X-Ray Structure Determination*

Single crystals of **1** and **2** were selected under a polarization microscope (Zeiss) and fixed on glass rods using epoxy glue. The data collection was carried out on a Nonius KappaCCD diffractometer using

**Table 3.** Crystallographic data for **1** and **2**

Compound	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Formula	$\text{Co}_2\text{C}_{84}\text{H}_{100}\text{N}_{14}\text{O}_{34}\text{V}_4$	$\text{Ni}_2\text{C}_{84}\text{H}_{100}\text{N}_{14}\text{O}_{34}\text{V}_4$
Formula weight	2171.40	2170.96
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P-1	P-1
$a/\text{Å}$	12.9060(4)	12.8520(4)
$b/\text{Å}$	17.6390(6)	17.6290(7)
$c/\text{Å}$	23.3530(6)	23.3080(11)
$\alpha/^\circ$	106.4630(18)	106.619(2)
$\beta/^\circ$	91.0950(19)	90.987(2)
$\gamma/^\circ$	106.7130(17)	106.792(2)
$V/\text{Å}^3, Z$	4853.6(3), 2	4815.7(3), 2
$D_{\text{calcd}}/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	1.486	1.497
Absorption coefficient/ $\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.792	0.845
F(000)	2240	2244
$\theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	2.38 to 25.30	1.81 to 25.07
Limiting indices	$0 \leq h \leq 15$ $-21 \leq k \leq 20$ $-27 \leq l \leq 27$	$0 \leq h < 15$ $-21 \leq k \leq 20$ $-27 \leq l \leq 27$
Reflections collected/unique	17123/17123 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0000$ ]	16961/16961 [ $R(\text{int}) = 0.0000$ ]
Completeness to $\theta/[\%]$	96.7%	99.2%
Data/restraints/parameters	17123/0/1243	16961/0/1243
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.088	1.043
$R_1^a, wR_2^b [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0677$ $wR_2 = 0.1363$	$R_1 = 0.0607$ $wR_2 = 0.1354$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.1187$ $wR_2 = 0.1623$	$R_1 = 0.1154$ $wR_2 = 0.1692$
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}, \Delta\rho_{\text{min}}/\text{e Å}^{-3}$	0.571, -0.318	0.618, -0.373

<sup>a</sup>  $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ ; <sup>b</sup>  $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$



Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation at ambient temperature. No absorption correction was employed. The phase problem was solved by SIR-97 [20] and the structures were refined by full-matrix least-squares using the SHELXL-97 [21] program. All heavy atoms were found on the difference Fourier maps and were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were refined isotropically in their theoretical positions. Hydrogen atoms of the crystal water molecules could not be found and were neglected.

#### Supplementary Material

Crystallographic data for the structural analysis have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Center under the deposition numbers CCDC185904 (for **1**) and 185907 (for **2**). Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 EZ, UK (Fax: +44 1223 336033, e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or www: <http://ccdc.cam.ac.uk>).

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