

Synthesis, Structure and Characterization of a 3D Chiral Indium Carboxylate Metal-organic Framework Based on 1,1'-Biphenol Ligand (Post-print)

Authors: MENG Chun-Long, LI Zi-Jian, LIU Yan, LIU Bai-Zhan, CUI Yong

Date: 2017-11-05T00:00:00+00:00

Abstract

A novel indium-based chiral metal organic-framework $1 \{In_2L(2-O)(H_2O)_3\}_n$ was synthesized from C₂-symmetric 1,1'-biphenol-based ligand H4L and structurally characterized by single-crystal and powder X-ray diffraction, Fourier-transform infrared spectra (FTIR), solid-state circular dichroism (CD) and thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA). **1** crystallizes in monoclinic space group P2₁ with $a = 10.1861(5)$, $b = 18.5632(9)$, $c = 16.5153(8)$ Å, $V = 3077.1(3)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, $M_r = 944.29$ g/mol, $D_c = 1.019$ g/cm³, $F(000) = 944$, $GOOF = 0.932$, the final $R = 0.0577$ and $wR = 0.1091$ for 22090 observed reflections with $I > 2(I)$. Each In₂ cluster in **1** is linked by four ligands and each ligand is coordinated to four In₂ clusters to generate a 3D network. Additionally, the photoluminescence of **1** and H4L were also investigated.

Full Text

Preamble

Synthesis, Structure and Characterization of a 3D Chiral Indium Carboxylate Metal-organic Framework Based on 1,1'-Biphenol Ligand

MENG Chun-Long, LI Zi-Jian, LIU Yan, LIU Bai-Zhan, CUI Yong

1State Key Laboratory of Metal Matrix Composites; School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai 200240, China

2China Tobacco, Shanghai 200240, China

Abstract

A novel indium-based chiral metal-organic framework 1, $\{In L(-O)(H O)\}$, was synthesized from a C₂-symmetric 1,1'-biphenol-based ligand H L and structurally characterized by single-crystal and powder X-ray diffraction, Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), solid-state circular dichroism (CD), and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). Compound 1 crystallizes in the monoclinic space group P2₁ with $a = 10.1861(5)$, $b = 18.5632(9)$, $c = 16.5153(8)$ Å, $V = 3077.1(3)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, $M = 944.29$ g/mol, $D_c = 1.019$ g/cm³, $F(000) = 944$, $GOOF = 0.932$, and final $R = 0.0577$ and $wR = 0.1091$ for 22090 observed reflections with $I > 2(I)$. Each In cluster in 1 is linked by four ligands, and each ligand is coordinated to four In clusters to generate a 3D network. Additionally, the photoluminescence properties of 1 and H L were investigated.

Keywords: 1,1'-biphenol; indium; chiral metal-organic framework; photoluminescence

1. Introduction

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and porous coordination polymers (CPs) have attracted considerable attention not only for their diverse structural topologies and chemical tunability but also for their promising applications in gas storage, gas separation, catalysis, drug delivery, sensing, and recognition [?].

While significant effort has been devoted to studying the reactivity of first-row divalent transition metals (e.g., Cu²⁺, Zn²⁺), less work has focused on MOF-type compounds incorporating trivalent metals, particularly p-block elements such as aluminum, gallium, or indium [?]. As heterogeneous Lewis acid catalysts, these materials offer advantages of low toxicity and high selectivity, enabling various organic reactions to proceed smoothly under mild conditions—consistent with the principles of green chemistry and demonstrating excellent prospects. On the other hand, 1,1'-biphenol derivatives with intrinsic C₂ symmetry have long been recognized as privileged chiral ligands [?]. Herein, we report the synthesis, structure, thermal stability, and photoluminescence of a 1,1'-biphenol-based indium framework.

2. Experimental

2.1 Materials and Apparatus

All chemicals were commercially available and used without further purification. IR spectra (KBr pellet, 400–4000 cm⁻¹ region) were recorded on a Nicolet Magna 750 FT-IR spectrometer. TGA was performed under N₂ atmosphere at a heating rate of 10 °C·min⁻¹ using a STA449C integration thermal analyzer. Fluorescence spectra were measured on an LS 50B Luminescence Spectrometer (Perkin Elmer, Inc., USA). CD spectra were recorded on a J-800 spectropolarimeter (Jasco, Japan).

2.2 Synthesis of 1

A mixture of InCl₃ (13.2 mg, 0.06 mmol), H₂L (19.6 mg, 0.03 mmol), DMF (0.5 mL), DMSO (1.4 mL), THF (5.6 mL), H₂O (2.8 mL), and HOAc (0.2 mL) in a capped vial was heated at 100 °C for 24 h. Colorless crystals of 1 were filtered, washed with THF and Et₂O, and dried at room temperature. Yield: 23.6 mg (72%). FTIR (KBr pellet, /cm⁻¹): 509 (w), 586 (w), 640 (w), 663 (w), 679 (w), 711 (m), 719 (m), 732 (m), 760 (m), 780 (s), 838 (w), 880 (w), 896 (w), 951 (m), 994 (w), 1025 (s), 1091 (w), 1127 (w), 1171 (m), 1213 (w), 1254 (w), 1305 (w), 1366 (s), 1435 (s), 1458 (s), 1467 (s), 1497 (w), 1507 (w), 1582 (s), 1627 (s), 1654 (w), 1663 (w), 1692 (w), 1697 (w), 1753 (w), 1769 (w), 1867 (w), 2189 (w), 2461 (w), 2786 (w), 2869 (s), 2921 (s), 2961 (s), 2992 (w), 3406 (s), 3508 (s), 3741 (w), 3883 (w).

2.3 Crystallographic Measurements and Structure Determination

Single-crystal XRD data for 1 were collected on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer with graphite-monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) at 173.15 K. The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELXS-2014 and refined with SHELXL-2014 [?] through OLEX 2.0 [?]. All non-hydrogen atoms except guest molecules were refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques with anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were geometrically fixed at calculated positions attached to their parent atoms and treated as riding atoms, while guest water molecules were refined isotropically without hydrogen atoms. For 1, the final $R = 0.0577$ and $wR = 0.1091$ ($w = 1/[\sigma^2(F^2) + (0.1117P)^2]$, where $P = (F^2 + 2F_{oc}^2)/3$), $S = 0.932$, $(\Delta/\sigma) = 0.001$, $(\Delta) = 0.981$ and $(\Delta) = -0.520 \text{ e/\AA}^3$.

2.4 Structure Determination

Selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 1 .

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (\AA) and Bond Angles ($^\circ$)

Bond Lengths	
In(1)-O(2)#1	2.094(9)
In(1)-O(1W)	2.147(11)
In(1)-O(5)	2.061(8)
In(1)-O(7)#2	2.168(9)
In(1)-O(2W)	2.170(11)
In(1)-O(8)	2.087(10)
In(2)-O(1)	2.183(9)
In(2)-O(3W)	2.396(6)
In(2)-O(3)#3	2.228(6)
In(2)-O(4)#3	2.213(7)
In(2)-O(5)	2.101(8)

Bond Lengths

In(2)-O(6)#2	2.134(8)
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Bond Angles

O(2)#1-In(1)-O(1W)	83.0(3)
O(2)#1-In(1)-O(7)#2	88.9(4)
O(2)#1-In(1)-O(2W)	91.9(4)
O(1W)-In(1)-O(7)#2	89.7(5)
O(1W)-In(1)-O(2W)	90.2(5)
O(5)-In(1)-O(2)#1	102.3(4)
O(5)-In(1)-O(1W)	174.7(4)
O(5)-In(1)-O(7)#2	90.1(4)
O(5)-In(1)-O(2W)	89.9(4)
O(5)-In(1)-O(8)	89.8(4)
O(7)#2-In(1)-O(2W)	179.2(5)
O(8)-In(1)-O(2)#1	167.9(4)
O(8)-In(1)-O(1W)	84.9(4)
O(8)-In(1)-O(7)#2	90.0(4)
O(8)-In(1)-O(2W)	89.2(5)
O(1)-In(2)-O(3W)	175.5(3)
O(1)-In(2)-O(3)#3	82.4(4)
O(1)-In(2)-O(4)#3	82.1(3)
O(3)#3-In(2)-O(3W)	95.4(3)
O(4)#3-In(2)-O(3W)	93.4(3)
O(4)#3-In(2)-O(3)#3	58.0(3)
O(5)-In(2)-O(1)	89.8(4)
O(5)-In(2)-O(3W)	94.5(3)
O(5)-In(2)-O(3)#3	102.7(3)
O(5)-In(2)-O(4)#3	159.9(3)
O(5)-In(2)-O(6)#2	102.4(3)
O(6)#2-In(2)-O(1)	86.9(4)
O(6)#2-In(2)-O(3W)	93.3(3)
O(6)#2-In(2)-O(3)#3	152.6(3)
O(6)#2-In(2)-O(4)#3	95.6(3)

Symmetry transformations: #1: $-x-3, y+1/2, -z+2$; #2: $-x-3, y+1/2, -z+1$;
#3: $-x-2, y+1/2, -z+1$; #4: $-x-3, y-1/2, -z+2$; #5: $-x-2, y-1/2, -z+1$; #6:
 $-x-3, y-1/2, -z+1$

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Synthesis and Characterization of 1

As shown in Scheme 1, MOF 1 was synthesized via hydro/solvothermal reaction between InCl_3 and the tetracarboxyl-functionalized 1,1'-biphenol ligand **HL**. The IR spectrum of 1 shows an absorption peak at 3406 cm^{-1} assignable to (-OH) stretching vibrations, while characteristic C-O stretching vibrations appear in the lower frequency region (1171 cm^{-1}). Phase purity was confirmed by the good agreement between experimental and simulated X-ray powder diffraction patterns (Fig. 1 [Figure 1: see original paper]). CD spectra of 1 prepared from R and S enantiomers of the **HL** ligand are mirror images, confirming its enantiomeric nature (Fig. 2 [Figure 2: see original paper]). Thermogravimetric analysis of 1 under N_2 atmosphere from 50 to $800\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ indicates thermal stability up to $300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ (Fig. 3 [Figure 3: see original paper]).

3.2 Structural Description

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction reveals that 1 crystallizes in the chiral monoclinic space group $P2_1$. The basic building block is a near-linear dimeric $[\text{In}(\text{O})_2(\text{O})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$ unit with a C₂ axis passing through one metal center, clustered by one monodentate and three carboxylate groups from four different 1,1'-biphenol units. As illustrated in Fig. 4(a) [Figure 4: see original paper], the asymmetric unit contains two In^{3+} ions, one **HL** ligand, three coordinated water molecules, and one -O atom. $\text{In}1$ is six-coordinated to six oxygen atoms: three from three different carboxylate groups, one from -O , and two from coordinated water molecules. $\text{In}2$ is also six-coordinated to oxygen atoms: four from three different ligands (carboxylate), one from -O , and one from coordinated water. The In-O bond lengths range from $2.061(8)$ to $2.396(6)\text{ \AA}$, which are typical for six-coordinate In(III) ions [?]. Each dinuclear In_2 cluster is linked by four 1,1'-biphenol ligands, and each ligand connects to four In_2 clusters to form a chiral 3D network (Fig. 5(a) [Figure 5: see original paper]). This 3D network can be simplified by considering the dimeric In_2 clusters as four-connecting nodes and the **HL** ligands as tetradentate linkers (Fig. 5(b) [Figure 5: see original paper]). PLATON calculations indicate that 1 contains approximately 50% void space available for guest inclusion.

3.3 Photoluminescence

Upon excitation at 346 nm , the free **HL** ligand exhibits fluorescent emission at 435 nm , while compound 1 excited at 423 nm shows a blue shift of about 12 nm (Fig. 6 [Figure 6: see original paper]). Due to the d^1 closed-shell electronic configuration, the In atom is difficult to oxidize or reduce. Therefore, the most plausible explanation for the blue shift in 1 is intraligand charge transfer rather than metal-to-ligand or ligand-to-metal charge transfer [?].

4. Conclusion

In summary, we have synthesized and characterized a 1,1'-biphenol-based chiral metal-organic framework with indium. The structure has been determined by single-crystal and powder X-ray diffraction, CD spectroscopy, and TGA. Furthermore, the photoluminescence properties of both 1 and the free ligand have been investigated.

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