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# Ag<sup>I</sup> and Zn<sup>II</sup> complexes with possible application as NLO materials – Crystal structures and properties

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#### ABSTRACT

Four novel Ag<sup>I</sup>-complexes with DL-mandelic acid (*MA*) (**1**), squaric acid ( $H_2Sq$ ) (**2**), 3-pyridin aldehyde (3*PyA*) (**3**) and 2-amino-8-hydroxyquinoline (2*A*8*H*) (**4**) as well as two Zn<sup>II</sup>-ones with 3*PyA* (**5**) and 2*A*8*H* (**6**) are synthesized, isolated, spectroscopic and structural characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction, UV-vis–NIR, and IR-spectroscopy. The experimental data of the complex (**1**) were compared with the analogous of the neutral *MA*. Quantum chemical calculations are carried out, and the electronic structures and optical properties of neutral *MA* and its anion, with a view to assign the vibrational properties of (**1**).

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#### 1. Introduction

The possible application of the Zn<sup>II</sup>- or Ag<sup>I</sup>-complexes as optical limiting (OL) materials has been demonstrated in series of studies recent years [1-3]. OL compounds are kind of nonlinear optical (NLO) materials that can limit the transmitted light intensity to a maximum value, i.e., render transparency to weak signals and opaqueness to strong signals. OL materials can protect sensitive photo detectors from undesired high-intensity radiation hazards. Therefore, they have received considerable attentions due to growing needs for optical techniques. For an ideal OL material, it could be exhibit a high, linear transmission below a certain "limiting" threshold, and above this threshold the transmission becomes highly nonlinear. Thus far, researchers have made great efforts to search for such OL materials [4–6]. Metal-organic polymers are new class of promising OL compound have attracted extensive attentions due to their OL merit and large OL capabilities [7-16]. Recent investigations have been focused on metal-organic polymers with metal ions on OL performance become unapparent, such as in Co<sup>II</sup>, Zn<sup>II</sup>, Cd<sup>II</sup>, Hg<sup>II</sup>, Ag<sup>I</sup> and Pb<sup>II</sup> [3,7,9,17–19], due to insignificant contribution of metals to delocalization of  $\pi$ -electron cloud or the relatively poor orbital overlap between metal ions and organic ligands. For the Ag<sup>l</sup>-bridged metal-organic polymers have been found ultra fast OLs-responses both toward nanosecond and picoseconds laser pulses [3]. By comparing the optical nonlinearities of these polymers and homogeneous metal-organic polymers have

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been found that Ag<sup>l</sup>-ions as connectors, making the resultant polymers exhibit a significant improvement of OL responses relative to organic ligands.

The application of the  $H_2Sq$  and *MA* themselves as well as their organic salts as NLO materials, has been demonstrated [20–26]. In metal complexes usually the  $H_2Sq$ , stabilized as its squarate dianion ( $Sq^{2-}$ ) acts as bidentate 1,4-O-containing ligand, forming polymer complexes [27–29]. For catena-tetra-aqua-( $\mu_2$ -squarato-O,O')-Zn<sup>II</sup> has been reported non-centrosymmetric space group *Cc* [27]. The studies of Ag<sup>I</sup>-complexes of  $H_2Sq$  are relatively rare. In crystal structure of catena-(*bis*(( $\mu_8$ -squarato)-di-Ag<sup>I</sup>)) [30], the  $Sq^{2-}$ -acts as tetradentate ligand. Heterocyclic chemicals as ligands are also attractive, featuring the  $\pi$ -conjugated system and the possibility for tuning of their polydentate ability.

For these reasons the further validation of the Ag<sup>I</sup>- and Zn<sup>II</sup>-metal–organic compounds have great potential for optical limiters as well as NLO materials. Herein is presented the theoretical and experimental study of six novel complexes of with *MA*,  $H_2Sq$ , *3PyA*, and *2A8H*, respectively.

#### 2. Experimental

#### 2.1. Synthesis

The (1) and (2) were obtained by mixing of AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.1691 g) with  $H_2Sq$  (0.1140 g, Sigma) or *MA* (0.1522 g, Sigma–Aldrich) acid in 20 ml solvent mixture methanol:water 1:1 under stirring for 30 min at 70 °C. Yields 90% (1) and 96% (2). *Anal.* Calc. for ([C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Ag]<sub>n</sub>): C, 37.1<sub>0</sub>; H, 2.7<sub>2</sub>. Found (1): C, 37.4<sub>0</sub>; H, 2.3<sub>8</sub>%.



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The (3) and (5) were obtained by mixing of AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.1690 g) or ZnCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1773 g) with 5 ml 3PyA (0.1071 g, Sigma) in 20 ml solvent mixture methanol:water 2:1 under stirring for 1 h at 50 °C. Yields 30% (**3**) and 44% (**5**). Anal. Calc. for [C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>3</sub>Ag]: C, 36.94; H, 4.13. Found (1): C, 36.90; H, 4.18%. Anal. Calc. for  $[C_{12}H_{10}O_5N_2ZnCl_2]$ : C, 48.18; H, 3.37. Found (2): C, 48.19; H, 3.40%. The (4) and (6) were obtained by mixing of 2A8H (0.3451 g) with AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.1690 g) or ZnCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1773 g) in 25 solvent mixture methanol:water 1:1 under stirring for 20 min at 70 °C. Yields 55% (1) and 40% (2). Anal. Calc. for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ON<sub>2</sub>Ag]: C, 40.48; H, 2.64. Found (4): C, 40.67; H, 2.70%. Anal. Calc. for [C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>Zn]: C, 36.18; H, 3.71. Found (6): C, 36.19; H, 3.77%. The resulting colorless crystals were filtered off, washed with CH<sub>3</sub>OH and dried on P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> at 298 K. The obtained low quality samples of (4) and (6) as well as the observed redox  $Ag^{I} \rightarrow Ag^{0}$  process in the first case difficult the collecting of the resonable crystallographic dataset and a high values of the corresponding  $R_1$ -factors are obtained. (4): C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OAg; crystal size,  $0.11 \times 0.06 \times 0.11$ ; crystal system, monoclinic; space group Cc; T, 199(2) K;  $\lambda$ , 0.71073 Å; a = 26.805(11), b = 5.2750(17) and c = 12.062(4) Å;  $\beta = 114.422(17)^\circ$ ; V = 1553.0(10) Å; Z = 4;  $\mu = 1.319$  mm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\rho_{calc} = 1.823$  mg m<sup>-3</sup>; goodness-of-fit on  $F^2 = 0.998$  and  $R_1$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] = 0.1049. The checkcif test (http://checkcif.iucr.org/) shows possible or pseudo new space group C2/c, however the refinement is unstable. (6): Triclinic system and  $P\bar{1}$  space group; T, 200(2) K;  $\lambda$ , 0.71073 Å; a = 7.294(3), b = 9.961(5) and c = 16.802(8) Å;  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , 83.528(13)°, 86.584(14)°, and 81.238(14)°; *V* = 1197.7(9) Å; *Z* = 2;  $\mu$  = 1.503 mm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\rho_{calc}$  = 1.557 mg m<sup>-3</sup> and  $R_1$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] = 0.1455.

#### 2.2. Materials, physical and computational methods

The X-ray diffraction intensities were measured on a Bruker Smart X2S diffractometer, using micro source Mo K $\alpha$  radiation

and employing the  $\omega$  scan mode. The structures in Fig. 1 are presented by PLATON [31]. An absorption correction based on multiple scanned reflections [32]. The crystal structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 [32,33] and were refined by fullmatrix least-squares refinement against  $F^2$  [34]. Anisotropic displacement parameters were introduced for all non-hydrogen atoms. The experimental data are summarized in Table 1.

The IR-spectra were measured on a Thermo Nicolet 6700 FTIRspectrometer (4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 2 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution, 200 scans) equipped with a Specac wire-grid polarizer. The UV–vis–NIR spectra were recorded on Evolution 300 spectrometer within the 190– 1100 nm range. Quantum chemical calculations are performed with GAUSSIAN 98 and DALTON 2.0 program packages [35,36]. The geometry of isolated dication was optimized at Møller–Plesset perturbation theory [37] and 6-31+G(2d,p) basis. The DFT method employed is B3LYP, combing Backe's three-parameter non-local exchange function with the correlation function of Lee, Yang and Parr. Details can be found in [20,21]. The obtained most stable conformer of *MA* anion (*E* = 0.0 kcal/mol) is characterized with an intramolecular OH···O hydrogen bond (2.789 Å) leading to the obtained value of 3560 cm<sup>-1</sup> ( $v_{OH}$ ) of the vibration of the OH-group, in contrast to the  $v_{OH}$  value of the COOH-fragment.

#### 3. Results and discussion

Each Ag<sup>l</sup>-ion in (1), of the binuclear Ag<sup>l</sup>-sub-structure, is coordinated by four O-atoms with Ag–O distances within 2.215–2.492 Å (Fig. 1). The Ag<sup>l</sup>–Ag<sup>l</sup> distance is 2.820 Å, respectively. The *MA* acts as tridentate ligand by COO<sup>-</sup> and OH groups. The COO<sup>-</sup> group join two Ag<sup>l</sup>-ions in a binuclear sub-unit. The OH-group plays role as bridged center, joining each of the binuclear core into infinite polymeric structure. The geometry of the Ag<sup>l</sup>O<sub>5</sub> chromophor could



Fig. 1. PLUTON diagrams of the hydrogen bonding patterns in the structures (1)-(6).

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