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Saccharinate-metal complexes with 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) or 2,2'-bipyridine (bipy) as co-ligands; the synthesis, crystal and molecular structures of five new compounds of divalent metals

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ABSTRACT

Five new saccharinate complexes of divalent metals with either phen or bipy as co-ligands have been synthesised, and fully characterised by single crystal X-ray diffraction at low temperature. The complexes $[M(phen)_2(H_2O)_2](sac)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (M = Co or Zn) are isostructural, while $[Hg(bipy)_2(sac)_2]$ is isostructural with the analogous cadmium(II) compound, which has been described previously in the literature. Cadmium(II) complex $[Cd(phen)_2(sac)(H_2O)](sac) \cdot H_2O$ has an octahedral cation with the unidentate ligands in *cis*-positions, while $[Hg(phen)_2(sac)](sac) \cdot 2.5 H_2O$ provides a rare example of a distorted thp structure for the cation, with five nitrogen donors. The structures are compared with those of related saccharinate complexes. In general, the more sterically demanding phen, when compared with bipy, forces more of the saccharinate anions to be uncoordinated, and for smaller ligands such as H₂O to be coordinated to the metal, despite the electrostatic attraction between the positively charged metal and the anion. Intramolecular hydrogen bonding involving saccharinate groups plays an important role in all the hydrated complexes.

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1. Introduction

In recent years, several saccharinate complexes of divalent metals with the bidentate nitrogen donors 2,2'-bipyridine (bipy) or 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) as co-ligands have been described, many of which have been characterised crystallographically [1– 21]. Indeed the topic of metal saccharinates and their complexes with N-donor ligands has been reviewed [22], while a crystallographic survey and theoretical study of the geometry of the saccharinato-ligand/counter-ion in metal saccharinates has been published [23]. More recently, a major review on metal complexes of saccharin has appeared [24]. Specifically, structures have been elucidated for monomeric manganese(II) [1–4], iron(II) [5–7], cobalt(II) [2], nickel(II) [8], copper(II) [9–13], zinc(II) [8,14,15], cadmium(II) [8], mercury(II) [16], lead(II) [17,18], silver(I) [19], cobalt(III) [20] and recently palladium(II) and platinum(II) [21] saccharinates with either bipy or phen as co-ligands. The com-

plexes $[M(phen)_2(sac)_2] \cdot 3H_2O$ (M = Co, Ni or Zn) have also been reported, and octahedral structures suggested for these on the basis of spectroscopic and magnetic measurements, with two trans-saccharinate ligands attached to the metal [25]. In an important paper, Johns et al. have extended our earlier work on Mn(II) [1] and Co(II) [2] bipy derivatives to some Ni(II), Zn(II) and Cd(II) complexes, the crystal and molecular structures of which were determined at 293 K [8]. We have similarly ascertained the low-temperature (150 K for the Ni and Cd compounds, 120 K for the Zn salt) structures of these complexes [26], which do not show any significant differences from their room temperature structures. There has been no systematic study and comparison of the structures of corresponding pairs of bipy and phen saccharinate complexes for a particular metal, however, Thermoanalytical data have been recorded for a number of divalent metal saccharinates with bipy [27] or phen [28] as co-ligands. A five-coordinate structure was originally suggested for the isomorphous Co²⁺, Ni²⁺ and Zn²⁺-bipy saccharinate complexes, [M(bipy)₂(sac)](sac)·H₂O, from limited crystallographic data [29], but in later work the metal was regarded as six-coordinate [M(bipy)₂(sac)H₂O]sac [27], in accord with more recent structure determinations [2,8,14]. The phen complexes were formulated as $M(phen)_2(sac)_2 \cdot H_2O$ (M = Co, Ni or Zn), $Cu(phen)_2(sac)_2$ and $Pb(phen)(sac)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ from the results [28].

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$[M(sac)_2(H_2O)_4].2H_2O +$	$2L \longrightarrow H_2O$	[ML ₂ (sac) ₂ .nH ₂ O]	
M = Co, L = phen		n = 3	1
M = Zn, L = phen		n = 3	2
M = Cd, L = phen		n = 2	3
M = Hg, L = phen		n = 2.5	4
M = Hg, L = bipy		n = 0	5

Scheme 1. Synthesis of new complexes.

The crystal and molecular structures of a zinc(II) complex corresponding to this overall formula, $[Zn(phen)_2(sac)H_2O]sac$, have been ascertained very recently [15].

In the present work, new isomorphous trihydrate complexes $[M(phen)_2(H_2O)_2]sac_2 \cdot H_2O$ (M = Co 1 or Zn 2), with no sac ligands coordinated to the metal, have been structurally characterised at low temperature, together with $[Cd(phen)_2(sac)(H_2O)](sac) \cdot H_2O$ 3, $[Hg(phen)_2(sac)](sac) \cdot 2.5H_2O$ 4 and $[Hg(bipy)_2(sac)_2]$ 5, as described below. More significantly, we have established an important correlation for corresponding pairs of bipy and phen complexes of the same metal.

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis

In general the new complexes were prepared by adding a warm aqueous solution of the appropriate bidentate ligand (phen or bipy) in a 2:1 molar ratio to a warm aqueous solution of the metal saccharinate hexahydrate, $[M(sac)_2(H_2O)_4]\cdot 2H_2O$ [30,31] as shown in Scheme 1. The only exception was the Hg(sac)₂-phen complex **4**, which was prepared in dichloromethane as solvent (M = Hg, L = phen, n = 2.5 in Scheme 1). Elemental analyses for all of the products are given in Section 4. Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained in each case.

2.2. Crystal structures

The crystal and molecular structures of complexes **1** and **2** are depicted in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. The cobalt(II) and zinc(II) derivatives **1** and **2** are isostructural, and have no saccharinate moieties bound to the metal, although they are present as counter-ions. Selected bond distances and angles for **1** and **2** are listed in Table 1. The cations are approximately octahedral, with the two coordinated water molecules occupying *cis* positions. Both anions



Fig. 2. Molecular structure of $[Zn(phen)_2(H_2O)_2]$ sac₂·H₂O, **2**, at 120 K. Atomic displacement parameters are shown at 50% probability, and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

act as hydrogen bond acceptors via the carbonyl oxygen atoms, and ribbons formed through intermolecular H-bonding interactions extend parallel to the *c* axis. The average Co–N distance for the phen ligands of 2.145(2) Å is significantly longer than that of 1.934(2) Å in $[Co(phen)_3](sac)_3 \cdot 8.5 H_2O$ [20], as expected for the change in oxidation state. The zinc-containing cation has been structurally characterised previously in the complex *cis*-[Zn(phen)₂ (H₂O)₂](H₂Or)₂·(H₂O)_{2.125}, where H₃Or = orotic acid [32]. In this compound the octahedral arrangement around Zn is somewhat more symmetrical than in **2**, with a Zn–O distance of 2.124(2) Å and an average Zn–N distance of 2.145(2) Å [32], compared with average Zn–O and Zn–N bond lengths of 2.090(2) and 2.170(2) Å, respectively, in **2**.

The anhydrous mercury(II)–bipy complex **5** (Fig. 5) is isostructural with its cadmium(II) analogue, the room temperature structure of which has been published [8]. The metal is octahedrally



Fig. 1. Molecular structure of [Co(phen)₂(H₂O)₂] sac₂·H₂O, 1, at 150 K. Atomic displacement parameters are shown at 50% probability, and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

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