



Synthesis, characterization and crystal structures of Hg^{II} complexes with asymmetric ortho-functionalized 1,3-bis(aryl)triazenide ligands

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ABSTRACT

The synthesis of two [Hg(L1)₂] and [Hg(L2)₂] complexes using asymmetric triazenes as ligands are reported. The triazene ligands are substituted with cyano and chloride groups in the *ortho* positions of the aryl rings (where HL1 and HL2 are 1-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-cyanophenyl)triazene and 1-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-chlorophenyl) triazene, respectively). These complexes were prepared by the reaction of corresponding triazenes with Hg(NO₃)₂ and were characterized by FT-IR, NMR, elemental and single crystal X-ray analyses. Both triazene ligands were found to deprotonate on coordination and act as tridentate chelating ligands forming distorted N₄O₂ octahedral geometry around Hg^{II} atoms. Hydrogen bonds, $\pi \cdots \pi$ and C–H $\cdots\pi$ stacking interactions help to the stabilization of the resulted frameworks.

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1. Introduction

Hydrogen-bonding and other types of non-covalent interactions like $\pi \cdots \pi$ and C–H $\cdots\pi$ stacking interactions play an important role in the building of supramolecular systems [1,2]. Aryl triazenes have been studied over several years for their interesting structural, anticancer, and reactivity properties [3–10]. Triazene compounds characterized by having a diazoamino group (–N=NNH–) commonly adopt a *trans* configuration in the solid state. As ligands, the N=NNH moieties can show different types of coordination in metal complexes. They can be monodentate, (N1,N3)-chelating towards one metal atom or (N1,N3)-bridging over two metal atoms [11], toward wide variety of metal transition complexes [12,13]. In these compounds secondary bonds, or interactions, such as hydrogen bonds and metal– π -aryl interactions, can play an important role in their structural stability [14,15]. In recent years, we have been involved in the complexation of transition metal ions with several triazene compounds as ligands. Starting from different bis(diaryl) symmetric and asymmetric-substituted triazenide as ligand. Recently, we have shown that several complexes of Hg^{II} have a remarkable ability to self-assemble in different manners through metal– η^2 – η^2 -arene π -interactions and non-classical C–H \cdots O

hydrogen bonding. We have previously reported the synthesis of [1,3-bis(2-methoxyphenyl)]triazene [16], [1,3-bis(2-ethoxyphenyl)]triazene [17] and [1,3-bis(2-cyanophenyl)]triazene [18] molecules that can act as ligands. Also, we have published the Hg(II) complexes with [1,3-bis(2-methoxyphenyl)]triazene by using HgCl₂ [19], HgBr₂ [20], Hg(CH₃COO)₂ and Hg(SCN)₂ [21] salts as starting materials. More recently, a Hg(II) complex with [1,3-bis(2-ethoxyphenyl)]triazene as ligand is reported in which Hg(NO₃)₂ is used as starting salt [22]. To investigate the effect of the substituted derivatives on coordination behavior of the triazene ligands, we have introduced *ortho*-, *meta*- and *para*-bis(phenyltriazene)benzenes (and substituted derivatives), with two triazene groups in one molecule as ligands. In this work we studied the complexation of 1-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)triazene and 1-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-cyanophenyl)triazene with nitrate salt of Hg^{II} ion in aqueous solution, in order to investigate the stoichiometry of the resulting mercury(II) complexes.

2. Experimental

2.1. Materials and physical techniques

All chemicals were of analytical grade and were used as commercially obtained without further purification. IR spectra in the frequency range of 4000–400 cm^{–1} were recorded using

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Perkin–Elmer RXI spectrometer using KBr disks. Elemental analysis was carried out using a Perkin–Elmer 2400(II) CHNS/O analyzer. Melting points were measured on a Barnstead Electrothermal 9200 apparatus.

2.1.1. Synthesis of [(EtO₂PhNHNPhCN)], [HL1]

A 100 ml flask was charged with 10 g of ice and 15 ml of water and then cooled to 273 K in an ice-bath. To this was added 2 mmol (0.24 g) of 2-aminobenzonitrile and 2 mmol of hydrochloric acid (36.5%) and 2 ml of water. To this solution was then added a solution containing NaNO₂ (0.32 g) in 3 ml of water during a 15 min period. The pH of the solution was then adjusted at 6 by adding a solution containing 1 g of sodium acetate in 10 ml of water. After mixing for 15 min, the obtained solution was added to a solution of 2 mmol (0.26 ml) of *o*-phenetidine and 2 ml of methanol and 4 ml of water. After mixing for 24 h, the yellow-orange precipitate was filtered off and dried. Our attempt to crystallize this compound was unsuccessful. m.p.: 121–123 °C. IR (KBr): $\nu(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3331, 2223, 1602, 1513, 1478, 1470, 1437, 1313, 1275, 1231, 1119, 1040, 927, 770, 735, 603. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 1.38 (3H, CH₃), 4.13 (2H, CH₂), 6.90–7.85 (8H, aromatic), 12 (1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 14.5, 64.0, 102.2–145.5 ppm. Elemental Anal. calc. for C₁₅H₁₄N₄O: C, 67.66; H, 5.26; N, 21.05. Found: C, 67.38; H, 4.26; N, 20.65%.

2.1.2. Synthesis of [(EtO₂PhNHNPhCl)] [HL2], (1)

This ligand was also prepared by the same method as described above with this difference that *o*-chlorobenzeneamine (0.1 mol, 10.54 ml) was used as starting material. Also, recrystallization was performed by *n*-hexane. m.p.: 73–75 °C. IR (KBr): $\nu(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3336, 3067, 1600, 1530, 1467, 1437, 1410, 1306, 1259, 1212, 1119, 1045, 1035, 746, 732, 719. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 1.38 (3H, CH₃), 4.12 (2H, CH₂), 6.92–7.61 (8H, aromatic), 11.72 (1H, NH). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 14.7, 64.1, 112.8–146.5 ppm. Elemental Anal. calc. for C₁₄H₁₄N₃OCl: C, 60.98; H, 5.12; N, 15.24. Found: C, 61.04; H, 5.0; N, 15.29%.

2.1.3. Synthesis of [Hg^{II}(EtO₂PhNHNPhCN)₂], [Hg(L1)₂], (2)

The complex was prepared by mixing 0.27 g (1 mmol) of [1-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-cyanophenyl)triazene] in 10 ml of anhydrous methanol with 0.27 g (1 mmol) of mercury(II) nitrate in 10 ml of anhydrous methanol. After being mixed for an hour, a yellow precipitate was obtained. The resultant precipitate after filtration and washing was dissolved in THF. Yellow needle-like crystals suitable for X-ray analysis of the complex (2) were obtained by slow evaporation of the solvent in 2 weeks.

C₃₀H₂₆HgN₈O₂ (731.18); m.p.: 219–221 °C. IR (KBr): $\nu(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 3069, 2977, 2220, 1589, 1494, 1477, 1372, 1333, 1291, 1275, 1218, 1161, 1120, 1038, 918, 743, 734, 672. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 1.16 (3H, CH₃), 4.10 (2H, CH₂), 7.00–7.81 (8H, aromatic). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 14.0, 64.5, 104.8–151.4 ppm. Elemental Anal. calc. for C₃₀H₂₆HgN₈O₂: C, 49.31; H, 3.56; N, 15.34. Found: C, 49.60; H, 3.38; N, 15.26%.

2.1.4. Synthesis of [Hg^{II}(EtO₂PhNHNPhCl)₂], [Hg(L2)₂], (3)

To a yellow solution prepared by dissolving 0.29 g (1 mmol) of 1-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-3-(2-chlorophenyl)triazene in 40 ml of anhydrous methanol, 0.16 g (0.5 mmol) of mercury(II) nitrate dissolved in 5 ml of anhydrous methanol were added. After 1/2 h stirring, an orange precipitate was formed. It was then filtered off, washed with methanol and dried in vacuum. The solid was dissolved in 20 ml THF. Orange-red plate like crystals suitable for X-ray analysis of the complex, were obtained by slow evaporation of the solvent within a week. IR (KBr): $\nu(\text{cm}^{-1})$: 2881, 1584, 1493, 1470, 1456, 1386, 1286, 1263, 1235, 121, 1196, 1121, 1035, 918, 759, 741, 735. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 1.17 (3H, CH₃), 4.06 (2H, CH₂), 6.99–7.73 (8H, aromatic). ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, d₆-DMSO): 14.1, 64.3, 113.0–150.5 ppm. Elemental Anal. calc. for C₂₈H₂₆Cl₂HgN₆O₂: C, 44.84; H, 3.49; N, 11.2. Found: C, 45.18; H, 3.51; N, 11.12%.

3. Crystallography

Crystallography measurements were made using a Bruker APEX2 CCD diffractometer for compounds (2) and (3), and also

Table 1
Crystal data for the compounds (1)–(3).

	1	2	3
Empirical formula	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ ClN ₃ O	C ₃₀ H ₂₆ HgN ₈ O ₂	C ₂₈ H ₂₆ Cl ₂ HgN ₆ O ₂
Formula weight	275.73	731.18	750.04
T (K)	298	293	293
λ (Å)	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
Crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /c	P $\bar{1}$	C2/c
Unit cell dimensions			
a (Å)	14.688 (3)	7.9472 (3)	22.497 (4)
b (Å)	4.4064 (9)	8.6812 (3)	9.049 (2)
c (Å)	22.337 (8)	20.7136 (7)	14.746 (3)
α (Å)		91.245 (2)	
β (Å)	111.46 (2)	92.970 (2)	108.89 (2)
γ (Å)		91.811 (2)	
V (Å ³)	1345.5 (6)	1426.03 (9)	2840.2 (10)
Z	4	2	4
D _{calc} (Mg m ⁻³)	1.361	1.703	1.754
Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹)	0.279	4.439	5.646
F(000)	576	716	1464
θ Range for data collection (°)	1.96–29.22	0.98–30.06	2.68–30.30
Index ranges	–20 ≤ h ≤ 20, –6 ≤ k ≤ 5, –28 ≤ l ≤ 30	–11 ≤ h ≤ 11, –12 ≤ k ≤ 12, –29 ≤ l ≤ 29	–31 ≤ h ≤ 31, –12 ≤ k ≤ 12, –20 ≤ l ≤ 20
Reflections collected/unique (R _{int})	13923/3595 (0.0905)	57106/8309 (0.052)	58699/4223 (0.031)
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data/restraints/parameters	3595 / 0 / 177	8309 / 0 / 370	4223 / 0 / 177
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.134	1.14	1.019
Final R _i > 2σ(I)	R ₁ = 0.0742, wR ₂ = 0.1335	R ₁ = 0.0654, wR ₂ = 0.1665	R ₁ = 0.0242, wR ₂ = 0.0718
R indices (all data)	R ₁ = 0.1346, wR ₂ = 0.1553	R ₁ = 0.0748, wR ₂ = 0.1702	R ₁ = 0.0273, wR ₂ = 0.0737
Largest differences in peak and hole (e Å ⁻³)	0.231 and –0.184	2.89 and –4.32	0.89 and –1.36

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