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A series of 3D lanthanide complexes based on H bond and halogen-halogen interactions: Synthesis, structure, spectroscopic and thermal properties

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Abstract: Four lanthanide coordination complexes, namely, $[Ln(2,3-DClBA)_3(5,5'-dmebipy)(H_2O)]_2(Ln=Sm(1), Eu(2), Dy(3), Ho(4));$ 2,3-DClBA=2,3-dichlorobenzoate; 5,5'-dmebipy=5,5'-dmethylbipyridine) were synthesized and characterized by elemental analysis, infrared spectroscopy and single crystal X-ray diffraction. Findings indicated that complex 3 was a dinuclear molecule, and the center Dy³⁺ was eight-coordinated. Each dinuclear units could be connected by H bond and halogen-halogen interactions. Luminescent property of complex 2 suggested the typical intense emissions of Eu³⁺ ions. Thermal analysis showed that the complexes decomposed in three steps: the coordination water was lost firstly then the neutral ligand 5,5'dmebipy was lost and lastly the 2,3-DClBA ligand was lost.

Keywords: lanthanide complexes; crystal structure; supramolecular; H bond; halogen-halogen interactions; luminescent property; TG/DSC; rare earths

Lanthanide organic coordination complexes have provoked great interest for their fascinating architectures^[1–5] and potential applications^[6–11] as functional materials. Many lanthanide organic coordination complexes have been synthesized^[12–14]. Particularly, the intriguing luminescent properties resulting from 4f electrons illustrate that the lanthanide complexes are remarkably candidates for the development of optical devices^[15–17]. However, low absorptivity and emission intensity were caused by the selection rules^[18]. The problem can be solved by the coordination of organic ligand that transfers energy to the lanthanide ions^[19,20].

From this point of view, our team often choose halogenated aromatic carboxylic acids as the first ligand for the following reasons: (1) delocalized π -electron system can sensitize the lanthanide ions; (2) the oxygen atoms from carboxylic groups of the ligand have high affinity for the Ln³⁺ ions^[21]; (3) there may be weak halogen-halogen interactions between adjacent ligand by which the supramolecule can be constructed. Carter et al. and Kastas et al. synthesized a series of novel lanthanide complexes with p-chlorobenzoic acid in recent years^[22,23]. Metal-organic frameworks have been beneath the attention of many researchers^[24,25], the design and synthesis of the supramolecule are very important.

Therefore, following our ongoing efforts towards lanthanide complexes^[26–28], in this wok, four complexes were synthesized with 2,3-DClBA being as the first ligand, 5,5'-dmebipy being as the coligand. The thermal decomposition mechanisms of the complexes were studied using TG/DSC technology. The luminescent property of complex 2 was also discussed.

1 Experimental

1.1 Materials and physical techniques

All reagents and solvents employed were commercially available and used without further purification. Analyses for C, H and N were carried out on a Vario-ELIII elemental analyzer. IR spectra were measured on a BRUKER TENSOR27 spectrometer in the range of 4000–400 cm⁻¹ with KBr medium pellets. Powder X-ray diffraction identification was carried out for the crystalline analyses by a Bruker D8 Advance X-ray diffractometer in a scanning range of 5°–60° (2 θ) with Cu K α radiation (λ =0.15418 nm). The thermogravimetry (TG), differential thermogravimetric (DTG), differential scanning calorimetric (DSC) analyses of the title complexes were conducted by a TG/DSC system, which was a Netzsch STA 449 F3 instrument under the simulated atmosphere (the gas flow of the nitrogen is 30 mL/min and the oxygen is 15 mL/min). Fluorescence spectra were measured on an F-4600 Hitachi spectrophotometer in the solid state at room temperature.

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1.2 Preparation of [Ln(2,3-DClBA)₃(5,5-dmebipy) (H₂O)]₂(Ln=Sm(1),Eu(2), Dy(3),Ho(4))

The ligand of 2,3-dichlorobenzoic acid (2,3-DClHBA) (6 mmol) and 5,5'-dmebipy (2 mmol) were dissolved in 95% ethanol solution together. The pH of the mixture solution was adjusted to 6-7 by adding 1 mol/L NaOH solution. Then the ligand solution was added to the LnCl₃·6H₂O aqueous solution dropwise and the mixture was stirred for 6 h at room temperature. Then it was deposited for 12 h. The resulting precipitate was filtered off, washed with 95% ethanol and dried. The mother liquors were placed for about two weeks to get crystals which were suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis. Elemental analyses: Calc(%) for 1: C 42.95, H 2.294, N 3.036, Sm 16.30. Found(%): C 42.52, H 2.581, N 2.945 Sm 16.53. Calc(%) for 2: C 42.88, H 2.290, N 3.031, Eu 16.44. Found(%): C 42.95, H 2.528, N 2.992 Eu 16.46. Calc(%) for 3: C 42.56, H 2.273. N 3.008, Dy 17.38. Found(%): C 42.65, H 2.618, N 2.794, Dy 17.50. Calc(%) for 4: C 42.29, H 2.258. N 2.989, Ho 17.60. Found(%): C 42.11, H 2.459, N 2.898, Ho 17.43.

1.3 Crystal structure determination

The data of single crystal X-ray diffraction for **3** were collected on a Smart-1000 diffractometer with graphite-monochromatic Mo K α (λ =0.071073 nm) at 298(2) K. The structures were solved by SHELXS-97 program (direct methods) and refined by Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 using SHELXL-97 program. The crystallographic and refinement parameters of **3** are shown in Table 1. The selected bond lengths of **3** are listed in Table 2. Selected hydrogen bond lengths (nm) of the complex **3** are listed in Table 3.

2 Results and discussion

2.1 Infrared spectra

The characteristic infrared absorption bands of complexes 1–4 and two ligands are shown in Table 4. The characteristic peaks for carboxylate group of 2,3-DCIHBA ($v_{C=O}$) at 1694 cm⁻¹ disappeared in the complexes. Meanwhile there are two new characteristic bands around 1570 cm⁻¹ ($v_{as(COO-)}$) and 1400 cm⁻¹ ($v_{s(COO-)}$) respectively, which indicate that oxygen atoms of the carboxylate groups are coordinated to the Ln³⁺ ions. The occurrence of peaks for $v_{(Ln-O)}$ at 422–419 cm⁻¹ also suggests the coordination of oxygen atoms to Ln³⁺ ions. The bands $v_{C=N}$ and δ_{C-H} shift to higher wavenumbers in complexes compared to the free ligand 5,5'-dmebipy. It was proved that the nitrogen atoms of the 5,5'-dmebipy were also coordinated to Ln³⁺ ions.

2.2 XRD

Powder XRD spectra of complexes 1-4 were measured

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I able I Crystal data and structure refinement of the complex.
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Complex	3		
Empirical formula	$C_{66}H_{46}C_{112}N_4O_{14}Dy_2$		
Formula weight	1869.47		
T/K	298(2)		
Wavelength/nm	0.071073		
Crystal system	Triclinic		
space group	Pī		
<i>a</i> /nm	1.12960(9)		
<i>b</i> /nm	1.13429(11)		
<i>c</i> /nm	1.52631(13)		
a/(°)	94.1500(10)		
$\beta/(^{\circ})$	98.9410(10)		
γ/(°)	111.090(2)		
Volume/nm ³	1.7849(3)		
Z, calculated density (mg/m^3)	1, 1.739		
Absorption coefficient/mm ⁻¹	2.592		
F(000)	918		
Crystal size/mm	0.13×0.10×0.05		
θ range for data collection/(°)	2.17 to 25.02		
Limiting indices	-12≤h≤13, -13≤k≤12, -18≤l≤16		
Reflections collected /unique	9174/6185 [R _(int) =0.0757]		
Completeness to θ =25.02°	98.0%		
Max. and min. transmission	0.8813 and 0.7293		
Data/restraints/parameters	6185/0/444		
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.054		
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	R ₁ =0.0703, wR2=0.1737		
R indices (all data)	R ₁ =0.0979, wR2=0.1902		
Largest diff. peak and hole/ (10^3 e/nm^{-3})	2.688 and -1.550		

Table 2 Selected bond lengths (nm) of the complex 3

Bond	Bond length
Dy(1)-O(4)#1	0.2297(9)
Dy(1)–O(1)	0.2324(7)
Dy(1)-O(2)#1	0.2331(7)
Dy(1)–O(5)	0.2366(7)
Dy(1)–O(3)	0.2399(8)
Dy(1)–O(7)	0.2403(7)
Dy(1)–N(2)	0.2553(9)
Dy(1)–N(1)	0.2624(9)

#1-x+1,-y+1,-z+1

Table 3 Selected hydrogen	bond lengths (nm) of the complex 3
		/ 1

D–H···A	d(D–H)/nm	d(H···A)/nm	d(DA)/nm	<dha (°)<="" th=""></dha>
O7-H7B…O6	0.0850	0.1846	0.2661	159.98
O7-H7C…O6	0.0850	0.2274	0.2810	121.18

Table 4 IR absorption bands for the ligands and complexes (cm⁻¹)

Ligands/complexes	v _{C=N}	$\delta_{ ext{C-H}}$		v _{C=O} v _{as}	s(COO-)	V _{s(COO-)}	v _(Ln-O)
2,3-DCIHBA				1694			
5,5'-dmebipy	1598	828	737				
1	1633	881	773	1	573	1401	417
2	1626	885	767	1	579	1402	421
3	1619	883	771	1	583	1410	421
4	1659	885	771	1	573	1410	419

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