Linear Trichromium Complexes with Direct Cr to Cr Contacts. 2. Compounds with Cr₃(dipyridylamide)₄³⁺ Cores

Rodolphe Clérac, F. Albert Cotton, Lee M. Daniels, Kim R. Dunbar, Carlos A. Murillo, and Isabel Pascual

Laboratory for Molecular Structure and Bonding and Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University, PO Box 30012, College Station, Texas 77842-3012, Department of Chemistry, Universidad de Costa Rica, Ciudad Universitaria, Costa Rica, and Department of Chemistry and The Center for Fundamental Material Research, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Received August 24, 1999

Seven compounds having in common a Cr₃(dpa)₄³⁺ core (dpa = di(2-pyridyl)amine ion) have been prepared and all shown to have an unsymmetrical chain of three Cr atoms. This chain can be described as a pair of quadruply bonded CrIII atoms to which a CrII atom is attached. No symmetrical chain has been found, contrary to a previous preliminary report. The seven compounds have been well characterized crystallographically, and their short and long Cr to Cr distances (Å, in parentheses) are: 1 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]Cl·2CH₂Cl₂·THF (2.12, 2.47), 2 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]AlCl₃·CH₂Cl₂ (2.011, 2.555), 3 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]FeCl₄·CH₂Cl₂ (2.009, 2.562), 4 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]I·THF·2H₂O (2.08, 2.49), 5 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]PF₆·2CH₂Cl₂ (2.08, 2.48), 6 [Cr₃(dpa)₄(BF₄)₂]BF₄·2CH₂Cl₂ (1.900, 2.595), 7 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]PF₆·2CH₂Cl₂·2H₂O (2.039, 2.507). Magnetic susceptibility measurements on 1 and 2 reveal µeff = 3.85 ± 0.05 μB from 10 to 300 K.

Introduction

A number of trinuclear compounds of the type M₃(dpa)₄XY, where dpa is the anion of di-(2-pyridyl)amine, X and Y are uninegative anions, and M = Cr, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, and Cu, have been reported. To date it is only for chromium and cobalt that the consequences of one-electron oxidation have been investigated. We have made brief preliminary reports on a few structurally characterized compounds in which the central or unsymmetrical. In the work reported here we have prepared a number of trinuclear compounds of the type M₃(dpa)₄XY, where dpa is the anion of di-(2-pyridyl)amine, X and Y are uninegative anions, and M = Cr, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, and Cu, have been reported. To date it is only for chromium and cobalt that the consequences of one-electron oxidation have been investigated. We have made brief preliminary reports on a few such chromium compounds, but we now provide a detailed account of all the work completed so far, which covers five years of this work was to see if the same variability in the Cr₃ chain would be observed for the once-oxidized species. For the reader’s convenience, the seven compounds included in the present report are listed below:

1 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]Cl·2CH₂Cl₂·THF
2 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]AlCl₃·CH₂Cl₂
3 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]FeCl₄·CH₂Cl₂
4 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]I·THF·2H₂O
5 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]PF₆·2CH₂Cl₂
6 [Cr₃(dpa)₄(BF₄)₂]BF₄·2CH₂Cl₂
7 [Cr₃(dpa)₄Cl₂]PF₆·2CH₂Cl₂·2H₂O

Experimental Section

Materials. All manipulations were performed under a dry nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk and glovebox techniques. Solvents were purified by conventional methods and were freshly distilled under nitrogen prior to use. Anhydrous CrCl₃ was purchased from Strem Chemicals and used as received; I₂ and 2,2'-dipyridylamine, Hdp, were purchased from Aldrich. The latter was purified by sublimation prior to use. The compounds PhCl₂, [FeCp₂]Cl, [FeCp₂]BF₄, and [FeCp₂]PF₆ were prepared following published procedures. [FeCp₂]AlCl₃ was prepared following a procedure similar to that for [FeCp₂]Cl; Cr₃(dpa)Cl₂ was prepared as reported previously by our group.

Physical Measurements. $^1$H NMR spectra were recorded on an XL-300 NMR spectrometer and IR spectra on a Perkin-Elmer 16PC FTIR spectrometer using KBr mulls; FAB mass spectra were acquired on a VG Analytical 70S (Manchester, U.K.) high-resolution, double-focusing, magnetic sector mass spectrometer. Magnetic susceptibility data were collected on a Quantum Design, model MPMS, SQUID (superconducting quantum interference device) housed in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Michigan State University. Data were collected from 2 to 300 K at a field of 2000 G. Elemental analyses of solvent-free 1–6 were performed by Canadian Microanalytical Services; they were satisfactory.

Preparation of [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$]Cl$_2$: 2CH$_2$Cl$_2$:THF. 1. To a solution of Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$ (0.10 g, 0.10 mmol) in 15 mL of CH$_2$Cl$_2$ was added dropwise, via cannula, to a suspension of AgBF$_4$ (0.083 g, 0.44 mmol) in 10 mL of CH$_2$Cl$_2$. After stirring for 5 min the green solution turned black. It was then allowed to reach room temperature. Stirring was continued for 2 h, after which a black powder was isolated by filtration after precipitation with hexanes. Yield: 0.070 g (67%). IR (KBr mull, cm$^{-1}$): 1619 (vs), 1455 (vs), 1362 (s), 1242 (s), 1204 (m), 1150 (m), 1018 (m), 840 (w), 753 (m), 650 (m), 649 (w), 540 (w), 518 (w), 504 (w).

Preparation of [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$]FeCl$_4$: 2CH$_2$Cl$_2$. 3. This was prepared similarly to I but using [FeCp$_2$]FeCl$_4$ as the oxidizing agent. Yield: 0.18 g (84%). IR (KBr mull, cm$^{-1}$): 1619 (vs), 1455 (vs), 1362 (s), 1309 (s), 1242 (s), 1204 (m), 1150 (m), 1018 (m), 840 (w), 753 (m), 650 (m), 649 (w), 540 (w), 518 (w), 504 (w).

Preparation of [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$]PF$_6$: THF:2H$_2$O. 4. This was prepared similarly to I, but the reaction was carried out in cold THF instead of CH$_2$Cl$_2$ as solvent, and with I$_2$ in THF as the oxidizing agent, 0.10 g (0.10 mmol) of Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$, and 0.015 g (0.059 mmol) of I$_2$. Compound 4 was isolated as black crystals from a THF solution layered with hexanes. Yield: 0.13 g (91%).

Preparation of [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$][PF$_6$]:2CH$_2$Cl$_2$. 5. It was prepared similarly to 1 but using [FeCp$_2$]PF$_6$ as the oxidizing agent. 0.10 g (0.10 mmol) of Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$, and 0.075 g (0.10 mmol) of [FeCp$_2$]PF$_6$. The product was isolated as large black crystals from a solution of CH$_2$Cl$_2$ layered with hexanes. Yield: 0.094 g (80.5%). IR (KBr mull, cm$^{-1}$): 1617 (vs), 1459 (vs), 1362 (s), 1313 (s), 1262 (m), 1155 (m), 1110 (m), 1017 (m), 866 (w), 764 (s), 739 (m), 646 (w), 537 (w), 516 (w). The product was recrystallized after layering hexanes on top of a CH$_2$Cl$_2$ solution of the product which also contained a few drops of THF.

Preparation of [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$]PF$_6$: THF:2H$_2$O. 6. A stirred solution of Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$ (0.20 g, 0.21 mmol) in 10 mL of CH$_2$Cl$_2$ was added dropwise, via cannula, to a suspension of AgBF$_4$ (0.083 g, 0.44 mmol) in 10 mL of CH$_2$Cl$_2$. After stirring for 4 h, AgCl and Ag were removed by filtration through Celite, leaving a clear greenish-black solution that was diluted with 5 mL of THF and layered with hexanes. The product was isolated as large, platelike dark-green crystals from a solution of CH$_2$Cl$_2$ layered with hexanes. Yield: 0.13 g (67%).

Crystallographic Procedures

Data for all compounds were collected on a Nonius FAST diffractometer at −60 °C. In each case, a suitable crystal was attached to the tip of a quartz fiber with a small amount of silicone grease. Unit-cell dimensions for all crystals were obtained from an auto-indexing routine and were refined with up to 250 reflections within a 2θ range of 18–45°. Cell dimensions and Laue symmetry for all crystals were confirmed by axial photography. All data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. Procedures used on this instrument have been described previously in detail.9 For all structures, the positions of the heavy atoms and the main skeleton of the ligands were found by direct methods.10 Subsequent cycles of least-squares refinement using SHELXL-93,11 followed by difference Fourier syntheses, revealed the positions of the remaining non-hydrogen atoms. In some cases hydrogen atoms were located in difference Fourier maps, but all were used in idealized calculated positions. Each structure presented here contains at least one molecule of interstitial solvent, and in many cases the solvent site was disordered to some extent. For each occurrence of CH$_2$Cl$_2$ or THF, the disorder was successfully modeled so that each site contained two or sometimes three solvent molecules, each having a reasonable geometry. The single exception is for 7, in which an area containing interstitial isomers of hexane was modeled as a collection of carbon atoms without regard for the geometry. A total of 10 centers of electron density were identified, and the positions, isotropic displacement parameters, and occupancies were allowed to refine within the restriction that the occupancies added to exactly 6.0. Other details of data collection and refinement are given in Table 1. Atomic positions, distances, angles as well as isotropic and anisotropic displacement parameters for all structures are given as Supporting Information.

Results

The chemistry involved in the preparation of these compounds was not particularly difficult for compounds 1–5. The oxidation processes proceed smoothly by reacting Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$ with a halogen source or an appropriate ferrocenium salt in CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The corresponding dark-colored [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$]$^+$ cationic species can be isolated by filtration in high yield. All unwanted products remain in solution. The interstitial water molecules found in crystals of 4 have an adventitious origin.

However, reaction of Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$ and AgBF$_4$ is more complex. Addition of 1 equiv of each substance in CH$_2$Cl$_2$, at room temperature, causes precipitation of AgCl generating the unoxidized compound Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$Cl$_2$.5 When the reaction is carried out at room temperature but the ratio Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$:AgBF$_4$ is equal to 1:2, a one-electron oxidation process along with Cl$^{-}$ substitution by F also occurs, giving [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$(BF$_4$)$_2$]BF$_4$. If the latter reaction is carried out at lower temperature (−72 °C), mixtures of products are observed: one of them was structurally characterized as [Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$ClF]BF$_4$:CH$_2$Cl$_2$:C$_6$H$_5$.4 7

A summary of structural results for the seven compounds is presented in Table 2. Many additional details are available in the Supporting Information. In all the compounds the central Cr$_3$(dpa)$_4$$^+$ unit is helical. The overall twist angle varies slightly

(10) SHELXL, version 5.03: Siemens Industrial Automation Inc.: Madison, WI.
(11) Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXL93; Institut für Anorganische Chemie; Göttingen, Germany, 1993.
Table 1. Crystallographic Data for Compounds 1–7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compd no.</th>
<th>Axial ligands</th>
<th>Anion</th>
<th>Occupancy of major orientation</th>
<th>Cr–Cr distance, Å</th>
<th>Cr–...Cr distance, Å</th>
<th>Axial L to CrIII, Å</th>
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<td>Cl, Cl</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2.555(1)</td>
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<td>2.562(1)</td>
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<td>2.49(1)</td>
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<td>2.09(2)</td>
<td>2.48(2)</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>2.49(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cl, P</td>
<td>BF4−</td>
<td>0.71(1)</td>
<td>2.039(5)</td>
<td>2.507(4)</td>
<td>2.413(4)</td>
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Table 2. Summary of Important Structural Parameters for Compounds 1–7

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a For disordered structures with two inequivalent orientations the distances for the major orientation are listed first.

b Two independent molecules in the asymmetric unit. The F atom is attached to the Cr III atom.

c Values are accurate to ±0.01 Å.

d Average unit cell volume, cc.

e Values are accurate to ±0.003 Å.

f Values are accurate to ±0.001 Å.

g Values are accurate to ±0.002 Å.
not equally represented. Instead, one of them (A) is present 80% of the time and the other (B) 20%. Needless to say, the accuracy with which the former was refined is superior. As shown in Figure 2, Cr(2A) is closer to Cr(1) and Cr(2B) is closer to Cr(3). For Cr(2A) the short and long distances (Å) are Cr(1)–Cr(2A), 2.08(1), and Cr(3)–Cr(2A), 2.49(1), while for Cr(2B) the distances are Cr(3)–Cr(2B), 2.09(2), and Cr(1)–Cr(2B), 2.48(2). The Cr–Cl distances also suffer from the disorder, but also reflect the dominance of the sites with Cr(2A); they are Cr(1)–Cl(1), 2.379(4) Å, and Cr(3)–Cl(2), 2.309(4) Å.

**Compound 5.** This compound was reported earlier\(^1\) and was described as only somewhat unsymmetrical with Cr–Cr distances of 2.119(3) and 2.369(3) Å. More rigorous refinement has now shown that there is a disordering of unsymmetrical molecules (68% and 32%) and that the extent of asymmetry is much greater than previously recognized. The short Cr–Cr distance is 2.09(2) Å, and the long one is 2.48(2) Å. Here, again, even though the esd’s are large, they undoubtedly underestimate the actual uncertainties because of the difficulties arising from the disorder.

**Compound 6.** In this case there was no problem with disorder, and because of the marked difference between the two axial ligands, the molecule is, not unexpectedly, quite unsymmetrical, as shown in Figure 3. There are, in fact, two molecules in the asymmetric unit, but they are metrically almost identical. The short Cr–Cr distances are very short, 1.900(2) and 1.903(2) Å, and the longer ones are quite long, 2.595(2) and 2.579(2) Å. In this case the Cr(1)–N and Cr(3)–N distances are only slightly different with the average of the former being 0.02 Å longer than the latter, as expected for Cr\(^{II}\)–N vs Cr\(^{III}\)–N bonds. The molecular dimensions reported here are not significantly different from those given in our preliminary communication.\(^1\)

**Compound 7.** This compound also posed a tricky disorder problem. It has an unsymmetrical Cr\(_3\) chain, and the order of atoms along the axis is Cl–Cr(1)–Cr–Cr(3)–F. The structure was refined with 70% of the molecules, those with Cl(1A),
Cr(2A), and F(1A), oriented in one direction and 30%, those with Cl(1B), Cr(2B), and F(1B), oriented in the other, as shown in Figure 4. For the major molecule (70% occupancy) the following distances (Å) were obtained:

Because of the disorder there are probably uncertainties in these distances that exceed those represented by the esd’s. Bearing that in mind, however, these distances compare satisfactorily with those of the same nature in the other molecules. For example, the above value of the Cl to Cr−Cr distance is within the range of those in 1 (2.353(2)), 2 (2.441(2)), 3 (2.446(2)), 4 (2.379(4)), and 5 (2.375(4)) and the Cr−F distance is similar to that in 6 (1.821(6)).

Magnetic Measurements. The magnetic susceptibilities of compounds 1 and 2 were measured from 5 to 300 K. Both follow the Curie law very well and give essentially constant values, 3.85 ± 0.05 \( \mu_B \), of the magnetic moment from 10 to 300 K.

Discussion

The structural results, as well as the magnetic data, lead to only one conclusion as to the bonding in the seven compounds with Cr_3(dpa)_4^{3+} cores. The chromium atoms group themselves into a diamagnetic pair of Cr^{II} atoms that are quadruply bonded (Cr−Cr distances range from 1.90 to 2.12 Å) and a paramagnetic Cr^{III} atom (\( S = \frac{3}{2} \)) which lies at a long distance (2.47−2.59 Å) from the inner Cr^{II} atom. Indeed, if compounds 1 and 5 are excluded, the short and long Cr−Cr distances lie within even narrower ranges, viz., 1.900−2.08 and 2.49−2.59 Å. In all of these compounds except 2 and 3, the true uncertainties in the Cr−Cr, Cr−Cl, and Cr−F distances are difficult to assess because of the effects of the disorders, so not too much should be made of apparent differences. In 1 where the two orientations are equally populated, this problem is doubtless at its worst, and thus the appearance of there being less difference between the short and long Cr−Cr distances is illusory.

The overall message of this work is that, for Cr_3(dpa)_4^{3+} cores, the set of Cr atoms is more stable in an unsymmetrical Cr^{II}−Cr^{II}−Cr^{III} arrangement than in a symmetrical one in all cases. Thus, our previous suggestion, based on preliminary results, that there are a variety of Cr_3(dpa)_4^{3+} arrangements, ranging from symmetric to very unsymmetric, has to be, and is, withdrawn. The true situation is that all seven compounds so far examined are very similar and we see no reason to believe that any further examples would be different.

Acknowledgment. We thank the National Science Foundation and the Robert A. Welch Foundation for support.

Supporting Information Available: Crystal and structure refinement data, positional parameters, anisotropic displacement parameters, and complete listings of bond distances and angles, in CIF format. This information is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

IC991022T