



Hydrothermal synthesis, crystal structure and antimicrobial activity of the nicotinate cobalt complex

Yuqi Liu^a, Jing Wang^b, Rui Yang^a and Xiaojun Xu^{c*}

^aFaculty of Science, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Kunming, China

^bCollege of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming, China

^cFaculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Kunming, China

ABSTRACT

The title complex $[\text{Co}(\text{nic})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]$ (nic: nicotinic acid) was synthesized by hydrothermal methods and characterized by elemental analysis, IR and X-ray single-crystal structure determination. The compound crystallizes in the triclinic system, space group $P1$ with $a=14.1363(12)$ Å, $b=6.8778(5)$ Å, $c=8.4878(6)$ nm, $\beta=118.297(5)^\circ$, $V=726.63(10)$ Å³, $D_c=1.715$ mg·m⁻³, $Z=2$, $F(000)=386$, $\mu=1.227$ mm⁻¹, $R=0.0191$, $wR=0.0539$ [$I>2\sigma(I)$], $GOF=1.178$. X-ray single crystal diffraction analysis shows the complex is mononuclear zero dimensional structure and the adjacent chains are held together by hydrogen bonds and $\pi\cdots\pi$ interactions, forming three-dimensional network. The complex was valued for its antimicrobial activity by diffusion test in vitro. It was found to be active against the three test bacterial organisms. CCDC: 945007.

Key words: Nicotinate cobalt complex, Synthesis, Crystal structure, Antimicrobial activity

INTRODUCTION

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are ultrahigh porous crystal-line materials wherein metal cations are connected with organic ligands through coordination bonding [1]. MOFs assemble the properties of both organic and inorganic compounds. In recent years, MOFs have attracted considerable attention not only due to their fascinating architectures, but also their potential application in heterogeneous catalysis, gas adsorption, magnetism, NLO materials, luminescence, molecular sensing and separation and molecular recognition [2]. Employing appropriate bridging ligands and choosing suitable metal ions are of great importance in the syntheses of coordination polymers.

Among the various ligands, pyridine carboxylate is regarded as good building blocks in the design of MOFs thanks to their rich coordination modes. It is because nicotinic acid (pyridine-3-carboxylic acid) possesses two potential donor sites: the pyridine ring nitrogen and the carboxyloxygen, it can produce extended structures and is regarded as multidentate ligands used to bridge between metal centres to form polymeric structures. Furthermore, higher dimensional architectures may be formed by nicotinic acid as bridging ligand through covalent or hydrogen bonds since the carboxylic groups can form head-to-head O-H...O hydrogen bonds [3].

As an essential vitamin, it is well known that nicotinic acid can promote the absorption of bioactive metals in humans and also acts as coenzyme, taking part in various oxidation-reduction reactions [4].

On the other hand, cobalt is not only the very important element in life science but also necessary trace element in the body. Cobalt ions are active center of catalase, carbon monoxide dehydrogenase, superoxide dismutase (SOD) and urease. Therefore, study on complex of cobalt and nicotinic acid and their characteristics can provide the basis for exploring the mechanism of action of cobalt in organism [5-6].

Here, we report the syntheses and crystal structure of a novel compound named [Co(nic)₂(H₂O)₄]. In addition, the spectroscopic properties and antimicrobial activity of the compound are also investigated.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

All chemicals and reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received. The IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellets on a Varian 800 FT-IR spectrometer in the 4000–400 cm⁻¹ region.

Synthesis of complex [Co(nic)₂(H₂O)₄] (1)

Complex 1 was prepared by hydrothermal reaction. A mixture of Co(OAc)₂·4H₂O (249 mg, 1 mmol), nicotinic acid (123 mg, 1 mmol), malic acid (134 mg, 1 mmol), ethanol (8 mL), water (8 mL) were mixed in a 25 mL beaker and the pH of the mixture was adjusted to about 6 by adding NaOH (0.1 mol·L⁻¹) solutions. After stirring for 1 h, the mixture was put into a 25 mL Teflon-lined stainless autoclave and heated at 140 °C for three days, followed by slow cooling (10 °C/h) to room temperature. The red brown block crystals of 1 were collected in a yield of 42%. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₂H₁₆N₂O₈Co (375.20): C, 38.38; H, 4.26; N, 7.46. Found: C, 38.83; H, 4.12; N, 7.58%. FT-IR data (cm⁻¹) for 1: 3362 (m), 3275 (m), 1612 (s), 1599 (s), 1567 (s), 1388 (m), 1394 (s), 1311 (w), 1253 (w), 1225 (w), 1154 (m), 1109 (m), 1051 (m), 936 (w), 843 (m), 764 (m), 700 (m), 684 (m), 538 (w), 411 (w).

Although malic acid was not involved in coordination, the role of it in the synthesis of title compound cannot be ignored. Presumably, it determines the coordination model of nicotinic acid.

Crystallographic Determinations

Data collection for complex 1 was carried out for crystals with dimensions 0.21 x 0.18 x 0.15 mm on a CCD diffractometer with graphite-monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). The crystal structure was solved by direct methods and Fourier synthesis using SHELXS-97 [7] and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques on F^2 using SHELXL-97 [8]. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, while hydrogen atoms were added according to theoretical models. A summary of the crystallographic data and refinement parameters is listed in Table 1. Selected bond distances and bond angles for the complex are listed in Table 2.

Table 1 Crystal data and structural refinements for Complex 1

| | |
|--|--|
| Empirical formula | C ₁₂ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₈ Co |
| Formula weight | 375.20 |
| Crystal system | Triclinic |
| Space group | P1 |
| a (Å) | 14.1363(12) |
| b (Å) | 6.8778(5) |
| c (Å) | 8.4878(6) |
| α (°) | 90 |
| β (°) | 118.297(5) |
| γ (°) | 90 |
| Volume (Å ³) | 726.63(10) |
| Density (calculated) (Mg/m ³) | 1.715 |
| Absorption coefficient (mm ⁻¹) | 1.227 |
| F(000) | 386 |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 699 / 0 / 74 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F^2 (GOF) | 1.178 |
| Completeness to $\theta = 24.98^\circ$ | 100% |
| Final R indices [$I > 2\sigma(I)$] | R1 = 0.0191, wR2 = 0.0539 |
| R indices (all data) | R1 = 0.0192, wR2 = 0.0539 |

Table 2 Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for 1

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Co(1)-O(1) | 2.1070(11) | Co(1)-O(1)#1 | 2.1070(11) |
| Co(1)-O(1)#2 | 2.1070(11) | Co(1)-O(1)#3 | 2.1070(11) |
| Co(1)-N(1) | 2.1489(16) | Co(1)-N(1)#3 | 2.1489(16) |
| O(1)-Co(1)-O(1)#1 | 90.65(7) | O(1)-Co(1)-O(1)#2 | 89.35(7) |
| O(1)#1-Co(1)-O(1)#2 | 180.0 | O(1)-Co(1)-O(1)#3 | 180.0 |

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 x, -y, z #2 -x+1, y, -z+2 #3 -x+1, -y, -z+2

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

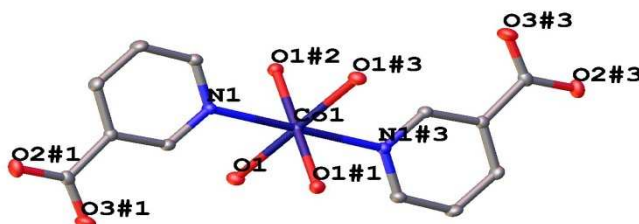
Crystal structure of $[\text{Co}(\text{nic})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4]$ (1)

Fig. 1. Structure of the coordination polymer 1 (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity)

As shown in Fig. 1, Co(II) sites lie in distorted octahedral geometry: the coordination sphere around Co1 atom is defined by two nitrogen atoms from two different nicotinic acid ligands and four water molecules, resulting in mononuclear zero dimensional structure. Intriguingly, as long as four Co-O bond length, is 2.1070(11) Å and two Co-N bond is the same length of 2.1489 (16) Å. In addition, the O1, O1#1, O1#2 and O1#3 atoms comprise the baseplane, whereas N1 and N1#3 occupy the axial positions of the octahedron [O(1)-Co(1)-O(1)#1=90.65(7)°, O(1)-Co(1)-O(1)#2=89.35(7)°, O(1)#2-Co(1)-O(1)#3=90.65(7)°, and O(1)#1-Co(1)-O(1)#3=89.35(7)°; total = 360.02(8)°]. It is seen from Fig. 2a, each simple unit linked with six adjacent units through hydrogen bonding interactions of $R_2^1(6)$ patterns. On one hand, the four O-atoms of the coordinated water in each chain are engaged in eight hydrogen bondings with the non-coordinating carboxylate groups of nicotinic acid ligands of the six adjacent units, on the other hand, in each unit, the four O-atoms of the two nicotinic acid ligands are also engaged in eight hydrogen bondings with six O-atoms of the coordinated water in the same six adjacent units. For example, Co2 and Co5 units are connected to the center Co unit through four O-H...O hydrogen bonds respectively; while the other four cobalt units (Co1, Co3, Co4 and Co6 units) are also linked with center Co unit with two O-H...O hydrogen bonds respectively. In this way, the adjacent molecules recognize each other to generate a 2D supramolecular chain between the uncoordinated carboxylate oxygen atoms (O2, O3) and aquae oxygen atoms (O1) [O(1)-H(1A)...O(2)^{vi}, 2.7099(15) Å; O(1)-H(2A)...O(3)^{vii}, 2.6936(19) Å; symmetry code (vi): $x+1/2, y+1/2, z+1$; (vii): $-x+1, -y, -z+1$] (Fig. 2b). Such strong hydrogen bonds in the crystal lattice of 1 make the crystals more stable. It is worthwhile to note that a 3D hydrogen bonding network were formed if the hydrogen bonding interactions between O1 atoms of carboxylate groups and H atoms of the pyridyl group with C3 and C4 [C3-H3...O1, 3.585 Å; C4-H4...O1, 3.983 Å] are all taken into account, which contributes to the additional stability of the structure (Fig. 3a). Need to add that in the solid state, $\pi\cdots\pi$ interactions are observed as illustrated in Fig. 3b. and the two coordinated pyridyl rings of nicotinic acid ligands in one molecule unit are interact with other pyridyl rings from adjacent units (3.744 Å for centroid-centroid distance), which consolidate the 3D network structure of the supramolecular.

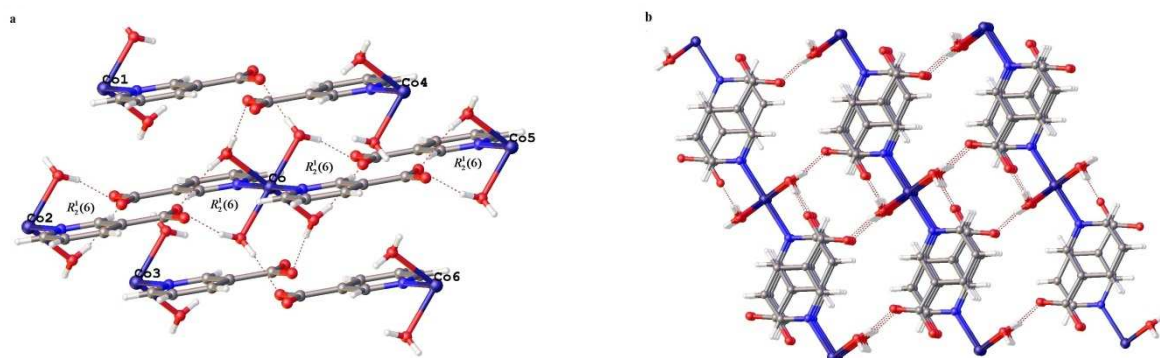


Fig.2 a Each simple unit linked with six adjacent units through hydrogen bonding interactions; b The 2D packing framework of complex 1 through O-H...O hydrogen-bonding

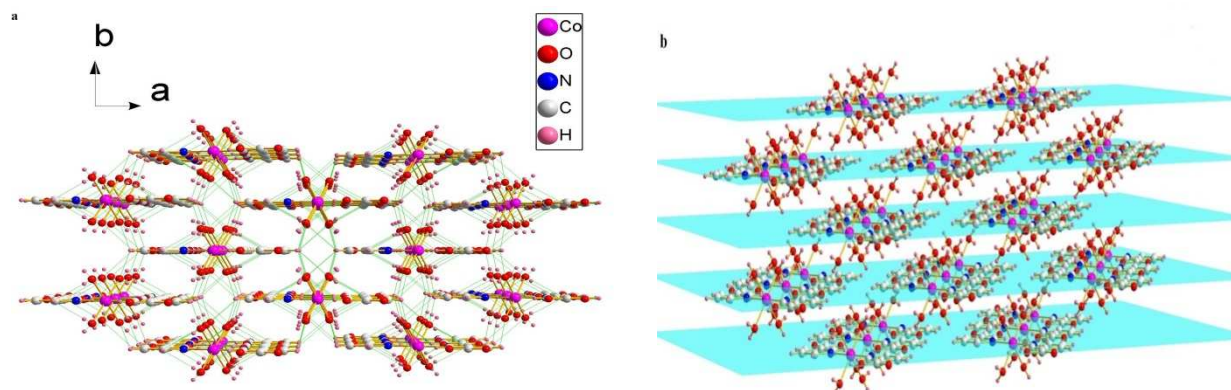


Fig. 3 a) The 3D network architecture on the basis of via hydrogen bonds in 1; b) $\pi \dots \pi$ interactions of complex 1

Determination of antibacterial activity

The synthesized compound 1 and metal salts were screened for their antibacterial activity against three different organisms like *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli* by AGAR diffusion method. Beer extract protein agar medium, laboratory bench and Oxford cups were sterilized for 30 minutes under 129 °C. The medium first melt and was cooled to about 50 °C, and then it was put into culture dishes to be condensed into flat according to aseptic manipulation. After that, the culture mediums were inoculated with the test strains. The compounds were dissolved in DMSO and were injected into the Oxford cups, which were put on the bacterial culture medium. Subsequently, the Oxford cups were incubated at 37 °C for 24h and then the antibacterial activities were determined by measuring the diameter of the zone of growth inhibition (mm).

Table 3 Antibacterial activity data of the metal salt and the title complex

| Compound | Concentration (mmol·L ⁻¹) | Bacterial species | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> | <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> | <i>Escherichia coli</i> |
| Co(OAc) ₂ ·4H ₂ O | 1 | 9.3 | 11.4 | 11.6 |
| | 0.75 | 8.6 | 10.5 | 9.1 |
| | 0.5 | 8.3 | 10.1 | 8.8 |
| Co(nic) ₂ (H ₂ O) ₄ | 1 | 15.4 | 12.7 | 13.1 |
| | 0.75 | 13.9 | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| | 0.5 | 11.8 | 11.3 | 10.7 |
| DMSO | AR | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.1 |

The antibacterial screening data is presented in Table 3. As results show metal salts and synthesized complex 1 exhibited activity against the test strains. In general, antibacterial activity of complex 1 is stronger than metal salt and with the increase of concentration, the complex of bacteriostatic effect also increase.

CONCLUSION

Cobalt (II) nicotinic acid single crystals have been successfully grown by hydrothermal methods and apH of about 6 produced good quality crystals. The crystal belongs to the triclinic system. The crystal structure analysis reveals that it is a novel 3D polymer stabilized by extended hydrogen bonding and $\pi \dots \pi$ interactions consolidate the 3D network structure of the supramolecular. The synthesized compound 1 and metal salts were screened for their antibacterial activity against three different organisms. The results show metal salts and synthesized complex 1 exhibited activity against the test strains and antibacterial activity of complex 1 is stronger than metal salt. In addition, with the increase of concentration, the complex of bacteriostatic effect also increase. The present complex can serve as lead for further structural modifications in the search for new drug molecules.

Supporting Information

Crystallographic data for the structure reported in this paper has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication nos. CCDC945007. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

REFERENCES

- [1] LE Kreno, KLeong, OKFarha, MAllendorf, RPVan Duyne, JT Hupp, *Chem. Rev.* **2012**, 112, 1105.
- [2] CNRRao, SNatarajan, RVaidhyanathan, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, 43, 1466
- [3] GYang, HG Zhu, BHLiang, XMChen, *J. Chem. Soc. Dalton Trans.*, **2001**, 5, 580.

- [4] SK Chaudhuri, Quintessence of Medical Pharmacology, New Central Book Agency, Calcutta, **1997**.
- [5] EJabfi, MBCart, RP' Hausinger et al. *Science*, **1995**, 998, 268.
- [6] MArnold, DABrown, ODeeg, WErrington, WHaase, K Herlihy, TJ Kemp, HNimir, RWerner, *Inorg.Chem*, **1998**, 37, 2920.
- [7] GM Sheldrick, SHELXS-97, Program for X-ray Crystal Structure Determination, University of Göttingen Germany **1997**.
- [8] GM Sheldrick, SHELXL-97, Program for X-ray Crystal Structure Refinement, University of Göttingen, Germany **1997**.