# NEW MIXED-VALENCE DISK-LIKE [Co ${ }_{7}$ ] CLUSTERS WITH AMINOALCOHOL LIGANDS** 

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Aerobic reactions of $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{AcO})_{2} \cdot 4 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ with N -methyldiethanolamine ( $\mathrm{m}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}$ ) or N -ethyldiethanolamine (e- $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}$ ), in the presence of $\mathrm{NaClO}_{4}$, afford two new compounds, $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{HI}}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{3}(\mathrm{~m}\right.$ dea $\left.)_{6}(\mathrm{AcO})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 8 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \quad$ (1), $\quad\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3}(\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{dea})_{6}\left(\mathrm{AcO}_{3}\right)_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \quad$ (2). Starting from $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right) \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, diethanolamine $\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}\right)$ and pyridine-3-carboxylic acid (nicotinic acid $=\mathrm{Hna}$ ) or pyridine-4-carboxylic acid (isonicotinic acid $=$ Hina), two other mixed valence $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}} / \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$ complexes, $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}(\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathrm{na})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (3) and $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{3}{ }^{\mathrm{III}} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}(\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathrm{ina})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ (4), have been obtained. The four compounds have been characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction, elemental analysis, IR and UV-VIS spectroscopy. The four new compounds are members of the family of homometallic mixed-valence $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}} / \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$ featuring a disk shape.


## INTRODUCTION

Aminoalcohols are largely employed to generate homo- and heterometallic alkoxido-bridged clusters. ${ }^{1 a-e}$ The aggregation of multimetallic complexes using such ligands is favored by their chelating behavior and, especially, by the ability of the alkoxido group to bridge two or three metal ions (Scheme 1). Numerous aminoalcohols, carrying one or more OH groups, have been employed, among these monethanolamine, monopropanolamine, diethanolamine, and triethanolamine being very popular. ${ }^{2 a-f}$ The deprotonation of one or more OH groups can occur either spontaneously, or in the presence of a base, currently triethylamine. A plethora of clusters with various nuclearities has been
obtained through self-assembly processes involving aminoalcohols and 3d metal ions (cobalt, manganese, iron). The anions arising from the starting metal salts, the solvent molecules or other coligands play an important role on the nature of the resulting compounds (nuclearity, topology of the metal centers). This synthetic approach has been extended towards heterometallic clusters, containing either two different 3 d metal ions, ${ }^{3 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{d}}$ or 3 d and 4 f metal ions. ${ }^{4-\mathrm{d}}$ An interesting synthetic approach leading to heterometallic alkoxido-bridged clusters has been developed by Nesterov, Vassilyeva, Kokozay et al. ${ }^{5 a-d}$ It consists of one-pot reactions between metal salts, metal powders (most frequently copper) and aminoalcohols.

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Scheme 1 - Deprotonated aminoalcohol ligand and its binding modes in polynuclear complexes.

When $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}$ or $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ salts are employed, the resulting homometallic clusters contain the metal ions in different oxidation states: $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}-\mathrm{Mn}^{\text {III }}$, ${ }^{\text {a-d }}$ $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ - $\mathrm{Co}^{\text {III }}{ }^{7 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{g}}{ }^{\text {P }}$ The basicity of the aminoalcohols favors the oxidation of the divalent metal ions, and their chelating ability prevents the formation of the corresponding oxides. Let us focus here on the particular case of cobalt, selecting several representative examples. The reaction between $\mathrm{CoCl}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{N}$-Bis(2-aminoethyl)ethanolamine, abbreviated as HL, in THF, affords a binuclear cobalt complex, $\left[\mathrm{Col}{ }^{\text {III }}(\mu-\mathrm{OH}) \mathrm{Co}^{\text {III }}(\mathrm{HL})\right]\left(\mathrm{Co}^{\text {II }} \mathrm{Cl}_{4}\right) \mathrm{Cl}^{7 \text { 7a }}{ }^{7}$ Hosseinian et al. have reported heterocubane $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II} / \mathrm{III}}$
compounds
$\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}} 2(\text { tea })_{2}(\mathrm{py})_{2}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{4}\right] \cdot 2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$,
$\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}} 2\left(\mu_{3}-\mathrm{OH}\right)_{2}(\mathrm{Htea})_{2}(\mathrm{bpy})_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{4}$, and $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2} \mathrm{CO}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{2}\left(\mu_{3}-\right.\right.$
$\left.\mathrm{OH})_{2}(\mathrm{Htea})_{2}(\text { phen })_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{4} \cdot 2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN} \cdot 2 \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{OH}$
$\left(\mathrm{H}_{3}\right.$ tea $=$ triethanolamine and $\mathrm{py}=$ pyridine, bpy $=$ $2,2^{\prime}$-bipyridine and phen $=1,10$-phenantroline). ${ }^{7 \mathrm{~b}}$ Das and Shivashankar have synthesised two tetranuclear complexes, $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}(\mathrm{teaH})_{2}\left(\mathrm{teaH}_{2}\right)_{2}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}\right] \cdot 2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{CO}$ and $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}(\mathrm{dea})_{2}\left(\mathrm{deaH}_{2}\right)_{2}(\mathrm{AcO})_{6}\right] \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ by reacting the acetone solution of $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{AcO})_{2} \cdot 4 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ with triethanolamine and diethanolamine, respectively. ${ }^{70}$ Scheurer and coworkers have obtained different types of $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ cubanes: $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}\left(\mathrm{Cl}_{4}\right)_{4}\left(\mathrm{HL}^{\prime}\right)_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{HL}^{\prime}=\mathrm{N}\right.$ -alkyl-substituted dietanolamine). ${ }^{7 d}$ Other tetranuclear complexes have been reported by Siddiqi et al., $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}\left(\mu_{3}-\mathrm{OH}\right)_{2}\left(\mu_{2}-\right.\right.$ dea $\left.)_{2}(\mathrm{AA})_{4}\right] \cdot 4 \mathrm{Cl} \cdot 8 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, with a defect dicubane topology and two $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ and two $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$ ions, where $\mathrm{AA}=$ bpy and phen, respectively. ${ }^{7 \mathrm{e}} \mathrm{A}$ hexanuclear $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{IIIIII}}$ cluster has been synthesised by Alley et al., starting from $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2}$ and 2-amino-2-metyl-1,3propandiol (ampd), in a mixture of solvents (methanol/water), the result being $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right)(\mathrm{MeOH})(\mathrm{AcO})_{6}(\mathrm{ampd})_{4}\right] .{ }^{7 \mathrm{f}}$

Another hexanuclear complex, $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}{ }^{\text {II }} \mathrm{Co}_{2}{ }^{\text {III }}(\text { dea })_{2}(\mathrm{Hdea})_{4}(\text { piv })_{4}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \quad \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, has been reported by us. ${ }^{78}$ Several other heptanuclear
cobalt complexes with a disk shape, ${ }^{8-12}$ have been synthesized with cobalt ions in different oxidation states and a variety of ligands: $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{7},{ }^{8 a^{-j}} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{6} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$, ${ }^{9 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{d}} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{5} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{2}{ }^{10 \mathrm{a}} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3}{ }^{11 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{e}}$ and $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{4}{ }^{12}$

In previous paper we have reported on a $\mathrm{Co}{ }^{\mathrm{II}} / \mathrm{Co}^{\text {III }}$ heptanuclear cluster with diethanolamine and acetate as ligands, $\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}{ }^{\text {II }} \mathrm{Co}_{3}{ }^{\text {III }}(\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathrm{AcO})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{0.75} \cdot(\mathrm{AcO})_{1.75} \cdot 0.5 \mathrm{H}_{2}$ O. ${ }^{11 \mathrm{cc}}$ In this paper we report on four new mixedvalence heptanuclear $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}} / \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$ clusters, which are obtained using diethanolamine, diethanolamine derivatives ( N -methyldiethanolamine $=\mathrm{m}-\mathrm{H}_{2}$ dea, N -ethyldiethanolamine $=\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}$ ) and carboxylato coligands (nicotinato $=$ na, isonicotinato $=$ ina).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Four new mixed valence $\mathrm{Co}{ }^{\mathrm{II}} / \mathrm{Co}^{\text {III }}$ heptanuclear clusters have been obtained and characterized. The first two compounds, $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3}(\mathrm{~m}\right.$ dea $\left.)_{6}(\mathrm{AcO})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 8 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (1) and $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3}(\mathrm{e}-\right.$ dea $\left.)_{6}(\mathrm{AcO})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}(\mathbf{2})$, have been aggregated by the aerobic reaction of cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate and N -methyldiethanolamine ( m $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}$ ) (1) and cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate and N -ethyldiethanolamine ( $\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}$ ) for (2), in the presence of AcONa and $\mathrm{NaClO}_{4}$. Compounds $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}(\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathrm{na})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\mathbf{3})$ and $\left[\mathrm{Co}^{1 \mathrm{II}}{ }_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}(\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathrm{ina})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ (4) have been obtained by reacting $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ with diethanolamine ( $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}$ ) and nicotinic acid (Hna) (3) and $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ with diethanolamine $\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{dea}\right)$ and isonicotinic acid (Hina) (4), respectively. Their crystal structures have been solved. The four compounds contain $4 \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ and $3 \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$ sites. The topology of the metal ions in compounds (1) - (4) is similar (Figures 1 and 2). The oxidation states of the cobalt ions were assigned on the basis of charge balance, the bond length considerations and BVS calculations (Table S1, Supporting Information). In all four clusters the aminoalkoxido and carboxylato ligands behave in an identical fashion. The ligands (aminoalcohols and carboxylato) surround the periphery of the cluster. Two deprotonated aminoalcohol molecules are coordinated to each $\mathrm{Co}^{\text {III }}$ ion. Three carboxylato ligands also support this core, acting as chelating ligands towards the peripheral $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ ions. The seven cobalt centers are held together by six $\mu_{3}$ - and six $\mu_{2}$-alkoxido groups arising from six aminoalcohol ligands. The crystal structure of (1) (4) consists of heptanuclear cations, uncoordinated perchlorate ions, water molecules and solvent molecules in the particular case of (3).

Since the four clusters display essentially identical structures, we will limit our discussion to compound (3). There are seven independent cobalt ions in (3), labeled Col-Co7.The seven cobalt ions display distorted octahedral geometries. The stereochemistry of $\mathrm{Col}\left(\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}\right)$ is the more regular, involving six oxygen donor atoms derived from six $\mu_{3}$-alkoxido groups, with $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{O}$ angles in the range of $78.65(15)-98.06(16)^{\circ}$ (Table 2) and CoO bonds ranging between 2.071(4) and 2.104(4) $\AA$ (Table 1). The other $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ ions (Co2, Co 6 and Co 7 ) have bond lengths varying between $1.975(4)$ and $2.203(5) \AA$. The bond lengths of $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}$ ions (Co3,

Co 4 and Co5) are shorter: $\mathrm{Co}-\mathrm{N}$ bonds fall in the range $1.940(6)-1.960(5) \AA$ and Co-O range between 1.875(4) and 1.915(4) $\AA$. The intramolecular distances between the central cobalt atom (Co1) and the peripheral ones (Co2, Co3, Co4, Co5, Co6, Co 7 ) are $\mathrm{Co} 1-\mathrm{Co} 2=2.992, \mathrm{Co} 1-\mathrm{Co} 3=2.992$, $\mathrm{Co} 1-\mathrm{Co} 4=2.997, \mathrm{Co} 1-\mathrm{Co} 5=2.991, \mathrm{Co} 1-\mathrm{Co} 6$ $=3.162$, Co1 - Co7 = $3.180 \AA$ (Table 1 and Table S2).

A summary of the important interatomic distances and angles is provided in Tables 1, 2 and S2, S3 (Supporting Information).


Fig. 1 - Perspective views of the heptanuclear cations in (1) and (2) (': 1-y, 1+x-y, z, ": -x+y, 1-x,z).


Fig. 2 - Perspective views of the heptanuclear cations in (3) and (4).

Table 1
Selected bond lengths ( $\AA$ ) in compound (3)

|  |  | (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Co1 | O13 | $2.104(4)$ | Co4 | O11 | $1.915(4)$ | Co7 | O11 | $2.183(4)$ |
| Co1 | O15 | $2.089(4)$ | Co4 | O16 | $1.911(4)$ | Co7 | O8 | $2.189(4)$ |
| Co1 | O9 | $2.075(4)$ | Co4 | O17 | $1.875(4)$ | Co7 | O21 | $1.983(5)$ |
| Co1 | O11 | $2.094(4)$ | Co4 | O21 | $1.876(4)$ | Co7 | O10 | $1.993(5)$ |
| Co1 | O8 | $2.100(4)$ | Co4 | N4 | $1.943(5)$ | Co7 | O3 | $2.141(5)$ |
| Co1 | O16 | $2.071(4)$ | Co4 | N10 | $1.941(5)$ | Co7 | O4 | $2.203(5)$ |
| Co2 | O13 | $2.163(4)$ | Co5 | O9 | $1.906(4)$ | Co1 | Co2 | 2.992 |
| Co2 | O12 | $1.982(4)$ | Co5 | O8 | $1.911(4)$ | Co1 | Co3 | 2.992 |
| Co2 | O16 | $2.186(4)$ | Co5 | O10 | $1.879(4)$ | Co1 | Co4 | 2.997 |
| Co2 | O17 | $1.978(4)$ | Co5 | O7 | $1.881(4)$ | Co1 | Co5 | 2.991 |
| Co2 | O2 | $2.116(4)$ | Co5 | N5 | $1.940(6)$ | Co1 | Co6 | 3.162 |
| Co2 | O1 | $2.191(4)$ | Co5 | N6 | $1.952(6)$ | Co1 | Co7 | 3.180 |
| Co3 | O13 | $1.908(4)$ | Co6 | O15 | $2.173(4)$ |  |  |  |
| Co3 | O15 | $1.909(4)$ | Co6 | O9 | $2.186(4)$ |  |  |  |
| Co3 | O12 | $1.889(4)$ | Co6 | O14 | $1.983(4)$ |  |  |  |
| Co3 | O14 | $1.881(4)$ | Co6 | O7 | $1.975(4)$ |  |  |  |
| Co3 | N3 | $1.944(5)$ | Co6 | O5 | $2.133(4)$ |  |  |  |
| Co3 | N2 | $1.960(5)$ | Co6 | O6 | $2.164(5)$ |  |  |  |

Table 2
Selected angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ in compound (3)

| (3) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O15 | Col | O13 | 78.65(15) | O16 | Co4 | O11 | 88.09(17) | O8 | Co7 | O11 | 81.99(15) |
| O9 | Col | O13 | 92.48(11) | O17 | Co4 | O11 | 96.17(18) | O21 | Co7 | O11 | 73.48(16) |
| O9 | Col | O15 | 137.30(12) | O17 | Co4 | O16 | 82.45(17) | O21 | Co7 | O8 | 93.06(18) |
| O11 | Col | O13 | 97.92(16) | O21 | Co4 | O11 | 82.38(19) | O10 | Co7 | O11 | 94.96(18) |
| O11 | Col | O15 | 174.87(16) | O21 | Co4 | O16 | 97.00(19) | O10 | Co7 | O8 | 73.59(17) |
| O11 | Col | O9 | 97.64(16) | O21 | Co4 | O17 | 178.5(2) | O10 | Co7 | O21 | 163.68(18) |
| O8 | Col | O13 | 174.40(16) | N4 | Co4 | O11 | 87.8(2) | O3 | Co7 | O11 | 108.72(17) |
| O8 | Col | O15 | 97.42(16) | N4 | Co4 | O16 | 166.3(2) | O3 | Co7 | O8 | 166.09(18) |
| O8 | Col | O9 | 78.66(17) | N4 | Co4 | O17 | 85.0(2) | O3 | Co7 | O21 | 98.5(2) |
| O8 | Col | O11 | 86.27(16) | N4 | Co4 | O21 | 95.4(2) | O3 | Co7 | O10 | 96.15(19) |
| O16 | Col | O13 | 86.40(15) | N10 | Co4 | O11 | 166.6(2) | O4 | Co7 | O11 | 166.01(18) |
| O16 | Col | O15 | 96.50(15) | N10 | Co4 | O16 | 87.4(2) | O4 | Co7 | O8 | 110.13(18) |
| O16 | Col | O9 | 175.77(16) | N10 | Co4 | O17 | 95.7(2) | O4 | Co7 | O21 | 98.3(2) |
| O16 | Col | O11 | 79.40(16) | N10 | Co4 | O21 | 85.7(2) | O4 | Co7 | O10 | 95.2(2) |
| O16 | Col | O8 | 98.06(16) | N10 | Co4 | N4 | 99.3(2) | O4 | Co7 | O3 | 60.6(2) |
| O12 | Co2 | O13 | 74.34(16) | O8 | Co5 | O9 | 87.75(17) | Col | O16 | Co 2 | 95.84(16) |
| O16 | Co2 | O13 | 82.16(15) | O10 | Co5 | O9 | 96.07(19) | Col | O13 | Co2 | 95.57(16) |
| O16 | Co2 | O 12 | 92.79(16) | O10 | $\mathrm{Co5}$ | O8 | 82.93(19) | Col | O15 | Co6 | 95.75(16) |
| O17 | Co2 | O13 | 96.90(16) | O7 | Co5 | O9 | 83.22(18) | Col | O9 | Co6 | 95.76(16) |
| O17 | Co2 | O12 | 164.79(17) | 07 | Co5 | O8 | 95.57(19) | Col | O11 | Co7 | 96.04(17) |
| O17 | Co2 | O16 | 73.46(16) | O7 | Co5 | O10 | 178.37(19) | Col | O8 | Co7 | 95.70(16) |
| O2 | Co2 | O13 | 106.96(16) | N5 | Co5 | O9 | 166.4(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O2 | Co2 | O12 | 100.30(17) | N5 | Co5 | O8 | 87.7(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O2 | Co2 | O16 | 165.64(16) | N5 | Co5 | O10 | 96.0(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O2 | Co2 | O17 | 94.11(17) | N5 | Co5 | 07 | 84.5(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O1 | Co2 | O13 | 163.63(16) | N6 | Co5 | O9 | 87.1(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O1 | Co2 | O12 | 96.36(18) | N6 | Co5 | O8 | 166.4(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O1 | Co2 | O16 | 112.18(16) | N6 | Co5 | O10 | 85.2(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O1 | Co2 | O17 | 94.90(19) | N6 | Co5 | 07 | 96.3(2) |  |  |  |  |
| O1 | Co2 | O 2 | 60.76(17) | N6 | Co5 | N5 | 100.1(3) |  |  |  |  |
| O15 | Co3 | O13 | 88.23(17) | O9 | Co6 | O15 | 81.87(15) |  |  |  |  |
| O 12 | Co3 | O13 | 82.72(17) | O14 | Co6 | O15 | 74.16(16) |  |  |  |  |
| O12 | Co3 | O15 | 95.73(18) | O14 | Co6 | O9 | 93.32(17) |  |  |  |  |
| O14 | Co3 | O13 | 94.58(18) | O7 | Co6 | O15 | 94.61(17) |  |  |  |  |
| O14 | Co3 | O15 | 82.96(18) | O7 | Co6 | O9 | 74.19(16) |  |  |  |  |
| O14 | Co3 | O12 | 177.05(18) | O7 | Co6 | O14 | 164.48(18) |  |  |  |  |
| N3 | Co3 | Col | 130.70(17) | O5 | Co6 | O15 | 107.85(16) |  |  |  |  |


| N3 | Co3 | O13 | $87.7(2)$ | O5 | Co6 | O9 | $169.42(16)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| N3 | Co3 | O15 | $166.3(2)$ | O5 | Co6 | O14 | $93.40(18)$ |
| N3 | Co3 | O12 | $96.7(2)$ | O5 | Co6 | O7 | $100.34(18)$ |
| N3 | Co3 | O14 | $84.4(2)$ | O6 | Co6 | O15 | $165.05(17)$ |
| N2 | Co3 | O15 | $87.5(2)$ | O6 | Co6 | O9 | $109.79(17)$ |
| N2 | Co3 | O12 | $85.2(2)$ | O6 | Co6 | O14 | $95.31(19)$ |
| N2 | Co3 | O14 | $97.3(2)$ | O6 | Co6 | O7 | $97.6(2)$ |
| N2 | Co3 | N3 | $99.2(2)$ | O6 | Co6 | O5 | $61.42(18)$ |

The crystallization water molecule (O1w) is hydrogen bonded to the carboxylato oxygen atom (O1) arising from the nicotinato ligand (Figure 3).

The analysis of the packing diagram (Figure 4) reveals the formation of supramolecular dimers
supported by $\pi-\pi$ stacking interactions ( $3.35 \AA$ ) established between two pyridyl fragments arising two neighboring clusters. Only one out of the three pyridyl fragments from each cluster is involved in these interactions.


Fig. 3 - Hydrogen bond established between the water molecule and one carboxylate oxygen atom in compound (3).


Fig. 4 - Packing diagram in crystal (3) showing the $\pi-\pi$ staking interactions between the pyridyl rings (left: view along the crystallographic $b$ axis).


Fig. 5 - Diffuse reflectance spectra for compounds (1) - (4).

The UV-VIS spectra of the four compounds are displayed in Figure 5 and result from the superposition of the $d-d$ transitions of the $\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}$ and Co ${ }^{\text {III }}$ chromophores. ${ }^{13}$ The four spectra have the same features. The bands located at around 1200 nm for (1) - (4), are ascribed to the ${ }^{4} \mathrm{~T}_{1 g} \rightarrow{ }^{4} \mathrm{~T}_{2 \mathrm{~g}}$ transition of hexacoordinated cobalt(II).

## EXPERIMENTAL

## Materials and methods

All the chemicals used were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Elemental analyses (C, H, N) were performed on an EuroEA Elemental Analyzer.
$\left[\mathrm{Co}_{4}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3}(\mathrm{~m}-\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathrm{AcO})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot \mathbf{8} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (1). An ethanolic solution ( 10 mL ) of sodium acetate $(0.0246 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ and cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate $(0.0747 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ was mixed with an ethanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of N -methyldiethanolamine $(0.0714 \mathrm{~g}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ and triethylamine $(0.166 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.2 \mathrm{mmol})$ and an ethanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of sodium perchlorate $(0.0421$ $\mathrm{g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$. The mixture was stirred for two hours and then filtered off. The resulting green solution was allowed to evaporate in the open air for four weeks, after which green crystals were collected. Elemental chemical analysis: $26.44 \%$ C, $5.61 \% \mathrm{H}$, $5.14 \%$, N (calcd); 25.97 \% C, 6.03 \% H, $5.59 \%$, N (found). IR ( $\left.\mathrm{cm}^{-1}, \mathrm{KBr}\right): 3432(\mathrm{~s}), 2932(\mathrm{w}), 2865(\mathrm{w}), 1549(\mathrm{~s}), 1456(\mathrm{~s})$, $1420(\mathrm{~m}), 1145(\mathrm{vs}), 1088(\mathrm{vs}), 1027(\mathrm{vs}), 626(\mathrm{~m})$.
$\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3}(\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{dea})_{6}(\mathbf{A c O})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}(2)$. An ethanolic solution (10 $\mathrm{mL})$ of sodium acetate $(0.0246 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ and cobalt(II) acetate tetrahydrate $(0.0747 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$ was mixed with an ethanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of N -ethyldiethanolamine $(0.0799 \mathrm{~g}, 0.6 \mathrm{mmol})$ and triethylamine $(0.166 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.2 \mathrm{mmol})$, and an ethanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of sodium perchlorate $(0.0421 \mathrm{~g}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol})$. The mixture was stirred for two hours and then filtered off. The resulting green solution was allowed to evaporate in the open air for four weeks, after which green crystals were collected.

Elemental chemical analysis: $32.01 \% \mathrm{C}, 5.58 \% \mathrm{H}, 5.33 \% \mathrm{~N}$ (calcd.); $32.46 \% \mathrm{C}, 5.04 \% \mathrm{H}, 5.59 \%$, N (found). IR ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}, \mathrm{KBr}$ ): 3430(s), 2924(w), 2860(w), 1548(s), 1452(m), 1145(vs), 1099(vs), 1034(vs), 624(m).
$\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}(\text { dea })_{6}(\mathrm{na})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{OH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (3). An ethanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(0.5 \mathrm{mmol} ; 0.183$ $\mathrm{g})$ was reacted with $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ dea ( $1 \mathrm{mmol} ; 0.105 \mathrm{~g}$ ) dissolved in 10 mL of methanol and triethylamine ( $2 \mathrm{mmol} ; 0.202 \mathrm{~g}, 0.278 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). To the resulting dark green solution, a methanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of nicotinic acid ( $1 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.123 \mathrm{~g}$ ) and triethylamine ( $1 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.139$ mL ). The final mixture was stirred for 2 h and then it was filtered off. The resulting dark green solution was allowed to evaporate in the open air for two weeks. Dark green single crystals appeared after a week by slow evaporation of the solution at room temperature. Elemental chemical analysis: $31.60 \% \mathrm{C}, 4.10 \% \mathrm{H}$, $7.54 \%, \mathrm{~N}$ (calcd.); $31.00 \% \mathrm{C}, 4.22 \% \mathrm{H}, 7.84 \%$, N (found). IR $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}, \mathrm{KBr}\right): 3421(\mathrm{~s}), 3268(\mathrm{~m}), 2938(\mathrm{~m}), 2872(\mathrm{~m})$, $1595(\mathrm{~m})$, 1542(s), 1433(s), 1410(s), 1284(w), 1200(w), 1100(vs), 1068(vs), 1043(vs), 1000(vs), 900(w), 698(m), 624(m).
$\left[\mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{III}}{ }_{3} \mathrm{Co}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{4}(\text { dea })_{6}(\mathrm{ina})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ (4). An ethanolic solution (10 $\mathrm{mL})$ of $\mathrm{Co}\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(0.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.183 \mathrm{~g})$ was reacted with $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ dea ( $1 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.105 \mathrm{~g}$ ) dissolved in 10 mL of methanol and triethylamine ( $2 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.202 \mathrm{~g}, 0.278 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The mixture was stirred for five minutes and then was mixed with a methanolic solution $(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ of isonicotinic acid $(0.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.062 \mathrm{~g})$ with triethylamine ( $0.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.069 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The final mixture was stirred for 2 h and then it was filtered off. The resulting dark green solution was allowed to evaporate in the open air for several days. Dark green single crystals appeared by slow evaporation of the solution at room temperature. Elemental chemical analysis: $31.72 \% \mathrm{C}, 3.80 \% \mathrm{H}, 7.93 \%$, N (calcd.); $31.41 \% \mathrm{C}, 3.92 \% \mathrm{H}$, $7.97 \% \mathrm{~N}$ (found). IR ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}, \mathrm{KBr}$ ): 3438, 3268(m), 2936(m), 2874(m), 1640(m), 1589(m), 1538(m), 1498(s), 1416(s), 1285(w), 1200(w), 1100(vs), 1070(vs), 1000(vs), 914(w), 626(m).

## Physical Measurements

IR spectra ( KBr pellets) were recorded on a Tensor 37 spectrophotometer in the $4000-400 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ region and UV-Vis spectra were recorded with a Jasco V-670 spectrophotometer, using MgO oxide as a reference.

Table 3
Crystallographic data, details of data collection and structure refinement parameters for compounds (1) - (4)

| Compound | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Chemical formula | $\mathrm{Co}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{91} \mathrm{O}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Co}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{42} \mathrm{H}_{87} \mathrm{O}_{26} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Co}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{74} \mathrm{O}_{28} \mathrm{~N}_{9} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{Co}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{42} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{O}_{26} \mathrm{~N}_{9} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ |
| $M\left(\mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}\right)$ | 1635.74 | 1575.76 | 1660 | 1596 |
| Temperature (K) | 293(2) | 293(2) | 293(2) | 293(2) |
| Wavelength ( $\AA$ ) | 0.71073 | 0.71073 | 0.71073 | 0.71073 |
| Crystal system | triclinic | trigonal | monoclinic | monoclinic |
| Space group | P-1 | $R-3 c$ | $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ | $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ |
| $a(\AA)$ | 13.5105(2) | 15.7120(6) | 21.6144(3) | 23.1182(3) |
| $b(\AA)$ | 13.7641(3) | 15.7120(6) | 12.2760(4) | 12.0379(4) |
| $c(\AA)$ | 18.8263(4) | 43.224(3) | 24.3516(5) | 23.9297(5) |
| $\alpha\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 98.361(3) | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 90.520(2) | 90 | 92.309(6) | 100.155(6) |
| $\gamma\left({ }^{\circ}\right.$ | 117.406(4) | 120 | 90 | 90.00 |
| $V\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | 3063.45(16) | 9241.0(9) | 6456.2(3) | 6555.2(3) |
| Z | 2 | 12 | 4 | 4 |
| $D_{c}\left(\mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}\right)$ | 1.509 | 1.669 | 1.608 | 1.778 |
| $\mu\left(\mathrm{mm}^{-1}\right)$ | 1.961 | 2.008 | 0.915 | 1.592 |
| $F\left(\begin{array}{lll}0 & 0 & 0\end{array}\right)$ | 1435 | 4872 | 3132 | 3488 |
| Goodness-of-fit (GOF) on $F^{2}$ | 1.0758 | 1.088 | 1.019 | 1.110 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Final } R_{l}, w R_{2} \\ & {[I>2 \sigma(l)]} \end{aligned}$ | 0.0918, 0.2239 | 0.0390, 0.0731 | 0.0635,0.1650 | $0.1279,0.3532$ |
| $R_{1}, w R_{2}$ (all data) | 0.1978, 0.3029 | 0.0744, 0.0894 | 0.0729, 0.1695 | 0.1668, 0.3732 |
| Largest difference in peak and hole $\left(\mathrm{e}^{-3}\right)^{-3}$ | $-1.485,1.566$ | -0.697, 0.525 | -1.121, 2.500 | -0.693, 2.050 |

## X-ray crystallographic analysis

Crystals of (1) - (4) were measured on STOE IPDSII single crystal diffractometer, using graphite-monochromated Mo Ka radiation $(\lambda=0.71073 \AA)$. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques based on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$. The non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. A summary of the crystallographic data and refinement parameters for $(\mathbf{1})-(4)$ is given in Table 3. The very small size of crystals $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{4}$ (needls shape crystals) and poor diffraction patterns were the reason of the significantly flattened thermal ellipsoids and the high $\mathrm{R}_{1}$ parameters. CCDC reference numbers: 19864531986456.

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