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Tin(\parallel)-functionalization of the archetypal {P₈W₄₈} polyoxotungstate†

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The synthesis of $[K_{4.5} \subset (ClSn^{II})_8P_8W_{48}O_{184}]^{17.5-}$, featuring Sn(II) ions in trigonal-pyramidal SnO_2Cl environment coordinating to the two inner rims of the wheel-shaped $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ -type polyoxotungstate(VII) archetype, showcases how high chloride ligand concentrations as well as the control of the polyanion solubility Via electrolytes and evaporation rates are essential to prevent numerous competing reactions that can hamper the Sn(III) functionalization of polyoxometalates.

Introduction

The reactivity of main group metals towards polyoxotungstates (POTs) has received relatively little attention to date in comparison with that of transition metals and lanthanides. Among such main group metals, tin is one of the most investigated elements due to interest in POM functionalization with organotin moieties with Sn in its formal +IV oxidation state. At the same time, examples of POTs incorporating Sn^{II} ions are still rather elusive, despite the general potential to exploit their structure-directing electron pair effect, in line with the lone pair effects that were *e.g.* utilized in the synthesis of As(III)-functionalized high-nuclearity POTs.

In the pioneering work in the late 1970s, Knoth explored the possibility to attach organometallic RMSn^{II} moieties (RM = CpFe(CO)₂, (OC)₃Co, π -C₃H₅Pd, (C₇H₈)₂Rh, *etc.*) to monolacunary Keggin-type POTs. ^{3a} Several years later, Chorghade and Pope thoroughly characterized a series of α/β -[XW₁₁O₃₉Sn]ⁿ⁻ (X = B^{III}, Ga^{III}, Si^{IV}, Ge^{IV}, P^V) and α_2 -[P₂W₁₇O₆₁Sn]⁸⁻ complexes where Sn^{II} centers coordinate with monovacant Keggin- and Wells–Dawson-type species. ^{3b} A related polyanion with a postulated composition [PMo₂W₉O₃₉Sn]⁵⁻ was reported to catalyze the oxidation of various organic sulfides to sulfoxides by H₂O₂. ^{3c}

In the complexes of Sn^{II} with α -A-isomers of trilacunary Keggin-type POTs two trivacant polyoxometalate (POM) ligands typically sandwich several tin(II) centers: three in $[Sn_3(XW_9O_{34})_2]^{n-}$ (X = Si^{IV}, P^V, As^V), six in $[Sn_6(XW_9O_{33})_2]^{n-}$ $(X = Sn^{II}, Sb^{III})^5$, or even nine in the polymeric $\{(H_2O)_mNa\}_{n-1}$ $[Cl_5Sn_9(XW_9O_{34})_2]_n$ (X = Si^{IV}, Ge^{IV}).^{5b} In $[\{Sn_4(SiW_9O_{34})_2\}_2]^{24-}$ polyanions, which are catalytically active in hydrogen evolution from aqueous media, two {Sn₃(SiW₉O₃₄)₂} fragments are linked via two additional Sn^{II} centers into a dimer.⁶ In the β-B-type trilacunary POTs $[Sn_{1.5}(WO_2(OH))_{0.5}(WO_2)_2(XW_9O_{33})_2]^{12-}$ $(X = Sb^{III}, Bi^{III})$ the Sn^{II} ions occupy the outer positions in the inner belt of the sandwich-type structure. 5 Sn in all the above mentioned species exhibit either trigonal or tetragonal pyramidal coordination environments and possess a lone electron pair, which, if sterically accessible, can be used for further functionalization of the SnII-containing POMs via coordination with organometallic moieties.

Besides acting as an external heterometal, Sn^{II} ions can also assume the role of internal heteroatoms composing POT structures as was observed in $[H_3SnW_{18}O_{60}]^{7-}$ (ref. 7) and the $\{SnW_9O_{33}\}$ subunit in the above-mentioned $[Sn_6(SnW_9O_{33})_2]^{8-}$, 5a as well as act as a linker between the intact paratungstate-B structures leading to anionic chains $[\{H_2SnW_{12}O_{42}\}_n]^{8n-}$.

At the same time the reactivity of Sn^{II} towards multilacunary (*i.e.* more reactive) derivatives of Wells–Dawson-type POTs or POMs with more complex structures remains unstudied. Therefore we decided to investigate the reaction of Sn^{II} chloride with the archetypal macrocyclic phosphotung-state $\left[P_8W_{48}O_{184}\right]^{40-}$ (= $\left\{P_8W_{48}\right\}$), possessing a wheel-shaped structure composed of four identical hexalacunary $\left\{P_2W_{12}O_{48}\right\}$ Wells–Dawson fragments connected to each other via oxobridges. The large inner cavity of $\left\{P_8W_{48}\right\}$ allows for the incorporation of a wide range of hetero-transition metal ions, as exemplified by $\left[Cu_{20}X(OH)_{24}(H_2O)_{12}P_8W_{48}O_{184}\right]^{25-}$ (X = Cl, Br, I), 9a,b $\left[Cu_{20}(N_3)_6(OH)_{18}P_8W_{48}O_{184}\right]^{24-}$, $\left[K_8 \subset \left\{P_8W_{48}O_{184}\right\}-\left\{V_4^VV_2^{IV}O_{12}O$

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 $[\]dagger$ Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Crystallographic data in CIF format, BVS calculation details, crystal packing in **KLi-1**, IR/Raman, solid-state and time-dependent solution ^{31}P NMR and UV-vis spectra; TGA, CV and EQCM curves. See DOI: 10.1039/c5dt03164h

 $\begin{array}{l} (H_2O)_2)_2]^{24-\ 10a} \left[Fe_{16}(OH)_{28}(H_2O)_4 P_8 W_{48}O_{184} \right]^{20-\ 10b} \left[K_8 \subset \{ P_8 W_{48}O_{184} \}^{-1} \right]^{-1} \\ \{ Mo^{VI}O_2\}_4 \{ Mo_4^{V}O_{10}(H_2O)_3\}_2 \right]^{24-\ 10c} \ \ \text{and} \ \ \text{others.}^{11} \ \ \{ P_8 W_{48} \} \ \ \text{can} \\ \text{also assume the role of a secondary building block in the carbon-free 3D coordination framework } K_{18} \text{Li}_6 [Mn_8(H_2O)_{48} - P_8 W_{48}O_{184}] \cdot 108 H_2O, \text{ exhibiting rigid cages with an approximate volume of 7.24 nm}^3. \end{array}$

Herein we report the first example of a $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ POT incorporating the main group element, namely the polyanion $[K_{4.5} \subset (ClSn^{II})_8P_8W_{48}O_{184}]^{17.5-}$ (1) that was synthesized in a one-pot reaction in an aqueous medium, isolated as the hydrated potassium/lithium salt $K_{10}Li_{17.5}[K_{4.5}\subset (ClSn^{II})_8-P_8W_{48}O_{184}]\cdot 50H_2O$ (KLi-1), and characterized by single-crystal X-ray, elemental and thermogravimetric analyses; FT-IR/Raman, UV-Vis, solid-state MAS and solution ^{31}P NMR spectroscopy as well as cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical quartz crystal microbalance studies.

Results and discussion

Synthesis

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The polyanions 1 have been synthesized by the reaction of [H₇P₈W₄₈O₁₈₄]³³⁻ with SnCl₂ in 4 M aqueous LiCl solution at 50 °C. Alternatively heating at 50 °C for 1 h, the reaction mixture could be stirred at room temperature for 4-5 h. The large bright-orange block-shaped crystals of KLi-1 form within several days by the evaporation of the obtained solutions under a hood. During the reaction the color of the reaction mixture changes from bright-orange to brown and then to dark-green indicating partial reduction of WVI centers of {P₈W₄₈} by Sn^{II} to W^V ions which are then slowly reoxidized by air oxygen. To minimize this undesirable process, lowering the yield of the product, a large excess of SnII ions should be excluded and access of the reaction mixture to air oxygen needs to be provided which is in part achieved by a sufficient surface/volume ratio of the reaction solution (that, in turn, makes difficult upscaling of the reaction volume). Prolonged heating of the reaction mixture as well as heating at higher temperatures (70-90 °C) speed up the WVI reduction process and thus should be prevented. The evaporation rate of the reaction solution also seems to play a crucial role. Thus, evaporation under a fumehood results in the rapid crystallization of KLi-1 within 1-6 days, while slower evaporation of the reaction mixture (e.g. outside a fumehood) leads to gradual decomposition of 1 with the formation of a white viscous gellike precipitate. This product most likely represents a mixed Sn(II) chloride-hydroxide (Sn(OH)Cl), the formation of which is followed by a visible color change of the reaction mixture, which complicates the isolation of pure KLi-1. A relatively high Cl⁻ concentration is also important as it serves as a source of terminal chloride ligands on the Sn^{II} centers in 1. Thus, the polyanion 1 cannot be crystallized from other media (e.g., LiOAc (pH 2-6), NaOAc (pH 2-6), Li₂SO₄ (pH 2-3) or 2 M LiCl and NaCl) where the reaction products of $\left[H_7P_8W_{48}O_{184}\right]^{33-}$ with $SnCl_2$ turn out to be mixtures of hydrated K⁺/Li⁺ salts of polyanions with the general composition $[(HOSn^{II})_x P_8 W_{48} O_{184}]^{(40-x)}$ with x = 3-6.

Representative examples which we were able to structurally characterize are $K_{46.75}Li_{26.25}[(HOSn^{II})_4P_8W_{48}O_{184}][(HOSn^{II})_3-P_8W_{48}O_{184}]$? nH_2O (CSD-430081) and $K_{11}Li_{23}[(HOSn^{II})_6P_8W_{48}O_{184}]$. nH_2O (CSD-430082), both of which exhibit correspondingly decreased crystallographic occupancy factors for the Sn positions.

Crystal structure analysis

Compound **KLi-1** crystallizes in tetragonal symmetry in the space group I4/m. The polyanion **1** consists of a macrocyclic phosphotungstate $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ which is coordinated by eight Sn^{II} ions that are located in the inner cavity of $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ at the eight vacant sites between neighboring $\{P_2W_{12}\}$ subunits. Each Sn center binds to two terminal oxygen positions belonging to two adjacent $\{P_2W_{12}\}$ groups (Sn-O 2.140(10)-2.152(11) Å; Fig. 1). Thus, the POM possesses an idealized D_{4h} symmetry. The bond lengths and angles within the phosphotungstate framework are in the usual range (see Table $S1\dagger$).

Each $\rm Sn^{II}$ center resides in a trigonal pyramidal $\rm SnO_2Cl$ coordination environment with a terminal chloride ligand (Sn–Cl 2.515(6) Å) directed towards the center of the {P₈W₄₈} ring. This trigonal-pyramidal coordination mode is reminiscent of several other anionic $\rm Sn(II)$ complexes such as $\rm SnCl_3^-$, that are formed in aqueous solutions at higher halide concentrations, or $\rm SnCl_2(H_2O)$. The Sn–Cl bond lengths in 1 can be compared with those of 2.523 and 2.595 Å in $\rm Cs[SnCl_3]^{13a}$ and $\rm [SnCl_2(H_2O)]\cdot H_2O,^{13b}$ respectively. The Sn–O bond distances in 1 also correlate rather well with the Sn–O bond lengths in $\rm [SnCl_2(H_2O)]\cdot H_2O$ (2.169 Å)^{13b} and other $\rm Sn^{II}$ -containing POTs.^{3–8} The O–Sn–O and O–Sn–Cl angles are in the usual

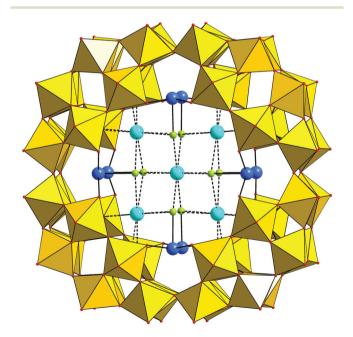


Fig. 1 Structure of 1 in combined polyhedral/ball-and-stick representation. Color legend: WO_{6} , yellow octahedra; Sn, blue; K, light blue; Cl, lime green; O, red spheres. The P centers are not visible in this perspective.

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range and constitute 91.5(4)° and 85.8(3)–86.3(3)°, respectively. The lone electron pair on each Sn^{II} center is oriented towards the center of the polyanion and thus is sterically inaccessible. The closest $Sn\cdots Sn$ distances are 3.956(1) Å between the Sn^{II} centers situated on the opposite side of $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ and 7.248(1) Å

between the Sn^{II} centers located on the same side of the wheel.

The inner cavity of 1 is occupied by four K^+ countercations each forming weak electrostatic interactions with four oxygen atoms of two phosphate groups of one of the $\{P_2W_{12}\}$ units (K–O: 2.815(11)–2.828(11) Å) and four chloride ligands on the adjacent Sn^{II} centers (K–Cl: 3.278(8)–3.301(8) Å). In addition, half of the polyanions in the solid-state structure of **KLi-1** incorporate a central K^+ cation, which coordinates eight Cl^- ligands of eight Sn^{II} ions (K–Cl: 3.155(5) Å).

According to bond valence sum calculations, 14 all tungsten centers in 1 are in the oxidation state +VI and all oxygen atoms of $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ are unprotonated (see Table S2†). Thus, the partial reduction of W^{VI} centers in the $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ precursor due to the reaction with Sn^{II} might explain the relatively low yield of **KLi-1**, the final formula of which was determined from crystal structural data, BVS calculations and elemental analysis.

To the best of our knowledge 1 is the first example of a $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ -type polyanion with a main group metal, as only transition metal and lanthanide-functionalized $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ derivatives have been reported to date. The main difference in Sn^{II} (vs. transition metal/lanthanide) complexation with $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ is the relatively small coordination number (3) of Sn^{II} . This feature, however, limits the long-term solution stability of 1 (vide infra). On the other hand, it leaves rather a significant space inside the $\{Sn_8P_8W_{48}\}$ macrocycles that can potentially be used to incorporate other ligands/metals.

In the solid-state structure of **KLi-1** the polyanions **1** are interlinked via K⁺ countercations into a 3D framework with pseudolayers of **1** packed in an ···ABABAB··· pattern (Fig. S1 and S2†) along the crystallographic c axis. A network of channels along the a and b axes with 5×9 Å diameter are filled by crystal water molecules.

FT-IR spectrum

The FT-IR spectrum of **KLi-1** (Fig. S3†) exhibits a set of bands in the range of 1135–400 cm⁻¹ typical of the {P₈W₄₈} framework. Thus, the positions of the bands characteristic of vibrations of P–O bonds in **KLi-1** (1134, 1084 and 1022 cm⁻¹) are almost the same as those attributed to P–O vibrations of a tin-free K/Li salt, **KLi-P₈W₄₈** (1138, 1085 and 1017 cm⁻¹), despite a small shoulder at 1120 cm⁻¹ for **KLi-1**. The intense band at 926 cm⁻¹ belongs to the stretching vibrations of the terminal W=O bonds. The main differences between **KLi-1** and **KLi-P₈W₄₈** in the 850–400 cm⁻¹ range concern W–O–W, W–O–P and W–O–Sn vibrations (716, 569, 530, 465 and 401 cm⁻¹ for **KLi-1** and 807, 686, 573, 527 and 472 cm⁻¹ for **KLi-P₈W₄₈**) and, especially in the 850–550 cm⁻¹ region, reflect the Sn^{II} coordination to {P₈W₄₈}.

Characterization in aqueous solution

KLi-1 is soluble in water, and its solubility is significantly enhanced in the presence of Li⁺ ions. The addition of K⁺ salts

to solutions of **KLi-1** leads to immediate precipitation of the complex. The stability of the polyanions **1** in various Li⁺-based media has been investigated by ³¹P NMR and UV-Vis spectroscopy.

³¹P NMR spectroscopy. The room temperature liquid-state ³¹P NMR spectrum of 1 in a 2 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ buffer with pH 3.0 (Fig. 2) recorded within 1 h exhibits a single signal at -8.0 ppm which is in full agreement with the D_{4h} symmetry of 1 in the crystal lattice of KLi-1. It corresponds rather well to the signal at -7.6 ppm observed in the ³¹P MAS NMR solidstate spectrum of KLi-1 recorded at 67 kHz rotation frequency (Fig. S6†). Furthermore, it documents the single phase character of the material. The symmetric line shape of the ³¹P NMR spectrum measured without sample spinning indicates the absence of a significant chemical shift anisotropy confirming the tetrahedral coordination of the phosphorus atoms. The small difference in the chemical shift can be attributed to the heating of the sample during its fast rotation in the solid-state measurements. This also can be compared with a singlet at -6.5 ppm characteristic of non-coordinated KLi-P₈W₄₈ 15 measured in the same medium (Fig. S7†). This result indicates short-term stability of the title compound in 2 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ buffer (pH 3.0). At the same time, after several hours other signals start to appear in the spectrum evident of slow decomposition of 1 in aqueous solution via the gradual release of SnII ions. Thus, the spectrum of the same solution measured for 1 day (Fig. S8†) shows a set of additional, weaker signals at -8.1 ppm (13.6% of the total intensity of all the signals), -8.3 ppm (6.1%), -8.4 ppm (2.7%), -8.7 ppm (2.3%), -8.8 ppm (1.4%) and -10.7 ppm (6.4%) along with the original one at -8.0 ppm (67.5%). The decomposition of the polyanion in 4 M LiCl seems to be even faster, already after one hour the spectrum of KLi-1 redissolved in this medium exhibits a set of badly resolved signals in the range of -6.3 to

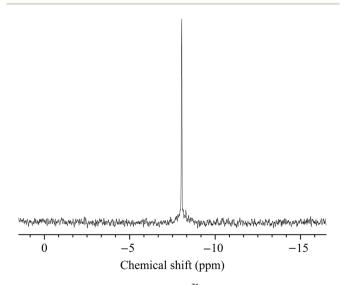


Fig. 2 Room temperature liquid-state ^{31}P NMR spectrum of 1 in 2 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ buffer solution (pH 3.0) after 1 h.

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-7.5 ppm (85%) and two singlets at -8.0 (8.8%) and -10.7 ppm (6.2%). The 31 P NMR spectrum of 1 in this medium (Fig. S9†) does not change further significantly within 24 h. The signals at -8.1 and -10.7 ppm in the spectra measured in both 2 M Li₂SO₄ (pH 3.0) and 4 M LiCl after 24 h suggest the existence of a rather stable decomposition intermediate(s) of the {Sn₈P₈W₄₈} complex, most likely of composition $\{Sn_xP_8W_{48}\}$ with x < 8, which form *via* the release of one or more Sn^{II} centers from {Sn₈P₈W₄₈}.

UV-Vis spectroscopy. The solutions of KLi-1 were further examined using absorption spectroscopy to check for the solution stability of the {Sn₈P₈W₄₈} complex at small concentrations (ca. 10⁻⁴ M). The UV-Vis spectrum of KLi-1 redissolved in 2 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ buffer (pH 3.0) exhibits two strong absorption maxima at 216 nm ($\varepsilon = 97\,800 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) and 275 nm (ε = 97 800 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) and at 385 nm (ε = 9800 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹), responsible for the orange color of the compound (Fig. S10†). Time-dependent measurements on solutions of KLi-1 in 2 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ buffer (pH 3.0) ($c = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ M) show a gradual decrease in the intensity of the maximum at 385 nm starting after 1.5-2 h (Fig. S11 and S12†), which supports the conclusions on slow solution decomposition of the polyanions based on the ³¹P NMR spectroscopy data. The spectra in some other media show similar characteristics (see the Experimental section and Fig. S13 and S14†).

Electrochemical studies. Compound 1 was studied by cyclic voltammetry in three different media: (1) 1 M LiCl + HCl (pH = 2.0); (2) 0.5 M Li₂SO₄ + H₂SO₄ (pH 2.0) and (3) 2 M LiCl (unbuffered). As expected, the medium in which the observed waves are best defined is the one exhibiting the highest buffering power, 0.5 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ (pH 2.0) (Fig. S15†). In fact, previous studies showed that the parent compound of 1, the polyanion {P₈W₄₈}, reacts as an effective proton sponge. ¹⁶ The presence of 8 Sn^{II} centers does not seem to modify nor attenuate this behavior. A comparison of the CVs of 1 and {P₈W₄₈} taken as reference, recorded in 0.5 M Li₂SO₄ + H₂SO₄ (pH 2.0) (Fig. 3), reveals three main differences: (I) the redox waves attributed to the WVI centers are better separated on the CV of 1, having two clearly defined reduction steps. (II) The reduction of the WVI centers takes place at far less negative potentials compared to those of $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ ($\Delta V = 160$ mV). (III) There is a new redox wave after those assigned to the reduction of the WVI centers. This wave, with a shape characteristic of adsorption/desorption processes taking place on the surface of the working electrode, is assigned to the reduction of the Sn^{II} centers to Sn⁰ and to the formation of a metallic tin film on the surface of the GC electrode. Upon scan reversal, there is the re-dissolution wave of tin concomitant with its electrochemical re-oxidation: $Sn^0 = Sn^{2+} + 2e^-$. When lower scan rates are employed and the potential is restricted to a range excluding this third wave $(E > -0.58 \text{ V } \nu \text{s. SCE})$, it is clear that just the WVI centers are reduced, and the SnII centers are not affected

In order to prove unambiguously that the potential scan restricted to a range not going below -0.58 V vs. SCE concerns just the W centers, we carried out a study of the dependence of

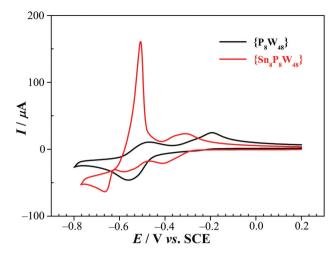


Fig. 3 CVs of 1 (red) and $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ (black) in 0.5 M Li₂SO₄ + H₂SO₄ (pH 2.0). POM concentration: 0.5 mM. Scan rate: 100 mV s⁻¹; working electrode: glassy carbon; reference electrode: SCE.

the reduction and oxidation peak currents, I_{pc} and I_{pa} , on the scan rate. It revealed that I_p depends on the square root of the scan rate, despite the fact that a relatively narrow set of scan rates was used (10 to 50 mV s⁻¹), this confirms that the mass transport phenomena coupled to the electron transfer are diffusion controlled, excluding the possible involvement of the Sn centers (Fig. S17†).

Electrochemical quartz crystal microbalance (EQCM) characterization. In order to confirm undoubtedly that there is a metal tin film forming on the surface of the working electrode during the cyclic voltammetry experiment when the potential range goes beyond the W centers' redox waves, meaning that a wave assignable to the Sn^{II/0} redox couple is reached, a quartz crystal microbalance was coupled to the electrochemistry setup. A potential scan was carried out at a low rate (2 mV s⁻¹) in order to favor the deposit of the Sn^o film. In addition, when two consecutive scans are recorded, the GC electrode surface is perfectly regenerated upon the reverse scan. The quartz crystal vibration frequency variation indicates that the Sn⁰ film starts depositing at a potential of -0.6 V vs. SCE and continues even after the potential scan is reversed. This potential of $-0.6 \text{ V} \text{ } \nu \text{s}.$ SCE seems to be the threshold value both for the onset of the Sn^{II} reduction and for the onset of the re-oxidation of Sn⁰ (Fig. 4). It is possible to estimate the amount of accumulated tin after each cycle, but we did not find it crucial in the context of the present study.

Experimental section

General methods and materials

The reagents were used as purchased without further purification. $K_{28}Li_5[H_7P_8W_{48}O_{184}]\cdot 92H_2O$ (KLi-P₈W₄₈) was obtained according to the reported procedure15 and its identity and purity were confirmed by IR and 31P NMR spectroscopy.

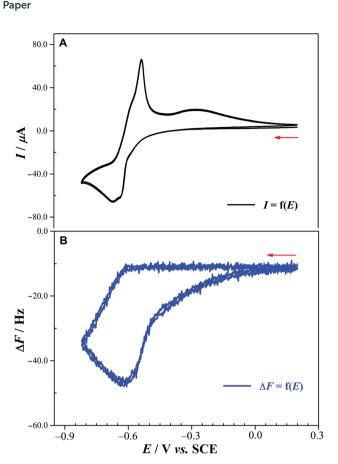


Fig. 4 (A) CV of **1** in 0.5 M Li₂SO₄ + H₂SO₄ (pH 2.0). Working electrode: glassy carbon-covered quartz crystal. Reference electrode: SCE. Scan rate: 2 mV s⁻¹. POM concentration: 0.5 mM. Potential scan extended to the reduction waves of the Sn^{II} centers. (B) Quartz crystal vibration frequency variation, $\Delta F_{\rm r}$ as a function of the working electrode potential.

Elemental analysis results (ICP-OES) were obtained from Central Institute for Engineering, Electronics and Analytics (ZEA-3), Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH (D-52425 Jülich, Germany). TGA/DTA measurements were carried out with a Mettler Toledo TGA/SDTA 851 in dry N₂ (60 ml min⁻¹) at a heating rate of 5 K min⁻¹. Vibrational spectra were recorded on a Bruker Vertex 70 FT-IR spectrometer coupled with a RAM II FT-Raman module (1064 nm Nd:YAG laser) on KBr disks for the FT-IR and the solid material for the Raman measurements. UV-Vis spectra were recorded using 10 mm quartz cuvettes on an Analytik Jena Specord S600 spectrophotometer. Solution ³¹P NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature in 5 mm tubes using a Bruker Avance 600 MHz spectrometer equipped with a prodigy probe, operating at 242.95 MHz for ³¹P. Chemical shifts are reported with respect to 85% H₃PO₄; all chemical shifts downfield of the reference are reported as positive values. The solid-state 31P NMR measurements were performed at ambient temperature using a Bruker Avance III spectrometer with a 9.4 T magnetic field. The spectrometer was equipped with a Bruker triple resonance probe for rotors of 1.3 mm diameter. The ground sample powder was filled into a ZrO₂ rotor for the experiments with and without sample

spinning. A rotation frequency of 67 kHz was applied during MAS. An eight-fold cyclisation of the pulse sequences with a cycle delay of 10 s was used. The signal shift is referred to $\rm H_3PO_4$.

Synthesis of $K_{10}Li_{17.5}[K_{4.5}\subset (ClSn)_8P_8W_{48}O_{184}]\cdot 50H_2O$ (KLi-1)

 $K_{28}Li_5[H_7P_8W_{48}O_{184}]\cdot 92H_2O$ (0.10 g; 6.75 μmol) and $SnCl_2\cdot 2H_2O$ (0.013 g; 57.6 μmol) were dissolved in 3 mL of 4 M aqueous solution of LiCl in a 20 mL vial which was then closed with a screw cap. The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 1 h. During the heating the color of the solution was gradually changing from bright orange (obtained directly after the reagent dissolution) to brown and then to dark-green (originating from partial W^{VI} reduction). After that the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature and filtered. The obtained dark-green solution was then evaporated under a hood resulting in large block-shaped orange crystals of the product within 2 to 6 days. Yield: 0.025 g (25% based on $\{P_8W_{48}\}$).

Elemental analysis: calculated for $H_{100}Cl_8K_{14.5}Li_{17.5}O_{234}P_8$ - Sn_8W_{48} (found): Cl, 1.91 (1.96); K, 3.82 (3.75); Li, 0.82 (0.83); P, 1.67 (1.45); Sn, 6.4 (6.1); W, 59.5 (61)%.

IR spectrum (KBr pellets), cm⁻¹: 3411 (s, br); 1620 (m); 1134 (m); 1120 (m); 1084 (m); 1022 (w); 926 (s); 716 (s); 569 (m); 530 (m); 465 (w); 401 (w).

Raman (solid sample, $\lambda_e = 1064$ nm), cm⁻¹: 1084 (w); 964 (s); 870 (w); 852 (w); 783 (m); 658 (m); 542 (w); 534 (w); 482 (w); 415 (w); 390 (w); 366 (w); 324 (w); 287 (w); 260 (m); 228 (m); 206 (m); 154 (m); 112 (m); 64 (s); 59 (s).

 31 P NMR (H₂O/D₂O): -8.0 ppm (singlet). 31 P MAS NMR (67 kHz): -7.6 ppm (singlet).

UV-Vis (2 M Li₂SO₄ buffer solution, pH 3.0): λ = 216 nm, ε = 168 400 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹; λ = 275 nm, ε = 97 800 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹; λ = 385 nm, ε = 9789 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹.

UV-Vis (0.5 M Li₂SO₄ buffer solution, pH 2.0): λ = 219 nm, ε = 214 600 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹; λ = 274.5 nm, ε = 134 800 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹; λ = 385 nm, ε = 8330 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹.

X-ray crystallography

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for KLi-1 were collected on a SuperNova (Agilent Technologies) diffractometer with Mo Kα radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$) at 120 K. A crystal was mounted on a Hampton cryoloop with Paratone-N oil to prevent water loss. Absorption corrections were applied numerically based on a multifaceted crystal model using CrysAlis software. The SHELXTL software package¹⁸ was used to solve and refine the structure. The structure was solved by the direct methods and refined by the full-matrix least-squares method against $|F|^2$ with anisotropic thermal parameters for all POM skeleton atoms (Sn, Cl, P, W, O) and potassium countercations and in isotropic approximation for the O atoms of co-crystallized solvent molecules. The Li⁺ countercations and hydrogen atoms of the crystal water molecules were not located. The relative site occupancy factors for the disordered potassium countercations and solvent oxygens were first refined in an isotropic approximation with $U_{iso} = 0.05$ and then fixed at the

Table 1 Crystal data and structure refinement of KLi-1

Empirical formula	$H_{100}Cl_8K_{14.5}Li_{17.5}O_{234}P_8Sn_8W_{48} \\$
Formula weight, g mol ⁻¹	14 838.88
Crystal system	Tetragonal
Space group	I4/m
a, A	25.4151(3)
c, Å	21.7748(4)
Volume, Å ³	14 065.0(3)
Z	2
$D_{\rm calc}$, g cm ⁻³	3.504
Absorption coefficient, mm ⁻¹	20.666
F(000)	13 016
Crystal size, mm	$0.19 \times 0.28 \times 0.35$
Theta range for data collection	4.09°-26.02°
Completeness to $\Theta_{\rm max}$	99.4%
Index ranges	$-31 \le h \le 30$,
e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	$-31 \le k \le 30$,
	$-22 \le l \le 26$
Reflections collected	35 937
Independent reflections	7076
$R_{\rm int}$	0.1192
Observed $(I > 2\sigma(I))$	5862
Absorption correction	Empirical using spherical harmonic
T_{\min}/T_{\max}	0.0562/0.1109
Data/restraints/parameters	7076/36/379
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.092
$R_1, WR_2 (I > 2\sigma(I))$	$R_1 = 0.0583,$
1,2 ((-))	$WR_2 = 0.1563$
R_1 , w R_2 (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0709$
1,2 ()	$WR_2 = 0.1691$
Largest diff. peak and hole, e Å ⁻³	6.755 and -3.837

obtained values and refined without the thermal parameter restrictions.

The number of crystal water molecules found by XRD was smaller than that determined by elemental analysis and TGA (41 vs. 50 and 102, respectively) reflecting the high degree of solvent disorder in the solid-state structure of **KLi-1**. This is also consistent with large solvent-accessible volume remaining in the structure. On the other hand, the sample used for TGA was dried to less than that taken for elemental analysis (2 days vs. 3 to 4 weeks). For the overall consistency the formula in the CIF file corresponds to the composition of the bulk material determined by elemental analysis since all the further studies were performed on the isolated well-dried bulk material of **KLi-1**.

Additional crystallographic data are summarized in Table 1. Further details on the crystal structure investigation may be obtained from Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany [fax (+49) 7247-808-666; e-mail crysdata@fiz-karlsruhe.de], upon quoting the depository number CSD 429908.

Electrochemical experiments

Cyclic voltammograms of **1** were recorded in comparison with the heterometal-free $\{P_8W_{48}\}$ salt **KLi-P₈W₄₈** at room temperature in three different media: (1) on a 0.55 mM solution of **KLi-1** in 1 M LiCl/HCl buffer (pH 2.0), (2) 0.57 mM solution of **KLi-1** in 0.5 M Li₂SO₄/H₂SO₄ buffer (pH 2.0) and (3) 0.52 mM non-buffered **KLi-1** solution in 2 M LiCl. The corresponding

concentrations of KLi-P8W48 were 0.51 mM, 0.56 mM and 0.53 mM, respectively. Electrochemical data were obtained using an EG&G 273A potentiostat controlled by M270 software. A conventional one-compartment three-electrode electrochemical cell included a glassy carbon working electrode (GC, Mersen, France) with a diameter of 3 mm, a platinum gauze counter electrode with a large surface area and a saturated calomel reference electrode. The source, mounting, and polishing of the glassy carbon electrode has been previously described. 19 The reference and counter electrodes were separated from the studied solutions via fritted compartments filled with the same electrolyte. Prior to the experiments the solutions were thoroughly deaerated with pure argon for at least 30 min and then kept under a positive argon pressure during the measurements. The midpoint redox potentials were determined from the average values of the anodic and cathodic peak potentials and are reported vs. the saturated calomel reference electrode (SCE).

The electrochemical quartz crystal microbalance (EQCM) measurements were carried out using a QCA 922 (Seiko/EG&G) system with 9 MHz AT-cut crystals. New crystals equipped with carbon electrodes possessing a true surface area of 0.3 cm² were provided by Seiko. Frequency variations were recorded and used for discussion in this work.

Conclusions

In summary, we have prepared the first complex of macrocyclic phosphotungstate with the main group metal ions, $[K_{4.5}\subset (ClSn)_8P_8W_{48}O_{184}]^{17.5-}$ (1), which also represents a rather rare example of Sn^{II}-containing POMs. In 1 the Sn^{II} centers occupy the eight vacant sites of the polyanion resulting in the POT with D_{4h} symmetry. Polyanions 1 have been isolated in the solid state as the hydrated mixed potassium/lithium salt KLi-1 and characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction, FT-IR/ Raman and ³¹P MAS NMR spectroscopy as well as by elemental and thermogravimetric analyses. Solution studies by 31P NMR, UV-Vis and electrochemistry showed that the complex is stable in aqueous medium for several hours and then slowly decomposes, releasing SnII. In contrast with transition metal and lanthanide-functionalized POMs, the SnII ions in 1 display a small coordination number of 3 and coordinate only one terminal Cl- ligand each, thus retaining a relatively large void in the inner cavity of the macrocyclic complex. Currently we are investigating the possibility of further functionalization of {Sn₈P₈W₄₈} via incorporation of various heterometals in this inner core volume.

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