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Does [TcF(CO)₅] exist? The crystal and molecular structure of [Tc(CO)₃(OH)_{0.49}F_{0.51}]₄·[Tc(CO)₅(BF₄)][†]

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Technetium pentacarbonyl fluoride [TcF(CO)₅] was prepared for the first time by reaction of [TcI(CO)₅] with solid AgF in a dichloromethane solution at −23 °C. Low temperature crystallization of the resulting compound in a glass vial yielded an unusual complex [Tc(CO)₃(OH)_{0.49}F_{0.51}]₄·[Tc(CO)₅(BF₄)] characterized by single crystal XRD.

Introduction for [Tc(CO)₃(OH)_{0.49}F_{0.51}]₄·[Tc(CO)₅(BF₄)] (1)

Technetium is an artificial radioactive element occupying the central position in the d metal block. The study of its chemistry is substantially restricted by its radioactivity and difficult availability. At the same time, the data on its chemical behavior are necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the chemistry of d elements. The question of whether the carbonyl complexes known for manganese and rhenium can be prepared likewise for technetium remains open to date for a number of carbonyl species. In particular, no data on [TcF(CO)₅] are available, whereas its analog [ReF(CO)₅]^{1,2} has been prepared but not structurally characterized many years ago. Previously we found that the fluoride ion, unlike chloride, bromide and iodide ions, exhibits very weak affinity for monovalent technetium.³ In addition, we also attempted the preparation of [TcF(CO)₅] by carbonylation of potassium pertechnetate with carbon monoxide in aqueous hydrofluoric acid. In this case, tetrameric [Tc₄(CO)₁₂F(OH)₃] rather than the target monomer was obtained.⁴ It should be noted that the same procedure performed with HX (X = Cl, Br, I) gives the corresponding pentacarbonyl halides [TcX(CO)₅]⁵ in a reasonable yield, *i.e.*, the hydroxide anion strongly competes with the fluoride anion for coordination to technetium(i) even in an acid medium. These data suggest that the preparation of [TcF(CO)₅] should be attempted under rigorously anhydrous conditions. It

should also be noted that technetium pentacarbonyl halides are unstable with respect to thermal decarbonylation, with the decarbonylation rate increasing in the order I < Br < Cl.⁶ Thus, [TcF(CO)₅], if it does exist, should readily undergo thermal decarbonylation to form, most likely, tricarbonyl derivatives. Another possible degradation pathway is a nucleophilic attack on the coordinated CO ligands. For example, this process is believed to be responsible for the rapid decomposition of the [Tc(CO)₆]⁺ cation in aqueous solution upon alkalization.⁷ Taking into account the above facts, in this study we attempted the preparation of [TcF(CO)₅] by substitution of the iodide ion in [TcI(CO)₅] with a fluoride anion in nonaqueous solutions. In the course of these experiments, we obtained an unusual adduct [Tc(CO)₃(OH)_{0.49}F_{0.51}]₄·[Tc(CO)₅(BF₄)] containing the pentacarbonyl and tetrameric tricarbonyl technetium complexes.

Experimental

Technetium pentacarbonyl iodide [TcI(CO)₅] was prepared as described previously⁵ by high-pressure carbonylation of potassium pertechnetate with formic acid in the presence of hydrogen iodide at 170 °C. Silver fluoride was obtained by treatment of silver carbonate with concentrated hydrofluoric acid.⁸ Dark brown AgF was dried under reduced pressure at 100 °C for 2 h. The product was identified by powder X-ray diffraction. Reflections with *d* 2.85, 2.47, and 1.746 Å are similar to those of cubic AgF (no. 3-890 JCPDS). AgBF₄ was purchased from Aldrich. The IR spectra of the samples in the form of dichloromethane solutions (CaF₂ windows) were recorded on a Shimadzu FTIR-8700 spectrometer. Dichloromethane was distilled from phosphorus pentoxide.

Reaction of [TcI(CO)₅] with AgF

Preparation of [Tc(CO)₃(OH)_{0.49}F_{0.51}]₄·[Tc(CO)₅(BF₄)] (1). All manipulations were performed in a dry glove box filled with

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[†]Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Unit cell and refinement parameters, selected bond lengths, selected bond angles in the structure 1 and IR spectrum. CCDC 1463843. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/c6dt00958a



argon. A weighed portion of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ (23.23 mg, 0.063 mmol) was mixed with AgF (80.8 mg, 0.64 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (1 mL) in a 10 mL-glass vial. The vial was sealed and placed in a frozen carbon tetrachloride bath. The reaction mixture was stirred on a magnetic stirrer at $-23\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h. Then the solution was filtered at room temperature. The filtrate was allowed to evaporate in a desiccator over concentrated sulfuric acid in the presence of paraffin shavings at $8\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Colorless cubic crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray diffraction were formed on the walls of the vial in 2 weeks. The amount of the product was insufficient for obtaining analytical data and a satisfactory IR spectrum.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction

The prismatic crystal of **1** was mounted on a thin glass fiber for X-ray diffraction analysis, which was carried out using a Bruker KAPPA DUO diffractometer equipped with an APEX II CCD planar detector operated with microfocused monochromated MoK_α radiation at 50 kV and 0.6 mA. More than a hemisphere of X-ray diffraction data ($\theta_{\text{max}} = 25.00^\circ$) were collected at room temperature for the crystal with frame widths of 0.5° in ω and exposure of 60 s spent per frame. Data were integrated and corrected for background, Lorentz, and polarization effects using an empirical spherical model by means of the Bruker programs APEX2 and XPREP. Absorption correction

was applied using the SADABS program.⁹ The unit cell parameters of **1** (Table 1) were determined and refined by the least-squares techniques on the basis of 18 206 reflections with 2θ in the range $2.93\text{--}50.00^\circ$. From the systematic absence and statistics of the reflection distribution, the space group $P2_1/c$ was determined. The structure was solved by the direct methods and refined to $R_1 = 0.028$ ($wR_2 = 0.069$) for 4698 reflections with $|F_o| \geq 4\sigma_F$ using the SHELXL-97 program incorporated in the OLEX2 program package.^{10,11} The final model included the coordinates and anisotropic displacement parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms. Positions of H atoms and OH groups were localized from the difference Fourier maps and kept fixed during refinement with $U_{\text{iso}}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(\text{O})$. The main interatomic distances and bond angles are summarized in Tables S1–S3.† The unit cell of **1** contains disordered partially occupied dichloromethane molecules that have been treated as a diffuse contribution to the overall scattering without specific atom positions by SQUEEZE/PLATON.¹² The total approximate number of solvent molecules in the structure of $1\text{--}0.5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ has been calculated taking into account the electron count of 88 and the total potential solvent accessible void volume of $312.5\text{ e } \text{\AA}^{-3}$. Supplementary crystallographic data for this paper have been deposited at Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 1463843).

Results and discussion

We suggested that $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$ can be obtained by the heterogeneous reaction of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ with AgF. We believe that in our case the reaction can be promoted by formation of “strong” silver iodide. Similar synthesis performed by Chaudhuri *et al.* with $[\text{MnBr}(\text{CO})_5]$ ¹³ yielded only the poorly characterized tricarbonyl complex “ $[\text{MnF}_3(\text{CO})_3]$ ”. To decelerate decarbonylation of $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$, the synthesis was performed at low temperature ($-23\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$). The reaction was monitored by IR spectroscopy. Initially we used hexane as the solvent. The reaction mixture was stirred at $-23\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h. Its IR spectrum in the range of stretching vibrations of carbonyl groups was similar to that of technetium pentacarbonyl iodide in hexane [2142.8 (vw), 2054.0 (vs), and 2000.0 (m), cm^{-1}]. After heating the reaction mixture to room temperature, no changes in the spectrum were observed either. Thus, $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ does not react with AgF in hexane. To promote the reaction, we tested dichloromethane, which slightly dissolves silver fluoride. Indeed, the bands of initial $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ at 2148.6 (vw), 2054.0 (vs) and 2003.9 (m) cm^{-1} (Fig. S1†) disappeared after stirring solid AgF in a dichloromethane solution of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ at room temperature. However, in this case the spectrum of the reaction mixture contained two bands typical for tricarbonyl complexes [2050.2 (m) and 1949.9 (s) cm^{-1}]. When the reaction was performed at $-23\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h, new bands typical for the pentacarbonyl complexes at 2148.6 (vw), 2069.5 (vs) and 1996.2 (m) cm^{-1} appeared (Fig. 1). The band at 1938.3 cm^{-1} is most likely assigned to a tricarbonyl decarbonylation product formed from the new pentacarbonyl complex ($[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ is stable with

Table 1 Unit cell and refinement parameters of **1**

Parameter	(1)
Formula	$[\text{Tc}(\text{CO})_3(\text{OH})_{0.49}\text{F}_{0.51}]_4 \cdot [\text{Tc}(\text{CO})_5(\text{BF}_4)]$
Crystal system	Monoclinic
a (Å)	14.0520(15)
b (Å)	9.0526(10)
c (Å)	26.357(3)
α (°)	90
β (°)	98.553(2)
γ (°)	90
V (Å ³)	3315.6(6)
Molecular weight	1125.07
Space group	$P2_1/c$
μ (mm ⁻¹)	2.139
Temperature (K)	296(2)
Z	4
D_{calc} (g cm ⁻³)	2.254
Crystal size (mm ³)	$0.13 \times 0.06 \times 0.02$
Radiation	MoK_α
Total reflections	18 206
Unique reflections	5555
Angle range 2θ (°)	$2.93\text{--}50.00$
Reflections with $ F_o \geq 4\sigma_F$	4698
R_{int}	0.0464
R_σ	0.0365
R_1 ($ F_o \geq 4\sigma_F$)	0.0282
wR_2 ($ F_o \geq 4\sigma_F$)	0.0691
R_1 (all data)	0.0343
wR_2 (all data)	0.0710
S	1.032
$\rho_{\text{min}}, \rho_{\text{max}}$, e Å ⁻³	$-0.878, 1.231$

$R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$; $wR_2 = \{ \sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2] \}^{1/2}$; $w = 1 / [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP]$, where $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$; $s = \{ \sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)] / (n - p) \}^{1/2}$, where n is the number of reflections and p is the number of refinement parameters.



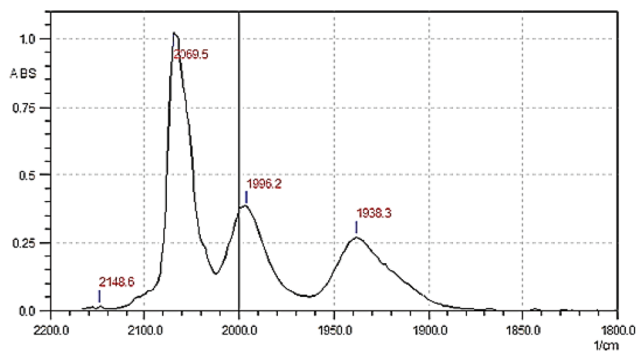


Fig. 1 IR spectrum of a mixture of $[\text{Tc}(\text{CO})_5]$ and AgF stirred in CH_2Cl_2 for 1 h at $-23\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

respect to thermal decarbonylation under these conditions).⁶ The second band characteristic of tricarbonyl species and expected in the region of 2050 cm^{-1} probably is not resolved with the band at 2069.5 cm^{-1} .

The sixth coordination site in the pentacarbonyl complex can presumably be occupied by fluoride and chloride anions. Since the most intense carbonyl band of technetium pentacarbonyl chloride in a dichloromethane solution is at 2059.1 cm^{-1} ,¹⁴ formation of this complex by chlorination with the solvent can be ruled out. Thus, the pentacarbonyl complex formed in the reaction mixture is most likely $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$. Unfortunately, the complex rapidly (within 1 h) decarbonylates in a solution at room temperature to form the tricarbonyl species. The formation of tricarbonyl complexes is confirmed by the appearance of the band at 1938.3 cm^{-1} , growing with time. All attempts to isolate pure $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$ and to perform its elemental analysis failed. Crystallization of the pentacarbonyl complex by slow evaporation of its dichloromethane solution in a fridge yielded colorless crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray diffraction. Single crystal X-ray diffraction showed that the crystal structure of **1** consists of two types of technetium carbonyl complexes with a hydrogen bridge (Fig. 2).

The first is a distorted cube composed of two interpenetrating tetrahedra Tc_4 and $(\text{F},\text{OH})_4$, with the $(\text{F},\text{OH})\text{-Tc}\text{-}(\text{F},\text{OH})$

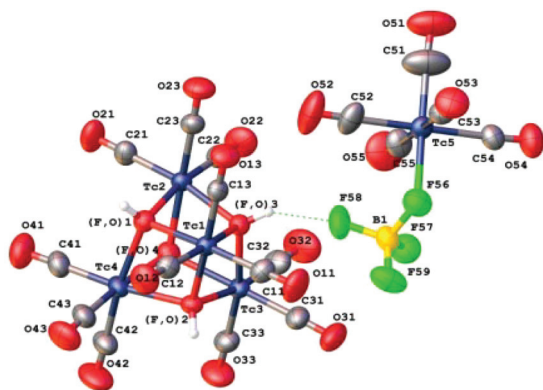


Fig. 2 Molecular structure of **1**.

angles smaller than the $\text{Tc}\text{-}(\text{F},\text{OH})\text{-Tc}$ angles. This distortion of the octahedral structure is typical for cubic clusters of Group VI–VIII transition metals.^{15–17}

Each of the four crystallographically independent technetium atoms of the tetrameric fragment forms three bonds with the carbon atoms of the carbonyl groups. The three remaining bonds correspond to the (F,OH) positions of the cube skeleton, which results in strong distortion of the technetium octahedron. Four crystallographically independent positions of the $(\text{F},\text{OH})_4$ tetrahedron are occupied with fluorine atoms and oxygen atoms of the hydroxy groups.

We attempted to refine the structure assuming that the positions are occupied exclusively by oxygen or fluorine atoms. However, this attempt led to increased values of R-factors, residual oxygen electron density, and thermal displacement parameters of fluorine. In addition, weak peaks of hydrogen atoms of hydroxy groups are clearly observed in the electron density maps. Refinement of the occupancies showed nonuniform distribution of fluorine atoms and hydroxy groups over each site, with approximately similar total occupancy ($\text{F} = 2.04$ at. units; $\text{OH} = 1.96$ at. units).

The second complex is a slightly distorted octahedron, which is typical for carbonyl complexes of univalent technetium. Technetium forms five bonds with the carbonyl carbon atoms. Four of them are similar in length, $\text{Tc}(5)\text{-CO} = 2.002(6)\text{-}2.024(5)\text{ \AA}$, and the fifth bond *trans* to the BF_4 ligand is shortened, $\text{Tc}(5)\text{-C}(51)\text{O}_{\text{trans}} = 1.895(6)\text{ \AA}$. The sixth coordination site is occupied by the fluorine atom of BF_4 with $\text{Tc}(5)\text{-F}(56) = 2.178(3)\text{ \AA}$.

In the crystal structure of **1**, technetium clusters are bound by hydrogen bonds $\text{Tc}\text{-OH}(1)\cdots\text{F}(57)\text{-B}(1)\text{-F}(58)\cdots\text{H}(3)\text{O}\text{-Tc}$ to form infinite chains in the (010) plane (Fig. 3).

The packing of the chains is similar to the close packing of cylinders in the $[010]$ plane. The chains are bound with each other by intermolecular van der Waals bonds. It should be noted that the (F,OH) sites involved in the chain formation are mainly occupied by the hydroxy groups ($\text{F}(1) = 0.35$ at. units; $\text{F}(3) = 0.27$ at. units), whereas the remaining sites are occupied mainly by the fluorine atoms ($\text{F}(2) = 0.60$ at. units; $\text{F}(4) = 0.81$ at. units).

It is most likely that the BF_4^- anion is formed by the reaction of fluoride ions with the glass of the vial being used for

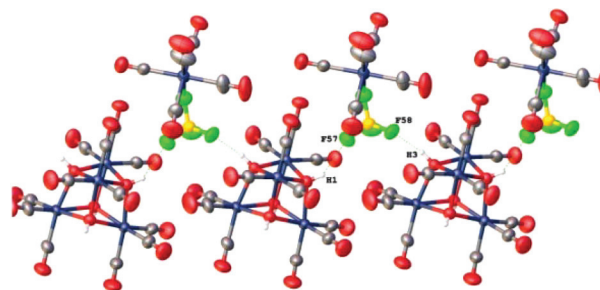


Fig. 3 Crystal structure of **1**.



crystallization. To rule out the formation of $[\text{Tc}(\text{BF}_4)(\text{CO})_5]$ in the course of reaction of AgF with $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$, we performed the reaction of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ with AgBF_4 to obtain $[\text{Tc}(\text{BF}_4)(\text{CO})_5]$. A weighed portion of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ (28.14 mg, 0.077 mmol) was dissolved in dry dichloromethane (3 ml). The resulting solution was added to a weighed portion of AgBF_4 (27.60 mg, 0.14 mmol) taken in 1.84-fold excess. The reaction mixture was stirred on a magnetic stirrer at room temperature in the dark for 1 h. In the course of stirring a fine yellow precipitate was formed. The precipitate and unchanged AgBF_4 were filtered off. The IR spectrum of the product is shown in Fig. 4. As can be seen, the spectrum is consistent with the expected product formula $[\text{Tc}(\text{BF}_4)(\text{CO})_5]$ (detailed characterization of this compound is planned in the future) and differs essentially from that of the product formed in solution in the reaction with AgF and presumably identified as $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$. Another difference is that this product, in contrast to $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$, is stable at room temperature at least within the time required for the sample synthesis, separation of the precipitate, and filling of the IR cell (about 2 h in total). The amount of tetrameric species, which should give a strong band in the region of 1950 cm^{-1} , is negligible.

These facts suggest formation of $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$ and its subsequent conversion to **1** during low-temperature crystallization. To prevent formation of the tetrafluoroborate anion, the reaction of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ with AgF was performed in a plastic vial under conditions similar to those of the reaction in the glass vial. The IR spectrum of the reaction mixture stirred at $-23\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h was similar to that of the reaction mixture in the glass vial. Our attempts to grow a crystal of technetium carbonyl fluoride complex in a plastic vial failed. It should be noted that atmospheric moisture significantly affects the reaction between $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ with AgF . The IR spectrum of the reaction product obtained after exposure of the reaction mixture to air, followed by crystallization under Ar, was similar to that of $[\text{Tc}(\text{OH})(\text{CO})_3]_4$ prepared by us previously¹⁸ and characterized later in detail by Alberto *et al.*¹⁹ Thus, the fluoride anion in the coordination sphere of technetium carbonyl complexes is readily substituted by a hydroxide ion.

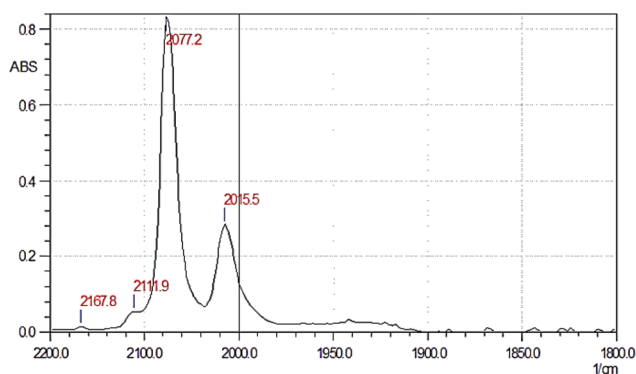


Fig. 4 IR spectrum of the reaction product of $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ with AgBF_4 in dichloromethane.

Conclusions

Thus, technetium pentacarbonyl fluoride was prepared for the first time by substitution of the iodide ion in $[\text{TcI}(\text{CO})_5]$ with the fluoride anion in a dichloromethane solution using Ag^+ as an iodide acceptor. This compound is unstable and rapidly undergoes decarbonylation at room temperature in a dichloromethane solution. Attempted low-temperature crystallization of $[\text{TcF}(\text{CO})_5]$ from a dichloromethane solution in a glass vial yields a mixed tricarbonyl hydroxyfluoride–pentacarbonyl tetrafluoroborate technetium complex characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction.

Acknowledgements

XRD study has been performed at the X-ray Diffraction Centre of St Petersburg State University.

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