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Direct synthesis of a stable radical doped electrically conductive coordination polymer†

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Radical coordination polymers exhibit tremendous potential in many areas. However, stable radical ligands are still rare and the syntheses of radical ligand derived coordination polymers are mainly limited to liquid diffusion based methods. Therefore, further exploration of new types of stable radical coordination polymers is strongly desired. Herein, we report on an NDI-based coordination polymer, $[K_2(ONDI)]_\infty$ (**K-ONDI**), which is synthesized directly by solvothermal reaction and exhibits radical properties and high stability in air as well as in common organic solvents. The NDI^{1-} radicals in **K-ONDI** are supposed to originate from electron transfer to the $ONDI^{2-}$ ligand under solvothermal conditions. Furthermore, benefitting from continuous π -stacking of the ligand in the crystal structure and unpaired electrons from NDI^{1-} , **K-ONDI** shows intriguing semiconductive behaviour with an electrical conductivity value of $10^{-6} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$.

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Introduction

Owing to potential applications in the fields of magnetic¹ or optical materials,² catalysts,³ and electrical energy storage,⁴ radical coordination polymers (RCPs) have attracted huge attention recently. Unfortunately, although RCPs exhibit intriguing potential, their radical states usually are not stable in air because of the high reactivity of ligands with unpaired electrons. In most cases, RCPs are sensitive to oxygen and need handling in inert atmosphere. In order to obtain stable RCPs, radical ligands with good stability have been introduced, *e.g.*, *N*-oxyl derivatives,³ perchlorotriphenylmethyl,⁵ and tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ) derivatives.¹ However, available and stable radical ligands are still rare until now.⁶ In addition, it is hard to maintain stability for most radical ligands under solvothermal conditions that are used widely for coordination polymers synthesis. The synthesis methods of RCPs are mainly limited to liquid diffusion.^{1,5} Exploration of new types of stable RCPs is still a challenge.

Besides synthesis from radical ligands, RCPs can also be obtained by reducing or oxidizing redox-active coordination polymers.⁷ In comparison to the limited number of radical ligands, neutral redox-active molecules that can form radical states under specific conditions are more easily accessible. Naphthalenediimides (NDI) are well known redox-active compounds featuring large planar structures with extended π -electron systems^{8a,b} and have been widely used to design multifunctional coordination polymers, such as photochromic or electrochromic materials, sensors, and energy storage and conversion materials.^{8c,d} Until now, radical character of coordination polymers based on NDI derived ligands was mainly generated by post-synthetic treatment like photo irradiation or reduction by chemical reagents.⁹ Direct syntheses of NDI based radical coordination polymers are limited to electrochemical method.¹⁰ Besides, the radical state of most NDI based coordination polymers does not remain for a long time because of easy re-oxidation of the NDI^{1-} core when exposed to air,^{9c} which limits their potential applications. Further exploration of direct synthesis of stable radical NDI based coordination polymers is desired.

According to literature,¹¹ coordination bonds and π - π interactions, as two kinds of non-covalent interactions, are favourable for stabilizing radicals. It is well known that in the NDI^{1-} radical anion, the unpaired electron is delocalized over the naphthalene core structure and even extends into substituents on the nitrogen atoms in some cases.^{8c,12} If the NDI core can coordinate to metal ions directly, the radical state of NDI^{1-} might be stabilized. However, in most cases the NDI core was only taken as a redox-active moiety and not directly engaged in

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coordination to metal ions.^{7b} Recently, we found that the *N*-hydroxy modified NDI ligand H_2ONDI ($\text{H}_2\text{ONDI} = 2,7\text{-di-hydroxybenzo}[lmn][3,8]\text{phenanthroline-1,3,6,8(2H,7H)\text{-tetraone}}$) can be deprotonated and coordinate to metal ions *via* the hydroxamate and carbonyl groups of the NDI core.^{13a} Besides, ONDI^{2-} prefers to form $\pi-\pi$ stacking structures when assembled with metal ions, which is also favourable for stabilizing radicals. This ligand has hardly been used for the synthesis of RCPs before.¹³ Herein, we report on the NDI based coordination polymer $[\text{K}_2(\text{ONDI})]_\infty$ (**K-ONDI**; $\text{ONDI}^{2-} = 2,7\text{-dioxybenzo}[lmn][3,8]\text{phenanthroline-1,3,6,8(2H,7H)\text{-tetraone}}$) with radical properties that was synthesized directly in a solvothermal reaction. The radical species remain stable even when exposed to air for one month or upon immersing into common organic solvents for five days. Furthermore, the concentration of radicals in **K-ONDI** can be tuned by adjusting the synthesis temperature, and it thus exhibits interesting semiconductive behaviour with a moderate electrical conductivity reaching about $10^{-6} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$.

Results and discussion

Crystal structure

Single crystals of **K-ONDI** were obtained by solvothermal reaction of H_2ONDI with KBF_4 in a DMF/MeOH solvent mixture. Crystal structure analysis by X-ray diffraction reveals that **K-ONDI** crystallizes in space group $P2_1/n$ with two formula units per unit cell. Each K^+ ion is coordinated by seven O atoms from five ligand molecules. Each ONDI^{2-} ligand bridges ten K^+ ions through four chelating hydroxamate groups, μ_2 coordination of carbonyl oxygen atoms, and μ_3 coordination of $\text{N}-\text{O}^-$ oxygen atoms (Fig. 1a and S1†), resulting in a dense 3D metal–organic network (Fig. 1c). This coordination mode of

the ligand ONDI^{2-} is observed for the first time.¹³ Continuous intermolecular $\pi-\pi$ interactions between adjacent ONDI^{2-} ligands are found along the crystallographic a axis. The shortest distance between phenyl centroids is 3.582 \AA (Fig. 1b); the distance between parallel naphthalene planes is 3.371 \AA (Fig. 1b), close to the typical interplanar distance of 3.3 \AA of NDI organic derivatives.^{10,14} Intermolecular $\pi-\pi$ interactions between neighbouring ligands can be clearly observed from the calculated gradient isosurfaces according to the method reported by Johnson *et al.* (Fig. S2†).¹⁵ It is worth to mention that NDI based coordination polymers showing $\pi-\pi$ stacking structures are rare.^{10,13a} Such a ligand arrangement is beneficial for charge transport.

Optical absorption and EPR spectroscopy

Although the colour of H_2ONDI is light yellow and that of the mono-deprotonated species is brown, the as-synthesized **K-ONDI** is dark blue, the solid-state absorption spectrum covers the complete visible range (Fig. 2a). In general, alkaline metal ions do not contribute to optical absorption properties in organic–inorganic hybrids. The huge difference in absorption spectra of the ligand in its protonated state, $\text{H}_2\text{ONDI}\cdot\text{DMA}$, and the coordination polymer implies that a new species with a broad absorption band should be present in **K-ONDI**.

In order to investigate the origin, the optical absorption spectrum of H_2ONDI in solution was recorded. The results show that the organic ligand dissolved in DMA displays a broad absorption band around 650 nm (Fig. 2b) accompanied by a colour change from light yellow to light blue when treated with an excess of tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF) as a weak base. The EPR spectrum shows that a more concentrated

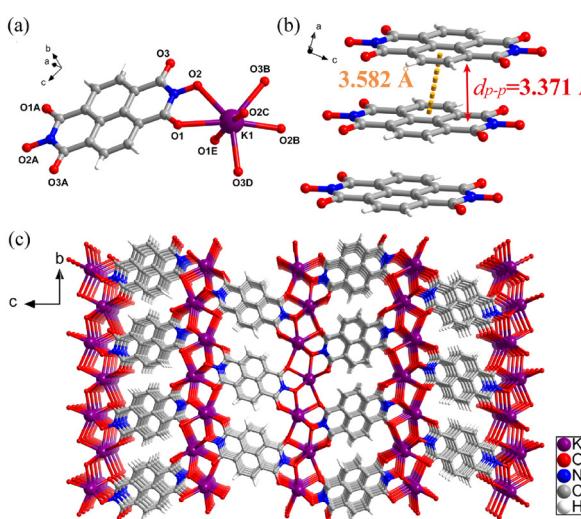


Fig. 1 Results of the single-crystal X-ray structure analysis of **K-ONDI**, (a) fragment of the **K-ONDI** network; (b) intermolecular $\pi-\pi$ interactions between adjacent ligands (K^+ ions omitted); (c) view of the dense 3D network. Symmetry codes, A: $1 - x, 1 - y, 1 - z$; B: $-0.5 - x, -0.5 + y, 0.5 - z$; C: $0.5 - x, -0.5 + y, 0.5 - z$; D: $x, -1 + y, z$; E: $-1 + x, y, z$.

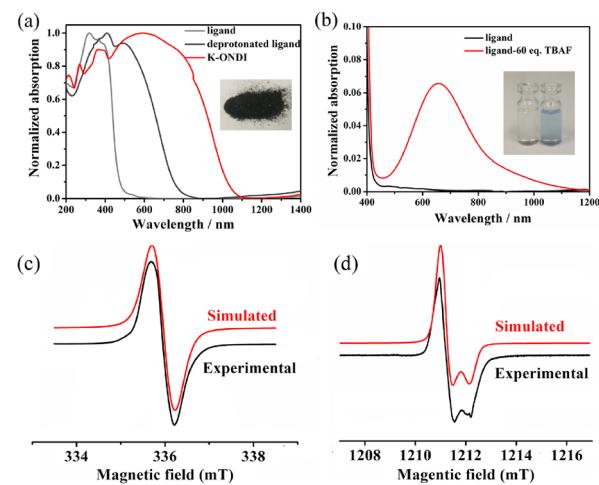


Fig. 2 (a) Solid-state absorption spectra of $\text{H}_2\text{ONDI}\cdot\text{DMA}$, the mono-deprotonated species ($\text{Me}_2\text{NH}_2\text{(HONDI)}$), and **K-ONDI**; the inset shows the colour of **K-ONDI**; (b) the absorption spectrum of H_2ONDI dissolved in DMA ($10^{-4} \text{ mol l}^{-1}$) changes upon adding 60 eq. tetrabutylammonium fluoride (TBAF); the inset displays the colour change of a solution after adding TBAF; (c) X-band and (d) Q-band solid state EPR spectra of **K-ONDI** and simulated radical signal.



blue solution (1.0×10^{-2} mol L⁻¹) exhibits an obvious unpaired electron signal (Fig. S3†). According to previous studies, the formation of NDI^{•-} radical anions can be induced by treatment with Lewis basic anions like F⁻, CN⁻, and OH⁻ accompanied by a colour change.¹⁶ Therefore, the broad absorption band at 650 nm appearing in solution of H₂ONDI could be attributed to the formation of NDI^{•-} radical anions induced by F⁻. As for **K-ONDI**, it not only shows a similar broad absorption band as H₂ONDI when treated with 60 eq. TBAF, but also displays a radical signal in its X-band EPR spectrum with a *g* factor of 2.0042(5) (Fig. 2c), close to values reported for NDI^{•-} radical anions in DMF solvent^{17a} and in coordination polymers.^{17b,c} A fit of the X-band EPR spectrum revealed a dominating Gaussian line shape with a line width of $\Delta B_{pp}^G = 0.43(2)$ mT with a small Lorentzian line width contribution of $\Delta B_{pp}^L = 0.16(2)$ mT. The obtained line widths are in agreement with previous reports of NDI^{•-} radical anions in coordination polymers.^{17b,c} Moreover, Q-band EPR spectroscopy of **K-ONDI** revealed a small axial anisotropy of the *g* tensor with $g_{\perp} = 2.0044(2)$ and $g_{||} = 2.0026(2)$ and slightly smaller line widths $\Delta B_{pp}^G = 0.35(2)$ mT and $\Delta B_{pp}^L = 0.10(2)$ mT as compared to the X band spectra. An axially symmetric *g* tensor has been likewise reported for NDI^{•-} radical anions.¹⁸ Therefore, it is reasonable to assign the observed EPR signal and the absorption band around 620 nm in **K-ONDI** to the NDI^{•-} radical anions. The absorption bands from 200 nm to 400 nm should be attributed to the $\pi-\pi^*$ transition of the organic ligand.^{7a,19} Compared to **K-ONDI**, the NDI^{•-} absorption band of H₂ONDI in solution is slightly red-shifted, probably caused by the large polarity of the solvent DMA.

Since only the NDI^{•-} radical signal was detected by EPR and no other redox species were found in the solid state cyclic voltammogram of **K-ONDI** (Fig. S4†), intramolecular electron transfer can be excluded. According to literature, alkylamines, acting as electron donors, can induce NDI^{•-} formation by electron transfer.²⁰ Considering that Me₂NH is formed by hydrolytic decomposition of DMF,^{21a} the NDI^{•-} present in **K-ONDI** may be generated by the alkylamine formed by decomposition of DMF under solvothermal conditions.

To verify this hypothesis, firstly, syntheses of **K-ONDI** were performed at different temperatures because higher temperature would promote the decomposition of DMF and, thus, produce more alkylamine which would be beneficial for the formation of NDI^{•-}. The identical PXRD patterns demonstrate phase consistency of products obtained at 140, 150 and 160 °C (Fig. 3a). Also the solid-state UV-vis absorption spectra are very similar and exhibit broad NDI^{•-} absorption bands at 620 nm (Fig. 3b). Quantitative measurements of the numbers of spins in these three samples by EPR spectroscopy reveal 4.6×10^{14} mg⁻¹ (140 °C), 1.2×10^{15} mg⁻¹ (150 °C), and 4.9×10^{15} mg⁻¹ (160 °C), the increasing concentration of radicals with increasing synthesis temperature (Fig. S5†) is consistent with the hypothesis that the decomposition products of DMF induce electron transfer to NDI leading to NDI^{•-} radicals.

Further, the solvent DMF was replaced with dimethylacetamide (DMA) and diethylformamide (DEF). DMA and DEF

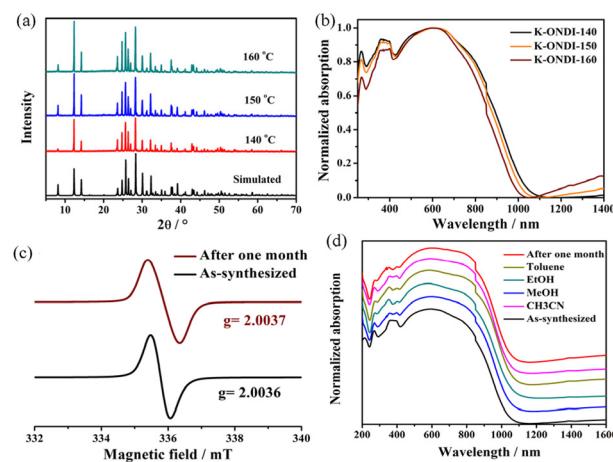


Fig. 3 PXRD patterns (a) and solid-state UV-vis absorption spectra (b) of **K-ONDI** synthesized at different temperatures; (c) Solid state EPR spectra of **K-ONDI** before and after exposure to air for one month; (d) solid-state optical absorption spectra of **K-ONDI** after exposure to air for one month and after immersing in organic solvents for five days.

both can produce respective alkylamines by hydrolysis during solvothermal reactions.²¹ According to the PXRD patterns (Fig. S6a†), and solid-state UV-vis-infrared optical absorption spectra (Fig. S6b†), **K-ONDI** is obtained also with DMA or DEF. On the other hand, when DMF was replaced with DMSO, no solvothermal reaction could be observed because of the lack of organic bases (Fig. S7†). But in presence of triethylamine (Et₃N), **K-ONDI** was formed and the characteristic band of NDI^{•-} also appeared (Fig. S8†). This implies that Et₃N not only deprotonates the ligand, but also induces the formation of NDI^{•-}. Since DMF, DMA and DEF can decompose to respective alkylamines under solvothermal conditions and NDI^{•-} doped **K-ONDI** can be obtained when using these solvents, it is reasonable to suggest that the formation of NDI^{•-} radicals in **K-ONDI** is related to the production of alkylamines by solvent decomposition.

Radical stability

K-ONDI synthesized at 140 °C exhibits good radical stability in air. After exposure to air for one month, the EPR radical signal still remains (Fig. 3c). The characteristic absorption band of the NDI^{•-} radical also still appears in the solid-state UV-vis-IR absorption spectra (Fig. 3d). In addition, the PXRD patterns show no obvious structural changes after contact to air for one month. On the other hand, **K-ONDI** also shows good stability in common organic solvents like MeOH, EtOH, CH₃CN, and toluene. After immersion in these solvents for five days, no changes were detected by PXRD (Fig. S9†). The absorption spectra of **K-ONDI** after the immersion process are nearly the same as those of the as-synthesized sample, which demonstrates the NDI^{•-} radical in **K-ONDI** is stable even in contact to the solvent. It is worth to mention that such air- and solvent-stable radical coordination polymers based on NDI derivatives are rare.⁷ Consistent with previous studies,¹¹ the excellent



radical stability of **K-ONDI** combined with its structure features could be attributed to the synergistic interactions of the co-ordinative bonds of the NDI group and continuous π - π interactions between ligands.

Electronic structure calculation

Owing to the existence of continuous intermolecular π - π interactions between ligand molecules, effective orbitals overlap is reasonable to be expected. According to the results of DFT calculations, **K-ONDI** is a direct semiconductor. The calculated bandgap is 0.5 eV, which is in reasonable agreement with the experimentally determined optical gap of 1.27 eV (Fig. S10a†) because of the underestimation of bandgaps obtained from DFT calculations.²² Combined with the κ point path in the Brillouin zone (Fig. S11†), the conduction band (CB) closest to the Fermi level is relatively flat along Z- Γ and B-D direction (Fig. 4), which indicates there is no effective orbital overlap between K^+ ions and organic ligands. The CB closest to the Fermi level shows a dispersion along Γ -Y, A-B, and D-E directions, with the dispersion width reaching about 0.18 eV (Fig. S12†). That means there is weak orbital overlap between adjacent columns of stacked ligands. Noticeably, the CB closest to the Fermi level significantly increases along Y-A direction and decreases along E-C direction. The dispersion widths between Y-A and E-C directions are about 0.36 eV. Such a big band dispersion is rare to be observed among coordination polymers²³ and demonstrates there is efficient orbital overlap. That corresponds to continuous π - π interactions along the a axis in the crystal structure. In contrast, the dispersions of the VB closest to the Fermi level are small (Fig. 4 and S12†), that means the electron mobility is expected to be bigger than the hole mobility in **K-ONDI**. Compared with the obvious VB dispersion in **Ca-ONDI** and **Sr-ONDI**,^{13a} we suspect the π - π stacking structure of ligands may influence the band structure and charge carrier mobility.

From the analysis of density of states (DOS) and partial density of states (PDOS), the valence bands closest to the

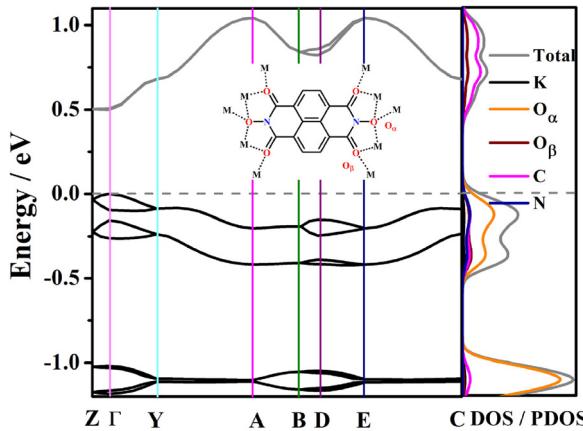


Fig. 4 The band structure and DOS/PDOS of **K-ONDI**. The dashed line represents the Fermi level (E_F).

Fermi level largely consist of the states of O_α atoms (Fig. 4). The conduction band is mainly composed of the states of C atoms, with a small contribution from O_β . The contributions of N and K atoms to either occupied or unoccupied states near the Fermi level are nearly negligible.

Electrical conductivity

Due to the obvious radical signal and the crystal structure allowing efficient π orbital overlap, the electrical conductivity of **K-ONDI** (pressed pellets) obtained at different synthesis temperatures was measured using the two-probe method under direct current. The electrical conductivities of **K-ONDI** synthesized at different temperatures are 1.0×10^{-7} S cm⁻¹ (140 °C), 4.3×10^{-7} S cm⁻¹ (150 °C), and 6.5×10^{-6} S cm⁻¹ (160 °C) (Fig. 5), respectively. This behaviour could be attributed to the increasing number of unpaired electrons (Fig. S5†). It is worth to mention that the electrical conductivity measured from pressed pellets is usually underestimated because of grain boundary resistance and sample anisotropy.²⁴ According to the single crystal structure data and theoretical calculation, the mechanism of electrical conductivity of **K-ONDI** could be assigned to band-like charge transport based on effective orbitals overlap originating in continuous intermolecular π - π interactions between organic ligands.^{23b} On the other hand, considering the presence of grain boundary resistance in pressed pellets of a polycrystalline samples and possible defects caused by doped NDI¹⁻, hopping charge transport may also contribute to the electrical conductivity of **K-ONDI**.^{24a} According to previous studies,²⁵ the population of radical species in materials is important and proportional to their electrical conductivity. Compared to reported radical doped coordination polymers,^{7a,25} **K-ONDI** exhibits a relatively high electrical conductivity even with less detected unpaired electrons (Table S2†), which probably is caused by an efficient charge transport path based on the π - π stacking structure.

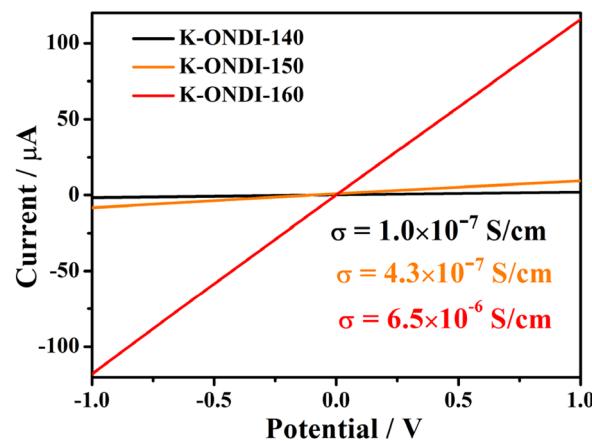


Fig. 5 I - V curve of **K-ONDI** synthesized at different temperatures (pressed pellet, two-probe method under ambient conditions, pellet thickness: **K-ONDI-140**, 0.70 mm; **K-ONDI-150**, 0.63 mm; **K-ONDI-160**, 0.72 mm; pellet diameter: 13 mm).



Measurements of the temperature dependent electrical conductivities of **K-ONDI** in the range of 25–80 °C (Fig. S22†) show that the electrical conductivity of **K-ONDI** increases with increasing temperature. The activation energies estimated from the slope ($\ln \sigma$ vs. $1/T$) in the linear range are 0.44, 0.42 and 0.15 eV for **K-ONDI** synthesized at 140, 150 and 160 °C, respectively.

Conclusions

In summary, we directly synthesized an NDI based coordination polymer with a significant and adjustable concentration of radical species by solvothermal reaction. This compound displays a strong radical EPR signal of $\text{NDI}^{\cdot-}$ that most likely is generated by electron transfer from amines, formed by decomposition of DMF under solvothermal conditions, to the NDI core of the ligand. Benefiting from its π - π stacking structure and coordination bonds to metal ions, **K-ONDI** exhibits good radical stability in air and common organic solvents. Due to efficient π orbitals overlap and unpaired electrons of $\text{NDI}^{\cdot-}$, **K-ONDI** shows a moderate electrical conductivity. Considering the wide applications of naphthalenediimide derivatives in coordination polymers, we believe that this work shows a new prospective to direct synthesis of radical doped CPs that would arouse interesting magnetic or electrical properties. Besides, this compound displays a broad optical absorption and semiconductive performance, which make it an ideal candidate for photo- or electrocatalysis.

Experimental

Materials and methods

All reagents were purchased commercially and used without further purification. 2,7-Dihydroxybenzo[*lmn*][3,8]phenanthroline-1,3,6,8(2*H*,7*H*)-tetraone (H_2ONDI) was synthesized according to a reported procedure.^{13d} H_2ONDI -DMA and (Me_2NH_2) (**HONDI**) were prepared based on a reported method.^{13a} Elemental analyses were carried out on a VARIO EL analyzer (Elementar). Thermogravimetric (TG) analyses were performed in Al_2O_3 crucibles on a NETZSCH STA 449 F1 thermal analyzer under Argon (50 ml min⁻¹) atmosphere at a heating rate of 10 K min⁻¹. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns were collected in Debye Scherrer mode on a STOE StadiP diffractometer using Cu-K α_1 radiation ($\lambda = 154.060$ pm) at room temperature in the 2θ range of 5–80°. UV-Vis absorption spectra were collected on a Jasco V-670 UV-Vis-NIR spectrometer. IR spectra were measured on KBr pellets using a Bruker TENSOR 27 spectrometer.

Synthesis of K-ONDI. A mixture containing H_2ONDI (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) and KBF_4 (16 mg, 0.13 mmol), 2 mL DMF, and 2 mL CH_3OH was sealed in a Teflon lined autoclave and heated under autogenous pressure to 140 °C for 1 day. Then the reaction mixture was cooled down to 30 °C within 10 hours. The obtained dark blue crystals were washed with

DMA and CH_3OH several times. Yield 9 mg (*ca.* 50% based on ligand). Anal. calculated (%) for $\text{K}_2\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{4}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ ($M = 374.39$ g mol⁻¹): C, 44.91; H, 1.08; N, 7.48. Found (%): C, 45.14; H, 0.99; N, 7.64.

X-ray crystallography

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurements were carried out on a STOE STADIVARI diffractometer equipped with an X-ray micro-source (Cu-K α , $\lambda = 154.186$ pm) and a DECTRIS Pilatus 300k detector. The structure was solved by direct methods and refined using SHELX.²⁶ The hydrogen atoms of the ligand were added geometrically and refined using the riding model. The final structure was refined using a full-matrix least-squares refinement on F^2 . All crystallographic calculations were performed within the Olex2 crystallographic software.²⁷

Cyclic voltammetry

The solid-state cyclic voltammogram of **K-ONDI** was measured using a three-electrode cell at room temperature. About 5 mg of **K-ONDI** crystalline powder were milled and dispersed in 1 mL of ethanol. Two drops of the crystalline powder slurry were drop-cast onto the pre-cleaned glassy carbon electrode and dried in air for the fabrication of the working electrode. Pt wire and Ag/Ag⁺ act as the counter electrode and the reference electrode, respectively. Electrochemical measurements of the sample were carried out using a 0.1M [(*n*-Bu)₄N]PF₆ solution in acetonitrile under N₂ atmosphere. The reduction potentials of **K-ONDI** were obtained from the cyclic voltammogram and corrected with respect to the Fc/Fc⁺ internal standard.

Electrical conductivity measurement

The conductivity of pressed pellets of **K-ONDI** (diameter 13 mm) was measured on a Biologic SP-150 instrument. The direct current–voltage (*I*–*V*) curves of **K-ONDI** pellets sandwiched between two silver gel coated hard plastic sheets (covered with Cu film on one side) electrodes were recorded under ambient conditions from –1 to +1 V. The specific electric conductivity σ is calculated by the expression $\sigma = \frac{I}{V} \times \frac{L}{\pi r^2}$, where L is the thickness and r the radius of the pellet. The values of I and V were obtained from the *I*–*V* curve. The temperature dependent conductivity measurement (Fig. S22†) was performed in an oven under ambient atmosphere. The temperature increased from room temperature to 80 °C in 2 h. The activation energy was calculated according to the Arrhenius equation: $\sigma = \sigma_0 \cdot e^{-\frac{E_a}{k_B T}}$, where K_B is the Boltzmann constant and T represents the absolute temperature.

EPR measurements

EPR experiments of **K-ONDI** were performed on Bruker EMXmicro X-band and EMX Q-band spectrometers at room temperature, both equipped with cylindrical cavities. The X-band EPR spectrum of a solution of H_2ONDI in DMA was recorded using a flat cell in rectangular TE102 cavity. The EPR spectra were simulated using the MATLAB toolbox EasySpin.²⁸ Spin numbers were determined from the EPR spectra by

double integration and comparison with an ultramarine standard sample with known spin number.

Computation details

Calculation of intermolecular interactions: the plots of the electron density (ρ) and reduced density gradient ($s = 1/(2(3\pi^2)^{1/3})|\nabla\rho|/\rho^{4/3}$) of **K-ONDI** was obtained by density functional theory (DFT) calculations.¹⁵ Calculations were performed with the B3LYP functional and the 6-311G (d,p) basis set,²⁹ using the Gaussian 16 program.³⁰ The results were analyzed by Multiwfn.³¹

The band structure and DOS were calculated using the CASTEP package.³² The structural model for **K-ONDI** was directly taken from the single-crystal X-ray diffraction data. The exchange–correlation energy was described by the PBE functional within the GGA.³³ The norm conserving pseudo-potentials were chosen to modulate the electron–ion interaction.³⁴ The plane-wave cutoff energy was 750 eV, and the threshold of 5×10^{-7} eV was set for the self-consistent field convergence of the total electronic energy. The Fermi level was selected as the reference and set to 0 eV by default. For the DOS/PDOS diagram a line broadening (smearing width) of 0.05 eV was used. Other parameters were set to default values.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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