Microporous Metal-Organic Frameworks built from Rigid Tetrahedral Tetrakis(4-tetrazolylphenyl)silane Connectors

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<td>Timokhin, Ivan; Imperial College London, Department of Chemistry; University of Camerino, Dipartimento Scienze Chimiche White, Andrew; Imperial College London, Department of Chemistry Lickiss, Paul; Imperial College, Pettinari, Claudio; University of Camerino, Dipartimento Scienze Chimiche Davies, Robert; Imperial College London, Dept of Chemistry</td>
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Microporous Metal-Organic Frameworks built from Rigid Tetrahedral Tetrakis(4-tetrazolylphenyl)silane Connectors

I. Timokhin, A. J. P. White, P. D. Lickiss, C. Pettinari and R. P. Davies*

Rigid tetrahedral ligands are of particular interest in Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) construction due to their highly branched nature, high symmetry and also their rarity. Within this context the silicon-centred linker tetrakis(4-tetrazolylphenyl)silane is shown to give porous networks exhibiting fluorite or garnet topology with copper(II), manganese(II) and cadmium(II) metal based nodes.

The field of metal-organic frameworks has grown exponentially over the past decade, with materials reported with extremely high porosities and potential applications in areas as diverse as gas storage, gas separation, catalysis and drug delivery to name but a few. The design of the organic connector plays a key role in the design of new MOF materials and the modification of existing ones. However, despite recent advances the preparation of rigid tetrahedral organic-connectors for MOF building remains somewhat problematic due to the challenging syntheses of these ligands. We have sought to address this by pioneering the use of silicon as a tetrahedral centre, which can be readily substituted to form tetrahedral and other rigid and highly branched linkers. In addition to their facile synthetic accessibility these ligands have, in some cases, been shown to exhibit subtly different chemical and physical properties to their carbon-based analogs leading to novel structural motifs.

Research on silicon connectors for MOF construction to date has primarily focussed upon the preparation and use of polytopic-carboxylates such as tetrakis(carboxyphenyl)silane (t cps). In addition, work in our group has recently led to the first report of a polytopic tetratetrazolyl silicon based ligand, tetrakis(4-tetrazolylphenyl) silane (ttps). H4ttps was demonstrated to react with copper(II) chloride to give a highly porous network (IMP-16, hereafter known as IMP-16Cu) which exhibits flu topology. Unique to IMP-16Cu is the orientation of the square-planar {Cu4(μ4-Cl)}+ nodes which lie perpendicular to each other and therefore differ from the nodal co-planarity exhibited in the carbon-centred analog Cu4(ttpm)2.0.7CuCl2 (ttpm = tetrakis(4-tetrazolylphenyl)methane) reported by Long and co-workers. This can be explained by the increased rotational freedom about the Si-Ar bonds in ttps compared to conformationally restricted C-Ar bond rotation in the ttpm analog. The work now presented further explores the use of the ttps ligand in MOF construction with four new MOFs reported based on this connector.

Solvothermal reaction between H4ttps and MnCl2.4H2O in the presence of HCl, DMF and methanol at 80 °C gave pale yellow cubic crystals of [H4MnCl(ttps)(DMF)4][20DMF (IMP-16Mn)]. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies reveal a porous three dimensional network built from chloride-centred square-planar {Mn4(μ4-Cl)}+ nodes, each of which is bridged by eight tetrazolate groups from eight separate ttps ligands (Fig. 1a). The sixth coordination site on each copper is occupied by a DMF molecule. The structure is therefore isomorphous with IMP-16Cu and represents, as far as we are aware, only the second example of such a {Mn4(μ4-Cl)}+ node in MOF chemistry, and the first in combination with a Td ligand. Mn-Cl bonds lie in the range 2.6998(14) to 2.7459(17) Å and Mn-N bonds in the range 2.199(4) to 2.214(4) Å. These distances are longer than the comparable Cu-N and Cu-Cl bonds in IMP-16Cu resulting in an elongation of the cell length parameter and an increase in overall cell volume (see Table 1). The combination of cubic eight-coordinate metal–based nodes with tetrahedral ttps ligands gives rise to a 4,8 connected net with the fluorite (flu) topology (Fig. 1b and 1d).
The structure of IMP-16Mn is highly porous with a solvent-accessible volume (SAV), as calculated from the crystal structure using the PLATON routine\textsuperscript{15}, of 6693 Å\textsuperscript{3} per unit cell or 74.2% (assuming removal of all DMF solvent from the structure). This is slightly lower than that reported for IMP-16Cu, but is significantly more than that reported for the Cu-ttpm analog Cu\textsubscript{4}(ttpm)\textsubscript{0.7}CuCl\textsubscript{2} (66.9%)\textsuperscript{11}. The internal cavity size in IMP-16Mn is 2.1 nm and the framework window sizes are 8.5 x 8.5 Å\textsuperscript{2} and 9.5 x 9.5 Å\textsuperscript{2} (atom-to-atom distances, Figure 1c). The pores are initially filled with disordered DMF solvent molecules (40 per unit cell – see ESI), but these can be removed to enable gas uptake studies. Experimental gas sorption data obtained on an evacuated sample shows a reversible Type I adsorption isotherm (Figure 2) and a saturation amount of 710 cm\textsuperscript{3} g\textsuperscript{-1} at 0.9 bar. This is congruent with the PLATON calculations, being slightly lower than that reported for IMP-16Cu (740 cm\textsuperscript{3} g\textsuperscript{-1} at 0.9 bar). The apparent surface area as determined by the BET and Langmuir methods is 2510 and 2956 m\textsuperscript{2} g\textsuperscript{-1} respectively (Table 1).

The bulk purity of IMP-16Mn and the repeatability of its synthesis were further verified with powder diffraction studies (see ESI). Attempts to prepare the analogous IMP-16Cd MOF using CdCl\textsubscript{2} as the metal containing reagent were unsuccessful, instead yielding a mix of microcrystalline products of undeterminable structure. Nevertheless gas sorption studies on these ‘cadmium MOF’ product(s) revealed microporosity with a N\textsubscript{2} saturation amount of 420 cm\textsuperscript{3} g\textsuperscript{-1} at 0.9 bar and BET and Langmuir calculated internal surface areas of 1725 and 1248 m\textsuperscript{2} g\textsuperscript{-1} respectively (see ESI).

A series of metal nitrate salts were also treated with the H\textsubscript{2}ttpm connector in order to probe the role of the halide anion (or absence thereof) in the construction of metal tetrazolyl MOFs. Thus reaction of H\textsubscript{2}ttps with the metal(II) nitrate salts, Mn(NO\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}·2H\textsubscript{2}O, Cu(NO\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}·2H\textsubscript{2}O or Cd(NO\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}·4H\textsubscript{2}O, in a mixture of DMF and methanol at 80 °C gave the respective crystalline products IMP-17Mn, IMP-17Cu and IMP-17Cd. Single crystal X-ray diffraction studies reveal isostructural MOF materials of formula M\textsubscript{2}(ttps)\textsubscript{13}(DMF)\textsubscript{8} (M = Mn, Cu, Cd). These IMP-17 MOFs differ from IMP-16 being built from trimetallic nodes, comprising of a linear arrangement of metal centres bridged by the tetrazolyl groups of six different ttps ligands to yield an octahedral metal-based nodal unit (Figure 3a). The central metal dication within the building unit (Mn1, Figure 2a) is octahedrally coordinated by the nitrogen atoms of six different ttps connectors, whilst the terminals metal centres (Mn2) are facially coordinated both by three nitrogen atoms from three ttps ligands and three oxygen atoms of three solvent molecules (DMF or methanol). Metal – metal distances and mean metal-nitrogen bonding distances for the different MOFs are summarised in Table 2. Similar linear trimetallic units are relatively well known in metal azolate frameworks\textsuperscript{16}.

The combination of the tetrahedral organic linkers and inorganic octahedral vertices gives rise to a 4,6-connected three-dimensional microporous structure (Figure 3b) based on the

### Table 1 Comparison of the unit-cell parameters and gas sorption data of IMP-16Cu/Mn

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<th>IMP-16Cu\textsuperscript{a}</th>
<th>IMP-16Mn\textsuperscript{b}</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a, Å</td>
<td>18.5153(3)</td>
<td>18.8266(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c, Å</td>
<td>25.0576(7)</td>
<td>25.4638(17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V, Å\textsuperscript{3}</td>
<td>8590.2(4)</td>
<td>9025.4(8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAV, Å\textsuperscript{3}</td>
<td>6384 (74.3%)</td>
<td>6693 (74.2%)</td>
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\textsuperscript{a} Tetragonal crystal system (α = β = γ = 90°), \textsuperscript{b} solvent-accessible
volume (SAV) calculated using the “SOLV” algorithm implemented in the PLATON package\textsuperscript{15}.
garnet (gar) net (Figure 3d) with the topology directly comparable to the Al$_2$Si$_3$O$_12$ part of a garnet. The gar net is uncommon in MOF chemistry: previously reported examples include Mn$_n$(ttpp)$_n$ and In$_n$Zn$_n$(imidazolate)$_{3n}$ (ZIF-5). The largest enclosed space within the IMP-17 structures is approximately 14 Å in diameter (atom-to-atom distance, see Figure 3c).

![Diagram](image-url)

**Fig. 3** a) Ball and stick representations of the coordination environment around the Mn$_n$ (tetrazolate)$_n$ node (colour scheme: Mn, purple; O, red; N, blue; C, black). b) View of a section of IMP-17Mn from the 010 direction (hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules have been removed for clarity). c) Diagrammatic picture of one of the cavities in IMP-17Mn. d) Schematic representation of one unit-cell of the network showing the gar topology (Si nodes, light blue; Mn$_n$ nodes, purple).

Comparison of the crystallographic parameters for all three IMP-17 MOFs shows an increase in cell length and volume with increasing ionic radius of the metal (Cu(II) < Mn(II) < Cd(II)). The single-crystal X-ray structures indicate a high degree of porosity for these structures, with PLATON calculated solvent-accessible volumes (SAV) exceeding 70% (assuming removal of all co-ordinated and non-coordinated solvent from the structures, see Table 2). However, in contrast to IMP-16 these MOFs all show limited structural stability: IMP-17Cd and IMP-17Cu undergo decomposition within 24 hours when stored on the open bench, and all IMP-17 MOFs decomposed rapidly under evacuation to form amorphous non-porous solids. Gas sorption measurements on IMP-17Mn showed a N$_2$ saturation amount of just 20 cm$^3$ g$^{-1}$ at 0.9 bar indicating an almost complete loss of porosity on evacuation.

| Table 2 Comparison of the unit-cell parameters and selected distances in IMP-17Mn/Cd/Cu |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| IMP-17Mn        | IMP-17Cd        | IMP-17Cu        |
| **a, Å**        | 36.7051(15)     | 36.9744(15)     | 36.1906(18)     |
| **V, Å$^3$**    | 49452(6)        | 50548.2(4)      | 47401(7)        |
| M...M distance, Å | 4.055           | 4.110           | 3.734           |
| Mean M-N distance, Å | 2.227         | 2.335           | 2.091           |
| SAV$^a$, Å$^3$ | 35350(71.5%)    | 36998.7(73.2%)  | 34270 (72.3%)   |

$^a$ Cubic crystal system ($a = b = c; \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^\circ$).

In summary, the coordination chemistry of the novel silicon-based tetrahedral ttps ligand has been further explored and MOFs based on this ligand reported displaying flu or gar topological nets. The chloride centred tetrametallic nodes in IMP-16 lead to robust materials that can withstand evacuation and demonstrate high levels of porosity and gas sorption capacity. The trimetallic nodes which form the octahedral vertices within the IMP-17 series of MOFs also give rise to microporous structures, however these frameworks readily decompose under evacuation making them unsuitable for gas storage or sorting applications.

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**Notes and references**

$^d$ Department of Chemistry, Imperial College London, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AZ, UK; E-mail: r.davies@imperial.ac.uk

$^e$ Scuola del Farmaco e dei Prodotti della Salute, Università degli Studi di Camerino, via S. Agostino 1, I-62032 Camerino, MC, Italy.

† Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Full experimental details of the syntheses, characterisation data and the crystallographic protocols employed in this study and powder X-ray diffraction and thermogravimetric analysis plots. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/b000000x/101

‡ The SQUEEZE routine of PLATON$^{15}$ was employed to treat the regions of diffuse solvent in all structures. Crystal data for IMP-16Mn: Cu$_4$H$_6$ClMn$_3$N$_7$O$_{16}$Si$_2$:20(C$_2$H$_5$NO), $M$ = 3219.84, tetragonal, $P4/nmm$ (no. 136), $a = b = 18.8266(5)$, $c = 25.4638(17)$ Å, $V = 9025.4(8)$ Å$^3$, $Z = 2$ ($D_{4h}$ symmetry), $D_i = 1.185$ g cm$^{-3}$, $\mu$(Cu-Ka) = 3.085 mm$^{-1}$, $T = 173$ K, pale yellow cubes, Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur PU Xtra diffractometer; 4666 independent measured reflections ($R_{int} = 0.0845$), $F^2$ refinement, $R_F(\text{obs}) = 0.0841$, $wR_F(\text{all}) = 0.2943$, 2075 independent observed absorption-corrected reflections [$|F| > 4\sigma(|F|)$, $20_{\text{max}} = 145^\circ$]. 121 parameters. CCDC 989922.

IMP-17Mn: Cu$_6$H$_{12}$Mn$_3$N$_7$O$_{16}$Si$_2$:28(C$_2$H$_5$NO), $M$ = 3053.60, cubic, $Ia-3d$ (no. 230), $a = 36.7051(15)$ Å, $V = 49452(6)$ Å$^3$, $Z = 24$ (3 symmetry), $D_i = 2.461$ g cm$^{-3}$, $\mu$(Cu-Ka) = 3.956 mm$^{-1}$, $T = 173$ K, colourless blocks, Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur PU Xtra diffractometer; 4003 independent
measured reflections ($R_{int} = 0.2211$), $F^2$ refinement, $R_I(\text{obs}) = 0.1447$, $wR_I(\text{all}) = 0.4057$, 786 independent observed absorption-corrected reflections [$|F_o| > 4\sigma(|F_o|)$], $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 144^\circ$. 116 parameters. CCDC 989923.

**IMP-17Cd**: $C_{40}H_{44}Cd_2N_20O_4Si\cdot16(C_3H_7NO)$, $M = 2291.38$, cubic, $Ia-3d$ (no. 230), $a = 36.97447(15)$ Å, $V = 50548.2(4)$ Å$^3$, $Z = 24$ ($\overline{3}$ symmetry), $D_r = 1.807$ g cm$^{-3}$, $\mu(Cu-K\alpha) = 5.047$ mm$^{-1}$, $T = 173$ K, colourless blocks, Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur PX Ultra diffractometer; 4182 independent measured reflections ($R_{int} = 0.0793$), $F^2$ refinement, $R_I(\text{obs}) = 0.0528$, $wR_I(\text{all}) = 0.1348$, 3535 independent observed absorption-corrected reflections [$|F_o| > 4\sigma(|F_o|)$], $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 145^\circ$. 172 parameters. CCDC 989924.

**IMP-17Cu**: $C_{28}H_{16}Cu_2N_16O_4Si$, $M = 795.74$, cubic, $Ia-3d$ (no. 230), $a = 36.1906(18)$ Å, $V = 47401(7)$ Å$^3$, $Z = 24$ ($\overline{3}$ symmetry), $D_r = 0.669$ g cm$^{-3}$, $\mu(Cu-K\alpha) = 0.580$ mm$^{-1}$, $T = 100$ K, blue-green prisms, Rigaku AFC12 (Right) diffractometer; 3498 independent measured reflections ($R_{int} = 0.116$), $F^2$ refinement, $R_I(\text{obs}) = 0.136$, $wR_I(\text{all}) = 0.440$, 1134 independent observed absorption-corrected reflections [$|F_o| > 4\sigma(|F_o|)$], $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 50^\circ$. 104 parameters. CCDC 989925.

Microporous Metal-Organic Frameworks built from Rigid Tetrahedral Tetrakis(4-tetrazolylphenyl)silane Connector

A series of related MOFs built from the rigid tetrahedral H$_4$ttps ligand with Mn(II), Cu(II) or Cd(II) metal based nodes exhibiting rare fluorite or garnet topologies have been synthesised and characterised and are compared to one another.