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ARTICLE TYPE

Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformation of an Anion Exchangeable Dynamic Metal-Organic Framework

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A three dimensional (3D) cationic Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) has been fabricated from a neutral N-donor ligand and Cd(ClO⁴)2 . The cationic MOF shows guest triggered inherent dynamic behaviour at room temperature. The guest ¹⁰**dependent structural dynamism has been well understood from the single-crystal-to-single-crystal (SCSC) transformation experiment. The framework also displays facile anion exchange behaviour and anion dependent structural dynamism.**

- ¹⁵Guest molecules in the coordination space have found a profound role in directing the structures of metal-organic frameworks $(MOFs)$ / coordination polymers (CPs) .¹ Especially in the domain of dynamic MOFs, the guest molecules residing in the porous aperture can regulate structures to impart flexibility to the 20 framework.² Soft porous MOFs are well known to exhibit such
- guest dependent structural dynamism.^{2a,3} Moreover, the framework flexibility may depend upon the nature of guest molecules. MOFs entrapping high boiling solvent often show extrinsic dynamic nature, as an external stimuli like high
- ²⁵temperature is required for conveying these molecules out of the framework.⁴ On the other hand, presence of low boiling guests in a framework may generate inherent framework flexibility which forbids the necessity of an external stimuli, except air-drying conditions.⁵ Particularly, manifestation of structural ³⁰dynamism/flexibility by cationic MOFs is very easy compared to other MOFs.^{5d,6} By employing appropriate low-boiling solvent
- systems for synthesis, the combination of a neutral N-donor ligand with metal ions yields cationic MOFs which usually are occluded with low boiling solvents and extra framework anions.⁷
- ³⁵On keeping such MOFs away from mother liquor, the confined guests may easily leave the framework and create the possibility of structural changes in the system. Such structural modulations upon guest removal at room temperature renders inherent dynamism to the cationic MOFs.^{5c,5d} Recently, we have
- ⁴⁰demonstrated the guest dependent dynamic behaviour of few cationic MOFs.^{5d,8} Such structural modifications can be well understood from their single-crystal-to-single-crystal (SCSC) transformation studies. $2a,9$ In addition to these guest induced effect, extra framework anions of such cationic MOFs can also be
- ⁴⁵exchanged with foreign anions of varying size, shape and coordinating tendencies.^{7c,7d,10} Substitution of such anions with other anions may also lead to structural and physical changes of

Scheme 1 Schematic representation of guest driven dynamic structural 50 transformation from a 3D framework to 2D sheets.

the host systems.^{5d,7e,11}Herein, we report a three dimensional (3D) cationic MOF built from a neutral N-donor ligand (L) and Cd (II), ClO⁴ − anions and free guests. The framework displays inherent ⁵⁵structural dynamism through the loss of guest solvent molecules upon air-drying. The guest dependent structural changes have been well understood from the SCSC transformation studies (Scheme 1). The extra framework anions in the compound can be

easily exchanged with other anions of different sizes and ⁶⁰coordinating tendencies. The compound also shows anion dependent structural dynamism.

Reaction of ligand¹² (1, 4-bis (4-pyridyl)-2, 3-diaza-1, 3butadiene) with $Cd(CIO₄)₂$ in a solvent combination of $CH₂Cl₂/$ tetrahydrofuran /methanol gave yellow colored rod shaped 65 crystals of compound 1 $[\{Cd(L)_3$. $(CIO_4)_2\} \times G]_n$ (where G are disordered low boiling solvent molecules).The compound 1 formed 3D kagome like structure with 1D porous channel as revealed from the single-crystal structural analysis. A very interesting aspect of compound 1 is that crystals of 1 undergo ⁷⁰drastic structural transformation upon air drying without losing their single-crystalline nature. Single-crystal analysis of the new phase showed a remarkable one step dimensionality reduction to form a two-dimensional (2D) sheets like structure $2[\{Cd(L)_2(OH_2)_2,(ClO_4)_2\}.(THF)]_n$. A drastic lowering in unit ⁷⁵cell volume also supports the formation of non porous structure (2) from the porous (1) parent framework. It is very interesting to note that low boiling guests easily come out from the framework (1) without any external stimuli like temperature, pressure and leading to the guest driven inherent dynamic nature of the 80 cationic framework (1) (Fig S13, ESI†).

Fig.1 A) Single net packing of compound 1 along *c* axis. B) Perspective view of overall packing of compound (1) along *c* axis(free solvent molecules are hidden).

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A single-crystal X-ray diffraction study (SC-XRD) revealed that compound 1 crystallize in trigonal crystal system with space group R-3c. An asymmetric unit of compound 1 contains half $Cd(II)$, one and half ligands (L), one $ClO₄⁻$ anion and disordered 10 solvent molecules (Fig S1, ESI†). SQUEEZE routine of PLATON has been used to remove highly disordered guest molecules in compound 1.Each Cd(II) shows connections with six N-pyridyl moieties of six different ligands forming a six coordinated distorted octahedral geometry. Each ligand connects two metal 15 centres via its terminal N-pyridyl functionality to form an extended 3D cationic structure. Single net packing of the compound results in a kagome like structure with 1D pore channel along *c* axis (Fig 1A). Out of six ligands in a complete

- set of coordination of a metal centre, two shows trans geometry ²⁰and four of them exhibit distorted cis geometry. Thus the overall packing of 1 shows the presence of free $ClO₄⁻$ anions in the interstitial voids of the cationic framework (Fig 1B). SCSC structural transformation revealed abrupt changes in crystal system (monoclinic) in compound 2 from 1. Complete single -
- ²⁵crystal structural analysis of 2 shows formation of 2D cationic sheets with free $ClO₄⁻$ anions in the framework lattice (Fig

S4,S11, ESI†). It is very worth noting that two coordinated ligands in 1 are being replaced by two water molecules in 2 leading to reduction of dimensionality by one step (3D→2D) 30 resulting the formation of 2D sheets like structure (Fig 2). Close examination of structure of 2 shows that two ligands orient in cis form and rest two are in trans form around each Cd(II) centre. Moreover, oxygen atom of $ClO₄⁻$ anion forms H-bonds with coordinated water molecules. In addition, Guest THF molecules ³⁵in the structure are found to form various non-covalent interactions with C-H, $ClO₄⁻$ anions and coordinated water molecules. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns of 2 show that it is stable at room temperature as evident from variable time PXRD (Fig S14, ESI†). It is very important to note that 1 upon air ⁴⁰drying changed to 2 by partial loss of guest molecules. Due to presence of such above mentioned non-covalent interactions between THF and

⁴⁵**Fig. 2** Guest driven structural transformation upon air drying from 1 (3D) to 2(2D) (Free solvent molecules are hidden).

framework, compound 2 is stable and does not lose any further guests on standing at room temperature (Fig S12, 50 ESI†). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of 2 shows $\sim 8\%$ wt loss around 100^oC and does not show any further wt loss up to

290^οC (Fig S18, ESI†). Framework dynamic behaviour was also observed during the replacement of host anions by some incursive anions of different sizes, shapes and coordinating tendencies. From the above structural description it is evident that 5 compound 2 contain free ClO₄[−] anions in its lattice. To inspect the anion-driven framework's dynamic behaviour anion exchange experiments were performed. Strongly coordinating anions (viz. N₃[−] and SCN[−]) of different sizes and shapes have been chosen for

Fig.3 FTIR spectra of compound 2 and its various anion exchanged products with highlighted bands of corresponding anions (top). FTIR spectra of different binary mixtures of anions of compound 2(bottom).

- ¹⁵the same. In a typical experiment, crystals of compound 2 were separately dipped in aqueous solution of NaN₃ and KSCN for about \sim 7 days. FTIR spectroscopic tool was utilized to monitor the anion–exchange studies. It showed complete replacement of anions by incursive anions took place in \sim 7 days. Strong bands
- ²⁰ related to $ClO₄⁻$ (~1100 cm⁻¹) in compound 2 almost completely vanished and in place new bands appeared at \sim 2050 cm⁻¹ for $2\supset N_3^-$ and at ~ 2080 cm⁻¹ for $2\supset SCN^-$ respectively (Fig 3). The exchanged compounds $(2\square N_3^-$ and $2\square$ SCN-) showed differences

in PXRD patterns compared to compound 2(Fig S15, ESI†) Such ²⁵differential PXRD patterns emerge owing to the different coordinating tendencies size and shapes of foreign anions suggesting dynamic nature of the framework. During the course of anion exchange we made several attempts to get X-ray quality single crystals of exchanged compounds, but unfortunately we ³⁰were unable to obtain the same. During the course of anion exchange, we observed that the supernatant solution of individual anion precursor remain colorless and transparent indicating MOF particles did not dissolve and recrystallize from the solvent. Owing to the differential PXRD patterns of anion exchanged 35 products, the compound shows anion-responsive structural dynamism. Reversibility of the anion exchange experiment was also performed by taking a NaClO₄ solution (1mM/10mL H₂O). No strong bands at~ 1100 cm⁻¹ for $ClO₄⁻$ appeared in re exchanged products as revealed in FTIR spectra indicating 40 reversibility could not be achieved in these cases.

Encapsulation of a particular anion by a cationic moiety in presence of other competing anions is very important. Hence to perform the guest anion affinity by cationic framework 2, we investigate anion exchange experiment by taking binary mixture 45 of anions: $N_3^{-}/$ SCN⁻. In a representative experiment, crystals of compound 2 were immersed in aqueous solution of equimolar mixtures of NaN₃ and KSCN. An investigation of FTIR spectra showed a strong band related to SCN⁻ at \sim 2080 cm⁻¹ suggesting preferential uptake of SCN^- over N_3^- (Fig 3).

⁵⁰**Conclusions**

To conclude we have synthesized a 3D cationic MOF using a Ndonor ligand. The cationic MOF showed inherent dynamic behaviour owing to the loss of low boiling solvent at room temperature. Guest driven dynamic behaviour of the cationic ⁵⁵framework has been well validated by SCSC transformation experiment. Apart from the guest driven dynamic behaviour, the cationic MOF also exhibited anion-responsive structural dynamism. The compound showed easy anion–exchange behaviour with strongly coordinating anions of different sizes and

60 shapes in aqueous medium. Moreover, different guest anionaffinity was also achieved with the cationic framework.

Notes and references

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Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Characterization,Figures,FT-IRspectra,TGA,SC-XRDdetails,PXRD, Anion exchnage experiments. CCDC 1044688 is for Compound1; Compound 2 CCDC 1044689.

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Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformation of an Anion Exchangeable Dynamic Metal-Organic Framework

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Scheme 1 Schematic overview of guest driven dynamic structural transformation from a 3D framework to 2D sheets

A three dimensional (3D) cationic Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) has been fabricated with a neutral N-donor ligand and $Cd(CIO₄)₂$. The cationic MOF shows guest triggered inherent dynamic behaviour at room temperature. The guest dependent structural dynamism has been well understood from the single-crystal-to-single-crystal (SCSC) transformation experiment. The framework also displays easy anion exchange behaviour with various kinds of anions and anion dependent structural dynamism.