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"Squaring the Circle": Molecular Squares and Rectangles from Chelate-Induced Structural Transformations of Known Fe₁₀ and New Fe₁₂ Ferric Wheels

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Single-strand molecular wheels¹ of paramagnetic 3d metals are of growing interest for reasons such as their high symmetry, which makes them good model systems for the study of one-dimensional magnetism,² magnetic anisotropy, and quantum effects such as coherent tunneling of the Néel vector.3 As a result, a growing number of M_x ($x \ge 8$) molecular wheels are being studied. There are, however, relatively few other 3d M_x loop-like closed topologies⁴ when compared to those containing diamagnetic 4d and 5d metals such as Pd, Pt, Au, etc., or metal-metal-bonded M2 repeating units.4 These span a variety of metals and ligands and have resulted in a wide range of loop and multi-loop structures, from squares, rectangles, boxes, etc., to complicated three-dimensional polyhedra.⁵ In addition to their inherent properties, such species are also potential building blocks for molecular nanodevices.⁶ Analogous access to a greater range of loop-like closed topologies for paramagnetic 3d metals would offer benefits to a variety of spectroscopic, electrochemical, magnetic, and host-guest binding studies. For this reason, we are developing the currently unexplored reactivity chemistry of 3d metal wheels, the prototype of which was the planar "ferric wheel" $[Fe_{10}(OMe)_{20}(O_2CR)_{10}]$ (1).⁷ In this paper, we report a new, diolate-containing class of ferric wheel [Fe₁₂(pd)₁₂(O₂CEt)₁₂] (2), and that N-based chelates can convert molecular wheels 1 and 2 into molecular squares and rectangles.

The reaction of [Fe₃O(O₂CEt)₆(H₂O)₃]⁺ with an excess of 1,3propanediol (pdH₂) in MeCN followed by addition of Et₂O gave yellow-green needles of $[Fe_{12}(pd)_{12}(O_2CEt)_{12}]$ (2) in 75% yield. Its structure⁸ (Figure 1) comprises 12 Fe^{III} atoms linked via EtCO₂⁻ and pd²⁻ bridges to form a puckered wheel of crystallographic S_6 symmetry, with each $\eta^2:\eta^2:\mu_3$ -pd²⁻ group bridging three adjacent octahedral Fe atoms. There are two symmetry-distinct Fe···Fe pairs, with identical bridges but differing slightly in metric parameters: (A) av Fe-O = 2.001 Å, av Fe $-O - \text{Fe} = 99.57^{\circ}$; (B) av Fe $-O = 99.57^{\circ}$ 2.022 Å, av Fe-O-Fe 97.45°. Complex 2 is a member of the general $[Fe_x(OR)_{2x}(O_2CR)_x]$ family of ferric wheels, of which 1 and $[Fe_{12}(OMe)_{24}(O_2CC(OH)Ph_2)_{12}]^{9a}$ are the $\{x = 10\}$ and $\{x = 10\}$ 12} members, respectively; complex 2 is a $\{x = 12, (OR)_2 = pd^{2-}\}$ member, the first of a new class with diolate bridges. With NO₃ions, it has elsewhere been shown that pd2- gives [Fe18(O2CPh)6- $(pd)_{12}(pdH)_{12}(NO_3)_6](NO_3)_6.$ ^{9b}

In the absence of any significant previous reactivity studies of the ferric wheel family, other than carboxylate substitution, ¹⁰ we have initiated a study of their reactions with heteroaromatic chelates such as 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy) and 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine (tpy). We wondered if such relatively inflexible chelates might affect wheel curvature and/or three-dimensional shape and thus lead to new types of wheel-related products. Indeed, reaction of 2 in MeCN with 4 equiv each of tpy and NaClO₄ gave, on addition of Et₂O, yellow

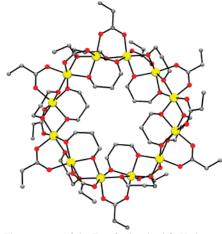


Figure 1. The structure of the Fe_{12} ferric wheel 2. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Color scheme: Fe^{III} yellow, O red, C gray.

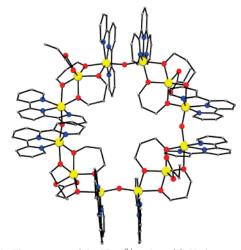


Figure 2. The structure of the $[Fe_{12}]^{8+}$ cation of 3. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Color scheme: Fe^{III} yellow, O red, N blue, C gray.

prisms of $[Fe_{12}O_4(pd)_8(O_2CEt)_4(tpy)_8](ClO_4)_8$ (3) as 3·10MeCN in 10% nonoptimized yield. A higher-yield procedure (~90% based on Fe) was subsequently developed from the reaction of $Fe(ClO_4)_3$ · $6H_2O$ with 1 equiv of tpy and a large excess of pdH_2 in MeCN. The $[Fe_{12}]^{8+}$ cation⁸ of 3 (Figure 2) is a molecular square comprising alternating $\{Fe_2(\mu\text{-O})(tpy)_2\}^{4+}$ "side" and $\{Fe(\eta^2:\eta^2:\mu_3\text{-pd})_2(\eta^2\text{-O}_2\text{-CEt})\}^{2-}$ "corner" subunits linked by pd^2 - O atoms. As for 2, the $[Fe_{12}]^{8+}$ square is not planar, and the Fe-Fe distances fall into two ranges: 3.506-3.551 Å in the $\{Fe_2(\mu\text{-O})(tpy)_2\}^{4+}$ subunits, and 3.135-3.162 Å between the latter and the $\{Fe(O_2CEt)(pd)_2\}^{2-}$ subunits. The Fe-O²⁻-Fe and Fe-O(pd)-Fe ranges are pd-Fe ranges are pd-1.19–168.10 and pd-103.31–109.22°, respectively.

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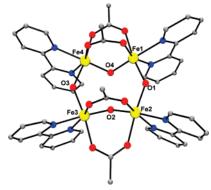


Figure 3. The structure of the cation of 4. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Color scheme: Fe^{III} yellow, O red, N blue, C gray.

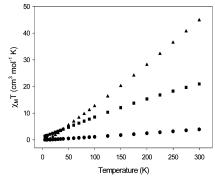


Figure 4. Plot of $\chi_M T$ versus T for complexes $\mathbf{1} \ (\blacksquare)$, $\mathbf{3} \ (\blacktriangle)$, and $\mathbf{4} \ (\bullet)$.

Similarly, reaction of 1 (R = Me) in MeCN with 4 equiv each of bpy and NaClO₄ gave, on addition of Et₂O, green crystals of $[Fe_4O(OH)_3(O_2CMe)_4(bpy)_4](ClO_4)_3$ (4) in 30% yield. The structure⁸ of the cation of 4 (Figure 3) is similar to the 1,10-phenanthroline derivative¹¹ and consists of a planar Fe^{III}₄ rectangle (Fe1···Fe4 = 3.207 Å, Fe2···Fe3 3.293 Å, Fe1···Fe2 = 3.674 Å, and Fe3···Fe4 = 3.698 Å); the Fe-Fe-Fe angles are in the range of 89.30-91.08°. Three sides are bridged by OH⁻ (O1, O2, O3) and one by O²⁻ (O4) ions (confirmed by bond valence sum calculations; see Supporting Information) and the short sides each also by two η^1 : η^1 : μ -MeCO₂ groups. There is an intramolecular hydrogen bond $(O2\cdots O4 = 2.523 \text{ Å})$ with the H atom asymmetrically located since Fe-O4 bonds (av 1.856 Å) are shorter than Fe-O2 ones (av 1.926 Å), showing that O4 retains its O²⁻ character.

Solid-state magnetic susceptibility ($\chi_{\rm M}$) data were collected on vacuum-dried, microcrystalline samples of complexes 2-4 in the 5.0-300 K range and in a 0.1 T magnetic field. In all cases, $\chi_{\rm M}T$ decreases steadily with decreasing temperature from 20.96 (2), 44.87 (3), and 3.90 (4) cm 3 mol $^{-1}$ K at 300 K to 1.35 (2), 0.40 (3), and 0.03 (4) cm³ mol⁻¹ K at 5.0 K (Figure 4). These indicate S = 0ground states, as expected for antiferromagnetic exchange interactions between even-membered loops of Fe^{III} atoms.

Theoretical calculations were performed on 2-4 using the ZILSH method¹² to probe the strength of their exchange constants J_{ii} (\mathcal{H} $=-2J\hat{S}_i\cdot\hat{S}_i$ convention). For 2, the two exchange constants were J = -20.5 cm⁻¹ and J' = -13.3 cm⁻¹ for the A and B Fe₂ pairs, respectively. For 3, $\{Fe_2(\mu-O)\}\$ and $\{Fe(\mu-pd)_2\}\ J$ values were in the ranges of -124.6 to -152.6 cm⁻¹ and -32.1 to -49.8 cm⁻¹, respectively. For 4, $J_{14} = -69.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $J_{12} = -27.0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $J_{34} =$ -32.4 cm⁻¹, and $J_{23} = -22.8$ cm⁻¹ (the subscripts refer to the atom labels); these were refined by fits to the magnetic susceptibility data using a genetic algorithm method described elsewhere, 12 which gave $J_{14} = -63.3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $J_{12} = -25.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $J_{34} = -26.6 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, J_{23} $= -19.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, and g = 1.97, with TIP fixed at $600 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

K mol⁻¹. The fit is shown in the Supporting Information. As expected, the oxide-bridged pair (Fe1...Fe4) is much more strongly antiferromagnetically coupled than the OH--bridged pairs. 13 The Fe1···Fe2 and Fe3···Fe4 couplings are similar, as expected, and J_{23} is weaker, again as expected on the basis of the smaller Fe2-O-Fe3 angle (117.5°) versus \sim 135° for Fe1-O-Fe2 and Fe3-O-Fe4.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ For all the compounds, the signs and relative magnitudes are consistent with established magnetostructural correlations.12-16

In summary, the incorporation of inflexible bpy and tpy chelates into ferric wheel chemistry has led to products retaining a singlestrand loop structure and possessing square or rectangular topologies. Of the products 3 and 4, Fe₁₂ complex 3 more closely resembles its Fe₁₂ starting material 2, which can be rationalized as due to the bidentate, chelating pd2- being more able to resist structural disruption by the added chelate than can MeO⁻ wheel 1. In fact, 3 can be conveniently related to 2 as being the result of clipping eight tpy groups onto 2 and causing, as a consequence of the loss of the bridging carboxylate groups at these positions, formation of the near-linear Fe-O-Fe sides of a square topology. This suggests that many other interesting loop structures of various size and shape await discovery in 3d M/O chemistry by appropriate choice of the combination of bridging and chelating ligands. Further studies along these lines are in progress.

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Supporting Information Available: Crystallographic details in CIF format for 2-4, additional structural figures, magnetic susceptibility fit for 4, and Fe and O bond valence sums. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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