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# Shape Modulation of Octanuclear Cu(I) or Ag(I) Dichalcogeno Template Clusters with Respect to the Nature of their Encapsulated Anions: A Combined Theoretical and Experimental Investigation

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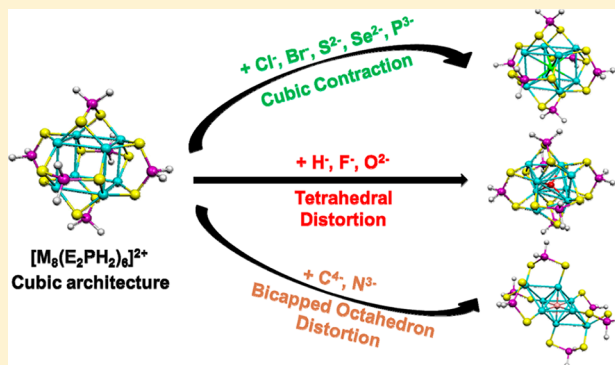
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## S Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:**  $M_8L_6$  clusters ( $M = \text{Cu(I)}, \text{Ag(I)}$ ;  $L =$  dichalcogeno ligand) are known for their ability to encapsulate various kinds of saturated atomic anions. Calculations on the models  $[M_8(E_2PH_2)_6]^{2+}$  ( $M = \text{Cu(I)}, \text{Ag(I)}$ ;  $E = \text{S}, \text{Se}$ ) and the ionic or neutral  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $X = \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{O}, \text{S}, \text{Se}, \text{N}, \text{P}, \text{C}$ ) indicate that the cubic  $M_8L_6$  cage adapts its shape for maximizing the host–guest bonding interaction. The interplay between size, covalent and ionic bonding favors either a cubic, tetracapped tetrahedral, or bicapped octahedral structure of the metal framework. Whereas the large third- and fourth-row main group anions maintain the cubic shape, a distortion toward a tetracapped tetrahedral arrangement of the metals occurs in the case of hydride, fluoride, and oxide. The distortion is strong in the case of hydride, weak in the case of fluoride, and intermediate in the case of oxide. Density functional theory (DFT) calculations predict a bicapped octahedral architecture in the case of nitride and carbide. These computational results are supported by X-ray structures, including those of new fluorine- and oxygen-containing compounds. It is suggested that other oxygen-containing as well as so far unknown nitride-containing clusters should be feasible. For the first time, the dynamical behavior of the encapsulated hydride has been investigated by metadynamics simulations. Our results clearly demonstrate that the interconversion mechanism between two identical tetracapped tetrahedral configurations occurs through a succession of M–H bonds breaking and forming which present very low activation energies and which involve a rather large number of intermediate structures. This mechanism is full in accordance with  $^{109}\text{Ag}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  state NMR measurements.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

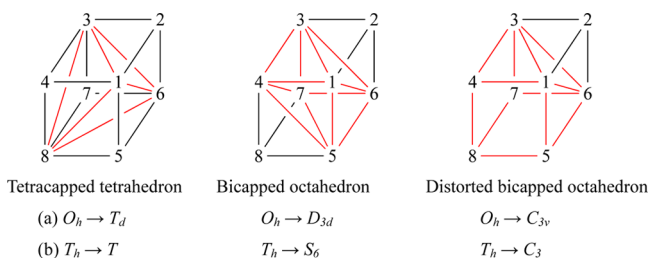
Cu(I) and Ag(I) are known to form polynuclear clusters and polymers with various types of bridging chalcogen donor ligands.<sup>1</sup> The stability of the  $\text{Cu}_n$  or  $\text{Ag}_n$  framework is mainly ensured by the chelating effect of the ligands, although weak  $d^{10}$ – $d^{10}$  bonding interactions between the closed-shell metal centers is also present. As a result, the polynuclear metallic cage is rather flexible and can easily adjust its size and shape for encapsulating various types of atomic anions which bind to their hosting cage through both ionic and covalent interactions.<sup>2–10</sup> From this point of view, the use of the dithio- and diseleno-phosphate monoanionic ligands  $((E_2P(OR)_2)^-, E = \text{S}, \text{Se})$  allows the formation of cationic cluster cages which are particularly well suited for anion encapsulation. For example, octanuclear dithio- and diseleno-phosphate cubic clusters of the

type  $[M_8(E_2P(OR)_2)_6]^{2+}$  ( $M = \text{Cu}, \text{Ag}$ ;  $E = \text{S}, \text{Se}$ ) can easily entrap a halide, a chalcogenide, or a hydride ion.<sup>7,8</sup> Whereas in the general case the incorporation of an anion inside the cubic host cage modifies its size, but not its cubic shape, in the case of hydride, the octanuclear cage affords, upon encapsulation, a distortion from cubic to tetracapped tetrahedral shape<sup>7–9</sup> (Scheme 1a and Scheme 2) in such a way that the hydride is tetracoordinated, that is,  $[M_4(\mu_4\text{-H})(\mu_3\text{-M})_4(E_2P(OR)_2)_6]^+.<sup>7,8</sup> Previous calculations have also shown that the small fluorine anion also induces such tetracapped tetrahedral distortion,<sup>7a</sup> but in that particular case the predicted distortion is small and therefore difficult to be experimentally verified, being (if any)$

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**Scheme 1.**  $M_8$  Cube Prepared for Various Distortions: (a) Symmetry of the Bare  $M_8$  cube; (b) Symmetry of the Whole  $[M_8(E_2P(OR)_2)_6]^{2+}$  Cluster



buried among other distortions arising from unsymmetrical steric and crystal packing forces.

Since such clusters are susceptible to entrap various kinds of anions which could lead to different shape modifications of the host cage, we have undertaken a comprehensive theoretical investigation of an homogeneous series of octanuclear Cu(I) and Ag(I) dithio- and diseleno-phosphine clusters encapsulating various atomic anions from Group 14 to Group 17, as well as hydride for the sake of comparison. The cluster shape, stability, and the host-cage bonding are analyzed in terms of anion size, charge effect, and covalency. The potential dynamic behavior of some of them is also investigated. The following monometallic model clusters have been computed:  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $M = Cu, Ag$ ;  $X = \square$  (vacancy),  $q = +2$ ;  $X = H, F, Cl, Br$ ,  $q = +1$ ;  $X = O, S, Se$ ,  $q = 0$ ;  $X = N, P$ ,  $q = -1$ ;  $X = C$ ,  $q = -2$ ;  $E = S, Se$ ), as well as the homologous bimetallic species  $[Cu_4Ag_4(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $X = \square, H, F, Cl, Br, O, S, Se$ ;  $E = S, Se$ ).

To compare our theoretical predictions to experimental facts, we have also carried out the structural analysis of some of the computed compounds, namely, fluoride- and oxide-centered species, the latter being a bimetallic  $Cu_4Ag_4$  species.

## 2. COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS

**2.1. Static Calculations.** Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were carried out using the Gaussian 03 package,<sup>11</sup> employing the BP86 functional,<sup>12</sup> and using the general triple- $\xi$  polarized basis set, namely, the Def2-TZVP set from EMSL Basis Set Exchange Library.<sup>13</sup> Such functional and basis sets were chosen as the result of systematic investigation of geometry of Cu(I) and Ag(I) model complexes carried out in our laboratory and comparison with

experimental structures and post-HF calculations. We have shown that, although they are not designed for accounting properly for  $d^{10}-d^{10}$  interactions, they provide among the best results for a reasonable computational demand. In particular, we found that the use of functionals containing long-range dispersion corrections did not improve significantly the structural results and provided similar trends in the binding energies. All stationary points were fully characterized as true minima via analytical frequency calculations. Geometries obtained from DFT calculations were used to perform natural orbital analysis with the NBO 5.0 program.<sup>14</sup>

**2.2. Molecular Dynamics Calculations.** The molecular dynamics (MD) simulations have been performed within the Car–Parrinello formalism using the CPMD code,<sup>15</sup> using the BP86 functional. The core valence interactions were described using fully nonlocal norm-conserving pseudopotentials as proposed by Troullier and Martins<sup>16</sup> in combination with an 80 Ry plane-wave energy cutoff and a  $\Gamma$  point sampling of the first Brillouin zone. To reproduce the molecular character of the simulated species, a 16 Å cubic supercell that allows minimizing the interactions between the periodic images of our system was used. The fictitious electron mass was set to 320 au, the time step to 0.075 fs, and the temperature was controlled using a colored-noised Langevin thermostat.<sup>17</sup> Metadynamics (MetaD) simulations were performed using the CPMD code in combination with the PLUMED package v. 1.2.<sup>18</sup> The well-tempered formulation of MetaD was used,<sup>19</sup> with an initial hill height of 0.000475 hartree, a deposit stride of 18.3 fs, a Gaussian width of 0.19. The collective variables (CVs) were sampled at a fictitious temperature of 3000 K. Finally, the coordination number CVs were defined using the following continuous switching function:

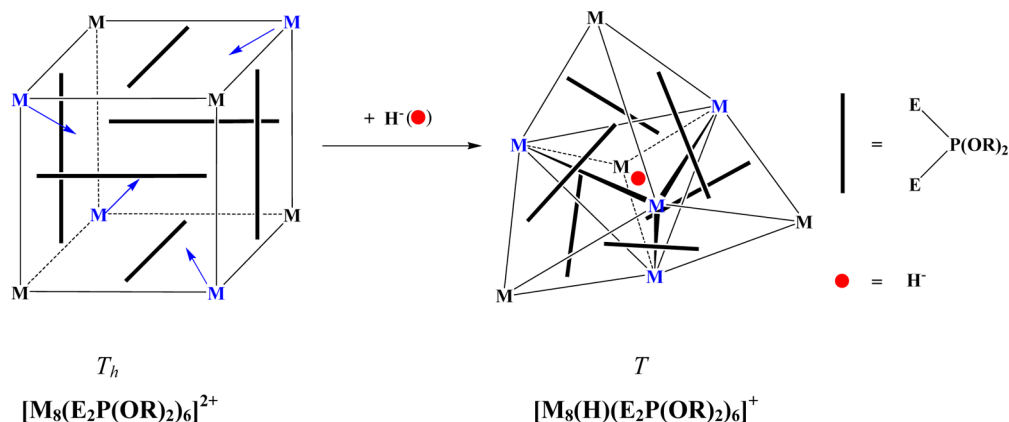
$$CV = \sum_j \frac{\left(1 - \frac{r_{ij} - d_0}{r_0}\right)^n}{\left(1 - \frac{r_{ij} - d_0}{r_0}\right)^m}$$

where  $i$  stands for the hydride,  $j$  for the Cu atoms,  $r_{ij}$  is the corresponding distance expressed in Bohr,  $d_0$  and  $r_0$  are distances and  $n$  and  $m$  are integers. We have chosen the following values  $d_0 = 3.21$  Bohr,  $r_0 = 0.59$  Bohr,  $n = 6$ , and  $m = 12$  so as to get a proper discrimination between bonded and nonbonded atoms. The coordination number of the hydride with one Cu is thus equal to 1 when  $r_{ij} < d_0$  and to CV when  $r_{ij} > d_0$ .

## 3. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**Procedures for Single Crystal X-ray Crystallography.** The synthesis and characterizations of compounds 1–4 are described in the Supporting Information. Single crystals were grown by diffusion of hexane into an acetone solution of 1 and 2, THF solution of 3 at  $-20$

**Scheme 2.** Tetrahedral Distortion Afforded by the Cage  $[M_8(E_2P(OR)_2)_6]^{2+}$  ( $M = Cu, Ag$ ;  $E = S, Se$ ) upon Encapsulation of  $H^-$ <sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>The 12 edges of the metal cube are bridged by the 6 ( $\mu_2, \mu_2$ ) di-chalcogeno ligands.

**Table 1.** Selected Crystallographic Data for  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OR})_2)_6](\text{PF}_6)$  ( $\text{R} = i\text{Pr}$ , 1;  $\text{R} = \text{Et}$ , 2),  $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^n\text{Pr})_2)_6](\text{PF}_6)$  (3) and  $\text{Cu}_4\text{Ag}_4(\text{O})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6$  (4)

|   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| formula   | $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{84}\text{Cu}_8\text{F}_7\text{O}_{12}\text{P}_7\text{S}_{12}$ | $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{60}\text{Cu}_8\text{F}_7\text{O}_{12}\text{P}_7\text{S}_{12}$ | $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{84}\text{Ag}_8\text{F}_7\text{O}_{12}\text{P}_7\text{S}_{12}$ | $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{60}\text{Ag}_4\text{Cu}_4\text{O}_{13}\text{P}_6\text{S}_{12}$ |
| Fw  | 1951.86   | 1783.55   | 2306.50   | 1812.90  |
| space group   | $\text{C2/c}$   | $\text{R}\bar{3}\text{c}$   | $\text{R}\bar{3}$   | $\text{R}\bar{3}$  |
| $a$ , Å   | 23.9882(11)   | 17.4297(9)  | 21.7439(11)   | 21.164(2)  |
| $b$ , Å   | 12.8099(6)  | 17.4297(9)  | 21.7439(11)   | 21.164(2)  |
| $c$ , Å   | 24.5399(11)   | 72.762(4)   | 13.8873(7)  | 11.719(2)  |
| $\alpha$ , deg  | 90  | 90  | 90  | 90   |
| $\beta$ , deg   | 90.8310(10)   | 90  | 90  | 90   |
| $\gamma$ , deg  | 90  | 120   | 120   | 120  |
| $V$ , Å <sup>3</sup>  | 7540.0(6)   | 18880.2(18)   | 5686.2(5)   | 4546.1(9)  |
| $Z$   | 4   | 12  | 3   | 3  |
| $\rho_{\text{calc}}$ , g cm <sup>−3</sup>                     | 1.719   | 1.882   | 2.021   | 1.987  |
| $\mu$ , mm <sup>−1</sup>                                      | 2.754   | 3.290   | 2.562   | 3.256  |
| $T$ , K   | 296(2)  | 296(2)  | 296(2)  | 296(2)   |
| reflection collected  | 32678   | 17487   | 15784   | 13355  |
| independent reflections                                       | 6636 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0369$ ]  | 3710 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0494$ ]  | 3136 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0279$ ]  | 2538 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0364$ ]   |
| $R1$ , <sup>a</sup> $wR2$ , <sup>b</sup> [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ] | 0.0474, 0.1269  | 0.0588, 0.1714  | 0.0412, 0.1104  | 0.0639, 0.1918   |
| $R1$ , <sup>a</sup> $wR2$ , <sup>b</sup> (all data)           | 0.0625, 0.1411  | 0.0812, 0.2036  | 0.0585, 0.1271  | 0.0985, 0.2266   |
| GOF   | 1.044   | 1.068   | 1.029   | 1.050  |
| large diff peak and hole, e/Å <sup>3</sup>                    | 1.211 and −0.721  | 1.812 and −0.698  | 0.938 and −0.532  | 0.714 and −1.007   |

$$^a R1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|. \quad ^b wR2 = \{ \sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2] \}^{1/2}.$$

°C, and  $\text{CHCl}_3$  solution of 4. Crystals 1–4 were mounted on the tip of glass fibers with epoxy resin.

X-ray diffraction analyses of the crystals were performed on a Bruker APEX II CCD diffractometer using graphite monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Data reduction was performed with SAINT,<sup>20</sup> which corrects for Lorentz and polarization effects. A multiscan absorption correction based on SADABS was applied.<sup>21</sup> Structures were solved by the use of direct methods, and the refinements were performed by the least-squares methods on  $F^2$  with the SHELXL-97 package,<sup>22</sup> incorporated in SHELXTL/PC V5.10.<sup>23</sup> All Cu and Ag atoms in 4 were disordered over two positions, each being 50% probability. Restraints to the alkyl side chains and  $\text{PF}_6^-$  anion were applied in some cases. H atoms on the alkyl side chains were added at idealized positions. Relevant crystallographic data for compounds 1–4 are given in Table 1.

## 4. GEOMETRICAL ANALYSIS OF THE COMPUTED STRUCTURES

**4.1. Copper Clusters.** We first discuss the copper clusters made of dithio ligands ( $\text{E} = \text{S}$ ). As illustrated in Scheme 2, each square face of the cube is bridged by a dichalcogeno ligand which adopts a tetrametallic tetraconnective ( $\mu_2, \mu_2$ ) coordination pattern. It follows that the regular cubic architecture is of  $T_h$  (not  $O_h$ ) symmetry, and the tetracapped tetrahedral one is of  $T$  (not  $T_d$ ) symmetry. All the models were first computed under both the  $T_h$  and  $T$  symmetry constraints. It turned out that, as in the cases of the empty cage ( $\text{X} = \square$ ), the presence of an encapsulated anion from the third or fourth period resulted in a cubic global energy minimum of  $T_h$  symmetry, that is, optimizations in  $T$  symmetry ended up with the same geometries as those obtained assuming  $T_h$  symmetry constraint (Table 2). As an example, the optimized structure of  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^+$  is shown in Figure 1. Such a symmetrical architecture has been previously described as displaying a chalcogen icosahedron circumscribing an  $\text{M}_8$  cube or a dodecahedron made of the chalcogen and metal atoms all together.<sup>24</sup> When the encapsulated anion is a hydride or an anion from the second period, the optimized  $T_h$  structure was

found to be associated with several imaginary frequency calculations (Table 2), indicating that this cubic structure is not a minimum on the potential energy hypersurface. In the case of  $\text{X} = \text{H}$  and  $\text{F}$ , the tetracapped tetrahedral structure of  $T$  symmetry (see Figure 1) was found to be the global minimum. These results are in agreement with our previous calculations on  $\text{Cu}(\text{I})$  and  $\text{Ag}(\text{I})$  diseleno clusters containing encapsulated hydrides and halogenides.<sup>7a,8a</sup> As mentioned above, in the case of  $\text{X} = \text{H}$  they are consistent with all the known X-ray structures.<sup>7–10</sup> One should also mention that, during this current investigation, two additional secondary minima were found for  $\text{X} = \text{H}$ . They are not reported in Table 2 and will be discussed in a next section.

The energy stabilization gained when going from the  $T_h$  structure to the  $T$  one is substantial in the case of  $\text{X} = \text{H}$  (0.42 eV) and very small in the case of  $\text{X} = \text{F}$  (0.01 eV). Consistently, the tetracapped tetrahedral distortion is larger in the case of  $\text{H}$ . The magnitude of this distortion can be evaluated by the following distortion index (DI):

$$\text{DI}(\%) = (\sqrt{2} + 1)[\sqrt{2} - (d_{13}/d_{12})] \times 100$$

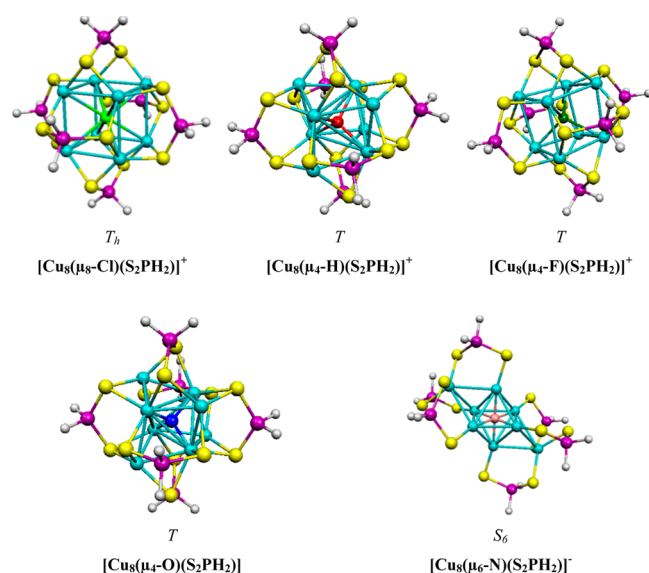
where  $d_{12}$  and  $d_{13}$  are the  $\text{M}(1)–\text{M}(2)$  and  $\text{M}(1)–\text{M}(3)$  distances respectively (see left side of Scheme 1). In the case of a perfect  $T_h$  cubic structure,  $\text{DI} = 0\%$ , whereas  $\text{DI} = 100\%$  for the ideal case of a tetracapped tetrahedron in which all the  $\text{Cu}(\text{tetrahedron})–\text{Cu}(\text{tetrahedron})$  and  $\text{Cu}(\text{cap})–\text{Cu}(\text{tetrahedron})$  distances are equal ( $d_{12} = d_{13}$ ), that is, for a regular stellated tetrahedron.<sup>25</sup> One should note that this latter ideal value is almost never reached in the known experimental tetracapped tetrahedral structures of hydride-containing dithio- and diseleno- octanuclear clusters for which average DI values vary between 55% and 102% (see Table 3), although the lowest ones are probably underestimated because of the presence of severe disorder in the crystal structure.

In the case of  $\text{X} = \text{H}$ , the computed DI is equal to 81%, indicating clearly a tetracapped tetrahedral shape with the hydride only bonded to four copper atoms ( $\text{Cu}–\text{H} = 1.77$  Å).

**Table 2.** Relevant Computed Data Corresponding to the Optimized Geometries of  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{X})(\text{S}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^q$  ( $\text{X} = \square$  (vacancy), H, F, Cl, Br, O, S, Se, N, P, C)<sup>a</sup>

| $q$ | $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{X})(\text{S}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^q$ | symm. | imag. freq. ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )                | $\Delta E$ (eV) <sup>b</sup> | $\text{Cu}_1\text{--Cu}_2$ (Å)         | $\text{Cu}_1\text{--Cu}_3$ (Å) | $\text{Cu}_1\text{--X}$ (Å) | $\text{Cu}_2\text{--X}$ (Å) | DI (%) <sup>c</sup> |
|-----|--|-------|---|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| +2  | $\text{X} = \square$                                 | $T_h$ |   |                              | 3.21                                   | 4.54                           |                             |                             | 0                   |
| +1  | $\text{X} = \text{H}$                                | $T$   |   | 0.00                         | 2.69                                   | 2.90                           | 1.77                        | 2.69                        | 81                  |
|     |  | $T_h$ | 356.i ( $t_u$ ), 60.i ( $a_u$ ), 36.i ( $t_g$ ) | 0.42                         | 2.61                                   | 3.69                           | 2.26                        | 2.26                        | 0                   |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{F}$                                | $T$   |   | 0.00                         | 2.98                                   | 3.98                           | 2.44                        | 2.71                        | 19                  |
|     |  | $T_h$ | 71.i ( $t_u$ ), 32.i ( $a_u$ )                  | 0.01                         | 2.97                                   | 4.21                           | 2.58                        | 2.58                        | 0                   |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$                               | $T_h$ |   | 0.00                         | 3.16                                   | 4.47                           | 2.74                        | 2.74                        | 0                   |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{Br}$                               | $T_h$ |   | 0.00                         | 3.22                                   | 4.55                           | 2.97                        | 2.97                        | 0                   |
| 0   | $\text{X} = \text{O}$                                | $T$   |   | 0.00                         | 2.78                                   | 3.36                           | 2.05                        | 2.68                        | 50                  |
|     |  | $T_h$ | 65.i ( $a_u$ ), 18.i ( $t_g$ )                  | 0.18                         | 2.70                                   | 3.82                           | 2.34                        | 2.34                        | 0                   |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{S}$                                | $T_h$ |   | 0.00                         | 2.84                                   | 4.02                           | 2.46                        | 2.46                        | 0                   |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{Se}$                               | $T_h$ |   | 0.00                         | 2.95                                   | 4.17                           | 2.55                        | 2.55                        | 0                   |
| −1  | $\text{X} = \text{N}$                                | $S_6$ |   | 0.00                         | 6×2.67, 6×2.75, 6×2.92                 | 6×1.92, 2×3.53                 |                             |                             |                     |
|     |  | $C_3$ |   | 1.20                         | 3×2.57, 3×2.58, 3×2.61, 3×2.66, 3×2.71 | 3×2.19, 3×2.00, 1×2.14, 1×3.35 |                             |                             |                     |
|     |  | $T_h$ | 60.i ( $a_u$ ), 19.i ( $t_g$ )                  | 1.49                         | 2.56                                   | 3.62                           | 2.21                        | 2.21                        | 0                   |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{P}$                                | $T_h$ |   | 0.00                         | 2.73                                   | 3.85                           | 2.36                        | 2.36                        | 0                   |
| −2  | $\text{X} = \text{C}$                                | $S_6$ |   | 0.00                         | 6×2.76, 6×2.65, 6×2.80                 | 6×1.91, 2×3.36                 |                             |                             |                     |
|     |  | $T_h$ | 26.i ( $t_g$ ), 24.i ( $t_u$ ), 23.i ( $e_u$ )  | 3.05                         | 2.49                                   | 3.52                           | 2.16                        | 2.16                        | 0                   |

<sup>a</sup>The metal atom numbering corresponds to that of Scheme 1 (left side) and refers to the values of the  $T_h$  and  $T$  structures only. <sup>b</sup>Relative energies between different geometries of the same compound. <sup>c</sup>Distortion index measuring the degree of tetrahedral distortion away from the ideal  $T_h$  cubic structure, as defined in the text.

**Figure 1.** Selected optimized structures in their global energy minima.

On the other hand,  $\text{DI} = 19\%$  when  $\text{X} = \text{F}$ , which means that fluorine is still somehow octacoordinated but with two different sets of four  $\text{Cu}\text{--F}$  distances, one short (2.44 Å) and one long (2.71 Å). Surprisingly, although the oxo anion is bigger than fluoride and therefore may be thought to favor octacoordination even more strongly, the  $T$  structure was found significantly more stable than the  $T_h$  one in this case, the  $T_h$  geometry being not an energy minimum. Consistently, with  $\text{DI}$  equal to 50%, the tetrahedral distortion is pronounced and the two sets of  $\text{Cu}\text{--O}$  distances (2.05 Å and 2.68 Å) indicate clearly tetracoordination (see Figure 1). When  $\text{X} = \text{N}$ , the  $T$  structure is also found more stable than the  $T_h$  one but with a smaller difference than the oxo anion case (0.10 eV). Moreover, imaginary frequencies are computed for both  $T$  and  $T_h$  structures. Following the atomic displacements associated with the imaginary frequencies of the  $T$  structure resulted in the finding of a global minimum of  $S_6$  symmetry in which the nitrogen atom sits in the middle of a bicapped octahedron of copper atoms. The distortion of the regular cubic arrangement to the bicapped octahedral structure of the  $\text{Cu}_8$  core is sketched in the middle of Scheme 1. The optimized structure is shown in Figure 1. One should note that this is the presence of the dithio chelating ligands which lowers the bicapped octahedral



**Table 3.** Approximate Experimental Values of the Distortion Index (DI)<sup>a</sup> Measuring the Degree of Tetrahedral Distortion in Hydride-Containing Dithio- and Diseleno- Octanuclear Clusters, Assuming an Averaged Ideal Structure of *T* Symmetry

| compound  | reference | $\frac{M_1-M_2(\text{\AA})^b}{M_1-M_3(\text{\AA})}$ | DI (%) |
|---|-----------|---|--------|
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> P(O <sup>i</sup> Pr) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                   | 7b        | 2.731   | 76     |
|   |           | 3.002   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> P(OEt) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> (molecule 1)                    | 7b        | 2.749   | 80     |
|   |           | 2.977   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> P(OEt) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> (molecule 2)                    | 7b        | 2.719   | 64     |
|   |           | 3.121   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(Se <sub>2</sub> P(O <sup>i</sup> Pr) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                  | 7a        | 2.759   | 80     |
|   |           | 2.991   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(Se <sub>2</sub> P(OEt) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                                | 7a        | 2.718   | 81     |
|   |           | 2.934   |        |
| [Ag <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> P(OEt) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                                 | 8b        | 3.159   | 102    |
|   |           | 3.133   |        |
| [Ag <sub>8</sub> (H)(Se <sub>2</sub> P(O <sup>i</sup> Pr) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                  | 8a        | 3.034   | 90     |
|   |           | 3.163   |        |
| [Ag <sub>8</sub> (H)(Se <sub>2</sub> P(OEt) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                                | 8a        | 3.108   | 98     |
|   |           | 3.129   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> CC(CN) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>5-</sup> (molecule 1)                   | 9a        | 2.600   | 60     |
|   |           | 3.031   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> CC(CN) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>5-</sup> (molecule 2)                   | 9a        | 2.592   | 55     |
|   |           | 3.074   |        |
| [Ag(H)(S <sub>2</sub> CC(CN) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>5-</sup> (molecule 1)                                 | 9a        | 2.894   | 67     |
|   |           | 3.290   |        |
| [Ag <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> CC(CN) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>5-</sup> (molecule 2)                   | 9a        | 2.897   | 74     |
|   |           | 3.210   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> CN <sup>n</sup> Pr <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                     | 9b        | 2.613   | 71     |
|   |           | 2.926   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>                                   | 9b        | 2.586   | 68     |
|   |           | 2.929   |        |
| [Cu <sub>8</sub> (H)(Se <sub>2</sub> P(CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph) <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> | 9c        | 2.736   | 84     |
|   |           | 2.912   |        |

<sup>a</sup>See text for the definition of DI. <sup>b</sup>Averaged experimental data (from X-ray structures).

symmetry from *D*<sub>3d</sub> to *S*<sub>6</sub> and that the actual octahedral core is slightly elongated. Therefore, in this *S*<sub>6</sub> energy minimum, the nitride ion sits in the middle of an octahedral site and the six metal atoms constituting this octahedron are now bonded to only one sulfur atom. Interestingly, running the geometry optimization in the lower *C*<sub>3</sub> symmetry ended up with another energy minimum, of substantially higher energy ( $\Delta E = 1.20$  eV), in which the nitride is no more sitting in the middle of the octahedral site, but is shifted along the *C*<sub>3</sub> axis toward one of the metals capping the octahedron (Cu(8) on the right side of Scheme 1), whereas the three edges of the Cu(4)–Cu(5)–Cu(7) octahedron open up, as illustrated in Scheme 1 (right side). The encapsulated nitride is now bonded to the seven copper atoms constituting the red polyhedron shown on the right side of Scheme 1. When X = C, the energy minimum was also found to be a centered bicapped octahedron of *S*<sub>6</sub> symmetry but no other skeletal isomer could be found in this case.

The unexpected finding of *S*<sub>6</sub> and/or *C*<sub>3</sub> energy minima for X = C and N urged us to check the possibility of their existence for the other encapsulated elements. Only in the case of X = O, was a minimum of *S*<sub>6</sub> symmetry, that is, with O lying in the center of a Cu<sub>8</sub> bicapped octahedron, found. However, this skeletal isomer was found to lie far above the *T* minimum (1.92 eV) and will not be discussed further in this paper.

Rather similar results were obtained for the copper clusters containing diseleno ligands (Table 4 and Supporting Information, Table S1), however with some quantitative differences. The optimized [Cu<sub>8</sub>(□)(Se<sub>2</sub>PH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> empty cage is of somewhat larger size than its dithio analogue (Cu–Cu = 3.38 Å). Encapsulated anions from the third or fourth period resulted in *T<sub>h</sub>* geometries with Cu–Cu distances slightly longer than in the dithio derivatives, except for X = P. In the case of encapsulated anions from the second period, as well as for hydride, the same distortion away from *T<sub>h</sub>* was found, but it is energetically slightly more favored, and consistently structurally more pronounced, in the diseleno series (larger DI values). For X = N, in contrast to dithio ligands, the heptacoordinated *C*<sub>3</sub> minimum lies very close in energy to the hexacoordinated *S*<sub>6</sub> global minimum ( $\Delta E = 0.01$  eV). This is likely due to a larger cage flexibility of the diseleno cage, as compared to the dithio one.

**4.2. Silver Clusters.** With Ag–Ag distances equal to 3.59 Å (E = S) and 3.62 Å (E = Se), the [Ag<sub>8</sub>(□)(E<sub>2</sub>PH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> empty cages offer larger space (and likely larger flexibility) to potential encapsulated anions than their copper analogues (Cu–Cu = 3.38 Å). Nevertheless, the optimized structures of the silver models (Supporting Information, Tables S2 and S3) are qualitatively similar to those of their copper counterpart, that is, *T<sub>h</sub>* cubic structures for encapsulated third and fourth-row anions, tetrahedrally distorted *T* structures for X = H, F, and O,

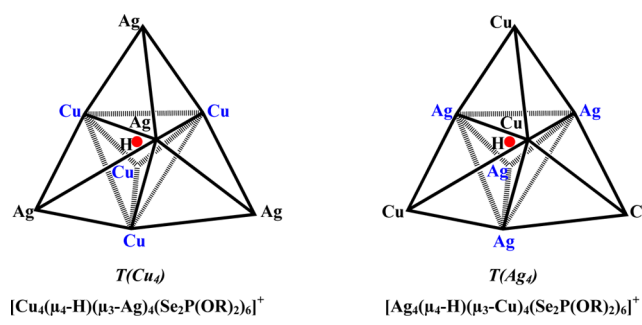
**Table 4.** Relevant Energetic and Structural Data Corresponding to the Energy Minima of  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $M = Cu, Ag$ ;  $E = S, Se$ ;  $X = \square$  (vacancy), H, F, Cl, Br, O, S, Se, N, P, C)

| $q$ | $X$       | symm  | M–X (Å) |        |        |        | $\Delta E$ (eV) <sup>a</sup> |       |      |       | DI (%) <sup>b</sup> |       |      |       |
|-----|-----------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------|-------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|------|-------|
|     |           |       | Cu/S    | Cu/Se  | Ag/S   | Ag/Se  | Cu/S                         | Cu/Se | Ag/S | Ag/Se | Cu/S                | Cu/Se | Ag/S | Ag/Se |
| +2  | $\square$ | $T_h$ | 2.78    | 2.93   | 3.06   | 3.14   |                              |       |      |       | 0                   | 0     | 0    | 0     |
| –1  | H         | $T$   | 1.77    | 1.76   | 2.00   | 1.98   | 0.42                         | 0.54  | 0.59 | 0.66  | 81                  | 86    | 88   | 92    |
|     |           |       | 2.69    | 2.73   | 3.15   | 3.18   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     | F         | $T$   | 2.44    | 2.37   | 2.55   | 2.53   | 0.01                         | 0.04  | 0.03 | 0.04  | 19                  | 33    | 30   | 36    |
|     |           |       | 2.71    | 2.84   | 3.01   | 3.07   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
| 0   | Cl        | $T_h$ | 2.74    | 2.79   | 2.96   | 2.98   |                              |       |      |       | 0                   | 0     | 0    | 0     |
|     |           |       | 2.79    | 2.84   | 2.98   | 3.02   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     | Br        | $T_h$ | 2.79    | 2.84   | 2.98   | 3.02   |                              |       |      |       | 0                   | 0     | 0    | 0     |
|     |           |       | 2.79    | 2.84   | 2.98   | 3.02   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     | O         | $T$   | 2.05    | 2.02   | 2.36   | 2.33   | 0.18                         | 0.33  | 0.04 | 0.09  | 50                  | 59    | 36   | 44    |
|     |           |       | 2.68    | 2.75   | 2.86   | 2.93   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     | S         | $T_h$ | 2.46    | 2.46   | 2.74   | 2.76   |                              |       |      |       | 0                   | 0     | 0    | 0     |
|     |           |       | 2.55    | 2.56   | 2.81   | 2.83   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
| –1  | N         | $S_6$ | 6×1.92  | 6×1.97 | 6×2.20 | 6×2.21 | 1.49                         | 0.45  | 1.48 | 0.95  |                     |       |      |       |
|     |           |       | 2×3.53  | 2×3.24 | 2×3.78 | 2×3.74 |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     |           | $C_3$ | 3×2.19  | 3×2.17 | 3×2.30 | 3×2.49 | 1.20                         | 0.01  | 0.98 | 0.39  |                     |       |      |       |
|     |           |       | 3×2.00  | 3×2.01 | 3×2.44 | 3×2.31 |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     | P         | $T_h$ | 2.14    | 2.13   | 2.47   | 2.41   |                              |       |      |       | 0                   | 0     | 0    | 0     |
|     |           |       | 3.35    | 3.39   | 3.80   | 3.78   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     |           |       | 2.36    | 2.36   | 2.64   | 2.65   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
|     |           |       | 2.36    | 2.36   | 2.64   | 2.65   |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |
| –2  | C         | $S_6$ | 6×1.91  | 6×1.92 | 6×2.18 | 6×2.19 | 3.05                         | 1.83  | 3.21 | 2.70  |                     |       |      |       |
|     |           |       | 2×3.36  | 2×3.31 | 2×3.68 | 2×3.69 |                              |       |      |       |                     |       |      |       |

<sup>a</sup> $\Delta E$  = relative energy of the same cluster obtained when optimized under  $T_h$  symmetry constraint (see Table 2). <sup>b</sup>Distortion index measuring the degree of tetrahedral distortion away from the ideal  $T_h$  cubic structure, as defined in the text.

and  $S_6$  or  $C_3$  structures for nitride and carbide. However, the stabilization energy afforded upon tetrahedral distortion for the oxo species is smaller than in their copper relatives and consequently the DI value is also lower (Table 4). On the other hand, the tetrahedral distortion is energetically more favored and more pronounced in the case of hydride and fluoride when  $M = Ag$ . In the case of  $X = N$  and C, the energy minimum was also found to adopt the bicapped octahedral arrangement of  $S_6$  symmetry, with a secondary minimum of  $C_3$  symmetry for the nitride. When  $M = Cu$ , this secondary minimum in which N is heptacoordinated lies closer in energy to the  $S_6$  global minimum in the case of diseleno ligands.

**4.3. Mixed  $Cu_4/Ag_4$  Clusters.** Starting from a  $[Cu_8(H)(Se_2P(OR)_2)_6]^+$  cluster in its stable tetracapped tetrahedral structure of ideal  $T$  symmetry and replacing formally four Cu atoms by four Ag atoms in the most symmetrical way results in two possible skeletal arrangements, still of  $T$  symmetry: a copper tetrahedron tetracapped by four silver atoms, that is,  $[Cu_4(\mu_4-H)(\mu_3-Ag)_4(Se_2P(OR)_2)_6]^+$ , or a silver tetrahedron tetracapped by four copper atoms, that is,  $[Ag_4(\mu_4-H)(\mu_3-Cu)_4(Se_2P(OR)_2)_6]^+$  (see Scheme 3). Thus two  $T$  energy minima can be tentatively postulated for a  $[Cu_4Ag_4(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^+$  species. On the other hand, one may anticipate that the clusters containing a second- or third-row encapsulated ion, which are of  $T_h$  symmetry in the homometallic series, should correspond in the bimetallic  $[Cu_4Ag_4(X)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^q$  series to a single energy minimum of  $T$  symmetry in which X is octacoordinated. The question of the number of  $T$  minima is less straightforward for the  $X = F$  and  $X = O$  cases which present a small and moderate tetrahedral distortion in the homometallic species, respectively. To provide a conclusive answer to this question, we have looked for the number of minima of  $T$  symmetry in the  $[Cu_4Ag_4(X)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $X = \square, H, F, Cl, Br, O, S$  and Se) (see Table 5).

**Scheme 3.** Two Possible Arrangements of  $T$  Symmetry for a  $[Cu_4Ag_4(\mu_4-H)(Se_2P(OR)_2)_6]^+$  Species

A unique minimum was found for the empty cluster  $[Cu_4Ag_4(Se_2PH_2)_6]^{2+}$  ( $X = \square$ ), in which surprisingly the  $Ag_4$  tetrahedron is of smaller size than the  $Cu_4$  one, although the Ag–Ag separations remain large (4.70 Å). In the case of  $X = H$ , two tetracapped tetrahedral isomers are found in which the hydride is clearly tetracoordinated. The most stable (by 0.50 eV) corresponds to the hydride being bonded to four silver atoms. In the case of  $X = F$  and O, a unique minimum is found in which X is tetracoordinated to the four Ag and Cu atoms, respectively. These preferences will be discussed later. When  $X = Cl, Br, S$ , and Se, the encapsulated anion is found to be octacoordinated. Comparing the M–X distances of these mixed metal compounds to their homologues in the homometallic series suggests that in the former Ag–X bonding is stronger than Cu–X for  $X = Cl, S$ , and Se. This difference is particularly substantial in the case of chlorine which indicates a clear tendency to tetracoordination to silver (see Table 5).

**Table 5.** Relevant Computed Data Corresponding to the Optimized Geometries of  $[\text{Cu}_4\text{Ag}_4(\text{X})(\text{Se}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^q$  ( $\text{X} = \square, \text{H}, \text{F}, \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{O}, \text{S}, \text{Se}$ )<sup>a</sup>

| $q$ | $[\text{Cu}_4\text{Ag}_4(\text{X})(\text{Se}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^q$ | symm.   | $\text{Cu}_1\text{--Ag}_1(\text{\AA}), \text{Cu}_1\text{--Cu}_2(\text{\AA}), \text{Ag}_1\text{--Ag}_2(\text{\AA})$ | $\text{Cu--X}(\text{\AA}), \text{Ag--X}(\text{\AA})$ |
|-----|--|---|--|--|
| +2  | $\text{X} = \square$   | $T$   | 3.45   | 3.09   |
|     |  |   | 5.04   | 2.88   |
|     |  |   | 4.70   |  |
| +1  | $\text{X} = \text{H}$  | $T(\text{Cu}_4)$ ( $\Delta E = 0.50$ ) <sup>b</sup> | 2.90   | 1.79   |
|     |  |   | 2.91   | 2.95   |
|     |  |   | 4.81   |  |
|     |  | $T(\text{Ag}_4)$ ( $\Delta E = 0.00$ ) <sup>b</sup> | 2.97   | 2.98   |
|     |  |   | 4.87   | 1.97   |
|     |  |   | 3.21   |  |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{F}$  | $T(\text{Ag}_4)$                                    | 3.22   | 3.06   |
|     |  |   | 4.98   | 2.46   |
|     |  |   | 4.02   |  |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{Cl}$   | $T$   | 3.38   | 2.99   |
|     |  |   | 4.88   | 2.85   |
|     |  |   | 4.65   |  |
| 0   | $\text{X} = \text{Br}$   | $T$   | 3.41   | 2.88   |
|     |  |   | 4.71   | 3.02   |
|     |  |   | 4.93   |  |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{O}$  | $T(\text{Cu}_4)$                                    | 2.93   | 2.02   |
|     |  |   | 3.31   | 2.90   |
|     |  |   | 4.73   |  |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{S}$  | $T$   | 3.05   | 2.36   |
|     |  |   | 3.84   | 2.87   |
|     |  |   | 4.69   |  |
|     | $\text{X} = \text{Se}$   | $T$   | 3.13   | 2.51   |
|     |  |   | 4.09   | 2.89   |
|     |  |   | 4.72   |  |

<sup>a</sup> $T(\text{Cu}_4)$  and  $T(\text{Ag}_4)$  refer to the two possibilities of tetracoordination of X, respectively, as sketched for  $\text{X} = \text{H}$  in Scheme 3. <sup>b</sup>Relative energies between different isomers.

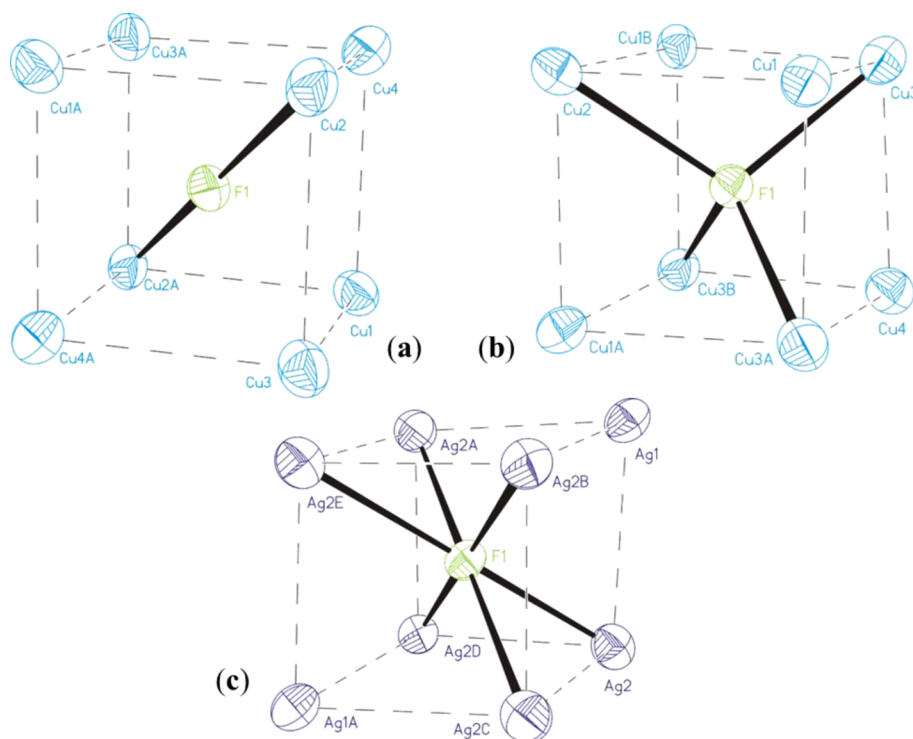
## 5. EXPERIMENTAL STRUCTURES OF FLUORINE- AND OXYGEN-CENTERED CLUSTERS

**5.1. Fluorine-Centered Species.** Several X-ray structures of octanuclear dithio- or diseleno-phosphate  $\text{Cu}(\text{I})$  or  $\text{Ag}(\text{I})$  clusters encapsulating Cl, Br, S or Se are known.<sup>4,5</sup> They all exhibit clear octacoordination of the encapsulated anion, with a geometry which can be idealized in  $T_h$  symmetry, in agreement with our computed results. On the other hand, the clusters encapsulating a hydride have been shown experimentally to afford a strong tetrahedral distortion,<sup>7,8</sup> still in full agreement with our calculations (see above). The case of fluorine is less straightforward, since the theoretically predicted tetrahedral distortion is rather small, although significant ( $\text{DI} \sim 20\%$ ), and associated with a very small energy stabilization of a few hundredth of eVs. This raises the question of the significance of this value at our level of theory. Even assuming it is significant, it is of the order of magnitude of other distortion energies caused by steric or crystal packing forces and consequently, the tetrahedral distortion might be difficult to evidence in X-ray molecular structures. This is why we have carried out the synthesis of the hexafluorophosphate salts of three new fluorine-containing cationic clusters, namely,  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OR})_2)_6](\text{PF}_6)$  [ $\text{R} = \text{iPr}$  (1), Et (2)] and  $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_2)_6](\text{PF}_6)$  (3) and compared their X-ray structures with those of the related fluorine-containing octahedral  $\text{Cu}(\text{I})$  and  $\text{Ag}(\text{I})$  clusters which are already known. Their synthesis and characterizations are reported in the Supporting Information.

Clusters 1–3 have been characterized by the single-crystal X-ray diffraction technique. The general structure feature consists

of a discrete cationic cluster in which eight copper (or silver) ions are linked by six face-capping ( $\mu_2, \mu_2$ ) dithiophosphate ligands and a central  $\text{F}^-$  ion with a noncoordinating  $\text{PF}_6^-$  anion. The eight metal atoms are arranged at the corner of a somewhat distorted cube.<sup>1c</sup> The monocationic octanuclear copper cluster 1 crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $C2/c$  with the encapsulated F(1) atom located on the center of inversion. The symmetry point group of cluster 1 is  $C_i$  (Figure 2a) with four crystallographically independent Cu–F distances, that is,  $\text{Cu}(1)\text{--F}(1) = 2.6272(7) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\text{Cu}(2)\text{--F}(1) = 2.5930(7) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\text{Cu}(3)\text{--F}(1) = 2.6526(8) \text{ \AA}$ , and  $\text{Cu}(4)\text{--F}(1) = 2.6405(7) \text{ \AA}$ . Thus, the fluoride-centered  $\text{Cu}_8$  core geometry approaches that of a perfect cube, with a slight compression along the  $\text{Cu}(2)\text{--F}(1)\text{--Cu}(2A)$  axis as illustrated by solid Cu–F bonds in Figure 2a (see also Table 6). The core of the molecule is very similar to the reported structure of  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})\{\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_2\}_6]^+ \cdot 7\text{a}$ . The Cu–S distances  $[2.2415(13)\text{--}2.2674(13) \text{ \AA}]$  are comparable to those in  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_2)_6]^+ [2.2642(22)\text{--}2.2915(21) \text{ \AA}]$ .<sup>5f</sup> Compound 2 crystallizes in the trigonal space group  $R\bar{3}c$ . Four copper atoms are found in the asymmetric unit where the 3-fold rotational axis passes through Cu(2), F(1), and Cu(4) (Figure 2b). In this compound, the F(1) atom does not locate exactly in the center of the cluster which is of  $C_3$  symmetry, but close to tetrahedral symmetry as exemplified by the existence of four shorter Cu–F bonds [ $1 \times \text{Cu}(2)\text{--F}1 = 2.563(6)$  and  $3 \times \text{Cu}(3)\text{--F}(1) = 2.493(2)$ ] and four longer Cu–F bonds [ $3 \times \text{Cu}(1)\text{--F}(1) = 2.635(2)$  and  $1 \times \text{Cu}(4)\text{--F}(1) = 2.627(6)$ ]. The core geometry of compound 2 can be well described as a fluoride-centered tetracapped tetrahedron





**Figure 2.** Perspective views (30% displacement ellipsoid) of (a) the  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})]$  core in **1**; (b) the  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})]$  core in **2**; (c) the  $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})]$  core in **3**. Selected bond lengths (Å) for **1**: Cu(1)–Cu(3), 3.0009(10); Cu(1)–Cu(2A), 3.0501(10); Cu(2)–Cu(4), 3.0016(10); Cu(2)–Cu(3), 3.0299(10); Cu(2)–Cu(1A), 3.0500(10). Selected bond lengths (Å) for **2**: Cu(1)–Cu(2), 3.0402(12); Cu(1)–Cu(3), 3.0114(13); Cu(1)–Cu(3A), 2.8843(13); Cu(2)–Cu(1A), 3.0403(12). Cu(2)–Cu(1B), 3.0402(12). Selected bond lengths (Å) for **3**: Ag(1)–Ag(2), 3.2374(6); Ag(2)–Ag(2C), 3.1084(6).

**Table 6. Metric Data of the Known Clusters of the Type  $[\text{M}_8(\text{F})(\text{E}_2\text{P}(\text{OR})_2)_6]^+$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Cu}, \text{Ag}$ ;  $\text{E} = \text{S}, \text{Se}$ )**

| compound  | ref. | M–M <sup>a</sup> range and average (Å) | M–E <sup>b</sup> range and average (Å) | DI (%) <sup>d</sup> |
|---|------|--|--|---------------------|
| $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_2)_6]^+$  | c    | 3.001–3.050 (3.035)                    | 2.257–2.268 (2.261)                    |                     |
| $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6]^+$           | c    | 2.884–3.041 (2.971)                    | 2.240–2.281 (2.265)                    | 10                  |
| $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_2)_6]^+$ | 3    | 2.970–3.086 (3.040)                    | 2.354–2.377 (2.367)                    |                     |
| $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6]^+$          | 3    | 2.911–3.130 (3.010)                    | 2.334–2.392 (2.363)                    | 8                   |
| $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_2)_6]^+$  | c    | 3.108–3.238 (3.173)                    | 2.496–2.528 (2.512)                    |                     |
| $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6]^+$           | 4    | 3.036–3.259 (3.129)                    | 2.408–2.586 (2.510)                    | 29                  |

<sup>a</sup> $\text{M} = \text{Cu}, \text{Ag}$ . <sup>b</sup> $\text{E} = \text{S}, \text{Se}$ . <sup>c</sup>This work. <sup>d</sup>Distortion index measuring the degree of tetrahedral distortion away from the ideal  $T_h$  cubic structure (if any), as defined in the text.

with Cu(2), Cu(3), and its symmetry-generated counter parts as the capping atoms. The average Cu–Cu distance [2.971(2) Å] is slightly shorter than those observed in **1**, [3.035(2) Å]. Compound **3** crystallizes in the trigonal space group  $R\bar{3}$ . Two silver atoms are located in the asymmetric unit with the  $C_3$  rotational axis passing through Ag(1), F(1), and Ag(1A) atoms, leading to the  $S_6$  point group symmetry for the cluster (Figure 2c). With six shorter Cu–F(1) distances of 2.6566(3) Å and two longer Cu–F(1) distances of 3.0044(7) Å along the  $C_3$  axis, the  $\text{Ag}_8$  cube affords a bicapped octahedral distortion as sketched in the middle of Scheme 1. The Ag–Ag distances in the range 3.1084(6)–3.2374(6) Å and Ag–S distances in the

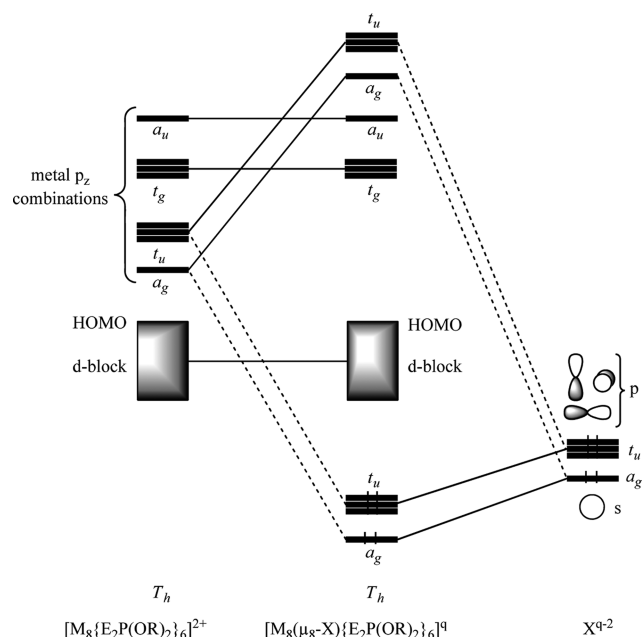
range of 2.4958(13)–2.5283(13) are comparable to those in  $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})(\text{S}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6](\text{PF}_6)$  [3.036(12)–3.259(12) Å].<sup>8b</sup>

Thus, among the three investigated species, only one exhibits a tetrahedral distortion. Looking at the other known fluorine-encapsulating clusters (Table 6), it appears that two of them, namely,  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{F})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6]^+$  and  $[\text{Ag}_8(\text{F})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6]^+$ , are also tetrahedrally distorted. The average  $T_h$  to  $T$  distortion index of the former (8%) compares well with that of its diseleno analogue **2** (10%), whereas that of the latter is larger (29%). Thus, the predicted tetrahedral distortion is experimentally proven to exist, although only half of the structurally characterized compounds exhibit it in the solid state. Interestingly, these three compounds are dichalcogeno diethyl phosphate derivatives, that is, are those bearing the less bulky ligands. These results confirm that, although weak, the predicted forces which are driving the tetrahedral distortion in these fluorine derivatives are real and in some cases can overrun the packing and/or steric distortion forces. This provides confidence for other results on compounds which have not been yet synthesized.

## 5.2. Oxygen-Centered $\text{Cu}_4\text{Ag}_4(\text{O})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6$ Cluster.

Although there are plenty of oxide-centered  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})_4$  structures of the type,  $\text{Cu}_4(\mu_4\text{-O})(\mu\text{-X})_4\text{L}_4$  ( $\text{X} = \text{halide}$ ,  $\text{L} = \text{two-electron donor ligand}$ ),<sup>26</sup> it should be noted that **4** is to our knowledge the first example of an encapsulated oxide inside a Cu(I) and/or Ag(I) cluster. Despite being of limited quality arising from severe disorders of the metal framework, its X-ray structure is in a surprisingly good agreement with the optimized geometry of the  $\text{Cu}_4\text{Ag}_4(\text{O})(\text{Se}_2\text{PH}_2)_6$  model. It crystallizes in the monoclinic space group  $R\bar{3}$  and exhibits two overlapping  $\text{Cu}_8$  and  $\text{Ag}_8$  cubes, each being 50% occupancy, with an oxygen





**Figure 5.** Interaction MO diagram between an encapsulated 8-electron main-group anion and its cubic  $[M_8(E_2PH_2)_6]^{2+}$  ( $M = Cu, Ag$ ;  $E = S, Se$ ) hosting cage of  $T_h$  symmetry.

$S^{2-}$ ,  $Se^{2-}$ . The bonding energy (BE) is defined as the difference between the sum of the energies of  $X^{q-2}$  and the  $[M_8(\square)(E_2PH_2)_6]^{2+}$  fragment in the frozen geometry it adopts in  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^{2+}$  and the energy of  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$  in its equilibrium geometry. For similar reasons as for DEs, BEs can

only be used for comparing series of clusters containing anions of same formal charge. The difference between BE and DE ( $\Delta E_{Dist}$ ) is simply the amount of energy required for distorting the relaxed  $[M_8(\square)(E_2PH_2)_6]^{2+}$  cage into the geometry it adopts in  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$ . Thus  $DE = BE - \Delta E_{Dist}$ . One can see that  $\Delta E_{Dist}$  is minimum and small ( $\sim 0.15$  eV) for  $Cl^-$  and  $Br^-$ . This was expected since these anions require only a small cage distortion. Whereas  $\Delta E_{Dist}$  is large in the case of  $X = H$  ( $\sim 1$  eV), the  $T_h$  to  $T$  distortion requires little energy. A similar conclusion can be traced for  $X = F$  and  $O$ . Looking now at the DEs in the monoanionic series, one can see that it varies in the order  $H^- > F^- > Cl^- > Br^-$ , despite that  $H^-$  requires much larger  $\Delta E_{Dist}$  than  $Cl^-$  or  $Br^-$ , for example. This means that DE is largely dominated by BE. A similar conclusion can be traced for the dianionic series ( $O^{2-} > S^{2-} > Se^{2-}$ ), whereas  $\Delta E_{Dist}$  is almost constant within the series. In the case of  $N^{3-}$ , and  $C^{4-}$ , BE and  $\Delta E_{Dist}$  could not be computed for the  $S_6$  and  $C_3$  minima because of convergence problems. For these particular cases, one may anticipate compensations between larger BEs and  $\Delta E_{Dist}$  values for the corresponding energy minima.

BE can be approximated as the sum of a covalent component and an ionic component. Not surprisingly, the weaker covalent interaction between the encapsulated anion and the dicationic cage corresponds to  $X = F$ , as exemplified by the lower computed anion-to-cation charge transfers and Cu-X Wiberg indices (Table 7). The rather long Cu-F distance in the optimized  $T_h$  geometry (Table 2) is also consistent with a dominant ionic bonding. A similar conclusion can be traced for  $Cl^-$  and  $Br^-$ . In contrast, the larger charge transfer and Wiberg indices computed for  $H^-$  indicate a substantially larger Cu-X covalent character, which increases upon tetrahedral distortion

**Table 7. Relevant Bonding Parameters Computed for  $[Cu_8(X)(S_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $X = H, F, Cl, Br, I, q = +1$ ;  $X = O, S, Se, q = 0$ ;  $X = N, P, q = -1$ ;  $X = C, q = -2$ )<sup>a</sup>**

| $q$ | $[Cu_8(X)(S_2PH_2)_6]^q$ | symm. | BE (eV) | DE (eV) | $\Delta E_{Dist}$ (eV) | Cu-X Wiberg indices <sup>b</sup> | NAO charge and population analysis of X        |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|---------|---------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| +1  | X = H                    | T     | 11.70   | 10.65   | 1.05                   | 4×0.103                          | −0.64 (1s <sup>1.64</sup> )                    |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 11.12   | 10.23   | 0.89                   | 8×0.045                          | −0.68 (1s <sup>1.68</sup> )                    |
|     |                          | $T$   | 9.42    | 9.16    | 0.26                   | 4×0.035                          | −0.86 (2s <sup>1.97</sup> 2p <sup>5.88</sup> ) |
|     | X = F                    | $T_h$ | 9.31    | 9.15    | 0.16                   | 4×0.016                          | −0.86 (2s <sup>1.98</sup> 2p <sup>5.88</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 7.77    | 7.65    | 0.12                   | 8×0.036                          | −0.83 (3s <sup>1.95</sup> 3p <sup>5.86</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 7.20    | 7.02    | 0.18                   | 8×0.040                          | −0.82 (4s <sup>1.95</sup> 4p <sup>5.84</sup> ) |
| 0   | X = O                    | $T$   | 26.79   | 25.93   | 0.86                   | 4×0.083                          | −1.70 (2s <sup>1.92</sup> 2p <sup>5.77</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 26.49   | 25.75   | 0.74                   | 4×0.023                          | −1.68 (2s <sup>1.94</sup> 2p <sup>5.73</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 21.84   | 21.06   | 0.78                   | 8×0.079                          | −1.60 (3s <sup>1.87</sup> 3p <sup>5.68</sup> ) |
|     | X = S                    | $T_h$ | 20.06   | 19.31   | 0.75                   | 8×0.081                          | −1.59 (4s <sup>1.88</sup> 4p <sup>5.66</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 20.06   | 19.31   | 0.75                   | 8×0.081                          | −1.59 (4s <sup>1.88</sup> 4p <sup>5.66</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 20.06   | 19.31   | 0.75                   | 8×0.081                          | −1.59 (4s <sup>1.88</sup> 4p <sup>5.66</sup> ) |
| −1  | X = N                    | $S_6$ | c       | 47.18   | c                      | 6×0.206                          | −2.15 (2s <sup>1.74</sup> 2p <sup>5.38</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $C_3$ | c       | 45.98   | c                      | 2×0.032                          |  |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 47.35   | 45.69   | 1.66                   | 3×0.175                          |  |
|     | X = P                    | $T_h$ | 38.05   | 36.33   | 1.71                   | 3×0.088                          | −2.33 (2s <sup>1.83</sup> 2p <sup>5.47</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 38.05   | 36.33   | 1.71                   | 1×0.064                          |  |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 38.05   | 36.33   | 1.71                   | 1×0.037                          |  |
| −2  | X = C                    | $S_6$ | c       | 64.81   | c                      | 8×0.090                          | −2.42 (2s <sup>1.85</sup> 2p <sup>5.54</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 64.73   | 61.76   | 2.97                   | 8×0.131                          | −2.24 (3s <sup>1.76</sup> 3p <sup>5.41</sup> ) |
|     |                          | $T_h$ | 64.73   | 61.76   | 2.97                   | 6×0.277                          | −2.74 (2s <sup>1.59</sup> 2p <sup>5.11</sup> ) |

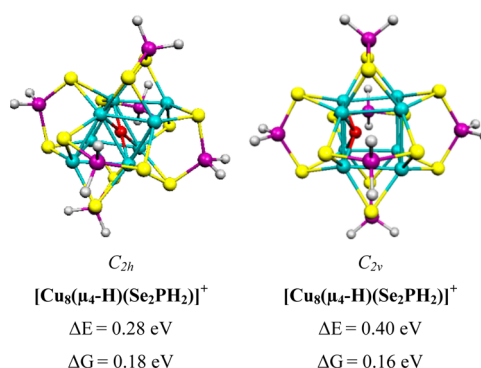
<sup>a</sup>BE, bonding energy; DE, dissociation energy;  $\Delta E_{Dist}$ , cage distortion energy (see text for definitions). <sup>b</sup>Expressed in the NAO basis. <sup>c</sup>Could not be calculated because of convergence problems.

(compare averages of the 8 Cu-X Wiberg indices). Thus, the strong tetrahedral distortion afforded by the hydride-centered species is a size effect substantially driven by covalent interactions. The case of  $O^{2-}$  is less straightforward. Although larger than  $F^-$  in size, it affords a significantly larger tetrahedral distortion, whereas, according to the NAO population analysis this distortion is not associated with an increase of covalency. Indeed, when going from  $T_h$  to  $T$ , the anion-to-cation charge transfer slightly decreases (because of a weaker participation of the  $2p(O)$  orbitals not fully compensated by a stronger  $2s(O)$  participation) and the average Cu-X Wiberg index decreases in contrast to the  $X = F$  and  $H$  cases. These results suggest that, although the covalent character of the Cu–O bonding is significant, it is its ionic component which is driving the tetrahedral distortion. Despite its larger size, the encapsulated oxygen bears a much larger negative charge than its fluorine homologue, inducing in turn stronger electrostatic interactions with the cationic cage, leading to a larger tetrahedral distortion. With any encapsulated elements larger than oxygen, the tetrahedral distortion is not favored and the  $T_h$  cubic architecture of the cage is maintained, except for nitrogen and carbon which prefer lying in an octahedral environment.

Similar results as those of Table 7 were found for the three other series, that is,  $M = Cu$ ,  $E = Se$  and  $M = Ag$ ,  $E = S$ ,  $Se$  (see Supporting Information, Tables S4, S5 and S6). Interestingly, larger DEs were found in the case of  $M = Ag$  for  $X = F$  (weak covalent interaction) whereas in the case of  $X = H$  and  $O$  larger DEs were found for  $M = Cu$  (significant covalent interaction). These results are consistent with those reported in Table 5 which show a preference for  $F$  to bond to  $Ag$  whereas  $H$  and  $O$  prefer to bond to  $Cu$ .

## 7. DYNAMICS OF THE HYDRIDE-CONTAINING SPECIES

Previous NMR investigations on the compounds  $[Ag_8(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6](PF_6)$  ( $R = iPr, Et$ ) indicate that the encapsulated proton is coupled to eight magnetically equivalent  $^{109}Ag$  nuclei at room temperature, whereas both the X-ray and DFT-computed structures consist of a  $\mu_4$ -hydride encapsulated in an  $Ag_4(\mu_3-Ag)_4$  tetracapped tetrahedron.<sup>8a</sup> These results indicate that the four inner and the four capping silver atoms are exchanging their positions at a faster rate than the typical time scale of the NMR measurement. No doubt that the same phenomenon occurs also for the copper-hydride homologues. The simplest interconversion mechanism between the small 1–3–6–8 tetrahedron and large 2–4–5–7 tetrahedron sketched on the left side of Scheme 1 is to go through a regular cube, that is, a structure of  $T_h$  symmetry for the  $[M_8(H)(E_2PH_2)_6]^+$  species under investigation. However, the number of imaginary vibrational frequencies calculated for the  $T_h$  structures (Table 2 and Supporting Information, Tables S1–S3) indicates that they are not intermediates nor transition states. Moreover, their computed relative energies with respect to the corresponding  $T$  minima are too large to be consistent with the expected fast reaction rate. This is why we have looked for a low-symmetry pathway interconverting the two degenerate  $T$  minima in the case of the  $[Cu_8(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^+$  model. In our search for possible low-symmetry intermediates, two secondary minima of  $C_{2h}$  and  $C_{2v}$  symmetry, respectively, were found. Their skeletons are sketched in Figure 6. As in the  $T$  minimum, their hydride is tetracoordinated, but this time in an approximate square-planar mode rather than in a tetrahedral one. In the 4-fold degenerate



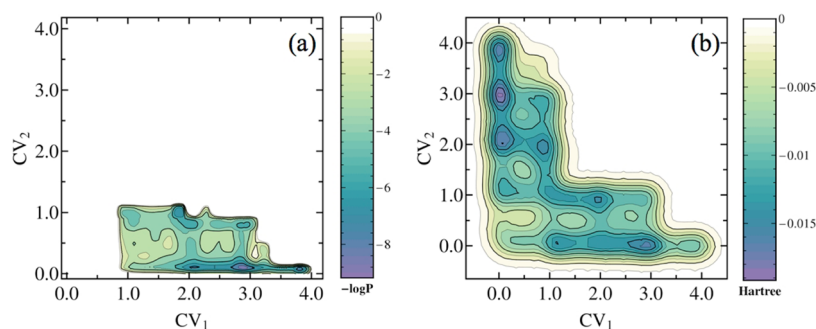
**Figure 6.** Two secondary energy minima of  $[Cu_8(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^+$ .  $\Delta E$  and  $\Delta G$  are their relative energies and Gibbs free energies with respect to the global minimum shown in Figure 1.

$C_{2h}$  minimum, the hydride sits in the middle of a rectangular face shared by two fused triangular prisms. Surprisingly this near square-planar  $\mu_4$ -H coordination mode is geometrically similar to that of the three interstitial  $\mu_4$ -H existing in a nanospheric copper polyhydride,  $[Cu_{20}(H)_{11}(S_2P(O^iPr)_2)_9]$ , recently reported by us.<sup>27</sup> In the 6-fold degenerate  $C_{2v}$  minimum it lies close to the middle of one of the faces of a distorted cube. Their relative energies with respect to the  $T$  minimum are 0.28 and 0.40 eV, respectively, that is, they are lower than that of the corresponding  $T_h$  structure (0.54 eV). This makes the  $C_{2h}$  minimum a good candidate as possible intermediate in the process of interconversion between the two  $T$  minima.

Unfortunately, the search for transition states involving any of the two energy minima  $[Cu_8(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^+$  turned out to be unsuccessful. However, the flat potential energy surface of this entity and the significant difference between  $\Delta E$  and  $\Delta G$  in Figure 6, suggests it could be that thermal fluctuations would play a significant role in the hydride dynamics that would prevent a proper characterization of the intermediates. Thus, to take these fluctuations into account, we have undertaken molecular dynamics simulations of the  $[Cu_8(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^+$  species. To discriminate between the various structures visited along the simulations, a proper set of order parameters is to be defined. We have used two of them that are the coordination number of the hydride with the 1–3–6–8 Cu atoms and noted  $CV_1$  (corresponding initially to the small Cu tetrahedron in Scheme 1) and the coordination number of the hydride with the 2–4–5–7 Cu atoms noted  $CV_2$  (corresponding initially to the large Cu tetrahedron in Scheme 1). These two parameters allow to monitor both the coordination scheme of the hydride and the interconversion of the two tetrahedra. Indeed, the initial  $T$  minimum corresponds to the  $\{0; 4\}$  configuration and a full interconversion of the tetrahedra would lead to the  $\{4; 0\}$  configuration. The  $T_h$  structure corresponds to the  $\{0; 0\}$  configuration.

Figure 7a represents the density plot obtained at 300 K for a 16.5 ps long simulation. As can be seen, the species is not trapped in the initial configuration  $\{0; 4\}$  but freely shuttles between the  $\{4; 0\}$ ,  $\{3; 0\}$ ,  $\{2; 0\}$ ,  $\{3; 1\}$ ,  $\{2; 1\}$ , and  $\{1; 1\}$  configurations. Consequently, the energy barriers between these local metastable states are rather low, that is, of the order of  $k_B T$ . This is in full agreement with the liquid state  $^{109}Ag$  and  $^1H$  NMR measurements in solution and the observation of only one hydride signal as our simulation suggests that, at ambient temperature,  $[Cu_8(H)(Se_2PH_2)_6]^+$  visits a whole set of





**Figure 7.** (a) Density plot of the configurations explored during a nonbiased 300 K MD simulation of the  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{H})(\text{S}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^+$  species. The configurations are discriminated in terms of  $\{\text{CV}_1; \text{CV}_2\}$  couples. (b) FES of the  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{H})(\text{S}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^+$  species obtained from a MetaD simulation at 300 K using  $\text{CV}_1$  and  $\text{CV}_2$  as CVs.

configurations that could be part of the interconversion mechanism between the two tetrahedra. The NMR observation requires that this interconversion occurs on a time scale lower than the millisecond (the characteristic time of the NMR measurement) which seems to be the case seeing our short simulation. However, during our accessible time scale, we have not observed a full interconversion because of the usual sampling limitations of *ab initio* MD. To overcome this problem, we have then conducted MD simulations in combination with the metadynamics approach. The ability of this method to study activated process has already been demonstrated for various chemical problems<sup>28</sup> but, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first application to metal cluster chemistry. In MetaD, the MD simulation is biased using a history dependent potential that allows the systems to escape from local minima. When fully converged, the history dependent potential converges toward the opposite of the free energy surface (FES). The construction of the history dependent potential decreases the dimensionality of the problem as it is constructed based on a limited number of user-defined order parameters, the collective variables. The CVs are characteristic of the evolution of the system of interest.

We have performed MetaD simulations at 300 K of the  $[\text{Cu}_8(\text{H})(\text{S}_2\text{PH}_2)_6]^+$  species using as CVs,  $\text{CV}_1$  and  $\text{CV}_2$ . The use of these two CVs greatly reduces the overall dimensionality of the hydride dynamics problem. However, by symmetry,  $\text{CV}_1$  and  $\text{CV}_2$  are sufficient to describe the dominant transitions that can occur. Figure 7b displays the resulting two-dimensional FES which is symmetric with respect to the diagonal of the plot because of the chosen set of CVs. This FES suggests that the cluster never goes through the  $T_h$  structure ( $\{0; 0\}$  configuration). Although not properly converged, the difference in free-energy between the  $\{0; 4\}$  and  $\{0; 0\}$  basins are of the order of  $\sim 0.4$  eV, in accordance with the results of Table 1. In contrast, the interconversion process appears to be composed of a succession of Cu–H bonds breaking and forming that leads to a wealth of intermediate structures populating the  $\{4; 0\}$ ,  $\{3; 0\}$ ,  $\{2; 0\}$ ,  $\{1; 0\}$ ,  $\{3; 1\}$ ,  $\{2; 1\}$  and  $\{1; 1\}$  basins. Supporting Information, Figure S2 gathers some representative configurations belonging to these basins. As can be seen in Supporting Information, Figure S2, the previously characterized intermediate of  $C_{2v}$  symmetry (see Figure 6b) is also found in the  $\{2; 2\}$  region during our MetaD simulation but at a really high free-energy. Unfortunately, although the underlying mechanism we have depicted is correct, it is not possible to extract accurate free-energy differences because of the difficulty to properly converge an *ab initio* MetaD simulation for such a

complex system. Moreover, it is expected that the inclusion of nuclear quantum effects in our simulations would greatly smoothen the FES, making the interconversion process easier, if not almost barrierless.

Considering this unconcerted character, it is not surprising that a global transition state is difficult to characterize by transition-state-search formalisms. However, all the states belonging to the diagonal of Figure 7b would prove to be key structures in this process. Indeed, below this line, the hydride is mainly bonded to the initially small tetrahedron and above to the initially large tetrahedron. On the diagonal, the hydride is equally bonded to both tetrahedra. As a consequence, we can consider that the interconversion has partially occurred when the system crosses this line. It is worth pointing out that the two intermediates of Figure 6 are both  $\{2; 2\}$  configurations located on this line.

## 8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The softness of the cubic  $\text{M}_8\text{L}_6$  cage ( $\text{M} = \text{Cu(I)}, \text{Ag(I)}$ ;  $\text{L} =$  dichalcogeno ligand) and the 16-electron configuration of the metal centers confer it the ability to encapsulate various kinds of atomic anions, adapting easily its shape for maximizing the host–guest bonding interaction. The interplay between size, covalent and ionic bonding favors either the cubic, tetrahedral, or bicapped octahedral structure of the metal framework. Whereas the large third- and fourth-row main group anions maintain the cubic shape, a distortion toward a tetracapped tetrahedral arrangement of the metals occurs in the case of hydride, fluoride, and oxide, as proven both by X-ray structures and DFT calculations. The distortion is strong in the case of hydride, weak (and not always observable) in the case of fluoride, and intermediate in the case of oxide. DFT calculations predict a bicapped octahedral architecture in the case of nitride and carbide. Although it was isolated serendipitously, the characterization of the first oxide-containing cluster of this type,  $\text{Cu}_4\text{Ag}_4(\text{O})(\text{Se}_2\text{P}(\text{OEt})_2)_6$ , indicates that such species are stable and suggests similar arguments for nitride-centered species. The design of new synthetic approaches remains however to be found. Finally, for the first time, we have been able to confirm, using *ab initio* MetaD simulations, the dynamical behavior of the hydride-centered species which was experimentally suggested. Moreover, we have been able to characterize the interconversion mechanism between two tetracapped tetrahedral configurations. In contrast with what could have been expected, this process occurs in a rather unconcerted mechanism, through a succession of Cu–H bonds breaking and forming involving a



rather large number intermediate structures, and with very low activation energy. A refinement of our simulations could incorporate nuclear quantum effects that would certainly lead to smoother energy barriers and thus would prove important to accurately characterize the temperature dependence of this dynamical behavior.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### ■ Supporting Information

Synthesis and characterization procedures for compounds 1–4. Complementary data computed for clusters of the type  $[M_8(X)(E_2PH_2)_6]^q$  ( $M = Cu, Ag$ ;  $E = S, Se$ ;  $X = \square$  (vacancy),  $H, F, Cl, Br, O, S, Se, N, P, C$ ). Cartesian coordinates and total energy of all the computed structures. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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