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(54) **WATER REPELLENT METAL-ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS, PROCESS FOR MAKING AND USES REGARDING SAME**

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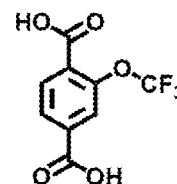
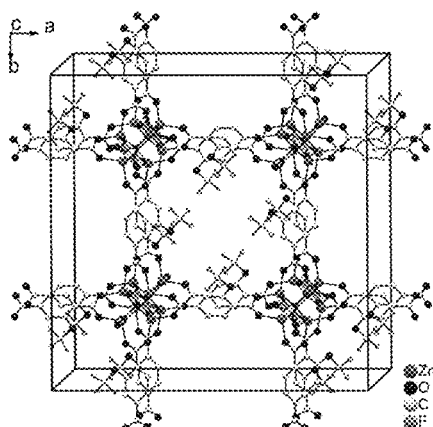
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Microwave assisted synthesis may be used to produce water-repellent metallic organic frameworks (MOFs) molecules. The water-repellent MOFs contain non-polar functional groups, such as a trifluoromethoxy group, which has a strong water repellent effect. The water-repellent MOF, when exposed to water vapor for one week does not result in a significant X-ray power pattern change. The water-repellent MOFs may be suitable as an adsorbent in many industrial applications, such as gas chromatography.

20 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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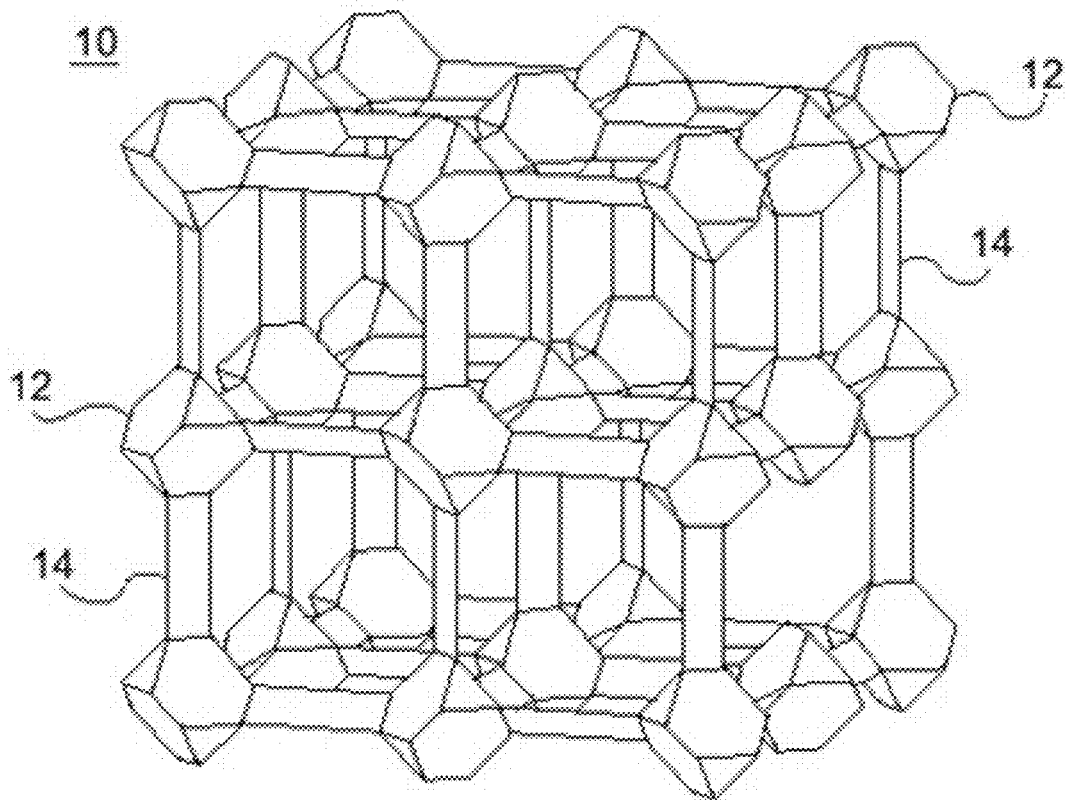


FIGURE 1

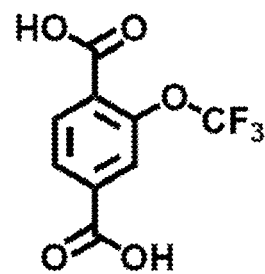
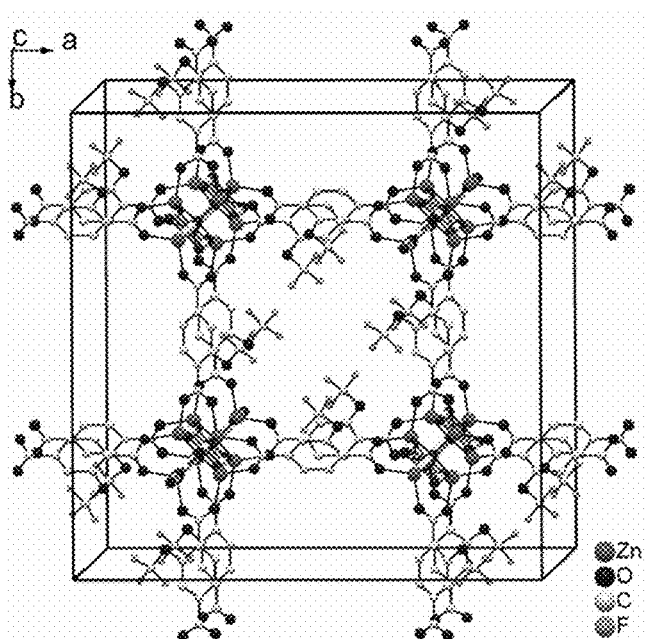


FIGURE 2

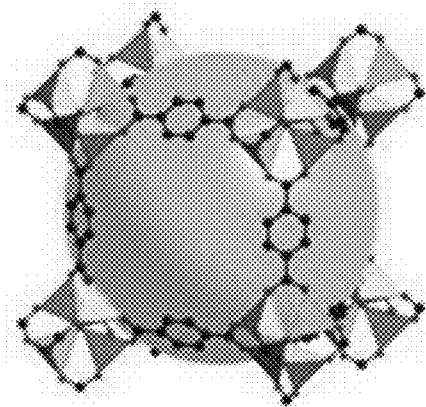


FIGURE 3

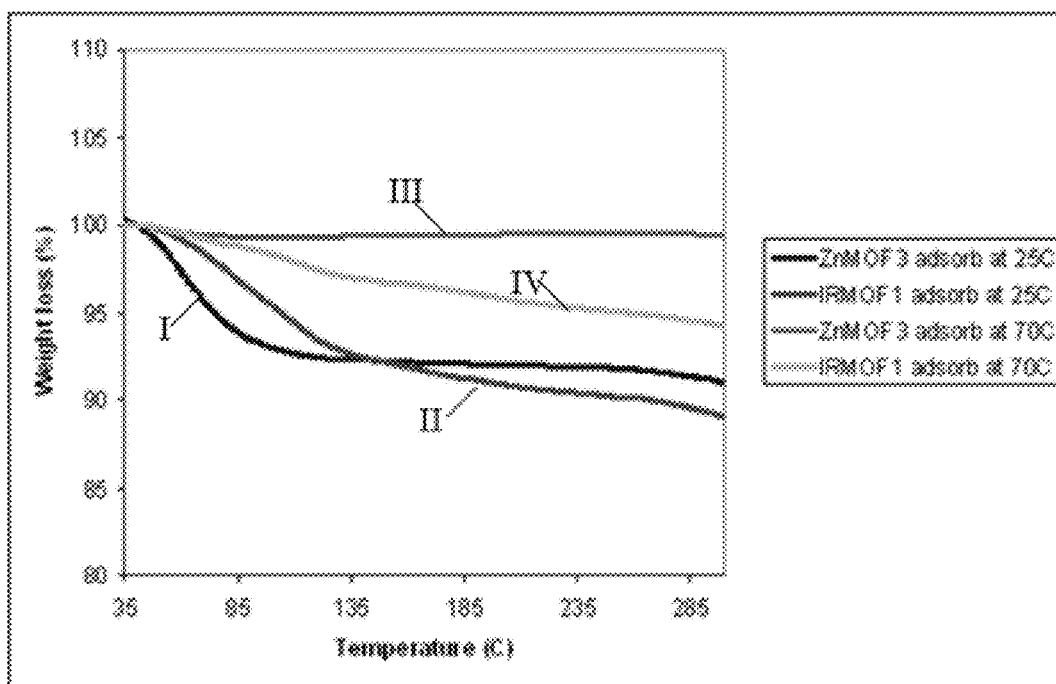


FIGURE 4

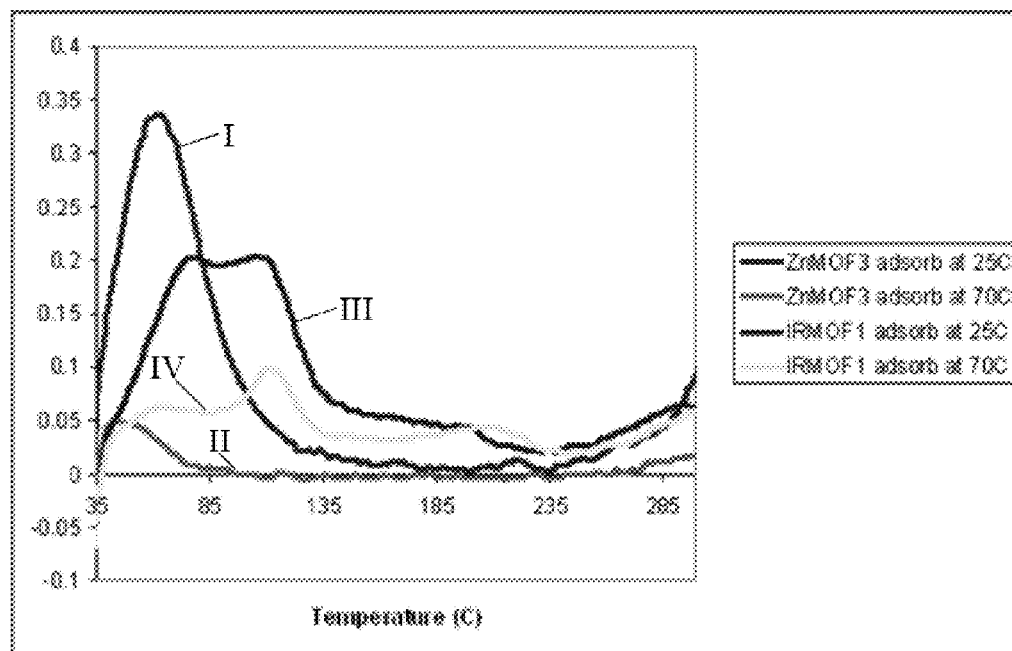
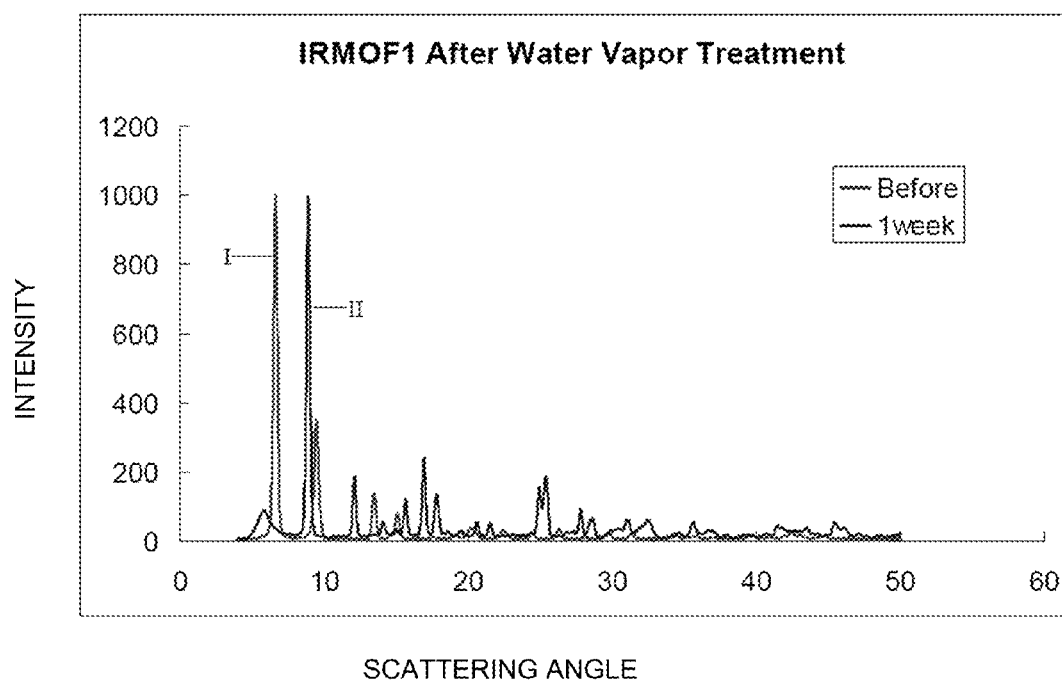


FIGURE 5

**FIGURE 6**

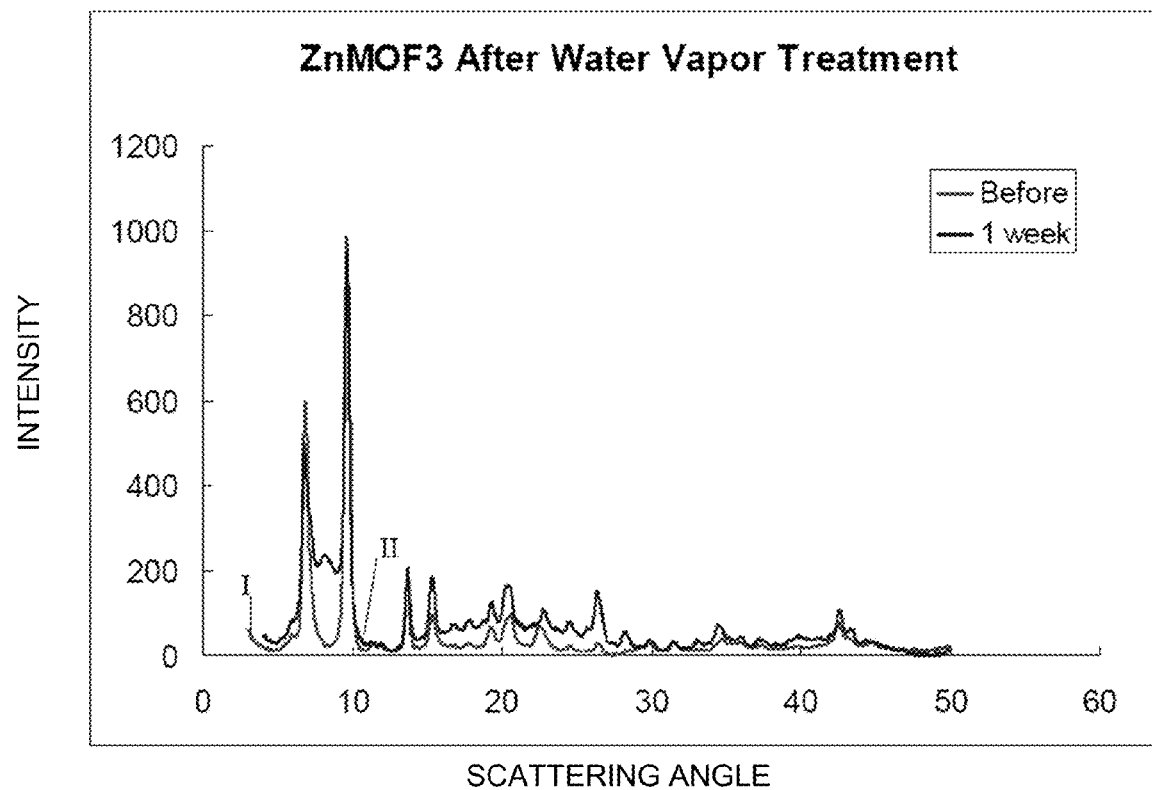


FIGURE 7

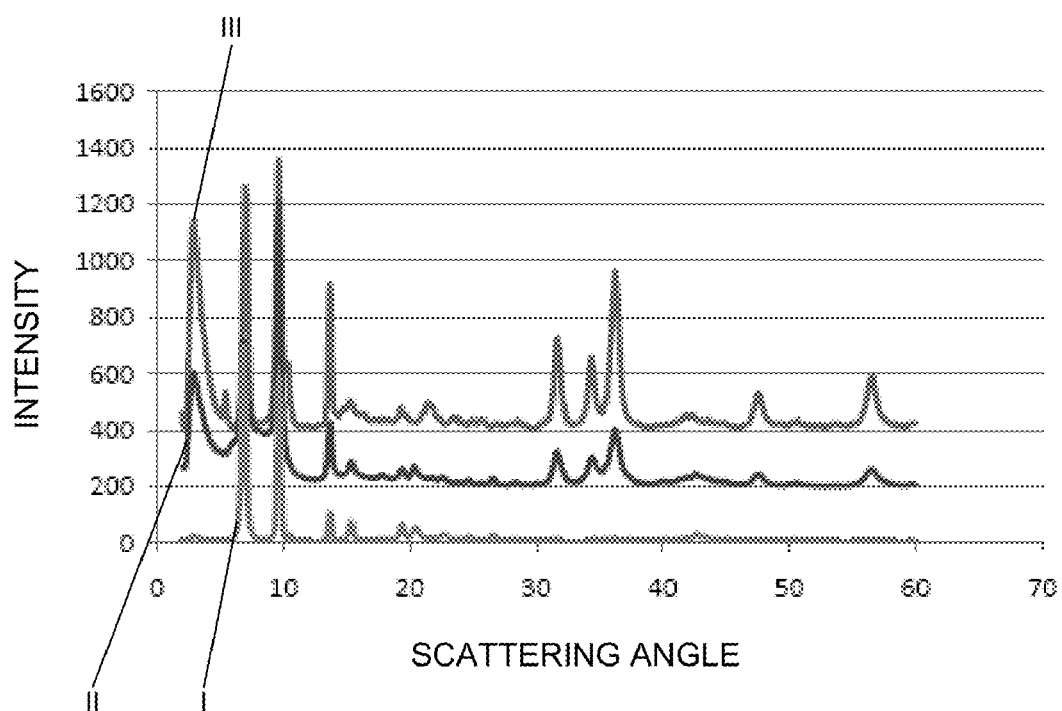


FIGURE 8

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WATER REPELLENT METAL-ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS, PROCESS FOR MAKING AND USES REGARDING SAME

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to and the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to provisional application 61/043,288, filed Apr. 8, 2008, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

STATEMENT AS TO RIGHTS TO INVENTIONS MADE UNDER FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

This invention was made, at least in part, with U.S. government support under U.S. Air Force Grant No. FA8650-04-1-7121, awarded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The U.S. government has certain rights in the invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention generally relates to water-repellent metal organic framework (MOF) molecules and methods for synthesizing such MOFs, such as, for example microwave assisted synthesis.

2. Related Art

MOFs are organometallic nanoporous structures with high surface area and tailorable selectivity. MOFs may have a cubic crystalline structure that is formed by copolymerization of metals or metal oxides with organic ligands, resulting in metal-oxide clusters connected by organic linkers. FIG. 1 is a diagram of a typical MOF's crystalline structure 10 including metal or metal oxides, here shown as polyhedrons 12, having polymer ligands 14 extending between them. This highly ordered structure facilitates the creation of interior pores and channels. MOFs are known to have about 0.3 nm to about 3 nm pores.

MOFs are thermally robust and in many cases have extremely high porosity. Potential applications for MOFs include gas storage, adsorbents, and catalysts as described in detail in U.S. application Ser. No. 11/539,405, which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Applicants have discovered that certain MOFs have properties that make them highly advantageous as preconcentrators of analytes, including, for example, a high sorption capacity due to their high surface area, a high selectivity to specific analytes, an inert nature which does not decompose the analyte, a thermal stability, which result in unexpectedly high gains in detection, and as further described in U.S. application Ser. No. 11/539,405. Accordingly, MOFs are used to selectively sorb specific analytes in a preconcentrator. MOFs may be used in particle or pellet form, or they may be incorporated into a film inside a preconcentrator. Once the analytes are fully sorbed by the MOFs, the analytes can be released, for example, by thermal desorption. The analytes can then be purged and transferred from the preconcentrator to a detector.

One disadvantage associated with currently available MOFs is their lack of stability and resultant decrease in surface area when exposed to environmental conditions having greater than about 4% water present. Indeed, studies have indicated that water molecules attack the coordination bonds

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between the metal and organic ligands. Thus, MOF applications may be adversely affected under the most common environmental conditions.

One way to overcome this disadvantage is to fabricate MOFs by incorporating water repellent functional groups onto the ligand to increase the stability of the MOF when exposed to environmental conditions having greater than about 4% water present. This may be accomplished by building porous frameworks with covalent bonds using well-defined organic ligands. But, due to the high reactivities of the organic ligands, their synthesis requires complex processes and demanding crystallization conditions; thus, making this synthesis method undesirable. As an alternative, the MOF framework may be built with ligands using coordinate bonding. Although coordination bonding is not as strong as covalent bonding, it requires milder conditions to create the framework and offers a larger variety of building blocks (e.g., terephthalic acid with different functional groups) that can be used to build the framework relative to building the framework using covalent bonds.

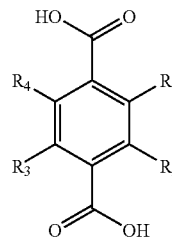
MOF frameworks using coordination bonds may be synthesized using either a simple solvothermal, microwave-assisted solvothermal, or hydrothermal synthesis method, for example, as disclosed in Applicants' application Ser. No. 11/785,102, which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Solvothermal synthesis is a method where ligands for MOF crystal formation are heated in a solvent other than water at high vapor pressure. In hydrothermal synthesis, ligands for MOF crystals are heated in water. Hydrothermal synthesis is suitable when the ligand is soluble in water. In both conventional solvothermal and hydrothermal synthesis, a solution with MOF ligands is typically maintained at a predetermined equilibrium temperature and pressure for an extended period to induce crystallization.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides novel water-repellent MOFs and processes for synthesizing such MOFs by incorporating water repellent functional groups onto the organic ligands to increase the stability of the MOF when exposed to water. The water-repellent functional groups prevent water from entering the cavities of the MOF. The MOFs of the invention provide many advantages over conventionally available MOFs such as improved MOF stability when exposed to environmental condition. In particular, having greater than about 4% water present. The MOFs may also be non-isorecticular to lower the production cost, and allow a greater number of analytes to be adsorbed. The invention may be implemented in a number of ways.

According to one aspect of the invention a metal organic framework (MOF) may include a plurality of metals and/or metal oxides and a plurality of ligands arranged to form a crystalline structure having a surface area of at least about 100 m²/gm, wherein said plurality of ligands have a structure of Formula I,

Formula 1



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wherein R_1 - R_4 is DY_3 or $A-DY_3$ or $A-B-DY_3$, where A is O or S and B is DY_2 or O or S, each D is independently C or Si, each Y is independently hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, with the provisos that (i) at least one of A or B must be DY_2 in $A-B-DY_3$ and (ii) when D in DY_2 is Si, Y is hydrogen, chlorine, or fluorine. The MOF may be non-isorecticular.

The MOF metal may include magnesium, cadmium, beryllium, copper, terbium, gadolinium, iron, nickel, cobalt, silver and zinc. The metal oxide may include magnesium oxide, cadmium oxide, beryllium oxide, copper oxide, terbium oxide, gadolinium oxide, iron oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, silver oxide and zinc oxide.

The crystalline structure may be a non-linear structure. The non-linear structure may be cubic, spherical, oval, elliptical, fan-shaped, plate-shaped, rectangular, hexagonal, needle, rod, and irregularly shaped.

The crystalline structure has a plurality of pores. The pores have a size in a range of about 1 nm to about 3 nm. The X-ray powder diffractometry (XRPD) spectrum of the MOF does not significantly shift when exposed to water vapor for greater than about 1 hour, where the XDPD of the MOF before and after exposure to water vapor is substantially unchanged. The MOF may have a plurality of macropores. The MOF may include a plurality of particle having a diameter less than about 40 nm.

The MOF metal may be zinc and R_1 may be a methyl, ethyl, or trifluoromethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, or trifluoromethoxy group and R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 may be hydrogen. The MOF metal may be zinc and R_1 and R_3 may be methyl, ethyl, or trifluoromethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, or trifluoromethoxy group and R_2 and R_4 may be hydrogen. The MOF metal may be zinc and R_1 and R_3 may be methyl groups and R_2 and R_4 may be hydrogen. The MOF metal may be copper and R_1 and R_3 may be methyl or ethyl groups and R_2 and R_4 may be hydrogen. The MOF metal may be copper and R_1 and R_3 may be methoxy groups and R_2 and R_4 may be hydrogen. The MOF metal may be cadmium and R_1 and R_3 may be methoxy groups and R_2 and R_4 may be hydrogen.

The MOF may be used a sorbent of analyte in a collection system. The collection system may include one of a preconcentrator, micropreconcentrator, personal respirator, and dosimeter. The preconcentrator or micropreconcentrator may be a purge and trap system, microelectromechanical (MEMS) valve system, array of microstructures, dosimeter, disc, pellet, or swab.

According to a further aspect of the invention, a process for synthesizing a water-repellent MOF having a crystalline structure with a surface area of greater than about 100 m²/gm may include removing the impurities from an organic ligand to provide a pre-treated organic ligand, dissolving a metal and/or metal oxide and the pre-treated organic ligand in a solvent to provide a solution, subjecting the solution to microwaves for a time sufficient to form crystals of the water-repellent MOF. The process may further include removing the metal impurities from the water repellent MOF. The metal impurities may be removed by extracting them into a soxhlet extractor solvent using a soxhlet extraction apparatus. The soxhlet extractor solvent may be CH_2Cl_2 .

The MOF metal may include magnesium, cadmium, beryllium, copper, terbium, gadolinium, iron, nickel, cobalt, silver and zinc. The metal oxide may include magnesium oxide, cadmium oxide, beryllium oxide, copper oxide, terbium oxide, gadolinium oxide, iron oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, silver oxide and zinc oxide.

The organic ligand may include terephthalic acid, naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, biphenyl-dicarboxylic acid, benzene tricarboxylic, di(carboxyphenyl)benzene, imidazole, benz-

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imidazole, alkane dicarboxylic acid, alkene dicarboxylic acid, and alkyne dicarboxylic acid.

The impurities may be removed by a method such as contacting the ligand with a chelating resin, soxhlet extraction, liquid-liquid extraction, evaporation and precipitation, and removing metal by washing.

According to another aspect of the invention, a process for synthesizing a water-repellent metallic organic framework (MOF), having a crystalline structure having a surface area of greater than about 100 m²/gm, includes dissolving zinc nitrate hexahydrate and 2-trifluoromethoxy terephthalic acid in a solvent to provide a solution; sealing the dissolved solution in a vessel; and heating the vessel in a microwave oven for a time sufficient to form crystals of the water-repellent MOF. The reaction time may be for about 80 seconds. The crystalline structure may be cubic and the crystals in the heating step may have a size in a range of about 4 μ m to about 7 μ m.

According to a further aspect of the invention, a process for synthesizing a water-repellent metallic organic framework (MOF), having a crystalline structure having a surface area of greater than about 100 m²/gm, includes dissolving zinc nitrate hexahydrate and 2,5-dimethylterephthalic acid in a solvent; sealing the dissolved solution in a vessel; and heating the vessel in a microwave oven for a time sufficient to form crystals of the water-repellent MOF. The reaction time may be for about 30 seconds. The crystalline structure may be cubic and the crystals in the heating step may have a size in a range of about 1 μ m to about 3 μ m.

According to a yet further aspect of the invention a process for synthesizing a water-repellent metallic organic framework (MOF), having a crystalline structure having a surface area of greater than about 100 m²/gm, includes dissolving cupric nitrate and 2,5-dimethylterephthalic acid in a solvent; sealing the dissolved solution in a vessel; and heating the vessel in a microwave oven for a time sufficient to form crystals of the water-repellent MOF. The reaction time may be for about 30 seconds. The crystalline structure may be irregularly shaped.

According to another aspect of the invention a process for synthesizing a water-repellent metallic organic framework (MOF), having a crystalline structure having a surface area of greater than about 100 m²/gm, includes dissolving cupric nitrate and 2,5-dimethoxyterephthalic acid in a solvent; sealing the dissolved solution in a vessel; and heating the vessel in a microwave oven for a time sufficient to form crystals of the water-repellent MOF. The reaction time may be for a time period of about 30 seconds. The crystalline structure may be fan-shaped.

According to another aspect of the invention a process for synthesizing a water-repellent metallic organic framework (MOF), having a crystalline structure having a surface area of greater than about 100 m²/gm, includes dissolving cadmium nitrate tetrahydrate and 2,5-dimethoxyterephthalic acid in a solvent; sealing the dissolved solution in a vessel; and heating the vessel in a microwave oven for a time sufficient to form crystals of the water-repellent MOF. The reaction time may be for a time period of about 30 seconds. The crystalline structure may be plate-shaped.

Additional features, advantages, and embodiments of the invention may be set forth or apparent from consideration of the following detailed description, drawings, and claims. Moreover, it is to be understood that both the foregoing summary of the invention and the following detailed description are exemplary and intended to provide further explanation without limiting the scope of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention, are incorpo-

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rated in and constitute a part of this specification; illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the detailed description serve to explain the principles of the invention. No attempt is made to show structural details of the invention in more detail than may be necessary for a fundamental understanding of the invention and various ways in which it may be practiced.

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a typical crystalline structure of a MOF.

FIG. 2 is a schematic showing the crystal structure of ZnMOF3, according to one principle of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a schematic showing the crystal structure of the conventional IRMOF1.

FIG. 4 is an output from TGA analysis of various MOFs comparing the thermal desorption of water from the conventional IRMOF1 with ZnMOF3 prepared according to one principle of the invention, at several temperature points. The line depicted as I is the thermal desorption of water at 25° C. for ZnMOF3, II is the thermal desorption of water at 25° C. for IRMOF1, III is the thermal desorption of water at 70° C. for ZnMOF3, and IV is the thermal desorption of water at 70° C. for IRMOF1.

FIG. 5 is a differential scanning calorimetry curve of water desorption TGA curves comparing the conventional IRMOF1 and ZnMOF3, prepared according to one principle of the invention, at several temperature points. The line depicted as I is the differential curve of water desorption for ZnMOF3 at 25° C., II is the differential curve of water desorption for IRMOF1 at 25° C., III is the differential curve of water desorption for ZnMOF3 at 70° C., and IV is the differential curve of water desorption for IRMOF1 at 70° C.

FIG. 6 is an XRPD pattern comparing conventional IRMOF1 before exposure to water vapor treatment (line designated I) and after exposure to water vapor for 1 week (line designated II).

FIG. 7 is an XRPD pattern comparing ZnMOF3, prepared according to one principle of the invention before exposure to water vapor (line designated I) and after exposure to water vapor for 1 week (line designated II).

FIG. 8 is an XRPD pattern comparing a MOF synthesized using the dimethyl terephthalic acid ligand obtained from TCI America (Portland, Oreg.) synthesized according to principles of the invention, before exposure to water vapor treatment (line designated I) in comparison to dimethyl-ZnMOF, synthesized by principles of the invention using a dimethyl terephthalic acid ligand synthesized using the procedures of Dyatkina ET AL., J. MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY, 45(4) 805-817 (2002) before exposure to water vapor treatment (line designated II) and after exposure of dimethyl-MOF to water vapor for 2 hours (line designated III).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It is understood that the invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols, and reagents, etc., described herein, as these may vary as the skilled artisan will recognize. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is used for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention. It also is to be noted that as used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” include the plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. This, for example, a reference to “a linker” is a reference to one or more linkers and equivalents thereof known to those skilled in the art.

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meanings as commonly under-

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stood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains. The embodiments of the invention and the various features and advantageous details thereof are explained more fully with reference to the non-limiting embodiments and/or illustrated in the accompanying drawings and detailed in the following description. It should be noted that the features illustrated in the drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale, and features of one embodiment may be employed with other embodiments as the skilled artisan would recognize, even if not explicitly stated herein.

Any numerical values recited herein include all values from the lower value to the upper value in increments of one unit provided that there is a separation of at least two units between any lower value and any higher value. As an example, if it is stated that the concentration of a component or value of a process variable such as, for example, size, angle size, pressure, time and the like, is, for example, from 1 to 90, specifically from 20 to 80, more specifically from 30 to 70, it is intended that values such as 15 to 85, 22 to 68, 43 to 51, 30 to 32 etc., are expressly enumerated in this specification. For values which are less than one, one unit is considered to be 0.0001, 0.001, 0.01 or 0.1 as appropriate. These are only examples of what is specifically intended and all possible combinations of numerical values between the lowest value and the highest value enumerated are to be considered to be expressly stated in this application in a similar manner.

Moreover, provided immediately below is a “Definition” section, where certain terms related to the invention are defined specifically. Particular methods, devices, and materials are described, although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the invention. All references referred to herein are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

DEFINITIONS

TGA is thermogravimetric analysis

XRPD is X-ray powder diffractometry

DMMP is Dimethyl methylphosphonate

E_T^N is normalized solvent polarity

SCCM is standard cubic centimeters per minute

DEF is diethyl formamide

DMF is dimethyl formamide

The term “metal-organic framework,” abbreviated “MOF,” as used herein, refers to a one, two, or three dimensional polymer including both organic and metal or metal oxide structural units, where at least one of the metal units is bonded to at least one bi-, tri- or poly-dentate organic unit.

The terms “halo” and “halogen” are used in the conventional sense to refer to a chloro, bromo, fluoro or iodo substituent. The term “haloalkyl” or “halogenated” refers to an alkyl group in which at least one of the hydrogen atoms of the alkyl group has been replaced with a halogen atom.

The term “ligand” refers to organic ligand compounds containing one or more functional groups attached suitable for chemically binding of a first and second molecule together, and, specifically a first and second molecule that is a metal or metal oxide. The organic ligands may include without limitation, terephthalic acid, naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, biphenyl-dicarboxylic acid benzene tricarboxylic, di(carboxyphenyl)benzene, imidazole, benzimidazole, and alkane, alkene and alkyne dicarboxylic acids. Chemical binding is considered to broadly cover bonding with some covalent character with or without polar bonding and can have properties of ligand-metal bonding along with various degrees of ionic bonding.

The term “non-polar functional group,” as used herein, generally refers to any functional group that is capable of preventing water from entering the cavities of the MOF while still allowing other molecules to penetrate into the MOF. The term “functional group,” as used herein, may be used interchangeably with the terms “water-repellent function group,” or “non-polar functional group.” The functional group may be selected based on the composition of the molecule, and specifically may be a functional group such as methoxy, halogenated methoxy, methyl, halogenated methyl, ethyl, halogenated ethyl, halogenated linear hydrocarbons, halogenated branched hydrocarbons, siloxane, perfluorourinated hydrocarbon.

The term “analyte,” as used herein, refers to a substance which a laboratory or other entity seeks to detect and/or identify using analytical procedures and/or techniques.

The term “sorption,” as used herein, refers to the total effect of atoms, molecules, or ions being incorporated into a material’s volume, and/or of atoms, molecules, or ions adhering to a material’s surface by any mechanism, including, but not limited to adsorption and absorption.

The term “adsorption,” as used herein, refers to the adhesion of an extremely thin layer of atoms, molecules, or ions to the surfaces of solid bodies or liquids with which they are in contact.

The term “absorption,” as used herein, refers to a physical or chemical process by which atoms, molecules, or ions enter the volume of a bulk phase material.

The term “sorbent” also is used in its broadest sense to refer to a material that incorporates atoms, molecules, or ions into its volume and/or adheres atoms, molecules, or ions to its surface by “sorption” as defined above. For example, a sorbent that is “highly selective” for substance X relative to substance Y will sorb X at least 100× more effectively than Y.

The term “desorption” refers to a process by which a sorbed material is released from a “sorbent.”

The term “highly selective,” as used herein, generally refers to at least about 100 times greater selectivity of a sorbent to a desired analyte in a sample, relative to another substance in the sample being analyzed.

The term “isoreticular,” as used herein when referring to a MOF, means a MOF that has a single crystalline net, where substantially all of the unit cells have the same chemical structure and substantially the same functional groups. See Yaghi ET AL. U.S. Pat. No. 6,930,193.

The term “non-isoreticular,” as used herein when referring to a MOF, means a MOF that is not isoreticular. This may include MOFs that include of a mixture of ligands. This may include MOFs, where different ligands within the structure have different functional groups. This includes MOFs with macropores and MOFs that have been modified to include additional ligands and/or functional groups.

The term “not substantially hinder diffusion,” as used herein, refers to a reduction in diffusion of less than a factor of 100. For example, a MOF that does not reduce the diffusion of a target analyte such as hydrogen into the MOF by more than a factor of 100.

The term “macropore,” as used herein, refers to a pore with a diameter larger than about 50 nm.

The term “micropore,” as used herein, refers to a pore with a diameter less than about 50 nm.

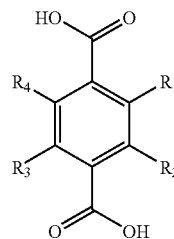
The term “breakthrough volume,” as used herein means the volume at which a particular solute pumped continuously through a column will begin to be eluted. It is related to the column volume and the retention factor of the solute. It is used

to determine amount of gas (e.g., air) that can be passed over the adsorbent before significant solute is detected at the end of the adsorbent bed.

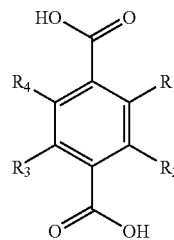
The invention relates generally to MOF structures and processes for synthesizing MOF structures. The MOFs can be used, for example, preconcentrators, for example. In particular, the invention provides processes for building water-repellent MOF structures by incorporating a water-repellent functional group into the organic ligands of the MOF framework. The water-repellent MOFs of the invention show high moisture stability and have several applications in environmental monitoring.

According to one embodiment of the invention, the MOFs may have a crystalline structure that is formed by copolymerization of metals or metal oxides with organic ligands, resulting in metal-oxide clusters connected by organic linkers. The metal or metal oxide may include, without limitation, zinc, cadmium, magnesium, beryllium, copper, calcium, terbium, gadolinium, iron, nickel, cobalt, and silver. The MOF may be comprised of organic ligands having the general structure of Formulas 1-3, where at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are non-polar functional groups.

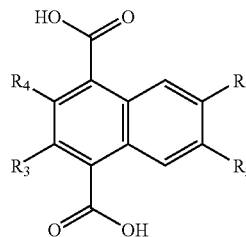
Formula 1



Formula 2



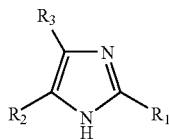
Formula 3



In a more specific embodiment, the organic ligands of Formulas I-III, above, may be defined where $R=DY_3$ or $A-DY_3$ or $A-B-DY_3$, where $A=O$ or S and $B=DY_2$ or O or S , each D is independently C or Si , each Y is independently hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, with the provisos that (i) at least one of A or B must be DY_2 and (2) when D in DY_2 is Si , Y is hydrogen, fluorine, or chlorine.

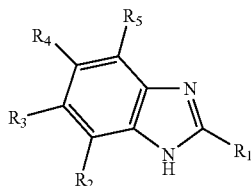
The MOF may be comprised of organic ligands having the general structure of Formula 4, below, where at least one of R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are non-polar functional groups.

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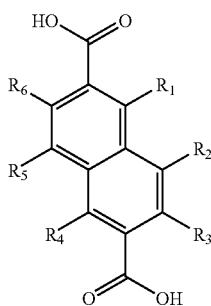
Formula 4

The MOF may be comprised of organic ligands having the general structure of Formula 5, below, where at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , and R_5 are non-polar functional groups.



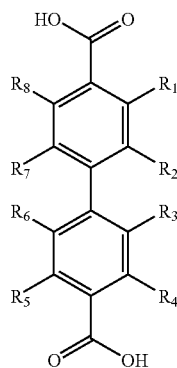
Formula 5

The MOF may be comprised of organic ligands having the general structure of Formula 6, below, where at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are non-polar functional groups.



Formula 6

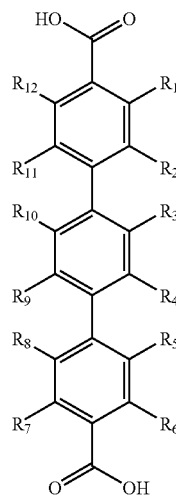
The MOF may be comprised of organic ligands having the general structure of Formula 7, below, where at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , and R_8 are non-polar functional groups.



Formula 7

The MOF may be comprised of organic ligands having the general structure of Formula 8, below, where at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} , R_{11} , and R_{12} are non-polar functional groups:

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Formula 8

In one aspect of the invention, the MOF may have the structure of Formula 1 wherein at least one of R_1 and R_2 and at least one of R_3 and R_4 are non-polar functional groups. In a further aspect of the invention, the MOF may include a combination of organic ligands of any of Formulas 1-8, detailed above.

The water-repellent functional groups or non-polar functional groups, may include, without limitation, trifluoromethoxy, methyl, ethyl, linear hydrocarbons having about 1 to about 4 carbons in length, more preferably about 1 to about 3 carbons in length, and even more preferably about 1 to about 2 carbons in length, branched chain hydrocarbons having about 1 to about 4 in length, and more preferably having about 1 to about 3 carbons in length, and even more preferably having about 1 to about 2 carbons in length, methoxy, halogenated methoxy, halogenated ethoxy, halogenated methyl, halogenated ethyl, halogenated linear hydrocarbons, halogenated branched hydrocarbons, siloxane, perfluorinated carbon. The water-repellent functional groups should not substantially hinder diffusion of target analytes into the MOF.

The water-repellent functional groups may contain three or less carbon atoms and/or oxygen atoms such that the size of the ligand does not substantially hinder the diffusion of analytes such as hydrogen into the MOF.

The water-repellent functional groups may be chosen so that they contain two or less carbon atoms and/or oxygen atoms such that the size of the ligand does not substantially hinder the diffusion of analytes such as hydrogen into the MOF.

The MOFs of the invention may have pore sizes in a range of about 2.3 Å to about 28.8 Å, and pore volumes that are about 91% of the crystal structure. The MOFs may have a crystal size in a range of about 50 nm to about 1 mm. The MOFs may have a crystalline structure in a variety of shapes such as cubic, spherical, oval, elliptical, fan-shaped, plate-shaped, rectangular, hexagonal, needle, rod, and irregularly shaped. The MOFs may have a surface area in the range of about 100 m²/gm to about 3000 m²/gm.

The MOFs may be non-isorecticular. Isorecticular MOF's as described in Yaghi, U.S. Pat. No. 6,930,193, have a single net. Non-isorecticular MOFs may have a wider range of adsorption sites to facilitate the adsorption of a wider range of analytes.

FIG. 2 is a schematic illustrating the MOF, ZnMOF3, according to one embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 2, ZnMOF3 has six bifunctional ligands that coordinate with the

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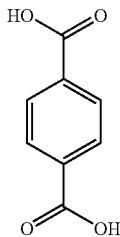
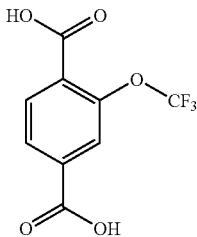
edges of Zn₄O core, resulting in an octahedral geometry that confines the framework to a cubic porous network in 3D space. Table 1, below shows the crystal and structure refinement data for ZnMOF3, according to one embodiment of the invention.

TABLE 1

Compound code	ZnMOF3
Dehydrate Formula	[(Zn ₄ O)(2-CF ₃ O-BDC) ₃]
Morphology	Cubic
Color	Colorless
Temperature	297(2)K
Crystal System	Cubic
Space group	Fm-3m
a	25.7650 Å
b	25.7650 Å
c	25.7650 Å
α	90.0°
β	90.0°
γ	90.0°
V	17103.71 Å ³
Z	8
R1 [I > 2σ(I)]	0.0990
wR2	0.3129

Table 2 below provides a detailed comparison between the conventional, non-water-repellent, cubic-shaped MOF, IRMOF1 reported by Yaghi (Eddaoudi, M.; Kim, J.; Rosi, N.; Vodak, D.; Wachter, J.; O'Keeffe, M.; and Yaghi, O. M., Science 2002, 295, 469-472.) (FIG. 3) and the water-repellent ZnMOF3 of the invention. Since ZnMOF3 has very close unit dimensions to IRMOF1 and its thermal stability and porosity are also comparable to IRMOF1, the performances of each MOF may be compared using the same or similar methods and/or techniques.

TABLE 2

Name	IRMOF1	ZnMOF3
Crystal system	Cubic	Cubic
Space group	Fm-3m	Fm-3m
Unit cell dimensions	a = 25.6690(3) Å α = 90 deg. b = 25.6690(3) Å β = 90 deg. c = 25.6690(3) Å γ = 90 deg.	a = 25.765(5) Å α = 90°. b = 25.765(5) Å β = 90°. c = 25.765(5) Å γ = 90°.
Functional ligand		
BET measurements	2700 m ² /g	1700 m ² /g
Thermal Stability	420° C.	350° C.

The CF₃O— functional group in ZnMOF3 is a stable non-polar functional group, which prevents H₂O molecules from entering the cavities of the MOF frameworks. To verify this point, IRMOF1 and ZnMOF3 were both saturated with water vapor at room temperature. The ZnMOF3 and IRMOF1 samples were prepared for TGA by saturating each sample with toluene, water, DMMP, or nitrobenzene vapors. The saturated sample were analyzed for weight loss using a Mettler-Toledo TGA/SDTA 851e instrument. Specifically, the MOF powders were soaked in CHCl₃ for two days to

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exchange any mother liquor in MOF with CHCl₃ framework, the powder collects, and the powder was heated at 150° C. under vacuum to completely remove the CHCl₃ solvate. About 5 mg dried sample was then added into a clean test tube. Tested vapor was carried by 15 sccm air flow through a saturator and then passed through the test tube at a temperature in the range of about 20° C. to about 70° C. After 10 μl of solvent loss was observed from the saturator, the saturated samples were collected. TGA analyses were carried out by heating the sample from about 20° C. to about 300° C. at about 15° C./minute.

FIG. 4 shows the following TGA measurements: (i) a capacity of 0.11 g H₂O/g for IRMOF1, and (ii) a capacity of 0.08 g H₂O/g for ZnMOF3. A differential scanning calorimetry study of the two TGA curves revealed that water vapor has three binding sites with IRMOF1 at about 65° C., about 110° C. and about 200° C. respectively, and only one binding site with ZnMOF3 at about 60° C. (FIG. 5). When both MOFs were saturated in water vapors at about 70° C., ZnMOF3 adsorbed nearly no H₂O, while IRMOF1 absorbed about 0.05 g H₂O/g.

To further investigate the impact of water on MOF structure, the XRPD spectrum was collected before and after exposing the MOF to boiling water vapor. FIG. 6 shows that after 1 week water exposure, IRMOF1 converted into a different low porous crystal phase. In contrast, as shown in FIG. 7, ZnMOF3 exhibited a high water-repellent behavior, as illustrated by comparing the powder pattern before and after water exposure. A comparison of the major diffraction peaks of ZnMOF3 showed no change before and after exposure to water vapor.

The results shown in FIGS. 4-7 demonstrate that ZnMOF3 has a substantial advantage in applications involving gas-phase absorption. For gas adsorption applications, H₂O always presents as a common interfering substance. Unlike other interfering substances, such as toluene and benzene, water is often present in large concentrations in the air, and it is very polar so it can block adsorption of other molecules. Also, water interferes with the operation of analytical systems, so it must be removed before analysis. In Applicants' application Ser. No. 11/785,102, Applicants have demonstrated that IRMOF1 has an extremely high preconcentration gain for methyl phosphonate vapors. Given ZnMOF3's comparable porosity and thermal stability, ZnMOF3 may be a useful adsorbent having reduces water sorption and may have sorption capacity for many targets of interest.

To verify this point, the sorption capacities of both IRMOF1 and ZnMOF3 were compared using several common targets and interfering substances. As shown in Table 3, below, ZnMOF3 has the same selectivity as IRMOF1 with relatively reduced adsorption capacities.

TABLE 3

Material	Toluene g adsorbate/ g MOF	DMMP g adsorbate/ g MOF	Nitrobenzene g adsorbate/ g MOF	Water g adsorbate/ g MOF
ZnMOF3	0.03	0.18	0.18	0.08
IRMOF1	0.05	0.35	0.39	0.11

In Table 3, above, the reduced sorption capacity of ZnMOF3 is caused by the steric hindrance of the CF₃O-groups. Fits of adsorption data indicate that ZnMOF3 repels molecules with strong dipolar polarizability, like water.

A series of common volatile organic compounds (VOCs) breakthrough volume in ZnMOF3 were further measured followed by a similar procedure that was applied on Tenax TA, Tenax GR and carbotraps. Tenax TA and Tenax GR have so far been widely accepted as the most efficient porous

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adsorbents for trapping of volatiles and semi-volatiles from air.

In order to obtain the breakthrough measurements, about 200 mg of each sample (i.e., IRMOF1 and ZnMOF3) was loaded in the standard Tekmar® thermal desorption tube. The tube was then loaded in the Agilent 5973N GC oven. Helium gas was applied as carrier gas and its flow rate was set at about 40 sccm. The thermal tube was first preconditioned at 200° C. for about 4 hours to about 8 hours until the exhaust signal went down to the bottom line. For liquid phase species, about 2 µL to about 10 µL of corresponding vapor was collected from the head space and was injected at the front entrance of the thermal tube at set temperature; for gaseous phase species, about 2 µL to about 3 µL of corresponding gas was collected from a Teddler bag and was then injected. The exit vapor signal was collected by a FID detector for further analysis.

The breakthrough volume collected in Table 4, below, demonstrate that ZnMOF3 has a much higher breakthrough volumes with most alcohols, and higher or comparable breakthrough volumes for other species as well. This shows that the materials are useful for gas adsorption.

TABLE 4

Breakthrough volumes measured in ZnMOF3 at various temperatures				
	Temperature, ° C.			
	0	20	40	60
Acetates				
Ethyl Acetate	650	290	130	60
Hydrocarbons				
Methane	0.028	0.015	0.008	0.005
Ethylene	0.14	0.060	0.026	0.012
Ethane	0.15	0.092	0.055	0.033
Propane	1.28	0.65	0.326	0.17
n-Butane	12	4.90	2.00	0.82
Pentane	13	7.21	3.95	2.15
n-Hexane	38	20.5	11	5.8
n-Decane	930	483	251	130
Alcohols				
Methanol	72	44.3	27.4	16.9
2-Methyl-2-Propanol	1080	538	268	133.8
Ethanol	188	106	60.3	34.1
2-Propanol	490	261	139	74.0
1-Octanol	12800	5590	2450	1070
Aldehydes/ketones				
Acetaldehyde	11.82	6.08	3.12	1.60
Acetone	243.7	111.7	51.2	23.5
Nonanal	48300	19300	7740	3090
Halogenated compounds				
1,2-Dichloroethylene	15.9	8.85	4.94	2.75
Trichloroethylene	21.5	11.9	6.62	3.68
Aromatics				
Benzene	15.1	8.876	5.235	3.09
Toluene	62.5	34.4	19.0	10.5
Atmospheric Components				
Water	0.276	0.198	0.142	0.102
Others Tested (All had large retention volumes)				
Acetic acid, methyl decanoate, dinitrotoluene, di-t-butyl-6-nitro phenol, dodecane, eicosanol, hydroxy-benzaldehyde, isopropylsulfonyl chloride, methoxy-phenyl-oxime, methyl benzaldehyde, methyl decanoate, methyl-2-propanol, dimethylmethylphosphonate				
Others Unretained				
Hydrogen, Helium, Air				

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According to one embodiment, the MOFs of the invention may be synthesized by a microwave-assisted solvothermal process, as described in U.S. application Ser. No. 11/785,102. According to this process, a reactant solution including MOF ligand is exposed to microwaves for a period of time sufficient to achieve crystallization. The period of time may be, for example, a few seconds to a few minutes or more, depending upon the microwave power and the solution concentration. Time periods may be in a range of about 5 seconds to about 2.5 minutes.

The MOFs of the invention may also be synthesized by using solvothermal or hydrothermal processes. According to these processes, the solvent used for the reaction solution is dependent upon the organic ligand. Water may be used as the solvent, for example, when the ligand is water soluble. Polar molecule solvents, such as diethyl formamide (DEF) and dimethyl formamide (DMF), for example, are compatible with the mechanism of the microwave assisted synthesis of the invention. Nonpolar solvents, such as benzene are not suitable because they can not be heated in a microwave. This problem can be solved, if necessary, by annealing non-polar solvent with a polar solvent to provide a mixed solvent that can be used in microwave synthesis.

In one embodiment, prior to MOF synthesis, the organic ligand may be pretreated to remove any impurities. For example, metal impurities may be removed by treating the organic ligands with a chelating resin, the NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ impurities may be removed by subjecting the organic ligands to water soxhlet extraction, the NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ impurities may be removed by subjecting the organic ligands to liquid-liquid extraction, the NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ impurities may be removed by subjecting the organic ligands to a bait and switch method, and/or impurities may be removed by subjecting the organic ligands to washing.

In a further embodiment, after the MOFs have been synthesized, the MOFs may be subjected to a post treatment to remove further impurities. For example, the synthesized MOFs may be post-treated by soxhlet extraction to remove impurities using solvents such as ethanol, dichloromethane, benzene, toluene, diethyl ether, chloroform and ethyl acetate. Moreover, the MOFs may be post treated to remove unreacted COOH-groups by treating the MOF with a methylation reagent such as trimethylsulphonium hydroxide (TMSH), N,N-dimethylformamide-dimethylacetal (DMF-DMA), dimethyl carbonate, methyl iodide methanol, ethanol, ethyl iodide, optionally in the presence of an alkaline catalyst such as dimethylimidazole (DMI) or trimethylamine.

The MOFs of the invention may be subjected to pre-treatment purification methods, post-treatment purification, or both. The pre-treatment and post-treatment purifications are further exemplified in specific examples 19-26, below. Table 5, below, show the effects of pretreatment and post treatment on the properties on the ZnMOF3 according to the invention.

TABLE 5

Sample	Ligand Pretreatment	MOF Posttreatment	Breakthrough volume hexane 100° C. (L/g)	Recovery (C ₂ H ₅) ₃ N	C ₆ H ₅ CH ₂ Cl % (120° C.)
1	none	none	3.22	0%	0%
2	none	2 hrs CH ₂ Cl ₂ Soxhlet	1.68	0%	96%
3	none	2 hrs CH ₃ CH ₂ OH Soxhlet	1.91	0%	96%
4	none	7 hrs CH ₃ CH ₂ OH Soxhlet	0.25	96%	91%
5	none	7 hrs CH ₃ CH ₂ OH Soxhlet + 12 hrs CH ₂ Cl ₂ Soxhlet	—	0%	—
6	none	2 hours CH ₃ OH Soxhlet	MOF Collapsed MOF dissolved		
7	none	2 hours pyridine Soxhlet			
8	methanol/water	none	11.42	0%	0%
9	methanol/water	2 hrs CH ₃ CH ₂ OH Soxhlet	7.06	0%	74%
10	Water wash	12 hrs CH ₂ CH ₂ soxhlet + dicarbonate		90%	

In another embodiment of the invention, the MOFs may be used as a sorbent of an analyte in a collection system. The collection system may include one of a preconcentrator, micropreconcentrator, personal respirator, and dosimeter. The preconcentrator or micropreconcentrator may be a purge and trap system, microelectromechanical (MEMS) valve system, array of microstructure, dosimeter, disc, pellet, or swab. The MOFs may sorb analytes such as DMMP, PMP, diethyl methylphosphonate (DEMP), diisopropyl methylphosphonate (DIMP), dichlorohexane, malathion, acetic anhydride, TNT, and RDX.

Without further elaboration, it is believed that one skilled in the art using the preceding description can utilize the invention to the fullest extent. The following examples are illustrative only, and not limiting of the disclosure in any way whatsoever.

EXAMPLES

Specific Example 1

Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF3

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O, (0.15 g, 0.504 mmol) and 2-trifluoromethoxy terephthalic acid, (2-CF₃O—BDCH₂) (0.0946 g, 0.378 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated at about 110° C. Transparent cubic crystals were collected after one week.

Specific Example 2

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF3

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O, (0.15 g, 0.504 mmol) and 2-trifluoromethoxy terephthalic acid, (2-trifluoromethoxy-BDCH₂) (0.0946 g, 0.378 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 80 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours, ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature. The crystals were yellow in cubic shape, with size in a range of about 4 μm to about 7 μm with very few surface defects.

Specific Example 3

Conversion of ZnFOF8 to Non-Isorecticular Form

The MOF in Specific Example 2, above, was placed in a glass thimble. The thimble was placed inside a Wilmad Glass soxhlet extractor equipped with a Friedrichs condenser and round bottom flask loaded with 200 ml EtOH. The MOF was refluxed in EtOH for 2 hours. The resultant MOF was no longer isorecticular, but instead, contained macropores. The macropores may enhance mass transfer of an analyte into the MOF.

Specific Example 3

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF8

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O, (0.1 g, 0.336 mmol) and 2,5-dimethylterephthalic acid (0.0490 g, 0.252 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours, ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature. The resulting crystals have a cubic shape and a light yellow color, having a size in a range of about 1 μm to about 3 μm. FIG. 8 is a XPDP pattern showing the water stability of ZnMOF8 before and after exposure to water vapor for 2 hours. The XPDP shows that ZnMOF8 is water repellent.

Specific Example 4

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF5

Cupric nitrate, Cu(NO₃)₂·xH₂O, (0.1 g, 0.533 mmol) and 2,5-dimethylterephthalic acid, (0.0776 g, 0.400 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours,

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ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature. The resultant crystals were irregularly shaped.

Specific Example 5

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF6

Cupric nitrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.533 mmol) and 2,5-dimethoxyterephthalic acid, (0.090 g, 0.400 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours, ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature. The resultant crystals were fan-shaped.

Specific Example 6

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CdMOF4

Cadmium nitrate tetrahydrate, $\text{Cd}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.324 mmol) and 2,5-dimethoxyterephthalic acid, (0.055 g, 0.243 mmol), were dissolved in 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours, ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature. The resultant crystals were plate-shaped.

Specific Example 7

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF9

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.336 mmol) and 2,5-dimethoxyterephthalic acid (0.0570 g, 0.252 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. While the mixture was stirred, 6 μL of triethylamine and 1 mg NaOH were added. The solution was stirred for another 15 minutes and then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours, ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature. The resultant crystals have cubic shape in light yellow color, having a size in a range of about 4 μm to about 8 μm .

Specific Example 8

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF2

Exact amount of cupric nitrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.430 mmol) and 2-(trifluoromethoxy) terephthalic acid

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(0.0807 g, 0.322 mmol), were dissolved in 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time 80 seconds. The crystals were then soaked in dichloromethane overnight. Next the crystals were dried by heating from room temperature to 170° C. over 5 hours in a clean nitrogen atmosphere, maintained at 170° C. for 3 hours, ramped to 200° C. over 30 minutes, held at 220° C. for 1.4 hours, then cooled to room temperature.

Specific Example 9

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF7

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.15 g, 0.504 mmol) and 2,5-furandicarboxylic acid (0.059 g, 0.378 mmol), were dissolved in 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 50 seconds. The resultant crystals were tetrahedron shape and are not stable when exposed to water.

Specific Example 10

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF10

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.336 mmol) and 2,5-dichloroterephthalic acid, (0.059 g, 0.252 mmol), were dissolved in 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 40 seconds. The resulting crystals have irregular shape with yellow color and are not stable when exposed to water.

Specific Example 11

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF11

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.336 mmol) and 2-methylterephthalic acid (0.0454 g, 0.252 mmol), were dissolved in 5 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of 30 seconds. The resultant crystals were yellow color having a cubic shape, with size in a range of about 2 μm to about 4 μm .

Specific Example 12

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF12

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.336 mmol) and 2,5-diethylterephthalic acid (0.056 g, 0.252 mmol), were dissolved in 5 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of 25 seconds. The resultant crystals were light yellow having a cubic shape, with size in a range of about 2 μm to about 4 μm .

Specific Example 13

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of ZnMOF13

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.336 mmol) and 2-methoxyterephthalic acid (0.049 g, 0.252

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mmol), were dissolved in 5 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of 30 seconds. The resultant crystals were light yellow having a cubic shape, with size in a range of about 1 μm to about 7 μm .

Specific Example 14

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF4

Cupric nitrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.533 mmol) and 2-bromoterephthalic acid, (0.098 g, 0.400 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The resultant crystals were plate with square shape and green color and were not stable when exposed to water.

Specific Example 15

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF7

Cupric nitrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.533 mmol) and 2,5-dichloroterephthalic acid, (0.094 g, 0.400 mmol), were dissolved in about 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 40 seconds. The resultant crystals were plate with square shape and green color and were not stable when exposed to water.

Specific Example 16

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF8

Cupric nitrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.533 mmol) and 2,5-diethoxyterephthalic acid, (0.089 g, 0.400 mmol), were dissolved in about 5 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 35 seconds. The resultant crystals had a petal like shape with dark green color.

Specific Example 17

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of CuMOF9

Cupric nitrate, $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.1 g, 0.533 mmol) and 2-methoxyterephthalic acid, (0.078 g, 0.400 mmol), were dissolved in about 5 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The resultant crystals were square plate shape with dark green color.

Specific Example 18

Microwave Assisted Solvothermal Synthesis of GdMOF1

$\text{Gd}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, (0.15 g, 0.332 mmol) and terephthalic acid, (0.021 g, 0.249 mmol), were dissolved in 10 mL diethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in a Pyrex sample

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vial and heated with a household microwave oven (800 W) for a reaction time of about 30 seconds. The resultant yellow crystals were parallelogram shape with size in the range of about 0.5 μm to about 2 μm .

Specific Example 19

Purification Treatment of Organic Ligands by Using a Chelating Resin to Remove Transition Metal Impurities

The following chelating resins can be applied for this purpose: Amberlite IRC748I, Dowex M4195, Lewatit TP-208 and Chelex 100.

20-30 gram chelating resin was mixed with 100 ml MeOH. The resulting slurry was then packed in a glass column with frit at the bottom. If the resin was in the form of its sodium salt, it was first conditioned using 1M aqueous HCl or H_2SO_4 . Subsequently, the column was rinsed 3-5 times with fresh MeOH.

1 g of 2-trifluoromethoxy terephthalic acid was dissolved in 50 ml of MeOH, and the resulting solution was added to the top of the column. The eluent was collected in a 100 ml beaker and then was used to re-feed the column. After the eluent was passed through the column three times, 40 ml of fresh MeOH was added to remove any remaining ligand from the column. The ligand was collected by removing the solvent under reduced pressure using rotary evaporator and the resulting material dried at 110° C. for 2 hours.

Specific Example 20

Purification Treatment of Organic Ligands by Removing NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ Impurities by Soxhlet Extraction Using Water

1 gram of 2-trifluoromethoxy terephthalic acid was added into a glass thimble, and the thimble placed inside a soxhlet extractor. Refluxing millipore grade water was used to extract impurities from the acid for about 12 hours. The final product was dried at 110° C. for 2 hours.

Specific Example 21

Purification Treatment of Organic Ligands by Removing NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ Impurities by Liquid-Liquid Extraction

2.26 gram of 2-trifluoromethoxyterephthalic acid was dissolved in 125 ml ethyl acetate. The resulting solution was filtered through paper to remove un-dissolved impurities. Water soluble impurities were extracted by washing the paper filter 3 times with 20 ml millipore grade water. The ligand in the organic phase was then collected by rotary evaporation and dried at 110° C. for 2 hours.

Specific Example 22

Purification Treatment of Organic Ligands by Removing NO_3^- , Na^+ , K^+ Impurities by Evaporation and Precipitation

2.12 g of 2-trifluoromethoxyterephthalic acid and 50 ml MeOH was added into a 200 ml flask. 60 ml of millipore grade water was then added to the flask. The flask was placed in a 50° C. water bath for 1 hour to evaporate most of the MeOH

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from the mixture. The yellow precipitate was collected by vacuum filtration. The ligand was further dried at 110° C. for 2 hours.

Example 23

Purification Treatment of Organic Ligands by Removing Metals By Washing

3 ml of HPLC grade 50% formic acid (Sigma) was added to 3 liters of 100 megaohm-cm water in a 5 L flask. 322 grams of 2-methylterephthalic acid was added to the mixture and the mixture stirred for about 2 hours to about 12 hours. The ligand was collected by filtration and dried at 110° C. for 2 hours.

Specific Example 24

Post-Treatment Following MOF Synthesis by Soxhlet Extraction to Remove Impurities

10 gram of a MOF was placed in a glass thimble. The thimble was placed inside a soxhlet extractor equipped with a Friedrichs condenser and a round bottom flask loaded with 200 ml EtOH. The mixture was refluxed using either EtOH or dichloromethane for about 2 hours to about 12 hours. The final product was dried at ambient temperature.

Specific Example 25

Post-Treatment Following MOF Synthesis by Conditioning MOF using CH₂Cl₂ Soxhlet Extraction

10 g of a MOF were placed in a glass thimble. The thimble was placed inside a soxhlet extractor equipped with a Friedrichs condenser and a round bottom flask loaded with 200 ml CH₂Cl₂. The impurities were extracted by reflux CH₂Cl₂ and residual DEF/DMF mother solvent (from making the MOF) for at least 2 hours. The final product was dried at ambient temperature. The product was baked from room temperature to 120° C. at 0.5° C./min under a N₂ atmosphere flow or under vacuum, and then further conditioned at 120° C. for another 30 min. The product was finally cooled.

Specific Example 26

Post-Treatment following MOF Synthesis by Removing Unreacted COOH— Groups

Methylterephthalic acid was washed as in specific example 23, above, and then converted to ZnMOF11 as indicated in specific example 11, above. The MOF was then treated as described in specific example 25, above. 146 milligrams of the resultant powder, 42.7 mg of dimethylimidazole (DMI), 5 milliliters of dimethylformamide (DMF), and 1 ml of dimethylcarbonate (DMC) was loaded into a 10 ml pressurized sealed vial. The mixture was heated to 120° C. in a CEM microwave for 12 minutes. The product was baked from room temperature to 120° C. at 0.5° C./min under a N₂ atmosphere flow or under vacuum, and then further conditioned at 120° C. for another 30 min. The final product was cooled.

Specific Example 27

Microwave Synthesis of Larger MOF Particles

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O, (4.8 g, 0.016 mol) and 2-methylterephthalic acid, (2.18 g, 0.012 mol), were

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dissolved in 120 ml dimethylformamide. The solution was then sealed in MARS reaction tubes (CEM Corp) with 20 ml solvent in each tube. The 6 tubes were then heated in a MARS microwave (CEM) until the solvent temperature reached 180° C. The resultant crystals had a wide size distribution with most of the particles in the range of about 0.5 μm to about 20

Specific Example 28

Microwave Synthesis of Larger IRMOF1

Zinc nitrate hexahydrate, Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O, (20 g, 0.07 mol) and terephthalic acid, (8.38 g, 0.05 mol), were dissolved in 2000 ml dimethylformamide. The solution was sealed in 40 Multiple Automated Reactor System (MARS) reaction tubes with 50 ml of solvent in each tube. The 40 tubes were then heated in a MARS for about 30 minutes or until the solvent temperature reached 150° C. The resultant crystals had a wide size distribution with most of the particles between about 5 μm to about 40 μm.

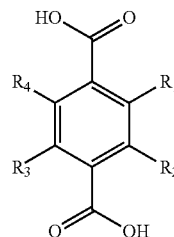
The examples given above are merely illustrative and are not meant to be an exhaustive list of all possible embodiments, applications or modifications of the invention. Thus, various modifications and variations of the described methods and systems of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Although the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various modifications of the described modes for carrying out the invention which are obvious to those skilled in the chemical arts or in the relevant fields are intended to be within the scope of the appended claims.

The disclosures of all references and publications cited above are expressly incorporated by reference in their entireties to the same extent as if each were incorporated by reference individually.

What is claimed is:

1. A metal organic framework (MOF), comprising: a plurality of metals and/or metal oxides and a plurality of ligands arranged to form a crystalline structure having a surface area of at least about 100 m²/gm, wherein said plurality of ligands have a structure of formula I;

Formula 1



- wherein R₁ is DY₃ or A-DY₃ or A-B-DY₃,
 wherein R₂-R₄ is DY₃ or A-DY₃ or A-B-DY₃ or hydrogen;
 wherein A is O or S and B is DY₂ or O or S,
 each D is independently C or Si,
 each Y is independently hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,
 with the provisos that (i) at least one of A or B must be DY₂ in A-B-DY₃ and (ii) when D in DY₂ is Si, Y is hydrogen, chlorine, or fluorine.

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2. The MOF of claim 1, wherein the major peaks in the X-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) spectrum of said MOF do not significantly shift when the MOF is exposed to water vapor for greater than about 1 hour, wherein the XPD of the MOF before and after exposure to water vapor is substantially unchanged.

3. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal is one or more metals selected from the group consisting of magnesium, cadmium, beryllium, copper, terbium, gadolinium, iron, nickel, cobalt, silver and zinc.

4. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal oxide is one or more metal oxides selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, cadmium oxide, beryllium oxide, copper oxide, terbium oxide, gadolinium oxide, iron oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, silver oxide and zinc oxide.

5. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal is zinc and wherein R_1 is a methyl, ethyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, or trifluoromethoxy group and at least one of R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is hydrogen.

6. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal is zinc and wherein at least one of R_1 and R_3 is a methyl, ethyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, or trifluoromethoxy group and at least one of R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen.

7. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal is copper and wherein at least one of R_1 and R_3 is a ethyl or methyl group and at least one of R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen.

8. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal is copper and wherein at least one of R_1 and R_3 is a methoxy group and at least one of R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen.

9. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said metal is cadmium and wherein at least one of R_1 and R_3 is a methoxy group and at least one of R_2 and R_4 is hydrogen.

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10. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said crystalline structure is a non-linear structure.

11. The MOF of claim 10, wherein the non-linear structure is selected from the group consisting of cubic, spherical, oval, elliptical, fan-shaped, plate-shaped, rectangular, hexagonal, needle, rod, and irregularly shaped.

12. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said MOF is non-isorecticular.

13. The MOF of claim 1, wherein at least one of R_1 and R_2 , and at least one of R_3 and R_4 are non-polar functional groups.

14. The MOF of claim 1, wherein said crystalline structure has a plurality of micropores.

15. The MOF of claim 14, wherein the pores have a size in a range of about 1 nm to about 3 nm.

16. The MOF of claim 1, wherein the MOF contains a plurality of macropores.

17. The MOF of claim 1, wherein the MOF includes a plurality of particles having a diameter less than about 40 nm.

18. A collection system comprising a sorbent for an analyte, wherein the sorbent is the MOF of claim 1.

19. The MOF of claim 18, wherein the collection system comprises one of a preconcentrator, micropreconcentrator, personal respirator, and dosimeter.

20. The MOF of claim 19, wherein one of the preconcentrator or micropreconcentrator is a purge and trap system, microelectromechanical (MEMS) valve system, array of microstructures, dosimeter, disc, pellet, or swab.

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