Investigation of the Zinc Chloride / Methyl(2-pyridyl)ketone Oxime Reaction System: A Mononuclear Complex and an Inverse 12-Metallacrown-4 Cluster

Constantina Papatriantafyllopoulou\textsuperscript{a}, Catherine P. Raptopoulou\textsuperscript{b}, Aris Terzis\textsuperscript{b}, Evy Manessi-Zoupa\textsuperscript{a}, and Spyros P. Perlepes\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a} Department of Chemistry, University of Patras, 265 04 Patras, Greece
\textsuperscript{b} Institute of Materials Science, NCSR “Demokritos”, 153 10 Aghia Paraskevi Attikis, Greece

Reprint requests to Prof. S. P. Perlepes or to Assoc. Prof. E. Manessi-Zoupa.
E-mail: perlepes@patreas.upatras.gr or emane@upatras.gr

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This paper is dedicated to the memory of Dimitris Katakis, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in the Chemistry Department of the University of Athens

The reactions of methyl(2-pyridyl)ketone oxime, (py)C(Me)NOH, with zinc chloride have been investigated. An excess of the ligand in EtOH/MeCN affords the mononuclear complex $\text{[ZnCl}_2\{\text{(py)C(Me)NOH}\}_2]$ (1) in moderate yield. The metal ion is coordinated by two chloro ligands and two $N,N'$-chelating (py)C(Me)NOH molecules. The six-coordinate molecule is the cis-cis-trans isomer considering the positions of the coordinated chlorine, pyridyl and oxime nitrogen atoms, respectively. The reaction between equimolar quantities of ZnCl\textsubscript{2}, (py)C(Me)NOH and LiOH $\cdot$ H\textsubscript{2}O in EtOH/MeCN leads to the tetranuclear cluster $\text{[Zn}_4\text{(OH)}_2\text{Cl}_2\{\text{(py)C(Me)NO}\}_4}$ (2) in high yield. The molecule lies on a crystallographic inversion center and has an inverse 12-metallacrown-4 topology. Two triply bridging hydroxides are accommodated within the metallacrown ring. Each (py)C(Me)NO$^-$ ligand adopts the 2.111 coordination mode (Harris notation), chelating one Zn\textsuperscript{II} ion and bridging a Zn\textsuperscript{II}$_2$ pair. Two metal ions are in a distorted O$_2$N$_4$ octahedral environment, whereas the other two are in a severely distorted tetrahedral O$_3$Cl environment. Complex 2 joins a small family of structurally characterized zinc(II) metallacrown complexes. The IR data are discussed in terms of the nature of bonding and the structures of the two complexes.

Key words: Crystal Structures, Infrared Spectra, Inverse 12-Metallacrown Complexes, Methyl(2-pyridyl)ketone Oxime Complexes, Zinc(II) Chloro Complexes