

# Sulfur-Bridged Incomplete Cubane-Type Iminodiacetato Molybdenum Clusters: Geometrical Isomers and Their Isomerization

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Reaction of the incomplete cubane-type aqua clusters  $[\text{Mo}_3(\mu_3\text{-S})(\mu\text{-S})_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{4+}$  (**A**) with  $\text{H}_2\text{ida}$  (=iminodiacetic acid) followed by ion exchange separation gave four geometrical isomers of  $[\text{Mo}_3(\mu_3\text{-S})(\mu\text{-S})_3(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  (hereafter  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ ; **A1**, **A2**, **A3**, and **A4** based on the elution sequence), which were isolated as solid samples:  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A1'**),  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A2'**),  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A3'**), and  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A4'**), respectively. The X-ray structural analyses of **A2'** and **A4'** revealed that the three nitrogen atoms of three ida ligands in each isomer have the configuration of “*trans, trans, cis*” and “*cis, cis, cis*” to  $\mu_3\text{-S}$ 's, respectively. The X-ray structure of **A1'** has already been determined to have “*trans, trans, trans*” configuration, therefore, that of **A3'** is estimated to have “*trans, cis, cis*” configuration. HPLC analysis reveals that each isomer isomerizes, *cis*–*trans* conversion of the ida ligand occurring one by one, and that in equilibrium the anions **A1** (18%), **A2** (68%), and **A3** (14%) exist and **A4** does not exist. The advent of **A4** is possible only in the course of preparation from **A** and  $\text{H}_2\text{ida}$ .

We have previously reported the preparation and structures of sulfur/oxygen-bridged incomplete cubane-type iminodiacetato molybdenum clusters  $[\text{Mo}_3(\mu_3\text{-S})(\mu\text{-S})_3(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  (hereafter  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{ida}$  = iminodiacetic acid)<sup>1</sup> and  $[\text{Mo}_3(\mu_3\text{-S})(\mu\text{-O})(\mu\text{-S})_2(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  (hereafter  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{OS}_3(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ ),<sup>2</sup> whose schematic structures are shown in Fig. 1. It is interesting that in  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  all the three nitrogen atoms are *trans* to  $\mu_3\text{-S}$ , while in  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{OS}_3(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  one of three nitrogen atoms is *cis* to  $\mu_3\text{-S}$ .

Detailed examination of the synthetic procedures made clear that the cluster  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  had four kinds of isomers, each of which isomerizes to other isomers. Although many geometrical isomers of mononuclear complexes with tridentate ligand(s), such as ida, dien (diethylenetriamine), and edma (ethylenediamine-*N*-acetate), have been reported,<sup>3</sup> examples of isomeric complexes with incomplete cubane-type cores are rather limited,<sup>4</sup> and no reports, to our knowledge, have appeared on the isomers of incomplete cubane-type metal clusters with ida ligands.

## Experimental

**Materials.** The aqua cluster  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{H}_2\text{O})_9]^{4+}$  (**A**) was obtained according to the published procedures.<sup>5</sup>

**Preparation and Isolation of Geometrical Isomers of Sulfur-Bridged  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  Clusters.** Iminodiacetic acid (23.0 g,  $\text{H}_2\text{ida}/\text{A} \approx 30$ ) dissolved in a minimum amount of concentrated KOH was added dropwise to a solution of the aqua cluster **A** (0.115 M per trimer, 50 cm<sup>3</sup>; M = mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) in 2 M HCl, and the pH was adjusted to 7.0 with concentrated KOH, then the mixture was allowed to stand overnight and was filtered. The solution was diluted to ca. ten times its original volume with water, and was

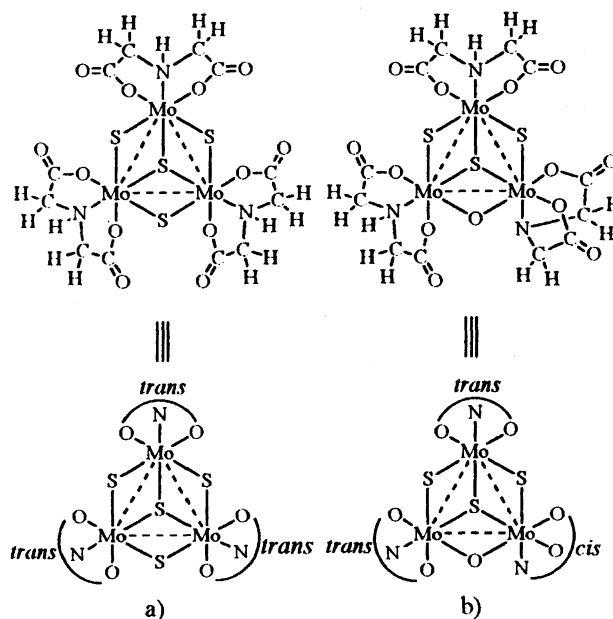


Fig. 1. Schematic structures of sulfur/oxygen-bridged incomplete cubane-type iminodiacetato molybdenum clusters  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  and  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{OS}_3(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ .

adsorbed on a Dowex 1-X2 anion exchanger (diameter 2.3 cm, length 56.5 cm), which was washed with 0.05 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ . Elution with 0.3 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  (1st band, **A1**), 0.5 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  (2nd band, **A2**), 1.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  (3rd band, **A3**), and 2.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  (4th band, **A4**) gave four green bands, respectively.

**Isolation of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A1'**) from 1st Band **A1**.** The solution **A1** from the 1st band (1.51 mM in 0.3 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 240

$\text{cm}^3$ ) was diluted to 5 times its original volume with water and was adsorbed on a short Dowex 1-X2 column (diameter 1.7 cm, length 6 cm). Elution with 1.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  gave a green solution, which was stored in a refrigerator for a couple of days. Green crystals which deposited were collected by filtration and air-dried. Yield: 0.13 g (33% based on the amount used of the 1st band). Anal. Found: C, 13.48; H, 3.68; N, 3.87%. Calcd for  $\text{Mo}_3\text{CaS}_4\text{O}_{24}\text{N}_3\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{39}$ : C, 13.53; H, 3.69; N, 3.94%.

**Isolation of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A2}'$ ) from 2nd Band A2.** A similar procedure for the preparation of  $\text{A1}'$  was applied to the solution from the 2nd band (10.4 mM in 0.5 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 200  $\text{cm}^3$ ), 2.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  being used as an eluent. Yield: 0.96 g (38%). Anal. Found: C, 11.75; H, 4.12; N, 3.44%. Calcd for  $\text{Mo}_3\text{CaS}_4\text{O}_{33}\text{N}_3\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{57}$ : C, 11.74; H, 4.68; N, 3.42%.

**Isolation of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A3}'$ ) from 3rd Band A3.** A similar procedure for the preparation of  $\text{A1}'$  was applied to the solution from the 3rd band (2.10 mM in 1.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 300  $\text{cm}^3$ ), 5.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  being used as an eluent. Yield: 0.27 g (41%). Anal. Found: C, 13.98; H, 3.12; N, 4.10%. Calcd for  $\text{Mo}_3\text{CaS}_4\text{O}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{35}$ : C, 14.00; H, 3.43; N, 4.08%.

**Isolation of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A4}'$ ) from 4th Band A4.** A similar procedure for the preparation of  $\text{A1}'$  was applied to the solution from the 4th band (6.3 mM in 2.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 75  $\text{cm}^3$ ), 5.0 M  $\text{CaCl}_2$  being used as an eluent. Yield: 0.055 g (11%). Anal. Found: C, 12.77; H, 3.87; N, 3.82%. Calcd for  $\text{Mo}_3\text{CaS}_4\text{O}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{43}$ : C, 13.08; H, 3.93; N, 3.81%.

**Structural Determination of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A2}'$ ) and  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A4}'$ ).** A green crystal of  $\text{A2}'$  and a green crystal of  $\text{A4}'$  were mounted in glass capillaries, respectively. Crystal data and collection and refinement parameters are summarized in Table 1. No appreciable decay was observed for either crystal. An empirical absorption correction based on azimuthal scans of several reflections was applied for both the crys-

tals. The structures of  $\text{A2}'$  and  $\text{A4}'$  were solved by SHELXS-86 (direct method),<sup>6</sup> and SIR-92 (direct method),<sup>7</sup> respectively, and the remaining non-hydrogen atoms were located from difference maps. All the other calculations were performed using the teXsan crystallographic software package.<sup>8</sup> The calcium ion in  $\text{A2}'$  is disordered, and is separated into two parts, occupancy factors for the two calcium ions being fixed to 0.6 and 0.4. In addition, some of the water molecules of crystallization in  $\text{A2}'$  are disordered heavily, and were not refined, the isotropic thermal parameters being fixed to  $B = 25 \text{ \AA}^2$ . The number of the water molecules was deduced from the elemental analyses of C, H, and N, and density measurements.

The atomic coordinates, thermal parameters, bond distances and angles, and  $F_o - F_c$  tables are deposited as Document No. 72037 at the Office of the Editor of the Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn. Crystallographic data have been deposited at the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK and copies can be obtained on request, free of charge, by quoting the publication citation and the deposition numbers 133094–133095.

**Apparatus.** UV, visible, and near-infrared spectra were recorded on a Hitachi U2000 spectrophotometer. Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen were determined with a Perkin–Elmer 2400II CHN analyzer. The chromatographic system consisted of a JASCO 880-PU HPLC pump and a JASCO 875-UV/vis detector. Chromatograms were recorded on a JASCO 807-IT integrator. The anion-exchange column used in this study was a YMC-Pack IES-AX (length 25 cm  $\times$  diameter 4.6 mm) from YMC Co., Ltd. (Kyoto, Japan). The isomers were detected at 380 nm, and the column temperature was 20 °C. The eluent was a 0.8 M NaCl or 0.5 M  $\text{BaCl}_2$ , and the flow-rate was 1.0  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ min}^{-1}$ .

## Results and Discussion

### Preparation and Characterization of Geometrical Isomers of Sulfur-Bridged Clusters $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ :

Table 1. Crystallographic Data and Refinement Details for  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A2}'$ ) and  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{A4}'$ )

Complex	$\text{A2}'$	$\text{A4}'$
Chemical formula	$\text{Mo}_3\text{CaS}_4\text{O}_{33}\text{N}_3\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{57}$	$\text{Mo}_3\text{CaS}_4\text{O}_{26}\text{N}_3\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{43}$
Formula weight	1227.72	1101.62
Crystal size/mm	$0.21 \times 0.06 \times 0.05$	$0.45 \times 0.05 \times 0.05$
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$ (No. 14)	$P2_1/c$ (No. 14)
$a/\text{\AA}$	10.823(1)	13.528(5)
$b/\text{\AA}$	23.336(1)	22.72(1)
$c/\text{\AA}$	16.904(1)	13.133(3)
$\beta/\text{deg}$	107.59(1)	116.33(2)
$V/\text{\AA}^3$	4069.6(4)	3617(2)
$Z$	4	4
$D_{\text{calc}}/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	2.004	2.022
$D_{\text{obs}}/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	2.00	1.98
$\mu/\text{cm}^{-1}$	114.50	14.88
$2\theta_{\text{max}}/\text{deg}$	140	50
Radiation, $\lambda/\text{\AA}$	$\text{Cu K}\alpha$ , 1.54178 <sup>a)</sup>	$\text{Mo K}\alpha$ , 0.71069 <sup>a)</sup>
No. of reflns measured	7823	6869
No. of reflns unique	7413	6578
No. of reflns observed	3834 ( $I > 1.5\sigma(I)$ )	4303 ( $I > 1.5\sigma(I)$ )
No. of Variables	425	443
$R^{\text{b)}}$	0.081	0.039
$R_w^{\text{c)}}$	0.121	0.049

a) Graphite monochromated. b)  $R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ . c)  $R_w = [\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \sum wF_o^2]^{1/2}$ ;  $w = 1/\sigma^2(F_o) = [\sigma_c^2(F_o) + p^2/4(F_o)^2]^{-1}$ .

$\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A1'**),  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A2'**),  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A3'**),  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A4'**). Four kinds of the isomers were obtained by column chromatography from the reaction products of the aqua cluster **A** and  $\text{H}_2\text{ida}$ . The typical yields were 6% (**A1**), 35% (**A2**), 34% (**A3**), and 6% (**A4**) in solution based on the aqua cluster **A**, respectively. The respective yield is changeable, but the total yield of the four species remains rather constant (see the section of Equilibration of the Geometrical Isomers of Sulfur-Bridged Clusters  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ ). From each solution, a solid sample was isolated successfully.<sup>9</sup> Electronic spectra of the four isomers are shown in Fig. 2. The peak positions and  $\epsilon$  values are summarized in Table 2. Corresponding peak positions are similar to each other.

**X-Ray Structures of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A2'**) and  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A4'**).** X-Ray structures of the two geometrical isomers **A2'** and **A4'** were determined, and the structures of the anions in them are shown in Figs. 3 and 4 respectively. Although the crystals of **A2'** suffered heavy disorder in some of water molecules of crystallization, the configuration of the cluster anion has no ambiguity. It is clear that the configuration of the three nitrogen atoms of ida ligands in **A2'** is "trans, trans, cis" to the  $\mu_3$ -S atom of the  $\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4$  core, and that the configuration of **A4'** is "cis, cis, cis" to the  $\mu_3$ -S atom. Since the configuration of **A1'** has been determined to be "trans, trans, trans", it is supposed that the configuration of **A3'** is "trans, cis, cis" as is shown in Fig. 6.<sup>10</sup> It is interesting that the sequence of elution from the ion

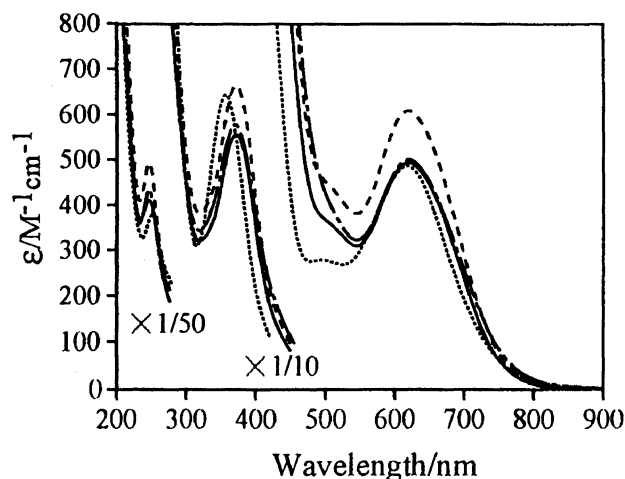


Fig. 2. Electronic spectra of the four isomers of  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  in water. **A1** —, **A2** ----, **A3** - · - ·, **A4** ·····.

Table 2. Electronic Spectral Data for  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  Isomers in Water

Compound	$\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$	$(\epsilon/\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1})^{\text{a}}$
<b>A1</b>	246 (21700), 380 (5330), 622 (494)	
<b>A2</b>	247 (24686), 372 (6644), 619 (608)	
<b>A3</b>	247 (20544), 371 (5784), 620 (501)	
<b>A4</b>	251 (18930), 357 (6445), 494 (279), 619 (486)	

a)  $\epsilon$  per trimer.

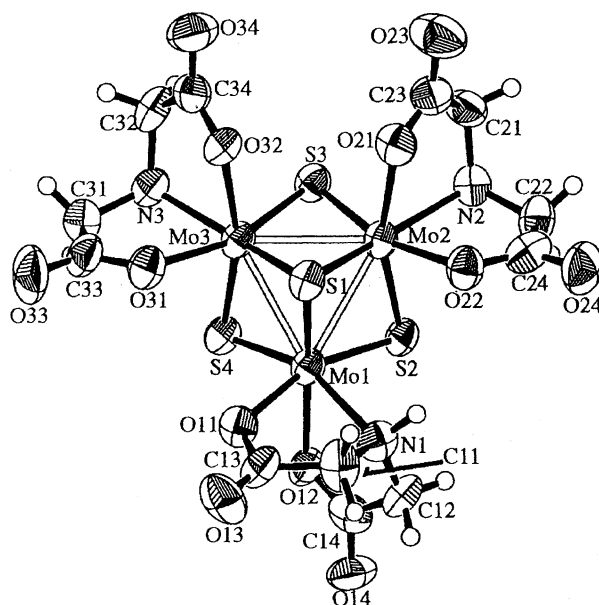


Fig. 3. ORTEP drawing of the anion of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A2'**).

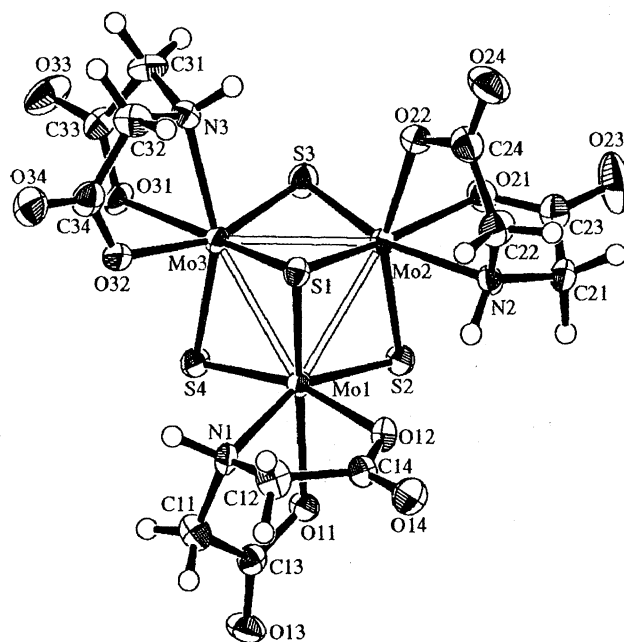


Fig. 4. ORTEP drawing of the anion of  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]\cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A4'**).

exchange resin is related to the configuration of the clusters: The more the number of *trans* configuration(s) of the ida ligands, the faster the elution from the anion exchange resin. Interatomic distances and angles are collected in Table 3 for **A2'** and in Table 4 for **A4'**. No large difference was observed among the dimensions of **A1'**, **A2'**, and **A4'**.

**Equilibration of the Geometrical Isomers of Sulfur-Bridged Clusters  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ .** Isomerization of each of the four isomers **A1'**, **A2'**, **A3'**, and **A4'** was detected. Accordingly, each of the solid samples was dissolved in water and the isomerization of each isomer was followed at 40 °C by the use of HPLC analysis. The changes of isomer ratio

Table 3. Selected Bond distances (Å) and Angles (°) for  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3] \cdot 21\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A2'**)

Bond distances		Bond distances	
Mo1–Mo2	2.767(2)	Mo1–Mo3	2.739(2)
Mo2–Mo3	2.731(2)	Mo1–S1	2.348(5)
Mo2–S1	2.345(5)	Mo3–S1	2.353(5)
Mo1–S2	2.286(4)	Mo1–S4	2.276(5)
Mo2–S2	2.289(5)	Mo2–S3	2.280(5)
Mo3–S3	2.287(5)	Mo3–S4	2.294(5)
Mo1–O11	2.10(1)	Mo1–O12	2.16(1)
Mo2–O21	2.13(1)	Mo2–O22	2.15(1)
Mo3–O31	2.17(1)	Mo3–O32	2.10(1)
Mo1–N1	2.25(2)	Mo2–N2	2.26(2)
Mo3–N3	2.23(2)		
Bond angles		Bond angles	
Mo2–Mo1–Mo3	59.47(5)	Mo1–Mo2–Mo3	59.74(5)
Mo1–Mo3–Mo2	60.79(5)	S2–Mo1–S4	98.0(2)
S2–Mo2–S3	95.7(2)	S3–Mo3–S4	93.8(2)
S1–Mo1–S2	104.6(2)	S1–Mo1–S4	106.6(2)
S1–Mo2–S2	104.6(2)	S1–Mo2–S3	107.2(2)
S1–Mo3–S3	106.7(2)	S1–Mo3–S4	105.9(2)
Mo1–S1–Mo2	72.3(1)	Mo2–S1–Mo3	71.1(1)
Mo1–S1–Mo3	71.3(1)	Mo1–S2–Mo2	74.4(1)
Mo2–S3–Mo3	73.4(1)	Mo1–S4–Mo3	73.6(1)
S1–Mo1–N1	91.8(5)	S1–Mo2–N2	159.3(4)
S1–Mo3–N3	158.6(4)		

Table 4. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (°) for  $\text{Ca}[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3] \cdot 14\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**A4'**)

Bond distances		Bond distances	
Mo1–Mo2	2.732(1)	Mo1–Mo3	2.768(1)
Mo2–Mo3	2.772(1)	Mo1–S1	2.347(2)
Mo2–S1	2.348(2)	Mo3–S1	2.357(2)
Mo1–S2	2.285(2)	Mo1–S4	2.281(2)
Mo2–S2	2.276(2)	Mo2–S3	2.292(2)
Mo3–S3	2.287(2)	Mo3–S4	2.290(2)
Mo1–O11	2.153(5)	Mo1–O12	2.145(5)
Mo2–O21	2.139(5)	Mo2–O22	2.114(5)
Mo3–O31	2.171(4)	Mo3–O32	2.137(5)
Mo1–N1	2.272(6)	Mo2–N2	2.280(5)
Mo3–N3	2.268(6)		
Bond angles		Bond angles	
Mo2–Mo1–Mo3	60.54(3)	Mo1–Mo2–Mo3	60.37(2)
Mo1–Mo3–Mo2	59.09(3)	S2–Mo1–S4	97.14(7)
S2–Mo2–S3	95.97(7)	S3–Mo3–S4	100.18(8)
S1–Mo1–S2	106.60(7)	S1–Mo1–S4	104.99(6)
S1–Mo2–S2	106.85(7)	S1–Mo2–S3	104.97(7)
S1–Mo3–S3	104.81(7)	S1–Mo3–S4	104.36(7)
Mo1–S1–Mo2	71.16(5)	Mo2–S1–Mo3	72.20(5)
Mo1–S1–Mo3	72.08(5)	Mo1–S2–Mo2	73.57(6)
Mo2–S3–Mo3	74.52(6)	Mo1–S4–Mo3	74.54(6)
S1–Mo1–N1	90.5(2)	S1–Mo2–N2	90.6(1)
S1–Mo3–N3	93.9(1)		

with the passage of time are shown in Figs. 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d, respectively. Figure 5a shows that as **A1** decreases, **A2** starts to appear immediately, and **A3** turns up later. The isomer **A4**

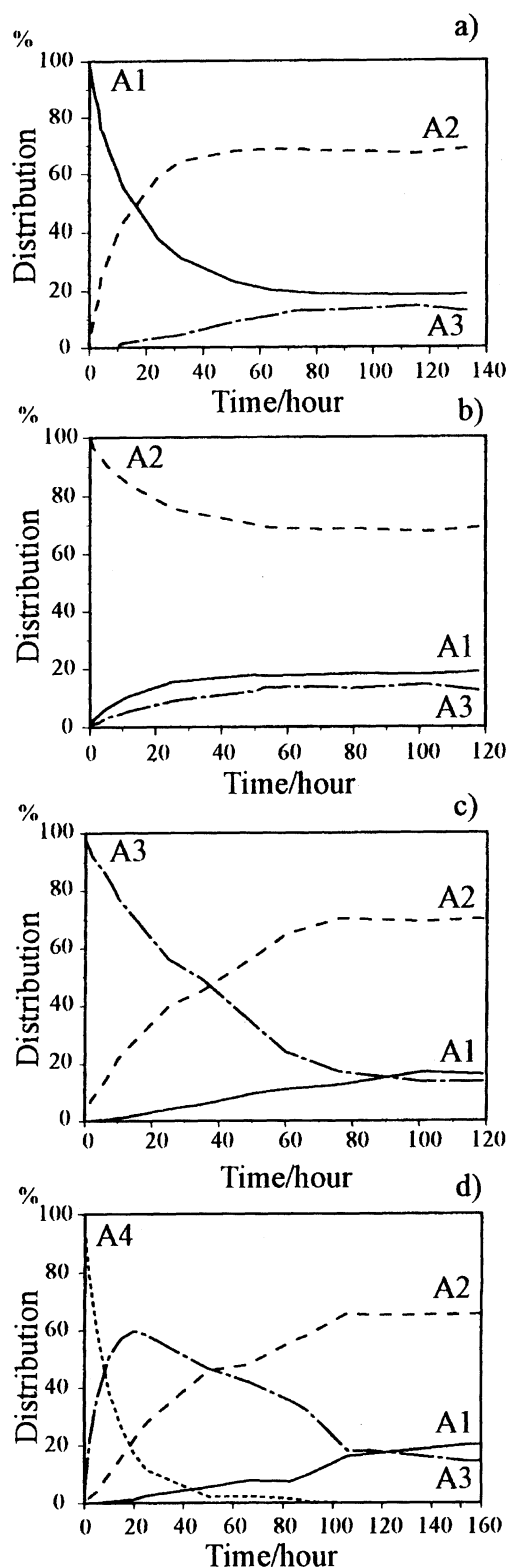


Fig. 5. The changes of isomer ratio of  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$  with the passage of time. a) starting from **A1**, b) starting from **A2**, c) starting from **A3**, d) starting from **A4**.

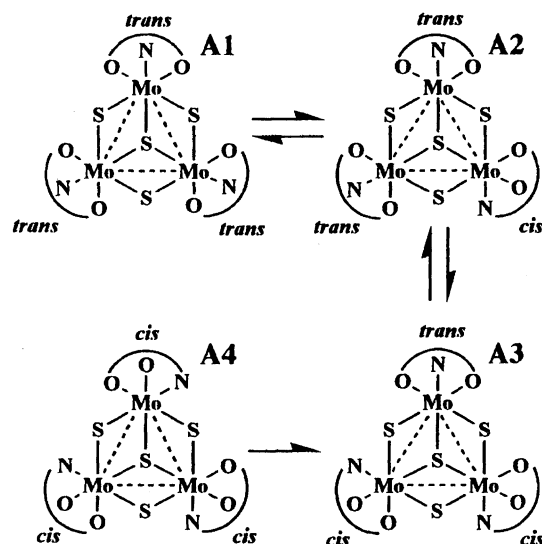


Fig. 6. Four kinds of isomers of  $[\text{Mo}_3\text{S}_4(\text{ida})_3]^{2-}$ : **A1** (*trans, trans, trans*), **A2** (*trans, trans, cis*), **A3** (*trans, cis, cis*), **A4** (*cis, cis, cis*).

is not detected. Figure 5b indicates that as **A2** decreases, both **A1** and **A3** appear at the same time. The isomer **A4** is not detected. Figure 5c displays that as **A3** decreases, **A2** starts to appear immediately, and **A1** turns up later. The isomer **A4** is not detected. Figure 5d shows that as **A4** decreases rapidly, **A3** starts to appear immediately, and **A2** turns up later. Finally **A1** starts to be detected. All the Figs. 5a–d indicate that in equilibrium **A1** (18%), **A2** (68%), and **A3** (14%) exist, and **A4** does not exist. As is indicated in Fig. 6, *cis*–*trans* conversion of ida ligand occurs one by one.

The isomer **A4** does not exist in equilibrium and the advent of **A4** is possible only in the course of preparation from **A** and  $\text{H}_2\text{ida}$ . This is the reason why “the respective yield is changeable, but the total yield of the four species remains rather constant” (see preparation and characterization).

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