

A Diiminoplatinum(II) Complex of 4-Ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5 as a Luminescent Sensor for Divalent Metal Ions

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The binding of a diiminoplatinum(II) complex of 4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5 to divalent metal ions such as Mg^{2+} or Zn^{2+} is accompanied by substantial enhancement of emission intensity (1035- and 870-fold increase, respectively, with 40 equivalents of metal salt) at $\lambda_{\text{max}} \approx 555 \text{ nm}$; H^+ , Cd^{2+} and

alkali-metal ions cause minor enhancement of the photoluminescence (≤ 10 -fold) under similar conditions.

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Introduction

The design of new luminescent sensors for metal ions has continued to attract considerable interest.^[1,2] An efficient luminescent probe should exhibit a substantial “switch-on” effect upon binding to metal ions. Using emission as a signalling reporter, luminescent metal complexes are of interest due to their long emission lifetimes, tunable emission energies in the visible region and large Stokes shifts between absorption and emission spectra.^[3] In our design of luminescent sensors for metal ions, we were attracted to the following: (1) encapsulation of divalent metal ions such as Zn^{2+} by $[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{SiMe}_3)_2\text{Ti}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CR})_2]$ [$\text{R} = \text{SiMe}_3$ or $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4)\text{FeCp}$] via side-on coordination of alkynyl ligands has been reported;^[4] (2) crown ethers are known to complex metal ions;^[5] (3) neutral organoplatinum(II) complexes are known to form dative bonds with divalent metal ions;^[6] and (4) square-planar cyclometalated^[7] and aromatic^[8,9] diiminoplatinum(II) complexes possess rich photoluminescent properties that are sensitive to the microenvironment. Herein we describe the synthesis of $[\text{Pt}(\text{4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5})_2(\text{tBu}_2\text{bpy})]$ (**1**) ($\text{tBu}_2\text{bpy} = 4,4'$ -di-*tert*-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine) and $[\text{Pt}(\text{4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5})(\text{C}^{\wedge}\text{N}^{\wedge}\text{N})]$ (**2**) ($\text{HC}^{\wedge}\text{N}^{\wedge}\text{N} = 6$ -phenyl-2,2'-bipyridine), and their luminescence responses towards metal ions. A dramatic photoluminescence switch-on effect has been observed for **1** in the presence of $\text{Zn}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ and $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ and the binding of Mg^{2+} to **1** found to be selective in the presence of alkali or alkaline earth metal ions.

Results and Discussion

Treatment of $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{tBu}_2\text{bpy})]$ ^[10] with two molar equivalents of 4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5 (**L**)^[11] in the presence of copper(I) iodide and diisopropylamine afforded **1**. The molecular structure of **1** (Figure 1) shows that the Pt^{II} core is *cis*-coordinated by two 4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5 moieties and the tBu_2bpy ligand. The cyclometalated counterpart **2** was similarly synthesised by reacting equimolar amounts of $[\text{PtCl}(\text{C}^{\wedge}\text{N}^{\wedge}\text{N})]$ ^[12] and **L** (Figure 2).

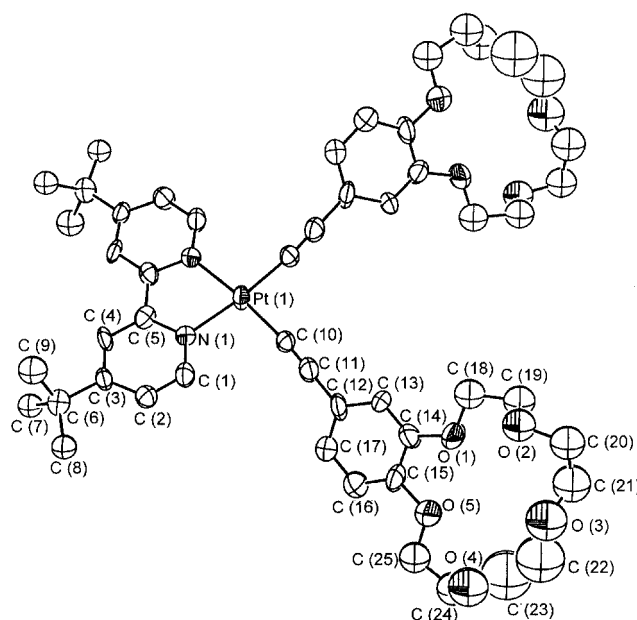


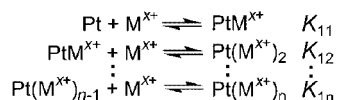
Figure 1. Perspective view of **1** (30% probability ellipsoids); selected bond lengths (Å) and angles ($^\circ$): $\text{Pt}(1)\text{--C}(10)$ 1.98(1), $\text{Pt}(1)\text{--N}(1)$ 2.062(8), $\text{C}(10)\text{--C}(11)$ 1.12(1); $\text{C}(10)\text{--Pt}(1)\text{--C}(10)$ 90.0(6), $\text{N}(1)\text{--Pt}(1)\text{--N}(1)$ 78.3(5), $\text{C}(11)\text{--C}(10)\text{--Pt}(1)$ 172(1)

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crown-ether ligand **1**. The $^3\text{MLCT}$ emission of the mono-crown derivative **2**, which appears at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 560 \text{ nm}$, undergoes around a 10-fold increase in intensity, together with a slight red-shift to $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 581 \text{ nm}$ upon addition of 100 equivalents of $\text{Zn}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$. This signifies that, as observed in the absorption studies, the two crown ether moieties in **1** are essential for the dramatic ion-induced luminescence enhancement.

In order to elucidate the ion-binding nature of **1**, we have attempted to fit the emission data to stepwise equilibrium equations, where M^{x+} ions are consecutively bound by the platinum complex.



The stepwise (K_{11} , K_{12} , K_{13}) and overall (β) binding constants for the complexation of Na^+ , Mg^{2+} and Zn^{2+} ions to **1** were determined under the assumptions stated in the supporting information and compared to the total number of M^{x+} ions bound by **1** (n) and the β value obtained from the Hill equation (Table 1).^[15] In the case of $n = 3$, the discrepancy of β values between the nonlinear least-squares fits and Hill plots for these ions suggests unreasonable data fitting, and that this can be disregarded in the analysis. The similarity in β values determined by stepwise equilibrium binding reactions and Hill plots for the case of $n = 2$ imply that two M^{x+} ions are bound per molecule of **1**. For Na^+ , the values of K_{11} and K_{12} are similar, whereas for Zn^{2+} and Mg^{2+} , the K_{12} values are around 20 and 54 times larger, respectively, than the corresponding K_{11} values. The electrospray mass spectra of **1** in the presence of 20 equivalents of $\text{M}(\text{ClO}_4)_x$ ($\text{M}^{x+} = \text{Mg}^{2+}$, Na^+) in acetonitrile reveal peaks attributable to $[\mathbf{1} + n\text{M}^{x+}]$ species ($n = 1$ and 2). For Mg^{2+} , the intensity ratio of peaks for $[\mathbf{1} + \text{M}^{x+}]$: $[\mathbf{1} + 2\text{M}^{x+}]$ is about 2:1, whereas that for Na^+ is about 1:3.

Table 1. Stepwise and overall equilibrium constants of **1** with Na^+ , Mg^{2+} , Zn^{2+}

Ions	Nonlinear least-squares fits ($n = 2$)			Hill equation	
	K_{11}	K_{12}	$\beta^{[a]}$	n	β
Na^+	7.27×10^3	1.08×10^4	7.9×10^7	1.7	6.5×10^6
Mg^{2+}	3.11×10^3	1.69×10^5	5.3×10^8	2.2	3.7×10^9
Zn^{2+}	2.11×10^3	4.41×10^4	9.3×10^7	2.0	5.5×10^7

^[a] β is the overall equilibrium constant = $\Pi^n K_{1n}$

We suggest that the electrophilic M^{2+} ion functions as a Lewis acid that can be bound by the crown ether moieties. This type of interaction induces substantial perturbation upon the luminescence but is prone to competitive interaction of M^{2+} with counteranions. The switching on of substantial emission intensity in **1** with added M^{2+} may be rationalised by the destabilisation of the $^3\text{MLCT}$ excited state, leading to an increase in ^3IL character for the excited

state. Binding of the first M^{2+} ion by **1** may widen the $\text{cis-}[\text{Pt}(\text{C}\equiv\text{CR})_2]$ angle, which could facilitate subsequent chelation of the second M^{2+} ion by the crown ether and/or bis-alkynyl moieties. This is consistent with the increase of the K_{12} binding constant relative to K_{11} .

Experimental Section

General Remarks: Acetonitrile for photophysical measurements was distilled over potassium permanganate and calcium hydride. All other solvents were of analytical grade and purified according to conventional methods.^[16] 4,4'-Di-*tert*-butyl-2,2'-bipyridine,^[17] $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{tBu}_2\text{bpy})]$,^[10] 4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5,^[11] 6-phenyl-2,2'-bipyridine,^[18] and $[\text{PtCl}(\text{C}\wedge\text{N}\wedge\text{N})]$ ^[12] were prepared by published methods. Fast atom bombardment (FAB) and electrospray mass spectra were obtained on a Finnigan MAT 95 (3-nitrobenzyl alcohol matrix) and LCQ quadrupole ion trap mass spectrometers, respectively. ^1H (500 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on DPX 500 Bruker FT NMR spectrometers; chemical shift (in ppm) are quoted relative to tetramethylsilane. Elemental analysis was performed by the Institute of Chemistry at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. IR spectra were recorded on a BIO RAD FT-IR spectrophotometer. UV/Vis spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer Lambda 19 UV/Vis spectrophotometer.

Steady-state emission spectra were recorded on a SPEX 1681 Fluorolog-2 series F111AI spectrophotometer. The emission spectra were corrected for monochromator and photomultiplier efficiency and for xenon lamp stability.

Solutions for titration experiments were prepared by mixing 5 mL of **1** ($6.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$) in a 0.1 M $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ acetonitrile solution with the required molar equivalents of M^{x+} in the same supporting electrolyte and made up to a total of 10 mL with a 0.1 M $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ acetonitrile solution. All the sample solutions were degassed with at least four freeze-pump-thaw cycles. The emission quantum yield was measured by the method of Demas and Crosby.^[19] Errors for λ values ($\pm 1 \text{ nm}$) and ϕ ($\pm 10\%$) are estimated.

[Pt(4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5) $_2$ (tBu $_2$ bpy)] (1**):** Reaction of $[\text{PtCl}_2(\text{tBu}_2\text{bpy})]$ and two equivalents of 4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5 (**L**) in the presence of copper(I) iodide and diisopropylamine afforded **1** (85%). ^1H NMR (CD_3CN): $\delta = 1.45$ (s, 18 H, *t*Bu), 3.61–3.67 (m, 16 H, CH_2), 3.78–3.81 (m, 8 H, CH_2), 4.05–4.12 (m, 8 H, CH_2), 6.82–6.98 (m, 6 H, C_6H_3), 7.75 (dd, $J = 6.0$, $J = 2.0 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H), 8.30 (d, $J = 1.7 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H), 9.54 (d, $J = 6.0 \text{ Hz}$, 2 H) ppm. MS (FAB, +ve): m/z (%) = 1047 (15) [$\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$], 1069 (60) [$\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$], 1085 (8) [$\text{M}^+ + \text{K}$]. IR (KBr disc): $\tilde{\nu} = 2101 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ($\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$). $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{62}\text{N}_{2}\text{O}_{10}\text{Pt}$ (1046.14): calcd. C 57.41, H 5.97, N 2.68; found C 57.59, H 5.82, N 2.92.

[Pt(C \wedge N \wedge N)(4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5)] (2**):** The procedure for the synthesis of **1** was adopted using equimolar amounts of 4-ethynylbenzo-15-crown-5 and $[\text{Pt}(\text{C}\wedge\text{N}\wedge\text{N})\text{Cl}]$ (90%). ^1H NMR ($[\text{D}_6]\text{DMSO}$): $\delta = 3.63$ (s, 8 H, CH_2), 3.79 (d, $J = 1.9 \text{ Hz}$, 4 H, CH_2), 4.04–4.09 (m, 4 H, CH_2), 6.85–6.94 (m, 3 H, C_6H_3), 7.03–7.15 (m, 2 H), 7.62 (d, $J = 7.1 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 7.76 (d, $J = 7.1 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 7.86 (t, $J = 6.3 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 7.98 (d, $J = 7.9 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 8.10 (t, $J = 7.9 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 8.20 (d, $J = 7.8 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 8.33 (t, $J = 7.7 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 8.48 (d, $J = 7.9 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H), 9.06 (d, $J = 4.8 \text{ Hz}$, 1 H) ppm. MS (FAB, +ve): m/z (%) = 718 (4) [$\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$], 740 (20) [$\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$], 757 (2) [$\text{M}^+ + \text{K}$]. IR (KBr disc): $\tilde{\nu} = 2097 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ($\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$).

C₃₂H₃₀N₂O₅Pt (717.69): calcd. C 53.55, H 4.21, N 3.90; found C 53.29, H 3.96, N 4.06.

X-ray Crystallographic Study of 1: C₅₀H₆₂N₂O₁₀Pt, *M* = 1046.11, orthorhombic, space group *Pccn*, *a* = 23.888(5), *b* = 10.653(2), *c* = 18.467(4) Å, *V* = 4699.5(16) Å³, *Z* = 4, *D_c* = 1.479 g cm⁻³, μ(Mo-*K*_α) = 3.045 mm⁻¹, *F*(000) = 2136. A crystal of dimensions 0.4 × 0.2 × 0.1 mm³ mounted in a glass capillary with mother liquor was used for data collection at 20 °C on a MAR diffractometer with a 300 mm image plate detector using graphite-monochromatized Mo-*K*_α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å). Data collection was made with 3° oscillation step of φ, 600 seconds exposure time and a scanner distance of 120 mm; 60 images were collected. The images were interpreted and intensities integrated using the program DENZO.^[20] The structure was solved by direct methods employing the SHELXS-97 program suite^[21] on a PC. Pt and many non-H atoms were located by direct methods. The positions of other non-hydrogen atoms were found after successful refinement by full-matrix least-squares using SHELXL-97^[21] on a PC. The *tert*-butyl group is disordered over two kinds of positions. 2849 independent reflections from a total of 11694 reflections were used in the full-matrix least-squares refinement against *F*². *R*₁ = 0.044 and *wR*₂ = 0.103 with a goodness-of-fit of 0.853 for 1291 observed reflections with *I* ≥ 2σ(*I*). The final difference Fourier map shows maximum residual peaks and holes of 0.457 and -0.642 e·Å⁻³ respectively. CCDC-177975 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge at www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html [or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (internat.) +44-1223/336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

Supporting Information for this article (scheme for synthesis of **1**; emission spectral traces of **1** at increasing equivalents of Zn²⁺, Ca²⁺, Na⁺ and K⁺ ions; table for fluid-state emissions of **1**–**3** in acetonitrile with 100 equivalents of M(ClO₄)_x; analysis of the complexation of ions using nonlinear least-squares fits and Hill plots) is available (see footnote on the first page of this article).

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