

# Two Zinc Architectures: A Mononuclear Complex and a 2D Wave-like Organic-inorganic Hybrid Layer<sup>①</sup>

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**ABSTRACT** Self-assembly of  $\text{Zn}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 2,3,5,6-tetrabromoterephthalic acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{TbTA}$ ) gave rise to two new zinc metal-organic frameworks,  $\text{Zn}(\text{HTbTA})_2(\text{phen})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) and  $\text{Zn}(\text{TbTA})_{1/2}(\mu_2\text{-OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O}) \cdot 0.25\text{EtOH}$  (**2**). Complex **1** is a mononuclear molecule. The hydrogen bonding interactions further connect the mononuclear molecules to generate a 2D supramolecular architecture. Complex **2** is a 2D organic-inorganic hybrid layer framework constructed from 1D rod-shaped secondary building units.

**Keywords:** supramolecular architecture, zinc, metal-organic framework, mixed organic ligands, supramolecular interactions

## 1 INTRODUCTION

A lot of attention has been received in supramolecular chemistry and crystal engineering of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) due to their potential power in the design and synthesis of functional materials with interesting structures, applications and desired topologies<sup>[1-3]</sup>. To explore these subjects in depth, the dexterous design and selection of organic ligand with desirable connectivity as well as the metal ions with appropriate coordination modes are crucial tasks<sup>[4, 5]</sup>. Among the numerous ligands, dicarboxylic acid ligands such as 1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid and terephthalic acid keeping versatile organic coordination modes have been widely employed in the construction of novel metal-organic frameworks with one-, two-, and three-dimensional frameworks<sup>[5-8]</sup>. To get new MOFs with various structural types, much attention has been focused on selecting or synthesizing new ligands to construct porous MOFs which possess potential applications

involving catalysis, separation and gas storage<sup>[9]</sup>. However, introducing uncoordinated functional groups bearing regulatory effects on the benzene rings has aroused less attention at this stage. Recently, we have applied 5-amino-2,4,6-triiodoisophthalic acid, a derivative of *m*-phthalic acid, as ligand to construct MOFs in which the iodine atoms act as the steric hindrance and the amino groups as hydrogen-bond donors, and a series of MOFs with interesting structural topologies has been synthesized<sup>[10-12]</sup>. What architecture will be generated if high steric hindrance groups are introduced into the terephthalic acid? Therefore, 2,3,5,6-tetrabromoterephthalic acid was selected in our work and it was found that the sizeable bromine atoms and contraposition of carboxylate groups make the  $\text{H}_2\text{TbTA}$  ligand incline to adopt straight line conformation to form low-dimensional architectures.

Besides, by introducing secondary organic ligands in the carboxylate systems, many metal-organic frameworks constructed from mixed organic ligands

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have been designed and synthesized<sup>[13-16]</sup>. A common example of the mixed organic ligands is rich-carboxylate (aromatic acids or fatty acids) and N-containing (4,4'-bipyridine, 1,10-phenanthroline or their derivatives) ligands. Different from 4,4'-bipyridine and its derivatives, 1,10-phenanthroline and its derivatives have been used as a blocking ligand in the construction of low-dimensional frameworks due to their chelating coordination mode, which can prevent the framework from further extending<sup>[17-20]</sup>. Furthermore, their typical multi-aromatic ring and planar conformation feature them intermolecular interactions such as C-H $\cdots$  $\pi$ ,  $\pi\cdots\pi$  and hydrogen-bonding interactions with other aromatic nucleus<sup>[21-24]</sup>. Some work has noticed the special "knock-on effect" of H<sub>2</sub>TBTA<sup>[25, 26]</sup>. In this paper, we report the syntheses and crystal structures of two zinc MOFs: **1** and **2**, with a 2D supramolecular architecture based on mononuclear molecule through hydrogen bonding interactions, and a 2D wave-like organic-inorganic hybrid layer based on rod-shaped secondary building units. The roles of organic ligand and auxiliary coordinated chelating ligands, as well as the supramolecular interactions in these architectures, have also been discussed.

## 2 EXPERIMENTAL

### 2.1 Synthesis of **1**

A methanol solution (5 mL) of Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.02 g, 0.06 mmol) was layered on 5 mL water solution containing H<sub>2</sub>TBTA (0.01 g, 0.02 mmol) and phen (0.01 g, 0.05 mmol) in a tube. Colorless crystals of **1** suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained at the junction of the layer after a few days (yield: 65%).

### 2.2 Synthesis of **2**

Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.02 g, 0.06 mmol) and H<sub>2</sub>TBTA (0.01 g, 0.02 mmol) were dissolved in 4 mL EtOH and 4 mL H<sub>2</sub>O at room temperature. The mixture in a 23-mL Parr Teflon-lined vessel was heated to 140 °C under autogenous pressure for 96 h, giving brown crystals in 85% yield (based on H<sub>2</sub>TBTA).

### 2.3 Structure determination

Crystallographic data for **1** and **2** were collected on a Bruker Smart APEXII CCD diffractometer equipped with a graphite-monochromatic MoK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) at room temperature. Absorption corrections were applied using the multi-scan program SADABS<sup>[27]</sup>. Both structures were solved by direct methods using the SHELXS program of SHELXTL<sup>[28]</sup> package and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques with SHELXL. The metal atoms in each complex were located from E-maps, and other non-hydrogen atoms were located in successive difference Fourier syntheses and refined with anisotropic thermal parameters on  $F^2$ . The organic hydrogen atoms were generated geometrically (C-H 0.96 Å).

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Crystal structure of complex **1**

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction reveals that complex **1** crystallizes in monoclinic space group *C2*. The asymmetric unit of **1** consists of one zinc ion, one coordinated phen molecule, one HTBTA<sup>-</sup> ligand and one uncoordinated water molecule. As shown in Fig. 1, the central zinc ion is six-coordinated by two oxygen atoms from two coordinated HTBTA<sup>-</sup> ligands, four nitrogen atoms from two phen molecules with the average Zn-O and Zn-N distances of 2.109(7) and 2.156(5) Å, respectively.

The HTBTA<sup>-</sup> ligand is nonplanar due to the steric hindrance between the carboxylate groups and the bromine atoms, with the average dihedral angle between the carboxylate group and the central benzene ring of 118.2(4)°. One of the carboxylate groups of HTBTA<sup>-</sup> is deprotonated and coordinates to one zinc ion in a monodentate mode, while the other three oxygen atoms of HTBTA<sup>-</sup> are naked, which provide the hydrogen bonding donors or acceptors. The two phen ligands are parallel to HTBTA<sup>-</sup>, resulting in moderate intramolecular  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions (3.6070 Å) (Fig. 1) to further stabilize the mononuclear molecule.

Fig. 2 shows strong O–H...O hydrogen bonds (O(1)–HO(1)...O(3), 2.604 Å) between protonated uncoordinated oxygen atoms and deprotonated uncoordinated oxygen atoms in the neighboring carboxylate groups of HTBTA<sup>-</sup>, which connect discrete mononuclear molecules to form a 2D supramolecular architecture. Every mononuclear molecule

attaches to four adjacent molecules through O–H...O hydrogen bonds. Thus, if the hydrogen bonds can be considered as the coordinative bonds and the zinc ion as the single node, the 2D supramolecular architecture of complex 1 is a (4,4) net, as shown in Fig. 3.

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Bond Angles (°)

| Complex 1           |            | Complex 2         |            |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Bond                | Dist.      | Bond              | Dist.      |
| Zn(1)–O(1)#2        | 2.107(4)   | Zn(1)–O(4)        | 1.974(5)   |
| Zn(1)–O(1)          | 2.107(4)   | Zn(1)–O(4)#1      | 1.975(5)   |
| Zn(1)–N(2)          | 2.123(4)   | Zn(1)–O(2)        | 2.036(5)   |
| Zn(1)–N(2)#2        | 2.123(4)   | Zn(1)–O(3)        | 2.069(5)   |
| Zn(1)–N(1)          | 2.191(4)   | Zn(1)–O(1)        | 2.147(5)   |
| Zn(1)–N(1)#2        | 2.191(4)   |                   |            |
| Angle               | (°)        | Angle             | (°)        |
| O(1)#2–Zn(1)–O(1)   | 88.4(2)    | O(4)–Zn(1)–O(4)#1 | 133.20(12) |
| O(1)#2–Zn(1)–N(2)   | 90.54(15)  | O(4)–Zn(1)–O(2)   | 113.8(2)   |
| O(1)–Zn(1)–N(2)     | 97.72(16)  | O(4)#1–Zn(1)–O(2) | 111.3(2)   |
| O(1)#2–Zn(1)–N(2)#2 | 97.72(16)  | O(4)–Zn(1)–O(3)   | 96.7(2)    |
| O(1)–Zn(1)–N(2)#2   | 90.54(15)  | O(4)#1–Zn(1)–O(3) | 91.1(2)    |
| N(2)–Zn(1)–N(2)#2   | 168.5(2)   | O(2)–Zn(1)–O(3)   | 95.1(2)    |
| O(1)#2–Zn(1)–N(1)   | 168.09(15) | O(4)–Zn(1)–O(1)   | 88.0(2)    |
| O(1)–Zn(1)–N(1)     | 94.24(14)  | O(4)#1–Zn(1)–O(1) | 87.1(2)    |
| N(2)–Zn(1)–N(1)     | 77.60(15)  | O(2)–Zn(1)–O(1)   | 81.3(2)    |
| N(2)#2–Zn(1)–N(1)   | 93.87(16)  | O(3)–Zn(1)–O(1)   | 175.0(2)   |
| O(1)#2–Zn(1)–N(1)#2 | 94.24(14)  |                   |            |
| O(1)–Zn(1)–N(1)#2   | 168.09(15) |                   |            |
| N(2)–Zn(1)–N(1)#2   | 93.87(16)  |                   |            |
| N(2)#2–Zn(1)–N(1)#2 | 77.60(15)  |                   |            |
| N(1)–Zn(1)–N(1)#2   | 85.5(2)    |                   |            |

Symmetry operations: #2:  $-x-1, y, -z-1$  for 1; #1:  $-x+1, y+1/2, -z+1/2$  for 2

Table 2. Crystal Data for Complexes 1 and 2

| Complex                  | 1  | 2  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Formula                  | C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>20</sub> Br <sub>8</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>9</sub> Zn | C <sub>45</sub> H <sub>45</sub> Br <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4.25</sub> Zn |
| Formula weight           | 1405.19  | 351.77   |
| Crystal size/mm          | 0.30 × 0.20 × 0.10   | 0.15 × 0.1 × 0.1   |
| Crystal color            | Colorless  | Brown  |
| Crystal system           | Monoclinic   | Orthorhombic   |
| Space group              | C2   | Pbca   |
| <i>a</i> /Å              | 16.155(6)  | 11.149(5)  |
| <i>b</i> /Å              | 10.055(4)  | 6.199(3)   |
| <i>c</i> /Å              | 14.183(6)  | 21.727(10)   |
| <i>a</i> /deg            | 90.00  | 90.00  |
| <i>β</i> /deg            | 113.533(6)   | 90.00  |
| <i>γ</i> /deg            | 90.00  | 90.00  |
| <i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup> | 2112.4(15)   | 1501.6(12)   |
| <i>Z</i>                 | 2  | 8  |

| To be continued                       |                |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| $D_c / \text{g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3}$ | 2.209          | 2.983          |
| $F(000)$                              | 1340.0         | 1259.0         |
| $\mu / \text{mm}^{-1}$                | 8.209          | 13.872         |
| Indpdnt reflcns                       | 4290           | 1814           |
| $GOF$                                 | 0.925          | 0.932          |
| $R, wR (I > 2\sigma(I))$              | 0.0277, 0.0628 | 0.0516, 0.1151 |
| $R, wR (\text{All data})$             | 0.0353, 0.0660 | 0.0763, 0.1243 |

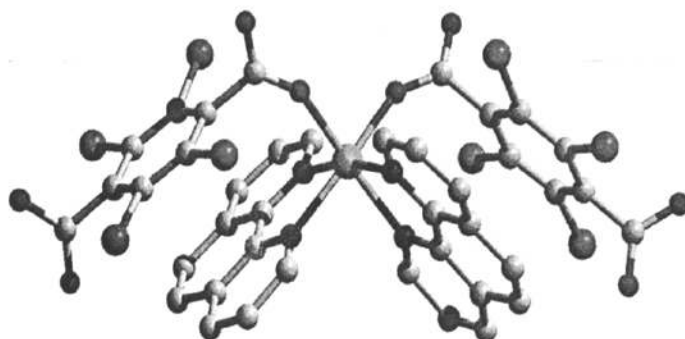


Fig. 1. Molecular structure of 1

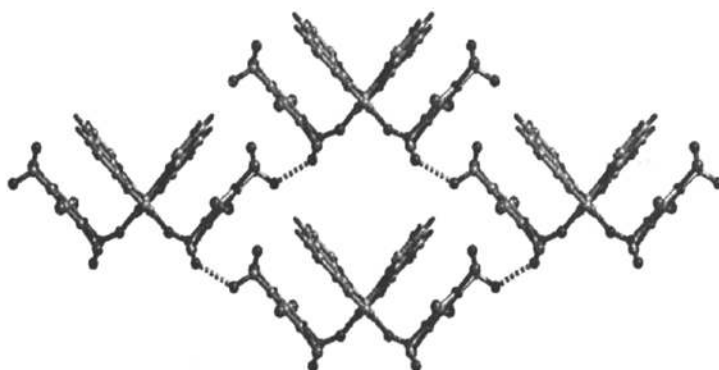


Fig. 2. Intermolecular O-H...O hydrogen bonds in 1

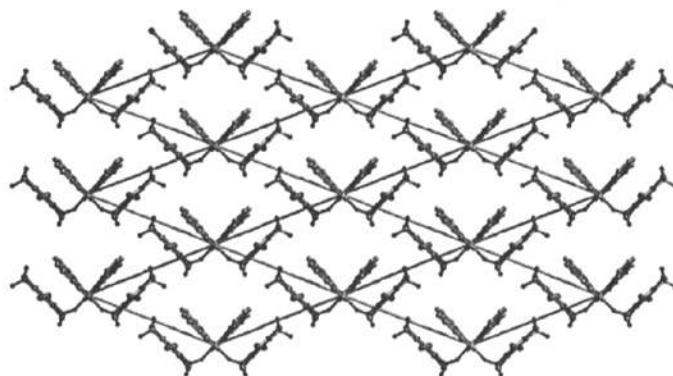


Fig. 3. 2D supramolecular architecture with (4,4) net

### 3.2. Crystal structure of complex 2

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction reveals that complex **2** crystallizes in orthorhombic space group *Pbca*. The asymmetric unit of **2** contains one zinc ion, a half TBTA<sup>2-</sup> ligand and one coordinated water molecule. The central zinc ion is five-coordinated by two oxygen atoms from two TBTA<sup>2-</sup> ligands, two  $\mu_2$ -OH groups and one coordinated water molecule in a trigonal bipyramidal geometry, with average bond length of 2.040(4) Å. Both carboxylate groups of TBTA are deprotonated and each adopts a bidentate bridging mode to link two zinc ions. Thus, the zinc ions are further connected by the  $\mu_2$ -OH and carboxylate groups of TBTA to generate a one-di-

dimensional inorganic chain (Fig. 4a), which is further linked by the bridging TBTA ligands to form a two-dimensional organic-inorganic hybrid layer, as depicted in Fig. 4b. The inorganic chain can be considered as the rod-shaped secondary building unit of the whole structure<sup>[29]</sup>. The SBU consists of infinite (-O-Zn-) rods (Fig. 4a) with carboxylate O atoms, completing the trigonal coordination around zinc to result in an infinite rod of ZnO<sub>5</sub> bipyramid sharing opposite corners (Fig. 4c). The carboxylate C atoms are at the vertices of a zigzag line SBU. Joining the inorganic SBU lines through organic -C<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>4</sub>- linkers lead to a two-dimensional organic-inorganic net work.

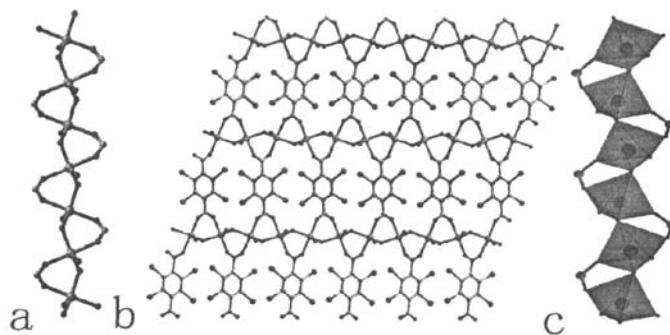


Fig. 4. a) Inorganic line of famous rod-shaped secondary building units, b) 2-D dimensional organic-inorganic hybrid network, c) ZnO<sub>5</sub> bipyramidal polyhedra in compound **2**

The coordinated water molecules point out to the layer, providing hydrogen bonding donors. The strong hydrogen bonding interactions (O(2)-H(2)···O(4), 2.687 Å) between coordinated water molecules in one layer and  $\mu_2$ -OH group in its adjacent layer (Fig. 5a)

further connect **2** to yield a 3D supramolecular architecture (Fig. 5b). Thus, complex **2** can also be considered as a 3D organic-inorganic hybrid supramolecular architecture.

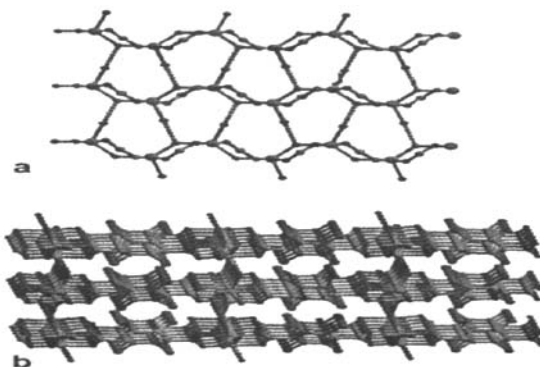


Fig. 5. a) Strong hydrogen bonding interactions between the coordinated water molecules and  $\mu_2$ -OH group; b) 3D supramolecular architecture of **2**

### 3.3 Thermogravimetric analysis

Thermogravimetric analysis has been measured for complexes 1 and 2. From Fig. 6, a TGA study on an as-isolated crystalline sample of 1 can be stable up to 210 °C. The gradual weight loss of 1.2% from 50 to 198 °C corresponds to the release of one coor-

dated water molecule (calcd.: 1.3%); and above 210 °C, 1 starts to decompose. For complex 2, the first weight loss of 8.3% from 50 to 156 °C is due to the removal of coordinated water molecule (calcd.: 8.7%), and after that, 2 starts to decompose.

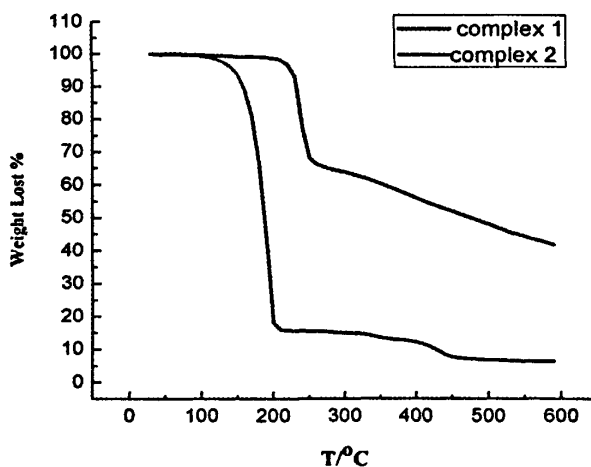


Fig. 6. Thermogravimetric analyses for complexes 1 and 2

## 4 CONCLUSION

In summary, two zinc supramolecular frameworks have been synthesized and characterized. Complex 1 is a mononuclear complex, and the blocking ligand of phen plays an important role in forming the 0D molecule of 1. However, without chelating ligand, complex 2 is a 2D organic-in-

organic hybrid layer based on rod-shaped secondary building units. All the intermolecular interactions like  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions and O-H $\cdots$ O hydrogen bonding play important roles in constructing these architectures. Studies on this subject as well as constructing 3D porous metal-organic frameworks with these mixed organic ligands are currently underway in our lab.

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