

# What Controls the Magnetic Exchange and Anisotropy in a Family of Tetranuclear $\{\text{Mn}_2^{\text{II}}\text{Mn}_2^{\text{III}}\}$ Single Molecule Magnets?

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Supporting Information Place holder

## ABSTRACT:

Twelve heterovalent, tetranuclear manganese(II/III) planar diamond or “butterfly” complexes, **1-12**, have been synthesized, structurally characterized and their magnetic properties have been probed using experimental and theoretical techniques. The twelve structures are divided into two distinct “classes”. Compounds **1 – 8** place the Mn(III),  $S = 2$ , ions in the body positions of the “butterfly” metallic core, while the Mn(II),  $S = 5/2$ , ions occupy the outer wing sites and are described as “Class 1”. Compounds **9 – 12** display the reverse arrangement of ions and are described as “Class 2”. Direct current susceptibility measurements for **1 – 12** reveal ground spin states ranging from  $S = 1$  to  $S = 9$ , with each complex displaying unique magnetic exchange parameters ( $J$ ). Alternating current susceptibility measurements found that slow magnetic relaxation is observed for all complexes, except for **10** and **12**, and display differing anisotropy barriers to magnetization reversal. Density functional theory calculations (DFT) have been performed to rationalize the experimental magnetic data. First we determined the magnitude of the magnetic exchange parameters for all complexes. Three exchange coupling constants ( $J_{bb}$ ,  $J_{wb}$  and  $J_{ww}$ ) were determined by DFT methods and were in good agreement with the experimental fits. It was found that the orientation of the Jahn-Teller axes and the Mn-Mn distances play a pivotal role in determining the sign and strength of the  $J_{bb}$  parameter. Further to this the interaction between the Mn(III)- $d_z^2$  and Mn(II)- $d_z^2$  orbitals control the sign and magnitude of the  $J_{wb}$  parameter. Extensive magneto-structural correlations have been developed for the two classes of  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2\}$  butterfly complexes by varying the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distance,  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  distance,  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angle ( $\alpha$ ),  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_w$  dihedral angle ( $\gamma$ ) and out-of-plane shift of the  $\text{Mn}_w$  atoms ( $\beta$ ). The different  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  bond angles found for each complex is found have the greatest influence the sign and strength of the  $J$  values reported. For the magnetic anisotropy the DFT calculations yielded a negative  $D$  parameter for all complexes. Interestingly a larger negative  $D$  value was observed for complexes **2**, **3**, **4** and **6** compared to the other complexes. This enhancement in the magnitude of  $D$  was correlated to the electron donating/withdrawing substituents and suggests a possible way to fine tune, the otherwise difficult to control, magnetic anisotropy in polynuclear Mn ion complexes.

## INTRODUCTION

The structural and magnetic investigations of discrete mixed-valence manganese “butterfly” complexes possessing a  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\}$  magnetic core continues to attract interest, due to the fact these compounds were some of the first single-molecule magnets (SMMs) studied.<sup>1</sup> These “butterfly” complexes however, are not limited to the above Mn(II)/Mn(III) ion type, with homo-valence  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_4\}$  and mixed-valence  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_3\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}\}$  magnetic cores also having been reported.<sup>2</sup> Molecules that display SMM behavior reveal slow relaxation of the magnetization vector and magnetic hysteresis as a result of an energy barrier to spin inversion.<sup>3</sup> In manganese based complexes this is due to a large spin ground state ( $S$ ), combined with an axial magnetic anisotropy, given by a negative zero-field splitting parameter ( $D$ ). The energy barrier displays the relationship;  $U = S^2|D|$ , and at low enough temperatures allows for the manipulation of the spin orientation by the magnetic field, resulting in several important potential applications.<sup>4</sup> Mixed-valent  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\}$  butterfly complexes often reveal the necessary requirements to observe SMM behavior, with the maximum possible ground spin state of  $S = 9$  being a common observation for this system.<sup>1j</sup> These complexes also display a large enough anisotropy to block the magnetization vector along an easy axis, with  $D$  values generally ranging from  $-0.15$  to  $-0.6$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>5</sup> The key attraction that makes these polynuclear complexes of particular interest to study is that it is possible, due to the relatively small nuclearity of these cluster types, to perform in-depth analyses of the

magnetic interactions and of the SMM parameters. These are, therefore, excellent model complexes for the determination of the factors which can affect the SMM behavior and, ultimately, allow one to tune the parameters favorably. These “butterfly” complexes gain their name from the arrangement of their tetranuclear core, which contains four metal ions. Two are placed in the central “body”, and two in the outer “wing” positions, with two oxygen ligands of  $\mu_3\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1$  connectivity bridging to all four ions (see Figure 1).<sup>1a, 1b, 1j, 2, 6</sup> The  $\mu_3$  O-atoms are typically  $\text{O}^{2-}$  or  $\text{OH}^-$ , but can also be derived from alkoxide O-atoms.<sup>6b</sup> It has also been shown that sulphide bridges can be used.<sup>6c</sup> These complexes can be homometallic,<sup>1b, 2d</sup> or heterometallic with differing metal atoms located on the “wings” and “body” positions of the complex.<sup>6e</sup> Due to the interest in SMMs, and manganese polynuclear complexes in particular, coupled with a near total lack of underlying theory, we have undertaken a combined experimental and density functional theoretical (DFT) approach focusing on twelve analogous mixed-valence manganese(II/III) butterfly complexes of formulae

$[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{hmp})_6(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{O}_3\text{SC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_3)_2$  (**1**),  
 $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{hmp})_6(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{O}_3\text{SC}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_3)_2]$  (**2**),  
 $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{iso})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$  (**3**),  
 $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{pdca})_2]$  (**4**),  
 $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{piv})_2](\text{iso})_2$  (**5**),  
 $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{tea-4-nsa})_2(4\text{-nsa})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]$  (**6**),  
 $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2(\text{tea-o-van})_2(\text{o-van})_2(\text{MeOH})_2]$  (**7**),

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(tea-o-van)<sub>2</sub>(teaH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**8**),  
 [Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(paa)<sub>4</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**9**),  
 [Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(O<sub>2</sub>CPh)<sub>4</sub>(acac)<sub>2</sub>] (**10**),  
 [Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Co<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>4</sub>(OMe)<sub>2</sub>(acac)<sub>4</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**11**)  
 [Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(MeOH)<sub>4</sub>(acac)<sub>4</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**12**),

(where hmpH = 2-hydroxymethylpyridine, teaH<sub>3</sub> = triethanolamine, isoH = isonicotinic acid, pdcaH<sub>2</sub> = 3,4-pyridinedicarboxylic acid, pivH = pivalic acid, tea-4-nsaH<sub>4</sub> = 2-(2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethoxy)-hydroxy-methyl-4-nitro-phenol, 4-nsaH = 4-nitrosalicylaldehyde, tea-o-vanH<sub>4</sub> = 2-(2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethoxy)-hydroxy-methyl-6-methoxy-phenol, o-vanH = ortho-vanillin, paaH = 2-pyridylacetylacetamide, acacH = acetylacetonate). We have used these complexes, reported herein, to determine what structural features affect the key SMM parameters, *S* and *D*. Nine of these complexes are newly synthesized (**1** – **8** and **10**), while three have been reported previously (**9**, **11** and **12**).<sup>1h-j</sup> Due to the differences in Mn ion arrangement for **1** – **12** the compounds have been divided into two distinct “classes” to reflect these differences. Compounds **1** – **8**, which place the Mn(III), *S* = 2, ions in the body positions of the butterfly metallic core, while the Mn(II), *S* = 5/2, ions occupy the outer wing sites and are described as “Class 1”. “Class 2” compounds consist of complexes **9** – **12** and display the reverse arrangement, with the Mn(II) ions in the body positions and the Mn(III) ions occupying the outer wing sites. Using single crystal X-ray diffraction, magnetic measurements and DFT calculations, a detailed analysis of the factors that affect the magnetic exchange and, ultimately, the SMM parameters *S* and *D*, has been performed and the results are discussed herein.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Information.** All reactions were carried out under aerobic conditions. Chemicals and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Elemental analyses (CHN) were carried out by Campbell Microanalytical Laboratory, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

### Synthesis of metal complexes

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(hmp)<sub>6</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>](O<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·2MeCN·5H<sub>2</sub>O (**1**). Mn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (20 mL), followed by the addition of 2-hydroxymethylpyridine (0.1 mL, 0.5 mmol), *para*-toluenesulfonic acid (0.19 g, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (0.28 mL, 2.0 mmol). This resulted in a deep brown solution which was stirred for three hours. After this time the solvent was removed leaving a brown oil. The oil was re-dissolved in MeCN and the solution was left to evaporate slowly. Within 1-week brown crystals of **1** had appeared, in approximate yield of 42 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **1**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>70</sub>O<sub>25</sub>N<sub>10</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 42.03 (41.99); H, 4.57 (4.67); N, 9.08 (8.79).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(hmp)<sub>6</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(O<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·2MeCN (**2**). The synthesis for **1** (above) was followed but a larger amount of *para*-toluenesulfonic acid was used (0.76 g, 4.0 mmol). Brown crystals of **2** appeared within 1 week from slow evaporation of the MeCN solution, in approximate yield of 55 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **2**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>56</sub>O<sub>18</sub>N<sub>10</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 45.77 (45.80); H, 3.98 (3.89); N, 9.89 (9.92).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(teaH<sub>2</sub>)(iso)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·2MeOH (**3**). Mn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.25 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (20 mL), followed by the addition of triethanolamine (0.13 mL, 0.5 mmol), isonicotinic acid (0.12 g, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (0.55 mL, 4.0 mmol), which resulted in a dark brown solution. This was stirred for 3 hours after which time the solvent was removed leaving

a brown oil. The oil was re-dissolved in a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH (9:1) mixture and, upon diffusing diethylether into the solution, brown crystals of **3** appeared within 1 day, in approximate yield of 78 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **3**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>70</sub>O<sub>24</sub>N<sub>8</sub>: C, 36.72 (36.30); H, 5.68 (5.22); N, 9.02 (8.84).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(teaH<sub>2</sub>)(pdca)<sub>2</sub>·2MeOH·2H<sub>2</sub>O (**4**). The synthesis of **3** was followed but 3,4-pyridinedicarboxylic acid (0.16 g, 1.0 mL) was used in place of isonicotinic acid. Brown crystals of **4** could be isolated from diffusion of diethylether into the methanolic solution, in approximate yield of 31 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **4**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>72</sub>O<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>: C, 38.72 (38.50); H, 5.85 (5.52); N, 6.77 (6.34).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(teaH<sub>2</sub>)(piv)<sub>2</sub>](iso)<sub>2</sub>·2MeCN (**5**). Mn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (0.12 g, 0.5 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (20 mL), followed by the addition of triethanolamine (0.07 mL, 0.5 mmol), isonicotinic acid (0.03 mL, 0.25 mmol), [Mn<sub>3</sub>O(piv)<sub>6</sub>(pyridine)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>7</sup> (0.1 g, 0.1 mmol) and triethylamine (0.28 mL, 2.0 mmol). This resulted in a brown solution. The solution was stirred for 2 hours after which time the solvent was removed leaving a brown oil. The oil was re-dissolved in a MeCN:MeOH (9:1) mixture and upon slow evaporation of the solution brown crystals of **5** appeared within 1 - 2 days, in approximate yield of 54 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **5**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>86</sub>O<sub>20</sub>N<sub>8</sub>: C, 44.85 (44.51); H, 6.47 (6.12); N, 4.37 (4.34).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(tea-4-nsa)<sub>2</sub>(4-nsa)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>·6MeCN (**6**). The synthesis of **3** was followed but 4-nitrosalicylaldehyde (0.17 g, 1.0 mmol) was used in place of isonicotinic acid. The resulting solution was stirred for 2 hours after which time the solvent was removed to give a brown solid. The solid was redissolved in MeCN and brown crystals of **6** appeared within 1 week, in approximate yield of 51 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **6**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>62</sub>O<sub>24</sub>N<sub>12</sub>: C, 37.81 (37.80); H, 5.28 (5.26); N, 10.52 (10.34).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(tea-o-van)<sub>2</sub>(o-van)<sub>2</sub>(MeOH)<sub>2</sub>·2MeCN (**7**). The synthesis of **3** was followed but *ortho*-vanillin (0.45 g, 3 mmol) was used in place of isonicotinic acid. The resulting solution was stirred for 2 hours after which time the solvent was removed to give a brown solid. The solid was redissolved in a MeCN:MeOH (1:1) mixture and, upon diffusion of diethylether, brown crystals of **7** appeared within 1 week, in approximate yield of 43 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **7**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>66</sub>O<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: C, 47.55 (47.50); H, 5.27 (5.54); N, 4.44 (4.64).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(tea-o-van)<sub>2</sub>(teaH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·2MeCN (**8**). The synthesis of **7** was followed but a smaller equivalent of *ortho*-vanillin (0.15 g, 1 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 2 hours after which time the solvent was removed to give a brown solid. The solid was re-dissolved in MeCN and upon diffusion of diethylether into the solution brown crystals of **8** appeared within 1 week, in approximate yield of 49 % (crystalline product). Anal. Calculated (found) for **8**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>74</sub>O<sub>24</sub>N<sub>8</sub>: C, 40.07 (40.50); H, 5.66 (5.72); N, 8.50 (8.34).

[Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>(teaH)<sub>2</sub>(O<sub>2</sub>CPh)<sub>4</sub>(acac)<sub>2</sub>·MeCN (**10**). Mn(acac)<sub>3</sub> (0.36 g, 1 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (20 mL), followed by the addition of triethanolamine (0.13 mL, 1 mmol), benzoic acid (0.1 g, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (0.55 mL, 4.0 mmol). This resulted in a brown solution. The solution was heated to reflux and stirred for 2 hours after which time the solvent was removed, to give a brown solid. The solid was re-dissolved in MeCN and, upon slow evaporation of the solution brown, crystals of **10** appeared within 1 week, in approximate yield of 62 % (crystalline product). Calculated (found) for **10**: Mn<sub>4</sub>C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>63</sub>O<sub>18</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: C, 50.46 (50.50); H, 5.13 (5.19); N, 3.40 (3.34).

**X-ray crystallography.** X-ray measurements on **1** – **8** and **10** were performed using a Bruker Smart Apex X8 diffractometer with Mo K $\alpha$  radiation. The data collection and integration were performed within SMART and SAINT+ software programs, and corrected for absorption using the Bruker SADABS program. Compounds **1** – **8** and **10** were all solved by direct methods (SHELXS-97)<sup>8</sup>, and refined (SHELXL-97)<sup>9</sup> by full least matrix least-squares on all  $F^2$  data.<sup>10</sup> Crystallographic data and refinement parameters for **1** – **8** and **10** are summarized in Table ST1. Crystallographic details are available in the Supporting Information (SI) in CIF format. CCDC numbers of **1** – **8** and **10** are 1483120-1483128. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).

**Magnetic Measurements.** The magnetic susceptibility measurements were carried out on a Quantum Design SQUID magnetometer MPMS-XL 7 operating between 1.8 and 300 K for dc-applied fields ranging from 0 – 5 T. Microcrystalline samples were dispersed in Vaseline in order to avoid torquing of the crystallites. The sample mulls were contained in a calibrated gelatine capsule held at the centre of a drinking straw that was fixed at the end of the sample rod. Alternating current (ac) susceptibilities were carried out under an oscillating ac field of 3.5 Oe and frequencies ranging from 0.1 to 1500 Hz.

### Computational Details

The energies of four spin configurations for **1** – **12** are computed to extract the exchange interactions (see ESI for details).<sup>11</sup> The computed spin configurations for **1** – **12** are given in the ESI (Table ST7). The exchange coupling constants have been calculated using the Broken Symmetry (BS) approach developed by Noodleman.<sup>12</sup> This method has been employed previously to compute good numerical estimates of exchange interactions in numerous polynuclear complexes.<sup>13</sup> Here all the density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed using the B3LYP functional<sup>14</sup> with Ahlrich's<sup>15</sup> triple- $\zeta$ -quality basis set. All the calculations have been performed with the *Gaussian 09* suite of programs.<sup>16</sup> The PHI<sup>17</sup> program was used for simulating the magnetic susceptibilities. The following spin Hamiltonian was used to calculate the magnetic exchange interactions.

$$\hat{H} = -[2J_{wb}(S_{Mn1}S_{Mn3} + S_{Mn1}S_{Mn4} + S_{Mn2}S_{Mn3} + S_{Mn2}S_{Mn4}) + 2J_{bb}(S_{Mn1}S_{Mn2}) + 2J_{ww}(S_{Mn3}S_{Mn4})] Eq 1$$

The zero-field splitting (ZFS) parameter has also been computed for complexes possessing an  $S_{gs} = 9$  ground state using the ORCA program suite.<sup>18</sup> The ZFS parameters are computed using DFT calculations, where the spin-orbit coupling operators are represented by an effective one electron operator using the spin-orbit mean field (SOMF) method as implemented in ORCA using the B3LYP functional.<sup>18</sup> We have used the coupled perturbed (CP) SOC approach to evaluate the spin-orbit contribution to  $D$  ( $D_{soc}$ ). The spin-spin contribution ( $D_{ss}$ ) was estimated by using the unrestricted natural orbital approach. Further, to improve the accuracy of the estimated  $D$  values, relativistic corrections were performed using the DKH method. Although *ab initio* CASSCF/PT2 calculations have proven to yield accurate estimates of  $D$  values,<sup>19</sup> this methodology cannot be employed here due to the large size of the  $\{Mn_4\}$  complexes.

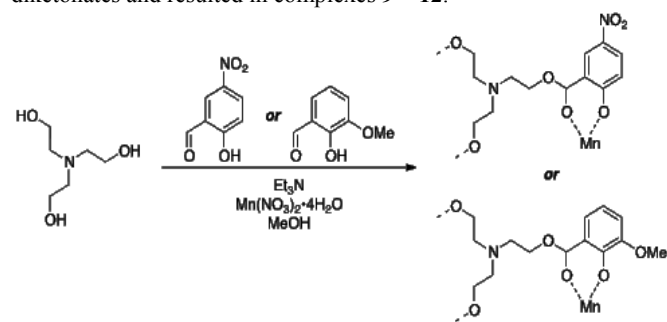
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Synthesis

The targeted syntheses of the  $\{Mn^{II}_2Mn^{III}_2\}$  butterfly complexes reported in this work employed the use of two primary ligands. The

first, triethanolamine (teaH<sub>3</sub>) was utilized due to previous literature reports of homometallic 3d and heterometallic 3d-3d and 3d-4f tetranuclear butterfly complexes incorporating this ligand.<sup>1b-j, 1u, 20</sup> A second ligand, which also revealed a propensity for the stabilization of the butterfly metal core topology is 2-hydroxymethylpyridine (hmpH).<sup>1s, 1t, 6g</sup> Using these two ligands and upon selection of an appropriate co-ligand it was found that one could easily isolate a range of new mixed-valent Mn(II/III) butterfly compounds.

When using hmpH, the co-ligand in question was para-toluene sulfonic acid (**1** and **2**). Using teaH<sub>3</sub>, three co-ligands were employed which were of the carboxylic acid (**3** – **5**) and salicylaldehyde type (**6** – **8**). Interestingly, the combination of alcohol and aldehyde groups in basic conditions resulted in the *in-situ* formation of a hemiacetal functional group and the synthesis of two new ligands. This is observed in complexes **6** – **8**, and it was found that these ligands have not been previously used in the synthesis of polynuclear complexes. The molecular structure of these ligands (tea-4-nsa<sup>+</sup> and tea-o-van<sup>+</sup>), in their coordinated form are shown in Scheme 1. The ligands are multidentate and will be useful for the syntheses of polynuclear clusters in future studies. The third type of co-ligand utilized are  $\beta$ -diketonates and resulted in complexes **9** – **12**.



**Scheme 1.** The *in-situ* formation of the coordinated 2-(2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethoxy)-hydroxy-methyl-4-nitro-phenol; tea-4-nsaH<sub>4</sub> (top) and 2-(2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethoxy)-hydroxy-methyl-6-methoxy-phenol, tea-o-vanH<sub>4</sub> (bottom), from teaH<sub>3</sub> and the appropriate salicylaldehyde.

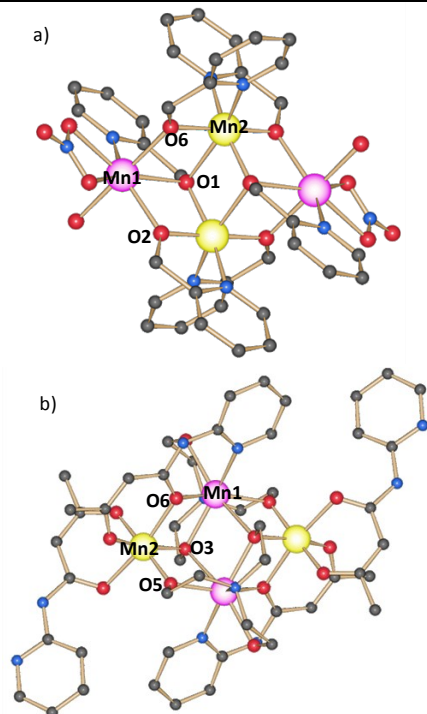
### Structural descriptions

The molecular structures of **1** -**12** were determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction measurements, which revealed mixed-valent tetranuclear manganese (II/III) complexes. As discussed above, all twelve complexes display a butterfly (or planar-diamond) metallic core arrangement. It was found that the twelve complexes could be divided into two groups denoted as “Class 1” and “Class 2”. The molecular structures of **1** and **9** are shown in Figure 1 as representative examples of Class 1 (top) and Class 2 (bottom). The molecular structure of **2** – **8** and **10** – **12** are given in Figures SF1 and SF2. The two distinct structural groups are classified with respect to the metal ions. Class 1 compounds, **1** – **8**, reveal that the Mn(III) ions are found in the central body positions of the “butterfly” while the Mn(II) ions occupy the outer wing sites (Figure 1a). Class 2 complexes, **9** – **12**, display the reverse oxidation state arrangement (Figure 1b). The oxidation states of the Mn ions were easily determined via bond length parameters, structural distortions and bond valence sum<sup>21</sup> calculations (Table ST2). For the sake of brevity, a general description relating to all complexes will be given. It is observed that two  $\mu_3$  O-atoms bridge the two body Mn ions to an outer Mn wing site in all cases. The O-atom is derived from a deprotonated arm of the aminopolyalcohol or the hmp<sup>+</sup> ligand. The complexes are further stabilized around the periphery of the core by  $\mu_2$  O-atoms that bridge a central

Mn ion to an outer Mn site. These connections are derived from the amine-polyalcohol ligand or the hmp ligands.

**Table 1.** Description of the bridging ligands, average Mn...Mn distances, Mn-O-Mn angles and related  $J_{wb}$  and  $J_{bb}$  pathways in complexes **1-12**.

Complex	Bridging ligands		d(Mn-Mn) Å		Mn-O-Mn angle (°)	
	$J_{wb}$	$J_{bb}$	$J_{wb}$	$J_{bb}$	$J_{wb}$	$J_{bb}$
<b>1</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{hmp} <sup>-</sup> $\mu_2$ -O{hmp}	$\mu_3$ -O{hmp}	3.357, 3.273	3.227	95.9,100.9, 106.7,109.7	99.4
<b>2</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{hmp} <sup>-</sup> $\mu_2$ -O{hmp}	$\mu_3$ -O{hmp}	3.412, 3.297	3.259	99.6,94.6, 108.8,112.4	100.2
<b>3</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> } $\mu_2$ -O{teaH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> }	3.357, 3.213	3.195	89.8,102.7, 107.4,108.9	99.3
<b>4</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> } $\mu_2$ -O{teaH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> }	3.328, 3.234	3.136	91.6,103.7, 107.7,106.8	96.4
<b>5</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> } $\mu_2$ -O{teaH <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> }	3.320, 3.337	3.152	89.0,102.9, 104.6,107.9	97.5
<b>6</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{tea-4-nsa <sup>3-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{tea-4-nsa <sup>3-</sup> }	3.335	3.201	93.1,99.9, 109.2,112.7	99.9
<b>7</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{tea-o-van <sup>3-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{tea-o-van <sup>3-</sup> }	3.251, 3.268	3.257	93.4, 99.8, 105.7,108.8	101.1
<b>8</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{tea-o-van <sup>3-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{tea-o-van <sup>3-</sup> }	3.385, 3.388	3.217	92.3,99.3, 110.0,113.3	100.1
<b>9</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> } $\mu_2$ -O{paa <sup>-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> }	3.306, 3.316	3.628	97.0, 104.4, 97.6, 111.1	100.9
<b>10</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> }	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> }	3.215, 3.568	3.444	91.3,128.4 110.8	95.7
<b>11</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> } $\mu_2$ -MeO	$\mu_3$ -O{tea <sup>2-</sup> }	3.272, 3.322	3.625	99.9,102.7, 94.4,105.9	102.0
<b>12</b>	$\mu_3$ -O{teaH <sup>2-</sup> } $\mu_2$ -O{acac}	$\mu_3$ -O{tea <sup>2-</sup> }	3.384, 3.390	3.728	93.5,110.8, 98.0, 115.0	99.9



**Figure 1.** The molecular structure of compounds a) **1** (Class 1) and b) **9** (Class 2). The H-atoms and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. Colour scheme; Mn<sup>III</sup>, yellow; Mn<sup>II</sup>, pink; O, red; N, blue; C, grey.

The ligands are also found to bridge the Mn(II) and Mn(III) ions (carboxylates) and both bridge and chelate ([ $\beta$ -diketonates]<sup>-</sup>, [hmp]<sup>-</sup>, [teaH]<sup>2-</sup>, [p-tol]<sup>-</sup>), capping the coordination sites. The Mn(III) ions are six coordinate in all complexes, with Jahn-Teller axially distorted octahedral geometries. The Mn(II) ions in complexes **6**, **7** and **10** are six coordinate with distorted octahedral geometries, while the Mn(II) ions for the remaining nine complexes are seven coordinate, with pentagonal bipyramidal (**1 – 5** and **8**) and capped octahedral (**9**, **11** and **12**) geometries. We note that the two long Mn-O contacts (~2.6 Å) for compounds **10** and **12** are considered as weak bonds. Tables 1 and ST3 contain selected structural parameters and how they relate to the magnetic exchange ( $J$ ) pathways. From the structural data the first notable observation is the role the co-ligand plays in influencing the position of the metal ions in the butterfly motif. Class 1 compounds are obtained when using carboxylate and salicylaldehyde co-ligands with teaH<sub>3</sub>, or tosylate co-ligands with hmpH. However, when  $\beta$ -diketone ligands are used in conjunction with teaH<sub>3</sub>, Class 2 complexes are isolated exclusively, even in the presence of a carboxylate ligand, as seen for **10**. A second structural observation reveals that compounds **3** and **4** can conceivably be used as SMM nodes (see magnetic properties, *vide infra*) in the formation of metal-organic frameworks, due to the non-coordinating 3- and 4-pyridyl groups present (Figure SF1b and SF1c). Several 1-, 2- and 3-D networks based on {Mn<sub>4</sub>} butterfly complexes have previously been reported.<sup>5</sup> The packing motifs in the crystals of complexes **1 – 12** have been analyzed (see Figure SF3- SF6). For **1**, **3**, **5**, **10** and **11**, we observe intermolecular H-bonding interactions which form 1-D chains of {Mn<sub>4</sub>} moieties throughout the crystal. For **1** these chains are formed via interactions between the O-atoms of the sulphonate groups and coordinated and non-coordinated water molecules (Figure SF3 (a)). For **3** two types of H-bonded interactions are found. The first is a single H-bond between the N-atom of the pyridyl ring and a O-H of a (teaH<sub>2</sub>)<sup>-</sup> ligand. The second reveals three H-bonds between multiple groups - a O-H of a (teaH)<sup>2-</sup> ligand, a solvent MeOH, a nitrate and a O-H of a (teaH<sub>2</sub>)<sup>-</sup> ligand (Figure SF3 (c)). For **5** the H-bonded chains are a result of a O-H (teaH)<sup>2-</sup> interaction from one {Mn<sub>4</sub>} moiety with the N-atom of the pyridyl ring of the non-coordinating isonicotinate molecule and the O-H(teaH<sub>2</sub>)<sup>-</sup> of an adjacent {Mn<sub>4</sub>} unit with the carboxylate group of the same isonicotinate ligand (Figure SF4 (b)). For **10** intermolecular H-bonds are formed between the non-coordinating O-H group of a (teaH)<sup>2-</sup> ligand and a carboxylate O-atom (Figure SF6 (a)). For **11** two H-bonds are formed between the O-H of a (teaH)<sup>2-</sup> ligand, a nitrate and a water molecule (Figure SF6 (b)). For complexes **4** and **9** intermolecular H-bonding interactions result in 2-D sheets throughout the crystal (Figure SF4 (a) and SF5 (c), respectively). For **2**, **6** and **7** offset  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions are found between the hmp ligands (Figure SF3 (b)), 4-nsa ligands (Figure SF4 (c)) and o-van ligands (Figure SF5 (a)) resulting in 1-D chains. Finally, no significant intermolecular interactions are observed for **8** and **12**.

#### Magnetic Susceptibility Studies:

##### DC susceptibility and magnetization studies

Direct current (dc) magnetic susceptibility measurements were performed on polycrystalline samples of **1 – 12** in the temperature range

2 – 300 K, using an applied magnetic field of 1 T (Figure 3). Isothermal magnetization plots were also recorded in fields between 0 – 5 T (Figure 4). A large variation in the temperature dependent behavior is observed for the  $\chi_{MT}$  product for some of the compounds **1** - **12**. This observation is due to different exchange parameters and spin state energy levels for each analogue (*vide infra*), and thus this family of compounds provide an ideal vehicle for probing the reasons that can cause such differences. If we focus on the experimental plots in Fig. 3, we see that compounds **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **6** and **11** show that the  $\chi_{MT}$  values of  $\sim 15.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$  at 300 K are slightly greater than that expected for the uncoupled value for two  $S = 2$  (Mn(III)) and two  $S = 5/2$  (Mn(II)) centers of  $14.75 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$ . On decreasing the temperature, the  $\chi_{MT}$  values increase gradually down to  $\sim 70 \text{ K}$ , then more rapidly to reach a sharp maximum ( $\sim 33 - 37 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$  at  $\sim 11 \text{ K}$ ), before rapidly decreasing at the lowest temperatures ( $>10 \text{ K}$ ). These profiles are indicative of dominant ferromagnetic cluster exchange interactions.

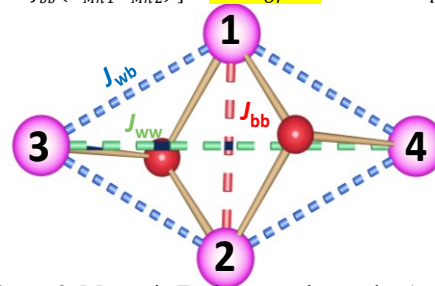
If ferromagnetic coupling is observed for all spins, resulting in a  $S_{gs} = 9$  ground state, then the predicted  $\chi_{MT}$  value of this state is  $45 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$  ( $g = 2$ ). The observed maxima are, however, found to be lower than this value due to a combination of zero field splitting, Zeeman level depopulations effects and intercluster antiferromagnetic coupling, the latter two leading to the rapid decrease below the maximum. The  $\chi_{MT_{max}}$  values are coincidentally close to the value expected for an isolated  $S = 8$  state of  $36 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$ . The magnetization isotherms (Figure 4 and Figures SF 19 – 21; ESI) are also indicative of zero field splitting (*vide infra*). Previous work on  $\{\text{Mn}^{II}_2\text{Mn}^{III}_2\}$  clusters yielded similar  $\chi_{MT}(T)$  plots to those found here, arising from a  $S_{gs} = 9$  ground state, often close in energy to higher lying  $S = 8$  and other spin states of lower value.<sup>1a, 1b, 1h-r, 2, 6a-e</sup>

For compounds **5** and **9** the  $\chi_{MT_{max}}$  values are found to be lower, at  $\sim 20 - 22 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$  and even lower for **7** and **8**, with values of  $\sim 16.5 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$ , suggestive of antiferromagnetic contributions to the exchange coupling. Complexes **10** and **12** reveal the absence of any maximum in  $\chi_{MT}$ , with a gradual decrease of  $\chi_{MT}$  between 300 and 50 K, followed by a more rapid decrease down to 2 K, reaching  $\sim 0 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ K mol}^{-1}$ , indicative of antiferromagnetic contributions to the exchange coupling. The  $M(H)$  isotherms for **7** and **8** (Figure SF20) and **12** (Figure 4) support antiferromagnetic coupling by their linear-like shapes and low  $M$  values. They also suggest the presence of nearby non-zero spin states that are thermally populated at progressively higher dc fields.

Fitting of the experimental magnetic data in order to extract the nature and the magnitude of the magnetic exchange interactions ( $J$ ) within each complex was performed using the PHI program.<sup>17</sup> It is often found that only two  $J$  values -  $J_{bb}$  and  $J_{wb}$  (Figure 2) are generally reported due to the complications of performing fits of experimental data with multiple  $J$ 's and thus the  $J_{ww}$  interaction has been set at zero in this study. Since there are four  $J_{wb}$  and only one  $J_{bb}$ , we found that the fit is insensitive to the  $J_{bb}$  value. Thus we have fixed the  $J_{bb}$  values to that calculated from DFT and extracted the  $J_{wb}$  and  $D$  parameters from the fit. The results of fitting the experimental data are presented in Table 2, left columns. It is found that the 70 – 300 K temperature region is the most sensitive to the  $J$  values, while at lower temperatures the  $\chi_{MT}$  value is most sensitive to the zero field splitting and inter-molecular cluster coupling. We note that when using DFT all three exchange parameters (Equation 1) are explicitly calculated (*vide infra*). The cross comparison of experimental and calculated (DFT)  $J$  values is explained in the theoretical studies section below. Equation 2 is the Hamiltonian used to fit the magnetic

data to determine  $J$  and  $D$  ( $g = 2.0$ ) for each complex. For comparison we have listed the  $J$ ,  $D$  and  $S$  values for literature reported butterfly  $\{\text{Mn}^{III}_2\text{Mn}^{II}_2\}$  complexes in Table 3.

$$\hat{H} = -[2J_{wb}(S_{Mn1}S_{Mn3} + S_{Mn1}S_{Mn4} + S_{Mn2}S_{Mn3} + S_{Mn2}S_{Mn4}) + 2J_{bb}(S_{Mn1}S_{Mn2})] + DS^2 + g\beta H.S \quad \dots\dots Eq. 2$$



**Figure 2.** Magnetic Exchange pathways in **1** - **12**.

**Table 2:** Experimentally fitted and DFT calculated exchange coupling constants ( $J$  values) for **1**–**12**.

Complex	Fits to experimental data using PHI <sup>17</sup> ; $g = 2.0$				DFT calculated $J$ values and spin ground state			
	$J$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )		$D$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$S_{gs}$	$J$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )			$S_{gs}$
	$J_{wb}$	$J_{bb}$			$J_{wb}$	$J_{bb}$	$J_{ww}$	
	Class 1							
<b>1</b>	1.87	0.01	-0.33	9	1.24	0.01	-0.01	9
<b>2</b>	1.39	-0.06	-0.37	9	1.37	-0.06	-0.03	9
<b>3</b>	0.66	2.32	-0.34	9	0.37	2.32	-0.08	9
<b>4</b>	0.88	2.06	-0.32	9	0.49	2.06	-0.03	9
<b>5</b>	0.02	2.22	-0.43	9	0.15	2.22	-0.06	9
<b>6</b>	0.47	0.66	-0.32	9	0.31	0.66	-0.03	9
<b>7</b>	-0.42	0.26	-0.01	1	0.24	0.26	-0.02	9
<b>8</b>	-0.46	0.27	0.01	1	0.18	0.27	-0.03	9
	Class 2							
<b>9</b>	0.28	-0.13	-0.35	9	0.47	-0.13	-0.02	9
<b>10</b>	0.05	-0.86	-0.01	1-4	0.32	-0.86	0.08	3
<b>11</b>	1.15	-0.03	-0.33	9	1.08	-0.03	-0.03	9
<b>12</b>	-0.51	0.02	0.003	1	-0.45	0.02	0.001	1



**Table 3.** Literature reported  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\}$  butterfly complexes with their formula, magnetic exchange interactions ( $J$ ), ground spin state  $S_{\text{gs}}$  value and uniaxial magnetic anisotropy parameter  $D$  of the ground spin state.

Molecular Formula	$J_{\text{bb}}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$J_{\text{wb}}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$S_{\text{gs}}$	$D$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Ref
$[\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_2(2\text{-Cl-benzoato})_7(\text{bpy})_2]$	-23.2	-4.9	7/2	-0.6	[1b]
$[\text{Mn}_4\text{O}_2(2\text{-Br-benzoato})_7(\text{bpy})_2]$	-22.8	-4.7	7/2		[1b]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{HX})_4\text{Cl}_2(\text{MeOH})_4] \cdot 2\text{Et}_2\text{O}$	7.7	3.4	9		[1c]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{HX})_4\text{Br}_2(\text{MeOH})_4] \cdot 2\text{Et}_2\text{O}$	12.4	3.3	9		[1c]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6\text{Br}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2] \cdot \text{Br}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	12.7	1.3	9	-0.35	[1d]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{MeCN})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_4 \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	5.9	0.46	9	-0.23	[1e]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{MeCO}_2)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	5.6	0.54	9	-0.22	[1f]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{PhCO}_2)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{MeCN} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	5.2	0.9	9	-0.26	[1f]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{MeCO}_2)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	4.5	1.3	9		[1f]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{ClCH}_2\text{CO}_2)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	4.9	1.1	9		[1f]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{Cl}_3\text{CCO}_2)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$	3.7	0.6	9		[1f]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{MeCN})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	6.3	4.2	9	-0.22	[1g]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{NO}_3)_2] \cdot \text{MeCN}$	9.9	1.0	9	-0.19	[1g]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{acac})_2(\text{MeOH})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_2$	5.3	0.77	9	-0.22	[1g]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	9.2	0.85	9	-0.24	[1k]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{N}_3)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$	6.0	0.5	9		[1k]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{Hpdm})_6(\text{MeCO}_2)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	8.7	1.1	9	-0.26	[1l]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{dcn})_2] \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	6.8	1.12	9	-0.24	[1m]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{dcn})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$	6.3	0.7	9		[1m]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_4(\text{Hpdm})_2(\text{dcn})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	8.8	0.8	9	-0.28	[1m]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_4\text{Br}_2(\text{MeO})_2(\text{dcn})_2] \cdot 0.5\text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot 2\text{thf}$	7.6	0.9	9		[1m]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{Hpdm})_6(\text{MeCO}_2)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{MeCN} \cdot 2\text{Et}_2\text{O}$	8.1	0.42	8	-0.24	[1n]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{PhCO}_2)_2](\text{PhCO}_2)_2 \cdot \text{MeCN}$	6.6	0.42	9		[1o]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{MeCO}_2)_2](\text{MeCO}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	6.5	1.7	9		[1o]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{EtCO}_2)_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$	10.9	0.2	9		[1o]
$\{[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{MeCN})_2]\} \{[\text{Pt}(\text{mnt})_2]_4\} [\text{Pt}(\text{mnt})_2]_2$	10.0	0.56	9	-0.21	[1q]
$\{[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{MeCN})_2]\} \{[\text{Pt}(\text{mnt})_2]_2\} [\text{Pt}(\text{mnt})_2]_2 \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	4.3	0.6	9	-0.17	[1q]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_4(\text{OH})_2\text{Mn}(\text{dcn})_6] \cdot 2\text{MeOH} \cdot 2\text{thf}$	4.9	1.0	9	-0.28	[1r]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 2.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	4.9	0.6	9	-0.24	[1s]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4](\text{ClO}_4)_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	3.5	0.39	9		[1s]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{hmp})_6(\text{Hhmp})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_4 \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	0.17	-0.64	1		[1s]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{bdea})_2(\text{bdeaH})_2(\text{BuCO}_2)_4]$	4.7	0.3	9	-0.19	[1u]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{bdea})_2(\text{bdeaH})_2(\text{PhCO}_2)_4]$	7.7	0.9	9	-0.24	[1u]
$[\text{Mn}_4(\text{teaH}_2)_2(\text{teaH})_2(\text{PhCO}_2)_2](\text{PhCO}_2)_2 \cdot 0.7\text{MeCN} \cdot 0.3\text{EtOH}$	8.5	1.8	9	-0.23	[1u]

$\text{H}_3\text{X} = 2,6\text{-bis}(\text{hydroxymethyl})\text{-4-methylphenol}$ . Data reported in K have been converted to  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for comparison.

The fits obtained for the  $\chi_M T$  plots using PHI and Eq. 2, for Class 1 complexes, **1 – 8**, labeled Fit-x ?? in Figure 3 are generally very good over the 2 - 300 K range. The  $J$  values for the  $S_{\text{gs}} = 9$  ground state systems typically have both  $J_{\text{wb}}$  and  $J_{\text{bb}}$  positive with  $J_{\text{wb}} < J_{\text{bb}}$ . The  $J$  values for **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** being similar to those reported elsewhere for other hmp and triethanolamine analogues.<sup>1j,1o,2b,2d</sup> The  $J_{\text{bb}}$  values for **1** and **2**, however, are smaller than generally observed. Complexes **7** and **8**, with smaller  $\chi_M T$  (max) values, gave good fits for negative  $J_{\text{wb}}$  values and a  $S_{\text{gs}} = 1$  ground state.

For Class 2 (**9 – 12**) the best fit parameters for compound **9** revealed an  $S_{\text{gs}} = 9$  ground state which is different to that previously published, viz.  $J_{\text{wb}}(\text{Mn}^{\text{II}} \cdots \text{Mn}^{\text{III}}) = 5.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $J_{\text{bb}}(\text{Mn}^{\text{II}} \cdots \text{Mn}^{\text{II}}) = -8.7 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  for  $g = 2$ ;  $S_{\text{gs}} = 6$ .<sup>1h</sup> In a similar vein the best fit parameters for complex **11** are different to those previously published. The parameters are of the same sign, but different in magnitude, viz.  $J_{\text{wb}} = 1.41 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $J_{\text{bb}} = -1.38 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $g(\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}) = 1.93$  and  $g(\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}) = 2.00$ ;  $S_{\text{gs}} = 8$  with  $S_{\text{gs}} = 7$

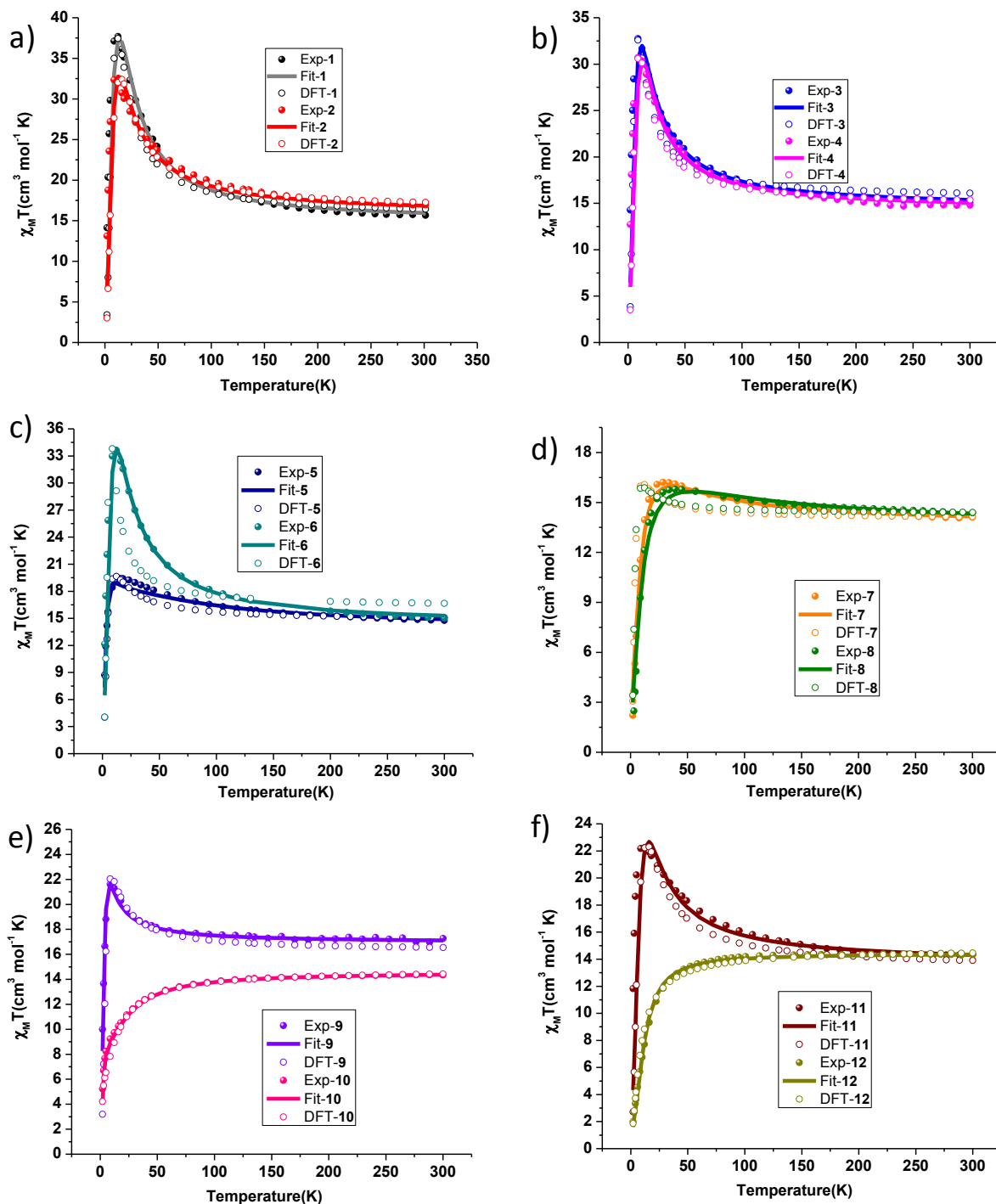
excited states close in energy to the ground state.<sup>1m</sup> The different parameters for both **9** and **11** found in this study may be attributed to the fact that we have simultaneously fitted both the susceptibility and the magnetization data using Eq. 2 as well as the fit being insensitive to the  $J_{\text{bb}}$  values. As the later procedure is more reliable and with the extracted values being in agreement with DFT estimated parameters, this offers confidence on the parameters extracted. Complex **12** shows similar  $J$  values to those published with a ground spin state of  $S_{\text{gs}} = 1$ .<sup>1j</sup> The best fit for the new complex **10** reverses the sign of  $J_{\text{wb}}$  and  $J_{\text{bb}}$  interactions compared to **12** resulting in a degenerate ground state situation with the lowest lying spin values ranging from  $S_{\text{gs}} = 1 - 4$ .

Magnetization isotherms in the temperature range 2 - 20 K were measured in order to back up the identification of the ground state and provide information on low lying excited states, anisotropy, etc. Perusal of Figures 4 and SF 19 – 21 show that fits using Eq. 2 for **1**

and 5, and 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 – 11 (ESI) are very good for the isotherms with  $M$  values in a dc field 0.5 to 3.5 T. The fits are excellent in the low temperature region due to the inclusion of the zero field splitting in the exchange model (See Table 2). Isothermal  $M$  vs  $H$  fits for the  $S_{gs} = 1$  Class 1 complexes (7 and 8) and the  $S_{gs} = 1$  Class 2 complex (12) are generally satisfactory, with the zero field splitting parameter

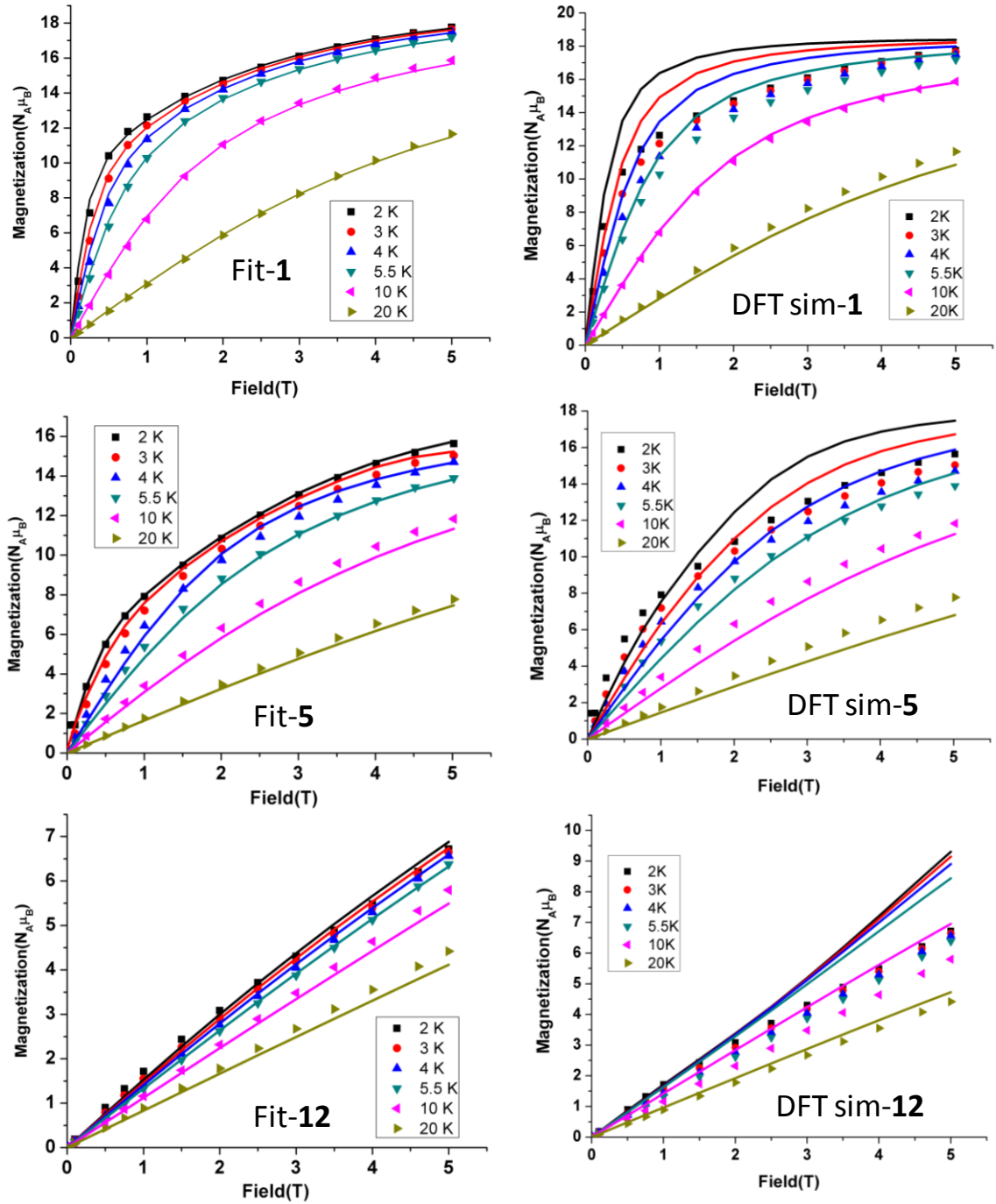
being less important, with the fits yielding negligible values (See Table 2).

The extracted  $D$  values using Eq.2 for the  $S_{gs} = 9$  complexes are in the range of  $-0.32$  to  $-0.43$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  which are similar to the literature reported  $D$  values of other manganese butterfly complexes<sup>5</sup> (See Table 2) offering confidence on the parameters extracted.



**Figure 3.** Thermal variation of  $\chi_M T$  for a) 1 - 2; b) 3 - 4; c) 5 - 6; d) 7 - 8; e) 9 - 10 and f) 11 - 12 down to 2 K, at 1T. The solid lines are fits

of the experimental data using the PHI program. The open points are the simulated  $\chi_M T(T)$  values using DFT extracted parameters.



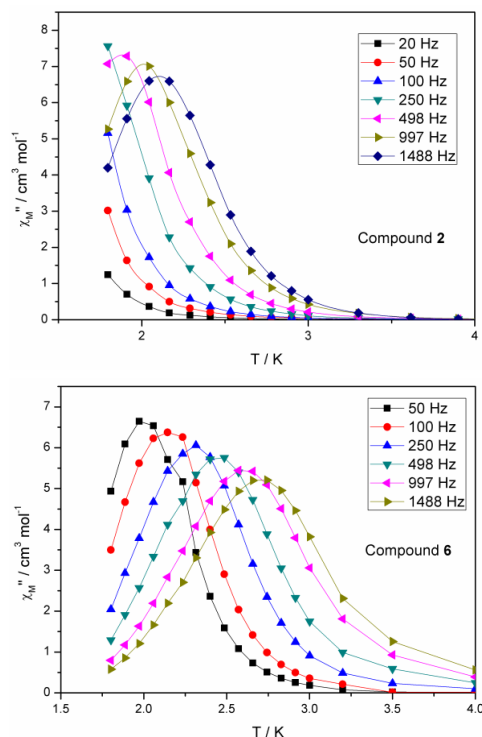
**Figure 4.**  $M$  vs  $H$  isotherms for (top) 1, (centre) 5 and (bottom) 12 at temperatures 2, 3, 4, 5.5, 10 and 20 K. The color shapes are experimental



data, the color lines are fits of the experimental data (left), and simulation with the DFT computed  $J$  parameters (right).

### AC susceptibility studies

Alternating current (ac) susceptibility measurements were performed to determine if **1** – **12** display slow magnetization reversal. It was found that slow magnetization relaxation is indeed observed for all complexes, except for **10** and **12**, as determined from the appearance of frequency and temperature dependent out-of-phase susceptibility ( $\chi_M''$ ) signals. The  $\chi_M''$  vs.  $T$  plots of compounds **2** and **6** are shown in Figure 5 as representative examples, with plots of the remaining complexes shown in Figures SF8 – SF14, along with the in-phase  $\chi_M'$  vs.  $T$  and  $\chi_M'$  vs. frequency plots. The relaxation times ( $\tau$ ) for **1**, **2**, **3**, **6** and **9** are temperature dependent, and when plotted as  $\ln(\tau)$  versus  $1/T$  display a linear relationship. Fitting the data to the Arrhenius law [ $\tau = \tau_0 \exp(U_{\text{eff}}/k_B T)$ ] yielded anisotropy barriers ( $U_{\text{eff}}$ ) and pre-exponential factors ( $\tau_0$ ) of {13.1 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1.5 x 10<sup>-8</sup> s} (**1**), {11.7 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3.6 x 10<sup>-8</sup> s} (**2**), {16.6 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 2.6 x 10<sup>-10</sup> s} (**3**), {16.8 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1.6 x 10<sup>-8</sup> s} (**6**) and {11.8 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 3.9 x 10<sup>-8</sup> s} (**9**) (see Figure SF15). For complexes **5**, **7**, **8** and **11** no maxima are observed above 1.8 K suggesting smaller anisotropy barriers and faster relaxation times. For **7** and **8**, while slow magnetization relaxation behavior is observed, the ground state  $S$  value could not be uniquely determined (reported as  $S = 1$ , in Table 2) as saturation in the magnetization is not observed. This indicates there are several close lying excited states as has been witnessed in several Mn clusters.<sup>13h</sup> Indeed, from the dc susceptibility fitting analysis it is found that excited states of value  $S = 0 - 6$  and  $S = 0 - 5$  remain populated even at 2 K for **7** and **8**, respectively. This would lead to the conclusion that the slow relaxation originates from populated excited state(s), which is backed up by the small  $\chi_M''/\chi_M'$  ratio of 0.03. The absence of slow magnetic relaxation for **10** and **12** is due to the isolated  $S = 1$  ground state for **12** and the small spin and anisotropy found for **10**.



**Figure 5.** Temperature dependence of  $\chi_M''$  for **2** (top) and **6** (bottom), with  $H_{\text{ac}} = 3.5$  Oe and  $H_{\text{dc}} = 0$  Oe.

To understand the origin of the contrasting magnetic properties for these structurally related {Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>} butterfly complexes, we have undertaken a detailed DFT study performing calculations using B3LYP/TZV setup to estimate the exchange interactions and the zero-field splitting parameters.

### Theoretical Studies:

**Magnetic exchange coupling parameter ( $J$ )** Three exchange coupling constants are determined by DFT, and are calculated using the B3LYP hybrid functional. The exchange topology used to calculate and simulate the  $J$  values is shown in Figure 2. We have set three goals that the DFT calculations can help elucidate. 1) to study the magnetic properties of the {Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>} butterfly complexes by calculating the exchange coupling constants ( $J$ ); 2) to develop magneto-structural correlations that will help us understand which structural parameters affect the  $J$  values and 3) to calculate the zero field splitting (ZFS) parameter ( $D$ ) to assess the nature of  $D$  in determining the slow magnetization relaxation behavior of these complexes.

To gain confidence in the computed  $J$  values, cross comparison of the DFT  $J$  parameters with the fitted  $J$  values obtained from the experimental magnetic data will be discussed, followed by the computed susceptibility data. This will then be followed by an analysis of geometrical correlation to the observed  $J$  values.

The experimentally fitted and DFT computed  $J$  values for complexes **1-12** are given in Table 2. It is found that, in general, the sign of the magnetic exchange can be reproduced between the two techniques. In many cases, however, the magnitude of the various exchange parameters differ, the results of which are summarized below.

As stated above the  $J_{bb}$  parameter is fixed to the DFT calculated value. Thus, only  $J_{wb}$  is variable in the experimental data fit. For complexes **1 - 4** (Class 1) it is found that the nature of the exchange interaction as determined from both the experimentally fitted parameters and the DFT calculated values are in agreement. The analysis reveals ferromagnetic magnetic exchange coupling for both  $J_{wb}$  and  $J_{bb}$  interactions, except for **2**, where DFT predicts an antiferromagnetic interaction for  $J_{bb}$  (Table 2). The magnitude of the ferromagnetic  $J_{wb}$  exchange is found to be slightly larger for the experimentally determined parameters compared to DFT. It was also determined from DFT that the  $J_{ww}$  interaction is very weak and antiferromagnetic in all cases and can thus be ignored for fitting the magnetic data.

For **5 - 8** (Class 1), the parameters derived from the experimental data and DFT yield the same sign of  $J_{wb}$  for **5** and **6**, but differ for **7** and **8** (Table 2). The experimentally determined  $J_{wb}$  parameters is ferromagnetic for **5** and **6** and antiferromagnetic for **7** and **8**. The DFT calculations predict a ferromagnetic  $J_{wb}$  interaction for **5 - 8**. In all cases the  $J_{bb}$  interaction is ferromagnetic. As with **1 - 4**, DFT predicts that the  $J_{ww}$  interaction is negligible and antiferromagnetic.

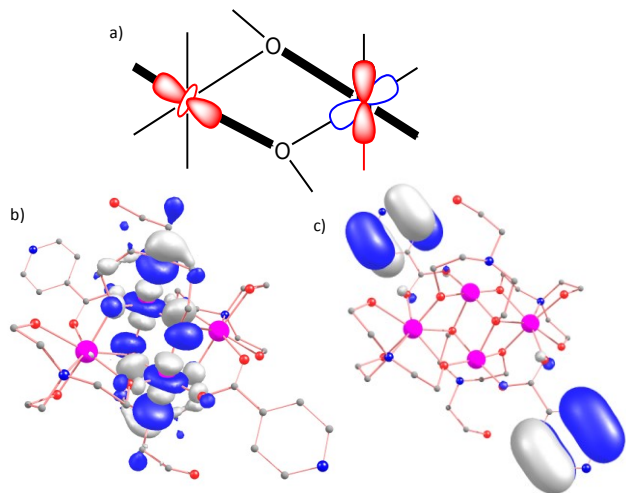
For **9 - 12** (Class 2) the nature of the magnetic interaction is again in good agreement between the fitted and DFT parameters. The  $J_{wb}$  interaction is found to be ferromagnetic, while  $J_{bb}$  is antiferromagnetic for **9 - 11**. This trend is reversed for **12**.

A small error observed with the DFT calculated  $J$  values are in the range of 0.002-0.008 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The temperature dependence of  $\chi_M T$  for the DFT calculated  $J$  values provide satisfactory fits to the experimental data for **1 - 4** (see Figure 3a, 3b and Figure SF16), **5 - 8** (see Figure 3c, 3d and Figure SF17) and **9-12**. (See Figure 3e, 3f and Figure SF18). The DFT calculated magnetization data also afforded reasonable fits to the experimental

$M$  vs  $H$  data for the majority of complexes, but with poor agreement at 2, 3 and 4 K and at intermediate field values. The fits using PHI and Eqn. 2 are superior (see Figure 4 top (1), center (5) and bottom (12) and Figure SF19-SF21 for 2-4 and 6-11).<sup>1j</sup> At lower temperatures, the anisotropic contributions are likely to play a role and this has not been included in the DFT magnetization simulation.

**Analysis of  $J_{bb}$  for 1 - 12:** This interaction, for all complexes, mediates through two alkoxo bridges and occurs between two Mn<sup>III</sup> centers in 1 - 8 and two Mn<sup>II</sup> centers in 9 - 12. The interaction is found to be ferromagnetic from the DFT calculations (with the exception of 2) for Class 1 complexes, while it is antiferromagnetic in Class 2 (with the exception of 12). The magnitude of the DFT calculated  $J_{bb}$  parameter in Class 1 varies from +2.32 to -0.06 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Table 1 lists all the geometrical parameters associated with 1 - 12 and these are used to determine the reason behind the variation in the  $J$  values. From previous work and by developing magneto-structural correlations on various Mn<sup>III</sup>(OR)<sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup> dimers,<sup>22</sup> it was concluded that the orientation of the Jahn-Teller axes plays a pivotal role in determining the sign and strength of the  $J$  parameter. For 1 - 8 the interaction falls in the type II class, type II being defined in the dimer study mentioned above,<sup>22</sup> and as expected the  $J$  values are found to be weakly ferromagnetic or antiferromagnetic.<sup>22</sup> This is essentially due to smaller overlap between the magnetic orbitals due to the parallel orientation of the Jahn-Teller axes (see Figure 6a for schematic illustration of interaction expected for this building unit). The computed  $J$  values are found to be correlated to the Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>III</sup> distance, with shorter distances yielding ferromagnetic coupling and longer distances yielding weaker ferromagnetic or even antiferromagnetic interactions. This trend is clearly visible from Table 1, with shorter Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>III</sup> distances revealing ferromagnetic interactions. However, the variation in the Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>III</sup> distances are also correlated to the variation in the Mn<sup>III</sup>-O distance and Mn<sup>III</sup>-O-Mn<sup>III</sup> angles. Correlations developed earlier suggest that these are the two key parameters influencing the magnitude of  $J$  in type II dimers.<sup>22</sup>



**Figure 6.** a) Schematic illustration of the interaction in type II complexes.<sup>22</sup> The bold lines along the  $\mu$ -O bonds represent the JT axes that visualises the parallel orientation. b) Singly Occupied Molecular Orbital (SOMO) of  $\alpha$ - electron in 3. c) SOMO of  $\beta$ - electron in 3. The white and blue colors represent positive and negative sign.

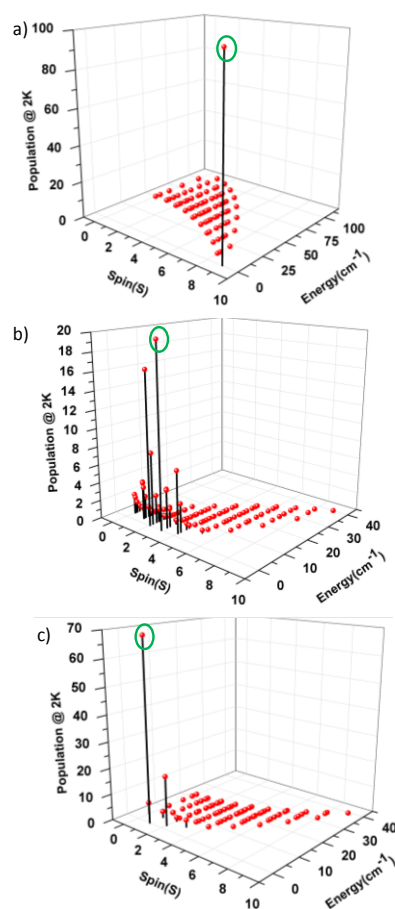
For complexes 9 - 12, the Mn<sup>II</sup>-Mn<sup>II</sup> distance are also found to correlate to the magnitude of the  $J$  value, as the distance increases the  $J$

value is also found to increase, becoming less antiferromagnetic and in the case of 12, which has the largest Mn<sup>II</sup>-Mn<sup>II</sup> distance the interaction is weakly ferromagnetic. Besides the Mn<sup>II</sup>-Mn<sup>II</sup> distance there is also a correlation with the Mn<sup>II</sup>-O-Mn<sup>II</sup> angle,<sup>13h</sup> with an increasing angle resulting in a decrease in the magnitude of antiferromagnetic contribution to the net  $J$  value.

**Analysis of  $J_{wb}$  for complexes 1-12:** This interaction describes the magnetic exchange between a Mn<sup>III</sup> and a Mn<sup>II</sup> ion and is mediated by two alkoxo bridges for all complexes. The magnitude of  $J$  from the DFT calculations is found to vary from +1.37 to -0.45 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Analysis of the orbital interaction revealed that the Mn(III)- $d_{z^2}$ |Mn(II)- $d_{z^2}$  overlap controls the sign and magnitude of the  $J$  parameter. For all complexes, except for 12, the  $d_{z^2}$ - $d_{z^2}$  orbitals are parallel thus avoiding significant orbital overlap, leading to the absence of a significant antiferromagnetic contribution to the  $J$  parameter. For complex 12, on the other hand, due to the variation of structure and the orientation of the Jahn-Teller axes, head-to-head Mn(III)- $d_{z^2}$ |Mn(II)- $d_{z^2}$  overlap is detected leading to antiferromagnetic coupling (see Figure SF22 in ESI). The variation in the magnitude of the ferromagnetic  $J$ 's are found to correlate to the Mn-O-Mn angles and the Mn-O distances.

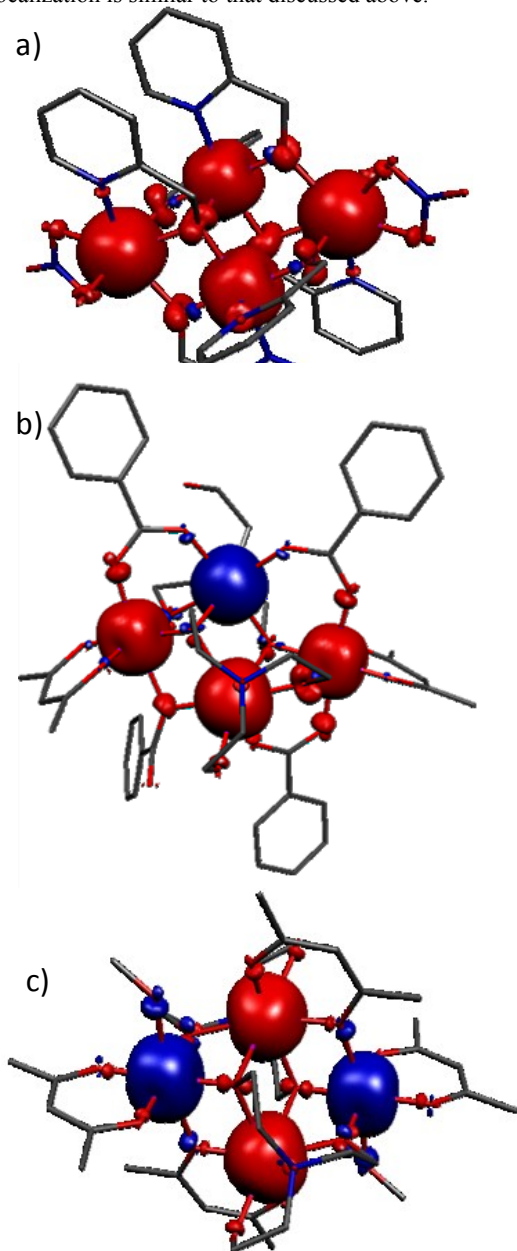
### Spin ground state and spin density analysis of 1 - 12

The experimentally fitted and DFT computed  $J$  values yield an  $S = 9$  ground state (see Figure 7a) for complexes 1 - 6, 9 and 11 (see Table 2). The ground state spin density plot for  $S = 9$  (DFT calculated) is shown in Figure 8a. In all complexes, spin delocalization is observed for the Mn(II) ions (spin density of  $\sim 4.82$ ), whereas the Mn(III) ions display a mixture of spin delocalization and polarization ( $\sim 3.86$ ). From the delocalization, a significant spin density of (0.05) is found on the central  $\mu_3$ -O atoms that bridge the two body ions to the wing ions, while the outer  $\mu_2$ -O atoms bridging a body to a wing site gain a spin density of (0.03).



**Figure 7.** Eigen value plots for (a) **1** (a similar diagram is applicable for complexes **2 - 9** and **11**); (b) **10** and (c) **12** (the spin ground state is highlighted).

For complexes **7** and **8**, DFT computed  $J$  values suggest an  $S = 9$  ground state, however the same value could not be unambiguously determined from the experimental data. As the exchange interactions are very weak for these complexes, this leads to several nested spin states (nearly ten spin states lie within an energy window of  $5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). For complex **10**, the experimental  $J$  values predict that spin states of  $S = 1 - 4$  are lowest in energy, while the DFT computed  $J$  values yield an  $S = 3$  ground state (see Figure 7b). The spin state ( $S = 4$ ) near to the ground state for complex **10** (DFT) is achieved when one body Mn(II) ion has a “spin-down” configuration, while the other Mn centers are “spin-up”. This is realized as the dominant interaction predicted in **10** is  $J_{bb}$ , which is antiferromagnetic ( $-0.88 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), whereas the  $J_{wb}$  interactions is weaker and computed to be ferromagnetic ( $0.32 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). This spin configuration should lead to an overall  $S = 4$  value for the ground state. However due to the competing nature of the interactions, the calculation revealed an  $S = 3$  ground state. The spin density plot for  $S = 4$  is shown in Figure 8b and the mechanism of delocalization is similar to that discussed above.



**Figure 8.** Spin density plots of complex a) **1**; b) **10** and c) **12**. The red and blue colors represent positive and negative spin densities.

For complex **12** the experimental fit and the computed  $J$  values yield an  $S = 1$  ground state (see Figure 7c). The spin ground state is attained when two wing Mn(III) ions are “spin-down”, while the body Mn(II) ions are “spin-up”. The dominant interaction predicted in complex **12** is the antiferromagnetic  $J_{wb}$  ( $-0.45 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) pathway. Even though  $J_{bb}$  and  $J_{ww}$  are ferromagnetic, they are negligible in magnitude ( $0.02$  and  $0.01 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and do not play a role in determining the ground state. The ground state spin density plot for  $S = 1$  is shown in Figure 8c. Here the spin-down Mn(III) ions have a spin density of  $\sim -3.84$ . The central bridging  $\mu_3\text{-O}$  atoms and  $\mu_2\text{-O}$  display a spin density of ( $0.01$ ) and ( $-0.01$ ), respectively.

#### Magnetic Anisotropy:

**Table 4.** B3LYP-computed  $D$ ,  $E/D$ ,  $g$  values along with the different contributions to the computed ZFS parameter for **1 - 9** and **12**.

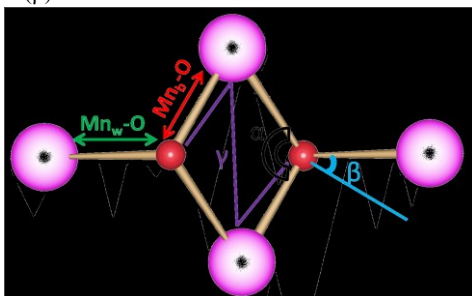
Complex	DFT Calculated values				
	$D$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$E/D$	$D_{\text{soc}}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$D_{\text{ss}}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$g$ (isotropic)
<b>1</b>	-0.062	0.219	-0.033	-0.029	2.002
<b>2</b>	-0.152	0.311	-0.122	-0.030	2.001
<b>3</b>	-0.19	0.079	-0.159	-0.031	2.001
<b>4</b>	-0.183	0.293	-0.166	-0.017	2.002
<b>5</b>	-0.067	0.161	-0.035	-0.032	2.002
<b>6</b>	-0.191	0.064	-0.161	-0.03	2.001
<b>7</b>	-0.051	0.201	-0.031	-0.02	2.002
<b>8</b>	-0.065	0.149	-0.034	-0.031	2.002
<b>9</b>	-0.073	0.113	-0.037	-0.036	2.001
<b>11</b>	-0.069	0.211	-0.038	-0.031	2.002

Following on from the determination of the magnetic exchange parameters and spin values, we then proceeded to calculate the cluster  $g$  and  $D$  parameters, using DFT for the complexes possessing an  $S = 9$  ground state (**1 - 9**, and **11**). Although *ab initio* CASSCF calculations have proven to give good numerical estimates of cluster  $D$  values, this procedure cannot be employed to obtain ground state anisotropy for large clusters such as the ones studied here.<sup>19c-e, 23</sup> Thus the calculated  $D$  values are underestimated compared to the extracted  $D$  values from the experimental data. The computed isotropic  $g$  values

for **1 - 9**, and **11** are given in Table 4, along with the ZFS parameters ( $D$ ). The computed  $g$  tensors are found to be isotropic for the  $S = 9$  ground state for **1 - 9** and **11** and the calculations reveal a negative sign of  $D$  for these complexes. The different contributions to the net  $D$  parameter are also summarized in Table 4. It is observed that  $D_{\text{soc}}$  (spin-orbit) makes a significant contribution to the net ZFS parameter compared to the  $D_{\text{ss}}$  (spin-spin) contribution in the cases of largest  $D$ . This is found for **2, 3, 4** and **6**. The other complexes reveal a smaller negative ZFS parameter, with equal contributions from  $D_{\text{soc}}$  and  $D_{\text{ss}}$ . The different contribution of  $D_{\text{soc}}$  is listed in Table ST4. The largest contribution to the  $D_{\text{soc}}$  component for complexes **2, 3, 4** and **6** are found to arise from spin-flip excitations  $\alpha(\text{SOMO}, \text{Singly Occupied Molecular Orbital}) \rightarrow \beta(\text{SOMO})$  excitations as well as a spin-conserving excitations (SOMO  $\rightarrow$  VMO (virtual molecular orbital)). Here the  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  spin-flip excitations are more prominent and contribute in the range of 70-80% to the total  $D$  value in **2, 3, 4** and **6**. A closer look at the molecular orbitals reveal that this transition corresponds to metal ( $d_{z^2}$  orbitals of  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$ , See Figure 6b) to ligand (low lying  $\pi^*$  orbitals of the substituent attached to the bridging carboxylic acid, e.g. in complex **3** it corresponds to  $\pi^*$  orbitals of isonicotinic acid, see Figure 6c). The absence of such substituents leads to high-energy  $\alpha(\text{SOMO}) \rightarrow \beta(\text{SOMO})$  excitations and therefore smaller contributions to the total  $D$  parameter (for example in complex **5**). This invariably suggests that the electron donating and withdrawing substituent's not only influence the magnitude of the  $J$  values but also the magnetic anisotropy by offering lower energy excitations and hence enhanced  $D_{\text{soc}}$  contributions.

### Magneto-Structural Correlations:

We have developed magneto-structural correlations for complex **3** (Class 1) and Complex **9** (Class 2) to rationalize the structural parameters that affect the magnetic exchange interactions within these complexes. Correlations for five structural parameters which can affect the exchange interaction have been developed (see Figure 9): 1)  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  bond distance; 2)  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  bond distance; 3)  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angle ( $\alpha$ ); 4)  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  dihedral angle ( $\gamma$ ) and 5) Out-of-plane shift of the  $\text{Mn}_w$  atoms ( $\beta$ ).<sup>24</sup>



**Figure 9.** Structural parameters that can affect the exchange interaction.

**Class 1:  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distance correlation:** This correlation is developed by varying the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distances from 1.7 Å to 2.3 Å. While  $J_{\text{ww}}$  is found to be unaltered, the  $J_{\text{bb}}$  and  $J_{\text{wb}}$  values are affected with longer distances yielding less antiferromagnetic  $J$  values. It is found that the body-body interaction ( $J_{\text{bb}}$ ) depends mainly on the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distance ( $-18.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $0.8 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  between 1.7 – 2.5 Å). For shorter  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distances, the  $J_{\text{bb}}$  interaction give rise to strong antiferromagnetic behavior (see Figure 10a). As the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distance is correlated to the  $d_{z^2}$  orbital interaction, shortening this distance will enhance the overlap with both the  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  ions leading to antiferromagnetic

coupling. The wing-body ( $J_{\text{wb}}$ ) interaction is marginally affected by the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distance parameter ( $-1.39 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $1.75 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

Overlapping the experimentally determined fits ( $J_{\text{bb}}$  and  $J_{\text{wb}}$ ) on the computed correlation reveals, however, little variation in the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  parameter among the family of structures studied here and reported earlier. However, we would like to note that the correlation is developed by fixing all the geometric parameters to that of complex **3**, except for varying the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  distances, while experimental structures reflect changes on all structural parameters.

**$\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  distance correlation:** This correlation is developed by varying the  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  distances from 1.9 Å to 2.7 Å (see Figure 10b). While  $J_{\text{ww}}$  and  $J_{\text{bb}}$  is found to be nearly unaltered, the  $J_{\text{wb}}$  parameter is affected, with longer distances yielding less ferromagnetic  $J$  values ( $+7$  to  $-1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Again overlapping the experimentally determined fits on the computed correlation reveals some  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  structural variation.

**$\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angle correlation:** This angular correlation is developed by varying the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angle from 80 to 120°. For the  $J_{\text{bb}}$  and  $J_{\text{wb}}$  interaction the  $J$  values vary between  $-28.9 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $2.62 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $\text{xx}$  to  $\text{xx} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively, as the angle is changed. At smaller  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angles the  $J_{\text{bb}}$  interaction gives rise to strong antiferromagnetic behavior (see Figure 10c). As the angle increases the interaction becomes less antiferromagnetic due to the diminishing overlap between the magnetic orbitals leading to a smaller antiferromagnetic contribution. The  $J_{\text{ww}}$  parameter is found to be insensitive to the  $\text{Mn-O-Mn}$  angle.

**$\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angle ( $\gamma$ ):** This correlation is developed by varying the  $\gamma$  angle from 0 to 35 degrees. For small  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angles ( $0 - 10^\circ$ ), the  $J_{\text{bb}}$ ,  $J_{\text{wb}}$  and  $J_{\text{ww}}$  interactions are ferromagnetic. It is found that all three  $J$  values are sensitive to the angle such that larger  $\gamma$  values yield increasingly antiferromagnetic  $J_{\text{wb}}$  and  $J_{\text{bb}}$  and increasingly ferromagnetic  $J_{\text{ww}}$  interactions (see Figure 10d).

**$\text{Mn-O-O}$  angle ( $\beta$ ):** This parameter does not influence  $J_{\text{bb}}$  or  $J_{\text{ww}}$ , however, influences the  $J_{\text{wb}}$  parameter. At angles  $> 82^\circ$  the interaction becomes increasingly ferromagnetic before plateauing above  $100^\circ$ . From the correlation it is found that the wing-wing interaction ( $J_{\text{ww}}$ ) is not affected by geometrical changes and remains weak for the whole range of investigated geometrical parameters, except for the  $\gamma$  parameter where it is found to vary. From the data we can therefore conclude that the magnetic exchange interactions ( $J_{\text{bb}}$  and  $J_{\text{wb}}$ ) of Class 1 complexes are predominantly affected by the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  bond distance and the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  bond angle, whereas the  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  bond distance, the dihedral  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angle ( $\gamma$ ) and the out of shift plane parameters play a minor role in influencing the magnetic exchange parameters (Figure 10b and 10d).

**Class 2:** Similar magneto-structural correlations are also developed for complex **9** and indicate that the body-body interaction ( $J_{\text{bb}}$ ) depends mainly on the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angle ( $-6.62 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $-0.13 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , between  $80 - 120^\circ$ ). At the largest and smallest  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angles, the  $J_{\text{bb}}$  interaction gives rise to the strongest antiferromagnetic value (see Figure 11c). The  $J_{\text{wb}}$  and  $J_{\text{ww}}$  interactions are not affected by the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  angle. The wing-body interaction ( $J_{\text{wb}}$ ) is affected by the  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  bond distance and the dihedral  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angle ( $\gamma$ ) (see Figure 11b and 11d). At larger  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angles, the  $J_{\text{wb}}$  interaction shows antiferromagnetic coupling and the  $J_{\text{ww}}$  shows moderate ferromagnetic behavior. Comparatively the other structural parameters  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  and the out of plane shift parameter (see Figure 11a and 11e) do not affect the  $J_{\text{wb}}$  values as much as the  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  bond angle, the  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  bond distance and the dihedral  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angle.



**Table 5.** Average bond distances (Å) and bond angles (°) that can affect the exchange interactions of the {Mn<sub>4</sub>} complexes. (see Figure 9)

Complex	Mn <sub>b</sub> -O	Mn <sub>w</sub> -O	$\alpha$	$\gamma$	$\beta$
1	2.11	2.27	99.4	0	102.8
2	2.12	2.35	100.1	0	100.7
3	2.09	2.32	99.3	0	99.1
4	2.10	2.27	96.4	0	100.8
5	2.09	2.31	97.5	0	98.2
6	2.09	2.39	99.9	0	99.7
7	2.11	2.26	101.1	0	100.1
8	2.10	2.46	100.1	0	98.6
9	2.35	1.94	100.9	0	106.6
10	2.33	1.95	95.6	2.1	112.6
11	2.33	1.92	102.0	0	108.1
12	2.43	1.93	99.9	0	107.4

To gain further insight into the correlations developed for complexes **3** and **9**, we have analyzed the structural parameters and the corresponding  $J$  values observed for other complexes. In Class 1, the  $J_{bb}$  parameter mainly varies by changing the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O distance and the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> angle. The Mn<sub>b</sub>-O distance and the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> angle for Class 1 complexes are  $\sim 2.1$  Å and  $96.3 - 101.1^\circ$ , respectively. As the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O distance is similar for all complexes then this suggests that this parameter is not causing the differences found in the  $J$  analysis for Class 1 compounds. The variation is therefore primarily due to the changing Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> angle. The correlations suggest moderate

ferromagnetic behavior for  $J_{bb}$  for these structural parameters which is in broad agreement with the extracted experimental  $J$  values.

The  $J_{wb}$  interaction on the other hand is expected to be influenced by Mn<sub>b</sub>-O, Mn<sub>w</sub>-O distances and the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub>-O dihedral angle ( $\gamma$ ). The developed correlation revealed a stronger dependence of  $J_{wb}$  on the Mn<sub>w</sub>-O distance and the Mn-O-Mn<sub>b</sub>-O dihedral angle. However, these two parameters are nearly constant for all the structures reported (See experimental points on Figure 10). On the other hand, a moderate dependence on the  $J$  parameter is noted for the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> bond angle. As this parameter is found to vary among the structures studied, this parameter rationalizes the observed variation in the  $J_{wb}$  values. The correlations also show that the wing-wing interaction ( $J_{ww}$ ) is not affected significantly by any of the structural parameters, revealing very weak exchange interactions which is in excellent agreement with the calculated  $J_{ww}$  for all Class 1 complexes.

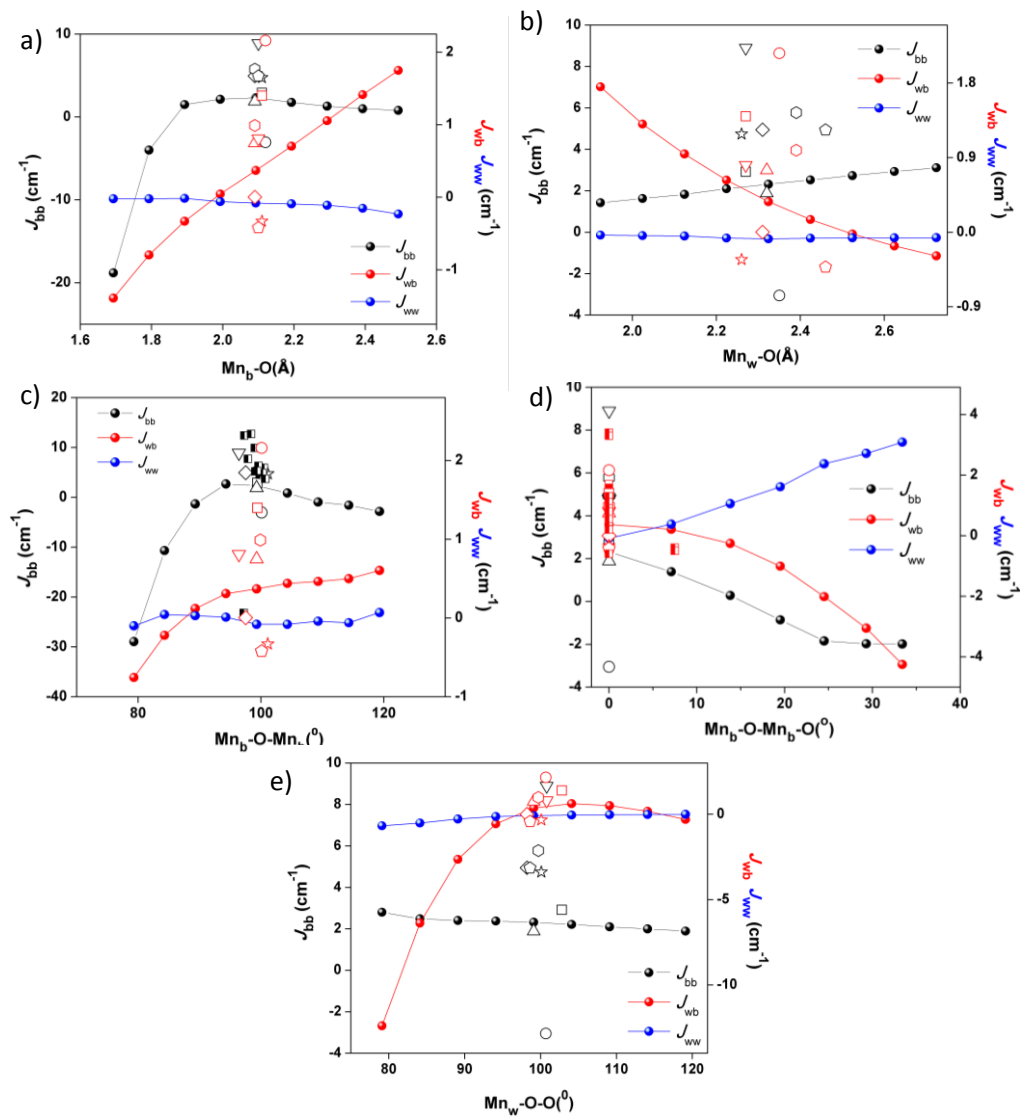
In Class 2, the structural parameter which is found to affect the  $J_{bb}$  value is the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> angle, which ranges from  $95 - 102^\circ$  for **9 - 12**. Our correlation suggests that antiferromagnetic behavior is expected and will be greater at larger and smaller angles (boundaries). This is in good agreement with the calculated  $J_{bb}$  values for all Class 2 complexes, except **12**, which is found at the optimum angle between the smaller and larger angle resulting in ferromagnetic behavior. The  $J_{wb}$  interaction is affected by all parameters, except the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O distance. It is found however, that the structural parameters do not vary significantly and the weak ferromagnetic exchange (weak antiferromagnetic for **12**) extracted from the fits agree nicely with the correlations.

The  $J_{ww}$  interactions are affected by the dihedral angle ( $\gamma$ ) which is in the range of  $0 - 2.1^\circ$ . The dihedral angle correlation suggests that the wing-wing interaction ( $J_{ww}$ ) shows only a weak exchange interaction up to  $2.1^\circ$  which is in excellent agreement with the calculated  $J_{ww}$  for all Class 2 complexes.

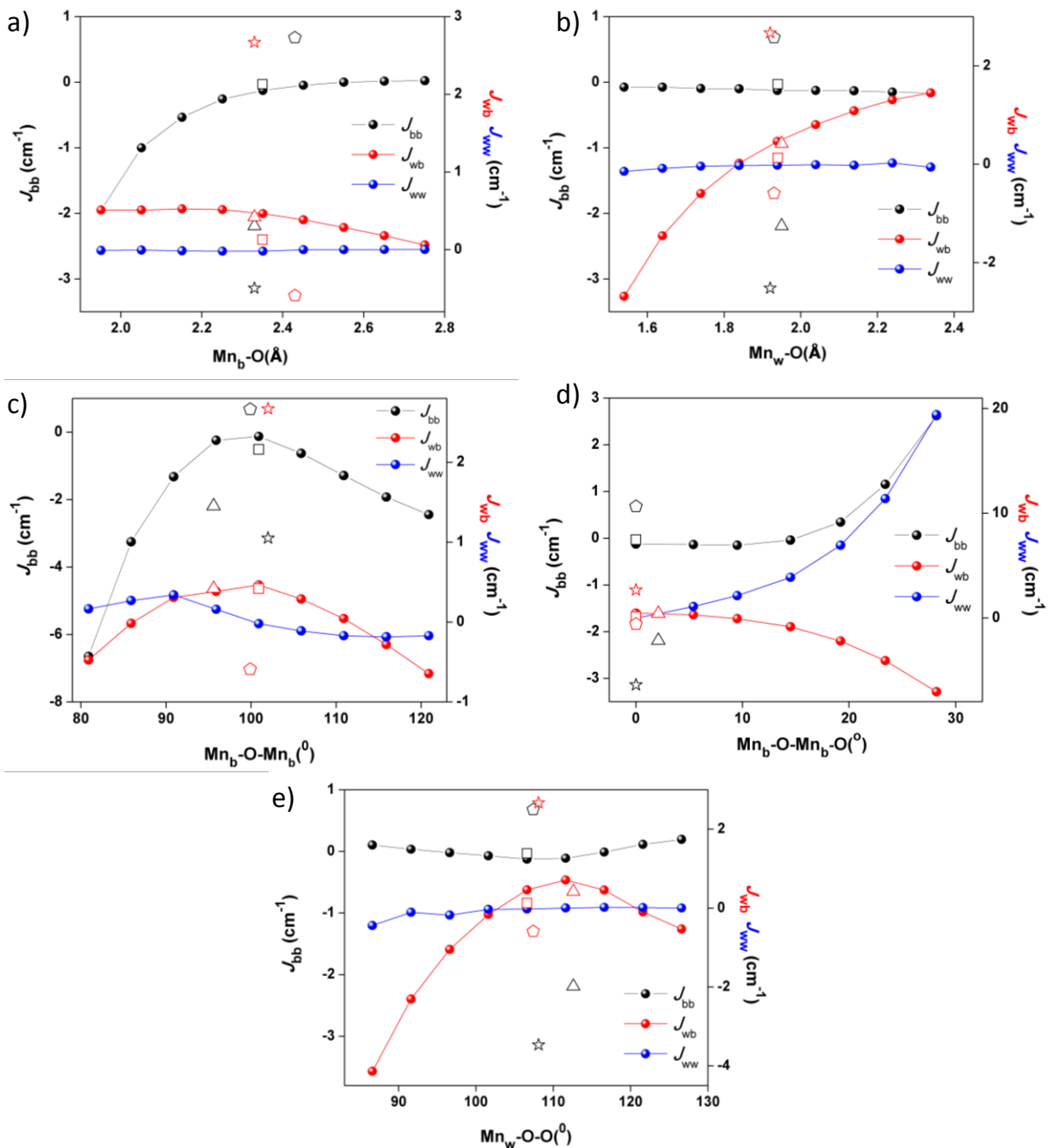
In summary, the analysis of the dependence of the exchange interactions on the structural parameters signifies that the body-body interaction is strongly dependent on the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> angle and the wing-body interactions is strongly dependent on Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub>-O dihedral angle for both Class 1 and 2 causing variations in the  $J$  magnetic exchange parameters and therefore the observed magnetic properties.

To validate our developed correlations, we have compared the reported (Class 1, See Table 3)  $J_{bb}$  values with the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> angle and the  $J_{wb}$  values with the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub>-O angle (See Figure 9c and 9d). Our predictions are in good agreement with these previously reported  $J$  values.





**Figure 10.** Structural parameters that affect the exchange coupling constants a)  $Mn_b-O$  bond distance b)  $Mn_w-O$  bond distance c)  $Mn_b-O-Mn_b$  bond angle, d) the dihedral  $Mn_b-O-Mn_b-O$  angle e) out-of-plane shift of the  $Mn_w$  atoms. The black ( $J_{bb}$ ) and red ( $J_{wb}$ ) open symbols are experimental  $J$  values of **1**(□), **2**(○), **3**(△), **4**(▽), **5**(◇), **6**(◊), **7**(☆) and **8**(△). The half shaded squares in (c) and (d) are  $J_{bb}$  and  $J_{wb}$  values of reported  $\{Mn^{II}_2Mn^{III}_2\}$  complexes, respectively. (CLASS 1).



**Figure 11.** Structural parameters that affect the exchange coupling constants with the a)  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O}$  bond distance b)  $\text{Mn}_w\text{-O}$  bond distance c)  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b$  bond angle, d) the dihedral  $\text{Mn}_b\text{-O-Mn}_b\text{-O}$  angle e) out-of-plane shift of the  $\text{Mn}_w$  atoms. The black ( $J_{bb}$ ) and red ( $J_{wb}$ ) open symbols are experimental  $J$  values of 9( $\square$ ), 10( $\Delta$ ), 11( $\star$ ) and 12( $\diamond$ ). (CLASS 2).

## CONCLUSIONS

We have successfully synthesized and studied twelve mixed valent  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_2\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_2\}$  manganese complexes which display a butterfly metallic core. These compounds are classified by the position of the ions in the metallic core. Two distinct structural types are observed and denoted as Class 1 and 2. Class 1 compounds place the Mn(III) ions in the body positions of the “butterfly” metallic core, while the Mn(II) ions occupy the outer wing sites. Class 2 complexes display the reverse arrangement of ions, with the Mn(II) sites in the body positions and the Mn(III) ions occupying the outer wing sites. Magnetic measurements revealed differing magnetic exchange coupling parameters for each complex and compounds **1** - **9** and **11** display slow magnetization relaxation suggesting that they are single-molecule magnets.

In-depth, magnetic analysis of the twelve complexes revealed the following. In general, the extracted experimentally fitted and the DFT calculated  $J$  values yield the following conclusions: (i) DFT can be used as an excellent tool for determining the nature of magnetic exchange interactions within polynuclear manganese based complexes. (ii) From both experiment and theory it is found the wing-body  $J_{\text{wb}}$  coupling parameter is moderately ferromagnetic in nature for all complexes ( $-0.45 - 1.37 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), except for **7**, **8** (experimental fit) and **12** (DFT and fit) (see Table 1); (iii) The body-body interactions ( $J_{\text{bb}}$ ) are generally ferromagnetic for Class 1 and antiferromagnetic for Class 2. This  $J_{\text{bb}}$  pathway (Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>III</sup>) is the also generally the strongest interaction for Class 1 complexes ( $-0.06 - +2.32 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). (iv) The wing-wing ( $J_{\text{ww}}$ ) coupling constant, determined via DFT only, is found to show weak antiferromagnetic values for all the complexes, except in **10** and **12**, which are weakly ferromagnetic; (v) The spin ground state is generally found to be larger for Class 1, than Class 2. This due to the fact that some of the body-body  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}-\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\}$  interactions for Class 2 complexes are weaker than the  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}-\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\}$  wing-body interactions leading to dominant antiferromagnetic coupling and a smaller ground state  $S$  value. (vi) DFT calculations yield negative  $D$  values for all complexes. This suggests that if the spin ground state is large, slow relaxation of the magnetization will be observed. The magnitude of  $D$  was also found to be significantly influenced by the electron donating/withdrawing substituents of the ligands.

In line with the theoretical predictions, complexes **1**, **2**, **3**, **6** and **9** display clear SMM behavior, displaying peak maxima in the  $\chi^M$  vs  $T$  plots, allowing for the determination of the anisotropy barrier ( $U_{\text{eff}}$ ). The order of the size of the energy barrier is **3**~**6** > **1** > **2**~**9**. The DFT computed energy barriers (taking into account the computed  $D$  and the ground state  $S$  value) are also in line with the experimental value for **2**, **3** and **6** and slightly underestimated for **1** and **9** (see Table ST5). Our calculations indicate that by attaching the electron withdrawing and donating substituent's to the ligands, one can alter the nature of the magnetic exchange interaction,  $J$ , and thus the ground state and importantly, also, the anisotropy. The Class 1 complexes possessing  $\{\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{OR})_2\}$  interactions at the body positions are superior compared to their Mn<sup>II</sup> counterparts as these body-body interactions are found to control the sign and strength of the  $J$  parameters as well as the magnetic anisotropy. The developed magneto-structural correlations suggest possible future ways to enhance the  $J$ 's by fine tuning the Mn<sub>b</sub>-O-Mn<sub>b</sub> and Mn<sub>w</sub>-O-Mn<sub>w</sub>-O parameters in these  $\{\text{Mn}_4\}$  butterfly systems.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) available: Crystallographic data in CIF format; Table ST1, crystallographic data; Tables ST2, bond valence sum values; Table ST3, Bond lengths and angles; Tables ST4, Computed ZFS parameters; Table ST5, Energy barrier values; Tables ST6, computed ground and 1<sup>st</sup> excited spin state values; Table ST7, spin configurations employed for extracting  $J$  values; Figure SF1, SF2, Molecular structures of **2** - **8** and **10** - **12**; Figure SF3-SF6, packing diagram of **1** - **12**; Figure SF7-SF14, AC susceptibility plots; Figure SF15, Arrhenius plots; Figure SF16-SF21, susceptibility plots of **1** - **12**; Figure SF22, orbital orientations. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>. Compounds **1**- **8** and **10** correlate to CCDC Nos. 1483120-1483128, which can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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# What Controls the Magnetic Exchange and Anisotropy in a Family of Tetranuclear {Mn<sup>II</sup>Mn<sup>III</sup>} Single Molecule Magnets?

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A combined experimental and theoretical study on a series of {Mn<sup>II/III</sup>}\_4 “butterfly” complexes unveils ways to synthesize targeted {Mn<sup>II/III</sup>}\_4 SMMs.