

## Crystal structures of $[\text{Cu}_2(2,2'\text{-bipyridine-N,N}')_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2](\text{barbiturate})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ and $[\text{Cu}(2,2'\text{-bipyridine-N,N}')(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{barbiturate-O})\text{Cl}] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

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### Abstract

Two mixed-ligand Cu(II) complexes  $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{Bipy})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{OH})_2](\text{Hba})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{Bipy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{Hba})\text{Cl}] \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**) (Bipy = 2,2'-bipyridine and  $\text{Hba}^-$  = barbiturate anion) were synthesized and structurally characterized by single crystal X-ray diffraction. In **1**, structural data revealed distorted square-pyramidal geometry for each of two crystallographic independent copper(II) atom with the basal plane formed by two nitrogen atoms of the 2,2'-bipyridine ligand and two oxygen atoms of bridging hydroxo groups. The apical positions are filled by the oxygen atoms from a water molecule. In **2**, the Cu atom is also in distorted square pyramidal geometry, where the equatorial sites are occupied by two N atoms of one Bipy ligand, one O atom of the barbiturate ion and one chloride ion and the apical position by one aqua ligand. Numerous intermolecular hydrogen bonds O–H···O, N–H···O, C–H···O in the structures **1-2** and in addition O–H···Cl, C–H···Cl in the structure **2** form the 3D networks. Topological analysis showed that these H-bonded networks are new. An additional factor that plays a role in the crystal packing of the discussed complexes is the  $\pi$ – $\pi$  stacking interaction between the aromatic rings of  $\text{Hba}^-$  and Bipy forming infinite chains –Hba–Bipy–Bipy–Hba–. The spectroscopic and thermal properties of compounds were analyzed.

**Keywords:** copper(II); barbituric acid; 2,2'-bipyridine; X-ray diffraction; thermal stability

Barbituric acid (H<sub>2</sub>ba) and their derivatives are important groups of sedative/hypnotic drugs. The non-covalent interactions, such as hydrogen bonding and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking, are of great importance in the chemistry of barbiturate compounds. Barbiturate ligands have produced a variety of metal-organic frameworks with diverse topologies and interesting properties [1-3]. However, the crystal structure of the barbiturate complexes with metal ions has been the subject of only few reports [4-14]. Another well-known ligand in supramolecular chemistry is 2,2'-bipyridine (Bipy). Bipy used as auxiliary ligand is excellent candidate for the construction of novel mixed-ligand complexes, since it can form strong bonds with metal ions, and act as a hydrogen bond donor and acceptor, and the pyridine rings can interact to each other or other molecules with  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions [15].

Copper is part of redox-active metalloenzymes and is important for various cellular functions of the body [16]. It is expected that Cu(II) ion also will affect the medical activity of barbituric acid and its derivatives [4]. Therefore, data on the structure and properties of barbiturate copper(II) complexes may be useful for a better understanding of the copper effect on the activity of drugs. The principle interest of the present study is to investigate the solid-state structure of mixed-ligand Cu(II) complexes containing barbiturate anion, 2,2'-bipyridine, chloride ion, coordinated and uncoordinated water molecules. We describe here the synthesis and structures of two new mixed-ligand complexes, [Cu<sub>2</sub>(Bipy)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>](Hba)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (**1**) and [Cu(Bipy)(H<sub>2</sub>O)(Hba)Cl]·2H<sub>2</sub>O (**2**), where, Hba<sup>-</sup> = barbiturate anion. If in compound **1** the Hba<sup>-</sup> ion is in the outer sphere, then in **2** it is directly connected with the copper(II) ion. Note that the hydroxo-bridged planar [Cu<sub>2</sub>( $\mu$ -OH)<sub>2</sub>] core is an important structural unit to build numerous tri-, tetra- and hexa-nuclear Cu(II) complexes with interesting structures, magnetic properties [17-19] and biological activity [20].

The compounds **1** and **2** were prepared by reaction of Bipy, H<sub>2</sub>ba with CuCO<sub>3</sub> or CuCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O respectively in water (Scheme 1). The resulting solutions (pH 5-6) were allowed to stand open to the air at room temperature for several days. Large blue block-shaped crystals **1** and dark green rectangular crystals **2** were filtered off and dried in air to a constant mass. Thus, at pH 5-6, the coordination of chloride ions to Cu(II) proved to be more preferable than OH<sup>-</sup> ions. The complexes were characterized by single-crystal and powder X-ray diffraction analysis, TG-DSC, and FT-IR. Reagents, syntheses, X-ray diffraction analysis, physical measurements are described in detail in the appendix.

The unit cell of **1** corresponds to triclinic symmetry. Space group *P*-1 was determined from the statistical analysis of reflection intensities. The main crystal data are enumerated in Table S1. The asymmetric unit contains two Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions, two hydroxo bridging groups, two Bipy molecules, two Hba<sup>-</sup> ions and three H<sub>2</sub>O molecules (Fig. 1a). Each Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion is coordinated by Bipy

molecule through two N atoms ( $d(\text{Cu-N}) = 2.0023(1) - 2.0100(1) \text{ \AA}$ ), two  $\text{OH}^-$  ions ( $d(\text{Cu-O}_{\text{OH}}) = 1.9272(1) - 1.9441(1) \text{ \AA}$ ) and one  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  forming distorted square pyramid. The  $\text{Cu-O}_{\text{Hba}}$  distances ( $2.9278(2) - 3.0725(3) \text{ \AA}$ ) are long and can be considered as short contacts [21]. The equatorial bonds at each Cu(II) centre comprise two bridging hydroxo oxygen atoms and Bipy nitrogen atoms, generating the  $\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$  basal planes. The pair of the copper centers forms a four cornered planar  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2$  core where the two Bipy molecules are *trans* oriented with respect to the  $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}_2$  core forming five-membered chelate rings with Cu(II). The axial position is occupied by the coordinated water molecule. The axial  $\text{Cu-O}_w$  distances ( $2.356(2)$  and  $2.4665(2) \text{ \AA}$ ) are quite longer than equatorial ones ( $d(\text{Cu-O}) = 1.9272(1) - 1.9441(1) \text{ \AA}$ ) indicating stronger  $\text{Cu-O-Cu}$  interaction. The elongation of the apical bond length in complex **1** is of comparable magnitude to that observed in the previously reported complexes [18, 19]. The  $\text{Cu1}\cdots\text{Cu2}$  distance  $2.8644(5) \text{ \AA}$ , the angles  $\text{Cu1-O1w-Cu2}$  ( $95.10(9)^\circ$ ) and  $\text{Cu1-O2w-Cu2}$  ( $95.99(9)^\circ$ ) are similar to those in compounds  $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{Bipy})_2(\text{OH})_2(\text{HPO}_4)(\text{H}_2\text{O})]\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [18] and  $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{Bipy})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})(\text{OH})_2(\text{SO}_4)]\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  [19]. The main bond lengths and valence angles of  $\text{Hba}^-$  and Bipy (Table S2) practically coincide with those found earlier in other barbiturate [4-14, 22, 23] and 2,2'-bipyridyl [18, 19, 24-27] compounds. The  $\text{N-C-C-N}$  torsion angles are  $2.2(3)^\circ$  and  $-0.4(4)^\circ$ . The Bipy molecules are planar, the standard deviation of atoms from corresponding planes are  $0.036 \text{ \AA}$  for both of them. The  $\text{N-Cu-N}$  angles are  $80.86(9)^\circ$  and  $80.73(9)^\circ$  for two crystallographically unique Cu(II) centres, and fall within the range found for similarly coordinated bis- $\mu_2$ -hydroxo-Cu(II) dimers containing Bipy [18, 19].

Sixteen intermolecular hydrogen bonds  $\text{O-H}\cdots\text{O}$ ,  $\text{N-H}\cdots\text{O}$  and  $\text{C-H}\cdots\text{O}$  in the structure (Table S3) form a 3D network with well-developed 2D network depicted in Fig. 2a. There are several supramolecular motifs  $\text{R}_2^2(8)$ ,  $\text{R}_3^2(8)$ ,  $\text{R}_4^3(10)$ ,  $\text{R}_3^3(14)$  and  $\text{R}_5^4(14)$  with small cycles can be marked in this 2D layer. Each of  $\mu_2$ -hydroxo group forms an intermolecular hydrogen bond to the uncoordinated  $\text{Hba}^-$  ion of C type (Fig. S1) forming the infinite chain along *a*-axis based on the  $\text{C}_2^2(10)$  pattern. The  $\text{Hba}^-$  ions joint together forming chains along *a*-axis, and they are connected with  $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{Bipy})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{OH})_2]^{2+}$  cations through  $\text{C-H}\cdots\text{O}$  hydrogen bonds, forming this 2D layer in *ac*-plane. These layers are linked with each other through  $\text{O-H}\cdots\text{O}$  bonds along *b*-axis, and the  $\text{O4w}$  atoms of water molecules are involved in them. As in **1**, in four complexes of general formula  $[\text{M}(\text{bpy})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4](\text{Hba})_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (where  $\text{M} = \text{Co}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{bpy} = 4,4'$ -bipyridine)  $\text{Hba}^-$  ions are in the outer sphere and they are bound by hydrogen bonds to the molecules of water and bpy [23]. Topological analysis of the net by ToposPro program [28], using simplification and excluding all 0-, 1- and 2-coordinated nodes revealed that this is a 6-nodal  $(3\text{-c})(3\text{-c})(3\text{-c})(6\text{-c})(6\text{-c})(7\text{-c})$  net with point symbol  $(3.4^3.5^5.6^9.7.8^2)(\{^2.4^4.5^4.6^5\}(4.6^2)(4^3.5^5.6^6.8)(5.6^2)_2$  which is new. Further analysis of interactions

in **1**) reveals  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between Bipy, Hba<sup>-</sup> rings which form infinite chain ...-Hba-Bipy-Bipy-Hba-... along *b*-axis (Table S4, Fig. S2a).

The asymmetric unit cell of **2** contains one Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion, one Bipy molecule, one Hba<sup>-</sup> ion, one Cl<sup>-</sup> ion and three water molecules (Fig. 1b). Square-pyramidal geometry about each copper atom is provided by two nitrogen donor atoms ( $d(\text{Cu-N}) = 2.008(1)$ – $2.027(1)$  Å) from the Bipy ligand, one oxygen atom from Hba<sup>-</sup> ion ( $d(\text{Cu-O}_{\text{Hba}}) = 1.952(1)$  Å) and Cl<sup>-</sup> ion ( $d(\text{Cu-Cl}) = 2.2763(6)$  Å), which form the N<sub>2</sub>OCl basal plane, and axially by an oxygen atom from coordinated H<sub>2</sub>O molecule ( $d(\text{Cu-O}_{1\text{w}}) = 2.222(1)$  Å). As in **1**, the axial Cu–O<sub>1w</sub> distance is quite longer than equatorial Cu–O<sub>Hba</sub> distance. The elongation of the apical bond length in complex **2** is of comparable magnitude to that observed in the previously reported complexes Cu(II) [24–27]. Elongation of the Cu–OH<sub>2</sub> bond leads to the formation of a distorted square pyramidal coordination geometry. In a single structurally characterized complex [Cu(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>(Hba)<sub>2</sub>] [4], containing Cu(II) and coordinated Hba<sup>-</sup> ligand, the Cu(II) ion is in the distorted square-pyramidal geometry and the bond length Cu–O<sub>Hba</sub> (1.952(1) Å) has the same value as in **2**. As in **1**, the main bond lengths and valence angles of Hba<sup>-</sup> and Bipy in **2** practically coincide with those found earlier in other related compounds [15]. All the C–O distances in **1** and **2** (Table S2) are larger than those in free H<sub>2</sub>ba [29], indicating the charge delocalization in the Hba<sup>-</sup> ion, as in the case of other barbiturate complexes [4–14]. The higher  $d(\text{O3B-C6B}) = 1.2834(17)$  Å value as compared with the smaller  $d(\text{O1B-C2B}) = 1.2393(18)$  Å and  $d(\text{O2B-C4B}) = 1.2567(19)$  Å values can be explained by the coordination of the ligand Hba<sup>-</sup> to copper(II) *via* an O3B atom. The Bipy molecules are planar, the standard deviation of atoms from corresponding planes are 0.030 Å. The N–C–C–N torsion angle in Bipy is 5.7(2)°, and the N–Cu–N angle is 80.67(5)°. Ten intermolecular hydrogen bonds O–H...O, N–H...O, O–H...Cl, C–H...O and C–H...Cl in the structure (Table S3) form a 3D network. One 2D net can be marked in the plane based on *c* and *a*–*b* vectors (Fig. 2b) and the shortest ring motifs in them are R<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>(8), R<sub>3</sub><sup>2</sup>(8), R<sub>3</sub><sup>2</sup>(10) and R<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>(12). Topological analysis [31] of **2** showed that this 3D net is a 3-nodal (3-c)(3-c)(11-c) net with the point symbol (3.4<sup>2</sup>)(3<sup>2</sup>.4)(3<sup>6</sup>.4<sup>11</sup>.5<sup>18</sup>.6<sup>14</sup>.7<sup>5</sup>.8), which is new. The  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between Bipy, Hba<sup>-</sup> rings are presented in Fig. S2b and Table S4, and form infinite chain ...-Hba-Bipy-Bipy-Hba- along *a*–*b* direction.

The structural parameters defined by a single crystal analysis were used as base in the powder pattern Rietveld refinement. The refinement was produced using the TOPAS 4.2 program [30]. Low *R*-factor and good refinement results (Table S5, Fig. S3) indicate the phase purity of the powder samples **1** and **2**.

The d–d spectra of aqueous solutions exhibit a broad and featureless band centered at *ca.* 620 nm for **1** and 700 nm for **2**, which are consistent with the presence of a Cu(II) chromophore

with distorted square–pyramidal geometry [31]. This band is assigned to  ${}^2E_g \rightarrow {}^2T_{2g}$  transition of Cu(II) ( $d^9$ ).

The IR spectra of **1** and **2** are significantly different from the spectra of starting materials (Fig. S4) and this indicates the formation of new compounds. The presence of  $Hba^-$  ion in compounds is confirmed by very strong bands at 1671 and 1685  $cm^{-1}$  in IR spectra of **1** and **2** (Fig. S4, curve 3 and 4) respectively assigned to the stretching mode of CO in  $Hba^-$  ion [22, 32]. An intense band at 1600  $cm^{-1}$  in IR spectra of **1-2** is attributed to the  $\nu(CC)/\nu(CN)$  stretching modes of the pyridil ring [33]. A broad band in IR spectra of **1** centered at 3396  $cm^{-1}$  is assigned to the  $\nu(OH)$  vibrations of  $\mu_2$ -hydroxo groups and water molecules. A broad band centered at 3431  $cm^{-1}$  for **2** is assigned to the  $\nu(OH)$  vibrations of coordinated and uncoordinated water molecules.

Thermal decomposition of compounds **1** and **2** started with the release of water molecules. The water removal was confirmed by the IR spectroscopic analysis of released gases. The DSC and TG curves of **1** show two-step dehydration (Fig. S5) which is accompanied by two endo effects at 111.1 °C and 131.1 °C. An experimental weight loss ( $\Delta m$ ) of 9.1% are observed between 65 and 150 °C, which corresponds to the release of the coordinated and uncoordinated water molecules ( $-4H_2O$ ,  $\Delta m_{theor} = 9.0\%$ ). A weak interaction between the Cu(II) and the axial  $H_2O$  molecule is supported by the long bond lengths of Cu–Ow (2.356(2) and 2.4665 (2) Å). The weight of sample remains unchanged up to ~175 °C, and there are no peaks in the DSC curve below this temperature. Compound **1** melts with the decomposition at  $T > 175$  °C. These processes are accompanied by a weak endo effect at 206.7 °C and a strong exo effect at ~249 °C. Both the DSC and TG curves of **2** show one-step dehydration at 75–150 °C (Fig. 6S) which is accompanied by endo effect at ~130 °C. The dehydration step resulted in a 12.0% weight loss corresponding to the release of three water molecules per formula unit ( $-3H_2O$ ,  $\Delta m_{theor} = 11.9\%$ ). This corresponds to removal of both the coordinated and uncoordinated water molecules, suggesting a weak Cu–OH<sub>2</sub> bond. Breakdown of the organic components was initiated at ~220 °C and occurs in several steps. These processes are accompanied by a weak endo effect at ~260 °C and a strong exo effect at ~335 °C. According to the IR spectroscopic analysis of the gases evolved at  $T > 175$  °C for **1** and  $T > 220$  °C for **2**, CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O and NO are formed.

This work is part of our continuing efforts to study metal barbiturate chemistry from a synthetic and structural point of view [7, 10, 11]. Two novel mixed-ligand Cu(II) complexes containing the 2,2'-bipyridine and barbiturate ion are synthesized and characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. The dinuclear compound **1** and mononuclear complex **2** crystallize in the space groups  $P-1$  and  $C2/c$ , respectively. Each copper(II) ion is penta-coordinated having distorted square pyramidal geometry. In **1**, the equatorial sites are occupied

by two N atoms of one Bipy ligand and two O atoms of different  $\mu_2$ -OH groups and the apical position by one aqua ligand. This forms a cationic dimer where two uncoordinated barbiturate ligands serve to balance the electrical charge. It is the first of structurally characterized compounds containing symmetric  $[\text{Cu}_2(\text{Bipy})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2]^{2+}$  cation. An outstanding feature of **1** is the short Cu...Cu distance (2.8644 (5) Å). The equatorial sites in **2** are occupied by two N atoms of Bipy ligand, one O atom of Htba<sup>-</sup> ion, one Cl<sup>-</sup> ion and the apical position by one aqua ligand. As usual, the axial Cu–O distances in **1-2** are longer than equatorial ones. The structures of **1-2** are stabilized by the numerous intermolecular hydrogen bonds. Hba<sup>-</sup> ions form infinite chains by N–H...O intermolecular hydrogen bonds (based on the R<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>(8) pattern) (Fig. 2a,b). In **1**, the  $\mu_2$ -hydroxo groups and uncoordinated Hba<sup>-</sup> ions are bound by O–H...O<sub>Hba</sub> intermolecular hydrogen bonds (Fig. S1) forming the infinite chain based on the C<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup>(10) pattern. Results of topological analysis [28] demonstrate that these structures are new 3D networks. The  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions between Bipy, Hba<sup>-</sup> rings form infinite chain ...–Hba–Bipy–Bipy–Hba–... (Fig. S2). Thermal decomposition of **1** and **2** include dehydration, which mainly ends at 150 °C, and an organic ligand oxidation above 170 and 220 °C, respectively.

### Supplementary data

The crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structural analysis have been deposited with Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre ((**1**) - CCDC # 1843895; (**2**) - CCDC # 1843896). The information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44(1223)336-033, E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or www: www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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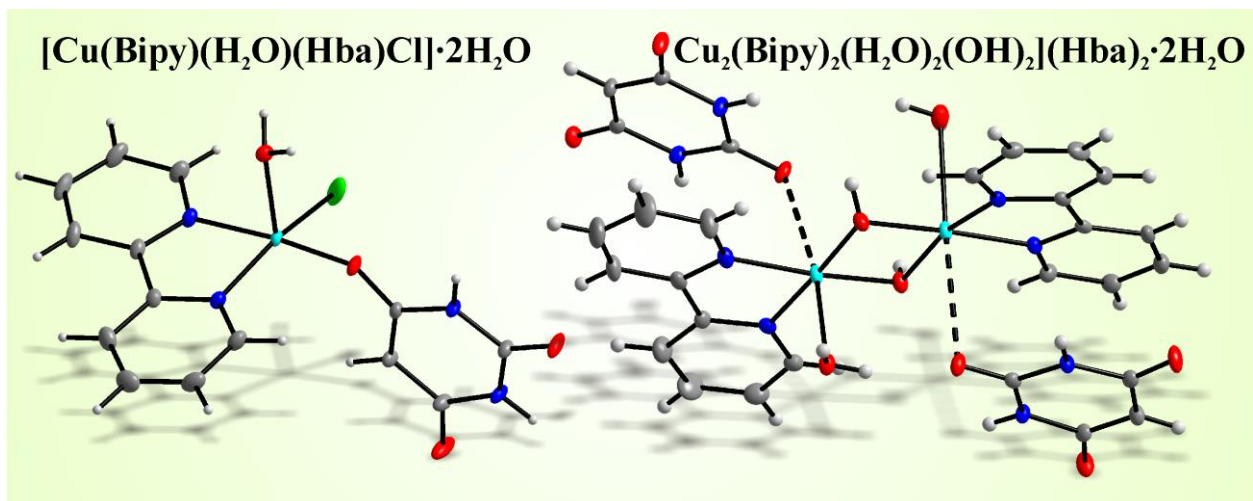
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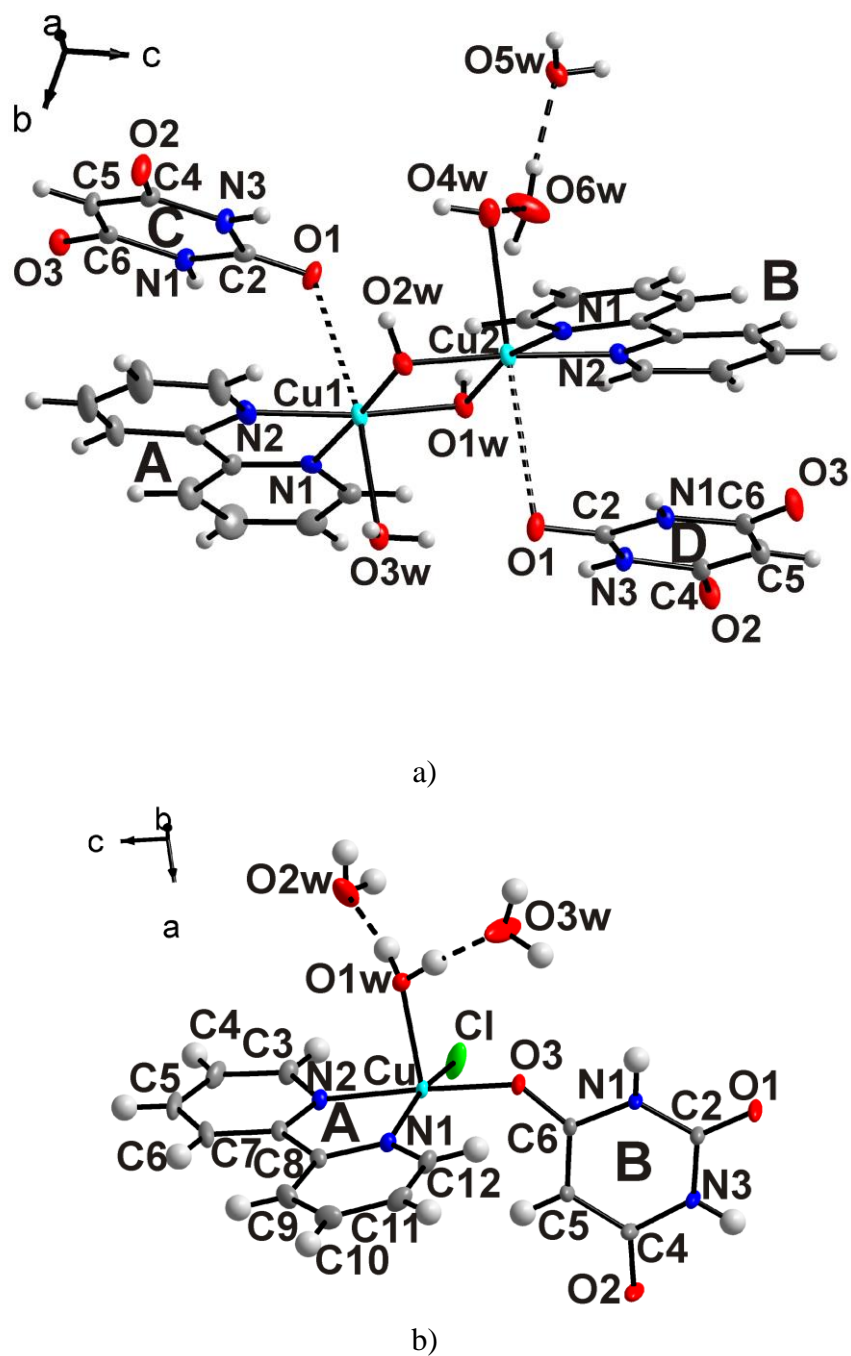
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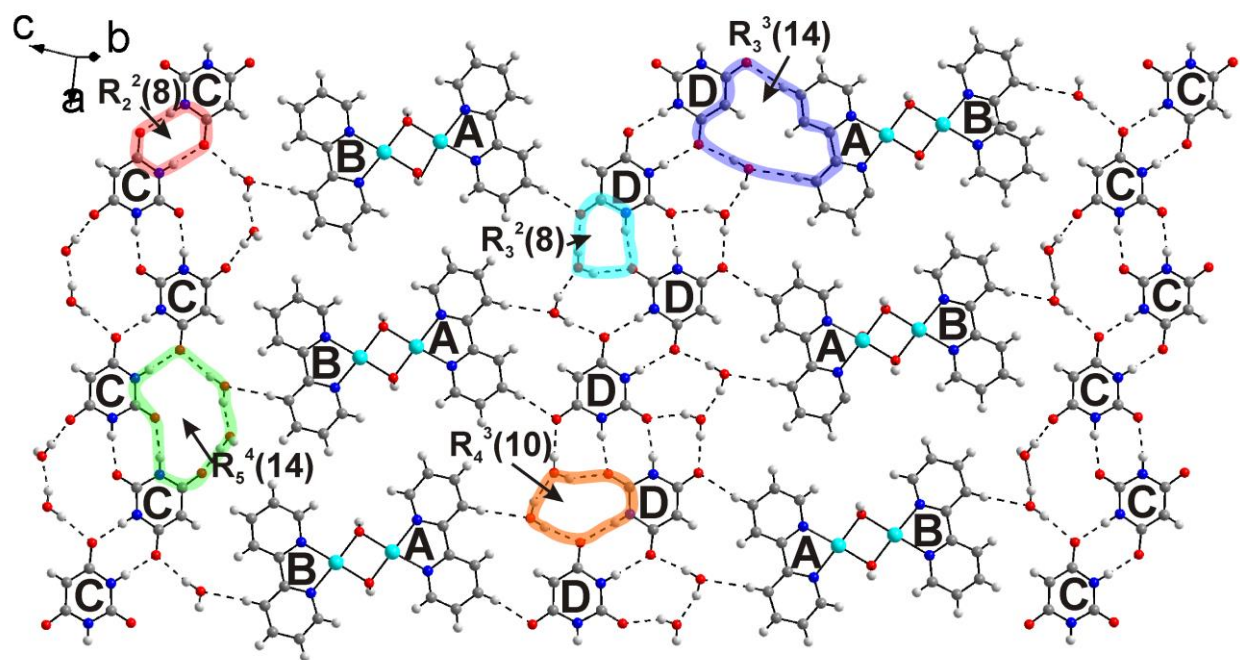
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## Graphical Abstract

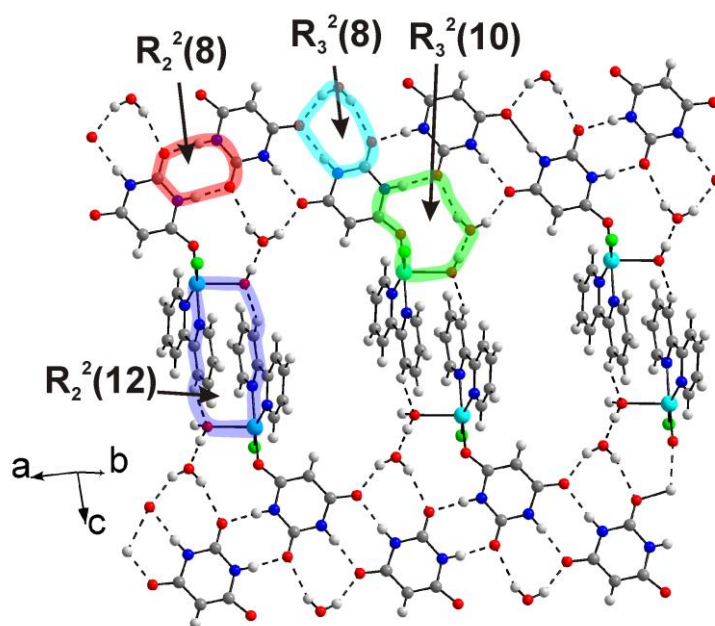




**Figure 1.** The asymmetric unit of the **1** (a), **2** (b) unit cell. Symmetry independent, different molecules are marked by A, B, C, D labels. Some most important atoms in the asymmetric unit are labeled. The intermolecular hydrogen bonds are represented by dashed lines. The ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level, except for the hydrogen atoms represented by spheres.



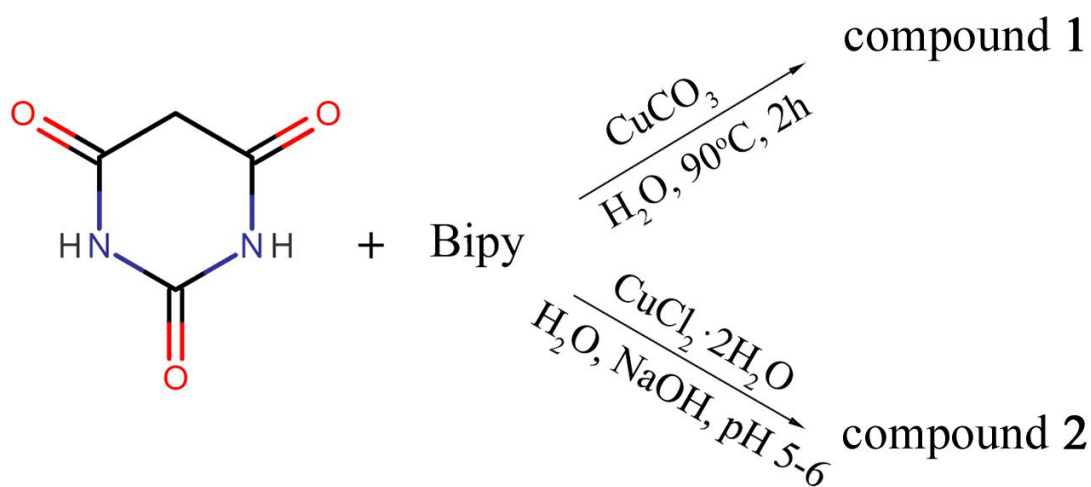
a)



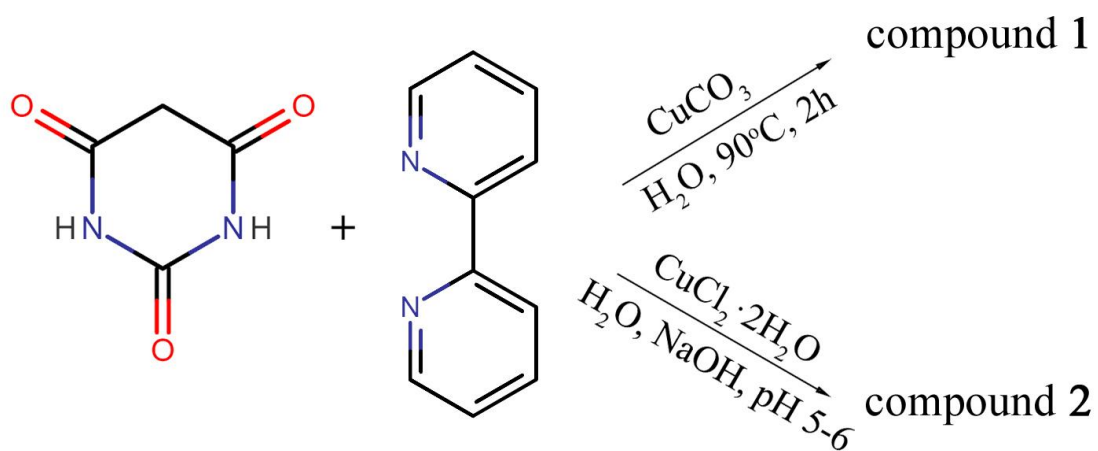
b)

**Figure 2.** Hydrogen bonding in **1** (a) and **2** (b). The H-bonds are marked by dashed lines, the H-bond motifs are marked by circles. Different ions/molecules are marked by A, B, C, D labels

Scheme 1



Или



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