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# **Progress in Paramagnetic Ionic Liquids**

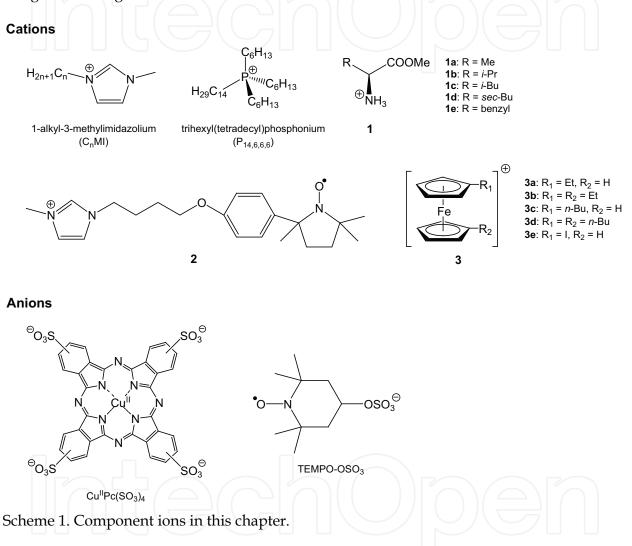
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### 1. Introduction

Ionic liquids are entirely composed of ions as the name implies, and melt below room temperature (RT) or 100 °C. The ionic character means the extraordinary high ion density (i.e., the order of a molarity), and thus results in the negligible vapor pressure (i.e, wide liquid temperature region and negligible flammability) and high ionic conductivity. Such special fascinations attract considerable attention of researchers in many fields, as promising greener alternatives to the volatile molecular solvents for many areas of synthetic, separation, and electrochemical applications (Wasserscheid & Keim, 2000; Dupont et al., 2002; Buzzeo et al., 2004; Armand et al., 2009; Yoshida & Saito, 2010). Although ionic liquids have been known for nearly a century (Walden, 1914; Gabriel & Weiner, 1888), efforts in exploring new and more versatile ionic liquids have only recently been devoted, after the discovery of the first water- and air-stable RT ionic liquids formed with 1-ethyl-3methylimidazolium (C<sub>2</sub>MI; Scheme 1) cation reported by Wilkes and Zaworotko (Wilkes & Zaworotko, 1992), and Cooper and O'Sullivan (Cooper & O'Sullivan, 1992), in 1992. The majority of existing ionic liquids is composed of organic quaternary cations (e.g., 1,3dialkylimidazolium, N-alkylpyridinium, and tetraalkylphosphonium) and inorganic small anions (e.g., BF<sub>4</sub>-, PF<sub>6</sub>-, and AlCl<sub>4</sub>-), for which monovalent ions are favorable for stabilizing the liquid state because of the depressed interionic Coulomb interactions. In general, cations are responsible for reducing the melting point, and therefore, low-symmetrical hetero cations with well-delocalized charge and/or long alkyl group(s) have been used. On the other hand, the selection of anions can readily tailor the liquid properties and introduce the desired functionalities. For example, the combination with PF<sub>6</sub> and (CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N (bis(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)amide; Tf<sub>2</sub>N) anions gives the hydrophobic ionic liquids (Bonhôte et al., 1996; Suarez et al., 1998), and CH<sub>3</sub>COO and EtOSO<sub>3</sub> anions stabilize the liquid state even at low temperatures (Wilkes & Zaworotko, 1992; Holbrey et al., 2002; Borra et al., 2007). These properties could find a range of synthetic and separation

the liquid state even at low temperatures (Wilkes & Zaworotko, 1992; Holbrey et al., 2002; Borra et al., 2007). These properties could find a range of synthetic and separation applications. In relation, HCOO and (MeO)(R)PO<sub>2</sub> (R = H, Me, MeO) anions give ionic liquids, which can solubilize cellulose (Fukaya et al., 2006; Fukaya et al., 2008). BF<sub>4</sub>, Tf<sub>2</sub>N and (FSO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N anions give ionic liquids with a wide electrochemical window, which opens the applicative way for electrolytes of capacitors, lithium ion batteries, field-effect transistors, and electrodeposition (Bonhôte et al., 1996; Fuller et al., 1997; Sato et al., 2004; Zein El Abedin et al., 2005; Matsumoto et al., 2006; Ono et al., 2009). Highly conducting ionic liquids formed with N(CN)<sub>2</sub>, C(CN)<sub>3</sub>, and B(CN)<sub>4</sub> anions have served as electrolytes for dyesensitized solar cells (MacFarlane et al., 2001; Wang et al., 2003; Yoshida et al., 2004; Kawano et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2005; Kuang et al., 2006; Yoshida et al., 2007a; Yoshida et al., 2007b).

Recently, a new class of functional ionic liquids, in which chemically synthesized organic or metal complex ions are largely responsible for the functionality, is starting to attract interest, and some reviews on catalytic, pharmaceutical and energetic properties have been published (Fei et al., 2006; Singh et al., 2006; Hough & Rogers, 2007; Smiglak et al., 2007). Such component ions allow the fine and dual tuning of liquid properties of the resulting ionic liquids, by the chemical modification of both cation and anion. In this review, we focus on developments of the functional ionic liquids, especially composed of magneto-active inorganic and organic ions.



### 2. Magneto-active anions

#### 2.1 Inorganic anions containing iron

In most cases, a certain functionality of anions can be passed to the resulting ionic liquid when the interionic interaction has little impact on the functionality. Magneto-active metal complex anions, such as  $Fe^{III}X_4^-$  (X: Cl, Br) (Yoshida et al., 2005a; Yoshida et al., 2005b; Yoshida & Saito, 2006; Del Sesto et al., 2008; Li et al., 2009),  $Mn^{II}X_4^{2-}$  (X: Cl, Br) (Del Sesto et al., 2008; Pitula & Mudring, 2010),  $Mn^{II}(Tf_2N)_3^-$  (Pitula & Mudring, 2010),  $Co^{II}X_4^{2-}$  (X: Cl, NCS, NCSe, N(CN)<sub>2</sub>) (Del Sesto et al., 2005; Del Sesto et al., 2008; Peppel et al., 2010),  $Gd^{III}Cl_6^{3-}$  (Del Sesto et al., 2008), and  $Dy^{III}(SCN)_{8-x}(H_2O)_x^{(5-x)-}$  (x: 0–2) (Mallick et al., 2008) anions, have been known to form

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paramagnetic RT ionic liquids, by pairing with organic quaternary cations. Paramagnetic ionic liquids, whose magnetic properties were given in the literatures, are listed in Table 1. Many of them can be obtained simply by mixing the halide salt and neutral metal halide; for example, dark brown ionic liquids  $[C_nMI]$ [FeCl4] are formed by mixing exactly equimolar crystalline  $[C_nMI]$ Cl and FeCl<sub>3</sub> under inert atmosphere at RT (Yoshida et al., 2005b). This procedure dispenses with the need for reaction solvent and ion exchange process.

Cation	Anion	$T_{\rm m}$ (°C)	$\mu_{\rm eff}  (\mu_{\rm B})^c$	References
C <sub>2</sub> MI (+1)	Fe <sup>III</sup> Cl <sub>4</sub> (-1)	18	5.83	Yoshida et al., 2005b
C <sub>4</sub> MI (+1)	Fe <sup>III</sup> Cl <sub>4</sub> (-1)	$-88 (T_g)$	5.80	Yoshida & Saito, 2006
C <sub>6</sub> MI (+1)	Fe <sup>III</sup> Cl <sub>4</sub> (-1)	$-86 (T_g)$	5.85	Yoshida & Saito, 2006
C <sub>8</sub> MI (+1)	$Fe^{III}Cl_4(-1)$	$-84(T_g)$	5.85	Yoshida & Saito, 2006
C <sub>10</sub> MI (+1)	$Fe^{III}Cl_4(-1)$	$-81(T_g)$	5.66	Del Sesto et al., 2008
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	$Fe^{III}Cl_4(-1)$	$-71(T_g)$	5.89	Del Sesto et al., 2008
1a (+1)	$Fe^{III}Cl_4(-1)$	$-48(T_g)$	5.59	Li et al., 2009
1b (+1)	Fe <sup>III</sup> Cl <sub>4</sub> (-1)	$-45(T_g)$	5.56	Li et al., 2009
1d (+1)	$Fe^{III}Cl_4(-1)$	$-41(T_g)$	5.52	Li et al., 2009
1e (+1)	Fe <sup>III</sup> Cl <sub>4</sub> (-1)	$-31(T_g)$	5.66	Li et al., 2009
C <sub>4</sub> MI (+1)	$Fe^{III}Br_4(-1)$	$-83(T_g)$	5.73	Yoshida & Saito, 2006
$C_6 MI (+1)$	$Fe^{III}Br_4(-1)$	$-82(T_g)$	5.75	Yoshida & Saito, 2006
$C_8 MI (+1)$	$Fe^{III}Br_4(-1)$	$-81(T_g)$	5.84	Yoshida & Saito, 2006
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	$Mn^{II}Cl_4$ (-2)	$-69(T_g)$	5.81	Del Sesto et al., 2008
C <sub>4</sub> MI (+1)	$Mn^{II}Br_4$ (-2)	$< RT^{b}$	5.84	Del Sesto et al., 2008
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	$Co^{II}Cl_4$ (-2)	$-68 (T_g)$	4.45	Del Sesto et al., 2008
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	$Co^{II}[N(CN)_2]_4$ (-2)	$-70(T_{\rm g})$	4.23 d	Del Sesto et al., 2005
C <sub>4</sub> MI (+1)	$Co^{II}(NCS)_4$ (-2)	$-61(T_g)$	4.40	Peppel et al., 2010
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	<b>Co</b> <sup>II</sup> <b>(NCS)</b> <sub>4</sub> (-2)	$-72 (T_g)$	4.06	Del Sesto et al., 2008
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	$Gd^{III}Cl_6$ (-3)	< RT	7.86	Del Sesto et al., 2008
C <sub>6</sub> MI (+1)	Dy <sup>III</sup> (NCS) <sub>6</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> (-3)	$-56 (T_g)$	10.4	Mallick et al., 2008
$C_6 MI (+1)$	$Dy^{III}(NCS)_7(H_2O)$ (-4)	$-58(T_g)$	10.6	Mallick et al., 2008
$C_6 MI (+1)$	$Dy^{III}(NCS)_8$ (-5)	$-60(T_g)$	10.4	Mallick et al., 2008
C <sub>4</sub> MI (+1)	<b>TEMPO-OSO</b> <sub>3</sub> (-1)	$-27(T_g)$	1.73	Yoshida et al., 2007c
$C_6 MI (+1)$	<b>TEMPO-OSO</b> <sub>3</sub> (-1)	$-27(T_{g})$	1.68	Yoshida et al., 2007c
C <sub>8</sub> MI (+1)	<b>TEMPO-OSO</b> <sub>3</sub> (-1)	$-31 (T_g)$	1.61	Yoshida et al., 2007c
P <sub>14,6,6,6</sub> (+1)	Co <sup>II</sup> (DBSQ) <sub>2</sub> (bpy(COO) <sub>2</sub> ) (-2)	$-11(T_g)$	3.60	Yoshida et al., 2009
2 (+1)	Tf <sub>2</sub> N (-1)	$-37(T_{g})$	1.75	Uchida et al., 2009
<b>2</b> (+1)	$BF_4(-1)$	$-32(T_g)$	1.75	Uchida et al., 2009
<b>2</b> (+1)	$PF_6(-1)$	$-22(T_g)$	1.69	Uchida et al., 2009
<b>3a</b> (+1)	$Tf_2N(-1)$	3.8	2.33	Inagaki & Mochida, 2010
<b>3b</b> (+1)	$Tf_2N(-1)$	1.0	2.17	Inagaki & Mochida, 2010

<sup>*a*</sup> Numbers in parentheses are valences of ions. Bold ions are responsible for the magnetic behavior.  $T_m$ : melting temperature,  $T_g$ : glass transition temperature,  $\mu_{eff}$ : effective magnetic moment.

<sup>*b*</sup> In a more recent paper (Pitula & Mudring, 2010),  $T_g = -50$  °C and  $T_m = 44$  °C.

<sup>c</sup> Measured at RT (25–27 °C).

<sup>*d*</sup> Private communication from Dr. Del Sesto.

Table 1. Characteristics of paramagnetic RT ionic liquids<sup>a</sup>

Effective magnetic moments ( $\mu_{eff}$ ), represented by  $g[S(S+1)]^{1/2}\mu_B$ , of [C<sub>n</sub>MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>] were estimated to be the range of 5.66–5.89 $\mu_B$  at 25 °C, which are close to that expected for a paramagnetic S = 5/2 high-spin on Fe<sup>III</sup> ions (spin-only value: 5.92 $\mu_B$ ). The temperature dependency simply follows the Curie law in their liquid region, whereas their solid states at low temperatures show the pronounced deviation from the Curie law due to the antiferromagnetic interactions (Figure 1). In particular, [C<sub>0</sub>MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>], [C<sub>2</sub>MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>], and [C<sub>2</sub>MI][FeBr<sub>4</sub>] exhibited long-range antiferromagnetic ordering at 9.5, 4.2, and 12.5 K, respectively (Yoshida et al., 2005b; Yoshida & Saito, 2006).

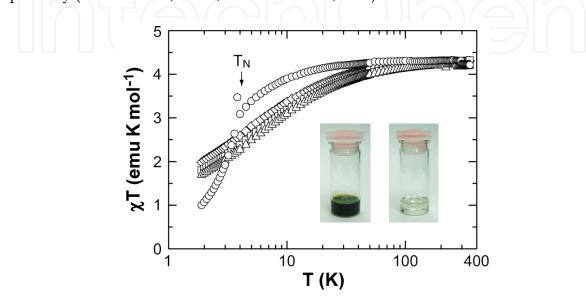


Fig. 1. Temperature dependence of the product of static susceptibility and temperature ( $\chi T$ ) for [C<sub>n</sub>MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>] in an applied field of 100 Oe on heating process ( $\circ$ : n = 2,  $\Delta$ : n = 4,  $\Box$ : n = 6, and  $\diamond$ : n = 8). An arrow indicates the Néel temperature ( $T_N$ ). The inset is the photographs of [C<sub>2</sub>MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>] (left) and [C<sub>2</sub>MI][GaCl<sub>4</sub>] (right) (Yoshida et al., 2005b).

Among the paramagnetic ionic liquids,  $[C_2MI][FeCl_4]$  having a melting point ( $T_m$ ) of 18 °C has the highest ionic conductivity of 2.0 × 10<sup>-2</sup> S cm<sup>-1</sup> and lowest viscosity of 18 cP at 25 °C (Yoshida et al., 2005b). These values are comparable to those of  $[C_2MI][Ga^{III}Cl_4]$  with non-magnetic Ga<sup>III</sup>Cl\_4 anion (2.2 × 10<sup>-2</sup> S cm<sup>-1</sup> and 16 cP at 25 °C) (Yoshida et al., 2005b). It appears that the small size and monovalency of both component ions, as well as the charge-delocalized low-symmetrical C<sub>2</sub>MI cation, are factors governing the high ion diffusivity.  $[C_0MI][FeCl_4]$  containing smaller C<sub>0</sub>MI cation is not in liquid state but crystalline solid at RT ( $T_m = 103$  °C), and the C<sub>2</sub>MI salt with Fe<sup>II</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub> dianion,  $[C_2MI]_2[Fe^{II}Cl_4]$ , is also in solid state at RT ( $T_m = 86$  °C). The crystalline solid  $[C_2MI]_2[Fe^{II}Cl_4]$ , whose crystal structure was determined by a synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction measurement (Yoshida et al., 2005b), is isostructural to the reported  $[C_2MI]_2[Co^{II}Cl_4]$  ( $T_m = 100-102$  °C) and  $[C_2MI]_2[Ni^{II}Cl_4]$  ( $T_m = 92-93$  °C) (Hitchcock et al., 1993). As seen in Figure 2, each C<sub>2</sub>MI cation is connected with three Fe<sup>II</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub> dianions through hydrogen bonding type interactions. The shortest distance was found for C(2)-H…Cl (3.261 Å), presumably associated with the high acidic character of the 2-hydrogen.

Dual functionalities, namely the paramagnetism and chiral discrimination ability, were recently realized by the combination with the chiral protonated L-amino acid methyl esters (1; Scheme 1) (Li et al., 2009). Their RT magnetic moments ( $5.52-5.66\mu_B$ ) are comparable to those of [ $C_n$ MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>], and the salt composed of phenylalanine-derivative **1e** shows a

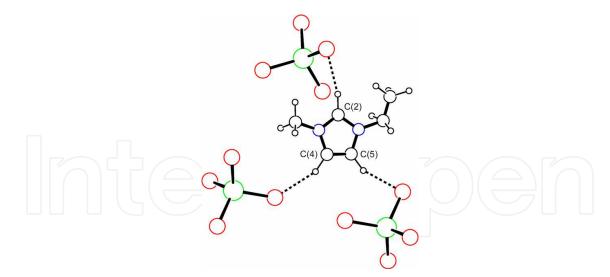


Fig. 2. Interionic contacts between  $C_2$ MI cation and Fe<sup>II</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub> dianion in  $[C_2MI]_2$ [FeCl<sub>4</sub>]. Short C-H…Cl contacts are shown by dashed lines. The crystal structure was determined by a synchrotron X-ray powder diffraction measurement (Yoshida et al., 2005b).

positive circular dichromism band at 218 nm with a maximum of  $2.4 \times 10^{-2}$  deg. Luminescence study using several chiral analytes revealed that the salt composed of alanine-derivative **1a** has a chiral discrimination ability. Future works may be to synchronize the dual functionalities, such as chiral extraction and enrichment of chiral compounds by applying the magnetic field.

As seen in Figure 3, the ionic conductivity and viscosity are under the control of the alkyl chain length of C<sub>n</sub>MI cations and on the sort of halide of Fe<sup>III</sup>X<sub>4</sub> anions (Yoshida & Saito, 2006). The elongation of alkyl chain results in the increased ion size and interionic van der Waals interactions, both of which modify the ion diffusivity in the unfavorable direction. Replacing the chloride to bromide also results in the significant decrease in ion diffusivity, possibly due to the increased ion size and interionic interactions. The replacement leads to the slight decrease in  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$ , as a consequence of the lower ligand field strength  $\Delta$  in FeBr<sub>4</sub> anion as  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = \mu_0(1 - 2\lambda/\Delta)$ , where  $\mu_0$  is the spin-only value and  $\lambda$  is the spin-orbit coupling constant at FeX<sub>4</sub> anions.

Ionic liquids whose magnetic properties extend far beyond that of the existing ones may be those with the pronounced response to the external stimuli and with the pronounced magnetic interactions including long-range magnetic ordering. The former type of ionic liquids will be described later. For the latter, it seems that the combination of magneto-active cations and anions or the use of multinuclear metal complex (metal cluster) ions is effective to enhance the magnetic interactions. Although not strictly an "ionic" liquid, the extreme example may be the successful preparation of superparamagnetic liquid, in which maghemite ( $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) nanoparticles with 4 nm in diameter are chemically modified by silyl-containing quaternary cations (Bourlinos et al., 2005). The dark brown liquid may be regarded as a new type of magnetic fluid, namely solvent-free colloidal dispersion of nanoparticles. Magnetorheological fluids, whose rheological behavior can be controlled by the applied magnetic field, were obtained by dispersing 25 wt% micrometer-sized magnetite (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; < 5 µm) particles in ionic liquids (Guerrero-Sanchez et al., 2007). The use of [C<sub>4</sub>MI][PF<sub>6</sub>] leads to a colloidal dispersion that is remarkably stable against aggregation over a period of 2 months.

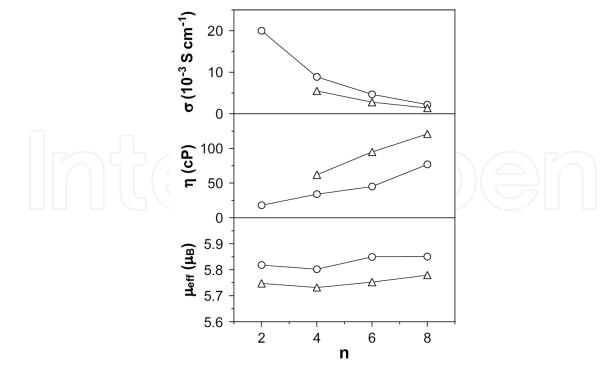


Fig. 3. Dependence of ionic conductivity ( $\sigma$ ), viscosity ( $\eta$ ), and effective magnetic moment ( $\mu_{eff}$ ) on alkyl chain length in the C<sub>n</sub>MI cations for [C<sub>n</sub>MI][FeCl<sub>4</sub>] ( $\circ$ ) and [C<sub>n</sub>MI][FeBr<sub>4</sub>] ( $\Delta$ ) salts (Yoshida et al., 2005b; Yoshida & Saito, 2006).

#### 2.2 Inorganic anions containing other transition metals

For the divalent anions such as Co<sup>II</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, twice molar amount of halide salts of exceptionally bulky monocations such as trihexyl(tetradecyl)phosphonium (P<sub>14,6,6,6</sub>; Scheme 1) would be necessary to realize RT ionic liquids such as [P<sub>14,6,6,6</sub>]<sub>2</sub>[CoCl<sub>4</sub>] (glass transition  $T_g = -68$  °C) (Del Sesto et al., 2008). Its analogous [C<sub>2</sub>MI]<sub>2</sub>[CoCl<sub>4</sub>] is in solid state at RT, and shows a melting event at 100–102 °C (Hitchcock et al., 1993). Keeping the cation invariant (C<sub>4</sub>MI), however, the replacement of chloride of Co<sup>II</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub> dianions ( $T_m = 62$  °C) (Zhong et al., 2007) by bulky bromide ( $T_m = 45$  °C) (Kozlova et al., 2009) and isothiocyanate ( $T_g = -61$  °C) (Peppel et al., 2010) steadily stabilizes the liquid state. Notably, [C<sub>2</sub>MI]<sub>2</sub>[Co(NCS)<sub>4</sub>] ( $T_g = -62$  °C) shows a relatively high ionic conductivity (4.0 × 10<sup>-3</sup> S cm<sup>-1</sup> at 25 °C) and low viscosity (145 cP at 25 °C) despite the divalency of anions (Peppel et al., 2010). Based on the Pearson's HSAB concept, the softness of the ligand NCS, when compared with halides, may relate to the high fluidity as a consequence of the depressed interionic Coulomb interactions with the hard hydrogen atoms of C<sub>n</sub>MI cations.

Very recently, Pitula and Mudring reported absorption and luminescent properties of a series of manganese(II)-containing ionic liquids  $[C_nMI]_2[Mn^{II}X_4]$  (X: Cl, Br) and  $[C_nMI][Mn^{II}(Tf_2N)_3]$ , though no magnetic data (Pitula & Mudring, 2010).  $[C_nMI]_2[MnX_4]$  with a tetrahedral Mn<sup>II</sup> coordination show a yellow-greenish emission, whereas  $[C_nMI][Mn(Tf_2N)_3]$  with an octahedral Mn<sup>II</sup> coordination show a reddish emission at RT. The colorations derive mainly from the predominant emission band at around 520 nm for the former and at around 590 nm for the latter, both of which are readily assigned to the intramolecular  ${}^{4}T_1(G) \rightarrow {}^{6}A_1$  transition on Mn<sup>II</sup> ions.

Ionic liquids formed with metal complex anions have been used as green solvents for catalysis. For example,  $[C_4MI][Co^{III}(CO)_4]$  is active for the catalytic debromination of 2-

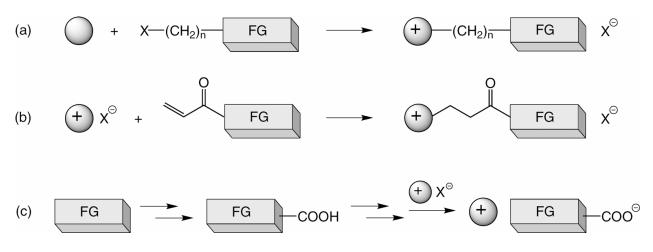
bromoketones in the presence of NaOH (Brown et al., 2001), and  $[C_4MI][Cr^{VI}ClO_3]$  and  $[C_4MI]_2[Mo^{VI}(NCS)_4O_2]$  are active for the catalytic oxidation of alcohol (Noguera et al., 2005).

#### 2.3 Inorganic anions containing rare-earth metals

Only two ionic liquids containing rare-earth metals,  $[P_{14,6,6,6}]_3[Gd^{III}Cl_6]$  (Del Sesto et al., 2008) and  $[C_6MI]_{5-x}[Dy^{III}(NCS)_{8-x}(H_2O)_x]$  (x: 0–2) (Mallick et al., 2008), have been magneticallystudied, although a series of  $[C_4MI]_4[RE(NCS)_{8-x}(H_2O)_x]$  (RE: Y, La, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Ho, Er, Yb; x: 1, 2) were prepared and their miscibility and absorption properties were investigated by Nockemann et al. (Nockemann et al., 2006). Magnetic moments of  $[C_6MI]_{5-x}[Dy^{III}(NCS)_{8-x}(H_2O)_x]$  were estimated to be 10.4–10.6 $\mu_B$  at 25 °C, which resemble closely that expected for a paramagnetic high-spin on Dy<sup>III</sup> ions with f<sup>9</sup> electrons (10.65 $\mu_B$ ). In addition,  $[C_6MI]_{5-x}[Dy^{III}(NCS)_{8-x}(H_2O)_x]$  show a yellow emission in the liquid state (Mallick et al., 2008). The coloration derives mainly from the predominant emission band at around 575 nm, which is readily assigned to the intramolecular  ${}^4F_{9/2} \rightarrow {}^6H_{13/2}$  transition on Dy<sup>III</sup> ions. The observed monoexponential intensity decay with a lifetime of 24–48 µs gives evidence of single Dy<sup>III</sup> species in these ionic liquids.

#### 2.4 Organic and metal complex anions

Davis introduced some complimentary strategies for the synthesis of functional ionic liquids, by the inclusion of functional group (FG) to the cationic skeleton, in his review (Davis, 2004). The called "task-specific ionic liquids" have been synthesized, for example, by *N*-alkylation of alkyl halides covalently linked to FG with appropriate Lewis bases (e.g., imidazole, amine, phosphine, and sulfide; Scheme 2a), accompanied by the anion metathesis to realize ionic liquids. One of other strategies is to use Michael reaction of alkyl vinyl ketones linked to FG with tertiary cations, as in Scheme 2b (Wasserscheid et al., 2003). It is noteworthy that this facile one-pot reaction dispenses with the need for a further anion metathesis step and are free from halide-containing by-product.



Scheme 2. Schematic synthetic routes of functional ionic liquids by (a) *N*-alkylation reaction (Davis, 2004) and (b) Michael addition reaction (Wasserscheid et al., 2003) to form ionic liquids of functional cations, and (c) the addition of acidic group to form ionic liquids of functional anion. A blank sphere represents a Lewis base such as imidazole, amine, phosphine, and sulfide, while a sphere with a plus sign represents the corresponding cation.

Similarly, functional ionic liquids can be realized by the use of anions, in which an acidic group such as carboxyl and sulfonate is covalently linked to the neutral functional molecule. We note that the molecular makeup, namely a neutral moiety linked to an acidic group, reminds us of amino acids, which offered 20 kinds of ionic liquids formed with C<sub>2</sub>MI cation (Fukumoto et al., 2005). The acid form of anions is transformed to the target ionic liquids by combining conventional liquid-forming counter cations as in Scheme 2c. In this approach, the serious obstacle in some cases is the difficulty of the chemical inclusion of the acidic group to the functional molecule. In other words, if the acid form can be realized whatever the synthetic route is used to access, one can anticipate the realization of ionic liquids are fraught with drawbacks of their high viscosity, mainly caused by the confined negative charge to the acidic group and the presence of bulky FG.

The  $P_{14,6,6,6}$  salt made by combining  $Cu^{II}Pc(SO_3)_4^{4-}$  (copper phthalocyanine-tetrasulfonate; Scheme 1) anion, reported by Del Sesto and Wilkes in 2005, may be regarded as the first paramagnetic ionic liquid ( $T_g = -41$  °C) composed of anion with acidic groups (Del Sesto et al., 2005). The highly viscous ionic liquid is anticipated to have an S = 1/2 spin on central  $Cu^{II}$ ions, although there is no magnetic evaluation in the paper. However, this is not the synthesis of the component ions but the proper choice of the ions, since commercially available  $CuPc(SO_3Na)_4$  was utilized as precursor. Our first step was to design and synthesize the component anions with a special functionality and then combine them with proper counter cations to form ionic liquids. Thus, the nascent strategy has been to search for functional molecules that can chemically introduce the acidic group in the facile synthetic route.

In 2007, our own group reported the first metal-free paramagnetic ionic liquids, by the inclusion of a sulfate group to a neutral 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidinyloxyl (TEMPO) radical moiety (Scheme 1) (Yoshida et al., 2007c). Whereas the C<sub>2</sub>MI salt is reddish crystalline solid with  $T_m$  = 57 °C, the salts with n = 4, 6, and 8 are reddish highly viscous liquids (> 400 cP even at 70 °C; see the inset of Figure 4). As mentioned above, the confined

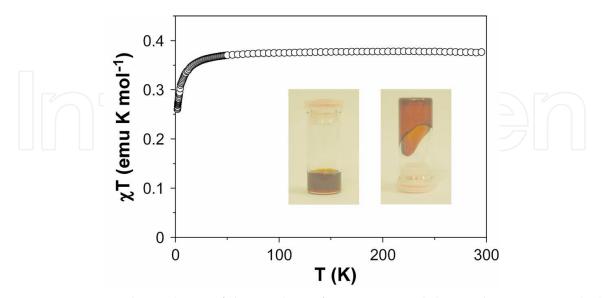
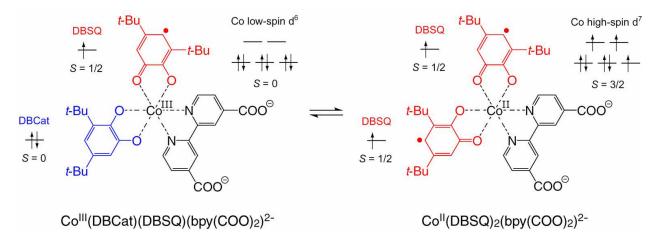


Fig. 4. Temperature dependence of the product of static susceptibility and temperature ( $\chi T$ ) for [C<sub>4</sub>MI][TEMPO-OSO<sub>3</sub>] in an applied field of 1 kOe on heating process. The inset is the photographs of [C<sub>4</sub>MI][TEMPO-OSO<sub>3</sub>] (Yoshida et al., 2007c).

negative charge on a sulfate group, which leads to the significant interionic Coulomb interactions, would be a factor governing the high viscosity. These ionic liquids show Curie-like behavior in their liquid region. The RT magnetic moments were estimated as values in the range of  $1.61-1.72\mu_B$  (Figure 4), which resemble closely that expected for a paramagnetic S = 1/2 spin (spin-only value:  $1.73\mu_B$ ) on nitroxyl radical.

Our strategy, that introduces the acidic group to functional molecules to form functional ionic liquids, can be used to access the next stage of ionic liquids, namely the liquids that can modify the physical properties by applying external stimuli, e.g., temperature, pressure, electric field, and light irradiation. The selection criteria for the functional molecules includes that the functionality can work without having interionic interactions and even at high temperature (at least RT), and also that the molecules can introduce the acidic group in the facile synthetic route. We chose to utilize the cobalt bis(dioxolene) complex as FG, which has been known to exhibit the valence tautomerism (VT) by the intramolecular interconvert between low-spin  $Co^{III}$  (S = 0) system with a radical 3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-1,2-semiquinonate monoanion (DBSQ<sup>•</sup>-) and a closed-shell 3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-1,2-catecholate dianion (DBCat<sup>2</sup>-) ligands and high-spin  $Co^{II}$  (S = 3/2) system with two DBSQ<sup>•</sup>- ligands (Scheme 3) (Pierpont, 2001). Such phase equilibrium has potential applicability for molecular devices such as information storage and switches, and could be driven by either temperature change or light irradiation. Considering the fact that the VT behavior has been observed in the diluted solution (Pierpont, 2001), it appears that the intermolecular interaction is not indispensable for the appearance of the equilibrium.

We combined the cobalt bis(dioxolene) unit with 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy) having two carboxylate groups at 4-positions, to realize an ionic liquid showing valence-tautomeric behavior. The dark green liquid  $[P_{14,6,6,6}]_2[CoII(DBSQ)_2(bpy(COO)_2)]$  is highly viscous (> 10<sup>3</sup> cP) and shows a glass transition at -11 °C (Yoshida et al., 2009). The ionic conductivity is determined to be 1.0 × 10<sup>-6</sup> S cm<sup>-1</sup> at 27 °C and follows the Arrhenius law with an activation energy of 0.625 eV in the whole measured temperature range (27–77 °C). The RT  $\sigma$  value is much lower than that of  $[P_{14,6,6,6}]CI$  (8.9 × 10<sup>-6</sup> S cm<sup>-1</sup> at 27 °C) apparently due to the bulky dianions.



Scheme 3. Valence tautomeric bistability of cobalt bis(dioxolene) complex (Pierpont, 2001; Yoshida et al., 2009).

Figure 5a shows the electronic absorption spectrum at -173 °C, which is reminiscent of that of crystalline solid Co<sup>III</sup>(DBCat)(DBSQ)(bpy) (Pierpont, 2001). At low temperatures, an absorption band characteristic of a ligand to metal charge transfer (LMCT) from DBCat ligand to central cobalt was observed at around 610 nm. As the temperature increases from 7

to 47 °C, the intensity of the 610 nm band apparently decreases whereas a band at around 740 nm increases in intensity (Figure 5b). Since the 740 nm band is associated with a metal to ligand charge transfer (MLCT) from the central cobalt to DBSQ ligand, this spectral change indicates that the present salt exhibits a VT equilibrium in the liquid state at around RT. The presence of isosbestic point (ca. 670 nm) would confirm two different species in equilibrium. As expected, a low-energy band (ca. 2400 nm), which is ascribed to mixed valence intervalence charge transfer from the DBCat to DBSQ ligands (ligand-to-ligand charge transfer; LLCT), gradually decreases in intensity with increasing temperature (Figure 5c). The  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  value at 2 K (1.40 $\mu_{\text{B}}$ ) falls into the range of values expected for the *S* = 1/2 unpaired spin (spin-only value:  $1.73\mu_B$ ). With increasing temperature, it exhibits a gradual increase up to ca. 10 °C through the glass transition. As seen in Figure 6, there is an upturn of  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  above 10 °C, which then begins to approach the value expected for an uncorrelated three-spin system with S = 1/2, 1/2, and 3/2 (spin-only value:  $4.58\mu_B$ ) without magnetic saturation. Such temperature dependency is rather different from that of polycrystalline VT complex Co(DBSQ)<sub>2</sub>(bpy) (Pierpont, 2001), but reminds us of that of the colloidal suspension of nanoparticles composed of VT coordination polymer Co<sup>II</sup>(DBSQ)<sub>2</sub>(bix), where bix is 1,4bis(imidazol-1-ylmethyl)benzene (Imaz et al., 2008). It should be noted that the observed VT behavior has little impact on the ion diffusivity, since no anomaly was observed for ion conduction in this temperature region.

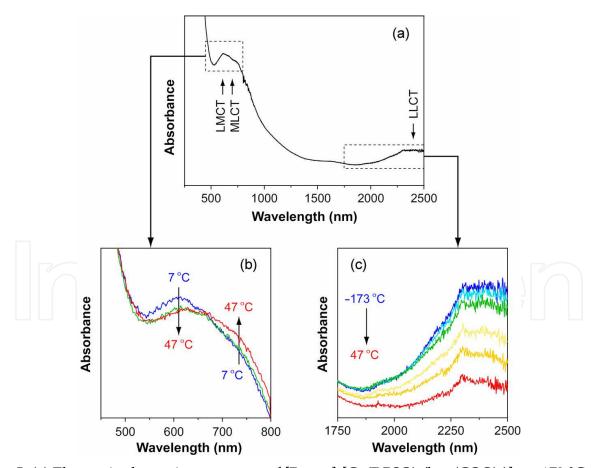


Fig. 5. (a) Electronic absorption spectrum of  $[P_{14,6,6,6}]_2[Co(DBSQ)_2(bpy(COO)_2)]$  at -173 °C. Temperature dependence of the spectra (b) in the high-energy region (7, 27, 47 °C) and (c) in the low-energy region (-173, -73, -13, 7, 27, 47 °C) (Yoshida et al., 2009).

The use of chelate complex anions is preferred due to a huge variety of chemically tunable organic ligands, which allow the fine tuning of ligand  $\pi$  orbital levels and thus charge transfer between the central metal and ligands. The modification of electronic structures exerts a drastic effect on physical properties such as magnetic (e.g., spin and charge states, and spin polarization) and emission (e.g., lifetime, emission energy, and quantum efficiency) properties. We would note that the "bidentate ligand ionic liquid" [P<sub>14,6,6,6</sub>]<sub>2</sub>[bpy(COO)<sub>2</sub>] is a useful tool to synthesize ionic liquids containing chelate complex anions, in a combinatorial fashion, especially Fe<sup>II</sup>, Mn<sup>II</sup>, Ru<sup>II</sup>, and Ir<sup>III</sup> metal complexes. Such functional ionic liquids can be envisaged to become a grown area because of the enormous accumulated knowledge of complex chemistry from both fundamental and practical aspects.

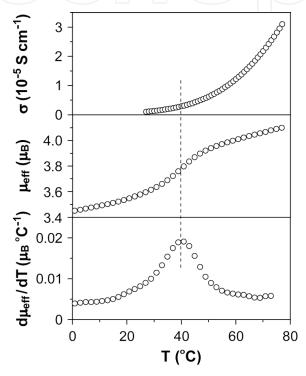


Fig. 6. Temperature dependence of ionic conductivity ( $\sigma$ ), effective magnetic moment ( $\mu_{eff}$ ), and its derivative  $d\mu_{eff}/dT$  of  $[P_{14,6,6,6}]_2[Co(DBSQ)_2(bpy(COO)_2)]$ . A vertical dotted line indicates the equilibrium temperature (Yoshida et al., 2009).

#### 3. Magneto-active cations

Metal-free paramagnetic ionic liquids, in which a chiral pyrrolidin-1-yloxyl (PROXYL) radical moiety is included in the component cation (**2**; Scheme 1), were reported by Tamura and his coworkers in 2009 (Uchida et al., 2009). It is apparent that this approach falls into the category as in Scheme 2a. The RT magnetic moments were estimated to be  $1.69-1.75\mu_B$  as expected from a paramagnetic S = 1/2 spin on nitroxyl radical. Notably, the Tf<sub>2</sub>N salt is more fluidic ( $7.2 \times 10^{-4}$  S cm<sup>-1</sup> and 84 cP at 70 °C) than [C<sub>n</sub>MI][TEMPO-OSO<sub>3</sub>] ( $2.0 \times 10^{-4}$  S cm<sup>-1</sup> and 568 cP at 70 °C for n = 4), presumably associated with the well-delocalized charge on the Tf<sub>2</sub>N anions.

In a more recent study, Inagaki and Mochida reported a series of paramagnetic ionic liquids by making use of a new breed of component cations (**3**; Scheme 1) (Inagaki & Mochida, 2010). In the ferrocenium cations, negatively-charged cyclopentadienyl rings would inhibit

the attractive Coulomb interactions between the positively-charged central iron and counter anions. Moreover, it seems that the thermal motion of the substituents as well as the low symmetry in the cations stabilizes the liquid state, since the pristine ferrocenium ( $R_1 = R_2 =$ H) and methyl-substituted ferrocenium ( $R_1 = Me$ ,  $R_2 = H$  or  $R_1 = R_2 = Me$ ) cations give salts with  $T_m$  higher than 100 °C. Among the ferrocenium-based ionic liquids, the salt combining **3a** with Tf<sub>2</sub>N anion ( $T_m = 24.5$  °C) is highly fluidic (26.6 cP at 25 °C). The RT magnetic moments of the salts combining **3b** and **3d** with Tf<sub>2</sub>N were estimated to be 2.33 $\mu_B$  and 2.17 $\mu_B$ , respectively, which lie in the range of typical ferrocenium salts (Kahn, 1993).

## 4. Conclusion

In this review, the known range of paramagnetic ionic liquids has been discussed concerning the choice and chemical synthesis of magneto-active ions. The selection of smallsized and monovalence C<sub>2</sub>MI cation and Fe<sup>III</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub> anion gives the most fluidic paramagnetic [C<sub>2</sub>MI][Fe<sup>III</sup>Cl<sub>4</sub>]. Metal complex anion containing soft pseudo-halides gives relatively fluidic ionic liquids [C<sub>n</sub>MI]<sub>2</sub>[Co<sup>II</sup>(NCS)<sub>4</sub>] despite the divalency of the anion. By the chemical inclusion of acidic group to the neutral magneto-active molecules, metal-free paramagnetic  $[C_nMI]$ [TEMPO-OSO<sub>3</sub>] ionic liquids and valence-tautomeric ionic а liquid [P<sub>14,6,6,6</sub>]<sub>2</sub>[Co<sup>II</sup>(DBSQ)<sub>2</sub>(bpy(COO)<sub>2</sub>)] have been realized. Imidazolium cation covalently linked to PROXYL radical moiety, also gives a new type of metal-free paramagnetic ionic liquids.

Ionic liquids whose functionality is inherited from the component ions will increasingly come to be attracting attentions, because of a vast number of the potential functional molecules that can introduce the acidic group and develop their functionality without having interionic interactions. The development of smart ionic liquids whose external-fieldresponsivity extends far beyond that of existing ones has also been an active area of research are also anticipated to be strong growth in the field of ionic liquids. Future works are also to develop a special functionality for each ion and then combine them to realize ionic liquids having cooperative functionalities.

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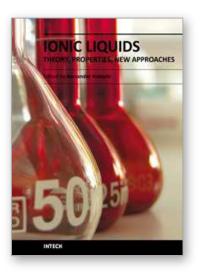
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