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Fernando Palacio, M. Carmen Morón, J. Pons, J. Casabó, X. Solans, K. E. Merabet, D. Huang, X. Shi, Boon K. Teo, and Richard L. Carlin

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Bimetallic derivatives of the $[M(en)_3]^{3+}$ ion ($M=Cr$ and Co): A series of compounds with unusual magnetic and structural properties (abstract)

Fernando Palacio and M. Carmen Morón

Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Aragón, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas and Universidad de Zaragoza, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain

J. Pons, J. Casabó, and X. Solans

Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Barcelona, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas and Departamento Química Inorgánica, Universidad de Autónoma de Barcelona, Bellaterra, Spain

K. E. Merabet, D. Huang, X. Shi, Boon K. Teo, and Richard L. Carlin

Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60680

The crystal structure and magnetic susceptibility of a series of $[M(en)_3]^{3+}$ ($M = Cr$ or Co) derivatives are described. In particular, the crystalline structures of (1) $[Cr(en)_3]_3[FeCl_6]Cl_6 \cdot H_2O$, (2) $[Co(en)_3]_3[FeCl_6]Cl_6 \cdot H_2O$, and (3) $[Cr(en)_3][FeCl_6] \cdot 11H_2O$ are reported. Structural data, in Å, for these compounds are as follows: (1) space group $R\bar{3}$, $a = 15.447(4)$, $c = 21.060(6)$, $Z = 3$; (2) space group $R\bar{3}$, $a = 15.346(3)$, $c = 20.880(5)$, $Z = 3$; (3) space group $P\bar{3}c1$, $a = 11.654(3)$, $c = 15.508(4)$, $Z = 2$. The main structural feature of the first two isomorphous materials is that they consist of a three-dimensional network of triangular antiprisms formed by the $[M(en)_3]^{3+}$ ($M = Cr$ or Co) ions and connected with each other by sharing corners. An $[FeCl_6]^{3-}$ ion is placed at the center of each antiprism. Compound (3) contains a sc arrangement of $[Cr(en)_3]^{3+}$ and $[FeCl_6]^{3-}$ octahedra. In addition, the magnetic susceptibilities of the above-mentioned isomorphous compounds and of $[M(en)_3][FeCl_6]$ ($M = Cr$ and Co) and $[Cr(en)_3][InCl_6]$ are reported. While $[Cr(en)_3]_3[FeCl_6]Cl_6 \cdot H_2O$ orders as a ferrimagnet at 0.91 K, $[Cr(en)_3][FeCl_6]$ exhibits antiferromagnetic properties with $T_c = 2.26$ K, a temperature rather similar to the antiferromagnetic ordering temperature of $[Co(en)_3][FeCl_6]$.