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メタデータ	言語: eng 出版者: 公開日: 2017-10-02 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2297/37510

Cis-Trans Isomerism among the Octahedral Anionobis(C-substituted ethylenediamine)nickel(II) Complexes Obtained by Thermal Reactions

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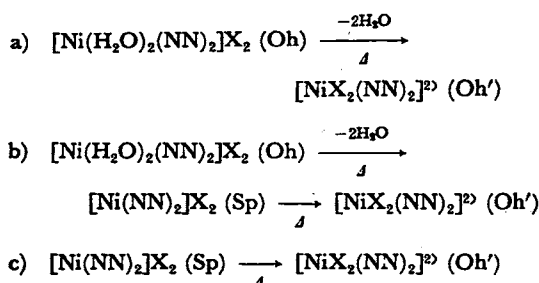
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(Received December 24, 1985)

Ten octahedral anionobis(C-substituted ethylenediamine)nickel(II) complexes were obtained by thermal reactions of corresponding diaqua salts, and their electronic and IR spectra were examined to see whether they are cis or trans. Most of them were found to be trans, but $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)(m\text{-bn})_2](\text{NO}_3)$ and $[\text{NiCl}_2(i\text{-bn})_2]$ were cis.

We have previously reported on the thermal reactions of the nickel(II) complexes with C-substituted ethylenediamines in solid phase.¹⁾ It was found that octahedral anionobis(diamine) complexes, $[\text{NiX}_2(\text{NN})_2]$,²⁾ are obtained as the final products of the following thermal reactions:



Here Oh (or Oh') and Sp represent an octahedral species and square planar one, respectively.

Whether these anionobis complexes are cis or trans is an interesting problem, which is also fundamental for understanding the nature of their formation reactions. Unfortunately, the literature on such geometrical isomers of octahedral Ni(II)-bis(diamine) complexes is scanty; the number of known examples of such isomers is not so many, and the methods of their identification by means of the visible and IR spectra are not so well-established as in the case of the Co(III) and Cr(III) complexes.

Recently, however, there appeared several experimental and theoretical works on the electronic spectra of tetragonal Ni(II) complexes.³⁻⁷⁾ In particular, Lever et al. studied the electronic states of the bis(N-substituted ethylenediamine)nickel(II) complexes by the normalized spherical harmonic Hamiltonian (NSH) method in detail,⁸⁻¹³⁾ showing that the feature of the electronic spectrum in near IR region is especially useful for the identification of a cis or a trans isomer of such a complex. In this study, we tried to apply their results to our nickel(II) complexes with C-substituted ethylenediamines to see whether each of them is cis or trans.

Experimental

Preparation of the ligands(1-phenyl-1,2-ethanediamine

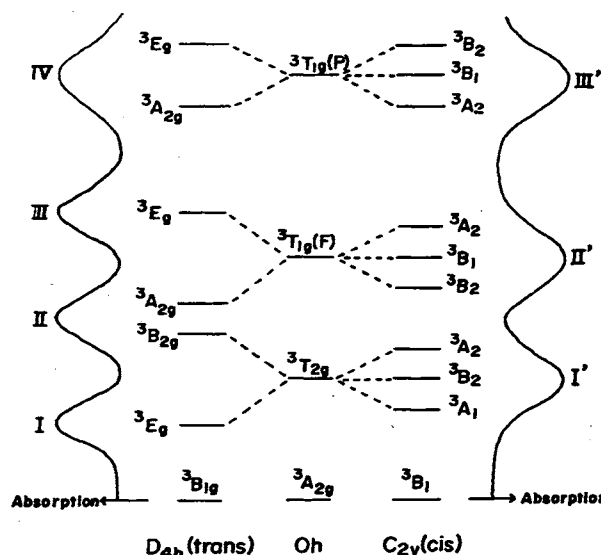


Fig. 1. Energy level diagrams of a d^8 system in ligand fields of different symmetries.¹⁶⁾ Sketches of the absorption spectra of the cis and trans isomers of $\text{NiX}_2(\text{diamine})_2$ are also given. (After Lever¹³⁾).

(phenen), 2-methyl-1,2-propanediamine(*i*-bn), *meso*- or *dl*-butanediamine(*m*-bn or *dl*-bn), and *dl*-1,2-diphenyl-1,2-ethanediamine(*dl*-stien)), and that of the anionobis(diamine)-nickel(II) complexes with them were described in the literature.^{1,14,15)} The electronic spectra in solid phase were measured by the diffuse reflectance method with a Hitachi 340 spectrophotometer equipped with reflection attachments for the visible (800—300 nm) and near IR (1400—800 nm) parts of the spectrum. The latter region was measured with special care for the discussion of the complex geometry. Common IR spectra were recorded with a JASCO IR-A3 spectrophotometer in Nujol mulls.

Results and Discussion

The energy levels derived from F and P terms of a d^8 system (Ni^{2+}) in ligand fields of different symmetries (Oh, D_{4h} (trans), and C_{2v} (cis)) are shown in Fig. 1. In a tetragonal system(D_{4h}), six spin-allowed transitions are anticipated, among which four or sometimes five bands are observed in practice.^{7,8,13)} The band due to the ${}^3\text{B}_{1g} \rightarrow {}^3\text{A}_{2g}$ (from ${}^3\text{T}_{1g}(\text{P})$) transition is scarcely observable as a discrete band, but may appear as a

shoulder of the band of ${}^3B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^3E_g$ (from ${}^3T_{1g}(P)$) transition (Band IV shown in Fig. 1, which is sometimes obscured under the strong CT or ligand band in near UV region). The band due to ${}^3B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^3E_g$ (from ${}^3T_{1g}(F)$) transition, Band III, is normally observed at ca. $17\text{--}18 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. The band of ${}^3B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^3A_{2g}$ (from ${}^3T_{1g}(F)$) transition seems to lie very close to that of ${}^3B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^3B_{2g}$ transition, giving only one peak, also around this region (Band II). The band at the lowest energy, Band I, is assigned to the ${}^3B_{1g} \rightarrow {}^3E_g$ transition.

On the other hand, in a C_{2v} system, the splittings of the respective terms are small; so, when the complex is cis, three rather broad bands (bands I', II', and III' shown in Fig. 1) are observed as in the case of the regular Oh system.^{7,12,13,19}

The electronic spectra of the three aniono complexes are now shown in Fig. 2, where the Roman numerals on the curves are the band assignments shown in Fig. 1. The spectra of $[\text{NiBr}_2(dl\text{-stien})_2]$ and $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{phenen})_2]$ have the same feature, differing from that of $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(m\text{-bn})_2$ in the near IR

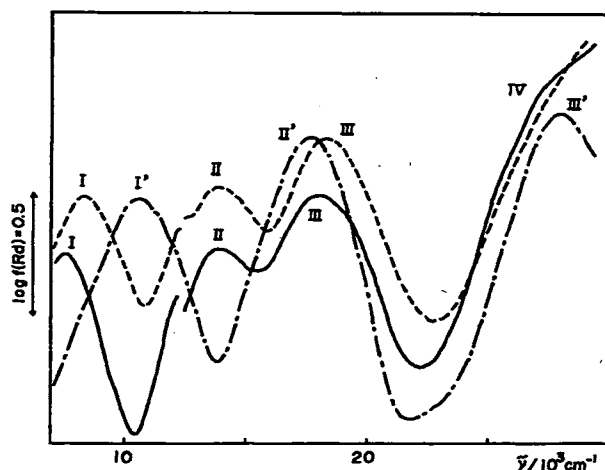


Fig. 2. Reflectance spectra of $[\text{NiBr}_2(dl\text{-stien})_2]$ (—), $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{phenen})_2]$ (---), and $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(m\text{-bn})_2](\text{NO}_3)$ (-·-·-).

region. The additional band observed at ca. $13 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ in the *dl*-stien and phenen complexes can be attributed to Band II, i. e., the overlapping of the transition to ${}^3A_{2g}$ from ${}^3T_{1g}(F)$ and ${}^3B_{2g}$ (from ${}^3T_{2g}$) levels. The four bands observed are thus assigned to the transitions from ${}^3B_{1g}$ to the lowest 3E_g (band I), ${}^3B_{2g}$ and ${}^3A_{2g}$ (band II), 3E_g (band III), and ${}^3A_{2g}$ (from ${}^3T_{1g}(P)$) and 3E_g (from ${}^3T_{1g}(P)$) (band IV), respectively, in the order of increasing energy. The shoulder at $12.5 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ of the phenen complex is probably the transition to ${}^3B_{2g}$ state. Consequently, both of these complexes are clearly trans. On the other hand, the *m*-bn complex, whose spectrum scarcely show any splitting, is clearly cis.

Table 1 summarizes the coordination structures of ten complexes deduced in the same way, their electronic spectral data and the thermochemical reactions used to prepare them. Most of these complexes are trans, and only two, i. e., $\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(m\text{-bn})_2$ and $\text{NiCl}_2(i\text{-bn})_2$,^{19,20} are cis.

The mode of coordination in the three nitrate complexes in Table 1 was also studied by means of their IR spectra. In general, an NO_3^- ion in a metallic complex gives rise to a weak combination band in the range of $1700\text{--}1800 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. When it exists as an uncoordinated ion, this band is not split, but when it is coordinated as a monodentate ion, a small splitting into two components (less than 25 cm^{-1}) takes place. When it acts as a bidentate ligand, the splitting becomes much larger ($20\text{--}50 \text{ cm}^{-1}$).^{21,22}

Figure 3 indicates the IR spectra of the nitrate complexes of *dl*-stien and *m*-bn, together with those of their mother complexes having the free nitrate ions, $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{diamine})_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$. A peak at 1746 cm^{-1} assignable to the free NO_3^- ions in the spectrum of the mother complex with *dl*-stien is split into two peaks at 1749 and 1767 cm^{-1} with a separation of 18 cm^{-1} in that of the nitrate complex. This indicates that, in the latter, the two NO_3^- ions are coordinated at the axial positions as a unidentate ligands to form the *trans*-octahedral complex.²³ On the other hand, the nitrate

Table 1. Electronic Spectral Data of the Complexes

Complex	Absorption Bands				Preparation Method ^{a)}
	$\bar{\nu}/10^3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$				
	I	II	III	IV	
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{NiCl}_2(\text{phenen})_2]$	7.9	13.5	17.6	27.8 sh	(a)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{NiBr}_2(\text{phenen})_2]$	7.6	13.5	17.4	27.2	(a)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(\text{phenen})_2]$	8.3	13.7	18.3	27.0<	(b)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{NiCl}_2(dl\text{-bn})_2]$	8.2	14.3	18.2	28.1	(b)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{NiBr}_2(dl\text{-bn})_2]$	7.6	14.3	17.9	29.4 sh	(b)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{NiCl}_2(dl\text{-stien})_2]$	8.1	14.3	17.9	26.5 sh	(b)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{NiBr}_2(dl\text{-stien})_2]$	7.6	13.9	18.1	26.1 sh	(b)
<i>trans</i> - $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(dl\text{-stien})_2]$	8.6	14.3	18.4	26.6 sh	(b)
	I'	II'	III'		
<i>cis</i> - $[\text{NiCl}_2(i\text{-bn})_2]$	10.5	17.7	28.0		(c)
<i>cis</i> - $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(m\text{-bn})_2](\text{NO}_3)$	10.2	17.2	27.2		(c)

a) The symbols a, b, or c correspond to the thermal reactions used to obtain the complexes (see text).

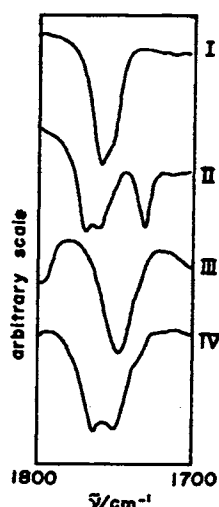


Fig. 3. IR spectra of $[\text{Ni}(m\text{-bn})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ (I), $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)(m\text{-bn})_2(\text{NO}_3)]$ (II), $[\text{Ni}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(dl\text{-stien})_2(\text{NO}_3)_2]$ (III), and $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)_2(dl\text{-stien})_2]$ (IV).

complex with *m*-bn has the three peaks at 1732, 1758, and 1768 cm^{-1} . The peak at 1758 cm^{-1} appears at nearly the same position as that of the mother complex, showing that a part of the NO_3^- ions remains uncoordinated. The large separation (36 cm^{-1}) between the other two peaks indicates that the coordinated NO_3^- ions are acting as bidentate ligand. Therefore, the nitrate *m*-bn complex can be formulated as *cis*- $[\text{Ni}(\text{NO}_3)(m\text{-bn})_2(\text{NO}_3)]$, having both free and bidentate nitrate ions.

The problem why only the nitrate complex of bis(*m*-bn) and the chloride complex of bis(*i*-bn) form the *cis*-octahedral structure is of interest. It is well known that the bis-type Ni(II) complexes with *m*-bn or *i*-bn strongly prefer a diamagnetic square planar structure,^{1,24,25} so the generation of octahedral species with these diamines is quite unusual. In particular, the nitrate complex is the first example of an octahedral bis(*m*-bn) complex. Both of these novel complexes of *cis*-octahedral structure can be obtained only by the same type of thermal reaction (c), and they are converted into the original square planar complexes on cooling for some days, showing the reversibility of the structural changes.²⁶

The work was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research No. 60303009 from the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture.

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- 16) It is important to recognize that, depending upon the specific operators which survive from the cubic parent, there are three distinguishable C_{2v} systems, $C_{2v}(\text{I})$, $C_{2v}(\text{II})$, and $C_{2v}(\text{III})$, where the Roman numerals designate the surviving operators.¹⁷ For example, *trans*-(X,Y)- $\text{MX}_2\text{Y}_2\text{ZZ}'$ is a $C_{2v}(\text{I})$ system, while *trans*-M(X-X) $_2\text{ZZ}'$ is a $C_{2v}(\text{II})$ one. The geometry of the *cis* complexes described in this study (*cis*-M(X-X) $_2\text{Z}_2$) just belongs to $C_{2v}(\text{III})$, and here the ground state ($^3A_{2g}$) and $^3T_{2g}$ state of Oh system are transformed into 3B_1 and $^3A_1 + ^3A_2 + ^3B_2$, respectively,¹⁸ as shown in Fig. 1.
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- 26) The *cis*-*trans* isomerism among the diaqua complexes, which are the starting complexes of the thermal reactions, is also an interesting problem. Here, however, the situation is more complicated than in this study, and, in certain cases, mixtures of *cis*-*trans* isomers are obtained according to the preparative methods. Details on this topic will be reported elsewhere.