A New 1D Chained Coordination Polymer: Synthesis, Crystal Structure, Antitumor Activity and Luminescent Property

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Academic Editor: Helmut Cölfen

Received: 12 October 2015 / Accepted: 18 November 2015 / Published: 25 November 2015

Abstract: A new 1D chained coordination polymer of Zn(II), \([\text{Zn(L)}_2(4,4'\text{-bipy})] \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})\) \(_n\) (HL = N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine; 4,4'-bipy = 4,4'-bipyridine) has been synthesized and characterized by elemental analysis, IR and X-ray single crystal diffraction analysis. The results show that each asymmetric unit of Zn(II) complex belongs to monoclinic, space group \(P2_1\) with \(a = 11.421(2) \text{ Å}, \ b = 9.2213(17) \text{ Å}, \ c = 15.188(3) \text{ Å}, \beta = 106.112(3)^\circ\), \(V = 1536.7(5) \text{ Å}^3\), \(Z = 2\), \(D_e = 1.444 \text{ g·cm}^{-3}\), \(\mu = 0.857 \text{ mm}^{-1}\), \(F(000) = 696\), and final \(R_1 = 0.0439\), \(\omega R_2 = 0.1013\). The molecules form one-dimensional chained structure by its the bridging 4,4'-bipyridine ligands. The antitumor activities and luminescent properties of Zn(II) coordination polymer have also been investigated.

Keywords: N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine; Zn(II) coordination polymer; 1D chained structure; antitumor activity; luminescent property

1. Introduction

Coordination polymer materials have attracted more research interest because of their versatile applications in luminescent probe, catalysis, gas absorption, antitumor activity, and so on [1–13]. Over the past decade, a variety of Zn(II) coordination polymer derivatives, such as phyrins [14], imidazole [15], phosphonate [16], carboxylate [17], amide [18], monoterpenes [19], tetra-(4-pyridyl)-butane [20], and
bipyridyl [21] complexes have been reported. Among them, carboxylate ligands are the most frequently used to construct coordination polymer because of their multiple coordination modes [22–27]. In addition, 4,4′-bipyridine ligand was frequently selected to study the effect on the structure of metal complex [28–30].

Based on the above investigation, in this paper, a new 1D chained coordination polymer of Zn(II), \{[Zn(L)₂(4,4′-bipy)]·(H₂O)\}_n, has been synthesized using N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine and 4,4′-bipyridine as ligands. The Zn(II) complex was characterized by elemental analysis, infrared spectroscopy, single-crystal X-ray crystallography and thermogravimetric analyses. The antitumor activities and luminescent properties of Zn(II) coordination polymer have also been investigated.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Structural Description of \{[Zn(L)₂(4,4′-bipy)]·(H₂O)\}_n (1)

The result of X-ray diffraction reveals that the complex 1 crystallizes in monoclinic P2₁ space group. The coordination environment of Zn(II) ion of 1 is shown in Figure 1. The molecular packing arrangement is shown in Figure 2. The asymmetrical unit contains one Zn(II) ion, two N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand, one 4,4′-bipy ligand, two coordinated H₂O molecules and one lattice H₂O molecule. Zn is six-coordinated and resides in a distorted octahedral environment defined by two oxygen atoms (O₁, O₅) from two N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine anions, two nitrogen atoms (N₃, N₄) from two different 4,4′-bipy, and two oxygen atoms (O₆, O₇) from two coordinated H₂O molecules. The molecules form one-dimensional chained structure by the bridging 4,4′-bipyridine ligands (Figure 3). The one-dimensional chains form 3D framework structure by the interaction of π-π stacking and hydrogen bonds (Figure 4). The uncoordinated water molecule exists in the crystal through hydrogen bonds and enhances the structure stability. The Zn-O lengths are in the range of 2.072(3)–2.254(3) Å (Zn₁-O₁ = 2.135(3) Å, Zn₁-O₅ = 2.072(3) Å, Zn₁-O₇ = 2.100(4) Å, Zn₁-O₆ = 2.254(3) Å), and the Zn-N lengths are in the range of 2.150(3)–2.166(3) Å (Zn₁-N₃ = 2.166(3) Å, Zn₁-N₄ = 2.150(3) Å), respectively. The carboxylate groups of N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine in 1 adopt monodentate chelating mode.

Figure 1. The coordination environment of Zn(II) in 1.
2.2. IR Spectra

The IR spectra of \(N\)-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand and complex 1 are shown in Figure 5. As shown in Figure 5, the free \(N\)-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand exhibits two sharp bands at 1695 cm\(^{-1}\) and 1552 cm\(^{-1}\), and in complex 1, they appear at 1602 cm\(^{-1}\) and 1433 cm\(^{-1}\), respectively. This shows that the O atoms of COO\(^-\) are coordinated to Zn(II) ion [31].
**Figure 5.** The IR spectra of N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine (black) and complex 1 (red).

2.3. Antitumor Activity

The antitumor activities of N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand and complex 1 were tested against human hepatoma SMMC-7721 cells, human lung adenocarcinoma A549 cells and human colon carcinoma WiDr cells based on MTT method according to the literature procedure [32]. The results of antitumor activities of N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand and complex 1 are given in Table 1. It can be seen that complex 1 exerted cytotoxic effect against human hepatoma SMMC-7721 cells and human colon carcinoma WiDr cells, and N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand exerted cytotoxic effect against human lung adenocarcinoma A549 cells and human colon carcinoma WiDr cells. The antitumor effect against human hepatoma SMMC-7721 of complex 1 is better than that of N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand, and the antitumor effect against human colon carcinoma WiDr cells of N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand is better than that of complex 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>IC_{50} (µg/mL)</th>
<th>SMMC-7721</th>
<th>WiDr</th>
<th>A549</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>18 ± 0.3</td>
<td>28 ± 0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex 1</td>
<td>12 ± 0.2</td>
<td>25 ± 0.9</td>
<td>--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

--: no antitumor activity.

2.4. Luminescent Property

The luminescent spectrum of complex 1 was investigated in the solid state at room temperature. As shown in Figure 6, the ligand displays emission peak at 439 nm with excitation at 349 nm, which may be attributed to the \( \pi^* - \pi \) or \( \pi - n \) transition. However, the N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine ligand does not display any emissions with excitation from 200 to 400 nm.
3. Experimental Section

3.1. Materials and Instrumentation

*N*-acetyl-L-phenylalanine, 4,4′-bipyridine, Zn(OAc)₂·2H₂O, NaOH and solvents were purchased commercially and used without further purification. Elemental analyses for C, H and N were carried out on a Elementar Vario III EL elemental analyzer. The FT-IR spectra were recorded in the range 4000–400 cm⁻¹ on a Nicolet AVATAR 360 FTIR Spectrophotometer (Nicolet Instrument Inc., Madison, WI, USA). Luminescence spectra were measured on a PE LS-55 fluorescent spectrophotometer (PerkinElmer, Billerica, MA, USA). Single crystal data of \(\left\{\text{Zn}(L)_{2}(4,4′\text{-bipy})\right\}·(\text{H}_2\text{O})\right\}_n\) were collected by a Bruker smart CCD diffractometer(Bruker, Billerica, MA, USA).

3.2. Synthesis of \(\left\{\text{Zn}(L)_{2}(4,4′\text{-bipy})\right\}·(\text{H}_2\text{O})\right\}_n(1)\)

A mixture of *N*-acetyl-L-phenylalanine (207 mg, 1.0 mmol), 4,4′-bipyridine (156 mg, 1.0 mmol), Zn(OAc)₂·2H₂O (109 mg, 0.5 mmol), and NaOH (40 mg, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in 15 mL mixed solvents of H₂O:CH₃OH (v:v = 1:2). The mixture was stirred for 6 h at 60 °C, and then colorless crystals were collected and dried in the air. Yield: 52%. Anal. Calcd. (%) for C₃₂H₃₄N₄O₈Zn: C, 57.49; H, 5.09; N, 8.38. Found (%): C, 57.22; H, 5.48; N, 8.67. IR data (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3257 (m), 3072 (w), 1602 (s), 1433 (s), 1066 (m), 818 (s), 731 (m), 698 (m), 673 (m), 622 (m), 474 (w).

3.3. Data Collection, Structural Determination,and Refinement

A colorless single crystal of the complex 1 with dimensions of 0.32 mm × 0.26 mm × 0.22 mm was selected and mounted on a glass fiber for data collection. The X-ray diffraction data were measured at 293(2) K on a Bruker smart CCD diffractometer with a graphite-monochromatized MoKα (\(λ = 0.71073 \text{ Å}\)) radiation. The structure was solved by direct methods with SHELXL-97 [33] and refined on \(F^2\) by full-matrix least-squares procedures with SHELXTL-97 [33]. The non-hydrogen atoms were located refined anisotropically, and hydrogen atoms were added according to theoretical models. The crystal data of 1 are given in Table 2.
Table 2. Summary of crystal result for Mg(II) complex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empirical Formula</td>
<td>C$<em>{32}$H$</em>{34}$N$<em>{4}$O$</em>{8}$Zn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formula weight</td>
<td>668.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature/K</td>
<td>293(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal system</td>
<td>Monoclinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space group</td>
<td>$P_2_1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$a$/Å</td>
<td>11.421(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$b$/Å</td>
<td>9.2213(17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$c$/Å</td>
<td>15.188(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\beta$/°</td>
<td>106.112(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume/Å$^3$</td>
<td>1536.7(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$Z$</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\rho$$_{calc}$/mg/mm$^3$</td>
<td>1.444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mu$/mm$^{-1}$</td>
<td>0.857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S$</td>
<td>1.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F$(000)</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index ranges</td>
<td>$-15 \leq h \leq 13$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$-9 \leq k \leq 12$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$-18 \leq l \leq 20$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflections collected</td>
<td>8997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflections with $I &gt; 2\sigma(I)$</td>
<td>4217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute structure parameter</td>
<td>0.026(16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent reflections</td>
<td>5465 [R(int) = 0.0362]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data/restraints/parameters</td>
<td>5465/1/411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$</td>
<td>1.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final $R$ indexes [≥2σ(I)]</td>
<td>$R_1 = 0.0439$, $wR_2 = 0.1013$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final $R$ indexes [all data]</td>
<td>$R_1 = 0.0711$, $wR_2 = 0.1156$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest diff. peak/hole/e Å$^{-3}$</td>
<td>0.87/−0.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Conclusions

In summary, we have synthesized and characterized a new 1D chained coordination polymer of Zn(II). The results show that the molecules form one-dimensional chained structure by its the bridging 4,4′-bipyridine ligands. The antitumor activities and luminescent properties of Zn(II) coordination polymer have also been investigated. Based on the above results, more and more coordination polymers containing N-acetyl-L-phenylalanine and 4,4′-bipyridine ligands will be synthesized to study their novel structures and properties.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21171132), the Natural Science Foundation of Shandong (ZR2014BL003), and the Project of Shandong Province Higher Educational Science and Technology Program (J14LC01) and Science Foundation of Weifang.
Author Contributions

Xi-Shi Tai designed the method and wrote the manuscript. Hai-Ying You analyzed the crystal data for the Zn(II) coordination polymer. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

Appendix

Crystallographic data for the structure reported in this paper has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication No. CCDC 1055436. Copy of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44-1223-336-033; E-Mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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