## 镍螺旋化合物及其杂银配位聚合物的设计合成与结构

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摘要:采用两个易扭转异构的双三齿有机配体,双吡啶二甲基-6,6'-二酰肼-2,2'-连吡啶( $H_2L^1$ )和双吡啶二乙基-6,6'-二酰肼-2,2'-连吡啶( $H_2L^2$ ),和金属镍离子组装得到 2 个金属螺旋体(helicate), $N_{12}(HL^1)_2(PF_6)(BF_4)(CH_3OH)(H_2O)_2$  (1)和  $N_{12}(HL^2)(H_2L^2)(ClO_4)_3$  ( $C_2H_3OH)(CH_3OH)H_2O)_3$  (2),并测定了它们的晶体结构。同时由配体  $H_2L^3$  出发,通过逐级组装的方法,得到一个镍-银杂金属的配位聚合物  $N_{12}Ag_2(HL^3)_2(ClO_4)_2(CH_3CN)_3$  (3)。单晶结构表明,配位聚合物 3 中配体  $H_2L^3$  首先与镍离子组装成分子盒化合物(molecular box),该结构单元进一步通过 Ag 离子与分子盒外围 N 原子配位,使分子盒互相串连成一维配位聚合物 3,分子盒聚集体沿 c 方向伸展成一维链结构,链与链之间相互平行,进一步堆积成二维孔道结构。

**关键词**: 螺旋; 分子盒; 多孔结构; 逐级组装; 配位聚合物

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## Nickel Helicates and Hybrid Silver Coordination Polymer: Design, Synthesis and Structure Characterization

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Abstract: Two molecular clips with flexible bis-tridentate coordination sites, di (2-pyridylcarbaldehyde)-6,6′ dicarboxylic acid hydrazone-2,2′-bipyridine (H<sub>2</sub>L¹) and di(2-acetylpyridyl)-6,6′-dicarboxylic acid hydrazone-2,2′-bipyridine (H<sub>2</sub>L²) have been prepared. Dinuclear double-stranded helicate Ni<sub>2</sub>(HL¹)<sub>2</sub>(PF<sub>6</sub>)(BF<sub>4</sub>)(CH<sub>3</sub>OH)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> (1) and Ni<sub>2</sub>(HL²) (H<sub>2</sub>L²)(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH)(CH<sub>3</sub>OH)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub> (2) based on the ligands, H<sub>2</sub>L¹ and H<sub>2</sub>L² respectively, have been synthesized, their crystal structures were determined by X-ray diffraction method. Meanwhile, the assembly between the modulated ligand, di(2-pyrazinecarbaldehyde)-6,6′-dicarboxylic acid hydrazone-2,2′-bipyridine (H<sub>2</sub>L³) and mixed metal salts of nickel and silver yields a 1D coordination polymer Ni<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>2</sub>(HL³)<sub>2</sub>(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>3</sub> (3). The crystal structure revealed that, in the compound 3, molecular box as metallosupramolecular secondary building units, can be interconnected via the external Ag-N coordination to construct metallosupramolecular aggregate. Another intriguing structure feature of the compound 3 in the solid state is that it forms two-dimensional porous frameworks through the stacking of the 1D aggregated molecular box, in which counter anions and guest solvent molecules are resided. CCDC: 640381, 1, 640382, 2, 640383, 3.

Key words: helicate; molecular box; pore structure; hierarchical self-assembly; coordination polymer

There is a considerable current interest in the supramolecular synthetic approach and its application

to the quest for the controlling of molecular architecture. Metallosupramolecular chemistry is one of the

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actively pursued research areas in supramolecular chemistry, which uses the interaction between organic ligands and metal ions to construct multicomponent and/or multinuclear coordination entities<sup>[1]</sup>. The application of metal-ligand interaction has proved to be particularly fruitful and a rich variety of metallosupramolecular architectures have been obtained in the last few years, including molecular boxes <sup>[2]</sup>, helicates <sup>[3]</sup>, rotaxanes <sup>[4]</sup>, catenanes <sup>[5]</sup> and cages <sup>[6]</sup>. The assembly of helical or molecular box complexes have elegantly illustrated how the specific formation of architecturally complex assemblies are directed by the interplay between relatively simple parameters such as the stereoeletronic preference of the metal ions, the nature of bonding sites of the multi-dentate ligands and so on<sup>[7]</sup>.

Meanwhile, the rational design of novel coordination networks is of great interest, because the topology of these networks can not only present the aesthetic appeal, but also be manipulated to influence the properties and functions of the materials [8]. One of the common strategies for the construction of coordination networks is to properly program building units made up of metal ions and organic ligands for the spontaneous self-assembly of a well-defined structural entity [9]. Organic and/or metallic tectons can be used to generate one-dimensional coordination networks. Many coordination networks constructed from smaller organic ligands have been reported [10]. However, coordination networks constructed from metallsupramolecular secondary building units are less common<sup>[11]</sup>. It is possible to assemble metallosupromolecules, such as helicate, molecular box, starting from ligand incorporating chelating sites. Meanwhile, it has been demonstrated recently that discrete metallo-supramolecular species of additional peripheral binding sites can further assemble into one-dimensional (1D) polymeric structures [12]. Herein, we report a novel 1D coordination polymer starting from the assembled metallosupramolecular box via the hierarchical or multistep self-assembly strategy.

## 1 Experimental

### 1.1 Materials and instrumentation

All chemicals were of reagent grade quality

obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. Elemental analyses (C, H and N) were carried out with a Perkin-Elmer 2400 Analyzer. IR spectra were recorded on a VECTOR 22 Bruker spectrophotometer with KBr pellets in the range of 4 000 ~ 400 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were performed on DRX500 Bruker spectrometer at 298 K with TMS as an internal reference. Electrospray mass spectrum were carried out on a LCQ system (Finnigan MAT, USA) with methanol as mobile phase.

### 1.2 Synthesis of the ligand H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>~H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>3</sup>

1.2.1 Di(2-pyridylcarbaldehyde)-6,6'-dicarboxy-lic acid hydrazone-2,2'-bipyridine (H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>)

A solution of dicarboxylic acid hydrazide-2,2' bipyridine (2 mmol, 0.54 g) in methanol (15 mL) was added to a methanol solution (10 mL) containing pyridyl-2-carbaldehyde (4 mmol, 0.43 g). After 5 drops of acetic acid was added, the yellow mixture was heated at boiling temperature under magnetic stirring for 2 h. During the reaction, a pale yellow precipitate was formed, which was collected by filtration, washed with methanol-ether, and dried in vacuo. Yield: 0.81 g, 90%. Spectroscopic data for H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>), δ 11.52 (1H, s, NH), 9.05 (1H, d, J=10.1 Hz), 8.85 (1H, d, J=5.6 Hz), 8.48 (1H, d, J=8.1 Hz), 8.24(1H, d, J=8.5 Hz), 8.15 (1H, t, J=15.6 Hz), 8.01 (1H, t, J=13.5 Hz), 7.85 (1H, d, *J*=9.1 Hz). 6.52 (1H, s). IR (solid KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3 452.18 (m), 1 665.01 (s), 1 585.24(m), 1 430.15(m), 1 364.25(m), 1 148.76(m), 783.46(m). ESI-MS: m/z 451.2 for  $[H_2L^1 + H]^+$ , calc. for  $C_{24}H_{19}N_8O_{29}$ 451.47.

# $\begin{array}{ll} 1.2.2 & {\rm Di}(2\mbox{-acetylpyridyl})\mbox{-}6,6'\mbox{-dicarboxylic acid} \\ & {\rm hydrazone\mbox{-}2,2'\mbox{-bipyridine}} \; (H_2L^2) \end{array}$

Ligand  $H_2L^2$  was prepared in a manner similar to  $H_2L^1$  except using the 2-acetylpyridine instead of pyridyl-2-carbaldehyde. Yield: 0.69 g, 72%. Spectroscopic data for  $H_2L^2$ : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$  11.31 (1H, s, NH), 9.16 (1H, d, J=8.6 Hz), 8.64 (1H, d, J=8.3 Hz), 8.52 (1H, d, J=7.1 Hz), 8.31 (1H, d, J=7.1 Hz), 8.10 (1H, t, J=11.1 Hz), 7.88(1H, t, J=16.3 Hz), 7.56 (1H, d, J=7.1 Hz). 2.32 (3H, s, -CH<sub>3</sub>). IR (solid KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3 448.58(m), 1 663.77(s), 1 580.94(m), 1 433.13

(m), 1 364.08 (m), 1 147.26 (m), 783.46 (m), 675.19 (m). ESI-MS: m/z 479.3 for  $[H_2L^2 + H]^+$ , calc. for  $C_{26}H_{23}N_8O_2$ , 479.52.

## 1.2.3 Di(2-pyrazinecarbaldehyde)-6,6'-dicarbox-ylic acid hydrazone-2,2'-bipyridine (H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>3</sup>)

Ligand  $H_2L^3$  was prepared in a manner similar to  $H_2L^1$  except using the 2-pyrazinecarbaldehyde instead of 2-pyridylcarbaldehyde. Yield: 0.63 g, 65.2%. Spectroscopic data for  $H_2L^3$ : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>),  $\delta$  11.24 (1H, s, NH), 9.75 (1H, d, J=11.2 Hz), 9.74 (1H, d, J=5.6 Hz), 8.52 (1H, d, J=7.5 Hz), 8.36 (1H, d, J=9.2 Hz), 8.12 (1H, t, J=11.2 Hz), 7.68 (1H, d, J=8.2 Hz). 5.38(1H, s). IR (solid KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3 458.28 (m), 1 660.58(s), 1 588.94 (m), 1 432.75 (m), 1 365.96 (m), 1 146.56(m), 785.32(m). ESI-MS: m/z 481.3 for  $[H_2L^3 + H]^+$ , calc. for  $C_{24}H_{21}N_{10}O_2$ , 481.50.

## 1.3 Synthesis of the complex 1~3

## 1.3.1 Preparation of compound $Ni_2(HL^1)_2(PF_6)$ $(BF_4)(CH_3OH)(H_2O)_2$ (1)

Ni(PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1 mmol, 0.037 g) dissolved in 15 mL methanol was added dropwise to a suspension of  $H_2L^1$  (0.1 mmol, 0.045 g) in 10 mL methanol. The solution was stirred at boiling temperature for 20 min to get a clear solution, into which the excessive NaBF<sub>4</sub> (0.5 mmol, 0.055 g) was added and allowed to stand at room temperature. After several days, green block crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained (0.043 g, 67.4%). Anal calc. (%) for Ni<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PF<sub>6</sub>) (BF<sub>4</sub>) (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>: H 3.22, C 44.74, N 17.05. Found (%): H 3.54, C 45.19, N 17.11. ESI-MS: m/z 1013.65 (calc. for [Ni<sub>2</sub>(L<sup>1</sup>)(HL<sup>1</sup>)]+, 1 013.16) and 507.85 (calc.. for [Ni<sub>2</sub>  $(HL^{1})_{2}$ <sup>2+</sup>, 508.14). IR (solid KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3 442.79 (m), 1 616.67(s), 1 579.98(s), 1 537.53(s), 1 309.10(s), 1 156.29(s), 1 083.80(s), 915.20(w), 779.74(s), 747.99(s), 483.34(w).

# $\begin{array}{ll} 1.3.2 & \text{Preparation of compound Ni}_2(\text{HL}^2)(\text{H}_2\text{L}^2) \\ & (\text{ClO}_4)_3(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH})(\text{CH}_3\text{OH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3~(\textbf{2}) \end{array}$

 $Ni(ClO_4)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$  (0.1 mmol, 0.037 g) dissolved in 15 mL methanol was added to a suspension of  $H_2L^2$  (0.1 mmol, 0.048 g) in 10 mL methanol. The solution was stirred at boiling temperature for 20 min to obtain a clear solution and allowed to stand at room temperature.

After several days, pale-red block crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained (0.046g, 62.5%). Anal calc.(%) for Ni<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) (H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>: H 3.79 C 43.58 N 15.71. Found (%): H 3.85, C 43.19, N 16.05. ESI-MS: m/z 1 171.31 (calc. for [Ni<sub>2</sub> (HL¹)<sub>2</sub>(ClO<sub>4</sub>)]<sup>+</sup>, 1 171.17). IR (solid KBr pellet, cm⁻¹): 3 422.9 (m), 2 443.01 (m), 1 647.59 (m), 1 571.26(m), 1 507.91 (m), 1 151.70 (s), 1 120.96 (s), 1 090.71 (s), 758.22(w), 627.83(w).

## 1.3.3 Preparation of compound $Ni_2Ag_2(HL^3)_2$ (ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>3</sub> (3)

To the combined methanol solution of Ni (ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> · 6H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1 mmol, 0.037 g) and ligand H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>3</sup> (0.1 mmol, 0.048 g), AgNO<sub>3</sub> (0.1 mmol, 0.017 g) dissolved in 10 mL CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution was added dropwise. After refluxing for 30 min, the resulting solution was filtered and allowed to stand in dark. After several days, yellow block crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained (0.043g, 67.4%). Anal calc. (%) for Ni<sub>2</sub>Ag<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>3</sub>: H 2.94, C 40.27, N 20.02. Found(%): H 3.05, C 41.19, N 19.81. IR (solid KBr pellet, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3 405.67 (m), 1 647.18 (m), 1 561.06 (m), 1 348.50(m), 1 303.50(m), 1 157.01(s), 1 083.82(s), 831.6(w), 783.59 (m), 751.37(m).

## 1.4 Structure determination

Suitable crystals were selected for single-crystal X-ray diffraction structural analysis and the data were collected on a Siemens SMART-CCD diffractometer with graphite-monochromatized Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.071 073 nm), using the SMART and SAINT programs<sup>[13]</sup>. 45 frames of data were collected at 298K with an oscillation range of 1°/frame and an exposure time of 10 s/frame. Indexing and unit cell refinement were based on all observed reflections from those 45 frames. The structures were solved by direct method and refined on  $F^2$  by full-matrix least-squares methods with SHELXTL version 5.1<sup>[14]</sup>. Anisotropic thermal parameters were refined for non-hydrogen atoms. Hydrogen atoms were localized in their calculation positions and refined by using the riding model. Crystallographic data and parameters for data collection and refinement of the compounds are summarized in Table 1.

CCDC: 640381, 1; 640382, 2; 640383, 3.

Table 1 C	Crystallographic	data and	refinement	parameters for	compounds 1~3
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	1	2	3
Empirical formula	$C_{49}H_{36}BF_{10}N_{16}Ni_{2}O_{7}P \\$	$C_{55}H_{50}Cl_{3}N_{16}Ni_{2}O_{21} \\$	$C_{54}H_{42}Ag_{2}Cl_{2}N_{23}Ni_{2}O_{12} \\$
Formula weight	1 310.14	1 494.88	1 609.17
Crystal system	$P\overline{1}$	C2/c	$P\overline{1}$
Space group	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Triclinic
a / nm	1.220 4(19)	2.557 7(3)	1.162 1(3)
<i>b</i> / nm	1.320 7(2)	1.298 73(17)	1.228 3(3)
c / nm	2.001 7(3)	4.059 7(6)	1.246 0(3)
α / (°)	72.392(4)		69.081(4)
β / (°)	86.493(4)	92.277(3)	83.069(4)
γ / (°)	76.211(4)		75.290(4)
V / nm <sup>3</sup>	2.986 2(8)	13.475(3)	1.606(7)
Z	2	8	1
$\mu$ / mm $^{-1}$	0.75	0.762	1.339
Number of reflections measured	12 913	32 889	8111
Number of unique reflections ( $wR$ , $R_{\rm int}$ )	9 431 (0.155 2, 0.078 2)	11 808 (0.142 6, 0.070 7)	5 579 (0.199 6, 0.074 2)
Goodness of fit (S)	1.022	1.127	1.044

#### 2 Results and discussion

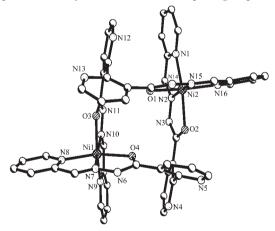
Following our design, the analogous ligands H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>~ H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>3</sup> (Scheme 1) are prepared in a four-step synthesis route. [15] In the design of the ligands, the N<sub>2</sub>O tridentate coordination sites were employed for chelating the metal ions and often, such the coordination mode was easily deprotonized on the imino group during the coordination. The ease of availability of these ligands has allowed us to systematically investigate the effects of modifications to the ligand backbone by which the precise topography of the arrays should be controlled. These ligands are constrained by their connectivity of bipyridine block acting as a bis-tridentate ligand, thus preventing from the formation of a mononuclear complex. The bis-tridentate coordination sites in the ligands looks like a pocket and the free rotation of the pocket makes two tridentate sites toward either the same direction or the opposite to correspondingly yield the molecular box and helicate. Meanwhile, the rigid nature of the bis-tridentate ligands makes them suitable for the synthesis of cyclic structure, and it can potentially be used to construct a dinuclear metallacycle when combined with a suitable metal center. Furthermore, the aggregation of metallacycles into 1D polymer can be supported by additional coordination sites.

Scheme 1 Chemical structures of ligand H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>~H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>3</sup>

## 2.1 Crystal structure of 1~2

Reaction between nickel salts and H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>2</sup> in boiling methanol gave compounds **1** and **2**, respectively. As shown in Fig.1, these compounds were best described as double-stranded helicates with two metallic centers that occupies at the helical axis being separated about 0.601(4) and 0.628(6) nm, for **1** and **2**, respectively. The compound **1** crystallizes in the triclinic system and the whole molecule of double helicate is found in the asymmetric unit. The ligand H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup> could fancily wrap around the two metal ions with the two metal centers displayed the same absolute configuration. Each metal center occupies a six-coordinated pseudooctahedral environment surrounded by N<sub>2</sub>O pocket-like coordination sites provided by ligand anion HL<sup>-</sup>. The bis-tridentate ligand H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup> exhibits a

trans configuration and acts as bridging ligand through 2,2'-bipyridyl block. All the bond distances in the two arms are intermediate between the corresponding single bond and double bond, indicating extensive delocalization over the entire molucular skeleton. The coordination to the metal ions also forces the twisting within the ligand H<sub>2</sub>L<sup>1</sup>, the two arms are almost perpencular with each other with the torsion angle of disubstituted bipyridyl groups is ca. 88°. The crystal packing of compound 1 is less compact since the observed structure adopt a pseudotetragonal arrangement of each layer. Furthermore, these layers lead to pseudohexagonal AB close-packed arrangements, and counter anions and free solvent molecules are resided in the cavities formed by the structure packing along the crystallographic b axis (Fig.2). From the viewpoint of chiral aggregation, the helicates with the same handness arrange them together in a column along crystallographic b axis, which are interconnected via  $\pi \cdots \pi$ stacking between coordinated pyridyl rings with the shortest interatomic distance of 0.332 4 nm for C48... C22A (symm code A: +x, -1+y, +z). Due to the fact that compound 1 is crystallized in centric space group P1, it



Selected bond distances (nm) for compound 1: Ni1-N7 0.195 7(5), Ni1-N10 0.198 0(5), Ni1-N8 0.206 8(5), Ni1-N9 0.208 2(5), Ni1-O3 0.208 9(4), Ni1-O4 0.210 5(4), Ni2-N15 0.196 5(5), Ni2-N2 0.198 4(5), Ni2-O1 0.203 8(4), Ni2-N16 0.206 8(5), Ni2-N1 0.207 7(5), Ni2-O2 0.213 0(4), O1-C42 0.125 9(7), O2-C7 0.122 6(6), O3-C31 0.121 4(7), O4-C18 0.123 2(7), N2-C6 0.129 0(7), N2-N3 0.135 8(6), N3-C7 0.136 9(7), N4-C12 0.135 1(8), N6-C18 0.134 6(8), N6-N7 0.137 3(6), N7-C19 0.128 2(8)

 $\label{eq:Fig.1} Fig. 1 \quad Crystal \ structure \ of \ Ni_2(HL^1)_2(PF_6)(BF_4)(CH_3OH)(H_2O)_2$   $(1) \ with \ 30\% \ probability \ ellipsoids$ 

is speculated that the 1D columnn-like chiral aggregates exit as a racemic mixture.

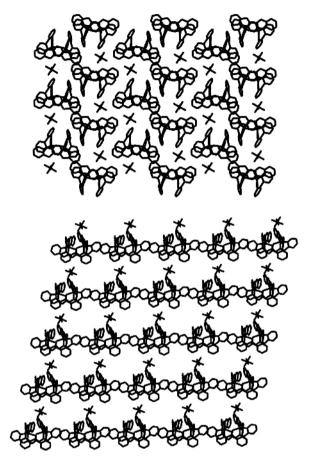
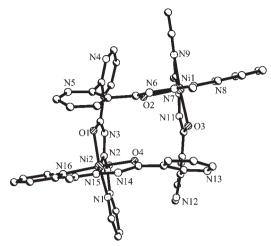


Fig.2 Crystal packing of compound  ${\bf 1}$  along crystallographic b axis (up) and c axis (down), respectively

The crystal streuture of compound 2 in shown in Fig.3. The compound 2 crystallized in a monoclinic system with space group C2/c. The presence of three ClO<sub>4</sub> anion per helicate indicates that the helicate 2 has trivalent oxidation state, the ligands lost only one of all the protons as a whole. Each Ni center adopt persuooctahedral configuration and is coordinated by two sets of N<sub>2</sub>O unit. The dihedral angles between the disubstituted 2,2'-bipyridyl block is 85.7°. As shown in the compound 1, the coordination pockets rotate in opposite position to assemble as a helicate and the metallic center has the homochirality. Based on the fact that the compound 2 crystallized in the achiral space group C2/c, the descret helicate, which is inherently chiral, aggregate as a racemate of P for right-handed and *M* for left-handed with an equivalent makeup.



Selected bond distances (nm) for compound 2: Ni1-N7 0.196 3(5), Ni1-N10 0.199 7(5), Ni1-O2 0.204 2(4), Ni1-N9 0.206 1(5), Ni1-N8 0.208 2(5), Ni1-O3 0.210 8(4), Ni2-N2 0.195 1(6), Ni2-N15 0.197 9(5), Ni2-O1 0.203 6(4), Ni2-N1 0.206 5(6), Ni2-N16 0.207 2(6), Ni2-O4 0.210 4(4)

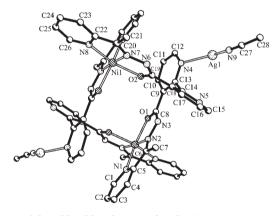
Fig.3 Crystal structure of  $Ni_2(HL^2)(H_2L^2)(ClO_4)_3(C_2H_5OH)$ (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub> (2) with 30% probability ellipsoids

Clearly, the formation of stereogenic metal centers in compound  ${\bf 1}$  and  ${\bf 2}$  is fully controlled by the twisting nature of the bridging ligand. Hence, it seems that the designed ligand  $H_2L$  is suitable to assemble some metal helicate, in which the chirality of one metal center can be transferred to another one. And the structure predicability based on such the molecular clips have led to the anticipation of several dinuclear double helicates.

#### 2.2 Crystal structure of 3

Compound 3 is obtained by refluxing the combined  $CH_3OH/CH_3CN$  solution containing 1 equiv of  $Ni(ClO_4)_2$  ·  $6H_2O$ , 1 equiv of ligand  $H_2L^3$  and 1 equiv of  $AgNO_3$  for 2 h in the dark. The structure of compound 3 can be described as a one-dimensional infinite polymer. A dimeric  $[M_2L_2]$  cage structure is formed with the ligand bridging between the two metal centers, whose coordination environments are almost identical to that of compound 2. The twisting mode between two tridentate pockets surpringly results in a molecular box with the desired aryl-lined cavity. As depicted in Fig.4, the dinuclear metallamacrocycle,  $[Ni_2(HL^3)_2]$  retains the box tectonic feature different from that observed as the helical structure in the compound 2. The intramolecular  $\pi \cdots \pi$  stacking interaction was also found within the

individual box with the shortest atom...atom separation of 0.358 5 nm and dihedral angle of 12.68°. It is observed that two bipyridyl N atoms on a ligand backbone can be coordinated to the different silver ions, as a consequence, the individual molecular box is interconnected by double-silver bridges to form a 1D infinite array of cages. As shown in Fig.5, the bridging Ag ion is coordinated by two N atoms from the different boxes, and the coordination are completed by a CH<sub>3</sub>CN molecule and a disordered anion ClO<sub>4</sub>-. The shortest and adjacent Ag-Ag distances are 0.3894 nm, while the separation between the Ag centers across the metallacycles are 1.246 0 nm. As shown in Fig.6, the molecular box stacks on top of each other along the crystallographical c-axis to result in the arrays of metallacycles. Furthermore, the 1D polymeric chains lie parallel each other to align themselves along the (001) direction, among which the free solvent molecules and perchlorate anions are resided(Fig.6).



Selected bond length (nm) and angles (°):

Ni1-N4<sup>a</sup> 0.197 9(6), Ni1-N8 0.199 0(6), Ni1-O2 0.204 0(7), Ni1-O1<sup>a</sup> 0.207 4(7), Ni1-N9 0.208 9(7), Ni1-N1<sup>a</sup> 0.212 2(7), N3-N4 0.1372(7), C8-O1 0.127 7(9), C19-O2 0.126 0(9), N6-N7 0.137 2(9)

Symmetry code:  $^{i}$  -x, 1-y, -z;  $^{ii}$  -x, 1-y, -1-z

Fig.4 Crystal structure of compound **3** emphasizing the coordination of Ag<sup>+</sup> to pyridyl N atoms with 30% probability ellipsoids

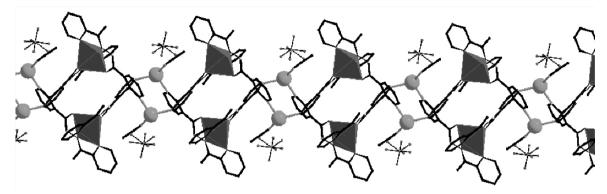


Fig.5 Polymeric structure of **3** showing the polyhedra representation of interconnected molecular box with H atoms omitted for clarity

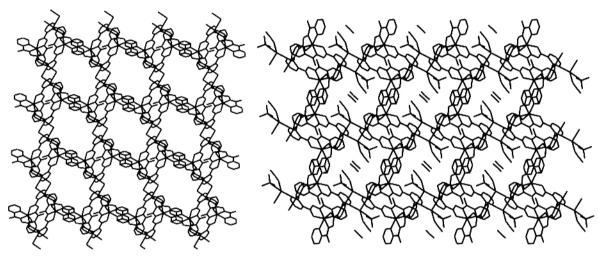


Fig.6 View of crystal packing along the b direction of 3 showing the porous structure, in which the anions and solvent molecules are resided

In summary, we have synthesized a series of metallosupramolecular compounds including helicate (1~2) and the 1D coordination polymer (3) starting from the bridging bis-tridentate ligands. Due to the flexible nature of ligand, the assembly process may produce either helicate or molecular box. This compound 3 exhibits a new 1D extended structure consisting of dinuclear metallosupramolecular cages. The structural motif and the packing of [Ni (HL¹)] (AgCH₃CN) · 0.5CH₃CN appear to exhibit the 2D porous structure. Further studies will include investigation into the homochirality crystal materials<sup>[16]</sup> starting from the well-programmed metal helicate and this work is in progress.

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