CHELATE CONFORMATION IN METAL COMPLEXES

A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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SYNOPSIS

The experimental investigation of chelate conformation included the determination of three crystal structures by X-ray analysis. The structures of (-) $_{589}$ -S,S-6,9-diaza-2,13-dithiatetradecane-5,10-dicarboxylato-cobalt(III) perchlorate, $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{S}_2)]\text{ClO}_4$, bis-(dihydro-1H,3H,5H-oxazolo[3,4-c]oxazole-7a-carboxylato)copper(II), $\text{Cu}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_8\text{NO}_4)_2$, and (+) $_{589}$ -bis-(1,1,1-tris(aminomethyl)ethane)cobalt(III) chloride (+) $_{589}$ -R,R-tartrate pentahydrate, (+) $_{589}$ - $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_5\text{H}_5\text{N}_3)_2\text{Cl}-$ (+) $_{589}$ - $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_6)$.5.4H₂O were determined and refined by full matrix least-squares techniques to conventional R indices of 0.060, 0.038 and 0.025 respectively. The absolute configuration of the complex cation in the first structure was designated skew chelate pairs, AAA. In the third structure, the helicity of the complex cation is a function of the ring conformations only and the absolute configuration was designated $\lambda\lambda$.

The $\lambda\lambda$ -bis-(1,1,1-tris(aminomethyl)ethane)cobalt(III) ion was observed to have quasi- D_3 symmetry in the crystal, and parameters indicating the distortion of the mean D_3 chromophore from O_h symmetry were computed from the crystal geometry. The signs of the net rotatory strengths of this ion for the $^1A_{1g}$ + $^1T_{1g}$ and $^1A_{1g}$ + $^1T_{2g}$ octahedral transitions were estimated by application of the one-electron static coupling model of Richardson for dissymmetric six-coordinate cobalt(III) complexes with D_3 symmetry. The observed net rotatory strength for the complete manifold of d-d transitions was large and similar in sign to that predicted, and the model is empirically verified.

The molecular conformational analysis procedure of Boyd, based on the mathematical minimization of potential energy by a Newton-Raphson technique, has been extended to allow the exceptionally fast refinement of molecules possessing one or more symmetry elements in their final configurations. An artifice for evading symmetry saddle-points was also devised. Conformational mechanics was applied to the conformational isomers of bis-(1,1,1-tris(aminomethyl)ethane)cobalt(III), the symmetric conformers of tris-(1,3-diaminopropane)cobalt(III) and the chair configurations of cis-carbonatobis-(1,3-diaminopropane)-cobalt(III). Computations on these molecules, supplemented by other examples, verified the symmetry refinement procedure.

Finally, a qualitative assessment of the validity of applying energy minimized molecular configurations of metal complexes to the correlation between absolute configuration and the sign of the observed d-d transition rotatory strength, was effected. It is suggested that the agreement between observed and calculated data is generally sufficiently good to permit such applications.

DECLARATION

This thesis is founded on research undertaken by the candidate in the Department of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Adelaide unless asserted otherwise.

To the best of the candidate's knowledge the text contains no material written or devised by another person, except where an appropriate reference is made. No work in the thesis has previously been submitted by the candidate for the award of any other degree.

The author accepts full responsibility for any errors present in the treatise, regardless of their nature.

Rodney Geue

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