


 Cite this: *RSC Adv.*, 2022, 12, 18736

 Received 17th April 2022
 Accepted 16th June 2022

DOI: 10.1039/d2ra02459d

rsc.li/rsc-advances

Study on the coordination of cyclopentanocucurbit [5,6]uril with Fe³⁺, Co²⁺ and Ni²⁺ ions†

 Jun Zheng,^a Yue Ma,^b Xinan Yang^a and Peihua Ma^{ib}*^a

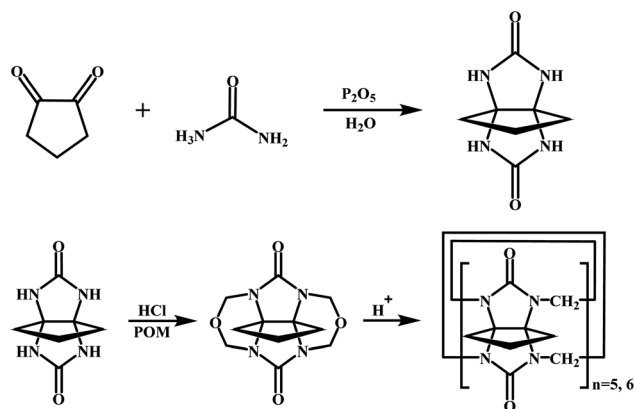
This paper reports the coordination of cyclopentanocucurbit[5]uril (CyP₅Q[5]) and cyclopentanocucurbit[6]uril (CyP₆Q[6]) with Fe(ClO₄)₃, Co(ClO₄)₂ and Ni(ClO₄)₂. Single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis shows the metal ions are directly coordinated with the portal of the cucurbit[*n*]uril to form a one-dimensional supramolecular chain or independent systems in the CyP₅Q[5]@Fe(ClO₄)₃, CyP₅Q[5]@Co(ClO₄)₂, CyP₆Q[6]@Co(ClO₄)₂ and CyP₅Q[5]@Ni(ClO₄)₂ complexes. In CyP₆Q[6]@Fe(ClO₄)₃, the metal ion is not directly coordinated with the cucurbit[*n*]uril portal, but after forming Fe(H₂O)₆, it interacts with the cucurbit[*n*]uril portal *via* a hydrogen bond. The CyP₆Q[6]@Ni(ClO₄)₂ complex is quite special; in this system, there are both metal ions directly coordinated with the cucurbit[*n*]uril portal and free on the outer surface of the cucurbit[*n*]uril.

1. Introduction

Cucurbit[*n*]uril (Q[*n*] or CB[*n*]),^{1–13} a macrocyclic compound with an inner surface cavity and rich carbonyl portals, is a good electron donor due to the presence of a large number of carbonyl groups and therefore has a high density of electron clouds at its portal. Numerous experimental facts prove that Q[*n*] can coordinate with metal ions with different ionic radii such as alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, transition metals, lanthanide metals, *etc.* to form supramolecular assemblies in the presence of structural inducers through intermolecular interactions between water and amino groups, *etc.* and portal carbonyl oxygen of Q[*n*], which, however, is slightly soluble in water and organic solvents, limiting its scope of study. Alkyl-substituted Q[*n*]s are new Q[*n*]s prepared by reacting formaldehyde with alkyl-substituted glycoluril under acidic conditions; their solubility greatly improves compared with that of ordinary Q[*n*]s due to the electron-donating effect of alkyl groups, which increases the electron density of Q[*n*] portals and makes it relatively easy to coordinate with metal ions. So far, the main alkyl-modified Q[*n*]s reported are methyl-substituted Q[*n*]s,^{14–16} cyclopentyl-substituted Q[*n*]s,^{9,10,17–19} cyclohexyl-substituted Q[*n*]s^{20–22} and cyclobutyl-substituted Q[*n*]s.²³

In previous work, the coordination of CyP₅Q[5] with alkali metal cations (A⁺)²⁴ and alkaline earth metal cations (AE²⁺),²⁵

CyP₆Q[6] with alkaline earth metal cations (AE²⁺)²⁶ and lanthanides (Ln³⁺)²⁷ with [ZnCl₄]^{2–} as an inducer are investigated. In 2019, Zhao *et al.* reported the coordination of cyclopentyl-substituted Q[*n*]s with Cu and Zn ions,²⁸ and in 2021, Ma *et al.* reported the supramolecular self-assembly of CyP₅Q[5] with heavy metal ionic compounds (CoCl₂, CrCl₃, HgCl₂, Pb(ClO₄)₂) under acidic conditions,²⁹ extending the coordination studies of cyclopentyl-substituted Q[*n*]s with metal ions. In this paper, the cyclopentyl-substituted Q[*n*]s CyP₅Q[5] and CyP₆Q[6] are selected as organic ligands and the coordination modes with iron, cobalt and nickel ions are investigated, respectively, improving the model of the interaction of cyclopentyl-substituted Q[*n*]s with transition metals, from which the formed supramolecular framework structures are expected to have better application prospects in the fields of gas molecule adsorption, drug delivery, supramolecular chemistry and coordination chemistry.



Scheme 1 The synthesis process of cyclopentanocucurbit[5,6]uril.

^aKey Laboratory of Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry of Guizhou Province, Guizhou University, Guiyang 550025, People's Republic of China. E-mail: phma@gzu.edu.cn

^bGuiyang College of Humanities and Science, Guiyang 550025, People's Republic of China

† CCDC 2126692, 2126694, 2126707, 2126712, 2126713 and 2126724. For crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see <https://doi.org/10.1039/d2ra02459d>



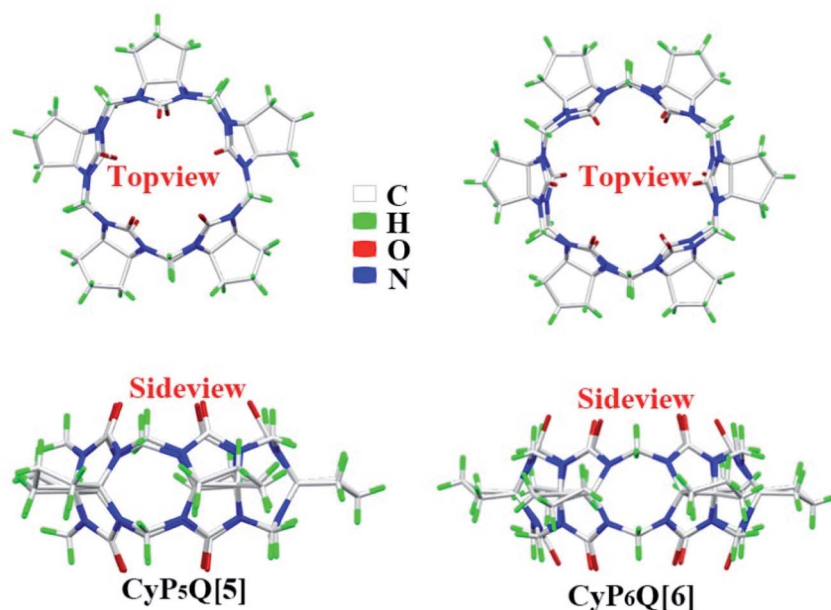


Fig. 1 The structures of CyP₅Q[5] and CyP₆Q[6].

2. Experimental section

2.1 General materials

All materials were reagent grade and used without any further purification. Cyclopentanocucurbit[5]uril and cyclopentanocucurbit[6]uril was prepared and purified in accordance with a literature method^{9,10} (as shown in Scheme 1) and its structure is shown in Fig. 1.

2.2 Synthesis of the complexes 1–6

Preparation of complex 1: a mixture of CyP₅Q[5] (10 mg, 9.73 μmol) and Fe(ClO₄)₃·H₂O (15.5 mg, 41.6 μmol) in 3 mL of 70% (v/v) formic acid aqueous solution was heated until dissolution. The solution was heated and stirred for 5–10 min in a water bath at 35 °C. The resulting solution was allowed to stand at room temperature for 7–10 d to obtain single crystals of

Table 1 The crystal structure parameters of complex 1–3

Complex	1	2	3
Empirical formula	C ₉₀ H ₁₀₈ Cl ₄ Fe ₂ N ₄₀ O ₄₀	C ₉₀ H ₁₀₈ Cl ₃ Co ₂ N ₄₀ O ₃₆	C ₄₅ H ₆₀ Cl ₂ NiN ₂₀ O ₂₃
Formula weight	2643.66	2550.37	1378.74
Crystal system	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 2 ₁ / <i>n</i>
<i>a</i> [Å]	15.734(6)	15.667(4)	11.981(4)
<i>b</i> [Å]	19.695(7)	19.553(5)	32.393(10)
<i>c</i> [Å]	23.581(9)	23.434(6)	16.243(5)
α [°]	65.774(9)	66.076(7)	90
β [°]	81.704(9)	81.367(7)	98.681(10)
γ [°]	84.656(9)	84.437(7)	90
<i>V</i> [Å ³]	6590(4)	6482(3)	6232(3)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	4
<i>D</i> _c (g cm ⁻³)	1.332	1.307	1.470
<i>T</i> [K]	296.15	296.15	296.15
<i>F</i> (000)	2736	2642	2864
μ [mm ⁻¹]	0.391	0.404	0.489
Data/params	23 242/1737	22 835/1592	10 988/937
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0903	0.0801	0.0895
<i>R</i> [I > 2σ(I)] ^a	0.0779	0.0780	0.0884
<i>wR</i> [I > 2σ(I)] ^b	0.2147	0.2206	0.2253
<i>R</i> (all data)	0.1460	0.1297	0.1287
<i>wR</i> (all data)	0.2465	0.2499	0.2496
GOF on <i>F</i> ²	1.042	1.031	1.031

^a Conventional *R* on *Fhkl*: $\sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$. ^b Weighted *R* on *|Fhkl|*²: $\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$.

Table 2 The crystal structure parameters of complex 4–6

Complex	4	5	6
Empirical formula	C ₅₄ H ₈₄ Cl ₆ Fe ₂ N ₂₄ O ₄₈	C ₅₄ H ₆₈ Cl ₂ CoN ₂₄ O ₂₄	C ₅₄ H ₈₂ Cl ₄ Ni ₂ N ₂₄ O ₃₉
Formula weight	2161.80	1567.15	1950.65
Crystal system	Trigonal	Triclinic	Triclinic
Space group	R3	P1	P1
<i>a</i> [Å]	19.654(4)	14.193(2)	21.326(5)
<i>b</i> [Å]	19.654(4)	16.298(2)	22.267(6)
<i>c</i> [Å]	20.369(7)	17.110(3)	22.325(6)
α [°]	90	79.312(5)	92.482(7)
β [°]	90	74.581(6)	97.727(8)
γ [°]	120	73.497(5)	97.905(6)
<i>V</i> [Å ³]	6814(4)	3632.2(10)	10 385(5)
<i>Z</i>	3	2	4
<i>D</i> _c (g cm ⁻³)	1.581	1.433	1.248
<i>T</i> [K]	296.0	273.15	273.15
<i>F</i> (000)	3342	1626	4040
μ [mm ⁻¹]	0.605	0.401	0.549
Data/params	2680/217	18 022/969	33 444/2245
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.1299	0.0526	0.1067
<i>R</i> [<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)] ^a	0.1067	0.0792	0.1370
<i>wR</i> [<i>I</i> > 2 σ (<i>I</i>)] ^b	0.3438	0.2432	0.3692
<i>R</i> (all data)	0.1252	0.1044	0.2432
<i>wR</i> (all data)	0.3616	0.2678	0.4286
GOF on <i>F</i> ²	1.704	1.033	1.165

^a Conventional *R* on *F**hkl*: $\sum||F_o| - |F_c||/\sum|F_o|$. ^b Weighted *R* on *F**hkl*: $2\sum[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2]/\sum[w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}$.

C₉₀H₁₀₈Cl₄Fe₂N₄₀O₄₀ ref. 1 (32.5% yield), using a similar synthetic procedure gave single crystals of C₉₀H₁₀₈Cl₃Co₂N₄₀O₃₆ ref. 2 (38.4% yield), C₄₅H₆₀Cl₂Ni₂₀O₂₃ ref. 3 (42.3% yield); preparation of complex 4: a mixture of CyP₆Q[6] (10 mg, 8.08

μmol) and Fe(ClO₄)₃·H₂O (15.5 mg, 41.6 μmol) in 3 mL of 70% (v/v) formic acid aqueous solution was heated until dissolution. The solution was heated and stirred for 5–10 min in a water bath at 35 °C. The resulting solution was allowed to stand at

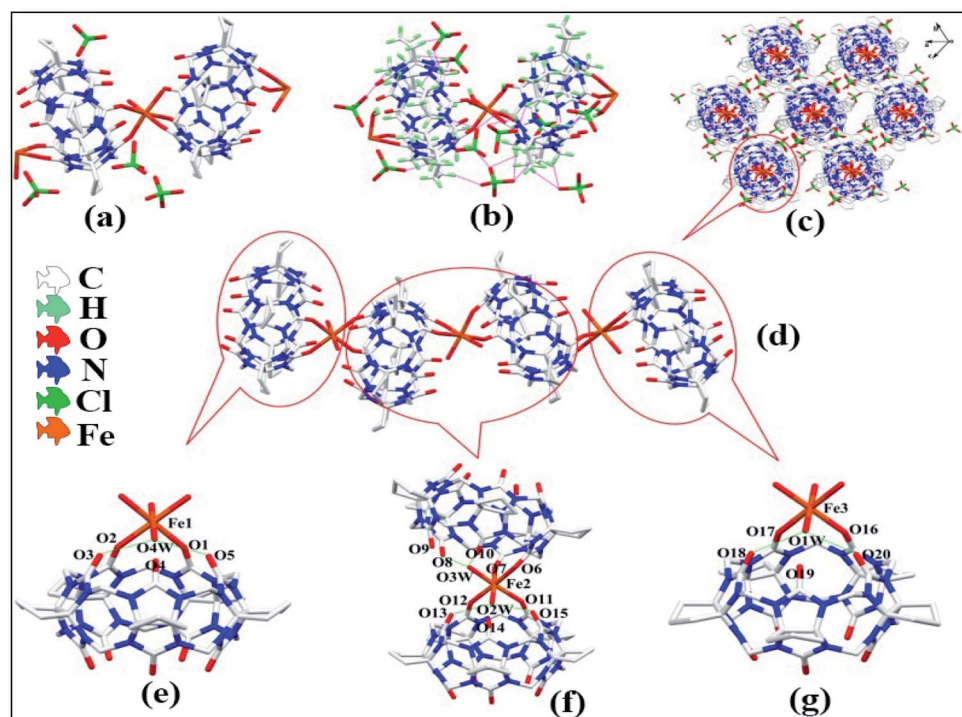


Fig. 2 Structure of complex 1: (a) asymmetric unit, (b) ion–dipole interactions, (c) stacking diagram, (d) one-dimensional supramolecular chain and (e–g) hydrogen atoms bond interactions.

room temperature for 7–10 d to obtain single crystals of $C_{54}H_{84}Cl_6Fe_2N_{24}O_{48}$ ref. 4 (35.8% yield), using a similar synthetic procedure gave single crystals of $C_{54}H_{68}Cl_2CoN_{24}O_{24}$ ref. 5 (40.4% yield) and $C_{54}H_{82}Cl_4Ni_2N_{24}O_{39}$ ref. 6 (36.2% yield), respectively.

2.3 Crystal structure determination

A crystal with the appropriate size and transparency was selected and fixed on a glass probe with using petroleum jelly for X-ray single crystal diffraction analysis on a Bruker D8 Venture X-ray single crystal diffractometer in ω -scan mode using graphite to monochromatize the Mo-K α rays ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å, $\mu = 0.828$ mm $^{-1}$). The crystal data were collected and Lorentz polarization and absorption correction carried out. SHELXT-14 and SHELXL-14 program packages were used for structural analysis and full matrix least squares refinement. All non-hydrogen atoms were anisotropically refined using the analytical expression of the neutral atom scattering factor and combined with anomalous dispersion correction. The SQUEEZE program in the PLATON package was used to delete some of the disordered solvent molecules. The X-ray crystallographic data for structures reported in this study have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center under accession

numbers CCDC: 2 126 692,¹ 2 126 694,² 2 126 707,³ 2 126 712,⁴ 20 126 713 ref. 5 and 2 126 724.⁶ These data can be obtained free of charge *via* <https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/datarequest/cif>. The crystal parameters, data acquisition conditions, and parameters of the complexes 1–3 are listed in Table 1 and 4–6 are listed in Table 2.

3. Results and discussion

3.1 Description of the crystal structure of complexes 1–6

The asymmetric unit of complex 1 contains two CyP₅Q[5], three Fe³⁺ ions, four coordination water molecules and four free perchlorate ions, as shown in Fig. 2a. The free perchlorate oxygen atoms and methylene hydrogen atoms on the outer surface of CyP₅Q[5] were connected *via* ion–dipole interactions (Fig. 2b), the ion–dipole interactions distances range from 2.272 Å to 2.689 Å. The Fe³⁺ ion of the complex has a distorted octahedral coordination configuration; each Fe³⁺ ion is coordinated to four carbonyl oxygen atoms and two water molecules in CyP₅Q[5]. The length of the coordination bond between Fe³⁺ and the CyP₅Q[5] carbonyl oxygen atom is in the range of 2.105–2.134 Å, the coordination bond length between Fe³⁺ and oxygen atom of the coordinated water molecule is in the range of 2.057–2.093 Å, the bond angle around Fe³⁺ ion

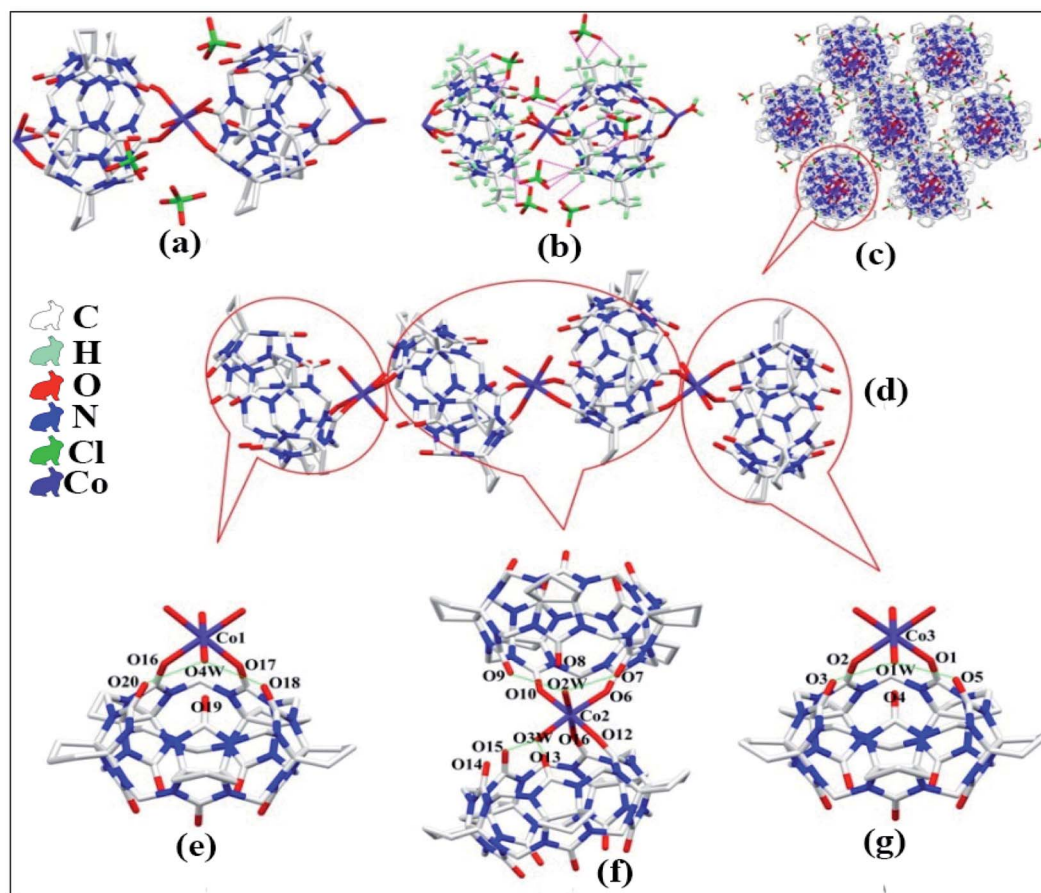


Fig. 3 Crystal structure of complex 2: (a) asymmetric unit, (b) ion–dipole interactions, (c) stacking diagram, (d) one-dimensional supramolecular chain and (e–g) hydrogen atoms bond interactions.

ranges from 83.79 to 93.72°. The CyP₅Q[5] was coordinated and bridged by two Fe³⁺ ions through the oxygen atoms of the two portal carbonyl groups to form a one-dimensional supramolecular chain with alternating V- and Z-types (Fig. 2d). The distances between Fe₁–Fe₂, Fe₂–Fe₃ and Fe₁–Fe₃ in the one-dimensional supramolecular chain are 9.157, 9.680 and 18.761 Å, respectively. The angles between the two CyP₅Q[5] molecules connected to Fe₁, Fe₂ and Fe₃ are 0, 29.21 and 0°, respectively. There is also a hydrogen atoms bond formed between the water molecules participating in the coordination bond and the carbonyl oxygen atom at the end of the cucurbit[7]uril. Fig. 2c is a three-dimensional stacking diagram of complex 1.

The asymmetric unit of complex 2 is shown in Fig. 3a, which contains two CyP₅Q[5], three Co²⁺ ions, four coordinated water molecules and three free perchlorate counter ions. The oxygen atoms of the free perchlorate and methylene hydrogen atoms on the outer surface of CyP₅Q[5] are connected *via* ion-dipole interactions (Fig. 3b), the ion-dipole interactions distances range from 2.405 Å to 2.689 Å. The Co²⁺ ion of the complex has a distorted octahedral coordination configuration, each Co²⁺ ion is coordinated with the four carbonyl oxygen atoms and two water molecules of the cucurbit[7]uril. The

coordinate bond length between Co²⁺ and the CyP₅Q[5] carbonyl oxygen atom is in the range of 2.077–2.102 Å, the bond angle around Co²⁺ ion ranges from 85.06 to 95.19°, and the coordinate bond length to the coordinated water molecule oxygen is in the range of 2.017–2.059 Å. The cucurbit[7]uril is coordinated and bridged by two Co²⁺ ions *via* the oxygen atoms of two portal carbonyl groups to form a one-dimensional supramolecular chain with alternating V- and Z-types (Fig. 3d). The distances between Co₁–Co₂, Co₂–Co₃ and Co₁–Co₃ in the one-dimensional supramolecular chain are 9.588, 9.053 and 18.567 Å, respectively. The angles between the two CyP₅Q[5] connected to Co₁, Co₂ and Co₃ are 0, 29.23 and 0°, respectively. There is also a hydrogen atoms bond between the water molecules participating in the coordination bond and the carbonyl oxygen atom at the end of CyP₅Q[5]. Fig. 3c is a three-dimensional stacking diagram of complex 2.

The asymmetric unit structure of complex 3 is shown in Fig. 4a, which contains one CyP₅Q[5], one Ni²⁺ ion, four coordinated water molecules, one free water molecule and two free perchlorate ions. Each CyP₅Q[5] is surrounded by five free perchlorate counter ions, which are connected *via* ion-dipole interactions; the mode of action is shown in Fig. 4b, the ion-dipole interactions distances range from 2.333 Å to 2.698 Å. The

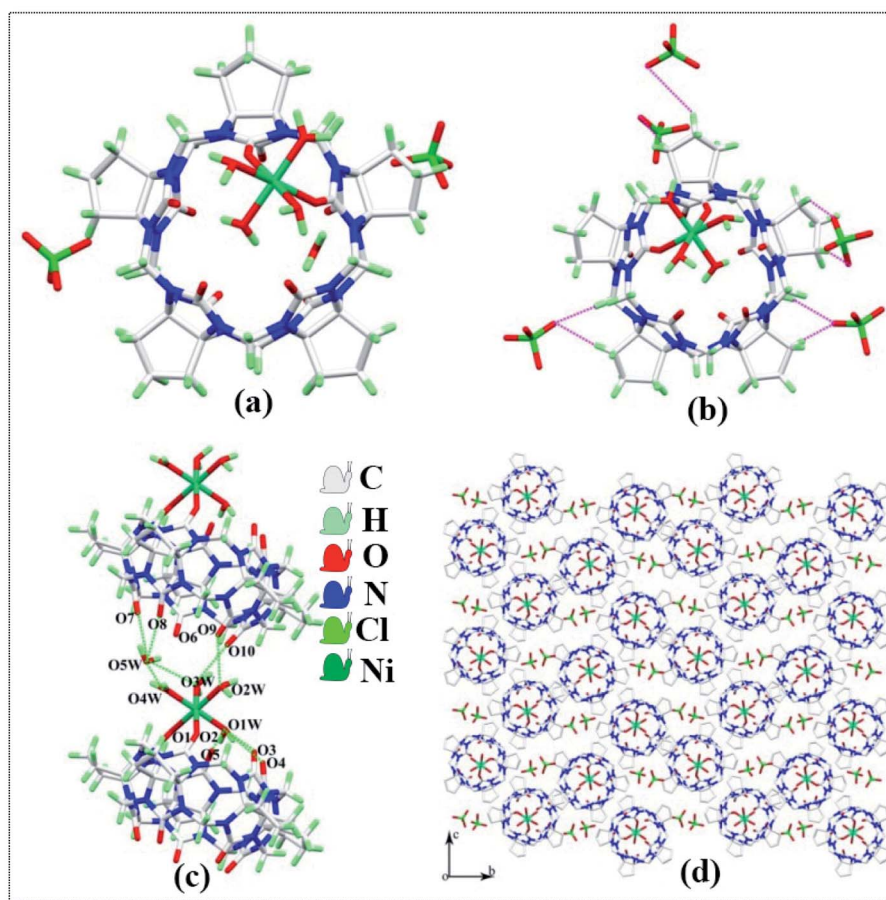


Fig. 4 Crystal structure of complex 3: (a) asymmetric unit; (b) ion-dipole interactions, (c) hydrogen atoms bond interactions and (d) stacking diagram viewed along the *a*-axis.

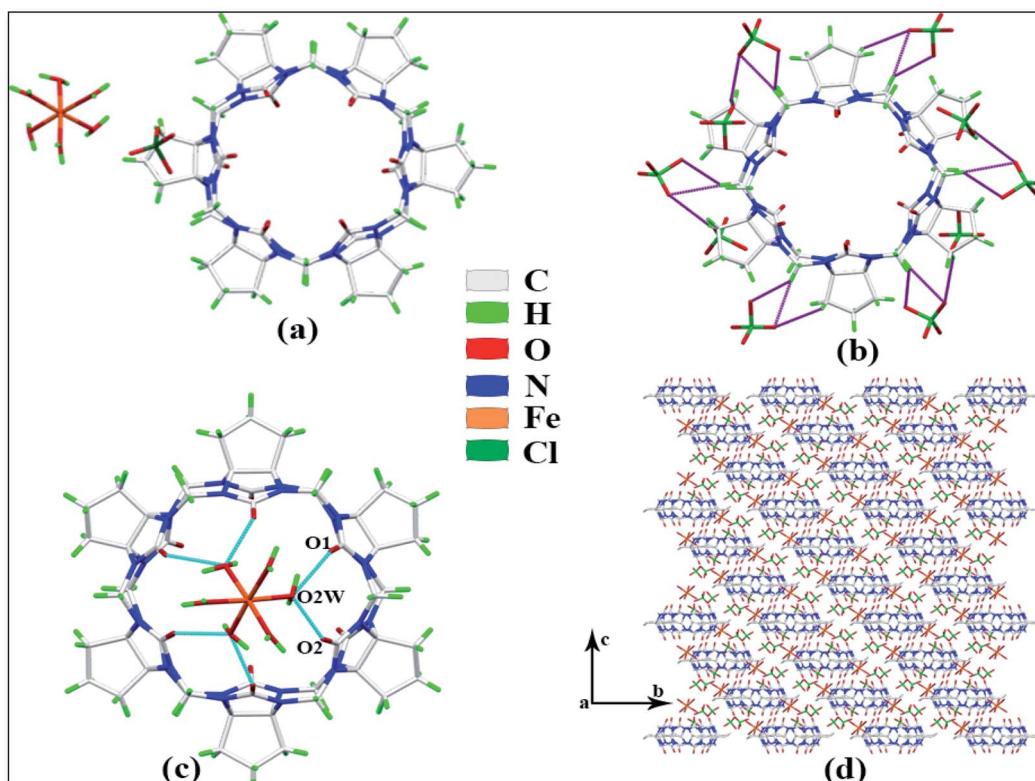


Fig. 5 Crystal structure of complex 4: (a) Asymmetric unit, (b) ion–dipole interactions, (c) hydrogen atoms bond interactions and (d) stacking diagram viewed along the *a*-axis.

Ni²⁺ ion of the complex has a twisted octahedral coordination configuration and each Ni²⁺ ion is coordinated to two carbonyl oxygen atoms and four water molecules at one portal carbonyl group of the cucurbit[*n*]uril. The length of the coordination bond between Ni²⁺ ion and CyP₅Q[5] carbonyl oxygen atom is 2.085–2.091 Å, the length of coordination bond with the coordinated water molecule oxygen atom is 2.018–2.067 Å and the bond angle around Ni²⁺ ranges from 86.20 to 95.49°. There is a hydrogen atoms bond formed between the water molecules participating in the coordination bond and the carbonyl oxygen atom at the portal of CyP₅Q[5], the carbonyl oxygen atom at the lower portal of the other CyP₅Q[5] is connected *via* hydrogen atoms bonds, and the free water molecules are bridged and coordinated *via* hydrogen atoms bonding between the water molecule and carbonyl oxygen atom of the other CyP₅Q[5] portal (Fig. 4c). Fig. 4d is a stacking diagram of the complex 3 viewed along the *a*-axis.

The asymmetric unit of complex 4 is shown in Fig. 5a, which contains one CyP₆Q[6], one Fe³⁺ ion, six coordinated water molecules, and one free perchlorate ion. Each CyP₆Q[6] is surrounded by ten free perchlorate counter ions, which are connected *via* ion–dipole interactions; the mode of action is shown in Fig. 5b, the ion–dipole interactions distances range from 2.641 Å to 2.719 Å. The Fe³⁺ ion of the complex has an octahedral coordination configuration; each Fe³⁺ ion is coordinated to six water molecules and the coordination bond length with the coordinated water molecule oxygen atom is 1.968–1.999 Å, and

the bond angle around the Fe³⁺ ion ranges from 89.31 to 92.74°. There is a hydrogen atoms bond formed between the water molecule participating in the coordination bond and the carbonyl oxygen atom at the portal of the cucurbit[*n*]uril, which is connected with the carbonyl oxygen atom at the lower part of the other cucurbit[*n*]uril *via* a hydrogen atoms bond. Unlike other complexes, Fe³⁺ is not directly coordinated with the cucurbit[*n*]uril portal. The free water molecules bridge the coordinated water molecule and the carbonyl oxygen atom in the other cucurbit[*n*]uril portal *via* hydrogen atoms bonding (shown in the blue curve in Fig. 5c), the specific performance is O₁–O_{2W} and O₂–O_{2W}, and the distance between them is 2.606 and 2.573 Å respectively. Fig. 5d is the stacking diagram of complex 4 viewed along the *a*-axis. It can be seen from the figure that there are obvious gaps between the cucurbit[*n*]urils and the ClO₄⁻ counter ions are dispersed in these gaps.

The asymmetric unit of complex 5 is shown in Fig. 6a, which contains one CyP₆Q[6], one Co²⁺ ion, four coordinated water molecules and two free perchlorate ions. The Co²⁺ ion of the complex has a twisted octahedral coordination configuration. Each Co²⁺ ion is coordinated with two carbonyl oxygen atoms and four water molecules at one portal of the cucurbit[*n*]uril and the Co²⁺ ion is coordinated with the carbonyl oxygen atom of the cucurbit[*n*]uril. The coordination bond length is 2.081–2.179 Å, the coordination bond length with the coordinated water molecule oxygen is 2.023–2.108 Å and the bond angle around the Co²⁺ ion ranges from 85.77 to 102.61°. There is

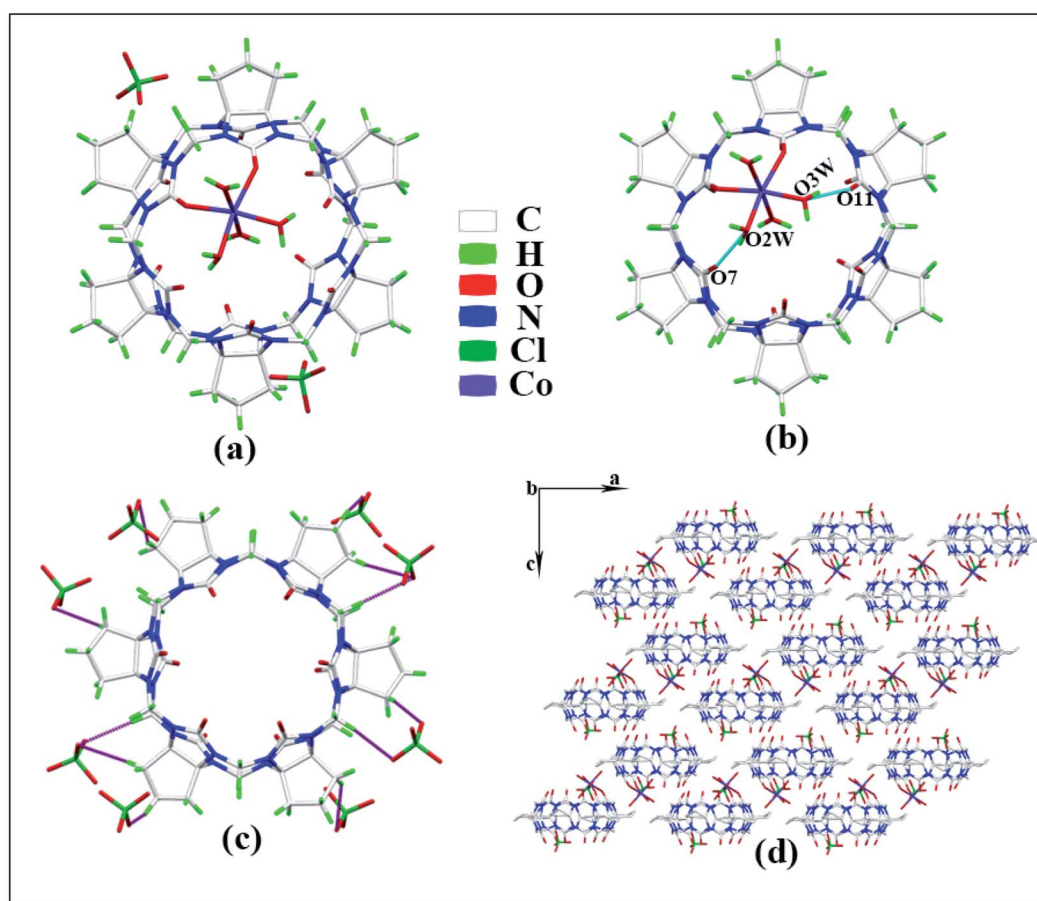


Fig. 6 Crystal structure of complex 5: (a) asymmetric unit, (b) ion–dipole interactions, (c) hydrogen atoms bond interactions and (d) stacking diagram viewed along the *b*-axis.

a hydrogen atoms bond formed between the water molecule participating in the coordination bond and the carbonyl oxygen atom at the portal of the cucurbit[*n*]uril, which is connected with the carbonyl oxygen atom at the lower portal of the other CyP₆Q[6] *via* a hydrogen atoms bond. The free water molecule bridges the coordinated water molecule and carbonyl oxygen atom of another cucurbit[*n*]uril portal *via* hydrogen atoms bonding (Fig. 6b), which are specifically expressed as O₇–O₂W and O₁₁–O₃W, and the distance between them is 2.699 and 2.788 Å, respectively. Each CyP₆Q[6] is surrounded by eight free perchlorate ions, which are connected *via* ion–dipole interactions, the ion–dipole interactions distances range from 2.332 Å to 2.673 Å. The mode of action is shown in Fig. 6c. Fig. 6d is the stacking diagram of complex 5 viewed along the *b*-axis.

The asymmetric unit structure diagram of complex 6 is shown in Fig. 7a, which contains two CyP₆Q[6], four Ni²⁺ ions, twenty coordinated water molecules, two free water molecules and eight free ClO₄[−] ions. Among the four Ni²⁺ ions in this complex, two Ni²⁺ ions are directly coordinated with the carbonyl oxygen atom of the CyP₆Q[6] portal and the Ni²⁺ ion of the complex has a distorted octahedral coordination configuration. Each Ni²⁺ ion is coordinated with two carbonyl oxygen atoms and four water molecules at one portal of the CyP₆Q[6].

The coordination bond length between Ni²⁺ and the carbonyl oxygen atom of CyP₆Q[6] is 2.080–2.087 Å, which is coordinated with the coordinated water molecule oxygen atoms. The position bond length is 1.951–2.105 Å and the bond angle around the Ni²⁺ ion is in the range of 77.88–96.21°. The other two Ni²⁺ ions are coordinated with six water molecules, but due to the forces between the CyP₆Q[6] molecules, these two Ni²⁺ ions are not in a regular coordination configuration; it is a twisted octahedral configuration like the two Ni²⁺ ions participating in the coordination bond, the coordination bond length between the Ni²⁺ ion and coordinated water molecule oxygen atom is 1.951–2.105 Å, and the bond angle around the Ni²⁺ ion is 77.88–96.21°. There is a ClO₄[−] counter ion contained in the cavity of CyP₆Q[6], which is fixed in the cavity of CyP₆Q[6] *via* ion–dipole interactions and hydrogen atoms bonding, and the remaining ClO₄[−] ions are passed through the ion and the dipole effect surrounds the cucurbit[*n*]uril (Fig. 7b), the ion–dipole interactions distances range from 2.523 Å to 2.707 Å. Fig. 7c shows the cucurbit[*n*]urils are mainly connected *via* hydrogen atoms bonding in this complex. The coordinated water molecules on the Ni²⁺ ion that are not directly coordinated with CyP₆Q[6] and the CyP₆Q[6] molecules are directly connected. The coordinated water molecule on the coordinated Ni²⁺ ion, acts as a bridging

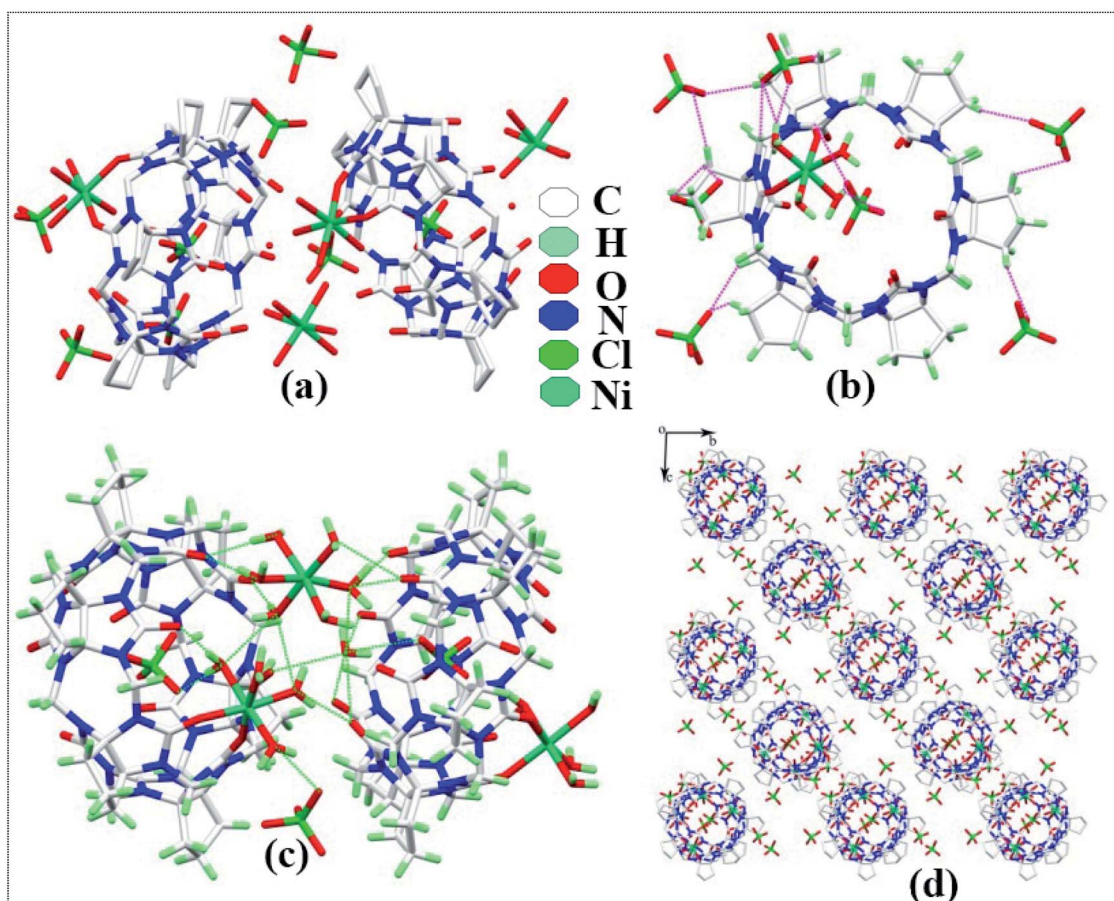


Fig. 7 Crystal structure of complex 6: (a) asymmetric unit, (b) ion–dipole interactions, (c) hydrogen atoms interactions and (d) stacking diagram viewed along the *a*-axis.

compound connecting the CyP₆Q[6] molecules. There are also hydrogen atoms bonds formed between the free water molecules and ClO₄[−] ions in the cavity and coordinated water molecules and the carbonyl oxygen atom of CyP₆Q[6]. Fig. 7d is the stacking diagram of the complex viewed along the *a*-axis. It can be clearly seen from the figure that there are obvious gaps between the CyP₆Q[6] molecules and the ClO₄[−] counter ions are dispersed in these gaps.

4. Conclusions

In this article, we reported the coordination of cyclopentano-cucurbit[5]uril(CyP₅Q[5]) and cyclopentano-cucurbit[5]uril(CyP₆Q[6]) with Fe(ClO₄)₃, Co(ClO₄)₂ and Ni(ClO₄)₂. In complex 1, 2, 3 and 5, the metal ion is directly coordinated with the portal of the cucurbit[*n*]uril to form a one-dimensional supramolecular chain system or independent system; in complex 4, the metal ion is not directly coordinated with the cucurbit[*n*]uril portal, but after forming Fe(H₂O)₆, it interacts with the cucurbit[*n*]uril port *via* hydrogen atoms bonding. Complex 6 is quite special. In this system, there are both metal ions directly coordinated with the cucurbit[*n*]uril portal and metal ions free on the outer surface of the cucurbit[*n*]uril. This

further improved the gaps in the study of the complexes of cyclopentyl-substituted cucurbit[*n*]urils with metal ions, and has laid a theoretical foundation for the application of cucurbit[*n*]urils in the adsorption of metal ions.

Funding statement

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No.22161010).

Ethics statement

No related experiments.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare on conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements

We thank the experts of the Key Laboratory of Macrocyclic Chemistry and Supramolecular Chemistry of Guizhou University for their technical guidance. We also thank several

anonymous reviewers and editors who provided comments that greatly improved the manuscript.

References

- 1 W. A. Freeman, W. L. Mock and N. Y. Shih, Cucurbituril, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1981, **103**, 7367–7368.
- 2 K. Kim, N. Selvapalam and D. H. Oh, Cucurbiturils-A New Family of Host Molecules, *J. Inclusion Phenom. Macrocyclic Chem.*, 2004, **50**, 31–36.
- 3 A. Day, A. P. Arnold, R. J. Blanch and B. Sunshall, Controlling factors in the synthesis of cucurbituril and its homologues, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2001, **66**, 8094–8100.
- 4 A. I. Day, R. J. Blanch, A. P. Arnold, S. Lorenzo, G. R. Lewis and I. Dance, A Cucurbituril-Based Gyroscane: A New Supramolecular Form, *Angew. Chem.*, 2002, **41**, 275–277.
- 5 S. Liu, P. Y. Zavalij, V. Sindelar and L. Isaacs, Reasons Why Aldehydes Do Not Generally Participate in Cucurbit[n]uril Forming Reactions, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2005, **127**, 16798–16799.
- 6 X. J. Cheng, L. L. Liang, K. Chen, N. N. Ji, X. Xiao, J. X. Zhang, Y. Q. Zhang, S. F. Xue, Q. J. Zhu, X. L. Ni and Z. Tao, Twisted Cucurbit[14]uril, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2013, **52**, 7252–7255.
- 7 A. Flinn, G. C. Hough, J. F. Stoddart and D. J. Williams, Decamethylcucurbit[5]uril, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 1992, **31**, 1475–1477.
- 8 J. Z. Zhao, H. J. Kim, J. H. Oh, S. Y. Kim, J. W. Lee, S. Sakamoto, K. Yamaguchi and K. Kim, Cucurbit[n]uril Derivatives Soluble in Water and Organic, Solvents, *Angew. Chem.*, 2001, **113**, 4363–4365.
- 9 F. Wu, L. H. Wu, X. Xiao, Y. Q. Zhang, S. F. Xue, Z. Tao and A. I. Day, Locating the cyclopentano cousins of the cucurbit [n]uril family, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2012, **77**, 606–611.
- 10 L. H. Wu, X. L. Ni, F. Wu, Y. Q. Zhang, Q. J. Zhu, S. F. Xue and Z. Tao, Crystal structures of three partially cyclopentano-substituted cucurbit[6]urils, *J. Mol. Struct.*, 2009, **920**, 183–188.
- 11 S. Y. Jon, N. Selvapalam, D. H. Oh, J. K. Kang, S. Y. Kim, Y. J. Jeon, J. W. Lee and K. Kim, Facile Synthesis of Cucurbit[n]uril Derivatives via Direct Functionalization: Expanding Utilization of Cucurbit[n]uril, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2003, **125**, 10186–10187.
- 12 H. Isobe, S. Sato and E. Nakamura, Synthesis of Disubstituted Cucurbit[6]uril and Its Rotaxane Derivative, *Org. Lett.*, 2002, **4**, 1287–1289.
- 13 X. L. Ni, X. Xiao, H. Cong, Q. J. Zhu, S. F. Xue and Z. Tao, Self-Assemblies Based on the “Outer-Surface Interactions” of Cucurbit[n]urils: New Opportunities for Supramolecular Architectures and Materials, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2014, **47**, 1386–1395.
- 14 S. Y. Jon, N. Selvapalam, D. H. Oh, J. K. Kang, S. Y. Kim, Y. J. Jeon, J. W. Lee and K. Kim, Facile Synthesis of Cucurbit[n]uril Derivatives via Direct Functionalization: Expanding Utilization of Cucurbit[n]uril, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2003, **125**, 10186–10187.
- 15 L. B. Lu, D. H. Yu, Y. Q. Zhang, Q. J. Zhu, S. F. Xue and Z. Tao, Supramolecular assemblies based on some new methyl-substituted cucurbit[5]urils through hydrogen atoms bonding, *J. Mol. Struct.*, 2008, **885**, 70–75.
- 16 Y. Meng, W. W. Zhao, J. Zheng, D. f. Jiang, J. Gao, Y. M. Jin and P. H. Ma, Host-guest modes and supramolecular frameworks of complexes of tetramethyl cucurbit[6]uril with 4-chloroaniline and 4,4'-diaminostilbene, *RSC Adv.*, 2021, **11**, 3470–3475.
- 17 J. Zheng, W. W. Zhao, Y. Meng, Y. M. Jin, J. Gao and P. H. Ma, Supramolecular Self-Assembly of Cyclopentyl-Substituted Cucurbit[n]uril with Fe³⁺, Fe²⁺, and HClO₄ Based on Outer Surface Interaction, *Cryst. Res. Technol.*, 2021, **56**, 2000183.
- 18 S. Y. Cheng, W. W. Zhao, X. N. Yang, Y. Meng, L. T. Wei, Z. Tao and P. H. Ma, The binding behaviours between cyclopentanocucurbit[6]uril and three amino acids, *R. Soc. Open Sci.*, 2021, **8**, 202120.
- 19 J. Gao, Y. Meng, W. W. Zhao, D. F. Jiang, Y. M. Jin, J. Zheng, X. N. Yang and P. H. Ma, Host-Guest Interactions of Cyclopentanocucurbit[6]uril with Alkyl Imidazolium Hydrochlorides, *Chem. Res. Chin. Univ.*, 2021, 1–5.
- 20 G. S. Fang, W. Q. Sun, W. X. Zhao, R. L. Lin, Z. Tao and J. X. Liu, Host-guest complexation of dicyclohexanocucurbit[6]uril and hexa-cyclohexanocucurbit [6]uril with alkyldiammonium ions: a comparative study, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2016, **14**, 674–679.
- 21 C. Zhang, Y. Q. Zhang, S. F. Xue, Q. J. Zhu and T. Zhu, Coordination of lanthanide cations to a symmetrical dicyclohexanocucurbit[6]uril in the presence of tetrachlorozincate facilitates isolation of lighter lanthanides, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2016, **450**, 258–262.
- 22 Y. M. Jin, D. F. Jiang, Y. Meng, J. Gao, J. Zheng and P. H. Ma, Crystal structure of self-assembled inclusion complex of symmetric dicyclohexanocucurbit[6]uril with 1H-benzotriazole, *J. Inclusion Phenom. Macrocyclic Chem.*, 2021, 1–7.
- 23 Y. Zhao, V. Mandadapu, H. Iranmanesh, J. E. Beves and A. I. Day, The Inheritance Angle: A Determinant for the Number of Members in the Substituted Cucurbit[n]uril Family, *Org. Lett.*, 2017, **19**, 4034–4037.
- 24 L. T. Wei, Y. Q. Zhang, K. Z. Zhou, L. L. Zhan, Y. X. Qu, Z. Tao and P. H. Ma, Coordination of fully substituted cyclopentano cucurbit[5]uril with alkali cation in the presence of tetrachloridezincate anion, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2016, **445**, 1–7.
- 25 L. T. Wei, Y. Q. Zhang, K. Z. Zhou, L. L. Zhan, Y. X. Qu, Z. Tao and P. H. Ma, Coordination of fully substituted cyclopentano cucurbit[5]uril with alkaline earth cations in the presence of tetrachlorozincate anions, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2016, **453**, 277–283.
- 26 Y. X. Qu, Y. Q. Zhang, K. Z. Zhou, L. T. Wei, L. L. Zhan, S. Y. Cheng, Z. Tao and P. H. Ma, Interaction of cyclopentano cucurbit[6]uril with alkaline earth cations and supramolecular assemblies with aid of [ZnCl₄]²⁻, *Chemistryselect*, 2017, **2**(16), 4360–4363.
- 27 Y.-X. Qu, K.-Z. Zhou, K. Chen, Y.-Q. Zhang, X. Xiao, Q. Zhou, Z. Tao, P.-H. Ma and G. Wei, Coordination and supramolecular assemblies of fully substituted cyclopentanocucurbit[6]uril with lanthanide cations in the

- presence of tetrachlorozincate anions, and their potential applications, *Inor. Chem.*, 2018, 57(12), 7412–7419.
- 28 W. W. Zhao, L. T. Wei, K. Z. Zhou and P. H. Ma, A study on the coordination of fully substituted cyclopentano-curbit[5,6]uril with copper and zinc ions, *ChemistrySelect*, 2019, 4, 11674–11677.
- 29 J. Zheng, Y. Meng, L. Zhang, X. N. Yang and P. H. Ma, Metal-induced different structures of four cyclopentano-curbit[5]uril-based complexes, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2022, 529, 120669.