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## Mixed-Valent Mn Supertetrahedra and Planar Discs as Enhanced Magnetic Coolers\*\*

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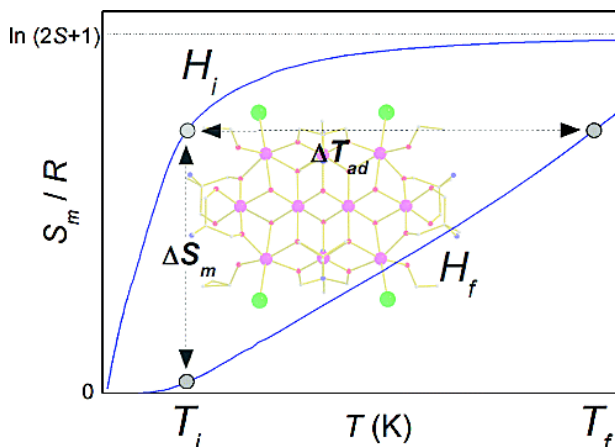
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### Supporting information:

Crystallographic details in CIF format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>

### Graphical abstract:



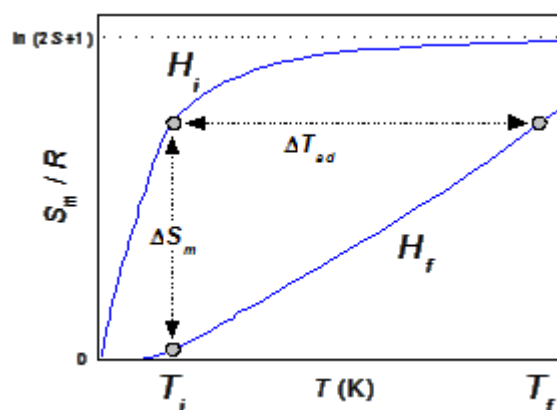
## Abstract

The syntheses and structures of two decametallic mixed-valent Mn supertetrahedra using 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol (ampH<sub>2</sub>); two decametallic mixed-valent Mn planar discs using 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol (ampH<sub>2</sub>) and 2-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol (aepH<sub>2</sub>) and a tetradecametallic mixed-valent Mn planar disc, using pentaerythritol (H<sub>4</sub>peol) are reported. The decametallic complexes display dominant ferromagnetic exchange and spin ground states of  $S = 22$  and the tetradecametallic complex dominant antiferromagnetic exchange and a spin ground state of  $S = 7 \pm 1$ . All display large (the former) and enormous (the latter) MCE; the former as a result of negligible zero-field splitting of the ground state, the latter as a result of possessing a high spin-degeneracy at finite low temperatures, making them the very best cooling refrigerants for low-temperature applications.

## Introduction

Polymetallic complexes of paramagnetic transition metals possessing large spin ground states are of interest since they can display either single-molecule magnetism behaviour,<sup>1</sup> or an enhanced magnetocaloric effect (MCE).<sup>2</sup> The latter describes the change of magnetic entropy ( $\Delta S_m$ ) following a change of the applied magnetic field ( $\Delta H$ ), and has potential technological use in cooling applications.<sup>3</sup> Although the MCE is intrinsic to any magnetic material, in only a few cases is the  $\Delta S_m$  sufficiently large to make them suitable for applications. The key is to find the best performing refrigerant.

The magnetocaloric effect and the related principle of magnetic refrigeration are summarized in Figure 1. A spin  $S$  has a  $2S+1$  degeneracy in zero-field, hence the full amount of the magnetic entropy  $S_m$  is  $R \ln(2S+1)$ , where  $R$  is the gas constant. On application of a magnetic field  $H$ , this degeneracy is lifted, the spin system orders and  $S_m(T, H)$  decreases ( $S_m$  is nil on saturation of the magnetisation). Therefore, if a magnetic field  $H_f$  is applied to the sample, in thermal equilibrium with a heat bath and at initial temperature  $T_i$  and field  $H_i$  (say,  $H_i = 0$ ), we isothermally decrease the magnetic entropy  $\Delta S_m$  (vertical arrow in Fig. 1). If alternatively the sample is thermally isolated and the field changed to  $H_f$  in a reversible process, we perform an adiabatic magnetisation. When the total entropy of the system remains constant during the magnetic field change  $\Delta H$ , the magnetic entropy change must be compensated for by an equal but opposite change of the entropy associated with the lattice, resulting in a change in temperature  $\Delta T_{ad}$  of the material (horizontal arrow in Fig. 1). It is easy to see that if  $\Delta H$  reduces the entropy ( $\Delta S_m < 0$ ), then  $\Delta T_{ad}$  is positive, whereas if  $\Delta H$  is such that  $\Delta S_m > 0$ , then  $\Delta T_{ad} < 0$ .

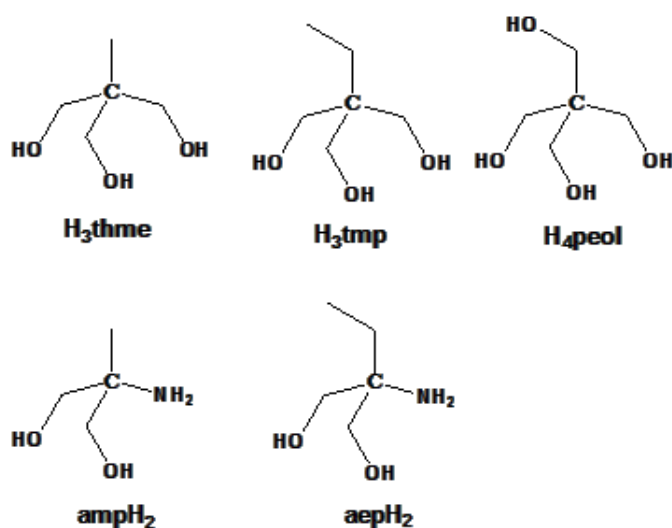


**Figure 1.** Magnetic entropy ( $S_m$ ) as a function of temperature ( $T$ ) for two different applied magnetic fields  $H_i$  and  $H_f$  where  $H_i < H_f$ . Indicated are the magnetic entropy change  $\Delta S_m$  following an isothermal  $\Delta H = H_f - H_i$  (vertical arrow), and the temperature change  $\Delta T_{ad} = T_f - T_i$  for  $\Delta H$  under adiabatic conditions (horizontal arrow).

High-spin molecules are thus good candidates for magnetic refrigeration, since high values of the spin are needed to achieve respectively large magnetic entropies, which may lead to large magnetocaloric effects.<sup>4</sup> In addition, a large MCE is also obtained whenever relatively small  $\Delta H$ 's are sufficient to fully change the polarisation of the magnetic molecules and this requires the anisotropy of the molecules to be negligible.<sup>2</sup> The search for high-spin isotropic molecules led us to the  $[\text{Fe}_{14}]$ ,  $[\text{Fe}_{17}]$  and  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]$  molecules that have shown much promise in this regard.<sup>5</sup> Notably, we observed MCEs that are comparable and *even larger* than that reported for the best intermetallic and lanthanide alloys conventionally studied and employed for low-temperature cooling applications. The challenge is to find ways of enhancing the MCE even further. Adding low-lying (hence accessible) spin states other than the ground state is, for instance, an efficient method for increasing the degrees of freedom of the system, leading to an excess of magnetic entropy. In terms of MCE, the efficiency of a magnetic system with degenerate spin states can theoretically exceed that of an equivalent (super)paramagnet by more than an order of magnitude.<sup>6</sup> The molecular energy scheme, in particular the presence of low-lying excited spin states is determined by the nature of the intramolecular magnetic interactions and can be induced by either promoting frustration, or (more simply) generating relatively weak exchange interactions. In what follows we report the very large MCE of an isotropic, ferromagnetic, manganese-based molecule with a well-defined spin ground state. We then make a similar molecule in which the bridging oxides holding the metallic core together have been replaced with bridging hydroxides, promoting weaker pairwise exchange - this leads to an enhanced MCE. We then make a third molecule that contains a higher ratio of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions creating new, weak and antiferromagnetic,

Mn<sup>2+</sup>-Mn<sup>2+</sup> interactions. This results in a truly *enormous* enhancement of the MCE making them the very best refrigerants for low-temperature (below ~10 K) applications ever reported.

Recent years have witnessed great research activity in the chemistry of polymetallic manganese complexes, partly because of their relevance to the Mn<sub>4</sub> cluster at the water oxidation center of photosystem II,<sup>7</sup> and partly because some of them behave as nanoscale magnets (single-molecule magnets, SMMs) - the latter having potential uses in information storage and quantum computation.<sup>8</sup> Mn is particularly useful for obtaining molecules with large *S* values - it's ability to exist in numerous oxidation states meaning even antiferromagnetic exchange will often lead to complexes possessing non-zero spin ground states. Indeed the vast majority of published SMMs are mixed-valent Mn complexes.<sup>9</sup> Such species come in a bewildering variety of shapes and sizes, from simple triangles, cubes and butterflies, to wheels, discs, rods, truncated cubes, supercubanes, supertetrahedra to the beautifully unusual and irregular.<sup>10</sup> The vast majority are made through self-assembly, via the simple combination of Mn<sup>2+</sup> salts or [Mn<sub>3</sub>O(O<sub>2</sub>CR)<sub>6</sub>L<sub>3</sub>]<sup>n+</sup> triangles with flexible bridging/chelating ligands. In recent years we have been investigating the coordination chemistry of the tripodal alcohols H<sub>3</sub>thme, H<sub>3</sub>tmp, H<sub>4</sub>peol and their analogues (Scheme 1) with transition metal ions, with a particular focus on Mn.<sup>11</sup> When fully deprotonated these ligands direct the formation of triangular Mn<sub>3</sub> units where each oxygen atom bridges one edge of the triangle. In the presence of other bridging/chelating ligands such as carboxylates or β-diketonates *etc* these triangles self-assemble to give a plethora of polymetallic clusters commonly based on rods, discs, tetrahedra, octahedra and icosahedra.<sup>11</sup> A natural extension to these studies is the investigation of the coordination chemistry of analogous organic molecules in which one (or more) of the alcohol 'arms' is replaced by an alternative functional group(s), for example an amine group.<sup>12</sup> While each alkoxide arm has the potential to bridge up to three metals (and thus a maximum of seven metals per tripodal ligand), the -NH<sub>2</sub> 'arm' is likely, if bonded, to act solely as a monodentate/terminal capping unit and should give rise to a number of related, yet different, structural topologies.



← **Scheme 1.** The structures of 1,1,1-tris(hydroxymethyl)ethane (H<sub>3</sub>thme); 1,1,1-tris(hydroxymethyl)propane (H<sub>3</sub>tmp); pentaerythritol (H<sub>4</sub>peol); 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol (ampH<sub>2</sub>); 2-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol (aepH<sub>2</sub>).

Here we report the syntheses and structures of two decametallic mixed-valent Mn supertetrahedra using 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol ( $\text{ampH}_2$ );<sup>5c</sup> two decametallic mixed-valent Mn planar discs using 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol ( $\text{ampH}_2$ ) and 2-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol ( $\text{aepH}_2$ ) and a tetradecametallic mixed-valent Mn planar disc, using pentaerythritol ( $\text{H}_4\text{peol}$ ). The decametallic complexes display dominant ferromagnetic exchange and spin ground states of  $S = 22$  and the tetradecametallic complex dominant antiferromagnetic exchange and a spin ground state of  $S = 7 \pm 1$ . All display large (the former) and enormous (the latter) MCE; the former as a result of negligible zero-field splitting of the ground state, the latter as a result of possessing a high spin-degeneracy at finite low temperatures.

### ***Materials and physical measurements***

All manipulations were performed under aerobic conditions using materials as received (reagent grade). Variable temperature, solid-state direct current (dc) and alternating current (ac) magnetic susceptibility data down to 1.8 K were collected on Quantum Design MPMS-XL SQUID and PPMS magnetometers, each equipped with a 7 T dc magnet. Diamagnetic corrections were applied to the observed paramagnetic susceptibilities using Pascal's constants. Specific heat experiments down to 0.3 K and up to 7 T were carried out with the PPMS. Magnetization and susceptibility measurements below 2 K were performed using homemade Hall microprobes. In this case, the grain-like samples consisted of collections of small crystallites of ca.  $10^{-3} \text{ mm}^3$ . For measurements performed on powder samples, the calculated fits were obtained taking into account random spin orientations.

**X-ray Crystallography and Structure Solution.** Diffraction data were collected at 150 K on a Bruker Smart Apex CCD diffractometer, equipped with an Oxford Cryosystems LT device, using Mo radiation. See Table 1 and CIF files (CCDC 639301, 671791 - 671793) for full details. Data for **5** were of insufficient quality to allow full structure analysis, but were suitable for the structure, connectivity and formula to be confirmed. Unit cell details are given in Table 1 for completeness. All CIF files are included in the SI.

### ***Synthetic procedures***

**$[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_6\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_4\text{O}_4\text{Br}_4(\text{amp})_6(\text{ampH}_2)_3(\text{HampH}_2)]\text{Br}_3 \cdot 8\text{hex}$  (**1**·8hex).**  $\text{MnBr}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (500 mg, 1.74 mmol) and  $\text{ampH}_2$  (184 mg, 1.74 mmol) were stirred in MeOH for 1 hour. The solution was then filtered and layered with hexanes. Crystals of **1**·8hex formed in 3 days in a yield of approximately 20%. Anal. Calcd (found) for **1**·2.5hex  $\text{C}_{55}\text{H}_{135}\text{Mn}_{10}\text{N}_{10}\text{Br}_7\text{O}_{24}$ : C 26.84 (26.98), H 5.53 (5.49), N 5.69 (5.49).

**[Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>1.8</sub>I<sub>2.2</sub>(amp)<sub>6</sub>(ampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1</sub>(HampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]I<sub>5</sub>·5hex (2·5hex).** To a stirred MeOH solution of MnI<sub>2</sub> (500 mg, 1.62 mmol) and tertabutylammonium iodide (TBAI: 598 mg, 1.62 mmol) was added ampdH<sub>2</sub> (170 mg, 1.62 mmol). After 3 hours the solution was filtered and layered with hexanes. Crystals of **2·5hex** formed in 10 days in a yield of approximately 25%. Anal. Calcd (found) for **2·4hex**, C<sub>64</sub>H<sub>155.8</sub>Mn<sub>10</sub>I<sub>7.2</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>25.8</sub>: C 27.19 (27.08), H 5.60 (5.54), N 5.77 (5.71).

**[Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>(amp)<sub>4</sub>(ampH)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>4</sub>]I<sub>4</sub>·12EtOH (3·12EtOH).** MnI<sub>2</sub> (500 mg, 1.62 mmol) and ampH<sub>2</sub> (170 mg, 1.62 mmol) were stirred in EtOH for 5 hours. The solution was then filtered and layered with hexane, producing crystals of **3** during 5 days in a yield of approximately 30%. Anal. Calcd (found) for **3** C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>90</sub>Mn<sub>10</sub>N<sub>8</sub>I<sub>8</sub>O<sub>26</sub>: C 18.04 (17.99), H 3.41 (3.90), N 4.21 (3.93).

**[Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>(aep)<sub>4</sub>(aepH)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>4</sub>]I<sub>4</sub>·6EtOH (4·6EtOH).** MnI<sub>2</sub> (500 mg, 1.62 mmol) and aepH<sub>2</sub> (193 mg, 1.62 mmol) were stirred in EtOH for 5 hours. The solution was then filtered and layered with hexane, producing crystals of **4** during 10 days in a yield of approximately 30% yield. Anal. Calcd (found) for **4** C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>98</sub>Mn<sub>10</sub>N<sub>8</sub>I<sub>8</sub>O<sub>26</sub>: C 19.43 (19.52), H 3.63 (4.07), N 4.12 (3.94).

**[Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(Hpeol)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>peol)<sub>6</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>6</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (5).** MnI<sub>2</sub> (500 mg, 1.62 mmol) and H<sub>4</sub>peol (220 mg, 1.62 mmol) were stirred in EtOH for 5 hours. The solution was then filtered and layered with hexane. Crystals of **5** formed in 8 days in a yield of approximately 15%. Anal. Calcd (found) for **5** C<sub>58</sub>H<sub>126</sub>Mn<sub>14</sub>I<sub>8</sub>O<sub>48</sub>: C 20.64 (20.73), H 3.76 (3.71).

## Results and Discussion

### Synthesis

Reaction of the MnBr<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O with one equivalent of 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol (ampH<sub>2</sub>) affords the mixed-valent supertetrahedron [Mn<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Br<sub>4</sub>(amp)<sub>6</sub>(ampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(HampH<sub>2</sub>)]Br<sub>3</sub> (**1**). When the reaction is repeated replacing MnBr<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O with MnI<sub>2</sub>, in the presence of TBAI, the analogous complex [Mn<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>1.8</sub>I<sub>2.2</sub>(amp)<sub>6</sub>(ampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1</sub>(HampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]I<sub>5</sub> (**2**) forms. If the latter reaction is repeated in EtOH instead of MeOH the planar complex [Mn<sub>10</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>(amp)<sub>4</sub>(ampH)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>4</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (**3**) forms. If 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanediol (ampH<sub>2</sub>) is replaced with 2-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol (aepH<sub>2</sub>) in the equivalent reaction the analogous complex [Mn<sub>10</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>(aep)<sub>4</sub>(aepH)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>4</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (**4**) results, but when replaced with pentaerythritol (H<sub>4</sub>peol), the tetradecametalllic [Mn<sub>14</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(Hpeol)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>peol)<sub>6</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>6</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (**5**) forms.

It is difficult to speculate on the reaction pathways that lead to the formation of the five complexes, but an examination of their structures shows that they are clearly all related. In particular the differences between the decametalllic supertetrahedra and the decametalllic discs are minimal - both

contain  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_6\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_4]$  cores in which each metal ion has a nearest neighbor of different oxidation state, surrounded by (8-10) ligands bridging in a similar fashion. The major change appears to be the presence of oxides in the central cores of the supertetrahedra and hydroxides in the planar discs. The former being tetrahedral and forming four bonds, the latter being pyramidal /pseudo-planar and forming three bonds; *i.e.* the oxides template the formation of “3D” tetrahedra and the hydroxides template the formation of “2D” planar discs. The formation of the larger tetradecametallic disc (**5**) in comparison to the decametalllic discs can be attributed to the change in bridging ligand. While the anions of  $\text{ampH}_2$  and  $\text{aepH}_2$  tend to bridge around the periphery of the clusters, the anions of tripodal alcohols such as  $\text{H}_4\text{peol}$  tend to sit directly above and below the centers of planar cores.<sup>11</sup> The presence of three alkoxide arms allows for greater coordination than two alkoxides and one amine. For example, the tetradecametallic complex **5** contains four centrally located  $\text{Hpeol}^{3-}$  anions each bridging in a  $\mu_6$ -fashion encompassing a total of ten central metal ions, while the largest coordination mode seen for the anions of  $\text{ampH}_2$  and  $\text{aepH}_2$  is  $\mu_5^-$ , occurring only twice in **3** and **4** and encompassing a total of eight metal ions.

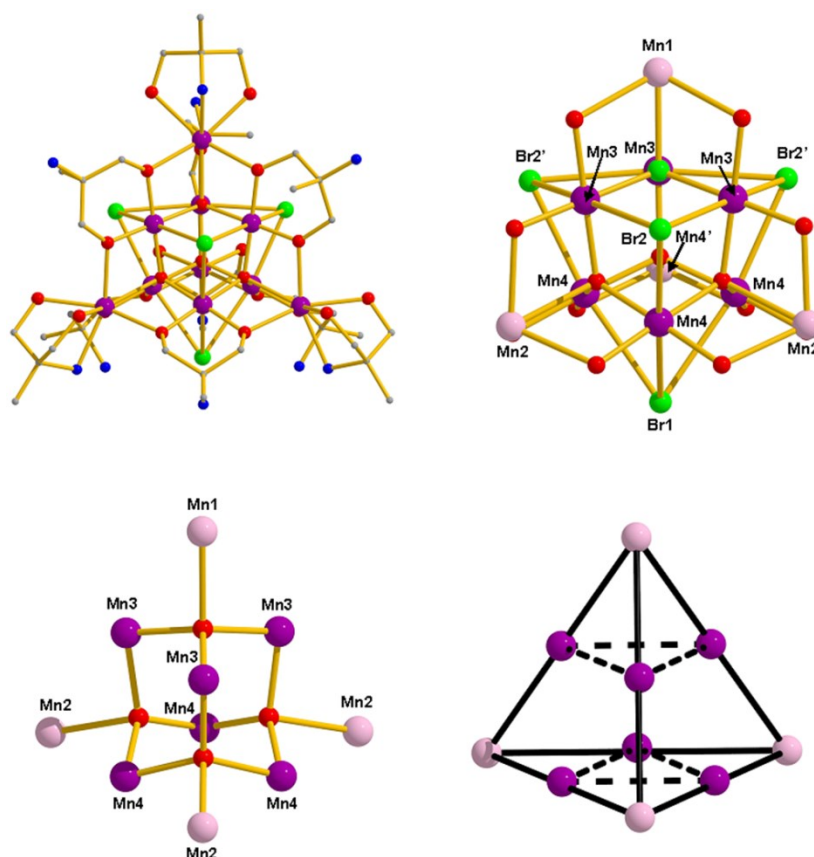
### *Description of structures*

Since complexes **1-2** and **3-4** have analogous structures, and for the sake of brevity, we will limit our discussion to **1**, **3** and **5**.  $[\text{Mn}_{10}\text{O}_4\text{Br}_4(\text{amp})_6(\text{ampH}_2)_3(\text{HampH}_2)]\text{Br}_3$  (**1**) crystallizes in the rhombohedral space group R-3 (Figure 2; selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 2). The  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]^{3+}$  cation contains a metallic skeleton that describes a mixed-valent  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_6\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_4]$  supertetrahedron, ( $\text{Mn}1, \text{Mn}2 = 2+, \text{Mn}3, \text{Mn}4 = 3+$ ) in which each nearest neighbor is of a different oxidation state (Figure 2). The  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions define the four apices of the tetrahedron with the  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ions lying along each edge. The  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ions themselves therefore describe a trigonal antiprism. The metal ions are connected by four central tetrahedral oxide ions to give a  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_6\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}_4\text{O}_4]^{18+}$  core such that the supertetrahedron can be thought of as being built from four vertex-sharing  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_3\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{O}]^{9+}$  tetrahedra. The four bromide ions each cap one face of the tetrahedron. The tripodal ligands are of two types: six are doubly deprotonated ( $\text{amp}^{2-}$ ) bridging in a  $\eta^2:\eta^2:\mu_3$ -fashion along each edge of the tetrahedron, and four remain fully protonated ( $\text{ampH}_2$ ) chelating each  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  vertex ion.

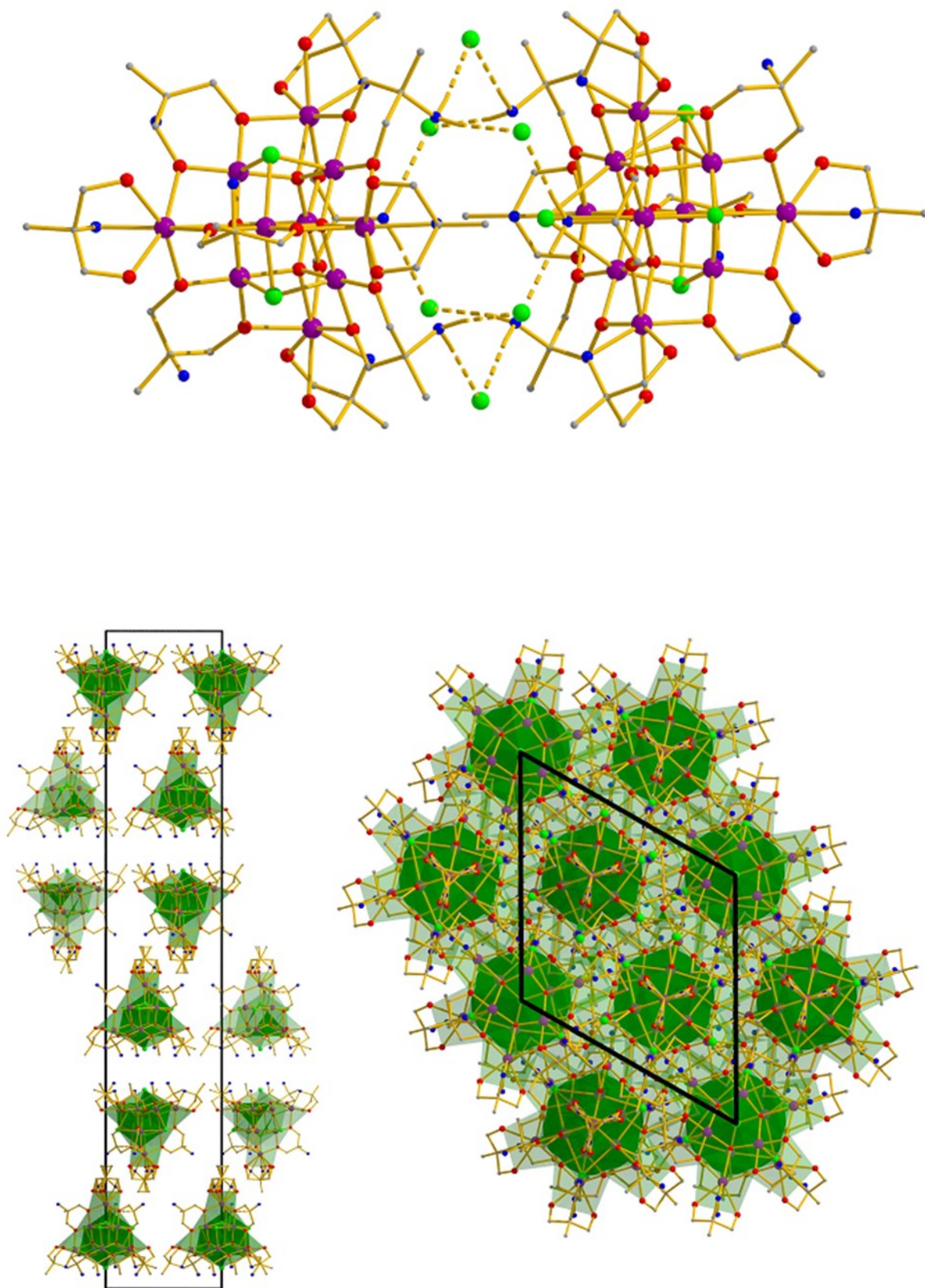
The pendant  $-\text{NH}_2$  ‘arms’ of the  $\text{amp}^{2-}$  ligands at the triangular “base” of the cluster are H-bonded to  $\text{Br}^-$  counter ions that lie between neighboring  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]$  molecules. Each N-atom is H-bonded to two  $\text{Br}^-$  ions at distances of approximately 3.2 Å forming head-to-head  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]_2$  dimers throughout the crystal (Figure 3). The Jahn-Teller axes of the octahedral  $\text{Mn}^{3+}$  ions are directed by the presence of the long Mn-Br bonds: thus for Mn4 their direction is defined by Br1 and Br2, and for Mn3 their direction is defined by Br2 and symmetry equivalent. All the  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions are 7-coordinate bound to a  $\{\text{O}_6\text{N}\}$  set of atoms. Triply bridging  $\text{Br}^-$  (halide) ions have been seen before in Mn chemistry, in the complexes



[Mn<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>X(O<sub>2</sub>CR)<sub>3</sub>(dbm)<sub>3</sub>] (X = halide, Hdbm = dibenzoylmethane) in which the halide sits in the corner of a distorted cubane; [Mn<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Br<sub>4</sub>(R<sub>2</sub>dbm)<sub>6</sub>] in which the halide caps the face of an octahedron; and [NMe<sub>4</sub>]<sub>4</sub>[Mn<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(biphen)<sub>4</sub>Br<sub>12</sub>] (biphen = 2,2'-biphenoxide) in which the  $\mu_3$ -halides form an {Mn<sub>4</sub>Br<sub>6</sub>} adamantane-like core.<sup>13</sup> In each of these complexes the  $\mu_3$ -Br<sup>-</sup> ions sit on an axially elongated site with average Mn<sup>3+</sup>-Br distances in the range ~2.79–2.84 Å, consistent with the values seen here (Mn-Br(av) = 2.82 Å). The charge balance of the complex is completed by the presence of the Br<sup>-</sup> counter ions and an additional proton. Significant disorder within the [Mn<sub>10</sub>] unit and in the interstitial solvent molecules (see CIF for full details) makes knowing its exact location difficult, though we have assumed it is disordered over the (basal) -NH<sub>2</sub> moieties. (**2**) has an analogous structure, but where the capping halides are disordered with hydroxide ions in a 2.2:1.8 ratio. The presence of a fifth halide counter ion leads to an overall formulation of [Mn<sub>10</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>1.8</sub>I<sub>2.2</sub>(amp)<sub>6</sub>(ampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1</sub>(ampH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]I<sub>5</sub>. Again the halide counter ions lie in between neighboring clusters in the crystal, H-bonding to the -NH<sub>2</sub> moieties creating [Mn<sub>10</sub>]<sub>2</sub> dimers. When viewed down the c-axis these dimers form aesthetically pleasing “hexagonal” columns (Figure 3). The closest inter-molecular Mn···Mn distances are ~9.4 Å and ~9.8 Å for **1** and **2**, respectively.



**Figure 2.** The molecular structure of **1** (top), and its supertetrahedral core and metallic skeleton (bottom). Color code: Mn = purple; O = red, N = blue, Br = green, C = grey. In the bottom pictures the Mn<sup>3+</sup> ion are purple and the Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions pink.

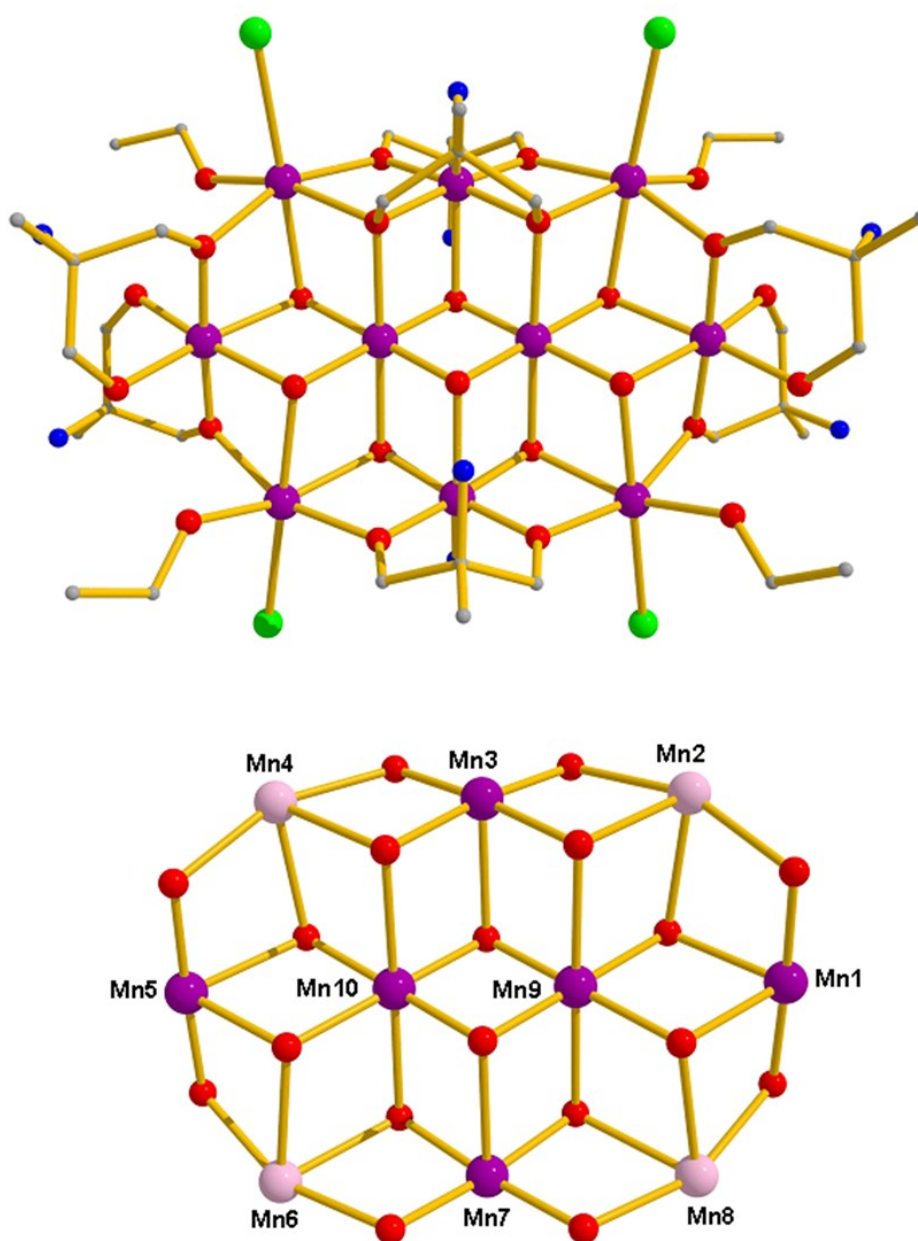


**Figure 3.** The head-to-head  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]_2$  dimers found in the crystal of **1** and **2** (top) and the packing of the molecules in the crystal viewed down the  $c$  (right) and  $b$  (left) axes.

[Mn<sub>10</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>(amp)<sub>4</sub>(ampH)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>4</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (**3**) crystallizes in the monoclinic space group P21/n (Figure 4; selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 2). The Mn-O core of **3** describes a planar disc of ten Mn ions linked by six central  $\mu_3$ -OH<sup>-</sup> ions and forms a central [Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>20+</sup> core (Figure 4). The metallic skeleton thus comprises ten edge-sharing triangles which form a ‘2-D planar-disc’. The tripodal ligands bridge in three distinct ways. The four central ligands are doubly deprotonated (amp<sup>2-</sup>) and bridge in two ways: two in a  $\eta^3:\eta^3:\eta^1:\mu_5$ -fashion, and two in a  $\eta^2:\eta^2:\mu_3$ -fashion. The four peripheral ligands are singly deprotonated (ampH<sup>-</sup>) each bridging in a  $\eta^2:\eta^1:\mu$ -fashion. Four terminally bound I<sup>-</sup> ions and four EtOH molecules fill the vacant coordination sites on the Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions. The Mn<sup>3+</sup> ions are six-coordinate and in distorted octahedral geometries, but unusually, show two distinct geometries: Mn3, Mn7, Mn9 and Mn10 display the usual axial elongation, but Mn1 and Mn5 are axially compressed. There are a significant number of intra- and inter-molecular H-bonds and short contacts. On the periphery of the cation the ampH<sup>-</sup> molecules are H-bonded to the terminal EtOH molecules (O...O, ~2.6 Å) and the NH<sub>2</sub>-arm of another ampH<sup>-</sup> ligand bonded to the same Mn ion (N...O, ~2.8 Å); while the non-bonded NH<sub>2</sub>-arms of the centrally located amp<sup>2-</sup> ions are H-bonded to the  $\mu_3$ -bridging OH<sup>-</sup> ions (O...O, ~2.7 Å) and the I<sup>-</sup> counter ions (O...I, ~3.5-3.8 Å). The latter interaction is propagated in all three directions in the crystal directing the packing of the cations into sheets and chains (Figure 5). The closest inter-molecular Mn...Mn distance in the same sheet is ~7.2 Å and between adjacent sheets is ~9.6 Å. [Mn<sub>10</sub>(OH)<sub>6</sub>(aep)<sub>4</sub>(aepH)<sub>4</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>4</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (**4**) has a structure analogous to **3**, but crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group Pbcn. There are numerous intra- and inter-molecular H-bonds and short contacts propagated in all three directions in the crystal directing the packing of the cations (Figure 5). When viewed down the *c* axis, the molecules, each perpendicular to its nearest neighbor, form cross- or X-shaped columns. The closest intermolecular Mn...Mn distance within the same sheet is ~10.3 Å and between adjacent sheets is ~10.3 Å.

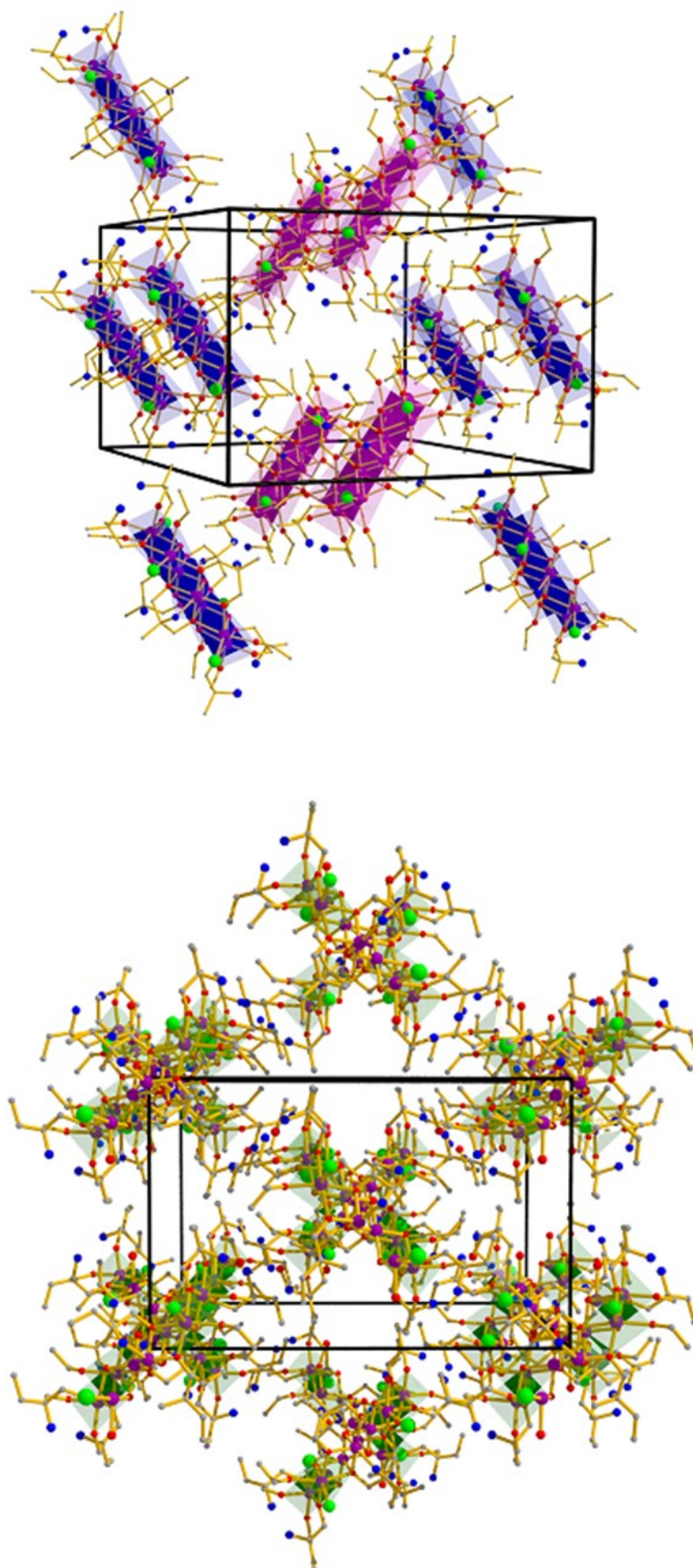
[Mn<sub>14</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(Hpeol)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>peol)<sub>6</sub>I<sub>4</sub>(EtOH)<sub>6</sub>]I<sub>4</sub> (**5**) crystallizes in the monoclinic space group P21/n (Figure 6; selected bond lengths and angles are given in Table 2). The Mn-O core describes a planar ‘rectangular’ disc of fourteen Mn ions linked together by a combination of hydroxide and alkoxide ions to form a metallic skeleton of fourteen edge-sharing triangles. The two central OH<sup>-</sup> ions each bridge in a  $\mu_3$ -fashion, while the tripodal ligands adopt three distinct coordination modes. Four are triply deprotonated (Hpeol<sup>3-</sup>) and sit above and below the [Mn<sub>14</sub>] plane bridging in a  $\eta^3:\eta^3:\eta^3:\mu_6$ -fashion. Six are doubly deprotonated (H<sub>2</sub>peol<sup>2-</sup>) and can be divided into two categories: four bridge across the long edges of the rectangle in a  $\eta^2:\eta^2:\eta^1:\mu_3$ -fashion, and two bridge across the short edges of the rectangle in a  $\eta^2:\eta^2:\eta^1:\eta^1:\mu_3$ -fashion. This is the first time the later coordination mode has been seen. The central metal-oxygen core is thus [Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>8</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(OR)<sub>24</sub>]<sup>8+</sup>. The Mn ions are six-coordinate and in distorted octahedral geometries with the Mn<sup>3+</sup> ions displaying the usual Jahn-Teller elongations; each of which lie “parallel” to the short edges of the rectangle. Four terminally bound I<sup>-</sup> ions and six EtOH molecules fill the vacant coordination sites on the Mn<sup>2+</sup> ions. There are a

significant number of intra- and intermolecular H-bonds: the terminal I<sup>-</sup> ions are H-bonded to the terminally bonded O-arms of H<sub>2</sub>peol<sup>2-</sup> ligands (I...O, ~3.4 Å); the unbonded arms of the same ligands and the Hpeol<sup>3-</sup> ligands are H-bonded to the I<sup>-</sup> counter ions (O...I, ~3.3 Å), and the O-H arms of H<sub>2</sub>peol<sup>2-</sup> ligands and terminal EtOH molecules on neighboring molecules (O...O, ~2.6-2.8 Å). The result is an extensive, complicated H-bonded network of [Mn<sub>14</sub>]<sup>4+</sup> cations throughout the crystal. The molecules of **5** pack in the commonly observed brickwall pattern (Figure 7). In all cases, the oxidation states of the metal ions (and oxides/hydroxides) were assigned using a combination of charge balance, bond length considerations and BVS calculations (Table 3).<sup>14</sup>

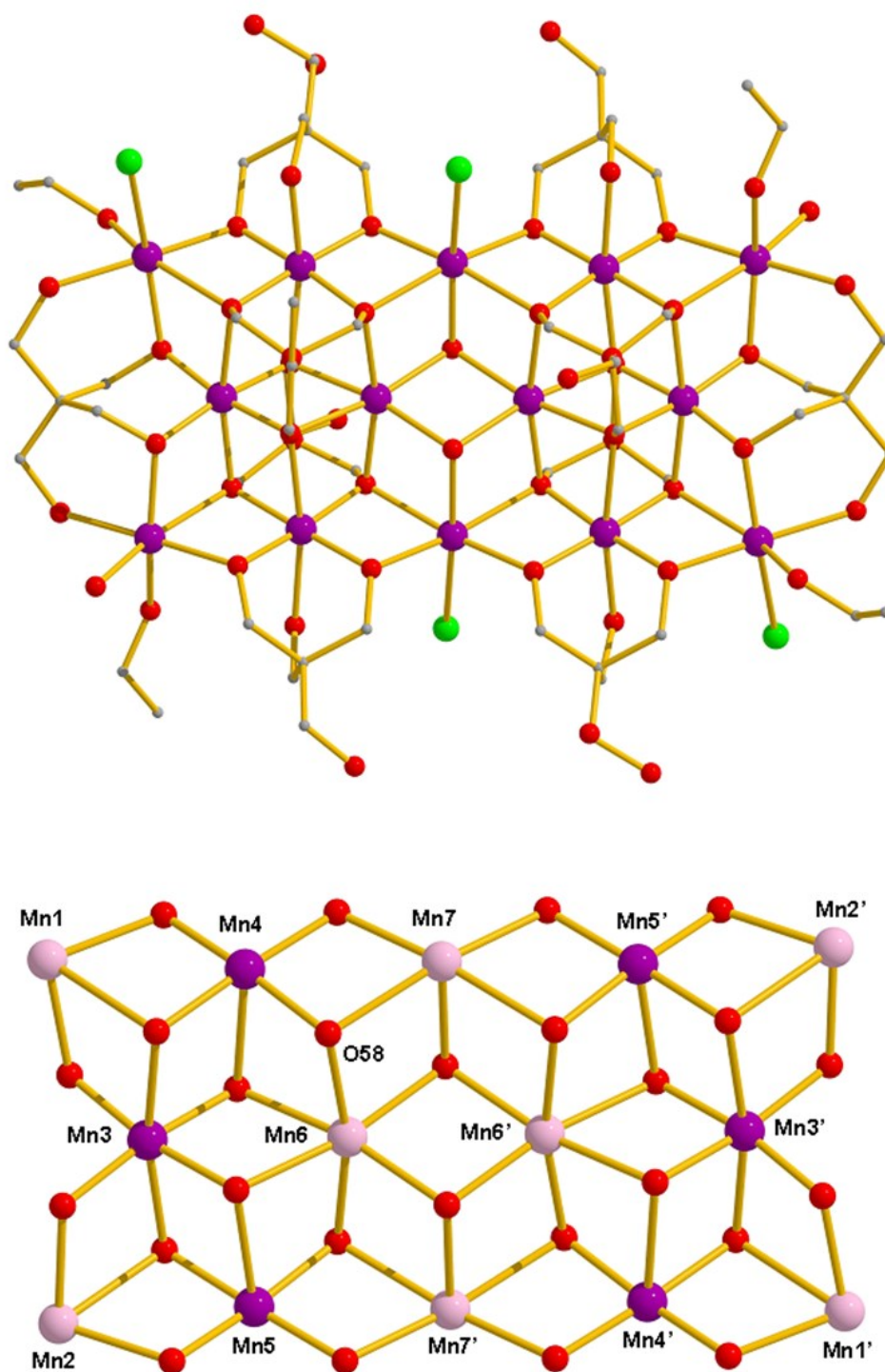


**Figure 4.** The molecular structure of **3** (top) and its metal-oxygen core (bottom). Color code as Figure 2.

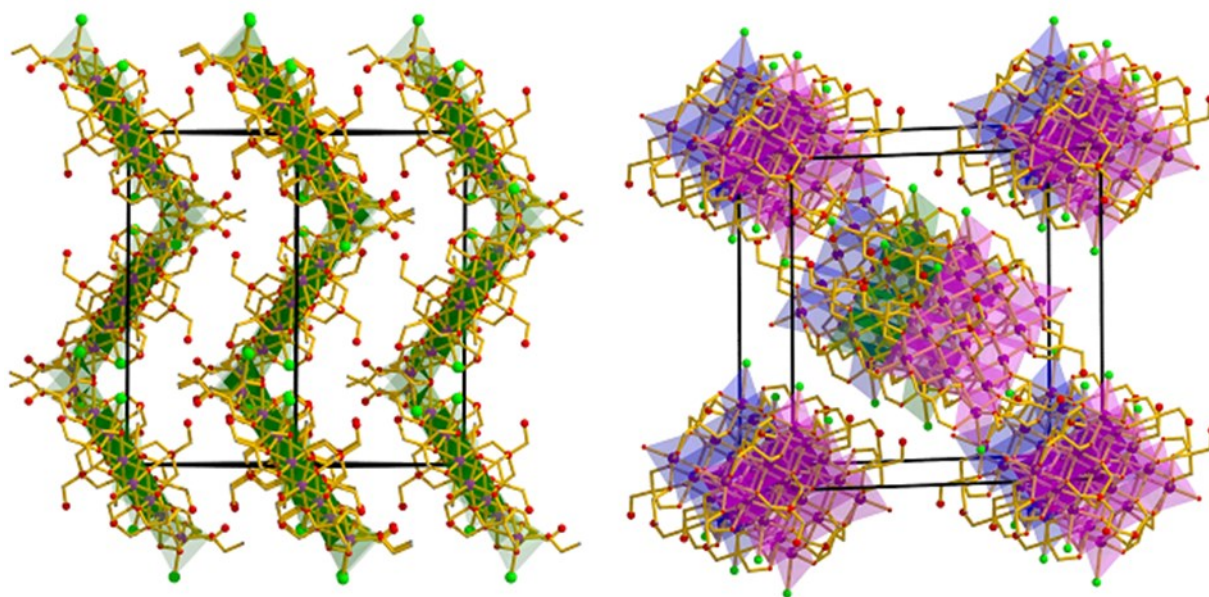




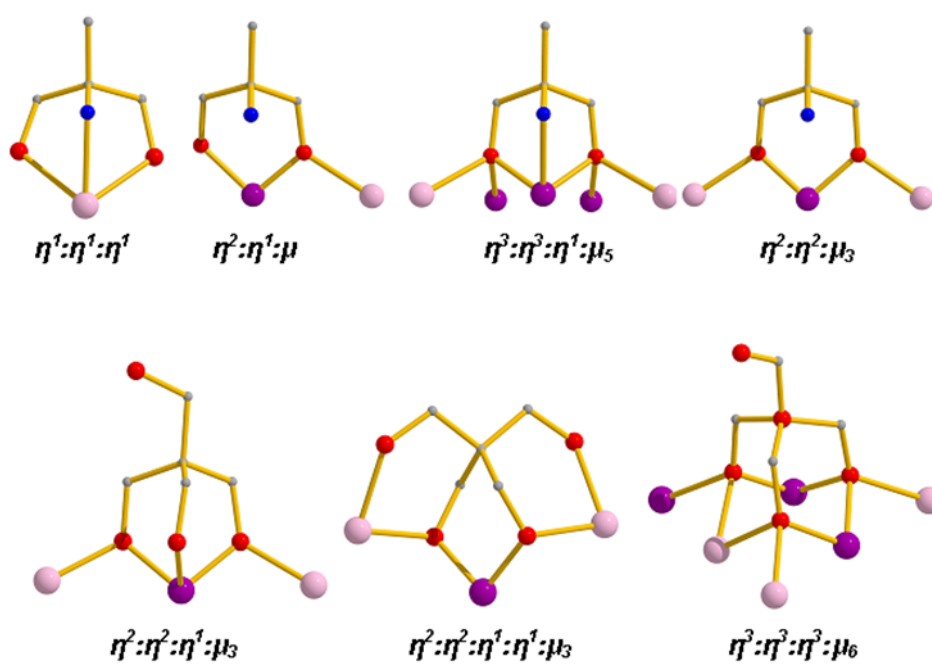
**Figure 5.** The packing of **3** (top) and **4** (bottom) in the crystal.



**Figure 6.** The molecular structure of **5** (top) and its metal-oxygen core (bottom). Color code as Figure 2.



**Figure 7.** The packing of **5** in the crystal viewed down the *b* axis (left), and down the *a* axis (right).



**Figure 8.** The coordination modes of  $\text{ampH}_n^{(2-n)-}$  and  $\text{aepH}_n^{(2-n)-}$  (top) and  $\text{H}_n\text{peol}^{(4-n)-}$  (bottom) in **1-5**.

	<b>1</b> 8hex	<b>2</b> 5hex	<b>3</b> 12EtOH
Formula <sup>a</sup>	C <sub>88</sub> H <sub>212</sub> Mn <sub>10</sub> Br <sub>7</sub> N <sub>10</sub> O <sub>24</sub>	C <sub>70</sub> H <sub>169.8</sub> Mn <sub>10</sub> I <sub>7.2</sub> N <sub>10</sub> O <sub>25.8</sub>	C <sub>64</sub> H <sub>162</sub> Mn <sub>10</sub> I <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>38</sub>
M <sub>w</sub>	2903.41	3027.75	3216.64
Crystal System	Rhombohedral	Trigonal	Monoclinic
Space group	R-3	R-3	P-1 21/n 1
a/Å	15.6083(4)	15.8200(3)	25.6712(10)
b/Å	15.6083(4)	15.8200(3)	17.0984(7)
c/Å	76.462(5)	77.614(3)	26.2611(11)
α/°	90	90	90
β/°	90	90	96.036(2)
γ/°	120	120	90
V/Å <sup>3</sup>	16132.0(1)	16822.2(8)	11463.0(8)
Z	6	6	4
T/K	150(2)	150(2)	150(2)
λ <sup>b</sup> /Å	0.71073	0.71073	0.71073
D <sub>c</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.606	1.79	1.543
μ(Mo-Kα)/ mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.319	3.132	3.265
Meas./indep.(R <sub>int</sub> ) refl.	58941/7364(0.066)	11323/11323(0.047)	35196/35196 (0.068)
wR2 <sup>c,d</sup>	0.1305	0.0812	0.1610
R1 <sup>d,e</sup>	0.0464	0.0779	0.0580
Goodness of fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.051	1.0139	0.8972

**Table 1.** X-ray crystallographic data and refinement parameters for **1-5**.

	<b>4</b> 6EtOH	<b>5</b>
Formula <sup>a</sup>	C <sub>56</sub> H <sub>148</sub> Mn <sub>10</sub> I <sub>8</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>32</sub>	C <sub>58</sub> I <sub>8</sub> Mn <sub>14</sub> O <sub>48</sub>
M <sub>w</sub>	3010.34	2663.71
Crystal System	Rhombohedral	Monoclinic
Space group	Pbcn	P-1 21/n 1
a/Å	25.5208(6)	13.1676(4)
b/Å	16.2775(4)	22.4000(6)
c/Å	26.0702(6)	21.4912(6)
α/°	90	90
β/°	90	91.920(2)
γ/°	90	90
V/Å <sup>3</sup>	10829.9(4)	6335.4(3)
Z	4	4
T/K	150(2)	150(2)
λ <sup>b</sup> /Å	0.71073	0.71073
D <sub>c</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.85	1.70
μ(Mo-Kα)/ mm <sup>-1</sup>	3.471	3.357
Meas./indep.(R <sub>int</sub> ) refl.	16047/16047(0.062)	16848/16848(0.079)
wR2 <sup>c,d</sup>	0.1531	0.3949
R1 <sup>d,e</sup>	0.0629	0.2025
Goodness of fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.8833	1.0398

**Table 1.** continued.



Complex	Mn <sup>3+</sup> - O <sup>2-</sup>	Mn <sup>2+</sup> - O <sup>2-</sup>	Mn <sup>3+</sup> - OH <sup>-</sup>	Mn <sup>2+</sup> - OH <sup>-</sup>	Mn <sup>3+</sup> - halide <sup>-</sup>	Mn <sup>2+</sup> - halide
1	1.896-1.933	2.225-2.304	-	-	2.771-2.963	-
2	1.901-1.922	2.260-2.277	-	-	2.962-3.228	-
3	-	-	1.870-2.293	2.284-2.293	-	2.804-2.821
4	-	-	1.862-2.325	2.280-2.290	-	2.775-2.832
5	-	-	-	2.118-2.180	-	2.815-2.858
	Mn <sup>3+</sup> -O <sup>2-</sup> -Mn <sup>3+</sup>	Mn <sup>3+</sup> -O <sup>2-</sup> -Mn <sup>2+</sup>	Mn <sup>3+</sup> -OH-Mn <sup>3+</sup>	Mn <sup>3+</sup> -OH-Mn <sup>2+</sup>	Mn <sup>2+</sup> -OH-Mn <sup>2+</sup>	Mn <sup>3+</sup> -halide-Mn <sup>3+</sup>
1	112.86-121.78	100.54-103.07	-	-	-	68.26-69.44
2	111.13-123.33	101.21-103.04	-	-	-	62.93-64.17
3	-	-	95.75-102.51	93.34-105.72	-	-
4	-	-	95.76-102.31	92.36-105.59	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	98.66-100.65	-

**Table 2.** Selected interatomic distances (Å) and angles (°) for **1-5**.

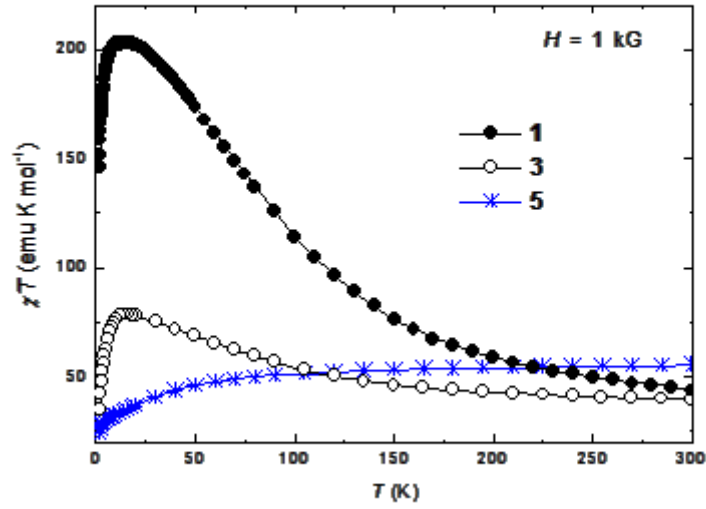
Complex 1									
Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignment	Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignment
Mn1	1.8 8	1.75	1.7 1	(II)	Mn 3	3.0 9	2.85	2.8 0	(III)
Mn2	2.0 2	1.88	1.8 4	(II)	Mn 4	3.1 4	2.90	2.8 4	(III)
Complex 2									
Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignment	Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignment
Mn1	2.0 5	1.91	1.8 7	(II)	Mn 3	2.0 0	1.86	1.8 3	(II)
Mn2	3.0 9	2.85	2.8 0	(III)	Mn 4	2.9 8	2.75	2.7 0	(III)
Complex 3									
Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignment	Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignment
Mn1	3.4 6	3.19	3.1 3	(III)	Mn 6	1.7 6	1.62	1.5 9	(II)
Mn2	1.7 8	1.64	1.6 1	(II)	Mn 7	3.4 6	3.20	3.1 4	(III)
Mn3	3.4 5	3.19	3.1 3	(III)	Mn 8	1.8 0	1.66	1.6 2	(II)
Mn4	1.7 9	1.65	1.6 2	(II)	Mn 9	3.3 3	3.07	3.0 1	(III)
Mn5	3.4 5	3.18	3.1 2	(III)	Mn 10	3.3 3	3.07	3.0 1	(III)

Complex 4									
Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignm ent	Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignm ent
Mn1	3.4 1	3.16	3.1 0	(III)	Mn 4	3.4 9	3.22	3.1 6	(III)
Mn2	1.8 1	1.67	1.6 3	(II)	Mn 5	1.7 7	1.63	1.6 0	(II)
Mn3	3.3 8	3.12	3.0 6	(III)					
Complex 5									
Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignm ent	Atom	Mn (II)	Mn <sup>(III)</sup>	Mn <sup>(IV)</sup>	Assignm ent
Mn1	1.7 2	1.58	1.5 5	(II)	Mn 5	3.4 1	3.15	3.0 9	(III)
Mn2	2.1 4	1.97	1.9 4	(II)	Mn 6	2.1 8	2.02	1.9 8	(II)
Mn3	3.4 8	3.20	3.1 4	(III)	Mn 7	1.7 1	1.58	1.5 5	(II)
Mn4	3.3 4	3.08	3.0 2	(III)					

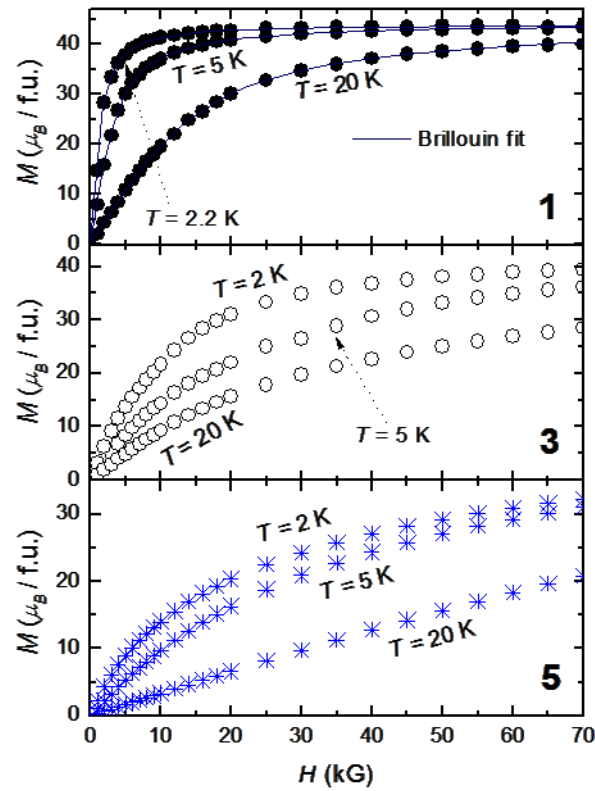
**Table 3.** Bond Valence Sum calculations for **1-5**.

### Magnetic Studies

Magnetic susceptibility studies were carried out on powdered microcrystalline samples of **1-5** in the (300–0.3) K temperature range and for several applied fields. The field-dependencies of **1** and **3** are essentially identical to that of **2** and **4**, respectively. Here we show the data for **1** and **3** only, in addition to **5** (Fig. 9). For **1**, the room-temperature  $\chi_M T$  value of approximately 48 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> increases upon cooling to a maximum value of ~ 224 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 10 K before dropping to approximately 160 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 1.8 K. The  $\chi_M T$  value expected for an uncoupled [Mn<sup>III</sup><sub>6</sub>Mn<sup>II</sup><sub>4</sub>] unit ( $g = 2.00$ ) is approximately 36 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup>, less than the measured value at 300 K. For **3**, the room-temperature  $\chi_M T$  value of ~37 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> gradually increases with decreasing temperature reaching a maximum value of ~ 79 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> at ~ 14 K, before falling rapidly to a value of ~ 40 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 2.0 K (Fig. 9). For both complexes, the behavior is suggestive of dominant ferromagnetic exchange between the metal centers, resulting in a spin ground state  $S = 22$  for both **1** and **3** (and similarly for **2** and **4**). The dramatic difference in the low-temperature maxima is assigned to a combination of intermolecular interactions and the weaker intramolecular exchange in the latter (vide infra). Ferromagnetic mixed-valent Mn clusters with nuclearity greater than four are exceptionally rare.<sup>10m</sup> For **5**, the room temperature  $\chi_M T$  value of ~55.6 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> collected for  $H = 1$  kG is nearly constant down to ~ 150 K, below which it starts falling reaching a value of ~ 24.3 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 2.0 K (Fig. 9). The expected (spin-only) value at 300 K is ~ 53 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup>. The linear extrapolation of the ac susceptibility collected for 2 K <  $T$  < 20 K down to zero-temperature yields  $S \cong 7 \pm 1$ .

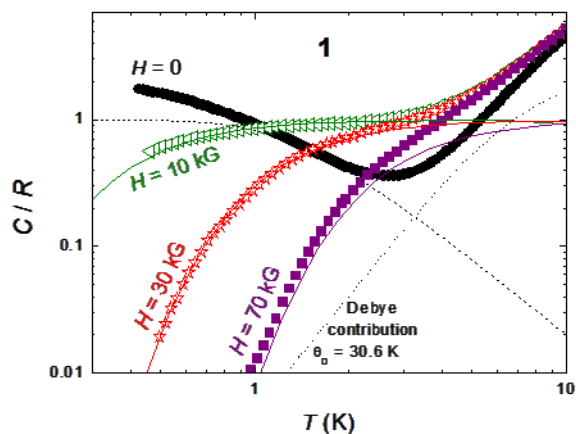


**Figure 9.** Plot of the  $\chi_M T$  product vs. temperature ( $T$ ) for **1**, **3** and **5** in the (300 – 1.8) K temperature range in an applied magnetic field of 1 kG. Solid lines are guides to the eyes.



**Figure 10.** Magnetisation ( $M$ ) vs. field ( $H$ ) for **1**, **3** and **5** from top to bottom, respectively, in the indicated temperature and field ranges. For **1**, solid lines are the Brillouin fits.

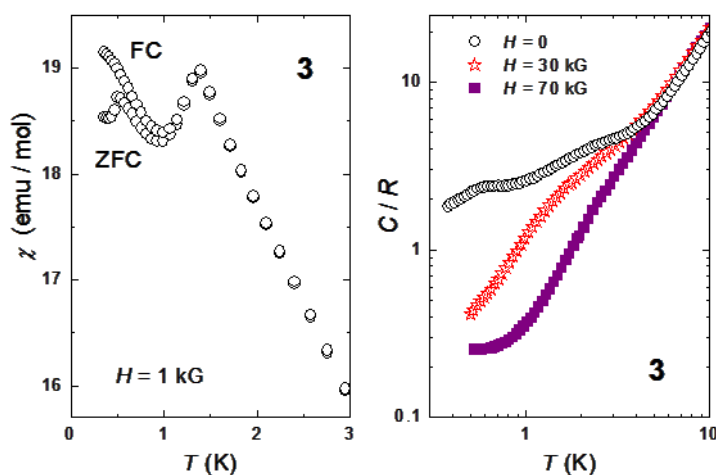
In order to ascertain the spin ground states, magnetisation data ( $M$ ) were collected in the ranges (0 – 70) kG and (0.3 – 20) K - the results of which are plotted in Figure 10. For **1-4** the tendency toward parallel alignment of the Mn spins is corroborated by the large magnetisation exceeding  $40 \mu_B/\text{f.u.}$  at 70 kG and below  $\sim 2$  K. In particular for **1** and **2**, the fit of  $M$  by a matrix-diagonalisation method affords the parameters  $S = 22$ ,  $g = 2.0$  and  $D = 0 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Given the molecular symmetry (approximately  $T_d$ ) of the complex, a value for the zero-field splitting of, or close to, zero is expected. Thus despite the large  $S$  value, complex **1** (and **2**) does not behave as a single-molecule magnet, as confirmed by the lack of an out-of-phase ( $\chi''_M$ ) signal in ac-susceptibility studies. The low-temperature in-phase  $\chi'_M T$  vs.  $T$  data are superimposable on the dc-data. The negligible anisotropy suggests that the decrease in  $\chi_M T$  below 10 K (Fig. 9) is likely assigned to weak intermolecular antiferromagnetic interactions, consistent with the ‘dimeric’  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]_2$  structure in the crystal. For **3** and **4**, the magnetization measurements cannot be described solely by Brillouin curves corrected for finite magnetic anisotropies (Fig. 10). The same holds for **5**, whose magnetization achieves saturation values (i.e.  $32 \mu_B/\text{f.u.}$  for 2 K and 70 kG) consistent with large field-stabilized spin states (Fig. 10). As we shall infer below from the specific heat experiments, the field-dependencies of **3** to **5** are complicated by the influence of (many) low-lying excited  $S$  states, whose occupancy strongly depends on the applied magnetic field.



**Figure 11.** Specific heat ( $C$ ) normalized to the gas constant ( $R$ ) vs. temperature ( $T$ ) for **1** at several applied fields. The solid and dashed lines are the fits to the Schottky contributions (see text); the dashed line is the Debye fit of the lattice contribution.

Experiments at temperatures below 2 K reveal different behaviors for the investigated complexes. The specific heat  $C$  of **1** shows a broad anomaly that shifts towards higher temperatures on increasing applied field (Fig. 11). At much higher temperatures, the lattice contribution dominates over the

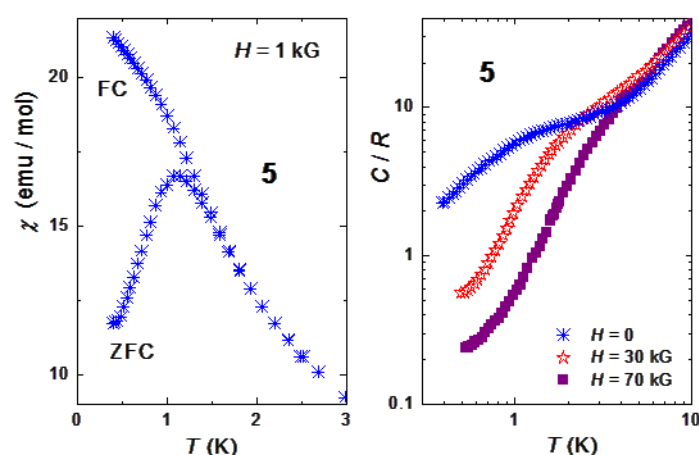
magnetic one and the experimental specific heat increases constantly with temperature. The magnetic contribution to  $C(T,H)$  for  $H \geq 10$  kG is due to Schottky-type Zeeman splitting of the otherwise degenerate ( $D = 0$  cm<sup>-1</sup>) energy spin states. The fit (solid lines in Fig. 11) of the experimental data to the calculated Schottky curves is excellent, and provides  $S = 22$ ,  $g = 2$  and  $D = 0$  cm<sup>-1</sup>, in agreement with the  $M(H)$  data. Given that  $[\text{Mn}_{10}]_2$  dimers are formed one would expect the appearance of an exchange field acting on each molecule that, similar to the external applied field, causes a Zeeman splitting of the molecular spin ground-state. This shows up in the experimental  $C$  collected at zero applied-field that follows the Schottky behavior (dashed line, Fig. 11) calculated for  $S = 22$ ,  $g = 2$  and  $D = 0$  cm<sup>-1</sup>, and an exchange field  $H_{\text{ex}} = 820$  G down to 1 K. For decreasing temperatures below 1 K, the intermolecular correlations become dominant overwhelming the single-molecule behavior, and the experimental  $C$  keeps increasing down to the minimum temperature accessible by our instrument. From the estimate of  $H_{\text{ex}}$  and given that  $g\mu_B H_{\text{ex}} S = nJS^2$ , we obtain the absolute value of  $nJ \approx 5$  mK for the intermolecular exchange coupling.



**Figure 12.** Left: dc susceptibility vs.  $T$  for **3** collected for  $H = 1$  kG in the zero-field-cooled (ZFC) and field-cooled (FC) regimes. Right: specific heat normalised to the gas constant vs.  $T$  for **3** collected for  $H = 0, 30$  and  $70$  kG, as labeled.

For **3**, zero-field-cooled (ZFC) and field-cooled (FC) magnetic susceptibility measurements for  $H = 1$  kG reveal a sharp feature at about 1.4 K as well as an additional peak at the much lower temperature of  $\sim 0.5$  K, accompanied by magnetic irreversibility (Figure 12). A peak in the susceptibility can be accounted for by: (i) a magnetic phase transition, or (ii) superparamagnetic blocking of the molecular spins. For a phase transition to occur however, one would expect the specific heat to detect a *sharp* anomaly at the ordering temperature.<sup>2</sup> No such critical feature is experimentally seen, rather *smooth*

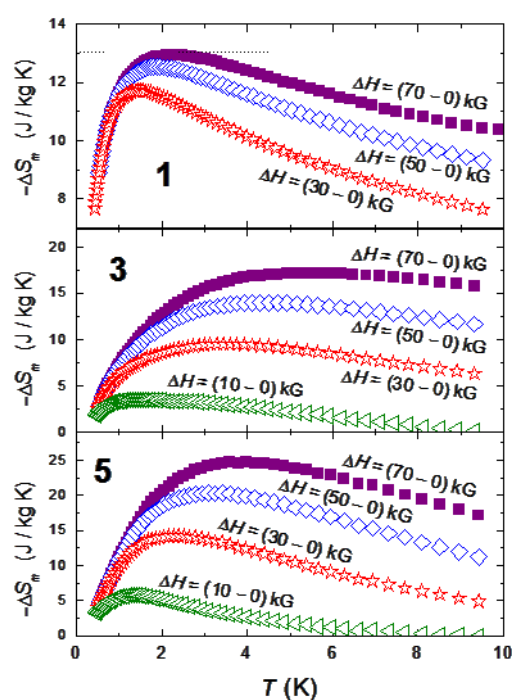
and *broad* anomalies are seen at the corresponding temperatures in the specific heat (Fig. 12). Their presence is likely associated with different crystallographic forms of **3**. Four of the six Mn<sup>III</sup> ions within the cluster core experience a Jahn-Teller (JT) elongation and two a JT compression.<sup>10o,p</sup> However only Mn9 and Mn10 reside “within” the core (Fig. 4), the others surrounding the periphery of the molecule and their JT elongations/compressions are likely sensitive to change/disorder. For **3**, this results in JT isomerism,<sup>15</sup> i.e. two or more molecules differing in the relative orientation of one or more JT axes. Therefore, not all molecules are magnetically equivalent because of different spin states and/or anisotropies, yielding multiple superparamagnetic relaxation processes, thence multiple peaks in the susceptibility.<sup>16</sup>



**Figure 13.** Left: dc susceptibility vs.  $T$  for **5** collected for  $H = 1$  kG in the zero-field-cooled (ZFC) and field-cooled (FC) regimes. Right: specific heat normalised to the gas constant vs.  $T$  for **5** collected for  $H = 0, 30$  and  $70$  kG.

We performed similar FC and ZFC measurements at 1 kG for **5**, finding that magnetic irreversibility develops below  $\sim 1$  K (Figure 13). As for **3**, the specific heat rules out a phase transition as the possible reason for the susceptibility peak. Indeed, a broad bump is reported in the specific heat (Fig. 13) which is the Schottky-like anomaly normally encountered in superparamagnets. This shows up at zero-applied-field because the crystal-field splits the electronic levels, which are then further split by the applied-field causing the bump to move towards higher  $T$  for increasing field. We conclude that **5** behaves as a superparamagnet, and given that the blocking temperature  $T_B$  is typically  $1/18$  of the effective anisotropy barrier  $U$ ,<sup>17</sup> we finally obtain an estimate of  $U \cong 18$  K for **5**. We refrain from estimating the molecular anisotropy because (anticipating the discussion below) the magnetic relaxation likely proceeds via excited spin states.

Contrary to the results for **1**, we note that for **3** and **5** (and hence **2** and **4**) no simple model of the magnetic contribution to the specific heat can be employed. It is straightforward to realize that the zero-field  $C$  of **3** and **5** is excessively large for temperatures below  $\sim 2$  K, *i.e.* a temperature range in which the lattice contribution is negligible. Typical values should not exceed  $\sim (1 - 2) R$ , as in **1**, provided that intermolecular interactions are absent.<sup>2</sup> The excess of magnetic specific heat in **2-5** must therefore arise from the presence of low-lying spin states other than the ground state. As we shall see in what follows, these accessible excited spin states have an *enormous* implications for the enhancement of the magnetocaloric effect (MCE).



**Figure 14.** From top to bottom, magnetic entropy changes ( $-\Delta S_m$ ) vs.  $T$  as obtained from the measurements of  $C$  in the indicated applied-field changes ( $\Delta H$ ) for **1**, **3** and **5**, respectively. Dotted line in the top panel is the limiting value of  $R \ln(2S+1)$  for  $S = 22$  (see text).

The entropy of magnetic materials is intimately related with their capability of magnetic cooling through the MCE,<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* the change of the magnetic entropy  $\Delta S_m$  upon a change in the applied magnetic field  $\Delta H$ . The larger  $\Delta S_m$  for a given  $\Delta H$ , the better performance the investigated complex has in terms of refrigerant material. From the experimental specific heat  $C$  data of the investigated complexes (Figs. 11-13), we calculate  $\Delta S_m(T, H) = \int [C(T, H_f) - C(T, H_i)]/T dT$  for selected field changes  $\Delta H = H_f - H_i$ . Note that the estimation of the lattice contribution to the specific heat is irrelevant for our calculations, since we deal with differences between total entropies at different  $H$ . The so-obtained

temperature-dependencies of  $\Delta S_m$  for **1**, **3** and **5** are depicted in Figure 14 for several  $\Delta H$ . As for **1**, it can be seen that  $-\Delta S_m$  reaches a maximum value of  $13.0 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  (or equivalently  $3.8 R$ ) at  $\sim 2.2 \text{ K}$  for  $\Delta H = (70 - 0) \text{ kG}$ . This value corresponds to the full change of the total magnetic entropy  $R \ln(2S+1)$  for a spin  $S = 22$  (dotted line in the top panel of Fig. 14), and is one among the highest values ever reported for this temperature range.<sup>2</sup> Complexes **2-5** possess large field-stabilised spin states, as well as the presence of several excited spin states that are thermally accessible even at very low temperatures. This leads to an excess of magnetic entropy. Adding this extra contribution to the magnetic entropy effectively results in a MCE enhancement. For the maximum investigated  $\Delta H = (70 - 0) \text{ kG}$  we observe that  $-\Delta S_m$  reaches the maximum value of  $17.0 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  (equivalent to  $5.4 R$ ) at  $\sim 5.2 \text{ K}$  for **3**, whereas **5** is even more impressive, achieving a remarkable value of  $25 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  (equivalent to  $10.2 R$ ) at  $\sim 3.8 \text{ K}$ . Both these values notably exceed the respective ones expected if  $\Delta S_m$  were determined *just* by the spin ground-state, as in **1**. Let us assume, for instance, that **3** has a spin ground state  $S = 22$ . Without the degrees of freedom added from the other spin states,  $-\Delta S_m$  cannot theoretically amount to more than  $R \ln(2S+1) = 13.0 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  for this spin value - notably smaller than what is experimentally observed. We stress that the values reported in Fig. 14 are exceptionally impressive: to our knowledge no other refrigerant material shows values as large as  $-\Delta S_m = 25 \text{ J kg}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$  for  $\Delta H = (70 - 0) \text{ kG}$  in the liquid-helium  $T$ -range.<sup>2-5</sup>

## Conclusions

In conclusion, our initial investigations into the coordination chemistry of  $\text{ampH}_2$  and the closely related  $\text{aepH}_2$  and  $\text{H}_4\text{peol}$  ligands have afforded beautiful and unusual mixed-valent decametallic Mn supertetrahedra and discs, and a tetradecametallic disc. Complexes **1-3** are the first characterised Mn clusters containing the  $\text{amp}^{2-}$  ligand. Magnetic studies reveal complexes **1-4** to possess extremely large spin ground state of  $S = 22$  as a result of the dominant ferromagnetic exchange interactions between the metal centers; thus joining a select and illustrious band of molecules displaying this unusual combination. All five complexes show enormous magnetocaloric effect: **1-2** as a result of negligible zero-field splitting of the maximum possible ground state; **3-5** as a result of possessing a high spin-degeneracy at finite low temperatures. The investigation of novel molecular clusters with a high spin-degeneracy at finite low temperatures opens the way to important improvements in the MCE of molecular complexes, and this ultimately facilitates their use in magnetic cooling applications. To this end the complexes above are the very best cooling refrigerants for low-temperature applications. Furthermore they suggest a new synthetic strategy for obtaining novel molecules with even larger MCE: the introduction of ions (and ligands) that will promote weak ferro- or ferrimagnetic interactions leading to high spin ground states and easily accessible (low-lying), degenerate, excited states with large  $S$ -values.



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