

Easy-axis magnetic anisotropy in tetragonally elongated cobalt(II) complexes beyond the spin-Hamiltonian formalism

Autorzy

Romana Mičová

Cyril Rajnák

Jan Titiš

Alina Bieńko

Jan Moncol

Erika Samolová

Roman Boča

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Streszczenie

Two hexacoordinate Co(II) complexes $[\text{Co}(\text{hfac})_2(\text{etpy})_2]$ (**1**) and $[\text{Co}(\text{hfac})_2(\text{bzpyCl})_2]$ (**2**) were synthesized and spectrally and structurally characterized. The $\{\text{CoO}_4\text{N}_2\}$ chromophore adopts a geometry of the elongated tetragonal bipyramid with a small *o*-rhombohedral component. This less common arrangement causes the magnetic data to need be analysed using the Griffith-Figgis model, instead of the commonly used spin-Hamiltonian with zero-field splitting parameters D and E . In the case of the elongated bipyramid for d^7 complexes, the source of the magnetic anisotropy of an easy-axis type is the axial crystal field splitting Δ_{ax} . The *ab initio* CASSCF calculations followed by the NEVPT2 module confirm that the ground electronic term is quasi-degenerate owing to the splitting of the $^4E_g (D_{4h})$ mother term. The lowest spin-orbit multiplets appear as four Kramers doublets belonging to the Γ_5 irreducible representation of the double point group D_2' . They exhibit a serious mixing of the $|\pm 1/2\rangle$ and $|\pm 3/2\rangle$ spins which reflects a sizable effect of the spin-orbit coupling. Both complexes exhibit field-supported slow magnetic relaxation governed by the Raman process.

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