

Ferromagnetic manganese "cubes": from PSII to single-molecule magnets.

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The reaction of $\text{Mn}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with Me-saoH₂ (Me-saoH₂ = 2-hydroxyphenylethanone oxime) in MeCN forms the complex $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_4(\text{Me-sao})_4(\text{Me-saoH})_4]$ (**1**) in good yields. Replacing Me-saoH₂ with Naphth-saoH₂ (Naphth-saoH₂ = 2-hydroxy-1-naphthaldoxime) in the presence of CH₃ONa forms the complex $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_4(\text{Naphth-sao})_4(\text{Naphth-saoH})_4]$ (**2**) in low yields, while the reaction between $\text{Mn}(\text{ClO}_4)_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, Et-saoH₂ (Et-saoH₂ = 2-hydroxypropiophenone oxime) and NBu₄OH in MeCN gives the complex $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}_4(\text{Et-sao})_4(\text{Et-saoH})_4]$ (**3**) in moderate yields. All three tetrametallic cages exclusively contain Mn^{III} centres arranged in a "cube"-like topology, in which the metal centres are connected by –N–O_{oximate} groups. The magnetic properties of **1–3** are near identical, revealing the presence of only ferromagnetic interactions between the metal ions leading to high-spin ground states of $S = 8$. The complexes display frequency dependent out-of-phase signals in ac susceptibility studies and, in the case of **1** single-molecule magnetism has been observed by means of single-crystal hysteresis loop measurements.

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