Contemporary Trends in the Synthetic Aspects, and Magnetic Properties of 3*d*-4*f* Heterometallic Cubane, Partial Dicubane, and Partial Tetracubane Core-type Coordination Compounds

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Abstract:

Over the past two to three decades, the synthesis of multinuclear 3*d*-4*f* complexes have been acquired significant interest owing to their fascinating topological structures, and intriguing properties in several areas, such as catalysis, magnetic materials, luminescent materials, and biomaterials. Compartmental ligands like Schiff bases are useful candidates in the manufacture of 3*d*-4*f* heterometallic multinuclear complexes as different coordination sites available for different metals. 4*f* ions like Eu(III), Dy(III), Tb(III), and Ho(III) are hard and oxophilic and preferentially interact with the oxygen-rich parts of ligands, while 3*d* ions like Mn(II/III), Fe(II), Ni(II), Cu(II), and prefer nitrogen atoms for binding. Lanthanide (III) ions are regarded as potential building blocks for new types of magnetic materials due to its large magnetic anisotropy, which arises due to large spin-orbit coupling interactions and crystal field in a distinctive ligand environment. In this book chapter, we have reviewed the synthetic aspects, and magnetic properties of 3*d*–4*f* coordination compounds with cubane, partial dicubane, and partial tetracubane cores.

Keywords: *Schiff base, Cubane, Partial Dicubane, Partial Tetracubane, Magnetic properties*

1. Introduction:

The preparation of 3*d*–4*f* mixed metal ion complexes has received enormous interest during the last three decades due to their fascinating structural topology and exciting magnetic properties for both potential and theoretical applications. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] The first 3*d*-4*f* systems were discovered by Gatteschi et. al in 1985 and produced the first heterometallic Cu-Gd-Cu complex that showed ferromagnetic interactions. Some of the already reported 3*d*-4*f* systems with a variety of nuclearities are $[\mathrm{Cu^{II}}_4\mathrm{Ln}_6{}^{\mathrm{III}}]$, $[\mathrm{Cu^{II}}_4\mathrm{Ln^{III}}]$, $[\mathrm{Cu^{II}}_9\mathrm{Ln}_2{}^{\mathrm{III}}]$, $[\mathrm{Ni^{II}}_8\mathrm{Ln^{III}}_6]$, $[\mathrm{Ni^{II}}_6\mathrm{Ln^{III}}_3]$, $[\mathrm{Co^{II}}_4\mathrm{Ln^{III}}_2]$, $[\mathrm{Co^{II}}_2\mathrm{Ln^{III}}]$, $[\mathrm{Co^{II}}_2\mathrm{Ln^{III}}_4]$, $[\mathrm{Mn^{II}}_2\mathrm{Ln}_2{}^{\mathrm{III}}]$, $[\mathrm{Fe^{III}}_4\mathrm{Ln}_2{}^{\mathrm{III}}]$, etc. In addition to this, various 3*d*-4*f* systems have been discovered providing different structural topologies e.g. cage-like, cubane core-like, ring-like, and wheel-like structures. The formation of such a 3*d*-4*f* mixed metal complex is an extremely intricate process and it is regarded as an art. The selection of ligands is the most important aspect of the formation of intriguing structures. Multiple donor atoms should be present in ligands to bridge metal ions. 3*d* and 4*f* mixed metal ions have precedence to associate with distinct donor atoms like nitrogen and oxygen, according to HSAB principle. For the preparation of 3*d*-4*f* mixed heterometallic complexes, two main methods are widely used from the standpoint of ligands: (1) design the ligands that can hold multiple coordination sited for both 3*d* and 4*f* metal ions; (2) introduction of suitable co-ligands that can support the self-assembly processes where both lanthanide ions and transition metal ions can be coordinated with donor atoms in presence of multidentate ligands. The mentioned two synthetic processes to prepare such 3*d*-4*f* complexes are referred to as "assisted self-assembly", and "designed assembly" respectively. These sorts of multinuclear 3*d*-4*f* coordinate ion clusters exhibit Single Molecule Magnets (SMM) behavior. The area of molecular magnetism has received some attention in current years owing to enormous progress in the synthesis followed by nanosized dodecanuclear [Mn_{12}] aggregate showing a bistable magnetic ground state (S=10 ground state) and magnetic hysteresis.[6, 7] Multinuclear complexes assembled by judiciously prepared ligands, 3*d*, and 4*f* metal ions are captivating candidates for magnetic molecular materials, with prodigious potential in the information storage device, spintronics, quantum computers, luminescence, and magnetocaloric materials. [8, 9, 10, 11] Among the all-lanthanide ions, Dy^{III}, Tb^{III}, Gd^{III}, Yb^{III}, and Ho^{III} ions show large magnetic anisotropy originating from unquenched spin-orbit coupling. The 4*f* metal ion-based compounds usually give decent performance as compared to 3*d* metal ion-based SMMs, this is due to the strong magnetic anisotropy of 4*f* metal ions. 4*f* metal ion-containing systems also exhibit weak magnetic coupling interactions when present in the ligand coordination sites and bridge with one or more donor atoms. To boost the strength of magnetic coupling interactions as well as suppression of QTM (quantum tunnelling of magnetization), significant synthetic approaches have been taken for the building of a new generation of 3*d*-4*f* mixed coordination complexes. [12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22] The intriguing structure and wide range of uses of hybrid multinuclear complexes have prompted many researchers to seek out new and improved instances. Nonetheless, creating hetero-metallic compounds is a difficult undertaking. Chemists must devise synthetic techniques for combining various metal ions in a single unit while managing nuclearities, spin carrier topology, and dimensionality of the final compounds. Another difficult issue is to avoid the competition between different metal ions for the same or comparable coordination sites, which could lead to the creation of homo-nuclear complexes or combinations of distinct species. In this book chapter, we have discussed the synthetic strategies and interesting magnetic properties of heterometallic 3*d*-4*f* complexes with Cubane, Partial Dicubane, and Partial Tetracubane core type geometries.

2. Syntheses and structural aspects of compounds containing Cubane cores

Debashis Ray et.al has recently synthesized five octanuclear Ni_4Ln_4 complexes $[Ni_4Dy_4(H\mathbf{L1})_4(\mu_2\text{-}OH)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_4(\mu\text{-}OOCCH_3)_8](NO_3)_2$ (Ln = Gd (**1**), Tb (**2**), Dy (**3**), Ho (**4**), and Yb (**5**)) cubane type cores by the reaction of phenol-based Schiff base ligand ($H_2\mathbf{L1}$) 2-[{(2-hydroxypropyl)imino}methyl]-6-methoxyphenol with lanthanide(III) nitrate salts (Ln = Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, and Yb), nickel(II) acetate salt and LiOH (Figure 1) [23]. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction study of all the five complexes (**1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**) revealed that they were isostructural, with a difference only in the count of H_2O molecules that existed within the crystal lattice. Among the five compounds, compounds **1**, **3**, and **4** crystallized with the $P\bar{1}$ triclinic space group, Z = 1, while compounds **2** and **5** crystallized with the $C2/m$ monoclinic space group, Z = 2. The Ni_2Dy_2 cubic core belonging to the asymmetric unit of complex **3** was constructed by two Ni^{II} ions, two Dy^{III} ions, two HL^- from the ligand, three HO^- groups, and four acetate (AcO^-) ions. Further, these two Ni_2Dy_2 cubic cores are connected by four acetate ions clips and two HO^- groups to develop a double cubane Ni_4Dy_4 structure. The tridentate pocket (ONO) of the ligand HL^- coordinated with one Ni^{II} center meridionally and an adjoining bidentate (OO) pocket of the ligand was utilized to trap oxophilic Ln^{III} ion. [23] In the Ni_4Dy_4 complex, Dy_1^{III} and Dy_2^{III} prevailed in the distorted trigonal dodecahedral coordination environment, and Ni^{II} ions existed in a distorted octahedral geometry around the center.

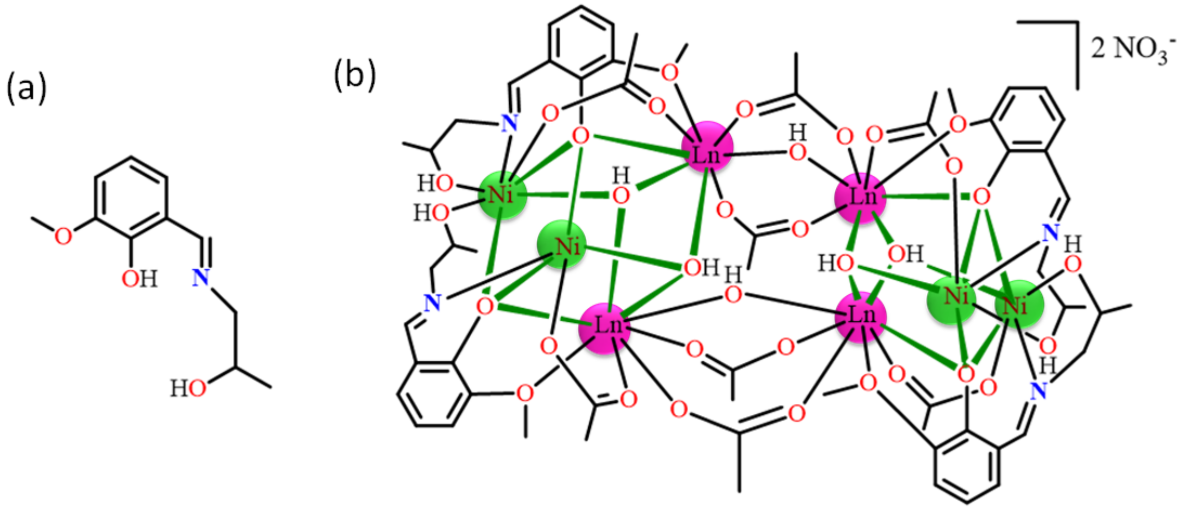

Figure 1: (a) Schiff base ligand H_2**L1** structure. (b) View of Ni_4Ln_4 complexes $[Ni_4Dy_4(HL\mathbf{1})_4(\mu_2\text{-}OH)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_4(\mu\text{-}OOCCH_3)_8](NO_3)_2$ (Ln = Gd (**1**), Tb (**2**), Dy (**3**), Ho (**4**), and Yb (**5**)) with cubane cores. Reference 23. Copyright 2020 Wiley.

His, other work, reported a family of tetranuclear heterometallic Ni-Ln compounds $[Ni^{II}_2Ln^{III}_2(\mu_3\text{-}L\mathbf{2})_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(\mu\text{-}OAc)_3(AcO)(H_2O)_3]Cl_2\cdot 4H_2O$ (Ln = Gd, **6**; Tb, **7**; Dy, **8**; Ho, **9**) with cubane type cores by the reaction of 1-(2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene)semicarbazide (H**L2**) in presence of triethyl amine and sodium acetate [24]. The single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of the complexes revealed that all the tetranuclear $[Ni_2Ln_2]$ compounds (**6**-**9**) crystallized in $P2_1/n$ monoclinic space group with Z = 4 (Figure 2). The authors have chosen Ni_2Tb_2 complex (**7**) as a representative for detailed structural discussions. The tetranuclear $Ni_2Tb_2O_4$ hetero-cubane core was constructed by the two μ_3- PhO^- (O1 and O2) fragments of the ligand ($L2^-$) and the two μ_3-HO^- (O3 and O4) groups which were generated from water molecules and three μ-O, O′-acetato. The $\mu_{1,3}$-AcO^- bridges in three faces (two Ni···Tb and one Tb···Tb) of the cube supported the aggregation process. Nickel (II) ion present in all the structures showed distorted octahedral geometry in the NO_5 coordination environment. The Tb1 and Tb2 present in the structure existed as coordination number 8, where Tb1 displayed distorted triangular dodecahedron geometry, but Tb2 exhibited distorted square antiprismatic geometry. The eight coordination sites of Tb^{III}

are fulfilled by the bidentate coordination (OO donor) from $L2^-$, two hydroxide and acetato bridges, and two terminal monodentate coordination from H_2O molecules for Tb2 center, one terminal monodentate H_2O and one AcO^- molecules to the Tb1 center [24].

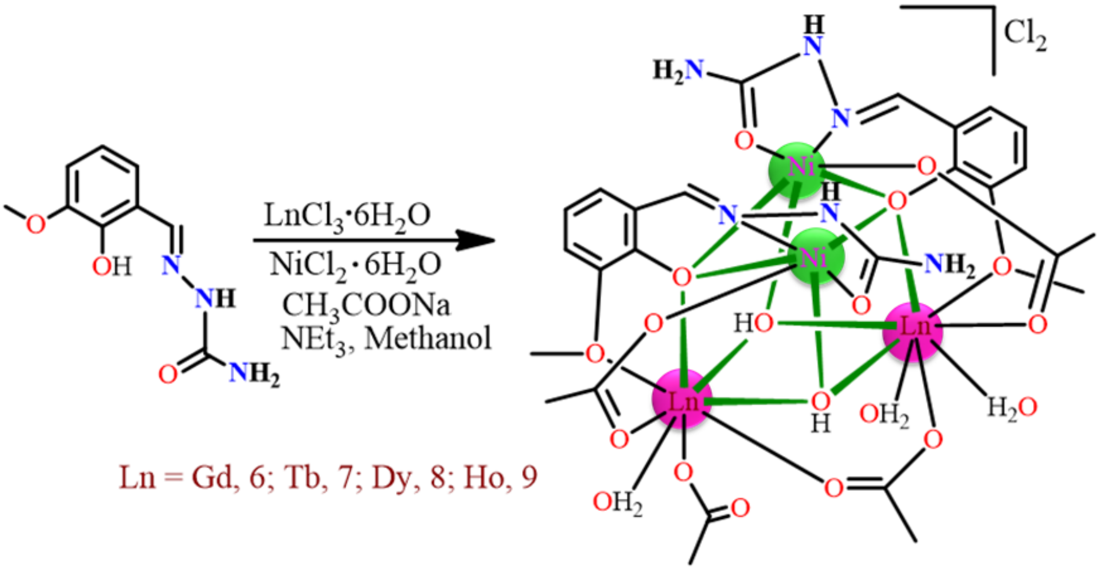

Figure 2: (a) Synthetic pathway for the preparation of tetranuclear Ni-Ln complexes $[Ni^{II}_2Ln^{III}_2(\mu_3\text{-}L2)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(\mu\text{-}OAc)_3(AcO)(H_2O)_3]Cl_2\cdot 4H_2O$ (Ln = Gd, **6**; Tb, **7**; Dy, **8**; Ho, **9**) from ligand H**L2**. Reference 24. Copyright 2020 Royal Society of Chemistry.

A work carried out by Zhiliang Liu et.al has reported three novel heterometallic Ln_2Ni_2 clusters $[Ln_2Ni_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(OH)(OAc)_4(HL\mathbf{3})_2(MeOH)_3](ClO_4)\cdot 3MeOH$ [Ln = Dy (**10**), Tb (**11**), and Gd (**12**)] representing a new 3d-4f heterometallic motif with cubane type core. [25] These complexes were synthesized by the reaction of lanthanide (III) perchlorate salts (Ln = Dy (**10**), Tb (**11**), and Gd (**12**)), nickel (II) acetate, and 2-(benzothiazol-2-ylhydrazonomethyl)-6-methoxyphenol ligand (H_2**L3**) in presence of NaOH (Figure 3). All the complexes (**10**, **11**, and **12**) were characterized by the Single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies, which revealed that the complexes were isostructural, and the central core possesses $[Ln_2Ni_2O_4]$ cubane core. All three complexes (**10**, **11**, **12**) crystallize in P*na*2₁ orthorhombic space group. Tb_2Ni_2 complex (**11**) was taken as a representative example. The tetranuclear metal centers in the Tb_2Ni_2 complex (**11**) were linked by two μ_3-phenoxido oxygen atoms and two $\mu_3\text{-}OH^-$ groups from two $HL3^-$ ligands resulting in a cubic arrangement of the metal ions. The N, N, and O, O pockets present in the ligand coordinated with Ni^{II} and Tb^{III} metal ion in an anti-parallel fashion, it was further bridged with acetates in $\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1$fashion to construct heterometallic cubane. The Tb1 and Tb2 center in the complex formed dodecahedral and bicapped trigonal prismatic geometry having an eight-coordinate number. On the other hand, the Ni^{II} ion present in the complex showed distorted octahedral geometry. The basal plane of the octahedron consisted of one bridging phenoxido (PhO^-) O-atom and two N-atoms belonging to one $HL\mathbf{3}^-$ ligand and the fourth coordination site was fulfilled by one O-atom from a bridging OH^- group. The apical positions were occupied by two O-atoms, one was from the OAc^- group and another one was from the phenoxido (PhO^-) O-atom of a second $HL\mathbf{3}^-$ ligand (Figure 3).

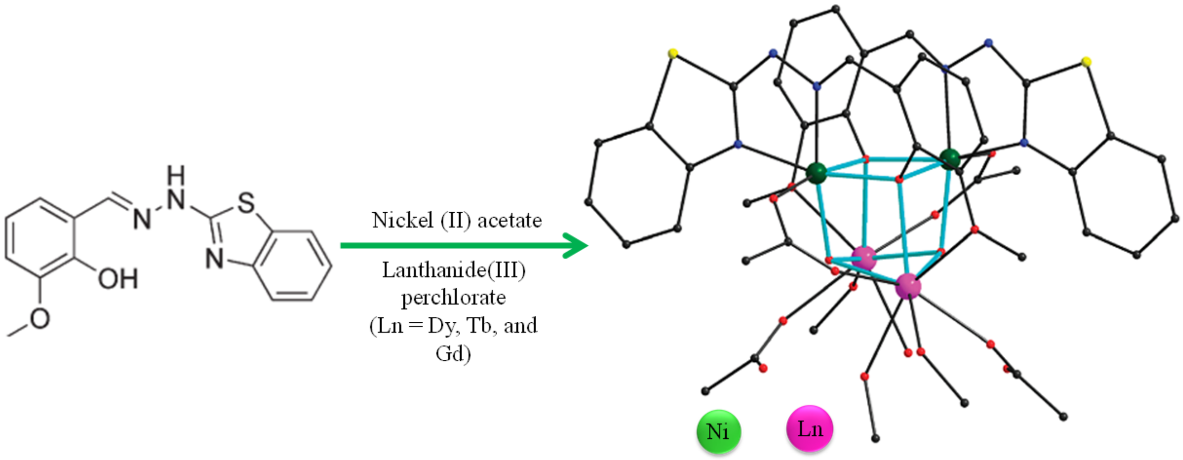

Figure 3: (a) Structure of Ligand H_2**L3** (b) Representation of the molecular structure of $[Tb_2Ni_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(OH)(OAc)_4(HL3)^{2-}(CH_3OH)_3]^+$ (**11**) with the heterometallic $[Tb_2Ni_2O_4]$ cubane core. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Color scheme: Tb pink, Ni green, O red, N blue, S yellow, C gray. Reprinted with permission from reference 25. Copyright 2011 American Chemical Society.

3. Syntheses and structural analyses of compounds containing Partial Dicubane cores

Ray and co-workers have established a family of four Ni-Ln isostructural butterfly-shaped partial dicubane core complexes $[Ln_2Ni_2(L\mathbf{4})_2(\mu_3\text{-}OCH_3)_2(\mu_{1,3}\text{-}PhCO_2)_2(PhCO_2)_2(CH_3OH)_4]\cdot 2CH_3OH$ [where Ln=Gd (**13**), Tb (**14**), Dy (**15**) and Ho (**16**)].[26] The four complexes have been prepared by the reaction of 2-[{(2-hydroxy-benzyl)imino}methyl]-6-methoxyphenol ligand (H_2**L4**) with $Ni(NO_3)_2{\cdot}6H_2O$ and $Ln(NO_3)_3$ salts [Ln= Gd (**13**), Tb (**14**), Dy (**15**) and Ho (**16**)] in presence of sodium benzoate as co-ligand and triethylamine as the base (Figure 4a). The Single-crystal X-ray diffraction study established that all the four complexes (**13**, **14**, **15**, **and 16**) consisted of partial dicubane core (Figure 4b). The $Ni_2Ln_2O_6$ butterfly-shaped partial dicubane core of each complex was supported by two ($L4^{2-}$) ligand anions and two μ_3-OCH_3 groups. The Ni^{II} metal ion showed distorted octahedral geometry in all the complexes with coordination from two oxygen (O) atoms of ligand ($L4^{2-}$), two O of two μ_3-OCH_3 groups of MeOH, and one O from one benzoate group. Whereas Ln^{III} ion showed distorted trigonal dodecahedral geometry with eight coordination by three O atoms from two $L4^{2-}$ ligands, one O from the μ_3-OCH_3 group, two O from the $-PhCO_2$ moiety, and two O from MeOH solvent molecule.

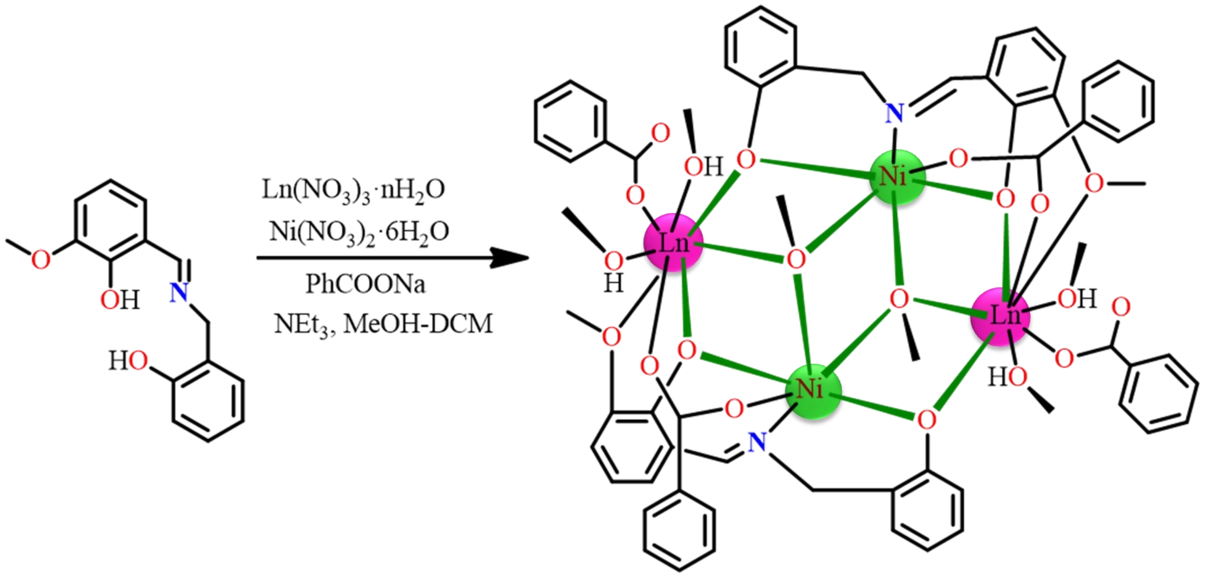

Figure 4: (a) Synthetic pathway for the preparation of $[Ln_2Ni_2(L\mathbf{4})_2(\mu_3\text{-}OCH_3)_2(\mu_{1,3}\text{-}PhCO_2)_2(PhCO_2)_2(CH_3OH)_4]·2CH_3OH$ complexes where Ln= Gd (**13**), Tb (**14**), Dy (**15**) and Ho (**16**). Reference 26. Copyright 2021 Royal Society of Chemistry.

4. Syntheses and structural aspects of compounds containing Partial Tetracubane cores

In another work, Debashis Ray et.al synthesized N_2O_4S donor atoms containing Schiff base ligand (H_2**L5**) [2-((2-(2-(2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylideneamino)ethylthio)ethylimino) methyl)-6-methoxyphenol)] and also explored its capability to give 3d-4f metal complexes (Figure 5a). The Schiff base ligand H_2**L5** was treated with triethyl amine (Et_3N), $Ln(NO_3)_3·5H_2O$ and $NiCl_2·6H_2O$ in MeCN−MeOH (2:1) mixed solvent at room temperature and generated three complexes of formula $[Ni_4Ln_2(L5)_2(\mu\text{-}Cl)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_4(H_2O)_6]Cl_4·2H_2O$, where Ln = Dy^{3+}(**17**), Tb^{3+}(**18**) and Ho^{3+}(**19**), which are having Partial Tetracubane cores (Figure 5b). [27] The authors also prepared $[Ni_4Ln_2(L\mathbf{5})_2(\mu\text{-}NCS)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_4(NCS)_4(H_2O)_2]·xMeOH.yH_2O$ (where Ln= Dy^{3+}(**20**), x =2, y =4; Tb^{3+}(**21**) and Ho^{3+}(**22**), x =0, y = 14.1) complexes **20**, **21** and **22** using the same Schiff base ligand H_2**L5** and $Ni(SCN)_2·4H_2O$ (Figure 5c). The Single crystal X-ray diffraction study divulged that all six complexes acquired defective hexanuclear tetracubane cores having exchangeable bridging groups. Complex **17**, **18,** and **19** all are isostructural and all the complexes possessed $P2_1/n$ monoclinic space group whereas Complex **20** and **21** displayed $P\bar{1}$ triclinic space group but complex **22** crystallized in the monoclinic $C2/c$ space group. The crystal structure of complex **17**, which was taken as a representative among **17**, **18**, and **19**, has revealed that in pockets I each $L5^{2-}$ unit binds with two Ni^{II} centers whereas in pocket II asymmetric coordination of two 3d ions was observed. The pockets III and IV of the ligands were used to bind oxophilic Dy^{III} ions through the O, O donor part of the ligand. The hexanuclear centrosymmetric $Ni^{II}_4Ln^{III}_2$was formed by endogenous four μ-OPh groups and four exogenous μ_3-OH groups of four defective cubanes. On the other hand, the crystal structure of complex **20**, **21**, and **22** showed that all the three complexes are electro-neutral as the terminal water molecules were replaced by NCS^- ions which were bound to the Ni^{II} centers. In all the complexes (**17-22**) Ni(II) ions formed distorted octahedral geometry but the Ln(III) ions present in complexes

(**17,18, 19**) formed distorted triangular dodecahedron coordination geometry (Figure 5d), and in complexes (**20, 21, 22**) displayed distorted trigonal dodecahedral geometry (Figure 5e).

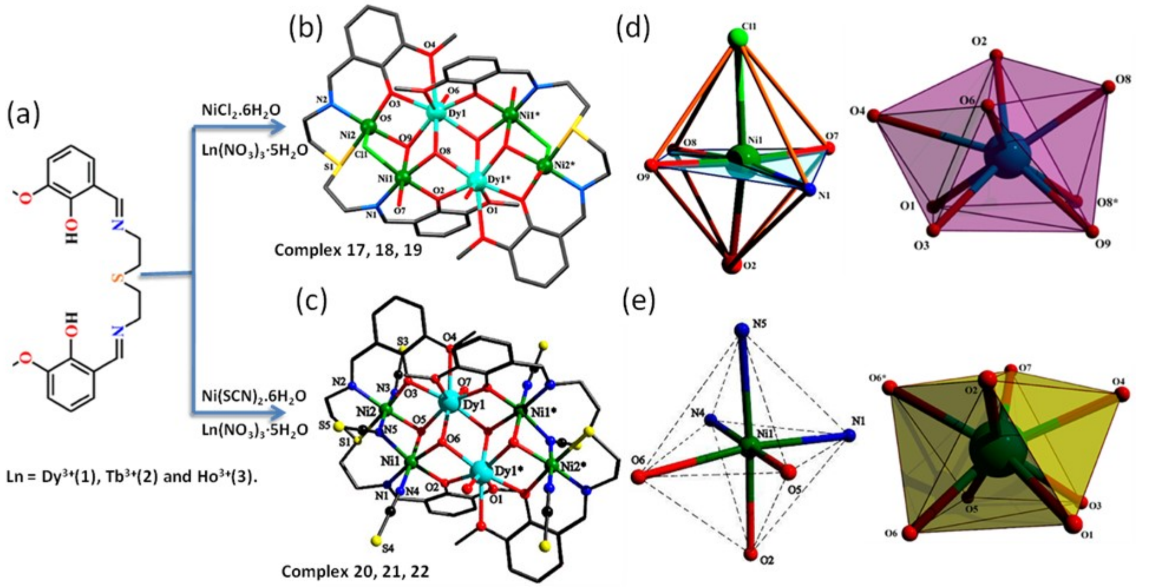

Figure 5: (a) Structure of Schiff base ligand H_2**L5.** (b) View of crystal structures of **17**, **18**, **and 19** with the partial atom numbering scheme**.** (c) Molecular structure of **20**, **21,** and **22**. Hydrogen atoms, solvent molecules, and counter anions are omitted for comprehensibility. (d) Distorted octahedral coordination geometry about both the Ni(II) centers, and distorted triangular dodecahedron coordination geometry around the Dy(III) centers in **17**, **18**, **and 19**. (e) Distorted octahedral coordination geometry around the Ni(II) ions, and Distorted trigonal dodecahedral coordination geometry about the Dy(III) ions in **20**, **21,** and **22**. Reprinted with permission from reference 27. Copyright 2019 American Chemical Society.

Jinkui Tang et.al. have also reported a new family of heterometallic Ni_4M_2 hexanuclear clusters, $[Ni_4M_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(\mathbf{L6})_4(OAc)_2(NO_3)_2(H_2O)_2]\cdot kC_2H_5OH\cdot mCH_3OH\cdot nH_2O$ [M = Gd^{III} with k = 5 and n =1(**23**), Dy^{III} with k = 4 and n =2(**24**), and Y^{III} with k = 5 and m =1(**25**)] with partial tetracubane cores (Figure 6a). All three complexes were produced by using lanthanide(III) nitrate, and nickel(II) acetate with 2-(2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylideneamino)Schiff-base ligand (H_2**L6**) in the presence of NEt_3. All three complexes (**23-25**) have similar core structures with only a difference in the solvent of crystallization. The Single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies disclosed that complexes **23** and **24** crystallized in the C2/*c* monoclinic space group whereas complex **25** was found in triclinic space group $P\bar{1}$. Each Ni_2DyO_4 subunit comprised of one Dy(III) centre and two Ni(II) centres organized as a defective cubane with one missing vertex, through which the three metal ions are connected through three phenoxido groups and one hydroxido group. Two of three phenoxido groups adopted a doubly bridged mode, and each connected one Dy(III) ion and one Ni(II) ion, whereas the leftover one adopted a triply bridged mode binding with three Ni(II) ions, among which one Ni(II) ion was also a part of the adjoining cubane subunit (Figure 6b). The Ni(II) ions present in all three compounds are hexa-coordinated distorted octahedral geometry with the NO_5 environment. Each Lanthanide ion is connected through phenoxido groups and the hydroxido group of the ligand towards the central Ni(II) ions which provided Ni_2DyO_4 defective cubane core. [28]

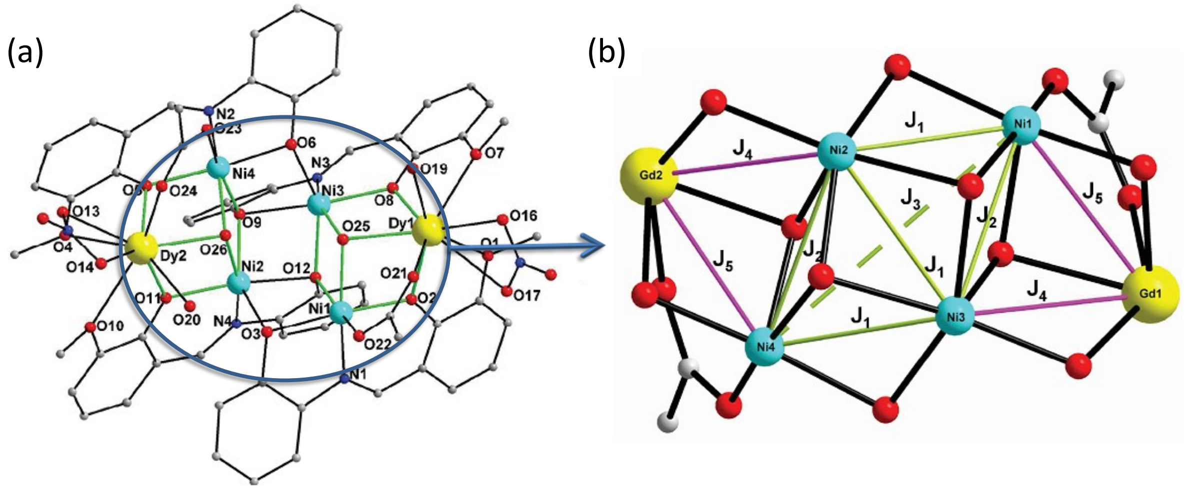

Figure 6: (a) Structure of the H_2L6 Ligand. (b) Molecular structure view of complex **24** showing the $[Ni_2GdO_4]$ heterometallic defective cubane core. Reprinted with permission from reference 28. Copyright 2012 American Chemical Society.

5. Magnetic analyses of compounds containing cubane cores

The variable temperature magnetic study of the complexes $[Ni_4Dy_4(HL\mathbf{1})_4(\mu_2\text{-}OH)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_4(\mu\text{-}OOCCH_3)_8](NO_3)_2$ (Ln = Gd (**1**), Tb (**2**), Dy (**3**), Ho (**4**), and Yb (**5**)) revealed ferromagnetic coupling interaction between the existed metal ions. Further, frequency-dependent AC susceptibility measurements with no applied dc field displayed tails of an out-of-phase peak down to 2 K for Tb(III) (**2**) and Dy(III) (**3**) containing compounds (Figure 7b, c). These results indicated that among all the five complexes, Tb(III) and Dy(III) were most anisotropic lanthanide ions which showed SMM behavior.

Magnetic properties of tetranuclear heterometallic Ni-Ln compounds $[Ni^{II}_2Ln^{III}_2(\mu_3\text{-}L\mathbf{2})_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(\mu\text{-}OAc)_3(AcO)(H_2O)_3]Cl_2\cdot 4H_2O$ (Ln = Gd, **6**; Tb, **7**; Dy, **8**; Ho, **9**) have been studied at variable temperature to realize the effect of magnetic anisotropy on the SMM behavior. All the complexes showed large ground state magnetic moment values and absence of out-of-phase ac susceptibility signals even in complex **8** which possesses Dy(III) ion due to the lack of axial anisotropy.

The magnetic study of $[Dy_2Ni_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(OH)(OAc)_4(HL\mathbf{3})_2(MeOH)_3](ClO_4)\cdot 3MeOH$ (**10**) complex revealed slow magnetic relaxation with frequency-dependent out-of-phase signal in AC susceptibility measurements. Whereas, in the DC field it was significantly slowed down which was generally showing up the presence of fast zero-field relaxation of magnetization. $[Gd_2Ni_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2(OH)(OAc)_4(HL\mathbf{3})_2(MeOH)_3](ClO_4)\cdot 3MeOH$ (**12**) indicated ferromagnetic exchange interactions among Gd···Ni competing with Ni···Ni anti-ferromagnetic interactions.

6. Magnetic analyses of compounds containing Partial Dicubane cores

DC magnetic analysis study of the $[Ln_2Ni_2(L\mathbf{4})_2(\mu_3\text{-}OCH_3)_2(\mu_{1,3}\text{-}PhCO_2)_2(PhCO_2)_2(CH_3OH)_4]\cdot 2CH_3OH$; [where Ln = Gd (**13**), Tb (**14**), Dy (**15**) and Ho (**16**)], supported by DFT and CASSCF calculations showed dominating ferromagnetic exchange interactions between Ni–Ni ions ($J_{Ni\text{–}Ni}$ =7.16 cm^{-1}), and also in between 3d–4f ions ($J_{Gd\text{–}Ni}$ = 0.715 cm^{-1}, $J_{Tb\text{–}Ni}$ =1.25 cm^{-1}, $J_{Dy\text{–}Ni}$ = 0.873 cm^{-1}, and $J_{Ho\text{–}Ni}$ = 1.42 cm^{-1}). An AC magnetic analysis study revealed that no slow relaxation was observed i.e., the complexes lack SMM characteristics.

7. Magnetic analyses of compounds containing Partial Tetracubane cores

AC susceptibility data of $[Ni_4Ln_2(L\mathbf{5})_2(\mu\text{-}NCS)_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_4(NCS)_4(H_2O)_2]\cdot xMeOH.yH_2O$ (where Ln= Dy^{3+}(**20**), x =2, y =4; Tb^{3+}(**21**) and Ho^{3+}(**22**), x =0, y = 14.1) revealed an out-of-phase nonzero signal at zero static magnetic field, which confirmed the presence of slow magnetic relaxation for SMMs. Therefore, the temperature dependence AC susceptibility measurement was carried out. Both Ni_4Dy_2 (**17** and **20**) and Ni_4Tb_2 (**18** and **21**) complexes showed frequency-dependent maxima in the AC susceptibility (χ'') measurement. So, at zero static field complexes **17**, **18** **19**, and **20** behave as SMMs which was rare in other reports.

The magnetic study of $[Ni_4M_2(\mu_3\text{-}OH)_2\ (L\mathbf{6})_4\ (OAc)_2\ (NO_3)_2\ (H_2O)_2]\cdot\ kC_2H_5OH\cdot\ mCH_3OH\cdot\ nH_2O$; [M = Gd^{III} with k = 5 and n =1(**23**), Dy^{III} with k = 4 and n =2(**24**), and Y^{III} with k = 5 and m =1(**25**)] revealed that the Compound **23** (M = Gd) displayed a combination of ferromagnetic and antiferromagnetic coupling pathways with no SMM behaviors. Whereas, in compound **24**, Dy(III) ions in the core lead to slow magnetic relaxation, which was further established by frequency-dependent out-of-phase ac signal. The magnetic properties of compound **25** indicated anti-ferromagnetic Ni···Ni exchange interactions contending with ferromagnetic exchange interactions, which are mediated by the Ni−O−Ni bridging angles.

CONCLUSION

In the past decade, the chemistry of heterometallic 3*d*-4*f* compounds has augmented rapidly due to the state-of-the-art technology available for characterizations such as single crystal X-ray diffraction and low-temperature SQUID measurements. The 3*d*–4*f* heterometallic complexes have also been considered to enhance the structural database as well. Still, fairly a lot of effort endures for the development and understanding of the intricate magnetic properties of cubane core-based 3*d*–4*f* heterometallic compounds, which include the justifications of exchange interactions between 3*d* and 4*f* spin carriers and followed by theoretical computations to simulate the experiential magnetic behaviors. The slow relaxation of the magnetization required for the SMM behavior is regarded as the result of high anisotropic Ln^{III} ions for most 3*d*–4*f* SMMs. In summary, in this book chapter, we have discussed some recent literature reports of 3*d*–4*f* coordination compounds with cubane, partial dicubane, and partial tetracubane cores focusing on their synthetic aspects, and magnetic properties.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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