

Publication

Assembling and dissembling zinc-containing coordination polymers of 4"-phenyl-4,2":6",4"-terpyridine

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The ligand 4"-phenyl-4,2":6",4"-terpyridine (3) reacts with $Zn(OAc)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ to yield the one-dimensional coordination polymer $[Zn_2(3)(OAc)_4]_n$ or $[Zn(3)(OAc)_2]_n$ depending upon the reaction conditions. Both compounds have been structurally characterized. The former contains $\{Zn_2(t-OAc)_4\}$ units, pairs of which are connected by a bridging ligand 3, while the latter contains tetrahedral zinc(II) centres, each bonded to two terminal $[OAc^-]$ ligands and two ligands 3. Both $[Zn_2(3)(OAc)_4]_n$ and $[Zn(3)(OAc)_2]_n$ exhibit emissive behaviour in the solid state, the emissions being significantly enhanced with respect to non-coordinated ligand 3. Protonation of the coordination polymers produces a red shift in the emission maximum. However, treatment of $[Zn_2(3)(OAc)_4]_n$ with MeI or EtI quenches the emission. This is a consequence of the coordination polymer being dismantled, Zn–N bonds are cleaved and the complexes $[Me_2(3)][ZnI_4]$ and $[Et_2(3)][ZnI_4]$ are formed. The direct reaction of 3 with an excess of MeI produces $[Me_2(3)]I_2$ with N-methylation occurring at the two outer pyridine rings as observed in $[Me_2(3)][ZnI_4]$.

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