

# Two new inorganic-organic hybrid materials based on inorganic cluster, $[\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}]^{6-}$ (X=P, As)

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**Abstract.** Two new inorganic-organic hybrid materials based on heteropolyoxometalates,  $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}\text{N})_6(\text{P}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62})\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  **I**, and  $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}\text{N})_6(\text{As}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62})\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  **II**, where  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}\text{N}$  is protonated pyrrolidine have been synthesized and structurally characterized by physico-chemical methods. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction method, infrared, ultraviolet spectroscopy, Thermogravimetric analysis and cyclic voltammetry measurements of the title hybrid materials indicate that there are hydrogen bond interaction between O atoms of the heteropolyoxometalates and water molecules as well as the N and O atoms of the organic compound. The molecular structures of synthesized hybrid materials contain discrete entities of pyrrolidinium and water molecules surround every  $[\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}]^{6-}$  anion over the extended crystalline network that the  $[\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}]^{6-}$  anion retains its “Dawson structure”. Crystal data: **I** monoclinic, space group  $\text{P}2_1/a$ ,  $a = 13,453(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 24,046(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 24,119(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 97,99(1)^\circ$ ,  $V = 7726,30(5) \text{ \AA}^3$  and  $Z = 4$ ; **II** monoclinic, space group  $\text{P}2_1/a$ ,  $a = 13,4900(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 24,0900(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 24,2740(1) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 98,320(1)^\circ$ ,  $V = 7805,40(7) \text{ \AA}^3$  and  $Z = 4$ .

**Keywords.** Polyoxometalate; Hybrid materials; Crystal structure; Infrared spectroscopy; Thermogravimetric analysis.

## 1. Introduction

The polyoxometalates (POMs) form a significant class of inorganic metal–oxygen clusters with intriguing architectures and diverse physicochemical properties.<sup>1–4</sup> These materials have attracted increasing attention worldwide because of their nanosized structures and their potential applications in many fields such as catalysis, pharmacology, medicine, nanotechnology, and molecular electronics.<sup>5–9</sup> Recently, the interest is extended to the modification of POM structure by introduction of organic derivatives<sup>10,11</sup> or metal–organic complexes.<sup>12</sup> Thus, various organic–inorganic hybrid materials were synthesized based on hydrogen, electrostatic or coordination bonding between the organic and inorganic moieties. The organic units can also be attached to the polyanion by covalent bond and several functionalized POM were synthesized and characterized.<sup>13</sup> Such POM-based hybrids demonstrate fascinating structural diversity and provide an important type of functional materials with original physical properties.<sup>14–16</sup>

To date, a number of hybrid materials based on polyoxometalate clusters, such as the Lindquist, Keggin

and Dawson<sup>17–19</sup> type and six isomers of octamolybdates have been studied and exhibited potential applications in catalysis, electrical conductivity and biological chemistry. Generally, there are two routes to prepare such POM-based hybrid materials: (a) organic ligands graft onto POMs directly; (b) organic ligand and a second metal ion form complex subunits which link POMs through M–O bonds.

This contribution describes for the first time the syntheses and characterization of two inorganic hybrid based on heteropolyoxometalates:  $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}\text{N})_6(\text{P}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62})\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**I**) and  $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}\text{N})_6(\text{As}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62})\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**II**).

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1 Materials and measurements

Sodium molybdate dihydrate  $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (99%),  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  (85%),  $\text{H}_3\text{AsO}_4$  (85%) and pyrrolidine (98%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification. The elemental composition of the synthesized compound was identified by scanning electron microscopy analysis; a JEOL JSM 6700F scanning electron microscope equipped with a field-effect gun

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and operated with a 0.5–30 kV scale acceleration voltage was used. The infrared spectra were recorded as KBr pellets, in the 4000–400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  range on a Nicolet 470FT-IR spectrophotometer. The UV–visible absorption spectrum was recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 19 spectrophotometer. The thermogravimetric and differential thermal analyses (TGA–DTA) were carried out on a Setaram TG-DTA 92–16.18 thermal analyzer, under nitrogen at a heating rate of 10°C  $\text{min}^{-1}$ .

## 2.2 Synthesis

**2.2a Synthesis of Compound I:** The compound, **I** was synthesized employing solution methods.  $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1 g, 4 mmol) was dissolved in water (25 mL) with stirring.  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  (0.5 mL, 0.2 mmol) and pyrrolidine (0.2 mmol) were added to the mixture (if a light turbidity occurred, it cleared with time and then the next drop was added) and the pH was adjusted to about 2.5–2.6 by adding 6 M HCl. The mixture was refluxed at 353 K for 3 h and then cooled to room temperature. Slow evaporation of the solvent at room temperature led to green prismatic crystals of **I** suitable for X-ray diffraction. Qualitative analysis of these crystals by electron microscope revealed the presence of the Mo, P, O, N and C atoms.

**2.2b Synthesis of Compound II:** Compound **II** was prepared following the procedure described for compound **I**, but  $\text{H}_3\text{AsO}_4$  was used instead of  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ . Qualitative analysis of these crystals by electron microscope probe revealed the presence of the all atoms.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1 X-ray data collection

Both compounds are stable under ambient conditions and two single crystals were carefully selected and glued on the end of a glass capillary. The intensities of the diffraction data were measured using an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer with monochromated graphite Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ )<sup>20</sup> at 293 K.

For compound **I**, the number of collected and independent reflections were respectively, 18516 and 16819. Unit cell dimensions were obtained by least-square refinement of the angular settings in the  $2.22^\circ < \theta < 26.97^\circ$ . The reflections were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects; an empirical absorption correction was also applied using  $\Psi$ -scan data. The structure was successfully developed in the centrosymmetric space group  $P2_1/a$ , solved by Patterson method using

SHELXS-97<sup>21</sup> and refined with anisotropic temperature factors for non-hydrogen atoms, by full matrix least-squares based on  $F^2$  using SHELXL-97.<sup>21</sup> The positions of the hydrogen atoms were determined from a difference Fourier map and were refined isotropically. The final full-matrix least-squares refinement on  $F^2$  converged with  $R = 0.086$  and  $wR(F^2) = 0.186$  for 12822 unique observed reflections [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ].

For the compound **II** the number of collected and independent reflections were respectively, 21432 and 16577. Unit cell dimensions were obtained by least-square refinement of the angular settings in the  $2.04^\circ < \theta < 24.95^\circ$ . Following analysis similar to compound **I**, the final full-matrix least-squares refinement on  $F^2$  converged with  $R = 0.071$  and  $wR(F^2) = 0.175$  for 8984 unique observed reflections [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ]. A summary of the crystal data and structure refinement for compounds **I** and **II** are provided in table 1.

### 3.2 Structure description

Singlecrystal X-ray analysis reveals that this material consists of one  $\alpha$ -Dawson polyoxomolybdates [ $\alpha\text{-X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}$ ]<sup>6-</sup> (abbreviated as  $\{\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\}$ , X = P and As) anion, six pyrrolidinium ions (abbreviated as Pyr<sup>+</sup>) and four water molecules. As shown in figure 1, each [ $\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}$ ]<sup>6-</sup> anion is encapsulated by six pyrrolinium cations and connected interactively with eight adjacent clusters [ $\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}$ ]<sup>6-</sup>. In the two structures, the [ $\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}$ ]<sup>6-</sup> clusters are linked by pyrrolinium cations and water molecules to form a 3D supramolecular structure (figure 2).

The  $\{\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\}$  anion is formed by close packing of oxygen atoms with X and Mo atoms in the distorted octahedral voids. The centrosymmetric polyoxoanion is a classical  $\alpha$ -Dawson isomer [ $\alpha\text{-X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}$ ]<sup>6-</sup>, consisting of two central  $\text{XO}_4$  tetrahedra which are surrounded by six vertex-sharing  $\text{Mo}_3\text{O}_{15}$  trimers, which may be described as two [ $\alpha\text{-XMo}_9\text{O}_{31}$ ]<sup>3-</sup> units, generated from the well known [ $\alpha\text{-XMo}_{12}\text{O}_{40}$ ]<sup>3-</sup> by removal of a set of three corner-sharing  $\text{MoO}_6$  octahedra and fused into a cluster of virtual  $D_{3h}$  symmetry. In the Dawson type POM, there are two structurally distinct types of Mo atoms: six ‘cap’ atoms on vertical mirrorplanes, grouped in two sets of three, and twelve equatorial Mo atoms are grouped in two sets of six atoms, but do not lie on mirror-planes.<sup>22</sup>

Four kinds of oxygen atoms exist in the cluster according to the manner of oxygen coordination: (i) There are 18 terminal O atoms which are only bonded to one Mo atom and the Mo–O distances are in the range 1.660(6)–1.701(2)  $\text{\AA}$  for **I** and 1.655(8)–1.711(8)  $\text{\AA}$  for

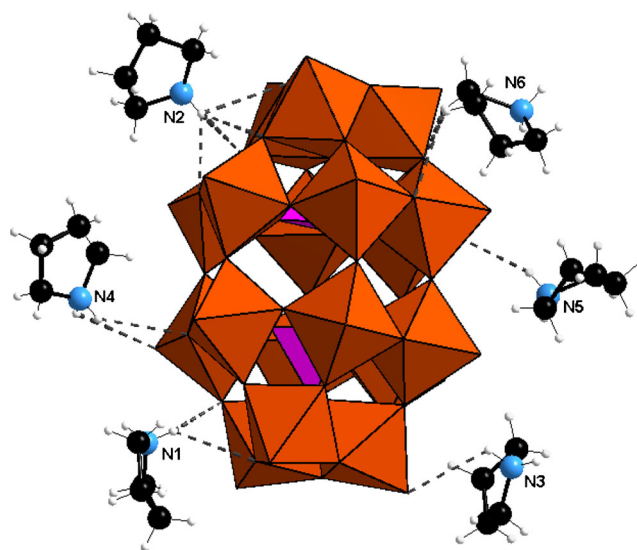
**Table 1.** Crystal structure data for **I** and **II**.

Crystal data	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>
Chemical formula	(C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> [P <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>8</sub> O <sub>62</sub> ].4H <sub>2</sub> O	(C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> [As <sub>2</sub> Mo <sub>8</sub> O <sub>62</sub> ].4H <sub>2</sub> O
CCDC deposit	1031359	1031358
Formula weight	3285.70	3373.60
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /a	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /a
a(Å)	13.453(1)	13.490 (1)
b(Å)	24.046(1)	24.090 (1)
c(Å)	24.119(1)	24.274 (1)
β (Å)	97.99(1)	98.32 (1)
V(Å <sup>3</sup> )	7726.4(1)	7805.4 (3)
Temperature (K)	293	298
Z	4	4
ρ <sub>cal</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	2.825	2.871
Data collection		
Crystal dimensions	0,20 × 0,25 × 0,35	0,31 × 0,42 × 0,15
Diffractometer	CAD4 (Enraf–Nonius)	CAD4 (Enraf–Nonius)
Radiation	k(Mo Ka) = 0.7107	k(Mo Ka) = 0.7107
Monochromator	Graphite	Graphite
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	2.972	3.742
Scan type	ω/2θ	ω/2θ
Scan speed	Variable	Variable
2θ <sub>max</sub>	26.99	26.98
Number of unique reflections; R <sub>int</sub>	16819; 0.07	16579; 0.07
Number of observed reflections [I > 2σ (I)]	18516	21458
F(000)	6272	6416
Structural refinement		
Intensity corrections	Lorentz-polarisation	Lorentz-polarisation
Structure solution	Direct methods	Direct methods
Reliability factors	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0863 wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1865	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0710 wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1584
Number of parameters	996	1028
Δρ <sub>max</sub> /Δρ <sub>min</sub> (e.Å <sup>-3</sup> )	4.68/ -4.94	2.23/ -2.76

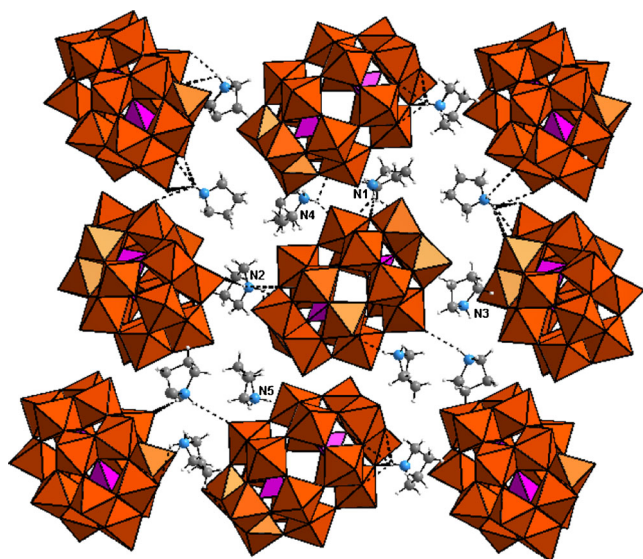
The structures contain disordered solvent water molecules

**II**; (ii) There are 36 O atoms which are shared by two Mo atoms and the Mo–O distances vary from 1.800(7) to 2.072(4) Å for **I** and from 1.812(5) to 2.086(7) Å for **II**; (iii) There are six O atoms which are combined with one X atom and two Mo atoms. The Mo–O distances vary from Å for 2.292 to 2.358 Å **I** and from 2.257(1) to 2.311(3) Å for **II**; (iv) There are two O atoms which are coordinated to one X atom and three Mo atoms. The Mo–O distances are between 2.356(2) and 2.389(1) Å for **I** and between 2.330 (4) and 2.360(4) Å for **II**. The O–Mo–O angle deviations, from 90° for cis-standing oxygen atoms and from 180° for trans-standing oxygen atoms, also reflect the extent of distortion within the MoO<sub>6</sub> octahedra. Indeed, the angle ranges cover 71.80(1)–105.13(1)° (**I**) and 72.07(1)–107.01(1)° (**II**) for cis-standing oxygen atoms and 154.97–173.74(1)° (**I**) and 154.16(1)–171.25(1)° (**II**) for trans-standing oxygen atoms.

The Mo...Mo distances between corner-sharing Mo O<sub>6</sub> octahedra vary in the range of 3.668(1)–3.866(4) Å



**Figure 1.** View showing the strong hydrogen-bonding interactions between pyrrolidinium and terminal and central oxygen atoms of polyoxoanions.



**Figure 2.** View of three-dimensional network in the compound.

and 3.682(1)–3.882(4) Å for **I** and **II**, respectively. They are obviously greater than those between edge-sharing MoO<sub>6</sub> octahedra [ $d(\text{Mo} \dots \text{Mo}) = 3.318(4)$ – $3.387(4)$  Å and  $3.319(4)$ – $3.379(4)$  Å]. The bond distances within the polyoxomolybdates unit of the two hybrid compounds are in accord with the elsewhere reported values for Dawson type compounds.<sup>23–28</sup>

The X–Mo distances are in the 3.312(2)–3.327(7) Å range. The X–O bond lengths and O–X–O bond angles differ only slightly in the compounds and are in good agreement with those bond lengths and angles found in other compounds containing the (X<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>18</sub>O<sub>62</sub>)<sup>6–</sup> anion.<sup>29</sup>

BVS calculations using the Brown and Altermatt method<sup>30</sup> revealed that all the molybdenum atoms have

valence sums ranging from 5.979 to 6.106, with an average value of 6.028, close to the ideal value of 6 for Mo<sup>VI</sup>. The bond valences of arsenic and phosphorus atoms are, respectively, 4.983, 5.043 and the bond valences of oxygen atoms in the polyanion are in the range of 1.683–1.869 valence units for terminal oxygen atoms and 1.649–2.024 valence units for bridging oxygen atoms.

Owing to the presence of organic molecules and the molecular nature of the compounds, a large number of hydrogen bond interactions have been observed. The majority of the interactions are between the terminal oxygen atoms of the clusters and the hydrogen atoms of the amine molecule. Thus, N...O distances are in the range 2.79–3.46 Å with the majority of D–H...O bond angles >150°. Similar hydrogen bond interactions have also been observed for **II**. The important hydrogen bond interactions observed in **I** and **II** are listed in table 2a and 2b.

### 3.3 IR spectroscopy

There are four characteristic asymmetric vibrations resulting from heteropolyanions with Dawson structure, namely,  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{Mo}=\text{O}_t)$  (O<sub>t</sub> is the terminal oxygen atom),  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{Mo}-\text{O}_b)$  (O<sub>b</sub> refers to the oxygen atom located in the shared corners between two Mo<sub>3</sub>O<sub>13</sub> units),  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{Mo}-\text{O}_c)$  (O<sub>c</sub> refers to the oxygen atom connecting edge-sharing MoO<sub>6</sub> octahedra in the Mo<sub>3</sub>O<sub>13</sub> units), and  $\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{X}-\text{O}_a)$  (O<sub>a</sub> refers to the oxygen atom connecting the X and Mo atoms).

As shown in figure 3, the spectra of compounds **I** and **II** can be divided into the following typical regions: 3500–2700 cm<sup>–1</sup> (C–H and N–H stretchings), 1650–1380 cm<sup>–1</sup> (O–H and N–H bendings), and 1250 to

**Table 2a.** Selected hydrogen bonds of **I**.

D–H...A	D–H (Å)	H...A (Å)	D...A (Å)	D–H...A(°)
N1–H2A...O49	0.89	2.19	3.00 (4)	151
N1–H2B...O2 <sup>ii</sup>	0.89	2.04	2.88 (3)	157
N2–H10A...O22 <sup>i</sup>	0.89	2.37	3.08 (2)	137
N2–H10A...O28 <sup>i</sup>	0.89	2.32	3.13 (2)	151
N2–H10A...O29 <sup>i</sup>	0.89	2.52	3.02 (2)	117
N2–H10B...O26 <sup>iii</sup>	0.89	2.09	2.93 (2)	159
N3–H13B...O17 <sup>iv</sup>	0.89	2.45	3.30 (3)	159
N4–H18A...O18 <sup>xii</sup>	0.89	2.62	3.48 (4)	163
N5–H29A...O17 <sup>iv</sup>	0.89	2.46	3.31 (5)	161
N5–H29B...O41 <sup>v</sup>	0.89	2.62	3.48 (6)	163
N6–H23A...O32 <sup>xi</sup>	0.89	2.65	3.25 (4)	126
OW4–H2W4...O10 <sup>v</sup>	0.85 (2)	1.99 (14)	2.80 (3)	160 (39)
OW4–H1W4...O18 <sup>iv</sup>	0.85 (2)	2.4 (2)	3.12 (3)	141 (31)
OW4–H1W4...O38 <sup>iv</sup>	0.85 (2)	2.5 (2)	3.24 (3)	149 (42)

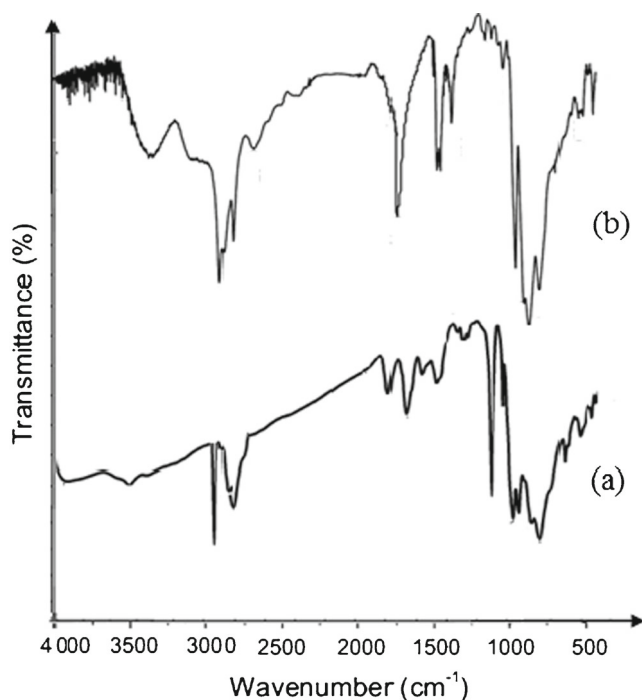
Symmetry codes : (i)  $x-1, y, z$ ; (ii)  $-x+2, -y, -z$ ; (iii)  $x-3/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (iv)  $x-1/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (v)  $x-1, y+1, z$ ; (vi)  $x, y, z+1$ ; (vii)  $x+1/2, -y+3/2, z+1$



**Table 2b.** Selected hydrogen bonds of **II**.

D—H...A	D—H(Å)	H...A(Å)	D...A(Å)	D—H...A(°)
N1—H2A...O49	0.89	2.28	3.04 (3)	144
N1—H2B...O2 <sup>ii</sup>	0.89	2.12	2.90 (2)	146
N1—H2B...O39 <sup>ii</sup>	0.89	2.60	3.31 (2)	137
N2—H10A...O22 <sup>i</sup>	0.89	2.43	3.13 (2)	135
N2—H10A...O28 <sup>i</sup>	0.89	2.37	3.20 (2)	154
N2—H10A...O29 <sup>i</sup>	0.89	2.56	3.064 (19)	117
N2—H10B...O26 <sup>iii</sup>	0.89	2.14	2.99 (2)	160
N5—H29A...O17 <sup>iv</sup>	0.89	2.57	3.42 (6)	162
OW4—H2W4...O18 <sup>iv</sup>	0.85 (2)	2.5 (2)	3.15 (2)	129 (22)
OW4—H2W4...O38 <sup>iv</sup>	0.85 (2)	2.56 (17)	3.35 (3)	154 (35)
OW4—H2W4...O40 <sup>iv</sup>	0.85 (2)	2.6 (3)	3.29 (2)	136 (33)
OW4—H1W4...O10 <sup>v</sup>	0.85 (2)	2.01 (17)	2.796 (19)	153 (35)

Symmetry codes : (i)  $x-1, y, z$ ; (ii)  $-x+2, -y, -z$ ; (iii)  $x-3/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (iv)  $x-1/2, -y+1/2, z$ ; (v)  $x-1, y+1, z$ ; (vi)  $x, y, z+1$

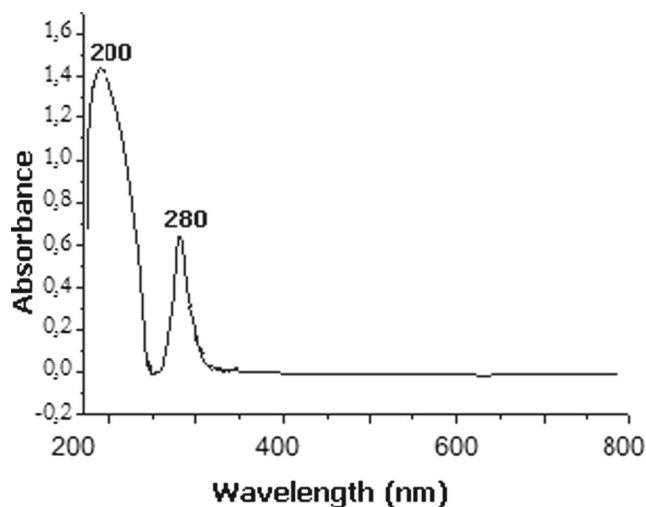
**Figure 3.** IR Spectrum (a) of (I) and (b) of (II).

$1000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C—H in-plane bending). The strong band at  $1090\text{ cm}^{-1}$  could be ascribed to  $\nu$  (P—O).

The low-wave number peaks are attributed to the Dawson anion  $[X_2Mo_{18}O_{62}]^{6-}$ :  $1030\text{--}800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Mo=O<sub>t</sub> vibrations),  $750\text{--}550\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (fundamentally Mo—O<sub>b</sub> modes) and  $<450\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Mo—O<sub>c</sub>, and some other modes). Between  $550$  and  $500\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , it is possible to observe some bands attributable to water libration modes.

### 3.4 UV-visible spectra

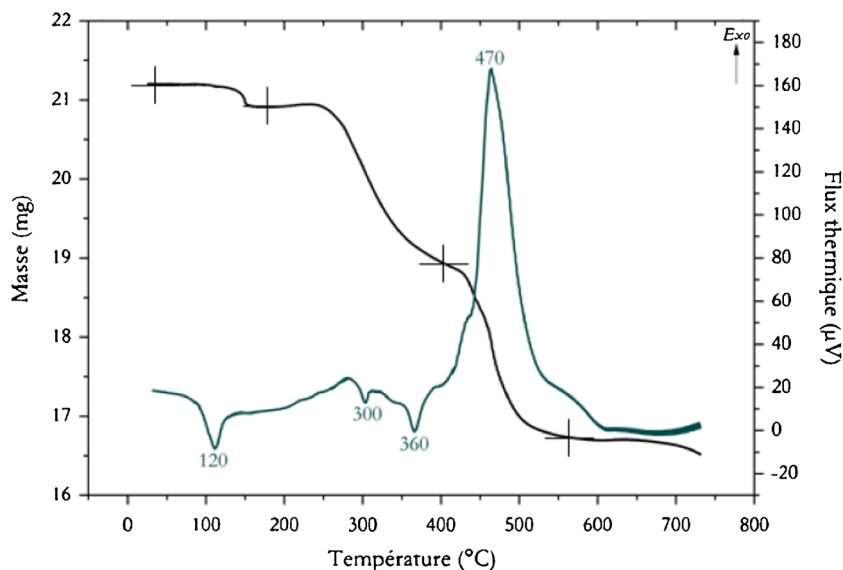
The UV-vis absorption of **II** was analyzed in the 190–800 nm range using aqueous solution ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M)

**Figure 4.** UV spectrum of  $(C_4H_{10}N)_6(As_2Mo_{18}O_{62}) \cdot 4H_2O$  ( $5 \times 10^{-4}$  M, pH 5, path length 10 mm).

of pH 5. The spectrum (figure 4) reveals two absorption bands centered at 200 nm and 280 nm, which are characteristic of the Dawson-type polyoxotungstates.<sup>31</sup> The strong higher energy band can be assigned to the ligand-to-metal charge transfer (LMCT) from terminal oxygen to the molybdenum center, whereas the broad lower energy band is attributed to the bridging oxygen-to-molybdenum LMCT. The absorption onset of **II** was about 305 nm, indicating an optical energy gap ( $E_g$ ) of 4.06 eV, which is commonly observed in Dawson-type polyoxotungstates.

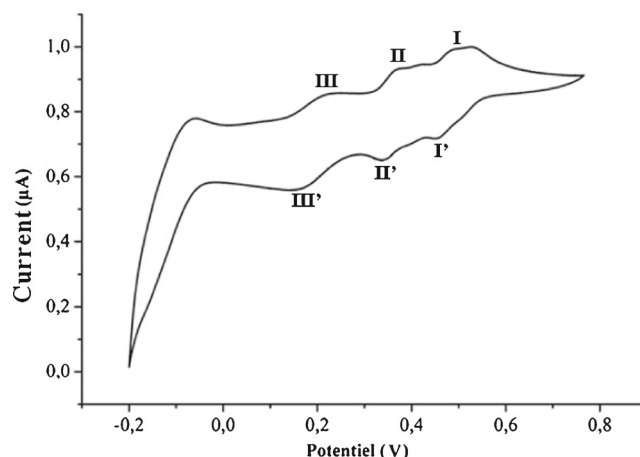
### 3.5 Thermal analysis

The two curves corresponding to DTA and TGA analysis of compound **II** are given in figure 5. The DTA curve



**Figure 5.** DTA-TGA thermograms of  $(\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}\text{N})_6(\text{As}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

shows that this compound shows a succession of several endothermic and exothermic phenomena. The first peak at 120°C is accompanied by a weight loss obviously observed in the TGA curve. This weight loss corresponds to the removal of all water molecules (water: experimental 2.33%; calculated 2.12%). The second loss of 9.1% occurred between 250 and 360°C which is consistent with the calculated value attributable to the degradation of the four organic moieties. The DTA curve also exhibits exothermic peak at 470°C accompanied by a weight loss 11.2% in the TGA curve which is ascribed to the loss of most of the  $\text{As}_2\text{O}_3$  and combustion of two organic ligands.



**Figure 6.** Cyclic voltammogram of compound **II**.

### 3.6 Electrochemical behavior

Cyclic voltammetry of the compound **I** was carried out in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  aqueous solution in the potential range from  $-200$  to  $800$  mV at scan rate  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  and was recorded in anodic scan. The voltammetric pattern showed three redox waves, (I–I'), (II–II') and (III–III'), corresponding to Molybdenum redox process<sup>32</sup> (figure 6). Because of the poor reversibility of the waves, we could determine the mean peak potentials ( $E_f = (E_{pa} + E_{pc})/2$ ) approximately as 483 mV (I–I'), 354 mV (II–II') and 197 mV (III–III') (vs. Ag/AgCl) and the difference of the peak potentials between each pair of peaks ( $\Delta E_p$ ) is about 30 mV. The number of the electrons involved in each reduction step is 2 as calculated from  $\Delta E_p(\text{V}) = 0.06/n$ . So, we conclude that the reduction is a process of three reversible, two-electron steps.

## 4. Conclusions

In summary, two new compounds have been successfully synthesized by slow evaporation at room temperature and characterized by X-ray diffraction method, UV, IR spectra, thermal analyses (TG-DTA) and cyclic voltammetry. This compound crystallizes in the monoclinic system, space group of  $\text{P}2_1/a$ . The main geometrical feature of this structure is the existence of  $[\text{X}_2\text{Mo}_{18}\text{O}_{62}]^{6-}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{P}$  and  $\text{As}$ ) anionic clusters and these groups are linked via hydrogen bonds to form a 3D framework.

### Supplementary Information

The cif and checkCIF files for X-ray crystallography of the both compounds are available in supplementary

information at [www.ias.ac.in/chemsci](http://www.ias.ac.in/chemsci). Crystallographic data for the structures of **I** and **II** have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data center as publication number CCDC 1031359 and 1031358, respectively. Copy of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK (fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.com.ac.uk).

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