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Synthesis and Structure of New Water-Soluble Ag(I) and Pb(II) Complexes with Sulfonyl-Substituted Derivatives of the *closo*-Decaborate Anion

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Abstract—The reactivity of sulfonyl-substituted *closo*-decaborate derivatives (the $[2-B_{10}H_9SH]^{2-}$ and $[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]^-$ anions) in the complexation of Ag(I) and Pb(II), Pearson soft acids, in the presence of competitive organic ligands has been studied. The substituted derivatives act as bridging ligands to form silver(I) binuclear complexes [(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)] and [(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)] and [(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]^{2-} anion is involved in the lead(II) coordination polyhedron in the [Pb(2-B_{10}H_9SH)] and [Pb(bipy)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)] complexes; in [Pb(bipy)_2][2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]_2, the substituted decaborate

derivative acts as a counterion. The solubility of the mixed-ligand complexes is different due to the variety of their structures. The synthesized complexes are the first water-soluble lead and silver compounds with the *closo*-decaborate anion.

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Cluster boron anions with exopolyhedral B-S bond are of great practical importance for boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT) of malignant tumors [1]. The BNCT principle is based on the nuclear reaction of the stable boron-10 isotope with thermal neutrons. The generated alpha particles and recoil nuclei have a high linear energy loss and a small free path commensurate with the diameter of a single cell. In the case of selective boron-10 accumulation in tumor cells, a local radiation effect can be achieved. Therefore, nowadays, the major challenge is to create boron-containing drugs that can selectively deliver a therapeutic amount of boron-10 to malignant tumor cells, ensure its optimal microdistribution, and remain in the cells for the time required for irradiation. Currently, the most well-known and widely used compounds are those of the sulfanyl-substituted closo-dodecaborate anion, $[B_{12}H_{11}SH]^{2-}$. However, the task of obtaining drugs with high chemical and biological stability, a high boron content in the molecule, low toxicity, and high water solubility has not been completely solved, so research in this area continues and is relevant.

Substituted derivatives of cluster boron anions are of fundamental interest since they form a series of weakly coordinating ligands [2–6]. The formation of substituted derivatives can occur with both persistence of the system charge and its decrease, up to the formation of neutral substituted derivatives. The decrease in the charge of substituted anions significantly suppresses their coordination ability. Synthesis of metal complexes based on sulfanyl derivatives of the $[B_{10}H_{10}]^{2-}$ anion can undoubtedly significantly extend the practical use of such compounds because of the possibility of using their combined properties potentially inherent in the cationic and anionic parts of a compound. It should be noted that the high solubility of such compounds in water is a decisive factor and greatly facilitates the solution of the tasks [7].

The only lead(II) complex with a sulfanyl-substituted derivative— $Pb(bipy)_2[1-B_{10}H_9SMe_2]_2$ —has been described in the literature [8], where its synthesis is reported and its structure is discussed. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction has demonstrated that the Pb(II) coordination polyhedron is formed, in addition to the heterocycle nitrogen atoms, by the BH group of the cluster anion.

The present study deals with the reactivity of the sulfanyl-substituted *closo*-decaborate anion derivatives in the complexation of Ag(I) and Pb(II), including reactions in the presence of soft bases as competitive ligands. Conditions of formation of intra-sphere complexes have been formulated; the solubility of metal salts and complexes based on sulfanyl-substituted derivatives of the $[B_{10}H_{10}]^{2-}$ anion has been estimated.

The starting reagents were tetrabutylammonium salts $((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$ and $(C_4H_9)_4N[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$

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 $B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]$, metal salts AgNO₃ and Pb(NO₃)₂, and triphenylphosphine (Ph₃P) and 2,2'-bipyridine as competitive ligands.

The reaction of $((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$ or $(C_4H_9)_4N[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]$ with AgNO₃ in acetonitrile or H₂O gives $[Ag_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ · nsolv (I) or $[Ag(2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2)]$ · nsolv (II). The reaction in the general form is

$$(C_{4}H_{9})_{4}N[2-B_{10}H_{9}R] + nAgNO_{3}$$

$$\rightarrow [Ag_{n}(2-B_{10}H_{9}R)]$$

$$(n = 1,2; R = [2-B_{10}H_{9}SH]^{2-},$$

$$[2-B_{10}H_{9}S(CH_{2}C(O)NH_{2})_{2}]^{-}).$$
(1)

The resulting complexes are brightly colored and are fairly soluble in water and organic solvents. It should be noted that the solubility of analogous complexes with the $[B_{10}H_{10}]^{2-}$ and $[B_{12}H_{12}]^{2-}$ anions is essentially lower, since the silver compounds of the $[Ag_2B_nH_n]$ composition (n = 10, 12) are the weighing forms (SP ~ 10⁻²⁴) and are used in analytical determinations.

The introduction of 2,2'-bipyridine into the reaction solution containing $((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[B_{10}H_9SH]$ or $(C_4H_9)_4N[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]$ and AgNO₃ in acetonitrile leads to the formation of fine crystalline precipitates of $[(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ (III) or $[(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]NO_3$ (IV). The reactions are described by schemes (2) and (3):

$$((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[B_{10}H_9SH] + 2AgNO_3 + 4bipy \rightarrow [(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH] (III),$$
(2)

$$(C_{4}H_{9})_{4}N[2-B_{10}H_{9}S(CH_{2}C(O)NH_{2})_{2}] + AgNO_{3} + 2bipy \rightarrow [(Ag(bipy)_{2})_{2}(2-B_{10}H_{9}S(CH_{2}C(O)NH_{2})_{2}]NO_{3} (IV).$$
(3)

The reaction of $(Bu_4N)_2[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$ with AgNO₃ and Ph₃P in a CH₃CN/C₆H₆ mixture leads to the anionic complex [Ag(PPh₃)₄]{[Ag(PPh₃)₃]₂(2-B₁₀H₉SH)}(NO₃) · *n*CH₃CN (**V**) irrespective of the reagent ratio (4):

$$((C_{4}H_{9})_{4}N)_{2}[2-B_{10}H_{9}SH] + 2AgNO_{3} + 4Ph_{3}P$$

$$\rightarrow [Ag(PPh_{3})_{4}]\{[Ag(PPh_{3})_{3}]_{2}(2-B_{10}H_{9}SH)\}(NO_{3})(4)$$

$$\cdot nCH_{3}CN.$$

The reaction of $((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$ or $(C_4H_9)_4N[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]$ with Pb(NO₃)₂ in acetonitrile or H₂O gives [Pb(2-B₁₀H₉SH)] (**VI**) (bright yellow) or [Pb(solv)₆][2-B₁₀H₉S(CH₂C(O)NH₂)₂]₂. The scheme of complexation is shown below:

$$(C_4H_9)_4N[2-B_{10}H_9R] + Pb(NO_3)_2$$

 $\rightarrow [Pb(solv)_6][2-B_{10}H_9R]_2.$

The introduction of 2,2'-bipyridine (bipy) into the reaction solution containing $((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$ or $(C_4H_9)_4N[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]$ and Pb(NO₃)₂ in acetonitrile leads to the [Pb(bipy)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)] (**VIII**) or [Pb(bipy)_2][2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]_2 (**IX**) complexes; complex **VIII** is rich colored.

Complexes I-IX were identified using elemental analysis¹ and IR spectroscopy data² (Table 1). The IR

spectra provide much information, which makes it possible to determine, at the first stage of studies, the participation of sulfanyl-substituted derivatives in the formation of metal coordination cores. In particular, for the complexes with the substituent group coordinated to the metal atom, the B–S stretching vibration band v(BS) at 960 cm⁻¹ is informative; for coordination by BH groups of the polyhedron, the B–H stretching vibration band v(BH) at 2340 cm⁻¹ is informative (Table 1).

The IR spectra of compounds I-IV show, in the BH stretching vibrations, two broad overlapping bands with maxima at about 2460 and 2320 cm^{-1} , due to the v(BH) and $v(BH)_{MHB}$ vibrations. The presence of the low-frequency band at 2320 cm⁻¹ points to the coordination of sulfanyl-substituted derivatives through the BH groups of the polyhedron to the Ag(I) or Pb(II) atoms. The spectrum of VII shows no low-frequency band at 2320 cm⁻¹, which is evidence of the outersphere position of the $[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]^{-1}$ anion in the aqua complex. The coordinated water molecules in **VII** give rise to the v(OH) stretching vibration band in the range 3600-3400 cm⁻¹ and δ (OH) bending vibration band at 1640 cm⁻¹. The IR spectra of I, VI, and VIII allow us to conclude that the sulfur atom is involved in contacts with metal atoms, since the spectra show characteristic changes in the range of v(BS) vibrations 700–900 cm⁻¹, which are absent in the spectra of the initial sulfanyl-substituted derivatives.

In the range of BH stretching vibrations, the IR spectrum of V shows the broadened strong v(BH) band of "free" BH groups at 2460 cm⁻¹ and the moderate v(BH)_{MHB} band at about 2330 cm⁻¹, which

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¹ Elemental analysis on carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen was performed on a Carbo Erba CHNS-3 FA 1108 Elemental Analyzer. Boron was quantified by atomic absorption spectroscopy on a Perkin-Elmer Model 2100 spectrometer with an HGA-700 electrothermal atomizer [9]; Ag was determined on an AAS-303 in an acetylene—air flame.

² IR spectra were recorded on a Lumex Infralum FT-02 spectrophotometer as Nujol mulls, NaCl plates, 4000–400 cm⁻¹, resolution 1 cm⁻¹.

Compound	ν(BH)	$\nu(BH)_{MHB}$	δ(BBH)	v(BS)
Cs ₂ [2-B ₁₀ H ₉ SH]	2451	_	1011	956
$((C_4H_9)_4N)_2[2-B_{10}H_9SH]$	2441	—	1015	960
$((C_4H_9)_4N)[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]$	2475	—	1002	927
$[Ag_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)] \cdot nsolv (I)$	_	2320	941	873, 828, 790
$[Ag(2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2)] \cdot nsolv (II)$	2505	2372	1005	925
$[(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ (III)	2492	2349	1012	935
$[(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]NO_3 (IV)$	2536, 2504	2356	1012	935
$[Ag(PPh_3)_4]\{[Ag(PPh_3)_3]_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)\}(NO_3) \cdot nCH_3CN (V)$	2464	2329	998	971, 944, 917
$[Pb(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ (VI)	2458	—	946	866, 825, 795
$[Pb(H_2O)_6][2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]_2 (VII)$	2470	—	1008	932
$[Pb(bipy)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ (VIII)	2474	—	1011	935
$[Pb(bipy)_2][2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]_2 (IX)$	2468	—	1006	942

Table 1. Maxima of selected absorption bands in the IR spectra of compounds $I-IX(v, cm^{-1})$

For V: $v(NO)_{NO_3} = 1308$; $v(Ph_3P) = 1600-700$; $\pi(CH) = 744$, 694; $v(C \equiv N) = 2249 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; for III, IV, and V: $v_{cvcle} = 1700-700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

indicates the coordination of the substituted derivative $[2-B_{10}H_9SH]^{2-}$ through BH groups of the polyhedron to form three-center two-electron (3c2e) metal–H–B (MHB) bonds. The spectrum of this complex also shows changes in the range of B–S bond vibrations: instead of one moderate v(BS) band at 954 cm⁻¹, the spectrum displays a broadened and very weak band with maxima at 972, 945, and 915 cm⁻¹, which can reflect the participation of the thio group of the sulfa-nyl-substituted derivative in contacts with metal atoms. The presence of the broadened strong v(NO) band at about 1350 cm⁻¹ corresponds to the presence of the NO₃ group in the complex. The spectrum also shows a full set of vibrations of coordinated triphenyl-phosphine molecules in the range 1500–700 cm⁻¹.

The IR spectra of complexes III, VII, VIII, and IX show, in addition to v(BH) and $v(BH)_{MHB}$ stretching vibration bands (III and VII), a full set of absorption bands of coordinated 2,2'-bipyridine molecules in the range 1600–700 cm⁻¹.

It should be noted that the high solubility of the initial alkylammonium salts of sulfanyl-substituted $[B_{10}H_{10}]^{2-}$ derivatives is inherent in the synthesized Ag(I) and Pb(II) complexes with the corresponding substituted derivatives.

Thus, the synthesized Ag(I) and Pb(II) complexes with sulfanyl derivatives of the *closo*-decaborate anions— $[2-B_{10}H_9SH]^{2-}$ and $[2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]^{-}$ -and competitive soft bases are the first examples of watersoluble complexes with cluster boron anions and their substituted derivatives. The high solubility of the $[Ag(2-B_{10}H_9R)]_n$ (n = 1, 2), Pb[2-B₁₀H₉SH], and

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 $[Pb(solv)_6][2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]_2$ complexes, comparable with the solubility of alkali metal and alkylammonium salts with the corresponding anions, makes them good candidates for using in BNCT. The solubility of the synthesized mixed-ligand complexes is different and is likely caused by the diversity of their In particular, in the binuclear structures. $[(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ and $[(Ag(bipy)_2)_2(2 B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]NO_3$ complexes, the substituted derivatives act as bridging ligands; in the [Pb(2- $B_{10}H_9SH$ and $[Pb(bipy)_2(2-B_{10}H_9SH)]$ complexes, the $[2-B_{10}H_9SH]^{2-}$ anion is involved in the formation of the Pb(II) coordination polyhedron (the coordination occurs only through the SH group of the substituted derivative); in $[Pb(bipy)_2][2-B_{10}H_9S(CH_2C(O)NH_2)_2]_2$, the sulfanyl-substituted derivative acts as a counterion.

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