

Supporting Information

Observation of helical water chains reversibly inlaid in magnesium imidazole-4,5-dicarboxylate

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Materials and general methods

All the solvents and reagents for synthesis were commercially available and used as received. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker IFS 66v/S apparatus. The dry sample powder is mixed with KBr and treated directly in the purpose-made IR cell. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer 2400 Series II analyzer. PXRD study was executed on a Rigaku X-ray diffractometer at 40 kV, 100 mA for Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.5406 \text{ \AA}$). Emission spectrum was taken on a Perkin Elmer LS50B luminescence spectrophotometer.

Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement summary

[Mg(imdc)(H₂O)₂](H₂O)_{1.5} (1)

Chemical formula	C ₅ H ₉ N ₂ O _{7.5} Mg
Fw	241.45
Space group	C2/c
<i>a</i> / Å	13.936(3)
<i>b</i> / Å	11.642(2)
<i>c</i> / Å	12.090(2)
β / °	108.27(3)
<i>V</i> / Å ³	1862.4(6)
<i>D_c</i> / g cm ⁻³	1.722
<i>Z</i>	8
μ (Mo-K α) / mm ⁻¹	0.220
<i>F</i> (000)	1000
Data / restraints / parameters	1676/0/141
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	1.064
<i>R</i> ^a / <i>wR</i> ^b	0.0291/0.0861

$$^a R = \sum(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \sum |F_o| \quad ^b wR = [\sum(|F_o|^2 - |F_c|^2)^2 / \sum(F_o^2)]^{1/2}$$

Table S2 Selected bond parameters (Å, °) for complex **1**

Mg(1)-O(2)	2.0139(12)	Mg(1)-O(3)	2.0188(12)
Mg(1)-O(2W)	2.0713(15)	Mg(1)-O(4)#1	2.1137(12)
Mg(1)-O(1W)	2.1492(14)	Mg(1)-N(2)#1	2.1500(13)
O(2)-Mg(1)-O(3)	95.16(5)	O(2)-Mg(1)-O(2W)	94.88(6)
O(3)-Mg(1)-O(2W)	90.37(5)	O(2)-Mg(1)-O(4)#1	93.14(5)
O(3)-Mg(1)-O(4)#1	170.23(5)	O(2W)-Mg(1)-O(4)#1	94.06(5)
O(2)-Mg(1)-O(1W)	84.11(5)	O(3)-Mg(1)-O(1W)	89.64(5)
O(2W)-Mg(1)-O(1W)	178.98(6)	O(4)#1-Mg(1)-O(1W)	86.10(5)
O(2)-Mg(1)-N(2)#1	166.95(5)	O(3)-Mg(1)-N(2)#1	95.15(5)
O(2W)-Mg(1)-N(2)#1	93.04(6)	O(4)#1-Mg(1)-N(2)#1	75.94(5)
O(1W)-Mg(1)-N(2)#1	87.98(5)		

Symmetry codes: #1: $-x + 0.5, y + 0.5, -z + 0.5$; #2: $-x + 0.5, y - 0.5, -z + 0.5$.

Table S3 Hydrogen-bonding geometry (Å, °) for **1**

<i>D-H...A</i>	<i>H...A</i>	<i>D...A</i>	<i>D-H...A</i>
N1-H1A...O1#1	1.917	2.788	163
O1W-H1WA...O1#2	1.976	2.788	171
O1W-H1WB...O3W	2.017	2.833	174
O2W-H2WA...O3W#3	2.052	2.861	173
O2W-H2WB...O1#4	2.173	2.966	160
O2W-H2WB...O2#4	2.351	3.046	142
O3W-H3WA...O4#5	2.181	2.900	146
O3W-H3WA...O3#5	2.646	3.289	136
O3W-H3WB...O4W#6	2.034	2.822	158
O4W-H4WA...O1W#2	2.137	2.876	150

Symmetry codes: #1: $-x + 1, -y + 1, -z$; #2: $-x + 1, y, -z + 0.5$; #3: $-x + 0.5, y - 0.5, -z + 0.5$; #4: $-x +$

$0.5, -y + 1.5, -z$; #5: $-x + 0.5, -y + 1.5, -z$; #6: $-x + 1, -y + 2, -z + 1$.