Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for Dalton Trans.

{VM09O31[RC(CH2O)3]}⁶⁻: the first class of triol ligand covalently-

decorated Keggin-type polyoxomolybdates

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Materials

All chemicals were purchased from Aladdin and were used without further purification. The water used in the experiment is high purity water.

Measurement

FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Vertex 80v spectrometer equipped with a DTGS detector (32 scans) with the resolution of 4 cm⁻¹ using KBr pellets. Elemental analysis for C, H, and N was carried out on a Vario MICRO cube of Elementar Company. Elemental analysis for V and Mo was taken on a PLASMA-SPEC (I) inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometer. Thermo gravimetric analysis (TGA) was carried out on a TA Instruments Q500 Thermal Analyzer with flow of nitrogen, and the temperature was set from 30 to 900 °C under a heating rate of 10 °C·min⁻¹. ¹H NMR and ⁵¹V spectra were conducted on a Bruker AVANCE 500 MHz spectrometer. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction indexing and data collection were performed on Bruker D8 Venture diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo K_a (λ = 0.71073 Å) at 293 K. All complexes were solved by direct method and refined by full-matrix-least-squares fitting on F² using the SHELXTL software. All non-H atoms, except some lattice water molecules, were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters.

Synthesis

Synthesis of $(NH_4)_{6} \{VM_{0}O_{31} [CH_3C(CH_2O)_3]\}$ 9H₂O (1). A mixture of $V_2O_5(0.36 \text{ g}, 2.00 \text{ mmol})$, (NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O (2.47 g, 2.00 mmol) and CH₃C(CH₂OH)₃ (0.96 g, 0.80 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of water and the mixture was heated to 80 °C for 2 h under stirring. The formed yellow solution was cooled to room temperature and the crystals in light yellow color formed about after 1 day with the yield of 56.8% based on Mo. The pH values before and after reaction were 5.67 and 5.45, respectively. Elem. anal. Calcd. for (NH₄)₆{VMo₉O₃₁[CH₃C(CH₂O)₃]}·9H₂O: V, 2.83; Mo, 48.01; C, 3.34; H, 2.84; N, 4.67. Found: V, 2.96; Mo, 48.05; C, 3.45; H, 2.90; N, 4.64. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3573, 3161, 3033, 2866, 2814, 1612, 1402, 1216, 1043, 960, 924, 838, 642, 518, and 478. Synthesis of (NH₄)₆{VM₀₉O₃₁[CH₃CH₂C(CH₂O)₃]·9H₂O (2). A mixture of V₂O₅ (0.36 g, 2.00 mmol), (NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O (2.47 g, 2.00 mmol) and CH₃CH₂C(CH₂OH)₃ (1.07 g, 0.80 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL of water and the mixture solution was heated to 80 °C for 2 h. The resulted yellow solution was cooled to room temperature and the light-yellow crystals can be obtained about after 1 day with the yield of 57.8% based on Mo. The pH values before and after reaction were 5.43 and 5.39, respectively. Elem. anal. Calcd. for (NH₄)₆ {VMo₉O₃₁[CH₃C(CH₂O)₃]} 9H₂O: V, 2.83; Mo, 47.68; C, 3.97; H, 2.93; N, 4.64. Found: V, 2.79; Mo, 47.64; C, 4.03; H, 2.93; N, 4.63. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3556, 3130, 3026, 2876, 2824, 1612, 1400, 1205, 1043, 960, 924, 848, 640, 507, and 478. Synthesis of (NH₄)₆{VM0₉O₃₁[HOCH₂C(CH₂O)₃]}·9H₂O (3). A mixture of V₂O₅ (0.36 g, 2.00 mmol), (NH₄)₆Mo₇O₂₄·4H₂O (2.47 g,2.00 mmol) and HOCH₂C(CH₂OH)₃ (1.09 g, 0.80 mmol) in 20 mL of water was heated to 80 °C for 2 h. The yellow solution was cooled to room temperature and was kept for about 1 day to obtain light-yellow crystals with the yield of 55.0% based on Mo. The pH values before and after reaction were 5.76 and 5.38, respectively. Elem. anal. Calcd. for (NH₄)₆{VMo₉O₃₁[CH₃C(CH₂O)₃]}·9H₂O: V, 2.81; Mo, 47.63; C, 3.31; H, 2.81; N, 4.63. Found: V, 2.78; Mo, 47.32; C, 3.68; H, 2.85; N, 4.63. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3514, 3137, 3024, 2876, 2802, 1614, 1398, 1240, 1020, 960, 648, 516, and 476.

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data for compounds 1-3

	1	2	3
Formula	(NH4)6{VM09O31[CH	(NH4)6{VM09O31[CH3	(NH ₄) ₆ {VMo ₉ O ₃₁ [HOC
	₃ C(CH ₂ O) ₃]}·9H ₂ O	$CH_2C(CH_2O)_3]$ \cdot 9H ₂ O	$H_2C(CH_2O)_3]$ ·9 H_2O
F. W.	1797.92	1811.94	1813.92
S. G.	$Cmc2_1$	<i>P</i> -1	$Cmc2_1$
a (Å)	13.858(5)	10.497(1)	13.876(1)
b (Å)	15.952(4)	10.558(1)	16.020(1)
c (Å)	20.649(5)	21.911(1)	20.658(1)
α (deg)	90	95.23(1)	90
β (deg)	90	102.32(1)	90
γ (deg)	90	97.400(1)	90
V (Å ³)	4565(2)	2335(1)	4593(1)
Ζ	4	2	4
$D_c (g \text{ cm}^{-3})$	2.616	2.577	2.686
<i>F</i> (000)	3472	1752	3504
Reflections	28379/5411	73589/10651	23232/5282
coll./unique			
R _{int}	0.0234	0.0265	0.0328
GOF on F^2	1.141	1.116	1.075
$R_1^a [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0168	0.0322	0.0260
wR_2^b (all data)	0.0488	0.0830	0.0677

Table S1 The summary of crystal data and structure refinements for compounds 1–3.

^{*a*} $R_1 = \Sigma ||F_0| - |F_c|| / \Sigma |F_0|$. ^{*b*} $wR_2 = \Sigma [w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma [w(F_0^2)^2]^{1/2}$.

Size comparison of the same part in different structures



Fig. S1 Ball-and-stick representations of left: Keggin-type $[VMo_{12}O_{40}]^{3-}$, middle: Dawson-type $[V_2Mo_{18}O_{62}]^{6-}$ and right: polyanion **1a** { $VMo_9O_{31}[CH_3C(CH_2O)_3]$ }³⁻, showing the influence of triol ligand on the size of the cluster.

IR and TGA data for compounds 1-3



Fig. S2 IR spectra of compounds 1-3 with the formulas of $(NH_4)_6\{VMo_9O_{31}[CH_3C(CH_2O)_3]\}\cdot 9H_2O$ (1), $(NH_4)_6\{VMo_9O_{31}[CH_3CH_2C(CH_2O)_3]\}\cdot 9H_2O$ (2) and $(NH_4)_6\{VMo_9O_{31}[HOCH_2C(CH_2O)_3]\}\cdot 9H_2O$ (3) in KBr.

1 (cm ⁻¹)	$2 (cm^{-1})$	$3 (cm^{-1})$	Assignments
3573, 3161, 3033	3556, 3130, 3026	3514, 3137,3024	O–H and N–H str.
2866, 2814	2876, 2824	2876, 2802	C–H str.
1612	1612	1614	O–H bending
1402	1400	1398	C–H bending
1216, 1043	1205, 1043	1240,1020	C–O
960	960	960	Mo=O
924, 838	924, 848	925, 842	Mo-O-Mo
642, 518, 478	640, 507, 478	648, 516, 476	V–O

Table S2 The summary for detailed assignments of IR spectra of 1–3.



Fig. S3 TGA curve of compound 1 with formula of (NH₄)₆{VMo₉O₃₁[CH₃C(CH₂O)₃]}·9H₂O.



Fig. S4 TGA curve of compound 2 with formula of $(NH_4)_6 \{VMo_9O_{31}[CH_3CH_2C(CH_2O)_3]\} \cdot 9H_2O$.



Fig. S5 TGA curve of compound 3 with formula of $(NH_4)_6 \{VMo_9O_{31}[HOCH_2C(CH_2O)_3]\} \cdot 9H_2O$.

Symmetry of polyanion 1a



Fig. S6 The wireframe drawing of polyanion 1a showing the C_{3v} symmetry with one 3-fold axis and three mirrors through the rotation axis.

Transformation between A- and B-type polyanion



Fig. S7 Combined polyhedral and ball-and-stick representation of polyanion 1a, showing the different existing state in solution and solid state.

¹H NMR data for compounds 2 and 3



Fig. S8 ¹H MNR spectra of compound **3** in D₂O at various time: (a) 0 h, (b) 2 h, (c) 10 h, (d) 1 d, (e) 3 d, (f) 5 d and (g) trimethylolpropane (TMP). The temperature of the measurement is 25 °C. The different positions of the O atom in A- and B-type structures are marked with black circles.



Fig. S9 ¹H MNR spectra of compound **3** in D₂O at various time: (a) 0 h, (b) 2 h, (c) 10 h, (d) 1 d, (e) 3 d, (f) 5 d and (g) pentaerythrotol (PET). The temperature of the measurement is 25 °C. The different positions of the O atom in A- and B-type structures are marked with black circles.

⁵¹V NMR data for compounds 1-3



Fig. S10 ⁵¹V MNR spectra of compounds 1-3 in D₂O at 25 °C.

Calculation for *E*_a.

The E_a of proton conduction was calculated from the following equation:

$$\ln(\sigma T) = \ln A - \frac{E_a}{k} \frac{1}{T}$$

where σ is the conductivity with the unit of S/cm, T is the temperature in Kelvin, k is the Boltzmann constant. After plotting $\ln(\sigma T)$ as a function of inverse temperature, the slope of the fitted line would

be $-\frac{E_a}{k}$.

The distances of lattice water molecules in compound 1.



Fig. S11 Left: the packing drawing of compound **1** along c axis; right: the amplification of the rectangle area in the left figure. The red stars represent the O atoms of water molecules. The dashed lines in green color represent distance between the neighboring water molecules and their values are (1) 10.783 Å, (2) 12.971 Å, (3) 10.379 Å, (4) 7.758 Å, (5) 9.982 Å, (6) 7.355 Å, (7) 7.355 Å, and (8) 10.447 Å, respectively.