

*Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for the paper*

**Self-assembly and decay of Mn(II) pivalate-phosphonate complexes**

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**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement statistics for manganese(II) compounds.

Parameter	<b>1</b>	<b>2·2C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>16</sub>·2MeOH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3a</b>
CSD number	951019	951020	975925	982652
Empirical formula	C <sub>96</sub> H <sub>188</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> Mn <sub>10</sub> O <sub>44</sub> P <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>164</sub> H <sub>354</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> Mn <sub>20</sub> O <sub>88</sub> P <sub>12</sub>	C <sub>76</sub> H <sub>156</sub> Mn <sub>4</sub> O <sub>36</sub> P <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>76</sub> H <sub>156</sub> Mn <sub>4</sub> O <sub>36</sub> P <sub>4</sub>
Molecular mass	2861.53	5275.79	1989.64	1989.64
T/K	150(2)	173(2)	184(2)	120(2)
Space group	Tetragonal, <i>I</i> -42 <i>m</i>	Triclinic, <i>P</i> -1	Monoclinic, <i>C</i> 2/ <i>c</i>	Trigonal, <i>P</i> -3
Z	2	1	4	2
<i>a</i> /Å	22.4667(10)	20.016(1)	27.413(17)	16.2519(15)
<i>b</i> /Å	22.4667(10)	20.421(1)	17.073(11)	16.2519(15)
<i>c</i> /Å	14.6274(7)	20.656(1)	26.290(16)	25.431(5)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90.00	86.268(7)	90.00	90
$\beta/^\circ$	90.00	68.581(7)	108.213(10)	90
$\gamma/^\circ$	90.00	62.388(7)	90.00	120
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	7383.2(7)	6909.1(6)	11688(13)	5817.0(15)
<i>d</i> <sub>calc</sub> /g·cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.287	1.268	1.131	1.160
$\mu$ /mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.008	1.037	0.543	0.548
$\theta/^\circ$ scanning range	1.28–31.18	2.14–28.70	1.43–26.02	0.80–27.48
Reflections measured	47010	73931	41298	47336
Independent reflections	6132	35351	11482	8921
Reflections with $I > 2\sigma_I$	5609	21024	4132	3948
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0441	0.0412	0.1125	0.1169
Number of refined parameters	199	1434	1012	687
<i>T</i> <sub>min</sub> / <i>T</i> <sub>max</sub>	0.707/0.924	0.713/0.886	0.909/0.958	0.875/0.942
<i>GooF</i>	1.086	1.011	1.401	1.321
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> ( $I > 2\sigma_I$ )	0.0264	0.0619	0.1148	0.0842
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> ( $I > 2\sigma_I$ )	0.0712	0.1631	0.2744	0.2364
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> (all data)	0.0350	0.1210	0.2036	0.1827
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> (all data)	0.0851	0.2075	0.2985	0.2927
Flack parameter	0.005(5)			

**Table S2.** Selected bond lengths [Å], bond angles [deg] and H-bonds parameters in manganese compounds.

Parameter	<b>1*</b>	<b>2·2C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>16</sub>·2MeOH**</b>	<b>3***</b>	<b>3a****</b>
Mn–O(μ-OH)	–	2.210(3), 2.135(3)	–	
Mn–Cl(μ-Cl)	2.4721(6)	2.5301(12), 2.5404(12)	–	
Mn–O(μ-Piv)	2.133(3)–2.224(2)	2.055(3)–2.281(3)	–	
Mn–O(O <sub>3</sub> PBu <sup>t</sup> )	2.110(2)–2.292(2)	2.047(3)–2.500(3)	2.109(11)– 2.169(9)	2.077(10)– 2.165(5)
Mn–O(HPiv)	2.292(2)	2.208(5)–2.327(7)	2.272(12)– 2.356(13)	2.221(7)– 2.386(15)
Mn–O(H <sub>2</sub> O)	–	2.094(3)–2.375(2)	–	
P–O	1.534(2)–1.539(2)	1.506(3)–1.551(3)	1.472(11)– 1.550(11)	1.404(11)– 1.620(11)
O–P–O	104.28(12)– 112.74(8)	103.5(2)–114.6(2)	108.3(6)– 113.6(7)	105.0(6)– 116.5(7)
C–O(Piv)	1.240(4)–1.286(4)	1.239(6)–1.278(5)	–	
C–O(HPiv)	1.213(4), 1.319(5)	1.209(6)–1.323(8)	1.153(9)– 1.261(9)	1.162(7)– 1.285(8)
O–C–O	122.6(3)–123.9(3)	122.8(4)–126.6(4)	125.0(11)– 133.7(12)	122.5(13)– 128.8(12)
H-bonds				
O...O	2.603	2.552–2.613	2.505–2.621	2.536–2.591
H...O	1.78	1.72–1.78	1.67–1.80	1.72–1.75
O–H–O	166.0	170.2–173.0	167.0–173.8	163.0–174.6

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

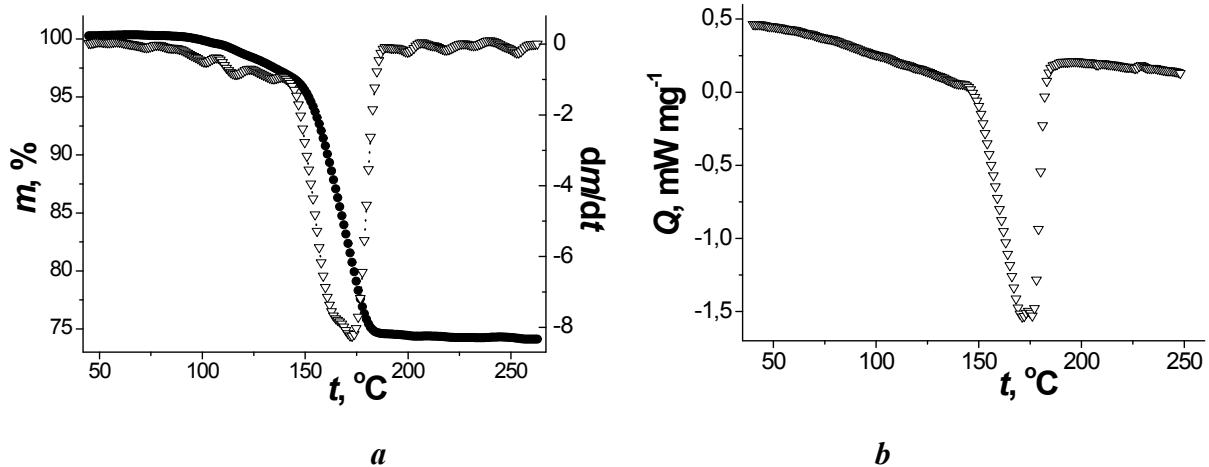
\*\* Symmetry code: (i)  $-x+2, -y+1, -z+1$ .

\*\*\* Symmetry code: (i)  $-x, y, -z+1/2$ ;

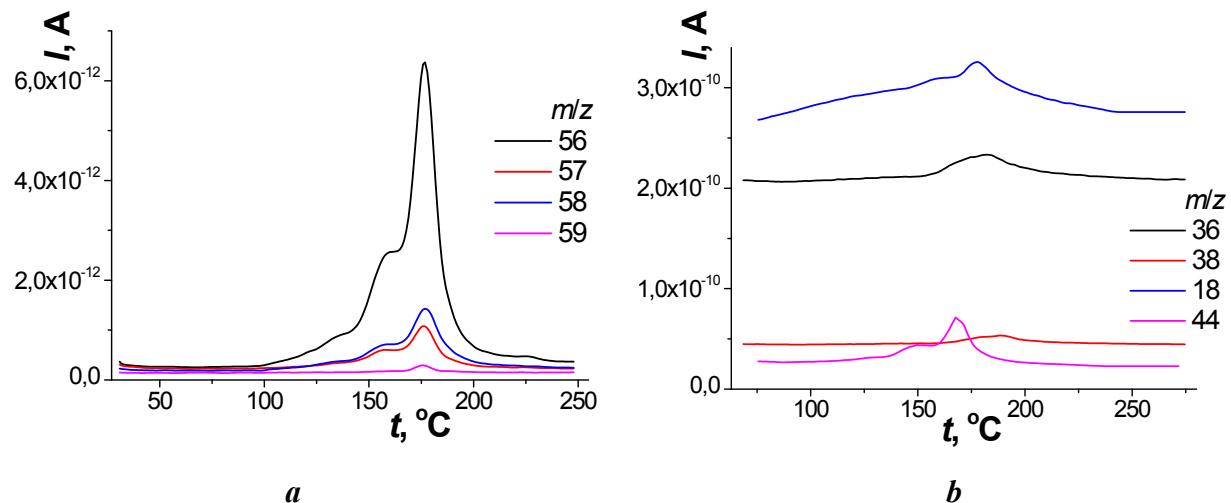
\*\*\*\* Symmetry code: (i)  $-y+1, x-y, z$ ; (ii)  $-x+y+1, -x+1, z$

**Table S3.** Mass spectrum of **1·2H<sub>2</sub>O** under TGA experiment conditions.

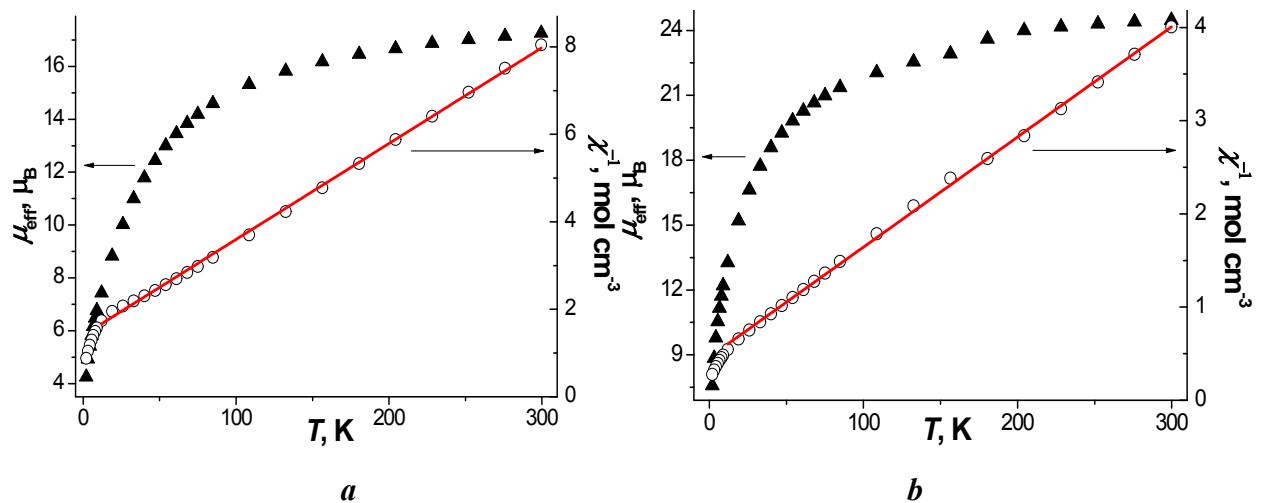
<i>m/z</i>	Ion	<i>I</i> /%	<i>m/z</i>	Ion	<i>I</i> /%
12	[C] <sup>+</sup>	3.9	39	[C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	37.4
15	[CH <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	0.4	41	[C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> , [C <sub>2</sub> HO] <sup>+</sup>	11.3
17	[OH] <sup>+</sup>	15.8	43	[C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	3.3
18	[H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>+</sup>	59.1	44	[CO <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> , [C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>8</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	33.5
27	[C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	5.9	45	[COOH] <sup>+</sup> , [C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O] <sup>+</sup> [ <sup>13</sup> CO <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	0.7
28	[C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> , [CO] <sup>+</sup>	28.6	56	[C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	3.1
29	[C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	8.4	57	[CCOOH] <sup>+</sup> [C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	0.5
31	[C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>7</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	0.4	58	[HCCOOH] <sup>+</sup>	2.7
35	[ <sup>35</sup> Cl] <sup>+</sup>	0.2	59	[H <sub>2</sub> CCOOH] <sup>+</sup>	3.2
36	[H <sup>35</sup> Cl] <sup>+</sup>	100	87	[C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> COOH] <sup>+</sup>	0.5
38	[H <sup>37</sup> Cl] <sup>+</sup>	22.2	-	-	-



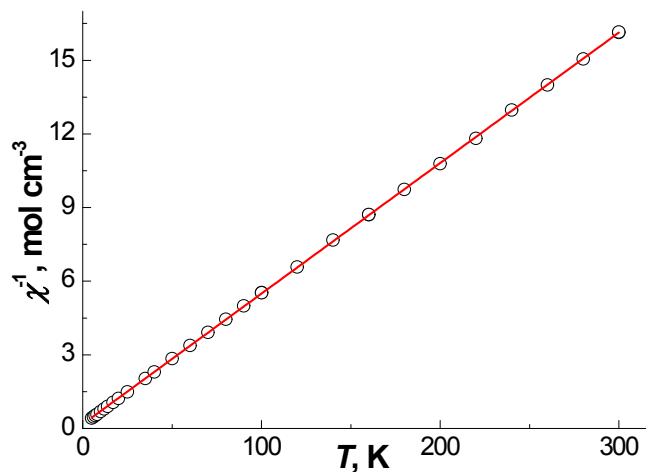
**Fig. S1.** Plots of mass change, first derivative of mass (a), and thermal flux *versus* temperature (b) for **1**.



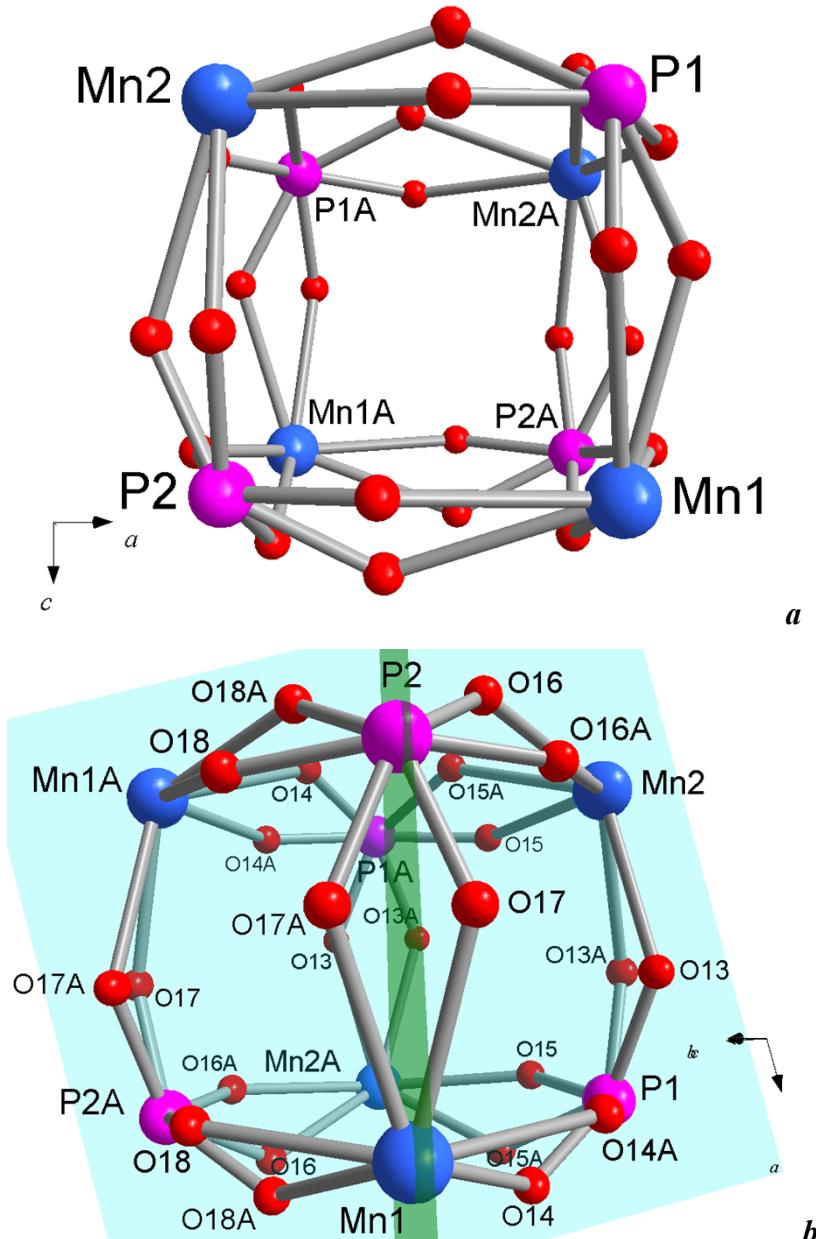
**Fig. S2.** Fragments of the mass spectrum (a and b) of **1** under the conditions of the TGA experiment.



**Fig. S3.** Magnetic properties of **1** (a) and **2** (b):  $\mu_{\text{eff}}(T)$  ( $\square$ ) and  $1/\chi(T)$  ( $\circ$ ) plots; calculated data (see main text) are shown as lines.



**Fig. S4.**  $1/\chi(T)$  ( $\circ$ ) plot and calculated data (line, see main text) for **3**· $8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .



**Fig. S5.** Disorder of the  $O_3P$  fragments in the structure 3 (Piv anions and  $^t\text{Bu}$ -groups at P atoms are omitted). *b* - Two groups of O atoms (without index and with index “A”) correspond to different isomers. Blue and green planes correspond two “non-crystallography” *m*-planes passing through Mn1, Mn2A, P1A, P2 and Mn1A, Mn2, P1, P2A atoms.