



Article

Manganese Fluorene Phosphonates: Formation of Isolated Chains

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Abstract: 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl-2-phosphonic acid **1** was reacted with manganese nitrate tetrahydrate to produce under hydrothermal conditions the crystalline manganese phosphonate $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2\cdot 2H_2O$ which crystallize in the $P2_1/c$ space group. This compound is a rare example of Mn-phosphonate material featuring isolated chains. The interactions between these chains containing the 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl moieties, result from Van der Waals interactions involving the fluorene ligands and $C\cdots H-C$ hydrogen bonds as revealed by Hirshfeld Surfaces. This material features antiferromagnetic exchange interactions as revealed by the magnetic susceptibility as a function of the temperature.

Keywords: metal-phosphonate; fluorene; magnetism; hybrid material

1. Introduction

The chemistry of metal phosphonates [1], which was started more than forty years ago with the discovery of zirconium layered compounds [2,3], is nowadays an important basis for the realization of hybrid organic-inorganic materials. For this purpose, phosphonic acids constitute the common organic precursors for the preparation of hybrid materials that can be subdivided in three categories depending on the methods used for their preparation: via hydrothermal synthesis [4], via intercallation [5] and by surface modification of inorganic materials [6]. The versatility of the synthesis of phosphonic acid [7] offers a large panel of organic precursors and their structure can be adapted to produce hybrid materials with specific properties: luminescence [8,9], porosity [10], non-linear optics [11], catalysis [12–15], molecular recognition [16,17], ion exchanges properties [18], bactericidal action [19] via metal ions release [20] or magnetic properties [21]. The crystalline transition metal phosphonates offer large possibilities for the realization of new structures, by playing with the nature and the number of phosphonate functions, which generate the organic part of the hybrid. In this direction we focused our research on the use of organic precursors featuring a phosphonic acid directly connected to an aromatic [22,23] or heteroaromatic [24] ring thus producing rigid phosphonic acids. This rigidity associated with the presence of additional functionalities (e.g., carboxylic acid) influenced the structure of the final hybrid materials [25]. More recently, we and others [26-28] explored fluorene as a new rigid aromatic backbone for the synthesis of hybrid

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structures via hydrothermal synthesis [29,30] or by intercalation in layered inorganic materials [5]. In the series of manganese-phosphonate hybrids we noticed that only few structures that incorporate non-functionalized phosphonic acid were reported. The first Mn(II) series deals with the alkyl and phenyl monophosphates $Mn(O_3PC_nH_{2n+1})\cdot H_2O$ and $Mn(O_3PC_6H_5)\cdot H_2O$ synthesized by Mallouk et al. [31], which were shown by the authors to exhibit a layered structure built up of inorganic Mn(II) slabs stacked with organic layers. The Mn(II) ethylene diphosphonate Mn[HO₃P(CH₂)₂PO₃H] reported by Cheetham et al. [32] also exhibits a layered structure, whose inorganic slabs involving dimeric octahedral manganese units, which are interconnected through ethylene diphosphonate ligands. A third diphosphonate with a layered structure has been synthesized by Rueff et al. [24], using the thiophene diphosphonic acid for the construction of this hybrid. The structure of this Mn(II) thiophene diphosphonate Mn₂(O₃P-C₄H₂S-PO₃)·2H₂O consists of perovskite-like layers of MnO₆ octahedrons pillared through thiophene diphosphonate groups. The Mn(II) dimethylbenzene diphosphonate Mn(H₂O)₂(HPO₃C₈H₈PO₃H)·2H₂O recently synthesized by Tang et al. [33], is to our knowledge the only manganese phosphonate prepared from non-functional phosphonic acids that exhibits a chain structure involving chains of corner-shared MnO₆ octahedrons and PO₃C tetrahedrons interconnected through dimethylbenzene diphosphonate groups.

The above results suggest that the nature of the phosphonic or diphosphonic acid alone dictates the structure of the so synthesized phosphonates, especially the arrangement of the manganese polyhedra and their mode of connection either between them or with the PO_3C tetrahedral, either as layers or as chains for instance. Thus, we have investigated the possibility to synthesize new manganese phosphonate using 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl-2-phosphonic acid 1 as organic precursor, shown in Scheme 1.

Scheme 1. Chemical structure of the organic ligand 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl-2-phosphonic acid **1** used for the synthesis of manganese phosphonate $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$.

The present paper reports the synthesis, structure and magnetic characterization of the mono-phosphonate $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ showing a chain structure.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Structural Study

The manganese phosphonates $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ was obtained as monophasic polycrystalline samples, as shown from its powder X-ray pattern that was indexed with the cell parameters obtained from the single crystal studies, seen in Figure S1.

For this mono-phosphonate which crystallizes in the $P2_1/c$ space group (Table 1), the atomic coordinates (see Table S1) combined with the thermogravimetric analysis (Figure S2) and the bond valence sum calculations according to Altermat and Brown [34] (see Table S2) confirm that manganese is in a divalent state. It also clearly establish the presence of one hydrogen atom on the O2 and O5 oxygen of the phosphorus coordination sites and of two hydrogen atoms on the O7 and O8 oxygen of the manganese environment. Mn(II) exhibits a six-fold coordination forming $MnO_4(H_2O)_2$ octahedrons, whereas the phosphonate groups form $PO_2(OH)C$ tetrahedra. The Mn–O and P–O distances (Table S3) are observed in the range 2.144 to 2.233 Å and 1.502 to 1.587 Å, respectively; while a P–C distance close to 1.80 Å is obtained, in agreement with the values generally reported for other phosphonates.

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Table 1. Crystallographic data of Mn(H₂O)₂[O₂(OH)PC₁₅H₁₃]₂·2H₂O recorded at 150 K.

Formula	Mn(H ₂ O) ₂ [O ₂ (OH)PC ₁₅ H ₁₃] ₂ ·2H ₂ O	
FW	673.486406	
Space group	$P2_1/c$	
a (Å)	9.3882(4)	
b (Å)	37.3410(16)	
c (Å)	9.2398(4)	
α (°)	90.000	
β (°)	90.000	
γ (°)	90.000	
Z	4	
$V(Å^3)$	3239.15(24)	
d _{calc} (g/cm ³)	1.30498	
$\mu (\text{mm}^{-1})$	0.551	
radiation source λ (Å)	Μο Κα 0.71073	
Pattern range 2Θ ($^{\circ}$)	4.86-61.02	
no. of reflexions	42391	
no. of soft constraints	3	
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)]$	0.0452	
R_{int} (internal R -value)	0.0308	
S (Goodness of the fit)	1.051	

The projections of the structure of this hybrid along c in Figure 1a and b in Figure 1b show its one-dimensional character. Each Mn(II) octahedron shares four O apices with four different P tetrahedrons and has two free H₂O apices (Figure 1a,b) forming infinite chains, whereas each P tetrahedron has one free OH apex. The chains are displayed in the form of layers parallel to the (010) plane and exhibit a zigzag configuration along *a* in Figure 1b. The organic ligands form layers parallel to (010) in Figure 1a, but the orientation of the dimethyl fluorene ligands within these layers in Figure 1c is different from that generally observed in other layered or chain manganese-based phosphonates: they show a cross-like configuration characterized by an angle close to 90° (88.316°) between two successive ligands. However such type of orientation was reported in other metal-phosphonate materials [26,30]. The orientation of the fluorene moieties with respect to the inorganic chains is essentially governed by the presence of [Mn,P]O···H–C and P–O···H–C hydrogen bonds, illustrated in the grey dashed lines in Figure 1a, that take place between the fluorene groups and the chain. The latter exhibit O···H distances ranging from 2.559 to 2.836 Å and from 2.683 to 2.732 Å, respectively. The cohesion of the structure, i.e., the stability of the assemblage of the chains is ensured by two kinds of bonds: Van der Waals bonds between the fluorene ligands of two different chains, and C···H–C bonds between the fluorene of two different chains, shown by the light blue dashed lines in Figure 1a, with C···H distances ranging from 2.720 to 3.179 Å. Note that C···H–C bonds between two fluorene ligands of the same inorganic chain are also observed (plum dashed lines in Figure 1a), with C···H distances ranging from 2.819 to 3.193 Å. It is worth pointing out that all the hydrogen bonds which participate to the stability of the structure have not been described here, due to the fact that positions of the hydrogen atoms of the H₂O molecules (free water molecules and H₂O labeled O8 and O7 of the MnO₄(H₂O)₂ octahedron) could not be determined, as mentioned above.

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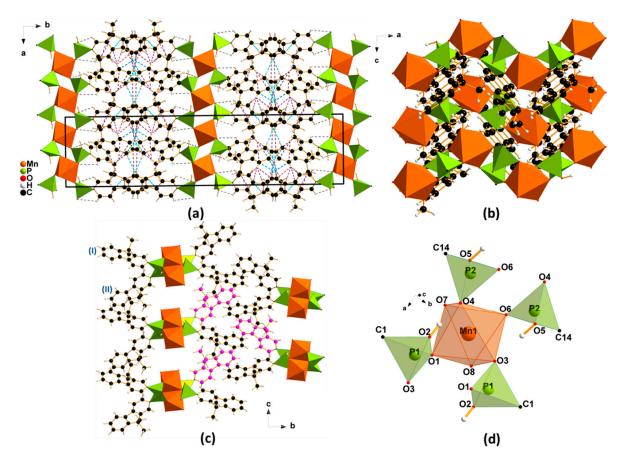


Figure 1. Structure of the monophosphate $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2\cdot 2H_2O$: (a) projection along c with the representation of intra-columnar and inter-columnar C–H···C bonds in plum and light blue dashed lines, respectively, the O···H–C bonds are represented by grey dashed lines. The black square represent the cell edge; (b) projection along b; (c) View along a showing the cross-like configuration of fluorene ligands around one inorganic chain. The notations (I) and (II) correspond to the different orientations of the organic part. The carbon atoms colored pink present weak π – π interactions with an angle of 32° between two conjugated rings of the orientation I. (d) Representation of the manganese environment within the chain structure.

2.2. Hirshfeld Surfaces, 2D-Fingerprint Plots and Crystal Voids Properties

In order to obtain a rapid visual and a brief summary of the intermolecular interactions that are at the origin of the molecular arrangement in those materials, Hirshfeld surfaces (HS) [35,36] and two-dimensional fingerprint plots [37] were generated using the CrystalExplorer program [38]. For the calculations, manganese atoms and water molecules were not taken in account. The HS envelope the dimethyl fluorene phosphonate moiety of the monophosphonate $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$. They were calculated in very high resolution using an isosurface of the weight function w(r) = 0.5, where w(r) corresponds to the sum of all spherical atom (A) electron densities from the molecule observed divided by the analogous sum for the whole molecules of the crystal (Equation (1)):

$$w(r) = \frac{\sum_{A \in molecule} \rho_A(r)}{\sum_{A \in crystal} \rho_A(r)}$$
(1)

From each point of the isosurface, two distances, d_i and d_e , are determined, which correspond to the distance from the closest atom inside the molecule to the surface or from the latter to the nearest atom of another molecule, respectively. Besides, to highlight areas corresponding to different intermolecular interactions, a normalized contact distance mode (d_{norm}) was mapped onto the HS, as seen in Figure 2.

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The latter combines d_i and d_e distances which are both normalized by the Van der Waals (VdW) radii of the two atoms implicated in the close contact to the surface, shown in Equation (2):

$$d_{norm} = \frac{d_i - r_i^{VdW}}{r_i^{VdW}} + \frac{d_e - r_e^{VdW}}{r_e^{VdW}}$$
(2)

All HS are shown as transparent in order to visualize the impact of the close contact between the observed moiety and its neighbor for different orientations. Red spots represent distances shorter than the sum of VdW radii and correspond to $O\cdots H$ bonds. Blue and white regions correspond to distances close to or longer than the sum of VdW radii, respectively. The principal areas of some intermolecular interactions are represented by different geometric and colored forms: light blue corresponds to the $H\cdots H$ bonds and yellow to $C\cdots H$ bonds.

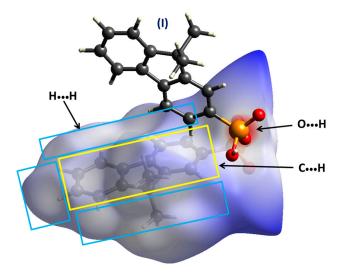


Figure 2. Hirshfeld surface represented on the dimethyl fluorene phosphonate $[C_{15}H_{13}-PO_2(OH)]$ part of Mn(H₂O)₂[O₂(OH)PC₁₅H₁₃]₂·2H₂O with d_{norm} property mapped onto the surface. For orientations (I) and (II), intermolecular interactions are present in the same principal areas. Color code: red–white–blue corresponding to distances shorter than, close to or longer than the sum of VdW radii, respectively. Pictures generated with CrystalExplorer software [38].

The shape index mapping S, shown in Equation (3), allows the observation of the principal curves (κ_1 , κ_2) on the surface shape of the dimethyl fluorene part, such as complementary bumps (blue spots) and hollows (red spots) which are observed when two molecular surfaces are in contact. The presence of the pattern formed by spread blue and red triangles in the same area reveals the existence of weak π - π interactions in the dimethyl fluorene moieties, as seen in Figure 3, as it was also reported in other metal phosphonate [39]. In this compound weak π - π interactions with an angle of 32° between two conjugated rings (pink colored, orientation I) are observed in Figure 1c. They correspond to C-H···C distances of 3.605 Å between two moieties.

$$S = \frac{2}{\pi} \arctan(\frac{\kappa_1 + \kappa_2}{\kappa_1 - \kappa_2}) \tag{3}$$

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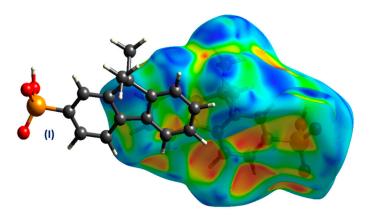


Figure 3. Hirshfeld surface represented on the dimethyl fluorene phosphonate part $[C_{15}H_{13}-PO_2(OH)]$ of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2\cdot 2H_2O$ with shape index property mapped onto the surface. The patterns of spread red and blue triangles characteristic of weak π - π interactions are observed on the HS surface. Pictures are generated with the CrystalExplorer software [38].

The two-dimensional fingerprint plots, obtained from d_i – d_e data point, corresponding to both orientations of the dimethyl fluorene phosphonate moieties are depicted on Figure 4 and are indexed in Table 2. Both orientations of the mono-phosphonate have very similar fingerprint plots which are dominated by H···H contacts ranging from 41.8% to 42.2%, by O···H contacts between phosphonate groups varying from 13.8% to 19.8% and finally, by C···H contacts ranging from 19.5% to 24.5%. To have more details on the area of small intermolecular interactions present within the $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ compound, fingerprint plots of each orientation are broken down into the different close contacts in supplementary materials, as seen in Figures S3 and S4.

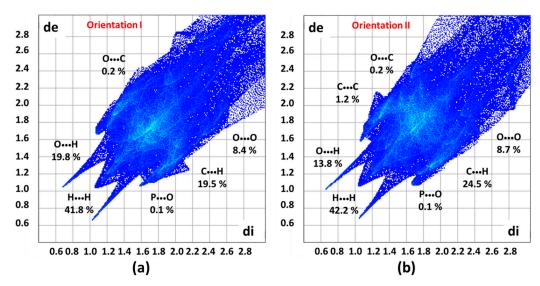


Figure 4. Two-dimensional fingerprint plots showing all intermolecular interactions with their overall percentage present in the different orientations of the organic part $[C_{15}H_{13}-PO_2(OH)]$ of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ (a and b). d_i-d_e data points represent the closest distance from the Hirshfeld surface to the nearest atom inside the molecule itself (d_i) or to the nearest atom of another molecule (d_e). Manganese atoms are not taken into account in the calculations. Pictures are generated with the CrystalExplorer software [38].

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Table 2. Contribution of the different intermolecular interactions in percentage present in a defined surface area on the different orientations of the $[C_{15}H_{13}-PO_2(OH)]$ part of the hybrid material $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$.

$Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$			
Contact types (%)	Orientation I	Orientation II	
PO	0.1	0.1	
OO	8.4	8.7	
O…C	0.2	0.2	
О…Н	19.8	13.8	
C···C	0	1.2	
С…Н	19.5	24.5	
$H \cdot \cdot \cdot H$	41.8	42.2	
Sum	89.8	90.7	

2.3. Magnetic Properties

The magnetic behavior of Mn(H₂O)₂[O₂(OH)PC₁₅H₁₃]₂·2H₂O is represented on Figure 5. The magnetic susceptibility χ increases continuously from 1.68 \times 10⁻² emu/mol at 275 K to 0.58 emu/mol at 2 K. The χT product decreases from 4.63 emu·K/mol at 275 K to 1.15 emu·K/mol at 2 K. The Curie constant, established from the high temperature fit (100–275 K) of the reverse of the susceptibility following the Curie-Weiss law is equal to 4.72 emu·K/mol, in accordance with the expected value for Mn(II) ion (4.37 emu·K/mol, considering g=2). The negative Weiss temperature, $\theta=-8.20$ K, suggest the presence of dominant antiferromagnetic exchange interactions. The $\chi=f(T)$ and $\chi T=f(T)$ curves of Mn(H₂O)₂[O₂(OH)PC₁₅H₁₃]₂·2H₂O were simultaneously fit with the Boner-Fisher model [40] and leads to the following values: g=2.05(2) and J=-0.41(1) cm⁻¹.

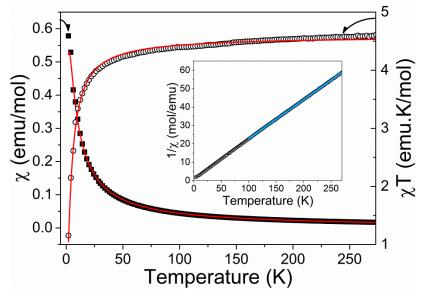


Figure 5. Variation of χ (black squares) and χT (open black circles) as function of the temperature of Mn(H₂O)₂[O₂(OH)PC₁₅H₁₃]₂·2H₂O under 1000 Oe. Inset: $1/\chi$ versus T. The red and blue full lines correspond to the best fit of the experimental data with the Bonner-Fisher law and the Curie-Weiss law, respectively.

3. Experimental Section

3.1. Materials and Methods

Reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources. 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl-2-phosphonic acid was synthesized following a reported method [5]. Hydrothermal synthesis was carried out in

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Teflon-lined stainless-steel autoclaves under autogenous pressure. Powder X-ray diffraction patterns were obtained using a Panalytical X'Pert Pro MPD diffractometer (PANalytical, Almelo, The Netherlands) with Cu Kα radiation. The Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) characterization was performed with a Carl ZEISS SUPRA 55 (Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH, Jena, Germany) on a raw sample with gold metallization. The energy dispersive X-ray spectrometry (EDS) analysis was performed with EDAX analyzer (AMETEK Materials Analysis Division, Mahwah, NJ, USA). The elemental analysis was carried out ThermoQuest NA2500 setup (THERMO FINNIGAN, Villebon sur Yvette, France). The thermogravimetric analysis was carried out under air atmosphere using a SETARAM TAG 92 apparatus (SETERAM Instrumentation, Caluire, France) at the heating rate of 3 °C per minute from room temperature to 1000 °C. The structural resolution was performed at 150 K by X-ray diffraction on single crystals using a Bruker-Nonius Kappa CCD area detector diffractometer with grafite-monochromatized Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). The crystal structure was solved by SHELXS-97 software (version 2017, George Sheldrick: Göttingen, Germany, 1997). The refinements were carried out with SHELXL-2014 (version 2017, George Sheldrick: Göttingen, Germany, 1997). Even if all cell angles are equal to 90°, the crystal structure can only be solved in the monoclinic system. There are several water molecules within the crystal, but due to important disorder, two free water molecules as well as hydrogen atoms from the water molecules (O7 and O8) of MnO₄(H₂O)₂ octahedron could not be placed with accuracy, thus they have been omitted using the Squeeze instruction. In order to confirm or to detect H positions corresponding to H₂O molecules or OH groups, bond valence sum calculations were performed by Valence software (version 2.00, I.D. Brown: Hamilton, ON, Canada, 1993). CCDC 1855208 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html).

3.2. Synthesis of the Mono-Phosphonate $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$

A 50 mL polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) liner was filled with an equimolar mixture composed of manganese nitrate tetrahydrate $Mn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ (0.046 g, 0.182 mmol), 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl-2-phosphonic acid $C_{15}H_{15}O_3P$ (0.050 g, 0.182 mmol), shown in Scheme 1, dissolved in 15 mL of distillated water. Then, the liner was inserted in a Berghof DAB-2 digestive vessel and heated from room temperature to 140 °C in 20 h, kept at this temperature for 30 h and finally allowed to cool to room temperature within 20 h. The final product $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$, obtained as light brown parallelepiped single crystals, was filtered on Büchner, washed with distilled water, rinsed with ethanol and finally dried in air. The chemical formula was confirmed by CHNS analysis for $MnH_{36}O_{10}P_2C_{30}$: found (%): C 53.52, H 5.42, calc. (%): C 53.50, H 5.38 and by energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy: $Mn_K = 32.87$, $P_K = 67.13$.

3.3. Thermogravimetric Analysis

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed on polycrystalline sample of Mn(H₂O)₂[O₂ (OH)PC₁₅H₁₃]₂·2H₂O under air atmosphere in order to study the water weight losses of these compounds as a function of the temperature. As shown on Figure S2, this material reveals a mass loss of 11.02% at 115.6 °C corresponding to the loss of four water molecules present within the structure (theoretical value: 10.70%).

3.4. Scanning Electron Microscopy

The homogeneous batches of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2\cdot 2H_2O$ have been identified as parallelepiped shape single crystals with an average length of 298.50 µm, width of 153.85 µm and an average thickness of 79.92 µm, as seen in Figure 6.

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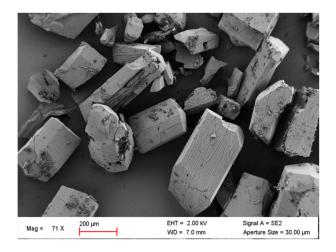


Figure 6. SEM image of showing the morphology of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$.

4. Conclusions

The synthesis of crystalline hybrid materials from monophosphonic acids and manganese salts has been rarely studied in the literature. In the present case we designed 9,9-dimethylfluorenyl-2-phosphonic acid which feature a flat backbone on which two methyl groups and the phosphonic acid function present atoms that are not belong to the aromatic plane. This singular molecular structure produces a rigid organic building unit that likely governs the structure of the final crystalline hybrid structure. The originality of the hybrid $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2\cdot 2H_2O$ comes from the presence of inorganic chains chains. These chains interact together via supramolecular interactions (van de Waals and $C\cdots H$ –C hydrogen bonds) and exhibit an antiferromagnetic behavior at low temperature. This study points out that the association of rigid backbone with phosphonic acid function produces an organic building block of interest that offers original crystalline hybrids.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/2304-6740/6/3/92/s1, Figure S1: X-ray diffraction data recorded on powder from $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$. Figure S2: Thermogravimetric analysis curves of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ recorded under air atmosphere from room temperature to $1000\,^{\circ}C$. Table S1: Atomic coordinates and thermal parameters of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$. Table S2: Bond valence sum of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$. Table S3: Interatomic distances of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$. Figure S3: Fingerprint plots of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ highlighting the different intermolecular interactions with their percentage of contribution on the orientation II of the organic sub-network. Figure S4: Fingerprint plots of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ highlighting the different intermolecular interactions with their percentage of contribution on the orientation II of the organic sub-network. Cif and Check cif files of $Mn(H_2O)_2[O_2(OH)PC_{15}H_{13}]_2 \cdot 2H_2O$.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, P.-A.J., J.-M.R., C.B. and B.R.; Validation, all the authors; Formal Analysis, J.-F.L., C.B., V.C., M.R., J.-M.R., P.-A.J.; Writing-Original Draft Preparation, B.R., C.B., P.-A.J.; Writing-Review & Editing, all authors equally contribute; Visualization, C.B.; Project Administration, G.R., P.-A.J., J.-M.R.; Funding Acquisition, G.R., P.-A.J., J.-M.R.

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