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3D silver-dabco coordination polymers with zeolitic or 3-connected topology

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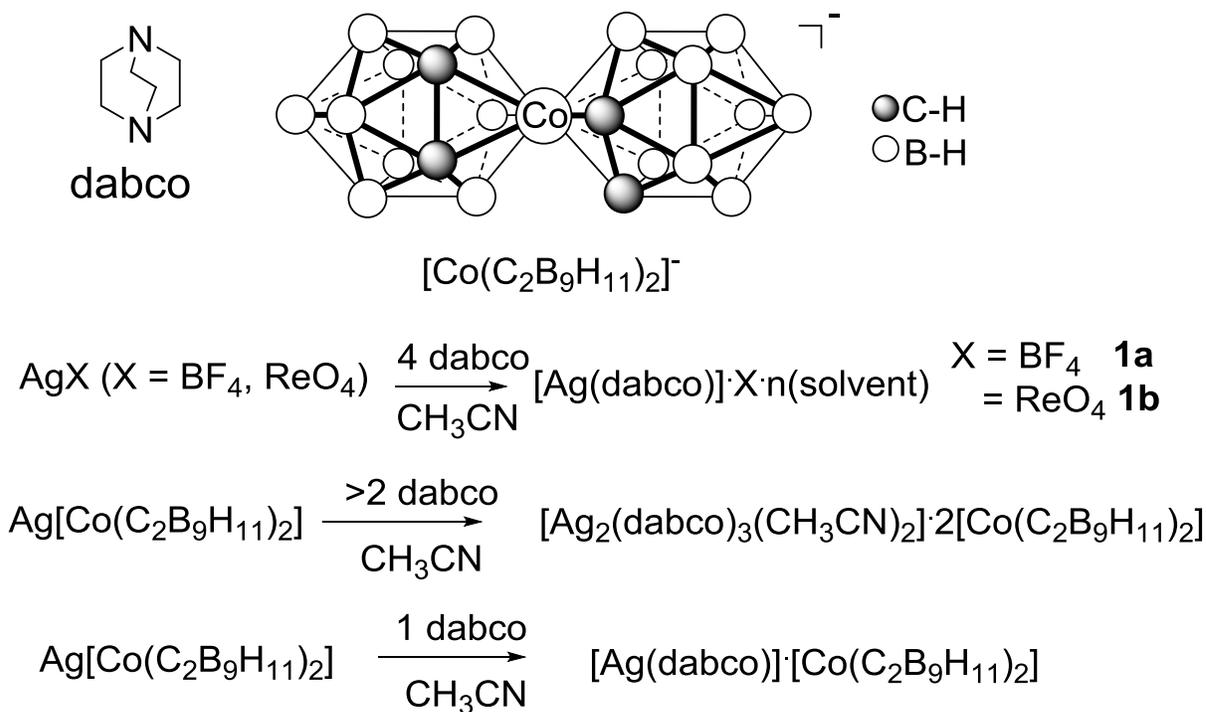
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ABSTRACT The simple linear linking ligand diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (dabco) combines with silver(I) to form 3D coordination polymers which have either a zeolitic **mtn** topology structure or a (10,3)-b **ths** network according to the counter-anion used. The tetrahedral anions BF_4^- or ReO_4^- promote formation of $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})_2] \cdot \text{X}$ which has a 3D four-connected **mtn** framework of fused 5^{12} and 6^{4512} cages, and the material shows modest absorption of iodine. The bulky anion $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]^-$ promotes and an excess of dabco promote formation of complex $[\text{Ag}_2(\text{dabco})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2] \cdot 2[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]$ with a three-connected (10,3)-b network, while use of one equivalent of dabco gives a previously reported $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})] \cdot [\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]$ which has a 1D coordination chain structure.

The study of crystalline polymeric metal-ligand assemblies, termed metal-organic frameworks or coordination polymers, has been an active area of research for several decades. Using bridging functionality and stereochemistry as design principles, complexes with regular 2-D and 3-D

19 network structures can be assembled, often with inherent porosity.¹ These have potential zeolitic
20 applications such as catalysis, separations and extractions, and gas storage.¹ 1,4-
21 Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (dabco) is one of the simplest linear bridging ligands that is used for
22 coordination polymers. While there are a number of examples of dabco-containing coordination
23 polymers, the majority of these also involve another type of bridging ligand or anion,² and it is
24 surprising that the chemistry of simpler M-dabco systems remains relatively unexplored.
25 Examples where dabco is the sole linking ligand are unusual and include 1D coordination
26 chains,^{3,4} a 2D hexagonal network of 6³ topology of [Ag(dabco)₃(H₂O)]·(3-
27 fluorobenzenecarboxylate),⁵ and a series of networks where dabco ligands bridge between M₂I₂
28 dimers or between Cu₄X₄ or higher ordered metal clusters where X = I or Cl.^{6,7} The latter feature
29 3D coordination polymer structures with an extraordinary range of topologies. Recently, a
30 luminescent [Cu₄I₄(dabco)₂] coordination polymer was reported with a zeolitic **mtn**⁷ type
31 structure, and very large pores.⁸ This is a spectacular and rare network topology in coordination
32 polymer chemistry. We report herein a much simpler route to the zeolitic **mtn** structure in
33 complex [Ag(dabco)₂]·X where X = BF₄⁻ or ReO₄⁻. The use of 3-8 molar equivalents of dabco
34 per Ag(I) salt exclusively gives the **mtn** framework in the case of both silver salts, however use
35 of fewer equivalents of dabco leads to the formation of needle-like crystals of the same
36 composition but with a 1-D coordination polymer whose crystal structure could not be properly
37 resolved. Mass spectrometry was performed in acetonitrile, but only a Ag(DABCO)₂⁺ fragment
38 could be identified as a building tecton, and this could give rise to either of the observed
39 networks. Therefore we believe that these polymers are purely a phenomenon of the solid-state
40 and their assembly cannot be monitored in solution. Use of the larger weakly coordinating
41 counter-anion cobalticborane, gave rise to both a [Ag(dabco)₂(CH₃CN)]⁺ coordination polymer

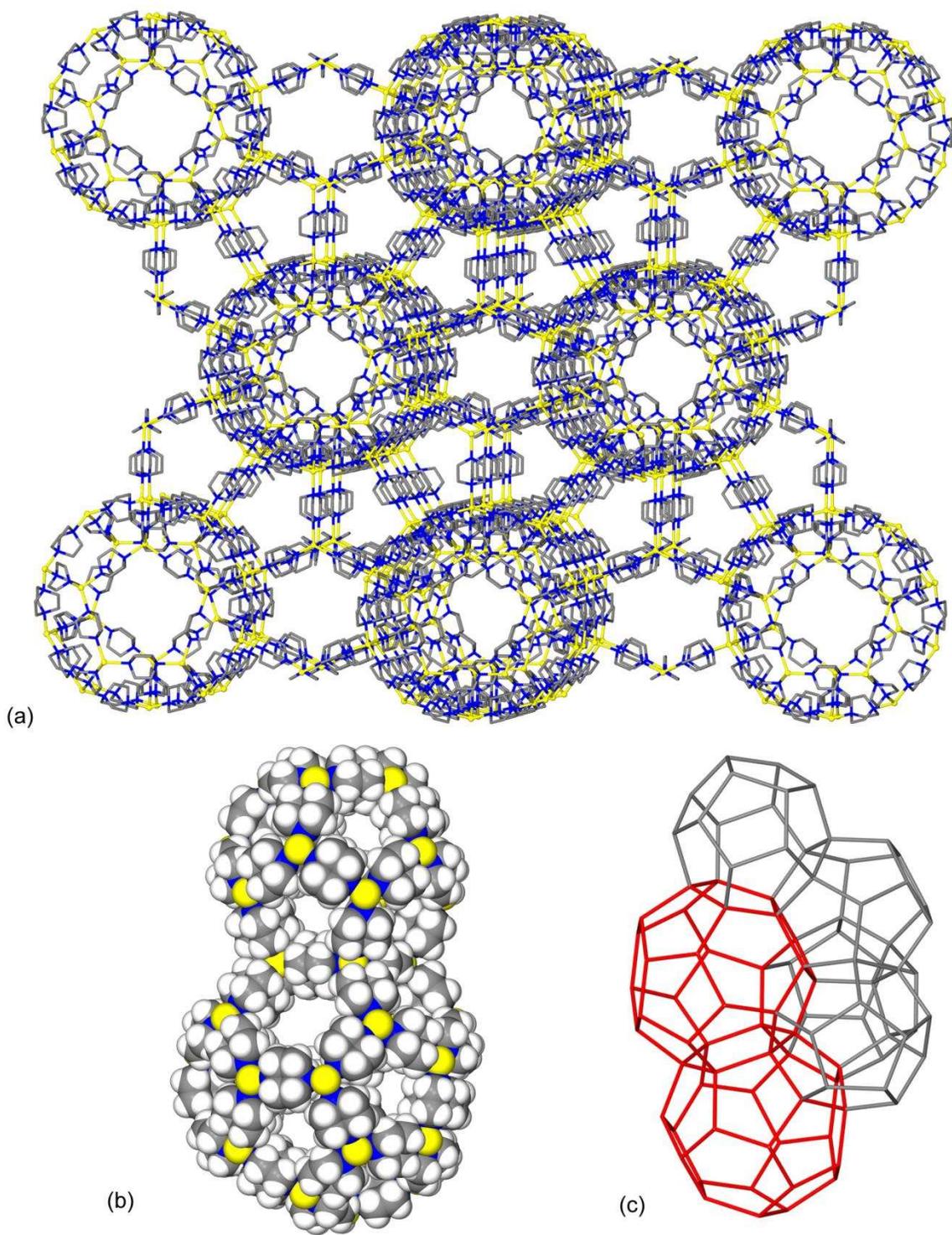
42 with a network of 10^3 **ths** topology, commonly referred to as the (10,3)-b net, or a previously
 43 reported 1D polymer⁴ with composition $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})]^+$, *Scheme 1*.



44
45

46 **Scheme 1.** Ag-dabco complexes reported here and previously.⁴

47 Colorless single crystals of $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})_2] \cdot \text{X} \cdot n(\text{solvent})$, $\text{X} = \text{BF}_4^-$ (**1a**) or ReO_4^- (**1b**) were grown
 48 by standing an acetonitrile solution of AgX and an excess of dabco. Crystals appear in as little as
 49 30 minutes from mixing, and complexes were obtained in yields of 50-56%. The complexes were
 50 isomorphous with cubic unit cell length $a > 45 \text{ \AA}$, and their structure solved in the space group $Fd\bar{3}m$.[‡] The structure of $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})_2] \cdot (\text{BF}_4) \cdot 5(\text{CH}_3\text{CN}) \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})$ **1a** is shown in Figure 1, although
 52 the location of BF_4^- counter-anions and any solvent could not be established due to disorder. In
 53 the isomorphous complex $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})_2] \cdot (\text{ReO}_4) \cdot 4(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})$ **1b** only the Re positions of perrhenate
 54 counter-anions could be established.



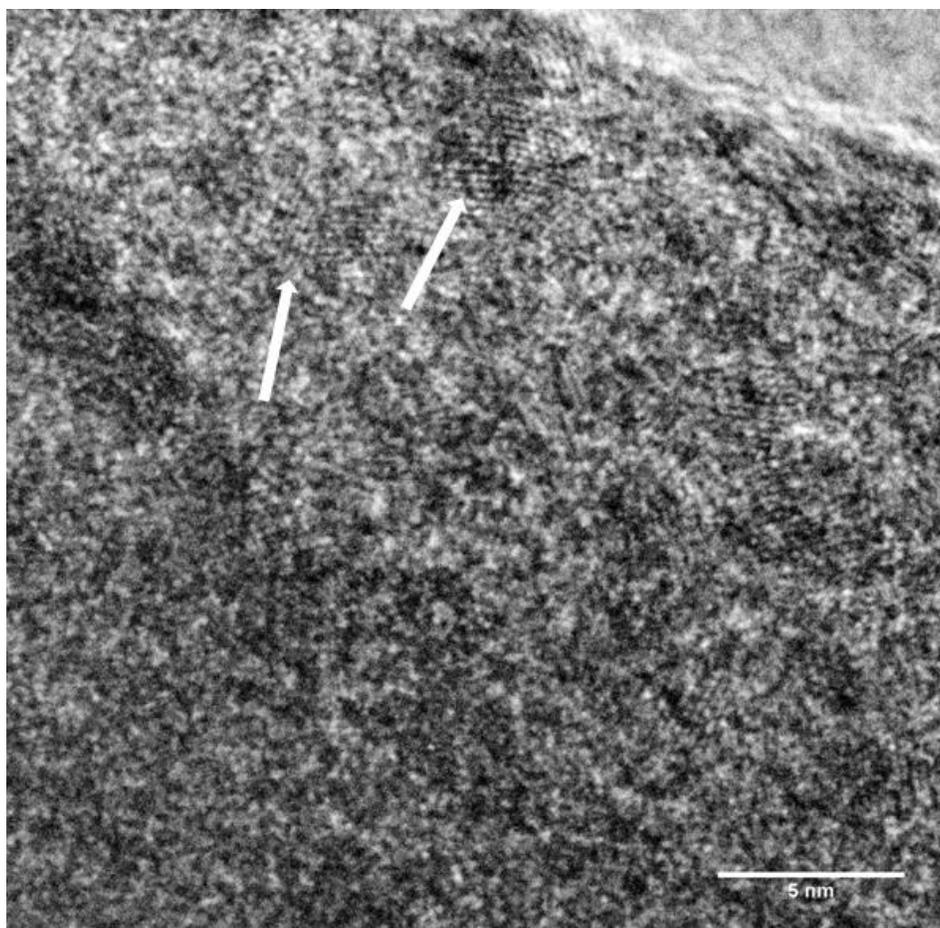
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Figure 1. From the crystal structure of $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})]\cdot\text{BF}_4$ **1a**. (a) extended diagram of the $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})]^+$ mtn network with hydrogen atoms excluded; (b) detail showing the two types of

cage, smaller 5^{12} and larger 6^45^{12} in space-filling mode; (c) framework diagram showing only the Ag positions that make up the **mtn** network, 6^45^{12} cages are shown in red, while 5^{12} cages are shown in grey.

56 In complex **1a** there are three Ag(I) sites of site symmetry m , $3m$ or $-43m$. Each is approximately
57 tetrahedrally coordinated by four dabco molecules with Ag-N distances ranging from 2.353(6) to
58 2.425(7) Å, and N-Ag-N angle 106.2(2) to 111.6(2)°. Dabco ligands bridge between Ag(I)
59 centres to give a 3D coordination polymer with tetrahedral nodes and large cages and channels,
60 Figure 1a. The **mtn** topology features pentagons and hexagons which form two types of cages
61 within the network: the smaller 5^{12} cage with twelve pentagons, and the larger 6^45^{12} cage with
62 four hexagons and twelve pentagons, Figure 1b. Each 6^45^{12} cage connects to four others through
63 face-sharing of the hexagonal rings, Figure 1c, and to twelve 5^{12} cages through face-sharing of
64 the pentagonal rings to form the overall network, Figure 1. The **mtn** topology is found in zeolites
65 of framework code MTN,⁹ and there have been a small number of other examples involving
66 coordination polymers. As well as the aforementioned cubic $[\text{Cu}_4\text{I}_4(\text{dabco})_2]$ with Cu_4I_4 cage
67 clusters as the tetrahedral node,⁸ there is $[\text{Cd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3(\text{hmta})]$, hmta = hexamethylenetetramine,
68 where the hmta ligand is the connecting node.¹⁰ The metal-organic frameworks designated MIL-
69 100,¹¹ MIL-101¹² and related materials¹³ have augmented **mtn** networks where super-
70 tetrahedral clusters such as $\{\text{M}_3\text{O}\}_4[\text{btc}]_4$, btc = benzene-1,3,5-tricarboxylate, are vertice-linked
71 into a **mtn** network. The internal volume of the cages in **1a** and **1b** are remarkably similar to
72 those of $[\text{Cd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3(\text{hmta})]$.¹⁰ For the larger cage the closest cage centroid to cage wall contact is
73 around 9.8 Å to a calculated hydrogen atom in **1a**, and 10.0 Å to an aquo oxygen in
74 $[\text{Cd}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_3(\text{hmta})]$.¹⁰

75 Taking aquo hydrogen atoms into account, the void spaces in **1a** are slightly larger. Thermal
76 gravimetric analysis (TGA) of complex **1a** is consistent with *ca.* 5 CH₃CN and one water solvent
77 molecules per formula unit, and the coordination polymer is not thermally stable above 200 °C
78 (Figure S2 ESI). For complex **1b** TGA was consistent with four molecules of CH₃CN per
79 formula unit (Figure S4 ESI). These degrees of solvation are consistent with void calculations for
80 the networks. Surprisingly, N₂ sorption measurements on evacuated
81 [Ag(dabco)₂](BF₄)·n(solvent) **1a** did not show significant gas up-take, with measured BET
82 surface area of 0.066 ± 0.022 m²/g, despite powder X-ray diffraction showing that bulk
83 crystallinity is retained (Fig S1). However, long range order of the powders is lost over the data
84 collection as low angle peaks, conferring information about the void spaces, reduce in intensity
85 over the collection, suggesting slow decomposition of the material. Transmission Electron
86 Microscopy (TEM) shows darker regions across the crystal surface that have high silver content.
87 While some regions on the surface have definite ordering there is also surface decomposition
88 apparent, Figure 2. Hence, while the material is macroscopically crystalline, nanoscale surface
89 decomposition may be blocking access to the internal pores.



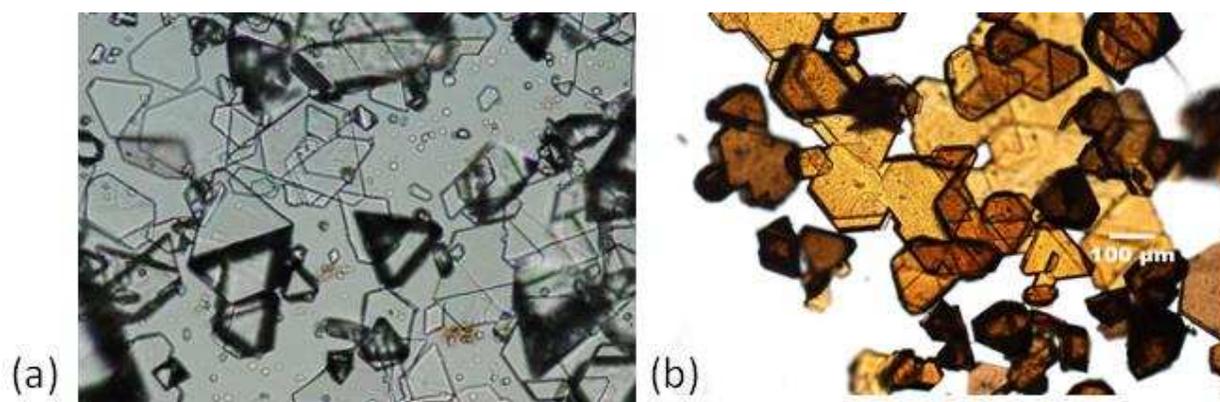
90

91 **Figure 2.** TEM of complex **1a** after desolvation. Arrows indicate some of the surface areas that
92 show ordering (bar is 5nm).

93

94 Interestingly, the complex **1a** was able to bind molecular iodine to some degree. The binding of
95 iodine into a solid state host is of interest in nuclear fuel reprocessing, and a handful of
96 coordination polymers or metal-organic frameworks that bind I₂ have been previously reported.¹⁴
97 Crystals of the zeolitic framework were evacuated in an H-tube, and gaseous iodine vapour was
98 passed over the crystals until the entire sample showed a uniform color. An immediate
99 orange/brown color-change was observed which gradually darkened with exposure for several

100 minutes. Optically microscopy confirmed that the morphology and quality of the crystals had not
101 been compromised, Figure 3. Attempts to wash the iodine out of the material using various polar
102 and non-polar solvents were unsuccessful. While the darkened I₂-exposed crystals of **1a**
103 diffracted as single crystals, there was no crystallographic evidence of molecular I₂ within the
104 crystal lattice. This suggests that the I₂ uptake does not penetrate far into bulk of the crystals
105 which is in keeping with the surface pore collapse noted above. EDX measurements are also
106 supportive this, with observed iodine levels higher for single crystals than for a crushed up bulk
107 sample (see Table S1, ESI).



108 (a) (b)

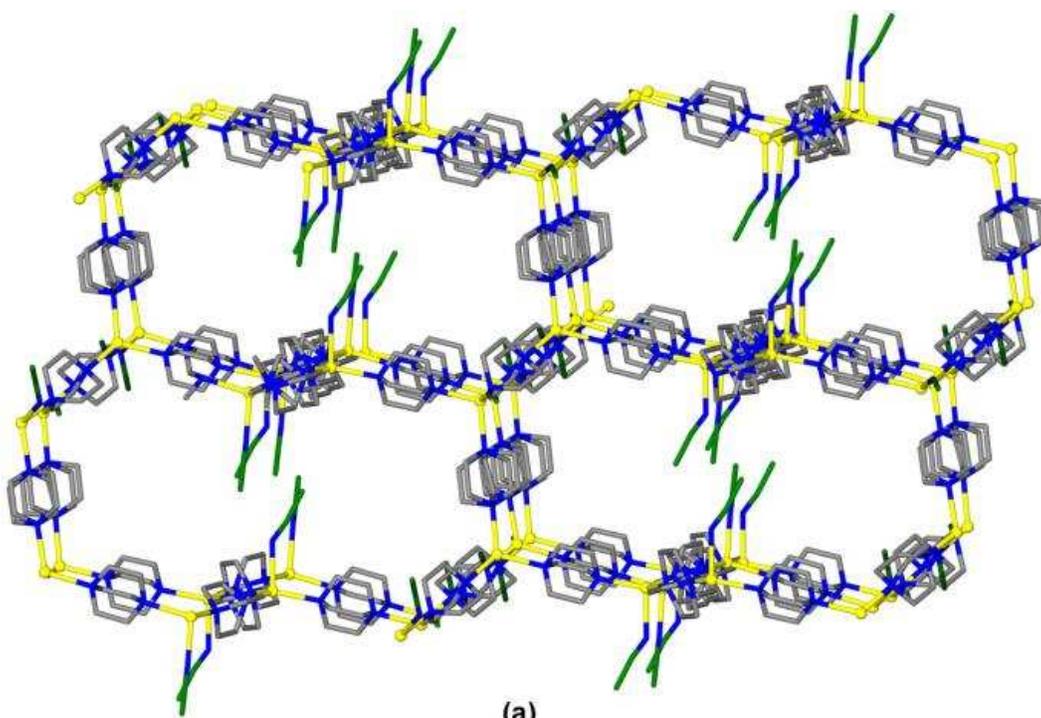
109 **Figure 3.** Crystals of complex **1a** (a) before; and (b) after exposure to I₂ vapors.

110

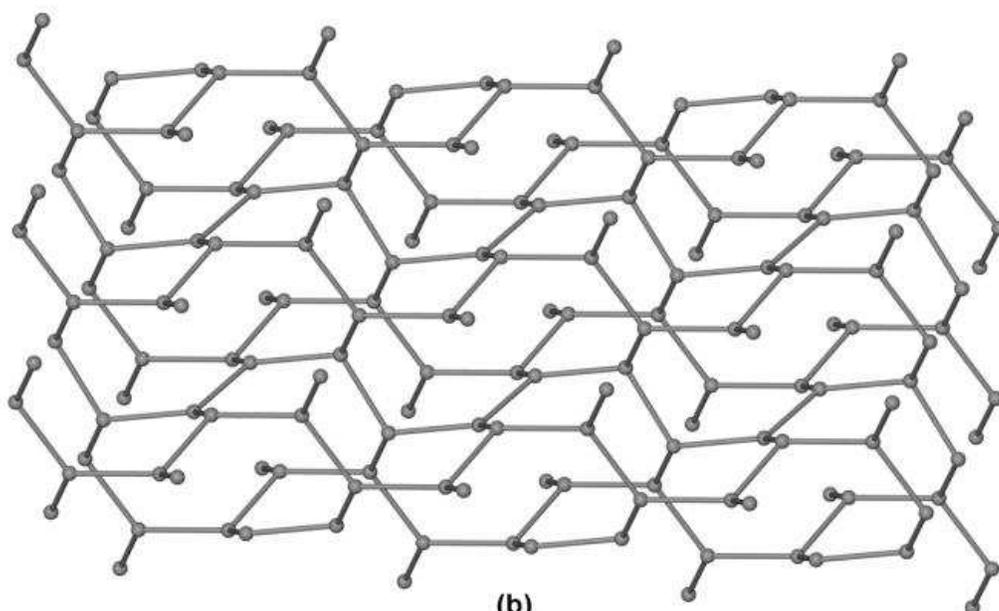
111 While small tetrahedral counteranions give the **mtn** network, crystallisation in the presence of
112 the large cobalticborane anion, [Co(C₂B₉H₁₁)₂]⁻, gives two different materials. Which
113 compound is produced can be controlled through stoichiometry. Crystallisation from a MeCN
114 solution containing Ag[Co(C₂B₉H₁₁)₂] and 0.5 or 1.0 equivalent of dabco gives single crystals of
115 [Ag(dabco)]·[Co(C₂B₉H₁₁)₂] with a needle-like morphology. We have previously reported the
116 structure of this complex which features a linear 1D [Ag(dabco)]⁺ chain.⁴ Crystallisation from a

117 MeCN solution with $\text{Ag}[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]$ and 2 or more equivalents of dabco gives crystals with
118 prismatic morphology and composition $[\text{Ag}_2(\text{dabco})_3(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_2] \cdot 2[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]$ **2**. The highest
119 yield of **2** was obtained with 4 equivalents of dabco. The crystal structure of complex **2** was
120 solved in space group $P2_1/n$. There are two crystallographically independent Ag(I) sites each on
121 a general position. Both Ag(I) cations have approximately tetrahedral geometries each with three
122 dabco ligands (Ag-N distances from 2.329(15) to 2.398(15) Å) and one acetonitrile ligand (Ag-N
123 distances 2.382(18) and 2.44(3) Å). The dabco ligands bridge between two Ag(I) sites while the
124 MeCN ligand is terminally coordinated, hence a 3-connected coordination polymer is formed,
125 Figure 3. The coordination polymer has 3D connectivity forming 10 member rings, Figure 3b.
126 The topology of the network is (10,3)-b or **ths**⁷ topology. There are substantial channels
127 throughout the network however these are filled by the terminal acetonitrile ligands which are
128 directed into the centre of the rectangular channels, Figure 3a, and by the bulky $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]^-$
129 counter-anions, (Figure S12, ESI). There are a number of close B-H...H-C distances between
130 neighbouring $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]^-$ anions indicating the presence of dihydrogen bonding.¹⁵ The
131 closest interactions are at separations 1.63, 1.89 and 1.94 Å, which are similar to those
132 previously reported for dihydrogen interactions between $[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]^-$ anions.¹⁶

133



(a)



(b)

134

135 **Figure 3.** From the crystal structure of $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})_2(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]^+[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]^-$ **2**. (a)

136 $[\text{Ag}(\text{dabco})_2(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]^+$ coordination polymer; (b) connectivity diagram with Ag(I) positions

137

only showing the (10,3)-b type network.

138 In summary, despite being utilized as a bridging ligand for coordination polymer synthesis for
139 many years, these are the first reports of dabco forming a 3D metal-dabco coordination polymer
140 in the absence of some other linking anion or ligand. This includes a simple and high yielding
141 route to coordination polymers with the spectacular **mtn** topology. It is notable that the 3D
142 networks were isolated from solutions containing an excess of dabco, although this excess is not
143 reflected in the M:L ratios in the resultant **mtn** or **ths** type networks. All of the networks show
144 relatively high-stability in dark ambient conditions, however, long-term exposure of the crystals
145 to visible light leads to reduction of silver, and decomposition of the networks. The crystals
146 dissolve in water, however, the crystals do not seem to be sensitive to atmospheric water, even
147 on exposure for several months. The **mtn**-topology structures (**1a,b**) are capable of binding
148 molecular iodine, which could be exploited for nuclear fuel reprocessing applications, or as
149 antimicrobial agents or materials due to the incorporation of high concentrations of silver into
150 these structures.

151 ASSOCIATED CONTENT

152 Supporting Information includes experimental procedures, pXRD, TGA, SEM, TEM EDX
153 analyses, details of crystal structure determinations with additional Figures. This material is
154 available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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164 access.

165 ABBREVIATIONS

166 DABCO Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]nonane.

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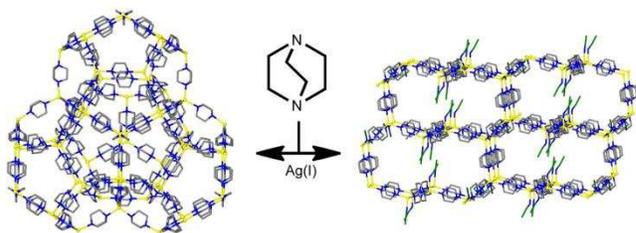
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229

230 The simple linear linking ligand diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (dabco) combines with AgBF_4 or

231 AgReO_4 to form a 3D coordination polymer with a zeolitic **mtn** topology structure, or combines

232 with $\text{Ag}[\text{Co}(\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{11})_2]$ to give a 3D coordination polymer with a (10,3)-b **ths** network structure.