The New Synthetic Metals of M(dmise)₂: [Me₃HN][Ni(dmise)₂]₂ and (EDT–TTF) [Ni(dmise)₂]

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Both of the newly synthesized $[Me_3HN][Ni(dmise)_2]_2$ and (EDT-TTF) $[Ni(dmise)_2]$ exhibit metallic behaviour around room temperature at ambient pressure; tight-binding band calculation indicates that the former has a nearly three-dimensional Fermi surface owing to a strong intersheet interaction between their selone groups.

The ligands dmit (4,5-disulfanyl-1,3-dithiole-2-thione), dmise (4,5-disulfanyl-1,3-dithiole-2-selone) and analogues are currently attracting considerable interest as versatile building blocks of conducting materials.¹⁻⁶ In particular, dmise is a potentially useful ligand which extends a intermolecular interaction towards the third direction through the outstretched part of its π -conjugation system, *i.e.* the selone group.^{1,2} However, the solid state properties of metal-dmise systems have been reported only for two Me₄N⁺ salts.^{1,2} Of particular interest among the unexplored metal-dmise systems are salts with small cations and charge transfer complexes with EDT-TTF (ethylenedithiotetrathiafulvalene), both of which have yielded superconductors in Ni(dmit)₂ compounds.⁷ This communication concerns the synthesis and electrical properties of the two titled salts and some other related salts. We also make a brief reference to the crystal structure of [Me3HN][Ni- $(dmise)_2]_2$. The synthetic route to the dmise ligand^{1,8} is straightforward but we somehow could not reproduce it well; we found particular difficulty in separating the desired selone from the unreacted thione compound. Therefore, we modified the synthetic procedure[†] (see Scheme 1), which facilitated the production of the pure complexes.[‡] The temperature dependence of the resistivity of [Me₃HN][Ni(dmise)₂]₂ is shown in Fig. 1(a). It exhibits weakly metallic behaviour around room temperature with a conductivity ($\sigma_{RT})$ of 100 S cm^{-1}; the resistivity gradually increases at low temperatures. The metallic region of the salt almost doubles for every 3 kbar increase in pressure, but the insulating phase is not completely suppressed even at 6 kbar. A similar electrochemical procedure using EDT-TTF and [(C₄H₉)₄N][Ni(dmise)₂]₂ instead of Me₃HNClO₄ and $[(C_4H_9)_4N][Ni(dmise)_2]^\dagger$ gave black plateletlike crystals of (EDT-TTF)[Ni(dmise)2], which also exhibited metallic conductivity ($\sigma_{RT} = 100 \text{ S cm}^{-1}$) down to *ca*. 100 K and made a smooth transition into an insulator at low temperature [Fig. 1(b)]. These species have been found to be the second and third examples of molecular metals based on a M(dmise)₂ complex, the first example being β -[Md₄N][Ni(dmise)₂]₂.^{1,2} The crystal structure of the Me₃HN salt is shown in Fig. 2 (crystal data: triclinic, $P\overline{1}$, a = 7.606(3), b = 17.761(3), c = 6.660(2) Å, α = 100.27(2), β = 114.93(2), γ = 81.84(2)°, V = 800.4(4) Å³, Z = 1, R = 0.036). The Ni(dmise)₂ molecules stack along the a axis almost regularly; the interplanar distances are 3.464 and 3.557 Å. The cations are located near the inversion centre and they take either of the two statistically possible orientations (50%-50% disordered). Such a structural trend is quite different from [Me₃HN][Ni(dmit)₂]₂,⁹ but is instead associated with a dmit-based superconductor $[Me_2(C_2H_5)_2N][Pd(dmit)_2]_2$.¹⁰ There are short contacts between two selenium atoms (< 4.0 Å) in addition to many of those between sulfur atoms (< 3.7 Å) within each Ni(dmise)₂ column as well as between the columns,



Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: i, HC(OEt)₃, Et₂O·BF₃, CHCl₃; ii, excess H₂Se; iii, PhCOCl, MeOH, -10 °C

which resembles β -[Me₄N][Ni(dmise)₂]₂.^{1,2} But the most striking feature is that there are also found short contacts of Se...Se (3.486 and 3.801 Å) *through the cation sheet*, a feature which is also observed in α -[Me₄N][Ni(dmise)₂]₂ (3.277 Å).^{1,2} One of the Se...Se distances is even shorter than the shortest S...S contact (3.568 Å) in this salt. Tight-binding band calculation by extended Hückel methods indicated that [Me₃HN][Ni(dmise)₂]₂ has even stronger intermolecular inter-



Fig. 1 Temperature dependencies of the electrical resistivity of: (a) $[Me_3HN][Ni(dmise)_2]_2$ under I 1 bar, II 3 kbar and III 6 kbar; (b) (EDT-TTF)[Ni(dmise)_2] at ambient pressure

actions along the long molecular axis than in the side-by-side direction, owing to a close selenium-selenium contact. This feature leads to a three-dimensional electronic structure (Fig. 3), indicating this complex to be a precursor of a three-dimensional molecular metal based exclusively on planar π -conjugated molecules. This situation possibly arises from both the small size of the anion ([Me₃HN]+) and the spatially-extended terminal selenium atoms, which favour the packing motif that allows significant overlap of the selenium orbitals. The anisotropy of the resistivity of the single crystal of [Me₃HN]-[Ni(dmise)₂]₂ by the Montgomery method has not yet been achieved because all the crystals obtained were too thin and fragile. On the other hand, the X-ray structural analysis of the EDT-TTF salt has not yet been completed satisfactorily because a crystal of high enough quality has not been available. Therefore a preliminary result is shown here. Crystal data: triclinic, $P\overline{1}$, a = 23.43, b = 6.47, c = 4.23 Å, $\alpha = 86.8$, $\beta = 90.2$, $\gamma = 95.1^{\circ}$, V = 637.2 Å³, Z = 1).

The donor (EDT–TTF) and acceptor [Ni(dmise)₂] molecules make segregated columns, running in parallel with each other along the (001) direction. They both stack regularly with repeating separations of 3.75 Å for the EDT–TTF and 3.50 Å for the Ni(dmise)₂ column. Their molecular planes have tilts from the stacking direction, as is often the case; the dihedral angle between the least-squares planes of the donor and acceptor molecules is 124°. The general trend mentioned above is quite different from either α -, β -(EDT–TTF)[Ni(dmit)₂]¹¹ or (EDT– TTF)₂[Pd(dmit)₂]₂.¹² By a similar synthetic method we obtained single crystals (thin plates or needles) of Me_x(C₂H₅)_{4-x}N



Fig. 2 Crystal structure of $[Me_3HN][Ni(dmise)_2]_2$. The Me₃HN cation is disordered and both of the two possible orientations are depicted. Thin lines indicate intermolecular short contacts between chalcogen atoms (S…S < 3.70 Å, Se…Se < 4.00 Å).



Fig. 3 Schematic view of the Fermi surface of [Me₃HN][Ni(dmise)₂]₂

J. CHEM. SOC., CHEM. COMMUN., 1995

(x = 0-4) salts of Ni(dmise)₂ and Me₄N salts of Pd(dmise)₂); all of the Ni analogues are semiconductors with $\sigma_{RT} = 10^{-1}-1$ S cm⁻¹ and activation energy $E_a = 0.12-0.15$ eV, while the Pd analogue, which is also a semiconductor, has $\sigma_{RT} = 10^{-1}$ S cm⁻¹ and $E_a = 0.05$ eV. The X-ray structural analysis of these salts and the EDT-TTF salt, as well as synthesis of related salts are now in progress and will be reported in due course.

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Footnotes

† Ligand synthesis: bis(benzoyl)-protected dmit 1 was stirred in refluxing chloroform for three hours with [(C2H5O)2CH]+·BF4-, which was prepared in situ from triethyl orthoformate and boron trifluoride diethyl ether complex to yield the corresponding 2-ethylthio-1,3-dithiolium salt $\mathbf{2}$ in 76-91% yield. The dithiolium salt 2 was treated with a large excess of gaseous H_2 Se¹³ in methanol at -10 °C for 3.5 h, then at room temp. for 30 min. The reddish-organge needles were precipitated after addition of excess benzoyl chloride. This compound could be recrystallized from cold chloroform-methanol but silica gel column chromatography (CH2Cl2hexane 1:1) was more effective for the separation from the starting material (thione 1). Thus obtained bis(benzoyl)-protected dmise 3 was transformed into [(C₄H₉)₄N][Ni(dmise)₂] by an analogous procedure described by Steimecke et al.14 Conventional electrochemical crystallization (0.42 mmol dm⁻³ of [Me₃HN][Ni(dmise)₂]) in acetonitrile with Me₃HNClO₄ (34 mmol dm⁻³) under galvanostatic conditions (0.2 μ A) produced black elongated platelets of [Me3HN][Ni(dmise)2]2.

‡ All compounds gave satisfactory spectral and/or elemental analyses.

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