# **Supplementary Material, Part-2:**

Chlorocobalt(II) complexes with pyridylethyl-derived diazacycloalkanes.

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**Fig. S1:** Lattice fragment stick diagram of Co<sub>2</sub>(Ppz)Cl<sub>4</sub>: inverse stereoview along the *b*-direction, showing interdigitation of the dinuclear molecules.



**Fig. S2:** Inverse stereoview of the  $Co_2(Ppz)Cl_4$  lattice along a direction between the *a*- and *c*-axes, showing its double layers of molecules.



**Fig. S3:** Inverse stereoview of the [Co(Ppz)Cl]ClO<sub>4</sub> lattice along the *b*-axis, showing interdigitation of the cation layers and *b*-stacking of the perchlorates.



**Fig. S4:** Inverse stereoview of the [Co(Ppz)Cl]ClO<sub>4</sub> lattice along the *a*-direction, showing stacked arraying of the cations and perchlorates.



**Fig. S5:** Inverse stereoview of the Co(Phpz)Cl<sub>2</sub> lattice obliquely along the *c*-axis, showing *b*-direction layering of the molecules.



**Fig. S6:** Inverse stereoview of the Co(Phpz)Cl<sub>2</sub> lattice obliquely along the *a*-direction, showing *a*-direction arraying and slipped layering of the molecules.



**Fig. S7:** Inverse stereoview of the Co(Pmhpz)Cl<sub>2</sub> lattice along the *b*-direction arraying of the molecules. , showing *b*-direction layering of the molecules.



**Fig. S8:** Inverse stereoview of the Co(Pmhpz)Cl<sub>2</sub> lattice along a direction between the a- and c-axes, showing layering of the molecules.



Fig. S9: Solid-state Vis-NIR reflectance spectrum of Co(Pmhpz)Cl<sub>2</sub>.

Table S1:	Some examples o	f electronic spectra	for tetra- and pentacoordinate	Co(II) complexe	s.
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Notes	Reference	
Tetra- & pentacoordinate, Vis-NIR used.	1965	Goodgame
Some NIR, fully not utilised	1971	Latt
Tetracoordinate, NIR	1992	Trofimenko
Tetra- & pentacoordinate, visible region only.	1993	Han
Visible region only, for tetragonal-pyramidal	1997	Kremer-Ach
Pentacoordinate, no electronic spectra.	1998	Boca
Octahedral, Vis-NIR.	2004	Chandra
Tetrahedral, visible region only.	2005	Stanescu
Pentacoordinate, visible region only.	2009	Sabiah
NIR for tetracoordinate	2010	Krzystek
Vis-NIR for tetragonal-pyramidal	2012	Kochem
Tetra- & pentacoordinate, visible region only.	2014	Ward
Pentacoordinate, no electronic spectra.	2018	Sadhu
NIR of Co(III) only	2020	Kanso

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#### Magnetism background:

For interpretation of the magnetic data, a simple and effective model was employed, using the

Hamiltonian:  $H = DS_z^2 + h \cdot S$ 

where *D* is the axial single ion anisotropy (SIA) term and *h* is the external field. The rhombic SIA term (*E*) is neglected as its effect is suppressed in powder measurements. No inter-molecule coupling (*zJ*) is taken into account, as indicated above; in any case, such would be very small compared with *D*. One might note, that a single *g*-value ( $g_{ave}$ ) is used here for the calculation of the isotropic susceptibilities  $\chi_x^{ISO}$  and  $\chi_z^{ISO}$ . The differences between the *g*-tensor along the two axes are incorporated into the term  $\Delta$ . The presence of *D* splits the  $|\pm 1/2>$  and  $|\pm 3/2>$  Kramers doublets and introduces an energy gap of 4*D*, causing the magnetism to deviate from the simple paramagnetic state (S=3/2 for high-spin Co<sup>2+</sup>) at low temperature. A positive *D*-value lowers the  $|\pm 1/2>$  doublet energy, favoring the XY-like spin, while negative *D* lowers the energy of the  $|\pm 3/2>$  doublet, yielding a more Ising-like behaviour. The sign of *D* also has an impact on the spin anisotropy.

The individual products of molar susceptibility and temperature  $(\chi_x T \text{ and } \chi_z T)$  can be derived using the exact diagonalization of the spin Hamiltonian for both longitudinal (h//z) and transverse (h//x)modes. The powder average then takes the simple form of:

$$\chi T = \frac{2}{3}\chi_x T + \frac{1}{3}\chi_z T$$

In practice, we have rewritten the formula to account for the anisotropic ( $\Delta$ =S<sub>x</sub>/S<sub>z</sub>) responses as well as the linear TIP contribution to  $\chi$  (typically 400-800x10<sup>-6</sup> cgsu for <sup>4</sup>A<sub>2</sub> ground state Co<sup>2+</sup>; (Earnshaw, 1968) and ligands' diamagnetic contribution, respectively (*aT*+*b*):

$$\chi T = \frac{2\Delta}{2\Delta + 1} \chi_x^* T + \frac{1}{2\Delta + 1} \chi_z^* T + aT + b$$



### Figure S10:

Left half: for Co(Phpz)Cl<sub>2</sub> - (a) temperature dependence of the molar susceptibility  $\chi_M$  (H=0.1 T). Open symbols are the experimental data and the solid line represents the fit; (b) temperature dependence of the inverse molar susceptibility,  $1/\chi_M$  (H=0.1 T).

Right half: (a) temperature dependence of the molar susceptibility  $\chi_M$  of Co(Pmhpz)Cl<sub>2</sub> (H=0.1 T). Open symbols are the experimental data and the solid line represents the fit; (b) temperature dependence of the inverse molar susceptibility  $1/\chi_M$  (H=0.1 T).



Figure S11: Illustration of the ZFS components and their outcomes.

(a) Longitudinal  $(\chi_{\parallel})$ , transverse  $(\chi_{\perp})$  and powder average susceptibilities of a paramagnetic S=3/2 system with positive *D*. Longitudinal denotes the orientation parallel to *D* and transverse denotes the orientation perpendicular to *D*.  $\chi_{ave}$  is calculated as  $3\chi_{ave} = \chi_{\parallel} + 2\chi_{\perp}$ . The ordinate is normalized with respect to the Curie constant.

(b) Longitudinal ( $\chi_{\parallel}$ ), transverse ( $\chi_{\perp}$ ) and powder average susceptibilities of a paramagnetic S=3/2 system with negative *D*. Same notation as (a).

## **References:**

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## Sample codes for cobalt preps.

[Co<sub>2</sub>(Ppz)Cl<sub>4</sub>] = SJ1501. SJ1505, SJ1507, SJ1622, EAB1604

[Co(Phpz)Cl<sub>2</sub>] = SJ1511B, EAB1608, EAB1703, TA1807, TA2104

[Co(Ppz)Cl](ClO<sub>4</sub>) = SJ1510, SJ1514, EAB1701C

 $[Co(Pmhpz)Cl_2] = EAB1607$ 

[Co(Pdmpz)Cl<sub>2</sub>] = SJ1515, SJ1622, EAB1607, EAB1609