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Solid State Thermo-chromism in an Octahedral Co(ii) Complex Studied by X-Ray Powder Diffraction

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Thermo-chromism is the phenomenon known as the reversible change in the colour of a compound when it is heated or cooled [1]. This process can take place over a wide (continuous thermo-chromism) or a narrow (discontinuous thermo-chromism) range of temperature. The latter, typical of inorganic substances, may be associated to a structural phase transition [2].

In the present work, we have studied the colour change in the pink octahedral cobalt (II) complex [CoCl₂(PyTn)]·2H₂O [PyTn: 2-(pyrazol-1-yl)-2-thiazoline] [3] in the solid phase over a temperature range from 30°C to 160°C by means of powder X-ray diffraction. This compound, previously studied in solution, transforms into the blue dinuclear asymmetrical complex [CoCl₂(μ-Cl)₂Co(PyTn)₂]. The thermo-chromic transition temperature is considerably higher in the solid state than in solution, as it was expected.

Colour transformation was monitored by means of in-situ X-ray powder thermodiffraction with the aim of discovering reaction intermediates. The X-ray experiment was carried out on a Bruker D8 Advance powder diffractometer equipped with a temperature chamber, using CuKα1 radiation. Measurements were made in the 10-30°2θ range and collected at temperature intervals of 5°C.

Reaction product was identified by comparing the measured patterns to the simulated one for known single crystal structure using Mercury CSD software. In addition, TG-DTG curves were obtained in a dynamic air atmosphere in the same temperature range, as well as a DSC curve. From these, it can be concluded that only the two crystallization water molecules are released, keeping the compound its integrity

References:

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