Gmelin Handbuch

der Anorganischen Chemie

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of Inorganic Chemistry

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Sc, Y, La–Lu
RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

Part D 3

Coordination Compounds (Continuation)

With 42 illustrations

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Preface

Coordination compounds of scandium, yttrium, and the lanthanides are described in series D of the "Rare Earth Elements". Complexes with nitrogen donor and with oxygen donor ligands are described in volumes D 1 and D 2. This volume, volume D 3, continues the discussions of complexes with oxygen donor ligands.

Chapter 1 deals with complexes derived from water. Reference is made to salt hydrates described in volumes of series B and C. Coordination numbers of terpositive rare earth ions toward water molecules in aqueous solutions are discussed in detail in terms of interpretations of physical data.

Chapters 2, 3 and 4 deal successively with the preparation and properties of complexes derived from alcohols and alcoholates, aromatic hydroxy compounds, aldehydes and monoketones. Where Ce^{IV} complexes have been reported for a specific ligand, they are described after the M^{III} complexes. Solution studies are described, when data are available.

Chapter 5 describes complexes with 1,3-diketones and other polyketones. The discovery in 1963 of laser action in rare earth diketonates prompted investigations of their fluorescence spectra and led to isolation and characterization of the first eight-coordinate rare earth complexes. A review of the luminescence properties is presented as an introduction to Chapter 5. Following the initial communication in 1969 several hundred publications have appeared demonstrating the ability of certain tris(diketonato) chelates to act as NMR shift reagents. Since the applications of lanthanide shift reagents are well documented in several extensive review articles, the pertinent sections of this chapter concentrate mainly on the preparation, characterization, and physicochemical properties of the shift reagent adducts, and includes only those NMR studies most closely associated with structural aspects and magnetic properties of the complexes. Chromatographic separation of the rare earths in the gas phase as the volatile, thermally stable tris(dipivaloylmethanato)- and tris(heptafluoro-dimethyloctanedionato) chelates has been also demonstrated.

Chapter 6 describes complexes with quinones and triphenylmethane dyes. Most of these complexes have been studied in solution, and only a limited number of complexes have been isolated and characterized. The use of triphenylmethane dyes as reagents for the quantitative determination of rare earth ions in solution is well documented.

Chapter 7 covers complexes with ethers and O-heterocycles, including crown ethers, pyranones, derivatives of coumarin, hydroxyflavones, and hematein. Emphasis is substantially on syntheses. Where available, data on crystal and molecular structures and on solution properties are included.

A formula index at the end of this volume lists all ligands and their empirical molecular formulas.

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December 1980

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1 Complexes with Water

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1.1 General

Much of the earlier work concerning the coordination of water with Sc, Y, and the lanthanide ions in solution has been rather speculative, the speculations resting on the coordination of water to the metal ion in crystalline compounds. Moeller et al. [1] summarize this phase of the work, stating that the compositions of coordination compounds (solid and in solution) were consistent with the assignment of the coordination number six to Y and the rare earth metal ions. Although this coordination number has been assumed by many authors, there was an increasingly impressive array of evidence that the true coordination number was larger than six [1, 2].

The evidence for coordination numbers for water > 6 includes the structures of the crystalline salt hydrates $M(BrO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ [3] and $M(C_2H_5OSO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ [4], which form isomorphous enneahydrate crystals along the whole series of the rare earths (M = La to Lu) [5 to 9] each with all nine water molecules coordinated to the metal ion. It includes also, however, structures such as $MCl_3 \cdot 7H_2O$ (M = La to Pr) and $MCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ (M = Nd to Lu) [10 to 14], $M(NO_3)_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ (M = La to Lu) [15], and $M_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$ (M = La to Pr) and $M_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$ (M = Nd to Lu) [16 to 18], where only a part of the coordination shell is made up of the oxygen atoms of the water molecules, while the rest is made up of chlorine atoms or oxygen atoms from the anions. The structures of these and other crystal hydrates are discussed in detail in the Gmelin Handbook (Sc, Y, La to Lu), see "Seltenerdelemente" Volumes C 2, 1974 (the nitrates), C 4 (the chlorides, to be published), C 6, 1978 (the bromates), and C 8, 1981 (the sulfates and ethylsulfates), and will not be treated here. The structure [3] of the inner coordination shell of crystalline $Nd(BrO_3)_3 \cdot 9H_2O$, i.e., that of $Nd(H_2O)_9^{3+}$, is shown in Fig. 1-2, p. 8, for reference purposes only.

This chapter discusses the aqua-complexes formed in solution from the following aspects: (a) the coordination number, i.e., the primary hydration number, of the ions Sc^{3+}, Y^{3+}, and the lanthanides La^{3+} to Lu^{3+}; (b) the structures of these hydrated ions; (c) the rate at which H_2O is released from the hydration shell, as a measure of the tightness of its binding; (d) some comments on the thermodynamic data for the Gibbs free energy, enthalpy, and entropy of hydration, as a measure of the strength of the coordination of the water; (e) some comments on the bonding of the water to the metal ions.

1.2 Coordination Numbers of the Aqua-Ions

Hydration numbers are definable only operationally, i.e., by the method according to which they are determined. Consequently, they are generally more sensitive to the method of determination than to the ion, the hydration of which they should describe. Fortunately, however, the first hydration shell can be described rather definitely by the requirement, that the oxygen atoms of the water molecules be in direct contact with the metal ion. Hence so called "primary hydration numbers" are more or less well defined descriptors of the number of water molecules in the first coordination shell of the metal ions in dilute aqueous solutions, devoid of coordinating ligands other than water. In the following, "primary hydration number" will be taken as synonymous with "coordination number" in such dilute aqueous solutions.

For some time a controversy raged, concerning the question, whether the coordination number stays constant or changes, abruptly or over few neighboring elements, as the atomic number Z varies from 57 (La) to 71 (Lu). The suggestion that the primary hydration number changes from a higher one (presumably 9) for La^{3+}, Ce^{3+}, Pr^{3+}, and Nd^{3+} to a lower one (presumably 8) for Tb^{3+}, Dy^{3+}, Ho^{3+}, Er^{3+}, Tm^{3+}, Yb^{3+}, and Lu^{3+} has been made in a number of papers, amongst the first ones and the most influential of which being that of Spedding et al. [19]. However, other authors [20 to 25] concluded that their data could very well be interpreted with, or even required for their interpretation, a constant primary hydration number along the series. These suggestions and conclusions were all based on indirect evidence, and must yield to recent results from more nearly direct determinations.

1.2.1 Data from X-Ray Scattering

The most direct values of primary hydration numbers are available from the analysis of atomic radial distribution functions (ARDF's), obtained from low angle X-ray diffraction by aqueous solutions of the rare earth metal halides. The results obtained to date by this method are summarized in Table 1/1.

Table 1/1

Information Obtained from the First and Some of the Subsequent Peaks in the ARDF's of Rare Earth Halides in Aqueous Solutions.

salt	concentration mol/kg H_2O	first peak coord. No.	d_{M-O}, in Å	peak for M-X d_{M-X}, in Å	Ref.
$LaCl_3$	1.74, 2.10, 2.67	8.0	2.48	4.7	[26, 27]
	2.0, 3.81	9.13	2.58	5.00	[28]
$LaBr_3$	2.66	8.0	2.48	4.8	[29]
$PrCl_3$	3.80	9.22	2.54	4.97	[28]
$NdCl_3$	0.56, 0.85, 1.73	8.0	2.41	4.9	[30, 31]
	3.37	8.90	2.51	4.89	[28]
$SmCl_3$	1.43	9.9	2.42	4.5	[32]
$GdCl_3$	0.85, 2.66	8.0	2.37	4.8	[31, 33]
	1.43	9.9	2.40	4.5	[32]
$TbCl_3$	3.49	8.18	2.41	4.82	[34]
$DyCl_3$	3.29	7.93	2.40	4.85	[34]
$ErCl_3$	3.54	8.19	2.37	4.79	[34]
	0.95, 1.37, 3.05	6.5	2.3	4.6	[35]
ErI_3	1.33	6.3	2.3	5.2	[35]
$TmCl_3$	3.63	8.12	2.36	4.79	[34]
$LuCl_3$	3.61	7.97	2.34	4.78	[34]

The ARDF is $4\pi r^2 \rho(r)$, where r is the distance from a given (metal) atom and $\rho(r)$ the density of atoms at the distance r (Fig. 1-1). Its units are $e^2/Å$ (e is an electron). The area under the curve from suitably chosen r_1 to r_2, divided by the area (in e^2) expected per single neighbor, is the number of nearest neighbors of the atom at the origin. The starting distance, r_1 may be taken as zero, or as the distance where $\rho(r)$ starts practically to differ from zero. The determination of the final distance, r_2, is rather a matter of judgement, and the accuracy of the coordination number depends heavily on its proper choice. It is unfortunate that the results published by various authors do not agree. Thus the ARDF for aqueous $ErCl_3$, published already in 1960 [35] by Brady, differs in the positions and the shapes of the peaks from that given by Habenschuss, Spedding in 1979 [34], and the ARDF for aqueous $LaCl_3$ of Smith, Wertz [26] differs in these respects from the one of Habenschuss, Spedding [28].

Fig. 1-1
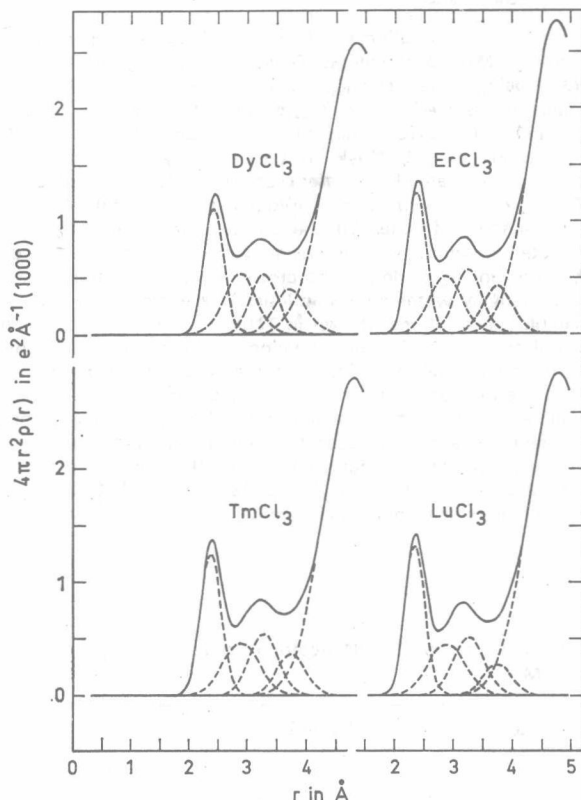
Atomic radial distribution functions of aqueous Dy, Er,
Tm, and Lu chlorides [34]. The dashed curves represent
the resolution of the experimental curve into 5 Gaussian
components.

The work of Brady [35] is now superceded. (Brady himself considered that rather than his
direct result of 6.5 for the first coordination shell, "within the experimental error the number is six".
The distance to the first peak is given with only one significant decimal figure, rather than the two
or three given in the later studies.) A coordination number of eight (8.1 ± 0.1) as a mean for five
elements for the heavy rare earth aqua-complexes seems to be well established by the painstaking
work of Habenschuss, Spedding [34]. With this agrees also the coordination number of eight
(8.0 ± 0.2) given by Steele, Wertz [31, 33] for Gd^{3+}, but not the discordant result 9.9 given by
Ryss et al. [32] for this ion, as well as for Sm^{3+}. A real discrepancy is noted for the light rare earth
metal ions, where Habenschuss, Spedding [28] give a coordination number of nine $(9.1 \pm 0.1$ as a
mean for three elements), whereas Wertz et al. [26, 27, 29 to 31] report a coordination number of eight.

No dependence on the anion was discerned in those studies where two different salts of a given
metal were compared (aqueous $LaCl_3$ [26, 27] and $LaBr_3$ [29], aqueous $ErCl_3$ and ErI_3 [35]).
Comparative data obtained and interpreted in the same way by the same author should be valid,
in this respect, even if the quantitative conclusion is in error, as it evidently is for the results with Er^{3+}.

1.2.2 Data from NMR Peak Areas

Another way to obtain primary hydration numbers in a direct manner is the evaluation of the peak areas obtained in proton NMR measurements. These are made on solutions in a mixed aqueous organic solvent, capable of being cooled to such a low temperature that a peak corresponding to the bound water molecules is observed [36 to 38], separate from that for bulk water. A suitable solvent is deuterated acetone, d^6-CH_3COCH_3, capable of being cooled down to $-100°C$ (and down to $-120°C$ when mixed with Freon -12, CCl_2F_2, if it is necessary to lower the temperature further) in order to slow down the exchange rate of the water (see section 1.4, p. 9) sufficiently for a separate peak to be observed. The acetone is said not to coordinate to the metal ion in these solutions in the presence of a sufficient amount of water, but the low dielectric constant in these solutions and the low temperature promote ion pairing. Nitrate ions are known to enter the first coordination shell of the lanthanides, and no convincing evidence was presented in these studies that perchlorate ions do not do so too, in the relatively water-poor solutions. This explains the low primary hydration numbers obtained in perchlorate solutions, shown in Table 1/2. Another explanation [37] is that only some of the water molecules in the first coordination shell exchange sufficiently slowly to give a separate peak, whereas the others, still in the first coordination shell but bound a bit more loosely, exchange too rapidly, and are included with the signal for the bulk water. Inspection of Fig. 1-2 shows that in the crystalline enneahydrate six water molecules are equivalent, but differ from the other three. That inner-sphere ion association decreases the primary hydration numbers appreciably, under the conditions of the experiments, is demonstrated by the results for nitrate salts, or where nitric acid was added to the perchlorate salts [36 to 38]. The hydration numbers recorded in Table 1/2, even for the perchlorate salts, must therefore be considered as lower limits.

Table 1/2

Hydration Numbers Observed at $< -95°C$ in d^6-Acetone Containing Some Water[a] by Proton NMR.

cation	perchlorate		nitrate	
Sc^{3+}	b),c)		3.7 to 4.1	[36]
Y^{3+}	c)		2.2 to 2.6	[36]
La^{3+}	6.0 to 6.4	[37]		
Ce^{3+}	4.5 to 5.5	[37]		
Pr^{3+}	≈ 6	[38]		
Nd^{3+}	≈ 6	[38]		
Tb^{3+}			≈ 2	[38]
Dy^{3+}			≈ 3	[38]
Ho^{3+}	≈ 3	[38]		
Er^{3+}	4.2 to 6.4	[38]	1 to 2	[37, 38]
Tm^{3+}			≈ 2	[38]
Yb^{3+}	3.6 to 4.2d)	[38]	1.6 to 2.0	[38]
Lu^{3+}	5.8 to 6.1	[38]	2.2d)	[38]

a) Unless otherwise stated, mole ratio of water to metal ion in solution is (6 to 15) : 1.—b) No separate signals for bound and bulk water observable down to $-100°C$ [39].—c) In the presence of 1M $HClO_4$ additional to the metal nitrate, hydration numbers of 5.1 for Sc^{3+} and ≈ 2.4 for Y^{3+} are observed [39].—d) In the presence of a large excess of water (>50 times the metal ion concentration), the hydration number 8 is observed for Yb^{3+} [40] and 6 for Lu^{3+} [108].

1.2.3 Data from Compressibilities

Another method, that is purported by its users to give primary hydration numbers, is the compressibility method. According to Passinsky [41] the central ion with the primary water of hydration are incompressible, because of the strong electrical field of the ion. The large pressure exerted by this field is greater than the limit of ca. 6.8×10^8 Pa, above which water is practically no longer compressible [42]. The electrostriction caused by this field-induced pressure produces thus an incompressible hydrated core, and the number of water molecules affected in this way per ion is identified with its primary hydration number. This is given as $h^{\infty} = - \varnothing_x^{\infty}/x_{H_2O}^{\circ} V_{H_2O}^{\circ}$, where $\varnothing_x^{\infty}$ is the apparent molar isothermal compressibility, extrapolated to infinite dilution, and $x_{H_2O}^{\circ}$ and $V_{H_2O}^{\circ}$ are the compressibility and molar volume of pure water [43]. Experimental data on compressibilities pertain to electrolytes rather than to ions, but are additive with respect to ionic contributions at infinite dilution. If the contribution of one ion is fixed arbitrarily, those of the others are obtained [43]. The compressibilities involved should be the isothermal ones, but adiabatic compressibilities, obtained from ultrasound velocities, are used in their stead, if not all the data required for the conversion (expansibilities, molar volumes and heat capacities) are available [44 to 48]. The results from several authors are shown in Table 1/3. No cognizance of the hydration of the anions is made in the work of Jezowska-Trzebiatowska et al. [44 to 47] so that the hydration number obtained for the whole electrolyte is ascribed to the rare earth metal cation only. However, the differences between chloride, nitrate, and perchlorate data [46] show the effect of the anion. According to Padova's calculation [49] from the compressibility data of Spedding, Atkinson [50], ca. 2.7 should be subtracted for each chloride ion and ca. 1.3 for each nitrate ion from the hydration number of the salt, to give that for the metal ion, recorded in Table 1/3 in the column marked − [43, 49]. Janenas [42] proposed a method differing somewhat from Passinsky's [41, 43], and obtained with it hydration numbers larger by 4 to 5 units. The fluctuations in the hydration numbers reported by Voleisiene et al. [48] have not been explained. In general, it is seen that the primary hydration numbers obtained from the compressibilities are larger than the coordination numbers obtained from the ARDF's, and should represent upper limits. A slight trend of these hydration numbers to increase with Z, the atomic number of the elements, can be discerned. Apparently these hydration numbers comprise some of the secondary solvation, which may, indeed, increase as the size of the metal ions decreases with increasing Z, and the strength of the electrical field around them increases.

Table 1/3

Primary Hydration Numbers Obtained from Compressibilities.

cation	anions and references								
	ClO_4^- [44]	ClO_4^- [45]	Cl^- [46]	NO_3^- [46]	ClO_4^- [46]	NO_3^- [47]	NO_3 [42]	− [43, 49]	NO_3^- [48]
Y^{3+}							15.59		
La^{3+}	12.7					10.4	12.75	11	11.6
Ce^{3+}						*)	12.36	13	15.6
Pr^{3+}	12.9		15.7	10.1	12.0	10.1			9.1
Nd^{3+}	12.5		17.1	10.9	12.8	10.9		12	8.8
Sm^{3+}	11.05					12.0			16.8
Eu^{3+}	10.45		*)	*)	*)	*)			
Gd^{3+}	11.0					12.0			9.5
Tb^{3+}	11.7	11.74				13.0			
Dy^{3+}	11.95	12.01				12.8			17.5
Ho^{3+}	12.5	12.71				12.8			
Er^{3+}	12.6	12.39				12.2		12	16.4
Tm^{3+}	12.8	12.93				*)			
Yb^{3+}	13.0	12.98						13	

*) Compressibilities varied with concentration in a manner that precluded the calculation of hydration numbers.