

# Synthesis and structure of mono-, bi- and trimetallic amine-bis(phenolate) cobalt(II) complexes†

Uttam K. Das,<sup>a</sup> Julia Bobak,<sup>a</sup> Candace Fowler,<sup>a</sup> Sarah E. Hann,<sup>a</sup> Chad F. Petten,<sup>a</sup> Louise N. Dawe,<sup>b</sup> Andreas Decken,<sup>c</sup> Francesca M. Kerton<sup>\*a</sup> and Christopher M. Kozak<sup>\*a</sup>

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A series of cobalt(II) amine-bis(phenolate) complexes has been prepared and characterized. The protonated tripodal tetradentate ligand precursors; dimethylaminoethylamino-*N,N*-bis(2-methylene-4-*tert*-butyl-6-methylphenol),  $H_2[O_2NN]^{\text{BuMeNM}e_2}$ , dimethylaminoethylamino-*N,N*-bis(2-methylene-4,6-di-*tert*-butylphenol),  $H_2[O_2NN]^{\text{BuBuNM}e_2}$ , diethylaminoethylamino-*N,N*-bis(2-methylene-4,6-di-*tert*-amylphenol),  $H_2[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmNEt}_2}$  and 2-pyridylamino-*N,N*-bis(2-methylene-4,6-di-*tert*-amylphenol),  $H_2[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmPy}}$ ; were reacted with cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate under varying conditions to afford a range of monometallic, bimetallic and trimetallic species. An unusual four coordinate complex  $Co[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmNEt}_2}$  containing  $Co^{II}$  in a trigonal monopyramidal environment was structurally characterized, whereas using a less sterically demanding ligand a series of five coordinate complexes  $Co[O_2NN]^{\text{BuBuNM}e_2}(L)$  ( $L = H_2O, CH_3OH, (CH_3)_2C=O, \text{propylene oxide}$ ) containing  $Co^{II}$  in a trigonal bipyramidal environment was prepared. A new angular structural parameter related to  $\tau$  is defined, where  $\tau'$  may be used to compare complexes with trigonal monopyramidal structures. In contrast, ligands containing a pendant pyridyl donor afford dimeric species including  $\{Co(\mu-CH_3OH)[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmPy}}\}_2$ . In the absence of base and in the presence of excess cobaltous acetate, trimetallic complexes were isolated containing a central  $Co^{II}$  in an octahedral environment coordinated to four  $CH_3OH$  and two bridging acetate ligands between two  $Co[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmPy}}$  fragments with  $Co^{II}$  in a trigonal bipyramidal setting. The paramagnetic  $Co^{II}$  complexes reported were also characterized by UV-vis spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, cyclic voltammetry and magnetic measurements.

## Introduction

The use of chelating tetradentate amine-bis(phenolate) ligands has recently played an increasingly important role in transition-metal catalyst design and modelling of metalloenzyme active-sites. They have been predominantly used with high-valent early transition-metals where they have been employed as alternative auxiliary ligands to cyclopentadienyl-based systems. In combination with group 4 metals they display high activities towards olefin or cyclic ester polymerization.<sup>1–11</sup> Also, group 3 and lanthanide metal complexes of these ligands have been effective as catalysts or initiators for ring-opening-polymerization of lactide and  $\epsilon$ -caprolactone.<sup>12–22</sup> By comparison, there has been limited use of amine-bis(phenolate) ligands with the mid-to-late first row

transition-metals.<sup>23–33</sup> Some iron<sup>III</sup> complexes of this class of ligand have been investigated as a result of their close relationship to phenol-containing ligands found in non-heme iron containing metalloenzymes.<sup>34–43</sup> We have recently reported novel iron<sup>III</sup> compounds bearing amine-bis(phenolate) ligands, which effectively catalyze the cross-coupling of aromatic Grignard reagents with alkyl halides possessing  $\beta$ -hydrogens.<sup>44</sup> In terms of cobalt chemistry, a small number of bimetallic amine-bis(phenolate) complexes containing bridging phenolate groups have been structurally characterized and their magnetism investigated.<sup>45–48</sup>

In addition to fundamental studies of their physical properties, cobalt coordination complexes also show interesting reactivity. For example, salen coordination compounds of  $Co^{II}$  and  $Co^{III}$  have been utilized as catalysts for coupling and copolymerization of carbon dioxide with epoxides,<sup>49–54</sup> and homopolymerization of epoxides.<sup>55–57</sup> Also, interesting stoichiometric oxidation chemistry using  $Co^{II}$  salen complexes has been reported,<sup>58</sup> and  $Co^{II}$  phthalocyanine compounds are known to mediate catalytic aerobic oxidation of a range of organic substrates.<sup>59,60</sup>

Herein we report the preparation, structure determination and properties of mono-, bi- and trimetallic cobalt complexes of the sterically hindered tetradentate tripodal ligands,  $[O_2NN]^{\text{BuMeNM}e_2}$ ,  $[O_2NN]^{\text{BuBuNM}e_2}$ ,  $[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmNEt}_2}$  and  $[O_2NN]^{\text{AmAmPy}}$  (Fig. 1). These ligands contain two dialkyl-substituted phenol groups bearing either *tert*-butyl or *tert*-amyl (*tert*-pentyl) groups *ortho* to the hydroxyl group. They are prepared through a modified Mannich

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1B 3X7. E-mail: fkerton@mun.ca, ckozak@mun.ca; Fax: +1-709-737-3702

<sup>b</sup>C-CART X-ray Diffraction Laboratory, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1B 3X7

<sup>c</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5A3

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Crystallographic data for **1**( $CH_3COCH_3$ ), **1**( $CH_3OH$ ), **1**( $C_3H_6O$ ), **1**( $CH_3OH-H_2O$ ) **2**, **3**( $CH_3OH$ ), **4**, **5** and **6** (cif format). Ball-and-stick model of **3**, additional magnetic and electrochemical data (pdf). CCDC reference numbers 766019–766027. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/c002843f

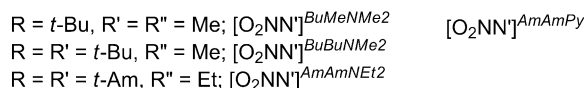
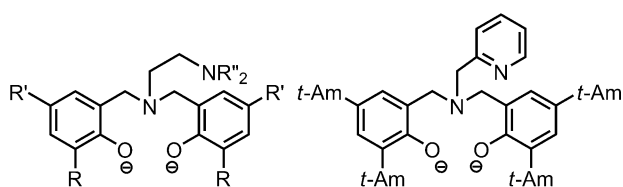


Fig. 1 Amine-bis(phenolate) ligands used in this study.

reaction between the respective disubstituted phenol, aqueous formaldehyde, and the respective *N,N*-dialkylethylenediamine or pyridylamine. Improved yields are obtained when these reactions are performed in water.<sup>61,62</sup>

## Experimental

### General considerations

Reactions were performed under an atmosphere of dry oxygen-free nitrogen by means of standard Schlenk techniques. However, some reactions (synthesis of **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) and **4–6**) were worked up in air. Compounds **2** and **3** were isolated in an inert-atmosphere glove box (MBraun Labmaster). All solvents were purified using an MBraun Solvent Purification System, except methanol, which was distilled under nitrogen from CaH<sub>2</sub>. Reagents were purchased either from Aldrich or Alfa Aesar and used without further purification. H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>AmAmNEt<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>AmAmPy<sup>+</sup> were prepared by modification of the literature methods,<sup>7,22,63,64</sup> by using water instead of methanol as the reaction medium.<sup>61,62</sup> MALDI-TOF MS was performed using an Applied Biosystems Voyager DE-PRO equipped with a reflectron, delayed ion extraction and high performance nitrogen laser (337 nm). Anthracene was used as the matrix.<sup>65,66</sup> AP-CI and ESI MS experiments were performed using the detector of an Agilent 1100 series LC/MSD. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 500 MHz spectrometer. Variable temperature magnetic measurements were performed on powdered samples at 1000 G using a Quantum Design MPMS-5S SQUID Magnetometer. The data were corrected for background and for the diamagnetism of all atoms. UV-Vis spectra were recorded on an Ocean Optics USB4000+ fiber optic spectrophotometer. Infrared spectra were recorded as KBr pellets on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer. Cyclic voltammetry measurements were performed on a Model HA 301 Hokuto Deuko Potentiostat/Galvanostat. Elemental analyses were performed at Canadian Microanalytical Service, Ltd. Delta, BC, Canada or Guelph Chemical Laboratories, Guelph, ON, Canada.

### Synthesis of metal complexes

**Synthesis of 1.** H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> (2.00 g, 3.81 mmol), cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate (0.95 g, 3.81 mmol) and KOH (0.53 g, 9.45 mmol) were added under N<sub>2</sub> to a Schlenk flask fitted with a condenser. A dry, degassed mixture of toluene (25 mL) and methanol (25 mL) was added to the solids. The resulting suspension was stirred and heated to reflux under N<sub>2</sub> for 18 h to afford a dark purple solution. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*

and the residue was extracted with toluene (30 mL). The mixture was filtered using a frit and the solvent was removed under vacuum. Washing the residue with pentane (20 mL) afforded **1** as an orange powder (yield: 1.79 g, 3.01 mmol, ~79%). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained from a number of solvents by slow cooling.

Cooling of a methanol solution of **1** at –20 °C afforded pink crystals (yield: ~26%). The asymmetric unit in the solid state contained two Co<sup>II</sup> species, Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>(H<sub>2</sub>O) and Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), and three methanol solvent molecules of recrystallization. Cooling of a methanol solution of **1**, prepared using dry methanol, at –20 °C also afforded pink crystals. In the asymmetric unit, there were two five-coordinate cobalt<sup>II</sup>-methanol adducts, [I(CH<sub>3</sub>OH)], along with three methanol solvent molecules of recrystallization. Storage of a concentrated acetone solution of **1** at –20 °C afforded dark pink crystals (yield: ~45%). In the asymmetric unit, there were two five coordinate cobalt<sup>II</sup>-acetone adducts along with two acetone solvent molecules of recrystallization, [I(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>)]. Pink crystals of a propylene oxide adduct, [I(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O)], were obtained by slow cooling of a concentrated propylene oxide solution of **1** at –35 °C (yield: ~51%). In the asymmetric unit, there were two five-coordinate cobalt(II)-propylene oxide adducts and one propylene oxide solvent molecule.

**Characterization of 1.** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>54</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>; C, 70.20; H, 9.36; N, 4.82. Found: C, 69.95; H, 9.34; N, 4.77. MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene) *m/z* = 581 ([Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>]).

**Characterization of 1(CH<sub>3</sub>OH).** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>54</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>(2CH<sub>3</sub>OH); C, 66.95; H, 9.68; N, 4.34. Found: C, 67.11; H, 9.79; N, 4.49. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 668(w), 740(m), 779(m), 805(w), 830(m), 877(m), 912(w), 934(w), 997(w), 1036(w), 1087(w), 1108(m), 1132(w), 1165(m), 1202(w), 1237(s), 1271(s), 1302(s), 1361(m), 1412(m), 1437(s), 1465(s), 1602(w), 1770(w), 2859(w), 2900(w), 2950(m), 3368(br). UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 241 (20020), 295 (15000), 373 (2000), 470 (145), 553 (154), 655 (154); μ<sub>eff</sub> (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) = 4.2 μ<sub>B</sub>. MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene); *m/z* = 581 ([Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>]).

**Characterization of 1(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>).** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>60</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; C, 69.46; H, 9.45; N, 4.38. Found: C, 69.05; H, 9.38; N, 4.53. UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 241 (22700), 297 (15600), 374 (2000), 472 (120), 553 (177), 655 (178); μ<sub>eff</sub> (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) = 4.4 μ<sub>B</sub>. MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene); *m/z* = 581 ([Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>]).

**Characterization of 1(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O).** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>60</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; C, 69.46; H, 9.45; N, 4.38. Found: C, 69.98; H, 9.52; N, 4.43. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 740(m), 781(m), 806(w), 824(s), 878(m), 912(w), 939(w), 1021(w), 1044(w), 1111(w), 1166(w), 1202(w), 1250(m), 1279(s), 1304(s), 1369(m), 1412(m), 1440(s), 1467(vs), 1602(w), 2865(w), 2901(w), 2952(m), 3386(br). μ<sub>eff</sub> (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) = 4.2 μ<sub>B</sub>. AP-CI MS (positive mode, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); *m/z* = 642 ([Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O)+2H]<sup>+</sup>); 605 ([Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>+Na]<sup>+</sup>); 582 ([Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>+H]<sup>+</sup>).

**Synthesis of 2.** H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>+</sup>AmAmNEt<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> (6.09 g, 10.0 mmol) and cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate (3.73 g, 15.0 mmol) were added to a Schlenk flask under N<sub>2</sub>. A dry, degassed mixture of toluene

(100 mL) and methanol (100 mL) was added to the solids. KOH (1.40 g, 25.0 mmol) was added under a flow of N<sub>2</sub> to the flask. The resulting deep purple solution was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was washed with pentane (2 × 30 mL). The remaining solid was extracted with methanol (2 × 50 mL) and afforded **2** as microcrystalline brown crystals (yield: 4.99 g, ~75%). Green-brown crystals of **2** suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were grown by slow evaporation of a saturated toluene solution in a glovebox at 25 °C. (yield: 1.07 g, ~16%).

**Characterization of 2.** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>66</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>; C, 72.15; H, 9.99; N, 4.21. Found: C, 71.99; H, 9.69; N, 4.24. UV-vis (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 252 (7500), 294 (7000), 304 (6400), 369 sh (1500), 482 (660); μ<sub>eff</sub> (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) = 3.9 μ<sub>B</sub>. MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene); *m/z* = 665 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>AmAmNEi2</sup>]<sup>+</sup>).

**Synthesis of 3.** H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>AmAmPy</sup> (2.28 g, 3.80 mmol), cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate (0.96 g, 3.84 mmol) and KOH (0.54 g, 9.60 mmol) were added under N<sub>2</sub> to a Schlenk flask fitted with a condenser. A dry, degassed mixture of toluene (25 mL) and methanol (25 mL) was added to the mixture. The resulting mixture was stirred and heated to reflux under N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h to afford an orange solution and purple solid. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was extracted with toluene (25 mL). The mixture was filtered to give a dark brown solution. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the resulting solid washed with pentane (20 mL) to afford a yellow-brown powder, **3** (yield: 1.32 g, 1.00 mmol, ~53%). Orange-red crystals of **3** were grown by slow cooling of a toluene solution at -35 °C in a glove box. Crystals of **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) were grown by slow cooling of a saturated toluene-CH<sub>3</sub>OH solution at 6 °C.

**Characterization of 3.** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>58</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>; C, 73.03; H, 8.89; N, 4.26. Found: C, 73.00; H, 8.89; N, 4.22. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 727(m), 760(m), 783(m), 819(w), 869(w), 906(w), 937(w), 971(w), 1015(w), 1054(w), 1130(w), 1157(w), 1215(w), 1252(m), 1301(s), 1358(w), 1378(w), 1413(w), 1435(s), 1464(vs), 1568(w), 1605(w), 2870(w), 2900(w), 2958(m). UV-vis (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 272 (6500), 295 (7000), 303 (6100), 385 sh (870), 475 (330). μ<sub>eff</sub> (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) = 4.0 μ<sub>B</sub>, μ<sub>eff</sub> (solid, 300 K) = 4.9 μ<sub>B</sub> (per Co). MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene); *m/z* = 1315 ([{Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>AmAmPy</sup>]<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>; 657 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>AmAmPy</sup>]<sup>+</sup>).

**Characterization of 3(CH<sub>3</sub>OH).** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>58</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>(2CH<sub>3</sub>OH)(H<sub>2</sub>O); C, 68.18; H, 9.26; N, 3.79. Found: C, 68.29; H, 8.52; N, 3.85. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup> selected peak): 3324(br) ν(O-H) of methanol. UV-vis (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 268 (6500), 294 (5900), 307 (5450), 390 sh (980), 478 (240). μ<sub>eff</sub> (solid, 300 K) = 1.7 μ<sub>B</sub> (per Co). MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene); *m/z* = 657 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>AmAmPy</sup>]<sup>+</sup>).

**General procedure for the synthesis of trimetallic complexes, 4–6.** H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>AmAmPy</sup> (4.40 mmol) and cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate (1.30 g, 5.22 mmol) were placed under N<sub>2</sub> in a Schlenk flask fitted with a condenser. A dry, degassed mixture of toluene (50 mL) and methanol (50 mL) was added to the mixture. The resulting suspension was stirred and heated to reflux under N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h to afford a pale pink solution and a pale purple solid. The solid was collected on a frit and dissolved in hot chloroform (25–50 mL) to give a purple solution. Room temperature methanol was added

dropwise to the hot, saturated chloroform solution until evidence of precipitation was seen. A few drops of chloroform were added to the purple solution to ensure complete dissolution of the solid. Crystals were obtained by cooling these solutions to -20 °C. Pink to purple crystals were isolated in yields of 1.53 g (70%) for **4**, 1.28 g (50%) for **5**, and 1.14 g (40%) for **6**.

**Characterization of 4.** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>100</sub>Co<sub>4</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>12</sub>; C, 59.28; H, 8.02; N, 3.34. Found: C, 59.48; H, 8.05; N, 3.40. UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 250 (43000), 300 (30000), 380 (3800), 535sh (700), 640 (300); μ<sub>eff</sub> (solid, 300 K) = 4.73 μ<sub>B</sub> (per Co) MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene) *m/z* = 674 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>BuMeNMMe2</sup>Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), *m/z* = 497 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>BuMeNMMe2</sup>]<sup>+</sup>).

**Characterization of 5.** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>76</sub>H<sub>130</sub>Co<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>12</sub>; C, 62.15; H, 8.92; N, 3.81. Found: C, 62.13; H, 8.35; N, 3.96. IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 536(w), 586(w), 668(w), 740(w), 781(w), 806(w), 832(m), 878(m), 941(w), 1028(w), 1088(w), 1111(w), 1131(w), 1167(w), 1203(w), 1236(m), 1252(m), 1304(s), 1360(m), 1413(s), 1442(s), 1469(vs), 1576(vs), 2868(m), 2902(m), 2954(s), 3416(br). UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 245 (44000), 295 (30800), 380 (4000), 528sh (700), 635 (320); μ<sub>eff</sub> (solid, 300 K) = 4.67 μ<sub>B</sub> (per Co) MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene) *m/z* = 758 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>BuBuNMMe2</sup>Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), *m/z* = 581 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>BuBuNMMe2</sup>]<sup>+</sup>).

**Characterization of 6.** Anal. Calcd for C<sub>88</sub>H<sub>154</sub>Co<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>12</sub>; C, 64.57; H, 9.48; N, 3.42. Found: C, 64.75; H, 9.70; N, 3.73. UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) λ<sub>max</sub>, nm (ε): 245 (44000), 295 (30000), 380 (4000), 528sh (700), 635 (320); MALDI-TOF MS (positive mode, anthracene) *m/z* = 783 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>AmAmNEi2</sup>Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), *m/z* = 665 ([Co(O<sub>2</sub>NN)<sup>AmAmNEi2</sup>]<sup>+</sup>).

### Crystal structure determination

Single crystals of suitable dimensions were used for data collection. Methods of crystal growth are outlined in the synthetic procedures above. Crystallographic and structure refinement data are given in Table 1.

For **1**, **3–6**; crystals were mounted on a diffraction loop. Measurements were made on a Rigaku Saturn CCD area detector with Mo-Kα radiation. Data were collected and processed using CrystalClear (Rigaku).<sup>67</sup> For **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) [excluding alcoholic protons, H(109, 113, 117, 121, 125, 129, 133), that were introduced in difference map positions], and **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) hydrogen atoms were introduced in calculated positions with isotropic thermal parameters set twenty percent greater than those of their bonding partners. For **5**, H(61) and H(65) were introduced in their difference map positions and allowed to refine positionally, with fixed isotropic thermal parameters (1.2 times greater than their bonding partners at the time they were introduced) and all other hydrogen atoms were introduced in calculated positions with isotropic thermal parameters set twenty percent greater than those of their bonding partners. For **6**, alcoholic protons [H(73, 77)] were introduced in difference map positions while all other hydrogens were introduced in calculated positions with isotropic thermal parameters set twenty percent greater than those of their bonding partners. In all cases, hydrogen atoms were refined on the riding model. For **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), **5**, **6** all non-hydrogen atoms

**Table 1** Crystallographic and structure refinement data for compounds **1** to **6**

Compound	<b>1</b> (CH <sub>3</sub> COCH <sub>3</sub> )	<b>1</b> (CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	<b>1</b> (C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> (CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Chemical formula	C <sub>39.25</sub> H <sub>64.50</sub> CoN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3.75</sub>	C <sub>37.50</sub> H <sub>68</sub> Co N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5.50</sub>	C <sub>37.75</sub> H <sub>61.50</sub> Co N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3.25</sub>	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>66</sub> CoN <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>103</sub> H <sub>148</sub> Co <sub>2</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>64</sub> H <sub>106.8</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>12.4</sub>	C <sub>90</sub> H <sub>146</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	C <sub>88</sub> H <sub>154</sub> Co <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>12</sub>
Formula weight	683.39	693.89	654.35	665.88	1656.19	1307.57	1652.96	1637.00
<i>T</i> /K	123(2)	123(2)	153(2)	198(1)	153(2)	138(2)	123(2)	128(2)
Color, habit	Dark pink, irregular	Pink, irregular	Pink, irregular	Green, block	Black, chunk	Purple, irregular	Pink, prism	Light purple, prism
Crystal Dimensions/mm	0.20 × 0.19 × 0.18	0.24 × 0.14 × 0.09	0.26 × 0.23 × 0.21	0.55 × 0.40 × 0.30	0.52 × 0.31 × 0.25	0.40 × 0.69 × 0.68	0.18 × 0.17 × 0.17	0.12 × 0.11 × 0.06
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Triclinic	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>Pna</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> (#33)	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$ (#2)	<i>Pna</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> (#33)	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (#14)	<i>P</i> $\bar{1}$ (#2)	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i> (#14)	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (#14)	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (#14)
<i>a</i> /Å	23.579(3)	14.902(2)	23.496(3)	10.833(2)	10.346(3)	9.7690(9)	11.027(3)	12.862(2)
<i>b</i> /Å	23.671(3)	15.3466(15)	23.319(3)	30.704(7)	15.283(5)	17.4799(17)	22.278(5)	22.109(3)
<i>c</i> /Å	14.476(2)	19.850(3)	14.4917(17)	11.725(3)	15.482(5)	19.904(2)	20.267(5)	18.557(3)
$\alpha$ (°)	90	74.869(10)	90	90	100.085(3)	90	90	90
$\beta$ (°)	90	89.538(13)	90	92.829(4)	97.893(3)	90.771(2)	113.692(6)	119.714(3)
$\gamma$ (°)	90	67.524(9)	90	90	105.592(4)	90	90	90
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	8079.7(20)	4028.0(10)	7940.3(16)	3895.0(15)	2277.1(13)	3398.6(6)	4559.3(20)	4583.0(12)
<i>Z</i>	8	4	8	4	1	2	2	2
<i>D</i> <sub>c</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.124	1.144	1.095	1.136	1.208	1.278	1.204	1.186
$\mu$ (Mo-K $\alpha$ )/cm <sup>-1</sup>	4.62	4.67	4.66	7.1073	4.20	7.84	5.98	5.94
<i>F</i> (000)	2968	1512	2840	1452	896	1398	1782	1774
$\theta$ Range for collection (°)	2.72 to 26.50	2.71 to 26.50	2.72 to 26.50	1.33 to 27.50	2.72 to 26.50	2.55 to 27.50	2.72 to 27.50	2.69 to 26.50
Reflections collected	67575	35216	68663	15018	17963	30947	42832	40123
Independent reflections	16357	16429	16419	8666	9168	7781	10466	9487
Parameters/restraints	848/1	831/0	848/1	473/69	425/0	381/0	500/0	485/0
<i>R</i> (int)	0.0623	0.0401	0.0492	0.0388	0.0250	0.0257	0.0442	0.0472
<i>R</i> , w <i>R</i> 2(all)	0.0636, 0.1680	0.0810, 0.1776	0.0696, 0.1824	0.0715, 0.1843	0.0578, 0.1794	0.0490, 0.1314	0.0795, 0.1996	0.0705, 0.1670
<i>R</i> , w <i>R</i> 2[ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )] <sup>a</sup>	0.0601, 0.1632	0.0697, 0.1674	0.0667, 0.1792	0.0588, 0.1733	0.0562, 0.1762	0.0468, 0.1288	0.0753, 0.1953	0.0651, 0.1623
GOF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.068	1.094	1.101	1.040	1.104	1.058	1.076	1.116

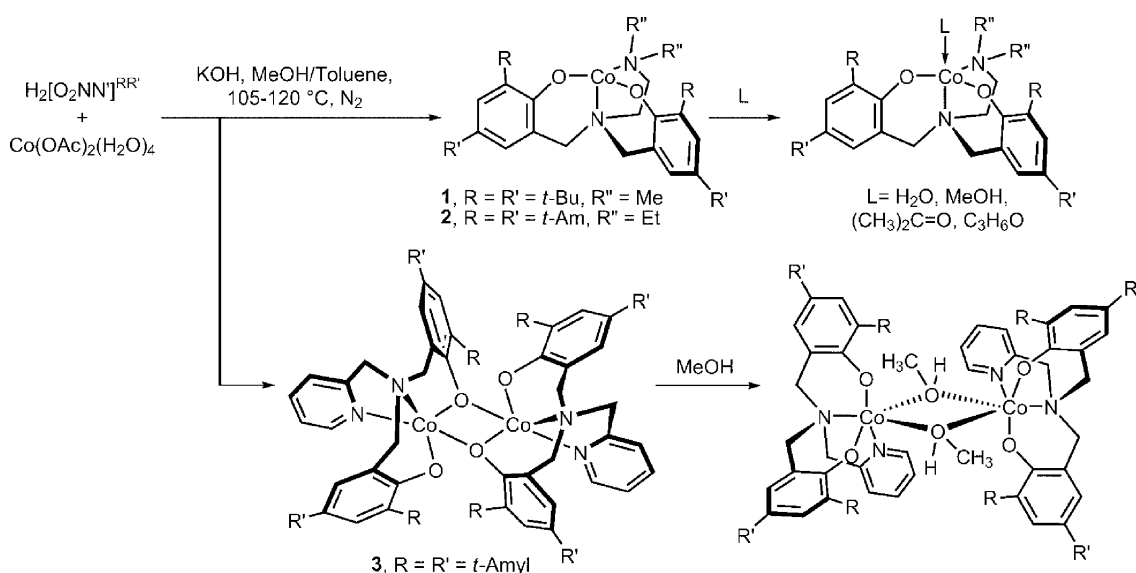
$$^a R = \Sigma(|F_o| - |F_c|) / \Sigma |F_o|, wR2 = [\Sigma(w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2) / \Sigma w(F_o^2)^2]^{1/2}.$$

were refined anisotropically, however, for **4** some were refined isotropically. For **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), **4**, **5**, and **6** the structures were solved by direct methods,<sup>68</sup> and for **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) by a Patterson orientation/translation search.<sup>69</sup> The structures for **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), **4**, **5**, **6** were expanded using Fourier techniques.<sup>70</sup> For adducts of **1** and **3–6**, the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were refined using the riding model.

For **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) and **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), two cobalt complexes are present in the asymmetric unit. For **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.5 acetone molecules are present as lattice solvent in the asymmetric unit with [C(75–77) and O(7)] at a half-occupancy and [C(78–80) and O(8)] at full-occupancy. For **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), the *Z* value was set to four in order to give the formula per monomer, [(C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>54</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)Co(CH<sub>3</sub>OH)](CH<sub>3</sub>OH)<sub>2.5</sub>, and 2.5 methanol molecules as lattice solvent. For **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), the *Z* value was also set to four to give 0.25 propylene oxide (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) molecules as lattice solvent. Furthermore, for **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), there are two disordered moieties in the model. The first is a disordered *t*-butyl group consisting of [C(59–61)] and [C(62–64)], refined with PART commands, each part at 50% occupancy. The corresponding protons could not be located in difference map positions and were omitted from the model. The second area of disorder consists of [C(72), H(100–102)] at 75% occupancy, and [C(75), H(103–105)] at 25% occupancy in a propylene oxide molecule, also refined

with PART commands. The other three protons on this propylene oxide could not be located in difference map positions, and were omitted from the model. However, these protons are included in the formula unit for the structure. A fourth solvent adduct of **1** was also crystallographically characterized and contains both a methanol and water adduct in the crystallographic unit cell. Crystallographic data (cif format) for compound **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH–H<sub>2</sub>O) are available in the Electronic Supplementary Information.† For **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), the Platon<sup>71</sup> Squeeze procedure was applied to recover 154 electrons per unit cell in one void (total volume 624 Å<sup>3</sup>); that is 154 electrons per formula unit (with *Z* = 1 in this model). Disordered solvent lattice toluene molecules were present prior to the application of Squeeze, however, a satisfactory point atom model could not be achieved. The application of Squeeze gave a good improvement in the data statistics and allowed for a full anisotropic refinement of the structure. For **4**, protons were located in the difference map and initially refined positionally with a fixed thermal parameter. In the final round of least squares these protons were refined on a riding model with isotropic thermal parameters set twenty percent greater than those of their bonding partners. The model contains one partial occupancy water molecule as lattice solvent; its corresponding hydrogen atoms could not be located in the difference map and hence were omitted from the model, as were the OH protons of the methanol molecules. For **5**, one full occupancy toluene molecule is also present as lattice





**Scheme 1** Syntheses of mono- and bi-metallic amine-bis(phenolate) complexes of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$ .

solvent in the asymmetric unit. For **6**, the asymmetric unit contains half the  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  complex and so the  $Z$  value was set to two in order to give the formula per complex.

For compounds **1**, **3–6**, neutral atom scattering factors were taken from Cromer and Waber.<sup>72</sup> Anomalous dispersion effects were included in  $F_{\text{calc}}$ ;<sup>73</sup> the values for  $\Delta f'$  and  $\Delta f''$  were those of Creagh and McAuley.<sup>74</sup> The values for the mass attenuation coefficients are those of Creagh and Hubbell.<sup>75</sup> All calculations were performed using the CrystalStructure,<sup>76,77</sup> crystallographic software package except for refinement, which was performed using SHELXL-97.<sup>68</sup>

For **2**, single crystals were coated with Paratone-N oil, mounted using a polyimide MicroMount and frozen in the cold nitrogen stream of the goniometer. A hemisphere of data was collected on a Bruker AXS P4/SMART 1000 diffractometer using  $\omega$  and  $\theta$  scans with a scan width of  $0.3^\circ$  and 20 s exposure times. The detector distance was 5 cm. The crystal was twinned and the orientation matrices for two components were determined (CELL\_NOW).<sup>78</sup> The data were reduced (SAINT)<sup>79</sup> and corrected for absorption (TWINABS).<sup>80</sup> The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares on  $F^2$  (SHELXTL)<sup>81,82</sup> on all data. Two of the *t*-amyl groups were disordered and the site occupancy determined using an isotropic model as 0.40 (C(30)), 0.38 (C(30')), 0.22 (C(30'')), 0.63 (C(37)–C(40)), and 0.37 (C(37')–C(40')) and fixed in subsequent refinement cycles. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined using anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were included in calculated positions and refined using a riding model. Methyl and ethyl positions in the disordered side chains were superimposed and hydrogen atoms for the affected carbon atoms were omitted.

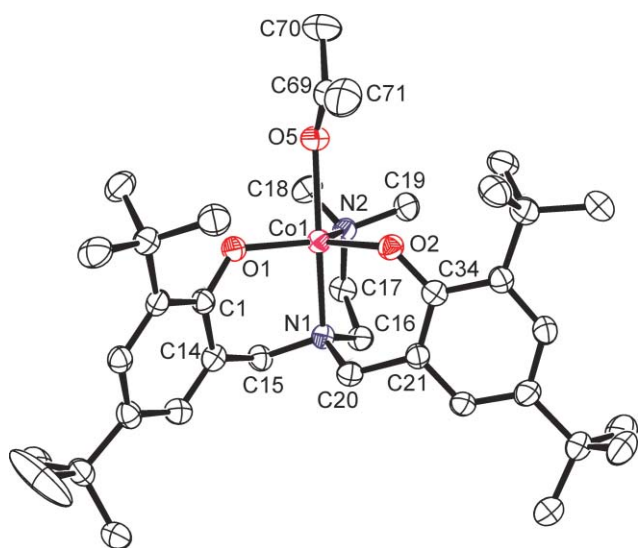
## Results and discussion

### Syntheses and structures of monometallic complexes

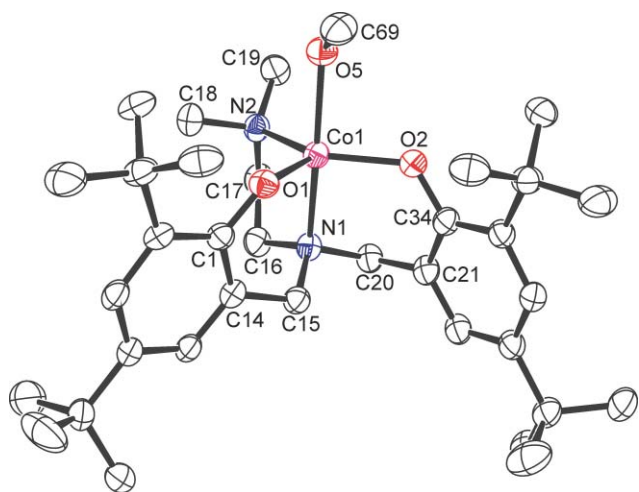
Reactions in a toluene–methanol mixture of approximately one equivalent of cobaltous acetate tetrahydrate with an equivalent of protio-ligand under basic conditions afforded dark purple mix-

tures. Upon removal of the solvent under vacuum and subsequent extraction of the products using toluene, yellow-brown powders, **1–3**, Scheme 1, were isolated in good to moderate yields. These powders have a formulation of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}[\text{O}_2\text{NN}']$  when the pendant donor is dimethylamino- or diethylamino-, whereas they possess the formulation  $\{\text{Co}^{\text{II}}[\text{O}_2\text{NN}']\}_2$  when the pendant donor is a pyridyl group (see below).

Recrystallizations of the monometallic species **1** have been performed in a range of solvents. In the presence of donor solvents, trigonal bipyramidal  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  complexes are obtained. The equatorial plane of each  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  ion consists of two phenolate oxygens, O(1) and O(2), and a dimethylamino donor, N(2). The nitrogen donor in the backbone of the ligand, N(1), occupies an apical position with the remaining coordination site taken up by the oxygen atom, O(5), of the donor solvent. Complexes have been structurally characterized containing acetone **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3$ ), methanol **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ), and propylene oxide **1**( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}$ ) in this position. Their structures are shown in Fig. 2 to 4 with bond lengths and angles given in Tables 2 to 4. Each structure contains two  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  complexes in the asymmetric unit. A fourth complex of this class has also been structurally characterized and contains a 1 : 1 mixture of methanol and aquo solvent adducts. Bond lengths and angles for that version are similar to the methanol adduct and will not be discussed further. Crystallographic data for the mixed aquo and methanol adduct, **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}\text{--H}_2\text{O}$ ), are available in Electronic Supplementary Information.† The distorted trigonal bipyramidal coordination environments of the  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  ions in **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3$ ), **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) and **1**( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}$ ) possess  $\tau$  values of 0.72 and 0.78, 0.66 and 0.80, and 0.74 and 0.77, respectively.<sup>83</sup> The significant differences in  $\tau$  values between the two molecules of **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) are due to intermolecular hydrogen bonding between methanol solvent of crystallization and one molecule of **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ). The protic nature of the coordinated methanol also leads to a degree of asymmetry in the  $\text{Co}\text{--O}_{\text{phenolate}}$  bond distances in the two molecules of **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) in the structure. Each molecule contains a short  $\text{Co}\text{--O}$  bond (1.930(2) Å, 1.935(2) Å) and a longer  $\text{Co}\text{--O}$  bond (1.972(2) Å, 1.982(2) Å). In **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{COCH}_3$ ) and **1**( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}$ ), this variation in  $\text{Co}\text{--O}$  bond distances is not observed and bond



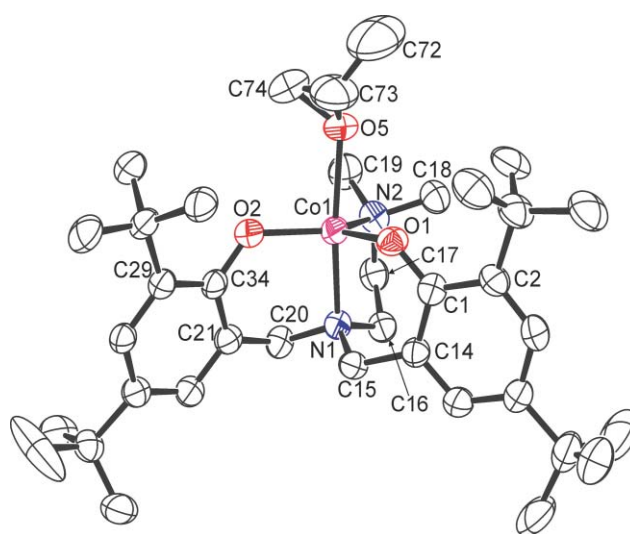
**Fig. 2** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of the acetone adduct of **1** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability. Only the molecule containing Co(1) is shown for clarity and solvent of crystallization omitted.



**Fig. 3** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of the methanol adduct of **1** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability. Only the molecule containing Co(1) shown for clarity and the solvent of crystallization omitted.

distances are in the range of 1.922(3) Å and 1.947(3) Å. A survey<sup>84</sup> of related Co<sup>II</sup> structures shows that these Co–O bond distances are typical, as the mean value for these is 1.945 Å (standard deviation of 0.031 Å).<sup>46,85–89</sup> Furthermore, the tertiary amine N–Co bond distances are also similar to those previously reported (mean value of 2.144 Å, standard deviation of 0.053 Å).<sup>46,86,90–94</sup>

However, the cavity-like nature of these ligands, as has been observed with a range of metals, means that an additional ligand in the apical position can be varied with some degree of control by simply changing the solvent of recrystallization. Also, the bond distance between the Co<sup>II</sup> center and the apical donor appears to be related to the steric demands of this ligand, with the Co(1)–O(5) bond distance in **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) being the longest of the three and the shortest being in **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH). Perhaps the most interesting of these three adducts is the propylene oxide complex, as Co<sup>III</sup> complexes are known to catalyse reactions of epoxides and carbon



**Fig. 4** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of the propylene oxide adduct of **1** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability. Only the molecule containing Co(1) and (*R*)-isomer of propylene oxide are shown, and solvent of crystallization omitted.

**Table 2** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for the acetone adduct of **1**

Co(1)–O(1)	1.923(3)	N(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	82.79(11)
Co(1)–O(2)	1.937(3)	O(1)–Co(1)–O(5)	91.77(10)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.135(3)	O(2)–Co(1)–O(5)	93.62(10)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.150(3)	N(1)–Co(1)–O(5)	168.94(10)
Co(1)–O(5)	2.208(2)	N(2)–Co(1)–O(5)	86.49(11)
Co(2)–O(4)	1.929(3)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(3)	123.51(11)
Co(2)–O(3)	1.947(3)	O(4)–Co(2)–N(4)	116.22(12)
Co(2)–N(4)	2.140(3)	O(3)–Co(2)–N(4)	120.25(12)
Co(2)–N(3)	2.151(3)	O(4)–Co(2)–N(3)	91.91(10)
Co(2)–O(6)	2.159(3)	O(3)–Co(2)–N(3)	93.32(11)
O(1)–C(1)	1.331(4)	N(4)–Co(2)–N(3)	82.82(11)
O(2)–C(34)	1.332(4)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	84.60(12)
O(3)–C(35)	1.339(4)	O(3)–Co(2)–O(6)	96.10(12)
O(4)–C(68)	1.333(4)	N(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	90.66(12)
O(5)–C(69)	1.207(4)	N(3)–Co(2)–O(6)	170.36(12)
O(6)–C(72)	1.191(5)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	127.6(2)
O(7)–C(75)	1.195(10)	C(34)–O(2)–Co(1)	126.6(2)
O(8)–C(78)	1.217(6)	C(35)–O(3)–Co(2)	122.8(2)
N(1)–C(20)	1.479(4)	C(68)–O(4)–Co(2)	127.6(2)
N(1)–C(16)	1.482(4)	C(69)–O(5)–Co(1)	141.5(3)
N(1)–C(15)	1.491(4)	C(72)–O(6)–Co(2)	143.9(4)
N(2)–C(18)	1.472(5)	C(20)–N(1)–C(16)	112.9(3)
N(2)–C(19)	1.487(5)	C(20)–N(1)–C(15)	110.1(3)
N(2)–C(17)	1.492(4)	C(16)–N(1)–C(15)	109.5(3)
N(3)–C(50)	1.475(4)	C(20)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.82(19)
N(3)–C(49)	1.480(4)	C(16)–N(1)–Co(1)	106.40(19)
N(3)–C(54)	1.490(4)	C(15)–N(1)–Co(1)	109.0(2)
N(4)–C(52)	1.473(5)	C(18)–N(2)–Co(1)	114.6(2)
N(4)–C(53)	1.484(5)	C(19)–N(2)–Co(1)	106.3(2)
N(4)–C(51)	1.487(5)	C(17)–N(2)–Co(1)	108.1(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(2)	120.64(11)	C(50)–N(3)–Co(2)	107.7(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	92.33(11)	C(49)–N(3)–Co(2)	109.4(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	93.12(10)	C(54)–N(3)–Co(2)	111.96(19)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	125.90(12)	C(52)–N(4)–Co(2)	113.4(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	113.43(11)	C(53)–N(4)–Co(2)	107.8(2)
		C(51)–N(4)–Co(2)	107.3(2)

dioxide. Although this complex contains Co<sup>II</sup> rather than Co<sup>III</sup>, this compound may potentially act as model for the higher oxidation state analog. Furthermore, there are relatively few Co<sup>II</sup> phenolate complexes that also contain ethereal ligands in the coordination

**Table 3** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for the methanol adduct of **1**

Co(1)–O(1)	1.930(2)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	90.97(9)
Co(1)–O(2)	1.972(2)	O(3)–Co(2)–O(6)	90.98(9)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.142(3)	N(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	91.88(9)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.153(3)	O(4)–Co(2)–N(3)	92.73(9)
Co(1)–O(5)	2.154(2)	O(3)–Co(2)–N(3)	90.57(9)
Co(2)–O(4)	1.935(2)	N(4)–Co(2)–N(3)	82.39(9)
Co(2)–O(3)	1.982(2)	O(6)–Co(2)–N(3)	174.06(9)
Co(2)–N(4)	2.142(2)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	128.01(18)
Co(2)–O(6)	2.147(2)	C(34)–O(2)–Co(1)	124.89(19)
Co(2)–N(3)	2.176(2)	C(35)–O(3)–Co(2)	121.12(18)
O(1)–C(1)	1.333(3)	C(68)–O(4)–Co(2)	123.91(18)
O(2)–C(34)	1.351(4)	C(69)–O(5)–Co(1)	121.1(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(2)	117.11(9)	C(70)–O(6)–Co(2)	125.1(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	92.89(9)	C(16)–N(1)–Co(1)	107.97(19)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	90.77(9)	C(15)–N(1)–Co(1)	109.68(18)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	112.44(9)	C(20)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.49(18)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	130.18(9)	C(17)–N(2)–Co(1)	108.12(19)
N(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	81.83(10)	C(19)–N(2)–Co(1)	115.36(19)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(5)	95.18(9)	C(18)–N(2)–Co(1)	106.41(18)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(5)	90.91(9)	C(54)–N(3)–Co(2)	109.21(17)
N(1)–Co(1)–O(5)	169.93(9)	C(50)–N(3)–Co(2)	107.44(17)
N(2)–Co(1)–O(5)	89.50(9)	C(49)–N(3)–Co(2)	110.46(18)
O(4)–Co(2)–O(3)	126.29(9)	C(51)–N(4)–Co(2)	106.19(17)
O(4)–Co(2)–N(4)	113.03(9)	C(52)–N(4)–Co(2)	113.40(19)
O(3)–Co(2)–N(4)	120.53(9)	C(53)–N(4)–Co(2)	109.86(18)

**Table 4** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for the propylene oxide adduct of **1**

Co(1)–O(2)	1.922(3)	C(34)–O(2)–Co(1)	127.8(2)
Co(1)–O(1)	1.930(3)	C(35)–O(3)–Co(2)	123.2(2)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.123(3)	C(71)–O(4)–Co(2)	126.7(2)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.132(4)	C(74)–O(5)–C(73)	59.1(5)
Co(1)–O(5)	2.220(3)	C(74)–O(5)–Co(1)	123.7(3)
Co(2)–O(4)	1.925(3)	C(73)–O(5)–Co(1)	123.3(4)
Co(2)–O(3)	1.935(3)	C(77)–O(6)–C(78)	59.1(4)
Co(2)–N(4)	2.129(4)	C(77)–O(6)–Co(2)	130.1(3)
Co(2)–N(3)	2.143(3)	C(78)–O(6)–Co(2)	123.0(3)
Co(2)–O(6)	2.219(3)	C(80)–O(7)–C(81)	57.5(10)
O(1)–C(1)	1.314(5)	C(15)–N(1)–C(16)	112.5(3)
O(2)–C(34)	1.332(5)	C(15)–N(1)–C(20)	110.1(3)
O(3)–C(35)	1.341(4)	C(16)–N(1)–C(20)	110.4(3)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(1)	119.55(13)	C(15)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.2(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	92.93(12)	C(16)–N(1)–Co(1)	106.3(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	94.14(12)	C(20)–N(1)–Co(1)	109.2(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	126.05(14)	C(19)–N(2)–C(17)	110.3(4)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	114.40(14)	C(19)–N(2)–C(18)	108.2(4)
N(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	83.10(13)	C(17)–N(2)–C(18)	109.8(4)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(5)	93.72(12)	C(19)–N(2)–Co(1)	113.1(3)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(5)	88.38(13)	C(17)–N(2)–Co(1)	108.5(3)
N(1)–Co(1)–O(5)	170.58(13)	C(18)–N(2)–Co(1)	106.9(3)
N(2)–Co(1)–O(5)	87.58(14)	C(50)–N(3)–C(54)	110.2(3)
O(4)–Co(2)–O(3)	120.93(12)	C(50)–N(3)–C(49)	111.0(3)
O(4)–Co(2)–N(4)	115.94(13)	C(54)–N(3)–C(49)	108.1(3)
O(3)–Co(2)–N(4)	123.13(13)	C(50)–N(3)–Co(2)	107.3(2)
O(4)–Co(2)–N(3)	93.18(11)	C(54)–N(3)–Co(2)	111.5(2)
O(3)–Co(2)–N(3)	94.22(11)	C(49)–N(3)–Co(2)	108.8(2)
N(4)–Co(2)–N(3)	82.91(12)	C(52)–N(4)–C(51)	108.8(3)
O(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	90.10(12)	C(52)–N(4)–C(53)	108.3(3)
O(3)–Co(2)–O(6)	92.88(11)	C(51)–N(4)–C(53)	110.8(3)
N(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	86.42(12)	C(52)–N(4)–Co(2)	113.8(3)
N(3)–Co(2)–O(6)	169.23(12)	C(51)–N(4)–Co(2)	107.3(2)
C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	125.7(2)	C(53)–N(4)–Co(2)	107.8(3)

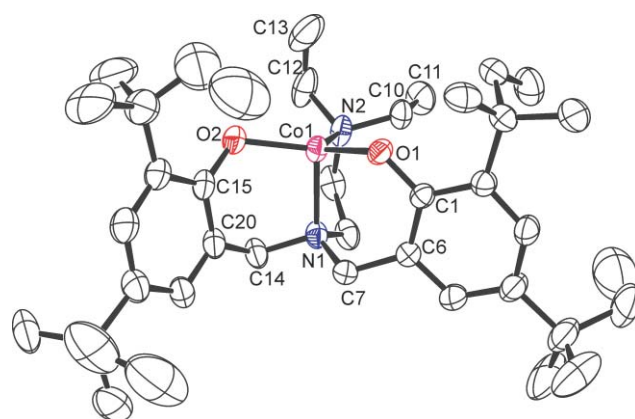
sphere. A tetrameric Co<sup>II</sup> catecholate complex containing THF ligands within the Co coordination sphere exhibits Co–O<sub>ether</sub> bond distances of between 2.089(12) Å and 2.225(12) Å.<sup>95</sup> The Co–O<sub>ether</sub> bond distances in **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) of 2.220(3) Å and 2.219(3) Å

**Table 5** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **2**

Co(1)–O(1)	1.8782(14)	C(14)–N(1)–C(7)	110.62(17)
Co(1)–O(2)	1.8942(15)	C(8)–N(1)–Co(1)	105.63(14)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.0616(18)	C(14)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.80(13)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.0929(18)	C(7)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.04(12)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(2)	130.88(7)	C(9)–N(2)–C(12)	110.42(19)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	98.85(7)	C(9)–N(2)–C(10)	110.71(17)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	97.85(7)	C(12)–N(2)–C(10)	111.93(19)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	115.15(7)	C(9)–N(2)–Co(1)	104.49(14)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	111.59(7)	C(12)–N(2)–Co(1)	109.40(14)
N(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	86.93(8)	C(10)–N(2)–Co(1)	109.63(13)
C(8)–N(1)–C(14)	110.60(17)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	124.01(13)
C(8)–N(1)–C(7)	112.93(17)	C(15)–O(2)–Co(1)	116.89(13)

are comparable to the longer bond distances reported therein. Structurally characterized adducts of propylene oxide and other epoxides with a range of other metals have been reported.<sup>96–100</sup> In this context, the only M-phenolate complexes containing epoxides in the coordination sphere are Cd<sup>II</sup> and Zn<sup>II</sup> species.<sup>98</sup> In these complexes, M–O<sub>ether</sub> bond distances are between 2.301(5) Å and 2.357(2) Å for Cd complexes and an average of 2.108(3) Å for the Zn species. Therefore, the Co–O<sub>ether</sub> bond distances in **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O) show good agreement with literature precedents.

Although crystals suitable for X-ray analysis of the solvent-free complex Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN<sup>]</sup><sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub></sup> (**1**) could not be obtained, suitable crystals of Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN<sup>]</sup><sup>AmAmNEt<sub>2</sub></sup> (**2**) were grown from a toluene solution and contain four-coordinate Co<sup>II</sup> ions in a trigonal monopyramidal environment. The structure of **2** is shown in Fig. 5 with bond lengths and angles given in Table 5. Only a small number of complexes containing Co<sup>II</sup> in this environment have been reported previously,<sup>101–103</sup> and these generally contain trianionic ligands resulting in a net negatively charged complex. Co<sup>I</sup> in such a coordination geometry is also known.<sup>104</sup> As far as we are aware, **2** is the first neutral coordination compound of Co<sup>II</sup> in a trigonal monopyramidal environment (where no counter cations or anions are required to balance the charge). It is noteworthy that the Co–O<sub>phenolate</sub> and Co–N<sub>amine</sub> bond distances in **2** are shorter than in the five coordinate complexes of **1** described above. Therefore, although [O<sub>2</sub>NN<sup>]</sup><sup>AmAmNEt<sub>2</sub></sup> is more sterically demanding than [O<sub>2</sub>NN<sup>]</sup><sup>BuBuNMe<sub>2</sub></sup>, the presence of additional small, Lewis bases in the coordination sphere of the Co has a significant effect on the electronics at the metal center and leads to a lengthening of the

**Fig. 5** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of **2** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability.



Co–O and Co–N bonds in solvento complexes of **1** compared to compound **2**.

In addition to the cobalt complexes discussed above, a number of other trigonal monopyramidal coordination compounds have been reported during the past twenty years.<sup>105–115</sup> These complexes are generally described as being derived from a trigonal bipyramidal geometry but contain a vacant coordination site. They can also be described as containing significantly distorted tetrahedral environments, as they are closer to this common four-coordinate environment than square planar. In general, distortions from a perfect trigonal monopyramidal environment are reported as the distance at which the metal atom sits above or below the meridional plane containing three donor atoms. In **2**, Co(1) sits below the plane of O(1), O(2) and N(2) towards N(1) by a distance of 0.172 Å. However, as far as we are aware no angular structural parameter has been developed to assess how ideal the trigonal monopyramidal environment is, unlike the known parameters for trigonal bipyramidal species:  $\tau$ , for coordination complexes<sup>83</sup> and the method developed by Holmes for pentacoordinate main group compounds.<sup>116</sup> We propose that Addison and Reedijk's  $\tau$  parameter can be extended to describe an ideal trigonal monopyramidal geometry but as the largest angles in such an environment should be close to 120° and the smallest close to 90°, the geometric parameter becomes  $\tau' = (\{\beta + 90\} - \alpha)/60$ , where  $\beta$  = the largest angle obtained between a meridional donor, the metal and the apical donor, and  $\alpha$  = the largest donor-metal-donor angle in the meridional plane. Thereby,  $\tau'$  assesses trigonality in the same fashion as  $\tau$ , and the calculation is the same as if a dummy atom has been placed in the vacant coordination site (apical position) above the metal atom to form a trigonal bipyramidal environment from the trigonal monopyramidal complex. Therefore, for a perfect trigonal monopyramidal environment  $\tau' = 1.0$  and for a tetrahedral environment  $\tau' = 1.5$ . For **2**,  $\tau' = 0.97$ , and for other trigonal monopyramidal Co<sup>II</sup> complexes,  $\tau' = 0.89$ ,<sup>103</sup> 0.90,<sup>101</sup> and between 0.87 and 0.93.<sup>102</sup>

### Syntheses and structures of bimetallic complexes

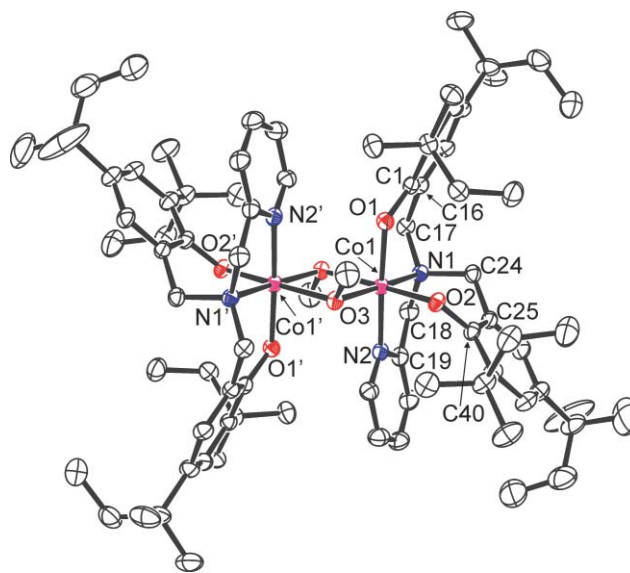
Reaction of cobaltous acetate with H<sub>2</sub>[O<sub>2</sub>NN']<sup>AmAmPy</sup> under basic conditions affords {Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN']<sup>AmAmPy</sup>}<sub>2</sub> as a crystalline material. Although the refinement of accurate metric parameters was not possible due to severe disorder of one *t*-amyl group, the structure and connectivity of **3** were confirmed by X-ray crystallography. It reveals that both cobalt centers are in distorted trigonal bipyramidal environments and one-phenolate donor from each ligand forms a bridge. A ball and stick representation of this structure is shown in Figure S1 in Electronic Supplementary Information.† This structure is very similar to previously prepared amine-bis(phenolate) complexes of Co<sup>II</sup>.<sup>45–48,86</sup> However, the substituents on the aromatic rings in these compounds are generally less sterically demanding than those used in our study.

In the presence of methanol, dark red-purple crystals of **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) could be grown. The structure of **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) is shown in Fig. 6 with bond lengths and angles given in Table 6. This complex contains two Co<sup>II</sup> centers bridged by methanol. The geometry of each Co<sup>II</sup> center is best described as distorted octahedral and contains Co–phenolate bond distances of 1.9013(15) and 1.9157(15) Å, which are moderately shorter than the terminal Co–phenolate bond distances in the related methanol-free bimetallic

**Table 6** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for the methanol adduct of **3**

Co(1)–O(1)	1.9013(15)	O(1)–Co(1)–O(3)	89.86(7)
Co(1)–N(2)	1.9150(17)	N(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	93.34(7)
Co(1)–O(2)	1.9157(15)	O(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	171.71(6)
Co(1)–O(3)	1.9326(15)	O(3)–Co(1)–O(3')	80.33(7)
Co(1)–N(1)	1.9505(17)	N(1)–Co(1)–O(3)	93.97(7)
Co(1)–O(3)	1.9522(15)	O(1)–Co(1)–Co(1)	88.21(4)
Co(1)–Co(1)	2.9688(10)	N(2)–Co(1)–Co(1)	94.08(5)
O(1)–C(1)	1.334(2)	O(2)–Co(1)–Co(1)	132.09(4)
O(2)–C(40)	1.337(2)	O(3)–Co(1)–Co(1)	40.41(4)
O(3)–C(41)	1.436(3)	N(1)–Co(1)–Co(1)	133.86(5)
O(3)–Co(1)	1.9522(14)	O(3)–Co(1)–Co(1)	39.92(4)
N(1)–C(18)	1.496(2)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	126.55(12)
N(1)–C(24)	1.501(2)	C(40)–O(2)–Co(1)	119.46(12)
N(1)–C(17)	1.502(3)	C(41)–O(3)–Co(1)	112.14(14)
N(2)–C(23)	1.340(3)	C(41)–O(3)–Co(1)	118.89(14)
N(2)–C(19)	1.346(3)	Co(1)–O(3)–Co(1)'	99.67(6)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	176.79(6)	C(18)–N(1)–C(24)	108.99(15)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(2)	87.44(7)	C(18)–N(1)–C(17)	109.70(16)
N(2)–Co(1)–O(2)	89.35(7)	C(24)–N(1)–C(17)	110.16(15)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(3)	87.39(6)	C(18)–N(1)–Co(1)	106.76(12)
N(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	92.89(7)	C(24)–N(1)–Co(1)	112.34(12)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	91.72(6)	C(17)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.83(11)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	94.40(6)	C(23)–N(2)–C(19)	120.14(18)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	85.64(7)	C(23)–N(2)–Co(1)	124.70(14)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	94.05(7)	C(19)–N(2)–Co(1)	114.22(14)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(1)	174.03(6)		

Symmetry transformation:  $-x + 2, -y + 1, -z + 2$



**Fig. 6** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of the methanol adduct of **3** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability.

cobalt complexes that possess bond distances between 1.9222(12) and 1.935(3) Å.<sup>45–48,86</sup> Interestingly, one of these known complexes is asymmetric,<sup>48</sup> containing one octahedral Co center with a coordinated methanol molecule, however the phenolates remain in their bridging positions. In **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), the bridging positions are taken up by the smaller methanol donors, this is presumably due to the steric demands of the *ortho t*-amyl groups on the phenolate donors as the previously described complexes contain small or no *ortho* substituents. The Co–O bond distance for the bridging methanols in **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) is 1.9326(15) Å and is shorter than the terminal Co–methanol interaction in the previously described

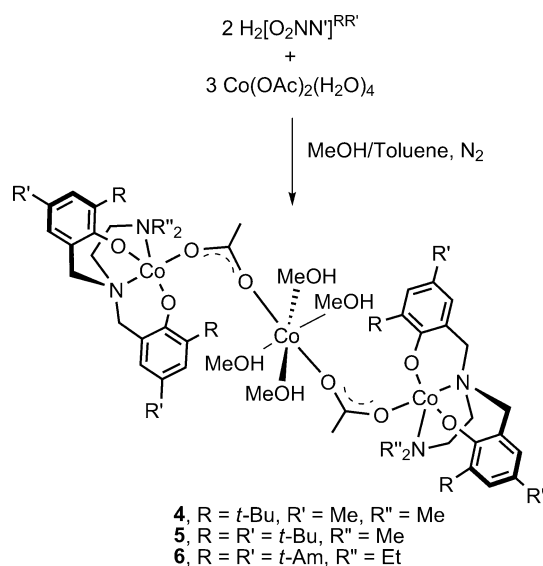


cobalt amine-bis(phenolate) complex.<sup>48</sup> It should also be noted that the Co–N bond distances within **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) are significantly shorter (1.9150(17) Å and 1.9505(17) Å) than those in previously reported Co<sup>II</sup> amine-bis(phenolate) complexes, 2.156(3)–2.1982(14) Å for Co–apical N bonds and 2.066(4)–2.119(4) Å for Co–pyridyl bonds.<sup>45–48,86</sup> The reason for the shorter bond distances within the Co coordination sphere of **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) compared with related complexes may be due to a difference in oxidation- or spin-state. In comparing **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) with the solvento complexes of **1** and complex **2**, Co–O<sub>phenolate</sub> bond distances are intermediate of the two classes of monometallic complex but Co–N<sub>amine</sub> bond distances are significantly shorter in **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH). The previously studied phenolate-bridged complexes, where magnetic data are reported, contain two high-spin Co<sup>II</sup> centers.

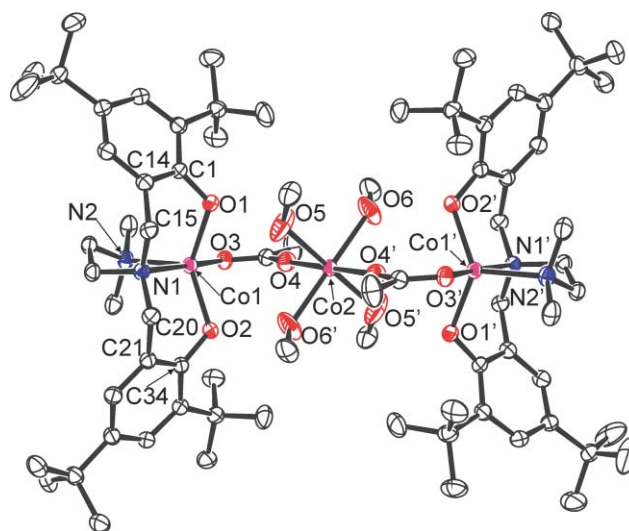
The shortening of bond lengths around the Co centres in **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) may be due to low-spin *d*<sup>7</sup> electron configurations. Alternatively, the shorter bond distances in **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) compared to the reported phenolate-bridged Co<sup>II</sup> complexes may indicate the metal centers in **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) are actually Co<sup>III</sup> ions and the bridging ligands are in fact methoxides. The structural data were re-examined in attempt to locate the HO-protons of the methanol ligands. Electron density could be located in the difference map on the methanol oxygen atom, suggesting the bridging ligand is indeed methanol rather than methoxide. However, this alone is insufficient to unequivocally determine whether the bridging ligands are methanol or methoxide. Spectroscopic and magnetic data (see below) may provide some insight into the nature of **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH).

### Syntheses and structures of trimetallic complexes

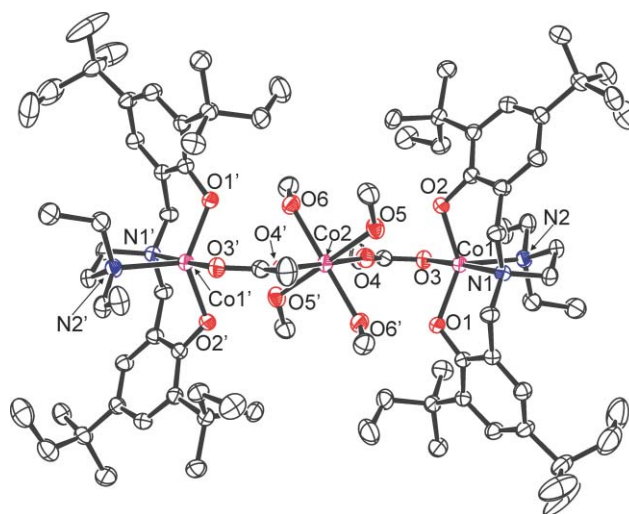
In the presence of excess cobaltous acetate during the synthetic procedure and in the absence of base, trimetallic complexes **4–6** were isolated that contain two Co[O<sub>2</sub>NN]<sup>RR'</sup> fragments bridged with a Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>OH)<sub>4</sub> unit (Scheme 2). The structures of **5** and **6** are shown in Fig. 7 and 8, respectively. Bond lengths and angles for **4**, **5** and **6** are given in Tables 7, 8 and 9,



**Scheme 2** Syntheses of trimetallic amine-bis(phenolate) complexes of Co<sup>II</sup>.



**Fig. 7** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of **5** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability.



**Fig. 8** ORTEP diagram of the molecular structure of **6** with 50% thermal ellipsoid probability.

respectively. The bridging cobalt unit contains a Co<sup>II</sup> ion in a nearly perfect octahedral environment whereas the terminal cobalt amine-bis(phenolate) units possess distorted trigonal bipyramidal geometries, *t* = 0.62, 0.65 and 0.75 respectively for **4–6**. The compounds are centrosymmetric and contain an inversion centre on Co(2). No differences are observed between the three structures in terms of Co–O<sub>phenolate</sub> (1.9899(14)–2.004(2) Å) and Co–N<sub>amine</sub> (2.148(3)–2.242(2) Å) bond distances.

In comparison with the structures of **1**(solvent), **2** and **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), the Co–O<sub>phenolate</sub> bond distances are slightly longer than the monometallic and bimetallic species whereas the Co–N<sub>amine</sub> distances are comparable with **1**(solvent) and **2** but longer than **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH). As far as we are aware these complexes are the first Co<sup>II</sup> phenolate derivatives containing unsupported acetate bridges. Previous examples of Co<sup>II</sup> trimetallic species contain either multiple acetate (or trifluoroacetate) bridges between the metal centres or have phenolate bridges in addition to the acetate bridges.<sup>117–121</sup> The bridging acetate O–Co bond distances in **4–6**

**Table 7** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **4**

Co(1)–O(1)	1.9899(14)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(4)	180.0
Co(1)–O(2)	1.9982(14)	O(5)–Co(2)–O(6)	90.70(7)
Co(1)–O(3)	2.0540(15)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	96.12(7)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.1532(17)	O(6)–Co(2)–O(6)	180.0
Co(1)–N(1)	2.2319(17)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	125.81(12)
Co(2)–O(5)	2.0647(15)	C(28)–O(2)–Co(1)	121.08(12)
Co(2)–O(4)	2.0732(16)	C(29)–O(3)–Co(1)	112.45(14)
Co(2)–O(6)	2.0938(15)	C(29)–O(4)–Co(2)	169.73(17)
O(1)–C(1)	1.348(2)	C(31)–O(5)–Co(2)	126.69(14)
O(2)–C(28)	1.350(2)	C(32)–O(6)–Co(2)	123.08(16)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(2)	136.11(6)	C(13)–N(1)–C(12)	110.14(15)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(3)	92.51(6)	C(13)–N(1)–C(17)	111.19(16)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	95.00(6)	C(12)–N(1)–C(17)	106.52(15)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	113.12(6)	C(13)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.23(12)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	109.65(6)	C(12)–N(1)–Co(1)	111.21(12)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(2)	92.63(7)	C(17)–N(1)–Co(1)	109.57(12)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	88.01(6)	C(15)–N(2)–C(16)	108.32(19)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	89.31(6)	C(15)–N(2)–C(14)	111.98(19)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(1)	173.19(6)	C(16)–N(2)–C(14)	108.40(18)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	80.93(6)	C(15)–N(2)–Co(1)	109.05(14)
O(5)–Co(2)–O(5)	180.0	C(16)–N(2)–Co(1)	110.70(14)
O(5)–Co(2)–O(4)	86.86(7)	C(14)–N(2)–Co(1)	108.39(13)

Symmetry transformation:  $-x, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ **Table 8** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **5**

Co(1)–O(2)	1.995(2)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(4)	179.996(1)
Co(1)–O(1)	2.004(2)	O(4)–Co(2)–O(5)	86.85(11)
Co(1)–O(3)	2.049(2)	O(6)–Co(2)–O(5)	90.58(18)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.148(3)	O(5)–Co(2)–O(5)	180.00(14)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.241(3)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	121.08(18)
Co(2)–O(6)	2.061(3)	C(34)–O(2)–Co(1)	123.48(18)
Co(2)–O(4)	2.070(2)	C(35)–O(3)–Co(1)	112.42(19)
Co(2)–O(5)	2.076(3)	C(35)–O(4)–Co(2)	171.5(2)
O(1)–C(1)	1.347(3)	C(37)–O(5)–Co(2)	128.9(3)
O(2)–C(34)	1.346(3)	C(38)–O(6)–Co(2)	126.7(3)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(1)	133.91(9)	C(16)–N(1)–C(20)	109.8(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	94.39(9)	C(16)–N(1)–C(15)	111.1(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(3)	94.51(9)	C(20)–N(1)–C(15)	107.1(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	114.17(10)	C(16)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.18(18)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	110.60(10)	C(20)–N(1)–Co(1)	110.67(18)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(2)	91.96(9)	C(15)–N(1)–Co(1)	109.94(17)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	88.23(9)	C(18)–N(2)–C(19)	108.2(3)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	88.53(9)	C(18)–N(2)–C(17)	109.1(2)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(1)	172.71(9)	C(19)–N(2)–C(17)	110.4(2)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	80.77(9)	C(18)–N(2)–Co(1)	111.0(2)
O(6)–Co(2)–O(6)	180.0	C(17)–N(2)–Co(1)	109.70(19)
O(6)–Co(2)–O(4)	95.30(11)	C(19)–N(2)–Co(1)	108.39(18)

Symmetry transformation:  $-x, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ 

(2.040(2)–2.0732(16) Å) are comparable with those in previously reported Co<sup>II</sup> trimers.<sup>117,119,121</sup> The Co–O<sub>methanol</sub> interactions for the central cobalt in **4–6** are comparable with known Co–O bond distances for octahedral Co<sup>II</sup> species.<sup>122</sup>

### UV-visible spectroscopy

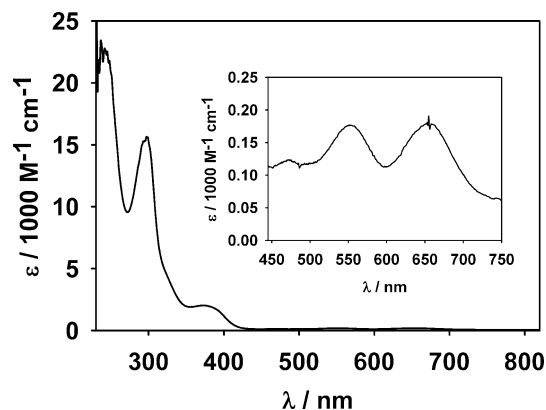
The colour of the compounds provides some qualitative information. Compounds possessing five-coordinate Co ions (**1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), **4**, **5**, and **6**) are dark pink/purple. Four-coordinate **2** is dark green, the five-coordinate dimer **3** is yellow/orange, whereas six-coordinate **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) is dark red/purple. Electronic absorption spectra of complexes **1** to **6** show multiple intense bands in the UV and visible regions. The absorption maxima observed in the UV region (below 300 nm)

**Table 9** Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **6**

Co(1)–O(1)	1.992(2)	O(5)–Co(2)–O(6)	90.36(9)
Co(1)–O(2)	1.999(2)	O(6)–Co(2)–O(6)	180.0
Co(1)–O(3)	2.040(2)	C(1)–O(1)–Co(1)	121.22(17)
Co(1)–N(2)	2.207(2)	C(40)–O(2)–Co(1)	123.63(17)
Co(1)–N(1)	2.242(2)	C(41)–O(3)–Co(1)	115.28(19)
Co(2)–O(4)	2.061(2)	C(41)–O(4)–Co(2)	170.3(2)
Co(2)–O(5)	2.079(2)	C(43)–O(5)–Co(2)	122.3(2)
Co(2)–O(6)	2.096(2)	C(44)–O(6)–Co(2)	125.80(19)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(2)	132.53(8)	C(28)–N(1)–C(24)	110.1(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–O(3)	93.80(8)	C(18)–N(1)–C(17)	111.2(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–O(3)	90.91(8)	C(24)–N(1)–C(17)	106.5(2)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(2)	109.27(9)	C(18)–N(1)–Co(1)	108.19(17)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(2)	116.77(9)	C(24)–N(1)–Co(1)	110.87(17)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(2)	97.91(9)	C(17)–N(1)–Co(1)	109.93(17)
O(1)–Co(1)–N(1)	88.71(8)	C(19)–N(2)–C(22)	111.6(2)
O(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	87.55(8)	C(19)–N(2)–C(20)	105.8(2)
O(3)–Co(1)–N(1)	177.48(9)	C(22)–N(2)–C(20)	112.0(2)
N(2)–Co(1)–N(1)	81.03(9)	C(19)–N(2)–Co(1)	106.29(17)
O(4)–Co(2)–O(4)	179.999(1)	C(22)–N(2)–Co(1)	105.56(17)
O(4)–Co(2)–O(5)	84.00(9)	C(20)–N(2)–Co(1)	115.47(18)
O(4)–Co(2)–O(6)	93.95(9)		

Symmetry transformation:  $-x, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ 

are caused by  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions involving the phenolate units – absorptions in this region are also observed in the spectra of the unmetallated ligand precursors.<sup>33</sup> Intense bands are also observed in the region between 300 and 450 nm, which are assigned to charge transfer transitions from the  $p_\pi$  orbital (HOMO) of the phenolate oxygen to the  $d$  orbitals of Co<sup>II</sup>. The broad charge transfer bands obscure the high-energy visible region where ligand field transitions would be expected, particularly in donor solvents such as methanol. For monomeric solvento complexes such as dark pink/purple **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>) in dichloromethane, the UV-vis spectrum (Fig. 9) shows weaker bands ( $\epsilon < 200$  L mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) between 550 and 700 nm, which can be assigned to  $d-d$  transitions.<sup>47,48,86</sup> The trigonal bipyramidal coordination at Co in the solvento complexes of **1** lowers the symmetry compared to a pure octahedral system, thereby easing the Laporte selection rule. It is difficult to unequivocally assign the observed bands to specific electronic transitions since high spin Co<sup>II</sup> in a trigonal bipyramidal ligand field shows six spin-allowed electronic transitions starting from the <sup>4</sup>A<sub>2</sub>'(F) ground state. However, assuming trigonal bipyramidal geometry around the cobalt ions in **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) and **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), the bands in the visible region at *ca.* 15300 and 18000 cm<sup>-1</sup> are assigned to <sup>4</sup>A<sub>2</sub>'(F)  $\rightarrow$  <sup>4</sup>E'(F)

**Fig. 9** UV-vis spectrum of **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

and  ${}^4A_2'(F) \rightarrow {}^4E''(P)$  transitions, respectively.<sup>48,123</sup> Bimetallic complexes **3** and **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) in methanol exhibit no distinct absorptions above 478 nm (20900 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and trimetallic complexes such as **5** (Fig. 10) show poorly resolved *d-d* bands above 500 nm.

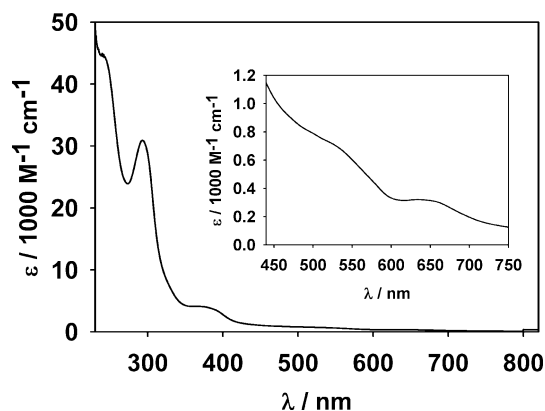


Fig. 10 UV-vis spectrum of **5** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

### Magnetic properties

The magnetic moments for complexes **1** to **5**, obtained either in solution (by Evans' NMR method) or as microcrystalline powder (by SQUID magnetometer), are given in Table 10. Average magnetic moments in the solid state were adjusted for diamagnetic contributions using Pascal's constants and where variable temperature data are presented, the data were fitted in the temperature ranges specified.

The magnetic moments of the monometallic complexes were studied in solution by Evans' method and values are consistent with high spin Co<sup>II</sup> ions ( $S = 3/2$ ) in low symmetry environments: **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), 4.2 μ<sub>B</sub>; **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.4 μ<sub>B</sub>; **1**(C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O), 4.2 μ<sub>B</sub>; **2**, 3.9 μ<sub>B</sub>. These values are in the expected range for a high-spin Co<sup>II</sup> *d*<sup>7</sup> ion exhibiting significant spin-orbit coupling. The temperature dependence of the effective magnetic moment, μ<sub>eff</sub>, for a polycrystalline powder sample of complex **1**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) was examined (see Figure S2 in Electronic Supplementary Information†). This five-coordinate cobalt complex exhibits a magnetic moment of 4.5 μ<sub>B</sub> at 300 K, consistent with a Co<sup>II</sup> ion in a high-spin ground state.<sup>124</sup> This value is larger than the spin-only magnetic moment value of 3.9 μ<sub>B</sub> for  $S = 3/2$ , indicating significant orbital contributions from low energy excited states typical for high spin Co<sup>II</sup>.<sup>125</sup> The data can be fit over the whole temperature range studied (2–300 K) to the Curie–Weiss law. The plot of χ<sub>M</sub><sup>-1</sup> versus *T* reveals a line exhibiting a trend defined by χ<sub>M</sub><sup>-1</sup> = 0.4003*T* + 1.8298 ( $R^2 = 0.9999$ ). This gives the Curie constant, *C*, of 2.50 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> (resulting in a *g*-value of 2.3) and θ = -4.57 K.

Table 10 Effective magnetic moments per Co center for complexes **1**–**5**

Complex	μ <sub>eff</sub> at 300 K/μ <sub>B</sub>	Complex	μ <sub>eff</sub> at 300 K/μ <sub>B</sub>
<b>1</b> (CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	4.2 <sup>a</sup> , 4.5 <sup>b</sup>	<b>3</b>	4.0 <sup>a</sup> , 4.9 <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b> (CH <sub>3</sub> COCH <sub>3</sub> )	4.4 <sup>a</sup>	<b>3</b> (CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	1.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b> (C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O)	4.2 <sup>a</sup>	<b>4</b>	4.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>2</b>	3.9 <sup>a</sup>	<b>5</b>	4.7 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Measured in solution by Evans' method. <sup>b</sup> Measured in solid state.

The magnetic behaviour of **3** expressed as χ<sub>M</sub> and μ<sub>eff</sub> versus *T* is shown in Fig. 11(a). For the phenolate-bridged dimer **3**, the magnetic moment at 300 K is 6.9 μ<sub>B</sub> per mole of dimer (4.9 μ<sub>B</sub> per Co), which is consistent with two Co<sup>II</sup> ions in the high-spin state ( $S = 3/2$ ). The moment decreases as *T* decreases, but the rate of decrease becomes smaller as it approaches 50 K. Below 50 K, the moment decreases abruptly, reaching a minimum value of 6.3 μ<sub>B</sub> per mole of dimer (4.5 μ<sub>B</sub> per Co) at 10 K. Below this temperature the moment begins to rise and reaches a maximum of 6.5 μ<sub>B</sub> (4.6 μ<sub>B</sub> per Co) at 2 K. These variations in magnetic moment over temperature are in fact relatively small, and a plot of χ<sub>M</sub><sup>-1</sup> versus *T* reveals a line consistent with Curie–Weiss behaviour as shown in Fig. 11(b). Applying the Curie–Weiss equation from 2 to 300 K gives a line defined by χ<sub>M</sub><sup>-1</sup> = 0.1706*T* + 0.6891 ( $R^2 = 0.9988$ ). This gives a Curie constant, *C*, of 5.86 cm<sup>3</sup> K mol<sup>-1</sup> and θ = -4.04 K. Because of the dinuclear nature of **3** and its similarity to related phenolate bridged Co<sup>II</sup> dimers of amine bis(phenolate) ligands,<sup>47,86</sup> the magnetic data for **3** were also modelled using the Heisenberg dimer model considering  $S_A = S_B = 3/2$ .<sup>126</sup> Previously reported Co<sup>II</sup> dimers exhibit χ<sub>M</sub> versus *T* plots possessing maxima at approximately 14 K, consistent with antiferromagnetic interaction where values of  $g = 2.29$  and  $J = -7.5$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>86</sup>  $g = 2.26$  and  $J = -4.2$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,<sup>46</sup> and  $g = 2.27$  and  $J = -6.1$  cm<sup>-1</sup> (where a zero-field splitting parameter,  $D = 7.7$  cm<sup>-1</sup>, was

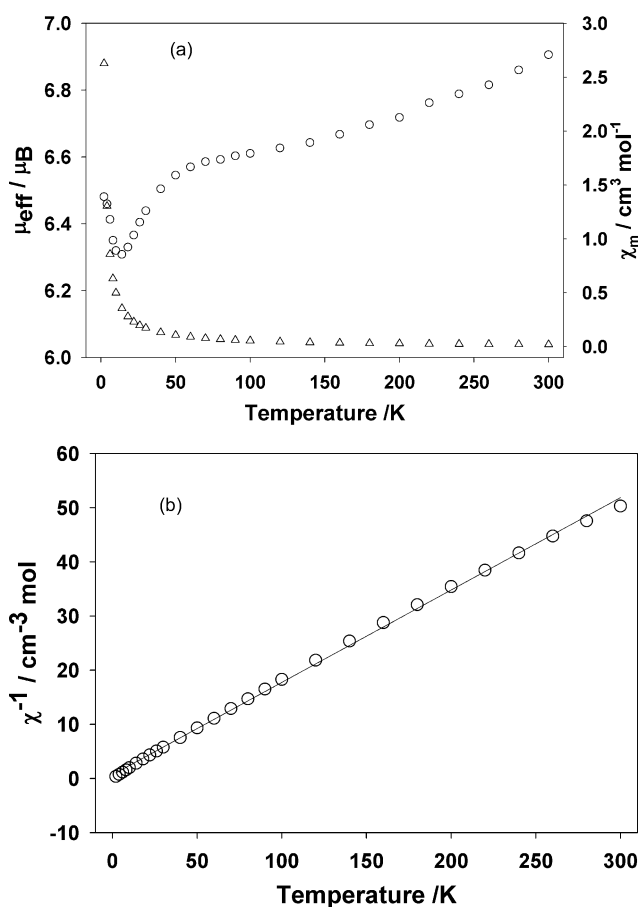


Fig. 11 (a) Magnetic moment (○) and susceptibility (△) versus temperature per mole of dimer for **3**. (b) Inverse susceptibility versus temperature plot for **3**. The solid line represents the best fit for the Curie–Weiss model as described in the text.



also included)<sup>47</sup> are obtained. Complex **3** shows no maximum over the temperature range examined, thereby implying magnetically isolated Co<sup>II</sup> centers. However, exploring a similar model to that employed in the analogous complexes is warranted. In modelling complex **3** using the Hamiltonian for two  $S = 3/2$  nuclei, the  $g$ -factor was fixed at 2.3 in agreement with the reported values. To account for the presence of paramagnetic impurity the expression was combined with the Curie law term,  $\chi_{para} = C/T$ , according to  $\chi_m = [1 - P]\chi_{dimer} + P\chi_{para}$ , where  $P$  represents the fraction of paramagnetic  $S = 3/2$  impurity. The presence of temperature independent paramagnetism (TIP) was also included in the model. The resulting best fit of the data yielded negligible values for  $J$  ( $< 0.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and  $P$  ( $< 0.01\%$ ). The model does, however, require a large TIP =  $36.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . The best fit between the calculated and experimental data are shown in Figure S3 in the Electronic Supplementary Information.† The resulting small value for  $J$  supports the proposal that unlike the previous examples of phenolate-bridged dimeric Co<sup>II</sup> amine-bis(phenolate) complexes, the Co<sup>II</sup> ions in complex **3** are magnetically dilute.

The magnetic behaviour of the methanol-bridged dimer, **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), expressed as  $\chi_M$  and  $\mu_{eff}$  versus  $T$  is shown in Fig. 12. **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) exhibits a magnetic moment of  $2.3 \mu_B$  per mole of dimer ( $1.7 \mu_B$  per Co). There is a steady decrease in the magnetic moment as temperature decreases, reaching a minimum of  $0.84 \mu_B$  per mole of dimer at 2 K. There are two possible interpretations of these data. One is that the data are consistent with two low-spin Co<sup>II</sup> ions ( $S = 1/2$ ). The significant decrease in magnetic moment during this temperature range would suggest antiferromagnetic coupling between the two metal ions thus approaching an  $S = 0$  ground state and/or the presence of zero field splitting. The data were therefore modeled using the Bleaney–Bowers equation,  $\chi_{BB} = (N_A g^2 \beta^2 / kT)(1 + 3e^{2J/kT})^{-1}$ , for magnetic exchange between two  $S = 1/2$  metal ions. However, this model gave an unreasonably large coupling constant,  $J = -490 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and required a very large contribution from temperature independent paramagnetism, TIP =  $21.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . Furthermore, zero-field splitting (ZFS) was not included in this model, and ZFS is qualitatively similar to an antiferromagnetic interdimer interaction and typically large for Co ions.<sup>127</sup> The low room-temperature moment and strong temperature dependence may also be explained if the cobalt centers are intermediate spin Co<sup>III</sup> with a low lying  $S = 1$  state. The higher oxidation

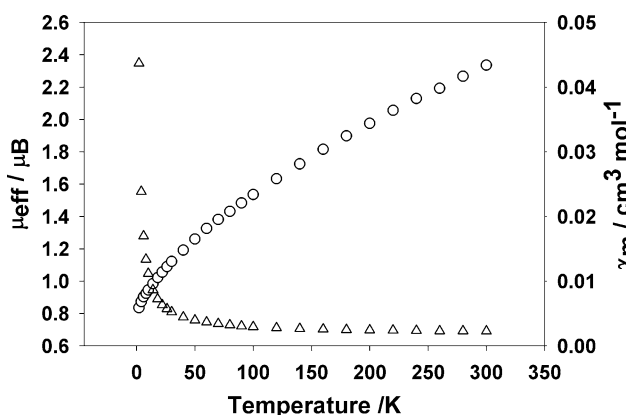


Fig. 12 Magnetic moment (○) and susceptibility (△) versus temperature per mole of dimer for **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH).

state is consistent with the shorter bond lengths compared to monomeric Co<sup>II</sup> complexes described herein and elsewhere (see above). Intermediate spin Co<sup>III</sup> ions are rare but typically found in five-coordinate (trigonal bipyramidal and square pyramidal) geometries<sup>128–131</sup> whereas octahedral complexes are almost always low spin. However, given the structural and magnetochemical behavior exhibited by **3**(CH<sub>3</sub>OH), the assignment of  $S = 1$  spin-states to the Co ions in the dimer cannot be excluded.

A polycrystalline sample of trimetallic **4** exhibits a magnetic moment of  $8.0 \mu_B$  per molecule ( $4.7 \mu_B$  per Co), which is within the expected range for high spin ( $S = 3/2$ ) Co<sup>II</sup> ions exhibiting strong spin–orbit coupling.<sup>125,127</sup> Cooling the sample causes a steadily more rapid decrease in moment reaching  $6.5 \mu_B$  per molecule at 4 K (Fig. 13). The shape of this curve is typical of polynuclear Co<sup>II</sup> species, and is expected to include contributions from zero-field splitting of the Co<sup>II</sup> and weak antiferromagnetic exchange within the chain. The data obey the Curie–Weiss law throughout the temperature range studied, with  $g = 2.45$  and  $\theta = -6.81 \text{ K}$  (Figure S4 in Electronic Supplementary Information†). The magnetic data for **4** were modelled by the isotropic trimer model where  $S = 3/2$ .<sup>132</sup> The best fit obtained generated  $g = 2.28$ , an exceedingly weak antiferromagnetic exchange with  $J = -0.07 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and Weiss constant  $\theta = -4.65$ . The presence of TIP was included to improve the fit, where TIP =  $21.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . For simplicity, ZFS was excluded from the model.

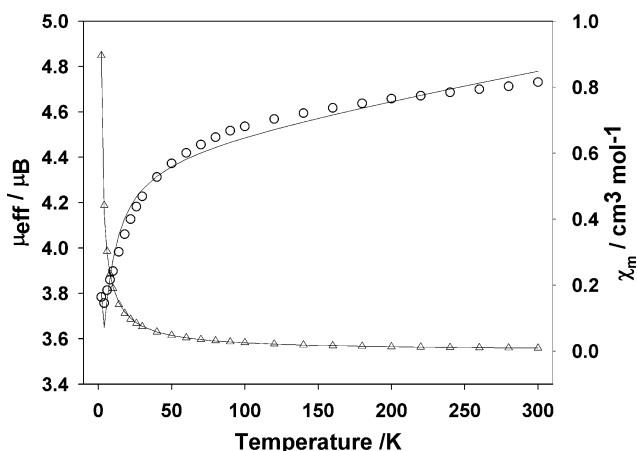
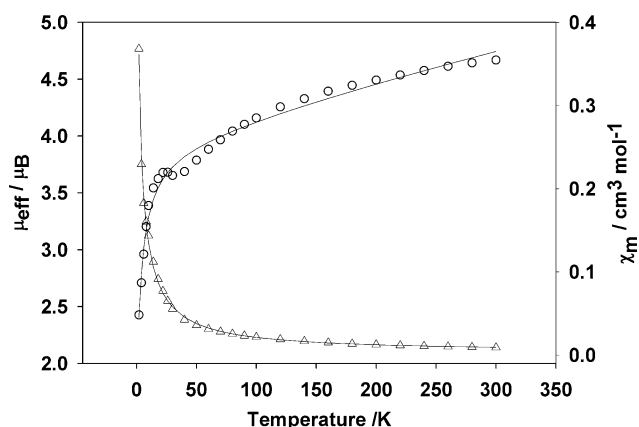


Fig. 13 Magnetic moment (○) and susceptibility (△) versus temperature per Co atom for **4**. The solid lines represent the fit given in the text.

The related trimetallic complex, **5**, exhibits similar magnetic behaviour to **4**. Plots of  $\chi_M$  and  $\mu_{eff}$  versus  $T$  per Co atom are shown in Fig. 14. A 300 K magnetic moment of  $4.7 \mu_B$  is similar to that observed for **4**. The moment decreases more rapidly as temperature is lowered and achieves a local minimum of  $3.7 \mu_B$  at 30 K before rising and falling to a low temperature limit of  $2.4 \mu_B$  at 2 K, consistent with significant zero-field splitting. Again, the absence of a maximum  $\chi$  in the plot is indicative of very weak or no antiferromagnetic exchange between Co<sup>II</sup> ions. It obeys the Curie–Weiss law giving  $g = 2.44$  and  $\theta = -18.29 \text{ K}$  (see Figure S5 in Electronic Supplementary Information). Modelling these data was performed as for compound **4** resulting in the following parameters:  $g = 2.01$ ,  $J = -0.03 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\theta = -5.25 \text{ K}$  and TIP =  $32.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ . The variation in  $g$ -values obtained using the two models is observed in the deviation of each model from



**Fig. 14** Magnetic moment (○) and susceptibility (△) versus temperature per Co atom for **5**. The solid lines represent the fit given in the text.

the experimental data for both **4** and **5**. The Curie–Weiss model provided a superior fit to the  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  data at higher temperatures, whereas the isotropic linear trimer reproduces these data better at lower temperatures. Interpretation of magnetic susceptibility data from polynuclear, high-spin  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  species is complicated by the coexistence of weak superexchange ( $|J| < 20 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ),<sup>125</sup> strong zero-field splitting (ZFS,  $|D| > 20 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), very large  $g$ -factor anisotropy<sup>133</sup> and that the parameters  $J$  and  $D$  are often of a similar magnitude.<sup>134</sup> The absence of a maximum in the susceptibility combined with strong spin–orbit coupling effects means a more elaborate treatment of the data is needed.<sup>135</sup>

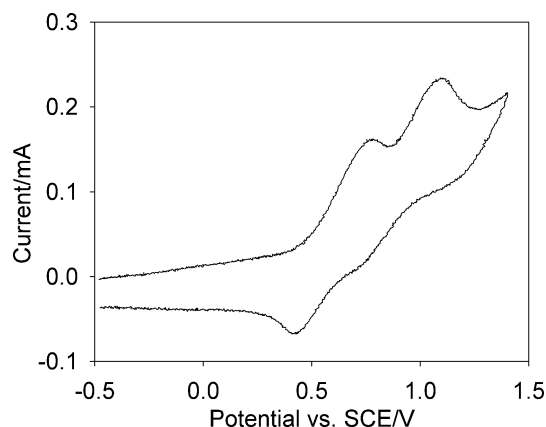
### Electrochemical studies

Electrochemistry experiments were carried out using a three-compartment electrochemical cell, consisting of a platinum counter electrode, saturated calomel reference electrode (SCE) and a glassy carbon working electrode. Complexes **1**, **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ), **4**, and **5**, along with the metal-free ligand precursor,  $\text{H}_2[\text{O}_2\text{NN}]^{\text{BuBuNMMe}_2}$ , were investigated by cyclic voltammetry (CV) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions containing 0.1 M  $[(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$  as electrolyte. Results are summarized in Table 11 and representative cyclic voltammograms of **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) and **5** are shown in Fig. 15 and 16. Voltammograms of **1**, **4** and  $\text{H}_2[\text{O}_2\text{NN}]^{\text{BuBuNMMe}_2}$  are given in Figures S6 to S8 in the Electronic Supplementary Information.† All experiments were performed at a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . No redox events were observed at negative potential for any of the compounds investigated, therefore only events occurring at positive potentials are discussed.

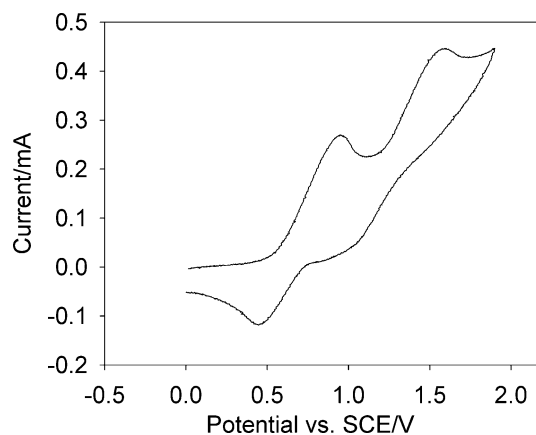
**Table 11** Half wave potentials for oxidation of  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  complexes and  $\text{H}_2[\text{O}_2\text{NN}]^{\text{BuBuNMMe}_2}$

Compound	$E_{2^{\text{ox}}}/\text{V}$	$E_{1^{\text{ox}}}/\text{V}$
<b>1</b>	1.02 <sup>a</sup>	0.62 <sup>a</sup>
<b>1</b> ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ )	0.91 <sup>a,c</sup>	0.60 <sup>a</sup>
<b>4</b>	1.43 <sup>a,c</sup>	0.85 <sup>a</sup>
<b>5</b>	1.34 <sup>a</sup>	0.71 <sup>a</sup>
$\text{H}_2[\text{O}_2\text{NN}]^{\text{BuBu}}$	1.25 <sup>b</sup>	0.68 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Quasi-reversible reaction. <sup>b</sup> Irreversible reaction,  $E_{1/2}$  value estimated. <sup>c</sup> Reduction waves possess a slight shoulder.



**Fig. 15** Cyclic voltammogram of **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1M  $[(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$ ) at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. 16** Cyclic voltammogram of **5** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1M  $[(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$ ) at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

Monometallic complexes **1** and **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) exhibit quasi-reversible oxidative responses ( $E_{1^{\text{ox}}}$ ) at +0.62 and +0.60 V, respectively. These signals may be attributed to ligand oxidation (phenolate/phenoxyl radical), however, metal-centered oxidation assigned to a  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}/\text{Co}^{\text{III}}$  redox process has also been suggested for related cobalt(II) amino-phenolate complexes showing oxidation waves at similar potentials.<sup>136</sup> Additional quasi-reversible oxidation waves ( $E_{2^{\text{ox}}}$ ) are observed at +1.02 and +0.91 V for **1** and **1**( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ), respectively, which are proposed to be ligand-centred redox processes. To further investigate whether the observed redox behaviour at the  $E_{1^{\text{ox}}}$  potentials is indeed ligand centered, cyclic voltammetry was conducted on the unmetallated protioligand,  $\text{H}_2[\text{O}_2\text{NN}]^{\text{BuBuNMMe}_2}$ . The ligand exhibits a quasi-reversible oxidation wave at +0.68 V and irreversible reaction estimated at +1.25 V. In light of the similar  $E_{1^{\text{ox}}}$  potentials for both the complexes and the unmetallated ligand, it is most likely that these oxidation processes are indeed ligand-based.

The trimetallic complexes also exhibit two oxidation waves. **4** shows quasi-reversible responses at +0.85 and +1.43 V, whereas **5** shows quasi-reversible events at +0.71 and at +1.34 V. These redox events occur at significantly different potentials to those observed for the monometallic complexes and the unmetallated ligand. It is possible that metal-centered ( $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}/\text{Co}^{\text{III}}$ ) redox may be occurring at one of the  $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}$  ions in the trimetallic molecules, particularly since

the central Co<sup>II</sup> ion is coordinated to six ligands in monodentate fashion and ligand loss is therefore more facile than for the terminal, five-coordinate Co<sup>II</sup> ions bearing the tetradentate ligands. As a result, geometric distortions caused by oxidation/spin-state changes at the metal centre may be more easily accommodated. Trimetallic complexes possessing linear Co<sup>II</sup>–Co<sup>II</sup>–Co<sup>II</sup> and Co<sup>III</sup>–Co<sup>II</sup>–Co<sup>III</sup> arrangements have been reported,<sup>45</sup> however, for those examples where cyclic voltammetry studies were performed, both metal- and ligand-based redox processes were proposed.

## Conclusion

In summary, we report the synthesis and structure of new diamine-bis(phenolate) cobalt complexes, and their electronic, magnetic and electrochemical behaviour. Monomeric Co<sup>II</sup> complexes are obtained when the pendant neutral donor of the ligand is a tertiary amine. A four coordinate, trigonal monopyramidal complex is obtained if recrystallized in a hydrocarbon solvent. In the presence of donor solvents, trigonal bipyramidal complexes are obtained. All of the monomeric species possess high-spin cobalt centers. When the tetradentate ligand possesses a pyridyl pendant donor, dimeric cobalt complexes are obtained. A five-coordinate phenolate-bridged dimer is obtained in the absence of a coordinating solvent. However, in the presence of methanol, this complex exhibits a dimeric structure with the Co centers bridged by two methanol/methoxide molecules. This contrasts with the monomeric solvento adducts formed with tertiary amine pendant-containing ligands. As for the monomers described, the phenolate-bridged dimer possesses magnetically dilute high-spin cobalt ions. The methanol-bridged dimer, on the other hand, is best described as either low-spin  $d^7$  or intermediate-spin ( $S = 1$ )  $d^6$ . Lastly, it was found that when the ratio of Co to ligand was greater than 1 : 1, trimetallic compounds were obtained. In these species, the two terminal cobalt ions are decorated by the diamine-bis(phenolate) ligands. These metals are bridged to the central metal centre by acetate ligands. The octahedral coordination sphere of the central ion is completed by four methanol ligands. The Co<sup>II</sup> centers in these compounds are all high-spin and show only weak antiferromagnetic exchange when modelled as a linear isotropic trimer. The diversity of coordination complexes obtained when very subtle variations in the synthetic procedures are employed is a testament to the versatility and tunability of diamine-bis(phenolate) ligands.

## Acknowledgements

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