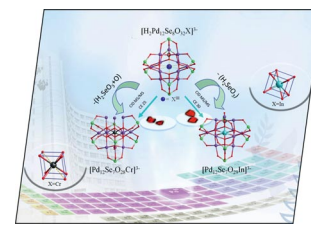


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# Controlled Synthesis of Polyoxopalladates, and Their Gas-Phase Fragmentation Study by Electrospray Ionization Tandem Mass Spectrometry

Zhengguo Lin,<sup>[a]</sup> Bo Wang,<sup>\*,[a]</sup> Jie Cao,<sup>[a]</sup> Baokuan Chen,<sup>[a]</sup>  
Chong Xu,<sup>[a]</sup> Xianqiang Huang,<sup>[a,b]</sup> Yanxuan Fan,<sup>[a]</sup> and  
Changwen Hu<sup>\*,[a]</sup>



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**Keywords:** Controlled synthesis / Polyoxometalates / Gas-phase fragmentation / Mass spectrometry / Palladium

Two new polyoxopalladates  $\text{Na}_2\text{H}_3[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_6(\mu_3\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}]\cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**) and  $\text{Na}_8\text{H}_7[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_8\text{In}]\cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**) have been synthesized by using  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ions as structural directing agents. The two polyoxopalladates have been characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SXRD), FTIR and UV/Vis spectroscopy, elemental analysis (EA), ESI-MS, and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). De-

tailed SXRD analysis combined with the ESI-MS and a collision-induced dissociation (CID) fragmentation study shows that the coordination configurations of the central ions are different; this affects the stability and fragmentation mechanism of the clusters in the gas phase. This approach may help us to understand the dissociation chemistry and the catalysis mechanism of polyoxopalladates.

## Introduction

It is generally acknowledged that conventional polyoxometalates (POMs) as a unique class of metal oxide clusters based on the early transition metals Mo, W, V, Nb, and Ta have provoked significant interest because of their great potential in catalysis, medicine, and electrochemistry.<sup>[1]</sup> As the active ingredients of many catalysts, noble metals have a wide range of applications in industry.<sup>[2,3]</sup> Importantly, noble metal atoms can act as the addenda atoms for the construction of a new class of polyanions, which have shown catalytic activity in some organic reactions.<sup>[4]</sup> During recent years, “unconventional” POMs based on Pt, Pd, and Au have been investigated extensively, and this area of rapid growth has attracted the attention of many chemists.<sup>[3–5]</sup>

The first noble-metal-based POM,  $[\text{Pt}_{12}\text{O}_8(\text{SO}_4)_{12}]^{4-}$ , was prepared by the Wickleder group in 2004,<sup>[5]</sup> and it is worth noting that  $d^8$  noble-metal-based POMs (Pd and Au) have promoted the area after the first polyoxopalladate  $[\text{Pd}_{13}\text{As}_8\text{O}_{34}(\text{OH})_6]^{8-}$  was reported by Kortz et al.<sup>[6]</sup> Several isolated “unconventional” noble-metal-based POMs have been

synthesized by hydrolyzation and condensation of noble metal ions (Pd and Au) with oxyacid heterogroups ( $\text{PhAsO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{AsO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{VO}_3^-$ , or  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$ ) in the past four years. For example, the cubical polyanion  $[\text{Pd}_{13}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}]^{6-}$ ,<sup>[7]</sup> the star-shaped  $[\text{Pd}_{15}\text{P}_{10}\text{O}_{50}]^{20-}$ ,<sup>[8]</sup> the double-cuboid-shaped  $[\text{Cu}_2\text{Pd}_{22}\text{P}_{12}\text{O}_{60}(\text{OH})_8]^{20-}$ ,<sup>[9]</sup> the first polyoxoaurate  $[\text{Au}_4\text{As}_4\text{O}_{20}]^{8-}$ ,<sup>[10]</sup> and the largest polyoxopalladate  $[\text{Pd}_{84}\text{O}_{42}(\text{OAc})_{28}(\text{PO}_4)_{42}]^{70-}$  wheel cluster<sup>[11]</sup> were reported. As the heterogroup can terminate the condensation process and allow isolation of the discrete species in the reaction solution,<sup>[6]</sup> many other polyoxopalladates and polyoxoaurates were prepared by the same approach.<sup>[12–16]</sup> It is believed that the assembly of these types of clusters is largely affected by hydrolyzation–condensation processes and the selection of various external bridging heterogroups.<sup>[6]</sup> Very recently, we and the Kortz group successfully incorporated many metal ions in the cavity of the  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{O}_8\text{L}_8\}$  shell (L =  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$ ,  $\text{PhAsO}_3^{2-}$ ,  $\text{PhPO}_3^{2-}$ , and  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$ ).<sup>[17–19]</sup> Moreover, we have discovered that guest ions play an important role in the construction of these new palladium-based POMs. The desired polyoxopalladates with a certain structural topology can be prepared by using different metal ions as potential structural directing agents.

Herein, our continued research focuses on the effect of metal ions with various charges and radii in polyoxopalladate synthesis. Furthermore, we sought to investigate their solution stability and gas-phase fragmentations with electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry, which may help us to reveal the dissociation chemistry and a feasible catalysis mechanism of the polyoxopalladates. By introducing trivalent transition metal ions ( $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ) and larger trivalent

[a] Key Laboratory of Cluster Science, Ministry of Education of China, School of Chemistry, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, P. R. China  
Fax: +86-10-68912631  
E-mail: cw.hu@bit.edu.cn  
E-mail: bowang@bit.edu.cn  
Homepage: <http://sc.bit.edu.cn/kyjgikt/hzwwjstz/index.htm>

[b] School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Liaocheng University, Liaocheng 252059, P. R. China

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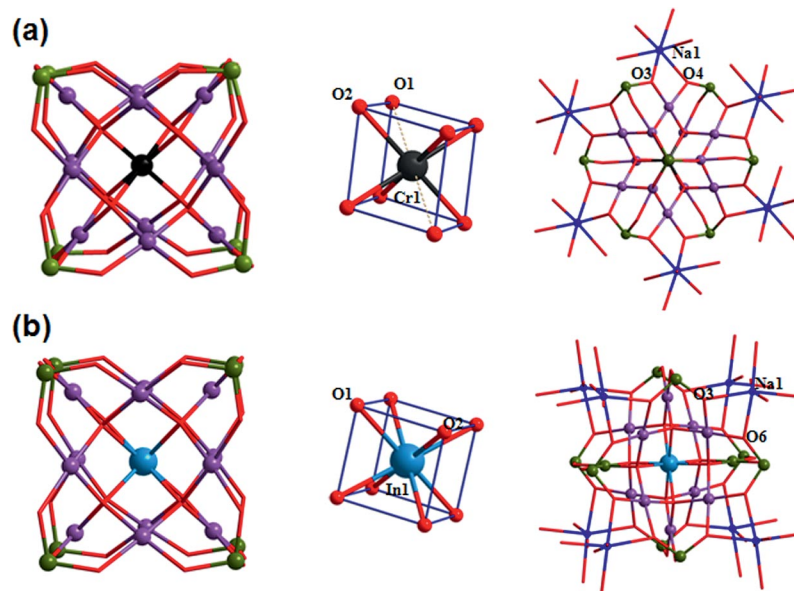


Figure 1. The ball-and-stick and cluster core structures of (a)  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_3\text{-O})_6(\mu_2\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}]^{5-}$  and (b)  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_3\text{-O})_8\text{In}]^{5-}$ . Pd, purple; Se, deep green; O, red; Cr, black; In, cyan; Na, blue.

main group metal ions ( $\text{In}^{3+}$ ) to the polyoxopalladate synthetic reactions, two new cubical polyanions  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_6(\mu_3\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}]^{5-}$  (**1**) and  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_8\text{In}]^{5-}$  (**2**, Figure 1) with the typical  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\}$  topology were obtained in a one-pot synthesis. Both polyoxopalladates have been characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SXRD), FTIR and UV/Vis spectroscopy, elemental analysis (EA), and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). Moreover, their solution stability and gas-phase fragmentation were studied by electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry.

## Results and Discussion

### Crystal Structures and Thermal Stability

The SXRD analysis reveals that the underlying topologies of **1** and **2** resemble those of our previously reported  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{M}^{\text{II}}\}$  clusters, and the central  $\text{M}^{2+}$  ion is replaced by the trivalent metal ions  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{In}^{3+}$ , respectively. In both  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{X}^{\text{III}}\}$  clusters, each Pd atom exhibits the expected square-planar geometry and is joined by two “inner” O atoms and two O atoms of a  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  ion. A truncated cube-shaped shell is then formed by 24 outer O atoms and is capped by eight selenite ions. Compound **1** encompasses a  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\}$  cluster shell with a formula of  $\text{Na}_2\text{H}_3[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_6(\mu_3\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}] \cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and crystallizes in the trigonal crystal system, space group  $R\bar{3}$ . Interestingly, the central  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion is six-coordinate and is bound to six “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms of the pseudo-cubic body-centered constitution  $\{\text{MO}_8\}$  (Figure 1, a), which contrasts sharply with the eight-coordinate  $\text{M}^{\text{II}}(\mu_4\text{-O})_8$  cores of the previously reported  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{M}^{\text{II}}\}$  clusters.<sup>[17]</sup> Specifically, the Cr(1)–O(2) bond length in **1** is 2.07 Å, and the other two  $\mu_3\text{-O}$  (O1) atoms of the “inner” distorted cube are 2.53 Å from the central  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion. This configuration is analogous to that of

the  $[\text{Pd}_{13}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}]^{6-}$  cluster.<sup>[7]</sup> The polyanion  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_3\text{-O})_6(\mu_2\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}]^{5-}$  in crystals linked with six sodium ions forms an interconnected six-membered ring, which then expands into a 2D layer (Figure 2, a).

Compound **2** with a formula of  $\text{Na}_8\text{H}_7[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_8\text{In}]_3 \cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$  also has a  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\}$  cluster shell and crystallizes in the cubic crystal system, space group  $Pm\bar{3}$ . The cluster structural topology of **2** is the same as that of the  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{M}^{\text{II}}\}$  clusters (Figure 1, b), and the central  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ion is coordinated by eight  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms of the  $\{\text{InO}_8\}$  unit. The eight-coordinate cubic geometry is rare for period 5 elements and only a few examples are known.<sup>[20,21]</sup> Indeed, compound **2** is the first example in which the main group metal cation is encapsulated in  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\}$  cages. The In–O bond lengths in the cluster are 2.22–2.25 Å, and the “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms serve as cube vertices and are further coordinated by three Pd atoms situated on a trigonal face of the cube. Each polyanion in the crystal of **2** is linked by eight sodium ions at the cube vertices of the cluster and make up an open 3D framework. The square pores of this framework measure approximately 10 Å across based on the largest sphere that could fit into the pores without touching their innermost atoms (blue ball in Figure 2, b).

From the SXRD analyses of the two polyoxopalladates, we noticed that the central ions have different coordination configurations. As previously mentioned, the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion in **1** is only six-coordinate and is bound to six “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms, whereas the  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ion in **2** is eight-coordinate and is bound to eight “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms. In contrast, in previously synthesized  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{M}^{\text{II}}\}$  clusters, all  $\text{M}^{\text{II}}$  transition metal ions are eight-coordinate. One conceivable explanation is that the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion has a smaller ionic radius (0.64 Å) than the  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ion (0.81 Å), and the different ionic radii can affect the coordination configuration of the metal ions when constructing a certain structure.<sup>[21]</sup>

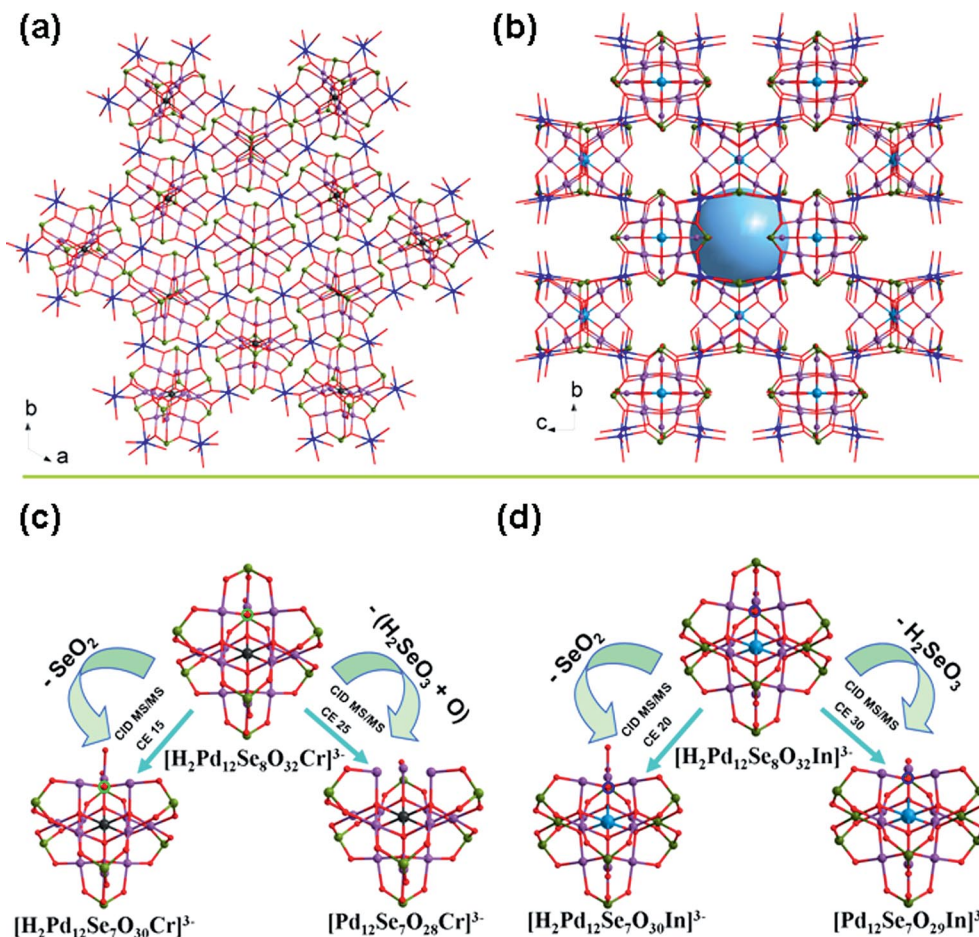


Figure 2. The crystal packing arrangement and the collision-induced dissociation gas-phase fragmentation mechanism of (a and c)  $Na_2H_3[Pd_{12}(\mu_3-SeO_3)_8(\mu_4-O)_6(\mu_3-O)_2Cr] \cdot 25H_2O$  and (b and d)  $Na_8H_7[Pd_{12}(\mu_3-SeO_3)_8(\mu_4-O)_8In]_3 \cdot 24H_2O$ . Pd, purple; Se, deep green; O, red; Cr, black; In, cyan; Na, blue. H atoms are omitted for clarity.

TGA studies of **1** and **2** were performed under  $N_2$  at a rate of  $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  rate (Figure S4a). Three continuous weight losses steps were observed on the TGA curve of **1**. The first weight loss of 7.7% (calcd. 15.1%) in the range  $25\text{--}230\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  is attributed to the removal of remaining water molecules in the compound, which means the crystal of **1** can easily lose lattice water when exposed to the air. The two-step consecutive weight loss of 28.4% (calcd. 29.8%) covering the temperature range  $230\text{--}830\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  may be attributed to the release of eight  $SeO_2$  molecules. The TGA curve of **2** is similar to that of **1** (Figure S4b). The first weight loss of 4.9% (calcd. 5.2%) in the range  $25\text{--}230\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  is attributed to the removal of 24 water molecules, and the two-step consecutive weight loss of 30.9% (calcd. 32.3%) covering the temperature range  $230\text{--}830\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  may be attributed to the release of 24  $SeO_2$  molecules.

### IR and UV/Vis Spectra

In the IR spectra of **1** and **2** (Figure S2), both compounds show similar characteristic peaks with only slight shifts compared with those of  $\{Pd_{12}M^{II}\}$  clusters.<sup>[17,18]</sup> For **1**, the absorption peaks at  $551.3$  and  $647.3\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may corre-

spond to the Pd–O and Cr–O vibrational modes. The strong peaks at  $801.6$  and  $725.5\text{ cm}^{-1}$  may be attributed to the vibrations of  $SeO_3$  groups. For **2**, the same characteristic peaks and corresponding vibrations can also be found in the IR spectrum. The UV/Vis spectra of **1** and **2** were obtained in the range  $190\text{--}900\text{ nm}$ . Both compounds also showed similar UV/Vis spectra in the range  $200\text{--}500\text{ nm}$  with only slight shifts as they have a similar core structure to the  $\{Pd_{12}X\}$  clusters (Figure S3). For example, in **1**, the main absorption peaks at  $262\text{ nm}$  could be assigned to Pd–O charge-transfer transitions, and the peaks at ca.  $320$  and  $425\text{ nm}$  could be assigned to Pd–Pd electron-induced transitions and d–d electronic transition of  $Pd^{2+}$ .

### ESI-MS Spectra and Gas-Phase Fragmentation

In recent years, ESI-MS has been used as a versatile tool for the characterization of the detailed structures of complex inorganic POM clusters,<sup>[22,23]</sup> and many gas-phase fragmentation reactions of POM anions have been studied by collision-induced dissociation (CID) MS/MS.<sup>[24]</sup> To investigate whether the different coordination configurations of the central ions can affect the stability and dissociation

chemistry of **1** and **2**, we studied their stability and gas-phase fragmentation reactions by ESI tandem mass spectrometry (Figures 3 and 4). The general strategy includes assignment of the polyanion species, determination of the stability of the clusters in the gas phase, and elucidation of the dissociation mechanism. The mass spectra were recorded with an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF LC/MS mass spectrometer, and all experiments were performed in negative mode by direct injection. The CID fragmentation experiments of the desired multiple-charged cluster were performed by using N<sub>2</sub> as the target gas, and the desired parent anions were isolated and subjected to energy-variable collision-induced dissociation.

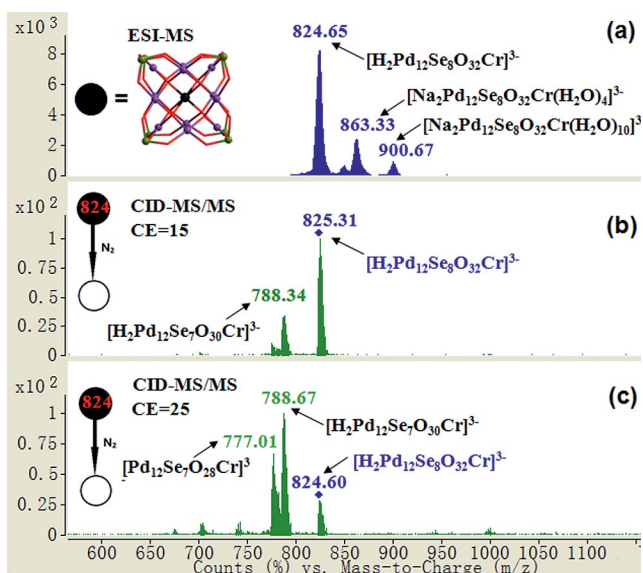


Figure 3. Negative ion mass spectrum of Na<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>[Pd<sub>12</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>-SeO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>8</sub>(μ<sub>4</sub>-O)<sub>6</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>-O)<sub>2</sub>Cr]·25H<sub>2</sub>O dissolved in 1:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (a) and CID-MS/MS spectra of [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>-SeO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>8</sub>(μ<sub>4</sub>-O)<sub>6</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>-O)<sub>2</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> under the collision energy (CE) voltages of 15 (b) and 25 V (c).

For **1**, the ESI-MS spectrum (Figure 3, a) shows that the major peaks observed can be assigned to polyanion species related to the {Pd<sub>12</sub>Cr} cluster. The peak centered at *m/z* = 824.65 can be assigned to the triply negatively charged diprotonated cluster [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup>, the peak at *m/z* = 863.33 can be assigned to [Na<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>, and the peak at *m/z* = 900.67 can be assigned to [Na<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>10</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>. In subsequent gas-phase fragmentation, we selected the [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> cluster as the parent anion (marked with a blue square in Figure 3, b and c) and subjected it to collision-induced Coulomb explosion dissociation under the collision energy (CE) voltages of 15 and 20 V. This parent anion displays an interesting fragmentation pathway to generate different product anions. As the CID-MS/MS spectrum in Figure 3 (b) shows, [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> mostly generated [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>7</sub>O<sub>30</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> (*m/z* = 788.34) and SeO<sub>2</sub> at 15 V. At a CE voltage of 25 V, both [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>7</sub>O<sub>30</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> (*m/z* = 788.67) and [Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>7</sub>O<sub>28</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> (*m/z* = 777.01) can be generated by the parent ions, which means that SeO<sub>2</sub> or H<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub> plus an O atom dissociates from the parent anion (Figure 3, c). Indeed, some small

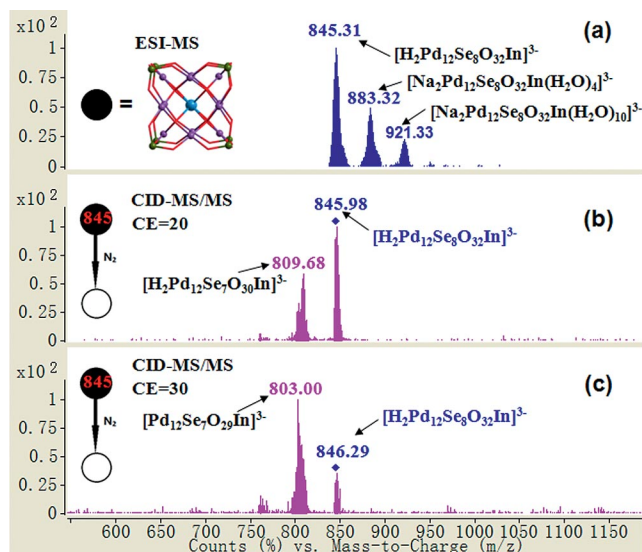


Figure 4. Negative ion mass spectrum of Na<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>[Pd<sub>12</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>-SeO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>8</sub>(μ<sub>4</sub>-O)<sub>8</sub>In]·24H<sub>2</sub>O dissolved in 1:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (a) and CID-MS/MS spectra of [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>-SeO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>8</sub>(μ<sub>4</sub>-O)<sub>8</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup> under the CE voltages of 20 (b) and 30 V (c).

product anions such as [SeO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup> and [HSeO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>-</sup> can be observed in the CID-MS/MS spectrum (Figure S5).

In the ESI-MS spectrum of **2** (Figure 4, a), the major peaks are strikingly similar to those of **1**. The peak centered at *m/z* = 845.31 can be assigned to the triply negatively charged diprotonated cluster [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup>, the peak at *m/z* = 883.32 can be assigned to [Na<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>In(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>, and the peak at *m/z* = 921.33 can be assigned to [Na<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>In(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>10</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>. In the same way, we selected the [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup> cluster as the parent anion (marked with a blue square in Figure 4b and c), which was dissociated at 20 V. The CID MS/MS spectrum showed that the [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup> mostly generated [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>7</sub>O<sub>30</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup> (*m/z* = 809.68, Figure 4, b). At a CE voltage of 30 V, the dissociation mechanism of **2** started to differ from that of **1**. Specifically, the main product ions generated by the parent anion are [Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>7</sub>O<sub>29</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup> (*m/z* = 803.00) or [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>7</sub>O<sub>30</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup> (*m/z* = 809.68), which can only be attributed to the dissociation of one H<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub> or SeO<sub>2</sub> molecule from the parent anion. The related fragment species can also be observed in the CID-MS/MS spectrum (Figures 4, c and S6).

As expected, both polyoxopalladates maintain intact cluster structures in solution and the gas phase. Furthermore, it is notable that the CID fragmentation reaction of the selected parent anion [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>X]<sup>3-</sup> (X = Cr and In) undergoes the same dissociation mode in a low-energy collision-induced dissociation, whereas different dissociations mode are observed at higher energy (Figure 2, c and d). When the parent anions are dissociated at low energy (15 and 20 V for **1** and **2**, respectively), they both strip off a SeO<sub>2</sub> molecule. However, at higher energy, the fragmentation species leaving [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> is different from that leaving [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>In]<sup>3-</sup>. One additional O atom is dissociated from [H<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>12</sub>Se<sub>8</sub>O<sub>32</sub>Cr]<sup>3-</sup> in addition to a spe-

cies related to a  $\text{H}_2\text{SeO}_3$  molecule, although the CE voltage of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Pd}_{12}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}\text{Cr}]^{3-}$  (25 V) is lower than that of  $[\text{H}_2\text{Pd}_{12}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}\text{In}]^{3-}$  (30 V). From the SXRD analyses of these two compounds, we have learned that the central metal ions encapsulated in the parent anions  $[\text{H}_2\text{Pd}_{12}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}\text{X}^{\text{III}}]^{3-}$  (X = Cr and In) show different coordination configuration. The  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion is only coordinated to six “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms in **1**, whereas the  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ion is coordinated to eight “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms in **2**. Two  $\mu_3\text{-O}$  atoms of the pseudo-cubic body-centered  $\{\text{CrO}_8\}$  unit are not bonded with the central  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion, which means they can easily dissociate from the cluster. In the CID fragmentation experiments, the parent anion  $[\text{H}_2\text{Pd}_{12}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}\text{Cr}]^{3-}$  can release a  $\text{SeO}_2$  molecule at low CE. At higher CE, after a  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  ion leaves the vertex of the intact parent anion, an additional  $\mu_3\text{-O}$  atom (marked with a green circle, Figure 2, c) dissociates from the cluster. In comparison, the eight-coordinate  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ion in **2** is tightly bonded to eight  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms; therefore, only a  $\text{SeO}_3^{2-}$  ion dissociates from  $[\text{H}_2\text{Pd}_{12}\text{Se}_8\text{O}_{32}\text{In}]^{3-}$  (Figure 2, d) even at higher energy (30 V). This result along with the SXRD data suggests that the coordination configuration of the central metal ions affects the cluster stability and dissociation chemistry of polyoxopalladates. Furthermore, this innovative approach can also help us to understand the relationship between the stability and structural diversity of various polyoxopalladates.

## Conclusions

By introducing metal ions X ( $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  and  $\text{In}^{3+}$ ) with the same charge but different radii as structural directing agents, we have successfully synthesized two new cubical  $\{\text{Pd}_{12}\text{X}^{\text{III}}\}$  polyoxopalladates, namely,  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_6(\mu_3\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}]^{5-}$  (**1**) and  $[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_8\text{In}]^{5-}$  (**2**). Detailed SXRD analyses combined with ESI-MS and a CID fragmentation study reveal that the central cation plays a critical role in the structural configuration formation and the structural stability of the two polyoxopalladates. Specifically the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ion is coordinated to six “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms in **1**, and the  $\text{In}^{3+}$  ion is coordinated to eight “inner”  $\mu_4\text{-O}$  atoms in **2**. In addition, for the first time, we studied their solution stability and gas-phase fragmentations with electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry and investigated the dissociation mechanism of the two compounds. The results show that the coordination configurations of the metal center can affect the stability and gas-phase fragmentation mechanism of the clusters, which may help us to understand the dissociation chemistry and the catalysis mechanism of polyoxopalladates.<sup>[25]</sup>

## Experimental Section

**Materials and General Methods:** All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Elemental analysis was performed with a Perkin-Elmer Elan 6100 ICP-MS. IR spectra were recorded in the range 4000–400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a Nicolet 170SX-FT/IR spectrometer by using samples as KBr pel-

lets. The UV/Vis spectra were obtained with a TU-1901 spectrophotometer in the range 200–900 nm. The TGA was performed under a  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere from room temperature to 1000 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C/min with a DTG-60AH instrument. Mass spectra measurements were made in the negative ion mode with an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF LC/MS mass spectrometer coupled to an Agilent 1200 LC system. Sample solutions were ca.  $10^{-5}$  M in water and were transferred to the electrospray source by direct injection. The CID fragmentation experiments were performed with  $\text{N}_2$  as the target gas, and the desired parent anion was isolated and subjected to CE variable collision-induced dissociation.

**$\text{Na}_2\text{H}_3[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_6(\mu_3\text{-O})_2\text{Cr}] \cdot 25\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**1**):**  $\text{SeO}_2$  (0.033 g, 0.3 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (0.067 g, 0.3 mmol), and  $\text{CrCl}_3$  (0.0158 g, 0.1 mmol) were dissolved in  $\text{NaOAc}/\text{AcOH}$  buffer (10 mL, 0.5 M, pH 5.0). This solution was stirred and heated to 50 °C for 3 h. The red-brown solution was then cooled to room temperature, and the small amount of precipitate was removed by filtration. The resulting solution was left to evaporate. After several weeks, deep red-brown block-shaped crystals of suitable quality for single-crystal X-ray diffraction were obtained (yield based on Pd: 23%). Selected IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu} = 1618.1$  (m), 1383.9 (w), 1128.7 (w), 801.6 (s), 725.5 (s), 647.3 (w), 551.3 (s), 507.97 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $\text{CrH}_{53}\text{Na}_2\text{O}_{57}\text{Pd}_{12}\text{Se}_8$  (2971.82): calcd. Cr 1.75, Na 1.54, Pd 42.97, Se 21.25; found Cr 1.64, Na 1.62, Pd 41.07, Se 21.13.

**$\text{Na}_8\text{H}_7[\text{Pd}_{12}(\mu_3\text{-SeO}_3)_8(\mu_4\text{-O})_8\text{In}] \cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (**2**):**  $\text{SeO}_2$  (0.033 g, 0.3 mmol),  $\text{InCl}_3$  (0.0221 g, 0.1 mmol), and  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (0.067 g, 0.3 mmol) were dissolved in  $\text{NaOAc}/\text{AcOH}$  buffer (10 mL, 0.5 M, pH 5.0). This solution was stirred and heated to 50 °C for 2.5 h. The red-brown solution was cooled to room temperature, and the small amount of precipitate was removed by filtration. The resulting solution was left to evaporate. After several days, red-brown block-shaped crystals of suitable quality for single-crystal X-ray diffraction were obtained (yield based on Pd: 61%). Selected IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu} = 1636.8$  (m), 1560.81 (m), 1410.5 (w), 1384.6 (w), 1046.6 (w), 794.6 (s), 724.8 (s), 645.4 (w), 552.2 (s), 530.7 (w)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $\text{H}_{55}\text{In}_3\text{Na}_8\text{O}_{120}\text{Pd}_{36}\text{Se}_{24}$  (8229.36): calcd. In 4.18, Na 2.23, Pd 46.55, Se 23.02; found In 4.03, Na 2.41, Pd 45.82, Se 22.61.

**X-Ray Crystallography:** The crystal data for **1** and **2** were collected at 120(2) K with a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer with graphite monochromatic  $\text{Mo-K}_\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Crystals were mounted on a glass fiber and fixed with glue. All structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares against  $F_o^2$  by the *SHELXTL* program package (Bruker).<sup>[26,27]</sup> The active hydrogen atoms were not incorporated in the refinement, and all atoms were refined anisotropically. The crystallographic details and the selected bond lengths of the two compounds are summarized in Tables S1 and S2. Further details on the crystal structure investigations may be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany (fax: +49-7247-808-666; e-mail: crysdata@fz-karlsruhe.de), on quoting the depository numbers CSD-425693 (**1**), CSD-425694 (**2**).

**Supporting Information** (see footnote on the first page of this article): ORTEP drawings of the anionic parts of **1** and **2** (Figure S1). The IR (Figure S2), UV (Figure S3), TGA (Figure S4), and CID MS/MS spectra (Figure S5 and S6) of **1** and **2**. The crystallographic details and the selected bond lengths of **1** and **2** (Tables S1 and S2).

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