Dynamic and Redox Active Pillared Bilayer Open Framework: Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformations upon Guest Removal, Guest Exchange, and Framework Oxidation

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Abstract: A metal-organic pillared bilayer open framework having 3D channels, \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot 6\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{N}_2\cdot 36\text{H}_2\text{O} (\text{BOF}-1, 1)\), has been assembled from bismacrocyclic nickel(II) complex \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3]_2\cdot (\text{Cl})_2\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}\) and sodium 1,3,5-benzenetricarboxylate (Na\(_8\text{BTC}\)). The channels are occupied by pyridine and water guest molecules. When the single crystal of 1 was dried in air and then heated at 75 °C for 1.5 h, respectively, \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot 30\text{H}_2\text{O}\) (1) and \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}\) (2) resulted with retention of the single crystallinity. The X-ray structures reveal spongelike dynamic behavior of the bilayer framework that reduces the interlayer distance in response to the amount of guest molecules. Solid 2 differentiates various alcohols. When 1 was immersed in pyridine and benzene, guest molecules were exchanged with retention of the single-crystal nature to give rise to \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot 20\text{pyridine}\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}\) (3) and \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot 14\text{benzene}\cdot 19\text{H}_2\text{O}\) (4), respectively. Furthermore, crystal 1 reacted with I\(_2\) via single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformation to produce \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{C}_9\text{H}_3\text{O}_6](\text{l}_3)\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}\cdot 17\text{H}_2\text{O}\) (5) that consists of positively charged pillars incorporating nickel(III) ions and the channels including H\(_-\) and I\(_2\).

Introduction

Metal-organic open frameworks (MOFs) are considered as zeolite analogues, and they have great potential of being applied to adsorption and separation processes. Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) with various structures and topologies have been constructed by using a wide variety of metal ions and organic linkers as building blocks. Modular construction of MOFs by using predesigned molecular building blocks allows control of size, shape, and chemical environment of the voids, which is difficult for zeolites.

We have used macrocyclic complexes as metal building blocks because they have fixed vacant coordination sites at the fixed positions, which enables control of the extending direction of networks. An exciting yet little explored area is the MOFs that exhibit flexible and dynamic behaviors responding to external stimuli. Furthermore, MOFs that are able to alter their framework charge by the redox reaction are extremely rare. If a neutral open framework could be oxidized, it would include free counteranions in the channels or pores, and then it might be applied to anion exchange materials. Retaining single crystallinity even after chemical reactions occurred must be important for the development of certain devices. The phenomenon, however, has never been observed for the redox


15844 ♦ J. AM. CHEM. SOC. 2004, 126, 15844–15851
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Anisotropic displacement factors. The hydrogen atoms were positioned geometrically and refined using a riding model.

Synthesis of [Ni2(C2H2N10)2Cl4]·H2O (A). To a stirred methanol solution (160 mL) of NiCl2·6H2O (4.76 g, 20.0 mmol) were slowly added N,N′-bis(2-aminoethyl)-1,3-propanediamine (3.30 g, 20.0 mmol), p-xylylenediamine (1.38 g, 10.0 mmol), and 37% aqueous formaldehyde (7.17 g, 88.3 mmol). The mixture was heated at reflux for 5 days, during which time the solution gradually became brown. The solution was allowed to stand at room temperature until pink precipitate formed, which was filtered off, washed with methanol, and dried in air. Yield: 25%. The product was recrystallized in H2O/MeOH to obtain the crystals. Anal. Calcd for Ni2(C2H2N10)2Cl4·H2O: C, 39.94; H, 6.96; N, 17.91. Found: C, 39.93; H, 6.48; N, 17.79. FT-IR (Nujol mull, cm−1): 3336 (s, br), 3283 (m), 3265 (m), 3212 (s), 1633 (w), 1557 (w).

Preparation and X-ray Diffraction Study of [Ni2(C2H2N10)2]-[BTC]2·6C5H5N·36H2O (BOF-1, 1). To an aqueous solution (7 mL) of A (0.600 g, 0.767 mmol) was added dropwise an aqueous solution (3 mL) of Na3BTC (0.461 g, 1.67 mmol). To the resulting yellow solution was added a mixture of DMSO/pyridine (10 mL, 2:1 v/v) to induce crystallization of the product. The solution was heated and then filtered while hot. The filtrate was allowed to stand at room temperature until pale pink crystals formed, which were filtered off, washed with EtOH, and dried briefly in air. Yield: 78%. Anal. Calcd for [Ni2(C2H2N10)2][BTC]2·6C5H5N·36H2O (Ni2[C2H2N10]2Na3O6): C, 45.30; H, 7.13; N, 13.21. Found: C, 45.36; H, 5.50; N, 13.08. FT-IR (Nujol mull, cm−1): 3361 (s), 3156 (s), 1606 (s), 1562 (s), 1365 (s). UV/Vis (diffuse reflectance, nm): 510, 645. The X-ray diffraction data of I were collected at 100 K for the crystal (0.4 × 0.4 × 0.1 mm³), which was sealed in a glass capillary filled with mother liquor from which I was produced (H2O/DMSO/pyridine: 10:7:3), since the crystal loses guest molecules upon exposure to air.

Preparation and X-ray Diffraction Study of [Ni2(C2H2N10)2]-[BTC]2·30H2O (1'). Single-crystal I was allowed to stand in air for 2 h to result in I', and then I' was covered with epoxy resin and X-ray diffraction data were collected.

Preparation and X-ray Diffraction Study of [Ni2(C2H2N10)2]-[BTC]2·4H2O (2). The crystal 1 (size 0.2 × 0.2 × 0.1 mm³) was sealed in a glass capillary with mother liquor from which I was formed (H2O/DMSO/pyridine: 10:7:3). After the cell parameters of the crystal were measured to check if they were the same as those of I, the crystal was taken out from the capillary, then put on the filter paper, and dried in a programmable oven at 75 °C for 1.5 h. The crystal was picked up, covered immediately with epoxy resin to avoid contact with the moisture from air, and then mounted on the X-ray diffractometer.

Preparation and X-ray Diffraction Study of [Ni2(C2H2N10)2]-[BTC]2·20C5H5N·6H2O (3) and [Ni2(C2H2N10)2][BTC]2·14C5H5·19H2O (4). Crystal 1 was sealed in a glass capillary with the mother liquor from which I was formed (H2O/DMSO/pyridine: 10:7:3). After the cell parameters of the crystal were determined, the crystal was taken out from the capillary. Capillaries of 0.5 mm size were filled with pyridine and benzene, respectively. When the capillary was filled with the solvent, an empty space of ca. 1 cm length was made to create two solvent layers. The crystal I was dropped into the upper layer of the solvent, and a photograph of the crystal was taken immediately. After the crystal was immersed in the solvent for 24 h, a photograph was taken again to see if the size, morphology, transparency, and position of the crystal were unaltered. Since no change was observed, the possibility of dissolution of I in the solvent followed by crystallization or recrystallization at the surface and growth of a new phase was excluded. After immersion in the aromatic solvent for 24 h, the crystal was inserted to the empty space created between the two solvent-layers in the capillary by use of a very thin glass fiber, and then the solvent at the upper part of the capillary was taken out. The capillary was cut...
into the appropriate size, sealed, and mounted on the X-ray diffractometer. Anal. Calcd for 3(NiCl2H2N2NaO14)Cl: C, 58.59; H, 6.45; N, 15.96. Found: C, 56.43; H, 6.33; N, 15.24. Anal. Calcd for 4(NiCl2H2N2NaO14)Cl: C, 57.57; H, 7.08; N, 10.17. Found: C, 53.66; H, 7.16; N, 11.77. The microanalysis data for 3 and 4 were unsatisfactory, compared with the calculated values for the formula obtained from the X-ray structures, because pyridine and benzene guest molecules were easily lost from the host framework upon exposure to the atmosphere for the analysis. The found data indicate that six pyridine atoms (I5) by using PART instruction. Some residual electron densities (1.543 e Å−3) were observed around them. The best refinement was resulted by providing site averaging for I3. The bond distances and angles of the I2 unit (I8) and I2 unit (I9) are 3.24 Å and 3.15 Å, respectively.

Preparation and X-Ray Diffraction Study of [Ni{C2H3N2H4}3]-[BTC]1.5Cl0.5×17H2O (5). Single crystals of I were immersed in a DMSO/H2O (1:1 v/v, 2.00 mL) solution of I2 (0.0136 M) for 10 h. The resulting dark brown crystal was filtered off and washed briefly with water and then ethanol. Anal. Calcd for NiCl2H2O6Cl2O12H2O: C, 23.64; H, 3.51; N, 7.25. Found: C, 23.56; H, 2.94; N, 7.41. FT-IR (Nujol mull, cm−1): 3200 (w), 1605 (m), 1553 (m), 1454 (s), 1376 (s), 1170 (w), 1096 (m), 1015 (m), 892 (w), 803 (w), 762 (w), 720 (s).

Gas Sorption Measurement. Sorption isotherm study for BOF-1 was performed using a Quantachrome AUTOSORB-1 sorption instrument. As-synthesized crystals of known weight, which were placed in a cylindrical quartz tube (height, 235.5 mm; diameter, 6 mm), were heated at 130 °C at 10−5 Torr for 5.5 h to remove all guest molecules. The Ni2 gas (UHP grade) was added incrementally, and the isotherm was recorded at each equilibrium pressure by the static volumetric method. Langmuir surface area and pore volume were estimated using the Langmuir equation and the Dubinin–Radushkevich equation, respectively.

Results and Discussion

Self-Assembly. Our synthetic strategy is to build a bilayer framework generating 3D channels, where 2D coordination polymer layers with cavities are linked together by the flexible pillars. Nickel(II) macrocyclic complexes in square-planar geometry are useful metal building blocks for the design and construction of multidimensional networks, since they have two fixed vacant coordination sites at the trans position,13 which enables control of the extending direction of networks. In addition, they can be oxidized to nickel(III) or reduced to nickel(I).28

To construct a pillarized bilayer open framework, we prepared dinickel(II) bimacrocyclic complex [Ni2(C2H3N2H4)3]Cl4·H2O (A) as a metal building block (eq 1), by modifying the one-pot metal-template condensation reactions previously published.29

\[
\text{NiCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{NCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2 + \frac{\text{CH}_3\text{O}}{\text{p-CH}_2\text{H}_4\text{(CH}_2\text{NH}_2)_2} \rightarrow \text{A (1)}
\]

By the self-assembly of A and sodium 1,3,5-benzenetricarboxylate (Na3BTC) in water in the presence of DMSO and pyridine, the bilayer open framework [Ni2(C2H3N2H4)3]Cl4·6C6H4N3H6O (BOF-1, 1) was constructed. Although the assembly might yield a 3D network locating A alternately in the 2D layers,10 such architectural isomerism was not observed.

Properties and X-Ray Structure of BOF-1 (1). Bilayer framework 1 is insoluble in any organic solvent but slightly soluble in water to decompose into the building blocks. The crystal loses guest water molecules upon exposure to the atmosphere. Thermogravimetric analysis of 1 indicates that all guest molecules can be removed at 135 °C and the solid is stable up to 275 °C.

In the X-ray structure of 1 (Figure 1), each nickel(II) macrocyclic unit of A is coordinated with two BTC3− ions at the trans position and each BTC3− ion binds three nickel(II) ions belonging to different bimacrocyclic units. This results in two 2D layers with the brick-wall motif of size 22.6 × 14.3 Å2. The p-xylal groups of the bimacrocyclic act as pillars to link these two layers together. The thickness of bilayer is 11.91(1) Å. The bilayers are closely packed by fitting the grooves together. The framework creates 3D channels, since

(27) Crystal data for 8(NiCl2H2N2NaO14)3Cl·9H2O, triclinic, space group P1 with a = 16.434(1) Å, b = 19.914(2) Å, c = 20.338(2) Å, α = 71.255(2)°, β = 70.065(2)°, γ = 74.827(2)°, V = 5837.8(9) Å3, and Z = 1. T = 293 K, dcalc = 1.539 mg/mm3, 2θmax = 56.72, R(Mo Kα) = 0.710 73 cm−1, 38 570 reflections measured, 2224 observed (I > 2σ(I)), 954 parameters, R1 (unweighted, based on F2) = 0.1547, R1 = 0.3337. The maximum and minimum peaks on the final difference Fourier map corresponded to 1.543 and −0.902 e Å−3, respectively.


the channels are created from top to bottom as well as the side directions. The aromatic rings of \( p \)-xyllyl pillars are positioned regularly almost parallel and perpendicularly to the direction of the side channels with dihedral angles of 1.40°, 87.9°, and 88.4° between them. The channel window size on the side of the bilayer is 14.52(1) Å (the effective channel width corrected for van der Waals surface is 11.12(1) Å). The voids of the channels occupy 61% of the total volume as estimated by PLATON, which are filled with water and pyridine guest molecules.

**Spongelike Behavior and Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformations of BOF-1 upon Guest Removal.** When single-crystal 1 was allowed to stand in air for 2 h, all pyridine and some water guest molecules were removed to yield \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot30\text{H}_2\text{O}(1')\). The X-ray structure of 1' (Figure 2) indicates that there is no change in the 2D layers but the thickness of the bilayer (11.27 Å) is reduced compared with those of 1 (Table 1). When crystal 1 (0.2 × 0.2 × 0.1 mm\(^3\)) was dried in a muffle furnace at 75 °C for 1.5 h, transparency of the crystal was slightly lost but the single crystallinity was still maintained to produce \([\text{Ni}_2(\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_{10})_3][\text{BTC}]_4\cdot4\text{H}_2\text{O}(2)\). The X-ray data quality of 2 was not as good as that of 1 due to the reduction of transparency. The cell parameters including the cell volume of 2 changed significantly during the transformation from 1 to 2 (Table 1). Although 2D layers in 2 remain intact (cavity size, 22.2 Å \(\times\) 14.4 Å), the pillars of 2 are greatly tilted and the thickness of the bilayer is dramatically reduced to 6.82 Å. The void volume of 2 is 27% of the total volume, as estimated by PLATON (see Figure S3 showing the interior surface of 2 in the Supporting Information). When the single crystal of 2 was exposed to water–pyridine vapor for 12 h or immersed in a water–pyridine mixture for 5 min, it restored structure 1 as evidenced by X-ray powder diffraction patterns (see Supporting Information). However, the crystal was split into too many small pieces to determine the X-ray structure again. When crystal 1 was dried up to 135 °C with a heating rate of 3.8 °C/min, it did not diffract the X-ray beam. However, when the single crystal was dried up to 100 °C with the heating rate of 1.5 °C/min, it showed cell parameters of \( a = 11.948(9) \) Å, \( b = 16.108(15) \) Å, \( c = 19.553(24) \) Å, \( \alpha = 74.66(5)^\circ \), \( \beta = 88.53(5)^\circ \), \( \gamma = 84.46(3)^\circ \), \( V = 3612.0(6) \) Å\(^3\), even though the structure refinement was not successful due to the bad quality X-ray data. The completely desolvated framework exhibited the poor nature of porosity. When 2 was dried further under high vacuum in a gas-sorption apparatus, the \( \text{N}_2 \) gas adsorption isotherm exhibited a Langmuir surface area of 138 m\(^2\)/g and pore volume of 0.0876 cm\(^3\)/g. In contrast to our intuitive views, BOF-1 shows a spongelike dynamic behavior responding to the amount of guest molecules, without breaking the single-crystal nature.

**Figure 1.** Self-assembly and X-ray structures of BOF-1 (1). (a) Top view showing 2D layers of brick-wall motif. (b) Side view showing pillared bilayer structure [thickness of bilayer, 11.91(1) Å]. Ni, pink; O, red; N, blue; C of macrocycle, gray; C of BTC\(^{3-}\), yellow; C of pillars, green. Guest water and pyridine molecules are omitted for clarity.

**Figure 2.** X-ray structures of dried BOF-1, exhibiting spongelike behavior.
Table 2. Crystallographic Parameters for 1–5a

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a R₁ (unweighted, based on F²) values are 0.0899 for 1, 0.1839 for 1', 0.1491 for 2, 0.1279 for 3, 0.1299 for 4, and 0.1547 for 5.

Table 2. Guest Binding Data for Dried BOF-1a,b

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<th>guest inclusion capacity, c mol⁻¹</th>
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<td>BzOH</td>
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a Measurements were performed according to the method in ref 3. b K and [BS]₀/₀ indicate the binding constant and the binding capacity of host solid with guest molecules, respectively. c Per formula unit of host 2.

Guest Binding of 2 with Organic Guests. The dried compound 2 that was ground into powder bound methanol, ethanol, iso-propyl alcohol, and benzyl alcohol in toluene, showing Langmuir isotherm curves (Figure 3). The binding constants (K) were in the order of benzyl alcohol > iso-propyl alcohol > ethanol–methanol, which are summarized in Table 2, together with the maximum number of binding sites for the guest molecules per gram of host solid ([BS]₀/₀). BOF-1 binds benzyl alcohol with the greatest K value, probably because the phenyl ring of benzyl alcohol involves π–π interactions with the xyllyl pillars of BOF-1. As for the amount of guest molecules bound to the host, methanol is the best probably because of its size and hydrogen bond formation with the carbonyl oxygen atoms exposed to the channels of the host.

Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformations upon Guest Exchange. BOF-1 is completely insoluble in pyridine and benzene as evidenced by the NMR spectra: after crystals of 1 were immersed for 24 h in d₅-pyridine and d₆-benzene, respectively, the NMR spectra of the d-solvent showed no peak corresponding to the framework of 1. To determine the X-ray structure of the guest-exchanged crystal, single-crystal 1 was selected and its cell parameters were measured. Then, it was immersed in pyridine or benzene that was filled in a glass capillary (0.5 mm i.d.) for 24 h. The X-ray structures (Figure 4) indicated that some water guest molecules in 1 were exchanged with pyridine and benzene, respectively, to produce [Ni₂(C₂₆H₅₂N₁₀)]₃[BTC]₄·20C₃H₇N·6H₂O (3) and [Ni₂(C₂₀H₂₅N₁₀)]₃[BTC]₄·14C₆H₆·19H₂O (4). During the guest-exchange processes, single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformations took place, retaining the transparency of the crystal. The possibility of dissolution of 1 in the solvent followed by crystallization or renucleation of 3 and 4 at the surface and growth of a new phase is excluded by the photographs taken under the optical microscope during and after immersion of the crystal in the solvent, which showed no change in size, morphology, and transparency (Figure 5). The cell parameters of 3 and 4 are almost the same as those of 1 (Table 1), but R₁ values are extraordinarily high (0.1279 for 3 and 0.1299 for 4). In 3 and 4, the size of the brick-wall motif in the 2D layers and the thickness of the bilayer were unaltered, compared to those in 1. In 3, pyridine molecules were included in the channels of the framework via face-to-edge π–π interactions with the phenyl rings of BTC³⁻ of the 2D layers and with the aromatic ring planes of the pillars. They were also intercalated between the bilayer units via hydrogen bonding interactions with the framework. In 4, benzene molecules were included only in the
channels by the $\pi-\pi$ interactions with the host. Benzene inclusion in BOF-1 was also identified by the NMR spectrum. The crystals of 1 were washed with benzene several times, immersed in benzene (3 mL) for 24 h, then filtered off, and immersed again in DMSO-d$_6$ (1.5 mL) for 24 h. The NMR spectrum of the DMSO-d$_6$ showed benzene peaks but no peak corresponding to pyridine molecules that existed in original crystal 1 (see Figure S4 in Supporting Information).

**Redox Reaction of BOF-1 with I$_2$ and Properties of 5.**

Redox reaction was performed on the BOF-1 with I$_2$ to obtain a positively charged bilayer framework including free counteranions, because the product might be applied to anion exchange. When the single crystal (0.3 x 0.3 x 0.1 mm$^3$) of 1 was immersed in a DMSO/H$_2$O (1:1 v/v, 2.00 mL) solution of I$_2$ (0.0136 M) for 10 h, the color of the crystal changed from pale pink to dark brown and a redox reaction occurred quantitatively between crystal 1 and I$_2$, which resulted in [Ni$_2$(C$_{26}$H$_{52}$N$_{10}$)]$_2$[BTC]$_2$·2H$_2$O (5) ($n = 5$ based on elemental analysis and magnetic susceptibility). By the reaction with I$_2$, two-thirds of the nickel(II) ions contained in the BOF-1 framework were oxidized to low spin nickel(III) and the I$_2$ molecules were reduced to I$_3$ anions, which were included in the channels of the framework. The presence of nickel(III) ions in 5 was characterized by elemental microanalysis, UV/vis diffuse reflectance spectra, and the anisotropic EPR spectrum with the $g_H$ value being greater than the $g_\parallel$ value (Figure 6). The variable temperature magnetic susceptibility measurement gave a $\mu_{eff}$ value of 5.26 $\mu_B$ at 301 K, which corresponded to the estimated 5.29 $\mu_B$ for the spin diluted system having four low spin nickel(III) and two nickel(II) ions per formula unit (see Figure S6 in Supporting Information). The unprecedented oxidation of this metal-organic open framework must be attributed to the ability of nickel(II) macrocyclic complex incorporated in the framework to stabilize uncommon nickel(III) oxidation state.

The number of free iodine molecules in 1 was determined based on the microanalysis data obtained for the bulk product that was prepared by immersing BOF-1 crystals in the DMSO–H$_2$O solution of I$_2$ (0.0066 M) for 11 h [Anal. Calcd for Ni$_2$C$_{14}$H$_{20}$N$_8$O$_{14}$I$_2$: C, 23.64; H, 3.51; N, 7.25. Found: C, 23.80; H, 3.42; N, 7.48. UV/vis (diffuse reflectance): 294, 360 nm]. To obtain 5, the mole ratio of I$_2$/BOF-1 should be greater than 20 and the immersion time of 1 in the I$_2$ solution should be longer than 10 h, according to the experimental results shown in Figures 7 and 8. When mole ratio of I$_2$/BOF-1 was greater than 200, all Ni(II) ions in BOF-1 were oxidized to the Ni(III) state and [Ni$_2$(C$_{26}$H$_{52}$N$_{10}$)]$_2$[BTC]$_2$·(I$_3$)$_2$·2H$_2$O was obtained, which was characterized by the elemental analysis. Its X-ray crystal structure was not determined because of the bad quality X-ray diffraction data.

When single-crystal BOF-1 was exposed to I$_2$ vapor for 19 h instead of immersion in DMSO–H$_2$O solution or when the dried crystal 2 was exposed to I$_2$ vapor for 55 h, the color of the crystal changed from pale pink to dark brown with retention of the crystal morphology. However, the crystal hardly diffracted the X-ray beam. When a similar reaction was carried out with Br$_2$ in CHCl$_3$ or in EtOH, BOF-1 was dissolved in the solvent and dissociated into the building blocks, which resulted in a solid of nickel(III) bismacroyclic complex coordinating Br$^-$ ions at the axial sites [Anal. Calcd for [Ni$_2$(C$_{26}$H$_{52}$N$_{10}$)(Br)$_4$]·(Br)$_2$·14H$_2$O: C, 23.07; H, 5.95; N, 10.35. Found: C, 23.28; H, 5.70; N, 10.42].

It should be noted here that 5 could not be directly prepared from the Ni(III) macrocyclic complex and BTC$^{3-}$ in the DMSO/H$_2$O solution because the Ni(III) macrocyclic complex should be isolated only as an octahedral species that has no vacant coordination sites for BTC$^{3-}$, and moreover the Ni(III) species are easily reduced to Ni(II) in the presence of water.

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**Figure 6.** EPR spectrum of 1 (powder sample) measured at room temperature; $g_\parallel = 2.024$ and $g_\perp = 2.182$.

**Figure 7.** Plot of the number of iodine atoms (determined by microanalysis) found in the unit formula of the host [Ni$_2$(C$_{26}$H$_{52}$N$_{10}$)]$_2$[BTC]$_2$ vs mole ratio of I$_2$/BOF-1 employed in the bulk synthesis. Immersion time of 1 in the I$_2$ solution, 10 h.

**Figure 8.** Plot showing the measured density of crystal vs immersion time of the crystal in the DMSO/water (1:1 v/v) ( ) and DMSO/CHCl$_3$ (1:1 v/v) solutions of I$_2$ ( ). I indicate error range of density.
Framework $\mathbf{5}$ is slightly soluble in water. The UV/vis spectrum for the aqueous solution of $\mathbf{5}$ shows $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ at 283 and 349 nm, which corresponds to the BTC$^{3-}$ and I$_3^-$ species, respectively. This can be compared with the spectrum of the aqueous solution of CsI$_3$ that shows $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 287$ nm ($\epsilon = 3100$ cm$^{-1}$ M$^{-1}$) and 345 nm ($\epsilon = 1910$ cm$^{-1}$ M$^{-1}$) as well as the spectrum of Na$_3$BTC showing $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ at 283 nm ($\epsilon = 304$ cm$^{-1}$ M$^{-1}$). The solubility of $\mathbf{5}$ in water is ca. 7%, as estimated by the absorption intensity of I$_3^-$ at 349 nm. When the solid $\mathbf{5}$ was immersed in MeOH, EtOH, DMF, or acetone, where the solid was completely insoluble, the solvent became yellow ($\lambda_{\text{max}} = 290$ and 358 nm). In addition, when it was immersed in CHCl$_3$, the solvent became purple ($\lambda_{\text{max}} = 510.2$ nm). These indicate that I$_2$ guest molecules are dissociated from the solid upon immersion in the organic solvents. TGA/DSC data indicate that all water molecules and an iodine guest are removed at 250 °C, and then the framework starts to decompose.

**X-ray Structure [Ni$_3$(C$_9$H$_5$N)$_8$]$_2$[BTC]$_2$Ni$_2$I$_7$17H$_2$O (5): Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Transformation upon Redox Reaction.** During the redox process of BOF-1 with I$_2$, single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformation occurred, and the X-ray structure of $\mathbf{5}$ was able to be determined. The X-ray structure of $\mathbf{5}$ is shown in Figure 9. The X-ray structure of $\mathbf{5}$ indicates a positively charged framework and I$_3^-$ counterions included in the channels. In $\mathbf{5}$, two-thirds of nickel atoms are nickel(III). The crystallographic inversion center is located at the center of the bridging xylyl group of the bismacrocycle, and thus two nickel ions belonging to the same bismacroyclic complex have the same oxidation state. The Ni–N and Ni–O bond distances involving nickel(III) are shorter than those involving nickel(II) ions: av Ni(III)–N and Ni(III)–O bond distances, 1.966(6) Å and 2.103(6) Å; av Ni(II)–N and Ni(II)–O bond distances, 2.000(8) Å and 2.130(8) Å, respectively. The bond distances are compared with those of BOF-1 (av Ni(II)–N and Ni(II)–O bond distances, 2.054(1) Å and 2.196(3) Å, respectively). As for the included counterions, the crystallographic asymmetric unit of $\mathbf{5}$ contains four independent half units of I$_3^-$ and one-half unit of I$_2$. The 1–1 distances for two kinds of symmetric I$_3^-$ are 2.923(2) Å (I11–I13) and 2.912(2) Å (I12–I14) with I1–I1 angles of 180.00°. Another two half units of I$_3^-$ have asymmetric I1–I1 distances of 2.876(13) Å (I15–I16) and 2.850(10) Å (I16–I17) with an angle of 174.64° (I15–I16–I17) and 2.653(17) Å (I10–I11) and 3.245(0.023) Å (I11–I12) with an angle of 164.3(1.4)° (I10–I11–I12). Another half unit of I$_2$ has an I1–I1 distance of 2.70(2) Å. Intermolecular distances between iodide species are 4.642 Å for I3...I7 (x + 1, y − 1, z), 4.754 Å for I4...I9 (−x, −y + 1, −z), and 4.012 Å for I6...I8. Recently, a Cu(II) coordination polymer that includes L-shaped I$_3^-$ anions has been reported. In this case, the I$_3^-$ ion was formed by the I$^-$ ion linked with two I$_2$ molecules. Even though many I$_3^-$ ions were introduced into the channels of $\mathbf{5}$, the thickness of bilayer (12.20(1) Å) was very little changed compared with that of BOF-1 (11.91(1) Å). The cell parameters were not significantly altered either, compared with those of BOF-1 (Table 1), although the density of the redox product $\mathbf{5}$ (1.359 g/cm$^3$) increased remarkably (ca. 28%) relative to that (1.061 g/cm$^3$) of BOF-1.

Photographs were taken of the crystal of BOF-1 (0.5 × 0.5 × 0.3 mm$^3$) during the reaction with the I$_2$ solution (Figure 10) to prove the single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformation and exclude the possibility of dissolution and recrystallization. According to the photographs, I$_2$ inclusion starts at the crystal surface and diffuses into the center of the crystal. Because of the existence of 3D channels in the framework, water inclusions could come out of the channels without interrupting the incoming I$_2$ molecules. Therefore, the crystal experiences little physical stress during the exchange of water guests with I$_2$ molecules, which must be followed by the redox reaction between the host and I$_2$ guests. This enables the crystal to retain the single-crystal nature. Recently, it has been reported that diffusion of I$_2$ vapor into the crystal of tris(ophenylendioxy)-cyclootriphosphazene constructs a wirelike confinement of I$_2$ in the 1D channels of the host. This is different from the present result that redox reaction occurs between the host and I$_2$ guest.

The diffusion coefficient ($D$) of I$_2$ in the present BOF-1 crystal was estimated to be $9 \times 10^{-9}$ cm$^2$/s based on the results that $0.3 \times 0.3 \times 0.1$ mm$^3$ size of the crystal was completely oxidized by I$_2$ within 10 h. This is significantly greater than the value ($D = 10^{-11} - 10^{-10}$ cm$^2$/s) generally accepted for the metal-organic open frameworks. For zeolites, $D$ ranges from $10^{-14}$ to $10^{-5}$ cm$^2$/s, depending on the geometry and dimension of the channels as well as size and shape of the guest molecule, etc. The fast diffusion in the present compound must be attributed to the 3D channels created in the BOF-1 framework. The material may be a good ion-conductor and/or a good ion-exchange material.

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Figure 9. X-ray structure of $\mathbf{5}$, showing oxidized framework with I$_3^-$ and I$_2$ included in the channels. (a) Top view. (b) Side view. Color: Ni, pink; O, red; N, blue; C of macrocycle, gray; C of BTC$^{3-}$, yellow; C of xylyl pillars, green; I, white. Guest water molecules are omitted for clarity.

Figure 10. Photographs showing progress of the redox reaction when a crystal BOF-1 (0.5 × 0.5 × 0.3 mm$^3$) was immersed in the DMSO/H$_2$O (1:1, v/v) solution of I$_2$ (0.0136 M, 50 µL). The photographs of the crystal showed no further change in color and morphology after 90 min.
exchange material in the present state because it is slightly soluble in H₂O. The modification of the solubility is currently under way.

In conclusion, BOF-1, a pillared bilayer framework with 3D channels, serves as molecule recognition material. It shows spongelike dynamic behavior in response to the amount of guest. It exhibits single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformations upon the guest removal and the exchange processes. BOF-1 reacts with I₂ solution to give rise to a charged framework incorporating Ni(II) and Ni(III) ions with free I₃⁻ and I₂ inclusions. During the harsh redox reaction that accompanies guest-exchange and ca. 30% increase in the crystal density, the framework still maintains a single-crystal nature. The design may be applied to prepare a new class of versatile multifunctional crystalline materials, including host lattices for optoelectronic materials, molecular separation, and chemical reactions in nanoscale voids.

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (R01-1999-000-00041-0) and by the Korea Research Foundation of the Ministry of Education (KRF-2001-015-DS0024).

Supporting Information Available: TGA/DSC data of 1, XRPD patterns of 1 and 2, and ORTEP drawing, tables of X-ray data, and X-ray crystallographic files in CIF format for 5. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

JA0466715