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# Unprecedented $\mu_3$ -O<sup>i</sup> face-capping ligand in a [Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sup>i</sup><sub>6</sub>L<sup>i</sup><sub>2</sub>Br<sup>a</sup><sub>6</sub>] (L = 0.5 O + 0.5 Br) molybdenum cluster unit: crystal structure of the Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O oxybromide

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#### Abstract

The new  $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$  oxybromide, synthesized by solid-state chemistry, crystallizes in the trigonal system ( $R\bar{3}c$  space group; a = 15.5784(2) Å, c = 19.5103(5) Å, V = 4100.5(1) Å<sup>3</sup> and Z = 6). It is based on a [ $Mo_6L_{14}$ ] unit that contains an unprecedented  $\mu_3$  face-capping oxygen. The crystal structure determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction is built up from discrete face-capped [ $Mo_6Br_6^iL_2^iBr_6^i$ ]<sup>3-</sup> (L = 0.5 O + 0.5 Br) anionic units in which two inner positions are randomly occupied by one bromine and one oxygen whereas the other ligand positions are fully occupied by bromine. The cesium cations randomly occupy two close crystallographic positions generated by the *A-B-C-A'-B'-C'* close-packed stacking of the units. The cesium site occupancy is related to the random distribution of oxygen and bromine on the L<sup>i</sup> inner positions. *To cite this article: K. Kirakci et al., C. R. Chimie 8 (2005)*.

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#### Résumé

Un nouvel oxybromure à cluster de molybdène,  $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$ , qui comporte pour la première fois un atome d'oxygène  $\mu_3$  coiffant une face du cluster octaédrique Mo<sub>6</sub>, a été synthétisé par chimie du solide. Ce composé cristallise dans le système trigonal avec le groupe d'espace  $R\overline{3c}$  (a = 15.5784(2) Å, c = 19.5103(5) Å, V = 4100.5(1) Å<sup>3</sup> et Z = 6). Sa structure cristalline, déterminée par diffraction des rayons X sur monocristal, comporte des motifs anioniques  $[Mo_6Br_6^iL_2^iBr_6^a]^{3-}$  (L = 0.5 O + 0.5 Br) isolés, dans lesquels deux positions *inner* sont aléatoirement occupées par un atome de brome et un atome d'oxygène, tandis que les autres positions de ligand sont entièrement occupées par le brome. Les cations césium occupent statistiquement deux positions cristallographiques générées par les motifs qui s'empilent de façon compacte, selon un mode de type A-B-C-A'-B'-C'. L'occupation des sites cationiques est corrélée à la distribution aléatoire de l'oxygène et du brome sur les sites *inner* L<sup>i</sup>. *Pour citer cet article : K. Kirakci et al., C. R. Chimie 8 (2005)*.

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Mots-clés : Cluster octaédrique de molybdène ; Oxyhalogénure ; Structure cristalline ; Chimie du solide

#### 1. Introduction

Octahedral clusters of transition elements are well known to build  $[(M_6L_8^i)L_6^a]$  and  $[(M_6L_{12}^i)L_6^a]$  units [1-3] with halogens or/and chalcogens depending whether the inner ligands are located on bridging or capping position ( $^{i}$  = inner and  $^{a}$  = apical according to Schäfer and Schnering notation [1]). The metal-metal bonding states of the molecular orbital diagrams are fulfilled by 24 and 16 valence electrons per cluster for face-capped  $[(M_6L_8^1)L_6^a]$  and edge-bridged  $[(M_6L_{12}^1)L_6^a]$  units, respectively (VEC = 24 and VEC = 16). The octahedral cluster chemistry of molybdenum is dominated by the  $[(Mo_6L_8^i)L_6^a]$  unit except for oxides owing to the small size of oxygen ligand compared to those of other chalcogens and halogens. Indeed, more generally the octahedral cluster oxides of transition elements are always built up from  $[(M_6O_{12}^i)O_6^a]$  units [4–7, M = Mo, Nb, Ta, and W].

In the present work, we report the synthesis and the crystal structure of Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O that constitutes the first molybdenum octahedral cluster oxyhalide. Astonishingly, contrarily to previously reported M<sub>6</sub> oxyhalides and oxides, the oxygen ligand is found to be in a  $\mu_3$ -face-capping position. It turns out that the crystal structure, determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction, is built up from discrete face-capped  $[Mo_6Br_6^iL_2^iBr_6^a]^{3-}$  anionic units (L = 0.5 Br + 0.5 O) in which two inner positions -located on the threefold axis of the unit- are randomly occupied by one bromine and one oxygen whereas the other ligand positions are fully occupied by bromine. The caesium cations randomly occupy two close crystallographic positions generated by the A-B-C-A'-B'-C' closepacked stacking of the units. The structural findings will be discussed by comparison with previously reported Nb<sub>6</sub>, Ta<sub>6</sub> and W<sub>6</sub> oxyhalides [8,9], Cs<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>14</sub> [10],  $Rb_3Re_6S_7Br_7$  [11] as well as  $Mo_3O_{13}$  based oxides [12].

## 2. Experimental part

## 2.1. Synthesis of Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O

Few single crystals of  $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$  were obtained as byproduct in a reaction designed to synthesize

 $Cs_2Mo_6Br_{14}$  [10]. A stoichiometric mixture (0.5 g) of CsBr (Alfa Aesar 99.9%) and MoBr<sub>2</sub> prepared according to procedure described in [10], was ground, formed as a pellet and placed into a silica tube (o.d. 9 mm, i.d. 7 mm, length 70 mm). Once sealed under vacuum, the tube was heated at 950 °C for 3 days. Few red colored single crystals of Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were directly obtained during the synthesis, while the major bulk product was Cs<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>14</sub>. EDS analysis, using a scanning electron microscope JEOL JSM 6400 equipped with a microprobe EDS OXFORD LINK ISIS, evidenced that the crystals contained the expected elements in a ratio close to the stoichiometry of the Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O formula (atom % Cs/Mo/Br: experimental: 14.7/26.5/58.7; theoretical: 13.6/27.3/59.1). Oxygen element has been clearly detected but not quantified owing to the limited accuracy of the measurement in the presence of heavy elements. Several attempts in order to obtain bulk compound, using in particular MoO<sub>3</sub> as starting material, have failed. Indeed, the possibility to use MoO<sub>3</sub> as oxygen source has been invalidated. The presence of oxygen in the single crystals of the title compound may be explained by some oxygen contamination during the preparation of MoBr<sub>2</sub>. New experiments are now in progress in order to obtain Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O in higher yield.

#### 2.2. X-ray single crystal diffraction studies

Single crystal X-ray diffraction data of  $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$  were collected at room temperature on a Nonius KappaCCD X-ray area-detector diffractometer using Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) (Centre de diffractométrie de l'université Rennes-1, France). Details of data collection and structure refinement are reported in Table 1. The data processing was performed by the Kappa CCD analysis software [13] and a spherical absorption correction was applied [14]. The calculation of E-statistics [15] performed on the data suggested a centrosymmetric space group. Among the possible space groups deduced from the observed systematic extinctions, the refinement procedure has

Table 1

Crystal and refinement data for the structure determination of  $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$ 

Empirical formula	$Cs_{2.94(6)}Mo_6Br_{12.98(2)}O_{1.02(2)}$
Formula Weight	2019.8
Space group	<i>R</i> 3 <i>c</i> No. 167
<i>a</i> (Å)	15.5784(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	19.5103(5)
$V(Å^3)$	4100.5(1)
Ζ	6
$D_{\rm calc} ({\rm g}{\rm cm}^{-3})$	4.91
Crystal dimensions (mm <sup>3</sup> )	$0.137 \times 0.114 \times 0.110$
Total reflections collected	26429
Unique reflections	2854
$R_{\rm int}$ (all reflections)	0.0791
$\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	25.602
$T(^{\circ}\mathrm{C})$	20
$\lambda$ (Å)	0.71069
Observed reflections $[I > 2 \sigma (I)]$	2854
Refined parameters	48
$R_{1}^{,a} [I > 2 \sigma (I)]$	0.0458
$wR_2$ , <sup><i>a</i></sup> all data	0.1148
$\Delta \rho_{\min} / \Delta \rho_{\max} \ (e \ \text{\AA}^{-3})$	-1.875/2.346

 ${}^{a}R_{1} = \sum_{hkl} \left| F_{o} - F_{c} \right| / \sum_{hkl} \left| F_{o} \right|; wR_{2} = \left[ \sum_{hkl} \left[ w(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2} \right] / \sum_{hkl} \left[ w(F_{o}^{2})^{2} \right] \right]^{1/2}.$ 

allowed to retain unambiguously the R-3c centrosymmetric space group. Direct methods (program SIR97 [16]) yielded a first partial structural solution, including the molybdenum cluster, inner ligands and cesium cations. After several cycles of refinements (SHELXL-97 program [17]), it turned out that the bromine inner ligand (Br1) located on the 12c Wyckoff positions did not fully occupy its position contrary to the two other bromine atoms located on two 36f positions. Furthermore, an electronic density peak remained close to Br1 at a distance from molybdenum corresponding to a Mo-O bondlength. Oxygen O1 was then introduced on this residue with the same atomic displacement parameters as Br1. The sum of the occupancies of Br1 and O1 was restricted to the value corresponding to a fully occupied 12c position. Afterwards, the first two restraints were progressively relaxed during the convergence, leading to final positions in agreement with reliable Mo-(Br, O) interatomic distances. However, at this stage, Cs1 exhibited unrealistic anisotropic atomic displacement parameters and a residual electronic density peak remained close to this position. Cs2 was then positioned on this peak with the same isotropic atomic displacement parameter as Cs1 and the sum of the occupancies of Cs1 and Cs2 was restricted to the value corresponding to a full 18e Wyckoff position. Subsequently these restraints were progressively relaxed during the convergence, leading to final reliable anisotropical displacement parameters for Cs1 and Cs2. The final refinements led to the following developed formula  $Cs_{2.94(6)}Mo_6Br^i_6(Br^i_{0.98(2)}O^i_{1.02(2)})Br^a_6$  that corresponds to the  $Cs_3Mo_6Br^i_7O^iBr^a_6$  formula within the s.u.'s. The defined  $Cs_3Mo_6Br^i_7O^iBr^a_6$  stoichiometric formula is corroborated by electronic consideration since it corresponds to a valence electron count per cluster of 24 (versus a fractional value of 23.92 for  $Cs_{2.94(6)}Mo_6Br^i_6(Br^i_{0.98(2)}O^i_{1.02(2)})Br^a_6$ ). The atomic positional parameters and the isotropic equivalent atomic displacement parameters are reported in Table 2. Relevant interatomic distances for discussion of this structure are reported in Table 3.

### 3. Results and discussion

The Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O oxybromide crystallizes in the trigonal system (space group *R*-3*c*) and is isostructural with Rb<sub>3</sub>Re<sub>6</sub>S<sub>7</sub>Br<sub>7</sub> [11]. The structure is built up from discrete  $[(Mo_6Br_6L_2)Br_6]^{3-}$  anionic units (L = 0.5 O + 0.5 Br) of -3 symmetry (Fig. 1). The molybdenum cluster is face-capped by eight inner ligands in such a way that two inner ligand positions

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Table 2	
Positional and displacement parameters $(\text{\AA}^2)$ for $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$	

Atom	Position	x	У	Z	Occupancy	Ueq
Mo1	36 <i>f</i>	0.90592(3)	0.90307(3)	0.05615(2)	1	0.01613(9)
Br1	12 <i>c</i>	0	0	0.16562(12)	0.492(7)	0.0189(5)
01	12 <i>c</i>	0	0	0.1339(11)	0.508(7)	0.019(2)
Br2	36 <i>f</i>	0.80270(4)	0.99380(4)	0.05307(3)	1	0.02527(13)
Br3	36 <i>f</i>	0.78351(5)	0.77780(5)	0.14676(3)	1	0.03648(16)
Cs1	18e	0.7947(3)	0	1/4	0.663(16)	0.0565(7)
Cs2	18 <i>e</i>	0.8235(8)	0	1/4	0.317(16)	0.0375(15)

Table 3

Interatomic distances (Å) in Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O

	$Mo_6Br_{13}O$ unit
Mo1-Mo1	2.5778(6) × 2
	$2.6488(7) \times 2$
Mo1-O1	2.125(15) × 1
Mo1-Br1	$2.603(2) \times 1$
Mo1–Br2	2.6191(6) × 1
	2.6245(6) × 1
	2.6282(6) × 1
Mo1-Br3	2.6170(7) × 1
	Cesium environment
Cs1-O1	$3.93(1) \times 2$
Cs1–Br1	3.597(4) × 2
Cs1–Br2	3.8468(6) × 2
Cs1–Br3	3.457(4) × 2
	3.822(2) × 2
	3.932(2) × 2
Cs201	3.562(16) × 2
Cs2–Br1	$3.204(11) \times 2$
Cs2–Br2	3.853(1) × 2
Cs2–Br3	3.679(3) × 2
	3.777(4) × 2
	3.831(11) × 2
	Shortest interatomic distances
	between units
O1–O1	4.53(3)
O1–Br1	3.91(2)
Br1–Br1	3.293(3)

located on the ternary axis (12c Wyckoff position) are randomly occupied by bromine (Br1) and oxygen (O1) atoms, whereas the six other inner ligand positions and the six apical ligand positions (36f Wyckoff positions) are fully occupied by bromine (Br2 and Br3, respectively). The value of the refined Br1:O1 *ratio* is equal to 0.49(1):0.51(1) and corresponds, within the s.u.'s, to a 0.5/0.5 random occupancy of the 12c position by Br1 and O1. It results in a molybdenum cluster in which two opposite triangular faces, perpendicular to the ternary axis, are randomly capped by oxygen and bro-



Fig. 1. The  $[(Mo_6Br^i_6L^i_2)Br^a_6]^{3-}$  unit with labelled atoms. Only one of the two O1 and Br1 positions is locally occupied. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.

mine whilst the six other triangular faces, around the ternary axis, are capped by bromine. Notice that the structure of Cs<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>6</sub>Br<sub>13</sub>O is closely related to that of  $Rb_3Re_6S_7Br_7$ . However, in  $Rb_3Re_6(S_5^iBr^i)S_2^iBr_6^a$ , six inner ligand positions are randomly occupied by sulfur and bromine whilst the two inner ligand positions, lying on the ternary axis, are fully occupied by sulfur. Moreover, the rubidium cation in Rb<sub>3</sub>Re<sub>6</sub>(S<sup>i</sup><sub>5</sub>Br<sup>i</sup>)S<sup>i</sup><sub>2</sub>Br<sup>a</sup><sub>6</sub> fully occupies its cristallographic positions. The Mo1-Mo1 bond lengths from the Mo3 triangular faces randomly capped by Br1 and O1 are smaller than the Mo1-Mo1 bond lengths from the Mo3 triangular faces fully capped by bromine (2.5778(6) Å and 2.6488(7) Å, respectively). This finding must be attributed to the discrepancy between the ionic radii of bromine and oxygen ligands [18]. The Mo1-O1 bond lengths

(2.125(15) Å) and Mo1-Mo1 bond lengths from the Mo<sub>3</sub> triangular faces randomly capped by Br1 and O1 (2.5778(6) Å) are close to the corresponding bond lengths reported in molybdenum oxides based on  $Mo_3O_{13}$  units containing  $\mu_3$ -O<sup>i</sup> as for instance Zn<sub>2</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> or Zn<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> [12 and reference therein]. Let us point out that in the latter series the number of valence electrons per cluster, that strongly influences the metal-metal bond length (2.524(2) Å and 2.580(2) Å, respectively), has been found to be for **6** and 8, respectively. The Mo1-Br<sup>i</sup>1, Mo1-Br<sup>i</sup>2 and Mo–Br<sup>a</sup>3 distances vary within the range 2.603(2) Å– 2.6282(6) Å and are only slightly larger than those observed in  $Cs_2Mo_6Br_{14}$  (average Mo-Br<sup>i</sup> = 2.601 Å). Indeed, the single noticeable evolution when going from a  $[Mo_6Br_{14}]^{2-}$  to a  $[Mo_6Br_{13}O]^{3-}$  unit is a decrease of the average Mo-Mo bond length (2.6348(7) Å to 2.6133(7) Å) in relation with the presence of a  $\mu_3$ -O<sup>i</sup> face-capping oxygen. This is the reverse situation to what has been observed in  $[Nb_6L_{18}]$  units going from  $[Nb_6Cl_{18}]^{4-}$  to  $[Nb_6Cl_{17}O]^{5-}$  in KLuNb<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>18</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>LuNb<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>17</sub>O, respectively [8 d]. In this case the presence of one disordered oxygen among the twelve inner ligands of the [Nb<sub>6</sub>L<sub>18</sub>] unit does not have any steric influence on the metal-metal bondlentghs. On the other hand, the Nb-Cl interatomic distances are larger in the oxychloride than in the chloride in particular the Nb-Cl<sup>a</sup> one. For higher oxygen content in the unit, an ordering occurs between oxygen and chlorine ligands. This leads to shorter Nb-Nb oxygen-bridged bondlength than Nb-Nb chlorine-bridged ones and to a modification of the electronic properties. Recall that for  $[Nb_6L_{18}]$  based oxyhalides, when the number of inner oxygen ligands increases, the Nb-O<sup>1</sup> antibonding contribution at the HOMO level ( $a_{2u}$  symmetry) increases and becomes preponderant for three oxygens per unit leading to an overall nonbonding character for this  $a_{2u}$  level [19]. Consequently, the usual VEC for the  $(Nb_6Cl_{12-x}O_x)$  cluster core is found to be 16 or 15 for x < 3 whereas this value is found to be 14 for  $x \ge 3$ .

The  $[(Mo_6Br_6L_2)Br_6]^{3-}$  units are arranged according to a A-B-C-A'-B'-C' stacking (Fig. 2). The layers are strongly interpenetrated resulting in short distances between the L1 inner ligands located on the ternary axis that belong to adjacent units of layers A and A'. The O1–Br1 interatomic distance is 3.91(2) Å, whereas the Br1–Br1 one of 3.293(3) Å is shorter than the sum of the Br<sup>-</sup> ionic radii (dBr<sup>-</sup>–Br<sup>-</sup> = 3.92 Å). This feature



Fig. 2. Projection of the structure of  $Cs_3Mo_6Br_{13}O$  along the [010] direction. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.

implies an alternated distribution of Br1 and O1 ligands along the threefold axis of the structure. The Cs1 and Cs2 caesium cations randomly occupy two different 18e Wyckoff positions with the following refined occupancy: 0.66(2) and 0.32(2), respectively. They are separated by 0.449(13) Å and are surrounded by four cluster units (Fig. 3), belonging to four different layers of the stacking (A, B, C, A') that build a distorted tetrahedron. The Cs1 10 coordination site (Fig. 3) is built up from two apical ligands and six inner ligands belonging to two cluster units from layers A and A' and from two additional apical ligands belonging to two cluster units from layer B and C. It results in six  $Cs1-Br^{a}$  interatomic distances that vary within the range 3.457(4) Å-3.932(2) Å, two Cs1-Br<sup>i</sup> interatomic distances of 3.8468(6) Å and two Cs1-Br<sup>i</sup>/O<sup>i</sup> interatomic distances of 3.597(4) Å and 3.93(1) Å, respectively. Cs1 and Cs2 being surrounded by the same four cluster units, their coordination site is almost the same with, however, different interatomic distances. Moreover, the short Cs2–Br1 interatomic distance of 3.204(11) Å (lower than the sum of the ionic radii of  $Cs^+$  and  $Br^-$ )



Fig. 3. Cs1 environment. The threefold axis is represented as a dotted arrow. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.

clearly indicates a correlation between the occupancy of Cs2 and those of O1 and Br1. In other words, it means that the occupation of the Cs2 site implies an empty Br1 site and an occupied O1 site. It results in six Cs2– Br<sup>a</sup> interatomic distances that vary within the range 3.679(3) Å–3.831(11) Å, two Cs2–Br<sup>i</sup> interatomic distances of 3.853(1) Å and two Cs2–O<sup>i</sup> interatomic distances of 3.562(16) Å.

#### 4. Concluding remarks

The title compound synthesized by solid-state route exhibits for the first time a molybdenum octahedral cluster with a  $\mu_3$ -face-capping oxygen. Beyond the increase of the anionic charge on the cluster unit, the main finding going from  $[Mo_6Br_{14}]^{2-}$  to a  $[Mo_6Br_{13}O]^{3-}$  unit is a decrease of the average Mo–Mo bondlength (2.6348–2.6133). The increase of the O/Br ratio on the inner positions of the  $[M_6L_{14}]$  unit should affect significantly their structural and electronic properties but it could also lead to  $[Mo_6L_{18}]$  unit based compounds. Let us recall that in the case of tungsten, despite a  $W_6$  cluster chemistry also dominated by  $[W_6L_8^iL_6^a]$  units, some compounds based on  $[W_6L_{12}^iL_6^a]$  units have been reported. This concerns the  $W_6Cl_{18}$  [20] and the ternary  $A_xW_6Cl_{18}$  [21] chlorides as well as three oxychlorides [9], based on edge-bridged  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ - $[W_6O_6Cl_{12}]^{2-}$  isomers and  $[W_6O_7Cl_{11}]^{3-}$  units.

## 5. Supplementary materials

Further details of the crystal structure investigation can be obtained from the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany (fax: (49) 7247-808-666; e-mail: crysdata@ fiz.karlsruhe.de) on quoting the depository numbers CSD 414368.

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