Self-Assembly of Chiral Alleno-Acetylinic Coordination Complexes

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Previous work in our group has established the utility of chiral phenanthroline-based alleno-acetylenic ligands in the formation of supramolecular assemblies, including double-stranded helicates, triple-stranded helicates^{2,3} and catenanes. In order to elucidate the factors governing selectivity in the formation of these complexes, a systematic study was undertaken on the self-assembly of alleno-acetylinic ligands bearing substituted phenanthrolines with various metal ions. These results demonstrate that the self-assembly of these supramolecular complexes is responsive to subtle changes in the structure of the phenanthroline-based ligands, the identity of the metal ion and the conditions under which self-assembly is conducted. This allows the selectivity of the system to be tuned for formation of double- or triple-stranded complexes, helicates or mesocates, and for catenation. The transfer of chirality from the alleno-acetylinic ligands to the metal ions is also highly dependent on the ligand structure, resulting in a strong influence on the enantio-/diastereoselectivity of complex formation.

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