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## Supramolecular architectures of the boron and aluminium complexes with Schiff bases

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In Schiff base metal complexes, the environment at the coordination center can be modified by attaching different substituents to the ligand, which provides a useful range of steric and electronic properties essential for the fine-tuning of structure and reactivity. Mononuclear complexes containing Schiff base ligands can be assembled into various supramolecular architectures by means of intermolecular non-covalent forces.

Two structurally characterized complexes of type based on N-methyl salicylideneimine (HsaldMe) and N-phenyl-salicylideneimine (HsaldPh) have been described, namely Et2B(saldMe), Et2B(saldPh) and ClAl(saldPh).

The crystal structure analysis of these compounds provides interesting data concerning the effect of the nature of coordination center and both the M-alkvl and the N-alkyl substituents on the molecular assembly of the tetrahedral Schiff base complexes. The molecular structure of the complexes of boron consists of monomeric four-coordinate chelates and their primary arrangement in the crystal structure is determined by the C-H-Oaryloxide hydrogen bonds. An extended crystal structure analysis reveals that the adjacent monomeric moieties of Et2B(saldMe) are interconnected by C-Himino-O hydrogen bridges resulting in a 1-D motif infinite H-bonded chain, whereas the crystalline complex Et2B(saldPh) comprises dimeric molecules linked through a pair of intermolecular C-Harom…O interactions.

The supramolecular arrangement of both compounds is discussed with relation to the structure of analogous aluminium complexes, and the role played by the coordination centre on the molecular assembly is analyzed.