



2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octakis(phenoxy/octyloxy)phthalocyaninato manganese complexes. Synthesis, structure, and nonlinear optical property



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ABSTRACT

2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octakis(phenoxy)phthalocyaninato manganese complex $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) was prepared and spectroscopically and electrochemically characterized. For the comparative reason, 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(octyloxy) phthalocyaninato manganese analogue $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (**2**) was also prepared and comparatively studied. The molecular structure of **1** with a central chloridized trivalent manganese ion has been clearly determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. The third order nonlinear optical properties of **1** and **2** in toluene solution were studied using Z-scan technique, giving effective imaginary third order molecular hyperpolarizability of 1.44×10^{-11} and 2.27×10^{-11} esu, respectively, indicating the potential application of the phthalocyaninato manganese complexes in the optical limiting.

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1. Introduction

Phthalocyanines have been an important class of dyes and pigments with extensive applications in paint, printing, and textile industries ever [1]. Quite recently these macrocyclic molecular materials have also been important potential applications in the fields of organic field transistor (OFET) [2], photovoltaic cells [3], optical data storage [4], photosensitizers in the photodynamic therapy [5], nonlinear optics [6], gas sensors [7], organic photoconductors [8] due to their excellent spectroscopic, electrochemical, and photophysical properties. In particular, good nonlinear optical properties of some phthalocyaninato metal complexes revealed have stimulated great research interest in this field [9].

As early as in 1987, Ho and co-workers started to study the third-order NLO properties of phthalocyaninato complexes with the third main group metals including gallium and aluminum for

the first time [10]. This was followed by the preliminary report of Coulter et al. on the optical limiting property of AlClPc in 1989 [11]. In the following two decades, quite a number of different kinds of phthalocyanine derivatives including the monomeric complexes of Pb, [12], Ni, [13], Co, [14], Cu, [14], Zn, [15], Si, [16], Ti, [17], V [18] and sandwich complexes of La, [19], Sm, [20,21], Eu, [15], and Gd [20] have been extensively studied for their third-order nonlinear optical properties with potential practical applications in optical limiting devices. Among which the phthalocyaninato indium/zinc complexes were revealed to show great potential due to their high effective imaginary third order molecular hyperpolarizability [22]. However, the design and synthesis of new phthalocyanine compounds with good NLO properties still attract increasing research interest in this field.

In the present paper, we describe the synthesis, spectroscopic, and electrochemical characterization of two new substituted phthalocyaninato manganese complexes, namely 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(phenoxy) phthalocyaninato manganese complex $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) and 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(octyloxy) phthalocyaninato manganese $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (**2**). The molecular structure of $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) has been clearly clarified by single crystal X-ray

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diffraction analysis. In particular, good third order nonlinear optical property unraveled for both phthalocyanato manganese compounds **1** and **2** in toluene solution reveals their potential application in the optical limiting field.

2. Experimental section

2.1. Materials and instruments

n-Pentanol and CH₂Cl₂ were distilled from sodium and anhydrous CaCl₂, respectively. Anhydrous 1,8-diazabicyclo [5.4.0] undec-7-ene (DBU) was purchased using Aldrich. 4,5-Di(phenoxy) phthalonitrile and 4,5-di(octyloxy)phthalonitrile were synthesized according to reported procedures [23,24]. Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (Merck, Kieselgel 60, 200–300 mesh) with the indicated eluent. All other reagents and solvents were reagent grade and used as received.

The electronic absorption spectrum was obtained on Hitachi U-4100 spectrophotometer. IR spectrum (KBr pellets) was recorded on a BIORAD FTS-165 spectrometer. MALDI-TOF mass spectrum was recorded on a Bruker APEX47e ultra-high resolution Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance (FT-ICR) mass spectrometer with α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as matrix. Elemental analysis was performed on an Elementar Vavio El III. Electrochemical measurement was carried out with a BAS CV-50W voltammetric analyzer. The cell comprised inlets for a glassy carbon disk working electrode of 2.0 mm in diameter and a silver-wire counter electrode. The reference electrode was Ag/Ag⁺, which was connected to the solution by a Luggin capillary whose tip was placed close to the working electrode. It was corrected for junction potentials by being referenced internally to the ferrocenium/ferrocene (Fe⁺/Fe) couple [$E_{1/2}$ (Fe⁺/Fe) = 501 mV vs. SCE]. Typically, a 0.1 M solution of TBAP in CH₂Cl₂ containing 0.5 mM of sample was purged with nitrogen for 3 min, then the differential pulse voltammogram (DPV) was recorded at ambient temperature with the scan rate of 10 mV s⁻¹.

2.2. X-ray crystallography

Crystal data and details of data collection and structure refinement for **1** are given in Table 1. Data were collected on an Oxford Diffraction Gemini E system with an Mo-K α sealed tube ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at -150 °C, using a ω scan mode with an increment

of 0.3°. Final unit cell parameters were derived by global refinements of reflections obtained from integration of all the frame data. The collected frames were integrated using the preliminary cell-orientation matrix. The SMART software was used for collecting frames of data, indexing reflections and determination of lattice constants; SAINT-PLUS for integration of intensity of reflections and scaling [25]; SADABS for absorption correction [26]; and SHELXL for space group and structure determination, refinements, graphics and structure reporting [27]. All the H atoms in these compounds were obtained geometrically. These H atoms were included in the subsequent least-squares refinement as fixed contributors. The final refinement with anisotropic temperature factors for non-H atoms led to *R* value of 0.0902 for **1**. The selected bond length and angle have been listed in Table S3 (Supporting Information). CCDC number of 921533 for **1**, containing the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

2.3. Synthetic methods

2.3.1. Preparation of MnCl[Pc(OPh)₈] (**1**)

A mixture of 4,5-di(phenolxy)phthalonitrile (495 mg, 1.50 mmol), Mn(OAc)₂·4H₂O (92 mg, 0.38 mmol), and DBU (0.5 ml, 3.00 mmol) in *n*-pentanol (3 ml) was refluxed under a blanket of nitrogen for 6 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool in air and then methanol (80 ml) was added. The resulting solution was stirred for 10 min and filtered. The residue was washed with methanol and water and then dried. The crude product was purified by column chromatography with CHCl₃ and MeOH (10:3) as eluent and the brown band containing the MnCl[Pc(OPh)₈] (**1**) was collected. Repeated chromatography followed by recrystallization from CHCl₃ and MeOH gave pure target compound as a dark-brown powder with the yield of ca. 78%, 382 mg.

2.3.2. Preparation of MnCl[Pc(OC₈H₁₇)₈] (**2**)

By employing the above described procedure with 4,5-di(octyloxy)phthalonitrile (585 mg, 1.50 mmol) instead of 4,5-di(phenolxy)phthalonitrile as starting material, pure compound MnCl[Pc(OC₈H₁₇)₈] (**2**) was obtained as a dark-brown powder with the yield of ca. 89%, 533 mg.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Synthesis and spectroscopic characterization

Cyclic tetramerization of corresponding phthalonitrile in the presence of manganese salt was usually employed for the preparation of unsubstituted phthalocyaninato manganese complex [28]. In addition to this widely employed method [29], substituted phthalocyaninato manganese complexes could also be prepared by direct insertion of metal ion into the central hole of corresponding metal free phthalocyanines [30]. Despite the synthesis of a few substituted phthalocyaninato manganese compounds with eight peripheral substituents, substituted phthalocyaninato manganese complex with eight phenoxy moieties at the peripheral position of phthalocyanine ligand has not been reported thus far. In the present case, cyclic tetramerization of 4,5-di(phenoxy) phthalonitrile in the presence of Mn(OAc)₂·4H₂O promoted by organic base 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) in refluxing *n*-pentanol followed by the treatment with a large amount of chloridized organic solvent like CHCl₃ led to the isolation of 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(phenoxy) phthalocyaninato manganese MnCl[Pc(OPh)₈] (**1**). For the comparative studies, 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(octyloxy) phthalocyaninato manganese analogue MnCl[Pc(OC₈H₁₇)₈]

Table 1
Crystal data and structure refinements of MnCl[Pc(OPh)₈] (**1**).

Compound	1
Formula	C ₈₀ H ₄₈ ClMnN ₈ O ₈
F.W.	1339.65
System	Triclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1
<i>a</i>	13.0939(7)
<i>b</i>	16.7585(16)
<i>c</i>	16.9423(17)
α	94.386(8)
β	95.593(6)
γ	95.105(6)
<i>Z</i>	2
Volume	3671.7(5)
$D_{\text{calc}}/\text{g cm}^{-3}$	1.212
$F(000)$	1380
$R_1 I > 2\theta$	0.0904
$R_{w2} I > 2\theta$	0.2620
R_1 all	0.1399
R_{w2} all	0.2947
<i>S</i>	1.039

(2) was also prepared by employing the same procedure with 4,5-di(octyloxy)phthalonitrile instead of 4,5-di(phenoxy)phthalonitrile as starting material. Satisfactory elemental analysis results were obtained for the two newly prepared complexes **1** and **2** after repeatedly column chromatography followed by recrystallization. Both compounds were also characterized with a range of spectroscopic methods. The MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of **1** showed an intense cluster corresponding to the molecular ion (M)⁺, Fig. S1a (Supporting Information). This is also true for the analogue **2**, Fig. S1b (Supporting Information).

The electronic absorption spectrum of $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ (**1**) and $MnCl[Pc(OC_8H_{17})_8]$ (**2**) were recorded in $CHCl_3$ and shown in Fig. 1a and b, respectively. As can be found, both compounds display typical feature of the monomeric phthalocyaninato metal complexes in the electronic absorption spectra, revealing the nonaggregated molecular spectroscopic nature of **1** and **2** in $CHCl_3$. As shown in Fig. 1, the absorption at 392 and 391 nm with medium intensity is attributed to the phthalocyanine Soret band and the intense one at 730 and 729 nm with a shoulder at 657 and 655 nm to the phthalocyanine Q band. While the absorption at 518 and 504 nm is obviously associated with the ligand-to-metal charge transfer band [30(a),31] together with some contribution from the $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition arising from the oxygen lone pairs of electrons [32].

Vibrational spectroscopy is a versatile technique for revealing the intrinsic properties of phthalocyanine compounds [33]. In the IR spectra of **1** and **2**, Fig. S2 (Supporting Information), in addition to the absorptions contributed from the central aromatic Pc macrocycle including the wagging and torsion vibrations of C–H groups, isoindole ring stretching vibrations, and the C=N aza group stretching vibrations [34], the asymmetric and symmetric C–O–C stretching for these compound **1** and **2** is observed at 1281 and 1086 cm^{-1} and 1279 and 1096 cm^{-1} , respectively, Fig. S2 (Supporting Information) [35]. The most intense bands observed at 2924–2926 and 2955–2958 cm^{-1} for **2**, which are absent in the IR spectrum of **1**, are due to the antisymmetric C–H stretching vibrations of the $-CH_2-$ and $-CH_3$ groups, respectively, of the octyloxy side chains.

3.2. Structure of $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ (**1**)

Single crystals of $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ (**1**) suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained by slow diffusion of *n*-hexane onto a $CHCl_3$ solution of this compound. This compound crystallizes in the triclinic system with a *P*-1 space group containing two molecules in each unit cell. Fig. 2 shows the molecular structure of $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ (**1**). The five-coordinated manganese (III) ion locates in the center of phthalocyanine ring coordinated by four isoindole N

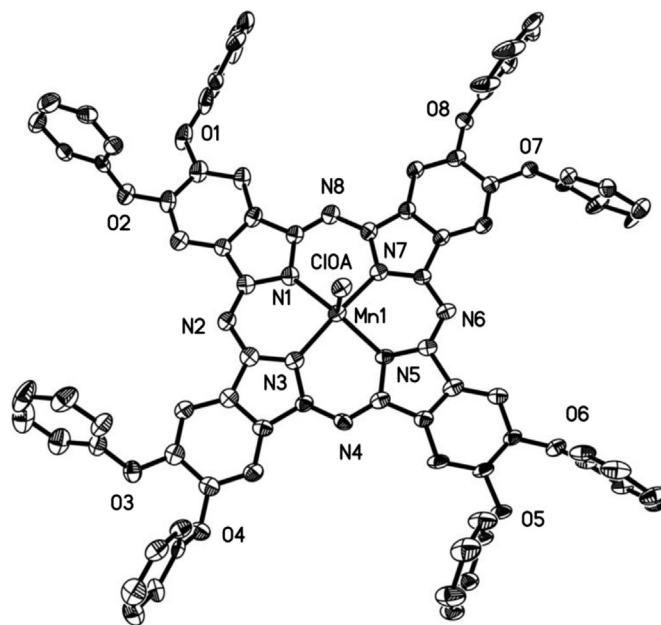


Fig. 2. Molecular structure of $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ (**1**) in top view with the 30% probability thermal ellipsoids for all non-hydrogen atoms. All hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity.

atoms and one Cl atom, showing a tetragonal pyramid coordination geometry for the manganese (III) ion. As a consequence, the phthalocyanine chromophore in $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ adopts conformation that is slightly domed toward the manganese (III) ion with a distance of 0.292 Å from the N_4 mean plane. In addition, the eight phenoxy moieties attached on the peripheral positions of phthalocyanine ring locates on the same side of the chloride atom most probably due to the steric hindrance of the phenoxy groups of the neighboring molecule.

Interestingly, two molecules of $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ are bound together via $\pi \cdots \pi$ stacking between the phthalocyanine ring, forming a dimeric supramolecular structure with phthalocyanine–phthalocyanine N_4 planes separation distance of 3.386 Å. This as the basic building block further packs into a 2-D supramolecular structure via $\pi \cdots \pi$ interaction between the phenyl π moieties of neighboring dimers with the phenyl–phenyl distance of 4.153 Å. At the end this section, it is worth noting that efforts paid thus far still failed to lead to single crystals of $MnCl[Pc(OC_8H_{17})_8]$ (**2**), show in Fig. 3.

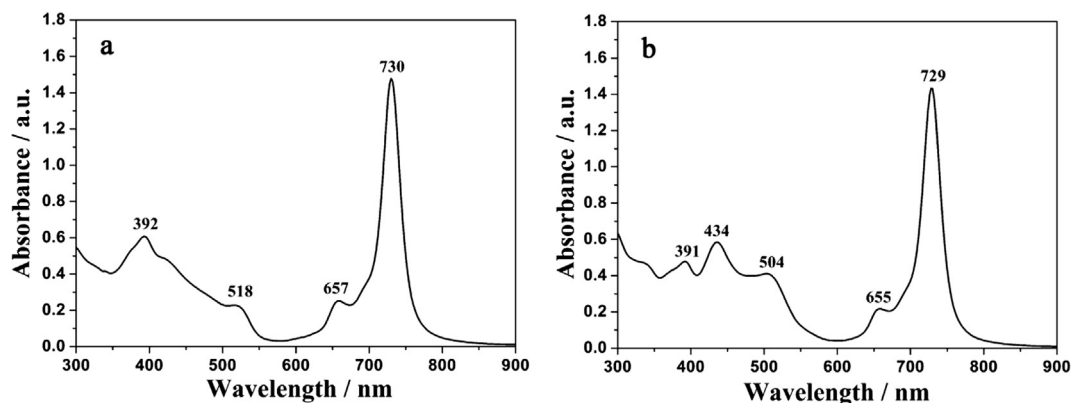


Fig. 1. Electronic absorption spectra of (a) $MnCl[Pc(OPh)_8]$ (**1**) and (b) $MnCl[Pc(OC_8H_{17})_8]$ (**2**) in $CHCl_3$.

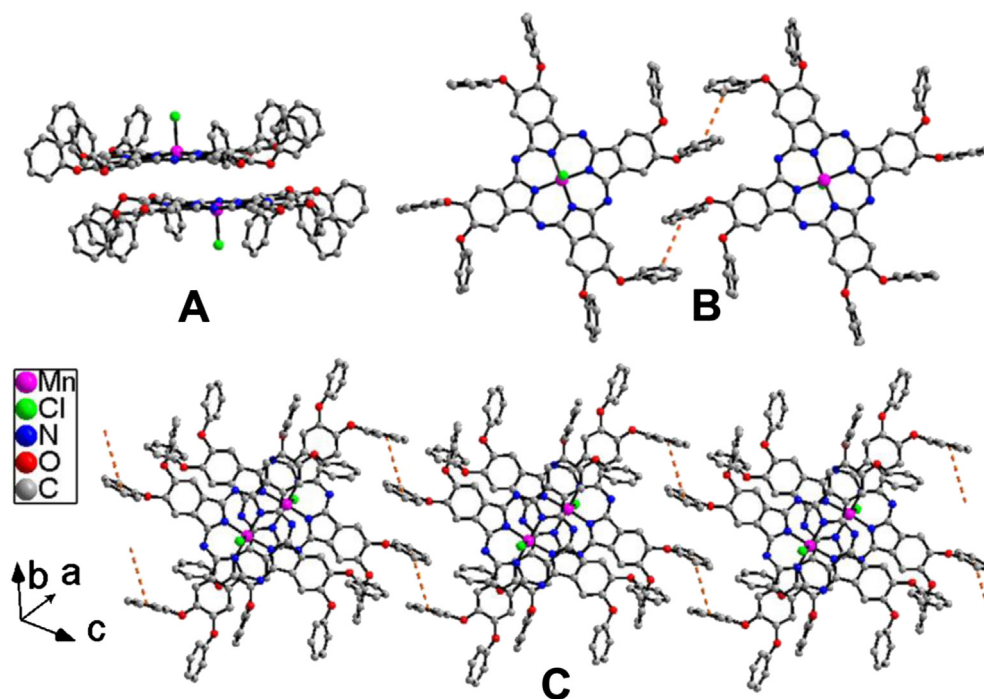


Fig. 3. The dimeric supramolecular structure of $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) by face-to-face $\pi \cdots \pi$ stacking interaction in top view (A), in side view (B) and 2-D supramolecular structure (C) with all hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules omitted for clarity.

3.3. Electrochemistry of $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) and $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (**2**)

The electrochemical behavior of both $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) and $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (**2**) complexes were studied by differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) in CH_2Cl_2 . As shown in Fig. 4, compound **1** exhibited totally three quasi-reversible one-electron redox processes. The one at +1.02 V is attributed to the phthalocyanine ring-based oxidation of trivalent manganese complex $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$, while the quasi-reversible process at -0.97 V is due to the metal-based redox between $\text{Mn}(\text{II})/\text{Mn}(\text{I})$ species. As a consequence, the one at -0.11 V is attributed to the metal-based redox between $\text{Mn}(\text{III})/\text{Mn}(\text{II})$ [36]. This is also true for the analogous complex **2**.

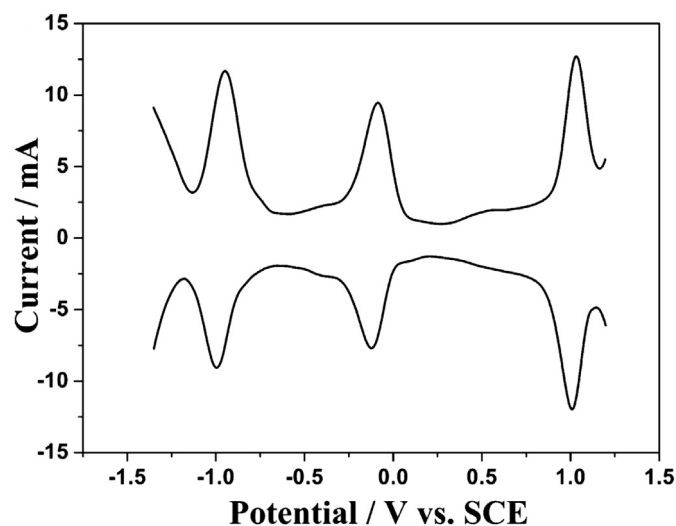


Fig. 4. Differential pulse voltammogram (DPV) of $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) recorded in CH_2Cl_2 containing 0.1 M TBAP at the scan rate of 10 mV s^{-1} .

However, introduction of electron-donating octyloxy instead of electron-withdrawing phenoxy groups in this compound induces obvious shift of the three quasi-reversible one-electron redox processes to negative direction with phthalocyanine ring-based oxidation of trivalent manganese complex **2** at +0.84 V, the metal-based redox process between divalent manganese to trivalent manganese species at -1.12 V, and the phthalocyanine ring-based reduction of divalent manganese species at -0.47 V.

3.4. Nonlinear optical property

The third order nonlinear optical property of $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (**1**) and $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (**2**) in toluene solution with the concentration of 1×10^{-3} M was studied using Z-scan technique with Nd-YAG laser as light source (the pulse width of 5 ns and wavelength of 532 nm). As exhibited in Fig. 5a, compound **1** in toluene solution shows reverse saturation absorption (RSA) under an open-aperture configuration mainly due to the thermal-induced nonlinear optical effect. The decreased transmission along with the increase in the incident energy indicates the potential optical limiting application of **1** and **2**. According to previously reported formula [37], the effective imaginary third order molecular hyperpolarizability ($\text{Im}\{\chi^{(3)}\}$) associated with the nonlinear refractive component of the phthalocyanine compound could be obtained by dividing the normalized Z-scanning data obtained under the open aperture configuration, giving the value of ($\text{Im}\{\chi^{(3)}\}$) being 1.44×10^{-11} esu for the solution sample. The comparable RSA value revealed for this phthalocyaninato manganese complex with other indium/zinc complexes of phthalocyanines or their hybrid materials with C_{60} indicates its good potential of this compound as optical limiting material [22]. This is also true for the octakis(octyloxy)-substituted analogue $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (**2**) with the similar electronic molecular structure and therefore effective imaginary third order molecular hyperpolarizability of 2.27×10^{-11} esu, Fig. 5b.

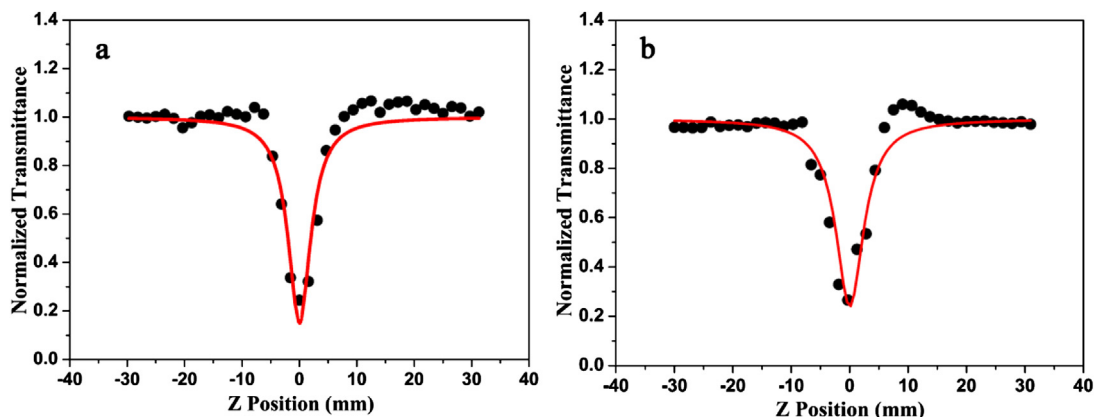


Fig. 5. Nonlinear optical property of (a) $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OPh})_8]$ (1) and (b) $\text{MnCl}[\text{Pc}(\text{OC}_8\text{H}_{17})_8]$ (2) in toluene solution under an open-aperture configuration.

4. Conclusion

Briefly summarizing above, two new peripherally octakis-(phenoxy)-substituted phthalocyaninato manganese complex has been synthesized and structurally characterized. The molecular structure of 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(phenoxy) phthalocyaninato manganese complex has been clearly revealed on the basis of single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. In particular, good third order nonlinear optical property revealed for these phthalocyaninato manganese complexes in toluene solution suggests the potential applications of the phthalocyaninato manganese compounds in optical limiting field and will inspire research interest in this direction.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dyepig.2013.04.029>.

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