## Hydrothermal crystallization of uranyl coordination polymers involving an imidazolium dicarboxylate ligand: effect of pH on the nuclearity of uranyl-centered sub-units.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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## Figures



*Figure S1a:* View of the coordination of uranyl center U1 in  $(UO_2)_2(imdc)_2(ox) \cdot 3H_2O(1)$ .



*Figure S1b:* Detailed view of the disorder of the imidazol ring and water molecules in  $(UO_2)_2(imdc)_2(ox)\cdot 3H_2O(1)$ .



*Figure S1c:* View of the coordination of uranyl center U1 in  $(UO_2)(imdc)_2$  (2).



*Figure S1d:* Representation of a layer in the (b,c) plane in  $(UO_2(imdc)_2)$  (2).



*Figure S1e:* View of the coordination of uranyl centers U1, U2 & U3 in  $(UO_2)_3O_2(H_2O)(imdc) \cdot H_2O$  (3).



*Figure S1f:* view of the coordination of uranyl centers U1, U2 & U3 in  $(UO_2)_3O(OH)_3(imdc) \cdot 2H_2O$  (4).



*Figure S1g:* View of the hydrogen bond scheme in  $(UO_2)_3O(OH)_3(imdc) \cdot 2H_2O(4)$ 



*Figure S2a:* Comparison between the calculated (black line) and experimental (red line) XRD patterns of  $(UO_2)_2(imdc)_2(ox) \cdot 3H_2O(1)$  – Copper radiation.



*Figure S2b:* Comparison between the calculated (black line) and experimental (red line) XRD patterns of  $UO_2(imdc)_2$  (2)– Copper radiation.



*Figure S2c:* Comparison between the calculated (black line) and experimental (red line) XRD patterns of  $(UO_2)_3O(OH)_3(imdc) \cdot 2H_2O$  (4)– Copper radiation.



*Figure S3:* Evolution of the powder XRD patterns of compounds 1-4 &  $Na(UO_2)O(OH) \cdot H_2O$ , as a function of reaction pH.

**Thermal anaylsis.** The thermogravimetric experiments have been carried out on a thermoanalyzer TGA 92 SETARAM under air atmosphere with a heating rate of  $5^{\circ}$ C.min<sup>-1</sup> from room temperature up to 800°C.



*Figure S4a:* Thermogravimetric curve of the compound  $(UO_2)_2(imdc)_2(ox) \cdot 3H_2O$  (1) under air atmosphere (heating rate 5°C.min<sup>-1</sup>).



*Figure S4b:* Thermogravimetric curve of the compound  $UO_2(imdc)_2$  (2) under air atmosphere (heating rate 5°C.min<sup>-1</sup>).



*Figure S4c:* Thermogravimetric curve of the compound  $(UO_2)_3O(OH)_3(imdc) \cdot 2H_2O$  (4) under air atmosphere (heating rate 5°C.min<sup>-1</sup>).

Infrared spectroscopy.



*Figure S5a:* Infrared spectra of  $(UO_2)_2(imdc)_2(ox) \cdot 3H_2O(1)$  collected at room temperature.



*Figure S5b:* Infrared spectra of  $UO_2(imdc)_2$  (2) collected at room temperature.



*Figure S5c:* Infrared spectra of  $(UO_2)_3O(OH)_3(imdc) \cdot 2H_2O$  (4) collected at room temperature.



*Figure S5d:* Evolution of the *in situ* IR spectra of  $(UO_2)_2(imdc)_2(ox) \cdot 3H_2O$  (1) between 20-130°C in the range 4000-2750 cm<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S5e:* Evolution of the in situ IR spectra of  $(UO_2)_3O(OH)_3(imdc) \cdot 2H_2O$  (4) between 20-200°C in the range 4000-2750 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

*Table S2:* Comparison of U=O bond distance calculated from the position of  $v_{asym(U=O)}$  vibration and the crystal structure data.

Phase	V <sub>asym</sub> (U=O)	Distance U=O		
		Exp.	Calc.*	
1	923	1.73-1.77	1.76	
2	903	1.79-1.80	1.78	
3	918	1.76-1.78	1.77	

\*after J.R. Bartlett, R.P. Cooney, J. Mol. Struct. 193 (1989) 295.

Sample					
1	490.5	511	533	558	585
	20408	19569	18762	17921	17094
2	494	514.5	537.5	561.5	589
	20243	19455	18622	17825	16978
4	/	520 (s) 19231	535(max) 18692	558 (s) 17921	585 (s) 17094

*Table S3:* Positions of the bands (in nm – top – and cm<sup>-1</sup> – bottom –) in the fluorescence spectra of compounds 1, 2 & 4.

(s) shoulder