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Corresponding Author: Dr. Serge Bresson,

Corresponding Author's Institution: UPJV

First Author: Taqiyeddine MOUMENE

Order of Authors: Taqiyeddine MOUMENE; El Habib BELARBI; Boumediene HADDAD; Didier VILLEMIN; Ouissam ABBAS; Brahim KHELIFA; Serge Bresson

Dr. Serge BRESSON  
Laboratoire de Physique des Systèmes Complexes  
Université Picardie Jules Verne  
17 rue Bataille  
78500 Sartrouville  
France

25/11/14

Email : [sergebresson@yahoo.fr](mailto:sergebresson@yahoo.fr)

Dear editor,

I'm pleased to submit you in your journal our revised article with a new title: **"Study of imidazolium dicationic ionic liquids by Raman and FTIR spectroscopies: the effect of the nature of the anion."** I send you an electronic version.

We brought the following corrections:

1) The reviewer feels that there are too many line breaks in the introduction section.

We made the correction in the introduction.

2) There are a few typos. For example, in the abstract, "bis-methyle" should be read as "bis-methyl"

We made the correction in the abstract (yellow highlight).

3) Please cite the author's name in a unified way: in the introduction section, there are some scatterings, e.g., Sahu et al [11], Saeid Y. et al ...[10], K. Huangand et al [12]. So, I recommend that the authors carefully check these throughout the manuscript again.

We made the correction in page 2 (yellow highlight).

4) Information on the measured temperature in the present study should be mentioned.

We made the correction in page 5 line 9 and line 19 (yellow highlight).

5) If possible, can the authors put a little more science into

the results and discussion section, besides just a list of the frequency data, etc.?

The first stage of the characterization in Infrared spectroscopy and Raman is the identification of the modes and their assignments. Then, we proceeded to the comparison between our samples to characterize the influence of the anion type. Our experiments show the important sensibility of these experimental techniques in order to find the vibrational witnesses of these changes.

1-Some mistakes should be corrected such as 1) abstract 'were synthesized ', introduction ' ionic liquid' line 10, line 9: functionalize', line 16; synthesize, line 1, pag 3; were synthesized, line 1, pag. 3 ; diethyl ether, pag 3, line 9-line10; deionized water; deionizer; pag 3, line 15; characterization; line 27, pag 4; 70 °C, ionized, Pag 3, line 27; NTf2-, pag. 9, line 6 and in the Fig. 2-8.

We made the correction in the text (yellow highlight).

2-graphical abstract: structure of compound has mistake; positive charge on nitrogen and CH<sub>2</sub> must be deleted.

We made the correction in the graphical abstract.

3- In Figure 1, structure of starting material and products have mistakes (1-methyl imidazole doesn't need to charge and product has two positive charges). In Figure 1, the raw materials and products are to be corrected. Also in Figure 1, the reaction conditions should be mentioned.

We made the correction in the Fig. 1.

4-The experimental methods have been developed for other ionic liquids.

We made the correction in page 4 line 1 to line 19 (yellow highlight).

5-References are not written according to guide for authors (10, 11, 13..), eg: Reference to a journal publication: [1] J. van der Geer, J. A. J. Hanraads, R. A. Lupton, The art of writing a scientific article, J. Sci. Commun. 163 (2010) 51-59.

We made the correction in the text (yellow highlight).

6- Lines 8-12 (pag. 5) and lines 3-7 (pag. 7) should be corrected  
and rewritten.

We made the correction in the text (yellow highlight).

Yours sincerely,

Serge Bresson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Bresson', with several horizontal strokes underneath.

# Study of imidazolium dicationic ionic liquids by Raman and FTIR spectroscopies: the effect of the nature of the anion.

Taqiyeddine MOUMENE<sup>1,2</sup>, El Habib BELARBI<sup>2</sup>, Boumediene HADDAD<sup>2</sup>, Didier VILLEMIN<sup>3</sup>, Ouissam ABBAS<sup>4</sup>, Brahim KHELIFA<sup>5</sup>, Serge BRESSON<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratoire de Génie Énergétique et Génie Informatique L2GEGI, Université Ibn Khaldoune, Tiaret, Algérie

<sup>2</sup> Laboratoire de Synthèse et Catalyse Tiaret LSCT, Université Ibn Khaldoune, Tiaret, Algérie

<sup>3</sup> LCMT, ENSICAEN, UMR 6507 CNRS, Université de Caen, 6 bd Ml Juin, 14050 Caen, France

<sup>4</sup> Centre Wallon de Recherche Agronomique, CRA-W, Bâtiment Maurice Henseval, chaussée de Namur, 24, 50030 Gembloux, Belgique

<sup>5</sup> Laboratoire de Physique des Systèmes Complexes, Université Picardie Jules Verne, 33 rue S<sup>t</sup> Leu 80039 Amiens cedex, France

## Abstract:

In a previous paper, we investigated the comparison between monocationic and dicationic ionic liquids. In this study three new dicationic ionic liquids were synthesized, labeled: bis-methyl imidazolium methyldene iodide  $[M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I^-]$ , bis-methyl imidazolium methyldene hexafluorophosphate  $[M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6^-]$ , bis-methyl imidazolium methyldene bis (trifluoromethanesulfonyl) imide  $[M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2^-]$ . In order to study the effect of the nature of the anion on the vibrational behaviors, their structures were identified by H, C, P, F NMR, FTIR/ATR and FT-RAMAN spectroscopies.

However, we observe very different vibrational modes between ionic liquids following the chosen anion. According to the type of anion, the interaction anion - cation is translated by different intensities for the same vibrational mode, by frequency shifts and by appearance of modes specific to the anion.

## Keywords

Dicationic ionic liquids; FT-RAMAN spectroscopy; FTIR/ATR spectroscopy; Imidazolium;

## 1. Introduction

Ionic liquids have been considered as a new solvent. Most of them are molten salts at room temperature. They consist of an organic cation very often associated with an organic or inorganic anion, and possible combinations of cations / anions are very numerous and constantly evolving. However, according to the intended applications, we found a number of ionic liquids more used than others. At the level of the cation, there is no doubt that the class of imidazolium is the most frequently used (form of ionic liquids with many anions and easiest to prepare and functionalize).

The advantages that ionic liquids present, compared with the other molecular liquids or molten salts, are due to the easiness of changing their intrinsic properties by varying the chemical nature of the combination of cation / anion. As reported previously, ionic liquids are widely developed because of their very interesting properties such as: their melting point which is lower than 100°C, possession of a very low vapour pressure, the fact that they can be easily regenerated and recycled, their high chemical and thermal stability, are easy to synthesize and have a high conductivity [1]. In the same way, ionic liquids were developed in the field of the electrochemistry for the research for new systems of energy and electrolytes [2-5]. These new compounds are extensively applied in the field of organic synthesis and the catalysis. More recently, numerous researchers tried to highlight the interest of ionic liquids in the field of the processes of the analysis, the extraction and more particularly in the separation sciences [6-9].

Despite the studies on different generations of ionic liquids, there is still much to know about a wide variety of ionic liquids, especially in the case of dicationic ones. Dicationic ionic liquids are a new family of ionic liquids and consist of a doubly charged cation that is composed of two singly charged cations linked by an alkyl chain and paired with two singly charged anions [10]. Few results are reported on dicationic ionic liquids by P. K. Sahu *et al.* [11] which discuss and compare structure-property relationships in monocationic and dicationic ionic liquids. Y. Saeid *et al.* present the effect of the anion type and the alkyl linkage length on the density and microscopic structure of liquid phase [10]. The application of new dicationic room-temperature ionic liquids as new Gas Chromatography stationary phases was studied by K. Huang and *et al.* [12].

In a previous paper, we investigated the comparison between monocationic and dicationic ionic liquids [13]. In this work, new dicationic ionic liquids based on imidazolium were synthesized by varying the nature of the anion which also has an influence on the

properties of these compounds. Their vibrational behaviors are studied by FT-RAMAN spectroscopy and FTIR/ATR spectroscopy for the first time.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Reagents and materials

The reagents used in this study are , 1,2-diiodomethane, 1,3-dibromopropane (98 wt.%), 1-methylimidazole (99 wt.%), (Acros), lithium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide, ammonium hexafluorophosphate (99.5 wt.%), diethyl ether and N,N-dimethylformamide, that were purchased from Fluka and used as received. Deionized H<sub>2</sub>O was obtained with a Millipore ion-exchange resin deionizer.

### 2.2. NMR spectroscopy analysis

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C NMR, <sup>19</sup>F (100.6 MHz) spectra were recorded on DRX 400 MHz spectrometer. The chemical shifts (δ) are given in ppm and referenced to the internal solvent signal, TMS (Tetramethylsilane) and CFC<sub>3</sub>, respectively.

### 2.3. Synthesis and characterization of dicationic ionic liquids

In general, the synthesis of the three ionic liquids in the present study was based on a metathesis reaction of freshly prepared halide salts of the bis-methyl imidazolium alkylene cation with alkyl chain length C<sub>1</sub>, and hexafluorophosphate, bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)imide as anions. A alkylene bis-methyl imidazolium iodide [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>] was prepared by reacting of [(I(CH<sub>2</sub>)I)] with two molar excess of 1-methylimidazole at 70°C during 7 hours [13]. In the Fig.1, we present the protocol of the synthesis.

#### 2.3.1. Synthesis of bis-methyl imidazolium methyldene iodide [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>]

In a round bottom flask, 1-methylimidazole (9.07 mL, 100 mmol) and 1,2-diiodomethane (5.07 mL, 50 mmol) were dissolved in toluene (15 mL) and the mixture was stirred at 70°C for 5 hours. The reaction mixture was evaporated under vacuum and the product washed with diethyl ether (5×20 mL). bis-methyl imidazolium methyldene iodide yellowish solid (13.20 g, 31.86 mmol) was obtained in 73% yield.

### 2.3.2. Synthesis of bis-methyl imidazolium methyldene hexafluorophosphate [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2 PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]

Ammonium hexafluorophosphate (1.63 g, 10 mmol) dissolved in 15 mL of deionized water was added in a flask containing [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>] (2.07 g, 5 mmol) dissolved in 15 mL of deionized water. The mixture consisted of two separate phases: ionic liquid at the bottom and aqueous solution at the top. The former was separated from the latter by centrifugation (3000 rpm) for 60 s. After isolation, the ionic liquid was dried in a phosphorus pentoxide P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to remove residual water.

### 2.3.3. Synthesis of bis-methyl imidazoliummethyldene bis(trifluoromethane-sulfonyl) imide [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2 NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]

Following the similar procedure, [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2 NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>] was prepared by anion exchange reaction from iodide to bis(trifluoromethane-sulfonyl) imide which was carried out by mixing [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>] and LiNTf<sub>2</sub> in water at room temperature for 2 h. Similar procedures were adopted for separation and isolation. Finally, a yellow solid was obtained.

The structures of obtained products were confirmed by using <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F, <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy to confirm the absence of any major impurities and the spectra details are given below.

## 2.4. NMR results:

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>]: 3.05 (s, 6H, 2×NCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.09 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>N), 7.36 (m, 2H, NCHN), 7.73–7.49 (m, 4H, NCHCHN).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>]: 39.41, 51.66, 121.02, 123.23, 139.14, 139.96.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]: 37.24, 54.01, 120.43, 121.09, 135.12, 149.08.

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ ppm [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]: -77.23 (s, CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N).

<sup>31</sup>P NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm [M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]: 141.01 (septet, PF<sub>6</sub>). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ ppm: -72.03, -73.54 (d, PF<sub>6</sub>).



## 2.5. FTIR/ATR and FT-RAMAN measurements

The measurements were realised in the Walloon Agricultural Research Center (Cra-w) Belgium.

### 2.5.1. FTIR/ATR measurements

All attenuated total reflectance Fourier transform mid-infrared (ATR/FTIR) spectra were acquired on a Vertex 70-RAM II Bruker spectrometer (Bruker Analytical, Madison, WI) operating with a Golden Gate TM diamond ATR accessory (Specac Ltd, Slough, UK).

FTIR/ATR spectra [4000-600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] were collected with resolution of 1  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  by co-adding 64 scans for each spectrum at room temperature. The OPUS 6.0 software for windows of Bruker Instruments was used for instrument management.

### 2.5.2. FT-RAMAN measurements

FT-RAMAN spectra were acquired on a Vertex 70-RAM II Bruker FT-RAMAN spectrometer. This instrument is equipped with a Nd: YAG laser (yttrium aluminium garnet crystal doped with triply ionized neodymium) with a wavelength for incident laser at 1064 nm (9398,5  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The maximum of laser power is 1.5 W. The measurement accessory is pre-aligned, only the Z-axis of the scattered light is adjusted to set the sample in the appropriate position regarding the local point. The RAM II spectrometer is equipped with a liquid-nitrogen cooled Ge detector. FT-RAMAN spectra [4000-45 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] were collected with resolution of 1  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  by co-adding 128 scans for each spectrum at room temperature. The OPUS 6.0 software was used for the spectral acquisition manipulation and transformation.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Comparison between FTIR / ATR spectra of ionic liquids ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>], ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]) and ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]).

The FTIR/ATR spectra [4000-600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ] of three dicationic ionic liquids are illustrated in Fig. 1- Fig.5, and the observed FTIR/ATR bands and their assignment are listed in Table 1.

#### 3.1.1. Region 900-600 $\text{cm}^{-1}$

In this spectral region, we observed very different vibrational modes between ionic liquids according to the anion selected. According to the type of anion, the interaction anion - cation is translated by different intensities for the same vibrational mode, a frequency shift and appearance of modes specific to the anion.

1 In the region  $700\text{-}600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , there is a well-resolved triplet with a strong intensity ( $607$ ,  $613$   
2 and  $622\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) for the anion  $\Gamma^-$ . For the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$ , this less intense triplet seems to shift to the  
3 bigger frequencies ( $610$ ,  $619$  and  $626\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is a shift of  $\sim +4\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), whereas for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$   
4 , we observe a doublet with an imposing peak at  $605\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Therefore, fewer changes for the  
5 mode at  $681\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are observed; which is common between the three (just intensity more  
6 important for the anion  $\Gamma^-$ ).

7 In the zone  $900\text{-}700\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , the changes are more spectacular. In a first spectral zone  $780\text{-}715$   
8  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , we observe for the anion  $\Gamma^-$ , a wide triplet with a dominant peak at  $760\text{ cm}^{-1}$  with a  
9 shoulder at  $741\text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $729$ ,  $760$  and  $773\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). For the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$ , we observe a quadruplet  
10 well defined and rather homogeneous in intensity at the following frequencies:  $730$ ,  $740$ ,  $748$   
11 and  $766\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , while for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  we observe a quintuplet in the shape of roller coasters  
12 at the frequencies  $733$ ,  $742$ ,  $755$ ,  $766$  and  $771\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Then in the zone  $900\text{-}780\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , each of 3  
13 samples will particularise with its own vibrational mode: for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  is noted a doublet at  
14  $845$  and  $852\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , for the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$  a wide peak centered at  $810\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$   
15 a peak at  $861\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . These isolated peaks are vibrational signatures of every sample.

### 16 **3.1.2. Region $1700\text{-}900\text{ cm}^{-1}$**

17 In this spectral zone, we observe a difference of peaks number between the 3 samples:  
18 we note a spectrum rich in peaks for the anions  $\Gamma^-$  and especially for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  while for  
19 the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$  we count few peaks. We notice two doublets of intensity that are important for  
20 the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  which do not intervene in the case of the two other anions:  $1035$ ,  $1045\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
21 and  $1131$ ,  $1138\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to the vibrational modes:  $\text{SO str}$  and  $\text{SO}_2\text{ sym str}$   
22 respectively. These two doublets are two other important signatures in FTIR/ATR of this  
23 anion. The peak at  $1170\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is common to the three samples with different intensities and  
24 with slight shifts in frequency:  $1164\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\Gamma^-$ ,  $1172\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$  and  
25  $1168\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ . There is also a peak at  $1188\text{ cm}^{-1}$  assigned to  $\text{CF}_3\text{ asym str}$  only  
26 for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ . Once again, in the zone  $1400\text{-}1300\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  is distinguished  
27 by having a wide triplet of strong intensity ( $1324$ ,  $1344$  and  $1355\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) while for the anion  $\Gamma^-$   
28 we observe a peak imposing at  $1327\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a weak doublet at  $1326$  and  $1338\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the  
29 anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$ . On the other hand between  $1700$  and  $1360\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , it is the anion  $\Gamma^-$  which seems to  
30 interact best with its cation: we note five peaks at  $1385$ ,  $1393$ ,  $1412$ ,  $1434$  and  $1457\text{ cm}^{-1}$   
31 while we count two for the other anions in the same spectral zone. It is also the case in the  
32 zone of the  $1500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  where for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  we notice 5 rather impressive peaks while for the  
33 others we observe only three peaks with lesser intensities.

### 3.1.3. Region 4000-2800 cm<sup>-1</sup>

In this spectral zone, we observe the assigned modes of the alkyl C-H stretch region. We observe that on these spectra every anion has its peculiarity: for the anion I<sup>-</sup> we have peaks with strong intensities in the zone 3050-2850 cm<sup>-1</sup>, for the anion PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> instead it is in the region of 3200-3050 cm<sup>-1</sup> that are the most intense modes and for the anion NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> it is a little a mixture of both with a spectra much more supplied with peaks and with a wider zone 3200-3100 cm<sup>-1</sup> than for the anion PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>. It can be concluded that the spectral zone 4000-2800 cm<sup>-1</sup> is very sensitive in FTIR/ATR depending on the choice of anion and cation coupled and it can serve as signature of such or such ionic liquid. In the 3 cases of anion, the  $\nu$ (C-H) are the most intense in this spectral zone: 3048 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the anion I<sup>-</sup>; 3124, 3154 and 3174 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the anion PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>; and 3132 and 3150 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the anion NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. We can also note that the spectral zone 4000-2800 cm<sup>-1</sup> is much less intense than the spectral zone 1700-600 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the overall spectrum for NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> anions while this is not the case for the anion I<sup>-</sup> if we compare these spectral regions.

### 3.2. Comparison between FT-RAMAN spectra of ionic liquids ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>]), ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]) and ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]).

As shown in Fig.6 - Fig.8, the FT-RAMAN spectra [3500-45cm<sup>-1</sup>] of studied dicationic ionic liquids are depicted; also, the observed FT-RAMAN bands and their assignment are summarized in table 2.

#### 3.2.1. Region 200-45 cm<sup>-1</sup>

The bands appearing in this zone correspond to inter and intramolecular vibrations with the anions I<sup>-</sup>, PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> and NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. On Raman spectra, we observe a strong interaction for the anion I<sup>-</sup> with the presence of the following vibrational modes: 52, 65 and 135 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to intermolecular interactions and: 100 and 110 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to intramolecular interactions. Some of these modes have important intensities compared to the other modes appearing on the complete spectra. We note that for this spectral zone for anions PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> and NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> Raman spectra are similar with a slight shift in Raman frequency: 56 cm<sup>-1</sup> for PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> against 57 cm<sup>-1</sup> for NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, 79 cm<sup>-1</sup> against 84 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 119 cm<sup>-1</sup> for both anions. We have also noted between these two anions an inversion of intensity between the peaks at 80 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 120 cm<sup>-1</sup>:  $I_{120}/I_{80}$  = 1.09 for PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup> against 0.86 for NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. The peak at 175 cm<sup>-1</sup> assigned to  $\omega$  (N-C) seems much more intense for the anion I<sup>-</sup> than for the two other anions. In the zone 200-45 cm<sup>-1</sup>, each anion has a particular vibration behavior indicating a high sensitivity in this spectral region related to the type of anion selected.

We note that the size of the anion adjacent imidazolium rings have an influence on the vibrational behavior of the modes situated in this spectral region. More the anion is bigger there is a significant Raman frequency shift for the intermolecular modes: 52 and 65  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for  $\Gamma^-$  against 56; 79 and 57; 84  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{PF}_6^-$  and  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  respectively; 135  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for  $\Gamma^-$  against 151  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ .

### 3.2.2. Region 1600-200 $\text{cm}^{-1}$

The bands appearing in this region are dominated by the contribution of different anions  $\Gamma^-$ ,  $\text{PF}_6^-$  and  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ . As for the mode at 175  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , a well-resolved Raman frequency doublet at 230 and 238  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are observed for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  compared to other anions where the intensity of these peaks seems very low. On the other hand, in the spectral region 450-300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  that seems to have the best sensibility: We observed many peaks of average intensity at 276, 300, 316, 343 and 362  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  while for the two other anions we note 3 peaks of very low intensities at 272, 310 and 365  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . We also noted a doublet at 399 and 410  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  with an average intensity while for the anions  $\Gamma^-$  and  $\text{PF}_6^-$  we have a peak around 400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with a very low intensity. Only the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$  has a peak at 471  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  with an interesting intensity, which corresponds to a new signature of the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$ .

In the region 900-500  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , there is an equivalent vibrational behaviour of the anions  $\text{PF}_6^-$  and  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ . We count many common peaks having similar intensities: 567  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$  against 571  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ , 609 and 624  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  against 608 and 630  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 743  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  against 744  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (very intense peak assigned to  $\nu(\text{CF}_3)$ ) and 769  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  against 771  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The anion  $\Gamma^-$  is distinguished compared to the two other anions by having a different vibrational behaviour: the presence of a quadruplet at 608, 615, 617 and 622  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  of important intensity, the absence of the peak at 744  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and three doublets of average intensity at 776 and 786  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 848 and 854  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and finally 876 and 880  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

In the region 1600-900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , we count fewer differences of vibrational behaviour between anions  $\Gamma^-$ ,  $\text{PF}_6^-$  and  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ . We observed new peaks for the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  at 1134 and 1242  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , a more intense doublet at 1288 and 1296  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  and reports of intensity in the spectral zones 1100-1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and 1700-1400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In the zone 1100-1000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , we find the same peaks for the three anions but with different intensities and with low shift in Raman frequencies: 1045, 1028, 1022 and 1016  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . In the table 3, we express the reports of intensities of these peaks by taking as reference the peak at 1045  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

From these reports of intensity, it would seem that the peak at  $1028\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is a vibrational behaviour identical between the three anions and that compared with anions  $\text{PF}_6^-$  and  $\text{NTf}_2^-$  peaks at  $1022$  and  $1016\text{ cm}^{-1}$  have nearly reports of intensities. On the other hand, it seems clear that the anion  $\Gamma^-$  has a singular vibrational behaviour for peaks at  $1022$  and  $1016\text{ cm}^{-1}$  because we note reports  $I_{1022} / I_{1045}$  and  $I_{1016} / I_{1045}$  superior to 1,00.

In the region  $1600\text{-}1400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , only the peak at  $1402\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  seems to be distinguished by an important intensity compared with the nearly frequencies and compared with the other anions. We also observe only a peak of low intensity for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  at  $1451\text{ cm}^{-1}$  compared with the other anions.

### 3.2.3. Region $3500\text{-}2800\text{ cm}^{-1}$

In this spectral region, we observed the modes assigned the alkyl C-H stretch region. We observed that for the anion  $\Gamma^-$  we have numerous peaks with strong intensities in a wide spectral range zone  $3200\text{-}2800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . We count 13 peaks for the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$ , the spectral zone of study is less wide from  $3200$  to  $2980\text{ cm}^{-1}$  approximately with a peak dominating at  $2982\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . For the anion  $\text{NTf}_2^-$ , it is approximately the same vibrational behavior that for the anion  $\text{PF}_6^-$ , but we observe more peaks with average intensities:  $2967$ ,  $2993$ ,  $3045$  and  $3135\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

## 4. Conclusion

At the end of this study it can be concluded that when we compare the studied dicationic ionic liquids according to the nature of the anion, the spectral zone  $4000\text{-}2800\text{ cm}^{-1}$  is very sensitive in FTIR/ATR and can serve as a signature for every ionic liquid. We observed very different vibrational modes between ionic liquids according to the anion selected. According to the type of anion, the interaction anion - cation is translated by different intensities for the same vibrational mode, by frequency shift and by appearance of modes specific to the anion.

In the zone  $200\text{-}45\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , each anion has a particular vibrational behaviour indicating a high sensitivity in this spectral region related to the type of the selected anion.

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**Figures legend**

**Figure 1:** General synthesis and structures of imidazolium ionic liquids.

**Figure 2:** FTIR / ATR Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range: 4000-600  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Figure 3:** FTIR / ATR Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range 900-600  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Figure 4:** FTIR / ATR Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range 1700-900  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Figure 5:** FTIR / ATR Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range 3300-2800  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Figure 6:** FT-RAMAN Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range: 3500-45  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Figure 7:** FT-RAMAN Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range 1700-45  $cm^{-1}$ .

**Figure 8:** FT-RAMAN Spectra of  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I])$ ,  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6])$  and  $([M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2])$  in the spectral range 3500-2800  $cm^{-1}$ .



### Highlights

- Synthesis of dicationic ionic liquids  $[M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2I^-]$   $[M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2PF_6^-]$   $[M(CH_2)IM^{2+}][2NTf_2^-]$
- FTIR/ATR and FT-RAMAN spectroscopy study of the previous dicationic ionic liquids
- Comparison between our liquids, effect of the nature of the anion
- There are more active modes in FT-RAMAN than in FTIR/ATR spectroscopy
- Each sample particularise with its own vibrational mode

Figure 1

Figure 1

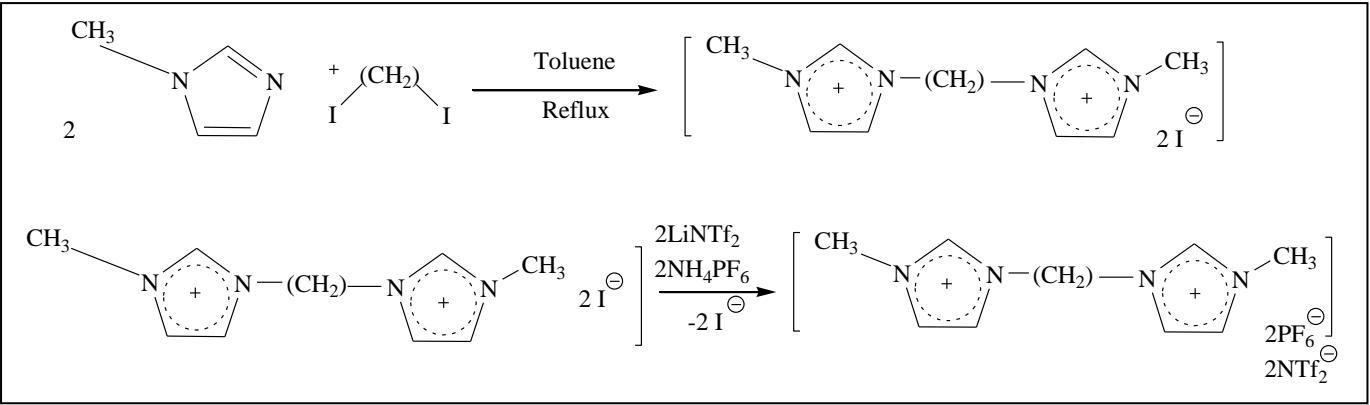


Fig.1. T. Moumene et al.

Figure 2

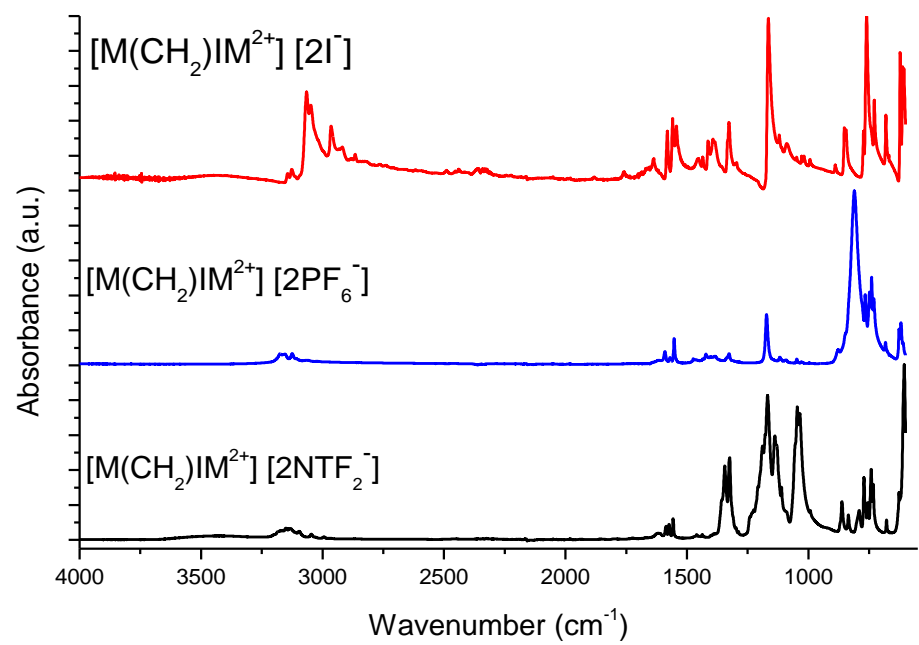


Fig.2. T. Moumene et al

Figure 3

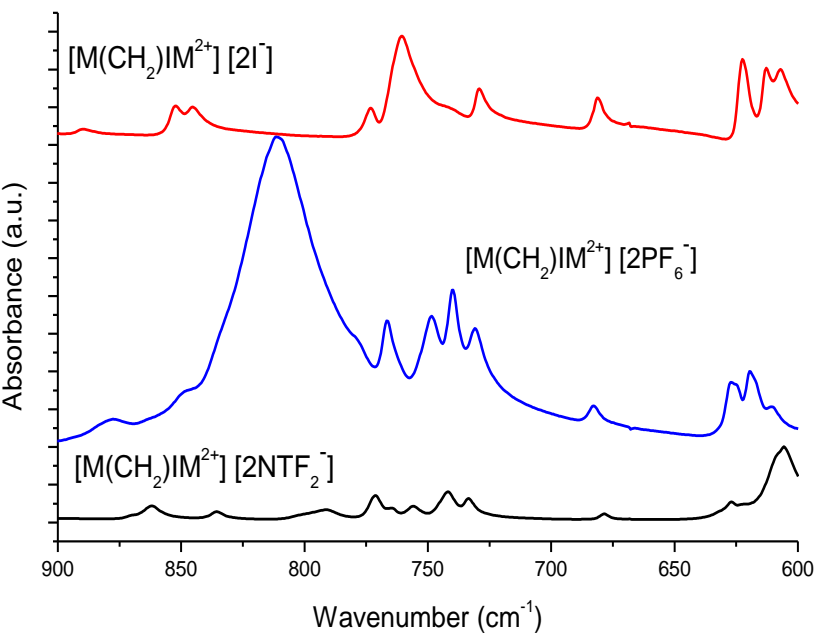


Fig.3. T. Moumene et al

Figure 4

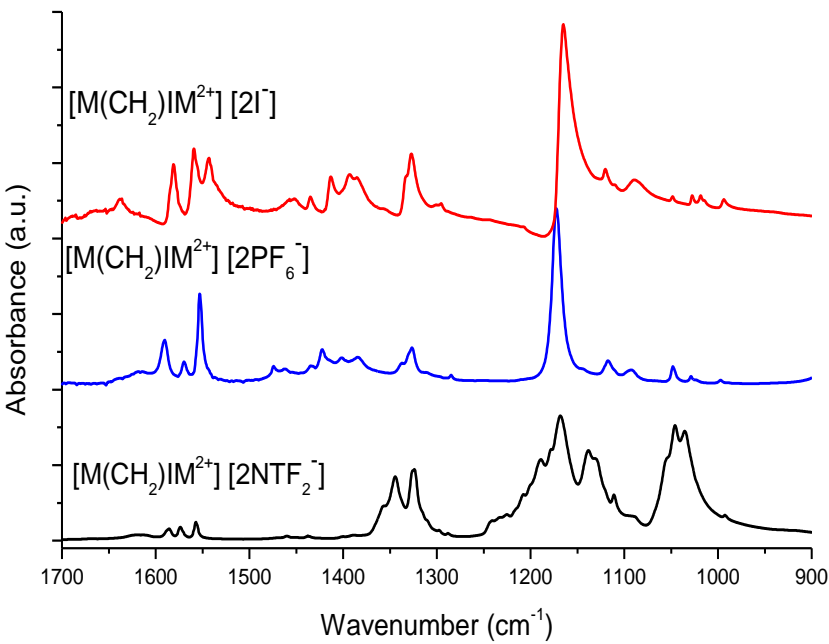


Fig.4. T. Moumene et al

Figure 5

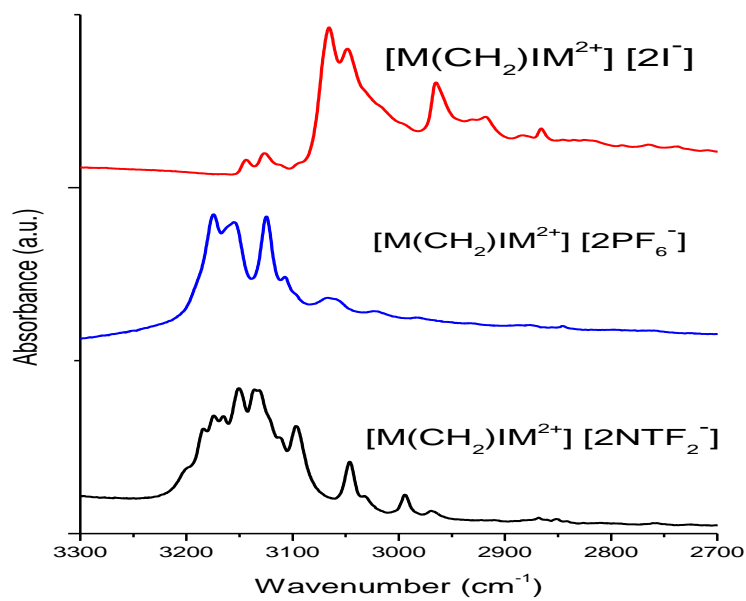


Fig.5. T. Moumene et al

Figure 6

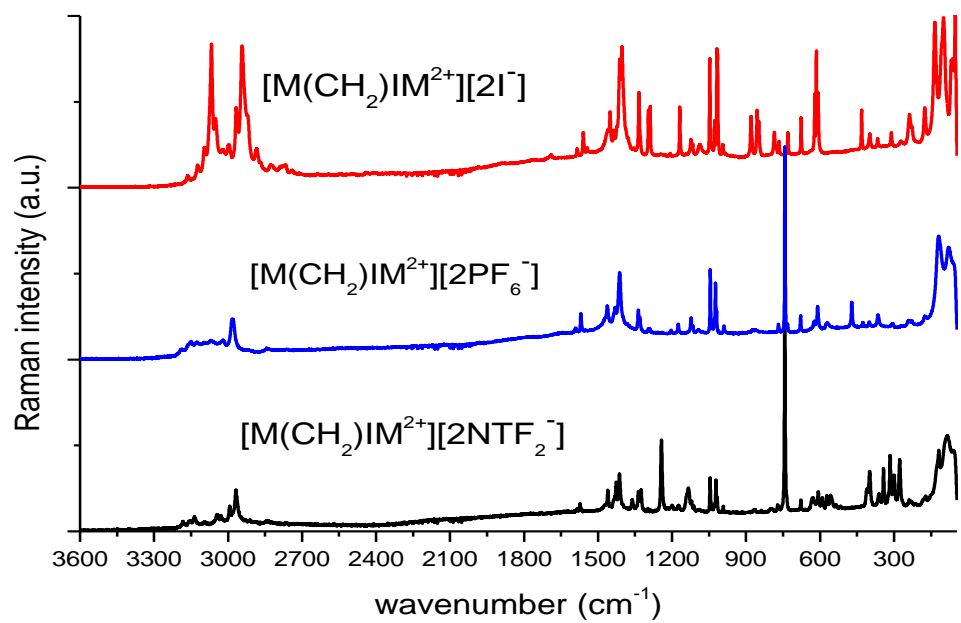


Fig.6. T. Moumene et al.

Figure 7

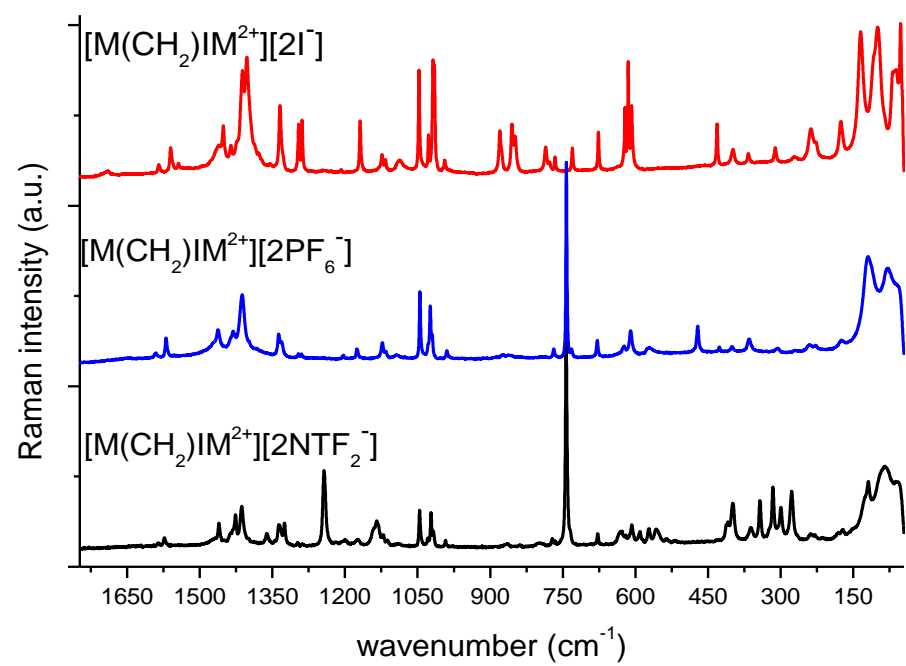


Fig.7. T. Moumene et al.



Figure 8

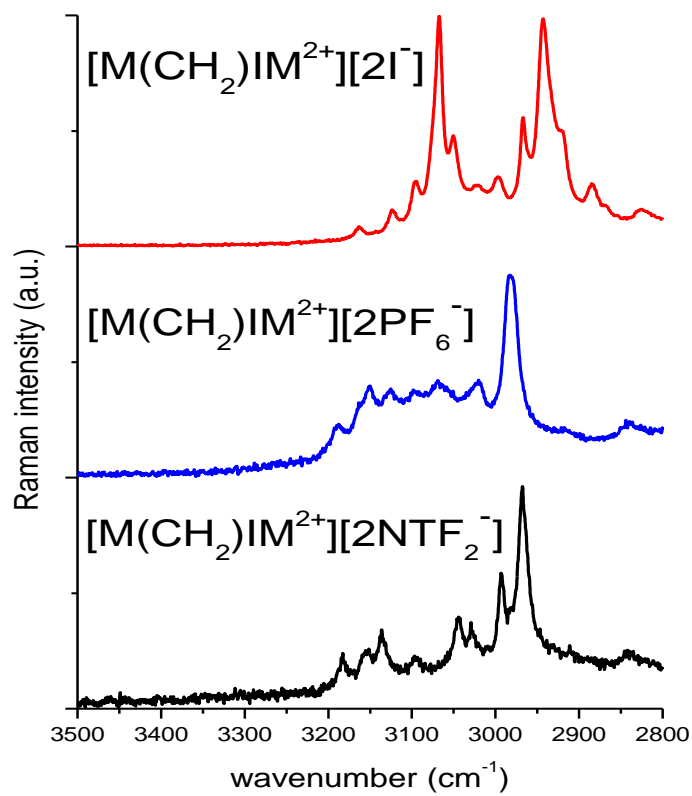


Fig.8. T. Moumene et al.

Graphical abstract

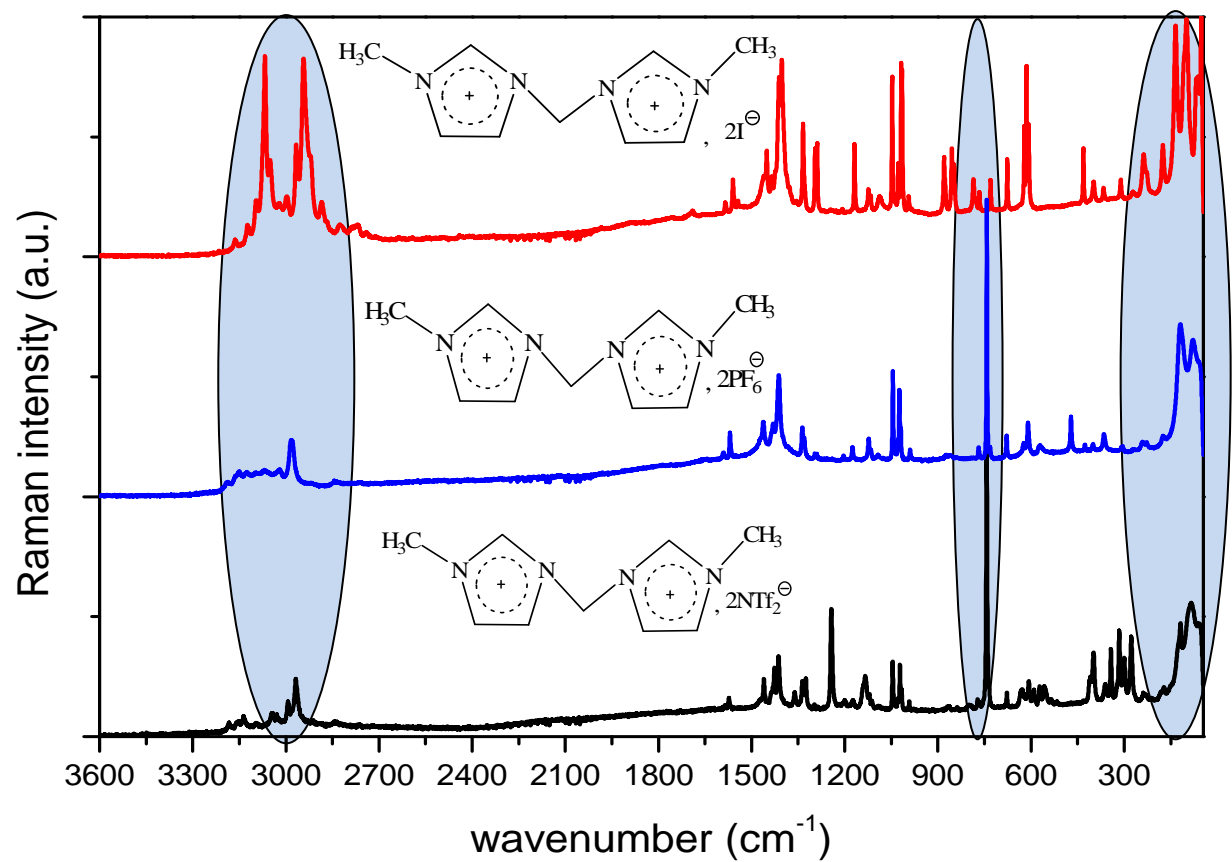


Table 1

**Table 1.** Observed FTIR / ATR bands and their assignment of  $[\text{M}(\text{CH}_2)\text{IM}^{2+}][2\text{I}^-]$ ,  $[\text{M}(\text{CH}_2)\text{IM}^{2+}][2\text{PF}_6^-]$  and  $[\text{M}(\text{CH}_2)\text{IM}^{2+}][2\text{NTf}_2^-]$ . (vw = very weak; w = weak; m = medium, s = strong; sh = shoulder; v = Str = stretch;  $\delta$  = deformation; bend = bending deformation;  $\omega$  = wagging;  $\rho$  = rocking; s = symmetric; as = antisymmetric)

$[\text{M}(\text{CH}_2)\text{IM}^{2+}][2\text{I}^-]$	$[\text{M}(\text{CH}_2)\text{IM}^{2+}][2\text{PF}_6^-]$	$[\text{M}(\text{CH}_2)\text{IM}^{2+}][2\text{NTf}_2^-]$	ASSIGNEMENT	Ref.
607 (s)	610 (m)	605 (s)	$\omega(\text{N-H}) / \text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str}$	[15,16]
613 (s)	619 (m)		$\omega(\text{N-H}) / \text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str}$	[15,16]
622 (s)	626 (m)	626 (w)	$\omega(\text{N-H}) / \text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str} / \nu(\text{PF}_6^-)$	[15,16]
668 (vw)			$\omega(\text{N-H}) / \text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str}$	[15,16]
681 (m)	682 (w)	678 (w)	$\omega(\text{C-H}) + \omega(\text{N-H})$	[15]
729 (m)	730 (m)	733 (m)	anion interaction	
741 (sh)	740 (m)	742 (m)	$\text{CH}_2(\text{N})/\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN bend}/\text{CF}_3 \text{ sym bend ring}/\nu(\text{PF}_6^-)$	
	748 (w)	755 (w)	$\omega(\text{C-H}) / \text{SNS sym Str}$	[15,17]
760 (s)	766 (w)	766 (w)	$\delta\text{HCCH} / \text{Ring HCCH asym bend}$	[18,17]
773 (w)		771 (m)	$\nu(\text{N-C})$	[15]
		791 (w)	Ring HCCH asym bend/CS Str	[17]
	810 (s)		$\nu(\text{PF}_6^-)$	
		835 (w)	$\text{NC(H)N bend}/\text{CCH bend}$	[16]
845 (m)	848 (sh)		$\text{NC(H)N bend}/\text{CCH bend}$	[16]
852 (m)			$\text{NC(H)N bend}/\text{CCH bend}$	[16]
		861 (w)	$\omega(\text{C-H}) + \rho_{\text{as}}(\text{CH}_2)$	[15]
	879 (vw)	871 (w)	$\rho_{\text{as}}(\text{CH}_2)$	[19]
889 (w)			$\rho_{\text{as}}(\text{CH}_2)$	[19]
993 (vw)	997 (vw)	992 (w)	$\rho_{\text{as}}(\text{CH}_2)$	[19]
1014+1018 (vw)			$\nu(\text{C-C})$	[15]
1027 (vw)	1028 (vw)		$\nu(\text{C-C})$	[15]
1048 (vw)	1048 (vw)	1035(m)+1045(m)	$\text{CH}_3\text{N Str}/\text{CH}_2\text{N Str}, \text{SO str}$	[17]
		1053 (sh)	Ring ip asym str, CC str, NCH3 twist, SNS asym str	
1089 (vw)	1091 (vw)	1090 (sh)	CC Str	[16]
1109 (vw)	1110 (vw)	1110 (sh)	CC Str / $\delta\text{CH}$	[16,18]
1119 (w)	1117 (w)		CC Str / $\delta\text{CH}$	[16,18]
		1131(m)+1138(m)	$\text{SO}_2 \text{ sym Str}$	
1164 (s)	1172 (s)	1168 (s)	Ring asym Str $\text{CH}_2(\text{N})$ and $\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str}/\text{CC Str}$	[17]
		1188 (m)	Ring sym Str $\text{CH}_2(\text{N})$ and $\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str}/\text{CF}_3 \text{ asym Str}$	[17]
		1225 (w)	$\nu(\text{N-C}) / \text{CF}_3 \text{ sym Str}$	[15]
		1242 (w)	Ring ip asym str str, butyl chain str	[17]
	1284 (vw)	1288 (vw)	$\rho(\text{C-H})$	[15]
1295 (vw)		1297 (vw)	$\nu(\text{C-C})$	[15]
1327(m)+1332(sh)			$\text{SO}_2 \text{ asym str}, \text{ring ip sym str}, \text{CH}_2(\text{N}) \text{ and } \text{CH}_3(\text{N}) \text{ CN str}$	
	1326(vw)+1338(vw)	1324(m)+1344(m)	$\text{SO}_2 \text{ asym str}, \text{ring ip sym str}, \text{CH}_2(\text{N}) \text{ and } \text{CH}_3(\text{N}) \text{ CN str}$	
		1355 (sh)		
1385 (w)	1384(vw)+1401(vw)		$\rho(\text{N-H})$	[15]
1393 (w)			$\rho(\text{N-H})$	[15]
1412 (w)			$\rho(\text{N-H})$	[15]
1434 (w)			$\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{Str}/\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{HCH sym bend}/\text{NC}(\text{CH}_3)\text{N HCH bend}$	[17]
	1434 (vw)	1437 (vw)		
1457 (vw)		1460 (vw)	$\delta(\text{CH}_2) / \text{CCH HCH asym bend}$	[20,16]
1543 (m)			$\nu(\text{N=C})$	[15]
1555(sh)+1559(m)	1552 (m)	1557 (w)	$\nu(\text{N=C})$	[15]
1577(w)+1580(w)+1590(w)	1569(vw)+1590 (w)	1573 (w)+1585(w)	asym Str $\text{CH}_2(\text{N})/\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{CN Str}$	[17]
1637 (w)			$\nu(\text{C=C})$	[20]
1665 (w)			$\nu(\text{C=C})$	[20]
1690 (vw)			$\nu(\text{C=C})$	[20]
1759 (vw)			$\nu(\text{C=O})$	[20]
2864 (w)			$\nu_s(\text{CH}_2)$	[20]
2883 (w)			$\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CH}_2)$	[20]
2918 (w)+2925 (w)			$\nu_{\text{as}}(\text{CH}_2)$	[20]
2963 (m)		2967 (vw)	$\text{CH}_2\text{HCH asym Str}$	[17]
		2994 (vw)	$\text{CH}_3(\text{N})\text{HCH asym Str}$	[17]
3023 (sh)	3019 (vw)	3028 (sh)	$\nu(\text{C-H})$	[15]
3048 (s)		3046 (w)	$\nu(\text{C-H})$	[15]
	3062 (w)		$\nu(\text{C-H})$	[15]
3095 (sh)+3108 (sh)	3107 (w)	3096(w)+ 3110(w)	$\nu(\text{C-H}) / \nu\text{CH}$	[15,18]
3126 (w)	3124 (m)		$\nu(\text{C-H})$	[15]
		3132 (w)	Ring $\text{NC(H)NCH Str}$	[16]
3144 (w)	3154 (m)	3150 (w)	C-H Str	[17]

3174 (m)	3165 (w)	C-H Str	[17]
	3173(w)	C-H Str	[17]
	3185(sh)	C-H Str	[17]
	3201 (sh)	v(C-H)	[15]

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Table 2

**Table 2.** Observed FT-RAMAN bands and their assignment of ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>]), ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]) and ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]). (vw = very weak; w = weak; m = medium, s = strong; sh = shoulder; v = Str = stretch; δ = deformation; bend = bending deformation; ω = wagging; ρ = rocking; s = symmetric; as = antisymmetric).

[M(CH <sub>2</sub> )IM <sup>2+</sup> ][2I <sup>-</sup> ]	[M(CH <sub>2</sub> )IM <sup>2+</sup> ][2PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	[M(CH <sub>2</sub> )IM <sup>2+</sup> ][2NTf <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> ]	ASSIGNMENT	Ref.
52 (s)	56 (m)	57 (m)	Intermolecular vibration	[14]
65 (m)			Intermolecular vibration	[14]
	79 (m)	84 (m)	Intermolecular vibration	[14]
100(m)+110(sh)			Intramolecular vibration	[14]
	119 (m)	119 (m)	Intramolecular vibration	[14]
135 (w)			Intermolecular vibration	[14]
		151 (vw)	Intermolecular vibration	[14]
175 (w)	174 (vw)	171 (vw)	ω(N-C)	[15]
		181 (vw)	ω(N-C)	[15]
230 (w)	228 (vw)	230 (vw)	ω(N-C)	[15]
238 (w)	241 (vw)	238 (vw)	ω(N-C)	[15]
272 (vw)	271 (vw)	276 (m)	CF <sub>3</sub> sym bending	[17]
311 (vw)	307 (vw)	300 (w)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CH bend	[17]
		316 (m)	SC Str	[17]
		343 (w)	SC Str	[17]
366 (w)	365 (w)	362 (vw)	SC Str	[17]
398 (vw)	400 (vw)	399(m) + 410(w)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N) and CH <sub>3</sub> (N) CH bond, CH3 bend	[17]
431 (w)	427 (vw)		CH <sub>2</sub> (N) and CH <sub>3</sub> (N) CH bond, CH3 bend	[17]
	471 (w)		v(PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	
	534 (vw)	534 (vw)	SO <sub>2</sub> sym bending	[17]
		556 (vw)	SO <sub>2</sub> sym bending	[17]
	567 (vw)	571 (w)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str/v(PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	
		590 (w)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	
608(m)+615(m)+617(sh)+622(m)	609 (w)+624(vw)	608 (vw)+630(vw)	w(N-H)/v <sub>10</sub> (N-CH3) / v(PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	[15,21]
677 (w)	679 (vw)	677 (vw)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	[17]
730 (m)				
	732 (w)+743 (vs)	744 (vs)	CF <sub>3</sub> sym str, v(PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	
766 (vw)	769 (vw)	771 (vw)	ω(CH <sub>2</sub> )rocking	[22]
776 (vw)+786 (w)			v(N-C)	[15]
848 (w)+854 (w)			NC(H)N bend/CCH bend	[16]
876(sh) +880(w)			NC(H)N bend/CCH bend	[16]
994 (vw)	990 (vw)	992 (vw)	ρ <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) e	[19]
1015 (m)+1018 (m)	1020 (w)+1023(w)	1016(w) + 1022(m)	v(C-C)	[15]
1027 (w)	1028 (vw)	1029(w)	v(C-C)	[15]
1047 (w)	1045 (w)	1046 (m)	v(C-C)	[15]
1116(w) + 1124 (w)	1115 (w)+1122(w)	1111(w) + 1120(w) +1134(m)	SO <sub>2</sub> sym str, CC Str	[16]
1168 (w)			Ring asym Str CH <sub>2</sub> (N) and CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	
	1175 (vw)	1174 (vw)	SO <sub>2</sub> asym Str , CC Str	[16]
		1242 (s)	SO <sub>2</sub> asym Str/CF <sub>3</sub> sym Str	[16]
1288 (w)+1296 (w)	1289 (vw)+1296 (vw)		ρ(C-H)	[15]
1334 (w)			CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	
	1331 (w)+1337 (w)	1324(w) + 1335(w)	SO <sub>2</sub> asym Str, CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	
		1361 (vw)	v(SO <sub>2</sub> )	[23]
1402 (m)+1412 (m)+1425 (w)	1412 (w)+1431(vw)	1399(sh)+1413(w)+1426(w)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	
1436 (w)			δ(CH <sub>2</sub> )	[20]
1451 (vw)			δ(CH <sub>2</sub> )	[20]
1461 (sh)	1462 (w)	1461 (w)	CH <sub>3</sub> (N)HCH sym bend	[17]
1543 (vw)			v(N=C)	[15]
1560 (vw)			v(N=C)	[15]
1585 (vw)	1569 (vw)+1585 (vw)	1572 (vw)+1585 (vw)	CH <sub>2</sub> (N)/CH <sub>3</sub> (N)CN Str	
2825 (vw)	2840 (vw)	2838 (vw)	v <sub>s</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> )	[24]
2863 (sh)			v <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> )	[20]
2884 (w)			v <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> )	[20]
2920 (m)			v <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> )	[20]
2943 (s)			v <sub>s</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> )	[19]
2967 (m)		2967 (m)	v <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> )	[19]
	2982 (m)		v <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> )	[19]
2995 (w)		2993 (w)	v <sub>as</sub> (CH <sub>3</sub> )	[10]
3023 (vw)	3031(vw)	3028 (vw)	C-H Str / v(C-H)	[22,15]
3050 (m)		3045 (w)	v(C-H)	[15]
3068 (s)	3066 (vw)		C-H Str	[17]
3095 (vw)	3097 (vw)	3096 (vw)	CH <sub>3</sub> (N)HCH asym Str	[16]
3124 (vw)	3126 (vw)		C-H Str	[17]

		3135 (w)	Ring NC(H)NCH Str	[16]
	3151 (vw)	3155 (vw)	Ring HCCH asym Str / v(C-H)	[16,15]
3162 (vw)			C-H Str	[17]
	3189 (vw)	3183 (vw)	v(C-H)	[15]

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**Table 3.** Reports of intensity of many peaks of ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2I<sup>-</sup>]), ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2PF<sub>6</sub><sup>-</sup>]) and ([M(CH<sub>2</sub>)IM<sup>2+</sup>][2NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]) in the spectral range 1100-1000 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Anion	I <sub>1028</sub> /I <sub>1045</sub>	I <sub>1022</sub> /I <sub>1045</sub>	I <sub>1016</sub> /I <sub>1045</sub>
I <sup>-</sup>	0.54± 0.02	1.07± 0.02	1.02± 0.02
PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.50± 0.02	0.86± 0.02	0.59± 0.02
NTf <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	0.51± 0.02	0.93± 0.02	0.62± 0.02