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Cs[Cl₃F₁₀]: A Propeller-Shaped [Cl₃F₁₀][−] Anion in a Peculiar A^[5]B^[5] Structure Type

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Abstract: Reaction of CsF with ClF₃ leads to Cs[Cl₃F₁₀]. It contains a molecular, propeller-shaped [Cl₃F₁₀][−] anion with a central μ₃-F atom and three T-shaped ClF₃ molecules coordinated to it. This anion represents the first example of a heteropolyhalide anion of higher ClF₃ content than [ClF₄][−] and is the first Cl-containing interhalogen species with a μ-bridging F atom. The chemical bonds to the central μ₃-F atom are highly ionic and quite weak as the bond lengths within the coordinating XF₃ units are almost unchanged in comparison to free XF₃ molecules. Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] crystallizes in a very rarely observed A^[5]B^[5] structure type, where cations and anions are each pseudo-hexagonally close packed, and reside, each with coordination number five, in the trigonal bipyramidal voids of the other.

Fluorine containing interhalogen cations and anions derive from the neutral halogen fluorides. Those containing bridging μ-F atoms are very scarce. Overviews of (homo and hetero) polyhalogen cations and anions have been given in recent review articles.^[1–6] So far, the only known species with μ-bridging F atoms were reported for Br(III) and I(V). These are [Br₂F₅]⁺, [Br₃F₈]⁺, [Br₂F₇][−], [Br₃F₁₀][−], and [I₃F₁₆][−].^[7–16] To the best of our knowledge, not a single Cl-containing species, regardless of the oxidation state, with μ-bridging F atoms is known. For the cationic side of Cl(III), only the [ClF₂]⁺ cation is known and for the anionic side only tetrafluoridochlorates(III), A[ClF₄], have been reported (A = K, Rb, Cs, NO, 1,1,3,3,5,5-hexamethylpiperidinium).^[17–21] We present the synthesis and characterization of the first fluoridochlorate(III) anion with μ-bridging F atoms. Figure 1 shows the Lewis structure of the propeller-shaped [Cl₃F₁₀][−] anion and its molecular structure in the salt Cs[Cl₃F₁₀].

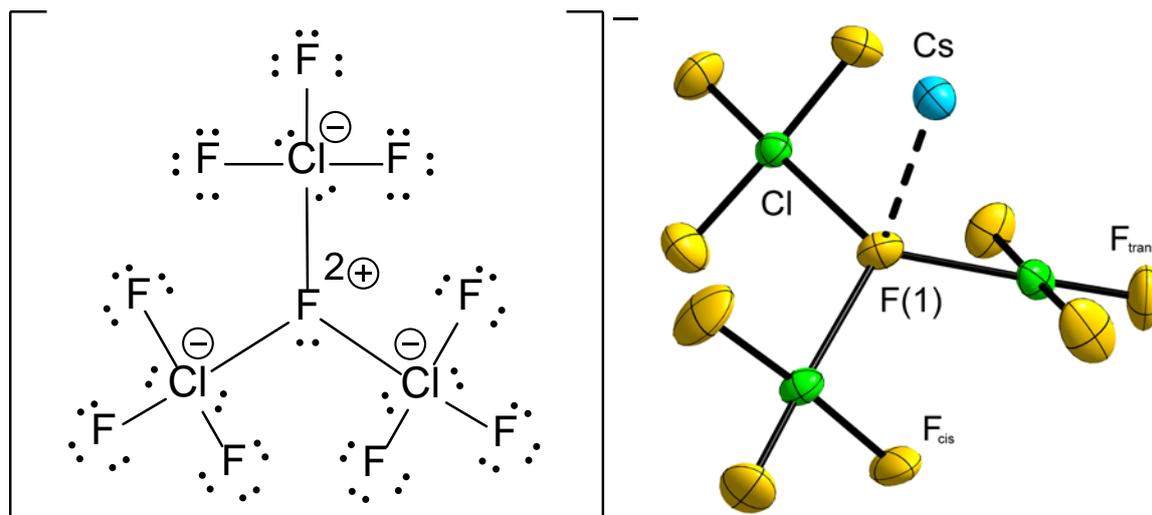


Figure 1. The Lewis structure of the $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion and its structure in the salt $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$. The displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 70 % probability level at 100 K.

Single crystals of the compound were obtained by reaction of CsF with excess liquid chlorine trifluoride at temperatures at or below 0°C , see Equation 1.



These crystals were directly isolated from cold ClF_3 suspensions and handled at low temperatures under a nitrogen atmosphere. The crystals rapidly deteriorate upon warming to room temperature and/or moisture from air contact, releasing ClF_3 and/or hydrolysis products. Further details on the synthesis are given in the Supporting Information. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction on $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$ shows it to crystallize in the monoclinic space group $P12_1/n1$ ($mP56$, 14, e^{14}). The lattice parameters are $a = 9.0949(7)$, $b = 15.3652(12)$, $c = 6.8841(5)$ Å, $\beta = 91.314(2)^\circ$, $V = 961.77(13)$ Å³, and $Z = 4$ at $T = 100$ K. Further crystallographic details are given in the Supporting Information, Tables S1-S5.

The compound contains the propeller-shaped $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion in C_1 symmetry (Figure 1). However, the deviation of the molecule from C_3 symmetry is small. The anion can be thought of as a central fluoride ion which is coordinated by the Cl atoms of three surrounding ClF_3 molecules. The central μ_3 -bridging F atom (F(1) in Figure 1) lies $0.522(2)$ Å above a virtual plane formed by the Cl atoms with $\text{Cl}-\mu_3\text{-F}-\text{Cl}$ angles from $113.53(9)$ to $116.12(8)^\circ$. Its structure is correctly predicted by VSEPR theory and there seems to be an additional interaction to the Cs^+ counterion residing above the apex of the pyramidal anion (Figure 1).

In contrast, the quantum-chemically calculated gas-phase minimum structure is D_3 -symmetric (TURBOMOLE, DFT-PBE0/TZVP, see Supporting Information), that is the μ_3 -F atom and the Cl atoms reside within a plane and the $\text{Cl}-\mu_3\text{-F}-\text{Cl}$ angles are 120° .^[22–25] Even when the geometry

optimization is started from C_3 symmetry, where the μ_3 -F atom is displaced from the virtual plane formed by the Cl atoms, the D_3 -symmetric structure is reobtained.

In the crystal structure, the ClF_3 units are essentially planar and are rotated around the μ_3 -F-Cl bond in the same direction, which leads to the propeller shape of the anion. That is, the ClF_3 units are tilted in comparison to the virtual plane formed by the Cl atoms by 33.34(7), 36.41(6), and 44.77(6)°. The anion is thus similarly shaped as the $[\text{Br}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion, see below.^[12] The Cl atoms are surrounded by four F atoms each in a quadrilateral, almost planar manner. The μ_3 -F-Cl distances are in the range of 2.243(2) to 2.265(2) Å. The F atoms cis-bound relative to μ_3 -F show $F_{\text{cis}}\text{-Cl}$ distances from 1.730(2) to 1.747(2) Å, while the trans-bound F atoms show $F_{\text{trans}}\text{-Cl}$ distances of 1.600(2) to 1.615(2) Å. These are comparable with the F-Cl distances reported for the orthorhombic modification of ClF_3 (1.716 and 1.621 Å) and thus support the description of the anion having a central fluoride anion coordinated by three ClF_3 molecules.^[26] We will see below that the chemical bond between the μ_3 -F atom and the three chlorine atoms is almost ionic. Also, a comparison with F-Cl distances in $[\text{ClF}_4]^-$ salts (1.794(4) to 1.8034(9) Å) shows significant differences which we attribute to the same reason.^[20,21] In the structurally closely related $[\text{Br}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anions, the μ_3 -F-Br distances range from 2.238(10) to 2.248(2) Å, the $F_{\text{cis}}\text{-Br}$ distances from 1.824(10) to 1.878(7) Å, and the $F_{\text{trans}}\text{-Br}$ distances from 1.745(2) to 1.767(7) Å.^[12] So, unexpectedly, the observed μ_3 -F-X distances are essentially similar. This is likely to be due to the direct interaction of the Cs^+ cation with the μ_3 -F atom in $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$ leading to coordination number 3 + 1 for it, while such an interaction is absent in the crystal structure of $\text{Cs}[\text{Br}_3\text{F}_{10}]$ and the coordination number of that μ_3 -F atom is only three. The $F_{\text{cis}}\text{-X}$ and $F_{\text{trans}}\text{-X}$ atomic distances are circa 0.1 Å longer for $X = \text{Br}$ compared to the Cl-case, which agrees with the expectation. As mentioned above, quantum-chemical gas-phase calculations for the homologous anions $[\text{X}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ ($X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$) show them to be D_3 -symmetric even when the geometry optimization is started from the pyramidal C_3 symmetry around the μ_3 -F atom as in the crystal structure. Except for the pyramidalization around the μ_3 -F atom, the calculated structure of the D_3 -symmetric $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion nicely agrees with the atomic distances and angles reported here. The same is true for $X = \text{Br}$ with the previously reported $[\text{Br}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion in its Rb and Cs salts.^[12] To the best of our knowledge, a compound containing $[\text{I}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anions is not known yet. The calculated X-F distances within the XF_3 subunits are very similar to those in the solid-state structures of the halogen trifluorides.^[26-28] This indicates a rather weak interaction of the XF_3 units with the central μ_3 -F atom. The calculated X- μ_3 -F distances of 2.22, 2.30 and 2.44 Å for $X = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$, respectively, also support this.

To obtain a qualitative picture of the bonding situation in these anions we carried out an intrinsic atomic orbital (IAO) analysis to obtain partial atomic charges (Table S6) and generated the intrinsic bonding

orbitals (IBOs), see Figure 2 and Figures S2-S4, which give information about the polarization and contribution of the atoms to the respective bond.^[29,30] Further details are given in the Supporting Information. The obtained partial atomic charges from the IAO analysis show that the μ_3 -F atom has the most negative partial charge in all three anions, followed by the F_{cis} atom of the XF_3 units. The F_{trans} atoms are the least negatively partially charged F atoms. The partial charges of the atoms follow the expected trend in line with decreasing electronegativities $\chi_{\text{AR}}(\text{Cl}) > \chi_{\text{AR}}(\text{Br}) > \chi_{\text{AR}}(\text{I})$, that is, the iodine atoms are more positively partially charged than the Cl atoms and the F atoms are most negatively partially charged in $[\text{I}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$.^[31]

The two IBOs representing the $\text{Cl}-\mu_3\text{-F}-\text{Cl}$ bond in the $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion are shown in Figure 2. Further IBOs showing the other F-Cl bonds, as well as the respective IBOs for $[\text{Br}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ and $[\text{I}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ are reported in the Supporting Information. The percentages next to the atoms show the contribution of each atom to the IBO. The higher the contribution of an atom to the IBO in %, the more ionic is the bond. The contribution of the μ_3 -F atom to the respective IBO is above 90 % in all three anions, showing a highly polarized covalent, that is essentially ionic, bond (Figure 2 and Figures S2-S4). The heavier halogen atoms only have minor contributions to the IBO. Within the series, the contributions of the atoms follow the expected trend, which is due to the decrease of the electronegativities from Cl to I.

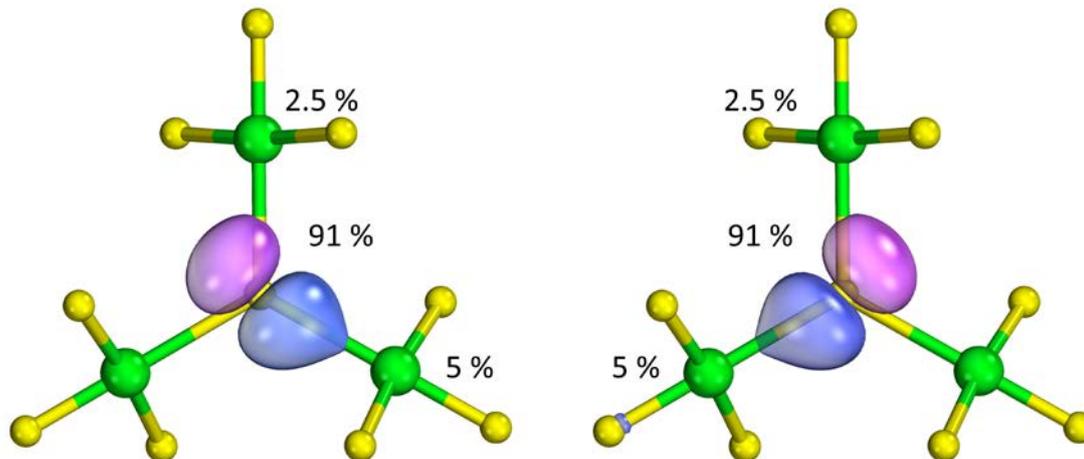


Figure 2. The two intrinsic bond orbitals (IBOs) showing the $\text{Cl}-\mu_3\text{-F}-\text{Cl}$ bonds in the $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anion.^[30] The percentages indicate the contribution of the Cl atoms and of the μ_3 -F atom to the IBO. The larger the percentage, the more polarized the bond. For comparison: For a gas-phase NaF molecule, in which the bond should be highly ionic, the contribution of the F atom is 96 %. In the H_2 molecule, which has a purely covalent bond, the contribution of each atom is 50 %. If the summation of the percentages does not add up to 100 %, then other atoms contribute – less than 1 % – to the IBO. For further details, see the Supporting Information. F atoms: yellow, Cl atoms: green.

After the description of the molecular structure of the anion we come to the description of the crystal structure of $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$.

Surprisingly, Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] can be regarded as a simple AB structure type. The Cs⁺ cations (“A”) are coordinated by five [Cl₃F₁₀][−] anions (“B”), that is C. N. (Cs⁺) = 5, and that exclusively via the F_{cis} and μ₃-F atoms. The arrangement of the Cs cations corresponds to the hexagonal-close packing with the layers arranged perpendicular to the *c* axis (Figure 3). Into the empty channels (parallel to the *c* axis), the F_{ter} atoms protrude (see center of Figure 3). The μ₃-F atoms, which may be seen as the centers of gravity of the [Cl₃F₁₀][−] anions (“B”), are also arranged in a hexagonal-close packed manner with the layers also perpendicular to the *c* axis. Their coordination number is also five. Thus, the two pseudo-hexagonal-close packed lattices of A and B interpenetrate in such a way that each ion is surrounded by five of its counterions in a trigonal bipyramidal manner. That is, the packing of Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] can be described as a simple A^[5]B^[5] structure type. Of course, the situation is somewhat more complicated because the [Cl₃F₁₀][−] ion is not spherical. But if we take idealized planar [Cl₃F₁₀][−] ions, the resulting space group is that of the hexagonal-close packing, *P6₃/mmc* (aristotype). Distortion of the planar [Cl₃F₁₀][−] ions to their real structure entails a symmetry reduction to the actual space group *P12₁/n1*; that can be represented by the Bärnighausen tree^[32–36] shown in Figure S1. The crystal structure of the compound and its relation to the hexagonal aristotype is shown in Figure 3 and explained in detail in the Supporting Information.

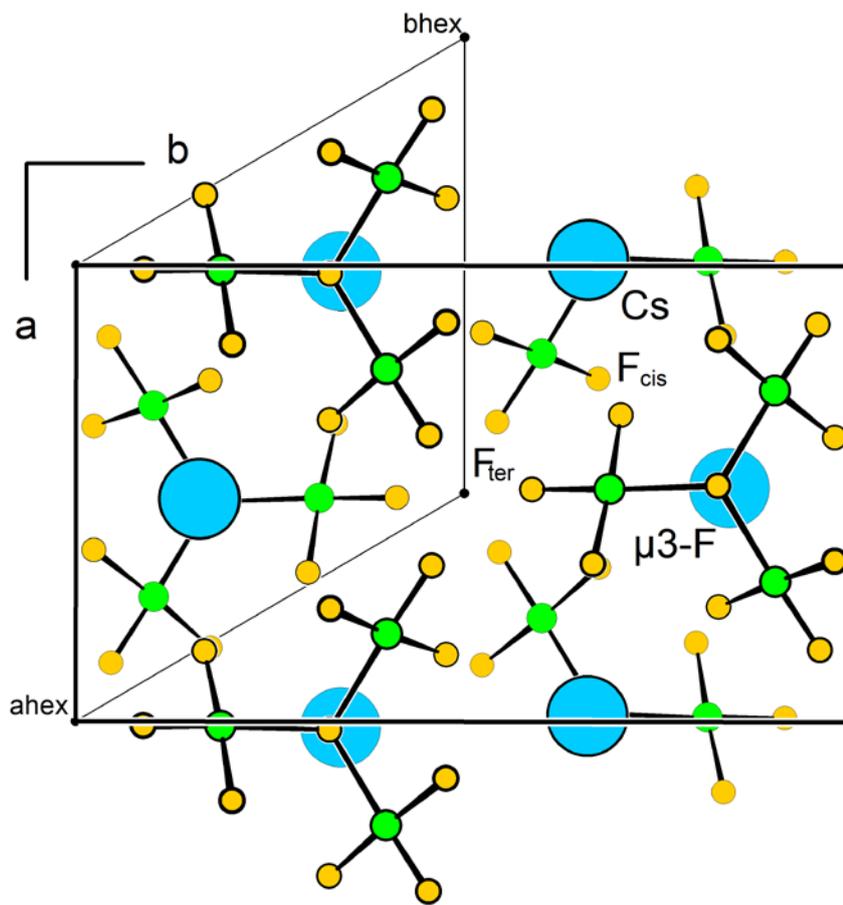


Figure 3. The crystal structure of $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$ viewed along the c axis and its relation to the hexagonal aristotype. Cs atoms are shown in sky-blue, Cl atoms in green, and F atoms in yellow. All atoms are drawn as spheres with arbitrary radii. Note the pseudo-hexagonal arrangement of the Cs^+ cations and the $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$ anions. If the atoms in the pseudo-hexagonal cell would fulfil trigonal symmetry, the space group would be $P\bar{3}$.

A related structural motif of an $A^{[5]}B^{[5]}$ structure type is known to occur as a substructure in the Ni_2In structure type, where one kind of Ni atoms reside in the octahedral voids and the other kind of Ni atoms in the trigonal bipyramidal voids of hexagonal-close packed In atoms.^[37] The reported orthoselenate $\text{Li}_4^{[5]}\text{Se}^{[5]}\text{O}_5^{[5]}$ is an ordered variant of the $A^{[5]}B^{[5]}$ aristotype.^[38,39] Also, such a 5-5 coordination has been quantum-chemically predicted for a low temperature modification of sodium chloride $\text{Na}^{[5]}\text{Cl}^{[5]}$, and later also for magnesium oxide $\text{Mg}^{[5]}\text{O}^{[5]}$.^[40,41] To the best of our knowledge, no binary compound with such a $A^{[5]}B^{[5]}$ crystal structure exists yet, and $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$ appears to be one of the very rare examples of this type.

The recorded Raman spectrum of $\text{Cs}[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]$ along with a calculated one obtained from quantum-chemical solid-state calculations (CRYSTAL17, DFT-PBE0/TZVP) is shown in Figure 4.^[24,25,42]

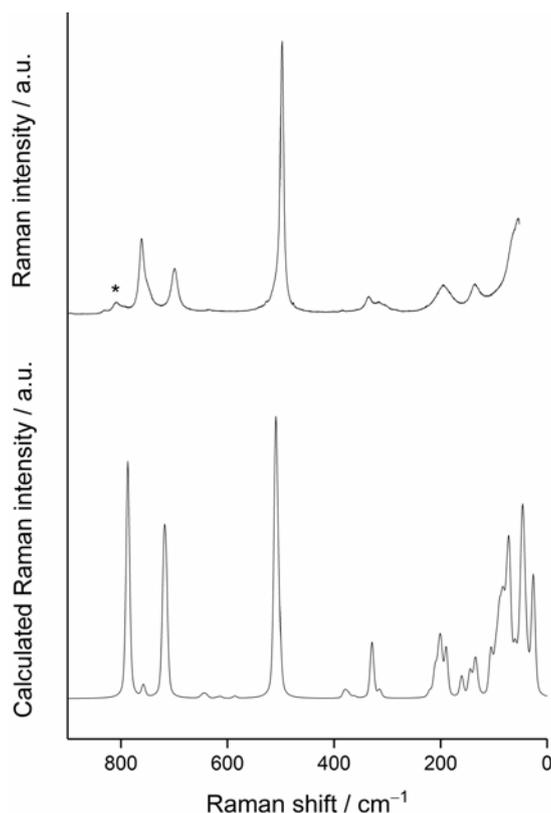


Figure 4. Top: The Raman spectrum of Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] recorded at circa -66 °C. The asterisk denotes a band caused by the perfluoropolyether used for the immersion of the sample. Bottom: Computational solid-state Raman spectrum of Cs[Cl₃F₁₀]. The Raman intensities are given in arbitrary units, a.u.. Further details are given in the Supporting Information.

A detailed comparison of the Raman spectra with the ones of Cs[ClF₄] and liquid ClF₃ as well as further details are given in the Supporting Information, Table S8 and Figure S5. The calculated Raman spectrum nicely agrees with the measured one, indicating that the main product obtained under the experimental conditions is Cs[Cl₃F₁₀]. The two main features of the Raman spectrum are the bands above 690 cm⁻¹ and the band at approximately 500 cm⁻¹. The first can be attributed to the Cl-F_{trans} symmetric stretching mode and the latter to the Cl-F_{cis} symmetric stretching mode.

In summary, we obtained the compound Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] which crystallizes in the very rarely observed A^[5]B^[5] structure type. The cations and anions of Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] form interpenetrated hexagonal-close packed layers. The coordination number of each cation and anion is five. The [Cl₃F₁₀]⁻ anion is propeller-shaped with a symmetry close to C₃ as the central μ₃-F atom is surrounded in trigonal-pyramidal manner by the three Cl atoms, while quantum-chemical gas-phase calculations predict the anion to be D₃-symmetric with the μ₃-F atom in plane with the Cl atoms. The recorded Raman spectrum of Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] is in excellent agreement with the quantum-chemically calculated one for the solid-state. So far there is no experimental evidence for the existence of a [Cl₂F₇]⁻ anion that would be the analogue

to the known $[\text{Br}_2\text{F}_7]^-$ anion, or for anions with an even higher ClF_3 content than $[\text{Cl}_3\text{F}_{10}]^-$, such as a $[\text{Cl}_4\text{F}_{13}]^-$ anion. Investigations to obtain compounds containing such anions are ongoing, as well as analogous ones that derive from ClF_5 .

Acknowledgements

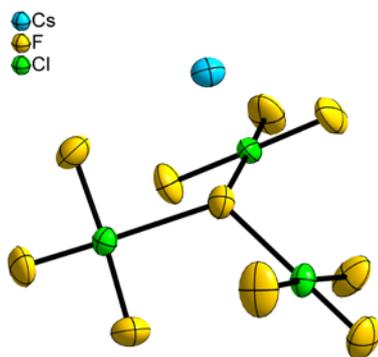
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Entry for the Table of Contents



Reaction of CsF and ClF₃ at low temperatures gives the compound Cs[Cl₃F₁₀] which crystallizes in a very rarely observed A^[5]B^[5] structure type. A propeller-shaped [Cl₃F₁₀]⁻ anion with a μ₃-bridging fluorine atom is present in the salt. Quantum-chemical calculations show that the interaction of the ClF₃ subunits with the μ₃-bridging fluorine atom are weak and the Cl–F bonds are essentially ionic.

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