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Magnetic and physical properties of new hexagonal PrPt₄<i>X</i> (<i>X</i> = Ag, Au) compounds

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We have synthesized PrPt₄Ag and PrPt₄Au compounds for the first time and report their crystal structure, as well as magnetic and physical properties in the temperature range between 2 K and 300 K. Both compounds are derived from the substitution of Pt with Ag and Au respectively in the parent compound PrPt₅ which crystallizes in the hexagonal CaCu₅-type structure [1, 2]. Here, we observed the preservation of the hexagonal CaCu₅-type structure under such substitutions which is in contrast to the observations in PrCu₄Ag and PrCu₄Au [3, 4] adopting the cubic MgCu₄Sn-type structure upon substitution on parent hexagonal PrCu₅. The temperature dependence of specific heat, <i>C_p(T)</i> and electrical resistivity, &rho(<i>T</i>) of PrPt₄Ag show an anomaly at 7.6 K but which is absent in the magnetic susceptibility, &chi(<i>T</i>) and thus suggesting a possible multipolar ordering of the Pr³⁺ magnetic moment. PrPt₄Au on the other hand does not show any anomaly but an upturn in <i>C_p(T)/T</i> below about 10 K and reaching a value of 1.23 J/(K²mol) at 2 K. In addition, &rho(<i>T</i>)~ <i>T</i> and $\operatorname{chi}(\operatorname{i})^{\sim}(\operatorname{i})^{$ are the hallmark of a non-Fermi liquid (nFL) behavior and is characteristic of a system with a low lying order parameter. The analysis of the low temperature <i>C_q(T)</i> for PrPt₄Ag and PrPt₄Au give values of the Sommerfeld coefficient, &gamma = 728.5 mJ/(K²mol) and 509.1 mJ/(K²mol) respectively indicating a significant enhancement of the quasiparticle mass in the two compounds.

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