

# Bismuth-Substituted “Sandwich” Type Polyoxometalate Catalyst for Activation of Peroxide: Umpolung of the Peroxo Intermediate and Change of Chemoselectivity

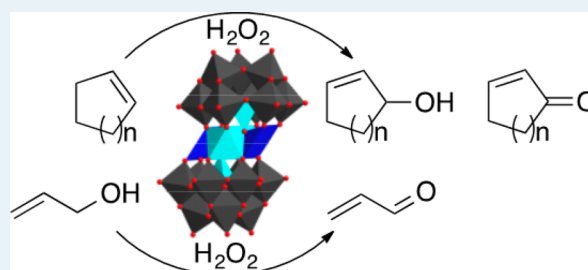
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## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** The epoxidation of alkenes with peroxides by  $W^{VI}$ ,  $Mo^{VI}$ ,  $V^V$ , and  $Ti^{IV}$  compounds is well established, and it is well accepted that the active intermediate peroxo species are electrophilic toward nucleophilic substrates. Polyoxotungstates, for example, those of the “sandwich” structure,  $[WZn(TM-L)_2(ZnW_9O_{34})_2]^{q-}$  in which TM = transition metal and  $L = H_2O$ , have in the past been found to be excellent epoxidation catalysts. It has now been found that substituting the Lewis basic  $Bi^{III}$  into the terminal position of the “sandwich” polyoxometalate structure to yield  $[Zn_2Bi^{III}_2(ZnW_9O_{34})_2]^{14-}$  leads to an apparent umpolung of the peroxo species and formation of a nucleophilic peroxo intermediate. There are two lines of evidence that support the formation of a reactive nucleophilic peroxo intermediate: (1) More electrophilic sulfoxides are more reactive than more nucleophilic sulfides, and (2) nonfunctionalized aliphatic alkenes and dienes showed ene type reactivity rather than epoxidation pointing toward “dark” formation of singlet oxygen from the nucleophilic intermediate peroxo species. Allylic alcohols reacted much faster than alkenes but showed chemoselectivity toward C–H bond activation of the alcohol and formation of aldehydes or ketones rather than epoxidation. This explained via alkoxide formation at the  $Bi^{III}$  center followed by oxidative  $\beta$ -elimination.

**KEYWORDS:** homogeneous catalysis, peroxide, singlet oxygen, polyoxometalate, bismuth



## INTRODUCTION

The use of peroxides as the terminal oxidant for catalytic transformations such as alkenes to epoxides and sulfides to sulfoxides, originally studied in the early 20th century,<sup>1</sup> has been extensively investigated over the last several decades. The investigation of the use of hydrogen peroxide has been especially intensive, related also to its advantage in the context of green chemistry and low waste reaction processing.<sup>2–6</sup> As a result, catalytic reactions have been considerably optimized, with attention being focused on turnover, rate, and catalyst stability and recovery. In the area of  $H_2O_2$  activation and a broad spectrum of nonredox transformations, tungsten-based complexes have played a central role where the Lewis acidity of the  $W^{VI}$  atoms logically leads to electrophilic peroxo intermediates. In this context, especially catalysts with more than one tungsten atom, polyoxotungstates, have been shown to be very active and selective. Three families of polyoxotungstate catalysts appear to be the most reactive: the so-called Venturello complex,<sup>5,6</sup>  $\{PO_4[WO(O_2)_2]_4\}^{3-}$ , which is also accessible from phosphotungstic acid;<sup>7–13</sup>  $\gamma$ -Keggin-type decatungstates;<sup>14–19</sup> and the Tourné “sandwich” type polyoxometalates.<sup>20,21</sup>

Reactivity of  $H_2O_2$  as a nucleophilic oxidant has been much less studied. One important example is the use of a Sn-substituted beta zeolite for the Baeyer–Villiger reaction in

which the Lewis acidic Sn centers activate the ketone, rendering it susceptible to nucleophilic attack by  $H_2O_2$ .<sup>22</sup> Also with electron-donating complexes, typically based on  $Pd^{II}$  and  $Pt^{II}$ , nucleophilic peroxo intermediates have been suggested.<sup>23</sup> Under basic conditions ( $pK_a$  of  $H_2O_2 = 11.75$ ),  $HO_2^-$  species can be easily formed. In the presence of a polyamino acid, enantioselective epoxidation of electron-poor chalcones was observed.<sup>24,25</sup> More typically, however,  $HO_2^-$  decomposes to singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ), the  $O_2$  ( $^1\Delta_g$ ) state. Thus, addition of  $NaOCl$  to  $H_2O_2$  or  $Cl_2$  to basic  $H_2O_2$  is a possible method for the “dark” formation of  $^1O_2$ .<sup>26,27</sup> The reactivity of singlet oxygen with alkenes, dienes, and other compounds is well documented and very different from what is observed with peroxo species.<sup>28–33</sup>

More recently, use of transition metal compounds such as molybdenum- and lanthanum-based compounds and materials have been shown to be efficient for  $^1O_2$  type oxygenations.<sup>34–41</sup> In the “sandwich” type polyoxometalate framework, it has been suggested that there is an interaction of  $H_2O_2$  between a reactive tungsten center and an adjacent Lewis acidic site, such as  $Zn^{II}$ , at the terminal position that increases the

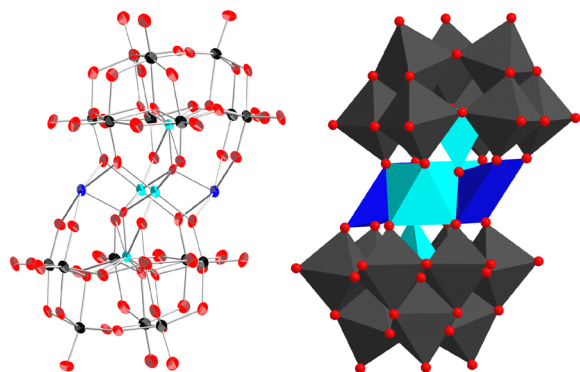
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electrophilicity of the oxygen atom of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and, thus, increases reactivity toward nucleophiles. However, we know of no reports describing the use of tungsten-based catalysts for the formation of a nucleophilic oxidant from  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  or for the formation of  $^1\text{O}_2$ .

We were therefore interested in investigating the effect of the substitution of a Lewis base site at the terminal position within a “sandwich” polyoxometalate framework (Figure 1) with the



**Figure 1.** ORTEP presentation showing the 50% probability of the thermal ellipsoids (left) and polyhedral representation (right) of the  $[\alpha\text{-Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  anion. W, black; O, red; Zn, cyan; Bi, blue. The cations and water molecules are omitted for clarity.

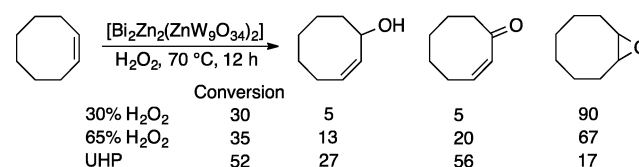
hypothesis that this could lead to umpolung of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to a nucleophilic intermediate species through deprotonation. This would then significantly influence the reactivity of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and the chemoselectivity of the reactions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Toward realization of the above stated hypothesis we prepared a “sandwich” type polyoxometalate with  $\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}$  atoms at the terminal positions with accessible lone pairs that can act as a Lewis base (Figure 1). The synthesis of this compound appears to be novel, although a very similar compound, the  $[\beta\text{-Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  isomer, has been reported.<sup>42</sup> On the whole,  $[\alpha\text{-Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  can be considered nearly isostructural with the similar “sandwich” compound, with  $\text{Zn}^{\text{II}}\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  replacing Bi at the terminal positions,  $[\text{WZn}(\text{ZnH}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{12-}$ .<sup>43</sup> It should be noted, however, that the Bi–O bond lengths in the equatorial plane are significantly longer (average  $\sim 2.30$  Å) than those found for the Zn compound (average  $\sim 2.05$  Å).

To use the  $[\alpha\text{-Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  as a catalyst in organic solvent, the cations were partially exchanged with tetrabutyl ammonium (Q) cations. A thermogravimetric measurement (Figure S1) showed that six Q cations are associated with the  $[\alpha\text{-Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  anion, leading to a formulation of  $\text{Q}_6\text{Zn}_2\text{Na}_6\text{H}_2[\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]$ , (QBiPOM). MALDI-TOF MS measurements in the negative anion, reflector mode showed that various combinations of Zn, Na, and H cations are possible, with all peaks showing an intact  $[\alpha\text{-Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]$  polyoxometalate moiety (Figures S2, S3 and Table S1). The catalytic activity of QBiPOM was first tested using cyclooctene as a model substrate, chosen because it is typically highly reactive and selective toward epoxidation with peroxide oxidants. Surprisingly, the reactions yielded a significant amount of allylic oxidation that was especially high using urea-hydrogen peroxide (UHP) as an anhydrous form of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (Scheme 1). All other polyoxotungstate catalysts, including  $\text{Q}_{12}[\text{WZn}(\text{Zn-H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]$ , that have been examined

### Scheme 1. Oxidation of cyclooctene with $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>

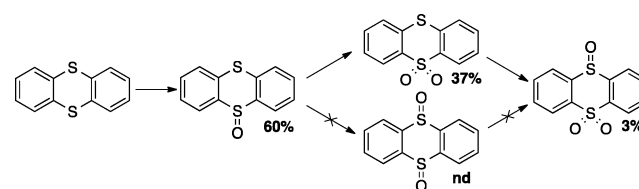


<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol cyclooctene, 0.5 mmol  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , 2  $\mu\text{mol}$  QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70 °C, 12 h.

for this oxidation with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  exclusively yielded cyclooctene oxide.<sup>5–21,44</sup>

The three most probable reasons for the preponderance of oxidation at the allylic position are (i) C–H bond activation at the allylic position by the polyoxometalate, followed by oxygen transfer; (ii) oxidation by a hydroxide radical formed by a redox reaction between the polyoxometalate and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ; and (iii) formation of  $^1\text{O}_2$  via a  $\text{HO}_2^-$  species and formation of an allylic hydroperoxide through an ene reaction, followed by decomposition of the hydroperoxide. We chose the latter possibility as the working hypothesis. To first provide evidence for the formation of a nucleophilic oxidant, the reactivity of a sulfide and a relatively more electrophilic sulfoxide can be compared.<sup>45,46</sup> Thus, a catalytic reaction of thianthrene with UHP catalyzed by QBiPOM (Scheme 2) showed the formation of the monosulfoxide and

### Scheme 2. Oxidation of Thianthrene with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>

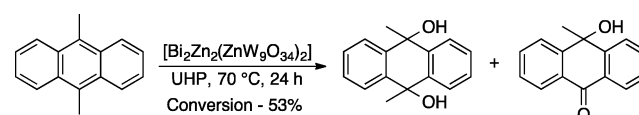


<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol thianthrene, 0.5 mmol UHP, 2  $\mu\text{mol}$  QBiPOM, 2 mL acetonitrile, 70 °C, 2 h; nd, not detected.

then *only* the monosulfone, but *not* the disulfoxide, indicating the initial presence of a nucleophilic oxidant.

The formation of  $^1\text{O}_2$  can be probed indirectly in several ways; for example, by the formation of an endoperoxide from  $\alpha$ -terpinene or 9,10-dimethylantracene and the observation of a migration of a double bond during an ene reaction. The oxidation of 9,10-dimethylantracene (Scheme 3) showed the

### Scheme 3. Oxidation of 9,10-Dimethylantracene with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>



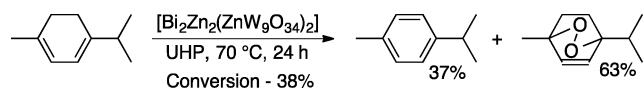
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol 9,10-dimethylantracene, 0.5 mmol UHP, QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70 °C, 24 h.

formation of 9,10-dimethyl-9,10-dihydroanthracene-9,10-diol and 10-hydroxy-10-methylantracene-9(10H)-one instead of the expected endoperoxide. It was demonstrated, however, that these products are obtained from the initially formed endoperoxide. Thus, preparation of the endoperoxide by photooxygenation

using tetraphenylporphyrin as sensitizer followed by addition of QBiPOM and further reaction in fact yielded the aforementioned products.

The oxidation of  $\alpha$ -terpinene (Scheme 4) was unambiguous vis-a-vis formation of the endoperoxide, ascaridole. *p*-Cymene was formed as byproduct via aromatization.

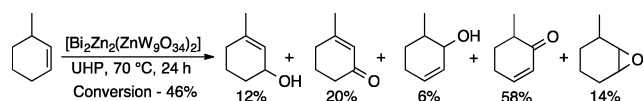
#### Scheme 4. Oxidation of $\alpha$ -Terpinene with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol  $\alpha$ -terpinene, 0.5 mmol UHP, 2  $\mu$ mol QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h.

Similarly, the oxidation of 3-methylcyclohexene showed the formation of four allylic alcohols and ketones that can be attributed to the formation of hydroperoxides by the ene reaction, followed by oxidation to the corresponding allylic alcohols and ketones by UHP in the presence of QBiPOM (Scheme 5); 3-methylcyclohexane oxide was formed only in small amounts.

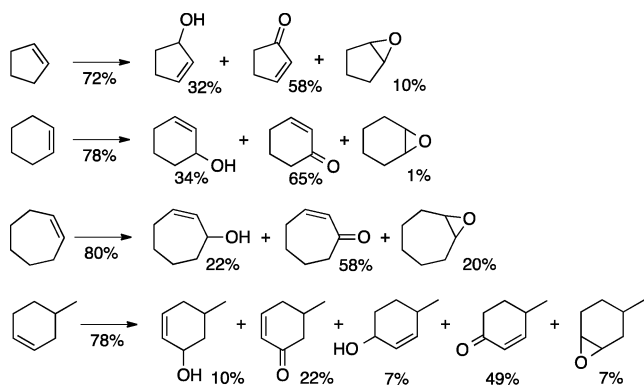
#### Scheme 5. Oxidation of 3-Methylcyclohexene with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol 3-methylcyclohexene, 0.5 mmol UHP, 2  $\mu$ mol QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h.

Additional oxidations of cyclic alkenes are presented in Chart 1. As may be observed, generally high yields of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated

#### Chart 1. Oxidation of Alkenes with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>



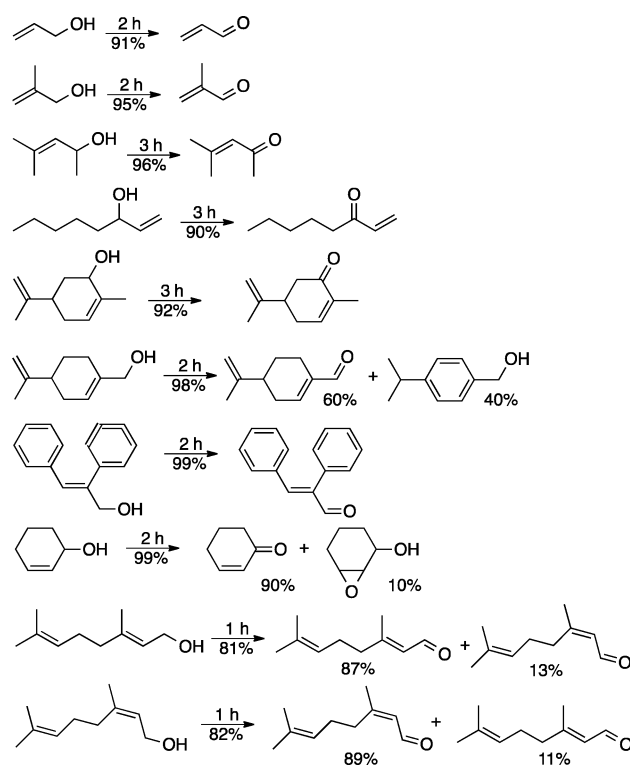
<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol cyclic alkene, 0.5 mmol UHP, 2  $\mu$ mol QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70  $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h. The percentages shown below the products represent relative amounts, that is, selectivity.

alcohols and ketones were obtained. There is a clear preference for ene type reactions with decomposition of the initially formed hydroperoxides. It should be noted that the formation of epoxides as minor coproducts could be from reaction with an electrophilic peroxy species, but epoxide formation can be explained also by intramolecular rearrangement.<sup>47</sup> Noticeably,

the reaction yields can be quite high, although the reactions are rather slow. Seemingly, the formation of singlet oxygen is sluggish, but the efficiency of oxidation (yield in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ) is high once the active oxidant,  $^1\text{O}_2$ , is formed. Therefore, these initial studies of oxidation reactions, preferably with anhydrous  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , catalyzed by QBiPOM indicated that a nucleophilic peroxide was formed and can account for the reactivity observed.

Typically, oxidation reactions of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  catalyzed by polyoxometalates, including “sandwich” type polyoxometalates such as  $[\text{WZn}(\text{ZnH}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{12-}$ , proceed efficiently with a chemoselectivity that favors the formation of the epoxide versus the ketone or aldehyde in an approximately 95:5 ratio.<sup>48,49</sup> On the other hand,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols react with photochemically prepared singlet oxygen via an ene reaction to yield diols as the major products.<sup>29</sup> Here,  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols reacted with UHP quite differently in transformations catalyzed by QBiPOM to yield  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes or ketones chemoselectively (Chart 2). As can be

#### Chart 2. Oxidation of $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Alcohols with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol substrate, 0.5 mmol UHP, 2  $\mu$ mol QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70  $^{\circ}$ C. The percentages shown below the products represent relative amounts, that is, selectivity.

observed from the reaction conditions, these reactions are much faster than the oxidation of unfunctionalized alkenes. In fact, the reaction profiles (Table S2 of the Supporting Information) for a number of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols showed that the reaction was bimodal with  $\sim 65$ – $75$ % conversion within 15 min, followed by a slower rate regime until the reported yields were obtained (Chart 2).<sup>50</sup> Primary aliphatic alcohols, such as allyl alcohol and methallyl alcohol, as well as secondary aliphatic alcohols, such as 1-octene-3-ol and 2-methyl-2-pentene-4-ol, yielded only the respective aldehyde and ketone products. Geraniol also reacted to give geranial and the isomeric neral, which suggests that there may

be an accessible planar intermediate species. A cyclic substrate such as carveol yielded carveone as the only product, although the analogous but less sterically hindered cyclohexen-3-ol did yield some epoxide as a byproduct. Interestingly, 4-isopropyl cyclohexene-1-methanol yielded the expected aldehyde but also the aromatized 4-isopropylbenzyl alcohol in significant amounts.

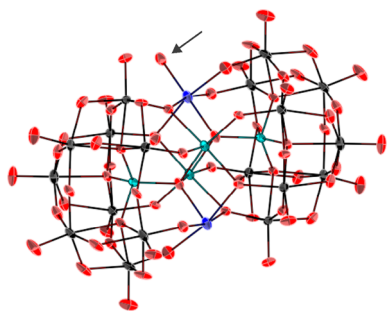
Because  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols underwent oxidation at the alcohol moiety, it was not surprising to observe that QBiPOM also catalyzed the very selective oxidation of alcohols with UHP efficiently (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Oxidation of Alcohols with UHP Catalyzed by QBiPOM<sup>a</sup>

substrate	product	time, h	conversion, mol %
cyclooctanol	cyclooctanone	12	>99
cyclohexanol	cyclohexanone	12	95
cycloheptanol	cycloheptanone	12	96
cyclopentanol	cyclopentanone	12	96
mesityl alcohol	mesitylaldehyde	5	96
1-octanol	1-octanal <sup>b</sup>	24	85
benzyl alcohol	benzaldehyde	4.5	95
3,3-diphenylpropanol	3,3-diphenylpropanal	24	90
diphenylmethanol	benzophenone	3	91

<sup>a</sup>Reaction conditions: 0.5 mmol substrate, 0.5 mmol UHP, 2  $\mu$ mol QBiPOM, 0.5 mL acetonitrile, 70 °C. <sup>b</sup>The selectivity was 92% 1-octanal, 8% octanoic acid.

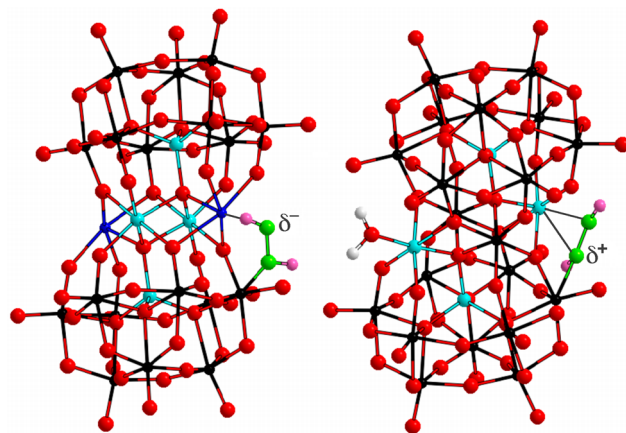
The different reactivity and chemoselectivity observed in QBiPOM-catalyzed transformations with UHP warranted further kinetic elucidation and a mechanistic hypothesis. In the past, it has been reported that the analogous antimony(III) compound  $[\text{Sb}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  reacted with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to yield the antimony(V) hydroxide compound  $[(\text{Sb}^{\text{V}}\text{OH})_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{12-}$  as the catalytically active precursor species.<sup>51</sup> As opposed to Sb(V) species that are rather accessible and common, Bi(V) oxide compounds are rather rare,<sup>52</sup> and their use in oxidation reactions is uncommon.<sup>53</sup> An almost singular example is the oxidation of alkenes to monoacetylated diols in acetic acid.<sup>54</sup> It was therefore not surprising that we were not able to isolate any Bi(V) species upon treatment with 65%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , UHP,  $\text{Cl}_2$ , or  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ . Only the reaction of  $[\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  with ozone yielded  $[\text{Bi}^{\text{V}}\text{O}(\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2)]^{14-}$  as identified by X-ray crystallography (Figure 2). This compound was unreactive



**Figure 2.** ORTEP presentation showing the 50% probability of the thermal ellipsoids of the  $[\text{Bi}^{\text{V}}\text{O}(\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2)]^{14-}$  anion. W, black; O, red; Zn, cyan; Bi, blue. The cations and water molecules are omitted for clarity.<sup>56</sup> The oxygen terminal to Bi(V) is shown with the arrow.

toward alkenes and alcohols and therefore can be excluded as a possible reactive intermediate.

The slow reaction of alkenes compared with the much faster reactions of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols suggests they react by a different mechanism. First, analysis of alkene and diene oxidation as well as the product distribution in the oxidation of thianthrene catalyzed by QBiPOM indicates a nucleophilic peroxy intermediate, whereas alkene epoxidation catalyzed by structurally similar  $[\text{WZn}(\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{12-}$  (M = Mn, Zn, etc.) indicates an electrophilic peroxy intermediate. It should be noted that the unique activity of  $\text{Q}_{12}[\text{WZn}(\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]$  has in the past been attributed to the tungsten atoms in proximity to the terminal metal position because reactivity was highly influenced by steric effects (cyclohexene > 1-methylcyclohexene  $\sim$  2-carene  $\gg$   $\alpha$ -pinene).<sup>55</sup> This difference in reactivity strongly suggests that the metal at the accessible terminal position, Lewis acidic  $\text{Zn}^{\text{II}}$  or  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  versus Lewis basic  $\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}$ , is the determining factor in the umpolung of the peroxy species. This umpolung then leads to the observed different reactivity pattern. Therefore, conceivable or exemplary reactive intermediates illustrating the umpolung of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  are presented in Figure 3. The observation that aqueous  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (Scheme 1) is far



**Figure 3.** Conceivable or exemplary peroxy species (not crystal structures) formed upon reaction with the  $[\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}_2\text{Zn}_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{14-}$  (left) and  $[\text{WZn}(\text{ZnH}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{12-}$  (right) anions. Black, W; red, O; turquoise, Zn; blue, Bi; green, O from  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ; pink, H from O from  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

less selective toward the ene reaction of cyclooctene and also other examples can also be understood from Figure 3. Water can compete for the  $\text{Bi}^{\text{III}}$  site, therefore preventing the formation of a nucleophilic peroxy species and thereby shifting the chemoselectivity toward epoxidation.

A consensus mechanism for the oxidation of alcohols by peroxygen oxidants is that the reactions occur by coordination of both reacting species,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{RR}'\text{CHOH}$ , to the same metal center to yield a  $\text{HOO}-\text{M}-\text{OCHRR}'$  intermediate species that leads to formation of  $\text{RR}'\text{C}=\text{O}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .<sup>56</sup> Such a peroxy-metal pathway with  $\text{W}^{\text{VI}}$ ,  $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}$ ,  $\text{V}^{\text{V}}$ , and  $\text{Ti}^{\text{IV}}$ -based catalysts are thought to be typical;<sup>56</sup> however, when the substrates are allylic alcohols, typically epoxidation products are obtained with high chemoselectivity, as is the case also with  $[\text{WZn}(\text{ZnH}_2\text{O})_2(\text{ZnW}_9\text{O}_{34})_2]^{12-}$ .<sup>48,49</sup> In contrast, QBiPOM catalyzes the oxidation of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols with a chemoselectivity strongly favoring C–H bond activation and formation of carbonyl products. In addition, there are some anomalies, such as the formation of 4-isopropylbenzyl alcohol (cuminal) by aromatization from ((4-(prop-1-en-2-yl)cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)methanol (perillyl alcohol),

and the cis  $\leftrightarrow$  trans isomerization observed in the oxidation of geraniol and nerol. One may reasonably suggest that the reactivity observed in the oxidation of allylic alcohols can be best explained as a base-assisted or promoted oxidation reaction in which the Bi<sup>III</sup> center leads to formation of an alkoxide intermediate that is then oxidized by a tungsten-peroxo species by oxidative  $\beta$ -elimination to yield the carbonyl product, as commonly observed in Pd<sup>II</sup> catalyzed oxidations of alcohols. In the case of perillyl alcohol, in addition to the formation of perillaldehyde, the formation of an alkoxide can yield to a series of double bond isomerizations.<sup>57</sup> Upon formation of an endodiene, oxidation will lead to formation of the aromatic cuminol. Similarly, the isomerization observed in the geraniol and nerol oxidations can also be attributed to catalysis involving a base.<sup>58</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Incorporation of the Lewis basic Bi<sup>III</sup> at the accessible terminal position of a “sandwich” type polyoxometalate led to a change in the chemoselectivity of catalytic oxidation reactions of alkenes and  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols, as opposed to the previously reported and structurally similar Zn<sup>II</sup> or Mn<sup>II</sup> substituted polyoxometalates that showed chemoselectivity strongly favoring epoxidation, the Bi<sup>III</sup>-substituted polyoxometalate-catalyzed reactions with minimal epoxide formation. In reactions with alkenes and dienes, ene type reactivity was observed, a hallmark of singlet oxygen formation, that is explained by an umpolung of a reactive peroxo intermediate, electrophilic for substitution with Mn<sup>II</sup> or Zn<sup>II</sup> to nucleophilic for substitution with Bi<sup>III</sup>. The chemoselectivity observed in the oxidation of  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated alcohols strongly favors C–H bond activation rather than epoxidation and is explained by alkoxide formation at the Lewis basic Bi<sup>III</sup>, followed by an oxidative  $\beta$ -elimination.

## EXPERIMENTAL PART

**Na<sub>4</sub>(Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>[ $\alpha$ -Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~26H<sub>2</sub>O.** Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (3 g, 9 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 25 mL water and 0.5 mL 6 M HNO<sub>3</sub> and heated for 15 min at 90 °C. After cooling to room temperature, a solution of 0.60 g of Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mmol) in 2 mL of water was added, followed by the dropwise addition of a solution of 0.48 g of Bi(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mmol) dissolved in 1 mL of 6 M HNO<sub>3</sub> with vigorous stirring. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 8 by adding aqueous ammonia and then heated at 90 °C for 1 h. The mixture was filtered, and the filtrate was allowed to cool to room temperature. Within 24 h, colorless crystals of Na<sub>4</sub>(Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>[ $\alpha$ -Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~26H<sub>2</sub>O were formed. These crystals were used for analysis by X-ray diffraction. The yield was 1.65 g (50%, based on W). IR: 918, 868, 765 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Elemental analysis: Calcd (exp) Na, 1.57 (1.63); Zn, 6.75 (6.55); Bi, 7.16 (7.33); W, 56.61 (55.98); H<sub>2</sub>O, 9.24 (9.5).

**Q<sub>6</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>4</sub>[Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>].** Na<sub>4</sub>(Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>[ $\alpha$ -Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~26H<sub>2</sub>O (0.200 g) was dissolved in 6 mL of distilled water (pH 8.5); 20 equiv of tetrabutylammonium bromide was added, and the product was precipitated by the addition of 2  $\mu$ L of 6 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (pH 7.4). The crude precipitate, Q<sub>6</sub>Zn<sub>x</sub>Na<sub>y</sub>H<sub>z</sub>[Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], was collected by filtration, washed several times with water to remove unreacted tetrabutylammonium salt, and dried under vacuum. The number of tetrabutyl ammonium cations was determined by thermogravimetric analysis (Figure S1; see Supporting Information), and the presence of the intact [Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] anion only along

with various combinations of cations was verified by negative anion MALDI-TOF MS in the reflector mode.

**Na<sub>4</sub>~<sub>10</sub>H<sub>4</sub>[Bi<sup>III</sup>Bi<sup>V</sup>O[Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~37H<sub>2</sub>O.** Na<sub>4</sub>(Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>[ $\alpha$ -Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~26H<sub>2</sub>O (0.2 g, 33  $\mu$ mol) was dissolved in 2 mL of distilled water by heating at 70 °C for 10 min. Ozone (concentration, 25 mg/L; rate, 6.25 mg/min), prepared by an ozonator, was then bubbled through this solution for 1 h at room temperature, during which time the solution became mildly yellowish. The solution was allowed to stand under ambient conditions; light yellowish crystals of Na<sub>4</sub>~<sub>10</sub>H<sub>4</sub>[Bi<sup>III</sup>Bi<sup>V</sup>O[Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~37H<sub>2</sub>O were obtained after 10 days and analyzed by X-ray crystallography. Elemental analysis: Calcd (exp) Na, 3.84 (4.02); Zn, 4.36 (4.51); Bi, 6.97 (7.10); W, 55.22 (55.00); H<sub>2</sub>O, 11.13 (11.5). Yield, 0.08 g (40%). IR: 1090, 883, 848, 735 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Note that the crystal structure shows that only one of the Bi<sup>III</sup> centers was oxidized to Bi<sup>V</sup>–O. Attempts to further oxidize this compound by ozonation for longer time periods did not appear to yield the di-Bi<sup>V</sup>O species, but rather, yielded a compound that was not identifiable.

**X-ray Crystallography.** Crystals were coated in Paratone-N oil (Hampton Research) and mounted by liquid nitrogen flash freezing within a MiTeGen cryoloop. Single crystal X-ray data was collected on either a Bruker APEX-II or a Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer with Mo K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda$  = 0.71073 nm) radiation. The data were processed using SAINT and DENZO, respectively. Structures were solved by direct methods with SHELXS. Full-matrix least-squares refinement was based on F<sup>2</sup> with SHELXL-97.

**Crystallographic Data.** Na<sub>4</sub>(Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>6</sub>[ $\alpha$ -Bi<sup>III</sup><sub>2</sub>Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~26H<sub>2</sub>O Empirical formula, Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>98.55</sub>W<sub>18</sub>Zn<sub>6</sub>Na<sub>4</sub>; formula weight, 5788.24; crystal system, orthorhombic; space group, *Pnmm*; *T*, 120 K; *a* = 16.187 (3) Å; *b* = 19.430 (4) Å; *c* = 14.641 (3);  $\alpha$  =  $\beta$  =  $\gamma$  = 90°; *V* = 4604.8 (16) Å<sup>3</sup>; *Z* = 2; *D*<sub>calc</sub> = 4.175 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 27.850 mm<sup>-1</sup>; total reflections, 4891; independent reflections, 4891 (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0258); *R*(*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)) = 0.0423; *wR*<sub>1</sub>(*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)) = 0.1119; *R* (all data) = 0.0499; *R* (all data) = 0.1153; GOF = 1.063.

Na<sub>4</sub>~<sub>10</sub>H<sub>4</sub>[Bi<sup>III</sup>Bi<sup>V</sup>O[Zn<sub>2</sub>(ZnW<sub>9</sub>O<sub>34</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] $\cdot$ ~37H<sub>2</sub>O. Empirical formula, Bi<sub>4</sub>Na<sub>20.72</sub>O<sub>213.36</sub>W<sub>36</sub>Zn<sub>8</sub>; formula weight, 11867.39; crystal system, monoclinic; space group, *P2<sub>1</sub>/n*; *T*, 100 K; *a* = 13.234 (3) Å; *b* = 17.661 (4) Å; *c* = 20.966 (4);  $\alpha$  =  $\gamma$  = 90°,  $\beta$  = 93.12 (3); *V* = 4893.0 (17) Å<sup>3</sup>; *Z* = 1; *D*<sub>calc</sub> = 4.028 g/cm<sup>3</sup>;  $\mu$  = 25.771 mm<sup>-1</sup>; total reflections, 85156; independent reflections, 12704 (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0610); *R*(*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)) = 0.0401; *wR*<sub>1</sub>(*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)) = 0.0985; *R* (all data) = 0.0602; *wR* (all data) = 0.1096; GOF = 1.081.

**Catalytic Reactions.** Typically, the oxidation reactions were carried out in 10 mL vials in air using the conditions given in the tables and schemes. The products were analyzed by gas chromatography. Quantitative GC-FID (HP 6890) and qualitative for product identification GC-MSD (HP 5973) instruments equipped with a 5% phenyl methylsilicone 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25 mm coating, 30 m column (Restek SMS) were used, as was helium as carrier gas.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acscatal.5b00066

Additional X-ray diffraction data (CIF, CIF)

Other data (PDF)

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## Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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