

# Selective formation of a stable $\mu$ -peroxo ferric heme-Cu<sup>II</sup> complex from the corresponding $\mu$ -oxo Fe<sup>III</sup>-Cu<sup>II</sup> species with hydrogen peroxide†

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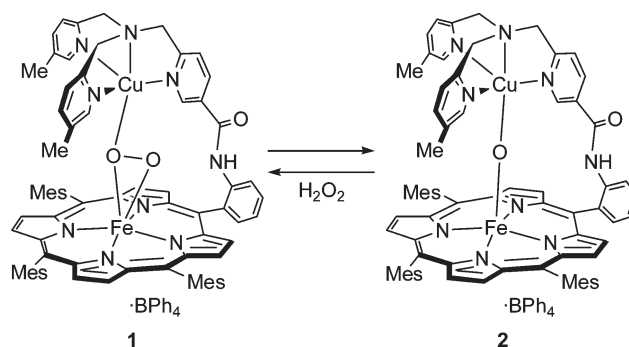
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An oxo-bridged ferric heme-copper(II) complex, obtained by thermal transformation of the corresponding peroxo-bridged complex, was reacted with an equimolar amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to regenerate the  $\mu$ -peroxo complex by a ligand exchange from oxo to peroxo, without the formation of a ferryl-oxo species or heme degradation as are observed in general ferric heme-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> reactions.

In the catalytic dioxygen reduction of heme-copper oxidases including cytochrome *c* oxidase (CcO),<sup>1</sup> ferric heme-peroxo species are considered as important transients for the formation of a ferryl oxo intermediate from the initially formed heme-dioxygen adduct.<sup>2</sup> However, it is still unclear whether the peroxo form is a ferric heme-hydroperoxo, heme-peroxo or heme- $\mu$ -peroxo-Cu<sup>2+</sup> species.<sup>3</sup> The synthetic model studies of CcO have indicated either the presence of a heme-hydroperoxo species during the electrochemical O<sub>2</sub> reduction,<sup>4</sup> or the formation of  $\mu$ -peroxo heme-copper dinuclear complexes.<sup>5,6</sup> We have investigated the reaction of O<sub>2</sub> with the heme-linked copper dinuclear complex [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]<sup>+</sup> as a model of CcO, and recently reported the isolation and structure of a remarkably stable  $\mu$ - $\eta^2$ : $\eta^1$ -peroxo complex, [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(O<sub>2</sub>)-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (**1**).<sup>7</sup> Therefore, we expected complex **1** to be generated by the reaction of hydrogen peroxide with the oxidized Fe<sup>III</sup>-Cu<sup>II</sup> complex of the same ligand as reported for many non-heme iron<sup>8</sup> and copper<sup>9</sup> complexes, although it is generally difficult to prepare stable heme-peroxo species by the reaction of ferric heme and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.<sup>2,10–13</sup> In this report, we have performed the reaction of hydrogen peroxide with the corresponding  $\mu$ -oxo heme-copper complex, [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(O)-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (**2**), and confirmed the formation of **1** spectroscopically. Since **2** was obtained from **1**, the conversion of **2** to **1** could be regarded as the regeneration of the  $\mu$ -peroxo heme-copper complex (Scheme 1).

The precursor  $\mu$ -oxo complex **2** was prepared by the thermal transformation of the  $\mu$ -peroxo complex **1** in CH<sub>3</sub>CN at room temperature for several months, and was isolated by recrystallization from acetone as **2**·2(acetone) in 80% yield.‡ The UV-visible spectrum of **2** showed a Soret band at 442 nm, which was significantly red-shifted from that of **1** (420 nm), with new absorption bands at 560 and 596 nm (Fig. 1, dotted line). The ESI mass spectrum of **2** exhibited a peak at *m/z* = 1232 that is 16 amu smaller than that of the [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(O<sub>2</sub>)-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]<sup>+</sup> cation



Scheme 1 Interconversion between **1** and **2**.

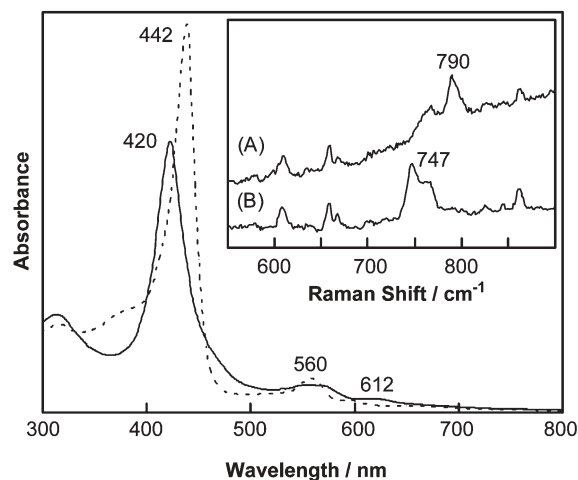
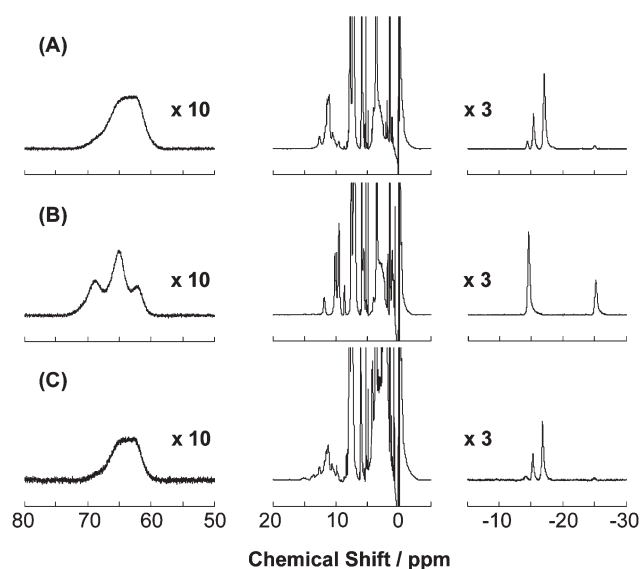


Fig. 1 UV-vis spectra (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, room temperature) of [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(O)-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]BPh<sub>4</sub> (**2**, dotted line) and the resulting species after the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to **2** (solid line). Inset: resonance Raman spectra of **1** (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, -25 °C,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}}$  = 413.1 nm) formed by the reaction of **2** with (A) H<sub>2</sub><sup>16</sup>O<sub>2</sub> and (B) H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub>.

in **1** (*m/z* = 1248).<sup>5</sup> By isotopic substitution, [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(<sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub>)-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]BPh<sub>4</sub> in dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN gave the <sup>18</sup>O-labeled complex **2** (*m/z* = 1234), indicating that the oxygen atom of the peroxo ligand was incorporated in **2**.<sup>5</sup> The oxo ligand is easily exchangeable by water oxygen, since the treatment of the solution of <sup>16</sup>O-labeled **2** with H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O rapidly generated <sup>18</sup>O-labeled **2**, as confirmed by mass spectra. The crystal structure of **2**§ revealed that an oxo ligand bound to both iron and copper ions, and the Fe-O-Cu moiety had a near-linear structure (see ESI†), as is expected from those of previously reported  $\mu$ -oxo heme-copper complexes.<sup>5,14</sup> The M-O (M = Fe, Cu) distances in **2** (Fe-O = 1.758(3) Å and

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: ORTEP view of [(TMP)Fe<sup>III</sup>-(O)-(5MeTPA)Cu<sup>II</sup>]<sup>+</sup> in crystals of **2**·3(acetone) drawn with the thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level and ESI mass spectra. See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b4/b413275k/>

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**Fig. 2**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (20 °C,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) of (A) **1**, (B) **2** and (C) a 1 : 1 mixture of **2** and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

$\text{Cu}-\text{O} = 1.856(3)$  Å, respectively) were significantly shorter than those in **1** ( $\text{Fe}-\text{O} = 2.031(4)$  and  $1.890(6)$  Å,  $\text{Cu}-\text{O} = 1.915(5)$  Å), indicating the stronger interaction of metal ions with the oxo ligand than that with each oxygen atom of the peroxo ligand. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , room temperature) of **2**, showing signals for pyridine protons at  $\delta = -25.1$  and  $-14.5$  ppm and those of pyrrole protons centered at  $\delta = 65.1$  ppm (Fig. 2), was similar to those of previously reported  $\mu$ -oxo heme-(TPMA)copper $^{\text{II}}$  complexes.<sup>5,15</sup> An overall  $S = 2$  spin state for **2** was assigned (Evans NMR method,  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 4.8 \mu_{\text{B}}$ ) arising from an antiferromagnetic interaction between the copper(II) and high-spin iron(III) ions through the bridging oxo ligand.

Addition of an equimolar amount of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to the  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  solution of **2** at room temperature rapidly caused the absorption spectral change; the 442, 560 and 595 nm bands corresponding to **2** were changed to 420, 557 and 612 nm bands, respectively. The resulting spectrum is identical to that of **1** (Fig. 1, solid line). The ESI-MS of the resulting solution showed a new peak at  $m/z = 1248$  corresponding to the  $[(\text{TMP})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-(^{16}\text{O}_2)-(5\text{MeTPA})\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}]^+$  cation, and by using  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}_2$ , an  $m/z = 1252$  peak from the  $[(\text{TMP})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-(^{18}\text{O}_2)-(5\text{MeTPA})\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}]^+$  cation was observed (see ESI $^\dagger$ ). The resonance Raman spectrum (Fig. 1, inset) of this species is also similar to that of **1** in solution: a Raman band which was assigned to the O–O stretching vibration was observed ( $\nu(^{16}\text{O}-^{16}\text{O}) = 790 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and shifted on isotopic substitution with  $\text{H}_2^{18}\text{O}_2$  ( $\nu(^{18}\text{O}-^{18}\text{O}) = 747 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>7</sup> In the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, the addition of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to **2** led to significant shifting of the signals of pyridine protons ( $\delta = -17.1$  and  $-15.4$  ppm) with a slight shift of the pyrrole protons ( $\delta = 63.5$  ppm).<sup>5,15</sup> These resonances were identical to those of **1** (Fig. 2). The spin state was also assigned as  $S = 2$  (Evans method,  $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 5.0 \mu_{\text{B}}$ ), indicating the antiferromagnetic coupling between the copper(II) ion and the high-spin iron(III) ion, mediated by the bridging peroxo ligand. Based on these results, we conclude that complex **1** is generated by the reaction of complex **2** with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (Scheme 1). Although  $^{16}\text{O}$ -bridged complex **2** was used in the  $^{18}\text{O}$ -labeled experiments, neither the mass peak ( $m/z = 1250$ ) nor the Raman band

corresponding to the scrambled peroxide species ( $\nu(^{16}\text{O}-^{18}\text{O}) = 769 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) was observed. These observations indicate that both oxygen atoms of the peroxo ligand originate from hydrogen peroxide, not from the oxo ligand in **2**. Thus, this reaction can be considered as a ligand exchange.

In general, the addition of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to a ferric heme generates the heme-hydroperoxo adduct, which is observed only as a transient species with very low stability<sup>10</sup> and followed by the rapid formation of a ferryl oxo species<sup>2,10–12</sup> and/or the heme degradation reaction.<sup>13</sup> In contrast, the reaction of **2** with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  showed neither the generation of such ferryl oxo species nor heme degradation, because the resulting peroxo-bridged species **1** is highly stable. The peroxo complex **1** prepared in this manner again gradually transformed to the  $\mu$ -oxo complex **2**, indicating the reversible interconversion between **1** and **2** (Scheme 1).

In summary, we obtained the oxo-bridged heme-copper complex **2** by the thermal transformation of **1**. Complex **2** reacted with hydrogen peroxide to regenerate the  $\mu$ -peroxo complex **1** by ligand exchange from oxo to peroxo, confirmed by spectroscopic methods. This is the first example of a stable peroxo species generated by  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and a ferric heme complex. This result indicates that our (TMP)Fe-(5MeTPA)Cu complex prefers the stable peroxo-bridged form. Further investigations are in progress in our laboratory.

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## Notes and references

$\dagger$  Elemental analysis for **2**:2(acetone). Found (%): C 74.38, H 6.03, N 7.71; Calcd for  $\text{C}_{104}\text{H}_{99}\text{O}_4\text{N}_9\text{FeCuB}$  (%): C 74.84, H 5.98, N 7.55.

$\S$  Crystal data for **2**:3(acetone):  $\text{C}_{107}\text{H}_{105}\text{O}_5\text{N}_9\text{FeCuB}$ , reddish-purple crystals with size  $0.08 \times 0.14 \times 0.27$  mm, triclinic,  $a = 13.035(6)$ ,  $b = 14.360(6)$ ,  $c = 25.42(1)$  Å,  $\alpha = 75.13(3)$ ,  $\beta = 89.45(5)$ ,  $\gamma = 83.78(4)^\circ$ ,  $V = 4570(3)$  Å<sup>3</sup>, space group  $P\bar{1}$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $F(000) = 1820$ ,  $d_{\text{calc}} = 1.255 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu(\text{Mo}-\text{K}\alpha) = 0.451 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ . The data were collected ( $6.0 \leq 2\theta \leq 55.0^\circ$ ) at  $-140$  °C on a Rigaku RAXIS imaging plate area detector with graphite monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 0.71075$  Å) radiation; 42538 reflections collected, 20528 used ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.119$ ) and 1118 parameters.  $R1 = 0.080$  for  $8721 I > 2\sigma(I)$  data,  $wR2 = 0.168$  for all data. An additional acetone molecule may be lost *in vacuo* before the elemental analysis. The final difference Fourier map did not show any significant features except in the proximity of the metal (iron and copper) sites. CCDC 248588. See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b4/b413275k/> for crystallographic data in .cif or other electronic format.

$\P$  Abbreviation used: TMPA = tris(2-pyridylmethyl)amine.

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