

the case of *cis*-[(PhCH₂)₂Co(bpy)₂]⁺, however, PhCH₂CoTPP is obtained exclusively (Table I). Such selective formation of PhCH₂CoTPP may be ascribed to the slow reductive elimination of two benzyl ligands as compared with the other alkyl ligands of *cis*-[R₂Co(bpy)₂]²⁺ (R = Me and Et), as reported previously.⁹

A quantitative evaluation of the contribution of such electron-transfer processes in the reductive alkylation of CoTPP⁺ by alkylcobalt(III) complexes may be achieved by comparing the observed rate constants with those predicted by the Marcus theory for the rates of outer-sphere electron-transfer reactions.¹⁸ The second-order rate constants for the reduction of Co(TPP)ClO₄ by alkylmetals in MeCN at 298 K were determined by monitoring the disappearance and rise of the absorption bands at 434 and 407 nm due to the decay of CoTPP⁺ and the formation of RCoTPP, respectively.^{19,20} The reported values of self-exchange rate constants of alkylcobalt(IV/III) complexes⁹ and a cobalt(III/II) porphyrin²¹ together with the electron-transfer equilibrium constants, obtained from the one-electron oxidation potentials of the alkylcobalt(III) complexes⁹ and the one-electron reduction potential of CoTPP⁺ in MeCN,²¹ constitute a satisfactory basis for accounting for the *k*_{obs} values in light of the Marcus relation.¹⁸ The calculated electron-transfer rate constants *k*_{calc} and the observed second-order rate constants are listed in Table II. The *k*_{calc} values are about the same order of magnitude as the corresponding *k*_{obs} values, although most *k*_{obs} values are somewhat smaller than the *k*_{calc} values.²² Such agreement indicates that the rate-determining step for the reductive alkylation of CoTPP⁺ by alkylcobalt(III) complexes mainly consists of the electron-transfer process, as shown in Scheme I.²²

The *k*_{calc} values of R₄Sn are also evaluated by the same manner as the case of alkylcobalt(III) complexes, using the reported values of self-exchange rate constants and the one-electron-oxidation potentials of R₄Sn,¹³ and are listed in Table I, together with the *k*_{obs} values for the reduction of CoTPP⁺ by R₄Sn. In contrast with the case of alkylcobalt(III) complexes, the *k*_{calc} values of R₄Sn are 10²–10¹³ times smaller than the *k*_{obs} values, as shown in Table II. A close scrutiny of the data reveals that the deviation from the calculated values of outer-sphere electron transfer is the most pronounced with the least hindered tetraalkyltin, i.e., Me₄Sn. The magnitude of the deviation decreases with increasing the size of the alkyl group (Table II). Such a trend must reflect steric effects that perturb the inner-sphere coordination of R₄Sn to CoTPP⁺ in the transition state for the reductive alkylation, which is clearly distinguished from the outer-sphere electron-transfer processes

involved in the corresponding reactions of alkylcobalt(III) complexes.²³

- (23) For comparison between outer-sphere and inner-sphere electron-transfer processes, see: Reference 13. Klingler, R. J.; Kochi, J. K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 5839. Kochi, J. K. *Angew. Chem.* **1988**, *100*, 1331. Haim, A. *Prog. Inorg. Chem.* **1983**, *30*, 273. Seaman, G. C.; Haim, A. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 1319.

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Facile α/β Diastereomerism in (2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl)cobalt Corrins

In a recent publication,¹ unequivocal evidence was presented that reductive alkylation of cobinamides (Cbi's) with ¹³CH₃I leads essentially exclusively to formation of the β -alkylcobinamide (i.e., CH₃ in the "upper" axial position). We now wish to report a startlingly different result upon reductive alkylation of cobinamide with CF₃CH₂I.

When Factor B³ was reduced with zinc/acetic acid and alkylated with CF₃CH₂I,⁴ the monocationic alkylcobinamide fraction from cation-exchange chromatography showed two bands by HPLC⁵ (mobility relative to CNCbl, *R*_{CN} = 1.23 and 1.48), both of which were readily converted to diaquocobinamide ((H₂O)₂Cbi, *R*_{CN} = 0.77) upon aerobic photolysis. The two compounds were readily separated by semipreparative HPLC. The more slowly migrating compound had a UV-visible spectrum (Figure 1A, dashed line) essentially identical, above 300 nm, with that of the base-off species of the previously characterized⁶ CF₃CH₂Cbl (Figure 1B, dashed line). Moreover, its ¹⁹F NMR spectrum consisted of a triplet at 57.38 ppm (Table I), *J* = 13.9 Hz, again essentially identical with that of the base-off CF₃CH₂Cbl (Table I). We conclude that this compound is the β -diastereomer of CF₃CH₂Cbi, i.e. α -(H₂O)- β -(CF₃CH₂)Cbi (hereafter β -CF₃CH₂Cbi). The other compound (*R*_{CN} = 1.23) had a UV-visible spectrum (Figure 1A, solid line) quite similar to that of β -CF₃CH₂Cbi, except that its longest wavelength band (i.e. the α -band) is red-shifted 27 nm (Table I). Its spectrum was cleanly converted to that of (H₂O)₂Cbi⁷ upon aerobic photolysis and to that of (CN)₂Cbi⁸ upon aerobic photolysis in excess cyanide. Its ¹⁹F NMR resonance (δ = 59.52 ppm, *J* = 14.7 Hz) was distinctly downfield from those of base-off CF₃CH₂Cbl and base-on CF₃CH₂Cbl (Table I). Both compounds were also characterized by FAB-MS (glycerol matrix). The positive-ion mass spectra were virtually identical, with a parent ion mass 1072.8 for β -CF₃CH₂Cbi and 1072.9 for the other compound (calculated for M⁺ - H₂O⁹

- (17) The bis complex [Co(bpy)₂]²⁺ shown in Scheme I may be converted to the tris complex [Co(bpy)₃]²⁺, which was identified by ¹H NMR spectroscopy, since thermodynamic considerations indicate that the tris complex is more stable than the bis complex: Fukuzumi, S.; Ishikawa, K.; Tanaka, T. *Organometallics* **1987**, *6*, 358.
- (18) The Marcus relation for the rate constant of the electron transfer from the reductant (1) to the oxidant (2), *k*₁₂, is given by *k*₁₂ = (*k*₁₁*k*₂₂*k*₁₂)^{1/2}, where *k*₁₁ and *k*₂₂ are the rate constants of the corresponding self-exchanges and *K*₁₂ is the equilibrium constant for the electron-transfer reaction. The *K*₁₂ value is obtained from the oxidation potential of the reductant, *E*^o_{ox}, and the reduction potential of the oxidant, *E*^o_{red}, by using the following equation: $\log K_{12} = (-2.3RT/F)^{-1}(E^{\circ}_{ox} - E^{\circ}_{red})$. The parameter *f* is given by $\log f = (\log K_{12})^2/[4 \log(k_{11}k_{22}/Z^2)]$, where *Z*, the frequency factor, is taken to be $1 \times 10^{11} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$: Marcus, R. A. *Annu. Rev. Phys. Chem.* **1964**, *15*, 155.
- (19) Kinetic measurements were carried out by using a Union RA-103 stopped-flow spectrophotometer and a Union SM-401 spectrophotometer under the pseudo-first-order conditions where the concentrations of alkylmetals were maintained at >10-fold excess of the CoTPP⁺ concentration with half-lives shorter than 10 s and much longer than 10 s, respectively. The second-order rate constants were determined with Co(TPP)ClO₄ in MeCN instead of Co(TPP)Cl in CHCl₃/MeCN (5:1 v/v), since the thermodynamic parameters required for calculation of the electron-transfer rate constants have been obtained in MeCN.^{9,13,21}
- (20) The absorption maximum of RCoTPP ($\lambda_{\text{max}} = 407 \text{ nm}$)^{7b} is different from λ_{max} of CoTPP (412 nm).¹⁹
- (21) Fukuzumi, S.; Mochizuki, S.; Tanaka, T. *Inorg. Chem.* **1989**, *28*, 2459.
- (22) The rate of cleavage of the cobalt-carbon bond following the electron transfer may also be involved partially in the rate-determining step, when the *k*_{obs} values of the overall reactions become smaller than the *k*_{calc} values of the electron-transfer processes. In the case of *trans*-[Me₂Co(DpnH)], the *k*_{obs} value is somewhat larger than the *k*_{calc} value, indicating contribution of an inner-sphere process.^{13,21,23}

- (1) Brown, K. L.; Peck-Siler, S. *Inorg. Chem.* **1988**, *27*, 3548-3555.
- (2) Factor B is a mixture of the diastereomeric cyanoaquocobinamides α -(CN)- β -(H₂O)Cbi and α -(H₂O)- β -(CN)Cbi.
- (3) Renz, P. *Methods Enzymol.* **1971**, *18*, 82-92.
- (4) Typical preparative-scale conditions: 100 mg of Factor B (0.09 mmol) in 25 mL of 10% acetic acid was purged with argon for 1 h. Zinc wool, 2.0 g (briefly freshed by swirling in 1.0 N HCl), was introduced and reduction allowed to proceed for 30 min under argon. A 1.0-mL aliquot of CF₃CH₂I (10 mmol) was injected, and after 2 min the reaction mixture was desalted by either passage through an Amberlite XAD-2 column or extraction through phenol. Purification of the alkylcobinamides was effected by ion-exchange chromatography on SP-Sephadex, Na⁺ form, the RCbi's eluting in 0.1 M sodium acetate, pH 5.0.
- (5) Jacobsen, D. W.; Green, R.; Brown, K. L. *Methods Enzymol.* **1986**, *123*, 14-22.
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Table I. HPLC Mobilities and Spectroscopic Properties of (2,2,2-Trifluoroethyl)cobalt Corrins

compd ^a	R _{CN} ^b	δ ¹⁹ F, ppm ^c	J _{HF} , Hz	λ _{max} ^d , nm
β-CF ₃ CH ₂ Cbi	1.48	57.38	13.9	455
α-CF ₃ CH ₂ Cbi	1.23	59.52	14.7	482
β-CF ₃ CH ₂ Cbl	1.41			
base-on ^e		58.97	14.4	530
base-off ^f		57.40	13.5	454
α-CF ₃ CH ₂ Cbl	1.35	59.53	14.5	482

^aβ signifies the upper axial ligand; α, the lower. ^bHPLC mobility relative to that of CNCbl.⁵ ^cNicolet NT200 superconducting NMR spectrometer operating at 188.239 MHz. Chemical shifts are relative to external fluorobenzene; positive shifts, downfield. ^dMaximum of the longest wavelength (or α) band in the visible spectrum. ^eIn water. ^fIn 0.5 M HCl (pH 0.30) or 0.21 M H₂SO₄ (pH 0.50) pK_{base-off} 2.60.⁶

1073.2). Both products were further characterized by GC-MS analysis of the gaseous products formed from their organic ligands upon anaerobic photolysis and pyrolysis.¹¹ Pyrolysis of both compounds produced only 1,1-difluoroethylene (ca. 95%) and 1,1,1-trifluoroethane, while photolysis produced the same two products with the alkane predominating (ca. 75%). We conclude that the slower migrating organocobinamide product from reductive alkylation of Factor B with CF₃CH₂I is the α-diastereomer α-(CF₃CH₂)-β-(H₂O)Cbi (hereafter α-CF₃CH₂Cbi).

This surprising result prompted us to reexamine the products formed upon reductive alkylation of H₂OCbl with CF₃CH₂I, previously reported to yield the expected β-isomer of CF₃CH₂Cbl.⁶ Upon cation-exchange chromatography of a desalted reaction mixture, a red band eluting with water was closely followed by a yellow band. The mobility of the yellow band could be significantly retarded by lowering the pH of the desalted reaction mixture to 5.0. The yellow material had a UV-visible spectrum (Figure 1C) which was identical, above 300 nm, with that of α-CF₃CH₂Cbi. It was readily converted to H₂OCbl by aerobic photolysis (UV-vis and HPLC, R_{CN} = 0.82) and to (CN)₂Cbl by aerobic photolysis in the presence of excess cyanide (by UV-vis).⁸ Its UV-visible spectrum (Figure 1C) was pH-independent above 300 nm, unlike that of the red CF₃CH₂Cbl (Figure 1B), but showed spectral changes in the UV region consistent with the protonation of a pendent, but uncoordinated, dimethylbenzimidazole nucleotide.⁶ The pK_a for this acid dissociation reaction was 5.54 by potentiometric titration (ionic strength 1.0 M, 25.0 °C). The ¹⁹F NMR resonance of the yellow material was virtually identical with that of the α-diastereomer of CF₃CH₂Cbi (Table I). Also, its FAB mass spectrum (parent ion mass 1412.8, calculated for MH⁺ - H₂O¹² 1413.4) was identical with that of the red CF₃CH₂Cbl (parent ion mass 1413.4). The yellow material was also further characterized by GC-MS analysis of the organic products of its anaerobic pyrolysis and photolysis.¹¹ Again, CF₂CH₂ was the predominant product (ca. 84%) of anaerobic pyrolysis while photolysis produced a 60:40 mixture of CF₃CH₃ and CF₂CH₂. Similar results were obtained with the red CF₃CH₂Cbl. We conclude that this yellow organocobalt corrin

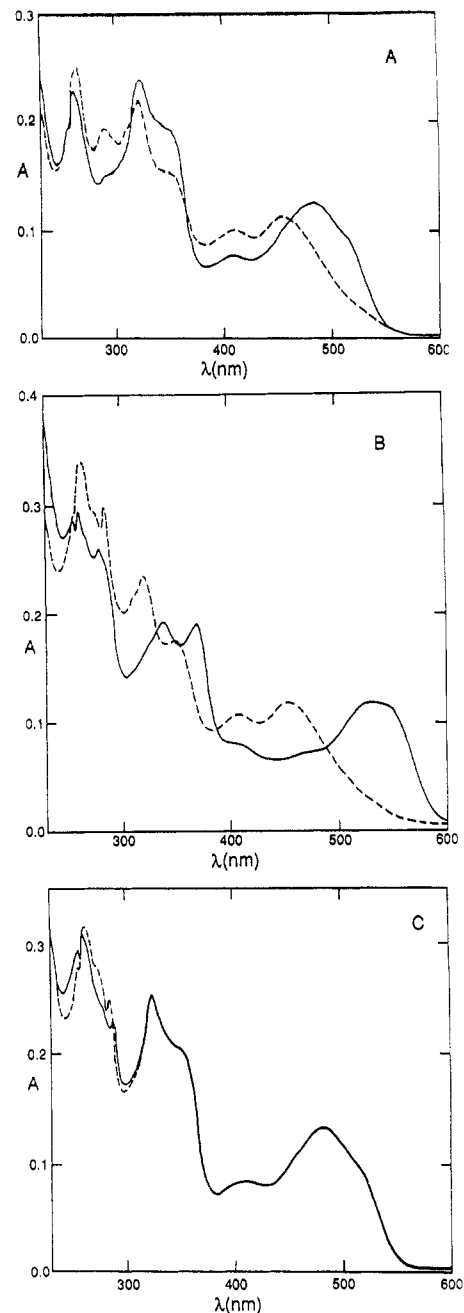


Figure 1. (A) Electronic spectra of the (2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)cobinamides, 1.25×10^{-5} M, in water: (solid line) α-CF₃CH₂Cbi; (dashed line) β-CF₃CH₂Cbi. (B) Electronic spectra of β-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)cobalamin, 1.25×10^{-5} M: (solid line) base-on β-CF₃CH₂Cbl, pH 6.8 in 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer; (dashed line) base-off β-CF₃CH₂Cbl, pH 0.50 in 0.3 M HCl. (C) Electric spectra of α-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)cobalamin, 1.25×10^{-5} M: (solid line) pH 6.8 in 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer; (dashed line) pH 0.5 in 0.3 M HCl.

is the α-isomer of CF₃CH₂Cbl (hereafter α-CF₃CH₂Cbl), in which coordination of the pendent dimethylbenzimidazole nucleotide is blocked by the α-organic ligand. In two independent preparations, the total yield of CF₃CH₂Cbl's was 40%, of which 17% was α-CF₃CH₂Cbl and 83% was β-CF₃CH₂Cbl.

Careful analytical HPLC determinations of CF₃CH₂Cbi product ratios from both preparative-scale and analytical-scale¹³ reaction mixtures show that the RCbi product fraction from reductive alkylation of Factor B with CF₃CH₂I is $87.4 \pm 3.7\%$ α-CF₃CH₂Cbi (average of 35 determinations). This is in stark contrast to reductive alkylation of Factor B with CH₃I, which gives

(9) As reported by Hay and Finke¹⁰ for 5'-deoxyadenosylcobinamide, the parent cation is a 5-coordinate RCbi (i.e. M⁺ - H₂O).

(10) Hay, B. P.; Finke, R. G. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1987**, *109*, 8012-8018.

(11) Finnigan MAT TSQ70 tandem mass spectrometer equipped with a 30 m × 0.539 mm GS-Q megabore column, temperature programmed from 40 to 200 °C at 16 °C/min. Samples (ca. 1 mg) for anaerobic photolysis (in 0.5 mL of 5% isopropanol) and pyrolysis (dry solid) were prepared in 1.0-mL Reactivials (Pierce) closed with Teflon Mininert valves (Pierce) as described previously.⁶ Photolysis was effected by illumination with a 275-W incandescent lamp for 3 h at a distance of 5.0 cm, and pyrolysis, by heating the vials for 60 s in a 220 °C oil bath. CF₃CH₂: retention time 1.8 min; mass spectrum *m/e* (relative abundance, ion) 64 (100%, M⁺), 63 (15%, M⁺ - H), 45 (59%, M⁺ - F), 44 (48%, M⁺ - HF), 33 (23%, M⁺ - CF), 31 (35%, M⁺ - CH₂F). CF₃-CH₃: Retention time 2.6 min. Mass spectrum (*m/e*, relative abundance, ion) 84 (1.5%, M⁺), 69 (100%, M⁺ - CH₃), 65 (30%, M⁺ - F), 64 (9.0%, M⁺ - HF), 45 (9.0%, M⁺ - HF₂).

(12) For the zwitterionic RCbi's, the positive-ion parent mass contains a proton from the matrix. As was the case with AdoCbi¹⁰ and the CF₃CH₂Cbi's, the parent ion of the α-isomer of CF₃CH₂Cbl is missing the (presumed) axial H₂O ligand.

(13) Factor B varied from 2.0×10^{-3} to 3.3×10^{-3} M, and CF₃CH₂I varied from 2.0×10^{-3} to 0.39 M, representing an excess of alkylating agent ranging from 11.2-fold to 19 511-fold.

at least 95% of the β -diastereomer.¹ The latter observation prompted speculation that in the case of CH_3Cbi the products were under kinetic control, with alkylation of the β -face being sterically favored due to congestion at the α -face from the b, d, and e propionamide side chains and the f secondary amide side chain. We have consequently attempted to determine if for the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$'s the products are under equilibrium control, with initial alkylation occurring at the β -face followed by equilibration of the diastereomers via a pathway that is not available (or more likely of too high energy) in the case of CH_3Cbi . Time-resolved determination of the product ratios for the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$'s under a variety of conditions¹³ showed that the final product ratio (i.e. 6.9:1, α : β) is established within 10–20 s of introduction of alkylating agent and remains unchanged throughout the reaction period (up to 30–60 min). Interestingly, both diastereomers of $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$ proved to be quite unstable with respect to reductive dealkylation by zinc/acetic acid ($T_{1/2} \sim 1$ min) so that net alkylation in this system represents a steady-state situation. Consequently, at long reaction times (30–60 min) the total yield of alkylcobinamides is reduced, presumably due to depletion of alkylating agent. At 0 °C, the net alkylation yield rose from about 25% to 46% over the first 4 min and then gradually declined to less than 20% at 1 h, while the ratio of diastereomers remained constant throughout. These observations are consistent with kinetic control of products, with the rate of α -face attack exceeding that of β -face attack by about 7-fold, but this conclusion is difficult to accept in light of the contrary results with CH_3Cbi . The results are also consistent with the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$ products being under equilibrium control, provided that the rate of equilibration of the diastereomeric $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$'s is quite fast, even exceeding the rate of initial alkylation at 0 °C. The exact mechanism of formation of the diastereomeric $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$'s and the extreme difference in behavior of the $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cbi}$'s and CH_3Cbi are currently under intense investigation.¹⁴

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(14) Kräutler and Caderas¹⁵ have reported that treatment of heptamethyl cob(II)yrinate in toluene/tetrahydrofuran with methyl tosylate leads exclusively to the heptamethyl β -methylcobyrinate (75% yield) while treatment with CH_3I yields the heptamethyl α -methylcobyrinate (71% yield) along with 7% of the β -isomer. The reasons for the different outcomes when cobinamide in water and cobester in an organic medium are reductively alkylated with CH_3I are not at all clear. As yet, we have been unable to obtain any products by reductive alkylation of cobinamides with trifluoroethyl tosylate.

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Sulfur L-Edge XANES Study of Zinc-, Cadmium-, and Mercury-Containing Metallothionein and Model Compounds

We report the first sulfur L-edge (150–250 eV), X-ray absorption near-edge structure (XANES) spectra for the metallothionein (MT) species $\text{Zn}_7\text{-MT}$, $\text{Cd}_7\text{-MT}$, $\text{Hg}_7\text{-MT}$, and $\text{Hg}_{18}\text{-MT}$ 2. These data are compared with sulfur L-edge spectra obtained for PbS (galena) and ZnS (sphalerite) and the model compounds $[\text{Zn}_4(\text{SPh})_{10}](\text{Me}_4\text{N})_2$ and $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{SPh})_{10}](\text{Me}_4\text{N})_2$. The detail in these XANES spectra illustrates the considerable utility of a technique that can provide geometric data for a range of different metal complexes from the same thiolate groups within the metal

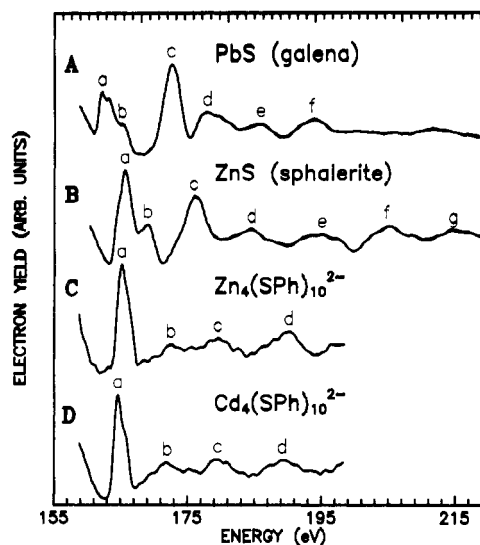


Figure 1. Sulfur L-edge XANES spectra of model compounds: (A) PbS; (B) ZnS; (C) $[\text{Zn}_4(\text{SPh})_{10}](\text{Me}_4\text{N})_2$; (D) $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{SPh})_{10}](\text{Me}_4\text{N})_2$.

binding site. Analysis of the data for $\text{Zn}_7\text{-MT}$ 1, $\text{Cd}_7\text{-MT}$ 1, and $\text{Hg}_7\text{-MT}$ 1 shows that $\text{Hg}_7\text{-MT}$ 1 adopts a similar structure in terms of the sulfur environment, with the same thiolate oxidation state and nearest-neighbor distances as those for the well-known Cd and Zn metallothioneins. The substantially different spectrum for the recently described $\text{Hg}_{18}\text{-MT}$ 2 species shows that it adopts a significantly different structure in terms of the thiolate environment. Although the XANES spectra of $[\text{Zn}_4(\text{SPh})_{10}](\text{Me}_4\text{N})_2$ and $[\text{Cd}_4(\text{SPh})_{10}](\text{Me}_4\text{N})_2$ compounds, which can be considered to be analogues of the α -domain in MT, are similar to each other, these spectra do not closely resemble the data obtained for the protein samples.

Metallothioneins are low molecular weight, cysteine-rich proteins containing 20 SH groups per molecule. These proteins bind to a wide range of metal ions both in vivo and in vitro.¹ Extensive studies have been carried out in order to understand the nature of metal binding in metallothionein using ^{113}Cd NMR, ^1H NMR, X-ray crystallography, circular dichroism (CD), magnetic circular dichroism (MCD), and Raman spectroscopic techniques.^{1,2}

Hasnain et al. have reviewed the available extended X-ray absorption fine structure spectroscopy (EXAFS) data for different metal environments of MT.^{1,3,4} Elder et al.^{5a} and Laib et al.^{5b} have published results from XANES studies, in which the Au L₃ energy region (11–12 keV) was used to determine the oxidation state of Au in $\text{Au}_{20}\text{-MT}$. Klemens et al. have recently reported the EXAFS and XANES spectra of the Hg L₃-edge of mercury-substituted copper proteins.⁶ Stephan and Hitchcock⁷ have reported metal K-edge EXAFS of two model compounds of the metallothionein α -domain. To our knowledge, no sulfur L-edge XANES studies of metallothionein or any other sulfur-containing

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