

Photochemical Nitric Oxide Precursors: Synthesis, Photochemistry, and Ligand Substitution Kinetics of Ruthenium Salen Nitrosyl and Ruthenium Salophen Nitrosyl Complexes¹

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Described are syntheses, characterizations, and photochemical reactions of the nitrosyl complexes Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (**I**, salen = *N,N*-ethylenebis(salicylideneiminato) dianion), Ru(salen)(Cl)(NO) (**II**), Ru(^tBu₄salen)(Cl)(NO) (**III**, ^tBu₄salen = *N,N'*-ethylenebis(3,5-di-*tert*-butylsalicylideneiminato) dianion), Ru(^tBu₄salen)(ONO)(NO) (**IV**), Ru(^tBu₂salophen)(Cl)(NO) (**V**, ^tBu₂salophen = *N,N'*-1,2-phenylenediaminebis(3-*tert*-butylsalicylideneiminato) dianion), and Ru(^tBu₄salophen)(Cl)(NO) (**VI**, ^tBu₄salophen = *N,N'*-1,2-phenylenebis(3,5-di-*tert*-butylsalicylideneiminato) dianion). Upon photolysis, these Ru(L)(X)(NO) compounds undergo NO dissociation to give the ruthenium(III) solvento products Ru(L)(X)(Sol). Quantum yields for 365 nm irradiation in acetonitrile solution fall in a fairly narrow range (0.055–0.13) but decreased at longer λ_{irr} . The quantum yield ($\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 365 \text{ nm}$) for NO release from the water soluble complex [Ru(salen)(H₂O)(NO)]Cl (**VII**) was 0.005 in water. Kinetics of thermal back-reactions to re-form the nitrosyl complexes demonstrated strong solvent dependence with second-order rate constants k_{NO} varying from $5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for the re-formation of **II** in acetonitrile to $5 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for re-formation of **III** in cyclohexane. Pressure and temperature effects on the back-reaction rates were also examined. These results are relevant to possible applications of photochemistry for nitric oxide delivery to biological targets, to the mechanisms by which NO reacts with metal centers to form metal–nitrosyl bonds, and to the role of photochemistry in activating similar compounds as catalysts for several organic transformations. Also described are the X-ray crystal structures of **I** and **V**.

Introduction

Over the past decade there has been considerable interest in the chemistry and biochemistry of nitric oxide (NO, nitrogen monoxide), owing to the discovery of diverse roles in mammalian biology,³ examples being as a bioregulatory molecule in the blood pressure control and as a toxic agent produced in immune response to pathogens.⁴ Numerous

disease states have been coupled to the under- or over-production of NO, and as a consequence, there has been considerable interest in biomedical strategies for the selective delivery and for selective trapping of NO.^{4,5} For example, such NO delivery has been claimed to have potential therapeutic value in treatments of such cardiovascular events as stroke and heart attack^{5a} as well as in treatment of cancer.^{5b} In this context, ongoing studies here and elsewhere have been concerned with the preparation and mechanistic evaluation of compounds having the potential for photochemically activated NO delivery to specific physiological targets.⁶ For example, our experiments have shown that NO release

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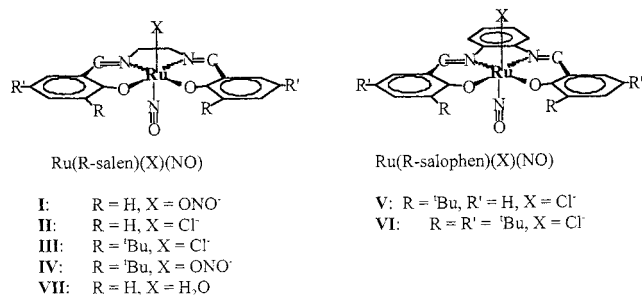
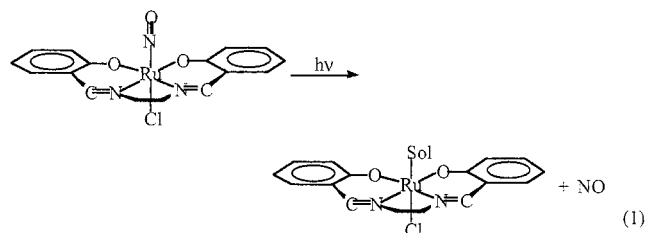


Figure 1. Compounds studied.

induced by photolysis of iron thiol nitrosyl clusters absorbed into V79 Chinese hamster cells enhances γ -radiation killing of such cells under hypoxic (oxygen deficient) conditions.^{6b}

Among compounds under investigation as NO donors are nitrosyl complexes of ruthenium porphyrins.⁷ These are thermally quite stable but are photochemically active toward NO release.⁸ The relative stability of ruthenium nitrosyls has also drawn attention to possible applications of other ruthenium systems, such as amine complexes as carriers for NO delivery to biological targets⁹ and polydentate carboxylate complexes as NO scavengers under conditions of physiological overproduction.¹⁰ In this context, the present studies explore a different synthetic platform to prepare photoactive ruthenium nitrosyls, namely, the salen-type complexes Ru(R-salen)(X)(NO) and the related salophen-type complexes Ru(R-salophen)(X)(NO) (Figure 1) (where R-salen is a derivative of the *N,N'*-ethylenebis(salicylideneiminato) dianion and R-salophen is a derivative of the *N,N'*-1,2-phenylenebis(salicylideneiminato) dianion). Described here are quantitative studies of photochemical NO labilization from several such complexes (e.g., eq 1).



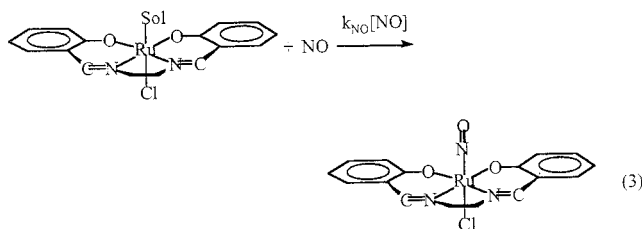
The principal targets for NO under bioregulatory conditions are metal centers,¹¹ NO activation of the ferro-heme enzyme soluble guanylyl cyclase (sGC) being the best

characterized example.¹² NO is also an inhibitor of metallo-enzymes such as cytochrome oxidase,¹³ nitrile hydratase,¹⁴ and catalase presumably by attack at the heme centers of these to form nitrosyl complexes. A huge range in reaction rates of heme proteins with NO have been found,¹⁶ so a mechanistic understanding of the formation and breaking of metal nitrosyl bonds is essential to understanding the in vivo chemistry of nitric oxide. A key question is the following: does the free radical nature of this ligand play a special role in the dynamics of NO substitutions into the metal coordination sphere? Although interest in this reaction has grown,¹⁷ there were few quantitative studies of metal nitrosyl formation mechanisms before our activation parameter studies of NO reactions with water soluble ferri- and ferro-heme porphyrins.¹⁸ An exception was an early investigation of the reaction with the ruthenium(III) amine complex Ru(NH₃)₆³⁺ (eq 2).¹⁹ The kinetics were interpreted in terms of an

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associative mechanism by which direct Ru–NO bond formation assisted release of the normally nonlabile NH₃. It would be of interest to establish whether other Ru(III) complexes react similarly with NO. In this context, photochemical NO labilization from compounds such as **I** prepares a series of Ru(III) solvento complexes Ru(L)(X)(Sol) (Sol = solvent, L = R-salen or R-salophen) for kinetics studies of this reaction. Described here are detailed kinetics studies of the back-reactions of Ru(L)(X)(Sol) with excess NO (e.g., eq 3) that provide further insight into the mechanism of this substitution reaction.



Last, it should further be noted that nitrosyl complexes of ruthenium salen derivatives have also been found to be precursors to oxene and carbene transfer catalysts for asymmetric epoxidations and cyclopropanations of alkenes and of Lewis acid catalysts for asymmetric hetero-Diels–Alder reactions.^{20,21} These systems are reportedly activated by light,²⁰ so quantitative evaluation of their photochemical properties has relevance beyond the focus on possible biomedical applications.

Experimental Section

Materials. All solvent distillations were under dinitrogen. Acetonitrile (AN) and cyclohexane were distilled from CaH₂, toluene from sodium metal, and tetrahydrofuran (THF) from sodium and benzophenone. Dichloromethane, ethanol, methanol, dimethylformamide (DMF), and diethyl ether were reagent grade and were used as purchased. The 3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 3-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde, 1,2-phenylenediamine, *N,N'*-ethylenebis(salicylideneimine), and tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate were bought from Aldrich, ethylenediamine was from Arcos, and Ru(NO)Cl₃·5H₂O was from Strem Chemicals. The latter was also prepared from RuCl₃·3H₂O (Johnson-Matthey) according to a published procedure.²² The Ru(salen)(PPh₃)₂ was prepared according to a literature procedure.²³ The 1,2-phenylenediamine was recrystallized from ethanol/cold pentane, while the [Bu₄N][PF₆] was

recrystallized from methanol and stored in a drybox until use. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Selecto, particle size 63–200). NO (Matheson, 99.0%) was passed through an Ascarite II column to remove higher nitrogen oxides.

Syntheses. Syntheses of nitrosyl compounds were performed under argon using standard Schlenk techniques.

Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (I, (*N,N'*-Ethylenebis(salicylideneimine))(nitrito)(nitrosyl)ruthenium). **I** was prepared by a modification of a published procedure.²³ A solution of Ru(salen)(PPh₃)₂ (0.50 g, 0.56 mmol) in dry deaerated THF was placed into a dropping funnel fitted onto a three-neck 500 mL round-bottom flask containing ~15 mL dry, deaerated THF and a magnetic stirring bar. This system was assembled in an inert-atmosphere box and then set up on a vacuum line manifold. Argon was first bubbled through the THF (10 min), and then NO was passed through it. The red [Ru(salen)(PPh₃)₂] solution was then added dropwise after which the NO bubbling was stopped, and the reaction mixture was stirred another 10 min. During the addition, the solution turned yellowish green, and some orange solid ([Ru(salen)(NO)]₂O) deposited on the bottom of the flask (see below). After 10 min the solution was flushed with argon to remove NO. The solution was filtered under argon to remove the orange precipitate, and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The yellowish residue obtained at this point was washed several times with ether to remove excess PPh₃ and then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and chromatographed on a silica gel column using a 1% solution of methanol in CH₂Cl₂ to elute the products. After solvent evaporation the resulting solid was pentane washed to give a brown powder. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed two compounds, so further purification was necessary. Recrystallization either by slow evaporation of a concentrated CH₃CN solution or by dissolving in minimal CH₂Cl₂ and adding pentane dropwise and then refrigerating overnight gave square brown crystals, but yields were not quantified. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ 8.31 ppm (s) (methine proton), 7.48–7.43 (t) (*J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.33–7.31 (d) (*J* = 8.0), 7.16–7.13 (d) (*J* = 8.6), 6.76–6.72 (t) (*J* = 7.4) (aromatic protons), 4.16–4.05 (complex multiplet for the methylene protons) (*J* = 2.0). (The integration is 1:1:1:1:1 for the aromatic protons to 1 for the methine protons to 2 for the methylene protons consistent with the molecular symmetry.) MS(FAB⁺): *m/z* 398 (M – ONO⁺), 414 (M – NO⁺). FTIR (CH₃CN): 1841 cm⁻¹ (ν_{NO}); 1633 cm⁻¹ (ν_{C=N}); 1603 cm⁻¹ (ν_{C=N}); 1532 cm⁻¹ (ν_{C=C}). UV–vis (CH₂Cl₂): λ_{max} 370 nm (ε 4.6 × 10³ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹). An X-ray structure was obtained (see below).

[Ru(salen)(NO)]₂O. The oxo-bridged dimer is a byproduct of the synthesis of **I**. The yield was increased as follows. A concentrated THF solution of [Ru(salen)(PPh₃)₂] (0.50 g in 20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under excess NO (500 Torr) after which the NO was removed and orange solid was collected by filtration. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 7.76 ppm (methine proton) (s), 7.40–7.36 (t) (*J* = 7.2 Hz), 7.05–7.03 (d) (*J* = 8.8), 6.91–6.89 (d) (*J* = 7.6), 6.602–6.583 (t) (*J* = 7.6) (aromatic protons) 4.42–4.40 and 3.93–3.91 (multiplets for methylene protons) (*J* = 7.8). FTIR (CH₂Cl₂): 1762 cm⁻¹ (ν_{NO}); 1644, 1602, 1532 cm⁻¹ (salen bands). MS(FAB⁺): *m/z* 813 (M⁺).

Ru(salen)(Cl)(NO) (II). This was prepared as described previously²¹ and also by reaction of the dimer with HCl. When [Ru(salen)(NO)]₂O (106 mg) was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (16 mL) and 6 M aqueous HCl (3 drops) was added, a solid identified as [Ru(salen)(H₂O)(NO)]Cl (see below) precipitated from the solution. The precipitate was separated by filtration, and the filtrate solution containing **II** was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.27 ppm (s) (methine protons), 7.45–7.42 (t) (*J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.33–7.30 (d) (*J* = 8.8), 7.27–7.25 (d) (*J* = 8.8),

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6.72–6.68 (t) ($J = 7.6$) (aromatic protons), 4.00 and 4.40 (dd) (methylene protons). FTIR (CH_2Cl_2): 1844 cm^{-1} (ν_{NO}); 1638 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$); 1533 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=C}}$). UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2): 376 nm ($\epsilon = 5.2 \times 10^3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$).

$\text{Bu}_4\text{salenH}_2$ (N,N' -(ethylene)bis(3,5-*tert*-butylsalicylideneimine)) was prepared by reaction of 3,5-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.00 g, 5.39 mmol) with ethylenediamine (0.150 g, 2.69 mmol). The salicylaldehyde was first dissolved in 40 mL of ethanol, and the solution was heated. To the hot stirring solution, ethylenediamine was added dropwise. The solution was allowed to reflux for 1 h and then was allowed to cool, and the solids precipitated. These were collected by filtration and found to be pure according to the ^1H NMR spectrum. A second crop could be obtained from the liquid by reducing the volume until solids appeared and letting the ethanol slowly evaporate. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.43 ppm (s) (methine protons), 7.41 (s), 7.11 (s) (aromatic protons), 3.95 (s) (methylene protons), 1.48 (s), 1.33 (s) (^tBu protons). UV-vis (acetonitrile): 330 nm ($\epsilon = 8.4 \times 10^3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$), 422 ($\epsilon = 1.7 \times 10^2$).

$\text{Ru}(\text{Bu}_4\text{salen})(\text{Cl})(\text{NO})$ (III). The procedure was similar to that for preparation of **II**. $\text{RuCl}_3(\text{NO})\cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.50 g; 1.97 mmol), $^t\text{Bu}_4\text{salen}$ (0.97 g, 1.97 mmol), and a stirring bar were placed in a 100 mL three-neck round-bottom flask with a reflux condenser. The flask was evacuated then flushed with argon 3 times. The solids were left under bubbling argon, and dry, deaerated toluene (40 mL) was added via cannula. At this point NEt_3 (0.80 mL; 5.91 mmol) was added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 22 h. The solution was allowed to cool and then was filtered, and the filtrate was collected. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. Purification by silica gel chromatography using CH_2Cl_2 as the eluent first gave a yellow band collected that was identified as unreacted ligand. The second band was brown and was the compound of interest. The solvent was removed by rotary give a red-brown powder in 88% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.28 (s) (methine proton), 7.57 (d), 7.01 (d) (aromatic protons), 3.89 and 4.38 (dd) (methylene protons), 1.50 (s), 1.31 (s) (*tert*-butyl protons). FTIR (CHCl_3): 1831 cm^{-1} (ν_{NO}); 1625 and 1602 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$); 1525 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=C}}$). UV-vis (CH_3CN): λ_{max} 370 nm ($\epsilon = 6.9 \times 10^3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$). MS(FAB $^+$): m/z 656 (M^+). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3\text{N}_3\text{-ClRu}$: C, 58.5; H, 7.0; N, 6.4. Found: C, 57.9, H, 6.8, N, 7.5.

$\text{Ru}(\text{Bu}_4\text{salen})(\text{ONO})(\text{NO})$ (IV). $\text{Ru}(\text{Bu}_4\text{salen})(\text{NO})(\text{Cl})$ (0.194 g, 0.295 mmol) and AgNO_2 (0.091 g, 0.295 mmol) were placed in a one-neck Schlenk flask with a magnetic stir bar, and the flask was evacuated and filled with argon thrice. The solids were left under flowing argon, and a dry, deaerated 1:1 mixture of CH_3CN and toluene was added via cannula. The reaction vessel was heated at $40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ for 45 min and then allowed to cool, and the solution was filtered to remove the precipitated AgCl . The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation, and the solid product was redissolved in dichloromethane and chromatographed on silica gel. The first band was yellow and identified as unreacted ligand; the second band was brown and the compound of interest. After collection of the product band, the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation, and a powder was obtained (71% yield). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.28 ppm (s) (methine proton), 7.54 (d), 7.02 (d) (aromatic protons), 4.14–4.01 (complex multiplet) (methylene protons), 1.50 (s), 1.31 (s) (^tBu protons). FTIR (CH_2Cl_2): 1850 cm^{-1} (ν_{NO}); 1636 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$); 1535 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=C}}$). UV-vis (CH_3CN): λ_{max} 390 nm ($\epsilon = 5.8 \times 10^3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$).

$\text{Bu}_2\text{salophenH}_2$ (N,N' -*o*-Phenylenebis(3-*tert*-butylsalicylideneimine)). A mixture of 3-*tert*-butylsalicylaldehyde (0.78 g, 4.4 mmol), *o*-phenylenediamine (0.22 g, 2.0 mmol), and ethanol (3 mL) was refluxed for 3 h. The suspension was allowed to cool and sit

at room temperature for another 48 h. Yellow orange needles were collected by filtration and dried under reduced pressure for 12 h. Yield: 88%. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 13.7 ppm (s), (phenol proton), 8.66 (s) (methine proton), 7.39 (dd), ($^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8\text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.4\text{ Hz}$), 7.35–7.32 (m), 7.27–7.24 (m), 7.24 (dd), 6.86 (t) ($^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8\text{ Hz}$) (aromatic protons), 1.58 (s) (^tBu protons). FTIR (CDCl_3): 1612 (m) , $\nu_{\text{C=N}}$, 1576 (w) , 1522 (s) , 1476 (m) , 1424 (s) cm^{-1} . MS(FAB $^+$): m/z 429 (M^+), 413 ($\text{M} - \text{CH}_3^+$), 373 ($\text{M} - ^t\text{Bu}^+$), 267 ($\text{M} - \text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}^+$). UV-vis (acetonitrile): 276 nm ($\epsilon = 2.47 \times 10^4\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$), 334 ($\epsilon = 1.85 \times 10^4$).

$\text{Ru}(\text{Bu}_2\text{salophen})(\text{Cl})(\text{NO})$ (V). To a rapidly stirred suspension of NaH (73 mg, 3.06 mmol) in 50 mL of THF was slowly added $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{salophen}$ (0.655 g, 1.53 mmol), and the mixture was stirred until it became a clear solution and the evolution of hydrogen stopped. The solution was refluxed for 0.5 h before $\text{Ru}(\text{NO})\text{Cl}_3\cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.65 g, 2.0 mmol, 1.3 equiv) dissolved in 10 mL of THF was added dropwise over a period of 1 h. The solution was protected from light and refluxed 30 h. The solvent was then removed by distillation under argon. The crude product was chromatographed on a silica gel column using CH_2Cl_2 as eluent. The desired product eluted first ($R_f = 0.6$). (The other products, red in color, adhered to the column but could be removed with methanol (one fraction) and methanol/6 M HCl 85/15 (second fraction)). The dark red solution of the product band was reduced in volume under reduced pressure, and brown crystals formed. The ^1H NMR spectrum showed that CH_2Cl_2 remained trapped within the crystals. Under inert atmosphere or reduced pressure, the crystals crumbled into orange-red powder as the solvent was lost. Rinsing the material with pentane removed CH_2Cl_2 entirely, and a red brown powder was obtained. Yield: 290 mg (32%). FTIR (CDCl_3): 1842 cm^{-1} (ν_{NO}); 1609 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$); 1599 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=C}}$). FTIR (CH_3CN): 1843 cm^{-1} (ν_{NO} , $\epsilon = 1.1 \times 10^3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$); 1606 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$, $\epsilon = 1.3 \times 10^3\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ s}^{-1}$). ^1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 8.95 ppm (s) (methine protons), 7.98–7.96 (m), 7.53 (dd) ($^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.0\text{ Hz}$), 7.46–7.44 (m) 7.36 (dd) ($^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.1\text{ Hz}$), 6.71 (t) ($^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.7\text{ Hz}$) (aromatic protons), 1.60 (s) (^tBu protons). ^{13}C NMR (CD_2Cl_2 , 125.703 MHz, 300 K): δ 170.9 (C–ORu), 158.7 (N=CH), 143.4 (C), 143.3 (C), 136.1 (CH), 135.0 (CH), 128.9 (CH), 120.26 (CH), 116.6 (CH), 116.6 (CH), 36.5 (C(CH $_3$) $_3$), 29.9 (CH $_3$). ^1H – ^{13}C -HETCOR (CD_2Cl_2 , 499.869 MHz/125.703 MHz, 300 K): $\delta(^1\text{H})/\delta(^{13}\text{C}) = 8.95/158.7$ (N=CH), $7.97/116.6$ (Ar'-CH), $7.53/135.0$ (Ar-CH), $7.45/128.9$ (Ar'-CH), $7.36/136.1$ (Ar-CH), $6.71/116.6$ (5-CH). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{ClRu}$: C, 55.3; H, 5.0; N, 7.2; Cl, 5.69. Found: C, 56.7; H, 5.1; N, 7.1; Cl, 6.0. MS(FAB): m/z 593 (M^+), 558 ($\text{M} - \text{Cl}^+$), 528 ($\text{M} - \text{Cl} - \text{NO}^+$). UV-vis (CH_3CN): 458 nm ($\epsilon = 1.03 \times 10^4\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$). UV-vis (THF): 466 nm ($\epsilon = 1.33 \times 10^{-4}\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$). UV-vis (CH_3OH): 458 nm ($\epsilon = 1.12 \times 10^4\text{ cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$).

$\text{Bu}_2\text{salophenH}_2$ (N,N' -*o*-phenylenebis(3,5-di-*tert*-butylsalicylideneimine)) was prepared by a literature procedure.²⁴ A 2:1 (stoichiometric) solution of the aldehyde and *o*-phenylenediamine in ethanol was refluxed for several hours. The mixture was allowed to cool and to sit at room temperature for several days before filtering to collect the solid product. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 13.74 (s) (phenol proton), 8.67 (s) (methine protons), 7.39 (dd) ($^3J = 7.8\text{ Hz}$), 7.36–7.32 (m), 7.25 (dd) ($^3J = 7.8\text{ Hz}$), 7.27–7.23 (m), 6.86 (t) ($^3J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$) (aromatic protons), 1.44 (s) (^tBu protons). FTIR (CDCl_3): 1615 cm^{-1} ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$). MS(FAB $^+$): m/z 541 (M^+), 525 ($\text{M} - \text{CH}_3^+$), 485 ($\text{M} - \text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3^+$). UV-vis (THF): 340 nm ($\epsilon = 1.92 \times 10^4\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$). UV-vis (CH_3CN): 280 ($\epsilon = 2.7 \times 10^4\text{ M}^{-1}\text{ cm}^{-1}$), 336 nm ($\epsilon = 1.91 \times 10^4$).

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Ru(Bu₄salophen)(Cl)(NO) (VI). In an inert-atmosphere box, Bu₄salophen (0.43 g, 0.8 mmol) was added to a rapidly stirred NaH suspension (38 mg, 1.6 mmol) in 10 mL of DMF, and the mixture was stirred until H₂ evolution ceased and a clear red solution formed (1 h). This was heated to 105 °C under argon, and RuCl₃·(NO)·5H₂O (0.260 g, 0.8 mmol) dissolved in 10 mL of DMF was added dropwise over a period of 2 h. The solution was protected from light and kept at 105 °C for 22 h after which the DMF was partly removed under reduced pressure. A mixture of 90 mL of water and 80 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was then added to this residue. The organic phase was separated, washed 3 times with 80 mL of water, and then dried by stirring over 8 g of MgSO₄ for 4 min. The solution was filtrated, and the volume of the filtrate was reduced under vacuum. Afterward, the solution was dried again by stirring over 8 g of MgSO₄ for 10 min. Ether diffusion into this solution over 14 days led to a mixture of dark red crystals and black powder. The crude product was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and added to a dry packed silica column. After the CH₂Cl₂ evaporated, the column was rinsed with pentane and 85:15 pentane/ether (v/v) to remove the ligand. The eluent was then changed to CH₂Cl₂ and pure product eluted from the column. (In addition, an uncharacterized green band eluted with CH₂Cl₂ while a red band characterized to be the μ -oxo dimer eluted with methanol. Last, a reddish orange band eluted with a methanol/6 M HCl (85:15 v/v) mixture.) ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.91 (s) (methine protons), 7.97–7.92 (m), 7.6 (d) (⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz), 7.41–7.36 (m), 7.19 (d) (⁴J_{HH} = 2.4 Hz) (aromatic protons), 1.60 (s) and 1.36 (s) (tBu protons). FTIR (CDCl₃): 1843 cm⁻¹ (ν_{NO} , ϵ = 1.1 × 10⁴ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹); 1606 cm⁻¹ ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$, ϵ = 1.3 × 10⁴ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹). MS(FAB⁺): *m/z* 705 (M⁺), 688, 675 (M – NO⁺), 670 (M – Cl⁺). UV–vis (CH₃CN): 468 nm (1.11 × 10⁴ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹). A crystal structure was determined for VI (see below).

[Ru(salen)(H₂O)(NO)]Cl (VII). This was the second product in the synthesis of II from the dimer. To increase the yield of VII over that of II, the amount of water can be increased. ¹H NMR (C₃D₆O): δ 8.14 (s) (methine protons), 7.40 (t), 7.07 (d), 7.04 (d), 6.64 (t) (aromatic protons), 4.54 and 4.15 (complex multiplet) (methylene protons). FTIR (acetone): 1856 cm⁻¹ (ν_{NO}); 1644 and 1603 cm⁻¹ ($\nu_{\text{C=N}}$). UV–vis (H₂O): 354 nm (3.8 × 10³ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹).

Instrumentation and Techniques. Optical spectra were recorded on a HP-8452A diode array spectrophotometer and FTIR spectra on a Bio-Rad FTS-60 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were obtained on a Varian 400 or 500 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. FAB mass spectra were obtained on VG 70E double focusing mass spectrometer.

Laser Flash Photolysis Instrumentation. Time-resolved optical (TRO) spectra were recorded on flash photolysis systems described previously.²⁵ One employed a RCA 8852 photomultiplier tube (PMT) detector to record kinetic traces by single-wavelength detection. The other used a Princeton Instruments model 1024-EUV CCD camera to record transient spectra. The pump source was the third harmonic (355 nm) output of a Continuum NY-61 Nd:YAG pulsed laser. The photolysis cell was mounted in a regulated constant temperature cell holder. Hydrostatic pressure studies were carried out using a high-pressure system with a “pillbox” cell as described elsewhere.²⁶

Solution Preparations. Solutions for kinetics and photolysis studies were prepared from dried and distilled solvents in an argon-filled VAC inert-atmosphere box. Optical densities were ~0.6 at

the monitoring wavelength. Flash photolysis solutions were degassed by freeze–pump–thaw cycles in a cell with a four-sided quartz cuvette and adapted for connection to a gas/vacuum manifold. After degassing, samples were equilibrated with a barometric measured PNO (corrected for solvent vapor pressure). Alternatively a known quantity of NO was frozen into a cell. The NO concentrations were calculated from the *P*_{NO} and the solubility of NO in the appropriate solvent.²⁷ For laser flash experiments, absorption spectra of photolysis solutions were recorded before and after to evaluate any sample decomposition.

Back-Reaction Kinetics. Slower reaction rates were determined using a HP-8452A diode array spectrophotometer and HP kinetic software. The magnetically stirred samples were first subjected to continuous photolysis from a 200 W high-pressure Hg lamp using band-pass filters to select the irradiation wavelength (λ_{irr}). Once the photochemical reaction was near completion, spectral changes due to the back-reaction were followed at a regulated constant temperature.

Quantum Yield Measurements. Chemical actinometry was performed with ferric oxalate solutions.²⁸ The photolysis source was the output from a 200 W high-pressure mercury lamp passed through an IR filter and collimated with lenses. An appropriate interference filter was used to select the desired λ_{irr} . A shutter shielded the sample from the arc lamp. A sample of known volume in a quartz 1 cm square cuvette with a magnetic stirring bar was irradiated for defined time periods. The UV–vis spectrum of the sample was recorded after each irradiation period, and this process was repeated until approximately 30% of the reaction was completed.

Data Analysis. Intensity vs time traces obtained in the laser flash photolysis experiments were converted to Δ Abs vs time plots by use of either Scopemate (a custom program) or Igor (Wavemetrics) software. Curve fitting for exponential Δ Abs vs time and Abs vs time traces was accomplished using Igor software. Second-order rate constants *k*_{NO} were determined by plotting *k*_{obs} vs [NO] and fitting the result to a linear equation.

Quantum yields were determined by fitting a plot of incremented quantum yields (first 10–30% of the reaction) for each absorbance change vs percent reaction, with a linear equation. The *y* intercept is the quantum yield. All reported numbers are the average of 3 independent experiments, and the error is the standard deviation.

Crystal Structures. Room-temperature single-crystal studies were carried out on a Siemens Smart CCD diffractometer equipped with normal-focus 2.4 kW sealed-tube X-ray source (Mo K α radiation) operating at 50 kV and 40 mA with a two-dimensional CCD detector. Computations were performed on a Silicon Graphics Indy 5000. The crystals were solved by direct methods followed by difference Fourier methods.

Results and Discussion

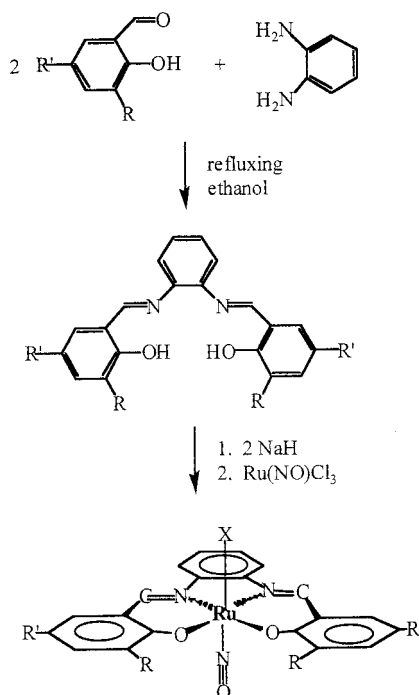
Syntheses. The salophen complexes V and VI were prepared by the steps described by Scheme 1. The salen complexes II–IV could be prepared by an analogous procedure using ethylenediamine rather than the phenylenediamine in the first step. The synthesis of Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (I) was also accomplished from the reaction of excess NO with Ru(salen)(PPh₃)₂ as described earlier; however, this procedure led to copious quantities of the insoluble dimer

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Scheme 1. Synthesis of Ru(R-Salophen)(X)(NO)**Table 1.** Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (**I**)

empirical formula	C ₁₆ H ₁₄ N ₄ O ₅ Ru
fw	443.38
temp	293(2) K
wavelength	0.710 73 Å
cryst system	monoclinic
space group	P2 ₁ /c
unit cell dims	<i>a</i> = 21.4680(5) Å, α = 90°, <i>b</i> = 13.12060(10) Å, β = 92.1510(10)°, <i>c</i> = 12.0083(3) Å, γ = 90°
<i>V</i> , <i>Z</i>	3380.03(12) Å ³ , 8
density (calcd)	1.743 Mg/m ³
abs coeff	0.964 mm ⁻¹
<i>F</i> (000)	1776
cryst size	0.13 × 0.11 × 0.027 mm
θ range for data collcn	1.82–24.00°
limiting indices	28 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 28, 14 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 17, 13 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 15
reflens collcd	14 816
indepdt reflens	5231 [R(int) = 0.1002]
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²
data/restraints/params	5231/0/469
goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	0.992
final R indices [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	R1 = 0.0599, wR2 = 0.0739
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1239, wR2 = 0.0874
largest diff peak and hole	0.565 and 0.539 e Å ⁻³

[Ru(salen)(NO)]₂O unless the ruthenium precursor was added to the reaction very slowly. The dimer did prove to be a suitable precursor to the water soluble salt [Ru(salen)(H₂O)(NO)]Cl, which was formed upon hydrolysis of the dimer in dilute aqueous HCl.

Crystal Structures. Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (I**).** Wilkinson et al. reported in 1977 the synthesis of **I** and some aspects of the structure.²³ Reported here are the full details of a newly determined crystal structure. A crystal grown by slow evaporation from acetonitrile solution was mounted on a thin glass fiber with epoxy resin. Unit cell dimensions were determined by a least-squares fit of reflections with $I > 10\sigma(I)$ and $10^\circ < 2\theta < 56^\circ$. The number of reflections used in the cell refinement was 14 816. The empirical absorption

Table 2. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Bond Angles (deg) for Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (**I**)

Ru(1)–N(3)	1.746(6)	Ru(2)–N(7)	1.743(6)
Ru(1)–N(1)	1.998(6)	Ru(2)–N(6)	2.014(5)
Ru(1)–N(2)	2.021(5)	Ru(2)–N(5)	2.016(5)
Ru(1)–O(12)	2.035(5)	Ru(2)–O(24)	2.025(6)
Ru(1)–O(14)	2.039(5)	Ru(2)–O(21)	2.030(4)
Ru(1)–O(11)	2.040(4)	Ru(2)–O(22)	2.041(4)
O(13)–N(3)	1.138(6)	O(23)–N(7)	1.138(6)
O(14)–N(4)	1.205(8)	O(24)–N(8)	1.099(8)
O(15)–N(4)	1.172(8)	O(25)–N(8)	1.208(9)
N(1)–Ru(1)–N(2)	82.1(2)	N(6)–Ru(2)–N(5)	82.6(2)
N(2)–Ru(1)–O(12)	94.0(2)	N(5)–Ru(2)–O(21)	94.0(2)
N(3)–Ru(1)–O(14)	175.0(2)	N(7)–Ru(2)–O(24)	176.6(2)
N(1)–Ru(1)–O(11)	94.4(2)	N(6)–Ru(2)–O(22)	93.6(2)
O(12)–Ru(1)–O(11)	88.1(2)	O(21)–Ru(2)–O(22)	88.7(2)
N(4)–O(14)–Ru(1)	120.5(5)	N(8)–O(24)–Ru(2)	127.5(7)
O(13)–N(3)–Ru(1)	176.4(6)	O(23)–N(7)–Ru(2)	175.9(6)
O(15)–N(4)–O(14)	118.6(9)	O(24)–N(8)–O(25)	122.9(10)

Table 3. Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for Ru(Bu₂Salophen)(Cl)(NO) (**V**)

empirical formula	C ₂₈ H ₃₀ ClN ₃ O ₃ Ru
fw	593.07
temp	293(2) K
wavelength	0.710 73 Å
cryst system	triclinic
space group	P $\bar{1}$
unit cell dims	<i>a</i> = 6.7817(4) Å, α = 81.2400(10)°, <i>b</i> = 14.1412(7) Å, β = 79.5850(10)°, <i>c</i> = 14.6124(8) Å, γ = 89.7130(10)°
<i>V</i> , <i>Z</i>	1361.82(13) Å ³ , 2
density (calcd)	1.446 Mg/m ³
abs coeff	0.707 mm ⁻¹
<i>F</i> (000)	608
cryst size	0.52 × 0.26 × 0.13 mm
θ range for data collcn	1.88–28.00°
limiting indices	8 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 8, 18 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 18, 18 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 18
reflens collcd	14 136
indepdt reflens	6081 [R(int) = 0.0323]
refinement method	full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> ²
data/restraints/params	6081/0/331
goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> ²	0.862
final R indices [<i>I</i> > 2σ(<i>I</i>)]	R1 = 0.0273, wR2 = 0.0572
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0363, wR2 = 0.0582
largest diff peak and hole	0.371 and 0.554 e Å ⁻³

correction was based on the symmetry equivalent reflections, and other possible effects and other possible effects such as crystal decay and absorption by the glass fiber were simultaneously corrected. The structure was determined with an *R_f* factor of 0.0599. Detailed crystal data for **I** are listed in Table 1.

The asymmetric unit of **I** consists of two independent molecules. The NO is bound to the metal in a nearly linear fashion for both molecules with bond angles of 176.4° for O–N–Ru(1) and 175.9° for O–N–Ru(2). The nitrite ONO angle is 118.6° in structure 1 and 122.9° in structure 2. Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 2, and the complete data are given in the Supporting Information.

Ru(Bu₂salophen)(Cl)(NO) (V**).** A suitable crystal of **V** grown by slow evaporation of a toluene solution was mounted on a thin glass fiber with epoxy resin. Unit cell dimensions were determined by a least-squares fit of reflections with $I > 10\sigma(I)$ and $4^\circ < 2\theta < 56^\circ$. The number of reflections used in the cell refinement was 14 316. The empirical absorption correction was based on the symmetry equivalent reflections; other possible effects such as crystal decay and absorption by the glass fiber were simultaneously

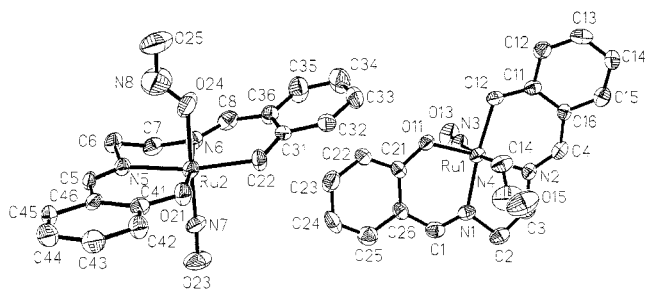


Figure 2. Molecular structures and atom labels for Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) as determined by X-ray crystallography.

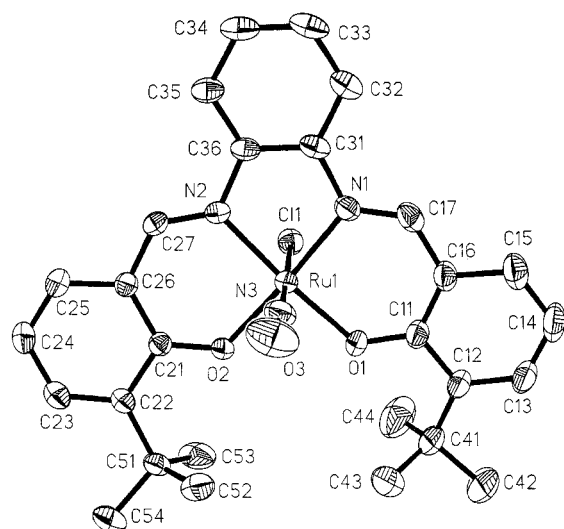


Figure 3. Side-on view of the molecular structure of Ru(Bu₂salophen)(Cl)(NO).

Table 4. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for Ru(Bu₂Salophen)(Cl)(NO) (V)

Ru(1)–N(3)	1.723(2)	Ru(1)–N(1)	2.009(2)
Ru(1)–N(2)	2.013(2)	Ru(1)–O(1)	2.0197(14)
Ru(1)–O(2)	2.0254(13)	Ru(1)–Cl(1)	2.3669(6)
N(3)–O(3)	1.135(2)		
N(1)–Ru(1)–N(2)	82.62(7)	N(1)–Ru(1)–O(1)	94.16(7)
N(2)–Ru(1)–O(2)	94.17(6)	O(1)–Ru(1)–O(2)	88.50(6)
N(2)–Ru(1)–O(1)	172.32(7)	N(1)–Ru(1)–O(2)	174.69(7)
N(3)–Ru(1)–Cl(1)	178.20(7)	O(3)–N(3)–Ru(1)	176.5(2)

corrected. The X-ray crystal structure was determined with an R_f factor of 0.0273. Detailed crystal data are listed in Table 3.

The asymmetric unit of **V** consists of only one molecule, the structure of which is shown in Figure 3. The Ru–NO bond is approximately linear with a bond angle of 176.5° and a Ru–N bond length of 1.723 Å. Selected bond lengths and angles are shown in Table 4, and complete data are given in the Supporting Information.

The nearly linear Ru–N–O bond angles found for **I** (Figure 2, 176.4 and 175.9°) and for **V** (Figure 3, 176.5°) are in accord with expectations for the {RuNO}⁶ electronic configuration.²⁹ Formally, these species can be represented as Ru^{II}(NO⁺) complexes, consistent with their diamagnetic natures (sharp ¹H NMR spectra were obtained) and their relatively high frequency ν_{NO} bands, 1841 cm⁻¹ for **I** and 1843 cm⁻¹ for **V** in acetonitrile. The Ru–N–O angles found

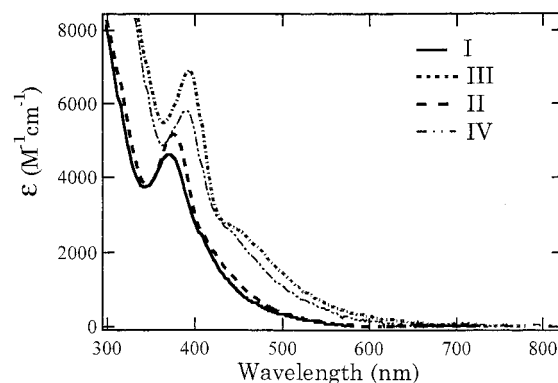


Figure 4. Electronic spectra of compounds **I–IV** in acetonitrile solution.

for the analogous porphyrin complexes Ru(TPP)(ONO)(NO) and Ru(OEP)(ONO)(NO) (TPP = tetraphenylporphyrinato, OEP = octaethylporphyrinato) were 180.0 and 174.0°, and the ν_{NO} bands in CH₂Cl₂ occur at 1860 and 1851 cm⁻¹, respectively.^{7a} Notably, for all of these complexes the NO₂⁻ anion is oxygen coordinated; i.e., these are “nitrito” rather than “nitro” complexes.

A comparison of molecular packing modes in **I** and **V** (Supporting Information Figures S-1 and S-2) reveals an interesting steric effect of the *tert*-butyl on the intermolecular interactions and on molecular packing modes. In **I** the two molecules in the asymmetric unit are oriented with a 85.7° angle between two molecular planes defined by organic ligands. The intermolecular packing force appears to be hydrogen bonding between the phenoxy oxygen of one molecule and C–H groups of adjacent molecules. These C–H...O interactions are evidenced by short O...H distances of 2.37 and 2.53 Å (on the basis of calculated hydrogen positions). In comparison, the shortest O...H distances involving the NO and ONO groups are >2.7 Å. For **V** the *tert*-butyl groups of shield the phenoxy oxygens from such interactions. The plane defined by the salophen ligand is tilted about 32° from the *bc* plane, and the molecules are stacked in a coplanar arrangement along the unit cell *a* axis with an intermolecular distance equal to the *a* axial length.

Optical and IR Spectra. The electronic spectra of Ru(R-salen)(X)(NO) compounds **I–IV** in acetonitrile solutions are displayed in Figure 4. For each there are strong ligand localized π – π^* UV absorptions (not shown) seen also for the free ligands (Supporting Information Table S-1). In the near-UV, the salen complexes **I** and **II** display a strong band with λ_{max} at 370 and 376 nm, respectively, while the Bu₄salen complexes **III** and **IV** display similar bands at 390 and 394 nm. This band is moderately solvent sensitive. For the free ligands a weaker band assigned to an n– π^* transition (where “n” is the nonbonding orbital of the nitrogen lone pair electrons) occurs in this region.³⁰ However, salen coordination involves the σ -donation of nitrogen lone pair, so this orbital would be substantially stabilized. Accordingly, the n– π^* band is found at 406 nm for free salenH₂, while the near-UV λ_{max} are found at 370 and 376 nm for **I** and **II**, respectively, in acetonitrile. Although the blue-shift seen

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(30) Khan, M. M. T.; Shaikh, Z. A.; Kureshy, R. I.; Boricha, A. B. *Polyhedron* **1992**, *11*, 91–100.

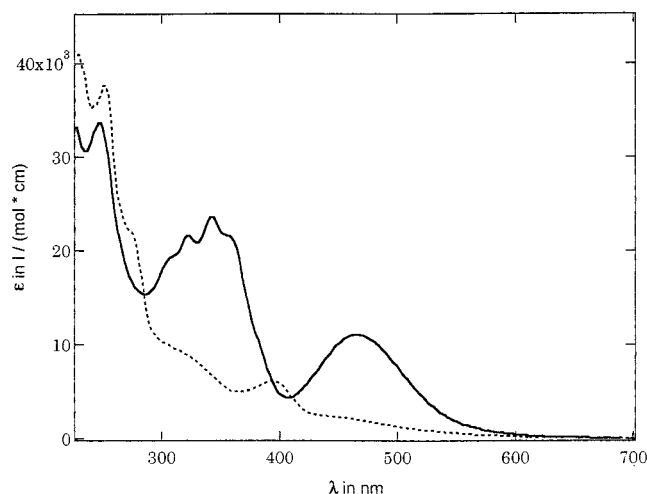


Figure 5. Quantitative comparison of the electronic spectra of Ru-(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(NO) (**III**) and Ru-(Bu₄salophen)(Cl)(NO) (**VI**) in acetonitrile.

would be in accord with a σ - π^* assignment, a larger shift might be anticipated, and the high extinction coefficients ($\sim(5-11) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$) suggest charge-transfer character. Consistent with a metal-to-ligand charge transfer (MLCT) assignment is the observation that **V** and **VI** with the more delocalized salophen ligands display strong bands with λ_{max} at 458 and 468 nm in acetonitrile (e.g., Figure 5).^{31,32} However, the salen complexes **I**–**IV** themselves display significant absorption at these longer wavelengths with intensities sufficient to suggest charge-transfer character. Even the simple cationic ruthenium amine complex Ru(NH₃)₅(NO)³⁺ displays a broad, low-energy band ($\lambda_{\text{max}} \sim 460 \text{ nm}$) which has been assigned as a $d_{\pi}(\text{Ru}) \rightarrow \pi^*(\text{NO})$, but this is by comparison very weak ($\epsilon < 10^2 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$). Since the ligands used to prepare **I**–**VI** do not show visible absorptions, the tailing of the spectra of **I**–**IV** into the visible may be best explained terms of a charge-transfer transition (MLCT being the most likely) although this may also have $d_{\pi}(\text{Ru}) \rightarrow \pi^*(\text{NO})$ or ligand (phen-oxo) $\rightarrow \pi^*(\text{NO})$ character as well.³²

In the FTIR spectra, the ν_{NO} bands for complexes **I**–**VII** all fall in the 1832–1856 cm^{-1} range. The only exception is the [Ru(salen)(NO)]₂O dimer at 1762 cm^{-1} .

Photochemistry of the Nitrosyl Complexes. When solutions of the ruthenium salen nitrosyl complexes **I**–**IV** and the salophen analogues **V** and **VI** were subjected to continuous photolysis, the resulting optical spectral changes were consistent with substitution of NO by a solvent molecule (eq 4). For example, Figure 6 illustrates the spectral changes seen when an acetonitrile solution of **I** ($\sim 0.011 \text{ mM}$) was irradiated at $\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 365 \text{ nm}$. This displays a clean transforma-

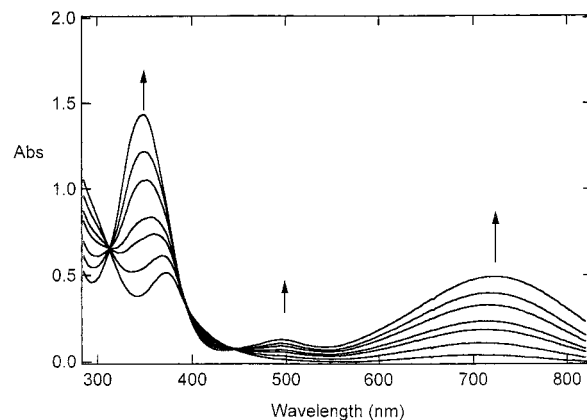
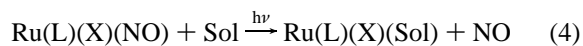


Figure 6. Spectral changes observed for Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (**I**) during 365 nm continuous photolysis in acetonitrile solution at room temperature. Isosbestic behavior is observed at 313, 444, and $\sim 394 \text{ nm}$.

tion, characterized by isosbestic points at 313, 392, and 448 nm, to give a photoproduct with increased absorbance at 348 nm and new bands appearing at 494 and 724 nm. Exhaustive photolysis leads to a final stable spectrum. On the basis of the assumption that a single product was formed (see below), the extinction coefficients of the respective bands were calculated as 1.5×10^4 , 1.3×10^3 , and $5.0 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Longer wavelength bands similar to that at 724 nm have been reported previously for Ru(III) salen complexes and were assigned as ligand (phen-oxo) to metal (Ru(III)) charge-transfer (LMCT) bands.³³ The LMCT band proved to be moderately solvent dependent.



When analogous 365 nm photolysis of an acetonitrile solution of **I** in a 0.2 mm path length CaF₂ cell was monitored by FTIR spectroscopy, the ν_{NO} IR band at 1850 cm^{-1} disappeared, and no new band appeared in this region. The imine (C=N) band at 1636 cm^{-1} shifted to 1610 cm^{-1} . The UV–vis spectral changes of this solution recorded in the CaF₂ cell paralleled those described above, and plots of optical spectra band intensity changes versus changes in the IR band intensities were linear implying a one-to-one correspondence. When the photolysis was carried out under NO ($P_{\text{NO}} = 1 \text{ atm}$), the same photoproducts were observed; however, over several hours the starting spectrum was regenerated. Thus, photolysis of **I** in acetonitrile apparently leads solely to reversible NO photolabilization as described in eq 1.

Continuous photolysis experiments carried out for compounds **II**–**VI** led to analogous spectra changes in various solvents. (For example, Supporting Information Figures S-3 and S-4 display the spectral changes resulting from photolysis of the salophen complex **V**.) Spectra of the photoproducts from **I**–**IV** are shown in Figure 7. In each case, a band in the 700–800 nm range characteristic of a Ru(III) salen complex was observed in accord with NO dissociation from the diamagnetic Ru(L)(X)(NO) starting material. Further

(31) On the other hand, the MLCT assignment would appear inconsistent with the shifts seen upon ^tBu substitution of these ligands, since ^tBu is more electron donating than H. Another possibility that has been discussed in other complexes are ligand (L) to ligand (NO) charge transfers (LLCT).^{32c}

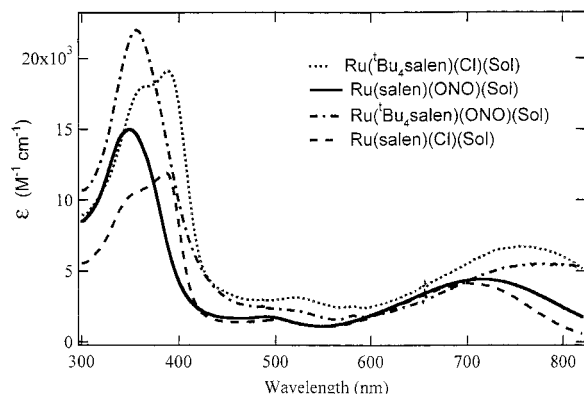
(32) (a) Schreiner, A. F.; Lin, S. W.; Hauser, P. J. Hopcus, E. A. Hamm, D. J.; Gunter, J. D. *Inorg. Chem.* **1972**, *11*, 880–888. (b) Boggs, S. E. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, 1996. (c) Gorelsky, S. I.; DaSilva, S. C.; Lever, A. B. P., Franco, D. W. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **2000**, *300*, 698–708. (d) Gorelsky, S. I.; Lever, A. B. P. *Int. J. Quantum Chem.* **2000**, *80*, 636–645

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Table 5. Quantum Yields for NO Labilization Φ_{NO}^a from Ru(L)(X)(NO) in 298 K Acetonitrile Solution Measured for Continuous Photolysis at Different Irradiation Wavelengths

Ru(L)(X)(NO)	$\Phi_{\text{NO}} (\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 365 \text{ nm})$ (mol/einstein)	$\Phi_{\text{NO}} (\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 436 \text{ nm})$ (mol/einstein)	$\Phi_{\text{NO}} (\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 546 \text{ nm})$ (mol/einstein)
Ru(salen)(ONO)(NO) (I)	0.067 \pm 0.002	0.058 \pm 0.002	
Ru(salen)(Cl)(NO) (II)	0.13 \pm 0.01	0.09 \pm 0.01	0.07 \pm 0.02
Ru(^t Bu ₄ salen)(Cl)(NO) (III)	0.030 \pm 0.002	0.040 \pm 0.002	0.020 \pm 0.001
Ru(^t Bu ₂ salophen)(Cl)(NO) (V)	0.077 \pm 0.008 ^b	0.033 \pm 0.002	0.014 \pm 0.001
Ru(^t Bu ₄ salophen)(Cl)(NO) (VI)	0.055 \pm 0.003	0.027 \pm 0.002	0.011 \pm 0.002
[Ru(salen)(H ₂ O)(NO)]Cl (VII)	0.005 \pm 0.001 ^c		

^a All quantum yield values were determined from averaged of 3 or more independent measurements. ^b For 365 nm irradiation of **V** Φ_{NO} was 0.043 \pm 0.004 in methanol and 0.046 \pm 0.006 in tetrahydrofuran. ^c Measured in aqueous solution.

**Figure 7.** Photoproduct spectra observed after exhaustive photolysis of acetonitrile solutions of nitrosyl complexes **I–IV**.

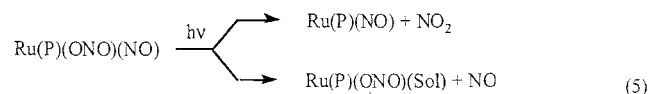
evidence regarding the identity of the photoproducts can be drawn from changes in the ¹H NMR spectra. Before photolysis, solutions of these materials display NMR spectra with sharp and characteristic proton resonances, but 365 nm photolysis leads to peak broadening and eventually to spectra consistent with paramagnetic Ru(III) compounds.

Photoinduced spectral changes similar to those seen in acetonitrile were observed in THF and dichloromethane solutions. (See Supporting Information Tables S-2 and S-3, which list photoproduct spectra for **II** and **III** in different solvents.) When the photolyses were carried out in aerated solutions, the spectral changes were permanent; however, in deaerated solutions or under NO, the photoproducts underwent back-reaction to regenerate the starting complexes. The rates of regeneration proved to be strongly dependent on the solvent as well as on [NO], and quantitative studies of these systems are described below. Notably, when photolyses were carried out in deaerated solutions of cyclohexane or toluene, there were no observable spectra changes indicating the formation of photoproducts. As will be delineated below, this is the result of very fast back-reaction rather than the absence of photoreactivity.

The relatively slow back-reactions in donor solvents such as acetonitrile allowed for the determination of the NO labilization quantum yield (Φ_{NO}) on the basis of spectral changes and the calculated product extinction coefficients. For **I** in acetonitrile, Φ_{NO} determined in this manner was 0.067 for 365 nm irradiation and 0.058 \pm 0.002 for 436 nm excitation. In general, Φ_{NO} decreases at longer λ_{irr} but the complexes remain photoactive even at the longest λ_{irr} studied (546 nm) (Table 5). This pattern suggests that the NO labilization may result from population of a dissociative

excited state (ES) or one with a relatively low barrier for dissociation, a likely candidate being the mixed $d-\pi^*(\text{NO})/d-d$ state assigned as the lowest energy ES of the simple ruthenium amine nitrosyl complexes.³² However, in the absence of more detailed photophysical and theoretical studies of such systems, this proposal is largely speculative.

In an earlier report from this laboratory, Lorkovic et al.⁸ described the photochemistry of the nitrito nitrosyl ruthenium porphyrin systems Ru(P)(ONO)(NO) (P = TPP or OEP) and showed that the NO₂ as well as NO dissociates upon photolysis (eq 5). In the case of NO₂ dissociation, the parent Ru(P)(ONO)(NO) compounds were regenerated under excess NO via a disproportionation pathway that also gives N₂O, which was quantified by its IR band at 2220 cm⁻¹ (toluene).³⁴ (An analogous disproportionation may be responsible for formation of nitrito ligands in the syntheses of **I**.²³) In contrast, the spectral changes seen upon photolysis of the nitrito nitrosyl complexes **I** and **IV**, as well as the kinetics behaviors of the photoproducts, gave no suggestion that NO₂ photodissociation was a competing pathway with NO photodissociation. Nonetheless, to test this possibility toluene and cyclohexane solutions of **IV** under excess NO (~300 Torr) were photolyzed (365 nm) in a CaF₂ cell and the IR spectra monitored periodically. Difference spectra indicated no absorbance changes at 2220 cm⁻¹ hence not any formation of N₂O. NO dissociation is apparently the only photoreaction for the salen type complexes under the conditions studied here.



Thus, the photochemistry of each of these salen and salophen complexes is dominated by the simple dissociation of NO as described by eqs 1 and 4. Photodissociation of NO generates the Ru(III) solvento complex Ru(L)(X)(Sol), and this species must be that responsible for the photolysis promoted catalysis by Ru(L)(X)(NO) solutions of various organic transformations including hetero-Diels–Alder reactions, alkene epoxidations, and cyclopropanations.²⁰ It further seems likely that the Lewis acid catalysis of Diels–Alder reactions reported previously²¹ for Ru(salen)(H₂O)(NO)⁺ and attributed to the electron-withdrawing properties of NO may have included contributions from inadvertent NO

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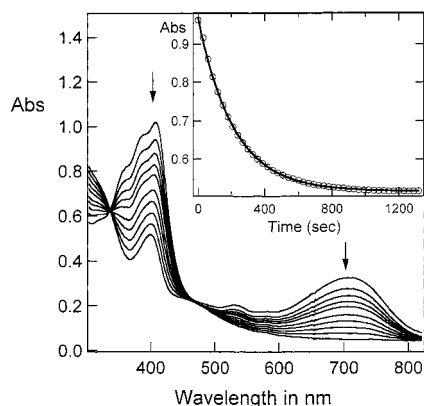
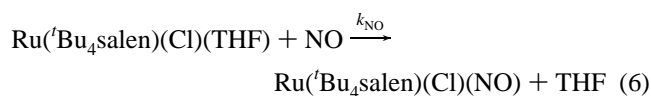


Figure 8. Spectral changes seen for the back-reaction of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(THF) with NO (7.5 mM) to give **III** in 298 K THF solution. Inset: Decay of the absorbance at 408 nm and the fit to an exponential function to give $k_{\text{obs}} 4.65 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

labilization from this photolabile species. The participation of the solvent species is further consistent with the qualitative observations that catalysis rates are markedly solvent sensitive;^{20,21} for example, acetonitrile strongly inhibited Diels–Alder reaction catalysis by **VII**.²¹

Thermal Substitution Mechanisms. Reaction of NO with Solvento Ru(III) Photoproducts. The photochemical generation of the Ru(L)(X)(Sol) photoproducts provides the opportunity to investigate the kinetics and other details of the substitution reactions to regenerate Ru(L)(X)(NO) (e.g., eq 6). For donor solvents such as acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran, even dichloromethane, these rates were sufficiently slow to study using conventional spectrophotometric techniques, and back-reactions appeared quantitative for each system investigated. For example, Figure 8 displays the spectral changes seen for the back-reaction of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(THF) with NO (7.5 mM) in 298 K THF solution. Clean isosbestic points at 338 and 467 nm are evident, and the spectrum evolves quantitatively to that of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(NO) (**III**).



The kinetics of this reaction is illustrated by the temporal absorbance decay at 408 nm shown in the Figure 8 inset, which was fit to an exponential function to give the k_{obs} value $4.65 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The values of k_{obs} obtained in this manner were dependent on the NO concentration. A plot of k_{obs} vs [NO] proved to be linear with an intercept of zero within experimental uncertainty (Figure 9). Thus, the reaction follows second-order kinetics (eq 7), and the slope of this plot ($0.57 \pm 0.07 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) is the second-order rate constant k_{NO} .

$$\frac{d[\text{III}]}{dt} = k_{\text{NO}}[\text{Ru}(\text{Bu}_4\text{salen})(\text{Cl})(\text{THF})][\text{NO}] \quad (7)$$

Analogous kinetics behavior was seen for other Ru(L)(X)(Sol) complexes in CH₃CN, THF, and CH₂Cl₂. Values of k_{NO} determined at 298 K in these solvents are listed in Table 6.

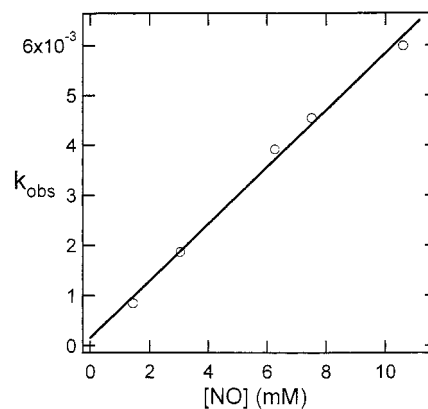


Figure 9. Plot of k_{obs} values for the back reaction of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(THF) with NO to give **III** determined in 298 K THF vs [NO]. $k_{\text{NO}} = 0.57(\pm 0.07) \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

As noted above, there appeared to be little or no net reaction when the Ru(L)(X)(NO) complexes were subjected to continuous photolysis in hydrocarbon solvents such as toluene and cyclohexane. While it is possible that these systems are simply not photoactive, it seemed more likely that back-reactions occur too rapidly under these conditions to observe transient solvent complexes using conventional spectroscopic techniques. To test the latter proposition, several complexes in hydrocarbon solutions were subjected to flash photolysis using time-resolved optical (TRO) detection on the microsecond time scale. Indeed, reactive intermediates with spectra consistent with those seen in other solvents were thus observed. For example, the flash photolysis of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(NO) in toluene gave a transient difference spectrum (Figure 10) displaying the LMCT absorption band characteristic of a Ru(III) salen complex, e.g. Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol). The decay of this in the presence of excess NO showed two regimes, one quite fast leading to a residual absorbance, followed by a very slow decay of the latter to baseline. The magnitude of the residual proved to be dependent on the amount of H₂O present, i.e., very small in “dry” toluene but larger in toluene to which H₂O had been added, so the residual is likely to be due to the long-lived intermediate Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(H₂O) formed by the competitive trapping of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol) by H₂O (Scheme 2). The fast decay process was first order under excess NO, and the k_{obs} values determined were a linear function of [NO] at each temperature studied (Figure 11). From the slope of such a plot $k_{\text{NO}} = 2.20(\pm 0.05) \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ was obtained for the reaction of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol) with NO in 298 K toluene solution. Thus, this reaction is ~8 orders of magnitude faster in toluene than in THF. When flash photolysis of Ru(Bu₄salen)(Cl)(NO) was carried out in cyclohexane, the value of k_{NO} was another factor of 20 higher (Table 6).

Each of the compounds studied displayed comparable behavior. The values of k_{NO} determined for the Ru(III) complexes Ru(L)(X)(Sol) in various solvents are listed in Table 6.

Activation Parameters for Substitution Reactions. Temperature effects on the kinetics of selected complexes and solvent systems were probed by determining the first-

Table 6. Second-Order Rate Constants k_{NO} for Reaction of Ru(L)(X)(Sol) with NO in Various Solvents (Sol) at 298 K^a

Ru(L)(X)(Sol)	k_{NO} ($\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$) values in different 298 K solvents				
	Sol = CH ₃ CN	Sol = THF	Sol = CH ₂ Cl ₂	Sol = toluene	Sol = cyclohexane
L = salen; X = Cl	$4.7(\pm 0.3) \times 10^{-4}$	$0.22(\pm 0.07)$	$6.7(\pm 0.4)$	$3.7(\pm 0.3) \times 10^7$	
^t Bu ₄ salen; Cl	$9.2(\pm 0.2) \times 10^{-4}$	$0.57(\pm 0.07)$		$2.2(\pm 0.1) \times 10^7$	$5.0(\pm 0.2) \times 10^8$
^t Bu ₄ salen; ONO	$7.2(\pm 0.3) \times 10^{-2}$				$2.6(\pm 0.3) \times 10^6$
^t Bu ₂ salophen; Cl		$0.19(\pm 0.03)$		$5.3(\pm 0.5) \times 10^6$	
^t Bu ₄ salophen; Cl	$3.1(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$0.18(\pm 0.02)$		$9.2(\pm 0.5) \times 10^6$	

^a k_{NO} values were determined from the slopes of linear plots of k_{obs} vs [NO] for 4–7 NO concentrations in each solvent.

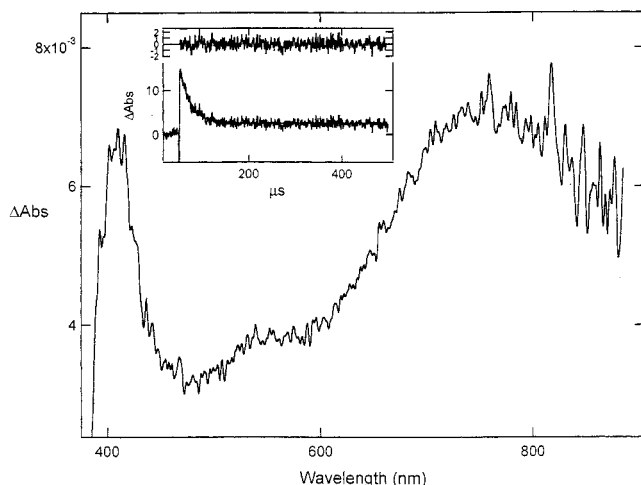
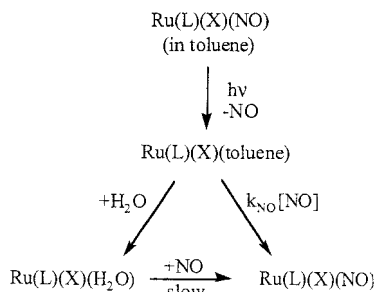


Figure 10. CCD spectrum of the transient species generated from Ru(^tBu₄salen)(NO)(Cl) during laser flash photolysis in toluene under excess NO (611 Torr). The spectrum was collected at 25 °C, and the excitation wavelength was 355 nm. The delay time was 400 ns (the laser pulse had a 10 ns lifetime), and the gate was 2 μs.

Scheme 2



order rate constants at several NO concentrations and plotting these to obtain values of k_{NO} for specific T 's. For example, Figure 11 illustrates plots for the reaction of Ru(^tBu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol) with NO in toluene. An Eyring plot of these data (Figure 11 inset) gave $\Delta H_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = 34 \pm 2 \text{ kJ/mol}$ and $\Delta S_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = +10 \pm 6 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$. Activation parameters obtained from such temperature dependence studies for several complexes in toluene by flash photolysis experiments and in acetonitrile by conventional spectrophotometry are summarized in Table 7. The notable observation here is that the ΔH values are very solvent dependent, more than twice as large for Sol = acetonitrile as for Sol = toluene. The greater $\Delta H_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger$ value for the stronger donor solvent argues that Ru-Sol bond breaking must be important in the reaction mechanisms for NO substitution for Sol.

Hydrostatic pressure effects were also investigated, but the configuration of our apparatus limited such studies to the faster reactions that could be investigated by laser flash

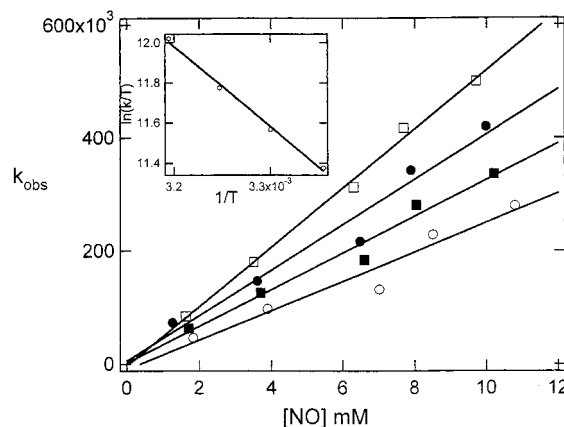


Figure 11. Plots of k_{obs} values vs [NO] for the back-reaction of Ru(^tBu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol) with NO to give **III** determined in toluene at 298, 303, 308, and 313 K. An Eyring plot of these data (inset) gave $\Delta H_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = 34 \pm 2 \text{ kJ/mol}$ and $\Delta S_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = +10 \pm 6 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$.

photolysis, that is, the back-reactions of the photoproducts of **III**, **V**, and **VI** in toluene. The volume of activation for a reaction rate is defined by eq 8.²⁶ Thus, a plot of $\ln k_{\text{obs}}$ at a fixed [NO] vs the hydrostatic pressure P as shown in Figure 12 for the NO reaction with Ru(^tBu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol) in toluene has a slope equal to $-\Delta V_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger/RT$. In cases reported here, rates decreased sharply with increasing pressure; hence, the activation volumes $\Delta V_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger$ are large and positive (Table 7) consistent with a substitution mechanism with a dissociative character.^{26a}

$$\Delta V_i^\ddagger = -RT \left(\frac{d(\ln k_i)}{dP} \right) T \quad (8)$$

The kinetics of the NO reaction with Ru(L)(X)(Sol) to give Ru(L)(X)(NO) (eq 6) clearly suggest that the facility of this reaction is dependent on the lability of the leaving group. For a system such as Ru(^tBu₄salen)(Cl)(Sol) the range of k_{NO} values is *more than 11 orders of magnitude* from the slowest reaction in the donor solvent acetonitrile to the fastest in much weaker donor cyclohexane. The other systems probed show analogous behavior. The small $\Delta H_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger$ values seen in toluene solution and the larger ones seen in acetonitrile are consistent with this conclusion, and the large positive values of $\Delta V_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger$ recorded in toluene are strongly suggestive of a dissociative or dissociative interchange mechanism under these conditions. The $\Delta S_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger$ values are neither large and positive nor large and negative and show no clear trend. In this context we would favor an interchange mechanism perhaps dominated energetically by dissociation of Sol; however, a more detailed investigation would be required to provide a sounder foundation to that conclusion.

Table 7. Temperature Effects on Second-Order Rate Constants k_{NO} for Reaction of Ru(L)(X)(Sol) with NO in Various Solvents^a

T (K)	k_{NO} for different Ru(L)(X)(Sol)				
	L = 'Bu ₄ salen, X = Cl in acetonitrile	L = 'Bu ₄ salen, Cl in toluene	L = 'Bu ₂ salophen, Cl in toluene	L = 'Bu ₄ salophen, Cl in acetonitrile	L = 'Bu ₄ salophen, Cl in toluene
293			$4.7(\pm 0.1) \times 10^6$		$7.8(\pm 0.1) \times 10^6$
298	$0.91(\pm 0.06) \times 10^{-3}$	$2.5(\pm 0.4) \times 10^7$	$5.7(\pm 0.1) \times 10^6$	$3.1(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$9.2(\pm 0.1) \times 10^6$
303	$1.9(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$3.2(\pm 0.4) \times 10^7$	$7.3(\pm 0.1) \times 10^6$	$5.9(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$10.7(\pm 0.2) \times 10^6$
308	$3.4(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$3.9(\pm 0.5) \times 10^7$	$10.4(\pm 0.5) \times 10^6$	$10.1(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$12.4(\pm 0.4) \times 10^6$
313	$7.0(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$	$5.1(\pm 0.1) \times 10^7$	$12.3(\pm 0.4) \times 10^6$	$16.2(\pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3}$	$14.6(\pm 0.2) \times 10^6$
318	$10.2(\pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$				
ΔH^\ddagger (kJ mol ⁻¹)	87(± 8)	34(± 2)	36(± 3)	82(± 4)	20(± 1)
ΔS^\ddagger (J K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹)	-12 ± 26	+10 ± 6	+6 ± 8	-17 ± 12	-46 ± 2
ΔV^\ddagger (298 K) (mL mol ⁻¹)		+22 ± 2	+13 ± 2		+16 ± 2

^a k_{NO} values were determined from the slopes of linear plots of k_{obs} vs [NO] for 4–5 NO concentrations in each solvent.

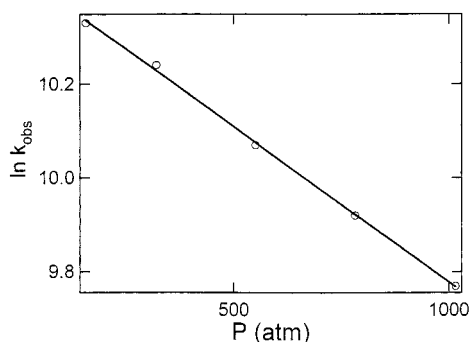


Figure 12. Plot of $\ln k_{\text{obs}}$ at a fixed [NO] vs the hydrostatic pressure P for the reaction of Ru(Bu₄salophen)(Cl)(Sol) with NO in 298 K toluene solution. The slope is equal to $-\Delta V_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger/RT$. From these data, a $\Delta V_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger$ value of $+16.2(\pm 0.4)$ mL mol⁻¹ was calculated.

It should be noted that the patterns seen for the NO substitution mechanisms of the Ru(L)(X)(Sol) complexes described here appear to fall between the patterns seen for two related systems. The reaction of NO with aqueous Ru(NH₃)₆³⁺ to give Ru(NH₃)₅(NO)³⁺ has been reported by Armor, Scheidegger, and Taube^{19a} to be slow ($k_{\text{NO}} = 0.2$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ at 298 K) but much faster than the substitution reactions of Ru(NH₃)₆³⁺ with other ligands under the same conditions, and an associative mechanism was proposed. Subsequent studies by Armor and Pell^{19b} reported a very low activation enthalpy ($\Delta H_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = 34$ kJ mol⁻¹) but a large and negative activation entropy ($\Delta S_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = -120$ J mol⁻¹ K⁻¹) consistent with this conclusion. In contrast, the Fe(III) water soluble porphyrin complex Fe^{III}(TPPS)(H₂O)₂ reacts with aqueous NO to give Fe^{III}(TPPS)(H₂O)(NO) at a much faster rate ($k_{\text{NO}} = 4.5 \times 10^5$ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ at 298 K)^{18c} with activation parameters suggesting a dissociative mechanism ($\Delta H_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = 69$ kJ mol⁻¹, $\Delta S_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = +95$ J mol⁻¹ K⁻¹, $\Delta V_{\text{NO}}^\ddagger = +9$ mL³ mol⁻¹). Furthermore, the activation parameters closely parallel those for the rapid exchange ($k_{\text{ex}} = 1.4 \times 10^7$ s⁻¹ in 298 K water) between solvent and coordinated H₂O of the labile Fe^{III}(TPPS)(H₂O)₂ complex.³⁵ Both systems involve d⁵ metal ion complexes, although the Ru(III) species are low spin whether or not NO is coordinated, while Fe^{III}(TPPS) undergoes a transition from high to low spin when forming the nitrosyl complex. Nonetheless, the reactivity patterns for the Ru(L)(X)(Sol) complexes described here appear to follow

(35) (a) Ostrich, I. J.; Gordon, L.; Dodgen, H. W. Hunt, J. P. *Inorg. Chem.* **1980**, *19*, 619. (b) Schnepfensieper, T.; Zahl, A.; van Eldik, R. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2001**, *40*, 1678–1680.

more closely those of the Fe^{III}(TPPS) system than that of Ru(NH₃)₆³⁺, namely that the kinetics of formation of the metal–NO species are dominated by the lability of the ligand being replaced.

Summary. The ruthenium nitrosyl complexes Ru(R-salen)(X)(NO) and Ru(R-salophen)(NO) (X = Cl or ONO) all undergo NO labilization with moderate quantum yields when subjected to near-UV or visible photolysis as does the water soluble complex Ru(salen)(H₂O)(NO)⁺. Further studies will address the potential of these and related materials to serve as precursors for photochemical NO delivery to various targets. The other products of these photolyses in various solvents (Sol) are the Ru(III) solvent complexes Ru(R-salen)(X)(Sol) and Ru(R-salophen)(Sol), and there is little or no labilization of other ligands in these photoreactions. It is likely that these ruthenium(III) complexes are the species responsible for the reported²⁰ Lewis acid, oxene transfer, etc., catalysts formed upon photoactivation of Ru(R-salen)(X)(NO) precursors.

The rates of the back-reactions of the solvento products Ru(R-salen)(X)(Sol) and Ru(R-salophen)(Sol) with NO to re-form the nitrosyl analogues vary dramatically depending on the nature of Sol. The reactions are quite slow in donor solvents such as acetonitrile and THF but much faster in weak donors such as toluene and cyclohexane, second-order rate constants k_{NO} ranging from 5×10^{-4} M⁻¹ s⁻¹ for the re-formation of **II** in acetonitrile to 5×10^8 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ (12 orders of magnitude) for re-formation of **III** in cyclohexane. Activation parameters are consistent with the view that the reactivities of these metal centers with NO are dominated by the labilities of the ligand being replaced and suggest that the ligand substitution occurs by a dissociative or dissociative interchange mechanism.

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Supporting Information Available: Figures S-1–S-4 and Tables S-1–S-3 as well as crystallographic information. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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