

Ni(III) Complex of an N-Confused Porphyrin Inner C-Oxide

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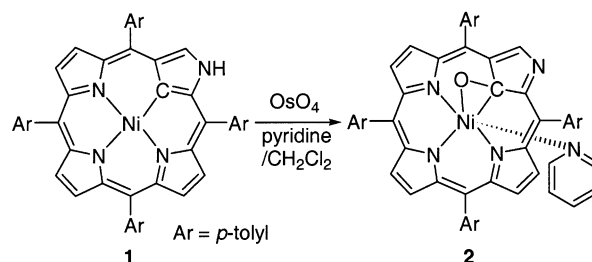
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A novel, structurally characterized Ni(III) complex of an N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide has been synthesized from the oxidation of a Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin using OsO₄. Crystal data: C₅₃H₄₀N₅NiO·CH₂Cl₂, monoclinic, space group *P2₁/a* (No. 13), *a* = 21.229(1) Å, *b* = 8.6451(5) Å, *c* = 25.762(2) Å, β = 93.004(3)°, *V* = 4721.6(5) Å³, and *Z* = 4.

Ni(III) tetrapyrrolic macrocycles have been intensively studied.¹ Wolberg reported on the generation of a Ni(III) porphyrin via electrochemical oxidation of Ni(II) tetraphenylporphyrin at 77 K.² This reaction was re-examined by Dolphin and his colleagues where it was observed that a Ni(II) porphyrin π-cation radical was formed at room temperature and a low spin Ni(III) porphyrin was generated upon cooling to 77 K, showing intramolecular electron transfer.^{3,4} N-confused porphyrins are porphyrin isomers with an inverted pyrrolic ring and were first reported independently by Latos-Grazynski⁵ and Furuta.⁶ They can stabilize transition metals in high oxidation states, and some Ni(III) complexes have been prepared by Latos-Grazynski.⁷ Factor 430 (F430), a nickel tetrapyrrole, is the cofactor of methyl-coenzyme M reductase, which catalyzes the final steps of CO₂ conversion to methane by methanogenic *Archaea*, and a methyl–Ni(III) transient is suggested to be a key intermediate.⁸ Ni(III)–alkyl intermediates are also considered to be involved in the reactions of Ni(I) macrocycles with alkyl halides.⁹ However, crystallographically characterized Ni(III) tetrapyrrolic macrocycles are rare, and to the best of our

Scheme 1



knowledge, the only related example is an oxidized nickel porphyrin [Ni(OETPP)(BTD)]⁺ (OETPP = β-octaethyl-meso-tetraphenylporphyrin, BTD = 2,1,3-benzothiadiazole) with an EPR spectrum typical of Ni(III).¹⁰ The Ni–N (2.00 Å) distance in this complex is rather long relative to other Ni(III) complexes, and this complex was better described as a high spin Ni(II) porphyrin π cation (d¹_{x²-y²}, d¹_{z²}, π¹) in which the electron in the d_{x²-y²} orbital is antiferromagnetically coupled to the unpaired electron of the porphyrin π radical, resulting in a pseudo-Ni(III) species.¹⁰

Here, we report the synthesis and structural characterization of a Ni(III) complex of an N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide (**2**) prepared by oxidation of Ni(II) N-confused tetra-(*p*-tolyl)porphyrin (**1**) with OsO₄ (Scheme 1).

The Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin **1** was prepared using the method described by Latos-Grazynski.⁵ A solution of complex **1** (0.20 mmol) and OsO₄ (0.25 mmol) in 15% pyridine/CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then filtered through a silica gel plug using 10% CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was chromatographed using silica gel (230–400 mesh, 16 g). Compound **2**¹¹ was eluted with 1.5% CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂ to give a yield of 42% (32% starting material was recovered). When a large excess of OsO₄ (10 equiv) was used, many polar unidentified compounds were produced.

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(11) *R_f* (silica–CH₂Cl₂/5% CH₃OH/2% Et₃N) 0.70; UV–vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 382 (4.65), 426 (4.59), 470 (4.56), 646 (sh), 862 (br, 3.26); MS (–LSIMS) 741 (M, 100%); HRMS (–LSIMS) *m/e* calcd for C₄₈H₃₅N₄NiO 741.21639, found 741.21609 (M). Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₃₅N₄NiO·C₅H₅N: C, 77.47; H, 4.91; N, 8.52. Found: C, 77.36; H, 4.97; N, 8.61.

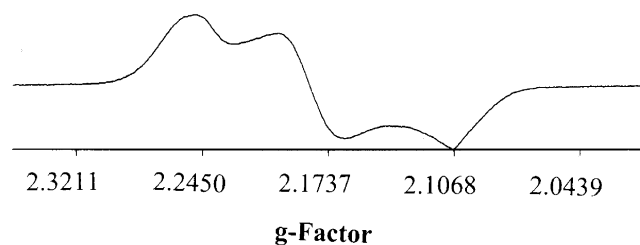


Figure 1. EPR spectrum (X-band, 130 K, toluene) of complex **2**.

The EPR spectrum of **2** was measured in frozen toluene at 130 K (Figure 1), and this spectrum is similar to that of a Ni(III) complex of N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin containing an axial hydroxyl group.⁷ The *g*-factor ($g > 2.1$) indicates the unpaired electron is located on the metal center rather than in the porphyrin π system.³ The EPR signals are broad, and hyperfine splitting is not explicitly observed. N¹⁴ hyperfine splitting was not observed in the previously reported EPR spectra of Ni(III) N-confused porphyrins.⁷

The room temperature effective magnetic moment of complex **2** in CD₂Cl₂ obtained by Evans' method¹² is 1.87 μ_B , close to the spin-only value for a low spin d^7 Ni(III) center with one unpaired electron ($\mu_{\text{eff}} = 1.74 \mu_B$).

The structure of complex **2** was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis¹³ (Figure 2, Table 1); no counterion was detected. The parent ion peak of **2** at 741 *m/z*, detected using LSIMS in the negative ion mode, together with the absence of the counterion, confirms that **2** is a Ni(III) complex, since the corresponding Ni(II) complex would have either N(2) or O(1) protonated to balance the charge and would have a parent ion peak at 742 *m/z*. A Ni(I) complex was ruled out in the same way. Cyclic voltammetry (Supporting Information) did not assist in assigning oxidation states to either the metal or the ligand. The UV-vis spectrum of **2** is similar to that of C(21)-methylated Ni(II) N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin,¹⁴ suggesting that the porphyrin ring of **2** is not oxidized and complex **2** is not a pseudo-Ni(III) species as suggested in the case of [Ni(OETPP)(BTD)]⁺.¹⁰

Complex **2** is structurally similar to an *N*-oxide of an iron(III) porphyrin, which was proposed as an alternative candidate of compound **1**, as the active intermediate of cytochrome P-450.¹⁵ The X-ray crystal structure of a Ni(II) porphyrin *N*-oxide has been obtained by Balch.¹⁶

In the Ni(II) complex of the porphyrin *N*-oxide,¹⁶ the nitrogen atom which is bonded to oxygen is not bonded to the metal ion whereas the nickel ion, in complex **2**, is bonded

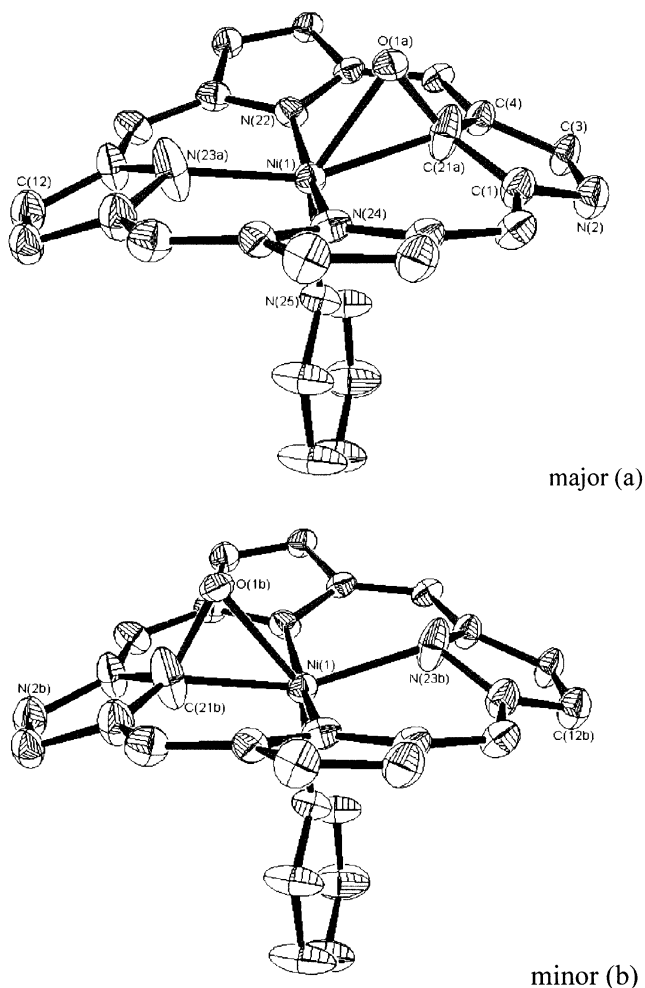


Figure 2. ORTEP drawings of compound **2** showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability. Solvent, *p*-tolyl groups, and H atoms have been removed for clarity. The major (a) and minor (b) contributions to the disorder are shown.

Table 1. Selected Bond Lengths (Å) for Complex **2**

Ni–C(21)	2.068(4)	N(2)–C(1)	1.394(5)
Ni–N(22)	2.087(3)	N(2)–C(3)	1.346(5)
Ni–N(23)	2.007(4)	C(3)–C(4)	1.409(5)
Ni–N(24)	2.100(3)	C(21)–C(1)	1.444(5)
Ni–N(25)	2.004(3)	C(21)–C(4)	1.427(5)
Ni–O(1)	2.037(4)	C(21)–O(1)	1.376(5)

to both the oxygen atom and C(21). The planarity of the porphyrin skeleton of **2** is distorted, but not as severe as that of the C(21)-methylated Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin, in which the inverted pyrrole plane deviates from the N(22)N(23)N(24) plane by 42.2°. For complex **2**, the dihedral angles between the pyrrole planes and the plane defined by N(22)N(23)N(24) are as follows: C(21) 20.5(2)°, N(22) –17.61(7)°, N(23) 22.5(2)°, N(24) –15.3(2)°. The Ni–N(C) bond distances (2.007–2.100 Å) in **2** are longer than those of the high spin Ni(II) complex of N(2),C(21)-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin,¹⁴ contrary to what might be expected for the Ni(III) complex.¹ The strain associated with coordination of Ni to both C(21) and O(1) might

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(13) Crystal data for **2**: C₅₃H₄₀N₅NiO·CH₂Cl₂, *M* = 906.54, monoclinic, space group *P2/a* (No. 13), *D*_c = 1.275 g cm^{−3}, *a* = 21.229(1) Å, *b* = 8.6451(5) Å, *c* = 25.762(2) Å, β = 93.004(3)°, *V* = 4721.6(5) Å³, *T* = 173 K, *Z* = 4, λ = 0.71069 Å, μ (Mo K α) = 5.68 cm^{−1}, *R*(*F*) = 0.071 and *R*_w(*F*) = 0.185. The structure displays disorder in the locations of C(21) pyrrole ring, and the O(1) atom. The structure has been refined to give 64% of the major and 36% of the minor occupancy as shown in Figure 2. The unit cell also contains one molecule of disordered CH₂Cl₂.

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well prevent the porphyrin from adopting a structure with shorter Ni–N(C) bond lengths. Elongation of Ni(III)–C bond lengths has also been observed in the case of $[\text{Ni}^{\text{III}}(\text{C}_6\text{Cl}_5)_4]^-$.¹⁷ The bond distances of N(2)–C(1), N(2)–C(3), and C(3)–C(4) are shorter than those of C(21)–C(1) and C(21)–C(4) (Table 1), suggesting that the C(21) atom approaches sp^3 hybridization. The Ni–O(1)–C(21) ring distorts the octahedral coordination geometry of the center metal. While the pyridine ring is almost perpendicular to the N(22)N(23)N(24) plane with a dihedral angle of $83.3(2)^\circ$, the O–Ni–C(21) angle is only $39.15(16)^\circ$.

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In summary, a Ni(III) complex of an N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide has been synthesized and characterized. The ability of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide to stabilize other high oxidation state metals is currently under investigation.

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Supporting Information Available: X-ray crystallographic file (CIF) and cyclic voltammogram for compound **2**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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