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A picolinate-N₂ complex of rhenium, the first dinitrogen complex bearing a carboxylate or a N,O-ligand

Note

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Abstract

A new dinitrogen rhenium(I) complex with a picolinate ligand has been prepared and fully characterized, providing the first example of a genuine N \equiv N complex bearing a carboxylate or a N,O-coligand. The Lever electrochemical E_1 ligand parameter was estimated for the first time for the picolinate ligand and shows that its carboxylate arm has a net electron-donor character similar to that of chloride, thus stabilizing the trans Re-N2 bond.

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1. Introduction

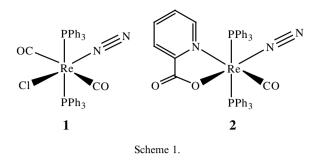
The chemistry of metal dinitrogen complexes has been widely developed for several decades, mostly in view of their high interest in coordination chemistry and significance in the field of nitrogen fixation [1]. Hundreds of dinitrogen complexes with a variety of coligands and with nearly all transition metals have already been synthesized and ca. 310 have been structurally characterized [2]. However, to our knowledge, no N=N complex with a carboxylate or any N,O-coligand has been reported, although the bimetallic complex $[{(i-PrNPh)_2OTi(PMe_3)_2}_2(\mu-N_2)]$ [3], with the rare η^3 -di(amidophenyl)ether(2–) ligand, and with a bridging N₂ in the reduced N₂(4-) hydrazido form, [Ti] =N-N=[Ti], is known. These observations suggest that carboxylate and N,O-ligands promote the lability of the metal-N₂ bond what, however, has not yet been established and would disfavour the hypothesis of N₂-binding at the Mo centre of FeMoco of nitrogenase which presents an imidazole and a η^1 -carboxylate bound bidentate homocitrate ligands [4]. Moreover, the significance of N.O-ligands has also been recognized in catalytic and pharmacological systems [5]. Hence, a primary objective of the current study was to synthesize a stable mononuclear dinitrogen complex with a N,O-coligand bearing an O-bonded carboxylate arm, thus showing that these ligands can co-exist at a common metal centre.

As a metal, we have chosen rhenium as it can form considerably stable N_2 complexes, is (in the periodic table) in the common diagonal line with Mo and we have recently found [6] that some Re complexes with aminocarboxylate ligands can be active in catalysis (functionalization of alkanes under mild conditions). Besides, rhenium complexes attract a high interest in the field of nuclear medicine to design Re-labeled biomolecules [5c,7].

In addition, some polyaminocarboxylate N.O-ligands are prominent chelating agents in radiopharmaceuticals [5c], and we have chosen a simple carboxylate N,O-ligand, i.e. picolinate (2-pyridinecarboxylate) which is a prime natural chelating agent in the body [8], and has important dietary [9] and pharmacological [10] applications. The

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combination of picolinate with a relatively labile ligand $(N_2, which can be replaced, e.g. by a donor group of a protein or peptide) [5c,11] at a Re centre could possibly provide a new compound with potential significance in nuclear medicine and in therapy.$

Herein we report the synthesis, characterization and redox properties of $[\text{Re}(\text{pic})(N_2)(\text{CO})(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ (2) (pic = picolinate) (Scheme 1), which constitutes, to our knowledge, the first example of a genuine dinitrogen (neutral N=N ligand) complex with a carboxylate or a *N*,*O*-coligand. For comparative purposes, we also report the X-ray crystal structure of the dinitrogen complex precursor $[\text{ReCl}(N_2)(\text{CO})_2(\text{PPh}_3)_2]$ (1).

2. Results and discussion

2.1. Synthesis and characterization

Refluxing a mixture of **1** with an excess of picolinic acid (Hpic) in MeOH/C₆H₆ led to the displacement of the chloride and one carbonyl ligands by picolinate with formation of the neutral dinitrogen rhenium(I) complex **2**, which was isolated in 65% yield as an orange microcrystalline solid and characterized by IR, ¹H, ³¹P{¹H} and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopies, cyclic voltammetry, FAB⁺-MS, elemental and single crystal X-ray diffraction structural analyses. Complex **2** is rather stable in air, either in the solid state or in C₆H₆, CH₂Cl₂, CHCl₃ or Me₂CO solutions.

The IR spectrum of 2 exhibits a sharp $v(N_2)$ band (with a medium intensity) at 2040 cm^{-1} , which is below that observed for 1 (2116 cm^{-1}), in accord with a more effective π -electron release from the metal to $\pi^*(N_2)$ orbitals in the former complex (see also below) which presents a lower number of CO ligands (CO, as a very strong π -electron acceptor, competes with N₂ for the available metal d_{π} electrons). Additional bands at 1926, 1855, 1659 and 1599 cm⁻¹ are assigned to v(CO), v_{as} and v_s of the carboxylate group. The monoprotonated molecular ion is clearly observed at m/z = 890 with the expected isotopic pattern in the FAB⁺-MS spectrum. Other peaks correspond to the stepwise fragmentations by loss of N₂, picolinate, CO and PPh₃ ligands or their combinations. The ¹H, ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ and ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR spectra show the expected resonances at usual chemical shifts for the corresponding ligands.

2.2. X-ray crystal structures

The molecular structures of both dinitrogen complexes 1 and 2 (Figs. 1 and 2, respectively) present a distorted octahedral geometry with mutually *trans* triphenylphosphines (thus minimizing their steric repulsion) and the other ligands in equatorial sites. The ligated N_2 has the anionic ligand in *trans* position, i.e. chloride in 1 and the carboxylate arm of picolinate in 2, whereas the two CO ligands in 1 are mutually *trans* and the CO ligand in 2 has the pyridine nitrogen (N3) of picolinate in *trans* position. The strong electron-donor character of the anionic ligand conceivably has a stabilizing effect on the trans Re-N₂ bond, promoting the π -electron release from the metal to this ligand thus compensating for the known [1] rather weak σ -electrondonor ability of N₂ to the metal. The Re-N₂ (Re-N1) and Re-CO (Re-C1) bond lengths in 2 [1.911(3) and 1.896(3) Å, respectively] are shorter than the corresponding distances in 1 [1.981(10) and avg. 1.991(13) Å], whereas the $N \equiv N$ (N1-N2) and $C \equiv O$ (C1-O1) bonds [1.144(3) and 1.169(4) Å, respectively] in 2 are slightly lengthened relatively to those of 1 [1.080(16)] and avg. 1.024(17) Å]. Although in 1 the N1–N2 distance [1.080(16) Å] is identical

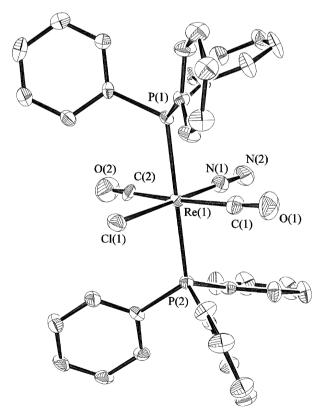


Fig. 1. An ORTEP representation of **1**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°): Re(1)-Cl(1) 2.476(3), Re(1)-P(1) 2.431(3), Re(1)-P(2) 2.427(3), Re(1)-N(1) 1.981(10), Re(1)-C(1) 1.978(12), Re(1)-C(2) 2.003(13), O(1)-C(1) 1.046(16), O(2)-C(2) 1.001(17), N(1)-N(2) 1.080(16); Re(1)-C(1)-O(1) 173.5(12), Re(1)-C(2) -O(2) 176.5(12), Cl(1)-Re(1)-N(1) 178.5(3), Cl(1)-Re(1)-C(1) 97.2(3), Cl(1)-Re(1)-C(2) 93.4(3), P(1)-Re(1)-P(2) 174.97(8), N(1)-Re(1)-C(1) 84.1(4), N(1)-Re(1)-C(2) 85.2(4), Re(1)-N(1)-N(2) 177.7(10).

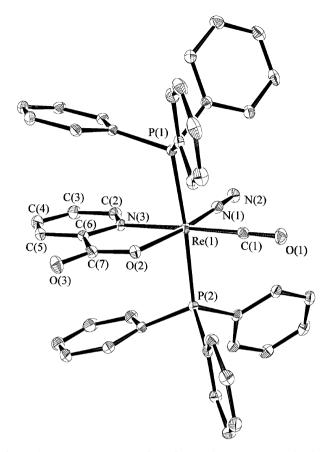


Fig. 2. An ORTEP representation of **2**. Hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°): Re(1)–C(1) 1.896(3), Re(1)–N(1) 1.911(3), Re(1)–O(2) 2.152(2), Re(1)–N(3) 2.178(2), Re(1)–P(2) 2.4185(7), Re(1)–P(1) 2.4315(7), O(1)–C(1) 1.169(4), N(1)–N(2) 1.144(3); C(1)–Re(1)–N(1) 89.57(12), N(1)–Re(1)–O(2) 168.21(10), C(1)–Re(1)–N(3) 177.29(11), N(1)–Re(1)–N(3) 92.93(10), O(2)–Re(1)–N(3) 75.27(8), P(2)–Re(1)–P(1) 173.20(3), N(2)–N(1)–Re(1) 177.6(3), O(1)–C(1)–Re(1) 177.8(3).

to that of free N₂ [1.0976 Å] [1], in **2** that bond length [1.144(3) Å] is significantly longer. These features possibly reflect the stronger π -electron releasing ability of the {Re(pic)(PPh₃)₂} centre in **2** than that of {ReCl(CO)-(PPh₃)₂} (with an effective π -acceptor CO ligand) in **1**. Hence, in complex **2**, the canonical form **b** in the VB representation of the Re–N1–N2 moiety has a higher weight than in **1**

$$[\operatorname{Re}]_{a}^{-} N \equiv N \leftrightarrow [\operatorname{Re}]_{b}^{-} N \stackrel{-}{=} N$$

Nevertheless, the Re–N and N–N bond lengths of complexes 1 and 2 are within the overall ranges of values encountered in other mononuclear Re complexes [12]. In 2, the Re–N3 and Re–O2 coordination bond distances of picolinate, 2.178(2) and 2.1517(19) Å, respectively, are comparable to those at the related benzoyldiazenido [ReCl-(pic){N=NC(O)Ph}(PPh_3)_2] [6a] and oxorhenium [Re-OCl_2(pic)(PPh_3)] [6b] complexes. The metal ligated picolinate forms a Re–N3–C6–C7–O2 chelating ring with a O2–Re–N3 bite angle of 75.27(8)°, which is reduced significantly from the octahedral 90° value. Other bond lengths and angles in 1 and 2 do not differ significantly from the expected values found for related octahedral-type rhenium complexes comprising N₂, CO, PPh₃ or *N*,*O*ligands [6,12a,12b].

2.3. Electrochemical studies

Complex 2 exhibits, by cyclic voltammetry at a Pt electrode in 0.2 M CH₂Cl₂/[Bu₄N][BF₄] solution, a first singleelectron reversible oxidation at ${}^{I}E_{1/2}^{ox} = 0.69$ V vs. SCE, assigned to the Re^I \rightarrow Re^{II} oxidation, followed by a second irreversible one at ${}^{II}E_{p}^{ox} = 1.17$ V vs. SCE, due to the Re^{II} \rightarrow Re^{III} oxidation with loss of N₂ ligand, following a behaviour that is similar to that of other dinitrogen Re^I complexes [13]. These oxidation potentials are lower than the corresponding ones for complex 1 (${}^{I}E_{1/2}^{ox} = 0.94$, ${}^{II}E_{p}^{ox} = 1.79$ V vs. SCE, measured in this work under identical experimental conditions, or 1.01 and ca. 1.9 V, respectively, as reported by others [13a] in 0.2 M THF/[Bu₄N][BF₄] solution), thus confirming the stronger electron donor character of the picolinate ligand in 2 relatively to ligated Cl⁻ + CO in 1. The first oxidation potential of complex 2 and the corresponding IR v(N₂) value fit the previously recognized [12a,13a] linear relationship between these parameters for other Re^I-N₂ complexes.

Based on the measured first oxidation potential of complex 2 and of the related picolinate-benzovldiazenido complex [ReCl(pic){N=NC(O)Ph}(PPh_3)_2] [6a] and applying the Lever's equation [14] $E = S_M(\sum E_L) + I_M$ (in V vs. NHE, where $\sum E_{\rm L}$ is the sum of the values for all the ligands of the ligand $E_{\rm L}$ parameter, $S_{\rm M}$ and $I_{\rm M}$ are standard parameters dependent on the redox metal couple, spin state and stereochemistry), we have estimated (see the Supplementary material for full calculation details of electrochemical parameters), for the first time, the value of the electrochemical Lever ligand parameter, $E_{\rm L} = 0.05 \pm 0.02$ V vs. NHE, for the bidentate picolinate ligand, as the average of the values obtained from these two complexes. This $E_{\rm L}$ value was confirmed by applying it in the above equation to the prediction of the oxidation potential of the dipicolinate complex $[Ru(pic)_2(PPh_3)_2]$. The estimated value of 0.89 V vs. NHE is equal to that measured experimentally [15].

The estimated $E_{\rm L}$ value $(0.05 \pm 0.02 \text{ V})$ for the bidentate picolinate ligand is identical or similar to the sum of $E_{\rm L}$ values for Cl⁻ plus pyridine-4-carboxylic acid ligands (the latter being coordinated by the pyridine group) (-0.24 [14] + 0.29 [14] = +0.05 V) or for Cl⁻ plus pyridine itself (-0.24 [14] + 0.25 [14] = +0.01 V). In view of the usual additive character of $E_{\rm L}$ and of the meaning of this parameter (a measure of the electron donor character of the ligand) [14], this indicates that the ligated carboxylate arm of picolinate, i.e. the O-bound 2-pyridylcarboxylate ligand (2-pyCOO⁻), exhibits an electron donor character similar to that of chloride, i.e. $E_{\rm L}$ (2-pyCOO⁻) ca. -0.24 V vs. NHE, what accounts for its stabilizing effect (as known [1,4] for Cl⁻) on the ligation of N₂. Moreover, its E_L value is also comparable to those of some alkynyl ligands, e.g. C=CPh⁻ at *trans*-{OsCl(dppm)₂}⁺ (dppm = Ph₂PCH₂PPh₂) [16].

3. Conclusions

We have shown that N_2 and a bound carboxylate *N*,*O*-ligand can be compatible at a single metal centre, and have prepared, by a convenient route, the first example of such a type of complex with a genuine neutral $N \equiv N$ ligand. The complex is stable in air, either as a solid or in solution, and the carboxylate arm of the picolinate ligand is shown to be an electron-donor similar to chloride, presenting, as Cl^- , a noteworthy stabilizing effect on the *trans* Re–N₂ bond. Hence, carboxylate groups of biological molecules can co-exist with N₂ at a common binding metal centre, what is in accord with the hypothesis [4] of coordination of dinitrogen at the Mo centre (which has a homocitrate ligand) of FeMoco of nitrogenase.

Preliminary studies on the reactivity of the dinitrogen complex 2 show that N₂ can be displaced by imidazole $(C_3H_4N_2)$ to give $[Re(pic)(C_3H_4N_2)(CO)(PPh_3)_2]$. The combination, at a single metal centre, of different ligands with recognized biological significance and the possibility to replace N₂ by imidazole and potential biological carriers at a Re-picolinate centre (bearing a metal and a *N*,*O*ligand, both with pharmacological applications) are also interesting features of the obtained complex, although the lack of solubility in water is a drawback. They deserve further exploration and encourage the search for the synthesis of more *N*,*O* and carboxylate dinitrogen complexes and, for those soluble in water, with a potential application in medicinal chemistry.

4. Experimental

4.1. General materials and experimental procedures

All synthetic and electrochemical work was performed under dinitrogen using standard Schlenk techniques. The solvents were dried and degassed by standard methods. Potassium perrhenate (Merck), triphenylphosphine (Aldrich), benzoylhydrazine (Aldrich), carbon monoxide (Air Products) and picolinic acid (Aldrich) were obtained from commercial sources and used as received. C, H and N elemental analyses were carried out by the Microanalytical Service of the Instituto Superior Técnico. Positive-ion FAB mass spectra were obtained on a Trio 2000 instrument by bombarding 3-nitrobenzyl alcohol (m-NBA) matrices of the samples with 8 keV (ca. 1.18×10^{15} J) Xe atoms. Mass calibration for data system acquisition was achieved using CsI. Infrared spectra (4000–400 cm⁻¹) were recorded on a Jasco FT/IR-430 instrument in KBr pellets. For TLC, Merck UV 254 SiO₂ plates have been used. ¹H, ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ and ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR spectra were measured on a Varian UNITY 300 spectrometer at ambient temperature.

The electrochemical experiments were carried out on an EG&G PAR 273A potentiostat/galvanostat connected to a personal computer through a GPIB interface. Cvclic voltammetry (CV) studies were undertaken in a two-compartment three-electrode cell, at platinum wire working (d = 0.5 mm) and counter electrodes. A Luggin capillary connected to a silver-wire pseudo-reference electrode was used to control the working electrode potential. The solutions were saturated with N_2 by bubbling this gas before each run, and the oxidation potentials of the complexes were measured by CV, in the presence of ferrocene as the internal standard, and the redox potential values are quoted relative to the SCE by using the $[Fe(\eta^5-C_5H_5)_2]^{0/+}$ $(E_{1/2}^{\text{ox}} = 0.525 \text{ vs. SCE})$ redox couple in 0.2 M CH₂Cl₂/ $[Bu_4N][BF_4]$ solution [17]. The obtained potentials vs. SCE were converted to the NHE scale by addition of 0.245 V.

4.2. Synthesis of $[ReCl(N_2)(CO)_2(PPh_3)_2]$ (1)

Complex 1 was prepared by a published method [18]. CV (CH₂Cl₂, [Bu₄N][BF₄], v = 0.2 V s⁻¹, vs. SCE): ^IE^{ox}_{1/2} = 0.94 V, ^{II}E^{ox}_p = 1.79 V. X-ray quality crystals were grown by slow evaporation at 5 °C of C₆H₆/MeOH or C₆H₆/ EtOH solutions.

4.3. Synthesis of $[Re(pic)(N_2)(CO)(PPh_3)_2]$ (2)

To a cloudy solution of 1 (100 mg, 0.12 mmol) in MeOH $(20 \text{ mL})/C_6H_6$ (20 mL) an excess of picolinic acid (148 mg, 1.20 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 15 h under dinitrogen. The resulting orange clear solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to give an orange oily solid which was treated with 10 mL MeOH to produce a suspension. The solid was then filtered off (see below for the use of filtrate), washed with MeOH $(3 \times 5 \text{ mL})$ and Et₂O $(3 \times 5 \text{ mL})$, whereafter it was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) to form a clear solution which was taken to dryness under reduced pressure yielding an orange oil. The addition of Et₂O (40 mL) followed by freezing the obtained mixture in liquid nitrogen (freezethaw method) led to the precipitation of a solid which was isolated by filtration, washed with Et_2O (3 × 5 mL) and dried in vacuo to yield complex 2 as an orange microcrystalline solid (55 mg, 51%). The filtrate from the first filtration (see above) was left to evaporate in air for 2 d. During this time, orange crystals were separated out from the solution. They were collected, washed with MeOH $(3 \times 3 \text{ mL})$, Et₂O $(3 \times 3 \text{ mL})$ and dried in vacuo to give a second crop of 2 (15 mg, 14%; i.e. total isolated yield of 65%). Further purification of **2** can be achieved by recrystallization from $C_6H_6/MeOH(EtOH)$, $C_6H_6/n-C_5H_{12}$ or CH₂Cl₂/n-C₅H₁₂ mixtures. Anal. Calc. for C₄₃H₃₄N₃O₃-P₂Re: C, 58.10; H, 3.86; N, 4.73. Found: C, 58.19; H, 4.01; N, 4.40. IR (KBr v_{max}/cm⁻¹): 3054w v(CH), 2040m v(N₂), 1926m and 1855s v(CO), 1659m v_{as}(COO), 1599m $v_{s}(COO)$, 747m and 695s v(PPh); ¹H NMR (300 MHz,

CDCl₃, Me₄Si, δ): 7.95 (1H, t, J = 5.2 Hz, py), 7.46–7.38 (12H, m, PPh₃), 7.31-7.25 (18H, m, PPh₃), 7.16-7.10 (2H, m, pv), 6.73 (1H, t, J = 5.5 Hz, pv), ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ NMR $(75.4 \text{ MHz}, \text{ CDCl}_3, \text{ Me}_4\text{Si}, \delta)$: 189.71 (CO), 151.22 (COO), 136.54, 132.82, 132.05 and 127.34 (py), 134.44-134.29 and 129.07-128.97 (m, PPh3), 130.28 and 130.17 (PPh₃). ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (121.4 MHz, CDCl₃, H₃PO₄, δ): 24.53 (s) (a lower intensity singlet is also observed at δ 23.20, even after repeated recrystallization of the samples by using different combinations of solvents, although only one compound is revealed by TLC ($Et_2O:Me_2CO = 5:1$, v/v, $R_f = 0.5$)). FAB⁺-MS (m-NBA, m/z): 890 (M⁺ + H), 861 $(M^+ - N_2)$, 784 $(M^+ - pic + OH)$, 767 $(M^+ - pic)$, 739 ($M^+ - N_2 - pic$), 709 ($Re(PPh_3)_2 - 2H$), 627 ($M^+ - PPh_3$), 571 ($M^+ - PPh_3 - N_2 - CO$), 448 ($Re(PPh_3) - H$). CV (CH₂Cl₂, [Bu₄N][BF₄], $v = 0.2 \text{ V} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$, vs. SCE): ¹ $E_{1/2}^{\text{ox}} = 0.69 \text{ V}$, ^{II} $E_{\text{p}}^{\text{ox}} = 1.17 \text{ V}$. X-ray quality crystals of a **2** · C₆H₆ · MeOH were grown by slow evaporation at 5 °C of a C_6H_6 /MeOH solution.

4.4. Refinement details for the X-ray crystal structure analysis of compounds 1 and 2

X-ray data were collected on a Nonius-Kappa CCD diffractometer (complex 2) or an Enraf-Nonius CAD4 diffractometer (complex 1), equipped with a graphite monochromator and using Mo-K α radiation (λ = 0.71073 A) and the COLLECT [19] data collection program. The Denzo-Scalepack [20] or EvalCCD [21] program packages were used for cell refinements and data reduction for 2. The structures were solved by direct methods using the sHELXS-97 [22] or sHELXL-97 program [23]. An empirical

Table 1 Crystal data and structure refinement details for complexes 1 and 2

	1	$2\cdot \mathrm{C}_{6}\mathrm{H}_{6}\cdot \mathrm{MeOH}$
Empirical formula	C ₃₈ H ₃₀ ClN ₂ O ₂ P ₂ Re	$C_{50}H_{44}N_3O_4P_2Re$
Formula weight	830.23	999.02
Temperature (K)	293(2)	120(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71069	0.71073
Crystal system	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	$P\overline{1}$	$P2_1/c$
a (Å)	10.2524(10)	10.8965(2)
b (Å)	12.714(3)	21.9095(3)
$c(\dot{A})$	14.1035(11)	17.8008(3)
α (°)	69.214(14)	90
β (°)	75.237(8)	95.9870(10)
γ (°)	81.5380(10)	90
$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	1658.6(4)	4226.53(12)
Z	2	4
$D_{\rm calc}$ (Mg/m ³)	1.662	1.570
μ (Mo K α) (mm ⁻¹)	3.878	3.001
Number of reflections	7602	45,187
Number of unique data	7300	9675
R _{int}	0.0562	0.0646
Final R_1^{a} , wR_2^{b} $(I \ge 2\sigma)$	0.0635, 0.1442	0.0283, 0.0550
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.038	1.032

^a $R_1 = \sum ||F_0| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_0|.$ ^b $wR_2 = [\sum [w(F_0^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_0^2)^2]]^{1/2}.$

absorption correction based on equivalent reflections was applied [24,25]. Structures were refined with the SHELXL-97 program [23] and the WINGX graphical user interface [25]. In 2 the OH hydrogen of MeOH solvent was located from the difference Fourier map but not refined. All other hydrogens were placed in idealized positions and constrained to ride on their parent atom. The crystallographic data are summarized in Table 1.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

Crystallographic data for 1 and 2 have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC Nos. 601690 (1) and 601691 (2)). Copies of these data may be obtained free of charge from the Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 1223 336 033; email: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http:// www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk). Supplementary data (calculation details of electrochemical parameters) associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.jorganchem.2006.06.015.

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