observed for the {Fe₂O}⁴⁺, {Fe₂O(O₂CR)₂}²⁺, and {Fe₂O(O₂P-(OR)₂)₂}²⁺ cores.^{4,6,16}

In conclusion, the novel asymmetric $\{Fe_3O\}^{7+}$ core has been synthesized by the route given in eq 1. The resulting isosceles triangle of iron atoms has antiferromagnetic exchange and ground-state magnetic properties quite different from those of the extensively studied basic iron carboxylates.^{15,18} These results provide valuable insight into the relationships that occur between magnetic and structural properties of polynuclear iron-oxo complexes and should facilitate the study of such units in biological systems such as ferritin.

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Supplementary Material Available: Atomic positional and thermal parameters for compound $1-2C_6H_6$ (2 pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.

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Cleavage of Ruthenium and Osmium Porphyrin Dimers: Formation of Organometallic Ruthenium Porphyrin Complexes and Highly Reduced Metalloporphyrin Species

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Early reports on naturally occurring and synthetic metalloporphyrins focused on heteroatom donors (N, P, O, S) or CO coordinated to the metal. More recently, a small number of metalloporphyrin complexes containing metal-carbon bonds in the axial coordination sites have been reported. These include alkyl, acyl, carbene, vinyl, vinylidene, and acetylene species. Hydride complexes have also been prepared.¹

We recently described the characterization of the double-bonded porphyrin dimers $[M(Por)]_2$ (M = Ru, Os; Por = OEP, TTP).^{2,3} In the presence of any potentially coordinating ligand, these dimers are cleaved to form M(Por)L₂ species. Formation of the complexes Ru(TTP)L₂ (L = py, 1; THF, 2; CO, 3) is illustrated in Scheme I. Preparations of these products by independent routes have been described in the literature.⁴⁻⁷



Treatment of a THF solution of $[Ru(Por)]_2$ (Por = OEP, TTP) with ethylene (5 min at room temperature), followed by purging with Ar and recrystallization from THF/ROH (R = C₂H₅, CH-(CH₃)₂) yields the novel organometallic metalloporphyrin ethylene complex Ru(Por)(CH₂=CH₂).⁸ The coordinated ethylene in Ru(TTP)(CH₂=CH₂) (5) gives rise to a singlet at -4.06 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum. The integrated intensities indicate that there is one ethylene present per Ru porphyrin moiety. The upfield shift of 9 ppm (relative to free ethylene) can be attributed to the porphyrin ring current effect. The ¹H NMR spectrum remains unchanged at -85 °C. In the presence of ethylene, no coordinated olefin is observed by ¹H NMR indicating fast exchange on the NMR time scale. We are currently investigating the reaction of the dimers with other olefins.

The ease with which the ruthenium dimer can be cleaved upon treatment with neutral donor ligands suggested that reaction with a neutral carbene precursor ":CRR'" might lead to carbene complexes of the form Ru(Por)(CRR'). A vinylidene complex, Ru(TPP)(C=C(p-C $_{6}H_{4}$ Cl)₂), had been prepared by insertion of Ru into a free base porphyrin already containing the carbene moiety bridged between two pyrrole nitrogen atoms.^{1g}

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Figure 1. NMR spectrum (C₆D₆, 300 MHz) of Ru(TTP)(CHCH₃).

When $[Ru(TTP)]_2$ is treated with a slight excess of N₂CH-CO₂CH₂CH₃ in benzene at room temperature the carbene complex $Ru(TTP)(CHCO_2CH_2CH_3)$ (6) is produced.⁹ The ethyl triplet and quartet resonances each appear ca. 1 ppm upfield from those in free ethyl diazoacetate. The carbene proton resonance is observed at 13.43 ppm, within the range for the proton in complexes of the form $M = C(H)R^{10}$ The eight β -pyrrolic protons appear as a singlet, indicating that the carbene complex has axial symmetry on the NMR time scale at room temperature. An electronic barrier to rotation would not be expected since either of the symmetry equivalent metal d_{xz} or d_{yz} orbitals can participate in the π -bonding.

Treatment of a benzene or THF solution of the dimer with a stream of nitrogen containing diazoethane produces the ethylidene complex Ru(TTP)(CHCH₃) (7).¹¹ The ¹H NMR spectrum of this complex in C_6D_6 is shown in Figure 1. The ethylidene ligand gives rise to a doublet at -2.55 ppm for the methyl group and a quartet at 13.03 ppm for the carbene proton. Irradiation of the quartet at 13.03 ppm causes the doublet at -2.55 ppm to collapse to a singlet. The phenyl protons on the p-tolyl substituents on the porphyrin appear in the ¹H NMR as four distinct doublets, indicating inequivalence of the two sides of the porphyrin plane. When the ethylidene complex is generated in THF solution a small amount of the ethylene complex 5 is observed by ¹H NMR, suggesting that some rearrangement of the ethylidene fragment may have occurred. The carbene complexes described herein are the first such metalloporphyrin species to contain a proton on the carbene carbon atom.

These results implied that reaction with diazomethane might lead to a methylene complex " $Ru(TTP)(CH_2)$ ". However, when CH_2N_2/N_2 is bubbled through a THF solution of $[Ru(TTP)]_2$ a methylene species is not observed. Instead, ¹H NMR shows the reaction products to be a 1:1 mixture of the ethylene complex 5 and $Ru(TTP)(THF)_2$ (2), as shown in Scheme I. The bimolecular coupling of M=CH₂ fragments to form $M(CH_2=CH_2)$ and M(solvato) species is not unprecedented.¹² The stoichiometry of the reaction observed here is consistent with such a process, although as yet we have no direct evidence for the involvement of Ru=CH₂ intermediates.

4571

A second class of neutral carbene precursors is the Wittig reagents Ph₃P=CRR', which have been successfully used to transfer a carbene moiety to a transition metal.¹³ We are currently investigating the utility of such species as reagents for the preparation of ruthenium porphyrin carbene complexes.

The magnetic properties and formal metal-metal double bond of the $[M(Por)]_2$ dimer can be satisfactorily modeled by an MO scheme in which the HOMO's and LUMO's are derived from metal d orbitals.² The presence of the half empty π^* and empty σ^* orbitals implies that reduction of the dimer by a total of four electrons would result in a net bond order of zero and is consistent with cleavage of the dimer to form two zerovalent dianionic monomers.

 $[Ru(Por)]_2$ (Por = OEP, TTP), when stirred with Na/K alloy in THF for 30 min, or K metal in THF for several hours, gives a suspension of a violet-black precipitate, which is decanted from the reducing agent. This insoluble, highly air-sensitive material has been characterized on the basis of its subsequent reactivity as the ruthenium(0) porphyrin dianion $K_2[Ru(Por)]$. For example, treatment of $K_2[Ru(TTP)]$ (8) with 1,2-dibromoethane in THF yields the same ethylene complex 5 that was formed independently in the reaction of $[Ru(TTP)]_2$ with ethylene (Scheme I).

The osmium dimer $[Os(TTP)]_2$ can be reduced under the same conditions to yield the sparingly soluble green salt $K_2[Os(TTP)]$. The ¹H NMR spectrum of this complex is consistent with a diamagnetic species and indicates that the plane of symmetry which contains the porphyrin is retained.¹⁴ The reactions of the ruthenium and osmium dianions are the subject of another publication.15

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Zirconium Cluster Compounds Stabilized by Interstitial Atoms

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A prolific cluster chemistry has been discovered for electronpoorer zirconium analogues of the traditional $(Nb,Ta)_6X_{12}^{n+1}$ clusters (X = Cl, Br, some I, n = 2, 3, 4)^{1,2} where a second-period element Be, B, C, or N within each cluster now contributes both strong Zr-interstitial (int) bonding and additional electrons. The results of an extensive study of Zr-Cl-int systems to explore the breadth and variety of this chemistry has given the results summarized in Table I according to the structural framework, i.e., without regard to interstitial atoms and cations. All compounds except Zr₆Cl₁₄B are obtained in greater than 90% yield as redbrown powders or reddish-black, well-facetted gemlike crystals by stoichiometric reactions of Zr powder, ZrCl₄, and, as appro-

⁽⁹⁾ We prefer the formulation generally adopted for late-transition-metal carbene complexes; in this case Ru(II) bonded to a formally neutral carbene fragment. $Ru(TTP)(CHCO_2CH_2CH_3)$ NMR (C₆D₆, 300 MHz) H₈ 8.78 (s), H₀, H_m 8.13 (d), 8.07 (d) 7.33 (d), 7.24 (d), PhCH₃ 2.40 (s), CH 13.43 (s), (2, 5) (2, 5) (2, 5) (3) (2, 5) (2) (2, 5) (2) (

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