# Nearly Tetrahedral 1:2 Complexes of Copper(I), Copper(II), Nickel(II), Cobalt(II), and Zinc(II) with 2,2'-Bis(2-imidazoly) biphenyl 

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We describe here several pseudotetrahedral complexes whose tetrakis(imidazolyl) ligand sets exhibit an unparalleled degree of geometric control. These chromophores are relevant models for native and derivatized superoxide dismutases with $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I}, \mathrm{II})$, $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II}), \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$, or $\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{II})$ ions in pseudotetrahedral metal binding sites. ${ }^{1-4}$ Construction of site analogues requires the use of ligand constraints to overcome the ligand field (LF) driven distortion of tetrahedral $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$ and $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ imidazole complexes toward planarity ${ }^{5.6}$ and the preference of $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ imidazole complexes for 2- or 3-coordination. ${ }^{7,8}$ Nonplanar $\mathrm{Cu}^{11} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{Ni}^{11} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ complexes of nonbiological N -donors have been reported with $\mathrm{MN}_{2} / \mathrm{MN}^{\prime}{ }_{2}$ dihedral angles (DA) up to $71.9^{\circ}$ (ideal planar and tetrahedral limits are $0^{\circ}$ and $90^{\circ}$, respectively). ${ }^{9-14}$ Bidentate aromatic N -donor ligands afford $\mathrm{Cu}^{1} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ complexes with larger DA's $\left(70-80^{\circ}\right),{ }^{15-17}$ while the $\mathrm{Cu}(\text { pyridine })_{4}{ }^{+}$cation shows $\overline{4}$ site symmetry ( $\mathrm{DA}=90^{\circ}$ ) and is nearly tetrahedral. ${ }^{18}$

Although electron transfer between dissimilar $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ and $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ sites may be reversible, ${ }^{19,20}$ the fastest rates should obtain when coordination changes are small, as with $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ and $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ plastocyanin. ${ }^{21}$ The search ${ }^{22-24}$ for a nearly tetrahedral $\mathrm{Cu}^{1} / \mathrm{Cu}^{11} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$
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Figure 1. View of one of the two similar cations in $\mathrm{Cu}(1)_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4}$. H atoms have been omitted for clarity. Selected interatomic distances and angles: $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(1), 1.953$ (7) [1.980 (7)]; $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3), 1.961$ (7) [1.949 (8)] $\AA ; \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right), 140.3(4)^{\circ}\left[141.9(4)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 142.5(4)^{\circ}$ $\left[141.6(5)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3), 93.0(3)^{\circ}$ [93.6(3)$\left.{ }^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$, $99.5(3)^{\circ}\left[98.7(3)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathbf{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right) / \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 86.4(2)^{\circ}$ [89.1 $\left.(2)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3) / \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 51.3(2)^{\circ}\left[51.1(2)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(1)-$ $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3) / \mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 54.2(2)^{\circ}\left[53.4\right.$ (2) $\left.{ }^{\circ}\right]$. Values for the second unique cation are in square brackets.


Figure 2. View of one of the two cations in $\mathrm{Cu}(1)_{2} \cdot \mathrm{ClO}_{4}$. For clarity, H atoms have been omitted. Selected interatomic distances and angles: $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(1), 2.022$ (8) $[2.031$ (7)]; $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3), 2.037$ (8) [2.052 (7)] $\AA$; $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right), 119.5(3)^{\circ}\left[120.6(3)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 121.6(3)^{\circ}$; $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3), 105.9(3)^{\circ}\left[104.4(3)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 102.5(3)^{\circ}$ $\left[107.5(3)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right),\left[100.4(3)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right) / \mathrm{N}(3)-$ $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 87.9(1)^{\circ}\left[89.4(1)^{\circ}\right] ; \mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3) / \mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 78.9$ (1) ${ }^{\circ}$ [77.9 (1) ${ }^{\circ}$; $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}(3) / \mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right), 76.8(1)^{\circ}[77.4$ $\left.(1)^{\circ}\right]$. Values for the second cation are in square brackets.
redox pair containing the same ligands has now been resolved. This pair as well as the analogous $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II}), \mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{II})$, and the novel $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II}) \mathrm{N}_{4}$ complexes are described here.
The bidentate bis(imidazole) donor ligand 1 was prepared in three steps from dimethyl diphenate. ${ }^{25}$ Reaction with excess ethylenediamine at reflux ${ }^{26}$ gave the crystalline bis[ N -(2aminoethyl)amide], which was cyclized and dehydrated by using

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$p$-toluenesulfonic acid at $200^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The resulting bis(imidazoline) was oxidized with $\mathrm{BaMnO}_{4}$ according to the procedure we developed for 2 -substituted imidazoles, ${ }^{27}$ and 1 was isolated as colorless crystals, mp $273-274{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{28}$ Complexes of 1 were prepared by treatment with 0.5 equiv of the $\mathrm{M}(\mathrm{II})$ perchlorate in ethanol. The green $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ complex ( $1.7 \mu_{\mathrm{B}}$ ) crystallized as the diperchlorate from acetone-ether. The dark-blue Ni(II) (3.7 $\mu_{\mathrm{B}}$ ), purple $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$, ( $4.7 \mu_{\mathrm{B}}$ ), and colorless Zn (II) complexes crystallized from ethanol-ether as isostructural diperchlorates having three lattice ethanol molecules per metal. The $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ complex was obtained as the pale-yellow perchlorate by diffusing ether into a deoxygenated acetonitrile solution containing 1 equiv of $\mathbf{1}$ and 0.5 equiv of $\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right)_{4} \cdot \mathrm{ClO}_{4}$.

From X-ray analysis, the metal ions were found to lie on twofold axes which either relate two molecules of $\mathbf{1}$ in the $2: 1$ complexes $(\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II}), \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II}), \mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{II}), \mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ ), or which bisect the biphenyl $1,1^{\prime}$-bond and relate halves of $1[\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I}), \mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$, Figures 1 and 2]..$^{29}$ Comparison of the figures shows the strong similarity of the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ and $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ structures. Geometrical constraints within the nine-membered chelate rings cause the intraligand $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{M}-$ $\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ angles to exceed $109^{\circ}$, flattening the otherwise tetrahedral $\mathrm{MN}_{4}$ units. Additional LF effects result in larger angles for the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ [140.3 (4) $\left.{ }^{\circ}, 142.5(4)^{\circ}\right]$ and $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$ [130.2 (2) $\left.{ }^{\circ}\right]$ complexes compared with those for $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ [123.2 (2) ${ }^{\circ}$ ] and $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ [119.5 $\left.(3)^{\circ}, 121.6(3)^{\circ}\right]$. The DA's between the intraligand $\mathrm{N}_{2} \mathrm{M}$ units (e.g., $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right) / \mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{N}\left(3^{\prime}\right)$, Figure 1) are 86.4 (2) ${ }^{\circ}$, $87.2(2)^{\circ} ; 87.9(1)^{\circ}, 89.4(1)^{\circ} ; 89.3(2)^{\circ}$; and $87.6(1)^{\circ}$ respectively for the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II}), \mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I}), \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$, and $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$ complexes. Increasing $D_{2 d}$ flattening is reflected by the successive decrease in the interligand DA's observed for $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})$ [76.8(1)-78.9(1) $\left.{ }^{\circ}\right]$, Co (II) [74.0 (2) $\left.{ }^{\circ}, 74.7(2)^{\circ}\right], \mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$ [65.4 (2) $\left.{ }^{\circ}, 67.7(2)^{\circ}\right]$, and Cu (II) [51.1 (2)-54.2 (2) ${ }^{\circ}$ ]. The $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{N}$ distances (Figure 1) are ca. $0.05 \AA$ shorter than those generally observed for planar or tetragonal tetrakis(imidazole)copper(II) complexes ${ }^{5}$ but are typical for tetrahedrally distorted $\mathrm{Cu}($ II $)$ complexes having four $\mathrm{sp}^{2} \mathrm{~N}$-donors. ${ }^{10-12}$ The $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{I})-\mathrm{N}$ distances (Figure 2) are normal. ${ }^{15-18}$ The $\mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{N}$ distances [1.987 (4), 2.001 (6) $\AA$ ] are the same as those [1.988 (3), 2.002 (3) $\AA$ ] for the essentially tetrahedral (1,2-dimethylimidazole) ${ }_{4} \mathrm{Co} \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4}$ complex. ${ }^{30}$ The

[^1]$\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{N}$ distances $[1.960$ (5), 1.966 (6) $\AA$ ] are similar to those of pseudotetrahedral Ni(II) tropocoronand complexes with DA's in the range 70.1-85.2 $2^{\circ} .^{14}$
Electronic spectra of the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ complex (mulls and solution) include a LF absorption at $660 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon \sim 400)$ and the predicted ${ }^{31}$ $\pi$ (imidazole) $\rightarrow \mathrm{Cu}($ II $)$ LMCT absorption at $450 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon \sim 600)$. The $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$-doped $\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{II})$ complex exhibits axial EPR spectra ( $g$. $\left.=2.32, g_{\perp}=2.06, A_{\|}{ }^{\mathrm{Cu}}=118 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ considerably different from those ( $g_{\|}=2.26, g_{\perp}=2.08, A_{1}{ }^{\mathrm{Cu}}=178 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) of a planar tetrakis(phenylimidazole)copper(II) reference complex ${ }^{32}$ but similar to those ${ }^{3}$ for superoxide dismutase with $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ doped into the $\mathrm{Zn}(\mathrm{II})$ site ( $g_{z}=2.316, g_{y}=2.118, g_{x} \approx 2.01, A_{z}{ }^{\mathrm{Cu}}=$ $116 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ). The $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$ complex exhibits LF absorptions at $770(\epsilon \sim 30), 640(\epsilon \sim 85)$, and $470 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon \sim 140)$; the $\pi$ (imidazole) $\rightarrow \mathrm{Ni}($ II $)$ LMCT absorption appears at $350 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon \sim 800)$. $\pi$ (Imidazole) $\rightarrow \mathrm{Ni}($ II $)$ LMCT at 335 and 355 nm has been reported for $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$-substituted stellacyanin and azurin, respectively. ${ }^{6}$ The Co(II) complex exhibits LF absorptions at 590 ( $\epsilon$ $\sim 600$ ) and $520 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon \sim 470)$; the $\pi$ (imidazole) $\rightarrow \mathrm{Co}(\mathrm{II})$ LMCT absorption appears at $310 \mathrm{~nm}(\epsilon \sim 900)$. The ligand 1 does not exhibit electronic absorptions at wavelengths longer than 300 nm .

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Supplementary Material Available: Full details for the synthesis of $\mathbf{1}$ and positional and thermal parameters for $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathbf{1})_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4}$, $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathbf{1})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{ClO}_{4}, \mathrm{Ni}(\mathbf{1})_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4} \cdot 3 \mathrm{EtOH}$, and $\mathrm{Co}(\mathbf{1}) \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4} \cdot 3 \mathrm{EtOH}(26$ pages). Ordering information is given on any current masthead page.
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## Reactivity of Pentaammineosmium(II) with Benzene

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Our continued interest in the reactivity of pentaammineosmium(II) with unsaturated ligands ${ }^{1,2}$ has prompted us to investigate its interaction with unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbons. When $\mathrm{Os}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{5}\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}\right)_{3}{ }^{3}$ is reduced by magnesium in the presence of excess benzene, a deep orange solution results. ${ }^{4 a}$ The material isolated from this reaction was characterized as [Os-$\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{5}\left(\eta^{2}\right.$-benzene $\left.)\right](\mathrm{TFMS})_{2}(1) .{ }^{5 \mathrm{a}}$ The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 1 at room temperature shows resonances at 4.75 and 3.45 ppm ,

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    (28) See the supplementary material for more information.
    (29) Crystallography: $\mathrm{Cu}(1)_{2} \cdot \mathrm{ClO}_{4}, \mathrm{CuClO}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{28}$, monoclinic, $\mathrm{C} 2 / \mathrm{c}$, $a=20.922$ (7) $\AA, b=20.603$ (3) $\AA, c=16.127$ (3) $\AA, \beta=90.36$ (2) ${ }^{\circ}, Z$ $=8 ; d_{\text {obsd }}=1.40(1), d_{\text {calcd }}=1.406 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$. The structure was solved ( 2252 reflections ( $I>1 \sigma(I)$, Mo K $\alpha$ radiation, $0.71073 \AA$, empirical absorption corrections) using the Enraf-Nonius SDP and refined to give $R_{F(\omega F)}=0.070$ ( 0.070 ) and a goodness of fit of $1.93 . \mathrm{Cu}(1)_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4}, \mathrm{CuCl}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{8} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{28}$, orthorhombic, $P b c n, a=17.581$ (3) $\AA, b=21.706$ (2) $\AA, c=19.154$ (2) $\AA$, $Z=8 ; d_{\text {obsd }}=1.51(1), d_{\text {calcd }}=1.518 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}, 2783$ reflections $(I>1 \sigma(I))$, $R_{F(\omega F)}=0.098(0.095)$, and $\mathrm{GOF}=2.24 . \quad \mathrm{Co}(1)_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4} \cdot 3 \mathrm{EtOH}, \mathrm{CoCl} 2_{2}$ $\mathrm{O}_{11} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{42} \mathrm{H}_{46}$, monoclinic, $C 2 / c, a=27.239$ (4) $\AA, b=13.041$ (2) $\AA, c=$ 16.205 (2) $\AA, \beta=125.39(1)^{\circ}, Z=4 ; d_{\text {obsd }}=1.41(1), d_{\text {calcd }}=1.371 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}$, 2019 reflections $(I>1 \sigma(I)), R_{F(\omega F)}=0.070(0.085)$, and $G O F=2.72$. $\mathrm{Ni}(1) \cdot 2 \mathrm{ClO}_{4} \cdot 3 \mathrm{EtOH}, \mathrm{NiCl}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{11} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{42} \mathrm{H}_{46}$, monoclinic, $\mathrm{C} 2 / c, a=26.842$ (5) $\AA, b=13.022$ (2) $\AA, c=16.406$ (2) $\AA, \beta=126.21(1)^{\circ}, Z=4 ; d_{\text {obsd }}=1.39$ (1), $d_{\text {calcd }}=1.390 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}, 2049$ reflections $(I>3 \sigma(I)) R_{F(\omega F)}=0.080(0.085)$, and $\mathrm{GOF}=2.25$. The $\mathrm{Co}, \mathrm{Ni}$, and a nominally $3 \% \mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{II})$-doped $\mathrm{Zn}(1)_{2}$ complex (lattice constants $a=27.26$ (1) $\AA, b=13.021$ (3) $\AA, c=16.18$ (1) $\left.\AA, \beta=125.44(5)^{\circ}\right)$ are isostructural. The perchlorate anions in all the complexes showed high thermal parameters and/or disorder, resulting in higher than normal $R$ factors. Complete structural details will be presented elsewhere.
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    (4) (a) Preparation of 1: 200 mg of $\mathrm{Os}\left(\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right)_{5}(\mathrm{TFMS})_{3}$ and 1.0 mL of benzene are dissolved in a cosolvent mixture of 1.5 mL of dimethylacetamide (DMA) and 20 mL of freshly distilled dimethoxyethane. Magnesium, 1.0 g , cleaned with iodine and washed with DMA, is added and the stirred solution becomes orange. After 50 min , the reduced solution is filtered and treated with 100 mL of $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, precipitating the final product. (b) Preparation of 2: $1,100 \mathrm{mg}$, is suspended in ethyl acetate (EtOAc) for 24 h . The solution is filtered and the precipitate collected and washed with $\mathrm{EtOAc}_{\mathrm{O}}$ and $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} .2$ is recrystallized by vapor diffusion of ether into acetone.
    (5) (a) 1: Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{Os}_{1} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{6} \mathrm{~N}_{5}: \mathrm{C}, 14.75 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.25 ; \mathrm{N}$, 10.75. Found: C, 14.75; H, 3.48; N, 10.57. IR (KBr) 3040, 2961, 1529, 1450, $988,927 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (plus $\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}{ }^{-}$and ammine absorptions); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (acetone- $\left.d_{6}, 20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right) \delta 6.45(5.5 \mathrm{H}$, br), $4.75(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}), 3.45(12 \mathrm{H}$, br), -87 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ : $7.25(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}), 6.55(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}), 5.22(2 \mathrm{H}$, br). (b) 2: Anal. Calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{36} \mathrm{Os}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{4} \mathrm{~F}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{10}{ }^{3} /{ }_{4} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{6} \mathrm{O}: \mathrm{C}, 11.76 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.20 ; \mathrm{N}, 10.94$. Found: C , $11.60 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.22 ; \mathrm{N}, 11.04$. IR (KBr) 3005, 2958 (m), 1464, 1156, 1047, 927 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ (plus $\mathrm{SO}_{3} \mathrm{CF}_{3}{ }^{-}$and ammine absorptions); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (acetone $d_{6}$ ) $\delta 6.53$ $(1.9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}), 4.63(2.0, \mathrm{~d}), 4.33(1.9, \mathrm{~m}), 4.90(5.8, \mathrm{br}), 3.65(23, \mathrm{br}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (acetone- $d_{6}$, proton decoupled) 127.6 (s), 53.1 (s), 49.6 (s), 123 (q) ppm $\left(\mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{SO}_{3}^{-}\right)$.

