# Oxidation of Hydrocarbons by $\left[(\text { phen })_{2} \mathbf{M n}(\mu-O)_{2} \mathbf{M n}(\text { phen })_{2}\right]^{3+}$ via Hydrogen Atom Abstraction 

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The oxidation of hydrocarbons by homogeneous, heterogeneous, and enzymatic reagents is of much fundamental and technological interest. We report here the first example of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bond oxidation by a ( $\mu$-oxo) manganese complex, $\left[\mathrm{L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}(\mu-\mathrm{O})_{2^{-}}\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{3}(\mathbf{1} ; \mathrm{L}=1,10$-phenanthroline $) .{ }^{1}$ Activation of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bonds by $\mu$-oxo compounds has been suggested to occur in the catalytic cycles of iron and copper enzymes. ${ }^{2}$ This study complements a recently characterized diiron system that oxidizes cumene ${ }^{2 \mathrm{a}}$ and methylcyclohexadiene, ${ }^{2 \mathrm{~b}}$ as well as dicopper ${ }^{2 \mathrm{c}}$ and dicobalt ${ }^{3}$ systems that undergo intramolecular $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ activation. Mixed valent $\mathbf{1}\left(\mathrm{Mn}^{3+} \mathrm{Mn}^{4+}\right)$ has long been considered a model for a part of the oxygen-evolving complex in photosystem II, where oxidation of water has been proposed to occur by $\mathrm{H}^{-}$ abstraction from metal-bound water or hydroxide by an adjacent tyrosine radical. ${ }^{4}$ We have proposed that the ability of metal oxo species such as $\mathrm{MnO}_{4}^{-}$and $\mathrm{CrO}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to oxidize hydrocarbons by initial hydrogen atom abstraction is directly related to the thermodynamic affinity of these reagents for $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$, rather than any radical character in the oxidant. ${ }^{5,6}$ With this approach, we accurately predicted that $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ would abstract hydrogen atoms from weak $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bonds because of its affinity for $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ (eqs 1 and $2, \mathrm{~L}=$ phen) based on electrochemical and $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ data. ${ }^{7,8}$

$\underset{\mathbf{2}}{\left[\mathrm{L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}(\mu-\mathrm{O})(\mu-\mathrm{OH}) \mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]^{3+}} \underset{-75 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}}{+\mathrm{H} \cdot} \underset{\mathbf{3}}{ } \underset{2}{\left[\mathrm{~L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}(\mu-\mathrm{OH})_{2} \mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]^{3+}}$
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A solution of $\mathbf{1}$ in acetonitrile ( 20 mM ) reacts with $9,10-$ dihydroanthracene (DHA, 40 mM ) over 11 h at $65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, with a change in color from olive green to light brown (eq 3; all reactions done in the absence of air). GC analysis of the organic products revealed anthracene ( 19.4 mM ) and traces of anthraquinone $(0.4 \mathrm{mM})$ and anthrone $(0.15 \mathrm{mM})$. Iodometric

titration ${ }^{9}$ of the isolated manganese product gave an average oxidation state of $2.37(4)$, roughly consistent with the formation of the $\mathrm{Mn}^{3+} \mathrm{Mn}^{2+}$ dimer 3 . The observed products account for $98 \%$ of the oxidizing equivalents of 1 consumed. When only half an equivalent of DHA is used ( 10 mM ), the manganese product has an average oxidation state of $2.92(4)$, consistent with predominant formation of the $\mathrm{Mn}^{3+} \mathrm{Mn}^{3+}$ dimer 2. The organic products ( 8 mM anthracene, 0.9 mM anthraquinone, and trace anthrone) account for $93 \%$ of the manganese oxidizing equivalents consumed. An isotope effect of 4.2(3) was found on analyzing the products of the oxidation of a 50/50 mixture of DHA $-h_{12}$ and DHA $-d_{12}$ by 1 at $55{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The reaction, as monitored by UV/vis spectroscopy, shows no induction period, and there are no isosbestic points. Absorbance vs time traces indicate a consecutive reaction pattern, suggested to be $\mathbf{1} \rightarrow \mathbf{2}$ $\rightarrow$ 3. Species 2 and $\mathbf{3}$ are generated independently from $\mathbf{1}$ and respective stoichiometric amounts of hydroquinone. ${ }^{10}$

The reaction of $\mathbf{1}$ with fluorene in MeCN at $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ gives roughly equal yields of bifluorenyl and 9-fluorenone, accounting for $76 \%$ of the oxidizing equivalents consumed. The formation of bifluorenyl indicates that fluorenyl radicals are involved, as was confirmed by trapping with $\mathrm{CBrCl}_{3}$ to give 9 -bromofluorene, as well as 9 -fluorenone and bifluorenyl. The reaction with DHA is similarly proposed to involve 9-hydroanthracenyl radicals (HA•), by H atom transfer from DHA to $\mathbf{1}$, forming 2 (Scheme 1). In order to explain the kinetic traces, it is necessary to propose that $\mathbf{2}$ can also react with DHA by $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ abstraction. HA ${ }^{-}$is then rapidly oxidized by $\mathbf{1}$ or $\mathbf{2}$ to give anthracene and $\mathbf{2}$ or 3. The kinetic traces for the DHA reaction are successfully simulated with this scheme using the computer programs KINSIM/FITSIM. ${ }^{11}$ At $25{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, k_{1}$ and $k_{3}$ are well defined as $1.56(2) \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$ and $4.2(7) \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, but the fit is not sensitive to the much faster rate constants for trapping of HA ${ }^{\cdot}\left(k_{2}, k_{4}\right.$ roughly $10^{4}-10^{5} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$ from the fit). Independent
(7) Our initial estimates of the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond strengths were based on aqueous electrochemical data reported (Manchanda, R.; Thorp, H. H.; Brudvig, G. W.; Crabtree, R. H. Inorg. Chem. 1992, 31, 4040-4041). However, a reviewer opined that these data are not for 1 but rather for a phosphate-bridged complex. In our hands, 1 reacts immediately on dissolution in phosphate buffer, apparently confirming the reviewer's view. We thank the reviewer for this information.
(8) (a) The $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond strengths were calculated using the equation described by Parker and Tilset ${ }^{8 \mathrm{~b}}$ for measurements in MeCN and $\mathrm{Cp}_{2} \mathrm{Fe}^{+/ o}$ couple as the reference: $\mathrm{BDE}=23.06 E_{1 / 2}+1.37 \mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}+59.5(\mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol})$. Baldwin and Pecoraro ${ }^{4 \mathrm{c}}$ used a related approach based on their measurement of $E_{1 / 2}$ for $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ in MeCN vs aqueous SCE, which is apparently equivalent to using a constant $3 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ lower (Baldwin, M. J. Personal communication, 1996). $E_{1 / 2}$ values (in MeCN , vs $\mathrm{Cp}_{2} \mathrm{Fe}^{+/ o}$ ): for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{III}}(\mathrm{O})_{2} \mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{IV}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{III}}(\mathrm{O})_{2^{-}}$ $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{III}},-0.01 \pm 0.05 \mathrm{~V}$; for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{III}}(\mathrm{O})(\mathrm{OH}) \mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{III}} \rightarrow \mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{III}}(\mathrm{O})(\mathrm{OH}) \mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}$, $-0.03 \pm 0.05 \mathrm{~V}$. The $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ values in MeCN were determined electrochemically following the method of Baldwin and Pecoraro: ${ }^{\text {cc }} 2$, $14.6 \pm 0.5 ; 3,11.5 \pm 0.5$. See Supporting Information for details. (b) Parker, V. D.; Handoo, K. L.; Roness, F.; Tilset, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1991, 113, 7493-7498.
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## Scheme 1


oxidations of DHA with 2 (prepared from $\mathbf{1}+$ hydroquinone) occur with a rate constant of $4.2 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$ at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, in excellent agreement with the simulation result $\left(3.9 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{M}^{-1}\right.$ $\mathrm{s}^{-1}$ at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ). Over the temperature range of $25-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the activation parameters are $\Delta H^{\ddagger}{ }_{1}=14.5(10) \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, \Delta S^{\ddagger}{ }_{1}=$ $-23(3) \mathrm{eu} ; \Delta H^{\ddagger}{ }_{3}=16.0(10) \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}, \Delta S^{\ddagger}{ }_{3}=-21(3) \mathrm{eu}$. The negative entropies of activation are consistent with bimolecular rate-limiting steps and are similar to what we have observed in other hydrogen atom transfer processes. ${ }^{5,6} \Delta H^{\ddagger}{ }_{3}$ is larger than $\Delta H^{\ddagger}{ }_{1}$ presumably because the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond formed on converting $\mathbf{1}$ to $\mathbf{2}$ is stronger than that formed from $\mathbf{2}$ to $\mathbf{3}$.

Rates of hydrogen atom abstraction by main group radicals such as ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuO}^{\circ}$ and ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuOO}^{\bullet}$ have long been known to correlate with the $\Delta H^{\circ}$ for the $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ transfer step (the Evans-Polanyi equation). ${ }^{12}$ This $\Delta H^{\circ}$ for reaction $\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{H}+\mathrm{B} \rightarrow \mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}-\mathrm{H}$ is the difference in the bond strength between $\mathrm{A}-\mathrm{H}$ and $\mathrm{B}-\mathrm{H}$. We have previously found that this relation connects the rate constants for $\mathrm{H}^{+}$abstraction by $\mathrm{MnO}_{4}^{-}$and $\mathrm{CrO}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ with abstraction by oxygen radicals. ${ }^{5,6}$ Figure 1 shows this correlation, $\log k$ vs the strength of the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond formed by the oxidant, for $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ abstraction from DHA. ${ }^{13}$ The rate constants for $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ abstraction by both $\mathbf{1}$ and 2 roughly correlate with those for ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuO}^{\bullet}$ and ${ }^{s e c} \mathrm{BuOO}^{\cdot}$ (the straight line is defined by the rate constants for the oxygen radicals). It appears that $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ react slightly slower than predicted, while the $\mathrm{MnO}_{4}^{-}$oxidation may be slightly faster, although this kind of correlation is rarely precise. ${ }^{12}$ It is surprising, however, that 1 reacts only three times

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Figure 1. Rate constants for hydrogen atom abstraction from dihydroanthracene $\left(30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ vs the strength of the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond formed by ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuO}^{\bullet},{ }^{s e c} \mathrm{BuOO}^{\bullet}, \mathrm{MnO}_{4}{ }^{-},\left[\mathrm{L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}(\mathrm{O})_{2} \mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]^{3+}$, and $\left[\mathrm{L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}(\mathrm{O})(\mathrm{OH})-\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]^{3+} .{ }^{13}$ The straight line is defined by the values for ${ }^{t} \mathrm{BuO} \cdot$ and ${ }^{s e c} \mathrm{BuOO}^{\bullet}$.
faster than $\mathbf{2}$ given the $4 \mathrm{kcal} / \mathrm{mol}$ stronger $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond formed. These deviations from a simple correlation with driving force may reflect different intrinsic barriers, ${ }^{14}$ perhaps due to structural reorganizations on transferring an $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ to a bridging oxygen. Structural reorganizations have been implicated as the cause of slow proton transfer to some $\mu$-oxo groups. ${ }^{15}$

In summary, both $\left[\mathrm{L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}(\mu-\mathrm{O})_{2} \mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]^{3+}(\mathbf{1})$ and $\left[\mathrm{L}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}\right.$ -$\left.(\mu-\mathrm{O})(\mu-\mathrm{OH}) \mathrm{MnL}_{2}\right]^{3+}(\mathbf{2} ; \mathrm{L}=1,10$-phenanthroline $)$ can abstract $\mathrm{H}^{\bullet}$ from hydrocarbons. The rate constants for these reactions can be roughly predicted based on the strengths of the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bonds that are formed. Studies with related substrates and oxidants are in progress to define the scope of these reactions and to understand the activation barriers in more detail.

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Supporting Information Available: Full experimental details, including preparation and characterization of $\mathbf{1 - 3}$, kinetics and simulations, electrochemical measurements of $E_{1 / 2}$ and $\mathrm{p} K_{\mathrm{a}}$ values, and a description of the $\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{H}$ bond strengths estimation ( 8 pages). See any current masthead page for ordering and Internet access instructions.

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