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An Iron–Peroxo Porphyrin Complex: New Synthesis and Reactivity Toward a Cu(II) Complex Giving a Heme–Peroxo–Copper Adduct

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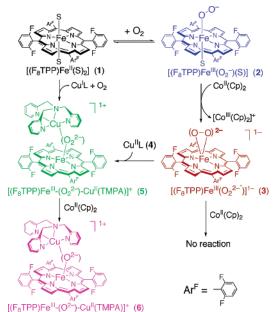
Ferric peroxo porphyrin complexes

are strong nucleophiles capable of epoxidizing electron-deficient olefins.^{1,2} Such species are postulated as the active oxidant in the cytochrome P450-like aromatase and other enzymes.² [(P)Fe^{III}(O₂²⁻)]⁻ complexes³ were first synthesized by Valentine and co-workers, from reaction of [(P)Fe^{III}–Cl] with potassium superoxide in aprotic solvents.^{4–8} The side-on η^2 -peroxo high-spin ferric formulation is based on physical-spectroscopic studies,^{9,10} and by analogy to the structurally characterized η^2 -peroxomanganese complex [(TPP)Mn-(O₂^{2–})]⁻.^{11,12}

In cytochrome *c* oxidase (C*c*O), heme_{a3}-peroxo, heme_{a3}hydroperoxo or heme_{a3}-(μ -peroxo)-copper¹³ species are likely transients which form following electron transfer from the proximal Cu¹⁺_B site to the initially generated heme_{a3}-O₂ adduct (formally a superoxo-iron(III) species).¹⁴ Thus, a viable approach to the understanding of O₂-binding and reductive O-O cleavage at the C*c*O heme•••Cu active site is to probe reactions between ironperoxo heme_{a3} synthetic models and Cu_B-site analogue complexes.

In this report, we describe (Scheme 1) (1) a facile method for reduction of a heme $-O_2$ species $[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{-})(S)]$ (2),³ generating the ferric peroxo porphyrin complex $[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2^-})]^-$ (3) and (2) that this can be subsequently reacted with a ligand-copper(II) complex, affording a heme-peroxo-copper heterobinuclear compound. This distinctive approach to generating heme-

Scheme 1





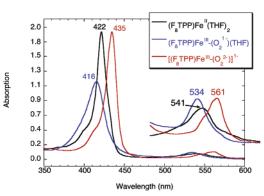


Figure 1. UV-vis spectra of $(F_8TPP)Fe^{II}(THF)_2$ (1), $(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^-)(THF)$ (2) and $[Co^{III}Cp_2][(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2^-})]^-$ (3) in THF at 193 K. See text for further discussion.

peroxo and heme-peroxo-copper complexes is of considerable interest since these compounds closely resemble short-lived species relevant to the cytochrome c oxidase reaction mechanism.¹⁴

Immediate formation of the iron(III)–superoxo complex [(F₈TPP)-Fe^{III}(O₂⁻)(THF)] (**2**) [$\lambda_{max} = 416$ (Soret) and 534 nm]¹⁵ is observed upon bubbling a tetrahydrofuran (THF) solution of [(F₈TPP)Fe^{II}-(THF)₂] (**1**) [$\lambda_{max} = 422$ (Soret) and 541 nm] with dioxygen at -80 °C (Scheme 1 and Figure 1). After removal of excess O₂ by vacuum/Ar cycling, addition of 1 equiv of cobaltocene (as a strong outer-sphere reductant)^{16,17} results in the generation of [Co^{III}Cp₂]-[(F₈TPP)Fe^{III}(O₂²⁻)]⁻ (**3**) based on its characteristic UV–vis spectrum [$\lambda_{max} = 435$ (Soret), 540 (sh) and 561 nm].^{10,18} Similar chemistry is observed with CH₂Cl₂/10% CH₃CN (v/v) as solvent, where CH₃CN serves as an axial heme ligand promoting formation of [(F₈TPP)Fe^{III}(O₂⁻)(CH₃CN)].^{15,17}

A number of lines of evidence further support the formulation given for $[Co^{III}Cp_2][(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2-})]^-$ (3):

(1) The presence of the cobaltocenium ($[Co^{III}Cp_2]^+$) as the countercation is evident by the occurrence of a characteristic new UV band at 262 nm,¹⁹ and a 6.7 ppm signal in the ¹H NMR spectrum (CH₂Cl₂/10% CH₃CN, -80 °C).¹⁶

(2) EPR spectra of $[Co^{III}Cp_2][(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2^-})]^-$ (3) (Figure 2) show a strong marker signal at g = 4.2, typical for rhombic $[(P)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2^-})]^-$ complexes^{10,18} and η^2 -peroxo-nonheme iron species.^{20,21} With excess Co^{II}Cp₂, which eliminates high-spin iron(III) heme impurities (such as (F_8TPP)Fe-OH, $g \approx 7.0$), the additional characteristic g = 8.7 signal is also observed.^{10,20,21}

(3) $[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{-})(THF)]$ (2) is characterized by its typical ¹H-NMR diamagnetic spectrum, ($\delta_{pyrrole} = 8.5$ ppm, THF- d_8 solvent).¹⁵ Addition of Co^{II}Cp₂ leads to a downfield shifting of the pyrrole resonance to 90 ppm.¹⁷ The complex shows Curie behavior (-80 to -40 °C) and extrapolation to room temperature leads to an assignment of this signal occurring at 68 ppm for [Co^{III}Cp₂]-[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2²⁻)]⁻ (3),¹⁷ close to published values for other [(P)Fe^{III}(O_2²⁻)]⁻ complexes.^{22,23}

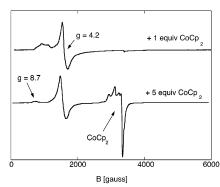


Figure 2. X-band EPR spectra of $[Co^{III}Cp_2][(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2-})]^-$ (3) generated with 1 equiv of cobaltocene (upper spectrum) and with an excess of cobaltocene (lower spectrum) in CH2Cl2/10% CH3CN: temperature, 5 K; time constant 20.48 ms; sweep width 6000 G.

(4) The peroxidic nature of 3 is demonstrated by its protonation using hydrochloric acid, leading to the formation of (F₈TPP)Fe^{III}-Cl and hydrogen peroxide (>70% yield).^{17,24}

The reaction of $[Co^{III}Cp_2][(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2-})]^-$ (3) toward the pentacoordinated copper(II) complex [Cu^{II}(TMPA)(CH₃CN)](ClO₄)₂ $(4)^{25,26}$ (which has a labile CH₃CN ligand) is suggestive of nucleophilic behavior of 3 (Scheme 1), otherwise known for $[(P)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2^-})]^-$ complexes.^{1,2} When **4** was added to a solution of 3 generated in THF at -95 °C, heme $-\mu$ -peroxo-copper complex $[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}-(O_2^{2-})-Cu^{II}(TMPA)](ClO_4)$ (5) is obtained;¹⁷ a solid form was isolated by precipitation with heptane.²⁷ Redissolution (-80 °C) showed that the solid retains the unique UV-vis and ¹H NMR spectroscopic features known for 5,17 which was previously only generated by oxygenation of a 1:1 mixture of reduced complexes (F₈TPP)Fe^{II} and [Cu^I(TMPA)(CH₃CN)](ClO₄), Scheme $1.^{12,28-30}$

It is noteworthy that excess $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{Cp}_2$ ($E^{\circ} \approx -1.3 \text{ V vs Fc}^+/\text{Fc}$)¹⁶ does not react with the η^2 -peroxo complex $[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2^-})]^-$ (3); however, it does reduce the μ -peroxo complex [(F₈TPP)Fe^{III}- (O_2^{2-}) -Cu^{II}(TMPA)]⁺ (5) (CH₃CN, -40 °C), yielding the corresponding μ -oxo species $[(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}-(O^{2-})-Cu^{II}(TMPA)]^+$ (6) [UV-vis: $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 433$ (Soret) and 555 nm] (Scheme 1).²⁸ This inertness toward reductants has also been observed for the η^2 -peroxo complex $[(EDTA)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2-})]^{3-}$ and is indicative that the O–O bond is not activated for reductive cleavage.20 The details of this peroxoto-oxo conversion (5 to 6) are unclear and require further study; coordination by copper(II) as an electrophile in 5 probably assists the O-O bond "activation".

In summary, we have developed a rather simple method to generate an important peroxo-heme species via O₂ chemistry and chemical reduction with cobaltocene. This peroxo-heme species reacts with a copper(II) complex, yielding a heme-peroxo-copper adduct which resembles a suggested transient in the reaction mechanism of CcO.¹⁴ This reactivity methodology opens avenues for future investigation whereby $[Co^{III}Cp_2][(F_8TPP)Fe^{III}(O_2^{2-})]^-$ (3) can be reacted with copper(I) complexes (which can serve as both a copper source and a reducing equivalent),²⁹ and possibly additional proton or electron sources,³¹ in an attempt to understand reductive cleavage of an O-O bond in a heme-Cu environment.

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Supporting Information Available: Synthetic and spectroscopic (UV-vis and ¹H-NMR) details, pp S1-S14, with Figures S1-S8 (PDF). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http:// pubs.acs.org.

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