

Photochemistry and Photophysics of Bis(terpyridyl) Complexes of Ru(II) in Fluid Solution. Evidence for the Formation of an η^2 -Diphenylterpyridine Complex

Jon R. Kirchoff,[†] David R. McMillin,^{*†} Pascal A. Marnot,[‡] and Jean-Pierre Sauvage[‡]

Contribution from the Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907, and the Laboratoire de Chimie Organo-Minérale, Institute de Chimie, 67000 Strasbourg, France. Received May 18, 1984

Abstract: The photochemical and photophysical properties of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$, where dpt denotes 6,6''-diphenyl-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine, are described. The absorption maximum occurs at 477 nm in CH_2Cl_2 and is ascribed to a metal-to-ligand charge-transfer band. Excitation at 477 nm yields little or no detectable emission in CH_2Cl_2 at room temperature or in a 4:1 EtOH/MeOH glass at 77 K. Upon irradiation in CH_2Cl_2 at 25 °C with added SCN^- , $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ undergoes photoanation. The quantum yield for the reaction is $(4.0 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3}$. Several possible structures for the photoproduct are considered, and on the basis of the available data, it is formulated as $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})(\eta^2\text{-dpt})(\text{NCS})^+$. The photophysical properties of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ are compared with other Ru(II) bis(terpyridyl) complexes, and we conclude that the extremely short lifetimes of these complexes cannot be explained by solvent interactions with the metal center. A kinetic scheme is proposed in which nonradiative decay occurs via a d-d excited state which is prone to undergo ligand substitution processes. The model is used to explain the disparate behavior of three different complexes of Ru(II) involving terpyridine-based ligands.

The electronic excited states of pseudo-octahedral complexes of Ru(II) with heteroaromatic ligands such as 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy) have been extensively studied.¹⁻³ One question which has yet to be answered satisfactorily is why the excited-state lifetime of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$, the 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine complex, is so short in fluid solution. Whereas the excited state lifetime of $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ is 600 ns in aqueous solution,³ the lifetime of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ is <5 ns under comparable conditions.^{4,5} In marked contrast, the trpy complex has the longer lifetime in an alcohol glass at 77 K (10.7 vs 5.2 μs).⁶ Evidently a nonradiative decay channel exists in fluid solution which is very effective in the case of the trpy complex. One suggestion has been⁴ that $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$, like its Cr(III) counterpart,⁷ has a relatively "open" structure which renders the excited state very susceptible to solvent interactions. Solvent-induced quenching is well established in related Cu(I) systems and has been attributed to exciplex formation.⁸⁻¹⁰ We have found that in the latter systems, the introduction of bulky substituents adjacent to the nitrogen donors of the heteroaromatic ligands tends to prolong the excited state lifetimes, apparently because the substituents shield the metal center from solvent interactions.^{9,10} In order to test whether this effect extends to ruthenium terpyridyls, we have synthesized $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$, where dpt denotes 6,6''-diphenyl-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine. The photochemical and photophysical properties of the complex are the subject of this report.

Experimental Section

Materials. $\text{RuCl}_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine, and phenyllithium were purchased from Aldrich. The dpt ligand was synthesized as previously reported.¹¹ $[\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2](\text{PF}_6)_2$ and $[\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ were prepared by a modification of the method of Braddock and Meyer.¹² $[(n\text{-Bu})_4\text{N}]\text{SCN}$ was prepared from the bromide (purchased from Aldrich) by a standard ion-exchange method¹³ and was recrystallized from ethyl acetate and ether. Spectroscopic-grade solvents were used in the absorption, luminescence, and photolysis studies.

Methods. The sample was deoxygenated by repeated freeze-pump-thaw cycles, thermostated at 25 °C, and stirred continuously throughout photolysis. The incident light intensity was determined by ferrioxalate actinometry.¹⁴ Since optically dense solutions were used and since we irradiated at an isosbestic wavelength (432 nm), the rate of product formation was described by eq 1, where ϕ is the quantum efficiency of the photoreaction. C_p , C_R , and C_T denote the photoproduct, reactant,

$$dC_p/dt = \phi (I_0/V)(C_R/C_T) \quad (1)$$

and total ruthenium concentrations, respectively, at time t , I_0 is the light

Table I. Selected Properties of Ruthenium Terpyridines^a

complex ^b	$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{abs}}$, nm	ϵ , $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$	$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{em}}$, nm	τ , ns	ref
$\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$	470	16 100		<5	c, h
$\text{Ru}(\text{tro})_2^{2+}$	560	8 200			c
	490	24 200			
$\text{Ru}(\text{tsite})_2^{2+}$	500	38 400	g	200	c
$\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})(\text{trpy})(\text{PTZ})^{2+}$	450	g	608	480	d, e
$\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$	477	6 850			f

^aUnless otherwise indicated the measurements are at room temperature in alcohol solution. ^bLigand abbreviations: tro = 4'-phenyl-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine; tsite = 4,4',4''-triphenyl-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine; PTZ = phenothiazine. ^cStone, M. L.; Crosby, G. A. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1981**, *79*, 169-173. ^dSolvent is water. ^eRoot, M. J.; Deutsch, E.; Sullivan, J. C.; Meisel, D. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1983**, *101*, 353-356. ^fThis work. Solvent is CH_2Cl_2 . ^gNot reported. ^hReferences 4 and 5.

flux in einsteins per second, and V is the photolyte volume. The quantum efficiency ϕ was obtained from a plot of the integrated rate expression (eq 2). At time t the formation of product was monitored at 670 nm

$$C_T V [\ln(C_T) - \ln(C_T - C_p)] = \phi t I \quad (2)$$

($\epsilon = 950 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$), where the parent complex evinced no significant absorbance. The results were in excellent accord with the form of eq 2. Samples used for luminescence measurements were also deoxygenated by repetitive freeze-pump-thaw cycles. Luminescence lifetimes were secured from the slopes of standard log plots.

Instrumentation. Absorption measurements were made with a Cary 17D spectrophotometer, and the luminescence studies were conducted

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[†]Purdue University.
[‡]Institute de Chimie.

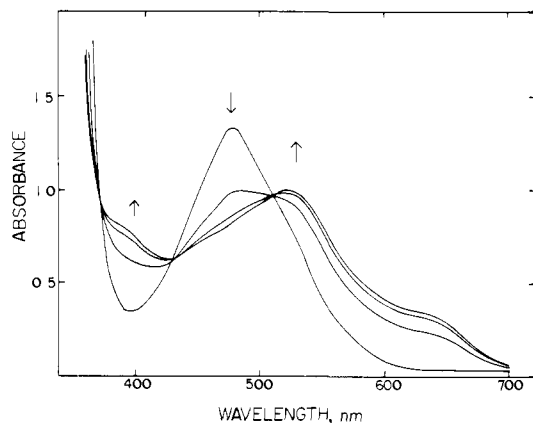


Figure 1. Sequential absorption spectra of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ upon irradiation in CH_2Cl_2 with excess SCN^- . Time intervals are 0, 10, 20, and 30 min and $[\text{Ru}] = 1.68 \times 10^{-4}$ M and $[\text{SCN}^-] = 1.51 \times 10^{-3}$ M. The arrows represent the direction of absorbance change for the major peaks.

with a Perkin-Elmer MPF-44B spectrofluorimeter. Temperature control was achieved with a Lauda K-2/RD circulating bath. Lifetimes were determined with a Princeton Applied Research Model 2100 N_2 -pumped dye laser. Low-temperature measurements were obtained in a quartz Dewar. The photolysis apparatus has been described previously.¹⁵ The infrared spectra of CH_2Cl_2 solutions were obtained with an IBM IR/32 Fourier transform spectrophotometer. The ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct in CD_3CN was obtained with a Bruker 200-MHz Fourier transform spectrometer.

Results and Discussion

Spectral Properties. $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ exhibits an absorption maximum in CH_2Cl_2 at 477 nm which by analogy with related polypyridine complexes (Table I) can be assigned to a $d-\pi^*$, metal-to-ligand charge-transfer transition(s). No significant luminescence could be detected from $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ in CH_2Cl_2 solution at room temperature or in a 4:1 ethanol/methanol glass at 77 K. By comparison, the quantum yield of luminescence from $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ at 77 K must be at least 1000 times smaller than that of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$. For several ruthenium complexes exhibiting significant interligand steric interactions, the luminescence efficiencies have been observed to be quite weak, especially in fluid solution.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Space-filling models suggest that significant interligand steric repulsions exist in $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ as well. The connection between the steric effects and the luminescence efficiency will be discussed after photochemical studies of the complex are described.

Photochemistry. $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ is photoreactive in some solvents but is quite stable to light in pure CH_3OH or CH_2Cl_2 when perchlorate is the counterion. In the presence of more nucleophilic anions like Br^- and SCN^- , CH_2Cl_2 solutions of the complex are stable in the dark over extended periods of time, but they are photosensitive. Figure 1 shows the absorbance changes which occur when SCN^- is the anion. The observation of isosbestic points at 373, 432, and 512 nm is consistent with the formation of a single photoproduct which is itself photostable.¹⁹ In a solution with a mole ratio of thiocyanate to $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ of 10:1, the quantum yield of the photoreaction is $(4.0 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3}$.

Spectral changes qualitatively similar to those in Figure 1 occur upon the photoanation of $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ ²⁰ and $\text{Ru}(2,2'-bi-$

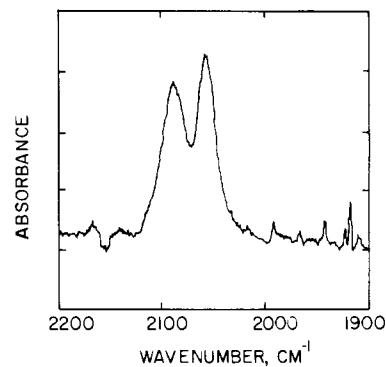


Figure 2. FTIR absorption spectrum of the completely photolyzed sample. The two peaks represent coordinated (2088 cm^{-1}) and uncoordinated SCN^- (2056 cm^{-1}).

pyrazine)₃²¹ In these systems a stepwise loss of a heteroaromatic ligand occurs, yielding, for example, *cis*- $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_2\text{X}_2$, where X^- is a halide or a pseudohalide such as SCN^- . A related reaction occurs with $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$, but the complete dissociation of a dpt ligand does not occur. This is apparent from Figure 1 since a much greater loss of intensity, approximately 50% of the total charge-transfer absorbance, would attend such a reaction.²² Moreover, infrared studies indicate that only one thiocyanate is bound per ruthenium atom in the photoproduct. Figure 2 shows part of the infrared absorption spectrum of an exhaustively photolyzed solution which originally contained 2 mol of SCN^- per mol of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$. Prior to photolysis, only the band at 2056 cm^{-1} (characteristic of uncoordinated SCN^-) was present. The band at 2088 cm^{-1} grew in during photolysis and is assigned to coordinated SCN^- , most likely the N-bonded form.²³ Analysis of the difference spectrum revealed that $57\% \pm 5\%$ of the thiocyanate remained unbound.

The obvious possibilities for the photoproduct are $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2(\text{NCS})^+$ and $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})(\eta^2\text{-dpt})(\text{NCS})^+$, where η^2 denotes a bidentate dpt group bound to Ru(II) via the 1 and 1' nitrogens. Other structures consistent with the binding of one anion per ruthenium center are $\text{Ru}(\eta^2\text{-dpt})_2(\text{NCS})\text{L}^+$, where L is a coordinating impurity such as H_2O , and a binuclear complex with two SCN^- groups bridging $\text{Ru}(\eta^2\text{-dpt})_2^{2+}$ units. These structures can be dismissed because we observed isosbestic points during photolysis and because identical spectra were obtained when solutions with 2:1 and 10:1 SCN^- -to-ruthenium ratios were irradiated. In view of the steric congestion about ruthenium, *vide infra*, the seven-coordinate structure $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2(\text{NCS})^+$ is also implausible. For these various reasons and in light of previous work, $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})(\eta^2\text{-dpt})(\text{NCS})^+$ is the only reasonable product formulation. This structure is also compatible with the ^1H NMR results. While the NMR spectrum of the photoproduct is too complex for detailed analysis, it clearly reveals that the dpt groups are bound in an asymmetric environment. The case for the proposed photoproduct is further bolstered by a recent structure report which establishes a precedent for a bidentate terpyridine linkage to Ru(II).²⁴ In $\text{RuBr}_2(\text{CO})_2(\eta^2\text{-trpy})$, the coordination geometry is pseudooctahedral, with the bromide ligands above and below the equatorial plane defined by the carbonyl ligands and the coordinated nitrogen atoms. For steric reasons the plane of the unbound pyridyl group is rotated appreciably out of the equatorial plane and is approximately parallel to the neighboring CO ligand. The steric requirements of N-bonded SCN^- are no worse than those of CO; hence $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})(\eta^2\text{-dpt})(\text{NCS})^+$ is a viable structure.

Photoanation is at least 100 times less efficient in the case of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$. Small spectral changes are observed upon irradiating

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(19) With bromide, clean isosbestic points are apparent from the beginning. When thiocyanate is used, they do not develop until a few percent of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ has reacted. The explanation may be that N-bonded and S-bonded isomers are formed competitively but that the S-bonded isomer is subject to photoinduced isomerization.

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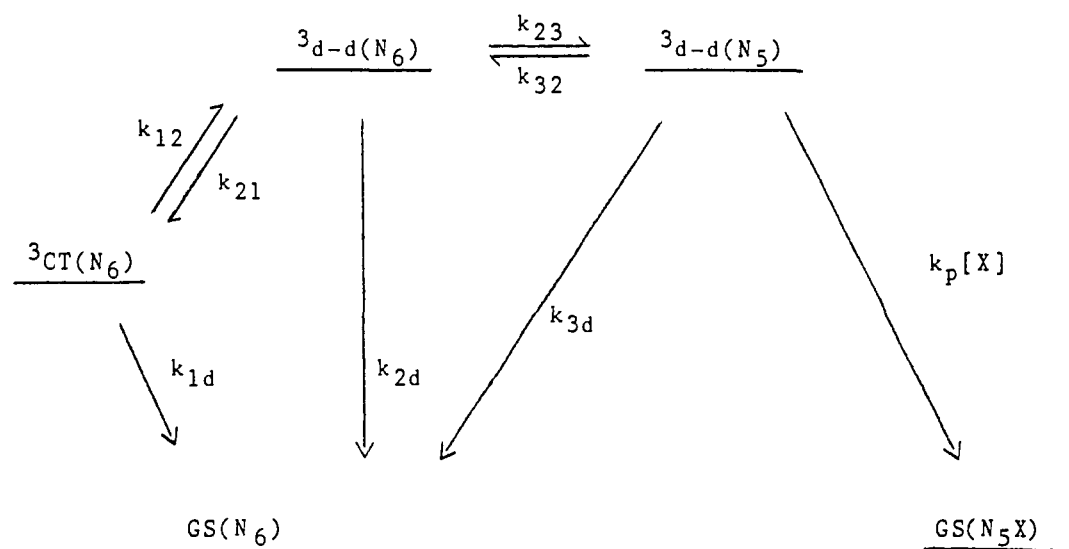
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Scheme I



the latter in the presence of Br^- or SCN^- , but they occur primarily during the first several minutes of photolysis. Sample impurities are an unlikely explanation for this behavior since independent preparations of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ gave similar results. Apparently, a photostationary state is achieved after a small amount of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ has reacted.

Excited-State Considerations. The results discussed above tend to rule out the notion that the open structure of $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ permits solvent interactions which limit the excited-state lifetime. The phenyl substituents of dpt should effectively interfere with solvation in the pockets between ligands; yet, there is no indication of any enhancement of the $d-\pi^*$ excited-state lifetime. Therefore, alternative explanations for the efficient nonradiative decay must be considered.

Early on, Fink and Ohnesorge suggested that the anomalously weak emission from $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ might be due to the equilibration of the CT state with high-spin $d-d$ states.²⁵ Rapid intersystem crossing to the ground state was assumed to be an intrinsic property of the paramagnetic $d-d$ states. Another interpretation was offered by Lytle and co-workers based on ^1H NMR studies. They inferred that the terminal pyridines of trpy were relatively weakly bound in $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ and subject to photodissociation in solution.²⁶ Presumably photodissociation could occur directly from the CT state. Reattachment to give the fully chelated form would complete a photochemical route to efficient nonradiative decay. More recently, Meyer and co-workers have suggested that the unfavorable bite angles associated with the trpy ligand result in a relatively weak ligand field in $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ such that low-lying $d-d$ states are available to quench the CT states.²⁷ Some indication of the deviation from idealized octahedral geometry can be inferred from the structure of $\text{Cr}(\text{trpy})_3^{3+}$, where the N-Cr-N angles involving trans nitrogens are $\leq 160^\circ$.⁷ Similar angles are observed in a series of cobalt complexes.²⁸ As we will show, the model which assumes that the ^3CT excited state can be quenched by a neighboring ^3d-d state is capable of rationalizing a wide body of data involving ruthenium terpyridyls.

By now the quenching of CT emission by neighboring $d-d$ states in $\text{Ru}(\text{II})$ complexes is a well-recognized phenomenon.^{18,29,30} In Scheme I, we present an energy level scheme which is appropriate

for the trpy system and which is analogous to one proposed by Meyer and co-workers for $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$.³¹ The states are labeled according to the electronic configuration; e.g., GS denotes ground state, as well as the donor set about the ruthenium. One excited state, the dissociated $d-d$ state, is assumed to be pentacoordinate.³² In the photoanation product a terpyridine nitrogen is displaced by another ligand, e.g., thiocyanate. The k_{3d} step is meant to account for both the direct reattachment of the pyridine nitrogen and the possibility of a two-step pathway via a solvated intermediate. The kinetics of this scheme are quite complex,³³ and we illustrate the possibilities by discussing three specific cases: $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$, $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$, and $\text{Ru}(\text{tsite})_2^{2+}$.

If the unfavorable bite angles of the trpy system moderate the ligand-field strength and cause ^3d-d states to be thermally accessible, the k_{12} step becomes important. Conversion to a $d-d$ state involves the population of a σ antibonding orbital and, therefore, changes in the molecular geometry. If the distortions are large, ligand dissociation (the k_{23} step) and/or strong coupling to the ground-state surface³⁴ can give rise to efficient radiationless decay. Under these conditions, the k_{2d} and k_{3d} processes can compete with the k_{21} step, and quenching of the ^3CT emission can occur as in $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$. The quenching may be much less important in a low-temperature glass where the k_{12} step may be impaired. Note that there are two distinct contributions to the barrier to the k_{12} step. One is the thermodynamic energy separation between the ^3CT and the ^3d-d states. This factor alone may explain why the quenching in $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ is less important at low temperatures where the average thermal energy is decreased. In addition there is an activation energy associated with the structural reorganization. This can be substantial in a rigid matrix even if the state-to-state separation is small.

The case of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ is similar except that the CT emission is negligible even in a low-temperature glass. Space-filling models suggest that the phenyl substituents give rise to interligand steric repulsions which further weaken the ligand field. As a result, the ^3d-d state may fall significantly below the ^3CT state so that CT emission is quenched at all temperatures. The same repulsions could explain why photoanation is more efficient in the dpt complex. The anation step is important only if it competes with ring closure in the pentacoordinate excited state. This is likely

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in the case of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$ where steric effects are expected to hinder the k_{32} and k_{3d} steps. Since SCN^- falls high in the spectrochemical series and since the CT bands of the photoproduct are red-shifted, the gap between the $^3\text{d-d}$ state and the ^3CT state of the photoproduct is likely to be enhanced over that of $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$. In line with this reasoning, the isothiocyanate complex is hardly photo-reactive; it exhibits an emission at 77 K which maximizes at 767 nm (uncorrected) and has a lifetime of ca. 2 μs .

The case of $\text{Ru}(\text{tsite})_2^{2+}$ is interesting because it is a reasonably good emitter in fluid solution at room temperature (Table I). The 4,4' and 4'' phenyl substituents are unlikely to affect significantly the energy of the $^3\text{d-d}$ state, but they undergo mesomeric interactions with the terpy moiety and therefore could influence the energy of the ^3CT state. Indeed, from the absorption data in Table I, it appears that the CT maximum occurs at lower energy in the tsite complex. Moreover, the mesomeric effect may be enhanced in the thermally equilibrated excited state where the ligand assumes radical anion character. Stabilization of the ^3CT state relative to the $^3\text{d-d}$ state would increase the barrier to the k_{12} step and enhance the lifetime of the CT excited state.

Although Scheme I has been applied only qualitatively, it seems capable of explaining all the available results pertaining to $\text{Ru}(\text{trpy})_2^{2+}$ derivatives. As an alternative, one might invoke a model

which assumes a single excited state of mixed CT and d-d character. Variations in the series would then be attributed to differences in the proportion of d-d character and/or the activation energy associated with the dissociative step. The multiple state model is preferred because of the diverse observations which show that these states often coexist and mutually determine the photochemical and photophysical properties of related d⁶ complexes.³⁵⁻³⁹

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Registry No. $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})_2^{2+}$, 94619-67-7; $\text{Ru}(\text{dpt})(\eta^2\text{-dpt})(\text{NCS})^+$, 94619-68-8; SCN^- , 302-04-5.

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Quenching Studies of $^*\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$. Evidence for Competitive Electron-Transfer and Energy-Transfer Quenching by $\text{Cr}(\text{acac})_3$ Derivatives

Roland E. Gamache, Jr., Rosemary A. Rader, and David R. McMillin*

Contribution from the Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907. Received August 13, 1984

Abstract: The kinetics of quenching $^*\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$, the $^3\text{d-d}$ excited state of $\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$ (dpp = 2,9-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline), by a series of $\text{Cr}(\text{acac})_3$ derivatives and a series of nitroaromatics have been studied in CH_2Cl_2 solution at 20 °C. For the nitroaromatic compounds, the quenching rate falls off as the electrode potential of the quencher ranges below that of $^*\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$, consistent with an electron-transfer mechanism. The results were analyzed by a variation of the Marcus theory, and the self-exchange rate for the $\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^{2+}/^*\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$ system was estimated to be $8 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The $\text{Cr}(\text{III})$ quenchers span a much wider range of electrode potentials and are also capable of undergoing energy-transfer quenching via the low-lying doublet excited states. As a result the quenching rate constant exhibits a more complex dependence on the free energy of electron-transfer quenching. In the exergonic region, the rate plateaus at the diffusion limit; as electron-transfer quenching becomes endergonic, the rate initially decreases and then levels off again at ca. $10^7 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. This behavior is explained as a changeover from electron-transfer to energy-transfer quenching where the latter process occurs at a roughly constant rate throughout the series. When electron-transfer quenching is prominent, the average self-exchange rate for the $\text{Cr}(\text{III})/\text{Cr}(\text{II})$ couples is estimated to be $2 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, suggesting that the $\text{Cr}(\text{II})$ forms are low spin. The utility of $^*\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$ as a redox reagent and novel aspects of the homologous series of $\text{Cr}(\text{acac})_3$ derivatives as quenchers are discussed.

There is continuing interest in the photochemical and photophysical properties of charge-transfer (CT) excited states of transition-metal complexes, partly because such states have been found to be useful in various schemes for energy conversion and fuel formation.^{1,2} The long-lived charge-transfer excited state(s) of $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$, where bpy denotes 2,2'-bipyridine, has been studied in great detail, especially by the use of quenching methods.²⁻⁶ It

is prone to electron-transfer quenching, and the redox properties of the state are well established.⁷⁻⁹ Defining the scope and the limitations of such excited-state reagents depends upon the characterization of many more systems. One of the aims of the present work has been to characterize the redox properties of the d¹⁰ complex $\text{Cu}(\text{dpp})_2^+$ (dpp denotes 2,9-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline), an ion recently found to exhibit a long-lived CT excited state in CH_2Cl_2 solution.¹⁰ Here we report that various

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