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Oxidative Addition of Carbon–Carbon Bonds with a Redox-Active Bis(imino)pyridine Iron Complex

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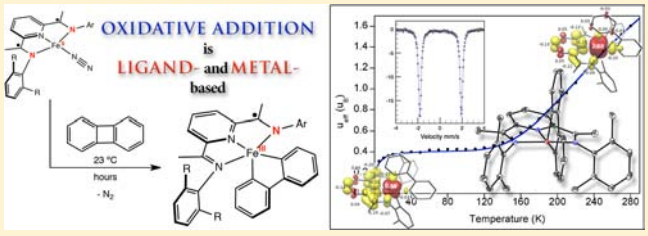
Supporting Information

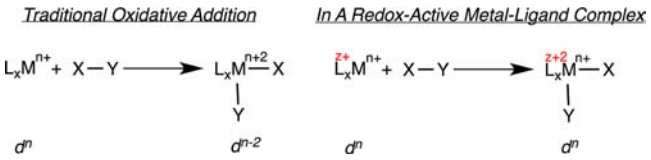
ABSTRACT: Addition of biphenylene to the bis(imino)pyridine iron dinitrogen complexes, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$ and [(^{Me}PDI)Fe(N_2)]$_2$(μ_2-N_2) (^{R}PDI = 2,6-(2,6-R_2—C_6H_3—N═CMe)$_2$$C_5H_3N$; R = Me, ^{i}Pr), resulted in oxidative addition of a C—C bond at ambient temperature to yield the corresponding iron biphenyl compounds, (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). The molecular structures of the resulting bis(imino)pyridine iron metallacycles were established by X-ray diffraction and revealed idealized square pyramidal geometries. The electronic structures of the compounds were studied by Mössbauer spectroscopy, NMR spectroscopy, magnetochemistry, and X-ray absorption and X-ray emission spectroscopies. The experimental data, in combination with broken-symmetry density functional theory calculations, established spin crossover (low to intermediate spin) ferric compounds antiferromagnetically coupled to bis(imino)pyridine radical anions. Thus, the overall oxidation reaction involves cooperative electron loss from both the iron center and the redox-active bis(imino)pyridine ligand.



INTRODUCTION

Oxidative addition is a fundamental transformation in organometallic chemistry that is often a key bond activation step responsible for introducing substrates into the metal coordination sphere during catalytic turnover.[1] As exemplified by square planar, d^8 metal compounds such as Vaska's complex, (Ph_3P)$_2$Ir(CO)Cl, the traditional version of the reaction involves a formal two-electron oxidation at the metal (e.g., d^8 to d^6; Scheme 1).[2]

Scheme 1. Oxidative Addition Reactions



Metal complexes with redox-active ligands, those where the ligands participate directly in the electronic structures of the molecules,[3,4] have received renewed attention due to their interesting electronic structures, role in metalloenzymes,[5,6] ability to promote unusual group transfer reactivity,[7,8] and importance in base metal catalysis.[9,10] Enabling redox chemistry at the supporting ligands potentially changes the paradigm for oxidative addition; electron loss could occur at the supporting ligands rather than the metal (Scheme 1). Heyduk and coworkers have provided an illustrative example of this concept with the formal addition of chlorine to a bis(amido)phenolate zirconium(IV) compound to furnish the corresponding dichloride and convincingly demonstrated that electron loss occurs at each of the chelating ligands.[11]

The potential economic and environmental advantages of iron have renewed interest in developing base metal catalysts as alternatives to precious metals.[12−18] Aryl-substituted bis(imino)pyridine iron dinitrogen compounds, (^{R}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$ and [(^{R}PDI)Fe(N_2)]$_2$(μ_2-N_2) (^{Ar}PDI = 2,6-(2,6-R_2—C_6H_3—N═CMe)$_2$$C_5H_3N$; R = ^{i}Pr, Et, Me), have emerged as an effective and versatile class of catalyst precursors for olefin and alkyne hydrogenation,[19−23] intra-[24,25] and intermolecular cyclization[26] of unsaturated olefins as well as the regioselective, anti-Markovnikov hydrosilylation of olefins with tertiary silanes.[27−29] Despite the high activity of these compounds in olefin hydrogenation and hydrosilylation, many of the mechanistic details surrounding catalytic turnover have yet to be elucidated. The now well-established redox activity of the bis(imino)pyridine chelate[30,31] renders such studies more challenging as fundamental transformations such as oxidative

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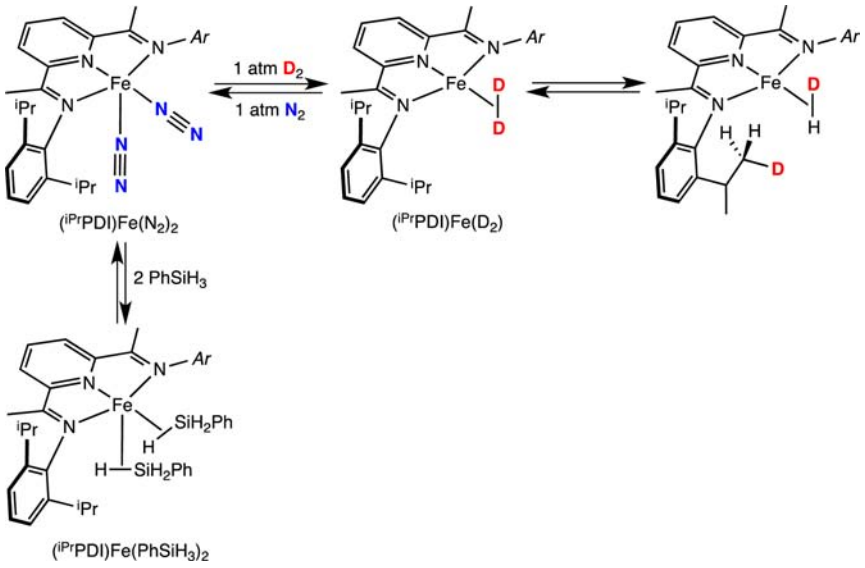
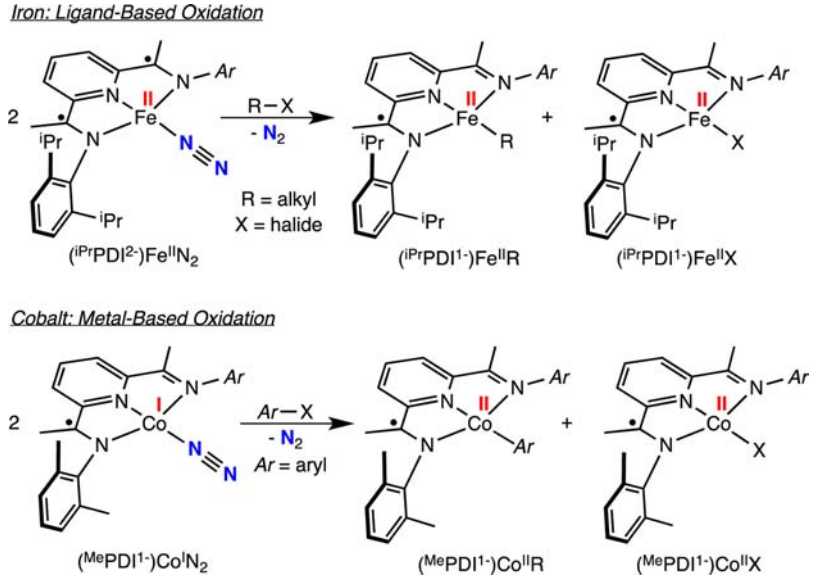
Scheme 2. Treatment of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$ with D_2 and $PhSiH_3$



Scheme 3. C−X Oxidative Addition to (^{iPr}PDI)FeN_2 and (^{Me}PDI)CoN_2



addition and reductive elimination likely involve ligand-based redox events.[32]

Attempts to study the oxidative addition of catalytically relevant substrates such as dihydrogen or $PhSiH_3$ to one of the most well-studied bis(imino)pyridine iron precatalysts, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$, furnished the iron σ-complexes, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(η^2-H_2) and (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(η^2-$PhSiH_3$)$_2$, offering little direct information about the oxidative addition process.[19] Repeating the reaction with D_2 yielded (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(η^2-D_2) with concomitant deuterium incorporation into the isopropyl methyl positions of the 2,6-aryl substituents, suggesting that a net oxidative addition−reductive elimination of C−H bonds was operative (Scheme 2).

Formal oxidative addition of carbon−heteroatom bonds has been observed with bis(imino)pyridine iron and cobalt dinitrogen complexes. Carbon−oxygen bond cleavage in diallyl ether and various esters has been identified as a catalyst deactivation pathway during iron-catalyzed [2π + 2π] cycloaddition[23] and olefin hydrogenation,[33] respectively. In stoichiometric chemistry, addition of allyl ether to (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$ produced an equimolar mixture of the iron allyl and iron alkoxide complexes, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(η^3-CH_2CHCH_2) and (^{iPr}PDI)-Fe($OCH_2CH{=}CH_2$), respectively, demonstrating that oxidative chemistry can occur over two iron complexes (Scheme 3). Extension of this chemistry to alkyl and vinyl halides allowed synthesis of various bis(imino)pyridine iron alkyl complexes, including those with β-hydrogens.[34] Elucidation of the electronic structures of both (^{iPr}PDI^{1-})Fe^{II}R (R = alkyl) and (^{iPr}PDI^{1-})Fe^{II}X (X = Cl, Br) classes of compounds established ferrous compounds with monoreduced, bis(imino)pyridine radical anions.

Studies into the electronic structures of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$ and (^{iPr}PDI)FeN_2, two compounds in equilibrium in solution, have established redox non-innocent and redox-active bis(imino)-pyridine chelates, respectively.[35,36] The five-coordinate complex, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$, is a highly covalent molecule similar to (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CO)$_2$, where the oxidation state of the iron is best described as a resonance hybrid between Fe(0) and Fe(II) with

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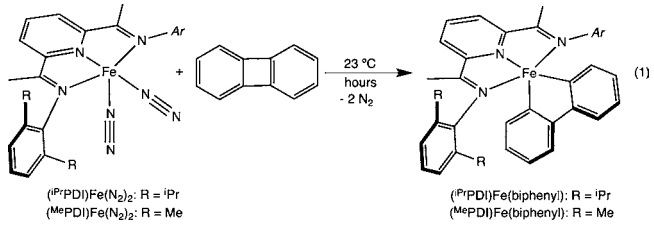
the bis(imino)pyridine ligand acting as a classical π-acceptor. This electronic structure description is also applicable to the dimeric bis(imino)pyridine iron dinitrogen compounds, $[(^{R}PDI)Fe(N_2)]_2(\mu_2\text{-}N_2)$, for which there is no evidence for dissociation of N_2 or formation of monomeric compounds in solution or the solid state.[22] In this bonding situation, the bis(imino)pyridine is termed "redox non-innocent" in accord with Jørgensen's original definition of a case where the covalency of the metal−ligand interaction creates ambiguity over the metal oxidation state.[37]

For the four-coordinate compound, $(^{iPr}PDI)FeN_2$, the iron is best described as an intermediate spin iron(II) center antiferromagnetically coupled to a triplet bis(imino)pyridine diradical dianion. Unlike $(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)_2$, the oxidation state of the iron in $(^{iPr}PDI)FeN_2$ is unambiguously intermediate spin ferrous. Accordingly, we use the term "redox active" to distinguish this electronic structure from the description of $(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)_2$, as the oxidation state of the iron in the four-coordinate compound is unambiguous.[33] As the four-coordinate compound, $(^{iPr}PDI^{2-})Fe^{II}N_2$, predominates in solution, the formal oxidative addition of alkyl halides may be viewed as a ligand based process. The triplet diradical bis(imino)pyridine in $(^{iPr}PDI^{2-})Fe^{II}N_2$ undergoes a one-electron oxidation to yield $(^{iPr}PDI^{1-})Fe^{II}R$ and $(^{iPr}PDI^{1-})Fe^{II}X$ while the iron maintains the ferrous oxidation state.

In related chemistry with cobalt, Zhu and Budzelaar have reported the oxidative addition of aryl halides with $(^{Me}PDI)CoN_2$ to yield $(^{Me}PDI)CoAr$ (*Ar* = substituted aryl) and $(^{Me}PDI)CoX$ (X = Cl, Br, I)[38] and have presented evidence for radical pathways.[39] The electronic structure of the $(^{R}PDI)CoN_2$ family of compounds has been established as low-spin, d^8 cobalt(I) derivatives with bis(imino)pyridine radical anions, e.g. $(^{Me}PDI^{1-})Co^{I}N_2$, with the SOMO of the complex essentially chelate-based.[40] Because both $(^{Me}PDI^{1-})Co^{II}Ar$ and $(^{Me}PDI^{1-})Co^{II}X$ are known Co(II) compounds antiferromagnetically coupled to bis(imino)pyridine radical anions,[41] the formal oxidative addition process is solely metal based. This behavior is *opposite* the oxidative addition process in iron chemistry as electron loss occurs solely at the cobalt center and demonstrates the flexibility of the redox-active bis(imino)-pyridine chelate (to participate or not) to smoothly adjust to the electronic requirements of a metal complex and a specific redox process.

Although these studies are informative for understanding electron transfer processes in reduced iron and cobalt complexes with redox-active ligands, little is known about oxidative addition reactions relevant to catalytic hydrogenation, hydrosilylation, and hydrogenative cyclization reactions that occur at a single iron center. To circumvent complications from formation of σ-complexes, products with strong metal−carbon bonds were targeted as a method to study oxidative addition



reactions with $(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)_2$ and related precatalysts. As amply demonstrated by Jones and co-workers,[42] biphenylene is an attractive substrate for this purpose due to the presence of a relatively weak C−C bond (BDE = 65.4 kcal/mol) coupled to the formation of two strong metal−phenyl bonds. Accordingly, well-defined C−C oxidative events have been reported for iron,[43] platinum,[44] rhodium,[45] and nickel.[46] Here we describe the oxidative addition of the C−C bond of biphenylene to bis(imino)pyridine iron dinitrogen compounds to yield the corresponding iron metallacycles. These studies highlight the flexibility of the redox-active bis(imino)pyridine chelate to enable catalysis by mitigation of otherwise likely high energy Fe(IV) intermediates.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis and Structure of Bis(imino)pyridine Iron Biphenyl Compounds. Addition of 1 equiv of biphenylene (per iron center) to a saturated pentane solution containing either $(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)_2$ or $[(^{Me}PDI)Fe(N_2)]_2(\mu_2\text{-}N_2)$ at ambient temperature resulted in C−C bond cleavage and yielded

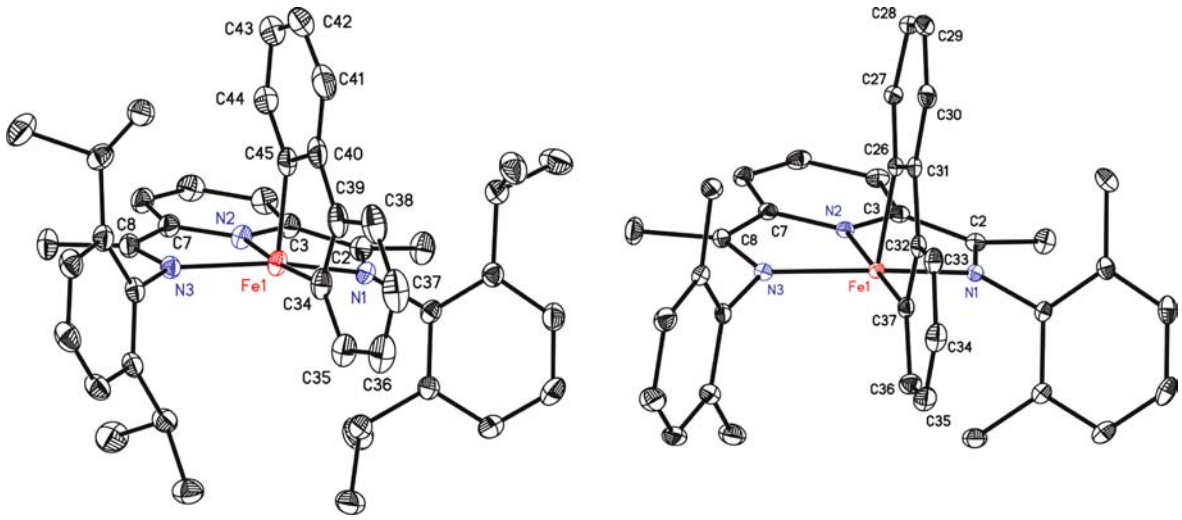


Figure 1. Solid state structures for $(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)$ (left) and $(^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)$ (right) at 30% ellipsoids. Only one representative molecule (of two) from the asymmetric unit of the crystal containing $(^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)$ is shown. All solvent molecules and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Data for $(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)$ collected at 173 K; data for $(^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)$ collected at 100 K.

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the corresponding bis(imino)pyridine iron biphenyl compounds, (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl), as green powders (eq 1). Monomeric iron dinitrogen complexes are depicted in eq 1 for clarity, and all bis(imino)pyridine iron complexes are drawn in their traditional (formal oxidation state notation) form until the electronic structure determinations are presented.

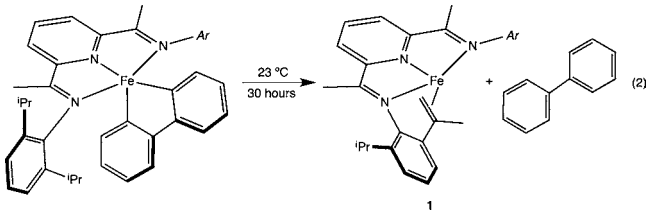
The solid state structures of both (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) were determined by X-ray diffraction and are presented in Figure 1. Selected bond distances and angles are reported in Table 1. In both compounds, the overall molecular geometry is best described as idealized square pyramidal with the three nitrogen atoms of the bis(imino)pyridine and one of the carbon atoms of the biphenyldiyl ligand defining the basal plane. The other carbon of the metallacycle defines the apical position. The iron−carbon bond distances of Fe(1)−C(34) and Fe(1)−C(45) of 1.965(3) and 1.943(3) Å, respectively, in (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) are shorter than the iron−carbon bond lengths of 2.062(3) and 2.054(3) Å, respectively, previously reported for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CH_2SiMe_3)$_2$, a molecule with an S = 2 ground state.[27,47] In both (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl), the bond distances of the bis(imino)pyridine chelate are diagnostic of redox activity and key for indirectly assigning the metal oxidation state.[29,39] In both complexes, the iron−nitrogen and iron−carbon bond lengths are sufficiently contracted to eliminate a high spin state, and the elongation of the N_{imine}−C_{imine} and contraction of C_{imine}−C_{ipso} distances are consistent with one-electron reduction and hence, a ferric oxidation state assignment.

Table 1. Selected Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)

	(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)	(^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)
Fe(1)−N(1)	1.959(2)	1.9402(18)
Fe(1)−N(2)	1.852(2)	1.8569(16)
Fe(1)−N(3)	1.988(2)	1.9503(18)
Fe(1)−C_{basal}	1.965(3)	1.9656(19)
Fe(1)−C_{apical}	1.943(3)	1.9436(19)
N(1)−C(2)	1.315(4)	1.318(2)
N(3)−C(8)	1.317(4)	1.320(2)
C(2)−C(3)	1.438(4)	1.452(3)
C(7)−C(8)	1.433(4)	1.447(3)
N(1)−Fe(1)−N(2)	79.41(9)	79.80(7)
N(1)−Fe(1)−N(3)	154.78(9)	157.38(7)
N(1)−Fe(1)−C_{basal}	99.76(10)	103.06(7)
N(1)−Fe(1)−C_{apical}	99.70(11)	93.75(7)
N(2)−Fe(1)−N(3)	79.46(10)	80.11(7)
N(2)−Fe(1)−C_{basal}	175.09(12)	175.93(8)
N(2)−Fe(1)−C_{apical}	92.47(12)	92.47(7)
N(3)−Fe(1)−C_{basal}	104.21(10)	97.57(7)
N(3)−Fe(1)−C_{apical}	94.81(11)	97.39(7)

NMR Spectroscopic Studies. The benzene-d_6 ^{1}H NMR spectra of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) at 23 °C exhibit a number of resonances consistent with paramagnetic C_s and C_{2v} symmetric iron complexes, respectively. The resonances for each spectrum are shifted over an 86 (R = ^{i}Pr) and 33 ppm (R = Me) range. The significantly broader resonances of (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) compared to (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl), in combination with the higher C_{2v} symmetry, suggest that the less sterically congested bis(imino)pyridine iron complex allows for rapid rocking of the biphenyl group through the iron-chelate plane at 23 °C. Similar behavior has been reported for five-coordinate compounds with neutral ligands such as (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2)$_2$ and (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CO)$_2$ where C_{2v} symmetry is observed by NMR spectroscopy although distorted square pyramidal structures are observed in the solid state.[19] Cooling a toluene-d_8 solution of (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) to 0 °C resulted in a sharpening and increase in the number of the observed resonances. Under these conditions, (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) exhibited the number of resonances consistent with a molecule of C_s symmetry over a range of 85 ppm, demonstrating the static limit, analogous to the 23 °C spectrum of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Variable temperature ^{1}H NMR experiments for both compounds are reported in the Supporting Information (Figures S1 and S2).

Kinetic Stability of (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) Compounds. The kinetic stability of the (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) compounds was investigated as it impacts the ability to isolate and handle pure material used for subsequent spectroscopic studies. Benzene-d_6 solutions of (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) proved to be indefinitely stable at 23 °C under an inert atmosphere. By contrast, allowing a benzene-d_6 solution of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) to stand for 30 h at 23 °C resulted in liberation of a stoichiometric quantity of biphenyl along with formation of the previously reported bis(imino)pyridine iron intramolecular olefin complex arising from dehydrogenation of the isopropyl aryl substituents (eq 2).[48]



The transfer dehydrogenation reaction, previously observed in the context of bis(imino)pyridine iron-catalyzed enyne and diyne cyclizations,[24] was also confirmed by deuterium labeling experiments. Allowing (^{iPr}PDI*)Fe(biphenyl) (* indicates deuteration of the isopropyl methyl groups) to stand in benzene-d_6 yielded 2-d_1-biphenyl along with isotopologues of **1**. Analysis of the liberated biphenyl by ^{1}H and ^{2}H NMR spectroscopy established exclusive deuterium incorporation into the 2-position of the arene. Complete conversion to products required 96 h at 23 °C, consistent with a normal primary kinetic isotope effect on transfer dehydrogenation, similar to observations in related enyne chemistry.[24] Because the iron product, **1**, is NMR silent and has a triplet ground state, its formation, which is kinetically competitive during preparation of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl), must be taken into account when conducting spectroscopic or magnetic measurements on the starting iron compound.

Magnetochemistry. The observation of paramagnetic compounds by NMR spectroscopy prompted more detailed investigations into the magnetic behavior of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Ambient temperature (23 °C) measurements using a magnetic susceptibility balance yielded effective magnetic moments of 1.5 and 2.0 μ_B for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl), consistent with S = 1 molecules. Similarly, effective moments of 1.1 ((^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)) and 1.7 μ_B ((^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)) were determined by the method of Evans in benzene-d_6 solution at 23 °C.

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Variable temperature measurements were also conducted on both compounds using SQUID magnetometry. The temperature dependence of the magnetic moment for (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) is presented in Figure 2. This compound was

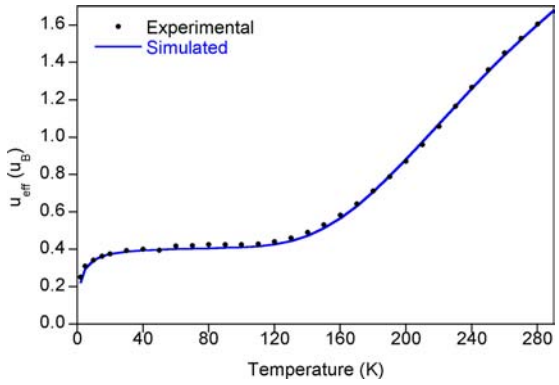

Figure 2. Variable temperature SQUID magnetization data for (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) from 4 to 300 K. Data (black dots) are corrected for underlying diamagnetism, and the simulation (blue line) depicts a phase transition from an $S = 0$ to $S = 1$ state (as fit using the Sorai and Seki domain model)[49,50] with a transition temperature of 352 K and enthalpy, $n\Delta H = 805$ cm^{-1}. The model also contains 0.5% of a paramagnetic impurity with $\theta = -5$ K.

selected for initial study due to its kinetic stability. At temperatures below 120 K, the magnetic moment plateaued at 0.4 μ_B. The low temperature data were modeled for a diamagnetic iron compound with 200 × 10^{-6} cm^3/mol of temperature independent paramagnetism containing 0.5% of an unknown $S = 5/2$ paramagnetic impurity. At temperatures above 120 K, a sharp rise in the magnetic moment is observed, reaching a value of 1.6 μ_B at 300 K. The overall temperature dependence of the magnetic moment is consistent with a spin crossover (SCO) from an $S = 0$ to $S = 1$ ground state and was modeled using the Sorai and Seki domain model, where the high spin fraction is determined by $x = 1/[1 + \exp\{(n\Delta H/R)(1/T - 1/T_c)\}]$.[49,50] Although the $S = 1$ state is not fully resolved, the high transition temperature of 352 K (transition width/enthalpy, $n\Delta H = 805$ cm^{-1}) resulting from the model supports an incomplete population of the higher spin state at 300 K. The low temperature increase in magnetic moment (below 20 K) was modeled with a Weiss temperature (θ) = −5 K in the paramagnetic impurity and likely results from the influence of zero field splitting and magnetization saturation. Because the high spin state is experimentally not fully resolved, zero field splitting (D) = 0 and $g = 2$ were constrained as they cannot be properly determined. However, a change in the magnitude of either of these parameters would not alter the conclusions regarding the initial and final spin states: (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) is an $S = 0$ to $S = 1$ spin crossover compound. Similar SCO behavior has been observed with bis(imino)pyridine iron imido ($S = 0$ to $S = 1$)[51] and bis(chelate) bis(imino)pyridine cobalt ($S = 1/2$ to $S = 3/2$) compounds.[52] The variable temperature magnetic data observed for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) displays the same general trends as for (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) (see Supporting Information) but the instability of the compound (*vide supra*) made collection of reliable magnetic data more challenging. In an attempt to circumvent these issues and to evaluate the influence of impurities, all magnetic samples were analyzed by Mössbauer spectroscopy prior to SQUID, MSB, or Evans measurements. Representative data are reported in the Supporting Information.

Mössbauer Spectroscopic Studies. The electronic structures of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) were also studied using zero- and applied-field ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectroscopy. Experimentally determined isomer shifts (δ) and quadrupole splittings (ΔE_Q) are reported in Table 2;

Table 2. Zero-Field ^{57}Fe Mössbauer Spectroscopic Parameters for Bis(imino)pyridine Iron Compounds Relevant to This Study (Data Collected at 80 K)

compound	δ (mm/s)	ΔE_Q (mm/s)[a]
(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)	0.07	+3.58
(^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)	0.05	3.69
(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N$_2$)$_2$	0.39	−0.53
(^{iPr}PDI)FeN$_2$	0.38	+1.72[b]
(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(DMAP)	0.31	+1.94[b]
(^{iPr}PDI)FeNDipp	0.30	+1.08[c]
(^{iPr}PDI)FeN^{1}Ad	0.04	−2.38[c]
(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CH$_2$SiMe$_3$)$_2$	0.27	2.65[d]
(^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CO)$_2$	0.03	1.17[b]

[a]Unless a sign is reported, all values of ΔE_Q are absolute values. [b]Values taken from ref 29. [c]Values taken from ref 30. [d]Values taken from ref 27.

representative spectra are presented in Figure 3. Also included in Table 2 are the values of δ and ΔE_Q for several other bis(imino)pyridine iron compounds for comparison. The diamagnetic iron dinitrogen complexes, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N$_2$) and (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(DMAP),[31] were chosen as intermediate spin ferrous ($S_{Fe} = 1$) compounds with two-electron reduced bis(imino)pyridine chelates ($S_{PDI} = 1$). The iron imido, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe═N(Dipp) (Dipp = 2,6-^{i}Pr$_2$−C$_6$H$_3$),[32] and dialkyl, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CH$_2$SiMe$_3$)$_2$,[28] complexes were chosen as molecules with Fe(III) oxidation states and one-electron reduced chelates. It should be noted that the imido was characterized as an intermediate spin Fe(III) compound, ($S_{Fe} = 3/2$), while the dialkyl was determined to be high spin ($S_{Fe} = 5/2$).

The isomer shifts of the (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) compounds, 0.07 (R = ^{i}Pr) and 0.05 mm/s (R = Me), are lower than those of the known intermediate spin ferrous derivatives, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N$_2$) and (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(DMAP), and the intermediate and high spin ferric species, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe═N(Dipp) and (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CH$_2$SiMe$_3$)$_2$, respectively. The values of δ are comparable to that measured for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(CO)$_2$, a highly covalent molecule that is best described by (^{iPr}PDI^{2-})Fe^{II}(CO)$_2$ and (^{iPr}PDI^0)Fe^0(CO)$_2$ resonance forms and the alkyl-substituted iron imido complex, (^{iPr}PDI)FeN^{1}Ad, an established spin crossover compound.[51]

^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectroscopy has been applied to detect spin crossover behavior in iron coordination compounds.[53] The most well-studied examples are octahedral complexes of iron(II) where the spectral parameters of the low- and high-spin states are different and the time scale of the experiment (10^{-7} s) allows detection of the two different spin isomers.[49,53] In bis(imino)pyridine chemistry, Mössbauer spectroscopy distinguished the low- and high-spin states of (^{iPr}PDI)FeN^{2}Ad and allowed determination of the energetics of the spin transition.[51] To probe whether such behavior could be detected in organometallic iron complexes, variable temperature data were collected on both (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe-

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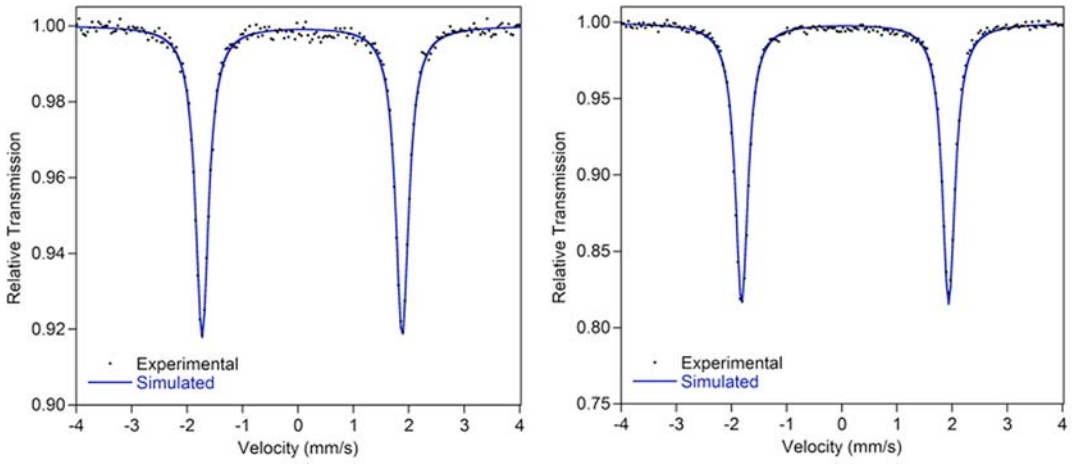

Figure 3. Zero-field ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) (left) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) (right). Data collected at 80 K.

(biphenyl). For the former compound, spectra were obtained at 10, 80, 150, 200, and 250 K. The parameters obtained at 250 K (δ = 0.01 mm/s and ΔE_Q = 3.51 mm/s) are indistiguishable from the values (δ = 0.07 mm/s and ΔE_Q = 3.58 mm/s) obtained at 80 K. Similar behavior was observed with (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl), where parameters of δ = −0.02 mm/s and ΔE_Q = 3.43 mm/s were measured at 295 K indistiguishable from the values of δ = 0.05 mm/s and ΔE_Q = 3.69 mm/s at 80 K. Representative spectra for both compounds are presented in the Supporting Information.

Although SCO behavior has been detected in Fe(III) compounds previously,[55] the differences in isomer shift and quadrupole splitting between the low and high spin forms may be sufficiently small to be differentiated by the experiment. As will be described in the Computational Studies section, the predicted parameters for the S = 1 state of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) are δ = 0.18 mm/s and ΔE_Q = 3.70 mm/s. These values, when considering the accepted errors in computed Mössbauer parameters,[56] are indistinguishable from the values predicted (and observed) at 80 K.

To determine the sign of the quadrupole splitting and gain additional insight into the low temperature magnetic ground state, applied field Mössbauer measurements were made from 1 to 7 T at 4.2 and 120 K using (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) as a representative example. The spectra exhibit characteristic magnetic splitting upon the application of an external field (Figure 4) and were modeled using an S = 0 ground state and confirmed the diamagnetism of the molecule at low temperatures. Simulation of the data yielded an isomer shift of 0.07 mm/s, a positive quadrupole splitting, ΔE_Q = +3.58(2) mm/s, and an asymmetry parameter for the electric field gradient, η = 0.45(5). The large and positive quadrupole splittings for (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) (the value for (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) is likely also positive) indicate a large asymmetric field gradient along the z-axis.[53]

X-ray Absorption and Emission Studies. To gain additional insight into the oxidation and spin state of the iron, (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) was also studied by X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy (XAS). The pre-edge region of an XAS spectrum (~7110−7116 eV) is a well-known indicator of oxidation state, with shifts of ~1 eV occurring for each one-electron oxidation event at the iron center,[57,58] and this technique has been previously used to aid in the understanding of the electronic structure of bis(imino)pyridine compounds.[36,51] Here, at low (10 K) and high (298 K) temperatures, XAS is also applied to provide a second experimental probe of the SCO behavior which was demonstrated by the SQUID data but was invisible to the

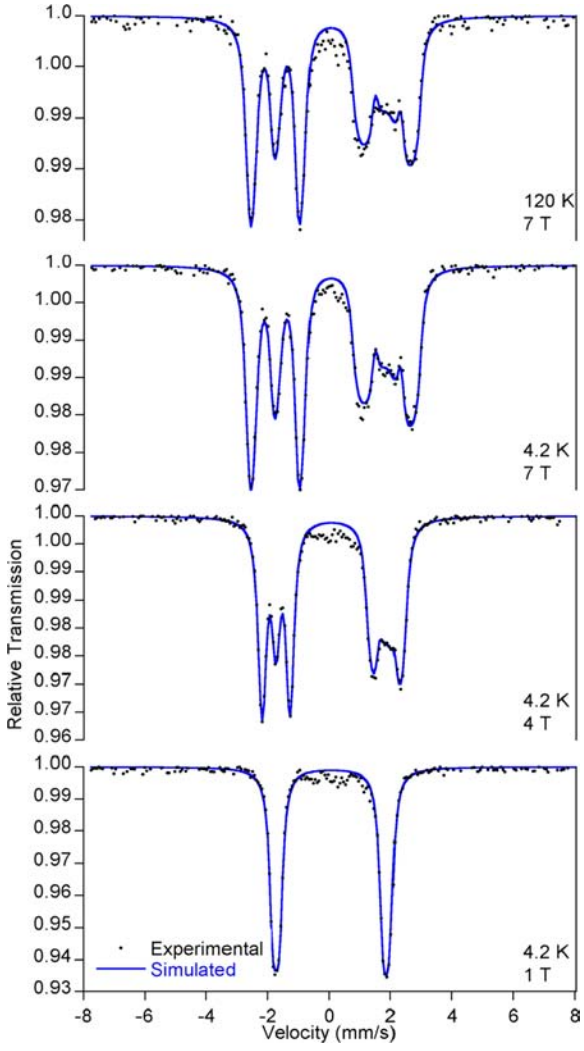

Figure 4. Applied field ^{57}Fe Mössbauer spectra of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) recorded at 1 T, 4.2 K (bottom); 4 T, 4.2 K; 7 T, 4.2 K; 7 T, 120 K (top).

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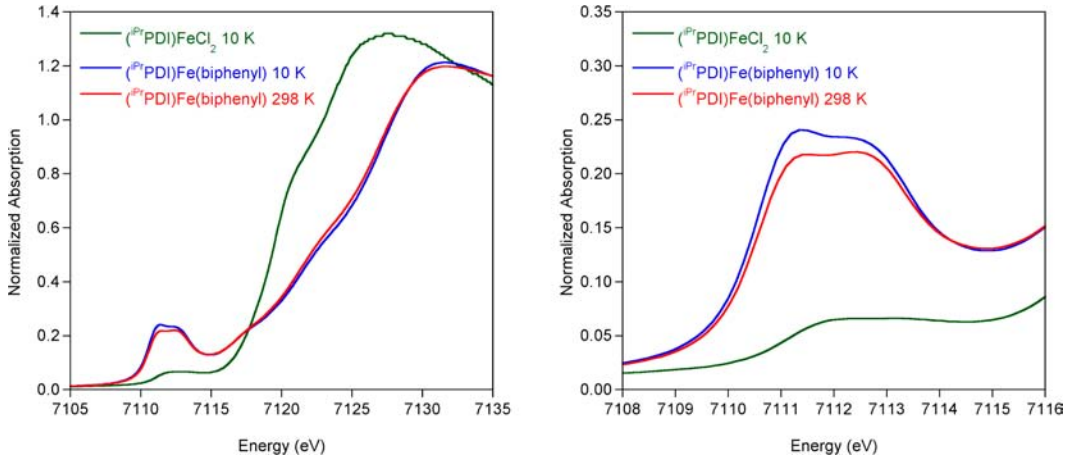

Figure 5. Comparison of the normalized Fe K-edge XAS spectra for (^{iPr}PDI)$FeCl_2$ and (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). The data for the latter were collected at 10 (blue) and 298 (red) K. The data for (^{iPr}PDI)$FeCl_2$ were taken from ref 36. See Supporting Information for figures detailing the full set of experiments.

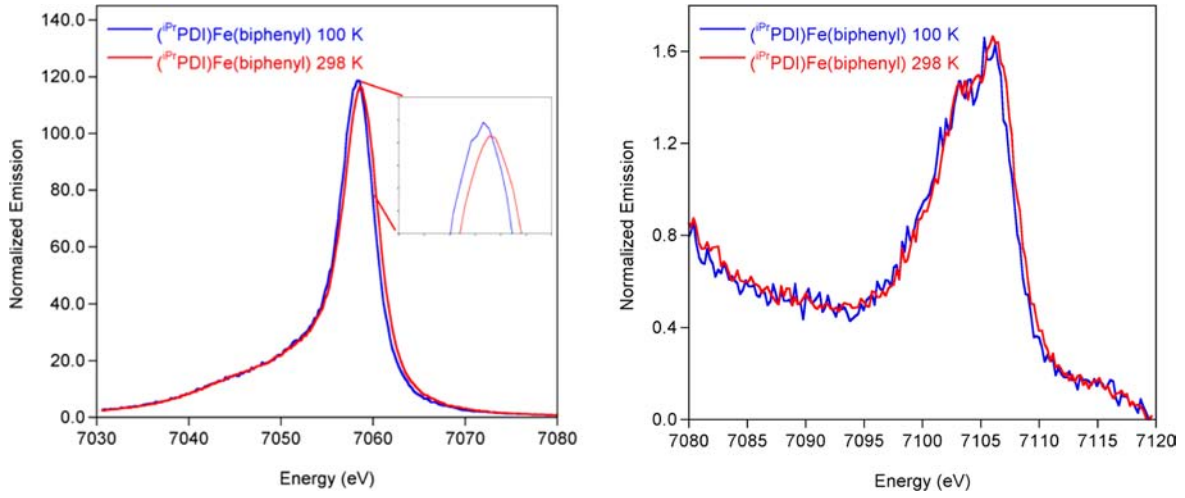

Figure 6. Variable temperature XES spectra of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) highlighting the main line (left) and V2C (right) at 100 K (blue) and 298 K (red).

zero-field Mössbauer experiment. As XAS is a molecular technique, it potentially eliminates the detection of bulk magnetic effects and is less sensitive to impurities than traditional magnetic measurements. Previous studies of light,[59] magnetic field,[60] and temperature[61−63] induced SCO events in iron compounds have demonstrated the sensitivity of XAS for detecting small electronic structural differences in SCO compounds. It is generally observed that, upon increasing spin state, the rising edge shifts to lower energy due to longer metal−ligand bonds, which make the iron center appear "more reduced." In the pre-edge region, a decrease in pre-edge intensity is observed for the higher spin state, consistent with longer metal−ligand bonds for the higher spin state, which results in a decrease in covalently mediated metal 3*d*−4*p* mixing.[62−64]

XAS data for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) were obtained at 10, 35−43, 57−66, and 298 K (Figure 5). The spectra up to 66 K all overlay, and the data are presented together with the Fe K-edge spectrum of (^{iPr}PDI^0)$Fe^{II}Cl_2$, an established five-coordinate, high spin ferrous compound.[30] At 10 K, the 1*s* to 3*d* pre-edge feature appears at 7111.8 eV for (^{iPr}PDI)$Fe^{II}Cl_2$ while (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) exhibits two pre-edge features with similar intensities at 7111.5 and 7112.5 eV (Figure 5b), consistent with a ferric oxidation state. The pre-edge of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) is 0.7−1 eV lower in energy than known Fe(IV) compounds,[57,65] suggesting that oxidative addition of biphenylene to (^{iPr}PDI^{2-})$Fe^{II}N_2$ was not exclusively iron-based with retention of the dianionic chelate. Instead, the rising edge (at ∼7121.5 eV) of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) is also consistent with a ferric rather than ferrous oxidation state and confirms participation of the bis(imino)pyridine chelate in the overall electronic structure and in the course of the oxidative addition reaction.

Variable temperature X-ray emission spectroscopy (XES) studies were also performed to study the spin crossover behavior of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). X-ray emission spectroscopy detects emission from the relaxation of a 3*p* electron into a 1*s* hole created by excitation of the core electron and thus allows different electronic states to be accessed as compared to XAS. XES is of particular interest for SCO compounds because it is a molecular technique that is sensitive to the metal spin state. Additionally, XES of SCO compounds has not been widely explored,[59a,62,66] and further studies are necessary to establish frameworks such that this method could be used for unknown systems, or systems for which not enough material can be isolated for traditional magnetic measurements. (^{iPr}PDI)Fe-

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(biphenyl) offers a unique system for applying XES, in terms of both exploring the electronic structure of the compound and understanding what effect spin state changes in SCO compounds have upon spectral features in XES.

The main line (7030−7080 eV) of the spectrum, which includes the Kβ' (∼7040−7050 eV) and K$\beta_{1,3}$ (∼7055−7065 eV) features, contains the most information about the metal spin state (Figure 6, left).[62,67] In low-spin compounds, a Kβ' feature is absent but is present in high-spin derivatives (∼7040−7050 eV).[62,67] Similarly, the K$\beta_{1,3}$ transition (7055−7065 eV) shifts 1−2 eV higher in energy for high-spin compounds and is dominated by 3*p*−3*d* exchange interactions with smaller contributions from 3*p* spin−orbit coupling.[62,67] The energy splitting between the Kβ' and K$\beta_{1,3}$ is a result of the exchange interaction between 3*p* and 3*d* electrons and is therefore sensitive to the d-orbital occupancy and metal oxidation state.[68−70] The K$\beta_{2,5}$ and Kβ'' feature, or valence to core region (V2C, 7080−7120 eV), results from a ligand n*p* or n*s* to metal 1*s* transition and is predominantly sensitive to ligand identity. The V2C has also been shown to have a lower intensity for high-spin complexes as compared to low-spin complexes, and these trends have been confirmed in bis(imino)pyridine iron compounds.[36]

As shown in Figure 6 (left), the spectrum of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) at 100 K exhibits essentially no Kβ' feature and is consistent with a low spin iron center at this temperature. This is in agreement with established parameters for diamagnetic bis(imino)pyridine iron compounds.[34] Increasing the temperature to 298 K produced no significant change in the Kβ' region. The K$\beta_{1,3}$ shifts by ∼0.4 eV to higher energy upon increasing temperature (from 7058.2 eV at 10 K to 7058.6 eV at 298 K), consistent with the presence of some higher spin state component at higher temperatures. Typical energies for the K$\beta_{1,3}$ for low spin Fe(III) compounds are from 7057.8 to 7059.1 eV, and those for high spin Fe(III) compounds fall between 7060.0 and 7060.4 eV.[67] The K$\beta_{1,3}$ energies at both 10 and 298 K fall within the energy regime for low spin Fe(III) compounds and are clearly outside the range of high spin Fe(III) compounds. For bis(imino)pyridine Fe(II) compounds the K$\beta_{1,3}$ energy difference for low spin versus intermediate spin compounds (not SCO) is 0.6−0.8 eV, suggesting approximately 50% conversion from low spin to intermediate spin (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) at 298 K.

The V2C shows a slight shift (0.3 eV) to higher energy at 298 K but displays no significant changes in area. In a simple picture, one would expect a decrease in the V2C XES area upon increasing spin state due to longer metal−ligand bond lengths. Previous studies[67] have shown that high-spin ferric complexes have approximately twice the intensity of low spin ferric complexes. However, in this case a smaller change is predicted, as only an intermediate spin ferric state is accessed. The observed shift and similar areas for the low spin and intermediate spin V2C XES spectra are further supported by calculations (vide infra). Hence the XES data are consistent with a diamagnetic ground state for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) which crosses to a higher spin state at higher temperatures (but is not fully accessed at 298 K). The data presented here indicate that the K$\beta_{1,3}$ is sensitive to spin state changes of 0.4−0.6 μ_B.

Computational Studies. The electronic structures of the high and low spin forms of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) were investigated with full molecule DFT calculations. Geometry optimizations were initiated from the experimental solid-state structures, and calculations were performed with the ORCA program with the B3LYP functional as with other bis(imino)-pyridine metal complexes.[36,61] For computational expediency, XAS and XES calculations were performed using BP86. This functional has also shown better agreement with experimental spectra (as compared to B3LYP) and improves computational efficiency.[71,77] Unrestricted Kohn−Sham (UKS) calculations were performed for singlet and triplet ground states as well as the corresponding broken symmetry possibilities, BS(1,1) and BS(3,1). In the broken symmetry notation BS(*m*, *n*) describes a state in which there are *m* unpaired spin-up electrons and *n* unpaired spin-down electrons on separate fragments.[72−74] Both the singlet and triplet calculations converged to the respective BS(1,1) and BS(3,1) broken symmetry solutions. A Restricted Kohn−Sham (RKS) solution was also evaluated.

The BS(3,1) solution was found to be the lowest in energy, whereas the BS(1,1) solution was 7.9 kcal higher in energy, and the RKS solution was the highest in energy by 12.5 kcal (Table 3). Although these results are opposite the experimental data, where the S = 0 ground state is preferred, DFT methods are known to erroneously favor higher spin states.[75] It has been suggested that computed energy differences of $HS - LS = -6$ to 0 kcal or less are indicative of spin-crossover compounds.[75] While our data are slightly outside this range, we believe the energy differences are most consistent with a spin-crossover compound where the DFT favors the higher spin state.

Table 3. Experimental and Computed ^{57}Fe Mössbauer Spectroscopic Parameters and Relative Computed Ground State Energies for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)

	exptl 80 K	exptl 250 K	BS(3,1)	BS(1,1)	RKS
relative calcd energy (kcal)	na	na	0.00	+7.91	+12.47
δ (mm/s)	0.07	0.01	0.18	0.08	0.14
ΔE_Q (mm/s)	+3.58	3.51	+3.70	+2.64	−2.98
η	0.45	—	0.42	0.26	0.88

The BS(1,1) geometry optimization reproduced experimental crystallographic parameters, although the metal−ligand bond distances are slightly elongated, as is common when using the B3LYP functional (Table 4).[76] A qualitative molecular orbital (MO) diagram and spin density plot are presented in

Table 4. Experimental and Computed Bond Lengths (Å) and Angles (deg) for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl)

	exptl	BS(3,1)	BS(1,1)	RKS
Fe(1)−N(1)	1.959(2)	2.188	2.057	2.048
Fe(1)−N(2)	1.852(2)	1.916	1.889	1.879
Fe(1)−N(3)	1.988(2)	2.179	2.050	2.047
Fe(1)−C(34)	1.965(3)	1.986	1.987	1.978
Fe(1)−C(45)	1.943(3)	2.032	1.951	1.961
N(1)−C(2)	1.315(4)	1.311	1.316	1.307
N(3)−C(8)	1.317(4)	1.313	1.318	1.307
N(2)−C(3)	1.360(4)	1.369	1.363	1.355
N(2)−C(7)	1.362(4)	1.369	1.364	1.355
C(2)−C(3)	1.438(4)	1.457	1.457	1.465
C(7)−C(8)	1.433(4)	1.456	1.455	1.465
N(2)−Fe(1)−C(34)	175.09(12)	178.6	179.3	176.7
N(2)−Fe(1)−C(45)	92.47(12)	98.9	96.4	92.0

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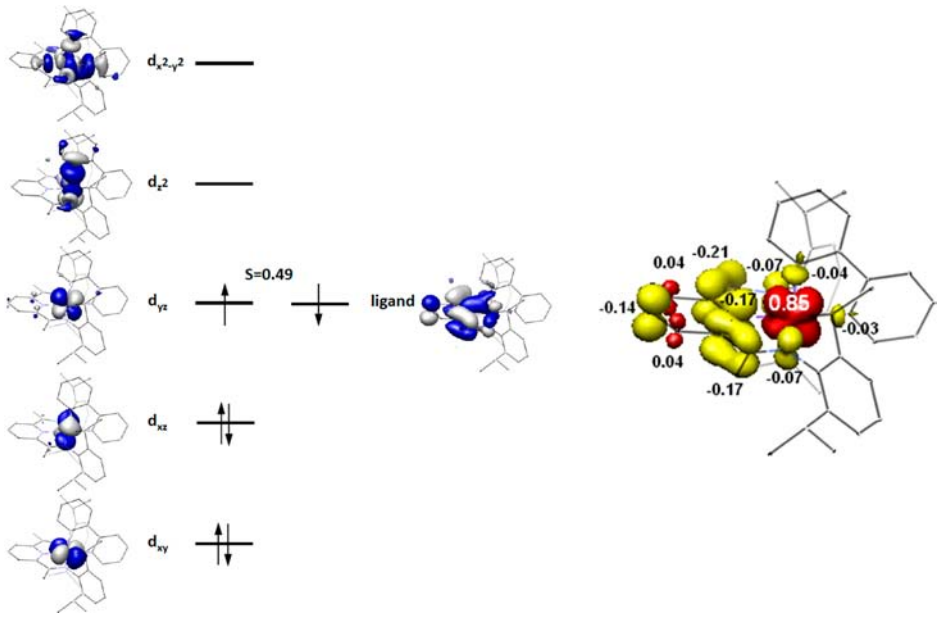

Figure 7. Qualitative molecular orbital diagram (left) and spin density plot (right) obtained from the BS(1,1) solution for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Spin density plot obtained from a Löwdin population analysis of the BS(1,1) solution for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) (red = positive spin density, yellow = negative spin density). Total electron densities are Fe = +0.85, PDI = −0.78, biphenyl = −0.07.

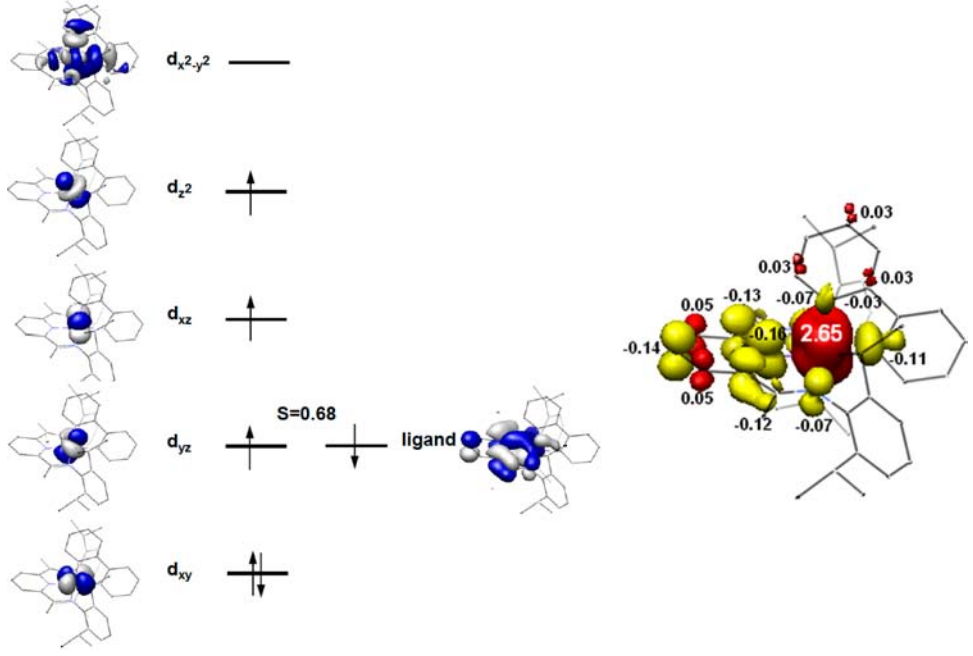

Figure 8. Qualitative molecular orbital diagram (left) and spin density plot (right) obtained from the BS(3,1) solution for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Spin density plot obtained from a Löwdin population analysis of the BS(3,1) solution for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) (red = positive spin density, yellow = negative spin density). Total electron densities are Fe = +2.65, PDI = −0.57, biphenyl = −0.08.

Figure 7. The BS(1,1) solution establishes a low spin iron(III) center that is antiferromagnetically coupled to a bis(imino)-pyridine radical giving rise to a diamagnetic ground state. The computed Mössbauer parameters of δ = 0.08 mm/s, ΔE_Q = +2.64 mm/s, and η = 0.26 are in good agreement with the 80 K experimental values of 0.08, +3.58, and 0.45, respectively, thereby validating the computational results. For bis(imino)-pyridine iron compounds, computational quadrupole splittings often do not agree completely with experiment and are especially challenging for SCO compounds (errors of 1.00 mm/s are considered reasonable).[55]

The BS(3,1) solution also reproduces the experimentally determined crystallographic parameters within computational error, but with a slightly larger deviation from experiment than the BS(1,1) solution (Table 4). Figure 8 depicts a qualitative MO diagram and spin density plot for the BS(3,1) solution described by an intermediate spin iron(III) center antiferromagnetically coupled to a bis(imino)pyridine radical (S = 0.68) giving rise to the overall S = 1 spin state. Analogous to the BS(1,1) solution, the d_{yz} iron orbital mediates antiferromagnetic coupling to the bis(imino)pyridine ligand. Upon increasing the spin state, an electron is promoted from the

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d_{xz} orbital into the previously unoccupied d_{z^2} orbital. The computed Mössbauer parameters of δ = 0.18 mm/s, ΔE_Q = +3.70 mm/s, η = 0.42 are in excellent agreement with the experimental values of δ = 0.01 mm/s, ΔE_Q = 3.51 mm/s determined at 250 K.

The computational results for (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) were analogous to those obtained for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). The BS(3,1) solution was once again computed to be lowest in energy. The diamagnetic BS(1,1) solution was +7.2 kcal higher in energy, and the RKS solution was highest in energy by +13.1 kcal (see Supporting Information for bond distances and angles, MO diagrams, and spin density plots). The low spin calculation similarly converged to the BS(1,1) solution, and the intermediate spin calculation converged to the BS(3,1) solution. The computed Mössbauer parameters displayed similar correlations to experimental parameters, as in (^{iPr}PDI)-Fe(biphenyl).

The XAS pre-edge was calculated using time-dependent DFT (TDDFT) with the BP86 functional on the geometry-optimized coordinates.[36] This functional offers improved accuracy and speed over B3LYP and has proven successful for XAS calculations for coordination compounds, metal-loenzymes, and bis(imino)pyridine compounds.[36,58,77,78] Although experimentally observed transitions occur between states, simplified DFT models based on MO theory have been found to correlate well to experimentally observed features. The BP86 solution was compared to the B3LYP solution to ensure that the same electronic structure description was obtained. For the broken symmetry solutions, BP86 produced a more covalent solution, but the overall electronic structure description remained the same. The calculated XAS spectra for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) are presented in Figure 9. The BS(1,1) calculation contains two pre-edge features at 7111.1 and 7112.4 eV, which are in agreement with the experimentally observed pre-edge features at 7111.5 and 7112.5 eV. In a simplified molecular orbital model, the first feature is due to a transition to the d_{yz} orbital, and the second feature is due to a transition to the d_{z^2} orbital. Both features have significant bis(imino)pyridine contributions. The BS(3,1) calculation only displays one pre-edge feature at 7112.6 eV which has contributions from several transitions with d_{xz}, d_{yz}, and d_{z^2} contributions. An increase in iron spin state from BS(1,1) to BS(3,1) is in agreement with the experimental data in which the intensity of the 7111.5 eV pre-edge feature decreases relative to the feature at 7112.5 eV.

XES calculations were performed using a simple one-electron approximation, as has been previously described and applied to a variety of systems.[36] The calculated BS(1,1) and BS(3,1) XES spectra show similar intensities and features (see Supporting Information) which derive from various bis(imino)pyridine orbital combinations, although the BS(3,1) solution is shifted to slightly higher energy by 0.6 eV. The experimentally observed shift of 0.3 eV (between 100 and 298 K) suggests that approximately 50% conversion to the high spin state (intermediate spin Fe(III)) has been reached and supports the lack of a decrease in intensity upon accessing the higher spin state (see Supporting Information). The computed electronic structure descriptions for three different spectroscopic methods (Mössbauer, XAS, XES) are in agreement with experimentally observed spectra, lending support for the electronic structure description of a (^{iPr}PDI^{-1})-Fe$^{(low\ spin\ III)}$(biphenyl) S = 0 state at low temperatures which undergoes a spin transition to a (^{iPr}PDI^{-1})-Fe$^{(intermediate\ spin\ III)}$(biphenyl) S = 1 state at more elevated temperatures.

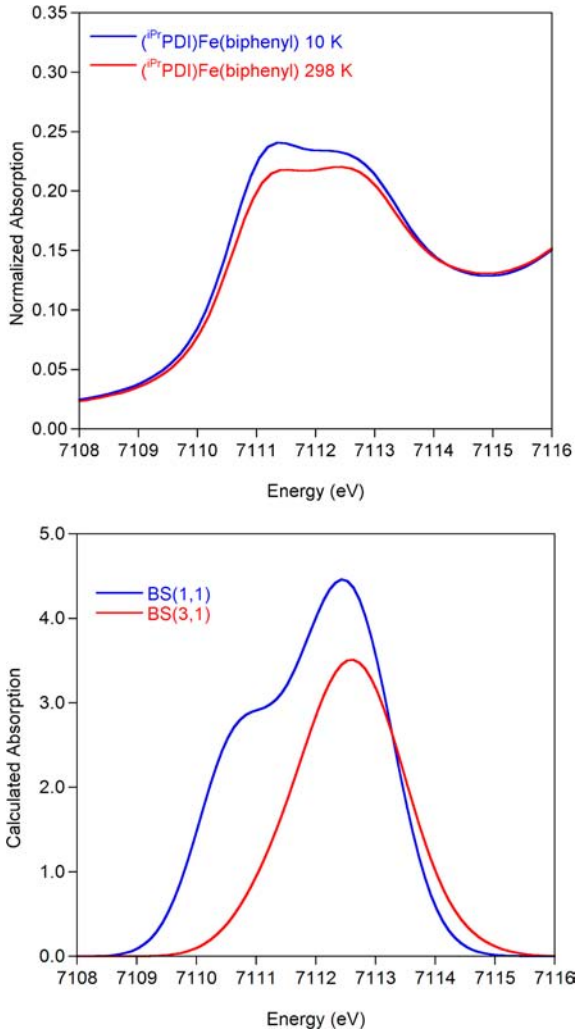

Figure 9. Experimental (top) and calculated (bottom) XAS spectra of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) using TD-DFT. A shift of 181.25 eV and broadening of 1.5 eV have been applied to the computed spectra.

The elucidation of the electronic structure of the (^{R}PDI)-Fe(biphenyl) compounds by spectroscopic, magnetochemical, structural, and computational studies allows for an accounting of the electron flow in the C−C oxidative addition from the corresponding iron dinitrogen precursors. As highlighted in Scheme 4, the oxidative addition to (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N_2) is therefore comprised of both metal and ligand redox events. Both the iron and bis(imino)pyridine undergo concomitant one-electron oxidations resulting in overall two-electron cleavage of the C−C bond. Similar metal−ligand cooperativity in two-electron oxidation events are well-established in metalloenzyme chemistry, viz. cytochrome P-450.[6] We note that intermediates, such as arene π-complexes,[42] may also form on the reaction coordinate for oxidative addition and therefore influence the pathway of electron flow. However, we have not observed such intermediates and accordingly not deduced their electronic structures. Thus, the electron flow associated with oxidative addition in this work concerns only the transformation from reactants to products.

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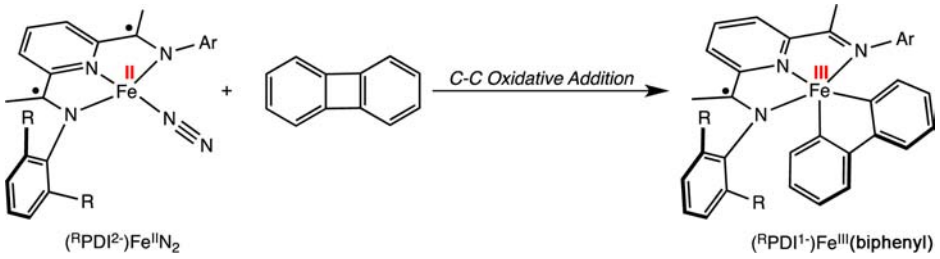
Scheme 4. Electron Flow in C−C Activation by a Redox-Active Bis(imino)pyridine Iron Dinitrogen Compound



(^{R}PDI^{2-})Fe^{II}N$_2$ (^{R}PDI^{1-})Fe^{III}(biphenyl)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Carbon−carbon oxidative addition of biphenylene has been observed at ambient temperature with bis(imino)pyridine iron dinitrogen compounds. The redox activity of the bis(imino)-pyridine chelate raises the question as to whether the formal electron transfer events are metal- or ligand-based. Characterization of the resulting (^{R}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) compounds by X-ray diffraction; zero-field and applied field ^{57}Fe Mössbauer, XAS, and XES spectroscopies; and variable temperature SQUID magnetometry established spin crossover compounds arising from ferric centers antiferromagnetically coupled to ligand radical anions. At low temperature, diamagnetic ground states are observed and slightly higher energy S = 1 states are populated at increased temperatures. Accounting for the electron flow in the net two-electron C−C cleavage reaction involves cooperative one-electron oxidation at both the metal and bis(imino)pyridine ligand and avoids formation of presumably high energy iron(IV) compounds. Gaining a more detailed understanding of the nature of oxidative addition reactions with redox-active iron complexes also provides important insight into a fundamental transformation that likely constitutes a key substrate activation step in catalytic cycles and provides an important starting point for understanding the mechanism of turnover.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Preparation of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Biphenylene (0.061 g, 0.40 mmol) was added to a 20 mL pentane solution containing 0.232 g of (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(N$_2$)$_2$ (0.39 mmol) in pentane. The resulting slurry was stirred for 14 h after which time a green precipitate formed. The solid (0.110 g, 0.16 mmol) was collected by filtration. The supernatant was reduced to approximately half the original volume, stored at −35 °C, and yielded an additional 0.059 g (0.086 mmol) of a green powder. The combined mass of the isolated green solid was 0.169 g (62% yield) and was identified as (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Anal. Calcd for $C_{45}H_{51}FeN_3$: C, 78.36; H, 7.45; N, 6.09. Found: C, 77.92; H, 7.28; N, 6.00. Magnetic susceptibility (Evans): μ_{eff} = 1.1 μ_B (benzene-d_6, 23 °C). Magnetic susceptibility balance (22 °C): μ_{eff} = 1.5 μ_B. ^{1}H NMR (benzene-d_6) δ = 46.94 (40 Hz, 1H, *p-pyr*), 33.86 (43 Hz, 1H), 26.45 (24 Hz, 6H), 9.56 (20 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (22 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (22 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (19 Hz, 2H), 4.71 (110 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (23 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (18 Hz, 6H, CH(CH_3)$_2$), 2.16 (21 Hz, 6H, CH(CH_3)$_2$), 1.62 (6 Hz, 6H, CH(CH_3)$_2$), 0.57 (23 Hz, 6H, CH(CH_3)$_2$), −1.30 (24 Hz, 1H), −3.91 (30 Hz, 3H), −14.03 (38 Hz, 3H, C(CH_3),), −15.21 (71 Hz, 1H), −21.79 (40 Hz, 1H), −39.02 (93 Hz, 1H).

Preparation of (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with biphenylene (0.096 g, 0.64 mmol), [(^{Me}PDI)Fe(N$_2$)]$_2$(μ_2-N$_2$) (0.292 g, 0.312 mmol), and approximately 10 mL of pentane. The mixture was stirred for 18 h after which time a green precipitate formed. The mixture was cooled to −35 °C, and the solid was collected by filtration. The product was recrystallized from a mixture of toluene and diethyl ether at −35 °C to yield 0.199 g (55% yield) of a green solid identified as (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl). Anal. Calcd for $C_{45}H_{51}FeN_3$: C, 76.95; H, 6.11; N, 7.28. Found: C, 76.71; H, 5.72; N, 7.05. Magnetic susceptibility (Evans): μ_{eff} = 1.7 μ_B (benzene-d_6, 23 °C). Magnetic susceptibility balance (22 °C) μ_{eff} = 2.0 μ_B. ^{1}H NMR (benzene-d_6, 22 °C) δ = 51.94 (36 Hz, 1H), 37.98 (55 Hz, 6H), 5.32 (2,500 Hz), 3.72 (14 Hz, 6H), −19.11 (37 Hz, 2H).

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Additional experimental procedures, including general considerations, spectroscopic and computational details. Crystallographic data for (^{iPr}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) and (^{Me}PDI)Fe(biphenyl) in cif format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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