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# Equilibrium and Kinetic Parameters of the Oxygenation Reaction of Oxygen Carriers. Conformational Effects in Cobalt(II) Schiff-base Chelates derived from Salicylaldehyde and Substituted Ethylenediamines

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Steric and conformational effects on the reversible oxygenation reaction in pyridine solutions of cobalt(II) chelates with Schiff bases obtained from salicylaldehyde and 1,2-disubstituted ethylenediamines have been studied. The equilibrium and reaction rate constants have been determined by polarographic methods. The results suggest that the oxygenation reaction is hindered by folding of the chelate induced by the steric requirements of the substituents of the ethylenediamines.

INVESTIGATIONS of inorganic models of the active sites of metallo-enzymes and -proteins are of current interest for the identification of factors influencing the mechanisms of enzymatic reactions. As the knowledge of the three-dimensional molecular structures of naturally occurring molecules gives more information about the functional groups involved in such reactions and about the structure surrounding the reactive site, it becomes necessary to design and investigate more sophisticated models in order to test more subtle influences on the reactivity.

A number of transition-metal chelates which can be considered as models of biological oxygen carriers has been studied. The cobalt(II) chelates are particularly suitable as reversible oxygen carriers, while the corresponding iron(II) chelates generally undergo irreversible oxidation. The electronic factors influencing the 1:1 adduct formation by cobalt chelates have been determined from the correlation between the equilibrium constant for reversible oxygenation and the nature of the axial ligand trans to the dioxygen bonding site.2

A substantial step toward understanding of oxygenation in haemoglobin and myoglobin resulted from work on some peculiar model iron chelates: the behaviour of these 'picket-fence' porphyrins 3 and capped porphyrins 4 showed how bulky substituents on the macrocycle can prevent the formation of a 2:1 adduct and hinder irreversible oxidation. On the other hand, conformational changes are likely to be responsible for even more important effects in allosteric phenomena.5

Ugo and co-workers 6 have investigated a series of

diastereoisomeric chelates (L) of cobalt(II) with quadridentate ligands obtained from salicylaldehyde and 1,2-disubstituted ethylenediamine (Figure 1 and Table 1). The crystal and molecular structures of some of these complexes, [Co<sup>II</sup>L], and of their monopyridine derivatives, [Co<sup>II</sup>L (py)] was subsequently determined.<sup>7-9</sup> The equilibrium constant of the reaction (1) in pyridine solution was also reported. The  $K_{02}$  values were

$$[\operatorname{Co^{II}L}(\operatorname{py})] + \operatorname{O_2} = [\operatorname{Co^{II}L}(\operatorname{py})(\operatorname{O_2})] \quad (1)$$

obtained by spectroscopic and manometric measurements, but in some cases the absorption of dioxygen was found to be greater than required by the stoicheiometry,1 suggesting irreversible oxidation.10 It was thus necessary to try some other approach to the determination of the reaction parameters.

In the present paper we report the equilibrium and rate constants for reaction (1) as calculated from the characteristics of polarographic waves due to the oxidation process Co<sup>II</sup> -> Co<sup>III</sup> in the presence of dissolved molecular oxygen, where the electron transfer is preceded by the dioxygenation reaction, and to the reduction process Co<sup>III</sup> --- Co<sup>II</sup>, where it is followed by the oxygenation reaction as in (2). The cobalt chelates

[Co<sup>III</sup>L(py)]<sup>+</sup>

$$= \begin{pmatrix} -e \\ +e \\ [CoIIL(py)] + O_2 & \xrightarrow{k_1} [CoIIL(py)(O_2)] \end{pmatrix} (2)$$
ated are specified in Table 1.

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TABLE I Complexes studied, [Co<sup>II</sup>L]

NN'-Ethylenebis(salicylideneiminate), salen NN'-Propane-1,2-diylbis(salicylideneiminate), sal(+)pn NN'-1-Phenylethylenebis(salicylideneiminate), sal(-)pen NN'-Butane-2,3-diylbis(salicylideneiminate), sal(+)bn or sal(m)bn NN'-1,2-Diphenylethylenebis(salicylideneiminate), sal(+)dpen or sal(m)dpen

NN'-1,2-Cyclohexylenebis(salicylideneiminate), sal(+)chxn or sal(m)chxn

RESULTS

Polarography of [Co<sup>II</sup>L] Complexes in Oxygenated Pyridine Solution at 0 °C.—The polarographic behaviour of [Co<sup>II</sup>L] complexes has been reported previously. In oxygenated pyridine solution (where it is assumed that one molecule of pyridine is co-ordinated to cobalt) characteristic changes are observed due to the formation of the 1:1 oxygen adduct. In addition to the anodic wave in the range -0.1 to -0.4 V vs. the saturated colomel electrode (s.c.e.) due to the process (3), a new cathodic wave appears in the range

$$[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{py})] \xrightarrow{-\text{e}} [\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{py})]^{+}$$
 (3)

-0.6 to -0.7 V vs. s.c.e. (Table 2) which is attributed to the reduction of the oxygen adduct <sup>12</sup> [equation (4)]. The

$$[\operatorname{Co^{11}L}(\operatorname{py})(\operatorname{O}_2)] \xrightarrow{+e} [\operatorname{Co^{11}L}(\operatorname{py})(\operatorname{O}_2)]^{-}$$
 (4)

dependence of the height of the reduction wave on  $P_{02}$  for a given [Co<sup>II</sup>L] concentration allows a Hill plot to be drawn and the equilibrium constant for reaction (1) to be obtained.

rithmic analysis of the wave still indicates a reversible one-electron transfer. The limiting current decreases and acquires a kinetic character (Figure 1). The slope of the log i against log t plot was found to be 0.22 for  $P_{\rm O2}=0$  (diffusion-controlled current) and 0.36—0.46, depending on the complex, for  $P_{\rm O2}=760$  Torr \* (kinetic process). As the anodic wave in oxygenated solution is due to the process (3) the [Co<sup>II</sup>L(py)] species electroactive in this potential range can only be generated by dissociation of the 1:1  $O_2$  adduct, i.e. by a chemical reaction preceding the electron transfer.

This diffusional problem was solved by Koutecky.<sup>14</sup> The calculation is carried out using the relation (5) where  $\rho =$ 

$$\frac{i_{\rm k}}{i_{\rm d}-i_{\rm k}}=0.886\sqrt{\frac{\rho t_{\rm l}}{\sigma}}\tag{5}$$

 $k_{-1}$  is the rate constant for the formation of the electroactive species,  $\sigma$  is the ratio of the concentrations of the electromactive and electroactive forms,  $i_{\rm d}$  is the mean

$$\sigma = [Co^{11}L(py)(O_2)]/[Co^{11}L(py)] = K_{O2}P_{O2}$$
 (6)

TABLE 2

Polarographic half-wave potential  $(E_{\frac{1}{4}}/V)$  for [Co<sup>11</sup>L] complexes and their oxygen adducts in py-[NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] (0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) at 0 °C  $^{\alpha}$ 

	$E_{rac{1}{2}}$		
[Co <sup>II</sup> L]	Con — Com	Coπ → Cor	$[Co^{II}L(O_9)] \longrightarrow [Co^{II}L(O_9)]^{-1}$
$O_2 \longrightarrow O_2^-$			-0.860
[Co(salen)]	-0.395	-1.382	-0.705
$[\text{Co}\{\text{sal}(\pm)\text{pn}\}]$	-0.357	-1.320	-0.650
$[Co{sal(\pm)pen}]$	-0.361 b	-1.305	-0.642
$[Co\{sal(\pm)bn\}]$	-0.364	-1.324	-0.700
$[\operatorname{Co}\{\operatorname{sal}(m)\operatorname{bn}\}]$	-0.285	-1.375	-0.710
$[Co\{sal(\pm)dpen\}]$	$-0.351^{\ b}$	1.261	-0.664
$[Co\{sal(m)dpen\}]$	$-0.163^{\ b}$	-1.290	0.595
$[Co\{sal(\pm)chxn\}]$	-0.360	-1.420	-0.651
$[Co\{sal(m)chxn\}]$	-0.253	-1.370	-0.604

<sup>a</sup> Determined for all chelates under the same experimental conditions. Values are estimated to be accurate to within 3 mV and represent a correction of values reported earlier.<sup>11</sup> <sup>b</sup> Quasi-reversible.

as reported for [Co<sup>II</sup>(salen)].<sup>13</sup> This method was found to be convenient when the oxygenation equilibrium is rapidly established and there are no side reactions.

In the oxygenated solution the only *anodic* wave observed at the potential of  $Co^{II} \longrightarrow Co^{III}$  oxidation is displaced toward more positive values by increasing  $P_{\Omega_2}$  but loga-

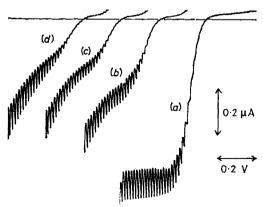


FIGURE 1 Dependence of the anodic wave on  $P_{02}$  for [Co{sal-( $\pm$ )pn}] (1.76  $\times$  10° mol dm³) in py-[NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] (0.1 mol dm³) at 0°C; each curve starts from 0.0 V versus s.c.e.: (a) decoxygenated solution; (b)  $P_{02}=310$ ; (c)  $P_{02}=480$ ; (d)  $P_{02}=760$  Torr

diffusion current,  $i_k$  is the mean kinetic current controlled by the rate of the preceding chemical reaction, and  $t_1$  is the drop time of the dropping mercury electrode (d.m.e.). Introducing the equilibrium constant  $K_{02}$ , equation (5) may be rewritten as (8). As required by this equation, a plot of

$$K_{\text{O2}} = [\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{py})(\text{O}_{\text{2}})]/[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{py})][\text{O}_{\text{2}}] = k_{\text{1}}/k_{\text{-1}}$$
 (7)

$$\frac{i_{\rm k}}{i_{\rm d} - i_{\rm k}} = \frac{0.886}{K_{\rm O2}} \sqrt{\frac{k_1 t_1}{P_{\rm O2}}}$$
(8)

 $\log [i_k/(i_d - i_k)]$  against  $\log P_{O_2}$  (at constant  $t_1$ ) was found to be a straight line, with slope -0.5 (Figure 2).

The  $K_{02}$  values (Table 4) were obtained from the experimental data for  $i_d$ ,  $i_k$ , and  $t_1$ , and from the  $k_1$  values obtained from the shift of the half-wave potential of the cathodic waves in oxygenated solution, as described below.

Polarography of Cobalt(III) Complexes in Oxygenated Pyridine Solution at 0 °C ( $P_{02} = 760$  Torr).—In oxygenated solution the cathodic wave due to the  $Co^{III} \longrightarrow Co^{II}$  reduction is still reversible, diffusion controlled, and practically unchanged in height relative to the deoxygenated solution. On the other hand, the half-wave potential is displaced toward more positive values by an extent depending on the actual complex examined. This can be interpreted as a consequence of the inactivation of reduced

\* Throughout this paper: 1 Torr = (101 325/760) Pa.

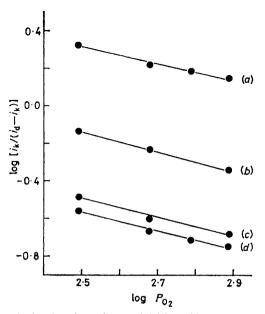


Figure 2 log-log dependence of  $i_k/(i_d-i_k)$  on  $P_{02}$ : (a) [Co-(salen)]  $(1.06\times 10^{-3})$ ; (b) [Co(sal(+)pn]]  $(1.13\times 10^{-3})$ ; (c) [Co(sal(m)bn]]  $(1.03\times 10^{-3})$ ; and (d) [Co(sal(+)bn]]  $(0.62\times 10^{-3}\ \mathrm{mol}\ \mathrm{dm}^{-3})$  in py-[NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] (0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) at 0 °C

species, by the oxygenation reaction following the electron transfer, as shown in equation (2). From the solution of the diffusional problem,  $^{15}$  the final expression for the half-wave potential is (9), where  $E_{\pm}$  is the half-wave potential of

$$E_{\frac{1}{2}} = E^{\Theta} + (RT/nF) \log 0.886 \sqrt{\rho \sigma t}$$
 (9)

the  $Co^{III} \longrightarrow Co^{II}$  reduction measured in the presence of the inactivation reaction,  $E^{\circ}$  is the standard potential of the redox couple  $Co^{III}$ — $Co^{II}$ , and  $\rho$  and  $\sigma$  have the same meaning as above. In our case at 0 °C the equation (9)

$$E_{\frac{1}{2}}-E^{\ominus}=(0.054/2){\rm log}\;k_{1}P_{02}+(0.054/2){\rm log}\;t_{1}+\\0.054\;{\rm log}\;0.886\quad(10)$$

becomes (10) which allows the calculation of  $k_1$  from  $E_{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

To achieve pseudo-first-order conditions, the maximum obtainable oxygen concentrations were maintained (saturation at  $P_{\rm O2}=760$  Torr). Moreover, the concentration of Co<sup>III</sup> was kept between  $0.2\times 10^{-3}$  and  $0.4\times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup>. The measured  $E_{\frac{1}{2}}-E^{\rm o}$  value was found to be independent of the concentration of  $[{\rm Co^{III}L(py)}]^+$  species as required by equation (4). Owing to the difficulty of realizing experimental pseudo-first-order conditions using higher  $P_{\rm O2}$  values, the dependence of  $E_{\frac{1}{2}}$  on  $P_{\rm O2}$  was not controlled. On the other hand, the slope of  $E_{\frac{1}{2}}$  vs. log t at constant  $P_{\rm O2}$  was found to be 54/2 mV as required by equation (10) (Table 3).\*

The sensitivity of the polarographic half-wave potentials and currents to the rate of the coupled chemical reaction and the reproducibility of the experimental measurements allow the calculation of rate constants to within ca. 100 dm³ mol<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. The rate of oxygenation of [Co{sal(m)chxn}] is apparently below this limit. The diastereoisomers [Co{sal(+)dpen}] and [Co{sal(m)dpen}] exhibit a slightly irre-

\* For [Co(salen)] the slope is smaller than expected and  $k_1$  calculated from equation (10) is ca.  $10^4$  dm³ mol<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, which is not in agreement with the value obtained from this equation using  $K_{0_2}$  as determined from the Hill plot. This is probably due to the higher rate of oxygenation under which pseudo-first-order conditions break down.

## TABLE 3

Shifts (in mV) of the half-wave potential of the cathodic wave of cobalt(III) complexes in py-[NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] (0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) at  $P_{\rm O2}=760$  Torr and t=3 s, and dependence (in mV) on drop time

Complex	$E_{\frac{1}{2}}-E_{\frac{\Theta}{2}}$	$d E_1/d \log t$
[Co(salen)]+	79	12
$[Co{sal(\pm)pn}]^+$	50	24
$[Co{sal(+)bn}]^+$	14	27
$[\operatorname{Co{sal}(m)bn}]^+$	22	23
$[Co{sal}(-)chxn]^+$	48	27

versible redox process which prevents reliable use of the method.

### DISCUSSION

Both the equilibrium and kinetic data have been examined with reference to the known or most likely molecular structure of the chelates in the complexes

TABLE 4

Equilibrium and kinetic data for the reaction of [Co<sup>II</sup>L(py)] with O<sub>2</sub> in py-[NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] (0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) at 0 °C. Standard state: [O<sub>2</sub>] = 1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>

	$K_{\mathbf{0_2}}$	$k_1$
Complex	$dm^3 mol^{-1}$	$dm^3 mol^{-1} s^{-1}$
[Co(salen)]	$(1.6 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{4  \sigma}$	$(5.7 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{5}$ d
$[Co{sal(\pm)pn}]$	$(4.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^3$	$(7.0 \pm 0.5) \times 10^3$
$[Co\{sal(+)bn\}]$	$(2.4 \pm 0.2) \times 10^3$	$(3.2 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{2}$
$[Co\{sal(m)bn\}]$	$(3.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^3$	$(7.6 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{2}$
$[Co{sal}(-)chxn]$	$2.3 \times 10^{2}$	$(6.2 \pm 0.8) \times 10^3$
$[Co{sal(m)chxn}]$	95 6	$< 10^{2}$
$[Co{sal(-)dpen}]$	25 b	
$[Co{sal(m)dpen}]$	10 <sup>3</sup> b	

<sup>a</sup> From ref. 13. <sup>b</sup> From ref. 10.

 $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{py})]$  and  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{py})(\text{O}_2)]$ . The stereochemistry relevant to the oxygenation process is that of the five-co-ordinate complex, as present in pyridine solution.<sup>7-9</sup>

In the complexes containing salen derivatives the actual geometry appears to be sensitive to the steric requirements of the substituents in the NN'-ethylene bridge. The crystal structure of  $[Co\{sal(+)bn\}\{py)]$  shows that two crystallographically independent molecules are present, one of which may be described as a distorted square pyramid while the other is intermediate between a square pyramid and a trigonal bipyramid. Two crystallographically independent molecules are present also in crystals of complexes of  $Co^{II}$  and  $Fe^{II}$  with NN'-[2-(2'-pyridyl)ethyl]ethylenebis(salicylidene-iminate). Both of them are distorted towards a trigonal-bipyramidal geometry.

This indicates that the chelate is fairly flexible and that it can easily be distorted in the crystal packing. The distortions of  $[Co\{sal(+)bn\}(py)]$  from square-pyramidal geometry (Figure 3) are determined mainly by two kinds of interactions: those between the hydrogens of the  $CH(CH_3)$  groups of the NN'-ethylene bridge and the hydrogens of the azomethine groups, and those between the pyridine molecule and the NN'-ethylene bridge. The former are best alleviated by the bis axial conformation of the  $CH_3$  groups and by a suitable torsion angle around the C(8)-C(10) bond. The latter lead to a decrease of the N(1)-Co-O(2) and N(2)-Co-O(1)

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angles giving a 'reversed-umbrella' shape to the five co-ordination bonds. The torsion angle around C(8)-C(10) and the displacements of the set of donor atoms N(1),N(2),O(1),O(2) of the Schiff base from the equatorial plane are connected through the trigonal nature of the nitrogen atoms. Thus the dihedral angle between the N(1)-C(8)-C(10) and N(2)-C(10)-C(8) planes is related to the dihedral angle between the planes N(1)-Co-O(1) and N(2)-Co-O(2), which determines the distortion of the molecule from square-pyramidal towards trigonalbipyramidal geometry with the five-membered NN'ethylene chelate ring in an envelope conformation.

The structure of  $[Co\{sal(\pm)pn\}(py)]$  is not known but the CH<sub>3</sub> substituent in the NN'-ethylene ring is likely to be situated in an axial position, on the side opposite to the pyridine ligand. The situation is again such as to result in a reversed-umbrella shape for the molecule. this structure the CH<sub>3</sub> group partially shields the sixth

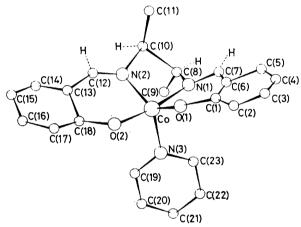


FIGURE 3 Perspective of [Co{sal(+)bn}(py)] molecule

co-ordination position, thus hindering approach of a dioxygen molecule.

The formation of the 1:1 adduct of a trigonal bipyramidal complex with molecular oxygen requires flattening of the quadridentate chelate ring in the equatorial plane of an octahedral geometry. This was demonstrated in the case of  $\{NN'-[2-(2'-pyridyl)ethyl]$ ethylenebis(salicylideneiminato)}cobalt(II) and its 1:1 oxygen adduct. 16 The ease of this structural rearrangement clearly depends on the presence of substituents in the ethylene bridge. It is determined by the possibility of opening the N(1)-Co-O(2) and N(2)-Co-O(1) angles and of rotation about the C(8)-C(10) bond in the presence of interactions of CH<sub>3</sub> and CH-N hydrogens.

With these considerations in mind we can explain the strong decrease which was found both in the rate of oxygenation and in the equilibrium constant of the substituted derivatives relative to the parent chelate. The presence of one  $CH_3$  group in the NN'-ethylene bridge is apparently sufficient to increase the energy involved in the rearrangement from the folded towards a square-pyramidal geometry. A second CH<sub>3</sub> group as in  $[Co{sal(+)bn}(py)]$  and  $[Co{sal(m)bn}(py)]$  leads to a further increase of this energy, the extent being apparently higher in the former, where the second CH<sub>3</sub> group is axial, than in the latter where it is equatorial in the  $\bar{N}N'$ -ethylene bridge.

The complex  $[Co\{sal(+)chxn\}(py)]$ , where both the CH<sub>2</sub> groups of the cyclohexylene ring are in pseudoequatorial conformation, undergoes more ready oxygenation than [Co{sal(m)chxn}(py)] where one CH<sub>2</sub> group of the cyclohexylene ring is pseudo-axial, the other pseudoequatorial, because of the greater folding in the latter.

Finally, the greater difference in the oxygenation rate between the two [Co{salchxn}(py)] as compared with the two [Co{salbn}(py)] diastereoisomers may be due to the higher rigidity of the former.

### EXPERIMENTAL

Materials.—The cobalt chelates were a gift from Professor Ugo and his co-workers. Pyridine (py) (Fluka 82702) was dried with 4-Å molecular sieves. The compound [NEt.]-[ClO<sub>4</sub>] (Carlo Erba) was crystallized twice and dried in vacuo at 40 °C. Extra pure, dry nitrogen was used as the purge gas, and as diluent for oxygen in the oxygenation experiments.

Apparatus and Methods.-Polarograms and controlledpotential electrolyses were carried out with an Amel 471 multipolarograph equipped with a model 460 stand. model 694 universal cell was used in the polarographic experiments. The characteristics of the dropping mercury electrode (d.m.e.), made from a 45° bent glass capillary, in py-[NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] (0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup>) at 0 °C were: flow rate, 0.72 mg s<sup>-1</sup>; height of mercury level, 85.5 cm. A Metrohm saturated calomel electrode (s.c.e.) filled with a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl was used as the reference electrode, separated by a salt bridge containing the same electrolyte in pyridine as the examined solution. A platinum wire was used as counter electrode. Controlled-potential electrolyses were carried out with the same reference electrode. All experiments were carried out in solutions of complexes in anhydrous pyridine and 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> [NEt<sub>4</sub>][ClO<sub>4</sub>] at 0 °C.

The kinetic currents  $(i_k)$  were measured from the polarographic anodic waves (Figure 1) of a pyridine solution of [Co<sup>II</sup>L] (giving the monopyridine complex) equilibrated by bubbling with  $N_2$ - $O_2$  mixtures at  $P_{O_2} = 310$ , 480, 620, or 760 Torr for ca. 30 min. The instantaneous current plot  $(\log i - \log t)$  was drawn using a d.m.e. with drop time t =

The solubility of dioxygen in the electrolyte solution required for calculations using equations (8) and (10) was taken as  $4.15 \times 10^{-3}$  mol dm<sup>-3</sup> (in pyridine at 18 °C) <sup>17</sup> assuming that the temperature effect on the Bunsen coefficient is negligible.

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