

Highly Efficient Red Phosphorescent Osmium(II) Complexes for OLED Applications

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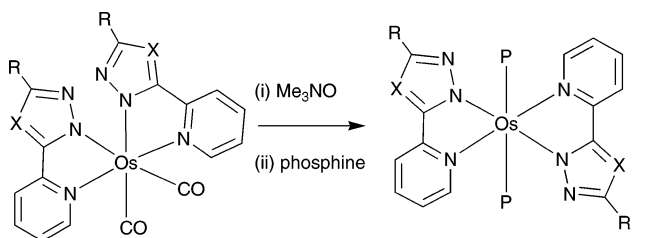
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Summary: The nonionic, red-emitting complexes $[\text{Os}(\text{fppz})_2\text{L}_2]$ ($\text{L} = \text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$ (**1**), PPh_2Me_2 (**2**)) and $[\text{Os}(\text{bptz})_2\text{L}_2]$ ($\text{L} = \text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$ (**3**)) were synthesized, showing highly intense red phosphorescent emission in CH_2Cl_2 solution at λ_{max} 617, 632, and 649 nm, respectively. The electroluminescent properties of these compounds on OLEDs showed promising device efficiencies required for future OLED applications.

Organometallic complexes containing third-row transition-metal elements are crucial for the fabrication of organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs).¹ The strong spin-orbit coupling induced by these heavy-metal ions promotes an efficient intersystem crossing from the singlet to the triplet state, which then facilitates high internal quantum efficiencies (η_{int}) for the OLEDs through utilization of both singlet and triplet excitons. As a result, these phosphorescent molecules become increasingly important. With regard to the goal of achieving three primary colors, the design and synthesis of red emitters presents a particular challenge, because their luminescence quantum yield tends to be low due to the smaller energy gap.² Despite this limitation, however, success has been achieved in the preparation of Ir(III)³ and Pt(II)⁴ red emitters. Recently, some red-emitting Os(II) phosphors have begun to receive intensive study.⁵ Unfortunately, because of their ionic nature, these OLED devices suffered inferior performance compared with the neutral Ir(III) counterparts. This is, in

part, attributed to the lack of strong bonding between the cationic emitters and their counteranions within the host matrix. Accordingly, it is proposed that only with the utilization of neutral Os(II) emitters can the goal of practical OLED applications be achieved. In this paper, a new series of such Os(II) emitting complexes are prepared, the molecular structure of which consists of two chelates containing either 3-(trifluoromethyl)-5-(2-pyridyl)pyrazole (fppzH) or the corresponding 3-*tert*-butyl triazole (bptzH), to balance the 2+ charge on the Os(II) cation, and two phosphine donors located at the trans positions to complete the symmetrical octahedral coordination requirement.

Preparation of these Os(II) complexes requires the exploitation of the recently described blue-emitting pyridyl pyrazolate complex $[\text{Os}(\text{fppz})_2(\text{CO})_2]$ or its relevant triazolate analogue $[\text{Os}(\text{bptz})_2(\text{CO})_2]$.⁶ The desired synthesis was first initiated by the treatment of Me_3NO to eliminate the CO ligands, followed by addition of corresponding phosphine ligands. The synthetic scheme



has led to the successful isolation of the red-emitting

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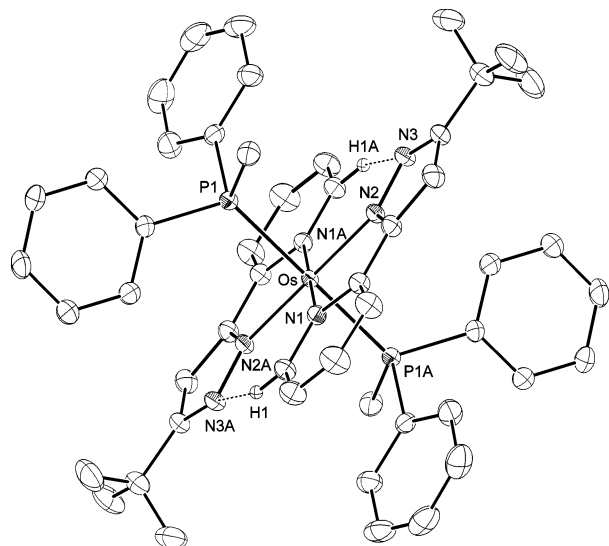


Figure 1. ORTEP diagram of **1**. Selected distances (Å): Os–P(1) = 2.3616(5), Os–N(1) = 2.090(2), Os–N(2) = 2.073(2), N(2)–N(3) = 1.349(2), N(2)–C(6) = 1.352(3), N(3)–C(8) = 1.355(3). Selected angles (deg): N(1)–Os–N(2) = 76.48(7), N(1)–Os–N(2A) = 103.52(7).

complexes [Os(fppz)₂L₂] (L = PPh₂Me (**1**), PPhMe₂ (**2**)) and [Os(bptz)₂L₂] (L = PPh₂Me (**3**)) in moderate yields (40–72%). These Os complexes were fully characterized using routine spectroscopic methods, while complex **1** was further examined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis.

As depicted in Figure 1, the Os atom of **1** is located at a crystallographic center of inversion. The molecular frame reveals an octahedral configuration where two chelating fppz ligands establish a nearly planar OsN₄ basal arrangement, together with two PPh₂Me ligands located at the axial dispositions. The planar ligand arrangement is analogous to that of the porphyrinato ligand in metalloporphyrins such as [Os(TTP)(PPh₃)₂] (TTP = *meso*-tetraphenylporphinate) and [Os(TPP)(CO)(Im)] (Im = 1-methylimidazole).⁷ The measured Os–N(pz) distances of 2.073(2) Å in **1** are slightly shorter than the respective Os–N(py) bonds of 2.090(2) Å; both lengths fall in the range expected for a typical N→Os^{II} dative bond. Of particular interest are the relatively weak nonbonding contacts (N3A⋯C1 = 3.305 Å and N3A⋯H1 ≈ 2.50 Å) observed between the ortho hydrogen atom of the pyridyl moiety and the N atom of the nearby pyrazolate fragment. In good agreement with this observation, the ¹H NMR spectrum revealed a significantly downfield signal at δ 10.40, giving an additional indication of the deshielding effect exerted by the N atom. It is speculated that this H bonding, to a certain extent, is akin to that observed in the cobaloxime complexes.⁸

The absorption and luminescence spectra of complexes **1–3** in CH₂Cl₂ are shown in Figure 2. The strong absorption bands in the UV region are assigned to the

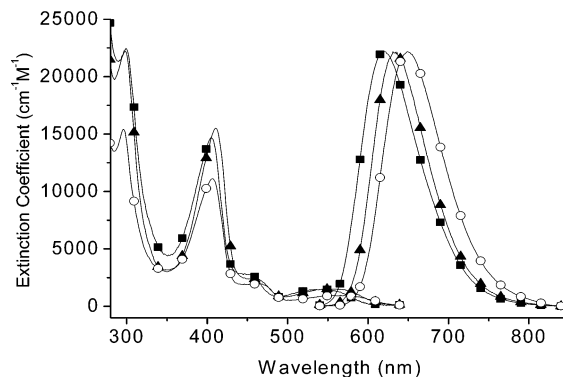


Figure 2. UV–vis absorption and normalized emission spectra of **1** (■), **2** (▲), and **3** (○) in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature.

spin-allowed ¹ππ* transition of the fppz (or bptz) ligands, owing to their spectral similarity to the free fppz (or bptz) anion. The next lower energy absorption can be ascribed to a typical spin-allowed metal to ligand charge transfer (¹MLCT) transition, while two absorption bands extending into the visible region are associated with the spin–orbit coupling enhanced ³ππ* and ³MLCT transitions. Further luminescence properties (vide infra) support ³MLCT to be in the lowest triplet state with peak wavelengths at 542 nm (ε = 1300 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹), 553 nm (ε = 1600 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹), and 560 nm (ε = 950 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹) for complexes **1–3**, respectively. It is notable that substitution with strong electron donors such as PPh₂Me and PPhMe₂ ligands not only increases the entire transition dipole moment but also causes a significant red shift due to the enhancement of dative interactions with Os(II), hence raising the d orbital energy level of the Os metal center. A similar mechanism has been proposed to delineate the electron-donating effect for the Os(II) polypyridyl complexes.⁹

Highly intense luminescence was observed for **1–3** with λ_{max} located at 617, 632, and 649 nm, respectively. The entire emission band originating from a triplet state manifold was ascertained by the O₂ quenching rate constant of ~1.78 × 10⁹ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ for **1–3** in CH₂Cl₂. The significant overlap of the 0–0 onsets between emission and the lowest energy absorption band, in combination with a broad, structureless spectral feature, leads us to conclude that the phosphorescence originates primarily from the ³MLCT state. In comparison to **2** coordinated with PPhMe₂ ligands, complex **1** bearing the PPh₂Me group reveals a ~15 nm hypsochromic shift in λ_{max} and can qualitatively be rationalized by a decrease of Os(II) d orbital energy level due to the greater electron-withdrawing strength of an additional phenyl substitution. Table 1 lists the corresponding photophysical data for the studied complexes in both solution and solid phases. The observed lifetimes of ca. 0.6–0.9 μs in degassed CH₂Cl₂ are considerably shorter than those of most reported red-emitting Ir(III) complexes.^{3a} In the solid state, the emission maximum for these osmium phosphors shifts to the red, possibly due to molecular packing, and the lifetime falls within the range of 0.4–0.6 μs (Table 1). The emission quantum efficiencies of **1–3** lie within the range 0.19–0.50 in CH₂Cl₂ and 0.1–

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Table 1. Photophysical, Electrochemical, and Device Properties for 1–3

	1	2	3
UV/vis abs (nm (ϵ)) ^a	405 (14 700) 454 (2400) 542 (1300)	411 (15 500) 456 (2600) 553 (1600)	406 (11 100) 466 (2000) 560 (950)
PL λ_{\max} (nm) ^a	617 (618)	632 (655)	649 (670)
Φ^b	0.50 (0.21)	0.19 (0.29)	0.25 (0.10)
τ_{obs} (ns) ^b	855 (631)	725 (610)	634 (440)
$E_{1/2}^{\text{ox}}$ (V) ^d	-0.15	-0.22	-0.25
EL λ_{\max} (nm) ^c	626	640	658
L_{\max} (cd/m ²) ^c	3276	2155	774
η_{\max} (cd/A) ^c	~4.0	~3.0	~1.0
$V@1\text{ cd/m}^2$	5.5	8.5	8.5

^a Samples were degassed and recorded in CH₂Cl₂ at room temperature with ϵ in M⁻¹ cm⁻¹. ^b Data in parentheses are measured in solid state at room temperature. ^c OLED device structure: ITO/PVK:Os/PBD(200 Å)/LiF(10 Å)/Al(1500 Å). ^d Reversible oxidation potential referenced to Fc/Fc⁺.

0.3 in the solid state. The results correlate well with unusually large extinction coefficients measured for the ³MLCT bands and thus are very desirable for OLED-related applications.

The electrochemical behavior of these Os complexes was investigated by cyclic voltammetry using ferrocene as the internal standard. During the anodic scan in CH₂-Cl₂, all Os complexes exhibited reversible oxidation with potential in the region -0.15 to -0.25 V (Table 1). As the oxidation mainly occurs at the Os metal site,¹⁰ the formal oxidation potential is strongly dependent on the coordination environment of the osmium; i.e., good σ donor strength of the ancillary ligand would shift the oxidative potential to a more negative value. This was demonstrated by the fact that replacement of PPh₂Me ligands by the more electron-donating PPhMe₂ decreased the oxidative potential from -0.15 V of **1** to -0.22 V of **2**, while substitution of the fppz ligands with less electron deficient bptz ligands led to a cathodic shift to -0.25 V in **3**.¹¹ It is noteworthy that the oxidation potentials of these Os complexes are significantly less than those of ionic Os(II) complexes such as [Os(bpy)₂L](PF₆)₂ (where L is *cis*-1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethylene), which has $E_{1/2}^{\text{ox}} = 0.87$ V.¹² The largely cathodic shift of Os complexes **1–3** is apparently due to their neutral characteristics.

The electroluminescence (EL) spectra of OLEDs based on **1–3** are shown in Figure S1 of the Supporting Information. The energy transfer from the host material PVK to the Os(II) emitters is very efficient, as supported by the lack of any PVK emission in the EL spectra. The EL spectra remained unchanged over a wide range of bias voltages. The OLEDs with **1** reached a maximum efficiency (η_{\max}) of 3.9 cd/A at a driving voltage of 13 V with a luminance of 412 cd/m². The η_{\max} of **2** reached 3.0 cd/A at 21 V with a luminance of 615 cd/m², while that of **3** was 1.0 cd/A at 20 V and 271 cd/m². Although η_{\max} and maximum luminance values of **3** appeared to be lower (Table 1), the quantum efficiencies and optical power output of these three compounds are similar,

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(11) The two heterocyclic chelates fppz and bptz exhibit irreversible reduction peak potentials at -2.70 and -2.73 V, respectively, relative to the ferrocene standard.

(12) The oxidation potential of [Os(bpy)₂L](PF₆)₂ was +1.38 V vs SSCE as reported in refs 5b and 10, which can be converted to a value of +0.87 V relative to the ferrocene standard.

considering the fact that the normalized photopic vision functions $V(\lambda)$ at 630, 640, and 660 nm are 0.265, 0.175, and 0.061, respectively. We believe that the turn-on voltages can be significantly reduced by using either a host material with better charge carrier transport properties or a lower work-function cathode, such as Ca or Mg:Ag alloy.

In summary, we have demonstrated the synthesis, spectral and electrochemical properties, and OLED applications of a series of neutral red-emitting Os(II) complexes. In contrast to most previously reported Os(II) red emitters with ionic character, in which the diffusion of the counteranions might seriously deteriorate the device performance, this new series of complexes comprises discrete, neutral molecules that would remain at their fixed positions upon electron and hole injection. Moreover, the higher HOMO level at the Os(II) center, which is induced by the superior donor ability of anionic fppz (or bptz), may also contribute to more efficient energy transfer and carrier trapping,¹³ giving additional advantages to the overall device efficiency for complexes **1–3**. Future focuses on fabricating the OLED devices via direct deposition as well as functionalizing Os(II) complexes to fine-tune both device color and efficiency should stimulate a broad spectrum of interests in the field of OLED.

Experimental Section

General Experiments. All reactions were performed under nitrogen. Solvents were distilled from appropriate drying agents prior to use. Commercially available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise stated. All reactions were monitored by TLC with Merck precoated glass plates (0.20 mm with fluorescent indicator UV₂₅₄). Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel from Merck (230–400 mesh). Mass spectra were obtained on a JEOL SX-102A instrument operating in electron impact (EI) mode or fast atom bombardment (FAB) mode. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Mercury-400 and INOVA-500 instruments; chemical shifts are quoted with respect to the internal standard tetramethylsilane for ¹H and ¹³C NMR data.

Preparation of 1. Freshly sublimed Me₃NO (90 mg, 1.19 mmol) was first dissolved in acetonitrile (5 mL), and the resulting solution was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of [Os(fppz)₂(CO)₂] (200 mg, 0.25 mmol) in toluene (30 mL), giving a clear, yellow orange solution after stirring for 2 min at room temperature. The phosphine ligand PPh₂Me (567 μ L, 3.0 mmol) was then added, and the mixture was brought to reflux for 3 h, during which time the color was found to change to bright red. The reaction was then stopped, toluene solvent and excess phosphine ligand were removed under vacuum, the solid residue was dissolved in 50 mL of ethyl acetate, and this solution was washed with distilled water (30 mL \times 2) to remove the remaining Me₃NO. The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄, and the solvent was removed in vacuo to yield red-orange crude product. Further purification was conducted by silica gel column chromatography using a 1:1 mixture of ethyl acetate and hexane, followed by recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂ and hexane, giving a red-orange crystalline solid (180 mg, 0.18 mmol); yield 72%. Complexes **2** and **3** were prepared in an analogous manner.

Spectral data of **1** are as follows. MS (EI, ¹⁹²Os; observed m/z [assignment]): 1015 [M⁺], 814 [M⁺ - PPh₂Me], 614 [M⁺ - 2PPh₂Me]. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, *d*₆-acetone): δ 10.40 (d, 2H,

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$J_{\text{HH}} = 6.0$ Hz, H_{py}), 7.32 (ddd, 2H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6, 6.0, 1.2$ Hz, H_{py}), 7.15–6.84 (m, 20H, H_{py} , H_{Ph}), 6.73 (s, 2H, H_{pz}), 6.66–6.14 (m, 4H, H_{Ph}), 1.16 (t, 6H, $J_{\text{HP}} = 3.2$ Hz, Me). ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, d_6 -acetone): $\delta -59.8$ (s). ^{31}P NMR (202 MHz, d_6 -acetone): $\delta -17.4$ (s). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_{36}\text{F}_6\text{N}_6\text{P}_2\text{Os}$: C, 52.07; N, 8.28; H, 3.58. Found: C, 51.99; N, 8.17; H, 3.78.

Spectral data of **2** are as follows. MS (FAB, ^{192}Os ; observed m/z [assignment]): 892 [M^+], 754 [$\text{M}^+ - \text{PPhMe}_2$], 616 [$\text{M}^+ - 2\text{PPhMe}_2$]. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -acetone): $\delta 10.31$ (dd, 2H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.6, 0.8$ Hz, H_{py}), 7.56–7.48 (m, 4H, H_{py}), 7.05 (ddd, 2H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 6.8, 6.6, 0.8$ Hz, H_{py}), 6.94–6.87 (m, 8H, H_{Ph} , H_{pz}), 6.42–6.38 (m, 4H, H_{Ph}), 0.80 (t, 6H, $J_{\text{HP}} = 3.6$ Hz, Me), 0.60 (t, 6H, $J_{\text{HP}} = 3.6$ Hz, Me). ^{19}F NMR (470 MHz, d_6 -acetone): $\delta -59.5$ (s). ^{31}P NMR (202 MHz, d_6 -acetone): $\delta -19.6$ (s). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{32}\text{F}_6\text{N}_6\text{P}_2\text{Os}$: C, 45.84; N, 9.43; H, 3.62. Found: C, 46.00; N, 9.32; H, 3.81.

Spectral data of **3** are as follows. MS (FAB, ^{192}Os ; observed m/z [assignment]): 994 [M^+], 794 [$\text{M}^+ - \text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$], 594 [$\text{M}^+ - 2\text{PPh}_2\text{Me}$]. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, d_4 -methanol): $\delta 10.37$ (d, 2H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 4.8$ Hz, H_{py}), 7.34 (d, 4H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 4.8$ Hz, H_{py}), 7.09–6.86 (m, 18H, H_{py} , H_{Ph}), 6.62–6.59 (m, 4H, H_{Ph}), 1.63 (s, 18H, ^tBu), 0.90 (s, br, 6H, Me). ^{31}P NMR (202 MHz, d_4 -methanol): $\delta -19.6$ (s). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_8\text{P}_2\text{Os}$: C, 58.05; N, 11.28; H, 5.28. Found: C, 57.71; N, 11.43; H, 5.40.

X-ray Structural Analysis. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data of **1** were measured on a Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer using $\lambda(\text{Mo K}\alpha)$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). The data

collection was executed using the SMART program. Cell refinement and data reduction were carried out with the SAINT program. The structure was determined using the SHELXTL/PC program and refined using full-matrix least squares. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, whereas hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions and included in the final stage of refinements with fixed parameters.

Selected crystal data of **1**: $\text{C}_{44}\text{H}_{36}\text{F}_6\text{N}_6\text{OsP}_2$, $M_r = 1014.93$, triclinic, space group $P\bar{1}$, $a = 10.4469(5)$ Å, $b = 10.5233(6)$ Å, $c = 10.6829(6)$ Å, $\alpha = 71.968(1)^\circ$, $\beta = 62.053(1)^\circ$, $\gamma = 82.167(1)^\circ$, $V = 986.46(9)$ Å³, $Z = 1$, $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 1.708$ g cm⁻³, $F(000) = 502$, crystal size $0.35 \times 0.30 \times 0.25$ mm, $\lambda(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 0.7107$ Å, $T = 295$ K, $\mu = 3.383$ mm⁻¹, 4516 reflections collected ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0253$), final $R1(I > 2\sigma(I)) = 0.0182$, $wR2(\text{all data}) = 0.0438$.

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Supporting Information Available: Text giving experimental procedures involving photophysical and electrochemical data and OLED device fabrication and a CIF file giving X-ray data for **1**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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