

Oxo-carboxylato-molybdenum(vi) complexes possessing dithiolene ligands related to the active site of type II DMSOR family molybdoenzymes†

Cite this: *Dalton Trans.*, 2013, **42**, 15927

Received 4th June 2013,
Accepted 23rd August 2013

DOI: 10.1039/c3dt51485d

www.rsc.org/dalton

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Spectroscopic and kinetic studies indicate that oxo-carboxylato-molybdenum(vi) bis-dithiolene complexes, $(\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-X-OBz})_2\text{L}_2)$, have been generated at low temperature as active site structural models for the type II class of pyranopterin molybdenum DMSOR family enzymes. A DFT analysis of low energy charge transfer bands shows that these complexes possess a Mo-S_{dithiolene} π -bonding interaction between the $\text{Mo}(\text{d}_{xy})$ redox active molecular orbital and a *cis* $\text{S}(\text{p}_z)$ donor orbital located on one of the dithiolene ligands.

The vast majority of pyranopterin molybdenum enzymes catalyse oxygen atom transfer reactions between the substrate and solvent water coupled with proton and electron transfer.¹ The dimethyl sulfoxide reductase (DMSOR) family of pyranopterin molybdenum enzymes is unique in that they possess two pyranopterin ene-1,2-dithiolate ligands bound to the Mo ion.¹ The active site Mo centre is the locus of the oxygen atom transfer reactivity and can adopt desoxomolybdenum(IV) and monooxomolybdenum(VI) structures during the catalytic cycle.^{1,2} Phylogenetic analysis and protein sequence alignments of the metal-binding regions have been used to further subdivide DMSOR family enzymes into three types: I, II and III (Fig. 1).³ Type I enzymes possess a Cys or SeCys residue that coordinates to the molybdenum centre,⁴ while type II and type III enzymes have a metal center coordinated by an Asp and a Ser residue, respectively.^{2,5}

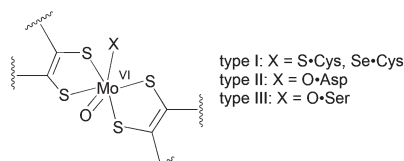


Fig. 1 The active site structures of oxidized type I, II and III enzymes.

Extensive studies of bis(ene-1,2-dithiolate)molybdenum complexes as active site structural models have been carried out by Holm and co-workers.^{6–8} Specifically, these researchers have synthesised and structurally characterised a number of desoxomolybdenum(IV) complexes employing 1,2-dimethylethylene-1,2-dithiolate ($\text{S}_2\text{C}_2\text{Me}_2$) together with RS^- , RSe^- , RCOO^- , and RO^- ligands (X)⁶ that are structurally related to the molybdenum(IV) active site structures of DMSOR type I, II and III enzymes.⁷ However, the corresponding monooxomolybdenum(VI) complexes, $[\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{L})(\text{S}_2\text{C}_2\text{Me}_2)_2]^-$, have proved too unstable for full characterisation due to an auto-redox reaction between the Mo^{VI} ion and the monodentate ligand L that results in the formation of the five-coordinate $[\text{Mo}^{\text{VO}}\text{O}(\text{S}_2\text{C}_2\text{Me}_2)_2]^-$ complex.^{7,8} The only crystallographically characterised example of a $[\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{L})(\text{ene-1,2-dithiolate})_2]^-$ complex is $[\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^i\text{Pr}_3)(\text{S}_2\text{C}_2(\text{COOMe})_2)_2]^-$ ($\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^i\text{Pr}_3)-(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$, $\text{S}_2\text{C}_2(\text{COOMe})_2 = 1,2\text{-dicarbomethoxyethylene-1,2-dithiolate}$), where the six-coordinate structure appears to be stabilised by the presence of electron-withdrawing methoxycarbonyl ($-\text{COOMe}$) groups on the dithiolene.⁹ $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^i\text{Pr}_3)-(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$ best represents a synthetic analogue of the DMSOR type III enzyme active sites. Recently, we prepared and characterised oxosulfido- and oxoselenido-molybdenum(VI) complexes at low temperature as active site models for the xanthine oxidase family of pyranopterin molybdenum enzymes.¹⁰ Herein, we report the successful application of low temperature techniques to generate and characterise new bis-(ene-1,2-dithiolate)oxocarboxylatomolybdenum(VI) complexes, which can be regarded as structural models for oxidised

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†Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: Experimental details for the preparation, low temperature measurements and DFT calculations (Tables S1–S2, Fig. S1–S8). See DOI: 10.1039/c3dt51485d

In order to obtain information about the mechanism of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-X-OBz})\text{L}_2$ formation, a low temperature kinetic study was performed. The spectral changes observed upon addition of the benzoate ligand to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{OL}_2$ were observed to be biphasic. The data show a rapid disappearance of the $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{OL}_2$ 395 nm band and the appearance of a new absorption band at 360 nm due to intermediate A that converts to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-X-OBz})\text{L}_2$ with characteristic absorption bands at 597 and 807 nm (Fig. S4a and 4b†). Although the time course of the first step was too fast to be followed accurately, the conversion of intermediate A to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-X-OBz})\text{L}_2$ obeys first-order kinetics. It should be noted that the observed first-order rate constant, k_{obs} , was independent of the concentration of $\text{Et}_4\text{N}(\text{p-H-OBz})$ (Fig. S5†). The formation of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-Cl-OBz})\text{L}_2$ and $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-OMe-OBz})\text{L}_2$ displayed kinetic behavior similar to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{p-H-OBz})\text{L}_2$ with k_{obs} increasing as the electron-withdrawing character of X increases: $65.8 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for X = Cl, $7.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for X = H and $1.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for X = OMe. These observations suggest that the first step is the association (coordination) of the benzoate anion with the Mo center of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{OL}_2$, giving intermediate A, and the second step is the intramolecular rearrangement of intermediate A to the product (Scheme 1).

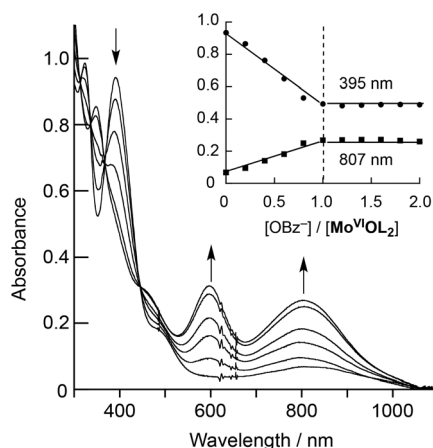
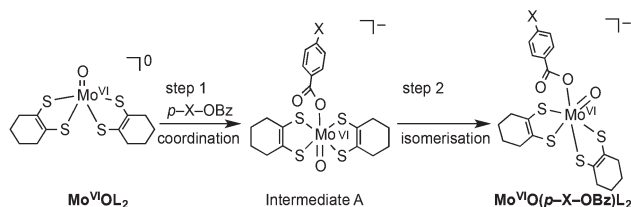


Fig. 2 Spectral changes observed upon addition of 1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5, and 5/5 equiv. of Et₄N(*p*-HOBz) to **Mo^{VI}OL₂** (0.2 mM) in C₂H₅CN at -60 °C; (inset) plots of the absorbance at 395 (●) and 807 (■) nm against the molar ratio of [*p*-HOBz⁻]/[**Mo^{VI}OL₂**].



Scheme 1 Proposed mechanism for formation of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-X-OBz})\text{L}_2$.

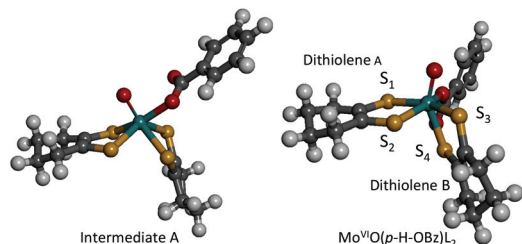


Fig. 3 Computed structures of intermediate A (left) and $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-H-OBz})\text{L}_2$ (right).

DFT calculations support an idealised C_{2v} structure with respect to the two $\text{S}_2\text{C}_2\text{H}_8$ ligands for intermediate A that subsequently rearranges *via* a Ray-Dutt type twist¹² to form a more stable product with a distorted octahedral geometry (Fig. 3).

The DFT optimised structure of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-H-OBz})\text{L}_2$ possesses a distorted octahedral coordination environment that is similar to the related $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^{\text{iPr}}\text{Pr}_3)(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$ (*vide supra*; Fig. 3), which has been previously characterised by X-ray crystallography.⁹ The computations indicate a slightly larger $\text{S}_1\text{-S}_2\text{-S}_3\text{-S}_4$ dithiolene dihedral angle for $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-H-OBz})\text{L}_2$ of 126° compared with a 108° dihedral angle for structurally characterised $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^{\text{iPr}}\text{Pr}_3)(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$. As was observed for $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^{\text{iPr}}\text{Pr}_3)(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$, the Mo-S_4 bond distance ($2.55 \text{ \AA}$) is elongated when compared to the three Mo-S bonds (mean $2.42 \text{ \AA}$) as a result of a strong *trans* influence due to the $\text{Mo}\equiv\text{O}$ bond. Geometry optimisations indicate that $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-Cl-OBz})\text{L}_2$ and $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-OMe-OBz})\text{L}_2$ possess $\text{S}_2\text{-S}_1\text{-S}_3\text{-S}_4$ dihedral angles, and Mo-S , $\text{Mo}\equiv\text{O}_{\text{oxo}}$ and Mo-O_{OBz} bond distances, which are nearly identical to those of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-H-OBz})\text{L}_2$. The computed structures for the $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-X-OBz})\text{L}_2$ complexes display $\sim 172^\circ$ $\text{O}_{\text{oxo}}\text{-Mo-S}_3\text{-C}$ dihedral angles, allowing for strong $\text{Mo } d_{xy}\text{-S}_{\text{dithiolene}} \pi$ -bonding involving a single S_3 donor on dithiolene B. This is supported by bonding calculations that show a LUMO wavefunction which possesses a strong $\text{Mo-S}_{\text{dithiolene}} \pi^*$ bonding interaction between the $\text{Mo}(d_{xy})$ orbital and the *cis* $\text{S}_3(p_z)$ donor orbital located on dithiolene (B) (Table 1). This $\text{Mo-S } \pi^*$ bonding description is similar to what we observed in the related complex $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^{\text{iPr}}\text{Pr}_3)(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$,⁹ and this derives from the $\sim 180^\circ$ $\text{O}_{\text{oxo}}\text{-Mo-S-C}$ dihedral angle involving the *cis* S of dithiolene B.

The electronic absorption spectra of the $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-X-OBz})\text{L}_2$ complexes display well-resolved bands at $\sim 800 \text{ nm}$ and $\sim 600 \text{ nm}$ (band 1: $\sim 12500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$, $\epsilon \sim 1375 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$; and

Table 1 Molecular orbital compositions for $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(p\text{-H-OBz})\text{L}_2$

Molecular orbital	Fragment character (%)				
	Mo	Oxo	OBz	$\text{S}_2\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{A}^a$	$\text{S}_2\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{B}^a$
LUMO + 2	5	0	91	1 (1)	1 (1)
LUMO + 1	59	22	5	8 (4)	6 (5)
LUMO	41	1	11	10 (9)	38 (29)
HOMO	5	5	1	63 (37)	26 (18)
HOMO – 1	18	4	4	24 (12)	50 (26)

^a Values in parentheses are the S contribution of the dithiolene.

band 2: 16700 cm^{-1} , $\epsilon \sim 1600 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively). Using a combination of time-dependent DFT computations and our previous band assignments for $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}(\text{OSi}^{\text{iPr}}\text{Pr}_3)(\text{L}^{\text{COOMe}})_2$,⁹ we assigned band 1 as dominantly deriving from a $\text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO}$ one-electron promotion with appreciable dithiolene $\text{A} \rightarrow (\text{Mo } d_{xy} + \text{dithiolene B})$ charge transfer character. The dominant contributor to band 2 is a $\text{HOMO} - 1 \rightarrow \text{LUMO}$ ($\text{Mo-S}_3\text{dithiolene } \pi \rightarrow \text{Mo-S}_3\text{dithiolene } \pi^*$) one-electron promotion with dithiolene $\text{A} \rightarrow \text{Mo}(d_{xy})$ charge transfer character. The computations also suggest a variable $\text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} + 2$ contribution with benzoate acceptor character that leads to intensity differences in band 2.

Conclusions

New bis(ene-1,2-dithiolato)oxocarboxylatomolybdenum(vi) complexes have been synthesized as active site analogues of type II DMSOR family enzymes. Low temperature kinetic and spectroscopic analyses, in conjunction with DFT calculations, have been used to understand their formation and electronic structure. Provided DMSOR_{ox} possesses a hexacoordinate geometry; these results suggest that the ancillary O_{asp} ligand likely functions to fine tune the redox potential of the Mo ion. Interestingly, a hexacoordinate geometry also allows for a specific pyranopterin dithiolene to couple the active site into long-range superexchange pathways for electron transfer regeneration of the catalytically relevant Mo(IV) site.

This work was partly supported by grants (no. 23350027, 24108725 and 2410915 to H.S. and no. 22105007 to S.I.). M.L.K. acknowledges the National Institutes of Health (GM 057378) for financial support. The authors also thank Dr Kei Ohkubo and Prof. Shunichi Fukuzumi of Osaka University for their help in collecting the EPR spectrum.

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