

Spectroscopic properties and reactivity of a mononuclear oxomanganese(IV) complex†

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A non-porphyrinic, mononuclear oxomanganese(IV) complex was generated at room temperature and characterized by spectroscopic methods. The Mn^{IV}=O adduct is capable of activating C–H bonds by a H-atom transfer mechanism and is more reactive in this regard than most Mn^{IV}=O species.

High-valent oxomanganese adducts are suggested as active oxidants for synthetic and biological manganese catalysts, including those involved in textile and paper bleaching with H₂O₂ and oxygen evolution from water.¹ Oxomanganese(V) adducts with *S* = 0 and 1 spin states have been reported, and these invariably feature strongly electron-donating, anionic ligands.² Oxomanganese(IV) complexes with neutral, non-porphyrinic ligands are comparatively less common.³ Detailed studies of substrate oxidation exist for a limited number of complexes.^{3a-c,4} In addition, few Mn^{IV}=O complexes have been characterized by Mn K-edge X-ray absorption spectroscopy (XAS),^{3b,5} a technique featuring prominently in the study of Mn enzymes^{1b} and biominerals.⁶ In this report, we describe the spectroscopic properties and oxidative reactivity of an oxomanganese(IV) complex supported by the neutral, pentadentate N4py ligand (*N,N*-bis(2-pyridylmethyl)-*N*-bis(2-pyridyl)methylamine). This Mn^{IV}=O compound is more reactive than the majority of Mn^{IV}=O complexes for C–H bond oxidation.

The manganese(II) complex [Mn^{II}(N4py)]²⁺ (**1**) was generated as the triflate salt. The X-ray diffraction (XRD) structure exhibits a distorted octahedral Mn^{II} center with pentadentate N4py and monodentate triflate ligands (Fig. 1A). The Mn–ligand bond lengths are 2.1 to 2.3 Å. The Mn K-edge XAS spectrum of a frozen aqueous sample of **1**(OTf)₂ displays a pre-edge feature at 6540.6 eV and an edge at 6547.3 eV. The EXAFS data are best fit with 1 O at 2.09 Å, 5 N at 2.26 Å, and 3 C at 3.00 Å, in excellent agreement with the XRD structure (*cf.* Tables S4 and S6; ESI†).

The addition of excess PhIO (2.5 equiv.) to **1** in CF₃CH₂OH at 298 K led to the formation of a green species (**2**), with a broad

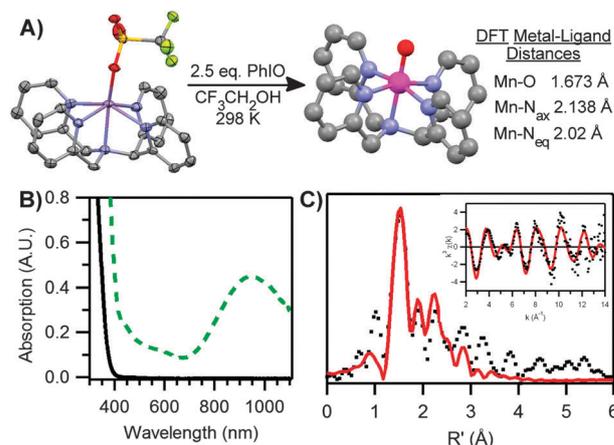


Fig. 1 (A) XRD structure of [Mn^{II}(N4py)(OTf)]⁺ (**1**(OTf), left) and DFT (BP/TZVP) structure of [Mn^{IV}(O)(N4py)]²⁺ (**2**, right). Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. (B) 298 K electronic absorption spectra of **1** (black solid trace) and **2** (green dashed trace); both 2 mM in CF₃CH₂OH. (C) Fourier transform of the Mn K-edge EXAFS data and EXAFS spectrum (inset), experimental data (···) and fits (–), for **2** in CF₃CH₂OH.

electronic absorption band at 950 nm and weaker features at 600 and 450 nm (Fig. 1B). At 298 K, the formation of **2** finished in ~10 minutes, and **2** showed a half-life of 30 minutes. The absorption features of **2** are very similar to those of other non-porphyrinic Mn^{IV}=O complexes in tetragonal, six-coordinate environments, which display broad near-infrared bands from ~1040–825 nm and weaker features at higher energies.^{3a,b,7} The perpendicular mode X-band EPR spectrum of **2** is typical of a mononuclear, *S* = 3/2 Mn^{IV} ion (Fig. S4; ESI†).^{3a,b,d,8} Hyperfine coupling for the *g*_{eff} = 5.76 feature is ~76 G, in good agreement with that observed for other Mn^{IV}=O complexes.^{3d} High-resolution electrospray-ionization mass spectral (ESI-MS) data of **2** reveal a major ion peak at *m/z* 219.0502, consistent with [Mn^{IV}(O)(N4py)]²⁺ (*m/z* calc. 219.0563). When **2** is spiked with 10 μL H₂¹⁸O (97% ¹⁸O-enriched), a new molecular ion peak is observed at *m/z* 220.0537, indicating incorporation of ¹⁸O from H₂¹⁸O ([Mn^{IV}(¹⁸O)(N4py)]²⁺ *m/z* calc. 220.0585). These data together support the formulation of **2** as [Mn^{IV}(O)(N4py)]²⁺.

As we have been unable to grow crystals of **2**, its molecular structure was investigated by Mn K-edge XAS. The edge energy

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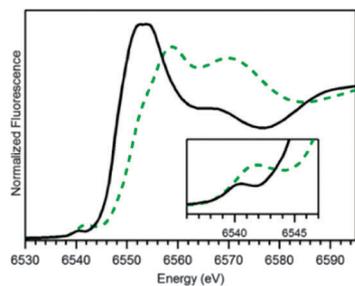


Fig. 2 20 K Mn K-edge XAS near-edge region of **1**(OTf)₂ (black solid trace) and **2** (green dashed trace) in H₂O and CF₃CH₂OH, respectively.

of **2** (6550.8 eV) is blue-shifted over 3 eV relative to that of **1**, as expected for the higher oxidation state of Mn (Fig. 2). The edge energy of **2** is within 1 eV of those reported for Mn^{IV}=O complexes supported by salen and porphyrin ligands (6549.9–6551.2 eV; Table S3; ESI[†]).⁵ The pre-edge peak of **2** at 6541.9 eV is significantly more intense than that of **1** (Fig. 2, inset), consistent with a large deviation from centrosymmetry.

The Fourier transform (*R'* space) of the EXAFS data of **2** exhibits a prominent, sharp peak at *R'* ≈ 1.5 Å with less prominent peaks at *R'* ≈ 1.9, 2.2, and 2.8 Å (Fig. 1C). The first coordination sphere of **2** is fit well with two or three shells of N/O atoms at distances (*r*) of 1.69, 2.00, and 2.24 Å (Table S4; ESI[†]). The shell at 1.69 Å, which corresponds to the oxo ligand, is much shorter than the Mn^{II}–O (solvent H₂O) distance of 2.09 Å observed for **1**. The remaining first coordination sphere can be fit with either a single shell of 5 nitrogen scatterers at 1.99 Å or two shells of nitrogen scatterers at 2.00 Å (4 N atoms) and 2.24 Å (1 N atom), representing the nitrogen atoms of the pentadentate N4py ligand. The fit with two shells of N scatterers affords lower GOF and Debye–Waller values than the fit with just one shell of five N scatterers. Fits including outer-sphere features reveal two Mn···C shells at 2.82 and 2.97 Å (3 and 5 C atoms, respectively).

Metric parameters from the EXAFS data of **2** are in good agreement with a DFT-computed structure (Fig. 1A, right). This structure has a Mn=O bond of 1.673 Å (*cf.* the EXAFS distance of 1.69 Å). The equatorial nitrogens in the DFT-optimized structure have an average Mn–N distance of 2.024 Å, while the *trans* amine has a longer distance of 2.138 Å, consistent with the two shells of Mn–N scatterers at 2.00 and 2.24 Å.

The ability of **2** to activate C–H bonds was investigated using dihydroanthracene (DHA), diphenylmethane (DPM), ethylbenzene (EtBz), and toluene (Tol), which span a ~10 kcal mol⁻¹ range of C–H bond strengths. For each substrate, the addition of an excess to **2** at 298 K under an Ar atmosphere led to (i) a disappearance in the optical bands of **2**, (ii) formation of a new species, **3**, with bands at 460 and 630 nm, and (iii) the appearance of an isosbestic point at 714 nm (Fig. 3A). The decay of **2** and the formation of **3** occurred with the same rate, both following pseudo-first order behaviour to at least four half-lives (see ESI[†]). Second-order rate constants (*k*₂['], corrected for the number of reactive C–H bonds) determined for all substrates revealed a linear relationship between log(*k*₂[']) and substrate bond dissociation enthalpies (BDEs), with a slope of 0.35 (Fig. 3B). Such behaviour is highly suggestive of a rate-limiting H-atom transfer.^{3a} In support, reactions of **2** with deuterated-DHA (d₄-DHA) reveal a kinetic isotope effect (KIE) of 11.2, which is larger than that observed for DHA

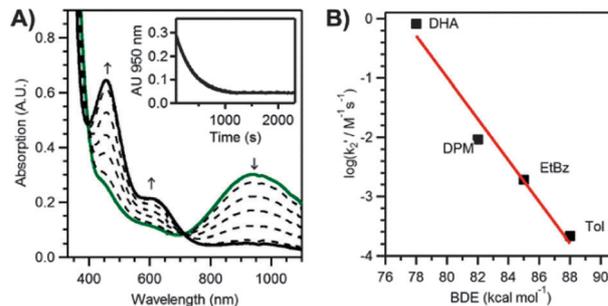


Fig. 3 (A) Electronic absorption spectra of **2** upon addition of 200 equiv. EtBz in CF₃CH₂OH at 298 K. Inset: decay of the 950 nm absorption signal. (B) Corrected second-order rate constant (*k*₂[']) versus bond dissociation enthalpies of organic substrates.

oxidation by other Mn^{IV}=O adducts (3.1–8).^{2c,3a,4a,9} Activation energies (*E*) and Arrhenius prefactors (*A*) determined from the reaction of **2** with DHA and d₄-DHA from 35 to –5 °C in 1 : 1 CF₃CH₂OH : CH₂Cl₂ provide evidence for H-atom tunnelling (Table S10; ESI[†]). Specifically, the difference in activation energies for DHA and d₄-DHA (*E*_D – *E*_H) is greater than the difference in zero-point energies of the C–H and C–D bonds (3.6 and 1.26 kcal mol⁻¹, respectively); and the ratio of Arrhenius prefactors (*A*_H/*A*_D = 0.02) is much less than 0.7, and comparable to that of [Fe^{IV}(O)(N4py)]²⁺, where a H-atom tunnelling mechanism was also implicated.¹⁰ The reaction of **2** with DHA proceeded with a second-order rate constant (*k*₂['] = 3.6 M⁻¹ s⁻¹) 2–3 orders of magnitude larger than those observed at similar temperatures for nearly all other non-porphyrinic Mn^{IV}=O complexes (Table S8; ESI[†]).^{3a,4a,9,11} An Eyring analysis of DHA activation from 35 to –5 °C, reveal Δ*H*[‡] and Δ*S*[‡] of 9 ± 0.8 kcal mol⁻¹ and –35 ± 3 cal mol⁻¹ K, respectively (Table S9; ESI[†]). These parameters yield a Δ*G*[‡] (at 25 °C) comparable to that of [Mn^{IV}(O)(H₃buea)][–] but 2 kcal mol⁻¹ smaller than those observed for other Mn^{IV}=O complexes,^{3a,4a,b} consistent with the greater reactivity of **2**.

The reaction of **2** with DHA yielded 0.56(8) equiv. of anthracene per equiv. of **2**. A final Mn oxidation state of 2.7(15) was determined by iodometric titration. This product distribution is consistent with the generation of anthracene by reaction of 1 equiv. DHA with 2 equiv. Mn^{IV}=O rather than two successive H-atom transfers with a single Mn^{IV}=O centre. Thus, **2** acts as a one-electron oxidant, which has been observed for other Mn^{IV}=O compounds.^{2c,3a,b,4c} Such reactivity is consistent with DFT studies by Shaik and Nam that have shown a second H-atom transfer between the nascent organic radical and Mn^{III}–OH centre to be less favorable than diffusion of the organic radical from the Mn^{III}–OH adduct.¹² To the best of our knowledge, two-electron oxidation of DHA by a Mn^{IV}=O has only been observed for [Mn^{IV}(O)₂(Me₂EBC)]⁺ and [Mn^{IV}(O)(OH₂)(BQCN)]²⁺.^{3c,4c}

While the iodometric product analysis gives an average Mn oxidation state following the reaction of **2** with DHA, the nature of the Mn-based products can be better defined on the basis of EPR, electronic absorption, and ESI-MS data. Perpendicular-mode EPR spectra of the product solution showed the strong Mn^{IV}=O signals replaced by very weak signals. Broad features over a large field range and a sharp multiline signal at *g* ≈ 2 are respectively attributed to mononuclear Mn^{II} and binuclear species (Fig. S5; ESI[†]). Corresponding parallel-mode EPR spectra are silent. This does not preclude the presence of mononuclear Mn^{III} species,



as favourable Mn^{III} zero-field splitting parameters and high-quality glasses are often required to observe the weak six-line signals of mononuclear Mn^{III} centres in X-band experiments. The optical absorption features of product **3** are quite similar to those of $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$ ($\text{Bn-TPEN} = N\text{-benzyl-}N,N',N'\text{-tris-(2-pyridylmethyl)-1,2-diaminoethane}$), which was the dominant Mn product when $[\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$ was reacted with hydrocarbons.^{3b} In addition, the dominant molecular ion peak in ESI-MS data of **3** is at m/z 620.1289, consistent with $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)(\text{N4py})](\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3)^+$ (m/z calc. 620.1293). Thus, we propose a mononuclear Mn^{III} species as the dominant, but not sole, Mn-based product when **2** reacts with DHA.¹³

The chemical reactivity of **2** is similar to that of $[\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$.^{3b} Both N4py and Bn-TPEN are N5 aminopyridyl ligands that also support highly reactive $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complexes.¹⁰ For the $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ adducts, previous DFT computations predicted that **2** has a larger barrier for H-atom abstraction from cyclohexane than $[\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$.¹² Although the addition of a large excess (400–600 equiv.) of cyclohexane increases the decay rate of **2**, the reaction does not show pseudo-first order behaviour. In contrast, $[\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$ reacts with cyclohexane at 25 °C. Thus, we are unable to determine a k_2 value to provide a quantitative comparison of reactivity using cyclohexane. However, a comparison can be made using EtBz, with which both compounds react at 25 °C in $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$. In the reaction with EtBz, $[\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$ (1 mM) shows a rate constant five-fold larger than that of **2** (2 mM): $k_2' = 2.7 \times 10^{-2}$ and $5.7 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively. Thus, while **2** is dramatically more reactive towards C–H bonds than most $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ adducts, it is less reactive than $[\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$. This trend holds for the corresponding $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ adducts; *i.e.*, $[\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{Bn-TPEN})]^{2+}$ is more reactive towards C–H bonds.¹⁰

The origin of the high reactivity of **2** towards C–H bonds is currently unclear. Cyclic voltammetry studies of **2** show a $\text{Mn}^{\text{III/IV}}$ reduction potential ($E_{1/2}$) ~ 700 mV higher than those of other $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ complexes (ESI[†]).^{3a,4a,9} Thus, **2** is a significantly more effective one-electron oxidant. Notably the $E_{1/2}$ of **2** is similar to those of other dicationic Mn^{IV} complexes,^{3a,9} suggesting that the increase in $E_{1/2}$ is attributed to the +2 total charge of **2** versus the +1 and –1 charges of other $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ adducts.^{3a,4a} However, rates of H-atom transfer reactions, which are strongly correlated to thermodynamic driving force, depend not only on the reduction potential of the oxidant, but also on the basicity of the metal-hydroxo product.¹⁴ Both the $\text{Mn}^{\text{III/IV}}$ reduction potential and the $\text{p}K_a$ of the $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{-OH}$ complex, which for this system is unknown, are necessary for a thermodynamic analysis. While we cannot comment at present on the driving force for C–H bond activation by **2**, we note that many other $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ adducts have sterically demanding supporting ligands that shield the oxo. In contrast, the oxo ligand in **2** is well-exposed to substrate (Fig. 1A). Reduced steric clash with substrate could contribute to the relatively high reactivity of **2**. Future work is needed to determine the role ligand sterics, solvent effects, and thermodynamic driving force play in influencing the H-atom transfer reactivity of **2**, and to explore further why $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$ adducts such as **2** may eschew standard rebound or desaturation mechanisms for C–H activation.

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Most recently Chen *et al.* reported the formation and characterization of **2** and described the effects of Sc^{3+} on oxo and H-atom transfer reactions.^{12b}

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