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ARTICLE TYPE

Dinitrosyliron Complex $[\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_2(\mu_2\text{-NO})_2(\text{NO})_6]^{2-}$ Containing Bridging Nitroxyls: ^{15}N (NO) NMR Analysis of the Bridging and Terminal NO-Coordinate Ligands

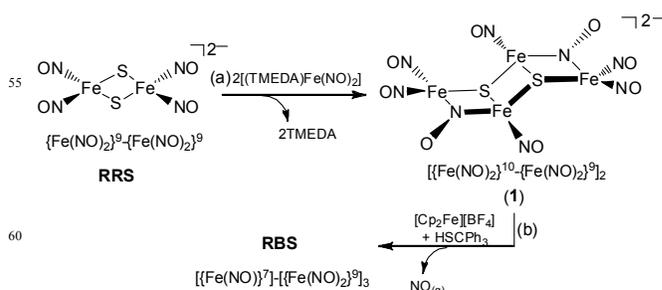
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The fluxional terminal and semibridging NO-coordinate ligands of DNIC $[\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_2(\mu_2\text{-NO})_2(\text{NO})_6]^{2-}$, a precursor of Roussin's black salt (RBS), are characterized by IR $\nu(\text{NO})$, ^{15}N (NO) NMR and single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

Nitric oxide has been identified as a signaling molecule participating in diverse physiological functions through interaction with NO-responsive targets.¹ Iron-sulfur clusters $[\text{Fe-S}]$ were known to be the pivotal prosthetic groups targeted by NO.² The reported nuclear resonance vibrational spectroscopy (NRVS) and EPR-spectroscopic studies reveal that the major products in nitrosylating specific $[\text{Fe-S}]$ proteins are the diamagnetic species, e.g. Roussin's red ester (RRE), Roussin's red salt (RRS) or Roussin's black salt (RBS), in addition to dinitrosyliron complex (DNIC) with characteristic EPR signal $g_{\text{av}} = 2.03$.³ Also, RBS was characterized as the predominant product upon adding NO to a mutant $[\text{4Fe-4S}]$ ferredoxin from *Pyrococcus furiosus* by using NRVS.^{3b} Recently, on the basis of resonance Raman and low-temperature photolysis FTIR data, the diferrous site of an FMN-free FDP (flavodiiron protein) from *Thermotoga maritima* (*Tm* deFlavo-FDP) triggering turnover of 2NO to N_2O via a NO-semibridging $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-NO})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$ intermediate was proposed.⁴ In the synthetic model, $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^9$ thiolate-containing DNICs converted back to $[\text{4Fe4S}]$ clusters via a reassembling processes (DNIC \rightarrow RBS \rightarrow $[\text{Fe}_4\text{S}_4(\text{NO})_4]^{2-}$ \rightarrow $[\text{4Fe-4S}]$ cluster) and transformation of $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^9$ DNICs into $[\text{2Fe2S}]$ clusters mediated by RRS were demonstrated.⁵ In contrast to the inertness of $[\text{Fe}_2(\mu_2\text{-S})_2(\text{NO})_4]^{2-}$ (RRS) toward alkaline medium, RRS readily transforms into the various polynuclear clusters ($[\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_3(\text{NO})_7]^-$ (RBS), $[\text{Fe}_5(\mu_3\text{-S})_4(\text{NO})_8]^-$, and $[\text{Fe}_7(\mu_3\text{-S})_6(\text{NO})_{10}]^-$) via the proposed protonated intermediate $[\text{Fe}_2(\mu_2\text{-SH})_2(\text{NO})_4]$ in acidic condition.^{1b} In this report, complex $[\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_2(\mu_2\text{-NO})_2(\text{NO})_6]^{2-}$ (**1**) with semibridging nitroxyls acting as a key intermediate in the transformation of RRS into RBS via the assembling process RRS \rightarrow complex **1** \rightarrow RBS was reported. The IR $\nu(\text{NO})$ and ^{15}N (NO)

NMR spectra implicate that complex **1** is fluxional, scrambling terminal and bridging NO ligands at 320 K. In particular, ^{15}N (NO) NMR chemical shift serving as an efficient tool to discriminate terminal and bridging NO-coordinate ligands was demonstrated.

Scheme 1 Conversion pathway from RRS to RBS via complex **1**.

The reaction of $[\text{Fe}_2(\mu_2\text{-S})_2(\text{NO})_4]^{2-}$ with two equiv of $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^{10}$ DNIC $[(\text{TMEDA})\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2]$ (TMEDA = tetramethylethylenediamine) in CH_3CN affords $[\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_2(\mu_2\text{-NO})_2(\text{NO})_6]^{2-}$ (**1**) bearing bridging and terminal NO ligands, characterized by IR, UV-vis, SQUID, ^{15}N NMR and single-crystal X-ray diffraction (Scheme 1a). The reaction is presumed to proceed via coordinative association of $[(\text{TMEDA})\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2]$ and RRS accompanied by release of the labile TMEDA ligand. The straightforward conversion of RRS into complex **1** was monitored by the IR ν_{NO} (1742 w , 1701 s and 1668 m cm^{-1} (CH_3CN)). With the aid of isotopic labeling experiments, the reaction of CH_3CN solution of $[(\text{TMEDA})\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2]$ and $[\text{Fe}_2(\mu_2\text{-S})_2(\text{NO})_4]^{2-}$ in a 2:1 molar ratio yielded semi-enriched $[\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_2(\text{NO})_6]^{2-}$ (**1- ^{15}NO**) identified by the characteristic IR ν_{NO} spectrum (ν_{NO} : 1721 br , 1685 sh , 1657 vs , 1638 sh , 1510 w and 1483 m cm^{-1} (KBr)), compared to ν_{NO} (1739 w , 1702 sh , 1685 vs , 1668 s and 1510 m cm^{-1} (KBr)) for complex **1** (Supporting Information (SI) Figure S1). The magnitude of $\sim 27 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ of the isotopic shift from 1510 cm^{-1} ($\mu\text{-NO}$) to 1483 cm^{-1} ($\mu\text{-}^{15}\text{NO}$) is consistent with the calculated position, based only on the difference in masses between ^{14}NO and ^{15}NO .^{5c} The IR $\nu(\text{NO})$ spectra suggest that complex **1** is fluxional, scrambling terminal and bridging NO ligands at room temperature. This point has received further support in the study of temperature-varied ^{15}N NMR of complex **1**. As shown in Figure 1a, the ^{15}N (NO) NMR

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spectra showing one broad signal (δ 58.3 ppm vs. MeNO₂) in the NO region also support that complex **1** is fluxional, scrambling terminal and bridging NO ligands in d₆-acetone at 320 K. Interestingly, complex **1** exhibits a diagnostic ¹⁵N (NO) NMR spectrum with bridging NO resonances (δ 200.8 and 200.1 ppm vs. MeNO₂) well-separated from the terminal NO resonances (δ 79.7, 73.5, 43.9, 30.3, 27.1 and 21.9 ppm) at 220 K (Figure 1d). As elucidated by Mason and co-workers, the bent nitrosyl possessing lower n_N-π* excitation energy and the greater imbalance of charge in valence shell giving much larger deshielding displays the downfield chemical shift (in the range of 300-900 ppm) in the ¹⁵N NMR, compared to that of the linear nitrosyl (in the range of 20-200 ppm).⁶ The presence of two sets of ¹⁵N (NO) NMR peaks (δ 200.8, 79.7, 43.9, 21.9 ppm and δ 200.1, 73.5, 30.3, 27.1 ppm with 3:1 ratio, which are integrated on the basis of the similar environment of individual ¹⁵NO displaying similar relaxation mechanism in the ladder and boat forms) in complex **1** might be interpreted either as equilibrium isotope effects or as two isomeric forms (ladder-form and presumably, boat-form (inset of Figure 3)).⁶ The later is preferred due to the significant difference in ¹⁵N chemical shift of the two species. It is noticed that the ¹⁵N NMR spectrum of complex **1** at 220 K displays δ 79.7, 73.5, 43.9, 30.3, 27.1 and 21.9 ppm (terminal ¹⁵NO) in d₆-acetone falling within the range of δ - 7.8~25.0 ppm and δ 23.1~76.1 ppm, the characteristic ¹⁵N NMR chemical shift of {Fe(NO)₂}¹⁰ and {Fe(NO)₂}⁹ DNICs, respectively.⁷ Compared to RRS displaying two absorption bands at 264 and 378 nm in the UV-vis spectrum,^{5b} complex **1** shows absorption bands at 273, 343 and 478 nm.

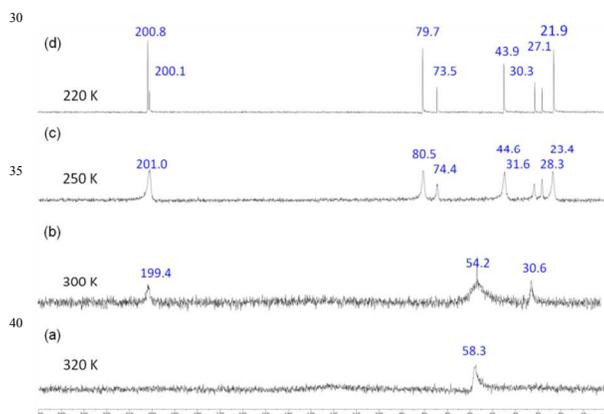


Fig. 1 ¹⁵N-NMR spectra of complex **1** in d₆-acetone at (a) 320 K, (b) 300 K, (c) 250 K and (d) 220 K, respectively.

Single-crystal X-ray structure of [Fe₄(μ₃-S)₂(μ₂-NO)₂(NO)₆]²⁻ unit in K⁺-18-crown-6-ether salt is depicted in Figure 2 and selected bond dimensions are presented in the figure caption. The molecule is symmetrical because of a crystallographically imposed inversion center. The unique ladder-shaped structure is constructed by one RRS [Fe₂(μ-S)₂(NO)₄] moiety coordinated by two [Fe(NO)₂] motifs. The Fe(1)⋯Fe(1ⁱ) distance of 2.740(1) Å is longer than the Fe⋯Fe bond distance of RRS (2.678 Å), and the relatively short Fe(1)⋯Fe(2) distance of 2.573(1) Å suggests the stronger Fe⋯Fe interaction. The bridging N(2)–O(2) bond length of 1.224(4) Å (the bond angles Fe(1)–N(2)–O(2) 138.8(3)° and Fe(2)–N(2)–O(2) 131.0(3)°) is comparable to the

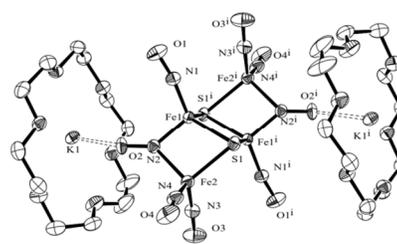


Fig. 2 Molecular structure of complex **1**. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (deg): Fe(1)⋯Fe(2) 2.573(1); Fe(1)⋯Fe(1ⁱ) 2.740(1); K(1)⋯O(2) 2.777(3); Fe(1)–N(1) 1.660(3); Fe(1)–N(2) 1.761(3); Fe(2)–N(2) 1.967(3); Fe(2)–N(3) 1.676(4); N(1)–O(1) 1.184(4); N(2)–O(2) 1.224(4); N(3)–O(3) 1.182(5); N(4)–O(4) 1.181(4); Fe(1)–N(1)–O(1) 170.2(3); Fe(1)–N(2)–O(2) 138.8(3); Fe(2)–N(2)–O(2) 131.0(3).

N–O bond distance of 1.26 Å in NO⁻ and the N–O distance of 1.330 (12) Å (the bent Fe–N–O) in [Fe(NO)₄]⁻.⁸ Of importance, the difference of bond distances between Fe(1)–N(2) (1.761(3) Å) and Fe(2)–N(2) (1.967(3) Å) suggests that the Fe(1) center in complex **1** would retain a {Fe(NO)₂}⁹ core and Fe(2) permit a semibridging interaction of N(2)O(2) within [(NO)Fe(μ-NO)Fe(NO)₂] unit. This N(2)O(2) polarization may be promoted by a semibridging electrostatic interaction with the immediate vicinity {Fe(NO)₂}¹⁰ motif. This type of interaction may increase the nucleophilicity of semibridging NO, as is evidenced from site-selective interaction of K⁺ at the bridging nitroxyl oxygen (Figure 2). The 150 cm⁻¹ decrease in ν(NO) (RRS vs. semi-bridging NO of complex **1**) is believed to reflect the strong electron donation from electron-rich {Fe(NO)₂}¹⁰ motif to N(2)–O(2), thereby weakening both Fe(1)–N(2) and N(2)–O(2) bonds and lowering the corresponding stretching frequency. Interestingly, the semi-bridging-NO stretching frequency (1510 cm⁻¹ (KBr)) of complex **1** is comparable to that of a semibridging interaction of NO within [Fe^{II}-{Fe(NO)}⁷] unit, observed in Hr(NO) (mononitrosyl adduct of nonheme diiron protein hemerythrin) (1658 cm⁻¹ (H₂O)) and FDP(NO) (1681 cm⁻¹ (H₂O)).⁴ In addition, the terminal N–O bond lengths (N(1)–O(1) 1.184(4), N(3)–O(3) 1.182(5) and N(4)–O(4) 1.181(4)) of complex **1** are comparable to the range [1.184(2)–1.187(3) Å] of the {Fe(NO)₂}¹⁰-{Fe(NO)₂}⁹ reduced-form dinuclear DNICs.⁹ Therefore, the electronic structure of complex **1** may be best described as coordinative assembly of two fully delocalized [{Fe(NO)₂}⁹-{Fe(NO)₂}¹⁰] motifs. As is evidenced from IR ν_{NO} spectrum (1510 cm⁻¹), the bent Fe–N–O bond angle (Fe(1)–N(2)–O(2) 138.8(3)° and Fe(2)–N(2)–O(2) 131.0(3)°) as well as the relative long N–O bond distance (1.224(4) Å), the electronic structure of the bridging NO closely approaches nitroxyl anion (NO⁻).⁸

In order to gain more information about possible isomers of complex **1**, density functional theory (DFT) computation with BP86 functional¹⁰ and a mixed basis set of SDD ECP¹¹ on Fe and 6-311++G(d,p)¹² on all other atoms were employed on ladder-form **A** and boat-form **B** (inset of Figure 3).¹³ On the basis of the experimental and computational parameters summarized in Table S1, the geometric parameters and nitroxyl vibrational frequencies of ladder-form **A** are well comparable to those of complex **1**. The

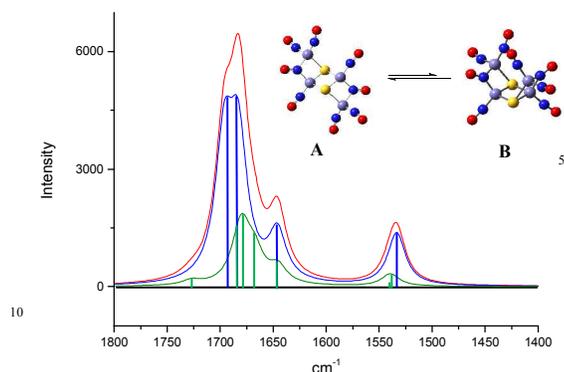


Fig. 3 The calculated vibrational spectra for ladder-form **A** (blue line), boat-form **B** (green line), and the combination of forms **A** and **B** (3 : 1 ratio) (red line).

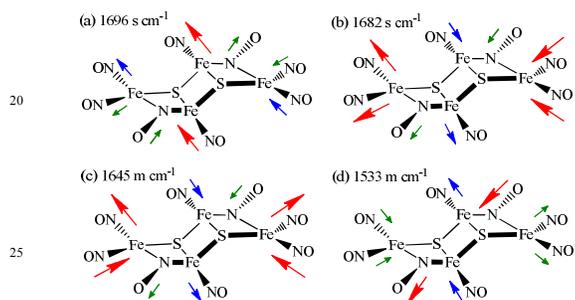


Chart 1 NO vibrational modes of ladder-form **A**.

boat-form **B** is unstable compared to the ladder-form **A** by 1.7 kcal/mol (1.8 kcal/mol) in gas phase at 220 K (298 K). The ^{15}NO -enriched boat-form **B**- ^{15}NO is found to be slightly unstable than the ^{15}NO -enriched ladder-form **A**- ^{15}NO by only 0.6 kcal/mol (0.7 kcal/mol) in the solvation of acetone at 220 K (298 K), which corresponds to an equilibrium constant $K_{\text{B/A}} \sim 0.36$ (0.31). Interestingly, this value is consistent with the 3:1 ratio of two isomeric **1**- ^{15}NO observed in ^{15}N NMR spectra (Figure 1 and inset of Figure 3). The calculated IR spectrum of conformation **A** displays four active NO vibrational frequencies at 1696, 1682, 1645 and 1533 cm^{-1} , which mainly correspond to the anti-symmetric stretching vibrations of two central Fe-terminal NO motifs (Chart 1a), the two anti-symmetric stretching vibrations of two $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}$ motifs (Chart 1b and c), and the anti-symmetric stretching vibrations of two Fe_2 -semibridging NO motifs (Chart 1d), respectively. In the boat-form **B**, seven active NO vibrational frequencies were calculated to be 1726, 1682, 1678, 1667, 1645, 1540 and 1538 cm^{-1} . The detailed vibrational modes are delineated in SI Chart S1. As shown in Figure 3, the combined calculated spectrum from 3A : 1B ratio, displaying a similar pattern to experimental IR spectrum of complex **1** (SI Figure S1), also supports two different isomers of complex **1** with 3 : 1 ratio in the ^{15}N NMR at 220 K.

The paramagnetic broadening of ^{15}N NMR peak of NO groups at 300 K (or 250 K) (Figure 1) suggest that the singlet-ground-state complex **1** has a low-lying triplet excited state with small thermal population. In order to estimate the singlet/triplet energy splitting (Δ_{ST}), the magnetic susceptibility measurement of powdered sample of complex **1** was collected in the temperature

range of 2-300 K at 0.5 T. The temperature-dependent effective magnetic moment decreases from $0.666 \mu_{\text{B}}$ at 300 K to $0.201 \mu_{\text{B}}$ at 2 K (SI Figure S2). The best fit to the data indicates that the low-lying triplet excited state is higher than the singlet ground state about $1843 \pm 2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ with g value for $\{\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^9\text{-}\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^{10}\}$ fixed to 1.997 ($R^2 = 0.991$ and $\text{TIP} = (141.6 \pm 3.3) \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$) (SI Figure S3). Complex **1**, measured in CH_3CN with 0.1 M $[\text{tBu}_4\text{N}][\text{PF}_6]$ as supporting electrolyte at room temperature (scan rate 0.5 V/s), displays a reversible redox wave at $E_{1/2} = -1.72 \text{ V}$ (vs $\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}/\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}^+$) with $\Delta E_{\text{p}} = 150 \text{ mV}$ and $i_{\text{pa}}/i_{\text{pc}} = 0.92$ (SI Figure S4). The redox potential of -1.72 V (vs $\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}/\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}^+$) for complex **1** lies between that of RRS (-2.26 V vs $\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}/\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}^+$) and that of RRE $[(\text{NO})_4\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-SeT})_2]$ (-0.95 V vs $\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}/\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}^+$).^{5b}

In contrast to the inertness of RRS toward HSCPh_3 , the addition of 1 equiv of $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}][\text{BF}_4]$ and HSCPh_3 into a CH_3CN solution of complex **1** generates the known $[\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})\}^7\text{-}(\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^9)_3][\text{Fe}_4(\mu_3\text{-S})_3(\text{NO})_7]^-$ (RBS) characterized by IR (ν_{NO}) stretching frequencies shifting from (1742 w, 1701 s and 1668 m cm^{-1}) to (1796 w, 1741 s, 1706 w cm^{-1}), and nitric oxide trapped by $[\text{PPN}]_2[\text{S}_2\text{Fe}(\mu\text{-S})_2\text{FeS}_5]$ producing the known complex $[\text{PPN}][\text{S}_5\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2]$ (Scheme 1b).¹⁴ The conversion of complex **1** into RBS triggered by one equiv of S-donor species HSCPh_3 and oxidant $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}][\text{BF}_4]$ provided a facile pathway for transformation of RRS into RBS via complex **1**.^{1b}

In summary, the assembly of RRS and $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^{10}$ DNIC $[(\text{TMEDA})\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2]$ generating the iron-sulfur nitrosyl cluster **1**, a precursor of Roussin's black salt (RBS), was discovered. Compared to the $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^9$ and $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^{10}$ DNICs/RREs displaying ^{15}N (NO) NMR chemical shift (δ 23 ~ 76 ppm) and (δ -7.8 ~ 25 ppm),⁷ respectively, the first semibridging nitrosyl complex **1** exhibits the distinct ^{15}N (NO) NMR chemical shift (δ 200.8 and 200.1 ppm vs MeNO_2). That is, ^{15}N (NO) NMR chemical shift may serve as an efficient tool to discriminate the binding forms of NO (terminal NO vs. semibridging NO and straight M-NO vs. bent M-NO terminal links),⁶ in addition to IR $\nu(\text{NO})$ spectroscopy (e.g. observed in the diferrous site of an FMN-free FDP (flavodiiron protein) triggering turnover of 2NO to N_2O via a NO-semibridging $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-NO})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$ intermediate).⁴ In this study, we further showed how the electronic structure of the coordinated NO groups of RRS is modulated by the electronic richness of the immediate vicinity $\{\text{Fe}(\text{NO})_2\}^{10}$ motifs.

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Table of content

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