

Electrochemical Reduction Mechanism of $[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\text{dppf})(\text{CO})]^+$ (dppf = 1,1'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene)

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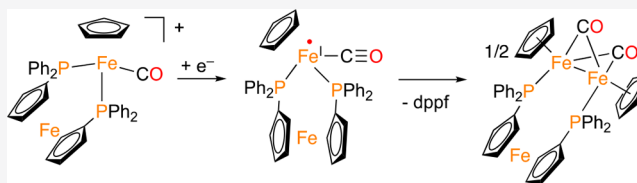
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ABSTRACT: The complex $[\text{CpFe}(\text{dppf})(\text{CO})][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ ($[\text{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ (Cp = cyclopentadienyl, dppf = 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene, and $[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]^-$ = tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]borate) was made by removal of one carbonyl ligand from the dicarbonyl complex $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\kappa^1\text{-dppf})]\text{I}$ and exchange of the I^- for $[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]^-$ that allowed for electrochemical investigations. The cyclic voltammogram of $[\text{1}]^+$ showed a reversible anodic process due to oxidation of the ferrocenediyl moiety of the dppf ligand. A quasi-reversible cathodic process was also observed, and this reduction occurred at the CpFe moiety, as determined by variable-temperature (+22 and -30°C) IR spectroelectrochemistry (SEC) and further supported by DFT calculations. This reduction event resulted in the formation of the two possible dimers $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-CO})_2(\mu\text{-dppf})]$ and $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_2(\mu\text{-dppf})]$ along with deligation of one dppf ligand.

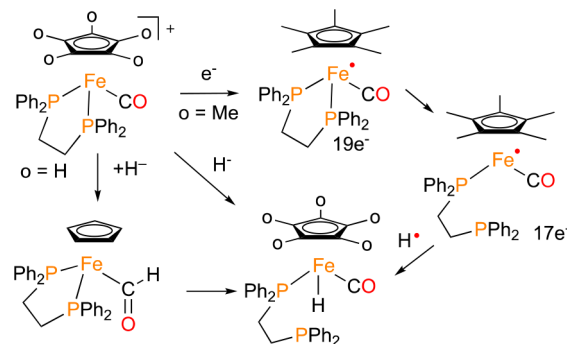


INTRODUCTION

The CpFe and Cp^*Fe (Cp = cyclopentadienyl and Cp^* = pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) organometallic moieties can exist in a range of stable redox states: i.e., Fe^{III} , Fe^{II} , and Fe^{I} .^{1–5} The work by Lapinte and co-workers has shown that the redox chemistry of $[\text{Cp}^*(\text{L})\text{Fe}(\text{L})_3]^n$ (L = mono- or bidentate phosphine ligands, CO ($n = +1$) or one X ligand ($n = 0$) such as OTf , Me, halides), especially reduction, causes dramatic changes in the coordination geometry where even bidentate phosphine ligand dechelation has been described.^{1–4} Their study on $[\text{CpFe}(\text{dppe})(\text{CO})]^+$ and $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Fe}(\text{dppe})(\text{CO})]^+$ (dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane), for example, found that the complex could be reduced by 1e^- to form the 19e^- Fe^{I} complex followed by dechelation of the dppe to give a 17e^- species (Scheme 1).⁴ This Fe^{I} species then abstracted a H atom to form the iron hydride; this hydride could also be made directly by the addition of a hydride ligand (Scheme 1).

We report herein the straightforward⁶ synthesis of $[\text{CpFe}(\text{dppf})(\text{CO})][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ ($[\text{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$, dppf = 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene) and improved the solubility of the cationic complex through the exchange of the I^- counterion with the weakly coordinating, non-redox-active tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]borate $[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]^-$. This salt exchange offered the ability to perform electrochemical studies on $[\text{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$. The location of the redox events and the electrochemical mechanism were both determined through the use of spectroelectrochemistry. The spectroscopic observations were then further supported by molecular models determined by DFT calculations.

Scheme 1. Reactive Pathways of $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})(\text{dppe})]^+$ or $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Fe}(\text{CO})(\text{dppe})]^+$ with Reductants or H^-

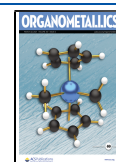


RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The complex $[\text{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ was synthesized by starting from $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2\text{I}]$ followed by the addition of 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (dppf) in EtOH under an inert atmosphere to yield the previously reported species $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2(\kappa^1\text{-dppf})]\text{I}$,^{6,7} as shown by IR spectroscopy (Figure S7). After the solution was heated to 160°C in a microwave reactor, the dark red solution was treated with Et_2O and the dark orange solid was collected followed by

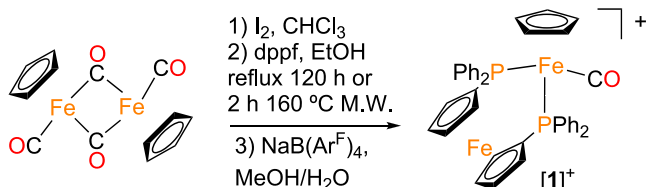
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crystallization from $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/n$ -hexane. The I^- was exchanged for $[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]^-$ by dissolving both solids in MeOH followed by precipitation with H_2O to yield $[\mathbf{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ (Scheme 2). The IR spectrum of $[\mathbf{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ showed one CO band at 1967 cm^{-1} , and the compound $[\mathbf{1}]\text{I}$ showed a band at 1965 cm^{-1} (Figure S7).

Scheme 2. Synthesis of $[\mathbf{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ from $[\text{CpFeCO}_2]_2$.



The molecular structure of $[\mathbf{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ is shown in Figure 1, and there were only minor differences from the reported

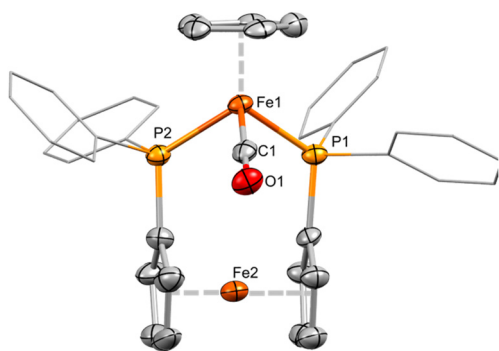


Figure 1. Molecular structure of $[\mathbf{1}][\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]$ determined from a crystallographic analysis. Thermal ellipsoids are shown at 50% probability; the $[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]^-$ counterion and hydrogen atoms are omitted and phenyl rings presented in stick format for clarity. Crystallographic data are given in the Supporting Information.

$[\mathbf{1}]\text{I}$; notably there is a tiny difference in the Fe–C and C–O distances of the bound carbonyl (Table 1).⁷ The geometry around the Fe1 (distal) center shows the expected three-legged piano-stool geometry. The value $d_{\text{Fe–Fe}} = 4.253\text{ Å}$ is likely outside the range for a M–M interaction.⁸ The isostructural ruthenium analogue $[\text{CpRu}(\text{dppr})(\text{CO})]^+$ has also been reported and showed a longer M–M distance: $d_{\text{Ru–Ru}} = 4.389\text{ Å}$.⁹ The Cp ligands at the proximal iron in dppf are in an

Table 1. Selected Bond Distances and Angles of $[\mathbf{1}]^+$ (Å)

	X-ray $[\mathbf{1}]^+$	$[\mathbf{1}]^{\text{I}^7}$	$[\mathbf{1}]^+$ DFT ^a
Bond Distances (Å)			
Fe1–Fe2	4.253	4.246	4.227
Fe1–C1	1.736(5)	1.77(1)	1.749
C1–O1	1.162(5)	1.13(1)	1.148
Fe1–P1	2.2277(13)	2.236(3)	2.252
Fe1–P2	2.2441(14)	2.249(3)	2.258
Bond Angles (deg)			
P1–Fe1–P2	101.24(5)	100.06(10)	96.93
Fe1–C1–O1	177.7(4)	173.4(9)	173.42
Torsion Angle (deg)			
P1–C31–C36–P2	5.78	5.94	4.64

^aB3LYP/def2-TZVP/J level of theory. Details are given in the Experimental Section, and full coordinates are provided as xyz files.

eclipsed configuration with the dihedral angle P1–C1–C2–P2 = 5.78° . The UV–vis–NIR spectrum showed a band at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 405\text{ nm}$ and it was assigned using time-dependent (TD) DFT as a metal–ligand charge transfer (MLCT).

With the molecular structure of $[\mathbf{1}]^+$ as a starting point, a geometry optimized model was generated from DFT calculations. The frontier Kohn–Sham molecular orbitals for $[\mathbf{1}]^+$ are depicted in Figure 2. The highest occupied molecular

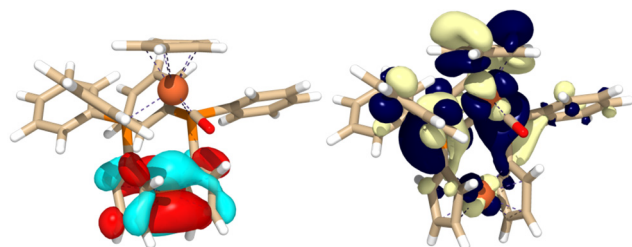


Figure 2. Depiction of restructured Kohn–Sham orbitals for the HOMO (turquoise/red) and LUMO (yellow/blue) determined from DFT calculations (B3LYP/def2-TZVP/J). Isosurface = 0.02.

orbital (HOMO) is located on the proximal iron (Fe2) of the ferrocenediyl moiety of the dppf ligand (Figure 2). The lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) is an antibonding orbital between the distal iron (Fe1) and Cp ligand/P dative bonds and no contribution from the π^* of the CO ligand (Figure 2). The calculated bond distances are in good agreement with the molecular structure determined by crystallographic analysis (Table 1).

The cyclic voltammogram (CV) of $[\mathbf{1}]^+$ in 0.1 M *n*-Bu₄NB(Ar^F)₄/CH₂Cl₂ (this electrolyte/solvent combination was used in all further electrochemical based experiments found herein, including SEC) showed a reversible oxidation event at $E_{1/2}([\mathbf{1}]^{+/2+}) = 0.66\text{ V}$ vs $[\text{FcPp}_2]^{0/+}$, the internal standard for all potentials reported herein (Figures S1–S3). The Randles–Sevcik plot (Figure S4) shows a linear relationship between the square root of the scan rate and the current response for the first oxidation process, indicating that the process is under diffusion control.¹⁰

The location of the oxidation process was assigned to the ferrocenediyl moiety of the dppf ligand on the basis of the UV–vis–NIR spectroelectrochemistry (SEC) and IR SEC (Figures S9 and S11). The UV–vis–NIR SEC spectrum showed only two new weak bands at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 400$ and 630 nm , consistent with dppf ligand oxidation.^{11–14} The IR SEC spectrum showed only a minor change in $\nu_{\text{CO}}([\mathbf{1}]^+) = 1966\text{ cm}^{-1}$ to $\nu_{\text{CO}}([\mathbf{1}]^{2+}) = 1972\text{ cm}^{-1}$, with $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}} = 6\text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Figure S10).¹⁵ The small $\Delta\nu$ is consistent with oxidation remote to the IR-active moiety, which was found to be the case for the dppf-substituted ruthenium metallacumulene chromophore $[\text{TzRu}(\text{dppf})(\text{C}=\text{C}=\text{CPh}_2)]^+$ (Tz = tris(pyrazolyl)borate), where dppf oxidation resulted in $\Delta\nu_{\text{CC}} = 15\text{ cm}^{-1}$.^{14,16} DFT calculations also supported the dppf oxidation where spin was exclusively at the proximal Fe2 atom (Figure S14).

The cathodic processes, $[\mathbf{1}]^{+/0}$ found in the CV appeared as irreversible processes at $E_{\text{pc}} = -1.70\text{ V}$ with a small prerelution event at $E_{\text{pc}} = -1.47\text{ V}$ (Figure 3). The small reduction event at $E_{\text{pc}} = -1.47\text{ V}$ did not appear to be an artifact or impurities but is in fact due to electron-coupled chemical reactions (EC). Furthermore, the two small anodic peaks at $E_{\text{pa}} = -0.65$ and 0.0 V only appear after the potential is swept past the reduction event at -1.70 V . The cathodic

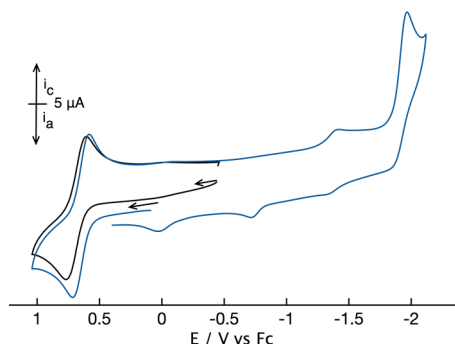


Figure 3. Cyclic voltammetry of $[1]^+$ in 0.1 M $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{N}[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$.

electrochemical mechanism was further studied by a SEC and DFT analysis.

The UV–vis–NIR SEC spectrum for the reduction process $[1]^{+/0}$ showed nonisosbestic behavior consistent with an EC mechanism. A new broad, low-energy absorption at $\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$ ($\epsilon/\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$) = 780 (100) (Figures S11 and S12) appeared. The IR SEC spectrum was used to help understand the cathodic mechanism. The IR SEC spectrum of $[1]^{+/0}$ at room temperature showed the formation of a new signal at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1680 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ that appears rapidly (Figure S10), but only after the potential was held at -1.5 V for $\sim 2\text{--}3 \text{ min}$. This large hypsochromic shift for the $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}}$ can be attributed to a change in the binding mode of the CO ligand, where such frequencies are common for bridging CO ligands. Several attempts were made to reduce $[1]^+$ with reductants such as Na in THF, Na/naphthalene, and $[\text{CoCp}_2]$, but no signal at 1680 cm^{-1} could be detected. The reduction of $[1]^+$ with $[\text{CoCp}_2]$ gave a new signal at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1779 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ consistent with $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2]_2$.

Open-shell DFT calculations were performed on $[1]^0$ using the same functionals and basis sets as for the closed-shell $[1]^+$. The spin density analysis is shown in Figure 4, and it shows

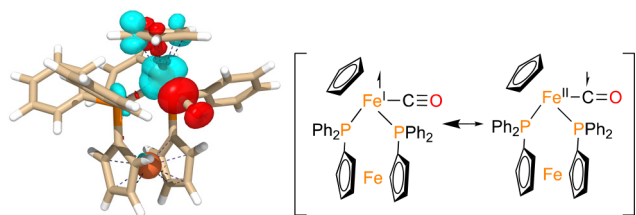


Figure 4. Spin density analysis determined from unrestricted Kohn–Sham orbitals, using the B3LYP/def2-TZVP/J level of theory. Spin up is shown in green, and spin down is shown in red.

that a significant amount of spin is located on the Fe (spin up) and the only spin located on the CO ligand has the opposite sign (spin down). The Mulliken spin population on the distal Fe1 is 1.03 and is -0.12 on the C. The electron structure of $[1]^0$ can be described as a valence tautomer, as shown by the resonance structure in Figure 4, where Fe^{I} is the dominant resonance structure. A vibrational analysis of $[1]^+$ and $[1]^0$ showed a small change in $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}}$, 7 cm^{-1} , which is unexpected on the basis of the additional electron in $[1]^0$ (see the Supporting Information). The minimal contribution from the π^* orbital in the LUMO of $[1]^+$ is depicted in Figure 2, and the open-shell calculation placing the majority of the spin density on the Fe center in $[1]^0$ would be reflected in the small or minimal change in the $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}}$ value. Reduced CO ligands

where the CO triple bond is broken is usually only supported by a strong Lewis acid, which generates the carbyne $\text{M}\equiv\text{C}-\text{O}$.^{17,18}

The reduction event $[1]^{+/0}$ was further studied by IR SEC at -30°C , and the relative intensities of the different species formed during the IR SEC experiments are shown in Figure 5.

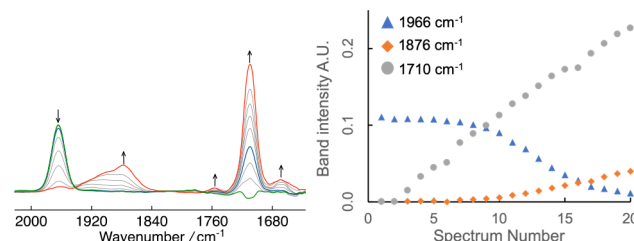


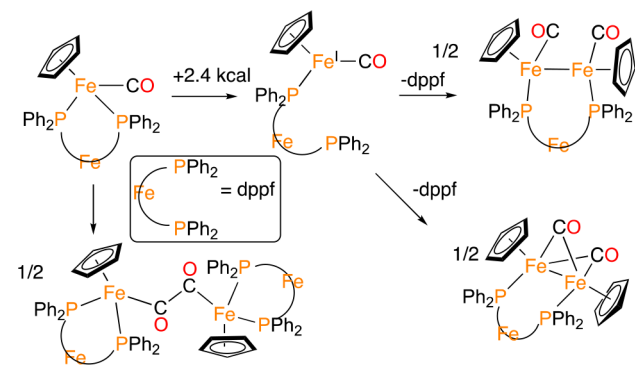
Figure 5. IR SEC spectrum of $[1]^{+/0}$ at -30°C in 0.1 M $\text{Bu}_4\text{N}[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]/\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ and the relative intensities of the different signals. Note the x -axis denotes the succession of time, but the spectra were not measured at fixed times.

The IR SEC spectrum showed that the signal for $[1]^+$ at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1966 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ remained at a similar intensity as the cathodic potential $\sim 1.5 \text{ V}$ was reached, and the signal at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1710 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ began to increase in intensity (Figure 5). This induction period is unusual behavior; however, it can be explained by the frequency analysis done by DFT calculations on $[1]^0$ and $[1]^+$ that showed only a small change in the $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}}$ value, which would explain why the signal at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1966 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ remained unchanged in intensity over the induction period. The 30 cm^{-1} difference between the ν_{CO} for $[1]^0$ at -30°C versus that at 25°C is not entirely clear at this time; however, the temperature dependence of ν_{CO} has been described in the context of ion pairing,¹⁹ but a close contact with $[\text{B}(\text{Ar}^{\text{F}})_4]^-$ is rarely observed.²⁰

The new signals at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1710$ (vs) and 1667 (vw) cm^{-1} and the formation of the signal $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1876 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ can be assigned after considering several possible structures. The first to be considered was the formyl species $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CHO})(\text{dppf})]$ ($[1\text{CHO}]$), as low-valent iron carbonyls are known to abstract $\text{H}^\bullet$ from the solvent or electrolyte.^{4,21} The $[\text{Rh}(\text{por})(\text{CHO})]$ (por = tetraarylporphyrinato) has a reported $\nu_{\text{C=O}} = 1700 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; however, this is an unusually high $\nu_{\text{C=O}}$, as most metal formyls, including those of iron, have $\nu_{\text{C=O}} = 1550\text{--}1590 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.⁴ The structure of $[1\text{CHO}]$ was calculated and a vibrational analysis was also performed on the optimized structure. The calculated $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}} = 336 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ between $[1]^0$ and $[1\text{CHO}]$ is significantly larger than the observed $\Delta\nu_{\text{CO}} = 256 \text{ cm}^{-1}$; additionally, no C–H vibrations were observed in the expected region of 2500 cm^{-1} .²¹ The formation of a dimer has also been explored and likely explains the IR SEC spectrum.

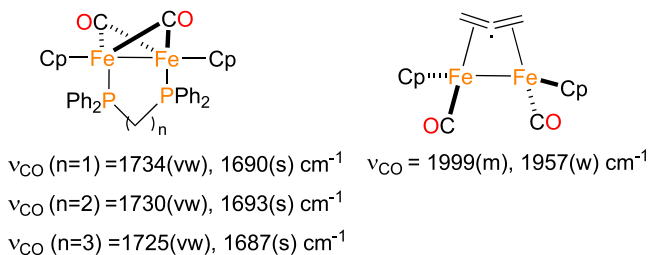
Two types of dimers were considered on the basis of the IR SEC spectrum. The reduced $[1]^0$ can dimerize, where the CO ligands can form a new C–C bond similar to the $\text{Rh}^{\text{II}}\text{--CO}$ bond described by Wayland et al., where $[(\text{por})\text{Rh}(\mu\text{--}(\text{O}=\text{C})_2)\text{Rh}(\text{por})]$ showed two bands at 1780 and 1769 cm^{-1} .^{22–25} The IR spectra of metal α -diketones have been described for complexes with the form $[(\text{OC})_5\text{M}(\mu\text{--}(\text{O}=\text{C})_2)\text{M}(\text{CO})_5]$ ($\text{M} = \text{Re}, \text{Mn}$), and the spectra of such species contained two IR bands for the dionyl $\mu\text{--}(\text{O}=\text{C})_2$ ligand that were in the range of $1700\text{--}1550 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.²⁶ While such a dimer, $[\text{CpFe}(\text{dppf})_2]\mu\text{--}(\text{C}=\text{O})_2$ (Scheme 3), could be calculated, a vibrational analysis was deemed impractical due to the large number of

Scheme 3. Possible Dimerization Routes after Reduction



atoms in this complex and the SEC IR spectrum (Figure 5) did not fit with that of the reported $(\mu\text{-M}(\text{O}=\text{C})_2)_2\text{M}$. Thus, this structure was abandoned to pursue the more promising option of dppf displacement and subsequent dimerization.

A second, more feasible dimer based on the bands $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1710(\text{vs})$ and $1667(\text{vw}) \text{ cm}^{-1}$ can be attributed to the formation of a Fe–Fe bond through the displacement of one of the dppf ligands. The energy for the dechelation of dppf from κ^2 to κ^1 was calculated to be $\sim 2.4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ for $[\mathbf{1}]^0$ according to a potential energy surface scan (Figure S15). This would allow for the formation of a Fe–Fe bond, where similarly structured complexes $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-CO})_2(\mu\text{-P-P})]$ (P–P = 1, *n*-bis(diphenylphosphino)- C_nH_{2n} , *n* = 3 (dppp), 2 (dppe), 1 (dppm) have also been described showing $\nu_{\text{CO}}(\text{dppp}) = 1725 \text{ (vw)}$, 1687 (vs) , $\nu_{\text{CO}}(\text{dppe}) = 1730 \text{ (vw)}$, 1693 (vs) ,^{27,28} and $\nu_{\text{CO}}(\text{dppm}) = 1734 \text{ (vw)}$, 1690 (s) (Chart 1).^{27,28} The complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-CO})_2(\mu\text{-P-P})]$

Chart 1. Reported $\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})$ Dimers

$(\text{OEt})_2\text{O}]$ showed two bands at 1712 (vs) and $1754 \text{ (vw)} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ (Chart 1).²⁹ The molecular structure of $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-CO})_2(\mu\text{-dppf})]$ was calculated and is the likely explanation of the bands at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1710 \text{ (vs)}$ and $1667 \text{ (vw)} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ shown in the IR SEC spectrum at -30°C (Figure 5); the proposed electrochemical mechanism is shown in Scheme 3.

The final bands at 1876 cm^{-1} are thought to be due to the higher energy configuration that contains two terminal CO ligands, $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_2(\mu\text{-dppf})]$. The later appearance of the higher energy band is likely due to its weaker intensity, where the similarly structured complex $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_2(\text{H}_2\text{CCCH}_2)]$ showed $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1999 \text{ (m)}$ (Chart 1).³⁰ A DFT analysis found that $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_2(\mu\text{-dppf})]$ is about 20 kcal mol^{-1} higher in energy than $[\text{Cp}_2\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-CO})_2(\mu\text{-dppf})]$, which would be consistent with less of this species at $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1876 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ being formed during reduction. The terminal CO ligands would also

likely be weaker in intensity relative to the bridging counterparts.³⁰

CONCLUSIONS

The electrochemical behavior of the title complex $[\text{CpFe}(\text{dppf})(\text{CO})]^+$ showed a reversible oxidation that occurred at the ferrocenediyl moiety of the dppf ligand and not at the CpFe moiety. The location of this oxidation event was confirmed by IR and UV–vis SEC and was further supported by DFT calculations. The reduction event observed in the cyclic voltammogram is proposed to give an intermediate with significant radical character at the CpFe moiety, and limited spin density is located at the CO ligand. This Fe^1 species can undergo dimerization through displacement of one dppf ligand followed by bridging the CO ligands. We are currently investigating the exchange of Cp for Cp^* in the iron carbonyl moiety as well as modifications to substituents on the P donors.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Information concerning instrumentation and spectrometers can be found in the Supporting Information.

Density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed using the solid-state structure of $[\mathbf{1}]^+$. A computational analysis was performed by means of restricted Kohn–Sham density functional theory (DFT) using the B3LYP³¹ functional in combination with the D3 dispersion correction³² with the def2-TZVP and Weigend J auxiliary basis set.^{33,34} Geometry optimizations were realized with the ORCA program package with TightSCF convergence ($1.0\text{e-}7 \text{ au}$).³⁵ Solvation in CH_2Cl_2 was modeled using the CPCM solvation model.³⁶ Open-shell calculations on the structures $[\mathbf{1}]^{2+}$ and $[\mathbf{1}]^0$ were determined by removing or adding 1e^- , respectively, and calculations were performed by means of unrestricted Kohn–Sham DFT using the same basis set, functionals, and solvent models as for $[\mathbf{1}]^+$. For the numerical frequency calculations, only the fast contribution of the solvent response to the molecular vibrations (defined through electronic polarizations) was taken into account.

1,1'-Bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (dppf) (Carbosynth) was crystallized from $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{EtOH}$, and the resulting orange crystals were dried at 50°C under vacuum. *n*-BuOH (Sigma-Aldrich) was sparged with N_2 prior to use. $\text{NaB}(\text{ArF})_4$ was synthesized according to a literature procedure.³⁷

Tetrabutylammonium tetrakis[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]borate ($\text{Bu}_4\text{NB}(\text{ArF})_4$) was made prior to use and passed through a neutral alumina column using CH_2Cl_2 as eluent to afford a white crystalline solid. The solid is best stored over a drying agent such as CaSO_4 . The syntheses of $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2]_2$ and $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2\text{I}]$ were done according to a literature procedure,³⁸ and details can be found in the Supporting Information.

Synthesis of $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})(\text{dppf})]\text{I}$. $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})_2\text{I}]$ (1.00 g, 3.29 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (80 mL), and dppf (1.82 g, 3.28 mmol) was added to the solution under a flow of nitrogen. The reaction mixture turned dark red after heating to reflux for 120 h or by heating to 160°C for 2 h in a microwave reactor. This solution was cooled and filtered through Celite. The solvent was reduced to 10 mL under vacuum. Et_2O was added to the concentrated solution, and a brown-orange solid precipitated. This solid was collected by filtration and recrystallized using CH_2Cl_2 overlaid with *n*-hexane, and the final product was dried under vacuum. Yield: 2.11 g (78%). IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1966 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{33}\text{Fe}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_1 \cdot 0.25\text{C}_6\text{H}_{14} \cdot \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$: C, 54.49; H, 4.14. Found: C, 54.48; H, 4.16.

Synthesis of $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})(\text{dppf})]\text{B}(\text{ArF})_4$ ($[\mathbf{1}]^+$). To a solution of $[\text{CpFe}(\text{CO})(\text{dppf})]\text{I}$ (508 mg, 0.61 mmol) in MeOH (100 mL) was added $\text{NaB}(\text{ArF})_4$ (575 mg, 0.65 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30 min with gentle heating at 40°C . Demineralized water was added slowly to the cooled solution until no more solid precipitate formed. The pale yellow-brown solid was collected by filtration, washed with

demineralized water (3×20 mL), and dried under vacuum at 40°C over CaSO_4 . ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 4.23 (2H), 4.35 (5H), 4.46 (2H), 4.51 (2H), 4.88 (2H), 7.44 + 7.50 (22H), 7.64 (3H), 7.71 (9H). ^{11}B NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 3.57 ppm. ^{31}P NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 68.75 ppm. IR (CH_2Cl_2): $\nu_{\text{CO}} = 1966\text{ cm}^{-1}$. UV–vis (CH_2Cl_2): $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 395\text{ nm}$ ($2989\text{ mol}^{-1}\text{ dm}^3\text{ cm}^{-1}$). Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{72}\text{H}_{45}\text{F}_{24}\text{FeP}_2\text{BO}$: C, 55.20; H, 2.89. Found: C, 54.76; H, 3.06.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.organomet.1c00010>.

Experimental details including synthesis of educts and $[\mathbf{1}]^+$, DFT parameters, NMR spectra, and IR and UV–vis spectra not found in the main manuscript (PDF)

XYZ files of $[\mathbf{1}]^+$, $[\mathbf{1}]^0$, $[\mathbf{1}]^{2+}$, and calculated dimeric species (ZIP)

Accession Codes

CCDC 2003561 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif, or by emailing data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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