

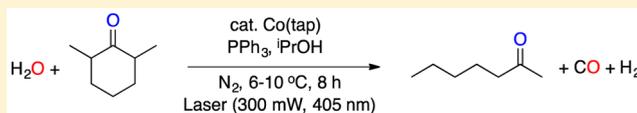
Visible Light Photocatalysis of Carbon–Carbon σ -Bond Anaerobic Oxidation of Ketones with Water by Cobalt(II) Porphyrins

Siu Yin Lee, Hong Sang Fung, Shiyu Feng, and Kin Shing Chan*

Department of Chemistry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{por})$ (por = porphyrinato dianion) reacted selectively with isopropyl ketones at the carbon (CO)–carbon (α) bond at room temperature to give high yields of $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{por})$ acyls and the corresponding oxidized carbonyl compounds in up to 89% yields. $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{por})\text{OH}$ is proposed to be the C–C bond activation (CCA) intermediate. The stoichiometric reaction is further developed into the photocatalytic CCA using both UV and visible light sources (λ 405 nm). Under ambient conditions, the photocatalytic C–C oxidation of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone gives 2-heptanone in up to 24 turnovers in the presence of isopropyl alcohol as the H atom donor and H_2O as the oxidant. Various isopropyl ketones successfully undergo photocatalysis.

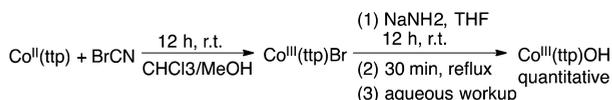


INTRODUCTION

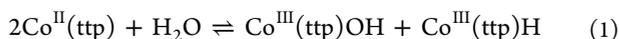
While C–C bond activation (CCA) chemistry using group 9 precious metals such as rhodium and iridium has been widely investigated,^{1–5} examples of the economically attractive cobalt are rare. Rhodium(II) and iridium(II) porphyrins are more reactive in forming stronger M–X bond species as either intermediates or products^{6–8} and have been much more investigated. Cobalt(II) porphyrins, however, are much less reactive and more challenging in the cleavage of carbon–carbon bonds.⁹ Thus, the exploration of cobalt(II) porphyrins to achieve the CCA of ketone is not known and is highly desirable for both fundamental reasons and economical attractiveness.

From the proposed mechanisms for the CCA of ketones by rhodium(II) porphyrins reported recently,¹⁰ it is anticipated that the generation of $\text{M}^{\text{III}}(\text{por})\text{OH}$ is the key to achieve the reaction. Though the preparation of $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{ttp})\text{OH}$ (ttp = 5,10,15,20-tetratolylporphyrinato dianion) by a two-step synthesis from $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{ttp})$ has been reported (Scheme 1),¹¹ this

Scheme 1. Preparation of $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{ttp})\text{OH}$ from $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{ttp})$

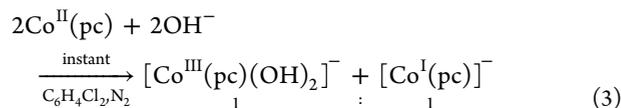
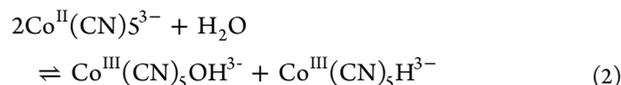


method is too tedious and could not be reproduced by us. Therefore, the readily available $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{ttp})$ was tactically reacted with water in order to generate $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{ttp})\text{OH}$ and $\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{ttp})\text{H}$ in situ through a formal oxidative addition or activation (eq 1) on the basis of analogous literature examples shown below.¹²



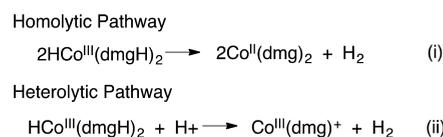
The activation of water with cobalt(II) porphyrin is less developed than that with the rhodium analogue. A few examples include the comparative studies among group 9

metalloporphyrins in aqueous solution reported by Wayland et al.¹³ Furthermore, the activation of water by pentacyanocobaltate(II) ($[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{CN})_5]^{3-}$) to give an unfavorable equilibrium of $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{CN})_5\text{OH}]^{3-}$ and $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{CN})_5\text{H}]^{3-}$ is preceded but has been less explored (eq 2).¹⁴ The macrocyclic $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{pc})$ (pc = tetrakis(neopentoxo)phthalocyanine) also reacts with the hydroxide ion to give $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{pc})(\text{OH})_2]^-$ and $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}(\text{pc})]^-$ instantly (eq 3). The coproduct, the cobalt(III) hydride, can be recycled back to $\text{Co}(\text{II})$ porphyrin via dehydrogenation analogous to the known reaction of cobalt(III) dimethylglyoxime hydride ($\text{HCo}(\text{dmgH})_2$) by either a homolytic or heterolytic pathway to give $\text{Co}(\text{dmgH})_2$, as reported by the groups of Espenson,¹⁵ Gray^{16a} and Peters^{16b} (Scheme 2).



Cobalt(III) porphyrin hydroxide can exhibit rich chemistry due to the weak metal–oxygen bond that originates from the p_π – d_π repulsion between filled p orbitals of oxygen and d

Scheme 2. Proposed Pathways for H_2 Evolution from Cobalt(III) Glyoxime Hydride

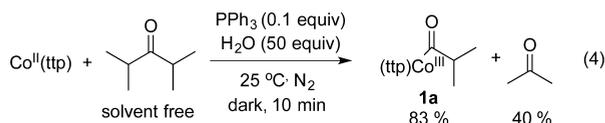


Received: May 9, 2016

orbitals of cobalt.¹⁷ Herein, we report the novel cobalt(II) porphyrin catalyzed carbon (CO)–carbon (α) bond oxidation of ketones by H₂O assisted by light in either UV or visible light.

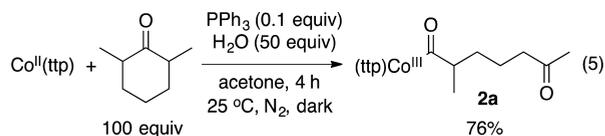
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Initially, Co^{II}(ttp), like its Rh analogues,¹⁰ successfully cleaved the C(CO)–C(α) bond of diisopropyl ketone under solvent-free conditions in the presence of PPh₃ at room temperature over 10 min to give Co^{III}(ttp)CO^{*i*}Pr (**1a**) and acetone in 83% and 40% yields, respectively (eq 4). The observation of acetone



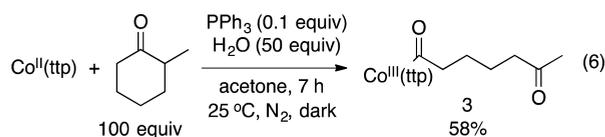
in the reactions supports the notion that the isobutyryl group is transferred to the cobalt center and the isopropyl fragment is oxidized into a carbonyl moiety. Co^{III}(ttp)OH with or without Ph₃P is likely an intermediate for the stoichiometric CCA process.

The mild CCA conditions were then applied to other isopropyl ketones. 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone reacted with Co^{II}(ttp) at room temperature over 4 h to give a 76% yield of Co^{III}(ttp)COCHMe(CH₂)₃COMe (**2a**) (eq 5). The ¹H NMR



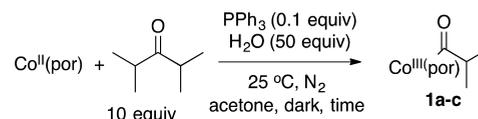
signal of Co^{III}(ttp)COCHMe(CH₂)₃COMe at 1.72 ppm with three protons suggests the presence of an acetyl group. However, there is only one acyl carbon signal in its ¹³C NMR spectrum at 208.05 ppm (COMe; see the Supporting Information). The absence of the acyl carbon in the ¹³C NMR is ascribed to the coupling by the quadrupolar ⁵⁹Co nucleus ($I = 7/2$; 100% abundance).¹⁸ Two absorption peaks from the IR spectrum at the carbonyl region (1717 and 1756 cm⁻¹) suggest the presence of two kinds of carbonyl groups (see the Supporting Information). The diastereotopic protons at the γ and δ positions give four distinct proton signals in the ¹H NMR spectrum. Peak assignments were done with the help of COSY NMR (see the Supporting Information): Hc (*m*, -1.59 ppm), Hc' (*m*, -1.34 ppm), Hd (*m*, -1.15 ppm), and Hd' (*m*, -0.66 ppm). The structures of Co^{III}(ttp)CO^{*i*}Pr and Co^{III}(ttp)COCHMe(CH₂)₃COMe have been firmly established.

Regioselective CCA occurred at the bulky CO–*i*Pr bond when 2-methylcyclohexanone was reacted with Co^{II}(ttp) at room temperature for 7 h to give a 58% yield of Co^{III}(ttp)-CO(CH₂)₄COMe (**3**) (eq 6). No other CCA product was observed by ¹H NMR and GC/MS analysis of the crude reaction mixture.



We then investigated the porphyrin ligand effect briefly (Table 1). In acetone solvent, both Co(ttp) and Co(tap) (tap =

Table 1. Porphyrin Ligand Effect on CCA of Isopropyl Ketone



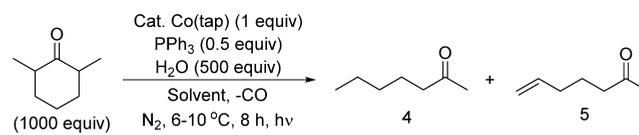
entry	Co(por)	time/h	product, yield of Co(por)CO ^{<i>i</i>} Pr/%
1	ttp	2	1a , 78
2	tap	1.5	1b , 89
3	tpclp	3	1c , 32 ^a

^aCo(tpclp) recovered in 40% yield.

tetrakis(4-anisyl)porphyrin) completely reacted with diisopropyl ketone (10 equiv) within 2 h, while Co(tpclp) (tpclp = tetrakis(4-chlorophenyl)porphyrin) only reacted partially over 3 h to give **1c** in 32% yield (Table 1, entry 3). The more electron rich Co(tap) gave a slightly higher yield of CCA product **1b** in comparison to that of **1a** from Co(ttp) (Table 1, entries 1 and 2). Co(tap) also reacted more quickly than Co(ttp) with a shorter reaction time of 1.5 h. Likely the more electron rich Co^{II}(por) favors the formation of Co^{III}(por)OH (eq 1). Therefore, we chose to carry out the photocatalytic chemistry of Co(tap).

Taking advantage of the weak Co(por)–acyl bond,¹⁹ we envisioned that the homolytic bond cleavage could turn the stoichiometric carbon–carbon bond oxidation into catalysis. To our delight, the C(CO)–C(α) bond of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone was catalytically cleaved by Co(tap) under photolysis conditions to give 2-heptanone (**4**) and the terminal unsaturated alkyl 2-hept-6-enone **5** in 106% and 40% yields, respectively, on the basis of Co(tap) loading (Table 2, entry 1).

Table 2. Photocatalytic CCA of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone in Different Solvents



entry ^a	solvent	dielectric constant ²⁰	yield/%		Co(tap) recovery/%
			4 ^b	5 ^b	
1	THF	7.52	106	40	58
2	^{<i>i</i>} PrOH	20.18	26	5	63
3	acetone	21.01	129	29	67
4	MeCN	36.64	17	10	41
5	DMF	38.25	17	15	56
6	none		573	357	72

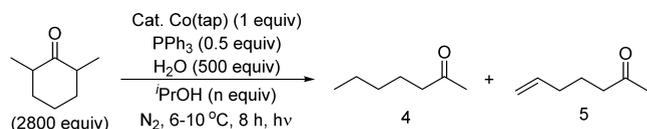
^aA 400 W quartz mercury halide lamp was used, with a B+W 67 mm MRC UV filter for cutting off light rays below 350 nm. ^bBased on Co(tap) loading.

On the basis of the findings from the stoichiometric CCA of ketone, Co^{III}(tap)OH was proposed as the key intermediate to cleave the C(CO)–C(α) bond of ketone. To favor the formation and stabilization of Co^{III}(tap)OH, more polar solvents with higher dielectric constants were examined;²⁰ however, none of them showed very good catalytic efficiency (Table 2). The highest yield of 129% (based on Co(tap) loading) of 2-heptanone was obtained in acetone solvent, but the efficiency was still very low (Table 2, entry 3). Instead, the

reaction carried out under solvent-free conditions gave 2-heptanone (**4**) and 2-hept-6-enone (**5**) in much improved yields of 573% and 357%, respectively (Table 2, entry 6). We reason that the higher concentration effect on ketone dominates the catalysis. Therefore, the addition of polar solvent was not beneficial.

To tune the reaction to be more chemoselective toward the more saturated product **4**, a strong hydrogen atom donor was introduced to facilitate the hydrogenation via a likely HAA (HAA = hydrogen atom abstraction) step (see the mechanistic discussion below). To our delight, addition of 20 equiv of isopropyl alcohol successfully improved the selectivity from 62% to 92% (Table 3, entries 1 and 2). Further addition of 50

Table 3. Effect of Isopropyl Alcohol on Chemoselectivity



entry ^a	iPrOH/ equiv	TON			Co(tap) recovery/%
		4	5	4 selectivity/% ^b	
1	0	5.7	3.6	62	72
2	20	10.2	0.9	92	70
3	50	13.2	0	100	71

^aA 400 W quartz mercury halide lamp was used, with a B+W 67 mm MRC UV filter for cutting off light rays below 350 nm. ^bThe percentage of **4** in total conversion of **4** and **5**.

equiv of iPrOH resulted in a totally chemoselective photocatalysis. Catalytic CCA on 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone by Co^{II}(tap) yielded 2-heptanone selectively in 13.2 turnovers (Table 3, entry 3). We do not know the reason for the low selectivity of **4** and **5** when the reaction was conducted in iPrOH solvent. In view of the lower product yield of **4** and **5**, other side reaction may have occurred such as oxidation of isopropyl alcohol. However, a small amount of isopropyl alcohol (50 equiv) added to the ketone substrate under solvent-free conditions likely did not undergo Co(por) catalyzed photo-oxidation but the higher concentration of ketone substrate underwent more facile carbon–carbon bond cleavage for the yield of the product.

To increase the electron density on Co(tap), a donor ligand PPh₃ was added.^{10c,d} While the photocatalysis still proceeded in the absence of PPh₃, a low turnover number of 6.5 was obtained (Table 4, entry 1). Addition of 0.5 equiv of PPh₃ increased the turnover number to 13.2 (Table 4, entry 2). With 1 equiv of PPh₃, only slight improvement in TON was achieved (Table 4, entry 3). Presumably, the competitive though probably slow photo-oxidation of Ph₃P to Ph₃PO becomes more significant with H₂O₂ generated from Co(tap)OH. Indeed, we observed the formation of Ph₃PO after the photocatalysis (Table 4, entry 3).

To shift the equilibrium from Co^{II}(tap) to the proposed intermediate Co^{III}(tap)OH or (Ph₃P)Co(tap)OH (eq 7), the

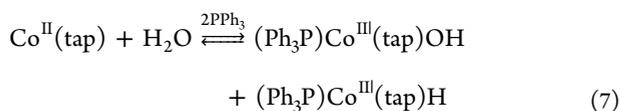
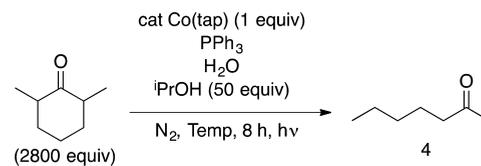


Table 4. Conditions Optimization on Photocatalytic CCA of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone



entry ^a	PPh ₃ /equiv	H ₂ O/equiv	temp/°C	TON of 4
1	0	500	6–10	6.5
2	0.5	500	6–10	13.2
3	1	500	6–10	15.9
4	1	0	6–10	2.8
5	1	100	6–10	9.1
6	1	1000	6–10	14.8
7	1	500	20–25	11.1
8	1	500	35–40	10.2

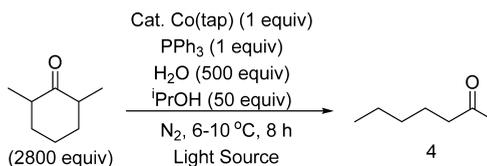
^aA 400 W quartz mercury halide lamp was used, with a B+W 67 mm MRC UV filter for cutting off light rays below 350 nm.

water concentrations were varied. Without added water, Co(tap) only slightly catalyzed the photocatalytic CCA of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone in 2.8 turnovers (Table 4, entry 4), likely due to the presence of small amounts of residual water in reagents and solvents. The TON increased with higher H₂O loadings and leveled off when 1000 equiv of H₂O was added (Table 4, entries 3, 5, and 6). Further improvement was limited by the poor solubility of water in the ketone substrate.

To our surprise, a lower rather than a higher reaction temperature enhanced the TONs. A reaction temperature above 20 °C slightly retarded the photocatalysis to give a lower turnover number of 10 (Table 3, entries 7 and 8). The reaction temperature was optimized at 6–10 °C to give 15.9 turnovers (Table 4, entry 3). Probably, a lower temperature stabilizes the thermally labile reactive intermediate (Ph₃P)Co(tap)OH without extensive reductive elimination to give H₂O₂, which is detrimental to the photocatalyst. The reverse reaction, the known oxidative addition of H₂O₂ by the analogous [Co^{II}(CN)₅]³⁻ to give [(HO)Co^{III}(CN)₅]³⁻, has been reported,¹⁴ thus supporting the rationale. The reductive dimerization of Rh^{III}(ttp)OH to generate Rh₂(ttp)₂ and H₂O₂ also requires a temperature of more than 60 °C.²¹ A much lower thermal stability is expected for Co^{III}(tap)OH, and a higher temperature thus reduces the catalytic efficiency.

Under the optimized photocatalytic conditions, a visible light laser source (405 nm, 300 mW) that matches well with the porphyrin Soret band (~400 nm) was used in place of the 400 W broad-band mercury halide lamp (16 TON; Table 5, entry

Table 5. Light Source Effect on Co(tap)-Catalyzed CCA of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone



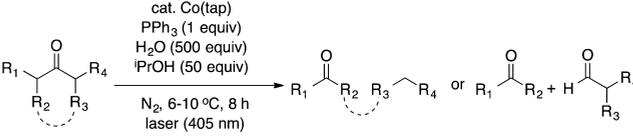
entry	light source	TON of 4	Co(tap) recovery/%
1 ^a	Hg lamp (>350 nm, 400 W)	15.9	73
2	laser (405 nm, 300 mW)	23.8	78

^aB+W 67 mm MRC UV filter for cutting off light rays below 350 nm.

1). A much more efficient photocatalysis to give 2-heptanone in a higher 24 turnovers (Table 5, entry 2) then resulted. Though the mercury halide lamp used has a higher power output than the laser source, it is a broad-band emitter and mostly nonabsorbing by Co(tap).^{10c} Thus, the laser light source works better.

Various ketones also underwent successful visible light photocatalysis under the optimized reaction conditions. Isopropyl ketones worked well to give the corresponding carbonyl compounds (Table 6, entries 1–4). Photocatalytic

Table 6. Substrate Scope of the Photocatalytic CCA of Ketones by Co(tap)



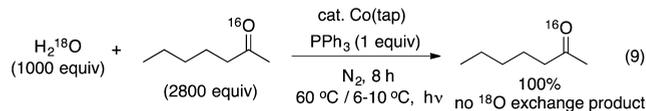
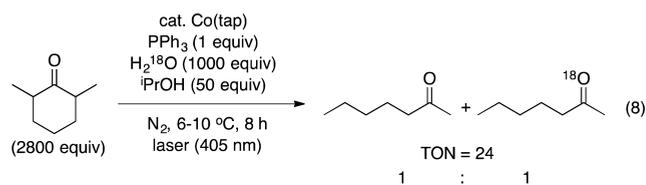
Entry	Substrate	Product ^a	TON
1			23.8
2			9.2
3			11.1
4			1.8

^aNo olefinic products were observed.

CCA of unsymmetrical 2-methylcyclohexanone yielded 2-hexanone in 9.2 turnovers (Table 6, entry 2). The more hindered but weaker (C=O)–CH(Me)R bond (~81.3 kcal mol⁻¹)^{8,22} in comparison to the (C=O)–CH₂R bond (~84.1 kcal mol⁻¹)^{8,22} was cleaved selectively. Acetone was produced from the photocatalytic cleavage of diisopropyl ketone in 11.1 turnovers (Table 6, entry 3). The unsymmetrical isobutyrophenone was also catalytically cleaved on the more hindered but weaker (C=O)–ⁱPr bond (~81.3 kcal mol⁻¹)^{8,22} rather than the (C=O)–Ph bond (~97.2 kcal mol⁻¹)^{8,22}. The decarbonylation of the proposed benzoyl radical intermediate did not occur, due to its very low rate constant of decarbonylation (1.5 × 10⁻⁷ s⁻¹ at 296 K), though we do not understand the lower TON of isobutyrophenone.²³

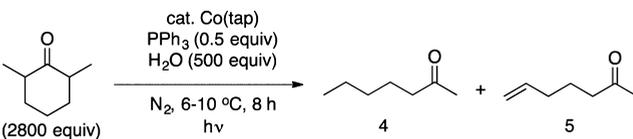
Since an extra oxygen atom has been incorporated into the carbonyl products obtained, an H₂¹⁸O labeling experiment was conducted to identify the source of oxygen. The photocatalytic C(CO)–C(α) bond oxidation of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone by H₂¹⁸O and Co(tap) yielded 2-heptanone and ¹⁸O-labeled 2-heptanone in a 1:1 ratio with a turnover number of 24 (eq 8). From the control experiments of the H₂¹⁸O exchange reaction with 2-heptanone, no ¹⁸O-enriched 2-heptanone was found (eq 9). We can thus rule out direct ¹⁶O/¹⁸O exchange on the 2-heptanone product under both photolytic and thermal conditions to give ¹⁸O-enriched 2-heptanone. This establishes that the oxygen source in 2-heptanone is from H₂O and H₂O serves as an anaerobic oxidant similarly to the Rh porphyrin analogues.^{10c}

The wavelength effect on chemoselectivity on the photocatalysis was further investigated. The high-power broad-band



Hg halide lamp irradiation (>350 nm, 400 W) gave 60% selectivity to 2-heptanone (4), while laser irradiation at 405 nm promoted the selectivity to 89% to 2-heptanone (4) (Table 7,

Table 7. Chemoselectivity with Different Light Sources



entry	light source	TON		4 selectivity/% ^a	Co(tap) recovery/%
		4	5		
1	Hg halide lamp (>350 nm, 400 W)	6	4	60	72
2	laser (405 nm, 300 mW)	8	1	89	70

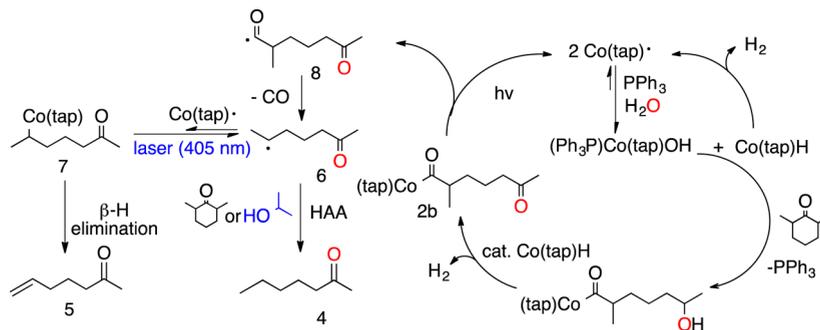
^aThe percentage of 4 in total conversion of 4 and 5.

entries 1 and 2). Likely, the coupling of the alkyl radical 6 and Co(tap) is a reversible step (Scheme 3). The laser irradiation promotes a faster homolysis of Co^{III}(tap)alkyl 7 to give Co^{II}(tap) and the alkyl radical 6 rather than the thermal Co-mediated β-H elimination to give the unsaturated ketone 5.

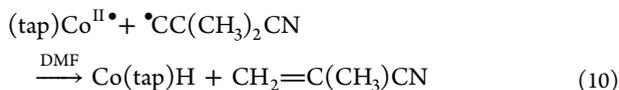
On the basis of the results obtained above, we propose the mechanism given in Scheme 3. Co^{II}(tap) rapidly undergoes a formal oxidative addition with H₂O in the presence of PPh₃ to generate (Ph₃P)Co^{III}(tap)OH and (Ph₃P)Co^{III}(tap)H. While we are not sure about the detailed mechanism, a disproportionation mechanism of (Ph₃P)Co^{II}(tap)(H₂O) to give (Ph₃P)Co^{III}(tap) (OH), Co^I(tap)⁻, and H⁺ occurs. Reprotonation of Co^I(tap)⁻ gives the thermally labile Co^{III}(tap)H. Co(tap)OH with or without Ph₃P ligated then cleaves the C(CO)–C(α) bond of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone followed by Co^{III}(tap)H-catalyzed dehydrogenation to generate the stoichiometric product Co^{III}(tap)COCHCH₃(CH₂)₃COCH₃. The observed cobalt acyl 2b then undergoes photolytic homolysis to generate the acyl radical 8 and Co^{II}(tap). Decarbonylation of the acyl radical, especially for less stable species, gives the secondary alkyl radical 6. The alkyl radical 6 either undergoes HAA from isopropyl alcohol or the α-C–H bond of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone to give 2-heptanone (4) or alternatively couples with Co(tap) to form Co(tap) alkyl 7. Subsequent β-H elimination produces the 2-hept-6-enone 5.

Indeed, the reverse of homolysis, the coupling of cobalt(II) and alkyl radical, has been reported in reversible alkyl group transfer reactions.^{24–26} The subsequent β-hydride elimination pathway on cobalt alkyl to generate an alkene has also been proposed by Wayland et al. in the reaction of Co^{II}(tap) with 2,2-dimethylcyclohexyl radicals (eq 10).²⁶ The dehydrogen-

Scheme 3. Proposed Mechanism of Photocatalytic CCA of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone by Co(tap)



ation of related Co macrocycle hydrides has been well reported (Scheme 2).^{15,16}



In conclusion, we have successfully prepared reactive cobalt porphyrin acyls in stoichiometric amounts from the selective, anaerobic oxidation of isopropyl ketones with water and unreactive Co(II) porphyrin. The monochromatic visible-light, selective photocatalytic CCA of isopropyl ketones with water by Co^{II}(tap) under mild conditions was achieved. Through mechanistic investigations, (Ph₃P)Co(tap)OH has been proposed as the intermediate to cleave the carbon–carbon bond of ketones and H₂O is the oxidizing agent. Lower chemoselectivity was observed in the photocatalytic C(CO)–C(α) bond oxidation of 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone to give both 2-heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone. The selectivity can be tuned by adjusting the concentration of the hydrogen atom source as well as using a strong light source that emits at the Soret band of porphyrins.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Procedures. All materials were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise specified. Benzene was distilled from sodium under nitrogen. Porphyrins and metalloporphyrins were prepared according to the literature procedures, and they had been characterized.^{27–31} All solutions used were degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles and stored in a Teflon screwhead stoppered flask.

Thin-layer chromatography was performed on Merck precoated silica gel 60 F254 plates. Silica gel (Merck, 70–230 mesh) or alumina (90 active neutral, 70–230 mesh) was used for column chromatography.

Physical and Analytical Measurements. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AvanceIII 400 instrument at 400 MHz. Chemical shifts were referenced internally to the residual proton resonance in C₆D₆ (δ 7.15 ppm) or CDCl₃ (δ 7.26 ppm) as the internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported as parts per million (ppm) on the δ scale downfield from TMS. Coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz).

GC–MS analysis was conducted on a GCMS-QP2010 Plus system using an Rtx-5MS column (30 m × 0.25 mm). Details of the GC program are as follows. The column oven temperature and injection temperature were 50.0 and 250 °C, respectively. Helium was used as the carrier gas. The flow control mode was chosen as linear velocity (36.3 cm s⁻¹) with a pressure of 53.5 kPa. The total flow, column flow, and purge flow were 24.0, 1.0, and 3.0 mL min⁻¹, respectively. Split mode injection with a split ratio of 20.0 was applied. After injection, the column oven temperature was kept at 50 °C for 5 min and was then elevated at a rate of 30 °C min⁻¹ for 10 min until 250 °C. The temperature of 250 °C was kept for 5 min. Commercially available

authentic samples of 2-heptanone, 2-hexanone, acetone, benzaldehyde, and toluene were analyzed independently by GC/MS to obtain the respective retention times and mass spectra, which were identical with those of the corresponding organic products obtained.

The photolysis was carried out using a 400 W Philips halide lamp with a water circulation system to control the reaction temperature or a 300 mW laser emitting at 405 nm. The light source and the reaction flask were kept at a distance of 5 cm from each other.

Reaction of Co(ttp) and Diisopropyl Ketone with 0.1 equiv of PPh₃ and 50 equiv of H₂O at 25 °C (Solvent Free). Co(ttp) (0.0137 mmol), PPh₃ (0.36 mg, 1.37 × 10⁻³ mmol), and H₂O (12 μL) were added to diisopropyl ketone (1 mL). The reaction mixture was degassed with three freeze–thaw–pump cycles and was then stirred at 25 °C in the dark under nitrogen for 10 min. Excess diisopropyl ketone was removed, and the dark red crude product was then purified by column chromatography to give a reddish purple solid of Co(ttp)COⁱPr (1a; 9.1 mg, 0.0114 mmol, 83% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -2.77 (sept, 1 H, J = 6.5 Hz), -1.93 (d, 6 H, J = 6.2 Hz), 2.69 (s, 12 H), 7.52 (d, 8 H, J = 6.6 Hz), 7.99 (br. s, 8 H), 8.86 (s, 8 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 16.7, 21.7, 41.8, 121.2, 127.6, 132.7, 133.7, 137.4, 139.1, 145.5. HRMS (FABMS): calcd for [C₅₂H₄₃N₄OCo+H]⁺, m/z 799.2842; found, m/z 799.2834. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν(C=O) 1751 (s). Acetone was obtained in 40% yield by GC/MS using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Reaction between Co(ttp) and 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone (100 equiv) with 0.1 equiv of PPh₃ and 50 equiv of H₂O in Acetone at 25 °C for 4 h. Co(ttp) (10.8 mg, 0.015 mmol), 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (100 equiv, 205 μL), water (50 equiv, 13 μL), PPh₃ (0.1 equiv, 0.38 mg), and acetone (795 μL) were stirred at 25 °C under N₂ for 4 h. The excess solvent was removed by vacuum. The red product Co(ttp)COCHMe(CH₂)₃COMe (2a; 9.9 mg, 0.011 mmol, 76%) with R_f = 0.01 (hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 5/1) was purified and collected by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -2.72 (sext, 1 H, J = 6.8 Hz), -2.15 (d, 3 H, J = 6.8 Hz), -1.59 (m, 1 H), -1.34 (m, 1 H), -1.15 (m, 1 H), -1.66 (m, 1 H), 1.16 (m, 2 H), 1.72 (s, 3 H), 2.69 (s, 12 H), 7.52 (d, 8 H, J = 7.8 Hz), 7.99 (br. s, 8 H), 8.87 (s, 8 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 13.8, 19.4, 21.7, 29.5, 31.9, 42.7, 46.6, 121.6, 127.7, 132.7, 132.8, 133.8, 137.5, 139.1, 145.7, 208.0. HRMS (FABMS): calcd for [C₅₆H₄₉N₄O₂Co+H]⁺, m/z 869.3260; found, m/z 869.3255. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): ν(C=O) 1756 (s), 1717 (s).

Reaction between Co(ttp) and 2-Methylcyclohexanone (100 equiv) with 0.1 equiv of PPh₃ and 50 equiv of H₂O in Acetone at 25 °C for 7 h. Co(ttp) (10.8 mg, 0.015 mmol), 2-methylcyclohexanone (100 equiv, 205 μL), water (50 equiv, 13 μL), PPh₃ (0.1 equiv, 0.38 mg), and acetone (795 μL) were stirred at 25 °C under N₂ for 7 h. The excess solvent was removed by vacuum. No hexanoic acid was observed by GC/MS analysis with the solvent. The red product Co(ttp)CO(CH₂)₄COMe (3; 7.4 mg, 0.009 mmol, 58%) with R_f = 0.01 (hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 5/1) was purified and collected by column chromatography. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -2.33 (t, 2 H, J = 6.9 Hz), -1.10 (quin, 2 H, J = 7.2 Hz), -0.48 (quin, 2 H, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.05 (t, 2 H, J = 7.5 Hz), 1.66 (s, 3 H), 2.69 (s, 12 H), 7.53 (d, 8 H, J = 7.9 Hz), 8.00 (d, 8 H, J = 6.9 Hz), 8.87 (s, 8 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 21.0, 21.7, 23.1, 29.6, 39.9, 41.8, 121.4, 127.7,

132.8, 133.7, 137.5, 138.9, 145.4, 208.1. HRMS (FABMS): calcd for $[C_{55}H_{47}N_4O_2Co+H]^+$, m/z 855.3104; found, m/z 855.3091. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=O)$ 1733 (s), 1717 (s).

Reaction of Co(tp) and Diisopropyl Ketone (10 equiv) with 0.1 equiv of PPh₃ and 50 equiv of H₂O at 25 °C (Acetone). Co(tp) (0.0137 mmol), PPh₃ (0.36 mg, 1.37×10^{-3} mmol), diisopropyl ketone (19.5 μ L), and H₂O (12 μ L) were added to acetone. The reaction mixture was degassed with three freeze–thaw–pump cycles and was then stirred at 25 °C in the dark under nitrogen for 2 h. Excess solvent was removed, and the dark red crude product was then purified by column chromatography to give a reddish purple solid of Co(tp)COⁱPr (**1a**; 8.6 mg, 0.0107 mmol, 78% yield).

Reaction of Co(tap) and Diisopropyl Ketone (10 equiv) with 0.1 equiv of PPh₃ and 50 equiv of H₂O at 25 °C (Acetone). Co(tap) (0.0126 mmol), PPh₃ (0.33 mg, 1.26×10^{-3} mmol), diisopropyl ketone (17.9 μ L), and H₂O (11 μ L) were added to acetone. The reaction mixture was degassed with three freeze–thaw–pump cycles and was then stirred at 25 °C in the dark under nitrogen for 1.5 h. Excess solvent was removed, and the dark red crude product was then purified by column chromatography to give the reddish purple solid Co(tap)COⁱPr (**1b**; 9.7 mg, 0.0112 mmol, 89% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –2.80 (sept, 1 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), –1.96 (d, 6 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 4.07 (s, 12 H), 7.22 (br. s, 8 H), 8.00 (br. s, 8 H), 8.85 (s, 8 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 16.7, 41.9, 55.7, 112.4, 120.9, 132.7, 134.3, 134.8, 145.8, 159.4. HRMS (FABMS): calcd for $[C_{52}H_{43}N_4O_5Co + H]^+$, m/z 863.2638; found, m/z 863.2654. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=O)$ 1750 (s).

Reaction of Co(tpclp) and Diisopropyl Ketone (10 equiv) with 0.1 equiv of PPh₃ and 50 equiv of H₂O at 25 °C (Acetone). Co(tpclp) (0.0124 mmol), PPh₃ (0.32 mg, 1.22×10^{-3} mmol), diisopropyl ketone (17.5 μ L), and H₂O (11 μ L) were added to acetone. The reaction mixture was degassed with three freeze–thaw–pump cycles and was then stirred at 25 °C in the dark under nitrogen for 3 h. Excess solvent was removed, and the dark red crude product was then purified by column chromatography to give the reddish purple solid Co(tpclp)COⁱPr (**1c**; 3.5 mg, 0.0040 mmol, 32% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ –2.85 (sept, 1 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), –1.97 (d, 6 H, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 7.71 (d, 8 H, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 8.03 (br. s, 8 H), 8.82 (s, 8 H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz): δ 16.7, 41.9, 120.1, 127.3, 132.9, 134.4, 134.8, 140.1, 145.3. HRMS (FABMS): calcd for $[C_{48}H_{31}N_4Cl_4OCo + H]^+$, m/z 881.0627; found, m/z 881.0598. IR (KBr, cm^{-1}): $\nu(C=O)$ 1754 (s).

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and H₂O (500 equiv) in THF for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol), and 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (182 μ L) were dissolved in THF (308 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 106% and 40% yields, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard. Data for 2-heptanone: $t_R = 7.203$ min; EIMS m/z (rel %) 114 (1), 99 (1), 85 (1), 71 (2), 59 (1), 58 (6), 43 (10), 41 (1). Data for 2-hept-6-enone: $t_R = 7.065$ min; EIMS m/z (rel %) 112 (1), 97 (1), 71 (1), 58 (3), 55 (2), 43 (10), 41 (2).

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and H₂O (500 equiv) in ⁱPrOH for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), and H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (182 μ L) and ⁱPrOH (318 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 26% and 5% yields, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and H₂O (500 equiv) in Acetone for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), and H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclo-

hexanone (182 μ L) and acetone (318 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 129% and 29% yields, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and H₂O (500 equiv) in MeCN for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), and H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (182 μ L) and MeCN (318 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 17% and 10% yields, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and H₂O (500 equiv) in DMF for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), and H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (182 μ L) and DMF (318 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 17% and 15% yields, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), and PPh₃ (0.5 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol), and PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 5.7 and 3.6 turnovers, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and ⁱPrOH (20 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), and ⁱPrOH (2.0 μ L, 0.026 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone and 2-hept-6-enone were obtained in 10 and 0.9 turnovers, respectively, using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (0.5 equiv), and ⁱPrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.15 mg, 5.7×10^{-4} mmol), and ⁱPrOH (5.0 μ L, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 13.2 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), and ⁱPrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol), and ⁱPrOH (5.0 μ L, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μ L). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 6.5 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ⁱPrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μ L, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ⁱPrOH (5.0 μ L, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μ L). The reaction

mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 15.9 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 2.8 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (100 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (2 μL, 0.121 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 9.1 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (1000 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (22 μL, 1.22 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 14.8 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 20–25 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μL, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 20–25 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 11.1 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 35–40 °C for 8 h. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μL, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 35–40 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 10.2 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2,6-Dimethylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h using a 300 mW Laser at 405 nm. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μL, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2,6-dimethylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h using a 300 mW laser at 405 nm. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Heptanone was obtained in 23.8 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of 2-Methylcyclohexanone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h using a 300 mW Laser at 405 nm. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μL, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in 2-methylcyclohexanone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed

three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. 2-Hexanone was obtained in 9.2 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of Diisopropyl Ketone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h using a 300 mW Laser at 405 nm. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μL, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in diisopropyl ketone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. Acetone was obtained in 11.1 turnovers using naphthalene as the internal standard.

Photolysis of Isobutyrophenone with Co(tap), H₂O (500 equiv), PPh₃ (1 equiv), and ¹PrOH (50 equiv) at 6–10 °C for 8 h using a 300 mW Laser at 405 nm. Co(tap) (1.0 mg, 0.0013 mmol), H₂O (11 μL, 0.611 mmol), PPh₃ (0.3 mg, 0.0011 mmol), and ¹PrOH (5.0 μL, 0.065 mmol) were dissolved in isobutyrophenone (500 μL). The reaction mixture was degassed three times by freeze–thaw–pump cycles, purged with N₂, and photolyzed at 6–10 °C under nitrogen for 8 h. The crude solution was collected by vacuum distillation and was analyzed by GC/MS. Benzaldehyde was obtained in 1.8 turnovers using benzene as the internal standard.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

📄 Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: [10.1021/acs.organomet.6b00352](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.organomet.6b00352).

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra, IR spectra, X-ray data, comparison of output power of the light sources, ¹⁸O labeling experiment, and experimental details (PDF)
Crystallographic data (CIF)

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

*E-mail for K.S.C.: ksc@cuhk.edu.hk.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the GRF No. 400113 of Hong Kong for financial support.

■ ABBREVIATIONS

TON, turnover number; por, porphyrin

■ REFERENCES

- (1) Chan, K. S.; Li, X. Z.; Dzik, W. I.; de Bruin, B. J. *Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 2051–2061.
- (2) Chan, K. S.; Li, X. Z.; Zhang, L.; Fung, C. W. *Organometallics* **2007**, *26*, 2679–2687.
- (3) Zhang, L.; Chan, K. S. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2007**, *692*, 2021–2027.
- (4) Chan, Y. W.; Chan, K. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 6920–6922.
- (5) Li, B. Z.; Fung, H. S.; Song, X.; Chan, K. S. *Organometallics* **2011**, *30*, 1984–1990.
- (6) Sarkar, S.; Li, S.; Wayland, B. B. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 13569–13571.
- (7) Wayland, B. B.; Ba, S.; Sherry, A. E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1991**, *113*, 5305–5311.
- (8) Luo, Y. R. *Comprehensive Handbook of Chemical Bond Energies*; CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL, 2007.

- (9) (a) Fukuzumi, S.; Miyamoto, K.; Suenobu, T.; Caemelbecke, E. V.; Kadish, K. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1998**, *120*, 2880–2889. (b) Cui, W. H.; Li, S.; Wayland, B. B. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2007**, *692*, 3198–3206.
- (10) (a) Fung, H. S.; Li, B. Z.; Chan, K. S. *Organometallics* **2010**, *29*, 4421–4423. (b) Fung, H. S.; Li, B. Z.; Chan, K. S. *Organometallics* **2012**, *31*, 570–579. (c) Lee, S. Y.; Chan, K. S. *Organometallics* **2013**, *32*, 5391–5401. (d) Lee, S. Y.; Feng, S.; Chan, K. S. *Dalton* **2016**, *45*, 3522–3527.
- (11) Datta-Gupta, N. *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.* **1971**, *33*, 4219–4225.
- (12) Wayland, B. B.; Balkus, K. J., Jr.; Farnos, M. D. *Organometallics* **1989**, *8*, 950–955.
- (13) Bhagan, S.; Sarkar, S.; Wayland, B. B. *Inorg. Chem.* **2010**, *49*, 6734–6739.
- (14) Chock, P. B.; Dewar, R. B. K.; Halpern, J.; Wong, L. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1969**, *91*, 82–84.
- (15) (a) Connolly, P.; Espenson, J. H. *Inorg. Chem.* **1986**, *25*, 2684–2688. (b) Chao, T.; Espenson, J. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1978**, *100*, 129–133.
- (16) (a) Dempsey, J. L.; Brunschwig, B. S.; Winkler, J. R.; Gray, H. B. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2009**, *42*, 1995–2004. (b) Lacy, D. C.; Roberts, G. M.; Peters, J. C. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 4860–4864.
- (17) Caulton, K. G. *New J. Chem.* **1994**, *18*, 25–41.
- (18) Cao, Y.; Petersen, J. L.; Stolzenberg, A. M. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1997**, *263*, 139–148.
- (19) (a) The (P)Co(oep)–R bond energy has been reported to be 30 kcal mol⁻¹: Simões, J. A. M.; Beauchamp, J. L. *Chem. Rev.* **1990**, *90*, 629–688. (b) Estimation of the BDEs of Co(tpp)–R can also be made on the basis of the kinetic measurements of the BDEs of Fe(oep)R (17–33 kcal mol⁻¹), where the Fe(oep)–R bond dissociation energies have been reported to be 10–15 kcal mol⁻¹ weaker than those for the Co derivatives; see: Riordan, C. G.; Halpern, J. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1996**, *243*, 19–24.
- (20) Lide, D. R. *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, 84th ed.; CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL, 2004.
- (21) Choi, K. S.; Lai, T. H.; Lee, S. Y.; Chan, K. S. *Organometallics* **2011**, *30*, 2633–2635.
- (22) Speight, J. G. *Lange's Handbook of Chemistry*, 16th ed.; McGraw-Hill: New York, 2005.
- (23) The decarbonylation rate constants of acyl radicals are at least 10⁴ s⁻¹, except for the PhCO radical; see: Garcia-Garibay, M. A.; Campos, L. M. In *Handbook of Organic Photochemistry and Photobiology*; Horspool, W. M., Lenci, F., Eds.; CRC Press: Boca Raton, FL, 2004; Vols. 1 and 2, Chapter 48.
- (24) Dodd, D.; Johnson, M. D. *J. Chem. Soc. D* **1971**, *21*, 1371–1372.
- (25) Van Den Bergen, A.; West, B. O. *J. Chem. Soc. D* **1971**, *1*, 52–53.
- (26) Gridnev, A. A.; Ittel, S. D.; Fryd, M.; Wayland, B. B. *Organometallics* **1993**, *12*, 4871–4880.
- (27) Adler, A. D.; Longo, F. R.; Finarelli, J. D.; Goldmacher, J.; Assour, J.; Korsakoff, L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1967**, *32*, 476–476.
- (28) Plater, M. J.; Aiken, S.; Bourhill, G. *Tetrahedron* **2002**, *58*, 2415–2422.
- (29) Sugamoto, K.; Matsushita, Y.; Matsui, T. *J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1* **1998**, *23*, 3989–3998.
- (30) Tse, A. K. S.; Mak, K. W.; Chan, K. S. *Organometallics* **1998**, *17*, 2651–2655.
- (31) Yang, J. P.; Huang, P. C. *Chem. Mater.* **2000**, *12*, 2693–2697.