# Characterization and Activity Analysis of Catalytic Water Oxidation Induced by Hybridization of $[(OH_2)(terpy)Mn(\mu-O)_2Mn(terpy)(OH_2)]^{3+}$ and Clay Compounds

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Hybridization of  $[(OH_2)(terpy)Mn(\mu-O)_2Mn(terpy)(OH_2)]^{3+}$  (terpy = 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine) (1) and mica clay yielded catalytic dioxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) evolution from water using a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant. The reaction was characterized by various spectroscopic measurements and a kinetic analysis of O<sub>2</sub> evolution. X-ray diffraction (XRD) data indicates the interlayer separation of mica changes upon intercalation of 1. The UV-vis diffuse reflectance (RD) and Mn K-edge X-ray absorption near-edge structure (XANES) data suggest that the oxidation state of the di- $\mu$ -oxo Mn<sub>2</sub> core is Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup>, but it is not intact. In aqueous solution, the reaction of 1 with a large excess  $Ce^{IV}$  oxidant led to decomposition of 1 to form  $MnO_4^-$  ion without  $O_2$  evolution, most possibly by its disproportionation. However,  $MnO_4^-$  formation is suppressed by adsorption of 1 on clay. The maximum turnover number for  $O_2$  evolution catalyzed by 1 adsorbed on mica and kaolin was 15 and 17, respectively, under the optimum conditions. The catalysis occurs in the interlayer space of mica or on the surface of kaolin, whereas  $MnO_4^-$  formation occurs in the liquid phase, involving local adsorption equilibria of adsorbed 1 at the interface between the clay surface and the liquid phase. The analysis of  $O_2$  evolution activity showed that the catalysis requires cooperation of two equivalents of 1 adsorbed on clay. The second-order rate constant based on the concentration (mol  $g^{-1}$ ) of **1** per unit weight of clay was  $2.7 \pm 0.1 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  g for mica, which is appreciably lower than that for kaolin (23.9  $\pm$  0.4 mol<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> g). This difference can be explained by the localized adsorption of 1 on the surface for kaolin. However, the apparent turnover frequency  $((k_{O2})_{app}/s^{-1})$ of 1 on mica was 2.2 times greater than on kaolin when the same fractional loading is compared. The higher cation exchange capacity (CEC) of mica statistically affords a shorter distance between the anionic sites to which 1 is attracted electrostatically, making the cooperative interaction between adsorbed molecules of 1 easier than that on kaolin. The higher CEC is important not only for attaining a higher loading but also for the higher catalytic activity of adsorbed 1.

#### Introduction

Natural and synthetic clay compounds are favorable materials for "green" environmental sustainability to which much attention has been paid recently. They consist of hexahedral silicate sheets or octahedral aluminate sheets and cations such as H<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, and so forth sandwiched in an interlayer of a nanometer scale between these sheets.<sup>1,2</sup> This unique structural feature is capable of incorporating functional molecules or ions into the interlayer by cation exchange. The interlayer space could be expected as a potential site for a specific chemical reaction that cannot be seen in homogeneous solutions. The expanding and deepening of research related to hybridization of clay compounds with functional molecules could give a guided thought to produce promising novel nanofunctional materials.

Many scientists and engineers have been seeking practical catalysts to activate water for both  $O_2$  and  $H_2$  production, which are indispensable to construction of artificial photosynthetic

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devices for providing a socially acceptable renewable energy source.<sup>3,4</sup> A development of a catalyst for water oxidation to evolve  $O_2$  (eq 1) is a key task to yield a breakthrough for a technology of water splitting.

$$2H_2O \xrightarrow{\text{water oxidation catalyst}} O_2 + 4H^+ + 4e^-$$
 (1)

Water oxidation is catalyzed in photosynthetic oxygen evolving complex  $(OEC)^{5-7}$  whose active site is known to consist of manganese—oxo cluster. However, the mechanism of water oxidation at OEC is still a question under debate.<sup>5-7</sup> OEC model studies using synthetic manganese complexes are important for providing experimentally proven key reactions for proposals of the water oxidation mechanism by OEC, and the several trailblazing works have been reported to give important key reactions.<sup>3,4,8–15</sup> However, clear demonstrations of the catalytic O<sub>2</sub> evolution from water by synthetic manganese—oxo complexes had not been reported.

Several years ago, Limburg and co-workers reported that  $O_2$  is evolved by the reaction of  $[(OH_2)(terpy)Mn(\mu-O)_2Mn(terpy)-(OH_2)]^{3+}$  (terpy = 2,2':6',2"-terpyridine) (1) with the oxygen donor agent of NaClO or KHSO<sub>5</sub>.<sup>12,13</sup> Their works have triggered active research fields on syntheses, redox reactions,

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catalyses related to 1, and its derivatives.<sup>16-20</sup> Recently, Baffert et al. reported that electrochemical oxidation of 1 cannot produce O<sub>2</sub> without the oxygen donor agent in solution.<sup>18</sup> We preliminarily reported that the reaction of 1 with a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant catalytically produces  $O_2$  from water when 1 is adsorbed on kaolin clay.<sup>20</sup> This illustrated a successful design of a heterogeneous catalyst by hybridization of 1 and a clay compound. However, the catalysis by 1 on solid clay matrixes has not yet been sufficiently understood because of only an example for investigation for 1/kaolin, in which the experimental conditions are unfortunately restricted by a low cation exchange capacity (CEC) of kaolin. Herein, water oxidation catalysis is tested by 1 adsorbed on mica clay which is known to possess an  $8 \sim 60$ times higher CEC than that of kaolin. This allows not only reliably analyzable spectroscopic data to be gained for characterization of the 1/clay hybrid but also a wide concentration range to be applied for a kinetic analysis of the catalysis. The catalytic  $O_2$  evolution induced by hybridization of **1** and mica is newly presented and characterized. The kinetic data for 1/kaolin in a preliminary report<sup>20</sup> is partially included to understand comprehensively the catalysis by 1 on solid clay matrixes. Evidence for catalytic O<sub>2</sub> evolution from water and insights into the unique catalysis, including important influencing factors for the catalytic activity, will be provided.

#### **Experimental Section**

**Materials.** Mn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, KMnO<sub>4</sub>, Ce(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub> (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.), terpy, 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy), and 1,-10-phenanthroline (phen) (Aldrich Chemical Co. Inc.) were purchased and used as received. Kaolin (Aldrich Chemical Co. Inc.) and somasif (ME-100) of mica clay (Co-op Chemical Co., Inc., Japan) were given and used without further purification.

Syntheses of [(OH<sub>2</sub>)(terpy)Mn<sup>III</sup>(µ-O)<sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>IV</sup>(terpy)(OH<sub>2</sub>)]- $(NO_3)_3 (1(NO_3)_3), [(SO_4)(terpy)Mn^{IV}(\mu-O)_2Mn^{IV}(terpy)(SO_4)]$ (1a),  $[(bpy)_2Mn^{III}(\mu-O)_2Mn^{IV}(bpy)_2](ClO_4)_3$  (2(ClO\_4)\_3), and [(phen)<sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>III</sup>(µ-O)<sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>IV</sup>(phen)<sub>2</sub>](ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (3(ClO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>). 1(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> was prepared by a similar procedure to literature by Collomb et al.<sup>21</sup> An aqueous solution (3 mL, pH = 3.0) of  $Mn(NO_3)_2$ (1.7 mmol) was mixed with an aqueous suspension (40 mL, pH = 3.0) of terpy (1.7 mmol) to result in the yellow solution (because of formation of  $[Mn(terpy)_2]^{2+}$ ), and then KMnO<sub>4</sub> (0.62) mmol in 5.8 mL water) was dropped into the solution with stirring to give a dark green solution. A saturated NaNO<sub>3</sub> (5 mL, pH = 3.0) was added to the solution after filtration. Microcrystalline  $1(NO_3)_3$  was given by cooling in a refrigerator and was washed with ice water and diethyl ether. (0.44 g, 62% yield) 1a,  $2(ClO_4)_3$ , and  $3(ClO_4)_3$  were synthesized according to the literature by Limburg et al.,<sup>13</sup> Cooper and Calvin,<sup>22</sup> and Manchanda et al.,<sup>23</sup> respectively. These complexes were characterized by IR and UV-vis absorption spectra.

**Preparations of 1, 2, or 3/Clay Hybrids.** To prepare 1, 2, or 3/clay hybrids with the wide-ranging amount of the complexes adsorbed, an aqueous solution  $(0 \sim 1.2 \text{ mM}, \text{pH} = 4.0)$  of 1, 2, or 3 was added to an aqueous suspension  $(5 \sim 15 \text{ mL}, \text{pH} = 4.0)$  of mica or kaolin  $(50 \sim 400 \text{ mg})$ . The resulting suspension was filtrated after stirring for 30 min and then was dried under vacuum to yield a 1, 2, or 3/clay hybrid. The amount of 1, 2, or 3 adsorbed was measured by the visible absorption spectral change of the aqueous solution before and after adding clay.

**Spectroscopic Measurements.** Reactions of **1** with a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant in an aqueous solution were followed by UV–vis spectral change as measured using a photodiode array spectro-



**Figure 1.** Adsorption isotherms for adsorption of **1** onto (a) mica and (b) kaolin.

photometer (Shimadzu, Multispec-1500). UV-vis DR spectra of the 1/mica hybrid were measured using a UV-vis spectrophotometer (JASCO V-550) in a diffuse reflectance mode. XRD patterns of the 1/clay hybrids were taken in an X-ray diffractometer (MAC Science, MX-Labo). Mn K-edge X-ray absorption near-edge structure (XANES) measurements were carried out in a transmission mode at BL-9A (Photon Factory in High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan) with a Si(111) double-crystal monochromator. Ionization chambers filled with N<sub>2</sub> for I<sub>0</sub> (17 cm) and N<sub>2</sub> (85%)-Ar (15%) for I (31 cm) were used. High-energy X-rays from high-order reflections were removed by a pair of flat quartz mirrors coated with Rh/Ni that were aligned in parallel. The energy was defined by assigning the first inflection point of the Cu foil spectrum to 8980.3 eV. Normalization of XANES analysis was carried out using REX2000 (Rigaku).

O<sub>2</sub> Evolution Experiments. An aqueous solution of 1, 2, or 3 was adjusted to pH = 4.0 with HNO<sub>3</sub>, and then the adequate small portion of an aqueous solution (1.0 M) of a Ce(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>- $(NO_3)_6$  oxidant was added to the solution. Otherwise, to the aqueous suspension containing  $10 \sim 75$  mg of the 1, 2, or 3/clay hybrid was added the adequate small portion of the aqueous solution of Ce<sup>IV</sup>. The reaction was typically followed in 2.0 mL of a liquid-phase volume at pH = 1.0 and 25 °C under the conditions of a large excess (50~100 mM) of Ce<sup>IV</sup> versus 1 (pH of the 1 solution changes to 1.0 by adding a Ce<sup>IV</sup>). The amount of O<sub>2</sub> evolved was analyzed using a Clark type oxygen electrode (Hansatech Instruments, Oxygraph OXYG1 and DW1/ AD unit) with 1  $\mu$ M of the detection level of O<sub>2</sub> dissolved in water. Gas chromatograph (Shimadzu, GC-8A) equipped with a 5 Å molecular sieve column (argon carrier gas) was used to analyze more than the O<sub>2</sub> amount restricted for our oxygen electrode instrument because of release of O2 gas from the electrode. For <sup>18</sup>O-labeling experiments using H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O, the evolved gas was analyzed on an electron-impact-ionization mass spectrometer (JEOL, JMS-SX102).

### **Results and Discussion**

Adsorption of 1 onto Clay Compounds. When an aqueous solution of 1 was added to an aqueous suspension of mica or kaolin, 1 was adsorbed onto clay by cation exchange with Na<sup>+</sup>. The adsorption isotherms of 1 onto mica and kaolin are shown in Figure 1. The concentration ( $w_{ads}$ /mol g<sup>-1</sup>) of 1 adsorbed on clay rose steeply at very low (almost zero) equilibrium concentration ( $c_{eq}$ /M) of 1 in the solution, indicating the high



**Figure 2.** XRD patterns of mica and **1**/mica hybrids. (a) Dry mica and (b) mica kept in aerobic conditions. The **1** concentration,  $w_{ads}$  ( $f_{ads}$ ), for **1**/mica hybrids are (c) 0.012 (3%), (d) 0.041 (10%), (e) 0.082 (20%), (f) 0.12 (30%), (g) 0.15 (36.5%), (h) 0.16 (40%), (i) 0.25 (60%), and (j) 0.33 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> (80%).

adsorption equilibrium constant of **1** onto clays. The maximum concentration  $((w_{ads})_{max} = 0.411 \text{ mmol g}^{-1})$  of **1** adsorbed onto mica was 20 times higher than that (0.022 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>) for kaolin. These values are consistent with CEC of mica (1.2 meq g<sup>-1</sup>) and kaolin (0.02~0.15 meq g<sup>-1</sup>) when considering trivalence of **1** cation. The fractional loading ( $f_{ads}$ %) of **1** onto clay was defined as  $f_{ads}$ % =  $w_{ads}/(w_{ads})_{max}$  and was used in some cases for convenience.

Characterization of a 1/Mica Hybrid. XRD Spectroscopic Measurements. An XRD spectroscopic technique was used to evaluate the layer structure of mica and kaolin adsorbing 1. The XRD pattern of kaolin with an intense sharp peak at  $2\theta = 12.36$ degrees did not change by adsorption of 1, showing that 1 does not change the layer structure of kaolin. 1 is considered to be adsorbed onto the surface of kaolin. By contrast, the XRD pattern of mica changed drastically by adsorption of 1, as shown in Figure 2. The XRD pattern (Figure 2a) of dry mica gave an intense peak at  $2\theta = 9.2$  degrees, corresponding to an interlayer distance of 9.56 Å. However, when mica was kept in air, the peak shifted to  $2\theta = 7.18$  degrees (interlayer distance of 12.3) Å) by hydration of Na<sup>+</sup> ions (Figure 2b). The XRD pattern of the 1/mica hybrid exhibited a peak at  $2\theta = 7.12$  degrees and a shoulder at  $2\theta = 7.92$  degrees in the low concentration ( $w_{ads} =$ 0.012 mmol  $g^{-1}$ ,  $f_{ads} = 3\%$ ) of adsorbed **1**. As the concentration increased, the peak intensity increased, indicating that 1 is intercalated into the interlayer of mica. At  $w_{ads} = 0.12$  mmol  $g^{-1}$  ( $f_{ads} = 30\%$ ), the shoulder almost disappeared, resulting in an intense and sharp peak at  $2\theta = 6.96$  degrees (interlayer distance of 12.7 Å). The peak was lowered at  $f_{ads} = 60\%$  and ultimately became very broad at  $2\theta = 6.9 \sim 5.4$  degrees at  $f_{ads}$ = 80%. The more ordered layer structure was given at  $f_{ads}$  = 30% relative to the other concentrations (except  $f_{ads} = 0\%$ ). The interspace distance between the layers at  $f_{ads} = 30\%$  can be given as 6.1 Å from the interlayer distance (12.7 Å) and the thickness (6.6 Å) of the layer. This is consistent with the molecular size of  $1 (13.2 \times 11.1 \times 4.8 \text{ Å})$  on the basis of crystal graphic data and van der Waals radius (1.2 Å) of a hydrogen atom.

*UV–Vis DR Spectroscopic Measurements*. The UV–vis DR spectrum of the 1/mica hybrid exhibited a peak at 406 nm. This



**Figure 3.** UV-vis DR spectra of 1/mica hybrids with various  $w_{ads}$  ( $f_{ads}$ ) as indicated on figure. Inset shows the plots of Kubelka–Munk at 400 nm vs  $f_{ads}$ .

is different from the DR spectrum of 1 (as a powder) with a shoulder at 414 nm and peaks at 556 and 662 nm, suggesting that adsorbed 1 is not intact on mica. Figure 3 shows the UV- vis DR spectra of the 1/mica hybrid with the various concentrations of 1 adsorbed. The Kubelka–Munk (KM) values increased almost linearly with  $f_{ads}$  below  $f_{ads} = 20\%$  (inset of Figure 3), with the unchanged peak wavelength ( $\lambda_{max} = 406$  nm) and spectral shape in the whole concentrations employed. This indicates that the different spectrum between 1 and 1/mica hybrid is independent of its concentration on mica. The KM values plateaued at more than  $f_{ads} = 20\%$ . This can be explained by a sort of a filter effect; the species close to the mica surface could absorb light sufficiently under the high  $f_{ads}$  conditions, so that light absorption of the deeply intercalated species could not be reflected in the KM values.

The Mn K-Edge XANES Measurements. The Mn K-edge XANES spectra of the 1/mica hybrid are shown in Figure 4, including those of 1 (Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup>) and [(SO<sub>4</sub>)(terpy)Mn<sup>IV</sup>( $\mu$ -O)2Mn<sup>IV</sup>(terpy)(SO<sub>4</sub>)] (1a) (Mn<sup>IV</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup>) as powders. The XANES spectrum of the 1/mica hybrid ( $w_{ads} = 0.082$  mmol  $g^{-1}$ ,  $f_{ads} = 20\%$ ) exhibited a shoulder at 6551.1 eV and a peak at 6561.6 eV, which are almost identical to that for  $f_{ads} = 60\%$ (a shoulder at 6550.9 eV and a peak at 6561.6 eV). This is consistent with the UV-vis DR spectroscopic data independent of the concentration of 1 (vide supra). It is well-known that the Mn K-edge shifts to a high-energy region by an increase in an oxidation state of Mn centers in a di-µ-oxo Mn<sub>2</sub> complex.<sup>24</sup> The comparison in the Mn K-edge among the 1/mica hybrid, 1, and 1a could provide an insight into the oxidation state of Mn centers in the adsorbed species on mica. K-edge energy was evaluated by energy at the local minimum around 6551 eV for the secondorder derivative Mn K-edge XANES spectra (a lower item in Figure 4). The Mn K-edge energy (6551.1 eV) of 1 was lower by 2.0 eV than that (6553.1 eV) of 1a. This is consistent with the result reported by Visser et al. on Mn K-edge XANES measurements of  $[(phen)Mn(\mu-O)_2Mn(phen)]^{3+/4+}$  in an acetonitrile solution, in which the K-edge shifted to a high-energy region by 2.2 eV in oxidation from the Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup> to Mn<sup>IV-</sup>Mn<sup>IV</sup> states of the di-µ-oxo Mn<sub>2</sub> core.<sup>24</sup> The K-edges (6551.1 eV for  $f_{ads} = 20\%$ , 6550.9 eV for  $f_{ads} = 60\%$ ) for the 1/mica hybrid were almost identical to that (6551.1 eV) of 1 rather than that of 1a. This suggests that the oxidation state of the di-µ-oxo Mn<sub>2</sub> core in the adsorbed species on mica could be Mn<sup>III</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup>.25



**Figure 4.** Mn K-edge XANES spectra (upper) and the second-order derivative spectra (lower). (a) 1/mica with  $w_{ads} = 0.082 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$  ( $f_{ads} = 20\%$ ), (b) 1/mica with  $w_{ads} = 0.25 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$  ( $f_{ads} = 60\%$ ), (c) 1 powder, and (d) 1a powder. The inset is the magnified spectra for the pre-edge peak around 6540 eV.

The magnified spectra in the range of 6535~6547 eV are shown in the inset of Figure 4 for the pre-edge peak around 6540 eV, assigned to a dipole-forbidden  $1s \rightarrow 3d$  transition of the Mn center. The spectrum of 1 exhibited a pre-edge peak at 6539.3 eV, while the spectra of the 1/mica hybrid exhibit two separate pre-edge peaks at 6539.8 and 6542.1 eV. Pre-edge peak energy corresponds to the energy difference between the 1s level and the unoccupied 3d levels of the center ion, the latter of which are influenced by the ligand field.<sup>26-28</sup> The higher preedge energy (at 6542.1 eV) for the 1/mica hybrid could be explained by an increase of the unoccupied 3d levels, possibly because of a distorted local coordination structure of Mn ions. However, it is also established that pre-edge peak energy depends on the valence state of the center ions; pre-edge peak energy shifts to higher energy with an increase in the oxidation number of iron.<sup>29-31</sup> The possible explanation by the higher valence state could not be excluded for the higher pre-edge energy in Mn K-edge XANES spectra of the 1/mica hybrid. We are considering a significant distortion of 1 adsorbed on mica. However, it is still unproven whether it can rationalistically explain the UV-vis DR spectroscopic features (Figure 3).

**Reactions of 1 with a Ce<sup>IV</sup> Oxidant in Water.** Reactions of **1** with a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant in water were investigated using a UV-vis absorption spectroscopic technique. The absorption spectral change in a reaction of **1** with 1 equiv of Ce<sup>IV</sup> shows the absorption increase at 440 nm and the absorption decrease at 700 nm with an isosbestic point of 580 nm. This is close to the absorption spectral change in formation of [(OH<sub>2</sub>)(terpy)-Mn<sup>IV</sup>( $\mu$ -O)<sub>2</sub>Mn<sup>IV</sup>(terpy)(OH<sub>2</sub>)]<sup>4+</sup> (Mn<sup>IV</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup>) by disproportionation of **1** promoted by a pH decrease, as reported by Chen et al.<sup>17</sup> (The absorbance at 450 nm increased and the absorption at 660 nm decreased with an isosbestic point at 565 nm.) This result suggests that the reaction of **1** with 1 equiv of Ce<sup>IV</sup> stoichiometrically produces Mn<sup>IV</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup> in solution.<sup>32</sup> The



Figure 5. Visible absorption spectral change of an aqueous solution containing 0.1 mM 1 and 2.0 mM Ce<sup>IV</sup> ion at pH = 1.0 and 25 °C. Reaction time was indicated on figure.



**Figure 6.** Plots of initial rate ( $v_{MnO4-}$ ) of MnO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> formation vs concentration ( $c_0$ ) of **1**. Inset shows plots of log  $v_{MnO4-}$  vs log  $c_0$ . Concentration of Ce<sup>IV</sup>, 10 mM; pH = 1.0; 25 °C.

spectral change in a reaction with 8 equiv of Ce<sup>IV</sup> exhibited the appearance of the absorption band at  $\lambda_{max} = 545$  nm with vibration structures that are a characteristic feature of MnO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> ion, concomitantly with the formation of the Mn<sup>IV</sup>-Mn<sup>IV</sup> species. In a reaction with 20 equiv of Ce<sup>IV</sup>, stoichiometric formation of MnO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> from **1** was indicated by appearance of the absorption band at  $\lambda_{max} = 545$  nm with an isosbestic point at 489 nm, as shown in Figure 5.

To reveal the mechanism of  $MnO_4^-$  formation, its kinetics was studied under the conditions of a large excess of  $Ce^{IV}$ . The initial rate ( $v_{MnO4-}$ ) of  $MnO_4^-$  formation was given from the initial slope of the absorbance change at  $\lambda_{max} = 545$  nm ( $\epsilon = 2344 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). It increased with the concentration ( $c_0$ ) of **1** as shown in Figure 6, and the plots of log  $v_{MnO4-}$  versus log  $c_0$ gave a straight line with the slope of  $2.07 \pm 0.17$  and intercept =  $1.32 \pm 0.66$  (inset of Figure 6). The slope shows that  $MnO_4^$ formation can be analyzed as a second-order reaction with respect to **1**. It is most possibly formed by disproportionation of the high oxidation state of **1** in a rate-determining step. The second-order rate constant for  $MnO_4^-$  formation was calculated to be  $2.1 \times 10^1 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  from the intercept.

 $O_2$  evolution by 1 from water was tested in an aqueous solution containing  $0.1 \sim 0.5$  mM 1 and a large excess (100 mM)

TABLE 1: Summary of Amount ( $n_{O2}$ ) of O<sub>2</sub> Evolved and Turnover Number (TN) of Complexes for O<sub>2</sub> Evolution Experiments<sup>a</sup>

compounds	$n_{ m ads}/\mu{ m mol}$	clay	amount of clay/mg	$n_{ m O2}/\mu{ m mol}$	TN
$[Mn_2(\mu-O)_2(terpy)_2(OH_2)_2]^{3+}$ (1)	1.0	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
	5.0	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
	50.0	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
	0.0	kaolin	50	0.0	
	0.13	kaolin	50	2.2 (±0.21)	17 (±1.6)
	0.26	kaolin	50	3.4 (±0.02)	13 (±0.1)
	0.46	kaolin	50	6.6 (±0.53)	14 (±1.2)
	0.0	mica	10	0.0	
	0.25	mica	10	0.95	3.8
	0.50	mica	10	3.7 (±0.15)	7.3 (±0.3)
	1.0	mica	10	15 (±0.6)	15 (±0.6)
	1.5	mica	10	23 (±1.5)	15 (±1.0)
$[Mn_2(\mu-O)_2(bpy)_4]^{3+}$ (2)	1.0	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
	0.46	kaolin	50	0.26 (±0.01)	0.52 (±0.02)
	1.5	mica	10	$1.0(\pm 0.02)$	0.68 (±0.01)
$[Mn_2(\mu-O)_2(phen)_4]^{3+}$ (3)	1.0	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
	0.46	kaolin	50	0.26 (±0.01)	0.57 (±0.02)
	1.5	mica	10	0.71 (±0.12)	0.47 (±0.08)
$MnO_4^-$	10.0	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
MnO <sub>2</sub>	10.0	no <sup>c</sup>		0.0	0.0
$Mn^{2+}$	0.92	$no^b$		0.0	0.0
	0.92	kaolin	50	0.0	0.0
$terpyH_n^{n+}$	0.92	kaolin	50	0.0	0.0

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions are as follows: the amount of Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant, 1.0 mmol; reaction time, 4 days; liquid-phase volume, 10 mL; gas-phase volume, 3 mL.  $n_{02}$  was measured using a gas chromatograph. <sup>*b*</sup> Homogeneous solution. <sup>*c*</sup> Suspension.

of Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant, but it was not observed at all, nor was  $O_2$  evolved using a 10~50-fold larger concentration of **1** (5 mM **1**, 100 mM Ce<sup>IV</sup>) (see Table 1).

Reactions of 1/Clay Hybrids with a Ce<sup>IV</sup> Oxidant in Water. Reactions of the 1/clay hybrids with a large excess Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant in water produced a significant amount of O2 in contrast to no  $O_2$  evolution by 1 in solution. Data on  $O_2$  evolution are summarized in Table 1. O2 evolution was not observed when using mica without 1 as a control. The amount  $(n_{O2}/mol)$  of  $O_2$ evolved increased with the amount  $(n_{ads}/mol)$  of 1 adsorbed on either kaolin or mica, showing that  $O_2$  is evolved by 1 adsorbed on clay. The maximum turnover number (TN) of 1 was almost the same for mica (TN = 15) and kaolin (TN = 17). This result corroborates that 1 adsorbed on clay catalyzes O<sub>2</sub> evolution. To define the catalysis, similar O<sub>2</sub> evolution experiments were extended to various manganese species including MnO<sub>2</sub>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, and  $MnO_4^-$  in water, as well as adsorbed  $Mn^{2+}$  and terpy $H_n^{n+}$ on mica or kaolin. In none of the trials using these species was O<sub>2</sub> evolution detected. These results show the unique catalysis by 1 adsorbed on the clay.

 $[(bpy)_2Mn^{III}(\mu-O)_2Mn^{IV}(bpy)_2]^{3+}$  (2) and  $[(phen)_2Mn^{III}(\mu-O)_2-Mn^{IV}(phen)_2]^{3+}$  (3) have comparable structures with 1 but no terminal water ligands. The similar experiments were carried out using 2 or 3 in solution and on clays to compare with the reactions of 1 with a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant. For neither 2 nor 3 was O<sub>2</sub> evolved in the solution, but it was for both 2/clay and 3/clay. However, TN values are less than unity for 2/clay (TN = 0.5~0.7) and for 3/clay (TN = 0.5~0.6),<sup>33</sup> showing that neither 2 nor 3 adsorbed on clay works as a catalyst for O<sub>2</sub> evolution. This result suggests that terminal water coordination sites could be important for the catalysis by adsorbed 1.

For clay hybrid systems, the MnO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> ion formed by decomposition of **1** was also observed in a liquid phase after removal of the clay hybrids by centrifugation.<sup>34</sup> The amount ( $n_{MnO4-}$ /mol) and yield ( $\Phi_{MnO4-}$ ) of MnO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> formed for a 30-min reaction are summarized in Table 2 including the data for the solution.  $\Phi_{MnO4-}$  was 56.3~85.8% in solutions under the conditions. However,  $\Phi_{MnO4-}$  (18.3~31.3%) for the 1/clay hybrids was

TABLE 2: Summary of Amount  $(n_{MnO4-})$  and Yield  $(\Phi_{MnO4-})$  of  $MnO_4^-$  Formed in Reactions of 1 and a Ce<sup>IV</sup> Oxidant<sup>a</sup>

system	amount of clay/mg	$n_{ m ads}/$ $10^{-7}$ mol	$n_{{ m MnO4}-}{}^{b/}$ 10 <sup>-7</sup> mol	$\Phi_{{ m MnO4}-}{}^c$ %
homogeneous solution		1.2	0.90	75.0
		2.4	2.1	85.8
		4.8	2.7	56.3
1/kaolin	75	1.5	0.47	31.3
	75	3.0	0.77	25.7
	75	7.0	1.3	18.3
1/mica	10	4.8	0.95	19.8
	40	4.8	1.2	24.6
	75	5.1	0.97	19.0

<sup>*a*</sup> Reaction conditions are as follows: the concentration of Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant, 50 mM; reaction time, 30 min; liquid-phase volume, 2 mL. <sup>*b*</sup>  $n_{MnO4-}$  was measured from absorbance at  $\lambda_{max} = 545$  nm ( $\epsilon = 2344$  M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>*c*</sup>  $\Phi_{MnO4-}$  was defined as  $n_{MnO4-}$  normalized by  $n_{ads}$ .

much less than in solutions under the comparable conditions. This shows that adsorption of **1** onto the clay significantly suppresses the decomposition of **1** to form  $MnO_4^-$ .

<sup>18</sup>O-Labeling O<sub>2</sub> Evolution Experiments using H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O. To identify an oxygen atom source for O<sub>2</sub> evolution, <sup>18</sup>O-labeling experiments were carried out using H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O, and the evolved gas was analyzed on an electron-impact-ionization mass (EIM) spectrometer. In a H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O media (47.5 and 23.8 v/v % H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O), the EIM spectra gave the peaks at m/z = 34 and 36, corresponding to <sup>16</sup>O<sup>18</sup>O and <sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub>, additionally to the peak for <sup>16</sup>O<sub>2</sub> at m/z = 32, in contrast to no peaks at m/z = 34 and 36 for natural abundance water. (Figure 7) The amounts of <sup>16</sup>O<sub>2</sub>, <sup>16</sup>O<sup>18</sup>O, and <sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub> are analyzed from the intensities at m/z = 32, 34, and 36, respectively. The O<sub>2</sub> evolution data are summarized in Table 3. The content fraction ( $\Phi_{18O}$ ) of an <sup>18</sup>O atom in O<sub>2</sub> evolved is consistent with the <sup>18</sup>O content in the water media. It was thus corroborated that the oxygen atoms in O<sub>2</sub> evolved are exclusively originated from water.

Kinetic Analysis and Influencing Factors of the  $O_2$ Evolution for the 1/Clay Hybrids. The time course of  $O_2$ evolved in the reaction of 1/mica with a large excess  $Ce^{IV}$  ion is shown in Figure 8, including data for a homogeneous solution



**Figure 7.** Electron-impact-ionization mass (EIM) spectra for <sup>18</sup>Olabeling O<sub>2</sub> evolution experiments using 1/kaolin (75 mg) with  $w_{ads} =$  9.3  $\mu$ mol g<sup>-1</sup>; reaction time, 7 days; liquid volume, 1.0 mL; gas-phase volume, 6.3 mL.

 TABLE 3: Summary of O2 Evolution Data in <sup>18</sup>O-Labeling Experiments Using 1/Kaolin<sup>a</sup>

		$n_{{ m O2}}/\mu{ m mol}^b$		
$H_2{}^{18}O v/v \%$	$^{16}O_2$	<sup>16</sup> O <sup>18</sup> O	$^{18}O_2$	$\Phi_{180}{}^c$ %
0	5.6	0	0	0
23.8	2.7	1.6	0.24	23
47.5	1.9	2.4	1.0	41

<sup>*a*</sup> Kaolin, 75 mg;  $n_{ads} = 0.7 \mu mol$ ; reaction time, 7 days; liquid volume, 1.0 mL; gas-phase volume, 6.3 mL. <sup>*b*</sup> Obtained from intensity at m/z = 32, 34, and 36 using calibration on O<sub>2</sub> abundance. <sup>*c*</sup>  $\Phi_{180}$  is fraction of <sup>18</sup>O atom in O<sub>2</sub> evolution.



**Figure 8.** Time courses of the amount of O<sub>2</sub> evolved in reactions of **1** and a 50 mM Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant. (a) Aqueous solution of **1** (1.5  $\mu$ mol; 0.75 mM), (b) aqueous solution without **1**, (c) aqueous suspension of mica clay (10 mg) adsorbing 1.5  $\mu$ mol **1** ( $w_{ads} = 0.15 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$ ;  $f_{ads} = 36.5\%$ ), and (d) aqueous suspension of mica clay (10 mg) without **1**. Liquid volume, 2.0 mL; pH = 1.0.

of 1 containing the same amount  $(1.5 \ \mu \text{mol})$  of 1 for comparison. The initial O<sub>2</sub> evolution rate  $(v_{O2}/\text{mol s}^{-1})$  was calculated from the initial slope of the time course. The inset in Figure 9 shows the comparison of  $v_{O2}$  between the 1/mica and the 1/kaolin hybrids (both clay amounts are 75 mg). The  $n_{ads}$  range for 1/mica is much wider than that for 1/kaolin, and the maximum  $v_{O2}$  value for the former is 7.6 times higher than that for the latter under the conditions employed ( $n_{ads} < 8 \ \mu \text{mol}$ ). This result is ascribed to the higher CEC of mica.



**Figure 9.** Plots of initial rate  $(v_{02}/\text{mol s}^{-1})$  of O<sub>2</sub> evolution vs the amount  $(n_{ads})$  of **1** for the various amounts of mica. The amounts of mica are (a) 10 mg (closed circles), (b) 40 mg (half-closed circles), and (c) 75 mg (open circles) for **1**/mica. 50 mM Ce<sup>IV</sup>; liquid volume, 2.0 mL; pH = 1.0. The inset shows the magnified figure for comparison between **1**/mica and **1**/kaolin. Open circles in the inset are the same data as plots (c) for **1**/mica (75 mg). Open squares are (d)  $v_{02}$  data for **1**/kaolin (75 mg). The same  $v_{02}$  data in a low  $n_{ads}$  region for **1**/kaolin (open squares) were cited from ref 20.



**Figure 10.** Plots of amount  $(n_{MnO4-})$  of  $MnO_4^-$  formed vs the amount  $(n_{ads})$  of **1** for various amounts of clay. The amounts of mica are (a) 10 mg (closed circles), (b) 40 mg (half-closed circles), and (c) 75 mg (open circles) for **1**/mica. (d) 75 mg (open squares) for **1**/kaolin, 50 mM Ce<sup>IV</sup>; liquid volume, 2.0 mL; pH = 1.0.  $n_{MnO4-}$  was measured after a 30-min reaction.

The plots of  $v_{O2}$  versus  $n_{ads}$  are shown in Figure 9 for 1/mica with various amounts of mica (10~75 mg).  $v_{O2}$  increased upward with  $n_{ads}$  under the conditions employed for 40 and 75 mg mica. However,  $v_{O2}$  for 10 mg mica thereafter departed from the upward curvature above  $n_{ads} = 2.0 \,\mu$ mol, which is ascribed to elution of 1 from mica into a liquid phase to promote decomposition of 1 to MnO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> ion.  $v_{O2}$  was higher as the amount of mica is lower comparing the same  $n_{ads}$  below  $n_{ads} = 2.0 \,\mu$ mol. ( $v_{O2}$  order: 10 > 40 > 75 mg).

On the other hand,  $n_{MnO4-}$  measured in parallel with the  $v_{O2}$  increased with  $n_{ads}$ , as shown in Figure 10.<sup>35</sup> In contrast to the  $v_{O2}$  data (Figure 9), the profiles of  $n_{MnO4-}$  versus  $n_{ads}$  were the same between 1/kaolin and 1/mica and were independent of the amount of mica. These results suggest that  $MnO_4^-$  formation from adsorbed 1 takes place in the liquid phase, whereas the catalytic O<sub>2</sub> evolution takes place in the interlayer space of the



**Figure 11.** Plots of  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  vs the amount  $(n_{ads})$  of **1**. The amounts of mica are (a) 10 mg (closed circles), (b) 40 mg (half-closed circles), and (c) 75 mg (open circles) for **1**/mica and (d) 75 mg (open squares) for **1**/kaolin. The conditions are indicated in Figure 9.

mica. There could be local adsorption equilibria of adsorbed **1** at the interface between the clay surface and the liquid phase.  $MnO_4^-$  prefers to be formed in the liquid phase rather than on the clay. This is supported by  $MnO_4^-$  formation suppressed by the adsorption of **1** on the mica. (vide supra)  $MnO_4^-$  formation might still occur on clay, but it could be much slower relative to the  $O_2$  evolution.

The upward curvature in  $v_{O2}$  versus  $n_{ads}$  plots (Figure 9) shows that the specific O<sub>2</sub> evolution increases with increasing  $n_{ads}$ . The O<sub>2</sub> evolution was analyzed by the kinetic model (eq 2) assuming on combination between first- and second-order O<sub>2</sub> evolutions with respect to the adsorbed **1**:

$$v_{\rm O2} = k_1 n_{\rm ads} + k_2 n_{\rm ads}^2 \tag{2}$$

where  $k_1/s^{-1}$  and  $k_2/mol^{-1} s^{-1}$  are first-order and second-order rate constants for O<sub>2</sub> evolution, respectively. For comparison of the turnover frequency of **1** adsorbed on clays,  $v_{O2}$  was normalized by  $n_{ads}$  to define the apparent turnover frequency,  $(k_{O2})_{app}/s^{-1}$ , as eq 3.

$$(k_{\rm O2})_{\rm app} = v_{\rm O2}/n_{\rm ads} = k_1 + k_2 n_{\rm ads}$$
(3)

The plots of  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  versus  $n_{ads}$  gave the straight lines with significant slopes passing through the origin for each 1/clay (at  $n_{\rm ads} < 2.0 \ \mu {\rm mol}$  for 10 mg mica and at  $n_{\rm ads} < 0.9 \ \mu {\rm mol}$  for 1/kaolin), as shown in Figure 11. The significant slope (corresponding  $k_2$  in eq 3) suggests that O<sub>2</sub> is predominantly evolved by a bimolecular reaction of 1 adsorbed on clay. It is most likely that adsorbed 1 works cooperatively for the catalysis. It may take place by intermolecular coupling of Mn<sup>V</sup>=O that could be formed by successive oxidation of a terminal water ligand on 1, on the basis of noncatalytic activity of 2 and 3 for  $O_2$ evolution. However, no evidence for involvement of Mn<sup>V</sup>=O in the catalysis is obtained. The fitting of eq 3 to the  $(k_{O2})_{app}$ data yielded almost zero for the  $k_1$  and the  $k_2$  values depending on the amount of mica ((2.7  $\pm$  0.3)  $\times$  10<sup>2</sup>, (0.69  $\pm$  0.01)  $\times$  $10^2$ , and  $(0.34 \pm 0.03) \times 10^2 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  for 10, 40, and 75 mg mica, respectively).

All the  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  data for 10~40 mg mica were replotted versus concentration  $w_{ads}$  (mol g<sup>-1</sup>) instead of  $n_{ads}$  (mol) in Figure 12. The plots exhibited the significant linearity below 0.2 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>, showing that  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  is principally related to  $w_{ads}$ . The slope



**Figure 12.** Plots of  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  vs the concentration  $(w_{ads})$  of **1**. (a) **1**/mica; 10 mg (closed circles), 40 mg (half-closed circles), and 75 mg (open circles). (b) **1**/kaolin; 75 mg (open squares).



**Figure 13.** Plots of  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  vs the loading amount  $(f_{ads})$  of **1**. (a) **1**/mica; 10 mg (closed circles), 40 mg (half-closed circles, and 75 mg (open circles). (b) **1**/kaolin; 75 mg (open squares).

of the linear plots of  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  versus  $w_{ads}$  yields  $k_2' = 2.7 \pm 0.1$  mol<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> g of a second-order rate constant on the basis of  $w_{ads}$ . For comparison,  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  for 1/kaolin was plotted versus  $w_{ads}$  in Figure 12 together. The  $k_2'$  for 1/kaolin was 23.9  $\pm$  0.4 mol<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> g, which is 8.9 times higher than that for 1/mica. This difference could be explained by localized adsorption of 1 on the kaolin surface. For 1/mica, 1 is intercalated into an interlayer as well as adsorbed on a surface of mica (see Figure 2). On the other hand, 1 is adsorbed only on a surface for 1/kaolin (vide supra), resulting in a localized adsorption of 1 on the kaolin surface. Nevertheless, the maximum  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  for 1/mica was higher than that for 1/kaolin under respective optimum conditions. This is attributed to the higher loading of 1 because of the higher CEC of mica.

To reveal the influence of CEC on  $(k_{O2})_{app}$ , it was replotted versus  $f_{ads}$ % in Figure 13 for both the 1/mica and the 1/kaolin hybrids. The  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  increased linearly at a low  $f_{ads}$  region, and the maximum  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  was observed around  $f_{ads} = 50\%$  for both the hybrids. The  $(k_{O2})_{app}$  for 1/mica was 2.2 times higher in average (in the slope of the line) than that for 1/kaolin comparing the same  $f_{ads}$ . This can be explained by considering the statistical distance between anionic sites on clay to which 1 is attracted electrostatically. The higher CEC of mica statistically affords a shorter distance between the anionic sites, making the cooperative interaction between adsorbed molecules of **1** easier than that on kaolin. The higher CEC is important not only for attaining a higher loading but also for the higher catalytic activity of adsorbed **1**.

## Conclusion

The present paper illustrates evidence of catalytic  $O_2$  evolution from water induced by adsorption of **1** onto solid clay. It requires cooperative interaction of two equivalents of **1** adsorbed. The catalysis occurs in the interlayer space of mica or on the surface of kaolin, whereas the decomposition of **1** to form  $MnO_4^-$  ions occurs in the liquid phase, involving local adsorption equilibria of adsorbed **1** at the interface between the clay surface and the liquid phase. Nevertheless,  $MnO_4^-$  formation is suppressed by adsorption of **1** on clay. The concentration and localization of **1** adsorbed on clay, as well as the distance between anionic sites on clay statistically related to its cation exchange capacity, are the important factors for the cooperative catalysis. These results undoubtedly provide a first step for development of nanohybrid catalysts for water oxidation to evolve  $O_2$  using clay compounds.

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(32) Chen reported that a linear tetranuclear  $Mn^{IV}$  complex is slowly formed from  $Mn^{IV}-Mn^{IV}$  in an acidic aqueous solution, which is shown by the absorption spectral change with the absorption decrease at 400–420 nm and the increase at 470 nm.<sup>17</sup> The formation of the linear tetranuclear  $Mn^{IV}$  complex was not observed up to 100 min under the conditions of 1.0 mM **1** and pH = 1.0 in the present work.

(33) Kaneko reported that  $O_2$  is evolved when a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant is added to an aqueous suspension of 2/kaolin.<sup>9</sup> However, the turnover numbers (0.38~0.76) of 2 was less than unity, which is consistent with the present data. In the present work, the decomposition of 2 or 3 to form  $MnO_4^-$  ions was observed after the reaction for a 2 or 3 solution and 2 or 3/clay.

(34) We confirmed that  $MnO_4^-$  cannot be adsorbed on mica and kaolin at all. Other cationic decomposed species might be adsorbed on clay, but they are not analyzed sufficiently.

(35) The plots of  $n_{\rm MnO4^-}$  versus  $n_{\rm ads}$  should give an upward curvature as a  $\rm MnO_4^-$  ion is formed by a bimolecular reaction of 1 for 1/mica. However, these plots declined at high  $n_{\rm ads}$ . This can be explained by side reactions with a consumption of the formed  $\rm MnO4^-$  ion at high  $n_{\rm ads}$ . The consumption of the  $\rm MnO4^-$  ion formed was observed in a solution under the conditions of 0.1 mM 1 and 10 equiv Ce<sup>IV</sup> after 30 min.