Mixed metal bis(μ -oxo) complexes with $[CuM(\mu-O)_2]^{n+}$ (M = Ni(III) or Pd(II)) cores[†]

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Received (in West Lafayette, IN, USA) 30th March 2004, Accepted 10th June 2004 First published as an Advance Article on the web 29th June 2004

Two highly reactive heterodinuclear $bis(\mu-oxo)$ complexes were prepared by combining mononuclear peroxo species with reduced metal precursors at -80 °C and were identified by UVvis, EPR/NMR, and resonance Raman spectroscopy, with corroboration in the case of the CuPd system from density functional calculations.

The characterization of reactive metal-oxygen intermediates is an important objective in research aimed at understanding the mechanisms of oxidation catalysis in synthetic and biological systems.¹ As part of such efforts, bis(µ-oxo)dimetal complexes² of Cu,^{2,3} Fe,^{2,4} Co,⁵ Ni,^{5–7} and Pt⁸ have been prepared, characterized, and shown in many instances to exhibit interesting oxidative reactivity. The syntheses of these compounds generally involve the reaction of an oxidant (e.g., O2 or H2O2) with mononuclear or homodinuclear precursors, and inevitably lead to complexes comprising $[M_2(\mu-O)_2]^{n+}$ or isomeric $[M_2(O_2)]^{n+}$ cores with identical metal ions (M). Mixed-metal species $[MM'(\mu-O)_2]^{n+}$ are also of significant interest due to their potentially unique properties and their possible involvement in various catalytic processes,9,10 yet they are exceedingly rare,¹¹ arguably because of intrinsic challenges associated with their preparation by the methods usually used to obtain symmetric $[M_2O_2]^{n+}$ complexes. Bis(µ-oxo)dicopper complexes asymmetric by virtue of divergent N-donor supporting ligands on each metal were recently obtained by reacting a solution of a monocopper-peroxide complex $(1)^{12}$ with various LCu(I) compounds in the absence of free \hat{O}_2 .^{13,14} Herein, we report the use of this type of sequential building block methodology to prepare novel complexes with $[CuNi(\mu-O)_2]^{2+}$ and $[CuPd(\mu-O)_2]^{1+}$ cores, thus demonstrating the applicability of a more general strategy for the preparation of heterodinuclear $bis(\mu$ oxo) species.15

Addition of yellow [PhTt^{Bu}]Ni(CO) (2, PhTt^{Bu} = phenyltris((tert-butylthio)methyl)borate), a compound previously shown to react with O2 to yield a bis(µ-oxo)dinickel(III) complex,6 to an anaerobic (purged with Ar) solution of green 1 in THF at -80 °C resulted in the gradual formation ($t_{1/2} \sim 4.5 \text{ h}, [1] = [2] = 0.7 \text{ mM}$) of a deep red color and a broad, intense, and multifeatured absorption in the 400-600 nm region (Fig. 1a). This absorption bleaches upon warming to ambient temperature.[‡] The resonance Raman spectrum of the initial red solution ($\lambda = 457.9$ nm, frozen THF) contains peaks at 847 and 625 $\rm cm^{-1}$ that shift to 800 and 595 cm^{-1} , respectively, when 1 prepared with ¹⁸O₂ was used (Fig. 1c). A (1,2-peroxo)dimetal complex is implicated by the 847/800 features (v_{O-O}), $\16 which are inconsistent with monomeric 1 : 1 M/ O_2 species (M = Cu¹² or Ni¹⁴). The 625/595 peaks are signatures of a bis(µ-oxo)dimetal core (symmetric MM'O₂ vibration).^{2,17} Importantly, the latter peak positions differ from those due to [(PhTt^{tBu}Ni)₂(μ -O)₂] (590/560 cm⁻¹), thus supporting their attribution to a new mixed metal $[CuNi(\mu-O)_2]^{2+}$ core (3). The relative peak intensities suggest that the peroxo species is the major reaction

† Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available: experimental and calculation details. See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b4/b404640d/ product, but selective decomposition of the bis(μ -oxo) Raman feature in the laser beam was observed, thus precluding attainment of an excitation profile and rendering the use of these intensities ineffective for assessing the product ratio. Indeed, the X-band EPR spectrum of the red solution (9.6 GHz, 2K) is dominated by a rhombic signal (Fig. 1b, apparent $g_x = 2.03$, $g_y = 2.19$, and $g_z = 2.26$) that lacks hyperfine splitting characteristic of Cu(II) (I = 3/2), is a clear indicator of the presence of S = 1/2 Ni(III), and corresponds by integration to ~90% of the amount of **2** added.|| The combined data thus indicate that bis(μ -oxo)copper(III)nickel(III) complex **3** is the primary reaction product, with a 1,2-peroxo species being a minor component despite the Raman data, which are deceptive due to the laser-induced decay of **3**. The peroxo species may be a precursor to **3**, but this notion has yet to be confirmed.

Using a complementary strategy to that implemented to prepare the CuNi compound **3**, the known¹⁸ complex **5** (which we characterized by X-ray diffraction**) was treated with the Cu(1) compound **4**¹⁹ in THF at -80 °C. A dark yellow-brown color and a new absorption band at $\lambda_{max} = 448$ nm (ε 5900 M⁻¹cm⁻¹, Fig. 2a) developed immediately, which bleached upon warming. A spectrophotometric titration revealed that the maximum absorbance is attained when the molar ratio of **4** and **5** is 1 : 1. The product is EPR silent at 2K and exhibits a sharp ¹H NMR spectrum (Fig. S4†) and a single peak in the ³¹P{¹H} spectrum (26.8 ppm, THF, -80°C) distinct from that exhibited by **5** (34.2 ppm) and a decomposition product generated upon warming, O=PPh₃ (24.7 ppm). Finally,



Fig. 1 (a) Optical absorption spectra of a THF solution of **1** (dotted line) and the product of addition of equimolar **2** (solid line). (b) EPR spectrum of THF solution of **1** + **2** (1 mM, 9.6 GHz, 2K). (c) Resonance Raman spectrum of THF solution of **1**⁻¹⁶O₂ + **2** (solid line) and **1**⁻¹⁸O₂ + **2** (dotted line).

DOI: 10.1039/b404640c



Fig. 2 (a) Optical absorption spectra of a THF solution of **5** (dotted line) and the product of addition of equimolar **4** (solid line). (b) Resonance Raman spectrum of THF solution of $5^{-16}O_2 + 4$ (solid line) and $5^{-18}O_2 + 4$ (dotted line).

excitation at $\lambda = 457.9$ nm led to resonance enhancement of a peak at 660 cm⁻¹ in the Raman spectrum that shifted to 631 cm⁻¹ when **5** prepared with ¹⁸O₂ was used (Fig. 2b). On the basis of the combined data, we postulate that the reaction of **4** with **5** produces the diamagnetic bis(μ -oxo)copper(III)palladium(II) complex **6**. Notably diagnostic for this formulation are the charge transfer transition at $\lambda_{max} = 448$ nm and a MM'(μ -O)₂ feature in the resonance Raman spectrum.^{2,17} Further corroboration was provided by DFT calculations on **6**,† which yielded as an energy minimum a C_2 structure with parameters typical for bis(μ -oxo)dimetal complexes (*e.g.*, Cu–O = 1.848 Å, Pd–O = 2.029 Å, Pd···Cu = 2.994 Å) and a frequency for a CuPd(μ -O)₂ rhomb mode of 594 cm⁻¹ (Δ ¹⁸O = 26 cm⁻¹). The isotope shift is in good agreement with the experimentally observed value, although the predicted frequency is somewhat low. Further theoretical work on **6** is underway.

In sum, we have successfully prepared heterodinuclear $bis(\mu - oxo)$ complexes by combining mononuclear peroxo species with reduced metal precursors. Both the CuNi and CuPd compounds are highly reactive, as shown by their tendency to decompose rapidly upon warming. Studies of their reactivity with exogeneous substrates are underway, as are extensions of the synthetic methodology to other heterometal combinations.

We thank the NIH (GM47365 to W.B.T.), the NSF (CHE-0213260 to C.G.R., CHE-0203346 to C.J.C. and predoctoral fellowship to N.W.A.), and Profs. J. Lipscomb and L. Que, Jr., for access to EPR and Raman instrumentation, respectively.

Notes and references

 \ddagger Reliable spectrophotometric titration data with which to confirm a 1 : 1 reaction stoichiometry were unavailable because of the slow rate of reaction at $-80\ ^\circ C$ and competing decomposition at higher temperatures.

§ The value $\Delta_{obs}(^{16}O^{-18}O) = 47 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ closely matches $\Delta_{calc}(^{16}O^{-18}O) = 49 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for a O–O harmonic oscillator.

¶ Oxygenation of the Cu(1) precursor of 1 does not yield a $[Cu_2(\mu-O)_2]^{2+}$ complex, thus arguing against the possibility that the 625/595 cm⁻¹ features are due to such a complex (which would also be diamagnetic and thus EPR silent).

|| EPR spectra recorded over a range of temperatures (2–65 K), microwave powers (5.0×10^{-5} –0.8 mW), and reaction times (31–90 min.) contained the same features as shown in Fig. 1b. The small low field feature adjacent to the major rhombic signal is associated with the product of sample decomposition (supporting information†).

** X-ray data for 5-1.5C₇H₈: C_{46.50}H₄₂O₂P₂Pd, MW = 801.14 g mol⁻¹, monoclinic, a = 9.2639(14), b = 23.168(4), c = 18.260(3) Å, $\beta = 92.962(3)^\circ$, V = 3913.9(11) Å³, T = 173(2) K, P2(1)/n, Z = 4, $\mu = 0.593$ mm⁻¹, 25447 reflections, 6916 independent reflections [*R*(int) = 0.0562], *R*1 = 0.0368, w*R*2 (for $I > 2\sigma(I)$) = 0.0831, 484 parameters, 43 restraints. CCDC 235181. See http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/cc/b4/b404640d/ for crystallographic data in .cif or other electronic format.

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