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## A Functional Model of Cytochrome c Oxidase: Thermodynamic Implications\*\*

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Cytochrome c oxidases (CcOs) are the terminal enzymes of the respiratory chains. These membrane bound assemblies catalyze the four-electron (4e<sup>-</sup>), four-proton (4H<sup>+</sup>) reduction of O<sub>2</sub> to H<sub>2</sub>O, and couple this exergonic reaction to intra-membrane proton translocation. The resulting energy is used to generate ATP as protons flow back through the membrane via ATP synthase.<sup>[1,2]</sup> What makes this class of enzymes particularly well suited to the task is the fact that they do not release partially reduced intermediates, such as superoxide and peroxide, which would be devastating to the cell if released in large quantities.<sup>[3]</sup>

Recently, a plethora of research on CcO<sup>[4]</sup> has been stimulated by two X-ray crystal structures.<sup>[5–8]</sup> The fundamental question of how the enzymes convert O<sub>2</sub> into H<sub>2</sub>O without releasing H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> remains unanswered, however. Attempts to prepare synthetic analogues of the O<sub>2</sub> binding/activating site in CcO have been reported over many years. Very few have mimicked the catalytic properties of CcO, however.<sup>[9]</sup>

Previously we reported the first functional CcO model that consisted of a Co<sup>II</sup>–porphyrin with a Cu<sup>I</sup>-coordinated distal superstructure and with a covalently attached imidazole group as the axial ligand.<sup>[10]</sup> We demonstrated that this complex catalyzes the 4e<sup>-</sup> reduction of O<sub>2</sub> under physiological conditions without the release of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Our electrocatalytic studies also demonstrate that both the copper ion and the axial imidazole ligand are essential to achieve the reduction.

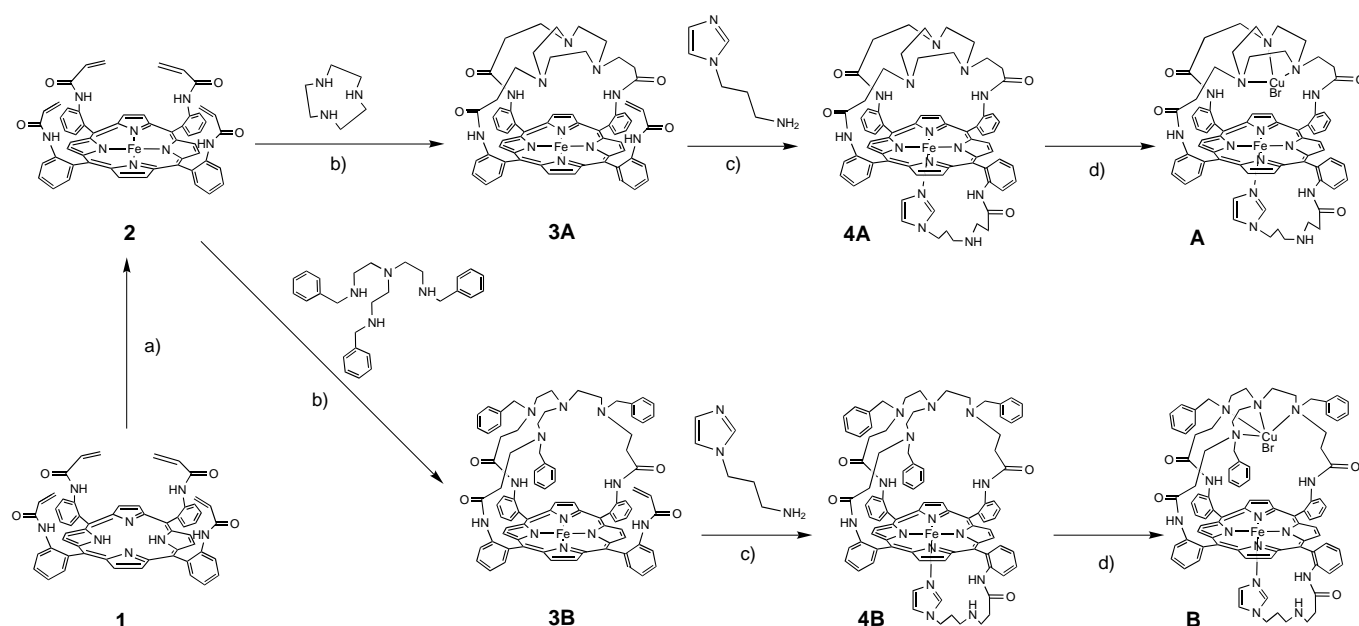
Herein we present the synthesis, characterization, and electrocatalytic chemistry of two Fe/Cu-containing synthetic analogues of the dioxygen activating site of CcO heme a<sub>3</sub>Cu<sub>B</sub>. The only structural difference between these compounds is the nature of the distal superstructure in which the copper ion resides (Scheme 1). Compound **A** has a 1,4,7-triazacyclononane (TACN) distal cap whereas **B** features a *N,N',N''*-tribenzyl-tris(aminoethyl)amine (TBTrén) cap.

Compounds **A** and **B** both form stable 1:1 adducts with O<sub>2</sub> (**X<sub>A</sub>** and **X<sub>B</sub>**, respectively) as demonstrated by UV/Vis spectroscopy after O<sub>2</sub>-titration. The O<sub>2</sub> adduct of each compound features an apparently diamagnetic NMR spectrum<sup>[11]</sup> in contrast to the paramagnetic NMR spectrum observed with their O<sub>2</sub>-free forms, **A** and **B**. This observation

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Scheme 1. Synthesis of the CcO model compounds **A** and **B**. a)  $\text{FeBr}_2$ , THF,  $\Delta$ ; b) methanol,  $\Delta$ ; c) methanol/toluene (1/5),  $\Delta$ ; d)  $\text{CuBr}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\Delta$ .

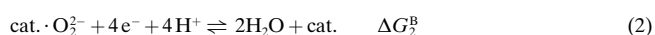
is consistent with the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  centers being strongly antiferromagnetically coupled through a bridging peroxide group.

In both cases cobaltocene ( $\text{Cp}_2\text{Co}$ ) can reduce the  $\text{O}_2$  adduct to its deoxygenated form. Whereas complex **X<sub>A</sub>** requires only two equivalents of  $\text{Cp}_2\text{Co}$  to regenerate **A**, **X<sub>B</sub>** requires four equivalents to form the deoxygenated complex **B**. Both **A** and **B** were applied to a rotating ring-disk electrode (RRDE).<sup>[12]</sup> Compound **A** produced  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  from reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  at pH 7, while **B** did not (Figure 1). Consequently we conclude that compound **A** predominately catalyzes the  $2\text{e}^-$  reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , while **B** catalyzes the  $4\text{e}^-$  reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  under physiological conditions.

The different half-wave potentials measured by cyclic voltammetry demonstrate the effect of the distal superstructure on the  $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}/\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  potential.<sup>[9]</sup> For the two different distal

caps studied, not only are the absolute  $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}/\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  potentials at different values, but the relation of the  $\text{Fe}-\text{Cu}$  potentials to each other differs as well. The TACN cap, which presents the copper ion with three nitrogen atoms, makes the  $\text{Cu}^{\text{II}}$  oxidation state less favorable than that of the TBTrén cap that contains four nitrogen atoms. In the latter complex, the iron center should be reduced first, which possibly directs the binding of  $\text{O}_2$  to the distal porphyrin locus.

To comprehend the thermodynamics of the  $4\text{e}^-$  reduction, the electrochemical potential of the reaction is converted into  $\Delta G$ .<sup>[13]</sup> The  $4\text{e}^-$  reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  catalyzed by the model catalyst (cat.) on the graphite disk can be written by Equations (1) to (3).



Since step 1 [Eq. (1)] occurs spontaneously in solution only the second step [Eq. (2)] should require the input of electrons from the graphite disk. The potential recorded during the RRDE experiments (see Figure 1) represents the value of the second step ( $\Delta G_2^{\text{B}}$ ) alone. Thus, by subtracting this value from the overall reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  ( $\Delta G_{\text{overall}}^{\text{B}}$ )<sup>[14]</sup> the lower limit of  $\Delta G_1^{\text{B}}$  may be estimated. The calculated values are shown in Table 1 and illustrated graphically in Scheme 2.

It is significant that compound **B**, which catalyzes the  $4\text{e}^-$  reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , releases at least  $47.4 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  of energy upon the addition of  $\text{O}_2$  in the absence of a reducing agent (Table 1). The formation of this very stable intermediate (**X<sub>B</sub>**) results in the conversion of **X<sub>B</sub>** into  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  being endergonic and thermodynamically unfavorable.<sup>[15]</sup> Therefore, the conversion of **X<sub>B</sub>** into  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  becomes a predominant pathway if it is kinetically possible (Scheme 2B).

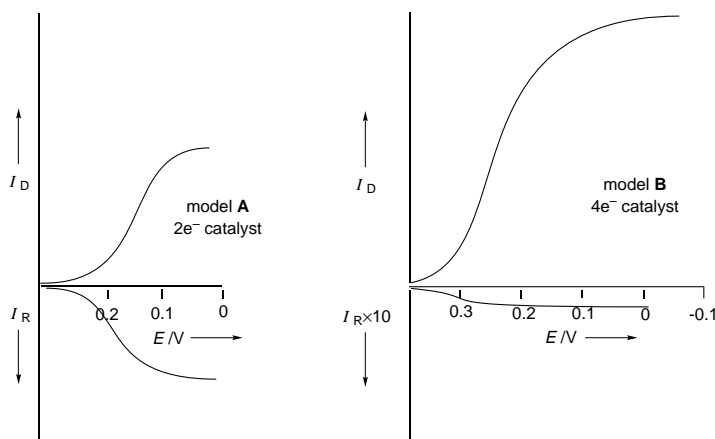


Figure 1. The RRDE experiment profiles (0.025 M phosphate buffer, pH 7; disk area  $0.46 \text{ cm}^2$ ; scan rate  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ; collection efficiency 0.15; ring potential +1.1 V versus normal hydrogen electrode (NHE)).  $I_D$  = disk current;  $I_R$  = ring current.

Table 1. Thermodynamic data for the reduction of dioxygen.

Reaction	$E$ [V] vs NHE (at pH 7)	$\Delta G$ [kcal mol <sup>-1</sup> ] (= $-nFE$ )
$O_2 + 2e^- + 2H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_2O_2$ ( $[H_2O_2] = 1M$ )	0.282 <sup>[a]</sup>	-13.0
$O_2 + 2e^- + 2H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_2O_2$ ( $[H_2O_2] = 10^{-6}M$ )		-16.6
$O_2 + 4e^- + 4H^+ \rightleftharpoons 2H_2O$	0.816 <sup>[a]</sup>	-75.1
for model catalyst <b>A</b>	0.20 <sup>[b]</sup>	-9.2
$A \cdot O_2 + 2e^- + 2H^+ \rightleftharpoons H_2O_2 + A$		-7.4 <sup>[c]</sup>
$O_2 + A \rightleftharpoons A \cdot O_2$		
for model catalyst <b>B</b>	0.30 <sup>[b]</sup>	-27.6
$B \cdot O_2 + 4e^- + 4H^+ \rightleftharpoons 2H_2O + B$		-47.4
$O_2 + B \rightleftharpoons B \cdot O_2$		
for cytochrome <i>c</i> oxidase		
$CcO \cdot O_2 + 4e^- + 4H^+ \rightleftharpoons 2H_2O + CcO$	0.245	-22.6
$CcO + O_2 \rightleftharpoons CcO \cdot O_2$		-52.5

[a] Taken from reference [32]. [b] Taken from the RRDE experiments (see Figure 1). [c] Based on the assumption that  $[H_2O_2] = 10^{-6}M$ .

In contrast, compound **A**, which catalyzes the  $2e^-$  reduction of  $O_2$  to  $H_2O_2$  at lower potential, releases far less energy upon binding  $O_2$  under the same conditions. The paths from  $X_A$  to  $H_2O_2$  and  $H_2O$  are both exergonic. Therefore, the catalytic stability of **A** to form  $H_2O_2$  or  $H_2O$  probably depends on the rate of hydrolysis of the peroxide intermediate (Scheme 2C).

Our model can also be compared to the CcO enzyme family by making the assumption that cytochrome *c* behaves similarly to the graphite electrode. The published value of its redox potential (0.245 V)<sup>[4]</sup> permits the calculation of  $\Delta G$  for the  $O_2$ -binding step of CcO under standard conditions. This analysis yields a value of  $-52$  kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, which is comparable to that obtained for **B**.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that the state of the bound peroxide is very sensitive to the nature of the distal superstructure. Ultimately, the copper ion can determine the fate of the catalyzed reaction, and it appears to be the deciding factor as to whether the reaction yields a  $2e^-$  or  $4e^-$  product. We propose that in the reactions catalyzed by compound **B** and the enzyme family CcO the initial reaction

of the fully reduced catalyst with  $O_2$  to yield the peroxide intermediate is exergonic enough that it thermodynamically traps the bound peroxide. This effectively blocks the release of the poisonous  $H_2O_2$  since its production would be endergonic. Hence the CcO-catalyzed reaction can be limited by proton transfer even though there is a build up of peroxide intermediates. Since these intermediates are low enough in energy, relative to any toxic products, there is very little risk of dangerous compounds being released even though the concentration of the peroxide intermediate may be high.

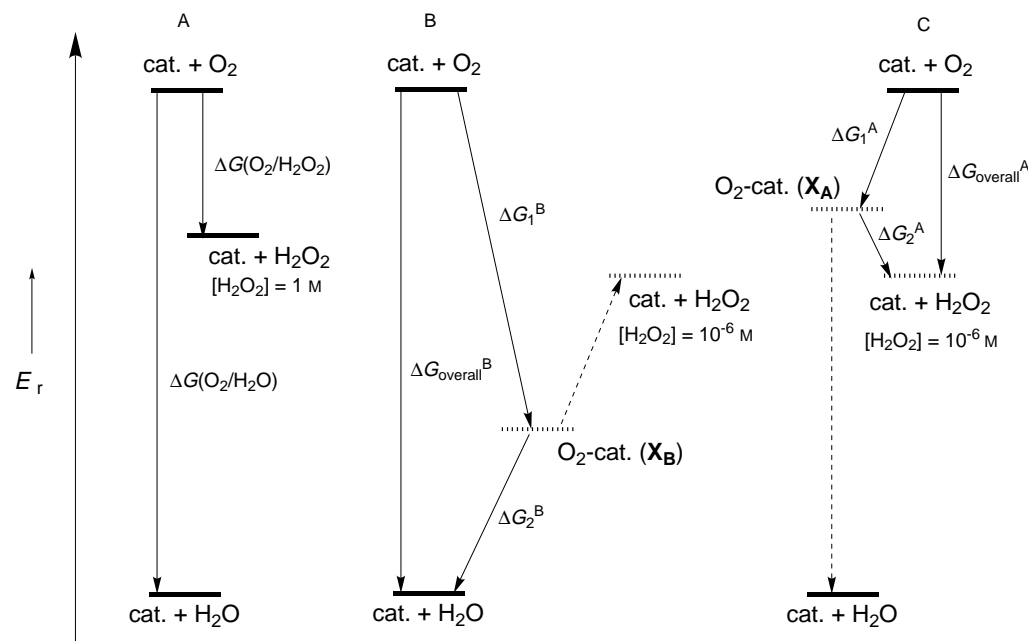
## Experimental Section

The Michael acceptor **1** was metallated with  $FeBr_2$  to yield **2**.<sup>[16]</sup> Compound **A** was prepared by capping **2** with 1,4,7-triazacyclononane (TACN), attaching a substituted imidazole tail in refluxing methanol/toluene, purifying, and metallating with  $CuBr$  in refluxing acetonitrile according to the reported method.<sup>[10, 17]</sup> The synthesis of compound **B** followed the same protocol except the metallated Michael acceptor **2** was capped with TBren instead of TACN. All new compounds were fully characterized by spectroscopic methods (see the supporting information).

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**Keywords:** cytochrome *c* oxidase • electrochemistry • heme proteins • N ligands • O–O activation



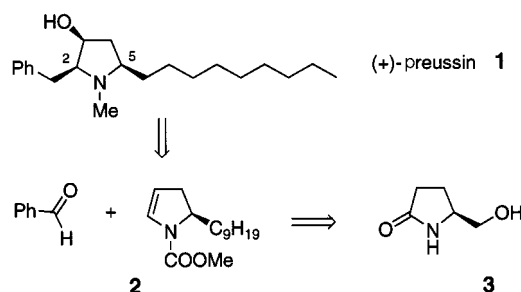
Scheme 2. Proposed energy diagram of dioxygen reduction. A) Thermodynamic data; B) the  $4e^-$  reduction of  $O_2$ ; C) the  $2e^-$  reduction of  $O_2$ .  $E_r$  = relative energy.

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- [13] The potential is converted into  $\Delta G$  with the equation  $\Delta G = -nFE$ , where  $n$  is the number of electrons per mole,  $F$  is Faraday's constant, and  $E$  is the experimental reduction potential for the stated reaction.
- [14] In the case of compound **B** the value of  $\Delta G_{\text{overall}}^B$  can be compared to the standard  $\Delta G$  value for the conversion of O<sub>2</sub> into H<sub>2</sub>O since the concentrations of all pertinent species are known.
- [15] The  $\Delta G$  value for the O<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> couple will be more negative if the activity of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is below 1.0M in our experimental conditions.
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## Unprecedented Facial Diastereoselectivity in the Paternò–Büchi Reaction of a Chiral Dihydropyrrole—A Short Total Synthesis of (+)-Preussin\*\*

Thorsten Bach\* and Harm Brummerhop

The Paternò–Büchi reaction<sup>[1]</sup> of aromatic aldehydes with enol and enamine derivatives gives 3-heteroatom-substituted 2-aryloxetanes in good yield.<sup>[2]</sup> Subsequent Pd-catalyzed hydrogenolysis of these compounds leads to a bond cleavage between the oxygen atom and the C2 atom of the oxetane and yields the products of a formal carbohydroxylation.<sup>[3]</sup> The carbohydroxylation of the N-acceptor-substituted 2,3-dihydropyrrole **2** appealed to us as an approach to the antifungal pyrrolidinol alkaloid (+)-preussin<sup>[4]</sup> (**1**). A straightforward synthesis<sup>[5]</sup> of this natural product appeared possible from the commercially available (*S*)-pyroglutaminol (**3**; Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Retrosynthesis of (+)-preussin (**1**).

We now report on the realization of this goal in which the pivotal Paternò–Büchi reaction of **2** proceeded with a substrate-induced facial diastereoselectivity previously unobserved in photocycloaddition reactions. Indeed, a bulky substituent within a five-membered ring is known to direct the attack of a reactant to the opposite face (*anti* attack). Examples of this are found in Paternò–Büchi reactions<sup>[6]</sup> and in intermolecular [2+2] photocycloadditions.<sup>[7]</sup> The thermal addition of ketenes to dihydropyrroles, which are analogues of **2**, also proceeded with *anti* attack to the existent substituent.<sup>[8]</sup> The notion that made us hope for the *syn* attack shown in Scheme 1 was based on an observation by Beckwith and Chai<sup>[9]</sup> in which they showed that in radical reactions of N-acceptor-substituted five-membered rings that bear a stereogenic center in the C2 position the radical center in the C5 position is attacked from the same face as the large substituent at C2 points to. Since Paternò–Büchi reactions are known to occur via radical intermediates<sup>[1, 10]</sup> a selection at

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