

# Isolation of $(\text{CO})^{1-}$ and $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$ Radical Complexes of Rare Earths via $\text{Ln}(\text{NR}_2)_3/\text{K}$ Reduction and $[\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]^{2+}$ Oligomerization

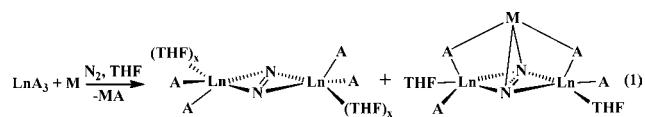
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**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Deep-blue solutions of  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  formed from  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  ( $\text{R} = \text{SiMe}_3$ ) and excess potassium in the presence of 18-crown-6 at  $-45^\circ\text{C}$  under vacuum in diethyl ether react with CO at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  to form colorless crystals of the  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  radical complex,  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}(\mu\text{-CO})_2][\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]\}_n$  **1**. The polymeric structure contains trigonal bipyramidal  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}(\mu\text{-CO})_2]^{2-}$  units with axial  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  ligands linked by  $[\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]^{2+}$  dications. Byproducts such as the ynediolate,  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}]_2(\mu\text{-OC}\equiv\text{CO})\{[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})_2](18\text{-crown-6})\}$ , **2**, in which two  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  anions are coupled to form  $(\text{OC}\equiv\text{CO})^{2-}$ , and the insertion/rearrangement product,  $\{(\text{R}_2\text{N})_2\text{Y}[\text{OC}(\text{=CH}_2)\text{Si}(\text{Me}_2)\text{NSiMe}_3]\}[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})]$ , **3**, are common in these reactions that give variable results depending on the specific reaction conditions. The CO reduction in the presence of THF forms a solvated variant of **2**, the ynediolate  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}]_2(\mu\text{-OC}\equiv\text{CO})[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})(\text{THF})_2]_2$ , **2a**.  $\text{CO}_2$  reacts analogously with  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  to form the  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  radical complex,  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}(\mu\text{-CO}_2)_2][\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]\}_n$  **4**, that has a structure similar to that of **1**. Analogous  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  and  $(\text{OC}\equiv\text{CO})^{2-}$  complexes of lutetium were isolated using  $\text{Lu}(\text{NR}_2)_3/\text{K}/18\text{-crown-6}$ :  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Lu}(\mu\text{-CO})_2][\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]\}_n$  **5**,  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Lu}]_2(\mu\text{-OC}\equiv\text{CO})\{[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})_2](18\text{-crown-6})\}$ , **6**, and  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Lu}]_2(\mu\text{-OC}\equiv\text{CO})[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2]_2$ , **6a**.

Dinitrogen can be reduced to  $(\text{N}_2)^{2-}$  and  $(\text{N}_2)^{3-}$  via the combination of a trivalent rare earth salt and an alkali metal as shown in eq 1 ( $\text{Ln} = \text{rare earth, i.e., Sc, Y, lanthanides}$ ;



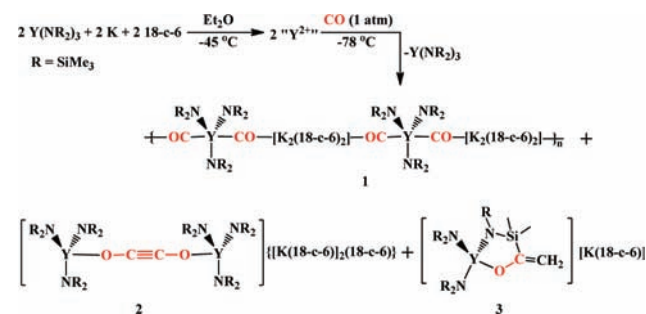
A = anions such as amides, aryloxides, and cyclopentadienides; M = Na, K).<sup>1</sup> Although the details of the dinitrogen reduction are not known for all the metals, in the case of yttrium, EPR evidence for an  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  species that reduces dinitrogen has been obtained.<sup>2</sup> We describe here the first studies of the reactivity of the deep-blue solutions of  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  obtained from  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3/\text{K}$  reactions ( $\text{R} = \text{SiMe}_3$ ) with substrates other than dinitrogen. Specifically, the reduction of CO to the  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  radical and  $\text{CO}_2$  to the  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  radical are presented.<sup>3</sup> The utility of the cyclic polyether, 18-crown-6, in isolating these radicals in surprisingly simple coordination complexes is described, as well

as the formation of the dimer of the  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  radical, i.e.  $(\text{OC}\equiv\text{CO})^{2-}$ . Analogous CO chemistry with lutetium is also included.

Although CO reduction by potassium has been reported since 1825,<sup>4</sup> complexes of the  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  and  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  radicals are rare and have only previously been reported using the carefully designed tris(aryloxide) tacn ligands with uranium.<sup>5</sup> Uranium complexes have also provided an extensive series of CO reduction products, namely the  $[(\text{CO})_n]^{2-}$  complexes in which  $n = 2\text{--}4$ .<sup>6</sup> With lanthanides,  $n = 3$  examples are known.<sup>7</sup>

CO reduction by  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  was accomplished in the following way. A deep-blue solution of  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  was generated at  $-45^\circ\text{C}$  from  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  and excess potassium mirror in diethyl ether under vacuum in the presence of 1 equiv of 18-crown-6. The mixture was filtered from the excess potassium and frozen with liquid nitrogen, and CO was added. After 15 min at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , the solution was orange. Colorless crystals of polymeric  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}(\mu\text{-CO})_2][\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]\}_n$  **1**, Scheme 1, formed

**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of Compounds **1**, **2**, and **3** Where 18-c-6 Stands for the Cyclic Polyether 18-Crown-6

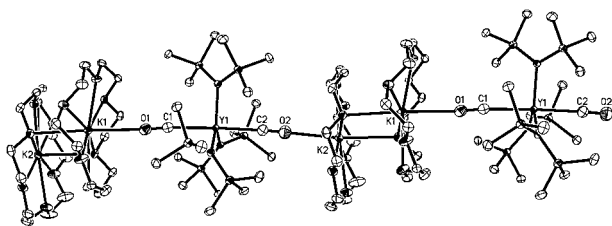


over 2 days at room temperature. The complex, identified by X-ray diffraction, Figure 1, has one  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  moiety coordinated on each side by  $(\text{CO})\text{K}(18\text{-c-6})$  units. Hence, formation of one monomeric repeat unit of **1** formally requires 2 equiv of  $\text{Y}^{2+}$ , arising from two  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3/\text{K}$  reactions, to reduce two molecules of CO leaving 1 equiv of  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  as the stoichiometric byproduct.  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  is observed in the crude product mixture, but quantification is complicated since some could be unreacted starting material.

The reaction of CO with the deep-blue solutions formed from  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3/\text{K}$  is highly sensitive to the form of potassium, the amount of 18-crown-6, the type of ether solvent, and reaction times and temperatures. At least 50 small variations of

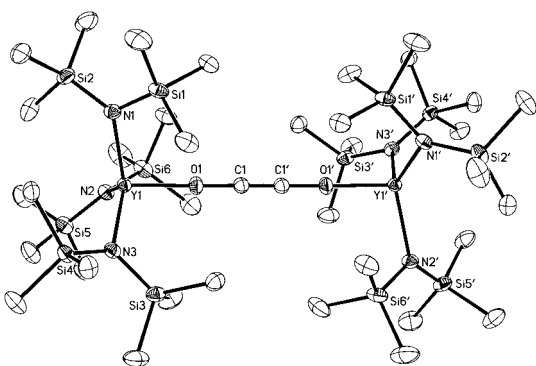
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**Figure 1.** Thermal ellipsoid plot of two repeating units of  $\{[(R_2N)_3Y(\mu-CO)_2][K_2(18-crown-6)]_2\}_n$ , **1**, drawn at the 50% probability level with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

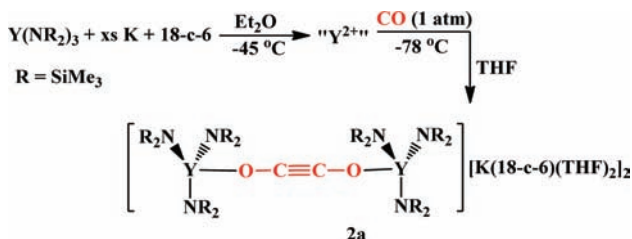
these parameters have been explored in order to optimize the results presented here. The  $Y(NR_2)_3/K/CO$  reaction is complicated by the fact that at least two byproducts are sometimes formed in this reaction, the ynediolate,  $[(R_2N)_3Y]_2(\mu-OC\equiv CO)\{[K(18-crown-6)]_2(18-crown-6)\}$ , **2**, which was also identified by X-ray crystallography, Figure 2,



**Figure 2.** Thermal ellipsoid plot of the dianion  $\{[(R_2N)_3Y]_2(\mu-OC\equiv CO)\}^{2-}$  in  $[(R_2N)_3Y]_2(\mu-OC\equiv CO)\{[K(18-crown-6)]_2(18-crown-6)\}$ , **2**, drawn at the 30% probability level with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. See Figure S6 for the complete structure.

and the CO insertion/rearrangement product,  $\{(R_2N)_2Y[OC(=CH_2)Si(Me_2)NSiMe_3]\}[K(18-crown-6)]$ , **3**, Figure S2. Detailed characterization of **1** has been challenging since crystals of **1** do not redissolve in  $Et_2O$  and reactions to synthesize **1** when exposed to THF give  $[(R_2N)_3Y]_2(\mu-OC\equiv CO)[K(18-crown-6)(THF)_2]_2$ , **2a**, Scheme 2, Figure S5, a

#### Scheme 2. Formation of **2a** in the Presence of THF



variant of **2** that differs in its counteranion. Complex **2a** also forms when the  $Y(NR_2)_3/K$  reaction occurs in 1:1 THF/DME.

The ynediolate complexes, **2** and **2a**, contain the  $(OC\equiv CO)^{2-}$  dianion formally derived by dimerization of two  $(CO)^{1-}$  radicals. These complexes are very similar to the  $U^{4+}$  complex,  $(R_2N)_3U(\mu-OC\equiv CO)U(NR_2)_3$  ( $R = SiMe_3$ ), reported while this research was in progress by Arnold et al.<sup>6b</sup> as well as that of  $[U(C_8H_6\{Si^iPr_3-1,4\})_2(C_5Me_5)_2(\mu-OC\equiv CO)]$ .<sup>6a</sup> Complex **3**

is likely to arise initially from insertion of CO into the  $Y-C$  bond of the metalated complex,  $(R_2N)_2Y[CH_2Si(Me_2)NSiMe_3]K$ , known to form from  $Y(NR_2)_3$  and  $K^{2a}$ . Rearrangement of such acyls to enolates is common and would explain the observed structure of **3** (structural details in the Supporting Information (SI)).<sup>8</sup>

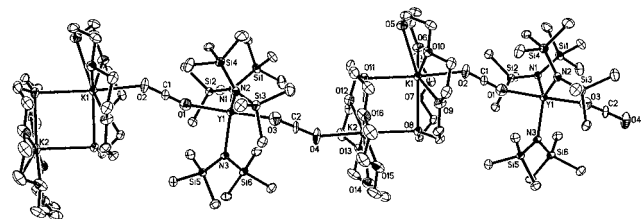
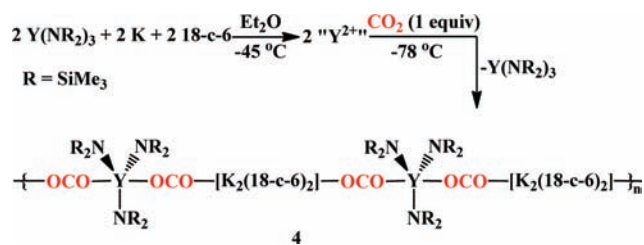
Complex **1** displays an IR absorption at  $2091 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  that is very close to the  $2092 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  value observed for the mixed valence  $U^{3+}/U^{4+}$  complex  $[(L)U]_2(\mu-CO)$  ( $L = 1,4,7$ -tris(3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzylate)-1,4,7-triazacyclononane).<sup>5a</sup> The IR spectrum of analogous crystals of **1** synthesized with  $^{13}CO$  lacks this absorption and has a band at  $2048 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (calcd,  $2043 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), Figure S7. The  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$  NMR spectrum of the  $(O^{13}C\equiv^{13}CO)^{2-}$  complex, **2a**- $^{13}CO$ , exhibits a multiplet in the alkyne region<sup>9a</sup> at 55.5 ppm that matches an AA'XX' simulation,<sup>9b</sup> which uses the coupling constants found for **2a**:  $^2J_{YC} = 10.4 \text{ Hz}$  and  $^3J_{YC} = 1.7 \text{ Hz}$ , Figure S10.

In **1**, the yttrium atom in the  $[(R_2N)_3Y(\mu-CO)_2]^{2-}$  unit has a trigonal bipyramidal geometry with  $(CO)^{1-}$  anions in the axial sites. Each potassium ion has a distorted hexagonal bipyramidal coordination environment with one crown ether providing six oxygen donor atoms situated above and below the equatorial plane, a carbonyl monoanion in one axial position, and an oxygen of the second crown ether in the other axial position. The dicationic  $[K_2(18-crown-6)]_2^{2+}$  unit that connects the  $[(R_2N)_3Y(\mu-CO)_2]^{2-}$  dianions into a polymer has two of these axial  $K-O$  (other crown) linkages, and their 2.996(2) and 3.032(2) Å  $K-O$  distances are longer than the other 14  $K-O$  distances that range from 2.650(2) to 2.946(3) Å. The  $[K_2(18-crown-6)]_2^{2+}$  unit that comprises a link in polymeric **1** has previously been observed in salts of  $(Ph_3SiO)^{1-}$ ,<sup>10</sup>  $[Ti(CO)_4(\mu-OC_6H_5)]_2^{2-}$ ,<sup>11</sup>  $\{[Sc(NCS)_6]Cl\}^{4-}$ ,<sup>12</sup>  $(HgSe_8)^{2-}$ ,<sup>13</sup> and  $[Er(NCS)_6(SCN)]^{4-}$ ,<sup>14</sup> but not in this polymeric form. Neither spectroscopic nor X-ray data (see SI for details) can distinguish  $Y-C-O-K$  from  $Y-O-C-K$  connectivity in **1**. The  $Y-C-O-K$  assignment used in the equations and figures follows the relative Pauling electronegativities of  $Y$  (1.22) and  $K$  (0.82).

The ynediolate complexes **2** and **2a** differ from **1** in that they are not polymeric even though **2** and **2a**, like **1**, contain dianionic components that are charge balanced by two  $[K(18-crown-6)]^{1+}$  cations. The difference presumably arises because the anionic charge from two  $(CO)^{1-}$  ions sandwiches a neutral  $Y(NR_2)_3$  unit in **1**, whereas the anionic charge of the  $(OC\equiv CO)^{2-}$  dianion is sandwiched inside of two neutral  $Y(NR_2)_3$  moieties in **2** and **2a**. Complex **2a** has hexagonal bipyramidal potassium like **1**, but the axial positions are occupied by THF of solvation and hence the bridging  $-[K_2(18-crown-6)]_2^{2+}$  connecting unit in **1** is not formed. Complex **2**, which lacks the THF of solvation in **2a**, adopts yet another mode of combining two  $[K(18-crown-6)]^{1+}$  cations with a third crown ether bridging the two cations as a bidentate ligand to each potassium to form a  $[K_2(18-crown-6)_3]^{2+}$  dication.<sup>15</sup>

The deep-blue  $Y^{2+}$  solutions generated as described above also react with  $CO_2$  and surprisingly make complexes of similar overall structure. In this case, a deep-blue  $Y^{2+}$  solution prepared at  $-45^\circ C$  as described above was cooled to  $-78^\circ C$  and exposed to 1 equiv of  $CO_2$  which led to an immediate color change to colorless. After workup, crystals of the  $(CO_2)^{1-}$  complex,  $\{[(R_2N)_3Y(\mu-CO_2)]_2[K_2(18-crown-6)]_2\}_n$ , **4**, Scheme 3, Figure 3, were isolated. Complex **4** is polymeric like **1** except that the ligand in between the yttrium and potassium centers is now the  $(CO_2)^{1-}$  radical anion instead of the  $(CO)^{1-}$  radical. Again,  $[K_2(18-crown-6)]_2^{2+}$  units link components in the

## Scheme 3. Synthesis of Compound 4



**Figure 3.** Thermal ellipsoid plot of two repeating units of  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}(\mu\text{-CO}_2)]_n[\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]_m\}$ , **4**, drawn at the 50% probability level with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity.

extended polymer. The  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  anions are nearly linear with  $179.1(4)^\circ$  and  $179.2(4)^\circ$  O–C–O angles similar to the  $178.0(3)^\circ$  angle in the  $\text{U}^{4+}$  complex of the  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  radical anion,  $(\text{L}')\text{U}(\eta^1\text{-OCO})$ ,  $\text{L}' = 1,4,7\text{-tris}(3\text{-adamantyl-5-tert-butyl-2-hydroxybenzylate})\text{-}1,4,7\text{-triazacyclononane}$ , previously reported by Meyer et al., which has an IR stretch of  $2188 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>5b</sup> The inequivalent  $1.171(4)\text{--}1.198(4) \text{ \AA}$  C–O distances are more similar to each other than the disparate values in  $(\text{L}')\text{U}(\eta^1\text{-OCO})$ ,  $1.122(4)$  and  $1.277(4) \text{ \AA}$ .<sup>5b</sup> The  $2.352(3)$  and  $2.367(3) \text{ \AA}$  Y–O distances are much longer than the  $2.052(3)\text{--}2.057(1) \text{ \AA}$  analogs in **2** and **2a**, which may be a reflection of the fact that the  $(\text{OCO})^{1-}$  ligand does not have a full negative charge per oxygen donor atom as in  $(\text{OC}\equiv\text{CO})^{2-}$ .

Complex **4** has an IR stretch at  $2210 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  that shifts to  $2150 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the  $^{13}\text{CO}_2$  analog, Figure S8. The  $2210/2150 = 1.0279$  ratio is similar to the  $2188/2128 = 1.0282$  ratio observed in  $^{12}\text{CO}_2/^{13}\text{CO}_2$   $(\text{L}')\text{U}(\eta^1\text{-OCO})$  and in free  $^{12}\text{CO}_2/^{13}\text{CO}_2$ ,  $1.0284$ .<sup>5b</sup>

A reaction analogous to Scheme 1 was examined with lutetium. In this case,  $\text{Lu}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  was treated with K in the presence of 18-crown-6 at  $-45^\circ\text{C}$  to give a deep-blue solution. This was frozen at  $-196^\circ\text{C}$ , CO at 1 atm was added, the reaction vessel was warmed to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ , and the solution turned to orange yellow. Colorless crystals of an analog of **1**, namely,  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Lu}(\mu\text{-CO})_2][\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]\}_n$ , **5**, were obtained at room temperature. Complex **5** was also characterized by X-ray crystallography, and although not isomorphous, it has a structure similar to that of **1**, Table S1, Figure S9. The lutetium reduction of CO readily forms an ynediolate complex analogous to the byproduct of the yttrium reaction. In the lutetium case,  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Lu}]_2(\mu\text{-OC}\equiv\text{CO})\{[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})]_2(18\text{-crown-6})\}$ , **6** (Figure S12), an analog of **2**, can be crystallized as well as  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Lu}]_2(\mu\text{-OC}\equiv\text{CO})[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})(\text{Et}_2\text{O})_2]_2$ , **6a** (Figure S13), an analog of **2a** except that two  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  molecules solvate the potassium instead of two THF. The formation of **5**, **6**, and **6a** suggests that the deep-blue solutions obtained from  $\text{Lu}(\text{NR}_2)_3$  and potassium may contain  $\text{Lu}^{2+}$  in analogy to  $\text{Y}^{2+}$ .

Density functional calculations described in detail in the SI<sup>16</sup> were attempted on **1** even though semilocal density functionals

suffer from various deficiencies for systems with strong noncovalent interactions.<sup>17</sup> Calculations on  $[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}(\mu\text{-CO})_2]^{2-}$  did not give good agreement with the structure, but also did not include the interaction of the  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  with potassium. Calculations were then attempted on the entire 172 atom  $\{[(\text{R}_2\text{N})_3\text{Y}[(\mu\text{-CO})\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})]_2]\}_n$  repeat unit. These also did not give good agreement, but again the full extent of interaction could not be calculated since the interactions between the two  $[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})]^{1+}$  units in the polymer were not included. The calculations in each case showed very similar energies for triplet, singlet, and closed shell structures as well as structures with Y–O–C–K and Y–C–O–K connectivity.

Although a detailed bonding picture is not available for these compounds, it is clear that the  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3/\text{K}$  reduction system that generates  $\text{Y}^{2+}$  can be used to reduce CO and  $\text{CO}_2$  and trap these small molecules in crystallizable complexes as the  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  and  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  radical anions. Although this first step in CO and  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction has previously been demonstrated with tris(aryoxide) tacn uranium complexes, this required the use of a carefully constructed tripodal coordination cavity. The isolation of **1** and **4** shows that these radical anions can be accessed in the more open coordination environments of a simple tris(amide) like  $\text{Y}(\text{NR}_2)_3$ ; the isolation of **5** shows that this is extendable to the lanthanide series. It is likely that these  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  and  $(\text{CO}_2)^{1-}$  radicals could be isolated because they formed an extended polymer of low solubility. The polymeric nature of the product was due in part to the linking ability of the  $[\text{K}(18\text{-crown-6})]^{1+}$  cations to form bridging  $[\text{K}_2(18\text{-crown-6})_2]^{2+}$  moieties. Hence, the use of 18-crown-6 is likely to be a crucial factor in generating these results.

The dimerization of  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  radicals to  $(\text{OC}\equiv\text{CO})^{2-}$  is not unexpected, but in the past this radical has only been postulated in reactions that reductively couple CO. Both lanthanide and actinide complexes can reductively homologate CO to  $[(\text{CO})_n]^{2-}$  ions where  $n = 2\text{--}4$ , but isolating  $(\text{CO})^{1-}$  and  $(\text{OC}\equiv\text{CO})^{2-}$  in the same reduction system has not been possible until now. The variable nature of the yields and product mixtures as a function of detailed reaction conditions attests to the high reactivity of these species.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

Experimental details and characterization data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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