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Photochemical Production of a Highly Reactive Porphyrin-Iron-Oxo Species

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Abstract

Oxidation of 5,10,15,20-tetramesitylporphyrin-iron(III) perchlorate, (TMP)Fe^{III}(ClO₄), with ferric perchlorate in acetonitrile gave a metastable species identified as (TMP)Fe^{IV}(ClO₄)₂ that decayed within seconds to the known isomeric species (TMP⁺)Fe^{III}(ClO₄)₂. Irradiation of the metastable species with 355 nm laser light gave a highly reactive transient that reacts with simple organic reductants (alkenes and arylalkanes) 5 orders of magnitude faster than known Compound I analogues, (TMP⁺)Fe^{IV}(O)(X[−]).

Macrocyclic ligand-complexed transition metal-oxo intermediates are the active species in a variety of biological and laboratory oxidation reactions,^{1–3} and porphyrin-iron complexes, mimics of heme-containing peroxidase and cytochrome P450 enzymes, are widely studied. Neutral porphyrin-iron(IV)-oxo derivatives are well known, relatively stable species.^{4–7} More highly oxidized iron(IV)-oxo porphyrin radical cations, often called Compounds I in biological contexts, are the most reactive porphyrin-iron-oxo transients characterized to date.^{8–12} Iron (IV)-oxo porphyrin radical cations are postulated to be the oxidants in systems that employ porphyrin-iron(III) salts as catalysts and sacrificial oxidants such as *m*-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (mCPBA) or iodosobenzene.^{13,14} In biological systems, Compounds I are formed by reactions of peroxidase and catalase enzymes with hydrogen peroxide,^{12,15} and Compound I species are thought to be oxidants in cytochrome P450 enzymes.^{16–18}

The high reactivity observed in catalytic reactions with iron-porphyrin species is not paralleled in stoichiometric reactions of iron(IV)-oxo porphyrin radical cations, which, for example, oxidize low energy benzylic C-H bonds only sluggishly.^{19,20} The cysteine thiolate ligand to iron in cytochrome P450 enzymes weakens an iron-oxygen bond and activates a Compound I species, but the Compound I derivative of the cytochrome P450 119 enzyme was found to be a low reactivity species,²¹ and the Compound I derivative of the heme-thiolate enzyme chloroperoxidase reacts with organic substrates only 2–3 orders of magnitude faster than simple Compound I models.²² Neither Compound I species in enzymes nor their model iron(IV)-oxo porphyrin radical cations will oxidize unactivated C-H bonds in hydrocarbons, where the C-H bond dissociation energies are about 10 kcal/mol greater than the benzylic C-H bond dissociation energy in ethylbenzene,²³ but the oxidants in the catalytic processes oxidize hydrocarbons so rapidly that they do not accumulate to detectable levels. One possible explanation presented^{24,25} for the dichotomy between the low reactivities of iron(IV)-oxo porphyrin radical cations and the fast oxidation reactions of porphyrin-iron catalysts and P450

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental details, NMR spectra, and kinetic traces for reactions of **5**. This material is available free via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>

enzymes is that the actual oxidants in the catalytic systems are high energy isomers of Compounds I, possibly porphyrin-iron(V)-oxo species.²⁶⁻²⁸

Our group reported photochemical entries to high-valent macrocyclic ligand manganese(IV)-oxo and manganese(V)-oxo derivatives by ligand cleavage reactions using laser flash photolysis (LFP) methods.²⁹ Related photochemical ligand cleavage reactions of high-valent iron azides gave iron(V)- and iron(VI)-nitrido species,³⁰ and photolysis of a corrole-iron(IV) chlorate gave a highly reactive transient tentatively identified as a corrole-iron(V)-oxo species.³¹ We report here an extension of our studies to a porphyrin-iron complex, and photochemical production of an apparent iron-oxo species that is 5 orders of magnitude more reactive than the corresponding Compound I derivatives.

5,10,15,20-Tetramesitylporphyrin-iron(III) chloride, (TMP)Fe^{III}Cl, (**1**) (Scheme 1) was converted to the known perchlorate salt (TMP)Fe^{III}(ClO₄) (**2**). Reaction of **2** with ferric perchlorate in CH₃CN gave a metastable species (**3**) that converted to the known derivative (TMP⁺)Fe^{III}(ClO₄)₂ (**4**)³² with a 10-second half-life at 20 °C ($k = 0.07 \text{ s}^{-1}$).

Compound **3** was characterized as an iron(IV) species ($S = 1$) by UV-visible, EPR, and NMR spectroscopies and magnetic susceptibility measurements. It is EPR silent as required for $S = 1$, and its magnetic susceptibility measured by the Evans' NMR method³³ in CH₃CN was $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 2.85 \mu_{\text{B}}$. (calc for $S = 1$; $2.83 \mu_{\text{B}}$). An $S = 3/2$ iron(III) derivative antiferromagnetically (AF) coupled to a porphyrin radical cation also would be EPR silent, but the ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** (Figure 1) confirmed the former structure because the signals have positive δ values. For all aryl protons in **3**, the $S = 1$ species should have positive δ values, and the iron(III) species ($S = 3/2$) AF coupled with a porphyrin radical cation should have negative δ values.^{34,35}

The UV-vis spectrum of **3** further supports the assigned structure (Figure 1). The Soret band of **3** is sharp, and the Q-band at 530 nm is pronounced, as expected for a neutral porphyrin. The absorbance of **3** between 600 and 750 nm is too weak for a porphyrin radical cation species and, in fact, is weaker than for neutral porphyrin TMP-iron(III) salts (Supporting Information). Isomer **4**, containing a porphyrin radical cation, has a UV-visible spectrum that resembles those of Compound I species (TMP⁺)Fe^{IV}(O)(X) (Supporting Information).

Laser flash photolysis of **3** with 355 nm light in CH₃CN solution gave a highly reactive transient (**5**) that could be monitored by UV-visible spectroscopy. A time-resolved difference spectrum is shown in Figure 2A, where the transient formed photochemically has a positive absorbance and decays with time, and its product has a negative absorbance. Transient **5** has a Soret band absorbance that is red-shifted from that of its product with a λ_{max} of the Soret band in the range of 395-405 nm and λ_{max} of the Q-band at about 530 nm. The UV-visible spectrum of **5** is not similar to that of any known (TMP)-iron derivative.^{7,32,36}

Transient **5** is a remarkably reactive species. When produced in CH₃CN in the absence of additional organic reductants, **5** decayed with a 10 ms half-life ($k = 77 \text{ s}^{-1}$) at ambient temperature. When organic reductants were present, the decay of **5** accelerated linearly with reductant concentration (Figure 2) indicating second-order reactions. From the pseudo-first-order rate constants obtained with various concentrations of reductants (Supporting Information), we obtained the second-order rate constants listed in Table 1. The high reactivity of **5** is apparent by comparison of these rate constants to those for the Compound I derivative (TMP⁺)Fe^{IV}(O)(ClO₄)₂ (**6**) and the 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrin-manganese(V)-oxo cation²⁹ (**7**). Species **7** was the most reactive porphyrin-metal-oxo complex with known rate constants,²⁹ and transient **5** is comparable in reactivity to **7**.

The nature of transient **5** was suggested by its reaction with an alkene, which indicated that **5** behaved as an oxygen-transfer metal-oxo species as opposed to a radical-generating species.

An acetonitrile solution of **2** and 1.2 equivalents of $\text{Fe}(\text{ClO}_4)_3$ at -40°C gave **3** in 80% yield as determined by UV-visible spectroscopy. Addition of excess cyclooctene to this and irradiation with 350 nm light in a photochemical reactor gave cyclooctene oxide (28% based on **3**). Control reactions demonstrated that no epoxide was formed without light, without **2**, without $\text{Fe}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, or when **3** was allowed to decay to **4** before irradiation. In the preparative reaction, salt **2** was the major porphyrin compound present by UV-visible spectral analysis after the reactions. This result and the isosbestic behavior at 390 nm in the LFP experiments (Figure 2A) indicate that **5** reacted to give porphyrin-iron(III) salts directly.

Transient **5** cannot be a simple ligand exchanged derivative of $(\text{TMP}^+)\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{ClO}_4)$ (**6**). It reacts 5 orders of magnitude faster than **6** and the chloride salt analogue,²⁰ and substitution of the axial ligand in **6** by the weak binding solvent CH_3CN would give an even less reactive species.³⁷ We speculate that **5** is an isomer of **6**, however, possibly one best described as an iron(V)-oxo species.^{26,27,31} Electronic excited states of porphyrin-metal complexes relax on the picosecond time scale,^{29b} and a porphyrin-iron(V)-oxo species that existed in the millisecond time frame would require a high barrier for internal electron transfer from the porphyrin to the metal.

Transient **5** appears to be a member of a new class of porphyrin-iron-oxo derivatives as deduced by its unique UV-visible spectrum in comparison to known Compound I analogues, the formation of epoxide product in reaction with cyclooctene, and the very high reactivity of **5**. Further characterization of this species will lead to a better understanding of its detailed structure, but it is noteworthy that **5** displays reactivity appropriate for the active oxidants in a catalytic processes under turnover conditions and in cytochrome P450 enzymes.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Scheme 1.

Figure 1.

(A) UV-visible spectra; the spectrum of **3** is shown as the solid black lines, and that of **4** is shown as the dashed gray lines. (B) NMR spectra at -40°C ; the spectrum of **3** is the black line and expansion, and the spectrum of **4** is the gray line. See Supporting Information for NMR spectral details.

Figure 2.

(A) Time-resolved spectrum for 100 ms following 355 nm irradiation of species **3** in CH_3CN at ambient temperature. (B) Representative kinetic traces at 403 nm (gray lines) and fits (dotted lines) from reactions of **5** with ethylbenzene at (from the top) 0.0, 0.25, 1.0 mM concentrations in CH_3CN at ambient temperature; observed rate constants are plotted in the inset of the figure. (C) Observed rate constants for reactions of **5** in CH_3CN at ambient temperature with diphenylmethane ($\blacksquare$), *cis*-cyclooctene ($\circ$), *trans*-stilbene ($\triangle$), *cis*-stilbene ($\blacktriangle$), and cyclohexene ($\square$); the lines (the slopes of which are the second-order rate constants) are regression solutions.

Table 1Second-order rate constants for reactions of **5** - **7** with organic reductants.^a

Substrate	5	6 ^b	7 ^c
diphenylmethane	$(1.5 \pm 0.4) \times 10^5$	1.3	1.4×10^5
ethylbenzene	$(1.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^5$	1.6	1.3×10^5
<i>trans</i> -stilbene	$(1.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^6$	3.4	
<i>cis</i> -stilbene	$(2.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^6$	90	6.1×10^5
<i>cis</i> -cyclooctene	$(1.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^6$	62	
cyclohexene	$(2.2 \pm 0.3) \times 10^6$	68	

^a Second-order rate constants in units of $\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ for reactions in CH_3CN at $20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$; errors in the rate constants for **5** are at 2σ .^b **6** = $(\text{TMP}^{++})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}(\text{O})(\text{ClO}_4)$; kinetics from ref. 20.^c **7** = 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrin-manganese(V)-oxo cation; kinetics from ref. 29b.