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Structural and Spectroscopic Characterization of Metastable Thiolate-Ligated Manganese(III)-Alkylperoxo Species

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Abstract

Metastable Mn-peroxo species are proposed to form as key intermediates in biological oxidation reactions involving O₂ and C–H bond activation. The majority of these have yet to be spectroscopically characterized, and their inherent instability, in most cases, precludes structural characterization. Cysteinate-ligated metal-peroxos have been shown to form as reactive intermediates in both heme and non-heme iron enzymes. Herein we report the only examples of isolable Mn(III)-alkylperoxo species, and the first two examples of structurally characterized synthetic thiolate-ligated metal-peroxos. Spectroscopic data, including electronic absorption and IR spectra, and ESI mass spectra for ¹⁶O vs ¹⁸O-labelled metastable Mn(III)-OOR (R= ^tBu, Cm) are discussed, as well as preliminary reactivity.

Metastable metal-peroxo species form as key intermediates in biological and biomimetic oxidation reactions involving O₂ and the activation of C–H bonds.^{1–14} Manganese-peroxos have been shown to play a significant role in reactions catalyzed by the manganese superoxide dismutase (MnSOD),^{15–19} and catalase.²⁰ A manganese-peroxo dimer is proposed to form in class Ib ribonucleotide reductase (Ib RNR),²¹ as well as in the step preceding O₂ evolution by photosystem II (PS II).^{22–25} A manganese-alkylperoxo is proposed to form as a key intermediate in manganese lipooxygenase (MnLO)-promoted fatty-acid oxidation.^{26–29} The majority of these biological Mn-intermediates have thus far gone unobserved, and therefore have yet to be spectroscopically characterized. Much of our current understanding of the properties of these elusive species has come through spectroscopic and/or computational studies involving small molecule analogues.^{14,30–35} The inherent instability of these intermediates usually precludes structural characterization. Research efforts in our laboratory have specifically focused upon the isolation and characterization of thiolate-ligated metal-peroxo species.^{36–39} Cysteinate-ligated metal-peroxos have been shown to form as reactive intermediates in the activation of O₂, or derivatives thereof, in both heme (cytochrome P450, chloroperoxidase) and non-heme (superoxide reductase, cysteine dioxygenase) iron enzymes.^{6,37,40–42} Herein we report the first two examples of structurally characterized synthetic thiolate-ligated metal-peroxo species, and the only examples of isolable Mn(III)-alkylperoxo species. Spectroscopic data, including electronic absorption and IR spectra, and ESI mass spectra for ¹⁶O vs ¹⁸O-labelled Mn(III)-OOR (R= ^tBu, Cm) are discussed, as well as preliminary reactivity.

Single crystals of our highly reactive and O₂-sensitive Mn(II) complex, [Mn^{II}(S^{Me}₂N₄(QuinoEN))](PF₆) (**1**), were obtained *via* ambient temperature vapor diffusion of Et₂O into a saturated MeCN solution. As shown in the ORTEP diagram of Figure 1, the

Supporting Information Available. Contains experimental details regarding the synthesis of the QuinoEN ligand, **1**, **2a**, and **2b**, as well as an X-band EPR spectrum, electronic absorption spectrum, and a 1/χ vs. T plot for **1**. An ESI-MS of ¹⁶O versus ¹⁸O-labelled **2a**, space-filling diagrams of **2a** and **2b**, as well as decay kinetics for **2a** and **2b** in the absence, and presence of base, respectively. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

Mn(II) ion of **1** is found in a tetragonally distorted trigonal bipyramidal geometry ($\tau = 0.55$)⁴³ with an alkyl thiolate sulfur *cis* to an open coordination site. Metrical parameters, a multi-line X-band EPR spectrum ($A = 91$ G; Figure S-1), and magnetic susceptibility data ($\mu_{\text{eff}} = 5.78$ B.M. (solid state; Figure S-2), $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 5.83$ B.M. (CH_2Cl_2 solution)) are consistent with a high-spin ($S=5/2$) ground state. The electronic absorption spectrum of **1** (Figure S-3) is featureless throughout the visible region in a variety of solvents (DCM, MeCN, THF, MeOH), also consistent with high-spin Mn(II)

Thiolate-ligated **1** ($E_{\text{pa}} = +592$ mV, $E_{\text{pc}} = +312$ mV vs SCE; Figure S-4) reacts immediately with ROOH ($R = ^t\text{Bu}$, cumyl) in the presence of 2.0 equivalents of triethylamine at -15 °C in CH_2Cl_2 to afford bright blue metastable species, **2a** and **2b**, characterized by absorption bands at $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 590$ nm ($460 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$; Figure 2) and 596 nm ($679 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$), respectively. Between 1.5–1.8 equivalents of ROOH per equivalent of **1** were found necessary to maximize the growth of these absorption bands (Figure 2), and this was shown to be coincident with the complete disappearance of the X-band EPR signal of **1**. Although the formation of these metastable species does not appear to be influenced by the presence of base (Figure 3, and Figures S-5 – S-7), their lifetimes (at -15 °C) are increased by nearly an order of magnitude when base is present ($\tau_{1/2}(\text{2a, with base}) = 5.9(1.7) \times 10^3$ sec,⁴⁴ $\tau_{1/2}(\text{2a, without base}) = 7.2(2.4) \times 10^2$ sec (Figure 3, Figure S-5). These rates were unaffected by the addition of high excess amounts (100 equivalents) of substrates known to react with metal-based oxidants,⁴⁵ suggesting that **2a** is incapable of directly oxidizing substrates. Similarly, Nam and coworkers have found $[(\text{tpa})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})]^{2+}$ to be unreactive with oxidizable substrates.⁴⁶ The decay of **2a** and **2b** was also found to be insensitive to O_2 , consistent with the complete oxidation of **1**. Upon either warming or prolonged standing in solution over the course of a few hours at -15 °C (Figures 3, and S-5 – S-7), **2a** and **2b** each convert to unstable EPR-silent products.

The vibrational spectrum (FT-IR) of solid samples of **2a**, obtained *via* precipitation from MeCN with cold Et_2O (xs) at -40 °C, displays an isotopically-sensitive feature at 888 cm^{-1} , which shifts to 831 cm^{-1} upon ^{18}O -substitution⁴⁷ using $^t\text{Bu}^{18}\text{O}^{18}\text{OH}$ (Figure 4). This vibrational frequency is within the expected energy range ($750 - 900 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) for a peroxo $\nu(\text{O}-\text{O})$ stretch,^{3,7,32,33,48,49} and the observed isotopic shift ($\Delta\nu(\text{exp}) = 57 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) is very close to that predicted based upon a harmonic oscillator approximation ($\Delta\nu(\text{calc}) = 51 \text{ cm}^{-1}$). ESI-MS data (Figure S-8) is also consistent with a Mn(III)-alkylperoxo species with a mass-to-charge ratio of 585.2 ($m/z(\text{calc}) = 585.1$) that shifts by approximately 4 mass units to $m/z = 589.1$ upon ^{18}O -incorporation.

Unambiguous identification of the putative metastable Mn(III)-alkylperoxo species was provided by structural determination *via* X-ray crystallography. Exchange of the counterion of **1** from PF_6^- to BPh_4^- permitted us to obtain single crystals of $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{S}^{\text{Me}_2}\text{N}_4(\text{QuinoEN}))(\text{O}^t\text{Bu})(\text{BPh}_4)]$ (**2a**) suitable for X-ray diffraction studies in ~60 % yield from MeCN/ Et_2O (1:5) at -30 °C. We also obtained X-ray quality crystals of **2b** under similar conditions, however the resulting structure was solved at lower resolution ($R = 16\%$). Although the metrical parameters are less reliable, the structure of $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{S}^{\text{Me}_2}\text{N}_4(\text{QuinoEN}))(\text{OOCm})(\text{BPh}_4)]$ (**2b**) does indeed confirm the proposed structure of, and connectivity for, a Mn(III)-alkylperoxo species. The ORTEP diagrams of **2a** and **2b** are provided along with selected metrical parameters in Figures 5 and 6, respectively. Contraction of the Mn-S distance from $2.3835(9) \text{ \AA}$ in **1** to $2.270(3) \text{ \AA}$ in **2a** clearly reflects an increase in metal oxidation state from +2 to +3. The solution (CH_2Cl_2) magnetic moments, ($\mu_{\text{eff}}(\text{2a}) = 4.85(4)$ B.M., $\mu_{\text{eff}}(\text{2b}) = 4.81(9)$ B.M.), are also consistent with oxidized Mn(III) in a high ($S=2$) spin-state. Elongation of the Mn-N(1), Mn-N(3), and Mn-N(4) distances in **2a** are most likely a consequence of both the increase in coordination number, and Jahn-Teller distortion which would be anticipated for a high-spin Mn(III) ion. In fact, elongation of the Mn-N(4) distance

(from 2.200(3) Å in **1** to 2.522(8) Å) in **2a** is so significant that, at least in the solid-state, **2a** is best described as a *five-coordinate* complex with a *dangling quinoline* moiety. The flexibility of the ligand framework in **1** appears to permit the formation of species with more steric congestion around the metal center as is seen in structures **2a** and **2b** (Figure S-9).

The Mn-O and O-O bond lengths of **2a**, 1.861(5) and 1.457(7) Å, respectively, are within the expected range for a metal- η^1 -alkylperoxo.^{50–53} The Mn-O-O angle (109.2(4)°) in **2a** is remarkably acute relative to most metal-alkylperoxo species,^{51–53} and similar to that (105.1(2)°) of the only other structurally characterized Mn-alkylperoxo, $\text{Tp}^{\text{tBu,iPr}}\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe}_2\text{Ph})$.⁵³ This suggests that there is little to no π -bonding interaction between the S=2 Mn(III) center of **2a** and the proximal peroxide oxygen. One would expect that a lack of multiple bonding interaction between the metal and peroxo oxygen would result in a weaker M-O bond relative to systems in which π -bonding is involved, and that this might favor M-O, as opposed to O-O, bond cleavage. GC/MS analysis of the products formed upon warming **2b** to ambient temperature consistently revealed the exclusive production of acetophenone (in 72% yield), as opposed to cumenol. This would suggest that the decay pathway for **2b**, and possibly for **2a** as well, involves O-O bond homolysis.⁵⁴ Given the high spin-state of **2b** (and **2a**), this observation contrasts with previous observations regarding the effect of spin-state upon the relative strengths of ferric peroxo M-O and O-O bonds, where high-spin states were seen to favor M-O, as opposed to O-O bond cleavage.^{55,56} Similarly, Goldberg and coworkers have reported^{57,58} low-spin ($S = 1/2$) Fe(III)-OOR (R = tBu, Cm) complexes which have low $\nu_{\text{Fe-O}}$ frequencies and force constants (k) that correlate with the donor ability of the *trans* thiolate ligand, suggesting that they would preferentially undergo Fe-O bond cleavage despite theoretical predictions.

In conclusion, we have described the first two examples of structurally characterized thiolate-ligated metal-peroxo species, and the only examples of isolable Mn(III)-alkylperoxo species. Manganese(III)-peroxos are proposed to be key reactive intermediates in a number of manganese-containing metalloenzyme promoted reactions. In order to gain insight regarding the mechanism by which **2a** and **2b** decay, both in the presence and absence of substrate, we are currently examining the temperature-dependent kinetics of these reactions. Ideally, these studies will provide insight into the factors that influence O-O versus M-O bond cleavage in small molecule transition-metal peroxos.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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Figure 1. ORTEP and chemdraw diagram of $[Mn^{II}(S^{Me_2}N(QuinoEN))]^+$ (**1**) with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected metrical parameters (Å): Mn-S(1), 2.3835(9); Mn-N(1), 2.170(2); Mn-N(2), 2.274(2); Mn-N(3), 2.225(3); Mn-N(4), 2.200(3).

Figure 2.

The anaerobic reaction between $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}(\text{S}^{\text{Me}_2}\text{N}_4(\text{QuinoEN}))](\text{PF}_6)$ (**1**, 2.4 mM) and 1.8 equiv of *t*BuOOH (0.1 M stock solution; added in 0.3 eq aliquots) monitored by electronic absorption spectroscopy in CH_2Cl_2 at $-15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Figure 3.

First order kinetics for the decay of $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{SMe}_2\text{N}_4(\text{QuinoEN}))(\text{OO}^t\text{Bu})]^+$ (**2a**) in the presence of base (Et_3N) monitored by electronic absorption spectroscopy (at $\lambda = 590 \text{ nm}$) in CH_2Cl_2 at -15°C .

Figure 4. FT-IR spectrum (nujol) of [Mn^{III}(S^{Me}₂N₄(QuinoEN))(OOtBu)](BPh₄) (**2a**) showing the isotopically-sensitive (¹⁶O-¹⁶O^tBu vs ¹⁸O-¹⁸O^tBu) alkylperoxo stretches.

Figure 5. ORTEP of $[\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{S}^{\text{Me}_2}\text{N}_4(\text{QuinoEN}))(\text{OOtBu})^+]$ (**2a**) with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected metrical parameters ($\text{\AA}$): Mn-S(1), 2.270(3); Mn-O(1), 1.861(5); O(1)-O(2), 1.457(7); Mn-N(1), 2.034(7); Mn-N(2), 2.173(7); Mn-N(3), 2.349(7); Mn $\cdots$ N(4), 2.522(8).

Figure 6. ORTEP of [Mn^{III}(S^{Me}₂N₄(QuinoEN))(OOCm)]⁺ (**2b**) with hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected metrical parameters (Å): Mn-S(1), 2.276(5); Mn-O(1), 1.84(1); O(1)-O(2), 1.51(2); Mn-N(1), 2.01(1); Mn-N(2), 2.17(1); Mn...N(3), 2.48(1); Mn-N(4), 2.45(1).