A Co^{II} Complex for ¹⁹F MRI Detection of Reactive Oxygen Species

Supporting Information

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Materials and Methods

Materials

Except where stated otherwise, all chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Fisher Scientific and used as received. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories. 1,4,7-Triazacyclononane (TACN) was synthesized through a published procedure.^[1] 5-fluorocytosine was used as a standard for the ¹⁹F NMR experiments.

Instrumentation

All ¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz Agilent NMR spectrometer; all reported resonances were referenced to internal standards. T_1 relaxation time was determined using the inversion-recovery method and T_2 relaxation time was measured using the CMPG pulse sequence. Walk-up LC/MS and high-resolution Electrospray Ionization (ESI) mass spectral analyses were performed by the Mass Spectrometry Facility of the Department of Chemistry at UT Austin. All cyclic voltammetry was performed under N_2 at 294 K using a CHI 660D electrochemical workstation at the UT Austin Center for Electrochemistry, a platinum working electrode, a platinum wire auxiliary electrode, and a Ag/AgCl (1M KCl) reference electrode. Inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) was performed on a Varian 710 Series ICP-OES in EWRE lab in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Solid state infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Alpha spectrometer equipped with a diamond ATR crystal.

Determination of magnetic moment.

The effective magnetic moment was determined based on Evans' method.^[2] A degassed solution of 10 or 15 mM **2** in D₂O, containing 5% tert-butanol by volume was placed in an NMR coaxial tube with 5% tert-butanol (v/v) in D₂O as reference. The effective magnetic moment (μ_{eff}) was calculated at 298 K (T) by using the equations given below. Δf stands for the proton chemical shift of *tert*-butanol in frequency (Hz) between the reference and paramagnetic sample, the spectrometer frequency (f) in Hz, the mass of the substance per mL of the solution (m), and the mass susceptibility of deuterium oxide (χ_0 = -0.6466 x 10⁻⁶ cm³/g). The last term in eq. (2) is neglected. The molar susceptibility (χ_m) is the product of χ_g times the molecular weight of **2**. The experiment was repeated two times and averaged.

$$\begin{split} \chi_{\rm g} &= (-3\Delta f)/(4\pi fm) + \chi_0 + [\chi_0 ~(d_0^{-}d_S^{-})]/m ~\text{eq. (1)} \\ \mu_{\rm eff} &= 2.84~(\chi_m^{-}T)^{1/2}~\text{eq. (2)} \end{split}$$

DFT calculations

The structure of **2** was optimized using density functional theory (DFT) calculations without symmetry constraints.^[3] The Becke's three–parameter hybrid exchange

functional with Lee-Yang-Parr gradient-corrected correlation (B3LYP functional^[4]) was used with Lanl2dz pseudo-potential basis set^[5,6] for Co and 6-31G(d,p) basis set for main group elements, as implemented in the Gaussian 09 package. Solvent correction (water) was considered and simulated using the polarizable continuum model (PCM).^[7]

Kinetic stability of 2

5 mM of **2** was mixed with equivalent amount of Zn^{2+} , Ca^{2+} or Fe^{2+} in 50 mM degassed HEPES buffer (pH = 7.2) containing 0.1 M NaCl and incubated at 37 °C under N₂. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were taken periodically and compared with the control sample without any metal ions to determine the extent of transmetallation. After 24h, no measureable transmetallation was observed by NMR, suggesting that <5% of complex had dissociated over that period.

Air stability of 2

1.0 mM of **2** was dissolved in 50 mM aerated HEPES buffer (pH = 7.2) containing 0.1 M NaCl. The UV/vis absorbance was tracked overnight. ¹⁹F NMR spectra were also taken to monitor the oxidation process. No noticeable change was observed after 20h based on NMR and UV/vis. Approximately 4% Co(II) complex was oxidized after 40h.

Kinetic Study of the H₂O₂ oxidation

The kinetic experiments were performed under pseudo first-order conditions with 0.76 mM of **2** and excess amount of H₂O₂ (7.0-15 mM). The reactions were conducted in 50 mM HEPES buffer (pH 7.4) containing 0.1 M NaCl under room temperature. The Co(III) complex has a distinct absorption feature at 518 nm while the Co(II) complex exhibits very weak absorbance around this region. Therefore the absorbance change at 518 nm was monitored over time. The pseudo first-order rate constants were determined by plotting ln(A/A₀) versus time ('A' represents the real time absorbance at 518 nm and 'A₀' stands for the initial absorbance at 0 min). Plotting of the pseudo first-order constants as a function of [H₂O₂] gives a second-order rate constant of 0.12 M⁻¹s⁻¹. The first-order dependence on **2** was also confirmed by plotting the initial rate of oxidation (proportional to $\Delta A/\Delta t$: absorbance change rate at 518 nm) versus the concentration of Co(II) complex (0.6-1.2 mM).

pH dependence of H_2O_2 reaction

The effect of pH on the reaction rate was studied qualitatively by performing the reaction in HEPES buffer with pH values ranging from 6.8-8.0. The experiment was conducted with 2 mM Co^{II}NODA-CF₃ and 4 mM H₂O₂. The solution was stirred for 30 min and ¹⁹F NMR was performed for individual samples using 5F-cytosine as the internal standard. The integrations of peaks were used to calculate the oxidation percentage.

Reduction of Co(III) complexes by sodium dithionite

To assess the reversibility of O_2 and H_2O_2 oxidation, the Co(III) complexes 3 and 4

were reduced with excess of sodium dithionite in de-aerated HEPES buffer. The solution was kept in a cuvette sealed with a gas tight screw cap. The UV/Vis absorbance was monitored overnight and the pseudo first-order rates were determined. The ¹⁹F NMR spectra were also acquired to confirm the full reduction of Co(III) complexes.

Selectivity towards other ROS

In order to evaluate the reactivity of **2** towards other reactive oxygen species (ROS), the Co(II) complex **2** was reacted with O_2^- , •OH, •O^tBu, ONOO⁻, *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide (TBHP) and CIO⁻. The reactions were analyzed by NMR spectroscopy. O_2^- was generated by adding DMSO solution of KO₂ (catalytic amount of catalase was added to scavenge H₂O₂); •OH and •O^tBu were made using Fenton chemistry by reacting (NH₄)₂Fe(SO₄)₂ or ^tBuOOH with H₂O₂; ONOO⁻ was generated in situ by mixing NaNO₂ with H₂O₂; TBHP was introduced by adding 70% TBHP in water; CIO⁻ was generated through adding aqueous solution of NaCIO.^[8,9] Solutions were analyzed 30 minutes after reagents were combined. The experiments were done in 50 mM HEPES buffer (pH 7.4) with 2 mM **2** and 2 eq. of CIO⁻, TBHP, KO₂, ONOO⁻, •OH and •O^tBu.

Cyclic voltammetry

Electrochemistry experiments were carried out on a CHI 660D electrochemical workstation. A three-electrode cell was used, including a platinum electrode as working electrode, an Ag/AgCl (1 M KCl) aqueous electrode as reference electrode and a platinum wire as auxiliary electrode. The solutions were degassed with N₂ before measurements.

¹⁹F MRI Experiments

The magnetic resonance imaging experiments were performed on a Bruker BioSpin (Karlsruhe, Germany) Pharmascan 70/16 magnet with a BioSpec two-channel console and BGA-9s gradient coil. The RF coil was a quadrature single resonance tunable T/R coil (Doty Scientific, Inc., Columbia, South Carolina, USA) with a resonant frequency of 282.2 MHz to correspond to ¹⁹F at 7.0 T. Each element of the RF coil was tuned and matched with the samples loaded using a Morris frequency sweeper (Morris Instruments, Inc. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada) while the complementary element was terminated with the receive chain of the instrument. All prescan adjustments and imaging was performed using product sequences and methods in ParaVision 6.0.1 (Bruker, vide supra). Solutions were imaged while contained in standard 200 μ L Eppendorf tubes mounted in a 3×3 grid by a custom holder produced on a Form 2 3D printer (FormLabs, Inc., Somerville, Massachusetts, USA). Images were spin-density weighted using a Rapid Acquisition with Relaxation Enhancement (RARE, aka Fast Spin-Echo or FSE) sequence with a TR/effTE/ES/ETL of 700ms/3.68ms/3.68ms/4 at 50 kHz receive bandwidth and tailored RF pulses. The geometry of the imaging was

defined by a single slice 25mm thick in a horizontal plane, a field-of-view of $35 \times 35 \text{ mm}^2$, and covered by a 64×64 acquisition matrix. Images were acquired in 50 min. Using these parameters, any signal between -70 and -80 ppm will be observed, with sharper peaks appearing brighter.

Synthetic Methods



Scheme S1. Synthesis of Co^{II}NODA-CF₃ (**2**). Conditions: (a) *tert*-butyl bromoacetate, CHCl₃(anhy.), r.t., 24 h (32%); (b) 2-chloro-*N*-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)acetamide, KI, K₂CO₃, MeCN(anhy.), 65 °C, 16 h (90%); (c) TFA/TIS/H₂O (95/2.5/2.5, v/v/v), 0 °C-r.t., 16 h (75%); (d) CoCl₂•6H₂O, pH~6-7, 3 h (70%)

2-chloro-N-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)acetamide

NaOH (0.608 g, 15.2 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL deionized water. 2,2,2trifluoroethylamine hydrochloride (1.0 g, 7.38 mmol) in 6 mL water was added followed by 8.5 mL *t*-BuOMe, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0-5 °C. Chloroacetyl chloride (0.878 g, 7.77 mmol) in 1.5 mL *t*-BuOMe was slowly added to the solution and stirred for 1 h while maintaining the temperature at 5-10 °C. The solution was warmed up to r.t. and extracted with *t*-BuOMe. The organic fractions were combined and dried over Na₂SO₄. Evaporation of solvent yielded 850 mg of white crystalline powder, which was used without further purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 6.89 (bs, -NH, 1H), 4.13 (s, 2H), 3.97 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 166.54, 125.26, 122.49, 42.51, 41.31, 40.96. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ -72.45 (t, *J* = 8.9 Hz).

1,4-Bis(tert-butoxycarbonylmethyl)-1,4,7-triazacyclononane

1,4,7-Triazacyclononane (TACN) (1.08 g, 8.36 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL dry CHCl₃ and cooled on an ice bath. *tert*-Butyl bromoacetate (3.58 g, 18.4 mmol) in 40 mL dry CHCl₃ was added over two hours using an addition funnel. The mixture was stirred under r.t. for a further 24 h and the solvent was removed to produce a yellow oil. The crude product was purified using C18 reverse phase chromatography to yield 1.1 g of product as a hydroscopic powder in 32% yield (eluant A: MeCN (contain 0.1% formic acid), eluant B: H₂O (contain 0.1% formic acid); the column was equilibrated at 100% B for 2 min, then ramped to 30% A over 8 min, the product was obtained at 30% A). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 3.34 (s, 4H), 3.11 (t, 4H), 3.00 (t, 4H), 2.74 (s, 4H), 1.43 (s, 18H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 170.88, 82.03, 56.66, 51.41, 48.63,44.09, 28,30. LRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for MH⁺ (C₁₈H₃₆N₃O₄) 358.3, found 358.3.

4,7-Bis(tert-butoxycarbonylmethyl)-1,4,7-triazacyclononane-1-*N*-(2,2,2-trifluoroethy-l)acetamide (5)

1,4-Bis(tert-butoxycarbonylmethyl)-1,4,7-triazacyclononane (486 mg, 1.36 mmol), 2-chloro-*N*-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)acetamide (243 mg, 1.38 mmol), KI (450 mg, 2.72 mmol), and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (563 mg, 4.08 mmol) were mixed in 25 mL anhydrous MeCN and stirred at 65 °C under N₂ for 16 h. The solution was cooled to r.t., filtered, and the solvent was removed to yield a viscous yellow oil. The crude product was purified by C18 reverse phase to yield 600 mg product as a pale yellow powder in 90% yield (eluant A: MeCN (contain 0.1% formic acid), eluant B: H₂O (contain 0.1% formic acid); the column was equilibrated at 100% B for 2 min, then ramped to 30% A over 10 min, the product was obtained at 30% A). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 3.91 (m, 2H), 3.48 (t, 2H), 3.33 (s, 4H), 2.90 (m, 8H), 2.77 (m, 4H), 1.44 (s, 18H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ 170.86, 81.62, 60.52, 58.68, 56.05, 55.13, 53.74, 40.83, 40.49, 28.32. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ -71.99 (t, *J* = 9.4 Hz). LRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for MH⁺ (C₂₂H₄₀F₃N₄O₅) 497.3, found 497.3.

4,7-Bis(carboxymethyl)-1,4,7-triazacyclononane-1-*N*-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)acetamide (1)

Compound **5** (600 mg, 1.21 mmol) was dissolved in trifluoroacetic acid (10 mL), triisopropylsilane (260 μ L) and deionized water (260 μ L) at 0 °C. The solution was warmed to r.t. and stirred for 16 h. The solvent was removed and coevaporated with dichloromethane multiple times. The residual TFA was further removed by reverse phase chromatography to afford 397 mg product as a white hydroscopic powder (75% yield). (eluant A: MeCN (contain 0.1% formic acid), eluant B: H₂O (contain 0.1% formic acid); the column was equilibrated at 100% B for 5 min, then ramped to 25% A over 10 min, the product was obtained at 25% A). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 3.95 (m, 2H), 3.77 (s, 4H), 3.59 (s, 2H), 3.28 (s, 4H), 3.16 (m, 4H), 2.90 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ 174.30, 172.69, 59.03, 56.72, 50.82, 49.11, 48.34, 40.37, 40.02.

¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ -71.86 (dt, *J* = 4.0, 9.4 Hz). HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for MH⁺ (C₁₄H₂₄F₃N₄O₅) 385.1693, found 385.1695.

Co^{II}NODA-CF₃ (2)

Compound **1** (100 mg, 0.263 mmol) was dissolved in 1 mL de-aerated milli-Q water and the pH was adjusted to approximately 7 with 1 M NaOH solution. Then $CoCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (64 mg, 0.269 mmol) in 1 mL de-aerated water was slowly added and the pH was adjusted back to 7. The solution was stirred under N₂ for 3 h and lyophilized. The crude was purified by reverse phase chromatography (70% yield). (eluant A: MeCN (contain 5% ammonium acetate solution), eluant B: 50 mM ammonium acetate solution (pH 6.5, solution was purged with N₂ before using); the column was equilibrated at 100% A for 5 min and then eluted with 100% B for 5 min before loading the sample, the product was obtained at 4 min using B as eluant. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, D₂O, 25 °C): δ -75.6 (s, br). HRMS (ESI⁺): Calcd for MH⁺ (C₁₄H₂₂CoF₃N₄O₅) 442.0869, found 442.0883.





(d)

Figure S1. (a) LC/MS UV trace overlay of **2** (blue) and blank (red) (254 nm, Gemini C18 3.5 micron 2.1 x 50 mm, 0.7 mL/min, 5-95% MeCN/H₂O (0.1% FA) in 12 min); (b) LC/MS mass spectrum trace of **2** (positive mode ESI/APCI); (c) Mass spectrum of

LC/MS trace (positive mode). The peak at 442.1 corresponds to $[M+H]^+$, 883.0 corresponds to $[2M+H]^+$; (d) Mass spectrum of 2 mM **2** after reacting with 2 eq. H₂O₂ for 30 min. The peak at 441.0 corresponds to oxidized product **3** and the peaks at 458.0, 479.9 correspond to $[M+OH]^+$ and $[M+Na+O]^+$.



Potential / V

Figure S2. Cyclic voltammogram of 1.0 mM **2** in 0.1 M Na₂HPO₄/NaH₂PO₄ buffer, pH 7.2. Scan rate: 50 mV/s. Potentials are referenced vs. NHE.



Figure S3. IR spectra of solid NODA-CF₃ 1, Co^{II}NODA-CF₃ 2.



Figure S4. Optimized structure of $Co^{II}NODA-CF_3$ (2) obtained with DFT calculations. The hydrogen atoms were removed for clarity.



Figure S5. UV/vis spectra of 1.0 mM **2** in 50 mM HEPES buffer (pH 7.2) during 20 h (inset: absorbance change at 500 nm over time).



Figure S6. ¹⁹F NMR spectra of 2 mM Co(II) complexes **2** after incubating in aerated buffer overnight ($[O_2] \sim 0.5$ mM) and after reacting with 0.5 mM H₂O₂ for 30 min. The peak at 75.6 ppm corresponds **2**; the peak at 72.2 ppm corresponds to **3**.



Figure S7. (A) Plot of $ln(A/A_0)$ versus time. Slope of the linear curve fit gives pseudo first-order rate constant k_{obs} . (B) Plot of initial absorbance change rate at 518 nm versus [2]. The linear relationship indicates the first-order dependence on **2**.



Figure S8. Percentage of **2** oxidation by H_2O_2 in buffers of different pH determined by ¹⁹F NMR using 5F-cytosine as the internal standard. The integrations of peaks were used to calculate the oxidation percentage. The experiments were performed in 50 mM HEPES buffer containing 0.1 M NaCl under room temperature. 2 mM **2** and 4 mM H_2O_2 were used and reacted for 30 min.



Figure S9. ¹⁹F NMR spectra of 2 mM Co(II) complexes **2** after reacting with 3 equiv. H_2O_2 for 30 min, 2 h and 4 equiv. H_2O_2 for 30 min. The peak at 75.6 ppm corresponds to residual **2**; the peak at 72.2 ppm corresponds **3**; the peaks at -71.3 and -74.1 ppm correspond to side oxidation products with ligand being oxidized as indicated in Figure S1(d).



Figure S10. Reduction of 0.38 mM **3** by 10 mM $Na_2S_2O_4$ in degassed HEPES buffer (pH 7.2); **3** was generated *in situ* by reacting **2** with three equivalents of H_2O_2 for an hour Inset: determination of pseudo first-order rate constant by plotting $ln(A_0/A)$ versus time.



Figure S11. ¹⁹F NMR spectra of Co(III) complexes **3** and after reduction with excess $Na_2S_2O_4$. The peak at 75.6 ppm corresponds to **2**; the peak at 72.0 ppm corresponds to **3**; the peaks at -71.2, and -74.1 ppm correspond to side oxidation products with ligand being oxidized as indicated in Figure S1(d).



Figure S12. ¹⁹F NMR spectra of 2 mM **2** after reacting with 4 mM H_2O_2 for 30 min, after reduction with 2 mM $Na_2S_2O_4$ overnight and after reacting with 6 mM H_2O_2 for 1 h. The peak at 75.6 ppm corresponds to **2**; the peak at 72.2 ppm corresponds to **3**; the peaks at -71.3, and -74.1 ppm correspond to side oxidation products with ligand being oxidized as indicated in Figure S1(d); the peak at -71.9 ppm could be assigned to free ligand.



Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum of NODA-CF₃ (1) in D_2O .



Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum of NODA-CF₃ (1) in D_2O .



Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of 5 in CDCl₃.



Figure S16. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 5 in CDCl₃.



Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectrum of 10 mM **2** in D_2O . Arrow in inset indicates a broad peak at ~7.5 ppm.



Figure S18. ¹H NMR spectrum of 10 mM **3** in D_2O .

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