

## *Electronic Supplementary Information*

### **The effect of the trans axial ligand of cobalt corroles on water oxidation activity in neutral aqueous solutions**

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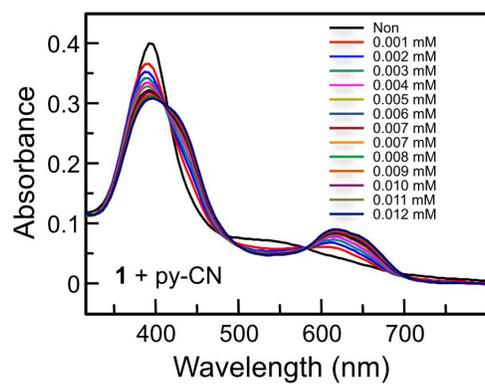
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710119, China.

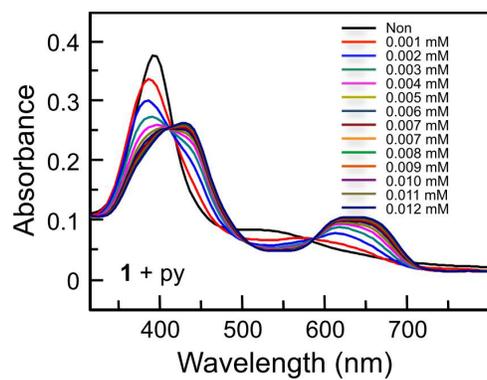
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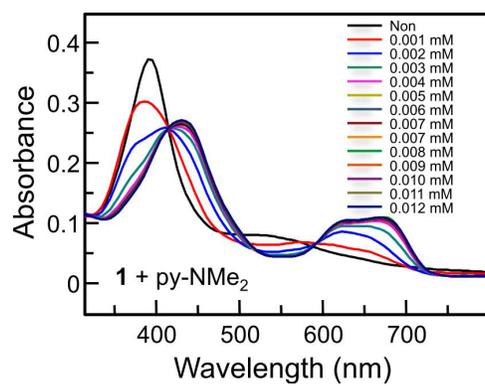
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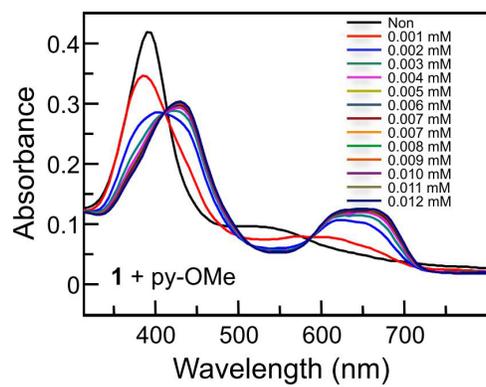
**Figure S1.** UV-vis spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **1** in dichloromethane with addition of various amounts of 4-cyanopyridine at room temperature.



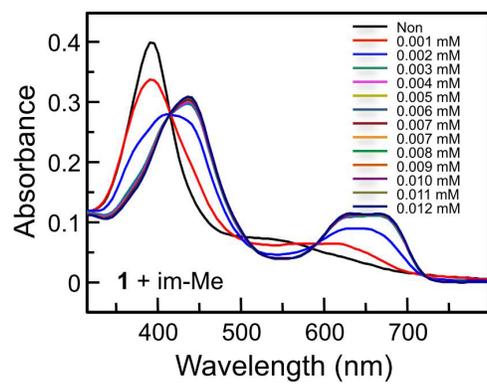
**Figure S2.** UV-vis spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **1** in dichloromethane with addition of various amounts of pyridine at room temperature.



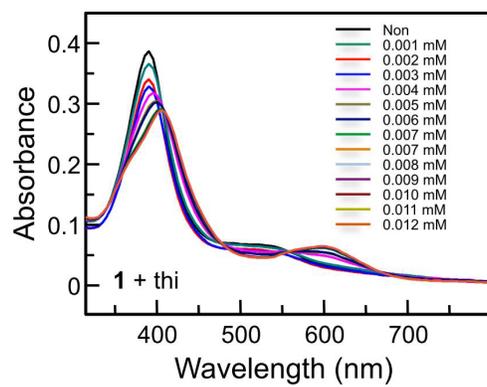
**Figure S3.** UV-vis spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **1** in dichloromethane with addition of various amounts of 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine at room temperature.



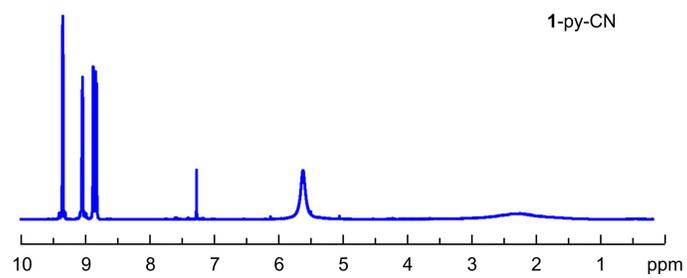
**Figure S4.** UV-vis spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **1** in dichloromethane with addition of various amounts of 4-methoxypyridine at room temperature.



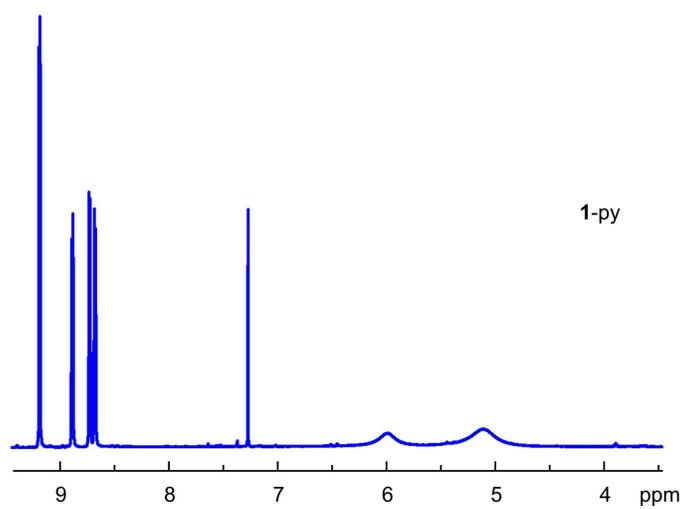
**Figure S5.** UV-vis spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **1** in dichloromethane with addition of various amounts of *N*-methylimidazole at room temperature.



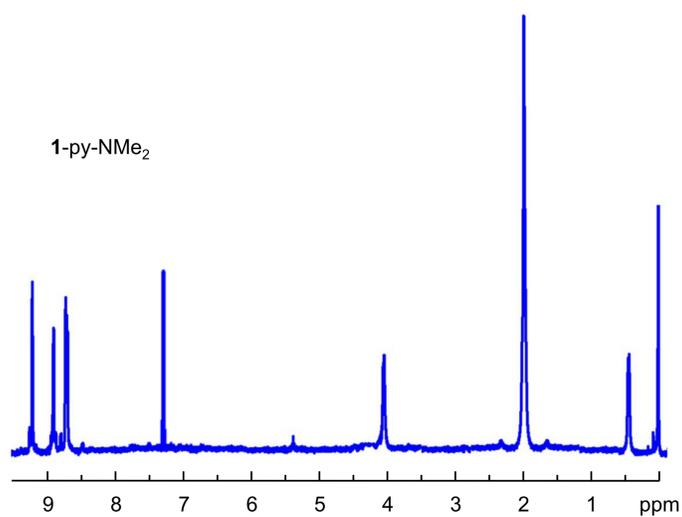
**Figure S6.** UV-vis spectra of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  **1** in dichloromethane with addition of various amounts of sodium thiophenolate dissolved in methanol at room temperature.



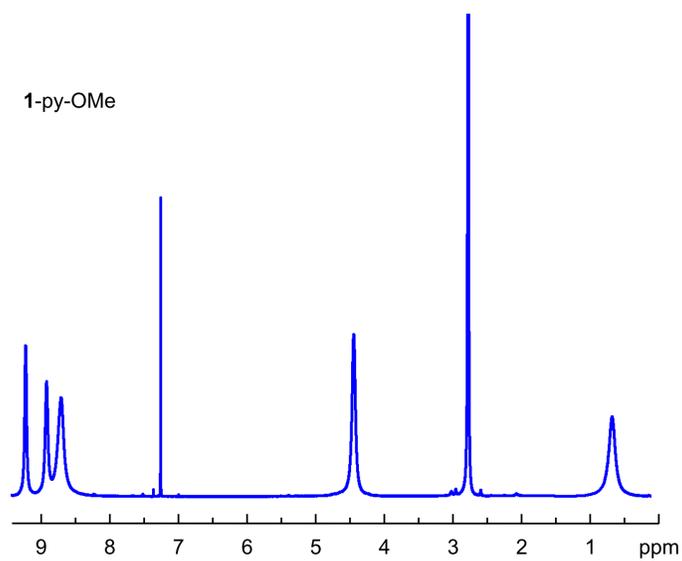
**Figure S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1-py-CN** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



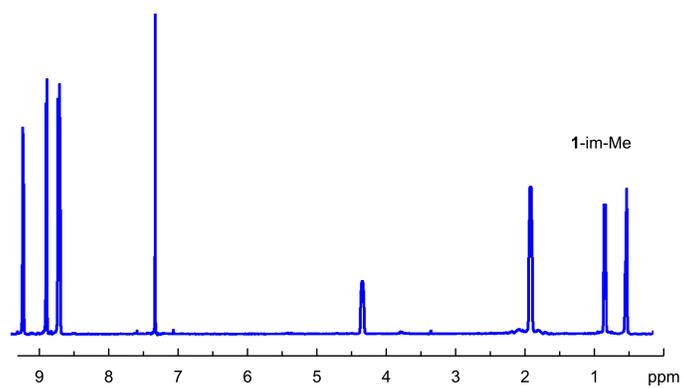
**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1-py** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



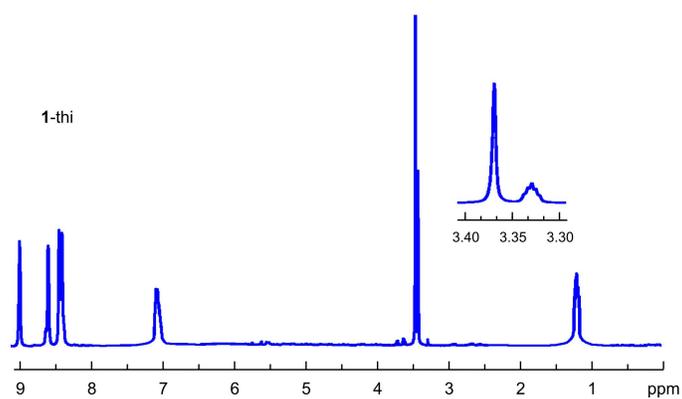
**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1-py-NMe<sub>2</sub>** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



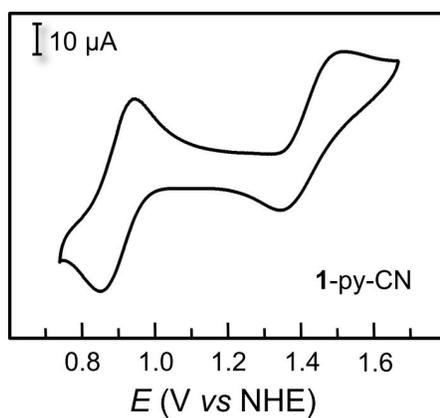
**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 1-py-OMe in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



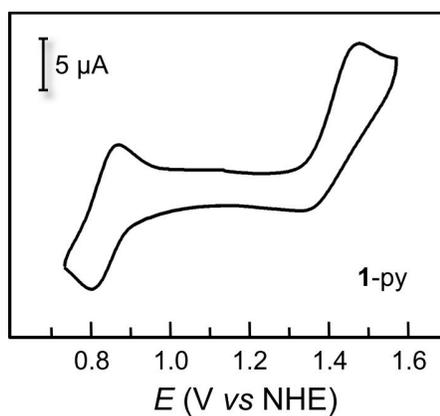
**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 1-im-Me in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



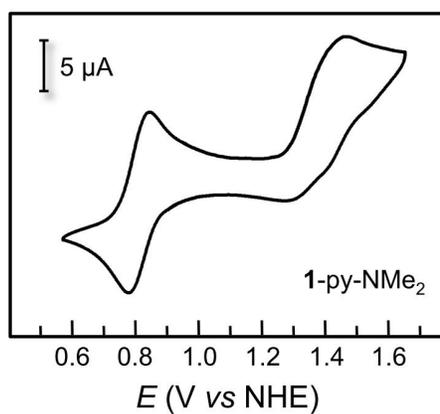
**Figure S12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1-thi** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ .



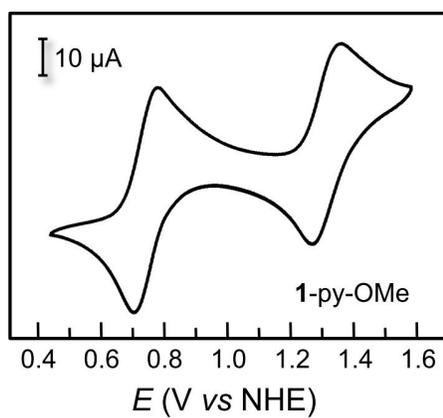
**Figure S13.** CV of 1-py-CN (1.0 mM) in acetonitrile (0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>). Conditions: GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode, Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode (calibrated using Fc<sup>+</sup>/Fc), 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate.



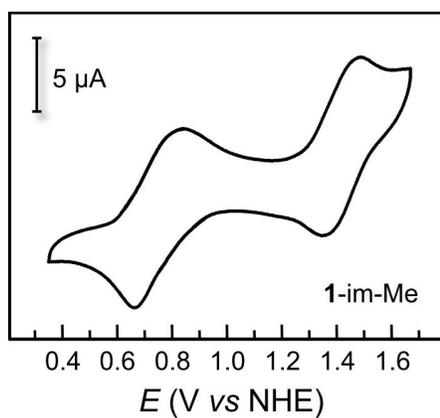
**Figure S14.** CV of 1-py (1.0 mM) in acetonitrile (0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>). Conditions: GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode, Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode (calibrated using Fc<sup>+</sup>/Fc), 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate.



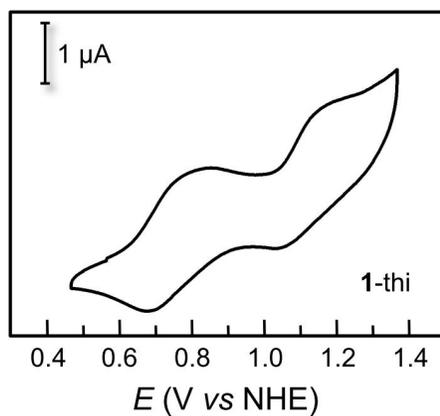
**Figure S15.** CV of 1-py-NMe<sub>2</sub> (1.0 mM) in acetonitrile (0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>). Conditions: GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode, Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode (calibrated using Fc<sup>+</sup>/Fc), 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate.



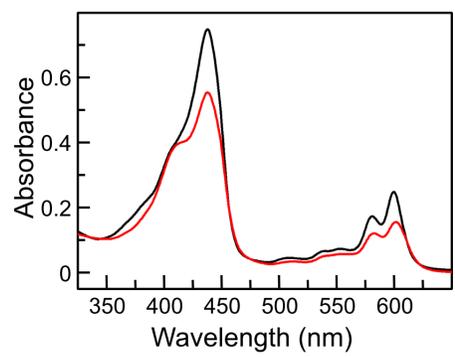
**Figure S16.** CV of 1-py-OMe (1.0 mM) in acetonitrile (0.1 M  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ ). Conditions: GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode,  $\text{Ag}/\text{Ag}^+$  reference electrode (calibrated using  $\text{Fc}^+/\text{Fc}$ ),  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  scan rate.



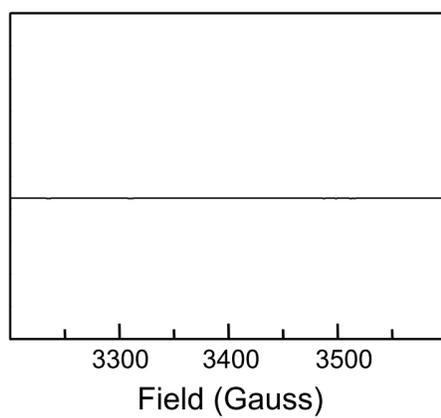
**Figure S17.** CV of 1-im-Me (1.0 mM) in acetonitrile (0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>). Conditions: GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode, Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode (calibrated using Fc<sup>+</sup>/Fc), 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate.



**Figure S18.** CV of **1-thi** (1.0 mM) in acetonitrile (0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>). Conditions: GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode, Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode (calibrated using Fc<sup>+</sup>/Fc), 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate.



**Figure S19.** UV-vis spectra of 1-py-OMe in acetonitrile before (black) and after (red) 20-h CPE at 1.0 V. Conditions: 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>, GC working electrode, Pt auxiliary electrode, Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode, 20 °C.



**Figure S20.** X-band EPR spectrum of **1-py-OMe** in acetonitrile at 90 K.

**Table S1.** Crystal data and structure refinement parameters for the X-ray structure of **1-py-OMe**.

Complex	<b>1-py-OMe</b>
molecular formula	C <sub>49</sub> H <sub>22</sub> CoF <sub>15</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
formula wt. (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	1070.66
temperature (K)	300(2)
radiation (λ, Å)	0.71073
crystal system	Monoclinic
space group	C2/c
<i>a</i> (Å)	30.225(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	16.6117(11)
<i>c</i> (Å)	31.830(2)
β (°)	116.663(4)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	14282.3(19)
<i>Z</i>	12
ρ <sub>calcd</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.494
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.466
F(000)	6432
crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.20 × 0.20 × 0.20
Theta range	2.40 to 24.71°
reflections collected	202842
independent reflections	12113 [R(int) = 0.2010]
Completeness	99.4%
goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.089
final R indices	R1 <sup>a</sup> = 0.0994
[R > 2σ (I)]	wR2 <sup>b</sup> = 0.2571
R indices (all data)	R1 <sup>a</sup> = 0.1465
	wR2 <sup>b</sup> = 0.2980
largest diff. peak and hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	1.738 and -0.485

$${}^a R_1 = \Sigma ||F_o| - |F_c|| / |F_o|, {}^b wR_2 = \{\Sigma[w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \Sigma[w(F_o^2)^2]\}^{0.5}$$