## Supporting Information for

Catechol oxidase activity of comparable dimanganese and dicopper complexes

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M,
Minimum:
Mass Calc. Mass mDa DPM i-FIT i-FIT (Norm) Formula
\begin{tabular}{lllllllllllllllllllll}
989.2513 & 989.2470 & 4.3 & 4.3 & 24.5 & 55.4 & 0.0 & C45 & H52 & N10 & 07 & Cl & Mn2
\end{tabular}
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Figure S1. Maldi-ToF mass spectrometry showing formation of complex 1.


Figure S2. Maldi-ToF mass spectrometry showing formation of complex 2.


Figure S3. ESI-MS showing formation of complex 3.


Figure S4. ESI-MS showing formation of complex 4.


Figure S5. ESI-MS showing formation of complex 5.


Figure S6. ESI-MS showing formation of complex 6.


Figure S7. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of complex 5 in $\mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$.


Figure S8. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR of complex 6 in $\mathrm{CD}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$.


Figure S9. ATR-FTIR spectra of manganese complexes 1 (black) and 2 (red).


Figure S10. ATR-FTIR spectra of manganese complexes 3 (black) and 4 (red).


Figure S11. ATR-FTIR spectra of copper complexes 5 (black) and 6 (red).


Figure S12. ATR-FTIR spectrum of HPTB ligand.


Figure S13. ATR-FTIR of N-Et-HPTB ligan.

| Complexes |  | $\mathbf{1}^{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}^{2}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}^{\mathbf{6}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average <br> Bond Lengths <br> $(\mathrm{M}=$ metal $)$ | $\mathrm{M}^{2} \mathrm{~N}_{\text {amine }}(\AA)$ | 2.42 | 2.39 | 2.45 | 2.43 | 2.13 | 2.12 |
|  | $\mathrm{M}_{\mathrm{m}} \mathrm{N}_{\text {benz }}(\AA)$ | 2.13 | 2.13 | 2.18 | 2.13 | 2.08 | 2.08 |

Table S1. Comparison of average bond lengths in complexes 1-6.

## X-Ray Diffraction Methods and Structure Refinements

Complex 2. A specimen of $\mathrm{C}_{56} \mathrm{H}_{63} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{13} \mathrm{O}_{11}$, approximate dimensions $0.050 \mathrm{~mm} \times 0.075$ $\mathrm{mm} \times 0.080 \mathrm{~mm}$, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis using a MiTeGen micromount. Bruker APEX software was used to collect, correct for Lorentz and polarization effects and reduce the data. ${ }^{3}$ One perchlorate molecule was disordered. This disorder was modelled with constraints and restraints (DFIX, EADP) yielding a three-positional model with occupancies of $0.38217,0.39796$ and 0.21986 .

Complex 4. A specimen of $\mathrm{C}_{46} \mathrm{H}_{43} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{11}$, approximate dimensions $0.090 \mathrm{~mm} \times 0.110$ $\mathrm{mm} \times 0.180 \mathrm{~mm}$, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis using a MiTeGen micromount. Bruker APEX software was used to correct for Lorentz and polarization effects. ${ }^{3}$ Three benzimidazoles modelled as disordered as well as two linking carbons C20, C36 and the bridge carbons C22 and C25. These were modelled with 80:20\% occupancy with restraints (DFIX, SADI, FLAT) and constraints (EADP, AFIX 66). Both perchlorates were also modelled in two positions with $58 \%$ and $67 \%$ major occupancy. Constraints (EADP, rigid model) used. The molecule was refined as a racemic twin with a refined twin ratio of $0.49(5)$.

Complex 5. A specimen of $\mathrm{C}_{42} \mathrm{H}_{41.50} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{11.50} \mathrm{O}_{11.50}$, approximate dimensions 0.070 mm x $0.110 \mathrm{~mm} \times 0.340 \mathrm{~mm}$, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis using a MiTeGen micromount. Bruker APEX software was used to correct for Lorentz and polarization effects. ${ }^{3}$ There were 4 partially occupied MeCN molecules in asymmetric unit. N51, 43; N54, 62; N59, 31 ; N62, $14 \%$ occupied. Total $=1.5 \mathrm{MeCN}$ per asymmetric unit. One perchlorate $\mathrm{Cl} 1 / \mathrm{Cl} 3$ is disordered over two positions with occupancies of $54: 46 \%$. Cl3 perchlorate shares space with a half-occupied diethyl ether molecule. Restraints (DFIX, SADI, ISOR, SUMP for MeCN occupancy) and constraints (EADP) were used in the model.

Complex 6. A specimen of $\mathrm{C}_{45} \mathrm{H}_{42.50} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{11.50} \mathrm{O}_{11}$, approximate dimensions 0.140 mm x $0.190 \mathrm{~mm} \times 0.370 \mathrm{~mm}$, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis using a MiTeGen micromount. Bruker APEX software was used to collect, correct for Lorentz and polarization effects and reduce the data. ${ }^{3}$ One perchlorate was modelled in two positions with a refined occupancy of $54: 46 \%$ with one shared oxygen atom O68. Constraints were used to model this disorder (EADP). Restraints were used in the model of the free solvent MeCN groups (SADI, ISOR) one of which is only half occupied.

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for complexes 2, 4-6.

|  | (2) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Name: | $\left[\mathrm{Mn}_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{CPh}\right)(\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{Et}-\mathrm{HPTB})\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Mn}_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{CPh}\right)(\mathrm{HPTB})\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}_{3}\right)(\mathrm{HPTB})\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{CPh}\right)(\mathrm{HPTB})\right]\left(\mathrm{ClO}_{4}\right)_{2}$ |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{56} \mathrm{H}_{63} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{13} \mathrm{O}_{11}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{46} \mathrm{H}_{43} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Mn}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{11}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{42} \mathrm{H}_{45.50} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{11.50} \mathrm{O}_{11.50}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{45} \mathrm{H}_{42.50} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{11.50} \mathrm{O}_{11}$ |
| Formula weight | 1274.97 | 1120.70 | 1093.38 | 1118.38 |
| Temperature (K) | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) | 100(2) |
| Wavelength ( $\AA$ ) | 1.54178 | 0.71073 | 0.71073 | 0.71073 |
| Crystal system | Triclinic | Monoclinic | Triclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space group | Pī | Cc | P1 | Cc |
| a ( $\AA$ ) | 13.0800(4) | 21.3934(11) | 12.8864(8) | 20.4647(8) |
| $\mathrm{b}(\AA)$ | 14.4180(5) | 21.7926(11) | 13.1530(8) | 21.8424(8) |
| $\mathrm{c}(\AA)$ | 17.9989(5) | 11.6260(6) | 16.6060(11) | 11.5893(4) |
| $\alpha{ }^{\circ}$ ) | 73.3874(19) | 90 | 80.111(2) | 90 |
| $\left.\beta{ }^{( }\right)$ | 78.3545(18) | 115.314(3) | 71.250(2) | 111.2580(10) |
| $\gamma\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 66.9439(18) | 90 | 61.8690(10) | 90 |
| Volume ( $\AA^{3}$ ) | 2977.27(17) | 4899.8(4) | 2349.7(3) | 4827.9(3) |
| Z | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Density (calc, $\mathrm{Mg} / \mathrm{m}^{3}$ ) | 1.422 | 1.519 | 1.545 | 1.539 |
| $\rho\left(\mathrm{mm}^{-1}\right)$ | 4.860 | 0.698 | 1.092 | 1.064 |
| F(000) | 1324 | 2300 | 1124 | 2292 |
| Crystal size ( $\mathrm{mm}^{3}$ ) | $0.080 \times 0.075 \times 0.050$ | $0.18 \times 0.11 \times 0.09$ | $0.34 \times 0.11 \times 0.07$ | $0.37 \times 0.19 \times 0.14$ |
| Index ranges | $-15 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 15,-17 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 17,-21 \leq \mathrm{l} \leq 21$ | $-26 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 26,-26 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 26,-14 \leq \mathrm{l} \leq 14$ | $-16 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 16,-16 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 16,-20 \leq \mathrm{l} \leq 20$ | $-25 \leq \mathrm{h} \leq 25,-27 \leq \mathrm{k} \leq 27,-14 \leq \mathrm{l} \leq 14$ |
| Reflections collected | 56368 | 68365 | 55045 | 41111 |
| Independent reflections | 10484 [R(int) $=0.0970$ ] | 9586 [R(int) $=0.0788$ ] | 9654 [R(int) $=0.0227$ ] | 10007 [R(int) $=0.0394$ ] |
| Absorption correction | Numerical | Semi-empirical from equivalents | Semi-empirical from equivalents | Semi-empirical from equivalents |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.9694 and 0.7652 | 0.7455 and 0.6867 | 0.7454 and 0.6674 | 0.7454 and 0.7002 |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 10484 / 31 / 787 | 9586 / 27 / 544 | 9654/35 / 690 | 10007 / 34 / 656 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | 1.038 | 1.120 | 1.042 | 1.059 |
| R indices [I>2 $\sigma(\mathrm{I})$ ] | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0593, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1470$ | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0766, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1598$ | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0658, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1727$ | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0427$, wR2 $=0.1082$ |
| R indices (all data) | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0876, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1665$ | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0977, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1703$ | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0713, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1770$ | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0487, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1123$ |
| Flack Parameter | - | 0.49(5) | - | 0.276(15) |
| Largest diff. peak and hole ( e. $\AA^{-3}$ ) | 0.531 and -0.702 | 0.722 and -0.642 | 2.020 and -2.020 | 0.866 and -0.724 |
| CCDC no. | 1476678 | 1822648 | 1822647 | 1822646 |



Figure S14. Overlapping structure of $\mathrm{Cu}^{\mathrm{II}} 2$ complexes 5 (grey wireframe) and $\mathbf{6}$ (blue wireframe).

## Cyclic Voltammograms of Complexes 1-6

The oxidation potentials for complexes 1-4 and reduction potentials for complexes 5-6 were measured by CV using a glassy carbon working electrode in acetonitrile solution containing 0.1 $\mathrm{M} \mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ as the supporting electrolyte. The counter electrode used was platinum while the reference electrode was $\mathrm{AgNO}_{3}$.


Figure S15. Cyclic voltammogram of complex $\mathbf{1}(1 \mathrm{mM})$ in acetonitrile containing $\mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ $(0.1 \mathrm{M})$ as supporting electrolyte at $100 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{s}$. The initial scan voltammogram of the first cycle was done from negative to positive (initial potential 0.2 V vs SCE ).


Figure S16. Cyclic voltammogram of complex $2(1 \mathrm{mM})$ in acetonitrile containing $\mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ ( 0.1 M ) as supporting electrolyte at $100 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{s}$. The initial scan voltammogram of the first cycle was done from negative to positive (initial potential 0.2 V vs SCE).


Figure S17. Cyclic voltammogram of complex $\mathbf{3}(1 \mathrm{mM})$ in acetonitrile containing $\mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ $(0.1 \mathrm{M})$ as supporting electrolyte at $100 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{s}$. The initial scan voltammogram of the first cycle was done from negative to positive (initial potential 0.2 V vs SCE ).


Figure S18. Cyclic voltammogram of complex $\mathbf{4}(1 \mathrm{mM})$ in acetonitrile containing $\mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ $(0.1 \mathrm{M})$ as supporting electrolyte at $50 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{s}$. The initial scan voltammogram of the first cycle was done from negative to positive (initial potential 0.2 V vs SCE).


Figure S19. Cyclic voltammogram of complex $5(1 \mathrm{mM})$ in acetonitrile containing $\mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ $(0.1 \mathrm{M})$ as supporting electrolyte at $50 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{s}$. The initial scan voltammogram of the first cycle was done from negative to positive (initial potential 0.2 V vs SCE).


Figure S20. Cyclic voltammogram of complex $\mathbf{6}(1 \mathrm{mM})$ in acetonitrile containing $\mathrm{NBu}_{4} \mathrm{PF}_{6}$ $(0.1 \mathrm{M})$ as supporting electrolyte at $50 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{s}$. The initial scan voltammogram of the first cycle was done from negative to positive (initial potential 0.2 V vs SCE ).


Figure S21. Electronic absorption spectral changes showing formation of 3,5-DTBQ (blue trace) after addition of 3,5-DTBC ( 25 equivalents, $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) to complex $\mathbf{1}(0.1 \mathrm{mM}$, black trace) in acetonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S22. Electronic absorption spectral changes showing formation of 3,5-DTBQ (purple trace) after addition of 3,5-DTBC ( 25 equivalents, $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) to complex $\mathbf{3}(0.1 \mathrm{mM}$, black trace) in acetonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S23. Electronic absorption spectral changes showing formation of 3,5-DTBQ (green trace) after addition of 3,5-DTBC ( 25 equivalents, $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) to complex 4 ( 0.1 mM , black trace) in acetonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S24. Electronic absorption spectral changes showing formation of 3,5-DTBQ (blue trace) after addition of 3,5-DTBC ( 25 equivalents, $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) to complex 5 ( 0.1 mM , black trace) in acetonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S25. Electronic absorption spectral changes showing formation of 3,5-DTBQ (red trace) after addition of 3,5-DTBC ( 25 equivalents, $50 \mu \mathrm{l}$ ) to complex $\mathbf{6}(0.1 \mathrm{mM}$, black trace) in acetonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


Figure S26. Dependence of the first order reaction rate of the first (black trace) and second phases (red trace) on 3,5-DTBC concentrations for complexes 5 (left) and 6 (right).


Figure S27. Plot of absorbance at 400 nm versus time for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2}$ complex 1 .


Figure S28. Plot of absorbance at 400 nm versus time for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2}$ complex $\mathbf{2}$.


Figure S29. Plot of absorbance at 400 nm versus time for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2}$ complex 3 .


Figure S30. Plot of absorbance at 400 nm versus time for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2}$ complex 4 .


Figure S31. Expansion of Figure 7, plot of absorbance at $\lambda_{\max }=400 \mathrm{~nm}$ versus time for the reaction between $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2}$ complexes $\mathbf{1}$ (black trace), $\mathbf{2}$ (red trace), $\mathbf{3}$ (blue trace), and $\mathbf{4}$ (pink trace) and 25 equivalents $3,5-$ DTBC in acetonitrile.

| Complex 1 |  | Complex 2 |  | Complex 4 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| [3,5-DTBC] (M) | Rate constant <br> $\left(\mathbf{s}^{-1}\right)$ | $[\mathbf{3 , 5 - D T B C} \mathbf{( M )}$ | Rate constant <br> $\left(\mathbf{s}^{-1}\right)$ | [3,5-DTBC <br> $(\mathbf{M})$ | Rate constant <br> $\left(\mathbf{s}^{-1}\right)$ |
| $2.5^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  | $5^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  | $5^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  |
| $1^{\text {st phase }}$ | $1.9^{*} 10^{-3}$ | First phase | $2.65^{*} 10^{-3}$ | First phase | $6.13^{*} 10^{-3}$ |
| Second phase | $4^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $1.33^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $2.4^{*} 10^{-4}$ |
| Third phase | $3.5^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $5.4^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $4.6^{*} 10^{-4}$ |
| $5^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  | $8^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  | $8^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  |
| First phase | $2.05^{*} 10^{-3}$ | First phase | $2.1^{*} 10^{-3}$ | First phase | $6.27^{*} 10^{-3}$ |
| Second phase | $6.2^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $2.25^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $2.8^{*} 10^{-4}$ |
| Third phase | $3.6^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $5.1^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $4.8^{*} 10^{-4}$ |
| $8^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  | $1.25^{*} 10^{-3}$ |  | $1.25^{*} 10^{-3}$ |  |
| First phase | $2.5^{*} 10^{-3}$ | First phase | $2.2^{*} 10^{-4}$ | First phase | $5.9^{*} 10^{-3}$ |
| Second phase | $7.4^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $2.8^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $3.6^{*} 10^{-4}$ |
| Third phase | $3.9^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $4.8^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $3.11^{*} 10^{-4}$ |
|  |  | $2.25^{*} 10^{-3}$ |  | $2.25^{*} 10^{-3}$ |  |
|  | First phase | $2.6^{*} 10^{-3}$ | First phase | $5.8^{*} 10^{-3}$ |  |
|  | Second phase | $3.35^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Second phase | $4.1^{*} 10^{-4}$ |  |
|  |  | Third phase | $3.6^{*} 10^{-4}$ | Third phase | $2.8^{*} 10^{-4}$ |

Table S3. Approximate (estimated) rate constant values of the three phases of reaction for $\mathrm{Mn}^{\mathrm{II}}{ }_{2}$ complexes 1, 2 and 4.


Figure S32. Plot of first order approximate reaction rates of the second phase of the reaction of complex $2(0.1 \mathrm{mM})$ against 3,5-DTBC concentrations. All measurements were carried out in acetonitrile at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

## References

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