# Supplementary Information 

## for

# Efficient Photochemical Water Oxidation by a Dinuclear Molecular Ruthenium Complex 

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## Experimental Details

Materials and methods. $\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{DMSO})_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{2},{ }^{\left[{ }^{[1]}\right]}$ and $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{3}{ }^{[\mathrm{S} 2]}$ were prepared according to previously reported procedures. $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right] \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ was obtained from TCI and used without additional purification. All other reagents including solvents were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich and used directly without further purification. All solvents were dried by standard methods when needed. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Grace Division, Davsil, 0.035-0.070 mm). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz and at 100 MHz , respectively, if not otherwise stated. Chemical shifts $(\delta)$ are reported in ppm, using the residual solvent peak [[D $\left.{ }_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}(\delta(\mathrm{H})=$ 2.50 and $\delta(\mathrm{C})=39.52) ; \quad\left[\mathrm{D}_{4}\right]$ methanol $(\delta(\mathrm{H})=3.31) ; \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}(\delta(\mathrm{H})=7.26$ and $\left.\delta(\mathrm{C})=77.16)\right]$ as internal standard. Splitting patterns are assigned as s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), and br (broad). High resolution mass spectrum measurements were recorded on a Bruker Daltonics microTOF spectrometer with an electrospray ionizer. IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum One spectrometer, using solid sample prepared as KBr discs. EPR spectra were recorded at 77 K on a Varian E9 spectrometer equipped with a quartz insert for liquid nitrogen. Measurements were made with a microwave frequency of 9.12 GHz , a microwave power of 8 mW and a modulation amplitude of 2 mT . Elemental analyses were carried out at MEDAC Ltd, Chobham, Surrey, United Kingdom.

Electrochemistry. Electrochemical measurements were carried out with an Autolab potentiostat with a GPES electrochemical interface (Eco Chemie), using a glassy carbon disk (diameter 3 mm ) as the working electrode, and platinum as the counter-electrode. The reference electrode was a saturated calomel electrode (SCE). All potentials reported herein are converted to normal hydrogen electrode (NHE) by using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE) as reference. The electrolytes used were either an aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 7.2$ ), an aqueous phosphoric acid solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0)$ or an aqueous triflic acid solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0)$.

Gas evolution measurements. Oxygen evolution was measured by mass spectrometry (MS). The mass spectrometer consists of three separate parts connected with gas valves. These parts are a reaction chamber, a Gas Handling System (GHS), and a mass spectrometer (MKS Spectra Products, Microvision Plus, $0-100$ mass units) in Ultra High Vacuum (base pressure $2 \cdot 10^{-10} \mathrm{mbar}$ ). The GHS makes its possible to control the atmosphere in the enclosed volume. A rough pump is used to evacuate the GHS, so the pressure can be regulated within $0.1-1000 \mathrm{mbar}$. With this setup, the enclosed volume in the reaction chamber is continuously probed by the mass spectrometer by an inlet through the leak valve. The inlet to the mass spectrometer is so small that the probing causes a negligible pressure change in the enclosed volume. This means that the measurements do not influence the reaction rates measured.

The change with time of the measured pressure of masses $0-100$ in the MS can be converted to the amount in the enclosed volume in two steps. The first step is to convert the pressure in the MS to the pressure in the enclosed volume. This conversion is done by calibration of the system, i.e. measuring the response in the MS to different pressures in the enclosed volume. In the second step the pressures in the enclosed volume are converted to the amounts of the different gases. This makes it possible to determine the evolution of gases with masses 1-100 quantitatively. A ca 1 cm thick rubber gasket has been added to the system. This permits injection of solutions containing reactants into the reaction chamber, essentially without leaking in of the external atmosphere. Any leakage of air is continuously measured with the MS (increase of both $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ ).

A stock solution was made of the catalyst in $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$. The catalyst solutions used in the experiments were then made by diluting the stock solutions with phosphate buffer $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 7.2)$ to the desired concentrations. The solutions were then deoxygenated by bubbling with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ for at least 15 $\min$ before being used in the experiments. In a typical run, $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{3}(3.0 \mathrm{mg}, 3.0 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ was placed in the reaction chamber and the reaction chamber was evacuated with a rough pump. $\sim 40 \mathrm{mbar}$ He was then introduced into the system. After a couple of minutes the catalyst solution $(0.50 \mathrm{~mL})$ was injected into the reaction chamber. The evolved oxygen gas was then measured and recorded versus time by MS.
${ }^{18}$ O-Isotopic experiments. An aqueous phosphate buffer solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 7.2,0.50 \mathrm{~mL}, 8.7 \%$ $\left.\mathrm{H}_{2}{ }^{18} \mathrm{O}\right)$ containing catalyst $\mathbf{3}(3.0 \mu \mathrm{M})$, bubbled with $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ for 15 min , was added to $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{3}(3.1$ $\mathrm{mg}, 3.1 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ in the reaction chamber. The evolved oxygen gas was measured and recorded versus time by MS.

Computational details. The geometry optimizations in the present study were performed using the Gaussian $09{ }^{[33]}$ package and the B3LYP ${ }^{[54]}$ functional. The $6-31 \mathrm{G}(d, p)$ basis set was applied for the C , N, O, H elements and the $\operatorname{SDD}^{[5]}$ pseudopotential for Ru. Frequencies were calculated analytically at the same level of theory as the geometry optimization to obtain the Gibbs free energy corrections and to confirm the nature of various stationary points. Solvation effects from the $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ solvent were calculated using the SMD $^{[56]}$ continuum solvation model with the larger basis set where all elements, except Ru, were described by $6-311+\mathrm{G}(2 d f, 2 p)$ at the B3LYP* ( $15 \%$ exact exchange) level. ${ }^{[57]}$ It has been shown that B3LYP* gives a better description of relative energies in transition metal complexes. ${ }^{[57]}$ For calculating $\mathrm{pK}_{\mathrm{a}}$ values, the gas phase Gibbs free energy of a proton is $-6.3 \mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}{ }^{-}$ ${ }^{1}$ and the experimental solvation free energy of the proton ( $-264.0 \mathrm{kcal} \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) was used. ${ }^{[88]}$ Unless otherwise specified, the B3LYP*-D2 energies are reported, including Gibbs free energy corrections from B3LYP and dispersion corrections proposed by Grimme. ${ }^{[59]}$

## Synthesis



Scheme S1. Synthesis and structures of ligand 2 and molecular Ru complex 3.


Synthesis of 1H-pyrazole-3,5-dicarboxylic acid (5). 3,5-dimethyl-pyrazole $\mathbf{4}$ (22.0 g, 0.229 mol ) was suspended in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(180 \mathrm{~mL})$, in a beaker with a mechanical stirrer. The suspension was heated to 70 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, after which $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}(187 \mathrm{~g}, 1.19 \mathrm{~mol})$ was added portion-wise to the solution. The temperature of the reaction mixture was kept between 85 and $95^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. An excess of $\mathrm{KMnO}_{4}(6 \times 7.0 \mathrm{~g})$ was gradually added as the oxidant was consumed. The hot mixture was filtered after 2 h and washed with hot $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ $(\sim 200 \mathrm{~mL})$. The pH of the filtrate was adjusted to pH 1 with concentrated $\mathrm{HCl}(\sim 60 \mathrm{~mL})$. The white precipitate was collected after approximately 2 days and washed with ice-cold $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\sim 40 \mathrm{~mL})$, after
which it was dried over vacuum to afford compound 5 as a white solid (17.6 g, $49 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right.$, $400 \mathrm{MHz}): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=7.53(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 100 \mathrm{MHz}, 50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right.$, with dioxane as internal standard): $\delta(\mathrm{ppm})=164.2,141.4,111.6 ; \operatorname{HRMS}(\mathrm{ESI})$ Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}[\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H}]^{-}: 155.0098$; found: 155.0100 .


Synthesis of diethyl $\mathbf{1 H}$-pyrazole-3,5-dicarboxylate (6). ${ }^{[\mathbf{S 1 0 ]}}$ Compound $\mathbf{5}$ ( $1.00 \mathrm{~g}, 6.40 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was suspended in $\mathrm{EtOH}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$. The suspension was cooled to $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, after which concentrated $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ (5 mL ) was added drop-wise. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 48 h , after which the solvent was evaporated. The resulting mixture was diluted with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(\sim 100 \mathrm{~mL})$ and extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(3 \mathrm{x}$ 125 mL ). The organic layer was dried over $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and evaporated. The oily product was purified by flash column chromatography $\left(\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ pentane, 2:1) to afford 6 as a white solid $(0.90 \mathrm{~g}, 67 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=11.23(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 4.42(\mathrm{q}, J=7.14 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 1.41(\mathrm{t}, J=7.14$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 100 \mathrm{MHz}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=160.5,139.9,111.4,61.8,14.3 ;$ HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{9} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}: 213.0870$; found: 213.0863.


Synthesis of 3,5-bis(hydroxymethyl) pyrazole (7). ${ }^{[\mathbf{S 1 0 ]}}$ Compound 6 ( $0.620 \mathrm{~g}, 2.90 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was dissolved in toluene $(4.4 \mathrm{~mL})$. The solution was cooled to $-7{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, after which DIBALH ( 17.6 mL , 17.6 mmol ) was added drop-wise over 25 min . After stirring the reaction mixture at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ overnight the mixture was run at r.t for $\sim 24 \mathrm{~h}$. The solution was cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, after which $\mathrm{MeOH}(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added drop-wise. The white precipitate was collected and dried under reduced pressure. The solid was subsequently extracted with MeOH in a Soxhlet apparatus for 4 days. Evaporation of the solvent gave a yellow oil, which after trituration with EtOAc afforded the product as a white solid ( $0.28 \mathrm{~g}, 74$
\%). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=12.36(\mathrm{bs}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.07(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.02(\mathrm{bs}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.40(\mathrm{~s}$, $4 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ([D $\left.\left.\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}, 100 \mathrm{MHz}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=140.3,93.7,48.0 ;$ HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{8} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Na}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{Na}]^{+}: 151.0478$; found: 151.0479 .


Synthesis of $\mathbf{1 H}$-pyrazole-3,5-dicarbaldehyde (8). ${ }^{[510]} \mathrm{MnO}_{2}(2.20 \mathrm{~g}, 26.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added portionwise to a refluxing solution of dimethoxyethane (DME) ( 56 mL ) containing compound $7(0.290 \mathrm{~g}$, 2.20 mmol ). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 h after which the hot mixture was filtered over Celite and washed with hot $\mathrm{MeOH}(3 \times 20 \mathrm{~mL})$. Charcoal was added to the filtrate, filtered over Celite and again washed with hot $\mathrm{MeOH}(3 \mathrm{x} 20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). The filtrate was evaporated to dryness and recrystallized from $i$ - PrOH to afford the title compound as a white solid ( $0.22 \mathrm{~g}, 81 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}, 80{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=14.90(\mathrm{bs}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 9.94(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.50(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}, 100 \mathrm{MHz}, 80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=183.5,147.0,109.5 ;$ HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}[\mathrm{M}$ $\left.-\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]^{-}$: 123.0200 ; found: 123.0212 .


Synthesis of 3,5-bis(4-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-1H-pyrazole (2, $\mathbf{H}_{5} \mathrm{~L}$ ). Compounds 8 (0.100 $\mathrm{g}, 0.820 \mathrm{mmol})$ and 2-amino-3-nitrobenzoic acid $(0.300 \mathrm{~g}, 1.64 \mathrm{mmol})$ were suspended in EtOH (3.3 $\mathrm{mL})$. An aqueous solution of sodium dithionite $(0.860 \mathrm{~g}, 4.90 \mathrm{mmol}, 4.90 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added to the suspension, after which the reaction mixture was heated to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 5 h . The dark yellow precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and EtOH to afford the title compound as a dark yellow solid $(0.27 \mathrm{~g}, 85 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right.$ containing 3 equiv. $\left.\mathrm{K}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=7.79(\mathrm{~d}$,
$J=7.90 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.72(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.50 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.32(\mathrm{t}, J=7.70 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}, 40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right): \delta(\mathrm{ppm})=167.9,145.6,142.6,135.5,124.3,121.6,121.4,118.3$, 105.3; HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{19} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{O}_{4}\left[\mathrm{M} \mathrm{-} \mathrm{H}^{+}\right]^{-}: 387.0847$; found: 387.0866 .


Synthesis of $\mathbf{R u}$ complex $\mathbf{3}\left(\mathbf{P F}_{6}\right)_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{( [ ( \mathbf { H } _ { \mathbf { 2 } } \mathbf { L } ) \mathbf { R u } _ { \mathbf { 2 } } ( \mathbf { p i c } ) _ { \mathbf { 6 } } ] ( \mathbf { P F } _ { 6 } ) _ { 2 } ) \text { . Ligand } \mathbf { 2 } ( 6 0 . 0 \mathrm { mg } , 0 . 1 6 0 \mathrm { mmol } ) \text { and } ) ~}$ $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}(0.30 \mathrm{~mL})$ were added to $\mathrm{MeOH}(6.0 \mathrm{~mL})$. After bubbling the suspension in Ar for 10 min $\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{DMSO}){ }_{4} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(0.150 \mathrm{~g}, 0.310 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for $24 \mathrm{~h} .4-$ Picoline ( $0.150 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.54 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added to the reaction mixture and the mixture was further refluxed for 48 h . The green crude reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness and added to an aqueous sat. $\mathrm{KPF}_{6}$ solution ( 30 mL ). The resulting dark-green precipitate was filtered and washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(3 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL})$ by centrifugation to yield complex $3(140 \mathrm{mg}, 55.4 \%)$. HRMS (ESI) Calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{55} \mathrm{H}_{50} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{4} \mathrm{Ru}_{2}$ [3-H] $]^{+}$: 1146.2159; found: 1146.2196; Anal. calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{59} \mathrm{H}_{67} \mathrm{~F}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{Ru}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}\left[\mathbf{3}\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \cdot 2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right]: \mathrm{C} 43.52$, H 4.15 , N 10.32 , $\mathrm{S} 3.94 \%$; found: C 43.91, H 4.15, N 10.27, S 3.78 \%; IR (KBr disc): $v_{\max }=3422,2923,2853,1942,1620,1559,1500$, $1424,1369,1209,1062,1034,814,762,727,677,636,503,470$.


Figure S1. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of diacid 5 in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$.


Figure S2. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of diacid 5 in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$.


Figure S3. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of diester $\mathbf{6}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$.


Figure S4. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of diester $\mathbf{6}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$


Figure S5. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of diol 7 in $\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}$.


Figure S6. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of diol 7 in $\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}$.


Figure S7. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of dialdehyde $\mathbf{8}$ in $\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}$.


Figure S8. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of dialdehyde $\mathbf{8}$ in $\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}$.


Figure S9. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of ligand 2 in $\mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ containing 3 equivalents $\mathrm{K}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$.


Figure S10. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of ligand $\mathbf{2}$ in $\left[\mathrm{D}_{6}\right] \mathrm{DMSO}$.


Figure S11. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of Ru complex 3 in $\left[\mathrm{D}_{4}\right] \mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{D}_{2} \mathrm{O}(1: 1)$ at $50{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ containing 30 equivalents $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{4}$.


Figure S12. Solid state EPR-spectra of Ru complex 3.


Figure S13. UV-vis spectrum of Ru complex 3 in an aqueous phosphate buffer solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH}$ 7.2).


Figure S14. UV-vis spectrum of Ru complex $\mathbf{3}$ in an aqueous $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0$ ).


Figure S15. UV-vis spectrum of Ru complex $\mathbf{3}$ in a MeOH solution.


Figure S16. UV-vis spectra of Ru complex 3 in $(=)$ an aqueous phosphate buffer solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH}$ 7.2), $(=)$ in an aqueous $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1)$ and $(=)$ in a MeOH solution.


Figure S17. Left: Chemical $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ oxidation catalyzed by dinuclear Ru complex $\mathbf{3}$ at pH 6.2 and 7.2, using $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+}$ as the chemical oxidant. Reaction conditions: An aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, 0.50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) containing Ru complex $3(0.60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ was added to the oxidant $\left[\mathrm{Ru}\left(\mathrm{bpy}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{3}(3.0 \mathrm{mg}, 3.0 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$. Right: Chemical $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ oxidation catalyzed by Ru complex $\mathbf{3}$ in isotopically labeled $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(8.7 \% \mathrm{H}_{2}{ }^{18} \mathrm{O}\right)$. Reaction conditions: An aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 7.2,0.50 \mathrm{~mL}, 8.7 \% \mathrm{H}_{2}{ }^{18} \mathrm{O}$ ) containing catalyst $3(3.0 \mu \mathrm{M})$ was added to the oxidant $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{3}(3.0 \mathrm{mg}, 3.0 \mu \mathrm{~mol}) .{ }^{16,16} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ measured $(\mathbf{\Delta}),{ }^{16,18} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ measured ( $\bullet$ ).


Figure S18. Photochemical $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ oxidation catalyzed by Ru complex 3 at various pH . Reaction conditions: Reactions were performed in an aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, 0.50 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) containing Ru complex $\mathbf{3}(3.0 \mu \mathrm{M}),\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\text { bpy })_{2}(\right.$ deeb $\left.)\right]\left(\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right)_{2}$ as photosensitizer $(0.60 \mathrm{mM})$ and $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{8}$ as sacrificial electron acceptor ( 23.5 mM ).


Figure S19. Cyclic voltammograms of (-) Ru complex 3 in an aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( pH 7.2 ) and of (-) phosphate buffer $(\mathrm{pH} 7.2)$ in the absence of Ru complex 3. Conditions: Voltammograms were recorded in an aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 7.2$ ) containing complex $3(60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ with a scan rate of $0.1 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple as a standard $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE $)$.



Figure S20. Differential pulse voltammogram of (-) Ru complex 3 in an aqueous phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.2). Upper: Differential pulse voltammogram of Ru complex 3 in the range $-0.2<E<$ 0.2. Middle: Differential pulse voltammogram of Ru complex 3 in the range $0.15<E<1.05$. Lower: Differential pulse voltammogram of Ru complex 3 in the range $1.0<E<1.4$. Conditions: Voltammogram was recorded in an aqueous phosphate buffer solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 7.2$ ) containing complex $3(60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ with a scan rate of $0.1 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple as a standard $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE $)$.


Figure S21. Cyclic voltammograms of $(-)$ Ru complex 3 in an aqueous triflic acid solution ( pH 1.0 ) and of $(=)$ triflic acid $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0)$ in the absence of Ru complex 3. Conditions: Voltammograms were recorded in an aqueous triflic acid solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0)$ containing complex $3(60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ with a scan rate of $0.1 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple as a standard $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE).


Figure S22. Differential pulse voltammogram of (-) Ru complex $\mathbf{3}$ in an aqueous triflic acid solution ( pH 1.0 ). Conditions: Voltammogram was recorded in an aqueous triflic acid solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0)$ containing complex $3(60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ with a scan rate of $0.1 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple as a standard $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE $)$.


Figure S23. Cyclic voltammograms of $(=) \mathrm{Ru}$ complex $\mathbf{3}$ in an aqueous $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ solution ( pH 1.0 ) and of (一) $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(\mathrm{pH} 1.0)$ in the absence of Ru complex 3. Conditions: Voltammograms were recorded in an aqueous $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ solution $(0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0)$ containing complex $3(60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ with a scan rate of 0.1 V $\mathrm{s}^{-1}$, using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\text { bpy })_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple as a standard $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE $)$.


Figure S24. Differential pulse voltammogram of $(-)$ Ru complex 3 in an aqueous $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ solution ( pH 1.0 ). Conditions: Voltammogram was recorded in an aqueous $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ solution ( $0.1 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{pH} 1.0$ ) containing complex $3(60 \mu \mathrm{M})$ with a scan rate of $0.1 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$, using the $\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{3+} /\left[\mathrm{Ru}(\mathrm{bpy})_{3}\right]^{2+}$ couple as a standard $\left(E_{1 / 2}=1.26 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ vs. NHE$)$.



Figure S25. Upper: ESI-HRMS spectrum of the dinuclear Ru complex 3, $\left[\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{~L}\right) \mathrm{Ru}_{2}{ }^{\mathrm{II}, \mathrm{III}}(\mathrm{pic})_{6}\right]^{2+}$, $\left.\left(\left[\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{~L}\right) \mathrm{Ru}_{2}{ }^{\mathrm{II}, \mathrm{III}}(\mathrm{pic})_{6}\right]^{2+}-\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]^{+}\right)$recorded in positive mode. Lower: simulated spectrum.


$\mathbf{R u}^{\text {II }} \mathrm{Ru}^{\text {III }}-6 \mathrm{pic}-\mathrm{H}^{+}$

$\mathbf{R u}^{\text {II }} \mathrm{Ru}^{\text {I" }}-6$ pic- $-2 \mathrm{H}^{+}$

Figure S26. Optimized doublet structures of the $\mathrm{Ru}_{2}{ }^{\mathrm{II}, I I I}$ complexes with six picoline ligands $\left(\left[\mathrm{Ru}_{2}{ }^{\mathrm{II}, I I I}(\text { pic })_{6}\right]\right)$ in different protonation states (total charge from left to right: $0,+1$ and +2 , respectively). Spin densities on Ru are shown in italic and the Ru-Ru distances are given in Ångstrom. Crucial protons are highlighted with red dotted circles.

| Table S1. Cartesian coordinates for $\mathrm{Ru}^{\mathrm{II}} \mathrm{Ru}{ }^{\text {III }}-6$ pic. |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Center number | Atomic number | Atomic type | Coordinates (Angstroms) |  |  |
|  |  |  | X | Y | Z |
| 1 | 6 | 0 | 4.504691 | -0.562484 | -2.051758 |
| 2 | 6 | 0 | 4.507428 | -0.741607 | -3.468222 |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | 5.743715 | -0.93568 | -4.097146 |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | 6.893518 | -0.925323 | -3.29853 |
| 5 | 6 | 0 | 6.854814 | -0.7175 | -1.902114 |


| 6 | 6 | 0 | 5.644444 | -0.519756 | -1.235027 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7 | 6 | 0 | 2.486324 | -0.454521 | -2.855327 |
| 8 | 6 | 0 | 5.578072 | -0.241417 | 0.246865 |
| 9 | 8 | 0 | 6.604204 | -0.297358 | 0.922287 |
| 10 | 8 | 0 | 4.415958 | 0.087856 | 0.803289 |
| 11 | 7 | 0 | 3.215509 | -0.406403 | -1.694441 |
| 12 | 7 | 0 | 3.206713 | -0.664015 | -3.955371 |
| 13 | 6 | 0 | -0.000009 | 0.000024 | -3.476843 |
| 14 | 6 | 0 | -1.077686 | 0.224524 | -2.624574 |
| 15 | 7 | 0 | 0.668337 | -0.118143 | -1.2972 |
| 16 | 7 | 0 | -0.668349 | 0.118151 | -1.297196 |
| 17 | 6 | 0 | 1.077672 | -0.224484 | -2.62458 |
| 18 | 6 | 0 | -4.504703 | 0.562491 | -2.051733 |
| 19 | 6 | 0 | -4.507448 | 0.741634 | -3.468196 |
| 20 | 6 | 0 | -5.74374 | 0.935693 | -4.097114 |
| 21 | 6 | 0 | -6.893542 | 0.925289 | -3.298497 |
| 22 | 6 | 0 | -6.854832 | 0.717428 | -1.902087 |
| 23 | 6 | 0 | -5.644456 | 0.519707 | -1.235004 |
| 24 | 6 | 0 | -2.486339 | 0.454567 | -2.85531 |
| 25 | 7 | 0 | -3.215518 | 0.40643 | -1.694422 |
| 26 | 7 | 0 | -3.206737 | 0.664049 | -3.955351 |
| 27 | 6 | 0 | -5.578087 | 0.241301 | 0.246877 |
| 28 | 8 | 0 | -6.60425 | 0.297055 | 0.922269 |
| 29 | 8 | 0 | -4.415939 | -0.087801 | 0.803328 |
| 30 | 44 | 0 | -2.462614 | -0.065713 | 0.046952 |
| 31 | 44 | 0 | 2.462623 | 0.065727 | 0.046941 |
| 32 | 6 | 0 | -3.201956 | 2.474974 | 1.551282 |
| 33 | 6 | 0 | -1.758598 | 2.908472 | -0.196089 |
| 34 | 6 | 0 | -3.29871 | 3.827701 | 1.852907 |
| 35 | 6 | 0 | -1.812364 | 4.274321 | 0.049019 |
| 36 | 6 | 0 | -2.597354 | 4.773433 | 1.094956 |
| 37 | 6 | 0 | -3.628098 | -2.854399 | 0.19377 |
| 38 | 6 | 0 | -1.998096 | -2.761131 | -1.436179 |
| 39 | 6 | 0 | -3.885979 | -4.1892 | -0.090571 |
| 40 | 6 | 0 | -2.208764 | -4.092443 | -1.774883 |
| 41 | 6 | 0 | -3.174712 | -4.847489 | -1.100292 |
| 42 | 6 | 0 | 3.202018 | -2.47496 | 1.55125 |
| 43 | 6 | 0 | 1.758632 | -2.908457 | -0.1961 |
| 44 | 6 | 0 | 3.298783 | -3.827687 | 1.852868 |
| 45 | 6 | 0 | 1.812408 | -4.274307 | 0.049002 |
| 46 | 6 | 0 | 2.597417 | -4.77342 | 1.094925 |
| 47 | 6 | 0 | 3.628078 | 2.854426 | 0.193753 |
| 48 | 6 | 0 | 1.998043 | 2.761159 | -1.436162 |
| 49 | 6 | 0 | 3.885943 | 4.189232 | -0.090582 |
| 50 | 6 | 0 | 2.208695 | 4.092476 | -1.774861 |
| 51 | 6 | 0 | 3.174651 | 4.847524 | -1.100284 |
| 52 | 6 | 0 | -2.699091 | -0.828101 | 3.03497 |
| 53 | 6 | 0 | -0.645826 | -1.434537 | 2.182856 |
| 54 | 6 | 0 | -2.413839 | -1.438024 | 4.251354 |
| 55 | 6 | 0 | -0.299024 | -2.077465 | 3.365494 |
| 56 | 6 | 0 | -1.190012 | -2.089298 | 4.445215 |
| 57 | 6 | 0 | 2.699113 | 0.828095 | 3.034963 |
| 58 | 6 | 0 | 0.645843 | 1.434537 | 2.182861 |
| 59 | 6 | 0 | 2.413862 | 1.43801 | 4.251355 |
| 60 | 6 | 0 | 0.299045 | 2.077455 | 3.365502 |


| 61 | 6 | 0 | 1.190038 | 2.089279 | 4.445224 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 62 | 7 | 0 | 2.690307 | 2.13421 | -0.461645 |
| 63 | 7 | 0 | 2.432786 | -2.002019 | 0.545172 |
| 64 | 7 | 0 | 1.82736 | 0.809266 | 2.002505 |
| 65 | 7 | 0 | -1.82734 | -0.809265 | 2.002506 |
| 66 | 7 | 0 | -2.432745 | 2.002034 | 0.545189 |
| 67 | 7 | 0 | -2.690334 | -2.134185 | -0.46164 |
| 68 | 1 | 0 | -5.809212 | 1.080548 | -5.171425 |
| 69 | 1 | 0 | -7.860247 | 1.071823 | -3.772901 |
| 70 | 1 | 0 | -7.770924 | 0.696996 | -1.321101 |
| 71 | 1 | 0 | -0.00001 | 0.000031 | -4.555608 |
| 72 | 1 | 0 | 5.809182 | -1.080523 | -5.171459 |
| 73 | 1 | 0 | 7.860218 | -1.071873 | -3.772937 |
| 74 | 1 | 0 | 7.770906 | -0.697123 | -1.321126 |
| 75 | 1 | 0 | -1.160104 | 2.50311 | -1.00091 |
| 76 | 1 | 0 | -3.777284 | 1.733647 | 2.090025 |
| 77 | 1 | 0 | -3.941334 | 4.13792 | 2.671433 |
| 78 | 1 | 0 | -1.239314 | 4.944133 | -0.584745 |
| 79 | 1 | 0 | -4.195147 | -2.311601 | 0.940362 |
| 80 | 1 | 0 | -1.262975 | -2.166728 | -1.961106 |
| 81 | 1 | 0 | -4.657529 | -4.705631 | 0.472547 |
| 82 | 1 | 0 | -1.621131 | -4.529227 | -2.576897 |
| 83 | 1 | 0 | 3.941423 | -4.137905 | 2.671381 |
| 84 | 1 | 0 | 1.239351 | -4.94412 | -0.584754 |
| 85 | 1 | 0 | 1.160123 | -2.503095 | -1.00091 |
| 86 | 1 | 0 | 3.777352 | -1.733633 | 2.089987 |
| 87 | 1 | 0 | 4.195147 | 2.311626 | 0.940327 |
| 88 | 1 | 0 | 1.262915 | 2.166757 | -1.961077 |
| 89 | 1 | 0 | 4.657499 | 4.705665 | 0.472526 |
| 90 | 1 | 0 | 1.621042 | 4.529261 | -2.576859 |
| 91 | 1 | 0 | -3.6644 | -0.374873 | 2.835227 |
| 92 | 1 | 0 | 0.040268 | -1.396013 | 1.347087 |
| 93 | 1 | 0 | -3.159868 | -1.412957 | 5.040444 |
| 94 | 1 | 0 | 0.670287 | -2.561488 | 3.435673 |
| 95 | 1 | 0 | 3.664423 | 0.374871 | 2.835214 |
| 96 | 1 | 0 | -0.040252 | 1.396019 | 1.347093 |
| 97 | 1 | 0 | 3.159893 | 1.412939 | 5.040443 |
| 98 | 1 | 0 | -0.670267 | 2.561479 | 3.435687 |
| 99 | 6 | 0 | 2.713467 | -6.250357 | 1.365842 |
| 100 | I | 0 | 3.557351 | -6.675898 | 0.809218 |
| 101 | 1 | 0 | 2.889044 | -6.450634 | 2.426591 |
| 102 | 1 | 0 | 1.812585 | -6.786883 | 1.055371 |
| 103 | 6 | 0 | -3.461874 | -6.279694 | -1.467747 |
| 104 | 1 | 0 | -4.24701 | -6.327478 | -2.232136 |
| 105 | 1 | 0 | -2.577081 | -6.774435 | -1.877951 |
| 106 | 1 | 0 | -3.81211 | -6.852188 | -0.60424 |
| 107 | 6 | 0 | 3.461794 | 6.279734 | -1.467732 |
| 108 | 1 | 0 | 4.246916 | 6.327531 | -2.232134 |
| 109 | 1 | 0 | 2.57699 | 6.774471 | -1.877917 |
| 110 | 1 | 0 | 3.812039 | 6.852225 | -0.604227 |
| 111 | 6 | 0 | -2.713393 | 6.25037 | 1.365876 |
| 112 | 1 | 0 | -1.812449 | 6.78687 | 1.055537 |
| 113 | 1 | 0 | -3.557182 | 6.675949 | 0.809137 |
| 114 | 1 | 0 | -2.88911 | 6.450641 | 2.426603 |
| 115 | 6 | 0 | 0.861805 | 2.794457 | 5.735808 |


| 116 | 1 | 0 | 1.407879 | 2.361528 | 6.57847 |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 117 | 1 | 0 | 1.136656 | 3.854948 | 5.677948 |
| 118 | 1 | 0 | -0.20864 | 2.747314 | 5.956019 |
| 119 | 6 | 0 | -0.861796 | -2.794491 | 5.735795 |
| 120 | 1 | 0 | -1.407321 | -2.361088 | 6.578572 |
| 121 | 1 | 0 | -1.137359 | -3.854812 | 5.678189 |
| 122 | 1 | 0 | 0.208748 | -2.747998 | 5.955649 |

Table S2. Cartesian coordinates for $\mathrm{Ru}^{\text {II }} \mathrm{Ru}^{\text {III }}-6$ pic- $-\mathrm{H}^{+}$.

|  |  |  | Coordinates (Angstroms) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Center <br> number | Atomic <br> number | Atomic <br> type | $\mathbf{X}$ | $\mathbf{Y}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ |  |
| 1 | 6 | 0 | -4.577135 | 0.592053 | -2.062141 |  |
| 2 | 6 | 0 | -4.581449 | 0.71215 | -3.474956 |  |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | -5.802851 | 0.918013 | -4.114942 |  |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | -6.955507 | 0.981084 | -3.312837 |  |
| 5 | 6 | 0 | -6.918637 | 0.833933 | -1.915036 |  |
| 6 | 6 | 0 | -5.706885 | 0.623597 | -1.243255 |  |
| 7 | 6 | 0 | -2.552007 | 0.386108 | -2.876515 |  |
| 8 | 6 | 0 | -5.634687 | 0.413757 | 0.248026 |  |
| 9 | 8 | 0 | -6.644419 | 0.533792 | 0.930985 |  |
| 10 | 8 | 0 | -4.472095 | 0.073121 | 0.806701 |  |
| 11 | 7 | 0 | -3.280286 | 0.406078 | -1.699524 |  |
| 12 | 7 | 0 | -3.270876 | 0.571007 | -3.96487 |  |
| 13 | 6 | 0 | -0.067105 | -0.104037 | -3.493422 |  |
| 14 | 6 | 0 | 1.005165 | -0.303497 | -2.622688 |  |
| 15 | 7 | 0 | -0.733638 | 0.06883 | -1.327284 |  |
| 16 | 7 | 0 | 0.60327 | -0.167009 | -1.306629 |  |
| 17 | 6 | 0 | -1.142854 | 0.140269 | -2.645172 |  |
| 18 | 6 | 0 | 4.485187 | -0.65463 | -2.134689 |  |
| 19 | 6 | 0 | 4.511945 | -0.871875 | -3.527994 |  |
| 20 | 6 | 0 | 5.722088 | -1.096674 | -4.185061 |  |
| 21 | 6 | 0 | 6.871778 | -1.080759 | -3.39013 |  |
| 22 | 6 | 0 | 6.832568 | -0.842518 | -2.00164 |  |
| 23 | 6 | 0 | 5.629608 | -0.613683 | -1.331603 |  |
| 24 | 6 | 0 | 2.413898 | -0.535971 | -2.825796 |  |
| 25 | 7 | 0 | 3.18362 | -0.470859 | -1.753222 |  |
| 26 | 7 | 0 | 3.176928 | -0.78751 | -3.940532 |  |
| 27 | 6 | 0 | 5.601801 | -0.317165 | 0.160023 |  |
| 28 | 8 | 0 | 6.657859 | -0.383089 | 0.781527 |  |
| 29 | 8 | 0 | 4.469131 | 0.021278 | 0.743529 |  |
| 30 | 44 | 0 | 2.495629 | 0.030338 | 0.050328 |  |
| 31 | 44 | 0 | -2.539881 | -0.004968 | 0.023861 |  |
| 32 | 6 | 0 | 3.23859 | -2.513205 | 1.564465 |  |
| 33 | 6 | 0 | 1.698017 | -2.941019 | -0.093579 |  |
| 34 | 6 | 0 | 3.307244 | -3.860465 | 1.896652 |  |
| 35 | 6 | 0 | 1.720676 | -4.3024 | 0.182627 |  |
| 36 | 6 | 0 | 2.540804 | -4.803684 | 1.200677 |  |
| 37 | 6 | 0 | 3.698668 | 2.8047 | 0.203099 |  |
| 38 | 6 | 0 | 2.098128 | 2.724112 | -1.452598 |  |
| 39 | 6 | 0 | 3.97774 | 4.134823 | -0.083129 |  |
| 40 | 6 | 0 | 2.32961 | 4.051437 | -1.794995 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |


| 41 | 6 | 0 | 3.293543 | 4.799409 | -1.10816 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 42 | 6 | 0 | -3.179448 | 2.599441 | 1.469703 |
| 43 | 6 | 0 | -1.590587 | 2.91565 | -0.18043 |
| 44 | 6 | 0 | -3.182225 | 3.954774 | 1.772977 |
| 45 | 6 | 0 | -1.549717 | 4.280089 | 0.067759 |
| 46 | 6 | 0 | -2.359598 | 4.840131 | 1.064997 |
| 47 | 6 | 0 | -3.829147 | -2.741174 | 0.276458 |
| 48 | 6 | 0 | -2.137578 | -2.801227 | -1.296442 |
| 49 | 6 | 0 | -4.133316 | -4.07686 | 0.050771 |
| 50 | 6 | 0 | -2.394928 | -4.136823 | -1.575331 |
| 51 | 6 | 0 | -3.417604 | -4.814915 | -0.899824 |
| 52 | 6 | 0 | 2.808667 | 0.733204 | 3.032294 |
| 53 | 6 | 0 | 0.775416 | 1.432696 | 2.210876 |
| 54 | 6 | 0 | 2.555795 | 1.32966 | 4.262962 |
| 55 | 6 | 0 | 0.461508 | 2.06493 | 3.407247 |
| 56 | 6 | 0 | 1.359509 | 2.022174 | 4.481729 |
| 57 | 6 | 0 | -2.748311 | -0.687279 | 3.039744 |
| 58 | 6 | 0 | -0.703142 | -1.329014 | 2.178999 |
| 59 | 6 | 0 | -2.450704 | -1.260299 | 4.269205 |
| 60 | 6 | 0 | -0.347359 | -1.940149 | 3.375388 |
| 61 | 6 | 0 | -1.226994 | -1.915261 | 4.464472 |
| 62 | 7 | 0 | -2.839216 | -2.098373 | -0.383003 |
| 63 | 7 | 0 | -2.386984 | 2.071094 | 0.510346 |
| 64 | 7 | 0 | -1.885997 | -0.708149 | 1.999262 |
| 65 | 7 | 0 | 1.929947 | 0.764857 | 2.005666 |
| 66 | 7 | 0 | 2.436702 | -2.034626 | 0.584482 |
| 67 | 7 | 0 | 2.764388 | 2.088552 | -0.46486 |
| 68 | 1 | 0 | 5.779885 | -1.270329 | -5.254661 |
| 69 | 1 | 0 | 7.833421 | -1.250494 | -3.864185 |
| 70 | 1 | 0 | 7.747153 | -0.82435 | -1.419037 |
| 71 | 1 | 0 | -0.082945 | -0.121882 | -4.57292 |
| 72 | 1 | 0 | -5.86468 | 1.01918 | -5.193701 |
| 73 | 1 | 0 | -7.91621 | 1.140105 | -3.793219 |
| 74 | 1 | 0 | -7.83113 | 0.872144 | -1.329867 |
| 75 | 1 | 0 | 1.066155 | -2.538039 | -0.874332 |
| 76 | 1 | 0 | 3.863505 | -1.782787 | 2.060206 |
| 77 | 1 | 0 | 3.978807 | -4.169282 | 2.692118 |
| 78 | 1 | 0 | 1.095175 | -4.968863 | -0.403559 |
| 79 | 1 | 0 | 4.246001 | 2.264182 | 0.965259 |
| 80 | 1 | 0 | 1.358166 | 2.139087 | -1.98317 |
| 81 | 1 | 0 | 4.744311 | 4.644182 | 0.492955 |
| 82 | 1 | 0 | 1.759741 | 4.493122 | -2.607333 |
| 83 | 1 | 0 | -3.846302 | 4.316352 | 2.551801 |
| 84 | 1 | 0 | -0.882455 | 4.901467 | -0.520846 |
| 85 | 1 | 0 | -0.973735 | 2.461873 | -0.94444 |
| 86 | 1 | 0 | -3.845615 | 1.905678 | 1.965916 |
| 87 | 1 | 0 | -4.393689 | -2.139157 | 0.97794 |
| 88 | 1 | 0 | -1.356906 | -2.265475 | -1.819219 |
| 89 | 1 | 0 | -4.94341 | -4.531732 | 0.612123 |
| 90 | 1 | 0 | -1.800125 | -4.6412 | -2.330629 |
| 91 | 1 | 0 | 3.756824 | 0.252711 | 2.820263 |
| 92 | 1 | 0 | 0.086087 | 1.445939 | 1.377238 |
| 93 | 1 | 0 | 3.307959 | 1.26272 | 5.043358 |
| 94 | 1 | 0 | -0.486516 | 2.587179 | 3.494538 |
| 95 | 1 | 0 | -3.710631 | -0.228261 | 2.839529 |


| 96 | 1 | 0 | -0.023703 | -1.316747 | 1.33607 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 97 | 1 | 0 | -3.184596 | -1.20633 | 5.067604 |
| 98 | 1 | 0 | 0.620085 | -2.426231 | 3.450682 |
| 99 | 6 | 0 | -2.373317 | 6.319975 | 1.33608 |
| 100 | 1 | 0 | -3.150719 | 6.806269 | 0.734373 |
| 101 | 1 | 0 | -2.593491 | 6.533174 | 2.38537 |
| 102 | 1 | 0 | -1.418818 | 6.785003 | 1.07641 |
| 103 | 6 | 0 | 3.604355 | 6.226866 | -1.472445 |
| 104 | 1 | 0 | 4.46939 | 6.269565 | -2.145213 |
| 105 | 1 | 0 | 2.765776 | 6.703862 | -1.986444 |
| 106 | 1 | 0 | 3.853681 | 6.819834 | -0.587957 |
| 107 | 6 | 0 | -3.754891 | -6.24944 | -1.203697 |
| 108 | 1 | 0 | -4.565819 | -6.298418 | -1.940405 |
| 109 | 1 | 0 | -2.898892 | -6.785158 | -1.621728 |
| 110 | 1 | 0 | -4.09653 | -6.777867 | -0.309589 |
| 111 | 6 | 0 | 2.62364 | -6.2752 | 1.507956 |
| 112 | 1 | 0 | 1.729561 | -6.807387 | 1.172831 |
| 113 | 1 | 0 | 3.485204 | -6.724147 | 0.999205 |
| 114 | 1 | 0 | 2.752824 | -6.453377 | 2.579293 |
| 115 | 6 | 0 | -0.891318 | -2.583211 | 5.771167 |
| 116 | 1 | 0 | -1.297754 | -2.026198 | 6.619851 |
| 117 | 1 | 0 | -1.324558 | -3.590159 | 5.807432 |
| 118 | 1 | 0 | 0.188652 | -2.68407 | 5.90517 |
| 119 | 6 | 0 | 1.069164 | 2.714304 | 5.787502 |
| 120 | 1 | 0 | 1.594927 | 2.23762 | 6.618939 |
| 121 | 1 | 0 | 1.398096 | 3.760003 | 5.750055 |
| 122 | 1 | 0 | -0.001588 | 2.717628 | 6.01025 |
| 123 | 1 | 0 | 2.832546 | -0.896701 | -4.881543 |

Table S3. Cartesian coordinates for $\mathrm{Ru}^{\mathrm{II}} \mathrm{Ru}^{\mathrm{III}}-6$ pic $-2 \mathrm{H}^{+}$.

|  |  |  | Coordinates (Angstroms) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Center <br> number | Atomic <br> number | Atomic <br> type | $\mathbf{X}$ | $\mathbf{Y}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ |
| 1 | 6 | 0 | 4.549287 | -0.59098 | -2.10197 |
| 2 | 6 | 0 | 4.610068 | -0.76399 | -3.49842 |
| 3 | 6 | 0 | 5.836074 | -0.98393 | -4.12768 |
| 4 | 6 | 0 | 6.961186 | -1.00901 | -3.29837 |
| 5 | 6 | 0 | 6.887804 | -0.815 | -1.9029 |
| 6 | 6 | 0 | 5.668292 | -0.59091 | -1.26391 |
| 7 | 6 | 0 | 2.496024 | -0.42492 | -2.84678 |
| 8 | 6 | 0 | 5.582234 | -0.34258 | 0.225717 |
| 9 | 8 | 0 | 6.585994 | -0.46196 | 0.909963 |
| 10 | 8 | 0 | 4.424188 | 0.032262 | 0.771626 |
| 11 | 7 | 0 | 3.24222 | -0.40399 | -1.74991 |
| 12 | 7 | 0 | 3.285046 | -0.64831 | -3.94392 |
| 13 | 6 | 0 | 0.012296 | 0.004629 | -3.50633 |
| 14 | 6 | 0 | -1.0655 | 0.204613 | -2.64492 |
| 15 | 7 | 0 | 0.679249 | -0.09505 | -1.32219 |
| 16 | 7 | 0 | -0.6556 | 0.10592 | -1.32189 |
| 17 | 6 | 0 | 1.089965 | -0.19535 | -2.64654 |
| 18 | 6 | 0 | -4.53067 | 0.585739 | -2.11855 |
| 19 | 6 | 0 | -4.582 | 0.761475 | -3.51528 |


| 20 | 6 | 0 | -5.80385 | 0.97754 | -4.154 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 21 | 6 | 0 | -6.93553 | 0.995794 | -3.33384 |
| 22 | 6 | 0 | -6.87198 | 0.798602 | -1.93833 |
| 23 | 6 | 0 | -5.65685 | 0.57878 | -1.28979 |
| 24 | 6 | 0 | -2.47168 | 0.429964 | -2.84904 |
| 25 | 7 | 0 | -3.22498 | 0.40307 | -1.75681 |
| 26 | 7 | 0 | -3.25394 | 0.65239 | -3.95157 |
| 27 | 6 | 0 | -5.58484 | 0.32612 | 0.200782 |
| 28 | 8 | 0 | -6.59999 | 0.431229 | 0.871369 |
| 29 | 8 | 0 | -4.43018 | -0.03409 | 0.758382 |
| 30 | 44 | 0 | -2.50549 | -0.04387 | 0.037587 |
| 31 | 44 | 0 | 2.508484 | 0.045256 | 0.038703 |
| 32 | 6 | 0 | -3.22793 | 2.527661 | 1.516154 |
| 33 | 6 | 0 | -1.70541 | 2.932009 | -0.1699 |
| 34 | 6 | 0 | -3.29564 | 3.878949 | 1.826152 |
| 35 | 6 | 0 | -1.72743 | 4.296245 | 0.085288 |
| 36 | 6 | 0 | -2.53961 | 4.812627 | 1.104119 |
| 37 | 6 | 0 | -3.70989 | -2.81769 | 0.291986 |
| 38 | 6 | 0 | -2.1082 | -2.80204 | -1.36848 |
| 39 | 6 | 0 | -3.99423 | -4.15444 | 0.052642 |
| 40 | 6 | 0 | -2.34551 | -4.13872 | -1.66282 |
| 41 | 6 | 0 | -3.3138 | -4.85814 | -0.95045 |
| 42 | 6 | 0 | 3.206241 | -2.52618 | 1.528071 |
| 43 | 6 | 0 | 1.70222 | -2.92771 | -0.17612 |
| 44 | 6 | 0 | 3.266956 | -3.87728 | 1.839451 |
| 45 | 6 | 0 | 1.717247 | -4.29165 | 0.08089 |
| 46 | 6 | 0 | 2.516591 | -4.80935 | 1.109115 |
| 47 | 6 | 0 | 3.715945 | 2.818188 | 0.300615 |
| 48 | 6 | 0 | 2.11808 | 2.807215 | -1.36421 |
| 49 | 6 | 0 | 4.000975 | 4.155644 | 0.065422 |
| 50 | 6 | 0 | 2.355907 | 4.144513 | -1.65377 |
| 51 | 6 | 0 | 3.323148 | 4.861893 | -0.93737 |
| 52 | 6 | 0 | -2.77101 | -0.68696 | 3.04511 |
| 53 | 6 | 0 | -0.74662 | -1.39471 | 2.199674 |
| 54 | 6 | 0 | -2.49641 | -1.26071 | 4.279631 |
| 55 | 6 | 0 | -0.41215 | -2.00486 | 3.402031 |
| 56 | 6 | 0 | -1.29344 | -1.94843 | 4.489513 |
| 57 | 6 | 0 | 2.753882 | 0.695279 | 3.04708 |
| 58 | 6 | 0 | 0.730244 | 1.390373 | 2.188478 |
| 59 | 6 | 0 | 2.469425 | 1.270207 | 4.278528 |
| 60 | 6 | 0 | 0.386089 | 2.001613 | 3.387757 |
| 61 | 6 | 0 | 1.261547 | 1.952359 | 4.479984 |
| 62 | 7 | 0 | 2.782578 | 2.132421 | -0.4014 |
| 63 | 7 | 0 | 2.429436 | -2.03573 | 0.533208 |
| 64 | 7 | 0 | 1.895886 | 0.738188 | 2.002031 |
| 65 | 7 | 0 | -1.90761 | -0.73617 | 2.004941 |
| 66 | 7 | 0 | -2.43769 | 2.037925 | 0.531576 |
| 67 | 7 | 0 | -2.77434 | -2.12975 | -0.40545 |
| 68 | 1 | 0 | -5.88513 | 1.120214 | -5.22625 |
| 69 | 1 | 0 | -7.90504 | 1.160644 | -3.79244 |
| 70 | 1 | 0 | -7.77693 | 0.807366 | -1.34061 |
| 71 | 1 | 0 | 0.011516 | 0.003747 | -4.58656 |
| 72 | 1 | 0 | 5.925582 | -1.12453 | -5.19952 |
| 73 | 1 | 0 | 7.933501 | -1.17713 | -3.74975 |
| 74 | 1 | 0 | 7.788202 | -0.82989 | -1.29845 |


| 75 | 1 | 0 | -1.08056 | 2.520962 | -0.95186 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 76 | 1 | 0 | -3.84295 | 1.805163 | 2.034741 |
| 77 | 1 | 0 | -3.95823 | 4.199489 | 2.624087 |
| 78 | 1 | 0 | -1.10959 | 4.954879 | -0.51682 |
| 79 | 1 | 0 | -4.25219 | -2.25166 | 1.038412 |
| 80 | 1 | 0 | -1.3632 | -2.24198 | -1.91814 |
| 81 | 1 | 0 | -4.76172 | -4.63981 | 0.647443 |
| 82 | 1 | 0 | -1.77771 | -4.61333 | -2.45735 |
| 83 | 1 | 0 | 3.919236 | -4.19915 | 2.645284 |
| 84 | 1 | 0 | 1.103669 | -4.94891 | -0.52695 |
| 85 | 1 | 0 | 1.086771 | -2.51561 | -0.96482 |
| 86 | 1 | 0 | 3.815808 | -1.80472 | 2.054504 |
| 87 | 1 | 0 | 4.255443 | 2.250768 | 1.047997 |
| 88 | 1 | 0 | 1.373645 | 2.249106 | -1.91639 |
| 89 | 1 | 0 | 4.766443 | 4.639697 | 0.663792 |
| 90 | 1 | 0 | 1.788825 | 4.621599 | -2.44731 |
| 91 | 1 | 0 | -3.72303 | -0.21047 | 2.844881 |
| 92 | 1 | 0 | -0.06825 | -1.42167 | 1.357027 |
| 93 | 1 | 0 | -3.23546 | -1.18195 | 5.071076 |
| 94 | 1 | 0 | 0.538221 | -2.52274 | 3.483857 |
| 95 | 1 | 0 | 3.70912 | 0.222421 | 2.853622 |
| 96 | 1 | 0 | 0.055547 | 1.410784 | 1.342758 |
| 97 | 1 | 0 | 3.204284 | 1.19684 | 5.07439 |
| 98 | 1 | 0 | -0.56762 | 2.514193 | 3.463045 |
| 99 | 6 | 0 | 2.593469 | -6.28337 | 1.395427 |
| 100 | 1 | 0 | 3.495727 | -6.70956 | 0.940547 |
| 101 | 1 | 0 | 2.652848 | -6.47858 | 2.469715 |
| 102 | 1 | 0 | 1.732907 | -6.81983 | 0.989075 |
| 103 | 6 | 0 | -3.6298 | -6.29589 | -1.25774 |
| 104 | 1 | 0 | -4.57237 | -6.3663 | -1.81344 |
| 105 | 1 | 0 | -2.85072 | -6.762 | -1.86521 |
| 106 | 1 | 0 | -3.75476 | -6.87951 | -0.34106 |
| 107 | 6 | 0 | 3.641108 | 6.299393 | -1.24318 |
| 108 | 1 | 0 | 4.544551 | 6.363102 | -1.86154 |
| 109 | 1 | 0 | 2.831101 | 6.786229 | -1.7913 |
| 110 | 1 | 0 | 3.837046 | 6.867141 | -0.32939 |
| 111 | 6 | 0 | -2.62399 | 6.286865 | 1.387753 |
| 112 | 1 | 0 | -1.75138 | 6.822581 | 1.00667 |
| 113 | 1 | 0 | -3.51178 | 6.713665 | 0.905741 |
| 114 | 1 | 0 | -2.71499 | 6.482772 | 2.459619 |
| 115 | 6 | 0 | 0.943112 | 2.620403 | 5.789974 |
| 116 | 1 | 0 | 1.267976 | 2.009885 | 6.63718 |
| 117 | 1 | 0 | 1.468375 | 3.57999 | 5.865825 |
| 118 | 1 | 0 | -0.12632 | 2.818858 | 5.893167 |
| 119 | 6 | 0 | -0.98544 | -2.61643 | 5.802079 |
| 120 | 1 | 0 | -1.34078 | -2.01908 | 6.646249 |
| 121 | 1 | 0 | -1.48888 | -3.58883 | 5.861803 |
| 122 | 1 | 0 | 0.086208 | -2.79095 | 5.92496 |
| 123 | 1 | 0 | -2.93276 | 0.740971 | -4.90381 |
| 124 | 1 | 0 | 2.970171 | -0.73254 | -4.89882 |

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