

# Metal-metal interactions in dinuclear ruthenium complexes containing bridging 4,5-di(2-pyridyl)imidazoles and related ligands

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## ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**Table S1** UV/Vis/NIR spectral data of the reduced absorption spectra ( $\epsilon/\nu$  vs.  $\nu$ ) for  $3^{n+}$  and  $4^{n+}$  in 0.1 M  $[(n-C_4H_9)_4N]PF_6/CH_3CN$  at  $-35^\circ C$ . The NIR spectral data are indicated in bold type.<sup>a</sup>

Complex	$n^+$	3	4
		$\nu_{max} \pm 10/cm^{-1}$ { $(\epsilon/\nu)_{max} \pm 0.0001 /M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ }	$\nu_{max} \pm 10/cm^{-1}$ { $(\epsilon/\nu)_{max} \pm 0.0001 /M^{-1}cm^{-1}$ }
<i>meso</i>	4	<i>sh</i> 17830 (0.3011)	<i>sh</i> 16702 (0.3970)
		20160 (0.6828)	19000 (0.9673)
		24590 (0.8858)	23510 (0.8643)
	5	<b>6590 (1.5218)</b>	<b>5625 (1.4908)</b>
		15880 (0.2575)	14380 (0.1880)
		18870 (0.4582)	17810 (0.5303)
6	24920 (0.4084)	23543 (0.3379)	
	~12359 (0.0519)		
	18771 (0.1312)		
<i>rac</i>	4	22671 (0.2185)	
		<i>sh</i> 17892 (0.3743)	<i>sh</i> 16690 (0.3992)
		20190 (0.7951)	18920 (0.9629)
	5	24620 (1.0359)	23570 (0.9117)
		<b>6460 (1.2737)</b>	<b>5628 (0.8994)</b>
		15895 (0.1883)	14410 (0.2326)
	18840 (0.3703)	18370 (0.5161)	
	24910 (0.3522)	23930 (0.4854)	

<sup>a</sup> *meso*4<sup>6+</sup>, *rac*3<sup>6+</sup> and *rac*4<sup>6+</sup> not measured.

**Table S2** UV/Vis/NIR spectral data of the reduced absorption spectra ( $\epsilon/\nu$  vs.  $\nu$ ) for  $9^{n+}$  in 0.1 M [(*n*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>4</sub>N]PF<sub>6</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN and 0.02 M [(*n*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>4</sub>N]{B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>4</sub>}<sup>-</sup>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN at -35°C. The NIR spectral data are indicated in bold type.<sup>a</sup>

Complex	<i>n</i> <sup>+</sup>	PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	{B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> } <sup>-</sup>
		$\nu_{\max} \pm 10/\text{cm}^{-1}$ { $(\epsilon/\nu)_{\max} \pm 0.0001/\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ }	$\nu_{\max} \pm 10/\text{cm}^{-1}$ { $(\epsilon/\nu)_{\max} \pm 0.0001/\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ }
<b>9a<sup>n+</sup> meso</b>	3	21305 (1.3060)	21290 (1.3189)
		22480 (1.2337)	22354 (1.2414)
		27935 (0.9329)	27920 (0.9383)
	4	<b>4560 (1.2061)</b>	<b>4105 (0.9119)</b>
		9806 (0.3258)	9110 (0.2793)
		10700 (0.2668)	9990 (0.2204)
		22340 (0.8190)	22190 (0.6665)
		28370 (0.9067)	27725 (0.7955)
	5	18965 (0.3752)	19385 (0.2488)
27768 (1.0277)		26885 (0.8709)	
28865 (1.1227)		28100 (0.9049)	
<b>9a<sup>n+</sup> rac</b>	3	21070 (1.3192)	21065 (1.3255)
		22650 (1.2322)	22520 (1.2433)
		28010 (1.0122)	28025 (0.9951)
	4	<b>4474 (1.4816)</b>	<b>4117 (0.9668)</b>
		9818 (0.4286)	9116 (0.2658)
		10730 (0.3762)	10062 (0.2163)
		22295 (1.0266)	22205 (0.6515)
		28445 (1.1114)	27845 (0.8682)
	5	18890 (0.4771)	19430 (0.2157)
		27600 (1.2592)	26930 (0.9165)
		28580 (1.3522)	28130 (0.9638)

**Table S3** NIR spectral data of the reduced absorption spectra ( $\epsilon/\nu$  vs.  $\nu$ ) for  $3^{5+}$  and  $4^{5+}$  in 0.1 M [(*n*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>4</sub>N]PF<sub>6</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>CN at -35°C. For the dinuclear species, the parameters for the overall NIR band envelopes are shown in bold type: details of the deconvoluted bands are in normal type.

Complex	Component	$\nu_{\max}$ $\pm 10$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	$(\epsilon/\nu)_{\max}$ $\pm 0.0001$ /M <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta\nu_{1/2}$ $\pm 20$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta\nu_{1/2}^{\circ}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	$M_0$ /M <sup>-1</sup>	$H_{\text{ab}}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>
<b>3meso<sup>5+</sup></b>		<b>6590</b>	<b>1.5218</b>	<b>1470</b>	<b>3480</b>	<b>3211</b>	<b>3295</b>
	1	5140	0.3339	1330		472.1	
	2	6570	1.3959	1210		1802	2570
	3	7686	0.3742	1620		645.7	
<b>3rac<sup>5+</sup></b>		<b>6460</b>	<b>1.2737</b>	<b>1492</b>	<b>3440</b>	<b>2650</b>	<b>3230</b>
		3782	0.2670	1950		350.9	
	1	5020	0.1574	1050		175.9	
	2	6438	0.9936	1267		1340	2510
	3	7650	0.2676	1564		445.7	
<b>4meso<sup>5+</sup></b>		<b>5625</b>	<b>1.4908</b>	<b>1346</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>2538</b>	<b>2813</b>
	1	4425	0.2682	850.4		241.5	
	2	5600	1.4058	1023		1530	2800
	3	6460	0.4536	1016		490.7	
		7175	0.1540	1405		230.4	
<b>4rac<sup>5+</sup></b>		<b>5628</b>	<b>0.8995</b>	<b>1516</b>	<b>3215</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>2814</b>
	1	4400	0.1552	790		130.1	
	2	5600	0.8453	1093		984.3	2800
	3	6515	0.3023	1050		338.5	
		7260	0.1076	1543		176.8	

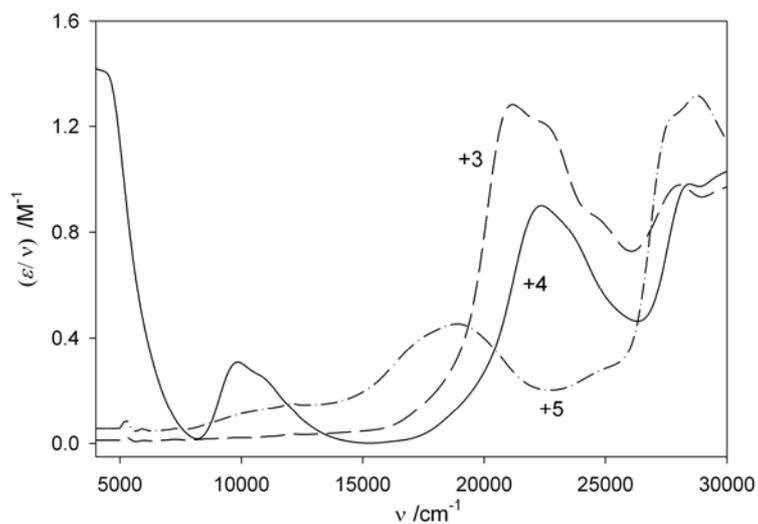
**Table S4** NIR spectral data of the reduced absorption spectra ( $\epsilon/\nu$  vs.  $\nu$ ) for  $\mathbf{9}^{4+}$  in 0.1 M  $[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  and 0.02 M  $[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_4\text{N}]\{\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4\}/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at  $-35^\circ\text{C}$ . The parameters for the overall NIR band envelopes are shown in bold type and details of the deconvoluted bands are in normal type.<sup>a</sup>

Electrolyte	Complex	Component	$\nu_{\text{max}} \pm 10$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	$(\epsilon/\nu)_{\text{max}} \pm 0.0001$ /M <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta\nu_{1/2} \pm 20$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta\nu_{1/2}^\circ$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	$M_0^c$ /M <sup>-1</sup>	$H_{\text{ab}}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>	
PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	<b>9rac</b> <sup>4+</sup>		<b>4475</b>	<b>1.4816</b>	<b>1112</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>2866</b>			
		2	4450	1.4006	1947		2693		
		3	6340	0.2124	1570		355		
		4	9678	0.2765	1370		404		
		5	10950	0.2003	1540		328		
		6	12310	0.08094	2005		172		
	<b>9meso</b> <sup>4+</sup>			<b>4560</b>	<b>1.2061</b>	<b>1029</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>2893</b>		
		2	4302	1.2301	2380		2663		
		3	6582	0.1270	1984		268		
		4	9797	0.2982	1580		500		
		5	11117	0.1378	1204		176		
		6	12185	0.0873	2032		188		
{B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> } <sup>-</sup>	<b>9rac</b> <sup>4+</sup>		<b>4120</b>	<b>0.9668</b>	<b>1148</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>2750</b>			
		2	3980	0.9351	2230		1625		
		3	6058	0.1318	2040		285		
		4	9140	0.2377	1640		415		
		5	10410	0.08727	1152		107		
		6	11347	0.07440	1990		157		
	<b>9meso</b> <sup>4+</sup>			<b>4105</b>	<b>0.9119</b>	<b>1160</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>2745</b>		
		2	3960	0.9151	2355		1683		
		3	6197	0.1287	1816		248		
		4	9128	0.2551	1636		444		
		5	10430	0.08557	1130		103		
		6	11293	0.07602	2090		170		

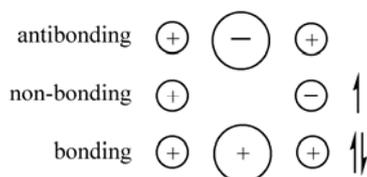
<sup>a</sup> The first component was obscured at the detector limit and an accurate determination of the parameters was precluded.

<sup>b</sup> Bandwidth for the high-energy side of the IVCT manifold. The lower energy side was obscured at the detector limit.

<sup>c</sup> The  $M_0$  for the full band manifold could not be measured reliably.



**Figure S1** Overlay of the spectra for  $9rac^{n+}$   $\{n = 3, 4, 5\}$  in 0.1 M  $[(n-C_4H_9)_4N]PF_6/CH_3CN$  at  $-35^\circ C$ .



**Figure S2** Qualitative molecular orbital diagram for the dinuclear  $[\{Ru(bpy)_2\}_2(\mu-BL)]^{5+}$  systems showing the bonding, non-bonding and antibonding molecular orbitals. The IVCT corresponds to a bonding  $\rightarrow$  non-bonding transition.