

## Supporting Information

### Mechanistic behaviour of alkylcobaloximes and imino-oxime complexes related to vitamin B<sub>12</sub>

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Table S1. Kinetic data for the reaction of *trans*-[(CH<sub>3</sub>)Co((DO)(DOH)pn)H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> with imidazole, 1-methylimidazole, pyrazole and 1,2,4-triazole as a function of temperature and pressure.<sup>a</sup>

T, °C	k, M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>			
	imidazole	1-methylimidazole	pyrazole	1,2,4-triazole
5	11.8 ± 0.1	8.4 ± 0.1	12.3 ± 0.1	9.7 ± 0.1
10	22.2 ± 0.1	14.5 ± 0.1	23.3 ± 0.1	18.1 ± 0.1
15	35.8 ± 0.1	26.4 ± 0.2	39.4 ± 0.2	29.8 ± 0.1
20	59.4 ± 0.4	43.2 ± 0.8	66.2 ± 0.6	48.4 ± 0.2
25	94.6 ± 1.4	68.0 ± 0.4	105.6 ± 1.8	74.0 ± 0.6
ΔH <sup>‡</sup> , kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	69 ± 2	70 ± 2	71 ± 2	67 ± 2
ΔS <sup>‡</sup> , J mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	+23 ± 6	+27 ± 5	+33 ± 6	+17 ± 7
Pressure, MPa	<sup>b</sup> k <sub>obs</sub> , s <sup>-1</sup>			
10	4.20 ± 0.09	3.70 ± 0.05	5.29 ± 0.08	3.85 ± 0.04
50	4.04 ± 0.19	3.56 ± 0.07	4.97 ± 0.04	3.66 ± 0.05
90	3.86 ± 0.08	3.39 ± 0.04	4.72 ± 0.10	3.45 ± 0.04
130	3.69 ± 0.02	3.22 ± 0.05	4.41 ± 0.10	3.28 ± 0.05
ΔV <sup>‡</sup> , cm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	+2.7 ± 0.1	+2.9 ± 0.1	+3.7 ± 0.1	+3.4 ± 0.1

<sup>a</sup> [Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M, pH 9, I = 0.1 M. <sup>b</sup> [nucleophile] = 0.05 M, T = 25 °C.

Table S2. Kinetic data for the reaction of *trans*-[(CH<sub>3</sub>)Co((DO)(DOH)pn)MeOH]<sup>+</sup> with imidazole, 1-methylimidazole, pyrazole, and 1,2,4-triazole as a function of temperature and pressure.<sup>a</sup>

T, °C	k, M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>			
	imidazole	1-methylimidazole	pyrazole	1,2,4-triazole
5	3.3 ± 0.1	3.3 ± 0.1	2.4 ± 0.1	2.4 ± 0.1
10	5.5 ± 0.1	5.1 ± 0.1	4.1 ± 0.1	4.1 ± 0.1
15	9.8 ± 0.1	8.4 ± 0.1	7.0 ± 0.1	6.9 ± 0.1
20	16.5 ± 0.1	14.8 ± 0.1	11.7 ± 0.1	11.3 ± 0.1
25	26.0 ± 0.2	24.3 ± 0.2	21.0 ± 0.1	20.2 ± 0.1
ΔH <sup>‡</sup> , kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	70 ± 1	67 ± 2	72 ± 2	70 ± 2
ΔS <sup>‡</sup> , J mol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	+16 ± 4	+7 ± 8	+21 ± 5	+16 ± 5
Pressure, MPa	<sup>b</sup> k <sub>obs</sub> , s <sup>-1</sup>			
10	1.12 ± 0.02	0.90 ± 0.04	0.90 ± 0.01	0.85 ± 0.01
50	1.06 ± 0.01	0.84 ± 0.01	0.85 ± 0.01	0.80 ± 0.01
90	1.00 ± 0.01	0.79 ± 0.01	0.79 ± 0.01	0.74 ± 0.02
130	0.95 ± 0.01	0.73 ± 0.01	0.74 ± 0.01	0.69 ± 0.01
ΔV <sup>‡</sup> , cm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	+3.4 ± 0.1	+4.3 ± 0.1	+4.1 ± 0.1	+4.4 ± 0.1

<sup>a</sup> [Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M. <sup>b</sup> [Nucleophile] = 0.05 M, T = 25 °C.

Table S3. Kinetic data for the reaction of *trans*-[(R)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O] with pyridine where R = CH<sub>2</sub>Cl and CH<sub>2</sub>Br as a function of temperature and pressure.<sup>a</sup>

T, °C	<i>trans</i> -[(CH <sub>2</sub> Cl)Co(Hdmg) <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O]			<i>trans</i> -[(CH <sub>2</sub> Br)Co(Hdmg) <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O]		
	k, s <sup>-1</sup>	K, M <sup>-1</sup>	k K, M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	k, s <sup>-1</sup>	K, M <sup>-1</sup>	k K, M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
20	4.1 ± 0.2	2.01 ± 0.08	8.2 ± 0.7	2.4 ± 0.2	1.51 ± 0.08	3.6 ± 0.5
25	8.0 ± 0.3	1.71 ± 0.08	13.7 ± 1.2	4.2 ± 0.3	1.44 ± 0.08	6.0 ± 0.8
30	15.4 ± 0.4	1.43 ± 0.08	22.0 ± 1.8	8.0 ± 0.4	1.30 ± 0.08	10.4 ± 1.2
35	28 ± 0.4	1.22 ± 0.08	34.2 ± 2.7	12.0 ± 0.3	1.33 ± 0.07	16.0 ± 1.2
40	47.0 ± 0.5	1.19 ± 0.08	55.9 ± 4.4	21.0 ± 0.3	1.34 ± 0.08	28.1 ± 2.1
$\Delta H^\ddagger$ , kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>			71 ± 1			76 ± 5
$\Delta S^\ddagger$ , J K <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>			+14 ± 3			+25 ± 5
Pressure, MPa			<sup>b</sup> k, s <sup>-1</sup>			
10	5.13 ± 0.20		5.24 ± 0.10			
50	4.76 ± 0.10		4.69 ± 0.20			
80	4.48 ± 0.30		4.42 ± 0.10			
120	4.07 ± 0.20		3.99 ± 0.30			
$\Delta V^\ddagger$ , cm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	+5.2 ± 0.2		+6.0 ± 0.2			

<sup>a</sup>[Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M, pH = 8, I = 0.1 M. <sup>b</sup>T = 25 °C, [Py] = 0.64 M

Table S4. Kinetic data for the reaction of *trans*-[(R)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O] with pyridine and thiourea where R = CH<sub>2</sub>Cl, CH<sub>2</sub>Br, and CH<sub>2</sub>I as function of temperature and pressure.<sup>a</sup>

<i>trans</i> -[(R)Co(Hdmg) <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O]						
	Thiourea			Pyridine		
	R= CH <sub>2</sub> Cl	R= CH <sub>2</sub> Br	R= CH <sub>2</sub> I		R= CH <sub>2</sub> I	
T, °C		k, M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>		k, s <sup>-1</sup>	K, M <sup>-1</sup>	k K, M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
20	10.4 ± 0.2	4.2 ± 0.2	4.1 ± 0.1	2.6 ± 0.1	1.04 ± 0.09	2.7 ± 0.3
25	17.8 ± 0.3	7.3 ± 0.2	6.6 ± 0.1	5.7 ± 0.2	0.86 ± 0.08	4.9 ± 0.6
30	27.9 ± 0.5	11.7 ± 0.5	11.3 ± 0.1	15.0 ± 0.2	0.54 ± 0.08	8.1 ± 1.3
35	46 ± 1	19.6 ± 0.5	20.0 ± 0.2	62.0 ± 0.2	0.21 ± 0.07	13.0 ± 4.4
40	74 ± 1	32.7 ± 0.4	28.7 ± 0.4	74.0 ± 0.9	0.31 ± 0.08	22.9 ± 6.2
ΔH <sup>‡</sup> , kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>	72 ± 1	75 ± 1	73 ± 3			78 ± 2
ΔS <sup>‡</sup> , J K <sup>-1</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	+19 ± 3	+23 ± 4	+16 ± 10			+31 ± 6
Pressure, MPa				<sup>b</sup> k, s <sup>-1</sup>		
10	11.0 ± 0.4	6.3 ± 0.3	4.9 ± 0.2	1.78 ± 0.04		
50	10.2 ± 0.3	5.3 ± 0.3	4.4 ± 0.1	1.67 ± 0.03		
80	9.4 ± 0.4	4.6 ± .2	4.0 ± 0.3	1.55 ± 0.05		
120	8.4 ± 0.3	4.0 ± 0.3	3.7 ± 0.2	1.44 ± 0.04		
ΔV <sup>‡</sup> , cm <sup>3</sup> mol <sup>-1</sup>	+6.1 ± 0.4	+10.4 ± 0.5	+6.4 ± 0.2	+4.9 ± 0.3		

<sup>a</sup> [Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M, pH = 8, I = 0.1 M. <sup>b</sup> T = 25 °C, [TU] = 0.8 M, [Py] = 0.64M

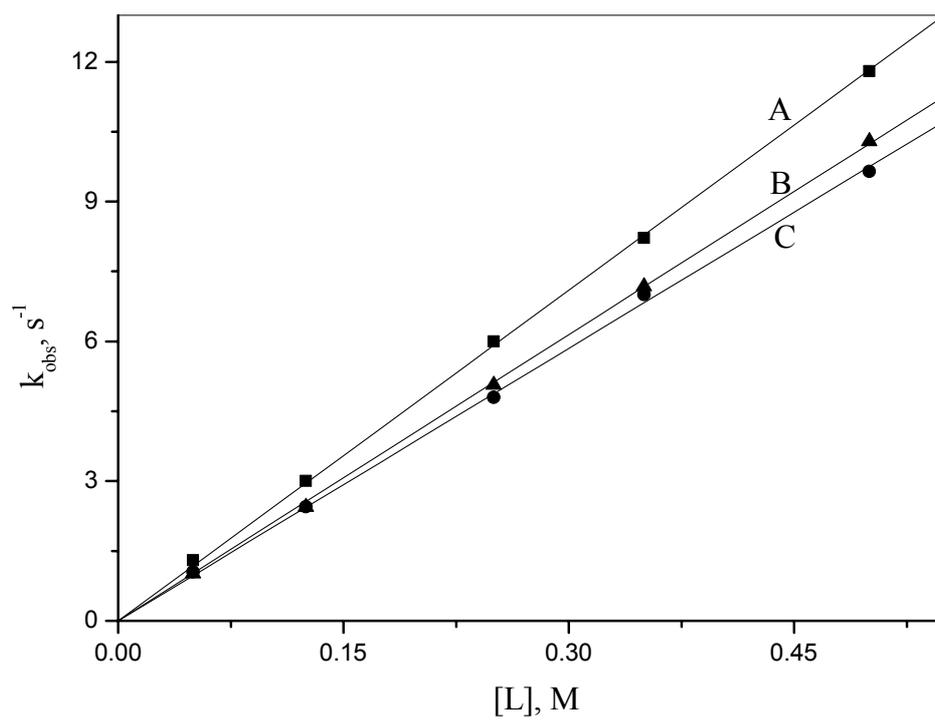


Figure S1. Plots of  $k_{obs}$  versus [imidazole] (A), [1,2,4-triazole] (B), and [pyrazole] (C) for the reaction with  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M *trans*- $[(CH_3)Co((DO)(DOH)pn)MeOH]^+$  at 25.0 °C.

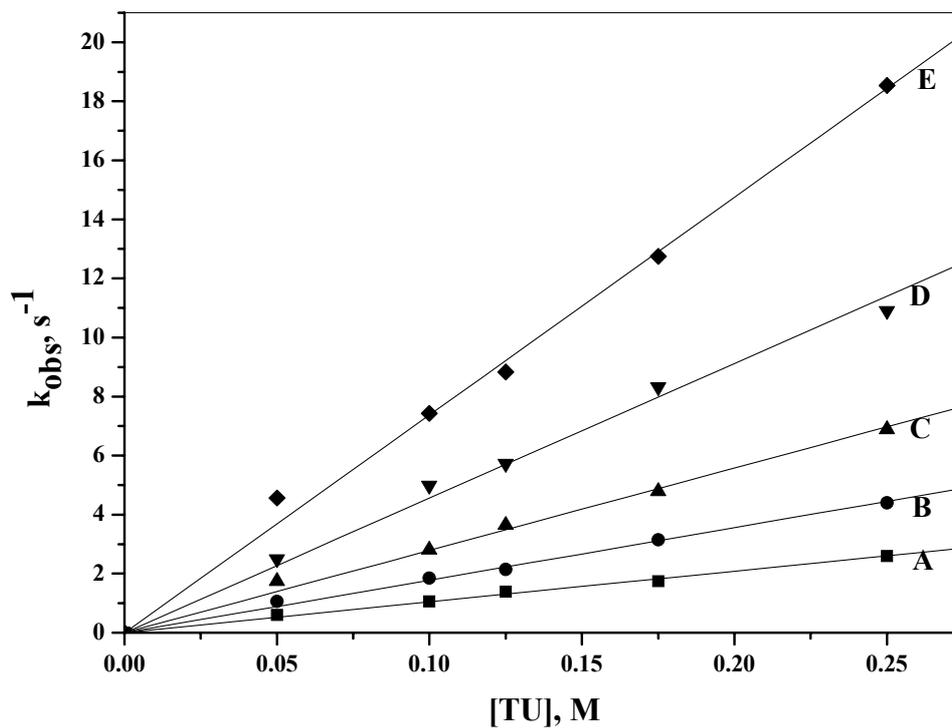


Figure S2. Plots of  $k_{obs}$  versus [Thiourea] for the reaction with  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O] as a function of temperature. Experimental conditions: pH = 8, I = 0.1 M, and temperature 20 (A), 25 (B), 30 (C), 35 (D) and 40 (E) °C.

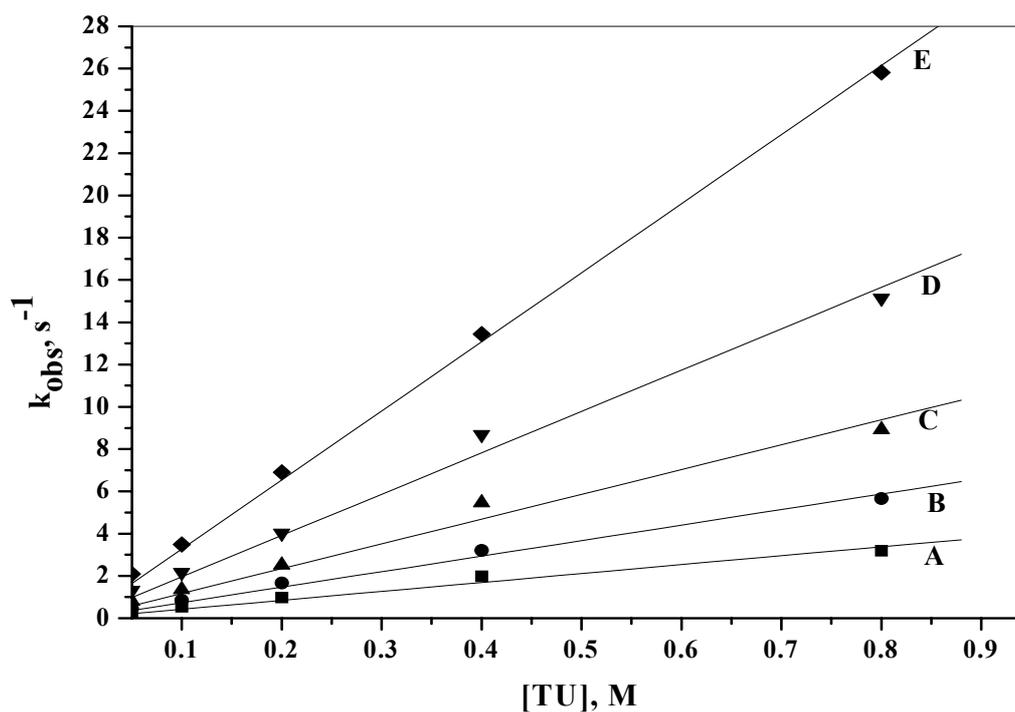


Figure S3. Plots of  $k_{obs}$  versus [Thiourea] for the reaction with  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M *trans*- $[(CH_2Br)Co(Hdmg)_2H_2O]$  as a function of temperature. Experimental conditions: pH = 8, I = 0.1 M, and temperature: 20 (A), 25 (B), 30 (C), 35 (D) and 40 (E) °C.

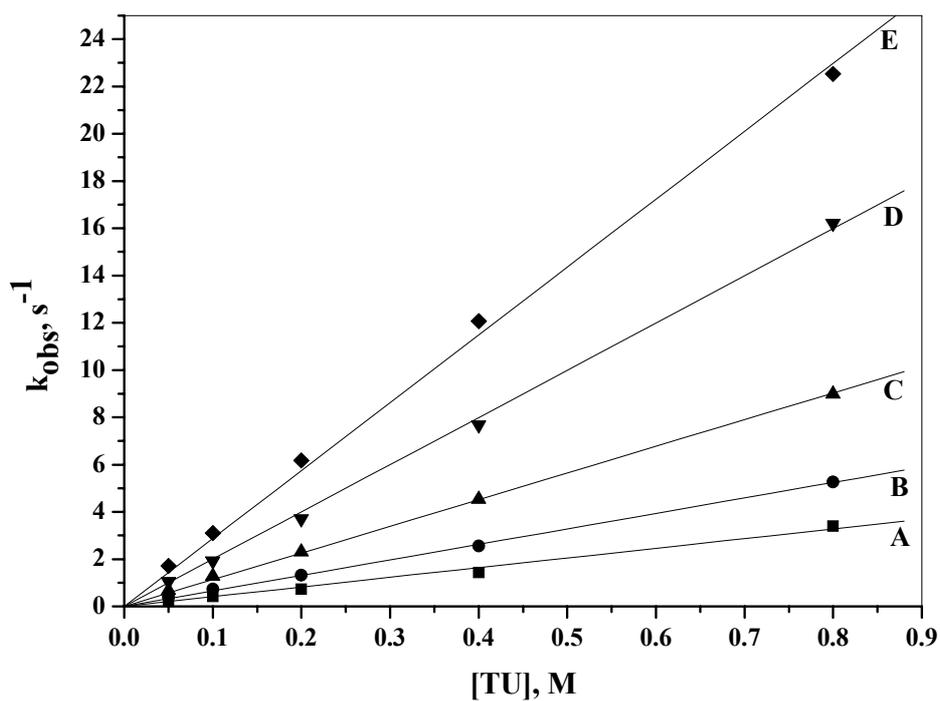


Figure S4. Plots of  $k_{obs}$  versus [Thiourea] for the reaction with  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M *trans*- $[(CH_2I)Co(Hdmg)_2H_2O]$  as a function of temperature. Experimental conditions: pH = 8, I = 0.1 M, and temperature: 20 (A), 25 (B), 30 (C), 35 (D) and 40 (E) °C.

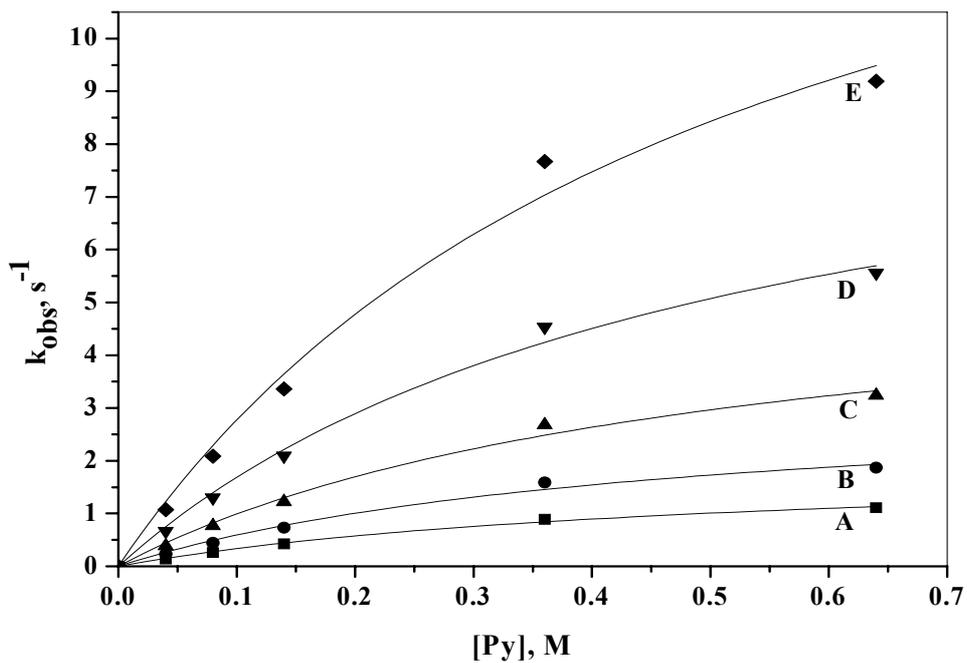


Figure S5. Plots of  $k_{obs}$  versus [Pyridine] for the reaction with  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M *trans*- $[(CH_2Br)Co(Hdmg)_2H_2O]$  as a function of temperature. Experimental conditions: pH = 8, I = 0.1 M, and temperature: 20 (A), 25 (B), 30 (C), 35 (D) and 40 (E) °C.

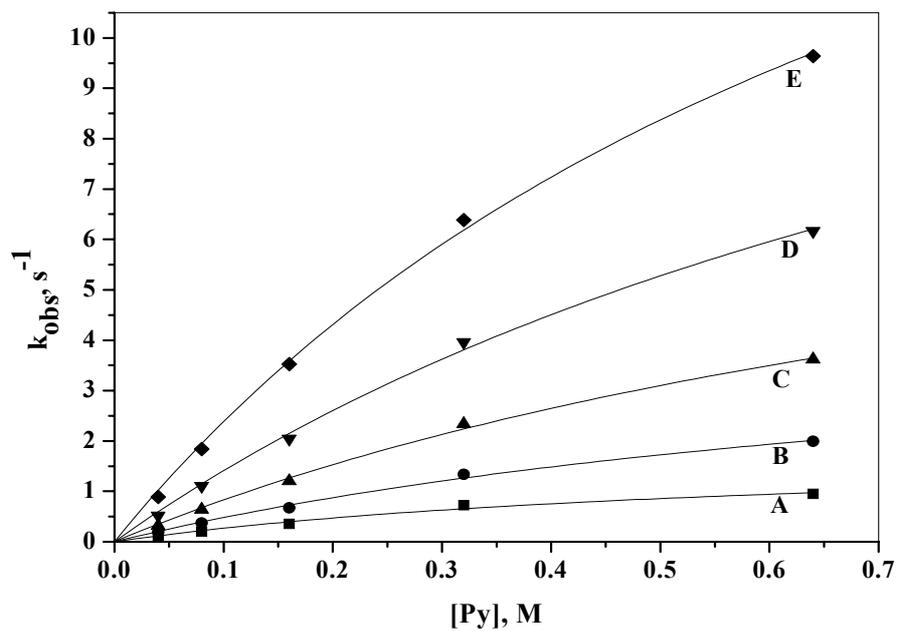


Figure S6. Plots of  $k_{obs}$  versus [Pyridine] for the reaction with  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M *trans*- $[(CH_2I)Co(Hdmg)_2H_2O]$  as a function of temperature. Experimental conditions: pH = 8, I = 0.1 M, and temperature: 20 (A), 25 (B), 30 (C), 35 (D) and 40 (E) °C.

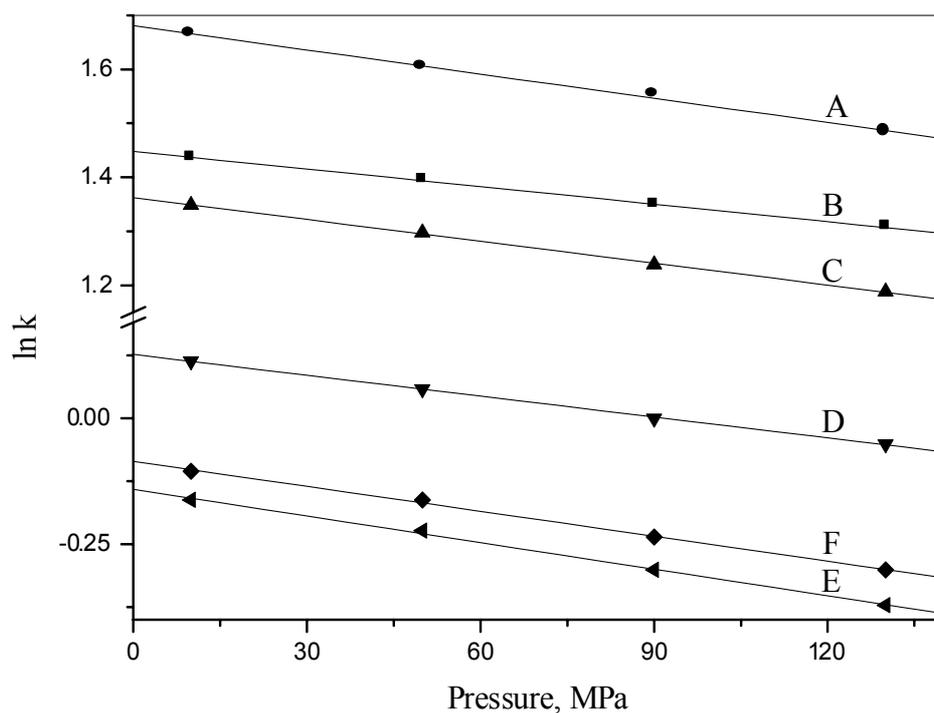


Figure S7. Plots of  $\ln k$  versus pressure for the reaction of  $trans\text{-}[(\text{CH}_3)\text{Co}((\text{DO})(\text{DOH})\text{pn})\text{S}]^+$  with pyrazole (A), imidazole (B) and 1,2,4-triazole (C) for  $\text{S} = \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; imidazole (D), pyrazole (E) and 1,2,4-triazole (F) for  $\text{S} = \text{MeOH}$ . Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}] = (0.9\text{-}1.5) \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{imidazole}] = [\text{1,2,4-triazole}] = [\text{pyrazole}] = 0.05 \text{ M}$ ,  $\text{Temp.} = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 9$  and  $\text{I} = 0.1 \text{ M NaClO}_4$  in the case of  $\text{S} = \text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

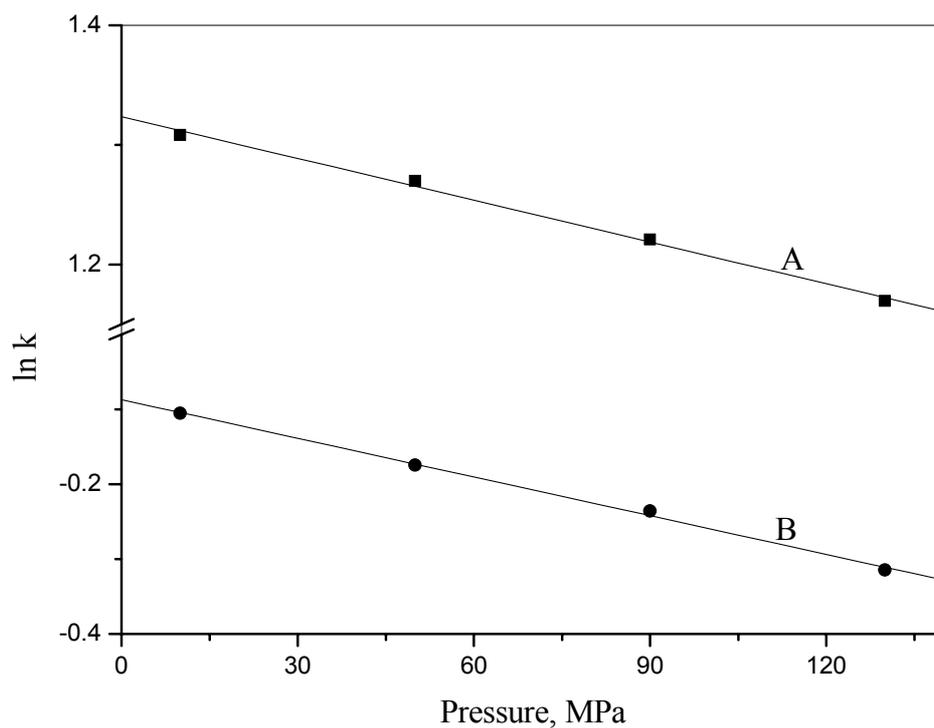


Figure S8. Plots of  $\ln k$  versus pressure for the reaction of  $trans\text{-}[(\text{CH}_3)\text{Co}((\text{DO})(\text{DOH})\text{pn})\text{S}]^+$  with 1-methylimidazole for  $\text{S} = \text{H}_2\text{O}$  (A) and for  $\text{S} = \text{MeOH}$  (B). Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}] = (0.9\text{-}1.5) \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{1-methylimidazole}] = 0.05 \text{ M}$ ,  $\text{Temp.} = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\text{pH} 9$  and  $\text{I} = 0.1 \text{ M NaClO}_4$  in the case of  $\text{S} = \text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

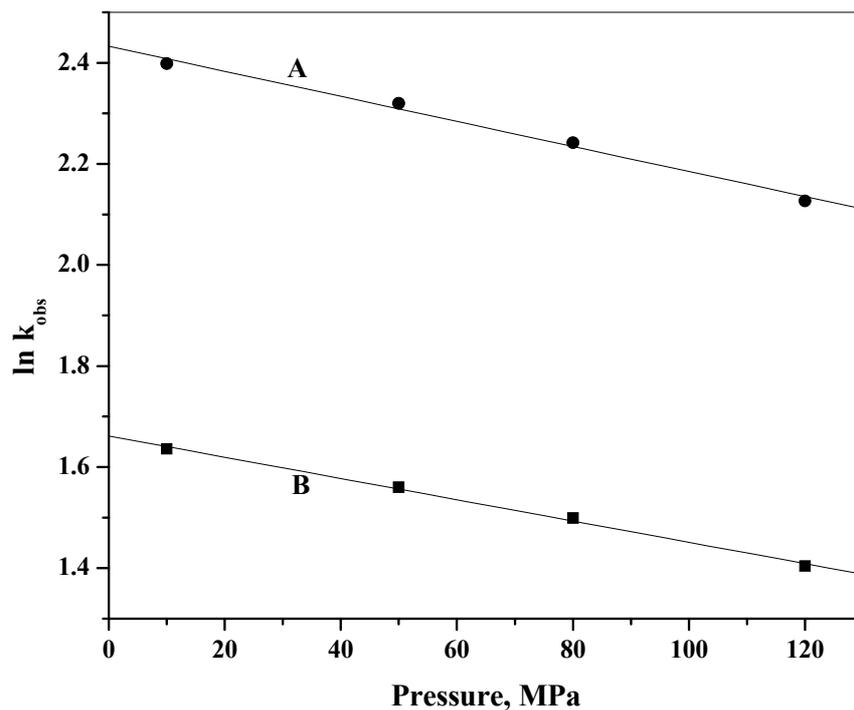


Figure S9. Plots of  $\ln k$  versus pressure for the reaction of *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O] with thiourea (A) and pyridine (B). Experimental conditions: [Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M, [Py] = 0.64 and [TU] = 0.8 M, Temp. = 25.0 °C, pH 8 and I = 0.1 M.

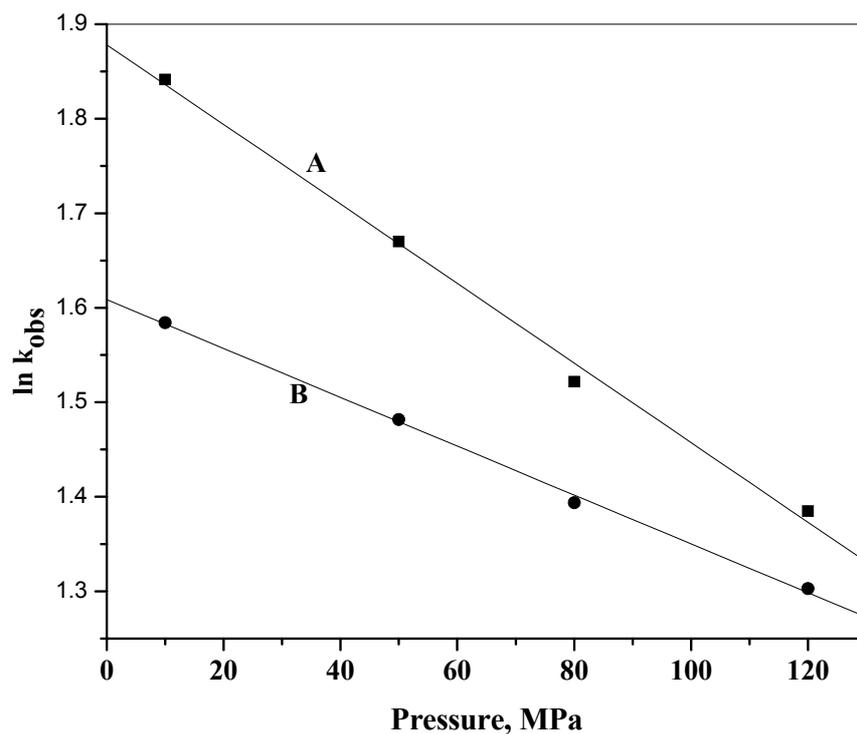


Figure S10. Plots of  $\ln k$  versus pressure for the reaction of *trans*-[(R)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O] with pyridine where R = CH<sub>2</sub>Br (A) and CH<sub>2</sub>I (B). Experimental conditions: [Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 x 10<sup>-3</sup> M, [Py] = 0.64 M, Temp. = 25.0 °C, pH 8 and I = 0.1 M.

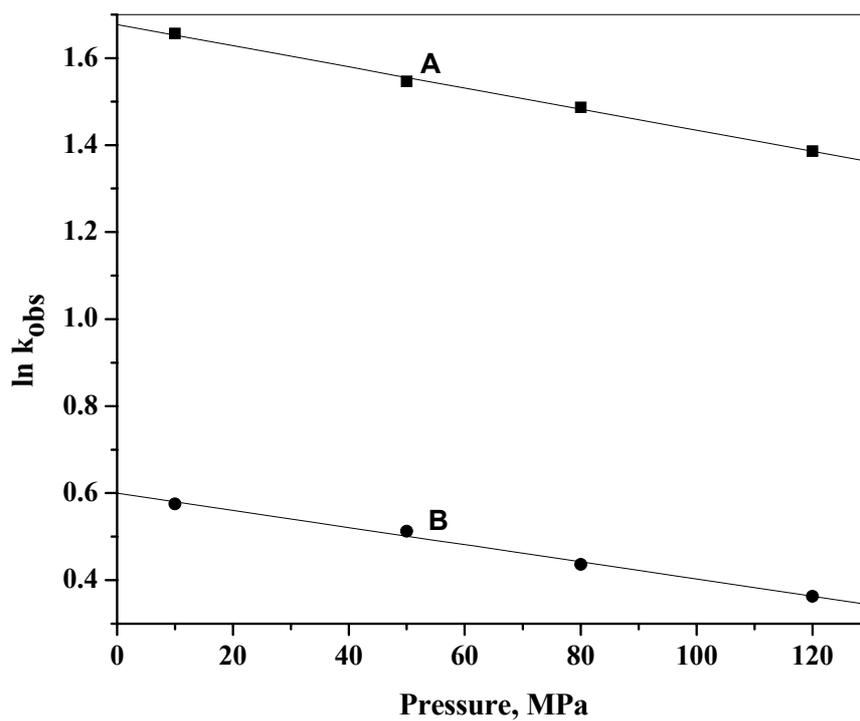


Figure S11. Plots of  $\ln k$  versus pressure for the reaction of *trans*-[(R)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O] with thiourea where R = CH<sub>2</sub>Br (A) and CH<sub>2</sub>I (B). Experimental conditions: [Co<sup>III</sup>] = 1 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M, [TU] = 0.8 M, Temp. = 25.0 °C, pH 8 and I = 0.1 M.

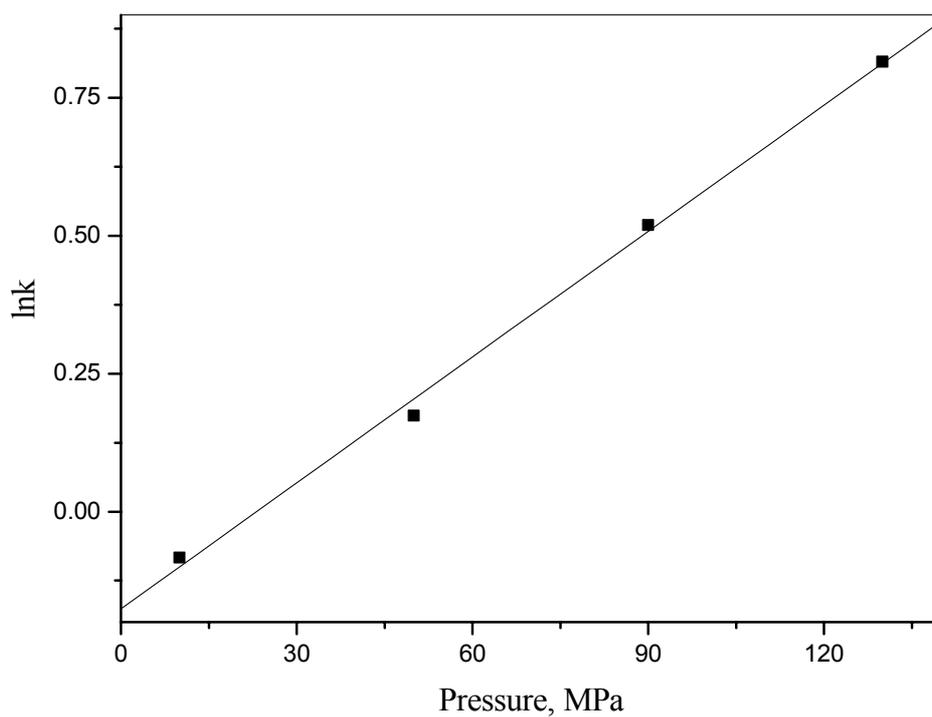


Figure S12. Plot of  $\ln k$  versus pressure for the reaction of *trans*- $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Co}(\text{DO})(\text{DOH})\text{pn}]$  with acid. Experimental conditions:  $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}] = 3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{H}^+] = 1.25 \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}$ , Temp. = 25.0 °C,  $I = 0.2 \text{ M NaClO}_4$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{MeOH}$  (1:1) as solvent.

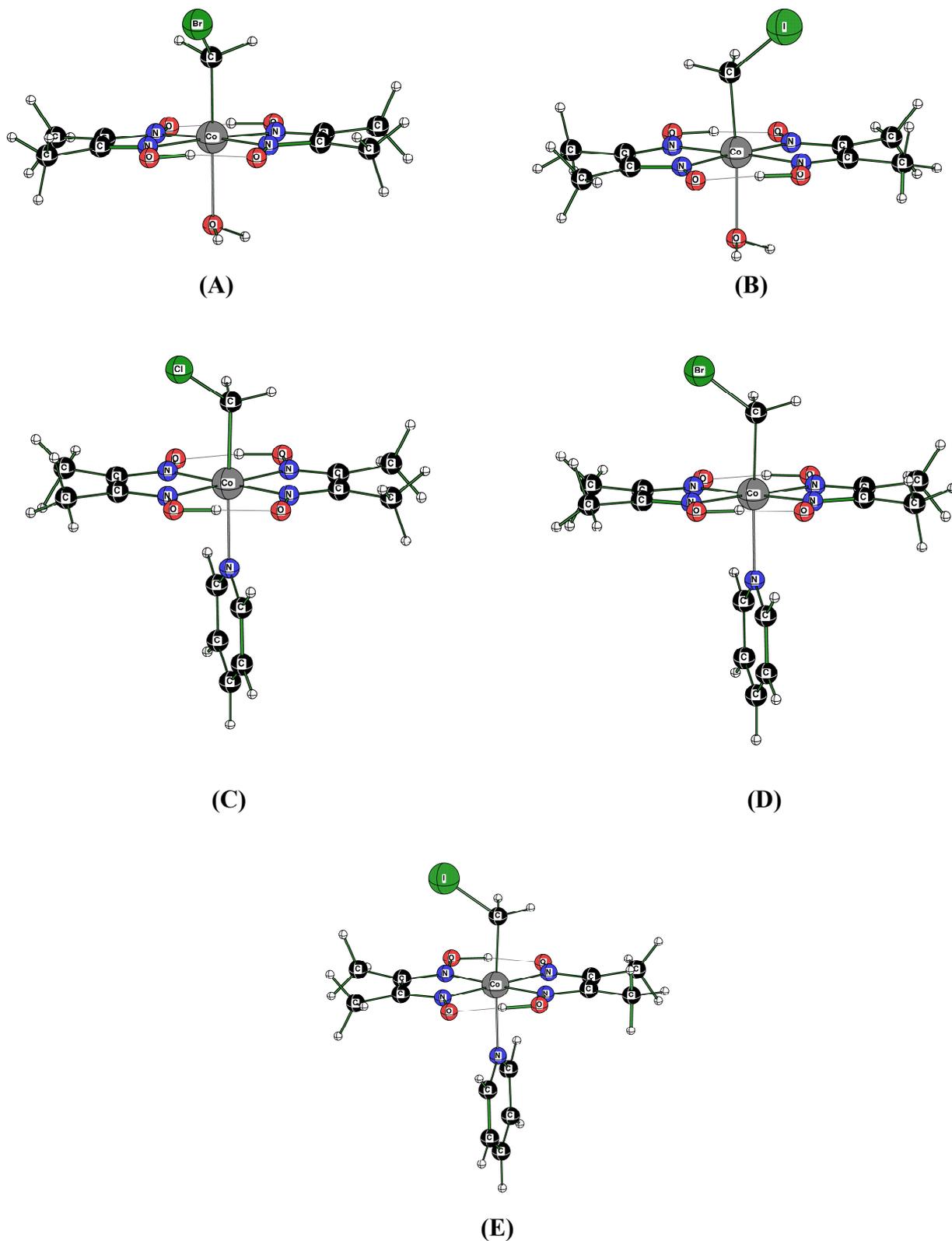


Figure S13. DFT calculated (B3LYP/LANL2DZp) structures of *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>Br)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>OH<sub>2</sub>] (A), *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>I)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>OH<sub>2</sub>] (B), *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>Py] (C), *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>Br)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>Py] (D) and *trans*-[(CH<sub>2</sub>I)Co(Hdmg)<sub>2</sub>Py] (E).

## Synopsis

### Mechanistic behaviour of alkylcobaloximes and imino-oxime complexes related to vitamin B<sub>12</sub>

Basam M. Alzoubi, Fanny Vidali, Ralph Puchta, Carlos Dücker-Benfer, Alessandro Felluga, Lucio Randaccio, Giovanni Tazzer and Rudi van Eldik\*

Ligand substitution reactions of complexes of the type  $trans\text{-}[(R)Co(Chel)S]^{+/0}$  were studied as a function of temperature and pressure. The activation parameters support the operation of a dissociative interchange ( $I_d$ ) mechanism. The reaction of  $trans\text{-}[(CH_3)_2Co((DO)(DOH)pn)]$  with acid was studied in H<sub>2</sub>O/methanol (1:1) as solvent. The mechanism involves protonation of the methyl group followed by release of methane.

