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Supporting Information

Manuscript: Electronic effects in oxo-transfer reactions catalysed by Salan molybdenum(VI) *cis*-dioxo complexes Authors: Christopher J. Whiteoak, George J.P. Britovsek, Vernon C. Gibson and Andrew J.P. White

Synthesis of Ligands and Complexes

N,N'-dimethyl-N,N'-bis[(5-chloro-2-hydroxyphenyl)methylene]-

1,2-diaminoethane (H₂L^{Cl}). This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for H₂L^{Br}, except 4-chlorophenol (2.92 g, 22.7 mmol) was used in place of 4-bromophenol to yield a white powder (2.36 g, 56 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 10.66 (br s, 2H, ArOH), 7.15 (dd, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 8.7$, ${}^{4}J_{HH} = 2.5$, ArH), 6.96 (d, 2H, ${}^{4}J_{HH} = 2.5$, ArH), 6.79 (d, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 8.7$, ArH), 3.79 (s, 4H, NCH₂Ar), 2.67 (s, 4H, N(CH₂CH₂)N), 2.31 (s, 6H, NCH₃). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 156.42, 128.79, 128.24, 123.71, 122.96, 117.58 (ArC), 61.34, 53.89 (CH₂), 41.66 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 369, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for C₁₈H₂₂Cl₂N₂O₂ (<i>F.W. 369.3*): C, 58.54; H, 6.00; N, 7.59%. Found C, 58.62; H, 6.06; N, 7.52 %.

N,*N*'-dimethyl-*N*,*N*'-bis[(5-iodo-2-hydroxyphenyl)methylene]-

1,2-diaminoethane (H₂L¹). This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for H₂L^{Br}, except 4-iodophenol (4.99 g, 22.7 mmol) was used in place of 4-bromophenol to yield a white powder (2.13 g, 34 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 9.91 (br s, 2H, ArOH), 7.46 (dd, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 8.5$, ${}^{4}J_{HH} = 2.1$, ArH), 7.27 (d, 2H, ${}^{4}J_{HH} = 2.1$, ArH), 6.64 (d, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 8.5$, ArH), 3.66 (s, 4H, NCH₂Ar), 2.66 (s, 4H, N(CH₂CH₂)N), 2.29 (s, 6H, NCH₃). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 157.73, 137.73, 136.95, 124.15, 118.73, 80.59 (ArC), 61.08, 53.86 (CH₂), 41.65 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 553, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental*

analysis for C₁₈H₂₂I₂N₂O₂ (*F.W.* 552.19): C, 39.15; H, 4.02; N, 5.07%. Found C, 39.10; H, 4.03; N, 5.00 %.

N,N'-dimethyl-N,N'-bis[(5-methoxy-2-hydroxyphenyl)methylene]-

1,2-diaminoethane (H₂L^{OMe}). This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for H₂L^{Br}, except 4-methoxyphenol (2.82 g, 22.7 mmol) was used in place of 4-bromophenol to yield a white powder (3.12g, 76 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 10.22 (br s, 2H, ArOH), 6.82-6.73 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.56 (d, 2H, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 2.8, ArH), 3.76 (s, 6H, ArOCH₃), 3.67 (s, 4H, NCH₂Ar), 2.67 (s, 4H, N(CH₂CH₂)N), 2.30 (s, 6H, NCH₃). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 152.52, 151.50, 122.30, 116.61, 114.45, 113.70 (ArC), 61.84, 54.12 (CH₂), 55.74, 41.66 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 361, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for* $C_{20}H_{28}N_2O_4$ (*F.W. 360.5*): C, 66.64; H, 7.83; N, 7.77%. Found C, 66.62; H, 7.80; N, 7.63 %.

N,N'-dimethyl-N,N'-bis[(5-fluoro-2-hydroxyphenyl)methylene]-

1,2-diaminoethane (H₂L^F). This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for H₂L^{Br}, except 4-fluorophenol (2.54 g, 11.3 mmol) was used in place of 4-bromophenol to yield a white powder (534 mg, 14 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 10.35 (br s, 2H, ArOH), 6.88 (td, 2H, ³*J*_{HF} = 8.6, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.6, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 3.0, ArH), 6.78 (dd, 2H, ³*J*_{HF} = 8.6, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 4.7, ArH), 6.70 (dd, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.6, ⁴*J*_{HF} = 3.0, ArH) 3.67 (s, 4H, ArCH₂N), 2.67 (s, 4H, N(CH₂CH₂)N), 2.30 (s, 6H, NCH₃). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 156.01 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 236.3), 153.66, 122.40 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 6.8), 116.89 (d, ³*J*_{CF} = 7.3), 115.14 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 17.3), 114.91 (d, ²*J*_{CF} = 17.9) (ArC), 61.44, 53.96 (CH₂), 41.68 (CH₃). ¹⁹F NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): -125.59 (ArF). MS (ESI): *m*/*z* = 373, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for C*₁₈*H*₂₂*F*₂*N*₂*O*₂ (*F.W.* 336.4): C, 64.27; H, 6.59; N, 8.33%. Found C, 64.35; H, 6.52; N, 8.49 %.

[MoO₂L^{Me}]. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described for [MoO₂L^H], except H₂L^{Me} (329 mg, 1.0 mmol) was used in place of H₂L^H to yield an orange powder (326 mg, 71 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 7.03 (dd, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.1, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 1.4, ArH), 6.84 (d, 2H, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 1.4, ArH), 6.76 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.1, ArH), 5.06 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.3, ArCH₂N), 3.53 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.3, ArCH₂N), 3.07 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.5, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.71 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.29 (s, 6H, ArCH₃), 2.11 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.5, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 157.49, 130.10, 130.06, 129.85, 121.79, 118.39 (ArC), 64.86, 51.98 (CH₂), 48.11, 20.54 (CH₃). MS (ESI): m/z = 457, [M+H]⁺. Elemental analysis *for* C₂₀H₂₆N₂O₄Mo (F.W. 454.4): C, 52.87; H, 5.77; N, 6.17%. Found C, 53.00; H, 5.88; N, 6.24 %.

 $[MoO_2L^{Br}]$. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for $[MoO_2L^{H}]$, except H₂L^{Br} (458 mg, 1.0 mmol) dissolved in 20 mL of dichloromethane was used in place of H₂L^H dissolved in acetonitrile to yield an orange powder (334 mg, 57 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 7.41-7.35 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.74-6.69 (m, 2H, ArH), 4.64 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 14.8, ArCH₂N), 3.84 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 14.8, ArCH₂N), 2.76 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 9.9, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.57 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.34 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 9.9, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (500MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 158.65, 132.23, 131.65, 125.33, 120.06, 111.62 (ArC), 62.37, 51.75 (CH₂), 47.53 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 587, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for C*₁₈H₂₀Br₂N₂O₄Mo (*F.W.* 584.1): C, 37.01; H, 3.45; N, 4.80%. Found C, 37.09; H, 3.50; N, 4.84 %.

[MoO₂L¹]. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for [MoO₂L^H], except H₂L¹ (552 mg, 1.0 mmol) dissolved in 20 mL of dichloromethane was used in place of H₂L^H dissolved in acetonitrile to yield an orange powder (369 mg, 54 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 7.59-7.47 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.58 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.2, ArH), 4.63 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.7, ArCH₂N), 3.81 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.7, ArCH₂N), 2.76 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.8, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.57 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.33 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.8, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 159.70, 138.51, 138.00, 126.32, 120.95, 83.58 (ArC), 62.69, 52.18 (CH₂), 48.00 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 681, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for C*₁₈*H*₂₀*I*₂*N*₂*O*₄*Mo* (*F.W.* 678.1): C, 31.88; H, 2.97; N, 4.13%. Found C, 31.79; H, 2.90; N, 4.07 %.

[MoO₂L^{NO₂]. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for [MoO₂L^H], except H₂L^{NO₂} (390 mg, 1.0 mmol) dissolved in 20 mL of dichloromethane was used in place of H₂L^H dissolved in acetonitrile to yield an orange powder (223 mg, 43 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 8.30-8.10 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.95(d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.9, ArH), 4.71 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.9, ArCH₂N), 4.11 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.9, ArCH₂N), 2.80 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.9, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.64 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.43 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.9, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 170.05, 145.62, 131.59, 130.59, 129.08, 124.28 (ArC), 67.38, 57.17 (CH₂), 52.90 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 519, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis*} *for* C₁₈H₂₀N₄O₈Mo (F.W. 516.3): C, 41.87; H, 3.90; N, 10.85%. Found C, 41.90; H, 3.79; N, 10.87 %.

[MoO₂L^{OMe}]. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for [MoO₂L^H], except H₂L^{OMe} (361 mg, 1.0 mmol) was used in place of H₂L^H to yield an orange powder (300 mg, 61 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 6.82-6.73 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.58-6.54 (m, 2H, ArH), 5.07 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 14.3, ArCH₂N), 3.76 (s, 6H, ArOCH₃), 3.52 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 14.3, ArCH₂N), 3.07 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 9.5, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.69 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.13 (d, 2H, ²J_{HH} = 9.5, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 153.89, 153.55, 122.69, 119.29, 114.72, 114.34 (ArC), 64.91, 52.01 (CH₂), 55.76, 48.06 (CH₃). MS (ESI): *m/z* = 489, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for* $C_{20}H_{26}N_2O_6Mo$ (*F.W.* 486.4): C, 49.39; H, 5.39; N, 5.76 %. Found C, 49.30; H, 5.31; N, 6.02 %.

[MoO₂L^F]. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for [MoO₂L^H], except H₂L^F (200 mg, 0.59 mmol) was used in place of H₂L^H to yield a yellow powder (189 mg, 68 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): 6.94 (td, 2H, ³*J*_{HF} = 8.6, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.6, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 3.1, ArH), 6.82 (dd, 2H, ³*J*_{HF} = 8.6, ⁴*J*_{HH} = 4.9, ArH), 6.76 (dd, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.6, ⁴*J*_{HF} = 3.1, ArH) 5.05 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.6, ArCH₂N), 3.55 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.6, ArCH₂N), 3.06 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.6, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.72 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 2.19 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 9.6, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 156.40 (d, ¹*J*_{CF} = 236.3), 156.23, 124.50 (d, ³*J*_{HF} = 8.3), 119.47 (d, ³*J*_{HF} = 8.4), 116.47 (d, ²*J*_{HF} = 23.9), 115.86 (d, ²*J*_{HF} = 22.6) (ArC), 63.21, 52.23 (CH₂), 47.99 (CH₃). ¹⁹F NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): -121.29 (ArF). MS (ESI): *m*/*z* = 465, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for C*₁₈*H*₂₀*F*₂*MoN*₂*O*₂ *(F.W.* 462.3): C, 46.76; H, 4.36; N, 6.06%. Found C, 46.69; H, 4.44; N, 5.97 %.

[MoO₂(H₂L^H)]. This compound was prepared in an analogous manner to that described above for [MoO₂L^H], except H₄L^H (272 mg, 1.0 mmol) was used in place of H₂L^H to yield an orange powder (259 mg, 66 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 7.23-7.05 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.82 (t, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.0, ArH), 6.72 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.0, ArH), 5.25 (br s, 2H, NH), 4.79 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.5, ArCH₂N), 3.89 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 14.5, ArCH₂N), 2.74 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 7.8, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)), 2.30 (d, 2H, ²*J*_{HH} = 7.8, (N(CH₂CH₂)N)). ¹³C NMR (400MHz, d₆-DMSO, 298K): 160.32, 130.15, 128.20, 122.49, 120.47, 118.80 (ArC), 53.10, 46.25 (CH₂). MS (EI): m/z = 400, [M+H]⁺. *Elemental analysis for C*₁₆*H*₁₈*N*₂*O*₄*Mo* (*F.W.* 398.3): C, 48.00; H, 5.05; N, 7.00 %. Found C, 48.24; H, 4.96; N, 7.03 %. — X-Ray Crystallography

Fig. S1 The molecular structure of $[MoO_2L^{Cl}]$ (30% probability ellipsoids).



Cyclovoltametry Studies

 $[MoO_2L^{NO_2}]$



$[MoO_2L^{Cl}]$



 $[MoO_2L^{Br}]$





 $[MoO_2L^H]$



 $[MoO_2L^{Me}]$





$[MoO_2(H_2L^H)]$



$[MoO_2L^{OMe}]$