

**Highly active and tunable catalysts for O<sub>2</sub> evolution from water based on mononuclear ruthenium (II) monoquo complexes**

**Masayuki Yagi,<sup>\*a,b</sup> Syouhei Tajima,<sup>a</sup> Manabu Komi<sup>a</sup> and Hirosato Yamazaki<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Department of Materials Science and Technology, Faculty of Engineering & Center for Transdisciplinary Research, Niigata University, 8050 Ikarashi-2, Niigata 950-2181, Japan. E-mail: yagi@eng.niigata-u.ac.jp

<sup>b</sup> PRESTO, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), 4-1-8 Honcho, Kawaguchi, Saitama 332-0012, Japan. (PRESTO: Precursory Research for Embryonic Science and Technology)

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## 1. Synthesis and characterization of $[\text{Ru}(\text{Rtpy})(\text{bpy})\text{OH}_2]^{2+}$ complexes

### (1) $[\text{Ru}(\text{tpy})(\text{bpy})\text{OH}_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$ (**1**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub>)

**1**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub> was prepared in the procedure described in the literature,<sup>S1</sup> and characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum (H<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 231 (23,900), 288 (34,200), 312 (33,100), 350 (4,400), and 477 nm (9,600 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta$  9.36 (d,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.26 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (t,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (t,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 1H), 7.79 (t,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (m, 3H), and 6.74 ppm (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 1H).

### (2) $[\text{Ru}(\text{EtOtpy})(\text{bpy})\text{OH}_2](\text{NO}_3)_2$ (**1a**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub>)

#### *4'-Ethoxy-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (EtOtpy)*

EtOtpy was prepared referring to the literatures.<sup>S2,S3</sup> 100 mg (0.37 mmol) of 4'-chloro-2,2';6',2''-terpyridine was added into a 25wt% sodium ethoxide solution (8.5 ml) in ethanol and refluxed under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 24 h. The resulted suspension was allowed to be cooled to room temperature and insolubles were removed by suction filtration. The yellow-tan filtrate was added to water, giving the white precipitates of EtOtpy (94.6 mg, 91% yield). It was characterized by NMR spectroscopic measurement.

#### *Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub>*

Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was prepared referring to the literature.<sup>S4</sup> An anhydrous ethanol solution containing 100 mg (0.36 mmol) of EtOtpy and 97 mg (0.47 mmol) of RuCl<sub>3</sub> was refluxed for 3 h. After cooling to room temperature, the precipitates were filtered and washed with anhydrous ethanol and ether, and then dried in vacuo at room temperature to give Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (170 mg, 97% yield). It was characterized by UV-VIS spectroscopic measurement. UV-Visible spectrum (DMSO) :  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 277 (25,600) and 400 nm (6,700 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>).

#### *[Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl*

[Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl was prepared according to the literature.<sup>S1</sup> 90 mg (0.186 mmol) of Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> and 29 mg (0.186 mmol) of 2,2'-bipyridine (bpy) were refluxed for 4 h in 16.3 ml of 75 (v/v)% ethanol / water containing 8.1 mg (0.192 mmol) of LiCl and 41 µl (29.4 µmol) of triethylamine as a reductant. The hot contents in the vessel were filtered and then concentrated to ~ 4 ml with a rotary evaporator. The solution was then chilled in a refrigerator for 24 h. The solid was collected on a frit and washed with chilled 3 M HCl, acetone and anhydrous ether, and then dried in vacuo at room temperature to give [Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (86.1 mg, 76% yield). It was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) :  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 243 (28,400), 282 (30,000), 295 (33,400), 311 (24,800), 359 (7,000), and 501 nm (11,900 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) :  $\delta$  10.1 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 8.67 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (s, 2H), 8.18 (dd, *J* = 1.5 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (m, 3H), 7.66 (dd, *J* = 1.4 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dtd, *J* = 3.2, 1.2 and 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dtd, *J* = 3.1, 1.3 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), and 1.54 ppm (t, *J* = 14 Hz, 3H). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>23</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>5</sub>ORu·0.5LiCl: C, 51.75; H, 3.70; N, 11.18; Found: C, 51.41; H, 3.34; N, 11.35.

**1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

**1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was prepared referring to the literature.<sup>S1</sup> 50 mg (82.5 µmol) of [Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl and 28.1 mg (0.165 mmol) of AgNO<sub>3</sub> were refluxed for 1 h in 5.7 ml of 75 (v/v)% acetone / H<sub>2</sub>O. AgCl precipitated in the contents was filtered off, and the mixture was chilled in a refrigerator after concentrating to ~1.5 ml with a rotary evaporator. Dark-red crystals of **1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> were collected on a frit and washed with cold water, and then dried in vacuo at 60 °C to give **1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (38.6 mg, 69% yield). It was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements and X-ray structure analysis. UV-Visible spectrum (H<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 242 (35,900), 274 (36,900), 290 (43,100), 307 (33,200), 353 (6,100), and 478 nm (12,000 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\delta$  9.34 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 8.12 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.01 (s, 2H), 7.77 (td, *J* = 8.5 and 8.7Hz, 3H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d,

$J = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 (t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, 2H), 6.78 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.39 (q,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 2H), and 1.43 ppm (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 3H). Anal. calcd. for  $C_{27}H_{25}N_7O_8Ru$ : C, 47.93; H, 3.72; N, 14.49; Found: C, 47.93; H, 3.65; N, 14.45.

(3) [Ru(MeOtpy)(bpy)OH<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**1b**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)

*4'-Methoxy-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (MeOtpy)*

MeOtpy was prepared and characterized by NMR spectroscopic measurement in the procedure described in the literature.<sup>S3</sup>

*Ru(MeOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub>*

Ru(MeOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was prepared using MeOtpy (44 mg, 0.167 mmol) instead of EtOtpy in the same procedure as Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (77.7 mg, 98% yield). Ru(MeOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was characterized by UV-VIS spectroscopic measurement. UV-Visible spectrum (DMSO) :  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 277 (22,800) and 401 nm (7,300 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>).

[Ru(MeOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl

[Ru(MeOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl was prepared from Ru(MeOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (70 mg, 0.149 mmol) in the same procedure as [Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (57.4 mg, 65% yield). It was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) :  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 243 (28,400), 282 (30,000), 295 (33,400), 312 (25,400), 366 (6,900), and 500 nm (12,400 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) :  $\delta$  10.1 (d,  $J = 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.66 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 8.39 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 8.25 (s, 2H), 8.19 (ddd,  $J = 1.54$ , 1.51 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (m, 3H), 7.66 (dd,  $J = 1.4$  and 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, 2H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dtd,  $J = 3.3$ , 1.3 and 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (dtd,  $J = 3.0$ , 1.2 and 1.2 Hz, 1H), and 4.17 ppm (s, 3H). Anal. calcd. for  $C_{26}H_{21}Cl_2N_5ORu \cdot CH_3OH$ : C, 52.01; H, 4.04; N, 11.23; Found: C, 52.34; H, 4.01; N, 11.10.

**1b**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

**1b**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was prepared from [Ru(MeOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (30 mg, 50.7 µmol) in the same procedure as **1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (24.3 mg, 72% yield). **1b**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum (H<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 218 (24,300), 240 (31,500), 289 (38,100), 306 (32,200), 350 (6,700), and 479 nm (12,700 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\delta$  9.35 (d,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (t,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (s, 2H), 7.80 (dt,  $J$  = 7.1 and 8.2 Hz, 3H), 7.63 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (t,  $J$  = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (t,  $J$  = 6.2 Hz, 1H), and 4.08 ppm (s, 3H). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Ru·0.25H<sub>2</sub>O: C, 46.81; H, 3.55; N, 14.70; Found: C, 46.95; H, 3.53; N, 14.58.

(4) [Ru(Metpy)(bpy)OH<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**1c**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)

*4'-Methyl-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (Metpy)*

Metpy was prepared and characterized by NMR spectroscopic measurement in the procedure described in the literatures.<sup>S5, S6</sup>

*Ru(Metpy)Cl<sub>3</sub>*

Ru(Metpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was prepared using Metpy (94.6 mg, 0.383 mmol) instead of EtOtpy in the same procedure as Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (163 mg, 93% yield). Ru(Metpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was characterized by UV-VIS spectroscopic measurement. UV-Visible spectrum (DMSO) :  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 275 (17,300), 311 (15,700), and 404 nm (5,000 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>).

[Ru(Metpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl

[Ru(Metpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl was prepared from Ru(Metpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (100 mg, 0.22 mmol) in the same procedure as [Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (78.7 mg, 62% yield). It was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) :  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 241 (26,000), 289 (28,300), 294 (30,000), 316 (25,100), 367 (5,500), and 499 nm (10,100 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) :  $\delta$  10.0 (d,  $J$  = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 8.66 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (s, 2H), 8.40 (m, 3H), 8.20 (ddd,  $J$  = 1.4, 1.4 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (m, 3H), 7.65 (dd,  $J$  = 1.3 and 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d,  $J$  = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dtd,  $J$

= 3.2, 1.2 and 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (dtd,  $J$  = 2.8, 1.2 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), and 2.77 ppm (s, 3H).

Anal. calcd. for  $C_{26}H_{21}Cl_2N_5Ru \cdot H_2O$ : C, 52.62; H, 3.91; N, 11.80; Found: C, 52.78; H, 3.93; N, 11.66.

### **1c**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

**1c**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was prepared from [Ru(Metyl)(bpy)Cl]Cl (50 mg, 0.087 mmol) in the same procedure as **1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (35.5 mg, 63% yield). **1c**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum (H<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 235 (24,700), 288 (34,200), 310 (29,400), 350 (4,800), and 477 nm (11,000 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O) :  $\delta$  9.36 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.49 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.32 (s, 2H), 8.24 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.15 (t,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (dt,  $J$  = 6.3 and 8.0 Hz, 3H), 7.62 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (t,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d,  $J$  = 5.5 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 1H) and 2.68 ppm (s, 3H). Anal. calcd. for  $C_{26}H_{23}N_7O_7Ru \cdot H_2O$ : C, 46.99; H, 3.79; N, 14.75; Found: C, 46.94; H, 3.91; N, 14.66.

### (5) [Ru(Cltpy)(bpy)OH<sub>2</sub>](NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**1d**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)

#### *4'-Chloro-2,2';6',2''-terpyridine (Cltpy)*

Cltpy was prepared and characterized by NMR spectroscopic measurement in the procedure described in the literature.<sup>87</sup>

### *Ru(Cltpy)Cl<sub>3</sub>*

Ru(Cltpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was prepared using the Cltpy (100 mg, 0.373 mmol) instead of EtOtpy in the same procedure as Ru(EtOtpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (163.2 mg, 92% yield). Ru(Cltpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> was characterized by UV-VIS spectroscopic measurement. UV-Visible spectrum (DMSO) :  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\epsilon$ ) = 253 (22,200), 274 (20,500), 312 (16,500), and 408 nm (5,300 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>).

### *[Ru(Cltpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl*

[Ru(Cltpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl was prepared from Ru(Cltpy)Cl<sub>3</sub> (80 mg, 0.168 mmol) in the same procedure as [Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (70.1 mg, 75% yield). It was characterized by

UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum ( $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ) :  $\lambda_{\max} (\varepsilon)$  = 242 (37,300), 285 (32,400), 293 (32,200), 317 (27,200), 366 (5,500), and 499 nm (9,400  $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (270 MHz,  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ) :  $\delta$  10.0 (d,  $J$  = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.75 (s, 2H), 8.70 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 8.51 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (ddd,  $J$  = 1.5, 1.5 and 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (m, 3H), 7.69 (dd,  $J$  = 1.3 and 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J$  = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (dtd,  $J$  = 3.2, 1.2 and 1.2 Hz, 2H), and 6.97 ppm (dtd,  $J$  = 3.1, 1.3 and 1.2 Hz, 1H). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{18}\text{Cl}_3\text{N}_5\text{Ru} \cdot 1.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 48.21; H, 3.40; N, 11.24; Found: C, 48.26; H, 3.32; N, 11.47.

### **1d**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub>

**1d**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub> was prepared from [Ru(Cltpy)(bpy)Cl]Cl (50 mg, 0.089 mmol) in the similar procedure to **1a**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub> (55.7 mg, 75% yield). **1d**( $\text{NO}_3$ )<sub>2</sub> was characterized by UV-VIS and NMR spectroscopic measurements. UV-Visible spectrum ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) :  $\lambda_{\max} (\varepsilon)$  = 239 (34,100), 282 (39,800), 311 (35,100), 350 (5,000), and 477 nm (11,000  $\text{M}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ ).  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  (270 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ) :  $\delta$  9.36 (d,  $J$  = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (s, 2H), 8.51 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (dt,  $J$  = 6.5 and 8.1 Hz, 3H), 7.65 (d,  $J$  = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (dt,  $J$  = 5.8 and 4.9 Hz, 3H), and 6.78 ppm (t,  $J$  = 6.9 Hz, 1H). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{20}\text{ClN}_7\text{O}_7\text{Ru} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C, 43.83; H, 3.24; N, 14.31; Found: C, 43.77; H, 3.33; N, 14.50.

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## 2. Experimental details

The cyclic voltammograms (CV) were measured in a 0.5 mM **1a** solutions (pH = 1.0) using a conventional single-compartment electrochemical cell equipped with a glassy carbon rod working electrode (effective area, 0.071 cm<sup>2</sup>), a saturated calomel (SCE) reference electrode and a Pt wire counter electrode. The differential pulse voltammograms (DPVs) were taken under the conditions: pulse amplitude ( $E_{\text{step}}$ ), 50 mV; pulse width, 10 ms; pulse period, 250 ms; scan rate, 5 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. For Pourbaix diagram, the pHs of the solutions were buffered at an ionic strength of 0.1 M by HNO<sub>3</sub> (pH 0-2), Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> and KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (pH 3-10), and NaOH (pH 11-14). At pH = 0 and 14, the ionic strength was 1 M (1 M HNO<sub>3</sub> and 1 M NaOH, respectively). All the electrochemical experiments were implemented under argon atmosphere at 25°C using an electrochemical analyzer (Hokuto Denko, HZ-3000). For chemical water oxidation catalysis, an excess Ce(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub> (0.5 mmol) as an oxidant was added quickly to a 20 μM [Ru(Rtpy)(bpy)OH<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> aqueous solution (5.0 ml) in a gas-tight vessel under argon atmosphere at 25°C and pH = 1.0 in typical conditions. The pH change during the reaction for several hours was less than 0.1. The O<sub>2</sub> gas in the head space of the vessel was analyzed on a gas chromatograph (Shimadzu, GC-8A) equipped with a molecular sieve 5Å column using argon carrier gas (flow rate = 40 cm<sup>3</sup> min<sup>-1</sup>) at 50°C.

### 3. Data of X-ray analysis of [Ru(EtOtpy)(bpy)OH<sub>2</sub>] (NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>)

Table S1 Data of X-ray structure analysis for **1a**(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

compound	<b>1a</b> (NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> · 2.5H <sub>2</sub> O
empirical formula	RuO <sub>10.50</sub> N <sub>7</sub> C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub>
fw	721.64
cryst syst	triclinic
space group	P $\bar{1}$ (#2)
<i>a</i> , Å	11.0976(7)
<i>b</i> , Å	11.4129(7)
<i>c</i> , Å	13.8155(8)
$\alpha$ , deg	91.808(5)
$\beta$ , deg	102.944(5)
$\gamma$ , deg	115.411(2)
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	1524.1(2)
<i>Z</i>	2
<i>T</i> , °C	23.0
$\lambda$ , Å	0.71069
<i>d</i> <sub>cal</sub> , g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.572
<i>F</i> <sub>000</sub>	738.00
no. of reflns	total/unique
	12187/6474
no. observations	
( <i>I</i> > 2.00σ( <i>I</i> ))	5787
refln/param ratio	14.35
<i>R</i> ; <i>R</i> <sub>w</sub>	0.082 <sup>a</sup> ; 0.137 <sup>b</sup>
GOF indicator	1.26

$$^a R = \Sigma \|F_o - \Sigma F_c\| / \Sigma |F_o|$$

$$^b R_w = \left[ \sum w (|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \sum w F_o^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

Crystal data for **1a**: RuO<sub>10.50</sub>N<sub>7</sub>C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>30</sub>, *M* = 721.64, deep-red platelet, triclinic, P $\bar{1}$ (#2), *a* = 11.0976(7), *b* = 11.4129(7), *c* = 13.8155(8) Å,  $\alpha$  = 91.808(5),  $\beta$  = 102.944(5),  $\gamma$  = 115.411(2), *V* = 1524.1(2) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 2, *T* = 296 K, 12187 reflections of which 6474 were unique (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.038), 451 variable parameters, *R* = 0.082 [based on all *F*<sub>2</sub>], *R*<sub>w</sub> = 0.137. Three nitrate anions were found in an asymmetric unit: one of them has occupancy 1 and the others are located on different two sites with occupancy 0.5. Four oxygen atoms of H<sub>2</sub>O were found in an asymmetric unit: one of them has occupancy 1 and the others are located on different three sites with occupancy 0.5. Data were

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collected over the  $2\theta < 55.0^\circ$  on a Rigaku RAXIS-IV Imaging Plate diffractometer with graphite monochromated MoK $\alpha$  radiation.

#### 4. Electrochemical data

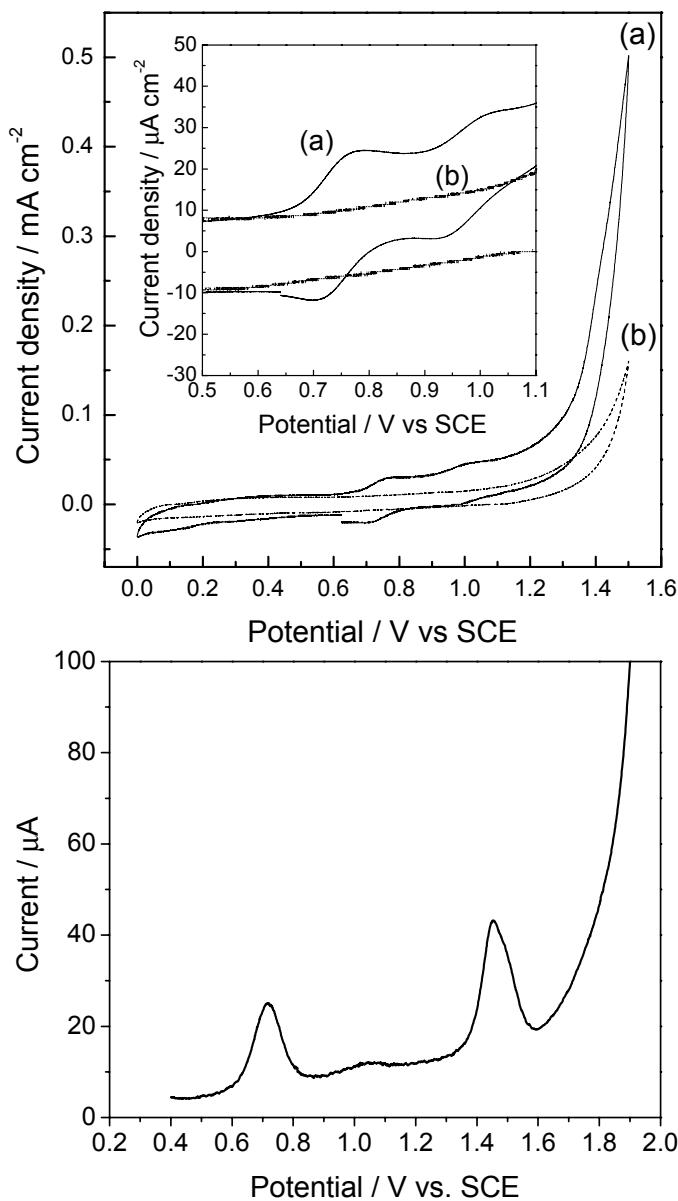


Figure S1 (A) Cyclic voltammograms (CV, upper figure) of (a) 0.5 mM **1a** and (b) without **1a** in a 0.1 M  $\text{HNO}_3$  aqueous solution ( $\text{pH} = 1.0$ ) in a potential range from 0.0 to 1.5 V as measured at 25°C and  $2 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  of a scan rate. The inset shows CV data in a potential range from 0.5 to 1.1 V. (B) Differential pulse voltammograms (DPV) for **1a** in a 0.1 M  $\text{KNO}_3$  aqueous solution ( $\text{pH} = 1.0$ ) in the potential range of 0.0 to 1.9 V vs SCE. pulse amplitude, 50 mV; pulse width, 10 ms; pulse period, 250 ms; scan rate,  $5 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

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**5. UV-visible absorption spectral change in pH titration**

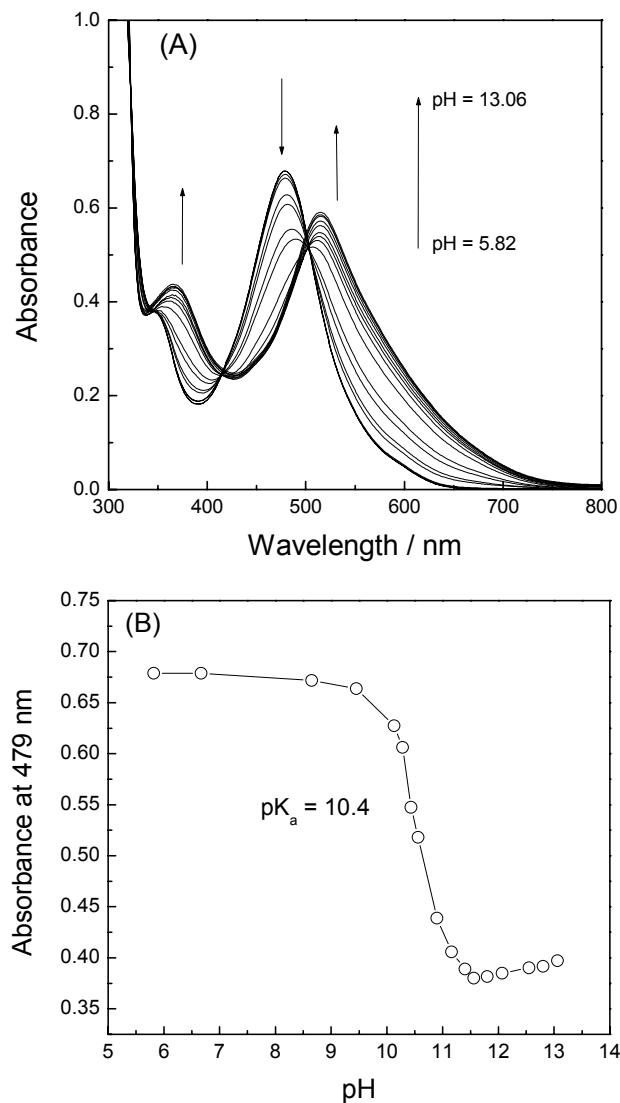


Figure S2 (A) UV-visible absorption spectral change of 0.06 mM **1a** aqueous solution in pH titration with NaOH in a pH range from 5.82 to 13.06 at 25°C. (B) Absorbance change at 479 nm with pH. It provides  $pK_a = 10.4$  by analysis using Henderson-Hasselbalch equation.

## 6. Kinetic data for O<sub>2</sub> evolution

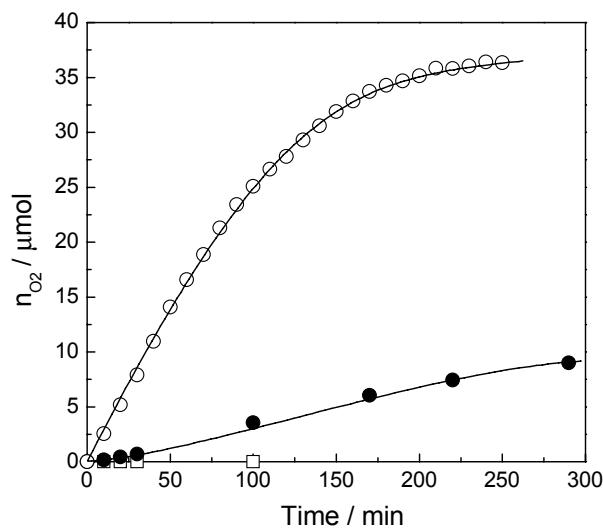


Figure S3 Time courses of the amount ( $n_{O_2}$  / mol) of  $O_2$  evolved in chemical water oxidation experiments in an aqueous solution at 25°C using a Ce<sup>IV</sup> oxidant. Ce<sup>IV</sup>, 0.1 M (0.5 mmol); **1a**, 20  $\mu$ M (0.1  $\mu$ mol); pH = 1.0; liquid volume, 5.0 ml. (○) **1a**, (●) **1** and (□) without complex.

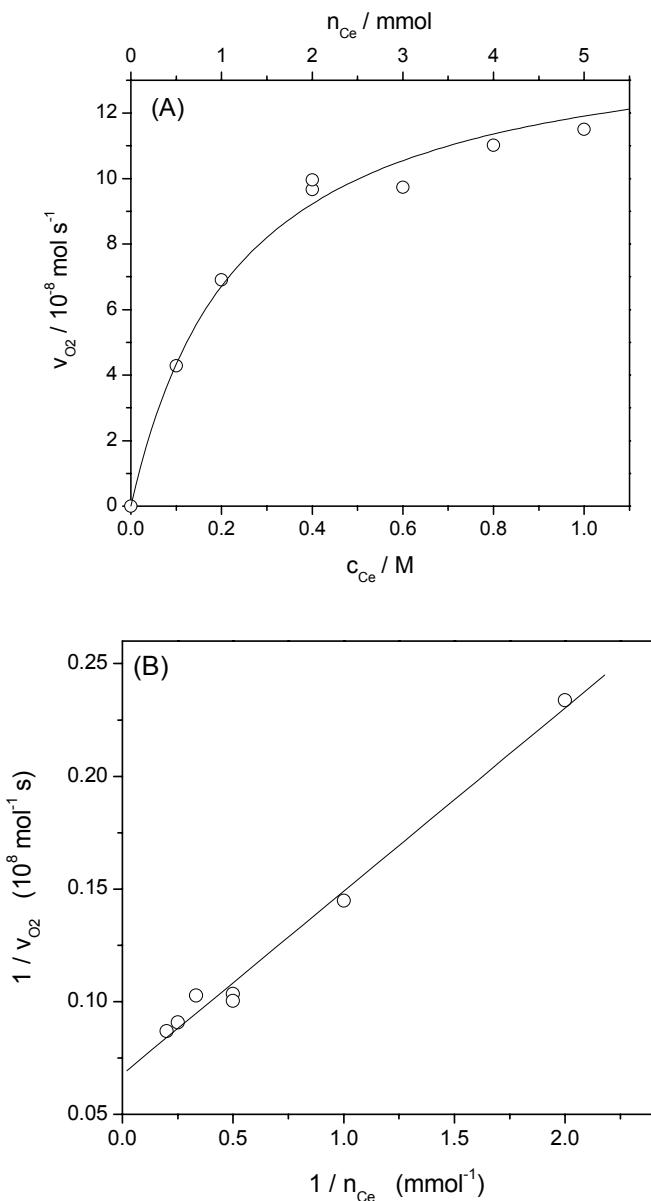


Figure S4 (A) Plots of  $v_{O_2}$  versus the  $Ce^{IV}$  concentration ( $c_{Ce}$  / M in chemical water oxidation experiments using 0.2 mM **1a** (5.0 ml water) at 25 °C. The corresponding  $Ce^{IV}$  amount ( $n_{Ce}$  / mol) is indicated on the top axis. The solid line is the simulated curve based on a Michaelis-Menten-like kinetic equation:  $v_{O_2} = \frac{V_{max} n_{Ce}}{n_{Ce} + K_m}$ . (B) Lineweaver-Burk plot based on (A).

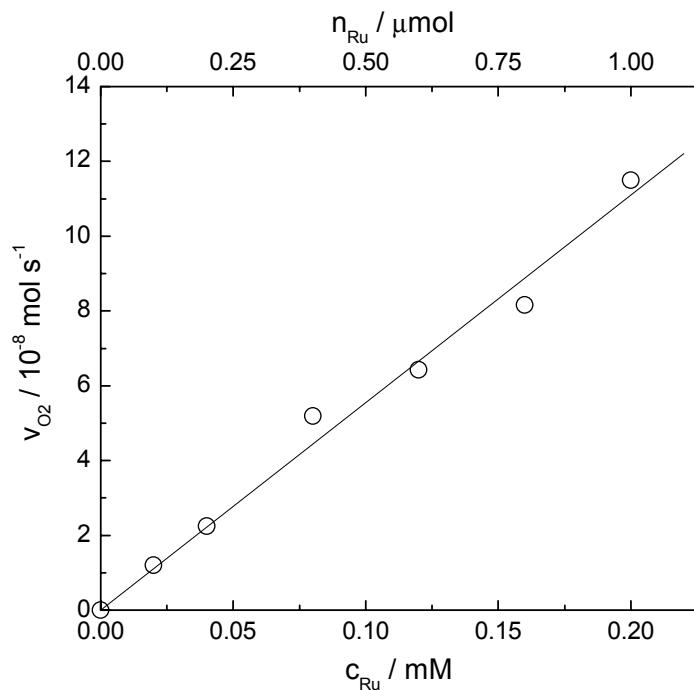


Figure S5 Plots of  $v_{O_2}$  versus the **1a** concentration ( $c_{Ru}$  / M) in chemical water oxidation experiments at 25°C. The corresponding Ru amount ( $n_{Ru}$  / mol) is indicated on the top axis.  
5.0 mmol Ce<sup>IV</sup>, 5.0 ml water.