

## Supplementary materials

# Novel vanadium (III) complexes with rigid phenylpolyboxylate ligands: synthesis, structures and application in C-H bond activation

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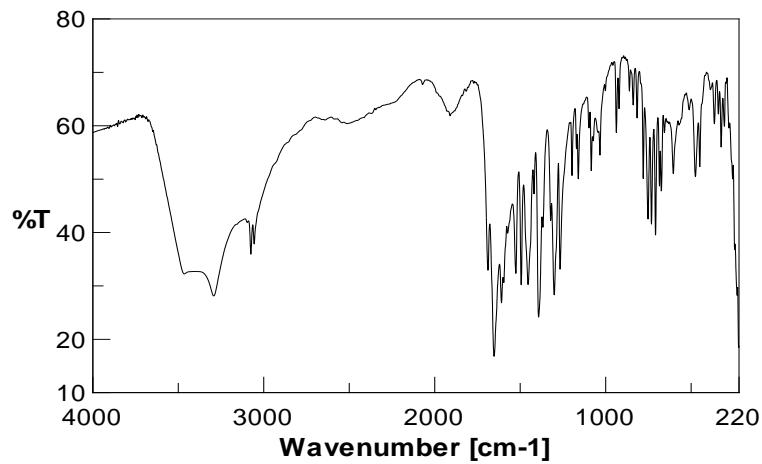
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**Table S1** Characteristic IR bands ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for the complexes **1** and **2**.

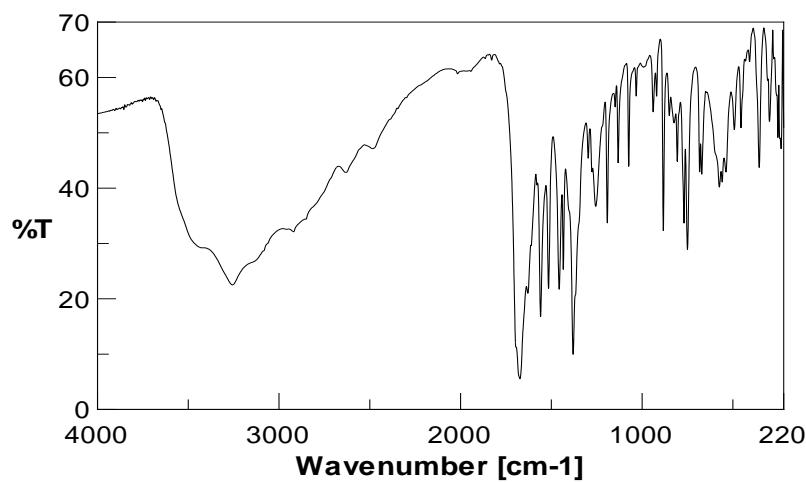
Complexes	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
v(O-H)	3292, 3467	3257, 3439
v(=C-H)	3056, 3075	3060
vas(COO <sup>-</sup> )	1652	1672
vs(COO <sup>-</sup> )	1395	1379
v(V-OH <sub>2</sub> O)	512	539
v(V-Ocarboxyl)	475	491
v(V-N)	449	455

**Table S2** Characteristic UV-Vis bands (nm) for the complexes **1** and **2**

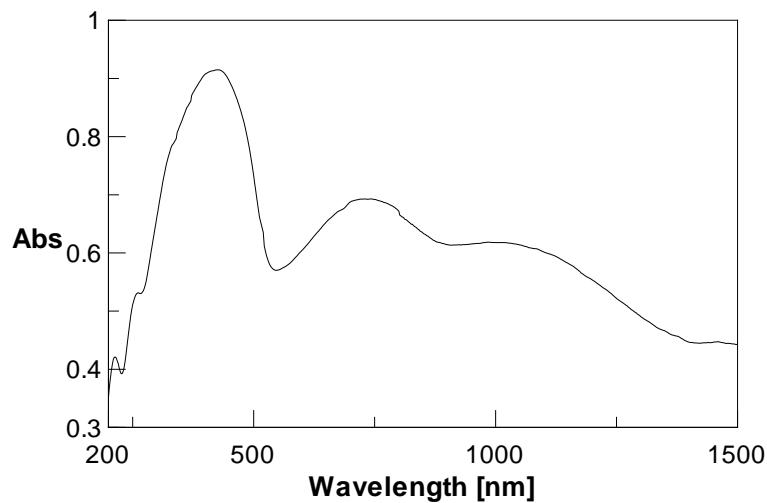
Complexes	$\pi-\pi^*$ transition	LMCT	d-d transition
<b>1</b>	262	420	742, 1040
<b>2</b>	268	456	742, 1100



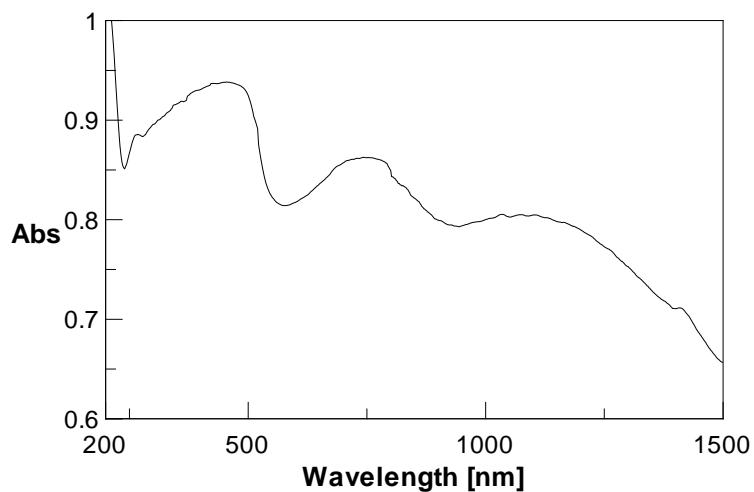
**Fig. S1** The IR spectra of the complex **1**



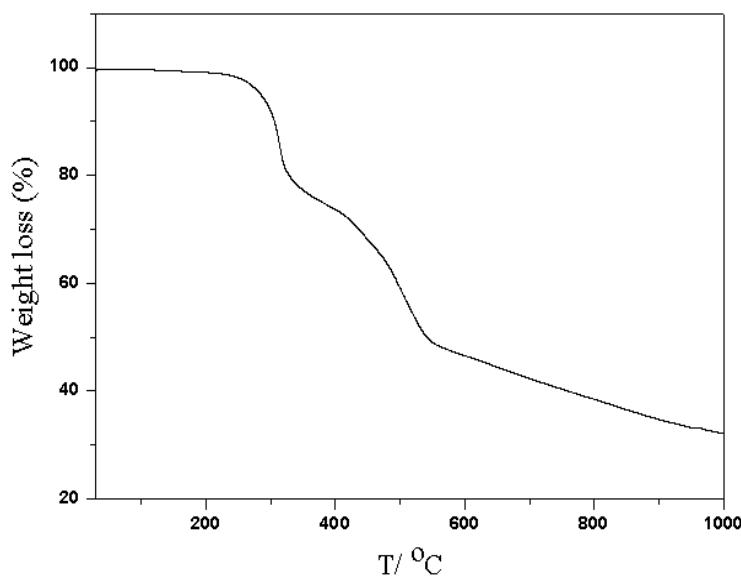
**Fig. S2** The IR spectra of the complex **2**



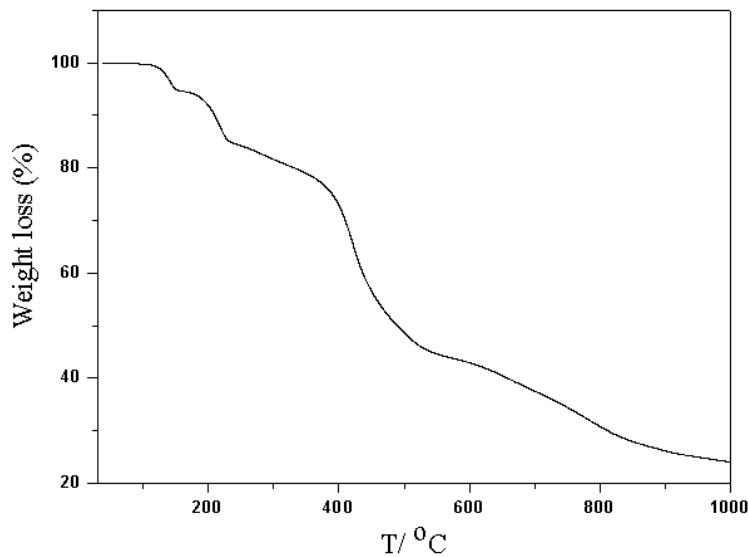
**Fig. S3** The UV–Vis spectra for the complex 1



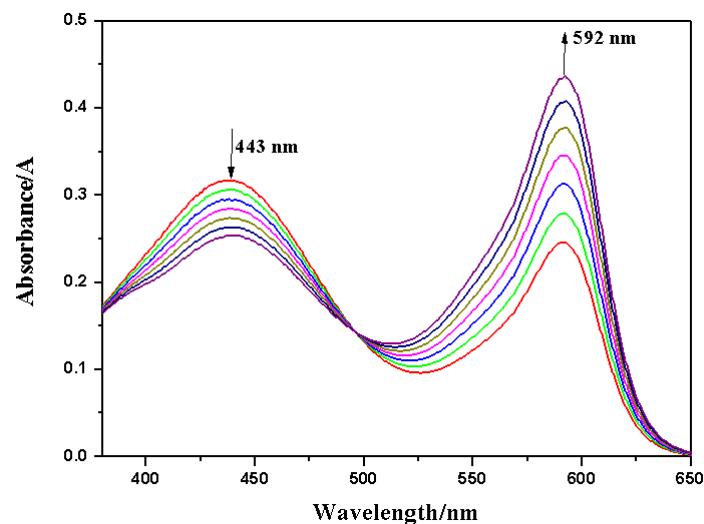
**Fig. S4** The UV–Vis spectra for the complex 2



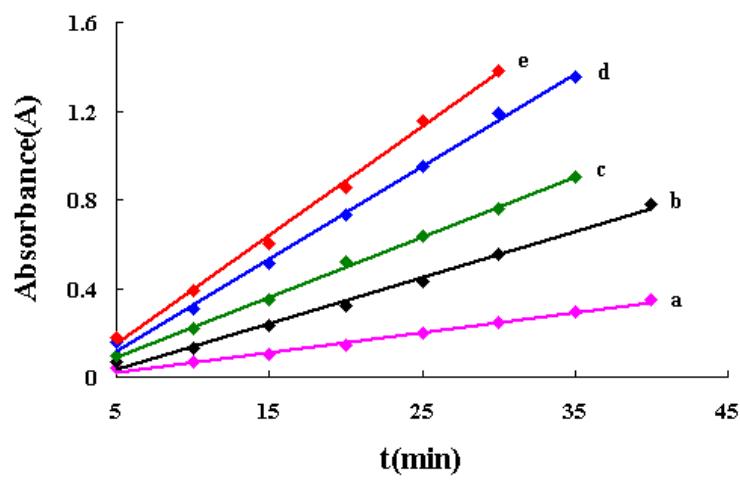
**Fig. S5** TG curve of the complex 1.



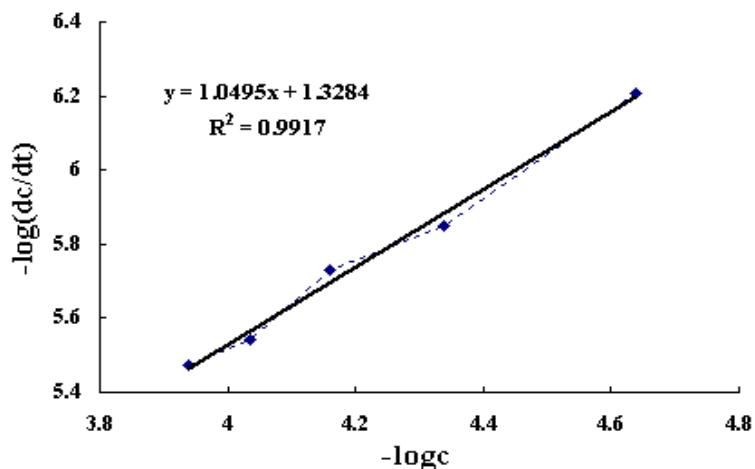
**Fig. S6** TG curve of the complex 2.



**Fig. S7** Oxidative bromination of phenol red catalyzed by the complex **1**. Spectral changes at 10 min intervals,  $c(\text{phosphate buffer}) = 50 \text{ mmol/L}$ ,  $\text{pH} = 5.8$ ,  $c(\text{KBr}) = 0.4 \text{ mol/L}$ ,  $c(\text{phenol red}) = 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$



**Fig. S8** The measurable absorbance dependence of time for the complex **1**. Conditions used:  $\text{pH} = 5.8$ ,  $c(\text{KBr}) = 0.4 \text{ mol/L}$ ,  $c(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2) = 1 \text{ mmol/L}$ ,  $c(\text{phenol red}) = 10^{-4} \text{ mol/L}$ .  $c(\text{complex } \mathbf{1}/\text{mmol/L}) = \text{a}: 2.3011 \times 10^{-5}$ ;  $\text{b}: 4.602 \times 10^{-5}$ ;  $\text{c}: 6.9032 \times 10^{-5}$ ;  $\text{d}: 9.2042 \times 10^{-5}$ ;  $\text{e}: 1.1505 \times 10^{-4}$ .



**Fig. S9**  $-\log(dC/dt)$  dependence of  $-\log c$  for complex **1** in DMF–H<sub>2</sub>O at  $30 \pm 0.5$  °C (c is the concentration of the oxidovanadium complex **1**; Conditions used: c(phosphate buffer) = 50 mmol/L, pH = 5.8, c(KBr) = 0.4 mol/L, c(phenol red) =  $10^{-4}$  mol/L.