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## **Supporting Information**

For

# A Series of Ni<sup>II</sup>-Flavonolate Complexes as Structural and Functional ES (Enzyme-Substrate) Models of the Ni<sup>II</sup>-Containing Quercetin 2,3-Dioxygenase

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**Table S1.** The solution FT-IR results of the complexes [Ni<sup>II</sup>L<sup>R</sup>(fla)] in ethanol.

**Table S2.** The reaction products analysis results of the complexes [Ni<sup>II</sup>L<sup>R</sup>(fla)] with O<sub>2</sub>.

**Table S3.** Kinetic results of the complexes [Ni<sup>II</sup>L<sup>R</sup>(fla)].

#### **Figure Caption**

**Figure S1.** The FT-IR spectra of the ethanol solution and solid sample of  $[Ni^{II}L^{Me}(fla)]$  (2). (A) solvent ethanol (B) ethanol solution of  $[Ni^{II}L^{Me}(fla)]$  (2) (C) solid sample of  $[Ni^{II}L^{Me}(fla)]$  (2).

**Figure S2**. The HPLC-MS spectra of the reaction products of  $[Ni^{II}L^{NO2}(fla)]$  (**5**) with O<sub>2</sub> at 70 °C for 8 h. (a) HPLC spectra; MS spectra of (b) salicylic acid m/z (neg.): 137.0 (M – H)<sup>-</sup>; (c) benzoic acid m/z (neg.): 120.9 (M – H)<sup>-</sup>, 180.9 (M + OAc)<sup>-</sup>; (d) 2-hydroxy-*N*,*N*-dimethyl benzamide m/z (pos.): 166.1 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>; (e) *N*,*N*-dimethyl benzamide m/z (pos.): 150.0 (M + H)<sup>+</sup>.

**Figure S3.** Eyring plot for the dioxygenation of the complexes  $[Ni^{II}L^{R}(fla)]$  (1.0 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M) in DMF.

	$[Ni^{II}L^{OMe}(fla)]$ (1)	$[Ni^{II}L^{Me}(fla)] (2)$	$[Ni^{II}L^{Br}(fla)] (4)$	$[Ni^{II}L^{NO2}(fla)] (5)$
$\nu(CO)/cm^{-1}$	1549	1548	1544	1552
$\nu_{as}(CO_2)/cm^{-1}$	1614	1614	1614	1607
$\nu_s(CO_2)/cm^{-1}$	1416	1418	1424	1414
$\Delta v(CO_2) \ /cm^{-1}$	198	196	190	193

**Table S1**. The solution FT-IR results of the complexes  $[Ni^{II}L^{R}(fla)]$  in ethanol.

	Yield (%)					
Complex	Salicylic acid	licylic Benzoic 2-Hydroxy- <i>N</i> , <i>N</i> -dimethyl id acid benzamide		<i>N,N</i> -dimethyl benzamide	Conv. (%)	
$[Ni^{II}L^{OMe}(fla)]$ (1)	93.9	78.1		14.2	93.9	
$[Ni^{II}L^{Me}(fla)]$ (2)	34.6	23.9	57.3	66.5	91.9	
$[Ni^{II}L^{Br}(fla)]$ (4)	14.6	57.2	69.2	26.6	83.8	
$[Ni^{II}L^{NO2}(fla)] (5)$	25.2	45.4	50.4	31.8	77.2	

**Table S2**. The reaction products analysis results of the complexes  $[Ni^{II}L^{R}(fla)]$  with  $O_{2}$ .

**Table S3**. Kinetic results of the model complexes [Ni<sup>II</sup>L<sup>R</sup>(fla)].

	Т	$10^4$ [Ni <sup>II</sup> L <sup>OMe</sup> (fla)] <sub>0</sub>	$10^{3}[O_{2}]_{0}$	$10^{8}v$	10k	10k
	(°C)	(M)	(M)	$(M s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$
1	70	0.80	4.02	10.7	$3.34 \pm 0.08$	
2	70	0.94	4.02	13.3	$3.51 \pm 0.09$	$3.55 \pm 0.16$
3	70	1.06	4.02	14.3	$3.35 \pm 0.10$	$5.55 \pm 0.10$
4	70	1.18	4.02	18.2	$3.83 \pm 0.04$	
5	65	0.89	2.79	6.85	$2.76 \pm 0.07$	
6	65	0.89	4.13	9.97	$2.71 \pm 0.05$	$2.80\ \pm 0.10$
7	65	0.89	4.99	12.1	$2.72 \pm 0.12$	
8	65	0.80	5.85	14.0	$3.00 \pm 0.14$	
9	75	0.98	3.90	19.7	$5.15 \pm 0.03$	
10	80	0.99	3.79	30.9	$8.24 \pm 0.07$	

[Ni<sup>II</sup>L<sup>OMe</sup>(fla)] (1)

[Ni<sup>II</sup>L<sup>Me</sup>(fla)] (2)

	Т	$10^4$ [Ni <sup>II</sup> L <sup>Me</sup> (fla)] <sub>0</sub>	$10^{3}[O_{2}]_{0}$	$10^{8}v$	$10^{2}k$	$10^{2}k$
	(°C)	(M)	(M)	$(M s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$
1	70	0.68	4.02	2.42	$8.85 \pm 0.02$	
2	70	0.82	4.02	2.73	$8.28 \pm 0.08$	$851 \pm 0.06$
3	70	0.90	4.02	2.99	$8.26 \pm 0.09$	$0.31 \pm 0.00$
4	70	1.00	4.02	3.49	$8.68 \pm 0.10$	
5	75	0.99	4.68	5.92	$12.8 \pm 0.05$	
6	75	0.93	5.46	6.39	$12.6 \pm 0.07$	$12.5 \pm 0.10$
7	75	0.91	3.90	4.33	$12.2 \pm 0.06$	
9	80	1.01	3.79	7.60	$19.9 \pm 0.04$	
10	85	1.00	3.63	9.57	$26.4 \pm 0.04$	

	Т	$10^4$ [Ni <sup>II</sup> L <sup>Br</sup> (fla)] <sub>0</sub>	$10^{3}[O_{2}]_{0}$	$10^{8}v$	$10^{2}k$	$10^{2}k$
	(°C)	(M)	(M)	$(M s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$
1	70	0.79	4.02	1.61	$5.07 \pm 0.07$	
2	70	0.92	4.02	1.87	$5.06 \pm 0.09$	$5.03\ \pm 0.07$
3	70	1.08	4.02	2.18	$5.02 \pm 0.11$	
4	70	1.20	4.02	2.41	$5.00 \pm 0.09$	
5	75	1.00	4.68	3.70	$7.91 \pm 0.10$	
6	75	1.04	5.46	4.41	$7.77 \pm 0.05$	$7.85\ \pm 0.09$
7	75	1.00	3.90	3.06	$7.86 \pm 0.13$	
8	80	1.01	3.79	4.64	$12.1 \pm 0.11$	
9	85	0.98	3.63	6.72	$18.9 \pm 0.10$	

 $[Ni^{II}L^{Br}(fla)]$  (4)

 $[Ni^{II}L^{NO2}(fla)]$  (5)

	Т	$10^4$ [Ni <sup>II</sup> L <sup>NO2</sup> (fla)] <sub>0</sub>	$10^{3}[O_{2}]_{0}$	$10^{8}v$	$10^{2}k$	$10^{2}k$
	(°C)	(M)	(M)	$(M s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$	$(M^{-1} s^{-1})$
1	70	0.68	4.02	1.17	$4.28 \pm 0.11$	
2	70	0.79	4.02	1.38	$4.35 \pm 0.08$	
3	70	0.92	4.02	1.52	$4.11 \pm 0.09$	$4.19 \pm 0.07$
4	70	1.02	4.02	1.67	$4.07\ \pm 0.10$	
5	70	1.11	4.02	1.85	$4.15 \pm 0.12$	
6	75	0.99	4.68	3.17	$6.85 \pm 0.09$	
7	75	0.93	5.46	3.43	$6.75 \pm 0.11$	$6.83 \pm 0.07$
8	75	0.80	6.24	3.41	$6.85 \pm 0.07$	
9	75	0.98	3.90	2.61	$6.85\ \pm 0.06$	
10	80	1.01	3.79	3.72	$9.73 \pm 0.07$	
11	85	0.99	3.63	5.87	$16.3 \pm 0.10$	



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