## Supplementary information

## Catalysts of Water Oxidation and pH Sensors Based on Azo-

## conjugated Iridium/Rhodium Motifs

Wei-Bin Yu\*, Qing-Ya He, Hua-Tian Shi, Yan Pan, and Xianwen Wei\*

Analysis and Testing Central Facility, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Anhui University of Technology, Maanshan 243002, P.R.China.

- 1. Figure s1. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **1**.
- 2. Figure s2. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of **1**.
- 3. Figure s3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **2**.
- 4. Figure s4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **2**.
- 5. Figure s5. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of **2**.
- 6. Figure s6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3**.
- 7. Figure s7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **3**.
- 8. Figure s8. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of **3**.
- 9. Figure s9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 4.
- 10. Figure s10. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 4.
- 11. Figure s11. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of **4**.
- 12. Figure s12. ESI-MS spectra of complex 1.
- 13. Figure s13. ESI-MS spectra of complex 2.
- 14. Figure s14. ESI-MS spectra of complex 3.
- 15. Figure s15. ESI-MS spectra of complex 4.
- 16. Figure s16. IR spectra of 1-4.
- 17. Figure s17. UV-Vis spectra of 1-4 in MeOH.
- 18. Figure s18. UV-Vis spectra of 1 and 3 in water.
- 19. Figure s19. UV-Vis spectra of 1 in methanol and water.

20. Figure s20. pH-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **2** in aqueous solution.

21. Figure s21. pH-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex 3 in aqueous

solution.

22. Figure s22. pH-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **4** in aqueous solution.

23. Figure s23. Concentration-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex 2 in aqueous solution.

24. Figure s24. Concentration-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous solution.

25. Figure s25. Concentration-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex 4 in aqueous solution.

26. Table 1. Crystal data and structure refinement for **2**.

27. Table 2. Crystal data and structure refinement for **3**.

28. Table 3. Crystal data and structure refinement for 4.

29. Figure s26. The transformation of color in complexes 1-4.

30. Figure s27. ESI-MS spectra of complex 1 at pH = 12.

31. Figure s28. ESI-MS spectra of complex 2 at pH = 12.

32. Figure s29. ESI-MS spectra of complex 3 at pH = 12.

33. Figure s30. ESI-MS spectra of complex 4 at pH = 12.







Figure s4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **2**.



-80.058

Figure s6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3**.



Figure s8. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of **3**.







Figure s11. <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra of **4**.











Figure s14. ESI-MS spectra of complex **3**.









Figure s18. UV-Vis spectra of 1 and 3 in water.



Figure s19. UV-Vis spectra of 1 in methanol and water.



Figure s20. pH-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **2** in aqueous solution (Concentration: 0.03 mM, scan rate: 50 mV/s).



Figure s21. pH-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous solution (Concentration: 0.03 mM, scan rate: 50 mV/s).



Figure s22. pH-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **4** in aqueous solution (Concentration: 0.03 mM, scan rate: 50 mV/s).



Figure s23. Concentration-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex 2 in aqueous solution (pH = 12, scan rate: 50 mV/s).



Figure s24. Concentration-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex **3** in aqueous solution (pH = 12, scan rate: 50 mV/s).



Figure s25. Concentration-dependent cyclic voltammograms of complex 4 in aqueous solution (pH = 12, scan rate: 50 mV/s).

Empirical formula	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>26</sub> ClF <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> RhS
Formula weight	671.92
Temperature	273(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 A
Crystal system, space group	Monoclinic, P2(1)/c
Unit cell dimensions	a = 8.583(4) A alpha = 90 deg.
	b = 16.929(7) A beta = 99.892(5) deg.
	c = 19.659(8) A gamma = 90 deg.
Volume	2814(2) A^3
Z, Calculated density	4, 1.586 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.833 mm^-1
F(000)	1360
Crystal size	0.25 x 0.15 x 0.10 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.41 to 27.71 deg.
Limiting indices	-11<=h<=11, -20<=k<=22, -17<=l<=25
Reflections collected / unique	16910 / 6409 [R(int) = 0.1042]
Completeness to theta $= 27.71$	97.1 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.9214 and 0.8188
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	6409 / 370 / 358
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.970
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0813, $wR2 = 0.1528$
R indices (all data)	R indices (all data)
Largest diff. peak and hole	1.194 and -0.759 e.A^-3

Table s1. Crystal data and structure refinement for **2**.

Empirical formula	$C_{27}H_{26}F_6IrN_3O_8S_2$
Formula weight	890.83
Temperature	296(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 A
Crystal system, space group	Triclinic, P-1
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.205(2) A alpha = 102.389(3) deg.
	b = 11.366(3) A beta = 96.745(3) deg.
	c = 16.818(4) A gamma = 104.938(2) deg.
Volume	1632.4(6) A^3
Z, Calculated density	2, 1.812 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	4.303 mm^-1
F(000)	872
Crystal size	0.24 x 0.20 x 0.15 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.52 to 27.48 deg.
Limiting indices	-11<=h<=11, -14<=k<=14, -15<=l<=21
Reflections collected / unique	10170 / 7188 [R(int) = 0.0213]
Completeness to theta $= 27.48$	96.2 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.5646 and 0.4249
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	7188 / 425 / 430
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.024
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0429, wR2 = 0.1101
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0528, wR2 = 0.1155
Largest diff. peak and hole	2.382 and -1.602 e.A^-3

Table s2. Crystal data and structure refinement for **3**.

Empirical formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>27</sub> F6N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> RhS <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	802.55
Temperature	296(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 A
Crystal system, space group	Triclinic, P-1
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.1279(17) A alpha = 102.330(3) deg.
	b = 11.394(2) A beta = 96.882(2) deg.
	c = 16.825(3) A gamma = 104.537(2) deg.
Volume	1626.8(5) A^3
Z, Calculated density	2, 1.638 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	0.739 mm^-1
F(000)	810
Crystal size	0.25 x 0.20 x 0.15 mm
Theta range for data collection	2.45 to 25.00 deg.
Limiting indices	-10<=h<=10, -13<=k<=10, -17<=l<=20
Reflections collected / unique	7914 / 5503 [R(int) = 0.0309]
Completeness to theta = $25.00$	95.9 %
Max. and min. transmission	0.8973 and 0.8368
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	5503 / 431 / 431
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.055
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0962, WR2 = 0.2134
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1343, wR2 = 0.2546
Largest diff. peak and hole	2.062 and -1.927 e.A^-3

Table s3. Crystal data and structure refinement for **4**.



Figure s26. The transformation of color in complexes 1-4.















