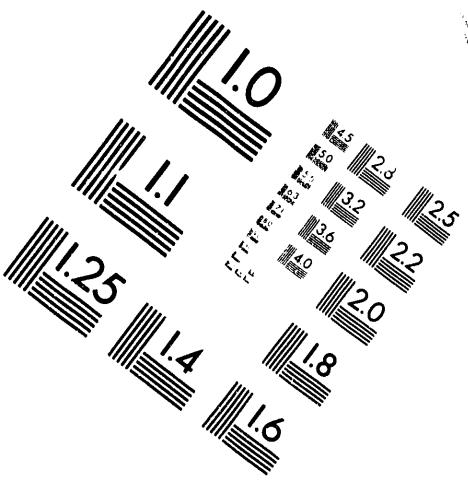




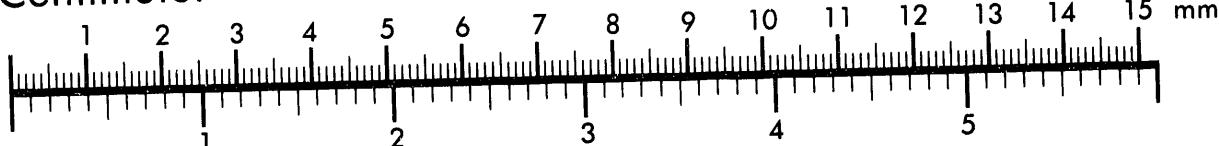
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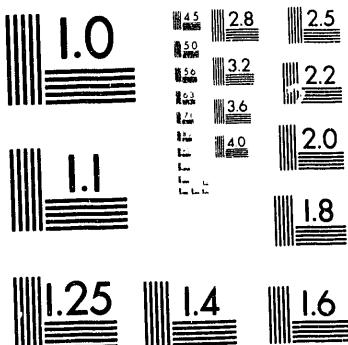
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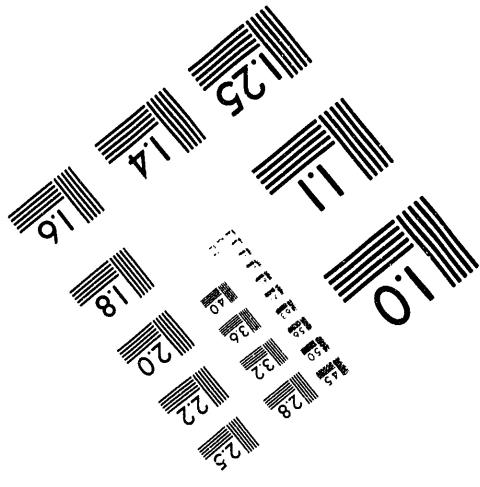
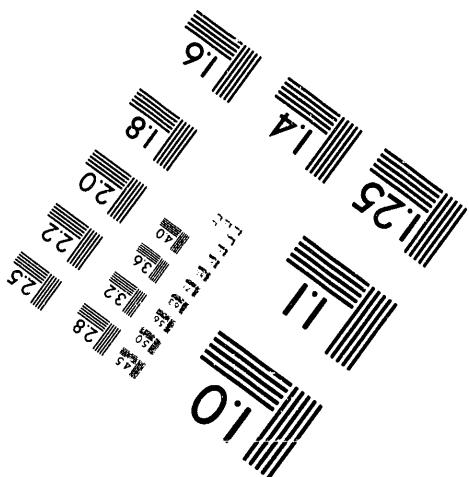
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BINDING OF CARBON DIOXIDE TO METAL MACROCYCLES:
RECEIVED TOWARD A MECHANISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF
ELECTROCHEMICAL AND PHOTOCHEMICAL CARBON DIOXIDE
JUN 29 1993 REDUCTION

OSTI

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Introduction

A great deal of effort has been devoted to finding effective catalysts for photochemical and electrochemical reduction of CO₂. Metal complexes with 14-membered tetraazamacrocyclic ligands, [CoL₅(H₂O)][ClO₄]₂ (L₅ = 5,7,7,12,14,14-hexamethyl-1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradeca-4,11-diene) and NiL₁₀Cl₂ (L₁₀ = 1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecane), have been used as successful electrocatalysts¹⁻³ for the reduction of CO₂ in H₂O or aqueous CH₃CN. The total yields of CO and H₂ are ~1 in most cases and the CO/H₂ production ratio is ~1 for [CoL₅(H₂O)][ClO₄]₂¹ and >100 for NiL₁₀Cl₂.¹ Beley et al. suggested that the large selectivity for the electroreduction of CO₂ compared with water is related to the size of the macrocyclic ligand and to the presence of N-H groups in NiL₁₀Cl₂. Despite the successful electrochemical reduction of CO₂ by metal macrocycles, photochemical reduction of CO₂ by these macrocycles showed a very low quantum yield for CO₂ reduction and the undesired competitive evolution of H₂, along with the HCO₂⁻ and CO production. Tinnemans et al.² have reported the use of cobalt macrocyclic complexes as electron mediators for the Ru(2,2'-bipyridine)₃²⁺-catalyzed photochemical reduction of CO₂ to yield a CO/H₂ ratio of ~0.3. Grant et al.⁴ investigated the electron mediation of a NiL₁₀ complex for the same photosensitized CO₂ reduction and found quantum yields of 10⁻⁴ to 10⁻³ and a CO/H₂ ratio of ~0.2. Both groups proposed the insertion of CO₂ into the M-H bond in the reaction mechanisms.

In order to find an effective and selective photochemical CO₂ reduction system, we are elucidating the factors controlling excited-state lifetimes, electron-transfer rates to mediators/catalysts, properties of reduced mediators, the binding of small molecules to reduced mediators, and the reactivity of the mediators to yield the desired products. Here we describe some of our results of binding on CO₂ to metal macrocycles.

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Nature of Reduced Mediators.

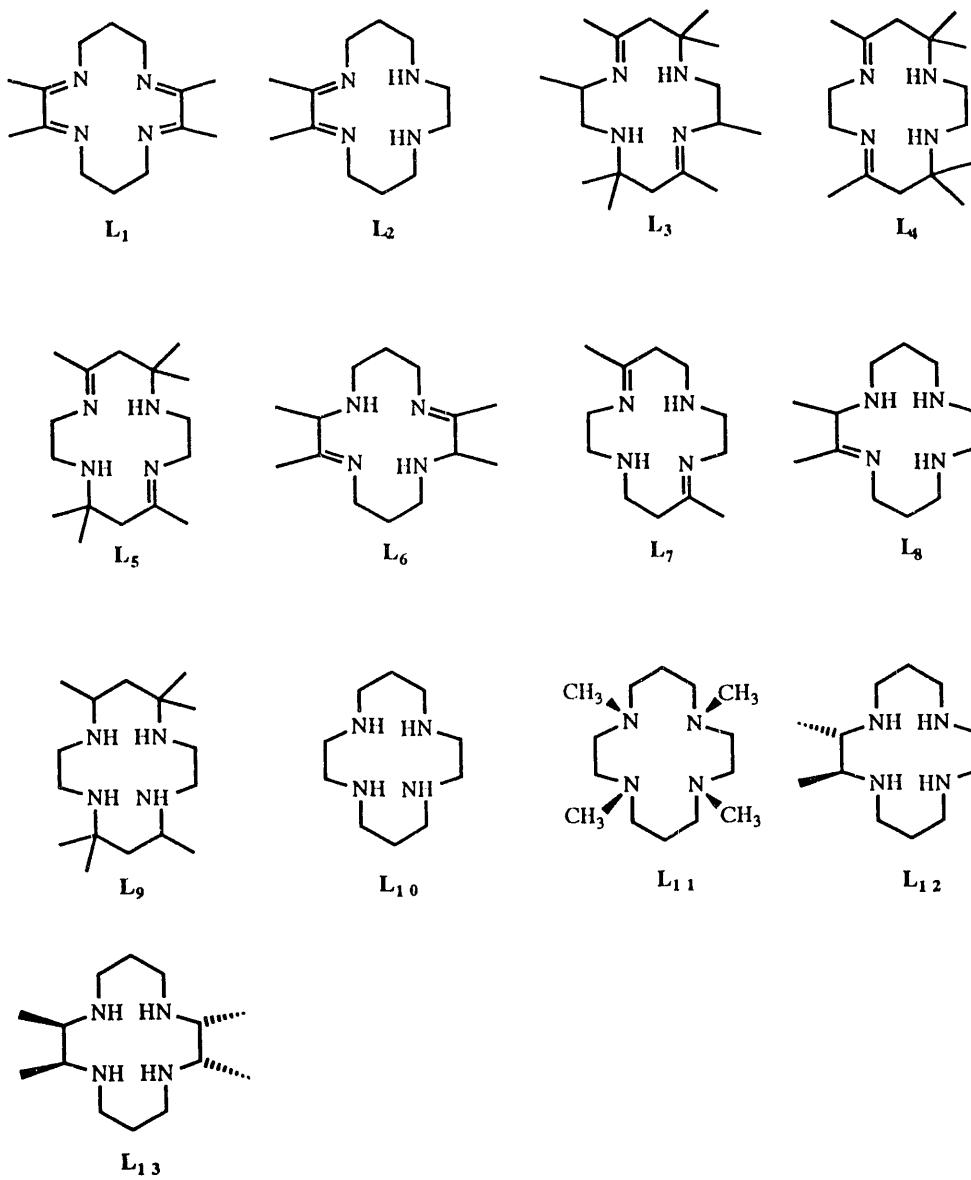
Most $\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}$ and $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}\text{L}$ complexes studied here can be reduced to the metal(I) oxidation state by $\text{Na}-\text{Hg}$ reduction in CH_3CN .^{5,6} These metal(I) complexes are unstable in water, forming $\text{M}^{\text{III}}\text{L}-\text{H}^+$ complexes, which produce H_2 by reacting with protons. Various properties of CoL_5 ($E_{1/2} -1.34$ V vs SCE), NiL_5 ($E_{1/2} -1.22$ V vs SCE), and NiL_{13} ($E_{1/2} -1.32$ V vs SCE) in CH_3CN are shown in Table I. Since the structure of the $\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_{10}$ complex, a well known catalyst, has not been determined, the results^{6,7,8} for NiL_5 and NiL_{13} are also shown here. These metal(I) complexes have very strong MLCT bands in the visible region and react with carbon monoxide to form square pyramidal CO adducts. Although the Co-N bond distances are not significantly changed by reduction, the Ni-N distances of nickel(I) complexes increase quite dramatically compared to the nickel(II) complexes. Although the coordination geometry varies from square planar to elongated octahedral, and the spin varies from low to high in these nickel(II) complexes, the bond length differences between the Ni(II) and Ni(I) complexes remain about 0.1 Å. Such a bond length difference may cause a 2- or 3-order-of-magnitude slower electron transfer between the Ni(II) and Ni(I) species than that between the Co(II) and Co(I).

Table I. Properties of Cobalt and Nickel Complexes in CH_3CN .

	$\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_5$	$\text{Co}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_5$	$\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_5$	$\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_5$	$\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_{10}$	$\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_{10}$	$\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_{13}$	$\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_{13}$
Spin	d^7	d^8	d^8	d^9	d^8	d^9	d^8	d^9
	low	low	low		high		high	
Coord. number	6 or 5	4	4	4	6	6	6	4
UV-vis $\lambda_{\text{max}}(\epsilon)$	440(125)	678(18000)	438(90)	600 sh	445(42)	560(150)		384(6200)
					468(4120)		382(6500)	
K_{CO} M ⁻¹	—	2.3×10^8	—	5.6×10^4	—	2.8×10^5	—	3.4×10^5
K_{CO_2} M ⁻¹	—	6×10^4	—	<0.2	—	a	—	a
ν_{CN} , cm ⁻¹	1661	1571	1660	1635	—	—	—	—
M-Namine, Å (soln)	b	b	1.93 ^c	2.06 ^c	1.99 ^d	2.10 ^d	b	b
M-Nimine, Å (soln)	b	b	1.93 ^c	1.94 ^c	—	—	—	—
M-Namine, Å (solid)	1.967 ^e	1.957 ^f	1.914 ^g	2.066 ^c			1.959 ^d	2.068 ^d
M-Nimine, Å (solid)	1.927 ^e	1.911 ^f	1.907 ^g	1.984 ^c	—	—	—	—
Geometry (solid)	sq. pyr.	sq. pl.	sq. pl.	sq. pl.			sq. pl.	sq. pl.
							low spin	

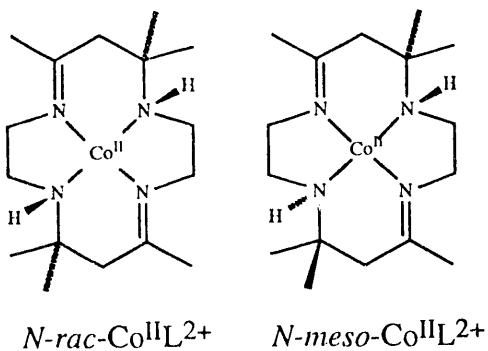
^a $\text{Ni}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_{13}^+$ reacts with CO_2 in CH_3CN to form a pale yellow solution. Study of the product is in progress. ^b EXAFS study of these solutions are in progress. ^c ref. 6.

^d ref. 8. ^e ref. 19. ^f ref. 5. ^g ref. 7.



Binding and Reduction of Carbon Dioxide.

We characterized the reversible binding of CO₂, CO and H⁺ to *meso*- and *racemic*-[Co(I)L₅]⁺ in H₂O^{9,10} and in CH₃CN.^{5,11} The CO₂ binding constant for the *racemic* isomer is about one-hundred times greater than for the *meso* isomer in both solvents. The difference seems due to steric and hydrogen-bonding interactions between the bound CO₂ and the macrocycle. We also characterized¹¹ a binuclear species containing the Co-C(OH)-O-Co moiety (in which hydrogen bonding exists between the bound CO₂H and amine hydrogens of the macrocycle) and studied a CO₂ reduction pathway involving two cobalt centers which takes place during the slow decomposition of the [Co(I)L₅CO₂]⁺ complex to Co(II)L₅²⁺, CO, H₂, HCO₂⁻ and HCO₃⁻ in CH₃CN.



We have extended our work by using various 14-membered cobalt macrocycles to investigate factors affecting CO₂ and CO binding, catalytic activity and kinetics of thermal decomposition of CO₂ complexes. The electronic absorption spectra and other physical properties of the Co^IL, Co^IL-CO₂ and Co^IL-CO complexes were measured. The CO₂ and CO binding constants were determined by spectroscopic and/or electrochemical methods. As can be seen from Table II, the binding constants range from 5×10^4 to $\geq 3 \times 10^8$ M⁻¹ for CO and from ≤ 0.5 to $> 10^6$ M⁻¹ for CO₂ at 25 °C. The binding constants increase as the Co^{II}/I reduction potentials become more negative.

Table II. CO₂ and CO Binding Constants and Carbonyl Vibrational Frequencies for Cobalt Macrocycles in CH₃CN at 25 °C

Macrocycle	E _{1/2} V vs SCE	K _{CO₂} (Elec) M ⁻¹	K _{CO₂} (Spec) M ⁻¹	K _{CO} M ⁻¹	v _{C≡O} cm ⁻¹
L ₁	-0.37	<0.5		5x10 ⁴	2007
L ₂	-0.82	<0.5		1.4x10 ⁵	1959
L ₃	-1.28	1.7±0.5	4.0±1.3	1.1x10 ⁸	1912
L ₄	-1.34	25±6	26±8	1.9x10 ⁸	1918
<i>meso</i> -L ₅	-1.34	190±9			
<i>rac</i> -L ₅	-1.34	(6±2)x10 ⁴	(1.2±0.5)x10 ⁴	2.3x10 ⁸	1916
L ₆	-1.41	(9±3)x10 ⁴		≥3x10 ⁸	1910
L ₇	-1.51	(7±3)x10 ⁵		≥3x10 ⁸	1915
L ₈	-1.65	(3±2)x10 ⁶		≥3x10 ⁸	1912,1895

The CO₂ complexes studied here are 1:1 complexes in which the CO₂ is presumably bound η^1 -C to an axial metal coordination site (*i.e.*, Co-C(O)O). It

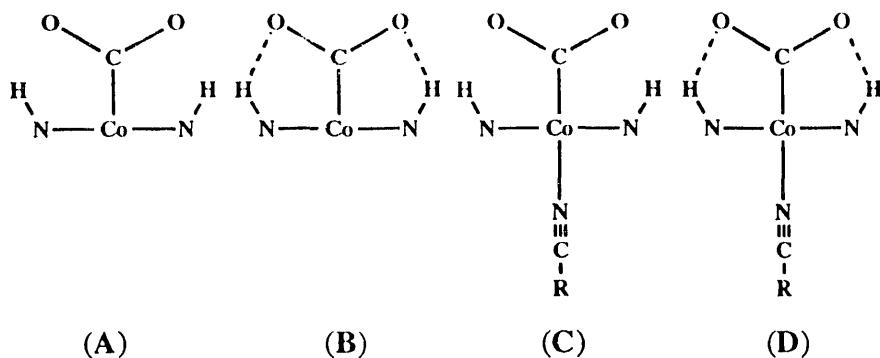
appears that, depending on the complex and the conditions, the cobalt center in the CO₂ complex may be either five coordinate, like the CO-adduct, or six coordinate. The CO₂ adduct of Co^IL₅ is thermochromic, evidently existing in a five-coordinate form at higher temperatures and in a six-coordinate form at low temperatures.



$$K_s = [\text{CoL}_5(\text{CO}_2)\text{S}^+] / [\text{Co}^{\text{I}}\text{L}_5\text{-CO}_2^+] \quad (2)$$

The temperature dependence of the spectrum in C₃H₇CN indicates the 530-nm band diminishes in intensity and a 430-nm shoulder increases in intensity as the temperature drops. Measurements over the range -110 °C to 40 °C in C₃H₇CN yield K_s (298) = 0.08 ± 0.06, ΔG° (298) = 1.5 ± 0.4 kcal mol⁻¹, ΔH° = -6.2 ± 0.3 kcal mol⁻¹ and ΔS° = -26 ± 1 cal K⁻¹ mol⁻¹. A solid tan sample, obtained at -70 °C from a THF-CH₃CN mixture, shows ν_{C≡N} 1653 cm⁻¹, ν_{C=O} 1558 cm⁻¹, and two kinds of ν_{C≡N}, 2337 cm⁻¹ for coordinated CH₃CN and 2272 cm⁻¹ for free CH₃CN, consistent with the formation of [CoL₅(CO₂)S](ClO₄) with S = CH₃CN. Furthermore, the spectrum of the low-temperature form is similar to that of *trans*-Co(en)₂(OH₂)(CO₂)⁺, which is known to be six coordinate. From the UV-vis spectra of the CO₂-adducts, the complexes seem to fall into two classes: For L₃, L₄ and L₅, the lowest energy transition occurs at 530-540 nm, with additional bands at 400-460 nm and 310 nm. In contrast, for L₆, L₇ and L₈, the lowest energy transition is at 450-480 nm. Indeed, the room-temperature spectra of the CO₂ adducts of Co^IL₆⁺, Co^IL₇⁺ and Co^IL₈⁺ resemble that of the low-temperature form of Co^IL₅-CO₂⁺ and it is likely that these are also six-coordinate with a solvent molecule as an axial ligand.

We measured the temperature-dependent FT-IR spectra of *rac*-CoL₅(CO₂)⁺ in CD₃CN, C₃H₇CN and in a CD₃CN/THF mixture.¹² The spectra indicated the existence of four CO₂ adducts depending upon whether the solvent is coordinated or not and on whether there is hydrogen bonding between bound the CO₂ and the N-H of the ligand: a five-coordinate, non-hydrogen bonded form **A** (ν_{CO}=1710 cm⁻¹, ν_{NH}=3208 cm⁻¹), a five-coordinate intramolecular hydrogen-bonded form **B** (ν_{CO}=1626 cm⁻¹, ν_{NH}=3224 cm⁻¹), a six-coordinate non-hydrogen bonded form **C** (ν_{CO}=1609 cm⁻¹), and a six-coordinate intramolecular hydrogen-bonded form **D** (ν_{CO}=1544 cm⁻¹, ν_{NH}=3145 cm⁻¹). The binding of CO₂ *via* both its electrophilic center (carbon atom) and its nucleophilic center (oxygen atom) stabilizes the CO₂ complex at low temperature.



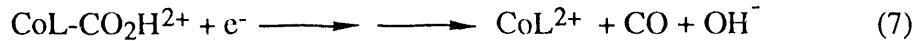
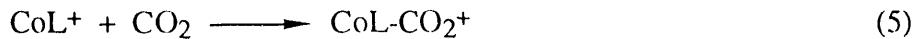
The electron distributions of CO_2 complexes are of some interest. Molecular Orbital calculations for a related complex suggests that extensive charge donation from Co(I) to CO_2 in $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}\text{LCO}_2]^+$ results in an electronic distribution better described as $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}(\text{CO}_2^-)]^+$. However, there is no evidence that cobalt(II) (a d^7 metal center) is actually present. The ^1H NMR spectra of $[\text{CoL}(\text{CO}_2)]^+$ in CD_3CN at various temperatures indicate the existence of only diamagnetic CO_2 adducts. To our knowledge, low-spin, six-coordinate Co(I) has never been observed. Therefore the six-coordinate species $[\text{Co}^{\text{I}}\text{L}(\text{CO}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]^+$ is most reasonably formulated as a cobalt(III) complex $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}\text{L}(\text{CO}_2^{2-})(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]^+$, closely related to the yellow diamagnetic complexes $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{en})_2(\text{CO}_2^{2-})(\text{OH})]$ in solution and $[\text{Co}^{\text{III}}(\text{en})_2(\text{CO}_2^{2-})]^+$ in the solid.¹³ In fact, preliminary XANES (x-ray absorption near edge structure) results for $[\text{CoL}(\text{CO}_2)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]^+$ in CH_3CN at 150 K indicate that the oxidation state of the cobalt center can be interpreted as Co(III).

Electrochemical Reduction of CO_2 in Water.

We are investigating the electrocatalytic activity of cobalt macrocycle complexes in the reduction of carbon dioxide in CO_2 -saturated water at the Hg electrode. CO , H_2 and a small amount of formate are the products. The influence of pH, applied potential, and the selectivity and efficiency during various times of electrolysis are currently being investigated. Unlike NiL_{10}^{2+} , the CoL_5^{2+} based system produces more H_2 from H_2O than CO from CO_2 at low pH (< 3). At $4.0 < \text{pH} < 6.0$, more H_2 is produced for $E > -1.35$ V and $E < -1.60$ V vs SCE. This result can be explained by the favorable binding of H^+ to Co(I)L_5^+ in H_2O , previously studied by pulse radiolysis.¹⁰ In fact, the CoL_5^{2+} complex had been used as a mediator for the photochemical reduction of H_2O with $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$.¹⁴ For a reversible electron-transfer reaction followed by a fast catalytic reaction, the catalytic current of the cyclic voltammogram can be written,

$$i_C = nFA[CoL](Dk[CO_2])^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

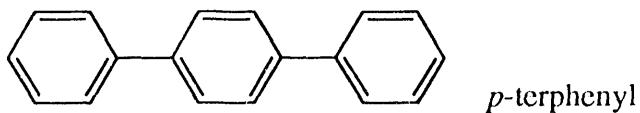
where n is number of electrons, F is the Faraday constant, D is the diffusion constant, and k is the rate constant of the catalytic reaction. The correlations of the catalytic current vs $[CoL_5]$ and the catalytic current vs the square root of the CO_2 concentration for *rac*-CoL are linear. Therefore the reaction is first-order in $[CoL_5]$, first-order in $[CO_2]$, and almost independent of $[H^+]$. A proposed mechanism of CO_2 reduction is shown below.



We are extending our work to other cobalt macrocycles which differ in $Co^{II/III}$ potentials, steric hindrance of methyl groups, and position(s) of NH hydrogen(s) in order to elucidate the important factors defining an efficient electrocatalyst for CO_2 reduction. Our preliminary results indicate: (1) CoL_6 and CoL_7 seem better catalysts for the CO_2 reduction than CoL_5 in terms of selectivities and the yields. The axial methyl groups of CoL_5 may hinder an efficient binding of CO_2 and further reaction; (2) Bulk electrolysis results for *rac*- and *meso*- CoL_5 were similar, despite the large difference in the binding constants. Isomerization may take place during the reduction; (3) All systems produced much more H_2 from H_2O than CO from CO_2 at pH 2.

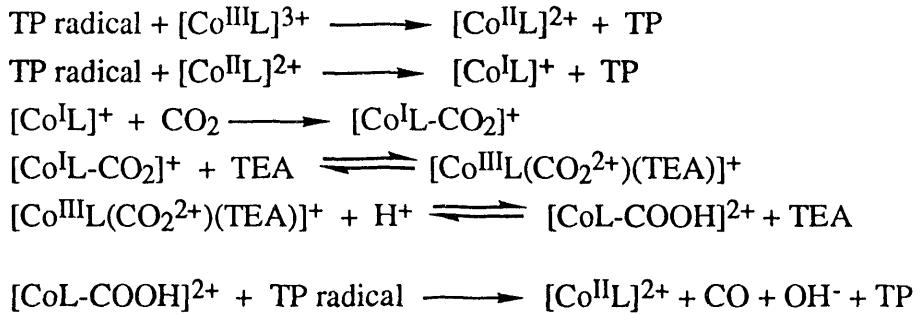
Photochemical Reduction of CO_2 .

Cobalt macrocycles mediate electron transfer in the photoreduction of CO_2 with *p*-terphenyl as a photosensitizer and a tertiary or β -hydroxylated tertiary amine as a sacrificial electron donor in methanolic acetonitrile.¹⁵ The anion radical of *p*-terphenyl has a long lifetime (8.3 ms in TEA/THF) and is a very strong reducing reagent (-2.45 V vs SCE).¹⁶ It reduces CO_2 to HCO_2^- with an apparent quantum yield of 0.072 at 313 nm in the TEA/DMF system. But *p*-terphenyl itself concurrently undergoes photo-Birch reduction within 4 turnovers of its catalytic cycle.



Mediation by certain cobalt macrocycles suppresses the degradative and competitive photo-Birch reduction of *p*-terphenyl, leading to efficient and selective formation of both CO and formate with little H₂.^{17,18} The apparent total quantum yield of CO and HCO₂⁻ is 0.25 in the TEOA/CH₃CN/MeOH/CoL₁₀Cl₃ system. Structural properties such as hydrogen-bonding interactions between the bound CO₂ and N-H protons and steric repulsion by the macrocycle methyl groups to axial ligation may be responsible for the observed differences in the distribution of the reduction products – CO, formate and H₂.

Cobalt complexes with two or four C-methyl groups (L₂, L₆, L₇, and L₁₀) give comparable activity for the reduction of CO₂ and H₂ evolution. In the case of more extensively C-methylated macrocycles (L₃ and L₅), however, the activity of CO₂ reduction decreases by an appreciable amount, but not the H₂ evolution. Steric hindrance by the two pairs of geminate C-methyl groups reduces the accessibility of the metal center to approach by either CO₂ molecules or other ligands such as amines and solvent. The N-methylated complex, Co(II)L₁₁²⁺, did not mediate the photoreduction of CO₂ and only a small quantity of H₂ was detected. This inactivity is due to the difficulty in attaining the six-coordinate structure of Co(III) and the very high Co^{III/II} potential (E_{1/2} > +1.2 V vs SCE). For CoL₁ H₂ evolution dominated when TEA was used as electron donor with the tetraene complex. A proposed mechanism of CO₂ reduction is shown below.



Flash photolysis experiments (transient absorption) are planned to identify intermediates and determine the kinetics.

The catalytic electron mediation studies were extended to CoCl₂ and Ni(II), Zn(II), Fe(II), Cu(II) complexes of L₁₀. None of these complexes functioned as electron mediators for CO₂ photoreduction. The failure in the case of the NiL₁₀

complex is in marked contrast with its excellent performance as an electron mediator in the electrochemical reduction (almost 100% CO production) and with its moderate performance in photochemical reduction with $\text{Ru}(\text{bpy})_3^{2+}$ as a sensitizer ($\text{CO}/\text{H}_2 = 1/6$ at pH 4). The failure with $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_{10}$ and $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_{11}\text{Cl}]$ in the catalytic electron mediation in the system may result from a very unstable trivalent oxidation state of the metal complexes under our conditions. Although trivalent nickel complexes have been reported, these complexes are stable only in acidic media. The CoL_{11} complex has an oxidation potential at > 1.2 V and cannot form six-coordinate species because of steric hinderance. The failure with $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}\text{L}_{10}$ may also be due to slow electron transfer from *p*-terphenyl due to the large Ni-N bond distance change in the Ni(II) and Ni(I) states. Planned flash photolysis experiments may clarify these issues.

Concluding Remarks.

We are studying the properties of reduced mediators, the binding of CO_2 molecules to reduced mediators, and the reactivity of the mediators to yield the desired products. With knowledge of the properties of these complexes we are now ready to study the mechanism and kinetics of the photochemical CO_2 reduction in order to design more effecient photo-energy conversion systems.

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