## **Supporting Information**

## Functionalized nickel(II)-iron(II) dithiolates as biomimetic

## models of [NiFe]-H<sub>2</sub>ases

Li-Cheng Song,\* Yin-Peng Wang, Yi-Xiong Dong and Xi-Yue Yang

## **Contents:**

- 1. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [1](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Fig. S1–Fig. S4)
- In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material [C](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, intermediate m<sub>2</sub> and product [3]BF<sub>4</sub> during reaction of [C](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>NO in pyridine (Fig. S5).
- 3. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [2]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S6– Fig. S9)
- 4. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [**3**]BF<sub>4</sub> (Fig. S10–Fig. S13)
- 5. Bulk electrolysis for the two-electron reduction of [CpFe(CO)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub> and the oneelectron reduction of [2]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S14)
- 6. Plots of  $i_p$  versus  $v^{1/2}$  for the reduction peaks of [2]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S15)
- 7. In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material  $[1](PF_6)_2$ , intermediate  $\mathbf{m}_3$  and product  $[4]PF_6$  during reaction of  $[1](PF_6)_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>NO and HCO<sub>2</sub>H in acetone (Fig. S16)
- 8. In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material [1](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, intermediate **m**<sub>3</sub> and product [6]PF<sub>6</sub> during reaction of [1](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>NO and PhCO<sub>2</sub>H in acetone (Fig. S17)
- 9. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [4]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S18–Fig. S21)
- 10. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [**5**]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S22– Fig. S25)
- 11. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [6]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S26– Fig. S29)
- 12. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [7]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S30– Fig. S33)
- 13. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [**8**]PF<sub>6</sub> (Fig. S34– Fig. S37)
- 14. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [**9**](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Fig. S38– Fig. S41)
- 15. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [9](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (Fig. S42–Fig. S45)
- 16. References



1. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}C$ ,  $^{31}P$ ) NMR spectra of [1](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>











Fig. S3  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of [1](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>



Fig. S4  ${}^{31}$ P NMR spectrum of [1](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material [C](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, intermediate m<sub>2</sub> and product [3]BF<sub>4</sub> during reaction of [C](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with Me<sub>3</sub>NO in pyridine.



Fig. S5 In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material  $[C](BF_4)_2$ , intermediate  $m_2$  and product  $[3]BF_4$  during reaction of  $[C](BF_4)_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>NO in pyridine.



3. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}C$ ,  $^{31}P$ ) NMR spectra of [2]PF<sub>6</sub>







**Fig. S7** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[2]PF_6$ 



Fig. S8  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of [2]PF<sub>6</sub>



4. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}C$ ,  $^{31}P$ ) NMR spectra of [**3**]BF<sub>4</sub>



Fig. S10 IR spectrum of [3]BF<sub>4</sub>





Fig. S11 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [3]BF<sub>4</sub>







Fig. S13 <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [3]BF<sub>4</sub>

5. Bulk electrolysis for the two-electron reduction of  $[CpFe(CO)_2]_2$  and the oneelectron reduction of  $[2]PF_6$ 

The reduction event for [2]PF<sub>6</sub> is a one-electron process since their final Q values determined by bulk electrolysis are close to half that of the known two-electron reduction process of dimer  $[CpFe(CO)_2]_2$ .<sup>1,2</sup>



**Fig. S14** Bulk electrolysis for the two-electron reduction of  $[CpFe(CO)_2]_2$  and the one-electron reductions for the first reduction event of [2]PF<sub>6</sub>.

6. Plots of  $i_p$  versus  $v^{1/2}$  for the reduction peaks of [2]PF<sub>6</sub>



Fig. S15 Plots of  $i_p$  versus  $v^{1/2}$  for the first and second reduction peaks of [2]PF<sub>6</sub> with their correlation coefficient R values.

7. In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material  $[1](PF_6)_2$ , intermediate  $\mathbf{m}_3$  and product  $[4]PF_6$  during reaction of  $[1](PF_6)_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>NO and HCO<sub>2</sub>H in acetone.



Fig. S16 In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material  $[1](PF_6)_2$ , intermediate  $m_3$  and product  $[4]PF_6$  during reaction of  $[1](PF_6)_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>NO and HCO<sub>2</sub>H in acetone.

8. In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material  $[1](PF_6)_2$ , intermediate  $\mathbf{m}_3$  and product  $[6]PF_6$  during reaction of  $[1](PF_6)_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>NO and PhCO<sub>2</sub>H in acetone.



Fig. S17 In situ IR spectra showing the terminal CO changes of starting material  $[1](PF_6)_2$ , intermediate  $m_3$  and product  $[6]PF_6$  during reaction of  $[1](PF_6)_2$  with Me<sub>3</sub>NO and PhCO<sub>2</sub>H in acetone.





Fig. S19 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [4]PF<sub>6</sub>



Fig. S20  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of [4]PF<sub>6</sub>



Fig. S21  ${}^{31}$ P NMR spectrum of [4]PF<sub>6</sub>

10. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}$ C,  $^{31}$ P) NMR spectra of [5]PF<sub>6</sub>















Fig. S25 <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [5]PF<sub>6</sub>

11. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}$ C,  $^{31}$ P) NMR spectra of [6]PF<sub>6</sub>



Fig. S26 IR spectrum of [6]PF<sub>6</sub>











Fig. S29 <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum of [6]PF $_6$ 

12. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}$ C,  $^{31}$ P) NMR spectra of [7]PF<sub>6</sub>



Fig. S30 IR spectrum of [7]PF<sub>6</sub>













Fig. S33  ${}^{31}$ P NMR spectrum of [7]PF<sub>6</sub>

13. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}$ C,  $^{31}$ P) NMR spectra of [8]PF<sub>6</sub>











14. IR and <sup>1</sup>H ( $^{13}$ C,  $^{31}$ P) NMR spectra of [9](PF<sub>6</sub>)<sub>2</sub>









15. IR and <sup>1</sup>H (<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>31</sup>P) NMR spectra of [9](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>



Fig. S42 IR spectrum of  $[9](BF_4)_2$ 











Fig. S45  ${}^{31}$ P NMR spectrum of [9](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

16. References

- L.-C. Song, X.-F. Han, W. Chen, J.-P. Li and X.-Y. Wang, *Dalton Trans.*, 2017, 46, 10003-10013.
- L.-C. Song, Y.-X. Wang, X.-K. Xing, S.-D. Ding, L.-D. Zhang, X.-Y. Wang and H.-T. Zhang, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2016, **22**, 16304-16314.