

Finding a mononuclear cobalt(III)-peroxo complex with 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane, an intermediate for dioxygen reduction

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Physical measurements

A Perkin-Elmer analyzer model 240 was used to do elemental analyses for C, H, and N. A Hitachi U-3010 spectrophotometer was used to measure UV-vis spectra of the samples. IR spectra were obtained as KBr pellets on a Bruker 1600 FT-IR spectrometer from 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra of the cobalt complexes were taken on a Bruker Elexsys II E500 EPR spectrometer. Electrochemical measurements and analysis were conducted by using a CHI-660E electrochemical analyzer.

Determination for crystal structures of the cobalt complexes

Measurement and analyses for the structures of the cobalt complexes were conducted on a Bruker Smart Apex II DUO area detector employing graphite monochromated Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$). All empirical absorption corrections were conducted on the SADABS program. ¹ Direct method was used to analyze the structures of the cobalt complexes and the corresponding non-hydrogen

atoms were refined with the XL refinement package.² All calculations were carried out on a ShelXS structure solution program.³ Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, while hydrogen atoms on carbon atoms were generated geometrically and refined isotropically.

1 G. M. Sheldrick, SADABS, Program for Empirical Absorption Correction of Area Detector Data, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, 1996.

2 O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, OLEX2: a complete structure solution, refinement and analysis program. *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 2009, **42**, 339-341.

3 G. M. Sheldrick, Crystal structure refinement with SHELXL. *Acta Cryst.*, 2015, **C17**, 3-8.

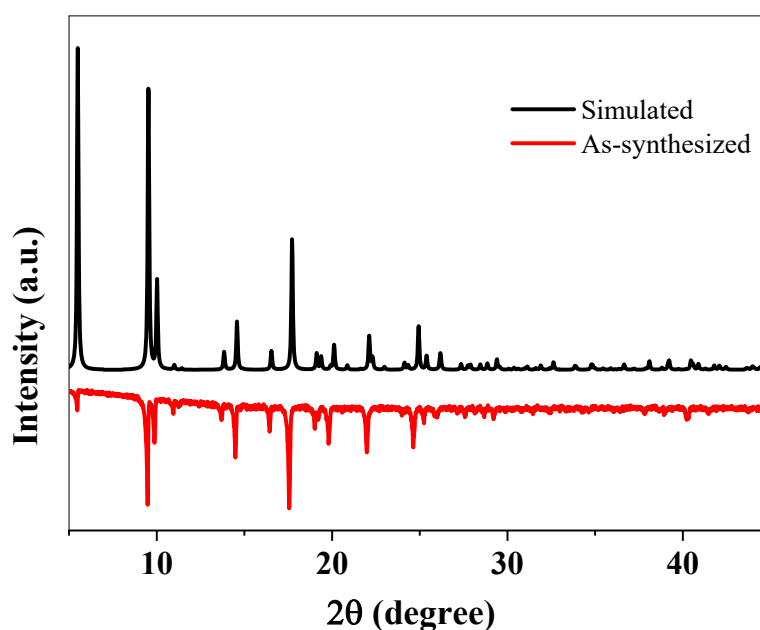


Fig. S1. Powder X-ray diffraction of $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1**. As-synthesized (up); Simulated (down).

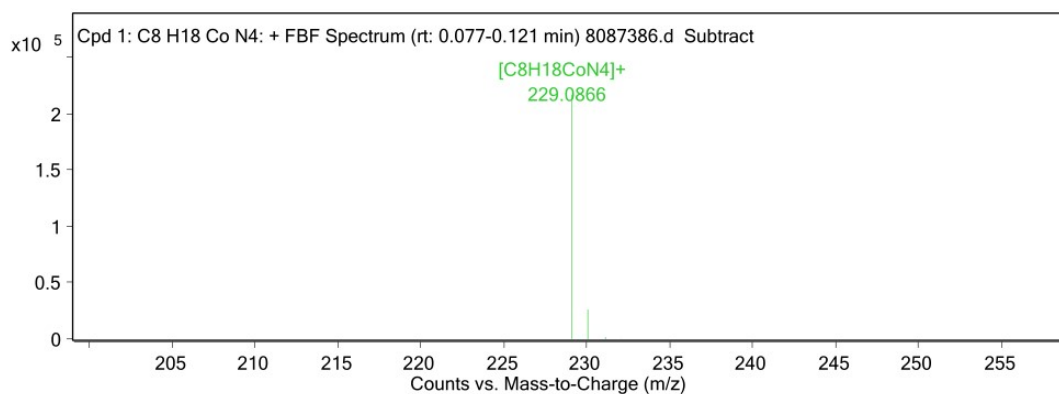


Fig. S2. ESI-MS of $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1** in CH_3CN .

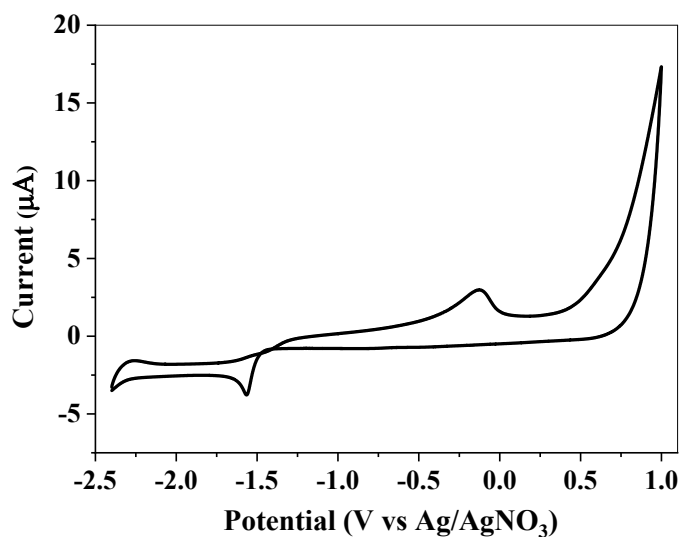


Fig. S3. (a) CV of 6.5 mM CoCl_2 in CH_3CN . Conditions: 0.10 M $[\text{n-Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{ClO}_4$ as supporting electrolyte, scan rate: 100 mV/s, glassy carbon working electrode (1 mm diameter), Pt counter electrode, Ag/AgNO_3 reference electrode.

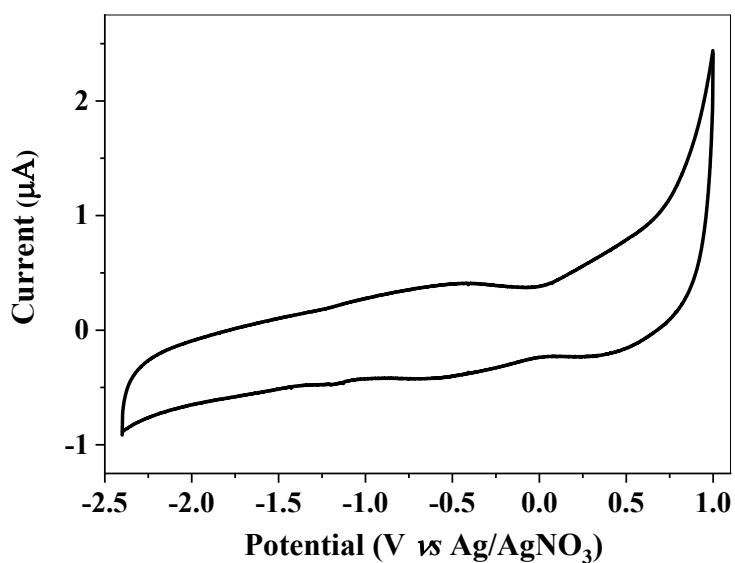


Fig. S4. CV of the ligand (6.5 mM) in CH₃CN. Conditions: 0.10 M [*n*-Bu₄N]ClO₄ as supporting electrolyte, scan rate: 100 mV/s, glassy carbon working electrode (1 mm diameter), Pt counter electrode, Ag/AgNO₃ reference electrode.

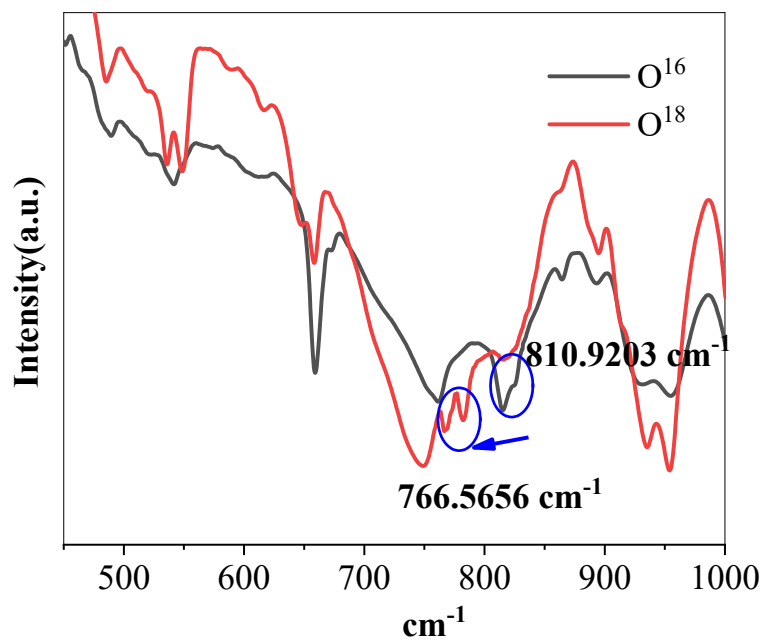


Fig. S5. Infrared spectra of the reaction solution of [Co(L)(Cl)₂]Cl **1** (0.10 mM) generated upon constant potential electrolysis experiment with ¹⁶O₂ or ¹⁸O₂ in acetonitrile-water under at -0.2 V.

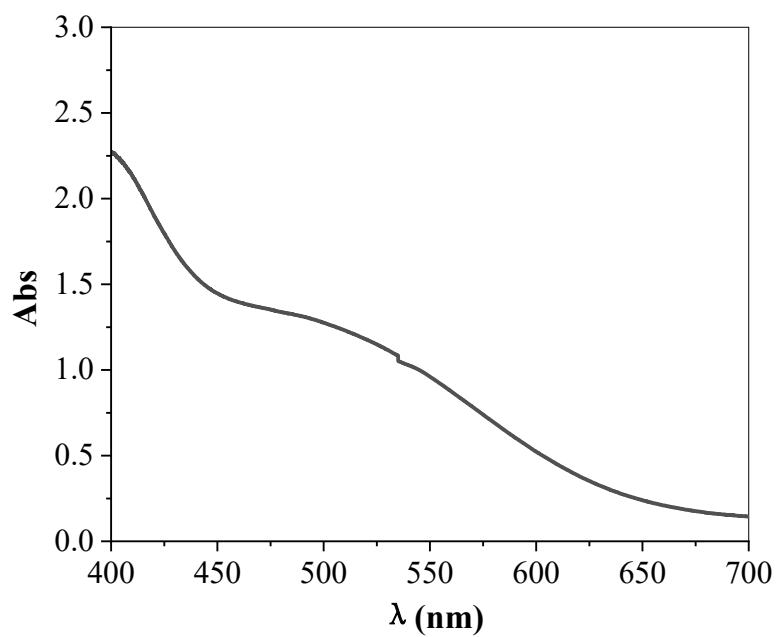


Fig. S6. UV-vis absorption spectrum of complex **1** (0.02 mM) in acetonitrile under -0.20 V with H^+ (1.0 mM) at room temperature.

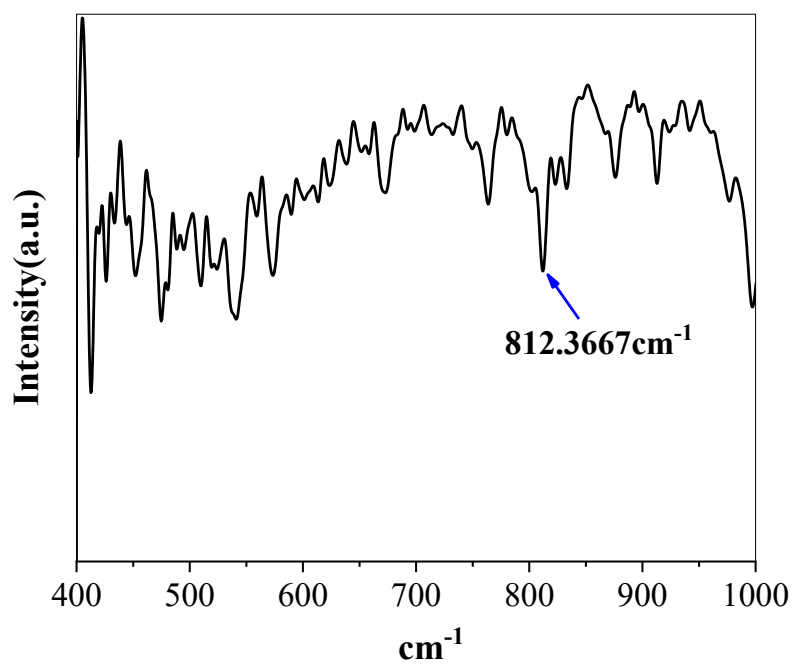


Fig. S7. Infrared spectrum of $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\mu\text{-OH})(\mu\text{-OO})\text{Co}(\text{L})]\text{Cl}_3$ **2**.

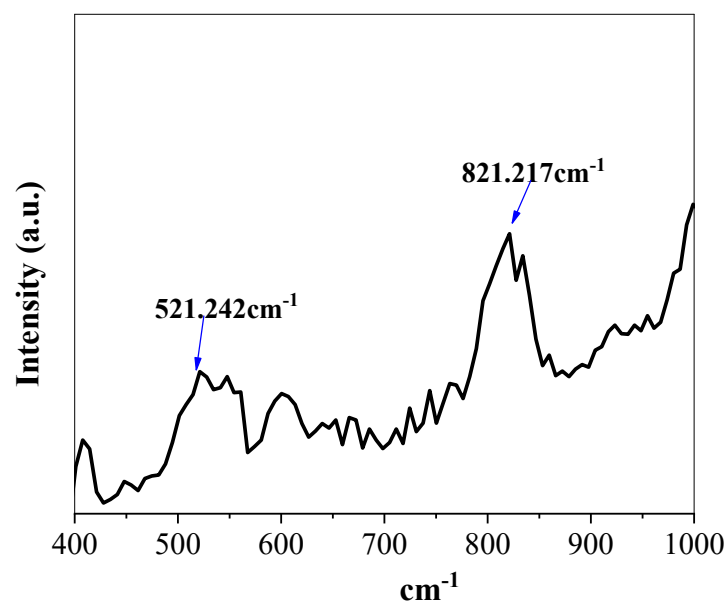


Fig. S8. Raman spectrum of $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\mu\text{-OH})(\mu\text{-OO})\text{Co}(\text{L})]\text{Cl}_3$ **2**.

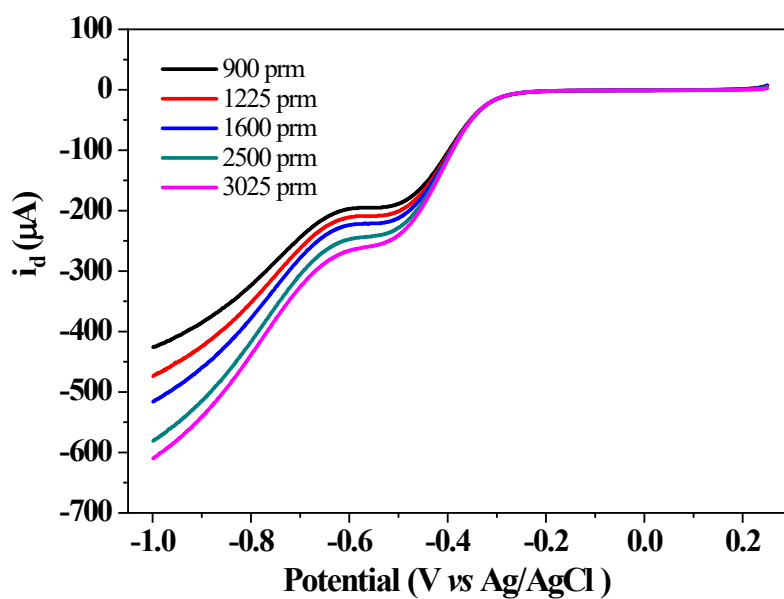


Fig. S9. Rotating ring-disk electrode (RRDE) measurement for O_2 reduction at the glassy carbon (GC) disk electrode loaded with $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1** in an O_2 -saturated 0.1 M KOH solution at various rotation rates. Conditions: work electrode, GC disk electrode; counter electrode, Pt ring electrode, 25 °C.

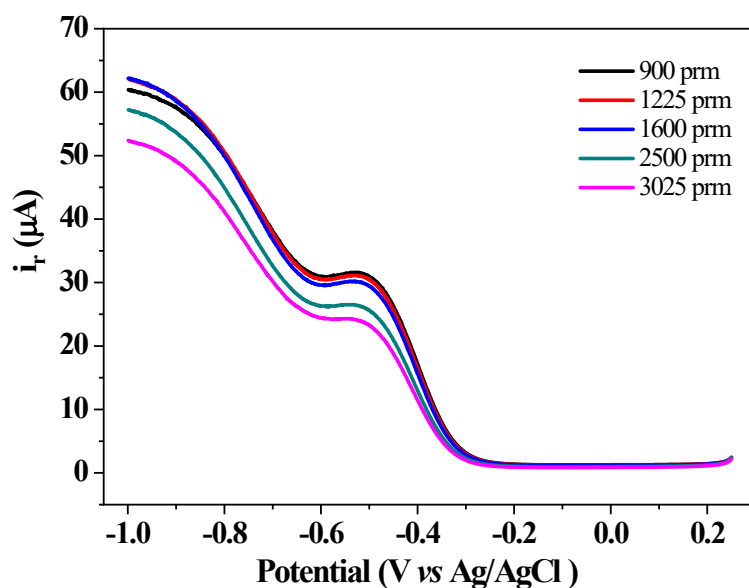


Fig. S10. RRDE measurement for O_2 reduction of the ring current loaded with $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1** in an O_2 -saturated 0.1 M KOH solution at various rotation rates. Conditions: work electrode, GC disk electrode; counter electrode, Pt ring electrode, 25 °C.

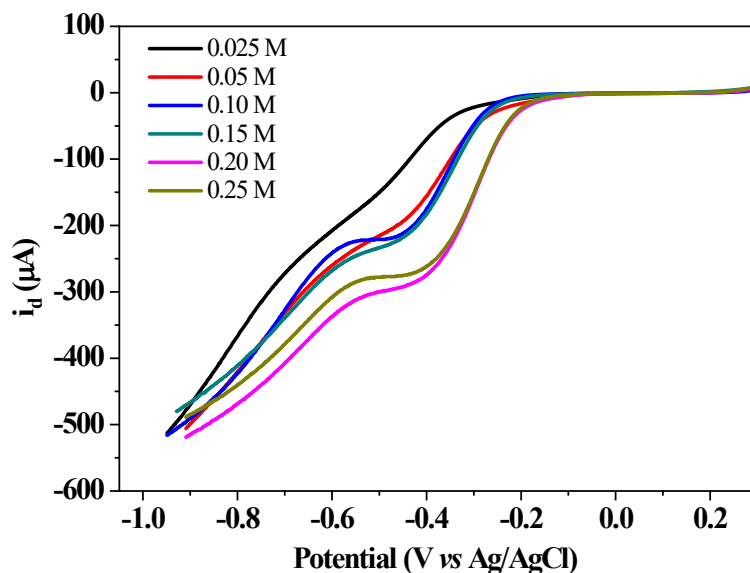


Fig. S11. RRDE measurement for O_2 reduction at the GC disk electrode loaded with $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1** in an O_2 -saturated with 1600 rpm at various KOH concentrations. Conditions: work electrode, GC disk electrode; counter electrode, Pt ring electrode, 25 °C.

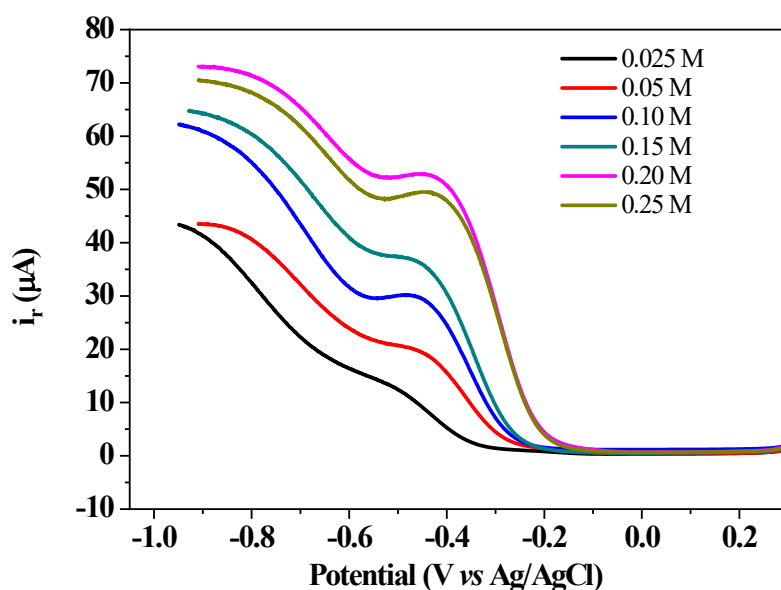


Fig. S12. RRDE measurement for O_2 reduction of the ring current loaded with $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1** in an O_2 -saturated with 1600 rpm at various KOH concentrations. Conditions: work electrode, GC disk electrode; counter electrode, Pt ring electrode, 25 °C.

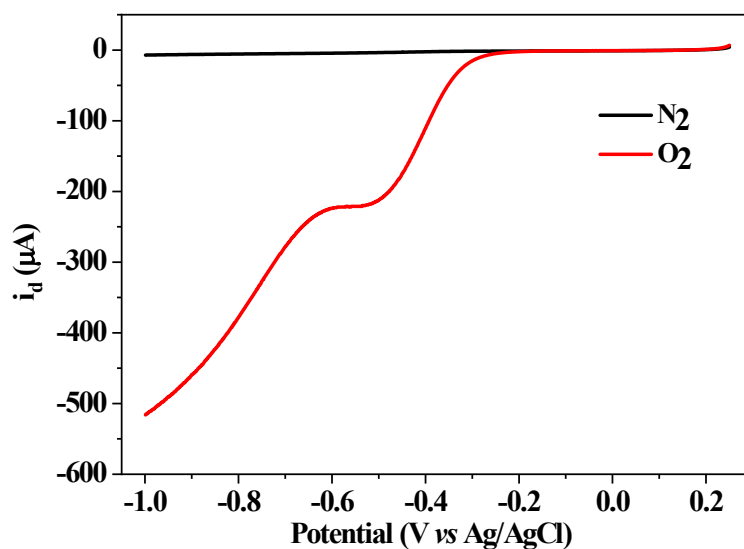


Fig. S13. RRDE measurement for O_2 reduction at the GC disk electrode loaded with $[\text{Co}(\text{L})(\text{Cl})_2]\text{Cl}$ **1** in a N_2 -saturated and in an O_2 -saturated 0.1 M KOH solution with 1600 rpm. Conditions: work electrode, GC disk electrode; counter electrode, Pt ring electrode, 25 °C.

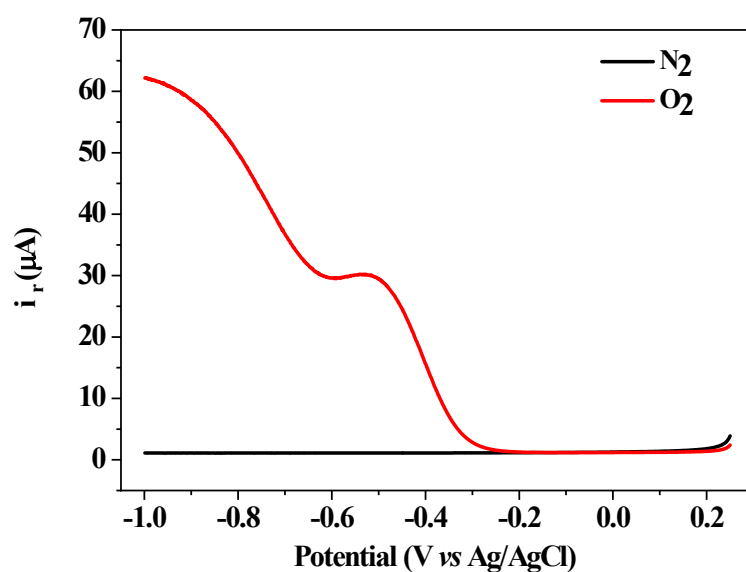


Fig. S14. RRDE measurement for O₂ reduction of the ring current loaded with [Co(L)(Cl)₂]Cl **1** in a N₂-saturated and in an O₂-saturated 0.1 M KOH solution with 1600 rpm. Conditions: work electrode, GC disk electrode; counter electrode, Pt ring electrode, 25 °C.

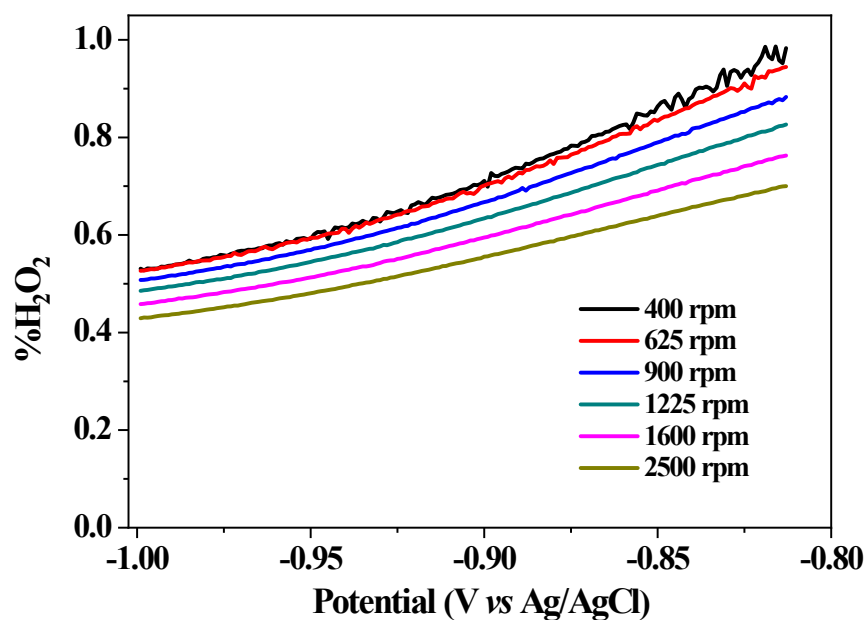


Fig. S15. The selectivity (%H₂O₂) as a function of the disk potential with varying rotation rates, in 0.1 M KOH solution.

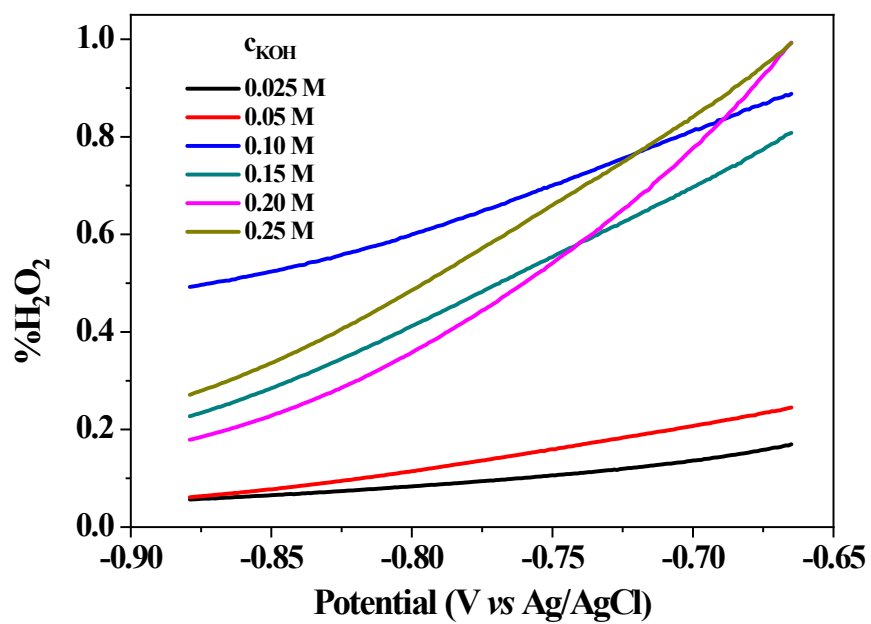


Fig. S16. The selectivity (%H₂O₂) as a function of the disk potential with different KOH concentrations at 1600 rpm.