Supporting information for

## An oxidorhenium(V) complex with an electron-withdrawing ligand: benefits and drawbacks for a dual role catalyst

A. Gradenegger,† J. A. Schachner,\*,† F. Belaj† and N. C. Mösch-Zanetti\*,†

† Institute of Chemistry, University of Graz, Schubertstraße 1, 8010 Graz.

**General.** For experiments under microwave heating in the synthesis of ligand H**L1**, an Anton Paar Monowave 300 (850 W magnetron) with magnetic stirring was employed. Standard borosilicate glass reaction containers (G10, with snap caps) were used.

**Synthesis of** H**L1**.



Scheme S1. Synthesis of ligand precursor H**L1''**. Synthesis of ligand precursor H**L1'** has been published.<sup>1</sup>

Synthesis of ligand precursor H**L1"**: 2.07 g (23.3 mmol, 5 equiv.) of 2-amino-2-methyl propanol (2-ampOH) was molten in a flask at 85 °C under stirring. Then H**L1'** (1.03 g, 4.66 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added slowly to the liquid amine. After 1h at 85 °C, the initial liquid reaction mixture had solidified and was cooled to room temperature. The mixture was dissolved in H2O and acidified with 2M HCl, upon which the product H**L1"** precipitated. Extraction in Et<sub>2</sub>O (3x 20 ml) yielded the pure product in quantitative yield as a white solid (1.29 g, 4.66) mmol, >95%). TLC (silica, EtOAC/cyclohexane 1/1)  $R_f = 0.41$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, chloroform-d) δ 12.59 (s, 1H, Ar-O*H*), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 6.59 (bs, 1H, N*H*), 3.70 (s, 2H,  $-CH_2$ -), 1.44 (s, 6H, Me) ( $-CH_2$ -OH not visible due to deuterium scrambling); ATR-IR (cm-1 ): 3480 (w), 3299 (w), 3076 (w), 3004 (w), 2979 (m), 2872 (m), 1643 (C=N, m), 1582 (m), 1551 (m), 1455 (m), 1344 (m), 1325 (m), 1253 (s), 1228 (s), 1198 (m), 1179(m), 1156(m), 1053 (m), 864(m), 739 (w), 653 (w), 478 (w), 419 (w); EI-MS (*m*/*z*): Only the M<sup>+</sup> peak for H**L1** is observed, due to ring closure under the experimental conditions for EI-MS (high vacuum, heating of sample).



Scheme S2. Synthesis of ligand H**L1**.

Synthesis of ligand H**L1**: H**L1"** (4.72 g, 17.0 mmol, 1 equiv.) was suspended in 40 mL chloroform and thionyl chloride (2.5 mL, 34.1 mmol, 2 equiv.) was slowly added via syringe. After stirring overnight at rt the precipitated hydrochloride salt H**L1**·HCl was isolated by filtration and quenched with  $CH_2Cl_2$ /sat. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> to obtain HL1 as an oily solid. Washing with cyclohexane gave an off-white solid (4.19 g, 16.1 mmol, >95%). TLC (silica, EtOAC/cyclohexane 1/1)  $R_f = 0.58$ ; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, chloroform-d)  $\delta$  11.26 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 1.41 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, Chloroform-d) δ 162.67, 154.75, 133.06, 126.06, 123.19, 122.56 (6 phenol-*C*), 112.68 (- *C*(O)=N-), 79.08 (-*C*H<sub>2</sub>-), 67.53 (N-*C*(Me<sub>2</sub>)-), 28.54 (-*C*H<sub>3</sub>). ATR-IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3322 (w), 3091 (w), 2968 (m), 2928 (m), 2850 (m), 1633 (C=N, m), 1574 (m), 1454 (m), 1433 (m), 1356 (m), 1326 (m), 1279 (s), 1252 (s), 1175 (m), 967 (m), 809 (m), 764 (w), 718 (w), 557 (w); EI-MS  $(m/z)$ : 259.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).

**Attempts of ligand synthesis via microwave heating**. Each step of the abovedescribed ligand syntheses was tested in addition with microwave heating with respect to a shortening of reaction times and steps. The thermal ring-closing without  $S OCl<sub>2</sub>$  has been published for other oxazoline ligands.<sup>2</sup> Hence, the direct synthesis of H**L1** from H**L1'** without the isolation of H**L1''** was of specific interest. However, it was found that yields and purities of the respective products were always lower by microwave heating, compared to conventional heating.

entry	conditions <sup>a</sup>	yield $HL1'$ [%]
	100 °C, 10 min	< 10
2	150 °C, 10 min	37
3	150 °C, 20 min	51
4	150 °C, 40 min	57
5	200 °C, 20 min	decomposition
6	175 °C, 20 min	64
	reflux, 12 h	92

Table S1. Reaction conditions of microwave heating and yields for H**L1'**.

<sup>a</sup> 0.5 g HsalCl<sub>2</sub>, 32 µl H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 2.5 ml MeOH.

A summary of the results for the direct synthesis of H**L1** from methyl ester H**L1'** without the isolation of benzamide H**L1''** is shown in [Table](#page-2-0) S2. The reaction mixture was tested by TLC for product distribution. Only where a single spot for ligand H**L1** was observed, the yield was determined.

entry	equiv. 2-ampOH	solvent	conditions <sup>a</sup>	result
$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	neat	200 °C, 20 min	several spots on TLC
$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$	EtOH	100 °C, 20 min	HL1' and HL1"
3	$\mathbf{1}$	EtOH	150 °C, 20 min	HL1' and HL1"
4	$\mathbf{1}$	EtOH	$170 °C$ , $20 min$	$HL1$ <sup>*</sup> , $HL1$ <sup>*</sup> and $HL1$
5	$\mathbf{1}$	EtOH	150 °C, 240min	HL1', HL1" and HL1
6	5	neat	150 °C, 10 min	HL1" and HL1
7	5	neat	150 °C, 20 min	HL1" and HL1
8	5	neat	200 °C, 20 min	de-halogenation
9	5	neat	180 °C, 90 min	HL1, yield: $20\%$
10	10	neat	170 °C, 20 min	HL1" and HL1
11	10	neat	180 °C, 20 min	HL1" and HL1
12	10	neat	180 °C, 40 min	HL1, yield: $54\%$
13	10	neat	$100 \text{ °C}, 15 \text{ min} \rightarrow$	de-halogenation
			200 °C, 15 min	
14	10	neat	80 °C, 45 min $\rightarrow$	yield after CCb: 64%
			180 °C, 45 min	

<span id="page-2-0"></span>Table S2. Reaction conditions of microwave heating and yields for H**L1**.

 $a$  0.5 g HL1<sup>'</sup>, 2.5 ml EtOH (entries 2-5);  $b$  column chromatography.

As shown in [Table](#page-2-0) S2, reaction temperatures of 200 °C led to decomposition of H**L1** (entries 1, 8 and 13). Judging from NMR data, a de-halogenation of the phenyl ring occurs at these temperatures, leading to the singly-chlorinated ligand. At temperatures of 180 °C, some product of H**L1** can be obtained (entries 9, 12 and 14). Considering that with our conventional synthesis high yields of H**L1** can be achieved without the need for column chromatography (CC), no further attempts for optimization by microwave heating were undertaken.

## **Synthesis of complexes 3a, 3b and isolation of 3c**

When two equivalents of ligand H**L1** were heated to boiling with precursor **P1** in EtOH for four hours, only intractable mixtures of side-products where obtained under these conditions. This is in contrast to previously synthesized complexes  $[ReOCl(dmozR)_2]$  ( $R = H$ , OMe,  $NO<sub>2</sub>$ ).<sup>3</sup> When the reaction was attempted for four hours in boiling CH<sub>3</sub>CN, a mixture of the two mono-ligated complexes  $[ReOCl_2(SMe_2)(L1)]$  (*trans-3a*) and  $[ReOCl_2(OPPh_3)(L1)]$ (**3b**) formed as the major products, but not the desired complex  $[ReOCl(L1)_2]$  (1) [\(Scheme](#page-3-0) S3). Obviously, the reaction time of four hours does not allow for the second **L1** equivalent to coordinate to the Re center. Upon cooling to room temperature, **3a** precipitated first from the reaction mixture as a green micro-crystalline solid in low yield of 14%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3a** only showed signals for one coordinated ligand moiety **L1**, together with the additional singlet peak for the SMe<sub>2</sub> ligand ([Figure](#page-8-0) S8). In accordance to the recorded NMR spectra, MSspectrometry found the M<sup>+</sup> peak at 594.9, further supporting the assignment of **3a** to be  $[ReOCl<sub>2</sub>(SMe<sub>2</sub>)(L1)]$ . The molecular structure of *trans*-**3a** was finally confirmed by singlecrystal X-ray diffraction analysis ([Figure](#page-19-0) S20), with the two chlorido ligands in a transorientation. The loss of the OPPh<sub>3</sub> instead of the SMe<sub>2</sub> ligand of **P1** is rarely observed.<sup>4</sup>



<span id="page-3-0"></span>Scheme S3. Formation of oxidorhenium(V) complexes *trans-***3a, 3b** and rhenium(IV) complex **3c** under short reaction times (4 h).

Upon further concentration of the acetonitrile supernatant, mono-ligated complex [ReOCl<sub>2</sub>(OPPh<sub>3</sub>)(L1)] (3b) precipitated, again as a green crystalline solid (yield 21%). Complex 3b is mostly insoluble in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and just barely soluble enough in  $CD_3CN$  to obtain meaningful <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra. A coordinated OPPh<sub>3</sub> ligand, appearing as the typical multiplet in the aromatic region, together with one coordinated **L1** moiety ([Figure](#page-9-0) S10), indicated the composition of **3b** to be  $[ReOCl_2(OPPh_3)(L1)]$ . In the <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum, a peak at 27.11 ppm for **3b** could be assigned for the coordinated OPPh<sub>3</sub> ligand [\(Figure](#page-10-0) S12). The growth of single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis confirmed the molecular structure to be [ReOCl<sub>2</sub>(OPPh<sub>3</sub>)(L1)] ([Figure](#page-20-0) S21). In literature, there are other examples for complexes of the

type  $[ReOCl_2(OPPh_3)(LL)]$  (LL = bidentate ligand),<sup>5</sup> and in a few cases by synthesis from **P1**.<sup>4,6</sup> The yields of *trans-***3a** and **3b** are rather low (combined 35%). In an attempt to increase the yield of **3a/b**, a remaining supernatant acetonitrile solution was stored for several days in the freezer at -25 °C. Instead of expected green crystals of **3a/b**, bright red crystals formed in very small amounts. The red crystals were suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis, revealing this complex to be the rhenium(IV) complex  $[ReCl_3(OPPh_3)(L1)]$  (3c, [Figure](#page-21-0) S22). As 3c was never observed in crude reaction mixtures directly after synthesis of **3a/b**, we assume that **3c** is a decomposition product of **3a/b**. The reduction of oxidorhenium(V) complexes in the presence of oxidizable organic compounds, often P(III) ligands, has been observed before.<sup>7</sup> The formation of  $Re(IV)$ -OPPh<sub>3</sub> complexes in contrast is a rather rare occurence.<sup>8</sup> As the initial goal was to synthesize complex  $[ReOCl(L1)_2]$  (1), we did not further optimize the reaction conditions for a targeted synthesis of **3a** or **3b.**

**Comparison of selected bond lengths and angles for 1 and 2 with previously published oxdiorhenium(V) and dioxidorhenium(VI) complexes**



Figure S1. Oxidorhenium(V) complexes for structural comparison in [Table](#page-4-0) S3

<span id="page-4-0"></span>





Figure S2. Dioxidorhenium(VI) complexes for structural comparison in [Table](#page-5-0) S4

<span id="page-5-0"></span>Table S4. Selected bond lengths [Å] of dioxidorhenium(VI) complex **2** with previously published dioxidorhenium(VI) complex

$\text{ReO}_2(\text{L}_{\text{ON}})_2$	$L_{ON} = L1, 2$	$L_{ON} = dmoz^{10}$
$Re1 = 01$	1.7397(13)	1.745(6)
$Re1=O2i$	1.7397(13)	1.732(6)
$Re-O21$	2.0680(12)	2.061(5)
$Re1-O41i$	2.0680(12)	2.082(6)
$Re-N13$	2.0963(14)	2.098(7)
Re-N33 <sup>i</sup>	2.0963(14)	2.103(7)

<sup>i</sup> equivalent atoms are generated by symmetry (two-fold rotation axis)



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of HL1" (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of HL1 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S5.<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of HL1 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **1** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<span id="page-8-0"></span>Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of *trans*-3a (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S9. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of *trans*-3a (CDCl<sub>3</sub>).



<span id="page-9-0"></span>Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3b (CD<sub>3</sub>CN).



Figure S11. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of  $3b$  (CD<sub>3</sub>CN).



<span id="page-10-0"></span>Figure S12.  $31P$  NMR of 3b (CD<sub>3</sub>CN).

**Cyclic voltammetry.** Electrochemical measurements were performed under an inert  $N<sub>2</sub>$ atmosphere in a glove box in dry acetonitrile (stored over molecular sieve) with a Gamry Instruments Reference 600 Potentiostat using a three electrode setup. Platin was used as working electrode, Pt wire (99.99%) as supporting electrode; the reference electrode was a Ag wire immersed in a solution of 0.01 M AgNO<sub>3</sub> and 0.1 M (NBu<sub>4</sub>)PF<sub>6</sub> in CH<sub>3</sub>CN separated from the solution by a Vycor® tip. Analyte solutions were near 1 mM with  $(NBu_4)PF_6$  used as supporting electrolyte (0.1 M). The currents  $I_p$  were normalized by the actual concentrations to allow better comparability. All measurements were referenced to the ferrocenium (Fc<sup>+</sup> )/ferrocene (Fc) couple.



Figure S13. Cyclic voltammogram of 1;  $E_{1/2} = 0.85$  V.



Figure S14. Cyclic voltammogram of *trans*-3a;  $E_{1/2} = 1.10$  V.

**Crystal structure determinations.** All the single crystal measurements were performed on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer at 100 K using Mo  $K_{\alpha}$  radiation with a wavelength of 0.71073Å from an Incoatec microfocus sealed tube equipped with a multilayer monochromator. Absorption corrections were made semi-empirically from equivalents. The structures were solved by direct methods  $(SHELXS-97)^{11}$  and refined by full-matrix leastsquares techniques against  $F^2$  (SHELXL-2014/6)<sup>12</sup>. A weighting scheme of w =  $1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2)+(aP)^2+bP]$  where  $P=(F_o^2+2F_c^2)/3$  was used. The absolute configurations of HL1 and of *trans*-**3a** were established by anomalous dispersion effects in the diffraction measurements on the crystals. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters without any constraints. The position of the H atom of the OH group of H**L1** was taken from a difference Fourier map, the O–H distance was fixed to 0.84Å, and this H atom was refined with an individual isotropic displacement parameter without any constraints to the bond angles. The H atoms of the phenyl rings were put at the external bisectors of the C–C–C angles at C–H distances of 0.95Å and common isotropic displacement parameters were refined for the H atoms of the same ring. The H atoms of the  $CH<sub>2</sub>$  groups were refined with common isotropic displacement parameters for the H atoms of the same group and idealized geometries with approximately tetrahedral angles and C–H distances of 0.99Å. The H atoms of the methyl groups were refined with common isotropic displacement parameters for the H atoms of the same group and idealized geometries with tetrahedral angles, enabling rotations around the C–C bonds, and C–H distances of 0.98Å. Crystal data, data collection parameters and structure refinement details are given in the following. Further refinement information, structure and bonding parameters, SHELXL .res and .hkl files are given in the deposited CIF file which is available free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 1913789, 1913787, 1854790-1854792, 1995752).

Table S5. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details of H**L1** and **1**.



Table S7. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details of **2** and *trans*-**3a**.



Table S8. Crystallographic data and structure refinement details of **3b** and **3c**.





Figure S15**.** Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of H**L1** showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms are drawn with arbitrary radii. The hydrogen bond is indicated by a dashed line.



Figure S16. Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of complex **A** of 1 showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.



Figure S17.Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of complex **B** of **1** showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.



Figure S18. Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of complex **A** of 2 showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.

Table S8. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **1**.





Figure S19.Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of complex **B** of **2** showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.

Table S9. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **2**.



Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:  $i)$  1/2-x, 1/2-y, z  $ii)$  3/2-x, 1/2-y, z



<span id="page-19-0"></span>Figure S20. Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of *trans***-3a** showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.

Table S10. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for *trans*-**3a**.





<span id="page-20-0"></span>Figure S21. Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of **3b** showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.

Table S11. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **3b**.





<span id="page-21-0"></span>Figure S22. Stereoscopic ORTEP<sup>13</sup> plot of **3c** showing the atomic numbering scheme. The probability ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. The H atoms were omitted for clarity.

Table S12. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] for **3c**.



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