

Synthesis, Spectral Study, Electrochemistry And Reactivity Of Ruthenium(II)-B-Naphthyl-Azo-Imidazole (B-NaiR)-Nitro-Nitroso-Terpyridine (TPY)-Complexes.

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Abstract

Silver assisted aqutation of blue $[\text{RuCl}(\text{tpy})(\text{b-NaiR})](\text{ClO}_4)$ (**1a**) leads to the synthesis of solvento species, blue-violet $[\text{Ru}(\text{OH}_2)(\text{tpy})(\text{b-NaiR})](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ (**2a**), [b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole = $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-N=N-C}_4\text{H}_3\text{-NN}$, abbreviated as N,N'-chelator] that have been reacted with NaNO_2 in warm EtOH resulting in violet nitro complexes of the type, $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO}_2)(\text{tpy})(\text{b-NaiR})](\text{ClO}_4)$ (**3a**). The nitrite complexes are useful synthons of electrophilic nitrosyls, and on triturating the nitro compounds with conc. HClO_4 nitrosyl derivatives, $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{tpy})(\text{b-NaiR})](\text{ClO}_4)_3$ are isolated. The diazotization of the primary aromatic amines with a strongly electrophilic mononitrosyl complex in acetonitrile and dichloromethane solution was thoroughly studied.

Keywords. [b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole, nitro, nitroso, ruthenium, amines, MLCT, NMR, CV, IR, reactivity.

The development of metal nitrosyl complexes having a high degree of electrophilic character of the coordinated NO function ($\nu_{\text{NO}} > 1900 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) is a formidable challenge, since the electrophilic NO centre is susceptible to fascinating molecular transformations in contact with nucleophiles. Extensive studies have been made on ruthenium nitrosyls and appreciable variation of the electronic aspect of the NO function attached to the metal centre has been observed depending on the nature of the ancillary groups present. This has prompted me to develop a new class of ruthenium nitrosyl complexes encompassing a combination of strong π -acidic heterochelates. The primary intention is to introduce a high degree of electrophilicity at the nitrosyl centre and subsequently explore the reactivity of this centre to nucleophiles. Until that time, the supposition had been that NO, like its analogues CO and CN^- , bound irreversibly to metal centers and therefore functioned as a poison, particular with respect to respiratory processes. The moral, if there is one to be drawn, is that one can always expect surprises in biology, and that apparently well-established theories which lead almost to prejudices have a habit of unraveling, primarily because no one had been able to find examples of, or characterize, the unexpected. This review focuses on the coordination chemistry of NO of particular relevance to topical bio-inorganic systems. It does not deal in detail with metallo biomolecules containing NO, instead concentrating on biomimetic systems which seek to clarify aspects of geometrical and electronic structure, and the biological function of native NO-containing or -activating metallo-bimolecular systems. Consequently, the contents focus extensively on the coordination chemistry of iron, cobalt, and copper with NO. Some other transition metal species are mentioned when appropriate. This article is not intended to provide a comprehensive survey, the intention being to provide information on and some illumination of current problems, preoccupations, and directions in bio mimetic transition metal nitrosyl chemistry. It does not contain a discussion of organometallic nitrosyl species, except where they may be relevant to actual or perceived biomolecular species or processes. For

comprehensive accounts of metal nitrosyl chemistry, including details of synthesis, organometallic and cluster chemistry, and the reactivity of coordinated NO, the reader is referred to a selection of reviews.²⁻⁴ The Molecule Nitric oxide is a stable free radical, the molecular orbital diagram of NO showing that the unpaired electron in this molecule resides in a π^* molecular orbital. This electronic configuration explains the high reactivity of the NO molecule, in particular the ease of oxidation to the nitrosonium ion (NO⁺), the probability of reduction to the nitroxide ion (NO⁻), the facile attack by oxygen leading to formation of NO₂, and reaction with halogens (X₂) affording XNO. NO is isoelectronic with the dioxygen monocation (O²⁺), and NO⁺ is isoelectronic with CO and CN⁻, while NO⁻ is isoelectronic with O₂, having a triplet ground state. The role of biomimicry in metal nitrosyl chemistry is to illuminate molecular and/or electronic structural issues, and to facilitate the understanding of the reactivity of the coordinated NO group. It is convenient to develop by categorizing complexes by generic types: heme analogues and related macrocyclic species, non-heme iron complexes, other iron complexes, and complexes of other metals. The reactivity of coordinated NO has been thoroughly reviewed recently, and so it is not discussed here.²³ Heme Analogues and Related Macrocyclic Complexes Because NO synthase, the enzyme which produces NO in the body, and soluble guanylyl cyclase, the enzymatic receptor for NO, both contain heme, iron nitrosyl porphyrinato complexes have received substantial attention. The iron heme nitrosyls containing {Fe(NO)}⁷ appear, at the time of this writing, to be more prevalent than their oxidized {Fe(NO)}⁶ counterparts. This section also contains brief comments on analogous manganese, ruthenium, and cobalt porphyrins and related complexes. Iron Complexes Iron nitrosyl porphyrins may be five-coordinate or six-coordinate, the sixth ligand in the well-characterized examples of the latter being either a N-hetero cycle, water, alkyl/aryl, or NO²⁻. The metal-NO bond angles in the diamagnetic {Fe(NO)}⁶ group of complexes lie between 169° and 180°, i.e. essentially linear, and the Fe-N(O) distances are in the range 1.63-1.67 Å, generally independent of coordination number.²⁴ Occasionally, a slight off-axis tilt of the Fe-N-O bond system is observed.²⁵ The nature of the trans axial ligand in the six-coordinate species has relatively little effect on the Fe-N(O) bond length. The NO stretching frequencies of this group, with one significant exception, lie between 1830 and 1937 cm⁻¹, depending on medium, method of preparation, and whether solvent of crystallization is present. The Mössbauer isomer shifts are in the range δ) 0.02-0.24 mm/s (4.2K), reasonable for diamagnetic complexes of this general class.^{26,27,28,29} However, this range is wider than that encountered in iron nitrosyl models of non-heme proteins containing the {Fe(NO)}⁶ core.^{30,31} It seems that the electronic structure of this group of complexes, be they five- or six-coordinate, can be sensitive to the nature of the ligand trans to NO,²⁵ although distortions of the porphyrinato ligand do not seem to have a significant effect on the Fe-N-O bond angle.²⁹ The major exception to the structural generalities for {Fe(NO)}⁶ porphyrinato complexes referred to above is [Fe(NO)(oep)(C₆H₄F-p)].³²

The chemistry of transition-metal-NO complexes, or metal nitrosyls, has taken on added significance in recent years because of the important role that nitric oxide has been found to play as a signaling molecule in biological systems. Recent work has also established that the characteristic chemistry of nitrosyl complexes is often markedly different from that exhibited by their isoelectronic carbonyl analogues. It has been almost 10 years since these complexes were last reviewed in the book *Metal Nitrosyls* and so it seemed to us that an update of this rapidly expanding field would be appropriate at the present time. The principle to all classes of transition-metal-NO complexes, namely the characteristic reactivities of bound NO groups [1-3]. Whenever possible, emphasis is placed on the unique physical and chemical properties imparted to nitrosyl complexes by the presence of the strongly electron-withdrawing NO ligands. Several general articles concerning nitrosyl complexes have appeared between 1991 and 2001. These include theoretical calculations on nitrosyl fragments and submissions concerning electron counting in nitrosyl complexes. Several review articles have also been written concerning a large array of nitrosyl-related topics, such as linkage isomerism. The recent observations of the relevance of nitric oxide (NO) in a wide range of biological and environmental processes have led to a resurgence of interest in the area of nitrosyl chemistry [4-8]. Moreover, the development of metal nitrosyl complexes having a high degree of electrophilic character of the coordinated NO function ($\nu_{\text{NO}} > 1900 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) is a formidable challenge, since the electrophilic NO centre is susceptible to fascinating molecular transformations in contact with nucleophiles. Extensive studies have been made on ruthenium nitrosyls and appreciable variation of the electronic aspect of the NO function attached to the metal centre has been observed depending on the nature of the ancillary groups present. This has prompted us to develop a new class of ruthenium nitrosyl complexes encompassing a

combination of strong π -acidic heterochelates. The primary intention is to introduce a high degree of electrophilicity at the nitrosyl centre and subsequently explore the reactivity of this centre to nucleophiles. Recently, we have developed the arylazoimidazole chemistry of ruthenium and have synthesised chloro, aquo, nitro, nitroso compounds and tris chelate species reacting with camphor and hydrazone derivatives. The nitrites are useful synthons of nitrosyls, and mononitrosyl compounds are produced in perchloric acid medium. The diazotization of primary amines with the nitroso complexes and after all their coupling product were isolated and also were thoroughly examined. The complexes were well characterized by spectral method and reactivity.

Nitro-{2-([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole]-(terpyridine)-ruthenium(II), [Ru(NO₂)(tpy)] ([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)](ClO₄)

To an EtOH blue-violet solution (15 cm) of [Ru(OH₂)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄) (0.1 g, 0.14 mmol) was added 0.019 g (0.27 mmol) of solid NaNO₂, and the mixture was stirred at 343-353 K for 12 h. The violet solution that resulted was concentrated (4 cm³) and kept in a refrigerator overnight (12 h). The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed thoroughly with water and dried in vacuo over CaCl₂. Analytically pure **nitro** complexes were obtained after chromatography over an alumina (neutral) column on eluting the violet band with toluene-acetonitrile (4:1, v/v) and evaporating slowly in air. The yield was 0.088 g (80%). Analysis for [Ru(O₂N)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄), **3a**, Found: C, 45.6, H, 3.3, Calcd for [C₂₅H₂₁N₈RuO₂](ClO₄), C, 45.1, H, 3.2, IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) $\nu(\text{NO}_2)_{\text{asy}}$ 1300, $\nu(\text{NO}_2)_{\text{sy}}$ 1250, $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$ 1371, $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1575, UV-Vis $[\lambda(\text{nm})(10^{-3} \text{ } \epsilon/\text{dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1})]$, 510(8009), 320(10913), 220(30032); Cyclic Voltammetry. [E/V (ΔE_p / mV)], 1.1(80), , -0.68(90), -0.81(80), -1.3(80).

The ground state (GS) contains an NO ligand bound through the nitrogen atom. In the first metastable state (MS1), the nitrosyl group is coordinated through the oxygen atom, and the coordination is $\eta^2\text{-M}(\text{NO})$ for the second metastable state (MS2). The metastable states occurrence has been proven for various metals;⁹³⁻¹¹² however, the highest thermal stability and population correspond to ruthenium complexes.^{4-6,90-112} Factors that influence metastable thermal stability can be divided into two groups. The first group is the nature of the molecule, specifically, the charge and ligand sphere. The second is the nitrosyl group surrounding the crystal structure. It is generally accepted that the nature of the complex and the ligand trans to NO play crucial roles in the MS1 thermal stability. Studies show that the MS1 thermal stability increases in the sequence [RuNO(en)₂Br]Br₂ (229 K) < [RuNO(en)₂Cl]Cl₂ (246 K) < [RuNO(en)₂(H₂O)]Cl₃ (267 K) < [RuNO(en)₂(HOX)]Cl₂ (277 K). Similar results obtained by Fomitchev and Coppens provide a qualitative correlation between νNO in IR spectra and the MS1 decay temperature (Td). Comparisons between [RuNO(NH₃)₄X]Cl_n (X = H₂O, NH₃, OH⁻) show an increase in the MS1 thermal stability, while electron donation decreases (NH₃ < OH⁻ < H₂O) with a 30 K difference in Td for NH₃ and H₂O complexes.

Preparation of [Ru](NO)(papm)(tpy)](ClO₄)₃ (4a)

[Ru(NO₂)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)]⁺ (**3a**) (0.1 g, 0.17 mmol) and conc. HClO₄ (3 cm³) were placed in a small beaker, and the mixture was triturated with a glass rod for 1 h. The mixture immediately changed from violet to orange-red. The pasty mass was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (4 × 5 cm³) and concentrated under reduced pressure. The dark red crystalline product was separated by filtration, washed with chilled H₂O containing a few drops of dil. HClO₄ and dried in vacuo over P₄O₁₀ to yield analytically pure (**4a**), [Yield 0.092 g (70%)]; Analysis for [Ru(ON)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄)₃, **4a**, Found: C, 35.6, H, 2.3, Calcd for [C₂₅H₂₁N₈RuO](ClO₄)₃, C, 35.1, H, 2.2, IR (KBr disk, cm⁻¹) $\nu(\text{NO})$ 1900, $\nu(\text{ClO}_4)$ 1140,1100,1090,640,625, $\nu(\text{N}=\text{N})$ 1371, $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$, 1575, UV-Vis, 360(8009), 320(10913), 280(14000), 220(30032); Cyclic Voltammetry, 1.7(80), 0.7(90), 0.04, -0.68(90), -0.81(80), -1.3(80).

Interconversion: [Ru](NO)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄)₃ (4a) → [Ru](NO₂)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)] (ClO₄) (3a)

To an aqueous solution of (**4a**) (0.1 g, 0.13 mmol) was added an equivalent amount of KOH in the same solvent. The orange-red solution immediately turned violet, and was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The solvent was

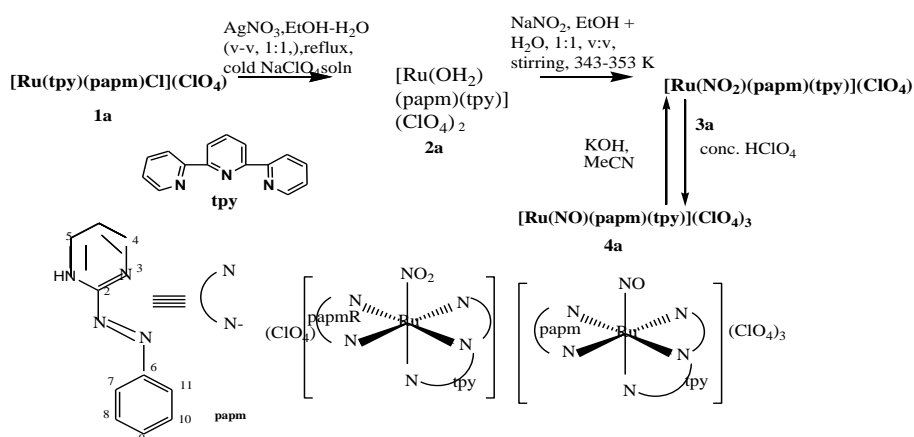
removed by evaporation under reduced pressure and the pasty mass, dissolved in a minimum vol. of CH₂Cl₂, was chromatographed on an alumina (neutral) column. A deep violet band was eluted with toluene-acetonitrile (4:1, v/v). The identity of the product as (3a) was checked by comparing properties with an authentic sample.

Reaction of Primary Amines with [Ru(NO)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄)₃

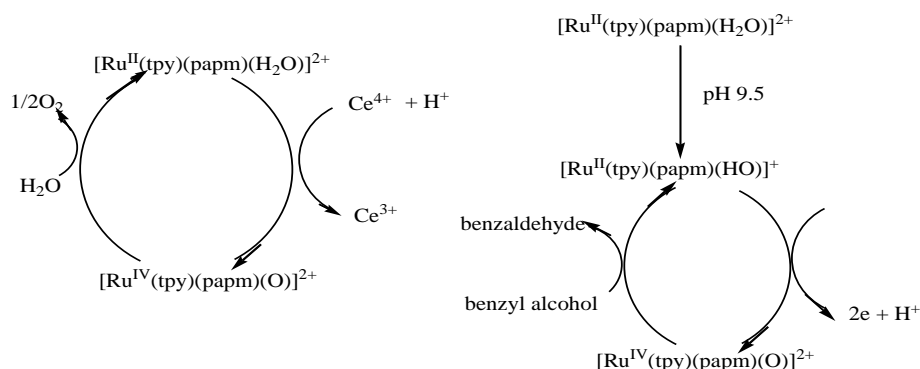
To a acetonitrile solution (20 cm) of [Ru(NO)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄)₃ (0.2 g, 0.26 mmol) equivalent amounts of aniline (0.054 g, 0.26 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temp. and then evaporated to dryness using a vacuum pump. The crude pdt was then extracted with 30 cc of ice-cold water and the aqueous solution was collected by filtration. To the aqueous solution an aqueous solution of alkaline b-naphthol was added with continuous stirring over a period of 15 min. Red crystal of 1-phenylazo-2-naphthol were separated and recrystallised from methanol. The residue was dried and dissolved in dichloromethane and brown crystal of [Ru(S)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)]ClO₄ (S = CH₃CN) (6a) were obtained.

Results and Discussion

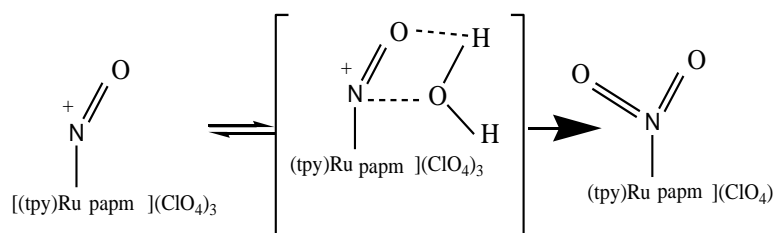
Aquo complexes [Ru(OH₂)([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)](ClO₄)₂, prepared by Ag⁺-assisted aquation of [RuCl([b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole)(tpy)]⁺ (1a), [papm⁻ = -C₆H₅-N=N-C₄H₃-NN, abbreviated as N,N'-chelator] were reacted with NaNO₂ (excess amount >2 mol) under stirring at 343-353 K in aqueous alcohol to give [Ru(NO₂)([b-NaiR)(tpy)]⁺ (3a) in good yield (65-85%). The synthetic routes are shown below. The nitrites were synthesized in low yield either directly on stirring NaNO₂ in ethanol-acetone mixture for 30 h or in situ synthesis of the aquo complex by AgNO₃ followed by the reaction with NaNO₂. The composition of the complexes is supported by microanalytical results. Room temperature solid state magnetic susceptibility measurements show that the complexes are diamagnetic. Trituration of solid [Ru(NO₂)([b-NaiR)(tpy)](ClO₄) in concentrated HClO₄ at ambient condition gives an orange-red solution from which the nitrosyl complexes [Ru(NO)([b-NaiR)(tpy)](ClO₄)₃ are isolated. In alkaline media nitrosyl complexes, regenerate the corresponding nitrite precursors (3a). The reaction of H⁺ with coordinated NO⁺ group in nitrite complexes and the nucleophilic attack of OH⁻ on the NO in nitrosyls are the key



steps for such reaction. The violet nitrites are soluble in common organic solvents but insoluble in H₂O whereas the orange-red nitrosyls are soluble in H₂O and in a range of common organic solvents viz., methanol, ethanol, partly soluble in acetone, acetonitrile, chloroform, dichloromethane. In MeCN, nitroso behave as 1:3 electrolytes ($\Lambda = 160-190 \Omega \text{ cmol}$) whereas 1:1 electrolytic behaviour is found for type nitrite complexes ($\Lambda = 60-90 \Omega \text{ cmol}$) as indicated by their very low Λ_M values. Chemical oxidation of the aqua complex by excess aqueous ceric solution in 1 (N) H₂SO₄ leads to the spontaneous formation of a yellow colored oxo species and the process follow by oxidising the benzylic alcohol solution.

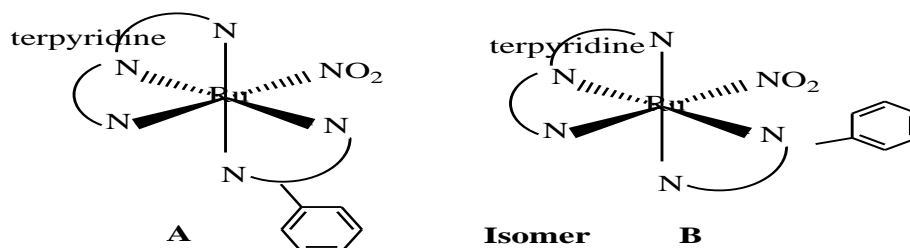


IR spectra of dinitro complexes, $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO}_2)([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))]$ show a 1:1 correspondence to the spectra of the dichloro analogue, $\text{cis-}[\text{RuCl}_2([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))]$ except the appearance of intense stretching at $1300\text{--}1335$ and $1250\text{--}1280\text{ cm}^{-1}$ with concomitant loss of $\nu(\text{Ru-Cl})$ at $320\text{--}340\text{ cm}^{-1}$. They are assigned as symmetric and asymmetric stretching of NO_2 i.e. $\nu(\text{NO}_2)_{\text{asym}}$ and $\nu(\text{NO}_2)_{\text{sym}}$, respectively. The $\nu(\text{N=N})$ and $\nu(\text{C=N})$ appear at $1365\text{--}1380$ and $1570\text{--}1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively. Mono-nitroso-ruthenium(II), $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO})([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))](\text{ClO}_4)_2$ show a very strong stretch in the $1910\text{--}1925\text{ cm}^{-1}$ range which is conspicuously absent in the spectra of $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO}_2)([\text{b-NaiR}](\text{tpy}))]$. Thus, the present series of Ru-NO complexes are assumed to contain linear NO group. Other important frequencies are $\nu(\text{HO})$ at $3350\text{--}3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ and $\nu(\text{ClO}_4)$ at $1140\text{--}1145$, $1110\text{--}1120$ and $1080\text{--}1090\text{ cm}^{-1}$ along with weak bands at 640 and 625 cm^{-1} . Triplet splitting pattern of ClO_4 may presumably be due to some sort of hydrogen bonding interaction. The solution electronic spectra of these new complexes were recorded in dry acetonitrile. The nitro complexes in MeCN showed three to four bands in the region $719\text{--}254\text{ nm}$ (Table 2). All the complexes are diamagnetic, indicating the presence of ruthenium in the +2 oxidation state. The ground state of ruthenium(II) in an octahedral environment is $^1A_{1g}$, arising from the t_{2g}^6 configuration. The excited state terms are $^3T_{1g}$, $^3T_{2g}$, $^1T_{1g}$ and $^1T_{2g}$. Hence four bands corresponding to the transition $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^3T_{1g}$, $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^3T_{2g}$, $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^1T_{1g}$ and $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^1T_{2g}$ are possible in order of increasing energy. The electronic spectral bands at around $719\text{--}653\text{ nm}$ are assigned to $^1A_{1g} \rightarrow ^1T_{1g}$. The other high intensity band in the visible region around $504\text{--}519\text{ nm}$ has been assigned to charge transfer transitions arising from the metal t_{2g} level to the unfilled π^* molecular orbital of the ligand. The high intensity bands around $330\text{--}310\text{ nm}$ and $272\text{--}254\text{ nm}$ has been designated as $n-\pi^*$ and $\pi-\pi^*$ transitions respectively. Nitro complexes (**3a-3i**) exhibit multiple transitions in the uv-visible region. They display intense MLCT transition in the $550\text{--}560\text{ nm}$ range along with weak longer wavelength absorption near 750 nm (shoulder). In nitroso derivatives, $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO})([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))](\text{ClO}_4)_3$ the intense absorption bands are further shifted to shorter wavelength, near 420 nm along with a weak band near 600 nm . This is attributed to strong $d\pi(\text{Ru}) \rightarrow \pi(\text{NO})$ back bonding which stabilizes the $d\pi$ level and consequently shifts the MLCT band to the lower wavelength region. The nitrosyl complexes are found to be stable only in dry acetonitrile solution. In ordinary acetonitrile or in contact with moister the spectrum spontaneously changes and levels off with the spectrum of precursor nitro derivative. The transformation has been proved through product isolation in one case, and characterized comparing of its properties with an authentic sample. The conversion from nitroso into the nitro complex is followed by the following mechanism.

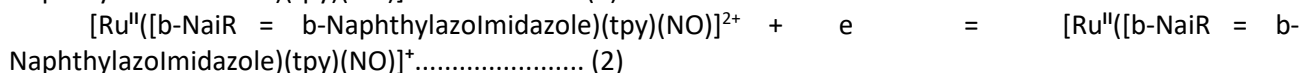
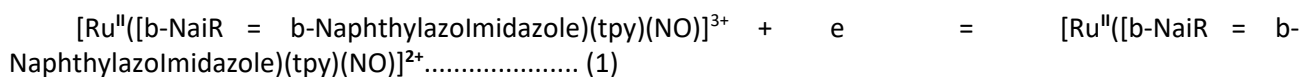


The ^1H NMR spectra of $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO}_2)([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))]$ (**3a**) complexes were assigned on comparing with dichloro precursor. Imidazole 4- and 5-H appear as doublet at the lower frequency side of the spectra ($7.0\text{--}7.2\text{ ppm}$ for 4-H; $6.9\text{--}7.1\text{ ppm}$ for 5-H). The aryl-Me ($\text{R} = \text{Me}$) in (**3a-3i**) appears as a single

signal at 2.30 ppm. The mononitrosyls, $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{[b-NaiR = b-Naphthylazolimidazole]}(\text{tpy}))](\text{ClO}_4)_3$ exhibit similar pattern of signals in the aromatic portion and the spectra have been shifted to higher field by 0.03-0.15 ppm from those of respective nitro derivatives. It is due to better $d\pi(\text{Ru}) \rightarrow \pi^*(\text{NO})$ charge transfer which increases hardness of Ru(II) leading to strong σ -interaction with the chelator. The solution ^1H NMR spectra support at least the presence of two isomers in different proportion.

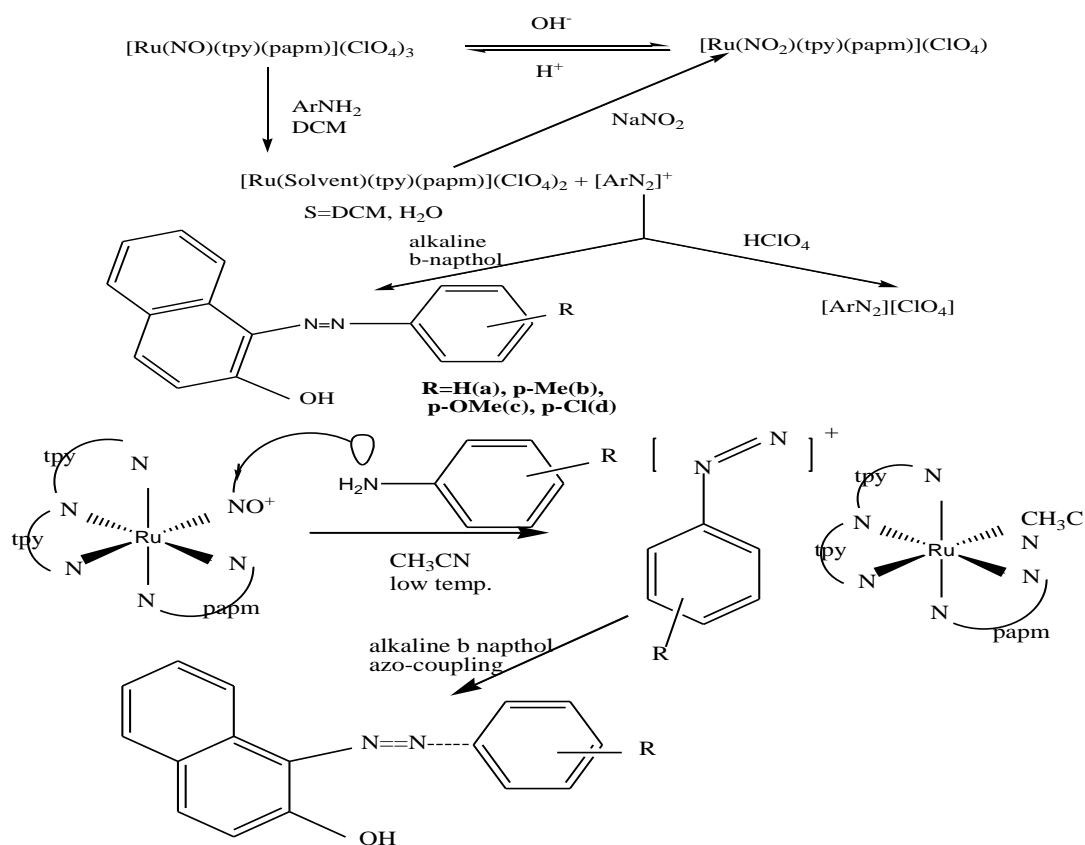


The potential values of the complexes in dry acetonitrile solution are measured. The reduction sweep shows a new wave that has a counter oxidative wave on the second sweep. The first primary redox process ($E = 1.3\text{-}1.13\text{ V}$) is assigned to Ru(III)/Ru(II) couple. The nitrosyl complexes exhibit multiple redox responses in the potential range $+2.0\text{ V}$ to -2.0 V versus s.c.e. Two quasi-reversible reductive responses in the potential 0.5 to 0.6 V and -0.1 to -0.2 V are seen. The couples IV and V are assigned to successive one-electron reductions of the coordinated NO unit; $[\text{Ru}-\text{NO} \rightarrow \text{Ru}-\text{NO}^-]$ (couple II), $[\text{Ru}-\text{NO}^- \rightarrow \text{Ru}-\text{NO}^{2-}]$ (couple III). The couple III is irreversible, indicating instability of the reduced species. High potential voltammetric wave at $1.4\text{-}1.5\text{ V}$ (couple 1) ($\Delta E \geq 120\text{ mV}$) is assigned to the Ru(III)/Ru(II) couple. The azo group may accommodate two electrons and hence two coordinated ligands should exhibit four reductive responses. However, within the available potential window three reductions were clearly observable. The nitrosyl complexes display multiple redox processes in the experimental potential range (couples I–VI). The first two reductions (couples II and III) are assigned to successive one-electron reductions of the coordinated NO unit, eqns. (1) and (2).



The reduction potential of $\text{Ru}-\text{NO}^+ \rightarrow \text{Ru}-\text{NO}$ [couple II, eqn. (1)] of nitroso-complexes is close to that of uncoordinated NO ($E = 0.74\text{ V}$). Although the first reduction process $\text{Ru}-\text{NO}^+ \rightarrow \text{Ru}-\text{NO}$ (couple II) is stable on the coulometric timescale, the second $\text{Ru}-\text{NO} \rightarrow \text{Ru}-\text{NO}^-$ is unstable. Nitrosyl complexes show one additional quasi-reversible oxidation process near 1.60 V . The oxidation process corresponding to it may be assigned to the ruthenium(II)–ruthenium(III) oxidation as all other redox active centres in the complex moiety are only susceptible to reduction.

Reaction of the mononitrosyl complexes with primary amines were studied by the following sequence. To investigate the reaction mechanism it was studied in two solvents, in acetonitrile and in dichloromethane. This monoquo complex produces the monoacetonitrile complex on treatment with acetonitrile. One real advantage of such reaction is the possibility of developing analytical route for synthetic nitrosation of organic substrate using $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO})(\text{RaaiMe})(\text{tpy}))](\text{ClO}_4)_3$ as the source of NO under mildly acidic condition.



In conclusion, nitro as well as nitroso complexes of ruthenium(II), $[\text{Ru}(\text{NO}_2)([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))]$ have been synthesised by stereoretentive reaction of aquo complex $[\text{Ru}(\text{OH}_2)([\text{b-NaiR} = \text{b-Naphthylazolimidazole}](\text{tpy}))]$ with nitrite ion. The complexes exhibit strong MLCT transitions. Voltammetric study shows Ru(III)/Ru(II) couple along with successive ligand-based reductions and additionally NO^+ reductions in nitrosyl derivatives. The electrophilic activity of bound NO has been established through diazotization of ArNH_2

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