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## The Effects of Non-Redox Active Metal Ions on the Activation of Dioxygen: Isolation and Characterization of a Heterobimetallic Complex Containing a $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}-(\mu\text{-OH})-\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$ core

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### Abstract

Rate enhancements for the reduction of dioxygen by a  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  complex were observed in the presence of redox inactive Group 2 metal ions. The rate changes correlated with an increase in the Lewis acidity of the Group 2 metal ions. These studies led to the isolation of heterobimetallic complexes that contain  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}-(\mu\text{-OH})-\text{M}^{\text{II}}$  cores ( $\text{M}^{\text{II}} = \text{Ca}^{\text{II}}, \text{Ba}^{\text{II}}$ ), in which the hydroxo oxygen atom is derived from  $\text{O}_2$ . This type of core structure has relevance to the oxygen evolving complexes within photosystem II.

Metal ions that function as Lewis acids are known to have a major influence on a variety of chemical transformations.<sup>1</sup> Often they are used in combination with redox-active transition metal complexes to promote a variety of reactions involving the transfer of electrons.<sup>2</sup> This is typified in metalloproteins, such as the copper-zinc superoxide dismutases, in which both metal ions have been proposed to be functionally active.<sup>3</sup> In addition, it is now widely accepted that a redox inactive  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ion is necessary for water oxidation to dioxygen in the OEC.<sup>4,5</sup> Examples of these effects are also found in synthetic systems: Yu showed that Group 1 metal ions promote the C–H bond activation in a series of  $\text{Pd}^{\text{II}}$  complexes,<sup>6</sup> Lau illustrated that Lewis acidic metal ions enhance the reactivity of metal-oxo complexes toward oxidation of alkanes,<sup>7</sup> and Collins demonstrated that secondary ions activate O-atom transfer reactions of  $\text{Mn}^{\text{V}}=\text{O}$  complexes.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, Fukuzumi and Nam recently reported that the rates of electron transfer from  $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}$  complexes are significantly altered in the presence of Lewis acidic metal ions, which led to the isolation of a complex containing an  $\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}=\text{O}---\text{Sc}^{\text{III}}$  unit.<sup>9</sup> Fukuzumi further demonstrated that the rates for the one-electron conversion of  $\text{O}_2$  to superoxide ion are correlated to the Lewis acidities of redox inactive metal ions,<sup>10</sup> implying that redox inactive metal ions may play a role in the activation of dioxygen.<sup>11</sup> We report herein that the rates of  $\text{O}_2$  reduction by a monomeric  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  complex are accelerated in the presence of Group 2 metal ions. These findings led to the isolation and structural characterization of a discrete heterobimetallic complex containing a  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}-(\mu\text{-OH})-\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  core,<sup>12,13</sup> a construct that is related to the active site of the oxygen-evolving complex (OEC) in photosystem II.

Our group has been investigating the influences of the secondary coordination sphere on metal-mediated processes.<sup>14</sup> In particular, we have developed ligands that promote intramolecular hydrogen bonding (H-bonding) networks within the secondary coordination spheres of metal ions. Most of our ligands contain H-bond donors, such as the urea-based

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**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental details for all chemical reactions and figures for all spectra. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

ligand [H<sub>3</sub>buea]<sup>3-</sup>, whose inward placement of NH groups produce positively polarized cavities (Figure 1). To reverse the polarity of the cavity we designed the sulfonamido-based tripodal ligand *N,N,N'*-[2,2',2''-nitriлотris(ethane-2,1-diyl)]tris-(2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonamido) ([MST]<sup>3-</sup>, Figure 1)<sup>15</sup> and show that the SO<sub>2</sub>R groups can serve as H-bond acceptors. Previously reported ligands with sulfonamido groups are almost exclusively C<sub>2</sub> symmetric, such as those of Walsh who showed that both nitrogen and oxygen atoms are capable of coordinating to a metal ion.<sup>16</sup> During the course of our studies with the Mn<sup>II</sup> complex [Mn<sup>II</sup>MST]<sup>-</sup> we discovered that the oxygen atom of the SO<sub>2</sub>Ar groups can bind Group 2 metal ions, which appears to be a requirement for the acceleration of the dioxygen activation process.

The preparation for [Mn<sup>II</sup>MST]<sup>-</sup> was accomplished by treating a DMA solution of H<sub>3</sub>MST with 3 equiv of NaH, followed by the addition of Mn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>.<sup>17</sup> Metathesis with [NMe<sub>4</sub>](OAc) afforded [NMe<sub>4</sub>][Mn<sup>II</sup>MST] in 90% yield after workup (Scheme 1). This salt showed limited reactivity with dioxygen at 25°C as assayed by optical spectroscopy (Figure 2), having an initial rate of 6.2 × 10<sup>-6</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; the slow rate of the reaction prevented isolation of any oxidized species. However, we found that the rate of the reaction with dioxygen was accelerated in the presence of Group 2 metal ions. For instance, an initial rate of 5.8 × 10<sup>-4</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> when the mixture of [NMe<sub>4</sub>][Mn<sup>II</sup>MST] and dioxygen was treated with 1 equiv of Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>/15-crown-5 (Figures 2 and 3). Addition of larger amounts of Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>/15-crown-5 did not change this rate substantially, with only a small decrease in the initial rates observed (Figure S1).<sup>17</sup> The initial rate for this reaction was also affected when the [NMe<sub>4</sub>][Mn<sup>II</sup>MST]/dioxygen mixture was treated with 1 equiv of Ba(OTf)<sub>2</sub>/18-crown-6, giving an initial rate of 1.8 × 10<sup>-5</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>18</sup> Although the role of the Group 2 metal ions remains to be clarified, these results clearly indicate that the rate of O<sub>2</sub> activation by [Mn<sup>II</sup>MST]<sup>3-</sup> is dependent upon the presence of redox inactive metal ions.

The major product from the reaction with Ca(OTf)<sub>2</sub>/15-crown-5 was obtained in yields ranging from 50 to 60% and has a visible absorbance spectrum with features at λ<sub>max</sub> (ε<sub>M</sub>) = 450 (340), 640 (600) and 800 (sh) nm (Figure 3, inset) that matches the final spectrum obtained from the reaction. Analytical data suggested that a molecular formulation of [15-crown-5⊃Ca<sup>II</sup>-(μ-OH)-Mn<sup>III</sup>MST]OTf, which was supported by electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) experiments. The ESI-MS<sup>+</sup> spectrum contained a strong ion having a mass-to-charge ratio (*m/z*) of 1021.27 when the complex was prepared with <sup>16</sup>O<sub>2</sub>: the mass and calculated isotopic distribution is consistent with [15-crown-5⊃Ca<sup>II</sup>-(μ-OH)-Mn<sup>III</sup>MST]<sup>+</sup> (Figure S2).<sup>17</sup> When the reaction was performed under <sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub>, the molecular ion peak shifted by two mass units to a *m/z* of 1023.27, indicating that the oxygen atom of the hydroxo ligand was derived from the activation of dioxygen. Moreover, our mass spectral studies indicated that the hydroxo ligand undergoes water/hydroxo exchange reactions (Figure S3).<sup>17</sup>

The molecular structure of [15-crown-5⊃Ca<sup>II</sup>-(μ-OH)-Mn<sup>III</sup>MST]<sup>+</sup> was determined by X-ray diffraction to reveal the predicted heterobimetallic complex (Figure 4). The manganese(III) center has an N<sub>4</sub>O primary coordination sphere having trigonal bipyramidal geometry. The nitrogen atoms of the [MST]<sup>3-</sup> ligand coordinate to the manganese(III) ion with an Mn1-N1 bond length of 2.075(2) Å and an average Mn1-N<sub>eq</sub> bond distance of 2.052(2) Å. The primary sphere of the Mn center is completed by a hydroxo ligand having a Mn1-O7 bond distance of 1.829(2) Å and an N1-Mn1-O7 bond angle of 176.9(1)°. Note that each SO<sub>2</sub>Ar group adopts a conformation in which one of the S=O bonds is positioned nearly perpendicular to the equatorial plane, with an average Mn-N-S-O torsion angle of 22.8(2)°. This configuration of SO<sub>2</sub>Ar groups produced a cavity that forms an intramolecular H-bond between the Mn<sup>III</sup>-OH unit and O5 of the [MST]<sup>3-</sup> ligand (O7...O5 distance is 2.693(2) Å).<sup>19</sup>

The most striking feature of the structure is the placement of a  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ion within the secondary coordination sphere of the Mn center. The  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ion interacts with the complex through O7 of the Mn–OH unit and O1 and O3 from two of the sulfonamide groups of the  $[\text{MST}]^{3-}$  ligand: it appears that these oxygen atoms are positioned such that they form an auxiliary, face-capping site for the binding of additional metal ions. The O7 atom of the hydroxo ligand bridges between the two metal centers with a Mn1–O7–Ca1 bond angle of  $127.49(9)^\circ$  and a calcium-manganese separation of  $3.748(2) \text{ \AA}$ . The Ca1---O7 bond distance is  $2.342(2) \text{ \AA}$ , which is similar to the Ca1---O1 and Ca1---O3 bond lengths of  $2.333(2)$  and  $2.370(2) \text{ \AA}$ . The 5 oxygen atoms of the crown ether fill the remaining coordination sites on Ca1 and the average Ca1---O<sub>15-c-5</sub> distance is  $2.48 \text{ \AA}$ . Notice also that the 15-crown-5 ligand adopts an "inverted umbrella" structure, whereby the  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ion is displaced out of the crown ether toward the  $[\text{MST}]^{3-}$  ligand.<sup>20</sup>

To our knowledge,  $[\text{15-crown-5}\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{MST}]^+$  represents the first example of a structurally characterized species containing a  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Ca}^{\text{II}}$  core. In fact, discrete  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}\text{-OH}$  systems are rare with the  $\text{LCa}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-OH})_2\text{-Ca}^{\text{II}}\text{L}$  homodimer of Roesky the only other structurally characterized complex.<sup>21</sup> In that complex, each calcium center is 5-coordinate and the Ca–O(H) distances are significantly shorter (less than  $2.25 \text{ \AA}$ ) than those observed in  $[\text{15-crown-5}\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{MST}]^+$ . We are also aware of only three other structurally characterized molecular systems containing calcium/manganese bridged units: the  $\text{Mn}_{13}\text{Ca}_2$  cluster prepared by Christou, the  $\text{Mn}_4\text{Ca}$  system of Powell and the  $\text{Mn}_3\text{CaNa}$  by Reedijk.<sup>22</sup>

Studies into the properties of heterometallic complexes with manganese/calcium cores have been sparked by the OEC of photosystem II. Sufficient information is available to show that the active site of the OEC contains a  $\text{Mn}_4\text{Ca}$  cluster that is surrounded by a network of H-bonds. Most current mechanistic proposals stipulate that the calcium center has a direct role in water oxidation,<sup>4c,5</sup> a premise that is supported by a recent X-ray structure of the OEC at a resolution of  $1.9 \text{ \AA}$ .<sup>4f</sup> This structure showed that the  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ion has two bound water molecules and is connected to the manganese centers through oxygen-containing bridging ligands, some of which could possibly be in a manner similar to that found in  $[\text{15-crown-5}\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{MST}]^+$ . Moreover, the isolation of  $[\text{15-crown-5}\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{MST}]^+$  indicates that inclusion of sulfonamido groups into ligands may provide a new synthetic method for the preparation of these types of heterometallic complexes.

We have presented data that showed Group 2 metal ions have a marked influence on the rate of dioxygen activation by a monomeric  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  complex. Our findings showed an increase in initial rate in the presence of  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{\text{II}}$  ions, with  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ions being faster by a factor of 35. These results complement those reported by Fukuzumi who showed that the rate of electron transfer from  $[\text{Co}^{\text{II}}(\text{tetraphenylporphyrin})]$  to  $\text{O}_2$  is also accelerated in the presence of  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{Ba}^{\text{II}}$  ions: in this one-electron transfer process,  $\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  ions increased the rate 22 times compared to  $\text{Ba}^{\text{II}}$  ions.<sup>10a</sup> The similarity in rate data to that of our systems offers a possible explanation as to why dioxygen activation with  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{MST}]^-$  depends on the presence of Group 2 ions (Scheme 2). The reduction of dioxygen to superoxide could be dependent on the prior formation of a heterobimetallic  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}$  complex, which coordinates dioxygen and then facilitates electron transfer to form a putative superoxido adduct. The rate of intramolecular electron-transfer to generate a putative  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}(\text{superoxo})\text{-M}^{\text{II}}$  species would depend on the Lewis acidity of the Group 2 metal ion, which helps to alleviate negative charge build-up. This possible function of the redox inactive metal ion is reminiscent of the role that the H-bonding cavities have in metal complexes of our urea-base tripods (Figure 1): in these systems the positively polarized cavities promote the binding and activation of dioxygen through the formation of intramolecular H-bonds.<sup>14,23</sup> The results found with  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{MST}]^-$  illustrate the possibility that redox inactive metal ions can also be used to

facilitate the activation of dioxygen, which in turn, may provide another way to control and enhance the reactivity of transition metal complexes.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

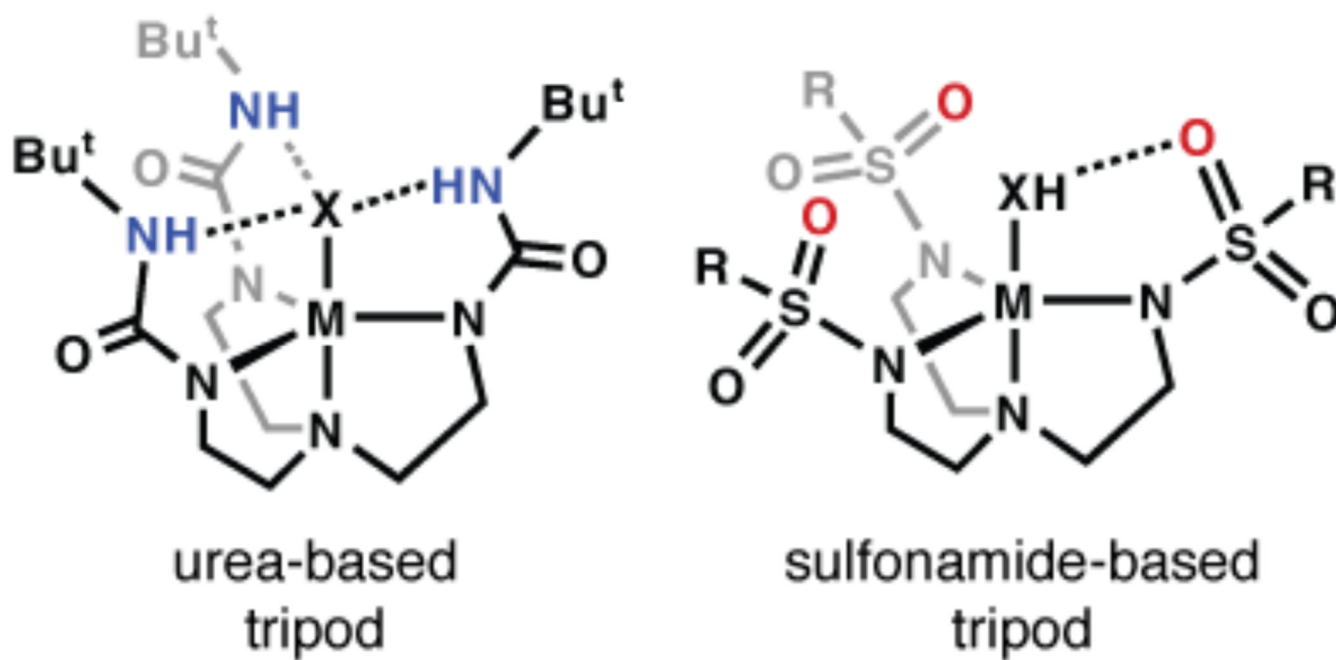
## Acknowledgments

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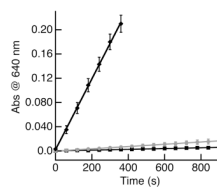
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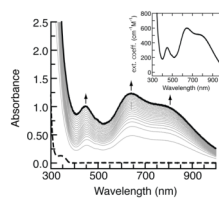
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  17. Experimental details can be found in supporting information
  18. The molecular structure of the reaction product was determined by X-ray diffraction methods to be [18-crown-6⊂Ba<sup>II</sup>-(μ-OH)-Mn<sup>III</sup>MST]<sup>+</sup> which is similar to [15-crown-5⊂Ca<sup>II</sup>-(μ-OH)-Mn<sup>III</sup>MST]<sup>+</sup>.<sup>17</sup>
  19. The position of H7A was located from a difference-Fourier map and refined (x,y,z and fixed U<sub>iso</sub>)
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**Figure 1.**  
Examples of systems containing intramolecular H-bonds.



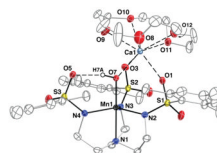
**Figure 2.** Initial rate data for the reaction of  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{MST}]^-$  and  $\text{O}_2$  in the presence of  $[\text{NMe}_4]^+$  (■,  $6.2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ),  $\text{Ca}(\text{OTf})_2/15\text{-crown-5}$  (◆,  $5.8 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ), and  $\text{Ba}(\text{OTf})_2/18\text{-crown-6}$  (●,  $1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Reactions were done in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .



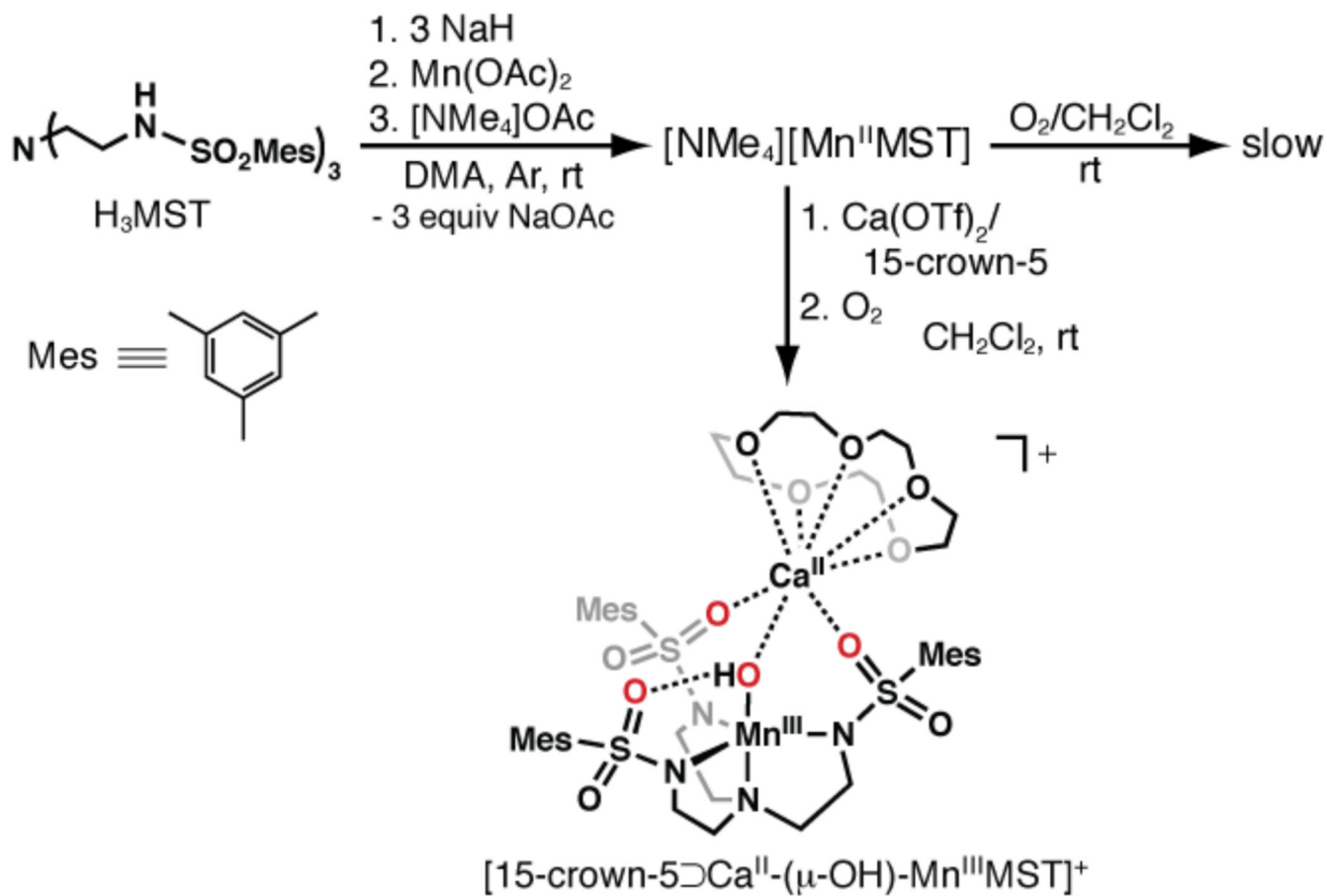
**Figure 3.**

Electronic absorbance spectra for the reduction of dioxygen in the presence of  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{MST}]^-$  and  $\text{Ca}(\text{OTf})_2/15\text{-crown-5}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . Spectra were recorded every 30 min. Inset is the spectrum for the isolated product,  $[15\text{-crown-5}\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{MST}]^+$ .

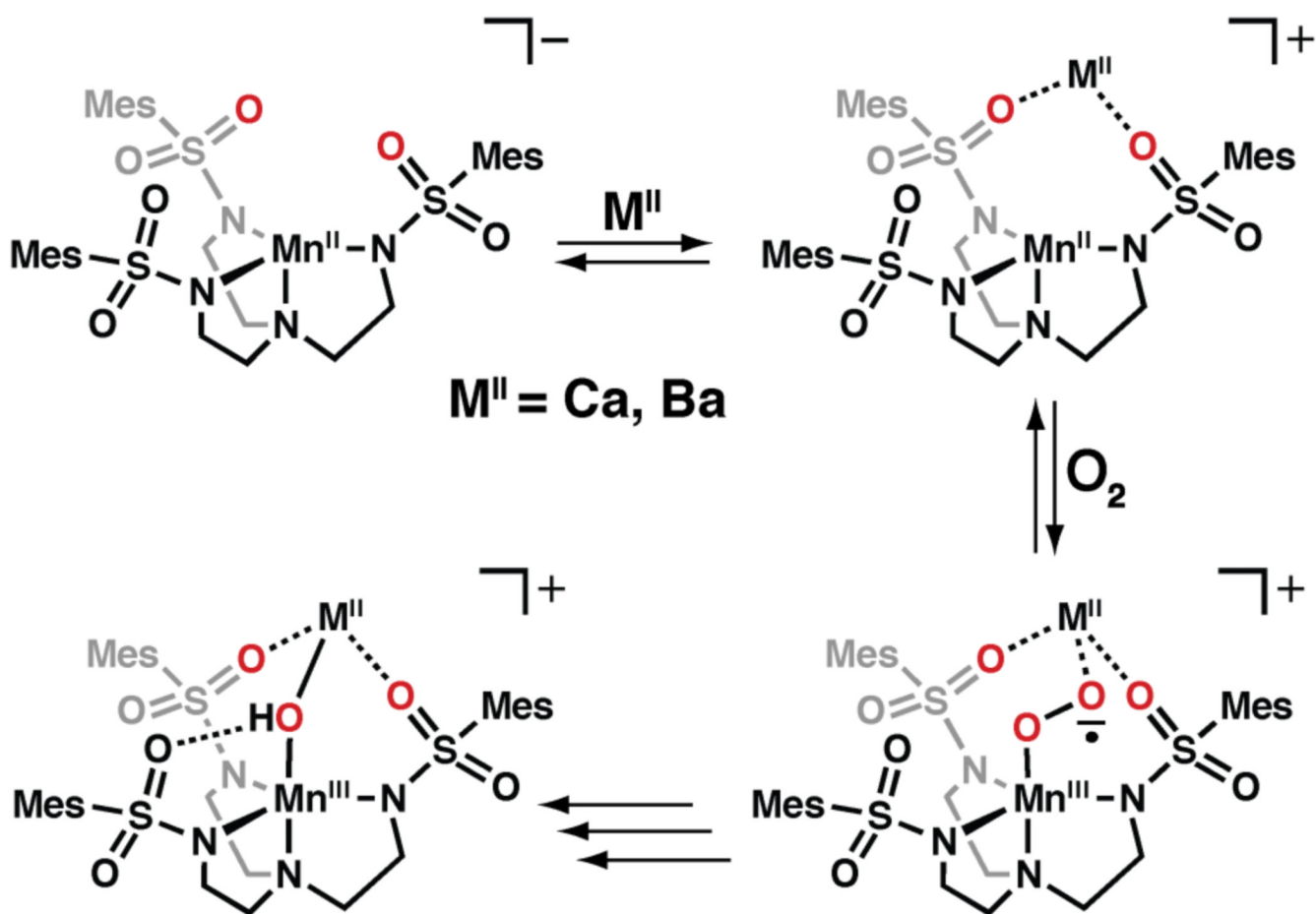


**Figure 4.**

Thermal ellipsoid diagram depicting the molecular structure of  $[15\text{-crown-5}]\text{Ca}^{\text{II}}\text{-}(\mu\text{-OH})\text{-Mn}^{\text{III}}\text{MST}]^+$ . Ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and only the hydroxo hydrogen atom is shown for clarity. Selected bond length ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ): Mn(1)-O(7), 1.829(2); Mn(1)-N(1), 2.075(2); Mn(1)-N(2), 2.019(2); Mn(1)-N(3), 2.107(2); Mn(1)-N(4), 2.029(2); Mn(1)---Ca(1), 3.7478(6); Ca(1)-O(1), 2.332(2); Ca(1)-O(3), 2.369(2); Ca(1)-O(7), 2.342(2); Ca(1)-O(8), 2.490(3); Ca(1)-O(9), 2.508(2); Ca(1)-O(10), 2.492(2); Ca(1)-O(11), 2.486(2); Ca(1)-O(12), 2.453(2); O(7)-Mn(1)-N(2), 96.95(8); O(7)-Mn(1)-N(4), 96.58(8); N(2)-Mn(1)-N(4), 131.81(10); O(7)-Mn(1)-N(1), 176.94(9); N(2)-Mn(1)-N(1), 81.83(9); N(4)-Mn(1)-N(1), 82.25(9); O(7)-Mn(1)-N(3), 101.09(8); N(2)-Mn(1)-N(3), 109.38(9); N(4)-Mn(1)-N(3), 112.93(9); N(1)-Mn(1)-N(3), 81.97(9); Mn(1)-O(7)-Ca(1), 127.49(9).



**Scheme 1.**  
Reactions involving  $[\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}\text{MST}]^+$ .



**Scheme 2.**  
Proposed role of the redox inactive metal ions in the activation of dioxygen.