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Title: Catalytic promiscuity of an iron(II)–phenanthroline complex

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Abstract:

A mononuclear iron(II) complex, [Fe(phen)3]Cl2 (1) (phen =1,10-phenanthroline), has been synthesized in crystalline phase and characterized using various spectroscopic techniques including single crystal X-ray diffraction. Crystal structure analysis revealed that 1 crystallizes in a monoclinic system with C2/m space group. Complex 1 acts as a functional model for a biomimetic catalyst promoting the aerobic oxidation of 3,5-di-tert-butylcatechol (3,5-DTBC) through radical pathways with a significant turnover number (kcat =3.55 × 103 h-1) and exhibits catechol dioxygenase activity towards the same 3.5-DTBC substrate at room temperature in oxygensaturated ethanol medium. The existence of an isobestic point at 610 nm from spectrophotometric data indicates the presence of Fe3+ -3,5-DTBC adduct favouring an enzyme-substrate binding phenomenon. Upon stoichiometric addition of 3,5-DTBC pretreated with two equivalents of triethylamine to the iron complex, two catecholate-to-iron(III) ligand-to-metal charge transfer bands (575 and 721 nm) are observed and the in situ generated catecholate intermediate reacts with dioxygen (kobs =9.89 × 10-4 min-1) in ethanol medium to afford exclusively intradiol cleavage products along with a small amount of benzoquinone, and a small amount of extradiol cleavage products, which provide substantial evidence for a substrate activation mechanism. Copyright © 2016 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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