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# Gradual Release of Strongly Bound Nitric Oxide from $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$

Eric D. Bloch,<sup>†</sup> Wendy L. Queen,<sup>‡,||</sup> Sachin Chavan,<sup>§</sup> Paul S. Wheatley,<sup>#</sup> Joseph M. Zadrozny,<sup>†</sup> Russell Morris,<sup>#</sup> Craig M. Brown,<sup>||,∇,⊥</sup> Carlo Lamberti,<sup>§,⊗</sup> Silvia Bordiga,<sup>§</sup> and Jeffrey R. Long<sup>\*,†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

<sup>||</sup>Center of Neutron Research, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, United States

<sup>‡</sup>The Molecular Foundry, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California 94720, United States

<sup>§</sup>Department of Chemistry, NIS, CrisDi, and INSTM Centre of Reference, University of Turin, Via Quarellino 15, I-10135 Torino, Italy

<sup>#</sup>EaStChem School of Chemistry, University of St Andrews, Purdie Building, St Andrews KY16 9ST, U.K.

<sup>∇</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19716, United States

<sup>⊥</sup>The Bragg Institute, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization, PMB1 Menai, New South Wales, Australia

<sup>⊗</sup>Southern Federal University, Zorge Street 5, 344090 Rostov-on-Don, Russia

## S Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** An iron(II)-based metal–organic framework featuring coordinatively unsaturated redox-active metal cation sites,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  ( $\text{dobdc}^{4-} = 2,5\text{-dioxido-1,4-benzenedicarboxylate}$ ), is shown to strongly bind nitric oxide at 298 K. Adsorption isotherms indicate an adsorption capacity greater than 16 wt %, corresponding to the adsorption of one NO molecule per iron center. Infrared, UV–vis, and Mössbauer spectroscopies, together with magnetic susceptibility data, confirm the strong binding is a result of electron transfer from the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  sites to form  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{--NO}^+$  adducts. Consistent with these results, powder neutron diffraction experiments indicate that NO is bound to the iron centers of the framework with an Fe–NO separation of 1.77(1) Å and an Fe–N–O angle of 150.9(5)°. The nitric oxide-containing material,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$ , steadily releases bound NO under humid conditions over the course of more than 10 days, suggesting it, and potential future iron(II)-based metal–organic frameworks, are good candidates for certain biomedical applications.

Metal–organic frameworks, which have received a great deal of attention for gas storage and molecular separations,<sup>1</sup> have also recently shown promise for applications in biomedicine, typically for drug storage and delivery.<sup>2</sup> Although a number of structures have been synthesized from biologically active ligands,<sup>3</sup> bioactive molecules can also be incorporated into a metal–organic framework postsynthetically<sup>4</sup> or produced via the catalytic decomposition of precursor molecules such as S-nitrosothiols.<sup>5</sup> An important example of this is the adsorption and release of nitric oxide by frameworks featuring coordinatively unsaturated metal centers. The first investigation involved the widely studied metal–organic framework  $\text{Cu}_3(\text{btc})_2$  ( $\text{btc}^{3-} = 1,3,5\text{-benzenetricarboxylate}$ , HKUST-1).<sup>6,7</sup> This compound adsorbs nearly 4.0 mmol/g of NO, a significant improvement over zeolites, which can adsorb

NO with maximum capacities of 1 mmol/g under similar conditions.<sup>8</sup> Upon exposing HKUST-1 to humid air, a slow release of a fraction of the coordinated NO occurs over the course of an hour. Although the amount released is limited to just  $\sim 2 \mu\text{mol/g}$ , it proved sufficient to inhibit platelet aggregation in biological experiments, which is necessary to prevent blood clotting. In addition to antithrombotic applications, porous materials that can store and deliver the critical biological signaling molecule NO may be useful for antibacterial and wound healing applications.<sup>9</sup>

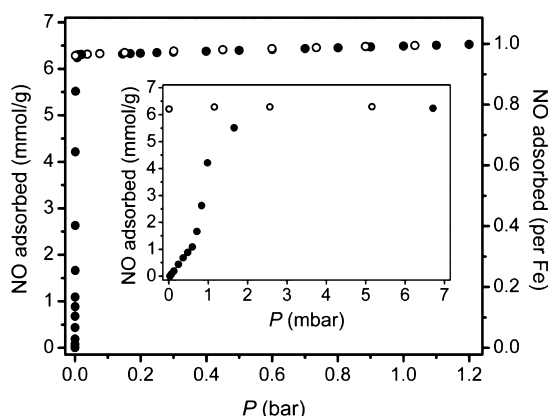
In order to improve upon the NO release properties of HKUST-1, storage and release by  $\text{Ni}_2(\text{dobdc})$  and  $\text{Co}_2(\text{dobdc})$  were subsequently studied.<sup>10,11</sup> These materials feature exceptionally high densities of coordinatively unsaturated metal cations and are unable to form the  $\text{M}^{\text{I}}\text{--NO}^+$  adducts likely responsible for the poor NO release displayed by HKUST-1. Indeed, the frameworks adsorbed close to 7 mmol/g NO at room temperature and released the entire quantity within 15 h of exposure to humid air. These frameworks, however, suffer from biocompatibility issues, as they are based on cobalt or nickel. The NO storage and release properties of a family of biocompatible MIL-88(Fe)-based metal–organic frameworks were recently reported.<sup>12</sup> However, these materials adsorb and release  $<0.35$  mmol of NO per gram, significantly less than the  $\text{M}_2(\text{dobdc})$  frameworks.

One of the more recently discovered members of the  $\text{M}_2(\text{dobdc})$  series,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$ ,<sup>13</sup> combines the advantages of both systems, exhibiting the high density of accessible sites found in all  $\text{M}_2(\text{dobdc})$  compounds and the biocompatibility of iron. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that, unlike other members of the  $\text{M}_2(\text{dobdc})$  family,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  displays strong, selective interactions with  $\text{O}_2$  based on the accessible redox nature of the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  centers in the material. Given these promising attributes, we sought to investigate NO storage and release in  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$ .

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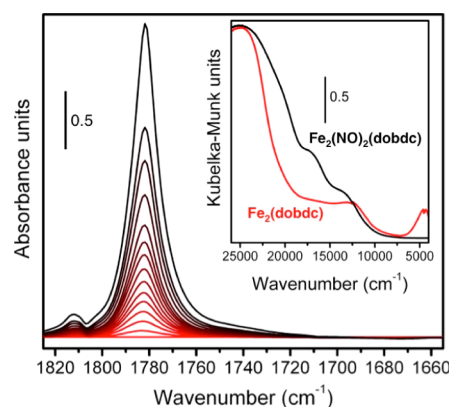


**Figure 1.** Adsorption of NO in  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  at 298 K; closed and open symbols represent adsorption and desorption, respectively. Inset: Saturation is nearly achieved by 7 mbar.

The NO adsorption isotherm at 298 K, shown in Figure 1, offers an initial indication that  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  may be of utility for NO storage and release. Under these conditions the isotherm is extraordinarily steep, approaching saturation near 0.007 bar. At this very low pressure, the adsorption corresponds to 0.95 NO molecules per iron site and reaches 1.00 at 1.2 bar. In contrast, the adsorption of NO in  $\text{Co}_2(\text{dobdc})$  and  $\text{Ni}_2(\text{dobdc})$  reaches one molecule per accessible metal site at pressures greater than 0.2 bar.<sup>10</sup> All three frameworks show significant hysteresis in their adsorption isotherms. While the cobalt and nickel analogues desorb approximately 1–2 mmol/g at low pressure,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  retains 0.95 NO/Fe (6.21 mmol/g) upon desorption to 0.007 mbar. Further experiments, in which the sample is placed under dynamic vacuum or flowing  $\text{N}_2$ , indicate NO remains bound until at least 353 K. Similar to the adsorption of  $\text{O}_2$  in this framework, the bright green sample turns dark brown upon adsorption of NO, indicating oxidation of the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  sites.<sup>13</sup>

Infrared spectroscopy offers a convenient means of investigating the nature of NO binding and has been widely employed to probe the interaction of NO with iron(II) centers.<sup>14</sup> The N–O stretching frequency of free nitric oxide occurs at 1876  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and can range from 1500 to 1900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  upon coordination to a transition metal. The specific energy depends on the mode of coordination, with lower frequencies usually corresponding to a significantly bent M–N–O angle. In the case of  $\{\text{Fe}-\text{NO}\}^7$ , these values typically fall in the range of 1700–1860  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>14b,d</sup> Accordingly,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  displays a single peak at low NO coverage of 1782  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , the small peak around 1810  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  is an effect of background subtraction (see Figure 2). The observed red shift is significantly larger than that measured on the isostructural  $\text{Ni}_2(\text{dobdc})$  (1845  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) system,<sup>11</sup> and is even larger than that observed upon dosing NO on very active surface sites such as  $\text{Cr}^{\text{II}}$  (1810  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>15a</sup> or  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  (1845–1860  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>14a</sup> on silica or  $\text{Cu}^{\text{I}}$  (1790–1810  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )<sup>15b–e</sup> in zeolites. This indicates a substantial charge transfer from the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  centers in  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  to NO. A mechanism that was invoked for Fe-MOF-5,<sup>14e</sup> a framework that displays a significantly red-shifted N–O stretching frequency (1788  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) upon coordination to the iron(II) centers in the framework.

The highest coverage spectrum displayed in Figure 2 corresponds to an NO equilibrium pressure ( $P_{\text{NO}}$ ) of 0.04 mbar. Further increases in  $P_{\text{NO}}$  reveal that the band at 1782



**Figure 2.** Infrared spectra of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  in the presence of increasing NO pressure at room temperature (0–0.04 mbar interval), the IR spectrum of activated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  has been subtracted. Inset: Diffuse reflectance UV–vis–NIR spectra of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  (red) and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  (black).

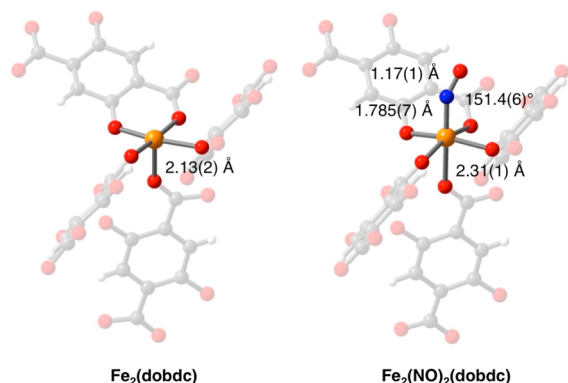
$\text{cm}^{-1}$  is already saturated, as it does not move in frequency (Figure S1), reflecting the isolated nature of the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-\text{NO}^-$  oscillator inside the framework.<sup>14d</sup> The steep increase of the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-\text{NO}^-$  band in the low  $P_{\text{NO}}$  region, fully supports the adsorption data reported in Figure 1. No additional bands ascribable to nitrosylic species were observed at any pressure, indicating that the mono-nitrosyl complex does not evolve into iron poly-nitrosyls, as observed in zeolites.<sup>14a</sup> This confirms the 1:1 stoichiometry measured in the volumetric adsorption experiment. After NO adsorption,  $\text{O}_2$  was introduced to the framework to probe whether any accessible iron(II) sites remain. As shown in Figure S1 of the Supporting Information, the spectrum is nearly unchanged with a minimal amount of hydroxyl formation observed. This additional experiment demonstrates that the NO coordinated to Fe prevents oxidation by  $\text{O}_2$  and the decomposition otherwise observed upon exposing  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  to air.<sup>13</sup> Evacuation of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  at 353 K does not result in any appreciable NO desorption, while the N–O band disappears almost completely upon evacuation at 433 K (orange and red spectra in Figure S1).

The formation of a stable  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}-\text{NO}^-$  complex with a bent Fe–N–O geometry is also suggested by the UV–vis absorption spectra, as shown in the inset of Figure 2. These spectra reveal the disappearance of the d–d bands around 5000 and 12000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , which is accompanied by the appearance of three new electronic transitions at 14000, 17000, and 20000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  that are likely related to d–d transitions with mixed p character. Extensive mixing of the metal and ligand wave functions in the molecular orbitals of the complex does not allow a distinction between ligand field and charge transfer for these transitions.

Both Mössbauer spectroscopy and dc magnetic susceptibility measurements confirm the charge transfer from iron(II) to NO. At room temperature the Mössbauer spectrum of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  features a simple doublet. This doublet exhibits an isomer shift and quadrupole splitting of 1.094(3) and 2.02(1) mm/s, respectively, both consistent with high-spin iron(II).<sup>13</sup> The Mössbauer spectra of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  indicates oxidized iron cations with substantially reduced isomer shift and quadrupole splitting (see Figure S3). At 298 K these values, 0.563(4) and 1.057(7) mm/s, respectively, are consistent with high-spin iron(III) in an octahedral coordination environment. Although Mössbauer studies on octahedral  $\{\text{Fe}-\text{NO}\}^7$  systems are

relatively rare,<sup>16</sup> the parameters for  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  are in good agreement, for example, with the reported values of  $\delta = 0.68 \text{ mm/s}$  and  $\Delta_E = 1.03 \text{ mm/s}$  for deoxy hemerythrin.<sup>17</sup> The room temperature  $\chi_M T$  value of  $3.40 \text{ cm}^3 \text{K/mol}$  indicates an  $S = 3/2$  system, consistent with an  $S = 5/2$   $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$  center antiferromagnetically coupled to an  $S = 1$   $\text{NO}^-$  moiety (Figure S4).

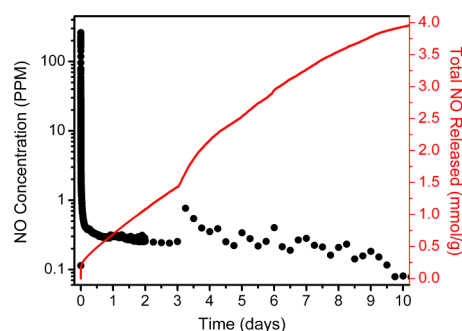
We turned to powder neutron diffraction to further investigate the binding of NO within  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$ . A Rietveld refinement was performed against data collected for a sample of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  at 4 K. From this model a single adsorption site is apparent with coordinated nitric oxide exhibiting a refined occupancy of 0.970(5) NO molecules per Fe site. As expected, NO is N-bound with a bent geometry, featuring an Fe–N distance of 1.785(7) Å and an Fe–N–O angle of 151.4(6)° (see Figure 3). Both of these values are consistent



**Figure 3.** Structures of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  as determined from Rietveld analysis of neutron powder diffraction data. Orange, blue, red, gray, and white spheres represent Fe, N, O, C, and H atoms, respectively. Values in parentheses give the estimated standard deviation in the final digit of the number.

with previously reported  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{--NO}^-$  species.<sup>18</sup> As observed previously in  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{OH})_2(\text{dobdc})$ ,<sup>19</sup> the Fe–O bond *trans* to the open coordination site elongates substantially upon NO coordination, shifting from 2.13(2) to 2.31(1) Å. The N–O distance of 1.17(1) Å is slightly elongated from that of free NO (1.154),<sup>20</sup> consistent with the formation of  $\text{NO}^-$ .

To monitor NO release, a sample of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  (see the Supporting Information for full experimental procedures) was exposed to  $\text{N}_2$  at 11% relative humidity at 310 K, and the amount of NO released was quantified by chemiluminescence. As shown in Figure 4, the material initially releases a short burst of NO, which is likely attributable to a small amount of physisorbed gas. Over the duration of the experiment, the compound slowly released approximately two-thirds of the strongly bound NO. A reproducible increase in NO concentration is seen after approximately 3 days, which may correspond to some structural rearrangement or partial collapse as NO is released. Although the total quantity of 4.0 mmol/g released was less than released by both  $\text{Ni}_2(\text{dobdc})$  and  $\text{Co}_2(\text{dobdc})$  (7.0 and 6.7 mmol/g, respectively) tested under the same conditions,<sup>10</sup> it was delivered much more slowly, still releasing PPB concentrations after 10 days. As there is approximately 2.0–2.5 mmol/g of NO remaining, this material has the possibility of releasing NO for an even longer period of time. A similar release behavior was observed at 298 K (see Figure S5).



**Figure 4.** Release of NO by  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  upon contact with 11% relative humidity  $\text{N}_2$  at 310 K. The red curve quantifies the total NO released in mmol/g, while the black data indicate that NO is still evolving after 10 days.

The foregoing results demonstrate that  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  can serve as a potentially biocompatible platform for the slow, moisture-triggered release of NO. The strong binding of nitric oxide to the coordinatively unsaturated, redox-active  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$  sites within  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobdc})$  is attributed to the formation of  $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{--NO}^-$  adducts, as characterized spectroscopically by various methods and structurally by powder neutron diffraction. Most significantly, as a result of the strong binding,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{NO})_2(\text{dobdc})$  continues to steadily release NO over the course of at least 10 days. These results demonstrate the potential utility of iron(II)-based metal–organic frameworks for the strong binding and slow release of nitric oxide.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

Experimental details, additional IR and Mössbauer spectra, magnetic susceptibility, powder diffraction pattern, and room temperature triggered release. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

## ■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

### Corresponding Author

\*jrlong@berkeley.edu

### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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