
Leonard M. Proniewicz,1,a Alan Bruha,1,b Kazuo Nakamoto,1,b Eishin Kyuno1, and James R. Kincaid*a

Contribution from the Department of Chemistry, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233, and Department of Pharmaceutical Science, School of Pharmacy, Hokuriku University, 3, Ho Kanagawa-Machi, Kanazawa 920-11, Japan.

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Abstract: Resonance Raman (RR) spectroscopic studies of O2 adducts of the imidazole complexes of a highly protected cobalt–porphyrin are reported. Strategic isotopic labeling studies, employing dioxygen isotopomers and selectively deuterated imidazole analogues, are used to document and interpret the complicated spectral patterns that emerge as a result of complex vibrational coupling of ν(–O–) with internal modes of the trans-coordinated imidazole ligand. In addition, the observed spectral patterns are shown to be dependent upon temperature, imidazole concentration, and the addition of a hydrogen-bond acceptor. These results indicate that hydrogen bonding of the ligated imidazole to other solution components does not lead to differences in the inherent frequency of ν(–O–) but does result in dramatic alterations of the observed spectral patterns as a consequence of differences in vibrational coupling parameters. The implications of these studies for the interpretation of RR spectra of O2 adducts of cobalt-substituted hemoproteins are discussed.

The essential goal of hemoprotein research remains the elucidation of the structural and electronic factors that control the remarkably varied functional properties of the active-site heme group. The nature and number of axial ligands that the protein

References

1. H NMR spectra were obtained at 500 MHz on a Bruker AM500 spectrometer. Spectral simulations were done with standard Bruker software packages. FT-IR spectra were obtained on dried films of the cis-chlorin d derived from HPII by using a Bruker IR58 spectrometer equipped with a microscope accessory. In this mode, the sample was applied as a solution in dichloromethane to a highly polished aluminum mirror and dried, leaving a thin film. The polished surface allows multiple-pass reflection spectroscopy on very small samples. The technique was necessary because of sample limitations in this case. Mass spectra were obtained by using the fast-atom bombardment technique at the Midwest Center of Mass Spectrometry, Department of Chemistry, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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presents to the heme group are the major determinants of reactivity. However, even in many cases where histidyl imidazole serves as the axial ligand, wide variation in reactivity is present as a result of subtle differences in disposition of the axial histidylimidazole and/or the presence of nearby residues.

One such secondary control mechanism that has received much attention involves alteration of the properties of the coordinated histidine as a result of hydrogen bonding of the imidazole N-H to other active-site residues or the peptide framework.2-6 The possible role of such proximal side hydrogen bonding on the stability of O2 adducts of hemoglobin and myoglobin has been extensively discussed.5,6 Ideally, direct probes of O2 structure and bonding may be employed in a comparison of the protein systems with better-determined, carefully controlled model compound studies. While resonance Raman (RR) spectroscopy is a potentially effective probe, application of this technique to the protein systems has led to ambiguous results and conflicting interpretations.

One major obstacle, the inability to observe enhancement of v(O–O) in the native proteins, was overcome by Yu and co-workers, who showed that v(O–O) is efficiently resonance enhanced in the cobalt-substituted proteins.7,8 This approach is validated by the fact that these modified proteins retain the gross structural and functional properties of the native systems.

Application of this technique to O2 adducts of cobalt–myoglobin (MbCo) and cobalt–hemoglobin (HbCo) yielded complex vibrational patterns that were originally interpreted in terms of multiple structures and hydrogen bonding of O2 to the distal histidylimidazole.11-13

In a recent paper,9-10 we suggested an alternative interpretation of the protein spectra that invoked vibrational coupling of the bound O2 with internal modes of the proximal (and possibly the distal) histidylimidazole fragment. The plausibility of this interpretation was supported by the results of concurrent and previous11-13 model compound studies. In that report, we suggested that such vibrational interactions may prove useful as a probe of subtle alterations in structure and bonding at the active site. Herein we report results of studies of O2 adducts of imidazole-ligated cobalt porphyrins and demonstrate that the formation of hydrogen bonds between the coordinated imidazole and other solution components does not alter the inherent strength of the cobalt–oxygen linkage but does lead to significant changes in the observed vibrational patterns. The similarity of these patterns to those observed for the protein systems11-13 and the implications for structural interpretations are discussed.

Experimental Section

Compound Preparation. A "jellyfish" porphyrin, 5a,15a-bis-[2-(2,2-dimethylpropanamido)phenyl]-10a,20a-(nonanediomimidodio-phenyle)porphyrin (H2Azpivaa-d8), was prepared by coupling of 5a,10a,15a,20a-tetraakis(o-aminophenyl)porphyrin with nonanediol chloride followed by treatment with pivaloyl chloride. H2Azpivaa-d4 was prepared by using the same procedure replacing pivaloyl and acetic acid by their deuteriated analogues as starting materials. Cobalt complexes of these porphyrins were prepared by reaction of cobaltous chloride with the porphyrin in dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) in the presence of 2,6-lutidine. The complexes were purified by column chromatography on an alumina column according to procedure of Collman et al.15

Imidazole (Im) was purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and purified by sublimation prior to deuteration. 2-Deuterioimidazole (Im-d2) was synthesized by heating imidazole in deuterium oxide (D2O) at 50 °C for 12 h. The initial product of Im-d2 was d2-imidazole, which was oxidized to Im-d1 by rapid exchange of the deuteriourime group (N=H) for a proton in aqueous solution.14 4,5-Trideuterioimidazole (Im-d3) was obtained by heating Im and D2O in a high-pressure reaction vessel at 250 °C for 72 h followed by D/H exchange of the deuteriourime group in water at room temperature. 4,5-Dideuterioimidazole (Im-d4) was synthesized from Im-d3 by sublimation of an aqueous solution at 50 °C for 12 h. 1H NMR (in CDCl3) was used to confirm deuteration at the desired positions. The deuteriated analogues were found to be >95% deuterated at the indicated positions with no significant deuteration at other positions. All bases were sublimed prior to sample preparation for RR measurements.

Tri-n-octylphosphine oxide (TNOP) was purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. and used without further purification. Solvents methylene chloride (CH2Cl2), its deuteriated analogue (CD2Cl2), and deuterated chloroform (CDCl3) were purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. Methylene chloride was purified by refluxing over calcium hydride and then distilled. The CH2Cl2 and CDCl3 were dried with calcium hydride at room temperature.

The gases O2 (greater than 99%, AmeriGas) and O3 (~98%, Monsanto Research) were used without purification. Sample of "scrambled" oxygen (O2O3, O2O3 = 1:2:1) were prepared by electrical discharge of an equimolar mixture of O2 and O3. Ozone production using this process was confirmed by including activated 4A molecular sieve in the reaction flask. The mixing ratio of oxygen isotopic molecules was determined by Raman spectroscopy.

Spectral Measurements. The RR spectra were recorded on a Spex Model 1403 double monochromator equipped with a Hamamatsu R928 photomultiplier tube and a Spex DMB2 computer. Excitation at 406.7 nm was accomplished with a Coherent Model 110-K3 krypton ion laser. Power at the sample was between 5 and 15 mW. A spectral band-pass of 4 cm−1 was routinely used.

Spectral measurements were carried out by using the "minibulb" technique.1 Concentration studies were conducted by transferring precise volumes of a CH2Cl2 solution of known concentration of Im to the minibulb. The solvent was vacuum stripped from the partially frozen solution. The cobalt porphyrin was then added, and the sample was prepared following well-documented procedures9-13 employing CD2Cl2 as the solvent. A CT Model 21 closed-cycle helium refrigerator was used to maintain samples at the desired temperature during measurements. The exact temperature of the sample was calculated from the measured ratio of intensities of Stokes and anti-Stokes Raman bands of the solvent.14 Accuracy of the frequency readings was ±1 cm−1.

Results and Discussion

As will be made evident in the following discussion, the O2 adducts of the imidazole complexes of cobalt porphyrins exhibit complicating RR spectral patterns characterized by multiple oxygen-isotope-sensitive features. These are interpreted with the aid of strategic isotopic labeling experiments and well-controlled variation of solution conditions. In addition, we have employed the cobalt complex of a highly protected porphyrin, i.e., 5a,15a-bis[2-(2,2-dimethylpropanamido)phenyl]-10a,20a-(nonanediomimidodio-phenyle)porphyrin, abbreviated CoAzpivaa (structure 1). The use of this protected porphyrin minimizes association (and vibrational coupling)9 of the bound dioxygen with excess imidazole in the solution, thereby allowing attention to be focused on interactions with the trans-axial-coordinated imidazole.

Documentation of vibrational interactions of O2 with this trans-axial ligand is most effectively accomplished with the use

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(1) (a) Permanent address: Regional Laboratory of Physicochemical Analyses and Structural Research, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. (b) Marquette University. (c) Hokuriku University.


of selectively deuteriated imidazole analogues which alter vibrational coupling interactions while maintaining the chemical integrity of the system. To properly interpret the resulting spectra of the various imidazole isotopomer complexes, it is necessary to document the changes in the imidazole internal modes upon selective deuteriation. Therefore, before proceeding to the discussion of the O₂ adducts, the spectra of the imidazoles are presented and discussed.

A. Raman Spectra of Imidazole and Deuteriated Analogues. The Raman spectra of imidazole and its deuteriated analogues (as solutions in CHCl₃) are shown in Figure 1. Only the carbon-deuteriated analogues were used, the N-H proton being retained so as not to introduce any chemical differences. As is evident, all of these analogues exhibit bands between 1050 and 1150 cm⁻¹ (i.e., in the ν(O-O) region) and thereby provide opportunities for vibrational coupling of ν(O-O) with internal modes of the base ligands. In the cases of Im (trace A) and Im-d₁ (trace B) a strong polarized band occurs near 1140 cm⁻¹. In trace C it is seen that the strongest feature shifts down to 1118 cm⁻¹ for Im-d₂ while a relatively strong doublet is exhibited by Im-d₃ (trace D). In addition to these strong features, the Im and Im-d₂ analogues exhibit weak polarized bands at 1068/1063 cm⁻¹ (doublet) and 1088 cm⁻¹, respectively. The 1098-cm⁻¹ feature is especially important to note that in the cases of Im_d₂ (trace C) and Im-d₃ (trace D) there is no evidence for the presence of bands below ~1100 cm⁻¹. Thus, in these cases, there is apparently no opportunity for coupling with ν(0-0), whose natural frequency is expected to occur near 1075 cm⁻¹ (vide infra). This set of spectra confirms the fact that imidazole and its deuteriated analogues exhibit a number of bands in the ν(O-O) region. Furthermore, these data demonstrate that it is possible to alter the vibrational frequencies via selective deuteration and thereby alter the specific coupling interactions so as to gain insight into the spectroscopic behavior of vibrationally coupled bound dioxygen.

Unfortunately, several factors prevent a straightforward prediction of the possible coupling interactions. First, the spectra shown in Figure 1 are those of noncoordinated imidazoles. In the absence of an effective enhancement mechanism, the natural frequencies of heme-coordinated imidazole are not directly obtainable. It may be expected that the general intensity patterns will persist in the spectra of the coordinated species but that coordination-induced frequency shifts may occur. Indeed, the few reports of Raman spectra of imidazole complexes support this expectation. Thus, Salama and Spiro report that an imidazole mode observed at 1142 cm⁻¹ (in acetone) shifts up to 1149 cm⁻¹ upon coordination to Co(II). Similarly, Walters and Spira as well as Asher and co-workers report shifts of a free imidazole modes at ~1137 and ~1100 cm⁻¹ (H₂O solution) to 1142 and 1109 cm⁻¹ upon coordination to [Fe(III)(CN)]⁻³. Comparable shifts of infrared bands in this region have been reported for imidazole complexes of several transition metals. Thus, at least in the case of natural-abundance imidazole, internal modes in this region may be expected to shift up by 5-10 cm⁻¹ upon coordination.

In addition to coordination-induced shifts, the internal modes of imidazole may also be sensitive to hydrogen-bond interactions involving the NH, either through self-association or with other solution components. The spectra shown in Figure 1 were obtained at high concentrations of imidazole and represent self-associated species. At concentrations sufficiently low to eliminate self-association, high-quality Raman spectra could not be obtained.

In summary of this section, the Raman spectra of each of the imidazole analogues exhibit one or two strong and several weak bands in the ν(O-O) region that may vibrationally couple with ν(O-O). However, the spectra shown in Figure 1 serve only as an approximate guide for interpretation of the spectra of the O₂ adducts inasmuch as the frequencies of the internal ligand modes may shift upon coordination to the Co(II) porphyrin ligands and are also expected to be sensitive to association with excess imidazole in solution (vide infra). Nevertheless, as will be shown in the next sections, a knowledge of the approximate frequencies of the internal modes of the various deuteriated imidazoles, taken together with the expectation of coordination- and association-induced shifts derived from previous studies, permits a self-consistent analysis of the observed RR spectra of the various O₂ adducts.

B. Resonance Raman Spectra of O₂ Adducts. 1. Vibrational Coupling of ν(O-O) with Internal Modes of Imidazoles. The RR spectra of the O₂ adducts of the imidazole complex of Co₃(μ₃-aza) are given in Figure 2. The spectrum of the ¹⁸O₂ adduct (trace A) exhibits two lines at 1158 and 1138 cm⁻¹. This spectrum was obtained in C₂H₂Cl₂ to eliminate interference by the 1156-cm⁻¹


Figure 1. Raman spectra of imidazole and deuteriated analogues. Solutions in CHCl₃, 2-3 M, 514.5-nm excitation, 150 mW at the sample, spinning NMR tube with line focusing (cylindrical lens), room temperature.
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Imidazole

1138 CoAz

P'V


Figure 2. Resonance Raman spectra of O₂ adducts of CoAzπναα complex with imidazole. Conditions as in text. The 1051-cm⁻¹ line (●) is due to C₂H₅Cl₂.

(CH₂Cl₂) solvent band. The band at 1051 cm⁻¹ is due to C₂H₅Cl₂. Porphyrin bands are observed at 1212, 1108, 1078, 1015, and 1006 cm⁻¹. The spectrum of the ¹⁸O₂ adduct is shown in trace B. In this case, the β-pyrole deuteriated porphyrin is utilized to avoid overlap of the ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) with the porphyrin mode at 1078 cm⁻¹ (see in trace A). The 1078-cm⁻¹ mode is extremely sensitive to β-pyrole deuteriation and shifts out of this region in the case of the pyrrole-deuteriated porphyrin. As can be seen in trace B, two new bands appear at 1068 and 1082 cm⁻¹ in the spectrum of the ¹⁸O₂ adduct, the higher frequency component showing the greater intensity. Although the appearance of two bands in the ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) (trace A) and two bands in the ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) (trace B) regions may suggest the presence of two structural conformers, the results shown in trace C demonstrate that this cannot be the correct interpretation. In this case (trace C) the solution contains the ¹⁶O₂, ¹⁸O₂, and ¹⁶O¹⁸O adducts. The strong symmetric feature at 1111 cm⁻¹ is readily assigned to ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O), i.e., there is no evidence for the presence of a second conformer. Instead, the appearance of multiple bands in the ¹⁶O₂ and ¹⁸O₂ adducts is the result of vibrational coupling of ν(¹⁶O⁻¹⁸O) and ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) with different internal modes of coordinated imidazole.

The validity of this interpretation is supported by comparison of the corresponding spectra obtained with the deuteriated analogues of imidazole. These spectra are shown in Figures 3–5. In the case of the C₂-deuteriated analogue (Im-d₁, Figure 3), the spectrum of the ¹⁶O₂ adduct (trace A) and two bands in the ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) (trace B) regions may suggest the presence of two structural conformers, the results shown in trace C demonstrate that this cannot be the correct interpretation. In this case (trace C) the solution contains the ¹⁶O₂, ¹⁸O₂, and ¹⁶O¹⁸O adducts. The strong symmetric feature at 1111 cm⁻¹ is readily assigned to ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O), i.e., there is no evidence for the presence of a second conformer. Instead, the appearance of multiple bands in the ¹⁶O₂ and ¹⁸O₂ adducts is the result of vibrational coupling of ν(¹⁶O⁻¹⁸O) and ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) with different internal modes of coordinated imidazole.

A different vibrational pattern is observed for the adducts of complexes bearing axial ligated [4,5-H₂]imidazole (Im-d₂) and [2,4,5-H₂]imidazole (Im-d₃) (Figures 4 and 5). The spectra of the ¹⁶O₂ adducts exhibit strong symmetric bands near 1145 cm⁻¹ having weak secondary features at lower frequencies (1123 cm⁻¹ in Figure 4A; 1115 and 1127 cm⁻¹ in Figures 5A; see insert). The ν(¹⁶O⁻¹⁸O) regions in these two cases exhibit strong symmetric bands at 1078 cm⁻¹ and no weak secondary features. On the other hand, the ν(¹⁸O⁻¹⁸O) region is remarkably altered for these two cases (Figures 4C and 5C) relative to the spectra shown in Figures 2C and 3C.

It is important to emphasize that chemically innocuous deuteriation has been employed. These analogues have identical chemical reactivity and therefore, in the absence of vibrational interaction, are expected to yield identical spectra. The complex
behavior observed in the RR spectra is thus the result of complicated vibrational mode coupling. Nevertheless, it is satisfying to point out that this complete set of complex data can be reasonably explained in an internally consistent manner by invoking vibrational coupling interactions among the specific modes of the various imidazole and O₂ isotopomer pairs.

Approximation of the bound dioxygen as a harmonic oscillator leads to an expected (oxygen) isotopic shift of 33 cm⁻¹. That is, given a ν(O⁻⁻O) inherent frequency of 1111 cm⁻¹, the ν(O⁻⁻O) and υ(O⁻⁻O) are expected to occur at 1144 and 1078 cm⁻¹, respectively. The spectra of free imidazole and Im-d₁ (Figure 1) exhibit a band in the ν(O⁻⁻O) region that is expected to shift up to ~1150 cm⁻¹ upon coordination.20-21 Interaction of the ν(O⁻⁻O) (inherent frequency = 1144 cm⁻¹) with this mode results in the appearance of two bands shifted by ~6 cm⁻¹ from their inherent frequencies; i.e., the 1144- and 1152-cm⁻¹ modes shift to 1138 and 1158 cm⁻¹ (Figures 2A and 3A). In both cases, the lower frequency component contains the major contribution of ν(O-O) and exhibits greater intensity. It is interesting to point out that even very subtle differences in these two spectra (Figures 2A and 3A) are consistent with this interpretation. Thus, in the cases of Im-d₁ and Im-d₂ (Figures 4B and 5B), isolated symmetric bands are observed at 1078 cm⁻¹, near the predicted inherent frequency (based on the 1111 cm⁻¹ bands in Figures 2C and 3C). As seen in Figures 1C and 1D, Im-d₁ and Im-d₂ do not possess internal modes in this region; i.e., no vibrational coupling is expected in these cases. In the case of natural abundance imidazole, a mode is predicted to occur near 1060-1070 cm⁻¹ (i.e., a slight shift upon coordination may occur). The spectrum shown in Figure 2A exhibits two bands at 1068 and 1082 cm⁻¹. These result from interaction of ν(O⁻⁻O) (inherent frequency at 1078 cm⁻¹) with the imidazole mode whose apparent inherent frequency is 1072 cm⁻¹ (i.e., induced shifts of ±4 cm⁻¹). The Im-d₁ internal mode is expected near 1085 cm⁻¹ (Figure 1B). Interaction of this with ν(O⁻⁻O) gives rise to two bands at 1076 and 1089 cm⁻¹, implying an inherent frequency of the (coordinate) Im-d₁ mode at 1087 cm⁻¹ (i.e., induced shifts of ±2 cm⁻¹).

The preceding discussion employs a single concept (vibrationally coupled dioxygen) to provide a unified treatment that clarifies a large body of apparently complex spectral data. In fact, as we had pointed out in our previous work,13 the spectroscopic patterns observed in the RR spectra of these O₂ adducts approximate that expected for coupled oscillators as discussed in standard references.22 A quantitative treatment of the frequency perturbations and relative intensities of coupled modes for all of the O₂ adducts thus far studied,10-13 as well as a discussion of the structural and electronic factors that dictate coupling strength in these systems, will be presented in a forthcoming article.26 At this time it is only necessary to point out that, in the cases studied here, all of the observed frequency perturbations and approximate relative intensities of the various coupled partners are in good agreement with those calculated by using the equations given in ref 25.

In summary of this section, the ν(O-O) of the three oxygen isotopomers vibrationally couple with internal modes of the trans-coordinated imidazole, giving rise to shifts of ν(O-O) from its inherent frequency and the appearance of weak secondary features associated with the imidazole internal modes. These latter features gain intensity as a consequence of the vibrational coupling with ν(O-O). When the inherent frequencies of the imidazole internal modes are altered by selective deuteration, different vibrational patterns are observed. However, all of the observed

frequency shifts in $\nu(O-O)$, as well as the exact positions and approximate intensities of the weak secondary features, are readily explained in terms of a vibrationally coupled dioxygen, the strength of the coupling depending on energy matching of the $\nu(O-O)$ with the interacting imidazole modes.\(^\text{13,25,26}\)

2. Effect of Hydrogen Bonding of Coordinated Imidazole on the Vibrational Patterns of the Dioxygen Adducts.

The highly protected cobalt porphyrin used in this study shields the bound dioxygen from interaction with solution components. This statement is supported by the fact that in the present study the $\nu(CH_3Cl_2)$ mode at 1156 cm$^{-1}$, whereas for corresponding complexes of unprotected porphyrins (such as CoTPP) the $\nu(CH_3Cl_2)$ is known to vocationally couple with the internal mode of an associated CH$_2$Cl$_2$ molecule.\(^\text{10-13}\) The elimination of direct interaction between bound O$_2$ and other solution components facilitates selective modulation of the properties of the bound imidazole by variation of solution conditions.

All of the studies described in the previous section were conducted in the presence of large excesses of imidazole, i.e., ligand concentrations of $\sim 10^{-2}$ M and cobalt porphyrin concentration of $\sim 5 \times 10^{-4}$ M. At this high concentration in nonprotic solvents imidazole is known to self-associate.\(^\text{12-24}\) Thus, it is likely that the spectra shown in Figures 2-5 correspond to O$_2$ adducts in which the trans-coordinated imidazole is hydrogen bonded to excess imidazole present in the solution. Such interactions may be decreased or eliminated by increasing the temperature or decreasing the concentration of imidazole. The interesting spectral patterns shown in Figures 6 and 7 support this expectation.

In Figure 6 are shown the spectra obtained for the $^{16}$O$_2$ adduct of CoAz$_{d_2}$ complex with imidazole. Temperature $\sim 185$ K; imidazole concentrations estimated as described in text.

(trace A) while at $6 \times 10^{-4}$ M imidazole, the 1127/1148 cm$^{-1}$ pair dominates (trace C). It is interesting to note that at very low imidazole concentrations (traces D and E) a base-free dioxygen adduct is apparently formed as is evidenced by the appearance of an 1173-cm$^{-1}$ feature that shifts to 1107 cm$^{-1}$ in the case of $^{18}$O$_2$ [$\Delta\nu(^{16}O/^{18}O) = 66$ cm$^{-1}$]. The nature of this adduct, which also forms in the total absence of base, will be dealt with in a future paper. However, its appearance is peripheral to the present issue and will not be discussed further here.

The results presented in Figures 6 and 7 indicate that the O$_2$ adduct that has a hydrogen-bonded imidazole axial ligand gives rise to the 1138/1158 cm$^{-1}$ pair while the non-hydrogen-bonded analogue is characterized by the 1127/1148 cm$^{-1}$ pair of bands. To provide further support for this interpretation, we have included a study wherein a third solution component, which is known to hydrogen bond with imidazole,\(^\text{24}\) has been added. The spectra shown in Figure 8 demonstrate the effect of adding tri-n-octylphosphine oxide (TNOP) to a solution containing the $^{16}$O$_2$ adduct at low imidazole concentration. As is evident in the figure, the 1127/1148 cm$^{-1}$ pair, characteristic of non-hydrogen-bound axial imidazole, is converted to the 1138/1158 cm$^{-1}$ pattern upon the addition of TNOP. Obviously, this behavior is consistent with the contention that the 1138/1158 cm$^{-1}$ pattern is characteristic of the hydrogen-bonded imidazole dioxygen adduct.

It is especially important to note that similar studies of non-coupled $\nu(O-O)$ do not show these effects. Thus, $\nu(^{16}O-^{18}O)$ of the corresponding Im-$d_2$ complex (Figure 4A) is only weakly coupled, if at all. Variations of temperature or imidazole concentration, as well as addition of TNOP, all failed to alter the position of $\nu(^{16}O-^{18}O)$ (spectra not shown). Furthermore, similar variations of conditions failed to affect the behavior of $\nu(^{16}O-^{18}O)$ of the Im-$d_2$ analogue. We also wish to point out that both forms (i.e., the 1138/1158 and the 1148/1127 cm$^{-1}$ species) exhibited identical frequencies for $\nu$($\text{Co}-O$), i.e., $520$ cm$^{-1}$.

The most reasonable interpretation of the two distinctly different spectral patterns resulting from these controlled variations (temperature, imidazole concentration, and addition of TNOP) is that the inherent frequencies of the interacting imidazole internal modes are different for the two types of ligated imidazole. Thus, the
hydrogen-bonded form possesses an internal mode whose inherent frequency is 1152 cm
\(^{-1}\). Interaction of this mode with the \(v(16\text{O}-16\text{O})\) at 1144 cm
\(^{-1}\) gives rise to two bands observed at 1138 and 1158 cm
\(^{-1}\) (i.e., +6 and -6 cm
\(^{-1}\) shifts). The observation of a strong 1148-cm
\(^{-1}\) feature, along with a weak secondary band at 1127 cm
\(^{-1}\), indicates that the non-hydrogen-bonded axial imidazole possesses an internal mode having an inherent frequency of 1131 cm
\(^{-1}\). Interaction of this mode with the \(v(16\text{O}-16\text{O})\) at 1144 cm
\(^{-1}\) gives rise to two bands at 1127 and 1148 cm
\(^{-1}\) (i.e., shifted by -4 and +4 cm
\(^{-1}\) from their inherent frequencies). It is also satisfying to note that the strength of the interaction is greater for the former case where the inherent frequency difference is 8 cm
\(^{-1}\) (1152 - 1144 cm
\(^{-1}\) than for the latter (inherent frequency difference is 13 cm
\(^{-1}\) (1144 - 1131 cm
\(^{-1}\))). That is, the observed frequency perturbations are 6 and 4 cm
\(^{-1}\) respectively, and the 1158/1138 cm
\(^{-1}\) ratio is larger than the 1127/1148 cm
\(^{-1}\) ratio. Finally, to conclude this section, it is important to emphasize that hydrogen-bond formation by the coordinated imidazole does not lead to changes in the inherent frequency of the \(v(O-O)\) (or \(v(\text{Co-O})\)). The only consequence of such hydrogen bonding is a change in the observed spectral pattern that results from alteration of vibrational coupling of \(v(O-O)\) with internal modes of the proximal (and possibly the distal) histidylimidazole. The present results confirm our previous suggestion that even a chemically insignificant alteration can lead to a remarkably complex spectral perturbation. Thus, in the present work, hydrogen-bond formation at the imidazole NH does not lead to a change in the inherent frequency of \(v(O-O)\) but does dramatically alter spectral patterns as a result of imidazole internal-mode changes.

The potential utility of such spectroscopic consequences in probing hemeprotein active-site structure depends ultimately on a better understanding of imidazole internal-mode structure and how it is affected by peripheral substituent (i.e., \(-CH_2\)) disposition, hydrogen bonding, and coordinate-bond strength. While we and others are continuing efforts to identify conditions that lead to direct resonance enhancement of imidazole modes in the RR spectra of native hemeproteins, none have yet been identified and prospects are not hopeful (e.g., see ref 20). Thus, as was pointed out in our earlier report, systematic analysis of the vibrational spectra of isotopically labeled histidylimidazole models and corresponding metal complexes will be required to provide the framework for a structural interpretation of the spectral patterns observed for \(O_2\) adducts of the cobalt-substituted proteins.

The present studies do directly address the interesting proposal that hydrogen bonding at the proximal histidylimidazole can affect the strength of the metal–oxygen linkage in hemeprotein–\(O_2\) adducts (ref 5 and references therein). Our results indicate that such interactions have no measurable effect on the inherent frequency of \(v(O-O)\), i.e., in the uncoupled systems variation of imidazole concentration and temperature had no effect on \(v(18\text{O}-18\text{O})\), \(v(16\text{O}-16\text{O})\), or \(v(\text{Co-O})\). While the sensitivity of the \(v(O-O)\) response to such changes may be low and the strength of hydrogen bonding in our systems (i.e., self-association or association with TNOP) may be weaker than that present in the proteins, our results are in accord with conclusions reached in a recent report by Traylor and Popovitz-Biro. These workers showed that the \(O_2\) affinity of a heme complex that possessed an internally hydrogen-bonded imidazole axial ligand was not significantly different from a non-hydrogen-bonded analogue.

D. Conclusions. The present study supports our earlier proposal that internal modes of the proximal histidylimidazole are observed in the RR spectra of \(O_2\) adducts of cobalt-substituted hemeproteins. The present results also confirm the suggestion made in the earlier work that subtle changes in structure and bonding in the heme pocket, such as variations in proximal imidazole hydrogen bonding, can lead to dramatic alterations in the observed spectral patterns. However, to the extent that \(v(O-O)\) and \(v(\text{Co-O})\) are effective probes of metal–oxygen bond strength, the present results indicate that hydrogen bonding of the proximal imidazole has little effect on the metal–oxygen linkage, a conclusion that agrees with that made recently by Traylor and Popovitz-Biro.

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