

Ti, V, Nb Metalloporphyrin Chemistry

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In recent years, much interest has been shown in synthetic analogs of various biological systems. The bioinorganic approach to the understanding and utilizing of hemoproteins has led to numerous studies of synthesis and reactivity of dioxygen adduct of metal complexes. Relatively few studies of Ti, V, Nb porphyrins have been published [1-20], however, Nb, V and Ti show appropriate characteristics for the study of O_2 binding [1].

The first peroxoporphyrin metal complex with symmetrically bonded dioxygen was reported in 1976 [2]. The dihalide complexes, which are precursors of low valent titanium complexes which will bind dioxygen, were prepared in 1977 [3-6]. Low valent titanium complexes show various types of autoxidation, which are determined by characteristics of axial ligands [7,8,10]. Recently, it was reported that titanium porphyrin compounds are catalysts for the epoxidation of olefins by alkylperoxides [9].

In 1934, the first oxovanadium(IV) porphyrin complex was found in petroleum and shale. However, the inertness of V=O moiety limited the study of vanadium porphyrin chemistry. Low valent vanadium(II) can be prepared from vanadium(IV) porphyrin halides [11,12], but vanadium(III) complexes have not been reported yet.

A French group succeeded in the preparation of acetato-oxo niobium(V) and trioxo niobium(V) complexes [13]. The crystal structures of these complexes were determined, and the complexes were found to be seven-coordinate [14-16]. The porphyrin complex of a tri- μ -oxo niobium dimer ($Nb_2TPP_2O_3$) has two different structures from different solvents, which means that the complex ($Nb_2TPP_2O_3$) has several stable configurations, depending on the nature of the crystallization solvent. Niobium(IV) porphyrin complexes of O_2 have been reported [18]. Using the O_2 complex, catalytic activity of niobium porphyrins for photochemical induced epoxidation was reported in 1985 [19].

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