

^1H nuclear magnetic resonance studies of the reaction of iron(III) porphyrin cation radical with aryl Grignard reagents.

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Addition of aryl Grignard reagents to an iron(III) tetraphenylporphyrin π cation radical, $[(\text{TPP}\cdot)\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{Cl}] (\text{SbCl}_6)$, in dichloromethane solution at 202 K yields a mixture of σ -phenyl iron(IV) tetraphenylporphyrin, $[(\text{TPP})\text{Fe}^{\text{IV}}(\text{Ph})] (\text{SbCl}_6)$, and σ -phenyl iron(III) tetraphenylporphyrin, $(\text{TPP})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}\text{Cl}$. A σ -phenyliron(III) complex is also formed by nucleophilic addition to the tetraphenylporphyrin macrocycle accompanied by σ -phenyl axial coordination. The complexes formed were identified by ^1H NMR spectroscopy. A new route for generating σ -aryl iron(IV) porphyrin species from the iron(III) porphyrin π cation radical was established. The characteristic ^1H NMR pattern of the low-spin iron(III) porphyrin ring modified species reflects its C_s symmetry and includes four upfield-shifted pyrrole resonances (2.31, -10.40, 20.39 and -20.87 ppm, 202 K) accompanied by a set of σ -phenyl resonances (*ortho*, -188.4; *p*-H, -102.5; *p*-CH₃ for σ -*p*-tolyl, 162.3 ppm). Analysis of the paramagnetic shifts of the σ -phenyl (σ -*p*-tolyl) ligand of the new species indicates a high π spin density consistent with the electronic structure of low-spin iron(III) and the contribution of a σ -delocalization mechanism via donation from a filled σ -phenyl orbital to an empty d_{z^2} orbital. The formation of a low-spin σ -phenyliron(III) isoporphyrin or low-spin σ -phenyl *N*-arylporphyrin is considered. The *meso* substitution can be accounted for by a mechanism which emphasizes the radical nature of the reaction substrate and involves the formation of σ -transient forms.

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