

An integrated approach to the mid-spin state ( $S=3/2$ ) in six-coordinate iron(III)chiroporphyrins.

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An intermediate-spin state very close to the mid-spin state ( $S = 3/2$ ) can be stabilized in a ferric porphyrin by an integrated approach which combines the favorable effects of a weak axial field strength and of a small macrocycle hole. Axial ligand exchange by reaction of chloroiron(III)tetramethylchiorporphyrin [(TMCP)FeCl] with silver perchlorate in ethanol–chloroform leads to ethanol-ligated ferric chiorporphyrins. Two distinct crystalline products containing a bisethanol complex  $[(\text{TMCP})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{EtOH})_2]\text{ClO}_4$  and three variants of a mixed ethanol–water complex  $[(\text{TMCP})\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}(\text{EtOH})(\text{H}_2\text{O})]\text{ClO}_4$  have been structurally characterized in the solid state. The small hole of the ruffled chiorporphyrin and the weak axial oxygen ligation result in strongly tetragonally distorted complexes. The six-coordinate species exhibit long axial Fe–O bond distances (2.173(5)–2.272(4) Å) and the shortest equatorial Fe–N(av) distances (1.950(5)–1.978(7) Å) found as yet in a ferric porphyrin, reflecting a singly occupied  $d_{z^2}$  orbital and a largely depopulated  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  orbital. An intriguing case of bond-stretch isomerism is seen for the axial Fe–O bonds in two crystallographically independent mixed ethanol–water species, and it is accounted for by their distinct intra- and intermolecular hydrogen-bond arrays. The Mössbauer spectrum ( $\delta = 0.35(1)$  mm s<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta E_Q = 3.79(1)$  mm s<sup>-1</sup> at 77 K) indicates a strong tetragonal distortion around the ferric ion, in agreement with the structural data. The value of the magnetic moment ( $\mu_{\text{eff}} = 3.8 \mu_B$  in the range 50–300 K) strongly supports a mid-spin state ( $S = 3/2$ ). The EPR spectrum at 80 K ( $g_{\perp} \approx 4.0$ ,  $g_{\parallel} \approx 2.00$ ) is consistent with a nearly pure mid-spin state ( $^4A_2$ ) with little rhombic distortion. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in CDCl<sub>3</sub>–EtOH exhibit upfield-shifted resonances for the pyrrole protons ( $\delta \approx -30$  ppm) which are consistent with the depopulated iron  $d_{x^2-y^2}$  orbital. Solution equilibria with water and various alcohols, and the spin state of the corresponding species, are discussed on the basis of the NMR data. The bisethanol and ethanol–water species are potential models of unknown hemoprotein ligation states such as Tyr(OH)/Tyr(OH) or Tyr(OH)/H<sub>2</sub>O that could be obtained by site-directed mutagenesis.

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