## Supporting Information

# Guanidinato Complexes of Iridium: Ligand-Donor Strength, <br> $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ Reactivity, and (Alkene)peroxoiridium(III) Intermediates 

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Figure S1. Electronic absorption spectra of $0.5 \mathrm{mM} 2 \mathbf{2 a}-2 \mathrm{~g}$ in toluene (path length, 0.5 cm ). Color key: 2a, solid black line; $\mathbf{2 b}$, dashed black line; 2c, solid red line; 2d, dashed red line; $\mathbf{2 e}$, solid blue line; $\mathbf{2 f}$, solid green line; $\mathbf{2 g}$, solid brown line.


Figure S2. Solid-state IR spectra ( KBr ) of the dicarbonyl complexes 2a-2g. Top: 2a ( - , black), $\mathbf{2 c}(-$, red), and 2e (-, blue). Bottom: 2b (-, black), 2d (-, red), $\mathbf{2 f}(-$, green), and $\mathbf{2 g}(-$, brown).

Table S1. IR absorption bands of the dicarbonyl complexes $\mathbf{2 a}-\mathbf{2 g}\left(2200-1000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right){ }^{a}$

| Complex | $v_{\mathrm{CO}}\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2a | $2051(\mathrm{~m}), 2042(\mathrm{~s}), 1972(\mathrm{~m}), 1956(\mathrm{~s})$ | $1592,1580,1572$ | 1489,1483 | $1450,1421,1409$ | 1225 |
| 2b | $2051(\mathrm{~s}), 2033(\mathrm{w}), 1963(\mathrm{~s}), 1941(\mathrm{~m})$ | $1589,1575,1538$ | 1490,1481 | $1448,1399,1379$ | $1300,1281,1221$ |
| 2c | $2058(\mathrm{sh}), 2044(\mathrm{~s}), 1970(\mathrm{~s}), 1956(\mathrm{~m})$ | 1578,1565 | 1506 | $1457,1422,1413$ | 1222 |
| 2d | $2053(\mathrm{~s}), 1958(\mathrm{~s}), 1940(\mathrm{w})$ | 1540 | 1506 | 1412 | 1297 |
| 2e | $2041(\mathrm{~s}), 2021(\mathrm{w}), 1974(\mathrm{~m}), 1962(\mathrm{~s})$, | $1580(\mathrm{sh}), 1571$ | 1504 | $1455,1430,1401$ | $1285,1249,1236,1222$, |
|  | $1930(\mathrm{w})$ |  |  |  | $1178,1107,1032$ |
| 2f | $2047(\mathrm{~s}), 2041(\mathrm{~s}), 1977(\mathrm{~s})$ | 1594,1570 | 1465 | $1420,1409,1374$ | $1254,1214,1180,1094$, |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2g | $2046(\mathrm{~s}), 2041(\mathrm{~s}), 1966(\mathrm{~s})$ | 1591,1564 | 1467,1442 | $1419,1412,1360$ | $1322,1262,1208,1099$, |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1021 |

[^0]Table S2. Additional crystal and data collection parameters for $\left[\operatorname{Ir}\left\{\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{NC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{N}\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right)\right\}(\right.$ cod $\left.)\right]$, 1d, and $\left[\operatorname{Ir}\left\{\operatorname{PhNC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{NPh}\right\}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}\right], \mathbf{2 b}$.

|  | $\mathbf{1 d}$ | 2b |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Crystal habit, color | prism, yellow | rod, colorless |
| Crystal size | $0.27 \times 0.17 \times 0.16 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$ | $0.36 \times 0.08 \times 0.08 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$ |
| $F(000)$ | 592 | 992 |
| $\theta$ range for data collection | 3.00 to $27.87^{\circ}$ | 3.32 to $27.87^{\circ}$ |
| Limiting indices | $-12 \leq h \leq 12,-12 \leq k \leq 12,-17 \leq l \leq 17$ | $-22 \leq h \leq 19,-22 \leq k \leq 22,-8 \leq l \leq 8$ |
| Completeness to $\theta$ | $99.4 \%\left(\theta=27.87^{\circ}\right)$ | $99.8 \%\left(\theta=27.87^{\circ}\right)$ |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.4708 and 0.3160 | 0.5963 and 0.1812 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ | Full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ |

Table S3. Selected interatomic distances $(\AA)$ for $\left[\operatorname{Ir}\left\{\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{NC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{N}\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right)\right\}(\operatorname{cod})\right]$, $\mathbf{1 d}$, and $\left[\operatorname{Ir}\left\{\operatorname{PhNC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{NPh}\right\}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}\right], \mathbf{2 b} .{ }^{a}$

| 1d |  |  | 2b |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Ir-N1 | $2.078(2)$ | Ir-N1 | $2.069(6)$ |
| Ir-N2 | $2.087(2)$ |  |  |
| Ir-C20 | $2.115(3)$ | Ir-C10 | $1.832(9)$ |
| Ir-C21 | $2.107(3)$ |  |  |
| Ir-C24 | $2.111(3)$ |  |  |
| Ir-C25 | $2.104(3)$ |  | $1.359(8)$ |
|  |  |  | $1.419(9)$ |
| N1-C1 | $1.347(4)$ | N1-C1 |  |
| N1-C2 | $1.412(4)$ | N1-C2 |  |
| N2-C1 | $1.350(4)$ |  | $1.338(11)$ |
| N2-C9 | $1.411(4)$ |  | $1.480(7)$ |
| N3-C1 | $1.359(4)$ | N2-C1 |  |
| N3-C16 | $1.457(4)$ | N2-C8 | $1.171(11)$ |
| N3-C18 | $1.472(4)$ |  |  |
| C20-C21 | $1.417(5)$ | C10-O |  |
| C24-C25 | $1.419(5)$ |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Numbers in parentheses are standard uncertainties in the last significant figures. Atoms are labeled as indicated in Figures 2 and 3.

Table S4. Selected angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ for $\left[\operatorname{Ir}\left\{\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{NC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{N}\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right)\right\}(\right.$ cod $\left.)\right]$, $\mathbf{1 d}$, and $\left[\mathrm{Ir}\left\{\mathrm{PhNC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{NPh}\right\}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}\right], \mathbf{2 b} .{ }^{a}$

| 1d |  | 2b |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | ---: |
| N1-Ir-N2 | $63.76(9)$ | N1-Ir-N1\#1 | $63.8(3)$ |
| N1-Ir-C20 | $104.93(11)$ | C10-Ir-N1 | $103.9(3)$ |
| N1-Ir-C21 | $101.46(11)$ | C10\#1-Ir-N1 | $167.5(3)$ |
| N1-Ir-C24 | $159.33(13)$ |  |  |
| N1-Ir-C25 | $155.22(12)$ |  |  |
| N2-Ir-C24 | $105.58(11)$ |  |  |
| N2-Ir-C25 | $101.77(12)$ |  |  |
| N2-Ir-C20 | $158.32(12)$ |  |  |
| N2-Ir-C21 | $155.78(12)$ |  |  |
| C21-Ir-C20 | $39.21(13)$ | C10\#1-Ir-C10 | $88.5(5)$ |
| C25-Ir-C24 | $39.35(13)$ |  |  |
| C24-Ir-C20 | $90.50(13)$ |  |  |
| C25-Ir-C20 | $81.34(14)$ |  |  |
| C21-Ir-C24 | $81.71(13)$ |  |  |
| C25-Ir-C21 | $98.25(13)$ |  |  |
| C1-N1-C2 | $125.7(2)$ | C1-N1-C2 | $126.0(6)$ |
| C1-N1-Ir | $93.71(17)$ | C1-N1-Ir | $94.5(4)$ |
| C2-N1-Ir | $133.00(18)$ | C2-N1-Ir | $133.7(5)$ |
| C1-N2-C9 | $126.4(2)$ |  |  |
| C1-N2-Ir | $93.23(17)$ |  |  |
| C9-N2-Ir | $132.86(18)$ |  |  |
| C1-N3-C16 | $121.4(3)$ | C1-N2-C8 | $120.9(4)$ |
| C1-N3-C18 | $121.0(2)$ |  |  |
| C16-N3-C18 | $117.5(3)$ | C8\#1-N2-C8 | $118.2(7)$ |
| N1-C1-N2 | $109.3(2)$ | N1\#1-C1-N1 | $107.2(8)$ |
| N1-C1-N3 | $125.4(2)$ | N2-C1-N1 | $126.4(4)$ |
| N2-C1-N3 | $125.3(3)$ |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Numbers in parentheses are standard uncertainties in the last significant figures. Atoms are labeled as indicated in Figures 2 and 3 . Symmetry operation: $\# 1,-y+3 / 2,-x+3 / 2,-z+3 / 2$.

Table S5. Selected dihedral angles $\left(^{\circ}\right)$ for $\left[\operatorname{Ir}\left\{\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{NC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{N}\left(4-\mathrm{MeC}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right)\right\}\right.$ (cod)], $\mathbf{1 d}$, and $\left[\mathrm{Ir}\left\{\mathrm{PhNC}\left(\mathrm{NEt}_{2}\right) \mathrm{NPh}\right\}(\mathrm{CO})_{2}\right], \mathbf{2 b} .{ }^{a}$

| 1d |  |  |  |  | 2b |  |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N1-C1-N2 / N1-Ir-N2 | $1.6(3)$ | N1-CC1-N1\#1 / N1-Ir-N1\#1 | 0 |  |  |  |
| N1-Ir-N2 / C20-Ir-C21 | $84.9(2)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| N1-Ir-N2 / C24-Ir-C25 | $84.7(2)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| C20-Ir-C21 / C24-Ir-C25 | $87.1(2)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| C16-N3-C18 / N1-C1-N2 | $33.9(2)$ | C8-N2-C8\#1 / N1-C1-N1\#1 | $39.6(6)$ |  |  |  |
| $(\mathrm{N} 1, \mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{~N} 2, \mathrm{~N} 3) /(\mathrm{C} 2 \rightarrow \mathrm{C} 2)^{b}$ | $48.0(1)$ | $(\mathrm{N} 1, \mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{~N} 1 \# 1, \mathrm{~N} 2) /(\mathrm{C} 2 \rightarrow \mathrm{C} 7)^{b}$ | $44.7(3)$ |  |  |  |
| $(\mathrm{N} 1, \mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{~N} 2, \mathrm{~N} 3) /(\mathrm{C} 9 \rightarrow \mathrm{C} 4)^{b}$ | $46.1(1)$ |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Numbers in parentheses are standard uncertainties in the last significant figures. Atoms are labeled as indicated in Figures 2 and 3 . Symmetry operation: $\# 1,-y+3 / 2,-x+3 / 2,-z+3 / 2 .^{b}$ Angle between the least-squares planes of the guanidinate atoms (e.g., $\mathrm{N} 1, \mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{~N} 2$, and N 3 ) and the aryl ring atoms (e.g., C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, and C7).

## Determination of the Self-Diffusion Coefficient of 2a

Diffusion ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR experiments to determine the $D$ value of 2a were conducted in triplicate, and, for each experiment, data of two suitable peaks were averaged. The average $D$ value from three measurements was $(9.6 \pm 0.2) \cdot 10^{-10} \mathrm{~m}^{2} \cdot \mathrm{~s}^{-1}\left(\mathrm{ca} .17 \mathrm{mM} 2 \mathbf{2}\right.$ in benzene- $d_{6}, 400$ $\mathrm{MHz}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ). Shown below are representative results for the $\mathrm{NMe}_{2}$ resonance signal of $\mathbf{2 a}$. The plot in Figure S3 confirms the expected linear relationship between $\ln \left(I / I_{0}\right)$ and $G^{2}$.

```
SIMFIT RESULTS for 2a
==============
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INTENSITY fit : Diffusion : Variable Gradient :

16 points for Peak 4, NMe2 resonance signal
Converged after 28 iterations!

| Results | Comp. | 1 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| I[0] | $=$ | $9.951 \mathrm{e}-001$ |
| Diff Con. | $=$ | $9.710 \mathrm{e}-010 \mathrm{~m} 2 / \mathrm{s}$ |
| Gamma | $=$ | $4.258 \mathrm{e}+003 \mathrm{~Hz} / \mathrm{G}$ |
| Little Delta | $=$ | 4.600 m |
| Big Delta | $=$ | 26.950 m |


| RSS | $=1.176 \mathrm{e}-004$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| SD | $=2.711 \mathrm{e}-003$ |


| Point | Gradient | Expt | Calc | Difference |
| ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 1 | $6.740 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $1.000 \mathrm{e}+000$ | $9.934 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $-6.558 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 2 | $2.765 \mathrm{e}+000$ | $9.693 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $9.671 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $-2.219 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 3 | $4.855 \mathrm{e}+000$ | $9.091 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $9.112 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $2.114 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 4 | $6.945 \mathrm{e}+000$ | $8.282 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $8.310 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $2.749 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 5 | $9.036 \mathrm{e}+000$ | $7.296 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $7.334 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $3.860 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 6 | $1.113 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $6.235 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $6.266 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $3.050 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 7 | $1.322 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $5.156 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $5.180 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $2.365 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 8 | $1.531 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $4.142 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $4.146 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $3.901 \mathrm{e}-004$ |
| 9 | $1.740 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $3.217 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $3.211 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $-6.007 \mathrm{e}-004$ |
| 10 | $1.949 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $2.429 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $2.407 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $-2.192 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 11 | $2.158 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $1.767 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $1.746 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $-2.092 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 12 | $2.367 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $1.249 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $1.226 \mathrm{e}-001$ | $-2.219 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 13 | $2.576 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $8.519 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $8.335 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $-1.840 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 14 | $2.785 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $5.695 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $5.483 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $-2.119 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 15 | $2.994 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $3.680 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $3.491 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $-1.893 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| 16 | $3.203 \mathrm{e}+001$ | $2.283 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $2.151 \mathrm{e}-002$ | $-1.313 \mathrm{e}-003$ |
| $==================================================$ |  |  |  |  |



Figure S3. Plot of the natural logarithm of the intensity quotient, $\ln \left(I / I_{0}\right)$, as a function of the square of the gradient strength, $G^{2}$, for the $\mathrm{NMe}_{2}$ resonance signal of $\mathbf{2 a}$ in benzene- $d_{6}$ (ca. 17 $\mathrm{mM}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ; R^{2}=0.99997$ ).


Figure S4. Electronic absorption spectra of 2 mM 1 a in toluene at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (solid black line), 3a generated from the reaction of $\mathbf{1 a}$ with $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ (solid blue line; $t=1 \mathrm{~h}$ ), and the solution after decay of 3a under Ar (solid red line; $t=19 \mathrm{~h}$; path length, 0.5 cm ). Also shown is the spectrum of a solution obtained from decay of $\mathbf{3 a}$ in toluene under $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\left(20 \mathrm{~h}\right.$ after addition of $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ to $\mathbf{1 a}$; dashed red line). Inset: Time course of the reaction of $\mathbf{1 a}$ in toluene with $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ at $20{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and subsequent decay of 3a under $\operatorname{Ar}(\lambda=417 \mathrm{~nm})$.


Figure S5. Solid-state IR spectra ( KBr ) of $\mathbf{3 a}(-$, black) and its decay products ( - , red).


Figure S6. Solid-state IR spectra $(\mathrm{KBr})$ of $\mathbf{3 b}(-$, black) and its decay products $(-$, red).


Figure S7. Solid-state IR spectra ( KBr ) of $\mathbf{3 c}(-$, black) and its decay products ( - , red).


Figure S8. Solid-state IR spectra ( KBr ) of $\mathbf{3 d}(-$, black) and its decay products $(-$, red).


Figure S9. Solid-state IR spectra ( KBr ) of $3 \mathbf{e}(-$, black) and its decay products ( - , red).


Figure S10. Solid-state IR spectra ( KBr ) of $\mathbf{3 f}(-$, black) and its decay products ( - , red).

Table S6. IR absorption bands of the (alkene)peroxo complexes $\mathbf{3 a - 3 f}\left(1700-1200 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right) .{ }^{a}$

| Complex | $v\left(\mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 3a | $1593,1577(\mathrm{sh}), 1567$ | 1488 | $1452,1437,1411$ | $1331,1261,1220,1195$ |
| 3b | $1593,1577,1541$ | 1488 | 1450,1427 | $1280,1263,1224$ |
| 3c | $1609,1576,1561(\mathrm{sh})$ | 1505 | 1444,1407 | $1330,1262,1221,1195$ |
| 3d | 1541 | 1505 | 1433 | $1286,1262,1223$ |
| 3e | 1603,1568 | 1504 | $1461(\mathrm{sh}), 1442,1409$ | $1331,1286,1261,1240$, |
|  |  |  |  | $1221(\mathrm{sh}), 1195$ |
| 3f | $1626,1591,1558$ | 1473 | $1435,1411,1374$ | $1330,1261,1213,1186$ |
| Solid state (KBr disk). |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{a}$ Solid state (KBr disk).


Figure S11. Time course ( ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR, 300 MHz ) of the reaction of 18 mM 1 f (black squares) in benzene- $d_{6}$ with $\mathrm{O}_{2}$ at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, producing $3 f$ (red circles), and regeneration of $\mathbf{1 f}$. To initiate the regeneration of $\mathbf{1 f}$, the solution was purged with Ar for 5 min after 18 and 44 h . Concentrations were determined using 1,2-dichloroethane as an internal standard and plotted relative to the initial concentration of $\mathbf{1 f}$.


[^0]:    ${ }^{a}$ Solid state ( KBr disk).

