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# Synthesis and Structural Features of Co(II) and Co(III) Complexes Supported by Amino- trisphenolate Ligand Scaffolds

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**ABSTRACT:** Co(II) complexes of amino-trisphenolate ((ArO)<sub>3</sub>N<sup>3-</sup>) ligands can be prepared straightforwardly in high yield. X-ray analysis reveals these complexes to comprise of two different hemi-spheres, one containing an anionic Co((ArO)<sub>3</sub>N)<sup>-</sup> and the other a cationic (ArO)<sub>3</sub>NH<sup>+</sup> unit which are associated through hydrogen bonding. These Co(II) complexes can be easily converted into their Co(III) analogues in air in the presence of suitable bases such as dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) and 2,2'-bipyridine (bipy), and the structural features and magnetic properties of these latter compounds are also reported.

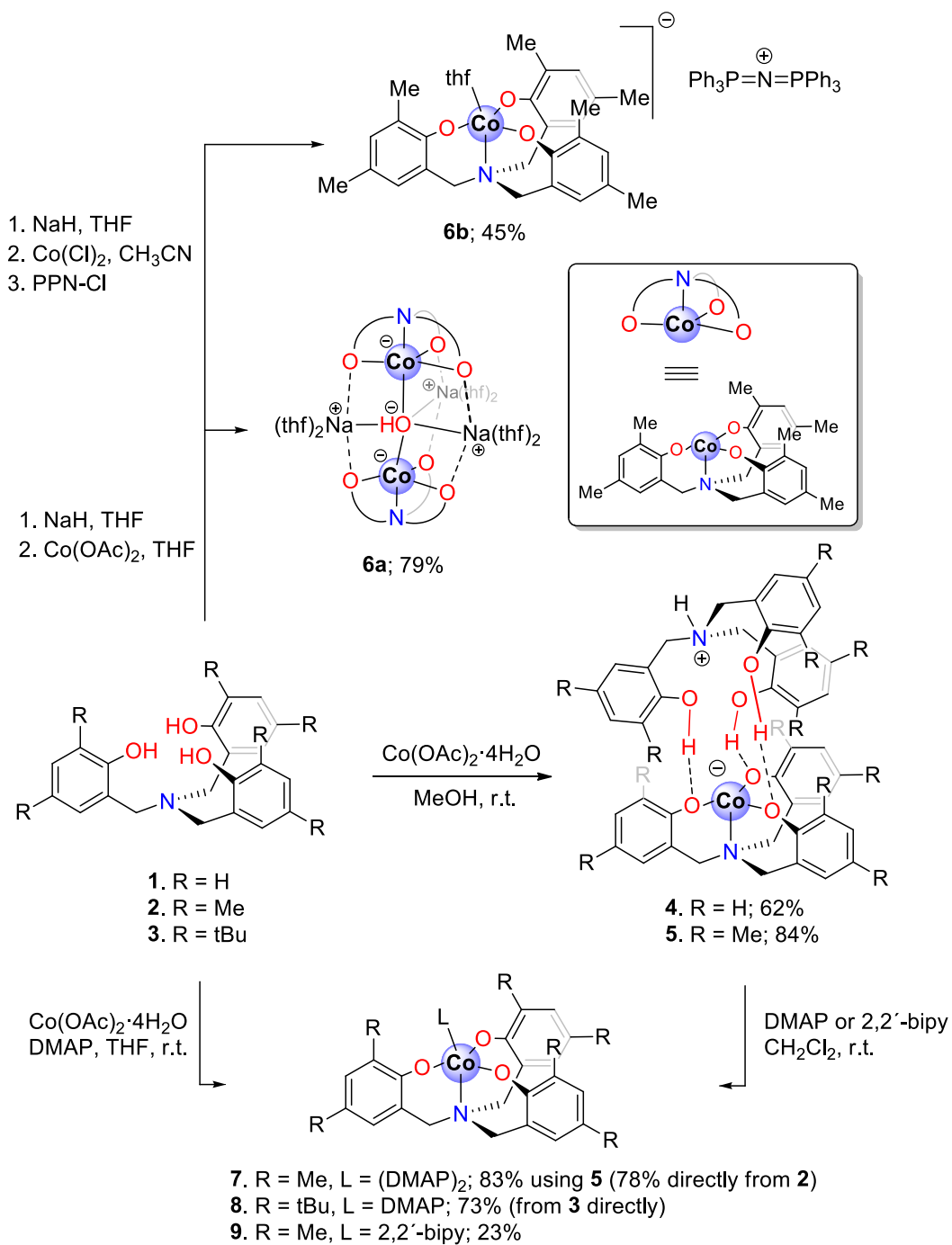
## ■ INTRODUCTION

The use of amino-trisphenolate ligands (abbreviated as (ArOH)<sub>3</sub>N ligands) in inorganic and catalysis related research is an active area of science with an ever increasing impact in several communities.<sup>1</sup> These (ArO)<sub>3</sub>N-chelating ligands combine a potentially multi-dentate coordination ability with relative ease for variation of the ligand through synthetic modulation. As such, complexes of these ligands have recently been the basis of several new catalyst systems for a variety of applications involving high-valent metals including Ti(IV),<sup>2a-b</sup> V(V),<sup>2c</sup> Mo(VI),<sup>2d</sup> Zr/Hf(IV),<sup>2e</sup> U(IV),<sup>2f</sup> Fe(III),<sup>2g-i</sup> and Al(III).<sup>2j-l</sup> Recently, the first examples of Co(II)(ArO)<sub>3</sub>N complexes which contain bulky *ortho*-groups attached to the ligand framework have been reported,<sup>3</sup> as a prelude to activation of small molecules such as dioxygen. In addition to the use of these (ArO)<sub>3</sub>N-chelating ligands, there are many examples of other tripodal (hybrid) ligands systems that have been shown to incorporate Co(II) ions,<sup>4</sup> having in most cases a N<sub>4</sub>-chelating character such as in amino-trispyridyl (TPA) ligands. However, (reactivity) studies involving the formation of Co(III) complexes of these aforementioned ligands are limited<sup>4f,h-i</sup> and to the best of our knowledge Co(III)(ArO)<sub>3</sub>N species have thus far not been crystallographically characterized.

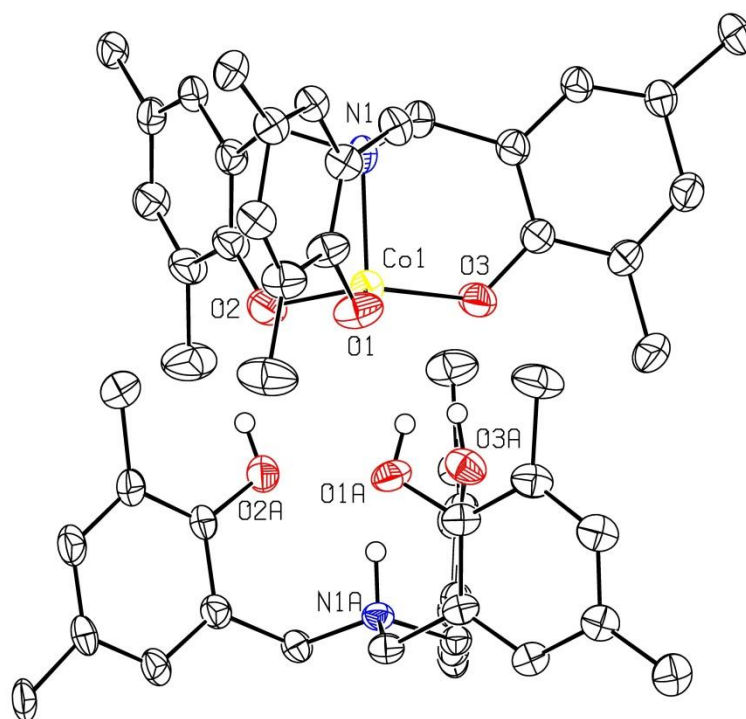
The chemistry of Co(III)-salen complexes has been well-developed over the years and shown to be of eminent use in catalytic operations focusing on kinetic resolution of (*rac*)-epoxides<sup>5</sup> and their copolymerization with carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) forming useful polycarbonates,<sup>6</sup> with further reports also detailing other types of catalysis with these complexes.<sup>7</sup> Mechanistic studies have revealed that in these copolymerization reactions a bimetallic transition state<sup>8</sup> is operative activating two substrate molecules leading to a more efficient conversion and improved reactivity and/or selectivity behavior. We recently found that (ArO)<sub>3</sub>N based complexes of Fe(III)<sup>2g</sup> and Al(III)<sup>2k</sup> have the ability to form hexa-coordinated structures with two *cis*-positioned coordination sites for

incoming substrates. This effect of an external ligand or substrate on the overall conformation and fluxionality of amino-trisphenolate complexes has been reported before for Ti(IV) based systems;<sup>9</sup> Zonta *et al.* reported in this respect an interesting Ti(IV) peroxo complex<sup>9b</sup> that after coordination of a solvent molecule changes its coordination geometry and enables oxygen-transfer catalysis.

Further to this, the Fe(III) family of complexes was also shown to efficiently catalyze the formation of poly(cyclohexene)carbonate similar to the aforementioned Co(III)-salen complexes.<sup>10</sup> As a result we hypothesized that two available *cis*-coordination sites on a Co(III) center could be highly useful for the formation of organic carbonates from epoxides and CO<sub>2</sub> and therefore started to combine our interest in (ArO)<sub>3</sub>N ligands and the highly successful application of Co(III) chemistry to mediate these epoxide/CO<sub>2</sub> couplings. Herein we report the first synthesis and full structural characterization of Co(III)(ArO)<sub>3</sub>N complexes.



**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of Co(II) and Co(III) complexes **4-9** from amino-triphenol ligand precursors **1-3**. Note that the protonated (ArO)<sub>3</sub>NH<sup>+</sup> ligand in complexes **4** and **5** forms an ion pair with the Co(II) complex.



**Figure 1.** X-ray molecular structure for compound **5**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Co(1)-O(1) = 1.897(8), Co(1)-O(2) = 1.904(8), Co(1)-O(3) = 1.899(8), Co(1)-N(1) = 2.052(10); O(1)-Co(1)-N(1) = 98.9(3), O(3)-Co(1)-N(1) = 98.5(3), O(2)-Co(1)-O(3) = 117.9(4).

## ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

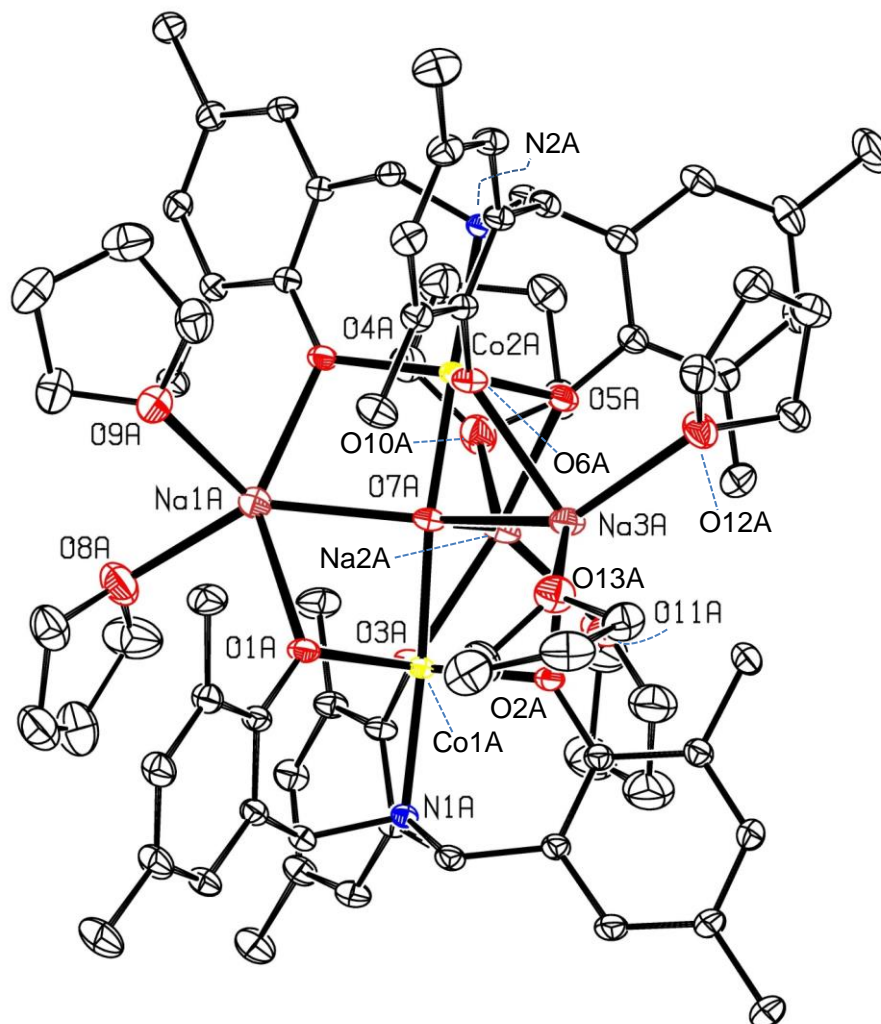
To access Co-centered (ArO)<sub>3</sub>N complexes we followed a lead from Lehtonen<sup>11</sup> who prepared a Mo(VI)(ArO)<sub>3</sub>N complex directly from the corresponding amino-triphenol ligand and MoO<sub>2</sub>(acac)<sub>2</sub>. Thus, direct treatment of known ligands **1-3**<sup>12</sup> with Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O was probed and furnished Co(II) complexes **4** and **5** in good yields as blue solids.<sup>13</sup> Compounds **4** and **5** are air-stable both in solution and solid phases (*vide infra*); both complexes crystallize conveniently from MeOH (**4-5**) and DCM (**5**) and their X-ray molecular structures were determined (Figure 1 and Supporting Information, Figure S39). The structure reported for compound **5** comprises of an

anionic part *viz.*  $\text{Co}((\text{ArO})_3\text{N})^-$  and a cationic  $(\text{ArO})_3\text{NH}^+$  fragment; the latter is associated to the Co(II) complex *via* hydrogen bonding.<sup>11</sup> As a result, the two different hemispheres give rise to a capsular system in which the metal center sits in a mono-pyramidal coordination geometry as was also observed by Meyer and co-workers for their comparable  $\text{Co}(\text{II})(\text{ArO})_3\text{N}$  complexes.<sup>3</sup> The observed structural parameters support that the Co center is tetra-coordinated and is slightly displaced from the  $\text{O}_3$ -plane of the ligand towards the nitrogen center N1. The overall features for the anionic part of **5** closely relate to those reported for other mono-pyramidal coordination geometries reported for Co(II) complexes based on other tetra-dentate ligand systems.<sup>4a,c,f,g</sup>

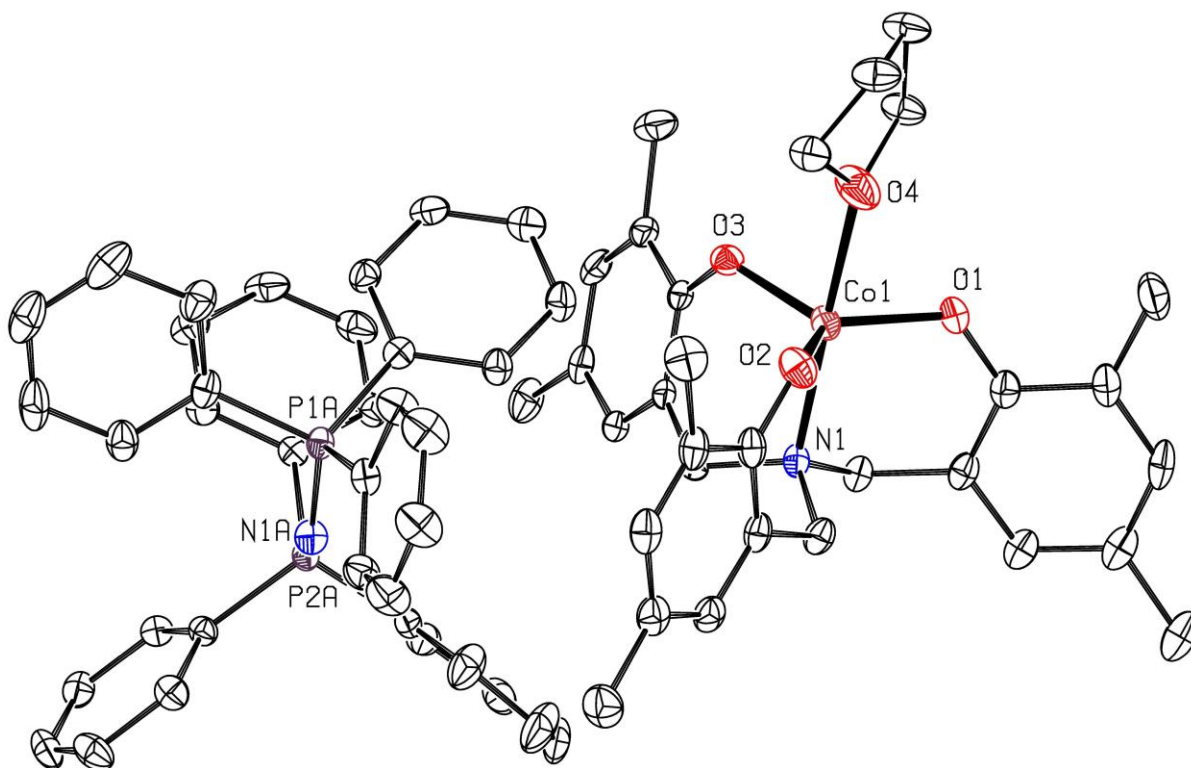
The synthetic approach towards Co(II) complexes **4** and **5** does not allow for the introduction of other cations as the aminotrisphenolate ligand  $(\text{ArOH})_3\text{N}$  itself acts as a proton scavenger. The cation  $(\text{ArOH})_3\text{NH}^+$  could also not be simply exchanged by addition of a  $\text{NBu}_4\text{Cl}$  or alike in separate experiments. Therefore we probed another route towards these  $\text{Co}(\text{II})(\text{ArO})_3\text{N}$  complexes by first deprotonation of the  $(\text{ArOH})_3\text{N}$  ligand using  $\text{NaH}$  followed by transmetalation of *in situ* formed  $(\text{ArONa})_3\text{N}$  with  $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2$  in THF. The product of this reaction, complex **6a** (79% yield, Scheme 1 and Figure 2), was isolated as a binuclear Co(II) complex that incorporates two  $(\text{ArO})_3\text{N}$  ligands, three Na cations, a bridging hydroxo ligand and six THF ligands. These results demonstrate that other cations may also be associated to the anionically charged  $\text{Co}(\text{II})(\text{ArO})_3\text{N}$  complex. The presence of a hydroxo ligand (OH) can be explained by the presence of some  $\text{NaOH}$  *prior*, during and/or after the reaction as a result of the presence of adventitious water. We thus performed an alternative synthesis using anhydrous  $\text{CoCl}_2$  as transmetalating agent, and the addition of bis-triphenylphosphineiminium chloride (PPN-Cl) provoked a cation exchange affording complex **6b** (45%). X-ray analysis of this latter complex (Figure 3) disclosed the presence of an anionic Co(II) fragment reminiscent of complexes **4** and **5** though with an solvent



molecule occupying the apical position and having a non-coordinating cation associated (PPN<sup>+</sup>). This result shows that, at least when isolation of the Co(II) complexes is concerned, a coordinating cation is not a prerequisite.



**Figure 2.** X-ray molecular structure for binuclear complex **6a**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Co(1A)-O(1A) = 2.0008(14), Co(1A)-O(2A) = 1.9942(14), Co(1A)-O(3A) = 1.9929(15), Co(1A)-N(1A) = 2.1180(19), Co(1A)-O(7A) = 2.1056(18), Na(1A)-O(7A) = 2.4847(17), Na(2A)-O(7A) = 2.6512(19), Na(3A)-O(7A) = 2.4335(18); O(1A)-Co(1A)-O(2A) = 123.25(7), O(1A)-Co(1A)-O(3A) = 119.00(6), O(2A)-Co(1A)-O(3A) = 117.50(7), N(1A)-Co(1A)-O(7A) = 175.74(6), Co(1A)-O(7A)-Na(1A) = 47.68(4), N(1A)-Co(1A)-O(1A) = 92.03(6), Na(1A)-O(7A)-Na(2A) = 109.44(7), Na(1A)-O(7A)-Na(3A) = 145.96(8).



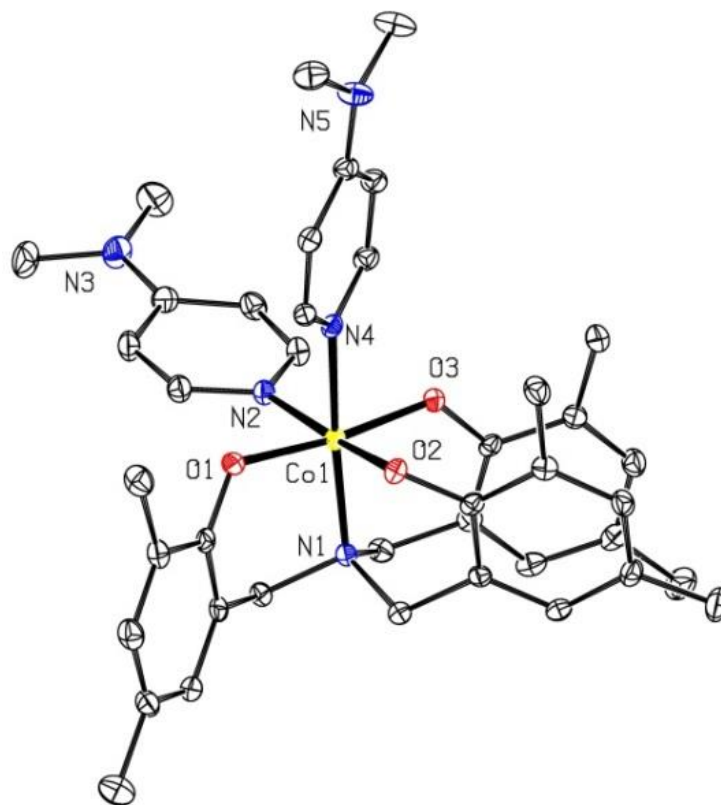
**Figure 3.** X-ray molecular structure for complex **6b** together with a partial numbering scheme.

Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Co(1)-O(1) = 1.953(2), Co(1)-O(2) = 1.950(2), Co(1)-O(3) = 1.949(2), Co(1)-N(1) = 2.147(3), Co(1)-O(4) = 2.204(6); O(1)-Co(1)-O(3) = 114.54(9), O(2)-Co(1)-O(3) = 120.64(9), O(1)-Co(1)-O(2) = 123.92(10), N(1)-Co(1)-O(4) = 87.37(15), N(1)-Co(1)-O(1) = 94.00(9); N(1)-Co(1)-O(3) = 92.89(9).

The Co(II) complexes **4** and **5** probably gain stability by steric protection exerted by the cationic unit  $(\text{ArO})_3\text{NH}^+$  that is associated to the Co(II) complex through an ionic as well as three H-bond interactions. Further evidence for this hypothesis was gained from comparative stability studies of complexes **4** and **5**, and **6b**. Interestingly, while complexes **4** and **5** seem to be stable both in the solid as well as solution phase for at least 24 h, complex **6b** shows clear signs of decomposition in

the solid and solution state within 24 h after exposure to air (see Supporting Information, Figures S50-51). Thus, it seems that the presence of an interacting, coordinating cation may help to stabilize the Co(II) oxidation state of these kinds of complexes. Cyclic voltammetry studies that involved complex **6b** also clearly showed that oxidation is significantly more feasible for this complex as compared to complex **5** ( $E_p^{ox}$  is 0.27 V and 0.65–0.70 V, respectively; see Supporting Information).

We decided to deprotonate compound **5** to explore the opportunity to introduce other ligands. When a solution of compound **5** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (blue) was treated in air<sup>14</sup> with an excess of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) a drastic color change to dark violet was noted indicating a change in the oxidation state of the Co center and/or coordination geometry; after removal of the solvent the purple residue was re-crystallized from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /hexane to afford complex **7** in good yield (83%). X-ray analysis revealed the presence of a Co-complex having two DMAP ligands incorporated in the coordination sphere in complex **7** (Figure 4). The DMAP ligands occupy an equatorial and axial position of the roughly octahedral geometry around the Co center. The structure clearly demonstrates the flexibility of the  $(\text{ArO})_3\text{N}$  ligand to accommodate the formation of a hexa-coordinated complex potentially useful in catalytic conversions.<sup>5,6</sup>



**Figure 4.** X-ray molecular structure for complex **7**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Co(1)-O(1) = 1.9231(13), Co(1)-O(2) = 1.8985(14), Co(1)-O(3) = 1.9079(13), Co(1)-N(1) = 2.0174(16), Co(1)-N(2) = 2.0350(17), Co(1)-N(4) = 1.9783(16); O(1)-Co(1)-O(3) = 172.92(6), N(2)-Co(1)-O(2) = 172.95(6), N(1)-Co(1)-N(4) = 176.23(6).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR studies were then first performed using **5** and **7** (Supporting Information; Figures S2 and S5-8) to study their solution behavior. As expected, for **5** paramagnetically shifted resonances are found in the region -48 to 36 ppm and no significant changes were noted upon lowering the temperature. However, for complex **7** we found that the temperature had a dramatic effect on the resolution of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (Figure S6). At ambient conditions (25°C) clearly paramagnetically induced <sup>1</sup>H NMR shifts were noted, but upon lowering the temperature to

between  $-30$  and  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  a fully resolved  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum was obtained, indicative of the sole presence of a diamagnetic complex. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum at  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  displays two down-field shifts for the DMAP-*ortho* hydrogens in line with the presence of two DMAP ligands in the coordination sphere of complex **7** (cf., Figure 4). We hypothesized that at higher temperatures the coordination of the DMAP ligands is fluxional leading to a paramagnetic, five-coordinate Co(III) complex with a trigonal pyramidal (tbp) geometry. In order to challenge this hypothesis, we prepared complex **8** as a control compound (Scheme 1); this complex bears more sterically demanding tBu groups in the *ortho*-positions of the phenolate donors and is likely not able to allow for hexa-coordination at the Co center. However, isolation of the Co(II) complex of ligand **3** was not feasible, and therefore we attempted the direct synthesis of **8** through combination of **3**,  $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and excess DMAP. An indicative color change to dark purple was noted and, fortunately, complex **8** could be conveniently isolated by re-crystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (73% yield). Crystallographic analysis showed this complex to be penta-coordinated, comprising of one DMAP ligand occupying one axial position of a tbp coordination geometry around the Co ion (Figure S40). Further to this, to block a potential dynamic behavior between penta- and hexa-coordinated geometry, complex **5** was treated with a bidentate ligand (2,2'-bipyridine: 2,2'-bipy): the presence of this ligand should give rise to a structure reminiscent of complex **7** and be conformationally stable such that under ambient conditions a diamagnetic compound should prevail. Complex **9** (Scheme 1) was isolated as a brown crystalline compound (23% yield; see Supporting Information for details) and its molecular structure was determined by X-ray diffraction (Figure S41). Complex **8** clearly displays  $^1\text{H}$  NMR characteristics of a paramagnetic species at ambient and lower temperature ( $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; Figure S9), whereas the bipy-complex **9** gives rise to a well-resolved and defined  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum under ambient conditions (Figure S10).

Interestingly, the presence of a bipy-*ortho*-H resonance located at  $\delta = 10.35$  indicates hydrogen-bonding to a phenolate-O and may thus help to further stabilize this complex.

The oxidation processes for both cobalt (II) complexes (**4** and **5**) investigated by cyclic voltammetry are observed at relative high potential ( $E_p^{ox} = 1.05$  and around 0.7 V, respectively, vs. Ag/AgCl) which supports a high stability of these complexes against oxidation (Supporting Information; Figures S42-44). In the case of complex **4** a single quasi-reversible wave is observed whereas complex **5** exhibits an irreversible oxidation process as a likely result of the oxidation of the  $(Ar^{Me}O)_3N$  ligand. The cyclic voltammogram (CV) for this complex showed a broad wave between 0.65–0.75 V vs. Ag/AgCl due to overlapping oxidation processes that involve the  $Co^{II}/Co^{III}$  redox couple within the  $(Ar^{Me}O)_3N$  ligand, and the  $(Ar^{Me}O)_3NH^+$  cationic unit. The CV obtained for cobalt (III) complex **7** displays, under these conditions, a reversible reduction process at  $E_{1/2} = -0.09$  V vs. Ag/AgCl attributed to the  $Co^{III}/Co^{II}$  couple (Figure S47) and cobalt (III) compounds **8** and **9** give rise to similar quasi-reversible CVs for the  $Co^{III}/Co^{II}$  couple at  $E_{1/2} = -0.13$  and  $-0.05$  V respectively vs. Ag/AgCl (Figures S48-49). From these data it seems that the DMAP ligands in complex **7** are effective in the stabilization of the  $Co^{III}$  oxidation state, whereas  $(Ar^{Me}O)_3NH^+$  cation in complexes **4** and **5** is able to protect the  $Co^{II}$  from low-potential oxidation.

Finally, we performed magnetic susceptibility measurements in polycrystalline samples of **4**, **5** and **7-9** (Figure 5). The  $\chi_m T$  products at room temperature are 2.25, 2.79,  $-0.11$ , 1.28 and  $-0.26$  emu K mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. These values correspond to a  $S = 3/2$  with strong spin-orbit coupling, as expected for high spin Co(II) in **4** and **5**; a diamagnetic  $S = 0$ , from the octahedral low spin Co(III) in **7** and **9**; and a  $S = 1$ , from the two unpaired electrons expected in a Co(III) center with t<sub>bp</sub> coordination in **8**.<sup>15</sup> These are in good agreement with the NMR data. The temperature dependence of the magnetization is dominated by the zero-field splitting of the single ions.

From the room temperature values,  $\chi_m T$  decreases as temperature is decreased for the paramagnetic complexes **4**, **5** and **8**. In the case of **4**,  $\chi_m T$  remains constant at 2.25 emu K mol<sup>-1</sup> down to 60 K, when it drops fast down to 1.0 emu K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 2 K. In the case of **5**,  $\chi_m T$  decreases slowly from 2.79 down to 2.30 emu K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 50 K, and then it drops fast down to 1.5 emu K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 2 K. This behavior in **4** and **5** is typical of high spin trigonal pyramidal Co(II) complexes, with strong spin orbit coupling, analogous to that reported by Meyer for related Co(II) species.<sup>3</sup> In the case of **8**,  $\chi_m T$  remains essentially constant down to 80 K, and then it also drops sharply reaching 0.10 emu K mol<sup>-1</sup> at 2 K, due to the zero-field splitting of the triplet ground state. Complexes **7** and **9** are diamagnetic at room temperature. As the temperature is decreased,  $\chi_m T$  shows a linear behavior, approaching positive values. This must be due to the presence of paramagnetic impurities that represent less than 3% of the complexes.

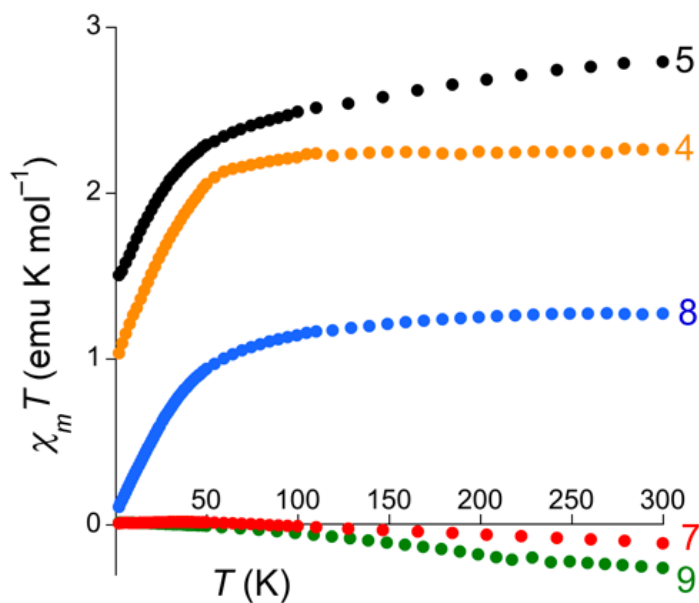


Figure 5. Temperature dependence of the  $\chi_m T$  product for complexes **4**, **5** and **7-9**.



## ■ CONCLUSION

In summary, we here present an easy route towards Co(III)(ArO)<sub>3</sub>N complexes and their full characterization using a variety of analytical techniques. The straightforward dependence of the coordination geometry around the Co ion on the ligand substitution in these complexes allows for penta- and/or hexacoordinated metal centers. In the hexacoordinated Co(III) complexes **7** and **9** the presence of two *cis*-positioned N-donor ligands suggests that these complexes may be of value in catalytic transformations such as the co-polymerization of epoxides and CO<sub>2</sub>. However, this may be true only when suitable ligands or substrates are involved that can facilitate the oxidation of the Co(II) complex. The catalytic CO<sub>2</sub>/epoxide coupling reactions are currently under investigation.

## ■ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Considerations.** All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received. All solvents were of reagent grade and use without any further purification. The ligands H<sub>3</sub>L<sup>H</sup>, H<sub>3</sub>L<sup>Me</sup>, H<sub>3</sub>L<sup>tBu</sup> (compounds **1-3**) were prepared according to literature methods.<sup>12,16</sup> Elemental Analysis was performed by the Unidad de Análisis Elemental at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Spain). Mass spectrometric analyses and X-ray diffraction studies were carried out by the Research Support Group at the ICIQ. FT-IR measurements were performed on a Bruker Optics FTIR Alpha spectrometer equipped with a DTGS detector, KBr beam-splitter at 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> resolution. UV-Vis measurements were carried out on a Shimadzu UV-2401PC spectrophotometer equipped with a photomultiplier detector, double beam optics, and D2 and W light sources. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 or AV-500 spectrometer and referenced to the residual NMR solvent signals.

**Synthesis of [(Ar<sup>H</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo]<sup>-</sup>[(Ar<sup>H</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>NH]<sup>+</sup>, complex (4):** To a solution of the ligand tris(2-hydroxybenzyl)amine (Ar<sup>H</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>N **1** (201.0 mg, 0.6 mmol, 2 equiv.) in methanol (10 mL) was added a solution of Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (77.0 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) in methanol (10 mL). The mixture was stirred at r.t. and after 1 h a crystalline blue solid precipitated. The blue complex was filtrated, washed with methanol and dried. Yield: 145.7 mg (0.19 mmol, 62 %). The crystalline complex **4** thus obtained from the reaction described above was suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, RT): paramagnetic spectrum, δ = 32.46, 16.35, 10.00, 6.52, 4.73, 1.33, -8.98, -12.89, -43.30; MALDI(+)-MS (dctb): *m/z* = 336.2 [(Ar<sup>H</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>NH]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 336.2), MALDI(-)-MS (dctb): *m/z* = 391 [(Ar<sup>H</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo]<sup>-</sup> (calcd. 391). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>40</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>·MeOH: C 67.98, H 5.84, N 3.69; found: C 68.03, H 5.62, N 3.86. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1593, 1478, 1456, 1265, 1248, 879, 751, 731, 596, 568, 479; UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM, 25 °C, ε = L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>): 338 nm (155), 572 nm (230), 606 nm (260), 624 nm (225).

**Synthesis of [(Ar<sup>Me</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo]<sup>-</sup>[(Ar<sup>Me</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>NH]<sup>+</sup>, complex (5):** To a solution of the ligand tris(2-hydroxy-4,6-dimethylbenzyl)amine (Ar<sup>Me</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>N **2** (419.0 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2 equiv.) in methanol (15 mL) was added a solution of Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (124.0 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv.) in methanol (15 mL). The mixture was stirred at r.t. and after 1 h a blue solid precipitated. The blue complex was filtrated, washed with methanol and dried. Yield: 375.5 mg (0.4 mmol, 84 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by diffusing hexane into a solution of **1** in dichloromethane. The sample for microanalysis was crystallized from MeOH. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz, RT): paramagnetic spectrum, δ = 35.65, 27.11, 25.14, 9.30, 6.15, 3.46, 1.78, 1.53, 0.88, -7.80, -11.10, -48.45; MALDI(+)-MS (dctb): *m/z* = 420.5 [(Ar<sup>Me</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>NH]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 420.3), MALDI(-)-MS (dctb): *m/z* = 475.1 [(Ar<sup>Me</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo]<sup>-</sup> (calcd. 475.2). Anal. calcd. for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>64</sub>CoN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>·1.5MeOH: C 70.61, H 7.47, N 2.97; found: C 70.59, H 7.52, N 2.95. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>):

2916, 2856, 1494, 1474, 1436, 1254, 1208, 1161, 860, 800, 615, 473 (m); UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM, 25 °C,  $\epsilon = \text{L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 346 nm (225), 570 nm (230), 604 nm (245), 624 nm (205).

**Synthesis of [(Ar<sup>Me</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo]<sub>2</sub>(OH)(Na)<sub>3</sub>(thf)<sub>6</sub>, complex (6a):** A suspension of sodium hydride (64.0 mg, 2.7 mmol, 3.5 equiv.) in 15 mL of tetrahydrofuran was added dropwise into a Schlenk flask containing a solution of tris(2-hydroxy-4,6-dimethylbenzyl)amine (Ar<sup>Me</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>N ligand (314.0 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 15 mL of tetrahydrofuran. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 2 h and then it was added into a Schlenk flask containing Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (186.0 mg, 0.75 mmol, 1 equiv.). After 12 h stirring at r.t. the solution was filtered through celite and complexes were obtained as crystalline solids at r.t. by concentration of the solution. Yield: 305.0 mg (0.29 mmol, 79 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, RT): paramagnetic spectrum,  $\delta = 36.10, 30.11, 22.65, 6.39, 3.69, 1.96, 1.77, 1.12, 0.34$ . MALDI(–)–HRMS (dctb):  $m/z = 1013.2902$  [M–Na]<sup>–</sup> (calcd. 1013.2938), Anal. calcd. for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>61</sub>Co<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub>·(thf)<sub>2</sub>: C 63.05, H 6.57, N 2.37; found: C 62.55, H 7.03, N 2.28. IR (cm<sup>–1</sup>): 2962, 2907, 1259, 1086, 1016, 796; UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0.4 mM, 25 °C,  $\epsilon = \text{L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 398 nm (4940), 490 nm (3200), 698 (695), 1032 (475).

**Synthesis of [(Ar<sup>Me</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo]<sup>–</sup>[PPN]<sup>+</sup>, complex (6b):** A suspension of sodium hydride (53.0 mg, 2.2 mmol, 3 equiv.) in 10 mL of tetrahydrofuran was added drop-wise into a Schlenk flask containing a solution of tris(2-hydroxy-4,6-dimethylbenzyl)amine (Ar<sup>Me</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>N ligand (300.0 mg, 0.72 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 10 mL of tetrahydrofuran. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After this time, 0.95 equiv. of anhydrous CoCl<sub>2</sub> (88.0 mg, 0.68 mmol) in 10 mL of acetonitrile was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 18 h and then it was filtered through a path of Celite. The solution obtained was added into a Schlenk flask containing 1 equiv. of bis(triphenylphosphine)iminium chloride, PPN-Cl, (0.7 mmol, 402 mg) to exchange the cation. After 6 h, the mixture was filtered through a path of Celite. The complex was obtained as a

crystalline solid suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis by concentration of the solution and by addition of hexane (v/v = 1:1). Yield: 335.0 mg (0.14 mmol, 45 %).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 400 MHz, RT): paramagnetic spectrum,  $\delta = 37.82, 28.56, 27.89, 7.51, 7.36, 3.55, 1.89, 1.70, -7.79, -11.26, -48.80$ ; MALDI(+)-MS (dctb):  $m/z = 538.3$  [PPN] $^+$  (calcd. 538.2), MALDI(-)-MS (dctb):  $m/z = 475.1563$  [ $(\text{Ar}^{\text{MeO}})_3\text{NCo}$ ] $^-$  (calcd. 475.1559). Anal. calcd. for  $\text{C}_{63}\text{H}_{60}\text{CoN}_2\text{O}_3\text{P}_2 \cdot \text{thf} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{CH}_3\text{CN} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C 71.91, H 6.84, N 2.95; found: C 71.65, H 6.69, N 2.84. The presence of both solvents (thf and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ) and their 2:1 ratio is supported by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the dried isolated complex, see Supporting Information. IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3056, 2962, 2913, 2859, 1608, 1588, 1480, 1469, 1435, 1358, 1308, 1244, 1183, 1161, 1113, 1060, 1027, 997, 904, 860, 801, 749, 721, 690, 605, 549, 532, 495, 423; UV/Vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 0.2 mM, 25  $^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\varepsilon = \text{L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 348 nm (725), 580 nm (330), 605 nm (335), 622 nm (325).

**Synthesis of  $(\text{Ar}^{\text{MeO}})_3\text{NCo}(\text{DMAP})_2$ , complex (7):** A solution of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) in 10 mL of dichloromethane (102.5 mg, 0.84 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) was added to a round bottom flask containing a blue solution of complex **5** (300.0 mg, 0.34 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dichloromethane (10 mL). The mixture was stirred in the presence of air at r.t. for 8 h. Then the solvent was removed to give a purple residue. The resulting compound was recrystallized from a mixture of dichloromethane/hexane (1:1 v/v) to give purple crystals. Yield: 200.0 mg (0.28 mmol, 83 %). Synthesis in an inert atmosphere (either  $\text{N}_2$  or argon) under similar conditions yields 17 % of the Co(III) complex **7**.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz, RT): paramagnetic spectrum,  $\delta = 54.94, 48.74, 41.09, 25.42, 8.24, 6.51, 3.00, 1.71, 1.26, -10.61, -53.61$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 500 MHz, 233 K): diamagnetic spectrum,  $\delta = 8.53$  (d,  $^3J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{pyr}}$ ), 8.13 (d,  $^3J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{pyr}}$ ), 6.61 (d,  $^3J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{pyr}}$ ), 6.54 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 6.52 (s, 2H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 6.38 (d,  $^3J = 6.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{pyr}}$ ), 6.12 (s, 1H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 5.84 (s, 1H,  $\text{CH}_{\text{Ar}}$ ), 4.13 (d,  $^2J = 12.0$  Hz, 2H,  $\text{ArCH}_2\text{N}$ ), 3.08 (s, 6H,

NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.01 (s br, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 2.94 (s, 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.86 (d, <sup>2</sup>J = 12.0 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 2.11 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.02 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.68 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 126 MHz, 233 K): δ = 160.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 159.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 154.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 154.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 150.5 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 150.1 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 130.6 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 130.0 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 129.1 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 128.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.4 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 126.9 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 123.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 121.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 120.4 (C<sub>q</sub>), 107.0 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 105.2 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 66.0 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 61.2 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 39.4 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 39.3 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.6 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.3 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 17.8 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 17.1 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>); ESI(+)-MS (CH<sub>3</sub>CN): *m/z* = 720.2 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 720.3), 598.2 [M-DMAP+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 598.2), 476.1 [M-2DMAP+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 476.2); Anal. calcd. for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>50</sub>CoN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>3</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O: C 65.15, H 7.20, N 9.27; found: C 64.90, H 7.02, N 9.13. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2983, 2904, 2852, 1614, 1530, 1469, 1440, 1383, 1271, 1219, 1009, 949, 806, 736, 499, 428 (m); UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM, 25 °C, ε = L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>): 330 nm (7560), 532 nm (5650), 894 nm (510).

**Synthesis of (Ar<sup>tBu</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo(DMAP), complex (8):** To a Schlenk flask containing a pink solution of Co(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O (223.0 mg, 0.9 mmol, 1 equiv) in MeOH (10 mL) was added a colorless solution of tris(2-hydroxy-4,6-di-*tert*-buthylbenzyl)amine (Ar<sup>tBu</sup>OH)<sub>3</sub>N ligand (600.0 mg, 0.9 mmol, 1 equiv.) in tetrahydrofuran (15 mL). The reaction was then stirred at r.t. for 2 h. After this a solution of dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) in 10 mL of tetrahydrofuran (244.0 mg, 2 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) was added to the flask. This mixture was further stirred open to the air at r.t. overnight. Finally, the solvent was removed to obtain a purple residue. The resulting cobalt complex was purified by recrystallization using a mixture of dichloromethane/acetonitrile in a proportion 1:1 to yield purple crystals. Yield: 550.0 mg (0.65 mmol, 73 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz, RT): paramagnetic spectrum, δ = 49.50, 26.60, 4.98, 2.76, 1.58, 1.42, 1.31, 0.96, -9.12, -45.25; MALDI(+)-MS (dctb): *m/z* = 849.9 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 849.5), 727.7 [M-DMAP]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 727.4; cf. Figure S32), 672.7 [M-DMAP-tBu+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 672.4; cf. Figure S32); Anal. calcd. for

C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>76</sub>CoN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>·½H<sub>2</sub>O: C 72.70, H 9.03, N 4.89; found: C 72.66, H 9.31, N 4.98. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2951, 2903, 2865, 1620, 1536, 1458, 1443, 1412, 1383, 1361, 1263, 1220, 1171, 1022, 874, 834, 808, 624, 548, 536, 469 (m); UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM, 25 °C, ε = L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>): 334 nm (9425), 536 nm (7550), 926 nm (795).

**Synthesis of (Ar<sup>Me</sup>O)<sub>3</sub>NCo(bipy), complex (9):** A solution of 2,2'-bipyridine (bipy) in 10 mL of dichloromethane (183.0 mg, 1.17 mmol, 5.3 equiv.) was added to a round bottom flask containing a blue solution of complex **5** (200.0 mg, 0.22 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dichloromethane (15 mL). The mixture was stirred at r.t. open to the air. After 3 days, the solvent was removed to obtain a brown residue which was dissolved in acetone to obtain a brown solution and a blue precipitate (complex **5**). The solution was filtered to separate the starting material from the desired product. Then, the solvent was removed and the resulting compound was purified by trituration with diethyl ether and recrystallized from acetone to give brown crystals at room temperature. Yield: 33.0 mg (0.05 mmol, 23 %). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 500 MHz, RT): diamagnetic spectrum, δ = 10.34 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 8.20 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 8.07 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 7.86 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 7.82 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 7.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 7.61 (t, <sup>3</sup>J = 6.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 6.80 (s, 1H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.76 (d, <sup>3</sup>J = 5.0 Hz, 1H, CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 6.72 – 6.67 (m, 3H, 2CH<sub>Ar</sub> and 1 CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 6.66 (s, 1H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 6.41 (s, 2H, CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 3.82 (d, <sup>2</sup>J = 10.0 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.49 (s br, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.24 (d, <sup>2</sup>J = 13.0 Hz, 2H, ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 2.44 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.13 (s, 3H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.08 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.40 (s, 6H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 126 MHz, RT): δ = 160.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 158.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 157.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 156.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 152.1 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 151.5 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 139.0 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 138.2 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 131.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.5 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 130.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.0 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 127.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 126.8 (CH<sub>Ar</sub>), 123.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 123.1 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 122.2 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 120.5 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 120.4 (CH<sub>pyr</sub>), 64.9 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 61.8 (ArCH<sub>2</sub>N), 20.4 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.2 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 19.1 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 16.2 (ArCH<sub>3</sub>); MALDI(+)-MS (dctb): m/z = 631.4 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 631.2);

Anal. calcd. for  $C_{37}H_{38}CoN_3O_3 \cdot 2H_2O$ : C 66.56, H 6.34, N 6.29; found: C 66.04, H 5.91, N 6.43. IR ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 2973, 2906, 2856, 1605, 1470, 1443, 1310, 1267, 1157, 1033, 854, 804, 766, 730, 607, 556, 500, 408 (m); UV/Vis ( $CH_2Cl_2$ , 0.2 mM, 25 °C,  $\epsilon = L \cdot mol^{-1} \cdot cm^{-1}$ ): 356 nm (4307), 468 nm (2140).

**X-ray diffraction studies.** The measured crystals were stable under atmospheric conditions; nevertheless they were treated under inert conditions immersed in perfluoropolyether as protecting oil for manipulation. Data Collection: measurements were made on a Bruker-Nonius diffractometer equipped with an APEX II 4K CCD area detector, a FR591 rotating anode with MoKa radiation, Montel mirrors and a Kryoflex low temperature device ( $T = -173^\circ C$ ). Full-sphere data collection was used with  $\omega$  and  $\varphi$  scans. Programs used: Data collection Apex2 V2011.3 (Bruker-Nonius 2008), data reduction Saint+Version 7.60A (Bruker AXS 2008) and absorption correction SADABS V. 2008–1 (2008). Structure Solution: SHELXTL Version 6.10 (Sheldrick, 2000) was used.<sup>17</sup> Structure Refinement: SHELXTL-97-UNIX VERSION.

**Crystallographic data for complex 5.**  $C_{62}H_{76}CoN_2O_7$ ,  $M_r = 1020.17$ , monoclinic,  $Cc$ ,  $a = 14.3608(6)$  Å,  $b = 24.8788(13)$  Å,  $c = 16.2469(7)$  Å,  $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 90.053(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 5804.7(5)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 4$ ,  $\rho = 1.167$  mg·M<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu = 0.347$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å,  $T = 100(2)$  K,  $F(000) = 2180$ , crystal size =  $0.15 \times 0.13 \times 0.10$  mm,  $\theta(\min) = 1.637^\circ$ ,  $\theta(\max) = 27.50^\circ$ , 21502 reflections collected, 12701 reflections unique ( $R_{int} = 0.0399$ ), GoF = 1.027,  $R_1 = 0.0867$  and  $wR_2 = 0.2267$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ],  $R_1 = 0.1290$  and  $wR_2 = 0.2629$  (all indices), Flack parameter:  $x = 0.51(4)$ , min/max residual density =  $-0.369/1.214$  [ $e \cdot \text{Å}^{-3}$ ]. Completeness to  $\theta(27.50^\circ) = 99.8\%$ . The structure is disordered over two positions (70:30 occupancy ratio) and is a MeOH/toluene solvate.

**Crystallographic data for complex 6a.**  $C_{78}H_{109}Co_2N_2Na_3O_{13}$ ,  $M_r = 1469.50$ , monoclinic,  $Pn$ ,  $a = 13.7435(14)$  Å,  $b = 26.138(3)$  Å,  $c = 21.020(2)$  Å,  $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 90.337(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 7550.9(13)$

$\text{\AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\rho = 1.293 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{M}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu = 0.519 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $T = 100(2) \text{ K}$ ,  $F(000) = 3128$ , crystal size =  $0.13 \times 0.10 \times 0.10 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\theta(\text{min}) = 0.779^\circ$ ,  $\theta(\text{max}) = 35.34^\circ$ , 320726 reflections collected, 48572 reflections unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0385$ ),  $\text{GoF} = 1.017$ ,  $R_1 = 0.0370$  and  $wR_2 = 0.0916$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ],  $R_1 = 0.0460$  and  $wR_2 = 0.0972$  (all indices), Flack parameter:  $x = 0.393(6)$ , min/max residual density =  $-0.455/0.720$  [ $\text{e}\cdot\text{\AA}^{-3}$ ]. Completeness to  $\theta(35.34^\circ) = 95.3\%$ . The structure is a THF solvate and it contains two distinct complexes in the unit cell.

**Crystallographic data for complex 6b.**  $\text{C}_{73}\text{H}_{79}\text{CoN}_3\text{O}_5\text{P}_2$ ,  $M_r = 1199.26$ , monoclinic,  $P2(1)$ ,  $a = 14.1572(11) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 13.5823(12) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 17.1867(17) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = \gamma = 90^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 107.672(3)^\circ$ ,  $V = 3148.8(5) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\rho = 1.265 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{M}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu = 0.377 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $T = 100(2) \text{ K}$ ,  $F(000) = 1270$ , crystal size =  $0.20 \times 0.10 \times 0.03 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\theta(\text{min}) = 1.51^\circ$ ,  $\theta(\text{max}) = 30.55^\circ$ , 24268 reflections collected, 14719 reflections unique ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0265$ ),  $\text{GoF} = 1.026$ ,  $R_1 = 0.0425$  and  $wR_2 = 0.0943$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ],  $R_1 = 0.0549$  and  $wR_2 = 0.1005$  (all indices), Flack parameter:  $x = 0.015(6)$ , min/max residual density =  $-0.558/0.529$  [ $\text{e}\cdot\text{\AA}^{-3}$ ]. Completeness to  $\theta(30.55^\circ) = 96.7\%$ . The structure has a disorder in the coordinated THF molecule and co-crystallized  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , and the absolute configuration was determined.

**Crystallographic data for complex 7.**  $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{52}\text{Cl}_2\text{CoN}_5\text{O}_3$ ,  $M_r = 804.71$ , triclinic,  $P-1$ ,  $a = 11.4464(6) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 12.3420(6) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 15.9066(7) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\alpha = 108.305(2)^\circ$ ,  $\beta = 99.116(2)^\circ$ ,  $\gamma = 104.538(2)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1995.11(17) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\rho = 1.340 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{M}^{-3}$ ,  $\mu = 0.609 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ ,  $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $T = 100(2) \text{ K}$ ,  $F(000) = 848$ , crystal size =  $0.15 \times 0.08 \times 0.04 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\theta(\text{min}) = 1.902^\circ$ ,  $\theta(\text{max}) = 28.30^\circ$ , 9576 reflections collected, 9576 reflections unique,  $\text{GoF} = 1.039$ ,  $R_1 = 0.0431$  and  $wR_2 = 0.0999$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ],  $R_1 = 0.0586$  and  $wR_2 = 0.1072$  (all indices), Flack parameter:  $x = 0.393(6)$ , min/max residual density =  $-0.471/0.394$  [ $\text{e}\cdot\text{\AA}^{-3}$ ]. Completeness to  $\theta(28.30^\circ) = 96.4\%$ . For this structure the



program TWINABS was used<sup>18</sup> since the two types of monocrystals had formed. The structure contains a disordered, modeled DCM molecule.

**Cyclic voltammetry.** Cyclic voltammetry measurements were carried out with a Princeton Applied Research PARSTAT 2273 electrochemical analyzer. A three-component system consisting of a glassy carbon working electrode, a platinum wire auxiliary electrode and Ag-AgCl (sat. NaCl) reference electrode was used. All experiments were done under argon atmosphere at r.t. and in dichlorometane solutions with 0.2 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (NBu<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>) as the supporting electrolyte.

**Magnetic data.** Magnetic susceptibility measurements with polycrystalline samples of complexes **4-8** were carried out in a Quantum Design MPMS-XL-7 SQUID magnetometer using a field of 1000 Oe in the 2-300 K temperature range. Pascal's constants were used to estimate the diamagnetic corrections for the compounds.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

**Supporting Information.** X-ray crystallographic data in CIF format, further experimental details and spectroscopic data of key compounds. This material is free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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(13) The corresponding Co(II) complex from ligand **3** could not be isolated probably due to steric restrictions; upon isolation only the starting materials were recovered.

(14) Note that the synthesis, using the same time frame, under nitrogen or argon afforded in both cases a 17% of **7**, whereas its synthesis in a glove box gave only 8% isolated yield. This indicates that oxygen may be actively involved promoting the formation of complex **7** being one of the oxidizing sources.

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Co(II) and Co(III) complexes comprising amino-trisphenolate ligands have been prepared and fully characterized. X-ray analyses, variable temperature NMR measurements and SQUID magnetization studies were conducted to support the oxidation states of the obtained complexes. One of the isolated Co(III) derivatives shows fluxional ligand coordination behavior in solution allowing for penta- and hexa-coordinated species to be identified in the high and low-temperature regimes, respectively.

