

Relativistic Effects on a Metal-Metal Bond: Osmium Corrole Dimers

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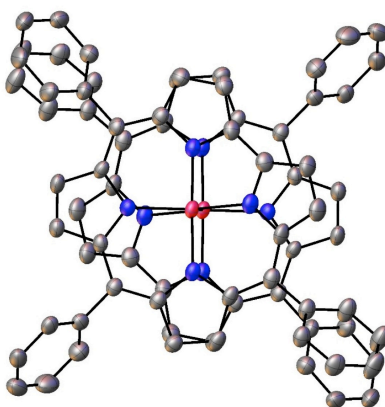
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The first osmium corrole dimers have been synthesized, affording an experimentally calibrated analysis of relativistic effects on a metal-metal bond.



Abstract. A series of metal-metal bonded osmium corrole dimers, $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpXPC}]\}_2$, were synthesized in reasonably good yields (36-45%) via the interaction of the corresponding free-base *meso*-tris(*p*-X-phenyl)corroles ($\text{H}_3[\text{TpXPC}]$, X = CF₃, H, CH₃, and OCH₃), Os₃(CO)₁₂, and potassium carbonate in 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene under an inert atmosphere at 180 °C over several hours. The complexes are only the second class of Os corroles reported to date (the first being Os^{VI}N corroles) and also the second class of metal-metal bonded metallocorrole dimers (the other being Ru corrole dimers). Comparison of the X-ray structures, redox potentials, and optical spectra of analogous Ru and Os corrole dimers, along with pertinent scalar-relativistic DFT calculations, has provided an experimentally calibrated account of relativistic effects in these complexes. Three of the Os corrole dimers (X = CF₃, H, and OCH₃) were analyzed with single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis, revealing inversion-related corrole rings with eclipsed Os-N bonds and Os-Os distances of ~2.24 Å that are ~0.06 Å longer than the Ru-Ru distances in the analogous Ru corrole dimers. Interestingly, a comparison of scalar-relativistic and nonrelativistic DFT calculations indicates that this difference in metal-metal bond distance does not, in fact, reflect a differential relativistic effect. For a given corrole ligand, the Ru and Os corrole dimers exhibit nearly identical oxidation potentials, but dramatically different reduction potentials, with the Os values ~0.5 V lower relative to Ru, suggesting that whereas oxidation occurs in a ligand-centered manner, reduction is substantially metal-centered, which indeed was confirmed by scalar-relativistic calculations. The calculations further indicate that approximately a third of the ~0.5 V difference in reduction potentials can be ascribed to relativity. The somewhat muted value of this relativistic effect appears to be related to the finding that reduction of an Os corrole dimer is not exclusively metal-based, but that a significant amount of spin density is delocalized over to the corrole ligand; in contrast, reduction of an Ru corrole dimer occurs exclusively on the Ru-Ru linkage. For isoelectronic complexes, the Ru and Os corrole dimers exhibit substantially different UV-vis spectra. A key difference is a strong near-UV feature of the Os series, which in energy terms is blue-shifted by ~0.55 V relative to the analogous feature of the Ru series. TDDFT calculations suggest that this difference may be related to higher-energy Os(5d)-based LUMOs in the Os case relative to analogous MOs for Ru.

Introduction. It is a matter of common knowledge that second- and third-row transition metals are chemically much more similar to one another than to their first-row counterparts.¹ This similarity is thought to reflect the larger size of the 4d and 5d orbitals of the heavier transition metals relative to the 3d orbitals. The orbital size effect manifests itself in many ways, including the 4d and 5d elements' preference for low-spin states, the ability to adopt higher oxidation states, and the propensity to form metal-metal multiple bonds, relative to the 3d elements. Laboratory researchers concerned with the practicalities of chemical synthesis, however, also tend to be keenly aware of the *differences* between 4d and 5d elements. They may be aware, for example, that the synthesis of analogous 4d and 5d compounds often requires different reaction conditions, such as different reagents and solvents. From a more quantitative perspective, analogous reactions involving 4d and 5d compounds routinely exhibit major differences in kinetic and thermodynamic parameters. Relativistic effects, which significantly destabilize the 5d orbitals of third-row transition elements relative to the 4d orbitals of second-row transition elements, are thought to account for a significant fraction of these differences.^{2,3} Herein, using isoelectronic, structurally characterized ruthenium and osmium corrole dimers as paradigms, we present a study of relativistic effects on metal-metal multiple bonds.

The relativistic effect (ΔP) on a molecular property P , such as an ionization potential or a bond distance, is defined as the difference between relativistic (P_{rel}) and nonrelativistic (P_{nrrel}) calculated values of that property. Relativistic effects, accordingly, are purely theoretical quantities. For ΔP to be meaningful in a practical sense, however, we need to ensure that P_{rel} is calculated at a high enough level so that it matches the experimental value of the property P_{expt} and that P_{nrrel} is calculated at essentially the same theoretical level except for the relativistic treatment. Under these conditions, i.e., $P_{\text{expt}} = P_{\text{nrrel}}$, we may with some justification speak about the relativistic effect on an experimentally determined property P_{expt} or, more briefly, an experimentally calibrated relativistic effect. Fortunately, density functional theory (DFT) often provides both a computationally expedient and a surprisingly accurate description of relativistic effects on heavy element compounds.^{4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11}

We hypothesized that 5d-5d multiple bonds should provide particularly good examples of strong relativistic effects. Since Ru corrole dimers are already known,^{12,13,14,15} Os corrole dimers appeared to be logical targets for synthesis and detailed characterization. Moreover, Os corrole chemistry is still in its infancy, with Os^{VI}N corroles as the only known representatives.¹⁶ Like certain other 5d metallocorroles,^{17,18,19,20,21} Os^{VI}N corroles also exhibit near-IR phosphorescence

and have been applied as optical sensors for oxygen and as sensitizers for triplet-triplet annihilation upconversion.²² Thus motivated, we duly synthesized a series of Os corrole dimers. Comparison with the analogous Ru compounds indeed revealed substantial relativistic effects for the Os series.

Results and discussion. (a) Synthesis and proof of composition. Two isoelectronic series of metal-metal-bonded dimers, $\{M[TPXPC]\}_2$, were prepared, where $M = Ru$ and Os and $H_3[TPXPC]$ refers to a free-base *meso*-tris(*p*-X-phenyl)corroles ($H_3[TPXPC]$, $X = CF_3, H, CH_3,$ and OCH_3). The Ru series could be accessed via minor modification of an existing synthetic protocol, namely from free-base corroles and $[Ru(cod)Cl_2]_x$ in refluxing 2-methoxyethanol in the presence of an amine base.¹²⁻¹⁴ A new protocol, however, had to be developed for the Os dimers, which in its final, optimized form involved the interaction of a free-base corrole, $Os_3(CO)_{12}$, and potassium carbonate in 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene under an inert atmosphere at 180 °C over ~16 h (Figure 1). Upon completion of the reaction (as indicated by UV-vis spectroscopy), high-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrometric analysis indicated the formation of Os corrole dimers. Upon cooling, the reaction mixture was subjected to column chromatography, affording the desired complexes as reddish-brown solids in 35-40% yields.

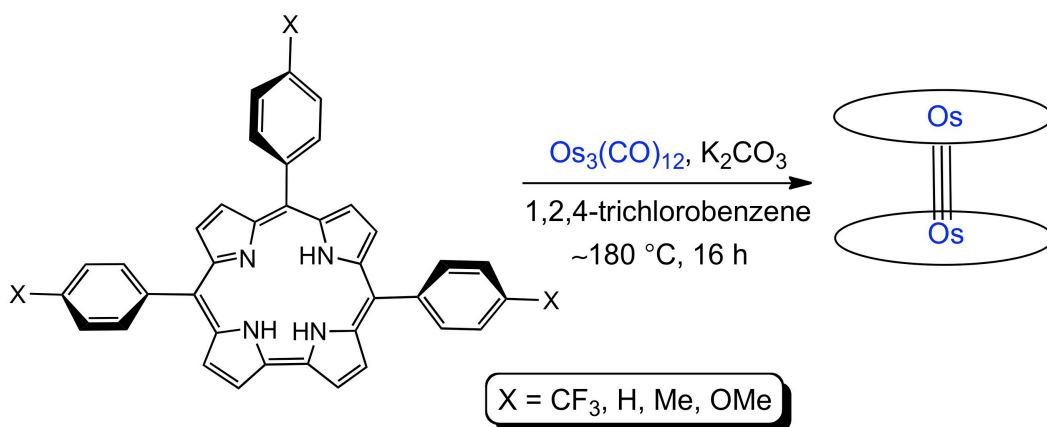


Figure 1. Synthesis of Os corrole dimers.

The complexes yielded broad ^1H NMR spectra at room temperature, but the spectra sharpened significantly at 253 K (Figure 2), clearly indicating the compounds as diamagnetic. The diamagnetism of the compounds is consistent with Cotton's molecular orbital (MO) model of d-d metal-metal bonding,²³ which predicts an Os-Os triple bond with a $\sigma^2\pi^4\delta^2\delta^*2$ configuration. It may be recalled that the analogous Group 8 metal-metal-bonded porphyrins are paramagnetic, triplet species with a $\sigma^2\pi^4\delta^2\delta^*\pi^*2$ configuration.^{24,25,26} The ^1H NMR spectra at 253 K could be essentially fully assigned, revealing symmetry-related *meso*-triarylcorrole ligands in which the *ortho* and *meta* protons of each phenyl ring are split into symmetry-distinct pairs; the latter feature is typical for square-pyramidally coordinated corrole derivatives.²⁷

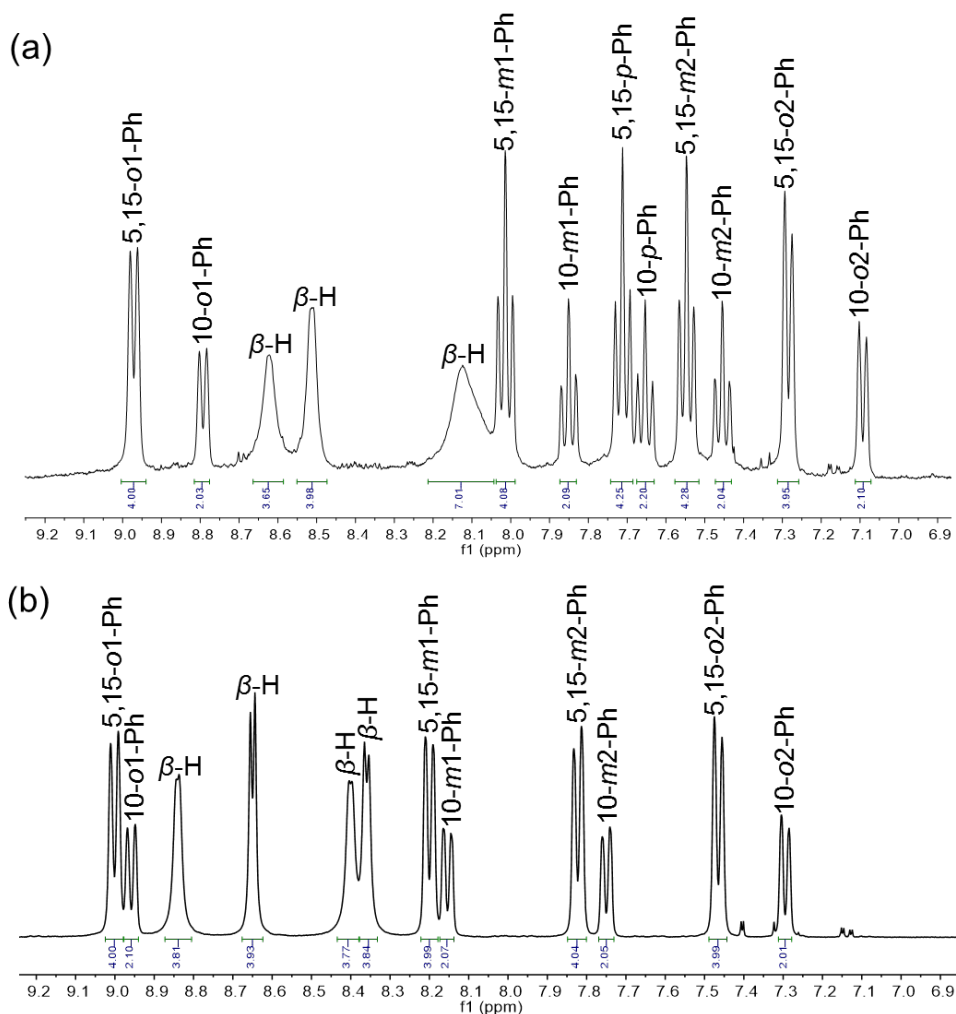


Figure 2. Representative ^1H NMR spectra in CD_2Cl_2 at 253 K: (a) $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and (b) $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpCF}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$.

(b) X-ray crystal structures. Conclusive proof of structure came from three single-crystal X-ray structures, as detailed in Tables 1 and 2 and Figure 3. All three structures are characterized by approximately inversion-related corrole rings and approximately eclipsed Os-N bonds. Such a conformation allows for δ -bonding between the Ru(d_{xy}) orbitals and also minimizes steric repulsions among the phenyl substituents. The three structures also exhibit mutually consistent Os-N (1.95 ± 0.05 Å) and Os-Os (~ 2.24 Å) distances and Os-N_{plane} displacements (~ 0.51 Å). Interestingly, while the M-N and M-N_{plane} distances are nearly identical for Ru and Os corrole dimers, the Os-Os distances are significantly longer than the Ru-Ru distances (~ 2.18 Å, Table 2). The difference of ~ 0.06 Å between the Ru-Ru and Os-Os distances is slightly lower than that expected on the basis of Pyykkö's triple bond radii for the two metals (Ru 1.03 Å and Os 1.09 Å), which, importantly, were not 'trained' on metal-metal bonded compounds. An interesting question concerns to what extent these metal-metal bond distances are affected by relativistic effects. B3LYP^{28,29,30}-D3³¹/STO-TZP geometry optimizations of {Os[TPC]}₂ with nonrelativistic and zeroth order regular approximation (ZORA)^{32,33} scalar-relativistic Hamiltonians yielded very similar Os-Os distances – 2.255 and 2.262 Å, respectively. The limited amount of computational data in the literature also suggests that relativistic effects should only have a minor influence on 4d-4d and 5d-5d metal-metal bonds.^{34,35,36,37}

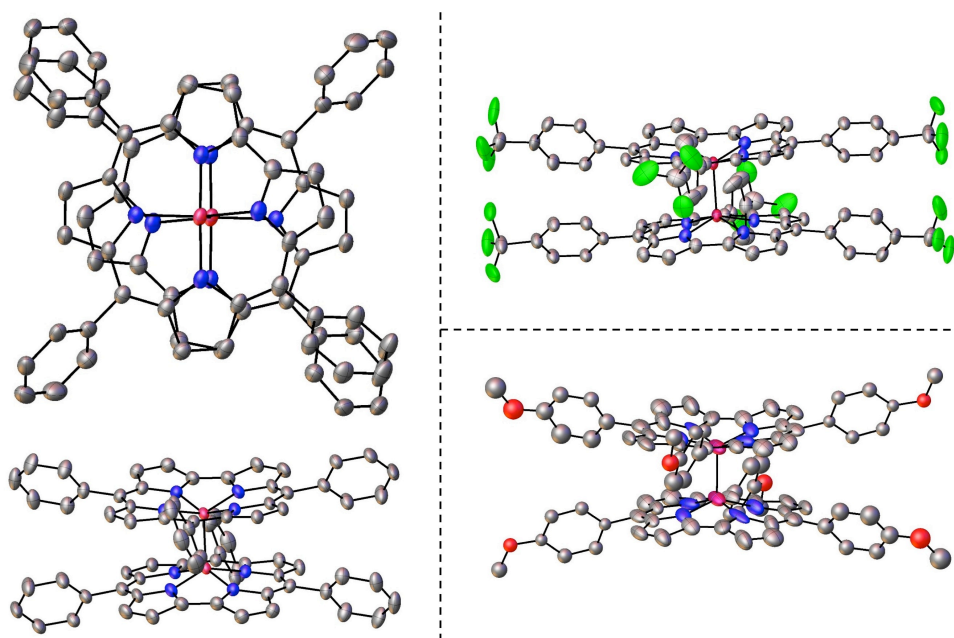


Figure 3. Thermal ellipsoid plots (50%) for {Os[TPC]}₂ (left), {Os[TpCF₃C]}₂ (top right), and {Os[TpOCH₃C]}₂.

Table 1. Crystallographic data for the complexes analyzed.

Sample	{Os[<i>Tp</i> CF ₃ C]} ₂	{Os[TPC]} ₂	{Os[<i>Tp</i> OMeC]} ₂
Chemical formula	C ₉₂ H ₆₈ F ₁₈ N ₈ Os ₂	C ₁₄₈ H ₉₂ N ₁₆ Os _{3.41}	C ₈₀ H ₅₈ N ₈ O ₆ Os ₂
Formula mass	2007.94	2743.66	1607.74
Crystal system	Triclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic
Crystal size (mm ³)	0.270 x 0.080 x 0.005	0.150 x 0.050 x 0.010	0.140 x 0.020 x 0.010
Space group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1
λ (Å)	0.7749	0.7749	0.8856
<i>a</i> (Å)	9.625(3)	12.8033(7)	11.4553(6)
<i>b</i> (Å)	15.330(5)	13.0678(7)	12.4466(7)
<i>c</i> (Å)	16.018(6)	17.0021(9)	12.9535(8)
α (deg)	111.503(7)	101.482(2)	71.171(4)
β (deg)	96.578(7)	101.895(2)	80.750(4)
γ (deg)	101.453(7)	105.645(2) ^o	83.551(4)
<i>Z</i>	1	1	1
<i>V</i> (Å ³)	2109.1(13)	2580.7(2)	1721.72(18)
Temperature (K)	100(2)	100(2)	100(2)
Density (g/cm ³)	1.581	1.765	1.551
Measured reflections	81222	68853	9809
Unique reflections	8595	10596	4483
Parameters	596	661	442
Restraints	116	9	232
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.0581	0.0407	0.0682
θ range (deg.)	1.522 – 28.999	1.833 – 29.018	2.159 – 28.520
<i>R</i> ₁ , <i>wR</i> ₂ all data	0.0418, 0.1062	0.0408, 0.1045	0.1088, 0.1642
<i>S</i> (GooF) all data	1.069	1.083	1.054
Max/min res. dens. (e/Å ³)	2.612/-1.672	3.140/-1.431	2.524/-1.148

Table 2. Selected crystallographic distances (Å) relevant to the osmium coordination geometry.

Complex	Os-N1	Os-N2	Os-N3	Os-N4	Os-Os	Os-N _{plane}
{Os[<i>Tp</i> CF ₃ C]} ₂	1.979(4)	2.002(4)	1.991(4)	1.977(4)	2.2398(7)	0.522(2)
{Os[TPC]} ₂	1.959(4)	1.979(4)	1.978(4)	1.968(4)	2.2346(4)	0.507(2)
{Os[<i>Tp</i> OMeC]} ₂	1.961(6)	1.960(7)	1.963(6)	1.951(7)	2.2403(5)	0.519(3)
{Os[<i>Tp</i> OMeC]} ₂	1.910(16)	1.979(12)	1.945(14)	1.959(12)	2.2291(13)	-0.510(5)

Table 3. Optical spectroscopic and electrochemical properties of $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TpXPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpXPC}]\}_2$: λ_{max} (nm) for Soret and Q bands and $E_{1/2}$ values (V).

Complex	λ_{max}	Q	$E_{1/2\text{ox}4}$	$E_{1/2\text{ox}3}$	$E_{1/2\text{ox}2}$	$E_{1/2\text{ox}1}$	$E_{1/2\text{red}1}$	$E_{1/2\text{red}2}$	ΔE
$\{\text{Ru}[\text{TpCF}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$	328, 397	541	-	1.31	1.09	0.76	-0.63	-1.43	1.39
$\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$	328, 397	539	1.56	1.23	0.99	0.55	-0.86	-1.66	1.41
$\{\text{Ru}[\text{TpCH}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$	329, 398	538	1.44	1.18	0.98	0.52	-0.85	-	1.37
$\{\text{Ru}[\text{TpOCH}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$	329, 406	533	1.33	1.14	0.92	0.50	-0.86	-	1.36
$\{\text{Os}[\text{TpCF}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$	287, 407	583	-	1.28	1.01	0.79	-1.13	-1.54	1.92
$\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$	287, 405	584	-	1.15	0.93	0.60	-1.29	-1.69	1.89
$\{\text{Os}[\text{TpCH}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$	287, 407	584	1.35	1.09	0.88	0.55	-1.31	-1.72	1.86
$\{\text{Os}[\text{TpOCH}_3\text{PC}]\}_2$	286, 407	585	1.28	1.05	0.85	0.54	-1.32	-1.73	1.86

(c) Electrochemistry. The cyclic voltammograms of both the Ru and Os corrole dimers exhibit at least three reversible oxidations and two reversible reductions (Table 3 and Figure 4). The oxidation potentials $E_{1/2\text{ox}1}$ through $E_{1/2\text{ox}3}$ turned out to be very similar for the Ru and Os dimers, as expected for ligand-centered processes. The reduction potentials, on the other hand, were found to be dramatically lower for the Os series (i.e., they are harder to reduce), downshifted by essentially 0.5 V relative to the Ru series, strongly implicating the metal center as the site of reduction. Essentially the same downshift is also observed for the oxidation potentials of Os porphyrin dimers (i.e., they are easier to oxidize) relative to their ruthenium counterparts.²⁴⁻²⁶ The question thus arises as to what fraction of this downshift is attributable to differences in relativistic effects for the two metals.

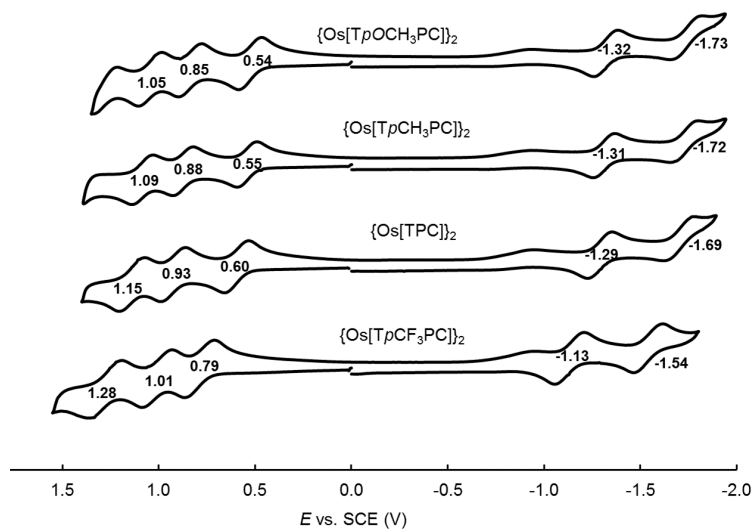


Figure 4. Cyclic voltammograms of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpXPC}]\}_2$ in dichloromethane containing 0.1 M TBAP.

B3LYP-D3/STO-TZP calculations of the adiabatic ionization potentials of $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ yielded nearly identical values of 5.40 ± 0.05 eV, regardless of relativistic treatment, consistent with ligand-centered ionization, as surmised above. The adiabatic electron affinities of the two complexes, in contrast, proved to be significantly different at both the nonrelativistic and scalar-relativistic levels. With a nonrelativistic Hamiltonian, the adiabatic EAs turned out to be 2.642 eV for $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and 2.368 eV for $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$. With the zeroth order regular approximation to the Dirac equation applied as a scalar approximation, the relativistic adiabatic EAs turned out to be 2.501 eV for $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and 1.957 eV for $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$. Key lessons from these results include the following: The relativistic effect on the adiabatic EA is significant for $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ (0.14 eV) but nearly three times higher for $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ (0.41 eV). Second, even at the nonrelativistic level, the adiabatic EA of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ is 0.27 eV lower than that of $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$, but the difference increases to just over 0.40 eV at the relativistic level, in fair agreement with the difference in experimental reduction potentials of the two compounds. The results suggest that about a third of the difference in reduction potentials between Ru and Os may be attributed to differential relativistic effects between the two elements. Based on comparative electrochemical measurements of Mo and W biscorrole sandwich compounds,^{38,39,40} however, we expected a somewhat larger relativistic effect for the reduction potential of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ as well as for the differential relativistic effect between $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$. An examination of the scalar-relativistic spin density profiles of the ionized states of the two complexes provided a plausible explanation for the somewhat muted relativistic effect in the Os case (Figure 5).

For the cationic states of both $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$, the spin density was found to be entirely localized on the ligands, in agreement with the discussion above. The spin density corresponds to electron removal from a corrole “ a_{2u} ”-based HOMO of the dimeric molecules, permitting ourselves to use the D_{4h} irreducible representation that is appropriate for the analogous porphyrin HOMO. For $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ anion, on the other hand, the spin density is largely (~80%) localized on the Ru atoms, consistent with single occupancy of one of the Ru-Ru π^* -based MOs, which accounts for the significant relativistic effect on the EA. For $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ anion, in contrast, the spin density is split approximately 1:1 between the Os_2 moiety and the TPC ligands. The relativistically elevated energy of the Os(5d) orbitals apparently pushes part of the spin density over to a corrole-based MO of the appropriate symmetry, as qualitatively illustrated by the LUMO of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ (Figure 5). The finding that one-electron reduction does

not occur in a predominantly metal-centered manner nicely explains why the relativistic effect on the reduction potential of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$, while substantial, is not quite as dramatic as might have been anticipated.

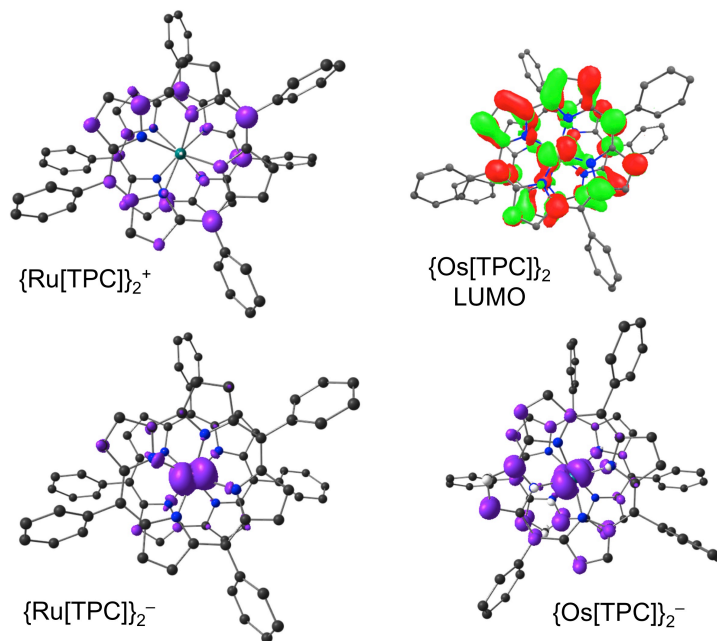


Figure 5. Selected scalar relativistic B3LYP-D3/ZORA-STO-TZP spin density and MO plots.

UV-visible spectroscopy. For isoelectronic compounds, the $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TpXPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpXPC}]\}_2$ series exhibit remarkably different UV-vis spectra (Figure 6). In our earlier work on metallocorroles, we have regularly used different *para*-X-substituted corrole derivatives as a probe for a noninnocent corrole ligand, which almost invariably manifests itself as a substituent-sensitive Soret maximum.⁴¹ By this criterion, the Ru and Os corrole dimers, like the majority of 4d and 5d metallocorroles (including MoO,⁴² RuN,¹⁴ OsN,¹⁶ TcO,⁴³ ReO,⁴⁴ Pt,⁴⁵ and Au^{46,47,48,49} corroles), appear to be innocent. The spectra of both series of dimers are nonetheless unusual, relative to first-row transition metal corroles, and are characterized by intense near-UV features. Thus, both the Ru and Os series exhibit Soret-like bands at ~ 400 nm and intense higher-energy “post-Soret” bands. The latter feature occurs at ~ 328 nm for the Ru series and at ~ 287 nm for the Os series, which corresponds to an energy difference of ~ 0.55 eV. In addition, the Os series exhibits a third well-resolved peak in the near-UV region at ~ 363 nm. The Ru series also exhibits well-resolved Q band at 537 ± 4 nm, which appears to exhibit slight substituent-dependence, while the Q bands of the Os series only appear as a less distinct feature at around 590 nm.

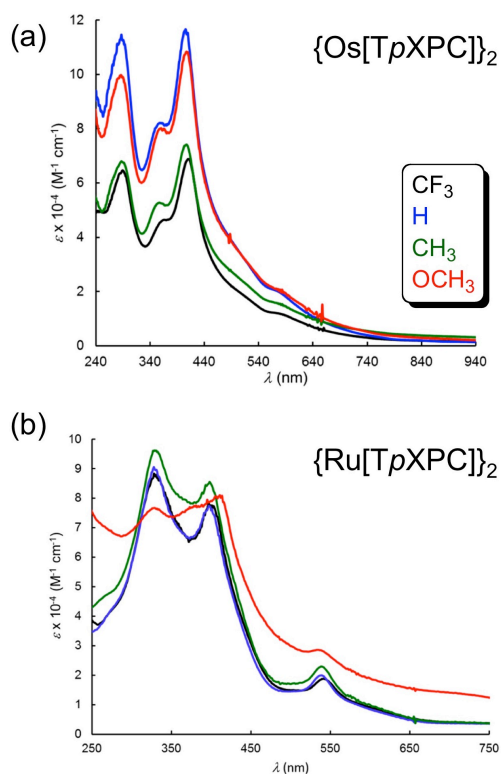


Figure 6. UV-vis spectra of (a) $\{\text{Os}[\text{T}p\text{XPC}]\}_2$ and (b) $\{\text{Ru}[\text{T}p\text{XPC}]\}_2$ in dichloromethane.

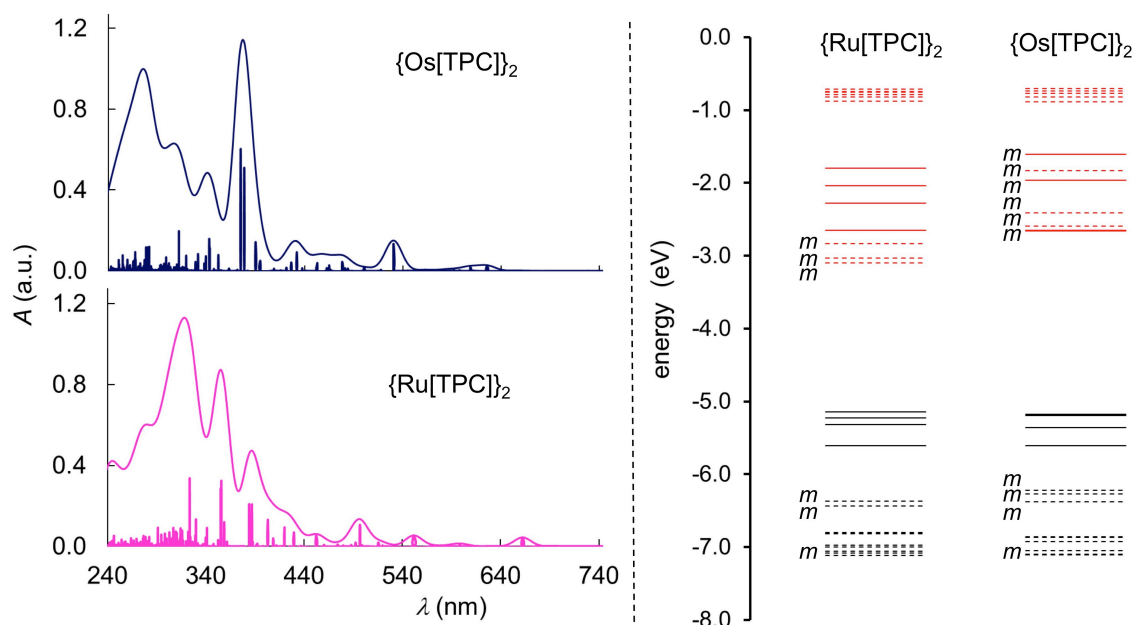


Figure 7. Left: Scalar-relativistic ZORA-TDDFT (B3LYP-D3/STO-TZP) simulated spectra for $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ (left) and the corresponding Kohn-Sham energy level diagrams (right). Solid and dotted lines indicate Gouterman-type and other MOs, respectively, while the label m denotes greater than 20% metal character.

Scalar-relativistic time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT; B3LYP-D3/ZORA-STO-TZP) calculations do a rather good job of reproducing key features of the UV-vis spectra of $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$, including the blue-shifted post-Soret feature of the multiplicity of individual MO-to-MO excitations contributing to each transition. The scalar-latter (Figure 7). A detailed discussion of peak assignments, however, is impractical, not only because of the large number of transitions within a given spectral region, but also because of the relativistic MO energy levels of the two compounds, however, readily permit a discussion of relativistic effects. There is little difference in the orbital energy levels for the few highest occupied MOs of the two complexes, which consist of combinations of the Gouterman-type HOMOs of the two corroles.^{50,51} Likewise, purely Gouterman-type LUMOs have similar orbital energies for the two molecules. On the other hand, LUMOs with significant or predominant metal d character are destabilized in $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ by as much 0.5 – 1.0 eV, relative to $\{\text{Ru}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$. Comparison with an analogous nonrelativistic MO energy level diagram (not shown) showed that the differences between Ru and Os energy levels are largely attributable to much stronger relativistic effects for Os 5d orbitals. A detailed examination of the MO-to-MO composition of the transitions in different spectral regions further confirmed that relativistically destabilized Os 5d-based MOs indeed account for much of the intensity of the unique, blue-shifted post-Soret peak of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$.

Conclusion. The 4d and 5d metallocorroles are a novel class of size-mismatched complexes incorporating a large transition metal ion within the sterically constrained N_4 cavity of a corrole. The metal insertion process is almost invariably capricious, requiring specific reagents, solvents, and temperatures, but the products, once formed, are often stable, potentially allowing for a wide range of applications. Against this backdrop, we have presented the synthesis of osmium corrole dimers, which are only the second class of Os corrole derivatives ever to be reported. The compounds were obtained in fairly good yields, 35-46%, which are roughly double those obtained for analogous Ru corrole dimers. Whether the new compounds prove amenable to reductive cleavage and thereby serve as a source of new mononuclear Os corrole complexes remains an exciting prospect for the future.

The availability analogous Ru and Os corrole dimers made for a detailed study of experimentally calibrated relativistic effects on Group 8 metallocorroles. Single-crystal X-ray structures of three Os corrole dimers revealed Os-Os distances of ~ 2.24 Å, which are ~ 0.06 Å longer than the Ru-Ru distances in analogous Ru corrole dimers. Interestingly, DFT geometry

optimizations with scalar-relativistic and nonrelativistic Hamiltonians revealed an almost vanishingly small relativistic effect on these distances.

The redox potentials of the compounds and associated calculations on the gas-phase ionization potentials and electron affinities of the compounds provided some of the most significant insights into relativistic effects on the compounds. For a given corrole ligand, the Ru and Os dimers were found to exhibit very similar oxidation potentials, consistent with ligand-centered oxidation; the Os dimers on the other hand were found to exhibit substantially lower reduction potentials, by a margin of 0.5 eV, suggesting reduction of the metal-metal bond. Gas-phase scalar-relativistic DFT calculations of ionization potentials and electron affinities nicely reproduced the trends in electrochemical data. In particular, the calculations suggested that about a third of the difference in reduction potential between analogous Ru and Os corrole dimers can be attributed to relativistic effects, which is somewhat smaller than what we expected. A plausible explanation is provided by scalar-relativistic spin density profiles, which indicate that one-electron reduction of the Os dimer does not occur exclusively on the metal-metal bond, but that as much as half the spin density is delocalized on to the corrole rings.

The Ru and Os corrole dimers exhibit significantly different electronic absorption spectra in the UV-vis regime, including an intense post-Soret feature in the case of the Os compounds that is some 0.55 eV blue-shifted relative to the analogous feature for the Ru compounds. TDDFT calculations suggest that a large number of the transitions in this region have metal d-based LUMO character, which leads to a higher transition energy in the Os case, as a result of strong relativistic destabilization of the Os(5d) orbitals.

Experimental section

Materials. All free-base corroles were synthesized via the now-standard water-methanol method.⁵² The reagents 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, trismium dodecacarbonyl (99.99%), potassium carbonate (granulated), 2-methoxyethanol, trimethylamine, and (1,5-cyclooctadiene)ruthenium(II) polymer were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. Silica gel 60 (0.04-0.063 mm particle size, 230-400 mesh, Merck) was employed for flash chromatography. Silica gel 60 preparative thin-layer chromatographic plates (20 cm x 20 cm x 0.5 mm, Merck) were used for final purification of all complexes.

General instrumental methods. UV-visible spectra were recorded on an HP 8453 spectrophotometer. ¹H NMR spectra (253 K, CD₂Cl₂) were recorded on a 400 MHz Bruker

Avance III HD spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm BB/1H SmartProbe and referenced to residual CH₂Cl₂ at 5.31 ppm. High-resolution electrospray-ionization (HR-ESI) mass spectra were recorded on an LTQ Orbitrap XL spectrometer, using methanolic solutions and typically in positive ion mode. Elemental analyses were performed by Atlantic Microlab Inc., U.S.A.⁵³

Cyclic voltammetry was carried out at 298 K with an EG&G Model 263A potentiostat equipped with a three-electrode system: a glassy carbon working electrode, a platinum wire counterelectrode, and a saturated calomel reference electrode (SCE). Tetra(*n*-butyl)ammonium perchlorate, recrystallized twice from absolute ethanol and dried in a desiccator for at least 2 weeks, was used as the supporting electrolyte. Anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (Aldrich) was used as solvent. The reference electrode was separated from the bulk solution by a fritted-glass bridge filled with the solvent/supporting electrolyte mixture. The electrolyte solution was purged with argon for at least 2 min prior to all measurements, which were carried out under an argon blanket. All potentials were referenced to the SCE.

General procedure for the synthesis of {Ru[TpXPC]}₂. To a solution of the free-base corrole, H₃[TpXPC] (0.136 mmol), in refluxing 2-methoxyethanol (10 mL) under argon, was added trimethylamine (50 μL), followed by {Ru(cod)Cl₂}_x (115 mg, 0.41 mmol). After stirring for 30 min, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated, and the resulting crude solid was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with 3:2 dichloromethane/hexane as eluent. For final characterization, the product was further purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography on silica gel with 3:1 dichloromethane/hexane as eluent.

{Ru[TpCF₃PC]}₂. Yield 20.2 mg (0.0122 mmol, 17.9 %). UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (nm) and ε x 10⁻⁴ (M⁻¹cm⁻¹): 328 (8.83), 397 (7.82), 541(1.88). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 9.10 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.99 (d, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 8.83 (d, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 3.5 Hz, β-H); 8.66 (d, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 4.2 Hz, β-H); 8.35 (bs, 8H, β-H); 8.15 (overlapping d, 6H, ³J_{HH} = 9.5 Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph & 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 7.86 (d, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 5,15-*o*2-Ph); 7.80 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.5 Hz, 10-*o*2-Ph); 7.53 (d, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 8.0 Hz, 5,15-*m*2-Ph); 7.37 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 7.7 Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph). HRMS (ESI): M⁺ = 1658.1185 (expt), 1658.1202 (calcd for C₈₀H₄₀F₁₈N₈Ru₂, major isotopomer). Elemental analysis (%): found C 57.69, H 2.62, N 6.32; calcd C 57.98, H 2.43, N 6.76.

{Ru[TPC]}₂. Yield 15.0 mg (0.0119 mmol, 17.6 %). UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (nm) and ε x 10⁻⁴ (M⁻¹cm⁻¹): 328 (9.06), 397 (7.74), 539 (1.99). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 9.05 (d, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 7.2 Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 8.93 (d, 2H, ³J_{HH} = 8.2 Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.77 (bs, 4H, β-H); 8.60 (bs,

4H, β -H); 8.29 (bs, 8H, β -H); 7.99 (t, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 7.82 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph); 7.75 (t, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 5,15-*p*-Ph); 7.69 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 10-*p*-Ph); 7.55 (t, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 5,15-*m*2-Ph); 7.45 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph); 7.33 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.2$ Hz, 5,15-*o*2-Ph); 7.13 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph). HRMS (ESI): $M^+ = 1250.2009$ (expt), 1250.1986 (calcd for $\text{C}_{74}\text{H}_{46}\text{N}_8\text{Ru}_2$, major isotopomer). Elemental analysis (%): found C 70.85, H 3.49, N 8.62; calcd C 71.14, H 3.71, N 8.97.

{Ru[TpCH₃PC]}₂. Yield 17.25 mg (0.0129 mmol, 19.0 %). UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) and $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ($\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 329 (9.61), 398 (8.54), 538(2.29). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 8.83 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.44$ Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 8.67 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.48$ Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.45 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.32 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.89 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.48$ Hz, 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 7.80 (bs, 8H, β -H); 7.71(d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.48$ Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph); 7.45 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.48$ Hz, 5,15-*o*2-Ph); 7.34 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.44$ Hz, 10-*o*2-Ph); 7.15 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.72$ Hz, 5,15-*m*2-Ph); 6.93 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.44$ Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph); 2.82 (s, 12H, 5,15-*p*-CH₃); 2.76 (s, 6H, 10-*p*-CH₃). HRMS (ESI): $M^+ = 1334.2867$ (expt), 1334.2903 (calcd for $\text{C}_{80}\text{H}_{58}\text{N}_8\text{Ru}_2$, major isotopomer). Elemental analysis (%): found C 70.12, H 4.98, N 7.84; calcd: C 72.05, H 4.38, N 8.40.

{Ru[TpOCH₃PC]}₂. Yield 15.3 mg (0.0106 mmol, 15.7 %). UV-vis (CH_2Cl_2) λ_{max} (nm) and $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ ($\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$): 329 (7.66), 406 (8.06), 533(2.85). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 8.88 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.08$ Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 8.86 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.92$ Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.69 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 3.88$ Hz, β -H); 8.58 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 3.88$ Hz, β -H); 8.22 (bs, 8H, β -H); 7.52 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.08$ Hz, 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 7.42(d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.08$ Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph); 7.26 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.08$ Hz, 5,15-*o*2-Ph); 7.09 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.64$ Hz, 5,15-*m*2-Ph); 7.07 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.04$ Hz, 10-*o*2-Ph); 7.01 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.44$ Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph); 4.10 (s, 12H, 5,15-*p*-OCH₃); 4.07 (s, 6H, 10-*p*-OCH₃). HRMS (ESI): $M^+ = 1430.2481$ (expt), 1430.2445 (calcd for $\text{C}_{80}\text{H}_{58}\text{N}_8\text{O}_6\text{Ru}_2$, major isotopomer). Elemental analysis (%): found C 65.07, H 5.47, N 6.41; calcd C 67.22, H 4.09, N 7.84.

General procedure for the synthesis of {Os[TpXPC]}₂. A two-necked 50-mL round-bottom flask was charged with free-base corrole, $\text{H}_3[\text{TpXPC}]$ (0.109 mmol), $\text{Os}_3(\text{CO})_{12}$ (0.109 mmol, 98.75 mg), potassium carbonate (100 mg), 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene (10 mL), and a stirring bar. The contents were deoxygenated with a constant flow of argon for 10 min and then heated (180°C) overnight with constant stirring under Ar. Completion of the reaction was indicated by the disappearance of the Soret absorption band of the free-base corrole and appearance of a new split Soret band with maxima at approximately 287 and 407 nm. Upon cooling, the reaction mixture was loaded directly on to a silica gel column with *n*-hexane as the mobile phase. 1,2,4-

Trichlorobenzene was first removed by eluting with pure hexane. *n*-Hexane/dichloromethane (1:3) mixtures were then used to elute the reddish-brown Os corrole dimer. Subsequent preparative thin-layer chromatography with 1:3 hexane/dichloromethane resulted in final yields of 35–46%. Analytical details for the Os corrole dimers are given below.

{Os[*TpCF₃PC*]}₂. Yield 35.0 mg (0.019 mmol, 35.0%). UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (nm) and $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ (M⁻¹cm⁻¹): 287 (6.46), 363 (4.65), 407 (6.88), 583 (1.17). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 9.05 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.88 Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 9.00 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.36 Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.88 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.69 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 5.08 Hz, β -H); 8.45 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.40 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 4.32 Hz, β -H); 8.25 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.36 Hz, 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 8.20 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.12 Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph); 7.87 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.88 Hz, 5,15-*m*2-Ph); 7.79 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.60 Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph); 7.51 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.36 Hz, 5,15-*o*2-Ph); 7.34 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.12 Hz, 10-*o*2-Ph); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 29.82, 115.84, 117.26, 118.03, 123.56, 124.15, 124.36, 124.61, 125.03, 125.34, 126.24, 126.96, 128.24, 129.11, 129.50, 129.82, 130.15, 130.37, 134.25, 134.31, 134.89, 139.93, 140.51, 142.41, 144.05, 144.67; ¹⁹F NMR: δ -62.41 (s, 18F, 5,10, 15-*p*-CF₃, Ph). HRMS (ESI): *M*⁺ = 1836.2311 (expt), 1836.2282 (calcd for C₈₀H₄₀F₁₈N₈Os₂). Elemental analysis (%): found C 51.99, H 2.72, N 5.34; calcd C 52.34, H 2.20, N 6.10.

{Os[*TPC*]}₂. Yield 29.5 mg (0.02 mmol, 38.0%). UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (nm) and $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ (M⁻¹cm⁻¹): 287 (11.45), 363 (8.20), 405 (11.66), 584 (1.96). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 9.00 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 8.82 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.65 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.54 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.15 (bs, 8H, β -H); 8.04 (t, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 7.88 (t, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph); 7.74 (t, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 6.76 Hz, 5,15-*p*-Ph); 7.68 (t, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 10-*p*-Ph); 7.57 (t, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.48 Hz, 5,15-*m*2-Ph); 7.48 (t, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 10-*m*2-Ph); 7.31 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 5,15-*o*2-Ph); 7.12 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.52 Hz, 10-*o*2-Ph); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ 115.75, 124.16, 125.15, 126.57, 127.03, 127.18, 127.43, 127.51, 127.55, 134.82, 139.89, 141.06. HRMS (ESI): *M*⁺ = 1428.3063 (expt), 1430.3039 (calcd for C₇₄H₄₆N₈Os₂). Elemental analysis (%): found C 61.47, H 3.90, N 7.13; calcd C 62.25, H 3.25, N 7.85.

{Os[*TpCH₃PC*]}₂. Yield 38.0 mg (0.025 mmol, 46.12%). UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (nm) and $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ (M⁻¹cm⁻¹): 287 (6.80), 363 (5.24), 407 (7.41), 585 (1.52). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, -20°C): δ 8.81 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.36 Hz, 5,15-*o*1-Ph); 8.62 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.36 Hz, 10-*o*1-Ph); 8.49 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.41 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.91 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.36 Hz, 5,15-*m*1-Ph); 7.85 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.75 (d, 2H, ³*J*_{HH} = 8.32 Hz, 10-*m*1-Ph); 7.69 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.44 (d, 4H, ³*J*_{HH} = 7.36 Hz, 5,15-

m2-Ph); 7.35 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.36$ Hz, 10-*m2*-Ph); 7.17 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.36$ Hz, 5,15-*o2*-Ph); 6.96 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.36$ Hz, 10-*o2*-Ph); 2.84 (s, 12H, 5,15-*p*-CH₃); 2.76 (s, 6H, 10-*p*-CH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 19.74, 20.99, 22.25, 23.50, 114.88, 116.58, 119.46, 122.83, 123.84, 124.57, 125.59, 125.98, 127.33, 127.66, 128.88, 133.35, 135.07, 136.79, 137.76, 138.34, 140.19, 141.14, 141.23, 142.08. HRMS (ESI): $M^+ = 1512.4022$ (expt), 1514.3978 (calcd for C₈₀H₅₈N₈O₅S₂). Elemental analysis (%): found C 61.41, H 4.53, N 6.63; calcd C 63.56, H 3.87, N 7.41.

{Os[TpOCH₃PC]}₂. Yield 35.3 mg (0.0219 mmol, 40.31%). UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (nm) and $\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ (M⁻¹cm⁻¹): 286 (9.50), 365 (7.62), 407 (10.31), 585 (1.98). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, –20°C): δ 8.79 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.92$ Hz, 5,15-*o1*-Ph); 8.65 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.60$ Hz, 10-*o1*-Ph); 8.56 (bs, 4H, β -H); 8.46 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.88 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.67 (bs, 4H, β -H); 7.61 (d, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.32$ Hz, 5,15-*m1*-Ph); 7.49 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.32$ Hz, 10-*m1*-Ph); 7.16 (overlapping doublet, 4H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$ Hz, 5,15-*o2* and *m2*-Ph); 7.07 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.32$ Hz, 10-*m2*-Ph); 6.98 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 8.32$ Hz, 10-*o2*-Ph); 4.12 (s, 12H, 5,15-*p*-OCH₃); 4.09 (s, 6H, 10-*p*-OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 55.64, 55.67, 112.32, 112.52, 112.86, 115.28, 119.89, 123.94, 124.82, 126.47, 132.58, 133.10, 134.99, 135.48, 140.24, 140.82, 142.53, 159.10, 159.28. HRMS (ESI): $M^+ = 1608.3706$ (expt), 1610.3673 (calcd for C₈₀H₅₈N₈O₆Os₂, major isotopomer). Elemental analysis (%): found C 59.11, H 4.10, N 6.57; calcd C 59.76, H 3.64, N 6.97.

Crystallization and crystallography. X-ray data were collected on beamline 11.3.1 at the Advanced Light Source of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California. The samples were mounted on MiTeGen[®] kapton loops and placed in a 100(2) K nitrogen cold stream provided by an Oxford Cryostream 700 Plus low temperature apparatus on the goniometer head of a Bruker D8 diffractometer equipped with an APEXII CCD detector. Diffraction data were collected using synchrotron radiation monochromated with silicon(111) to wavelengths of 0.7749(1), 0.7749(1), and 0.8856(1) Å for {Os[TpCF₃C]}₂, {Os[TPC]}₂ and {Os[TpOMeC]}₂, respectively. In each case, an approximate full-sphere of data was collected using 1° ω scans. Absorption corrections were applied with SADABS.⁵⁴ The structures were solved by intrinsic phasing methods (SHELXT)⁵⁵ and refined by full-matrix least squares on F^2 (SHELXL-2018).⁵⁶ Appropriate scattering factors were applied using the XDISP⁵⁷ program within the WinGX suite.⁵⁸ Hydrogen atoms were geometrically calculated and refined as riding atoms.

All three compounds displayed some disorder of the corrole substituents, which were modeled with occupancies that were restrained to sum to 1.00. Equivalent atoms were constrained to have equal U_{ij} values. For $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpOMeC}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$, the partial occupancy atoms were refined with isotropic thermal displacement parameters. In all cases, equivalent partial occupancy atoms were restrained to have equal U_{ij} values and equivalent disordered groups were restrained to have equal bond lengths and angles.

Large residual peaks of electron density ($\sim 2.5 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$) were observed for both $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpCF}_3\text{C}]\}_2$ and $\{\text{Os}[\text{TpOMeC}]\}_2$. As these were separated from either an Os center ($\{\text{Os}[\text{TpOMeC}]\}_2$) or a second large peak of electron density ($\{\text{Os}[\text{TpCF}_3\text{C}]\}_2$) by approximately 2.22 to 2.26 \AA , they were presumed to correspond to either the Os centers in an extremely minor twin component or to extremely minor disorder.

A region of negative electron density (ca $-6.5 \text{ e}/\text{\AA}^3$) near Os2 in $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$ suggested that the Os2 center has less than 100% occupancy. The occupancy of Os2 was allowed to freely refine, and refined to a value of approximately 71%. This situation was observed for two different crystals of $\{\text{Os}[\text{TPC}]\}_2$. A residual peak of electron density near the Os2 centre, when modeled as a partial occupancy Os atom (Os3), refined to an occupancy of 2-4%. Modeling this peak as an alternate Os site, however, reduced the occupancy of Os2 by a similar amount. As the relative occupancy of this Os3 center is so low, we could not definitively determine whether it is an alternate location of the Os2 centre; this peak has accordingly been left unassigned in the final model. No attempt was made to reduce the occupancy of the atoms that make up the corrole unit.

Computational methods. All DFT calculations were carried out with the ADF 2016 program system.⁵⁹ Relativistic effects were taken into account with the zeroth-order regular approximation (ZORA) applied as a scalar correction and specially optimized all-electron ZORA STO-TZP basis sets for such calculations. A parallel set of calculations were carried out with the same basis set but with a nonrelativistic Hamiltonian. A variety of exchange-correlation functionals were tested; however, since the results proved largely consistent, the discussion above only refers to the B3LYP-D3 results.

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by project 262229 of the Research Council of Norway (AG). This research used resources of the Advanced Light Source, which is a DOE Office of Science User Facility under contract no. DE-AC02-05CH11231.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information Available. ^1H , ^{19}F and ^{13}C NMR spectra; HR-ESI mass spectra; selected molecular orbitals; optimized Cartesian coordinates (32 pages).

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