

Mmabatho L. Ledibane and Orbett T. Alexander*

The crystal structure of *fac*-tricarbonyl(1,10-phenanthroline- κ^2N,N')-(azido- κ^1N)rhenium(I), $C_{15}H_8N_5O_3Re$

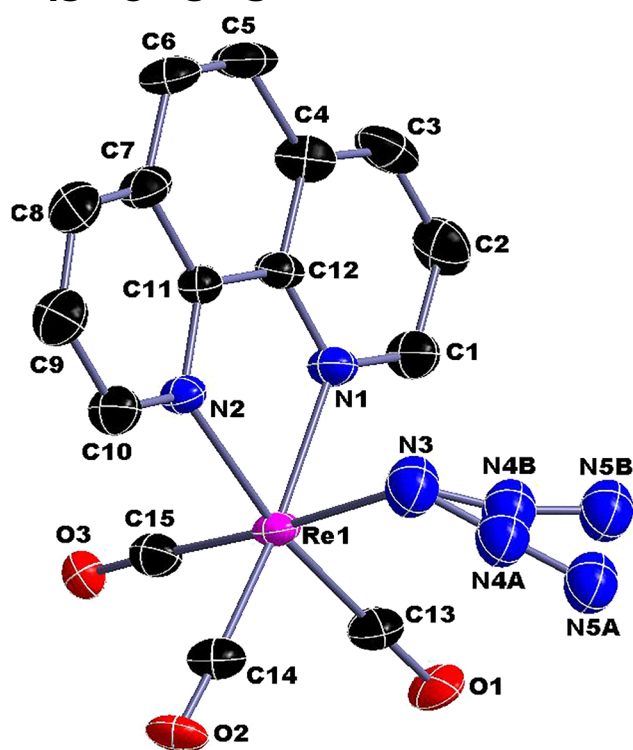


Table 1: Data collection and handling.

Crystal:	Orange cuboid
Size:	0.26 × 0.26 × 0.21 mm
Wavelength:	Mo K α radiation (0.71073 Å)
μ :	8.06 mm ⁻¹
Diffractometer, scan mode:	Bruker APEX-II, φ and ω scans
$\theta_{\max}$, completeness:	28.3°, 100 %
$N(hkl)_{\text{measured}}$, $N(hkl)_{\text{unique}}$, R_{int} :	48093, 3765, 0.058
Criterion for I_{obs} , $N(hkl)_{\text{gt}}$:	$I_{\text{obs}} > 2 \sigma(I_{\text{obs}})$, 3,607
$N(\text{param})_{\text{refined}}$:	212
Programs:	Bruker, ¹ SHELX, ^{2–4} Olex2, ⁵ Diamond ⁶

parameters can be found in the cif-file attached to this article.

1 Source of materials

The title compound was synthesized by first reacting $AgNO_3$ (22 mg, 0.1298 mmol) with *fac*-[NEt_4]₂[$Re(CO)_3(Br)_3$] (100 mg, 0.1298 mmol) in methanol and left stirring for 24 h at room temperature. The resulting mixture was filtered to remove the $AgBr$, and to the resulting filtrate, 1,10-phenanthroline (23 mg, 0.1298 mmol) was added and refluxed for a further 8 h. The azide salt (9 mg, 0.1428 mmol) was then introduced into the stirring mixture and the solution was left to reflux for 24 h. The light-orange precipitate was filtered off, dried *in vacuo*, and weighed to yield the title complex. Suitable crystals for X-ray diffraction were obtained from the vapour diffusion method using a mixture of methanol and toluene. Yield: 60 % yield, 22 mg. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): $\nu(CO)$ = 2057, 2000, $\nu(N_3)$ = 1893, 1865. 1H NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 9.39 (dd, J = 1.2, 5.1 Hz, 2H), 8.95 (dd, J = 1.3, 8.3 Hz, 2H), 8.29 (s, 2H), 8.08 (q, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H) (Table 1).

2 Experimental details

All hydrogen atoms were positioned geometrically using a riding model, with fixed C–H aromatic = 0.97 Å and the O–H atoms = 0.82 Å. The H atom isotropic displacement parameters were fixed; $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.2U_{\text{eq}}(C)$ for aromatic and $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.5U_{\text{eq}}(O)$, allowing them to ride on the parent atom. The graphics

<https://doi.org/10.1515/ncrs-2025-0291>

Received June 28, 2025; accepted August 6, 2025;

published online August 19, 2025

Abstract

$C_{15}H_8N_5O_3Re$, monoclinic, $C2/c$ (no. 15), a = 18.7508(8) Å, b = 12.2267(6) Å, c = 15.8442(11) Å, β = 123.6160(10)°, V = 3025.0(3) Å³, Z = 8, $R_{\text{gt}}(F^2)$ = 0.0377, $wR_{\text{ref}}(F^2)$ = 0.0902, T = 292 K.

CCDC no.: 2468126

The molecular structure of $C_{15}H_8N_5O_3Re$ is shown in figure. All the H-atoms and the water molecules were omitted for clarity. Table 1 contains the crystallographic data and the list of the atoms including atomic coordinates and displacement

*Corresponding author: Orbett T. Alexander, Department of Chemistry, University of the Western Cape, Bellville, 7535, Cape Town, South Africa, E-mail: oalexander@uwc.ac.za. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4926-8342>

Mmabatho L. Ledibane, Department of Chemistry, University of the Western Cape, Bellville, 7535, Cape Town, South Africa

were obtained using the DIAMOND program⁶ with 50 % probability ellipsoids.

3 Comment

There is currently an ongoing and growing interest in rhenium(I) tricarbonyl complexes for potential use in diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmacy. The reasons for the attraction of these complexes stem from several advantageous properties: their d^6 low-spin configuration, their compact size resulting from their low positive charge, their versatile coordination behaviour, their high chemical and kinetic stability, and their tuneable unique photophysical and luminescent properties.^{7–14} These attributes provide a compelling rationale for this study, which seeks to explore the relatively underexplored area of azide-labeled rhenium (I) tricarbonyl chemistry for biological purposes.

We herein have the title structure which is constructed by three facial carbonyl ligands, the 1,10-phenanthroline bidentate ligand in the equatorial position, in trans position to the two carbonyl ligands, and lastly an *N*-coordinated azido monodentate ligand in the axial position. The synthesized complex was obtained utilizing the [2 + 1] mixed ligand coordination strategy from the *fac*-[Re(MeOH)₃(CO)₃]⁺ metal precursor. The Re–C bond distances (Re1–C13, Re1–C14, and Re1–C15 are 1.916(7), 1.920(6), and 1.911(7) Å, respectively, and they are comparable to similar reported structures in literature.^{15–18} It is worth noting that there is a 63:37 positional disorder observed on the azido moiety. The typical linear resonance conformation is observed in both terminal azido modelled disorders, with an average N–N bond distance of 1.15 Å. The observed rhenium to nitrogen bond distances are 2.182(5) Å (Re1–N1), 2.176(4) Å (Re1–N2) and 2.175(6) Å (Re1–N3), respectively, which are also comparable to literature reported structures.^{16–19}

Acknowledgements: The authors would like to acknowledge the University of the Western Cape and the South African National Research Foundation (SA–NRF) for funding. OA would further like to thank Dr. D. Kama from the University of Free State for the collection of the crystallographic data.

References

- Sheldrick, G. M. A Short History of SHELX. *Acta Crystallogr.* **2008**, A64, 112–122. 2.
- Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXTL – Integrated Space-Group and Crystal Structure Determination. *Acta Crystallogr.* **2015**, A71, 3–8. 3.
- Sheldrick, G. M. Crystal Structure Refinement with SHELXL. *Acta Crystallogr.* **2015**, C71, 3–8. 4.
- Bruker. SAINT – PLUS (Version 7.12) and SADABS (Version 2004/1); Bruker AXS Inc.: Madison, WI, USA, 2004.
- Dolomanov, O. V.; Bourhis, L. J.; Gildea, R. J.; Howard, J. A.; Puschmann, K. H. OLEX2: A Complete Structure Solution, Refinement and Analysis Program. *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* **2009**, 42, 339–341.
- Brandenburg, K. DIAMOND. *Visual Crystal Structure Information System*. 3.0c; Crystal Impact: Bonn, Germany, 2005.
- Schindler, K.; Zobi, F. Anticancer and Antibiotic Rhenium Tri- and Dicarboxyl Complexes: Current Research and Future Perspectives. *Molecules* **2022**, 27, 539.
- Schutte, M.; Roodt, A.; Visser, H. G. Coordinated Aqua Vs Methanol Substitution Kinetics in *fac*-Re (I) Tricarbonyl Tropolonato Complexes. *Inorg. Chem.* **2012**, 51, 11996–12006.
- Zobi, F.; Blacque, O.; Sigel, R. K.; Alberto, R. Binding Interaction of [Re(H₂O)₃(CO)₃]⁺ with the DNA Fragment D (CpGpG). *Inorg. Chem.* **2007**, 46, 10458–10460.
- Spingler, B.; Mundwiler, S.; Ruiz-Sánchez, P.; Van Staveren, D. R.; Alberto, R. Structures of the *b*- and *d*-acid Derivatives of Vitamin B12 and Their Complexes with [M(CO)₃]⁺ (M = ^{99m}Tc, Re). *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2007**, 18, 2641–2647.
- Alberto, R.; Schibli, R.; Schubiger, P. A.; Abram, U.; Kaden, T. A. Reactions with the Technetium and Rhenium Carbonyl Complexes (NEt₄)₂ [MX₃(CO)₃]. Synthesis and Structure of [Tc(CN–But)₃(CO)₃(NO₃) and (NEt₄)[Tc₂(μ–SCH₂CH₂OH)₃(CO)₆]. *Polyhedron* **1996**, 15, 1079–1089.
- Alberto, R.; Herrmann, W. A.; Kiprof, P.; Baumgaertner, F. Multiple Bonds Between Main Group Elements and Transition Metals. 95. Synthesis and Reactivity of TcCl(CO)₃(P(C₆H₅)₃)₂: Novel Technetium Complexes of 1,4,7-Triazacyclononane and Hydridotris (Pyrazolyl) Borate. *Inorg. Chem.* **1992**, 31 (5), 895–899.
- Alberto, R.; Schibli, R.; Waibel, R.; Abram, U.; Schubiger, A. P. Basic Aqueous Chemistry of [M(OH)₂(CO)₃]⁺ (M = Re, Tc) Directed towards Radiopharmaceutical Application. *Coord. Chem. Rev.* **1999**, 190, 901–919.
- Abram, U.; Abram, S.; Alberto, R.; Schibli, R. Ligand Exchange Reactions Starting from [Re(CO)₃Br₃]^{2–}. Synthesis, Characterization and Structures of Rhenium (I) Tricarbonyl Complexes with Thiourea and Thiourea Derivatives. *Inorg. Chim. Acta* **1996**, 248, 193–202.
- Manicum, A. L.; Schutte–Smith, M.; Alexander, O. T.; Twigge, L.; Roodt, A.; Visser, H. G. First Kinetic Data of the CO Substitution in *fac*-[Re (L,L' Bid)(CO)₃(X)] Complexes (L,L' Bid = Acetylacetonate or Tropolonate) by Tertiary Phosphines PTA and PPh₃: Synthesis and Crystal Structures of water-soluble Rhenium (I) Tri- and Dicarboxyl Complexes with 1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphaadamantane (PTA). *Inorg. Chem. Commun.* **2019**, 101, 93–98.
- Moherane, L.; Alexander, O. T.; Visser, H. G.; Manicum, A. L. The Crystal Structure of [μ-hydroxido-bis [(5,5'-dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine-κ²N,N')-tricarbonylrhenium (I)] Bromide Hemihydrate, C₃₀H₂₆N₄O₉Re₂Br. *Z. Kristallogr. N. Cryst. Struct.* **2021**, 236, 1027–1029.
- Makhakhayi, L.; Malan, F. P.; Tembu, V. J.; Nkambule, C. M.; Manicum, A. L. The Crystal Structure of *fac*-tricarbonyl (N-benzoyl-N, N-cyclohexylmethylcarbamimidothioato-κ²S,O)-(pyridine-κN-rhenium (I), C₂₃H₂₄N₃O₄ReS. *Z. Kristallogr. N. Cryst. Struct.* **2023**, 238, 697–699.
- Schutte–Smith, M.; Visser, H. G. Crystal and molecular structures of *fac*-[Re(Bid)(PPh₃)(CO)₃] [Bid is tropolone (TropH) and tribromotropolone (TropBr₃H)]. *Acta Crystallogr. C* **2022**, 78, 351–359.
- Schutte–Smith, M.; Roodt, A.; Alberto, R.; Twigge, L.; Visser, H. G.; Kirsten, L.; Koen, R. Structures of Rhenium (I) Complexes with 3-hydroxyflavone and Benzhydroxamic Acid as O,O'-bidentate Ligands and Confirmation of π-stacking by solid-state NMR Spectroscopy. *Cryst. Struct. Commun.* **2019**, 75, 378–387.