

# Topic Review

## Fenton- and Fenton-type Chemistry

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## 1. Fenton's Discovery

- Reaction with tartaric acid
- The Mechanism: The Controversy
- Possible Mechanisms

## 2. Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

- Cytochromes P-450; Oxidations
- Interactions/Treatments

## 3. Environmental Application

## 4. Gif Chemistry (Barton)

## 5. Applications

- Inactivated C-H oxidation
- C-C Bond formation

## 6. Fenton Chemistry with other Metals

# Fenton's Discovery

## Henry John Horstman Fenton



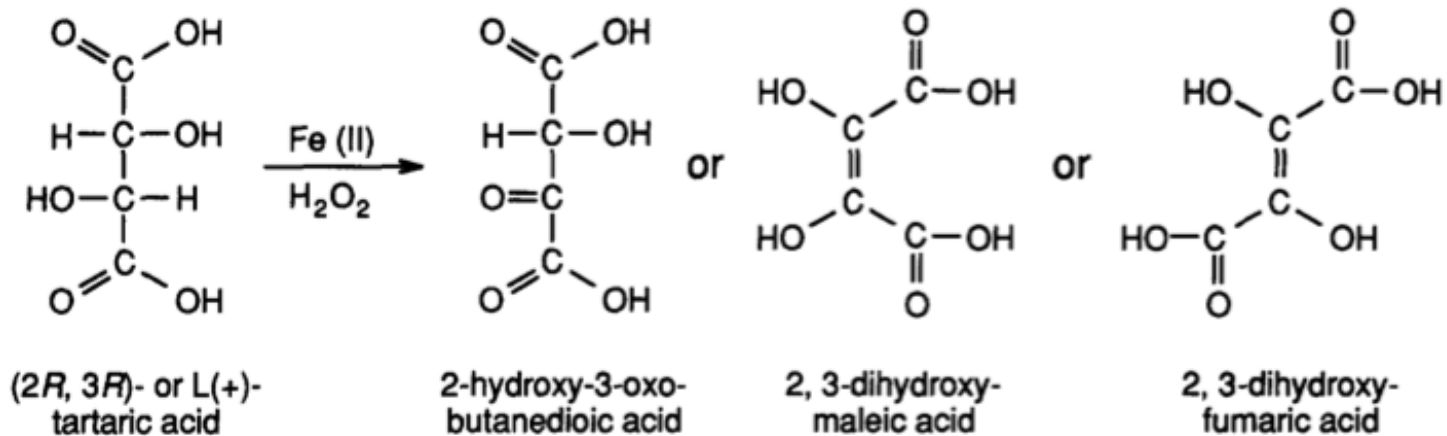
- Born 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1854 in Ealing, London
- Undergraduate studies at King's College in London
- Graduate student in group of Prof. G. D. Living (Cambridge)
- Received PhD in 1906
- Published his discovery in 1876 with title: "On a new reaction of tartaric acid"
- Discovery based on: "A fellow student was mixing reagents at random and obtained a solution with a violet colour."
- Almost 20 years later he identified the structure of the products
- In 1894 he published "Oxidation of Tartaric Acid in Presence of Iron"

W. H. Koppenol; *Free Rad. Biol. Med.*, **1993**, 15, 645–651  
H. Fenton, *J. Chem. Soc., Trans.*, **1894**, 65, 899–910.

# Fenton's Discovery

## Oxidation of Tartaric Acid

- Mixture of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, Tartaric acid, Fe(II)SO<sub>4</sub>, in water (pH 2.5 to 4)



- “[Fenton] has made the remarkable discovery that hydrogen peroxide, [...], in presence of an iron salt, at once oxidises tartaric acid and other similar acids, carbohydrates, etc., giving rise to very characteristic products – a discovery of special importance in connection with plant metabolism, ...”

W. H. Koppenol; *Free Rad. Biol. Med.*, **1993**, 15, 645–651  
H. Fenton, *J. Chem. Soc., Trans.*, **1894**, 65, 899–910.

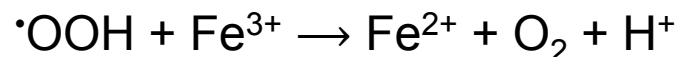
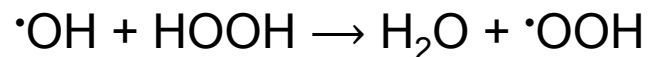
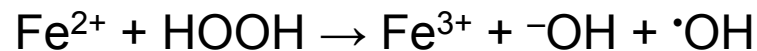
# Fenton's Discovery

## Fenton's Conclusions

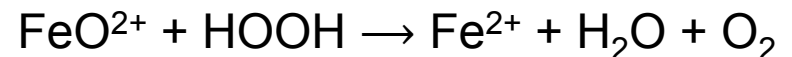
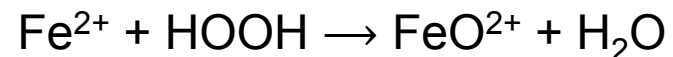
### The Controversy

- “It seemed probable that the iron acts in a manner usually termed “catalytic””
- The oxidant may be not only hydrogen peroxide (e.g. Hypochlorous acid)
- A reduced form of a heavy metal (in this case iron) is needed, but in low concentration
- A higher oxidation state of iron may be involved as an intermediate
- Debate whether through radical intermediate or not for 80 years

#### Radical pathway (1932)



#### Non-Radical pathway (1934)



H. B. Dunford, *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, **2002**, 233–234, 311–318

W. H. Koppenol; *Free Rad. Biol. Med.*, **1993**, 15, 645–651

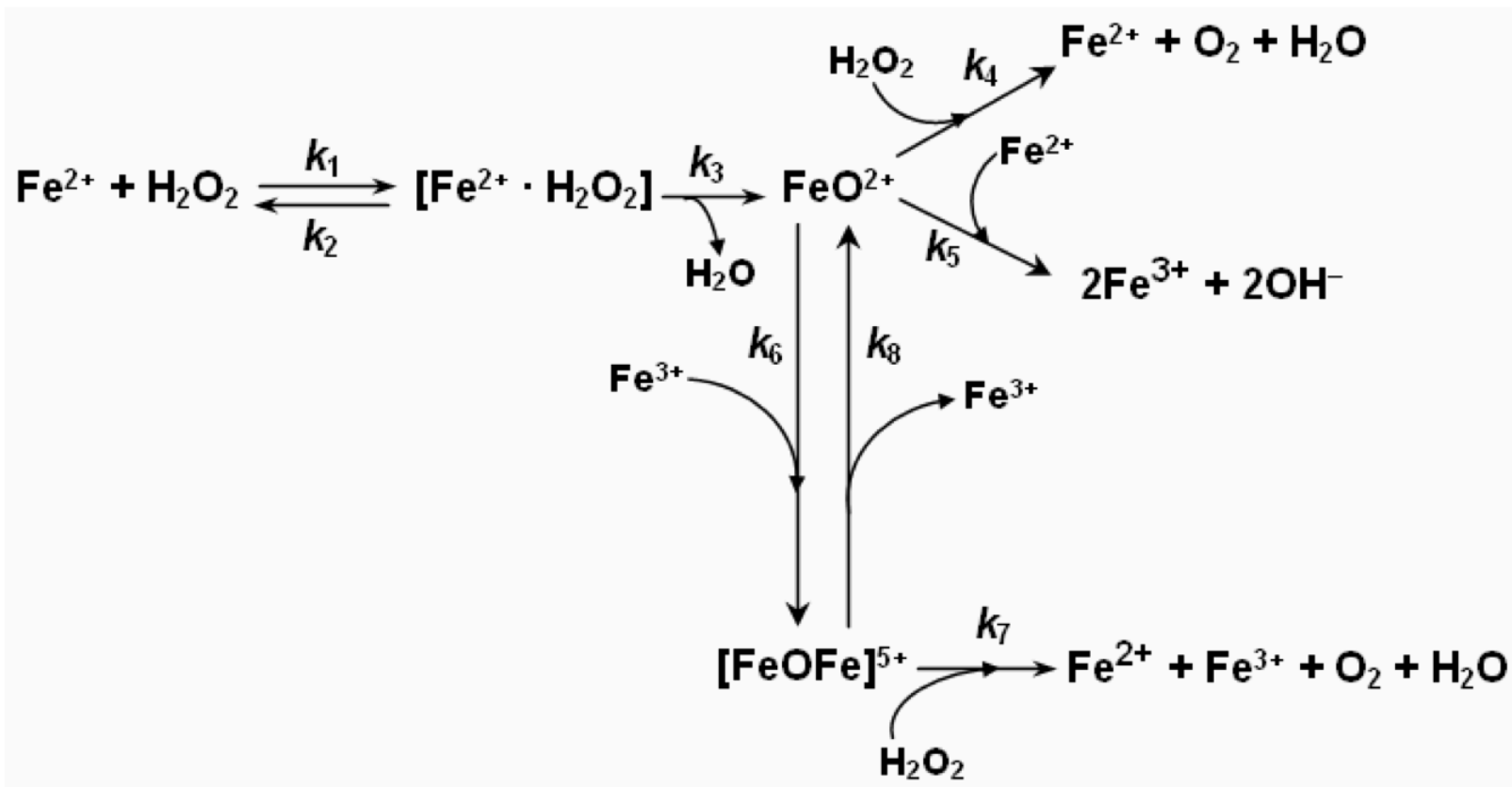
H. Fenton, *J. Chem. Soc., Trans.*, **1894**, 65, 899–910.





# Possible Mechanism III

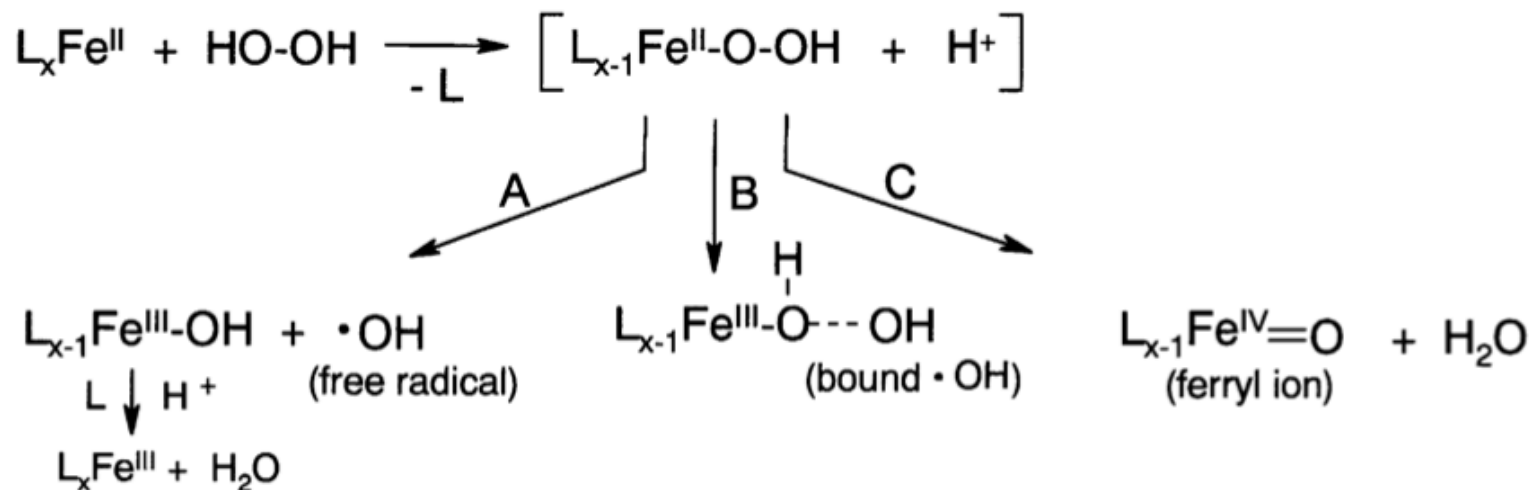
## Non-Radical Pathway (Fe<sup>II</sup>)





# Possible Mechanism IV

## The Dualism: Fe(II)



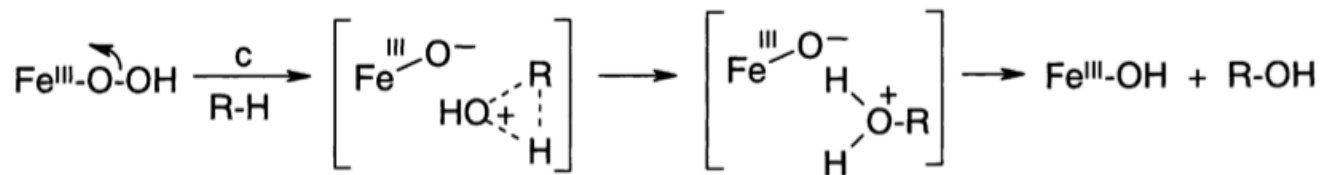
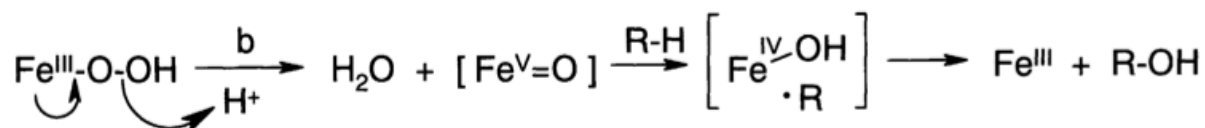
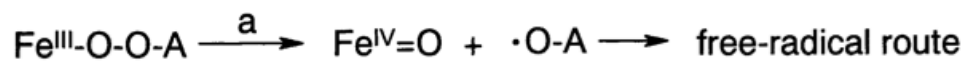
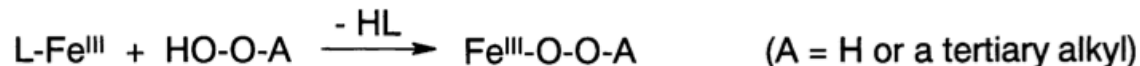
- **Pathway A:** Traditional, described by Fenton; in presence of saturated hydrocarbons; acidic solutions (pH 2)
- **Pathway B:** Aqueous media; strong chelators (e.g. EDTA, DETAPAC) or phosphate ions; Spin trapping showed dependence on the ligand
- **Pathway C:** Typically produced by ferro-porphyrines

F. Gozzo, *J. Mol. Cat. A. Chem.* **2001**, 171, 1–22

I. Yamazaki, L. H. Piette, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1991**, 113, 7588

# Possible Mechanism V

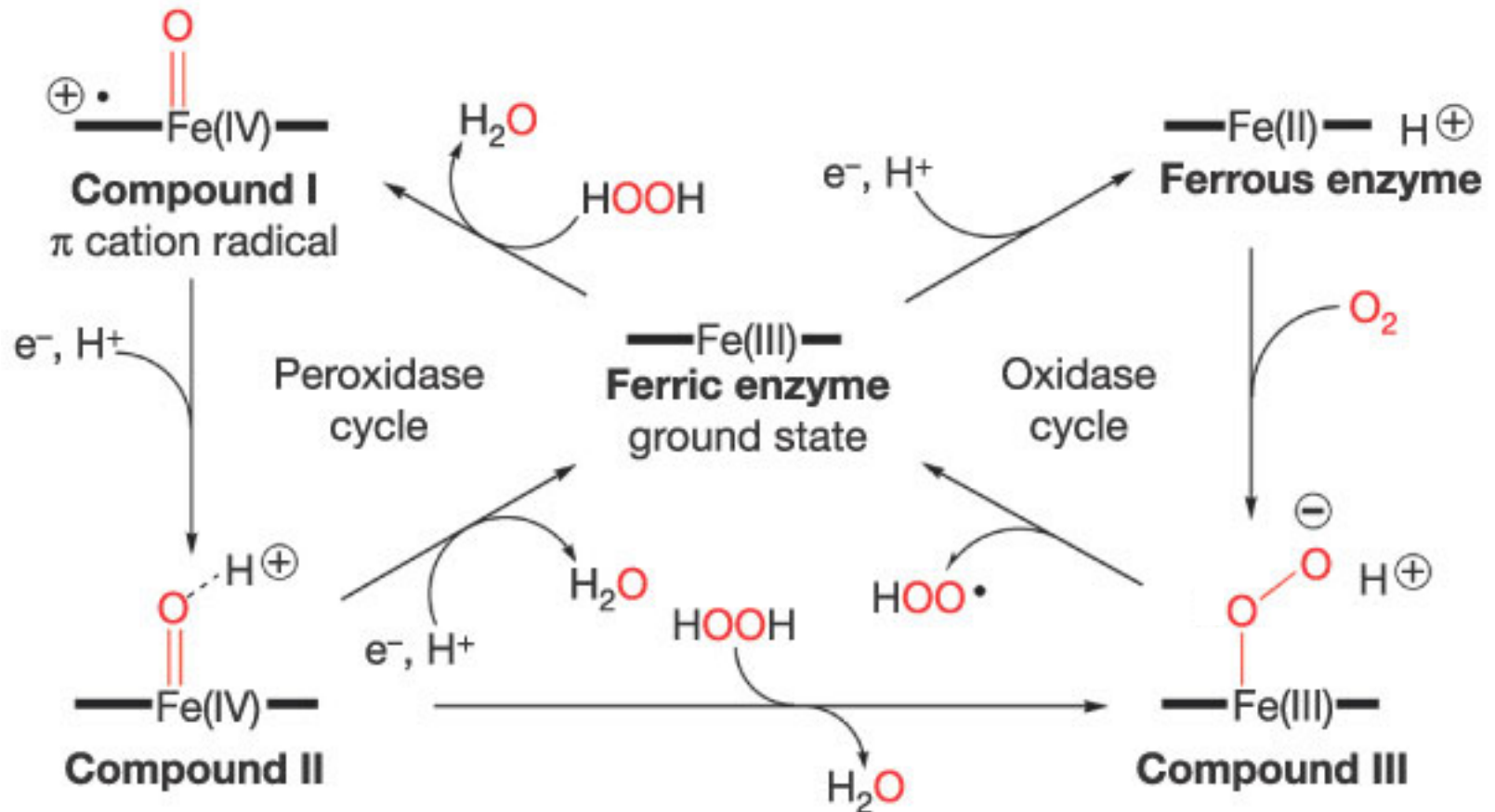
## The Dualism: Fe(III)



- First step (Ligand displacement) generally accepted
- **Pathway a:** Free-radical route
- **Pathway b:** Oxenoid intermediate; “bound” alkyl radical
- **Pathway c:** Incipient species (<sup>+</sup>OH)

# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

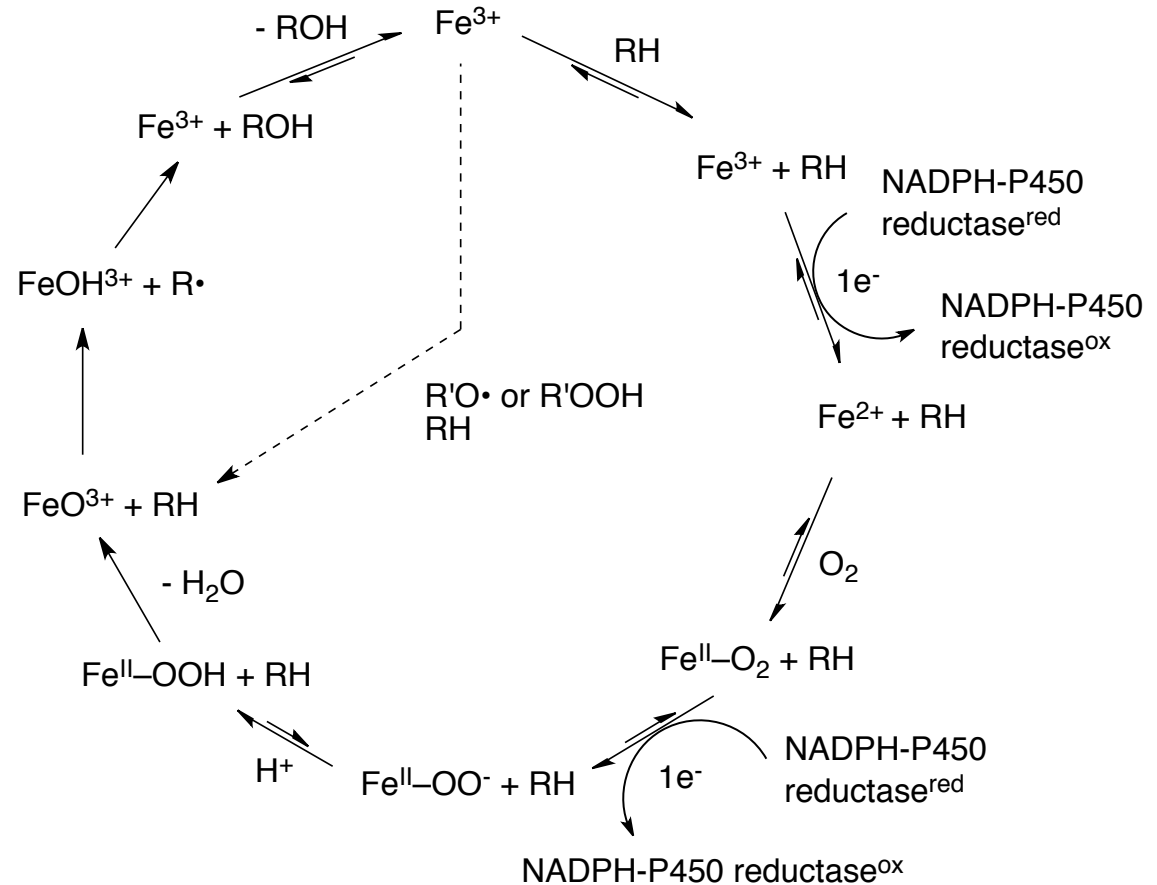
## Oxidase/Peroxidase General Pathway



# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

## Cytochromes P-450

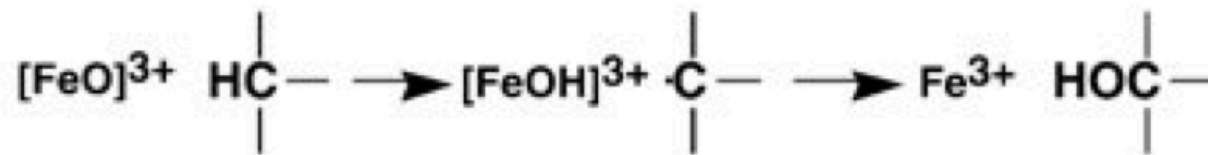
- Family of monooxygenases
- Containing a heme cofactor (hemoproteins)
- Found in all domains of life (NOT *E. coli*)
- Oxidation of wide variety of drugs, carcinogens, steroids, pesticides and others



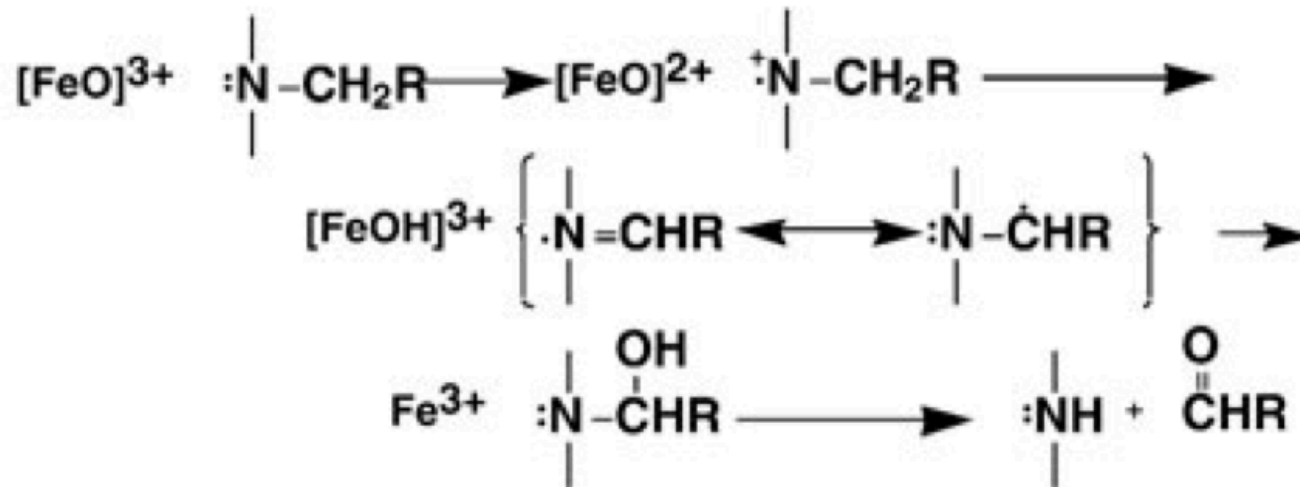
# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

## Cytochromes P-450; Oxidations with $\text{FeO}^{3+}$

### Carbon hydroxylation



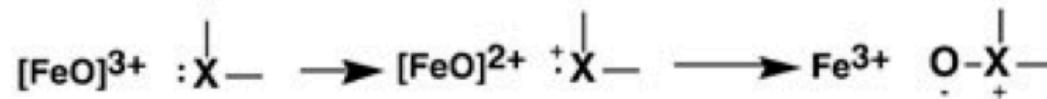
### Heteroatom release



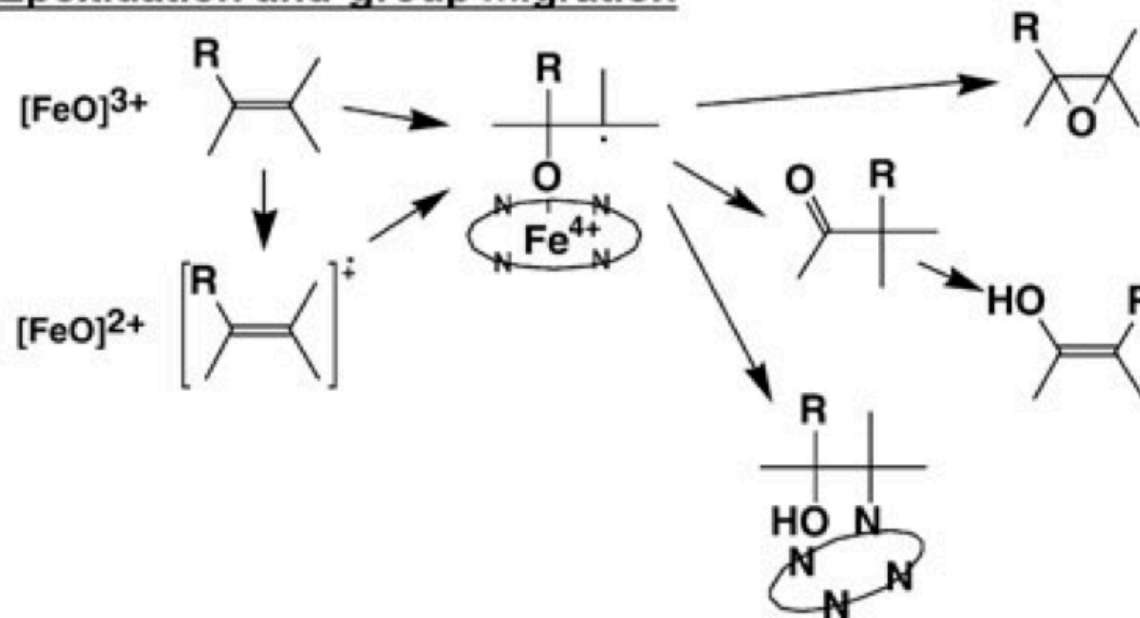
# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

## Cytochromes P-450; Oxidations with $\text{FeO}^{3+}$

### Heteroatom oxygenation



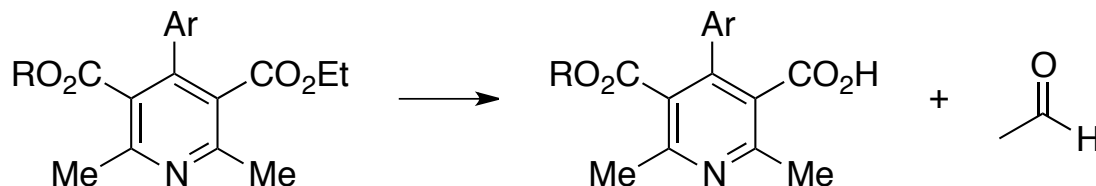
### Epoxidation and group migration



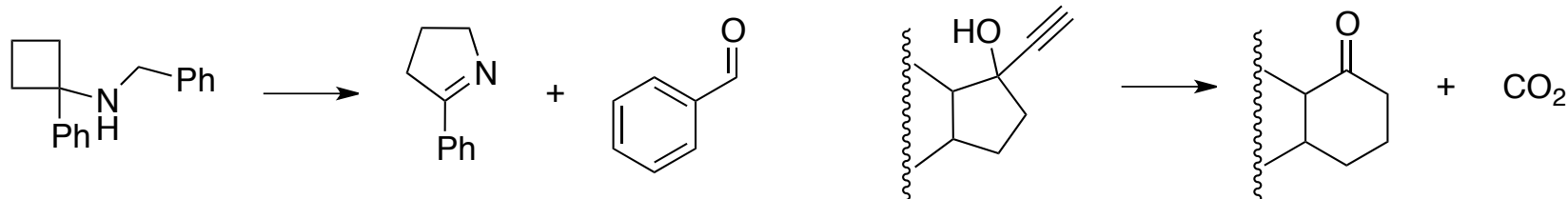
# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

## Cytochromes P-450; Examples of oxidations with $\text{FeO}^{3+}$

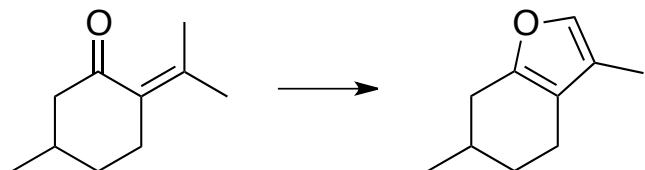
### Oxidative ester cleavage



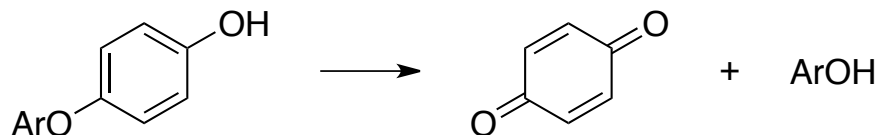
### Ring expansion



### Ring formation



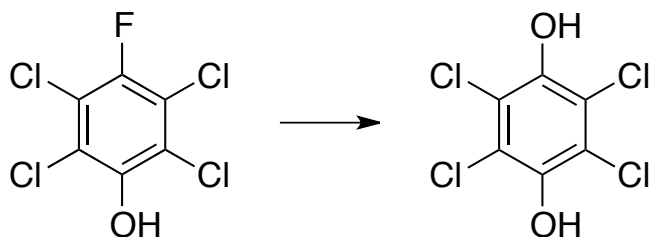
### Dearylation



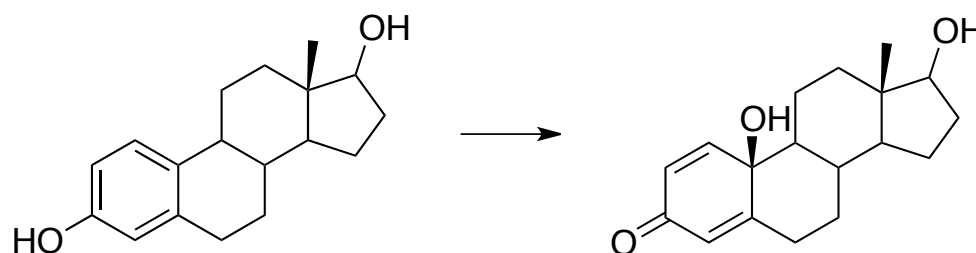
# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

## Cytochromes P-450; Examples of oxidations with $\text{FeO}^{3+}$

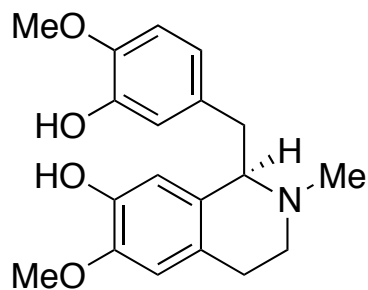
### Aromatic dehalogenation via *ipso* attack



### Dearomatisation and formation of a Michael acceptor

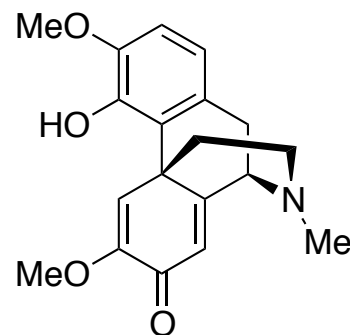


### Oxidative ring coupling



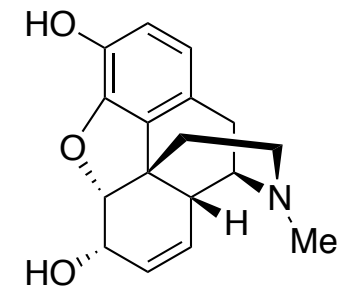
(*R*)-reticuline

salutaridine  
synthase



salutaridine

5 steps



(-)-morphine

F. P. Guengerich, *J. Biochem. Mol. Tox.*, **2007**, 21, 163–168

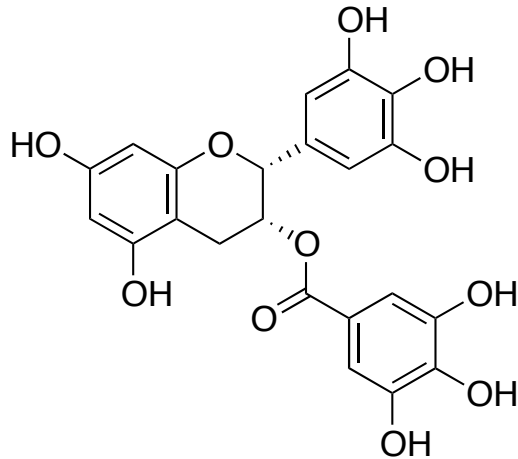
F. P. Guengerich, *Chem. Res. Tox.*, **2001**, 14, 611–650



# Fenton Chemistry in Biology and Medicine

## Interactions; EGCG

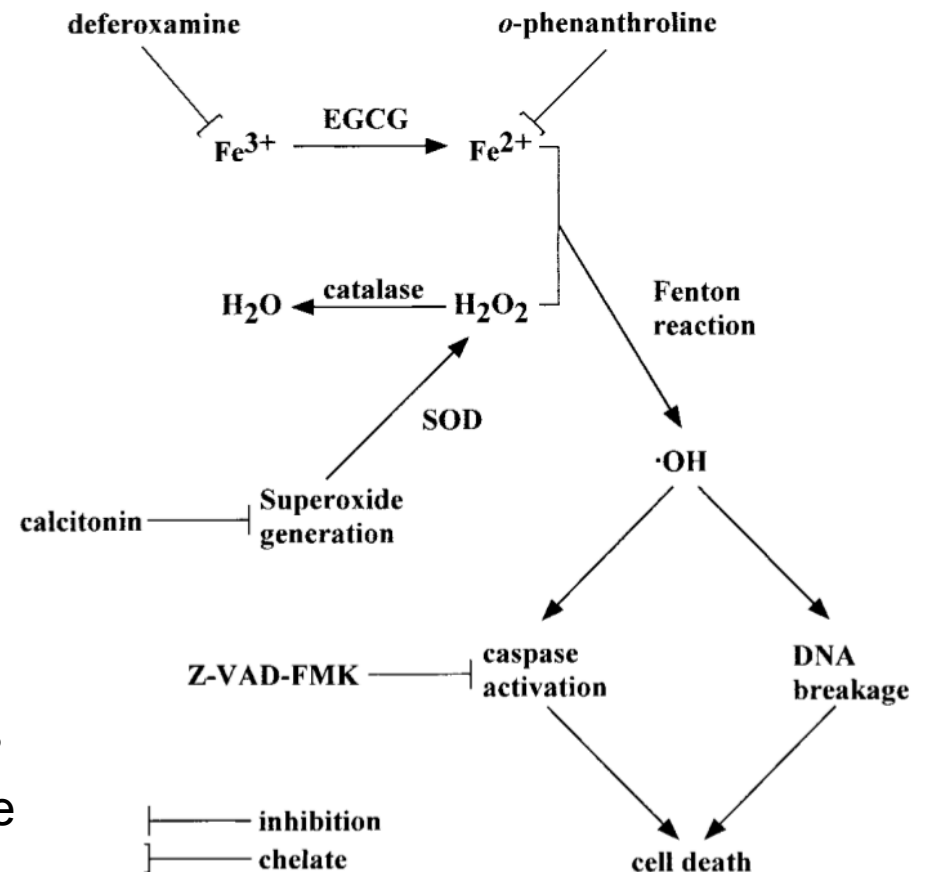
### Prevention/Treatment for Osteoporosis



Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG)

- Found in (green) tea
- Potent antioxidant
- Class of flavonoids
- Cancer treatment and osteoporosis (triggers apoptosis in osteoclast like cells, osteoblasts not affected)

H. Nakagawa, M. Wachi, J.-T. Woo, M. Kato, S. Kasai, F. Takahashi, I.-S. Lee, K. Nagai, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* **2002**, 292, 94–101.

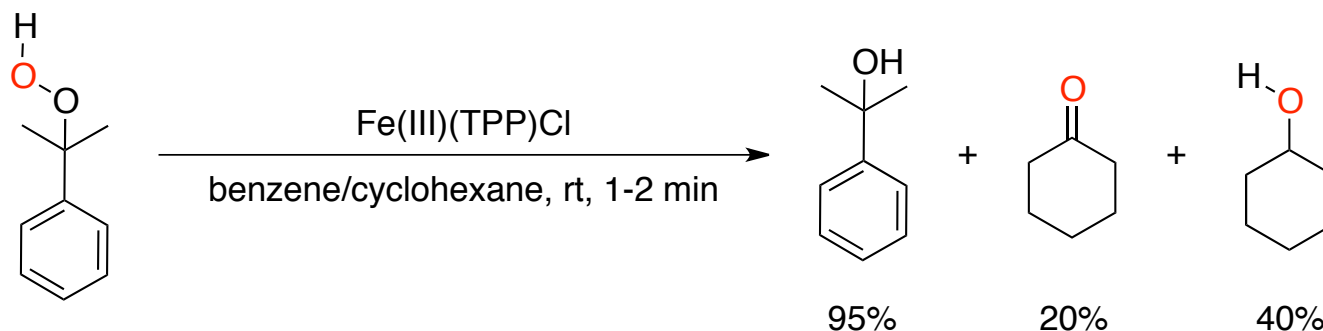


- The hydroxyl radicals could react rapidly and non-selectively with nearly all organic pollutants
- Waste-Water Treatment (Reducing Toxicity)
  - Aromatic amines
  - Dyes
  - Pesticides
  - Surfactants
  - Oxidation of As(III) to As(V)
  - ...
- Toxicity level is understood by the inhibited amount (%) of vital function of bioluminescent bacteria *Vibrio fischeri*

# Fenton Chemistry in Organic Chemistry

## Oxidation of inactivated C-H bonds

- Alkane oxidation under mild conditions (miming Cytochrome P-450)



- Reaction works in aerobic and anaerobic conditions (slightly faster)
- Catalyst fully recovered (TPP = *tetra*-phenyl porphyrin)
- No reaction with only TPPH<sub>2</sub>, FeCl<sub>3</sub> or FeCl<sub>2</sub>
- Similar reactivity with *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide

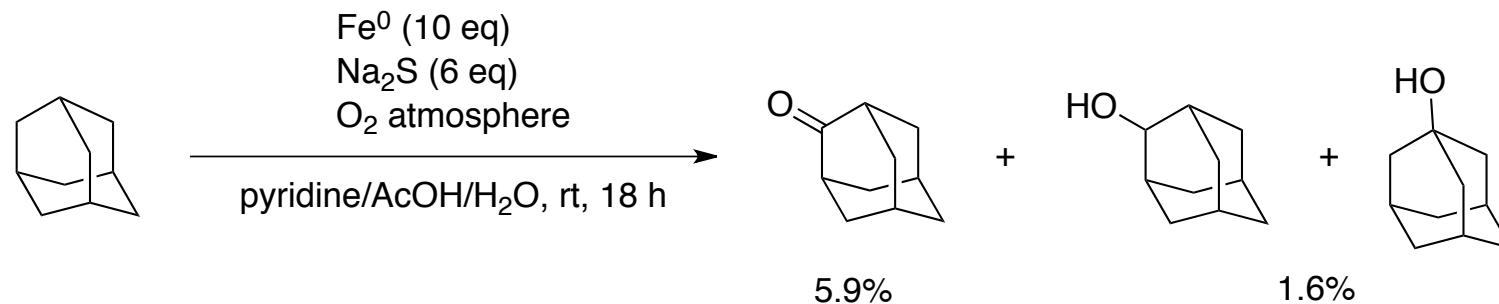
D. Mansuy, J. F. Bartoli, J. C. Chottard, M. Lange, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **1980**, 19, 909–910

# Fenton Chemistry in Organic Chemistry

## Gif Chemistry (Barton)

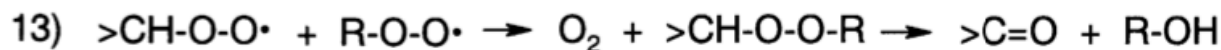
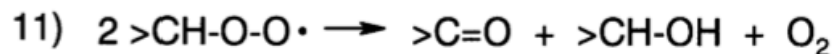
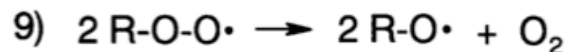
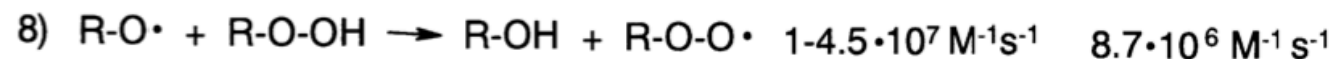
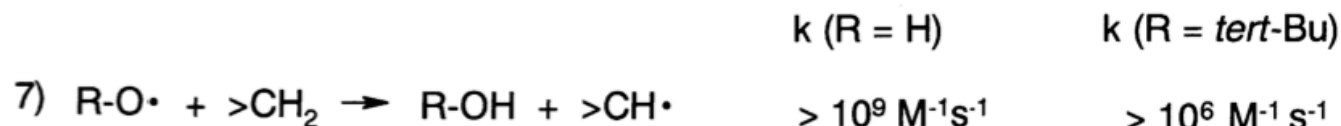
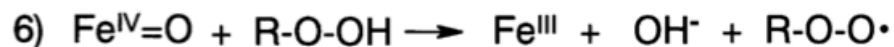
### Origin

- Considering pre-aerobic atmosphere
- Simpler mechanism for oxygen “detoxification” (non heme)



- Similar yield and selectivity with H<sub>2</sub>S (Gif II) and FeS
- Statement: “Clearly our oxidation process is not in radical nature.”
- Screening of carboxylic acids, sulphide compounds, solvents
- Temperature increase replaces sulfide

D. H. Barton, M. J. Gastiger, W. B. Motherwell, *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Comm.*, **1983**, 41–43



- Gif chemistry permits the conversion of saturated hydrocarbons into ketones at rt under nearly neutral conditions

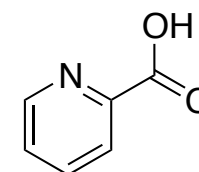
**Table I. The Nomenclature of Gif Chemistry<sup>a</sup>**

system	catalyst	electron source	oxidant
Gif <sup>III</sup>	Fe(II)	Fe <sup>0</sup>	O <sub>2</sub>
Gif <sup>IV</sup>	Fe(II)	Zn <sup>0</sup>	O <sub>2</sub>
GO	Fe(II)	cathode	O <sub>2</sub>
GoAgg <sup>I</sup>	Fe(II)	KO <sub>2</sub> /Ar	
GoAgg <sup>II</sup>	Fe(III)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	
GoAgg <sup>III</sup>	Fe(III)/picolinic acid	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	
GoChAgg	Cu(II)	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	
Cu <sup>0</sup> /O <sub>2</sub>	Cu(I)?	Cu <sup>0</sup>	O <sub>2</sub>

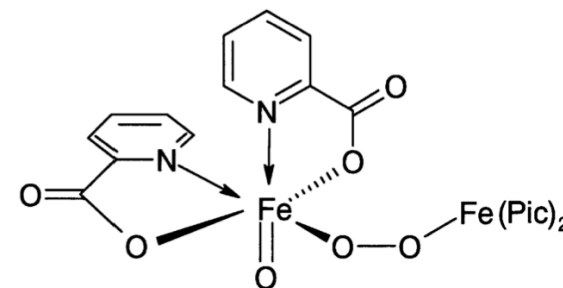
<sup>a</sup> The nomenclature of the Gif systems is geographically based: G stands for Gif-sur-Yvette, O is for Orsay, Agg is for Aggieland, Texas A&M, and Ch is for Chernogolovka, Russia.

- GoAgg<sup>IV</sup> TBHP and GoAgg<sup>V</sup> is (GoAgg<sup>IV</sup> + picolinic acid)

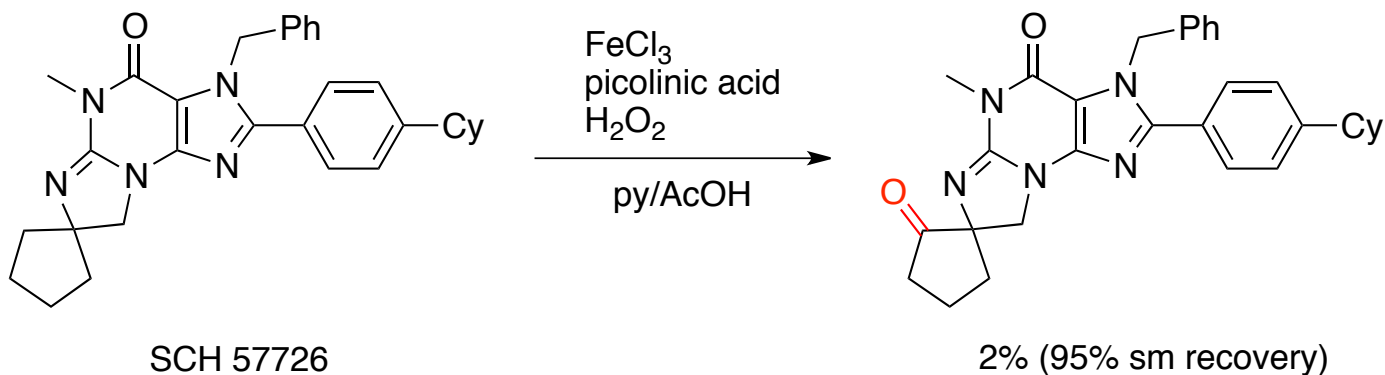
D. H. Barton, D. Doller, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1992**, *25*, 504–512.



picolinic acid



- Studies concerning oxidation of various saturated hydrocarbons; but always very low conversion (typically below 10%)
- Oxidation takes place in presence of H<sub>2</sub>S, Ph<sub>2</sub>S, PPh<sub>3</sub>, P(OMe)<sub>3</sub>, PhSH, and PhSeH (normally easier to oxidise)
- “Iron species seems to be only activated in presence with C-H bond” (Barton) → Fe=C bond proposition
- Fe<sup>V</sup>=O preferentially inserted into secondary positions



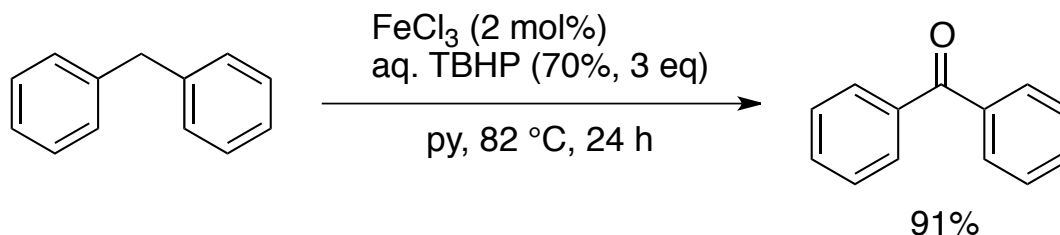
D. H. R. Barton, *Tetrahedron*, **1998**, *54*, 5805–5817

D. Doller, S. Chackalamanni, A. Stamford, B. McKittrick, M. Czarniecki, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **1997**, *7*, 1381–1386.

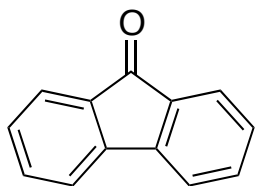
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-H bond oxidation

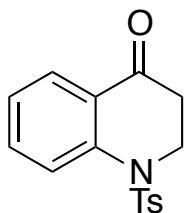
## Benzylic oxidation and Oxidation of benzylic compounds



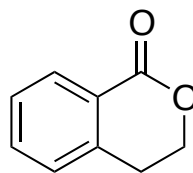
- Iron(III) chloride inexpensive; non-toxic; small quantities
- No ligand/acid needed (probably pyridine as coordinating agent)
- Slow addition is unnecessary



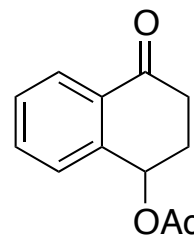
>99%



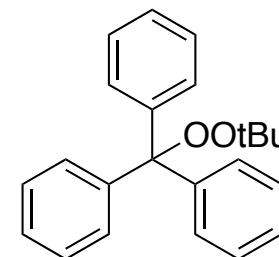
60%



74%



66%



91%



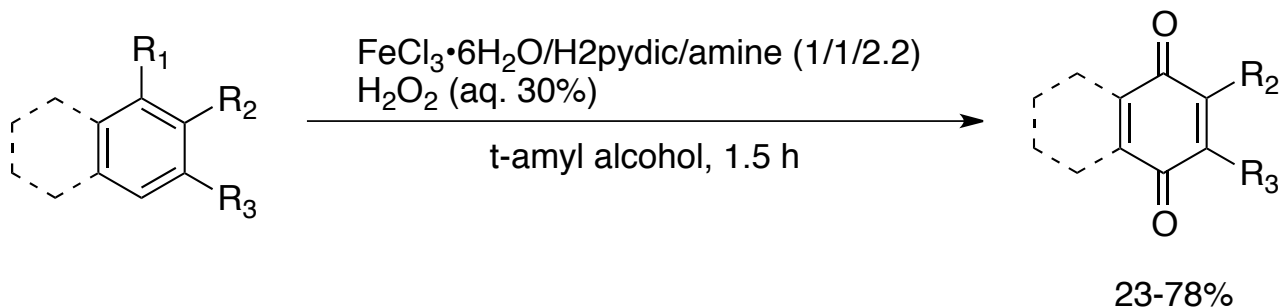
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-H bond oxidation

Oxidation of phenols/arenes

*u*<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>  
UNIVERSITÄT  
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R<sup>1</sup> = H or OH

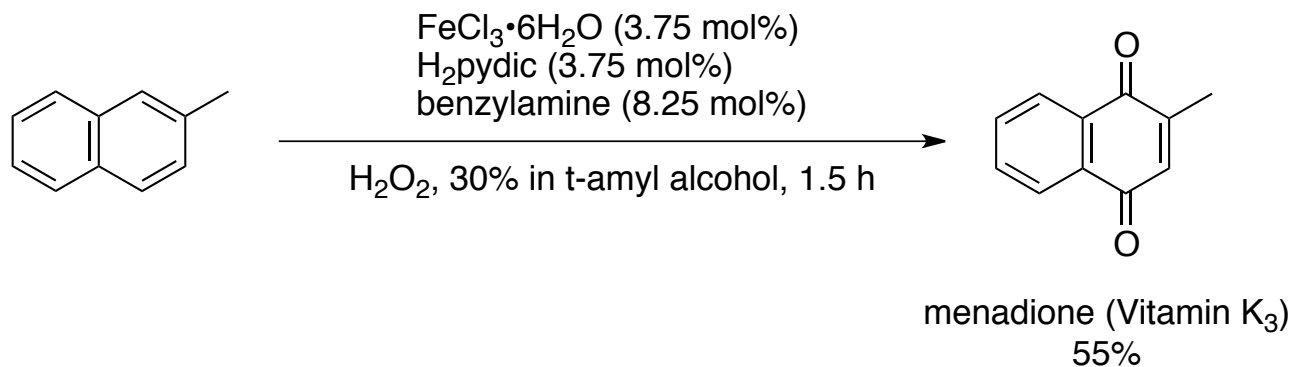
R<sup>2</sup> = H or Me or OMe

R<sup>3</sup> = H or Me

H<sub>2</sub>pydic = pyridine-2,6-dicarboxylic acid

t-amyl alcohol = 2-methyl-2-butanol

amine = *N*-butylbenzylamine, benzylamine



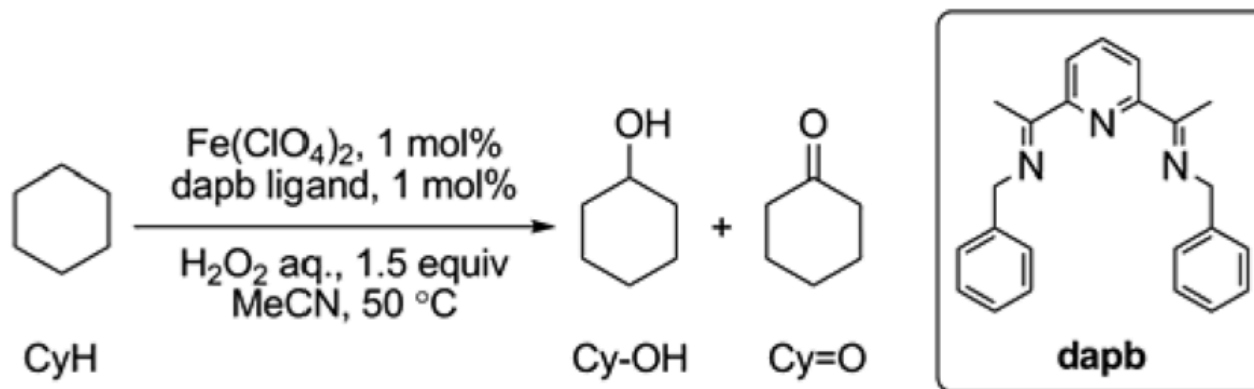
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-H bond oxidation

Ligands (Non-heme)

*u*<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>  
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entry	catalyst	major products	desired product	by-products
1	with ligand	Cy-OH (37):Cy=O (54)	91%	9%
2	no ligand	Cy-OH (27):Cy=O (60)	87%	13%

- Oxidation occurring rapidly
- Counter-Anion did not play role in efficacy

B. Retcher, J. S. Costa, J. Tang, R. Hage, P. Gamez, J. Reedijk, *J. Mol. Catal. A*, **2008**, 286, 1–5

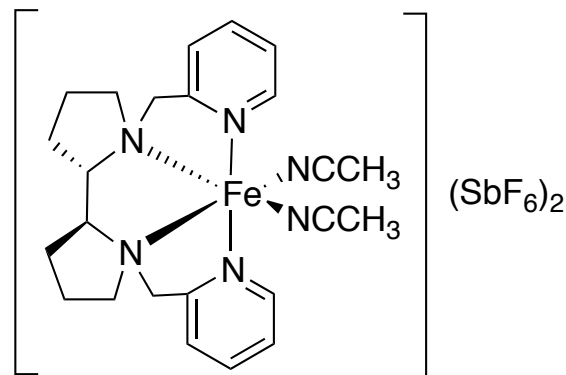
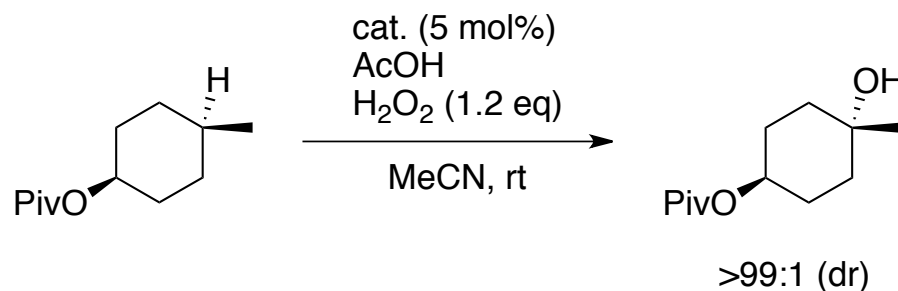
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-H bond oxidation

Ligands (Non-heme); Selective oxidation I

u<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>  
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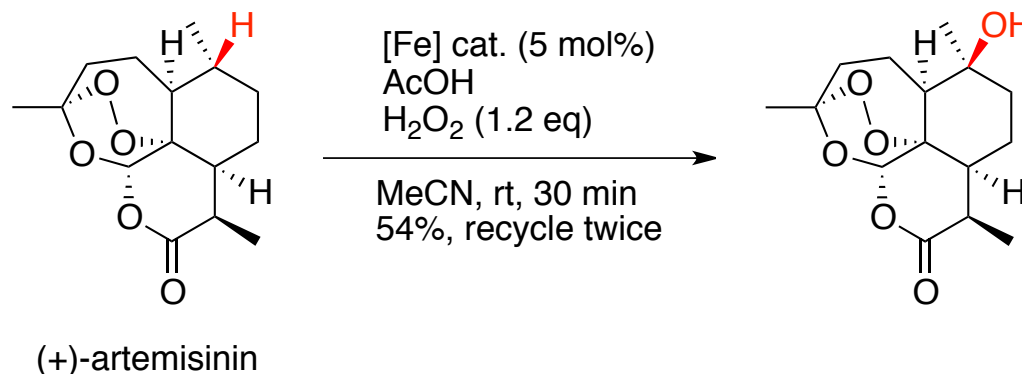
- Clean process (42% conversion of sm)
- Electronic feature more important than steric (CH more reactive than CH<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>)

M. S. Chen, M. C. White, *Science*, **2007**, 318, 783

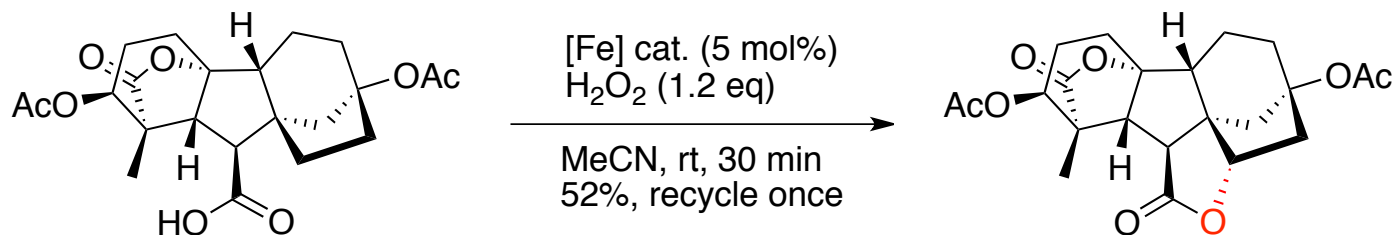
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-H bond oxidation

### Ligands (Non-heme); Selective oxidation II



- Enzymatic reaction (*C. echinulata* = 4 days, 41%)

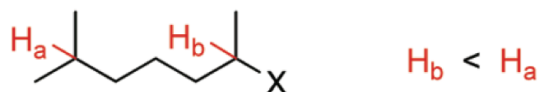
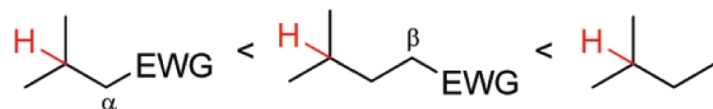
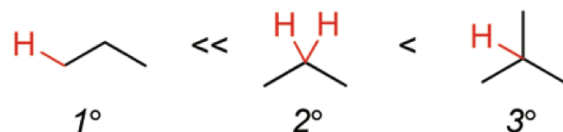


- Carboxylic acid moiety directs oxidation
- Slow addition of [Fe] → higher conversion no recycling

# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-H bond oxidation

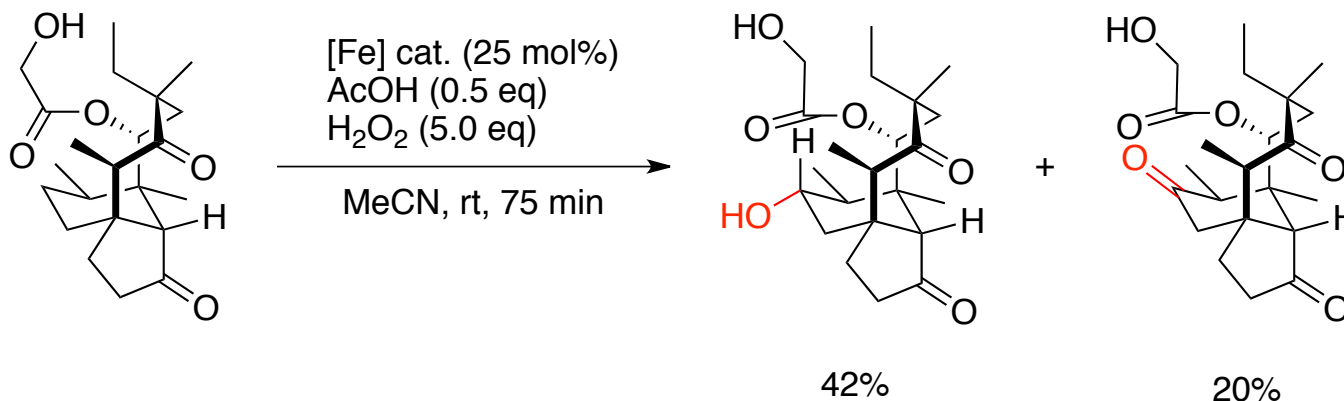
### Ligands (Non-heme); Selective oxidation III



X = COMe, COOMe, CH<sub>2</sub>Br, CH<sub>2</sub>OAc

– Reactivity also promoted by:

- electronic
- steric
- stereoelectronic
- functional group factors



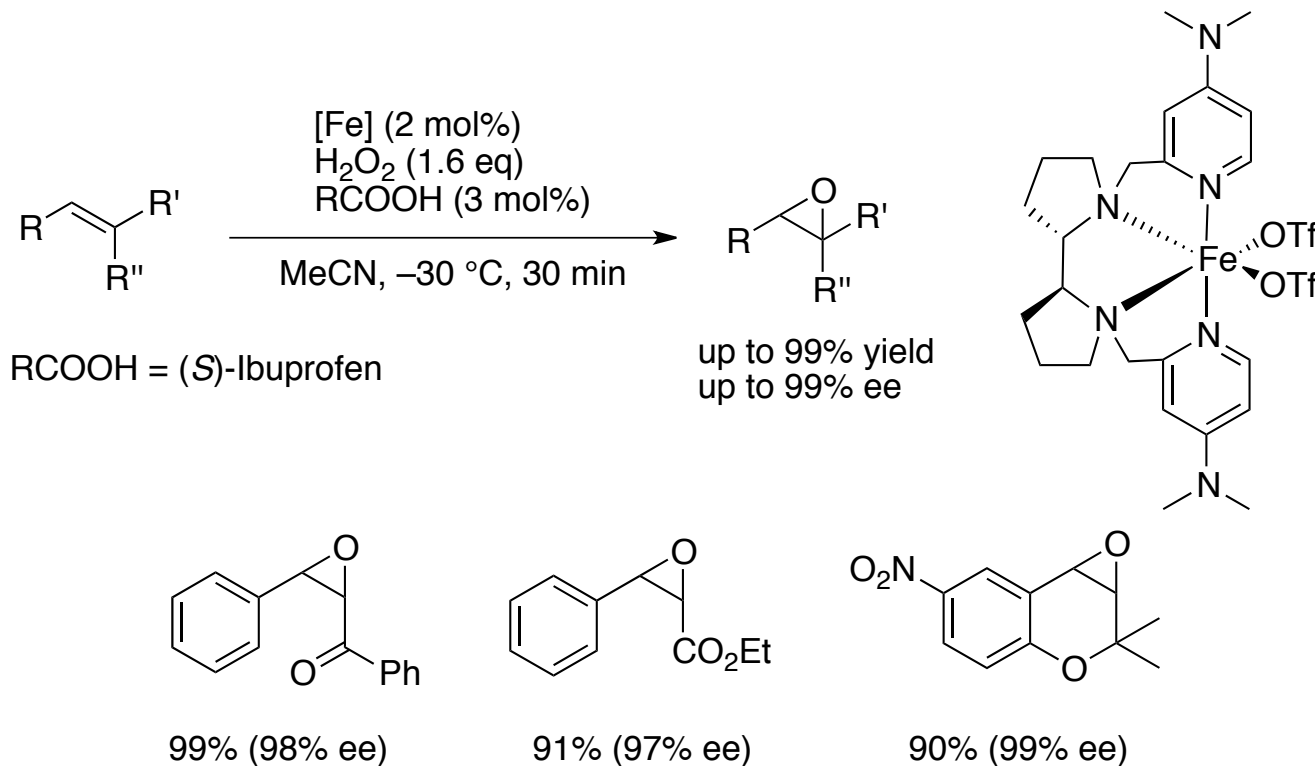
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C=C bond oxidation

Ligands (Non-heme); Selective oxidation IV

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- Using H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O and H<sub>2</sub><sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub> for mechanistic analysis
- Resemblance to “push-pull” effect in P-450

O. Cussó, I. Garcia-Bosch, X. Ribas, J. Lloret-Fillol, M. Costas, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 14871–14878

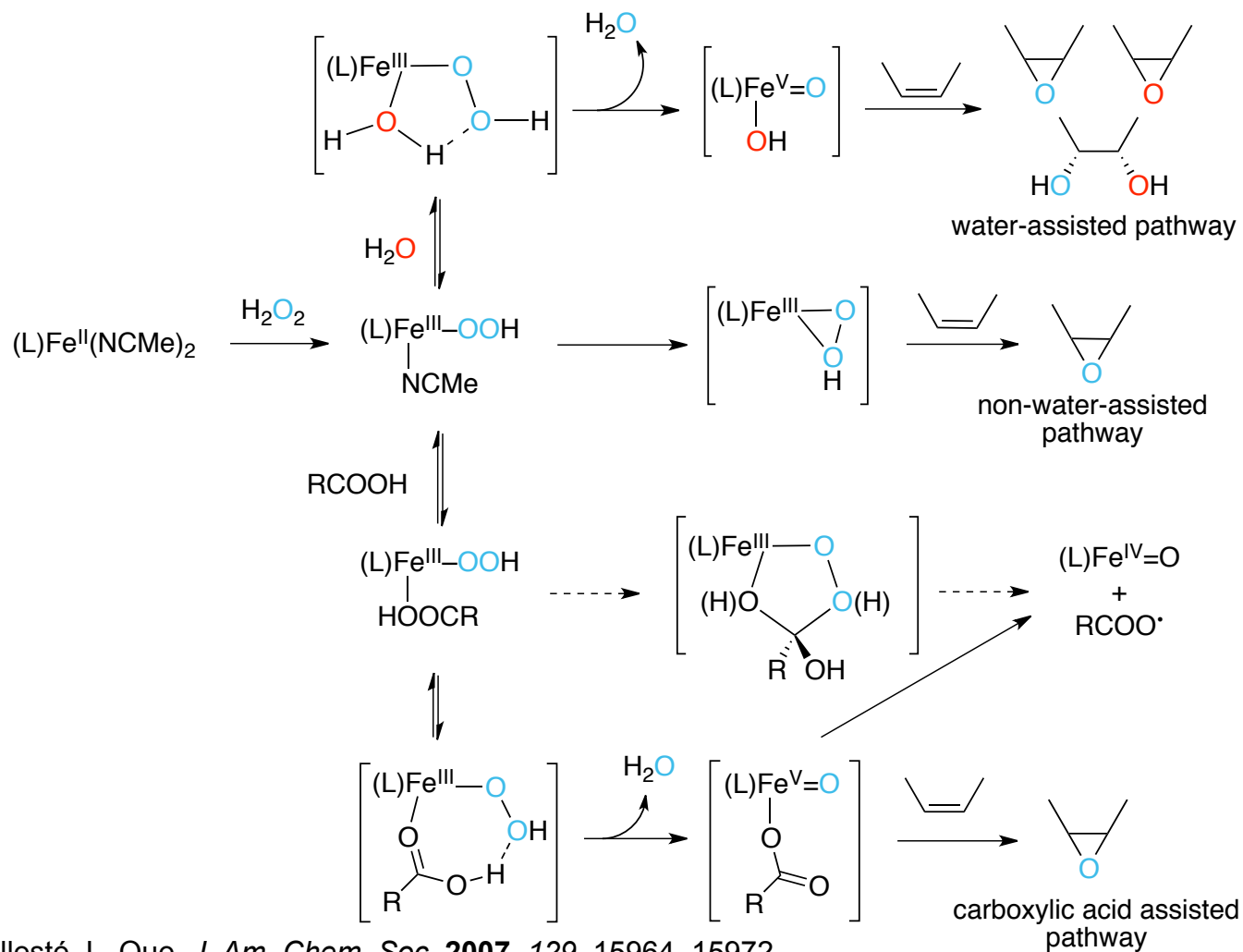
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C=C bond oxidation, Mechanism

Ligands (Non-heme); Selective oxidation IV

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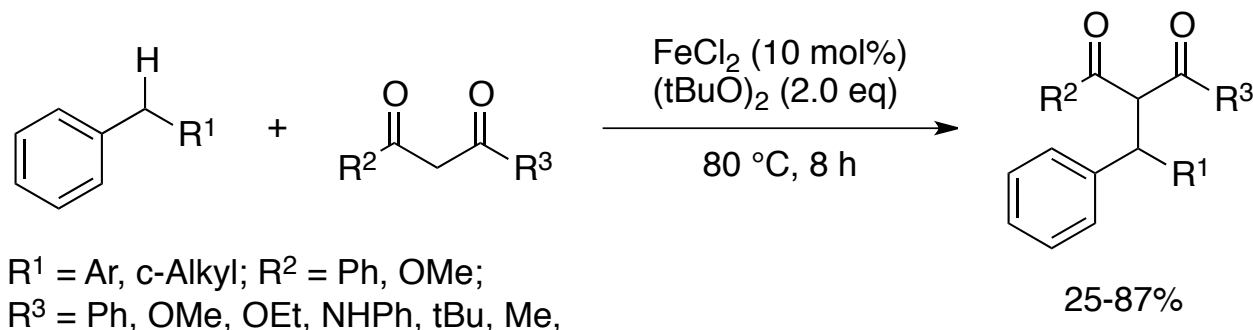


R. Mas-Ballesté, L. Que, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, *129*, 15964–15972

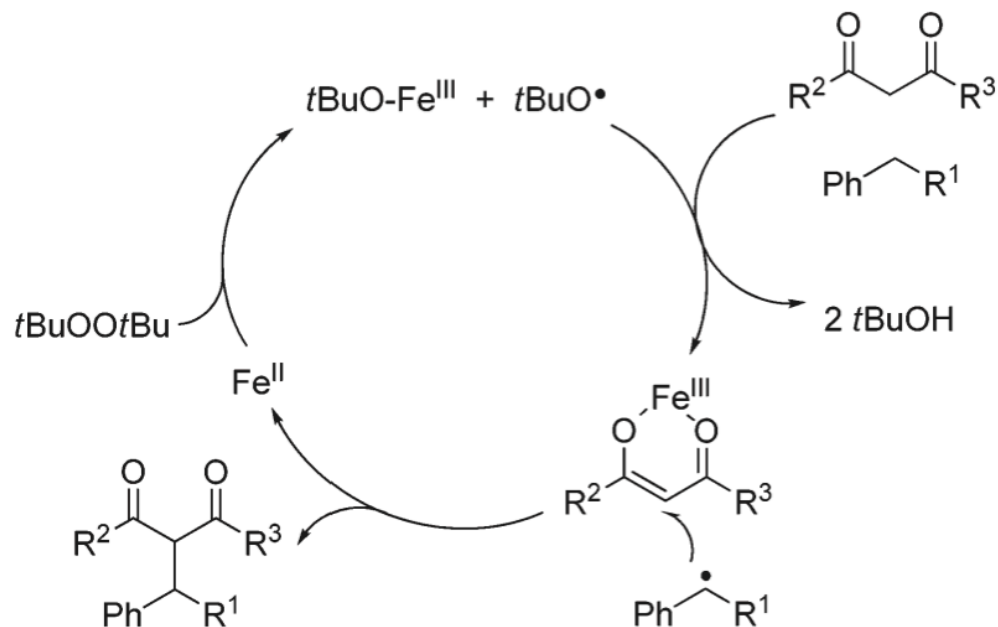
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-C bond formation

### C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling



- First example of Fe catalysed CDC
- DTBP higher yield than TBHP



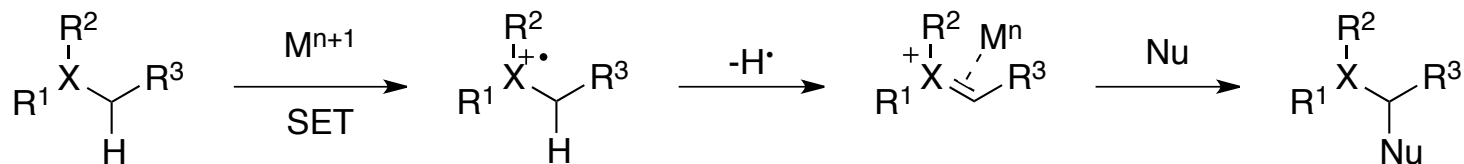
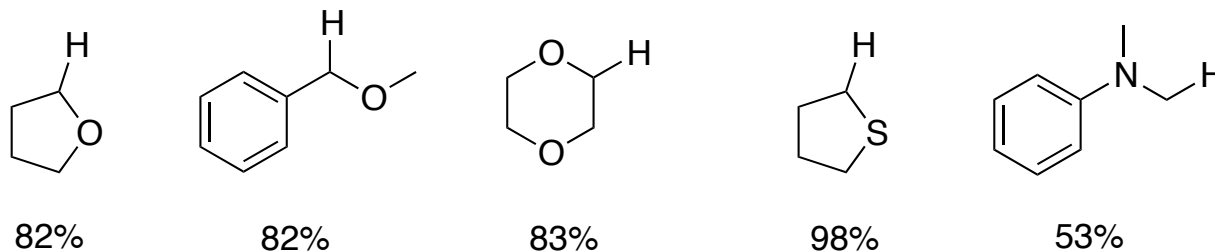
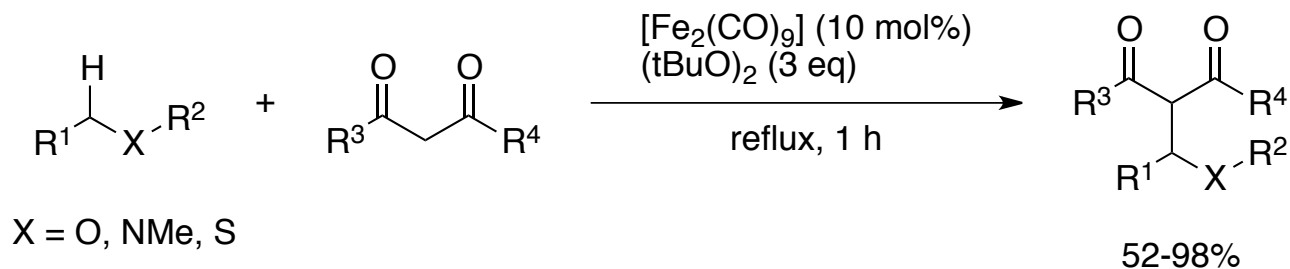
Z. Li, L. Cao, C.-J. Li, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **2007**, *46*, 6505–6507



# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-C bond formation

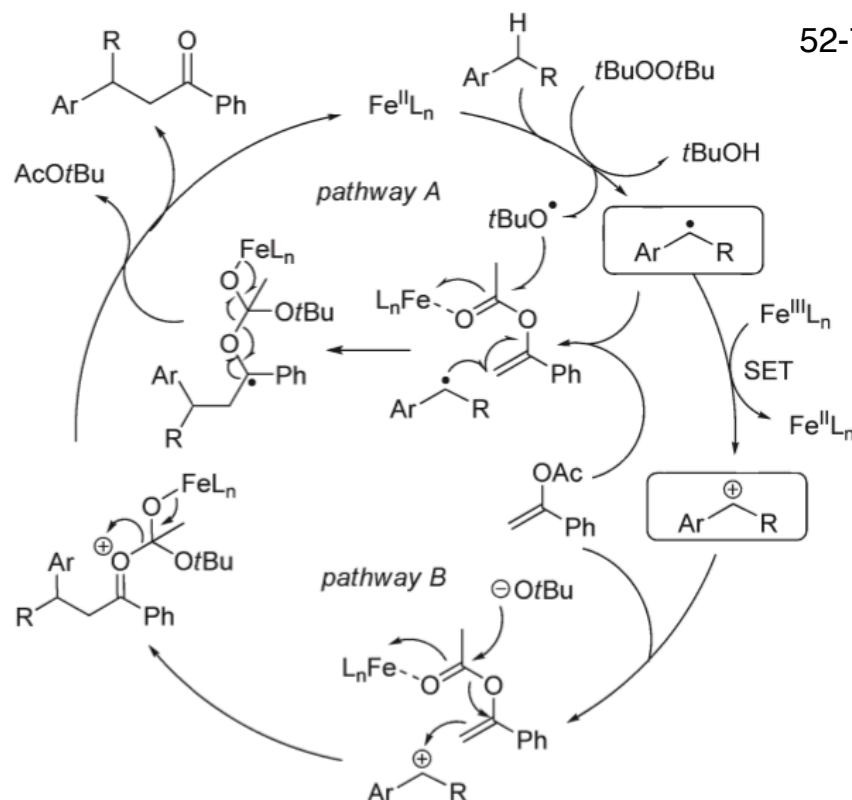
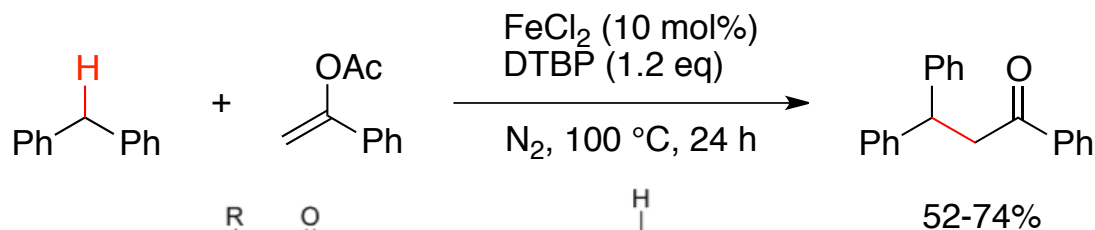
### $\alpha$ -N/ $\alpha$ -O C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling



# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-C bond formation

### C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling

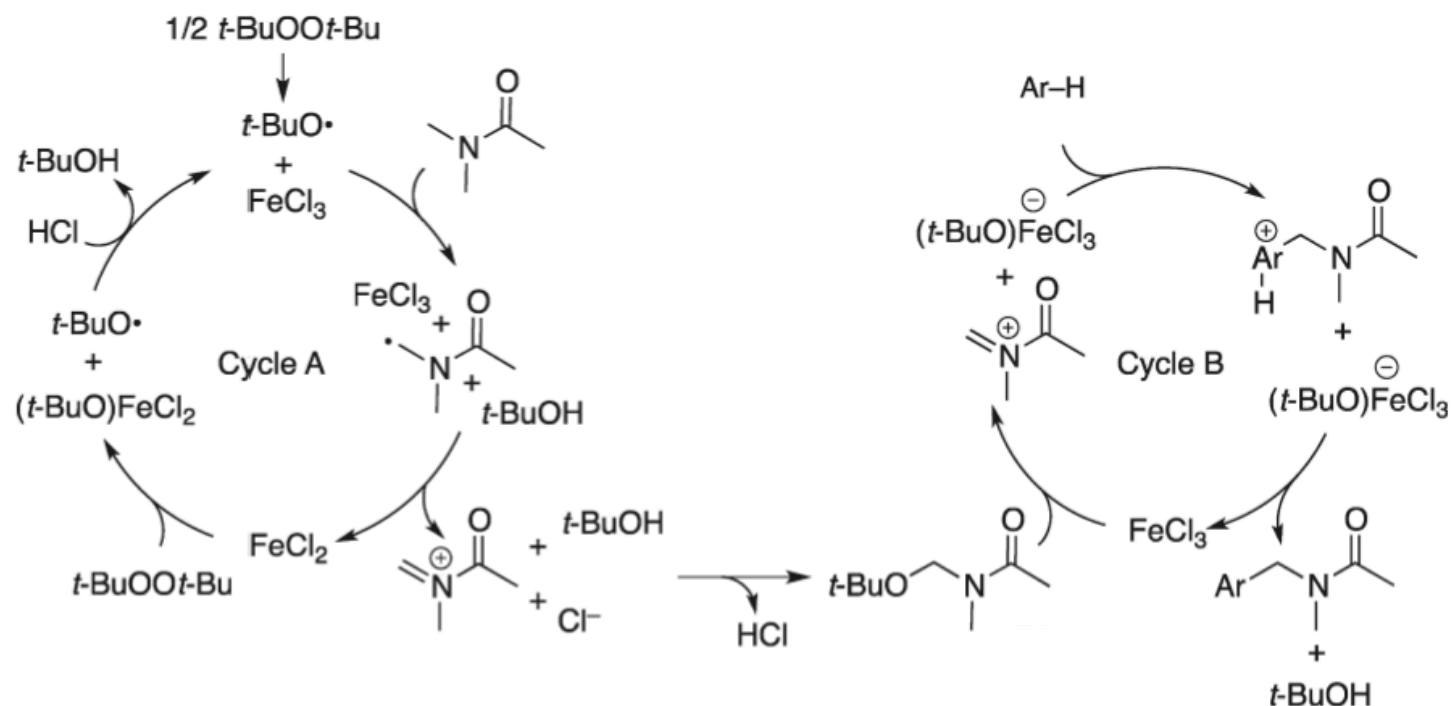
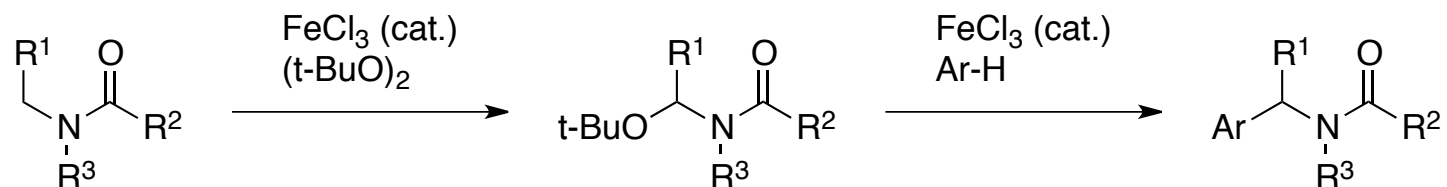


C.-X. Song, G.-X. Cai, T. R. Farrell, Z.-P. Jiang, H. Li, L.-B. Gan, Z.-J. Shi, *Chem. Commun.* **2009**, 6002–6004

# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## C-C bond formation

### $\alpha$ -N-C(sp<sup>3</sup>)-C(sp<sup>2</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling



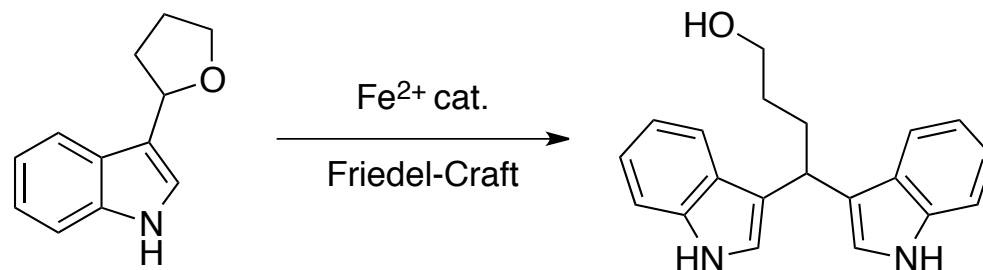
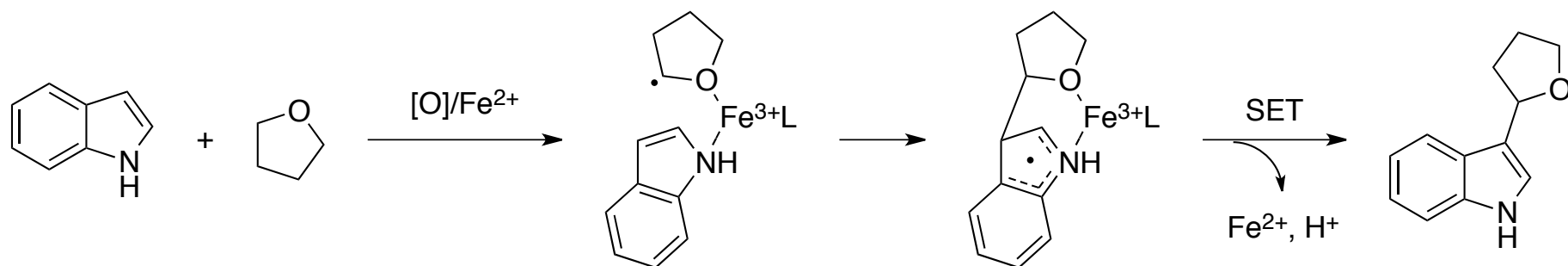
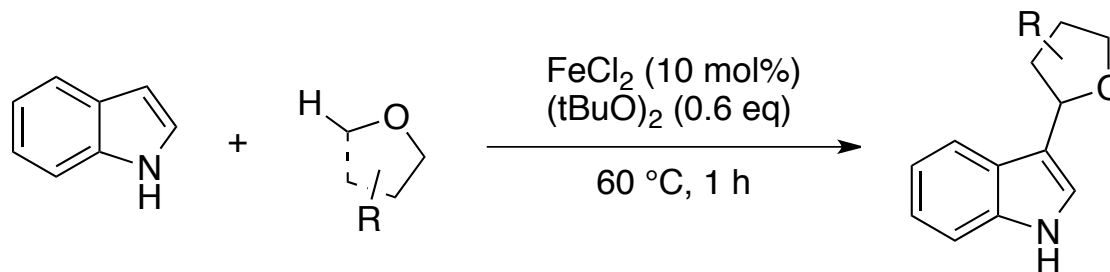
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-C bond formation

C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling

u<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>  
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X. Guo, S. Pan, J. Liu, Z. Li, *J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, *74*, 8848–8851

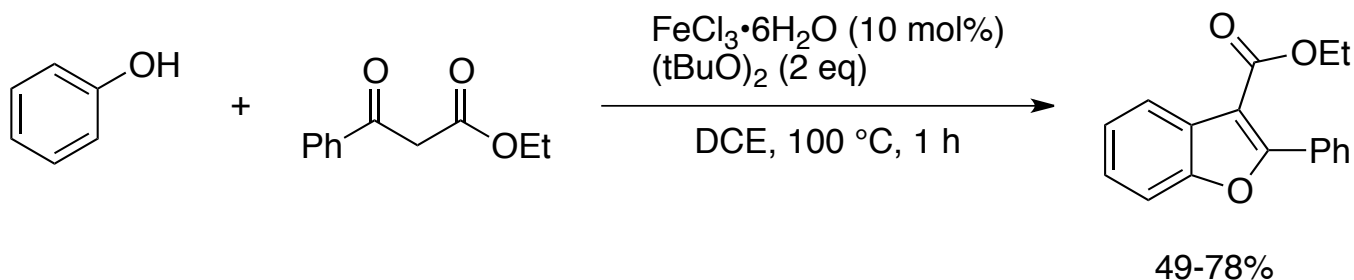
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-C bond formation

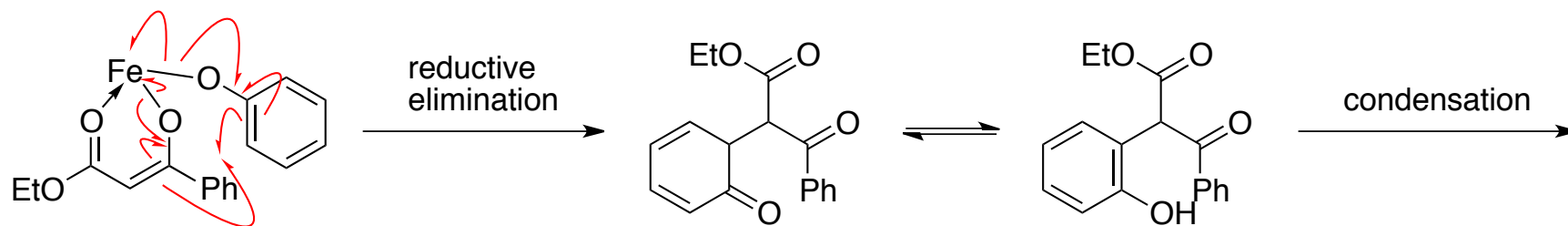
C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling

u<sup>b</sup>

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- Construction of polysubstituted benzofurans
- Water in catalyst promoted reaction greatly
- Other H<sup>+</sup> can be used such as AcOH, MeOH, EtOH, tBuOH
- Efficient pathway for biologically important 3-carboxylate benzofurans



X. Guo, R. Yu, H. Li, Z. Li, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2009**, *131*, 17387–17393

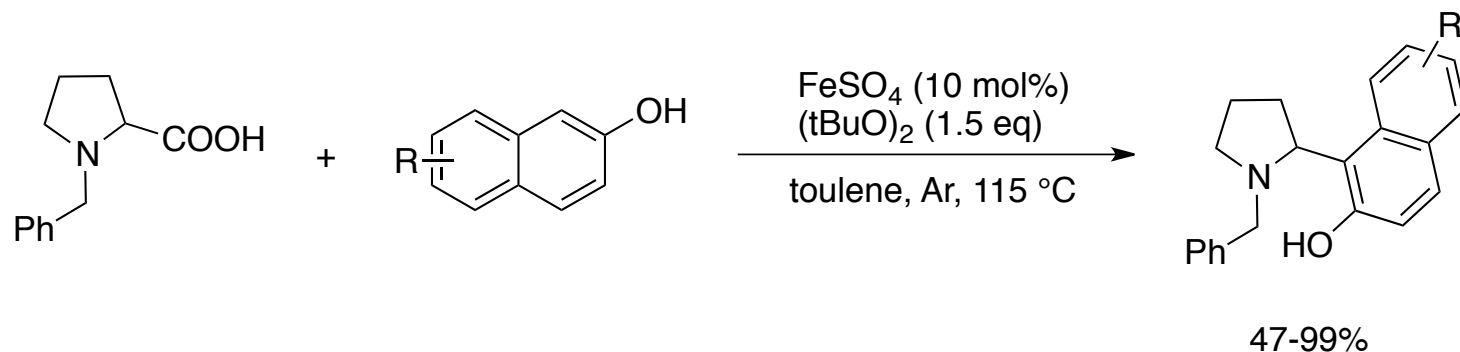
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-C bond formation

C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Decarboxylative-Coupling

u<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>  
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- Site-specific functionalisation
- Generation of novel amino-naphthol ligands (non-expensive)

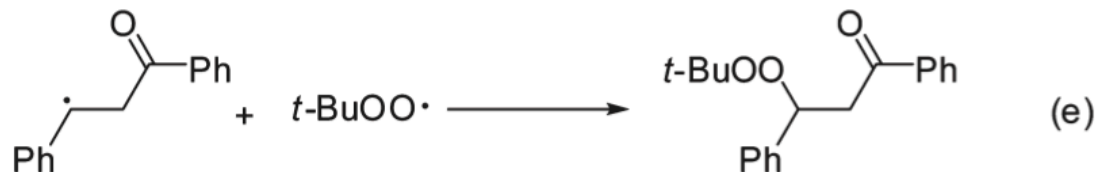
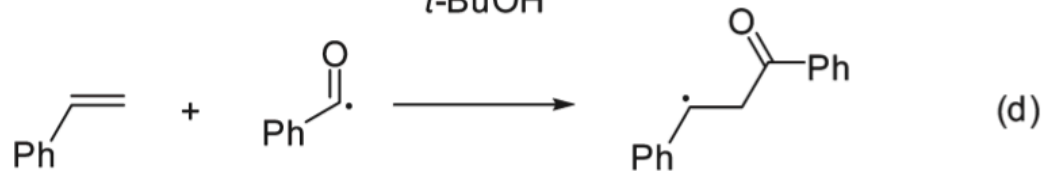
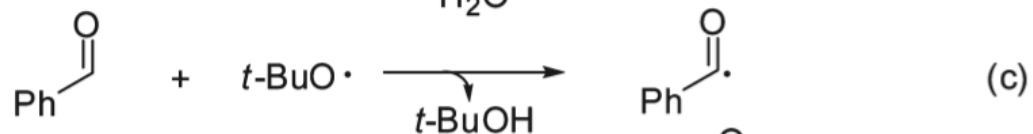
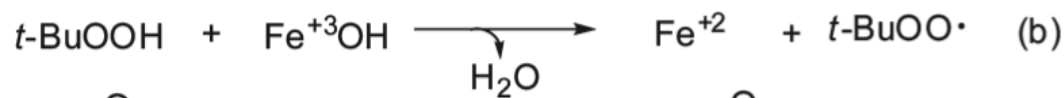
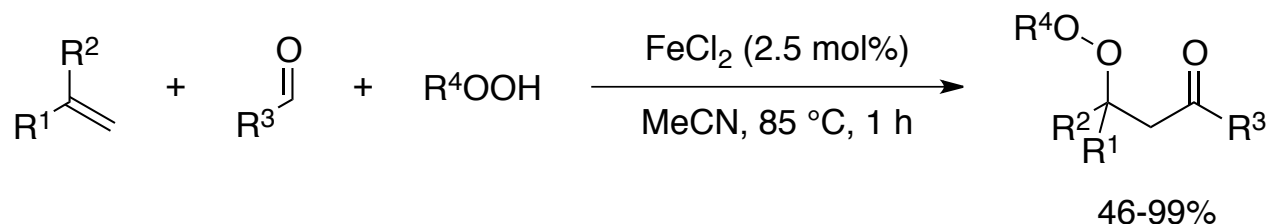
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-C bond oxidation

C(sp<sup>2</sup>)-C(sp<sup>2</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling

u<sup>b</sup>

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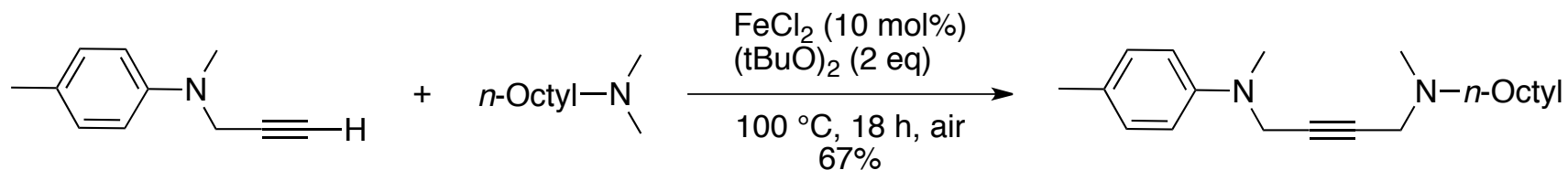
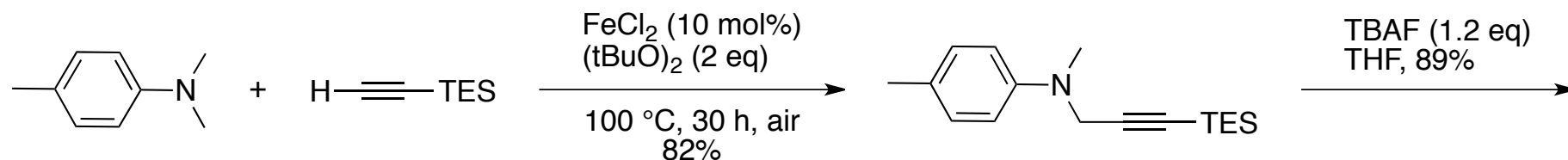
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

C-C bond formation

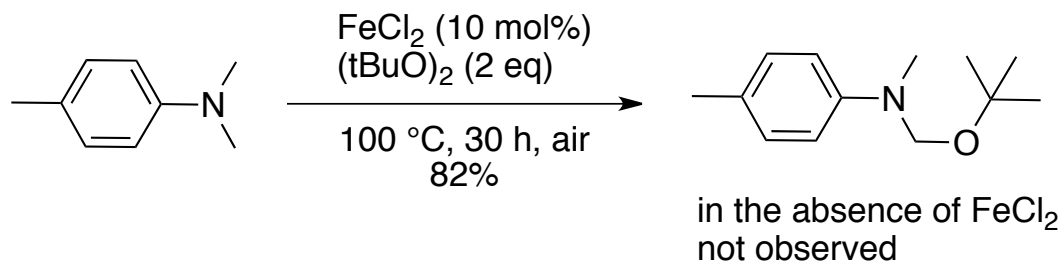
C(sp)–C(sp<sup>3</sup>) Cross-Dehydrogenative-Coupling

u<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup>  
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- no solvent
- Reaction *via* iminium ion and deprotonation of alkyne

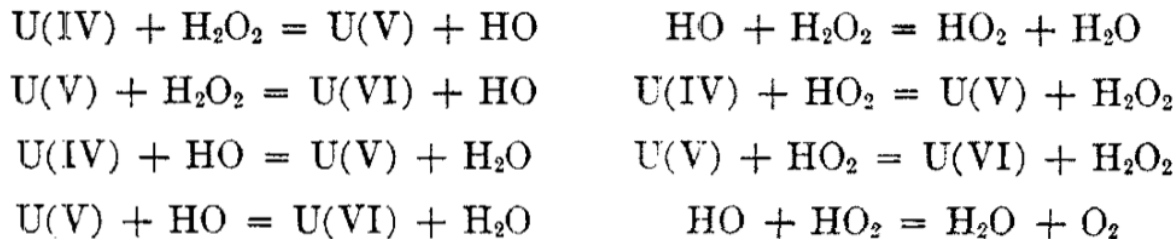




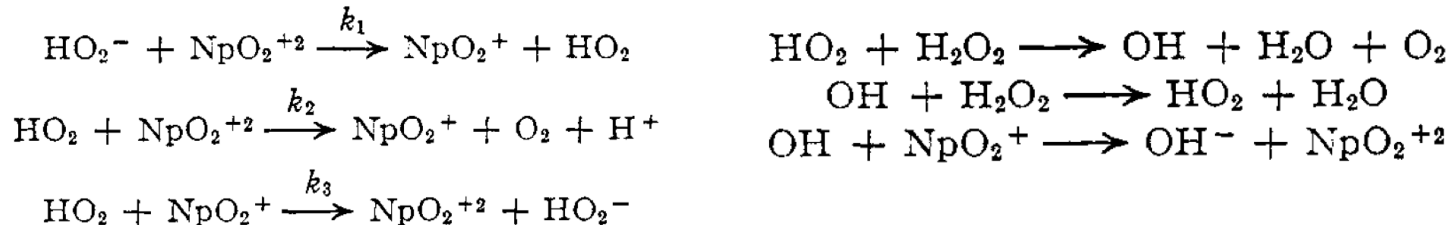
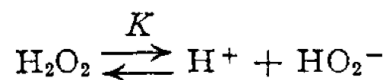
# Applications of Fenton Chemistry

## Other Metals

- Common are Mn(III), Cu(I+II), Co(II), Ti(III+IV), V(II), Cr(II+V), Ce(IV)
- Uranium (U(IV) and U(V))



- Neptunium (Np(VI))



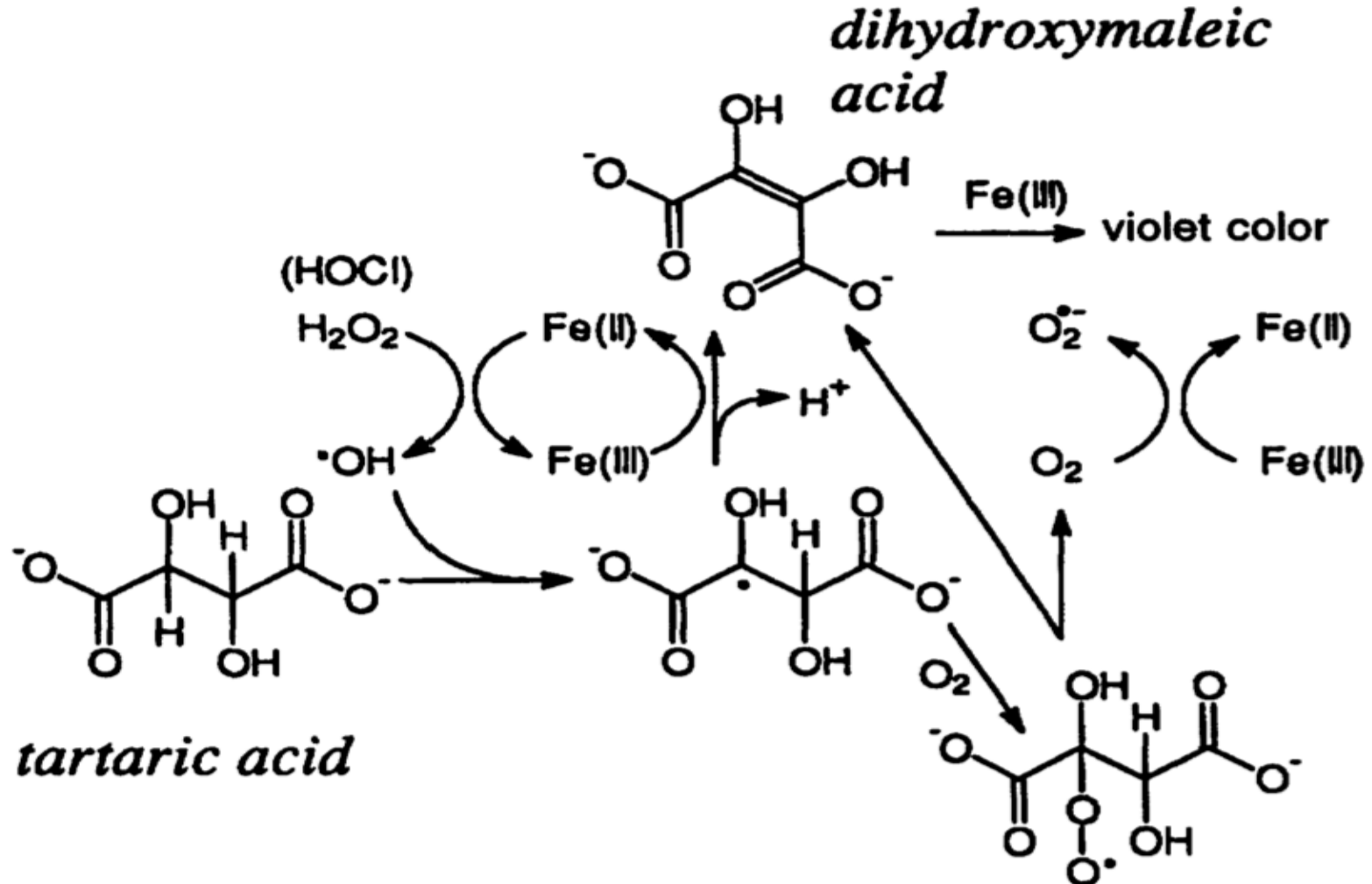
F. B. Baker, T. W. Newton, *J. Phys. Chem.*, **1961**, *65*, 1897–1899

A. J. Zielen, J. C. Sullivan, D. Cohen, J. C. Hindman, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1958**, *80*, 5632–5635

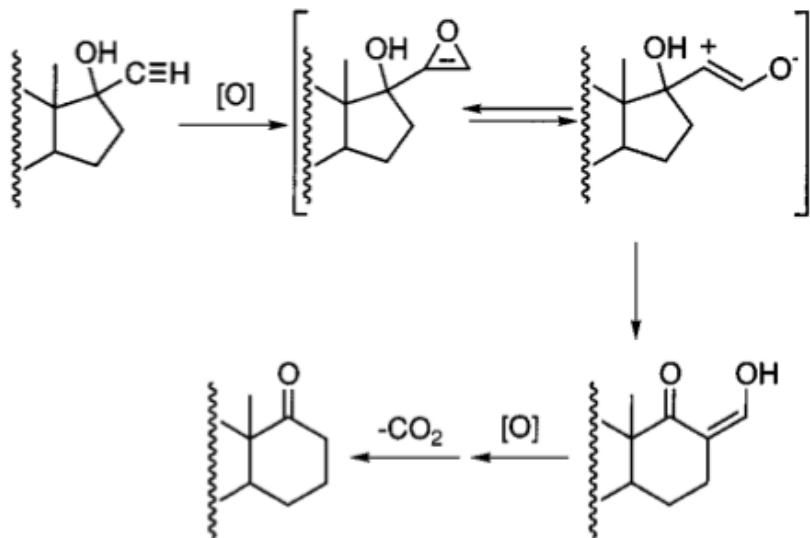
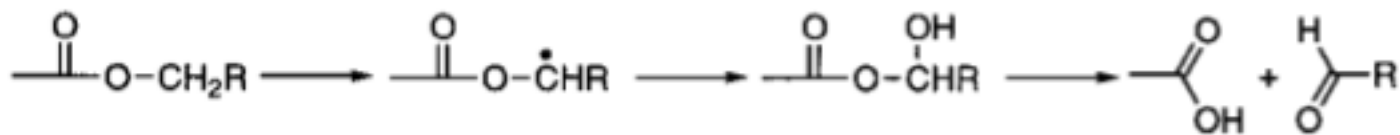
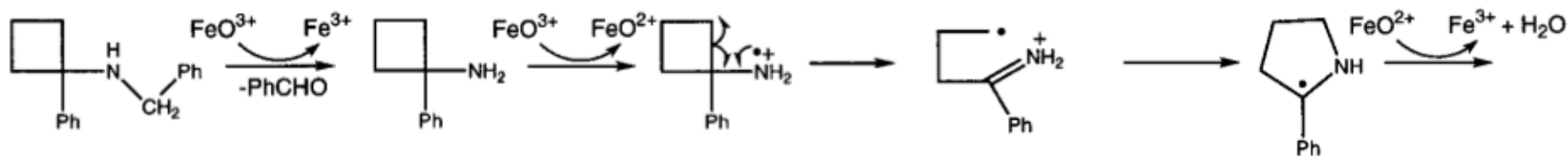
- Fenton's Discovery
- The controversy concerning the mechanism (radical vs. non-radical pathway)
- Cytochromes P-450 and their unusual oxidations
- Ecological Fenton Chemistry
- Gif Chemistry and Oxidation of inactivated C-H bonds
- Various Applications of Fenton's Chemistry

**Thank you for your attention**

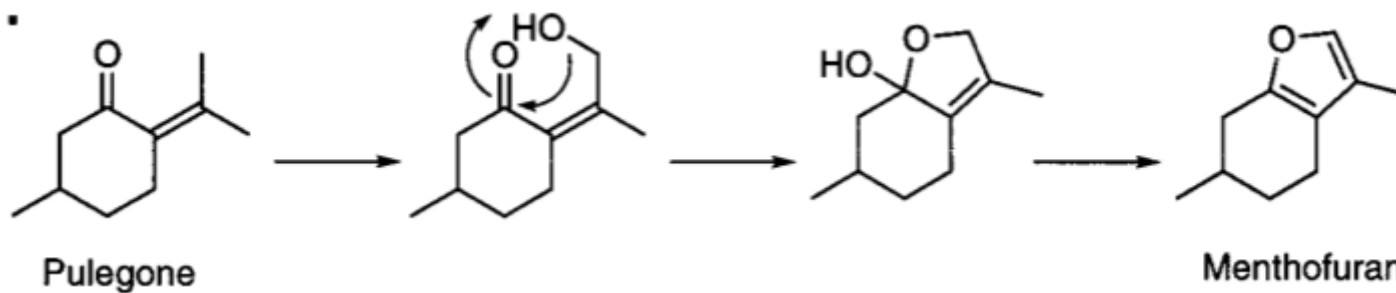
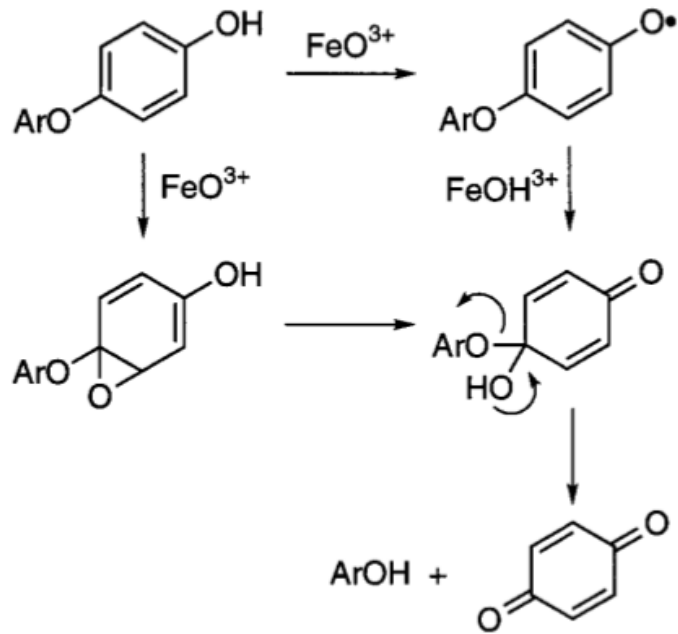
# Fenton's Reaction Mechanism



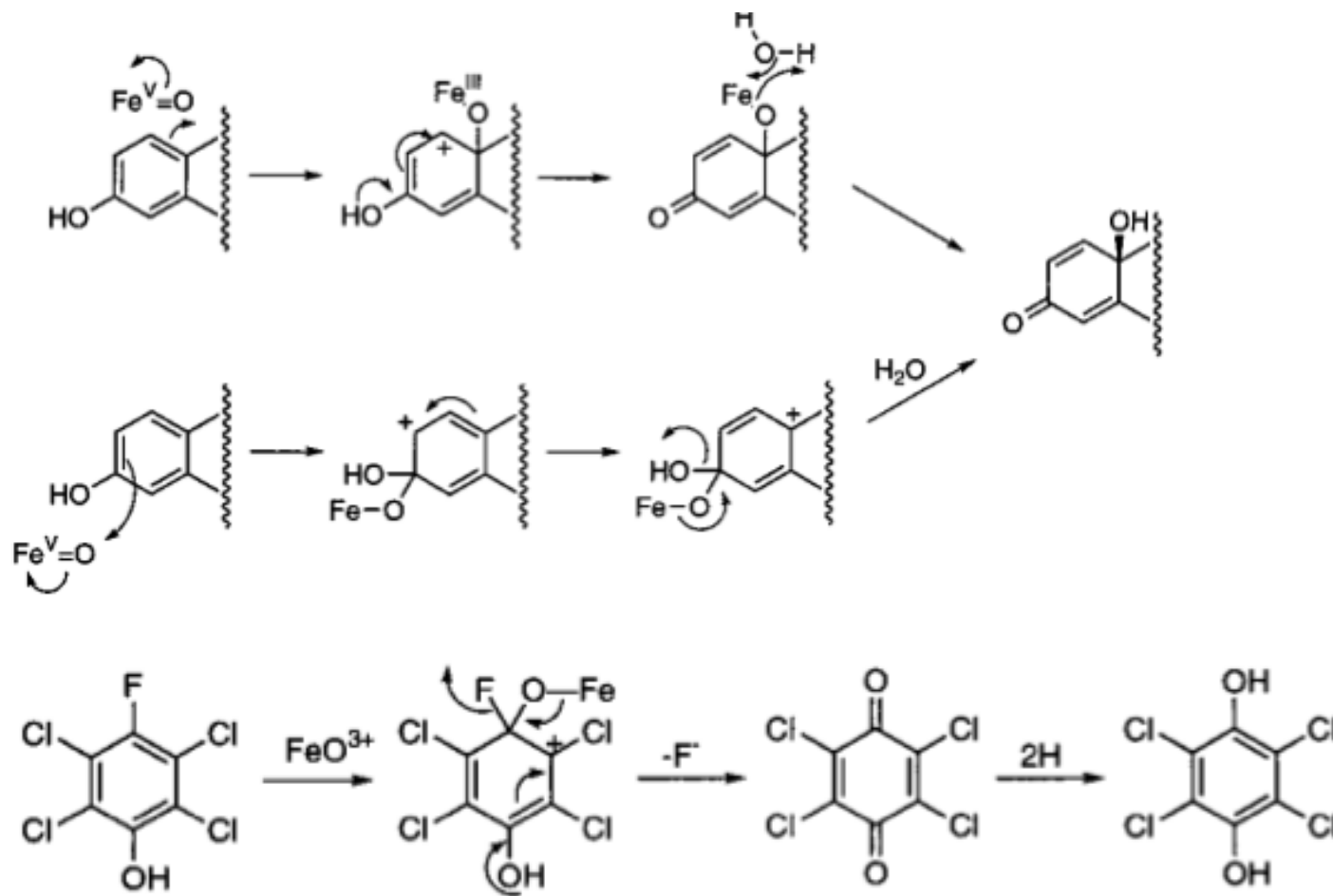
# P-450 Oxidations I



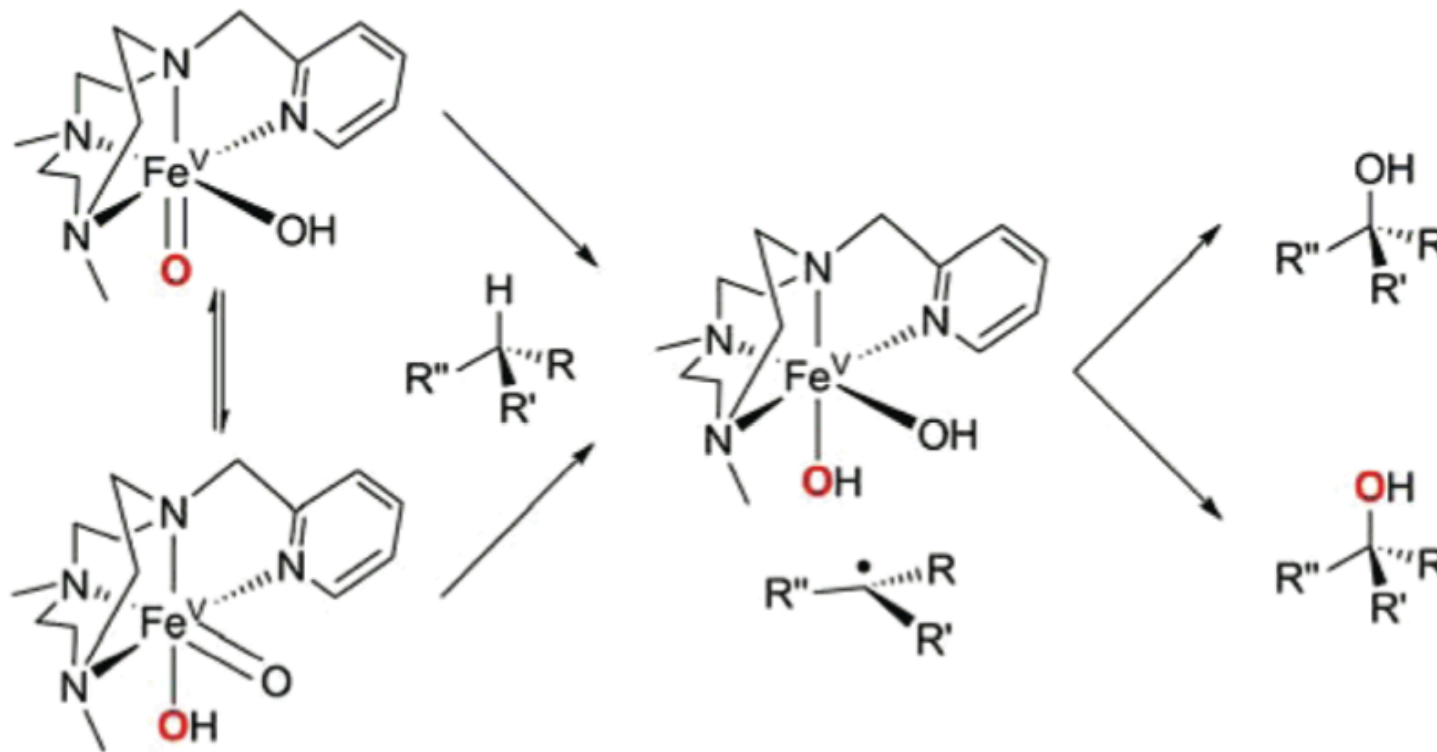
# P-450 Oxidations II



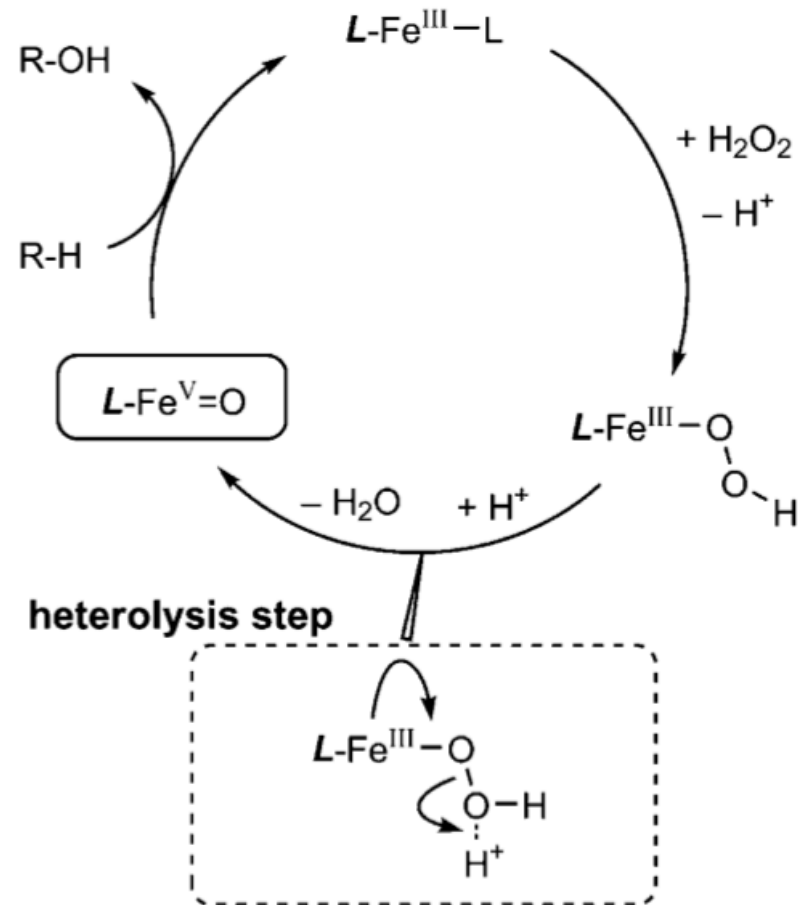
# P-450 Oxidations III



# Ligand Effect



# Three Component Coupling





# Proline Coupling, Decarboxylation

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<sup>b</sup>  
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