

Supporting information

# Electrochemical oxidation of a highly soluble redox mediator in aqueous solution for energy conversion

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Table S1 Equilibrium constants for (a) Fe-HEDTA, (b) Fe-EDTA, (c)  $\text{Fe}_{\text{aq}}$  and (d) HEDTA and EDTA.

(a)

Metal ion	Metal chelate	Formulation	Log $\beta$	Reference
$\text{Fe}^{3+}$	$\text{FeL}$	$[\text{FeL}] / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{3-}]$	19.8	1
	$\text{Fe(OH)L}^-$	$[\text{Fe(OH)L}^-][\text{H}^+] / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	15.7	2
	$\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{2-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^-][\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2$	7.0	2
	$\text{Fe(OH)}_3\text{L}^{3-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)}_3\text{L}^-][\text{H}^+]^3 / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^3$	-3.2	3
	$(\text{FeL})_2\text{O}^{2-}$	$[(\text{FeL})_2\text{O}^{2-}][\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{Fe}^{3+}]^2[\text{L}^{3-}]^2[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	33.8	2
$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	$\text{FeHL}$	$[\text{FeHL}^-] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}^+]$	14.9	3
	$\text{FeL}^-$	$[\text{FeL}^-] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{3-}]$	12.2	1
	$\text{Fe(OH)L}^{2-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)L}^{2-}][\text{H}^+] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	3.2	3
	$\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{3-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{2-}][\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2$	-6.8	3

(b)

Metal ion	Metal chelate	Formulation	Log $\beta$	Reference
$\text{Fe}^{3+}$	$\text{FeHL}$	$[\text{FeHL}] / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}^+]$	26.4	4
	$\text{FeL}^-$	$[\text{FeL}^-] / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{4-}]$	25.1	4
	$\text{Fe(OH)L}^{2-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)L}^{2-}][\text{H}^+] / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	17.6	4
	$(\text{FeL})_2\text{O}^{4-}$	$[(\text{FeL})_2\text{O}^{4-}][\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{Fe}^{3+}]^2[\text{L}^{4-}]^2[\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	38.2	2
	$\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{3-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{3-}][\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{Fe}^{3+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2$	8.2	4
$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	$\text{FeH}_2\text{L}$	$[\text{FeH}_2\text{L}] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}^+]^2$	19.5	4
	$\text{FeHL}^-$	$[\text{FeHL}^-] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}^+]$	17.1	4
	$\text{FeL}^{2-}$	$[\text{FeL}^{2-}] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{4-}]$	14.3	4
	$\text{Fe(OH)L}^{3-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)L}^{3-}][\text{H}^+] / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	5.3	4
	$\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{4-}$	$[\text{Fe(OH)}_2\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}^+]^2 / [\text{Fe}^{2+}][\text{L}^{4-}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]^2$	-4.6	4

(c)

Metal ion	Metal chelate	Formulation	Log $\beta$	Reference
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	FeOH <sup>2+</sup>	[Fe(OH) <sup>2+</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ]/[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O]	-2.7	5
	Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>	[Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup> /[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>2</sup>	-7.0	5
	Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub>	[Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>3</sup> /[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>3</sup>	-12.5	5
	Fe(OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	[Fe(OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>4</sup> /[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>4</sup>	-20.6	5
	Fe <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>4+</sup>	[Fe <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>4+</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup> /[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup> [H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>2</sup>	-3.2	6
	Fe <sub>3</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>5+</sup>	[Fe <sub>3</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>5+</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>4</sup> /[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ] <sup>3</sup> [H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>4</sup>	-7.0	6
	Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub> (s)	[Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub> (s)][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>3</sup> /[Fe <sup>3+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>3</sup>	-4.8	7
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	FeOH <sup>+</sup>	[Fe(OH) <sup>+</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ]/[Fe <sup>2+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O]	-9.3	4
	Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub>	[Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup> /[Fe <sup>2+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>2</sup>	-20.3	4
	Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	[Fe(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>3</sup> /[Fe <sup>2+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>3</sup>	-31.3	4
	Fe(OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	[Fe(OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>4</sup> /[Fe <sup>2+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>4</sup>	-45.5	4
	Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub> (s)	[Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub> (s)][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup> /[Fe <sup>2+</sup> ][H <sub>2</sub> O] <sup>2</sup>	-13.3	7

(d)

Ligand = L	Protonated ligand	Formulation	Log $\beta$	Reference
EDTA <sup>4-</sup>	H <sub>6</sub> L <sup>2+</sup>	[H <sub>6</sub> L <sup>2+</sup> ]/[L <sup>4-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>6</sup>	22.5	4
	H <sub>5</sub> L <sup>+</sup>	[H <sub>5</sub> L <sup>+</sup> ]/[L <sup>4-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>5</sup>	22.5	4
	H <sub>4</sub> L	[H <sub>4</sub> L]/[L <sup>4-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>4</sup>	21.0	4
	H <sub>3</sub> L <sup>-</sup>	[H <sub>3</sub> L <sup>-</sup> ]/[L <sup>4-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>3</sup>	19.0	4
	H <sub>2</sub> L <sup>2-</sup>	[H <sub>2</sub> L <sup>2-</sup> ]/[L <sup>4-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup>	16.3	4
	HL <sup>3-</sup>	[HL <sup>3-</sup> ]/[L <sup>4-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ]	10.2	4
HEDTA <sup>3-</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> L	[H <sub>3</sub> L]/[L <sup>3-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>3</sup>	17.7	3
	H <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-</sup>	[H <sub>2</sub> L <sup>-</sup> ]/[L <sup>3-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ] <sup>2</sup>	15.1	3
	HL <sup>2-</sup>	[HL <sup>2-</sup> ]/[L <sup>3-</sup> ][H <sup>+</sup> ]	9.7	3

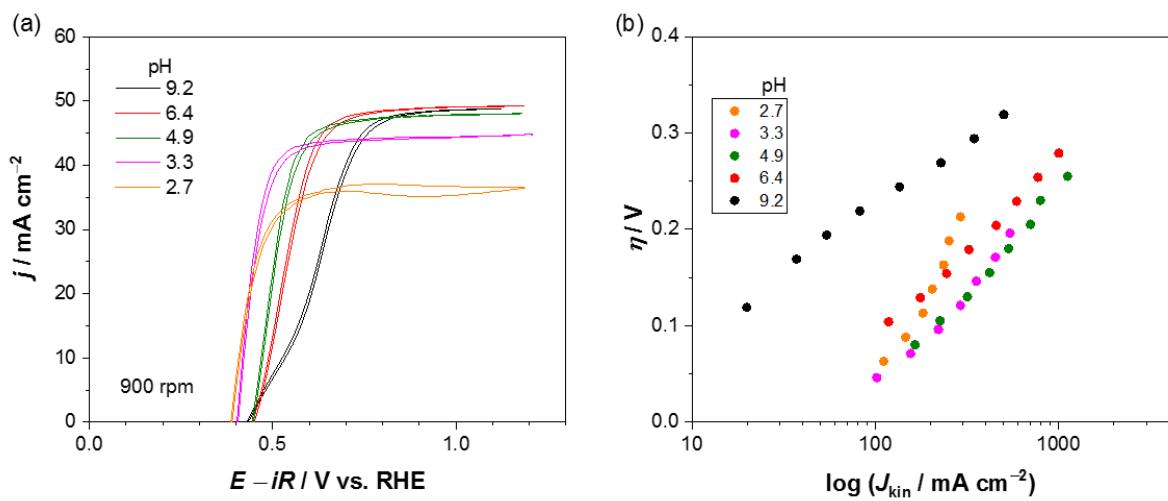


Figure S1.(a) Cyclic voltammograms measured by a platinum rotating disk electrode in the solution containing total  $1.0 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  Fe-HEDTA with  $0.5 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  of HEDTA. Redox solutions have 50% of reduced species and 50% oxidized species. (b) Tafel plot of kinetic current density after Koutecký -Levich analysis.

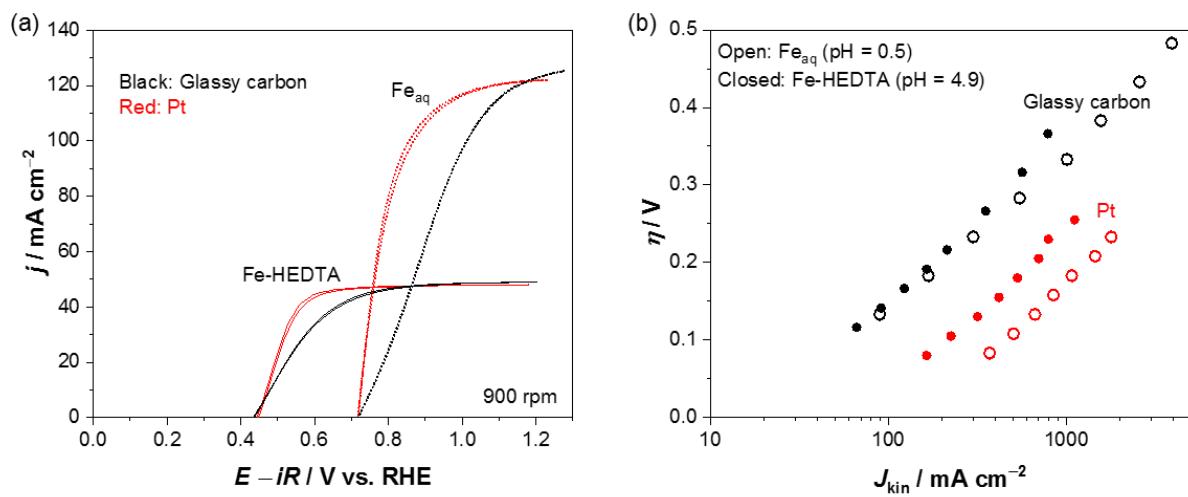


Figure S2. (a) Cyclic voltammograms measured by a glassy carbon and a platinum rotating disk electrode in the solution containing total  $1.0 \text{ mol kg}^{-1} \text{Fe}^{2+/\text{3+}}_{\text{aq}}$  in  $0.5 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  or total  $1.0 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  Fe-HEDTA in  $0.5 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  of excess HEDTA. Redox solutions have 50% of reduced species and 50% oxidized species. (b) corresponding Tafel plot after Koutecký -Levich analysis.

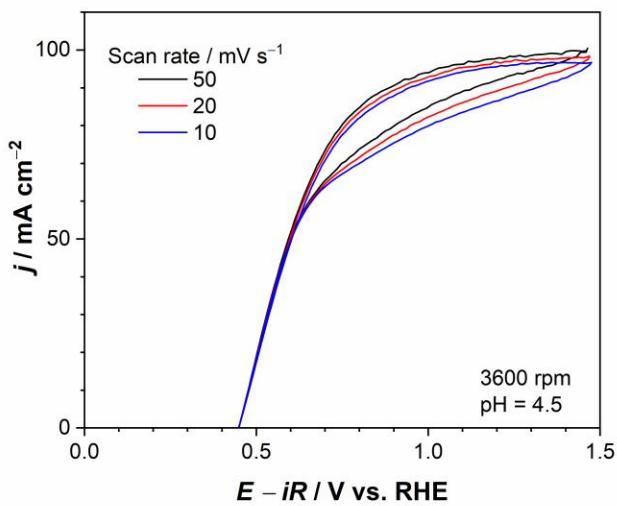


Figure S3. Cyclic voltammograms measured by a glassy carbon rotating disk electrode in the solution containing total  $1.0 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  Fe-HEDTA without buffer at different scan rates. Redox solutions have 50% of reduced species and 50% oxidized species. (3600 rpm, 298 K).

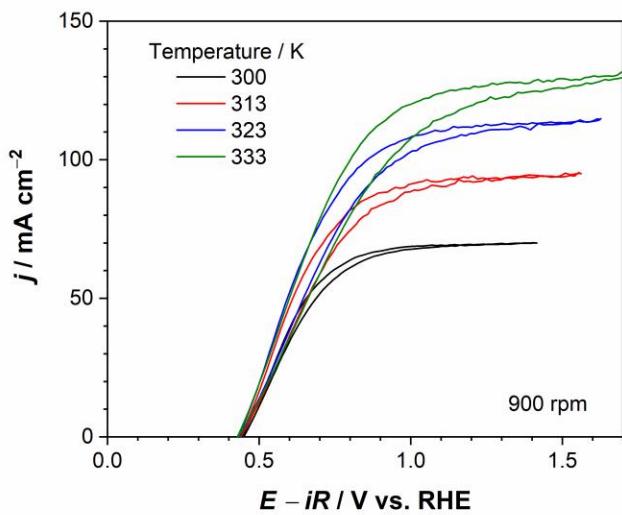


Figure S4. Cyclic voltammograms measured by a glassy carbon rotating disk electrode in the solution containing total  $1.0 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  Fe-HEDTA with  $0.5 \text{ mol kg}^{-1}$  malonate buffer at different temperatures. Redox solutions have 50% of reduced species and 50% oxidized species. ( $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , 900 rpm).

## References

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