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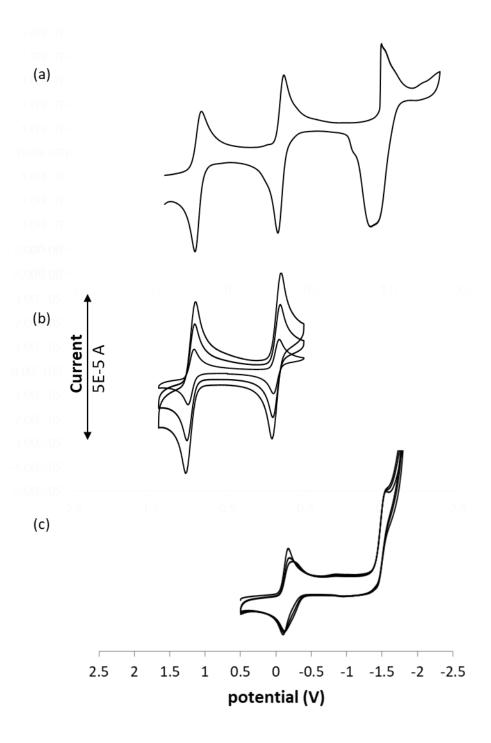
**Supporting information for article:** 

Structural and electrochemical comparison of trinuclear ruthenium oxo clusters [Ru3(OAc)6O(L)3]\* and [Ru3(OAc)6O(L)2(CO)] (L = imidazole, benzimidazole, and 4-phenylpyridine)

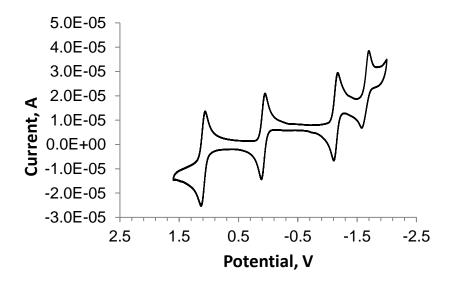
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## S1. Cyclic voltammograms

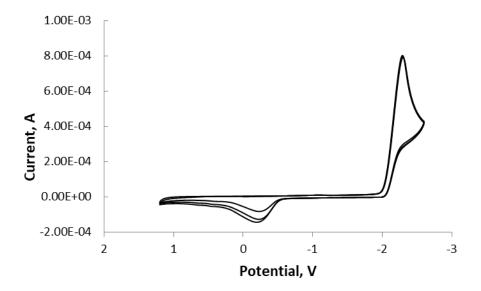
**Figure S1** Cyclic voltammograms of [2]PF<sub>6</sub> in (a) acetonitrile and (b, c) 9:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH with 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>, glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt wire counter electrode. (a) A full range scan (200 mV/s) shows the irreversible behaviour at -1.35 V; (b) Narrow range scans (50, 100, and 200 mV/s) show two reversible redox couples; (c) Multiple scans at 200 mV/s in the range of 0.5 to -2.0V show the appearance of new species at ~ -0.26V.



**Figure S2** Cyclic voltammogram of [3]PF<sub>6</sub> in acetonitrile with 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>, glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt wire counter electrode, scan rate 100 mV/s. The couple with  $E_{1/2} = -1.65$ V is ligand-based.



**Figure S3** Cyclic voltammogram of 4-phenylpyridine in acetonitrile with 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>, glassy carbon working electrode, Ag/AgCl reference electrode, and Pt wire counter electrode, scan rate 500 mV/s



**Figure S4** ESI mass spectra of reaction mixture taken at 30 min, 1, 3, and 12 h show imidazole coordination to  $[Ru_3O(OAc)_6(H_2O)_3]^+$  to form occurs quickly (red asterisk), but does not reach completion during this time scale. Many peak envelopes are observed due to the various solvated forms of the cluster.

