

# Synthesis and characterization of new Pd(II) complexes of L-ethylphenylalanate

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**Abstract** Complex (S,S)-[Pd{C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)}(μ-Br)]<sub>2</sub> (**3**) was prepared following the method by Vicente and Saura-Llamas (Organometallics 26:2768–2776, 2007), by the reaction of L-ethylphenylalanate and Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> in 1:1 molar ratio under acetonitrile heating conditions and subsequently treating with NaBr. In addition, the cleavage of halogeno-bridge of the complex **3** via nucleophilic attack of some neutral ligands such as triphenylphosphine, pyridine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine and piperidine were investigated and the corresponding complexes (S)-[Pd{C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>CHNH<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)(Y)(Br)}] (**4a–f**) were obtained in moderate yields. The six-member orthopalladated complexes were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>31</sup>P-NMR, FT-IR and elemental analysis techniques.

**Keywords** Phenylalanine · Cyclopalladation · Orthometallate

## Introduction

The combination of bio and organometallic chemistry is one of the most interesting fields in chemistry (Riordan 2004;

Gellett et al. 2008). Synthesis, reaction and application of organometallic complexes using bioligands are important field of bioorganometallic researches (Severin et al. 1998; Barisic et al. 2003; Fish and Jaouen 2003).

Since aromatic α-amino acids (e.g., L-phenylalanine) as very versatile bioligands coordinate with palladium via amino and carboxylic functional groups, prevent the synthesis of orthopalladated complexes. To avoid this problem the ester derivatives of aromatic α-amino acids have been frequently used in literature (Ryabov et al. 1984; Freiesleben et al. 1995; Albert et al. 2002).

Synthesis of cyclometallated complexes of α-amino esters, especially L-phenylalanine esters, is attractive subject due to their interesting properties involving: potential cytotoxicity (Mylonas et al. 1981; Paul et al. 1993; Blaha et al. 1997; Mital et al. 1991; Zamora et al. 1997) and their application in organic synthesis (Ryabov 1985; Pfeffer 1992; Omae 2004; Dupont et al. 2005). These compounds also may be applied as useful reagents for resolution of racemic mixtures and determination of absolute configuration of chiral phosphines (Albert et al. 1997, 2006; Wild 1997; Camus et al. 2005), amino acids (Bohm et al. 1999; Bohm and Seebach 2000) and other ligands (Kurita et al. 2000; Okajima et al. 2002).

The preliminary works by Cope's group indicated that cyclopalladation of amine compounds needs three essential conditions involving: the use of substrates with ability to form five-member rings, exclusively tertiary amines and also using aromatic rings without electron withdrawing substitutions (Cope and Friedrich 1968). Using α-amino esters breaks down two primary conditions of Cope's rules, however by employing the improved methodology the cyclopalladation reactions of α-amino esters can be carried out (Vicente et al. 1995, 2003, 2005, 2007). The cyclopalladation reactions of such compounds using palladium

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acetate as a modified method have been reported (Ryabov et al. 1984; Fuchita et al. 1995).

In this study new dimeric complex of orthopalladated L-phenylalanine ethyl ester hydrochloride has been synthesized and splitted to a series of monomeric orthopalladated complexes with six-membered ring structures, using several neutral ligands such as triphenylphosphine, pyridine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, 3-methylpyridine, piperidine and 4-methylpiperidine. The products were characterized by  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR,  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR, FT-IR and elemental analysis techniques.

## Experimental

### Materials

L-Phenylalanine ethyl ester hydrochloride, triphenylphosphine, pyridine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, 3-methylpyridine, piperidine, 4-methylpiperidine and palladium acetate were purchased from Merck and Aldrich and used as received.

### Instruments

All melting points were taken on a Gallenkamp melting apparatus and are uncorrected.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (500 MHz) and  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 instrument (Rheinstetten, Germany) using  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as solvent (TMS and  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  was used as an internal standard in  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR respectively). FT-IR spectra were recorded on a spectrophotometer (Jasco-680, Japan). Spectra of solids were carried out using KBr pellets. Vibrational transition frequencies are reported in wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in the range 4,000–400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).

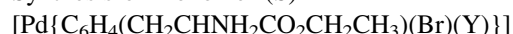
### Synthesis of dimer (S,S)-



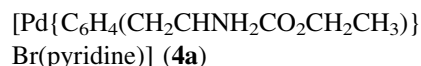
L-Phenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride (1.00 g, 4.64 mmol) was added to a solution of  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})_2$  (1.04 g, 4.64 mmol) in acetonitrile (60 ml) and the resulting solution was heated for 4 h at 70°C (under the temperature of reflux). During the cyclopalladation a small amount of metallic palladium was formed as a side reaction. The mixture was filtered off through a plug of  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The filtrate was concentrated to dryness and the residue was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 ml) and *n*-hexane (30 ml) was added to produce an orange solid which was filtered off, washed with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 2$  ml), and air-dried. To a solution of mixture in acetone (50 ml) was added NaBr (1.50 g, 19.4 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 8 h, then the acetone was evaporated. The residue was taken up in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (30 ml), the suspension was filtered off through

a plug of  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , the filtrate was concentrated to dryness, and *n*-hexane (30 ml) was added and the orange solid was filtered, washed with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 2$  ml), and air-dried to afford crude complex **3**. The residue was purified by recrystallization from  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  to afford the pure complex **3**.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.25 (br t, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 3.59 (br m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.62 (br m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.72 (br s, 1H, NH), 4.05 (br s, 1H, NH), 4.15 (br m, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , CH), 6.80 (m, 2H, H4, H6,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ), 6.90 (m, 2H, H3, H5,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ). IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(\text{NH})$  3,229, 3,350;  $\nu(\text{CO})$  1,727. Yield: 51.7%, 0.85 g. Mp: 125°C dec. Elemental analysis ( $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4\text{Br}_2\text{Pd}_2$ ); calculated: C, 34.90; H, 3.73; N, 3.70. Found: C, 34.80; H, 3.90; N, 3.70.

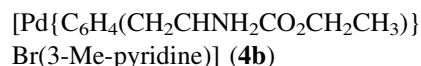
### Synthesis of monomer (S)-



To a suspension of the complex **3** (0.11 mmol, 0.083 g) in dichloromethane (12 ml) was added appropriate nucleophiles (0.22 mmol). After the mixture was stirred for 8 h at room temperature, it was filtered through  $\text{MgSO}_4$  plug and concentrated to around 3 ml, then *n*-hexane (15 ml) was added to precipitate the complexes **4a–f**. These new products were filtered off, washed with diethyl ether and air-dried.



$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.30 (t, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.1$  Hz), 3.30 (br d, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.65 (br m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ , CH), 4.15 (m, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , NH), 4.19 (br m, 1H, NH), 6.52 (d, 1H, H3,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.6$  Hz), 6.76 (td, 1H, H4,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.9$  Hz), 6.93 (m, 2H, H6, H5,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ), 7.80 (m, 2H, Py), 8.74 (m, 2H, Py), 8.89 (dd, 1H, Py,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 15.2$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5.2$  Hz). IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(\text{NH})$  3,190, 3,215;  $\nu(\text{CO})$  1,732,  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$  1,604. Yield: 44.1%, 0.042 g. Mp: 160°C dec. Anal. calculated for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{19}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2\text{BrPd}$ : C, 44.55; H, 4.48; N, 6.49. Found: C, 44.50; H, 4.60; N, 6.50.



$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.26 (br t, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$  Hz), 2.45 (br s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ) 3.30 (m, 1H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.58 (br m, 2H,  $\text{CH}_2$ , CH), 4.14 (m, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , NH), 4.31 (br m, 1H, NH), 6.52 (d, 1H, H3,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.4$  Hz), 6.76 (br t, 1H, H4,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ), 6.94 (m, 2H, H6, H5,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ), 7.60 (m, 1H, Py), 8.50 (m, 1H, Py), 8.64 (br s, 1H, Py), 8.67 (m, 1H, Py). IR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(\text{NH})$  3,187, 3,260;  $\nu(\text{CO})$  1,732,  $\nu(\text{C}=\text{N})$  1,603. Yield: 45.9%, 0.047 g. Mp: 108°C

dec. Anal. calculated for  $C_{17}H_{21}N_2O_2BrPd$ : C, 43.29; H, 4.49; N, 5.94. Found: C, 43.10; H, 4.60; N, 6.10.

$[Pd\{C_6H_4(CH_2CHNH_2CO_2CH_2CH_3)\}Br(2, 4, 6\text{-trimethyl-pyridine})]$  (**4c**)

$^1H$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.24 (t, 3H,  $CH_3$ ,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.4$  Hz), 2.34 (br s, 3H,  $CH_3$ ), 2.36 (br s, 6H,  $CH_3$ ), 3.21 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 3.53 (m, 1H, CH), 4.17 (m, 4H,  $OCH_2$ ,  $NH_2$ ), 6.31 (m, 1H, H3,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.69 (m, 1H, H4,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.90 (m, 2H, H6, H5,  $C_6H_4$ ), 7.51 (s, 2H, Py). IR ( $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(NH)$  3,228, 3,350;  $\nu(CO)$  1,734,  $\nu(C = N)$  1,624. Yield: 46.2%, 0.050 g, Mp: 118°C dec. Anal. calculated for  $C_{19}H_{25}N_2O_2BrPd$ : C, 45.66; H, 5.04; N, 5.61. Found: C, 45.50; H, 5.20; N, 5.50.

$[Pd\{C_6H_4(CH_2CHNH_2CO_2CH_2CH_3)\}Br(PPh_3)]$  (**4d**)

$^1H$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.23 (br t, 3H,  $CH_3$ ), 3.32 (dd, 1H,  $CH_2$ ,  $^2J_{HH} = 13.4$  Hz,  $^3J_{HH} = 3.1$  Hz), 3.75 (dd, 1H,  $CH_2$ ,  $^2J_{HH} = 13.3$  Hz,  $^3J_{HH} = 5.5$  Hz), 3.92 (br s, 1H, NH), 4.02 (br s, 1H, NH), 4.14 (br m, 3H,  $OCH_2$ , CH), 6.35 (br t, 1H, H6,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.53 (t, 1H, H3,  $C_6H_4$ ,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.8$  Hz), 6.73 (br t, 1H, H5,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.78 (d, 1H, H6,  $C_6H_4$ ,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.8$  Hz), 7.32 (m, 5H,  $PPh_3$ ), 7.41 (m, 5H,  $PPh_3$ ), 7.57 (m, 5H,  $PPh_3$ ). IR ( $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(NH)$  = 3,219, 3,312;  $\nu(CO)$  = 1,734.  $^{31}P$ -NMR: 35.20. Yield: 42.2%, 0.062 g. Mp: 105°C dec. Anal. calculated for  $C_{28}H_{29}NO_2BrPPd$ : C, 44.62; H, 4.31; N, 2.07. Found: C, 44.70; H, 4.30; N, 2.20.

$[Pd\{C_6H_4(CH_2CHNH_2CO_2CH_2CH_3)\}Br(\text{piperidine})]$  (**4e**)

$^1H$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.25 (br t, 3H,  $CH_3$ ), 1.32 [br m, 1H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 1.58 [br m, 1H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 2.58 [br m, 1H, NH (piper)], 3.05 [br m, 2H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 3.17 [br m, 2H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 3.22 [br m, 2H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 3.21 [m, 3H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 3.41 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 3.56 (m, 1H, CH), 4.10 (br m, 3H,  $OCH_2$ , NH), 4.31 (br m, 1H, NH), 6.80 (br d, 1H, H6,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.85 (br d, 1H, H4,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.95 (m, 1H, H5,  $C_6H_4$ ), 7.03 (m, 1H, H3,  $C_6H_4$ ). IR ( $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(NH)$  3,254, 3,360;  $\nu(CO)$  1,733. Yield: 46.7%, 0.046 g. Mp: 90°C dec. Anal. calculated for  $C_{17}H_{21}N_2O_2BrPd$ : C, 41.44; H, 5.43; N, 6.04. Found: C, 41.30; H, 5.50; N, 6.20.

$[Pd\{C_6H_4(CH_2CHNH_2CO_2CH_2CH_3)\}Br(4\text{-Me-piper})]$  (**4f**)

$^1H$ -NMR (500 MHz):  $\delta$  1.05 (br d, 3H,  $CH_3$ ), 1.24 (t, 3H,  $CH_3$ ,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.1$  Hz), 1.66 [br m, 3H, CH (piper),  $CH_2$  (piper)], 1.86 [br m, 2H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 2.87 [br t, 4H,  $CH_2$  (piper)], 3.24 [m, 1H, NH (piper)], 3.45 (m, 2H,  $CH_2$ ), 3.57 (m, 1H, CH), 4.13 (br m, 4H,  $OCH_2$ ,  $NH_2$ ), 6.84 (br d, 1H,

H6,  $C_6H_4$ ), 6.95 (m, 1H, H4,  $C_6H_4$ ), 7.03 (m, 2H, H3, H5,  $C_6H_4$ ). IR ( $cm^{-1}$ ):  $\nu(NH)$  3,200, 3,350;  $\nu(CO)$  1,735. Yield: 48.2%, 0.050 g. Mp: 108°C dec. Anal. calculated for  $C_{17}H_{21}N_2O_2BrPd$ : C, 42.74; H, 5.69; N, 5.86. Found: C, 42.60; H, 5.73; N, 5.70.

## Results and discussion

### Synthesis and structure of dimeric complex

When (L-ethylphenylalanate hydrochloride) (**1**) was reacted with  $Pd(OAc)_2$  in 1:1 molar ratio in acetonitrile for 4 h (Vicente et al. 2007; Scheme 1), the black solution containing compound **2** was obtained. The darkness of solution indicates the partially decomposition of Pd(II) to Pd(0) (Vicente et al. 1997, 2003).

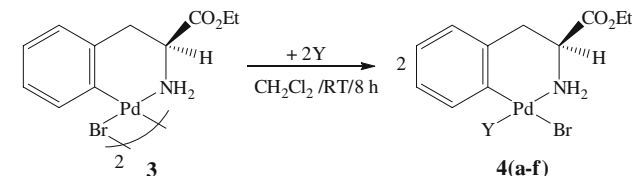
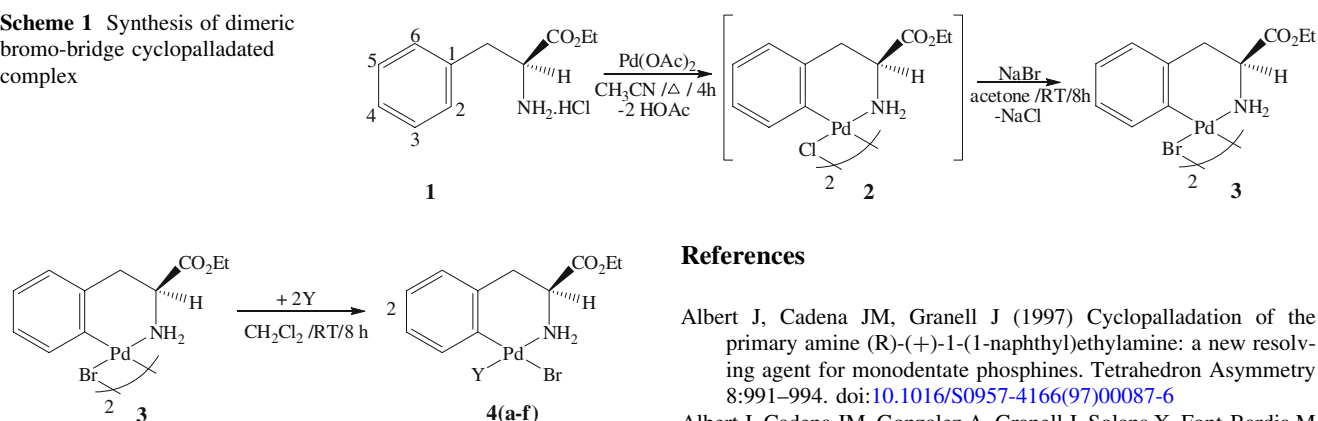
When the isolation of such complexes is impossible, they have been converted to equivalent bromo-bridge derivatives using metathesis reaction with NaBr (Vicente et al. 2003, 2007). We succeeded in isolating the pure bromo-bridged binuclear orthometallated complex  $[Pd_2\{\kappa^2(C,N)\text{-}C_6H_4CH_2CH(CO_2Et)NH_2\}_2(\mu\text{-}Br)_2]$  (**3**) in 51.7% yield.

Recently Vicente (Vicente et al. 2007) has investigated the synthesis of bromo-bridge cyclopalladated complex of phenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride and studied the splitting of the complex to the monomeric complex using 4-picoline. They utilized the cyclopalladated complexes in synthesis of a series of new derivatives by reacting with carbon monoxide and isocyanides as well as halogens ( $Br_2$  and  $I_2$ ). Similarly we split our dimeric bromo-bridge complex to the monomeric ones. Also for more extension a series of neutral ligands such as pyridine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, 3-methylpyridine, triphenylphosphine, piperidine, 4-methylpiperidine have been employed to split the bromo-bridges in complex **3** (Scheme 2) to provide the mononuclear complex  $[Pd\{\kappa^2(C,N)\text{-}C_6H_4CH_2CH(CO_2Et)NH_2\}Br(Y)]$ .

As previously has been reported there are two possible isomers for complexes **4a–f**, but only the one with the two nitrogen atoms in commonly trans positions is acquired, as confirmed by  $^1H$ -NMR. This is the normal manner for cyclopalladated complexes of benzylamine (Ryabov et al. 1995; Calmuschi and Englert 2005; Gong et al. 2007; Vicente et al. 2007).

The  $^1H$ -NMR spectra of complexes **3** and **4a–f** confirm the offered structure. The  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum of complex **3** demonstrates two multiplet signals at 6.80 and 6.90 ppm, matching to the four remaining protons in the orthometallated ring. In  $^1H$ -NMR spectrum of the mononuclear complex **4a–d**, H3 is notably shifted to up field and appear around 6.30–6.50 ppm due to the anisotropic shielding

**Scheme 1** Synthesis of dimeric bromo-bridge cyclopalladated complex



Y = a: py; b: 3-Me-Py; c: 2,4,6-triMe-Py; d: PPh<sub>3</sub>; e: Piper; F: 4-Me-Piper

**Scheme 2** Breakage of bromo-bridge using neutral ligands

from the pyridine or the phenyl rings. This observation is in a good agreement with the result of Vicente. This effect supports the mutually trans position of the pyridine or phosphine ligand and the NH<sub>2</sub> group in solution (Ryabov et al. 1995; Calmuschi and Englert 2005; Gong et al. 2007; Vicente et al. 2007). In the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of the mononuclear complexes, four aromatic protons were noticeably distinguished around 6–7 ppm which show no perturbation of orthopalladated systems. Moreover, the observation of a signal at 35.20 ppm in <sup>31</sup>P-NMR spectra of complex **4d**, confirms the existence of only one isomer. The FT-IR spectra of new synthesized orthopalladated complexes illustrated the significant vibration modes. N–H bond stretching vibration appeared at 3,187–3,360 cm<sup>−1</sup> which confirms the coordination of NH<sub>2</sub> groups to Pd(II). Ester carbonyl groups showed stretching vibration at 1,725–1,740 cm<sup>−1</sup> and C = N bonds of the pyridine rings appeared at 1,600–1,610 cm<sup>−1</sup>.

## Conclusions

In this paper a new dimeric bromo-bridge cyclopalladated complex of L-phenylalanine methyl ester hydrochloride has been synthesized. Breakage of this complex via nucleophilic attack of several neutral ligands has led to the synthesis of a novel series of monomeric orthopalladated complexes. All of the new compounds were characterized by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, FT-IR, <sup>31</sup>P-NMR spectroscopy and elemental analysis techniques. Resulting orthopalladated complexes have significant importance because of their cytotoxic activities, use in resolution of racemates, etc.

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