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Is Fluoride Bonded to Two Pd Acceptors Still Basic? Three CH_2Cl_2 Molecules Encapsulating a $Pd_2(\mu-F)_2$ Square and New Implications for Catalysis**

Vladimir V. Grushin* and William J. Marshall

Organotransition-metal fluoro complexes have recently received much attention due to their useful, uncommon properties, [1] and potential use in the synthesis of highly desired, selectively fluorinated organic molecules, [2-4] in catalysis, [5,6] and in C–H activation. [7] Further progress in this new, promising area will depend on firm knowledge of the nature and reactivity of the metal–fluorine bond. As a ligand for the catalytically important platinum group metals, fluoride still remains scantily explored. Thus, being ubiquitous in catalysis, palladium has been shown [6,8] to form isolable fluoro complexes only recently. Here we report on the synthesis, unexpectedly strong basicity, and peculiar reactivity of the first dinuclear organopalladium μ -fluorides and their mononuclear analogues stabilized by (alkyl)₃P ligands.

Using our previously developed methods^[6,8] we prepared a series of new Pd fluorides **1–6** [Eq. (1) and (2)], which were characterized by analytical, spectroscopic, and X-ray diffraction data (see Supporting Information for details).^[9]

Considering the particularly strong π basicity of coordinated terminal fluoride^[1,6,10-12] and the enhanced donating properties of iPr₃P (compared to Ph₃P), Pd–F d_{π}–p_{π} filled/filled repulsions in **1** and **3** were expected to be stronger than in their Ph₃P analogue [(Ph₃P)₂PdPh(F)],^[8] resulting in elongation rather than shortening of the Pd–F bond. Surprisingly, the Pd–F bond lengths in both **1** (Figure 1; 2.050(2) and 2.057(2) Å for two structurally similar molecules in the asymmetric unit), and **3** (Figure 2; 2.057(2) Å) are shorter

^[*] Dr. V. V. Grushin, W. J. Marshall
Central Research and Development
E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.
Experimental Station
Wilmington, Delaware 19880–0328 (USA)
Fax: (+1)302-695-8281
E-mail: vlad.grushin-1@usa.dupont.com

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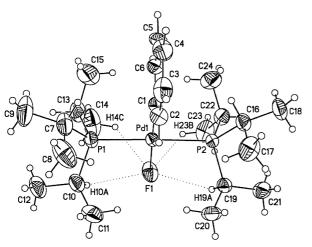


Figure 1. Structure of 1 (ORTEP view; 50% probability ellipsoids), showing C–H···F interactions (2.434–2.575 < 2.67 Å = sum of the van der Waals radii).

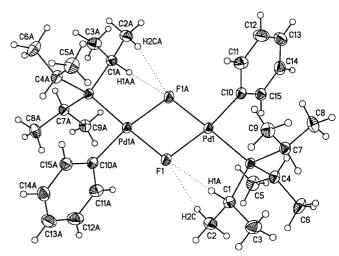


Figure 3. Structure of **5** (ORTEP view; 50% probability ellipsoids), showing PCH···F (2.593 Å) and CCH···F (2.399 Å) contacts.

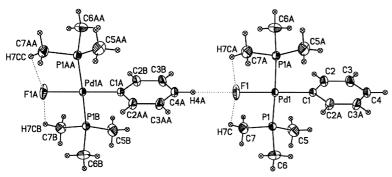


Figure 2. Structure of 3 (ORTEP view; $50\,\%$ probability ellipsoids), showing intramolecular and intermolecular C–H…F contacts.

than in [(Ph₃P)₂PdPh(F)] (2.085(3) Å). [8a] The opposite effect observed could be accounted for only [13] by stronger C–H···F–M interactions [1.6,14] (Figure 1 and 2) efficiently alleviating the Pd–F filled/filled repulsions in **1** and **3**. A previously unobserved combination of both intramolecular [14b–d] and intermolecular [14a] C–H···F–M interactions was found in **3** (Figure 2); the intermolecular CH···F contact to the para-H(sp²C) was surprisingly shorter (2.370 Å) than the intramolecular F···H(sp³C) distance of 2.496 Å.

Homobimetallic μ^2 -F complexes of the platinum group metals are extremely rare, especially for Pd and Pt.^[11h,15] As a result, little is known about the basicity of μ^2 -F bridging two platinum metal Lewis acid centers. It was logical to propose that the binding to two Pd^{II} acceptors would eliminate π -basic properties of the F atoms in 5 and 6, much like in metal bifluorides.^[12] Nonetheless, C–H···F interactions were found in 5 (Figure 3), the first dinuclear organopalladium complex with a fluoride bridge. Therefore, even when coordinated to two Pd centers fluoride retains considerable excessive basicity that requires additional interactions with an electron acceptor for stabilization.^[15b,c]

Further manifestation of the striking basicity of fluoride bound to two Pd atoms came from the ability of **6** to form a stable hydrogen-bond adduct with CH₂Cl₂. In pure form, **6** was isolated as a white powder of limited solubility in benzene

and toluene. Recrystallization of 6 from CH_2Cl_2/l hexane produced clear crystals which, to our surprise, were readily soluble in aromatic solvents. A singlet at $\delta = 4.3$ ppm was observed in the 1H NMR spectrum ([D₆]benzene) of the recrystallized 6. The difference in the behavior of 6 before (the signal at $\delta = 4.3$ ppm was absent) and after the recrystallization prompted us to analyze the recrystallized material by X-ray diffraction (Figure 4).

As seen from Figure 4, three CH_2Cl_2 molecules are hydrogen-bonded to the Pd_2F_2 core of **6**. One of the three CH_2Cl_2 molecules is coordinated to both F ligands through the two hydrogen atoms in a bridging fashion (H···F 2.492 Å). The other two

CH₂Cl₂ molecules are "terminal", forming much shorter H···F contacts of 2.083 Å.^[16] Owing to the CH₂Cl₂ interactions, the Pd₂F₂ fragment is distorted^[15a] from the planar geometry (found in **5**); the fluorides tilt toward the central dichloromethane molecule. The Pd–F bond lengths in **6**·3 CH₂Cl₂ are slightly longer than in **5**, that is, 2.119(1) versus 2.098(1) Å *trans* to P and 2.134(1) versus 2.118(1) Å *trans* to Ph.

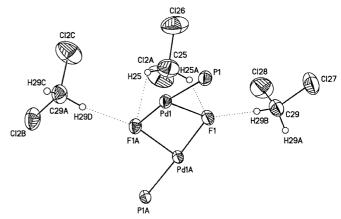


Figure 4. Structure of the Pd_2F_2 core of 6 (ORTEP view; 50% probability ellipsoids) with three CH_2Cl_2 molecules hydrogen-bonded to the fluorine atoms.

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Under anhydrous conditions, the F ligand is inert on the NMR time scale for all 1–6 (see Supporting Information). The dimers 5 and 6 exist in PhH or PhMe solution as 2-3:1 mixtures of anti and syn isomers, for which no fast (NMR) interconversion was observed at 20°C. Thus, well-resolved multiplets were observed in the 19F NMR spectrum of 6 in $[D_8]$ toluene, a doublet at $\delta = -302.3$ ppm with trans J(P,F) =142 Hz (anti isomer) and two 1:1 signals (syn isomer) at $\delta =$ -280.0 ppm (trans to P; doublet of triplets, J(P,F) = 157, J(F,F) = 60 Hz), and $\delta = -324.9 \text{ ppm}$ (doublet, J(F,F) =60 Hz). The ³¹P NMR spectrum exhibited two doublets at $\delta = 42.2$ (syn) and 44.7 ppm (anti) with the same trans J(P,F)of 157 and 142 Hz, respectively. In contrast, only broad unresolved resonance signals with similar chemical shifts were observed in the NMR spectrum of 6.3 CH₂Cl₂, suggesting exchange. The latter did not influence substantially the thermodynamics of the syn-anti isomerization as the same anti to syn ratio of 3 was observed for 6 and 6.3CH₂Cl₂ in toluene or benzene. ¹H NMR studies of 6·3CH₂Cl₂ in [D₈]toluene, in the absence or presence of two extra equivalents of CH_2Cl_2 , led to the observation of only one singlet (δ = 4.3 ppm) for all the dichloromethane in the sample at 20 °C, indicating fast inter- and intramolecular exchange processes. On cooling the sample to -80 °C the singlet from CH_2Cl_2 in exchange did not resolve but shifted upfield to $\delta = 3.9$ ppm. Therefore, the exchange processes could not be frozen out at -80 °C. The $\Delta\delta$ value of 0.4 ppm resulting from the cooling of the sample from 20 °C ($\delta = 4.3$ ppm) to -80 °C ($\delta = 3.9$ ppm) is less significant than the $\Delta\delta$ value of 1.05 ppm (5.35 (free CH_2Cl_2)-4.3 (6·n CH_2Cl_2) ppm) at 20 °C. This points to efficient hydrogen bonding of the CH₂Cl₂ molecules to the Pd₂F₂ square in solution even at ambient temperature.

The high π basicity of the F ligand and C-H···FM interactions in 1-6 may bear implications for some catalytic reactions involving platinum metal fluoride complexes.[3,5,6] The thermal decomposition of 3 in toluene under rigorously anhydrous conditions (N_2) at 115 °C (> 95 % conversion after 72 h; monitored by ¹⁹F and ³¹P NMR) produced Pd metal, Me_3PF_2 , $Me_2(Ph)PF_2$, and $[Me_3PPh]^+FHF^-$. Both difluorophosphoranes (unambiguously identified by their characteristic ¹⁹F and ³¹P NMR spectra^[17]) and the phosphonium cation emerged from C-P and P-F reductive elimination reactions similar to those described for [(Ph₃P)₂PdPh(F)].^[6] In contrast, the formation of bifluoride (19F NMR spectroscopy: broadened doublet, $\delta = -142.6 \text{ ppm}$, $J(H,F) = 121 \text{ Hz})^{[18]}$ was unexpected. Apparently, the source of hydrogen in the FHFwas the Me groups of the Me₃P ligands, as was demonstrated by repeating the experiment with 4, the (CD₃)₃P analogue of 3. Owing to broadening ($\Delta v_{1/2} = \text{ca. } 50 \text{ Hz}$) the bifluoride ¹⁹F resonance signal appeared as an unresolved singlet (J(D,F) =18.8 Hz)^[18] but no H,F coupling of about 120 Hz was observed. While the basic fluoride^[3k] might deprotonate the phosphonium salt product, it is also conceivable that the intramolecular C-H···F-Pd interactions (see above) mediate proton abstraction at elevated temperatures.^[19,20] This reaction path is worth taking into consideration when using (alkyl)₃P late transition metal fluorides in synthesis and catalysis.

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