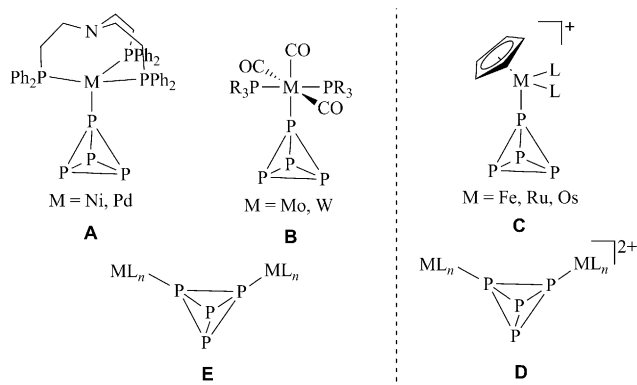


# Intact P<sub>4</sub> Tetrahedra as Terminal and Bridging Ligands in Neutral Complexes of Manganese\*\*

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The direct use of white phosphorus to generate organophosphorus compounds is still an unsolved problem,<sup>[1]</sup> although recently some progress has been achieved by the photolysis of P<sub>4</sub> with neat dienes.<sup>[2]</sup> A transition-metal mediated conversion is one option for this goal,<sup>[3]</sup> a mode of activation that first requires coordination of a vertex or an edge of the P<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron at the metal. Looking into the existing compounds that feature end-on P<sub>4</sub> coordination, there are complexes of type **A**, which were synthesized by the Sacconi group.<sup>[4]</sup> However, these compounds are insoluble in all common solvents, and the other known neutral complexes of type **B** decompose in solution at temperatures above 0 °C.<sup>[5]</sup>



So, complexes such as **A** and **B**, do not represent useful starting materials for a subsequent P<sub>4</sub> activation. As Peruzzini et al. have shown, the use of cationic coordination compounds leads to the end-on coordinated P<sub>4</sub> complexes **C**, which are stable in the solid state and in solution.<sup>[6,7]</sup> An interesting and recently discovered feature is the dynamic process, experienced by a number of P<sub>4</sub> complexes,<sup>[6h,i]</sup> consisting of tumbling of the P<sub>4</sub> cage while it remains chemically coordinated to the central metal moiety. In addition the P<sub>4</sub> ligand in mononuclear cationic complexes can bind a second metal fragment to give the binuclear dicationic species **D**. If P<sub>4</sub> bridges two Re, or Ru and Pt atoms, dynamic behavior involving the coordinated P<sub>4</sub> has also been detected.<sup>[6h,i]</sup> In view of the activation of P<sub>4</sub>, the second coordination seems to be decisive, since the hydrolysis of type **C** complexes leads to the usual P<sub>4</sub> hydrolysis products. In contrast, the double binding of P<sub>4</sub> in **D** leads by hydrolysis to novel triphosphines and thus to a change of the properties of P<sub>4</sub>.<sup>[6d]</sup> Therefore, the question arises whether neutral complexes with a tetrahedral P<sub>4</sub> ligand can be synthesized, which are stable at room temperature both in the solid state and in solution, and if the missing neutral type **E** complex with a bridging P<sub>4</sub> unit can be isolated?

Both challenges motivated us to use manganese complexes such as [Cp<sup>R</sup>Mn(CO)<sub>2</sub>(thf)] (Cp<sup>R</sup> = substituted η-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>). Interestingly, no unsubstituted E<sub>n</sub> (E = Group 15 element) ligand complexes of manganese have been yet synthesized, which provides additional motivation for investigating this chemistry.<sup>[8,3]</sup> Intensive efforts to use common Cp and Cp\* (Cp\* = η-C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>5</sub>) derivatives of cymantrene ([Cp<sup>R</sup>Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>]) failed to coordinate P<sub>4</sub> or even to convert it under thermal or photolytic conditions. So, the design of a novel derivative with a high Lewis acidity was needed.

Herein we report on the synthesis and characterization of [Cp<sup>BIG</sup>Mn(CO)<sub>3</sub>] (**1a**) (Cp<sup>BIG</sup> = pentakis(4-*n*-butylphenyl)cyclopentadienyl) and its conversion into neutral manganese complexes with a tetrahedral P<sub>4</sub> ligand coordinating in a terminal and in a bridging fashion, and thus to result in the first example of a neutral type **E** complex.

The bulky substituted cymantrene complex **1a** is prepared by the reaction of [Mn(CO)<sub>5</sub>Br] with one equivalent Cp<sup>BIG</sup>Na under high-temperature conditions in THF.<sup>[9]</sup> Irradiation of a solution of **1a** in THF leads to the elimination of one carbonyl and the formation of [Cp<sup>BIG</sup>Mn(CO)<sub>2</sub>(thf)] (**1b**). Addition of a solution of **1b** to a solution of five equivalents white phosphorus yields in a quantitative conversion to [Cp<sup>BIG</sup>Mn(CO)<sub>2</sub>(η<sup>1</sup>-P<sub>4</sub>)] (**2**) (monitored by <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy; Scheme 1a). Only by using this stoichiometry the isolation of pure **2** is possible (33 % yield). In contrast to the reported neutral η<sup>1</sup>-P<sub>4</sub> complexes, **2** is stable not only in the

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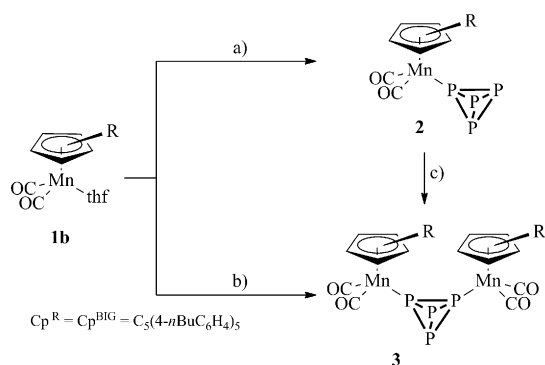
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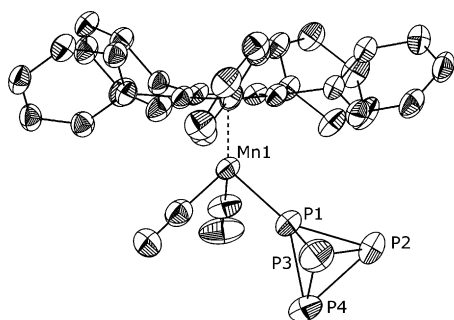
Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/anie.201305315>.



**Scheme 1.** Synthesis of neutral tetrahedro- $\text{P}_4$  complexes **2** and **3** at room temperature in THF. a) 5 equiv  $\text{P}_4$ , b) 0.5 equiv  $\text{P}_4$ , c) 1 equiv **1b**.

solid state but also in solution, even in coordinating solvents such as THF at room temperature. Owing to the *n*-butyl groups of the  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  ligand, it has good solubility in all common organic solvents except acetonitrile.

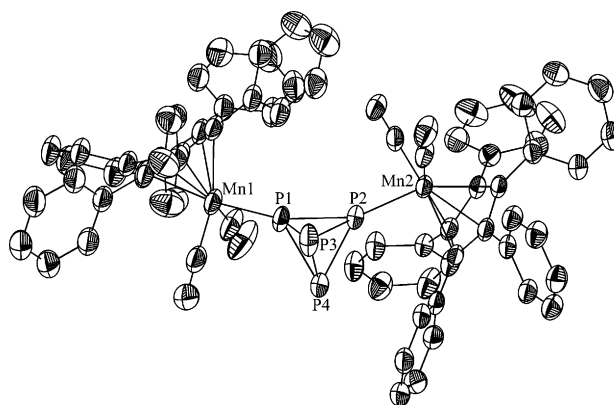
The molecular structure of **2** (Figure 1) reveals the intact  $\text{P}_4$  tetrahedron. The bonds between the apical and the basal P atoms (2.145(2)–2.165(2) Å) are about 7 pm shorter than the



**Figure 1.** Molecular structure of the neutral complex **2**. H atoms, butyl groups, and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity; thermal ellipsoids set at 50% probability.<sup>[15]</sup>

basal bonds (2.211(4)–2.232(2) Å). This behavior was also observed for most of the  $\text{P}_4$  units in the cationic complexes of Group 8 elements<sup>[6a–f]</sup> and in the neutral tungsten complex of type **B**.<sup>[5]</sup> The  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **2** in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  at 253 K shows a quartet at  $\delta = -305.7$  ppm and a doublet at  $\delta = -490.0$  ppm with a  $^1J_{\text{PP}}$  coupling constant of 224 Hz. At ambient temperature the signals broadened and the quartet splitting was no longer identifiable. The  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  attached proton test (APT) spectrum of **2** in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  at 298 K shows a broad signal of the carbonyl groups at  $\delta = 226.9$  ppm, three signals in a ratio of 2:1:2 for the cyclopentadienyl carbon atoms ( $\delta = 104.6$ , 103.2, and 102.8 ppm) and several signals for each of the *n*-butylphenyl carbon atoms,<sup>[10]</sup> indicating the inequivalency of the five substituents of the ligand. Features of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (and of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, see below) suggest that the cyclopentadiene core does not freely rotate about the  $\text{Cp-Mn}$  axis, but each *n*-butylphenyl group freely rotates about the  $\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}\text{-C}_{\text{Cp}}$  bond. Based on the remarkable stability of **2** in solution, the

question arises whether coordination of a second phosphorus atom is possible. Initial evidence of the existence of the neutral binuclear complex  $[\{\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_2\}_2(\mu\text{-}\eta^1\text{:}\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]$  (**3**) appears if **1b** is treated with an equimolar amount of white phosphorus at ambient temperatures (Scheme 1), which leads to a mixture of both complexes **2** and **3** with **3** as the main component. The high stability of the products is also indicated by their successful chromatographic separation. Increasing the amount of  $\text{P}_4$  shifts the ratio towards **2**, but the formation of the binuclear compound **3** is not totally suppressed until a fivefold excess of phosphorus is used. However, the reaction of **2** with a second equivalent of **1b** leads to the formation of the bridging  $\text{P}_4$  complex **3** in 44% isolated yield (Scheme 1c; Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Molecular structure of the neutral complex **3**. H atoms and butyl groups are omitted for clarity; thermal ellipsoids set at 50% probability.<sup>[15]</sup>

In comparison to the mononuclear complex **2** the formation of the binuclear complex **3** seems to be preferred. Caused by the ‘encapsulation’ of the reactive sites in **3** by the two  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  ligands a nucleophilic attack of a second  $\text{P}_4$  tetrahedron at a manganese complex seems to be hindered.

In addition to the strong coordinative bonds of the  $\text{P}_4$  ligand this moiety is encased by the two  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  ligands which enhance the stability of **3**. The  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  ligands are tilted against each other by an angle of 28.6(2)°.

In the molecular structure of **3** the P–P bond lengths show the same tendency as the cationic relatives.<sup>[6d–f]</sup> The shortest P–P bond is located between the coordinating P atoms (2.149(1) Å), the longest between the non-coordinating ones (2.247(3) Å). The other P–P distances lie between 2.187(2) and 2.200(2) Å. The Mn–P distances in **3** and **2** are identical within the experimental error, so it can be assumed that the coordination of the second  $\text{P}_4$  tetrahedron is as strong as the first one.

The  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of **3** in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  at room temperature shows two broad signals with an integral ratio of 1:1. Upon cooling to 193 K the downfield signal at  $\delta = -250.2$  ppm sharpens into a triplet with a  $^1J_{\text{PP}}$  coupling constant of 159 Hz. Though the signal at  $\delta = -478.7$  ppm also gets sharper, it remains a broad triplet. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  at 298 K shows several signals for

each of the *n*-butylphenyl proton. Such a complex pattern seems to indicate that in this case only a limited number of the infinite possible rotamers are present. In fact, beside the conformers arising from hindered rotation about the Mn–Cp axis, the rotamers arising from hindered rotation about the Mn–P bond can be present in solution. In accordance with this view, the  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  APT spectrum of **2** in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  at 298 K shows several signals not only for the cyclopentadienyl carbon atoms, but also for the carbonyl carbon atoms.

To ascertain whether the  $\text{P}_4$  ligand coordinated to Mn in **2** or **3** is subjected to a dynamic process like those observed for other  $\text{P}_4$  complexes,<sup>[6h,i]</sup> the  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  EXSY and  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra were recorded in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  at various temperatures. The  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  EXSY spectrum of **2** at 298 K (Figure 3) shows intense cross peaks between the signals of the basal and

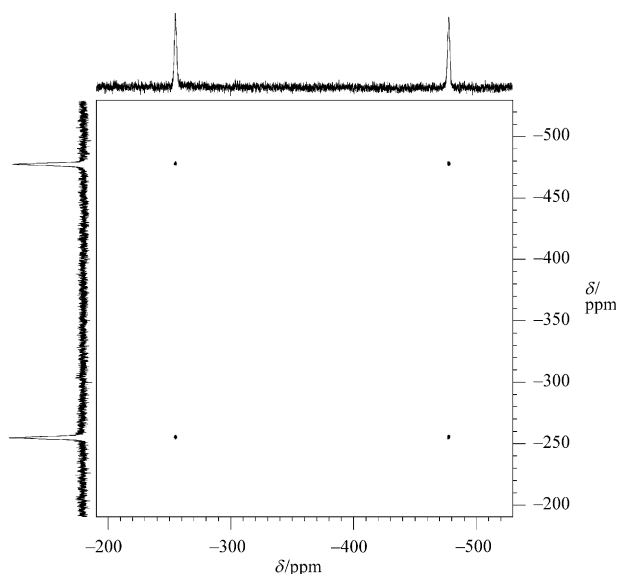


Figure 3.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  EXSY spectrum of **2** ( $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$ , 298 K).

coordinated P atoms, indicating that at this temperature the  $\text{P}_4$  experiences the tumbling motion discussed above. At 183 K the same experiment did not show any exchange correlation, revealing that at this temperature the  $\text{P}_4$  tumbling is slow on the NMR timescale. The  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  EXSY experiment carried out in the presence of free  $\text{P}_4$  did not show any exchange peak between free and coordinated  $\text{P}_4$ , revealing that the mechanism responsible for  $\text{P}_4$  motion is not dissociative.

An interesting feature observed recording variable temperature (VT)  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra is that the signals are quite broad at 183 K, then they become sharper at 213 K, and then they progressively broaden again in the range between 233 and 313 K.<sup>[10]</sup> The broadening in the range between 233 and 313 K has been explained in terms of  $\text{P}_4$  tumbling. A likely explanation for the broadening below 213 K can be a hindered rotation of the  $\text{P}_4$  cage about the

P–M axis. Activation parameters for the  $\text{P}_4$  tumbling were calculated by line-shape analysis in the range between 233 and 313 K. The values<sup>[10]</sup> are similar to those found for *trans*- $[\text{Ru}(\text{dppm})_2(\text{H})(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]\text{BF}_4$  and *trans*- $[\text{Ru}(\text{dppe})_2(\text{H})(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]\text{BF}_4$ , and somehow different from those found for  $[\text{CpRu}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]\text{PF}_6$ ,  $[\text{CpOs}(\text{PPh}_3)_2(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]\text{PF}_6$ ,  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{Ru}(\text{dppe})(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]\text{PF}_6$ , and  $[(\text{triphos})\text{Re}(\text{CO})_2(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]\text{OTf}$  (dppe = 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane, dppm = bis(diphenylphosphino)methane, OTf = trifluoromethane sulfonate, triphos = 1,1,1-tris(diphenylphosphinomethyl)ethane).<sup>[6h,i]</sup>

Once the motions of the  $\text{P}_4$  cage bonded to Mn were elucidated, we tried to gain insights into the possible dynamic behavior of the  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  ligands. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR signals of **2**, which are broad already at 298 K, become even broader on lowering the temperature and, more interestingly, appear as the convolution of several quasi-isochronous signals. This evidence confirms that, in contrast to unsubstituted cyclopentadienyl ligands,<sup>[11]</sup>  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  does not freely rotate about the centroid of the  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$ –Mn axis even at room temperature, and the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum is the result of the superimposition of all the possible rotamers. Intrigued by this circumstance (i.e. the slow rotation, if any, of  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  at low temperature), we embarked on a heteronuclear Overhauser enhancement study recording  $^{31}\text{P}$ – $^1\text{H}$  HOESY spectra in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  at various temperatures. The detection of dipolar  $^{31}\text{P}$ – $^1\text{H}$  correlations<sup>[12]</sup> is a quite demanding job, compared to the more common  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  case, owing to the unfavorable  $\gamma_{\text{P}}/\gamma_{\text{H}}$  ratio.<sup>[13]</sup>

Despite these difficulties, the  $^{31}\text{P}$ – $^1\text{H}$  HOESY spectrum of **2** at 273 K in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  showed a heteronuclear NOE contact between the basal P atoms of the  $\text{P}_4$  cage and the *ortho* H atoms of the  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  phenyl groups (Figure 4).<sup>[14]</sup> This result confirms that  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$  is hindered in rotation while  $\text{P}_4$  is rotating quickly and tumbling slowly ( $k = 80 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). Moreover, these data indicate that the  $\text{P}_4$  ligand does not exchange its position with that of the carbonyl ligands. The  $^{31}\text{P}$ – $^1\text{H}$  heteronuclear NOE contact was still observable at 283 K

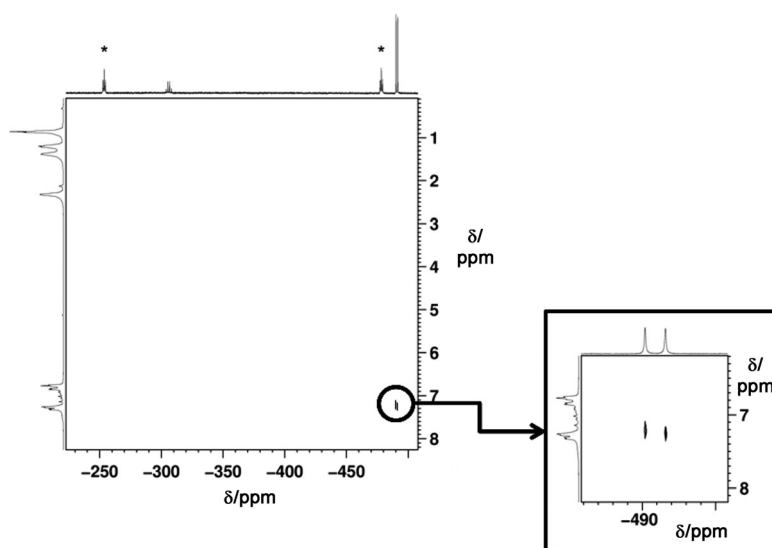


Figure 4.  $^{31}\text{P}$ – $^1\text{H}$  HOESY spectrum of **2** (in mixture with **3**) in  $[\text{D}_8]\text{toluene}$  at 273 K showing the correlation between the basal P atoms of the  $\text{P}_4$  cage and the *ortho* protons of  $\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}$ . Signals marked with asterisks arise from **3**.

and vanished when the same experiment was carried out at 293 K.

As far as the dinuclear complex **3** is concerned, the  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  EXSY spectrum at 298 K<sup>[10]</sup> showed intense cross peaks between the signals of the coordinated and uncoordinated P atoms, indicating that at this temperature the cymantrene fragment moves around the P<sub>4</sub> cage. The VT  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra showed the same trend observed for **2**, which means that the signals are quite broad at 183 K, become sharper until 253 K, and then progressively broaden again in the range 263–293 K,<sup>[10]</sup> suggesting that the same sequence of dynamic processes discussed for **2** occur, albeit at different temperatures.<sup>[10]</sup>

To get a better understanding on the surprising stability of complex **2**, DFT computations were carried out.<sup>[10]</sup> Thermodynamic characteristics for the gas-phase complex formation for the three  $\eta^1\text{-P}_4$  compounds **B<sub>w</sub>** (tungsten complex of **B** with R = Cy),  $[\text{CpMn}(\text{CO})_2(\eta^1\text{-P}_4)]$  (**4**), and **2** were obtained (Table 1, Reactions 1–3). Complex formation enthalpy is only slightly exothermic in case of **B<sub>w</sub>** (by  $-12\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), but much more exothermic in case of **2** (by  $-69\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) and **4** (by  $-93\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), suggesting stronger Mn–P<sub>4</sub> bonding for **2** and **4**. The entropy disfavors the formation of all three complexes in the gas phase. Complexes **2** and **4** are predicted to be stable with respect to dissociation in solution, while for complex **B<sub>w</sub>** equilibrium dissociation is expected at room temperature. The processes for the generation of **1b** by CO elimination and thf complex formation (Reactions 4, 5) are highly endothermic (by about  $133\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) and should proceed in non-equilibrium conditions (CO removal). Subsequent substitution of thf by P<sub>4</sub> (Reactions 6, 7) is almost thermoneutral and slightly favorable by entropy, making them exergonic by  $3\text{--}4\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ . Note that both CO removal and thf substitution reactions do not depend on the bulkiness of the Cp<sup>R</sup> ring (Cp vs Cp<sup>BIG</sup>).

In summary, we have shown that the variation of the Cp<sup>R</sup> substituents in the cymantrene complexes only leads to a high Lewis acidity towards the coordination of P<sub>4</sub> in the case of  $[\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_2(\text{thf})]$  (**1b**). The two neutral P<sub>4</sub> complexes formed, **2** and **3**, are remarkably stable in the solid state and especially in solution, a feature not observed before for neutral P<sub>4</sub> complexes. Moreover, **3** is the first neutral complex with a P<sub>4</sub> unit in a bridging  $\eta^1:\eta^1$ -coordination mode. The DFT calculations confirm the observed higher stability of the complexes in comparison to complexes of type **B**. Both **2** and **3** show fluxional behavior in solution at room temperature

arising from the tumbling of the coordinated P<sub>4</sub>. Moreover, at temperatures lower than 283 K the rotation of the Cp<sup>BIG</sup> about the Mn–Cp axis is hindered and no position exchange between CO and P<sub>4</sub> occurs, as inferred by  $^{31}\text{P}\text{-}^1\text{H}$  HOESY experiments. The introduction of the electronically and sterically special Cp<sup>BIG</sup> ligand in main-group and transition-metal chemistry opens up possibilities for the stabilization of unprecedented compounds.

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**Table 1:** Predicted thermodynamic characteristics for the studied gaseous processes at the B3LYP/6-31G\* (ECP on W) level of theory. Standard enthalpies  $\Delta H^\circ_{298}$  and Gibbs energies  $\Delta G^\circ_{298}$  are in  $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ , standard entropies  $\Delta S^\circ_{298}$  in  $\text{J mol}^{-1}\text{ K}^{-1}$ .

Entry	Reaction	$\Delta H^\circ_{298}$	$\Delta S^\circ_{298}$	$\Delta G^\circ_{298}$
1	$[\text{W}(\text{CO})_3(\text{PCy}_3)_2] + \text{P}_4 \rightarrow \text{B}_w$	−11.7	−184.2	43.2
2	$[\text{CpMn}(\text{CO})_2] + \text{P}_4 \rightarrow \text{4}$	−92.5	−140.9	−50.5
3	$[\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_2] + \text{P}_4 \rightarrow \text{2}$	−69.1	−181.3	−15.0
4	$[\text{CpMn}(\text{CO})_3] + \text{thf} \rightarrow [\text{CpMn}(\text{CO})_2\text{thf}] + \text{CO}$	133.2	−11.0	136.5
5	$[\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_3] + \text{thf} \rightarrow \text{1b} + \text{CO}$	132.5	2.5	131.8
6	$[\text{CpMn}(\text{CO})_2\text{thf}] + \text{P}_4 \rightarrow \text{4} + \text{thf}$	3.0	21.8	−3.5
7	$[\text{Cp}^{\text{BIG}}\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_2\text{thf}] + \text{P}_4 \rightarrow \text{2} + \text{thf}$	2.1	16.1	−2.7

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- [15] CCDC 943753 (**2**) and 943754 (**3**) contain the detailed crystallographic information for this manuscript. The data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).