

# Suprasupermolecules with Novel Properties: Metallodendrimers

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## I. Introduction

Since the mid-1980s, interest in highly branched and regularly repeating molecular architectures, now commonly referred to as *dendrimers*, has emerged to become a key element in the research efforts of scientists worldwide. Numerous reasons for the rapid emergence of these (macro)molecular curiosities can be cited, for instance, unprecedented control over structural unit positioning, a general ease of construction, well-behaved solubility features that facilitate characterization, and the overwhelming abundance of documented proof that such species can, in fact, be constructed for utilitarian as well as aesthetic purposes. However, it is important to note that with the advent of more recent mass spectroscopy techniques, absolute purity and perfect branching are, in many cases, difficult to obtain. But perhaps one of the most important attributes of dendritic chemistry, which tends to propagate this new polymeric regime, is its vast potential to easily integrate into, and meld with, more mature chemistries.

It is the ease of integration of dendritic chemistry that provides the basis for this review. More specifically, the unification of organometallic and dendritic arenas is herein examined from the relatively new perspective of *metallodendrimers*.

The advent of dendritic chemistry is founded in the efforts of many researchers, such as Flory,<sup>1–4</sup> who published theoretical and experimental evidence for

the existence of branched-chain, ‘three-dimensional’ macromolecules, as well as Webster and Kim,<sup>5</sup> specifically Kim<sup>6</sup> who patented in 1987 the first intentional preparation of a *hyperbranched* polymer, to mention but a couple examples. More extensive monographs of the historical development of this field, prior to 1985, are available.<sup>7</sup>

Vögtle’s<sup>8</sup> seminal work, published in 1978 and entitled “Cascade and Nonskid-Chain-Like Syntheses of Cavity Topologies”, set the stage for the elaboration of simple repetitive transformations to that of modern dendrimer chemistry. In general, dendrimers are globular, highly branched, fractal-like polymers of “well-defined” three-dimensional shape, size, and molecular weight that are constructed via iterative, or stepwise, procedures. The distinction between dendrimers and hyperbranched polymers is that the hyperbranched polymers are prepared via a one-step or single-pot process and possess greater molecular weight distributions or polydispersities. The term *dendrimer*, coined by Tomalia<sup>9</sup> from the Greek term *dendro* for tree-like, is synonymous with both *arborol*<sup>10</sup> founded in the Latin term *arbor* for tree, and *cascade*<sup>8</sup> referring to successive stages, which also defines the nomenclature family name.<sup>11–13</sup> Dendrimers can be tailored to possess uniform or discrete functionality and possess tunable internal packing densities, void volumes, surface moieties, molecular mass, solvent-dependent size, and branching dimensions.

Many applications have been claimed for this new type of polymer. They are currently being investigated for use as biomimetic catalysts,<sup>14</sup> building blocks for fabrication of designed materials,<sup>15</sup> molecular carriers for chemical catalysts,<sup>16</sup> and potential vehicles for delivery of drugs and immunogens.<sup>17–19</sup>

Synthetic methodologies used for the construction of these branched macromolecules rely on two approaches (Scheme 1) described as *divergent* and *convergent* or a combination of the two. Both key methods usually employ complementary protection and deprotection steps. The divergent method<sup>9,10</sup> can be envisioned by considering the sequential addition of the repeating units (*building blocks*, *monomers*, or *dendrons*) to a starting unit or *core*, thus forming *layers* or *generations* of repeat units within the superstructure. This protocol was independently developed by Tomalia and Newkome. In 1985, Tomalia et al.<sup>9</sup> reported the preparation of Starburst polyamidoamine (PAMAM) dendrimers that were constructed through the purported 10th generation

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George R. Newkome, after receiving his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Kent State University, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University, which served to confirm his choice of a career in academia. He then joined the faculty at Louisiana State University, ultimately becoming involved in the Center for Energy Studies as Executive Director and Professor. In 1986, he moved his research program to the University of South Florida, where he serves as Vice President for Research and Distinguished Research Professor. Dr. Newkome received the Medallist Award from the Florida Academy of Sciences and the Florida Section Award of the American Chemical Society as the most outstanding chemist of the year. He has published over 310 papers in international journals and numerous books and recently held visiting appointments at the University of Bordeaux and Louis Pasteur Institute. Although his interests are in the areas of organic and inorganic chemistry, architectural design in nature, and environmental issues, Dr. Newkome is also creator and host of a weekly PBS TV show, "Beyond Science", which takes an innovative approach to how technology applies to humanitarian needs.



Enfei He completed his B.S. in applied chemistry at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 1988. He then worked five years in electrochemistry and environmental chemistry in government-owned companies in Shanghai, China. In 1993, he worked for W. R. Grace & Co., Grace China Ltd., as an engineer in polymer chemistry. He earned his Ph.D. in chemistry with Professor George R. Newkome at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 1998. His graduate research involved the development of supramolecular metallomacromolecules. During his graduate study, he received an honor from the Consulate General of the Peoples Republic of China at Houston in 1997 and a Tharpe Publication award from USF in 1998. Dr. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate with Dr. Blake R. Peterson studying medicinal chemistry and chemical biology at the Pennsylvania State University at University Park.

while Newkome et al.<sup>10</sup> reported the synthesis of tree-like arborols via the sequential addition of two different 1→3 branched monomers.

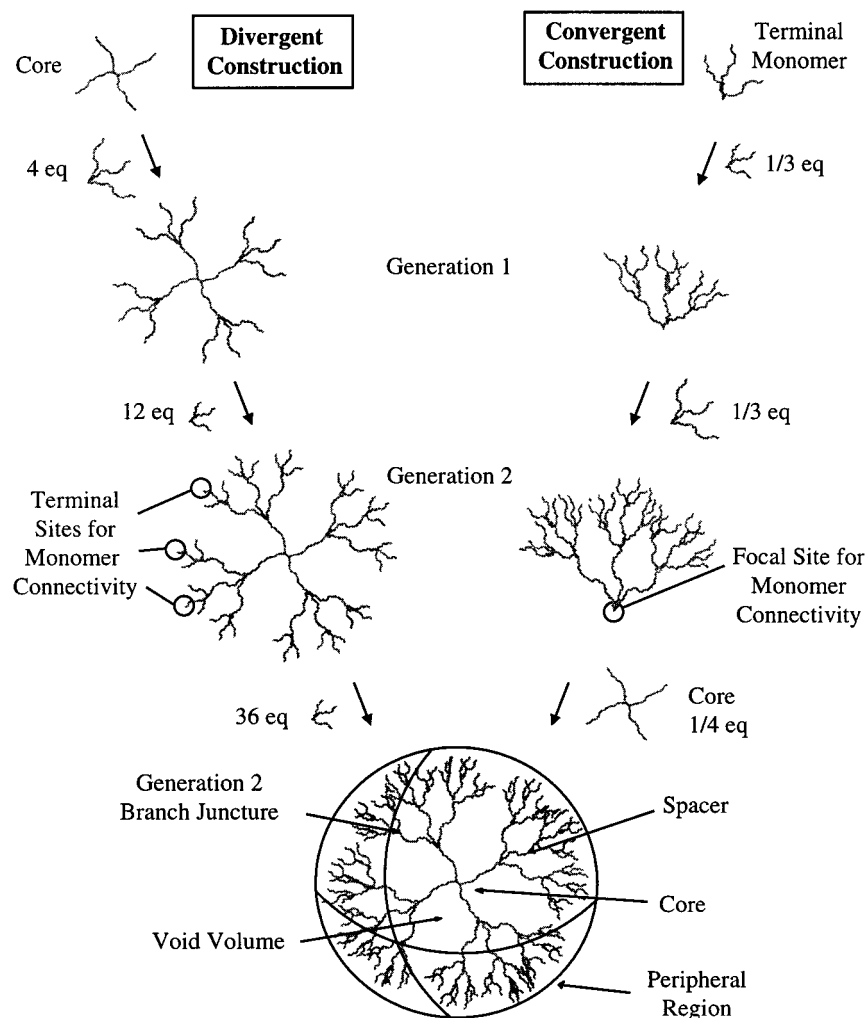
A notable, and general, difference between these two divergent methods is rooted in the formation and introduction of the branching centers of the growing molecule or polymer. Tomalia's procedure produces branching centers *during* dendritic construction at



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the periphery of the growing polymer via attachment of *linear* (AB-type) monomers to a dendritic surface. The use of linear monomers for dendrimer synthesis is also the basis of DSM's commercial Atramol dendrimer preparation<sup>20–22</sup> as well as that of Vögtle's original method.<sup>8</sup> In contrast, Newkome's protocol approached dendrimer synthesis from a *modular* perspective whereby monomers, possessing C-based, 1→3 branching sites, were *preconstructed* for subsequent attachment to a molecular surface.<sup>23</sup> Similarities between the two divergent synthetic methods include the requirement of completing an exponentially increasing number of transformations for *perfect* growth (however, this can lead to branch defects when viewed from a statistical consideration)<sup>24,25</sup> and ease of purification from the perspective of removal of small molecule reactants, or contaminants, from large species (i.e., the dendrimers).

In an eloquent extension of this branched monomer procedure, the convergent method<sup>26</sup> essentially constructs dendritic architectures starting from the *periphery* and progressing inward. Thus, multifunctional, large, dendritic *wedges* are produced that possess single functional moieties termed *focal* groups that are the site of *wedge* attachment to another monomer for continued growth or to a *core* for final dendrimer assembly (Scheme 1). This procedure was initially pioneered by Fréchet et al.<sup>27</sup> and was followed, shortly thereafter, by Miller and Neenan.<sup>28</sup> Notable attributes of the convergent protocol include a small number of required transformations per dendron for sequential *tier* construction (e.g., two reactions for AB<sub>2</sub>-type monomers). This statistically minimizes defects, although hindered reactivity of focal groups due to the juxtaposed branching for larger wedges can lead to diminished yields, but purification can be improved due to the size differences in the final product(s).

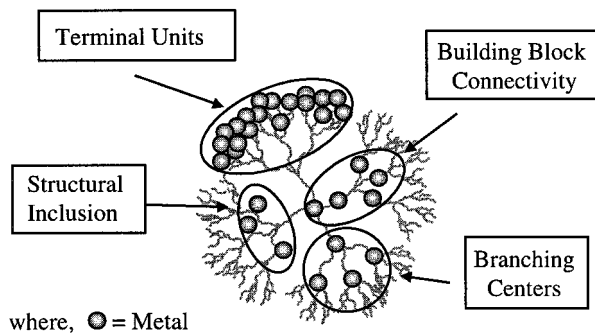
**Scheme 1. Representative 'Divergent' and 'Convergent' Protocols for Dendrimer Construction with Common Terminology**


Due primarily to steric hindrance, access to certain dendritic architectures has only been accomplished via a combination of these methods. Thus, final attachment of a convergently prepared wedge can be facilitated by the use of divergently synthesized, extended dendrons possessing less congested terminal groups.

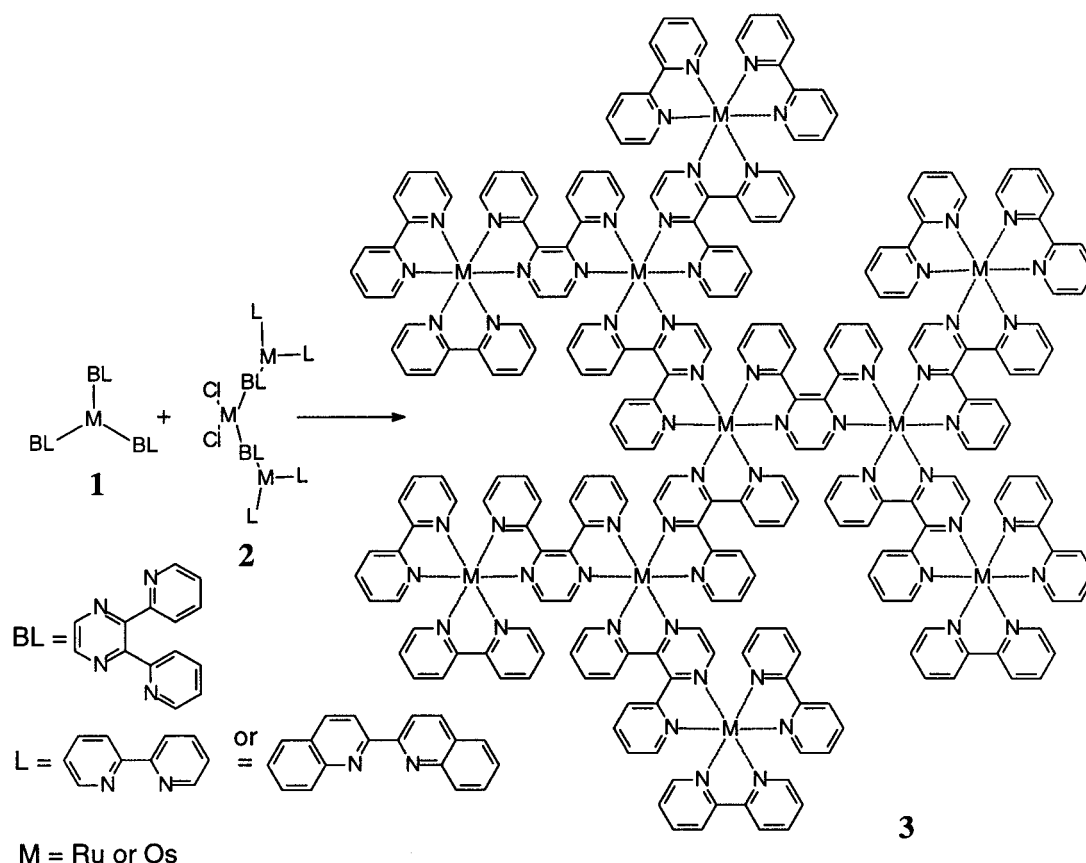
The merger of supramolecular chemistry, defined as "chemistry beyond the molecule" by Lehn,<sup>29–32</sup> and the chemistry of dendrimers leads directly to "suprasupramolecular" chemistry<sup>33</sup> and the creation of the metallodendritic regime. Incorporation of metal ions to the framework was initiated by Balzani's<sup>34–36</sup> and Newkome's<sup>37</sup> research groups in the early 1990s, either by the use of metal branching centers or by internal metal complexation or encapsulation at specific binding site(s), respectively. Commonly, metals have served as *branching centers*, *building block connectors*, which include core as well as monomer connection, *terminal groups*, and *structural auxiliaries*, whereby metals are introduced to a framework after dendritic construction (Figure 1). The later category allows for *site-specific* versus *random* inclusion. These main categories shall serve as the basis for metallodendrimer classification in this review.

Metallodendrimers are suprasupramolecular species possessing novel physical, optical, electrochemi-

cal, photochemical, biological, and catalytic properties. Although they have been discussed to some degree in recent literature,<sup>38,39,39–50,50–57,57–61</sup> this review attempts to address the chemistry of these new materials, as well as selected multibranched, metal-based molecules, that are not strictly within the dendritic arena (i.e., construction with only 2–3 repetitive reaction sequences). It is hoped that the reader will gain a greater appreciation for metallodendritic chemistry, as well as dendritic chemistry in general, upon exposure to the molecular diversity that is conveyed in this review.



**Figure 1.** Potential uses and positioning of metals within dendritic architectures.

**Scheme 2. Balzani's Pyridyl-Based Metallodendrimers****II. Metals as Branching Centers**

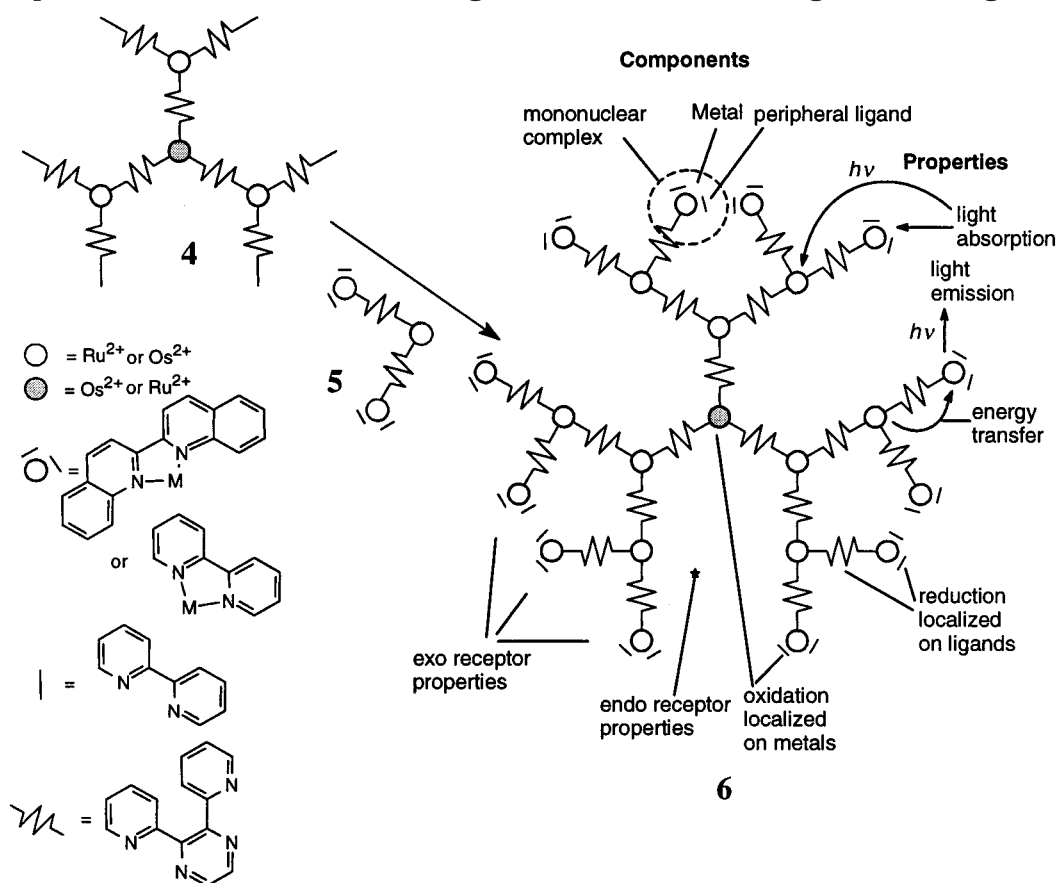
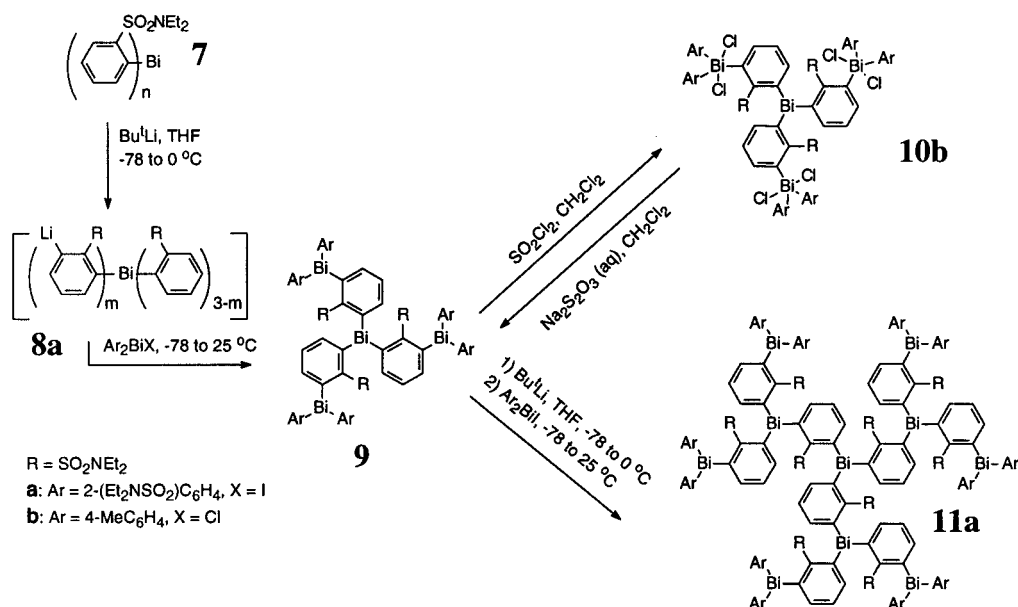
The first synthesis of metallodendrimers possessing homo- and heterometallic branching centers (ruthenium and osmium) was reported by Balzani et al.<sup>34–36</sup> (Scheme 2). Decanuclear polypyridine complex **3** was prepared from a trigonal core,  $M(BL)_3^{2+}$  (**1**), containing a metal coordinated to three 2,4-bis(2-pyridyl)pyrazine (BL) ligands<sup>62</sup> and the preconstructed building block  $Ru(BL)M(L)_2Cl_2(PF_6)_4$  (**2**), where L is either bipyridine (bpy) or biquinoline (biq).<sup>63</sup> Assembly was accomplished via treatment of the 1→2 branched building block **2** with the core  $M(BL)_3$  (**1**) [MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O/(CH<sub>2</sub>OH)<sub>2</sub>/AgNO<sub>3</sub>]. Balzani et al. further reported the examination of analogous metallodendrimers derived from transition-metal complexes<sup>64–66</sup> and subsequently studied their luminescence properties, electrochemical and redox behavior, intercomponent energy, and electron-transfer ability. Pure Ru-containing complexes exhibit luminescence bands at ca. 770 nm, whereas all the Ru/Os mixed-metal complexes display the bands in the 850–1000 nm spectral region, which was assigned to triplet metal-to-ligand charge-transfer levels localized on the Os-possessing components. Also, for the Ru/Os mixed-metal constructs, only an Os-based luminescence is observed. The electrochemical results indicate that each redox step in these metal complexes is essentially localized on a specific ligand. Assignment of the redox sites has been proposed, and their mutual interactions have been discussed.<sup>65</sup>

This synthetic strategy developed by Balzani's group allows the preparation of dendrimers possess-

ing two or more different metals and/or ligands. Each dendrimer can be viewed as an ordered ensemble of weakly interacting  $[M(L)_n(BL)_{3-n}]^{2+}$  units (M = Ru(II) or Os(II); L = bpy or biq; BL = 2,3- or 2,5-dpp;  $n = 0$  or 2). Absorption bands and the electrochemical properties of each unit are only slightly perturbed in the assembled structure, so that the absorption spectrum and redox pattern of a dendrimer resemble the "sum" of the spectra and redox patterns of the constituent units. Electronic interactions, however, are sufficiently strong to allow very fast (exoergonic) energy transfer between nearby units. Thus, with an instilled maximized degree of control of the electrochemical behavior, light absorption properties, and direction of energy transfer, these dendrimers have been proposed to be ideal for light-harvesting devices.<sup>67,68</sup>

Campagna, Denti, Balzani and co-workers<sup>69,70</sup> have pursued the preparation of higher generations of this series (Scheme 3). The largest member (e.g., **6** possessing 22 metal centers) was prepared by treatment of the tetraRu(II) core **4** with the triRu(II) dendron **5**. These metallodendrimers exhibit<sup>69</sup> strong absorption in the UV–vis spectral region, a moderate red luminescence as well as a number of metal-based oxidation and ligand-based reduction processes. For instance, **6** has an UV absorption maximum at 542 nm with  $\epsilon = 2.02 \times 10^5$  (M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>), a luminescence band at 786 nm ( $\tau = 45$  ns), and a peak at +1.52 V (vs SCE) corresponding to the simultaneous oxidation of the 12 weakly interacting metals. The absorption spectra, luminescence properties, and electrochemical behavior of the various generations of these metal-



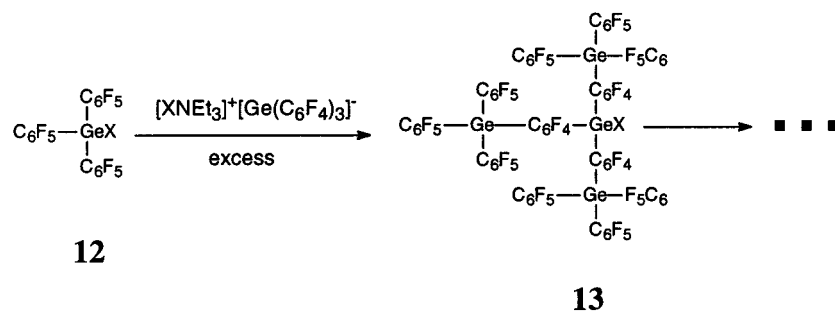
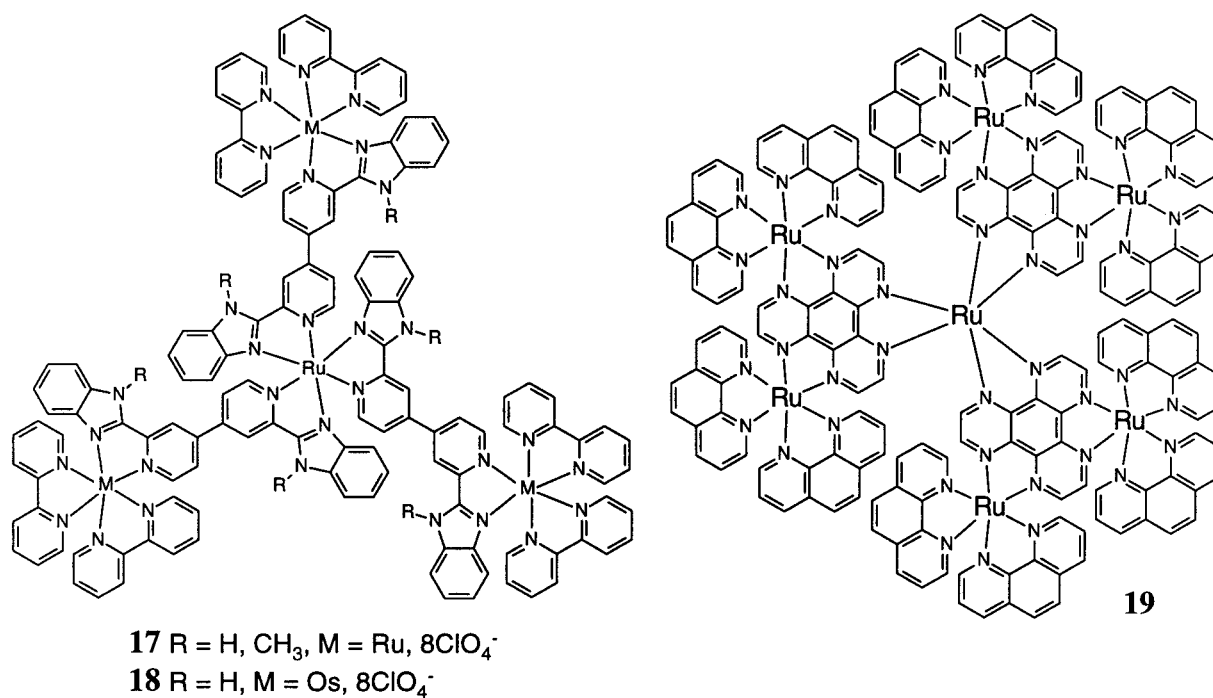
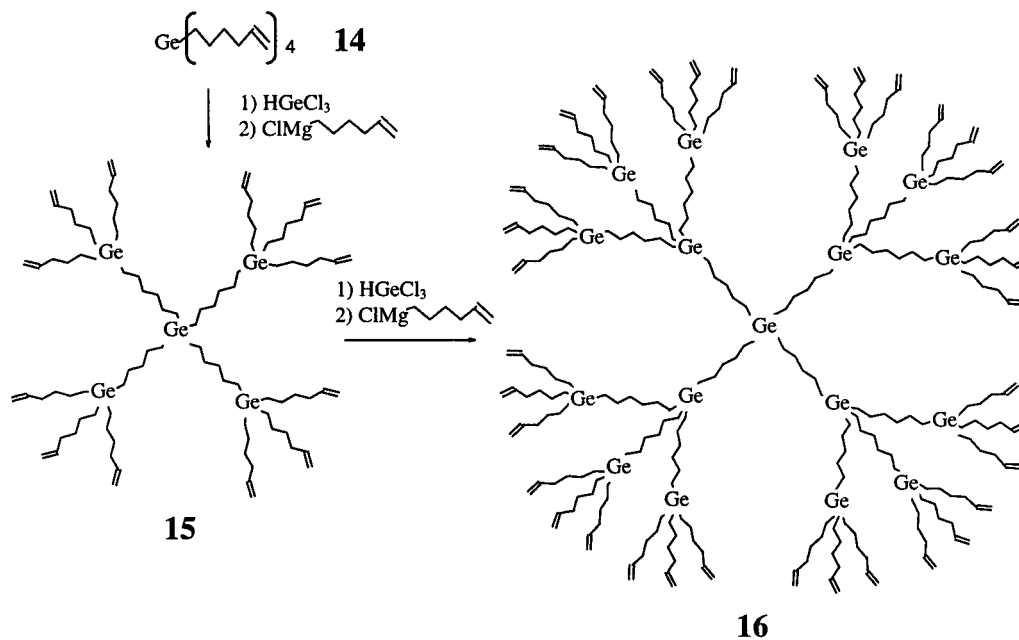
**Scheme 3. Representative Ru- and Os-Containing Macromolecule Possessing 22 Branching Metal Centers****Scheme 4. Suzuki's Bi-Branded Macromolecules**

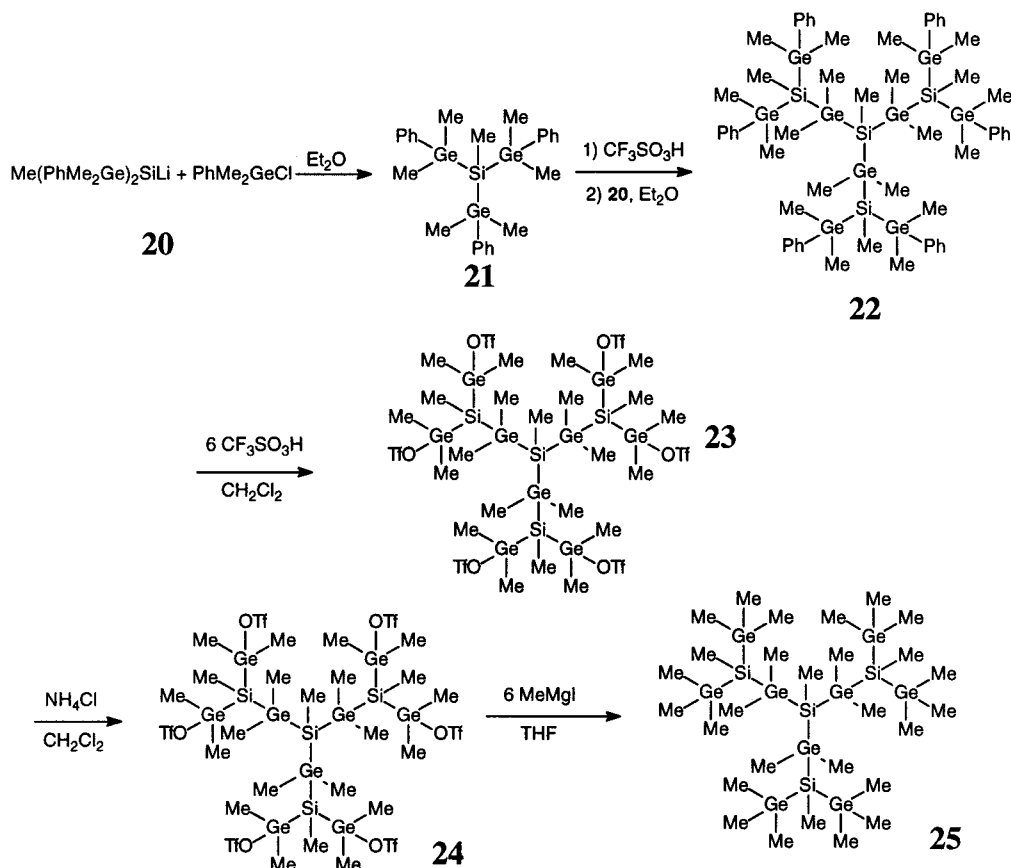
Iodendrimers have been reported.<sup>70</sup> Some electrochemical interactions between neighboring units were observed; however, as previously noted, each metal-based building block in the polymetallic dendrimers possessed its own absorption properties.

The first synthesis of "dendritic bismuthanes", reported by Suzuki and co-workers<sup>71</sup> (Scheme 4), utilized directed tris-ortholithiation of tris[2-(diethylaminosulfonyl)phenyl]bismuthane (7) with *tert*-butyllithium, followed by treatment with 3 equiv of

bis[2-(diethylaminosulfonyl)phenyl]bismuth iodide (8a) to give the symmetrically branched  $\text{Bi}_4$ -bismuthane 9 as the main product. Similarly, tetraBi 9 was converted, in a one-pot procedure, to  $\text{Bi}_{10}$ -bismuthane 11a. Treatment of tetraBi 9 with  $\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}_2$  gave the corresponding chloride 10b, which could be transformed to the reduced form 9 using  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ .

Bochkarev et al.<sup>72</sup> constructed hyperbranched, Ge-branched macromolecules via polymerization of tris(pentafluorophenyl)germanium anions (Scheme 5).

**Scheme 5. Hyperbranched Construction of Ge-Based Metallodendrimers****Scheme 6. Mazerolles's Ge-Branching, Alkyl-Based Metallodendrimers****Figure 2.** Branched Ru-based architectures constructed using heterocyclic ligands.

**Scheme 7. Hybrid, Metallodendrimers Possessing Ge-Based Monomer Connectivity and Si-Based Branching Centers**


Building block connectivity was accomplished via Ge substitution of the *para*-fluoro substituents in monomers, such as **12**, affording the hyperbranched dendritic polymers (e.g., **13**). Molecular weights in the range from 100 000 to 170 000 amu were determined.

Mazerolles and co-workers<sup>73</sup> reported the synthesis of Ge-branched, alkane-based, metallodendrimers (Scheme 6). The first-generation dodecaalkene **15** was synthesized via both convergent and divergent methods starting from the tetravalent core **14**; however, the second-generation, 36-alkene **16** was only successfully obtained by a divergent approach. Purification of these metallomacromolecules proved arduous via silica-based column chromatography due to the inability to remove the trace impurities formed during construction;  $\text{CoCl}_2$ - and  $\text{NiCl}_2$ -impregnated silica afforded improved results. These authors further noted that differentiation of generations one and two via IR and NMR was not feasible. Mass spectrometric analysis was facilitated by terminal functionalization using methyl thioglycolate, notably yielding lipophilic interiors and hydrophilic shells.

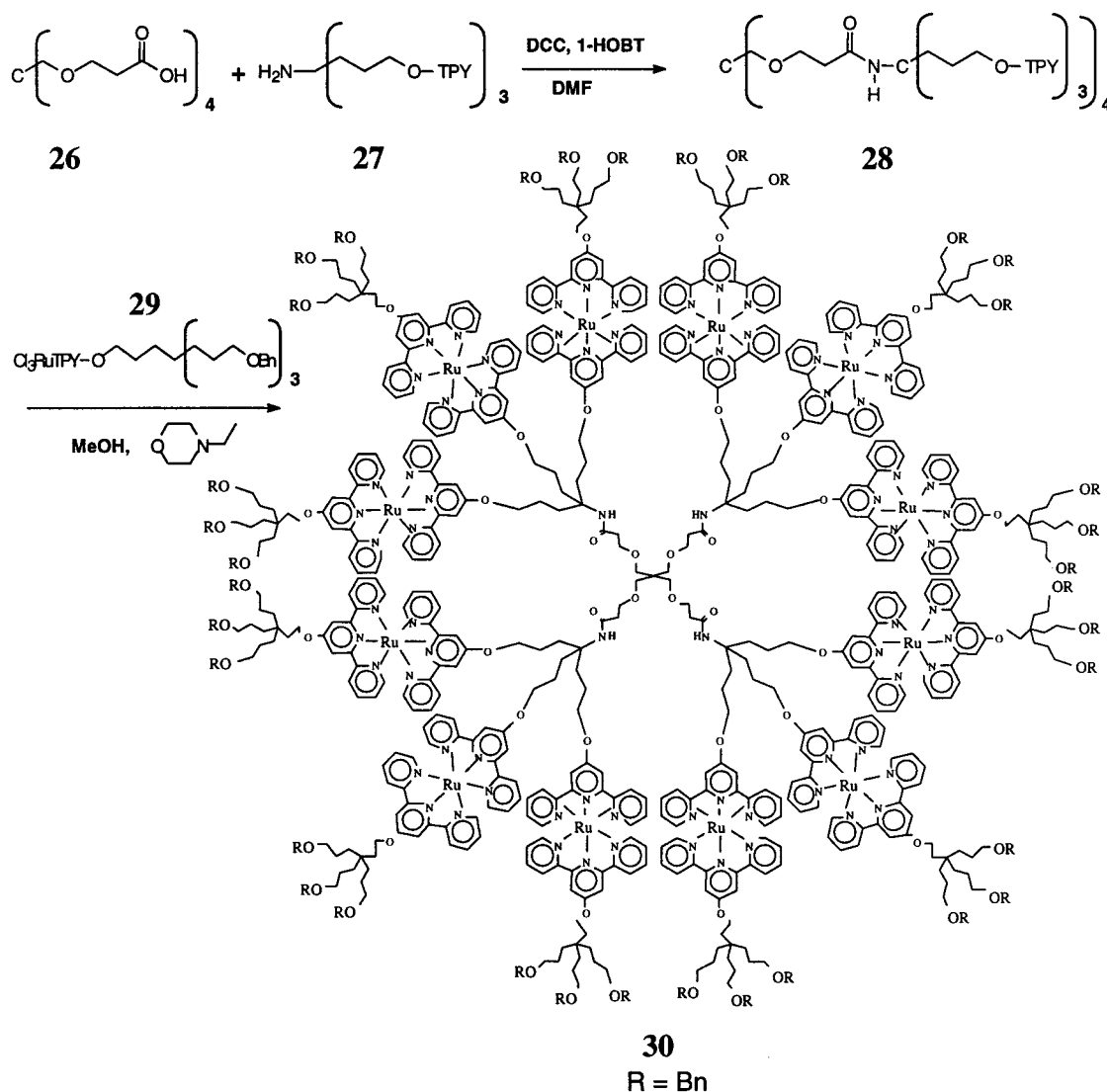
Metals serving as branching centers are also well-known in small yet nondendritic architectures. A couple of notable examples are herein described based on their potential to be incorporated into the dendritic regime.

Arakawa, Haga et al.<sup>74</sup> prepared a tetraRu(II) complex (**17**; Figure 2) that was characterized by analysis of multiply charged ions generated by electrospray ionization mass spectrometry. Later, they<sup>75</sup> studied

the proton-induced switching of electron-transfer pathways in the analogous monoRu(II)–triOs(II) complex **18**. Mesmaeker et al.<sup>76</sup> reported the synthesis and electrospray mass spectrometric characterization of a larger heptaRu(II) construct **19**. The mass spectra exhibited four sets of peaks attributed to 3–6 charges. A key building block included the planar, trisligating chelate 1,4,5,8,9,12-hexaazatriphenylene (HAT).

### III. Metals as Building Block Connectors

Nanjo and Sekiguchi<sup>77</sup> reported the synthesis of metallodendrimers possessing alternating Si-branching centers and Ge-branched chain connectors (Scheme 7). Employing divergent construction, the reaction of chlorodimethylphenylgermane with lithiosilane monomer **20** gave tris(dimethylphenylgermyl)methylsilane (**21**) as the initial core. Phenyl cleavage via treatment with trifluoromethanesulfonic acid and subsequent reaction with the silane monomer (**20**) afforded (12%) the first-generation hexaphenyl, nonagermane **22**. Sequential reaction of dendritic hybrid **22** with triflic acid,  $\text{NH}_4^+\text{Cl}^-$ , and  $\text{CH}_3\text{MgI}$  gave the corresponding hexatriflate **23**, hexachloride **24**, and hexamethyl species **25**, respectively. The molecular structure of **25** was confirmed by X-ray diffraction, while its UV spectrum in 3-methylpentane at 300 K exhibited an absorption (271 nm ( $\epsilon = 5.07 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )) attributed to the  $\sigma$ – $\sigma^*$  band of the Si–Ge chains.

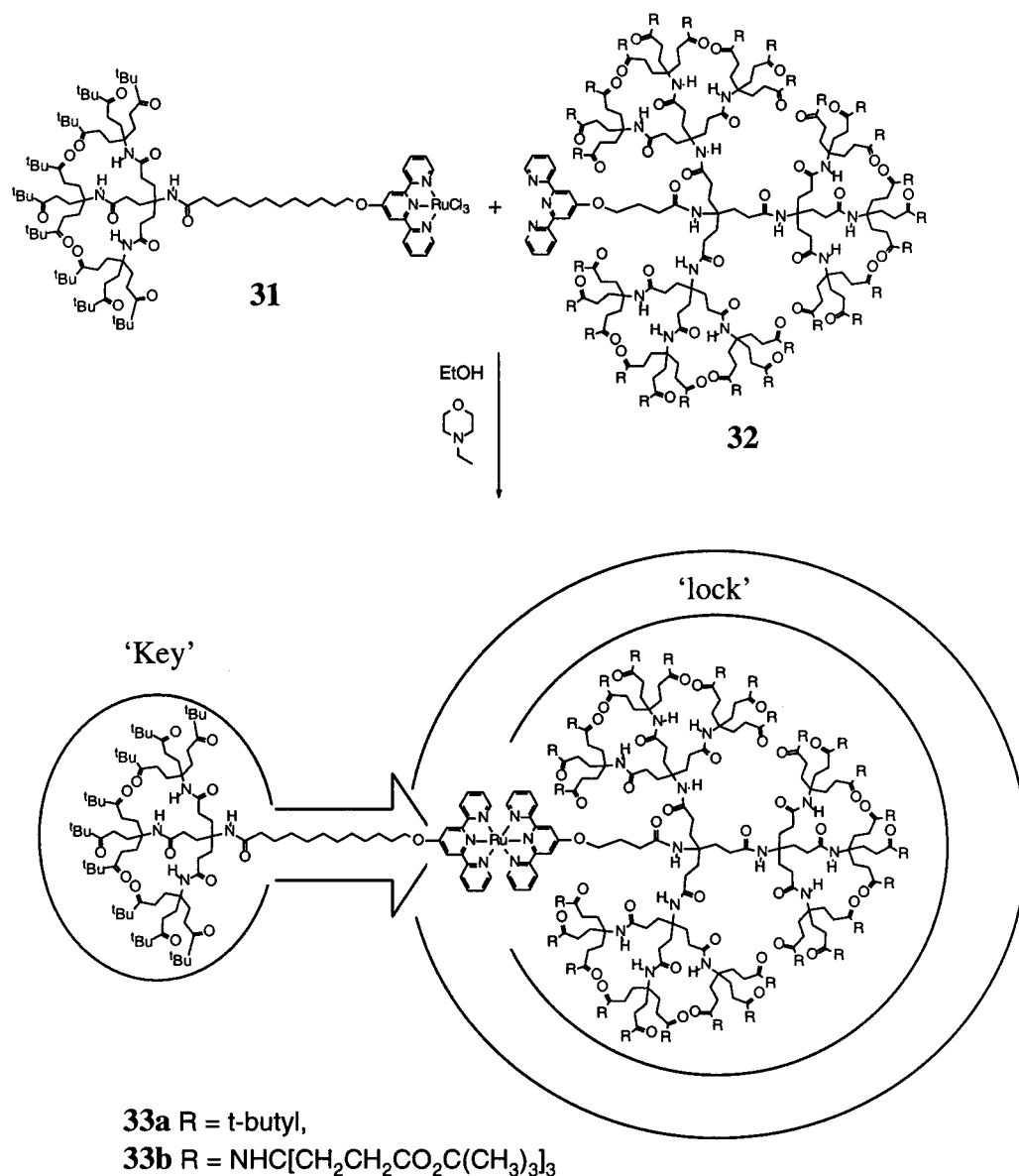
**Scheme 8. Synthesis of a Dodecaruthenium Metallodendrimer Employing Metal-Mediated Chain Connectivity**

Tridentate 2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (tpy)<sup>78</sup> is a strong transition-metal binding ligand<sup>79</sup> used to facilitate and control the assembly of molecular architectures. Newkome et al.<sup>80</sup> first reported the preparation of dendrimers incorporating convenient ligand-metal-ligand (herein denoted via  $-\langle M \rangle-$ ; in which ' $\rangle$ '  $\equiv$  4'-tpy) connectivity for building block attachment (Scheme 8). Metallodendrimer **30** possesses 12 pseudooctahedral Ru(II) centers,<sup>81,82</sup> whereby each metal center is coordinated by two orthogonal 4'-substituted 2,2':6',2''-terpyridines. Construction was achieved by coupling tetracarboxylic acid<sup>83</sup> **26** with aminotris(terpyridine) **27** (accessed via base-promoted alkoxylation of 4'-chloroterpyridine<sup>84</sup> with the corresponding aminotriol) to give dodecaterpyridine **28**. Next, reaction of polyterpyridine **28** with 12 equiv of the paramagnetic Ru(III) adduct **29** (prepared from the corresponding monohydroxytrisbenzyl ether<sup>37</sup>), under reductive conditions, gave the desired diamagnetic polybenzyl ether terminated metallodendrimer **30**.

More recently, this strategy of  $-\langle Ru \rangle-$  connectivity has been applied to the development of metal complexes capable of connecting multiple, preconstructed branched polymers, thereby resulting in the precise creation of dendritic assemblies or networks.<sup>85,86</sup> Each component of the resultant construct can be fully characterized. Thus, bis-dendrimer **33** was subsequently prepared (Scheme 9) via the formation of a single  $-\langle Ru \rangle-$  connection of two independently constructed dendrons (i.e., **31** and **32**). These two, coupled dendrons were designed to loosely mimic a "key" and "lock" based on the proximity of the incorporated terpyridine units to the core branch junctures. Preconstructed dendron synthesis was facilitated by 4'-chloroterpyridine alkoxylation using the appropriate  $\omega$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid to provide the requisite functionalized cores. Generational, amide-based dendrimer construction was then accomplished via iterative DCC coupling and ester deprotection using  $H_2NC(CH_2CH_2CO_2t\text{-bu})_3$ , "Be-



## Scheme 9. Newkome's 'Key' and 'Lock' Metallodendrimer Assemblies



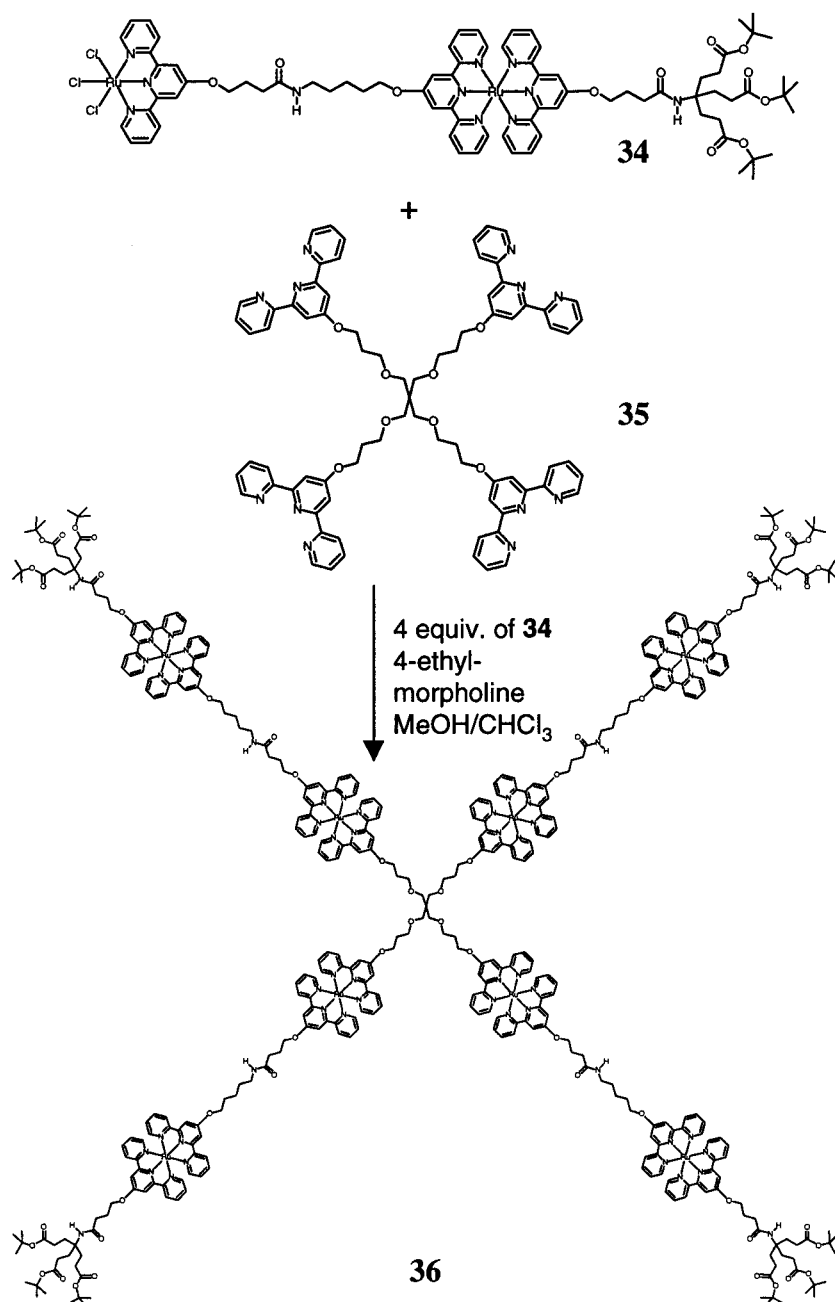
hera's amine".<sup>87,88</sup> Cyclic voltammetry experiments conducted on the series of lock and key complexes revealed electrochemically reversible redox behavior in the cases of connected lower generation components; however, irreversible behavior was observed for complexes comprised of third generation or greater locks and second generations or greater keys. This was postulated to result for slowed electron transfer due to branch chain steric hindrance.

Newkome and He<sup>89</sup> have expanded the  $-\langle Ru \rangle-$  single connectivity to include the incorporation of linearly connected complexes (i.e.,  $-\langle Ru \rangle-(x)-\langle Ru \rangle-$ ) in each arm of a tetrahedral, metallodendrimer "hypercore" (Scheme 10). Construction of the octaRu(II) core **36** was predicated on reaction of the two complementary fragments, the paramagnetic Ru(III) triester **34** and the tetraterpyridyl ether **35**. Key transformations for fragment synthesis included the treatment of 4'-chloroterpyridine with the potassium alkoxide of either 4-hydroxybutyric acid, 5-amino-

pentanol, or a tetrahydroxy-terminated core derived from reduction of the corresponding tetracarboxylic acid<sup>90</sup> (**26**; Scheme 8). Characterization of the +16 charged cationic metallocore **36** included UV-vis spectra that revealed an 8-fold adsorbance increase when compared to the spectra of a single Ru(II) terpyridine-based complex.

Newkome and He<sup>91</sup> further exploited the  $-\langle Ru \rangle-$  connectivity to examine the potential to create new metallodendrimer architectures comprised of more than two preconstructed branched macromolecules (Scheme 11). On the basis of the instilled tetrahedral architectures of dendrimers prepared with saturated,  $sp^3$ -based, C-foundations, nanoscale dendritic networks were obtained possessing nanoscopic *methane-based* geometries.

Complementary components, used for network assembly, were prepared starting with acylation of amine **38** (**38a** and **38b**; synthesized via treatment

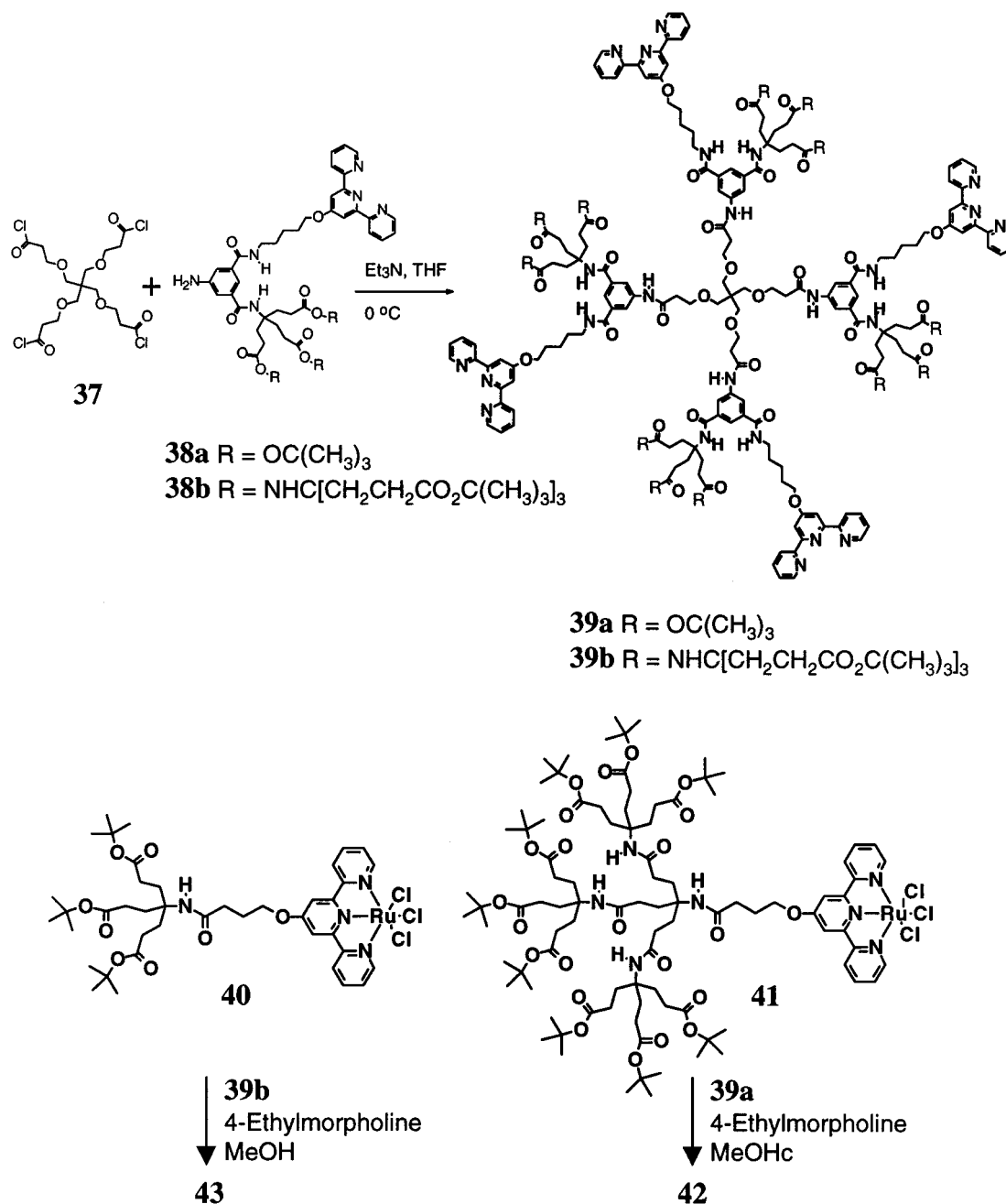
**Scheme 10. Newkome and He's Metallodendrimer Hypercore**

of 5-nitroisophthalic acid monoacid halide with the aminotriester, Behera's amine, followed by the DCC coupling of an aminoterpyridine) with tetraacyl halide **37** (accessed by  $\text{SOCl}_2$  reaction with tetraacid **26**), affording the first- and second-generation "carbon" fragment **39** (**39a** and **39b**). The "hydrogen-type" components **40** and **41** were synthesized as described for the lock and key assemblies in Scheme 9. Final network construction was achieved by treatment of the tetraterpyridyl cores **39** (**39a** and **39b**) with 4 equiv each of the first- and second-generation monoterpyridylRu(III) dendrons to yield the tetraRu(II) metallodendrimers **42** and **43** (Figure 3).

Notably, the mixing of first- and second-generation components has led to the creation of the first dendritic constitutional isomers. Each isomer pos-

sesses a nominal molecular weight of 12 526 amu and displays nearly identical IR, UV, NMR, and MALDI-TOF spectra. In addition, other physical properties such as decomposition temperature and solubilities are similar. In contrast, electrochemical studies suggest that the internal densities and void regions differ. The cyclic voltammograms exhibit a single, quasi-reversible pattern for the Ru metals of isomer **42** and two waves for the metallic centers of isomer **43**. This suggests that the internal dendritic scaffolding of these metallodendrimers, as well as others, can be tailored to facilitate, or negate, internal electrochemical communication.<sup>92</sup>

Constable and co-workers developed a number of metal chelating agents useful as bridging ligands<sup>93</sup> that have subsequently been incorporated into met-

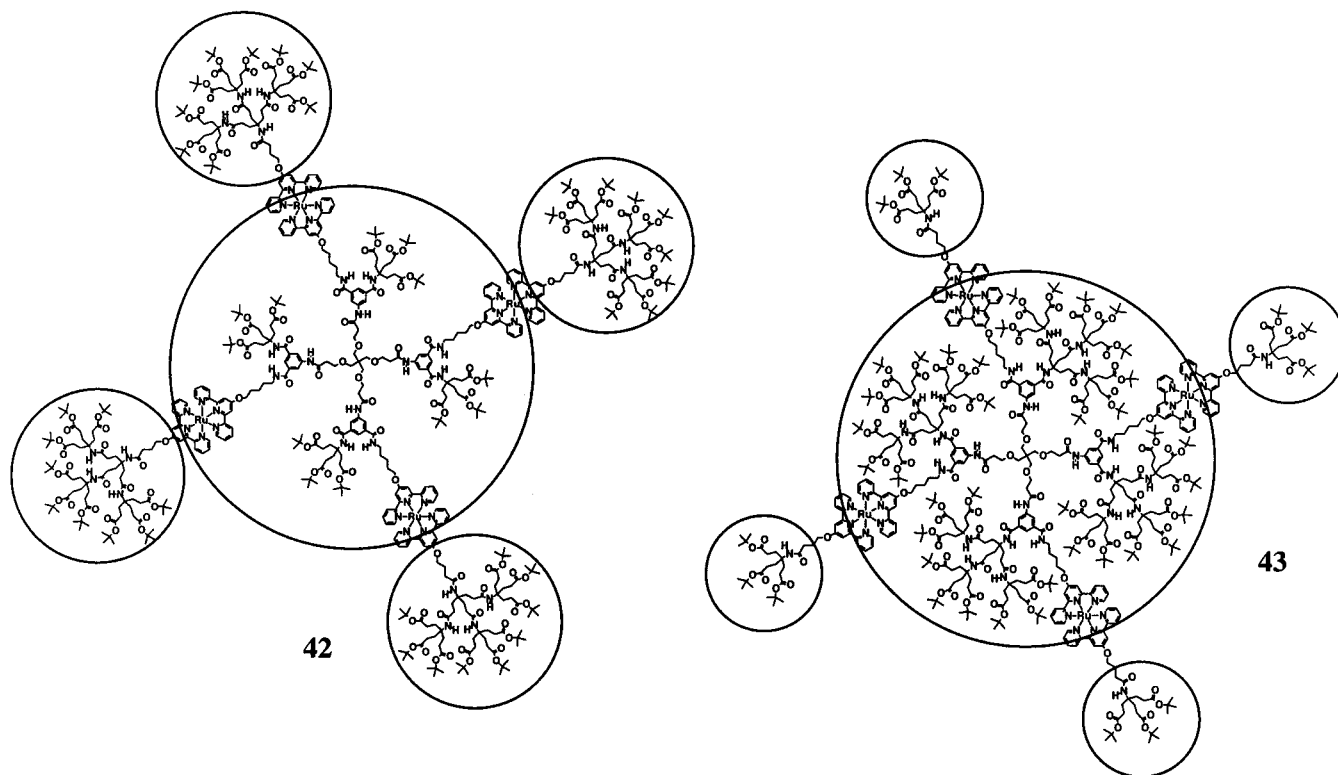
**Scheme 11. Complementary Dendritic Components Metal-Based, Dendritic Network Construction**

allosupramolecules (Figure 4). Constable and Harverson<sup>94</sup> reported a convergent strategy for the construction of  $-\langle\text{Ru}\rangle-$  based, branched macromolecule **44**. Arm construction involved, as the key transformation, terpyridine precursor oxyanion displacement of a chloroterpyridyl substituent resulting in back-to-back terpyridine connectivity. The resulting linear arms were then attached to the benzene core. Adsorption of nonaRu **44** to silica–titania surfaces, as studied by optical waveguide lightmode spectroscopy<sup>95</sup> (OWLS), revealed that the deposition mode strongly depends on the bulk concentration. A similar approach allowed the convergent synthesis<sup>96</sup> of an octadecanuclear complex **45**. Constable, Housecroft, and co-workers<sup>97</sup> also developed another first-generation, “high-nuclearity” metallodendrimer **46** possess-

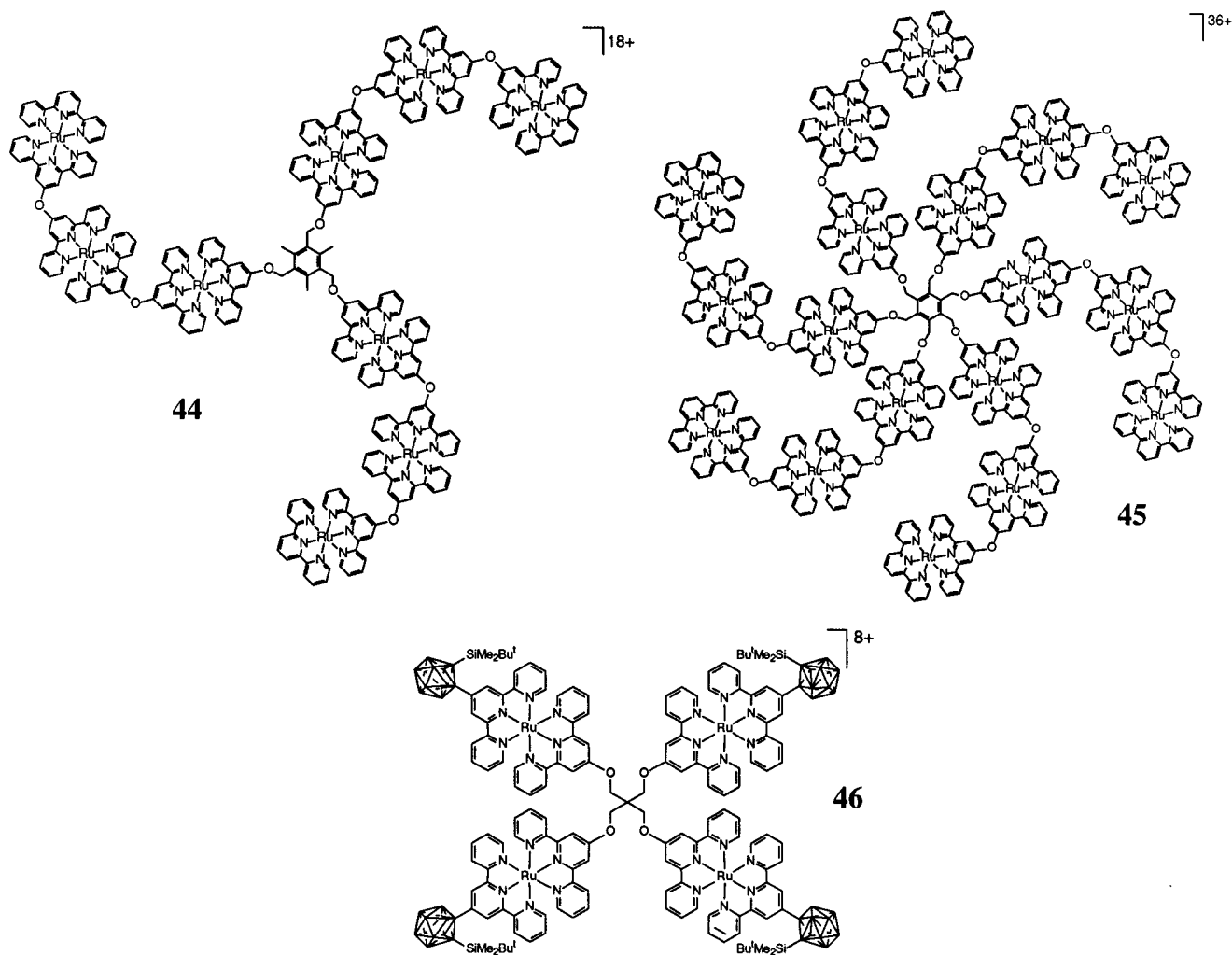
ing terminal carborane moieties employing pentaerythritol as the four-directional core.

In a later report,<sup>98</sup> Constable et al. treated nucleophile **47** with bis(bromomethyl)benzene to give bromide **48** possessing an electrophilic site away from the metal, which was subsequently reacted with 4,4'-dihydroxy-2,2'-bipyridine (Scheme 12). The resulting product **49** is a dinuclear complex possessing two terpyridyl Ru(II) moieties linked by an uncomplexed bipyridine ligand. Coordination to transition metals, such as Fe(II) and Co(II), afforded the desired heptanuclear metallomacromolecule **50**.

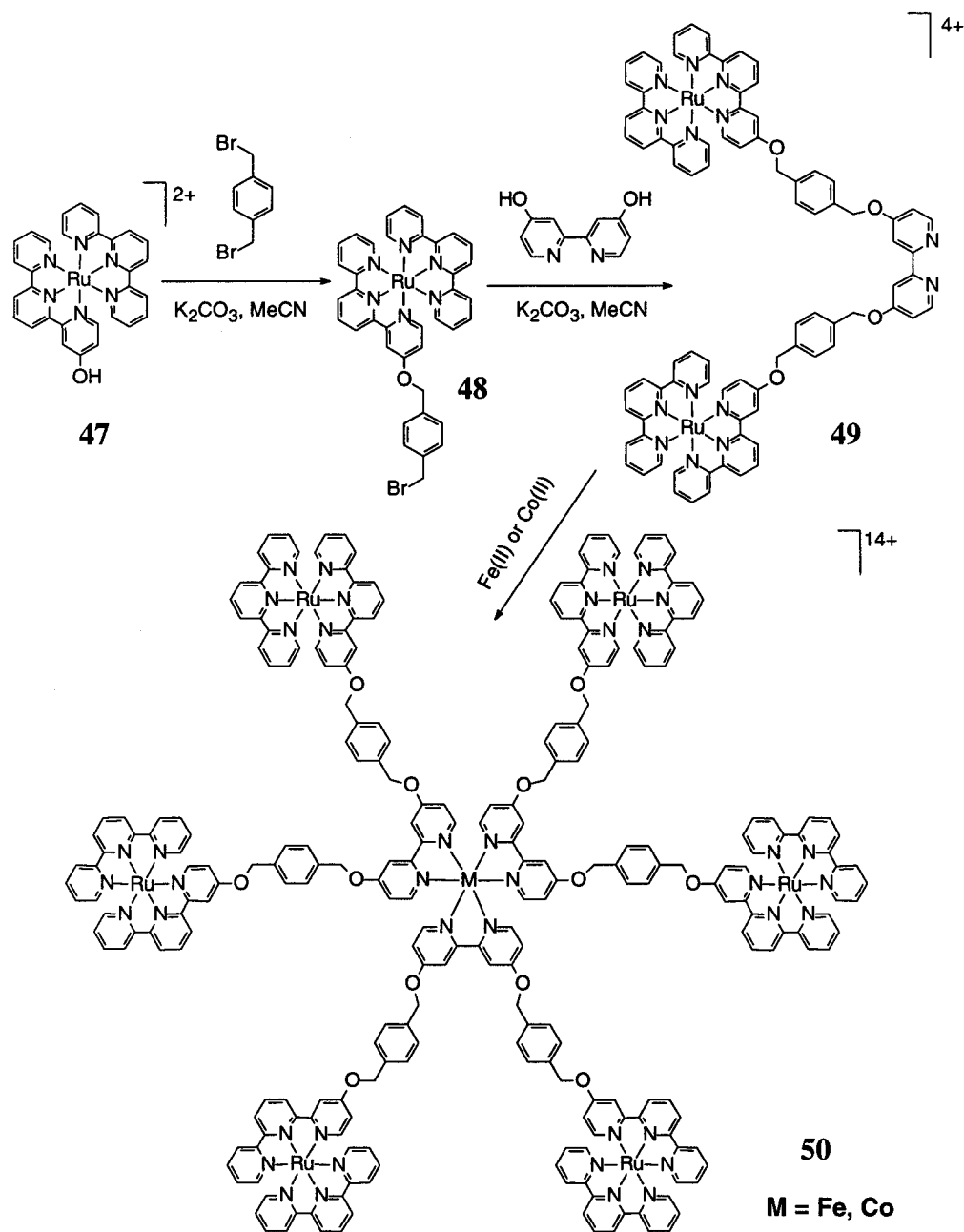
Other polypyridinyl-based molecules are also known in the literature, e.g., hexakis(4-pyridinyl)benzene,<sup>99</sup> 1,3,5-tris(4'-terpyridinyl)benzene,<sup>100</sup> poly(4-vinylpyridino)benzenes, and poly(4-ethylpyridino)benzenes,<sup>101</sup>



**Figure 3.** Isomeric, metallo dendritic networks.



**Figure 4.** Ru-terpyridyl-based architectures.

**Scheme 12. Construction of a Heptanuclear, Mixed-Metal Complex**

which could lead to the synthesis of large metallodendrimers.

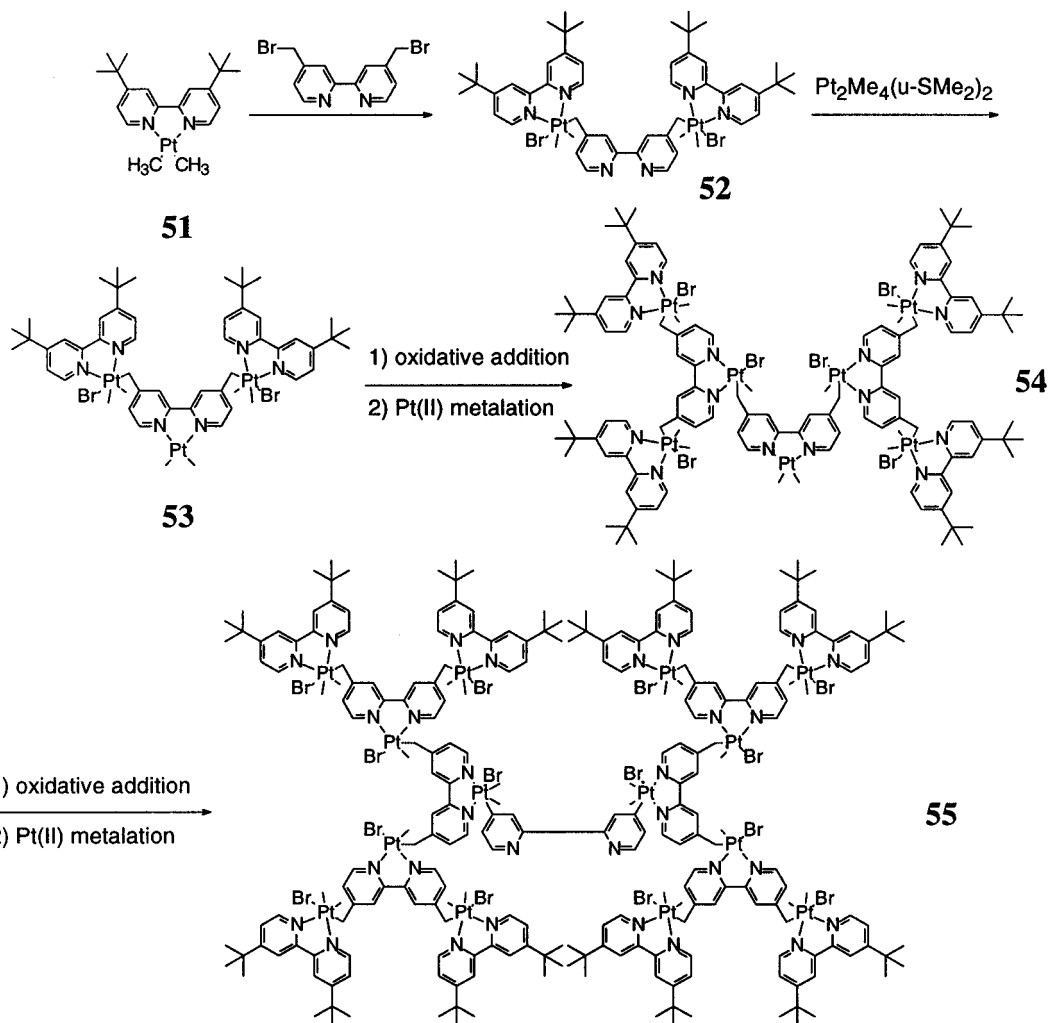
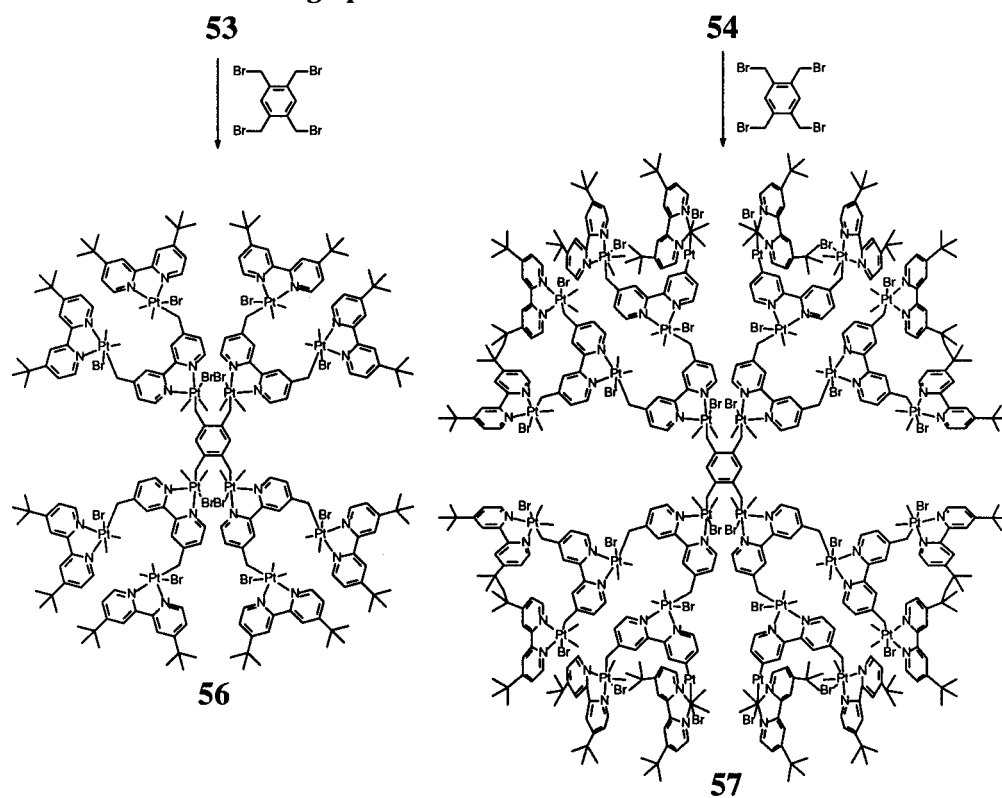
Achar and Puddephatt<sup>102</sup> created a series of convergently prepared organoplatinum dendrimers (Scheme 13) using two repeating reactions: (1) oxidative addition of  $PtMe_2(t-Bu_2bpy)$  via  $CH_2Br$  insertion generating stable Pt(IV) centers and (2)  $SMe_2$  ligand displacement from  $Pt_2Me_4(\mu-SMe_2)_2$  by a free bipyridine. Thus, treatment of 2 equiv of  $PtMe_2(t-Bu_2bpy)$  (51) with 1 equiv of 4,4'-bis(bromomethyl)-2,2'-bipyridine afforded the first-generation 52, which was subsequently treated with the platinum dimethyl sulfide complex to afford the mixed-valence, trisplatinum complex 53. Oxidative addition and Pt(IV) metalation of 53 gave the heptaplutonium 54. Repetition of the same synthetic sequence afforded the third-generation 55 with 14 platinum metal centers.

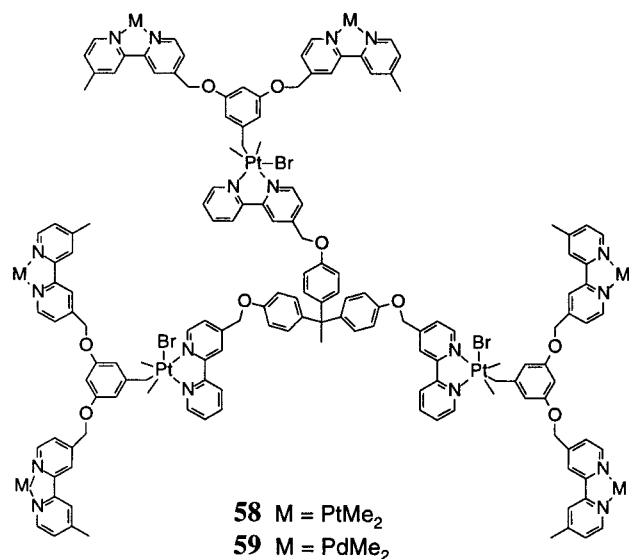
Later, the authors created the fourth-generation metallodendrimer with 28 platinum centers.<sup>103</sup>

Puddephatt et al.<sup>104</sup> also reported oxidative addition reactions of 4 equiv of each Pt-complex precursors, 53 and 54, to 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(bromomethyl)benzene (Scheme 14) to form Pt-containing metallodendrimers possessing 12 (56) and 28 (57) metal centers, respectively. The authors<sup>105</sup> also reported the preparation of oligomers and a polymer containing organoplatinum centers.

Recently, Liu and Puddephatt<sup>106</sup> explored routes to the synthesis of Pt/Pd-containing dendrimers using their oxidation–addition procedure. Although synthesis of the desired metallodendrimer was not successful, the building blocks could be very useful in future approaches. Nevertheless, these authors<sup>107</sup> successfully developed a divergent route to Pt- and



**Scheme 13. Convergent Approach to Organo-Pt Metallodendrimers****Scheme 14. Pt Dendrimers Possessing up to 22 Metal Centers**



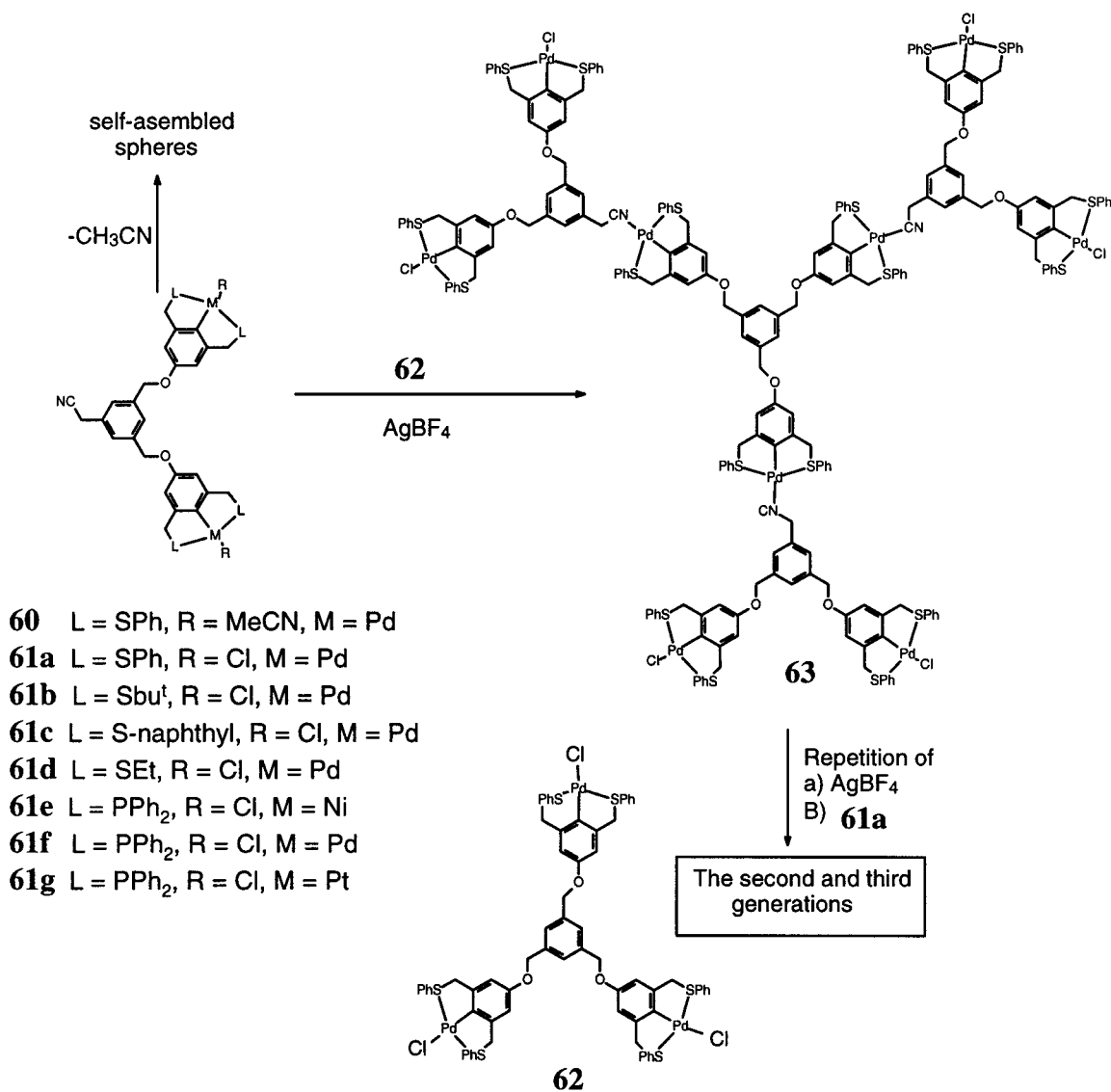
**Figure 5.** Puddephatt's metallodendrimers possessing Pt and Pd metal centers.

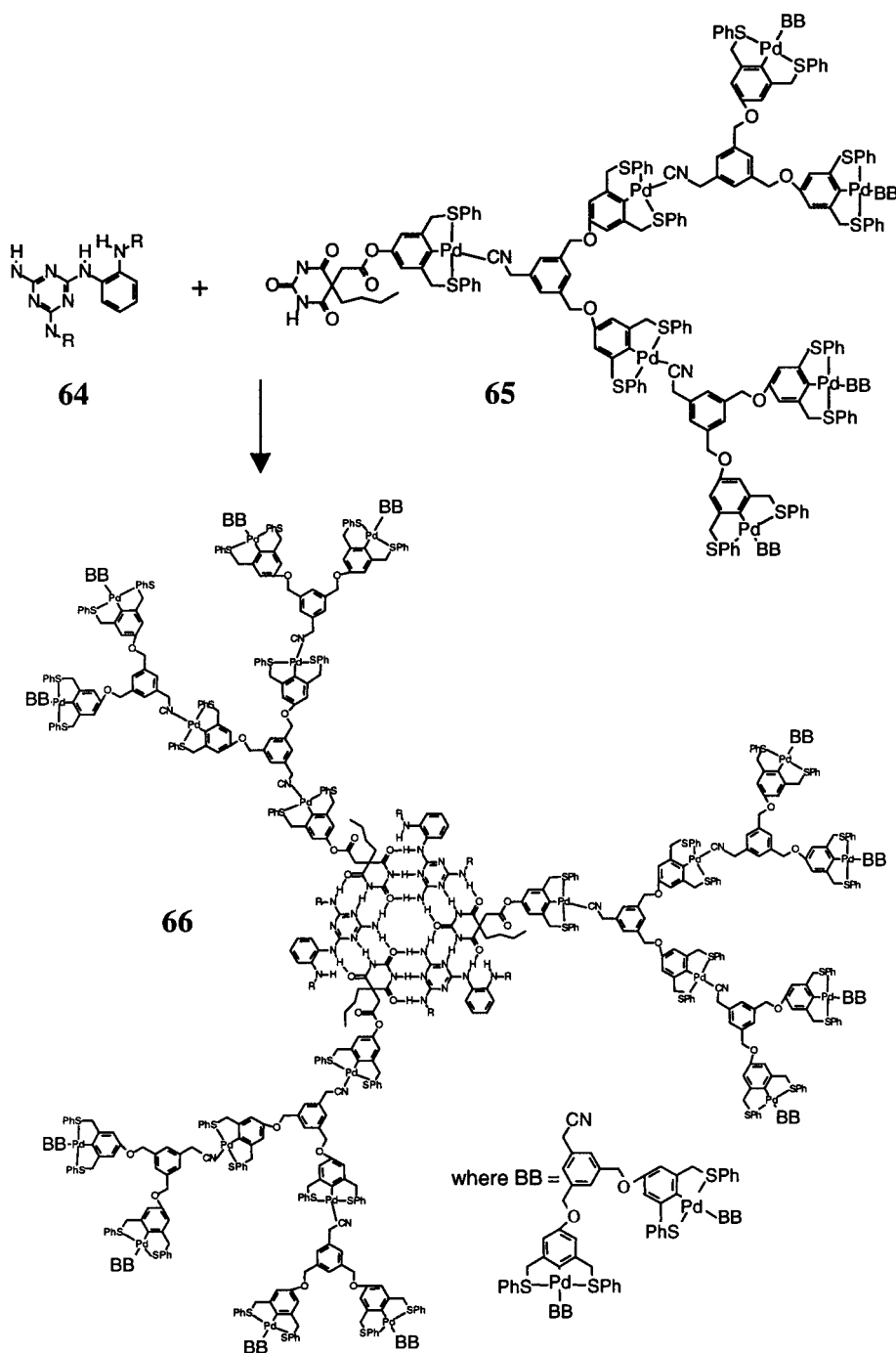
Pt/Pd-containing dendrimers (**58** and **59**) comprised of inner generation layers possessing platinum metal

centers while outer layers possessed either platinum or palladium complexes (Figure 5).

Reinhoudt and co-workers<sup>108,109</sup> reported the assembly of hyperbranched dendrimers via the polymerization of AB<sub>2</sub> monomer **60**. Polymerization was induced by acetonitrile ligand displacement promoted by heating under low pressure, allowing benzylnitrile coordination, leading to "self-assembled metallospheres". In an effort to control the density of the self-assembled polymeric spheres, building blocks **61a–g** possessing different ligating groups (*S-tert*-butyl, *S*-naphthyl, *S*-ethyl,<sup>110</sup> and *P*-Ph<sub>2</sub><sup>111</sup>) as well as different metals (e.g., Ni(II) and Pt(II)) were synthesized. Reinhoudt et al.<sup>14,112</sup> also developed Pd-containing dendrimers up to the third generation with 47 palladium metal connectors through a controlled divergent approach (Scheme 15). Assembly relies on a kinetically inert tridentate (S–C–S) palladium complex that is labile toward substitution, when the "external" ligand is a nitrile group. The first-generation metallodendrimer **63** was assembled via the addition of a mixture of trispalladium chloride **62** and AgBF<sub>4</sub> to bispalladium chloride **61a**. By repetition of the same procedure, second- and third-generation

**Scheme 15.** Reinhoudt's Hyperbranched Metallospheres and Pd Macromolecules



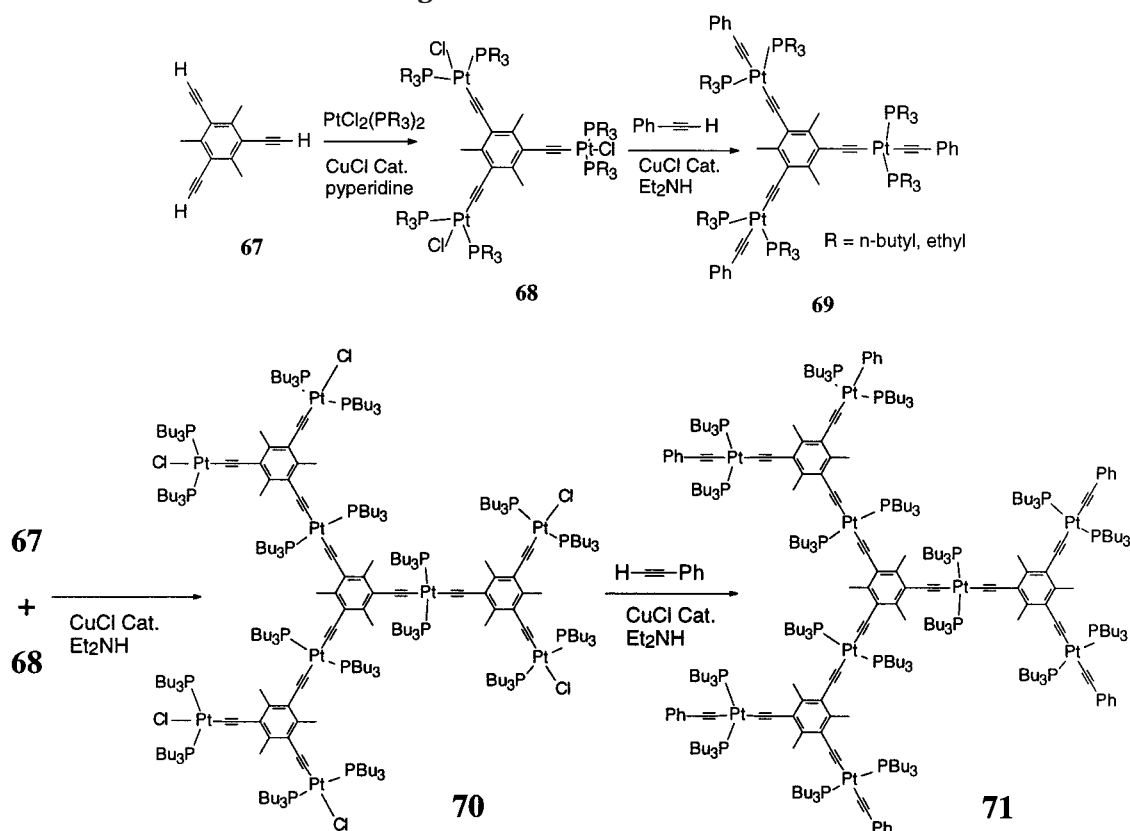
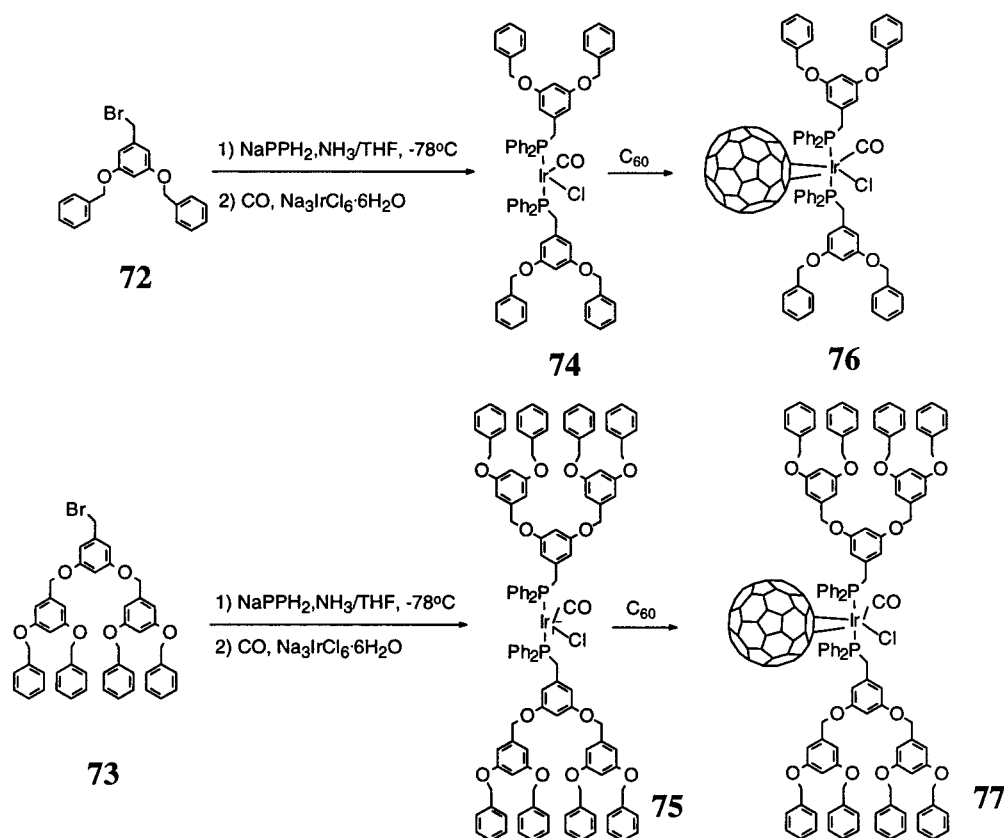
**Scheme 16. Self-Assembly of "Rosettes" via H Bonding**

metallodendrimers were prepared and characterized by NMR and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

Van Veggel, Reinhoudt et al.<sup>113</sup> developed a synthesis of metallodendrimers via the combination of coordination chemistry and H-bonding (Scheme 16). "Rosettes" were constructed via addition of *N*-octa-decanyl-*N'*-(2-*N*-tBoc-amino)phenylmelamine (**64**) to the metallodendrimers  $G_{1-3}$  (**65**) to afford up to the third generation of H bonding and mixed-metal dendrimer **66**.

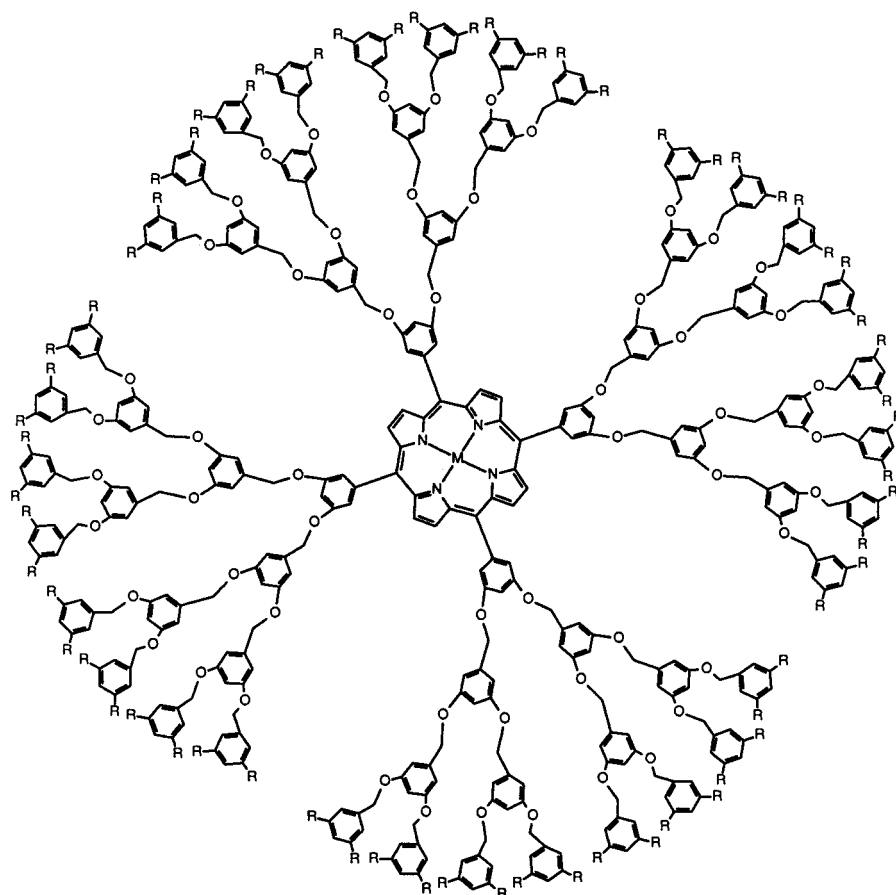
Takahashi et al.<sup>114</sup> reported Pt-containing metallodendrimers with a backbone composed of platinum-acetylide units (Scheme 17). Similar metal-acetylide units with iridium and rhodium have been previously

reported by Tykwinski and Stang,<sup>115</sup> while related organoplatinum dendrimers have also appeared.<sup>116</sup> The treatment of 1,3,5-triethynyl-2,4,6-trimethylbenzene (**67**) with dichlorobis(tri-*n*-butylphosphine)platinum or dichlorobis(triethylphosphine)platinum in the presence of a CuCl catalyst in piperidine afforded trinuclear complex **68**, which was subsequently treated with phenylacetylene to give the first-generation metallodendrimer **69**. Via a convergent approach, the larger dendrimer **70** was synthesized by coupling of **67** with **68**, which then was converted to the second generation phenyl-terminated metallodendrimer **71**. The structures were supported by IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and combustion analysis.

**Scheme 17. Metallodendrimers Possessing Pt Atoms in the Backbone****Scheme 18. *trans*-Ir Core Moieties Exhibit Reversible C<sub>60</sub> Binding****IV. Metals as Cores**

Catalano and Parodi<sup>117</sup> have reported the reversible C<sub>60</sub> binding to metallodendrimer core complexes (i.e.,

Ir(CO)Cl(PPh<sub>2</sub>R)<sub>2</sub>; Scheme 18). Dendritic wedges possessing focal phosphine ligands were constructed via treatment of the Fréchet-type dendritic fragments<sup>27</sup> 3,5-bis(benzyloxy)benzyl bromide (72) and



**78**  $M = \text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $R = \text{OMe}$

**79**  $M = \text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $R = \text{OCH}_2\text{Ar}(\text{OMe})_2$

**80**  $M = \text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $R = \text{OCH}_2\text{Ar}(\text{OMe})_2$

**81**  $M = \text{Zn}^{2+}$ ,  $R = \text{OCH}_2\text{Ar}(\text{CO}_2\text{K})$

**Figure 6.** Porphyrin-containing metallodendrimers possessing novel biological properties.

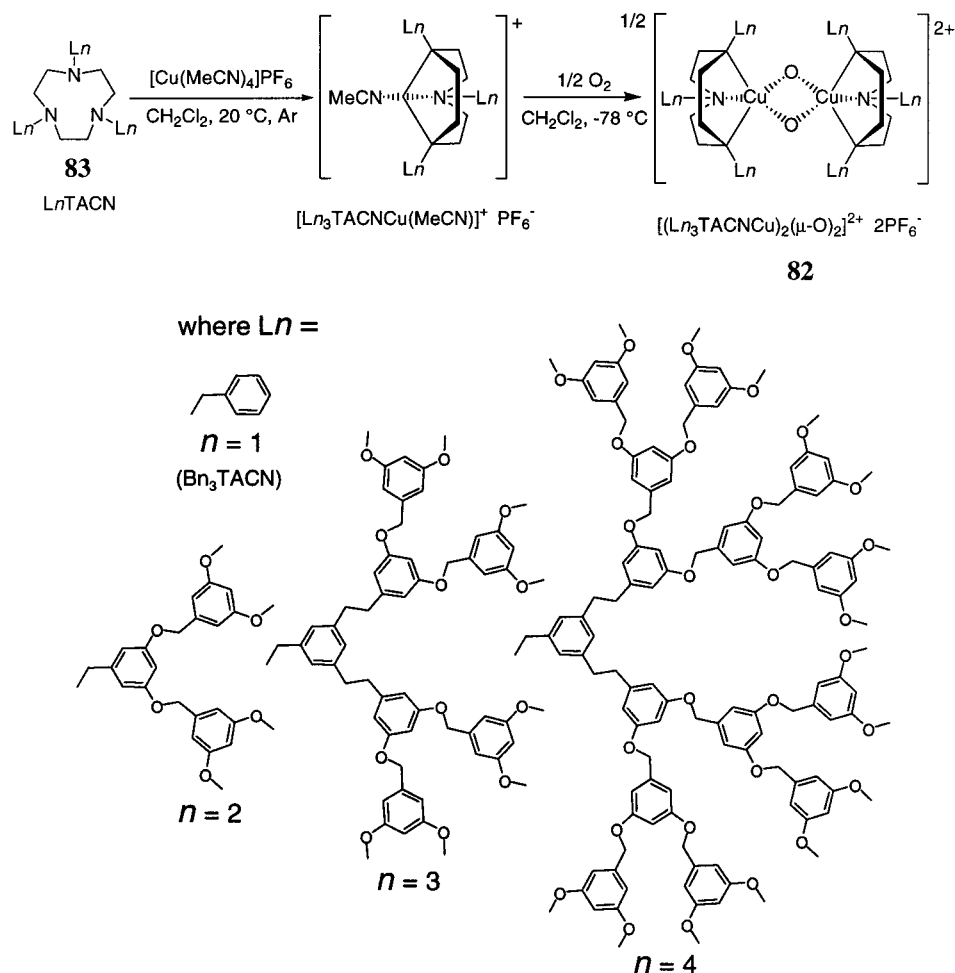
3,5-bis[(3,5-bis(benzyloxy)benzyl)oxy]benzyl bromide (**73**) with  $\text{NaPPh}_2$ . Under reductive conditions (CO), addition of  $\text{Na}_3\text{IrCl}_6 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  to the diphenylphosphine-based wedges yielded complexes **74** (cis and trans) and **75** (trans only). Each was subsequently bound to  $\text{C}_{60}$  to afford metallodendrimers **76** and **77**. Both *trans*-**74** and -**75** exhibited thermally reversible binding with  $\text{C}_{60}$ . Thermodynamic data on the reversible binding were obtained in chlorobenzene by line-width analysis of the  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra. Activation parameters, such as  $\Delta G_{265}^\ddagger$ ,  $\Delta H_{265}^\ddagger$ , and  $\Delta S_{265}^\ddagger$  and the thermodynamic quantities  $\Delta G_{265}^\circ$ ,  $\Delta H_{265}^\circ$ , and  $\Delta S_{265}^\circ$  for **76** and **77** were calculated. Similar rates of reaction with  $\text{O}_2$  for both **76** and **77** indicate that the bulkiness of the dendritic branches, in these cases, does not significantly perturb the metal center.

Inoue et al.<sup>118</sup> reported a dendritic ‘caged’ porphyrin–zinc complex with photochemical functionality (Figure 6). Metallodendrimers up to the fourth-generation **78** were synthesized employing Fréchet’s established convergent method.<sup>27</sup> Fluorescence quenching studies using the fourth-generation metallodendrimer revealed that access to the porphyrin core by small-sized quenchers (i.e., vitamin  $\text{K}_3$ ) was facile

while larger quenchers (i.e., the first-generation dendrimer) were denied approach. The authors thus suggested the dendritic branches in higher tiers behaved as “shielding barriers” to the metal core although they acted as a trap for small molecules.<sup>119</sup>

Jiang and Aida<sup>120</sup> synthesized similar Fe-containing porphyrin metallodendrimers up to the fourth generation (**80**; Figure 6) that mimic the biological functions of hemoproteins. This dendritic iron porphyrin complex displays reversible dioxygen-binding activity, whereby the  $\text{O}_2$  adduct has a lifetime of several months even in the presence of water and a half-life of 50 h upon exposure to carbon monoxide. Aida and co-workers<sup>121</sup> also prepared fifth-generation zinc porphyrin metallodendrimer **79** that was subsequently used as a spectroscopic probe. At the fifth-generation stage, the  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  of the Soret band (ca.  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 0.7 \text{ nm}$ ) became solvent independent, suggesting that the metalcore was almost completely shielded by the dendritic surroundings. Recently, Aida et al.<sup>122</sup> modified the same zinc porphyrin metallodendrimers (e.g., **81**) with carboxylate groups on the surface. Using higher generations of dendrimers, the addition of methyl viologen ( $\text{MV}^{2+}$ ) or the more negatively charged naphthalenesulfonate did not show notice-



**Scheme 19. Self-Assembly of a Copper Ligating Dendrimer to Mimic a Non-Heme Metalloprotein**

able solvatochromic changes, while a significant change was observed with the first generation. This result, again, illustrates the shielding effect of the large dendritic shell, which correlates with their earlier results.<sup>118</sup>

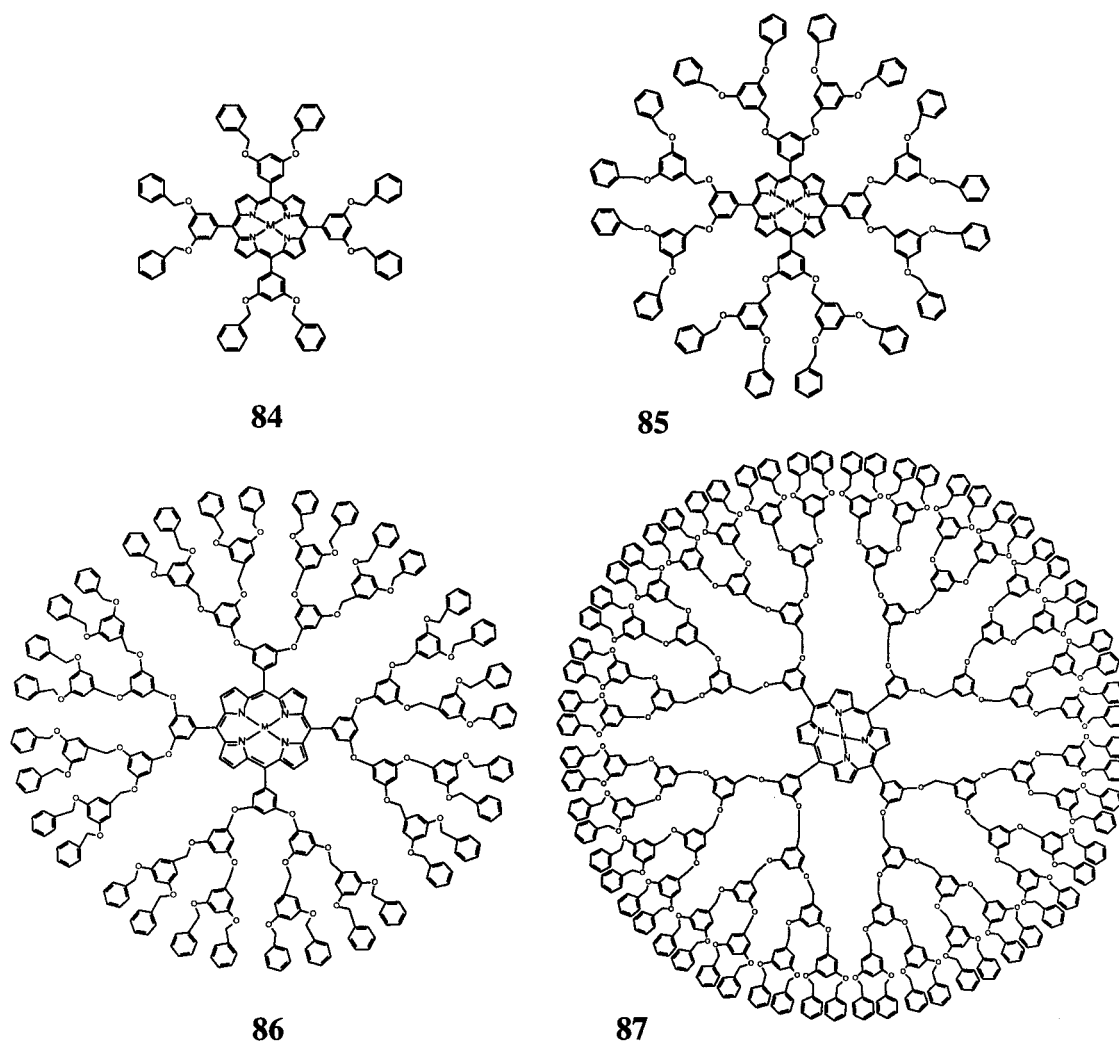
Aida and Enomoto<sup>123</sup> have reported the “oxygen promoted” self-assembly of copper-ligating dendrimers for the examination of dendritic effects on a non-heme metalloprotein mimic (e.g., **82**; Scheme 19). Construction of the “copper-ligating” metallodendrimers was achieved via attachment of methyl-terminated, Fréchet-type dendrons to the cyclic triamine (1,4,7-triazacyclononane) via amine displacement of benzyl bromide focal groups (**83**), followed by treatment with  $[Cu(MeCN)_4]PF_6$  and  $O_2$  to give the bis( $\mu$ -oxo)-bridged dicopper core moiety. Oxidative decomposition studies on each member of the series suggested a greater stability for the higher generation metallodendrimer based on entropy loss for the reaction. Steric effects were postulated to account for the phenomenon.

Fréchet and co-workers<sup>124,125</sup> prepared zinc porphyrin metallodendrimers up to the fourth generation (**87**; Figure 7). They concluded that the dendritic shell did not significantly affect the electrochemical or photophysical nature of the metalloporphyrin core. However, even with smaller generations of dendrimers (**84**, **85**, or **86**), the rate of interfacial electron transfer is noticeably reduced, presumably due to the

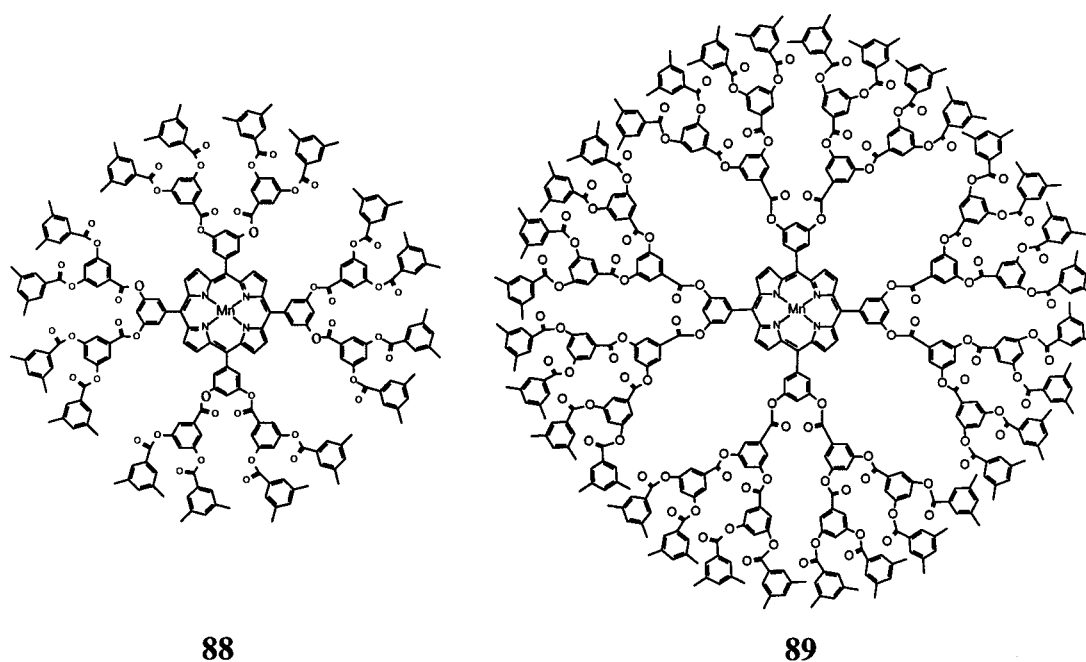
decreasing proximity of the porphyrin core to the electrode surface in cyclic voltammetry experiments. No noticeable hindrance to penetration of the dendritic shell, by small molecules, was observed, which is in accord with Inoue's and Aida's observations.<sup>118</sup> Only the fourth-generation metallodendrimer **87** showed a 33% rate enhancement of the viologen fluorescence quenching of the zinc porphyrin. Suslick et al.<sup>126,127</sup> reported the “shape-selective control of ligation” of dendritic metalloporphyrins.

Moore, Suslick, and co-workers<sup>128,129</sup> recently synthesized Mn-containing metallodendrimers as selective oxidation catalysts (Figure 8). Four ester-based dendritic building blocks were appended to the meta-positions of the 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3',5'-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrinatomanganese(III) chloride to obtain the second and third generations of metallodendrimers **88** and **89**. Both dendrimers have been examined as regioselective oxidation catalysts for both intra- and intermolecular cases. Epoxidation of nonconjugated dienes and of 1:1 mixtures of various alkenes possessing different shapes and sizes was examined. The dendritic catalysts showed superior regioselectivity at the less hindered double bond positions when compared to the corresponding parent, 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3',5'-hydroxyphenyl)porphyrinatomanganese(III) cation.

Diederich et al.<sup>130</sup> synthesized zinc porphyrin metallodendrimers (e.g., **90** and **91**) through a divergent



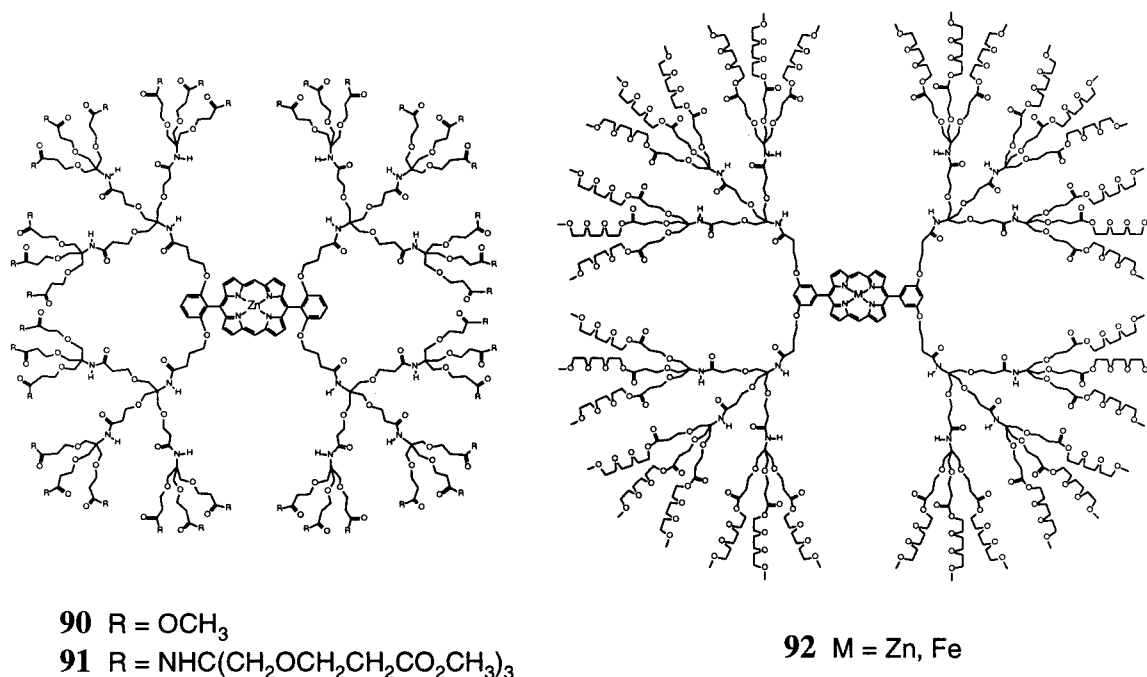
**Figure 7.** Fréchet's zinc porphyrin macromolecules.



**Figure 8.** Moore's and Suslick's Mn-based metallodendrimers constructed as selective oxidation catalysts.

strategy, employing a 1→3 C-branched amino triester building block,<sup>131</sup> to construct the dendritic shell (Figure 9). Those molecules were regarded as models

for electron-transfer proteins such as cytochrome *c*, in which the dendritic polypeptide branches can affect the metalloporphyrin core redox potential. The

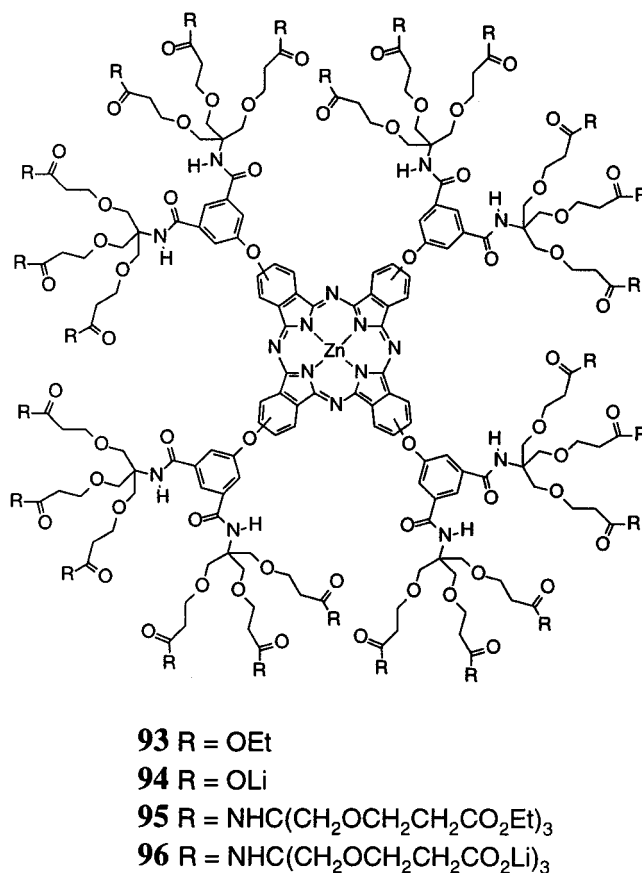


**Figure 9.** Diederich's porphyrin-containing metallodendrimers possessing novel electrochemical and biological properties.

first reduction potential of the zinc porphyrin unit becomes more negative with increasing dendrimer generation by 90–300 mV, which can be explained by the increasing electron-rich microenvironment around the porphyrin core. Meanwhile, the first oxidation potential becomes less positive by up to 300 mV than the tetraester porphyrin core alone. Both reduction and oxidation processes become totally irreversible at the third generation (91).

Diederich, Gross, and co-workers<sup>132,133</sup> later synthesized similar Fe(II) porphyrin metallodendrimers (e.g., 92; Figure 9) with triethylene glycol monomethyl ether groups on the surface, facilitating solubility in solvents with polarity ranges from nonpolar (*p*-xylene) to polar (H<sub>2</sub>O). The electrochemical studies indicate that solvent polarity strongly affects the redox potential of electrochemical reactions that occur at the heme metal center. In organic solvents, such as CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, the iron porphyrins in both the first and second generations are exposed to similar microenvironments, so that similar potentials for the Fe<sup>III</sup>/Fe<sup>II</sup> couple are measured. In water, however, the loosely packed first generation does not impede aqueous solvation of the iron porphyrin whereas the more densely packed dendritic shell of metallodendrimer 92 significantly reduces contact between the heme and external H<sub>2</sub>O molecules, destabilizing the oxidized form while increasing the charged state and shifting the redox potential to a more positive value. The large potential shift in water is comparable to the difference observed between cytochrome *c* and a cytochrome *c* heme model possessing a more open structure.

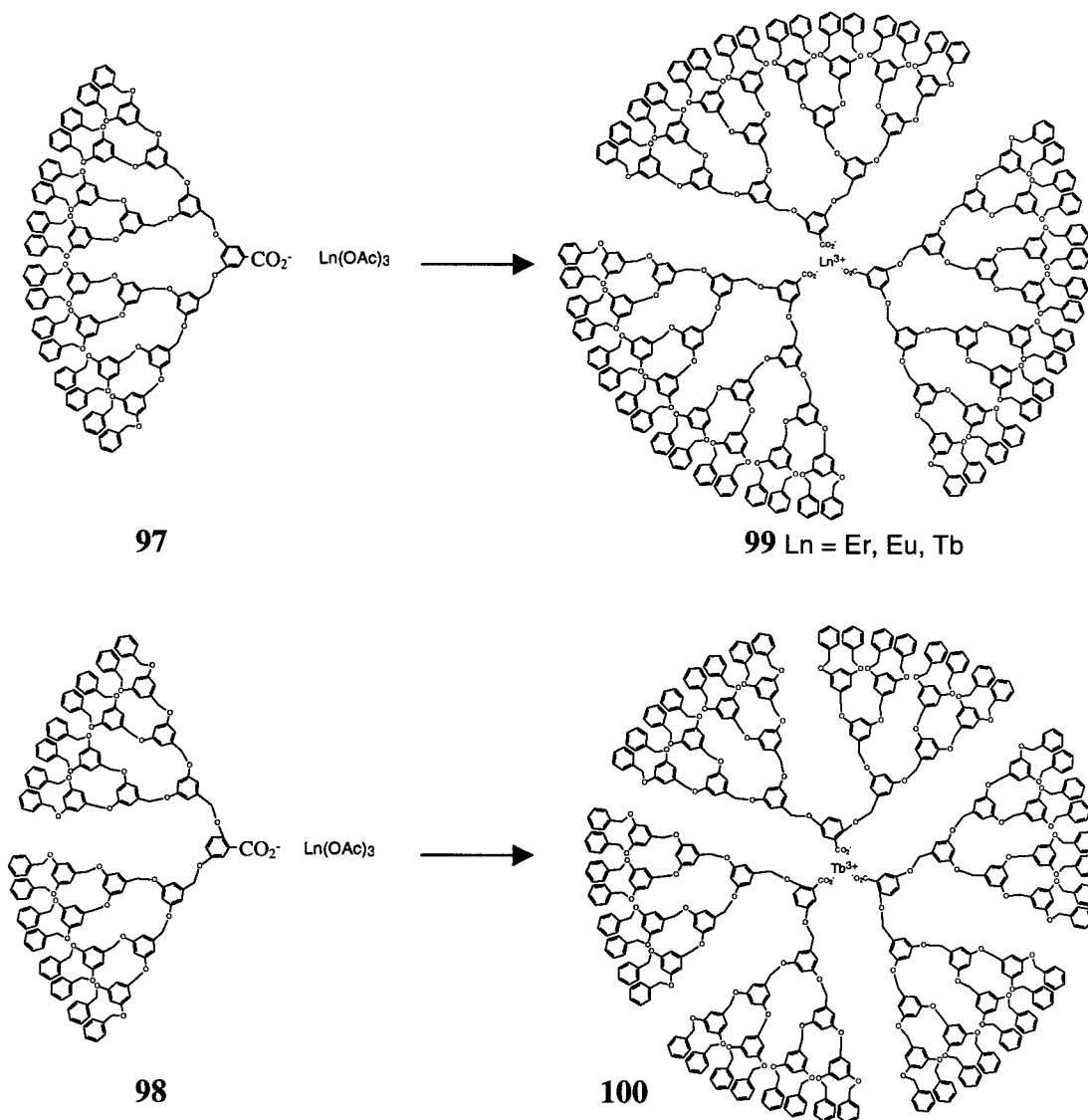
Collman, Diederich et al.<sup>134</sup> reported the dioxygen and carbon monoxide binding behavior of the same Fe(II) porphyrin metallodendrimers (e.g., 92). Remarkably, the O<sub>2</sub> affinities of the dendritic porphyrins are about 1500 times greater than that of T-state hemoglobins. The CO affinities of the dendritic por-



**Figure 10.** Divergently constructed of phthalocyanine-based metallodendrimers.

phyrins are lower than those of the 'picket fence' model but are close to the value of hemoglobin in the T-state.

Kimura, Shirai, and co-workers<sup>135</sup> synthesized zinc phthalocyanine metallodendrimers, based on a divergent-growth strategy using a 1→3 C-branched amino ester<sup>136</sup> (Figure 10). The UV-vis spectra of

**Scheme 20. Kawa and Fréchet's Lanthanide-Containing Metallodendrimers**

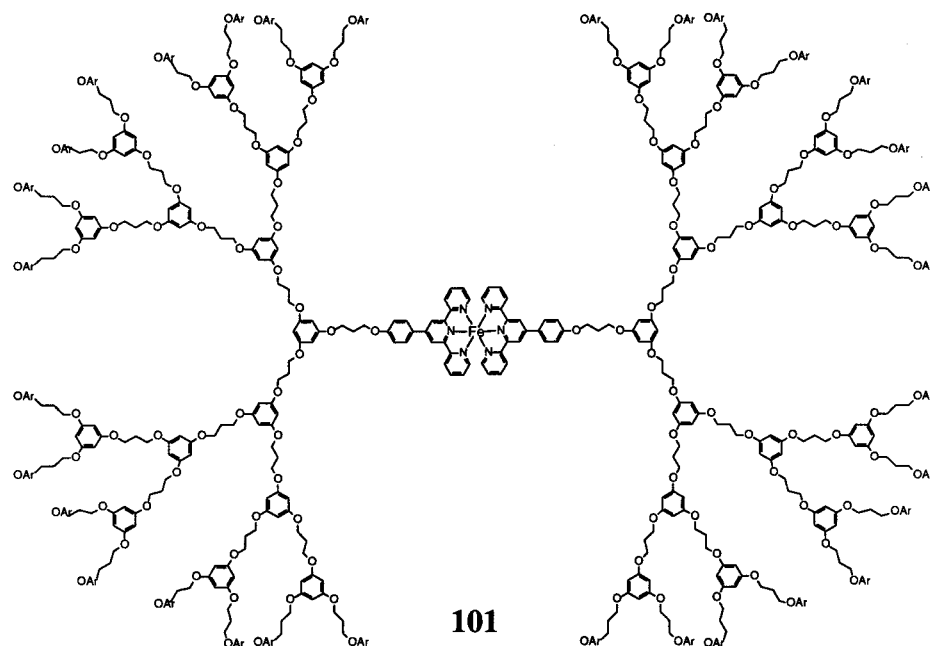
lipophilic metallodendrimers **93** and **95** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  showed a sharp signal at 621 nm ( $\epsilon = 2.95 \times 10^5 \text{ dm}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) with a shoulder at 621 nm and are not influenced by the generations of dendrimers. However, the spectra of hydrophilic metallodendrimers **94** and **96** are quite different, owing to the nonaggregation of zinc phthalocyanine of **96** presumably because of the bulky dendritic branches. The higher generation **96** also displayed a strong fluorescence peak at 674 nm in aqueous media, while lower generations do not fluoresce due to zinc phthalocyanine aggregation.

Kawa and Fréchet<sup>137</sup> reported lanthanide-containing metallodendrimers (Scheme 20) up to the fourth generation (**99** and **100**) via the self-assembly of three polybenzyl ether dendrons (e.g., **97** and **98**) by carboxylate anion coordination to a central trivalent cation ( $\text{Er}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Tb}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Eu}^{3+}$ ). The luminescence properties of these novel metallodendrimers, measured in both solution and bulk, were enhanced as the size of the dendritic surroundings increased. This was attributed to both a large "antenna effect" from the nonconjugated phenyl benzyl ether dendritic cluster and a shielding effect derived from site isolation of

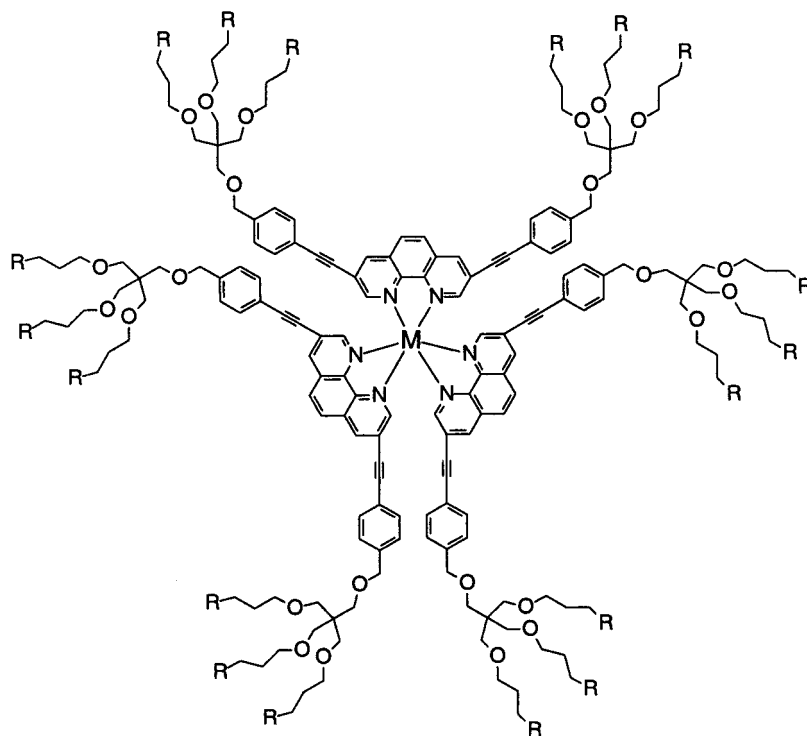
the lanthanide cations, thus preventing their interaction and decreasing the rate of self-quenching.

Chow et al.<sup>138,139</sup> reported the synthesis and characterization of  $-(\text{Fe})-$  metallodendrimers up to the fourth generation (**101**; Figure 11) using benzyl ether-based dendritic building blocks possessing propylene spacer moieties.<sup>140,141</sup> Cyclic voltammetry revealed similar behavior to that reported by Newkome,<sup>86</sup> whereby the reversibility of the metal redox centers decreases when the generation increases. These results were rationalized by the steric hindrance caused by the bulky dendritic shell, thus isolating the redox center from the electrode surface.

Bidentate ligands, such as bipyridine and 1,10-phenanthroline, are powerful metal chelating agents<sup>142</sup> and have been widely used in the construction of metallodendrimers (see section II. Metals as Branching Centers). Several examples are given here using bidentate ligands as the dendritic core. Tzalis and Tor<sup>143</sup> synthesized the metallodendrimers **102** by incorporating  $\text{Cu}^+$  and  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  ions within symmetrically substituted 1,10-phenanthroline ligands. Branching was effected using pentaerythritol-based building blocks (Figure 12). All structures were subjected to



**Figure 11.** Chow's Fe(II)–terpyridyl core assemblies.



**102** R = OH, M = Cu<sup>+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>

**Figure 12.** Tzalis and Tor's Cu- and Fe-containing complexes.

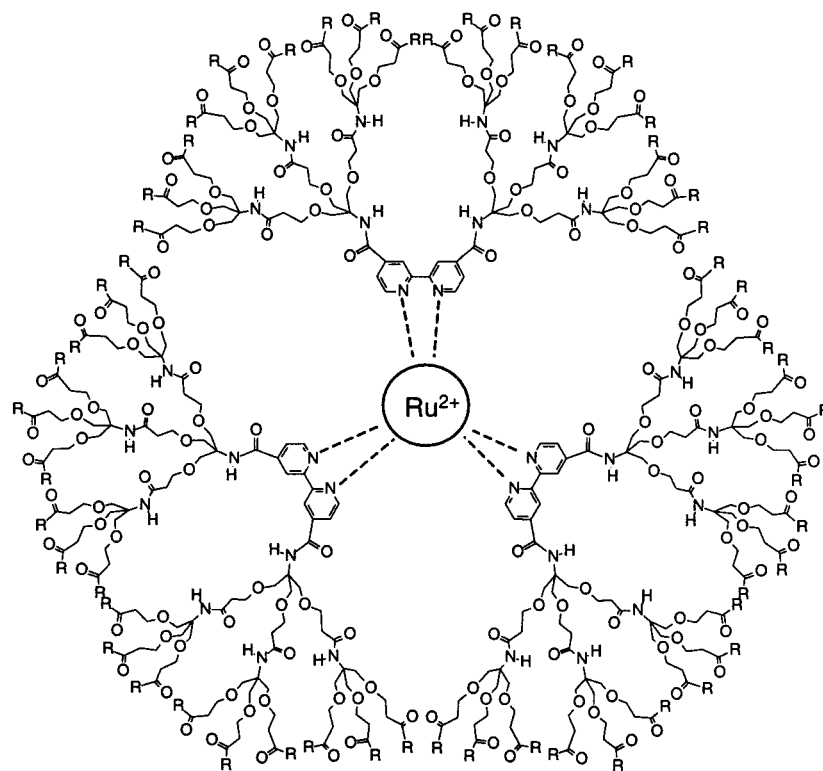
ESI-MS revealing mono- or double-charged molecular peaks.

Vögtle, Balzani et al.<sup>144</sup> reported metallodendrimers constructed up to the third generation with a [Ru(bpy)<sub>3</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> complex as its core (**103**; Figure 13) with the largest generation possessing 54 peripheral methyl ester groups. Branching was instilled using an amino triester monomer prepared via methyl acrylate addition to "tris".<sup>136</sup> The larger metallomacromolecule exhibited a more intense emission spectrum and a longer excited-state lifetime than the parent Ru(II) cation in aerated solutions. This was rationalized by

considering the shielding effect of the dendritic scaffolding. Notably, the third-generation metallodendrimer **103** has an excited-state lifetime longer than 1  $\mu$ s. The quenching constant of the luminescent Ru(II)–bipyridine MLCT level decreases as the generation of the metallodendrimers increases until the third generation when it reaches a value of one-twelfth of the original Ru(II)–bipyridine core.

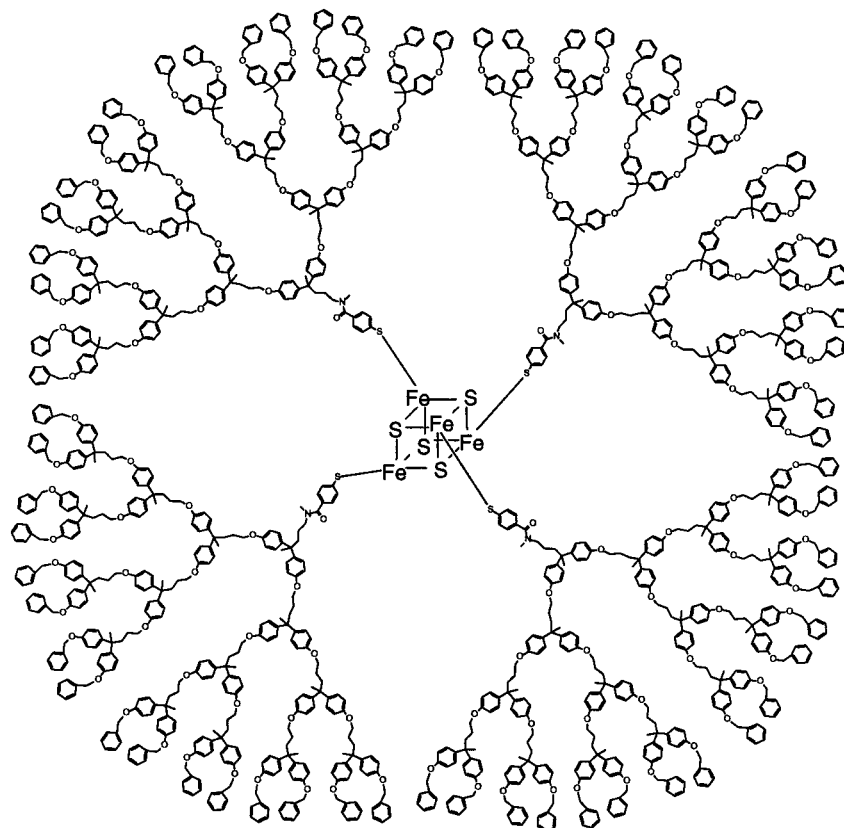
Gorman et al.<sup>145</sup> reported the synthesis of novel Fe–S cluster-based metallodendrimers up to the fourth generation (Figure 14). Focally substituted thiol-based dendrons<sup>146</sup> were treated with 0.25 equiv





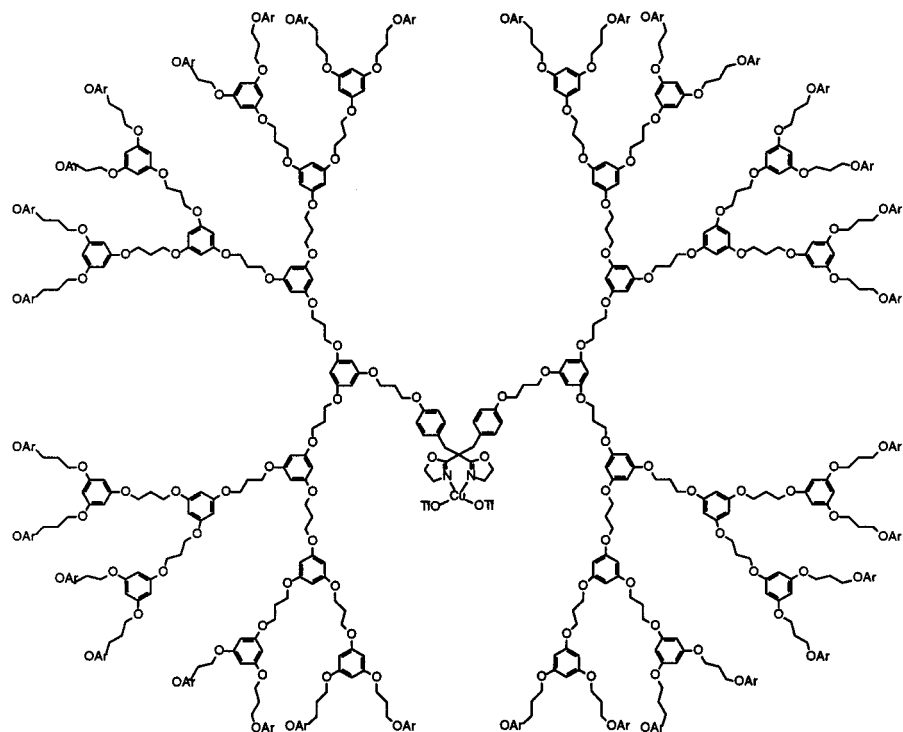
103 R =OMe

**Figure 13.** Vögtle's and Balzani's metallodendrimers possessing a Ru(II) bipyridine complex at the core.

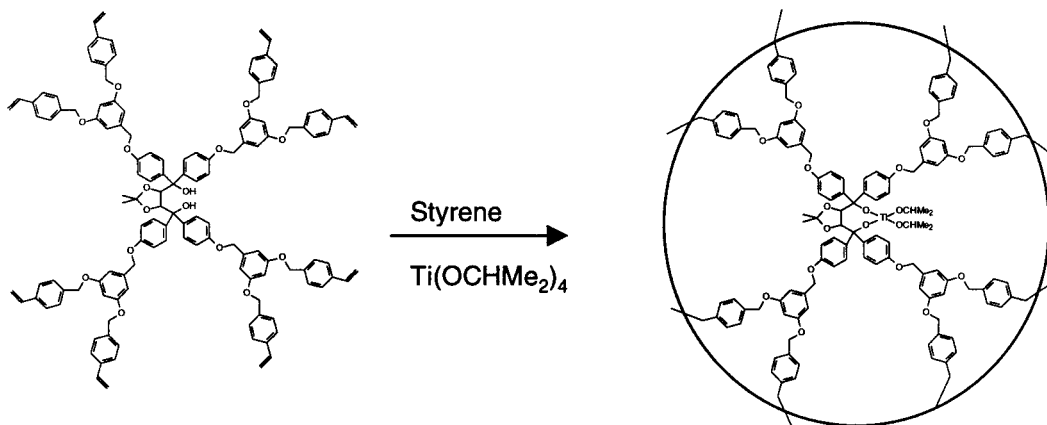


104

**Figure 14.** Gorman's novel Fe-containing metallodendrimers.

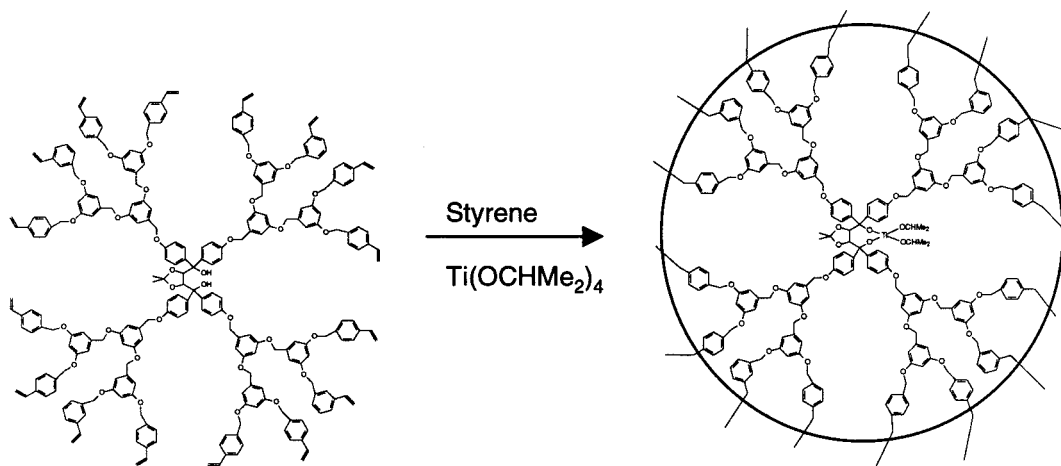


105

**Figure 15.** Chow's Cu-coordinating macromolecular catalyst for Diels–Alder reactions.**Scheme 21.** Seebach's Novel Ti-Containing Polymer Cross-Linkers

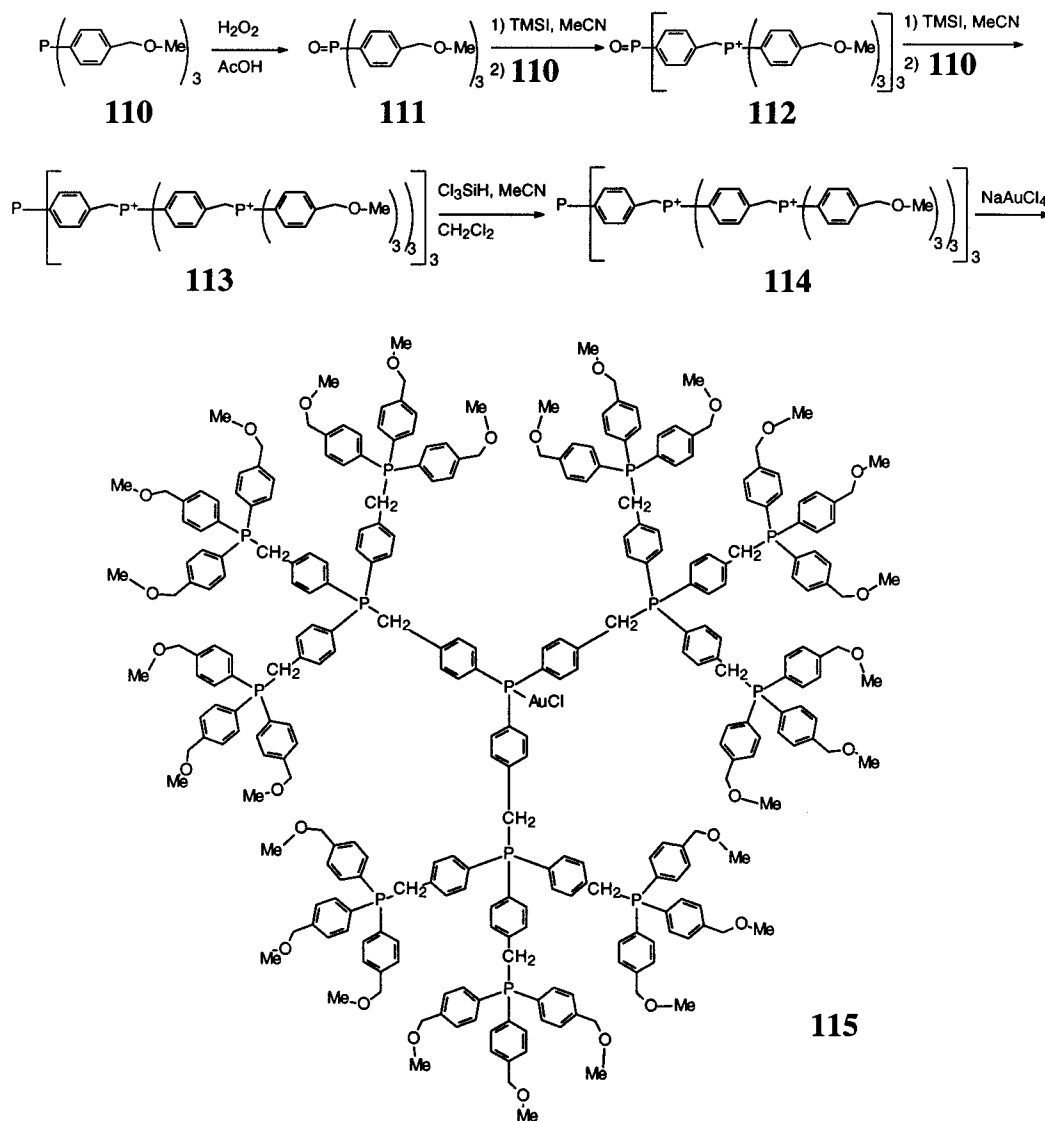
106

108



107

109

**Scheme 22. Engel's Phosphonium Metallodendrimer with Au Attached to the Phosphorus Core**

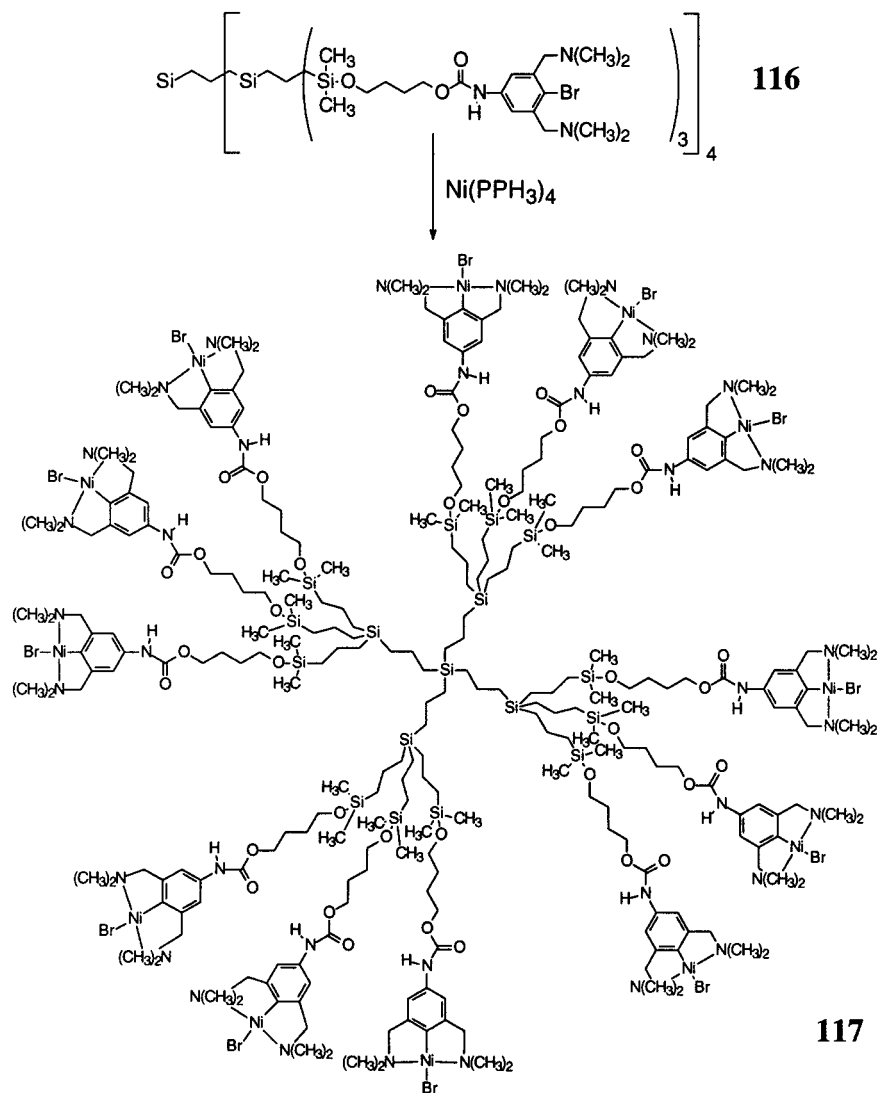
of  $(n\text{-Bu}_4\text{N})_2[\text{Fe}_4\text{S}_4(\text{S}-t\text{-Bu})]$  to give the desired product in high yield (e.g., **104**). Cyclic voltammetry experiments exhibited an increasingly negative reduction potential of the one-electron reduction of the metal center as the dendrimer generation increased. The largest molecule **104** also displayed an irreversible oxidation wave. These observations were rationalized by considering the increased steric hindrance of the dendritic shell that would render the redox centers, both kinetically and thermodynamically, more difficult to reduce and oxidize. The molecular weights of these metallomacromolecules were determined by vapor phase osmometry (VPO), which provided data similar to calculated values. The paramagnetic FeS core has been used as a NMR probe to study the conformation of these metallodendrimers.<sup>147</sup> The  $T_1$  relaxation time of the protons in these dendrimers was found to be shorter than that of protons in a similar dendrimer possessing a diamagnetic (tetraphenylmethane) core.

Chow and Mak<sup>148,149</sup> prepared metallodendrimers up to the fourth generation containing bis(oxazoline)-copper(II) **105** and reported their evaluation as catalysts for the Diels–Alder reaction between cyclopentadiene and crotonyl imide (Figure 15). The

synthetic details are analogous to their previously described examples whereby phenolic-based dendrons are prepared convergently.<sup>141,150</sup> The binding constant ( $K_c = k_1/k_{-1}$ ) of the bis(oxazoline)copper(II)–dienophile complex decreases from 9.8  $[\text{G}_1\cdot\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2]$  to 5.7  $\text{M}^{-1}$   $[\text{G}_3\cdot\text{Cu}(\text{OTf})_2]$ . While, the Diels–Alder reaction constant ( $k_2$ ) remains almost constant ( $3.3 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) for the first- and second-generation catalysts, it decreases suddenly at the third generation ( $1.9 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ). These observations were attributed to the loosely packed branches that have little effect upon the metal catalytic center, while increased steric hindrance caused by the larger dendritic and more densely packed shell impedes both the reactivity and binding profiles of the central metal.

Seebach et al.<sup>151</sup> developed novel dendritic styryl  $\alpha,\alpha,\alpha',\alpha'$ -tetraaryl-1,3-dioxolane-4,5-dimethanols (TAD-DOLs) to serve as polymer cross-linkers that incorporate titanium metal in the core upon copolymerization with styrene (Scheme 21). The dioxolane core moiety was tetrasubstituted with styryl-terminated dendrons prepared from 1→2 aryl-branched building blocks via the Fréchet convergent protocol<sup>27</sup> to afford the first and second generations of dendrimers **106** and **107**. Both dendrimers were copolymerized sepa-

**Scheme 23. van Koten's Ni-Terminated Macromolecular Catalysts for the Kharasch Addition of Polyhalogenoalkanes to C–C Double Bonds**



rately with styrene to give beads ranging in size from 100 to 600  $\mu\text{m}$ . Treatment of these dried beads with  $\text{Ti(OCHMe}_2)_4$  in toluene gave the Ti-loaded copolymers **108** and **109**. Both dendritic copolymers exhibited similar catalytic activity for the  $\text{Et}_2\text{Zn}$  addition to  $\text{PhCHO}$  as the nondendritic Ti–TADOLates.

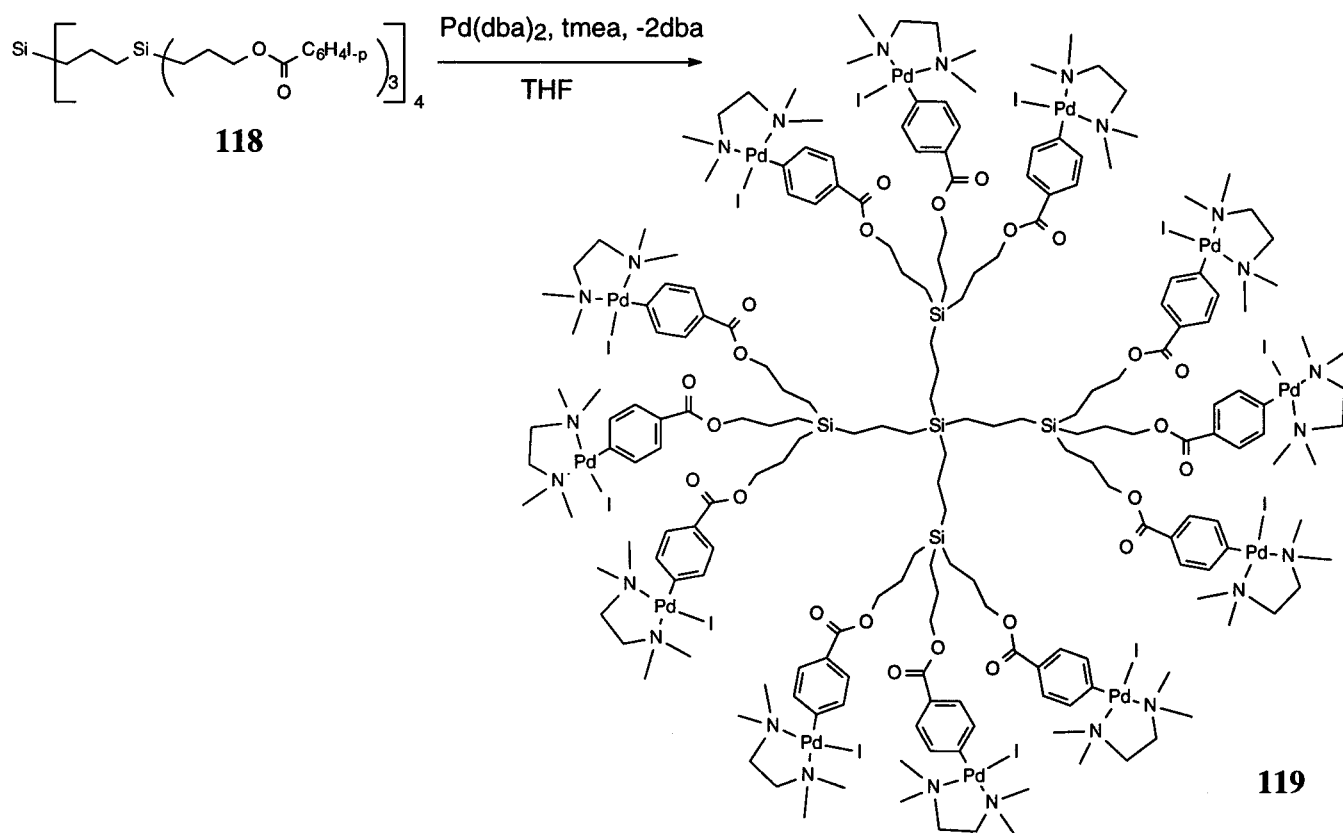
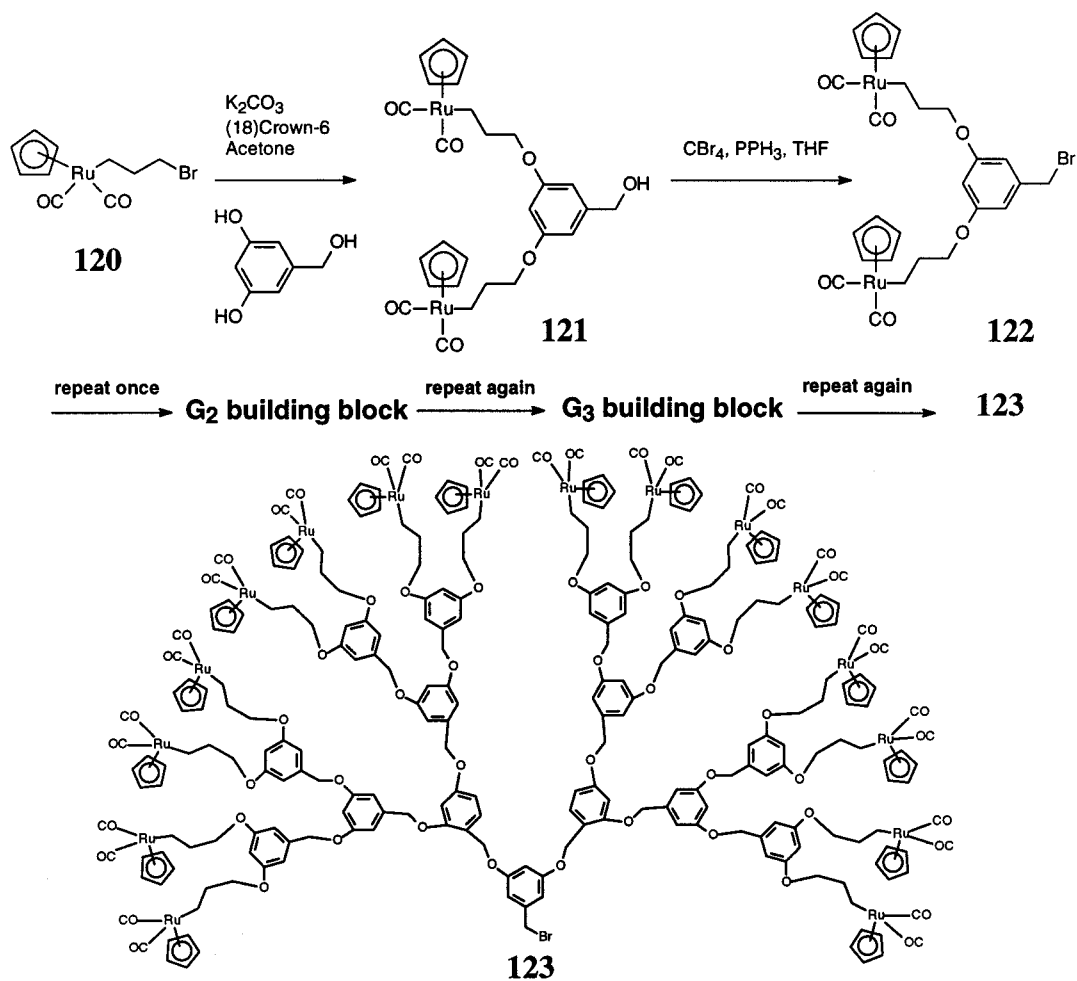
Engel et al.<sup>152</sup> reported a metallodendrimer with gold chloride attached to a trivalent phosphine core (Scheme 22). Oxidation of tris(*p*-methoxymethyl)-phenylphosphine<sup>153</sup> (**110**) ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{acetic acid}$ ) gave the corresponding phosphine oxide **111**, which was treated with trimethylsilyl iodide (TMSI) in MeCN, followed by **110**, to afford the first-generation phosphonium dendrimer **112**; repetition afforded *P*-oxide **113**, which was then reduced by  $\text{Cl}_3\text{SiH}$  to afford the trivalent *P*-containing dendrimer **114**. The treatment of **114** with  $\text{NaAuCl}_4$  gave the corresponding Au-containing macromolecule **115**.

### V. Metals as Termination Groups (Surface Functionalization)

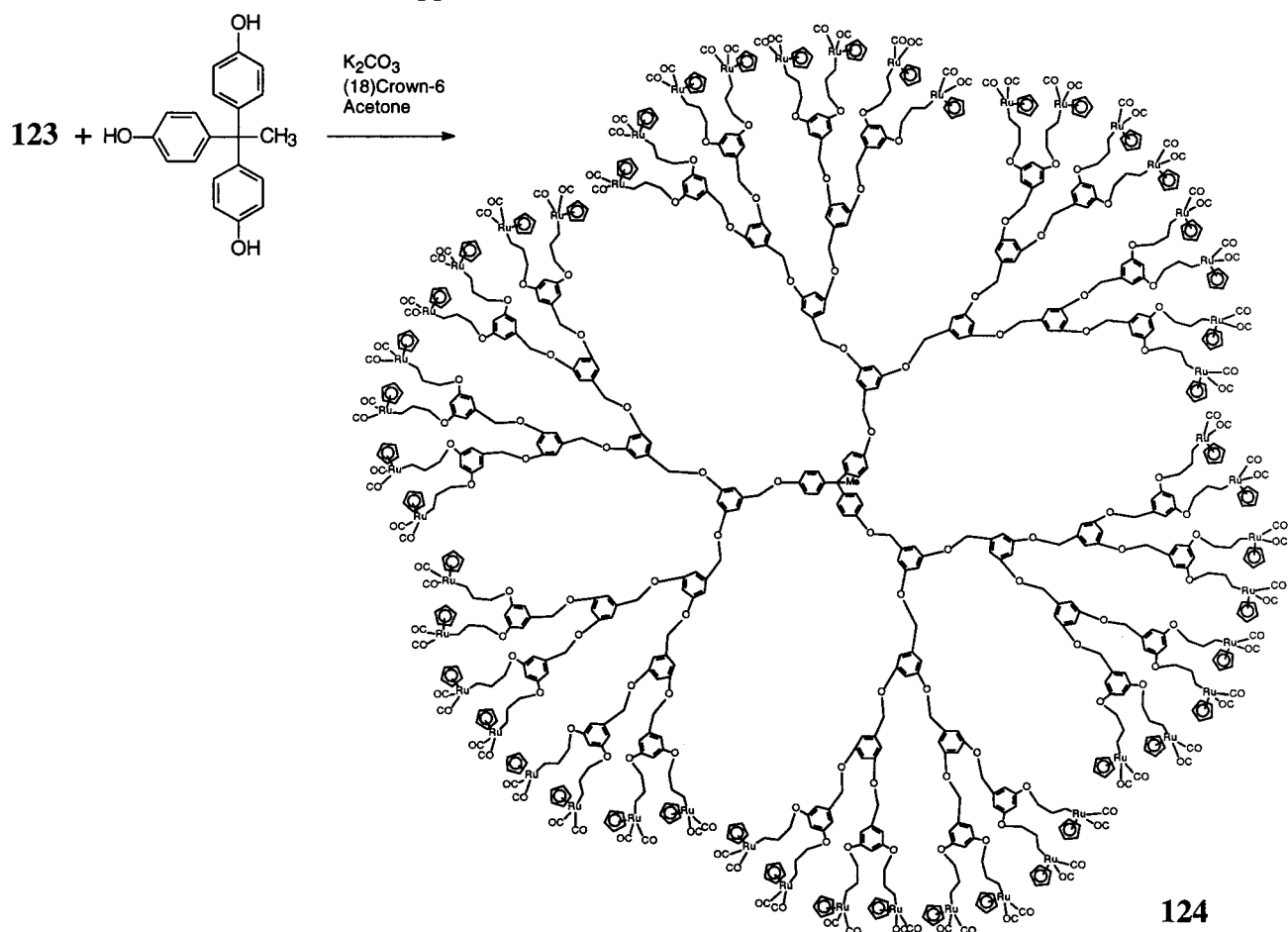
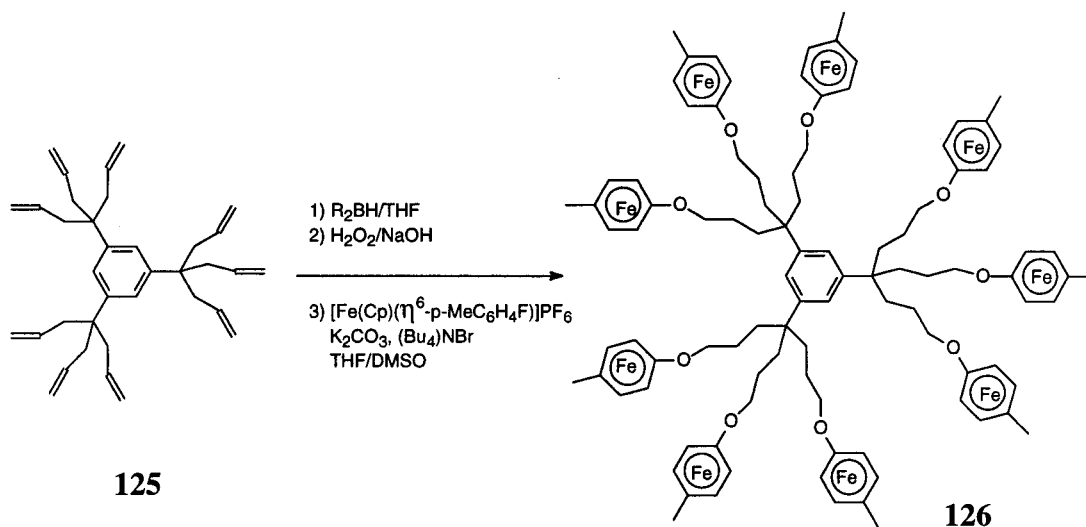
van Koten et al.<sup>16</sup> developed novel Ni-containing metallodendrimers up to the second generation to serve as homogeneous catalysts for the Kharasch addition<sup>154</sup> of polyhalogenoalkanes to simple  $\text{C}=\text{C}$

double bonds (Scheme 23). Dodecaarylbromide **116** was functionalized at the periphery via oxidative addition with  $\text{Ni(PPh}_3)_4$  to afford the second-generation metallodendrimer **117**. Catalytic activity of both the first- and second-tier poly-Ni dendrimers displayed comparable kinetic data to that observed for the monomeric organometallic complex. A notable advantage of these metallodendritic catalysts is their facile removal from the reaction mixture, providing a recyclable property to the “dendrocatalyst.” The authors also reported the attachment of similar nickel complexes to the polysiloxane polymers,<sup>155</sup> silica surfaces,<sup>156</sup> and amino acid-based dendritic macromolecules.<sup>157</sup>

van Koten et al.<sup>158</sup> prepared a small metallodendrimer possessing 12 peripheral palladium metal centers (Scheme 24) attached to a silicon-based framework; useful synthetic procedures to the incorporation of lithiated-surface derivatives have appeared.<sup>159</sup> Dodecaaryliodo-terminated dendrimer **118** was treated with palladium dibenzylideneacetone [ $\text{Pd}(\text{dba})_2$ ] and *N,N,N',N'*-tetramethylethylenediamine (tmeda) to yield metallodendrimer **119**. This is the first example of Pd metals  $\sigma$ -bonded to a dendritic scaffolding.

**Scheme 24. Metallomacromolecule with Pd  $\sigma$ -Bonded to the Surface****Scheme 25. Convergent Construction of Building Blocks Possessing 16 Ru Metal Centers on the Periphery**

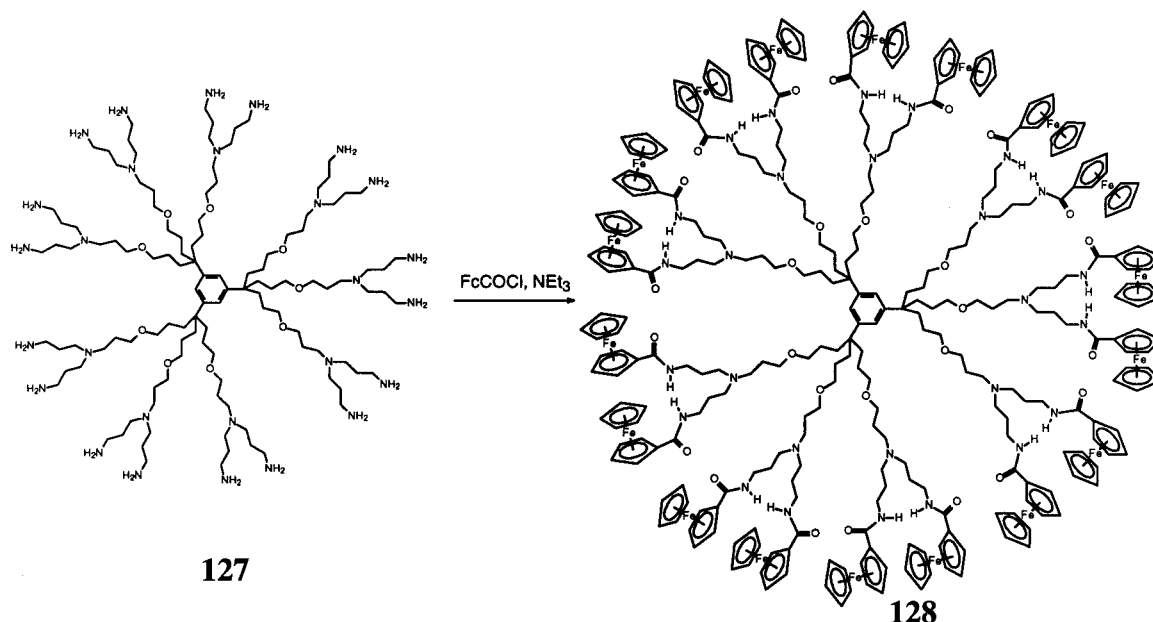


**Scheme 26. Liao and Moss's Ru-Capped Metallodendrimer****Scheme 27. Astruc's Branched Iron Sandwich**

Liao and Moss<sup>160</sup> prepared metallodendrimers up to the fourth generation<sup>161,162</sup> containing 48 peripheral ruthenium metals on a dendritic framework that were constructed by Fréchet's convergent synthetic method.<sup>27</sup> Preparation of the first-generation metallodendritic building blocks **121** and **122** began via the reaction of  $(\eta^5-C_5H_5)Ru(CO)_2[(CH_2)_3Br]$  (**120**) and 3,5-dihydroxybenzyl alcohol (Scheme 25). Transformation of the focal hydroxyl moiety to the corresponding bromide permitted iterative access to produce the fourth-generation wedge **123** with 16

ruthenium metal centers. Three equivalents of each generation dendron were assembled via the nucleophilic substitution reaction with 1,1,1-tris(4'-hydroxyphenyl)ethane to afford the corresponding larger metallodendrimers (e.g., **124**; Scheme 26), whose characterization included standard spectroscopic methods and elemental analysis as well as thermal properties, such as glass transition temperatures ( $T_g$ ).

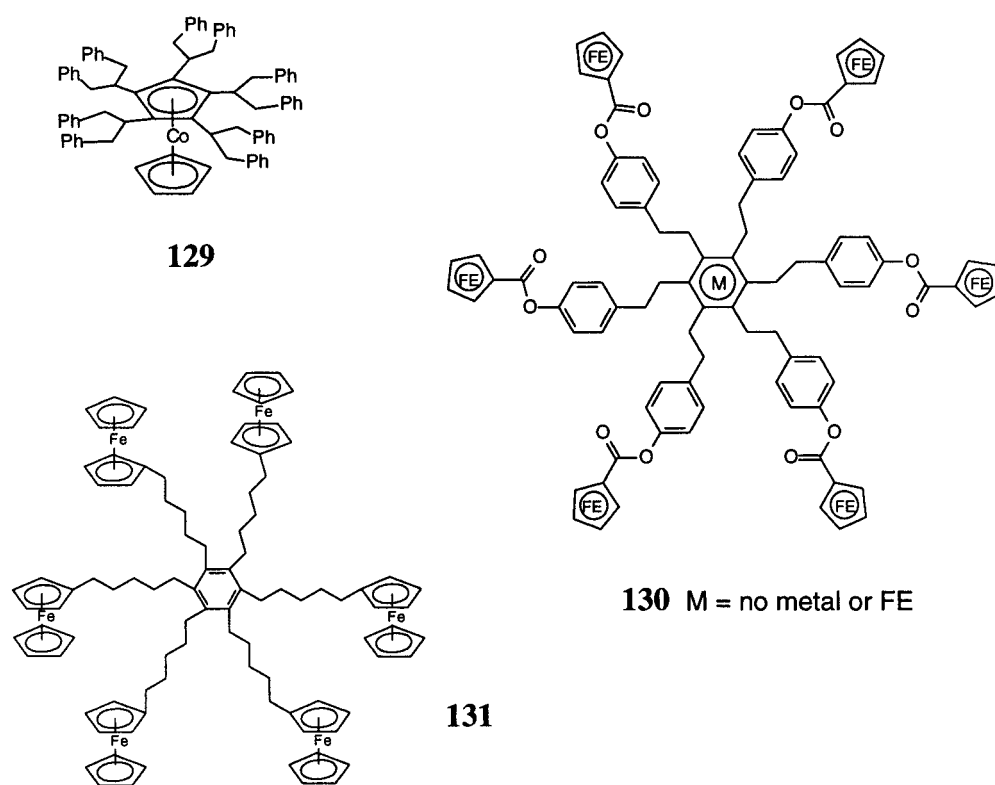
Astruc and co-workers<sup>163,164</sup> developed a strategy for the construction of metallodendrimers possessing

**Scheme 28. Amidoferrocene-Terminated Dendrimer with 18 Metals on the Surface**

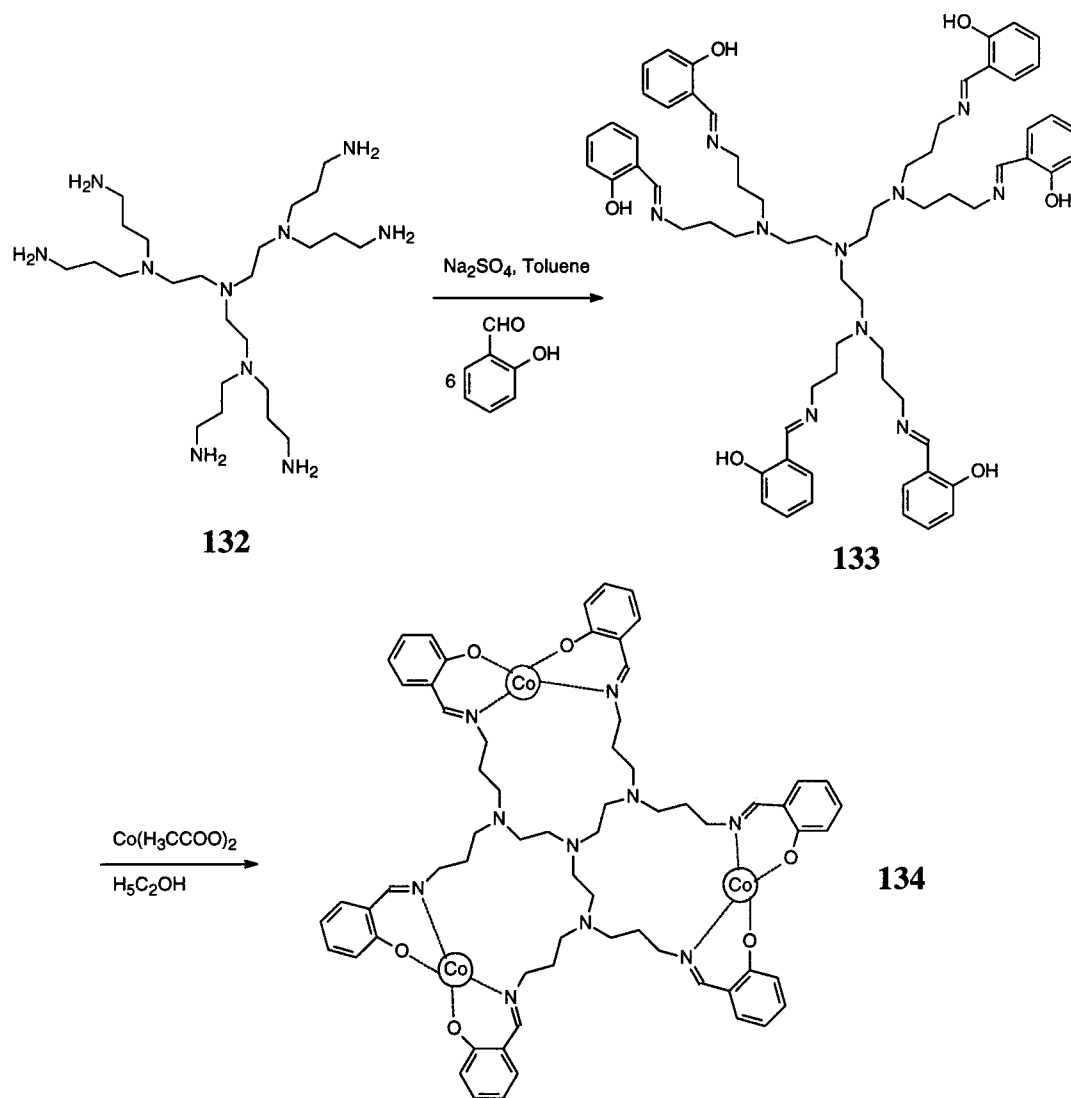
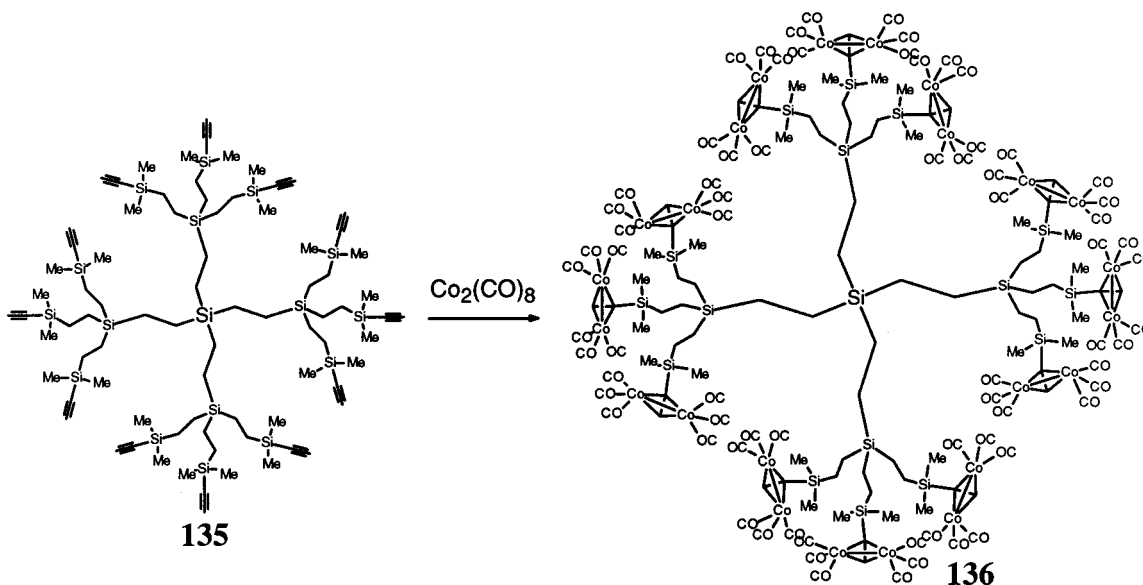
iron sandwich complexes on the periphery (Scheme 27). Nonaene **125** (prepared via exhaustive addition of allyl bromide to an iron-activated mesitylene complex) was hydroborated, oxidized with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , and treated with  $[\text{FeCp}(\eta^6\text{-}p\text{-MeC}_6\text{H}_4\text{F})]\text{PF}_6$  to give the metallodendrimer **126**. More recently, Astruc et al.<sup>165</sup> synthesized amido-ferrocene dendrimers with up to 18 ferrocenes on the surface (Scheme 28). The amino dendrimer **127** was treated with  $\text{FcCOCl}$  ( $\text{Fc}$  = ferrocenyl) and triethylamine to give 18-ferrocenyl-containing metallodendrimer **128**. Similarly, 36- and 72-amine-terminated dendrimers were converted to metallodendrimers that were found to be insoluble

in all solvents used. It was speculated that for these constructs, peripheral steric hindrance reaches a limiting, *dense-packed* point between the 18- and 36-ferrocenyl metallodendrimers.  $\Delta E^\circ$  values were found to increase with each generation, and all the  $\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}$  redox centers behaved independently. These authors also reported several syntheses of other branched macromolecules, such as **129**,<sup>166</sup> **130**,<sup>167</sup> and **131**<sup>168</sup> (Figure 16). Chiral ferrocenyl *P,P* or *P,L* ligands bound to the dendrimer's surface have also been prepared.<sup>169</sup>

Moors and Vögtle<sup>170</sup> prepared hexaamine dendron **132** that was treated with 2-hydroxybenzaldehyde to

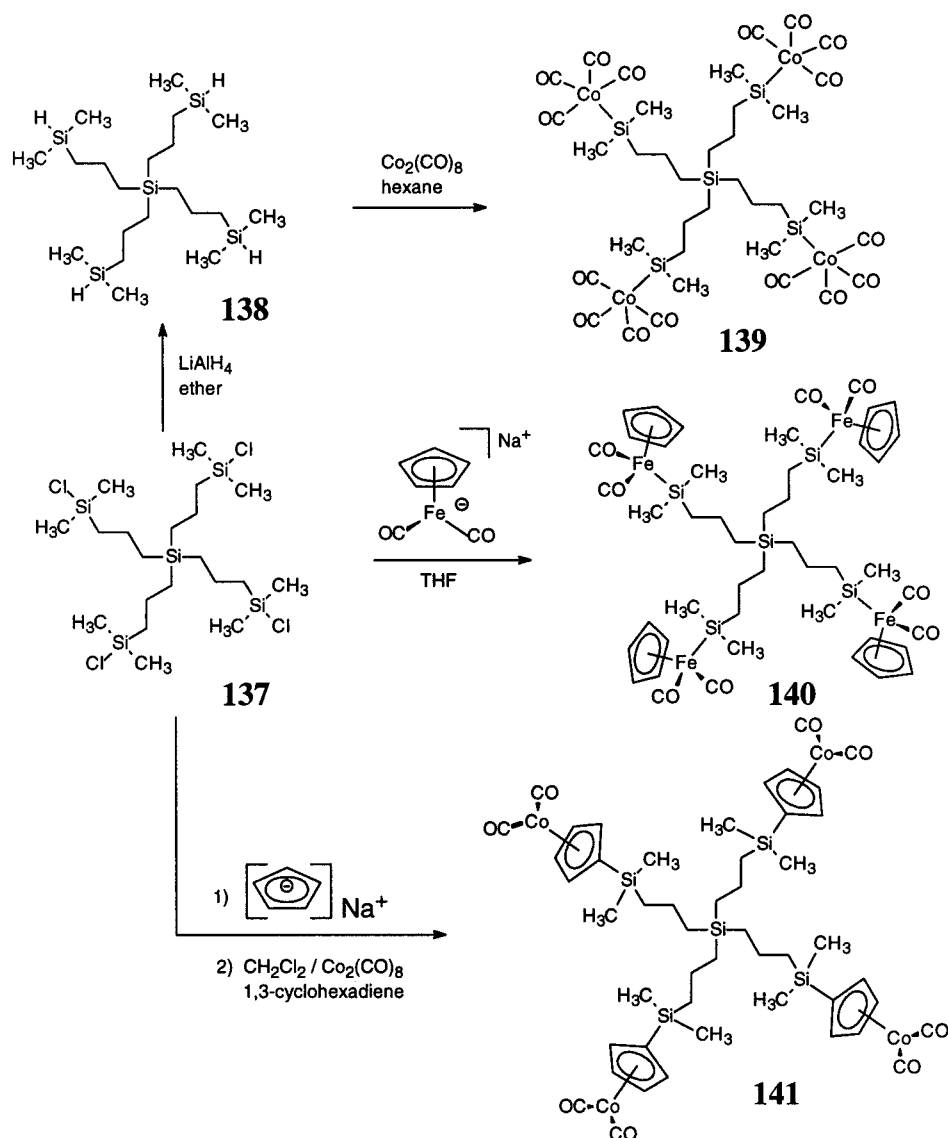


**Figure 16.** Representative branched complexes prepared by Astruc.

**Scheme 29. Moor's and Vögtle's Polycobalt Complex****Scheme 30. Seyferth's Co-Capped Dendrimers Prepared from Alkyne-Terminated Carbosilanes**

give the corresponding hexaimine **133** (Scheme 29). Reaction of hexaimine **133** with  $\text{Co}(\text{II})$  acetate afforded the tricobalt complex **134** in quantitative yield. Seyferth et al.<sup>171</sup> also reported Co-capped metallo-

dendrimers up to second generation (**136**). Formation of the terminal bisCo complexes was effected via treatment of the alkyne moieties on the carbosilane dendrimer **135** with  $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$  (Scheme 30).

**Scheme 31. Silane-Based Branched Molecules Used for "Scaffolding" of Ferrocenyl Units**

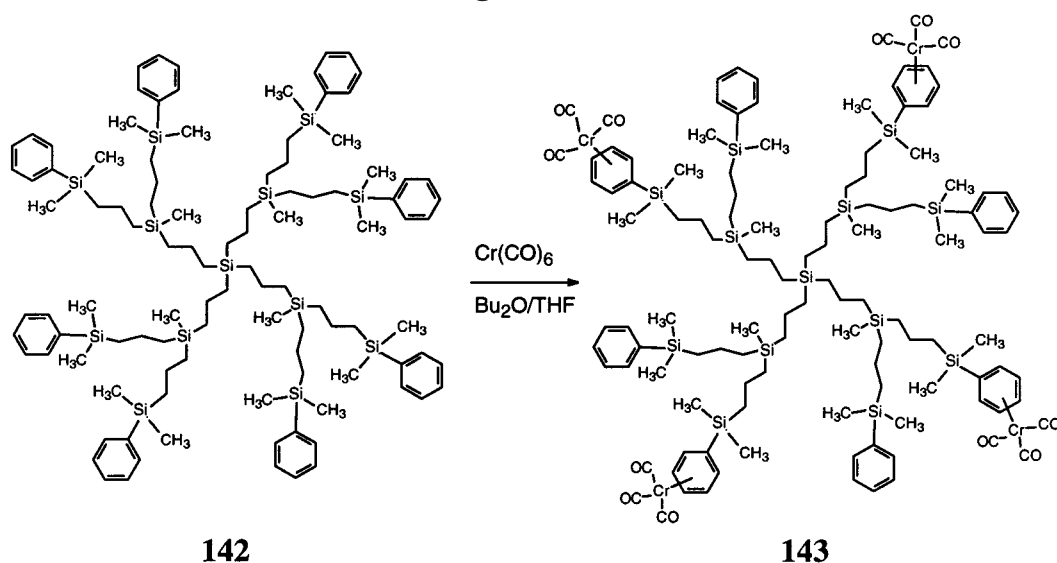
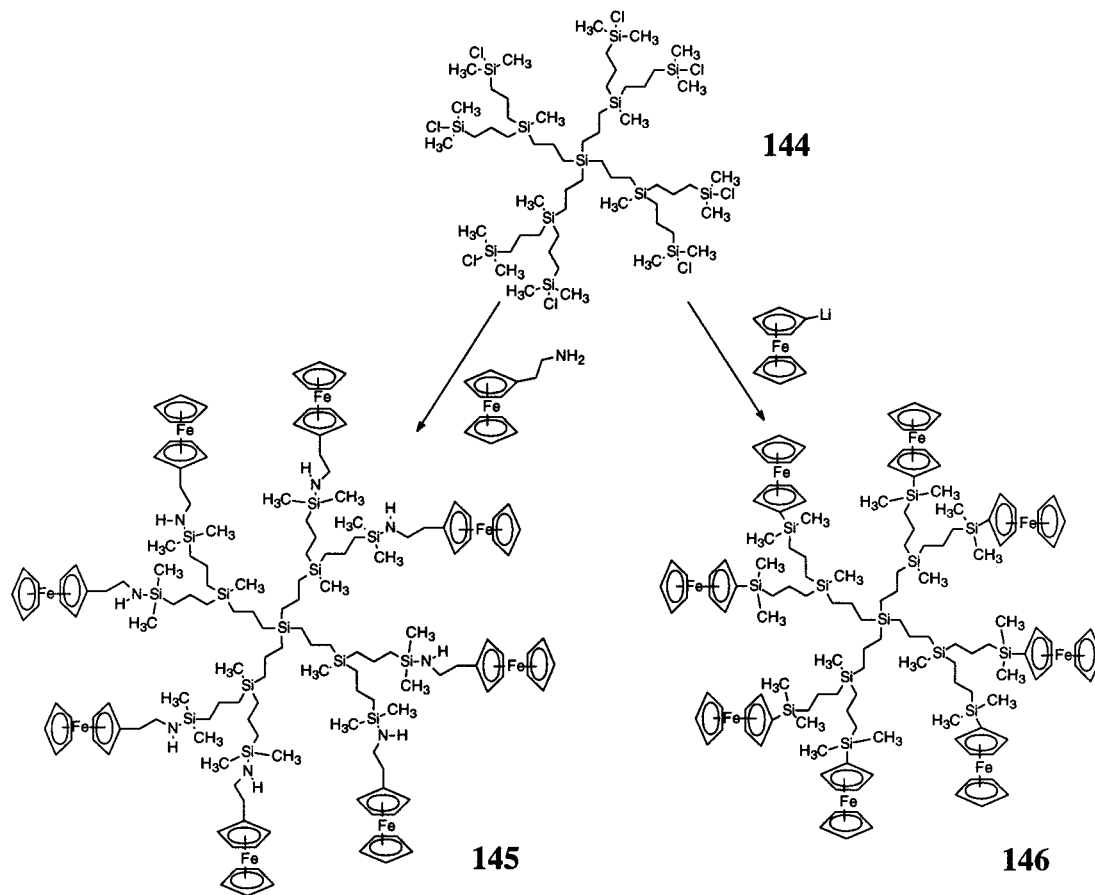
Morán et al. made numerous contributions to the literature via preparation of Co-, Cr-, and ferrocene-containing metallodendrimers, as well as hyperbranched<sup>172</sup> polymers. Cuadrado, Morán, and co-workers<sup>173</sup> functionalized the surface of carbosilane dendrimers with cobalt or iron–cobalt mixed complexes (Scheme 31). Tetrachlorosilane core **137** was treated with  $\text{Na}[\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5\text{Fe}(\text{CO})_2]$  to give the small Fe-containing dendrimer **140**, whereas treatment with sodium cyclopentadienide, followed by  $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$ , gave the cobaltocene-terminated construct **141**. Reduction of the Si–Cl moieties on core **137** afforded carbosilane **138** that was further treated with  $\text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8$  to generate the Co-terminated dendrimer **139**. These unique materials could provide new possibilities in catalysis, multielectron redox, and photochemical processes.

Morán et al.<sup>174,175</sup> modified the termini of phenylsilane dendrimers with chromium carbonyl complexes (Scheme 32). The zero-generation phenylsilane dendrimer (not shown) was treated with excess  $\text{Cr}(\text{CO})_6$  to afford the tetra-Cr( $\text{CO}$ )<sub>3</sub> complex, whereas the first-generation, octaphenyl construct **142** af-

forded only partially metalated metallodendrimers (e.g., **143**). The Si-based infrastructures were prepared via Pt-mediated hydrosilylation of the tetraallylsilane core using  $\text{HSiMe}_3$ , followed by treatment with allylmagnesium bromide, to give the desired polyalkene.

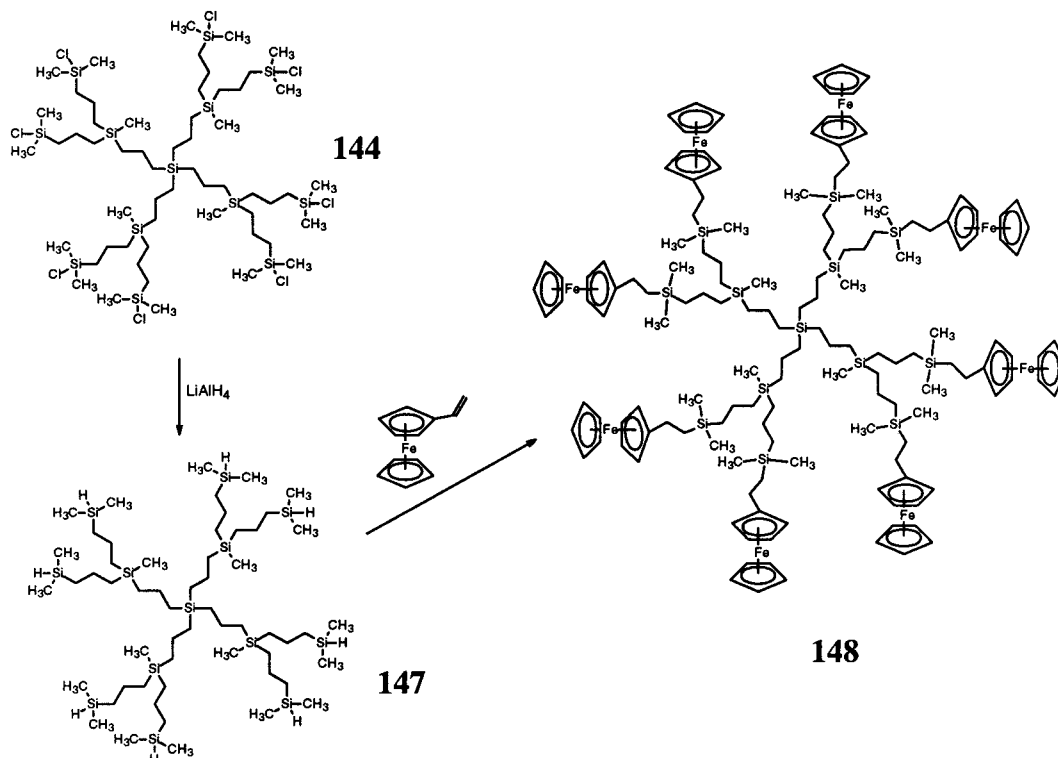
Employing similar Si-based architectures, the Morán and Cuadrado research team<sup>176</sup> has created a series of ferrocenyl-terminated metallodendrimers (Scheme 33). The treatment of octachlorosilane **144** with  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2)$  or  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{Li})$  afforded the corresponding **145** and **146**, respectively. Electrochemical studies of the polyferrocenes revealed an eight-electron oxidation process, while the zero-generation analogue, possessing only four ferrocenyl units, showed a four-electron oxidation process; it was concluded that the ferrocenyl moieties were essentially *noninteracting* redox centers.

Reductive substitution of octachlorosilane **144** afforded hydrosilane **147**, which was subsequently

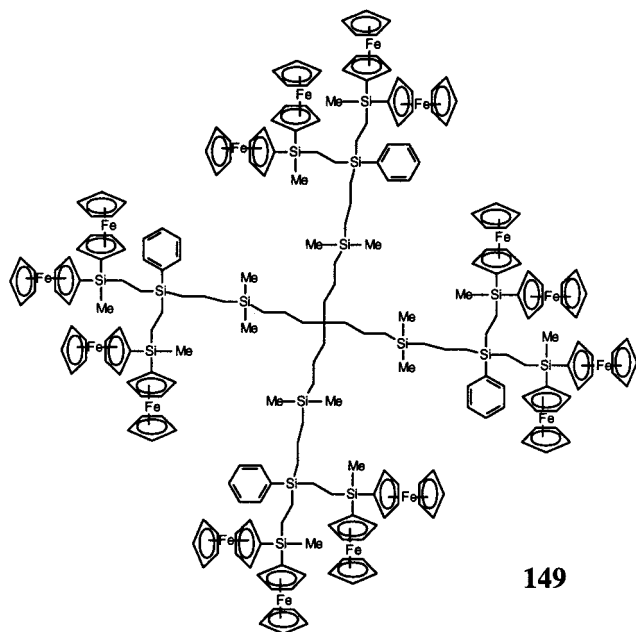
**Scheme 32. Morán and Cuadrado's Cr-Containing Macromolecules****Scheme 33. Ferrocenyl-Terminated Complexes Built onto Functionalized Carbosilanes**

treated with  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2)$  in the presence of the Karstedt catalyst<sup>177</sup> to give metallodendrimer<sup>178,179</sup> **148** (Scheme 34). Losada et al.<sup>180</sup> reported the novel application of these metallodendrimers (e.g., **146** and **148**) as mediators in amperometric biosensors by modification of carbon paste electrodes via dendrimer incorporation. Electrochemical data suggest that ferrocene **148** possesses better

mediating capabilities than ferrocene **146**. It was reasoned that chain length and spacing between ferrocenes play an important role in the ability to facilitate electron transfer from the reduced enzyme. A smaller energy barrier to bond rotation for longer, less rigid ferrocene connectors makes the interaction between the dendritic redox centers and enzyme surfaces more efficient.

**Scheme 34. Cuadrado and Morán's Mediators for Amperometric Biosensors**

Cuadrado et al.<sup>92</sup> observed the electronic interactions between the transition-metal centers for surface-functionalized metallodendrimers (e.g., **149**; Figure 17) that were synthesized via a convergent method.<sup>181,182</sup> The dendritic wedges as well as the corresponding metallodendrimers exhibit two well-separated and reversible oxidation waves of equal intensity in cyclic voltammetry experiments. This behavior is in agreement with that observed for two ferrocenyl



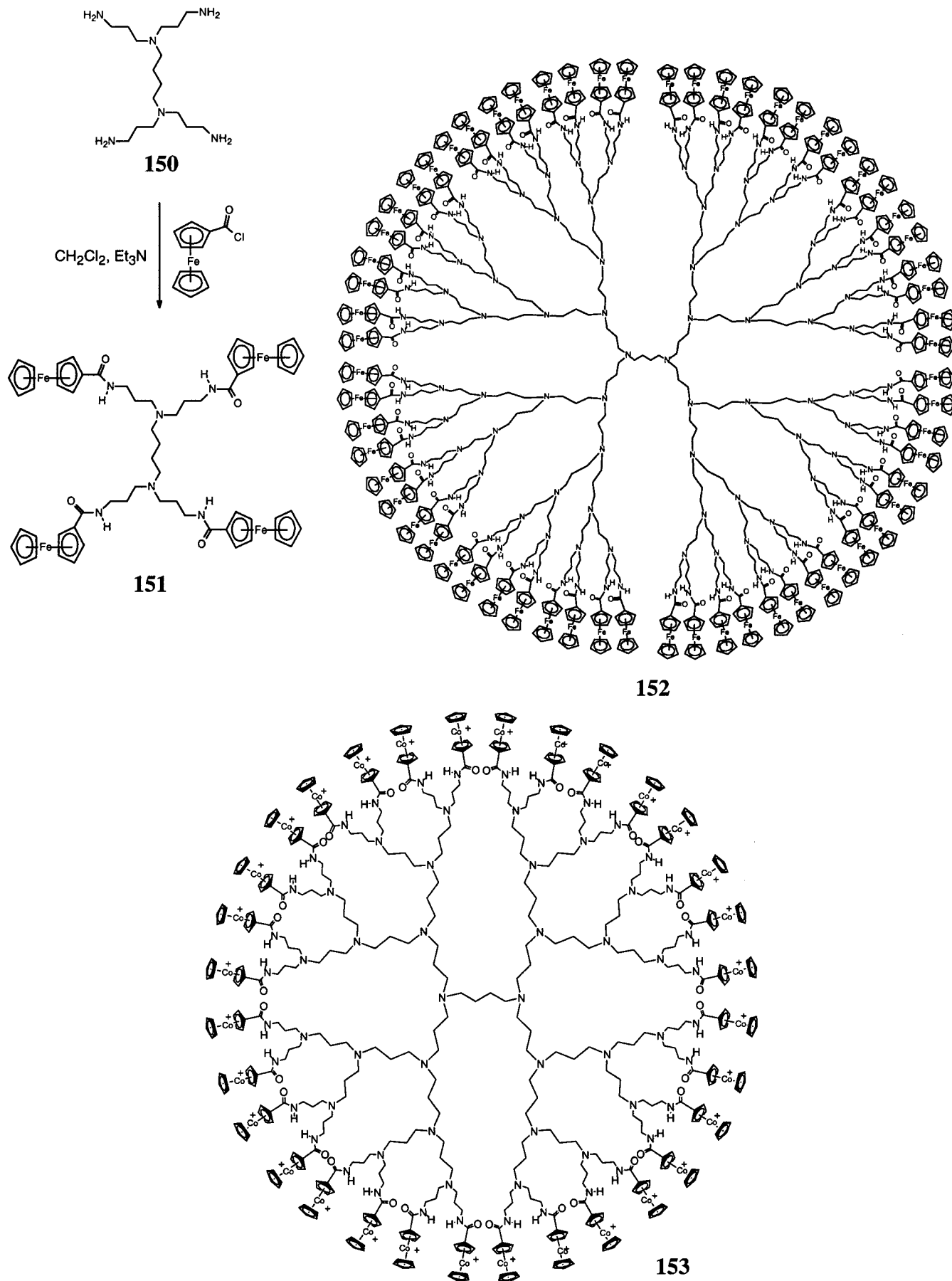
**Figure 17.** Cuadrado's ferrocenyl complexes exhibiting electronic interaction between bridged transition-metal centers.

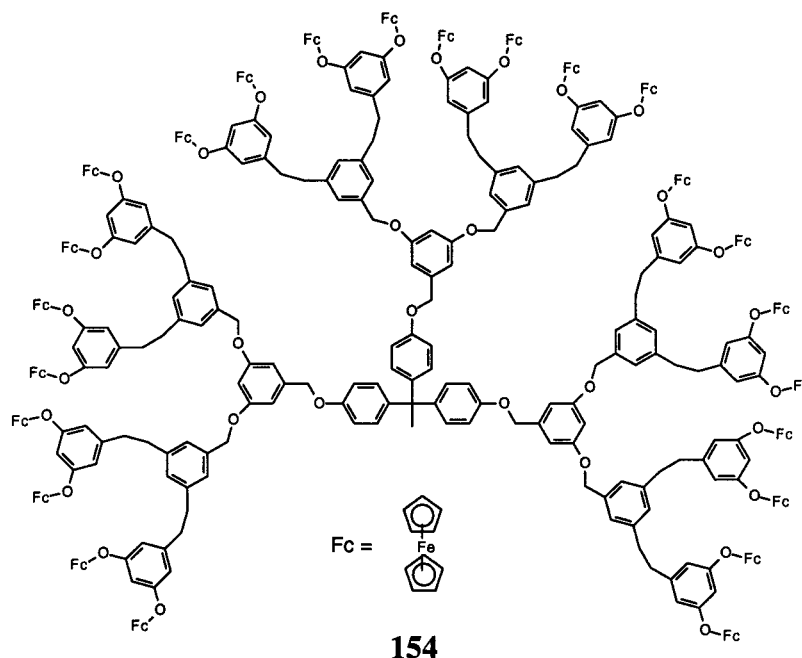
units linked together by a bridging silicon atom.<sup>183</sup> It was postulated that the first oxidation occurs on nonadjacent ferrocene centers, making the adjacent ferrocenyl centers more difficult to oxidize. Thus, there is an 'electronic communication' between the *Si*-bridged ferrocenyl centers. This result is in accord with that observed for some Ru-containing metallodendrimers.<sup>91</sup>

Cuadrado, Morán, and co-workers<sup>184</sup> reported new ferrocenylmetallodendrimers based on commercially available Astramol poly(propyleneimine) dendrimer frameworks (Scheme 35). Construction of the series through the fifth generation relied on treatment of the requisite polyamine (e.g., **150**) with  $(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{COCl})$  to afford the corresponding polyferrocene (e.g., **151** and **152**). Each member of the series exhibits a single, reversible oxidation process, suggesting all of the metal centers in a single molecule are electrochemically equivalent. These redox-active cascades have been investigated to determine their thermodynamics and kinetics of adsorption on a platinum electrode surface by Abruña et al.<sup>185</sup> Rate constants for the kinetics of adsorption were observed to be largely dependent on generation and less dependent on the concentration.

Similar metallodendrimers, up to the third generation, have been used to form large supramolecular polycomplexes via coordination of cyclodextrin moieties on ferrocenium termini by Kaifer et al.<sup>186</sup> A later report by Kaifer, Morán, Cuadrado, and co-workers<sup>187</sup> described the terminal functionalization of the Astramol dendrimers, through generation four, to yield a series of polycobaltocene macromolecules (e.g., **153**; Figure 18).  $\beta$ -Cyclodextrin derivatives were shown to facilitate aqueous solubilization of the reduced  $[\text{Cp}_2\text{-}$

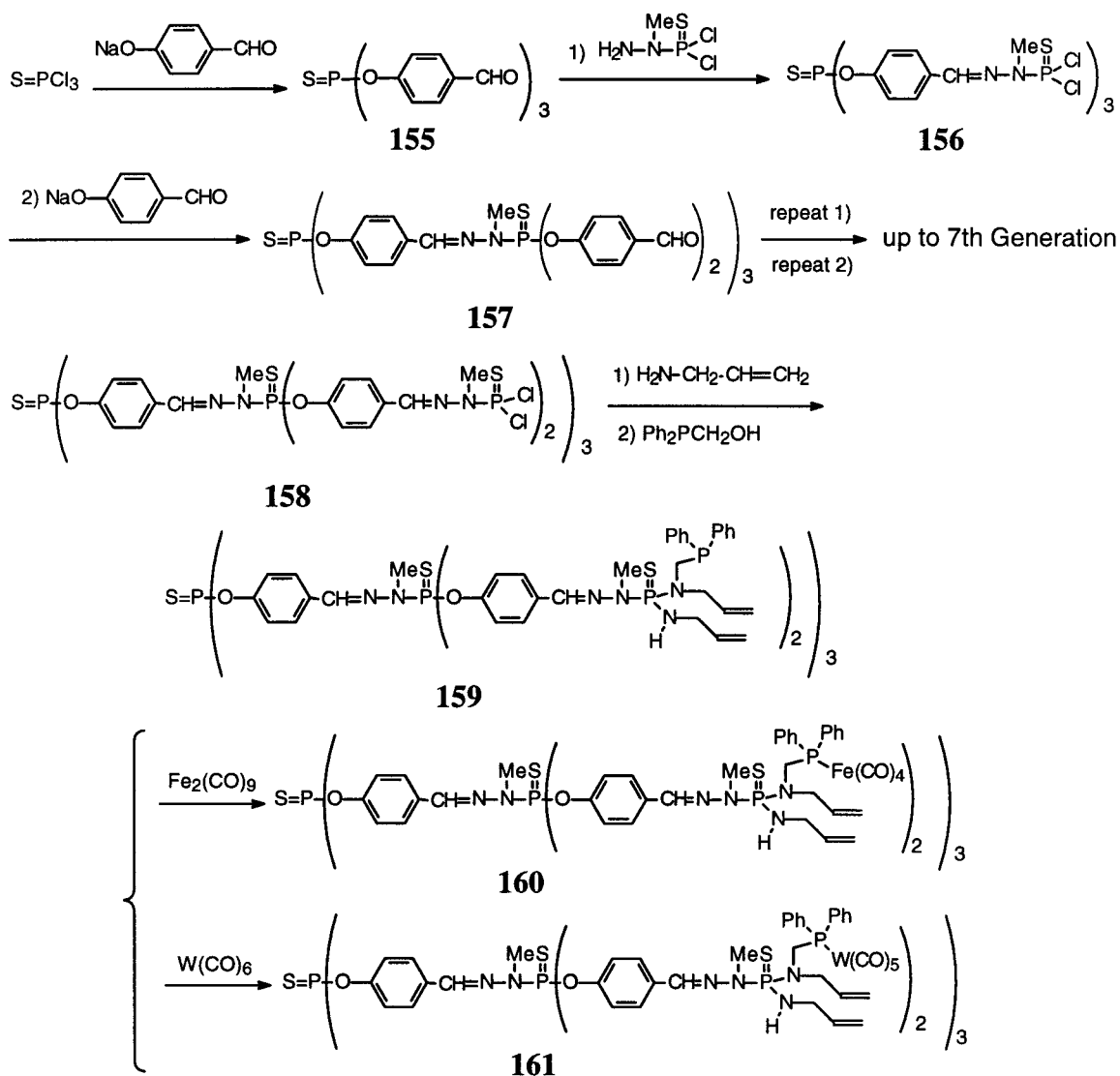


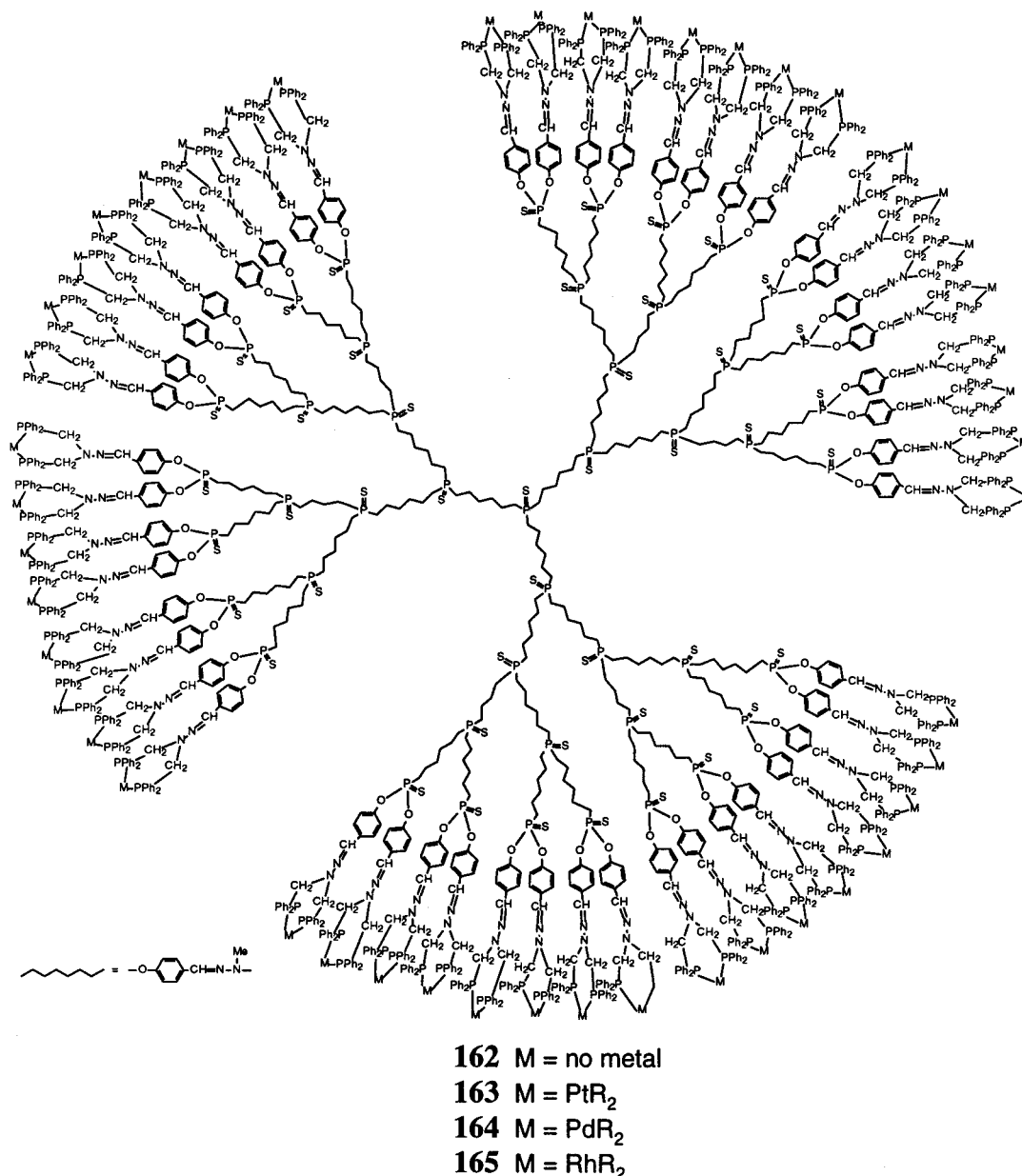
**Scheme 35. Cuadrado and Morán's Metallodendrimer Possessing 64 Amide-Linked Ferrocenyl Metal Centers on the Surface****Figure 18.** Polycobaltocene dendrimer that has been shown to coordinate  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin.



**Figure 19.** Ferrocene-terminated, Frechet-type dendrimer prepared by Shu and Shen.

**Scheme 36. Construction of Phosphorus-Containing Metallodendrimers and Surface Functionalization with W and Fe Metal Complexes**





**Figure 20.** Highly branched macromolecules possessing Pt, Pd, and Rh metal complexes.

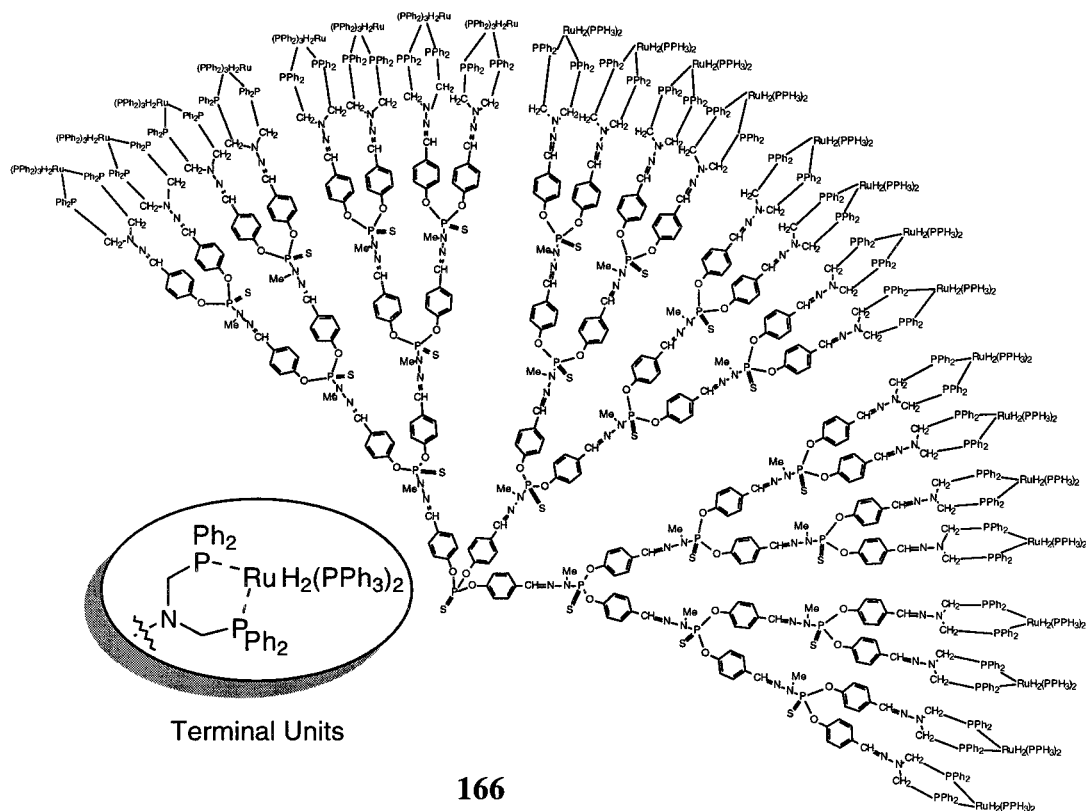
Co(0)] form via termini encapsulation; an overview of the molecular recognition and redox chemistry has recently appeared.<sup>188</sup>

Shu and Shen<sup>189</sup> reported the preparation of ferrocene-coated metallodendrimers up to the third generation (e.g., **154**) based on a convergent approach<sup>27</sup> (Figure 19). The peripheral metal centers were shown to be electrochemically equivalent, which is consistent with other examples of ferrocene-containing metallodendrimers.

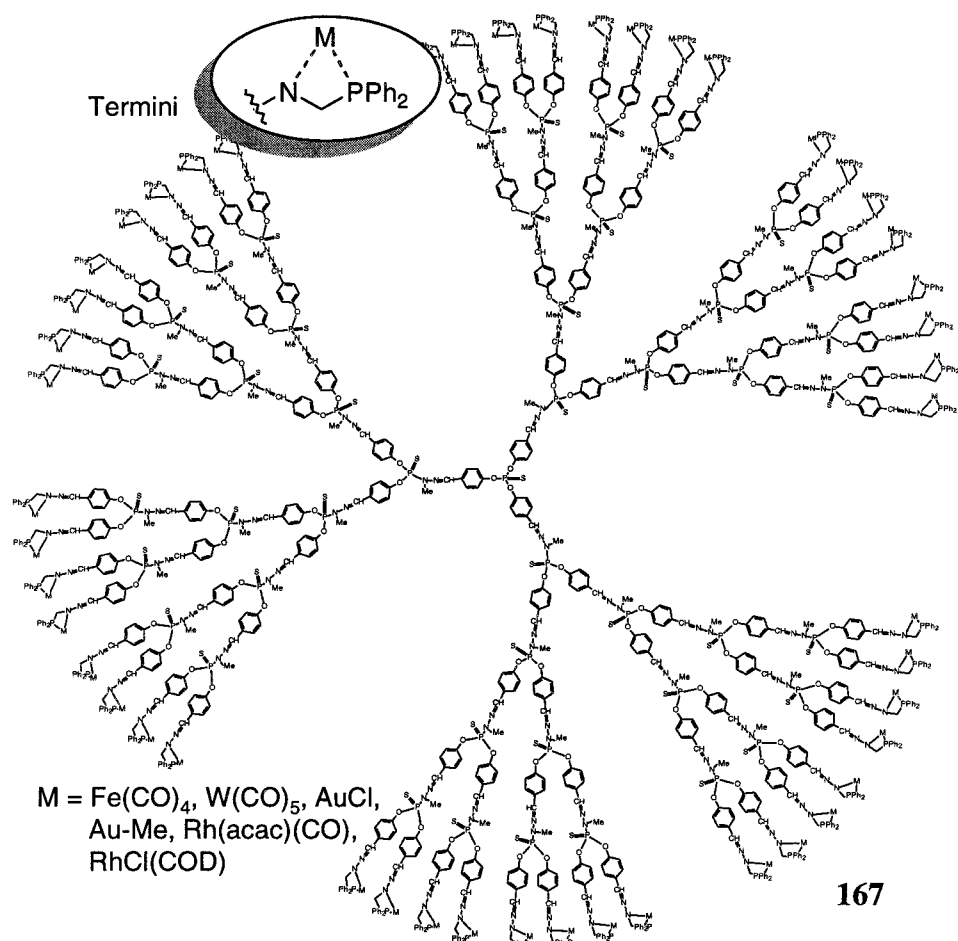
Majoral et al.<sup>45</sup> synthesized a variety of *P*-based macromolecules (e.g., phosphate-, phosphite-, ylido-, and phosphonate-terminated;<sup>190</sup> amino acid-terminated;<sup>191</sup> bowl-shaped dendrimers<sup>192</sup> and others<sup>193</sup>).<sup>194</sup> These authors functionalized their macromolecular cascades with numerous transition metals, such as iron and tungsten<sup>195</sup> (Scheme 36). The divergent approach to their high-generation, *P*-branched dendrimers relies on a two-step procedure for tier construction. Beginning with the trifunctional core

P(S)Cl<sub>3</sub>, trialdehyde **155** was prepared via chloride displacement by reaction with NaOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CHO. Subsequent condensation of the aldehyde moieties with H<sub>2</sub>NN(CH<sub>3</sub>)P(S)Cl<sub>2</sub> generated the polyimine **156**, which could then be treated with additional NaOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CHO monomer to yield the hexaaldehyde **157**. Purification of these dendritic structures is facilitated by only having to remove the trivial byproducts of NaCl and H<sub>2</sub>O. The entire series of -P(S)Cl<sub>2</sub>-terminated dendrimers (e.g., **158**) was treated with H<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub> followed by Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>OH to generate the phosphino-alkene-terminated cascades (e.g., **159**). Polyalkene **159** was then converted to the hexaFe(CO)<sub>3</sub> complex **160** or the hexaW(CO)<sub>3</sub> **161** by treatment with Fe<sub>2</sub>(CO)<sub>9</sub> or W(CO)<sub>5</sub>, respectively.

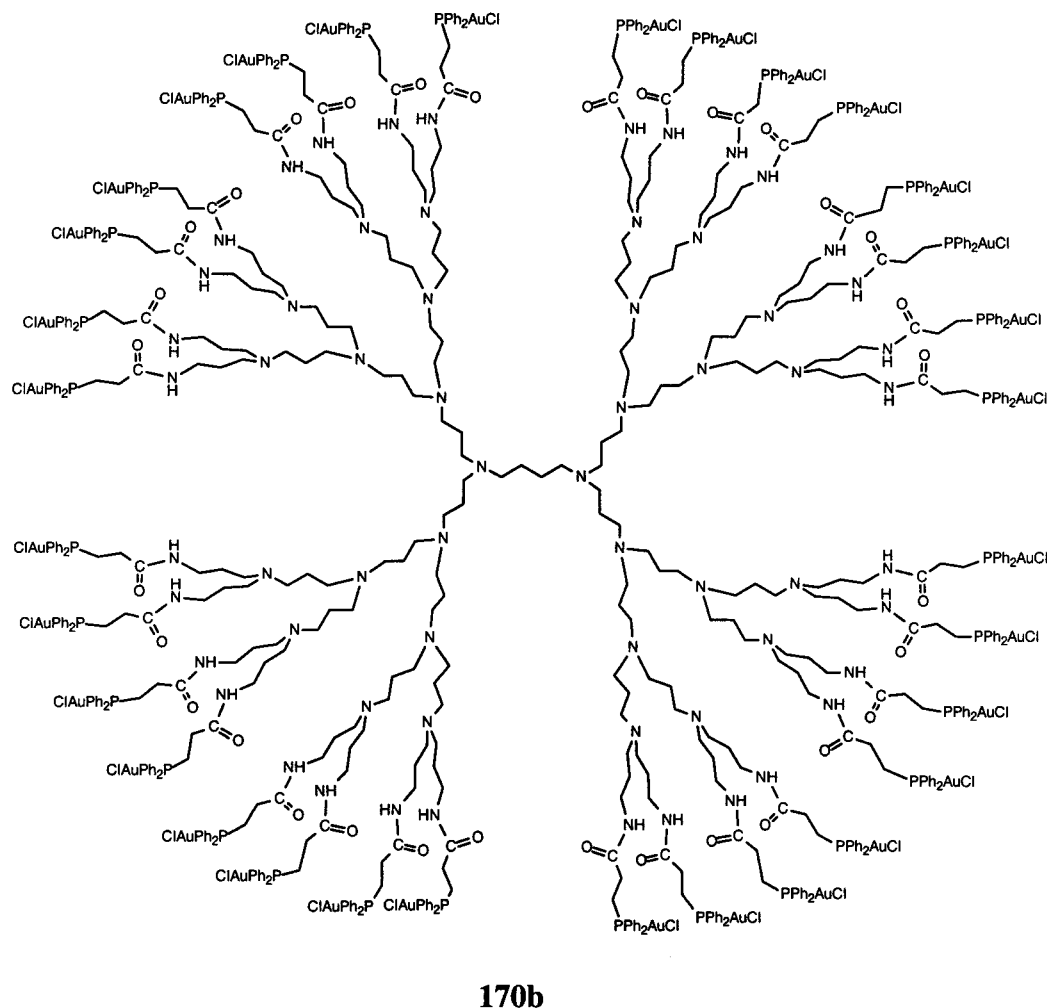
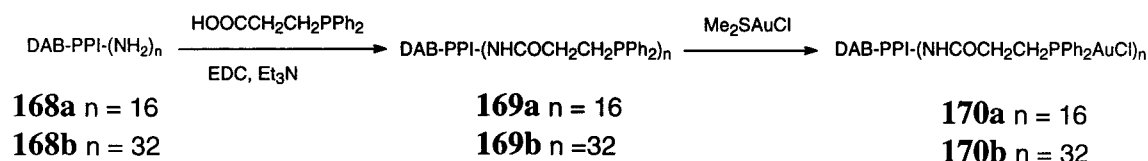
Caminade, Majoral, Chaudret, and co-workers<sup>196</sup> also functionalized the surface of their *P*-branched dendrimers with platinum, palladium, and rhodium transition metals (Figure 20). Polycomplexes **163**, **164**, and **165** were prepared by treatment of the



**Figure 21.** Surface modification with Ru complexes.



**Figure 22.** Surface functionalization with Fe, W, Au, and Rh complexes.

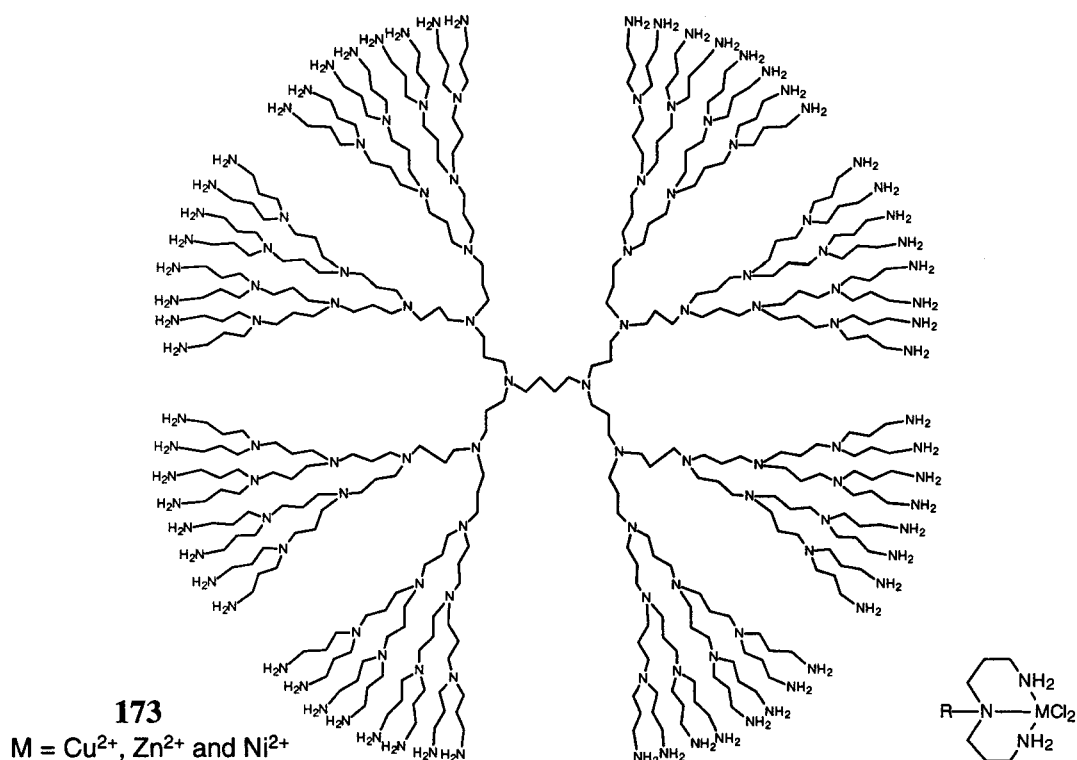
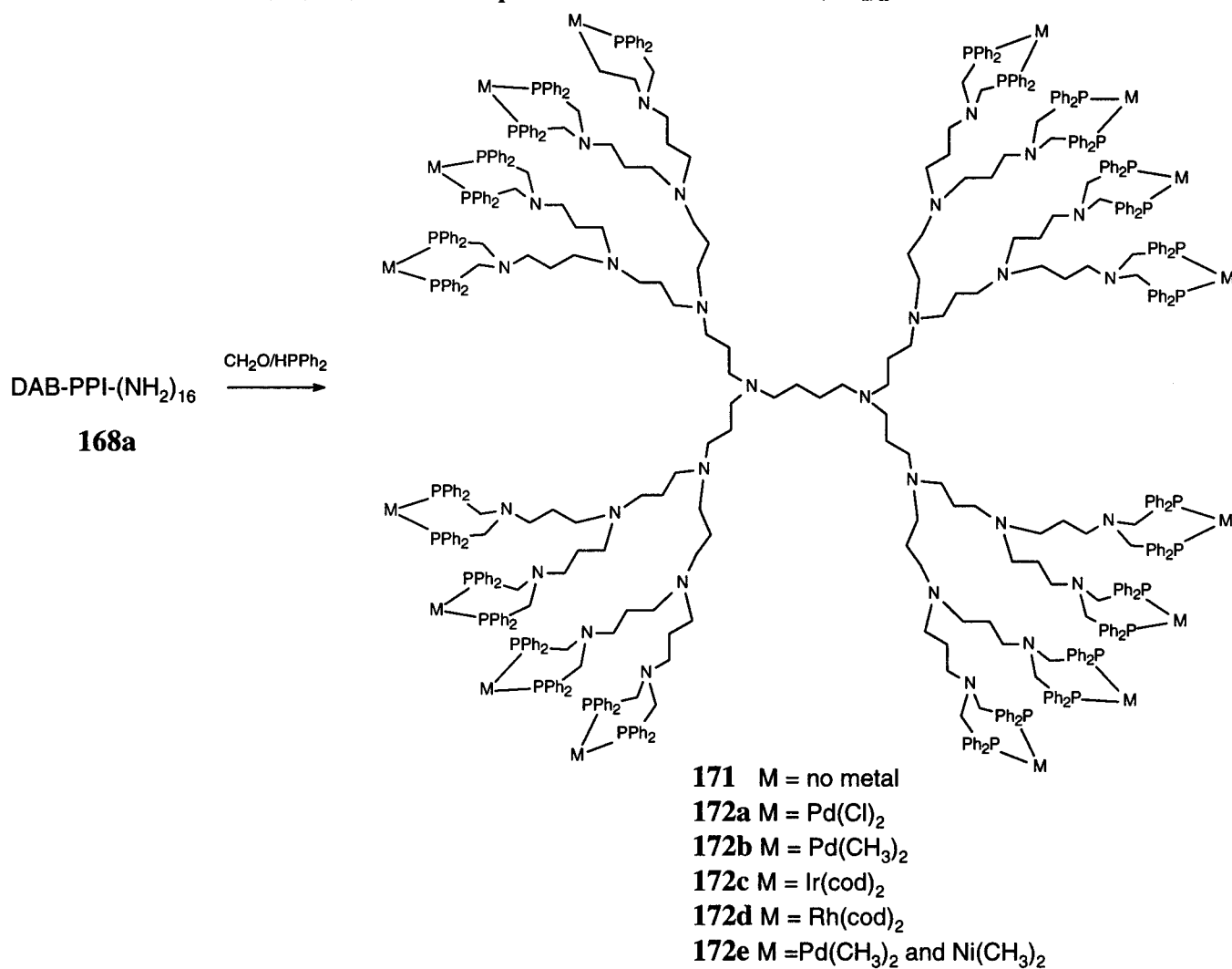
**Scheme 37. Schmidbaur's Gold-Surfaced Metallodendrimers**

diphenylphosphino-capped dendrimer **162** with requisite  $\text{PtX}_2(\text{COD})$ ,  $\text{PdX}_2(\text{COD})$ , and  $\text{Rh}(\text{acac})(\text{COD})$  reagents, respectively. Majoral, Chaudret et al.<sup>197</sup> also modified the surface of the same *P*-dendrimers with ruthenium moieties (Figure 21). The metallodendrimer **166** was prepared by treatment of the third-generation *P*-dendrimer with  $\text{RuH}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ . Notably, the new complexes exist as a mixture of different stereoisomers with the coordination ligands arranged differently in the space. The authors<sup>198</sup> widely applied the surface functionalization to a variety of metals (Figure 22). Metallodendrimers (e.g., **167**) possessing iron, tungsten, gold, and rhodium were realized for the fifth, fourth, tenth, and sixth generations, respectively.

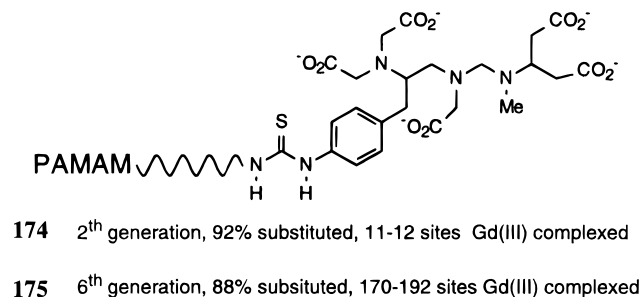
Schmidbaur and co-workers<sup>199,200</sup> reported Au-containing metallodendrimers based on amino-terminated cascades (Scheme 37). The third- and fourth-generation diaminobutane–poly(trimethylamine)s

(DAB–PPI–(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>*n*</sub>,  $n = 16$  or 32) **168a,b** were treated with  $\beta$ -(diphenylphosphino)propionic acid ( $\text{HOOCCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2$ ) to give the diphenylphosphino-terminated dendrimers **169a,b**, whose subsequent treatment with  $(\text{Me}_2\text{S})\text{AuCl}$  afforded the corresponding Au-substituted dendrimers **170a,b**.

Several other research groups also utilized the same diaminobutane–poly(trimethylamine) (DAB–PPI–(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>*n*</sub>) to functionalize the surface. Reetz et al.<sup>201</sup> started with the third-generation dendrimer **168a**, which was treated with  $\text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{OH}$  to afford phosphino-terminated dendrimer **171** (Scheme 38), which was then converted to the related metallodendrimers **172a–e** by treatment with  $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PhCN})_2]$ ,  $[\text{Pd}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{tmeda})]$ ,  $[\text{Ir}(\text{cod})_2\text{BF}_4]$ ,  $[\text{Rh}(\text{cod})_2\text{BF}_4]$ , and a 50:50 mixture of  $[\text{Pd}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{tmeda})]$  and  $[\text{Ni}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{tmeda})]$ , respectively. The catalytic activity of **172a** was tested in the Heck reaction of bromobenzene and styrene for the formation of stilbene. The conversion

**Scheme 38. Reetz's Pd, Ir, Rh, and Ni Complexes Based on DAB-PPI-(NH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>****Figure 23.** Cu, Zn, and Ni complexes on amino-terminated dendrimer surface.





**Figure 24.** Gd-coordinating PAMAM dendrimers used as MRI contrast agents.

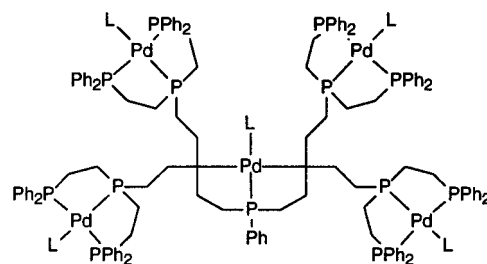
rate to stilbene was 89%, and 1,1-diphenylethylene (11%) was the byproduct. This macromolecular catalyst showed a significantly higher activity than the parent material  $[\text{RN}(\text{CH}_2\text{PPh}_2)_2\text{Pd}(\text{CH}_3)_2]$  possessing typical turnover numbers (TON) of 50 versus 16 for the mononuclear complex. When the *recycled* dendrimer catalyst **172a** was reused at a later time for the same reaction, it displayed comparable catalytic activity.

Meijer and co-workers<sup>202</sup> treated the same diaminebutane-poly(trimethyleneamine) dendrimers **173** (up to the fifth generation) with  $\text{NiCl}_2$ ,  $\text{CuCl}_2$ , and  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  (Figure 23). These complexes were studied by various spectroscopic methods, thereby aiding in structure conformation. For example,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR studies with the  $\text{Zn}(\text{II})$  complexes indicate that metal binding occurs exclusively at the surface via the terminal primary amines and the outermost tertiary amines. This, combined with the symmetry of the spectra during titration experiments, provides strong support for the purity of these materials. Also, extinction coefficients of the fully  $\text{Cu}(\text{II})$ -complexed dendrimers increased linearly progressing from low to high generations.

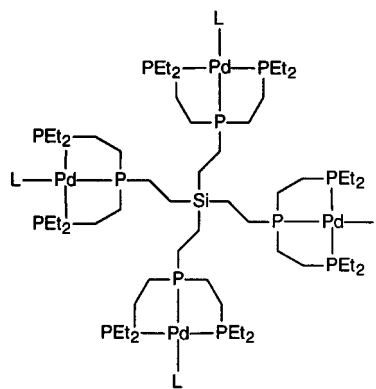
Wiener et al.<sup>203</sup> prepared PAMAM-based<sup>9</sup> Gd-coordinating metallodendrimers that were used as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) contrast agents (Figure 24). Second- and sixth-generation PAMAM dendrimers were treated with diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid followed by  $\text{Gd}(\text{III})$  complexation to give partially complexed **174** and **175**, respectively. Their applications to medical imaging have recently been reviewed.<sup>19</sup>

DuBois et al.<sup>204</sup> reported Pd-containing metallo-macromolecules (e.g., **176** and **177**; Figure 25) that catalyze the electrochemical reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  to  $\text{CO}$ . Beer et al.<sup>205</sup> constructed dodecaferrocene **178** for the study of multiple redox centers (Figure 26). Deschenaux et al.<sup>206</sup> prepared a "ferrocene-containing liquid-crystalline" dendrimer **179** (Figure 27) that was shown to exhibit a 'broad enantiotropic smectic A phase' along with suitable thermal properties. The mesogenic group was comprised of a cholesterol-substituted ferrocene that was anchored to a small aryl-based dendrimer.

A series of branched metal complexes of alkyne-bridged  $\alpha$ -amino acids has been reported by Beck et al.<sup>207</sup> The series included mono- to hexaPt complexes using di-, tri-, tetra-, and hexaethynyl phenylalanines as ligating moieties. The small, rigid, phenylacety-

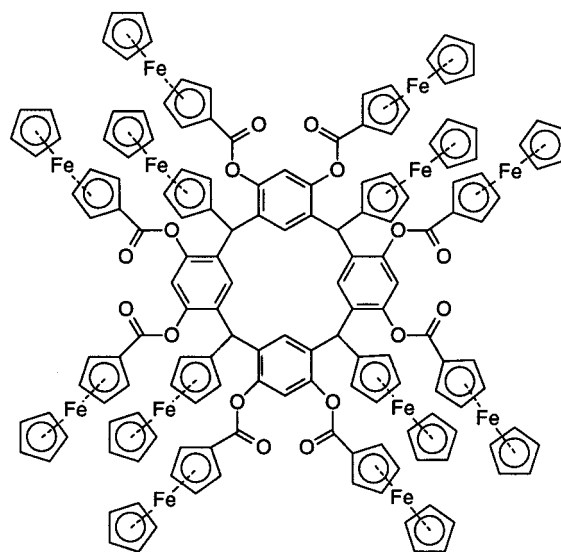


**176**  
L = MeCN or  $\text{PEt}_3$



**177**  
L = MeCN or  $\text{PEt}_3$

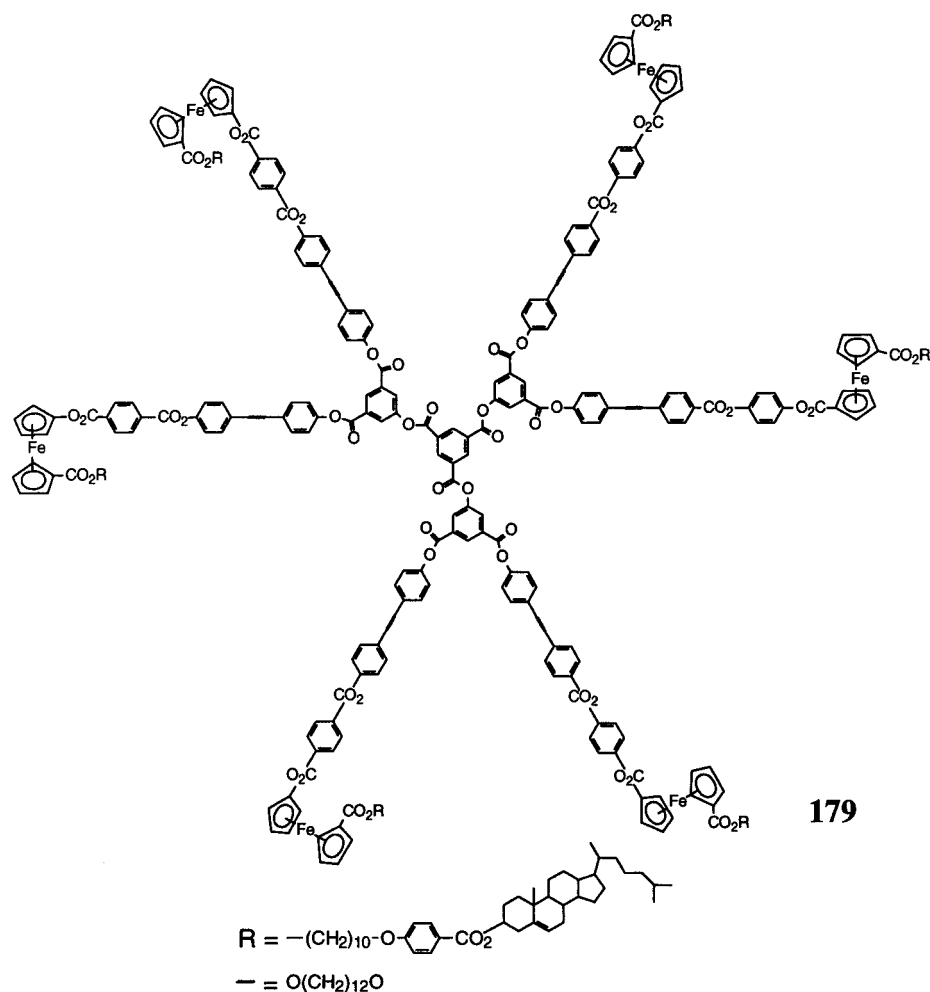
**Figure 25.** DuBois's Pd complexes used as catalysts for electrochemical reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  to  $\text{CO}$ .



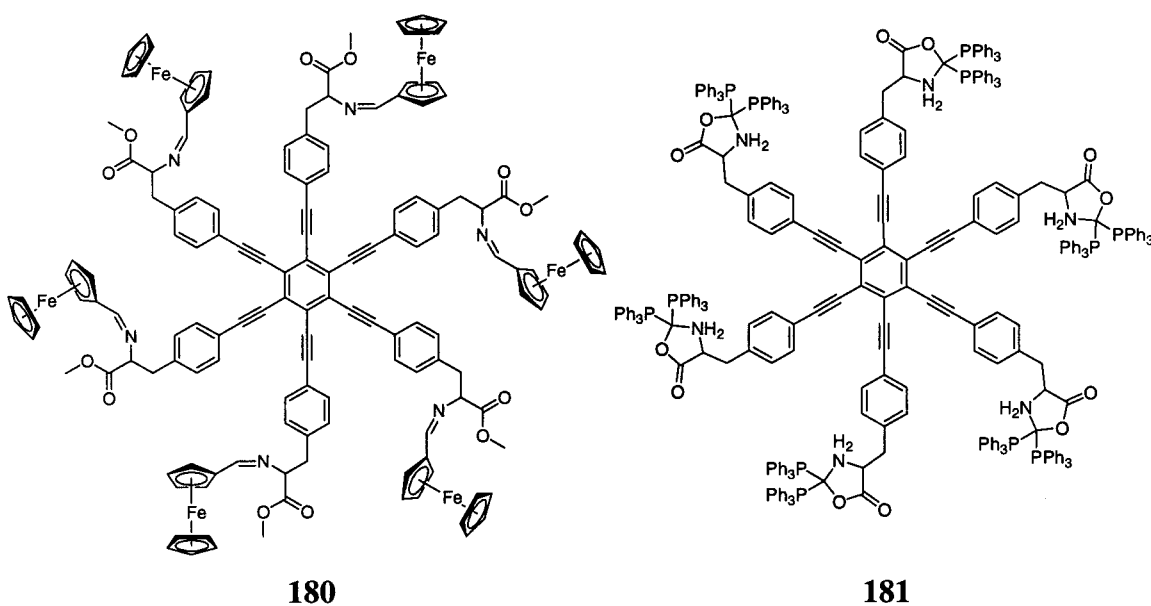
**178**

**Figure 26.** Beer's rigid dodecaferrocene.

lene-supporting structures were constructed via Heck-type acetylene-aryl iodide coupling reactions. Similar ferrocenyl Schiff base complexes were also prepared along with their unbranched analogues. Representative examples (i.e., **180** and **181**) are shown in Figure 28.



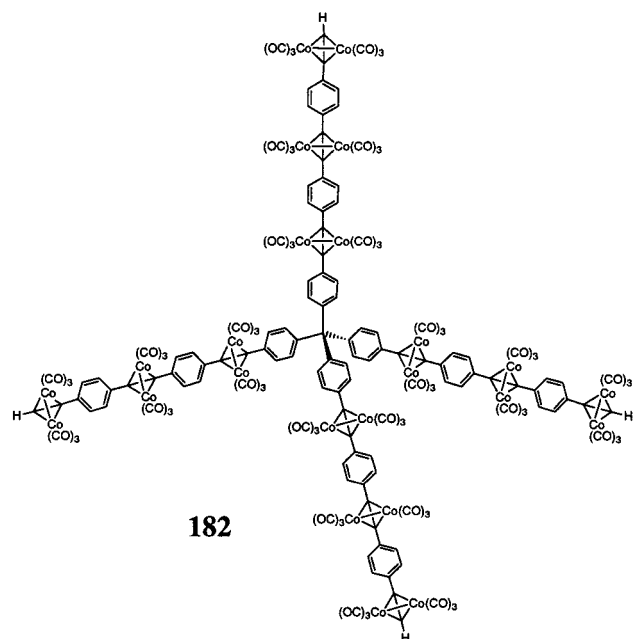
**Figure 27.** Deschenaux's ferrocene-containing, liquid-crystalline macromolecules.



**Figure 28.** Metalated, phenylacetylene-bridged amino acids.

Constable, Housecroft, and co-workers<sup>208</sup> reported the synthesis of a tetrahedral polyphenylacetylene using tetraphenylmethane as the core (Figure 29).

Treatment of the acetylene moieties with dicobalt octacarbonyl ( $\text{Co}_2\text{CO}_8$ ) afforded the corresponding dicobalt hexacarbonyl polycomplex **182**, which was pur-



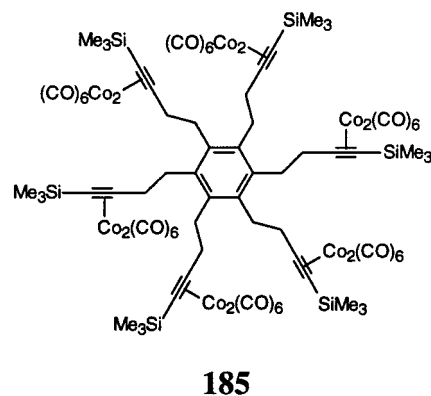
**Figure 29.** Tetrahedral array of phenylacetylenecobalt complexes.

sued as a potential precursor to the formation of metal oxide nanospheres possessing exact dimensions.

## VI. Metals as Structural Auxiliaries

### A. Site-Specific Inclusion

The first organometallic dendrimer possessing a site-specific attachment of a metal center within the structure was reported by Newkome et al.<sup>209</sup> During the construction of an all-carbon unimolecular micelle,<sup>37</sup> the intermediate dodecaalkyne **183** was treated with dicobalt octacarbonyl to afford the corresponding cobalt-containing cascade **184** that was termed a 'cobaltomicellane' (Scheme 39). In an analogous synthesis, Astruc et al.<sup>210</sup> prepared a first-generation cobalt complex (**185**) from its hexaalkyne precursor (Figure 30). The potential to perform reactions on a



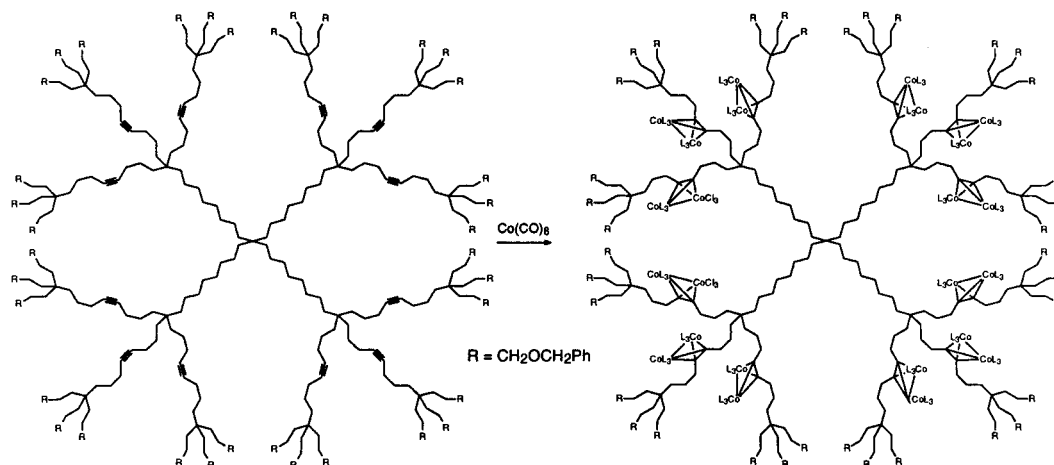
**Figure 30.** Astruc's Co-containing hexasubstituted benzene.

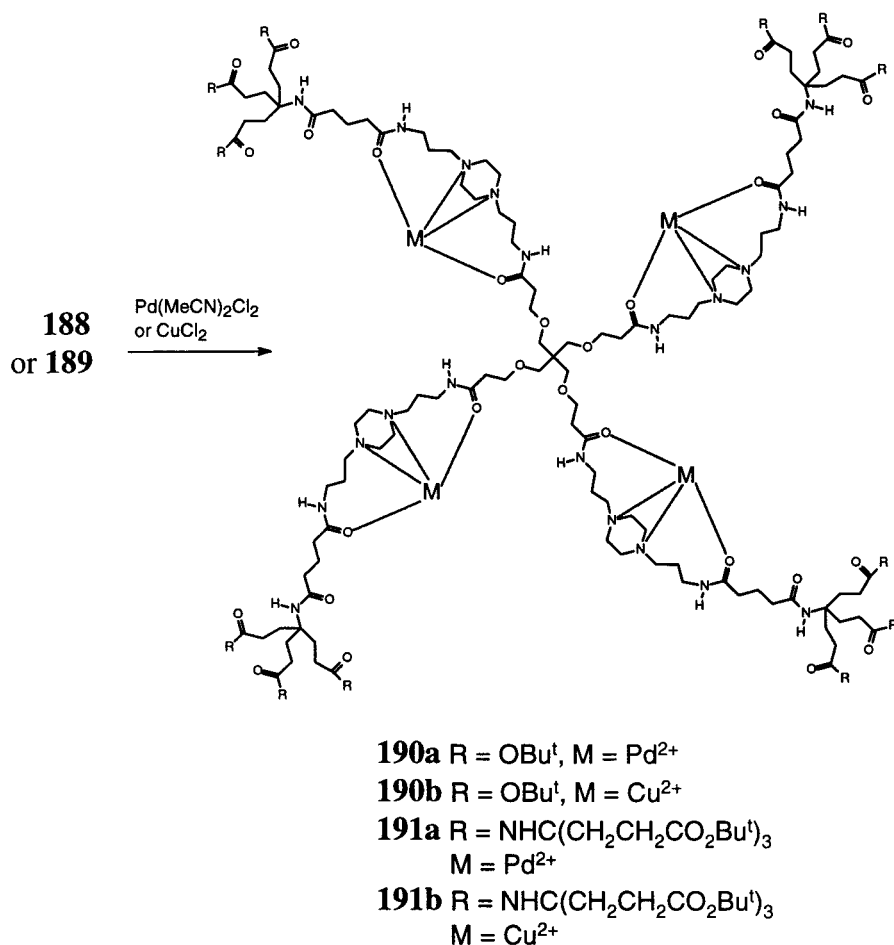
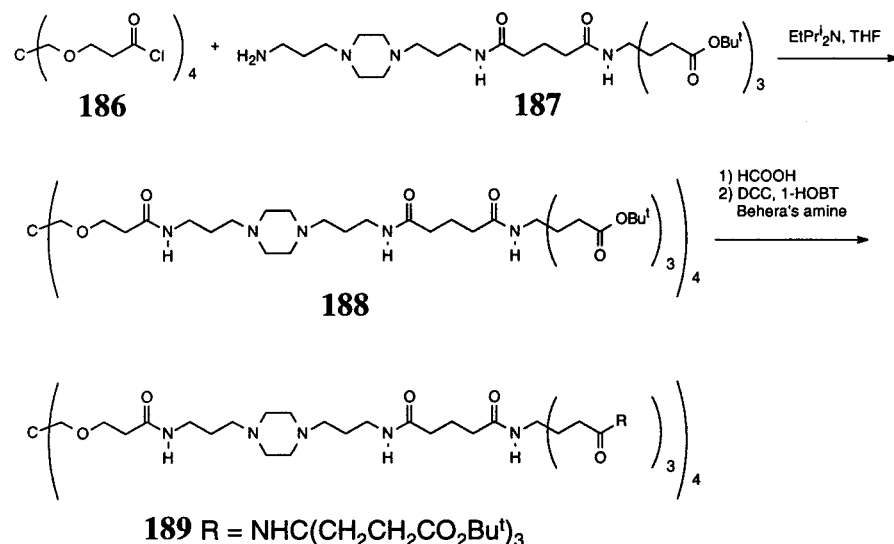
branched framework<sup>211</sup> was thus realized along with precedent to construct ligating sites directly or inherently within a highly branched framework.<sup>212,213</sup>

Newkome et al.<sup>214</sup> reported a series of macromolecules possessing multiple piperazine moieties inside the dendritic framework (Scheme 40). Treatment of tetraacid chloride **186** with 4 equiv of the extended monomer **187** gave the first-generation dendrimer **188**, which was then converted to the second-generation **189** by treatment of formic acid, followed by a DCC coupling reaction with Behera's amine.<sup>88</sup> Both **188** and **189** were treated with  $\text{Pd}(\text{MeCN})_2\text{Cl}_2$  and  $\text{CuCl}_2$  to afford the first- and second-generation metallodendrimers **190** and **191**, respectively. Complexation with Cu was followed via  $^1\text{H}$  NMR titration.<sup>212,213,215,216</sup>

Ming and Newkome et al.<sup>88,217</sup> utilized Co(II) as a paramagnetic  $^1\text{H}$  NMR probe to investigate the internal cavities of dendrimers possessing specifically located binding sites (Figure 31). Addition of less than 0.25 equiv of Co(II) to the diaminopyridinyl-containing macromolecules **192a,b**<sup>218</sup> formed a 1:1 Co(II):dendrimer complex. Using EXSY, TOSY, and COSY techniques, it was observed that protons close to the paramagnetic complex exhibited hyperfine-shifted signals and possessed shortened relaxation times ( $T_1$

### Scheme 39. Metallodendrimers Prepared via Site-Specific Attachment of Cobalt Metal Centers



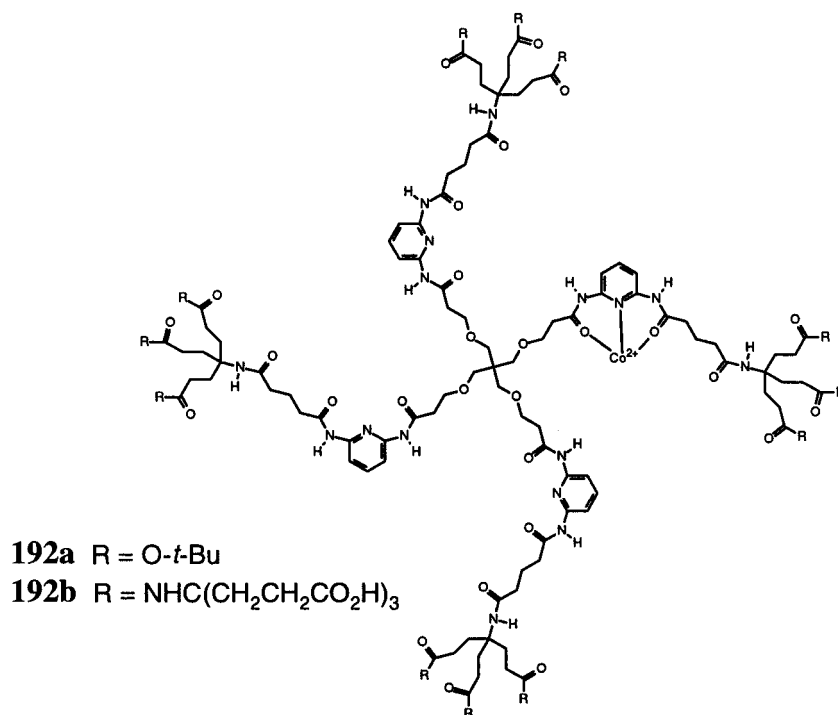
**Scheme 40. Site-Specific Inclusion of Pd- and Co-Piperazine Complexes**

and  $T_2$ ). Analysis of the data thus provided information pertaining to the geometry of the inner dendritic region.

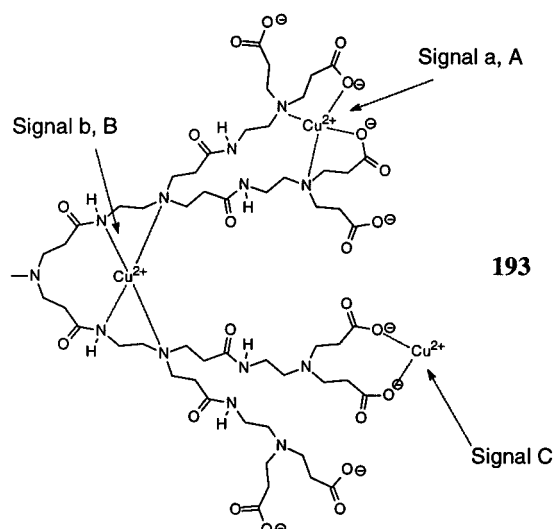
Dendrimers with four internal bipyridine subunits at precise locations within the dendritic superstructure have recently been reported;<sup>219</sup> their subsequent transformation to [Ru(bpy')(bpy)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> complexes was straightforward.

**B. Random Metal Inclusion**

Ottaviani et al.<sup>220</sup> characterized the metallomacromolecules with copper(II) complexes randomly located in 'half generations' (carboxylate-terminated) of PAMAM dendrimers (e.g., **193**) in aqueous solution using the electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) technique (Figure 32). EPR spectra exhibited three



**Figure 31.** Co(II) has been employed as a paramagnetic, metal-ion structural probe.



**Figure 32.** Half-generation PAMAM dendrimers possessing Cu complexes dispersed throughout the branched framework.

types of signals indicating three distinct types of metal complexes. Coordination sites were determined to be comprised of carboxylate–amine, amido–amine, and bis-carboxylate ligand groups. More recently, Ottaviani et al.<sup>221</sup> characterized the ‘full generation’ (amino-terminated) series of PAMAM dendrimers with the copper(II) complexes (e.g., **194**) by EPR spectroscopy (Figure 33). One to four different types of signals were observed depending on the generations and the pH value of the solution. At pH = 4–5, the EPR spectra showed all four signals (A–D) at low generation while signal D disappeared at higher generations; at pH  $\geq 6$ , only signal B appeared in the Cu(II) solution.

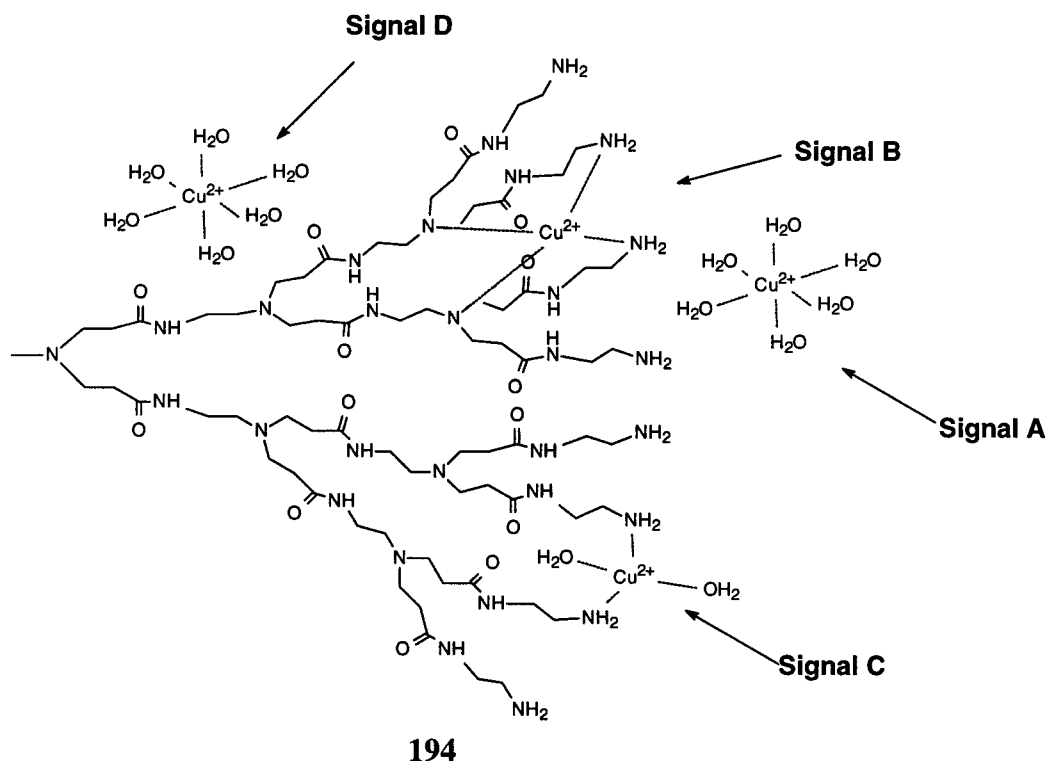
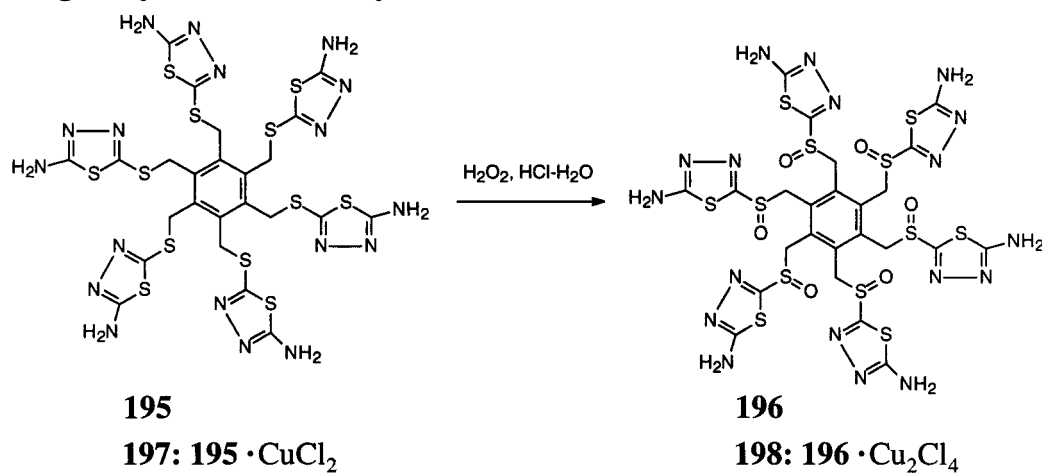
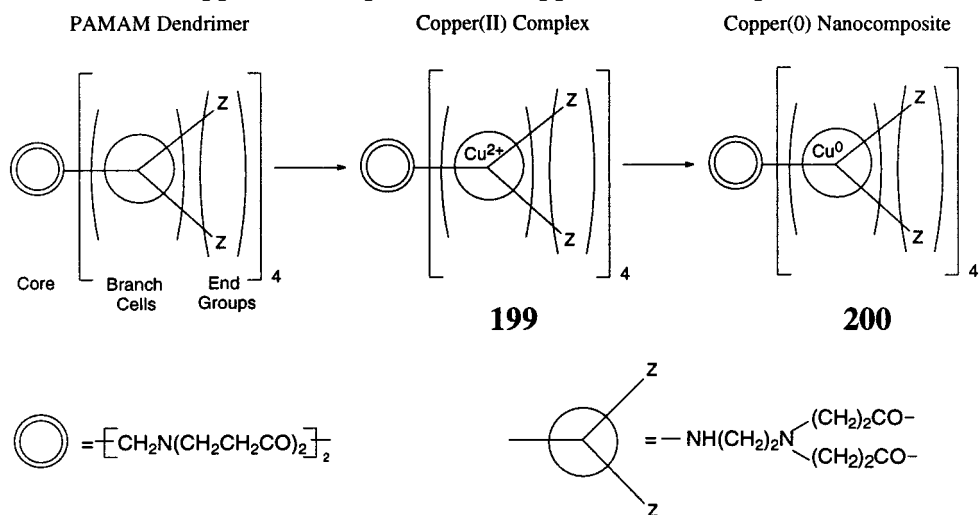
Yang et al.<sup>222</sup> reported several metallomacromolecules with Cu(II) complexes randomly encapsulated in the framework (Scheme 41). Polythioether **195** coordinates one  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ion to give **197**; while polysulfide **196** coordinates two  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions to give complex **198**.

Balogh and Tomalia<sup>223</sup> recently prepared stable metallic copper(II) PAMAM complexes **199** and copper(0) PAMAM composites **200** (Scheme 42). A fourth- or fifth-generation PAMAM dendrimer was added to a copper(II) acetate solution to give approximately 15–32 possible copper(II) complex sites within the dendrimers as detected by spectrophotometric titration. Dropwise addition of an aqueous hydrazine solution afforded the reduced copper(0) dendrimer nanocomposites. Display of a strong UV–vis absorption at very short wavelengths (250, 310, 350 nm) suggested the presence of individual copper atoms or very small copper domains. This is the first example of dendrimer-stabilized metal colloids within the protected binding regime of the internal domain and could have far reaching ramifications in many areas including the crafting of new molecular electronic devices. Crooks et al.<sup>224–226</sup> reported the preparation of similar materials.

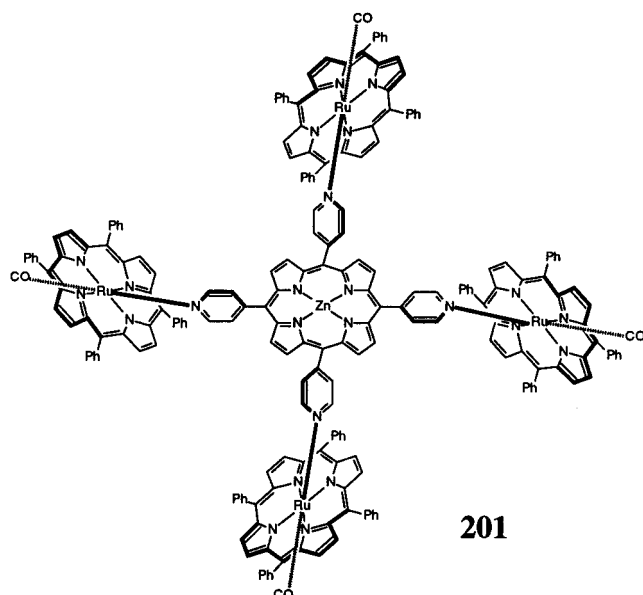
## VII. Other Branched Architectures

Metallodendrimers possessing porphyrin cores have been discussed (see section III); however, there are several reports in the literature whereby porphyrin–metal complexes comprise the entire structure. Essentially the porphyrin complexes are used as building blocks for unique branched architectures. We herein describe selected examples.

Alessio and Marzilli et al.<sup>227</sup> prepared a polyporphyrin **201** possessing a Zn–porphyrin complex core

**Figure 33.** Full-generation PAMAM dendrimers with randomly coordinated Cu complexes.**Scheme 41. Yang's Polythioether and Polysulfoxide Branched Molecules Exhibit Cu Coordination****Scheme 42. PAMAM-Based Copper(II) Complexes and Copper(0) Nanocomposites**



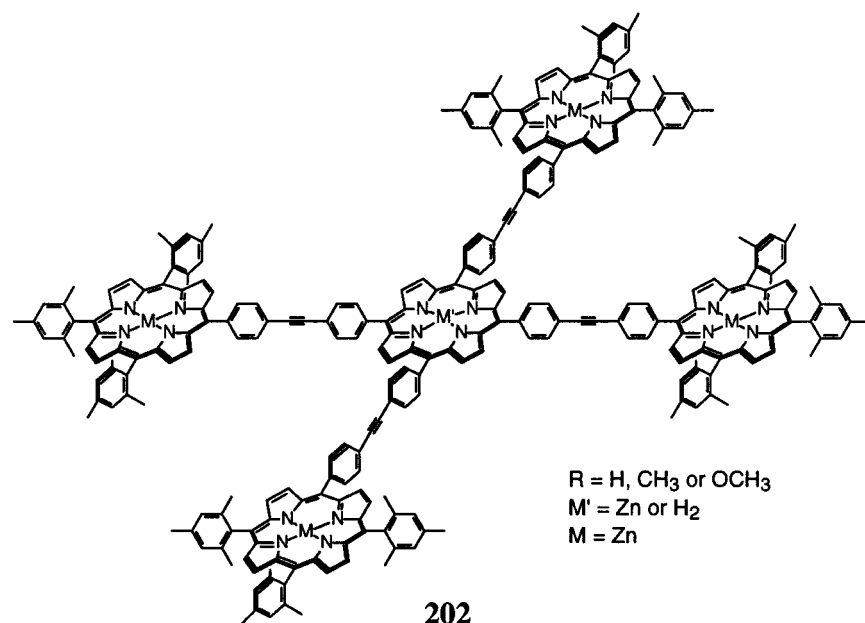


**Figure 34.** Pyridyl-coordinated pentaporphyrin.

surrounded by four pyridine-coordinated Ru–porphyrin complexes (Figure 34). Lindsey et al.<sup>228,229</sup> prepared planar, four-directional complexes (e.g., **202**) to be employed as light-harvesting arrays (Figure 35). Lindsey et al.<sup>230</sup> also constructed linear, two directional, multiporphyrin arrays that were investigated as photonic wires.

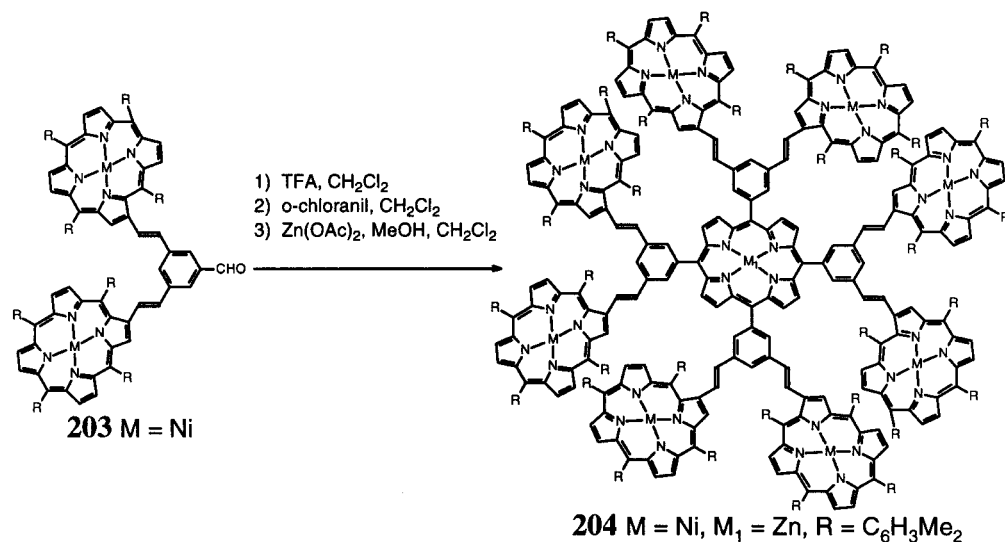
Officer and Burrell et al.<sup>231</sup> developed a unique, branched porphyrin-containing macromolecule (Scheme 43) employing a convergent approach. The Ni- and Zn-containing complex **204** was prepared via Lindsey-type conditions<sup>232</sup> whereby cyclization of 4 equiv of **203** was accomplished via treatment with trifluoroacetic acid, followed by reaction with *o*-chloranil. Metal complexation with Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub> afforded monoporphyin **204**.

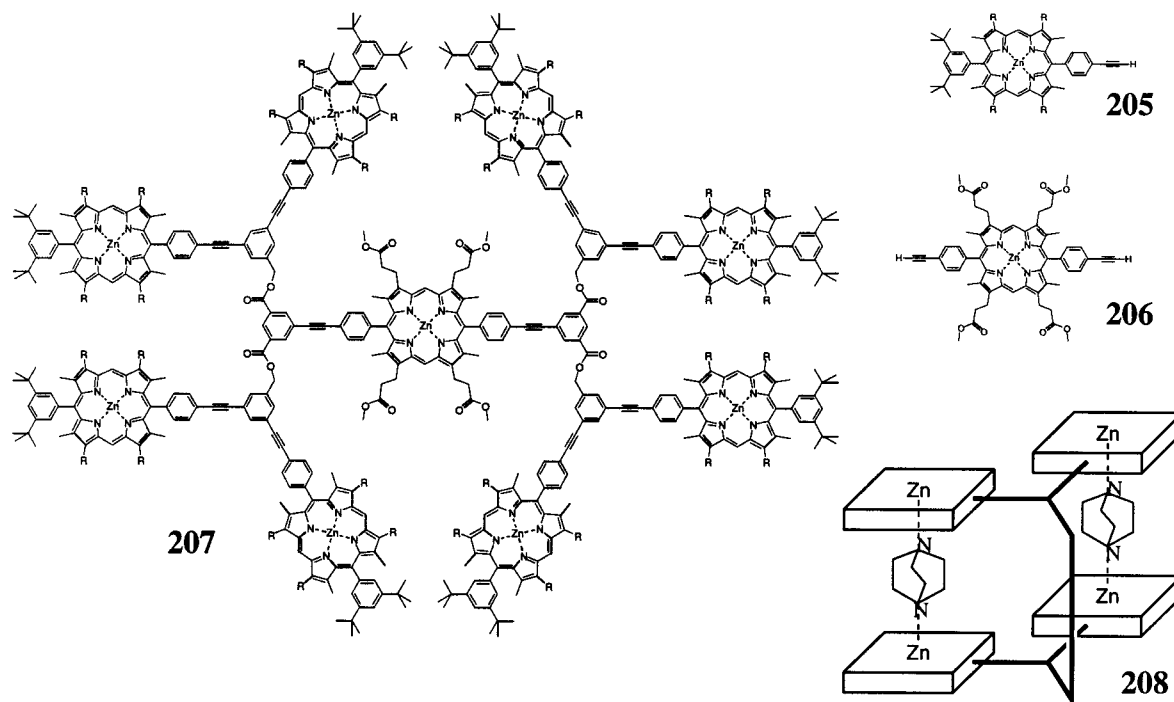
Sanders et al.<sup>233</sup> reported the construction of metalloporphyrin dendrimers (Figure 36) using readily accessible porphyrin building blocks such as monoalkyne **205** and bis-alkyne tetraester **206**. The dendritic assembly was accomplished convergently; monoalkyne



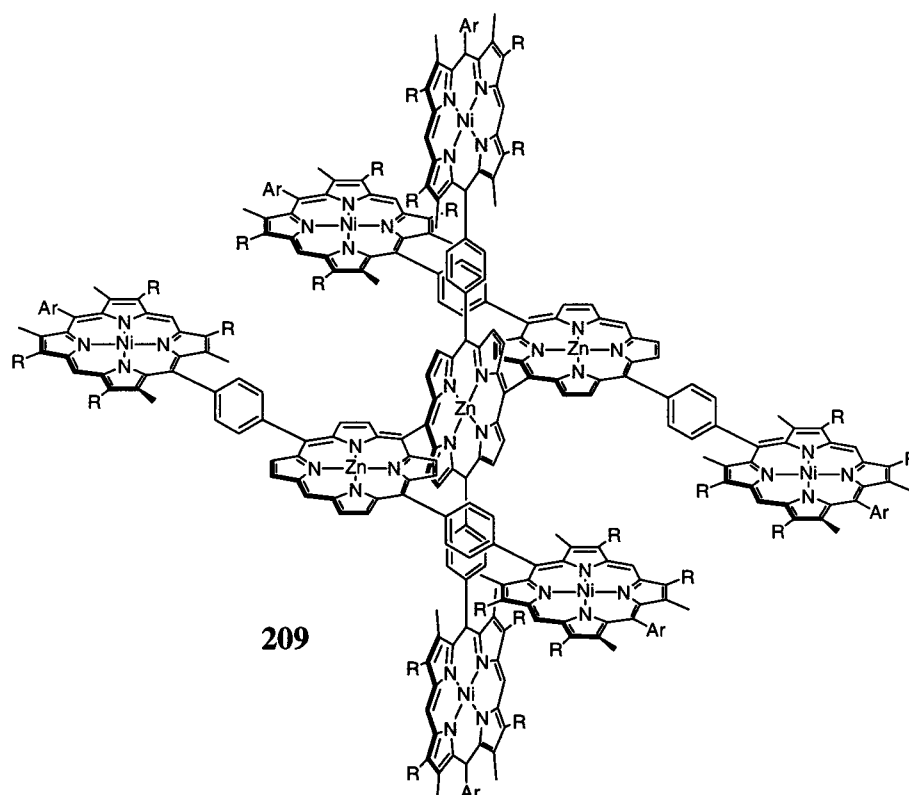
**Figure 35.** Lindsey's light-harvesting arrays.

**Scheme 43. Officer's and Burrell's Branched Metal–Porphyrin Complexes**





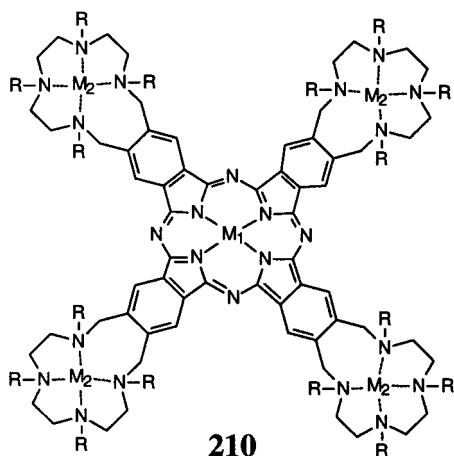
**Figure 36.** Dendritic metalloporphyrins that exhibit controlled folding.



**Figure 37.** Osuka's "Windmill-like" light-harvesting porphyrin arrays.

coupling with 3,5-diiodobenzyl alcohol afforded the bis-porphyrin wedge possessing a benzyl hydroxy focal group. Subsequently, the focal group was coupled to 5-iodoisophthalic acid via Mitsunobu conditions ( $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}/\text{DIAD}$ ) to form a tetraporphyrin wedge, which was then reacted with bis-alkyne **206** to provide the

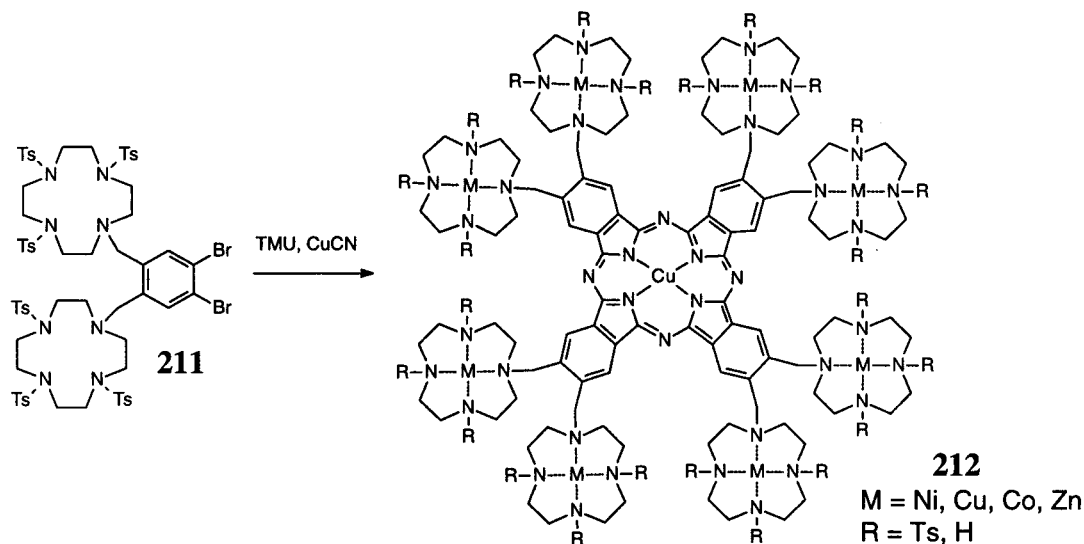
desired metallodendrimer **207**. Pertinent features of these novel constructs include the incorporation complementary rigid and flexible connectors that function cooperatively to allow folding of the paddle-like arms (**208**) in the presence of a bifunctional ligand such as 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO).



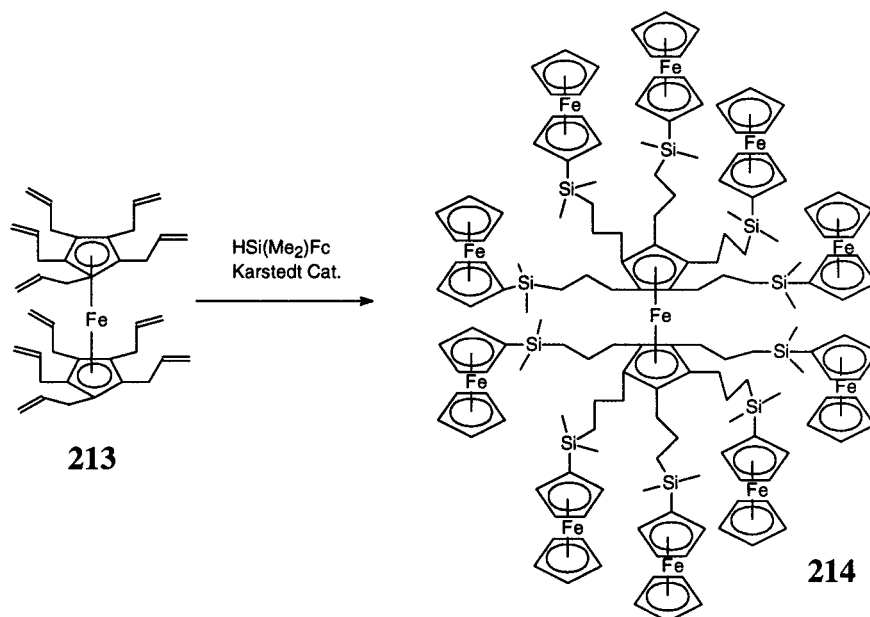
$R = \text{H, Ts}$   
 $M_1 = \text{Cu, Ni, Co and Sn}$   
 $M_2 = \text{Ni or no metal}$

**Figure 38.** Bekaroglu's phthalocyanine-based poly(aza-crown ethers) complexes.

**Scheme 44.** Agar's Phthalocyanine-Centered Poly(azacrown ether)



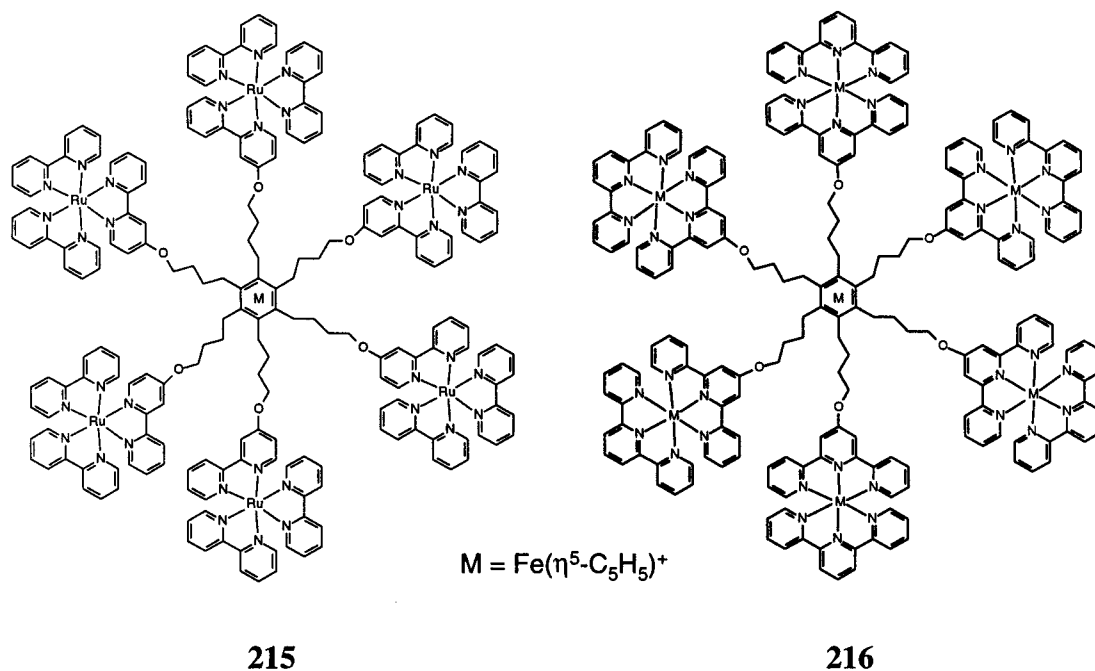
**Scheme 45.** Jutzi's Polyferrocene



Osuka et al.<sup>234</sup> reported the preparation novel polymetalloporphyrin architectures described as "wind-mill-like" light-harvesting antenna complexes (e.g., **209**; Figure 37). Linear porphyrin arrays were constructed via classic condensation reactions, while the *meso,meso*-linked Zn-porphyrins were connected via Lindsay conditions ( $\text{AgPF}_6/\text{MeCN}/\text{CHCl}_3$ ).

Bekaroglu et al.<sup>235,236</sup> synthesized phthalocyanine-based complexes (e.g., **210**) containing metals, such as Cu, Ni, Co, and Sn (Figure 38), that were coordinated by four benzo-connected, tetraazacrown ether moieties. Later, Agar et al.<sup>237</sup> elaborated the azacrown ether periphery (Scheme 44). The octaazacrown **212** was prepared by treatment of dibromide building block **211** with tetramethylurea (TMU) in the presence of CuCN. These metal complexes were observed to be thermally stable to 210 °C.

Jutzi and co-workers<sup>238</sup> reported the preparation of a polyferrocene-branched construct resembling a "ferrocene-crowned-ferrocene" (Scheme 45). Undecaferrocene **214** was prepared by hydrosilylation of



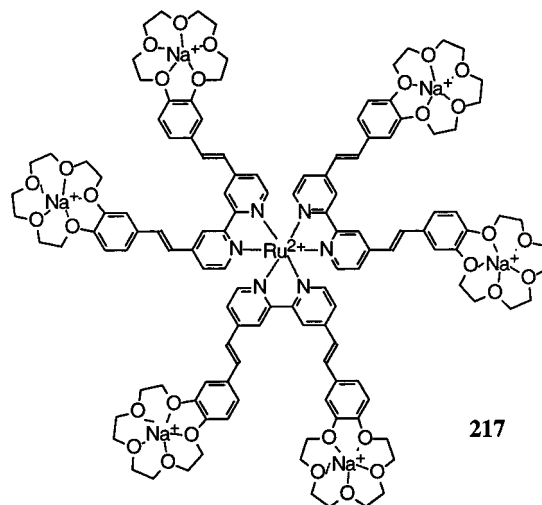
**Figure 39.** Marvaud's and Astruc's macromolecules possessing metal–arene cores and Ru or Fe complexes at the periphery.

pentaalkene core **213** with  $[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_4\text{Si}(\text{Me}_2)\text{H})]$ . Cyclic voltammetry of the core revealed a reversible oxidation process at 0.144 V, while that of polyferrocene **214** exhibited a more negative potential at  $-0.163$  V. Both of these  $E_{1/2}$  values are more negative than that of unsubstituted ferrocene (0.337 V). This was rationalized by both the steric effects as well as the smaller inductive effect exerted by the allyl groups when compared to that of the methyl groups.

Marvaud and Astruc<sup>239</sup> constructed iron and ruthenium hybrid architectures as well as an iron-based analogue (e.g., **215** and **216**) possessing peripheral ruthenium–bipyridine or iron–terpyridine complexes and metal arene cores (Figure 39). Beer et al.<sup>240</sup> constructed hexacrown ether **217** employing a ruthenium–bipyridine-based core for the coordination of  $\text{Na}^+$  ions. (Figure 40).

Ziessel et al.<sup>241</sup> prepared several interesting multiple transition-metal-containing architectures (Figure 41). Reaction of complexes **218a–c** and **219a–c** with  $\text{FeSO}_4$  afforded the rigid-rod trinuclear complexes **220a–c** and the branched construct **221a–c**, respectively. The violet complexes **220a–c** exhibited a charge-transfer absorption band at 589 nm. The MLCT of fragment  $\text{Fe}(\text{bpy})_3$  in **221a–c** showed an absorption band at about 530 nm. The electronic absorption and luminescence spectra showed a number of similar features and general trends. All complexes exhibited  $\pi\text{-}\pi^*$  absorption (high-energy band) and charge-transfer transitions (low-energy band). The photophysical results based on fluorescence quenching and lifetime measurements indicated that a simple alkyne spacer allows better electronic communication than a platinum–alkyne spacer.

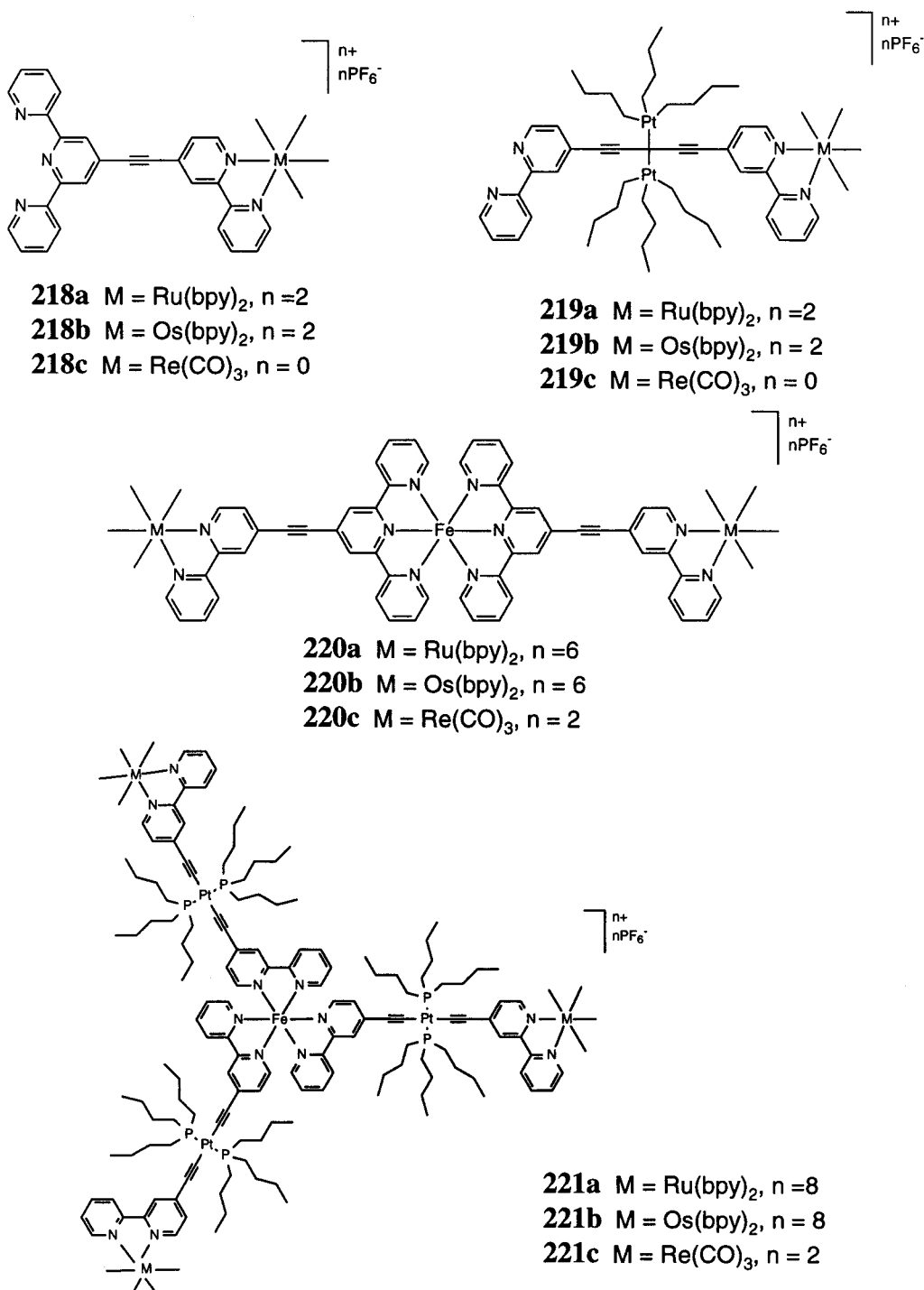
Ziessel et al.<sup>242</sup> also prepared several Ru-, Pt-, Os-, Fe-, Zn-, and Co-containing metallomolecules (e.g.,



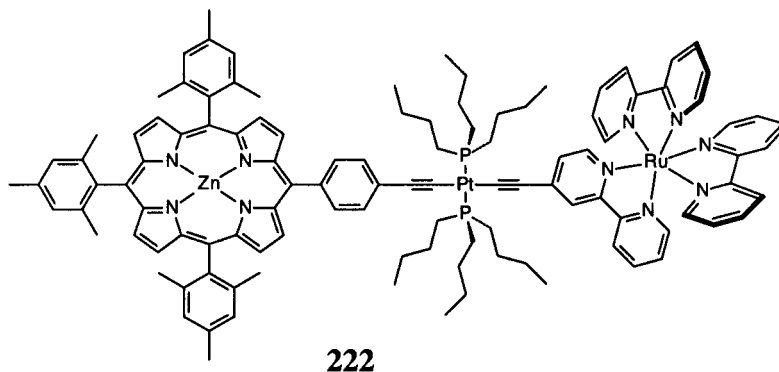
**Figure 40.** Beer's branched molecule possessing a ruthenium–bipyridine complex core and a polysodium surface.

**222**) as photoactive molecular-scale wires (Figure 42). Notably, the Pt(II) unit in the center has a dramatic effect on the electronic properties of the bridge. Rates of intramolecular triplet energy transfer were determined to be 3000-fold faster in the absence of the Pt(II) unit.

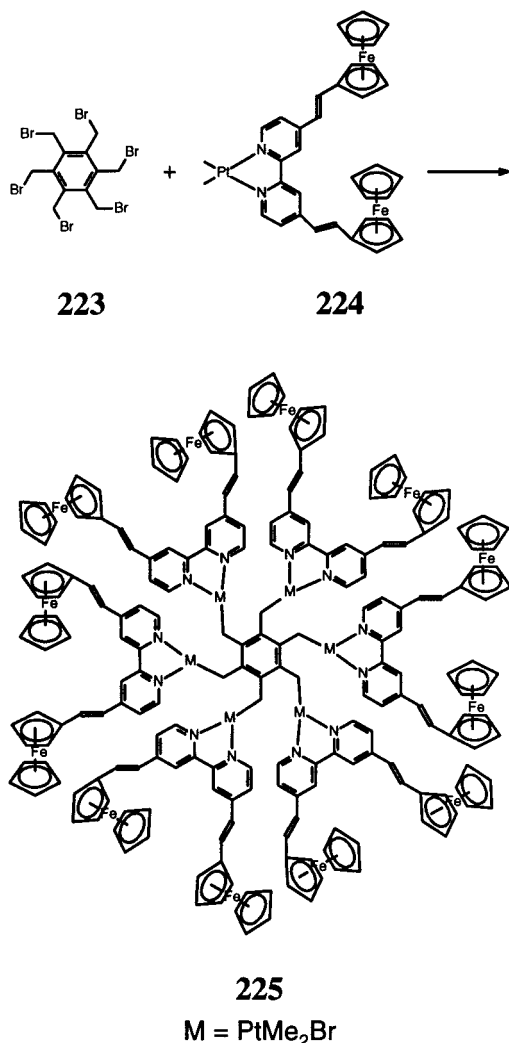
Catalano et al.<sup>243</sup> constructed unusual polyferrocene-possessing platinum complexes as building block connectors (Scheme 46). 1,2,3,4,5,6-Hexakis(bromomethyl)benzene (**223**) was treated with the heterometallic complex  $\text{PtMe}_2\{\text{bpy}[(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)\text{Fe}(\eta^5\text{-C}_5\text{H}_5)]_2\}$  (**224**) to afford the dodecaferrocene **225**. Notable aspects of the resultant architecture include a planar, hexa-branched core, platinum–bipyridine 1–2 branching, and a “shell of unsaturation” created by 12 alkene moieties positioned equidistant from the molecular core.



**Figure 41.** Ziessel's novel metalloconstructs for studying photophysical properties.



**Figure 42.** Ziessel's metallohybrids used for photoactive molecular-scale wires.

**Scheme 46. Catalano's Poly(ferroceneplatinum) Hybrid Macromolecule**

**VIII. Conclusions**

In conclusion, the preceding examples of metallo-dendrimers and metal-based (macro)molecules have presented a case for the continued investigation of these unique architectural constructs. The use and incorporation of metals within the confines of the dendritic regime have already led to the synthesis of important new materials, such as potential drug carriers,<sup>17,244</sup> enzyme mimics,<sup>245,246</sup> MRI contrast agents,<sup>247</sup> and biocatalysts.<sup>248</sup> Thus, the systematic integration of dendrimer chemistry with the well-established, traditional areas of study has, at a relatively early stage, played a role in the development of useful molecular composites. As forward progress proceeds unabated, the development of suprasuper molecules will undoubtedly continue to produce lasting effects on many areas of chemistry and, maybe more importantly, material science well into the next millenium. The melding of dendritic methods to that of rich disciplines, such as transition-metal chemistry, has not only created a new field of study, but it has forever changed the way in which we view, conceive, plan, and bring to fruition the construction of macromolecular assemblies.

**IX. Appendix**

Rapid advances in the area of metallodendrimers have afforded numerous reports during manuscript production. Other pertinent reviews<sup>249–252</sup> and papers<sup>253–272</sup> have since been published (please see references for details).

**X. Acknowledgments**

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