Reactions of Complex Ligands, LXV^[♦]

Vinylidene and Methoxy(alkynyl)carbene Molybdenum Complexes: Competitive Formation During Fischer Carbene Complex Synthesis and **Crystal Structure Determination**

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Reaction of $[(\eta^5-C_5H_5)(CO)_2(NO)Mo]$ (1) with alkynyllithium and [(CH₃)₃O]BF₄ affords the vinylidene-molybdenum complex 2 along with the methoxy(alkynyl)carbene molybdenum complex 3. Both compounds are characterized by an X-ray crystal structure analysis. Due to axial and central chirality in the $L_nM=C=CR_2$ moiety complex 2 is formed as a 2:1 mixture of two diastereomers. The formation of 2 and 3 can be understood in terms of a competitive attack of alkynyllithium at the carbonyl ligand and the molybdenum center.

The manifold applications of Fischer-type carbene complexes in organic synthesis^[2] have been extended to stereoselective synthesis by the use of compounds bearing chiral side chains at the carbene carbon center^[3]. On the other hand carbene complexes with an α -alkynyl functionality have become valuable reagents for Michael-type addition and cycloaddition reactions^[4]. We aimed at a combination of chirality and α-C≡C triple bond elements^[5] and focussed our attention on half-sandwich molydenum complexes CpMoL¹L²L³ bearing a chiral metal center^[6]. In a recent independent study, Ipaktschi et al. [7] have reported that the addition of arylalkynyllithium reagents to dicarbonyl(cyclopentadienyl)(nitrosyl)molybdenum 1 according to the customary Fischer methodology^[8] does not generate the alkynylcarbene complex expected from nucleophilic addition to a carbonyl ligand but, surprisingly, instead affords vinylidene complexes with concomitant decarbonylation.

Preparative Results

In our hands, the addition of (p-tolyl)ethynyllithium to the dicarbonyl(nitrosyl) molybdenum complex 1 followed by alkylation with [(CH₃)₃O]BF₄ exhibits a competitive formation of both the vinylidene complex 2^[7,9] and the Fischer carbene complex 3 which were isolated in 64% and 12% yields after chromatographic workup. Both complexes were characterized by IR and NMR spectra. In comparison with 2, the strong IR absorptions for 3 due to the CO and NO stretching vibrations are shifted to distinctly higher frequencies ($\Delta = 35 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) indicating that the alkynylcarbene ligand is a more potent donor than the vinylidene congener. The vinylidene complex 2 exhibits at room temperature a double set of signals in the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra which demonstrates the existence of two diastereomers in a 2:1 ratio. This is due to the combination of two stereogenic elements along the L¹L²L³Mo=C=CR¹R² moiety of the molecule: the axial chirality of the metalla-allene unit and the central chirality at the metal. On the basis of dynamic NMR studies carried out on the phenyl homolog of 2 established a rotational barrier for the interconversion of both diastereomers involving a rotation around either the formal M=C or the C=C bond of $\Delta G^{\pm} = 20.5 \ (\pm 0.3) \ \text{kcal/mol}^{[7]}$.

Scheme 1

Crystal Structure Determination

The molecular structures of 2 (Figure 1) and 3 (Figure 2) were confirmed by X-ray single-crystal structure analysis. The structure determination and refinement of 2 result in two independent molecules (Figure 1, annotations a and b, only one of two independent molecules is presented) per asymmetric unit which slightly differ in the trigonal-planar coordination of C(2). For both compounds a

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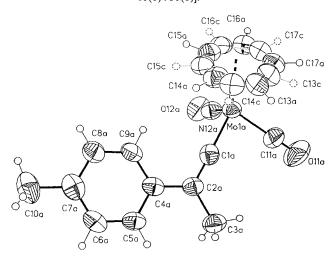
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disorder of the cyclopentadienyl rings is observed (2: Figure 1, annotations c and d, a/c = 58:42, b/d = 65:35; 3: Figure 2, annotations a and b, a/b = 52:48). A discrimination between the CO and NO ligands is based on their different bond lengths to molybdenum.

The bond lengths and bond angles in the vinylidene complex 2 are comparable to those reported for the corresponding phenyl derivative^[7]. Both the Mo-C(1)-C(2) moiety in 2 and the alkyne fragment C(1)-C(2)-C(3)-C(4) in 3 are close to linear as previously observed for two other alkynylcarbene complexes^[10] which have been structurally characterized. The carbene carbon atom is coordinated by Mo(1), C(2), and O(11) in a trigonal-planar fashion accompanied by a Z configuration across the carbene-oxygen bond.

The superior donor ability of the alkynylcarbene ligand to the vinylidene ligand is also evident from the structural data obtained for the solid state: In comparison with 2, the molybdenum-carbene bond in 3 is lenghtened by 0.11 Å while the molybdenum-carbonyl distance is slightly shortened.

Figure 1. Molecular structure of **2.** Cyclopentadienyl rings are disordered having two orientations [a/c = 58(1):42(1) and b/d = 65(1):35(1)].

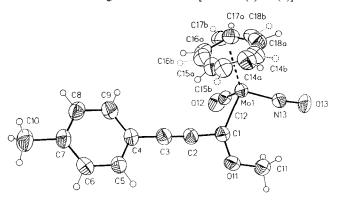


Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°] in a and [b]: Mo(1a)—C(1a) 1.928(6) [1.929(6)], C(1a)—C(2a) 1.323(8) [1.324(7)], Mo(1a)—C(11a) 2.013(7) [2.035(7)], Mo(1a)—N(12a) 1.793(5) [1.804(5)], C(11a)—O(11a) 1.138(7) [1.115(7)], O(12a)—N(12a) 1.190(6) [1.192(6)], Mo(1a)—C(1a)—C(2a) 177.2(4) [175.2(5)], Mo(1a)—C(11a)—O(11a) 179.7(7) [178.7(6)], Mo(1a)—N(12a)—O(12a) 175.4(5) [174.3(4)].

Discussion of the Reaction Mechanism

One mechanistic rationale for the formation of the alkynylcarbene complex 3 according to the customary Fischer synthesis along with the vinylidene complex 2 can be based on a competitive addition of the organolithium nucleophile to the molybdenumcarbonyl complex 1 (Scheme 2): Nucleophilic alkynylation of the carbonyl ligand affords the acyl molybdate $\bf B$ which is subsequently alkylated at the oxygen terminus to give the Fischer type carbene complex 3. Alternatively, an attack of the alkynyllithium reagent at the metal center is expected to generate a labile 20-electron intermediate $\bf A$ which either may undergo decarbonylation to give the σ -alkynyl species $\bf C$ or again may lead to the acyl intermediate $\bf B$ either via $\bf CO$ insertion into the molybdenum-alkynyl bond or via

Figure 2. Molecular structure of 3. Cyclopentadienyl ring is disordered having two orientations [a/b = 52(2): 48(2)].



Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: Mo(1)-C(1) 2.043(3), Mo(1)-C(12) 1.997(4), Mo(1)-N(13) 1.790(3), C(1)-C(2) 1.425(5), C(2)-C(3) 1.199(5), C(3)-C(4) 1.437(5), C(1)-O(11) 1.344(4), C(12)-O(12) 1.149(4), N(13)-O(13) 1.193(3), Mo(1)-C(1)-C(2) 117.2(2), Mo(1)-C(1)-O(11) 134.9(2), Mo(1)-C(12)-O(12) 177.5(3), Mo(1)-N(13)-O(13) 172.3(2), C(2)-C(1)-O(11) 107.8(3), C(1)-C(2)-C(3) 176.5(4), C(2)-C(3)-C(4) 177.6(4).

alkynyl migration to the carbonyl ligand^[11]. The σ -alkynyl intermediate C which also may be generated from the acyl molybdate B by decarbonylation^[12] is known to undergo alkylation at the β -carbon atom^[13] giving rise to the formation of the vinylidene complex 3.

Scheme 2

 $R = p - CH_3C_6H_4 -$

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Experimental

All operations were carried out in flame-dried glassware under argon. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) was freshly distilled from potassium sodium alloy before use. — Column chromatography was accomplished with Merck silica gel (Type 60, 0.063–0.200 mm) and petroleum ether (PE) fraction 40–60°C. — ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Bruker AM 400. — IR: Nicolet Magna 550. — MS: Varian MAT CH7A. — Elemental analysis: Heraeus CHN-Rapid.

4-Methylphenylethyne [14] and dicarbonylcyclopentadienylnitrosylmolybdenum(0) $(1)^{[15]}$ were synthesized according to literature procedures.

Procedure: 0.64 ml (0.58 g, 5.00 mmol) of 4-methylphenylethyne was lithiated with 5.00 mmol (3.13 ml of a 1.6 M solution in hexane) of *n*-butyllithium in 20 ml of THF at -50 °C. This mixture was added to a solution of 1.23 g (5.00 mmol) of molybdenum complex 1 in 10 ml of THF at -78 °C. The colour of the mixture changed immediately from orange to dark brown. After stirring for 1 h at -78 °C the reaction mixture was warmed up to -10 °C and then stirred for further 30 min. After removal of the solvent at 0°C the residue was dissolved in 20 ml of CH₂Cl₂, and 1.47 g (10.0 mmol) of trimethyloxonium tetrafluoroborate was added at -50 °C to the solution. The mixture was stirred for 20 h while allowed to warm to room temp. After filtration (silica gel) 5 g of silica gel was added and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was put on top of a column filled with silica gel, and 60 mg (0.24 mmol, 5%) of the starting material 1 (orange crystals) was eluted as the first orange band with PE/CH₂Cl₂ (3:1) at 0°C. Further elution and stepwise change of the solvent to PE/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1) yielded 1.11 g (3.18 mmol, 64%) of vinylidene complex 2 (orange crystals) as the second band. Finally, 230 mg (0.61 mmol, 12%) of the carbene complex 3 (orange crystals) was eluted.

Single crystals of 2 and 3 were obtained by slow diffusion of PE into ethereal solutions at -20 °C via the gas phase.

Carbonyl cyclopenta dienyl [2-(4-methylphenyl)-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propene-1-propeylidene | nitrosylmolybdenum(0) (2): IR (PE): $\tilde{v} = 2017 \text{ s}$ (CO), 1670 s (NO) cm⁻¹. – MS (70 eV, reg. ⁹⁸Mo), m/z (%): 351 (9) [M⁺], 323 (47) $[M^+ - CO]$, 293 (100) $[M^+ - CO - NO]$, 286 (20) $[M^+ C_5H_5$], 258 (3) [M⁺ - C_5H_5 - CO]. - ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), isomer A: $\delta = 2.01$ (s, 3H, 3-CH₃), 2.36 (s, 3H, C₆H₄CH₃), 5.83 (s, 5H, C_5H_5), 7.12-7.15 (m, 2H, C_6H_4), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2H, C_6H_4). Isomer B: $\delta = 2.09$ (s, 3H, 3-CH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H, C₆H₄CH₃), 5.83 (s, 5H, C_5H_5), 7.12–7.15 (m, 2H, C_6H_4), 7.29–7.33 (m, 2H, C_6H_4). – Isomer A/isomer B = 65:35 (by integration of the 3-CH₃ signals). $- {}^{13}C\{{}^{1}H\}$ NMR, (CDCl₃), isomer A: $\delta = 366.83$ (C-1), 217.30 (CO), 136.30 (para-C), 134.15 (C-2) 132.17 (ipso-C), 129.10 (meta-CH), 124.72 (ortho-CH), 97.31 (C₅H₅), 21.00 $(C_6H_4CH_3)$, 14.75 (3-CH₃). – Isomer B: $\delta = 366.49$ (C-1), 217.94 (CO), 136.27 (para-C), 134.55 (C-2) 132.17 (ipso-C), 129.10 (meta-CH), 125.08 (ortho-CH), 96.98 (C₅H₅), 21.06 (C₆H₄CH₃), 12.94 (3- CH_3). – $C_{16}H_{15}MoNO_2$ (349.24): Mol. mass 351 (MS, reg. ⁹⁸Mo).

Carbonylcyclopentadienyl[methoxy(4-methylphenyl)ethynylcarbene]nitrosylmolybdenum(0) (3): IR (PE): $\tilde{v} = 1982$ s (CO), 1645 s (NO) cm⁻¹. – MS (70 eV, reg. ⁹⁸Mo), mlz (%): 379 (31) [M⁺], 351 (55) [M⁺ – CO], 336 (29) [M⁺ – CO – CH₃], 321 (26) [M⁺ – CO – NO], 308 (98) [M⁺ – CO – COCH₃], 293 (31) [M⁺ – CO – COCH₃ – CH₃], 278 (100) [M⁺ – CO – NO – COCH₃], – ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 2.36$ (s, 3H, C₆H₄CH₃), 4.37 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 5.78 (s, 5H, C₅H₅), 7.14–7.17 (m, 2H, C₆H₄), 7.31–7.35 (m, 2H, C₆H₄). – ¹³C{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃): $\delta = 292.01$ (Mo=C), 223.29 (CO), 140.20 (para-C), 131.39 (meta-CH), 130.58 (C=C-C₆H₄), 129.44 (ortho-CH), 118.98 (ipso-C), 99.02 (C₅H₅), 97.54

 $(C \equiv C - C_6H_4)$, 65.47 (OCH₃), 21.64 ($C_6H_4CH_3$). $-C_{17}H_{15}MoNO_3$ (377.25): Calcd. C 54.13, H 4.01, N 3.71; found C 54.02, H 4.29, N 3.64. - Mol. mass calcd. 379.0106, found 379.0118 (HRMS, reg. ^{98}Mo).

Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for 2^[16]: C₁₆H₁₅MoNO₂, M = 349.2, orange plates, crystal size $0.55 \times 0.50 \times 0.10$ mm, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$ (No. 14), a = 18.964(4), b =11.109(2), c = 14.354(3) Å, $\beta = 92.89(2)^{\circ}$, $V = 3020(1) \text{ Å}^3$, Z = 8, $d_{\text{calcd.}} = 1.54 \text{ g cm}^{-3}, \, \mu(\text{Mo-K}_{\alpha}) = 0.87 \text{ mm}^{-1}, \, F(000) = 1408. \text{ The}$ data set was collected on a Nicolet R3m diffractometer at T =293(2) K by using graphite-monochromated Mo- K_{α} radiation ($\lambda =$ $0.71073 \text{ Å}, 2 \theta_{\text{max.}} = 50^{\circ}, 0 \le h \le 22, -13 \le k \le 0, -17 \le l \le 0$ 17, ω scans, 3 standard reflections measured after every 147 reflections as an intensity check, variation of standards ±1%). A total of 5519 reflections were collected, 5347 out of them were symmetryindependent reflections ($R_{int} = 0.045$). The structure was solved by direct methods (SHELXTL-PLUS)[17] and the refinement was done by the SHELXL-93 program^[18] using full-matrix least-squares refinement on F^2 . Anisotropic thermal parameters were used for the non-hydrogen atoms and hydrogens were refined by using a riding model. Disordered cyclopentadienyl groups were refined by use of ideal geometry contraints (C-C distances 1.42 Å, angles 108.0°). Absorption correction was performed semiempirically from ψ scans (max. and min. transmissions: 0.989 and 0.818). Data / restraints / parameters: 5347 / 336 / 421; goodness-of-fit on F^2 : 0.89; final R indices wR2 = 0.114 [$R_1 = 0.046$ for $I > 2\sigma(I)$]; largest difference peak and hole: 0.69 and -0.65 eÅ⁻³.

Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for 3^[16]: C₁₇H₁₅MoNO₃, M = 377.2, orange plates, crystal size $0.80 \times 0.45 \times 0.08$ mm, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$ (No. 14), a = 11.814(4), b =6.128(2), c = 22.906(8) Å, $\beta = 104.22(3)^{\circ}$, $V = 1607.6(9) \text{ Å}^3$, $Z = 104.22(3)^{\circ}$ 4, $d_{\text{calcd}} = 1.56 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, $\mu(\text{Mo-K}_{\alpha}) = 0.83 \text{ mm}^{-1}$, F(000) = 760. Data collection on a Nicolet R3m diffractometer at T = 293(2) K using graphite monochromated Mo- K_{α} radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ Å}$, $2 \theta_{\text{max}} = 50^{\circ}, 0 \le h \le 14, 0 \le k \le 7, -27 \le l \le 26, \omega \text{ scans}, 3$ standard reflections measured after every 147 reflections, variation of standards ±1%). 2977 reflections were collected, 2830 out of them were symmetry-independent reflections ($R_{int} = 0.026$). Structure solution and refinement identical with compound 2. Semiempirical absorption correction from ψ scans (max. and min. transmissions: 0.849 and 0.756). Data / restraints / parameters: 2830 / 180 / 228; goodness-of-fit on F^2 : 1.00; final R indices wR2 = 0.081 $[R_1 = 0.030 \text{ for } I > 2 \text{ } \sigma(I)]$; largest difference peak and hole: 0.51 and -0.73 eÅ^{-3} .

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