

Complex Catalysis 55^[‡]Oxidative Addition Reactions of Organorhodium(I) Complexes Containing the Tridentate Ligand 2,6-Bis(diphenylphosphanylmethyl)pyridine [Rh(PNP)R] (R = CH₃, C₆H₅) with Iodine and Methyl Iodide and Investigation of the Reductive EliminationChristine Hahn,^[a] Michael Spiegler,^[b] Eberhardt Herdtweck,^[b] and Rudolf Taube*^[b]*Dedicated to Professor Helmut Werner on the occasion of his 65th birthday***Keywords:** Rhodium(III) complexes / Tridentate ligand / Oxidative addition / Reductive elimination / C–C coupling

As part of studies aimed at delineating the mechanism of the rhodium complex-catalyzed hydroamination of olefins, the model complexes [Rh(PNP)R] (R = CH₃ **1a**, C₆H₅ **1b**) have been investigated with regard to oxidative addition reactions. The reaction of I₂ with **1a** leads to both *trans*- and *cis*-[Rh(PNP)(CH₃)I₂] (*trans*: **2a**, *cis*: **2a'**), whereas with **1b** only *trans*-[Rh(PNP)(C₆H₅)I₂] (**2b**) is obtained. The rhodium(III) complexes [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)RI] (**3a,b**) are formed by the reaction of **1a,b** with CH₃I. The new organo-

rhodium(III) complexes **2a,b** and **3a,b** have been characterized by ³¹P-, ¹H-, and ¹³C-NMR spectrometry, as well as by EI mass spectrometry. The hydrocarbons RCH₃ are reductively eliminated in the reaction of [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)RI] (**3a,b**) with TlBF₄ in acetone, while the reaction of **3b** and TlBF₄ in THF/CH₃CN leads to the stable rhodium(III) complex [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)(C₆H₅)(CH₃CN)]BF₄ (**5**). Complex **5** has been characterized by X-ray crystallography.

Introduction

Detailed model studies have been initiated aimed at elucidating the reaction mechanism of the rhodium complex-catalyzed hydroamination of ethylene.^[1] For the first time, the process was shown to be catalyzed by a cationic ethylene rhodium(I) complex under normal conditions.^[2] For these studies, model complexes containing the 2,6-bis(diphenylphosphanylmethyl)pyridine-rhodium(I) fragment [Rh(PNP)]⁺ as a stable structural unit were synthesized and characterized.^[3]

Since the formation and cleavage of an Rh–C σ-bond is expected to play an essential role in this catalytic cycle, organorhodium(I) complexes [Rh(PNP)R] (R = CH₃, C₆H₅) were synthesized and investigated with regard to the coordination of ethylene and protolysis. It was found that with protic acids such as HSO₃CF₃ and [HN(CH₃)₃]Cl, these organorhodium(I) complexes react by immediate release of the hydrocarbon HR, presumably via reductive elimination from an initially formed hydrido organorhodium(III) complex.^[4]

While a hydrido organorhodium(III) complex, which might have been expected to be formed by oxidative ad-

dition of the protic acid, could not be isolated or detected in these cases, a stable monohydrido chloro rhodium(III) complex [Rh(PNP)HCl(CH₃CN)]SO₃CF₃ is accessible by oxidative addition of HSO₃CF₃^[4] to the related chloro rhodium(I) complex [Rh(PNP)Cl].^[3b,5] Since the oxidative addition and the reductive elimination involved in numerous other rhodium-complex catalyzed processes are of general importance^[6] it seemed therefore interesting to study these reaction steps at the [Rh(PNP)]⁺ fragment.

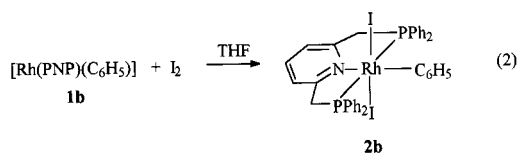
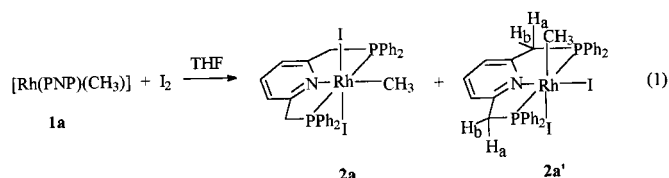
In this paper, we report on oxidative addition reactions of the organorhodium(I) complexes [Rh(PNP)R] (R = CH₃, C₆H₅) with I₂ and CH₃I, as well as on the conditions under which the obtained diorganorhodium(III) complexes [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)RI] undergo reductive elimination.

Results and Discussion

Oxidative Addition Reactions of [Rh(PNP)R] (R = CH₃, C₆H₅) with I₂ and CH₃I

In order to show that stable PNP-organorhodium(III) complexes are accessible, the reactivity of organorhodium(I) complexes **1a,b** with iodine and methyl iodide, which are known as suitable reagents for oxidative addition to rhodium(I) complexes,^[7] was investigated. Both organorhodium(I) complexes **1a,b** were found to react smoothly with iodine to give the corresponding rhodium(III) complexes [Rh(PNP)I₂R] **2** [Eqs. (1) and (2)], which were isolated as brown, air-stable solids.

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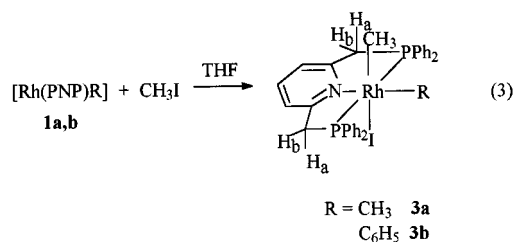


In the case of the methyl complex, the formation of the *trans* as well as of the *cis* addition product (**2a** and **2a'**, respectively) was established by NMR spectrometry. The two isomers constantly crystallize as a mixture, however, no further attempts were made to separate **2a** and **2a'** by other methods. In the ^{31}P -NMR spectrum, two doublets are observed at $\delta = 14.3$ ($J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 99$ Hz) for **2a** and at $\delta = 23.3$ ($J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 106$ Hz) for **2a'**, in an intensity ratio of 3:2. The phosphorus-rhodium coupling constants are markedly lower in comparison to those in the organorhodium(I) complexes **1a,b**, indicating the Rh^{III} oxidation state.^[8] Accordingly, in the ^1H -NMR spectrum, two discrete methyl group signals are observed at $\delta = 1.99$ for **2a** and at $\delta = 0.43$ for **2a'**, with the same relative intensities of 3:2. The corresponding characteristic signal patterns of the methylene protons of the PNP ligand, a pseudo triplet at $\delta = 4.84$ for **2a** and two doublets of pseudo triplets at $\delta = 4.49$ and 4.80 for **2a'**, are consistent with the symmetry of these *trans* and *cis* isomers. In the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum, two discrete signals at $\delta = -18.4$ and $\delta = 8.7$ are observed for the methyl groups, while for the methylene groups of the PNP ligand, two signals appear at $\delta = 44.7$ and $\delta = 46.7$, showing slightly different intensities.

The phenyl complex **1b** forms exclusively the *trans* addition product **2b** on reaction with iodine [Eq. (2)]. The ^{31}P -NMR spectrum exhibits only one doublet at $\delta = 18.8$ ($J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 105$ Hz). The pseudo triplet for the methylene group is seen at $\delta = 4.90$ in the ^1H -NMR spectrum, consistent with the C_2 symmetry of the *trans*-diiodo complex **2b**. The ^1H -NMR signals of the phenyl moiety in **2b** are slightly downfield shifted compared to those found for **1b**, appearing at $\delta = 6.88$ and 7.96 .

In the mass spectra of **2a,a'** (analyzed as an isomeric mixture) and of **2b**, peaks are observed corresponding to the fragments $[\text{M} - \text{I}]^+$, $[\text{M} - \text{R}]^+$, $[\text{M} - \text{I} - \text{R}]^+$, $[\text{M} - \text{I} - \text{I}]^+$, and $[\text{M} - \text{I} - \text{I} - \text{R}]^+$. Additionally in the mass spectrum of **2a,a'**, a peak at $m/z = 142$ is found, which can be assigned to $[\text{CH}_3\text{I}]^+$ as the product of reductive elimination.

The reactions of **1a,b** with methyl iodide [Eq. (3)] led to the diorganorhodium(III) complexes $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})(\text{CH}_3)\text{RI}]$ **3a,b**, which were isolated as pale-yellow air-stable solids and characterized by ^{31}P -, ^1H -, and ^{13}C -NMR spectrometry, as well as by mass spectrometry.



The ^{31}P -NMR signals observed at $\delta = 26.5$ ($J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 120$ Hz) for **3a** and at $\delta = 30.5$ ($J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 119$ Hz) for **3b** are downfield shifted in comparison to the signals of the corresponding diiodo complexes **2a** and **2b**. The increased phosphorus-rhodium coupling constants in **3a,b** in comparison to those in **2a,b** may be arising by coordination of the more basic methyl ligand instead of one iodo ligand, respectively. In the ^1H -NMR spectrum of the dimethyl complex **3a**, two discrete methyl signals are observed at $\delta = -0.35$ and $\delta = 1.02$, suggesting the coordination of two distinct methyl groups in a mutual *cis*-arrangement. This is confirmed by the resonances of the methylene protons of the PNP ligand, which appear as two doublets of pseudo triplets at $\delta = 4.31$ and 4.66 , consistent with the inequivalence of the methylene protons arising from the *cis* orientation of the methyl groups. Accordingly, in the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum, two discrete signals for the methyl groups are observed at $\delta = -14.5$ and 6.9 .

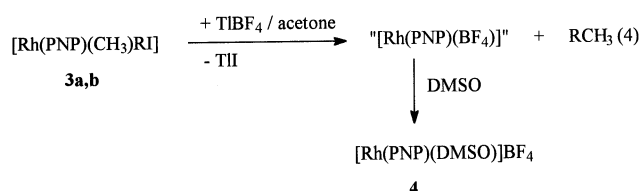
The ^1H -NMR signal of the methyl group in the methyl phenyl complex **3b** appears at $\delta = 0.35$, while the phenyl group gives rise to multiplets at $\delta = 6.90$ and 7.68 . The typical signal pattern for the non-equivalent methylene protons, as observed for **3a**, is seen in the spectrum of **3b** at $\delta = 4.34$ and 4.80 . The ^{13}C -NMR signal for the methyl group in **3b** appears at $\delta = 8.8$, while the phenyl group signals are seen at $\delta = 121.5$, 125.9 , and 142.3 .

In the mass spectra of **3a** and **3b**, peaks are observed corresponding to the fragments $[\text{M} - \text{CH}_3]^+$, $[\text{M} - \text{CH}_3 - \text{R}]^+$, and $[\text{M} - \text{CH}_3 - \text{R} - \text{I}]^+$. Additionally, in the mass spectrum of **3b**, a peak at $m/z = 91$ can be observed, attributable to $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_7]^+$. This suggests that toluene is reductively eliminated from the methyl phenyl complex **3b** following C-C bond formation.

Investigation of the Reductive Elimination of Hydrocarbons by C-C Bond Formation from $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})(\text{CH}_3)\text{RI}]\text{BF}_4$ **3a,b**

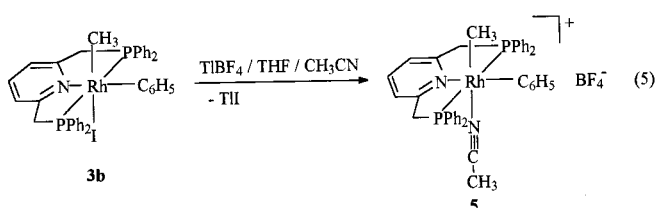
In a manner analogous to the reductive elimination of the hydrocarbon from the proposed hydrido organorhodium(III) intermediates by formation of a C-H bond,^[4,9] the reactivity of the diorganorhodium(III) complexes **3a, b** was investigated. The aforementioned mass spectral observation of toluene generation from **3b** gave a prior indication of C-C bond formation between the two organo moieties. After addition of TlBF_4 to a solution of **3a** or **3b** in acetone, TlI precipitated while the solution changed colour from pale yellow to dark-red during 1-2 days indicating the

change of the oxidation state from Rh^{III} to Rh^I. Indeed, the hydrocarbon which is formed by reductive elimination from **3a** and **3b**, respectively [Eq. (4)], has been proved. Carrying out the reaction of **3a** and TIBF₄ in [D₆]acetone in a sealed NMR tube the singlet of the liberated ethane could be observed in the ¹H-NMR spectrum while the signals of complex **3a** disappeared. Whereas the toluene reductively eliminated from **3b** was detected in the filtrate of the reaction solution by gas chromatography. The dark colour of the solutions indicated a decomposition reaction, most likely as a consequence of the weak coordination of the acetone, which does not have sufficient donor strength to stabilize the remaining [Rh^I(PNP)]⁺ fragment. In order to prove that the rhodium was present in the +I oxidation state, some DMSO was added to the solution. The corresponding stable rhodium(I) complex [Rh(PNP)(DMSO)]BF₄ **4** was obtained, which was identified by comparison of its ³¹P-NMR spectrum with that of an authentic sample (cf. ref. [3b]).



Clearly, the cleavage of the iodo ligand from the octahedral diorganorhodium(III) complex **3a,b** leads to a kinetically unstable five-coordinate complex, which cannot be stabilized by the weakly coordinating acetone used as solvent. This confirms the dissociative mechanism of the reductive elimination.^[9]

However, when the reaction of **3b** with TIBF₄ was carried out in the presence of the more strongly coordinating acetonitrile, a stable six-coordinate methyl phenyl acetonitrile rhodium(III) complex [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)(C₆H₅)(CH₃CN)]-BF₄ **5** was obtained [Eq. (5)], which was isolated as an air-stable, white, crystalline solid and characterized by ³¹P-, ¹H-, and ¹³C-NMR spectrometry, as well as by X-ray crystal structure analysis.



In the ³¹P-NMR spectrum of **5**, the doublet at δ = 32.7 (J_{P-Rh} = 117 Hz) is somewhat downfield shifted compared to the corresponding signal in the iodo complex **3b**. While the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR signals of the phenyl moiety appear at approximately the same chemical shifts as found for **3b**, the signals for the methyl moiety of **5** are somewhat upfield shifted in both the ¹H- (δ = 0.09) and the ¹³C-NMR spectra (δ = 2.0), compared to those in **3b**. This may be interpreted in terms of the differential *trans* influence of the respective *trans*-coordinated ligands (I⁻ **3b**; CH₃CN **5**).

For the coordinated acetonitrile in **5**, a singlet is observed at δ = 1.45 in the ¹H-NMR spectrum, while in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum, two signals are observed at δ = 2.0 and 128.5. In the IR spectrum, the two bands characteristic of end-on coordinated acetonitrile^[9] are seen at $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2281 and 2376 cm⁻¹. The coordination of the pyridine of the PNP ligand is indicated by two bands at $\tilde{\nu}$ = 1574 and 1606 cm⁻¹,^[11] while a strong band at $\tilde{\nu}$ = 1062 cm⁻¹ is characteristic of the non-coordinated BF₄⁻ anion.^[12]

Single crystals of **5** of X-ray quality were obtained from a solution of the complex in acetone overlaid with diethyl ether. X-ray crystal structure analysis confirmed the *cis*-arrangement of the organo moieties in the octahedral complex cation of **5**, which is an essential structural prerequisite for the reductive elimination of toluene. The molecular structure of the complex cation [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)(C₆H₅)(CH₃CN)]⁺ is shown in Figure 1.

Comparing the rhodium-carbon distances of the σ-bonded methyl and phenyl groups [Rh-C(3) 2.085(3), Rh-C(11) 2.049(3)], only a very slight difference is apparent. The small difference in bond lengths of the two types of Rh-C bond may be viewed as reflecting the differential *trans* influence of the N(sp²) and N(sp) atoms of the coordinated pyridine moiety and acetonitrile ligand, respectively, which gives rise to an extension of the Rh-C(sp²) bond and a shortening of the Rh-C(sp³) bond. However, it may also be viewed as merely following the expected trend that the sp² carbon atom has a shorter distance to the rhodium atom than the sp³ carbon atom.

Furthermore, it is interesting to compare the molecular structure of **5** with that of the related cationic Rh^{III} complex [Rh(PNP)ClH(CH₃CN)]SO₃CF₃,^[4] which contains the same structural unit [Rh^{III}(PNP)(CH₃CN)]⁺, but with the hydrido ligand coordinated *trans* to the acetonitrile ligand. In both complexes, the N atom of the coordinated acetonitrile shows an identical distance to the rhodium atom of 2.14 Å, as a result of the comparable *trans* influence of the methyl and hydrido ligands. However, the distance of the pyridine N atom to the rhodium atom in **5** is significantly longer [Rh-N(2) 2.152(2) Å] than the corresponding Rh-N(py) distance in the hydrido chloro Rh^{III} complex [Rh-N(2) 2.0656(17) Å].^[4] This is consistent with the expected stronger *trans* influence of the phenyl group, which has a lower electronegativity than the chloro ligand coordinated *trans* to the pyridine. The end-on coordinated acetonitrile shows an almost linear arrangement of Rh-N(1)-C(1)-C(2) [C(1)-N(1)-Rh 172.0(2)°, N(1)-C(1)-C(2) 178.4(4)°], as was also found in the cationic Rh^{III} complex [Rh(PNP)ClH(CH₃CN)]SO₃CF₃,^[4] as well as in the cationic rhodium(I) complex [Rh(PNP)(CH₃CN)]-BF₄.^[3b]

Conclusions

The organorhodium(I) complexes [Rh(PNP)R] smoothly undergo oxidative addition reactions with I₂ and CH₃I to give the stable organorhodium(III) complexes [Rh(PNP)-RI₂] and [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)RI], respectively.

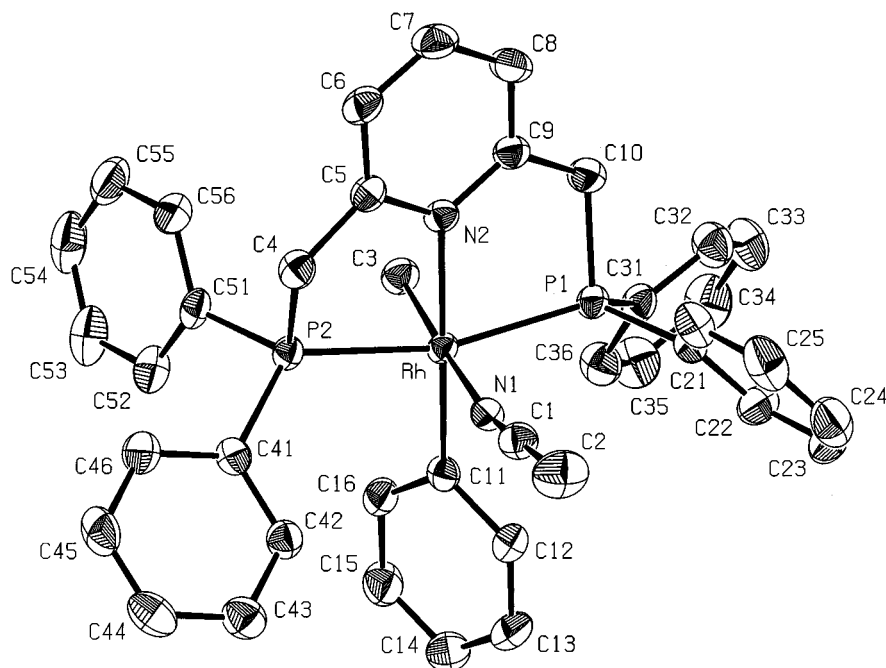


Figure 1. PLATON^[13] drawing of the structure of the complex cation of $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]\text{BF}_4$ **5**. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [°]: Rh–N(1) 2.142(3), Rh–N(2) 2.152(2), Rh–C(3) 2.082(3), Rh–C(11) 2.049(3), Rh–P(1) 2.2913(9), Rh–P(2) 2.3098(8), P(1)–C(10) 1.848(5), P(2)–C(4) 1.835(3); P(1)–Rh–P(2) 164.58(3), N(1)–Rh–P(1) 93.92(7), N(1)–Rh–P(2) 89.55(7), N(1)–Rh–N(2) 88.56(9), C(3)–Rh–C(11) 91.77(12), N(1)–Rh–C(3) 176.65(11), N(2)–Rh–C(11) 179.9(2), C(1)–N(1)–Rh 172.0(2), N(1)–C(1)–C(2) 178.4(4).

It was shown that the diorganorhodium(III) complexes $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})(\text{CH}_3)\text{RI}]$, in which the organo moieties are coordinated in a *cis* arrangement, C–C bond formation leading to the reductive elimination of the hydrocarbons RCH_3 is possible. This was realized by cleavage of the iodo ligand with TIBF_4 in the presence of acetone. Acetone is too weakly coordinating as a ligand to stabilize the resulting five-coordinate diorganyl rhodium(III) complex. However, when the reaction is carried out in the presence of the more strongly coordinating CH_3CN , the stable six-coordinate acetonitrile complex $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})(\text{CH}_3)(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]\text{BF}_4$ is formed, confirming the dissociative mechanism of the reductive elimination.

The smooth oxidative addition reactions of the model compounds $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})\text{R}]$, and the stability as well as the reactivity of the Rh–C σ -bond in the rhodium–PNP complexes suggests that rhodium(I) has the potential to catalyze the hydroamination of olefins according to the proposed catalytic reaction mechanism.^[4]

Experimental Section

All reactions were carried out under dry argon. Acetone, $[\text{D}_6]\text{acetone}$, CD_2Cl_2 , and CDCl_3 were refluxed over 4-Å molecular sieves and purged of oxygen by bubbling argon. THF and diethyl ether were refluxed over Na/benzophenone. Acetonitrile, DMSO, and methyl iodide were dried over 4-Å molecular sieves and distilled prior to use.

Infrared spectra were recorded from KBr pellets on a Perkin-Elmer FT-IR 16 spectrometer. – The ^1H -, $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -, and $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectra were recorded at 300, 75, and 121 MHz, respectively, on a

Varian Gemini 300 NMR spectrometer. The ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR shifts were referenced to the solvent signals, while the ^{31}P -NMR shifts were referenced to external 85% H_3PO_4 . – A Chrompack CP 9000 gas chromatograph was used for the identification of liquid organic compounds. – EI mass spectra were recorded on an AMD 402 spectrometer (AMD Intectra) at 70 eV. – C, H, N elemental analyses were carried out on a LECO CHN 932 analyzer, while Rh was determined using a photometric method.^[14]

Synthesis of $[\text{Rh}(\text{PNP})\text{RI}_2]$ ($\text{R} = \text{CH}_3$ *trans*: **2a, *cis*: **2a'**; C_6H_5 **2b**):** 237 mg of I_2 (0.93 mmol) in 2 mL of THF was added to a solution of 552 mg (0.93 mmol) of **1a** in 4 mL of THF. After a few seconds, a brown, microcrystalline solid precipitated, and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min. After a further 30 min (without stirring), the solid was filtered off and washed with THF and diethyl ether. The crude product was recrystallized from refluxing THF. The recrystallized product was washed twice with THF and twice with diethyl ether and dried in vacuo.

2a (trans)/2a' (cis): Yield: 498 mg (0.59 mmol, 63%); m.p. 295–298 °C (dec.). – $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{30}\text{I}_2\text{NP}_2\text{Rh}$ (846.90): calcd. C 45.34, H 4.52, N 1.90, Rh 12.15; found C 45.43, H 4.33, N 1.73, Rh 12.03. – ^{31}P NMR (CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = 14.3$ (d, $J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 99$ Hz, *trans*), 23.3 (d, $J_{\text{P-Rh}} = 106$ Hz, *cis*). – ^1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = 0.43$ (td, $J_{\text{H-P}} = 6.2$ Hz, $J_{\text{H-Rh}} = 2.2$ Hz, 3 H, CH_3 , *cis*), 1.99 (td, $J_{\text{H-P}} = 4.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{H-Rh}} = 2.2$ Hz, 3 H, CH_3 , *trans*), 4.49 (d ps. t, $J_{\text{Ha-Hb}} = 17.3$ Hz, $N_{\text{H-P}} = 4.4$ Hz, 2 H, CH_a , *cis*), 4.80 (d ps. t, $J_{\text{Ha-Hb}} = 17.3$ Hz, $N_{\text{H-P}} = 5.6$ Hz, 2 H, CH_b , *cis*), 4.84 (vt, $N_{\text{H-P}} = 4.6$ Hz, 4 H, CH_a , *trans*), 7.36–8.20 (m, PPh, py, *trans/cis*). – ^{13}C NMR (CD_2Cl_2): $\delta = -18.4$ (dt, $J_{\text{C-P}} = 8.9$ Hz, $J_{\text{C-Rh}} = 16.1$ Hz, CH_3 , *trans*), 8.7 (dt, $J_{\text{C-P}} = 4.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{C-Rh}} = 20.2$ Hz, CH_3 , *cis*), 44.7 (ps. t, $N = 13.0$ Hz, CH_2 , *trans*), 46.7 (ps. t, $N = 15.5$ Hz, CH_2 , *cis*), 121.3 (ps. t, $N = 5.0$ Hz, $\text{C}_{3,5\text{-py}}$), 121.5 (ps. t, $N = 5.0$ Hz, $\text{C}_{3,5\text{-py}}$), 127.9 (ps. t, $N = 5.6$ Hz, PC_{meta} , *trans*) 127.9 (ps. t, $N = 5.0$ Hz, PC_{meta} , *cis*), 128.3 (ps. t, $N = 4.6$ Hz, PC_{meta} , *cis*), 130.0 (s,

PC_{para}, *trans*), 130.2 (s, PC_{para}, *cis*), 130.5 (s, PC_{para}, *cis*), 132.3 (ps. t, *N* = 4.7 Hz, PC_{ortho}, *cis*), 132.9 (ps. t, *N* = 5.0 Hz, PC_{ortho}, *trans*), 133.9 (ps. t, *N* = 5.0 Hz, PC_{ortho}, *cis*), 138.2 (s, C_{4-py}, *cis*), 138.5 (s, C_{4-py}, *trans*), 159.3 (ps. t, *N* < 3 Hz, C_{2,6-py}, *cis*), 162.1 (ps. t, *N* < 3 Hz, C_{2,6-py}, *trans*). – EI-MS: *m/z* (%): 832 (0.1) [M – CH₃]⁺, 719 (1.2) [M – I]⁺, 705 (100) [M – CH₃ – I]⁺, 578 (21) [M – CH₃ – I – I]⁺, 142 (16) [CH₃I]⁺.

The synthesis of **2b** was carried out in the same manner as described for **2a/a'**, starting from 572 mg (0.87 mmol) of **1b** in 4 mL of THF and 222 mg of I₂ dissolved in 2 mL of THF. Yield: 565 mg (0.62 mmol, 71%); m.p. 293°C (dec.). – C₃₇H₃₂I₂NP₂Rh (909.33): calcd. C 48.87, H 3.55, N 1.54, Rh 11.32; found C 49.05, H 3.95, N 1.31, Rh 11.42. – ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = 18.8 (d, J_{P–Rh} = 105 Hz). – ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = 4.90 (ps. t, *N*_{H–P} = 4.7 Hz, 4 H, CH₂), 6.88 (m, 3 H, Ph), 7.26–7.38 (m, 20 H, PPh), 7.60 (d, J_{H–H} = 7.7 Hz, 2 H, 3,5-py), 7.82 (t, J_{H–H} = 7.7 Hz, 1 H, 4-py), 7.96 (m, 2 H, Ph). – ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = 48.1 (ps. t, *N* = 15.7 Hz, CH₂), 121.5 (ps. t, *N* = 5.3 Hz, C_{3,5-py}), 122.7 (s, Ph), 125.9 (s, Ph), 127.7 (ps. t, *N* = 5.0 Hz, PC_{meta}), 130.3 (s, PC_{para}), 134.3 (ps. t, *N* = 4.7 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 135.9 (ps. t, *N* = 24.5 Hz, PC_{ipso}), 138.8 (s, C_{4-py}), 147.2 (ps. t, *N* = 4.3 Hz, Ph), 160.4 (ps. t, *N* < 3 Hz, C_{2,6-py}). – EI-MS: *m/z* (%): 832 (0.4) [M – C₆H₅]⁺, 781 (12.5) [M – I]⁺, 705 (100) [M – I – C₆H₅]⁺, 655 (1.4) [M – I – I]⁺, 578 (27) [M – I – I – C₆H₅]⁺.

Synthesis of [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)RI] (R = CH₃ **3a, C₆H₅ **3b**):** To a solution of 571 mg (0.96 mmol) of **1a** in 6 mL of THF was added 60 μl of CH₃I (Rh/CH₃I = 1:1). After a few seconds, a pale-yellow microcrystalline solid precipitated and the reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min. After a further 30 min (without stirring), the solid was filtered off and washed with THF and diethyl ether. The crude product was recrystallized by extraction with refluxing THF. The recrystallized product was washed twice with THF, twice with diethyl ether, and dried in vacuo.

3a: Yield: 390 mg (0.53 mmol, 55%); m.p. 214–220°C (dec.). – C₃₃H₃₃INP₂Rh (735.39): calcd. C 53.90, H 4.52, N 1.90, Rh 13.99; found C 53.62, H 4.46, N 1.79, Rh 14.36. – ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = 26.5 (d, J_{P–Rh} = 120 Hz). – ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = –0.35 (td, J_{H–P} = 6.4 Hz, J_{H–Rh} = 2.2 Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 1.02 (td, J_{H–P} = 5.2 Hz, J_{H–Rh} = 2.1 Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 4.31 (d ps. t, J_{Ha–Hb} = 16.6 Hz, *N*_{H–P} = 4.2 Hz, 2 H, CH_a), 4.66 (d ps. t, J_{Ha–Hb} = 16.6 Hz, *N*_{H–P} = 4.9 Hz, 2 H, CH_b), 7.32–7.41 (m, 12 H, PPh), 7.50 (d, J_{H–H} = 7.6 Hz, 2 H, 3,5-py), 7.73 (t, J_{H–H} = 7.6 Hz, 1 H, 4-py), 7.79 (m, 8 H, PPh). – ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = –14.5 (dt, J_{C–P} = 7.1 Hz, J_{C–Rh} = 22.4 Hz, CH₃), 6.9 (dt, J_{C–P} = 6.3 Hz, J_{C–Rh} = 26.0 Hz, CH₃), 44.9 (ps. t, *N* = 13.6 Hz, CH₂), 120.8 (ps. t, *N* = 5.0 Hz, C_{3,5-py}), 127.9 (ps. t, *N* = 5.0 Hz, PC_{meta}), 128.2 (ps. t, *N* = 4.3 Hz, PC_{meta}), 129.4 (s, PC_{para}), 130.1 (s, PC_{para}), 131.8 (ps. t, *N* = 4.8 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 134.3 (ps. t, *N* = 5.8 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 137.4 (s, C_{4-py}), 159.3 (ps. t, *N* < 3 Hz, C_{2,6-py}). – EI-MS: *m/z* (%): 719 (2) [M – CH₃]⁺, 705 (100) [M – CH₃ – CH₃]⁺, 578 (15) [M – CH₃ – CH₃ – I]⁺.

3b: The complex was obtained in the same manner as described for **3a**, starting from 692 mg (1.05 mmol) of **1b** and 66 μl of CH₃I in 7 mL of THF. – Yield: 528 mg (0.66 mmol, 63%); m.p. 186–195°C (dec.). – C₃₈H₃₅INP₂Rh (797.46): calcd. C 57.23, H 4.42, N 1.76, Rh 12.90; found C 56.75, H 4.60, N 1.56, Rh 12.46. – ³¹P NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = 30.5 (d, J_{P–Rh} = 119 Hz). – ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂): δ = 0.35 (td, J_{H–P} = 6.4 Hz, J_{H–Rh} = 2.2 Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 4.34 (d ps. t, J_{Ha–Hb} = 16.9 Hz, *N*_{H–P} = 4.3 Hz, 2 H, CH_a), 4.80 (d ps. t, J_{Ha–Hb} = 16.6 Hz, *N*_{H–P} = 4.8 Hz, 2 H, CH_b), 6.90 (m, 3 H, Ph), 7.11–7.38 (m, 20 H, PPh), 7.56 (d, J_{H–H} = 7.7 Hz, 2 H, 3,5-py), 7.68 (m, 2 H, Ph). 7.83 (t, J_{H–H} = 7.7 Hz, 1 H, 4-py). – ¹³C NMR

(CD₂Cl₂): δ = 8.8 (dt, J_{C–P} = 5.5 Hz, J_{C–Rh} = 26.7 Hz, CH₃), 46.3 (ps. t, *N* = 14.1 Hz, CH₂), 121.1 (ps. t, *N* = 5.1 Hz, C_{3,5-py}), 121.5 (s, Ph), 125.9 (s, Ph), 127.5 (ps. t, *N* = 5.0 Hz, PC_{meta}), 128.2 (ps. t, *N* = 4.7 Hz, PC_{meta}), 129.9 (s, PC_{para}), 130.0 (s, PC_{para}), 133.1 (ps. t, *N* = 5.1 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 134.2 (ps. t, *N* = 5.6 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 138.0 (s, C_{4-py}), 142.3 (ps. t, *N* = 4.0 Hz, Ph), 159.7 (ps. t, *N* < 3 Hz, C_{2,6-py}). – EI-MS: *m/z* (%): 781 (0.1) [M – CH₃]⁺, 719 (0.8) [M – C₆H₅]⁺, 705 (100) [M – CH₃ – C₆H₅]⁺, 578 (17) [M – CH₃ – C₆H₅ – I]⁺, 91 (57) [C₇H₈ – H]⁺.

Reactivity of 3a and 3b Toward TIBF₄: (a) A mixture of 20 mg (0.027 mmol) of **3a** and 8 mg (0.027 mmol) of TIBF₄ in 0.7 mL of [D₆]acetone was shaken in a sealed NMR tube over 2 days. While TII precipitated the solution changed colour to dark-red. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum a singlet is found at δ = 0.82 for ethane, whereas the signals of **3a** completely disappeared.

78 mg (0.27 mmol) of TIBF₄ was added to a solution of 215 mg (0.27 mmol) of **3b** in 5 mL of acetone. After stirring overnight, a yellow precipitate of TII was filtered off. Toluene was detected in the dark-red filtrate by means of gas chromatography. Upon addition of 0.5 mL of DMSO, the solution became orange-red in colour. The DMSO–rhodium(I) complex [Rh(PNP)(DMSO)]BF₄ (**4**) was detected by ³¹P-NMR spectroscopy (in acetone/external C₆D₆: δ = 40.2, J_{P–Rh} = 148 Hz). This was consistent with an authentic sample, which was prepared from [Rh(PNP)(C₂H₄)]BF₄ and DMSO.^[3b]

(b) In the Presence of CH₃CN: 322 mg (0.4 mmol) of **3b** was suspended in a mixture of 7 mL of THF and 1 mL of acetonitrile. To this was added 120 mg of TIBF₄ and the mixture was stirred overnight. A yellow precipitate of TII was deposited, which was filtered off. Diethyl ether was added dropwise to the pale-yellow filtrate, resulting in the precipitation of a white, crystalline solid. This was filtered off, washed with diethyl ether, and dried in vacuo. The solid was characterized as [Rh(PNP)(CH₃)(C₆H₅)(CH₃CN)]BF₄ (**5**): Yield: 271 mg (0.34 mmol, 85%); m.p. 146°C (dec.). – C₄₀H₃₈BF₄N₂P₂Rh (798.41): calcd. C 60.17, H 4.80, N 3.51, Rh 12.89; found C 60.30, H 5.28, N 3.75, Rh 12.57. – ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 32.7 (d, J_{P–Rh} = 117 Hz). – ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 0.09 (td, J_{H–P} = 6.6 Hz, J_{H–Rh} = 1.5 Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 1.45 (s, 3 H, NCH₃), 4.30 (d ps. t, J_{Ha–Hb} = 17.5 Hz, *N*_{H–P} = 4.3 Hz, 2 H, CH_a), 4.47 (d ps. t, J_{Ha–Hb} = 17.5 Hz, *N*_{H–P} = 4.2 Hz, 2 H, CH_b), 6.95 (m, 3 H, Ph), 7.07–7.40 (m, 22 H, PPh, Ph), 7.75 (d, J_{H–H} = 7.7 Hz, 2 H, 3,5-py), 7.99 (t, J_{H–H} = 7.7 Hz, 1 H, 4-py). – ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ = 2.03 (s, NCH₃), 2.03 (m, overlapped with the NCH₃ signal, CH₃), 44.7 (ps. t, *N* = 13.7 Hz, CH₂), 120.4 (s, Ph), 122.5 (ps. t, *N* = 5.6 Hz, C_{3,5-py}), 127.2 (s, Ph), 128.5 (br, CN), 128.7 (br, PC_{meta}), 130.7 (s, PC_{para}), 130.8 (s, PC_{para}), 131.7 (ps. t, *N* = 18.3 Hz, PC_{ipso}), 132.7 (ps. t, *N* = 5.7 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 132.9 (ps. t, *N* = 5.6 Hz, PC_{ortho}), 138.1 (ps. t, *N* < 4.0 Hz, Ph), 139.6 (s, C_{4-py}), 159.1 (ps. t, *N* < 3 Hz, C_{2,6-py}). – IR (KBr): $\tilde{\nu}$ = 2281, 2376 cm^{–1} (CH₃CN); 1574, 1606 (py); 1062 (BF₄).

Crystal Structure Determination of Compound 5: *Crystal Data:* C₄₀H₃₈BF₄N₂P₂Rh · (C₄H₁₀O)_{0.8}, formula weight 857.79 g mol^{–1}, monoclinic, *P*2₁/*n* (No. 14), *a* = 12.6065(6), *b* = 24.5689(10), *c* = 13.5059(9) Å, β = 102.356(6)°, *V* = 4086.3(4) Å³, *Z* = 4, *d*_{calc} = 1.394 g cm^{–3}, *F*(000) = 1767. – *Data Collection:* STOE-IPDS,^[14] Mo-*K*_α radiation (graphite monochromator, λ = 0.71073 Å), crystal size 0.34 × 0.30 × 0.26 mm³, *T* = 193(2) K, scan range 2.0 < θ < 25.7°; intensities were measured for 31092 reflections with 7411 unique reflections, of which 5469 were considered observed [*I* ≥ 2σ(*I*)]. The reflections were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects; μ = 0.55 mm^{–1}, no absorption correction. – *Structural Analysis and Refinement:* Preliminary positions of heavy atoms

were found by direct methods,^[16] while positions of the other non-hydrogen atoms were determined from subsequent difference Fourier synthesis coupled with initial isotropic least-squares refinement.^[17] An additional diethyl ether solvent molecule was located in the asymmetric unit and refined with 80% partial occupancy. With the exception of those of the solvent molecule, all hydrogen atoms were found in a difference Fourier map and refined with individual isotropic temperature parameters. Refinement: Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 ; 7070 reflections; 649 refined parameters; final $R_1 = 0.0333$, $wR_2 = 0.0806$, goodness-of-fit on $F^2 = 1.040$.

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structure reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC-100736). Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, U.K. [Fax: (internat.) + 44-1223/336033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

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