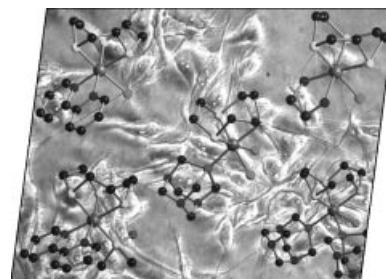


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## COVER PICTURE

**The cover picture shows** the X-ray structures of some new half-sandwich (or piano-stool)  $\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}\text{-[9]aneS}_3$  complexes ( $\text{[9]aneS}_3$  = 1,3,7-trithiacyclononane) against a background of cells in culture. The complexes of the type  $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{L})(\text{[9]aneS}_3)]$ ,  $[\text{RuCl}(\text{L})_2(\text{[9]aneS}_3)]$ - $[\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3]$ , and  $[\text{Ru}(\text{dmsos})(\text{L})_2(\text{[9]aneS}_3)][\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3]_2$  ( $\text{L}$  = 1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphaadamantane, PTA;  $(\text{L})_2$  = 2 PTA or chelating N-ligand) were prepared from  $\text{Ru-[9]aneS}_3$ -dmsos precursors and structurally characterized, both in solution and in the solid state. Some of them are analogues of known cytotoxic half-sandwich  $\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}(\eta^6\text{-arene})$  organometallic compounds of the type  $[\text{RuCl}(\text{en})(\eta^6\text{-arene})][\text{PF}_6]$  and  $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{PTA})(\eta^6\text{-arene})]$ , in which the aromatic fragment is replaced by the sulfur macrocycle  $\text{[9]aneS}_3$  while the rest of the coordination sphere is left unchanged. Preliminary in vitro tests performed on some complexes against the mouse adenocarcinoma cancer cell line (TS/A) and the human mammary normal cell line (HBL-100) showed that, in general, the  $\text{Ru-[9]aneS}_3$  compounds have a cytotoxicity comparable to that of the corresponding organometallic analogues. These results suggest that the aromatic fragment of the piano-stool  $\text{Ru}^{\text{II}}$  compounds is not an essential feature for the in vitro anticancer activity, and it might be effectively replaced by another face-capping ligand with a low steric demand, such as  $\text{[9]aneS}_3$ . Details are discussed in the article by E. Alessio et al. on p. 3423 ff. This work was performed within the framework of COST Action D20, a collaboration between WG 0001 and WG 0005.



## MICROREVIEW

### Contents

#### 3393 M. Trueba,\* S. P. Trasatti

$\gamma$ -Alumina as a Support for Catalysts: A  
 Review of Fundamental Aspects

**Keywords:** Alumina / Materials science / Micro- and  
 macrostructures / Supported catalysts

