Montserrat Diéguez,* Aurora Ruiz, Anna Maria Masdeu-Bultó and Carmen Claver

Departament de Química Física i Inorgànica, Facultat de Química, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Pl. Imperial Tarraco 1, 43005 Tarragona, Spain. E-mail: dieguez@quimica.urv.es

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New palladium(II) and platinum(II) complexes with two families of chiral dithioether ligands, (-)-1-benzyl-3,4-bis-(methylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine (-)-degusMe₂, (-)-1-benzyl-3,4-bis(isopropylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine (-)-degusPr¹₂, (+)-1-benzyl-3,4-bis(phenylsulfanyl)pyrrolidine (+)-degusPh₂, (-)-2,2-dimethyl-4,5-bis(methylsulfanylmethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-4,3-bis(methylsulfanylmethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-4,3-bis(methylsulfanylmethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-4,3-bis(methylsulfanylmethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-4,3-bis(methylsulfanylmethyl-4,3-bis(methylsulfanylmethyl)-1,3-dimethyl-4,3-bis(methylsulfanylmethyldioxolane (-)-diosMe₂ and (-)-4,5-bis(isopropylsulfanylmethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane (-)-diosPrⁱ₂, have been prepared and characterised by NMR. The complexes [PdCl₂{(-)-degusMe₂}], [PdCl₂{(+)-degusPh₂}] and [PdCl₂{(-)-diosMe₂}] show a mixture of two diastereomers in solution at room temperature. VT-NMR indicates that there is no interconversion between diastereomers at room temperature. Complex $[Pt(cod)\{(-)-diosMe_2\}][BF_4]_2$ is extremely fluxional and its diastereomers did not show isolated NMR resonances even at -90 °C. The complexes $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}], [PdCl_2\{(-)-diosPr_2^i\}] \ and \ [Pt(cod)\{(-)-diosPr_2^i\}] [BF_4]_2, \ which \ contain \ a \ more \ hindered$ ligand, seem to be well suited for use in enantioselective catalysis because only one diastereomer is present.

Introduction

Catalytic asymmetric synthesis using organometallic complexes has become one of the most active areas of research in modern organic synthesis. In this area the search for and development of new chiral complexes, and a better understanding of their properties, play a fundamental role in revealing the mechanisms of catalytic processes. 1,2

The most commonly studied and employed organometallic complexes contain phosphorus ligands. This is mainly due to the excellent results obtained with phosphines in different catalytic reactions. However, interest in sulfur ligands has increased over the last few years because of the promising results obtained by using thioether and dithioether ligands in different reactions.³ Palladium complexes containing a thioether group have produced excellent enantioselectivities (up to 98%) in allylic alkylation. 3g Moreover, good results have been obtained in the enantioselective hydrogenation of acrylic acid derivatives, at 1 bar H_2 and 20 °C, using iridium cationic complexes with dithioether ligands.3k,l

Although several reports into the use of chiral dithioethers have been published, 3i-1,4 hardly any detailed NMR studies of organometallic complexes with this type of ligands have been carried out.⁵ A feature of complexes containing chiral thioether/dithioether ligands is that the sulfur atoms, which become stereogenic centres upon co-ordination, can invert readily in solution at ambient temperature and give mixtures of diastereomers. Moreover, different conformations of the chelate ring can be obtained. These two factors could reduce the effectiveness of these kinds of ligands in enantioselective catalysis. The number of diastereomers and conformers proved to be determining factors in the efficiency and stereoselectivity of the catalytic reactions. The incorporation of C_2 symmetry into a chiral ligand is a well recognised strategy for restricting the number of diastereomers. Recent studies, however, have shown that C_1 dithioether donor ligands are advantageous in some cases.3k,

In this context we have developed the synthesis of different families of dithioether ligands with a different symmetry and rigidity in the backbone. 3j-l Using the chiral diphosphine (+)-DIOP [3,4-bis(diphenylphosphinomethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane] as a model, we first prepared the related C_2 -symmetry dithioether ligands dios R_2 (R = Me, Prⁱ or Ph) (Scheme 1).3j More recently we described the synthesis and

$$O \stackrel{\underline{H}}{\longleftarrow} SR$$

$$O \stackrel{\underline{H}}{\longleftarrow} SR$$

$$SR$$

$$diosR_2 R^- Me, Pr^i, Ph$$

$$degusR_2 R^- Me, Pr^i, Ph$$

Scheme 1

application of a more rigid and efficient family of dithioether C_1 -symmetry degus R_2 ligands (R = Me, Pr^i or Ph). 3k To direct our research to obtain further information on the stability and stereochemistry of some potential catalyst precursors, we report the preparation of new complexes of Pd^{II} and Pt^{II} with these two families of chiral dithioether ligands and investigate their co-ordination chemistry in detail.

Results and discussion

Preparation of the complexes

The palladium complexes $[PdCl_2(degusR_2)]$ (R = Me, Prⁱ or Ph) and $[PdCl_2(diosR_2)]$ (R = Me or Pr^i) were obtained by treating [PdCl₂(PhCN)₂] with an equimolar amount of the corresponding dithioether ligands in methylene chloride (Scheme 2). The dithioether ligand diosPh2 did not react with [PdCl₂(PhCN)₂] under these conditions.

When the experiments were carried out with the corresponding platinum complex [PtCl₂(PhCN)₂] no reaction was observed. However, the reaction of the corresponding dithioethers degus R_2 (R = Me, Pr^i or Ph) and dios R_2 (R = Me or Pr^i) with [PtCl₂(cod)] in the presence of AgBF₄ in dichloromethane solution proceeded with displacement of the chloro ligands to yield the cationic complexes [Pt(cod)(degusR₂)][BF₄]₂ and [Pt(cod)(diosR₂)][BF₄]₂, respectively (Scheme 3). Complex [PtCl₂-(cod)] did not react with diosPh₂ under these conditions.

The palladium and platinum complexes 1–10 were isolated by precipitation from hexane and diethyl ether as air stable solids. In solution all the palladium complexes 1–5 and the platinum complexes 9, 10 were stable. Platinum complexes 6-8 were unstable in solution, even under a nitrogen atmosphere and could be characterised only in the solid state. Elemental analysis of C, H and S is consistent with the stoichiometry $[PdCl_2(S-S)]_n$ and $[Pt(cod)(S-S)]_n[BF_4]_{2n}$ $(S-S=degusR_2 \text{ or }$ diosR₂). The mass spectra show that the palladium complexes 1–5 have their highest ions at m/z values corresponding to the loss of two Cl⁻ in the molecular species. Platinum complexes 6-10 have their highest ions at values corresponding to the expected loss of BF₄⁻ anions (see Experimental section). For **6–10** the IR spectra show a strong band between 1090 and 1050 cm⁻¹ and a medium band at 450 cm⁻¹. These are characteristic of non-co-ordinated BF₄⁻ anion in cationic complexes.⁶

The structure of complexes [PdCl₂(S–S)] and [Pt(cod)-(S–S)]²⁺ may be revealed by ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. The data for **4**, **5** and **10** were assigned using COSY spectra and Distortionless Enhancement of Polarisation Transfer (DEPT) spectra. For complexes **1–3**, Heteronuclear Correlation Spectroscopy (HETCOR) was also necessary to assign the signals.

As mentioned previously, dithioether ligands create two stereogenic centres when they co-ordinate. Several stereo-isomers with different spatial arrangements of the S-R substituents can be obtained (Fig. 1). In the case of ligands degusR₂, which present C₁ symmetry, four diastereomers can therefore be formed. Since degusR₂ ligands have an (R,R) configuration, the four possible diastereomers are RRRR, RRSS, RRRS and RRSR. Diastereomers RRRR and RRSS correspond to the anti invertomers and RRRS and RRSR to

$$[PdCl_{2}(PhCN)_{2}] + degusR_{2} \xrightarrow{CH_{2}Cl_{2}} Ph \xrightarrow{H} \xrightarrow{R} S_{n_{m_{1}}} Pd \xrightarrow{condCl} + 2 PhCN$$

$$R = Me \ 1$$

$$R = Pr^{i} \ 2$$

$$R = Ph \ 3$$

$$R = Ph \ 3$$

$$R = Pr^{i} \ 5$$

$$R = Me \ 4$$

$$R = Pr^{i} \ 5$$

Scheme 2

the syn. Three diastereomers can be revealed with the C_2 symmetry (S,S) dios R_2 ligands: SSRR, SSSS both attributed to the anti isomers and SSRS or SSSR corresponding to syn isomers.

Complexes with C_1 symmetric degus R_2 ligands

For complexes 1 and 3 the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data indicate the presence of two isomers (denoted as a and b) in ratio 2:1. For **2** only one diastereomer is detected (Table 1). For all these complexes the shape of their NMR spectra is not affected when the sample is cooled to -90 °C and heated to 40 °C. This fact suggests that there is no interconversion between diastereomers on the NMR timescale at room temperature. Therefore, for 1 and 3, each ¹H NMR spectrum shows four doublets of two different intensities (ratio 2:1) corresponding to the benzyl protons (CH₂Ph) of the major and minor diastereomers, respectively (Table 1). As expected for these groups, the ¹³C NMR spectra show two signals of different intensities at δ 61.8 and 62.2 for the diastereomers of complex 1 and at δ 62.4 and 62.8 for those of 3. Four signals of two different intensities in a ratio of 2:1 are also observed for the CH groups in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR. This is also observed for the pyrrolidine methylene signals in the ¹³C NMR spectra. In the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra the SMe groups are non-equivalent and show four signals of two different intensities (ratio 2:1) attributed to diastereomers 1a and 1b, respectively. The aromatic protons from the PhS groups of complexes 3a and 3b have been assigned on the basis of selective decoupling and NOE experiments (Table 2). So, for example, the *ortho*-protons of the major isomer 3a appear as two doublets at δ 7.40 and 7.70, while the corresponding resonances for minor isomer 3b appear at δ 6.80 and 7.91.

For the major isomer 3a, irradiation of the CH resonances at δ 3.11 and 4.36 causes a significant NOE enhancement of the *ortho*-protons of the SPh group at δ 7.40 and 7.70, respectively (Fig. 2). This is consistent with an axial–axial location of the SPh groups in the *anti RRRR* configuration or with a pseudo

Fig. 1 Possible diastereomers for complexes 1–10.

Scheme 3

Table 1 The NMR spectroscopic data for compounds 1a, 1b, 2, 3a and 3b^a

Compound	CH₂Ph	CH ₂ N	СН	SMe	SCH	Me
¹H						
1a	3.51 (d) ^b	2.39 (m)	3.22 (m)	2.21 (s)		
	5.17 (d)	4.56 (m)	4.15 (m)	2.62 (s)		
		4.45 (m)		(-)		
1b	$4.00 (d)^{c}$	2.15 (b)	3.12 (b)	2.50 (s)		
	5.03 (d)	2.41 (m)	3.42 (b)	2.81 (s)		
	()	4.68 (m)	()	()		
2	$3.49 (d)^d$	2.45 (m)	3.05 (m)		3.05 (m)	1.35 (d) ^e
	5.30 (d)	2.55 (m)	3.72 (m)		3.85 (m)	1.42 (d)
	()	2.95 (m)	. ,		()	1.55 (d)
		4.71 (m)				1.82 (d)
3a	$3.24(d)^f$	2.30-2.80 (m)	3.11 (m)			. ,
	5.39 (d)	4.78 (m)	4.36 (m)			
3b	$3.63 (d)^g$	2.30-2.80 (m)	3.19 (m)			
	5.26 (d)	4.78 (m)	4.03 (m)			
¹³ C						
1a	61.8	62.7	45.4	15.7		
	01.0	63.7	49.8	19.2		
1b	62.2	62.4	47.2	20.7		
		62.8	50.5	23.1		
2	63.0	65.0	45.9		38.0	23.5
_		66.0	51.8		44.0	23.9
		00.0	51.0			24.5
						24.8
3a	62.4	65.1	47.3			
	,_,,	63.3	55.4			
3a	62.8	62.2	46.4			
	~=	61.1	53.5			

 $[^]a$ CDCl $_3$ solvent. Chemical shifts in ppm with SiMe $_4$ as internal standard, coupling constants in Hz; room temperature. Abbreviations: s, singlet; m, multiplet; d, doublet; b, broad. $^{b2}J_{\text{H-H}} = 15.$ $^{c2}J_{\text{H-H}} = 14.$ $^{d2}J_{\text{H-H}} = 11.5.$ $^{e3}J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.2.$ $^{f2}J_{\text{H-H}} = 13.1.$ $^{g2}J_{\text{H-H}} = 12.1.$

Table 2 Selected ^{1}H NMR data for the SPh part for compounds 3a and $3b^{a}$

Compound	0	m	p
3a	7.40 (d) ^b	7.30 (t) ^c	7.40 (m)
	7.70 (d)	7.40 (m)	7.82 (m)
3b	$6.80 (d)^d$	$7.05(t)^{e}$	$7.20 (t)^{f}$
	7.91 (d)	7.38 (t)	7.54 (t)

^a CDCl₃ solvent. Chemical shifts in ppm, coupling constants in Hz; room temperature. Abbreviations: *o, ortho; m, meta; p, para;* d, doublet; m, multiplet; t, triplet. ^{b3} $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.4$. ^{c3} $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.5$. ^{d3} $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.4$. ^{e3} $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.5$.

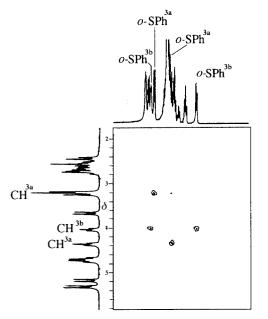


Fig. 2 Section of the NOESY spectrum of diastereomers 3a and 3b.

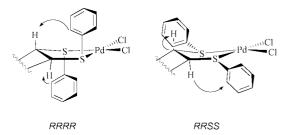


Fig. 3 Representation of the two possible syn diastereomers for complex 3a. The arrows show the cross peak signals.

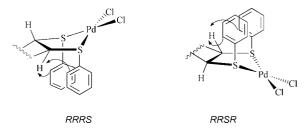


Fig. 4 Representation of the two possible *syn* diastereomers with the dithioether groups located in an axial position for complex **3b**. The arrows show the cross peak signals.

equatorial–equatorial disposition of the SPh groups in the anti RRSS configuration (Fig. 3). On the other hand, when the signal of the CH groups of the minor isomer **3b** at δ 4.03 is under irradiation, the resonances of the *ortho*-protons of the SPh groups at δ 6.80 and 7.91 simultaneously experience NOE (Fig. 2). This is in accord with a syn axial–axial position of both phenyl groups. Fig. 4 shows the two possible diastereomers, RRRS and RRSR, with the thioether substituents located in axial positions where the five-membered chelate ring adopts an envelope conformation.

For isomer 1a, irradiation of the signal of the CH group at δ 4.15 causes a significant NOE enhancement of the methyl

Table 3 Selected NMR spectroscopic data for complexes 4a, 4b, 5, 9 and 10^a

	cod		Dithioether							
Compound	CH ₂	СН=СН	СМе	СН	CH ₂	SCH	Me	SMe	CMe	
¹Н										
4a 4b			1.40 (s) 1.40 (s)	4.60 (t) ^b 4.70 (m) 4.90 (m)	3.40 (m) 3.10 (b)			2.44 (s) 1.58 (s) 2.51 (s)		
5			1.40 (s)	4.30 (m)	3.00 (m) 3.50 (m)	$3.60 (\mathrm{sp})^c$	1.50 (d) ^d 1.56 (d)			
9	2.40 (m) 2.60 (m)	5.50 (b) 6.20 (b)	1.40 (s)	4.15 (m)	3.20 (m) 3.40 (m)		. ,	2.80 (b)		
10	2.50 (m) 2.75 (m)	5.50 (m) 6.20 (m)	1.50 (s)	4.10 (m)	$3.05 \text{ (dd) } \text{H}_{\text{ax}}^{\ \ e} $ $3.15 \text{ (dd) } \text{H}_{\text{eq}}^{\ \ f}$	3.40 (m)				
¹³ C										
4a 4b			27.1	78.4 27.1	40.0 78.8 (b)	40.3 (b)		22.2 21.8 (b)	111.1 111.2	
5			27.1	77.6	42.9	34.8	22.3 22.4	,	109.9	
10	29.4 33.4	76.1 80.6	27.1	78.1	39.9	36.1	21.0 22.7		110.1	

^a Chemical shifts in ppm, coupling constants in Hz; room temperature. In CDCl₂ solvent. Abbreviations: s, singlet; m, multiplet; d, doublet; t, triplet; dd, double doublet; sp, septuplet; b, broad. ^{b3} $J_{\text{H-H}} = 5.2$. ^{c3} $J_{\text{H-H}} = 3.2$. ^{c2} $J_{\text{gem}} = 13.0$, ³ $J_{\text{ax-ax}} = 7.5$. ^{f2} $J_{\text{gem}} = 13.0$, ³ $J_{\text{eq-ax}} = 3.2$.

groups at δ 2.62, which is consistent with an axial position for this thioether substituent. On the other hand, the NOE experiment suggests that the methyl group at δ 2.21 is in an equatorial position. These data indicate an axial-equatorial disposition of the methyl substituents. The NOE experiments for the minor isomer 1b are also in accord with an axialequatorial location for the methyl groups at δ 2.81 and 2.50, respectively. For 2 the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra agree with the expected pattern for this complex with a C_1 ligand. The ¹³C NMR spectrum shows two signals for the two secondary carbons of the CH2N group, two for the methinic carbons of the SCH groups and two for the CH groups. Four signals for the Me groups are observed in the ¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra. The VT-NMR data indicate that there is only one isomer. As with isomers 1a and 1b, the NOE experiments are consistent with an axial-equatorial location for the isopropyl groups at δ 3.72 and 3.05, respectively.

Complexes with C2 symmetric diosR2 ligands

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of palladium complex 4 indicate that two diastereomers (denoted as 4a and 4b) are present in solution at room temperature in a ratio of 3:2 (Table 3). For diastereomer 4a the NMR data are consistent with a C_2 symmetry. The SMe and the methinic protons appear at δ 2.44 and at 4.60, respectively, and do not show any splitting on lowering the temperature. However, for the minor isomer 4b, the NMR spectra show a C_1 symmetry pattern: two singlets at δ 2.51 and 1.58 are observed for the inequivalent methyl substituents of the dithioether. The inequivalent methinic protons also appear as two multiplets at δ 4.70 and 4.90. For all complexes, there were no changes in the variable temperature NMR spectra from -90 to 40 °C.

For isomer **4a** the NOE experiments are in accord with an equatorial–equatorial location for the methyl groups. Fig. 5 shows the two possible C_2 -symmetrical diastereomers, SSRR and SSSS, with the thioether substituents located in equatorial positions. The SSRR isomer has the seven-membered chelate ring in a twisted-chair conformation while diastereomer SSSS presents a boat conformation of the chelate ring. Examination of models suggests a preference for the SSRR isomer, since its chair-twisted accommodation is less hindered than the puckered conformation SSSS. For the minor isomer **4b**, when the methyl signal at δ 1.58 is irradiated, cross peaks with one



Fig. 5 Representation of the two possible *anti* diastereomers for complex **4a** with the dithioether groups located in equatorial position.

of the two methinic groups and the methylenic groups are observed. This is consistent with an axial disposition of this SMe group. The NOE experiment also indicates that the less-shielded methyl resonance belongs to an equatorial position. From these data, the minor isomer **4b** can be assigned to an axial–equatorial disposition of the methyl substituents.

The 1H NMR data (Table 3) show that platinum complex **9** is fluxional in solution at room temperature. The spectrum therefore shows two broad signals (4H) at δ 5.50 and 6.20, two multiplets (8H) at δ 2.40 and 2.60 and a broad signal (6H) at δ 2.80 for the SMe protons. The first two resonances are attributed to the olefinic protons of the co-ordinated cyclooctadiene and the next two resonances correspond to its methylene protons. The shape of the NMR spectrum is not affected when the sample is cooled to -90 °C. In particular, the methyl resonance at δ 2.80 does not show any splitting, which indicates a mixture of diastereomers having fluxional behaviour.

The VT-NMR spectra of complexes 5 and 10 show only one C_2 symmetry diastereomer in solution. This follows from the NMR data (see Table 3). In particular, we can see that (i) the two CH groups are equivalent i.e. there is only one signal in ¹H and ¹³C NMR; (ii) in the ¹H NMR spectrum of 10 the diastereotopic methylenic protons appear as two doublets of doublets, which correspond to H_{ax} ($J_{gem} = 13.0$, $J_{ax-ax} = 7.5$ Hz) and H_{eq} ($J_{gem} = 13.0$, $J_{eq-ax} = 3.2$ Hz), respectively. For complex 5 these methylenic protons appear as two multiplets, which cannot be resolved by changing temperature. There is only one signal in the ¹³C NMR spectrum for the two secondary carbons; (iii) the two isopropyl groups are equivalent, since in the ¹³C NMR spectrum there are only three signals for these groups. For complexes 5 and 10 the NOE experiments are consistent with an equatorial disposition of the isopropyl groups. In summary, all the NMR data suggest that for 5 and 10 there is only one diastereoisomer, which could be the anti-SSRR.

As expected, for complexes containing dios R_2 ligands, the equatorial disposition of the dithioether groups is preferred. This is not the case for 1–3, where the rigidity of the backbone ligand allows other structures whose thioether substituents are located in an axial–axial or equatorial–axial position. Moreover, for 3b the unusual stabilisation of the syn axial–axial disposition may be explained by the π -stacking interaction between the two parallel phenyl groups. Surprisingly, complexes 4 and 10, which contain a less rigid backbone ligand, did not show a fluxional process over the range of temperature scanned, unlike complexes of Pd and Pt containing related chiral C_2 methyl dithioether ligands derived from 1,1′-binaphthalene-2,2′-dithiol (BINAS) which are all fluxional in solution at room temperature.⁵

Conclusion

The palladium complexes 1, 3, 4 and the platinum complex 10 reported here show a mixture of two diastereomers in solution at room temperature. VT-NMR indicates that no interconversion between diastereomers takes place at room temperature. Only complex [Pt(cod)(diosMe2)][BF4]2 is extremely fluxional and its diastereomers did not show any isolated NMR resonances even at -90 °C. Moreover, only one diastereomer was observed for complexes $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 2, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 2, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 2, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 3, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 2, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 3, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 3, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 3, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 3, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 4, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 5, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 6, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 7, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 7, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 7, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 7, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 8, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i\}]$ 9, $[PdCl_2\{(-)-degusPr_2^i]]$ 9, $[PdCl_2[(-)-degusPr_2^i]]$ 9, $[PdCl_2[(-)-degusPr_2^i]]$ 9, $[PdCl_2[(-)-degusPr_2^i]]$ 9, $[PdCl_$ $\operatorname{diosPr}_{2}^{i}$ 3 and $[\operatorname{Pt}(\operatorname{cod})\{(-)\operatorname{-diosPr}_{2}^{i}\}][\operatorname{BF}_{4}]_{2}$ 10, which contain the more hindered ligands degusPrⁱ₂ and diosPrⁱ₂. This result could indicate that complexes with diosPri2 and degusPri2 are well suited for use in enantioselective catalysis. The promising results encouraged us to test the catalyst precursors in enantioselective catalysis. The preliminary results are consistent with the conclusions of this paper and will be presented extensively in future.

Experimental

General comments

Elemental analyses were carried out with a Carlo-Erba micro-analyzer. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Midac Grams/ 386 spectrophotometer, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra on a Varian Gemini 300 MHz. Standard-pulse sequences were employed for ¹H-NOE⁷ and ¹H-2-D-NOESY. The phase-sensitive NOESY experiments used mixing times of 0.4 s. FAB mass spectrometry was performed on a VG autospect in a 3-nitrobenzyl alcohol matrix. All the platinum complexes were synthesized using standard Schlenk techniques under a nitrogen atmosphere. Solvents were distilled and deoxygenated before use. Complexes [PdCl₂(PhCN)₂] and [PtCl₂(cod)] and the dithioethers degusR₂ and diosR₂ (R = Me, Prⁱ or Ph) were prepared using reported methods. All other reagents were used as commercially supplied.

Synthesis of the complexes

[PdCl₂{(-)-degusMe₂}] 1. The ligand (-)-degusMe₂ (27 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a solution of [PdCl₂(PhCN)₂] (40 mg, 0.1 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 ml). After stirring at room temperature for 30 min hexane was added to give a yellow precipitate of complex **1** which was filtered off, washed with cold hexane and dried in vacuum (42 mg, 92%) (Found: C, 36.20; H, 4.55; N, 3.20; S, 14.97. Calc. for $C_{13}H_{19}Cl_2NPdS_2$: C, 36.26; H, 4.45; N, 3.25; S, 14.86%); mlz 358 (M – 2Cl⁻).

[PdCl₂{(-)-degusPrⁱ₂}] 2. The procedure described for compound 1 was used. This produced 46 mg (90%) (Found: C, 41.85; H, 5.70; N, 2.89; S, 13.62. Calc. for $C_{17}H_{27}Cl_2NPdS_2$: C, 41.94; H, 5.60; N, 2.89; S, 13.70%); m/z 414 (M - 2Cl⁻).

[PdCl₂{(+)-degusPh₂}] 3. The procedure described for compound 1 was used. This produced 61 mg (95%) (Found: C, 49.78;

H, 4.20; N, 2.57; S, 10.89. Calc. for $C_{23}H_{23}Cl_2NPdS_2$: C, 49.79; H, 4.18; N, 2.52; S, 11.05%); m/z 482 (M - 2Cl $^-$).

[PdCl₂{(-)-diosMe₂}] **4.** The ligand (-)-diosMe₂ (22 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a solution of [PdCl₂(PhCN)₂] (40 mg, 0.1 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 ml). After stirring at room temperature for 30 min hexane was added to give a yellow precipitate of **4** which was filtered off, washed with cold hexane and dried in vacuum (36 mg, 90%) (Found: C, 27.04; H, 4.59; S, 16.24. Calc. for C₉H₁₈Cl₂O₂PdS₂: C, 27.04; H, 4.54; S, 16.04%); *mlz* 327 (M – 2Cl⁻).

[PdCl₂{(-)-diosPrⁱ₂}] **5.** The procedure described for the previous compound was used. This produced 45 mg (95%) (Found: C, 34.30; H, 5.65; S, 14.09. Calc. for $C_{13}H_{26}Cl_2O_2PdS_2$: C, 34.20; H, 5.70; S, 14.07%); m/z 383 (M - 2Cl⁻).

[Pt(cod){(-)-degusMe₂}][BF₄]₂ 6. The stoichiometric amount of the ligand (-)-degusMe₂ (27 mg, 0.1 mmol) and AgBF₄ (19 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a dichloromethane solution (3 ml) of [PtCl₂(cod)] (37 mg, 0.1 mmol) to produce a white precipitate of silver chloride, which was filtered off through Kieselguhr. Adding diethyl ether to the filtrate precipitated the required complex 6 as a white solid. This was filtered off, washed with cold diethyl ether and vacuum dried (53 mg, 68%) (Found: C, 35.02; H, 4.05; N, 2.02; S, 9.07. Calc. for C₂₁H₃₁B₂F₈NPtS₂: C, 34.54; H, 4.28; N, 1.92; S, 8.78%); m/z 556 (M - 2BF₄⁻).

[Pt(cod){(-)-degusPr $_{2}^{1}$ **][BF** $_{4}$ **]**₂ 7. The procedure described for the previous compound was used. This produced 65 mg (72%) (Found: C, 38.14; H, 5.16; N, 1.79; S, 8.56. Calc. for $C_{25}H_{39}B_{2}F_{8}NPtS_{2}$: C, 38.19; H, 5.00; N, 1.78; S, 8.15%); m/z 613 (M $- 2BF_{4}^{-}$).

[Pt(cod){(-)-degusPh₂}][BF₄]₂ 8. The procedure described for compound **6** was used. This produced 74 mg (80%) (Found: C, 43.30; H, 4.18; N, 1.60; S, 7.46. Calc. for $C_{31}H_{35}B_2F_8NPtS_2$: C, 43.58; H, 4.13; N, 1.64; S, 7.50%); m/z 680 (M $-2BF_4^-$).

[Pt(cod){(-)-diosMe₂}][BF₄]₂ 9. The stoichiometric amount of the ligand (-)-diosMe₂ (22 mg, 0.1 mmol) and AgBF₄ (19 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a dichloromethane solution (3 ml) of [PtCl₂(cod)] (37 mg, 0.1 mmol) to produce a white precipitate of silver chloride, which was filtered off through Kieselguhr. Adding diethyl ether to the filtrate precipitated complex 9 as a white solid, which was filtered off, washed with cold diethyl ether and vacuum dried (50 mg, 67%) (Found: C, 29.35; H, 4.40; S, 9.17. Calc. for C₁₇H₃₀B₂F₈O₂PtS₂: C, 29.20; H, 4.30; S, 8.72%); m/z 524 (M – 2BF₄⁻).

[Pt(cod){(-)-diosPr $^{i}_{2}$ **][BF** $_{4}$ **]2 10.** The procedure described for the previous compound was used. This produced 56 mg (71%) (Found: C, 33.95; H, 5.32; S, 8.77. Calc. for C₂₁H₃₈B₂F₈O₂PtS₂: C, 33.39; H, 5.07; S, 8.49%); m/z 580 (M - 2BF $_{4}^{-}$).

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