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# Reactivity of a Cationic Phosphenium Complex of Tungsten Containing an Alkyl or a Stannyl Group

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The treatment of  $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2\text{MeW}\{\overline{\text{PN}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}(\text{OMe})}\}$  with  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$ , followed by  $\text{PPh}_3$ , yields *trans*- $[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{PPh}_3)\text{W}\{\overline{\text{PN}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}(\text{Me})}\}]\text{BF}_4$ , suggesting that a cationic phosphenium complex is first formed and then migratory insertion of the phosphenium ligand into a W-alkyl bond takes place. In the reaction of the stannyl containing complex,  $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{SnR}_3)\text{W}\{\overline{\text{PN}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N-Me}(\text{OMe})}\}$ , with  $\text{TMSOTf}$ , an alkyl migration from Sn to a phosphenium P occurs to give a stannylene complex.

**Keywords:** phosphenium complex; stannylene complex; migratory insertion

## INTRODUCTION

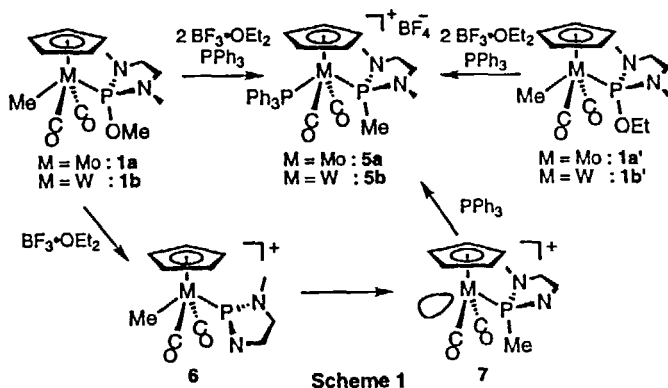
A cationic phosphenium species described as  $[\text{PR}_2]^+$  has lone pair electrons and a vacant p orbital, so it may serve as a Lewis base and a Lewis acid. The coordination chemistry of these cations has received considerable attention, and many cationic transition-metal phosphenium complexes have been prepared.<sup>[1-3]</sup> However, the reactivity of these complexes is much less investigated. We have been engaged in the study of the preparation, structures, properties, and reactivities of cationic phosphenium complexes of group 6<sup>[4-6]</sup> and 8<sup>[7,8]</sup> transition metals. In this paper we report the results of our recent studies involving cationic phosphenium complexes of Mo and W. In this paper,  $\text{PN}(\text{Me})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}(\text{OR})$  is described as  $\text{PNN}(\text{OR})$  for simplicity.

**PREPARATION OF  $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{ER}_3)\text{M}\{\text{PNN}(\text{OMe})\}$  ( $\text{ER}_3 = \text{CH}_3, \text{SnPh}_3, \text{SnMe}_3, \text{Sn}^n\text{Bu}_3$ ;  $\text{M} = \text{Mo}, \text{W}$ )**

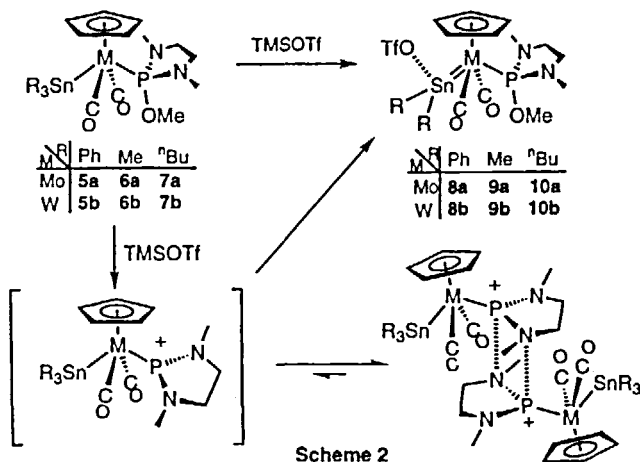
Molybdenum and tungsten complexes containing a methyl group have been prepared from the photoreaction of  $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_3\text{MeM}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Mo}, \text{W}$ ) with the diamino-substituted phosphite. The stannyl complexes have been prepared in the reaction of  $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{I})\text{M}\{\text{PNN}(\text{OMe})\}$  (the complex can be obtained from  $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_3(\text{I})\text{M}$  and  $\text{PNN}(\text{OMe})$ ) with  $\text{NaK}_2.8$ , followed by  $\text{R}_3\text{SnCl}$ .

# REACTION OF $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{CH}_3)\text{M}\{\text{PNN}(\text{OR})\}$ with $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ and then $\text{PPh}_3$

The reaction of the methyl complex of Mo (**1a**) with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  yields  $[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Mo}\{\text{PNN}(\text{Me})\}]\text{BF}_4$  (**2a**) (scheme 1). The complex was isolated, characterized spectroscopically, and its structure was confirmed by X-ray crystal analysis. The reaction of **1b** with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  and then  $\text{PPh}_3$  yields the corresponding product (**2b**). These reactions imply methyl migration from M to the phosphorus atom. The migration is substantiated by the results of the parallel reactions with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$  and then  $\text{PPh}_3$  of **1a'** and **1b'** which contain an OEt group in place of an OMe group on the P atom of **1a** and **1b**. The products, **2a** and **2b**, clearly show that the OEt group on the phosphorus atom is eliminated and the Me group on the Mo or W atom migrates to the phosphorus atom.



The proposed reaction pathway is shown in Scheme 1. In the reaction of **1** with  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ , the OR group on the phosphorus atom is abstracted by  $\text{BF}_3$  to give cationic **3** and  $[\text{BF}_3\text{OR}]^-$ . The latter  $\text{BF}_3\text{OR}^-$  reacts with  $\text{BF}_3$  to give  $\text{BF}_2\text{OR}$  and  $\text{BF}_4^-$ , serving as a counteranion in **2**. Following the formation of **3**, the methyl group bound to M migrates to the phosphonium phosphorus atom to give **4**. Since the cationic intermediate **4** itself is a 16-electron species, it may be stabilized by weak coordination of the solvent or  $\text{BF}_2\text{OR}$ , for example. Compound **4** is readily converted into a stable and isolable complex **2** by addition of  $\text{PPh}_3$ .



### REACTION OF $\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{SnR}_3)\text{M}\{\text{PNN}(\text{OR})\}$ with TMSOTf

$\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{SnR}_3)\text{M}\{\text{PNN}(\text{OR})\}$  reacts with TMSOTf at room temperature to give *trans*- $[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{SnR}_2)\text{M}\{\text{PNN}(\text{Me})\}]\text{OTf}$ , suggesting that an OMe group is abstracted and one Ph group on the Sn atom migrates to the phosphorus to give a stannylene complex (Scheme 2). The X-ray structures for  $[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{SnPh}_2)\text{W}\{\text{PNN}(\text{Me})\}]\text{OTf}$  (**8b**) and  $[\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{SnMe}_2)\text{W}\{\text{PNN}(\text{Me})\}]\text{OTf}$  (**9b**) are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. In both cases, Sn-O(OTf) bond lengths are shorter than the sum of the van der Waals of Sn and O, indicating some interaction between Sn and O. A closer look reveals that **8b**

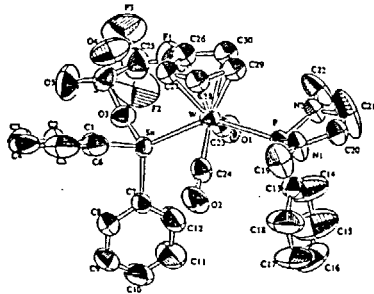


FIGURE 1. ORTEP drawing of **8b** and numbering scheme.

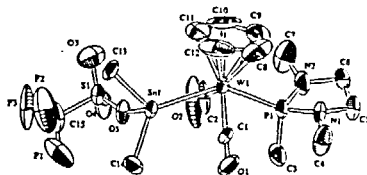


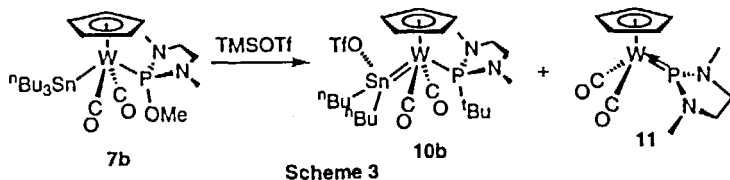
FIGURE 2. ORTEP drawing of **9b** and numbering scheme.

is considered as a stannyl complex (the Sn-O bond length = 2.160 Å, and the sum of angles around Sn = 346.7 °), whereas **9b** is more appropriately considered a stannylene complex (the Sn-O bond length = 2.344 Å, and the sum of angles around Sn = 358.5 °). In the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  NMR spectrum, the products exhibit a doublet at 335.06 ppm for **8b**, a resonance is shifted more than 330 ppm downfield relative to that of the starting complex (-1.98 ppm). Likewise, a doublet at 526.53 ppm attributed to **9b** appears more than 480 ppm downfield shift relative to that of its starting complex (45.04 ppm). Therefore, in solution these products have character of a stannylene complex.

Monitoring the reaction of the stannyl complex with TMSOTf reveals that a dimer of a cationic phosphonium complex is formed in solution, and the monomer is not observed in the reaction mixture. We propose mutual interaction where a nitrogen in a phosphonium ligand weakly coordinates to a phosphonium phosphorus in another molecule.

The reaction may proceed as follows (Scheme 2). An OMe group is abstracted by TMSOTf to give a cationic phosphonium complex, which dimerizes through intermolecular N-P interaction. The monomer and dimer are in equilibrium which favors the dimer. An alkyl migration reaction takes place from the monomer to give a stannylene complex.

$\text{Cp}(\text{CO})_2(\text{Sn}^n\text{Bu}_3)\text{W}\{\text{PNN}(\text{OR})\}$  (**10b**) shows the similar reactivity. However, in this case, in addition to **10b**, a 3-electron donor terminal phosphide complex (**11**) is also obtained (Scheme 3). It should be noted here that this complex is apparently formed with elimination of  $\text{Sn}^n\text{Bu}_3$  and OMe. The detail will be reported somewhere.



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