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## Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

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## EARLY TRANSITION-METAL COMPLEXES OF PHOSPHORUS-NITROGEN-SULFUR HETEROCYCLES

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**Abstract** The preparation, structural characterization and some synthetic applications of the first early transition-metal complexes of the  $P_2N_4S_2$  ring are presented.

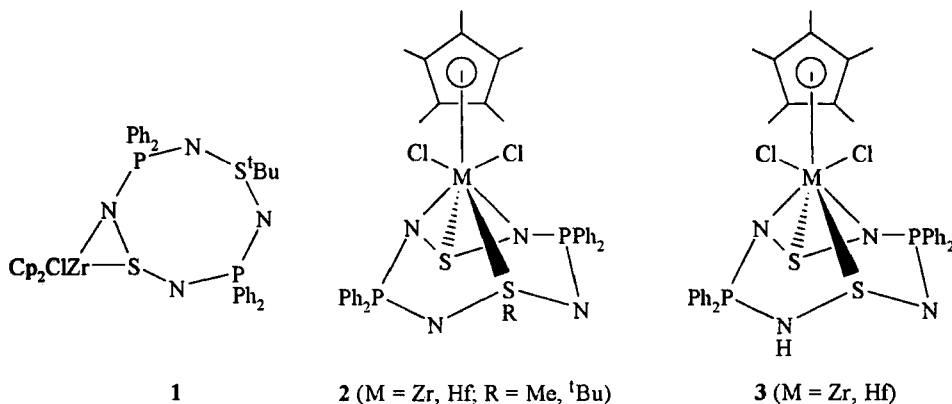
### INTRODUCTION

The  $R_4P_2N_4S_2$  heterocycles are versatile ligands for a wide variety of transition metals owing to the presence of juxtaposed (hard) nitrogen and (soft) sulfur centers in the skeleton of the ring. Most of the early work with these ligands involved the oxidative-addition of the S-S bond in the neutral rings to electron-rich late transition-metal complexes.<sup>1</sup> The recent development of high yield syntheses for the anionic derivatives  $[Li(Ph_4P_2N_4S_2R)(THF)]_2$  ( $R = \text{alkyl, aryl}$ )<sup>2</sup> and  $M_2[Ph_4P_2N_4S_2]$  ( $M = Li, Na$ )<sup>3,4</sup> has facilitated a comprehensive study of the coordination chemistry of these ligand systems via metathetical reactions with transition-metal halide complexes. The present paper describes the synthesis, structures and synthetic utility of the first early transition-metal complexes of the  $P_2N_4S_2$  ring.

### SYNTHESIS AND STRUCTURES OF 1, 2 AND 3

The novel zirconathiaziridene **1** was obtained by treating  $ZrCp_2Cl_2$  with  $\frac{1}{2}[Li(Ph_4P_2N_4S_2^tBu)(THF)]$  in THF. When the less sterically crowded  $[MCp^*Cl_3]$  ( $M = Zr, Hf$ ) metal reagents are used in this reaction, complexes of the type **2** are formed. Unlike **1**, in which the heterocyclic ring is bound through adjacent sulfur and

nitrogen atoms, the  $[\text{Ph}_4\text{P}_2\text{N}_4\text{S}_2\text{R}]^-$  ligand in **2** is attached in a tetradentate fashion ( $\eta^4\text{-N,N',S,S'}$ ) to the metal. The reaction of  $[\text{MCp}^*\text{Cl}_3]$  with  $\text{Na}_2[\text{Ph}_4\text{P}_2\text{N}_4\text{S}_2]$ , followed by acidification affords **3**. Like **2**, compound **3** possesses a tetradentate ( $\eta^4\text{-N,N',S,S'}$ )  $\text{P}_2\text{N}_4\text{S}_2$  ligand, but, in this case, the exocyclic R group is attached to nitrogen rather than sulfur. In the solid state **3** exists as a hydrogen-bonded dimer.



### REACTIONS OF **2** AND **3** WITH ELECTROPHILES AND NUCLEOPHILES

The complex **1** reacts with selected electrophiles to give  $\text{P}_2\text{N}_4\text{S}_2$  rings with S-organo, S-halogeno or N-H functionalities. Hard electrophiles, such as  $\text{H}^+$ , are transferred regiospecifically to nitrogen atoms in the ring while soft electrophiles, such as  $\text{Br}^+$  and  $\text{CH}_3^+$ , end up on sulfur. The nucleophilic attack of  $\text{PMe}_3$  on **2** results in an unprecedented ring opening of the heterocyclic ligand and the eventual formation of the acyclic compound,  $[\text{Me}_3\text{P}=\text{NPPH}_2\text{NS}(\text{Me})\text{NPPH}_2\text{NH}_2]\text{Cl}$ .

### REFERENCES

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