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## Functionalised Phosphorus-Based Ligands in Early Transition Metal Chemistry

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When the transition metal halides  $\text{Cp}^x_2\text{ZrCl}_2$ ,  $\text{Cp}^x\text{ZrCl}_3$ ,  $\text{Cp}^x\text{MoCl}_2$  ( $\text{Cp}^x = \text{C}_5\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_4\text{Et}$ ), or  $\text{Cp}^x\text{MCl}_4$  ( $\text{Cp}^x = \text{C}_5\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_4\text{Et}$ ,  $\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5$ ;  $\text{M} = \text{Nb}$ ,  $\text{Ta}$ , or  $\text{Mo}$ ) are treated with functionalised phosphorus-based ligands (functional group = P-H; P-SiMe<sub>3</sub> or P-H for  $\text{Cp}^x_2\text{ZrCl}_2$ ), reduction of the transition metal or substitution of chloro by phosphorus ligands occurs. With primary phosphines or lithium phosphanides, various phosphorus ligands are formed, depending on the steric bulk of the ligands on M and P, the reaction conditions, and solvent. Thus, complexes exhibiting phosphine, phosphanido, phosphinidene, triphospha-1,3-diyl, diphosphene, or diphosphanyl ligands are formed.

The reactions of these early transition metal complexes include substitution of the P-based ligand by polar or protic reagents, insertion of multiply bonded inorganic or organic systems ( $\text{CS}_2$ , diazoalkanes, diaryl- or dialkylcarbodiimide, phenylacetylene, isonitriles, isothiocyanates, nitriles, ketones etc.) into the metal-phosphorus bond, as well as insertion followed by elimination of PHR or PR fragments.

**Keywords:** zirconium; tantalum; molybdenum complexes; phosphine; phosphanido; phosphinidene ligands; insertion reactions

## INTRODUCTION

For some time we have been interested in the preparation of complexes in which a P ligand that bears functional groups besides alkyl or aryl ligands is coordinated to an early transition metal. Thus, we study the formation of phosphine complexes with primary phosphines and of phosphanido complexes in which the P atom bears SiMe<sub>3</sub> groups or H atoms and in which the P-ligand bond should be reactive. Most of our studies so far have been concerned with the latter type of compounds. Furthermore, we have shown that the complexes with reactive P-H bonds can be employed in the synthesis of transition metal complexes with phosphinidene groups.

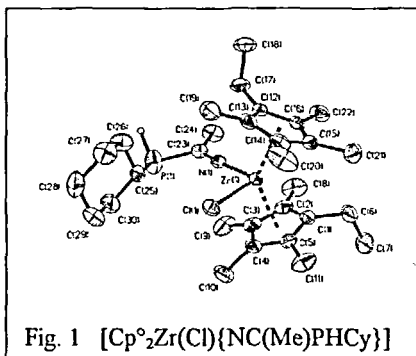
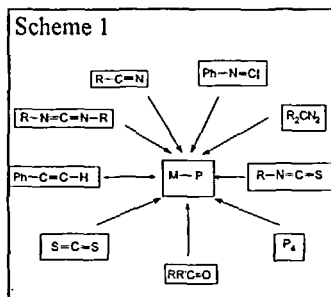
The synthetic potential of some of the products obtained is reported.

## Zirconium

While zirconocene complexes with terminal P(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> ligands are easily accessible<sup>[1]</sup>, zirconocene complexes with primary phosphanido ligands are only obtained with certain combinations of substituted cyclopentadienyl ligand and P-R substituent<sup>[2]</sup>. Thus, P-H functionalised zirconocene complexes [Cp<sup>x</sup><sub>2</sub>ZrCl(PHR)] are only obtained from reactions of [Cp<sup>x</sup><sub>2</sub>ZrCl<sub>2</sub>] with LiPHR where Cp<sup>x</sup> = Cp, R = 2,4,6-R'<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>2</sub> [R' = Me (Mes), Pr<sup>i</sup> (Tipp), Bu<sup>i</sup> (Mes\*)]; Cp<sup>x</sup> = C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Me (Cp'), R = Tipp; or Cp<sup>x</sup> = C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>4</sub>Et (Cp<sup>o</sup>), R = Ph, Bu<sup>i</sup>, Cy, Tipp. Metallacyclic systems with a ZrP<sub>3</sub> or ZrP<sub>2</sub> arrangement, dimeric phosphanido-bridged Zr(III), as well as Zr(IV) complexes with terminal or bridging phosphinidene ligands are obtained, depending on the starting materials employed<sup>[1,3]</sup>.

## Insertion reactions

The insertion of polar multiple-bond systems into the Zr-P bond of [Cp<sup>x</sup><sub>2</sub>ZrCl{P(SiMe<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>}] or [Cp<sup>x</sup><sub>2</sub>ZrCl(PHR)] (Scheme 1) allows the synthesis of novel P-functionalised ligands within the coordination sphere of Zr which are either difficult to synthesise or inaccessible by other routes<sup>[1,2]</sup>.

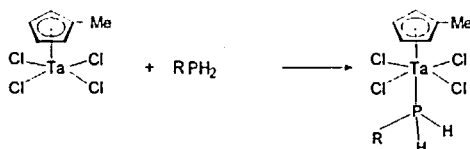


A different course of reaction is observed when  $[\text{Cp}^{\circ}_2\text{ZrCl}(\text{PHCy})]$  is reacted with diisopropylcarbodiimide or  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ . Again, insertion products are obtained (e.g., Fig. 1); however, these slowly convert into  $[\text{Cp}^{\circ}_2\text{Zr}(\eta^2\text{-NPr}^i\text{CHNPr}^i)(\text{Cl})]$  or  $[\text{Cp}^{\circ}_2(\text{Cl})\text{Zr}(\mu\text{-N}=\text{CMe}-\text{CMe}=\text{N})\text{Zr}(\text{Cl})\text{Cp}^{\circ}_2]$ , respectively.

### Tantalum

$[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4]$  readily reacts with primary phosphines  $\text{PH}_2\text{R}$  to form the adduct  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4(\text{PH}_2\text{R})]$  ( $\text{Cp}^* = \text{Cp}^i$ ,  $\text{R} = \text{Tipp}$ , eq. 1;  $\text{Cp}^* = \text{C}_5\text{Me}_5$  ( $\text{Cp}^*$ ),  $\text{R} = \text{Cy}$ ,  $\text{Bu}^i$ ,  $\text{Ph}$ ,  $\text{Tipp}$ ).

(1)



Attempts to eliminate  $\text{HCl}$  from  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4(\text{PH}_2\text{Tipp})]$  with  $\text{DBU}$  gave the phosphinidene-bridged  $\text{Ta(IV)}$  complex  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}(\mu\text{-PTipp})]_2$ <sup>[4]</sup>, while  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4(\text{PH}_2\text{Cy})]$  reacts with  $\text{DBU}$  yielding the  $\text{Ta(IV)}$  complex  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4][(\text{DBU})\text{H}]^+$ . In the solid state, the  $(\text{DBU})\text{H}^+$  cation interacts with the  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4]^-$  anion via a hydrogen bond.

Finally, the reaction of  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4(\text{PH}_2\text{Tipp})]$  with  $\text{DBU}$  gives the terminal  $\text{Ta(V)}$  phosphinidene complex  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_2(\text{PTipp})]$  (Fig. 2).

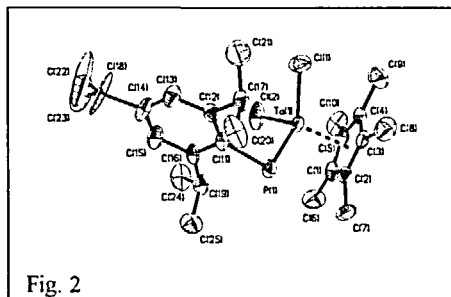


Fig. 2

Another synthetic route to phosphinidene-bridged  $\text{Ta(IV)}$  complexes  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}(\mu\text{-PR})]_2$  is the reaction of  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_4]$  with  $\text{LiPHR}$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Ph}$ ,  $\text{Cy}$ ,  $\text{Bu}^i$ ). Crystal structure analyses showed that the central  $\text{Ta}_2\text{P}_2$  rings of these complexes are planar.

### Insertion reaction

While the phosphinidene-bridged Ta(IV) complexes  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}(\mu\text{-PR})]_2$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Ph}, \text{Cy}, \text{Bu}$ ) do not react with  $\text{Et}_2\text{AlCl}$ , acetaldehyde or acetone, the terminal Ta(V) phosphinidene complex  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_2(\text{PTipp})]$  readily reacts with acetone with insertion into the Ta=P bond to give  $[\text{Cp}^*\text{TaCl}_2\{(\text{OCMe}_2)_2\text{PTipp}\}]$  (Fig. 3).

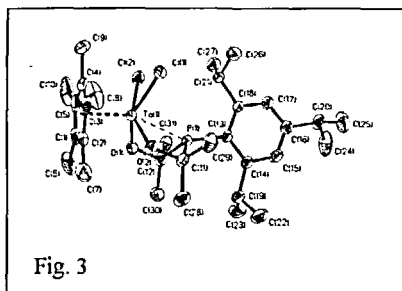


Fig. 3

### Molybdenum

The reaction of  $[\text{Cp}^0\text{MoCl}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$  with  $\text{LiPHMe}_3^*$  yielded the terminal Mo(II) phosphanido complex  $[\text{Cp}^0\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)_2(\text{PHMe}_3^*)]$ , while the reaction with  $\text{LiPHMe}_3$  gave the Mo(II) diphosphanido complex  $[\text{Cp}^0\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)_2(\text{PMe}_3\text{PHMe}_3)]$ . In both complexes, the phosphorus ligand acts as a 3-electron donor (Mo-P 2.250(3) and 2.253(2) Å). In contrast,  $[\text{Cp}'\text{MoCl}_2(\text{PMe}_3)_2]$  reacts with  $\text{LiPHMe}_3$  yielding the Mo diphosphene complex  $[\text{Cp}'\text{Mo}(\text{PMe}_3)_2(\eta^2\text{-PMe}_3\text{PMe}_3)]$  (Mo-P 2.512(2), 2.624(2) Å)<sup>[5]</sup>.

Adducts with primary phosphines,  $[\text{Cp}'\text{MoCl}_4(\text{PH}_2\text{R})]$ , were obtained from  $[\text{Cp}'\text{MoCl}_4(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})]$  and  $\text{PH}_2\text{R}$  ( $\text{R} = \text{Cy}, \text{Tipp}$ ). These compounds are paramagnetic  $d^1$  systems and have a characteristic EPR spectrum which shows P and Mo coupling. Crystal structure determinations showed a trans arrangement of the  $\text{Cp}'$  and the primary phosphine ligand<sup>[6]</sup>. Preliminary reactions of these adducts with the base DBU indicate that HCl elimination is possible. However, up to now, we were unable to isolate and characterise the products.

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