Recent developments in organometallic chemistry

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Abstract: New cyclopentadienyl-imido compounds of molybdenum (and tungsten) have been prepared. They have an extensive chemistry in which the imido group behaves as a 4-electron donor spectator ligand. The structure of the bis- η cyclopentadienyl compound [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)₂(NBu^t)] shows the η -cyclopentadienyl rings are partially displaced from the metal by the $p\pi$ -donor electron pair on the imido nitrogen. In consequence a η -cyclopentadienyl ring can be readily displaced. The ansa-sandwich compounds [M(η -C₅H₄-CMe₂- η -C₅H₄)X₂], where M = Mo or W and X₂ = Cl₂, H₂, Me₂, HPh, HMe have been prepared. These ansa bridged compounds are much more resistant to reductive elimination reactions than their nonansa analogues. New transition metal compounds of the fullerene C₆₀ have been prepared.

STUDIES IN η-CYCLOPENTADIENYL-IMIDO-MOLYBDENUM CHEMISTRY

Both the imido ligands NR and the η -cyclopentadienyl ligands η -C5R5 have an extensive chemistry. The mission of this research was to learn more about the properties of imido ligands in general and, more specifically, the chemistry of the combination, of both ligands in η -cyclopentadienyl-imido-molybdenum (and -tungsten) compounds. References to previous chemistry of η -cyclopentadienyl-imido transition metal compounds are available (1,2).

The 17-electron compounds [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)(NR')X₂], where, typically, R = H or alkyl, R' = Bu^t, Prⁱ, or Ph and X = Cl, Br or I, (1,2) may be prepared by the reactions shown below:-



The d¹ compounds [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)(NR')Cl₂] readily undergo a reductive substitution reaction giving the 18-electron d² compounds [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)(NR')LCl], where L = CO, PR₃, C₂H₄, MeC₂Me, viz:-



The compound $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)(NR')(\eta-C_2H_4)Cl]$ readily undergoes substitution of the chloride ligand by hydrocarbyl ligands and this is shown in Fig. 1.We have also prepared the imido- η -allyl compound $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Me)(NBu^t)(\eta^3-C_3H_5)]$ since there were no previous example of the ligand combination and there has been speculation that the oxidative ammination of propene to acrolein might proceed by intermediates with an imido- η -allyl moiety. However, thermolysis or photolysis reactions of $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Me)(NBu^t)(\eta^3-C_3H_5)]$ with donor ligands failed to provide evidence for products containing a nitrogen-carbon bond.



Fig. 1. Synthesis of allyl, alkyl, aryl and hydrido derivatives.

The bis- η -cyclopentadienyl-imido compounds [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)₂(NR')] have been prepared by a one-pot reductive cyclopentadienylation of the 17-electron compounds [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)(NR')X₂] (see Fig. 2) (3). The crystal structure of the compound [Mo(η -C₅H₅)₂(NBu^t)] shows interesting features. The Mo-N-C linkage is effectively linear (177.7(2)^o) and the metal-carbon distances of both C₅-rings are unequal and clearly indicate a distortion such that the planer η -cyclopentadienyl rings are tilted back and away from the molybdenum-imido group. These features can be accounted for by invoking a donor role for the out-of-plane $p\pi$ -electrons of the imido nitrogen (3). Calculations support this proposal and indicate there is an interaction between the nitrogen $p\pi$ -electrons and the b₂ metal based orbital. The overall effect of this interaction is to destabilise the metal- η -cyclopentadienyl bonding and thereby to labilise a cyclopentadienyl ring. for example, treatment of [Mo(η -C₅H₅)₂(NBu^t)] with trimethylphosphine gives the salt {[Mo(η -C₅H₅)(NBu^t)(PMe₃)₂][C₅H₄Me] and the crystal structure of this compound is represented in Fig. 2 (3).



Fig. 2. Synthesis and some reactions of bis-η-cyclopentadienyl-imidomolybdenum compounds.

The mechanism of formation of the compounds $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)_2(NR')]$ from $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)(NR')X_2]$ is unknown but NMR studies of the products of the reaction between $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Pr^i)(NBu^t)X_2]$ and NaC_5H_5 showed the presence of a mixure of the three compounds $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Pr^i)_2(NBu^t)]$, $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_5)_2(NBu^t)]$ and $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Pr^i)(\eta-C_5H_5)(NBu^t)]$ (4). Clearly ring exchange processes are occuring. In the light of the facile exchange of η -cyclopentadienyl rings noted above it was decided to attempt to synthesise *ansa*-bis- η cyclopentadienyl molybdenum derivatives, for example, $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4-CMe_2-\eta-C_5H_4)X_2]$.

Treatment of $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4R)(NR')X_2]$ with Li₂(C₅H₄-CMe₂-C₅H₄) gives a smooth reaction and the NMR spectra of the resulting red oil showed resonances consistent with the presence of the compound $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4-CMe_2-\eta-C_5H_4)(NBu^t)]$ and, surprisingly, $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_5)_2(NBu^t)]$. The mixture could not be separated (4). However, having established that the new class of *ansa* compounds $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4-CMe_2-\eta-C_5H_4)X_2]$ were stable an alternative synthesis was sought.

It was found that treatment of [MoCl4(dme)] with Li₂(C₅H₄-CMe₂-C₅H₄) gives the dichloro compound [Mo(η -C₅H₄-CMe₂- η -C₅H₄)Cl₂] in 52% yield. The red-brown tungsten analogue [W(η -C₅H₄-CMe₂- η -C₅H₄)Cl₂] was prepared similarly in 64% from [WCl4dme] (5). Starting from these ansa-dichloro compounds, the dihydrides [M(η -C₅H₄-CMe₂- η -C₅H₄)H₂], the dimethyl derivatives [M(η -C₅H₄-CMe₂- η -C₅H₄)Me₂], where M = Mo or W, and the methylhydride [W(η -C₅H₄-CMe₂- η -C₅H₄)MeH] have been prepared as shown in Fig. 3.(6).

We were interested to explore the effect of the presence of an *ansa*-bridge on the chemistry of bent matallocenes. Therefore, we have studied the properties of the *ansa*-compounds shown in the Fig. 3 with that of the long known non-*ansa* analogues (7).



Fig. 3. i In Et₂O at r.t. ii ZnMe₂ in toluene, -78° C. iii LiAlH₄ in Et₂O at -78° C. iv PhCOOH at reflux in petroleum ether (b.p. 100 - 120°C). v hv, in benzene. vi Na[AlH₂(OCH₂CH₂OMe)₂] in benzene at r.t.

Striking differences in the reactivities were observed. For example, photolysis of $[Mo(\eta-C5H5)2H2]$ in benzene gives only the dimer $[Mo(\eta-C5H5)(\mu-\sigma,\eta-C5H4)]2$ (8). The expected phenyl hydride $[Mo(\eta-C5H5)2PhH]$ was not formed, neither can this compound be made by alternative routes available to the tungsten analogue. However, photolysis of $[W(\eta-C5H4-CMe2-\eta-C5H4)Cl2]$ under the same conditions gives the *ansa* phenyl hydride $[Mo(\eta-C5H4-CMe2-\eta-C5H4)PhH]$. In contrast, whilst photolysis of $[W(\eta-C5H5)2H2]$ in benzene readily gives the phenyl hydride $[W(\eta-C5H5)2PhH]$ (9), under the same conditions the *ansa* dihydride analogue is completely unreactive. Further the methyl-hydride $[W(\eta-C5H5)2MeH]$ is thermally unstable above *ca.*. 40 °C and decomposes with evolution of methane and formation of the intermediate compound tungstenocene. Tungstenocene is a very reactive (10) which can insert into carbonhydrogen bonds (9,10). For example, thermolysis of $[W(\eta-C5H5)2MeH]$ in benzene give the phenyl hydride [W(η -C5H5)2PhH]. In contrast, the *ansa*-[W(η -C5H4-CMe₂- η -C5H4)MeH] is stable in benzene at 110 °C for a week. These observations show that the *ansa*-bridged compounds [M(η -C5H4-CMe₂- η -C5H4)AB] have a much greater stability towards reductive elimination of the ligands AB than the corresponding non-*ansa* bis- η -cyclopentadienyl analogues [M(η -C5H5)2AB].

The crystal structures of some of the new *ansa* compounds have been determined and selected data are given in Table 1. The data in Table 1 show that the bending angle θ is substantially reduced for the *ansa*-bridged compounds compared to the non-*ansa* analogues and, therefore, the structures of intermediate 16-electron fragments M(η -C5H4-CMe2- η -C5H4) would be substantially different from the parallel ring structure found for the corresponding unbridged [M(η -C5H5)2], where M = Cr, W [14]. In contrast the Cl-M-Cl angles (ϕ) are closely similar in both the *ansa* and non-*ansa dichloride* compounds. Further, the photoelectron spectrum of [W(η -C5H4-CMe2- η -C5H4)H2] shows that the ionisation energy associated with the d² electron is 6.47 eV and this value is similar to that of the non-bridged analogue (15) It appears that the electron energies associated the X-M-X grouping are essentially independent of θ (16).

Compound ^a	Х-М-Х (ф) ⁰	bending angle $(\theta)^{o}$	Ref
[Mo(η-C5H5)2Cl2]	82.0(2)	130.9	(11)
[Mo(η-C5H5)2H2]	75.5(3)	145.8	(12)
[Mo{C(C4H8)(C5H4)2}Cl]	82.66(2)	114.6	(6)
[Mo{C(CH3)2(C5H4)H2]	80.3(2.8)	121	(13)
$[W{C(CH_3)_2(C_5H_4)_2}Cl_2]$	81.85(8)	115.2	(6)
$[W{C(CH_3)_2(C_5H_4)_2}H_2]$	95.5(4.0)	120.3	(13)

TABLE 1. The angles θ and ϕ^a .

^a The angles are defined in structure Fig. 4.





Fig. 4 Showing the angles θ and ϕ .

Fig. 5. The a1 and b2 metal based orbitals.

Fig. 5 shows two of the metal orbitals principally involved in the bonding to ligands in the X-M-X systems. For the bent compounds [Mo(and W(η -C₅H₅)₂X₂] the a₁ orbital is the HOMO and has largly metal dcharacter and is occupied by the d² electrons. The b₁ orbital takes part in both MX₂ bonding and also metalring bonding. The a₁ orbital lies normal to the metallocene principle axis and, in consequence, changes in the angle θ will cause little change in the energy of a₁, as shown by the ioisation energy data. However, the b₁ orbital clearly interacts with the two η -cyclopentadienyl rings and this orbital increases in energy with decrease in θ . Extended Huckel calculations show that this orbital is raised about 0.24 eV on bending from 130° to 120°.

In conclusion, the marked increase in the stability of the *ansa*-bridged compounds towards reductive elimination reactions compared to the related non-*ansa* compounds may be associated with the higher energy of the bent metallocene structure compared with the lower energy parallel ring structure. A schematic representation of the energetics for reductive elimination rections of *ansa* and non-*ansa* metallocenes is given



Fig. 6.

Hypothetical energy diagram for reductive elimination of AB. Showing the higher transition state required for a bent metallocene structure.

in Fig. 6. We note that in 1981 Brintzinger observed that the the *ansa* compound {Ti[(η -C5H4-(CH2)2- η -C5H4)]Cl} cannot be reduced to the divalent bent metallocene intermediate{Ti[(η -C5H4-(CH2)2- η -C5H4)]} under conditions where the non-*ansa* {Ti[(η -C5H5)]₂Cl} reduces to the intermediate divalent {Ti[(η -C5H5)]₂}(17); this difference can be associated with the increased energy of the b₁ orbital in the *ansa* titanium compound conequent upon the decrease of θ .

SOME INORGANIC CHEMISTRY OF THE FULLERENE C60

Early studies of the chemistry of the fullerene C_{60} have shown that it forms adducts with transition metals in low oxidation states where the metal- C_{60} bonding is formally analogous to the metal- olefin bond (18). C_{60} also react with osmium tetraoxide in an manner analogous to an olefin forming an osmate ester derivative (19).

The hexa-platina compound $\{C_{60}[Pt(Et_3P)_2]_6\}$ has been described (18) and has six platinum atoms bonded to the six 6,6 carbon-carbon double bonds which lie on the octahedral coordinates. This compound clearly demonstrates a multi-functional nature for C₆₀ and the preference for metal bonding with the 6,6 C-C bonds rather than the 6,5 double bonds.

We set out to further develop the organometallic chemistry of C_{60} and simple strategy we employed was the react C_{60} with transition metal fragments which are known to form stable olefin derivatives.

The first transition metal carbonyl derivatives of C₆₀ have been prepared by direct reaction of C₆₀ with $[Fe_2(CO)_9]$ or $[Ru(CO)_4(\eta^2-H_2C=CHCO_2Me)]$ in benzene which gave the deep red microcrystalline mononuclear compounds $[C_{60}M(CO)_4]$ M = Fe or Ru respectively (Fig. 7). The ¹³C nmr spectra of these two compounds clearly show the 17 bands expected for a 6,6-monosubstituted C₆₀ molecule bonded to a metal fragment with C₂v symmetry. Both compounds slowly decompose in solution at ambient temperatue with release of C₆₀.

The first η -cyclopentadienyl-transition metal derivatives of C₆₀ have also been prepared. Thus, treatment of C₆₀ in toluene at ambient temperature with [Mo(η -C₅H₄R)₂H₂], where R = H or Buⁿ, gives the mononuclear adducts [C₆₀Mo(η -C₅H₄R)₂]. The analytical and specroscopic data suggest the structures given in Fig. 7. The related tantalum compound [C₆₀TaH(η -C₅H₅)₂] has also been prepared (Fig. 7) and the presence of the Ta-hydrogen group is confirmed by the ¹H nmr spectrum (20).

The co-ordination compounds of cobalt, rhodium and ruthenium, namely $[CoC_{60}(PPh_3)_2(CO)H]$ and $[MC_{60}(PPh_3)_2NO]$, M = Co or Rh, and the nitrosyl $[RuC_{60}(PPh_3)_2(NO)Cl]$ are also readily prepared. The rhodium compound has been independently prepared (21). The molecular structure of the ruthenium compound has been determined and shows the ruthenium is bonded to a 6,6 C-C "double bond" of the C₆₀ ligand (22).



Fig. 7. Synthesis of C₆₀ transition metal compounds. i $[Ta(\eta-C_5H_5)_2H_3]$ in benzene, >90%. ii $[Mo(\eta-C_5H_4Bu^n)_2H_2]$ in toluene, >80%. iii $[Fe_2(CO)_9]$ or $[Ru_3(CO)_{12}]$ in benzene, >89%. iv $[Ru(PPh_3)_3(NO)Cl]$ in toluene >95%. v $[M(PPh_3)_3NO]$, where M = Co or Rh, in toluene, >60% (21).

In a further development of C_{60} chemistry we set out to prepare organic derivatives of C_{60} which had functionalities suitable for further coordination with metals. We chose to employ the well established (23) Diels-Alders reaction of C_{60} with suitable dienes and we have prepared the the hydroxy-anthraquinone derivatives shown in Fig. 8 (24). The anthraquinone moiety is strongly bound to the C_{60} and these C_{60} derivatives survive deprotonation and also can undergo further coordination to a transition metal, as shown for the ruthenium compound shown in Fig. 8 (25).



Fig. 8. Some di-hydroxy anthraquinone derivatives of C_{60}

Inclusion compounds, charge-transfer compounds and salts of C60.

There have been reports of the anion $[C_{60}]^-$ formed by electrochemical reduction (26), by electrocrystallization (PPh4(Ph4PCl)+C₆₀- and N(PPh3)2+C₆₀-) (27,28) and the charge transfer compounds {Cr(TTP)+[C_{60}]-.(THF)3}, where TTP = teraphenylporphyrin and {[Fe(η^5 -C₅H₅)(η -C₆Me₆)2]n+C₆₀-n-}(n=1-3) have been characterised (29,30). We have identified a simple selective synthesis of the sodium salt of the C₆₀ monoanion {Na+[C₆₀--].(THF)5} by reduction of C₆₀ in toluene with Na[Mn((η -C₅Me₅)2] (31) in THF solution as dark purple microcrystalline solid in *ca*. 80% yield (32).

The compound Na[Mn(η -C₅Me₅)₂] was chosen as the reducing agent since the anion [Mn(η -C₅Me₅)₂]⁻ has oxidation couples at -2.17V(-1/0) and -0.56(0/+1) and solution in THF may be added to toluene without causing precipitation. The salt Me₄N[C₆₀].thf has been prepared by reacting {Na+[C₆₀--].(THF)₅} with [Me₄N]F in acetonitrile (33).

Also, we have shown that the known salts $K_x[C_{60}]$, where x = 3,4 and $M_x[C_{60}]$ M = Rb, Cs, and x = 1,3,4, can be prepared readily using a microwave plasma induced methodology. For example, when a mixture of C₆₀ and sodium metal in a alumina tube under 10⁻⁵ mbar of argon is irradiated with a 500W source at 2.45GHz for 30-60 seconds the compounds $K_x[C_{60}]$ are formed according to the chosen stoichiometry (34). Synthesis of the same compounds by thermal reaction requires *ca*. 350°C for 10-14 days.





Inclusion compounds of the fullerene C₆₀ without net electron transfer have been described. Previously reported examples include {[Fe(η -C₅H₅)₂]₂C₆₀} (35), {(I₂)₂C₆₀} (36), and the benzene solvate [C₆₀.4C₆H₆] (37). Recently we have prepared an inclusion compound of white phosphorus, namely, {(P₄)₂C₆₀} as a black-blue solid by treatment of a toluene solution of C₆₀ with white phosphorus in CS₂ (38). The X-ray powder diffraction data could be indexed on a hexagonal/trigonal cell (a = b = 10.09Å, c = 10.11Å), which suggested an AAA stacking of close packed C₆₀ layers. A Rietveld analysis led to a structural model in which a P4 tetrahedron occupies each trigonal prismatic site with one of its C₃ axes parallel to the [001] direction (Fig. 9): the tetrahedra are disordered randomly over these sites, with the apical phosphorus either lying above or below the z = 1/2 plane. Solid state ³¹P MAS NMR spectroscopy shows the P4 molecules are dynamic and render the phosphorus atoms equivalent.

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